



# Canadian Military Mail Study Group



## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2000

NEWSLETTER NO. 147  
Page 513

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

NO.2 CANADIAN HOSPITAL SHIP LETITIA--By Jon Johnson



*With Best Wishes for a  
Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy and Prosperous  
New Year.*



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CHAIR/TREAS.: W.J. BAILEY, #5-8191 FRANCIS RD., RICHMOND, BC V6Y 1A5  
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Dear CMMMSG Members:

Season's Greetings! It is that time again (where has the year gone?) for Bill and I to once again extend our very best wishes for the upcoming festive season. There is a lot to cover so I'll proceed. Many thanks to members' kind remarks related to the last issue on Korea. It's most appreciated. A copy was sent to the Korea Veterans Association of Canada where it was well-received. Members will find enclosed a request for dues and your prompt attention is appreciated. We've been able to keep the amounts the same as last time and I feel that it is one of the best "bargains" going! Payment to Bill Bailey please (our last call for dues was January 1, 1999).

John Wannerton has written to extend his thanks to all those who responded to his enquiry concerning his "Norway" cover. Study Groups are just that--organized and developed to enhance research and information--and members are encouraged to share their knowledge and participate in our ongoing study.

BNAPEX 2000 in Illinois: The CMMMSG meeting was held at 2:00 p.m. (1400 hrs.) on Saturday, September 2. Eight members were in attendance. Henk Burgers kindly chaired the meeting and gave a brief overview of the Index to Newsletter issues 100-145 he had prepared and provided the members attending copies for review and comment. Members will receive a copy upon completion. Henk then gave a brief talk on the Second World War early security markings and illustrated several pages of these markings. A lively discussion followed. Thank you very much Henk for providing this report and for chairing the Study Group meeting. Congratulations are also extended to Henk for his being awarded a Silver Medal at the convention for his exhibit entitled "Canada in WWI". Henk also received the PHSC's E.R. Toop Award for his "Canada in WWI: First and Last Contingents" as well as a Vermeil at Ottawa's ORAPEX.

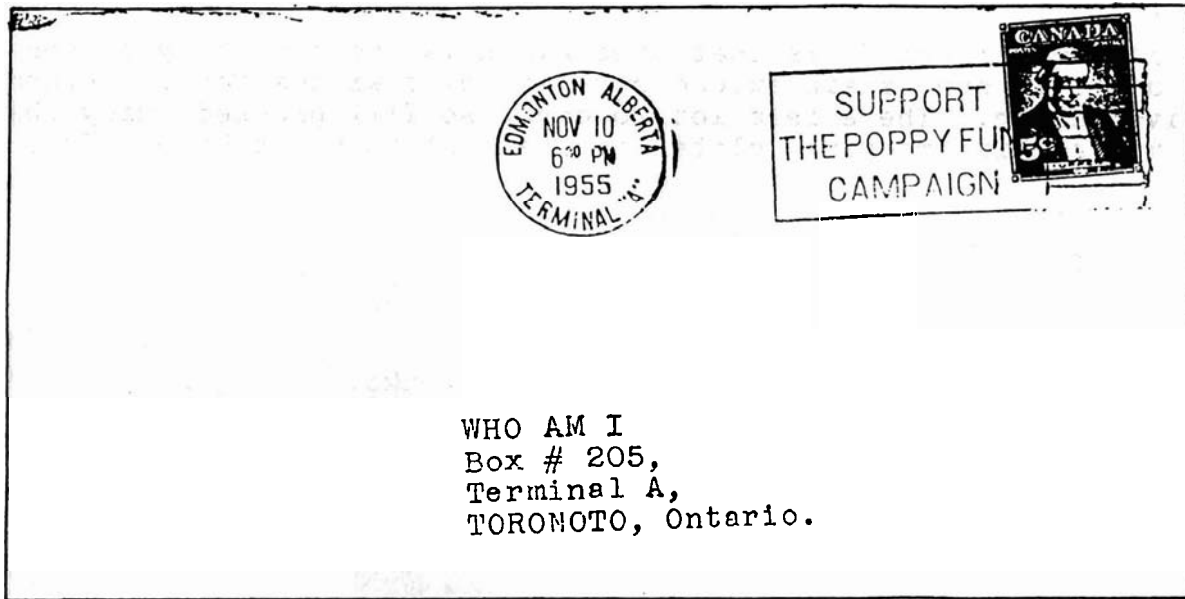
Speaking of awards, kudos are extended as well to Bill Bailey for his being awarded a Large Vermeil in the Literature Class at London's Stamp Show 2000 for the Bailey and E.R. Toop two-volume set of Canadian Military Postal Markings. Congratulations as well to John Wannerton for his "Canadian Contingents in the South African War, 1899-1902" which also was awarded a Large Vermeil in the exhibition class. W.G. Robinson was awarded a Gold, the Grand Award, the E.R. Toop Award, and several others at the Edmonton Spring National Exhibition earlier in March. Bill's exhibit was entitled "Canadian Participation in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902 and the S.A.C., 1901-1906". Well done everyone!

Thanks are extended to R.F. "Hank" Narbonne as well as C.R. McGuire for assisting our Group and volunteering to conduct a programme for our meeting at next year's BNAPEX 2001 in Ottawa. Ron has kindly stepped forward to conduct a slide presentation and discussion on Canadians in Hong Kong and Force "C". The presentation was previously presented to the Hong Kong Veterans Association where it was quite well-received. We wish to thank Ron very much for his offer and thanks to Hank for setting this up. Stay tuned for more information on our Group meeting in Ottawa!

Lots of news this time. Again, Bill and I want to wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season. We also hope that 2001 will bring peace and harmony in the world. Happy holidays everyone and best wishes!

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1955 POPPY FUND CAMPAIGN SLOGAN

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IN MEMORIAM

## THEY SLEEP

A mounded plot with crosses decked  
 In all their earthly outward pride;  
 They sleep in death, as once in life,  
 With hero comrades, side by side.

Then sleep! Ye brave, in peace and calm,  
 Where God's own birds their anthems sing;  
 Where nature's blossoms waft their spring.  
 The cause is just, 'tis now secure;  
 No mortal power can e'er retract;  
 The blood you spilled, the blot too pure  
 Finds substance in established fact.

Sleep on, ye great! The nation's thought  
 Will cherish till man's breath departs,  
 The price you paid, the prize you bought  
 Enshrined in loved ones' aching hearts.

Gnr. Gill Parr

[The Maple Leaf (W. Europe: Vol.III, No.47, 4. May 19, 1945). Taken from Jane and Walter Morgan, Eds. Soldier Poetry of the Second World War: An Anthology. Oakville, ON.: Mosaic Press, 1990, 44.]

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# UNITED IN REMEMBRANCE



EXERCISE/OPERATION "MUSK-OX"--By Ken Ellison

[Ken sent along this newspaper clipping from The Vernon News dated November 15, 1945 detailing the unusual "Musk-Ox" exercise. Two very scarce markings from Bailey and Toop's Canadian Military Postal Markings are reproduced here. Ed.]

THE VERNON NEWS, VERNON, B.C.



Operation "Musk-Ox"

February 14 is the jump-off date for Operation "Musk-Ox", the Canadian Army's 3,100-mile winter trek across the top of Canada. Some 45 Army personnel and official observers will be in the moving party, travelling in Canadian designed armored snowmobiles, and they will be supplied from the air by planes of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

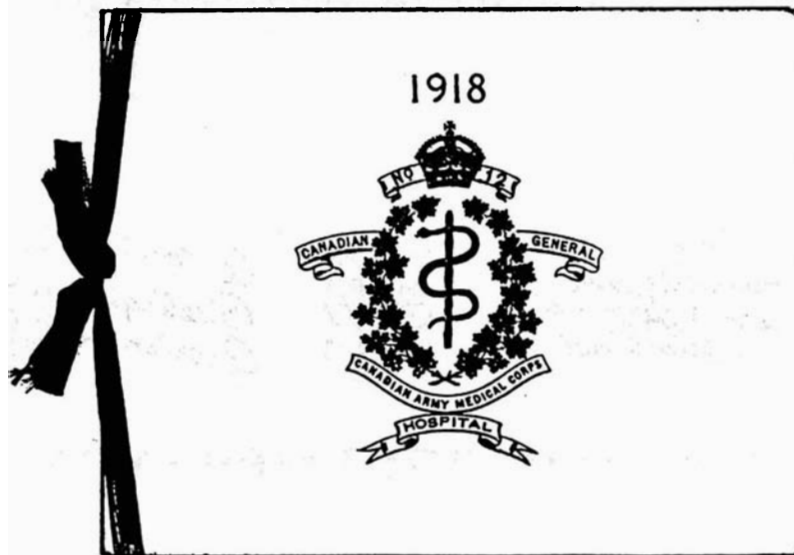
The above map shows the route to be followed, starting at Churchill on Hudson Bay, touching in at Victoria Island beyond the Arctic Circle, and ending in early spring at Edmonton, Alberta. Air supply will be carried on from bases shown on the map at Churchill, Fort Smith and Fort Nelson.



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12TH C.G.H., BRAMSHOTT 1918--By W.S. Pawluk

[74%]



[Cont'd.]





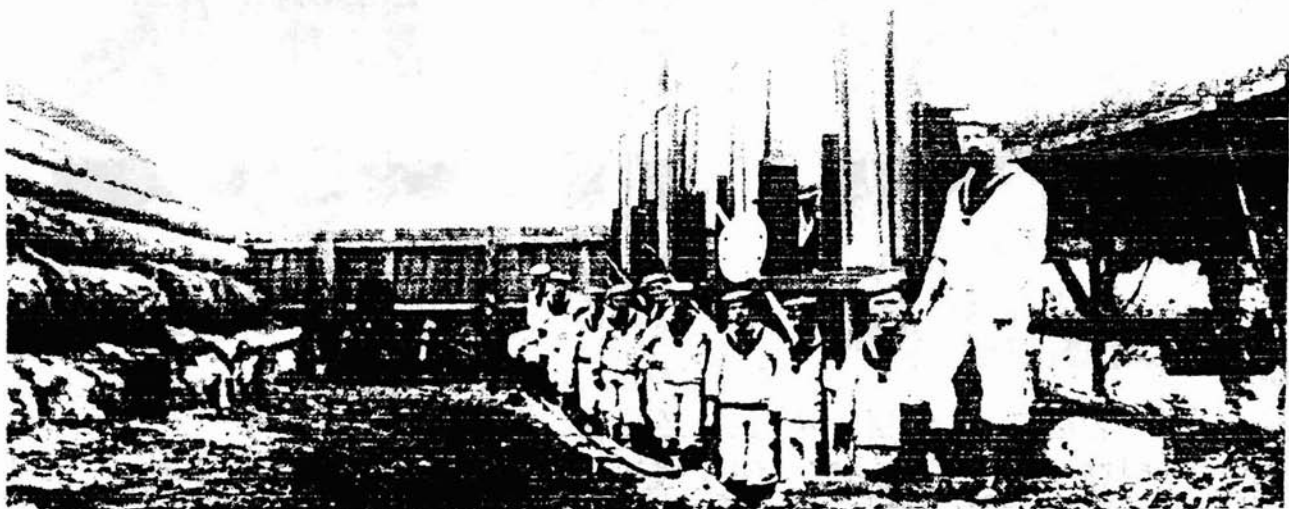
THE MILITARY PRESENCE IN COMOX, B.C.--By David H. Kelly

In the March 2000 issue (Newsletter No.144, pp. 457-458) regarding the cover from Comox, the final two sentences regarding training held in Comox in the pre-1910 period led me to carry out research in this area. The following should clear up some questions about the military presence in Comox, British Columbia.

One could be confused with "Comox" in regards to the military perspective. First, there is the town of Comox, B.C.; second is the RCAF Base, CFB Comox (19 Wing); third, Camp Comox exists; and lastly HMCS Comox. One must keep in mind that the three Comox's are completely separate in geographical positions.

We can eliminate HMCS Comox, and CFB Comox from this discussion. HMCS Comox (1) was a Fundy Class minesweeper, commissioned in November 1938, and paid off in July 1945. HMCS Comox (2) was a Bay Class wooden minesweeper commissioned in April 1954, paid off in September 1957, and transferred to the Turkish Navy. RCAF Aerodrome Comox, now CFB Comox (19 Wing), had an official date of formation on May 1, 1943. In Newsletter No.144 Doug Sayles mentions "1940" which is incorrect.

The history of Comox is interwoven with that of the British Squadron of the Royal Navy. Early in the nineteenth century Royal Naval ships began calling at Comox Bay and Goose Spit for a variety of purposes. The gunboat Grappler brought settlers in 1862 and the presence of the Queen's Navy was an ongoing reminder of the ties to Britain. The Royal Navy was now a continuing presence at the bay since its 1896 takeover at Goose Spit. There were never less than three British battleships in the harbour at one time.



Royal Navy Sailors at the Spit

Courtesy Museum

[Cont'd.]



In the late years of the nineteenth century, naval defence of the Pacific coast was still in the hands of the Royal Navy. The Pacific squadron had its base in the small dockyard at Esquimalt. Unlike today, there were no real barracks nor training areas ashore but, as is the case nowadays, it was essential for the sailor's well being that he should occasionally be landed for recreation and training ashore, preferably away from the naval base. In this way "Camp Comox" came into being though it was not called so then; it rejoiced in the name "Goose Spit". The major use of such a "camp" was for exercise in musketry and other small arms drill.

H.M. Sloop Shearwater, in 1905, was ordered to make arrangements for the return of Comox Rifle Range to the Canadian authorities. However, title to Goose Spit had never been held by the Admiralty so that its closing down merely amounted to relinquishment of the privilege to use the property. This was carried out on June 18, 1906.

The Admiralty in 1909 began to realize it had been a bit hasty in dropping Goose Spit. Application was made to British Columbia for return of former privileges. Another suitor was the new Naval Service of Canada; soon to be known as the Royal Canadian Navy. Ottawa was quick to ask British Columbia officials to grant the R.C.N. the same privileges at Goose Spit previously enjoyed by the Imperial Service.

An exchange of correspondence between Ottawa and Whitehall brought about the arrangement that exists to this day. The R.C.N. was to gain "user possession" of Goose Spit and maintain the facilities there, while ships of the Royal Navy were guaranteed all co-operation upon application to the Canadian Senior Naval Officer, Esquimalt.

In the summer of 1952, as a further point of interest, more than seven hundred boys of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps from Winnipeg west, camped on Goose Spit and this programme has continued each summer. On July 1, 1956, Camp Comox once again was formally commissioned as a fleet establishment of the Royal Canadian Navy. HMCS Quadra, in service during the summer months each year and carrying on its books specially-chosen officers and men of the regular navy, continues to instruct the youth of the R.C.S.C.C.

The federal post office at CFB Comox is located across the street from the main gate and is named "Lazo".

#### References:

Isenor, D.E., W.N. McInnis, E.G. Stephens, D.E. Watson. Land of Plenty: A History of the Comox District. Campbell River: Ptarmigan Press, 1987.

Krause, James Allan. The Life and Times of The Comox Valley. Courtenay: C.C. Sotel Ltd., 1997.

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#### NEW CANADIAN MILITARY POSTS BOOK IN PLANNING



Our Chairman Bill Bailey has passed along a notice from E.W. Proud of Proud-Bailey Co., Ltd., Heathfield, E. Sussex, U.K. who, along with Bill, is working on combining all three previous books in the Canadian Military Posts series into one volume. The book will be made available to members at cost (published at £45 and the pre-publication price to members will be £30), for co-operation in making it as up-to-date as possible as far as the information on cancels go. Would members please send Bill updates on postmarks in their holdings a.s.a.p.! Thanks. [Ed.]

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KING GEORGE VI'S WARTIME MESSAGE TO CDN. DIV.--By L.G. Clinton

[Les came upon this letter from King George VI in some family papers. It was printed upon cream-coloured paper and the letterhead bearing the royal arms is in maroon. A number on the reverse of the letter was also present. The letter (reproduced here at 73%) was apparently sent to members of the 1st Canadian Division in December 1939. After much searching, Les finally found some information from the Royal Archives in Windsor which follows. Do other members know of this letter, either personally or within their collections? Responses to the Editor.]



009282



BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

The General Officer Commanding,  
1st Canadian Division.

On behalf of the people of this country, I extend the warmest welcome to the first contingent of the Canadian Forces to reach these shores.

The British Army will be proud to have as comrades-in-arms the successors of those who came from Canada in the Great War and fought with a heroism that has never been forgotten.

*George R.I.*

17th December, 1939.

Cpl. William Albert Henry Vincent,  
1st Corps Ammunition Park,  
Canadian Active Service Force.



CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

RECORDS OFFICE,  
GOVERNMENT BUILDING,  
BROMYARD AVENUE  
ACTON, LONDON, W.3.

14th February, 1940.

The attached letter is forwarded to you for safe keeping, at the direction of the addressee.

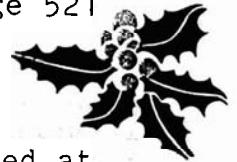
Mrs. W.A.H. Vincent,  
1635, Osler St.  
REGINA, Saskatchewan,  
CANADA

A. M. Brown, Lt.-Col.,  
Officer i/c Records,  
Canadian Military Headquarters.



[Cont'd.]





## "WARTIME MESSAGES

The King's Message to the 1st Canadian Division:

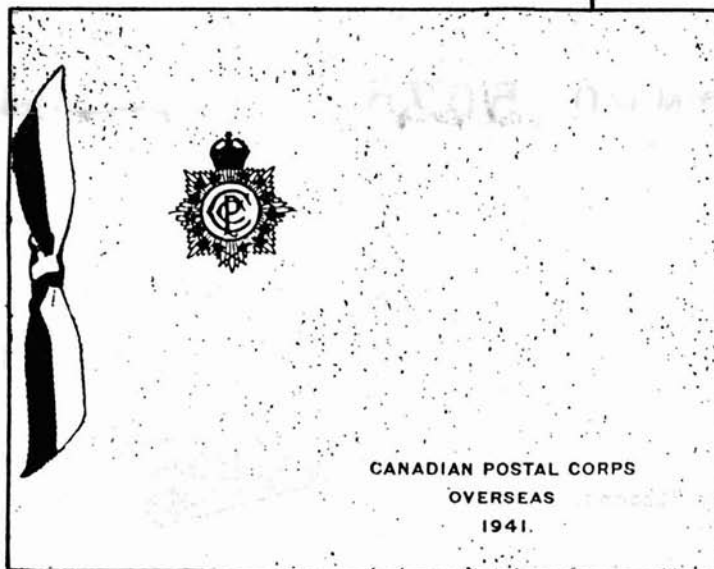
When the first Canadian troops to come to Britain arrived at Glasgow on December 17, 1939, General Sir Charles Grant (General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Scottish Command) was sent to represent the King, and was given a message from the King in the form of a telegram, to be read to the troops. The Canadian G.O.C., Major-General A.G.L. McNaughton, wished to print this message in his orders and Grant was asked by the Canadians and the War Office to provide him with the text of the message. Grant, however, suggested to the King's Private Secretary that it would give great pleasure if this message was typed out on Buckingham Palace paper, and perhaps signed by the King. It was intended that the King would give a signed copy of this message to McNaughton when he went to Buckingham Palace on December 22, and at some point it was obviously decided that copies should be made for the Canadian troops.

Consequently 25,000 copies of the King's Message, with the King's signature in facsimile, were made to be distributed to each member of the 1st Canadian Division and Ancillary Units. Each officer and man was to be asked to state to whom he wished his copy of the message to be sent for safe keeping; every copy would be numbered and the name of the recipient placed on it before despatch to the address indicated. McNaughton suggested that the original of the King's Message might be deposited in the public archives in Canada; the original having been damaged while in use at the printers, another signed copy was sent to McNaughton which was presumably ultimately deposited in Canada."

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CHRISTMAS OVERSEAS 1941 (CDN. POSTAL CORPS)--By W.S. Pawluk

[reduced at 74%]



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

and

ALL GOOD WISHES FOR

THE NEW YEAR

From

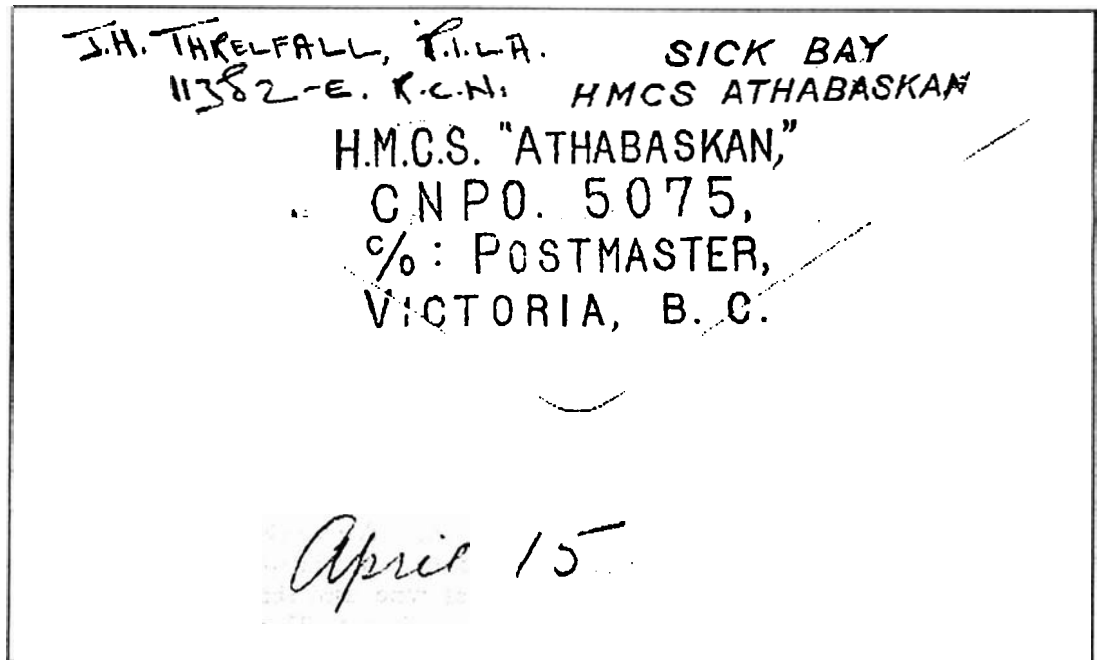
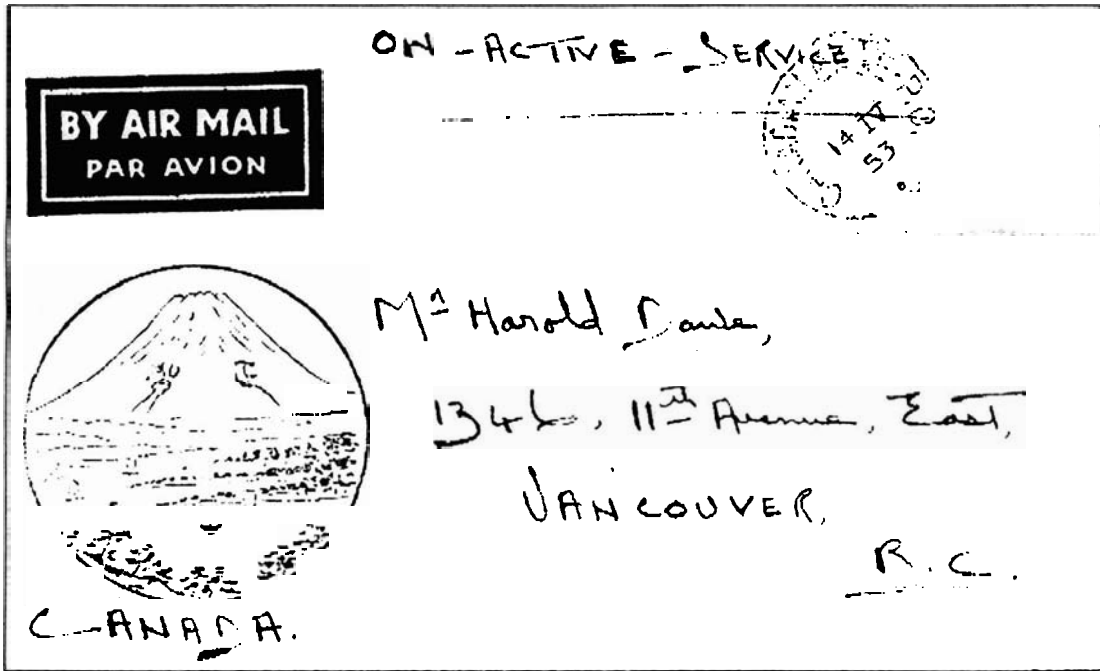
*Harry*  
*with love -*  
XXXX



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KOREA RE-VISITED--By J. Daynes

[John recently sent in a new arrival from the Canadian Base P.O. It's an unusual cover from H.M.C.S. Athabaskan with heretofore unseen return markings and an unusual "Sick Bay" handstamp. The front cachet is reminiscent of those found on covers from Japan handpainted by artist Karl Lewis during the 1930's. A very nice and interesting piece John! Ed.]





THE CANADIAN AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY

Member Chris Hargreaves kindly mentioned the last issue of our Newsletter in The Canadian Aerophilatelist (which he does a wonderful job of editing). The Society regularly features items of military interest and some of our members are no doubt familiar with it. I am sure that anyone else interested in the Society could contact Chris for more details and a membership form is reproduced below.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM**

The CANADIAN AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY has over 150 members, and membership is open to all. The CAS aims to provide a forum for the exchange of information among Canadians who are interested in any aspect of world-wide aerophilately, and for collectors from around the world who are interested in Canadian aerophilately. - This is mainly achieved through this newsletter, which is published quarterly.

The Society also provides a number of other services, including:

- a translation service from French to English and vice versa;
- a "sales department", with a variety of covers for sale;
- discount prices on several aerophilatelic publications;
- a question-and-answer service for mystery air mail stamps and covers.

For more information about these services, and/or a free copy of our Short Guide to Canadian Aerophilately, please write to Chris Hargreaves, 4060 Bath Road, Kingston, Ontario K7M 4Y4.

**With effect from October 1<sup>st</sup> 1999, the annual membership dues have been:**

- \$20.00 CDN in Canada,**
- \$22.00 CDN (\$15.00 US) in U.S.A.,**
- \$25.00 CDN for members Overseas.**

**Payable to: The Canadian Aerophilatelic Society.**

If you would like to join, please send the following information with your dues to:  
*Ron Miyanishi, Secretary - CAS, 124 Gamble Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4J 2P3*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Collecting interests: \_\_\_\_\_

(For Secretary's use: Date joined: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of dues paid: \_\_\_\_\_)



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A NEW RCN BOOK

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL  
 POSTAL HISTORY 1939-45**



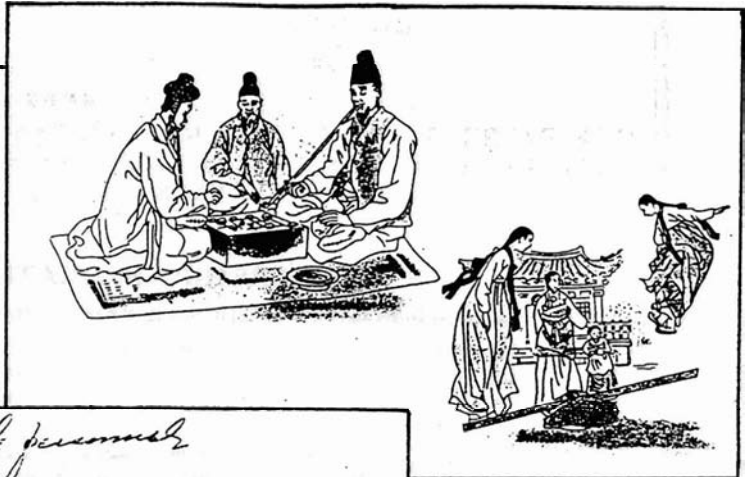
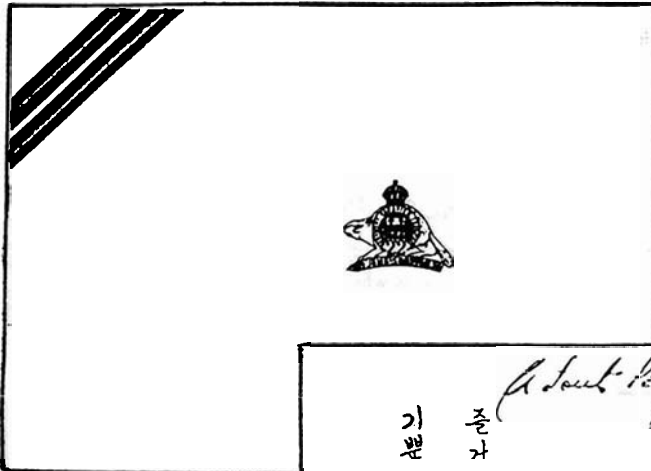
Volume IV of this history has now been published. It follows the same pattern as Volume III, in that it updates listings of the various categories which appeared in Volume I and II. It includes details of the various RCN bases on both east and west coasts, a listing of the RCN major warships with very brief histories but includes the dates of their commissioning and de-commissioning, which basically outlines the period in which their various censorship stamps were used. There are 128 new DB/N censorship listings, 22 new Shore Base Rubber handstamps, 20 new Ship handstamps, 51 Miscellaneous covers, 6 new Registration stamp types, 3 new type Blackout cancels, and illustrations of 53 types of covers found on Naval mail.

This book (138 pages) is priced at \$29.95 plus \$5.00 for shipping in Canada, and is available from the author/publisher.

Maurice F. Hampson  
 12108-53 St. NW Edmonton, AB  
 T5W 3L9 (780) 479-6067

KOREAN CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE VAN DOOS, 1952--By A.D. Hanes

[74%]



*A tout le personnel*

기쁜 크리스마스 와  
즐거고 행복한  
新年

Joyeux Noël  
et  
Bonne et Heureuse Année

*Phil Stander*

Corée ; 1952



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A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO:

- MURDOCK MacDONALD, 661 ST. VINCENT ST., RR#3, BARRIE, ON L4M 4S5
- JOHN WATSON, LYNARTH, 106 HUDDERSFIELD RD., PENISTONE, SHEFFIELD, S36 7BX, U.K.
- HORACE HARRISON, BNAPS PRESIDENT, 1802 INDIAN HEAD RD., RUXTON, MD USA 21204-6428

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- W.G. ROBINSON, #301-2108 W. 38TH AVE., VANCOUVER, BC V6M 1R9
- FRANCOIS CHAUVIN, 4 RUE DE LA ROVERE, 48005 MENDE CEDEX, FRANCE

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SMALL ADS

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 (5/5)

FOR SALE VIA THE INTERNET: Worldwide covers (strong in war covers). Searchable text lists plus every lot scanned. VISA/Mastercard welcome. Contact L.D. Mayo at: <http://mayoph.com> (1/4)

WANTED: Ads for small ads! Only \$1 Canadian per insertion (Canadian mint stamps @ face is fine or equivalent). Buy, sell, trade! Copy and payment c/o the Editor. Thank you! (0/0)

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