



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2007

NEWSLETTER NO. 178

Page 895

SOME FIRST AND SECOND WORLD WAR P.O.W. ITEMS--By
W.S. Pawluk

The following cover (no backstamps) bears a large red circular handstamp that has, as far as I am aware, been unreported.



ERNEST L. MAAG
Delegate in Canada for the
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE
1040 Sun Life Building
MONTREAL

P/W. MAIL. - POSTAGE FREE



DBC. 478

Alfred RADEISKE, #13060,
Internment Camp-130,

B.A.P.O.,

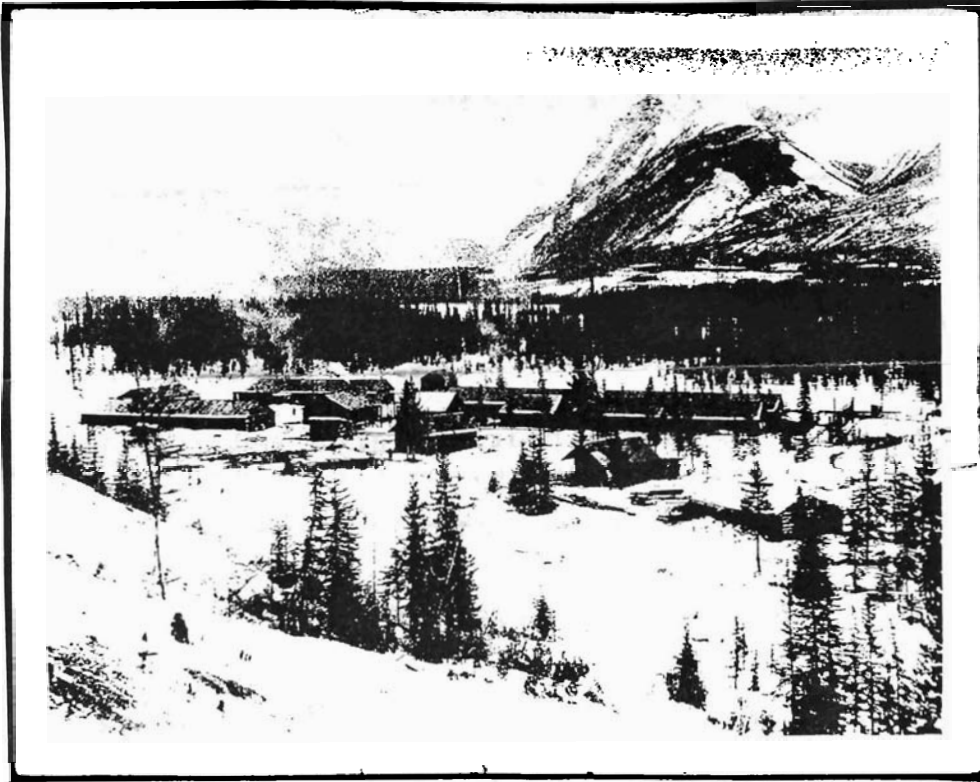
Ottawa, Ont.

The following photograph, dated on the reverse "March 19th, 1916" from the "Otter Internment Camp, Near Field, B.C.", shows the camp with the "posts and wire around where prisoners sleep, eat, and etc."

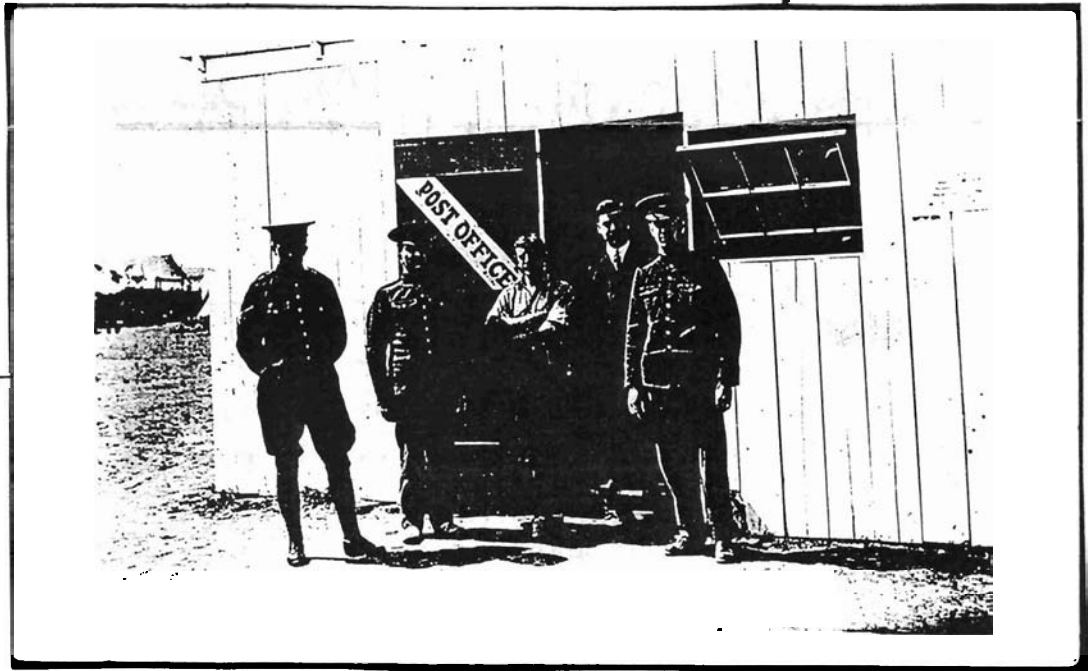
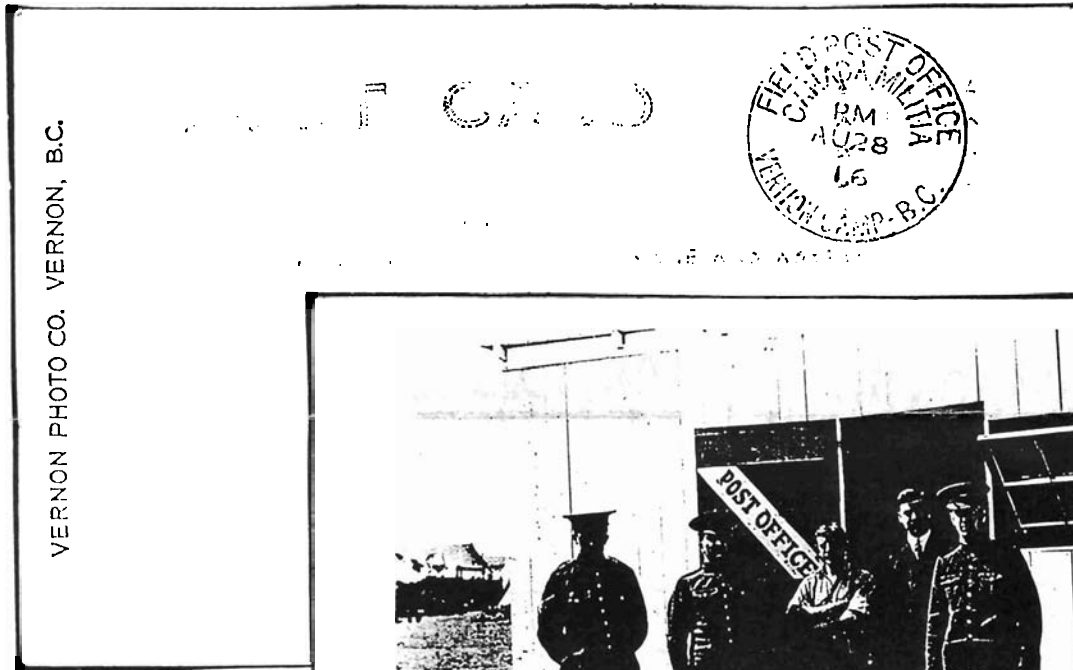
(Cont'd.)

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



Other Internment Camp
 near Field
 B6
 March 19th 1910
 - Campground with the posts
 and wire around
 where prisoners
 sleep eat and
 etc
 Ed. J.

VERNON CAMP 1916 POST OFFICE--By W.S. Pawluk

The above real photo postcard bears the large Canada Militia datestamp of August 28, 1916 and is unmailed. The scene is, presumably, the camp's post office with several of those assigned to its operation.

VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT HOSPITAL, ASHFORD, KENT, 1917--By
Jim Felton

The hospitals in Kent were a mixture of general and specialist main and auxiliary military establishments, V.A.D. hospitals, and small convalescent units (often located in private homes).

The Congregational School V.A.D. Hospital contained fifty beds and operated from October 1914 to February 1919.

The following cover, with the manuscript "Canadian Soldier's Letter" frank at left, was sent from Ashford on August 10, 1917 and arrived in Durham on August 31. It was then re-addressed to St. Catharines. Note the hospital three-line marking at top right.

Reference

Kent V.A.D. Hospitals, <http://www.juroch.demon.co.uk/hospitals.htm>

(Cont'd.)



NO.19 S.F.T.S., VULCAN, ALBERTA--By David Collyer

This July 24, 1943 cover (with the official R.C.A.F. stationery crested backflap, but with "Canadian" blackened out), was despatched from Vulcan's civil post office and bears the civil circular datestamp. No.19 Service Flying Training School was part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan in Canada and was in operation from May 3, 1943 to April 14, 1945 at Vulcan. One of the interesting aspects of the cover is that it pre-dates



the introduction of the Vulcan M.P.O. 1312 hammer which Bailey & Toop indicate was proofed on August 7, 1943 (Canadian Military Postal Markings, Vol. I). The writer was probably thanking the company for tobacco or cigarettes.

CANADIAN USAGE OF TYPE-A 500 UNIT CENSOR STAMP IN BRITAIN AND N.W. EUROPE, 1943-1945--By Kim Dodwell

The A-500 (crown-over-circle) unit censor handstamp was in extensive use among Commonwealth and Allied Forces in many countries during 1943-1944. I Canadian Corps used it in Sicily and Italy until it was gradually replaced during 1944 by Type A-600 (crown-over-crusader shield). I have only come across two examples of the use of A-500 in Great Britain itself. The first example I have seen is from 3 Canadian Infantry Division (3 CID) while training in the Security Zone in the far northwest of Scotland in February 1943. The second usage was in England during Exercise "Harlequin" in August-September 1943. The exercise was designed to test administrative arrangements for moving invasion forces through concentration and assembly areas to the embarkation ports.

Canadians taking part in "Harlequin" were 2 CID, 5 CAD, and 4 CAB, all under II Canadian Corps. The troops moved into camps in Hampshire, around Barton Stacey and Goodwood, in late August. In early September security was tightened, all leave was stopped, the camps were wired in, and postal censorship was imposed at unit level using A-500 handstamps. After four days of this maximum security in the camps, the troops were moved to the docks in Southampton and Portsmouth and onto the waiting ships. Some, but not all, embarked to make an amphibian "feint" which was part of a much larger Operation "Starkey"; designed to deceive the Germans into thinking there was an invasion threat in the Pas-de-Calais area. It was also an unsuccessful attempt to lure the Luftwaffe out to battle as had occurred a year earlier at Dieppe. The exercise was so realistic that the good people of Southampton lined the streets to cheer the men on their way, thinking it was "the real thing".

I only have two examples of A-500 that can be ascribed to "Harlequin". The first is from 5 CAB's Regiment de Maisonneuve and is dated August 26. It seems that the battalion may have "jumped the gun" here, as the period of maximum security had not started and I have other 2 CID covers dated between August 26 and September 2 that have not been censored. My second censored item (shown below) is from 5 CAD's Irish Regiment and is dated

<p>This package of cigarettes is sent you through the Overseas League (Canada) Tobacco and Hamper Fund, Toronto, Canada</p>	<p>You will be helping us to send you and your comrades a regular supply of gift cigarettes by expressing your appreciation on this card to the donor whose name appears on the other side.</p> <p>Dear Sir:</p> <p>The cigarettes which you so kindly donated have been distributed among the men of this unit.</p> <p>Thank you very much.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p> <p><i>A.J. Elliott</i></p> <p>A.J. Elliott Supervisor YMCA Irish Regiment of Canada Canadian Army Overseas</p> <p>NO. 21 8742</p>
---	---

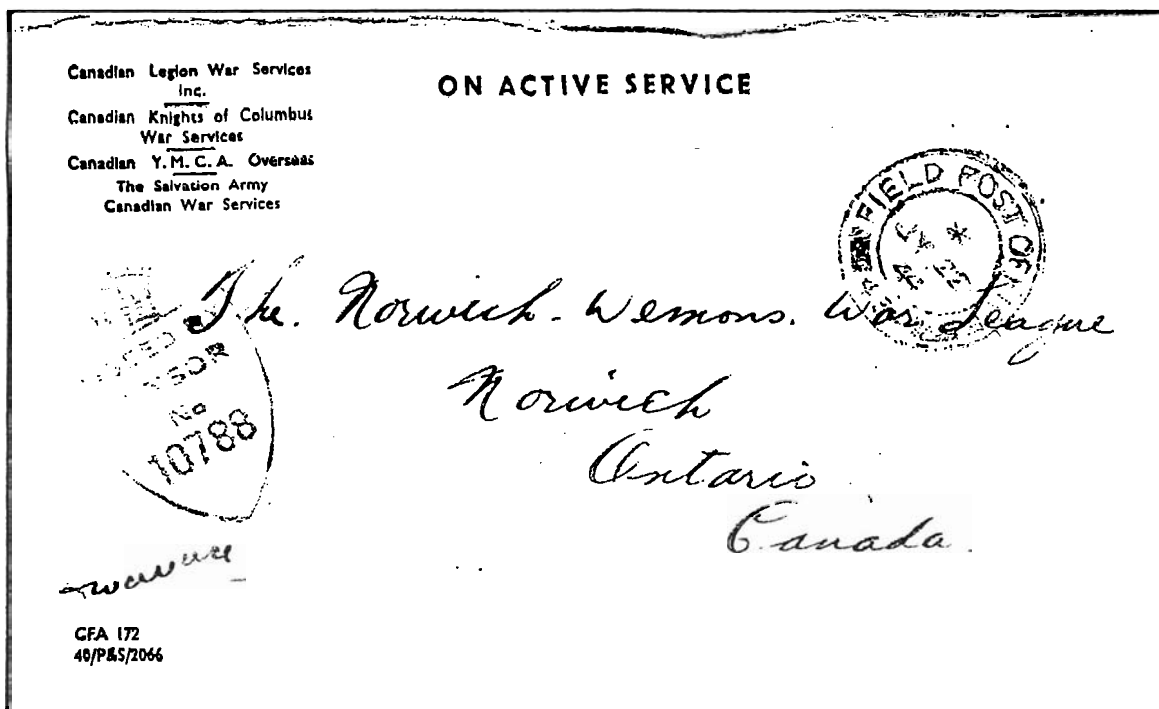
(Cont'd.)

Page 900

September 8, 1943. It is helpful to postal historians that the realism with which "Harlequin" was conducted did not run to a ban on the use of orderly room handstamps (as prevailed under real operational conditions), so that identification for the users of the A-500 is simple. The No.9742 used by the Irish in "Harlequin" was not the No.9467 used by them in Italy. "One swallow does not make a summer", but it is indicative that the A-500 handstamps were withdrawn after "Harlequin" and a new set issued for 5 CAD before they joined the Central Mediterranean Force (CMF). There is no doubt (or is there? Please see below) that the A-500's issued to 2 CID and 4 CAB were withdrawn for, in April 1944, they were all issued with the new A-600 crown-over-shield type handstamp in preparation for the Normandy invasion.

The highest serial number I have seen among the A-600 is No.19363 although not all were necessarily issued for use. British units must have received the most; others were issued to Commonwealth and Allied Forces (although many of them used their own types of handstamp). The Canadians in N.W. Europe used the A-600's and I have (with much help from kind friends) listed 395 different handstamp numbers used by Canadians. There must be more of which I have no record and the total is probably nearer 450, or perhaps even 500 (help, here please!). Their use started with the imposition of pre-D-Day security in England in April 1944, and continued on through the BWEF and BLA days into post-war occupation in Germany and Holland.

For those whose specialties are other than the Second World War, I give an example of a typical A-600 Canadian usage from Normandy. I have been unable to find an identification for many of the 395 recorded Canadian numbers, but this one (No.10788), I can pin down. It was used by the RCEME of No.16 LAD which served 2 CID's 4 CAB. Recently-arrived in Normandy, they were in the still-congested beach-head, subject to round-the-clock shell and mortar fire and nightly Luftwaffe nuisance raids.



(Cont'd.)

Three days after the date of the preceding cover (July 25) saw the start of Operation "Spring"; involving heavy Canadian casualties with almost nothing to show for it. This operation was so bad that General Guy Simonds was forced to come up with a solution in the form of his innovative Operation "Totalize", which finally broke the stalemate on August 10-12.

Among the many hundreds of examples of A-600 censored mail I have seen from N.W. Europe, there is one--just one--a Canadian item bearing the A-500 marking. The FPO 432 mark is clear, used by 2 CID's FPO D.C.-2 (then at Faubourg de Vaucelles) just outside the recently-captured Caen. The date is July 21, 1944, just one day before that of illustration two, and it was posted under the same conditions. The sender is A29177, Pte. L.J. Compeau and the censor could be J.C. Anderson.



As Brigade FPO's were still in use at this stage, the writer was probably in Divisional Troops. The A-500 censor number is clearly No.4443 on the original /enhanced due to the light magenta ink. Editor/. The only explanation that I can think of for this solitary, aberrant A-500 usage, is that this handstamp was not handed in at the end of "Harlequin", but was in the box with the other handstamps. It may have been used by mistake in the stress of the unit's first action.

I am not naive enough to believe that this is the one and only example of A-500 censoring ever used by Canadians in N.W. Europe. I would very much like to hear of other examples known, and also find more information on the identity of Pte. Compeau's unit. /Thanks Kim. Well members, now it falls to you for more input if you can add to the story! Kindly send your cover/card copies to me for a future update.Ed./

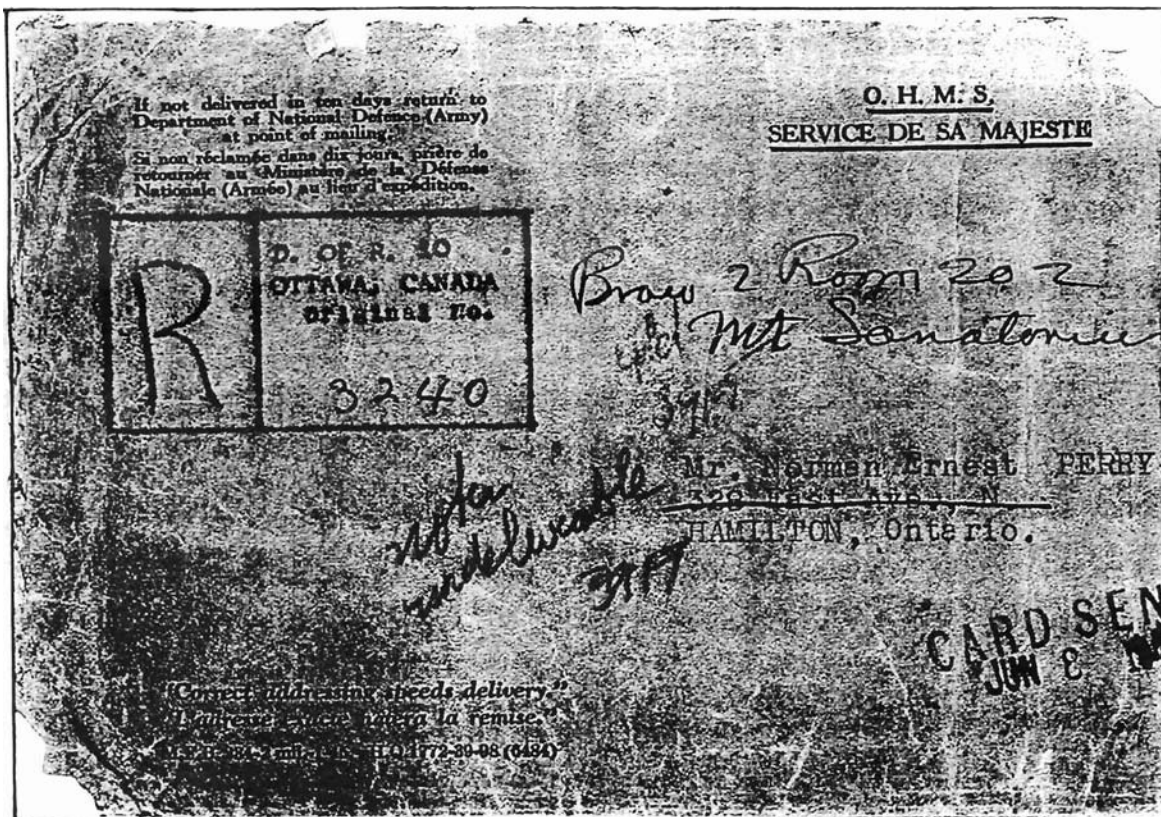
Happy New Year!

D.N.D. DEPARTMENT REGISTRATION MARKING RE-EXAMINED--By Colin Pomfret



Here is a similar marking (with a hand-written "R") to that illustrated by Doug Sayles in Newsletter No.176 (August 2006, p.871). This 1946 version also bears the stamped "auto-pen" signature of "A. Ross" but unlike Doug's version, does not now have the "10" below.

An enlarged illustration is below.



BNAPS CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN MILITARY MAIL MARKINGS-VOL.3-
FROM VICTORY IN 1945 TO AFGHANISTAN: A REVIEW--By Col. (Ret.) W.G.
 Robinson, CD, OTB

BOOK COMPILED AND EDITED BY C.D. SAYLES, AUGUST 2006

How does one review such a massive work, containing over 300 pages of listings of Canadian military markings during a period of sixty-one years, and involving numerous locations in Canada and many world-wide overseas postings? What factors are important to readers? Is the catalogue organized to give maximum help to readers and researchers? How much detail is essential to the users, and has this been included without too much extraneous comment?

In this reviewer's opinion the writer has covered these points well, and the book should be of great assistance to collectors and students of markings of the period. Perhaps the various United Nations markings used by Canadian troops would have been listed with the several CFPO and other markings which do appear. The writer has been clear, however, that such markings are beyond the scope of this work. He has also explained why the book has been organized in the way he has done, and why this method was chosen over the other possibilities.

This book covers the subject well, and is strongly recommended to all serious students and researchers of Canadian military mail markings during the period from 1945 to 2006.

BNAPS BOOK RELEASE EXCERPTS

ISBN 0-919854-91-5; STOCK #B4h025.3; SPIRAL BOUND, 314pp. 8.5x11.

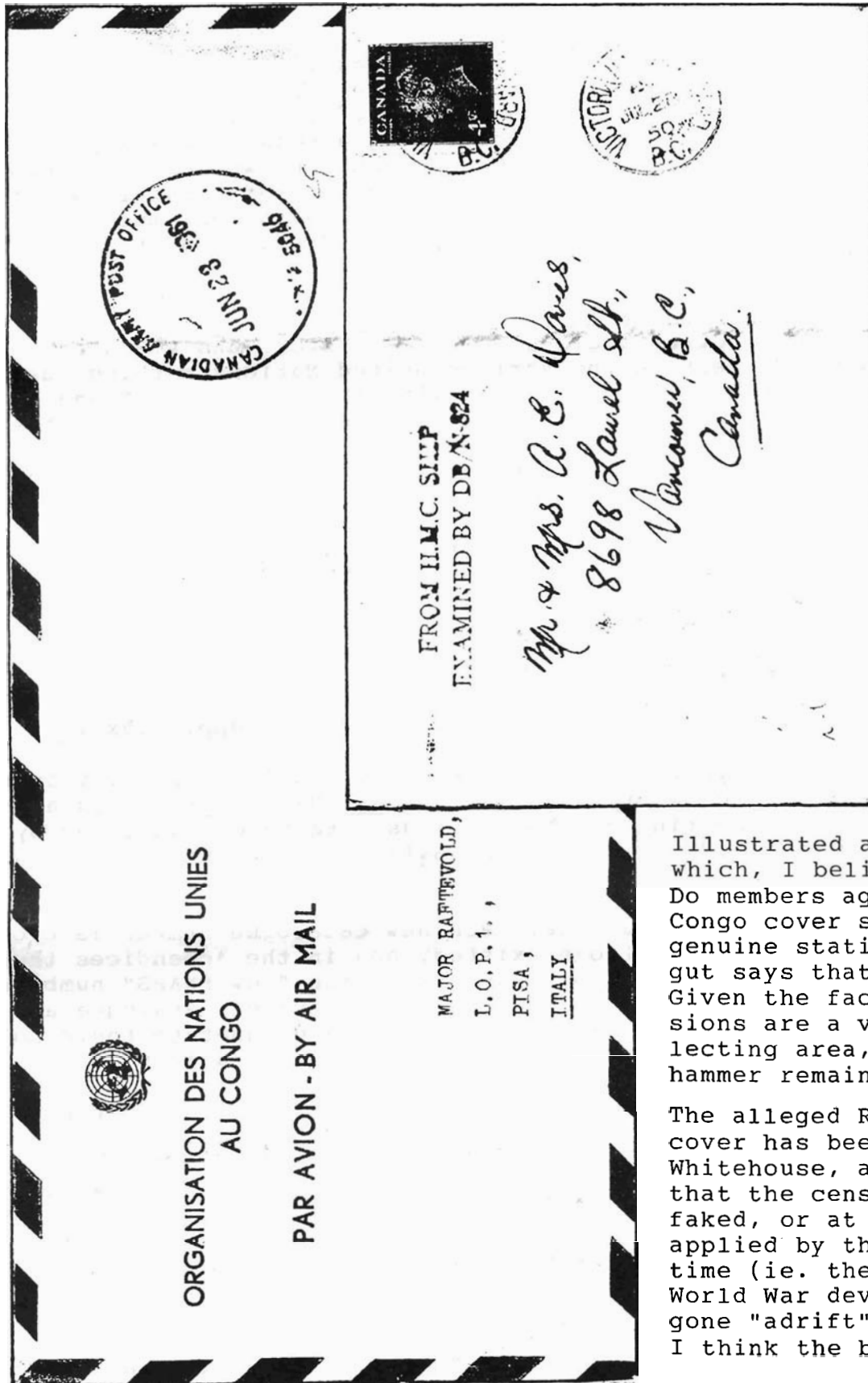
The result of several years of hard work by C. Douglas Sayles, Volume 3 of the new BNAPS Catalogue of Canadian Military Mail Markings is a complete reworking and updating of the previous catalogues published by the late W.J. Bailey and E.R. "Ritch" Toop (B&T). The reworking consists of a totally new numbering system built around keeping cancellations from individual military locations (by era or type) in a single group, and ordering them by marking shape and size. Each new catalogue number is cross-referenced to a B&T number if one existed, and in the Appendices there is a reverse cross-reference from B&T numbers to the "new BNAPS" numbers. The spiral binding and heavy paper used in the Sayles' catalogue are intended to allow collectors to use it to record and annotate their holdings and, with luck, find new and previously-unreported items.

Because the military postal markings of the post-Second World War era formed the smallest part of the B&T catalogues, Doug decided to start with them and to name this Volume 3. All cancellations, both those previously recorded and the more than 650 new cancellations unknown to B&T, have been reproduced in excellent illustrations. Volumes 1 and 2, covering military activity in Canada from the 1800's through 1945, will be published in due course and will follow the style and format of Volume 3.

Price: C\$47.95

BNAPS members receive a 40% discount off the retail price. BNAPS Book Department, Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 62 Sparks St., Ottawa, ON Canada K1P 5A8; (613) 235-9119; www.iankimmerly.com

TWO DUBIOUS ITEMS?--By C. Doug Sayles



Illustrated are two covers which, I believe, are fake. Do members agree? The alleged Congo cover seems to be on genuine stationery, but my gut says that it is a fake. Given the fact that U.N. missions are a very popular collecting area, why has this hammer remained unreported?

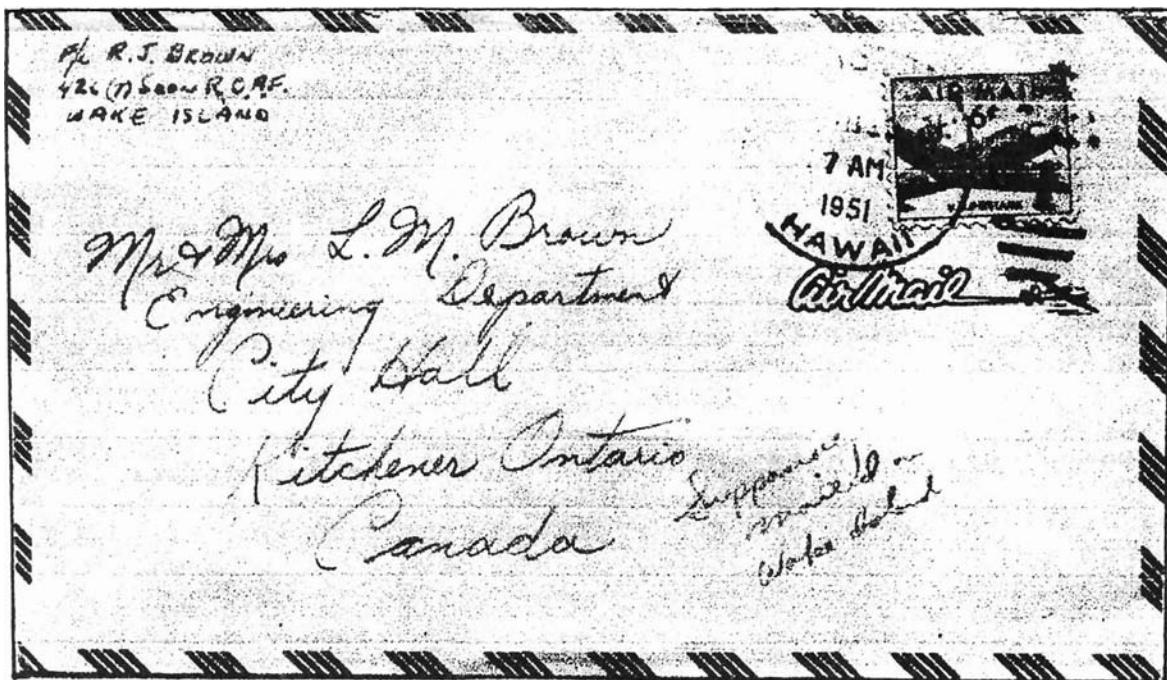
The alleged R.C.N. censored cover has been sent to Wilf Whitehouse, and he surmises that the censor handstamp is faked, or at least was not applied by the R.C.N. at the time (ie. the actual Second World War device might have gone "adrift" after the war). I think the basic cover is

(Cont'd.)

genuine and, in fact, is an en route cover from H.M.C.S. Sioux. As such, I think this added "censor" marking actually reduces, rather than enhances, its value./What do members think? Can our U.N. specialists comment on the handstamp's authenticity? I agree with Doug and Wilf that the cover, and perhaps even the censor handstamp, are genuine but both don't belong together! Your comments are invited through the Editor and I shall print them in a future issue.Ed./

R.C.A.F.'S 426 "THUNDERBIRD" SQUADRON, 1951 WAKE ISLAND--By Dave Hanes

The cover below was mailed from a member of the 426 Squadron in the Korean War era. The return address denotes "Wake Island" and the postmark indicates that it travelled through Hawaii to Kitchener, Ontario.



RESEARCH REQUEST:

Our member Jim Felton, Box 128, Tiffin, OH USA 44883 is updating Allan Steinhart's 1986 Civil Censorship in Canada During World War I study. He is especially seeking covers, cards, and information that expands Allan's listing. Jim notes that there are still several 1917 civil censor stations without known examples of usage, and he is certain that there are many more items in general that have not been recorded. Should members have anything which will expand the original listing, I am sure that Jim would be happy to hear from you!

LAST CALL FOR DUES! ⌚

Our Chairman and Treasurer Doug Sayles informs us that dues are coming in quite well. However, he does note that he has not heard from a few members and it would be greatly appreciated if anyone who has not sent in their dues to please do so. This will be the last newsletter if dues are not received! Thank you very much for your attention.

Page 906

Dear CMMSG Members:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! With this first issue for 2007, Doug and I hope that you have a wonderful New Year. A big "thank you" to those who kindly sent in seasonal best wishes along with some items for these pages. It is always most appreciated. Please have a look in the upcoming year and send along some treasures which we all can share. Thanks too for members' timely responses to our call for dues. We realize that costs are ever-increasing but our newsletter is one of the best philatelic (and non-philatelic) "deals" available today! If you haven't sent along your dues (\$20 Canadian members and \$20US for international members), please do so promptly. Doug and I (and the rest of the membership) would appreciate it.

A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

J.J. BELL, L. CHERNS

Congratulations are extended to JON JOHNSON who did extremely well with his exhibit entitled "Canadian Military Hospitals At Sea" (1 frame) at ROYAL 2006/ROYALE!

Many of us are disappointed that Canada Post Corporation has chosen (at the time of publication) not to commemorate any military-related stamps or special commemorative envelopes in 2007. Many subjects are deserving and include war art, the 90th anniversary of Vimy Ridge and the Battle of Passchendaele etc. I would personally like to see an annual military-related postage stamp in November (to commemorate Remembrance Day) but my appeals have fallen on deaf ears!

Although details have not been finalized, I've learned that several major military postal history holdings will be under the hammer this year. C.G. Firby Auctions, 6695 Highland Rd., #101, Waterford, MI USA 48327-1967; (248) 666-5333; FAX (248) 666-5020; www.firbyauctions.com; email: Admin@firbyauctions.com (no space after "Firby"), has been entrusted with several collections!

SMALL ADS

WANTED: WWII FPO covers. Condition not important but must be used before May 6, 1945. A-600 censors (crown over shield type) include #'s: 1278;1289;1291;3038;3991;5156;6278;6889;7588;7976;7979;8038;8614;8899;9165;9204;107-23;10731;10733;10742+43;10745-46;10751;10753-56;10759;10764;10768;10772;10780;10783-84;10786;10798;10800;11357;11793-94;11810;11816-20;11830;11837-40;11844;11847;11849-50;11856;11858;11860;11867-69;11997;12714;13238-39;14-455;14462;14604;14630;14665;14670;14828;15196. K.Dodwell, Middle House, Cruckmeole, Hanwood, Shrewsbury SY5 8JN, U.K. (7/10)

WANTED: Canada Air Letters with postage paid by adhesive stamps mailed to Canadian Armed Forces personnel overseas (except Britain and Ireland) between September 1945 and December 1952. Please send with price to Mike Street, 73 Hatton Dr., Ancaster, ON L9G 2H5 or advise by email: mikestreet@hwc.org (7/10)

FOR SALE: Big Military Section on our website: www.canadacovers.ca (4/9)

WANTED: WWI Newfoundland Regiment cards and covers! Newfoundlanders in the Royal Navy; home front; and civil censored items too. Very good prices paid. Photocopies and prices to D. Mario, Box 342, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3 (1/2)
