



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

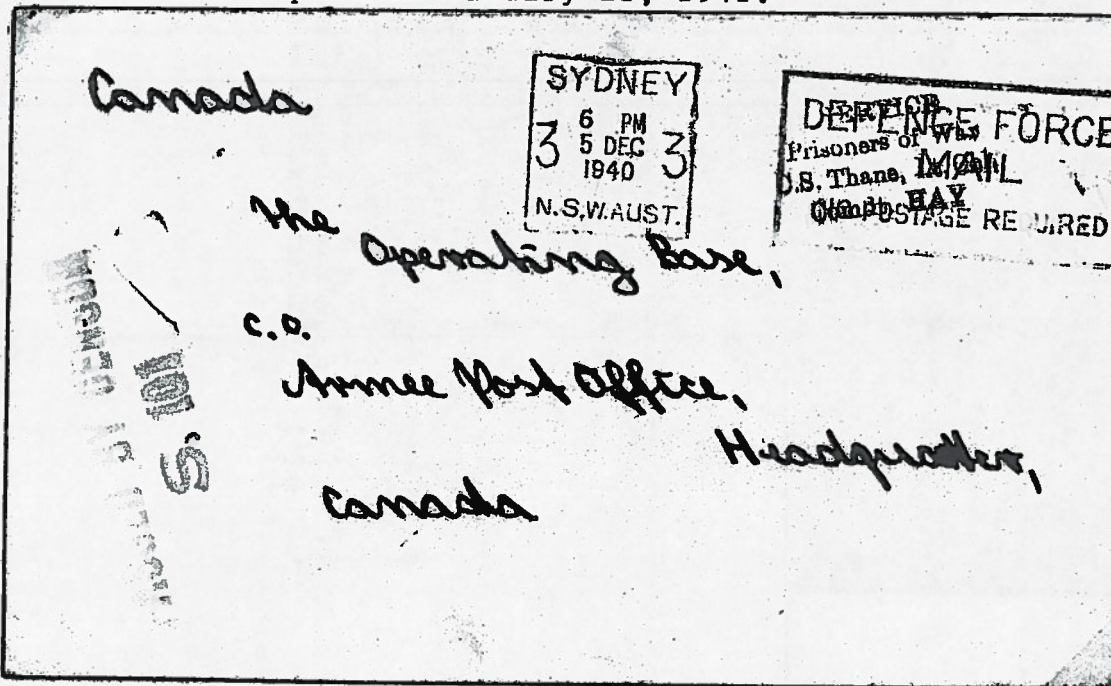
MARCH 2010

NEWSLETTER NO. 194
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P.O.W. MAIL, AUSTRALIA TO CANADA, 1940--By Lee Dowsley

After enjoying the article on P.O.W. mail from Australia to Canada by Jerome C. Jarnick (NL #193, Jan.2010, p. 1081), I am sending copies of my two covers that are also from either P.O.W.'s or internees in Australia to the Army Base Post Office in Ottawa.

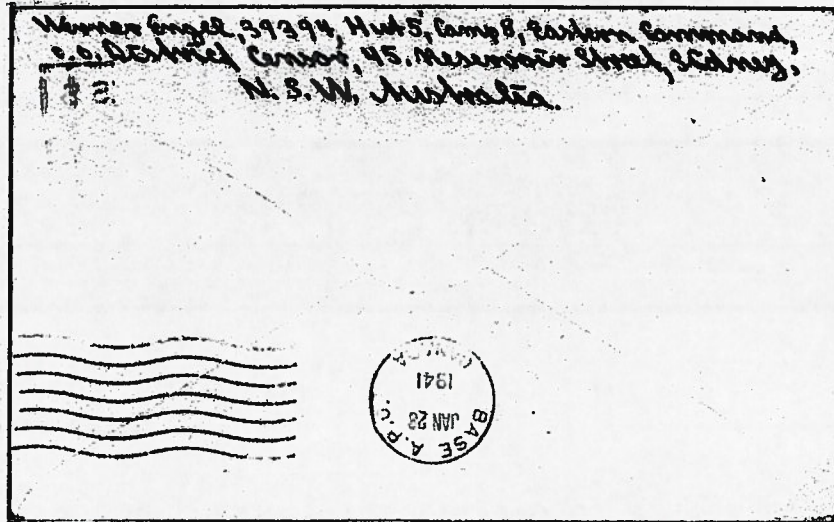
The first is from 39394, Werner Engel, Hut 5, Camp 8, Eastern Command, dated December 5, 1940. It bears a "PASSED BY CENSOR/S. 101" handstamp. It arrived in Ottawa as noted by the Base A.P.O. machine backstamp dated January 28, 1941:



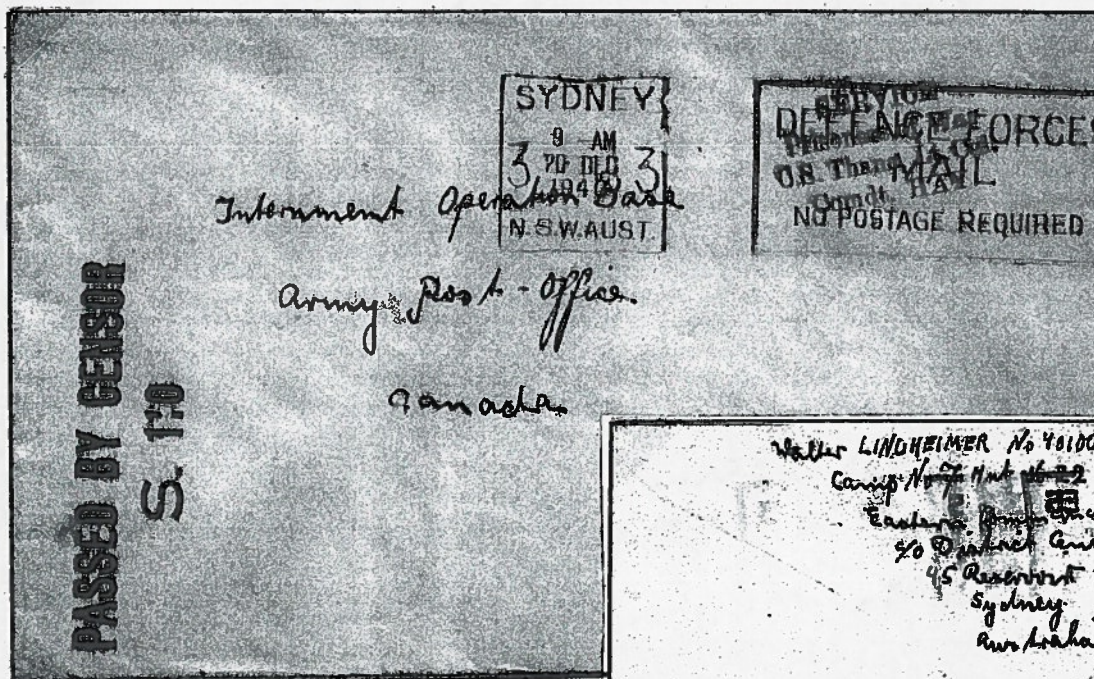
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The second is from 40100, Walter Lindheimer, Hut 22, Camp 7, Eastern Command, dated December 20, 1940. Both are "c/o District Censor, 45 Reservoir Street, Sydney, NSW, Australia". It too bears a similar censor marking but the number is "S. 110".



These were both passed by the Sydney Censor Office and classed as "Defence Force Mail, No Postage Required", and authorized by a handstamp "SERVICE/Prisoners of War/C.S. Thane, Lt.Col./Comdt. HAY". The senders may have been German Internees looking for other internees, or German P.O.W.'s doing the same; although P.O.W.'s in Australia as early as late 1940 is a bit of a stretch. [According to Phil Collas' The Postal History of Internees and Prisoners of War in Australia During World War II (Melbourne, R.P.S. of Victoria, 1982), the complex at Hay (some 600 km south-west of Sydney), was comprised of camps No. 6, 7, and 8, each with a capacity of 1,000 (p.25). It was initially built for enemy aliens, along with those Australia agreed to accept from Great Britain, and was opened in August 1940. Some of these initial internees arrived on the Dunera; an interesting story in itself but not within our main interest here. Whether these two correspondents were aboard the Dunera needs further research. On p.27, Collas notes that internees' mail for surface carriage did not require postage stamps but some examples have been recorded. Letters first passed through camp censorship, with the "Thane" handstamp affixed, and then travelled unsealed to the District Censor in Sydney. The unframed two-line censor's marking ranged, notes Collas, to "about S. 4949". It seems that both Camp 7 and Camp 8 had similar markings with a few exceptions. At the time of publication, Collas reports that no material has been seen from Camp 6, Hay (p.27).Ed.]

A BRITISH MILITARY POSTMARK ON CANADA'S #CE4, KOREA--By Mike Street

In 2009 the BNAPS Canadian Military Mail Study Group Newsletter carried examples of an Australian military postmark used to cancel Canadian stamps used on letters mailed home by Canadian soldiers serving overseas during the Korean War. In January 2010, one of several covers offered via email by an American dealer caused my eyes to pop!

The letter, addressed to the United States, is franked with a single Canada #CE4, the 17¢ Peace Issue Special Delivery Airmail stamp, cancelled with an unusual looking mark. The front also carries a straight-line "U.K. FORCES IN KOREA" handstamp and a manuscript "BY AIR MAIL" endorsement. A clear copy of the cancellation on the reverse reads "41ST COMMANDO R.M./23 4.1951./POST OFFICE". Also on the reverse is a manuscript "TOKYO/JAPAN".

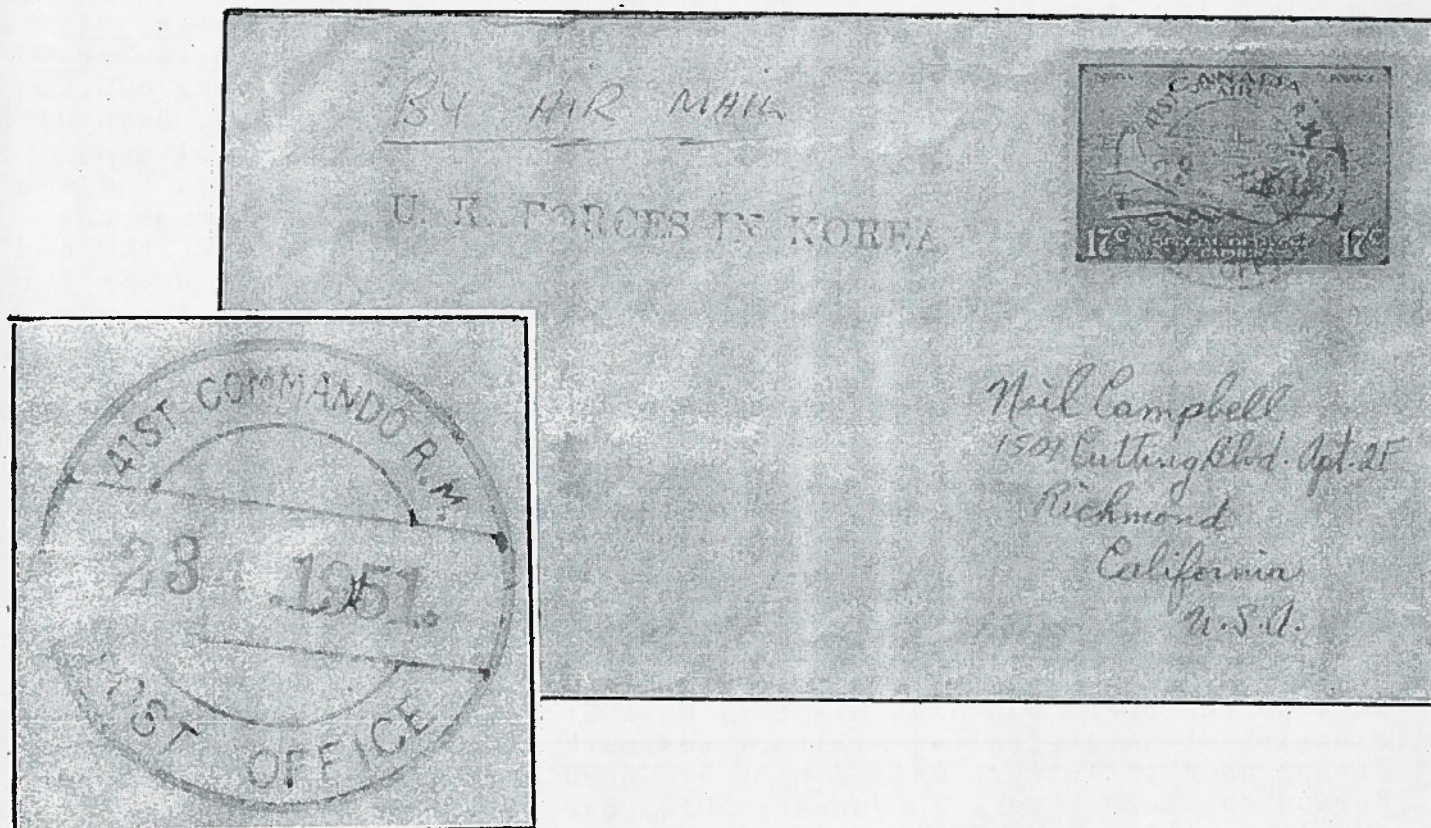
A little Internet searching resulted in a very interesting story(1). 41 Independent Commando, Royal Marines, commanded by Lt.Col. D.B. Drysdale, was formed on August 16, 1950 at Bickleigh Camp, U.K. On arrival in Japan the unit assembled at Camp McGill, a U.S. Army post at Takehama near the U.S. Naval Base of Yokosuka. 41 Commando was to be under U.S. Naval operational command and was supplied, armed, and equipped by the Americans. After taking part in several raids, on November 15, 1950, the unit was placed under the command of the United States' 1st Marine Division and issued with cold weather clothing.

41 Independent Commando took part, with many casualties, in the battle of Koto-ri in Decmeber 1950. After further action that month, because of the casualties, it was decided to withdraw the unit to Japan in January 1951 to await reinforcements and to retrain and re-equip. 41 Independent Com-

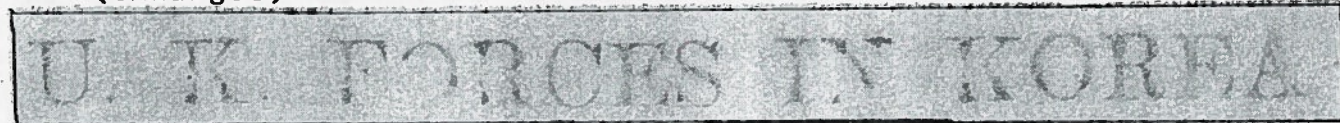
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-mando moved into Ebisu Camp in the suburbs of Tokyo in January 1951 and all ranks enjoyed a period of rest and relaxation. Later, the Unit was transferred to HMAS Commonwealth at the naval base at Kure to re-equip, train, and absorb reinforcements.



(enlarged)



On April 7, 1951 the unit participated, with considerable support, in a daylight demonstration in force to cut the supplies coming from Manchuria to Hungnam, Korea. Following the raid, the Commando disembarked at Yokosuka and was re-established in Camp McGill on April 13, from where sub-unit and unit training continued.

The letter illustrated was obviously written soon after the Commando returned to Japan. How a Canadian stamp came to be used by a British unit stationed in Japan is unknown. Since the letter was sent by air mail, postage was required. The most likely explanation is that the writer obtained the stamp from a Canadian soldier. In any case, I am sure glad he did!

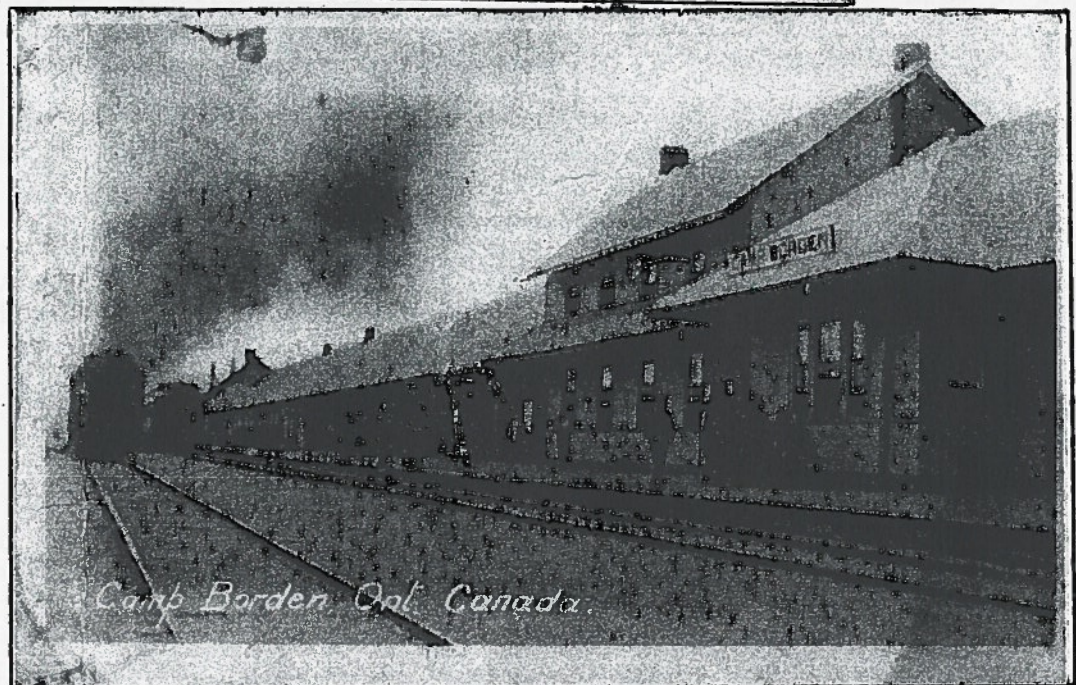
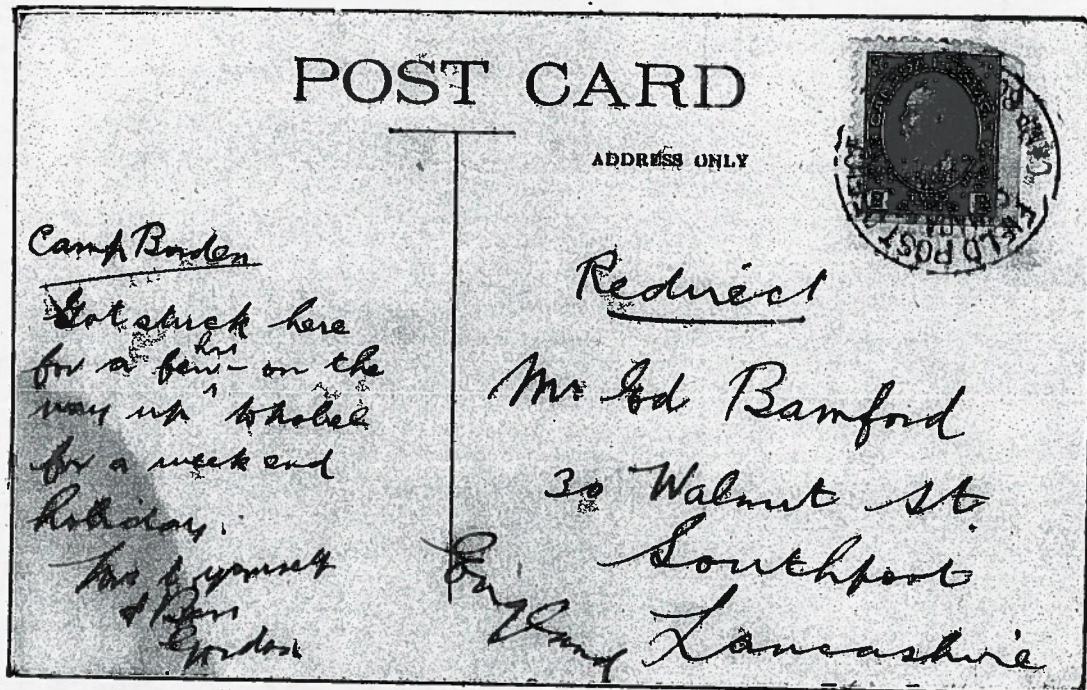
(1) Thomas, Lt. Peter, RM, 41 Independent Commando R.M. Korea, 1950-1952. Special Publication No.8, Royal Marines Historical Society. Web URL:

<http://www.rt66.com/korteng/SmallArms/41RMCpub.htm>

F.P.O. CANADA MILITIA, CAMP BORDEN, 1917-- By Ged Taylor

Here is a Great War-era postcard of the railway station at Camp Borden, Ontario sent to Southport, England. The card is franked with a 2¢ carmine George V "Admiral" adhesive which has been cancelled by a Camp Borden Militia F.P.O. handstamp, dated July 7, 1917.

The hammer has a noticeable break in the outer frame (Bailey & Toop No. M3-9, Canadian Military Postal Markings Vol.I, 1996). [In the Anthology (1991), J.C. Campbell recorded 14 strikes at that time (for hammer 3), p. 106 "Canada Militia Cancels Usage Dates Survey". Ed.]



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P.O.W. MAIL, AUSTRALIA TO CANADA RE-VISITED--By David Collyer

I was particularly interested in Jerome Jarnick's previous article related to P.O.W. mail from Australia to Canada. Members may be interested in more information and I will be referring to Phil Collas' work [as noted in Lee Dowsley's article Editorial comments.Ed.]

Dhurringile is 160 kilometres north-west of Melbourne near Murchison and Tatura. A camp was opened there in October 1939 to accommodate German internees. In this case (and presumably the same in Canada) an internee was a German National, generally male, of military age residing or currently in Australia. There was even a boy's choir that was caught this way and which was interned for the duration! The internment camp reputedly closed in February 1940 but there is evidence that it operated at least until September 1940 because the internment camps at Tatura and Murchison did not open until that date.

Mention is made of the 17th Garrison Battalion who were the guards at the internment camp and later the P.O.W. camp at the same location. Garrison Battalions were generally composed of over-age servicemen; generally Great War veterans [In Canada, similar to the Veterans' Guard of Canada so it was not a unique idea in the Empire.Ed.]

Dhurringile was re-opened as a P.O.W. camp in August 1941 to accommodate an influx of prisoners captured in the fighting in North Africa. As an aside, on the British/Empire/Commonwealth-side, who you were captured by was responsible for you as a P.O.W. Therefore if you were captured by an Australian unit, you were likely to be sent to Australia. This is why Australia had large numbers of Italian P.O.W.'s. German Army P.O.W.'s came from the Afrika Corps. The numbers of P.O.W.'s in the Pacific War were relatively small. There were also over 300 German naval personnel from the raider Kormoran that sunk the HMAS Sydney.

Collas notes that the P.O.W. camps opened in August 1941 and closed in July 1945. It was originally controlled from Tatura but in 1943 control was transferred to the Murchison group.

Collas illustrates (p.39) another example of the cachet on Jerry's cover on a postcard prepaid for airmail. Incidentally, Jerry's article shows a "notelope" (lettersheet) that was printed specifically for use by the P.O.W.'s. The writer was allowed a number of notelopes and postcards to write, but I am not sure if the ration was weekly or monthly. The item was written and addressed in the camp but left unsealed. You will note that the notelope is closed by pushing part of the back flap into a slot [similar to those used in Canada, with modifications.Ed.]

Collas noted that there was a Mil P.O. (Military Post Office) at Dhurringile from 01/01/40 to 17/09/40, but this serviced the Internment Camp and was not in operation for the P.O.W. camp period.

The Camp Commandant's cachet was applied at the camp. It is likely that the stamp for airmail to Canada was also applied there but it was not postmarked there. Obviously the 1/ stamp had to be available at the camp or it was purchased there. Until mid-1944, all P.O.W. mail was checked by the Civil Censor Office in Melbourne no matter what State the mail

[Cont'd.]

originated from.

Note that the civil censor sealing tape goes over the notelope flap and the left hand edge (facing the front). Normally these sealing tapes would have been placed over the edge of the envelope that had been opened by the censor. The "3" in the diamond censor marking indicated the 3rd Military District that was Victoria, of which Melbourne is the capital city.

In this case the Camp Commandant represents military censorship and the Civil Censor represents the civil administration (in this case, in Melbourne).

Outside Australia many collectors have some trouble with our "Ship Mail Room" postmarks. Logic says that this is a marking used for maritime mail as this was the normal means of transport for overseas mail in the 1940's. Reality was somewhat different. Australian authorities liked to abbreviate "Ship Mail Room" as an abbreviation for "Trans-Shipment Mail Room", or the place where mail was trans-shipped. [Thanks David, and also for the relevant information from Collas which arrived separately. Given David's information, and Lee's related covers from Hay, the Canada-Australia connection when it applies to P.O.W.'s is certainly informative. I suspect that Jerry is also pleased at the response received from his previous article. Thanks to all!Ed.]

1 CANADIAN A.B.P.O. KRAG CANCELLATION UPDATE--By C.D. Sayles

[Doug sent along the following illustration and update related to Bill Pekonen's "A.B.P.O. 1945 Krag Cancel Enquiry", NL#191 (Aug. 2009), pp. 1061-1062.Ed.]

The Krag cancel shown is incomplete: the top line "1 Canadian" is missing. My ERD is 27 November 1945, and LRD is 20 May 1945. Here is an image of a complete cancel (taken from Catalogue Vol.II).



1 CANADIAN
A.B.P.O.
- AM
26 JAN 45

SERVICE PUBLICATIONS: MILITARY BOOK PUBLISHERS

[Mr. Clive M. Law, of Service Publications, has generously supplied our group with complimentary military-related bookmarks. A range of military-related publications (mostly non-postally related) can be seen at: <http://www.servicepub.com> or you can email him for more information at: sales@servicepub.com (.) Many thanks Clive! Ed.]

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A PRISONER OF WAR "CARD OF APPRECIATION"--By Robert Henderson

This is a somewhat unusual postcard. It was mailed by an Italian (Private Bruno Disaró) of the Italian Army while he was held as a Prisoner of War in Camp 39, located at Castle Maxtoke Camp, Coleshill, Warwickshire, in England.

The card was mailed to "Mr. George Rayner, Carievale, Sask." with a forwarding address later added and re-directed to "No.3 C.R.C., Portage la Prairie, Manitoba".

Regrettably, the August postmark for Carievale is only partially shown on the card, making it impossible to ascertain the date of receipt and the time it took for the card to travel from England to Canada. The circular camp handstamp is a dark purple, while the crown censor is a bright purple.

Army form 10/5073

PRISONER OF WAR POST.

SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

INDIRIZZO

From _____
Mittente _____

Name Disaró Bruno

Prig. di Guerra No.: 235078

Grado Soldato Arma A.R.M.

39 Prisoner of War Camp, Great Britain.

Mr. George Rayner
PASSED

P.W. 747

Città Carievale

Prov. Saskatchewan

No 3.
C.R.C. (CANADA)

Portage la Prairie Man

P.O.W. CAMP
NO. 39
BRITAIN

Little else can be gleaned from the card, except for the fact that Pte. Disaró must have become a "Trustee" class of P.O.W. He had access to a typewriter, and only made a few typing errors (indicating that he was somewhat fluent in English). [Although not a P.O.W. specialist, I suspect that this card is unusual as I have not seen many others during the war. Was George Rayner connected with the Canadian Red Cross? Would enemy combatants often receive packages from the "Allied" Red Cross? Did Disaró's status change to an "internee" when Italy declared war on Germany on October 13, 1943? Was he an acquaintance of Rayner's before the war? His message seems very familiar (on the following page). Should members have any comments related to Bob's card, please send them in! Ed.]

[Cont'd.]

CAMPO DI CONCENTRAMENTO
PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA No.: 30 DATA 28.7.44

My dear Friend:

I hope you will receive this card with pleasure. My health is very good so I hope of you and family.

I never forgot what you have done for me. I wait full liberty for show gratitude to all people who help me.

Will you accept my greeting your Friend

Bruno Disaro
Bruno Disaro

Wt. 57577/984 3150m 3/44 S. K. & S. Ltd.

CANADIANS INTERNED IN THE NETHERLANDS DURING THE GREAT WAR

[Members may be interested in a listing of Canadians interned in The Netherlands provided by former Editor of the Civil Censorship Study Group, Graham Mark. The listing was compiled by Les Jobbins of Reigate, Surrey over many months. He took the information from The Times, and the listing includes men who were repatriated. If members are interested in obtaining information related to items within their collections and those who were interned in Holland, let me know and I will try to find relevant details for you. Thanks are extended to Graham and, of course, to Mr. Jobbins for undertaking an onerous, but most important, task. Ed.]

ORAPEX 2010

[An email was received from Doug Lingard related to the above show which will be held in Ottawa, Ontario at the RA Centre on May 1-2. The theme of the show this year will be the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Canadian Navy. Naturally, the show committee is seeking Canadian-related naval exhibits, along with any other exhibits of a military nature. The "E.R. Ritch Toop Award" is available for the best military postal history exhibit at ORAPEX. Contact Doug for more information:

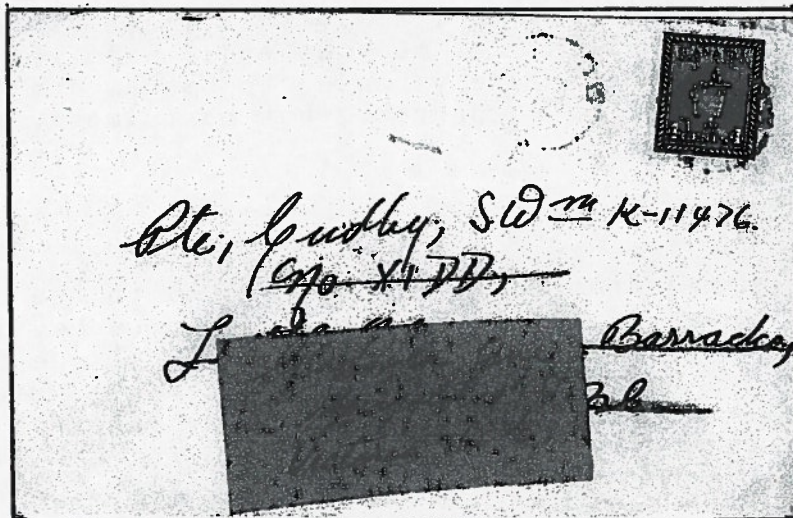
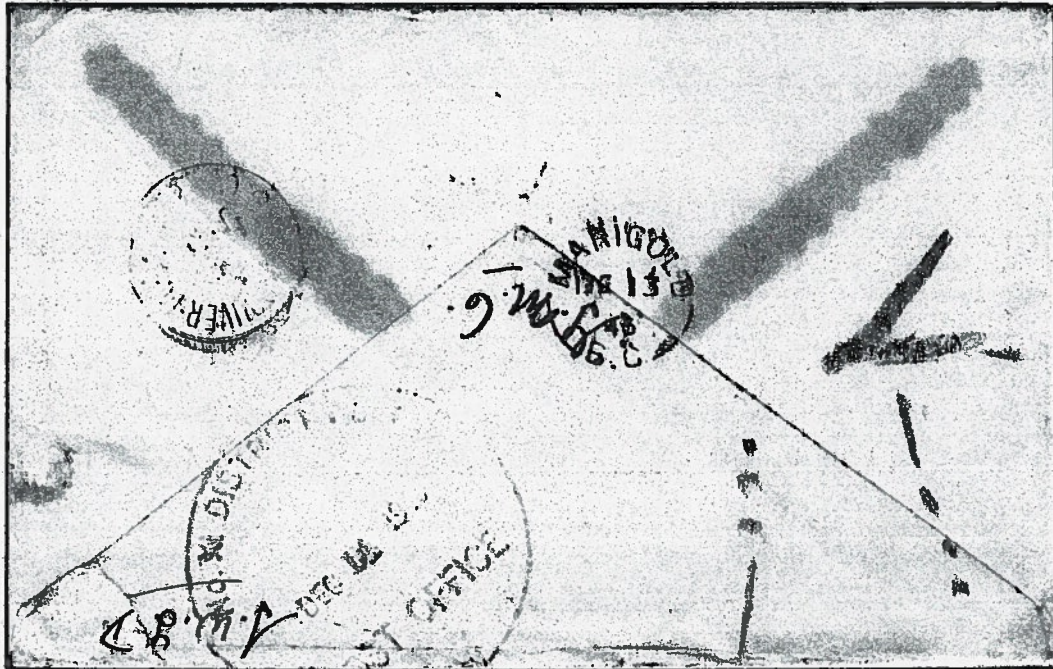
lingardd@istar.ca

Ed.]

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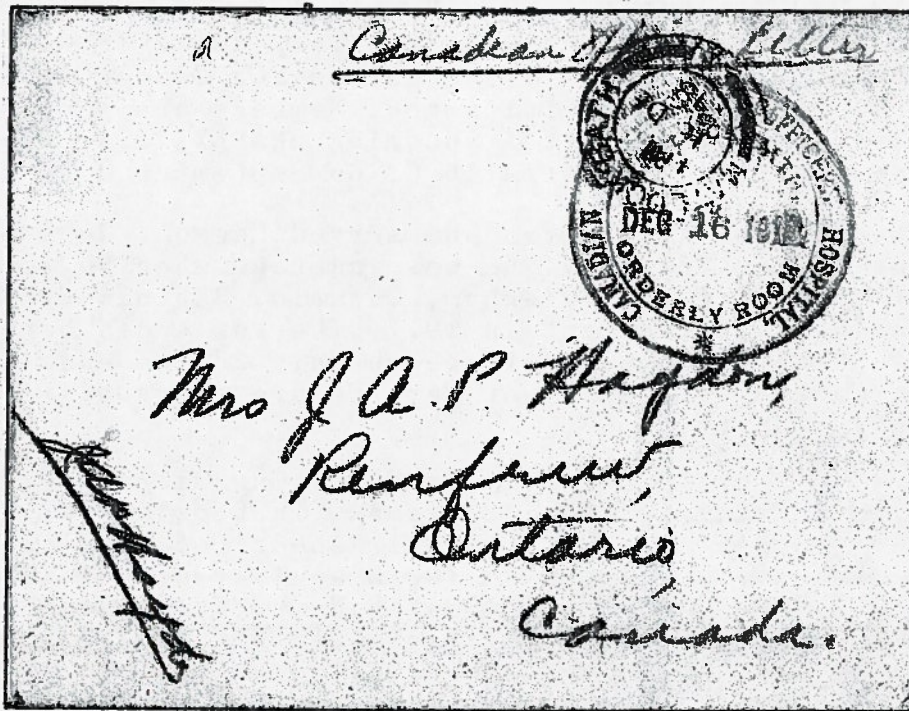
LITTLE MOUNTAIN BARRACKS, PART II--By Lee Dowsley

Here is another cover sent to the same Barracks as featured in NL#193 (Jan.2010), pp.1078-1079 by Jon Johnson. It too is re-directed. The large receiver is in green ("No. XI DISTRICT DEPOT/DEC 11 1945/POST OFFICE") [Jon's was in carmine.Ed.]. It was sent on to "Vancouver M.P.O. 1119/B.C." where it was re-directed to MaRigold, B.C. where it arrived on December 13, 1945.

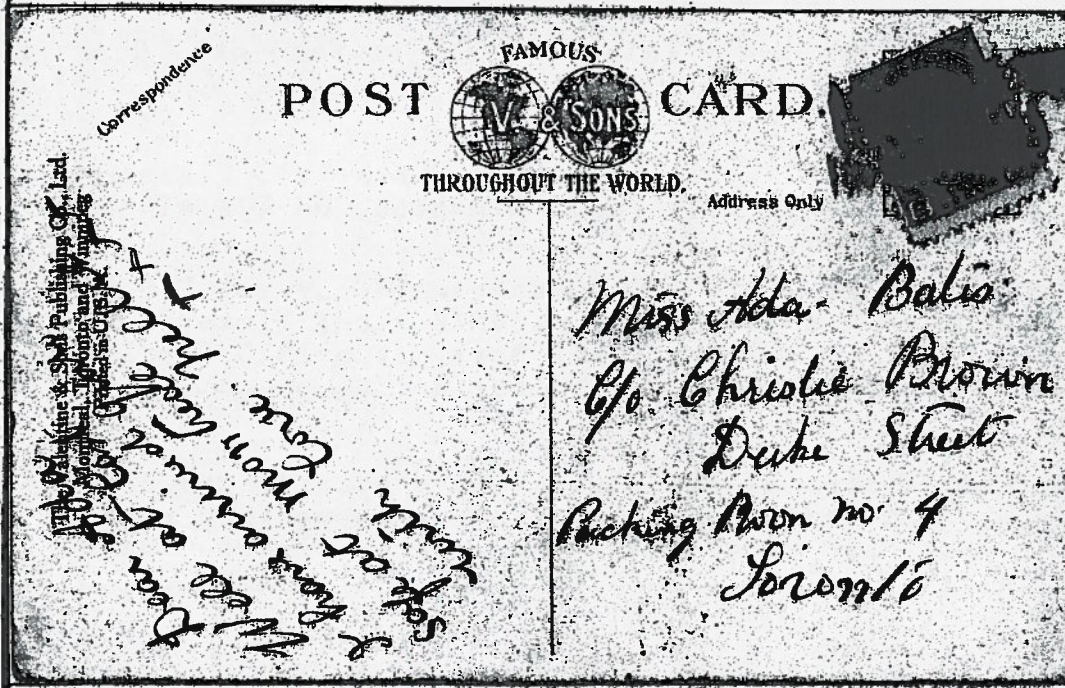


1918 CANADIAN CONVALESCENT OFFICERS HOSPITAL, BATH--By Jon Johnson

Here is a cover from the above hospital in Matlock, Bath. The circular Orderly Room handstamp is dated "DEC 16 1918" with a corresponding civil postmark from Matlock, Bath with the same date. The hospital had a capacity of 210 beds. Note the self-censoring by the officer which was not required when in England.



MONTREAL GREAT WAR SECURITY CANCEL?--By Colin Pomfret



This postcard to Toronto illustrates a "dumb" obliterator from Montreal. There are no identifying postmarks.

The 2¢ rate indicates a post-April 15, 1915 date.

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Dear CMMSG Members: Doug and I hope that everyone's spring is going well and the temperatures are above freezing! A huge thank you is extended to all contributors for helping keep this newsletter full of interesting articles--please **KEEP THEM COMING!!**

Congratulations are extended to member **HAL KELLETT** for his exhibit at the Edmonton Spring National Show, March 12-13. Hal's five-frame "World War One and World War Two Military Mail" captured a Vermeil along with the Postal History Society of Canada's "E.R.Toop Award" for the best military postal history exhibit. Please inform the Editor if other members have done well with their exhibits too. Members are encouraged to enter military-related exhibits in the upcoming BNAPEX 2010 to be held at the Fairmont Empress Hotel, Victoria, B.C. on September 3-5, 2010.

The last known Great War veteran who served Canada, John Babcock, died at the age of 109 in February. He was underage when he joined the 146th Battalion of the C.E.F. in Sydenham, Ontario. Babcock eventually ended up with the "Boys' Battalion" in 1917. The war ended before he reached France; just turning 18 years of age on July 23. So ends a personal connection with Canada and the Great War. We are extremely fortunate that postal history remains.



On May 4 Canada Post will issue two stamps (in booklets of ten) and a souvenir sheet (of two) to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy. The stamps depict HMCS Niobe and HMCS Halifax. For more information on the centennial celebrations visit: www.navy.forces.gc.ca/centennial (.)

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 (4/4)

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 (3/6)

WANTED: Sewell Camp/Camp Hughes postal history on postcards and covers. Pre-WWI militia camps and 1915/16 C.E.F. eras. Eagerly seeking registered mail, incoming mail, and EKU, LKU strikes. Darcy Hickson, RR#2, Box 24, Brandon, MB R7A 5Y2; (204) 725-0621; or email: hicksondj@mts.net (1/10)
