

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

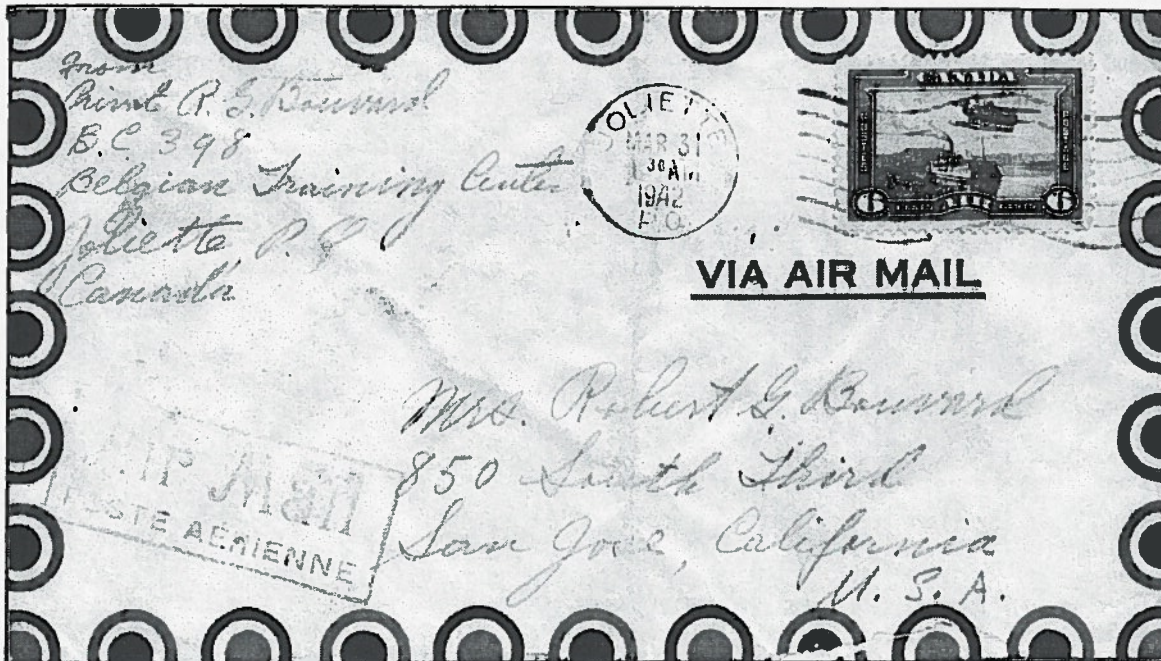
AUGUST 2010

NEWSLETTER NO. 196

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BELGIAN TRAINING CENTRE--By Jerome C. Jarnick

I acquired this cover a few years ago. The return address reads: "From/Private R.G. Bouward [or 'Bouvard'? Ed.]/B.C. 398/Belgian Training Center [sic]/Joliette, P.Q./Canada" and is addressed to Mrs. Robert G. Bouward/Bouvard in San Jose, California. It bears a "Joliette, P.Q./March 31, 1942" postmark.



I was aware that Belgians trained in Canada along with the Commonwealth Forces during the Second World War, but have no knowledge
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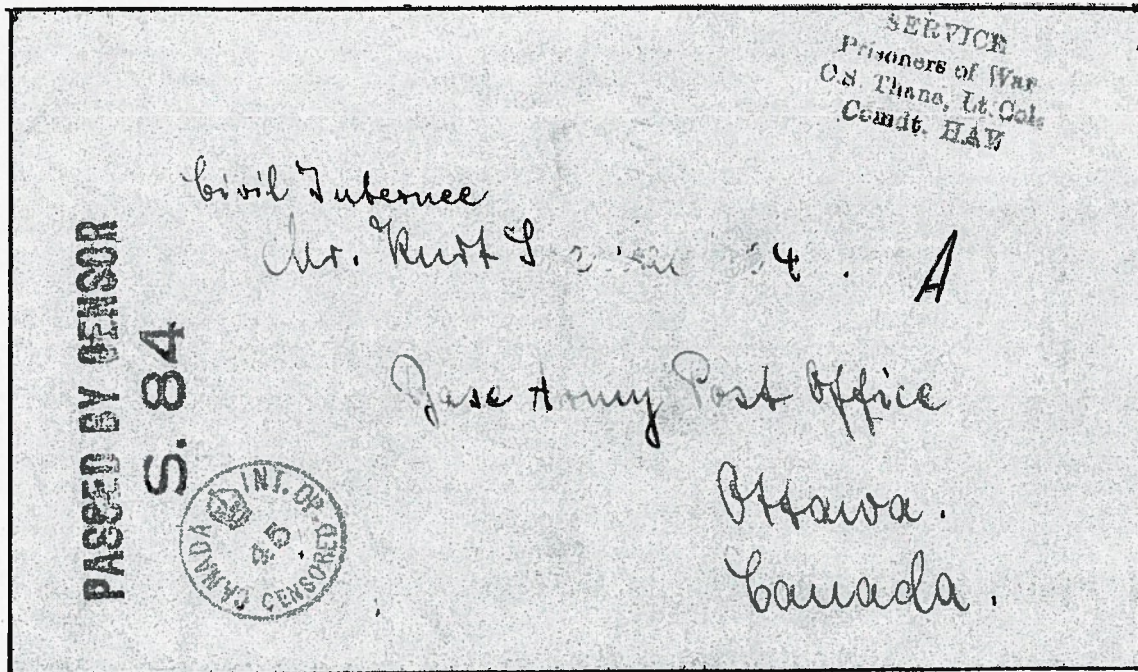
EDITOR: D. MARIO, POST OFFICE BOX 342, STN. MAIN, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3
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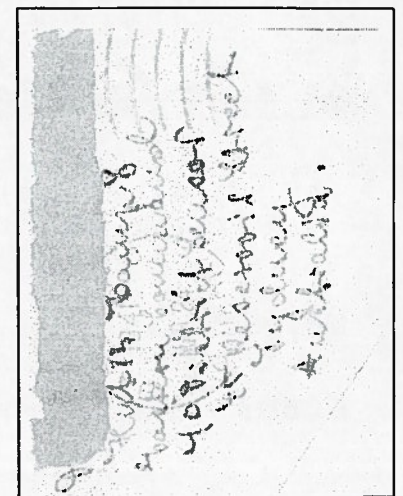
of a "Belgian Training Centre", nor have I been able to find any reference to its existence. Does a CMMSG member have any information on the Training Centre? [I too have come up with a blank. There was the No. 42 Canadian Army Educational (Basic) Training Centre at Joliette from February 15, 1941 to August 31, 1942. Did training include language skills for recruits? Can any members shed some light on this interesting topic? Ed.]

SOME UPDATES ON PAST ARTICLES--By C.D. Sayles

I was pleased to see Lee Dowsley's prisoner-prisoner covers [NL 194, March 2010, pp. 1087-1089. Ed]. I can add another example which, I think, firms up some aspects of these covers.



This cover has the same type of censor mark and the same handstamp of Lt.Col. Thane as Lee's covers. The return address is the same except that it is from Hut 13 at Camp 8; unfortunately the sender's name has been excised. Just visible is the receiver machine cancel of the Base P.O. dated March 24, 1941. Given that the letter travelled via surface mail, I would expect the mailing date to be four to eight weeks earlier. Note that the address specifies "Civilian Internee" and that the letter has been redirected to Camp "A". Farnham Camp held mostly civilian refugees who had arrived from England in the summer of 1940 (I say "mostly" because I am not sure whether any of the civilian internees of Can-



[Cont'd.]

adian origin were held there). Before delivery, the letter was censored a third time by the Internment Censor at Farnham who applied his "No.45" stamp.

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Later in the same newsletter [pp. 1092-1093.Ed.], David Collyer brings up the question of how many letters were permitted for P.O.W.'s. I think the numbers were set by the Geneva Convention, and so I would expect them to be the same in Australia as in Canada. The allocation in Canada was as below:

<u>Class Of Prisoner</u>	<u>Limit Per Month</u>	
	Letters	Postcards
Officer--P.O.W.	3	4
Officer--Protected Personnel (Drs./Clergy)	6	8
Other Ranks--P.O.W.	2	4
Other Ranks--Protected	4	8
Civilian Internee	1	1

(One wonders why the civilian internees were treated so harshly in this respect?).

It might be interesting to compare the stationery available to prisoners in Canada with that available in Australia. The Canadian forms are as follows:

<u>FORM#</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>USE</u>	<u>SIZE (mm)</u>
I.O. 13	Manila card	Notification of Internment	153 x 90
I.O. 17	Folded letter form	Personal letters	156 x 94 (folded)
I.O. 19	8.5" x 14" sheet	Business letter	216 x 356
I.O. 20	Manila card	Postcard	150 x 92
I.O. 21	Manila card	Parcel acknowledgment	150 x 92
I.O. 23	Folded letter form	Letters	166 x 93

/////

Also in the same newsletter [p. 1091. Ed.], Ged Taylor shows a wonderful photocard of the railway station at Camp Borden with the stamp cancelled by a Camp Borden militia hammer. The message is possibly significant: "stuck here for a few hrs--on the way up to Nobel for a weekend holiday".

This does not seem like a military man's message to me, and leaves me wondering if it was possible for civilians to use the Camp Borden military mails? It would be very unusual for a military man to take his weekend "48" in such a quiet spot as Nobel.

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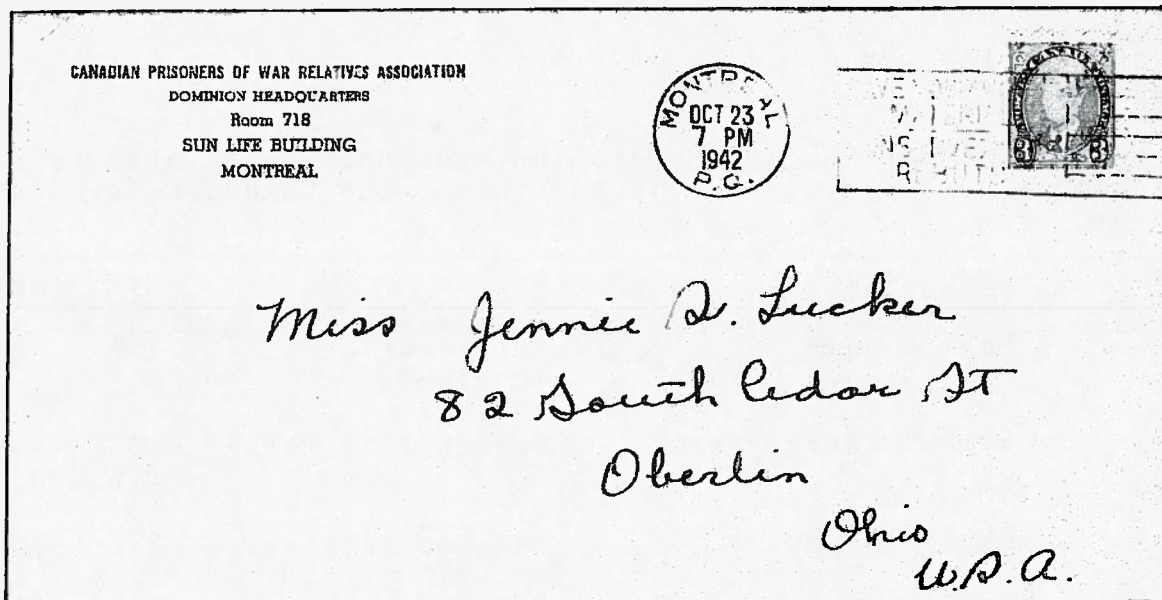
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The Lancashire address suggests that this card could be from one of the British airmen who arrived in Toronto on January 22 that year, but that is speculation. Can any of our members add information to extend or disprove this theory?

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Robert Henderson in the May Newsletter (#195, p. 1107) shows us a News Sheet from the Canadian P.O.W. Relatives Association. I suspect that this Association was not specific to the Canadian Hong Kong P.O.W.'s, but rather to all Canadian P.O.W.'s. If the News Sheets were issued monthly, then working backwards from No.8 in July 1942, it would seem that No.1 was issued in November or December of 1941--before the Hong Kong tragedy unfolded.

Here is an example of a letter in which these News Sheets may have been distributed.



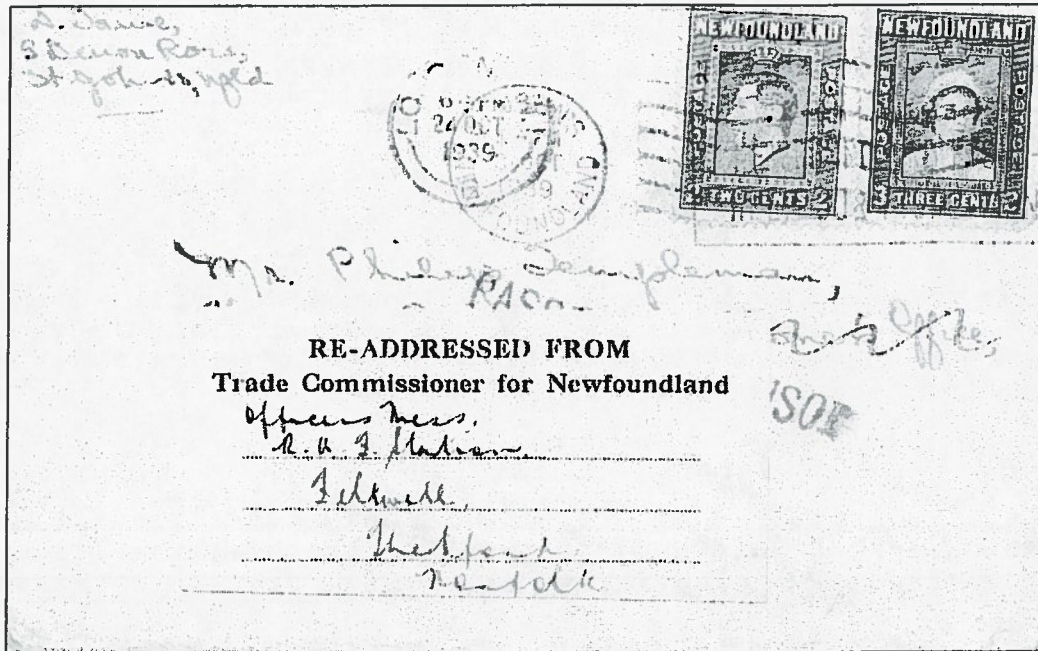
[In an endeavour to assign a title to Bob's article, I may have erred in providing a misnomer which should have included "and" after "Force 'C' ". Ed.]

BNAPEX 2010, VICTORIA, B.C., SEPTEMBER 3-5

As far as I am aware, our Chairman and Treasurer, Doug Sayles, is planning on attending and conducting a Study Group meeting (at the time of writing). Sadly I cannot attend this time. One of the highlights of the convention and exhibition will be the sale of award-winning Canadian military exhibit collections of long-time group member Col. W.G. Robinson, FRPSC, OTB. Included will be items from the Boer War, Great War Internment Operations, C.S.E.F., Militia postmarks, and much more. Contact Jim Miller at #1602-154 Promenade Dr., Nanaimo, BC V9R 6Y3 or email him: jmilleritd@shaw.ca

THE NEWFOUNDLAND TRADE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
LONDON: AN ADDRESS OF CONVENIENCE--By Paul Binney

While assembling material for a collection of postal markings by the occupying forces in Newfoundland during the Second World War ("The Benevolent Occupation, Newfoundland and Labrador, 1939-1945"), I was offered this cover sent to a Newfoundland man serving with the R.A.F. during the early period of the war.



The philatelic interest in this cover is the illustration of how mail was handled to overseas servicemen from Newfoundland during the first part of the war. The letter, sent by "A. Dawe" of St. John's, was mailed on October 3, 1939 and the five-cents postage cancelled by the St. John's machine. The original addressee on the envelope was "Mr. Philip Templeman, c/o Nfld. Trade Commissioner's Office, 58 Victoria Street, London SW1, England". It is interesting that no recognition of his location, rank, or branch of service is contained in the original address.

The letter was censored in St. John's with the straight-line "PASSED BY CENSOR" marking struck in red. Post Office Circular of Thursday, October 12, 1939 stressed:

"All officials are reminded that no information regarding Censorship of mails or the class of mails which are being Censored is to be divulged to any member of the public."

Transport to England was by surface (ocean) mail; the letter arriving in London on October 24, 1939. Air service across the Atlantic at this time was suspended due to the war; the last flights by both Pan-America Airways and Imperial Airways taking place on September 28, 1939 (Post Of-

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ficie Circular, September 28, 1939). On receipt, the letter was re-addressed by an official adhesive label to "Officers Mess, R.A.F. Station, Feltwell, Thetford, Norfolk (England)".

The Trade Commissioners Office served as an address of convenience for mail to Newfoundland servicemen in England. Although this is not referenced in the postal regulations, similar arrangements that are referenced include mail to members of H.M. Navy c/o G.P.O. London (P.O. Circular, December 21, 1939) and mail to P.O.W.'s in Germany "c/o Prisoners of War, Wounded and Missing Department, Trade Commissioner of Newfoundland, 58 Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1" (P.O. Circular, May 23, 1940). Reference appears in the P.O. Circular of August 5, 1943, to telegrams sent to servicemen through the Trade Commissioners Office.

TELEGRAPHS

Telegrams for men of Newfoundland serving with the Armed Forces which are filed addressed, c/o the Newfoundland Trade Commissioner, 58 Victoria Street, London, will in future be accepted if fully addressed to the man, giving his number and unit, "Rurality, London." It will not be necessary, if "Rurality", London, is used, for "c/o Newfoundland Trade Commissioner, 58 Victoria Street", to appear in the address.

This directive implies that a similar scheme was already in existence for the handling of mail and, other than the navy, the Trade Commissioners Office acted as a clearing house for all written correspondence and parcels.

As with any wartime mail, the history of the sender and/or receiver of the correspondence can also be significant. In this case, Dawe is a common name in Newfoundland and little can be discerned about the sender of the letter. However the receiver, Mr. Philip Templeman, was an early recruit from Newfoundland to the Royal Air Force.

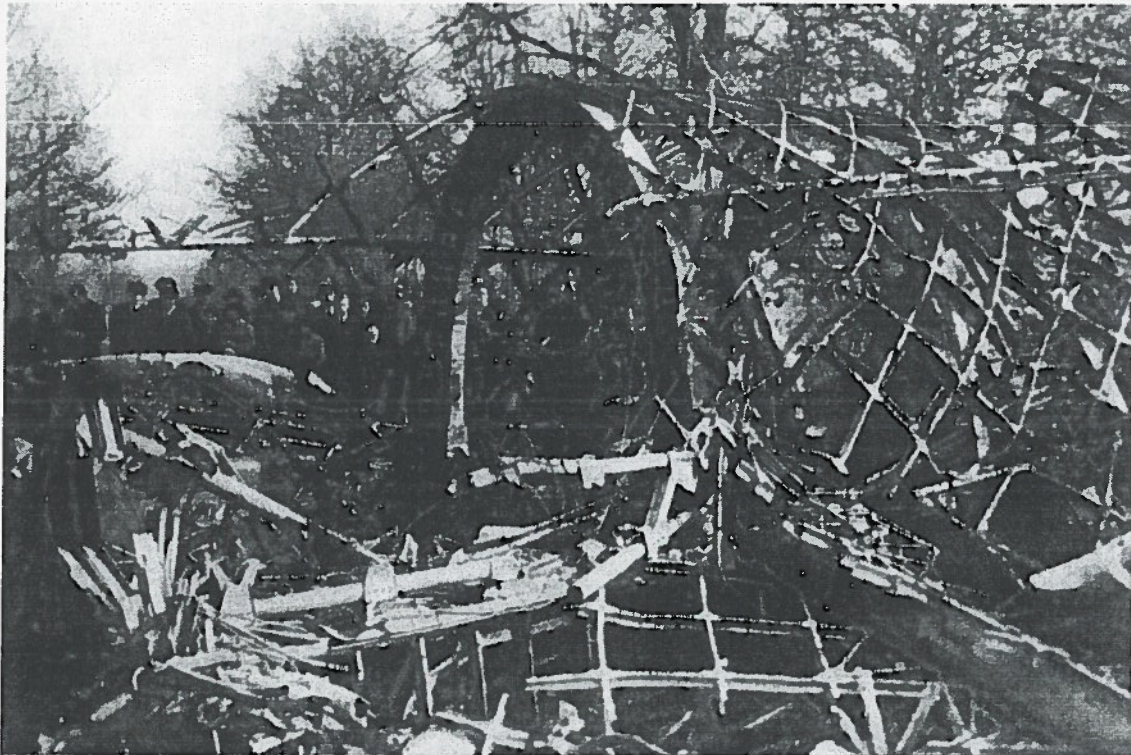
Philip Francis Templeman, R.A.F. 39767, the son of Edgar and Ethel Templeman of Bonavista, Newfoundland, was a student at Memorial University College in Science. He enrolled in 1933 but did not complete his education and enlisted in the Royal Air Force in May of 1937.

The romance and adventure of flying was introduced to Newfoundland with the planning and construction of the Newfoundland Airport at Gander Lake (construction 1936, opened 1938), and the construction of a "flying boat" base at Botwood for transatlantic passenger service (1937). Opportunities for flying remained the preserve of those "from away", and the main outlet for a young man in Newfoundland interested in flying was to join the R.A.F. Some Newfoundlanders took advantage of this opportunity; among them Philip Templeman. In 1938 and 1939 the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, in co-operation with the Daily Mail newspaper, subsidized twenty-nine men from the colony to cross the Atlantic and join the R.A.F. When the Second World War began, this handful of men became the first Newfoundland airmen to serve in the war-- and the first to die (Legion Magazine, 2006). It is not clear if

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Philip was part of this programme, or whether his enlistment preceded this initiative.

Philip Templeman flew with 37 Squadron, dropping leaflets over Germany in the early part of the war (Nickel Operations). On March 23, 1940, he was pilot of a Vickers-Wellington Mk. 1A bomber that took off from Feltwell at 2251 [10:51 p.m. Ed.] but never returned. The plane was shot down by flak at Delmenhbrst; near Bremen, Germany at 0200 [2:00 a.m. Ed.]. The second pilot, Sergeant D.W. Wilson was killed in the crash, four other crew members became P.O.W.'s, but Flying Officer Templeman was badly burned. He died from his injuries seven days later on March 31, 1940, becoming the first Newfoundland airman to die in the Second World War. He is buried in Becklingen War Cemetery, [Soltau. Ed.], Germany.



The photos of the remains of Templeman's Wellington bomber were taken the day after the crash by one of a number of high ranking German Officers, who along with a large number of civilians visited the crash site. (courtesy of Aircrew Remembrance Society).

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the late John Frith, who brought this cover to my attention and provided an explanation of the postal and other markings. Permission from the Aircrew Remembrance Society to reproduce the photo of the crash site is also gratefully acknowledged.

References

Aircrew Remembrance Society

[Cont'd.]

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<http://www.aircrewremembrancesociety.com/raf1939/templeman.html>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

<http://www.cwgc.org/search/casualtydetails.aspx?casualty=2390051>

Legion Magazine, 2006

<http://www.legionmagazine.com/en/index.php/2006/11/the-flying-newfoundlanders/>

Memorial University President's Report, 2006

www.mun.ca/2006report/alumni/remembrance.php

Traces of World War 2 - Royal Air Force, Battle of France 1940 and Start of the Strategic Air Offensive Against Germany

<http://www.epibreren.com/ww2/raf/index.html>

SOME UPDATES FROM NEWSLETTERS 192 AND 193--By Michael Dobbs

I have recently viewed the CMMSG Newsletters courtesy of our F.P.H.S. Librarian (Nick Martin) and I hope (over a period of time) to add to, or provide answers to, some of the items mentioned.

As an initial offering, regarding Kim Dodwell's query on "18 Canadian Special Employment Company" (NL#192, pp. 1068-1069), whilst I cannot answer in full as to what this unit was or did, I can add that similar units were included in the Order of Battle (ORBAT) for 2nd Canadian Base Reinforcement Group. It included 20, 21, and 25 Canadian Special Employment Company's in an ORBAT dated February 16, 1945. When I can get time to visit our National Archives I hope to find out a bit more about these units.

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Newsletter #193 (p. 1080) showed a cover from A.D. Hanes with a unit datestamp "MATT/(FREETOWN)/SIERRA LEONE/BFPO". The BFPO (British Forces Post Office) number used as the address appears to have been cut away. The unit datestamp appears to have been in use for many years as the unit was originally called "MATT" when first set up in April 2000 and remained so until the Canadians joined in November the same year when it became "IMATT".

Sierra Leone used the address BFPO 619 until June 11, 2000, then BFPO 622 until it closed about mid-2004. The IMATT was, of course, still there and the BFPO re-opened in 2005. However, I have also seen evidence that the MATT used the address BFPO 747 in September 2000--the unit datestamp was the same as shown in NL#193 except the figures "747" were shown after "BFPO". I am not sure why it used BFPO 747 and not BFPO 622.

When BFPO 622 re-opened in 2005 it used a self-inking datestamp (SID) BFPO 3040 (what was referred to as "scalloppe"). These types of date-stamps are now in common use at Post Offices in the U.K. as well as with the BFPO.

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Details of IMATT as follows:

The British Government had announced its intention to send a U.K.-led **International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT)** to help create a new and effective Sierra Leone Armed Forces. The IMATT would take over from the STTT. The U.K. was expected to provide around ninety personnel, whilst the Canadian Forces had already offered to supply up to ten personnel. The deployment of the IMATT depended upon the establishment of a secure environment in Sierra Leone.

A **Military Advisory and Training Team (MATT)** deployed in April 2000. U.K.-led, it had an international element from November 26, 2000 when the first Canadians arrived and it became IMATT. In January 2001, the British Government announced that it planned to increase the overall size of IMATT from ninety posts to one hundred and twenty-six (90-126). The same month saw the Australian Department of Defence announce that the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) would send two officers on an initial six-month attachment on what would be a two-year commitment. They departed Australia by the end of the month.

By February 2003 the actual strength of IMATT stood at some one hundred fourteen (114) personnel, of whom around one hundred (100) were British. Later that month an additional six British personnel joined IMATT to raise its strength to one hundred twenty (120).

The international element of IMATT has been varied with, at various times, military personnel from Australia, Canada, France, U.S.A., Ghana, Senegal, Bermuda and Nigeria. A variety of skills and trades were provided by especially-selected personnel that included infantry instructors, marines, reconnaissance specialists, engineers, communications experts, logistical planners, medical practitioners, and administrative staff.

The Canadian Forces contributed ten persons to IMATT and these deployed in November 2000 under the name of **OPERATION SCULPTURE**. The first rotation (Roto 1) of Canadian Forces took place on June 1, 2001, and the new rotation was more widely dispersed around the country than the initial deployment. The Canadian contribution has remained at around ten or eleven (10 or 11) personnel. Roto 1 took place from June 1 to December 6, 2001. The Canadian Forces address for IMATT in Sierra Leone (CFPO 5051) was as follows:

OP Sculpture (IMATT)
P.O. Box 5051, Station Forces
Belleville, ON, Canada
K8N 5W6

[As of February 6, 2009, the CFPO and address may have changed. My information indicates P.O. Box 5201. It is interesting to note that the address for both **OPERATION SCULPTURE** and **OPERATION REPTILE** was Box 5201 on July 30, 2007. Thanks are extended to Michael, who is the current Hon. Secretary for the Forces Postal History Society, for his kind and thoughtful assistance with the above and, hopefully, in the future.Ed.]

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2¢ SOLDIER'S RATE REGULATIONS, 1852--By Mike Street

This is a transcript from the Post Office Letter Books of a letter from Deputy Postmaster General W.H. Griffin to the postmaster at Lachute. It maintains that the rate only applied to letters weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce or less.

J. Meikle, Esq.,
P.M. Lachute.

(B)
P.O.D.
26th April 1852.

Sir:

I am under the necessity of returning you the within Envelope of a Soldier's Letter as you were wrong in doing so, and the remission of the postage would not be allowed by the Dept. in England.

A Soldier's Letter, to pass thro' the post at the reduced rate, is limited to $\frac{1}{2}$ an ounce in weight if it exceeds that weight, it becomes liable to ordinary postage. The enclosed letter exceeds $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and altho' the writer prepaid two pence on it, it has been rated with 1/6 Sterling postage, which cannot be remitted.

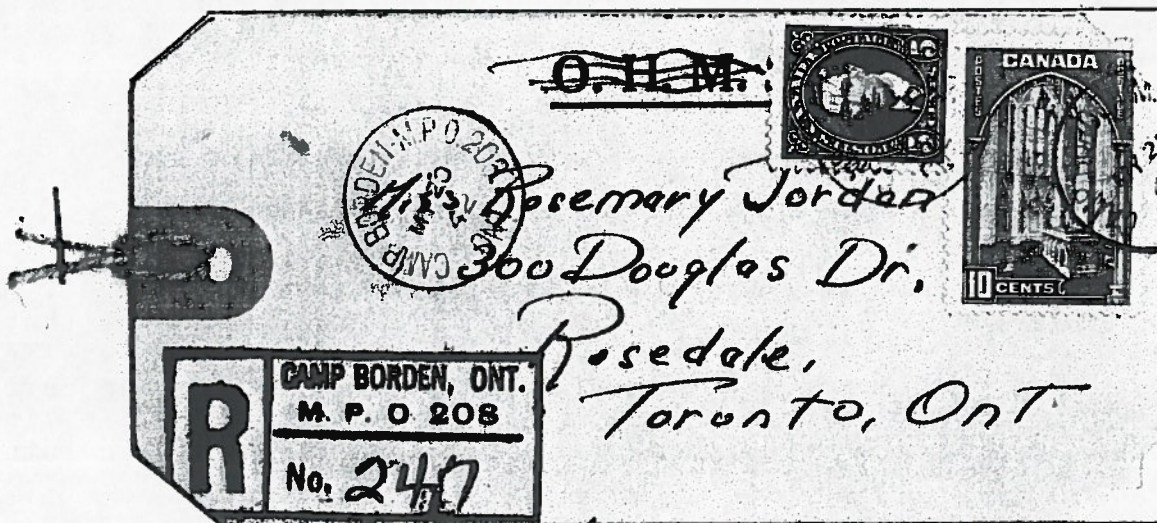
I am etc., etc.,

(Sgd.) W.H. Griffin.

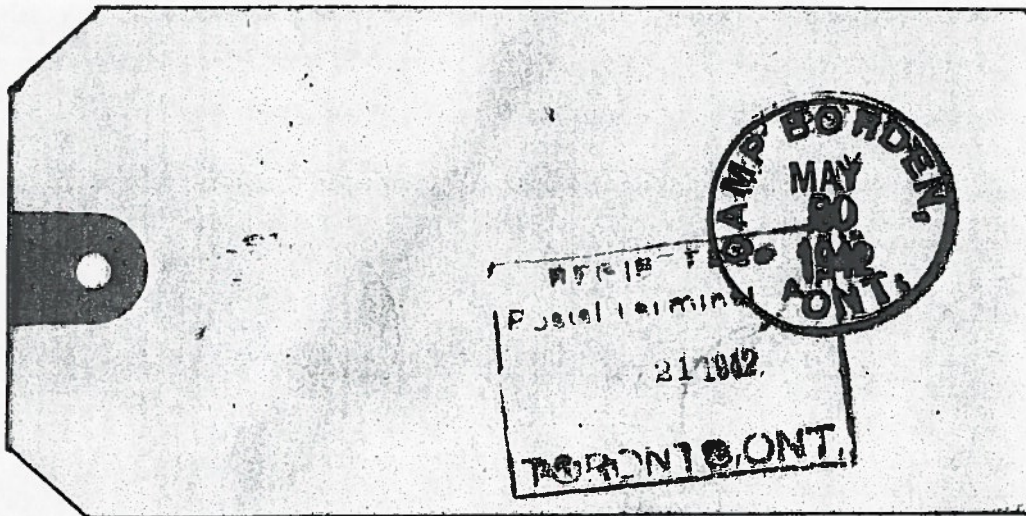
CAMP BORDEN REGISTERED PARCEL POST TAG, 1942--By Colin Pomfret

This unusual registered parcel post tag was addressed to Toronto and bears the 10¢ registration fee and 5¢ for a weight of five ounces or less.

The CDS, along with the larger rubber handstamp on reverse, both indicate the May 20, 1942 date. The reverse of the tag also has a rectangular "REGISTERED/Postal Terminal A/? 21 1942/TORONTO, ONT." receiving marking [illustration follows. Ed.].



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IN MEMORIAM: JOHN FRITH

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of long-time study group member John Frith at Sudbury's Lauentian Hospital on May 28, 2010 after a lengthy illness.

John joined the CMMSG in January 1980 (NL#36) and the group greatly benefitted over the years from his keen sense of research, accomplished study and writing, and his willingness to share his knowledge and findings through the pages of our newsletter. His work on Great War censor markings and study (and the eventual exhibit) of the postal history associated with the Canadian Army Medical Corps (C.A.M.C.) were well-known and much of his work and research remains relevant today.

Perhaps John was best known to many of us through his business association with Harry Machum and the role as a dealer with his Sudbury Stamps. While his stock included other areas, perhaps one of his greatest interests and contribution (for us) was his stock of Canadian military postal history. Certainly many study group members treasure items within their collections which either originated from John's impressive holdings or passed through his hands (however briefly)!

He served as a beacon to military postal historians (here and abroad), and his presence at shows was always something to look forward to. I will always remember (in more recent years) his white "frozen meat box" which often contained his "latest finds" or "newest arrivals". Those items which remained (which wasn't often as they were quickly snapped up by eager customers), were then eventually researched, priced, and returned into his stock.

Many of us recall his penchant for research and study, and still have his recognizable glassines complete with a good research "starting off point" for us to pursue. Some of us even joked with him that one could not see the glassine contents given all of his extensive write-up!

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Those long hours of research and study certainly contributed to John's interest and extensive knowledge of a wide-range of military mail areas; presumably a subject he greatly enjoyed as well.

On behalf of the membership, we offer our sincere condolences to John's family and friends. John will be missed.

Dear CMMSG Member:

The "dog days" of summer will soon be upon us and a new fall season will be close behind. Doug and I hope that members enjoyed their summer and also hope that members will be able to attend the upcoming BNAPEX convention in Victoria.

A warm welcome is extended to PAUL BINNEY (who sent along a fine article within this issue!) and DAVID HOBDEN (who recently achieved an international Gold at the 2010 London Festival of Stamps for his "In Defence of the Border: Canadian Military Mails, 1667-1885!"). Thank you and congratulations to both.

You'll note elsewhere in this issue the announcement of the sale of Bill Robinson's Canadian military mail collections and exhibits. This will be a great opportunity for members to add to their studies. Good luck!

The BNAPS "E.R. 'Ritch' Toop Award" for writing has sadly not had much interest in recent years. We urge all students of Canadian military postal history to continue their efforts and encourage them to begin composing well-researched articles, monographs, books etc. We would hate to allow this distinguished award to be abandoned by the society.

Thanks again for members' support for these pages. Keep the articles flowing! Have a wonderful late-summer/early-fall, BNAPEX, and best regards until November!

SMALL ADS

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

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 (5/6)

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 EKV, LKV strikes. Darcy Hickson, RR#2, Box 24, Brandon, MB R7A 5Y2; (204) 725-0621; or email: hicksondj@mts.net (3/10)
