



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

NEWSLETTER NO. 193

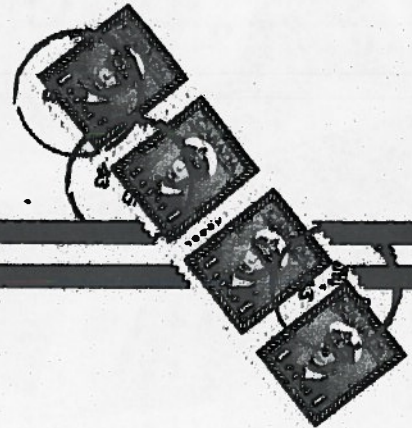
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FREE FRENCH, HALIFAX 1943--By Jerome C. Jarnick

The Free French Force (Forces françaises libres) was established in London, England as a government-in-exile and fighting force following the German conquest of northern France and the fall of Paris. General Charles de Gaulle refused to accept the surrender and proclaimed that "the flame of French resistance must not and shall not die".



FIGHTING
FRANCE
COMBATTANTE
166 HOLLIS ST. HALIFAX, N. S.
CANADA



Besty Bros. Ltd.,
FERGUS, Ontario.

Blackout Cancel Dated June 6, 1943

[Cont'd.]


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(sayles@sympatico.ca)

EDITOR: D. MARIO, POST OFFICE BOX 342, STN. MAIN, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3
(blueputtees@hotmail.com)


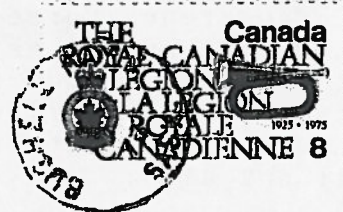
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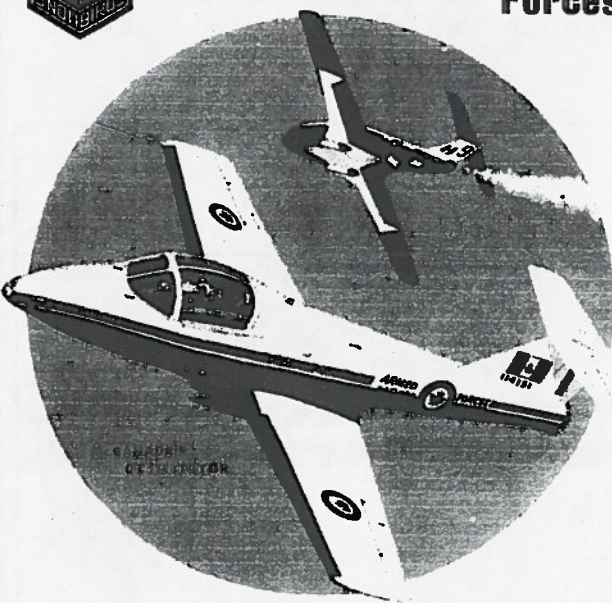
A Free French Expeditionary Force was in Halifax under orders to take Saint Pierre and Miquelon from the control of the Vichy government. In the meantime, Q Force had been formed by the Canadians to take the islands. The Americans objected, as they had agreed upon the neutralization of all western hemisphere territories with the Vichy administration. De Gaulle overrode American objections and the islands were taken by December 24, 1941. The Free French administration was accepted by the islanders in a referendum the following day.

SNOWBIRDS 431 (AIR DEMONSTRATION) SQUADRON, 1976



SNOWBIRDS
Canadian Armed
Forces



114151
Maj. D. Gauthier

114152 114147
Capt. C. Tuck Capt. G. Nicks

114155 114083 114181
Capt. P. Beaulieu Capt. J. Sorfleet Capt. D. Wilson

114122 114153
Capt. E. Fast Capt. K. Carr

114175
Capt. H. Chapin

Flown in THE SNOWBIRDS on an
aerobatic flight from Moose Jaw
CFB, Bushell Park.

The Snowbirds, Forces
Armées, Canadiennes
C.F.B. Moose Jaw
Saskatchewan

Aerobatic Cover No.7

For the Benefit of INTERNATIONAL HELP FOR CHILDREN

The Snowbirds, based at 15 Wing Moose Jaw, are the Canadian Air Force's aerobatics team. Established at C.F.B. Moose Jaw in 1971, the flying team's name was determined through a contest held at the base's elementary school.

In 1977, the Snowbirds became a permanent unit and received squadron status on April 1, 1978 as 431 (Air Demonstration) Squadron. The team flies the Canadair CT-114 Tutor, a Canadian-designed and manufactured subsonic jet-trainer. The plane's paint-scheme design has changed over the years but retains the usual red, white, and blue colours.

[Cont'd.]

(on reverse flap)

La Patrouille de Demonstration Aerienne
des Forces Canadiennes
Les Snowbirds



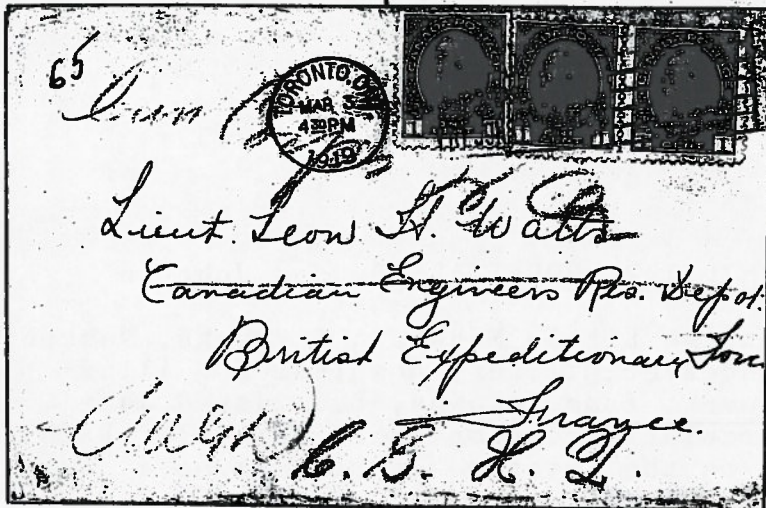
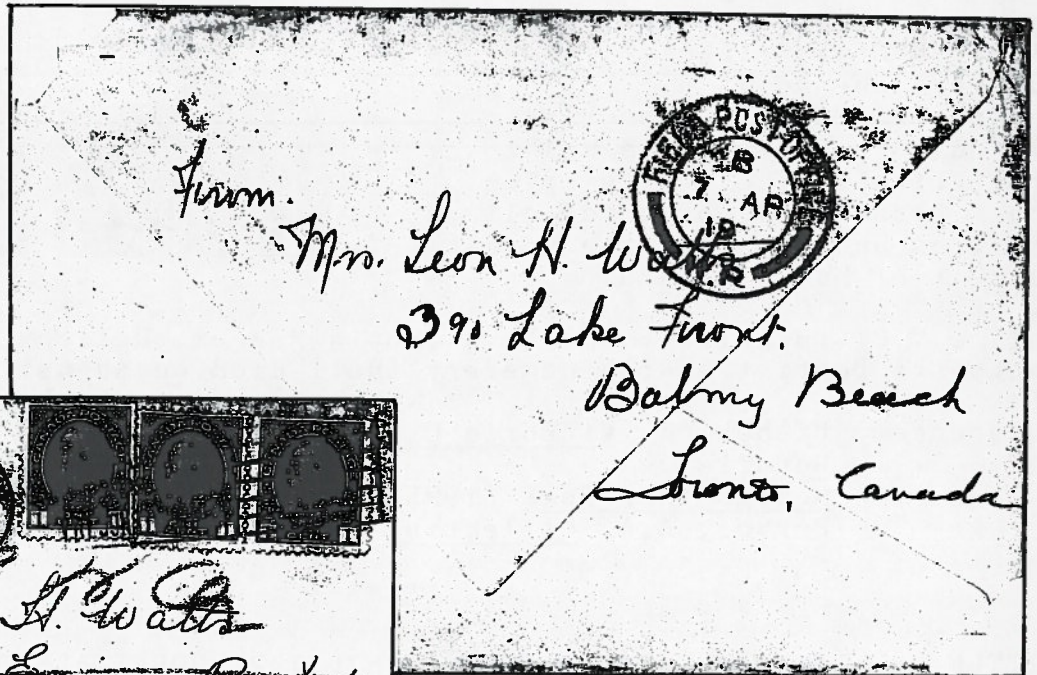
Part of the Snowbirds' mandate is to demonstrate the skill, professionalism, and teamwork of the Canadian Armed Forces. The team performs at many air shows across North America.

This 1976 cover was No. 7 in a series for the benefit of the International Help For Children.

Reference: The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan: A Living Legacy. Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina, 2005.

CANADIAN CORPS H.Q., FPO H.P. 1919--By Colin Pomfret

This cover, from Toronto, Ontario dated March 3, 1919, was sent to a Lt. Leon H. Watts, Canadian Engineers Reserve Depot, but was re-directed to the Canadian Corps Headquarters. It bears an April 7, 1919 FPO H.P. which, according to Bailey and Toop's Canadian Military Postal Markings Vol.I (p. 118), is "very scarce but not rare".[Ed.]



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WILLIAM HALL, V.C. STAMP ISSUE

On February 1, 2010, Canada Post Corporation issued a stamp to commemorate and honour William Hall, recipient of the Victoria Cross on October 28, 1859. According to Details, Hall was the first black person, first Nova Scotian, and the first Canadian sailor accorded this honour.

Hall received his V.C. for his actions during the India Mutiny aboard the H.M.S. Shannon (where he volunteered to go ashore with a relief force sent to Lucknow, India).

The stamp features Hall, the Shannon, along with his V.C., the India Mutiny medal, the Turkish Crimea medal, and the Crimea medal.

The great majority of V.C. recipients have been in the army and only 107 have been awarded to naval personnel. As a matter of interest, Hall's Victoria Cross ribbon is blue, but when the Royal Air Force was formed in 1918, the blue ribbon for naval V.C.'s was discontinued. The army's crimson ribbon was adopted for all services and noted in the Royal Warrant of May 22, 1920.



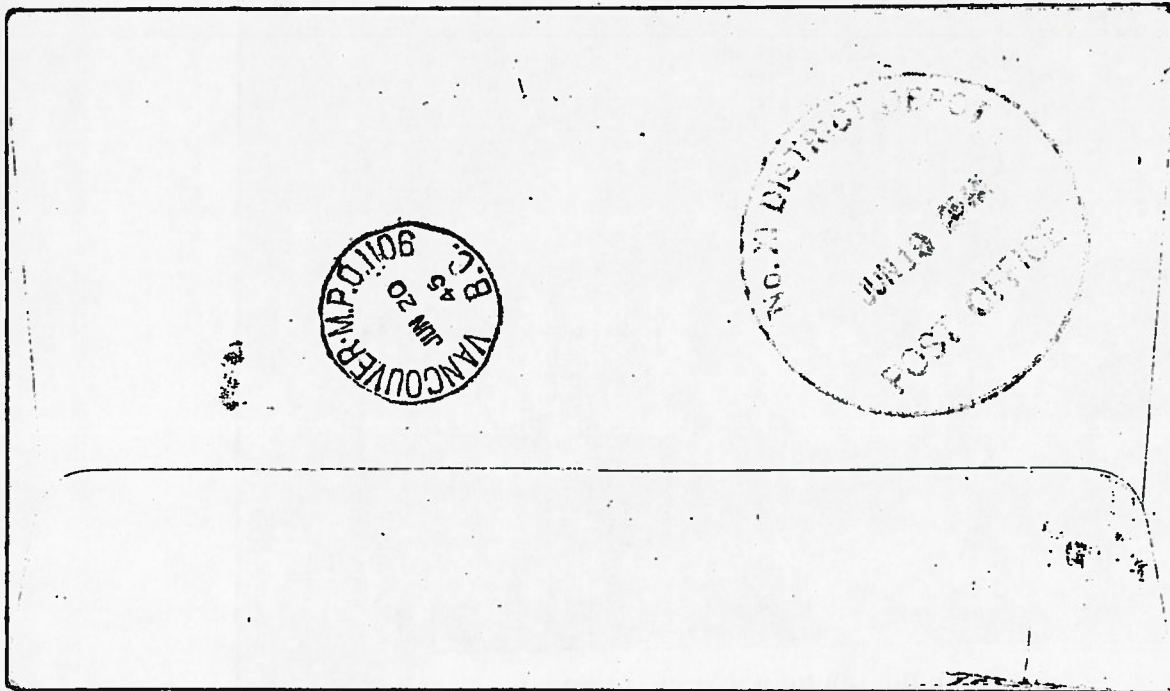
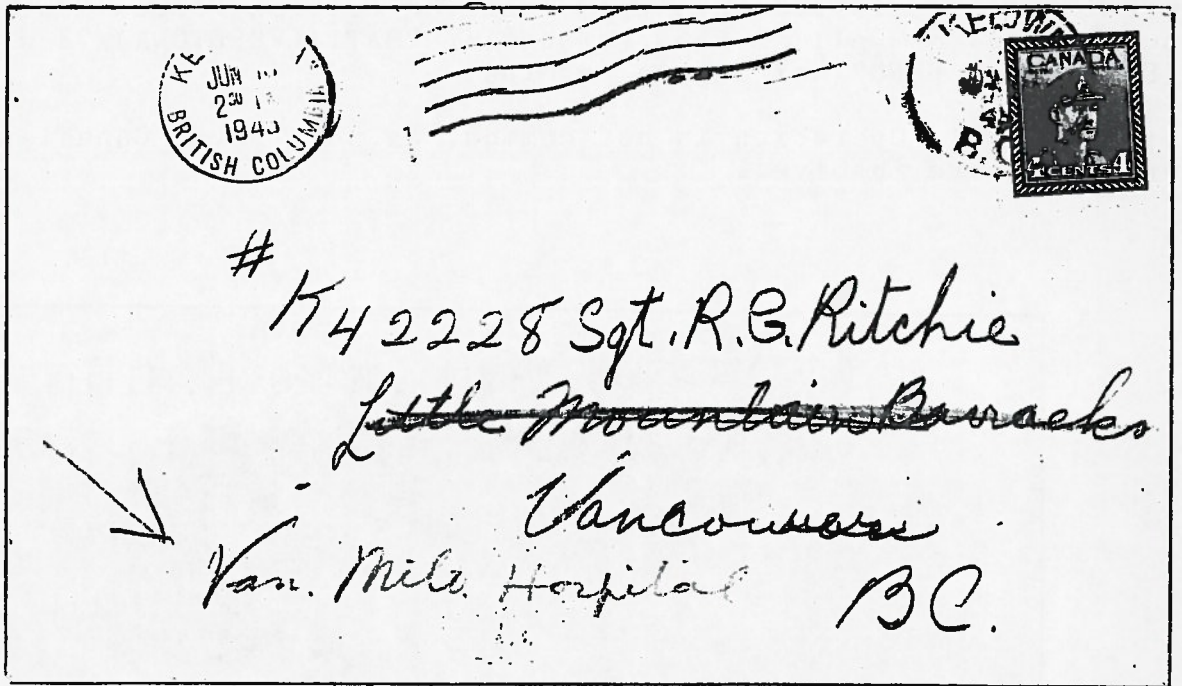
Hall's V.C. is held by the Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax. He's buried in the Hantsport Baptist Church cemetery (Hall died on August 25, 1904).

References: Bishop, A. Victoria Cross Heroes (2008)
Détails
Medals Year Book (1995)
 Purves, A.A. Collecting Medals and Decorations (1983)

LITTLE MOUNTAIN BARRACKS/VANCOUVER MILITARY HOSPITAL--By Jon Johnson

Both front and reverse of a cover to the Little Mountain Barracks, Vancouver, and then re-directed to the Vancouver Military Hospital are illustrated on the following page. The cover, from Kelowna, B.C. dated June 1945, bears an interesting large circular datestamp "No. XI DISTRICT DEPOT/JUN 19 1945/POST OFFICE" in carmine on the reverse. There is also a "Vancouver M.P.O. 1106" cancel as well.

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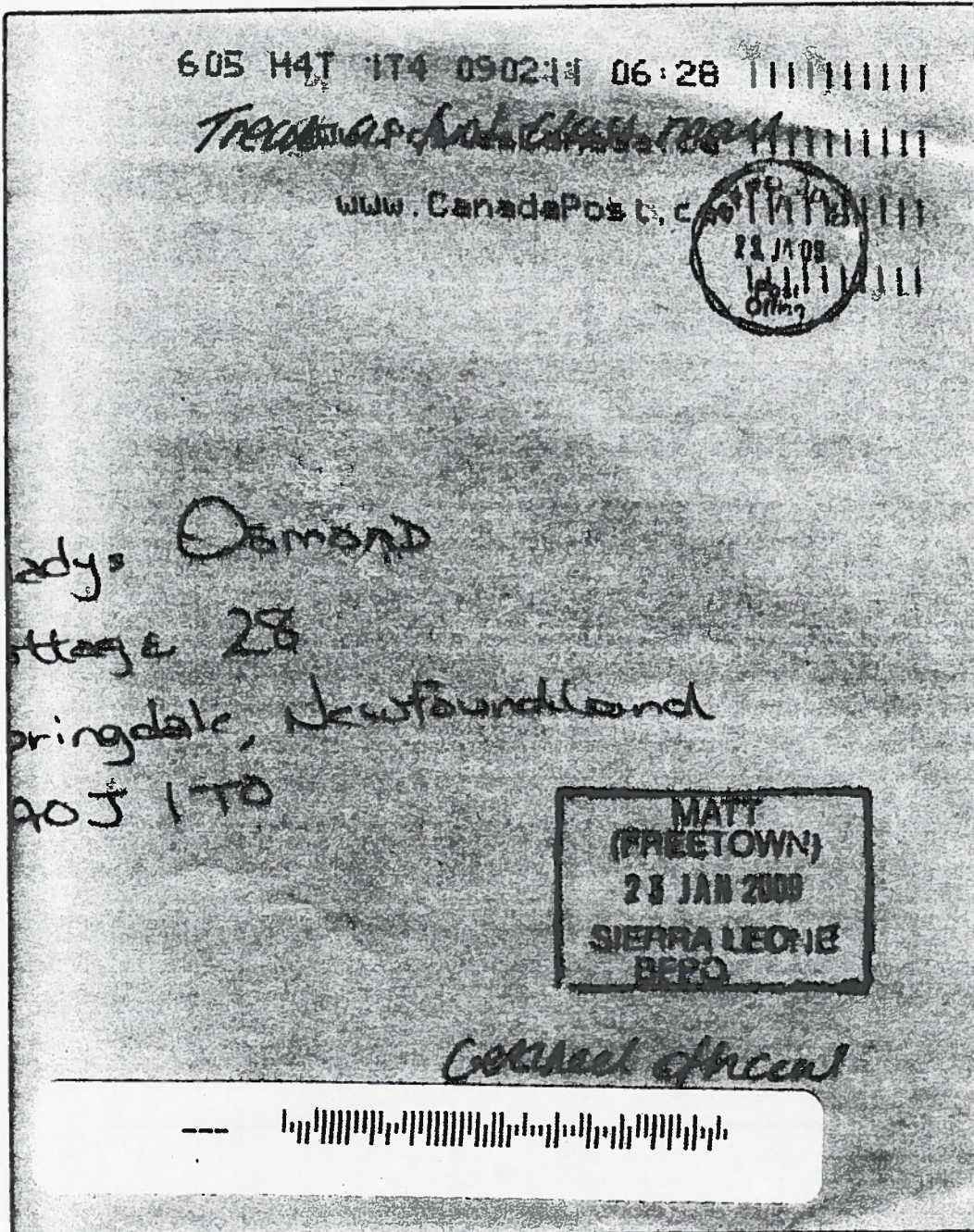


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OPERATION SCULPTURE, 2009--By A.D. Hanes

Here is a large folded envelope using the British Forces Post Office dater (scalloped) as well as the rectangular "MATT/(FREETOWN)/23 JAN 2009/SIERRA LEONE/BFPO" marking in carmine.

Mail from this Operation is not common, as only seven Canadian military personnel were involved.



P.O.W. MAIL: AUSTRALIA TO CANADA--By Jerome C. Jarnick

Prisoner to prisoner communications are uncommon. This Australian Letter Sheet was sent by Oberleutenant Heinz Täuber interned at the Dhurringile POW Camp in the Tatura District of Victoria, Australia, to Oberleutenant Hinrich Wurdemann, interned in Canada and held at Camp 30, Bowmanville, Ontario.

Fifty German officers and their batmen were detained at the Dhurringile camp. The airmail postage was paid by the 1/ stamp postmarked "Ship Mail Room, Melbourne" on April 21, 1943. The letter was censored by both Australian and Canadian authorities. A faint purple single-line handstamp on the front reads "APPROVED FOR TRANSMISSION BY CAMP COMMANDANT DHURR".

SERVICE OF PRISONERS OF WAR

AGB MUST BE USED FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY
 NIEITE DARF NUR FUER DIE ADRESSE BENUTZT
 SCRIVE SOLO L'INDIRIZZO

AIR MAIL

277 *Herrn Oberkuttant*

NAME: *Hinrich Wurdemann* P.O. No. *51993*

Street: *Internment Camp 30*

Suburb: *Base Post Office - Ottawa*

City: *Canada*

Country: *Canada*
 Land: *Written in German*
 Paese:

EXAMINED BY

Dhurringile

DB.C. 469

DO NOT WRITE
NIGHT HERE SCH
VIRATO SCRIVE

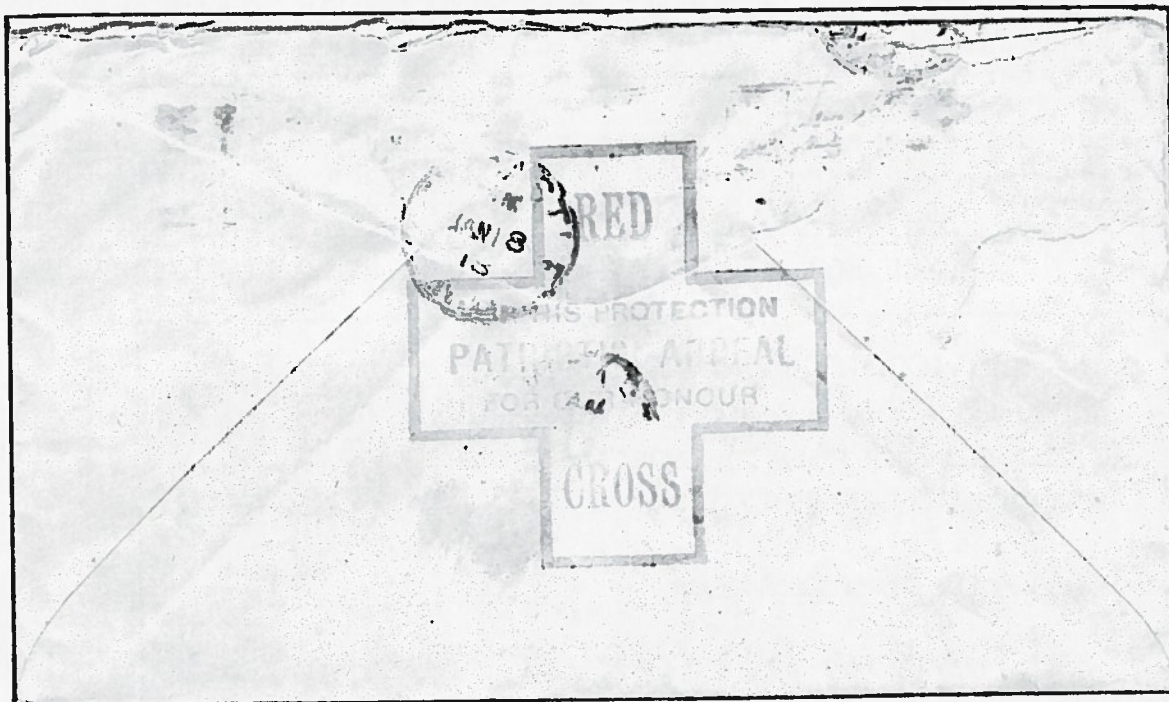
Opened by Censor

Opened by Censor

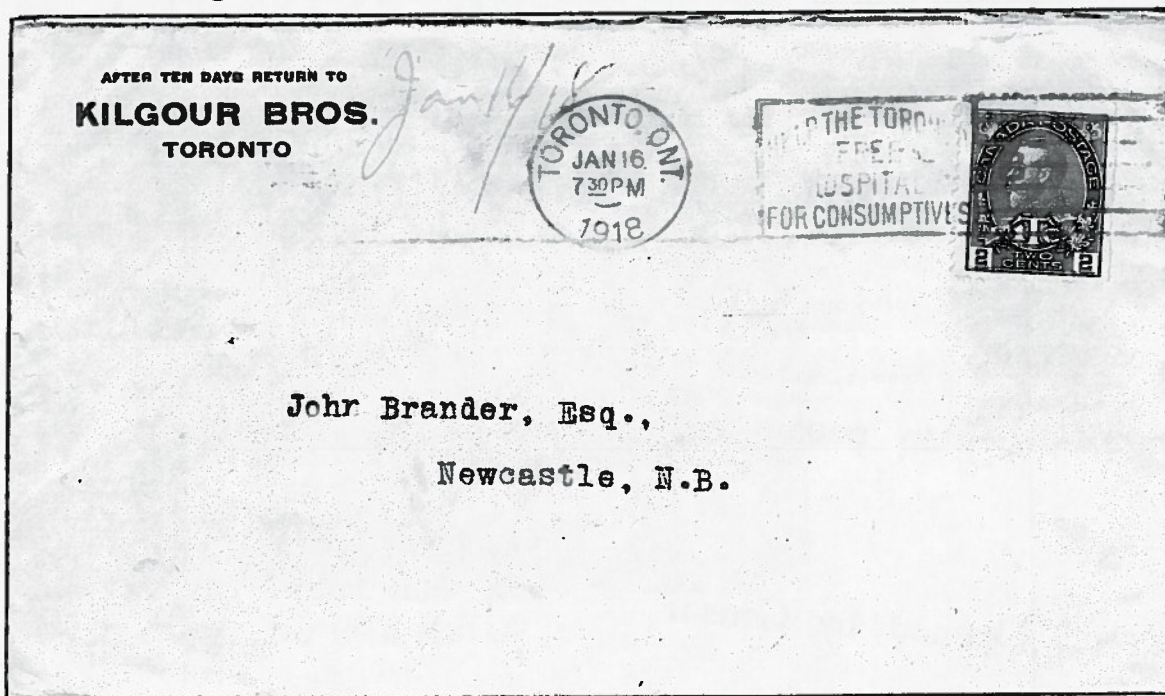
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RED CROSS PATRIOTIC APPEAL 1918

I have not seen many examples of this magenta handstamp although I pre-

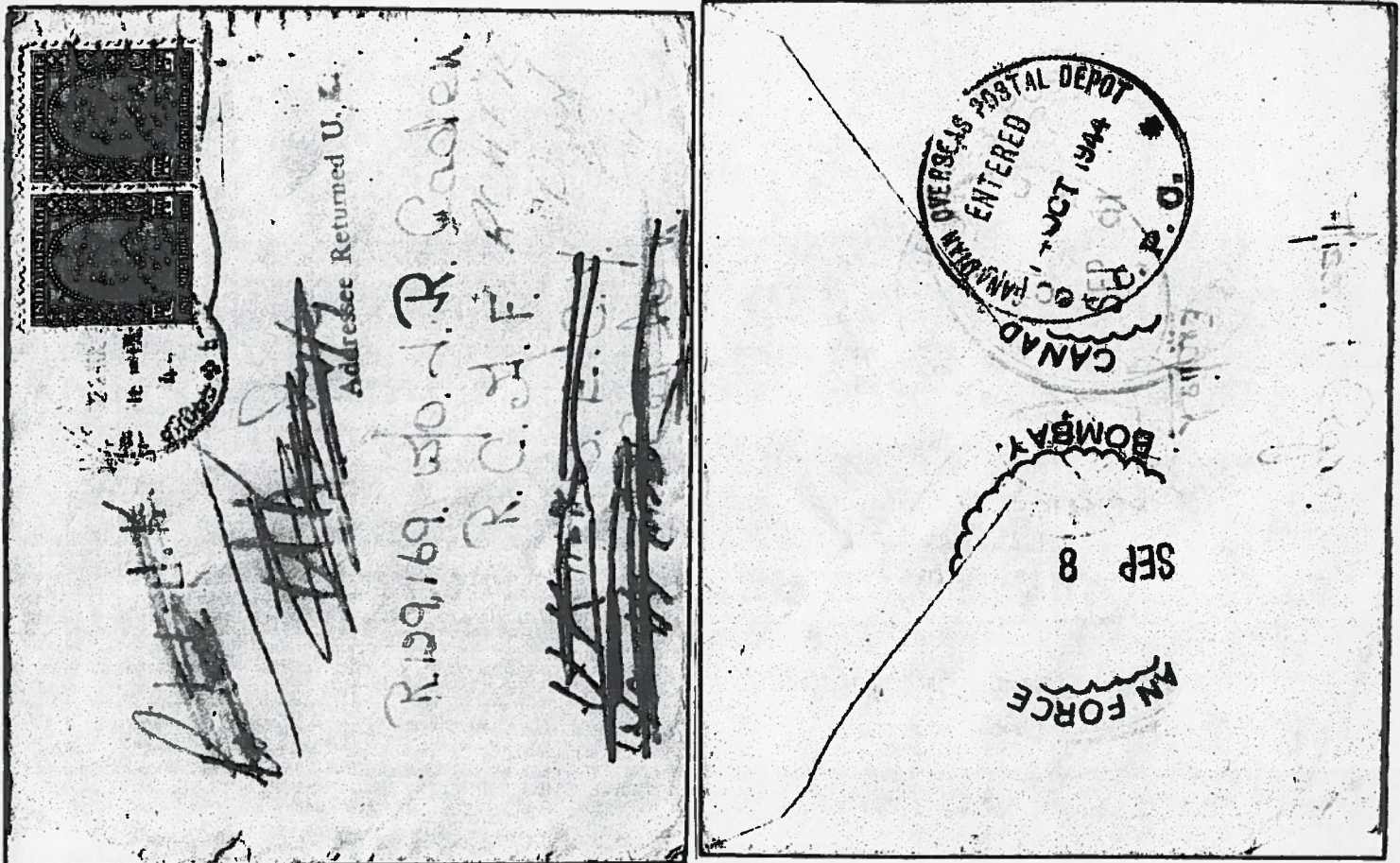


sume that other examples may exist. The "RED/FOR HIS PROTECTION/PATRIOTIC APPEAL/FOR OUR HONOUR/CROSS" cachet appears to be a rubber device which may have been provided to businesses to aid the Red Cross in fund-raising.



1944 R.C.A.F. IN INDIA--By A.D. Hanes

This cover to a W/O in the R.C.A.F. in India from India bears two poor and partial strikes of the "pie crust" Bombay cancel [enhanced. Ed.]. It was mailed on September 8, 1944 and out on September 11. Re-directed several times, it also bears a straight-line "Addressee Returned U.K." marking on the front.



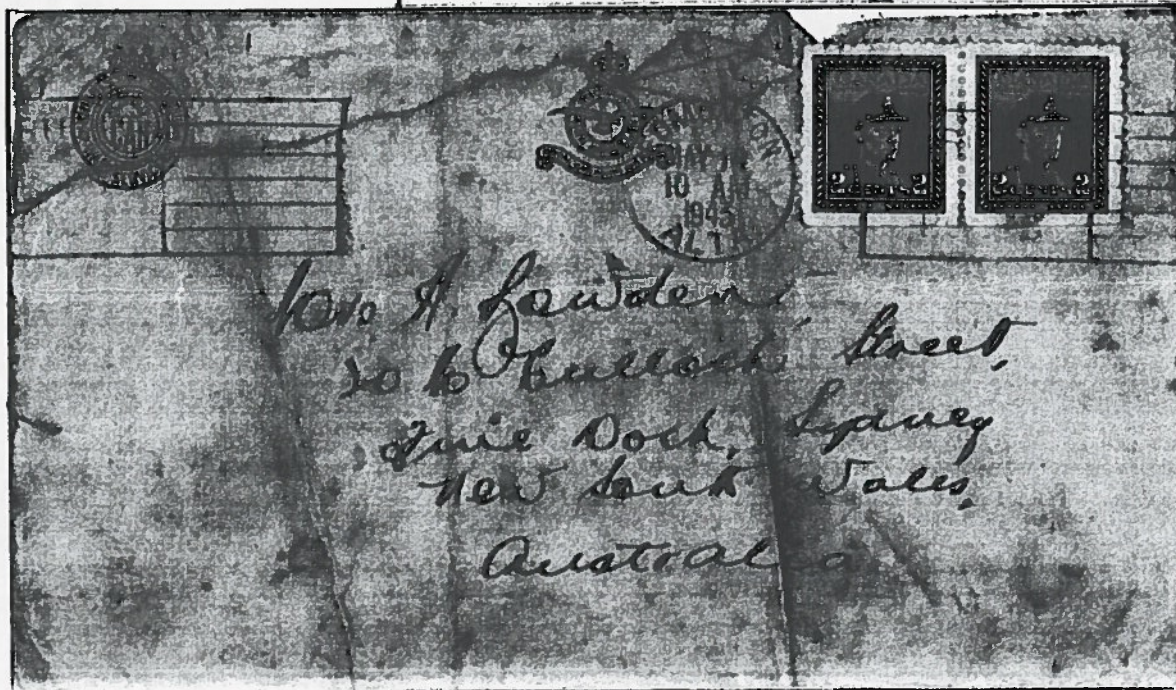
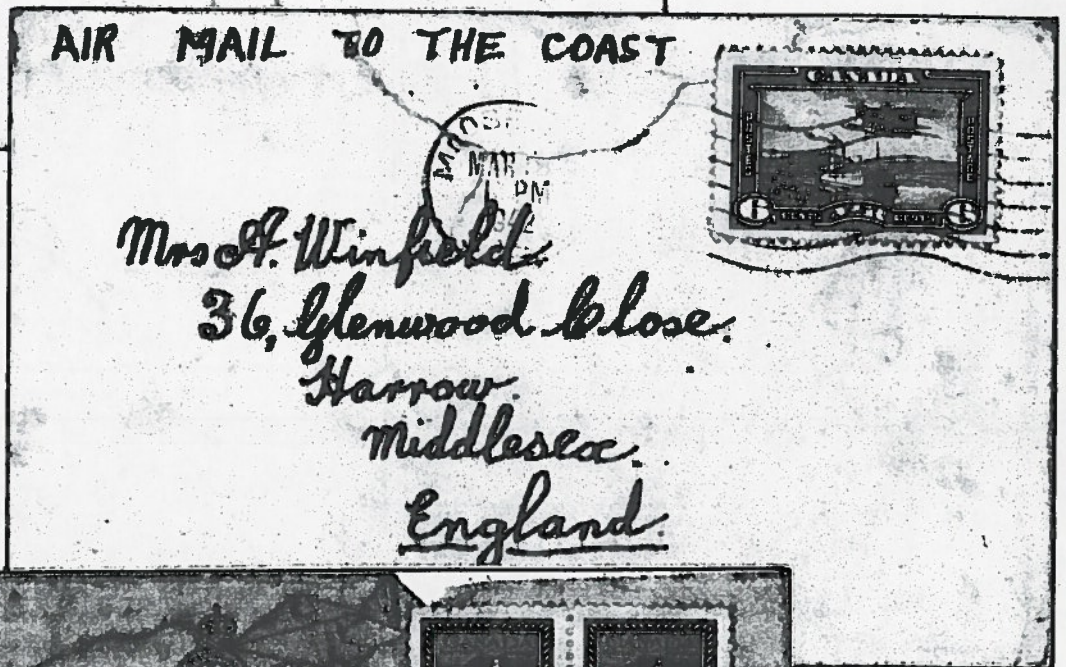
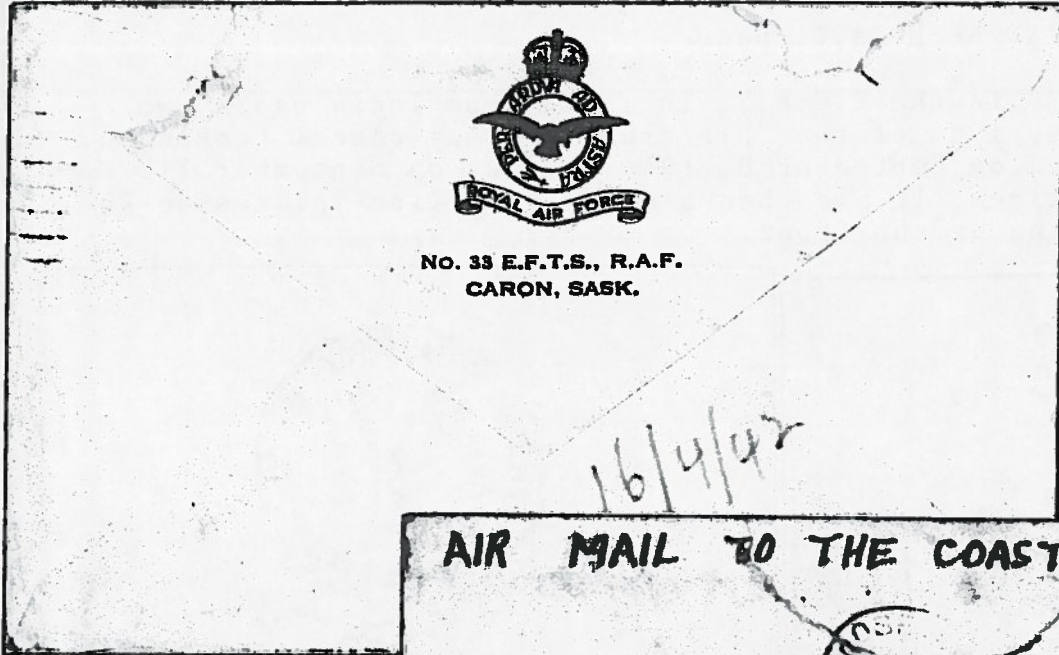
1942-1943 COMMONWEALTH AIR TRAINING PLAN--By David Collyer

[David sent along the following two B.C.A.T.P. covers some time back. The No.33 Elementary Flying Training School in Caron, Saskatchewan was operated by the R.A.F. in 1942. It was later renamed No.18 E.F.T.S. The cover was posted in March 1942 from Moose Jaw, a few miles east of Caron. The school was open from January 5, 1942-January 14, 1944. The aircraft used included the Tiger Moth, a "Canadianized" version of the standard R.A.F. trainer manufactured by De Havilland Canada, and the monoplane Cornell designed by Fairchild in the U.S. and built under license in Canada.

Although the May 1943 cover from Edmonton to Sydney, NSW, Australia is unidentified and only indicates an R.C.A.F. stationery envelope, it is probable that the sender was part of the B.C.A.T.P. as well. Ed.]

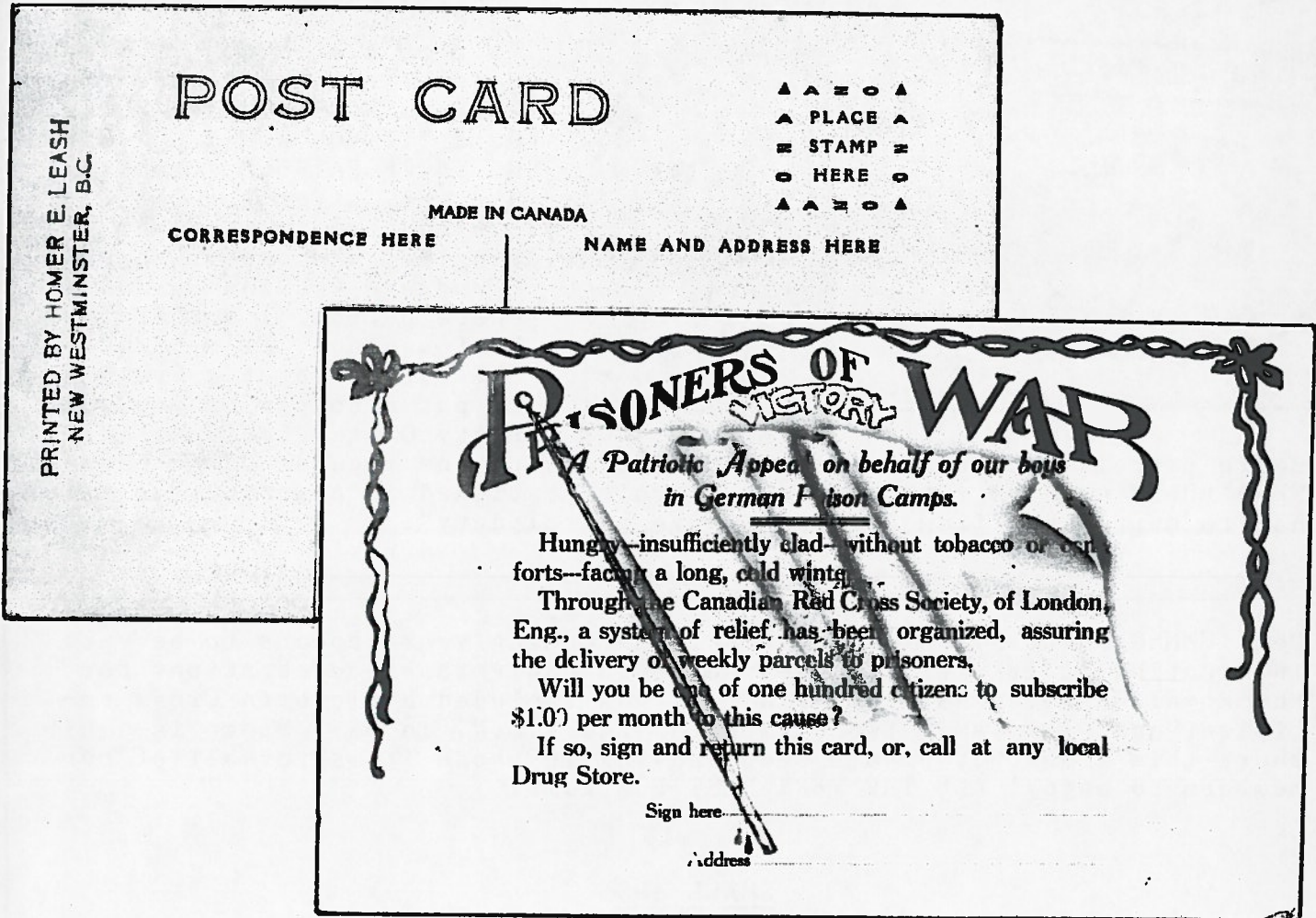
Reference: Dunmore, S. Wings For Victory (1995)

[Cont'd.]



CANADIAN P.O.W.'S IN GERMANY--A PATRIOTIC APPEAL POSTCARD--By
Bob Henderson

This unusual postcard, with an AZO TRI I (1904-1918) stamp box, was printed by Homer Leash, New Westminster, B.C. It deals with the unfortunate situation of Canadians in Germany during the Great War, and urges patrons to contribute \$1.00 per month for the Canadian Red Cross Society, London, England.



NAVAL PROVOST MARSHAL, 1941-1942--By A.D. Hanes

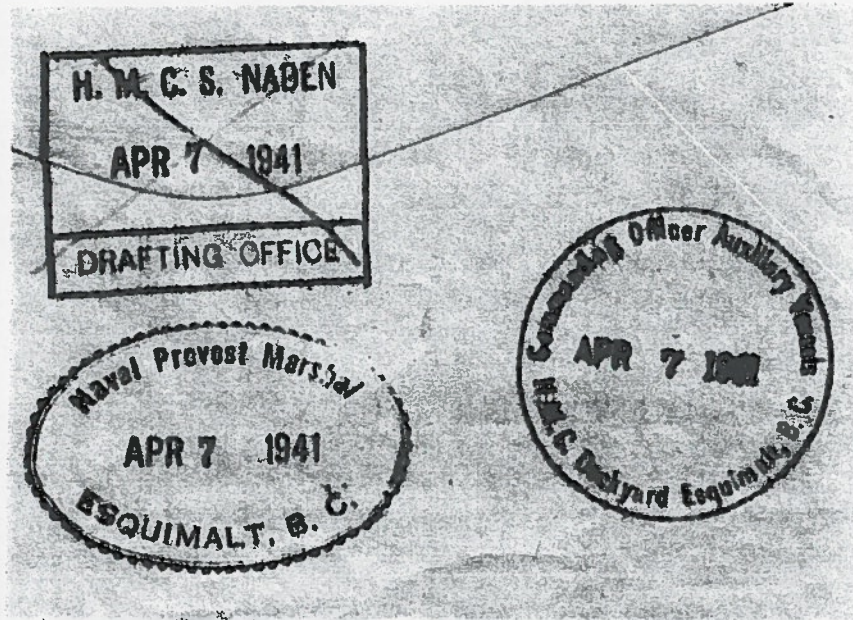
Here are two scans [one follows.Ed.] of two very unusual markings from the Naval Provost Marshal (note the spelling with two "L's" at left). One is from Halifax and the other is from Esquimalt. They are the only two I have seen. One of them (from Halifax) came from the late naval specialist and group member Wilf Whitehouse. I'll share a note from Wilf which contains some interesting information related to these markings:



[Cont'd.]

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"Better than sending you photostats of the Naval Provost handstamp, I'll share one of my two covers with you. I told you I had one dated 1941 and another 1942; the 1941 is in black ink and this 1942 one is in red as you can see. Both are the same [ie. the Halifax examples.Ed.].



The navy had a regular shore patrol, and a lot of them were from Quebec which was a "bit of a sticker" with most guys! There were signs in Montreal at one time which said "IF YOU WON'T GO ACTIVE-GO SHORE PATROL". Chuck Rayner who, after the war, played goal for the N.Y. Rangers, was one of these Quebecers who was permanent shore patrol. I met him in Newfoundland. It's true that the duty ship of a Group had to put a couple of men and a Petty Officer on duty as

shore patrol, and they usually went along with the regular shore patrol. When there were no regular shore patrols stationed in a port, your ships had to supply men from each for shore patrol duty".

Dear CMMSG Members: HAPPY NEW YEAR! The coming year appears to be very interesting as it will include the 100th anniversary celebrations for the Royal Canadian Navy. Canada Post has included a Victoria Cross recipient and will issue two stamps for the R.C.N. in May. Space is a bit short this issue but please keep sending in those items for all of our members to enjoy! ALL THE VERY BEST FOR 2010!

SMALL ADS

Still only \$1.00 (Canadian) per issue (mint postage at face ok). Copy to the Editor please.

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 (3/4)

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 (2/6)
