



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2007

NEWSLETTER NO. 180

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TWO POST CARDS WITH UNUSUAL FRANKINGS--By Colin Pomfret



This post card was posted at Niagara M.P.O. 203 on July 3, 1942. It was mailed at the two-cent post card rate with an additional ten-cent special delivery fee.

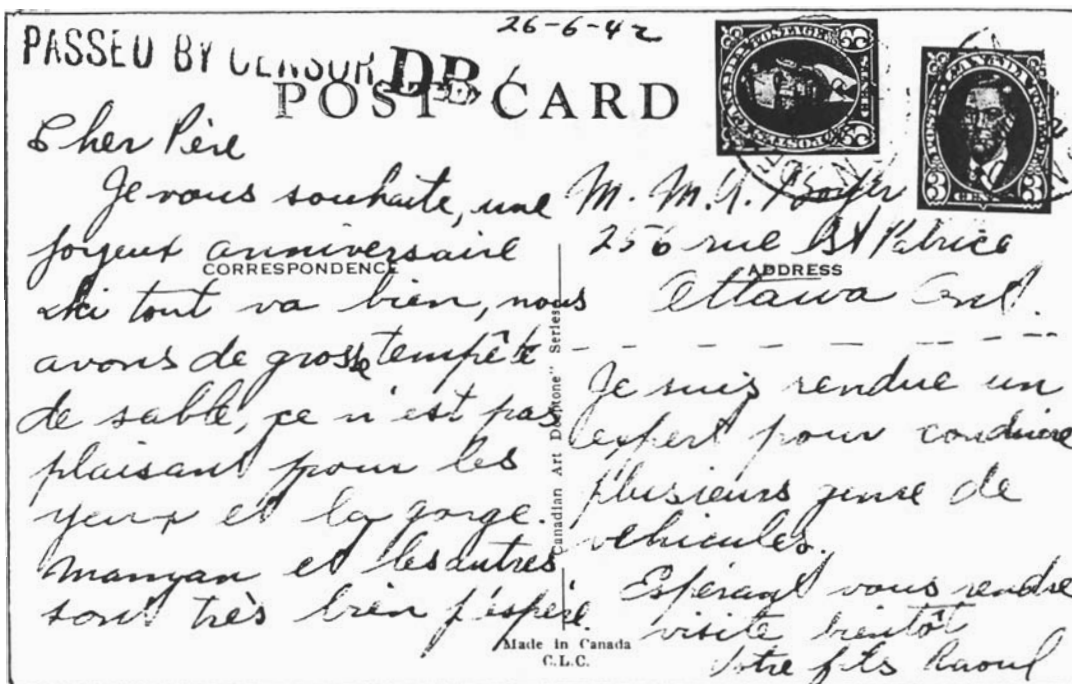
The following post card was mailed at the six-cents per ounce* domestic letter rate. It was posted at Debert M.P.O. 603 on June 29, 1942 and bears the "PASSED BY CENSOR DB/452" handstamp.

(*air mail)

[Cont'd.]

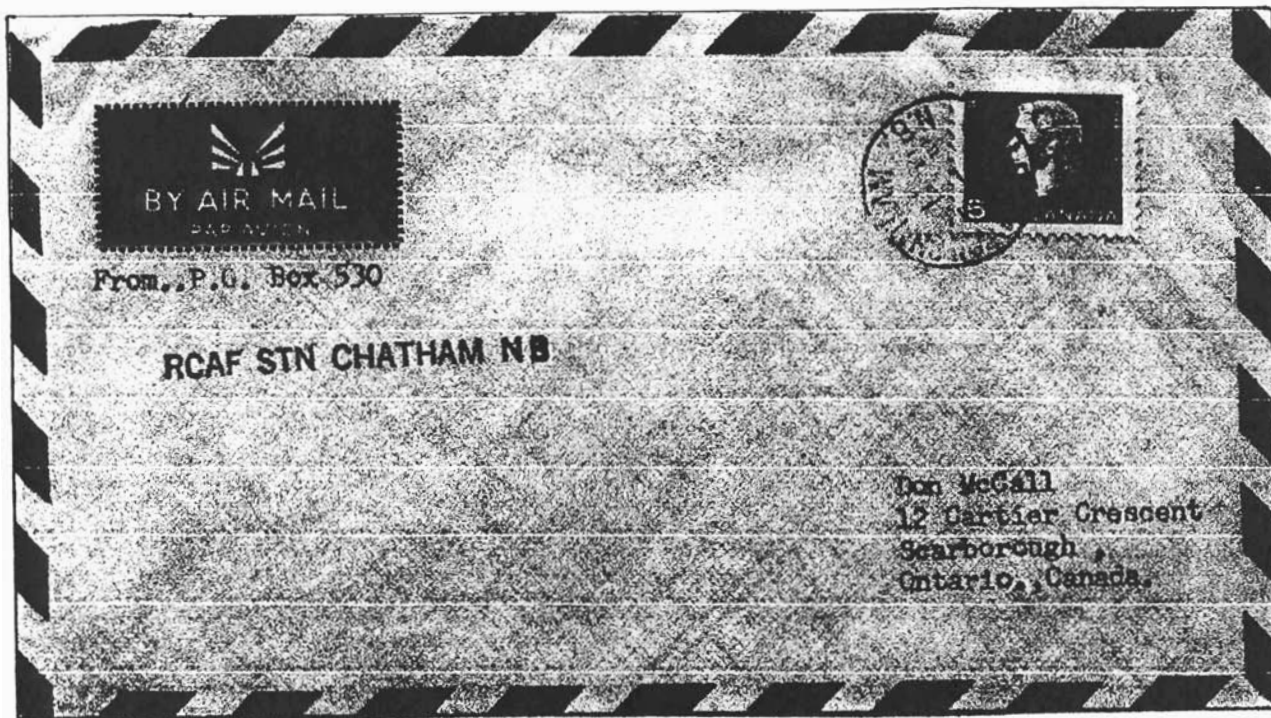
CHAIRMAN/TREAS.: C.D. SAYLES, 25 HOWARD BLVD., WATERDOWN, ON LOR 2H4
(sayles@sympatico.ca)

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



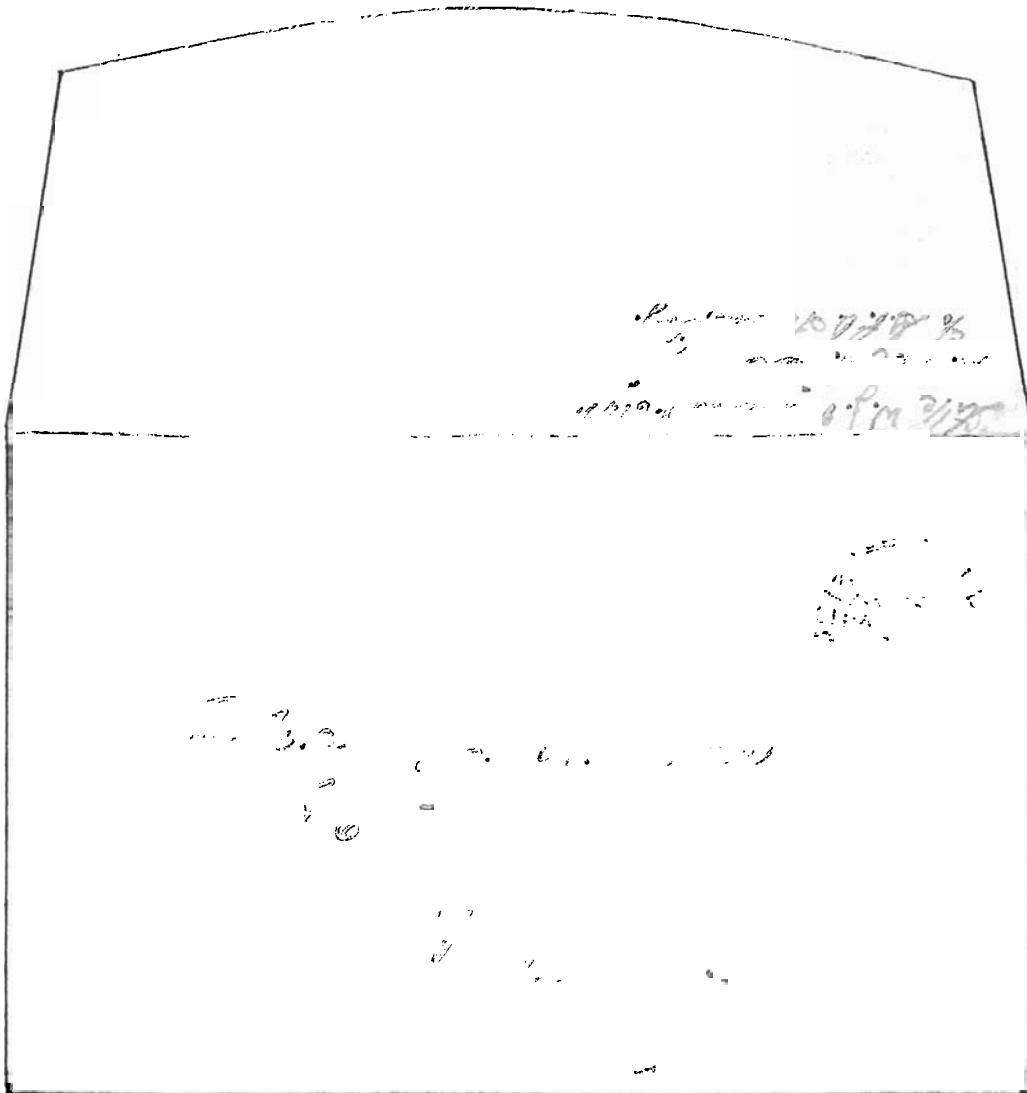
R.C.A.F. STATION, CHATHAM, N.B.--By A.D. Hanes

Here is an air mail cover sent from R.C.A.F. Station Chatham, New Brunswick with a CDS dated June 11, 1965. It also bears the straightline office handstamp.



H.M.C.S. ORKNEY, LONDONDERRY, NORTHERN IRELAND

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The above cover to Niagara Falls, Ontario was sent from the Canadian Fleet Mail Office, Londonderry, Northern Ireland with an FPO 213 dater (FPO SC 803) of November 17, 1944. It also bears a blue two-line "FROM H.M.C. SHIP/EXAMINED BY DB.N 964" censor marking. Thankfully, the cover bears the sender's name and ship!

H.M.C.S. Orkney was a "River" class frigate, used primarily for ocean work and escort protection for convoys. She was built by Canadian Yarrow (Esquimalt) for the Royal Canadian Navy and was launched on September 18, 1943. She displaced 1,370 tons (1,865 tons full load) and was just over 300 feet. She had a complement of 140 officers and men. Orkney (Pt.No. K.448) was named as a mercantile ship Violetta in 1947. She was sold to the Israeli Navy in 1950 and renamed the Mivtakh. In 1959 the Sinhalese Navy renamed her the Mahasena. She was eventually sold to a British ship-breaker and arrived in Singapore in September 1964 where she was scrapped.

Reference

Lenton, H.T. British Escort Ships. New York: Arco Publishing Co., Inc., 1974, 40, 50.

TYPE 2 CENSOR MARKS UPDATE--By Colin Pomfret

/Members will recall Colin's previous work on this particular censor mark in NL#175 (May 2006, p.864). He's recently written to update his research and notes: "I found this cover in my filing cabinet....2/2422 was censored by J.J. Penhale, 1 Div. Ammo Column. This cover places 2/2421 as having been used by the 1st Div. Heavy Battery and Ammo Column.



This cover solves all the problems I have had, and all that I need now are reports on No.2435-No.2437 and the series will be complete. A revised list is enclosed.

TYPE 2 CENSOR STAMPS ALLOCATED TO THE
FIRST CANADIAN DIVISION ON ARRIVAL
IN FRANCE IN JANUARY 1915

2399	1	DIVISION H.Q.	2412	14	BATTALION	2425	2	FLD COY
2400	1	BRIGADE H.Q.	2413	15	"	2426	3	"
2401	2	"	2414	16	"	2427	SIGNAL	COY
2402	3	"	2415	CAVALRY	SQD	2428	1	COY, C.A.S.C.
2403	1	BATTALION	2416	CYCLIST	COY	2429	2	"
2404	2	"	2417	C.F.A.	H.Q.	2430	3	"
2405	3	"	2418	1	BDE C.F.A.	2431	4	"
2406	4	"	2419	2	"	2432	1	FIELD AMB
2407	5	"	2420	3	"	2433	2	"
2408	7	"	2421	1	DIV HVY BATTY &	2434	3	"
2409	8	"			A/C	2435	????????????????	
2410	10	"	2422	1	DIV AMMO COL	2436	????????????????	
2411	13	"	2423	CDN	ENG H.Q.	2437	BASE DEPOT??????	
			2424	1	FLD COY			

Thanks Colin. Members may be interested in a practical use of the above information in the following.Ed./

FPO 2.X IDENTIFIED: NO.1 FIELD AMBULANCE, C.A.M.C.

Thanks to Colin's listing of No.2 censor marks, I've been able to identify the recently-obtained cover! The FPO 2.X is dated February 19, 1915 and was sent to the famous Harrod's in London, England. The sender, and presumably censoring officer, was an R.H. McGibbon. The No.2 type censor device was No.2432 in pink. Now, where is one to go from here?



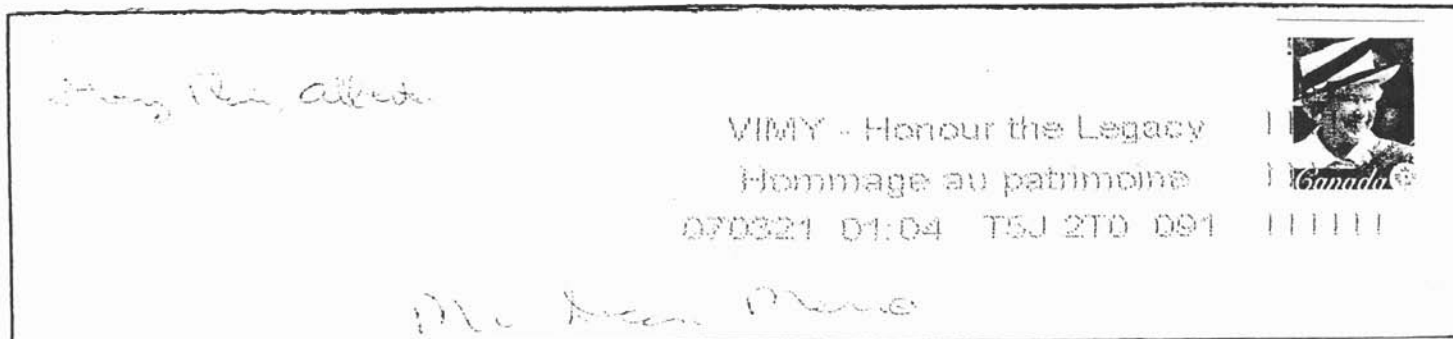
Checking No.2432 against Colin's previous listing, I presumed that the cover originated from a member of the No.1 Field Ambulance, C.A.M.C. Because both the sender's signature and address were in the same hand and ink, I presumed that the sender was R.H. McGibbon. Luckily, I have at my resource desk a copy of the early nominal rolls of the No.1 Field Ambulance (obtained before the introduction of the Internet!). Upon checking the rolls, I found the information I was seeking.

Capt. R.H. McGibbon was listed under "C" Section and was identified as Roy Hosmer McGibbon, a Canadian who was taken on strength at Valcartier on September 14, 1914. His next of kin was listed as a Mrs. R.H. McGibbon (presumably his wife) of Sherbrooke, Quebec. Given this information I can now pursue more research on McGibbon in the future.

FPO 2.X was located in the Armentieres area, France from February 10, 1915 until March 27, 1915. The cover also bears a segmented rubber clerk hand-stamp and filing number "B40607" when it arrived at Harrod's.

Thankfully, all of the pieces were able to fit the above puzzle. Research and the sharing of vital information is essential for us as military postal historians. I hope that other members will continue to share their findings through these pages!

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"VIMY - HONOUR THE LEGACY" INK-JET SPRAY

Credit is due to Canada Post Corporation for introducing the above ink-jet spray marking to honour the ninetieth anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The bilingual message has been seen used in various offices and sorting centres across Canada.

INTERNMENT MAIL IN CANADA, 1914-1919 & 1939-1946: A REVIEW

Members will have already seen the new issue of the above BNAPS Exhibit Series No.21 (revised) edition announced in the April-June 2007 BNAPortraitS. Our member Steve Luciuk's award-winning exhibit has been reprinted using today's advanced digital scanning technology in both black and white (ISBN 978-1-897391-01-3; C\$33.95) and colour (ISBN 978-1-897391-00-6; C\$85.00). The colour reprint will be reviewed here.

One of the essential questions any reviewer must ponder is this: does the new offering significantly contribute anything beneficial for one's library that an earlier version did not? The answer, in this case, is a resounding "yes".

Members studying internment mail and prisoner of war covers know that the material usually offers a range of miscellaneous markings in colour. Often these rubber handstamps (usually) do not readily avail themselves over the years as strong, legible (and reproducible) strikes. In most cases, the colour reprint of this exhibit book features these markings in very clear illustrations and very much adds to the overall significance of the collection. I am sure that the black and white scanned version is equally clear.

The colour version contrasts the great difference between some coloured covers and their markings. Although the colour illustrations and text have been slightly reduced from the original version, they nevertheless offer the reader an eye-catching array of some rare and unusual material. The Banff Detachment 1916-1917 Christmas card, the varied YMCA I.O. cards, and the P.O.W. Franking Labels are almost as perfect as the originals!

Strangely, the colour version did not pick up markings clearly shown in the original version (the Vernon YMCA card, p.14 for example), but overall this is a minor observation. The light strikes of the original markings are often difficult to reproduce in any process.

The additional nine pages of supplementary material, including illustrated I.O. forms, opening and closing dates of the various camps of both world

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wars, and a reference bibliography were all most appreciated and greatly add to the study. An author/collector biography is always interesting and one is contained within the new version.

One of the significant contributions of this BNAPS Exhibits Series is that it retains a permanent record of the exhibit/collection before it is dispersed. As members know from previous issues, Steve's exhibit and P.O.W. collection will be sold this June by Charles G. Firby Auctions, Waterford, MI USA. Despite the fact that many rare and unique items will find new homes, this new reprint offers anyone interested in Canadian military postal history or internment mail a wonderful opportunity to own excellent facsimilies of the real versions!

BNAPS members receive a 40% discount. Shipping is extra. Order from the BNAPS Book Dept., Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 62 Sparks St., Ottawa, ON Canada K1P 5A8; telephone (613) 235-9119; fax (613) 235-9504; www.iankimmerly.com/books (.)

WWII STUDY GROUP BLACKOUT CANCEL SURVEY

Members of our BNAPS sister group has recently announced in their newsletter War Times a new survey of the above markings. According to the group's Chairman Bill Pekonen, the new data will "combine known information into one reference source to encourage further research." (War Times, 35, p.475). The group intends upon expanding the research already done by Harold Dilworth, H.E. Guertin, Ron Leith, and the BNAPS Blackout Study Group. There are many blanks, Bill notes, and there is hope to include as many collectors as possible in the new study. The group is interested in expanding reports (early and late dates), including miscellaneous blackout markings (including blobs, rollers, bars etc.), slogan and non-slogan machines etc., and examining dubious items. There is also a quest to confirm some of Guertin's East Coast locations including: Fairville, Fredericton, LaMalbaie, Bergerville, LaDurantaye, St.Roch, St.Magloire, Hauteville, Loretteville, Kentville, and Tufts Cove.

If members have some of the above, Bill needs a 100% photocopy plus measurements in mm. Contact him at #201-7300 Moffatt Rd., Richmond, BC V6Y 1X8 or contact the study group's Editor Gary Coates for more information at: gcoates2464@rogers.com (.)

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN, 2005-2006--By A.D. Hanes

OP ARCHER
PO BOX 5058 STN FORCES
BELLEVILLE ON
K8N 5W6



A.D. Hanes

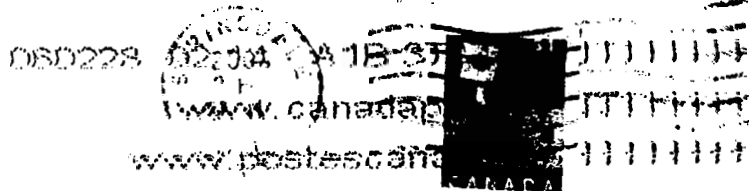
2005-09-27

5058

[Cont'd.]

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[Dave sent in the previous cover (reduced) and the following POCN from Kandahar. He notes that the square marking is not commonly seen. Thanks Dave. These modern cancellations are always appreciated so that we can remain current within our study.Ed.]



Tracy Stuck

P.O. Box 5058 STN La

Kandahar Afghanistan

Bill Smith

K&N SWL

Return to Sender
Renvoyer à l'expéditeur

This item is being returned because: Envoi retourné pour la raison suivante :

- Unclaimed Non réclamé
- No such Address Adresse inexistante
- Address Incomplete Adresse incomplète
- Moved/Unknown Part sans laisser d'adresse
- No such Post Office Bureau inexistant
- Refused Refusé

990558

2006 -03- 13

CFPO-BPFC 5058

Amount Due	Montant dû	Initials/Initiales
\$		

33-086-648 (04-06)

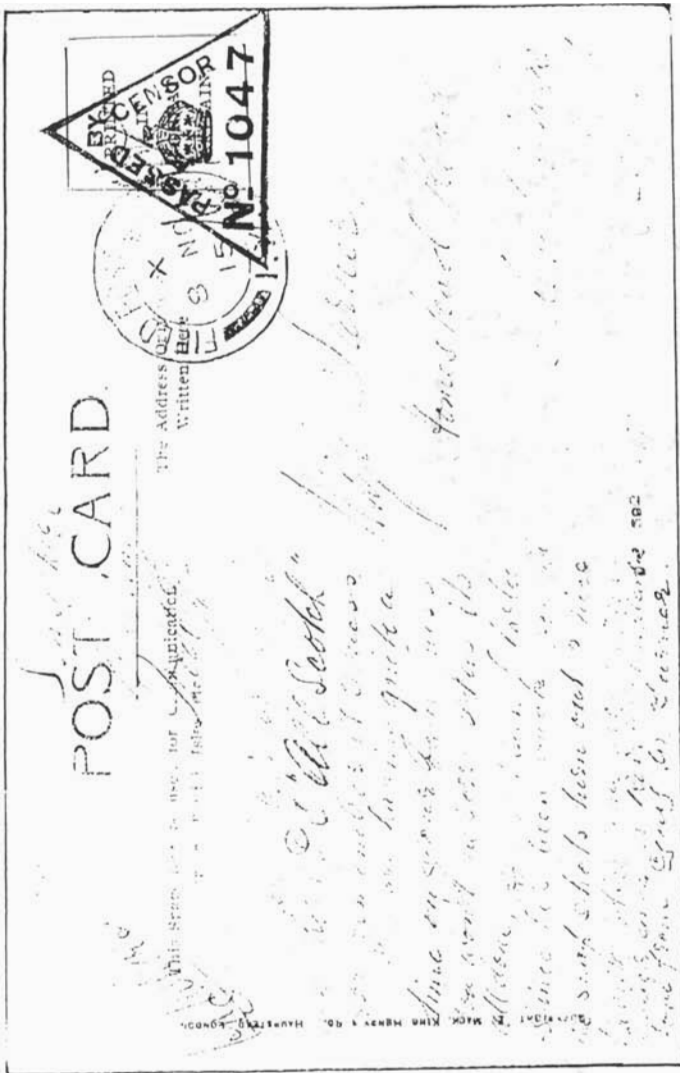
1915 2ND FIELD AMBULANCE, BELGIUM--By Colin Pomfret



[Colin sent along this wonderful patriotic card sent from FPO 1.X with a date of November 8, 1915 (1st Canadian Brigade H.Q.). The censor type 3/1047 is illustrated as well on the reverse of the card which follows.

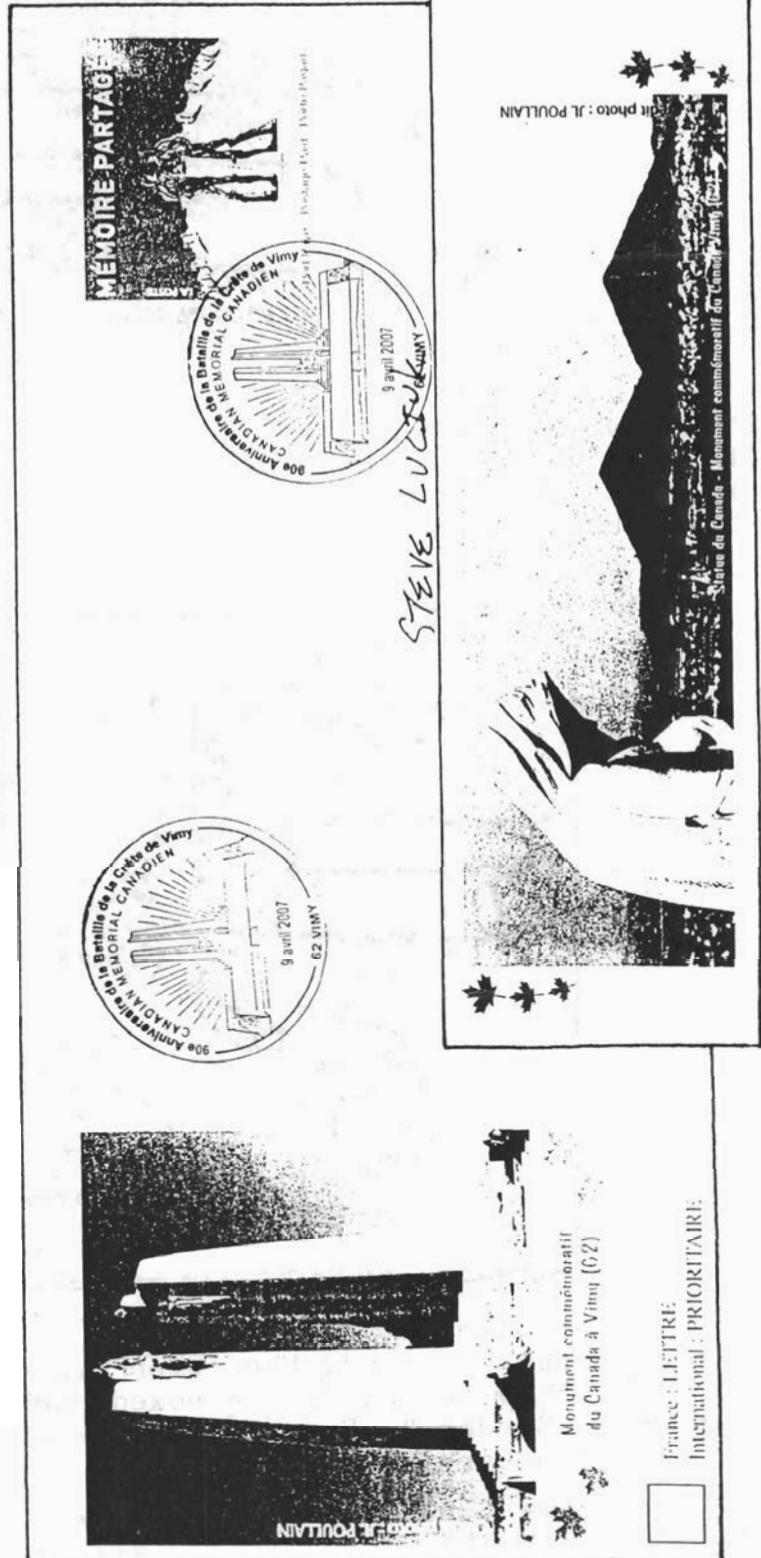
Members may recall seeing a slightly similar card from John Frith's "No.4 Canadian General Hospital" article (NL#76, Nov. 1987, pp.3-4). Ed.]

[Cont'd.]

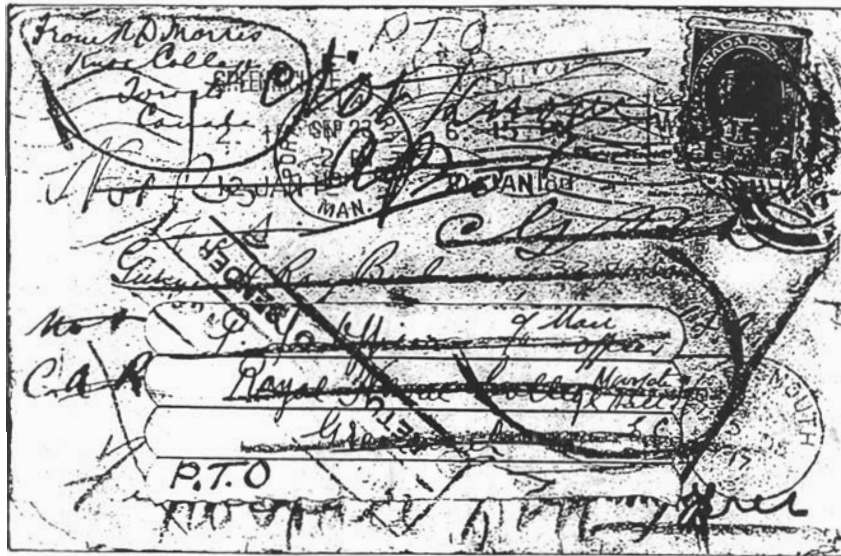


90TH VIMY MEMORIAL--By Steve Luciuk

[Steve recently obtained the cover illustrated on the right from a participant at the recent unveiling ceremonies of the refurbished memorial in Vimy, France. The multi-coloured postal stationery envelope also included a reverse image overlooking the area. Ed.]



A 1917 REDIRECTED NAVAL COVER--By Colin Pomfret

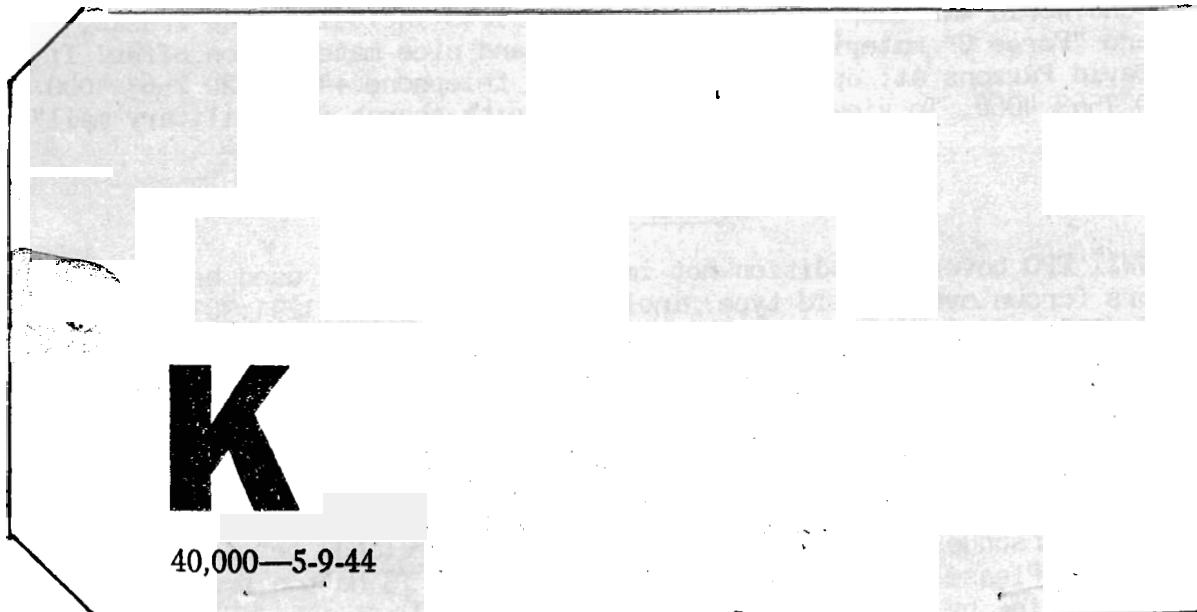
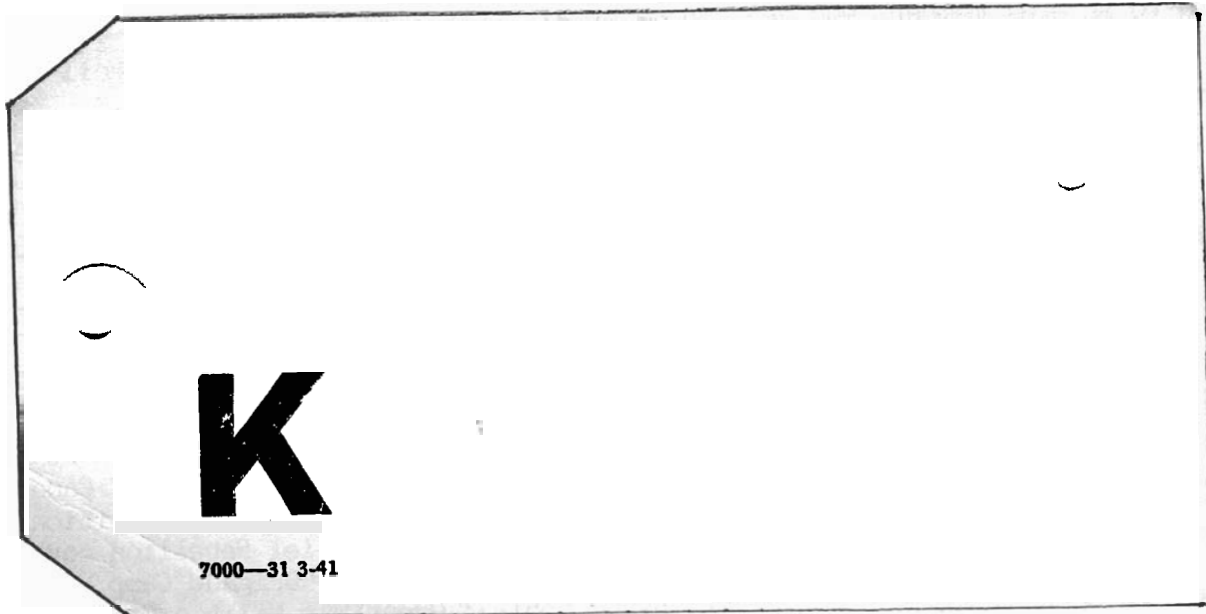


The cover above was sent from Portage La Prairie, Manitoba to Gnr. H.R. Bullmer who was serving in France with the 67th Battery, C.F.A. After much redirection by the Canadian Record Office in England, and the APO 2 CAN SEC in France, it was finally addressed to the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.



As no trace was found, the cover was directed to the General Post Office, London, as evidenced by the boxed handstamp "G.P.O./Not known in R.N.A.S./Return to Sender.". From there it was sent to the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa (February 22, 1918).

At this time Surg.Sub.Lt. Bullmer was with H.M.S. Petunia in the Mediteranean.

SECOND WORLD WAR "K" MAIL BAG TAGS: A QUESTION

Members will be quite familiar with the above tags which were first used on May 1, 1941 and identified mail sorted by the Base Post Office in Ottawa for distribution to the various internment camps. There were several different printing dates. On p.301 of The Major E.R. Toop Collection of Canadian Military Postal History, Vol.I (C.R. McGuire, R.F. Narbonne, Editors, 1996, BNAPS), the tag appears to have a date of "1942". Can any of our members or P.O.W. specialists provide the full date? The 1941 tag above is also illustrated in Steve Luciuk's Internment Mail in Canada, 1914-1919 & 1939-1946 BNAPS Exhibit Series book (p.43).

I've attempted to find others but these three dates, March 31, 1941, ?1942, and September 5, 1944 are the only ones I can find. Would members please send me other dates for inclusion in a future issue?

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Dear CMMSG Members:

Now that spring is here (for most of us) it is time for another issue. Thanks are extended to several members who sent in material. It's always appreciated!

Congratulations to OWEN WHITE for his exhibit entitled "German Military Mail in China: 1900-1906" which obtained a Vermeil at the Edmonton Spring National Show.

Our last issue noted the sad passing of member GEORGE DOUGLAS. Kim Dodwell noted that he and George corresponded in the 1980's and was very helpful with Kim's research. Kim wrote that George went in with the initial assault at Graye-sur-Mer on D-Day with the Canadian Scottish (1st Bn.) and sustained a shoulder wound during the attack on Caen (and was sent back to the line nine days later). He was captured in the Scheldt Pocket (October 28, 1944) but managed to escape a week later. He was wounded again with a grenade near the German border (Deventer). George was a nineteen-year old Private when he first landed in Normandy and ended the war as a Platoon Commander; serving two years after the war with the Permanent Force, PPCLI.

Some recent information from SPINK, 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET, UK (www.spink.com) has arrived regarding their upcoming June 7, 2007 sale of Canada and BNA material. The sale has over twenty lots (#2626-2647) of "campaign, expedition, and military mail". Noted are early stampless items; 1870/1885 Riel Rebellion covers (including several soldier's rates); Nile Expedition material; a "Brigade Camp/Mil.Dist.No.4" cds strike on a 1¢ Small Queen stamp (ex.G. Noble); Great War Militia Camp/POW/Siberia mail; Second World War camp mail as well as POW lots including free franks, incoming covers, and "Force C" material. Some very rare and nice material on offer! If interested contact David Parsons at: dparsons@spink.com or telephone +44 (0)20 7563 4000 or fax: +44 (0)20 7563 4066. To view items on their website search for "military mail".

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;10723;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;14455;14462;14604;14630;14665;14670;14828;15196. K. Dodwell, Middle House, Cruckmeole, Hanwood, Shrewsbury SY5 8JN, U.K. (9/10)

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 (9/10)

FOR SALE: Big Military Section on our website: www.canadacovers.ca (6/9)

Welcome to NICK KNIGHT, Ohio, USA who has recently joined our Study Group!!

Some of the Spink sale items:

