



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2005

NEWSLETTER NO. 171
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GREAT WAR NURSING SISTER MAIL--By Colin Pomfret

This re-directed cover to Nursing Sister Miss Bessie I. Beyer was sent from St. Catharines, Ontario on January 21, 1918.



It was sent to her at the Sick Sisters Hospital, St. Cloud, France and was finally directed to the Bank of Montreal, Cockspur St., London, England.

The Sick Sisters Hospital was a ward of No.8 Canadian General Hospital for ailing nursing sisters, and was located at St. Cloud (a suburb of Paris, France).

[Cont'd.]

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(sayles@sympatico.ca)

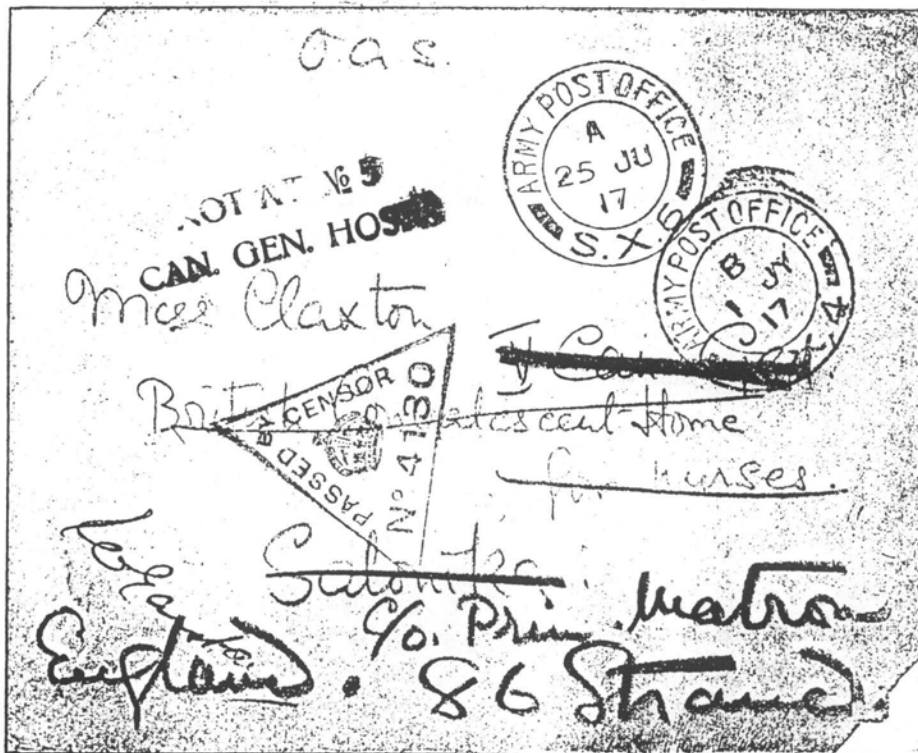
EDITOR: D. MARIO, POST OFFICE BOX 342, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3

A cover to Canadian N/S H.C. Claxton at the British Convalescent Home for Nurses follows. It bears the "APO S.X.6/25 JU 17" dater (Vertekop),

a "BAPO X/29 JU 17" (back stamp) from Salonika. It also has the "APO S.X.4/1 JY 17" of Kalamaria.

The cover was re-directed to "V Can. Gen." and was stamped there "NOT AT N^o 5/CAN. GEN. HOSP'L" [Fire brace #CAH 31.Ed.].

It was subsequently re-directed from there "c/o Prin. Matron/86 Strand/England".



The above card, postmarked "APO S.7/2 FE 18" of Marseilles, France, was self-censored by Nursing Sister F.A. Page who was a patient at a Nursing Sisters' Convalescent Home in Cannes. Several homes were opened on the French Riviera and offered hospitality to 327 sisters.

BAILEY & TOOP: UPDATES--By George Sawatzki

Reviewing some of my reference material, I came across a few older copies of The Three Penny Beaver. Of interest were the Canadian Forces Europe Postal Unit cancels.

Checking Vol.II of the Canadian Military Postal Markings by W.J. Bailey & E.R. Toop, I found a listing for the one cancel. On p.751 the following

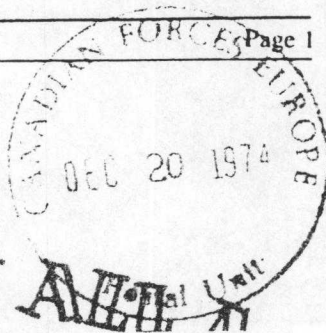
Penny Beaver  Canada Post / Postes Canada

information describes the one example at left:

Number: M21-138
Proofed: Unknown
Size: 38mm
Rarity Factor: D

December 1974

POST OFFICE
WE WISH YOU
A MERRY CHRISTMAS



The cancel below shows a bilingual centre hub which is not listed. This may be of interest to the Study Group members or any subsequent updates.

Le Trois Pence 

juin 1975



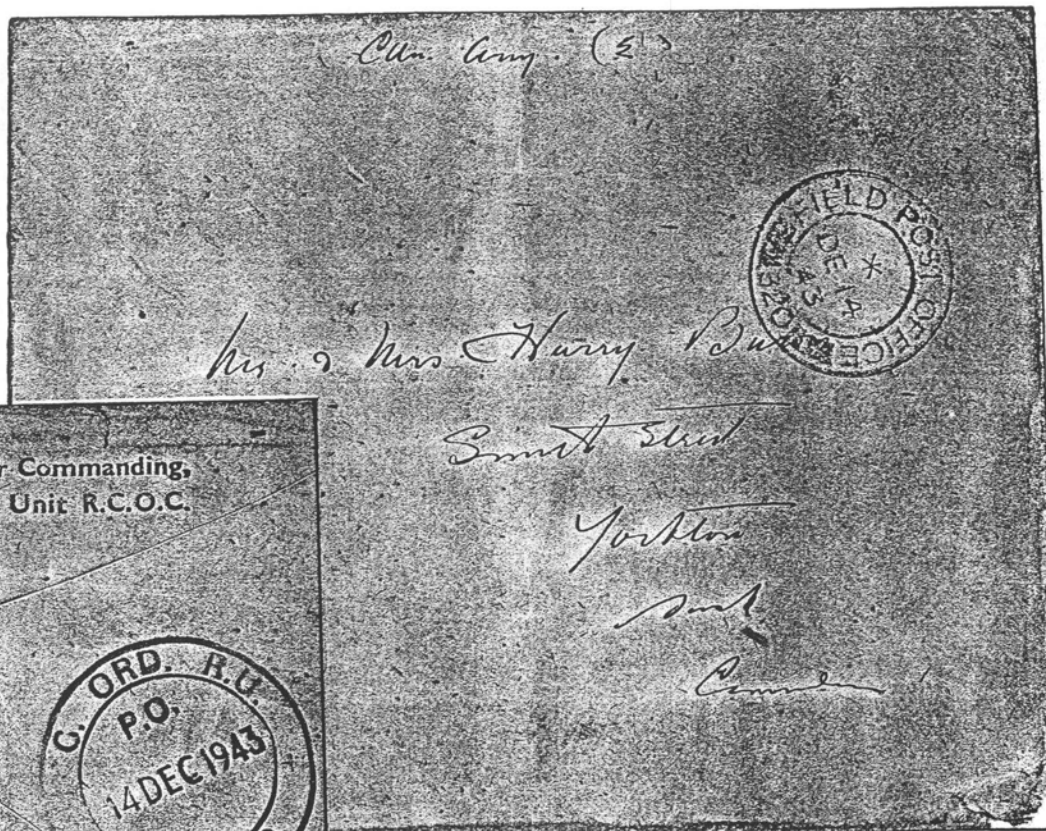
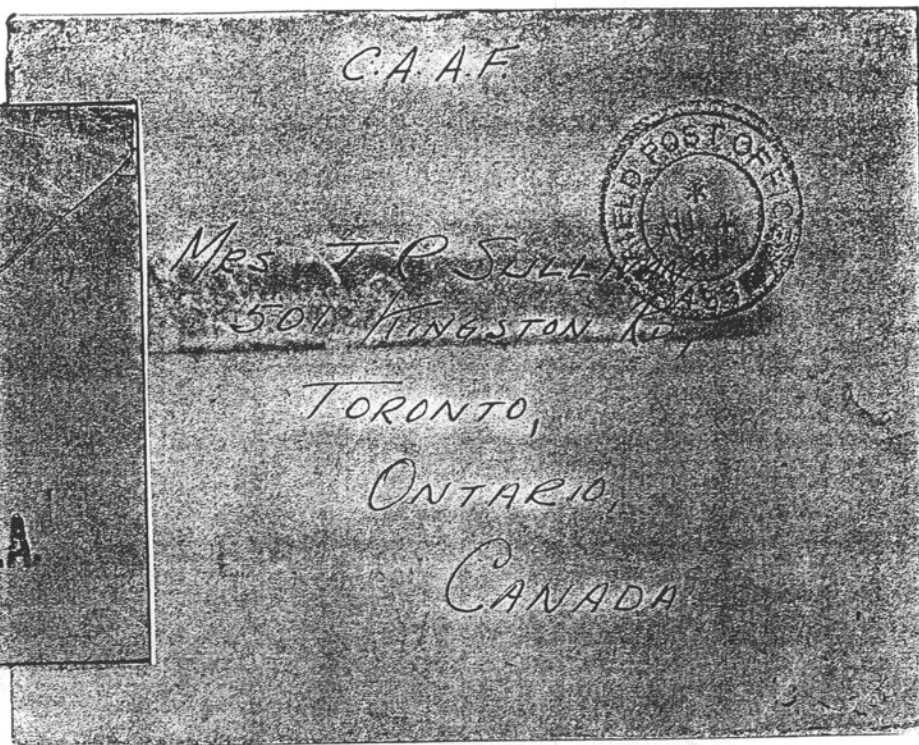
Elle réussit à atteindre son double ob-

The last Newsletter made me look through some of my Second World War material, and what follows are a couple of discoveries I made that may be worthwhile commenting on. Both of these covers seem to have some differences with the Bailey & Toop references (ie. Canadian Military Posts, Vol. II; and Canadian Military Postal Markings, Vol.II).

FPO 453: Dated AU 4/41 (1 Cdn. Corps Supply Point). Issued 18.7.40. At the U.K. (5.8.41)-(6.12.41) and (30.3.43)-(21.10.43). From Gnr. T.R. Sullivan, D-10911, F.S. Bty. (Flash Spotting Battery), 1 Survey Regt., RCA. It bears a purple 6.5mmx65mm "1 SURVEY REGT. R.C.A." Orderly Room marking. Cancel Type: D1; Cancel No.: M15-141. In this case, the "AU 4/41" date indicated on the cover suggests an earlier first used date than that noted in Bailey & Toop.

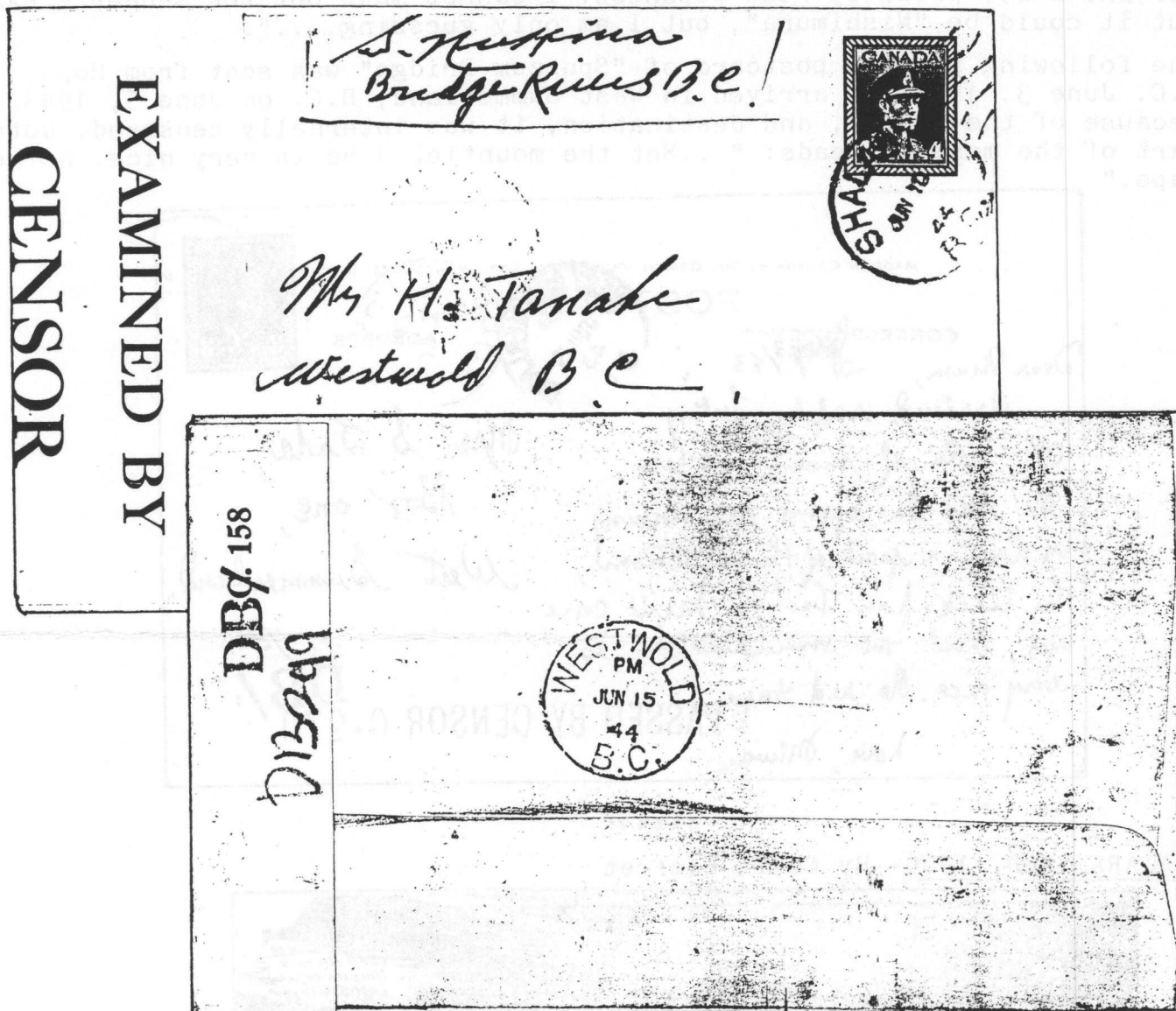
FPO 320: Dated DE 14/43 (HQ, Canadian Reinforcement Units, Borden, Hants). The history of hammer D1 is noted in Canadian Military Posts, Vol.II as: "Issued 30.6.40. Returned for repair 26.11.43 and re-issued 2.2.44, returned 4.2.46". The reverse of the cover bears two purple Orderly Room/Commanding Officer markings. The FPO 320 date of "DE 14/43" would suggest that the hammer was used while it was being repaired.

[Cont'd.]



SECOND WORLD WAR CIVIL-CENSORED--By J.C. Campbell

[Although the following cover is not, technically, military in nature, it does provide some interesting insights into the special case of Japanese



residents in Canada.Ed.]

Shalath, British Columbia is on the north shore of Seton Lake, a few miles west of Lillooet. The cover, dated June 10, 1944 was sent from "S.Nuffiwa? of Bridge River, B.C." to a "Mr. H. Tanabe, Westwold, B.C.". A letter, in Japanese, was enclosed which I forwarded to specialist William E. Topping in the hopes that he might be able to translate. He kindly wrote: "At last I have a translation of the letter. There is modern Japanese, pre-war Japanese, and Samari (turn-of-the-century Japanese) which is no longer used. It is written in the latter, which may account for the double censor markings. The letter...confirms what I had expected, that Mr. Tanabe owned an orchard near Westwold, and he employed Japanese to help with the work.

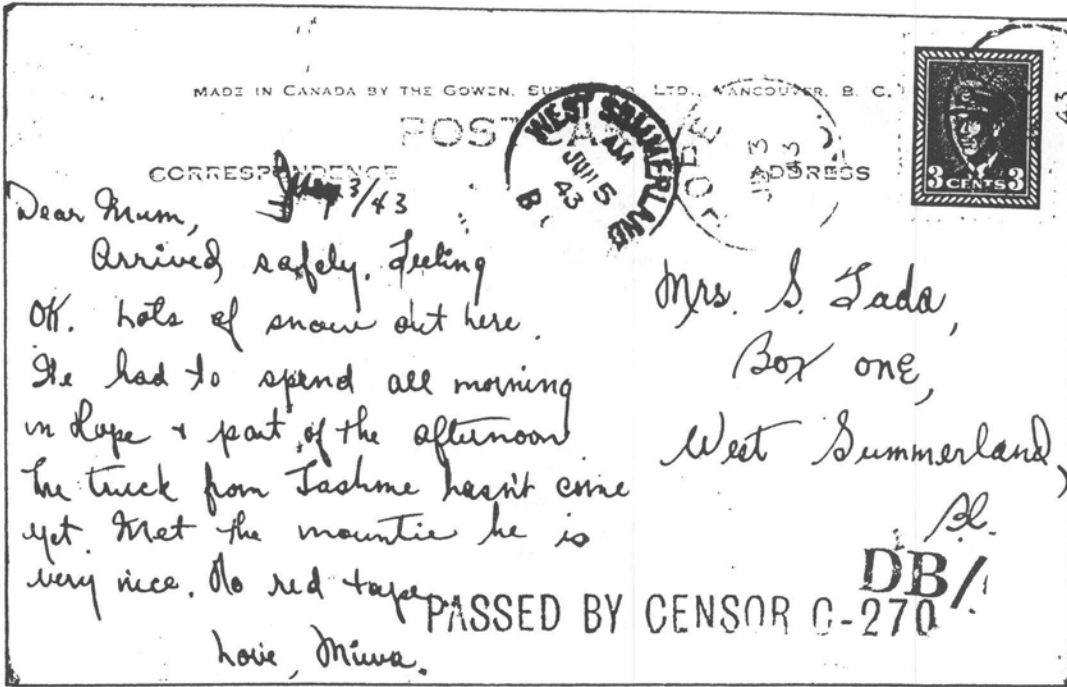
The cover itself is from the Shalath/Bridge River settlement which was a group of Japanese, mainly from the Vancouver Island logging area, who moved

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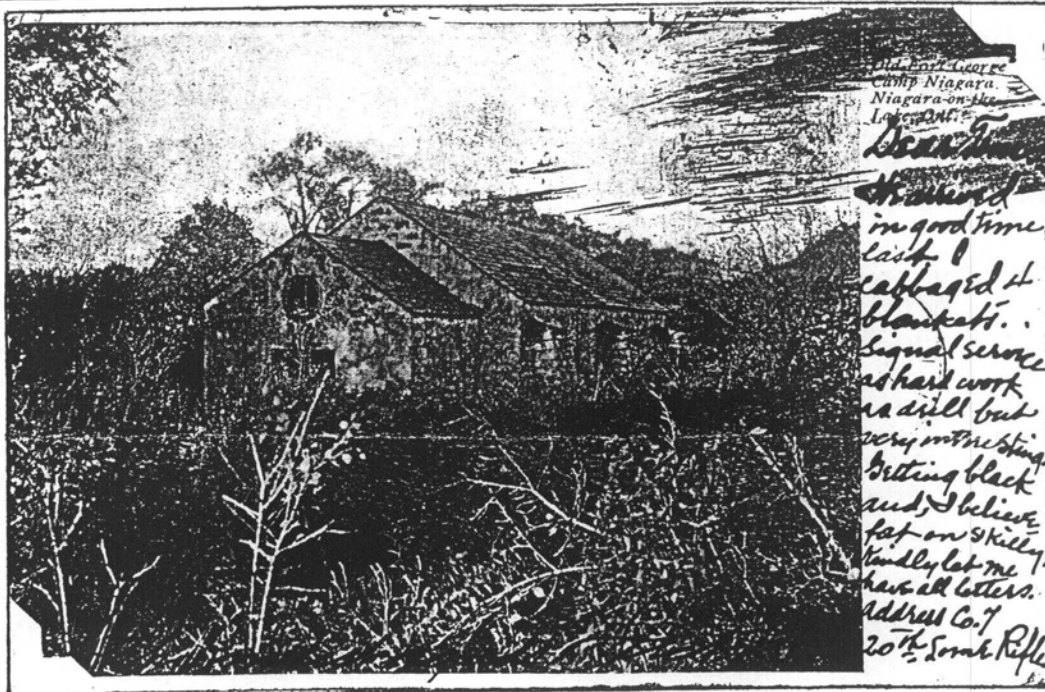
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on their own and took over the Bridge River mining camp. They appear to have had money as most of the mail from Bridge River is addressed to top-end stores in Vancouver. Both censorship markings were applied in Vancouver and DB299 probably read Japanese. I cannot make out the sender's name but it could be "Nishimura", but I am only guessing....".

The following picture postcard of "Spuzzum Bridge" was sent from Hope, B.C. June 3, 1943 and arrived in West Summerland, B.C. on June 5, 1943. Because of the source, and destination, it was internally censored. Note part of the message reads: "...Met the mountie[,] he is very nice. No red tape."

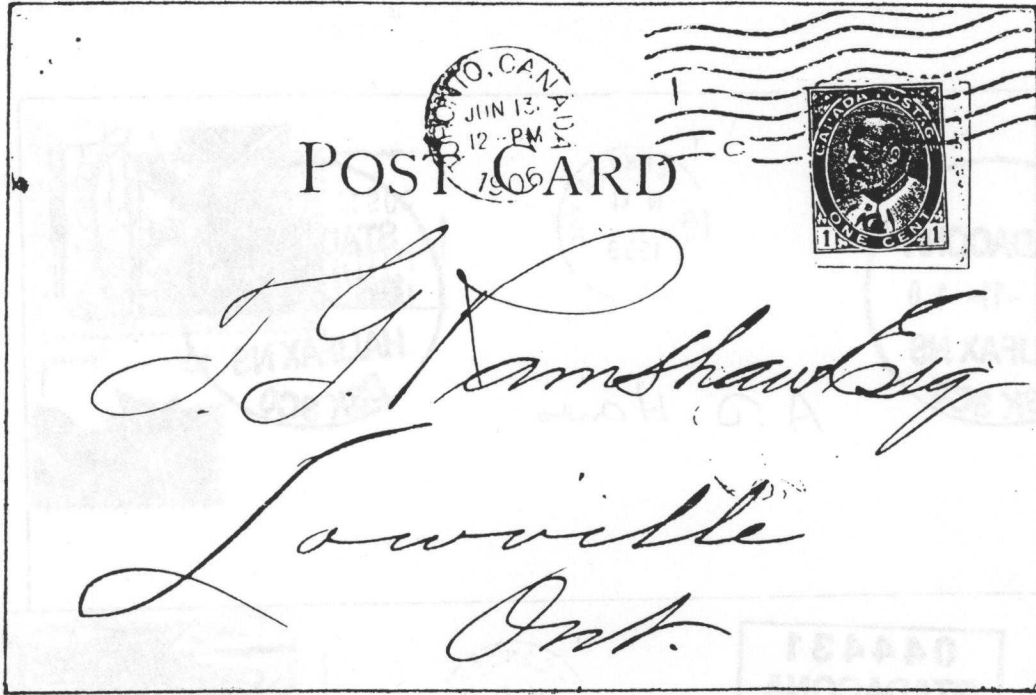


NIAGARA CAMP, 1906--By Colin Pomfret



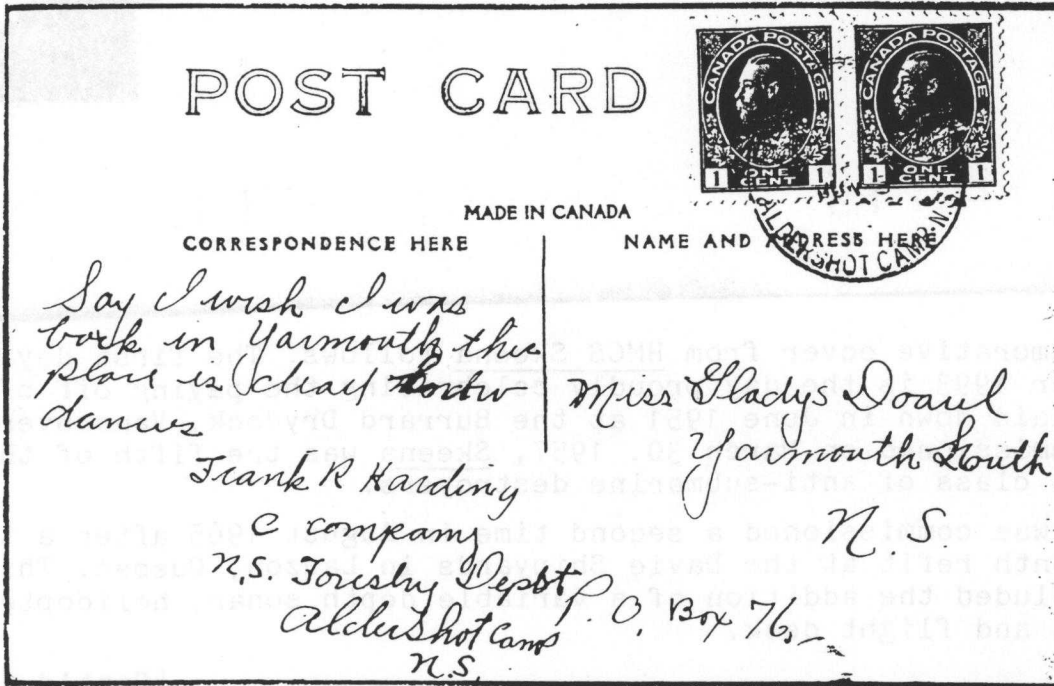
[Cont'd.]

The previous card was sent from "Jack" at Niagara Camp. He was with the 20th Lorne Rifles, Company 7. The 7th Company was headquartered at Milton, Ontario. Note the card was posted from Toronto, so it may have been taken there by steamer.



ALDERSHOT CAMP, 1917--By James Felton

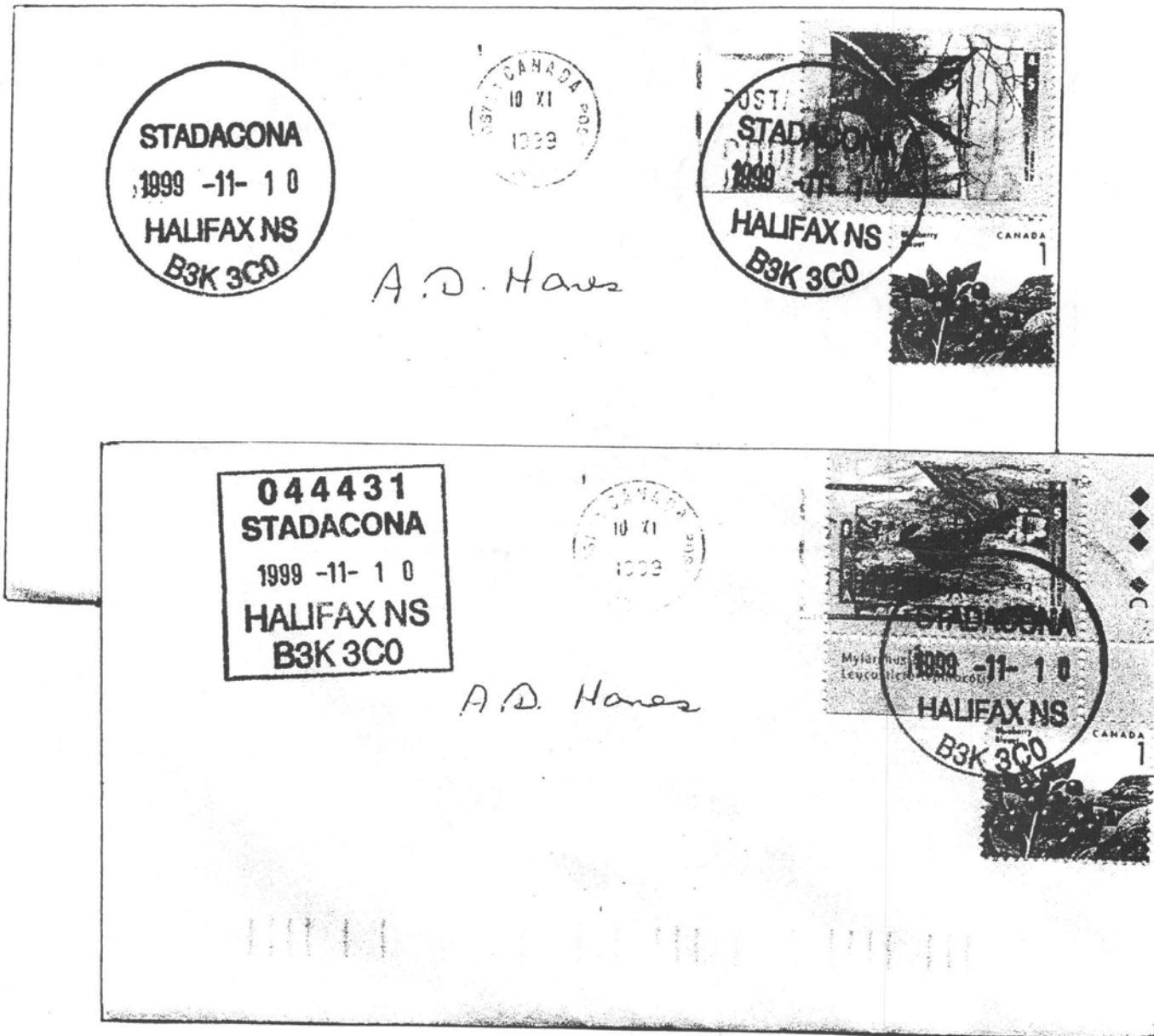
This card, believed to be dated from June 1917, shows an interesting unit: the "Nova Scotia Forestry Depot". [According to J.C. Hopkins' Canada at War (1919), by July 1918, 40 Forestry Companies were working in Great Britain and 60 in France, with a total of 30,000 men employed who delivered 100,000,000 feet of lumber in France by that date! P.191.Ed.]



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STADACONA AND HMCS SKEENA--By A.D. Hanes

Although the square POCON from Stadacona has been in use some time before 1999, the round postmark is relatively a newer cancellation type.



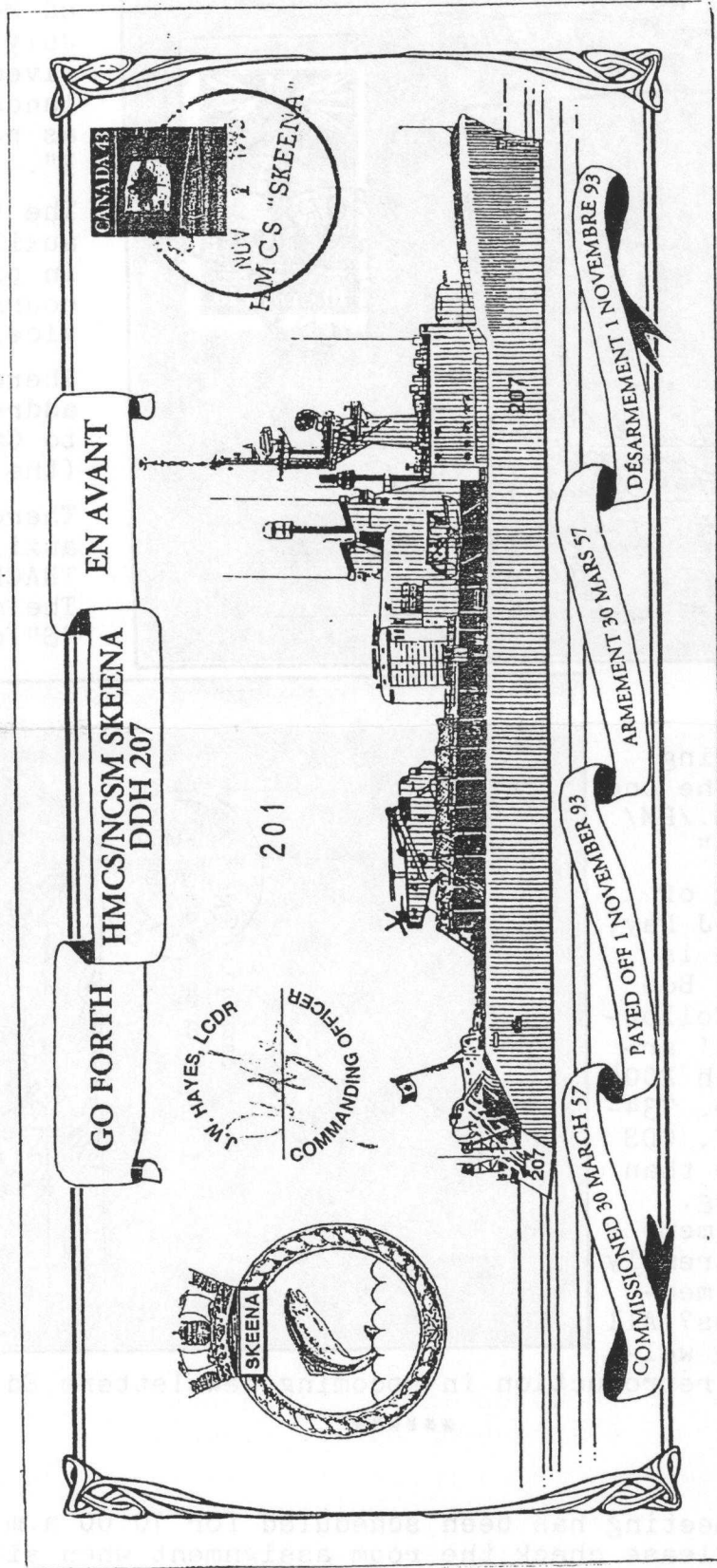
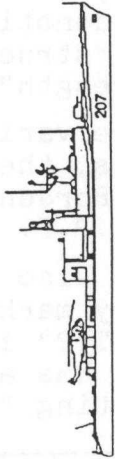
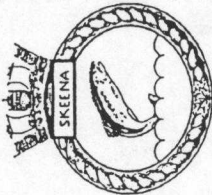
A commemorative cover from HMCS Skeena follows. The first day of November 1993 is the day proudly celebrating the paying off of the ship. Laid down in June 1951 at the Burrard Drydock, Vancouver, B.C. and commissioned on March 30, 1957, Skeena was the fifth of the St. Laurent class of anti-submarine destroyers.

Skeena was commissioned a second time in August 1965 after a thirteen-month refit at the Davie Shipyards in Lauzon, Quebec. This refit included the addition of a variable depth sonar, helicopter hangar, and flight deck.

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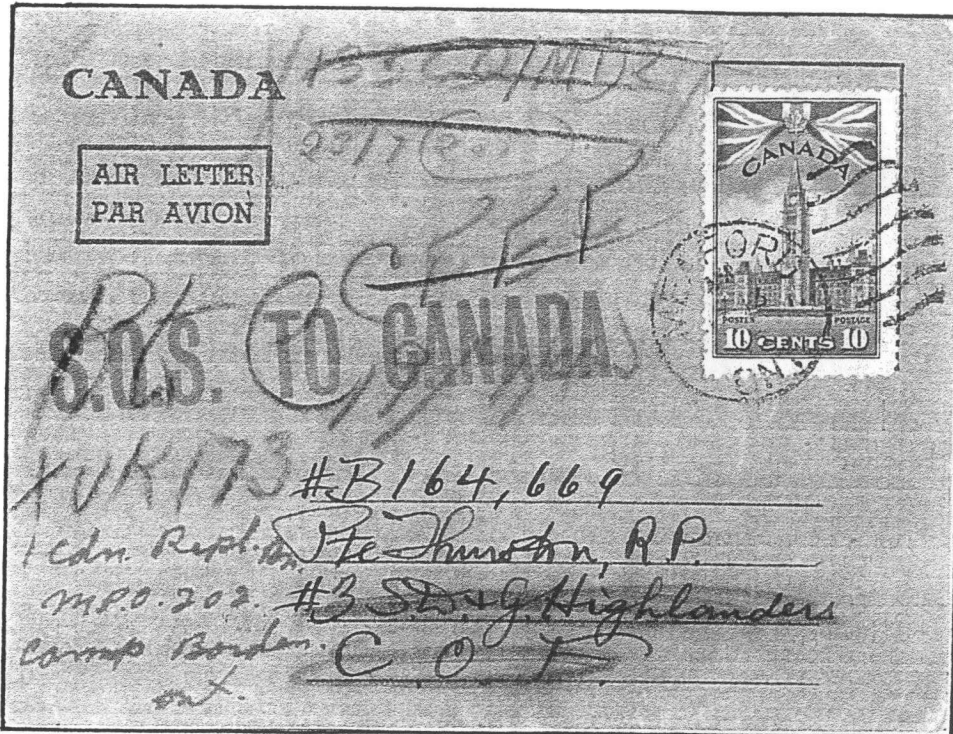
1957

HMCS / RUCAM
SKEENA
DDH 207



Some noteworthy events during her distinguished commission include experiencing a 57 degree roll during a Pacific storm in 1959; being the only Canadian ship to bombard the continental United States (accidentally during an exercise in the Straits of Juan de Fuca in 1962); and in 1991, Skeena fired the last mortar round in the Canadian Navy (as of 1993). The past thirty-six years have seen over 5,000 sailors sail more than 950,000 miles, showing the flag proudly from the Far East through the Americas and on to Europe. The watch has now been assumed by Canada's new frigates, so while we proudly recall Skeena's glorious past, we shall not let her be forgotten as she continues to "Go Forth".

THE CANADIAN ARMY PACIFIC FORCE--By R. Toombs



This Air Letter departed Meaford, Ontario on July 13, 1945. It arrived in the Netherlands on July 20, 1945 as per the CDS "FPO T.C. 3".

The "S.O.S. TO CANADA" auxiliary handstamp is in pink denoting, of course, "struck off service/strength".

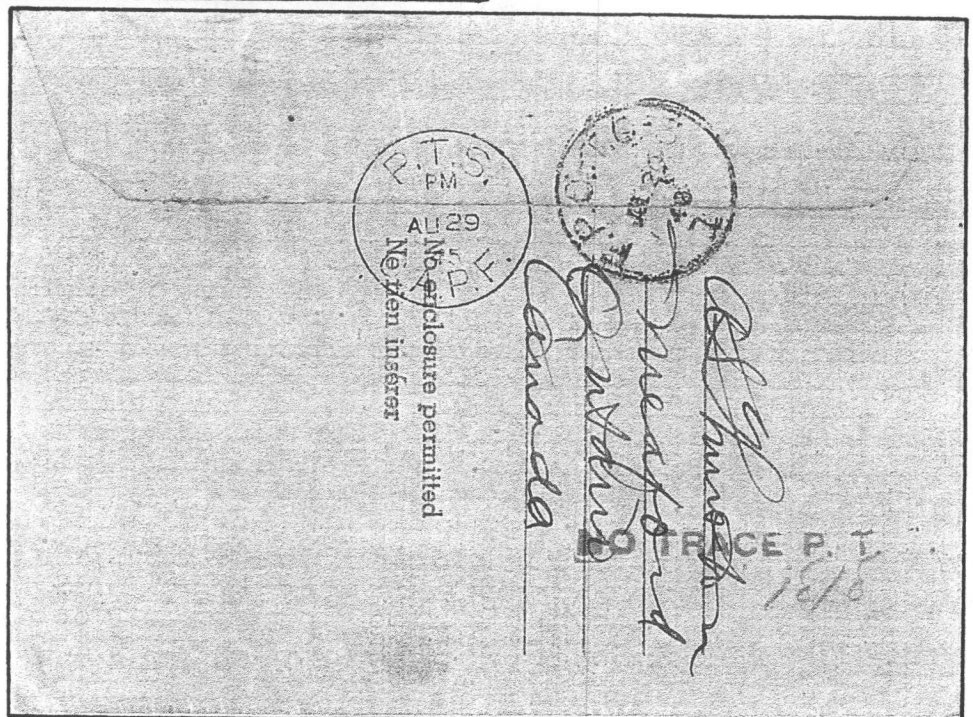
There are various re-addresses, then finally to Camp Borden, Ontario (the C.A.P.F. Base).

There is also another auxiliary marking "NO TRACE P.T.?" in pink. The mark has a light "S" denoting "Postal

Tracing Section".

The most interesting CDS postmark is the one on reverse "P.T.S./PM/AU 29/45/C.A.P.F."

[Given the timing of our issue with V-J Day, the above article is most appropriate. Bob sent along this follow-up to Doug Sayles' article in the March 2004 issue (No.164, pp. 734-736). The C.A.P.F. CDS is an earlier one than that shown by Doug. This CDS is, as members know, extremely scarce. Do other members have examples? All illustrations are welcomed for future reproduction in upcoming newsletters.Ed.]



BNAPEX 2005*

Our study group meeting has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Saturday, September 3, 2005. Please check the room assignment when signing in at the registration table. This information is current at the time of publication but it may change.

ISAF COMMANDER, KABUL, 2003--George Sawatzki

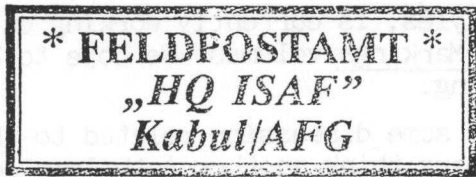
This cover returned from the Commander of ISAF, Lt.-Gen. Götz Gliemerth, German Army, had three "Feldpost" postcard enclosures. Note that the Commander used both the Canadian Forces Mail postal facility handstamp as well as the German "Feldpostamt".



Commander
HQ ISAF
Kabul - Afghanistan
64298 Darmstadt
Feldpost

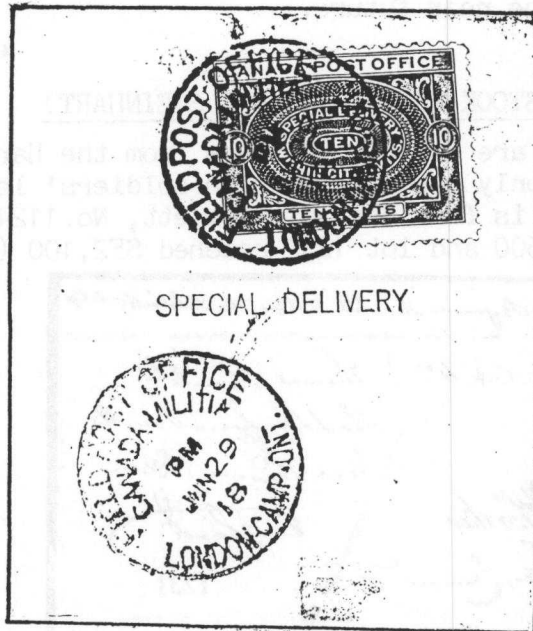


Maj (Ret) G.H. Sawatzki



CANADA MILITIA-SPECIAL DELIVERY--By J.C. Campbell

[Colin sent along some examples of early Militia Camp usages with the Special Delivery stamp. They're rare.Ed.]



[Ex. G.H. Davis 1992 Sale, C.G. *****
Firby Auctions.Ed.]

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Dear CMMMSG Members:

Somewhat more "on time" than the last issue and I hope that it is of some interest to members during these "dog days" of summer--well those in this hemisphere, anyway. Doug and I hope to see many members at the study group meeting in Edmonton. We now have some idea of a date and time and we'll see you on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Once again we're appreciative for Steve Luciuk volunteering to present a programme for us. One correction--Steve will be presenting a slide show on Alberta's First and Second World War Prisoner of War Camps. Don't miss it! Mufti dress is acceptable.

Hopefully some members will be exhibiting their military-related displays at the convention and exhibition. Good luck to all!

Members interested in early stampless Canadian military postal history will have already learned that the late Allan Steinhart's stampless material was very popular when sold in Switzerland on May 28, 2005.

Some members will know about your Editor's thematic/topical collection on the Victoria Cross. We are saddened to learn that Canada's last remaining recipient of the decoration, Ernest "Smokey" Smith, VC, CD, recently passed away. Like most VC holders, Smith was a "soldier's soldier" and his many exploits (military and non-military) were legendary!

It was nice to hear from our many members over the summer; some even including many very interesting and appreciated snippets, articles, and cover illustrations. All are much appreciated! I'd like to hear from more members too--especially if there is something you are working on and need input from fellow-members; if you'd like to write-up that new find; or if you simply want to draw members' attention to the state of military postal history today. I regret that I still am not online but that shouldn't stop you! Thank you in advance.

Many will know that our Chairman/Treasurer, Doug Sayles, is currently working on an update to the Bailey & Toop Canadian Military Postal Markings volumes. We hope to hear a bit more about the project at the study group meeting.

Although time will be short at the meeting, perhaps some discussion related to the study group's future projects can be entertained. Do members think another Anthology, or similar publication, is worthwhile? Our 200th issue is quickly approaching, or perhaps we can do one sooner if members wish to participate and are "gung-ho" now. The BNAPS Publications Committee is doing well and has been publishing quality titles (such as the recent new Force "C" Exhibit Series book by Ken Ellison), so it is something to think about in the near future.

AROOSTOOK WAR, 1839 (EX. STEINHART)

Here are two superb items from the Harmers' Auction sale noted above. Both are reputedly the only reported British soldiers' letters from New Brunswick's Aroostook War period. Each is from Benjamin Howlett, No.1124, Pte. Soldier, 69th Regiment. Lot 1231 realized SF4,500 and lot 1232 reached SF2,100 (+18% buyers' premium)!.

