



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

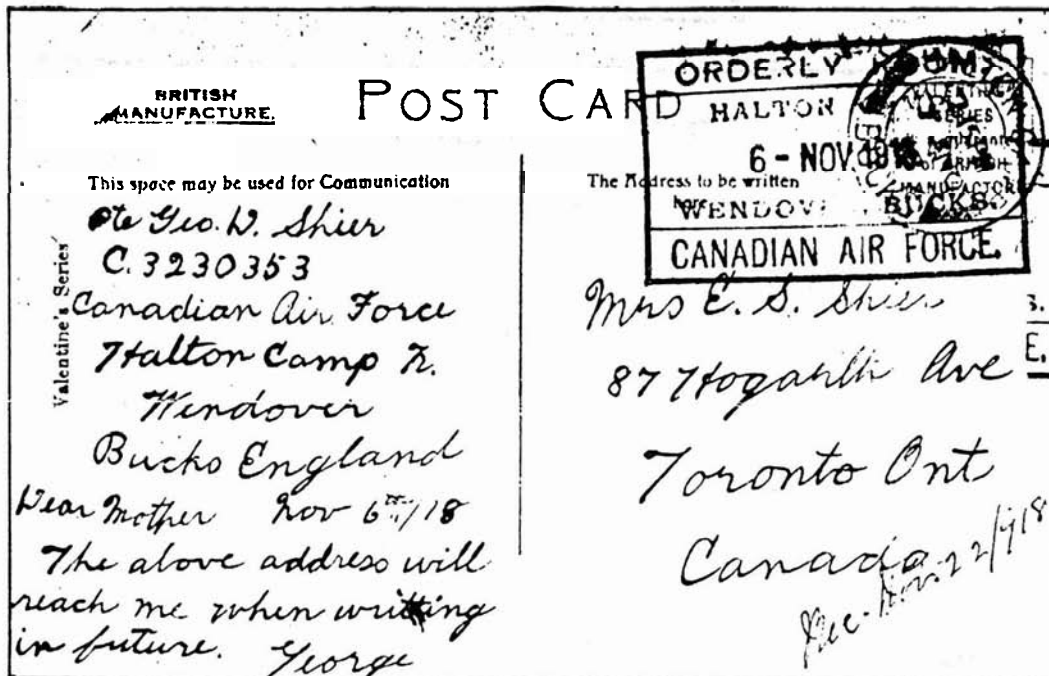
MARCH 2000

NEWSLETTER NO. 144
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C.A.F. HALTON CAMP/NO. 123 SQUADRON 1918-19--By Colin Pomfret

Further to previous articles in NL's #139 (p.392) and #140 (pp. 409-10), Colin sent in these two rare items from the early days of the Canadian Air Force.

Pte. George Shier was one of the 237 tradesmen who were re-mustered from the Canadian Depots in England to train as mechanics and riggers by Royal Air Force personnel at Halton Camp. The card below bears a Halton Camp/Bucks. 7 NO 18 postmark as well as an orderly room rectangle denoting HALTON CAMP/6-NOV. 1918/WENDOVER BUCKS./CANADIAN AIR FORCE.



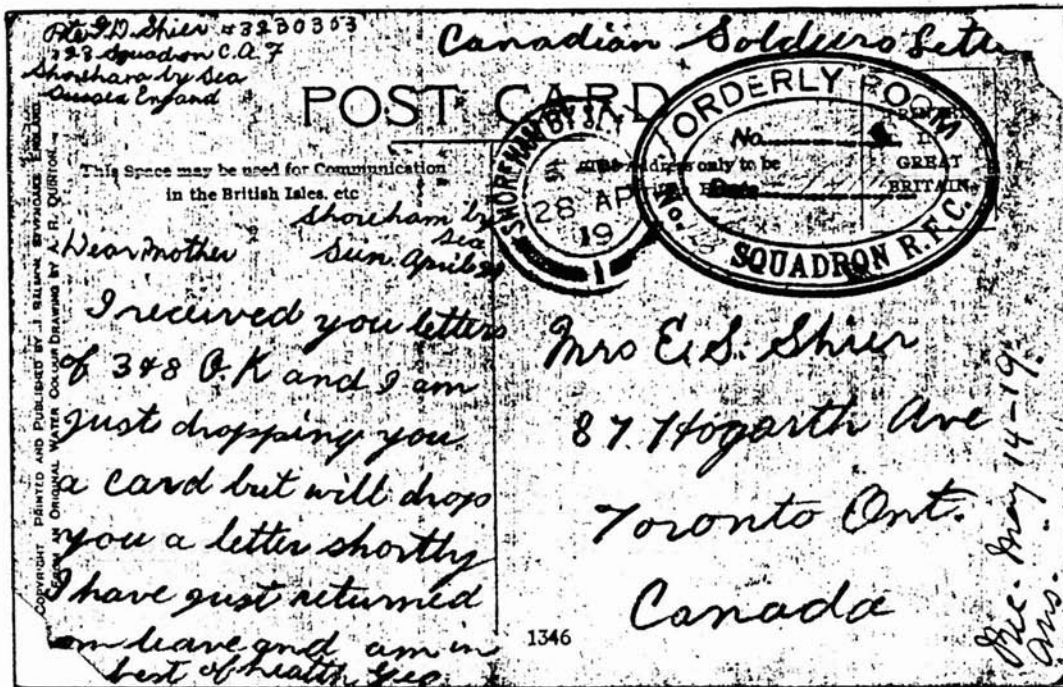
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CHAIR/TREAS.: W.J. BAILEY, #5-8191 FRANCIS RD., RICHMOND, BC V6Y1A5
EDITOR: D. MARIO, BOX 342, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3

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No. 1 and No. 2 Squadrons moved from Upper Heyford to Shoreham-By-Sea on March 31, 1919 but the move was short-lived. The Canadian Air Force was disbanded on June 30, 1919. A packing section remained at Shoreham, however, until late 1920 preparing aircraft shipments to Canada.

The following post card sent by George Shier illustrates a Shoreham By Sea, Sussex 1/28 AP 19 postmark as well as an oval orderly room marking from No. 123 SQUADRON R.F.C.

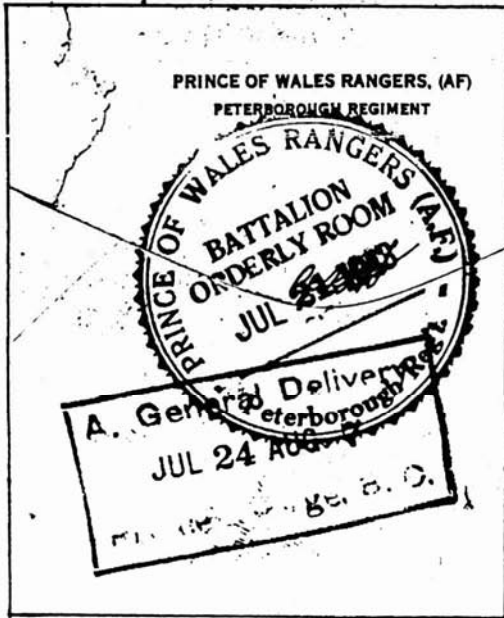
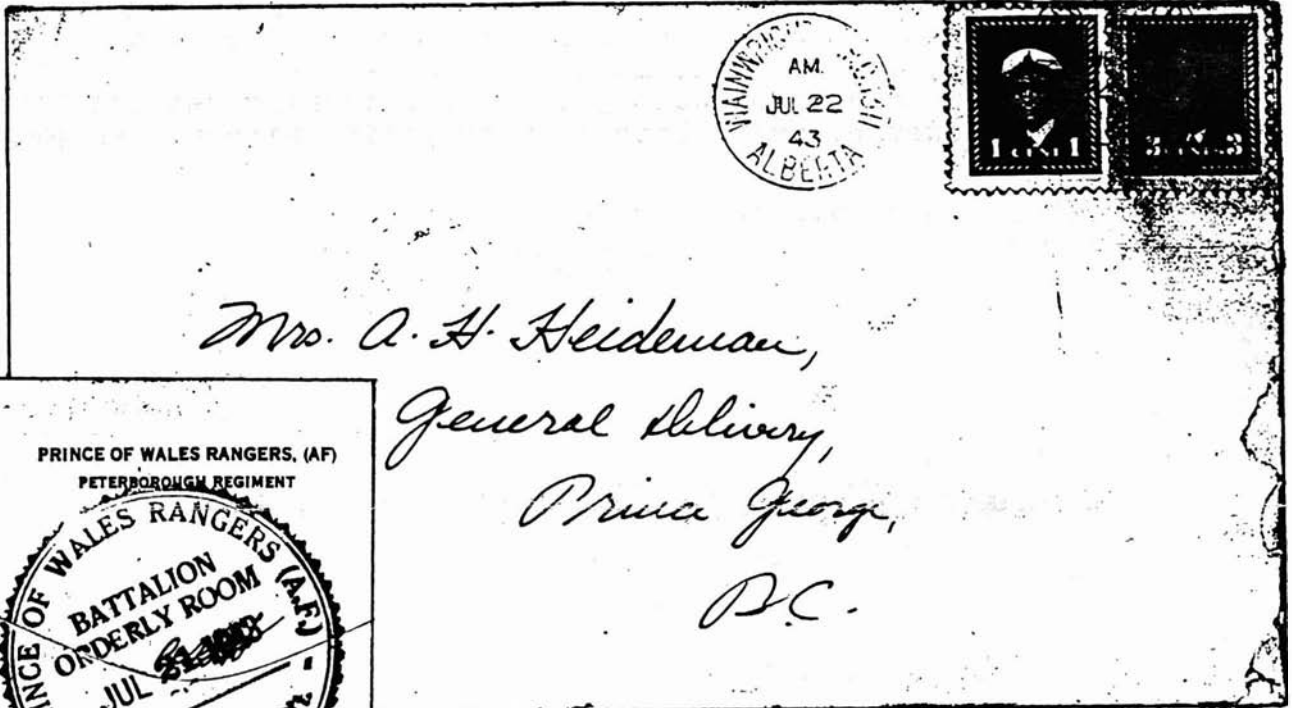


EMERGENCY RPO AT PRINCE GEORGE-FOLLOW-UP--By Kevin O'Reilly

Here's a follow-up to the item in the NL #136 (p.362) and Bill Robinson's comments in NL #137 (p.378). Here's a second cover from the same correspondence but sent from Wainwright MPO 1311. MPO 1311 opened on June 24, 1943 but the datestamp (CDS) wasn't proofed until June 22, 1943. I think it would be safe to say that the emergency hammer was probably used at Wainwright until the receipt of the regular dater. [Thanks Kevin for the new information. Bill was right when he noted that other similar covers would be needed to complete the story. I'll illustrate Kevin's original cover (cut-down below) and the new discovery on the following page. Ed.]



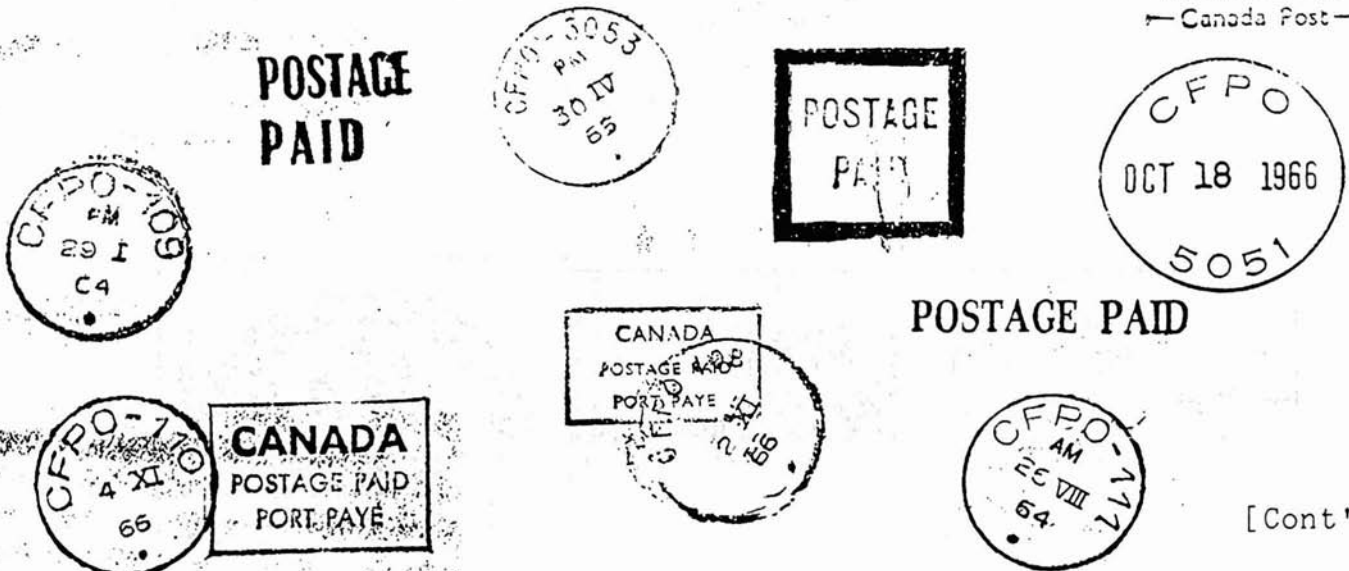
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"POSTAGE PAID" MARKINGS--PT. I--By A.D. Hanes

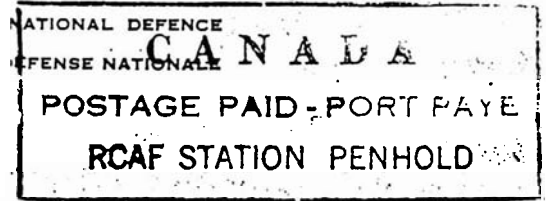
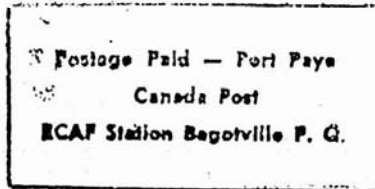
These were mentioned in the Newsletter over the years (first in NL #98, p.739, January 1991), but nothing substantial was really done on them in these pages. Many members may have some of these but as will be noted, I seem to have a great number of them too! Unfortunately some of the copies and strikes are not the best, but hopefully the following will record some of these "Postage Paid" markings used by the Canadian military [Dave has sent several pages of illustrated markings and many are shown here. Part II will follow in the next issue.Ed.]

"POSTAGE PAID"
— Canada Post —



[Cont'd.]

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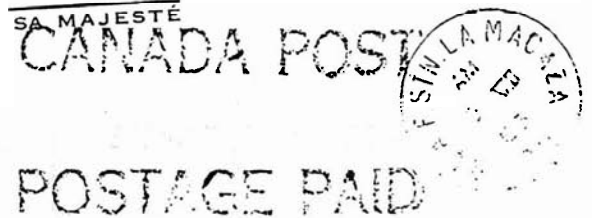
CANADA POSTAGE PAID - PORT PAYE RCAF STATION CENTRALIA

FROM: COMMANDING OFFICER, RCAF STN SENNETERRE, P.Q.

CANADA POSTAGE PAID - PORT PAYE 1 SD RCAF DOWNSVIEW



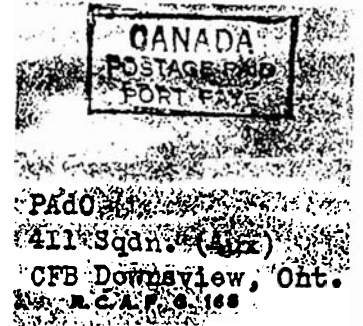
1115 TSD RCAF (894C) ARNPRIOR, ONTARIO.



Postage Paid

CANADA POSTAGE PAID PORT PAYE

Canada Postage Port Paye



MAJESTY'S SERVICE

POSTAGE PAID

COMMANDING OFFICER

1 (F) WING R.C.A.F.

CAPO 5057

Canadian Armed Forces Europe

COURRIER OFFICIEL No. 11 Technical Services Unit RCAF 7585 Bates Road Montreal 26, P.Q.



[To be cont'd.]

PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS AND CANADA--By R. Toombs

Bob recently pulled some notes off of the Internet from Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs at <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/peacekeeping/hist-e.asp> (.) As members may find the information of use, it will be reproduced in two parts (the second will follow in the next issue).



Peacekeeping Operations over the Years and Canada's Contribution

(Note: Bold type indicates Canada is still contributing)

Country or Area	Short Form of Mission Name	Duration	Size of Mission	Maximum Canadian Contribution	Name of Operation and Mandate
Balkans	UNSCOB	1947-1951	Unknown	0	United Nations Special Committee On the Balkans. Observe whether Greece, Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia are complying with UN recommendations
Korea	UNTCOK	1947-1948	30	2	United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea. Supervise elections in South Korea
Middle East	UNTSO	1948-	572	22	UN Truce Supervision Organization. Supervise 1948 cease-fire and subsequent armistice and peace
India, Pakistan	UNMOGIP	1949-1996	102	27	UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (Kashmir). Supervise cease-fire between India and Pakistan
Korea	UNCMAC	1953-	Unknown	1	UN Command Military Armistice Commission. Supervise 1953 armistice
Indochina	ICSC	1954-1974	400	133	International Commission for Supervision and Control (non-UN mission). Supervise withdrawal of French forces
Egypt	UNEF	1956-1967	6,073	1,007	United Nations Emergency Force. Supervise withdrawal of French, British and Israeli forces from Sinai
Lebanon	UNOGIL	1958	590	77	UN Observation Group in Lebanon. Ensure safety of Lebanese borders
Congo	ONUC	1960-1964	19,828	421	UN Operation in the Congo. Maintain law and order
West New Guinea	UNSF	1962-1963	1,500	13	UN Security Force in West New Guinea (West Irian). Maintain peace and security for UN Temporary Executive Authority
Yemen	UNYOM	1963-1965	190	36	UN Yemen Observation Mission. Monitor cessation of Saudi Arabian support and withdrawal of Egyptian forces
Cyprus	UNFICYP	1964-	6,410	1,126	UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. Maintain law and order
Dominican Republic	DOMREP	1965-1966	3	1	Mission of the Representative of the Secretary-General. Observe ceasefire and withdrawal of OAS forces

[Cont'd.]

India, Pakistan	UNIPOM	1965-1966	160	112	UN India-Pakistan Observation Mission. Supervise cease-fire
Nigeria	OTN	1968-1969	12	2	Observer Team to Nigeria (non-UN mission). Supervise cease-fire
South Vietnam	ICCS	1973	1,200	248	International Commission for Control and Supervision. (non-UN mission). Supervise truce
Egypt, Israel	UNEF II	1973-1979	6,973	1,145	UN Emergency Force II. Supervise deployment of Israeli and Egyptian forces
Syria (Golan)	UNDOF	1974-	1,340	230	UN Disengagement Observer Force. Supervise ceasefire and redeployment of Israeli and Syrian forces
Lebanon	UNIFIL	1978-	5,900	117	UN Interim Force in Lebanon. Confirm withdrawal of Israeli forces
Sinai	MFO	1986-	2,700	140	Multinational Force and Observers (non-UN mission). Prevent violation of Camp David Accord
Afghanistan	UNGOMAP	1988-1990	50	5	UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Confirm withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan
Iran, Iraq	UNIIMOG	1988-1991	845	525	UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group. Supervise ceasefire and forces' withdrawal
Angola	UNAVEM	1989-1991	70	0	UN Angola Verification Mission. Monitor Cuban troop withdrawal
Central America	ONUCA	1989-1992	1,100	174	UN Observer Group in Central America. Verify compliance to Esquipulas Agreement
Namibia	UNTAG	1989-1990	4,500	301	UN Transition Assistance Group, Namibia. Assist in transition to independence
			1,500	100 civpol	
Nicaragua	ONUEN	1989	Unknown	5	UN Observer Mission for the Verification of the Electoral Process in Nicaragua
Afghanistan, Pakistan	OSGAP	1990-1993	10	1	Office of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Provide military advisory unit
Haiti	ONUVEH	1990-1991	65	11	UN Observers for the Verification of Elections in Haiti. Monitor 1990 elections
Angola	UNAVEM II	1991-1994	350	15	UN Angola Verification Mission. Monitor cease-fire
Balkans	ECMM	1991-	300	15	European Community Monitor Mission. (non-UN mission). Monitor cease-fires
Cambodia	UNAMIC	1991-1992	1,090	103	UN Advance Mission in Cambodia. Monitor cease-fire and establish mine awareness
El Salvador	ONUSAL	1991-1995	622	55	UN Observer Mission in El Salvador. Monitor human rights, progress toward military reform, peace
Iraq, Kuwait	UNIKOM	1991-	1,440	301	UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission. Monitor demilitarized zone
Iraq	UNSCOM	1991-	175	9	UN Special Commission. Inspect and, if necessary, destroy Iraq's biological and chemical weapons

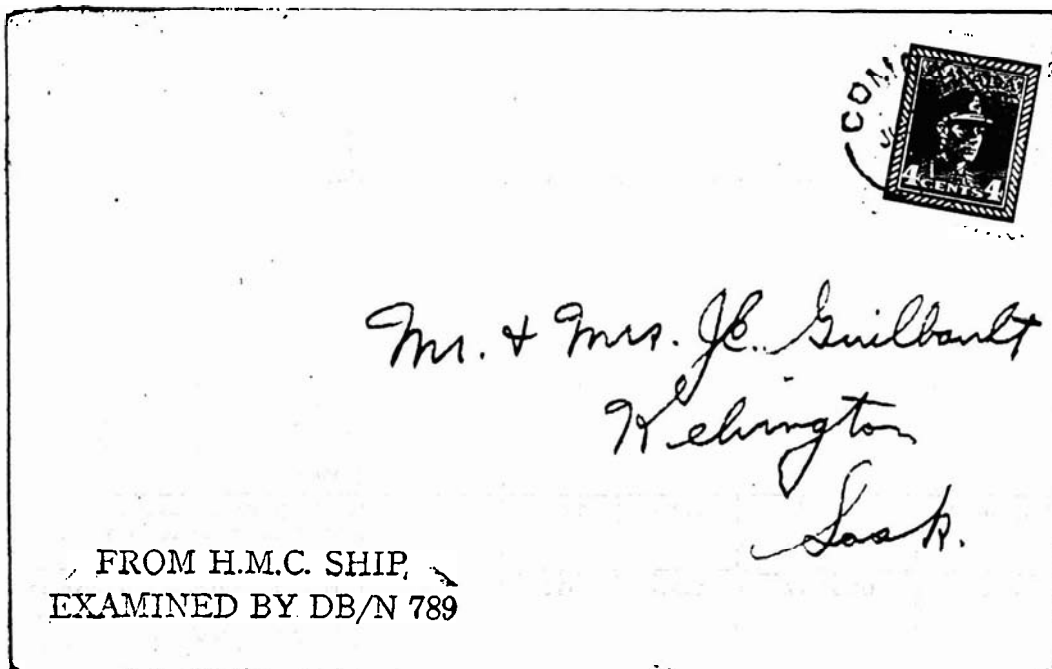
[To be cont'd.]

SOME RESPONSES TO NL #143

Doug Sayles wrote: "I have an explanation for the FPO 436 cover sent by Ken Ellison (pp.439-40). The Calgary Regiment was part of the force selected for the Dieppe raid which, at the time this cover was mailed, was training on the Isle of Wight. We know that security was very tight but the quote from Ken's letter is new, and shows just how ridiculous the quest for security could become. As Ken pointed out, this particular rule was just plain dumb. My guess would be that it applied only to the Calgary Regiment, and only for the last three weeks of June 1942.

I have been able to examine several correspondences which span the entire period of the Second World War. The practice of serially numbering letters is very common after the writers moved overseas. I have seen no examples of serial numbering for personnel stationed in Canada. The reason for doing this numbering was to account for letters which went missing--a gap in the numbers received would show that a letter had been written, but never delivered. This was a necessary precaution thanks to the German U-boats. Most correspondences I have seen mention letters which were never delivered.", and:

"I enjoyed seeing Wilf Whitehouse's cover from Comox (pp.447-48). There were a number of military establishments in B.C. which used civilian post offices, and they have been largely unreported to date. Others I can think of are Coal Harbour, Bella Bella, Port Hardy, and Ucluelet. Herewith below is a June 1943 Comox example from my collection. At this time all Combined Operations training on the West Coast had just been consolidated at Comox. The Army and the Navy worked together to learn the techniques of sea-borne assault. It is interesting to note that the R.C.N. had been using Comox for many years before the commissioning of



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an establishment in August 1940. During the inter-war period, it was common for the annual visiting ship from Bermuda to spend seven to ten days at Comox for training. The earliest reference I have found is for 1919, but I have the impression that Comox was used for rifle and drill training during the Imperial period (pre-1910). I can't find the reference however.

REFERENCES:

Longstaff, Major F.V. Esquimalt Naval Base. Victoria: The Victoria Book and Stationery Co., 1941;
Tucker, G.N. The Naval Service of Canada. Vol.II. Ottawa: The King's Printer, 1952."

MORE PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST....

Mike Street sent in a copy of Flightlines, a publication issued by the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. The eight-page newspaper-like February 2000 issue contained stories about the Museum's Canso PQL plane and the International Catalina Society's fall convention in Ottawa (in 1999). The article included a story about pilot F/L David E. Hornell, VC and the Victoria Cross event with Canso #9754 in June 1944. For more information contact the Museum: 9280 Airport Rd., Mount Hope, ON LOR 1W0; telephone (905) 679-4183-Ext. 230 or email: museum@warplane.com (.)

"Z" FORCE: THE CANADIAN ARMY IN ICELAND, 1940-41--PT.I--By C.D. Sayles

Iceland is situated in the North Atlantic, approximately halfway between Canada and Britain. To any power which seeks to control the Atlantic Ocean, it is a strategic prize of great importance for its ability to harbour ships and aircraft near the centre of the ocean battlefield. By early 1940 it was clear to the British that control of the North Atlantic sea lanes, essential for Britain's survival, was in doubt. German air and naval bases in Iceland would turn an already dangerous situation into a disaster. The Germans were believed capable of capturing Iceland, and British troops therefore occupied Iceland on May 10, 1940.

Almost immediately, Canada was asked to provide an occupation force to allow the British army troops to be redeployed to more pressing areas. After prolonged wrangling between Ottawa and London, Canada agreed to provide a brigade of troops . . . [for this to occur].

Brigadier L.F. Page was called to Ottawa on June 5, 1940, and told he was to command a brigade-sized force of infantry, named "Z" Force. The Brigade Headquarters and the Royal Regiment of Canada left Halifax June 10 and arrived safely in Iceland on [June] 17. They were followed by the Fusiliers de Mont Royal and the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (M.G.) who arrived July 7, 1940. All other arms such as artillery, anti-aircraft guns, and naval and aerial protection remained British responsibilities.

The personal intervention of Winston Churchill ensured that the stay of the first two units was to be short. He wanted these "first class" troops available for the defence of Britain. This was fortunate for the troops concerned, for "Z" Force had been very hastily organized, and was in no respect prepared for Icelandic conditions. Rain and very high winds were the norm, and the temperatures cool, even during the summer. It quickly became impossible to dry clothing or footwear. Reykjavik's

[Cont'd.]

port was poorly developed at this time; lacking in wharfage and unloading equipment. Much of the unloading of supplies had to be done by hand. Similarly, the building of camps, roads, and defensive positions all had to be done by hand labour.

Summary: Canadian Units in "Z" Force:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ARRIVAL DATE</u>	<u>DEPARTURE DATE</u>
Z Force Brigade H.Q.	June 17, 1940	October 31, 1940
Royal Reg't. of Canada (RRC)	June 17, 1940	October 31, 1940
Fusiliers de Mont Royal (FMR)	July 7, 1940	October 26, 1940
Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (M.G.) (CHO/MG)	July 7, 1940	April 27, 1941

Basis for Study:

This study is based on covers or photocopies which I own or have had the opportunity to examine. An appeal to the members of BNAPS's Canadian Military Mail Study Group for examples of Canadian soldiers' mail resulted in approximately 70 [seventy] covers being made available. The National Archives of Canada provided much useful material, particularly the daily orders issued to the troops which sometimes dealt with mail and censorship matters.

THE POSTAL HISTORY:

The Canadian force was part of, and under the command of, the British force in Iceland known as Alabaster Force. In all cases, the Post Offices used were British FPO's [Field Post Offices] to which the Canadian troops were given full access. The offices believed to have been used by Canadians are tabulated below [TABLE 1]. The hammers used were the standard British "Field Post Office + Number" types. FPO 306 is notable in that it had two hammers, which may be distinguished by the length of the bars surrounding the number (FIG.1). One (on the left) is 27mm in diameter and has bars of 6mm; the other (on the right) is 26mm in diameter and its bars are 8mm long.

British FPO Number	Location
2	Reykjavik Transit Camp
3	Seydisfjordur
304	Akureyri
305	Budaeyri
306	Reykjavik
307	Reykjavik-Geithal
308	Borganes

TABLE 1

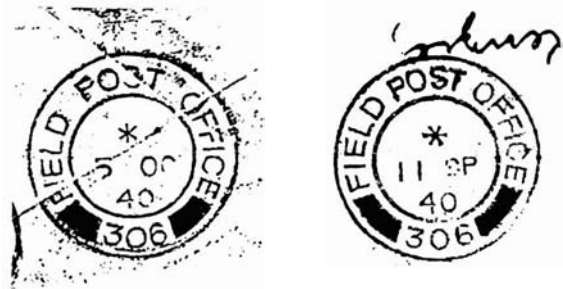


FIG. 1

Only surface mail service was available; air mail was not available at this early date. Registration service was available (see FIG.2 for an example of this service).

[Cont'd.]

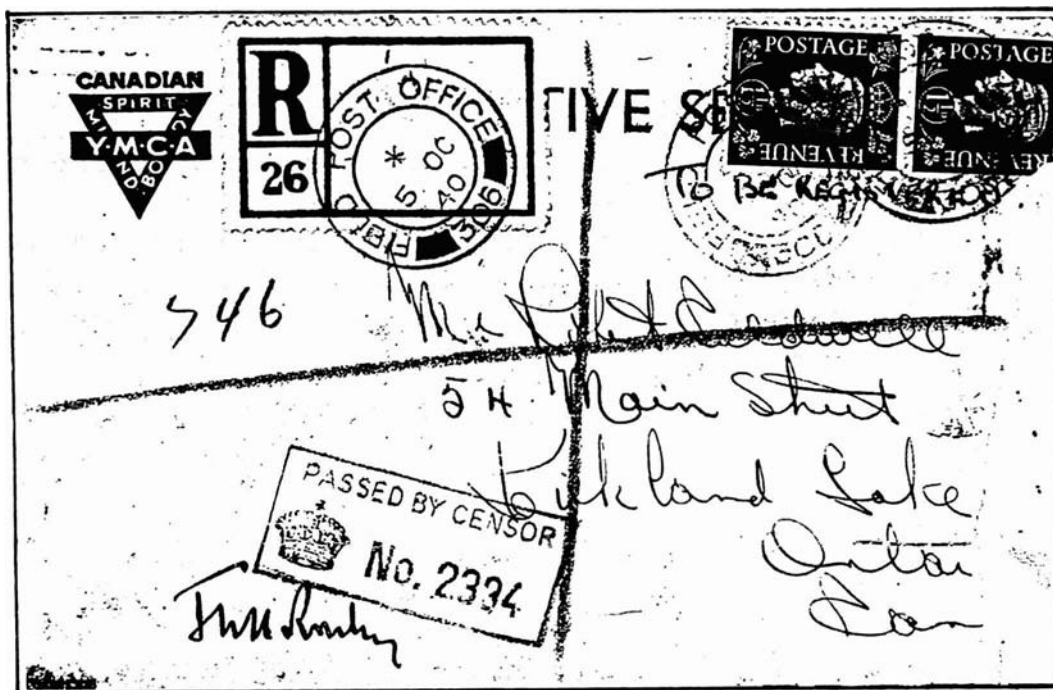


FIG.2: A Registered Letter From FPO 306 Paying the 3d Registration Rate

Routes:

Documentation of the routing of Canadian mail to and from Iceland is sparse. Davis (2) claims that initial Canadian mails moved via the U.K. and illustrates a cover from a member of the Royal Regiment of Canada bearing the postmark of the Royal Engineers Home Depot, Plymouth. This routing seems logical; the Post Offices were British and were serving a preponderantly British clientele.

There is evidence that some of the early mail was bagged and shipped to the Base Post Office in Ottawa, where it was canceled and put into the mail stream. Davis illustrates such a cover dated July 17, 1940, and FIG.2 is a cover with the same date from my collection. I would speculate that mail handled this way was "en route" mail, which was bagged and returned to Canada with the ship which had transported the troops.

We also have this late August 1940 entry from the Daily Routine Orders:

Green envelopes are available for issue to units....[but] should NOT be used....[as] they will be censored in the U.K., and delivery is bound to be slower than with unit censorship.

This is a reference to the so-called "honour envelopes", which were not censored at the regimental level but only liable to censoring at the base. By inference, this order may be interpreted to mean that mail which was censored regimentally in Iceland had a more direct and faster route to Canada than via the U.K.

The first mail from Canada arrived July 3, 1940 and was distributed to the troops the next day. How this mail traveled to Iceland is not known. There was a steady stream of small freighters bringing supplies from Canada to the Force. [I]t is reasonable to assume that they were pressed into service to carry the mails. There are several references in August

[Cont'd.]

and September 1940 in the unit War Diaries to mail arriving from ships on the "regular New York-Reykjavik" run. Then each of the unit War Diaries records the receipt of a large mail on September 30/October 1, "...which is the first direct shipment from Canada". It included letters written up to September 19.

To summarize, it appears that outgoing Canadian "en route" mail was bagged and returned to Canada on the troopship. It was then sent to the Base Post Office in Ottawa, and there franked and released into the mail stream. For a short period after the troops had arrived, their letters were sent to Britain and franked at the Royal Engineers Home Postal Depot before release into the [mails]. Subsequently, the ships which provided the regular service between Reykjavik and New York were utilized to carry the Canadian mails. Finally, we know that on at least one occasion mail was shipped directly to Iceland from Canada.

Rates:

The applicable postal rates for surface mail were published in [the] RRC's Daily Orders as follows:

Destination	Weight	Rate
British Empire	2 oz and under	FREE
	2-3 oz	3 ½ d
	each additional ounce	1 d
USA *	1 oz and under	2 ½ d
	each additional ounce	1 d
Foreign countries	1 oz and under	3 d
	each additional ounce	1 ½ d
Registration Fee		3 d

TABLE 2

*Originally, mail for the U.S.A. required 27 Icelandic Aurer postage (the exchange rate in July 1940 was \$1 Cdn. = 5.80 Icelandic Kronur).

Censorship:

All outgoing mail was censored. We are fortunate that the Royal Regiment Orders (Part I) give us a lot of information about censorship. First, we have this order issued on June 11, 1940, while the RRC was still en route:

All such mail will be handed unsealed to [the] Coy Office, where it will be censored by the O.C. [,] the Coy or designate. He will sign with name and rank in the upper right hand corner of the front.

And on July 7, 1940:

Letters will be franked (ie. censored) at the end of the text and in the lower left hand corner of the envelope.

[To be cont'd.]

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Dear CMMSG Members:

Here's another issue for your perusal. You'll note that several items are a bit lengthy and have been split over several issues. Unfortunately we only have twelve pages per issue and I feel that a variety of areas keeps information flowing and more members interested. Some members and authors may not agree, but this is the best alternative for our limited space. In keeping with the season, Bill and I wish to extend our best for spring and hope that the winter (for most of our membership) wasn't too bad! Until next time, good collecting!

Welcome to: JEAN-LOUIS EMMENEGGER, P.O. Box 110, CH-1009 Pully, Switzerland--Collects U.N. Forces/Missions, 1948-1998 (50 years of Peacekeeping)

Note new address: P.R. SANDERSON, Box 269, Fenelon Falls, ON KOM 1N0
Change: CHRIS HARGREAVES, Kingston

SMALL ADS

Each insertion is only \$1 Canadian (Canadian mint stamps or the equivalent is fine) to buy, sell, or exchange! Copy/payment to the Editor.

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 (3/5)

EASTER GREETINGS FROM "SALLY ANNE"

This attractive Easter post card in silver and purple (ca. Second World War) seems an appropriate wish to members! The reverse's printed message and cachet are in the customary red.

