



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

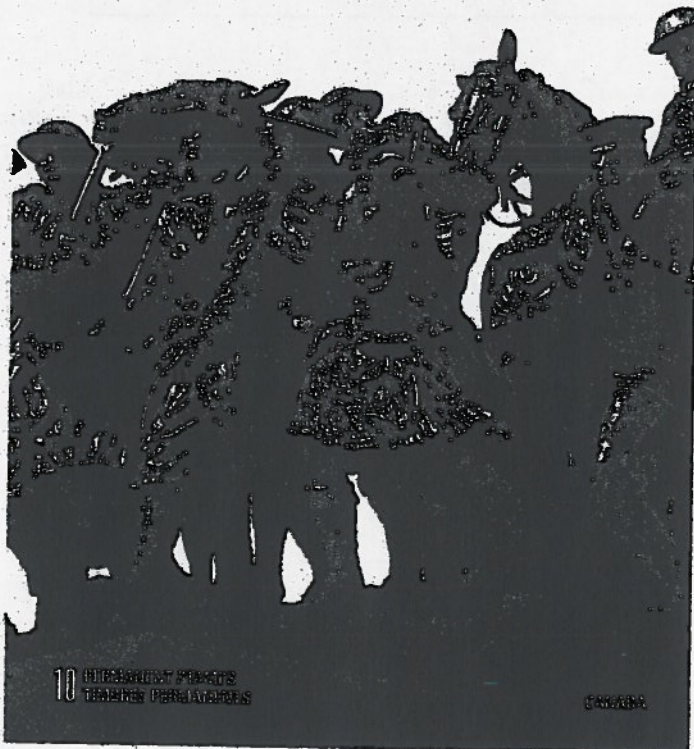
NOVEMBER 2009

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LEST WE FORGET POSTAGE STAMP 2009

On October 19, 2009 Canada Post Corporation issued a commemorative postage stamp depicting a section of the National War Memorial in Ottawa. The stamp was issued in booklet form (cover at left), along with a related souvenir sheet (two stamps), and first day cover (illustrated at 80% on p.1064).

LEST WE FORGET  N'OUBLIONS PAS



The stamp honours the heroic sacrifice of Canadian servicemen and women (past and present), and is a fitting and timely memorial to those who have fallen, were wounded, and who currently serve our nation in uniform.

The National War Memorial design was based upon a successful competition entry (of 127 received) by Vernon March of England.

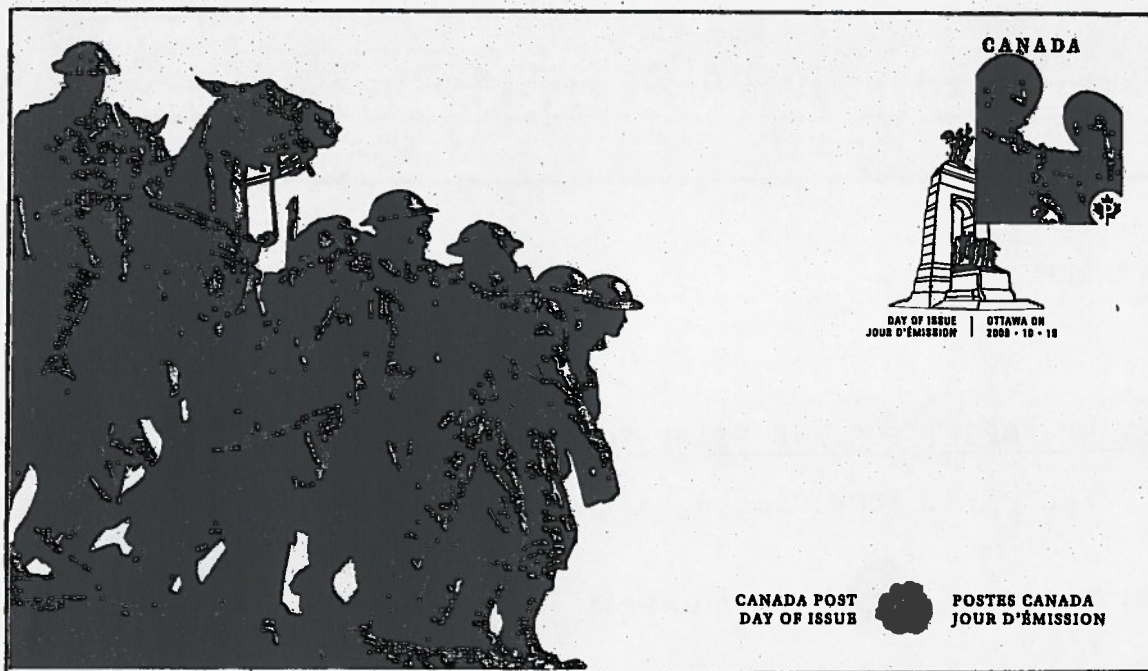
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In January 1926 the Board chose his design meant to commemorate the "Great Response of Canada". The work was completed by his brothers



and sister after his untimely death in 1930. In December 1937, the Montreal contracting firm of E.G.M. Cape and Co. was awarded the contract to construct the granite pedestal and arch. On Sunday, May 21, 1939 (at eleven o'clock a.m.), the National War Memorial was unveiled by His Majesty King George VI to an estimated 100,000 attendees.

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

When Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae wrote his famous poem "In Flanders Fields" in 1915, he had no way of knowing that the poppies he saw in makeshift cemeteries in the battle-ravished fields of Europe would become such enduring symbols of remembrance for Canada's war dead.

As new dangers to peace arise, and the role of our military evolves on the world stage, we honour the courage of our soldiers and remember all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Lowe-Martin
Design : Lionel Gadoury, Michael Wandelmaler (Context Creative)
National War Memorial / Monument commémoratif de guerre
du Canada : Vernon March
Photos : Peter Bregg; iStockphoto

*Au champ d'honneur, les coquelicots
Sont parsemés de lot en lot
Auprès des croix; et dans l'espace
Les alouettes devenues lassus
Mêlent leurs chants au sifflement
Des obusiers.*

Lorsque, en 1915, le lieutenant-colonel John McCrae composa son illustre poème *Au champ d'honneur*, ce dernier était loin de s'imaginer que les coquelicots qu'il avait vus dans les cimetières de fortune des champs de bataille ravagés de l'Europe deviendraient des symboles vivants du Souvenir en reconnaissance de tous les Canadiens morts à la guerre.

Alors que la paix est à nouveau en danger et que le rôle de nos militaires évolue dans le monde, nous nous rappelons tous ceux et celles qui ont fait le sacrifice suprême et rendons hommage à nos courageux combattants.

*Adaptation : Jean Pariseau, historien militaire



Some six million stamps and 225,000 souvenir sheets were issued. For more on the National War Memorial view: www.canadascapital.gc.ca (.)
Reference: The National War Memorial. Veterans Affairs Canada, 1982.

FORCE "C"-CAMP 5B NIIGATA, JAPAN--By John Burnett

This is one of the few Prisoner of War letters from Japan to survive the war. Most mail never made it out of Japan and was handed back to prisoners as they left their internment camps. Private Dunlop's card made it back to Canada and bears the Canadian censor "EXAMINED BY D.B. 559" faintly struck on the bottom. I have had the Japanese writing interpreted and made an assumption of the route of travel for the card.

The card had been posted early enough to have used the Trans-Siberian rail system as Russia had not declared war on Japan at the time of the mailing.

My uncle was a prisoner taken at Singapore and none of his cards got through. He was handed his cards as he was liberated out of Japan (and threw them away on the spot).

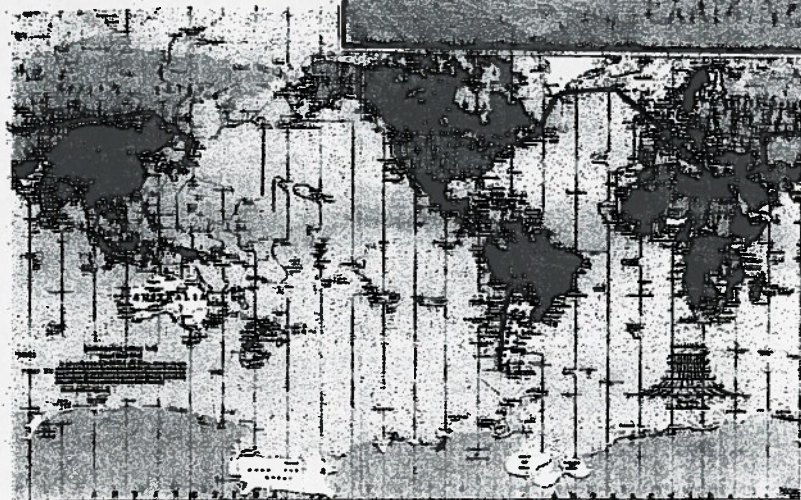
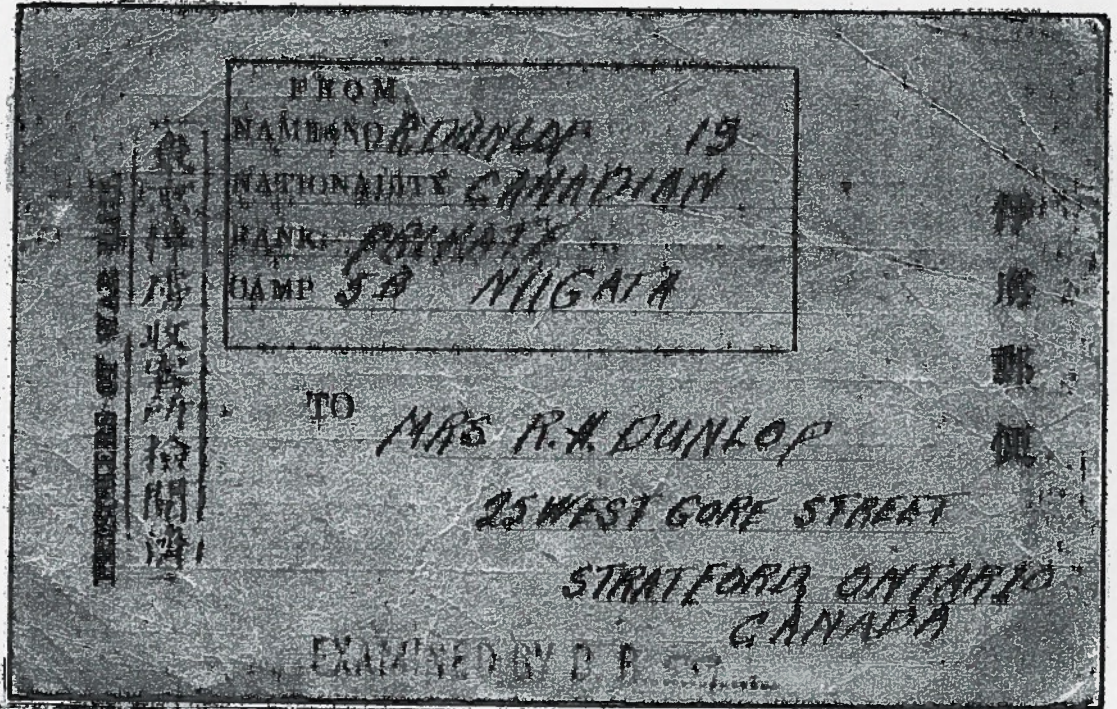
TOKYO

PRISONER

ACCOMODATION

INSPECTION

東京
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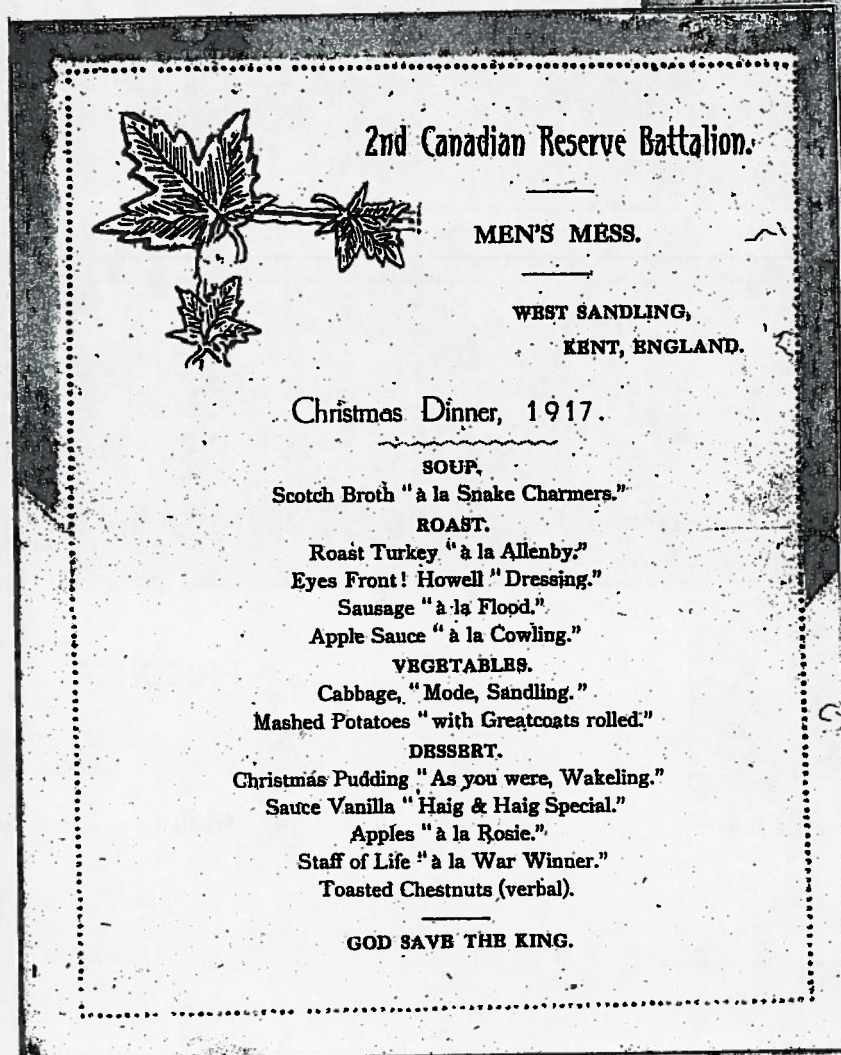
From Japan across Russia to Tehran, Cairo, London, Trans Atlantic to Canada

俘虜 郵便 PRISONER Mail

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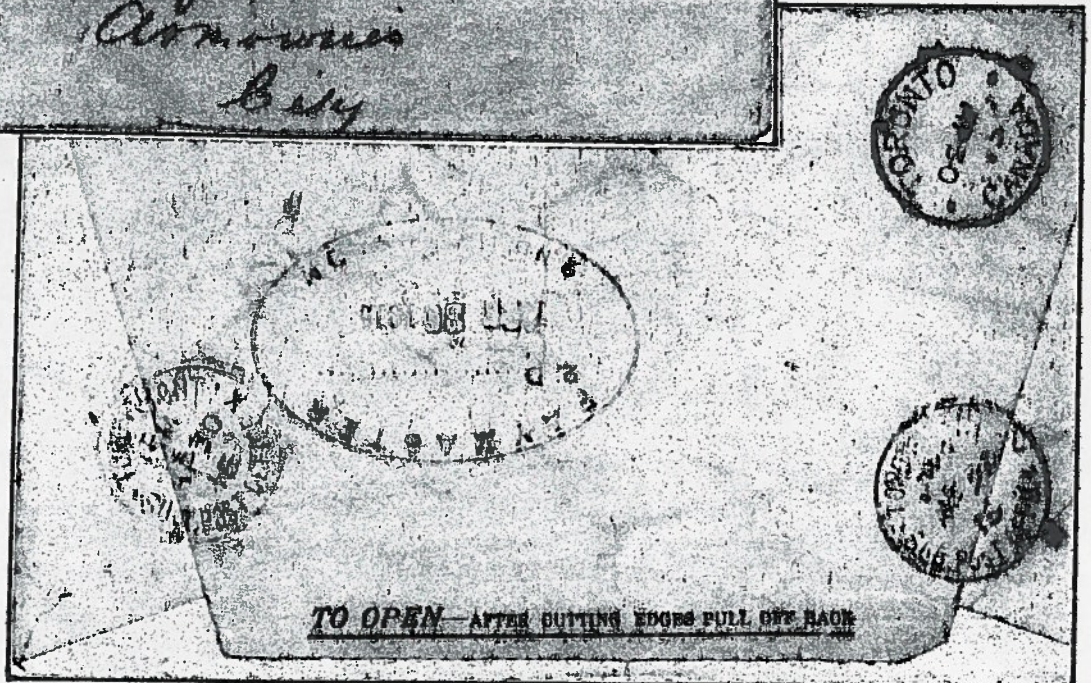
CHRISTMAS DINNER 1917, 2ND CDN. RESERVE BATTALION

Illustrated below is an interesting menu letter card (at 80%) from the "Men's Mess", West Sandling, Kent, England. Printed on pale-green kfaft paper with a partly-gummed perforated edge, one senses a humorous tone with the printer's usage of the military vernacular of the day.



TORONTO SUB POST OFFICE "X" 1915--By Doug Lingard

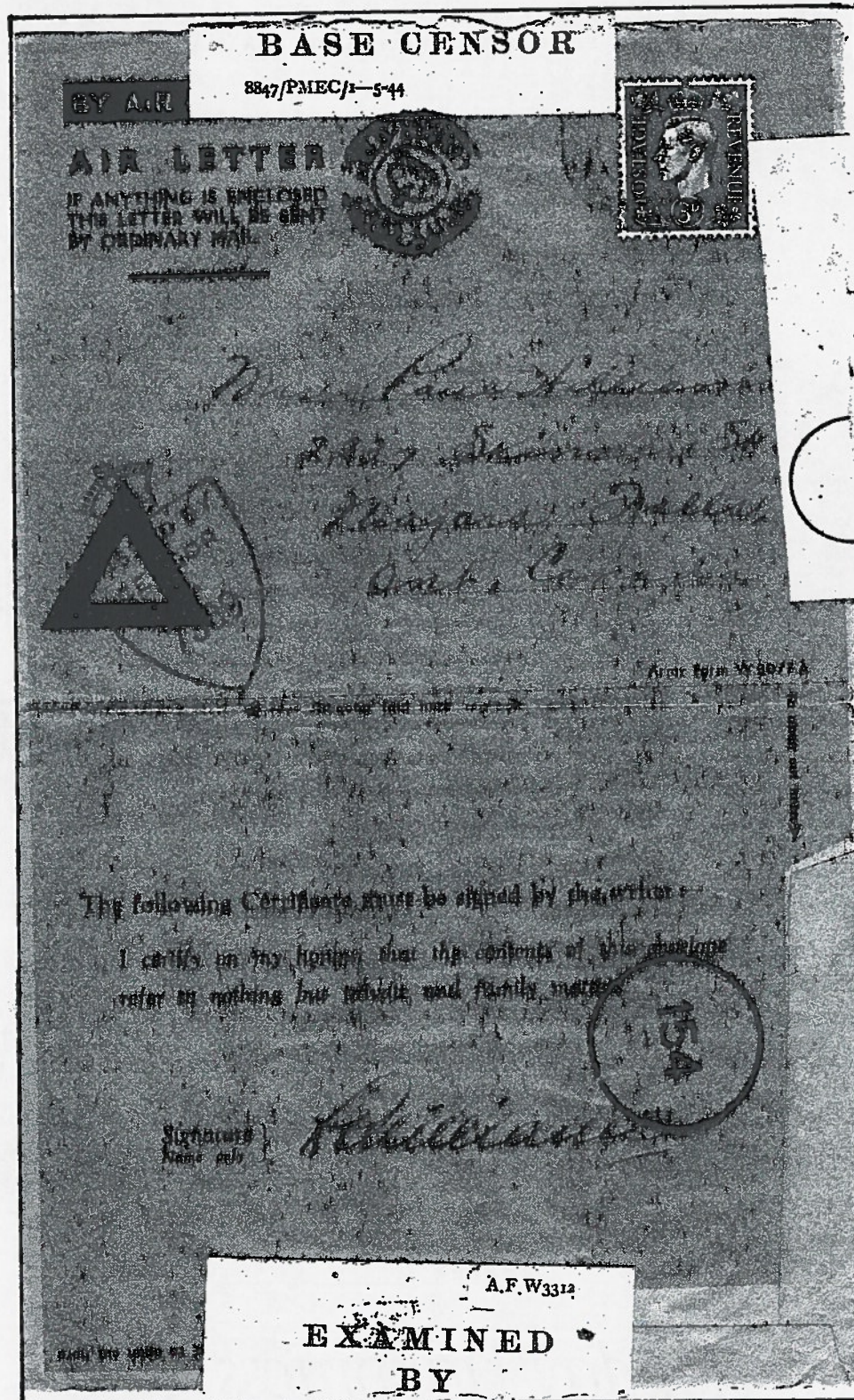
Here is an O.H.M.S. registered envelope from Toronto's Camp "X" sub post office located on the C.N.E. grounds. The CDS date of April 30, 1915 coincides with the oval blue reverse handstamp "PAYMASTER/2. D...../APR 30 1915/2 ND D[?]D N[?]".



*Holiday Happiness
and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year*

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18 CANADIAN SPECIAL EMP. COMPANY, CMF, 1945--By Kim Dodwell



Help is needed regarding the above British-type Air Letter. I cannot find mention of the sender's 18 Special Employment(?) Company, Canadian [Cont'd.]

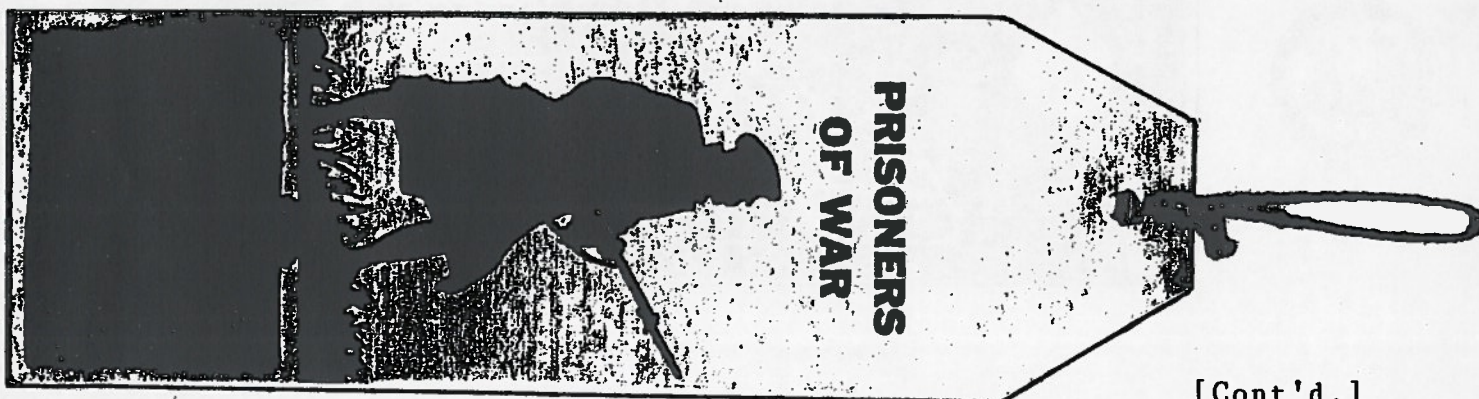
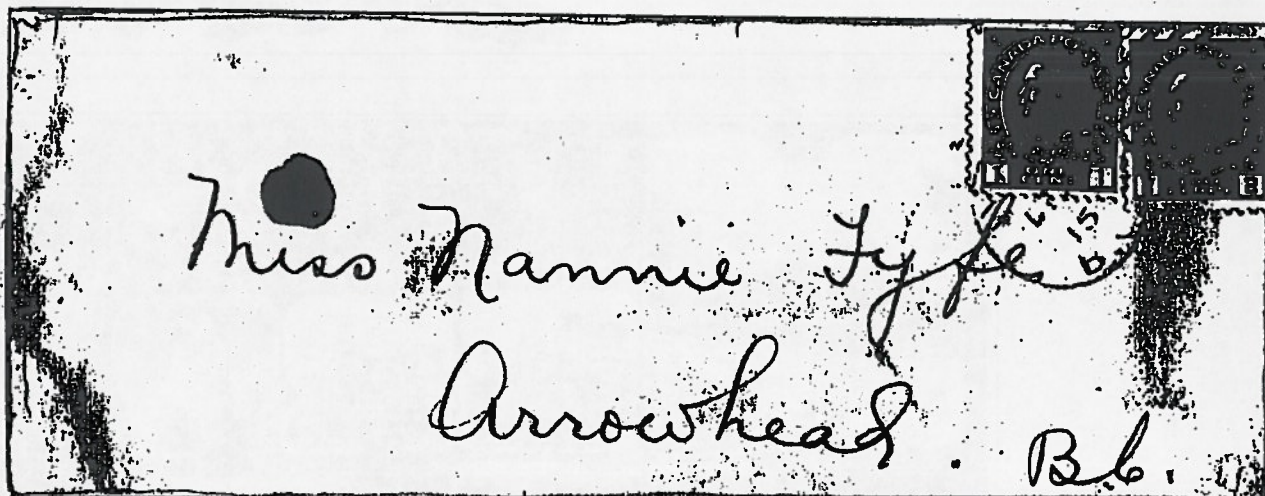
Army, C.M.F. in any Order of Battle that I have. Added interest is the mention the writer (B-114768, Pte. Paul Williams) makes of "working in our company's post office".

All the markings on the Air Letter and the contents (dated March 15, 1945) are consistent with it having been posted in the middle of Operation "GOLDFLAKE"; the move of I Canadian Corps from the C.M.F. to join the Canadian Army in N.W. Europe. I have seen a number of these items and they all have the Base Censorship markings and many of them, as in this case, contain messages where writers cite secrecy in not being able to divulge details of future moves.

I have re-read Nicholson's "The Canadians in Italy, 1943-1945" and other related references and cannot find the curious "Spec. Emp. Coy.". The Air Letter bears the Shield and Crown censor Daynes' Type A600/7369, the Circular Base Censor #154, and the Deputy Chief Field Censor and Crown. Any assistance would be appreciated through the Editor.

A GREAT WAR CHRISTMAS GESTURE, 1915--By Bob Henderson

The envelope is unremarkable. Unadorned except for two Admiral stamps totalling three cents, it does not even bear a return address. Addressed to "Miss Nannie Fyfe, Arrowhead, B.C.", the front postmark is illegible (except for "15" and "B.C."), while the backstamp indicates receipt on December 23, 1915.



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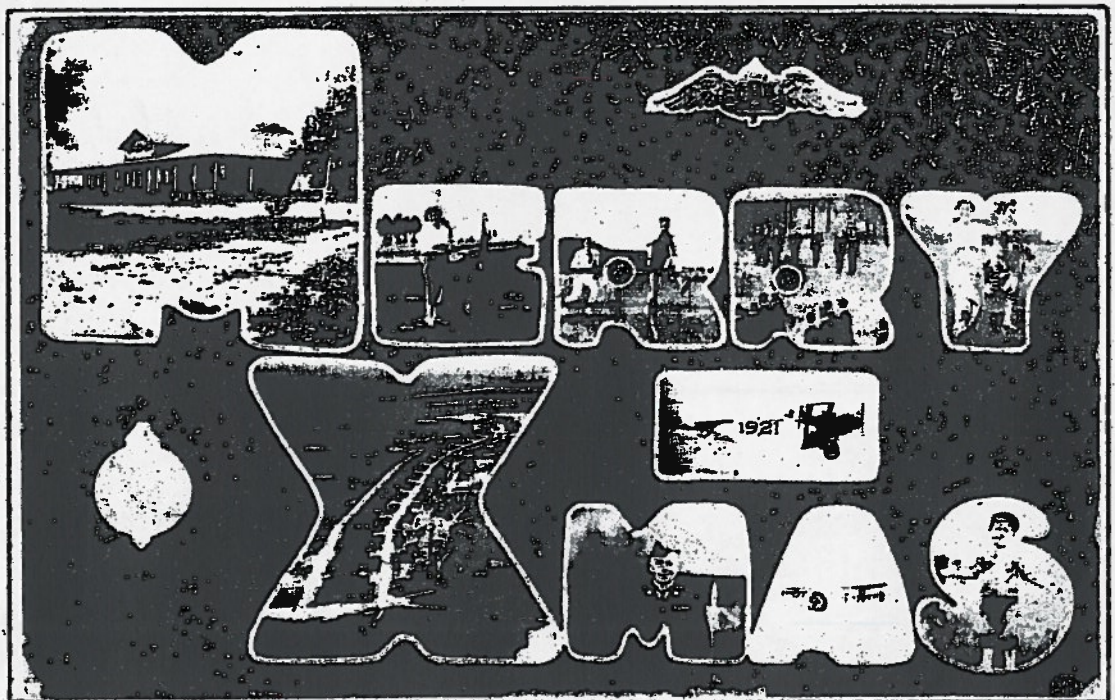
Enclosed in the envelope was a rectangular-shaped small red-covered calendar dated "1916". The words "Prisoners of War", similarly struck in red, are above a silhouette of a soldier armed with a bayoneted rifle. On the reverse of the calendar is written "Merry Xmas from Phyllis & Bill Dodd". A pink string for hanging is attached.

One wonders if Miss Fyfe had a boyfriend or brother held in a foreign prisoner of war camp, and the time was passing ever so slowly while she waited for his return.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, CAMP BORDEN, CANADIAN AIR FORCE-1921--By Dave Hanes

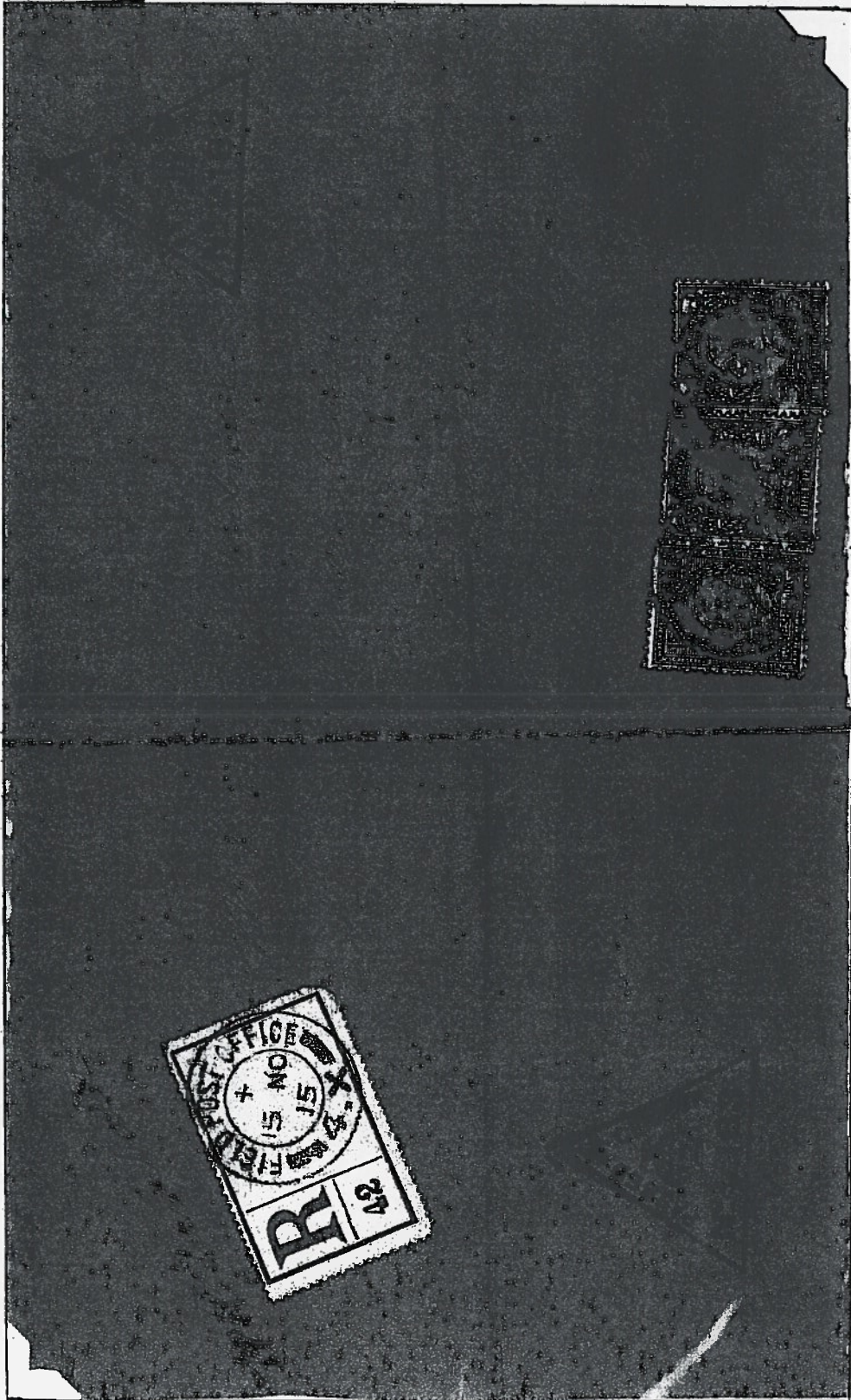
The following Christmas card (ex. Colin Pomfret) bears several images from Camp Borden and related photos of the C.A.F. The "M", I believe, was Headquarters and the "X" was an aerial photo of the Hangar Lines.

I have added separate scans of the stylized wings above and the crest at left in the event they do not reproduce well.



1915 REGISTERED PARCEL POST FPO 4.X--By Colin Pomfret

Here is a registered parcel post packet to Canada from France. It bears an FPO 4.X postmark dated November 15, 1915, from the 4th Canadian Brigade H.Q. Censor 3/2183 (19th Canadian Battalion) was used. The signature of "W.R. Turnbull" (ex. 91st Regiment) is at top left. The wrapper is franked with 1/6d British stamps paying the parcel post and registration fee.



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R.C.N. HOSPITAL, HMCS SHELBURNE-1944 CHRISTMAS DINNER--By Jon Johnson

And so, as Tiny Tim observed,
 God bless Us, Every One"
(Dickens Christmas Carols)

Royal Canadian Naval Hospital

HMCS "Shelburne"

December 25th, 1944

CHRISTMAS DINNER - 1130

Fruit Cup

Giblet Soup

Roast Turkey, Sage Dressing
 Cranberry Sauce
 Creamed Potatoes-Baked Parsnips-Creamed Cauliflower
 Pickled Beets Mustard Pickles Celery Hearts

Fruit Pudding, Hard Sauce

Tea

Milk

Assorted

Fruits

Nuts

Candy



CHINESE SOLDIERS IN THE C.E.F.--By Darcy Hickson

I was intrigued by the article on the Chinese repatriation efforts (NL# 189, March 2009, pp.1033-1035), and also the comments on the scarcity of information regarding the enlistment of Chinese soldiers in the C.E.F. during the Great War.

Here is a scan of a cover which might work as a follow-up to the Chinese Camp story. This cover was mailed from London in May 1917 to Chase, B.C. by a Fred Lee, #687931. He enlisted with the 172nd Battalion, was transferred to the 47th, and was killed on August 21, 1917. His only acknowledgment of passing in Europe is at the Vimy Memorial. His date of passing coincides with the Canadian Corps' offensive at Hill 70 in mid-August 1917.



BNAPEX AWARD RECIPIENTS 2009

Hearty congratulations are extended to the following who were successful participants at BNAPEX 2009/SEAWAYPEX, Kingston, Ontario:

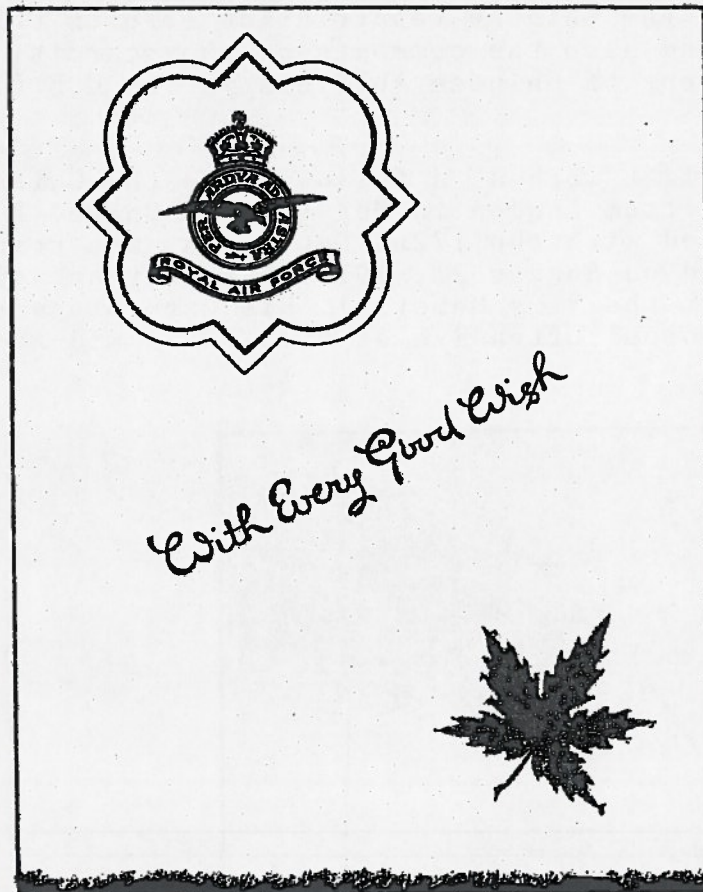
Gold, Sam Nickle Award: H. Burgers, "Canadians in Russia: The Last Contingent of WWI"

Silver; C. Pomfret, "Soldier's Letters and Related Items From the First Contingent, C.E.F."

Silver; R. Toombs, "Royal Air Force Transport Command (RAFTC) Mails During WWII--Canadian Perspective"

Congratulations to other members with non-military themes as well.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS, NO.33 S.F.T.S., CARBERRY--By Bob Henderson*Season's Greetings*

*With the Sincere Wish that Right
may Triumph over Might
and Happier Times be in Store.*

*LAC. H. K. Baker
R.A.F.*

*No. 33 Service Flying Training School
Carberry, Manitoba, Canada*

Dear CMMSG Members:

Doug and I hope that the upcoming holiday season is a hearty, healthy, and happy one! You will note that your Editor now (some would add, finally!) has an email address. Although I cannot guarantee an immediate response, this may allow a speedier contact for members to stay in touch. I would also like to convey my sincere thanks over the past year to the authors who were kind enough to share some of their items for the benefit of all. Please remember to support our upcoming 200th issue Anthology too and contact Doug Sayles for more information and requirements.

SEASONS' GREETINGS AND HAVE A WONDERFUL 2010!

SMALL ADS

WANTED: Airmail covers from M.P.O. 314 (Kingston, Ontario). Please send details to Chris Hargreaves, 4060 Bath Road, Kingston, ON K7M 4Y4 or email: hargreavescp @ sympatico.ca (2/4)

WANTED: WWII Canadian POW's in OFLAG IVC & Buchenwald covers; F.S.S.F. (Devil's Brigade) covers; WWI Newfoundland cards/covers; Victoria Cross recipient postal history; 19th century Royal Navy & pre-1920 Royal Canadian Navy postal history. Details to the Editor or: blueputtees@hotmail.com (1/6)
