

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

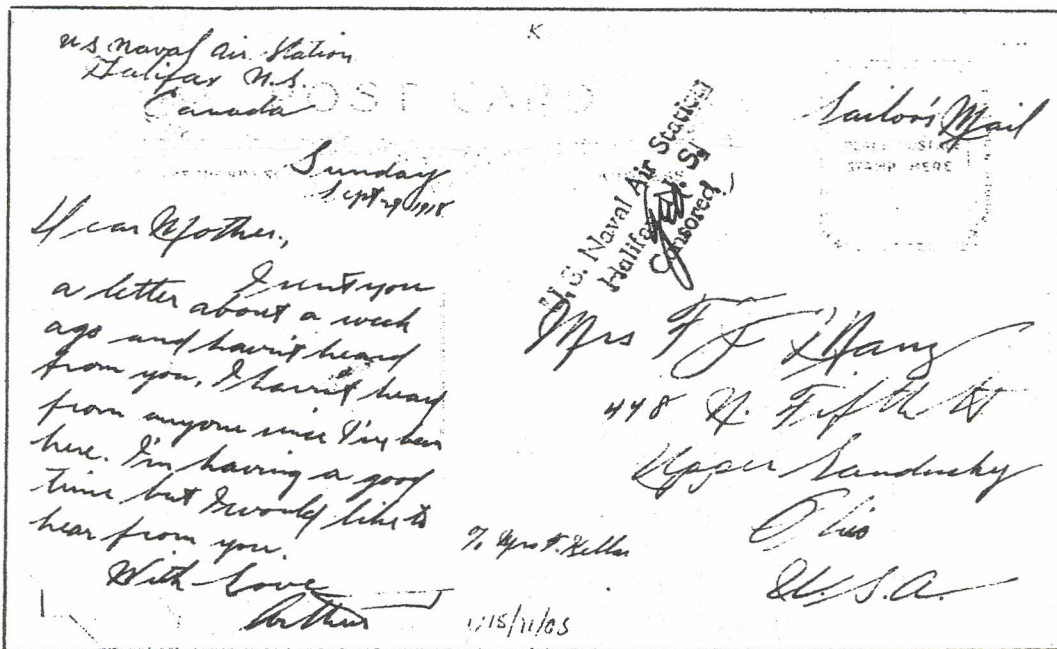
MARCH 2008

NEWSLETTER NO. 184

Page 967

1918 U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION, HALIFAX--By Colin Pomfret

The following card from Halifax has a manuscript date of "Sept. 29, 1918" and bears a handstamp "U.S. Naval Air Station/Halifax, N.S./Censored". Later in the war German submarines began to reach across the Atlantic, and the Canadian anti-submarine patrol was inadequate for the task. In the summer of 1918, the Canadian government built a base at Eastern Passage for the use of American naval air-



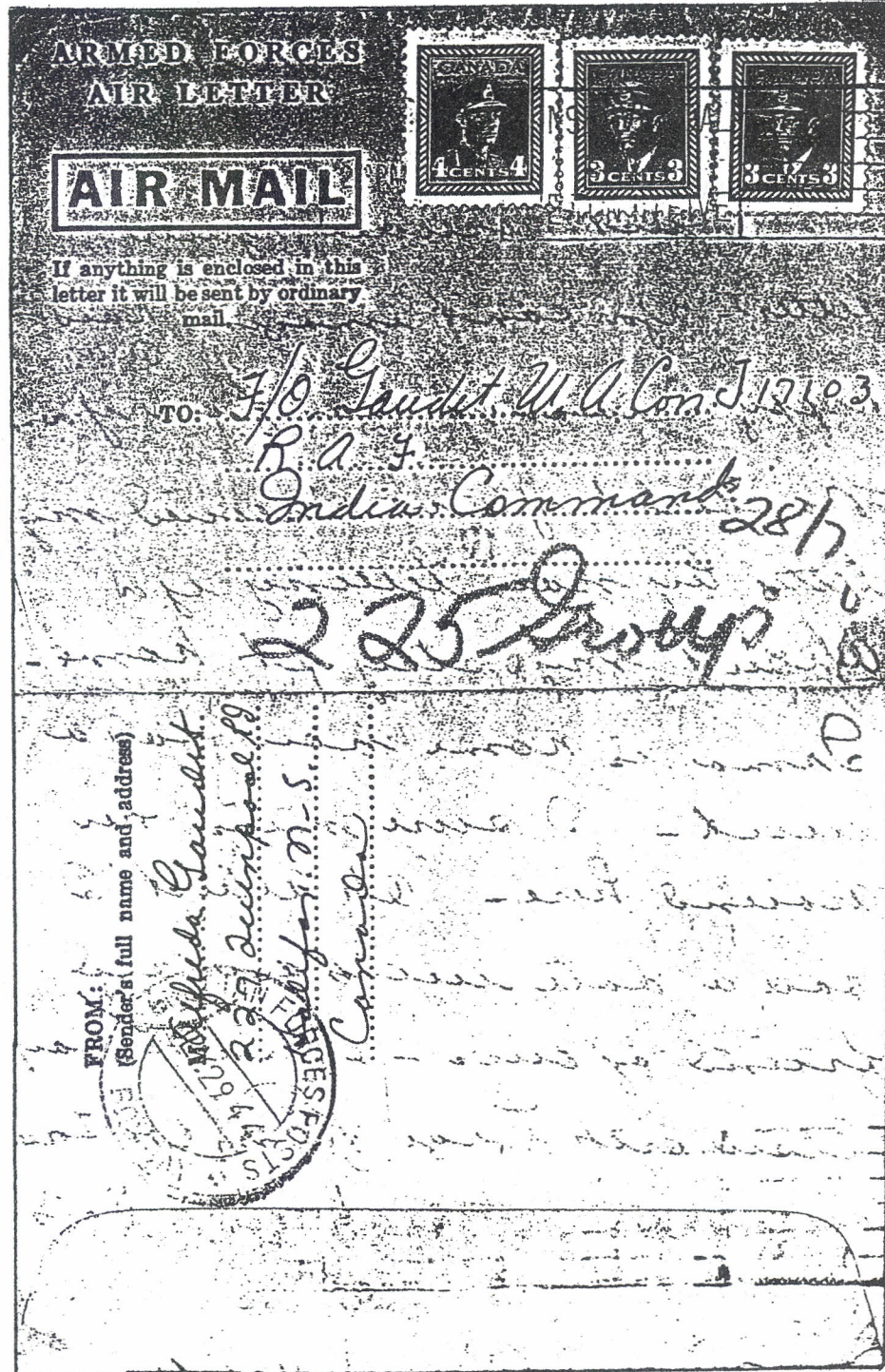
craft. They patrolled the harbour approaches with Curtiss flying boats until the end of the war. The lack of a postmark may indicate the card was taken to the U.S.A. in a closed bag. [Colin submitted a related item in Newsletter #154 (March 2002, pp. 608-609). Ed.]

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

CANADIAN FORCES POSTS BOMBAY, 1944--By W.G. Robinson

Here is an example of the double-ring marking of this office used on an airletter re-addressed to "225 Group", R.A.F. dated June 29, 1944. [Many of these do not copy well so I've included the re-constructed No.M20-141 illustration from Bailey & Toop's Canadian Military Postal Markings, Vol.II (Waterford, MI: C.G. Firby Publ., 1996), p.711.Ed.]



SOME INTERESTING "FORCES LETTERS"--By Robert Toombs

Below is a Forces Letter from a Canadian soldier's wife to a Canadian Sergeant serving with the Canadian Army in Australia (some nine officers and sixty-four other ranks). They were sent in 1944 to assist with the operation of Canadian-built radar linked to anti-aircraft guns on the front lines in the Dutch East Indies (the Moluccas). The Letter also bears a rubber straightline marking "NO RECORD OF REPATRIATION OF ADDRESSEE". I have other items in this correspondence with Australian re-direction to the "LHQ/

FORCES LETTER

Not suitable for enclosures



A.E.M.E. School/Ingleburn/N.S.W." (dated Sept. 11/45) and "AIB Staging Camp/Indooroopilly/Qld." (dated Sept. 23/45)

V-CAN-K71971. \$10-
Sgt. J.G. HARGITT,
CANADIAN ARMY,
% ARMY BASE POST OFFICE,
MELBOURNE VIC:
AUSTRALIA

Second fold here

Sender's name and address:-

Mrs. J.G. Hargitt
10 Lady Smith Rd
Pen-y-lan, Cardiff
S. Wales. G.B.

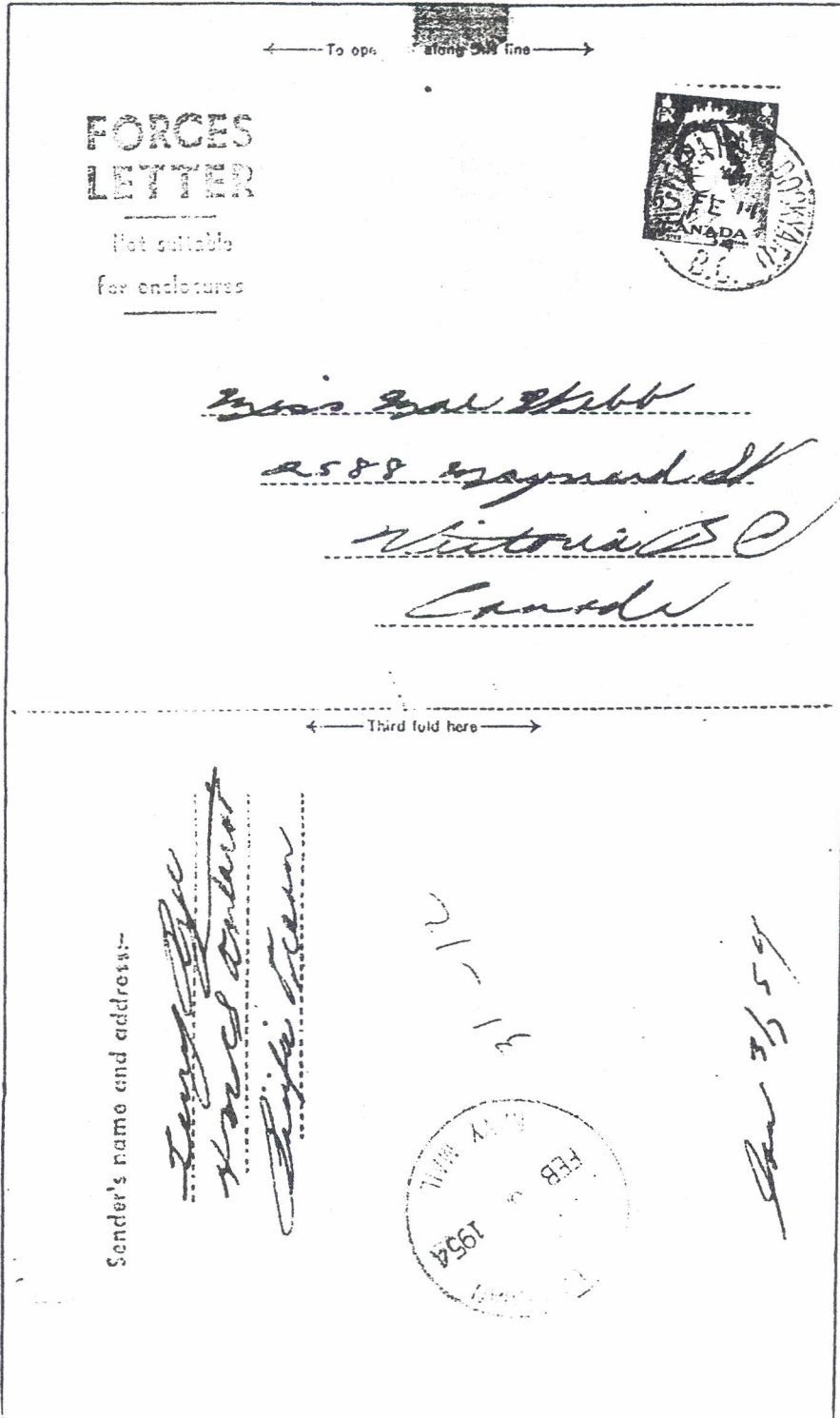
To open cut here

To open cut here

[Cont'd.]

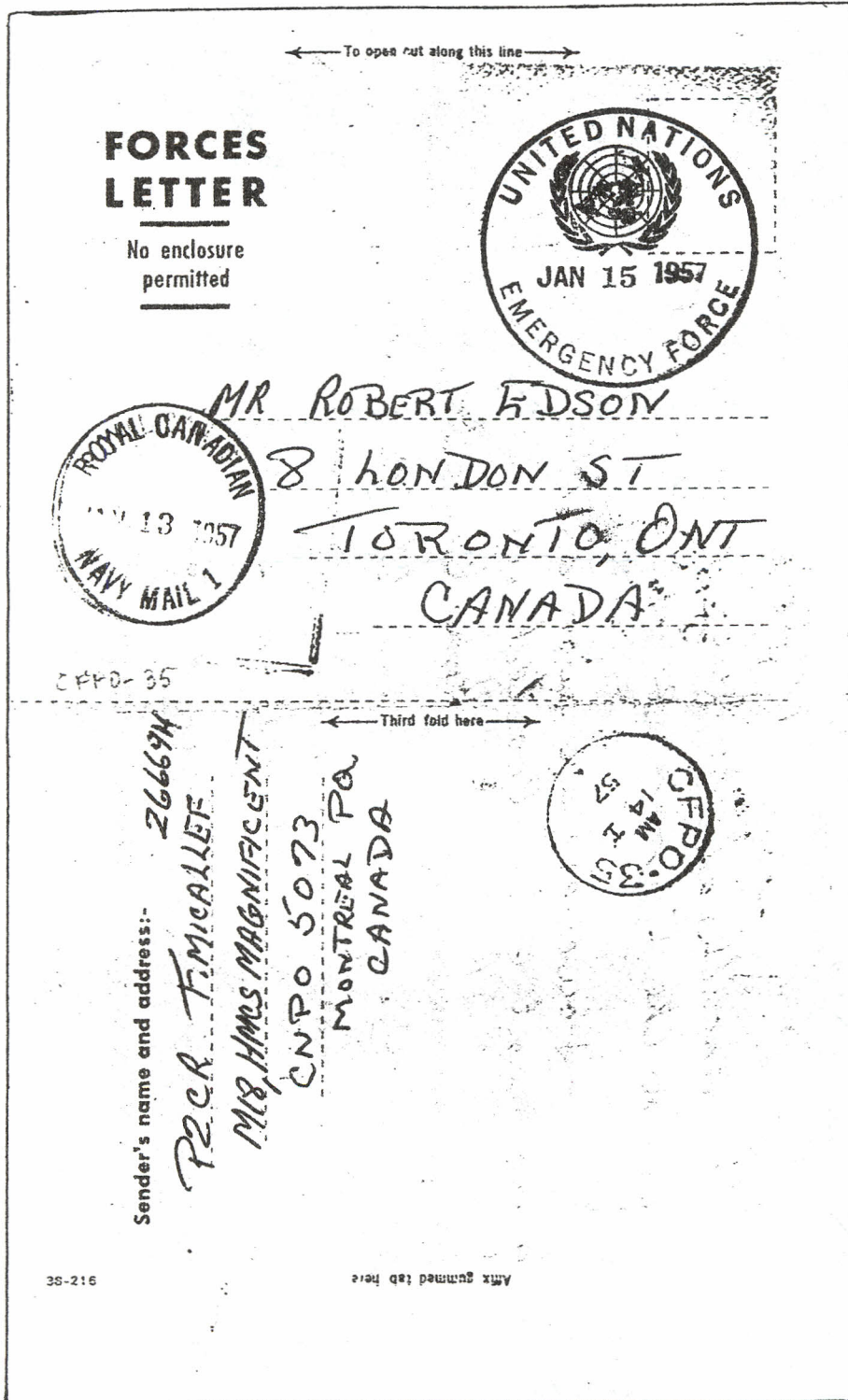
Page 970

This later-printing Forces Letter (note the different style of "Not suitable/for enclosures" and Canadian stamp) from a Canadian on his way to Australia for the Royal Visit of Queen Elizabeth II, has a "ROYAL CANADIAN/FEB 5 1954/NAVY MAIL" circular ship marking in carmine. The 5¢ Karsh stamp is cancelled with a "VICTORIA H.M.C. DOCKYARD/AM/FE 11/54/BC" CDS. [Similar HMCS Ontario Letters were in Newsletter 114-115 (Spring 1994), p.133 and Newsletter 116-117 (Summer 1994), p. 169.Ed.]



[Cont'd.]

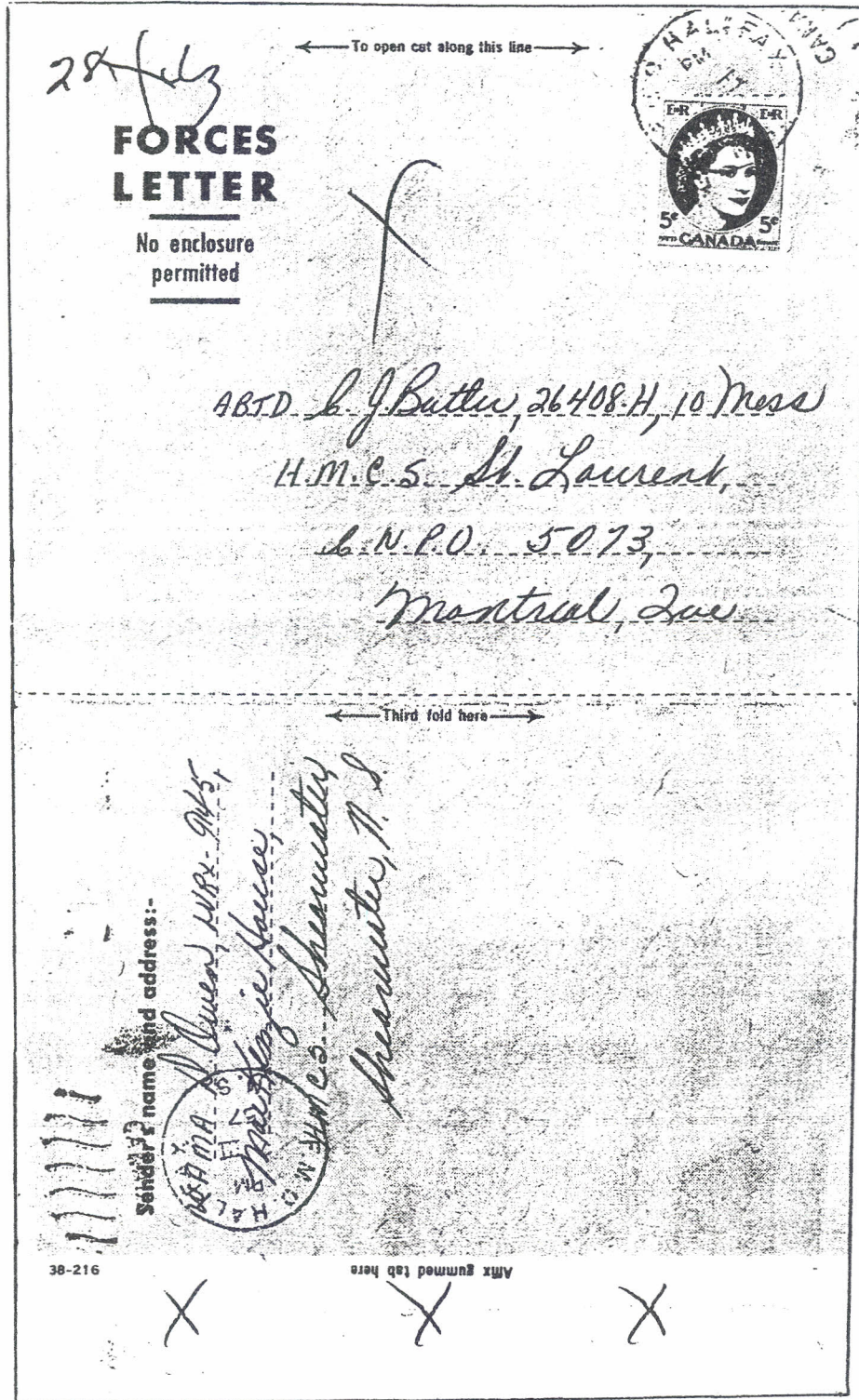
Another ship-related (and yet again different) Forces Letter is shown below. The sender, a member of HMCS Magnificent, writes that he can see "...sunken ships in the Suez Canal...". The ship at this time was at Port Said and the Letter bears a circular "ROYAL CANADIAN/JAN 13 1957/NAVY MAIL" dater, along with the U.N. Emergency Force cachet and "CFPO-35/AM/14 I/57" CDS. Lester B. Pearson was awarded the Nobel Peace Price for this operation.



[Cont'd.]

Page 972

Here is a Forces Letter from "F.M.O. Halifax/PM/7 III/57/N.S." (duplex) to a sailor on a foreign cruise aboard HMCS St. Laurent. Effective April 1, 1954 the air mail Forces Letter rate was 5¢ each. No enclosures were permitted as instructed and they were not accepted for registration.



POSTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAIL ABOARD M.S. GRIPSHOLM--By Walter Plomish

COPY FOR MR. HENRING - FOR INFORMATION

12 37

CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

CLASS	SERVICE
Day Letter	
Night Message	
Night Letter	
Please mark an X opposite the class of service desired.	

MONEY TRANSFERRED BY
TELEGRAPH TO PRINCIPAL
POINTS IN CANADA AND
THE UNITED STATES



CABLE CONNECTIONS TO
ALL PARTS OF THE
WORLD
RADIOGRAMS TO SHIPS

TIME FILED
CHECK

W. D. NEIL, General Manager of Communications.

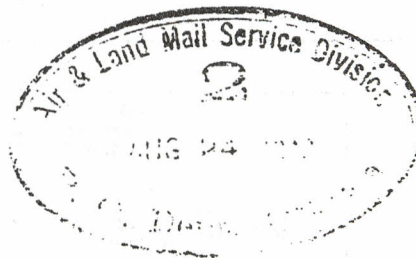
Send the following message, subject to the conditions on the back thereof, which are hereby agreed to.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OTTAWA, August 23, 1943

LETTERS FOR JAPAN VIA GRIPSHOLM ARE TO BE GIVEN AIR
CONVEYANCE WHEREVER POSSIBLE REGARDLESS OF POSTAGE

P T COOLICAN

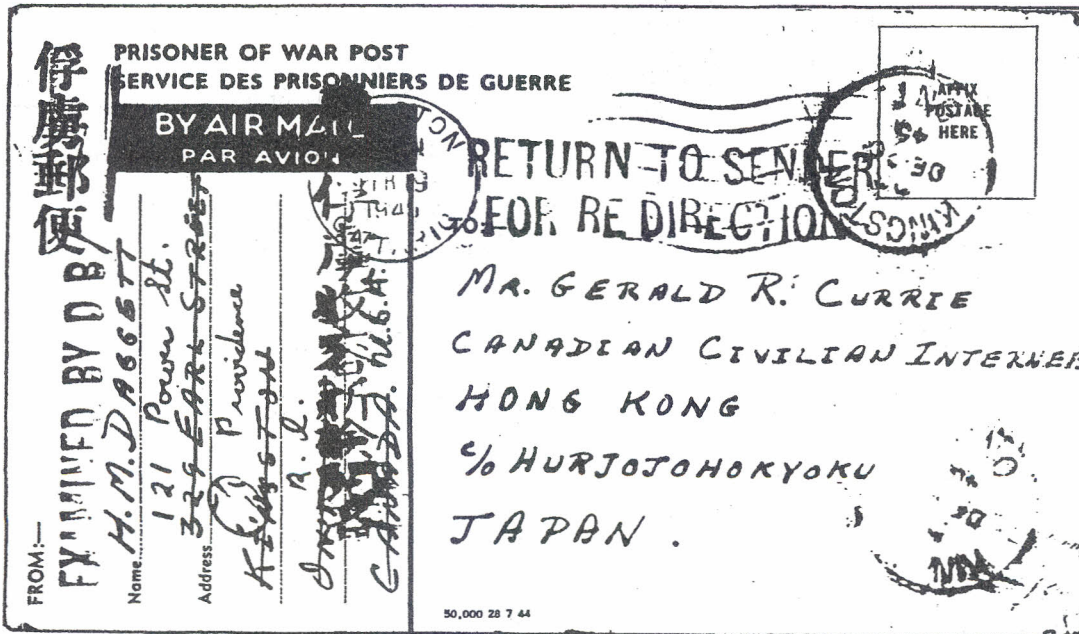
(Charge to
Departmental Admin.,
P.O. Dept.)



[The above Post Office Department C.P. telegraph, sent in by Mr. Plomish many years ago, relates to the M.S. Gripsholm's second exchange voyage. It commenced shortly after the date of the above document (ex. Canadian Archives) on September 2, 1943, where the ship was bound for an exchange meeting with the Japanese Teia Maru at Mormagda, Portuguese East Africa. It returned to New York on December 2, 1943. For more on the ship, members can see E.R. Toop's "M.S. Gripsholm--A World War II Exchange Ship," in A Canadian Military Postal History Anthology, BNAPS CMMSG, 1991, especially text related to the ship's second exchange, pp.166-170; also Ken V. Ellison's The Canadian Army's Hong Kong Story, 1941-1945, BNAPS Exhibits Series No.8 (Revised Colour Edition, March 2005), p.84, 92.Ed.]

P.O.W. POST STATIONERY TO CANADIAN CIVILIAN INTERNEE--By Walter Plomish

[Again, related to the preceding article, this item accompanied and members may find it of some interest. According to Ritch Toop, this card is the second of three printings.. See C.R. McGuire & R.F. Narbonne's The Major E.R. Toop Collection of Canadian Military Postal History, Vol. I (Ottawa: BNAPS, 1996), p.367. Members will recognize the name of the sender, Harry M. Daggett, Jr., as a long-time member of BNAPS. In BNA Topics (#168, Vol. 16, No.5, May 1959, p.125-129) he contributed an article on Canadian P.O.W. air mail stationery. Note the delay between February 1945 and December 1945. Ed.]

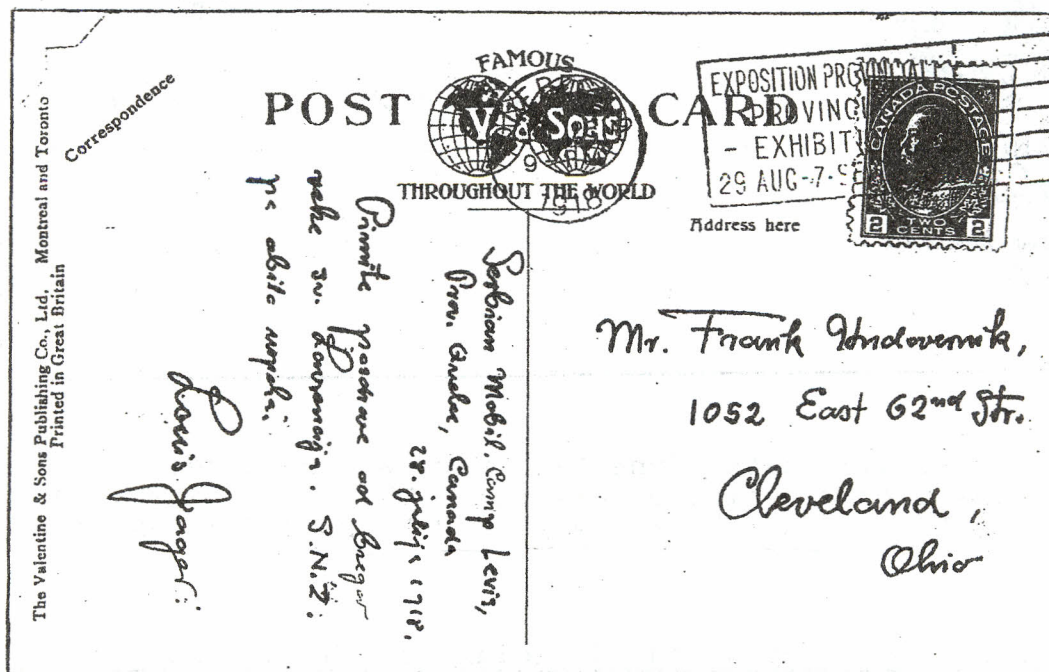


NOTE. The particulars inserted on the address side and the message in the space below must be TYPED or written clearly in BLOCK LETTERS. MESSAGES MUST NOT BE LONGER THAN 25 WORDS.

WERE GLAD TO HEAR THAT
YOU WERE WELL. JOHN IS
QUITE BUSY STUDYING FOR
HIS B.S. WHICH HE WILL GET
NEXT YEAR. (WE) ARE WELL AND
SEND REARDS
RETURN TO SENDER
FOR REDIRECTION HARRY

SERBIAN MOBILIZATION CAMP, LEVIS 1918--By Colin Pomfret

Established in the summer of 1917, this camp handled Serbian nationals living in North America (the majority from the United States) who wanted to return to Europe to join the Serbian Army. Some were reservists but many were volunteers. They were held at Levis until shipping was available (from Montreal, Quebec City, St. John, or Halifax). Because of a shortage of ships they were often sent overseas on horse boats and worked their way across tending the horses.



Once the ships reached England, they passed into the control of Serbian authorities. They were sent in groups of fifty to two hundred and approximately three thousand were shipped during the course of the war. After the Armistice the camp was closed and the remaining Serbs were given train tickets back to the places they had originated. Courtesy of Dr. Jonathon Vance, PhD., Department of History, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. [Colin first sent in the above card for Newsletter #157 (Nov. 2002, pp. 650-652), and the above updates the original article. Ethnic nationals willing to train and serve included Poles as members know. See Gale Raymond's previous article regarding Niagara Camp in Newsletter #162 (Nov. 2003, p. 712). Ed.]

SAM J. RICHEY BOER WAR PATRIOTIC COVER

The following Bulldog and Horseshoe design, registered by Richey of St. John, New Brunswick on January 17, 1900, is familiar to members. Ken Rowe, in his study on the Canadian Contingents (pp. 79-80, 81) discusses this particular design (this colour printed cover was, as he stated, only recorded used in Canada). While he pointed out that the postcard existed with a descriptive text (p. 80), he did not mention the existence of the text printed upon the envelopes. This illustrated example, used from an unidentified

[Cont'd.]

Page 978

and a "Guthrie/SP 2/16/Ont." broken-circle receiver, is another common "stock" card. The 157th was absorbed by the 8th Reserve Battalion and lasted from October 17, 1916 to December 24, 1916. Both cards may have been "officially" sanctioned by Battalion officials and made available to soldiers. Thanks Colin! Several years ago Joe Smith sent in an article by Lt.Col. Ian McCulloch entitled "The Postcard War, 1914-1918" from The Beaver (April-May 1998) which members are no doubt familiar. The author notes that cards were "...delivered in Canada at the rate of more than 50,000 a day." (p.5)!Ed.]



Dear CMMMSG Members:



Due to personal circumstances, apologies are extended for a rather late January issue, herewith enclosed with this issue. I hope that you enjoy both issues and thanks again to our contributing members. Although the cupboard isn't bare, it is looking a bit empty for material so any support is appreciated. I hope to be back on schedule for the May issue--fingers crossed! Until then, Doug and I hope that you have a nice spring!

SMALL ADS

Buy, Sell, Trade! Insertions are only \$1 Canadian (mint postage at face is ok) per issue. Payment to the Editor please.

WANTED: Still seeking Great War-related material--Newfoundland Regiment covers/cards; domestic censored etc.; 19th century Royal Navy ship covers associated with Canada's coasts. D. Mario, Box 342, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3 (2/2)
