



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

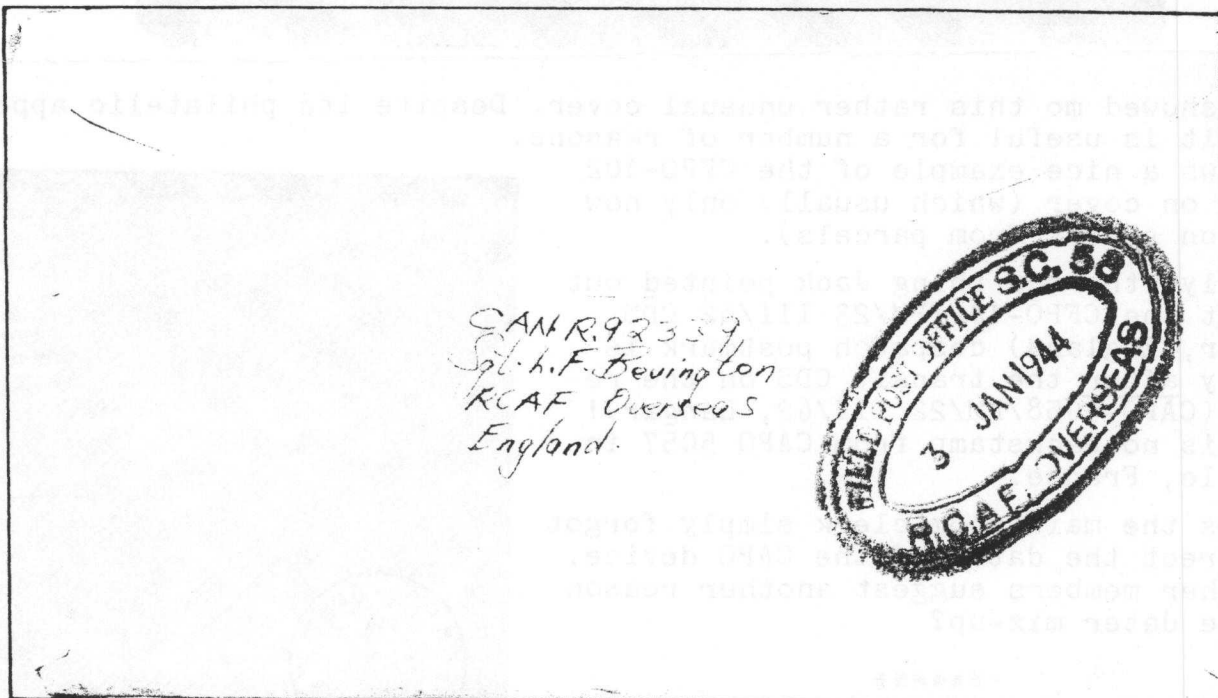
MAY 2005

NEWSLETTER NO. 170

Page 801

R.C.A.F. STN./FPO S.C. 58--By John Cheramy

[John sent in several orderly room markings and among them was the following combined FPO and O/R handstamp. It is one of the more unusual types. It is in black ink and is typical of the R.C.A.F. Sqn. markings noted by Dave Hanes (NL#134, pp.337-341) but it has the Field Post Office designation. The station was located in the U.K. at Durham, Middleton St. George from February 1943 until July 1945. Do we have any members in the group studying First and Second World War orderly room markings? Is this a group project for the future? Ed.]



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

Page 802

CFPO 102, LANGAR, ENGLAND TO MARVILLE--By J.C. Rogers



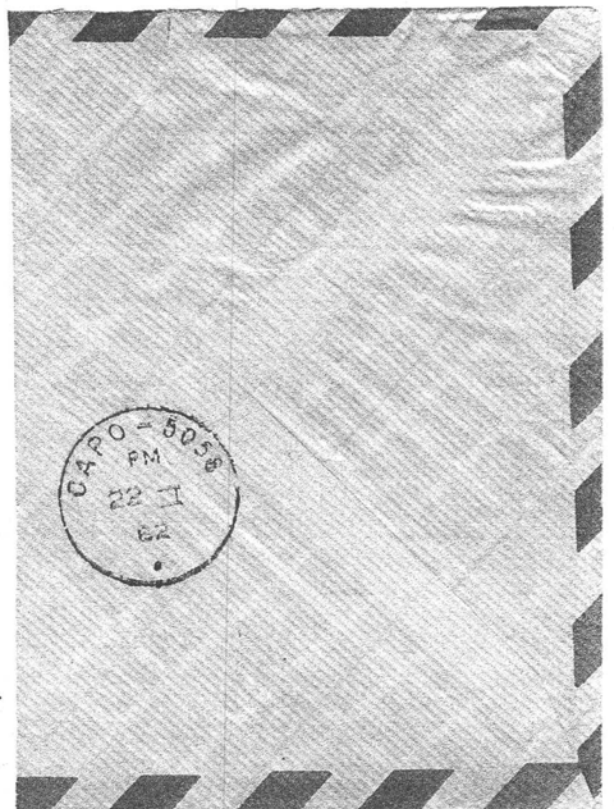
[Jack showed me this rather unusual cover. Despite its philatelic appearance, it is useful for a number of reasons. It shows a nice example of the CFPO-102 roller on cover (which usually only now exist on pieces from parcels).

Secondly, the odd thing Jack pointed out is that the CFPO-102/PM/23 III/62 CDS (Langar, England) despatch postmark is one day after the transit CDS on the reverse (CAPO-5058/PM/22 III/62, Langar)! There is no backstamp from CAPO 5057 in Marville, France.

Perhaps the mail room clerk simply forgot to correct the dater of the CAPO device. Can other members suggest another reason for the dater mix-up?

BNAPEX 2005-UPDATE

Although I don't have our meeting date or time yet for Edmonton, I can confirm that Steve Luciuk has kindly volunteered to do a programme. Given the venue, and the celebration of Alberta's centennial, Steve will be conducting an interesting slide show on Alberta's WWII P.O.W. Camps.



SWEDEN INTERNEE WILLIAMS--RE-VISITED--By P.R. Sanderson



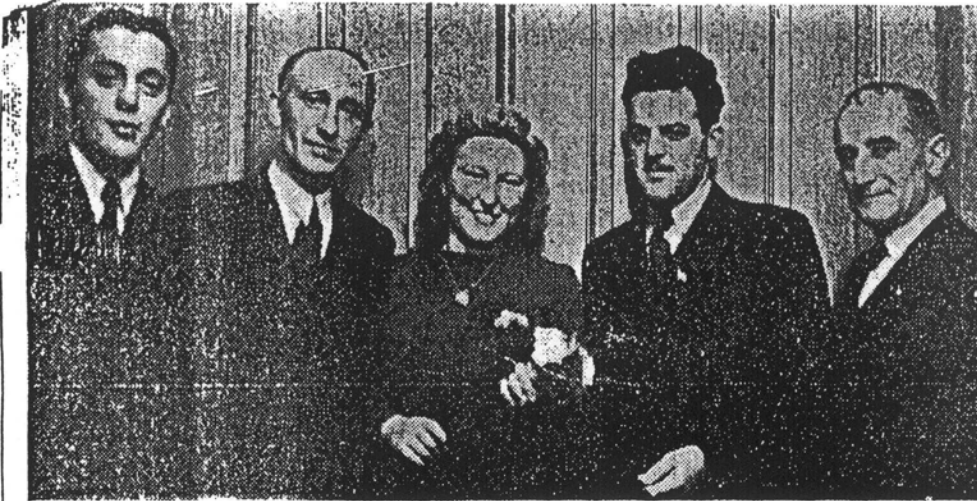
W. O. G. E. WILLIAMS of Saskatoon pictured here wearing the Distinguished Flying Medal which he received from the Governor-General at the investiture held at Rideau Hall, Ottawa, Tuesday afternoon. With Williams is his sister Lois, a member of the V.A.D., and his wife, Blanche Williams. The Saskatoon pilot won his D.F.M. in June this year, after completing a large number of sorties against enemy targets. He is now flying transport planes for the R.C.A.F. in Canada. He and his wife are at present living in Ottawa. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Williams, live at 1202 Thirteenth Street, east.

On Williams' last bombing raid, July 3, 1942, his plane was severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire and it crashed into the sea only a few hundred yards from the coast of Sweden. Severely injured and suffering from burns, Williams, the only member of the crew rescued, spent three months in a Swedish hospital and more months in an internment camp before he was able to make his way back to England. He had been piloting bombers operating from England since June, 1941.

He has two brothers, Harry and Eddie, both serving with the R.C.A.F., and another sister, Ise, who lives at home.

—R.C.A.F. Photo.

[Pete writes: "I thought that a photocopy of a 1942 (AU 19) cover from #707 Albert Ave., Saskatoon to F/Sgt. G.E. Williams might be of further interest after I read Jerry Jarnick's letter in NL#169, p.797. I have no further information on Williams. The sender's address is the only information on the back of the cover." Given the local nature of the story, I did a bit of research at the Saskatoon Public Library and came up with the accompanying (undated) news clippings about Williams and his ordeal. Period Henderson's Directories were also checked and in 1942, the sender was a John W. Thurston. The 1939 volume lists George E. Williams as a clerk at Marshall-Wells (a local hardware and tool wholesaler). [Cont'd.]



Flt. Sgt. George E. Williams (second from right), and three of the four Swedish civilians who rowed out in a boat to rescue Flight Sergeant Williams when his burning bomber fell into the sea a few hundred yards off the coast of Sweden on July 3, 1942. From left to right they are: Sven Andersson, Askar Kristiansson and his daughter, Alna, Flight Sergeant Williams and Grp. Cpt. R. B. Maycock, British air attache at Stockholm. The fourth civilian, who was not present at the time the photo was taken, was Hans Andersson, a brother of Sven. The four civilians were honored for their rescue by a presentation to them of suitably engraved silver plates.

On Thursday morning Flight Sergeant Williams showed a Star-Phoenix reporter a pocketful of clippings from Swedish newspapers describing the crash of the aircraft in detail and, to the extent of columns, his own rescue and the funeral of his six comrades. The plane, hit in the petrol tank by anti-aircraft fire, was headed for the Swedish coast when a wing fell off and the bomber dropped into the sea. Williams was knocked out but came to under water. He remembers undoing his straps but not how he got out. His "Mae West" took him to the surface but his arm was broken and he was badly burned. The first intimation he had of his broken arm was when his rescuers grabbed him by the arms to drag him into the boat. In a description of the rescue carried in the "Oresunds Posten," Helsingborg, in its July 4 edition, Williams is quoted as exclaiming: "A my arm!" He spent two and one half months in a hospital recovering from his injuries.

After Eight Months Internment in Sweden, Flight Sergeant Williams Home Again Says He Was "Treated Like a King"

"They treated me like a king," said Flt. Sgt. George E. Williams, D.F.M., 26-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Williams, 1202 Thirteenth Street, while talking about the Swedish people during an interview this morning. He arrived in Saskatoon this week after spending about eight months in a Swedish hospital and internment camp after his Lancaster bomber was shot down off the coast of Sweden on July 3, 1942. He was in England before coming to Canada.

"At least 85 per cent of the Swedish people are pro-British," he said, "but Sweden is in a difficult

position and you have to be there to appreciate it. They have been very much afraid of what the Germans might do to them if they did not co-operate but now they are getting over that and acting more independently."

VISITED BY PRINCESS

Proof of the esteem in which British fliers are held in Sweden were the dozens of gifts of fruit, flowers, books and chocolates received by Flight Sergeant Williams while in the hospital at Helsingborg, many of the gifts accompanied by cards which read: "From friends in Helsingborg." A Swedish film star sent several gifts, but the highlight was a visit he received from Louise, Crown Princess of Sweden, a sister of Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Princess Louise brought him 200 American cigarettes, a real windfall in a country where cigarettes are stringently rationed, and six grapefruit, which the Swedes have not seen since the beginning of the war.

"I received so many flowers through one flower shop that finally the girls who worked in the

shop sent me flowers themselves with wishes for my speedy recovery," he said.

Though the food situation was pretty tight, the Swedish women were such good cooks that they could still prepare an excellent meal, he said. He spoke from first-hand experience, for he spent the last six weeks in Sweden with a Swedish family who treated him like one of their own sons. He added that other internees were also being boarded out with local families.

MANY GERMAN TROOPS

He said that he had seen many German troops in transit through Sweden to the Finnish and Russian fronts. The Germans took advantage of privileges afforded them for transport and kept enlarging the movements until they were shipping trainloads of men and munitions and Sweden was powerless to stop it, he stated.

Flight Sergeant Williams had little to add to previous stories of his rescue when his plane crashed at sea, by four Swedish civilians. He was the only survivor of the crew of seven men. The badly broken arm which he suffered in

the crash has lowered his medical category but will not keep him out of the air and he hopes to be attached to the R.C.A.F. training command in Canada.

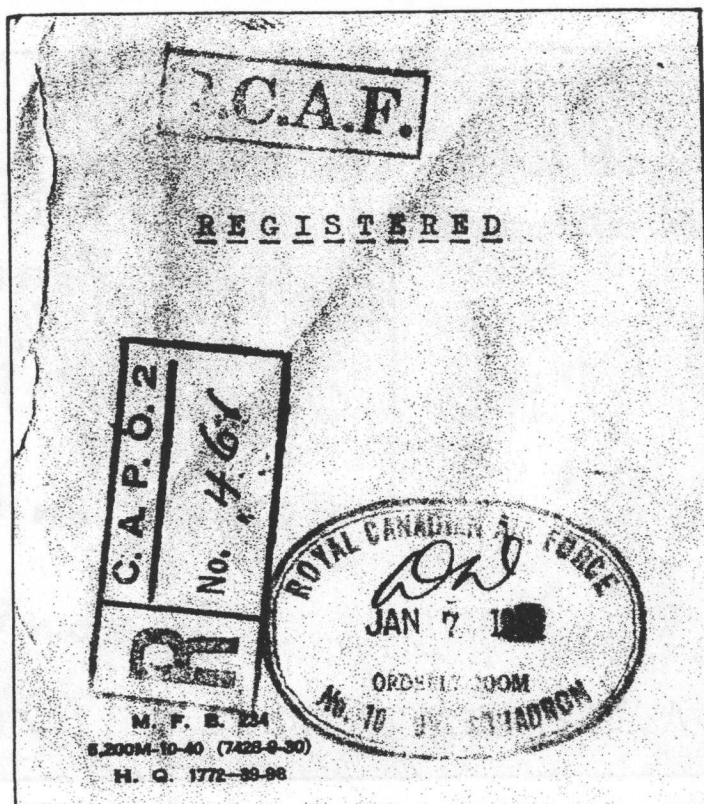
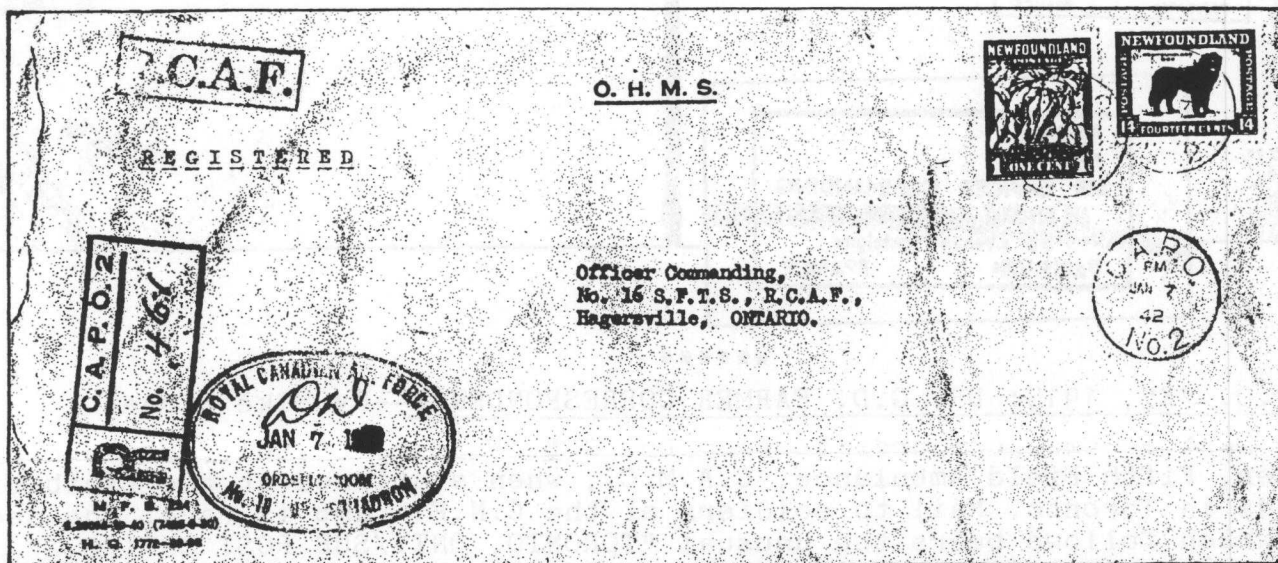
This morning he was busy sorting his many mementoes of his stay in Sweden and the collectors' items he had brought back from England. Prominent in the collection were three old English pistols, a rowing boat, a horse pistol and a pocket pistol and gifts of Swedish handicrafts. He will spend the rest of this month with his parents and probably leave for his new assignment in July.

His address was listed at #1202-13th St., Saskatoon. In the 1940 Henderson's he was noted as a clerk at Birney's Hardware. Williams was not listed in 1941 so presumably he had enlisted by that time. Ed.]

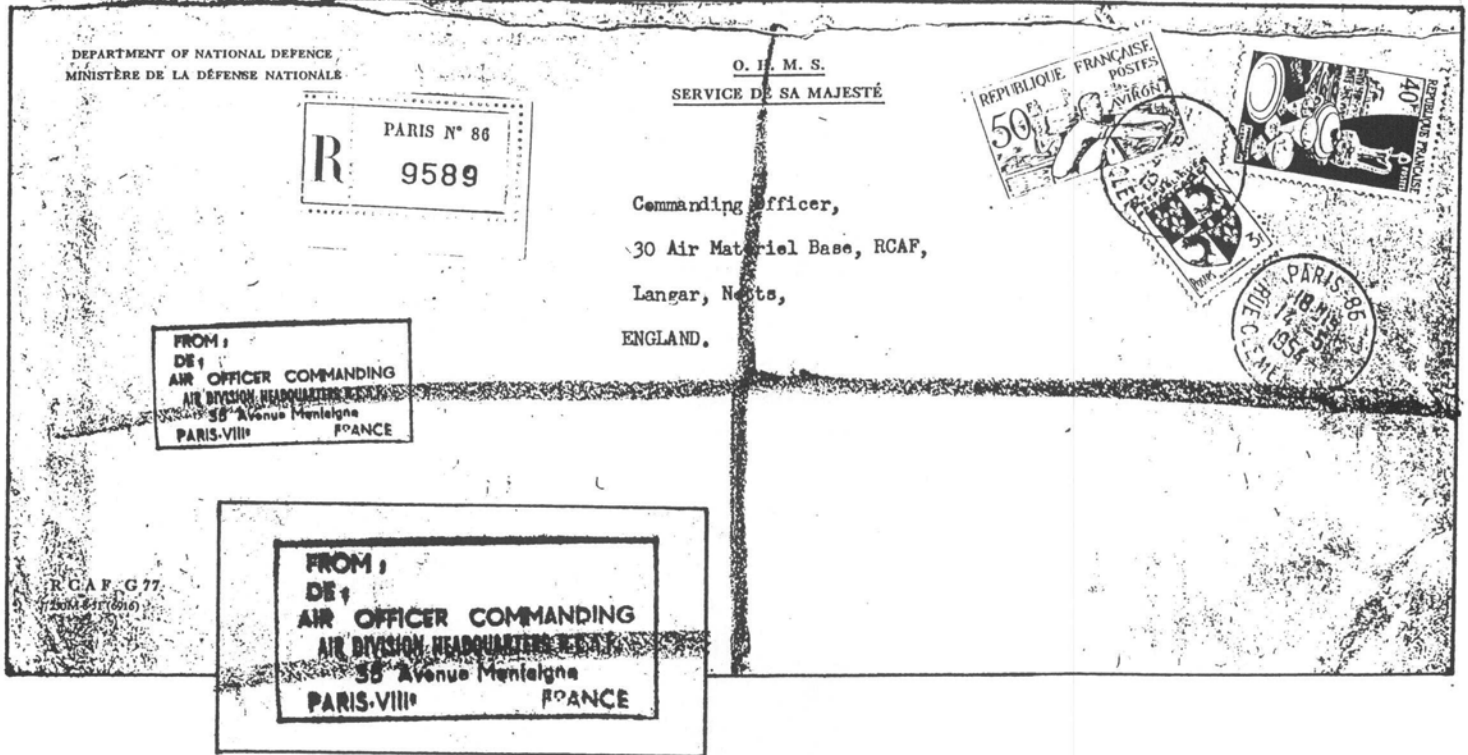
R.C.A.F. C.A.P.O.#2, 1942; AIR DIV. H.Q., PARIS, 1954--By A.D. Hanes

[Dave sent along these two covers (slightly reduced). The January 7, 1942 C.A.P.O.#2 cover is similar to a C.A.P.O.#1 cover seen in NL#159 (March 2003, pp.671-672). C.A.P.O.#2 was located at Gander, Newfoundland (1941-1945). Registered covers with R.C.A.F. orderly room markings are seldom-seen.

Dave included this rather large cover used with French stamps from the Air Officer Commanding, Air Division Headquarters, R.C.A.F. in Paris, France (May 14, 1954). Dave noted that the H.Q. moved to Metz, France prior to the date of this cover, but he presumes that there were staff still present in Paris. It is the first cover Dave has seen from the H.Q. in Paris.Ed.]

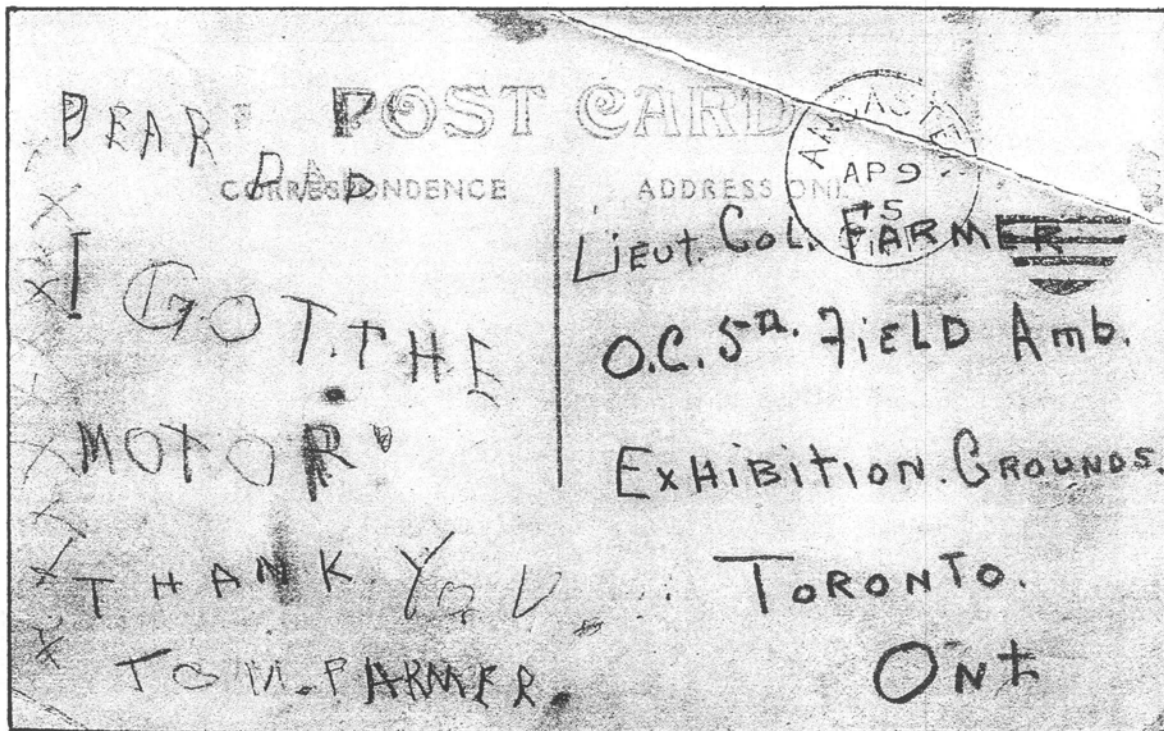


[Cont'd.]

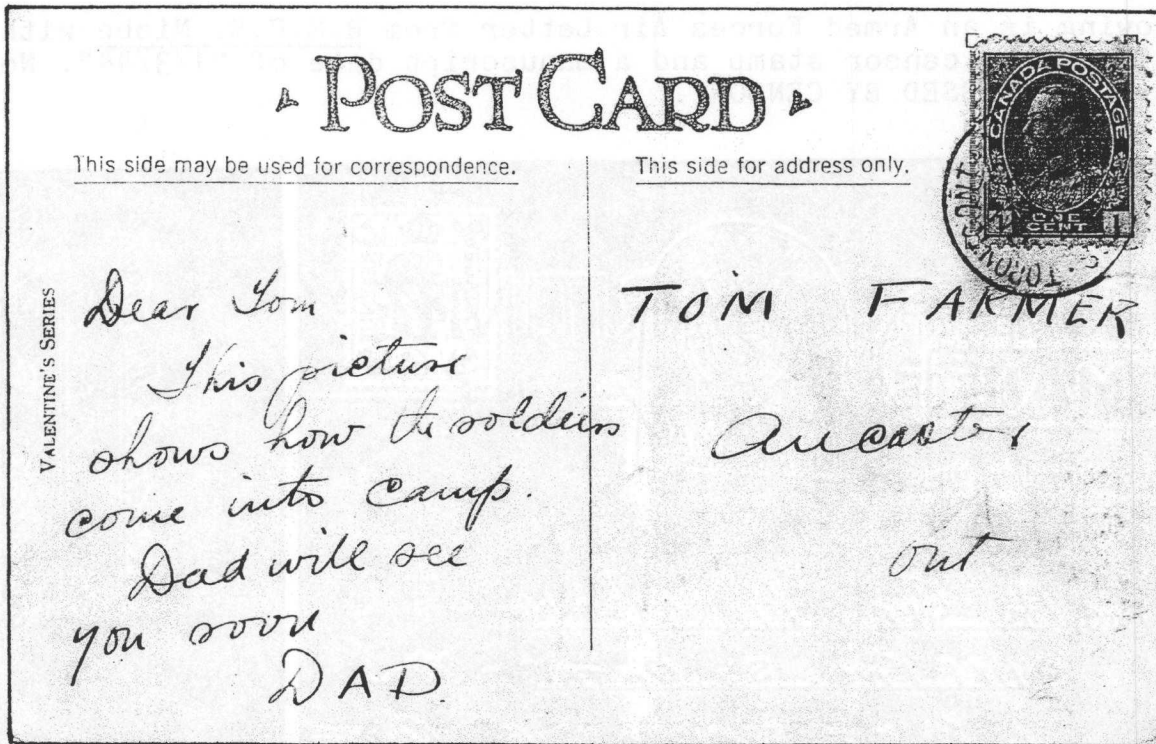


SUB P.O. "X", 1915: DR. G.D. FARMER CORRESPONDENCE--By Mike Street

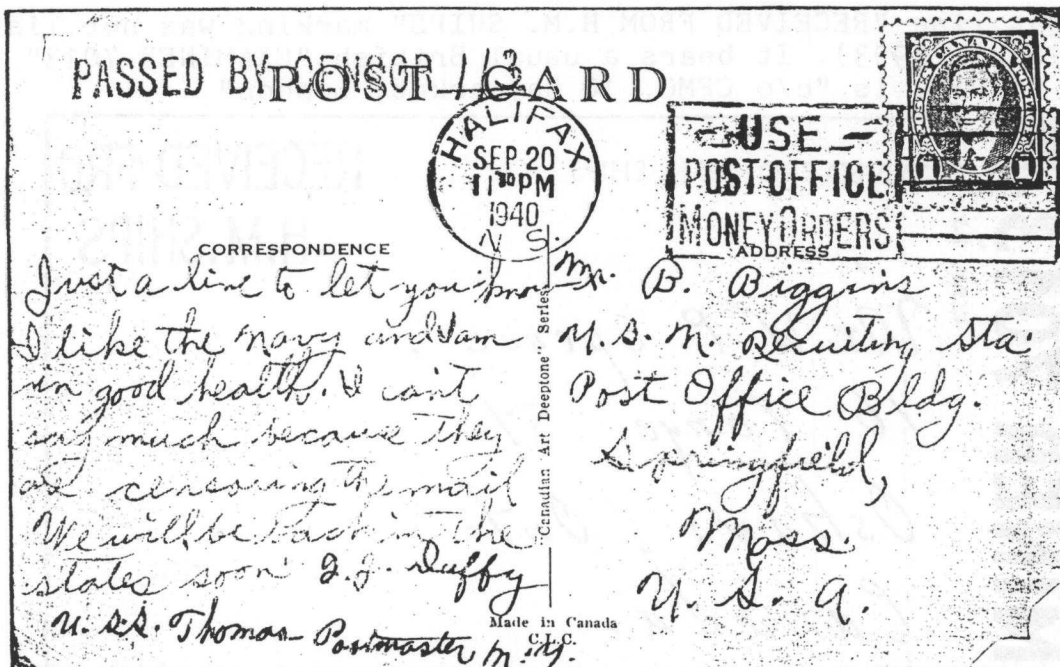
[Mike sent in two postcards to/from Dr. G.D. Farmer, Lt.Col., Commanding Officer, Fifth Field Ambulance, C.A.M.C., when stationed at the Exhibition Grounds in Toronto. Mail to soldiers at the C.N.E. Camp is rare. The second card which follows bears the unusual "TORONTO, ONT./SUB POST OFFICE X" postmark.Ed.]



[Cont'd.]



U.S.S. THOMAS, HALIFAX; H.M.C.S. NIOBE; CFMO, LONDON--By Colin Pomfret



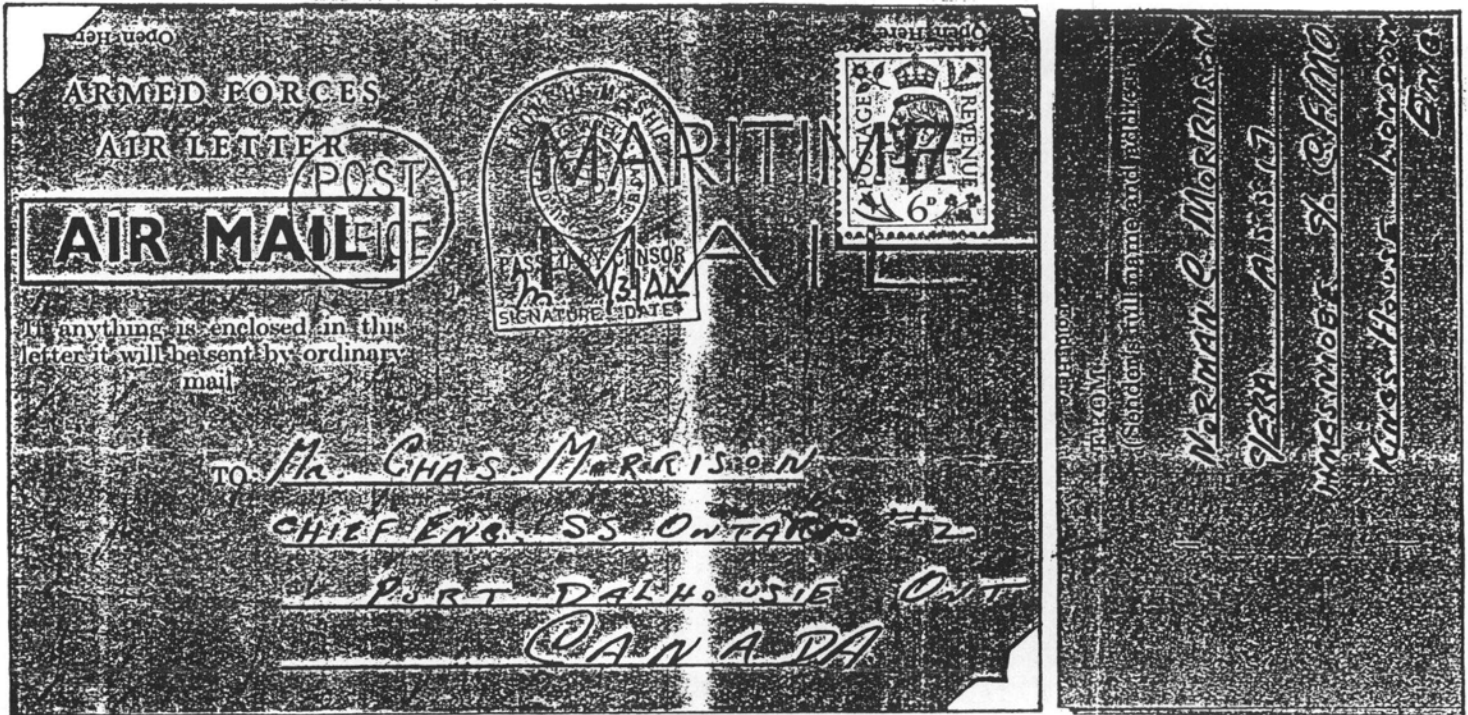
The above card is from the U.S.S. Thomas which arrived in Halifax on September 18, 1940. It was one of the fifty destroyers which the United States exchanged for British bases in the western hemisphere. The U.S.S. Thomas was commissioned in the Royal Navy on September 23, 1940, and renamed H.M.S. St. Albans. She sailed for the U.K. on September 29 with a Royal Navy crew.

[Cont'd.]

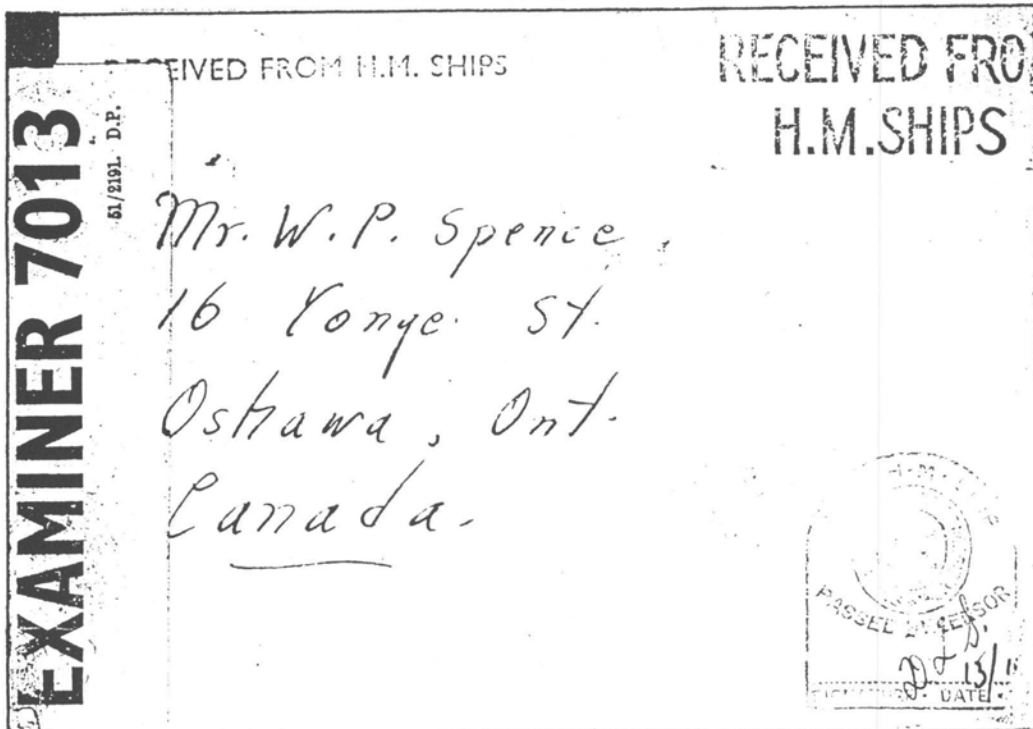
Page 808

On April 14 the St. Albans was transferred to the Royal Norwegian Navy and in March of 1943, joined the Western Local Escort Force based in Halifax.

The following is an Armed Forces Air Letter from H.M.C.S. Niobe with the British tombstone censor stamp and a manuscript date of "1/3/44". Note the straight line "PASSED BY CENSOR".

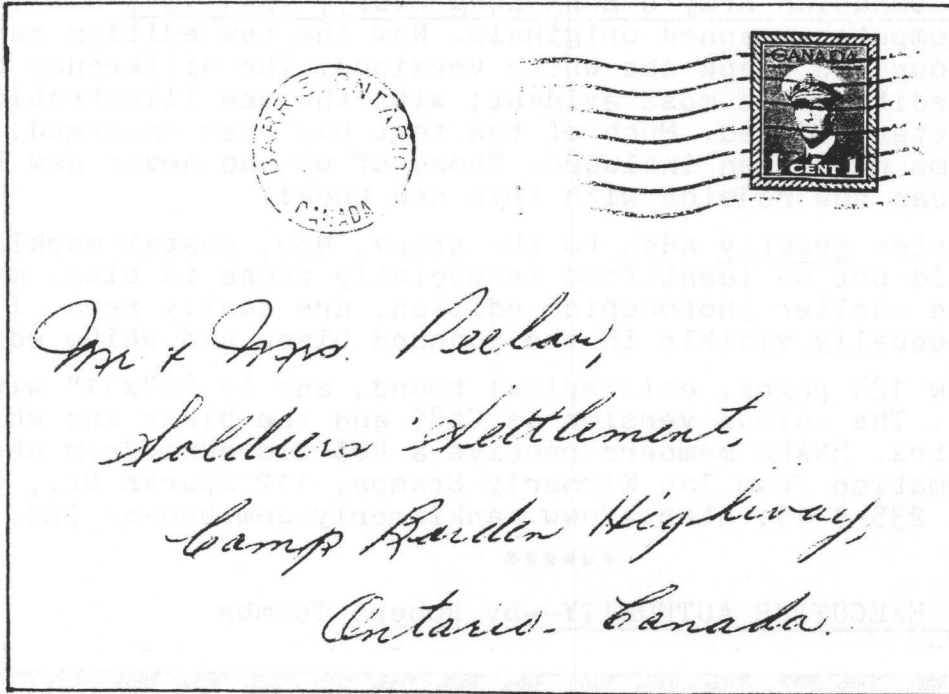


This straight line "RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS" marking was not listed in NL #91 (March-April 1993). It bears a usual British "EXAMINER 7013" tape and the return address is "c/o CFMO, 10 Haymarket, London".



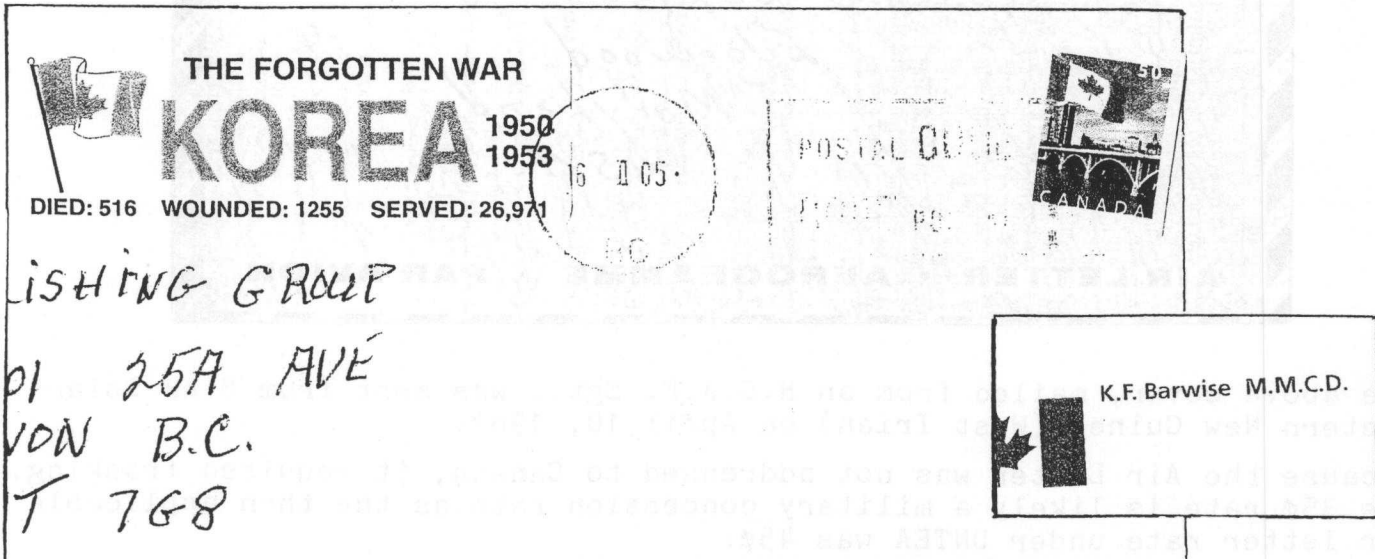
"SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT, CAMP BORDEN HIGHWAY"--By A.D. Hanes

This is a cover to Camp Borden Highway (Soldiers' Settlement) sent from Barrie, Ontario. No date [Printed Matter rate?Ed.] but there is a 1947 Christmas Seal on the reverse. It's a very unusual address.



KOREA REMEMBERED--By Ken Ellison

[Ken sent a cover with the red/white/blue sticker attached. I contacted the sender to enquire more about the interesting adhesive and was informed that the Kelowna Korean Veterans' Association Unit #50 gave them out a number of years ago but it was a one-time opportunity. I presume that other Units distributed them as well. The sender went to a local print shop and had more made up.Ed.]



Page 810

NEW EDITION: KEN ELLISON'S FORCE "C"

Members will be delighted to learn that an entirely new version of Ken's original 1998 Force "C" Exhibit Series book has recently been printed by the BNAPS Publications Committee.

Force "C": The Canadian Army's Hong Kong Story, 1941-1945 has been reprinted from quality computer-scanned originals. Now the new edition can be obtained in full colour and black and white versions. The difference between the 1998 and 2005 editions is most evident; with the new illustrations more legible and better defined. Much of the text has been enlarged, and several additional items have been included. Those of us who never saw Ken's exhibit in person can now rejoice with this new book!

The colour version greatly adds to the story. Now, postal markings which previously could not be identified (especially those in blue, magenta, or carmine) in the earlier photocopied edition, are easily seen. I presume that they are equally visible in the scanned black and white edition.

The book is now 128 pages, coil/spiral bound, and is 8½"x11" with sturdy plastic covers. The colour version is C\$89 and the black and white C\$33.95. Shipping is extra. BNAPS members receive a 40% discount from above prices. Ordering information from Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 112 Sparks St., Ottawa, ON K1P 5B6; (613) 235-9119; <http://www.iankimmerly.com/books/> [Ed.]

U.N. TEMPORARY EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY--By Robert Toombs



The above cover, mailed from an R.C.A.F. Sgt., was sent from Biak Island, Western New Guinea (West Irian) on April 10, 1963.

Because the Air Letter was not addressed to Canada, it required franking. The 35¢ rate is likely a military concession rate as the then applicable air letter rate under UNTEA was 45¢.

IN MEMORIAM: MAUREEN TOOP, BEN FERGUSON

TOOP, Maureen (Clark)

Maureen Toop, 78, beloved wife of the late Ewen Ritchards Toop, on Wednesday, April 27, 2005 at the Ottawa General Hospital, after a determined battle with cancer. Survived by her brother Michael Clark (Rosemary), sister Alice McCulloch (Robert), pre-deceased by sister Frances Carlin (the late Owen) all of Great Britain. Survived by step-daughter Lynne Kangas, Toop sisters and brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and many friends. Mo will be fondly remembered for her great interest in life, charity, humour and her "Guid Scot" spirit. Her family would like to thank the staff at the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre for their excellent care and extend a special thank you to her oncologist, Dr. Scott Laurie, for his never ending support, encouragement and affection. Friends may visit at the Central Chapel of Hulse, Playfair and McGarry, 315 McLeod Street, Ottawa, on Friday, April 29, 2005 from 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral mass will be held at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 1640 Heatherington Rd, Ottawa, on Saturday, April 30, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Private interment. In Memorium donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or to the charity of your choice.



[I am deeply saddened to report to members the sad passing of the above individuals. Doug Lingard sent along the item at left. Maureen Toop, widow of our former Study Group Chairman and Treasurer, E.R. "Ritch" Toop, was a keen supporter of our Group. I will always remember her kind assistance after Ritch had passed away. She kept the information flowing for us in a time of flux, and her support of BNAPS' and the PHSC's E.R. "Ritch" Toop Awards was always welcomed.

Sadly Ben Ferguson, former Editor and Live Auction Manager of the Forces Postal History Society, passed away on February 27 after a long illness. Ben edited the FPHS Newsletter from 1991-2002. He was always very helpful to me as a neophyte when I assumed the CMMSG Editor's job back in October 1995 (with NL#120--time does fly). He was the man to turn to with all things "British", or knew who to contact with my questions. His dedication to the study of military postal history will always be remembered. Ed.]

VANPEX 2005

**VANPEX 2005**

SALUTES THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WWII

November 11 — 13, 2005Executive Airport Hotel & Conference Centre
Richmond, British ColumbiaNational Philatelic Exhibition & Bourse
Presented by the British Columbia Philatelic Society

VANPEX 2005 will feature 188 frames and 31 dealers' bourse tables in a luxurious new venue. Exhibitors are invited to submit regional- or national-level exhibits on any subject. Exhibits with WWII themes especially welcome. \$2 a day, \$4 for the weekend.

- Free Seminars
- Specialists' Meetings
- Doorprizes
- Awards Banquet

VANPEX 2005 SCHEDULE

Friday, Nov. 11 — 12 noon to 8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 12 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 13 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Prospectus and entry forms available at
www.bcphilatelic.org

The B.C. Philatelic Society
Box 40, Grosvenor Building • 1040 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 4H1 • CANADA

For additional information, telephone 604-694-0014 or e-mail b.lingraham@shaw.ca

Page 812

Dear CMMSG Members:

Doug and I hope that members are enjoying their late spring/early summer! Many thanks to members (and non-members!) who have sent along information related to last issue's P.O.W. censor markings. It will take some time to compile everything but keep 'em coming! You'll see a new version of Ken Ellison's Force "C" Exhibit Series book reviewed and it is highly recommended. Details about our BNAPEX Study Group meeting are still unknown but members can view the BNAPS Website (www.bnaps.org) for updates. Thanks are extended to Steve Luciuk for volunteering to present the programme on Second World War Alberta P.O.W. Camps. Both Doug and I look forward to seeing many group members in attendance!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING EXHIBITORS (MILITARY)

Edmonton Spring National: JON JOHNSON (one-frame), "Canadian Military Hospitals at Sea"; Gold; Best One Frame Exhibit; Best BNA Postal History Exhibit (PHSC); E.R. "Ritch" Toop Memorial Award--Best Military-Related Exhibit (PHSC); JOHN ROGERS (one-frame), "United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF II), 1973-1979"; Silver-Bronze.

Ottawa ORAPEX: SUE SHEFFIELD (ten frames), "Inside Out: German Prisoner of War Camp 20, Gravenhurst, Ontario"; Vermeil; E.R. "Ritch" Toop Memorial Award--Best Military-Related Exhibit (PHSC); Ralph D. Mitchener Award; AAPE Best Presentation Pin; ANTHONY FULMES (two-frames), "Sierra Leone Postal Services on Operation Reptile Roto 7, June-December 2003"; Silver; Medal of Excellence, Post-1980 (APS), non-member.

ADDRESS CHANGES*

DR. J.R. FRANK, P.O. Box 1273, Saxonwold 2132, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa

(*Due to privacy issues, this will be the last notification printed in the newsletter unless specifically authorized by members).

SMALL ADS

Want something to buy/sell/trade? Small ads reach a specialized audience of collectors like yourself. Costs are minimal (and no G.S.T.!) and are only \$1 per insertion. Mint postage stamps accepted at face too (Canadian or equivalent). Copy/payment care of the Editor.

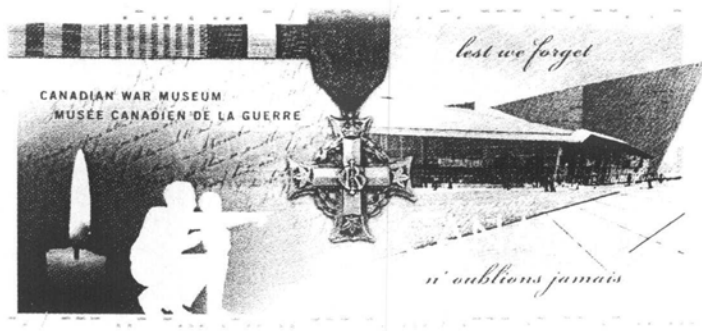
WANTED: Letters to/from William Maitland-Dougall in period 1910-1917. Send photocopy/price required to C.D. Sayles, 25 Howard Blvd., Waterdown, ON LOR 2H4 or email: sayles@sympatico.ca (18/18)

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 (3/3)

RECENT STAMP ISSUES FROM CANADA POST

BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

ISSUE DATE:
APRIL 29, 2005



CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM

ISSUE DATE:
MAY 6, 2005
