



# Canadian Military Mail Study Group

## NEWSLETTER

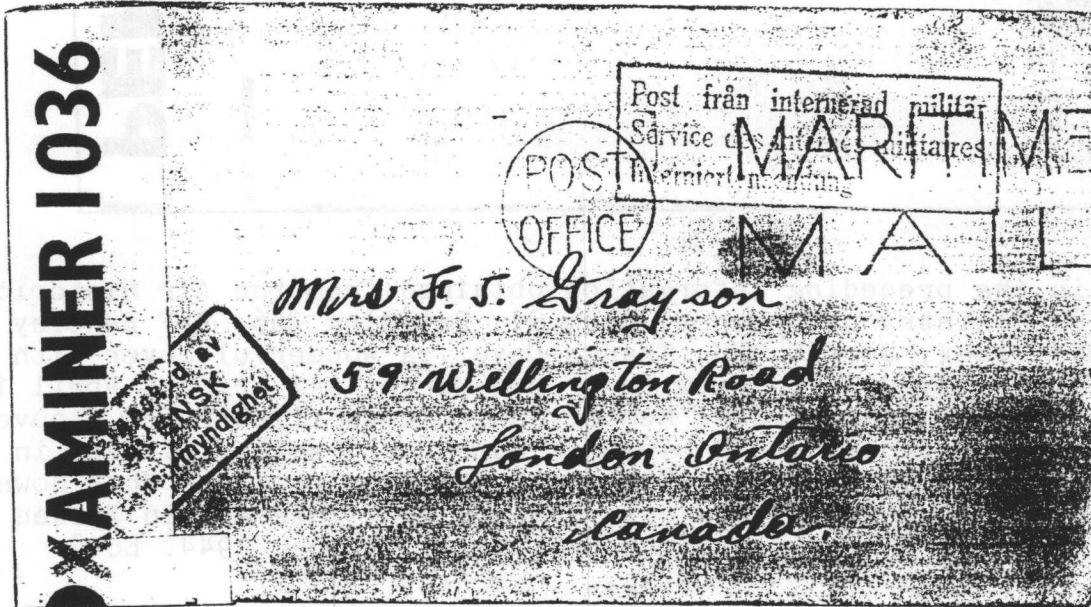
JANUARY 2005

NEWSLETTER NO. 168

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RCAF'S GRAYSON: SWEDISH INTERNEE, 1943--By A.D. Hanes

[Flight Engineer R68020 Sgt. Harold Lewis Grayson, RCAF was on Halifax Bomber No. BB332 when it took off from RAF Leeming, Yorkshire at 20.00hrs on March 27, 1943 for a raid on Berlin, Germany. It was later reported that during the outbound flight the aircraft was hit by enemy flak, which damaged both port engines and holed the fuel tanks.



As a result of this damage a course was set by the navigator for neutral Sweden, and the aircraft crashed at 00.30hrs between Ulricehamn and Boras at a place called Blindberg.

All seven crew members were interned in Sweden until April 1943, when they were all returned safely to England. The full crew was as follows:

[Cont'd.]

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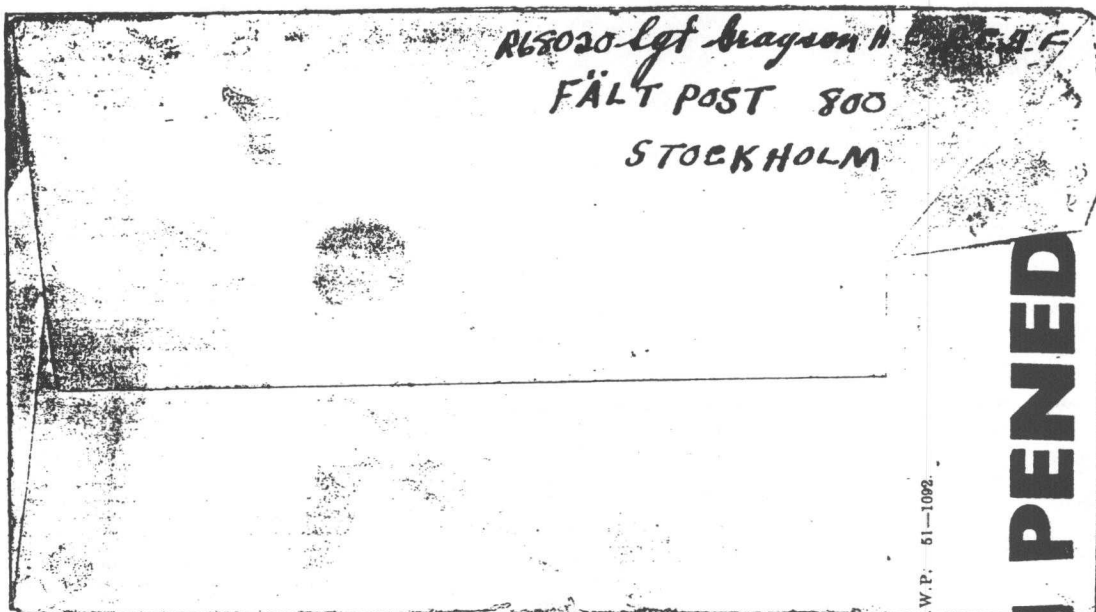
CHAIRMAN/TREAS.: C.D. SAYLES, 25 HOWARD BLVD., WATERDOWN, ON LOR 2H4  
(saylesd@aecl.ca)

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

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1299738, Sgt. R.K. Batchelor, RAFVR, Pilot  
 1391852, Sgt. H. Wein, RAFVR, Navigator  
 124316, P/O R.V. Fisher, RAFVR, Bomb Aimer  
 R68020, Sgt. H.L. Grayson, RCAF, Flight Engineer  
 R79080, Sgt. R.M. Hall, RCAF, Wireless Operator/Air Gunner  
 R118088, Sgt. F.W. Grant, RCAF, Air Gunner  
 R128359, Sgt. A. Sieben, RCAF, Air Gunner]

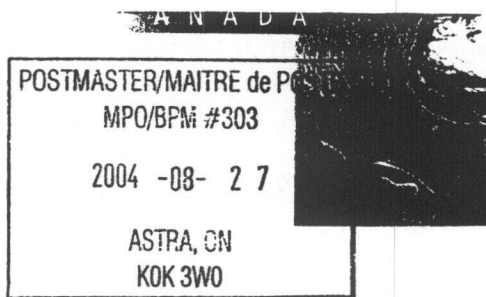


[Dave sent in the preceding information obtained from the Air Historical Branch (RAF), Ministry of Defence, Room G1, Building 266, RAF Bentley Priory, Stanmore, Middlesex, UK HA7 3HH. Thanks Dave...a wonderful cover with quite a story. Members may wish to view their pre-March 1943 or post-April 1943 RCAF covers for the names above! Member John Daynes illustrated a cover under similar circumstances to J21540, Air Bomber F/O Walter D. Watt in the FPMS Newsletter No.222 (Winter 1994). Watt and his crew were shot down by enemy aircraft over Germany. Six crew members were interned in Sweden in April 1944. They were repatriated to England in October 1944. Ed.]

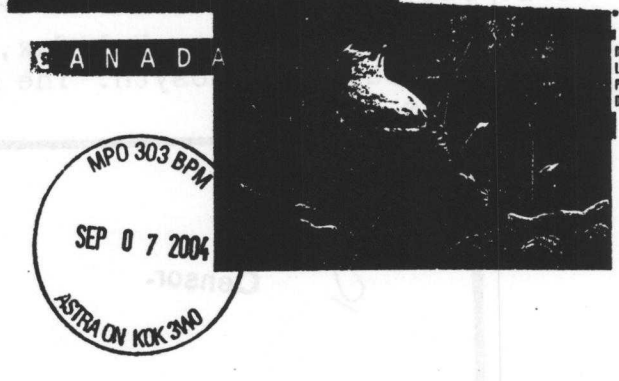
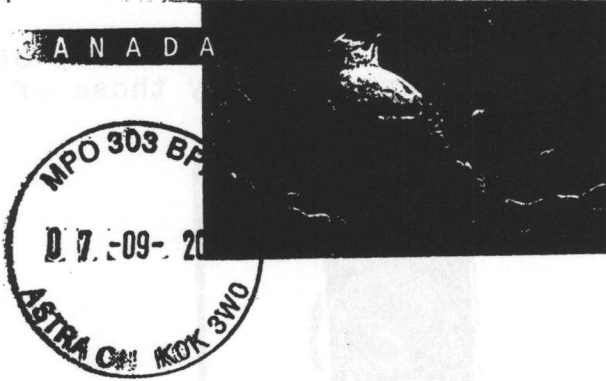
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RECENT RCAF TRENTON AND CFPO'S (BOSNIA)--By A.D. Hanes

[Dave visited MPO #303 in Trenton, Ontario recently and obtained a few of these current cancellations. He also sent in some of the CFPO POCON's used in Bosnia. These are always appreciated and help us keep up-to-date. Ed.]



[Cont'd.]



990426  
 2002 -06- 0 5  
 CFPO-BPFC 5050

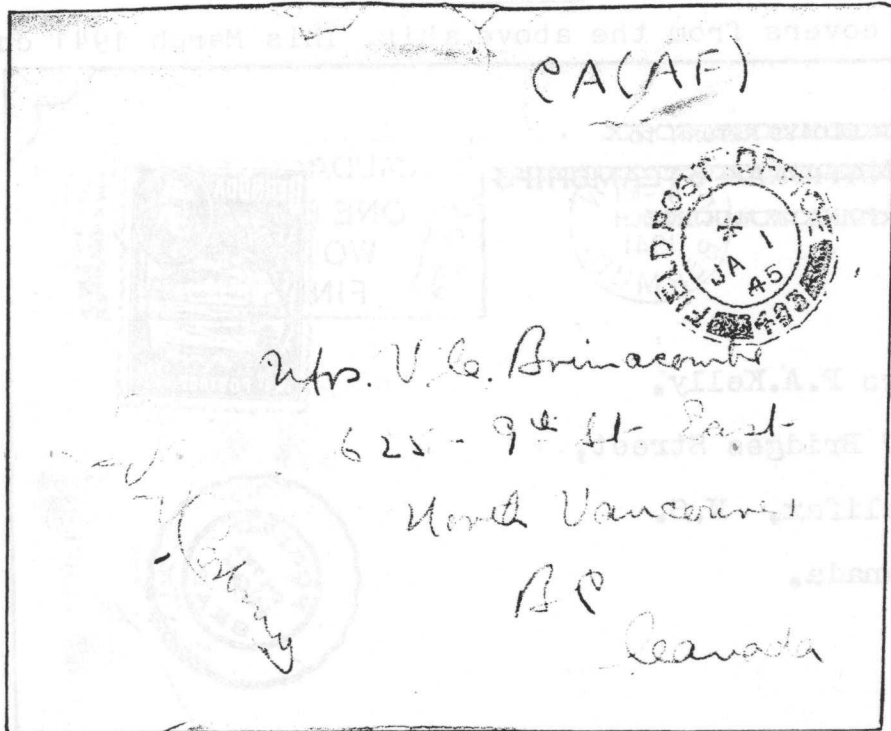
990035  
 11 -08- 2004  
 CFPO 5003 BPFC

990515  
 2004 -08- 2 5  
 CFPO-BPFC 5112

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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM HOLLAND PLUS SIXTY!

This cover was sent, appropriately, on January 1, 1945. The FPO 483 was part of the Third Canadian Infantry Division which was part of the Normandy invasion and Operation "Overlord". The FPO was located in the Nijmegen area in the Netherlands.



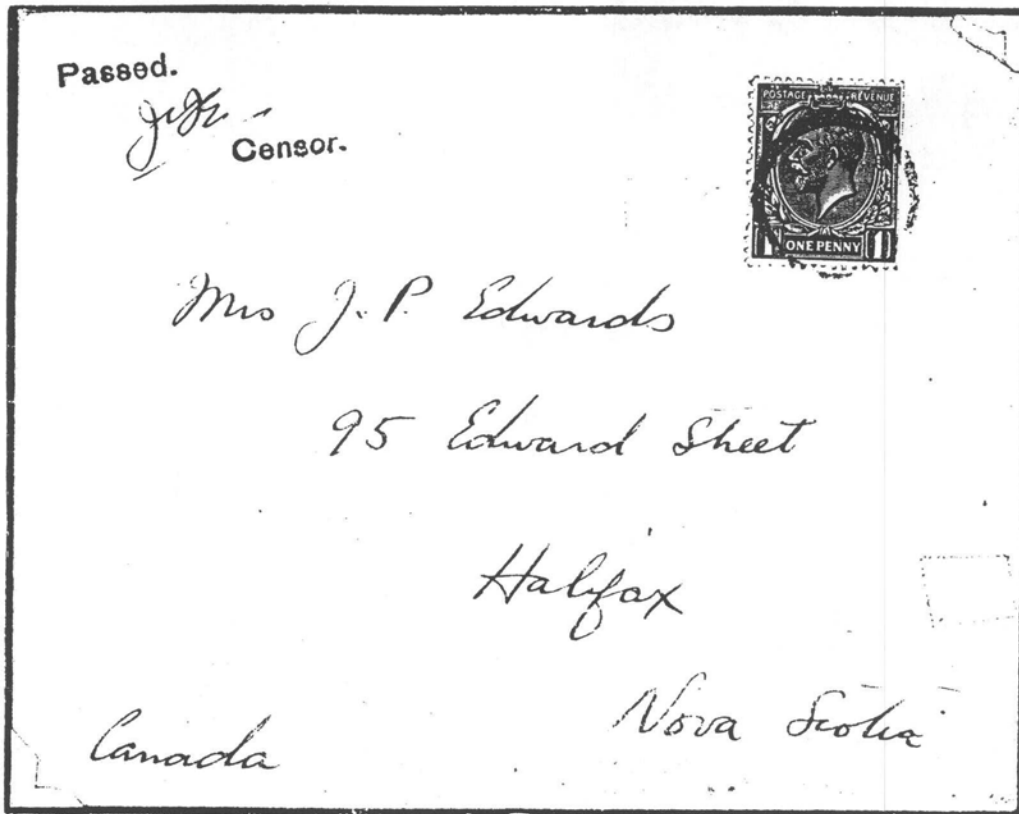
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SOME NAVAL OFFERINGS, FIRST AND SECOND WAR--By Colin Pomfret

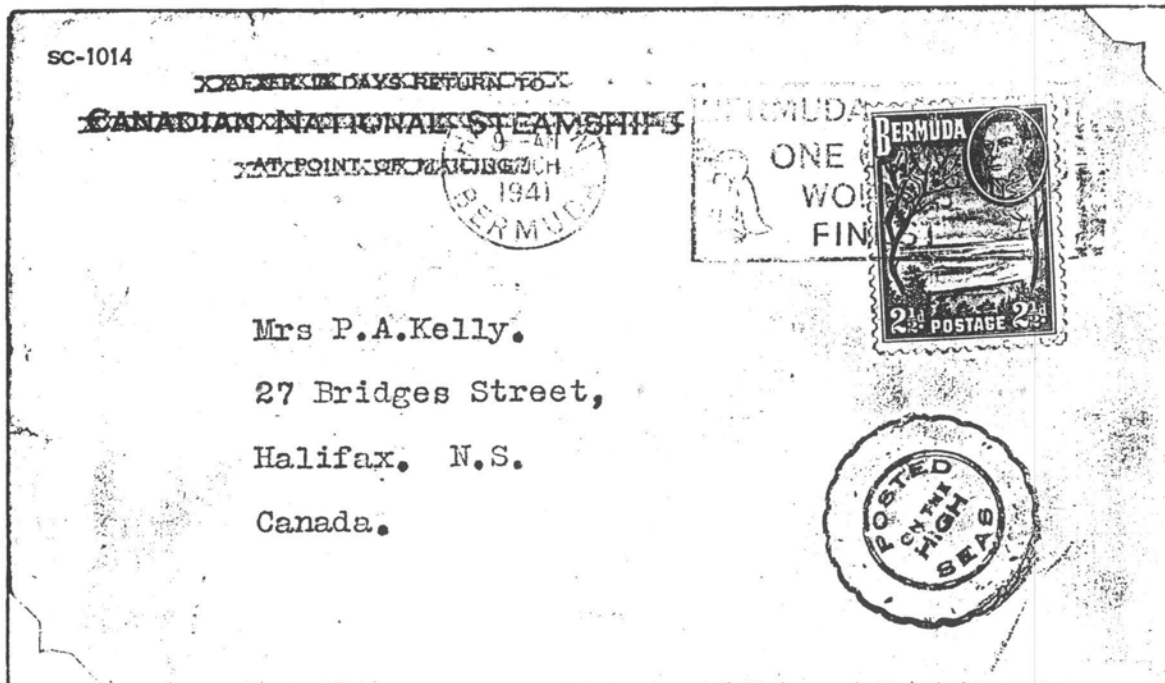
A) First Destroyer Flotilla, Great War

The following cover to Halifax, Nova Scotia bears the censor stamp of the above based at Rosyth. The censor initials are probably those of J. Edwards.



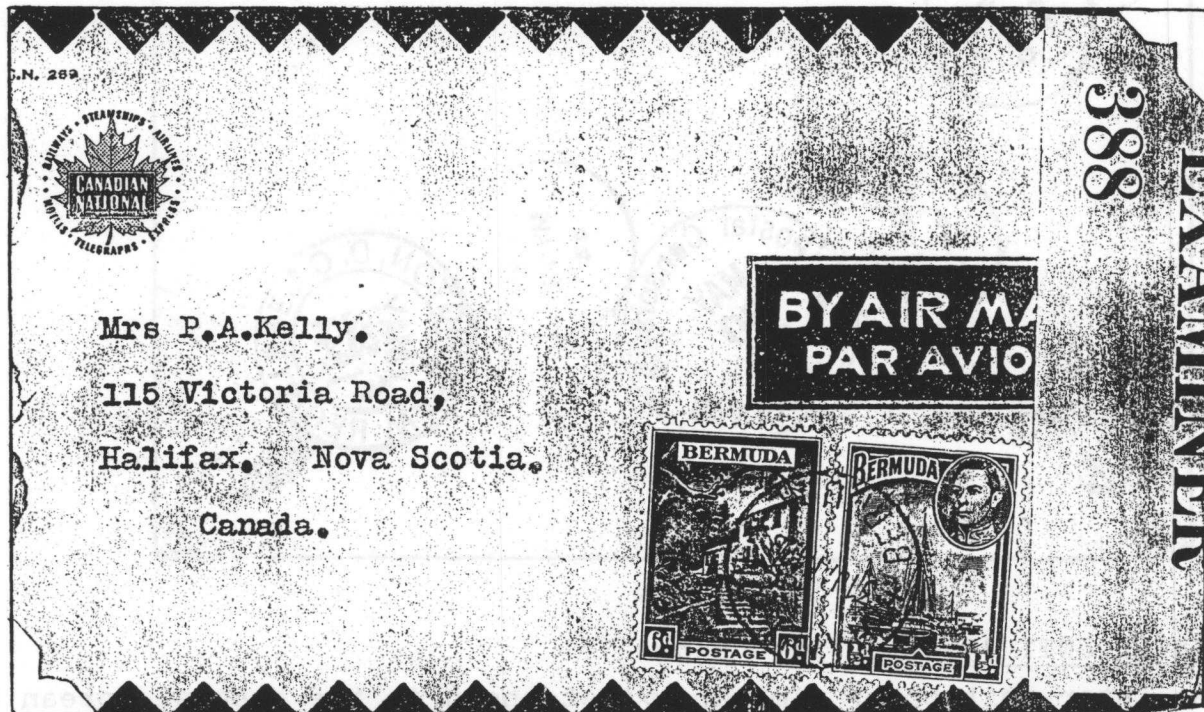
B) Canadian National Steamship Lady Hawkins

Here are two covers from the above ship. This March 1941 cover has



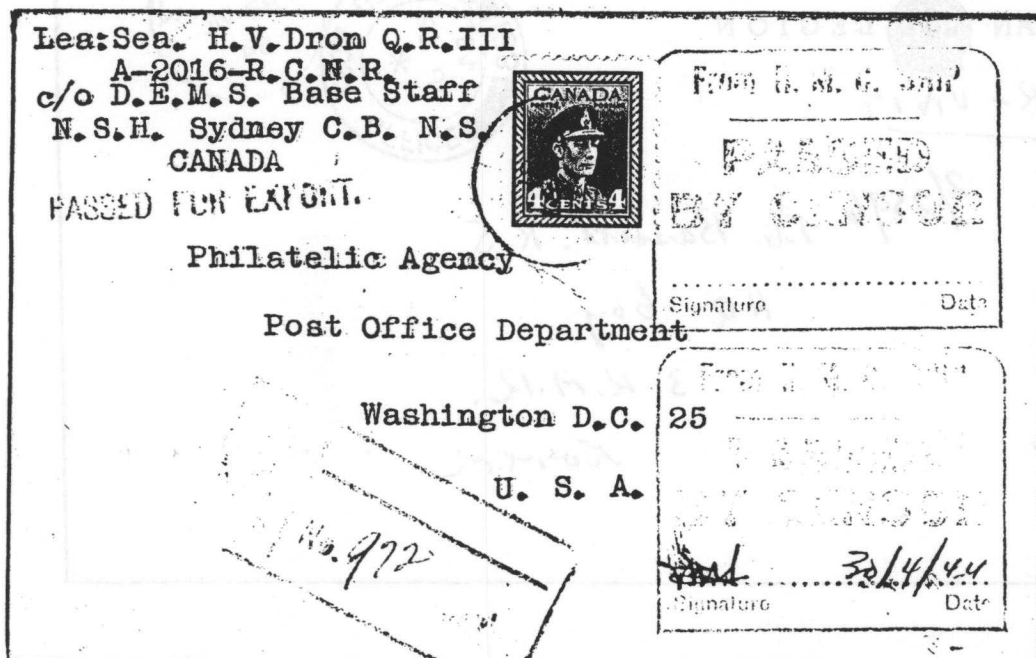
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"Lady Hawkins" removed from the ship's handstamp for security purposes. A cover from January 31, 1941 follows. The ship was torpedoed in January 1942 with a loss of 241 lives.

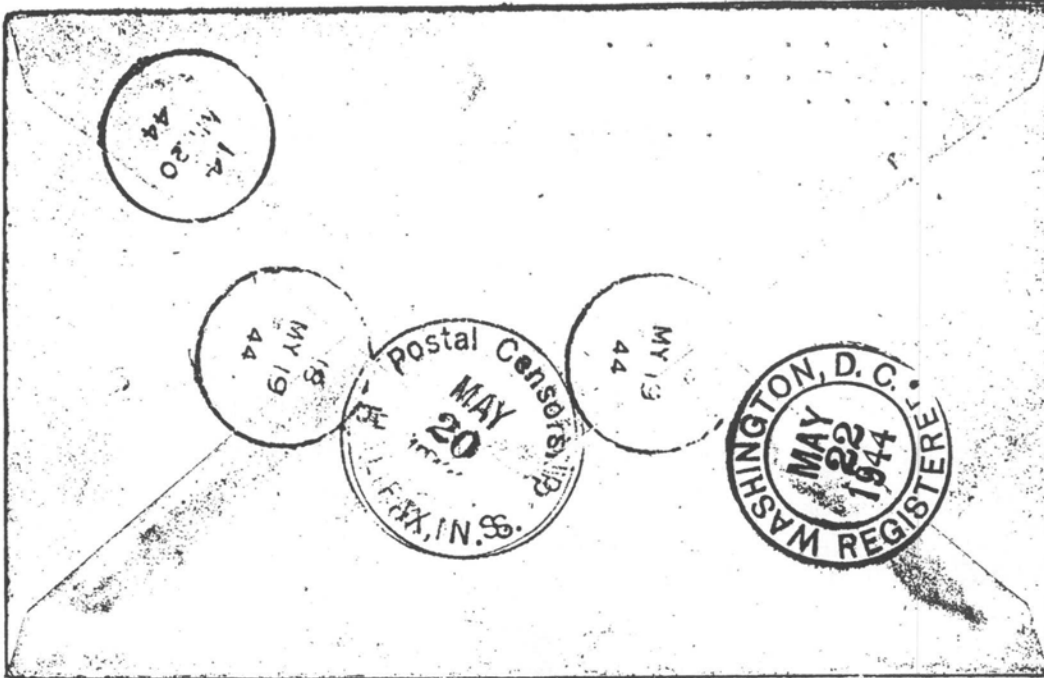


C) 1944 D.E.M.S. Base Staff, Sydney, Nova Scotia

This registered cover from April 30, 1944 bears a late usage of the censor HMC SHIP/PASSED BY CENSOR tombstone. A 10¢ stamp is missing from the lower left. Note the circular "Postal Censorship/MAY/20/1944/HALIFAX, N.S." on the reverse [this, I believe, is a seldom-seen marking.Ed.]



[Cont'd.]



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KOREA, INTER-UNIT 1954--By Dave Hanes

Here's an inter-unit cover similar to that shown in the special Korean War issue of the newsletter [NL#146, Aug.2000, p.501.Ed.]. Note the indicia has been inverted as the previously-shown cover in the CFPO-27 datestamp (from Seoul).

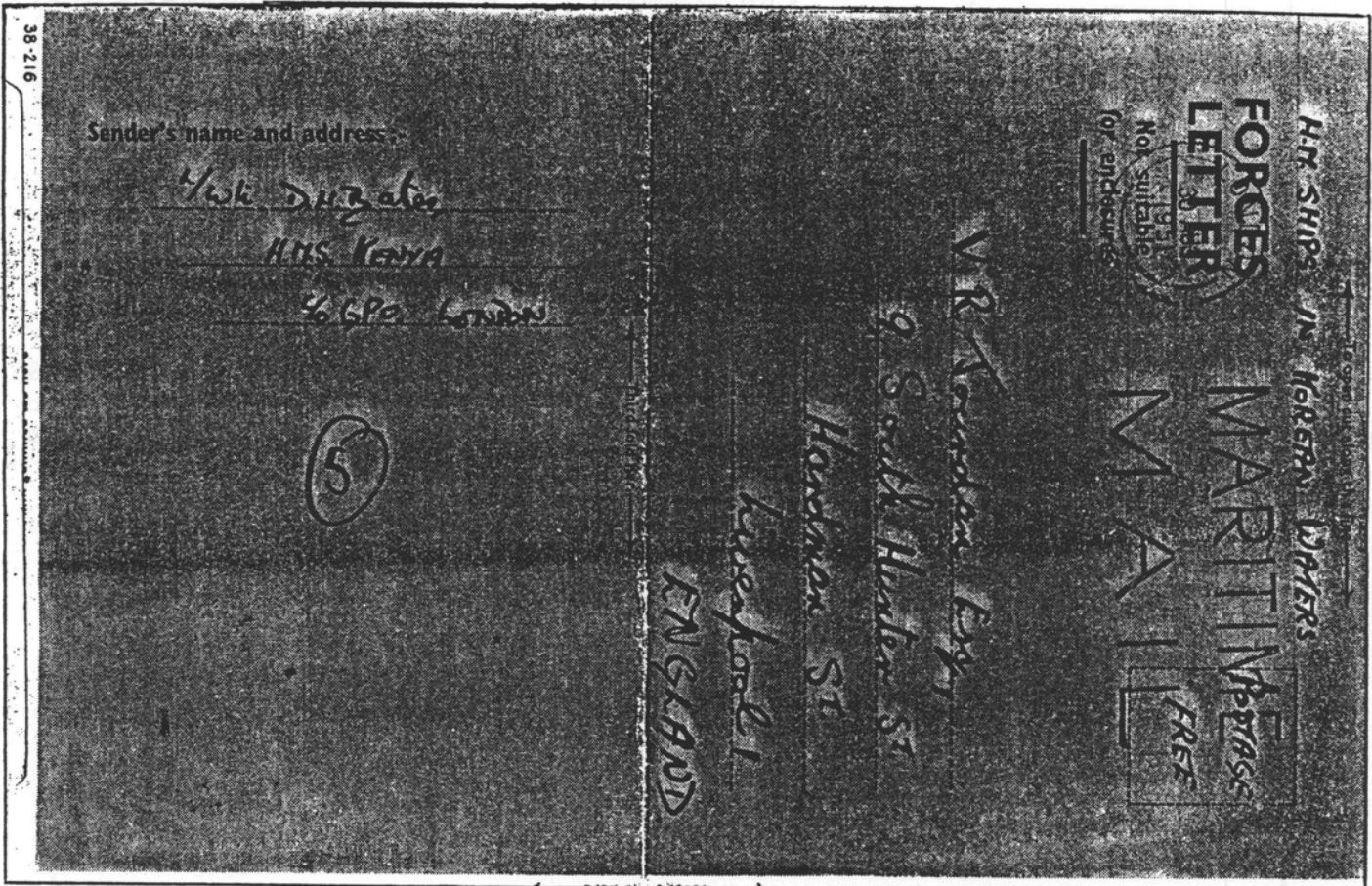


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KOREA CONTINUED: H.M.S. KENYA, R.N.--By Wilf Whitehouse

I realize that the following Forces Letter from Korea is not Canadian, but it is a good early example dated August 30, 1951. It indicates "POSTAGE FREE" where Canadians usually used "ON ACTIVE SERVICE" during the conflict.

This is the same Forces Letter used by Canada (starting in late 1951 with Form Code 38-216), which was obtained from British sources. I think the use of this F.L. was more widespread among army personnel than those in the Canadian navy. I have only one example of this form used from Athabaskan in Korean waters.



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N.D.H.Q. POSTAGE METER "TYPO"--By G.H. Sawatzki

Here are a few photocopies of covers within the same time frame with the postage meter misspelling of HEADQUATERS. The covers received at CFB Shilo show meter 148521 (shown) and meter 156236 (not illustrated here) with the error. A message was sent to N.D.H.Q. Ottawa suggesting corrective action. A reply from DPOST in November 1972 indicated that corrective action would be taken in due course. To show that not all postage meters had this problem, I am also illustrating a cover received in the same period with meter 155971 which shows the correct spelling of HEADQUARTERS.

NATIONAL DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS	QUARTIER GENERAL DEFENSE NATIONAL
OTTAWA, ONTARIO K1A 0K2	

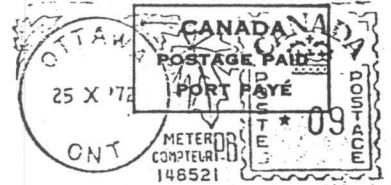


[Cont'd.]

ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE

SERVICE DE SA MAJESTÉ

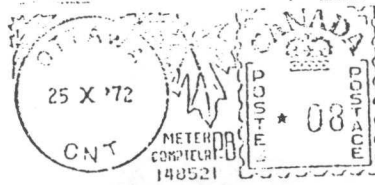
HEADQUARTERS	QUARTIER GENERAL
	DEFENSE NATIONALS
OTTAWA, ONTARIO	
K1A 0K2	



DÉFENSE NATIONALE

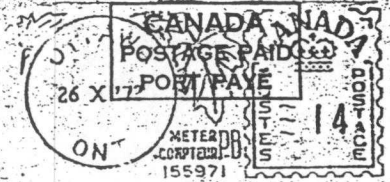
vraison retourner à  
lieu d'expédition

NATIONAL DEFENCE	QUARTIER GENERAL
HEADQUARTERS	DEFENSE NATIONAL
OTTAWA, ONTARIO	
K1A 0K2	



Base Commander  
Canadian Forces Base Shilo  
Shilo, Man

NATIONAL DEFENCE	QUARTIER GENERAL
HEADQUARTERS	DEFENSE NATIONALE
OTTAWA, ONTARIO	
K1A 0K2	

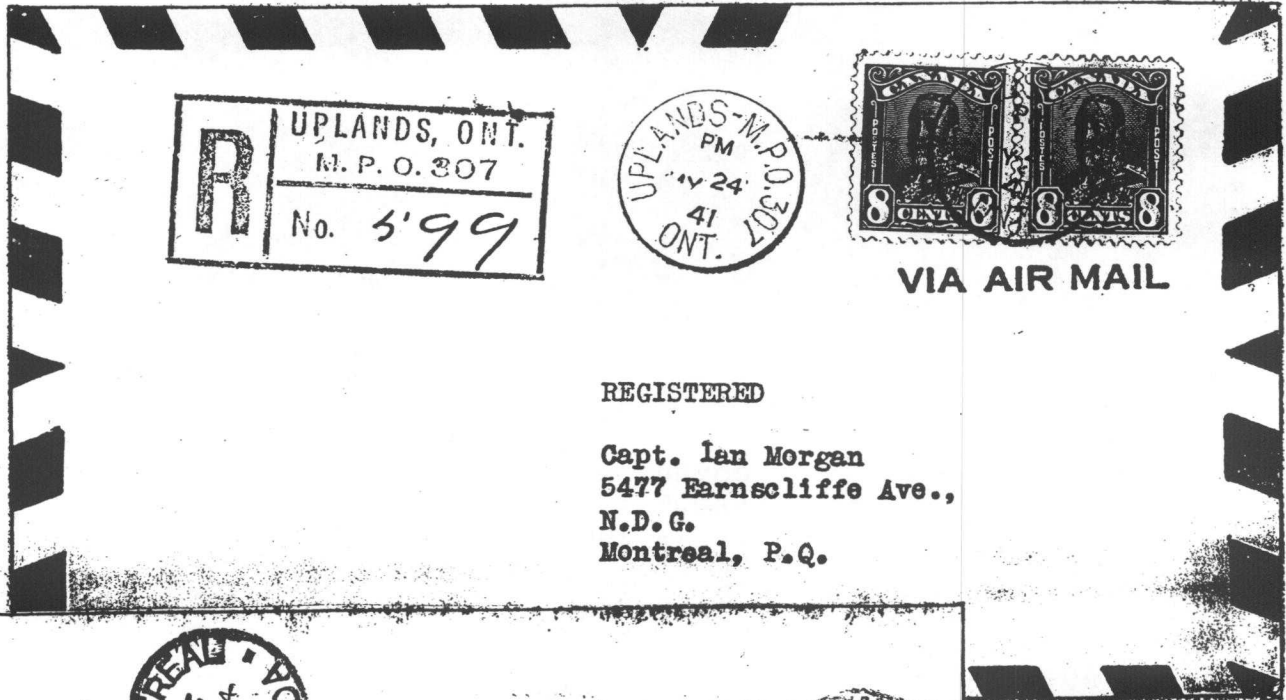


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NEW REPORTS: MPO 307 REGISTERED/FPO 831--By Doug Lingard

I have had a couple of items which I think are unlisted or unrecorded postally used based on Bailey & Toop's Canadian Military Postal Markings (1996).

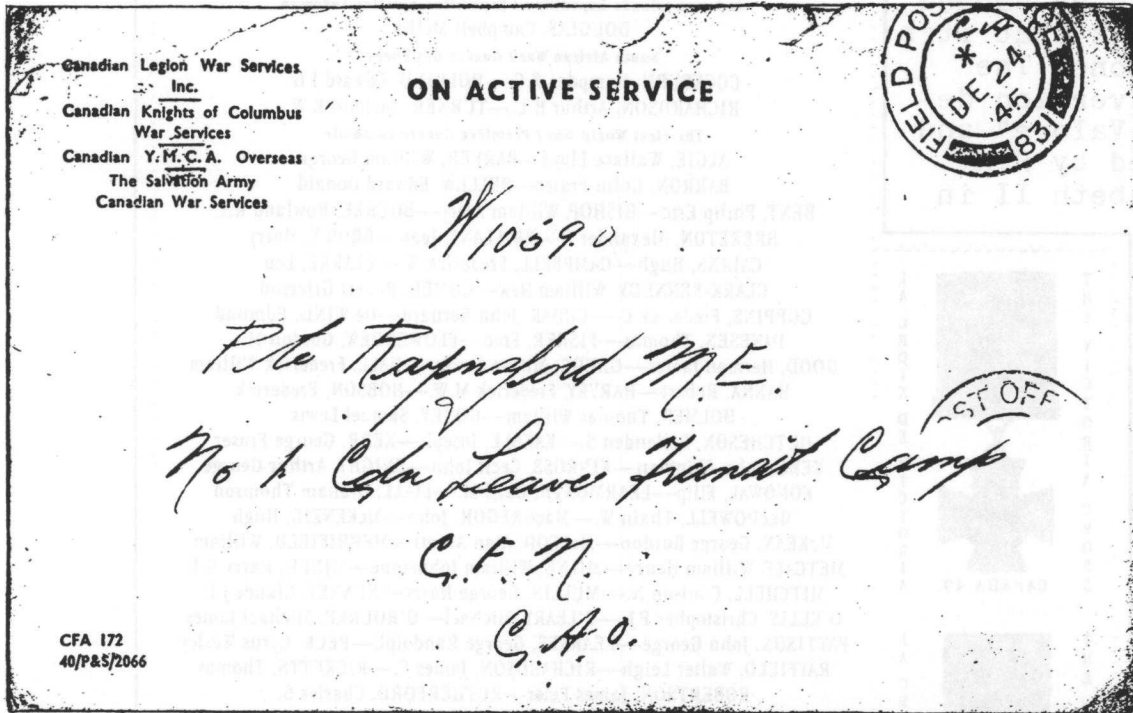
The first is an Uplands MPO 307 boxed registration handstamp. Although B&T list others such as those for MPO's 306 and 308, they do not show one for 307. I am a bit surprised at this--since this is a "Morgan" cover and has probably been in the hands of a Canadian military collector at one time or another. I would have thought it would have been previously reported.



[Cont'd.]



The second item is a previously unreported FPO 831 cancel. It is listed in B&T but has a "U" designation. I thought it should be reported as known postally used.

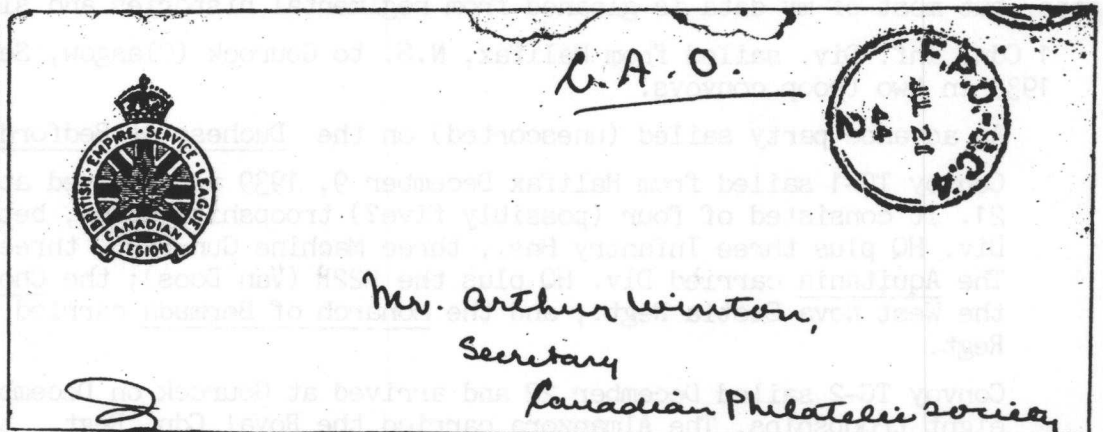
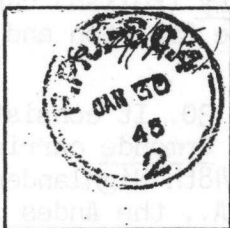
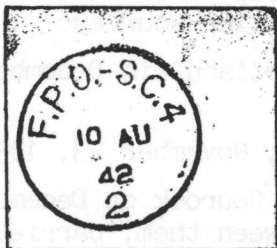


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NEW REPORT, FPO-S.C.4--By C.D. Sayles

This hammer differs from the hammer illustrated in Bailey & Toop in having arcs inside the circle; one on each side of the "2". The lettering is also different, being much heavier and thicker than the B&T listing. There may be some significance to the fact that the new hammer is seen used in 1944 and 1945, and the known hammer used before those years. This might indicate that the new hammer was a replacement for the lost or damaged original i.e. there will be no overlap in the dates of usage. Reports from other collections will be needed to establish if this is the case.

M15-22 (for comparison)



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CANADA'S V.C. WINNERS

Here's part of the V.C. sheet issued by Canada Post. I think that it's very well done. The "Canadian" version denotes "Pro Valore" and was approved by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II in 1993. The stamp commemorates the 150th anniversary of the first Canadian recipient, Lt. Alexander R. Dunn. He fought at Balaklava during the Crimean War. Ninety-four Canadians have been awarded the Victoria Cross.



- Crimean War / Guerre de Crimée**  
DUNN, Alexander Roberts
- Indian Mutiny / Rébellion indienne**  
HALL, William—READE, Herbert Taylor
- Andaman Islands Expedition / Expédition aux Îles Andaman**  
DOUGLAS, Campbell Mellis
- South African War / Guerre des Boers**  
COCKBURN, Hampden Z.C.—HOLLAND, Edward J.G.  
RICHARDSON, Arthur H.L.—TURNER, Richard E.W.
- The First World War / Première Guerre mondiale**  
ALGIE, Wallace Lloyd—BARKER, William George  
BARRON, Colin Fraser—BELLEW, Edward Donald  
BENT, Philip Eric—BISHOP, William Avery—BOURKE, Rowland R.L.  
BRERETON, Alexander P.—BRILLANT, Jean—BROWN, Harry  
CAIRNS, Hugh—CAMPBELL, Frederick W.—CLARKE, Leo  
CLARK-KENNEDY, William Hew—COMBE, Robert Grierson  
COPPINS, Frederick G.—CROAK, John Bernard—De WIND, Edmund  
DINESEN, Thomas—FISHER, Fred—FLOWERDEW, Gordon M.  
GOOD, Herman James—GREGG, Milton Fowler—HALL, Frederick William  
HANNA, Robert—HARVEY, Frederick M.W.—HOBSON, Frederick  
HOLMES, Thomas William—HONEY, Samuel Lewis  
HUTCHESON, Bellenden S.—KAEBLE, Joseph—KERR, George Fraser  
KERR, John Chipman—KINROSS, Cecil John—KNIGHT, Arthur George  
KONOWAL, Filip—LEARMONTH, Okill M.—LYALL, Graham Thomson  
MacDOWELL, Thain W.—MacGREGOR, John—McKENZIE, Hugh  
McKEAN, George Burdon—McLEOD, Alan Arnett—MERRIFIELD, William  
METCALF, William Henry—MILNE, William Johnstone—MINER, Harry G.B.  
MITCHELL, Coulson N.—MULLIN, George Harry—NUNNEY, Claude J.P.  
O'KELLY, Christopher P.J.—O'LEARY, Michael—O'ROURKE, Michael James  
PATTISON, John George—PEARKES, George Randolph—PECK, Cyrus Wesley  
RAYFIELD, Walter Leigh—RICHARDSON, James C.—RICKETTS, Thomas  
ROBERTSON, James Peter—RUTHERFORD, Charles S.  
SCRINGER, Francis A.C.—SHANKLAND, Robert—SIFTON, Ellis Wellwood  
SPALL, Robert—STRACHAN, Harcus—TAIT, James Edward  
WILKINSON, Thomas O.L.—YOUNG, John Francis—ZENGEL, Raphael Louis
- The Second World War / Seconde Guerre mondiale**  
BAZALGETTE, Ian W.—COSENS, Aubrey—CURRIE, David Vivian  
FOOTE, John Weir—GRAY, Robert Hampton—HOEY, Charles Ferguson  
HORNEILL, David Ernest—MAHONY, John Keefer  
MERRITT, Charles C.I.—MYNARSKI, Andrew C.—OSBORN, John Robert  
PETERS, Frederick Thornton—SMITH, Ernest Alvia  
TILSTON, Frederick Albert—TOPHAM, Frederick George—TRIQUET, Paul

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SOME RESPONSES FROM MEMBERS

[Kim Dodwell writes: "In response to the query in the previous newsletter (#167, p.776) regarding the movement of the 1 Canadian Division, I may be able to help. There are some gaps, but most of my data is gleaned from regimental histories and similar sources:

1 Cdn. Inf. Div. sailed from Halifax, N.S. to Gourock (Glasgow, Scotland) in December 1939 in two troop convoys.

An advance party sailed (unescorted) on the Duchess of Bedford, November 23, 1939.

Convoy TC-1 sailed from Halifax December 9, 1939 and arrived at Gourock on December 21. It consisted of four (possibly five?) troopships which, between them, carried Div. HQ plus three Infantry Bns., three Machine Gun Bns., three Field regts., R.C.A. The Aquitania carried Div. HQ plus the R22R (Van Doos); the Chobary (Polish) carried the West Nova Scotia Regt., and the Monarch of Bermuda carried the Carleton and York Regt.

Convoy TC-2 sailed December 22 and arrived at Gourock on December 30. It consisted of eight troopships. The Almanzora carried the Royal Cdn. Regt., the Ormonde carried the Hastings and Prince Edward Regt., Rieno del Pacifico carried the 48th Highlanders of Canada, the Orama carried the PPCLI and the 27th Field Bty., R.C.A., the Andes carried the Seaforths, and the Batory (Polish) carried the Edmonton Regt. [Cont'd.]

This accounts for the nine Infantry Bns. of the Division. I assume that the ships of which I have no details carried, between them, the MG Bns (in the early Order of Battle, each Inf. Bge. had its own machine gun battalion. In 1940 this was changed to one MG Bn. per Division), the Field Regiments (other than 27 Bty.), the R.C.E. elements, the R.C.A.S. C., R.C.A.M.C. etc. plus some LofC troops.

Such information, as I've noted, is gleaned from regimental histories which are not always 100% reliable in all respects, but they are usually not too far out! I would be interested in learning further information which would help fill in my own gaps.

On another subject in the same newsletter (pp. 771-772), I was interested in Robert Toombs' article 'Free Mail, C.M.F. Follow-Up'. He describes 3,956 evacuations for battle exhaustion from 1 CID, from December 6, 1943 to January 6, 1944. I wonder where this extraordinarily-high figure came from? It startled me into searching to find what I could come up with, and the following is what I found.

Nicholson, in his official history The Canadians in Italy (p.338), gives the same figure as does Robert for "killed, wounded, and sickness". The last figure is 1,617 and, according to Nicholson, includes the battle exhaustion figures (thereby accounting for the unusually-high incidence of sickness. In the third week of December (the period of highest casualties), the battle exhaustion figures were 20% of all casualties. These two sets of figures, Robert's and Nicholson's, are in no way compatible.

I know that it is only comparatively recently that the facts of battle exhaustion have been freely discussed and, in the past, high figures were thought to bring shame on a unit and were "swept under the table". Certainly a great majority of my regimental histories make no mention of any problems except in the admirable history of the Carleton and Yorks Regiment (Invicta by Robert T. Tooley, 1989). There are precise figures (p.303) for 3 CID (part of Robert's 1 CID) in the period from November 28, 1943 to February 12, 1944. The Brigade had 213 cases. Even if one were to triple this to account for the other two brigades of 1 CID, add more for the supporting arms (who always totalled far fewer casualties than the infantry), the figure could not exceed 1,000. This would have been over a longer period than Robert's 3,956.

Checking further, Terry Copp in his book The Brigade (1992) on the Fifth Brigade (2 CID) history in N.W. Europe (pp.108-110), writes that 2 CID's figures in the horrendous Normandy fighting were 500 for July and another 500 in August for battle exhaustion. This was thought to be "exceptionally high", and prompted General Crerar to order an enquiry into the reasons for the loss of such large numbers of men.

On p.186 Copp writes that battle exhaustion, which had taken such a large toll of the rifle companies in Normandy and the Scheldt, had been evident throughout the Rhineland battle, including 237 from the 2nd Division. It may be argued that conditions in Italy in December (with the cold, wet, and mud) were far worse than in Normandy (albeit the total casualty rates were higher in the latter). However, the Rhineland battle took place in conditions not dissimilar to those of the Moro River-Ortona fighting. Both took place in appalling weather and the enemy were much the same--strong in mortars and artillery and backboned by skilled, implacable paratroops.

I am afraid I have "gone on" a bit about this, but the more I read the more it looks as if the figure of 3,956 battle sickness cases must be wrong--perhaps a typo error? For the good name of the Division, and for accuracy, this should be put right". [Thank you Kim for the preceding notes. I looked back at Robert's initial letter and the figure was copied out correctly. However, I hope that he will contact us in the future for clarification. I do not wish us to get "bogged down" with debate, but certainly clarity and accuracy is what we all strive to accomplish in these pages. Ed.]

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Dear CMMMSG Members: Happy New Year! Doug and I wish all members a happy, healthy, and joyful 2005. I am happy to report that members have been very good in sending in their dues. However, if there is a red "X" on your address label, the MP's are getting ready for a future visit for back-dues! Arguably, it's the best \$10 (Canadian/US) you can spend. Thank you to all for joining-up again. It was very nice to hear from several members over the holidays and your words of praise were most appreciated. Lots of material in for future issues too. Without the members these pages would look very bleak. Good luck to members in the exhibiting field as well (here and abroad). The upcoming year will see many commemorative events on the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, and future issues of the newsletter may reflect on some of them. Remember to keep writing us because it is your study group! Have a great year and remember to dust off those exhibits for the Edmonton Spring National, ORAPEX, and naturally BNAPEX in Edmonton, Alberta this September.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

JOHN CHERAMY, BOX 5214, STN. "B", VICTORIA, BC V8R 6N4

JOHN DAYNES, 25A MILL RD., BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH, ESSEX, CMO 8PZ U.K. (John joins us now as a "regular" member in the ranks. We salute his tireless efforts with the Forces Postal History Society as Editor and long-time Librarian!)

N. MARTIN (FPHS), ANGEL HOUSE, STATION RD., SUTTERTON, BOSTON, LINCS. PE20 2JH U.K. (Nick succeeds John D. as temporary Editor but full-time Librarian of the FPHS. Our exchange copy will now be sent to him with our best wishes for the future)

G. COATES, #714-6500 MONTEVIDEO RD., MISSISSAUGA, ON L5N 3T6 (Gary is now the new Editor of the BNAPS WWII Study Group and our exchange issue will be sent to him)

J.F. HANSEN, VP STUDY GROUPS, 117 VILLAGE RD., NEWBURY, NH USA 03255-5310 (Jim replaces Doug Lingard as the BNAPS V.P., Study Groups. Good luck Jim! Congratulations to Jim and Doug for their "Order of The Beaver" induction at BNAPEX 2004)

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: sayles@aecl.ca (16/18)

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 (1/3)

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@hwc.org (5/5)

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 (5/5)

WANTED: Pre-1914 British warship covers (names on backflaps) sent from North American port towns/cities (Canada, USA, BNA). Pacific and Atlantic coasts. Priced photocopies to D.W. Mario, Box 342, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3 (1/2)

...Remember small ads are only a \$1 Cdn. per insert so if you need to buy/sell/trade it may be worthwhile! Copy/payment to the Editor please!

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Upcoming for the March issue: Forestry Detachment, RCAF, interesting Great War finds, some unusual Second World War material, and Holland's liberation (fifty years plus 10), and much, much, more!

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