

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

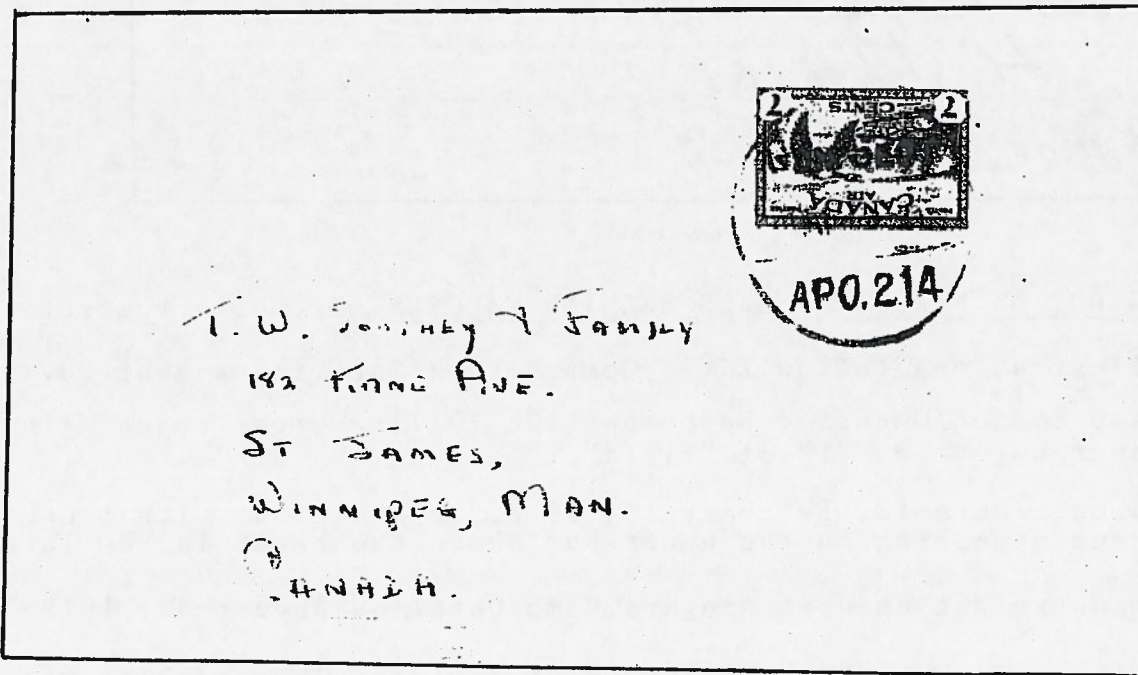
NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009

NEWSLETTER NO. 190
Page 1039

CDN. SECT. APO 214, KOREA--By Mike Street

This cover appears to be a Christmas card envelope and thus a bit larger than normal [reduced.Ed]. I've had a good look at the strike and determined that the date is 1951.12.20. It is the 38mm hammer; the larger of the two thus-far recorded. If there have been no more reports since the article by Doug Sayles in 2000, this will be the **second example** of that size. [For more on this interesting cancel, suspected to be Australian rather than American-related, see C.D. Sayles' "Cdn. Sect. APO 214," NL#146, Aug. 2000 (Korean War Special Issue), pp.483-484.Ed.]



[See p. 1049 for an enlargement of this strike.Ed.]

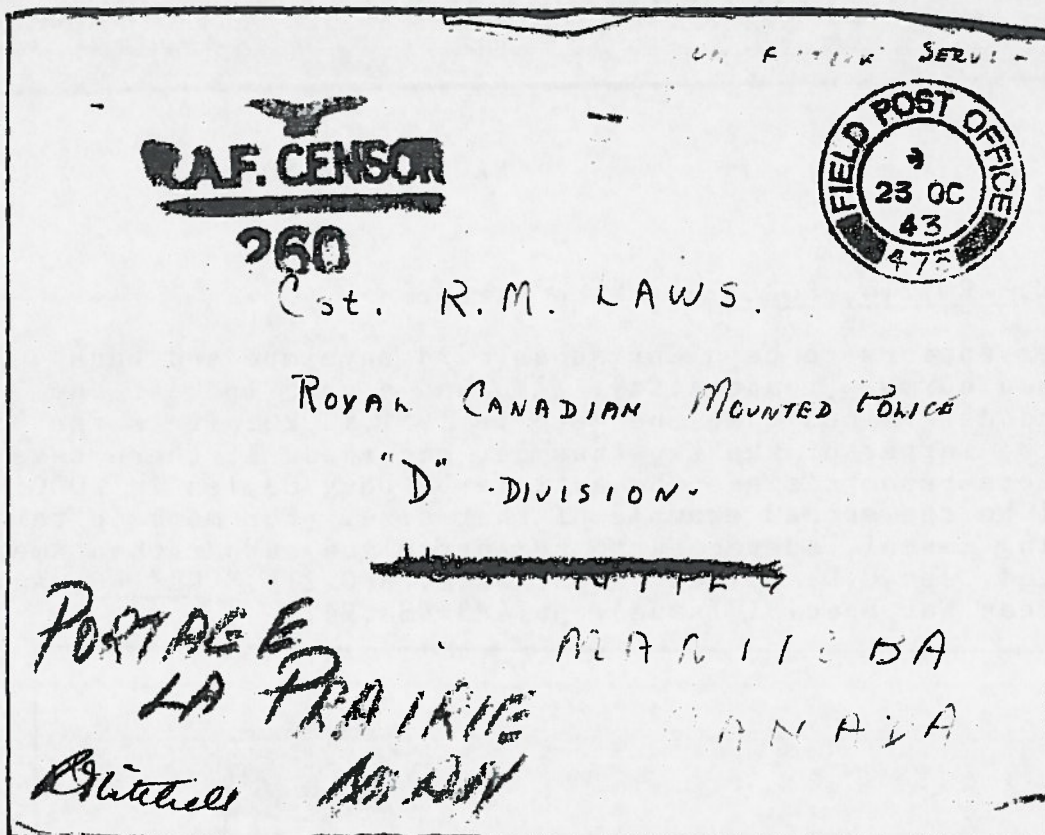
CHAIRMAN/TREAS.: C.D. SAYLES, 25 HOWARD BLVD., WATERDOWN, ON LOR 2H4
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EDITOR: D. MARIO, POST OFFICE BOX 342, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3

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R.A.F. GIBRALTAR TO R.C.M.P., MANITOBA--By A.D. Hanes

Here is a rather nice piece out of Gibraltar to a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Winnipeg, then re-directed to Portage La Prairie,



A BRIEF STUDY ON F.P.O. IN BARS MACHINE CANCELS--By Colin Pomfret

- FIG.1 [illustrations follow.Ed.]: Camp Borden/Ontario, August 23,1916
 FIG.2: Camp Borden/Ontario, September 12, 1917. A break appears in the lower bar below "L" of "Field"
 FIG.3: Toronto/Ontario, February 13, 1918. As above but with a new break appearing in the upper bar above the break in the lower bar
 FIG.4: As above but used at Niagara Camp/Ontario, August 22, 1918
 FIG.5: Valcartier Camp/Quebec, September 8, 1916. This machine was used concurrently with the Camp Borden in 1916. The letters in "FIELD POST OFFICE" are narrower than the previous one, and the overall length is shorter. They are hard to measure as full strikes are uncommon. The length of "FIELD POST OFFICE" in FIGS.1-5 is 50mm, and the length in Valcartier is 47mm.

The E.R.D. and L.R.D. for Camp Borden are illustrated. The E.R.D. and L.R.D. for FIG.3 is February 13, 1918 and March 8, 1918. The E.R.D. and

[Cont'd.]

L.R.D. for FIG.4 is July 15, 1918 and August 22, 1918.

The E.R.D. and L.R.D. for FIG.5 is September 6, 1916 and September 8, 1916.

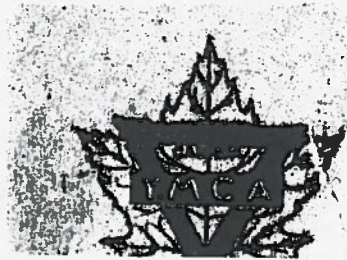


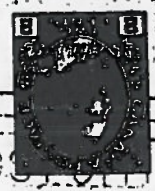
FIG.1



FIG.2

has been in the hands of the army since
SCENE at Beaver Park, Detroit, Mich. Beaver Park, where the house is located, is a restful retreat of 120 acres and is located seven miles out Woodward avenue. One of the delightful features is the Log Cabin with its quaint furniture. It has many acres of woods, children's playgrounds and a canteen where refreshments are served.

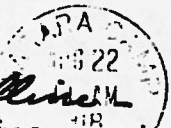
Post Card



For Address and POSTAGE

FIG.3

Dear Miss Olive
Have been going to visit to...



FIELD POST OFFICE



FIG.4

Dear Jess I hope



FIELD POST OFFICE

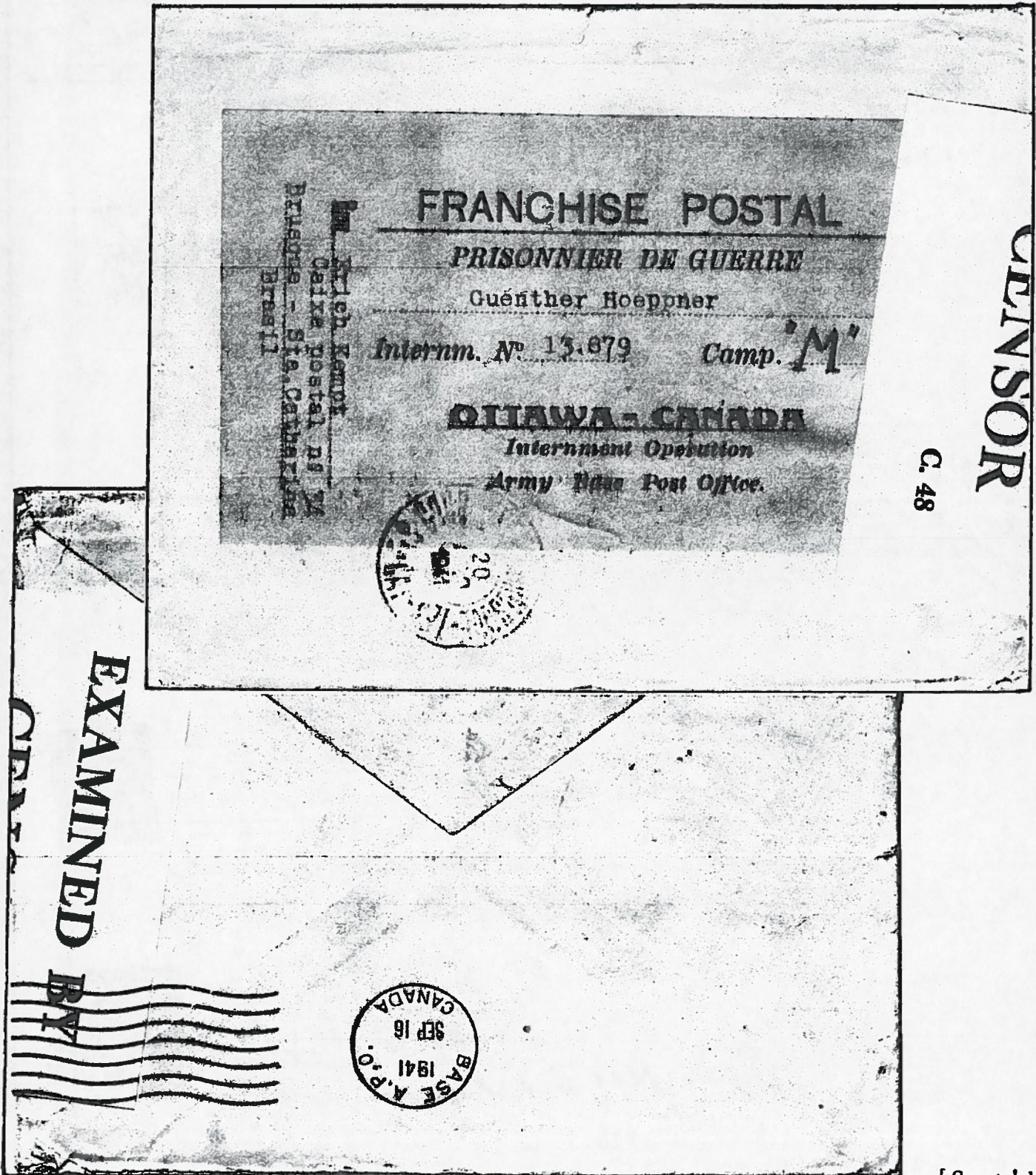


FIG.5

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1941 P.O.W. COVER WITH INTERNMENT OPERATION LABEL--By J.M. Powell

Here is a cover sent post-free from Brazil to Internment Camp "M" at Mimico, Ontario in 1941. It is addressed with a label affixed to the cover, printed on a rough manila paper. It appears that this



[Cont'd.]

label must have been prepared in Canada and sent by a P.O.W., in this case to Brazil, to be used for reply correspondence. Any information regarding this label, its uses and origin, would be appreciated. Please contact Study Group member J. Michael Powell by email: bigrideaumike@sympatico.ca [Steve Luciuk's Internment Mail in Canada (BNAPS Exhibits Series #21) shows two of these labels (p.50, B&W edition). One is similar to Michael's label. All three appear to have been sent by different individuals in Brazil to Camp "M". Steve noted that the Base P.O. in Ottawa issued these address labels for use on parcels to P.O.W.'s but all three seem to have only been used on covers. Can other members add an explanation why these labels were issued, how, and were other camps involved? Furthermore, can anyone produce any labels used from another country other than Brazil? Details to Michael and the Editor please.Ed.]

CHINESE REPATRIATION CAMP, WILLIAM HEAD, B.C./UPDATE--By Doug Lingard

In the March 2009 Newsletter (No.189, pp. 1033-1035), the Editor asked for covers from the William Head Repatriation Camp. I once had an in-bound C.P.R. Form 13 stationery card notifying the "Officer Commanding" that "45 blankets etc." had arrived at Victoria and were awaiting collection.



The card is dated March 1, 1920. I "Googled" the camp and there appears to be an article by someone, I believe, from the University of Victoria or U.B.C. Apparently there was also a Chinese repatriation camp on the mainland and those leaving from that camp for China departed from Vancouver. [Thanks very much Doug. Consequently I also heard from the new owner, Ron McGuire, who kindly gave his permission to reproduce the card! Ron also noted that mail from the various camps would be scarce, and I agree, but perhaps some of the soldiers (Canadian and Imperial)

[Cont'd.]

would have sent home mail. Keep your eyes peeled!Ed.]

(3-12-19-1969E) FREIGHT ADVISE. CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY. FORM 18. CUSTOMS REPORT No. 3/59

Station: _____ 191 From No. _____

The following described property has arrived at this station consigned to you in _____
 Car No. _____ Initial _____ You will please remove goods without delay as the
 From _____ same remain here entirely at Owner's risk (from
 any cause whatever) and expense.

DESCRIPTION AND ARTICLES.	Weight.	Rate	Advance Charges.	Total.
45 Nat Blankets etc.	500			

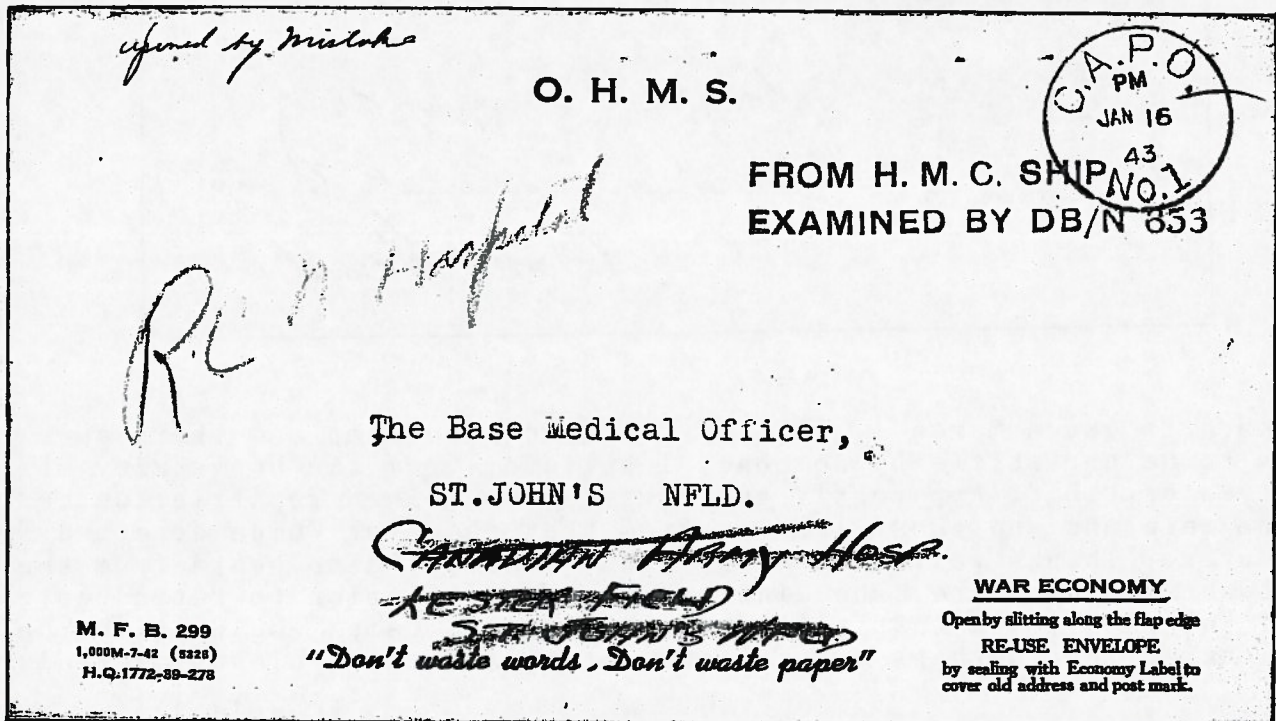
If not removed within time limited by Car Service Rules or Warehouse Storage Rules, charges will be assessed at current tariff rates, and such charges together with freight charges, shall be a lien on the property. Bill of lading or shipping receipt issued at point of shipment must also be surrendered. When to order, bill of lading must be endorsed.

Consignee: _____ Agent: _____

Stamp: CONSIGNMENT NO. 1000 MAR 1 MAR

BASE MEDICAL OFFICER/CANADIAN ARMY HOSPITAL, LESTER FIELD--By Jon Johnson

Below is illustrated a cover from HMC SHIP DB/N 653 with a C.A.P.O. No.1 CDS. It was "opened by mistake", forwarded to the Army Hospital, Lester Field, St. John's, Newfoundland, then forwarded to the R.C.N. Hospital. Does anyone know which ship this cover was despatched?



MERCHANT SHIPS FREE MAIL--RE-VISITED/UPDATE-- By Bill Pekonen

Members may recall the item below from **PART I**
from NL#165 (May 2004, pp. 744-745).

Little information was forthcoming **Orders in Council**
until now.

Bill Pekonen, Chair of the WWII Study Group, has sent in some relevant information in response to an enquiry by our own Jon Johnson. Some had thought that the marking may have been bogus but now it is apparent that members of the Merchant Navy had free franking privileges for mail when addressed to Canada.

Various editions of the Canada Year Book noted that at the outbreak of the Second World War, all merchant shipping was brought under government control (1942, p.578). Consequently, control of merchant shipping was maintained from Naval Service H.Q., Ottawa (1940

Order in Council granting authority for free postage re Correspondence of members of British, Dominion and Empire Forces stationed in Canada

P.C. 4157

AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT OTTAWA

TUESDAY, the 7th day of August, 1945.

PRESENT:

His Excellency

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL:

Whereas authority was given by Order in Council P.C. 4129 of 20 December, 1939, for the forwarding and delivery free of postage in Canada of correspondence posted by British, Dominion, Colonial and Allied soldiers on active service abroad and by officers and men serving on His Majesty's ships or Allied warships;

And whereas His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has granted the concession of conveyance free of postage of letters up to one ounce posted by personnel of His Majesty's Forces, the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy in all theatres of war and to Empire personnel serving with those Forces, when addressed to their home countries;

And whereas His Majesty's Government has addressed to Canada and other Commonwealth Governments a request that consideration be given to the extension of a similar concession for correspondence posted in their countries;

Now, therefore, His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Acting Postmaster General, and under and by virtue of the War Measures Act, Chapter 206, Revised Statutes of Canada 1927, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other Act or Regulation, is pleased to grant and hereby grant authority to accept and forward free of postage correspondence other than domestic up to one ounce posted by personnel of British, Dominion and Empire Forces stationed in Canada and by officers and men serving on His Majesty's ships or on ships of the Merchant Navy, provided such correspondence is posted at a Canadian military or naval post office.

A. D. P. HEENEY,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

Ottawa (1940
p. xxx).

MERCHANT SHIPS FREE MAIL

Mr. & Mrs. H.S. Kent & Family

3553 E. 29th Ave.

Vancouver B.C.

Canada

[Cont'd.]

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On December 20, 1939, an Order-in-Council P.C. 4129 was passed, granting free mailing privileges to all men serving on His Majesty's Ships and/or Allied Warships. Such privileges extended to members of the Merchant Navy in the British Empire and to Empire personnel serving with those forces. On August 7, 1945, according to the illustrated O-in-C P.C. 4157, these free mailing privileges were confirmed. However, it appears that the free privileges did not extend to domestic mail addressed and mailed to merchant seamen. [Thank you Bill, and Jon, for sending us the updated information.Ed.]

TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP-A QUERY/UPDATE--By Michael Dobbs

[Michael Dobbs, Hon. Secretary of our sister society The Forces Postal History Society, kindly sent in a response to Kim Dodwell's previous article in NL#188 (Jan. 2009, pp.1021-1023) which members may find of interest. Many thanks, Michael! Ed.]

"In my response I can only comment on the telegram illustrated. Whilst researching through P.O. Circulars at the British Postal Museum and Archive, I came across many references relating to the sending of telegrams to Forces in the U.K. and overseas. I decided to collate these [...]. I found a clue in the short grouping of words presented in the text, and then looking at the seemingly random group of letters at the top of the telegram (under the telegraph company heading) I found another important clue--the letters "efm". This clinched it--the telegram from Jack Lovell was an EFM telegram. EFM stood for "Expeditionary Force Messages", and their introduction goes back to the start of the Second World War and the introduction of a telegraph service to the British Expeditionary Force in France.

The Post Office introduced a telegraph service to members of H.M. Army and Royal Air Force in France (the B.E.F.) and elsewhere overseas (except Canada) on February 9, 1940. Full details...were published in a Supplement (Telegraphs) to the P.O. Circular (Feb.7, 1940). It was for messages of a personal character only, although the P.O. instructed that messages which were not manifestly personal in nature were not to be refused. Instead, the sender was to be warned that they might be stopped by the censor or forwarded abroad by post. Telegrams were to be accepted at the risk of the sender and the instructions stipulated that no enquiry could be made as to the disposal of a telegram. Furthermore, claims for the reimbursement of the sums paid for transmission could not be considered.

The message had to be written on Telegram Form A 16 or on the appropriate phonogram form with the sender's name and address written in the space provided. The indication "=EFM=" had to be written in bold characters before the address and this had to be signalled forward by the telegraph service. The text of such telegrams had to be in plain English, no code words were allowed, and all telegrams were to be subject to censorship. The surname of the sender had to appear at the end of the text, but any other names could be added if desired. Telegrams to Forces abroad could not be accepted as urgent, deferred, or letter telegrams. No accessory services such as prepaid reply (RP), delivery on ornamental

[Cont'd.]

form (LX) etc. were allowed.

Senders of EFM telegrams had, in the main, been free to word these messages as they liked; subject only to certain general conditions concerning the nature of the text and language used. However, the P.O. Circular (June 11, 1941) notified that with effect from June 16, 1941, senders of EFM telegrams to all countries to which the service was available, with the exception of India, had to compose their messages from a series of pre-determined standard phrases. For this they were charged a fixed fee of 2s 6d. Senders of EFM telegrams to India continued to send such telegrams in words of their own choice at a rate of 2s 6d for six words of text and signature and 5d for each additional word. Copies of the list of standard phrases were distributed to all telegraph offices, with the suggestion that they were displayed near the telegram writing desk. A Supplement was issued with the Circular which set out the revised procedure concerning EFM telegrams.

A Western Union EFM Cablegram form I have seen states that an individual could select up to three phrases--all they had to do was insert the appropriate numbers in the text field. The signature was limited to two words, one of which had to be the surname of the sender. For this there was a standard charge of 2s 6d. In the telegram illustrated, the standard phrases would have been:

22 = Airgraph letter received many thanks
 87 = Am fit and well
 44 = Fondest love and kisses

The entry on the form would have read: 22 87 44 Lovell Jack

What I cannot answer is how service personnel in the field managed to send telegrams back home--they were unlikely to attend APO/FPOs themselves, unless they happened to be close to one. I also do not know how telegrams were sent in the field--were they sent as a form back to the Base APO or all the way back to the U.K. and only entered the telegraph system there?

The next question is censorship--as EFM telegrams were made up of pre-defined phrases and a name for the sender, was there any need for such to be censored? Censorship, if it took place, would have taken place at the point of posting within the Unit. At the point of delivery, it would depend upon what censorship instructions were in place in Canada at that time.

A partial answer I'm afraid, and it does not cover your main queries of censorship. However, it does explain the type of telegraph service used. [Now, can our members add anything related to Michael's questions and Kim's quest for more information? Above edited for length.Ed.]

ARE YOU ATTENDING/EXHIBITING AT BNAPEX '09?

SEE DETAILS AT: www.bnaps.org

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TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP/ADDITION--By Graham Mark

[Graham Mark, Hon. Editor of the Civil Censorship Study Group, has also contacted us regarding Kim's telegram. He concurs with Michael's previous conclusions, and adds: "...The date on the message, August 14, 1944, would be the date of delivery, not of sending. I believe that soldiers could send telegrams by post to the Central Telegraph Office if they could not get to a local Telegraph Office. Censorship in that case would be done at Army Unit level and checked at the Central Telegraph censorship division....Overleaf [below.Ed.] is a section from History of the Postal and Telegraph Censorship Department, 1938-1946, National Archives (Kew, UK, ref:DEFE 1/333), which refers to "Standard Text" messages (near top of p.257)".[This was partially explained by Michael's "list of standard code words and phrases". Thank you, Graham. Ed.]

p.256

INSTITUTION OF E.F.M. SERVICE, AND ENCODING OF MILITARY AND
R.A.F. ADDRESSES

470. In February, 1940, an outward telegraph service was introduced for domestic messages between British Forces in France and elsewhere overseas, and their relatives and friends within the Empire, with the exception of Canada.

Telegrams for France were sent by post addressed to Units, followed by the letters B.E.F., and the indication E.F.M. (Expeditionary Force Message) entered before the address; those of an urgent nature being transmitted over the Anglo/French Government cables, and censored in France.

To other Stations abroad, telegrams addressed to Units, followed by the place of destination instead of B.E.F., were transmitted by Cable and Wireless, Ltd., and to enable these telegrams to go by Wireless, Censorship deleted the number of the Unit and the name of the town.

Until early in 1940, there was adequate capacity on submarine cables for all private telegrams to and from British troops serving overseas, and if the contents of a telegram jeopardised security, Censorship marked the telegram "Parfil" to ensure cable routing throughout to destination. By June, however, Italy had entered the war and submarine cables in the Mediterranean were cut by the enemy, thereby severing vital links with the large Forces concentrated in the Middle East, and in August, 1940, the question of coding British Forces' addresses and other ways and means to enable more traffic to go by Wireless were discussed.

Early in February, 1941, private telegrams of all categories could be sent to and from the Military Forces in the Middle East by Wireless with the addresses encoded by a simple five-letter code compiled by the War Office. United Kingdom Censorship agreed to operate the code, which a year later was extended to India and Iceland.

Although this code was considered of very limited Security value, the danger was to some extent offset by the concentration of private telegrams at Cairo, where the decoding bureau was set up.

Two months later the Air Ministry introduced a four letter code to conceal the arrival of reinforcements and the movement of their Units from one area to another and to relieve cable congestion, thus minimising delay in passing of private messages to and from R.A.F. personnel. United Kingdom Censorship also undertook to operate this code.

Seven terminal points where messages could be decoded and from where telegrams were distributed to units by the Postal Authorities and not by wireless, were established at Cairo, Aden, Malta, Nairobi, Takoradi, Freetown.

[Cont'd.]

p.257

and Bathurst, and later extended to India, Ceylon, Iceland, Australia, Canada, Iraq, New Zealand, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Nigeria, Algiers and Naples. Each terminal point or decoding bureau except Cairo, was provided with a list of the code words for units in their own area. Cairo was supplied with the code words for all areas to enable them to deal with any cases of incorrect routing.

To save time a standard text E.F.M. system was devised, based on the most commonly used phrases as revealed by the examination of actual traffic. This service, confined to telegrams to or from Forces personnel, began to operate in June, 1941, and took the place of the E.F.M. telegram, which, up to then, could be sent in words of the sender's own choice. Three phrases from a list of 100 standard texts were permitted for a fixed charge of 2s. 6d., which included the address and signature.

In addition to the list of authorized standard texts, to allow an address to be included in the text of an E.F.M., a standard text 200 meaning "My address is", was made available for Forces in the Middle East and later extended to other operational areas. Certain additional phrases were added from time to time at the request of Service Advisers, bringing the number of standard texts available up to 245.

The E.F.M. Standard Text Service was accepted by the United Kingdom and all Empire administrations, except India. The Service Authorities in India considered the introduction of the service would be unsuitable for Indian troops and impracticable owing to distribution difficulties.

Early in 1942 the question of extending the Army Code to India and Ceylon was again discussed, and finally introduced. Telegrams for India and Ceylon containing Military Unit addresses were encoded and followed by the letters BMB, to ensure their delivery to the Decoding Centre in Bombay. Those to R.A.F. personnel addressed to RAFPOST Bombay, or RAFPOST Colombo, could go by wireless if the Unit was deleted.

Towards the end of 1943, cable capacity, particularly to the Middle East and India, was almost entirely taken up by Government traffic, and only a small fraction of E.F.M.'s could be routed by cable.

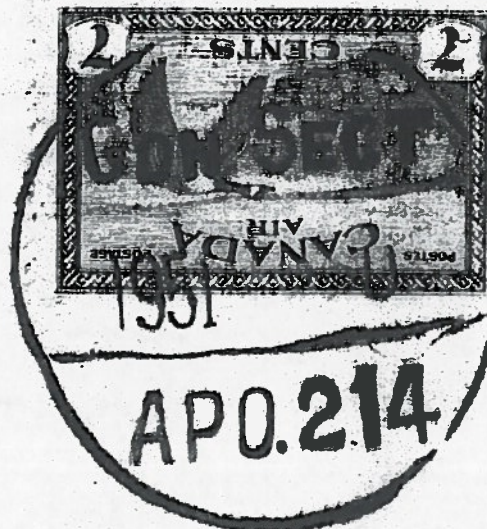
As security requirements were becoming increasingly important, the coding system then in operation was condemned as having out-lived its security value, and a new coding system was introduced which it was hoped would give 100 per cent. security, and was to include the encoding of Personal Army Numbers as well as Unit addresses.

The man-power situation was at this time critical and the increased staff required to cope with the new encoding system seemed impossible to find. Accordingly in December, 1943, the War Office took over from Censorship the Army coding and decoding of telegrams for the Middle East and India, and the Air Ministry took over the coding and decoding of telegrams to and from Air Force personnel.

CDN. SECT. APO 214, KOREA--By Mike Street

[Here is an enlargement, and strengthened, illustration of Mike's strike from p. 1039. No recorded strikes of this hammer have been reported to me thus far,* but if members do have other examples reports of them would be appreciated. It is an interesting story surrounding these Korean War postmarks, and one which we don't really know much about their usage. Ed.]

[*other than that in Doug's article.Ed.]



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Dear CMMSG Members:

Doug and I trust that members are enjoying their late spring (although here in Western Canada, the temperatures are cooler than normal). Here is another issue and I wish to extend my thanks for non-members' (but military postal history specialists nonetheless) input which is always welcomed.

Thanks are also extended to Mike Street who passed along the sad news of former-member John Wannerton's passing on February 12. John was a long-time member of our group until his health prevented him from continuing. Members will know that John's interest, among other areas, was centred upon the Anglo-Boer War. His study was among the best in existence. Our condolences are extended to his family.

D-Day + 65 commemoration events have just concluded (apologies for this issue being a bit late) and, despite some weather problems, seem to have been successful. I was a bit disappointed that Canada Post did not see fit to issue a stamp for the event, despite the fact that June 6, 1944 was one of the turning-points for the Allied effort in the Second World War. Some 15,000 Canadians landed on D-Day, and sustained 359 killed and 715 wounded on June 6. It is hoped that the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in 2010 will be commemorated in some philatelic manner.

Members are reminded that the E.R. "Ritch" Toop Award, sponsored by BNAPS, is available for deserving books, articles, and monographs related to Canadian military postal history.

Have a wonderful summer!

M.O. PERSONAL CACHET, 1943--By Jon Johnson

This personalized cachet, from Capt. R.H. Balinson, Medical Officer, R.C.A.M.C., No.1 Sub Depot, R.C.O.C., is one of the few used on military mail.

