



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

*Best Wishes
for the
New Year*

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2004

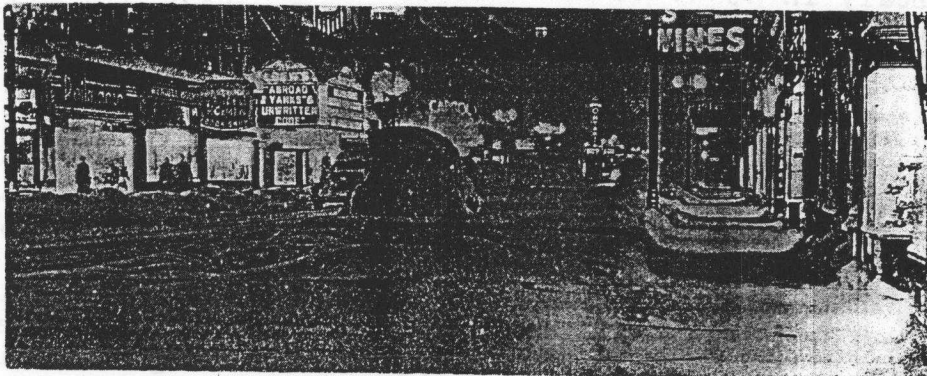
NEWSLETTER NO. 163
Page 717

MORE SEASONS' GREETINGS--By W. Whitehouse

[Wilf sent along the following Canadian Armed Forces Air Letters (AFAL's) and space last issue was a bit tight. We're still in the "seasonal mood" so members may be interested in these. Ed.]

Following are some illustrated AFAL's used from Italy and, surprisingly, one used from Canada to Europe! It is the only illustrated type that I have seen or heard of (ie. that is, prepared and used from Canada). The form numbers quoted are from my checklist distributed with my article on Canadian AFAL's in 1977.

This Canadian illustrated example [inside reduced 50%; outside reduced 73%] was prepared by the Public Utilities Commission and the London and Port Stanley Railway. The meter is dated December 7, 1944 and it was printed on Form W-5B1.



Are you dreaming of a "White Christmas"
with the Lights On?

*This happened about
Dec 1, 1944*

Season's Greetings

P. U. C. and L. & P. S. Employees

*This is the main st
in London and
1/2 mile from my
home*

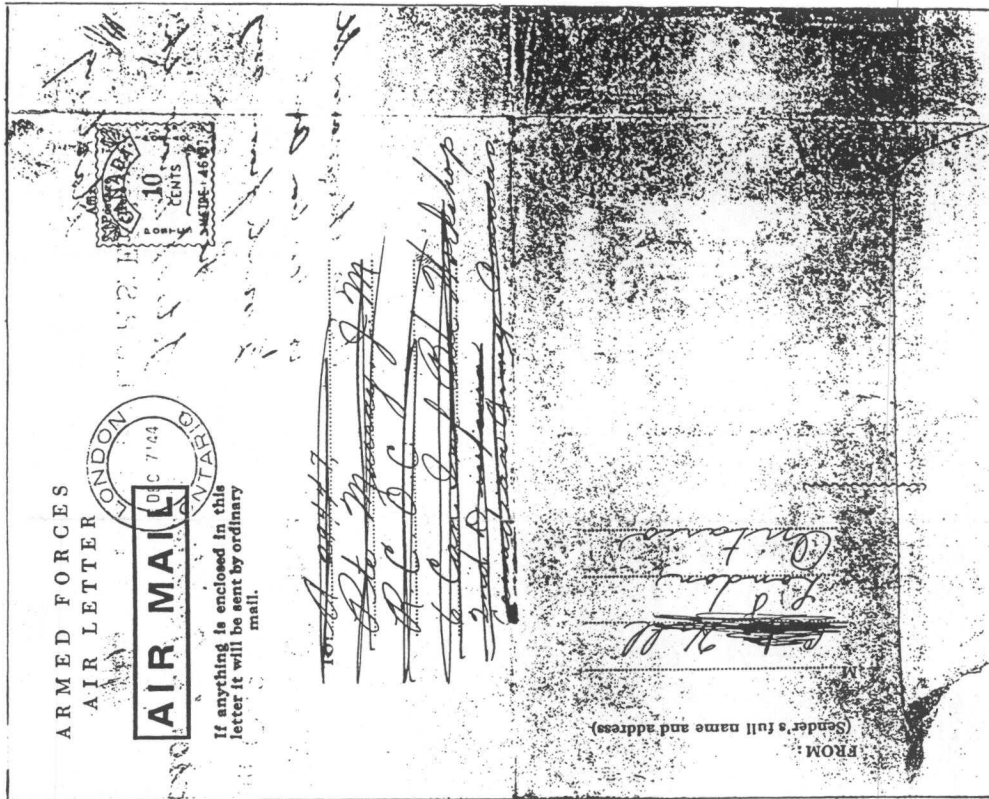
Lots of snow in

darling

[Cont'd.]

CHAIRMAN/TREAS.: C.D. SAYLES, 25 HOWARD BLVD., WATERDOWN, ON LOR 2H4
(saylesd@aecl.ca)

EDITOR: D. MARIO, POST OFFICE BOX 342, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3



The following example below [at 50%] was used by the Royal Canadian Engineers in Italy in 1944. It is on Form W-6. [The "Herbie-like" figure is quite similar to that portrayed by Bing Coughlin, a well-known cartoonist who worked for the Canadian Army newspaper Maple Leaf. Members will know that Herbie was always getting into trouble, but the private soldiers loved him!Ed.]

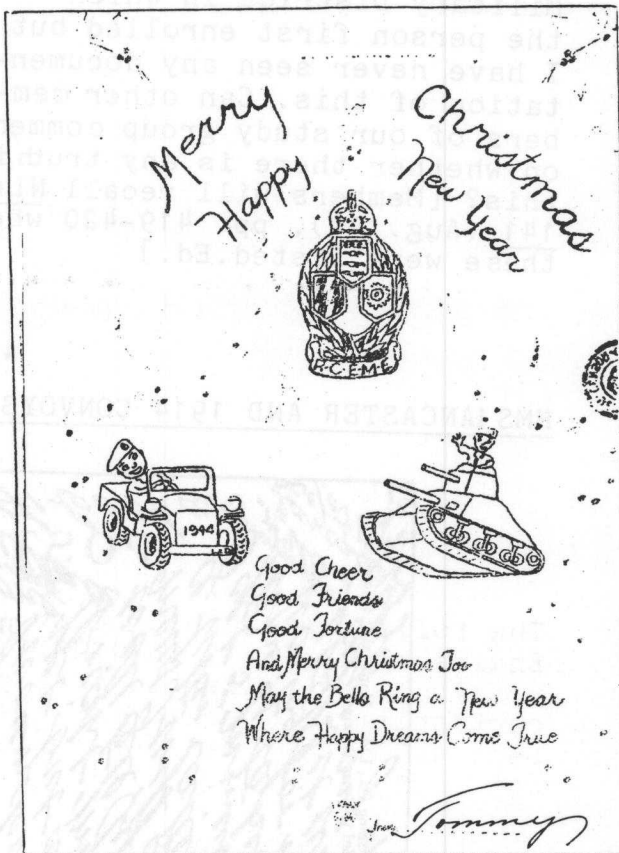


The following example used from Italy was, I'm told, prepared by members of the 5th Armoured. However it is so poorly done that I am inclined to believe that it was prepared by a small group within the Division. Perhaps the regimental badge will indicate exactly who issued the AFAL [I believe it is the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.Ed.]

Members will note a couple of things on the face of the AFAL. First, it was used "FREE" as provided for those who did not receive the official red overprint type for 1944. Second, the "86" in the circle is a marking asked about in NL#159 ("64" in a circle) which I have on another AFAL from Italy.

[Cont'd.]

It seems to me that these markings were used by the Base Censor Office, but that is only a guess. The postmark is "FPO DCA 5" dated December 7, 1944. The Form is W-4. [Again, the illustration has been reduced 50% and the outside to 73%.Ed.]



CANADIAN REGIMENTAL NUMBERS--By C.D. Sayles

With respect to the comments by Colin Campbell about regimental numbers (NL#160,p.692), I take the "P/O" to be "Pilot Officer" and thus the "R" regimental number and the RCAF address seem consistent. Nevertheless, the remarks made me curious about regimental numbers in general, so I consulted a database of 808 WWII overseas covers that collects information on covers from my own and several other collections. The result surprised me and it may be of interest to other members of the study group. All regimental numbers have a leading alpha character and the breakdown follows.

The first observation we can make is that the RCN is indeed the "silent service". I think the low count reflects the fact that RCN personnel seldom put a return address on their letters [or, for security reasons, were usually forbidden to do so.Ed.] The RCAF appears to have used "J" and "R" exclusively except for the eight exceptions noted above. I think the exceptions can be explained as men who originally joined the army and later

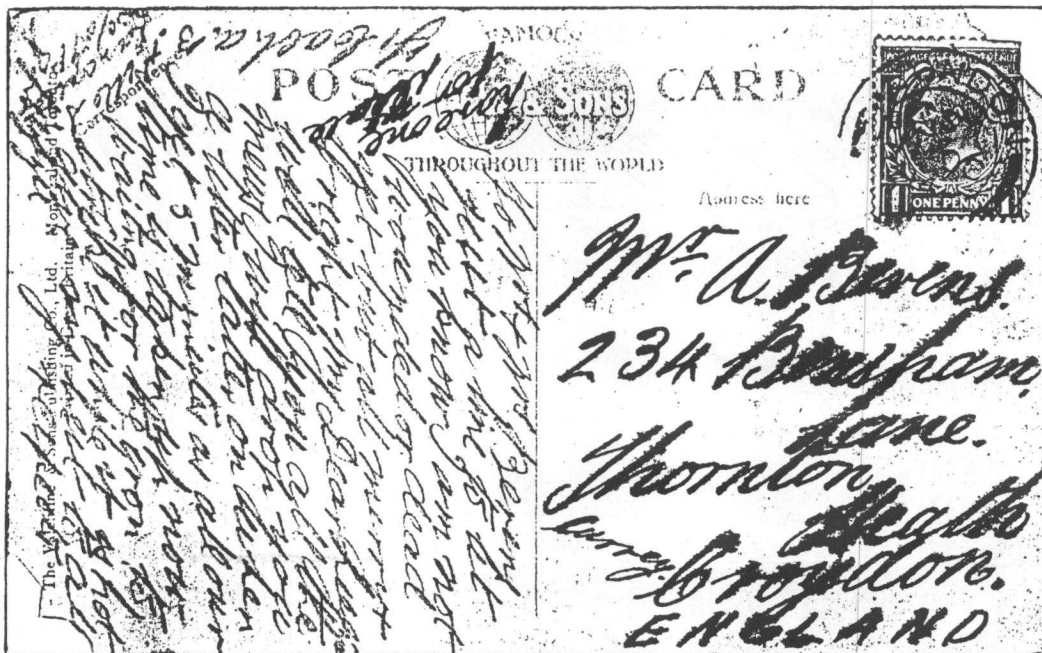
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Page 720

re-mustered to the RCAF, but retained their original regimental number. It appears that all women used "W" regardless of service. I have heard it claimed that the letter prefixes can be related to the Military District in which the person first enrolled but I have never seen any documentation of this. Can other members of our study group comment on whether there is any truth in this? [Members will recall NL# 141 (Aug.'99), pp. 419-420 where these were listed.Ed.]

Letter	Count	Note
A	150	All Army except, A86866 LAC Higgins J / RCAF
B	170	All Army, incl CPC
C	89	All Army, except 6 F/O Faruggle / C12368 / RCAF C15947 S/L C.L. Guenette / RCAF F/O Schaefer C.F. / C24009 RCAF O/S H.Q. F/O J.A.M. Lucas / C39218 Can (C7169) / Flight Lieutenant / Stalter / RCAF F/O Ainslie G.S. / C8465 / RCAF
D	103	All Army
E	6	All Army
F	15	All Army
G	7	All Army
H	21	All Army, except 1 RCAF H53001 Sgt Arnold, W.S.
J	18	All RCAF
K	36	All Army
L	38	All Army
M	36	All Army
N	2	Both Army
P	9	All Army
R	88	All RCAF
S	1	Army
V	2	RCN
W	8	2 are RCAF WD, 4 are CWAC, 2 are WRENS

HMS LANCASTER AND 1914 CONVOYS--By Colin Pomfret



Above is a postcard view of Sydney, Nova Scotia to the United Kingdom with the British 1d postage stamp cancelled "LONDON/S/11 OC/14" and a return address upper left of "F Cach AB H.M.S. Lancaster C/O G.P.O.".

The immediate protection of the transports rested with Rear Admiral Wemyss and his four light cruisers and the British Grand Fleet covered the approaches to the U.K. Admiral Hornby's cruiser squadron would cover the North American ports and when it became known that the convoy would consist of thirty-two instead of fourteen transports, other warships were detailed to accompany.

On October 4 off St. Pierre and Miquelon, the dreadnought Glory joined

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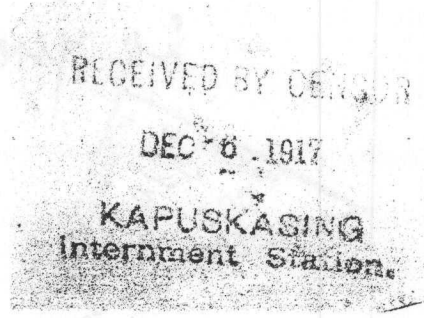
the escort five miles to the south and below the horizon, guarding the southern flank, was Hornby's flagship Lancaster.

At noon on October 8, Admiral Hornby's flagship Lancaster steamed through the convoy east to west between X and Y columns and signalled "Good Luck at Long. 40 West the Eastern limit of his station".

GREAT WAR INTERNMENT CENSORY SURVEY UPDATE

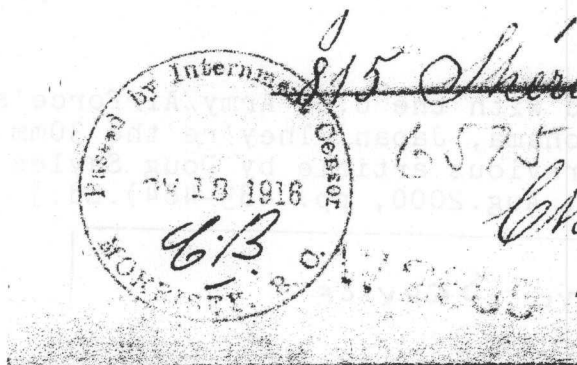
[Our Chairman Doug Sayles has written to include several of the following which update the previous survey printed in NL#161 (August 2003), pp.700-702. Can other members please consult their holdings and send in any new dates? Thank you! Ed.]

KAPUSKASING--LRD confirmed. I believe that this "RECEIVED BY CENSOR" marking shown at right should be included. It is dated "DEC 6 1917" [Why not? In member Steve Luciuk's Exhibit Series book Internment Mail in Canada: 1914-1919 & 1939-1946, he illustrates a strike dated "MAR 25 1919".Ed.]

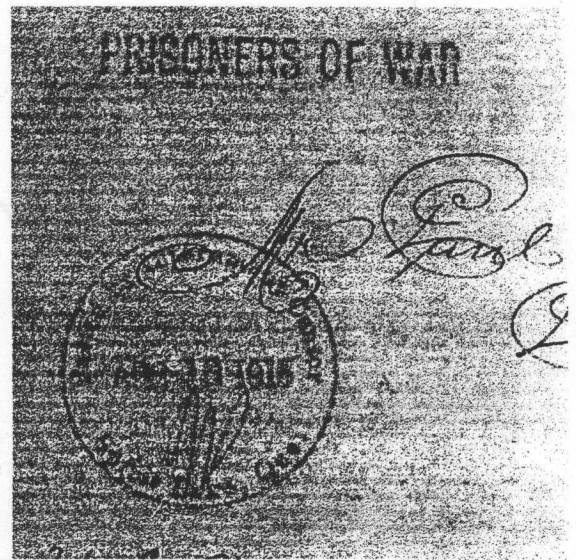


MORRISEY--New ERD is NOV 18 1916.

LETHBRIDGE--New ERD is JUN 25 1915.



SPIRIT LAKE--LRD could be APR 18 1916 as illustrated right. At the time I bought this I was told that there are only two strikes of this marking known. Note the straight line "PRISONERS OF WAR" hand-stamp [The other is illustrated in Steve's book.Ed.]



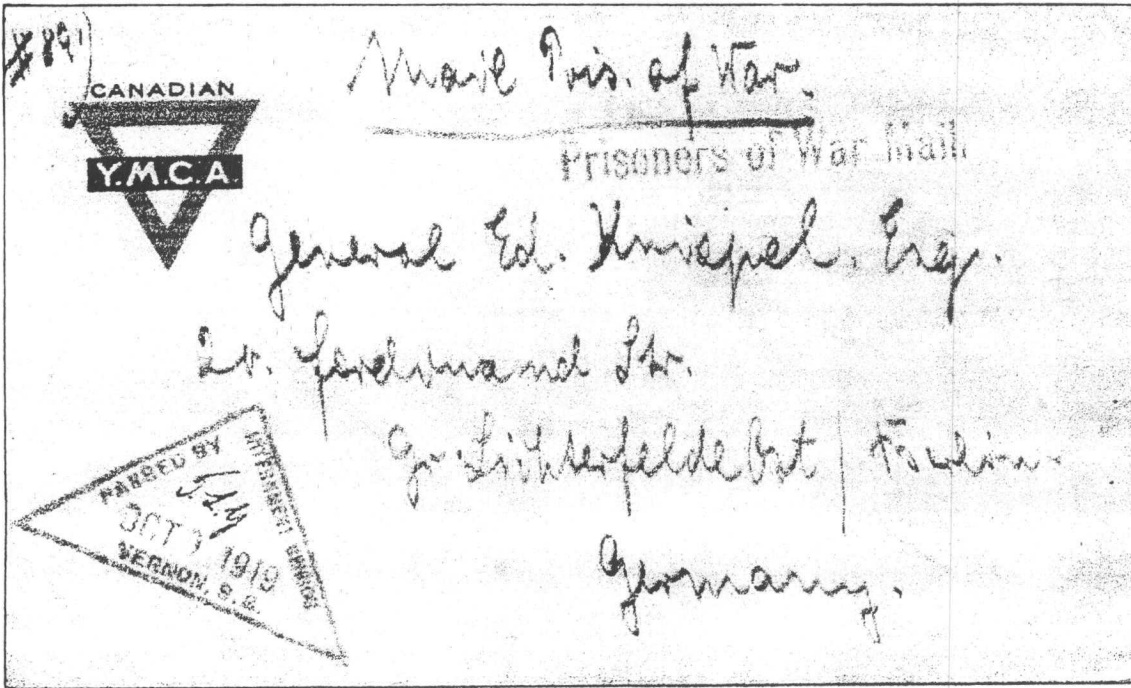
VERNON (CIRCULAR)
--New ERD is AUG 6 1915.



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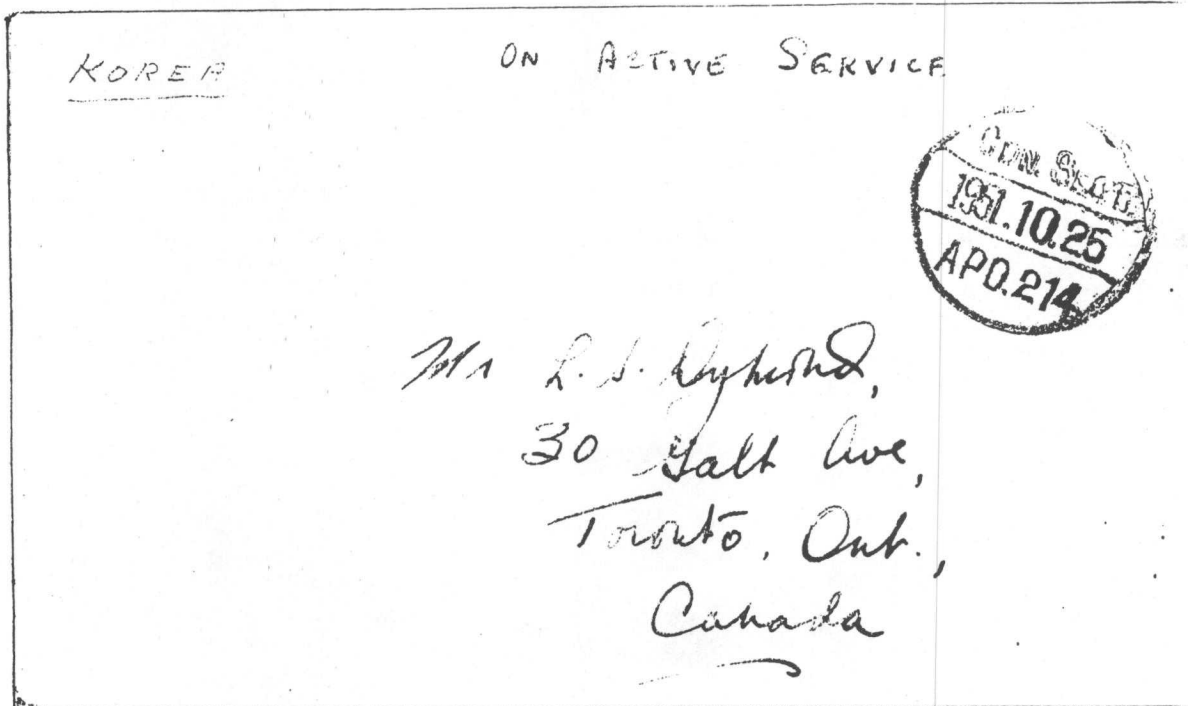
Page 722

VERNON (TRIANGLE)--New LRD OCT 9 1919 shown below. Note the straight line "Prisoners of War Mail" handstamp and the use of YMCA stationery.

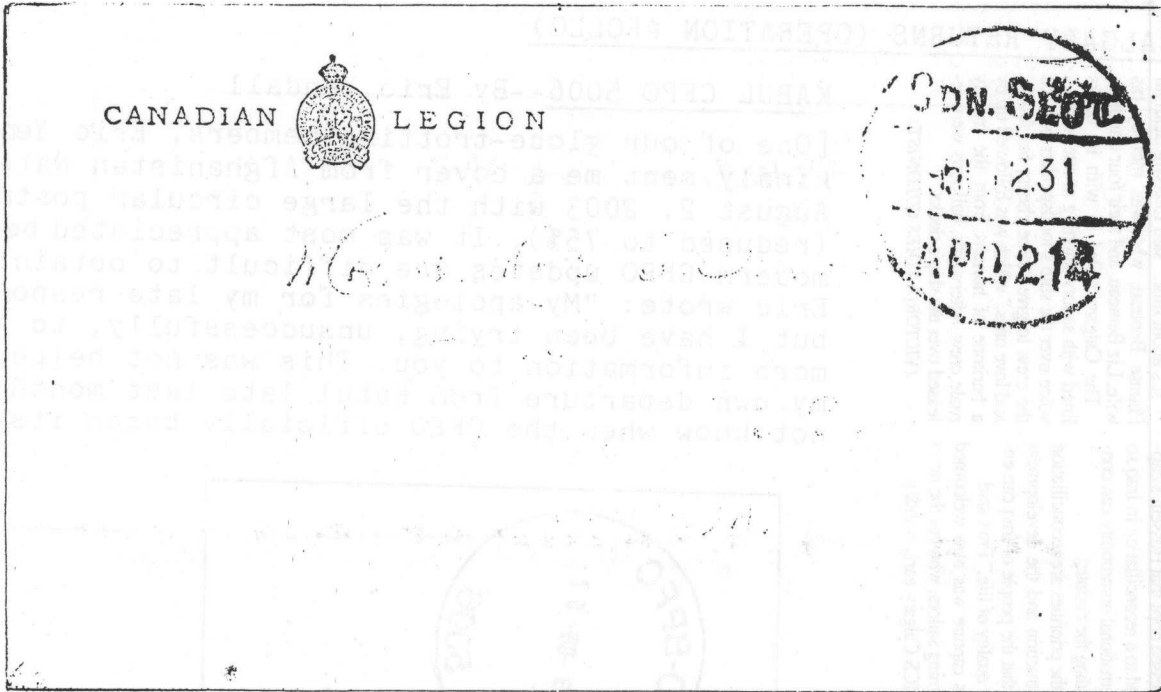


CDN. SECT. APO 214--By A.D. Hanes

[Dave sent in two more covers connected with the U.S. Army/Airforce's APO 214 at Tachikawa Airfield near Yokohama, Japan. They're the 30mm and 38mm devices. Members will recall the previous article by Doug Sayles in our special "Korean War" issue (NL#146, Aug.2000, pp. 483-484).Ed.]

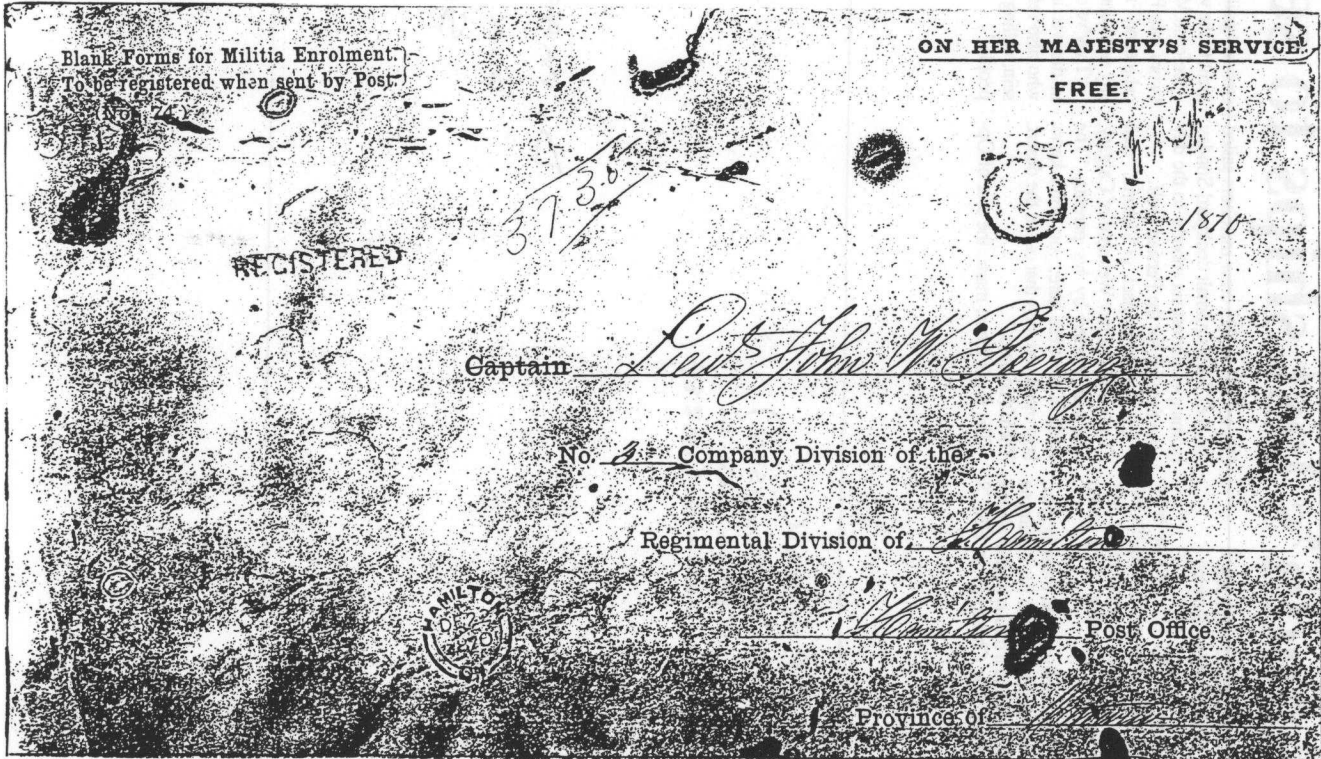


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1870 MILITIA ENROLMENT BLANK FORMS--By H.F. Kellett

[Hal provided this rather huge (over 34cm x 21cm; reduced here) Militia registered O.H.M.S. cover dated "HAMILTON DE 22/1870 C.W." which included "blank forms" addressed to the No.3 Company Division of the Hamilton Regimental Division Militia Office. The first "Riel Rebellion" had just concluded in Manitoba's Red River area in late August. A 3¢ Small Queen stamp, tied by a two-ring numeral "5" (Hamilton) cancel, is affixed. Ed.]



HMCS CALGARY RETURNS (OPERATION APOLLO)

Canada's last ships to serve in war on terror return

By Lindsay Kines
CanWest News Service

Calgary and its 225 crew members sailed into the CFB Esquimalt dockyard Sunday morning — almost six months to the day since they left for the Persian Gulf.

"It's good to be back in Victoria," said 27-year-old Andrew Wetmore of Calgary, who was greeted by his parents. "The smell of the trees here; you don't know how much you miss that out in the desert. There's no trees."

The ship's return marks the end of Operation Apollo and the Canadian commitment to the war against terrorism.

Defence Minister David Pratt, who was sworn into Prime Minister Paul Martin's cabinet on Friday, was on hand to personally welcome the sailors home.

"They've done a tremendous job for us in the war against terrorism," said Pratt, who also referred to the capture of Hussein, calling it a "great day for the Iraqi people."

Pratt expressed hope that Hussein's capture will lead to a reconciliation in Iraq so that the international community can continue rebuilding the country.

"Clearly the priorities are reconciliation and reconstruction and the development of Iraq, so that the people of Iraq can enjoy a better quality of life," Pratt said.

Hussein's capture was also welcomed by the returning sailors, who got the news aboard HMCS Calgary early Sunday.

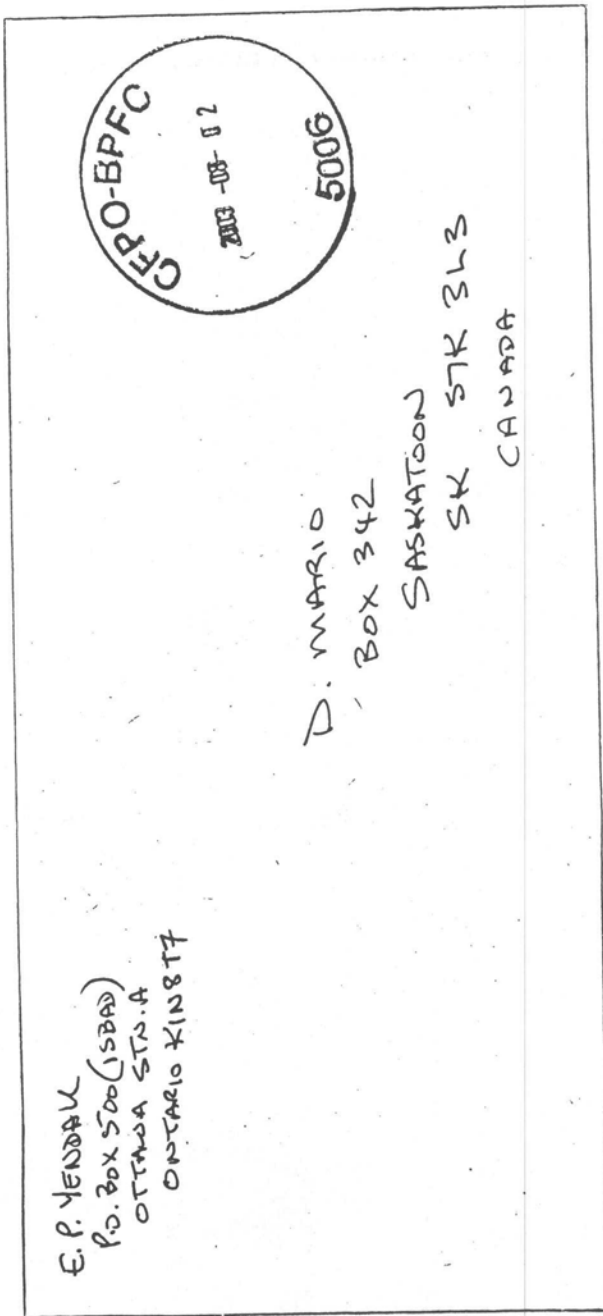
"It's about time," said Leading Seaman Phorse Benteau, who was met by his wife, Liz Benteau, and their four children.

The Calgary sailed in with its decks lined with sailors standing at attention. A voice over the ship's loudspeaker ordered the crew to give "three cheers for family and love ones," which was followed up by a barrage of hurrahs from the mainly male crew. Afterwards, balloons were released over the ship's decks.

(VICTORIA TIMES COLONIST)

KABUL CFPO 5006--By Eric Yendall

[One of our globe-trotting members, Eric Yendall, kindly sent me a cover from Afghanistan dated August 2, 2003 with the large circular postmark (reduced to 75%). It was most appreciated because modern CFPO updates are difficult to obtain. Eric wrote: "My apologies for my late response but I have been trying, unsuccessfully, to get more information to you. This was not helped by my own departure from Kabul late last month. I do not know when the CFPO officially began its work

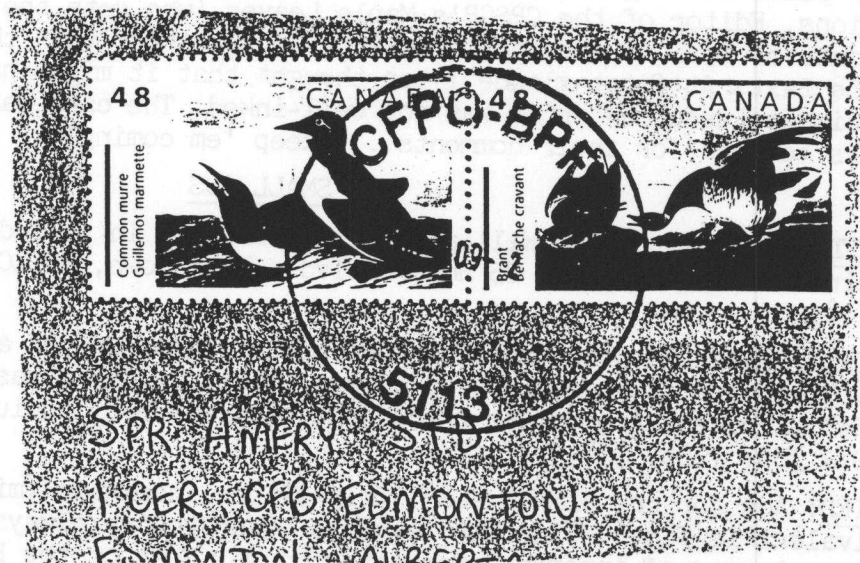


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nor the organizational arrangements. It would have been opened late July or more probably early August before the main contingent arrived. Mail is transported to Dubai by daily Hercules flights then on to Trenton. P.S. Before the CFPO opened, mail was routed the same way back to Trenton but, I believe, without any identifying marks." Thanks Eric. Unfortunately I could not find much information on the Canadians in Afghanistan and our forces' postal arrangements with the ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) and "Operation Enduring Freedom". I would encourage any of our members who collect these modern operations and CFPO material to send in something. It is extremely important for future specialists if we can supply such information and document Canadian participation now. Thank you! Ed.]

CFPO'S 5112 AND 5113

[In keeping with the modern theme, here are a few more of the larger CDS daters used on piece and taken from larger envelopes or parcel wrappers. One is dated "2003/09/16" and the other "2003/09/22". They were kindly provided to us by Eugene Sonmor, a local philatelist. His son is an Engineer with the LSH (RC) and served in Bosnia. Unfortunately there were no senders' information on the pieces so I cannot tell if these are connected with the ISAF in Kabul, or from the Canadians in Bosnia. Would any member please provide us with more details? Thanks. Ed.]



Page 726

Dear CMMMSG Members:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Doug and I wish everyone a very happy, healthy, and prosperous 2004 and hope that it is the best year yet. You will find a nominal roll attached and I hope that it is accurate. Please contact me if there are any changes. We have 96 members to date, including complimentary/review issues to BNAPS officials, libraries, archives, and "sister" societies. A very warm welcome is extended to two new members as noted. Messrs. McCann and Kellett have a wide range of military covers/postal history for sale and contact is encouraged. Please don't forget our other dealer members: Messrs. Frith, Kaye, Lee, Leith, Mayo, J. Miller, and Narbonne who would be happy to hear from members through the upcoming year. Good philatelic hunting in the coming months!

AN ENQUIRY

I received an enquiry from Werner Habrich in Germany with the following questions somewhat related to the modern CFPO/BPFC cancellations as seen on pp. 724-725: 1) Why are these daters so large, compared with the smaller versions issued previously? 2) Why are the date indicia so small when compared with the large device? 3) When were these first introduced? (I can only surmise that these large-sized datestamps are handy when cancelling parcels or large envelopes (or "flats"), but why their usage on ordinary letter mail? I'm sure that the daters have a rotating date indicia but one would think that it could have been larger. Bailey & Toop's Canadian Postal Markings indicate some of these devices were introduced ca. early 1990's (such as CFPO 5053 etc.). Perhaps members can respond through the Editor.

OUR FUTURE

Our Chairman/Treasurer Doug Sayles has had several good ideas for the future of our group. I hope that members have contacted him with their comments/suggestions and have volunteered for the "military content" of the BNAPS website. Doug has noted that we only have about six or so years until our 200th issue. Such a significant anniversary should be marked in some special way. It might be another Anthology of members' contributions or? Let us know what you think. There also was a great deal of discussion at the last BNAPEX study group meeting concerning the preservation and sharing of research and reference material. What role should our study group have, if any, in helping to advance these goals and projects?

UPDATES: FPO 89

Barry Dale has written to add to David Kelly's FPO 89 report (NL#162, pp.712-713). He has two similar ones: 1) JY/4/45 with a crown over shield censor #10334 and 2) MR/17/45 with a similar censor but #10743. Barry notes that neither cover has any unit markings to indicate their place of origin. Both usages are within the range noted by "Bailey & Toop". David Sessions, Editor of the CPSGB's Maple Leaves (who gets the occasional issue) remarked that the date of David's card could well be JU 25 rather than the 29 which I (and David) noted in the text. At first glance I too thought that it might have been a "5", but perhaps the indicia was deformed or it was not well-linked. The card was dated by the sender "June 27". Thanks to both for their comments.....keep 'em coming!

SMALL ADS

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 (11/18)

WANTED: Non-philatelic Canadian Korean War items. Needed are: CFPO 28 (without dash); CFPO 30 & 32 covers. Also registered covers, military Christmas cards from Korea, and "HUBBA - HUBBA" markings. Appreciate priced photocopies. S.C. Luciuk, 1542 East Heights, Saskatoon, SK S7J 3B5; (306) 374-1727 (2/3)

WANTED: Ads for our "SMALL ADS". Only \$1 per insertion (mint Canadian postage @ face or equivalent is fine). Find that elusive cover you've always wanted, or perhaps sell that item no longer of interest. One never knows! Contact the Editor and don't forget to respond to advertisers if you can help!

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Page 728

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