



Canadian Military Mail Study Group



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2001

NEWSLETTER NO. 152
Page 573

*Wishing you happiness during the holidays
and throughout the new year!*

THE 181ST OVERSEAS BTN., 1916-1917--By Steven C. Luciuk



The Regimental Sergeant-Major
and Sergeants of the
181st Overseas Battalion, C.E.F.
extend to you the heartiest
Season's Greetings

Brandon, Manitoba.

1916-1917.

STAFF

Reg. Sgt.-Maj. H. W. Thornborough.
Reg. Qr.-Master Sgt. F. W. Roberts.
Sergeant A. Volume.
Sergeant W. Bond.
Sergeant A. J. Heaysman.
Sergeant H. Botterud.
Sergeant G. Christle.
Sergeant J. Ecclestone.
Sergeant H. J. Quinn.
Sergeant W. H. Falconer.
Sergeant J. Waita.
Sergeant F. L. Tattersall.
Sergeant H. Lee.
Sergeant J. Fry.
Sergeant R. Pugh.

"A" COMPANY

Co. Sgt.-Maj. H. S. Ferguson.
C.Q.M. Sgt. W. E. Cunningham.
Sergeant W. Howe.
Sergeant J. T. Dinsdale.
Sergeant C. Shelton.
Sergeant A. McLean.
Sergeant P. P. Bucke.
Sergeant J. W. Hughes.
Sergeant R. G. Summers.
Sergeant H. Sturdy.

"C" COMPANY

Co. Sgt.-Maj. H. A. Robinson.
C.Q.M. Sgt. G. Ferry.
Sergeant E. R. W. Bourke.
Sergeant R. H. Wilson.
Sergeant J. E. Casey.
Sergeant J. R. Munshaw.

"B" COMPANY

Co. Sgt.-Major J. E. McCormack.
C.Q.M. Sgt. J. H. Riddle.
Sergeant L. K. Davidson.
Sergeant W. A. Herring.
Sergeant R. N. Snow.
Sergeant E. H. Lloy.
Sergeant L. L. Lewis.
Sergeant F. J. Crang.
Sergeant T. H. Hetherington.
Sergeant H. C. Erichsen.
Sergeant R. D. Brown.
Sergeant M. Quackenbush.

"D" COMPANY

C.Q.M. Sgt. C. F. Blackburn.
Sergeant W. Faulkes.
Sergeant W. E. Dorsey.
Sergeant G. A. House.
Sergeant A. Cormack.
Sergeant T. Pue.
Sergeant R. Ironside.
Sergeant W. McClernon.

[Reduced 78%]



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

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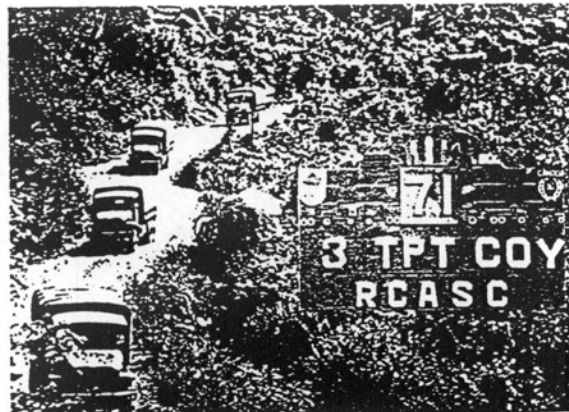
OPERATION APOLLO

The Canadian Armed Forces have recently been despatched to participate in the American-led coalition and campaign against terrorism in response to the attacks on the twin World Trade Centres in New York and Washington's Pentagon on September 11, 2001. A naval task force of several frigates, a supply ship, and a destroyer have already been deployed, along with six air force planes (three transports, one Airbus, and two maritime patrol planes), and troops from the Canadian army's special forces. Some 2,000 personnel will be involved in the operation.

Troops will undergo a six-month deployment in the Persian Gulf. They will be engaged in surveillance, airlift support, humanitarian assistance, as well as technical, carrier, and flank support. We would like to wish them all the very best and hope that their operations are successful. We also hope that they come back home safely and without any major incident. [Specific details have been withheld given the ongoing domestic problems within the U.S. Although several details have been publicly announced, I cannot help but remember the Second World War adage of "Loose Lips Sink Ships"! I am sure members will agree. Ed.]

ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS, KOREA 1954--By A.D. Hanes

Season's Greetings
Korea, 1954



*Carl Miron
Baby Heather*



NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
11						

...WE REMEMBER. 

FOR JANUARY 2002: A few more greeting cards; some Nile Voyager covers; an early 1915 RCN censor handstamp; Great War VAD's and nursing sisters and more!

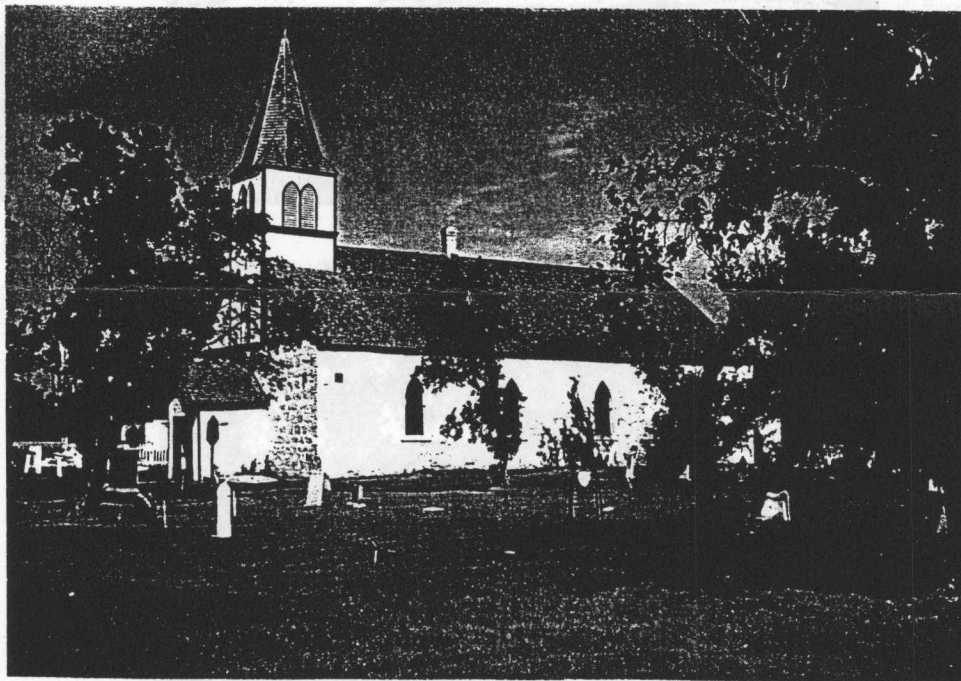


THE CANADIAN NILE VOYAGEURS (1884-85): FURTHER NOTES--By J.C. Campbell and H.M. Street

The story of the Canadian Nile Voyageurs (1884-85) has been well recorded in the references listed below and it is a most interesting and action-filled account. Ref's. (1) and (2) by the late E.A. Richardson, OTB provide an excellent synoptic view of the event with the philatelic aspect an additional feature. Other reference material does not, of course, include the latter. Cards and covers from, and to, members of the expedition are of considerable interest to collectors but of little consequence to the general public. Not many are in collectors' hands [members will be familiar with Surgeon-Major John L.H. Neilson-addressed covers. Ed.].

The Canadian Contingent comprised 373* officers and men. Of the latter, few were members of the military; most being civilian boatmen who were engaged in the handling of the boats being utilized to carry soldiers and their supplies for the Relief of Khartoum. In the above total 92 were recruited in Manitoba and of these, 30 were of Canadian Indian extraction. The Contingent sailed on S.S. Ocean King from Montreal on September 16, 1884 and arrived at Alexandria, Egypt on October 7, 1884.

It was September 1-3 at BNAPEX '83 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, that Mike Street (then Topics Editor), and this writer, arranged to drive north to East Selkirk, Manitoba to view some grave sites thought to be connected with the Nile Contingent. Following an eighteen-kilometre drive we entered the grounds of St. Peter's Anglican Church, Dynevor, located on the east bank of the historic Red River.



St. Peter's Dynevor Church
(1853)



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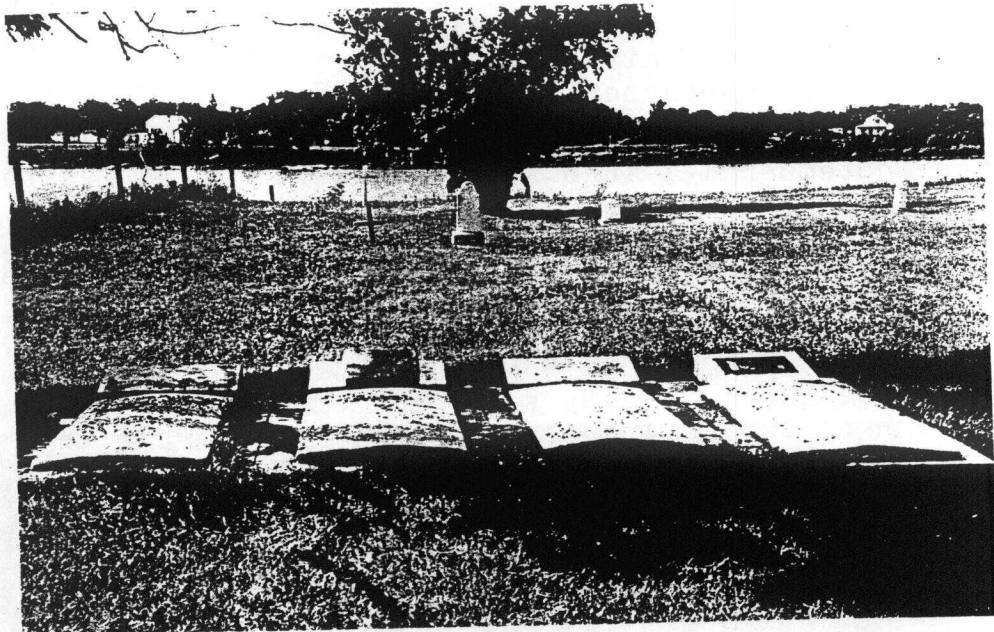
On the south side of the church lay a large cemetery. After a brief search we located three graves whose headstones gave us the proof we sought. They read as follows:

"Boatman Alex Cochrane 1845-1927
Egyptian Exped. Force
'Lest We Forget'"

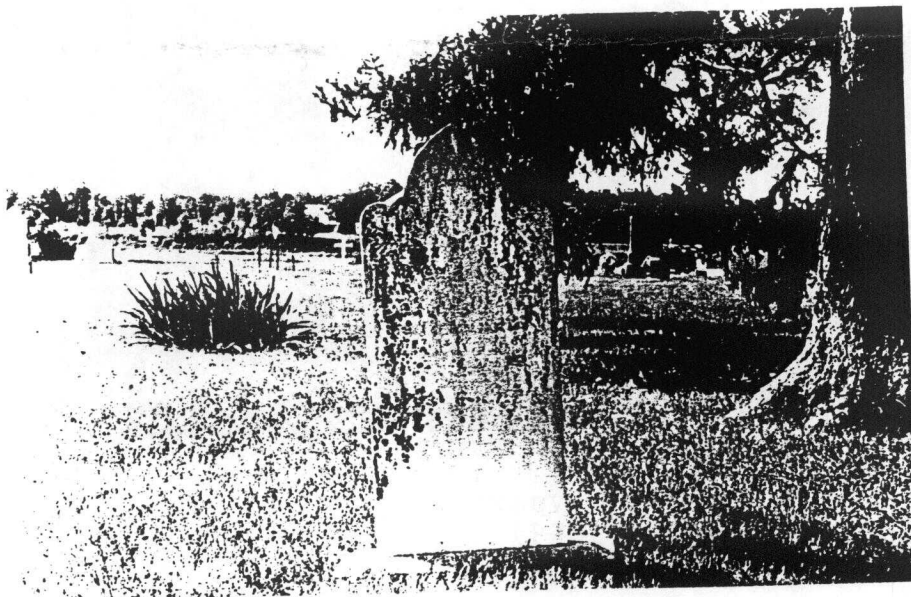
"Boatman Adam Cochrane 1849-1935
Egyptian Exped. Force
'Lest We Forget'"

"Thomas Pratt
A Nile Voyageur Died May 11, 1891
'He Being Dead Yet Speaketh'"

The Red River



Far Left:
Adam Cochrane
Next Left:
Alex Cochrane



Gravesite of
Thomas Pratt

[Cont'd.]

These names are listed in Ref. (4) on pps. 259-60. The preceding photos are courtesy of Mike Street. The church, built in 1853, served the Saulteaux and Cree settlement established in 1834. It is still in use during the summer.

Two illustrations of covers may be found in Ref.'s (1) and (2), both from Canada to Egypt. We trust that readers will find these further notes of a little-known Canadian story interesting reading.

On a subsequent note, all 371* officers, men, and boatmen who had completed their term of engagement were subsequently awarded the Egypt campaign medal with "THE NILE 1884-85" clasp/bar. Forty-five also received the "KIRBEKAN" clasp/bar.

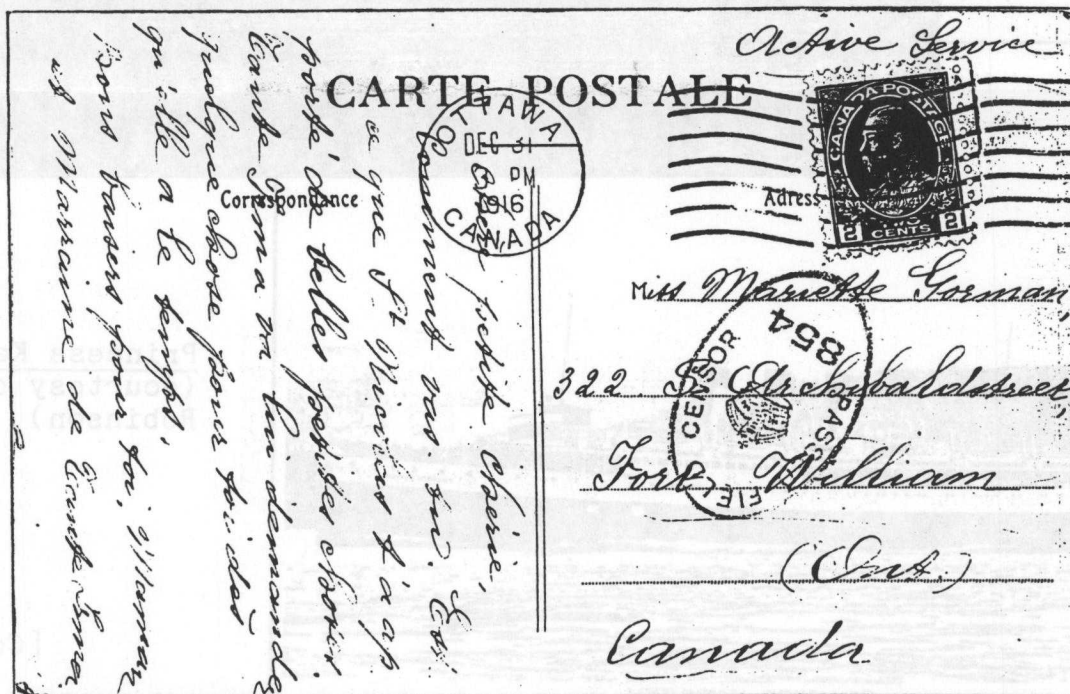
(*These numbers differ due to the variety of sources used).

REFERENCES

- ** (1) Richardson, E.A., OTB. "Canada's Voyageur Contingent on the Nile 1884-1885". BNA Topics. March-April 1983, pps. 40-46.
- (2) Ibid. Monograph #3. BNAPEX '69. Part I, pps. 1-4.
- (3) Moorhead, Alan. The White Nile, 1960.
- (4) Stacey, C.P. The Nile Voyageurs, 1884-1885. Toronto: The Champlain Society, 1959.
- (5) MacLaren, Roy. Canadians on the Nile, 1882-1898. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1978.

**Members wishing a copy of Ref. (1) may send a sase (47¢, 60¢, \$1.05 or a UPU I.R.C.) to J.C. Campbell, #303-1260 Raymer Ave., Kelowna, BC V1W 3S8, who will post a copy to them at no additional charge. [Members may also wish to consult member Charles Verge's "The Khartoum Relief Expedition, 1884-5: The Canadian Voyageurs' Participation," PHSC Journal (No. 99, Sept. 30, 1999), pps. 2-6. Ed.]

CANADIAN NURSING SISTER AT VILLA TINO--By Colin Pomfret



[Cont'd.]

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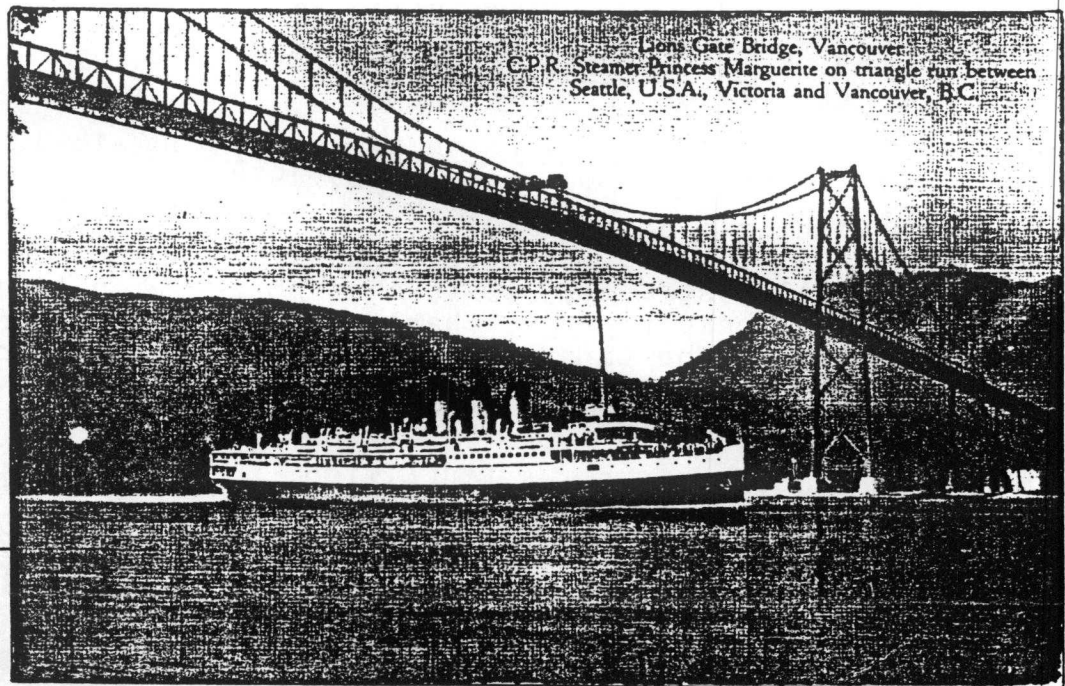
The preceding postcard postmarked APO 3 was from a Canadian Nursing Sister Irma van Bockstaele, a patient at Villa Tino. It was a hospital for nursing sisters, operated by the staff of Britain's No.24 General Hospital. At this time the Canadian Army Medical Corps had no facilities for caring for sick or injured Sisters. Later a ward for female patients was opened at No.8 Canadian General Hospital in Paris. The card bears an APO 3 dated December 17, 1916 (Boulogne).

LOSS OF C.P. COASTAL STEAMSHIP PRINCESS MARGUERITE IN AUGUST 1942--By W. Whitehouse

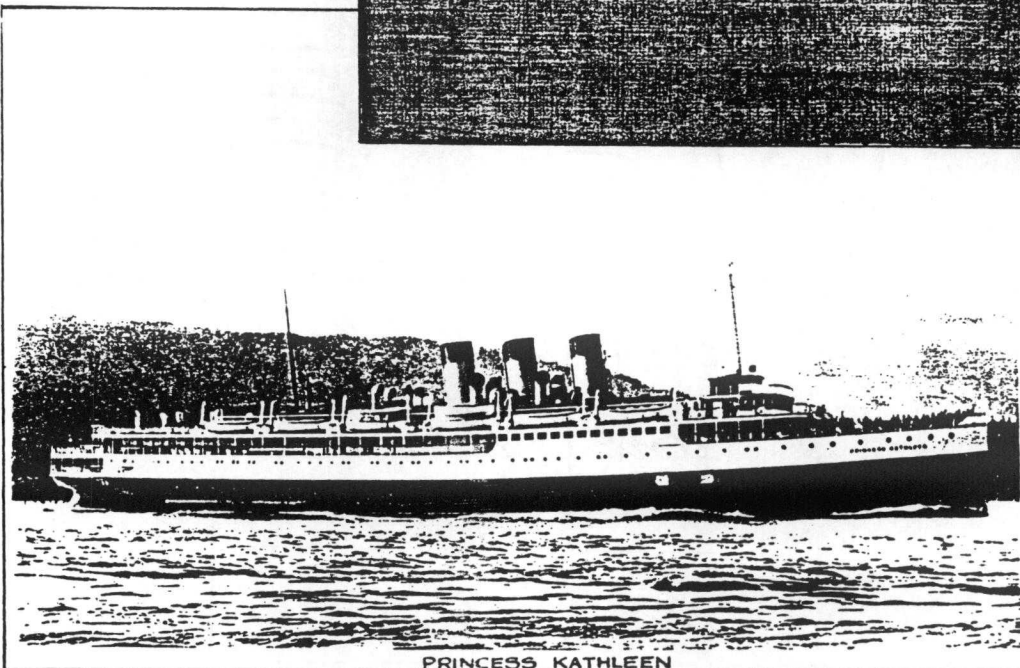
Early in 1924 Canadian Pacific Coastal Service awarded a contract to John Brown & Co. of Clydebank, Scotland, for the building of two passenger ships, 350 feet long, 60 feet wide, with a displacement of roughly 5900 tons. Both were powered by steam turbines and capable of 21 knots as their service speed.

These two ships would be named Princess Kathleen and Princess Marguerite. Both were strikingly handsome ships with luxurious accommodation; more like ocean liners than coastal vessels.

Princess Marguerite ca. 1938



Lions Gate Bridge, Vancouver
C.P.R. Steamer Princess Marguerite on triangle run between Seattle, U.S.A., Victoria and Vancouver, B.C.



PRINCESS KATHLEEN

Princess Kathleen
(courtesy of W.G. Robinson)

[Cont'd.]

Princess Kathleen arrived at Victoria, B.C. on February 15, 1925, while Princess Marguerite arrived on April 20, 1925. Both ships were assigned to the West Coast Triangle run. On May 29, 1939, Princess Marguerite sailed from Vancouver with Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth aboard for their trip to Victoria; their last stop on the cross-Canada Royal Tour.

In 1941, after being requisitioned for war service, the two ships sailed for Esquimalt on September 7 to receive a refit preparing them for war service and the voyage across the Pacific to the Mediterranean Theatre. In November the ships sailed from Esquimalt to Australia via Honolulu, then on to the Dutch East Indies and the Indian Ocean, where they were fortunate enough to avoid Japanese warship patrols.

On August 17, 1942, in convoy from Egypt to Cyprus, Princess Marguerite was torpedoed, set afire, and sank some time later. Thanks to the Royal Navy Destroyer escorts, loss of life was very low. No official mention of the loss was made until January 1945.

Meanwhile her sister ship, Princess Kathleen, ranged far and wide over the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas for the remainder of the war and returned safely to the West Coast.

A SECOND WORLD WAR FIELD SERVICE CARD--By C.D. Sayles

Field Service Cards were commonly used during the First World War, but these two examples from the Second World War are the first I have seen. The printing information on both is identical:



"Forms/A2042/7.

Wt. 18709/314. 45,000M 7/41. W. & S. Ld. 51-726. 192326F."

I take this to mean that 45 million copies of Army Form A2042/7 were printed by W. & S. Ltd. in July 1941. Why are these cards so uncommon if 45 million were printed? Can anyone show other examples or tell us why or how these cards were used by the troops?

FPO 314 (July 23/43)

FIELD SERVICE POST CARD.

*To: The Gang
C.V. Telegraphs
347 24th
Seattle, Wash
Canada*

The address only to be written on this side. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

[Crown Copyright Reserved.]

NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]

I am quite well.

I have been admitted into hospital

and am going on well.

and hope to be discharged soon.

I am being sent down to the base.

I have received your letter dated

telegram

parcel

Letter follows at first opportunity.

I have received no letter from you lately for a long time.

Signature only *[Signature]*

Date *27 July 43*

Forms/A2042/7. 45,000M. 7/41. W. & S. Ld. 51-726. 192326F.

[Cont'd.]

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[I too have a similar card dated July 16/44 with the FPO-THC 2/1--2 Cdn. Corps Supply Point--addressed to Toronto. These seem to be unusual, at least where Canada is concerned, and perhaps other members can enlighten us further.Ed.]

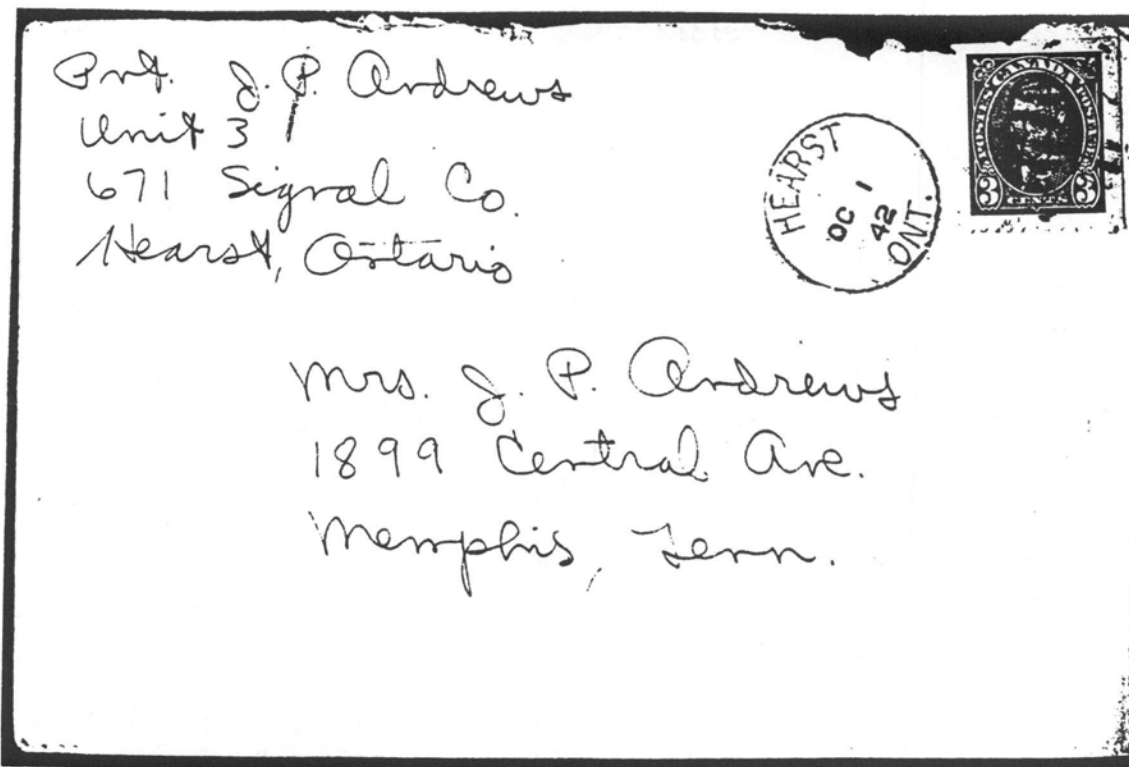
FPO 485 (July 28/44)



Holiday Greetings



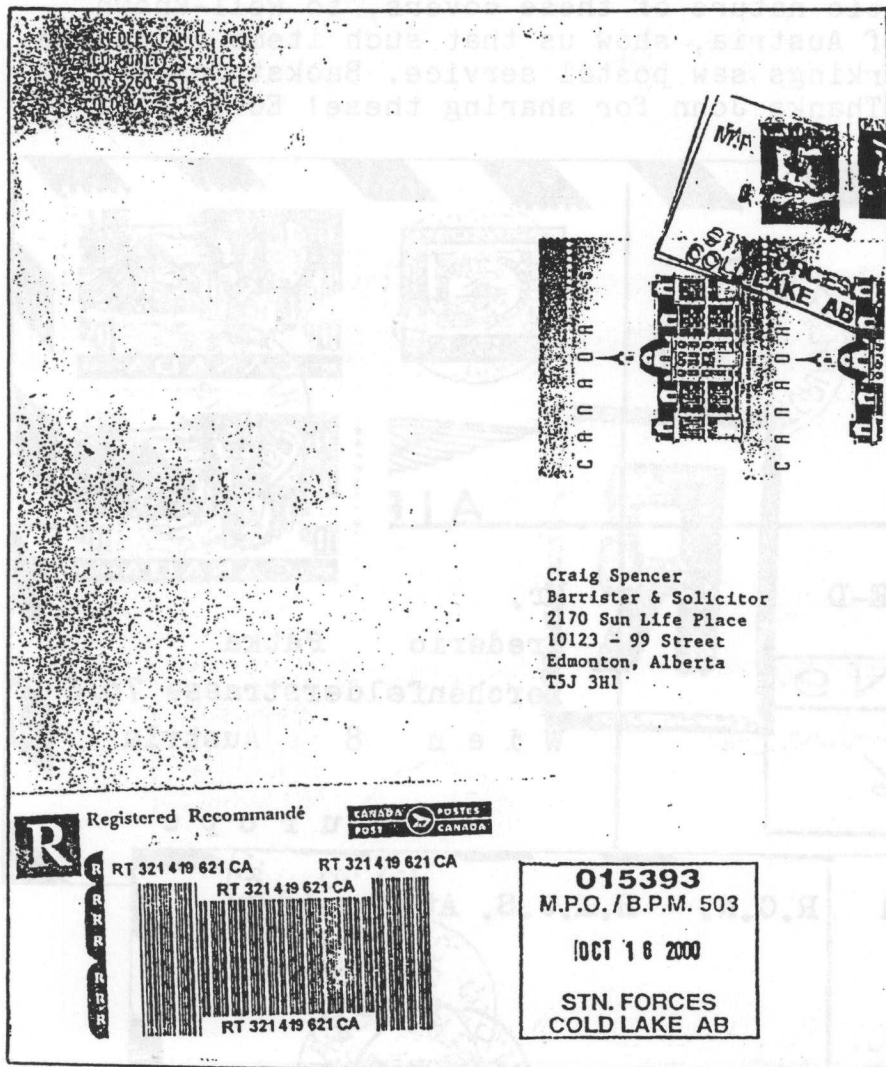
671 SIGNAL CO., HEARST, ONTARIO 1942--By Jim Felton



[Jim sent along this rather curious item above which members may be able to comment upon and add more information. Presumably this Signal Company was an American unit which found itself training in Northern Ontario. Can members supply more information? Ed.]

NEW M.P.O. 503, COLD LAKE, AB MARKING--By W.G. Robinson

[Chairman Bill Bailey passed along a copy of the item below which was recently discovered by Bill Robinson. The office has the POCN/Responsibility Centre number 015393. Can other members contribute similar cancels from other M.P.O.'s? Ed.]



015393
M.P.O./B.P.M. 503
OCT 16 2000
STN. FORCES
COLD LAKE AB

Craig Spencer
 Barrister & Solicitor
 2170 Sun Life Place
 10123 - 99 Street
 Edmonton, Alberta
 T5J 3H1

Registered Recommandé
 CANADA POSTES CANADA
 RT 321 419 621 CA
 RT 321 419 621 CA
 RT 321 419 621 CA

015393
M.P.O./B.P.M. 503
OCT 16 2000
STN. FORCES
COLD LAKE AB

GREAT WAR BOOKLETS

Members might be interested in a series of small monographs related to the Great War. Authored by Tony Allen, these card cover booklets are interesting introductions to the following topics:

- | | |
|--|---|
| No.1 The Cartoons of Louis Raemaekers | No.6 Charity Flags & Flag Days |
| No.2 British Prisoners of War, 1914-18 | No.7 Animals at War, 1914-18 |
| No.3 German Prisoners of War, 1914-18 | No.8 Hospital Ships From the Great War |
| No.4 The Y.M.C.A. and the Great War | No.9 Tanks From the Great War |
| No.5 St. Dunstan's and the Great War | No.10 Soldiers' Mail and the Army Post Office |

Most are illustrated with contemporary picture postcards and photos. Price for each is £3.25 (postpaid in the U.K.) but I'm sure that an extra .50p for overseas postage would be appreciated. Remittances (Sterling drafts/postal money orders) should be payable to Tony Allen and

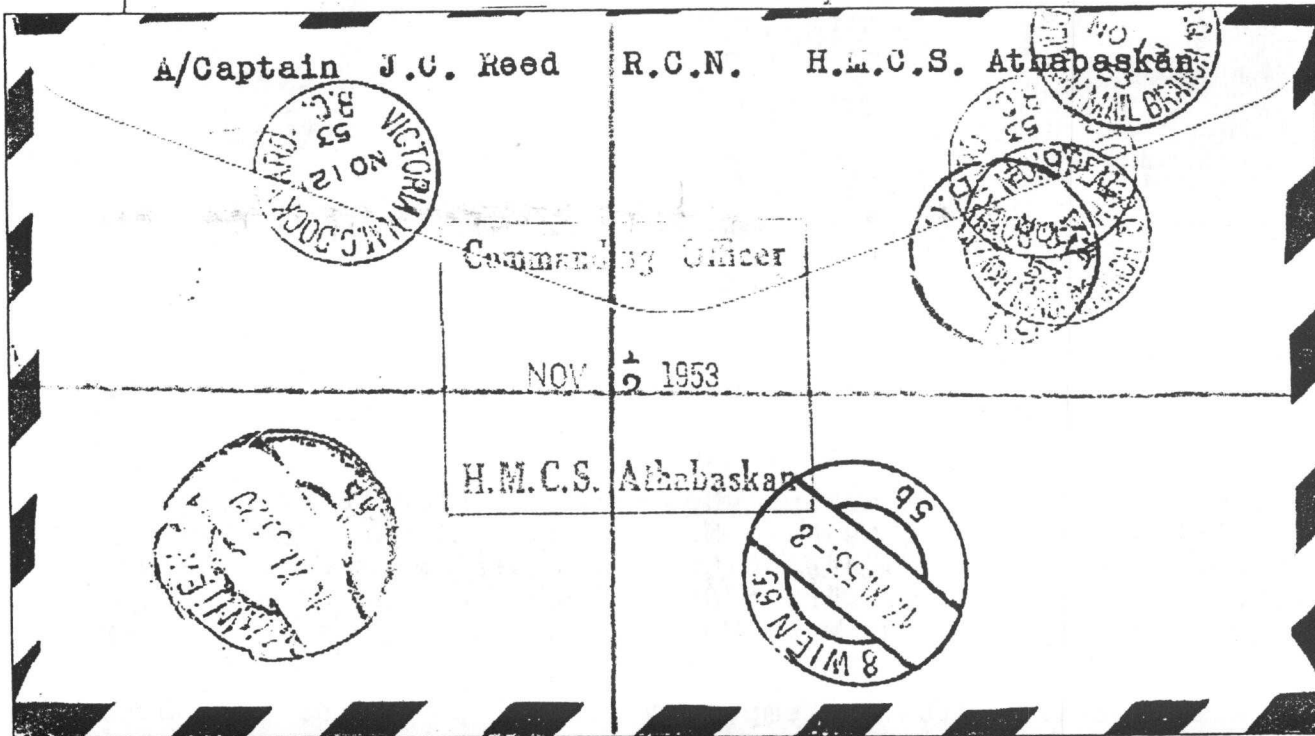
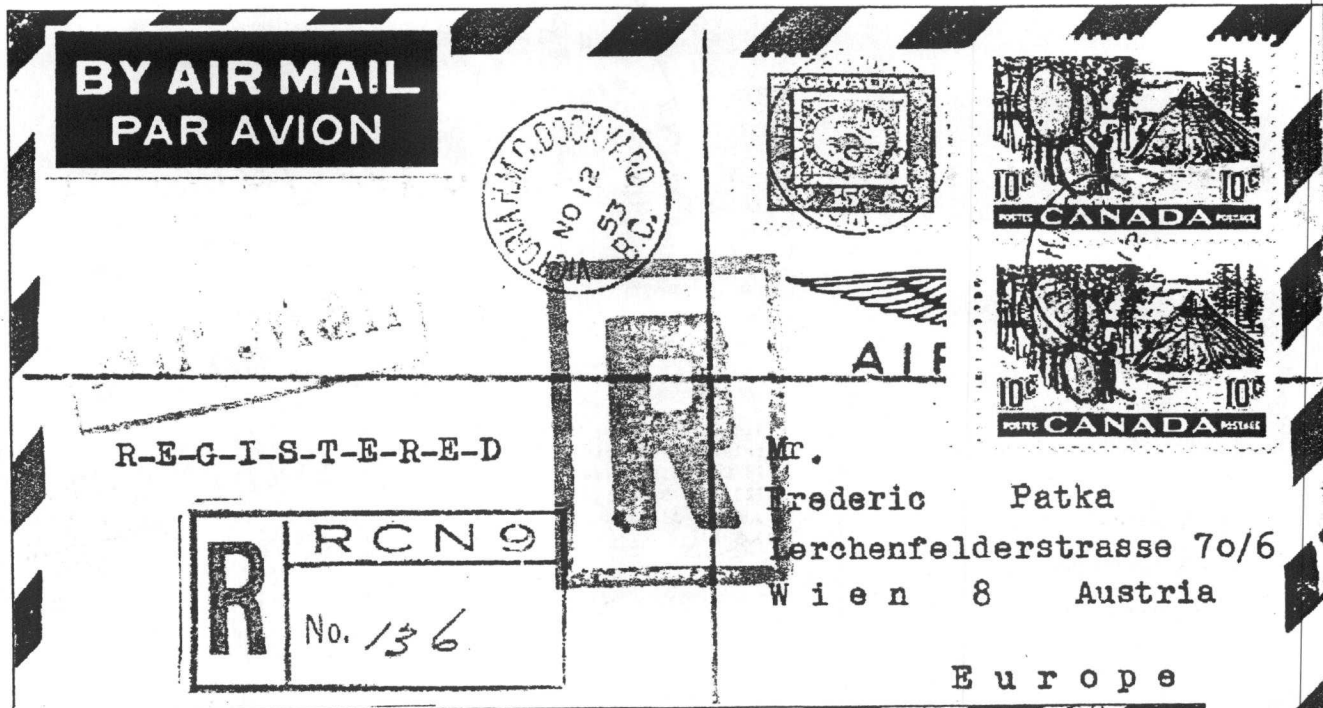
[Cont'd.]

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sent to 16 Chelwood Walk, Holgate, York, YO26 4UH, England.

KOREAN R.C.N. TRIO--By John Daynes

[John has once again sent in some amazing covers from HMCS Athabaskan and HMCS Crusader. The exotic nature of these covers, to well-known collector Frederic Patka of Austria, show us that such items do indeed exist and these unusual markings saw postal service. Backstamps are also noted showing transit. Thanks John for sharing these! Ed.]



[Cont'd.]

POSTAGE DUE

Commanding Officer

60

Cents

MAR 25 1954

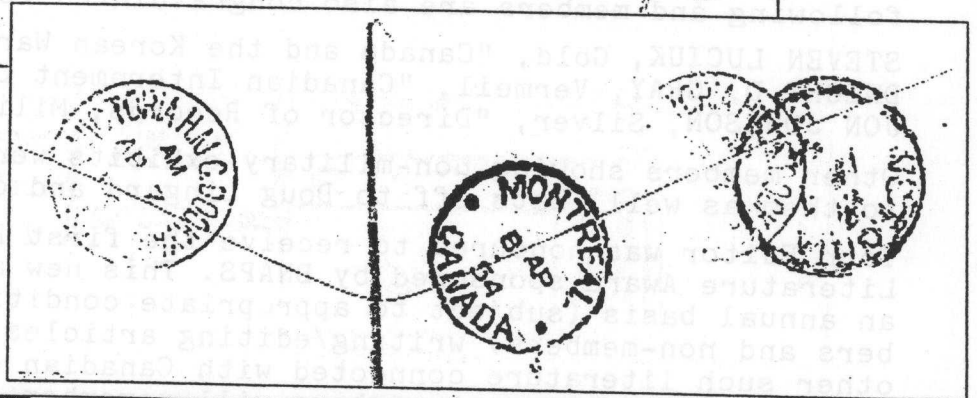
H.M.C.S. "CRUSADER"



RCN-11
No. 104

*Freddie Patka
Denkerfelderstrasse 70/6
Wien 8 Austria Europe*

Registered



Commanding Officer
MAR 25 1954
H.M.C.S. "CRUSADER"



BY AIRMAIL
PAR AVION
MIT FLUGPOST

*Freddie Patka
Denkerfelderstrasse 70/6
Wien 8 Austria Europe*

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Dear CMMSG Members:

Late fall is here and brings with it the last holiday issue for 2001. Bill and I wish to extend our very best wishes for the holidays and the happiest of 2002. The tragic and barbaric actions which occurred in the United States on September 11 will undoubtedly remain with us forever, and I am sure that we are not alone in sending all those affected by these terrorist acts our sincerest regards. Our thoughts are with the victims and families, as well as with the men and women in the international coalition serving to eradicate this scourge of terrorism.

BNAPEX 2001 REPORT (OTTAWA)

Bill Bailey sent along his report shortly after our Study Group meeting. C. Ron McGuire presented an excellent talk on the "C Force Disaster" (Hong Kong) and Bill counted fifty-one people present at one time (both members and non-members) who enjoyed the affair! Thank you Ron for your efforts. Henk Burgers also deserves thanks for his producing the latest Index for issues 101-150. An incredible amount of work went into the publication and Henk is to be congratulated. Members attending received a copy and all non-attending members were sent one as well (those not receiving one-contact the Editor). Military-related exhibits included the following and members are also congratulated for their efforts:

STEVEN LUCIUK, Gold, "Canada and the Korean War" (1 frame)
 DWIGHT D. GRAY, Vermeil, "Canadian Internment Camps in World War II" (8)
 JON JOHNSON, Silver, "Director of Records, Militia Dept. 1921-1951" (1)

Other members showing non-military exhibits were plentiful too and kudos to them as well. Hats off to Doug Lingard and crew for a terrific job!

Your Editor was honoured to receive the first E.R. "Ritch" Toop Military Literature Award sponsored by BNAPS. This new award will be presented on an annual basis (subject to appropriate conditions) to anyone (BNAPS members and non-members) writing/editing articles, books, monographs, and other such literature connected with Canadian or B.N.A. military subjects. "Ritch", as most members will remember, was a previous Chairman of our Study Group and a long-time writer, researcher, and friend to many. More information about the Award will be noted within Topics/BNA-Portraits in the near future.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

SCOTT HANSEN, 4506 MADISON AVE., DEARBORN HEIGHTS, MI 48125-2160 USA
 ROBERT LEMIRE, S.G. REPORTER, P.O. BOX 1870, DEEP RIVER, ON KOJ 1P0

SMALL ADS

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://www.mayoph.com> (6/7)

FOR SALE: Canadian military and civil censored covers. I can supply priced photocopies or scans via the Internet at no obligation. John Frith, Sudbury Stamps, Box 286, Copper Cliff, ON POM 1N0 or email: johnfrith.sudburystamps@sympatico.ca (5/10)

HELP NEEDED: Required for exhibit--1910-1924 covers from Dept. of Militia, Ottawa to destinations outside of Canada. Jon Johnson, 9604 Kalamalka Rd., Vernon, BC V1B 1L3 or jon@okribbons.com (1/1)

