



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

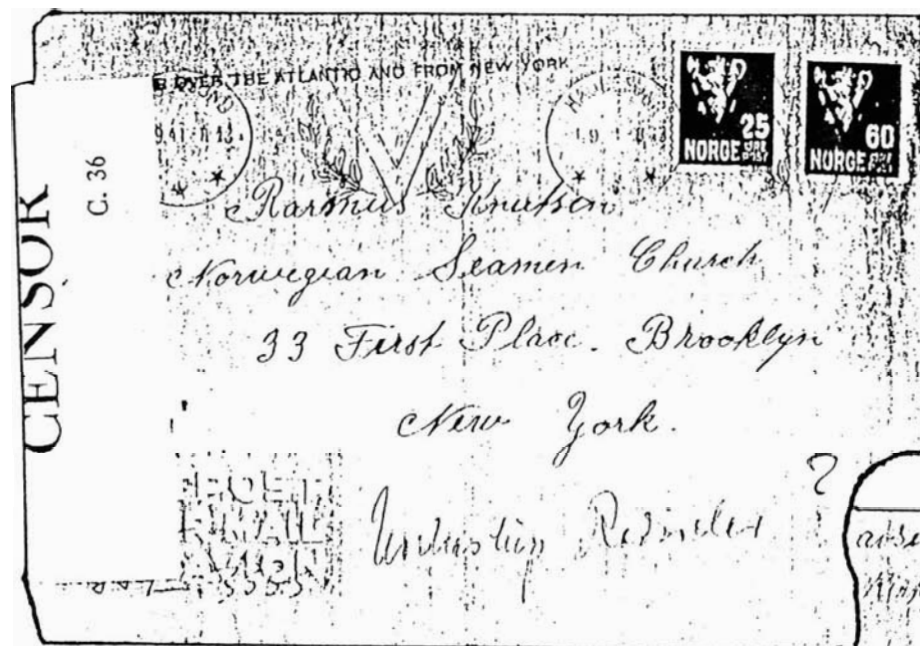


NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1999

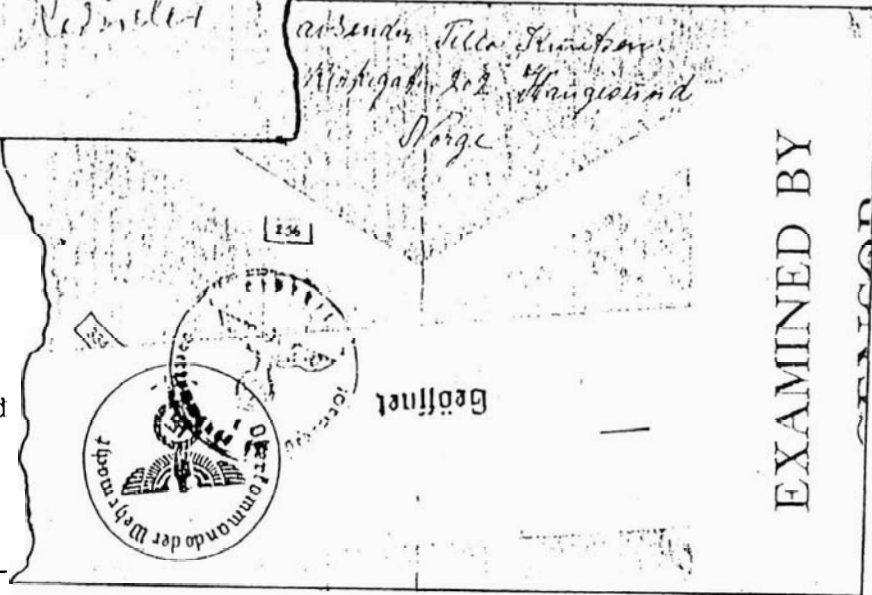
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A CURIOUS NORWAY-NEW YORK VIA CANADA COVER--By John Wannerton



This cover [reduced 74%] poses a few questions which, I hope, members may be able to answer. It is from Haugesund, Norway to the U.S.A. and dated September 1, 1941. The cachet in red at top "BY AIR" is under the censor's tape. On the reverse we have the usual type of German censor marks, "E" denoting Frankfurt. Two small boxes with

"334" and "356" are presumably German. What is their function? I understand the "EXAMINED BY CENSOR C.36" is Canadian but where was it [Halifax? Ed.]? If by air, why would an aeroplane flying to a neutral country land in one that is not? I would appreciate any information that might be forthcoming through the Newsletter. [Can members help with more information on this interesting cover? Ed.]



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CURIOUS NORWAY-NEW YORK VIA CANADA COVER--A RESPONSE

In what may be the quickest response of a question and answer in the Newsletter (!), Chris Miller (Editor of the BNAPS WWII Study Group and Secretary of the Civil Censorship Study Group) kindly provided a few comments about John's cover and wrote:

"The cover was censored in the Auslandsbriefprufstelle (ABP) at Frankfurt/Main using censor handstamp Riemer Type E-3b and resealing tape Type E-51. The small numeral handstamps are known in black, blue or red and they are typical for ABP Frankfurt. These are chop handstamps used by sorters and censors. Sometimes up to four of these can be found on one cover or postcard. The pencil number notation on the front under 'Par Avion' is the number showing that the cover has been registered in the censorship file."

Many thanks Chris for your help. Now can members solve the puzzle about the cover's travel to Canada? [Ed.]

Dear Fellow CMMMSG Members:

Despite last issue's remarks about scheduling, I am pleased to provide members with a "pre-BNAPEX" issue in these dog days of summer! I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful season. Lots of business so let's get to it. Jon Johnson and Doug Lingard have kindly supplied us with our Study Group meeting time in Vernon:



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1999 AT 10:30 A.M. (LARGE ROOM)

Bill and I are hoping for a large attendance. Joe Smith will conduct a presentation on the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force. Thanks again Joe for your help! Visitors to BNAPEX should note that meeting times are always subject to change so please check on the time when registering. We will also have a one-frame exhibit entitled "Military Mail: Historical, Interesting, Collectible!" which will showcase Canadian military mail through time from the Boer War to present-day. Everyone is invited to view it! I understand that there will be several military-related exhibits (competitive) and these will be interesting as well. Best of luck to the exhibitors!

Also on the agenda is a meeting for the BNAPS WWII Study Group and everyone is invited to attend this one too:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1999 AT 10:00 A.M.

I believe that Bill Pekonen will chair the meeting. This Group puts out a wonderful newsletter, edited by Chris Miller; and the meeting should be informative.

I now plan on attending the convention and I'm looking forward to meeting many of you for the first time. I will also have space in my luggage so those with "fillers", articles etc. can bring them along for future editions! Thanks again to all for your continued support. Bill and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in Vernon!

CANADIAN FORCES' INFORMATION LINE

Did you know that a toll-free telephone line has been "up and running" for some time to inform friends, family, and interested Canadians about the Canadian Forces' missions around the world? Information about operations can be found from: 1-800-866-4546.

R.C.A.F./R.A.F. INDIA COMMAND--By W. Plomish

This cover was posted on October 11, 1943 at Victoria, B.C. to R.A.F. India Command. It was correctly paid at \$1.00 per ½oz for airmail service on the Miami-Brazil-West Africa route. R.C.A.F. personnel were stationed with R.A.F. Forces in the Middle East; many of whom were in India. A Bombay R.A.F. Base Postal Section datestamp is on the reverse.



THE 1939 ROYAL VISIT--By Wilf Whitehouse

Many thanks to all who wrote in connection with the 1939 Royal Visit article (NL 128, pp. 276-77; NL 133, p. 327; and NL 136, p. 339), particularly those who sent along items they felt would be of interest to the members.

Originally the trip to Canada was scheduled to be aboard the Battle Cruiser H.M.S. Repulse (Fig.1 opposite), but this arrangement was later changed in favour of sailing aboard the Canadian Pacific's Empress of Australia with escort provided by the Cruisers H.M.S. Glasgow and Southampton.

The arrival date at Quebec City was May 17, not May 15 (as stated in NL 128, p. 276). Poor weather in the Atlantic apparently caused the delay in arrival which was scheduled for May 15, 1939 (Fig.2). The issue of the three Royal Visit stamps (Scott 246-248) went ahead as

[Cont'd.]

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planned on the 15th.



Fig.1
A postcard sold in Canada prior to the visit

Fig.2
A day-of-arrival cover at Quebec City, May 17, 1939



A retired member of the R.C.M.P. provided the postcard (Fig.3) of the Royal Couple with four Mounties outside Government House in Halifax. The four, Sergeant H.W. Williams, and Constables J. Langlois, J. Coughlin, and R. Portlance, had accompanied the King and Queen throughout the tour. The photograph was taken just prior to Their Majesties' short drive to the harbour where the Empress of Britain was waiting.



Fig.3
A colour postcard from a photo taken on June 15, moments before driving to board the Empress of Britain

Finally, from Ken Barlow's award-winning exhibit in connection with the Empress ships, comes a pair of items (Figs. 4, 5) related to the return to England of the King and Queen on June 22, 1939.

Fig.4

A cover posted aboard the Empress of Britain on June 20 with a ship cachet and use of Canada's Royal Visit set of stamps

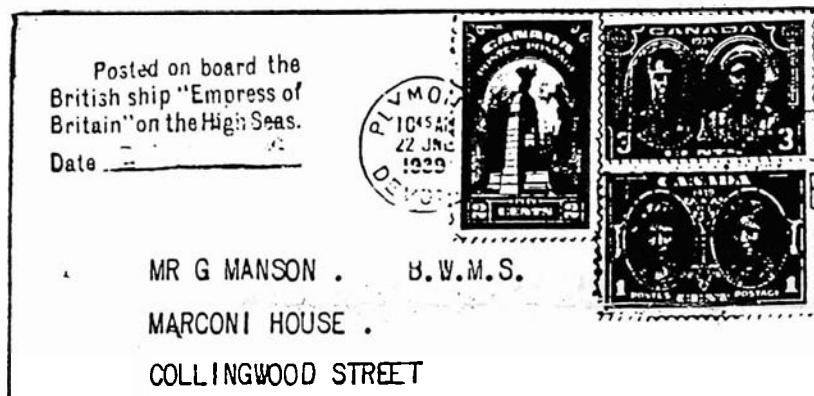
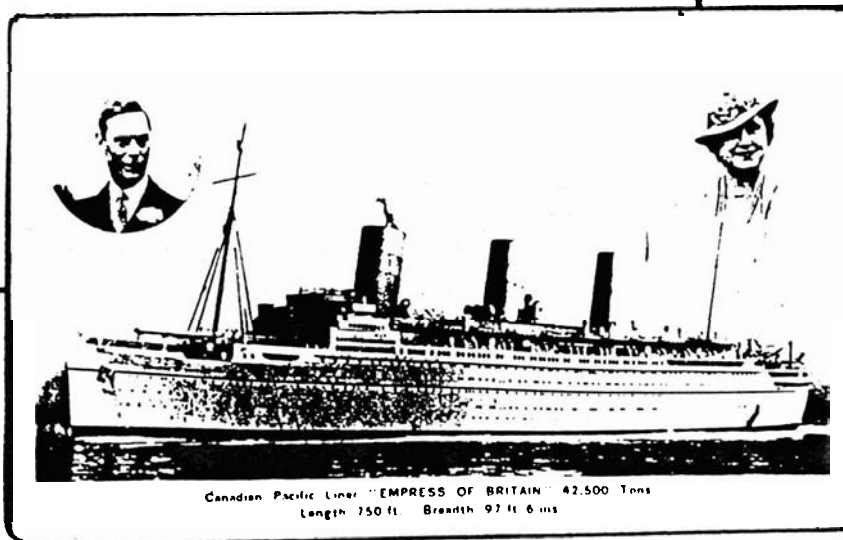


Fig.5

A souvenir postcard of the trip home



SECOND WORLD WAR SERIAL NUMBER PREFIX LETTERS

It is often interesting to know where a soldier enlisted with the Canadian Army through his or her Regimental Number; especially when a name and number are associated with a cover. Each of the Military Districts had a letter prefix which appeared before the serial number of the individual. The following may be useful to members:

<u>LETTER PREFIX</u>	<u>HEADQUARTERS</u>	<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>MILITARY DISTRICT</u>
A	LONDON	ONTARIO	1
B	TORONTO	ONTARIO	2
C	KINGSTON	ONTARIO	3
D	MONTREAL	QUEBEC	4
E	QUEBEC	QUEBEC	5
F	HALIFAX	NOVA SCOTIA	6
G	SAINT JOHN	NEW BRUNSWICK	7
H	WINNIPEG	MANITOBA	10

<u>LETTER PREFIX</u>	<u>HEADQUARTERS</u>	<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>MILITARY DISTRICT</u>
K	VANCOUVER	BRITISH COLUMBIA	11
L	REGINA	SASKATCHEWAN	12
M	CALGARY	ALBERTA	13
N	ENLISTED IN ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND		
P	SERVICE IN THE CANADIAN PERMANENT FORCE BEFORE THE DECLARATION OF WAR ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1939		
T	MILITIA OFFICER		
U	ENLISTED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM		
W	CANADIAN WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS (OTHER RANKS)		
X	WITH THREE DIGITS, ENLISTED IN THE FAR EAST		
Y	WITH FOUR DIGITS, ENLISTED IN THE NETHERLANDS/EUROPE		

The Canadian Army Order 6247 (December 5, 1945) introduced the letter "S" prefix for other ranks, and "Z" for officers to be used in conjunction with the other prefixes.

NOW FOR A FEW CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS....



John Daynes wrote: "I have received the CMMMSG Newsletter [#140] which, as always, I found interesting--however I am afraid Mr. Robinson has misread the FPO number on his West African cover [p. 406]. The FPO is in fact 475 from Gibraltar (this is confirmed by the half arrow above the date--475 was the only FPO to ever have this). Also the censor mark is recorded from Gibraltar. I expect the Canadian Officer was either on his way to West Africa or was able to send it by air to Gibraltar (by hand of pilot) from where it was sent to Canada by surface mail. Nevertheless an interesting item."

...and from David Whiteley: "With reference to John Frith's item on HMHS Letitia in the May edition [NL #140] at page 405, I would like to add the following comments. The Letitia was [...] converted to a hospital ship in November 1914 and was in service until August 1, 1917; mainly being used by the Indian Army. I have the following reports of her service and illustrations of two handstamps reproduced below. In April 1915 she was at Gallipoli, sailing for England on May 1 with wounded from HS Galeka. In December 1915, and for the next twelve months, she made frequent calls at Alexandria. On November 27, 1916 she picked up survivors from the City of Birmingham sunk ninety miles east of Malta. During January 1917, she served in the Salonika campaign, returning to England from Alexandria on February 17, 1917 with mental patients.

Two handstamps used during the period are: 1) an unframed three-line mauve endorsement [...] used in conjunction with BAPO Z, April 1, 1916 to April 26, 1917, and 2) a double-framed rectangular 31 x 57mm three-line inscription within a box with chamfered corners (reported in November 1916). This appears similar, if not identical, to the marking reported by John Frith. A third handstamp in mauve (not illustrated) is an oval cachet 37 x 54mm with "H.M. Hospital Ship 'LETITIA'" reportedly used in Alexandria's BAPO Z between December 31, 1915 and April 26, 1916.

Lieut. Colonel. I.M.S.
 Officer Commanding,
 H.M. Hospital Ship "LETITIA"

 HSC 58

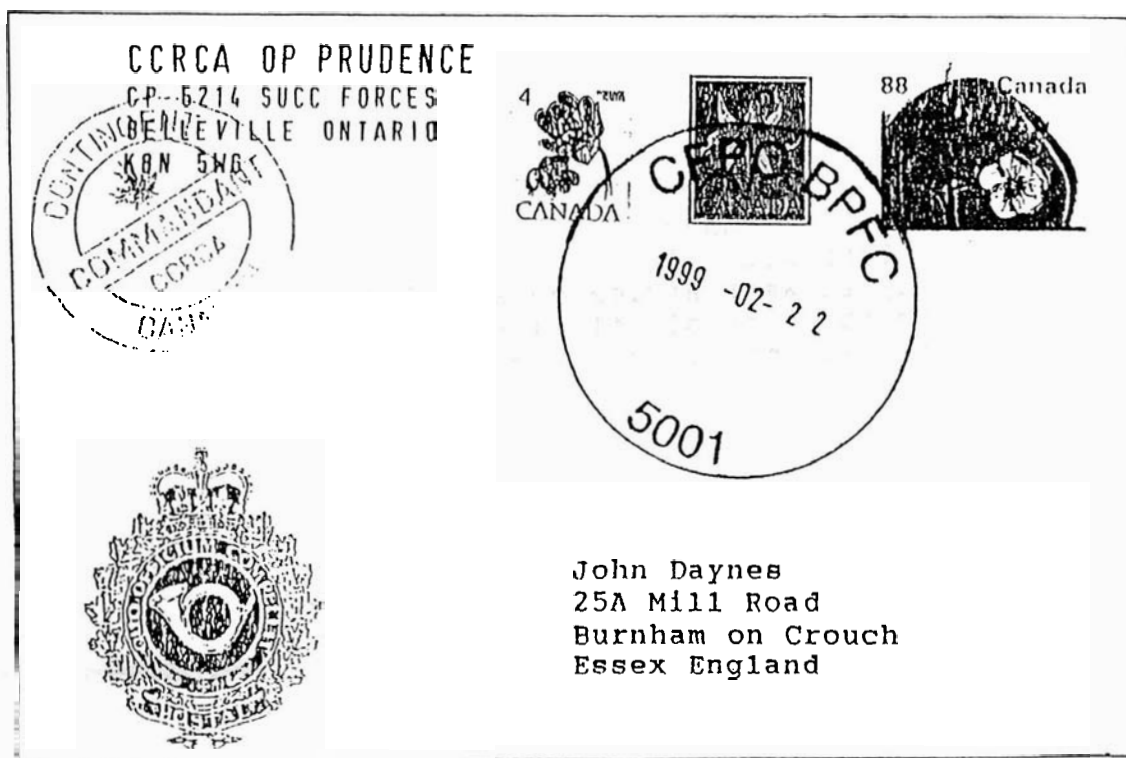
H.M. HOSPITAL SHIP
 No.....

 "LETITIA."

 HSC 41

The material and illustrations are from John Firebrace's British Empire Campaigns and Occupations in the Near East, 1914-1924. London: Christie's Robson Lowe, 1991.

OPERATION PRUDENCE--By John Daynes



This is a copy of a card I got from Operation PRUDENCE--the Canadian Contingent with the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA). [Thanks John for this nice illustration--the CFPO-BPFC 5001 is one of the largest I've seen! I can add the following information: The Canadians are to provide a "stable environment for the U.N. operation." A group of forty-five personnel, most from Valcartier and a few from Kingston and Montreal, are operating U.N. communication equipment in Bangui, the capital of the C.A.R. There is a Force Headquarters (four personnel) as well as subordinate contingents. Ed.]

RCAF 75TH/NATO 50TH FROM CANADA POST

Canada Post will release stamps celebrating both of these anniversaries in a few weeks. A sixteen-stamp pane of aircraft will celebrate the RCAF and a stylized NATO symbol and member flags is scheduled for September. Preliminary images are impressive.

BALFOUR, B.C. MILITARY SANATORIUM--By J.C. Campbell

While searching Wrigley's British Columbia Directory, 1910-1919, I found a reference to the above Sanitorium. A brief account follows.

Originally built in 1911 as a Canadian Pacific Railway Hotel, it was located overlooking Kootenay Lake, eighteen miles northeast of Nelson, B.C. An impressive Victorian structure, its accommodation was opulent for the time with everything available to the travelling public. Access most commonly used from Nelson and Kaslo was by the steamers Moyie and Kokanee.



Photo Courtesy Michael Cone

The Former C.P.R. Hotel at Balfour, B.C.

With the outbreak of the First World War, tourist travel declined and the hotel closed in 1916. The Military Hospitals Commission then requested a lease from the C.P.R. to use the building as a military hospital for tubercular patients. A five-year lease was signed effective February 1, 1917. Accommodation was arranged for 150 patients and staff. Captain H.B. Olson was in charge.

By the fall of 1920 a decline in the number of patients brought about the closure of the hospital, with the few remaining patients transferred to Kamloops. In 1929 the buildings were torn down and much of the salvaged material was used in Nelson for construction of several fine homes.

This is the notice in Wrigley's Directory which prompted this article:

BALFOUR

[A] post office and settlement on Kootenay Lake, in Trail Provincial Electoral District, 18 miles southeast of Nelson, reached by C.P.R. Nelson-Kootenay Landing steamers, and Nelson-Kaslo-Lardo boats. Nearest telegraph, C.P.R. at Proctor, distant $\frac{2}{3}$ mile. Here is located the Balfour Military Sanitorium, Capt. H.B. Olson in charge. Fruit growing and poultry raising.

Population 91, and 130 soldiers
Balfour Military Sanitorium
Hallard Arch A-ranching

[Cont'd.]

Bastin Robt S-ranching
Begg Chas-stock & fruit ranching



Photo Courtesy Michael Cone

Soldier Patients "at ease", Balfour
Military Hospital, 1917-1920

It should be recorded here that two postmasters served at the Balfour Post Office during the period between August 1, 1911 and March 23, 1945. Their names were N.A. McFadyen and C. Holt. Who will be the first to find a cover bearing the "Balfour" postmark dated within the hospital's period of service? Perhaps the letter was written by one of the patients.

References

1. Wrigley's B.C. Directory, 1910-1919
2. Melvin, G. P.O.'s of B.C. (1972)
3. Cone, M. Article Kootenay Outlet
4. Nelson Museum. Article Nelson Daily News

RE-USE LABELS AND ECONOMY ENVELOPES--By W. Pekonen

Many Commonwealth governments and military groups used a variety of methods to conserve paper during the Second World War and other periods when paper shortages were experienced. The information is dealt with more fully in a photocopied booklet containing almost 200 pages of material. This booklet is published by the Pacific Northwest Regional Group as a fund raiser.

The following includes some extracts that may be of interest to military mail collectors. The information is based on the combined knowledge of about ten collectors. It is preliminary in nature because this writer suspects that there could be many variations out there somewhere. It is, however, based mainly on this writer's collection of government envelopes which is probably the largest in captivity. This is not to brag--it is a simple and humble admission of the fact that

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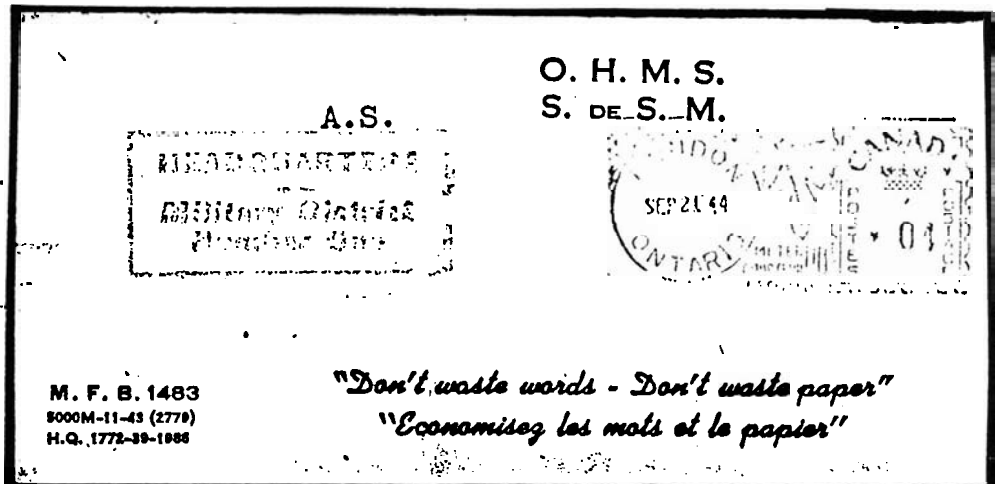
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few other collectors have bothered collecting this type of material--so it is easy to lay claim to the "championship" title up to this point. The main collection is based on a bulk lot of covers obtained many years ago from Roy Wrigley.

The numbering system used throughout is based on the chronological printing order date. It was the practice of the government of the day to record the date and print quantity on the face of the envelope. In most cases this information can be relied upon. There are a few exceptions because some envelopes with distinct differences, but bearing the same description, have been observed. On the whole, however, this progression enables the insertion of newly-found material in sequential order without disturbing an otherwise conventional numbering system. The exceptions noted so far belong mainly to one group only.

A typical number is 12.40.8. The "12" identifies a special envelope printed by the R.C.A.F. The "40" indicates the year 1940. The "8" indicates the month of August. A further subgroup might indicate the print quantity, usually included as part of the print description found on the envelope. Some of the groups had very limited printings--one as low as 10,000. Some of the uses are very scarce and can add a premium when in combination with other more common or just as scarce uses for other reasons.

A typical example of an O.H.M.S. use from Military District No.1 Headquarters in London. Note the special numbering system in the lower left of the cover (cropped for illustration purposes)




Fourteen or more of the thirty-seven groups are strictly military, while some of the others can be a combination of private and military. Six of the thirty-seven include mail from other countries. One of the more interesting groups is the re-directed mail labels. These are not seen very often, and it is common to see British labels used on mail addressed to Canada. Some envelopes are re-directed on the face without a re-direct label.

This series of articles includes only the major groups. For more information, readers can get a copy of the booklet from John Keenlyside, 622-470 Granville St., Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1V5.

[To be continued]



16 - 18 September 1999, Vernon, British Columbia


B.C. MPO/NPO'S--SECOND WORLD WAR

Members of the BNAPS B.C. Postal History Study Group have been working on the following data for some time and through the kindness of Bill Topping, we are fortunate to obtain permission to print the results. If members can provide different dates etc., please contact your Editor for a future update (and I'll forward the information to Bill T. as well. Thanks!).

	<u>MPO/NPO</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>EST.</u>	<u>CLOSED</u>	<u>EARLY</u>	<u>LATE</u>	<u>CANCELS</u>
D/M/Y)	MILITIA	VERNON CAMP	28 06 39	01 07 39	01 06 39		MILITIA
	MPO 1101	VERNON	20 10 41 ^a	08 02 46	01 12 42	29 11 45	BMR
	MPO 1102	PATRICIA BAY MOON 9879	16 08 44 ^b 01 06 46	CIVILIAN 15 10 47	05 09 44	05 08 47	BMR
	MPO 1103	VICTORIA WORK POINT BKS	01 09 42	30 04 46 ^c	05 09 42	19 ?? 46	BMR
	MPO 1104	NANAIMO	10 11 42	28 02 46	07 12 42	05 02 46	BR
	MPO 1105	PORT ALBERNI	02 12 42	12 04 45	07 12 42	09 12 44	BR
	MPO 1106	VANCOUVER	13 11 42	22 01 46	19 11 42	30 11 46	BLMRS
	MPO 1107	CHILLIWACK	05 07 44	15 05 46	08 10 44	23 03 46	BR
	MPO 1108	PRINCE GEORGE MOON 9615	11 01 43	30 04 45 ^d	28 01 43	03 02 45	BLRS
	MPO 1109	TERRACE " DUPLEX MOON 9753	16 03 43 15 04 43	02 04 45	19 03 43 19 04 43	21 03 44 15 01 45	BDR
	MPO 1110	PRINCE RUPERT MOON 9621	23 07 43	08 11 45	11 08 43	29 10 45	BMRS
	MPO 1111	JERICHO BEACH	15 06 44 ^e	30 03 46	28 03 44	29 01 46	BMR
	NPO 1112	(ESQUIMALT) HMCS GIVENCHY MOON 9885	17 05 43	05 03 46	23 05 43	15 10 45	B
	NPO 1113	(ESQUIMALT) HMCS NADEN MOON 9895	16 02 43 01 06 46	CIVILIAN 16 06 47	26 03 43	12 06 47	BRP
	NPO 1114	(ROYAL ROADS) HMCS COLLEGE MOON 9665	17 05 43	05 03 46	04 11 45		B
	NPO 1115	PRINCE RUPERT HMCS CHATHAM MOON 9623	16 08 43	29 10 45 ^f	28 08 43	30 07 45	B
	MPO 1116	VANCOUVER SEA ISLAND AS MOON 9875	02 09 43 ^g 01 06 46	CIVILIAN 21 05 47	25 02 44	09 11 45	BM
	NPO 1117	(VANCOUVER) HMCS BARRARD	08 12 43	15 11 45 ^h	11 01 44	17 09 45	BLPR
	MPO 1118	NOT USED					

[Cont'd.]

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<u>MPO/NPO</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>EST.</u>	<u>CLOSED</u>	<u>EARLY</u>	<u>LATE</u>	<u>CANCELS</u>
MPO 1119	VANCOUVER H.Q.	03 07 45	05 07 46 ⁱ	12 07 45	04 06 46	B
NPO 1120	VANCOUVER H.Q. HMCS DISCOVERY VANCOUVER EMERGENCY NO.1	15 06 44	02 03 46	19 10 45	09 12 45	B
MPO 1121	COMOX MOON 9151	24 07 44	15 01 46	26 06 44	27 11 45	BR
MPO 1122	TOFINO	22 08 44	22 08 45 ^j	24 08 44	21 08 45	BR
MPO 1123	UCLUELET	NOT USED				
MPO 1124	BOUNDARY BAY MOON 9071	16 10 44	31 10 45	10 11 44	07 09 45	BLR
MPO 1125	ABBOTSFORD	23 11 44	15 09 45	09 12 44	16 08 45	BM
FPO 1126	WILLIAMS LAKE	12 02 45	30 03 45 ^k	27 02 45	29 03 45	B
MPO 1127	ALLIFORD BAY VANCOUVER EMERGENCY NO.1	16 01 45 ^l	10 09 45	28 02 45	20 11 45	BLM
				18 01 45		

Cancel Types:

B = Type "B", solid circle cancel D = Duplex cancel
 L = Lineal or roller cancel M = MOTO box cancel
 P = Pitney Bowes meter R = Registration box marking
 S = Registration, large CDS transit mark

NB* Listed dates from British Columbia Post Offices, W. Topping, Ed. Some dates as noted below are from Canadian Military Post Offices to 1986, W.J. Bailey and E.R. Toop:

a. 28 09 42	g. 23 05 44
b. 15 08 44	h. 10 11 45
c. 30 03 46	i. 08 07 46
d. 04 04 45	j. 28 09 45
e. 15 08 44	k. 30 04 45
f. 29 09 45	l. 18 01 45

"THE POSTCARD WAR, 1914-18"

Joe Smith sent along a copy of the above article by Ian McCulloch from The Beaver (April-May 1998). It is well-illustrated with patriotic picture postcards and quite interesting. Thanks for the information-----if members are interested, send a SASE to the Editor (73¢).

SMALL ADS

These are still a \$1 (mint Canadian postage acceptable) per insertion. Buy/sell/trade! Ad copy to the Editor please.

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 (4/5)

WANTED: WWI Newfoundland cards/covers (including civil censored); Canadian Chaplain covers (all eras). Priced photocopies to the Editor. (1/2)



Remember to check out the Society's website: www.wep.ab.ca/bnaps for BNAPEX updates, activities, and award recipients after the convention! Next time....the Christmas issue!
