



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2005

NEWSLETTER NO. 169
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THE 89TH REGIMENT, LONDON, U.C.--By Colin Pomfret

A stampless folded letter from Lasswade, United Kingdom dated February 12, 1841 addressed to a member of the 89th Regiment in London, Upper Canada.



After 1763 British troops garrisoned the North American Colonies and the major ones in Canada were at Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, York, London, Amherstberg, and later at Esquimalt.

By 1871 the troops had been recalled except for those at Halifax and Esquimalt. Most had left from these stations by 1905.

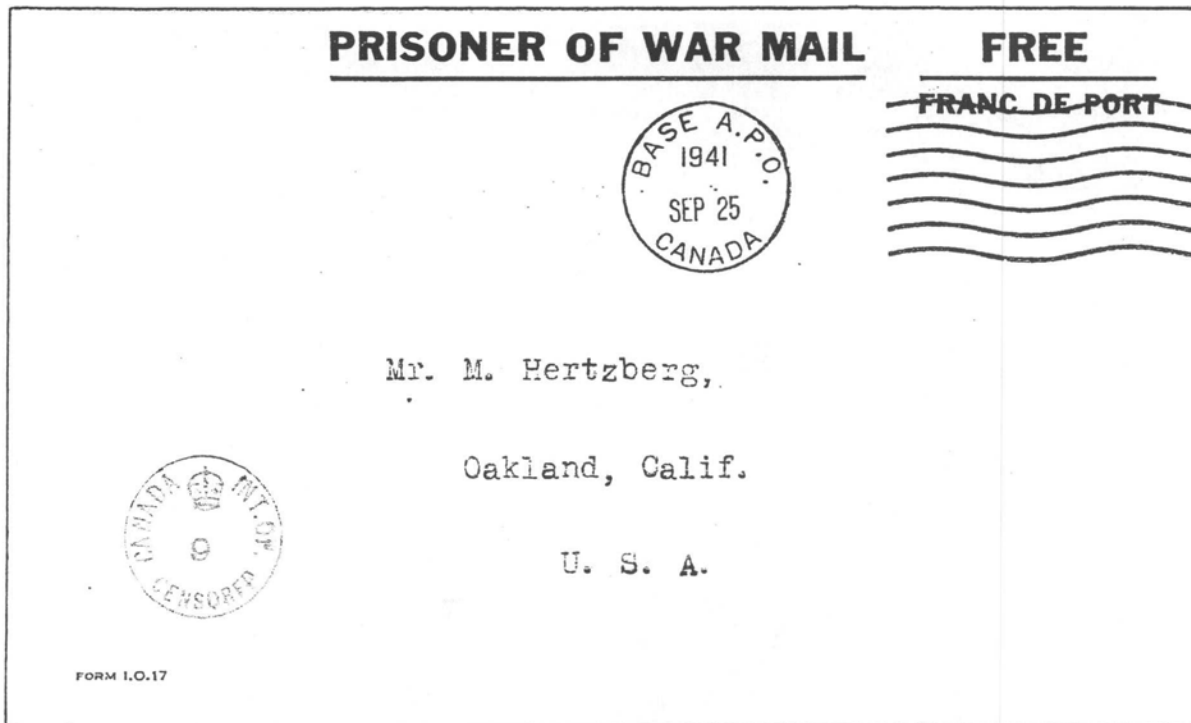
CHAIRMAN/TREAS.: C.D. SAYLES, 25 HOWARD BLVD., WATERDOWN, ON LOR 2H4
(sayles@sympatico.ca)

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

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STUDY GROUP SURVEY: INTERNMENT "CROWNED" WWII CENSOR MARKINGS

Members will recognize these relatively "common" Internment Operations censor markings used during the Second World War in Canada. However, little to



my knowledge has been done to compile an up-to-date listing of these rather attractive (and important) devices. They were usually (but not always) found on P.O.W. and internment camp mail (incoming and outgoing), and if we can complete a relatively thorough study, perhaps some more information about these markings can come to light. Were the censor devices used at various locations (yes)? Did they travel with individual censors? Were all numbers (1+) used? Was there a pattern of such usage? Where are the gaps of usage?

There are many specialists in our study group who are experts in the field of P.O.W. and Internment Operation mail and their support is most welcome to fill the void. However, many of us can help out too even if we only have one or two pieces for the puzzle. Several members responded to our previous survey on Great War camp markings and it is hoped that we can rely upon a greater number for this one.

All reports are welcomed. We need dates of usage, location, and number. Many times it will be difficult to determine where, exactly, the marking was applied but members are encouraged to send as much in as possible. I shall get the ball rolling by listing several numbers on material I have seen over the years, but it is by no means complete. Follow-ups will be reported in the Newsletter at a later date.

Peter Burrows had begun to study these markings noted in War Times (#8, Feb. 2000, pp.107-109) and previously in the CCSG Bulletin (#117, Jan.1998, pp.12-14). He noted two different types (P3.1 and P3.2). There does appear to be a significant difference between the two types and for our purposes here, let us simply refer to them as TYPE 1 and TYPE 2.

TYPE 1: "CENSORED" appears with a narrower gap between "CANADA" and "OP." (Burrows has seen #'s 19,21,31,32,34,40,42,44, and 48)

[Cont'd.]

TYPE 2: "CENSORED" appears with a wider gap between "CANADA" and "OP."
(Burrows has seen #'s 5,8,9,11,28,29, and 36)

TYPE 1*



TYPE 2*



Ottawa

<u>CENSOR NUMBER</u>	<u>CAMP LETTER/NUMBER</u>	<u>ERD</u>	<u>LRD</u>	<u>REMARKS/SOURCE</u>
5 (2)	P/33	SP 17/40	MY 4/42	SCL/ANTH(WET)
5 (2)	B/70	SP 1/42		NL#101
6 (2)	P/33	?		SCL
8 (2)	K/130	JL 22/40	AU 14/40	ERT/NL#45 & SCL
8 (2)	BASE APO	MR 2/42		OTTAWA/ERT
9 (2)	BAPO/30?	SP 25/41	JN 14/43 (BAPO)	DWM/ERT
11 (2)	E/21	MR 10/41		NL#123 & SCL
12 (1)	C/20	OC 9/43		NL#123
14 (2)	F/31	DE ?/40		SCL
16 (1)	K/130	MR 13/42	MR 28/42	ANTH(WET)/ANTH(WET)
19 (1)	30	DE 22/41 (BAPO)		ERT
21 (1)	N/42	JA 24/40 (BAPO)	MY 23/41	NL#43/SCL
22 (2)	L	AU 7/40	OC 16?/40	NL#50/SCL
22 (2)	N/42	NO 15/40		NL#126
24 (2)	135		FE 27/46 ?	SCL
28 (2)	H/32	OC 10/41	DE 25/41	ERT & SCL/ERT
29 (2)	T	JL 31/40		NL#126
29 (2)	B/70	DE ?/41		SCL
30 (2)	T	AU 9/40		SCL
36 (2)	M/22	JL 16/42		ERT
37 (1)	133		AU ?/46	SCL
40 (1)	Q/23	SP 17/41+	JA 30/46	ERT/DWM
41 (2)	B/70	FE 25/41 (BAPO)	AP ?/41	NL#126
44 (1)	A/40	MY ?/41		SCL
45 (1)	A/40	DE 16/40 (BAPO)		ERT
46 (2)	X/101		MR 8/46	ERT & ANTH(WET)
48 (1)	X/101	MY 26/41		ERT
48 (1)	133		FE ?/46	SCL

[Cont'd.]

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<u>CENSOR NUMBER</u>	<u>CAMP LETTER/NUMBER</u>	<u>ERD</u>	<u>LRD</u>	<u>REMARKS/SOURCE</u>
55 (2)	B/70	JL 5/43	JA ?/44	ERT/SCL
63 (1)	132		FE 19/46	SCL

PRISONER OF WAR AND INTERNMENT CAMPS - WW II **

Camp Letter	Camp #	Location	Camp Dates	
			Opened	Closed
-	10	Chatham/Fingal, Ont.	15 May 44	14 Nov 46
C	20	Gravenhurst, Ont.	Jul 40	11 Jun 46
E	21	Espanola, Ont.	07 Jul 40	30 Nov 43
M	22	Mimico, Ont.	19 Jul 40	01 May 44
Q	23	Monteith, Ont.	16 Jul 40	Dec 46
-	30	Bowmanville, Ont.	Nov 41	12 Apr 45
F	31	Fort Henry, Ont.	07 Sep 39	09 Dec 39
		Ottawa, Ont.	29 Jun 40	16 Nov 43
			10 Apr 45	
H	32	Hull, P.Q.	20 Aug 41	15 Jan 47
P	33	Petawawa, Ont.	Sep 39	06 Mar 46
A	40	Farnham, P.Q.	15 Oct 40	22 May 46
I	41	Isle Aux Noix, P.Q.	15 Jul 40	04 Nov 43
N	42	Sherbrooke, P.Q.	15 Oct 40	Jun 46
S	43	St. Helen's Isl. P.Q.	16 Jul 40	Nov 43
-	44	Grande Lygne, P.Q.	28 Jun 43	May 46
-	45	Sorel, P.Q.	01 May 45	Mar 46
B	70	Fredericton, N.B.	13 Aug 40	31 Aug 45
W	100	Neys, Ont.	17 Oct 40	28 Mar 46
X	101	Angler, Ont.	25 Oct 40	09 Nov 46
K	130	Seebe, Alta.	29 Sep 39	28 Jan 46
-	132	Medicine Hat, Alta.	01 Jan 43	31 Jul 46
-	133	Ozada, Alta.	May 42	Dec 42
-	133	Lethbridge, Alta.	Nov 42	30 Jun 46
-	135	Wainwright, Alta.	06 Jan 45	14 Jun 46
R	-	Red Rock, Ont.	01 Jul 40	31 Oct 41
L	-	Cove Fields, P.Q.	13 Jul 40	16 Oct 40
T	-	Three Rivers, P.Q.	15 Jul 40	12 Aug 40
V	-	Valcartier, P.Q.		

[Cont'd.]

Notes on sources:

The illustrations of censor markings (#) were taken from covers illustrated in C.R. McGuire and R.F. Narbonne, Co-Editors, The Major E.R. Toop Collection of Canadian Military Postal History, Vol.I, BNAPS (1996), pp. 243, 276.

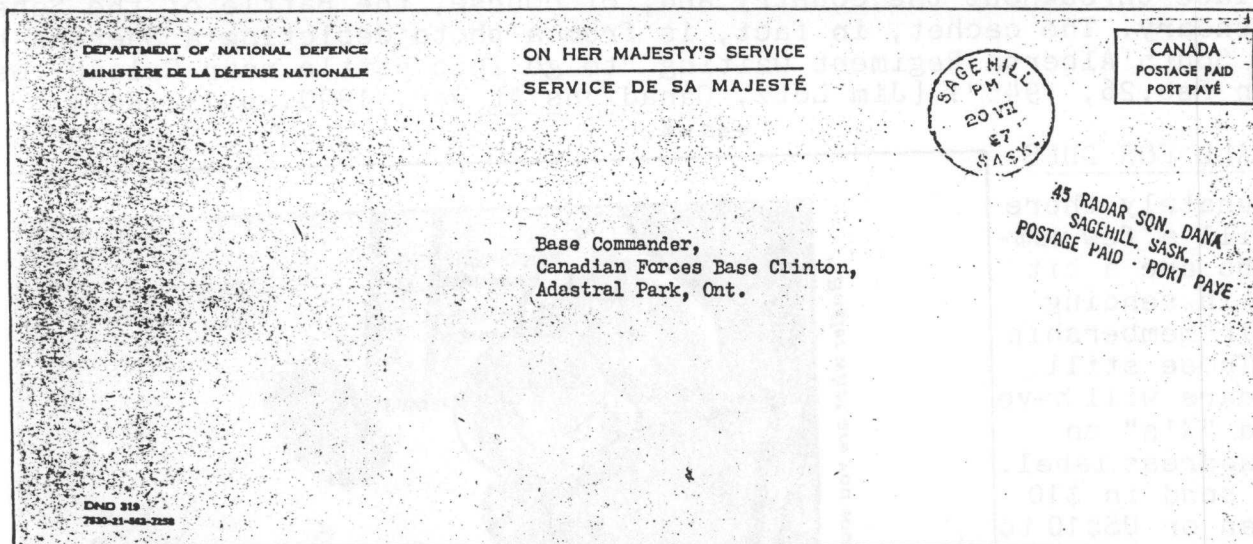
The Prisoner of War and Internment Camp table was supplied from W.J. Bailey and E.R. Toop's Canadian Military Postal Markings, Vol.II, C.G. Firby Publications (1996), p. 497. It has been included for members' information (**).

Actual reported data from "Remarks/Source" has been noted from the various sources below:

"ERT" = Major E.R. Toop Collection; "SCL" = S.C. Luciuk, Internment Mail in Canada: 1914-1919 & 1939-1946, BNAPS (2000); "WET" = W.E. Topping, "Japanese Internment (P.O.W.) Mail in Canada," A Canadian Military Postal History Anthology, R.A. Lee Philatelist Ltd. (1991); various authors within the past CMMSG Newsletters.

SAGEHILL, SASK., 45 RADAR SQN. DANA--By J. Colin Campbell

This cover, dated July 20, 1967, may be of some interest to members as our readers may not have seen many of these markings (the three-line marking is in purple ink). According to Bill Robinson, the Sagehill office opened in 1966 and was still open in 1987 (the date of his book Saskatchewan Post Offices). It was formerly the R.C.A.F. Station DANA (which opened on April 1, 1963 and closed October 1, 1966). The name change to Sagehill occurred on the latter date.

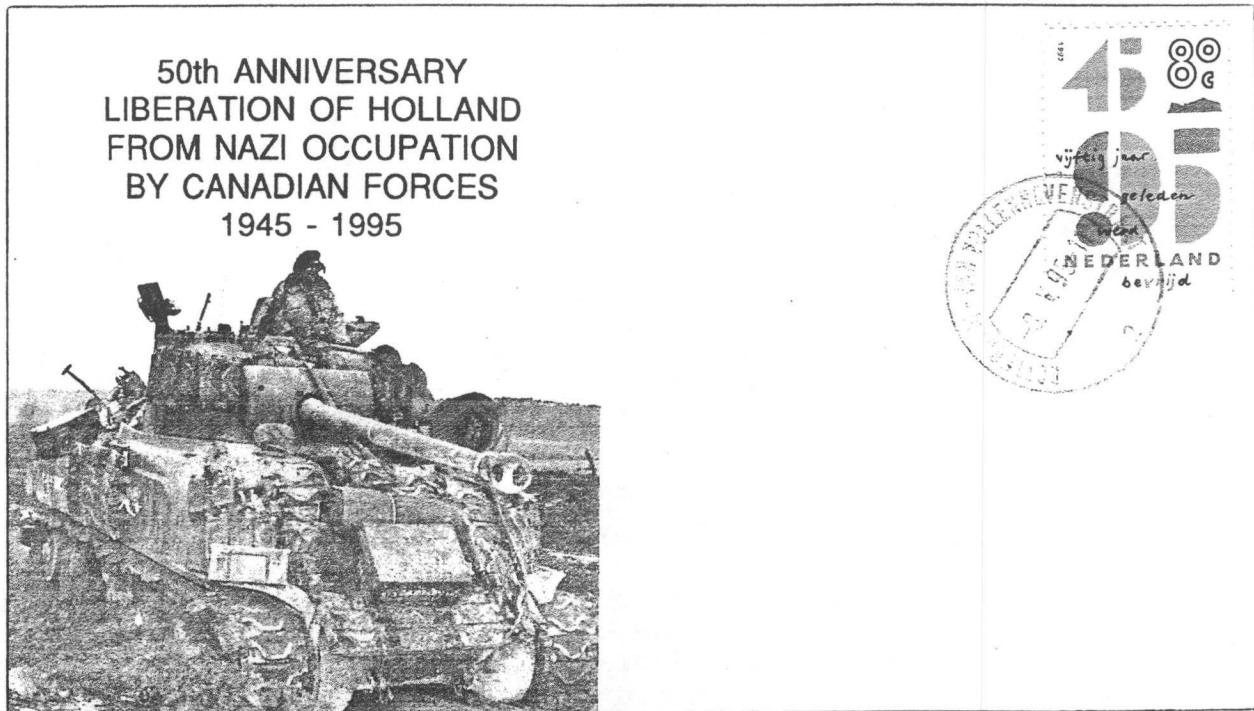


45 RADAR SQN. DANA
SAGEHILL, SASK.
POSTAGE PAID - PORT PAYE

[Reproduced at 70% original above and 100% at left.Ed.]

[According to the listing of "Sagehill" in E.T. Russell's What's In A Name, Third Ed. Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1980, it is approximately fifty miles east of Saskatoon and sixty-six miles south of Prince Albert. The site was constructed on the largest hill in the area.Ed.]

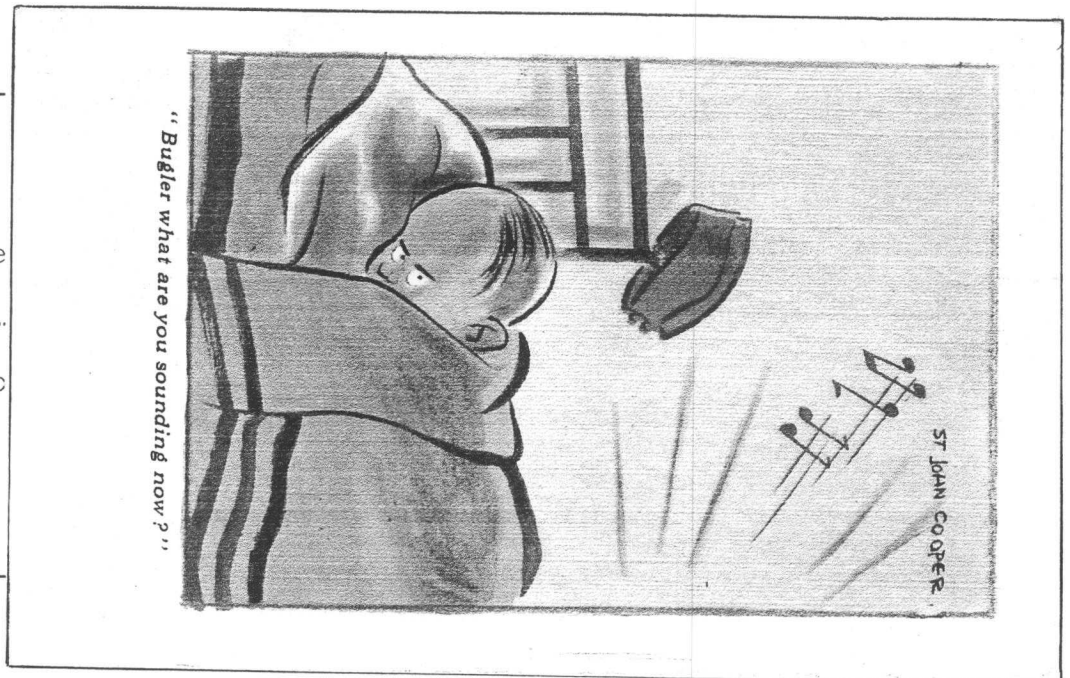
FIFTY+TEN YEARS, HOLLAND LIBERATION



A very close bond still exists between the people of The Netherlands and Canadians, primarily due to the event above. Fierce fighting by Canadians took place throughout the country and, of course, the Battle of the Scheldt is legendary. The cachet, in fact, is from a photo depicting a Sherman tank of the South Alberta Regiment waiting "to go into battle near Calcar, Germany on Feb.26, 1945"! [Jim Lotz, Canadians At War, 1990, p.133.Ed.]

LAST CALL FOR DUES

Unfortunately there are still a few members who are a bit behind in sending in their membership fees. Those still in arrears will have two red "X's" on their address label.. Please send in \$10 Canadian or US\$10 to either Doug (or myself if contributing to the censor project). This will be your LAST ISSUE if no payment is received. If you have already sent along your payment, thank you very much!

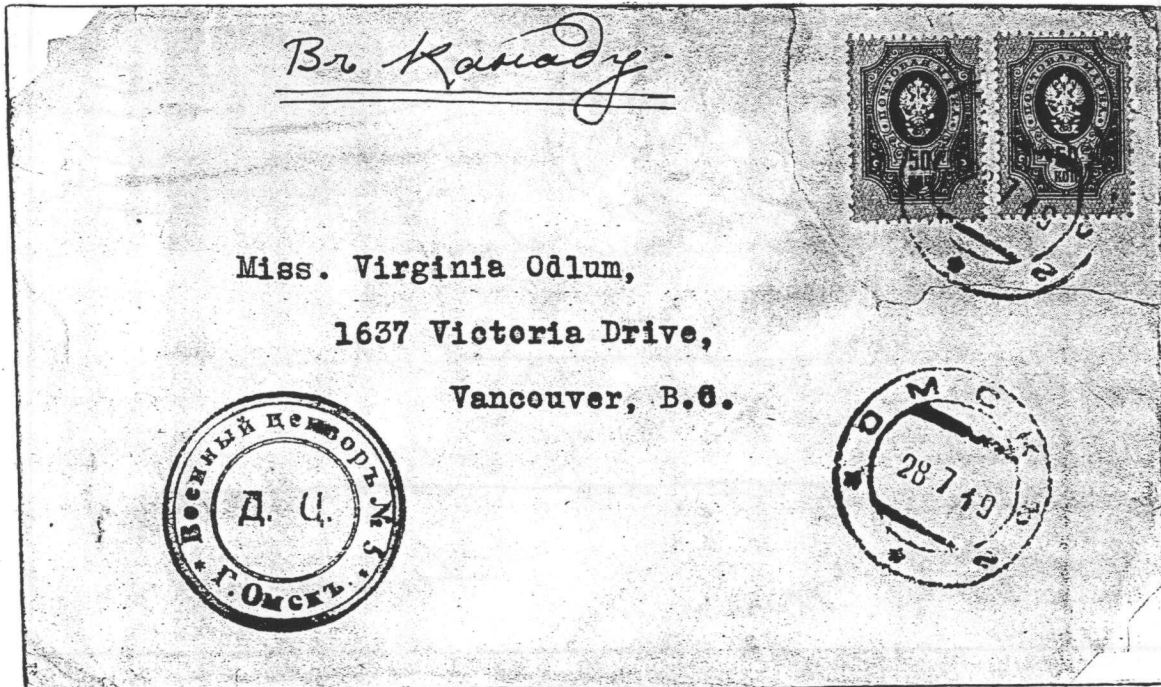


C.S.E.F. 1919--By Colin Pomfret

Two items related to the Canadians in Siberia follow. The 1/MR 8/19 dated postcard bears a return address of "Rflmn. Coghlan, 259th Bn., C.E.F.(S)".



Although the C.E.F. Siberia troops had all returned to Canada in the previous month this cover, dated July 28, 1919, was probably mailed by a Canadian who had been seconded to the British Military Mission. It has a Omsk, Russia datestamp and a Postal Station No.5 Russian censor.

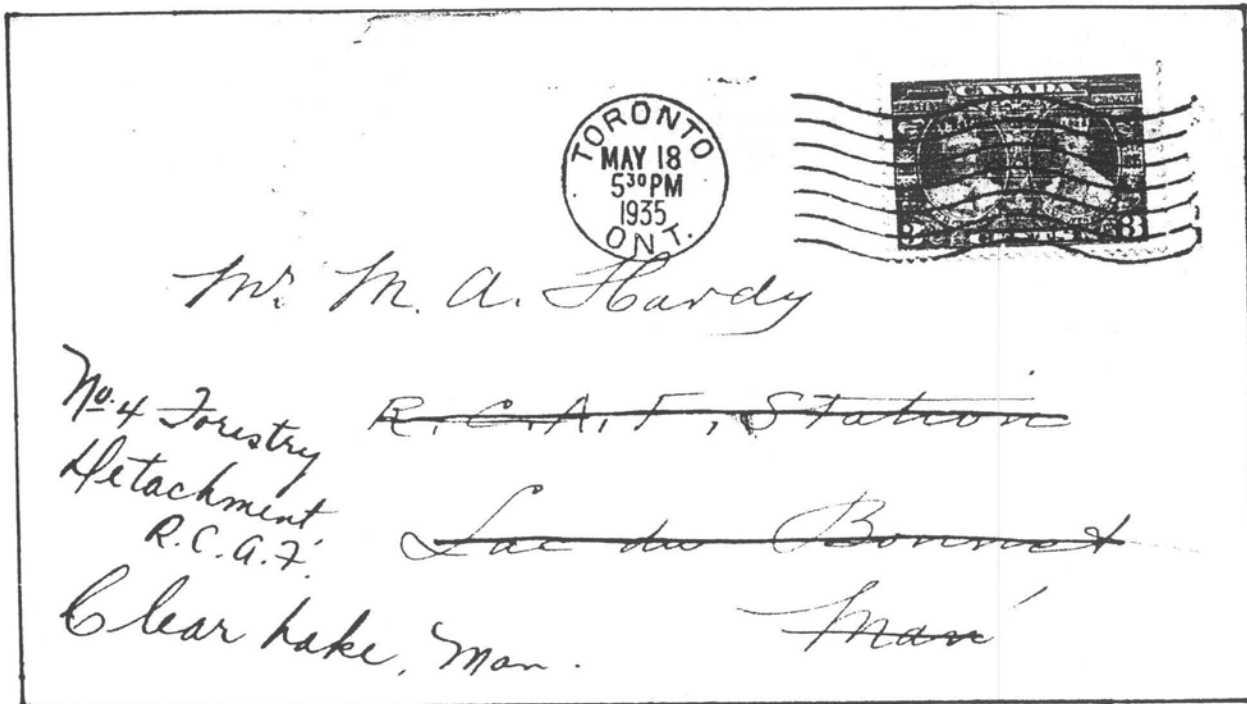
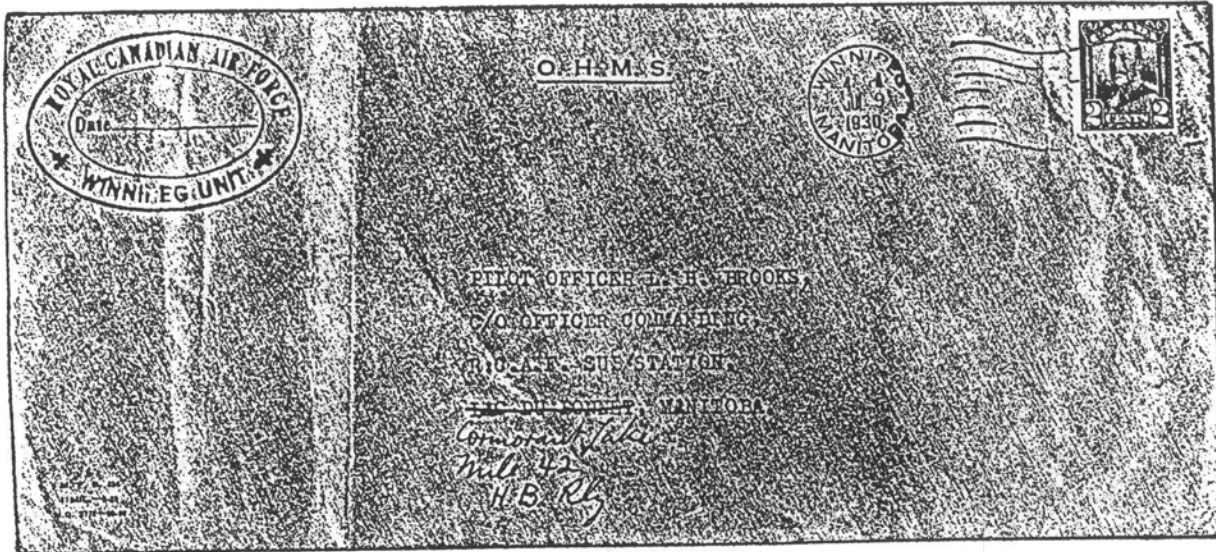


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R.C.A.F. FIRE PATROL, MANITOBA--By A.D. Hanes

Here are two covers from 1930 and 1935 related to the Fire Patrol Service of the R.C.A.F. The first was sent from the Winnipeg Unit, dated July 9, 1930 and was sent to a P/O L.H. Brooks at the Sub-Station at Lac Du Bonnet. It was redirected to "Cormorant Lake, Mile 42, H.B. Railway, Manitoba". [I regret the quality of the reduced copy as the original Dave had sent in was of the dark brown manila paper variety. Ed.]

The second cover, dated May 18, 1935, was also re-addressed. R.C.A.F. mail during the 1930's is very hard to find.



HIGH BATTLE EXHAUSTION FIGURES: A RESPONSE

Bob Toombs has kindly responded to Kim Dodwell's remarks and writes:

"Re: Kim Dodwell's query 'I wonder where this extra-ordinarily high figure comes from?' (p.787, NL#168, Jan.2005). This figure of 3,956 evacuations comes from The Canadian Military Atlas: The Nation's Battlefields From The French and Indian Wars to Kosovo, Mark Zuehlke (text) and C. Stuart Daniel (maps), Stoddart (2001), p.160. It was noted that: 'The December fighting cost 2,339 Canadian casualties, including 502 killed. There were also 3,956 evacuations for battle exhaustion and 1,617 for sickness, out of a total Canadian strength at the beginning of December of about 20,000'.

I discussed this high number (3,956 evacuations for battle exhaustion) briefly by telephone with Mark Zuehlke on February 19, 2005. His comments were that yes, the evacuation count was unusually high, but is correct [Bob's emphasis.Ed.] He is aware that such rates were lower for later in the war in Northwest Europe. His comments were noted:

- The troops were tired before reaching Ortona. They had a long steady push without much rest across Sicily and into the toe of Italy.
- The weather (wet and cold) made battlefield conditions very difficult to endure.
- The German resistance at Ortona was of very high strength and very prolonged. Such stiff resistance was not previously encountered by these Canadian soldiers.
- Some of the approaches to Ortona (eg. "The Gully") were very difficult to capture. Some Canadian senior staff officers did not handle battle tactics well initially in some instances. Morale suffered.
- In Ortona itself, savage house-to-house fighting took place. The Canadians were not well-trained to do this. Although such tactics were in British military manuals, the Canadians independently developed their own similar and successful methods .
- At the time of Ortona, battle exhaustion was not as well recognized or treated as was the case later in the war (eg. Northwest Europe, where intervention was successfully implemented to preclude battle exhaustion happening to such a degree)'.

Any error of understanding or transcription of notes made in very brief discussion with Mark Zuehlke are entirely mine. However, it is hoped that this helps to clarify the question of a high count for battle exhaustion evacuations (3,956) at Ortona--this count stands. Many of Kim's points mesh with the above".[Bob also sent along some copies from this book as further evidence. Thank you Bob. We'll end this discussion as it has been well-ventilated.Ed.]

READERS WRITE

From Bill Pekonen: "Are the members aware of these National Archives source records? The Department of National Defence records are organized under RG 24. Main Series available include (1) Canadian Army: C17, C3, C1, C13, and C4; (2) Navy: D1, D10, D12, D13, D15, D2, D20, D21, and D22; (3) Air Force: E1 and E7".

From Jerry Jarnick: "I have a 1942 cover from Saskatoon to a F/Sgt. G.E. Williams interned in Sweden which ties in with Dave Hanes' article (NL#168, pp.777-778). I was hoping he would be one of the crew members Dave researched but no such luck. I'm not sure how they handled neutral internment in World War II. My understanding of the current Geneva Convention is that if you went down in a neutral zone, you would be interned for the dur-

[Cont'd.]

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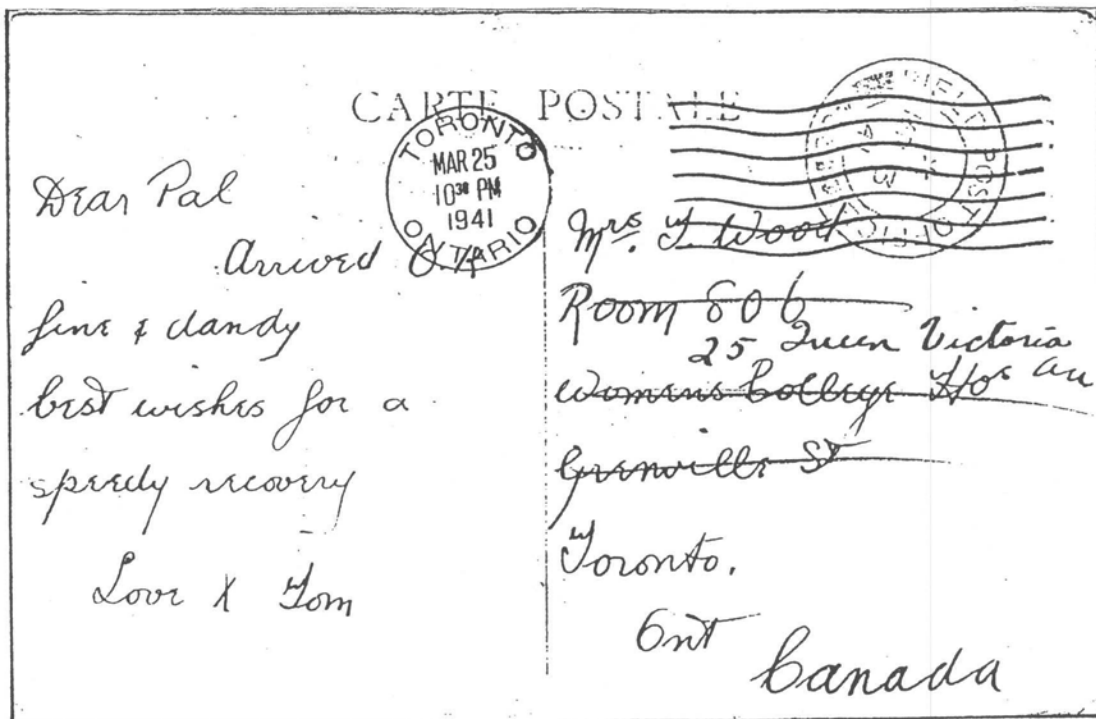
ation. But if you escaped from enemy imprisonment or enemy-held territory, you would be repatriated immediately" ..

THE SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIMENT--By Walter J. Veraart

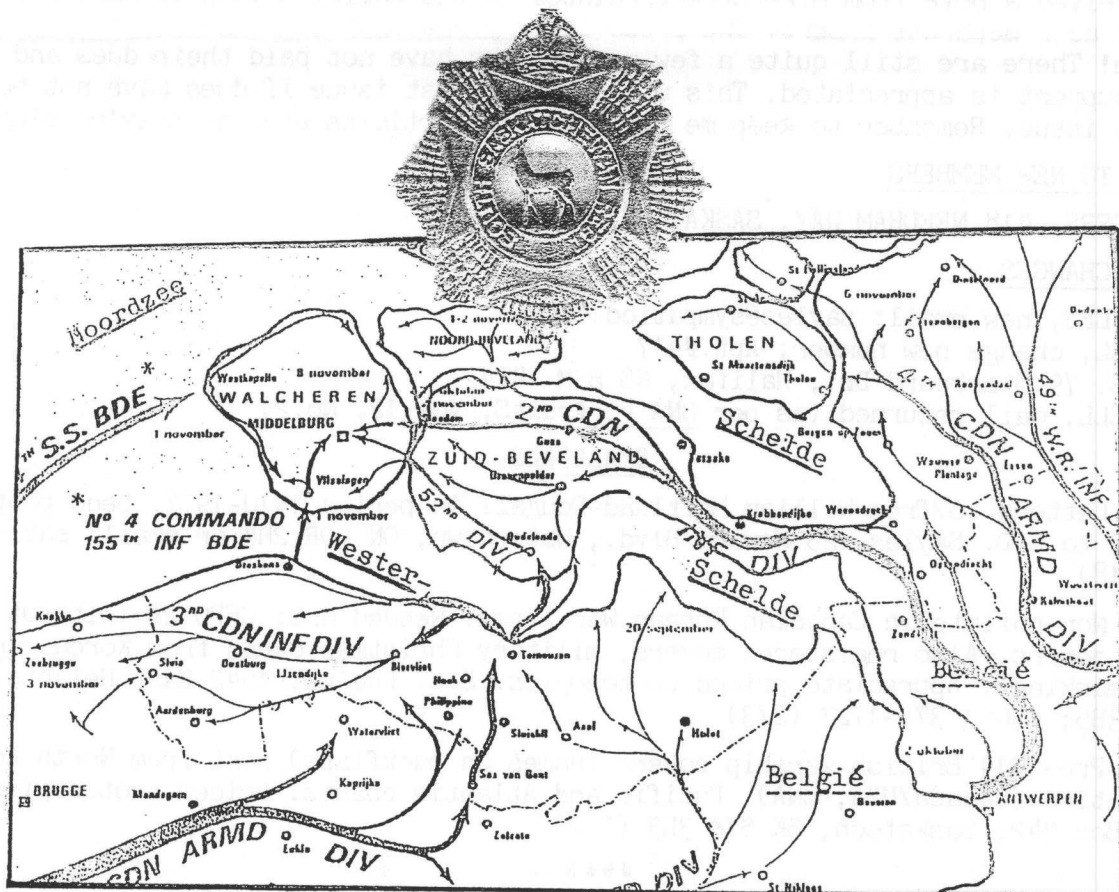
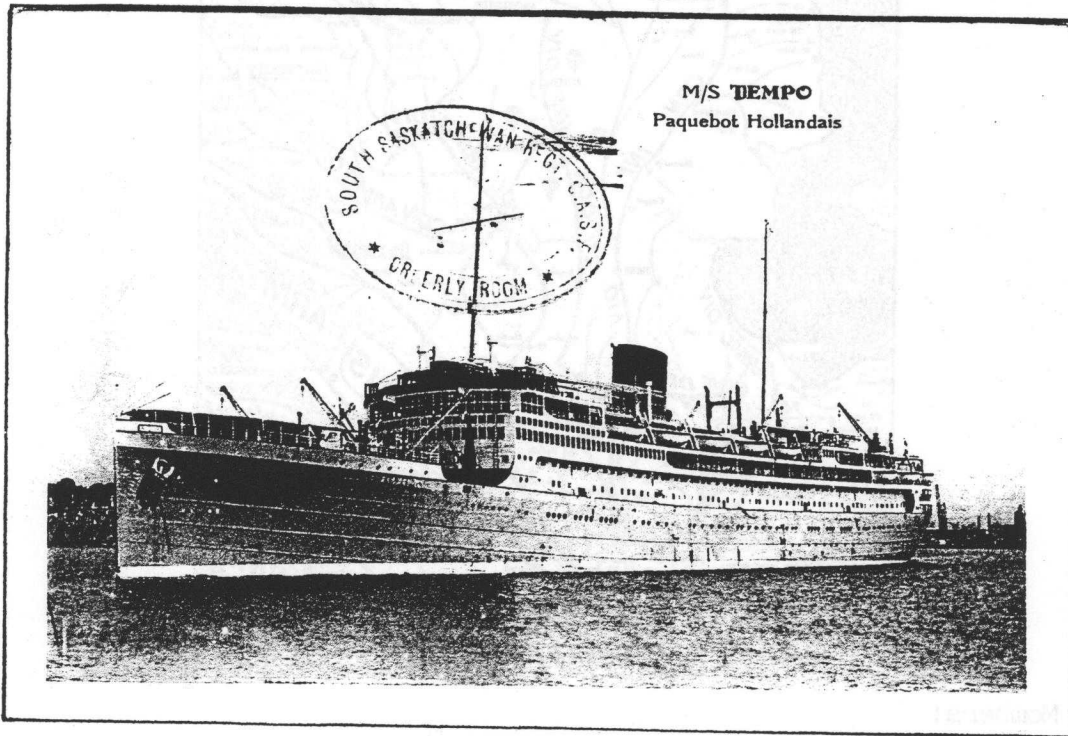
In the Great War the above regiment was named the 152nd Canadian Infantry Battalion. In the Second World War it was part of the Sixth Canadian Infantry Brigade, and supported the Second Canadian Infantry Division. This was a part of the Second Canadian Corps. The Regiment mobilized on September 1, 1939 and it embarked for the United Kingdom on December 14, 1940.

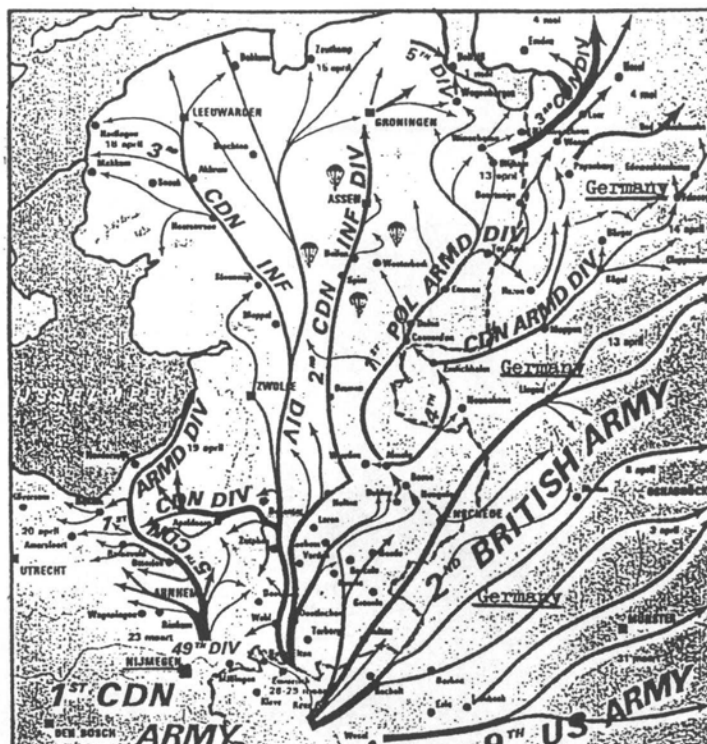
On August 19, 1942 the Regiment took part in the Dieppe Raid and it landed in Normandy with the Second Canadian Infantry Division on July 8, 1944. It fought in France from July 8, 1944 to August 9, 1944 at Bourguebus Ridge, Falaise, St. Omer, Dunkirk, The Laison, Foret De La Londe. In Belgium, it saw action at Antwerp-Turnhout Canal, as well as at The Scheldt, Netherlands, Woensdrecht, South-Beveland, and Walcheren. It was at Nijmegen, Maas Area from October 24, 1944 to February 7, 1945. It continued via Germany's Hochwald, Xanten, and over the Rhine from March 8 to March 15, 1945. It continued to Northeast Netherlands via the cities of Zutphen, Deventer and Groningen. The Regiment was in Oldenburg, North Germany from April 4 to June 3, 1945. After the War from June to October 1945, it was located in Deventer, The Netherlands.

Here is a postcard with FPO 436 (FPO C6) dated March 3, 1941. Two maps and the Regiment's military cap badge follow.



[Cont'd.]





Dear CMMSG Members:

Here is another issue with the hopes that "spring has sprung" in your part of the world. I have received a note from Mike Street related to the Bailey & Toop volumes and it has been included as a separate insert. The price is very reasonable and no library should be without them! There are still quite a few members who have not paid their dues and their continued support is appreciated. This will be your last issue if dues have not been paid by the next issue. Remember to keep me supplied with articles etc. as they're always needed.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

JOHN ROGERS, 418 NEEDHAM WAY, SASKATOON, SK S7M 4X7

ADDRESS CHANGES

DOUG SAYLES, new email: sayles@sympatico.ca

G.M. HILL, change new number: Apt.#417

C. LUTES, 79 Starboard Dr., Halifax, NS B3M 4T4

S. BEDWELL, mail returned (as per BNA PortraitS, Vol.12, No.2)

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@sympatico.ca (17/18)

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: 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 (2/2)
