



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

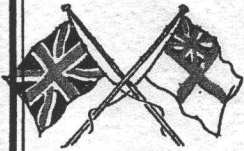
NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2007


NEWSLETTER NO. 182

CHRISTMAS 1916-CANADIAN RECORD OFFICE

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"BRITAIN: WHAT THOU WEIEST, THOU ART!"

 "WHOSE FLAG HAS BRAVED A THOUSAND YEARS
THE BATTLE AND THE BREEZE?"

The above, and the enclosed following, illustrate the close ties Canada had with Britain during the Great War. Despite the fact that some may take issue with overzealous jingoism, the card is a

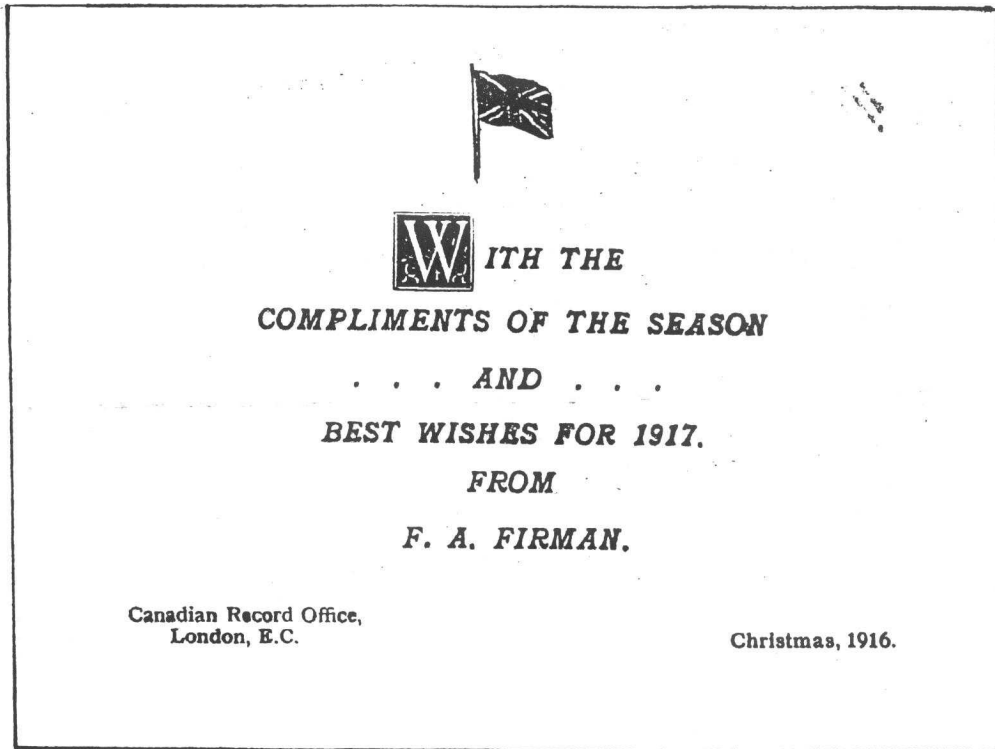
[Cont'd.]

CHAIRMAN/TREAS.: C.D. SAYLES, 25 HOWARD BLVD., WATERDOWN, ON LOR 2H4
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EDITOR: D. MARIO, POST OFFICE BOX 342, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3

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magnificent example of the printer's art in 1916. The sender, F.A. Firman, may simply have wished to impress the young lady to whom the card was addressed!



MILITARY MAIL AT AUCTION

Members will recall the previous Spink sale in June as noted in previous issues. Jerry Jarnick was kind enough to send along the prices realized. Some interesting items included: Lot 2627, 1870 cover from Ft. Chipewyan to Montreal (First Riel Rebellion-related) £2900--approx. C\$7213; Lot 2630, 1885 2¢ cover to Lt. Mickle, Q.O.R., Battleford £900--C\$2239; Lot 2631, red-brown "Riel Essay" £550--C\$1368; Lot 2633, 1884 cover to Surg. Maj. Neilson (Nile Expedition) 2¢/3¢ Small Queens £4800--C\$11,940; Lot 2638, "Brigade Camp/Mil. Dist. No. 4" strike on 1886 1¢ Small Queen £55--C\$137. C\$ include the 15% buyer's fee.

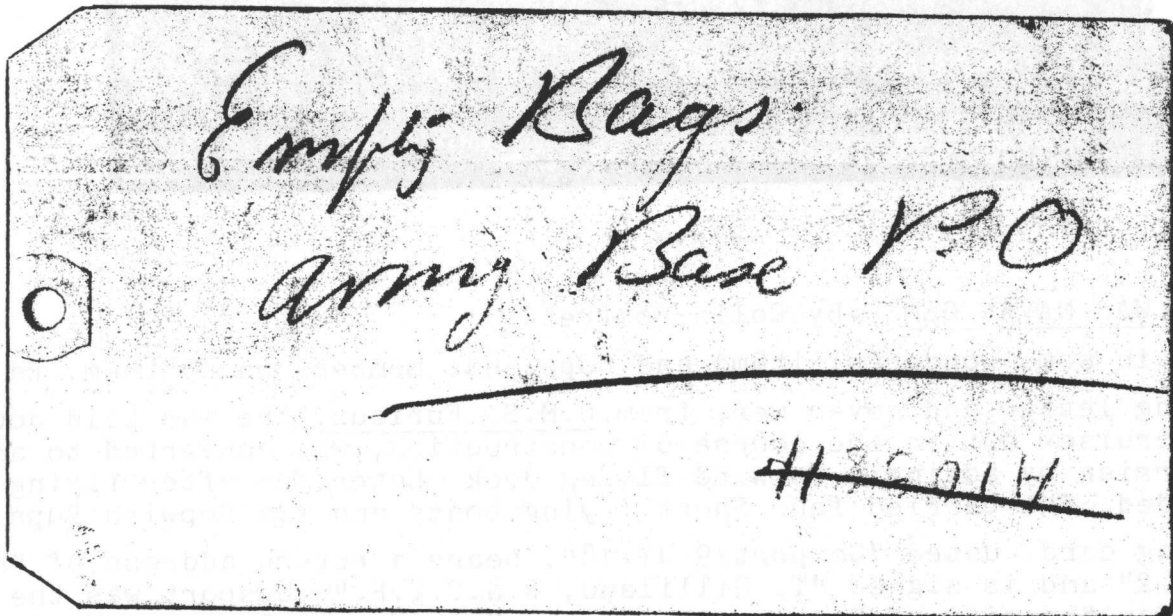
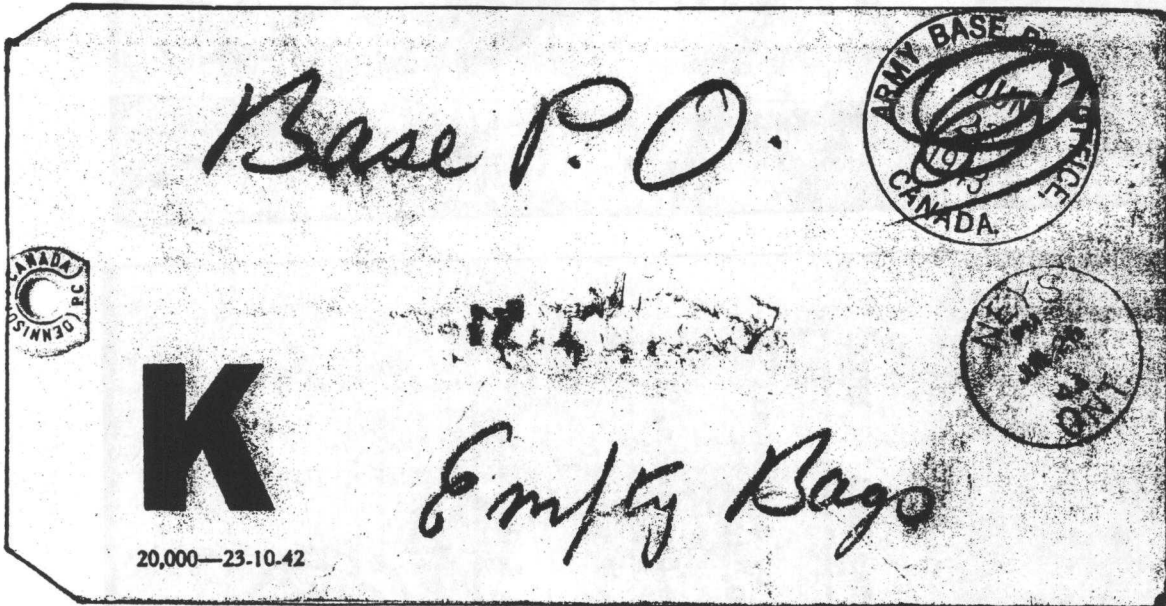
Chuck Firby's Nov. 1-2 sale has just closed and some prices noted include: Lot 355, 1915 Lethbridge/Ottawa unique P.O.W. cover to France (ex. Luciuk/Toop) US\$1500 (includes 15% buyer's fee, C\$ approx. same); Lot 357, 1916 Spirit Lake P.O.W. cover to USA US\$425; Lot 358 Valcartier 1915 unique US\$900; Lot 409, 1885 2¢ Riel Rebellion Soldier's Rate July 2 to Toronto US\$3500; Lot 410, 2¢ Sailor's Rate cover Sampson/HMS Pheasant-1895 Esquimalt to England US\$2750 (a similar rate cover from same sender in the Spink sale, Lot 2640, sold for £850-C\$2114-15% buyer's fee included!). Members interested in WWII P.O.W. material are reminded that Chuck will be selling Steve Luciuk's collection in the next sale.

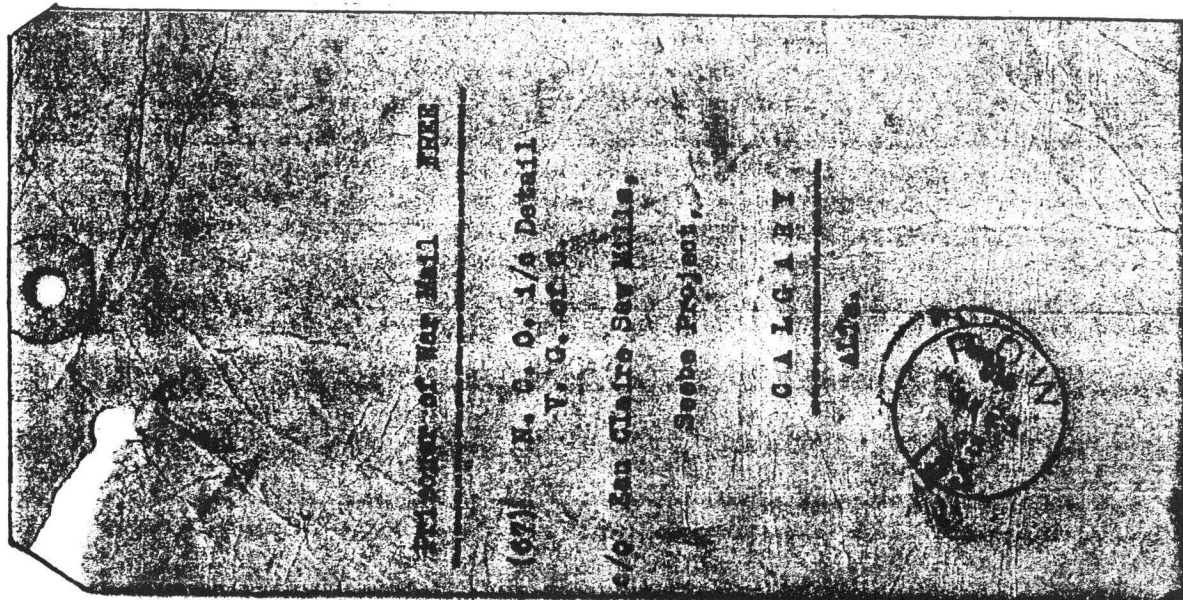
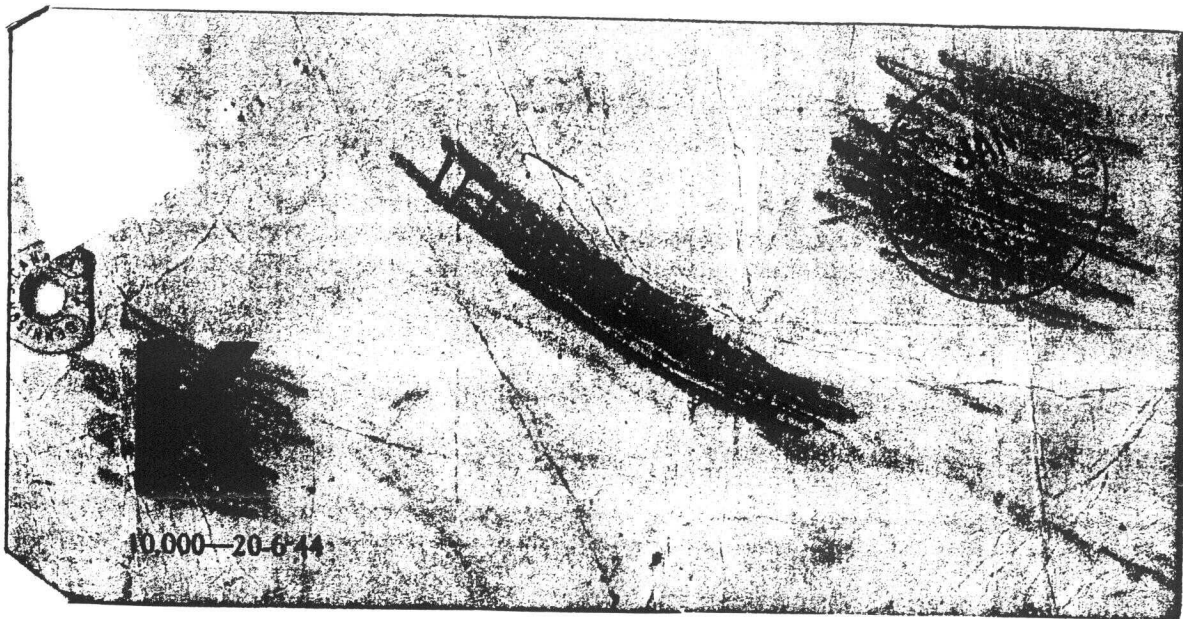
Strong prices for better-quality military mail are still apparent but there are bargains to be had. The strong Canadian Dollar is certainly helping collectors here. How long this will last is anyone's guess but collectors interested in building a fine collection with equally-fine material are encouraged to be pro-active. Some of this material may not come onto the market for years! [Ed.]

"K" P.O.W. MAIL BAG TAGS RE-VISITED--By D.D. Gray

In reference to the previous article concerning the "K" tags (NL#180, May 2007, p.929), I am enclosing copies of the two "K" tags that I have. The first carries the date "23-10-42". This solves the 1942 date question. The second is dated "20-6-44". My research has not turned up any other tags in the literature but with a print total of 77,000 from these four, I think it is probable that a few more are in the marketplace.

Another tidbit is the identification of the "Eau Claire Saw Mill" as a work location for the Seebe Camp as noted on the tag below.





A FEW GREAT WAR NAVAL GEMS--By Colin Pomfret

[Colin sent in some wonderful items and hope that members enjoy them. Ed.]

The following letter and cover were from H.M.S. Furious. She was laid down as a heavy cruiser but in the course of construction, was converted to an aircraft carrier by adding a forward flying deck. Later, an after flying deck was added. She carried four Short flying boats and six Sopwith Pups.

The following card, dated "Gosport/9 JY/18", bears a return address of "Haslar Camp No.2" and is signed "T. Gilliland, R.N.C.V.R.". Gosport was the Naval Base for the city of Portsmouth and the Base Hospital was at Haslar Camp.

[Cont'd.]

Wm. S. Furrows. Mas 44
 C/O J. P.O.
 Edinburgh.
 England.
 Dec. 17th

My Dear Peggy.
 A few lines to let
 you know I am alright, and I
 trust you are the same I never

On Active Service
 Mrs. J. Furrows
 16 Longmark Ave.
 Toronto Ontario
 Canada

POST CARD

WR & S

Harker Camp no 2

FOR INLAND POSTAGE ONLY, THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR CORRESPONDENCE

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN HERE.

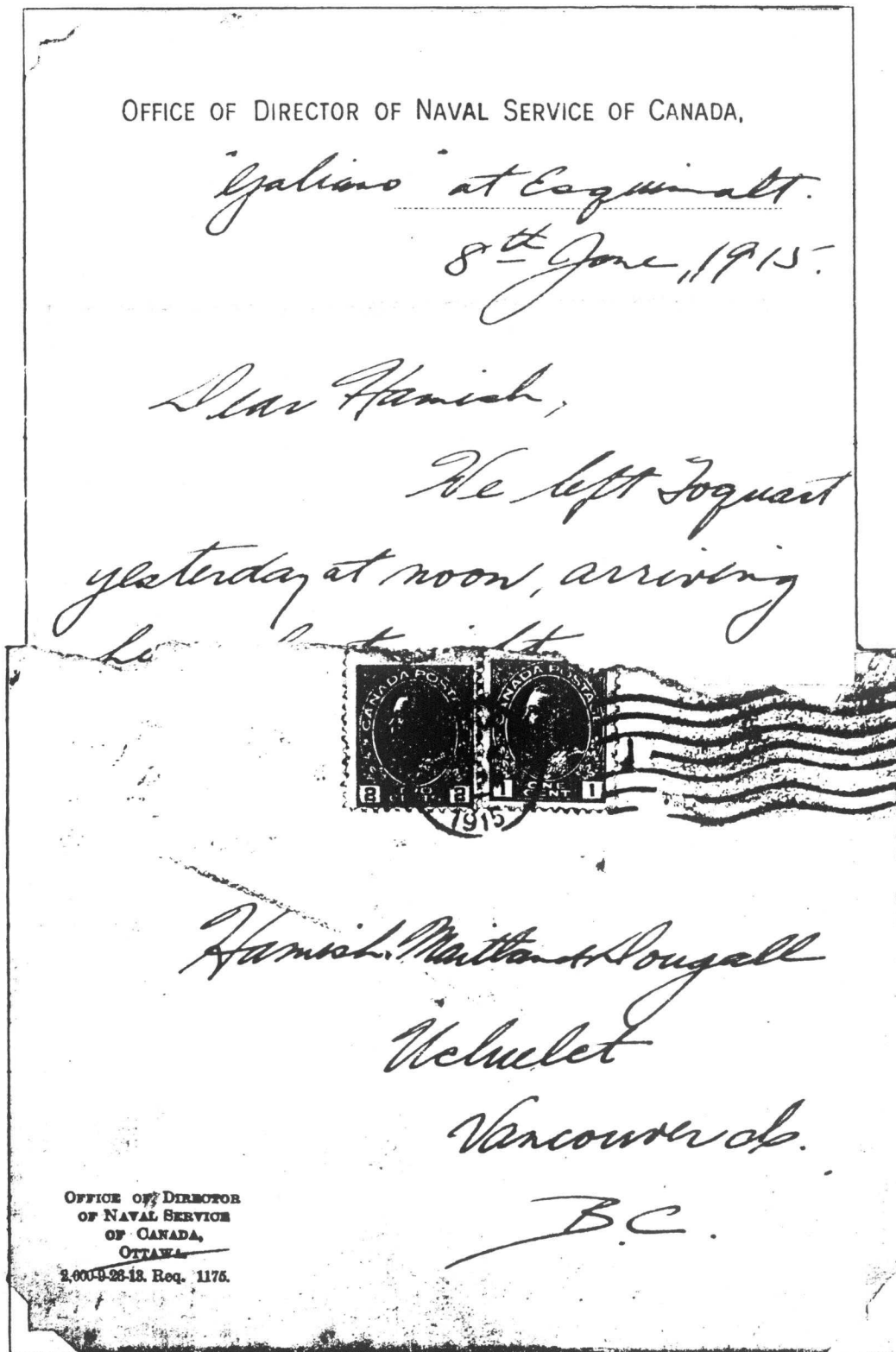
Dear friend I got your welcome letter some time ago but have been waiting to see how I came off with the doctor I think its away to sea again soon for me but wont be sure till the end of this week or till I write you a line then its sure would be fine to have a bit up to Edinburgh now I sure wish I could go again. Had a line from the folks at home Sunday they are all pretty well hoping you are well I remain your truly T Gilliland R.N.C.M.R.

Serg. H.D. Taylor
 Dibatgate camp
 Shorncliffe
 England
 Care of Dental Clinic



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The following cover, dated "Victoria, B.C., JUN 8/1915", includes stationery from the "Office of Director of Naval Service of Canada". Note the "Galiano" at Esquimalt" designation.



[Cont'd.]

Here is a card from F/Lt. Joseph Gorman based at the Kalafrana Air Station in Malta. Here, the naval pilots patrolled the transport routes with Short 184's and Small Americas. Joseph Gorman and three other Canadians obtained their initial training at the Stinson School at San Antonio, Texas. They were the first four students of Marjorie Stinson; an aviation pioneer then still in her teens!



The card bears a "London/RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIP/NO CHARGE TO BE RAISED" machine; a straightline "PASSED BY CENSOR" handstamp; and an Ottawa November 1916 receiver.

TRANS-PACIFIC WARTIME SERVICE ADDITIONS--By David Collyer

[David wrote the additional comments following Bob Toombs' previous article in NL#181, August 2007, pp.931-934.Ed.]

FIG.1 of Bob's article is an EATS item. If you look at the postmark over the 3d value (bottom) you will see the word "South" which shows that the item was posted in South Australia. The town of posting was most likely Goolwa at the mouth of the River Murray; the major waterway in South-Eastern Australia. The original address:"Leading Air Craftsman McLearn, J.A./7 Lig-W4/No.2 ED RAAF/Bradfield Park/Sydney". I'm not sure about the second line[perhaps it is "Flight 4"?Ed.]. The No.2 Embarkation Depot, Bradfield Park is now in the suburb of West Lindfield. It was the site of the Second Australian Scout Jamboree in 1938 and at the start of the war the land was taken over by the RAAF and huts established. After the war the buildings may have been used as a migrant hostel. The franking of 4d is composed of 1d for the Forces postal concession rate (which commenced in November 1939),

[Cont'd.]

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plus 3d per half ounce (for airmail between Adelaide and Sydney). LAC McLearn had left Bradfield Park by the time the letter arrived. Note that this item was not inspected by the Civil Censor in either Adelaide or Sydney because the intended address was within Australia. Therefore FIG.1 was a South Australia to New South Wales cover which was redirected to an EATS trainee who had left for Canada.

Bob's FIG.2 is a most unusual item. It is an Airletter used by a member of a Canadian Army Signals Intelligence Unit which came to Australia towards the end of the war in the Pacific. It shows two types of censorship: the first is the rectangular AMF cachet #2235 (in theory this number would have been issued specifically to that unit). Unfortunately no one has compiled a list of field censor numbers and the units they represent; the second is the diamond "1/68 Passed/by/Censor" civil censor marking. "1" represents the First Military District which equated roughly as "Queensland". This marking would have been used at Brisbane. "68" signifies the censor's number. The reverse shows a type of censor tape that is longer than normal tapes because it was used on Airletters.

The postmark is "No.3 AUST BASE P.O. B" which opened at #313-315 Adelaide St., Brisbane, Queensland on Nov.2, 1942 and closed on Oct.22, 1945. Dater B is recorded used from July 13, 1943 to October 22, 1945. Collas, in his The Postal History of the Australian Army During WWII (1986), p.131, states that the rubber handstamp "ELC 26" (issued in Queensland in July 1943) was used at H.Q. No.1 Canadian Special Wireless and Intelligence Group at the Northern Brisbane suburb of Chermside until late 1945. Proud confirms the location as Chermside but gives the latest date as April 5, 1945. The Eastern Lines of Communication (essentially Eastern Command) covered Queensland and parts of N.S.W. It's interesting to note that the return address is "Army Base Post Office, Melbourne, Australia" which was No.1 Aust. Base P.O. at St. Kilda on Port Phillip Bay. There appears to be evidence of a seven-line machine postmark which one feels may have been applied by the civil postal system in Australia.

FIG.3 poses a number of questions too. I think the transcription of the postmark should be "RAAF P.O. Lindfield NSW Aust" and the word "base" was not included. This post office serviced Bradfield Park complex, and the office opened on August 1, 1940 and was still operating in 1950. RAAF P.O. Lindfield is called a "Mil. P.O." which were post offices opened on military bases but serviced and operated by civilian postal workers. These were not Forces post offices operated by Service personnel under service conditions. Over the words "Airletter" is a boxed cachet "RAAF" which was applied to indicate a Forces Mail concession. The return address is also unusual. Lindfield is north of the Harbour Bridge past Chatswood. Vaucluse is south of the Harbour near Sydney Heads. The address appears to be civilian but the postmark and the concession cachet imply Forces mail. [The No.1 Special Wireless Group was discussed by John Frith in NL#123, April 1996, pp.224-226.Ed.]

BNAPEX 2007 REPORT

Doug and I had the opportunity to attend the BNAPEX/CALTAPEX 2007 Convention and member Jon Johnson, OTB and his fellow BNAPSers and committee members did a wonderful job. Congratulations to the following study group members who contributed some incredible exhibits--BNAPEX AWARDS: Gold, W.G. Robinson, "Canadian Military Presence in Siberia, 1918-1920" (and Sam Nickle Award); Vermeil, W.G. Robinson, "Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force in Canada, 1917-1919" (and American Air Mail Society Award); Silver, Colin Pomfret,

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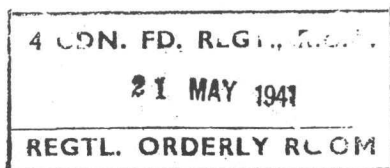
"Some Canadian Military Mail 1865-1922"--CALTAPEX AWARDS: Gold, Jon Johnson, "South African Military Nursing Service" (and CALTAPEX One-Frame Grand). Dr. D.W. Thompson (non-member) received a BNAPEX Silver and "Felicitations of the Jury" for his "Letters to and from the 1870 and 1885 Riel Rebellion, Northwest Canada" exhibit. Congratulations to other study group members who exhibited non-military exhibits as well!

Our bank balance, at the time of the meeting, was \$522.79 and each issue of the newsletter averages \$120-\$125 (postage/copying etc.). It was noted that a call for dues will need to be requested near the end of 2008.

Doug Sayles chaired the meeting which was attended by W.G. Robinson, Dean Mario, Mark Isaacs, Ken Ellison, and Jon Johnson (who had to attend to other duties). Bill Topping was a guest attendee. A general discussion/show & tell and queries filled the hour. Bill Topping is working on a special topic related to the "Victoria X" Great War hammer and usage for the B.C. Group and may contact members for input. Doug noted that Charles Livermore is working on a project to place our past newsletters online through the BNAPS website. It was moved and agreed that the last five years' issues will not be included. The "military column" in TOPICS is ongoing but will need support from our membership. Our 200th newsletter-project is also ongoing and a discussion took place. We need more ideas from the members so please contact Doug with your thoughts. Doug also noted that a member, who wishes to remain anonymous, has kindly donated a generous sum for the 200th project. Kindest thanks are sent on the membership's behalf!!!

4TH INF. BRIGADE (2ND CDN. INF. DIV.) ORDERLY ROOMS--By Kim Dodwell





2nd Field Battery, R. C. A.

4th Fd. Bty., R.C.A., C.A.S.F.

26BTY
21 MAY 1941

St. G. Blackburn
2nd Bty
4th Field Regt.
Cdn Army Corps



Here are several Orderly Room handstamps from the 4th Infantry Brigade (2nd Canadian Infantry Division). Although most people think of them for their participation in the Dieppe Raid, they also played a full part in the war in North-West Europe from July 1944 up to the end of the war. Unfortunately some of the coloured inks do not photocopy well but this will give members some idea of the Brigade's types. The larger "Essex Scottish" handstamp appears to have been used exclusively on mail from the battalion when it was part of "Simmer-Force" on the Isle of Wight; training for the Dieppe Raid. The signature over the 4th Field Regiment, R.C.A. is that of George Blackburn, later Major, M.C., and the author of The Guns of Normandy and The Guns of War.

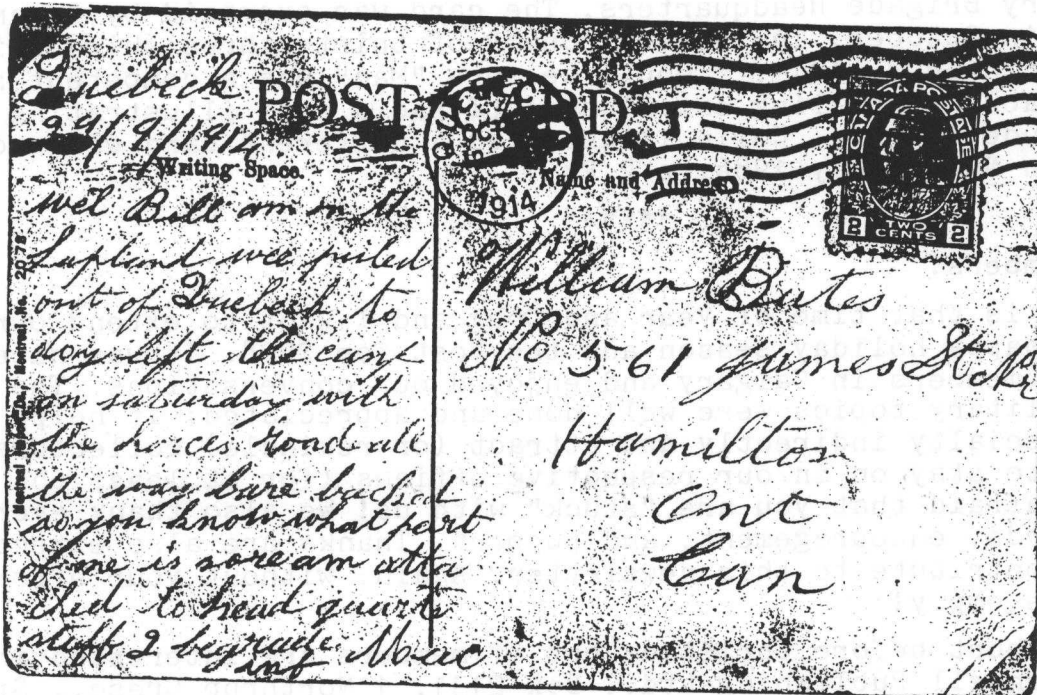
SOLDIER'S CARD FROM QUEBEC-OCTOBER 1914--By J.C. Campbell

The following card appears rather uninteresting and shows the Montcalm Monument in Quebec, Quebec on the front, however the message reveals the military interest for the collector. A transcript of the message follows but unfortunately "Mac" didn't provide his surname:

'Quebeck 29/9/1914

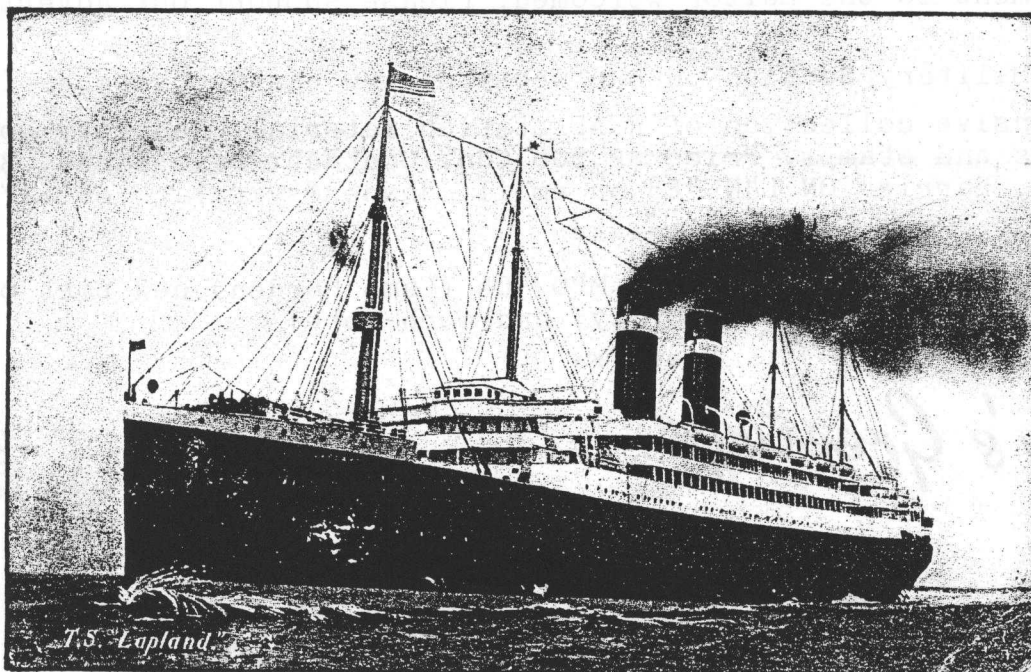
Wel Bill am on the Lapland wee puled out of Quebeck to day left the camp on saturday with the horces roade all the way bare backed so you know what part of me is sore am attatched to head quarte staff 2 begrade inf Mac'

[Cont'd.]



On September 29, 1914, the manuscript date, S.S. Lapland completed loading prior to sailing overseas carrying 2,328 soldiers and a crew of 379. This was part of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade consisting of Headquarters Staff and the 5th and 6th Battalions (both raised in Western Canada). In addition she carried guns, ammo, Red Cross supplies, and 13,550 sacks of flour. It was October 20 when Lapland disembarked her passengers at Plymouth, England.

"Mac" tells us that they left camp (Valcartier) on Saturday (September 26) on horseback for the ride to Quebec (18 miles). He also said he is attached



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to 2nd Infantry Brigade Headquarters. The card was overpaid by 1¢ and post-marked early in October. The entire convoy of thirty-three ships sailed from Gaspé Basin October 3, 1914. I would be sure "Mac" was a competent soldier despite his lack of spelling excellence! [I had a card illustrating the Lapland and include it here. Colin illustrated a different card with accompanying notes in NL#68, May 1986, p.4.Ed.]

Dear CMMSG Members:

Once again it is that time of year and Doug and I want to extend our best wishes for a happy holiday season and the best for 2008. It was nice to see several group members in Calgary and enjoyed our conversations. The exhibits related to military topics were well done and appreciated; it helps to publicize our specialty indirectly and attract (or rekindle) collectors. Doug and I intend to stay on in our respective offices (for at least the coming year) so I'm afraid that you are "stuck" with us! We also thank everyone for their kind words, encouragement, and support. Thanks are also extended to members who contribute to this newsletter. Again, without your efforts these pages would be empty!

Time will be short before Christmas but if members are interested in military books, Vanwell Publishing Ltd., Box 2131, 1 Northrup Cresc., St. Catharines, ON L2R 7S2; 1-800-661-6136; sales@vanwell.com has a wonderful selection of military-related titles. Another company is The Naval & Military Press Ltd., Unit 10, Ridgewood Industrial Park, Uckfield, E. Sussex TN22 5QE, Great Britain; www.naval-military-press.com (.) The War Amps also has a good number of DVD/VHS military videos too: Video Dist. Dept., 1 Maybrook Dr., Scarborough, ON M1V 5K9; 1-800-250-3030; customerservice@waramps.ca (.)

SMALL ADS

Buy, Sell, Trade! Insertions are only \$1 Canadian (mint face postage is ok) per issue. Payment to the Editor welcomed. Please support our advertisers if you can.

FOR SALE: Big Military Section on our website: www.canadacovers.ca (8/9)

FOR SALE: Extensive collection of RCAF Station material. Majority covers, but some pieces and stamps. Price \$2,500 Cdn. Contact: Dave Hanes, 33 Lillian Cresc., Barrie, ON L4N 4P8 or email: dhanes@sympatico.ca (1/2)

Upcoming in the January 2008 issue: MPO 306 (Camp Borden) new post office opening; Great War transport security; and much more!

Season's Greetings

