



# Canadian Military Mail Study Group

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year

## NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 1999

NEWSLETTER NO. 142

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### TRANSPORT NO.24, CHRISTMAS 1901

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Anglo-Boer War, members might find this Christmas Day menu from the S.S. Orient of interest (perhaps not a Canadian troop ship, but interesting nevertheless).



*With Best Wishes.*

S.S. "ORIENT."  
Transport No. 24.  
CHRISTMAS DAY, 1901.

MENU FOR TROOPS.

**BREAKFAST.**  
Porridge and Syrup,  
Sausages and Potatoes  
Stewed Plums and Rice  
Bread. Butter. Marmalade  
Coffee.

**DINNER.**  
Barley Broth  
Roast Beef  
Cabbage and Potatoes  
Christmas Pudding  
Oranges. Apples. Nuts.

**TEA.**  
Cold:—  
Roast Goose. Boiled Bacon.  
Beetroot Pickles,  
Bread. Butter. Jam.  
Plum Cake.

**SUPPER.**  
Biscuits Bread Cheese.

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CHAIRMAN/TREASURER: W.J. BAILEY, #5-8191 FRANCIS RD., RICHMOND, BC V6Y 1A5  
EDITOR: D. MARIO, BOX 342, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3

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Dear Fellow CMMSG Members:

I apologize for this issue being a bit tardy but some surgery last month has kept me "out of action". I'm sure that it will arrive in good time and well before the upcoming holiday season. Lots of news and business so let's begin.

BNAPEX '99 was a great success and the host committee is to be congratulated. Our Study Group meeting was well attended with nineteen members and guests signing the roster. Present were:

W.J. Bailey (BC), Hendrik Burgers (ON), J.C. Campbell (BC), Taras Cheberiak (SK), John Frith (ON), Peter Gray (SC), J.D. Hannan (BC), J.C. Johnson (BC), Robert Lemire (ON), Jim Longbourne (BC), Steve Luciuk (SK), Dean Mario (SK), Bill Robinson (BC), Doug Sayles (ON), Joe Smith (AB), Bob Spencer (BC), Mike Street (ON), Bob Toombs (BC), David Whiteley (MB).

Thanks are extended to Joe Smith who presented a very interesting and enjoyable slide show on the C.S.E.F. and his family's participation therein.

The business-part of the meeting was short but substantial. A brief review follows:

- Bill Bailey is now working on updating the Bailey/Toop series edited by E.B. Proud. If members have new information to contribute, please contact Bill as soon as possible with photocopies;
- Bill also announced that Bob Toombs will edit book three in the ongoing series of Bailey/Toop's Canadian Military Post Offices (Unitrade Press);
- An announcement regarding several new books by member David Whiteley was made (more of this elsewhere);
- No dues will be necessary for the 1999-2000 membership year to allow members a bit more \$ for that special new cover!;
- Some discussion resulted from the BC MPO/NPO--WWII update in the last issue [NL #141, pp.425-426]. Bill Bailey noted that the different dates are understandable and that the later dates supplied by the B.C. Study Group should stand when reported as the ERD's/LRD's;
- A "member's library" was discussed to circulate information among members. Participating members would detail military books (both postal/non-postal) and send the list to the Editor for future publication (Bob Toombs kindly volunteered to eventually compile the listing). Members could access other members' libraries through a self-addressed envelope system (more of this in a future issue);
- The question of a current Newsletter index was also raised to expand upon the work done previously by E.R. "Ritch" Toop. A volunteer is needed to continue the July 1991 Index (please contact Bill Bailey for more information);
- A "members' private treaty" listing was also deliberated to possibly replace our occasional mail bid sales. Jon Johnson volunteered and this idea too will be noted in an upcoming issue.

Whew! Lots done and more to do in the upcoming year. Thank you to all the attendees and it was a pleasure to meet most of you. Bill and I would like to extend our best wishes for the holidays!

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NORWAY-NEW YORK VIA CANADA COVER UPDATE

Two members have kindly written with comments on the cover in Newsletter 141 (p. 415) from John Wannerton. Jerry Jarnick notes:

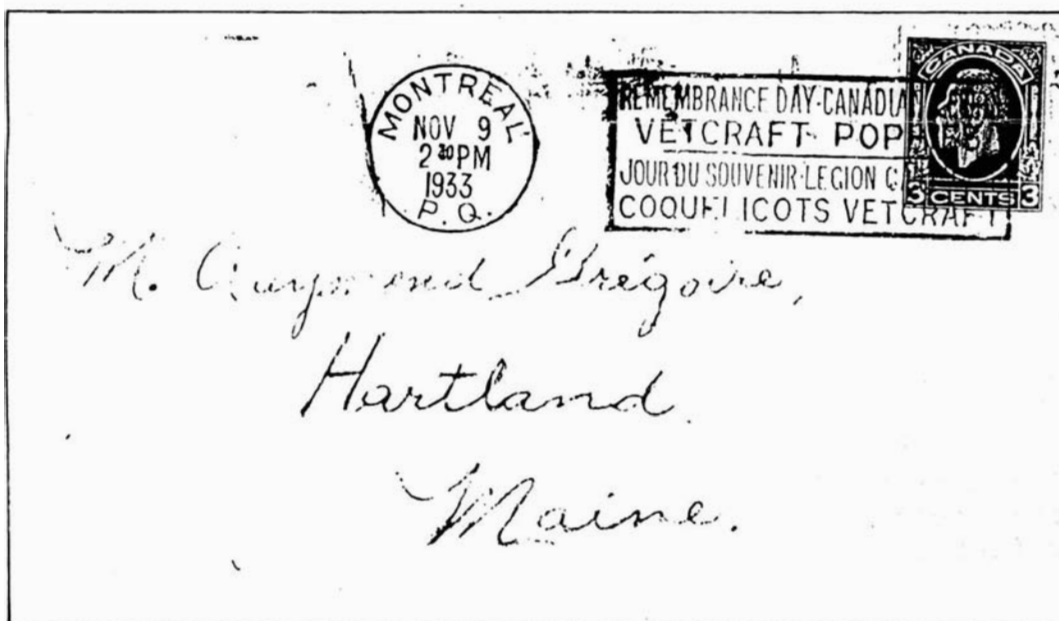
"...I route the Norwegian cover from Haugesund, to Frankfurt, Lisbon, then via Pan Am's Southern Clipper to New York with a stop in Horta and/or Bermuda. The actual routing changed depending on flight conditions. From New York it would have been transferred to the Canadian mails were it received the Canadian censor marking. Again, a complete guess, but I'd say Montreal. This part should be easy based on the location of C.36. I read the date in the photocopy as 1 September 1941. Remember that us Yanks didn't get into the fray until 7 December 1941. Thus, at the time this cover traveled the Atlantic, the United States was still neutral."

And from Charles LaBlonde:

"Chris Miller has already done a fine job on the markings, but the route is indeed curious. I am certainly no expert on these routes, so I went to Roland Kohl's book on WWII air routes (Roland is the Swiss airmail expert....). Roland notes air service for all of 1941 between Berlin and Oslo, with Copenhagen as an intermediate stop. I assume this service was Lufthansa. So why wasn't the letter censored in Berlin? I assume also that the letter had to cross the Atlantic on the Pan Am service from Lisbon. Lufthansa had a flight for all of 1941 from Berlin to Lisbon with stops at Stuttgart, Barcelona, and Madrid....In Roland's book I see no references to any air service from Frankfurt at that time. Did Frankfurt even have an airport in 1941? Here's a theory: Berlin censor office was very busy, so they passed off some mail to Frankfurt. After censorship there, mail went to Stuttgart to catch the flight to Lisbon."

Thank you gentlemen for your suggestions on John's cover, which gets more interesting as time goes on! [Ed.]

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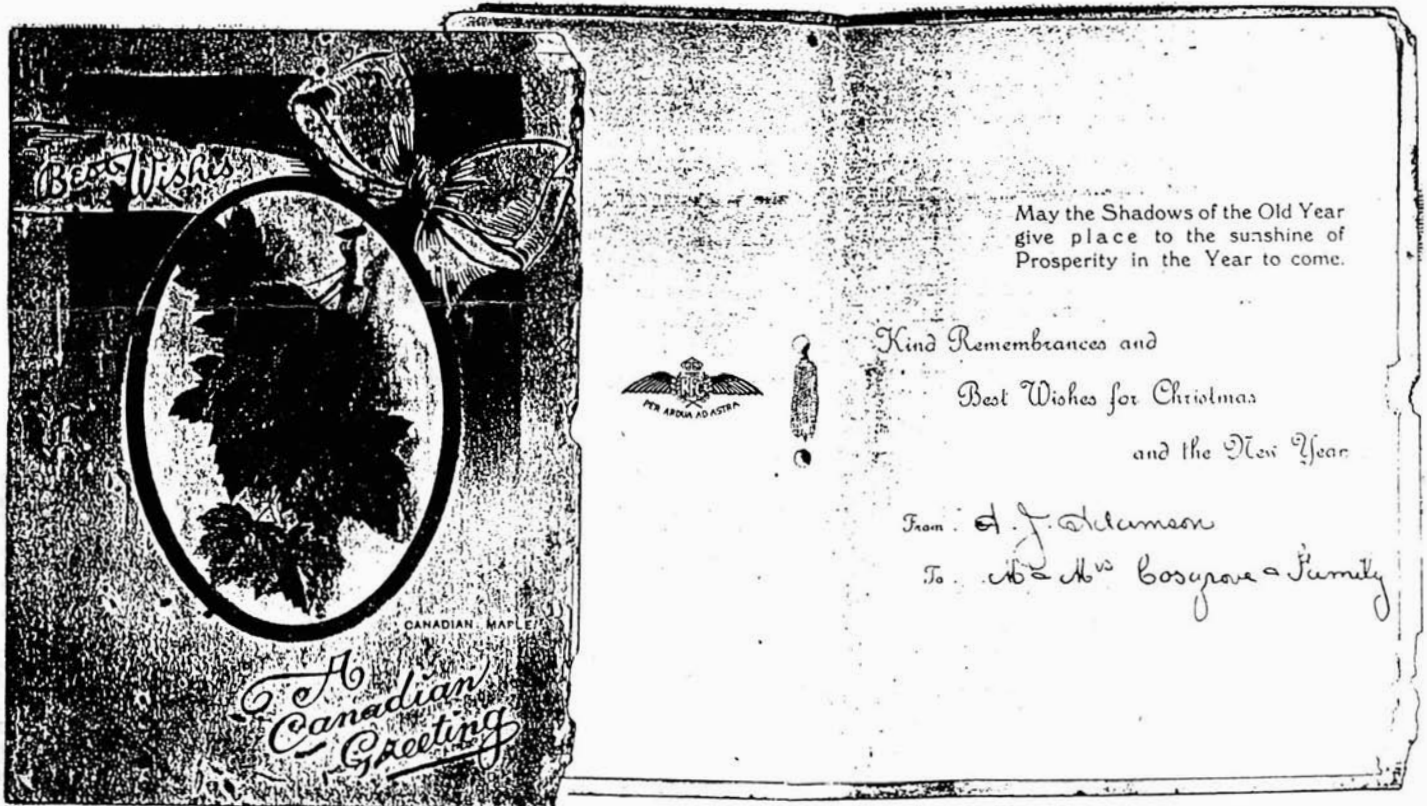
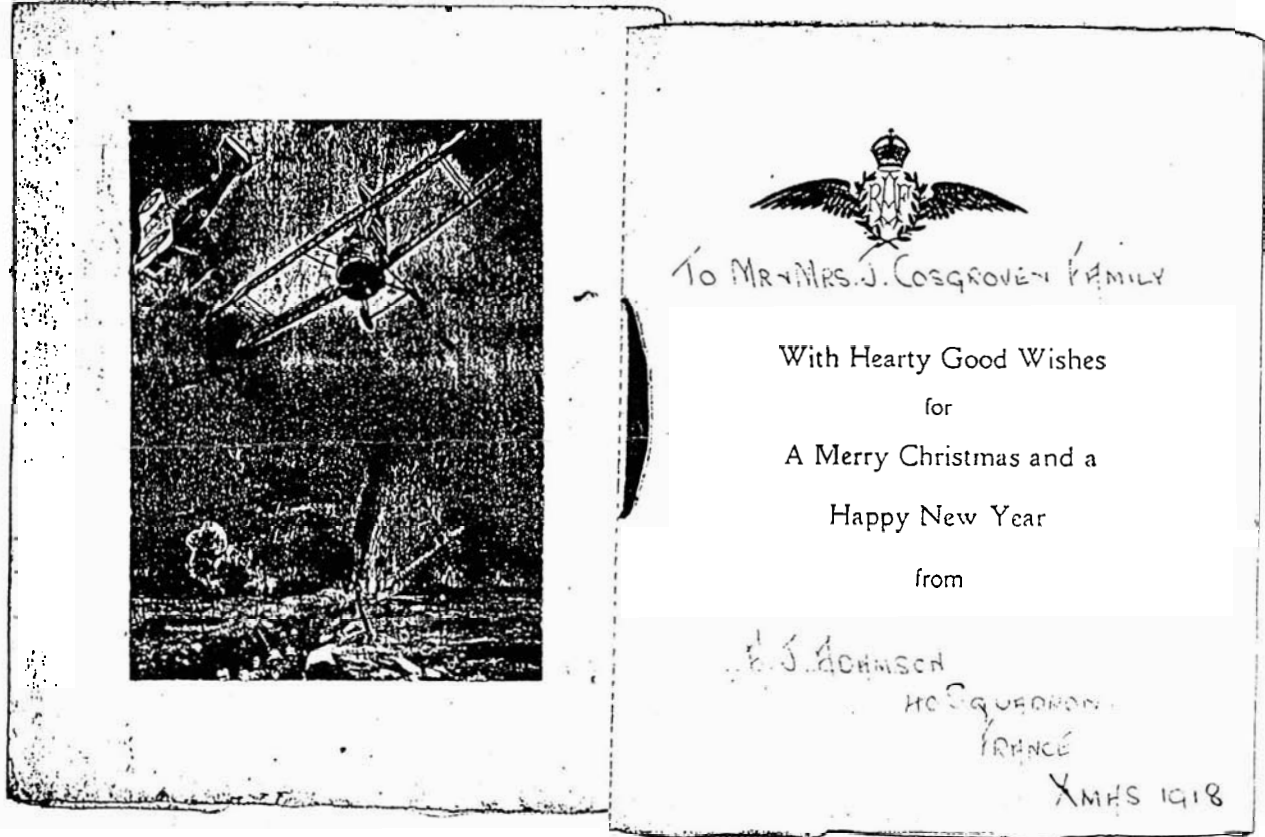


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1933 VETCRAFT POPPY SLOGAN

Lest We Forget!



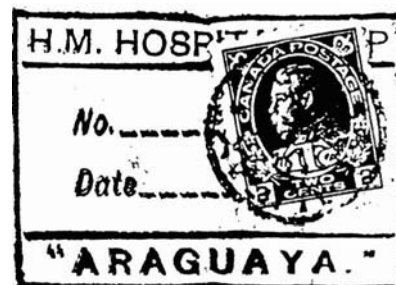


CANADIAN HOSPITAL SHIP SURVEY--By Jon Johnson

I would like to do a survey to see how many hospital ship cancels have been found. Below is a list of the "possible" cancels, and for all I know there may even be more. Reports of types and dates would be greatly appreciated either to the Editor or Jon Johnson, 9604 Kalamalka Rd., Vernon, BC V1B 1L3. Examples of some of the cancels are below:

WWI

- A Rectangular-HM Hospital Ship Araguaya
- B Oval-HMHS Araguaya
- C Rectangular-HMHS Letitia\*
- D Oval-HMHS Letitia
- E Oval-HMHS Llandoverly Castle
- F Oval-HM Ambulance Transport Araguaya
- G Oval-Ambulance Transport Essequibo
- H Oval-Ambulance Transport Neuralia

WWII

- I Circular-NO.1 Canadian Hospital Ship Lady Nelson
- J Circular-NO.2 Canadian Hospital Ship Letitia



[\*for illus. see NL #141, p. 421. Jon also requests photocopies of ship postcards (fronts and backs if used) to determine more information on the postmarks associated with these ships. Ed.]

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BNAPEX '99 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to exhibitors among our membership! The displays were excellent and quite informative. Military exhibitors/exhibits included:

Ken Ellison, "Force 'C': The Canadian Army's Hong Kong Story, 1941-45" (Gold, E.R. "Ritch" Toop Award); Steven Luciuk, "Internment Mail in Canada, 1914-19" (Vermeil, "With Felicitations"); Jon Johnson, "Mail From S.A.M.N.S.'s" (1-Frame, Vermeil); Doug Hannan, "The Canadian Army and Airforce in Newfoundland and Labrador, 1940-46" (Silver, "With Felicitations"); Robert Toombs, "Canadian NATO Mails, 1951-65" (Silver).

Congratulations to the literature exhibitors as well!

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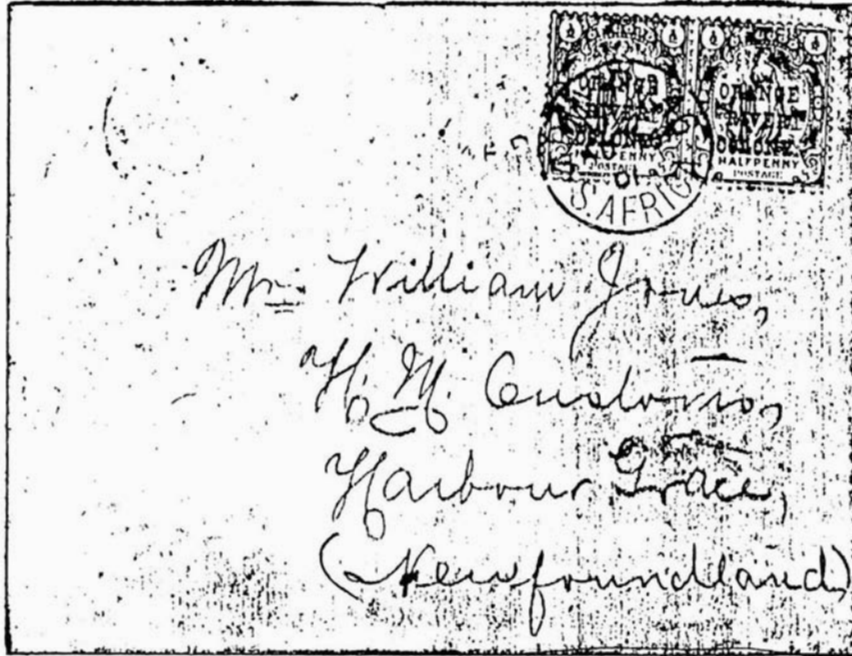
NEW WHITELEY BOOKS

Member David Whiteley has authored The British Missions to Russia, The Canadian Experience: A Postal History (\$25CDN., \$17.50US), and The Foreign Exchange Control Board and the Canadian Post Office, 1939-51 (full colour, \$30CDN, \$20US). For more information contact David at: DHW Publications, #605-77 Edmonton St., Winnipeg, MB R3C 4H8, (204) 947-9904, or EMAIL: dhwy@sprint.ca [.]

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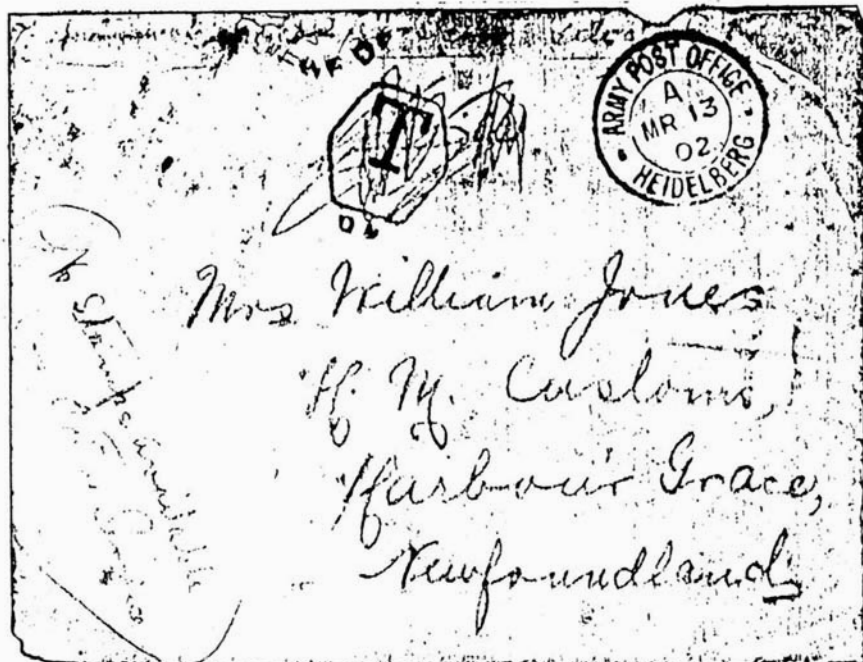
ANGLO-BOER WAR COVERS TO NEWFOUNDLAND

In keeping with the anniversary of the Anglo-Boer War, these two rare covers (ex. D. Campbell, R.N. Collection) may be of some interest to members. Allan Steinhart noted that Boer War covers to Newfoundland were extremely scarce. These two were presumably sent by 2323, Pte. L. Jones, 1st Scots Guards, who may have been an ex-Newfoundlander who joined the Imperial Forces.



"ARMY P.O. 46/  
S.AFRICA/AU 16/  
01"

"ARMY POST OFFICE/  
HEIDELBERG/MR 13/  
02"



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FROM HMC SHIP/EXAMINED BY DB/N SHIP 1010-ERROR?--By C.D. Sayles/Wilf Whitehouse

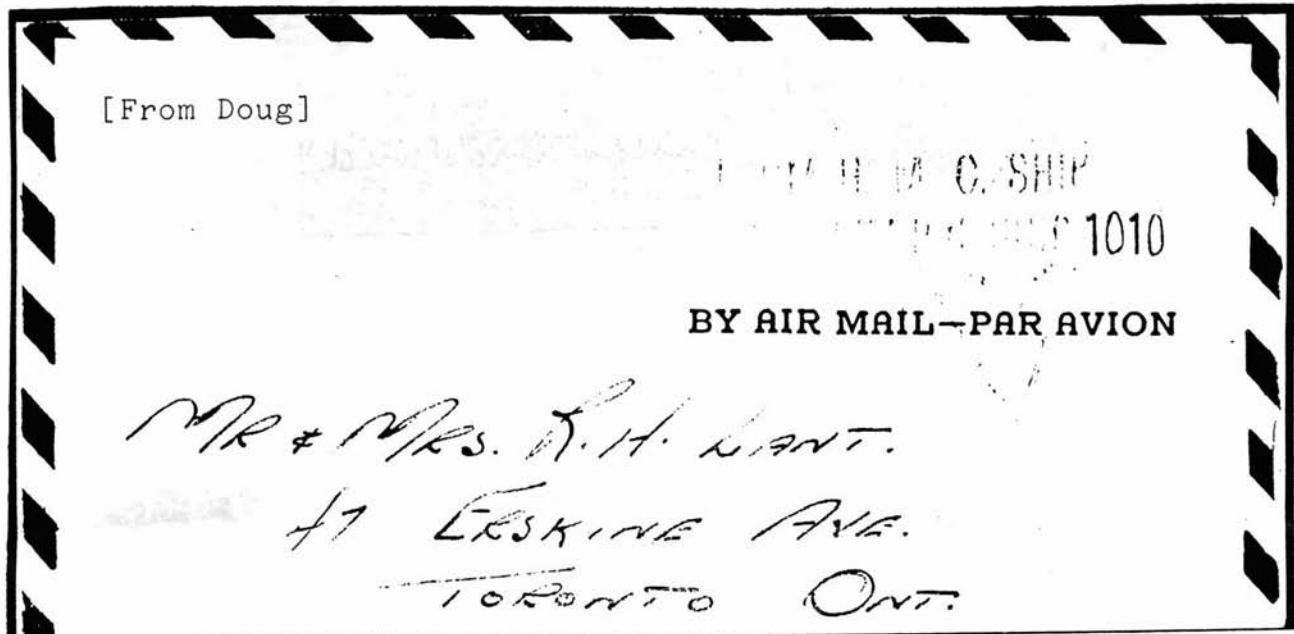
Doug sent in this unusual cover with the unorthodox RCN ship censor. He wanted more information and a contact with our resident "RCN Expert" resulted in the following:

Wilf wrote:

"...the censor marking from H.M.C. SHIP/EXAMINED BY DB/N SHIP 1010 is different in that it can best be described as an error and is the only one I know of. It has been reported a number of times over the years but in all cases on an unidentified cover. Enclosed is a photostat of its use on an OHMS cover. I have narrowed this marking down to three Corvettes, but this is the first example used from Newfoundland...All three of my "suspects" operated out of St. John's at one time or another on ocean escort. Because I considered this marking an error, it was not considered important enough to include in the various articles on censorship in the R.C.N. Incidentally, it is not the only error to appear in the various types used. If I were a betting man, I'd say that this is one of a kind, as I have not heard of another."



[Thank you Doug and Wilf for sending in examples of this unusual marking. Can members share others or expand upon the identity? Ed.]



[From Doug]

BY AIR MAIL-PAR AVION

MR & MRS. R.H. LANT.  
47 ESKINE AVE.  
TORONTO ONT.

[From Wilf]

THE SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD,  
NAVAL SERVICE HEADQUARTERS  
OTTAWA,  
ONT.

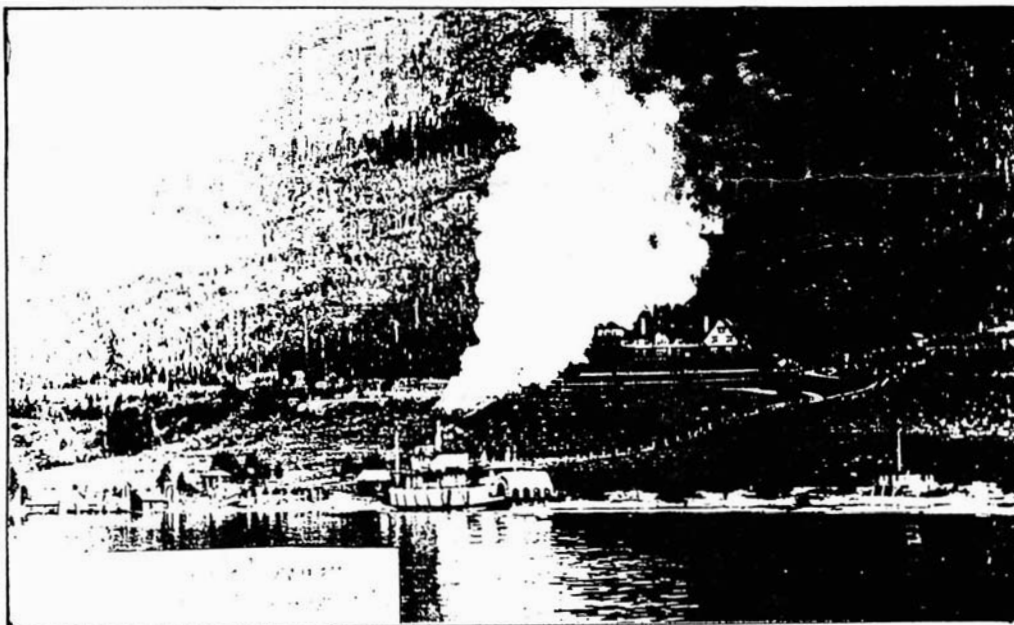
FROM H. M. C. SHIP  
EXAMINED BY DB/N SHIP 1010

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BALFOUR, B.C. MILITARY HOSPITAL UPDATE--By Jon Johnson

Jon sent in these two cards as a follow-up to J.C. Campbell's article in the previous Newsletter [NL #141, pp. 422-23]. The top card shows a view of the hospital and the front caption "Military Sanitarium".

The second card, used from Balfour to England in 1916, was sent from Sy Moxon to his parents from the Kootenay Lake Hotel. Moxon, probably a CPR hotel employee, notes that he is helping to open up for the military takeover of the building to be utilized as a tuberculosis sanatorium. Thanks Jon for the interesting addendum.



Kootenay Lake.  
Jun 8th 1916

Dear Mother & Dad, all.  
Here I am at the above place.  
Had a telegram at Banff to come  
up here & open the Hotel up as  
the Military are taking it over  
as a hospital. It is a lovely spot  
but of course there is a little snow  
here just now. I am keeping  
pretty fit but shall be busy for  
a week or so now. Hope you will  
get the money order I don't know  
but I know if you do. I shall be  
spending Dad's & my birthday up  
here. And now I was pleased to  
have all the family news. Love to  
all from your loving son  
Sy Moxon

Post Card

Mr. N. Moxon.  
29. Newson Road  
Lincoln  
England

CANADA POSTAGE  
E 10 E



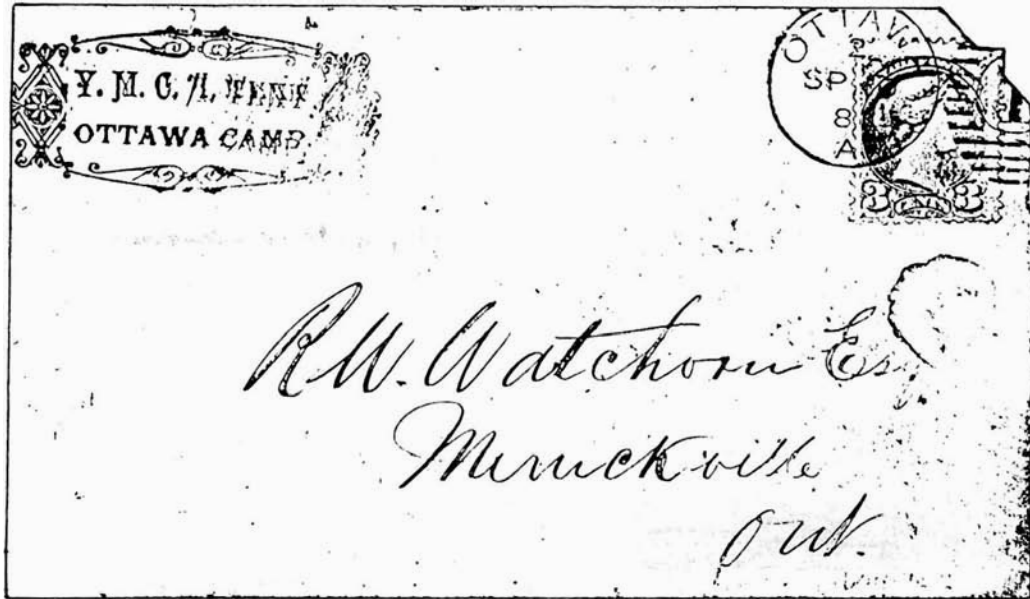
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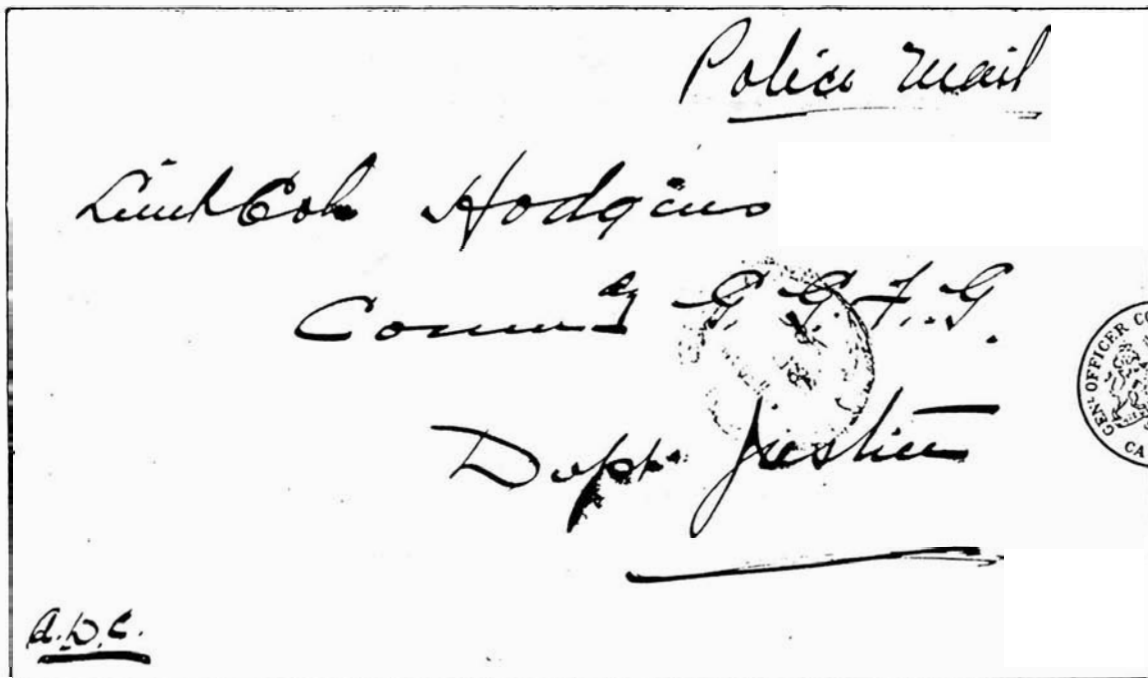
1881 "YMCA TENT", OTTAWA CAMP/OTTAWA MILITIA 1896--By Colin Pomfret

Colin sent in two early copies of some interesting finds and are illustrated below. He notes:

This cut-down front depicts an unusual Y.M.C.A. Tent, Ottawa Camp cachet. A 3¢ Small Queen is tied by the "OTTAWA/A/2/SP 10/81" #1 Duplex on the cover to Merrickville, Ontario.



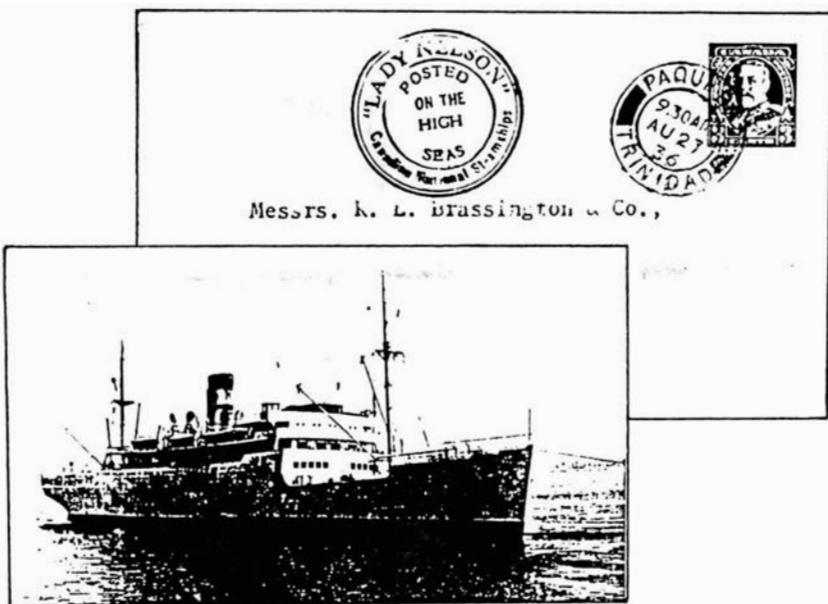
This cover is from Militia Headquarters in Ottawa and was sent to the Lt. Colonel commanding the Governor General's Foot Guard, also based in Ottawa. The postmark is not clear but it is dated MR/96. A Militia H.Q. cachet is on the reverse. The endorsement "Police Mail" appears to be a free frank.



NO.1 CANADIAN HOSPITAL SHIP "LADY NELSON"--By Wilf Whitehouse

Lady Nelson was one of five sister ships built by Cammell Laird & Co. in the 1920's for the Canadian National Steamship Co. All of these vessels were named after the wife of a famous Royal Navy Admiral.

They were fine-looking ships of approximately 8,000 tons with refrigeration facilities, and served as fast passenger-cargo vessels between Canadian, American, and Caribbean ports (FIG.1).



A Letter Posted Aboard Lady Nelson in the 1930's (FIG.1)

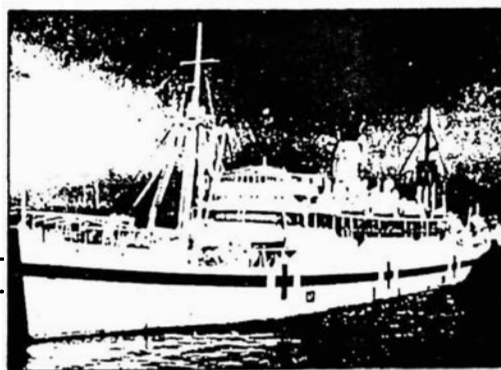
In 1939 the ship was taken in hand and fitted out as a Defensively Equipped Merchant Ship (D.E.M.S.) and except for Lady Somers, these ships continued to sail their regular routes; very often unescorted. Only two of the five survived the war.

In 1942, Lady Nelson was torpedoed and sank at the wharf in St. Lucia, British West Indies. She was later refloated and towed to the U.S. for repairs, then returned to Canada.

Late in 1943 she was taken in hand for fitting out as Canada's first hospital ship and as such, she was reported to have brought home over 15,000 wounded and recovering

servicemen. In addition, she brought hundreds of servicemens' wives (war brides) and families to Halifax (FIG.2).

The Ship's Christmas Card, Year Unknown. Inside is a Photo of the Ship Together With a Christmas Greeting (FIG.2)



23RD CANADIANS, CHRISTMAS, 1915--By  
Steven Luciuk

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On Active Service.

The  
23rd Canadian



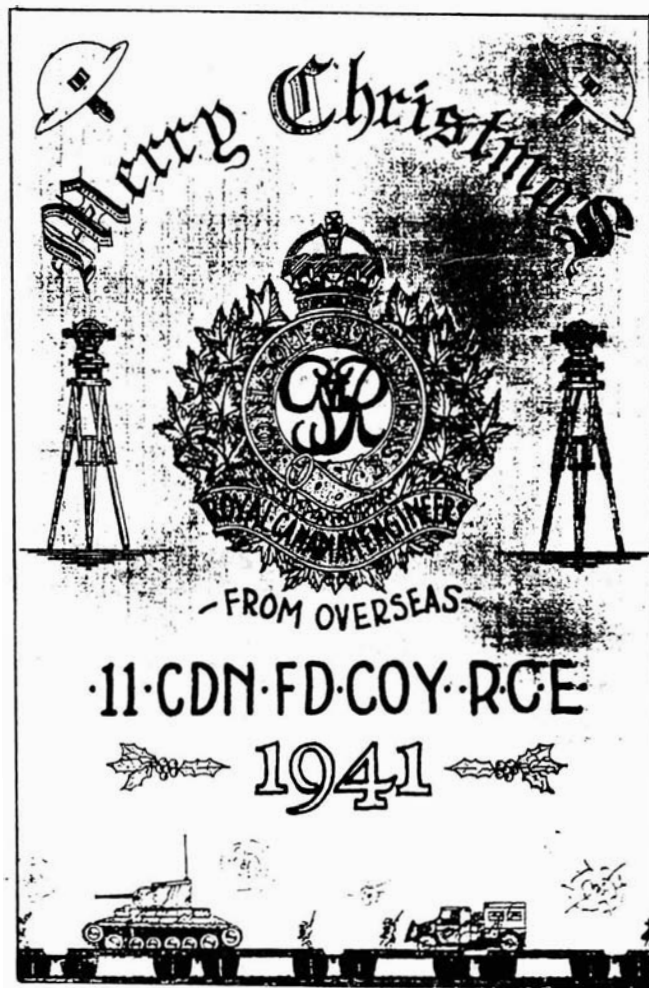
Battalion.

Christmas, 1915.

West Sandling Camp,  
Kent, England

The War still on; It's Christmas time;  
We await our turn to strengthen the  
line,  
Doing our duty, as our Boys can do,  
For King and Country, and for you.  
But "Cheer Up" is our motto. Down-  
hearted? No!  
And though I'm a distance away,  
We live in hopes to lick them soon,  
And to be home next Christmas Day.

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas with  
Health, Wealth and Prosperity in the  
coming Year.*



11TH CDN. FD. COY., RCE, 1941--By  
C.D. Sayles

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SPECIAL KOREAN WAR ISSUE



Members will know that the year 2000 will also be noted as the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, 1950-53. A special issue is planned for the late spring to honour Canadian participation. Please send in something (a filler is fine too) so we can mark the occasion. Thank you! [Ed.]

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BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

Members know that a well-stocked library is most helpful for research, information, and enjoyment. Many non-philatelic books are useful too and the following may be of interest:

Canadian Military Times is a newspaper (quarterly) and new book list for military historians, researchers, and collectors. It's new, and the first edition ran stories on the 1885 Alberta Field Force; Canadian Great War Memorials; and the Kiska Invasion. For a free copy contact: CMT, Bunker to Bunker Publishing, Box 161, 200 Barclay Parade S.W., Calgary, AB T2P 4R5 or phone/fax (403) 264-6242;

The Naval and Military Press issues a semi-regular book list from all eras and worldwide campaigns. Hundreds of books are noted so there should be something for almost everyone. Contact them at: Box 61, Dallington, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 9ZS, U.K. or see their website at: [www.naval-military-press.co.uk](http://www.naval-military-press.co.uk) [;]

Two further pricelists include those from Pallas Books, 17 Ella St., Ottawa, ON K1S 2S3, telephone (613) 233-6247 or EMAIL: [smpallas@cyberus.ca](mailto:smpallas@cyberus.ca) and CANAV Books, 51 Balsam Ave., Toronto, ON M4E 3B6, telephone (416) 698-7559. This firm specializes in aviation material but does offer the occasional general military history book. [Ed.]

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C.C.S.G. SETS

Charles LaBlonde, #5-2940 Underwood Point, Colorado Springs, CO USA 80920-7290, of the Civil Censorship Study Group wrote to inform us that the Group is selling sets of their Bulletins (over 120) for US\$89.95 (including postage). Members interested should contact him a.s.a.p. before December 31, 1999!

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SMALL ADS

\$1 (mint Canadian postage acceptable) per insertion. Ad copy to the Editor please. Let members know what you're buying or selling!

WANTED: Correspondence to/from Wm., Mrs. W., or Hamish Maitland-Dougall. Please send photocopy/price to Doug Sayles, 25 Howard Rd., Waterdown, ON LOR 2H4 (1/5)

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 (5/5)

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

WANTED: Homing pigeon military mail (Signal Corps)--yes, homing pigeons! Details to the Editor please. (1/2)

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For the first issue in 2000!: Updates on BC MPO's; N.P.O. 504; Toronto Internment Camp--first report; a Canadian in 1918 Switzerland; and a lot more!! Happy Holidays to you and yours and have a wonderful New Year!

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