



# Canadian Military Mail Study Group

## NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2004

NEWSLETTER NO. 166

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ISAF-OPERATION "ATHENA", AFGHANISTAN--By  
George H. Sawatzki

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) of about 6,000 members is a U.N.-mandated operation under United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR'S) 1386, 1413, and 1444. The ISAF is operated under the auspices of NATO with Regional Headquarters Allied Forces North Europe in overall charge of the operations. This is NATO's first mission outside of Europe.

OP ATHENA  
PO BOX 5006  
STN FORCES  
BELLEVILLE ON  
K8N 5W6



**3 RCR**

Maj (Ret) G.H. Sawatzki

DEC 2003

Ottawa, Ontario

**PARA COY**

The first rotation of Canada's 2,100 troops was largely based on a Petawawa-based battle group based on 3 Royal Canadian Regiment. The second rotation started at the end of January and early February, 2004, with a Valcartier-based battle group largely based on 3 Royal 22nd Regiment (R22eR).

[Cont'd.]

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

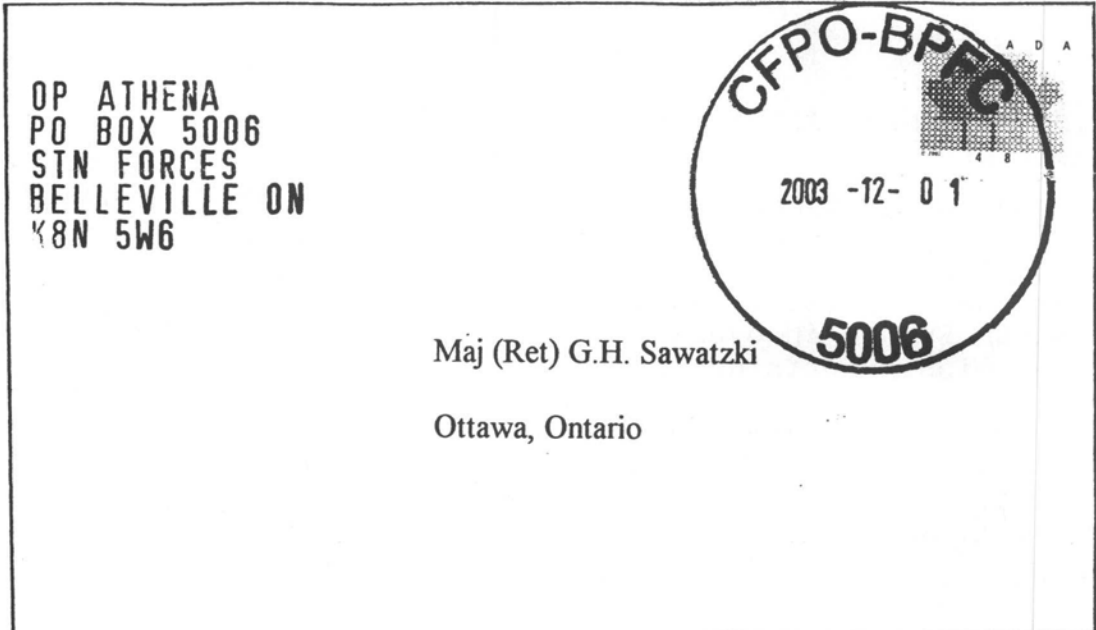
EDITOR: D. MARIO, POST OFFICE BOX 342, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3

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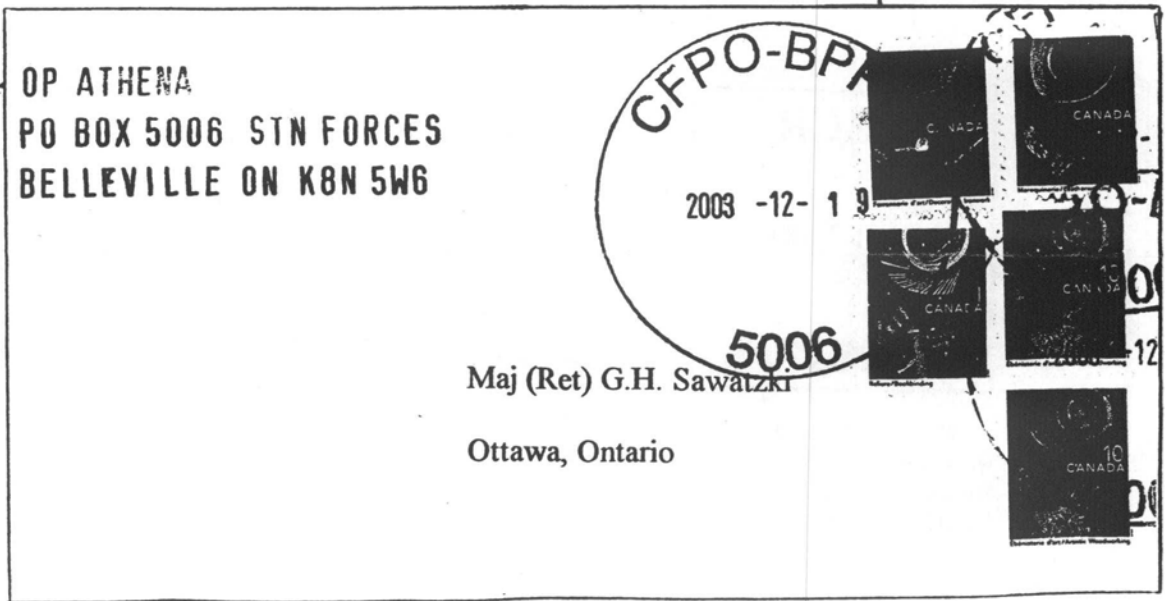
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Lieutenant-General Götz Gliemeroth, German Army, assumed command of ISAF on August 11, 2003. His deputy commander was Major-General A.B. Leslie of Canada. As of February 9, 2004, Lieutenant-General Rick Hillier of Canada is the new commander of ISAF.

Operation "Athena" is served by two CFPO's: CFPO 5006 which serves the headquarters, the battle group, and its direct support elements; CFPO 5113 serves all other supporting elements. These covers are all from the first rotation.



Maj (Ret) G.H. Sawatzki  
Ottawa, Ontario



Maj (Ret) G.H. Sawatzki  
Ottawa, Ontario

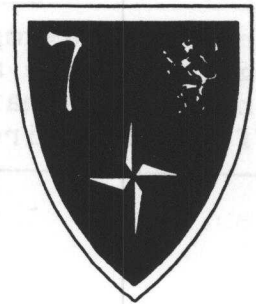
[Note different operational return address handstamps on above.]

[Cont'd.]



## HEADQUARTERS ISAF

### OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMANDER



1600-1/NU/ISAF/CG/DCOM/03

01 February 2004

Maj (Ret) G.H. Sawatzki

Ottawa, ON

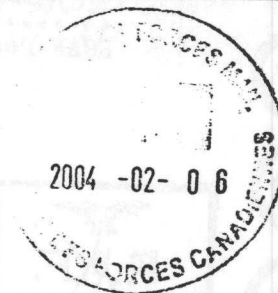
Dear *Maj Sawatzki*

Thank-you very much for your interest in the ISAF mission. It is very important that people like you maintain a concerned interest in what is occurring here in Afghanistan. This is NATO's first mission outside of Europe so it is presenting us with certain challenges that we have not faced in the past. Without the continued support of Canadians across the country it will be difficult to improve the situation here, but rest assured that our Canadian and NATO soldiers are doing a wonderful job helping to protect the people of Afghanistan.

Once again thank-you for your interest and I wish you all the best in the future.

*[Signature]*  
AB Leslie

Major-General (Canadian Army)  
Deputy Commander ISAF



Maj (Ret) G.H. Sawatzki

Ottawa, Ontario

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FIRST FLIGHT OF MILITARY MAIL: EGYPT TO CANADA--C.D. Sayles

Here is an example of the Canadian fascination for first flight covers during the 1920's and 1930's carried into the Second World War military setting. It was mailed from the RCAF Section of the No.4 BAPO (Base Army Post Office) in Cairo and received that unit's FPO 588 datestamp. It is curious



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE  
DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS  
MIDDLE EAST

TEL CAIRO 49600-EX 45  
CAIRO 47923

4, SHARIA EL SHEIKH ABOU EL SIBAA  
CAIRO EGYPT

*Sir - Thought you might like  
this cover as a souvenir.*

FIRST FLIGHT-CAIRO TO CANADA  
R.C.A.F. Air Mail Service.

*C.D. Sayles*  
.....F/O  
RCAF. Postal Officer.



VIA AIR MAIL



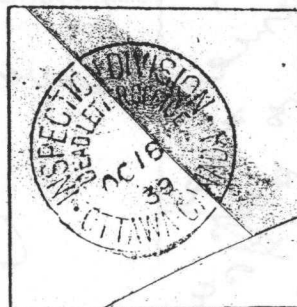
A. M. Gibson, Esq.,  
District Director of Postal Services,  
TORONTO, ONTARIO,  
CANADA.

that this letter does not pay the 3d postage required for airmail. I suppose that it is possible it was considered official post office business, or could it be an indication that mail from Cairo was put on an "all up" basis ie. all mail moved by air? I imagine that F/O J.W. Hopper was a pre-war employee of the post office and was keeping his name in view to facilitate his return there after the war. I also find it curious that the RCAF retained a District Headquarters in Cairo when the four squadrons which had participated in the North African campaign had long since moved on to Italy. What purpose was it serving?

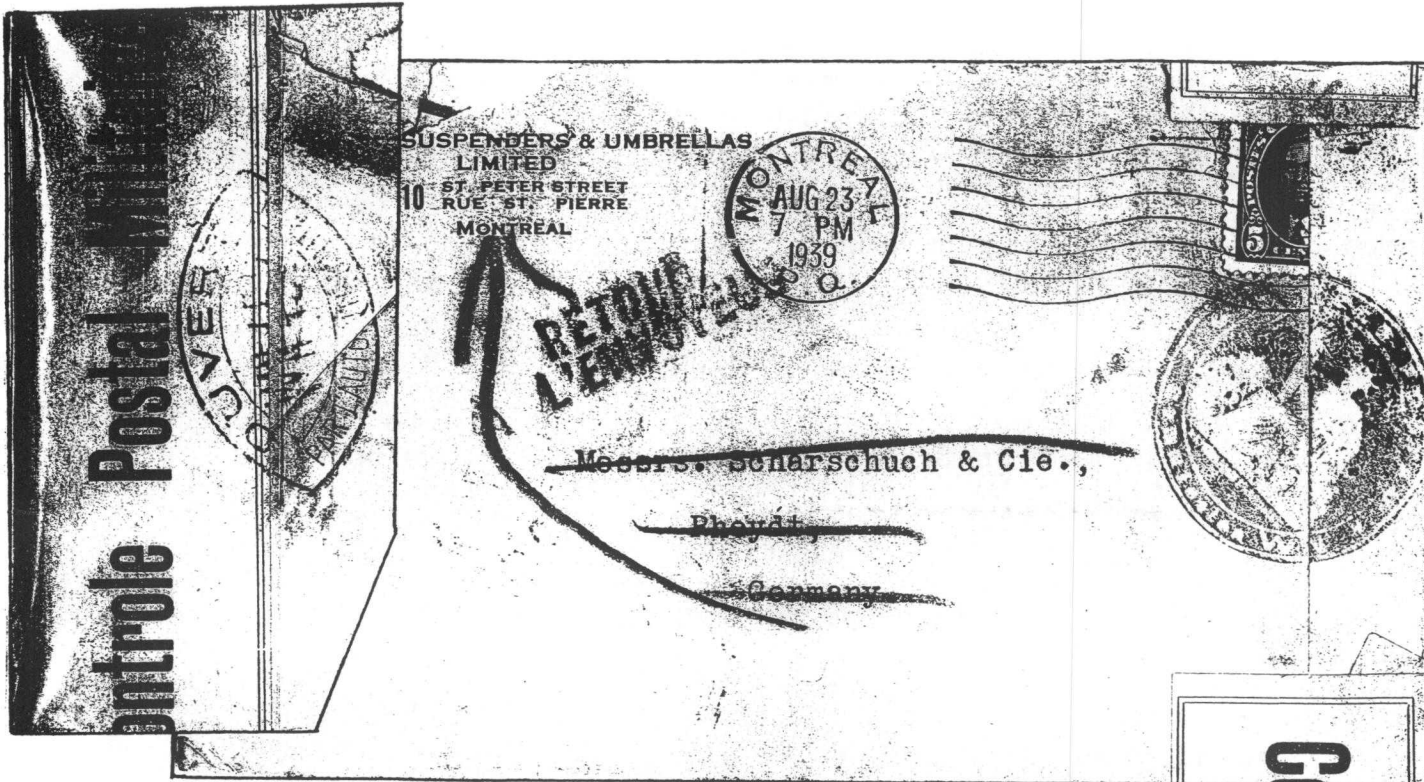
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1939 MONTREAL EMBARGO COVERS--By A.D. Hanes

[Dave sent these two covers below sent from Montreal to Germany. Canada declared war on Germany on September 10, so these covers only made it to France and then returned. Although not "technically" military covers, they are still very interesting. Thanks Dave for allowing us to see them! Ed.]



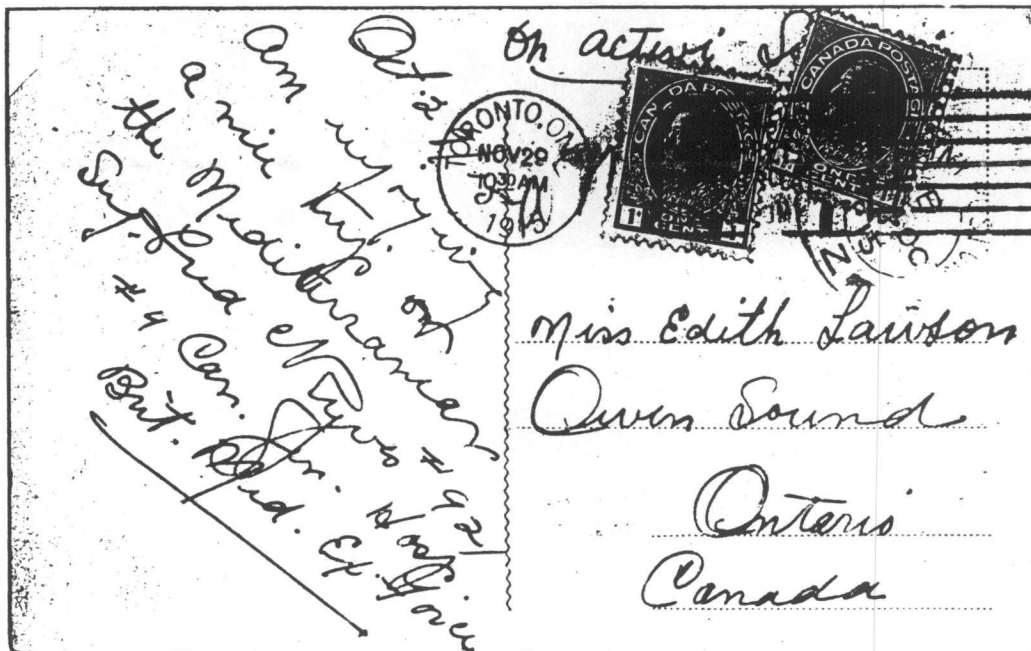
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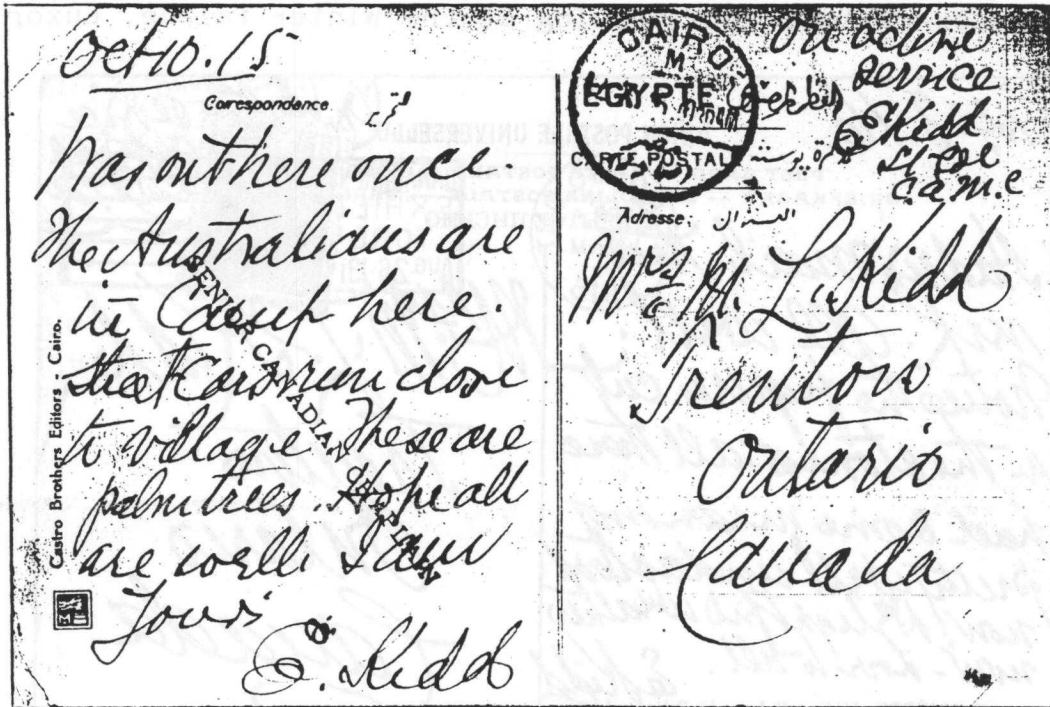
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GREAT WAR HOSPITAL MAIL (EGYPT/MEDITERRANEAN)--By Colin Pomfret

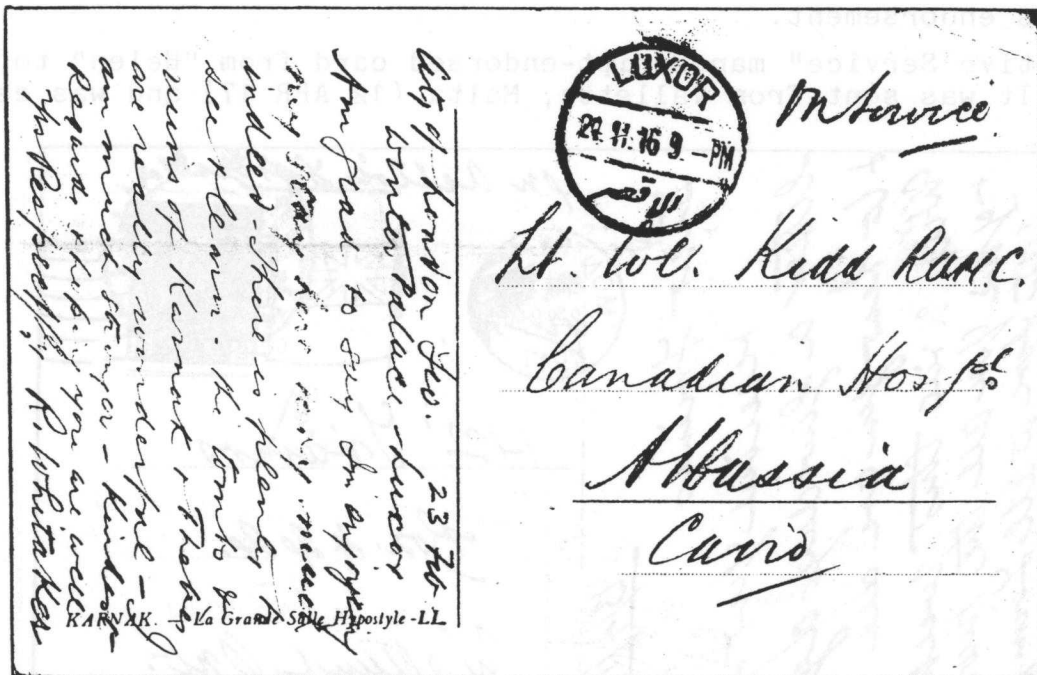
Here is a card to Canada posted at Alexandria, Egypt (BAPO Z 30 OC/15) by Sgt. Fred Charles Ryves of No.4 Canadian General Hospital. It was en route to Salonica.



[Cont'd.]



The above card from No.5 Canadian Stationary Hospital was sent by Hon. Lt. Col. George Edward Kidd to his wife in Trenton. It bears the CAIRO/M/12 X 15 dater, the straightline "SENIOR CANADIAN CHAPLAIN" [Firebrace Type BEC 31 Ed.], and Kidd's manuscript "On Active Service" endorsement. This hospital was raised by Queen's University in Kingston and prior to enlisting, Edward Kidd was a member of the staff.

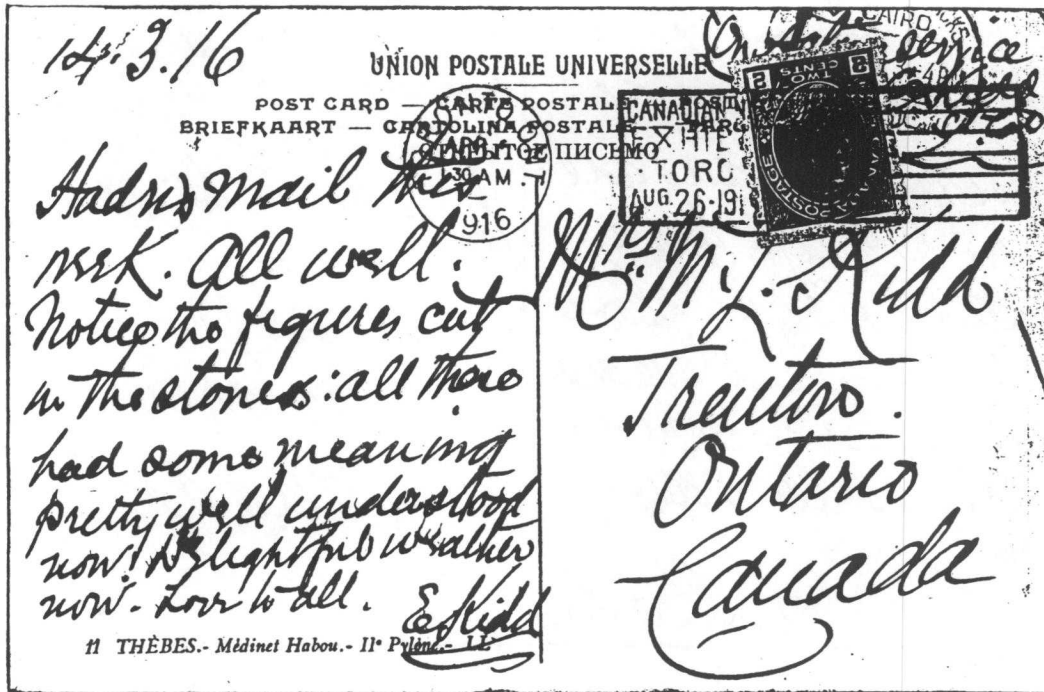


This card to the "Canadian Hospl., Abbassia, Cairo" to Lt. Col. Kidd was

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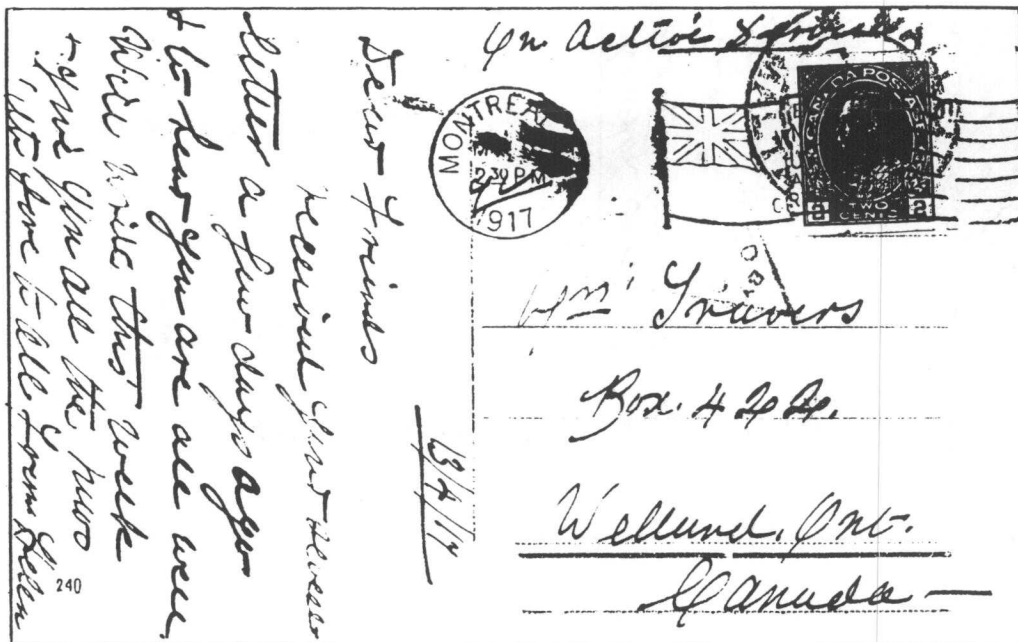
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sent from an ex-patient convalescing at the Winter Palace, Luxor.



Another card (above) from Kidd to his wife in Trenton. Now Kidd was with the re-named No.7 Canadian General Hospital. This hospital was originally No.5 Stationary, but with the closing of the Dardanelles Theatre it was converted to a general hospital on January 26, 1916. It left for France on April 10, 1916. The card bears a partial "British Barracks/Cairo/15 III 16" and Kidd's endorsement.

An "On Active Service" manuscript-endorsed card from "Helen" to Welland, Ontario. It was sent from Valletta, Malta (12 APR 17) and was censored by 3/4180.





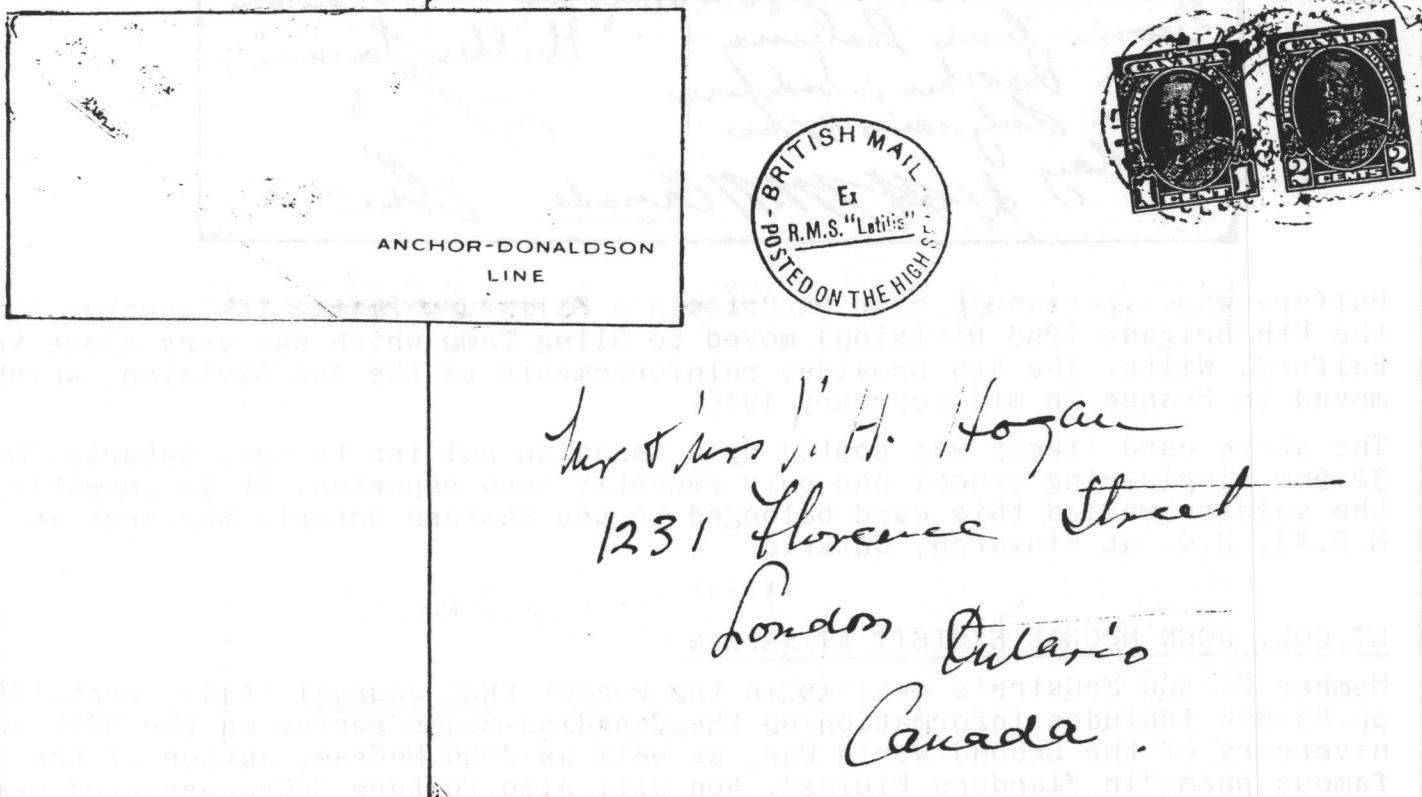
"MERCHANT SHIPS FREE MAIL" RE-VISITED

[Some more information has been received related to Kim Dodwell's cover from NL#165 (May 2004, p. 744). Maurice Hampson writes: "...Two others who were in the merchant service in WWII have been in touch & talked this over. One of them got back to me...although he does not mention it on actual letters addressed to him, it appears it did appear on the bundled mail their ships received at various ports...I have never seen one myself. Trust this small piece of info. may lead in the right direction....". Maurice enclosed a short note from "Alex" who remarked: "Re. "Merchant Ships Free Mail"...I heard from my ex-shipmate on Saturday...We are not 100% sure but feel 95% or more that the above "stamp" was placed on the large envelope or package which brought our mail aboard when we arrived in port. Whether we were in some port anywhere in the world, or our home port of Vancouver, the shipping company for that port would bring our mail aboard in a large package or container of some kind. Mail sent to us could be sent to an address of the shipping company in Vancouver or, if I remember correctly, there was a Box 9000 in Montreal for all merchant shipping c/o the particular ship. I don't remember either method being very speedy, but it was always great to get mail no matter how long it took to get there!". Ed.]

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R.M.S. LETITIA RE-VISITED--By Wilf Whitehouse

Going through some boxes of spares, I came across this cover from Letitia. Recalling that there was an article many years ago in the Newsletter (#119, Aug.-Sept.1995, pp.187-188) about this ship, I thought that it might be of some interest.



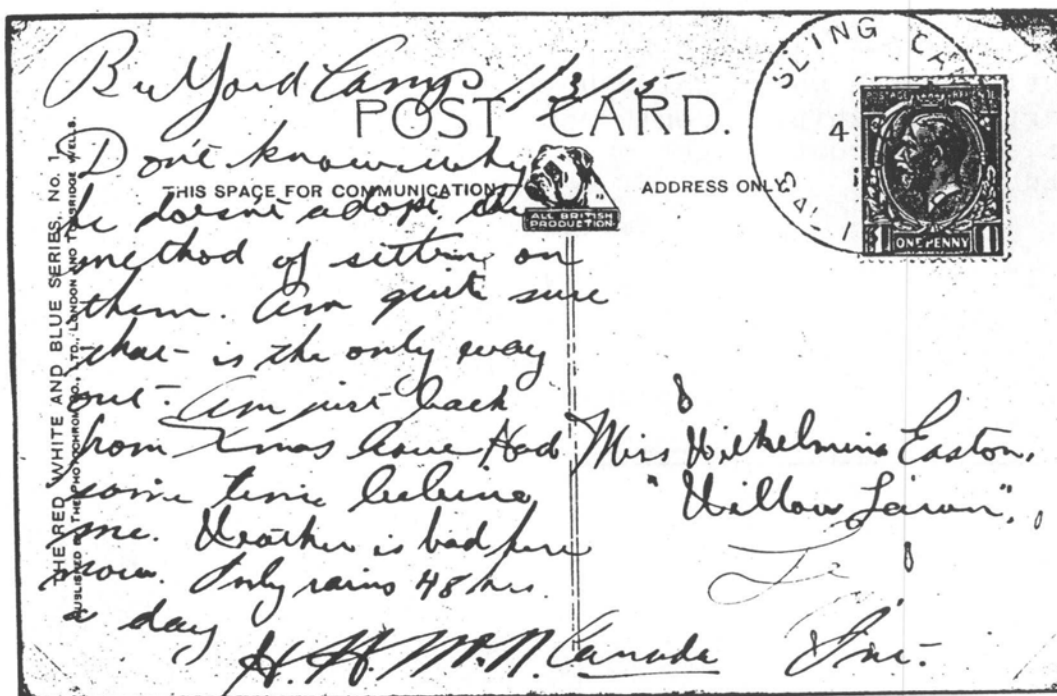
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The ship, as members recall, was used as a Canadian hospital ship during the Second World War (#2 Cdn. Hospital Ship). The preceding cover is pre-war and bears a 1936 postmark "PAQUEBOT/LIVERPOOL" (the month is unclear). The article in the previous newsletter did not mention how Canada came to take over the ship--it would be interesting to know the circumstances. [The ship, according to the previous article, was launched October 14, 1924 as a Donaldson passenger ship for service in the North Atlantic. In 1939 she became a troopship until 1944 when her hospital duties were assigned. In 1946 she was renamed the Empire Brent and then re-named Captain Cook in 1951. In 1960 she was scrapped. There was a Great War hospital ship with the same name but it was lost prior to this ship's construction. Ed.]

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SLING CAMP, SALISBURY 1915--By J.C. Campbell



Bulford was a permanent camp on Britain's Salisbury Plain. In December 1914 the 4th Brigade (2nd Division) moved to Sling Camp which was very close to Bulford, Wilts. The 4th provided reinforcements to the 1st Division, which moved to France in mid-February 1915.

The above card likely was posted by a Canadian soldier to Lyn, Ontario. The 32.5mm single-ring cancel has only recently been reported. It is possible the soldier mailed this card belonged to the Eastern Ontario Regiment in M.D.#3, H.Q. at Kingston, Ontario.

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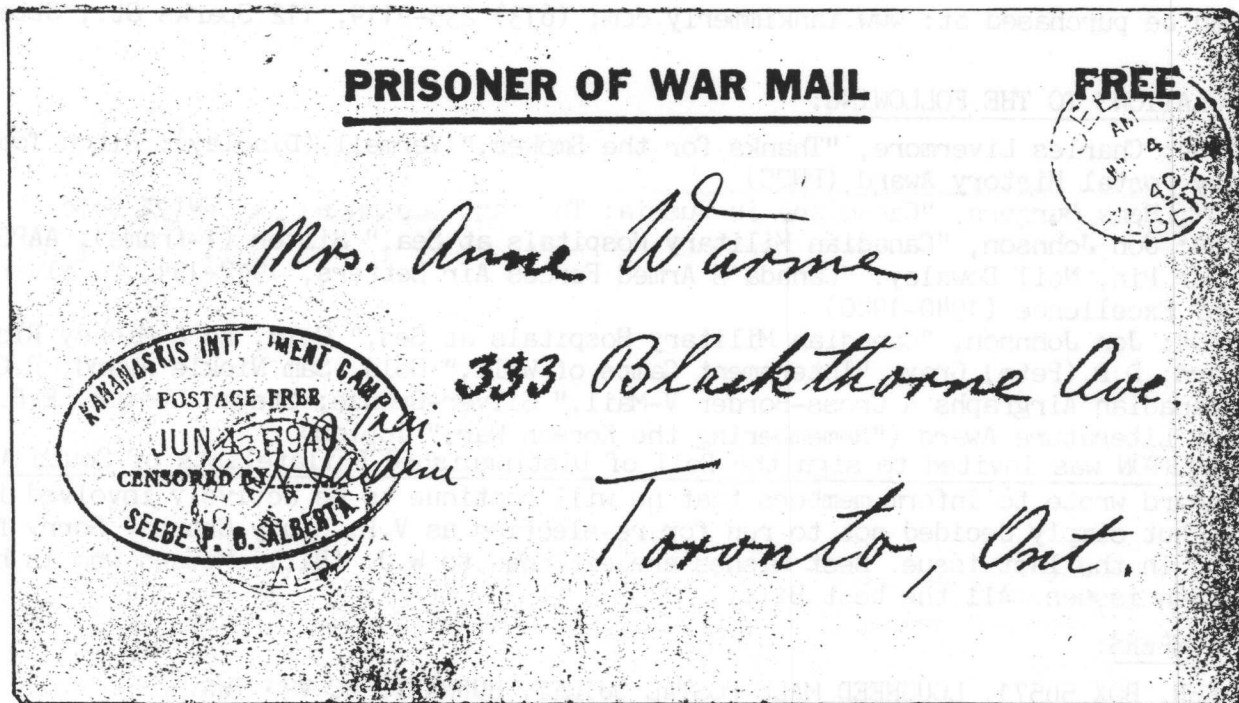
LT.COL. JOHN McCRAE EXHIBIT AT NEPEAN

Member C. Ron McGuire's article in the recent PHSC Journal (#119, Sept.'04, pp.43-50) includes information on the Canadian stamp series on the 50th anniversary of the Second World War, as well as John McCrae, author of the famous poem "In Flanders Fields". Ron will also feature McCrae-related memorabilia for his "Remembrance Month" exhibit at the Nepean, Ontario Museum, 16 Rowley Avenue. Members in the area may wish to drop in and have a look.

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CAMP "K"/CAMP 130--By J.W.T. Wannerton

[John kindly sent along the following P.O.W. cover dated June 4, 1940 from Kananaskis Internment Camp served by the civil Seebe, Alberta post office. John has made out the censoring signature as "H. Jardine". There is a similar cover in Steve Luciuk's Exhibit Series Internment Mail in Canada (on p.35) and the rank of the censor appears to be "Maj.". According to Steve the camp was in operation from September 29, 1939 until January 28, 1946. Thanks John.Ed.]



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RCN PASSED BY CENSOR/TAPE--UPDATE

[Wilf Whitehouse has replied to John Daynes' request for information on his naval cover illustrated in NL#150 (May 2001, p.560). Wilf refers interested members to review his previous article regarding RCN censor markings and "FROM H.M.C. SHIP" removed. There are numerous locations John's cover could have originated from. Wilf notes: "...It did indeed pass through the censor office in H.M.C. Dockyard, Halifax, which appears to be the only location this altered censor marking was used (see NL#86 (Jan.1989, p.614)).

The Royal Canadian Navy used censor tapes throughout the war when letters were received sealed, but unfortunately the tape's year of printing has been removed, so I cannot tell the form code. However, from the printing of the words "OPENED BY CENSOR", it would appear to be either a 1940 or 1941 printing.

Finally, the barred killer used to cancel the stamps was used in the Halifax Main Post Office and, of course, the use of British stamps would leave me to believe that the writer was aboard a British merchant ship in Halifax harbour. I rule out that the writer was a Royal Navy person, chiefly because the Canadian censor officer after opening and reading the letter, would have recognized the writer as naval personnel. He would have returned the envelope and contents to the ship of origin for them to deal with the writer!". Ed.]

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Dear CMMMSG Members: A bit late this time but Doug and I hope that everyone had a nice summer and their fall collecting activity is well under way. Lots to report so will begin.

Mike Street will be co-ordinating a group looking at compiling a comprehensive index of our newsletters. One is certainly needed and when completed, will enhance our study 110%. Any volunteers comfortable with computers are encouraged to contact Mike at: mikestreet@hwcen.org or at his street address below (in Mike's "Small Ad"). Thanks to all in advance!

Mike also noted the transfer of the BNAPS Book Department from Auxano to Ian Kimmerly. Now books can be purchased at: [www.iankimmerly.com](http://www.iankimmerly.com); (613) 235-9119; 112 Sparks St., Ottawa, ON K1P 5B6.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

ORAPEX '04: Charles Livermore, "Thanks for the Smokes," Vermeil (Display); Ritch Toop Best Military Postal History Award (PHSC)

ROYAL '04: Henk Burgers, "Canadians in Russia: The Last Contingent of WWI," Gold

PIPEX '04: Jon Johnson, "Canadian Military Hospitals at Sea," Silver (1-frame), AAPE-Award of Honour Pin; Neil Dowsley, "Canada's Armed Forces Air Letters, 1942-1945," Silver, APS-Award of Excellence (1940-1980)

BNAPEX '04: Jon Johnson, "Canadian Military Hospitals at Sea," Gold, Ed & Mickey Richardson Award; D.D.(Pete) Gray, "Internment Camps of WWII," Gold, Sam Nickle Award; R.C. Stendel, "Canadian Airgraphs & Cross-Border V-Mail," Silver-Bronze; Steven Luciuk, E.R. Toop Military Literature Award ("Remembering the Korean War," Topics)

JOHN WANNERTON was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa.

Doug Lingard wrote to inform members that he will continue to be actively involved in the Society, but simply decided not to run for re-election as V.P. Study Groups. Sorry for the confusion in the last issue. Best wishes are extended to W.J. (Bill) McCann who is having some health issues. All the best Bill!

MOVING MEMBERS:

JIM MILLER, BOX 56571, LOUGHEED MALL POSTAL OUTLET, BURNABY, BC V3J 7W2

JON JOHNSON, 39 HILLGROVE CRESC., SW, CALGARY, AB T2V 3K8

AMERICAN PHILATELIC RESEARCH LIBRARY, G. HORN, 100 MATCH FACTORY PL., BELLEFONTE, PA USA 16823-1367

W.J. MCCANN, 118B-6509 GLEN ERIN DR., MISSISSAUGA, ON L5N 2X9

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 (14/18)

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: Canada Air Letters mailed to Canadian Armed Forces personnel overseas between June 1946 and December 1952, with postage paid by adhesive stamps. Please send with price to Mike Street, 73 Hatton Dr., Ancaster, ON L9G 2H5 or email: mikestreet@hwcen.org (3/5)

NEEDED FOR EXHIBIT: Used postcard(s) of hospital ships (white with red cross). Also nursing sister and D.N.D. Director of Records covers. Jon Johnson, 39 Hillgrove Cresc., SW, Calgary, AB T2V 3K8 or email: jcjperfins@hotmail.com (3/5)

WANTED: Have postal history collection telling the story of each Canadian Army Brigade overseas during the Second World War; month by month. Have many...have gaps...have traders. I would welcome correspondence from interested members to trade covers and share information. Especially interested in a contact interested in Sicily, Italy, Normandy, N.W. Europe, and training in Britain beforehand. Kim Dodwell, The Middle House, Cruckmeole, Hanwood, Shrewsbury SY5 8JN, England (2/5)

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