



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2002

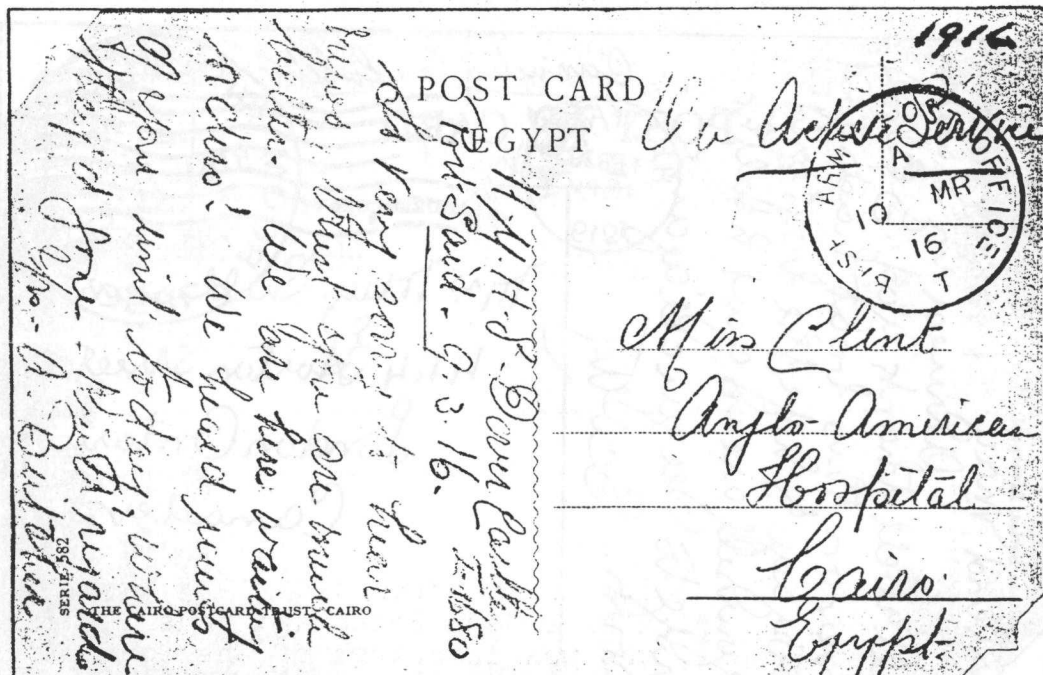
NEWSLETTER NO. 155
Page 621

A FEW GREAT WAR SHIPS--By Colin Pomfret

[Colin sent in a few interesting picture postcards associated with four transport and hospital ships of the First World War.]

This is a card from the hospital ship Dover Castle to Nursing Sister M.B. Clint, a patient in the Anglo-American Hospital on Gezirah Island in the Nile at Cairo. Nursing Sister Clint had earlier served with one of the Canadian hospitals on Lemnos in the Aegean Sea.

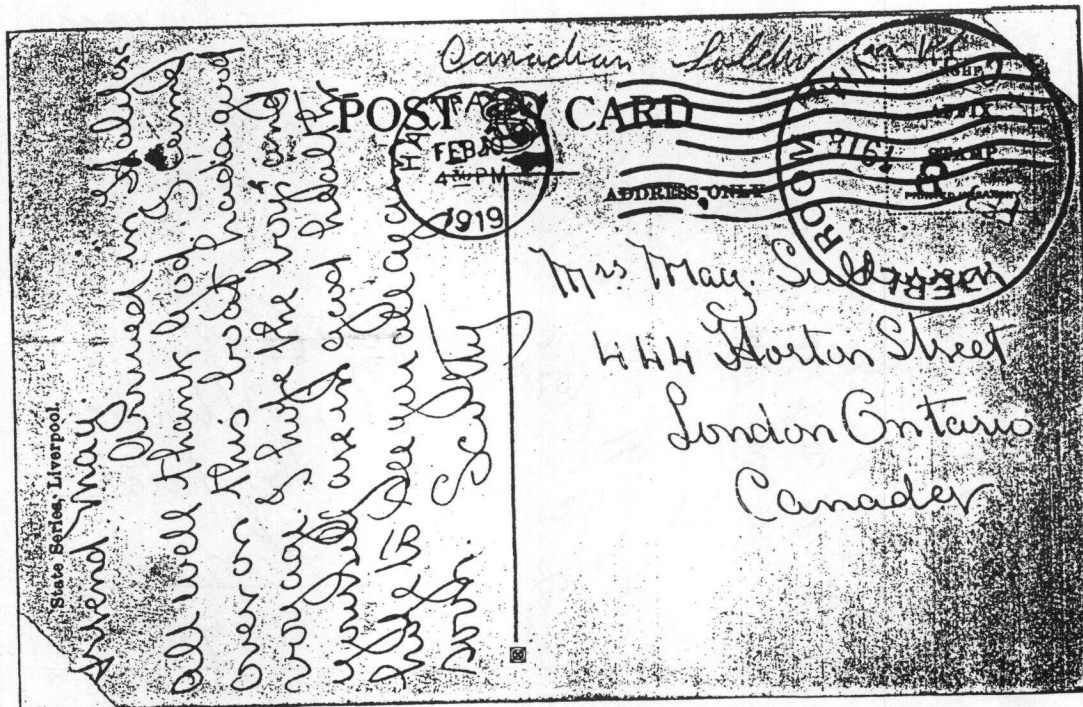
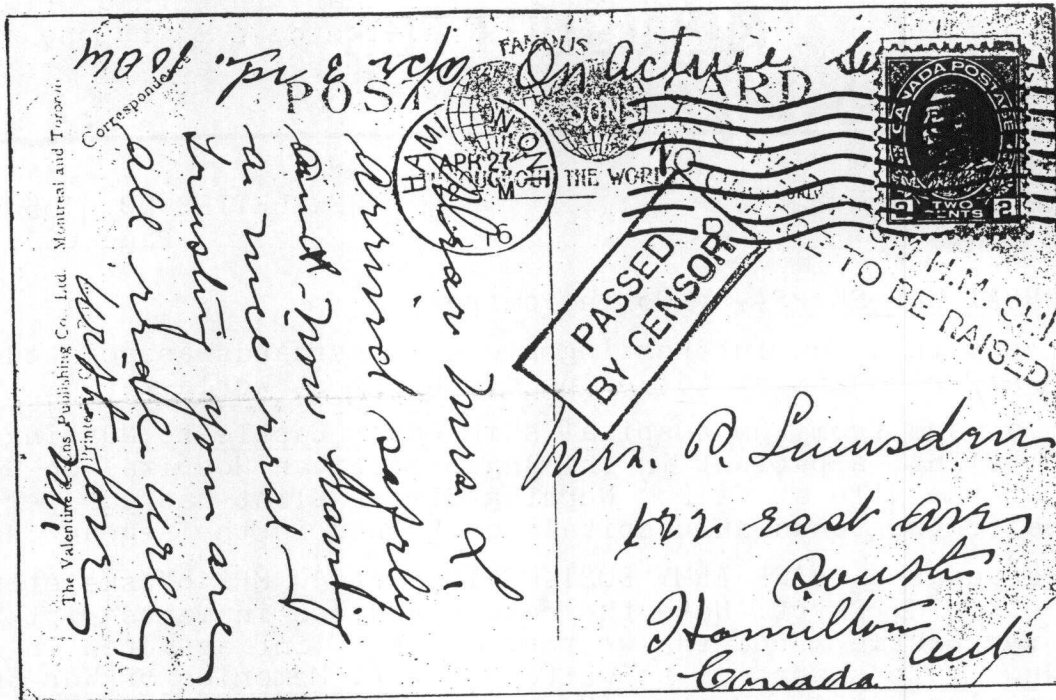
The card bears a "BASE ARMY POST OFFICE T/A/10 MR/16" skeleton mark from Port Said, Egypt. Note the return address in manuscript "H.M. H.S. Dover Castle" from the writer. [Mabel Clint as noted in previous Newsletters went on to write Our Bit: Memories of War Service by a Canadian Nursing Sister (Montreal: Barwick, 1934). She was awarded the Associate Royal Red Cross and other honours for her work in military nursing.Ed.]



[Cont'd.]

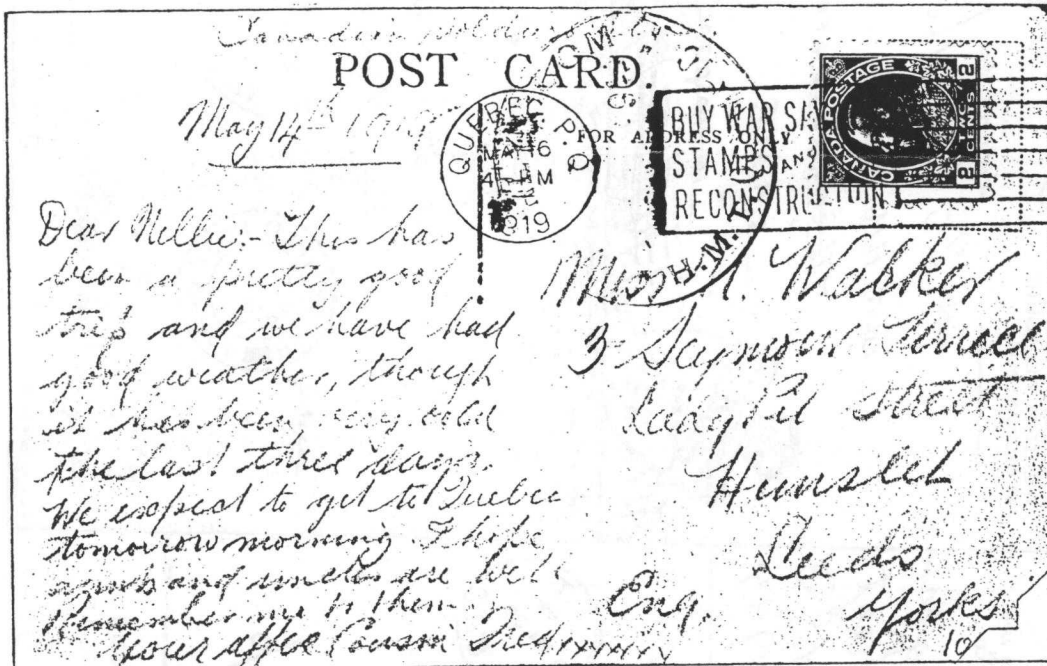
CHAIR/TREAS.: W.J. BAILEY, #5-8191 FRANCIS RD., RICHMOND, BC V6Y 1A5
EDITOR: D. MARIO, BOX 342, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3

The following illustration shows a card sent to Canada bearing the censor mark of His Majesty's Transport Aragon docked at Plymouth or Devonport. The card was then forwarded to London where the marking "RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIP/NO CHARGE TO BE RAISED" was applied.

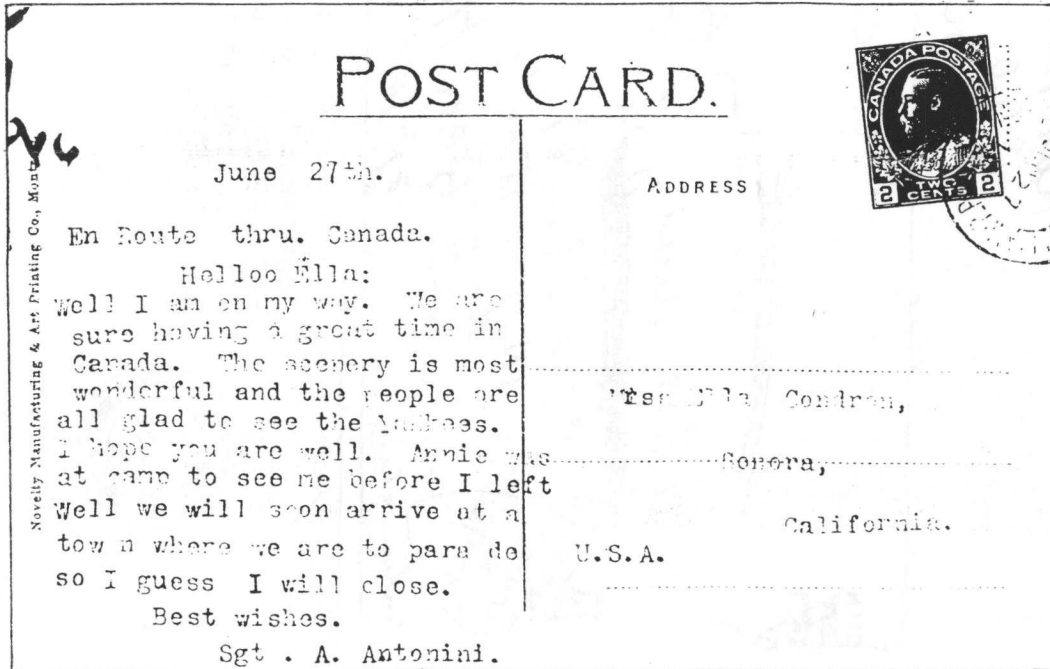


The preceding card was from a Canadian soldier returning home on the ex-Cunarder Carmania. On her return to Liverpool on August 7, 1914, the Carmania was converted to an armed merchant cruiser and patrolled from Bermuda and the East Coast of South America. It was in these waters that she sank the armed cruiser Cap Trafalgar; which had originally been owned by the Hamburg South America Line. The card bears the circular "ORDERLY ROOM/FEB 8 1918/H.M.T. CARMANIA" marking as well as a "HALIFAX, N.S./FEB 10/1919" machine cancellation.

This card, dated May 14, 1919, was sent from another Canadian soldier aboard the H.M.T. Olympic to his cousin. It bears the circular ship's orderly room marking, as well as a "QUEBEC, P.Q./MAY 16/1919" cancel.



'YANKS' EN ROUTE THRU CANADA, JUNE 1918



The card left (showing Brandon, Manitoba's Experimental Farm) was sent to California by a U.S. Sergeant; presumably along with other soldiers on a pseudo-troop train. It bears a partial "NORTH BAY & FT. WILLIAM" RPO circular dater of June 27, 1918. Obviously permission was granted by the Canadian government for this type of transit of Allied troops. Can members provide us with more information?

Page 624

LT. H.M. STREET, 7TH CDN. RECCE. REG'T.--By Mike Street

[As promised in the last issue, here are a few items submitted from Mike Street's family correspondence. Some of them are illustrated at 78% and are from/to Mike's father while recuperating in hospital (No.23 General Hospital etc.). Thanks once again Mike for sharing some of these very interesting cards and covers.Ed.]

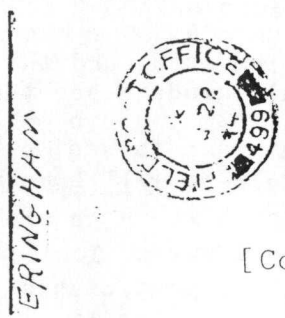


An A.F.A.L. with an FPO 248/OC 30/44 (A Group, Cdn. Reinforcement Units, Witley, Surrey, U.K.). Re-directed to No.23 General Hospital.

CANADIAN T.M.C.A. OVERSEAS
 THE SALVATION ARMY CANADIAN WAR SERVICES
 ON ACTIVE SERVICE
 St. J. H. Winteringham
 7th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
 C.A.O. B.N.E. Ft.
 13 Oct 1944

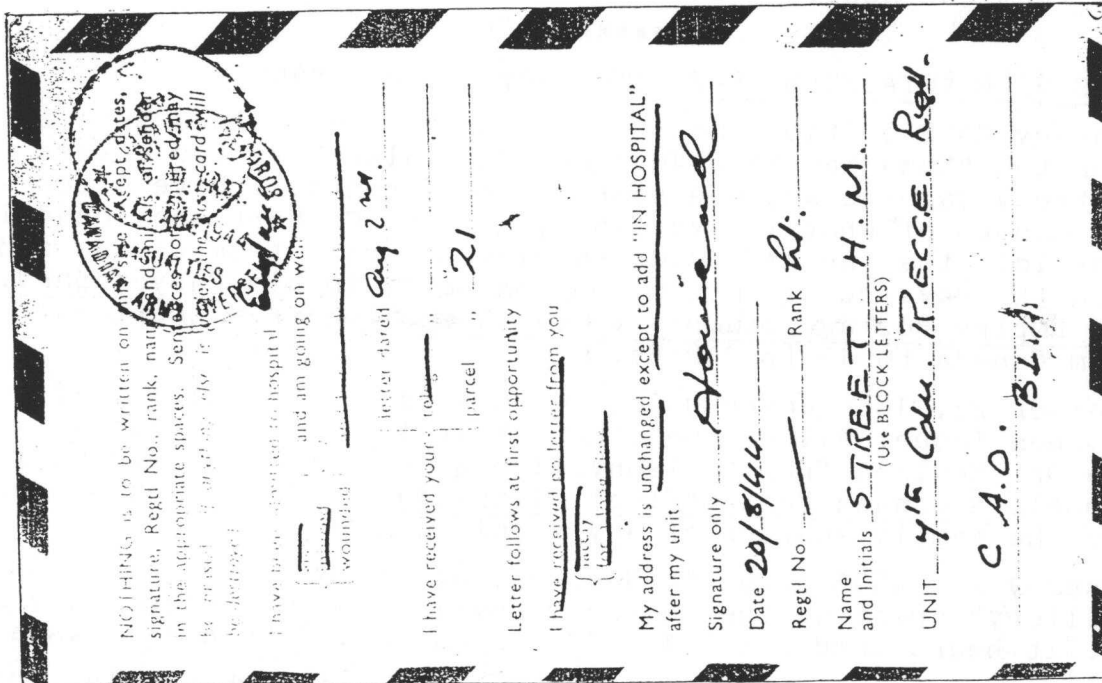
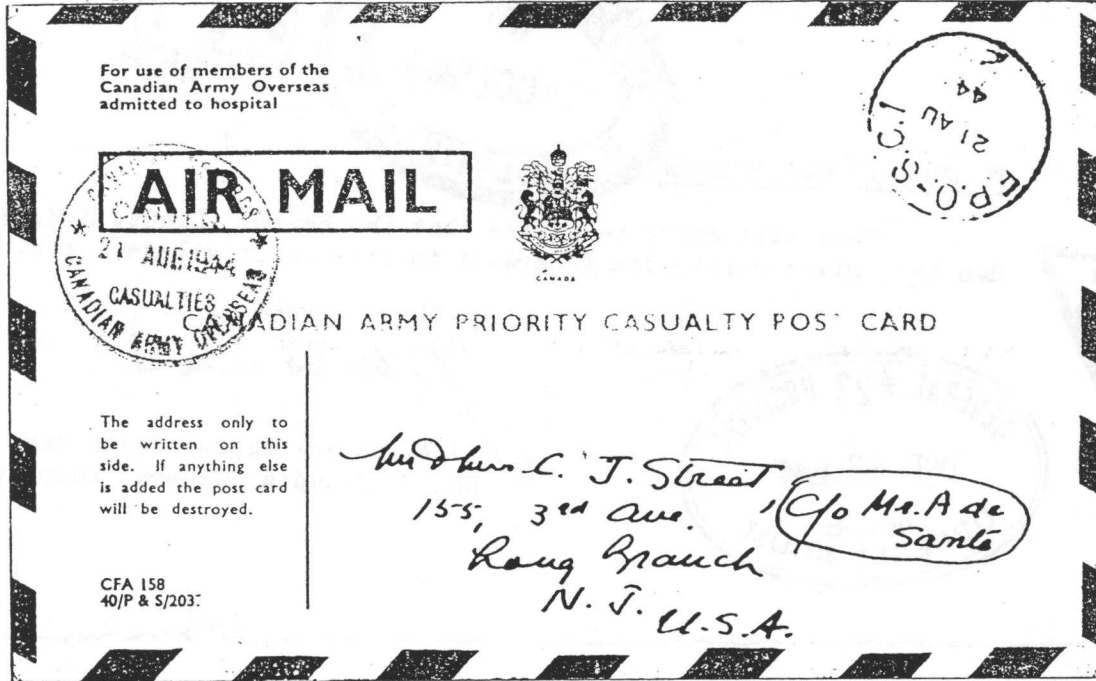
C.A.A.F.
 23-10-44
 Lt. H.M. Street
 C.A.O. (B.L.A.)
 "IN HOSPITAL"
 #23 Gen. Hosp
 10/11/44
 WINTERINGHAM

FPO TC3 (Belgium)-Proud "not seen". Backstamp is FPO 499 (N.W. Europe Postal Tracing Section, 21 Army Group).

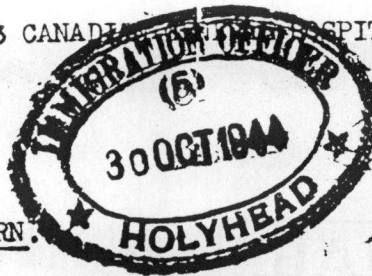


[Cont'd.]

[Here is an Army Priority Casualty Postcard sent to Mike's grandparents. Members may wish to refer to NL 131 (Aug. 1997, pp.304-305 etc.) for a previous article on these cards.Ed.]



#23 CANADIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL RCAMC



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

This will serve to advise that the bearer, Lieut. H.M. Street
Has been given permission to travel to Eire on privilege leave.



J.W. Shier

(J.W. Shier) Major, Registrar,
No. 23 Canadian General Hospital.

Above is a rather unusual transit piece which entitled Lt. Street permission to go abroad to Ireland. Note the rather scarce orderly room marking from the hospital thereon!

CANADA'S NILE VOYAGEURS-RE-VISITED--By Dr. J. Frank

The January 2002 edition (No.153, pp.585-588) contained some interesting notes on the "Canadian Nile Voyageurs". I also have two covers from Canada to the Voyageurs and one postcard to Toronto. I have often wondered about a census of what is available, as J.E. Gilbert mentioned in an early article that he had recorded eleven covers from Canada and four items in the reverse direction. Robson Lowe, in his Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Vol.V (North America) increased the number from Canada to 13 [p.312.Ed.].

My December 23, 1884 cover which follows is franked with a 2¢ and a 3¢ Small Queen issue. All of the others that I have seen bear a 5¢. It was sent to Dr. Neilson from Neilsonville (opened in 1884 according to Frank W. Campbell's Canada Post Offices, 1755-1895). I've often wondered if this is the family seat or of any significance?

The January 29, 1885 cover to Neilson, at Cairo, has a blue "Royal School of Artillery" crest on the reverse, similar to that previously illustrated. It bears London (FE 10 85) and Cairo (18 FE 85) backstamps.

My Egyptian 20 paras U.P.U. reply stationery card which also follows, has the "avec réponse" crossed out. It was sent by Denison from Gemai (south of Wadi Halfa on the banks of the Nile) to the same addressee in Toronto. It also bears a red London Foreign Mail transit mark via Liverpool to

[Cont'd.]

destinations abroad (dated DE 8, 1884). A Toronto Letter Carrier's strike dated December 22 can also be seen.





Wadi Halfa Expedition
 Wadi Halfa
 Nov 20/84

In addition to these items, I have also recorded a stampless cover from Wadi Halfa to Winnipeg on January 13, 1885 and authorized by Dr. Neilson as Surgeon-Major. It appeared in the Robson-Lowe International sale at Geneva, Switzerland on April 28, 1977. I was a distant under-bidder and was subsequently informed that the item had been purchased by an agent for the Canadian Postal Museum at S.Fr.4000. [Regrettably the cover is too dark to be illustrated here but I will include the auctioneer's catalogue description. The addressee appears to be a lawyer on Winnipeg's Main Street.Ed.]

545 ✉ 1885 (13 Jan.) ✉, from a Canadian Boatman ("Voyageur") to Canada with the authorising signature of the S.M.O. Abu Fatmeh. The endorsement "On Active Service — No stamps procurable" is overstamped by bi-lingual "WADI-HALFA" c.d.s. ** and both a framed and unframed "T" with mss. "10" determine the charge on arrival. On the reverse are Hamilton and Winnipeg c.d.s., a little torn at left. An exceedingly rare cover. Photo S.F. 1200

CANADIAN ARMY, PACIFIC FORCE--By C.D. Sayles

This is the first cover I have seen addressed to a member of the C.A.P.F. Well before the end of the war in Europe, Canada had decided to create a single, all-volunteer Division for service against Japan. It was to be raised after the end of the European war. The volunteers most wanted were men with fighting experience which, in practice, meant that most of the candidates were with the Canadian Army in Europe in May 1945.

The Division was to be organized on American lines, and would use only American equipment. The force had started assembling and training at nine camps in Canada by August of 1945. The cover which follows is addressed to the camp at Barriefield. Does anyone know what other camps were involved?

[Cont'd.]

From P.C. Collyer,
289 Roseberry St.
St. James, Ont.

**BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**



H-52155
S/Sgt P.C. Collyer
C.A.P.F.
21 C.O. X E.M.E. T.S.
Barrie, Ont

The end of the Pacific war came on August 14, 1945 and led, on September 1, 1945, to the order to disband the C.A.P.F. Although over 20,000 volunteers were posted to the C.A.P.F., few served for more than a few weeks. This is because most had first to be transported from Europe, and all were given one months leave before actually joining the force. The earliest volunteers arrived back in Canada in June 1945, so the Pacific Force existed for less than two months. This would explain why covers are so seldom seen.

THE R.C.N.V.R. AT JACK DEMPSEY'S!--By J.C. Campbell

COME IN AND SAY *Hello!*
 Jack Dempsey's Broadway Restaurant
 On Broadway bet. 49th & 50th Sts., New York City

Jack Dempsey
 N.Y. JAN. 21.

Dottie,
 I'm now in the big city and really having fun. Broadway is really a grand place. Wish you were with me. Will write later.
 My love,
 M.S.

M.S. SKALMERUD V-12830

From H.M.E. SAMP
PASSED BY CENSOR
 POST CARD
 JAN 22 1945
 Signature: _____ Date: 22/1/45
 W 308052, FREE MAIL
 ANAVY
 R.F.I.S.
 R. C.A.F. W.D.
 Vulcan,
 Alberta.
 Canada.

[Cont'd.]

Page 630

This card was sent by a Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve sailor to a young woman stationed in Vulcan, Alberta, Canada (the addressee is AW2 Lamb, D.O., W308052, #2 F.I.S., R.C.A.F., W.D.). It was censored on ship, in New York harbour, then it passed to a shore post office facility operated by the U.S. Navy. The Canadian ship's censor and the U.S. naval postal marking bear the same date of January 22, 1943. This information was provided by Wilf Whitehouse, ex-R.C.N.V.R. [Jack Dempsey's Broadway Restaurant, "the meeting place of the world", must have been a very popular location for visiting servicemen! Ed.]

POSTIES' FLAG

[In perusing a back issue of Sentinel (1991/5, Vol.27, No.5) I came upon the following and thought members might be interested.Ed.]

Posties flag unfurled

For the first time in the history of postal service to the Canadian Forces, the 'posties' have a distinct flag of their own. From the Red River Expedition of 1870, which includes the earliest known reference to postal support to any Canadian military force, to the well-documented accounts of postal support during the Boer War, the First World War and Second World War, through the Korean conflict and numerous United Nations activities, there is no mention of a postal flag. Canadian Forces Europe Postal Unit now has the distinction of being the first unit to receive and fly the new flag.

From 1974 until 1986 postal clerks served under the administrative branch



flag. Posties who serve as members of regiments or battalions understandably serve under that flag and not a postal flag. The same practice also applies to postal clerks who are currently serving with the United Nations around the world.

The postal branch now enters an important era in its history. Finally, 121 years after being first recorded in

official history, and 80 years after formal approval as a corps within the Militia, the distinctive red, blue and grey flag with the superimposed 'post horn' flies proudly throughout the CF alongside other well-established branch flags. This identity truly strengthens our resolve to continue our very important task of 'moving the mail'...by Lt P.I. Wood, deputy commanding officer, CFE Postal Unit.

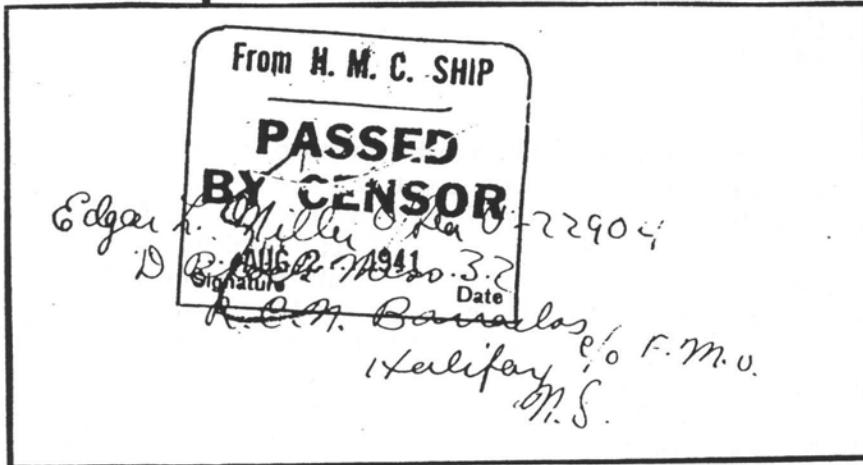
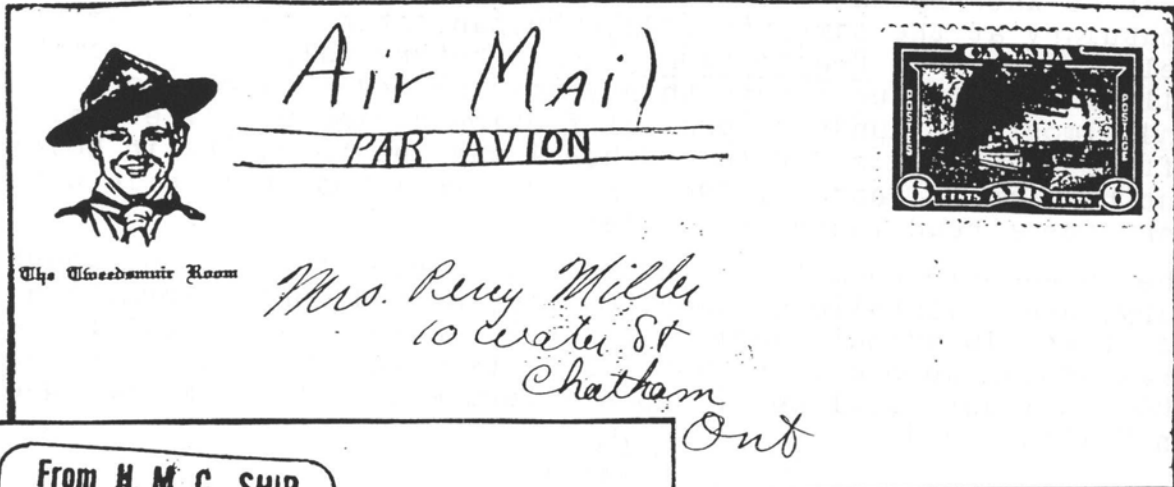
THE TWEEDSMUIR ROOM, HALIFAX, 1941--Courtesy of Tony Manson

[Member John Frith kindly passed the following along from Tony Manson, President of SOSSI's Maple Leaf Chapter #15 (Scouts on Stamps Society International). It was originally printed within The Maple Leaflet, Vol.37, No.5 (February 2002). Kind thanks are sent to its Editor, Syd Griffin, Tony Manson, and John Frith for bringing this following item to our membership. For information on SOSSI members can write to Syd Griffin, 81 Mattice Avenue, Etobicoke, ON M9B 1T8. Thank you gentlemen! Ed.]

The cover shown below has (printed in blue), the well-recognized picture of a scout and below it is printed "The Tweedsmuir Room". It is addressed to Mrs. Percy Miller in Chatham, Ontario. On the back is

[Cont'd.]

the name and address of the sender (maybe a son?) Edgar L. Miller, from the R.C.N. Barracks in Halifax. There is also a handstamp cancellation "Passed By Censor" dated August 2, 1941.



The book The Left Handshake, written in 1948 by Hilary St. George Saunders, describes the efforts of scouts worldwide during the Second World War. It states "In Nova Scotia the Tweedsmuir Room, called after Lord Tweedsmuir, was set up in Halifax as a place of refreshment for former Boy Scouts irrespective of rank". It held afternoon

teas, movies, a weekly dance and other activities, and Rangers (senior Guides) often acted as hostesses. It was for any scout or scouter from around the world who served in the allied armed forces, not just from Canada. There were guests from many countries around the world.

An article about "The Tweedsmuir Room" from the March 1944 issue of the Scout Leader is reproduced here [in the original article; copies may be obtained from the Editor for a SASE.Ed.] It basically is an "annual report" of activities over the past year. Another clipping from the Room's Log Book for 1944 also shows some visitor statistics. The location of the Tweedsmuir Room was changed at the end of 1942. The small ad from 1941 shows the address as 178 Hollis Street, while the larger ad from 1944 shows the new location address at 576 Barrington Street.

The article also mentions "Over 18,000 letterheads and 5,000 envelopes were supplied visitors free". I assume this was just for that one year, which means that there should be a number of these cover examples still existing somewhere out there in the philatelic marketplace. Also note that many visitors "had their home letters addressed to the Room", which means there are probably some examples of in-bound mail.

Lord Tweedsmuir, by the way, was Canada's Governor-General (and therefore, by tradition, Canada's Chief Scout) from 1935 to 1940. He was more famous however as the noted author, John Buchan, who wrote such masterpieces as The Thirty-Nine Steps. He had spent two years on the staff of

[Cont'd.]

Page 632

the High Commissioner to South Africa from 1901-1903, working on the reconstruction of South Africa after the Boer War. Thus it was very likely that he knew Baden-Powell, who was in charge of the South African Constabulary at the same time. John Buchan later (in 1910) wrote another well-known novel Prester John, an adventure tale set in South Africa. In all, Buchan produced over thirty novels, seven short story collections, and almost one hundred works of fiction during his lifetime. His term of office as Canada's Governor-General was due to expire in November 1940, but he died in February 1940 in a Montreal hospital while undergoing surgery for a head injury sustained in a fall.

The Tweedsmuir Room is an interesting piece of Canadian, scouting, military, and philatelic history. Can anyone add more information or stories about the Tweedsmuir Room? [Collectors have often speculated about the "half-moon" dumb killer cancel and its origins. Here is evidence that the FMO (at least) utilized it upon covers emanating from the Tweedsmuir Room in Halifax.Ed.]

Dear CMMSG Members:

Here is another issue and Bill and I hope that members are enjoying some seasonal weather. Shortly after mailing out the last issue, I received a nice telephone call from Joe Smith. Apparently I erred about Joe's upcoming participation at our group's meeting at BNAPEX in Spokane. Joe had volunteered to chair the meeting and suggested that members attending should bring along an item or two for discussion (new additions, questions etc.). Good idea Joe and sorry for the mix-up! Doug Sayles wrote to inform members that the last issue's article on Camp Borden's registration markings should have had a copyright notice attached. The newsletter was entered in ORAPEX's C6NPLE (Canada's Sixth National Philatelic Literature Exhibition) where it received a Silver-Bronze. Thanks to all contributors for their assistance (and making my life as Editor a pleasant experience!). I don't have the jury's comments at the time of printing but if there are recommendations, I will consider them. Good collecting, have a wonderful summer/winter, and see you in August!

ADDRESS CHANGES:

J.B. DALE, 25 HOGAN ST., UNIT #3, NEPEAN, ON K2E 5E8
 C.R. MCGUIRE, FRPSC, 485 HILLCREST AVE., OTTAWA, ON K2A 2M8
 E.P. YENDALL, BOX 500, STN."D", OTTAWA, ON K1N 8T7

SMALL ADS

MILITARY COVERS FOR SALE: Check out our Website! All items are colour illustrated: WWW.CANADACOVERS.CA or write Jim Miller Ltd., Box 3005, M.P.P., Kamloops, BC V2C 6B7 (1/3)

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 (8/10)

WANTED: Letters to/from William Maitland-Dougall in period 1910-1917. Send photocopy/price required to C.D. Sayles, 25 Howard Blvd., Waterdown, ON LOR 2H4 or email: saylesd@aecl.ca (3/10)

FOR SALE: Debert MPO Nova Scotia machine cancels dated November 5, 1940-March 11, 1941. Nice strikes all on postcards @ \$2 each. I have a number of these so try your luck! SAE please outside of Canada. J.C. Campbell, #303-1260 Raymer Ave., Kelowna, BC V1W 3S8 (3/3)
