



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

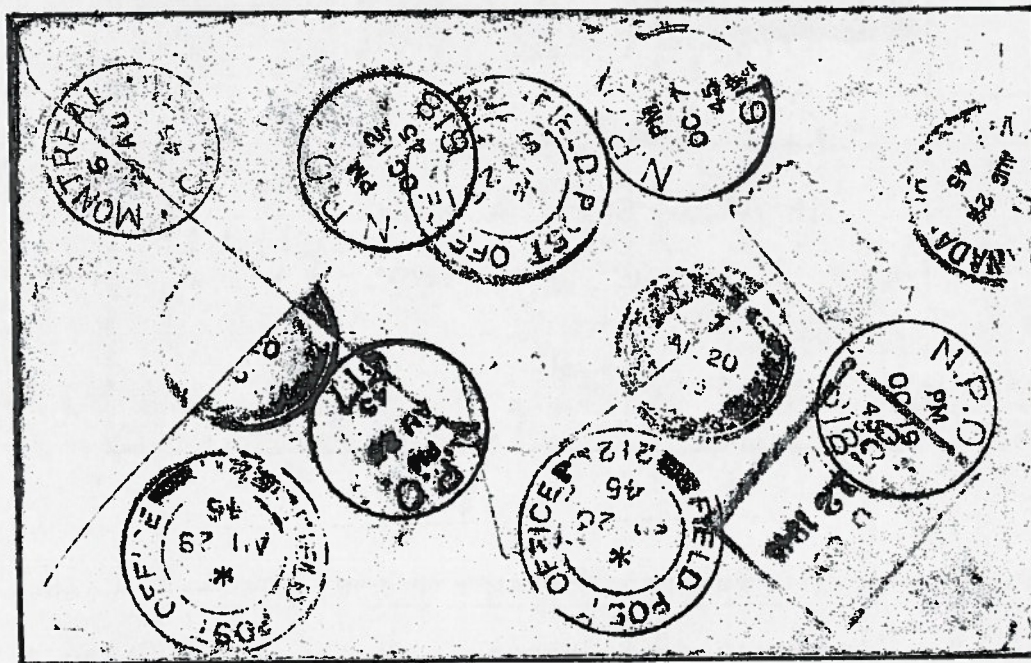
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2011

NEWSLETTER NO. 198
Page 1135

1945 REGISTERED COVER TO HMCS THUNDER--By Colin Pomfret

Here is a registered cover to an officer serving aboard the mine-sweeper H.M.C.S. Thunder sent from Victoria, B.C. Sub. No. 18 to him c/o the Canadian Fleet Mail Office, London, England [illustration of the front follows. Ed.]. It was dated August 20, 1945 by a blackout CDS handstamp. Note the backstamps which are listed below.



[Cont'd.]

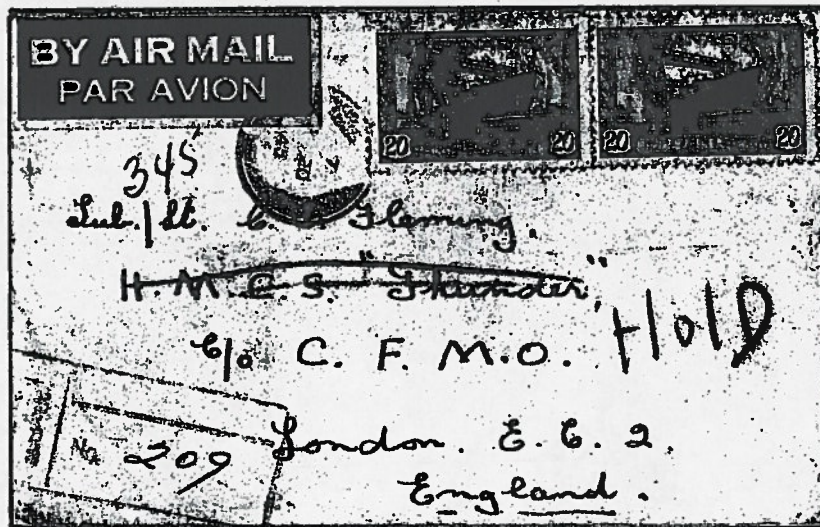
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(blueputtees@hotmail.com)

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- Blackout Handstamp August 20, 1945
- Montreal/Canada August 21, 1945
- N.P.O. 317 (HMCS Cornwallis, Deepbrook, N.S.) August 23, 1945
- F.P.O. 211 (Canadian Naval H.Q., London, England) August 29, 1945
- F.P.O. 212 (Canadian Fleet Mail Office, Glasgow) September 20, 1945
- F.P.O. 211 (C.N.H.Q., London) September 25, 1945
- N.P.O. 618 (Fleet Mail Office, Halifax, N.S.) October 7, 1945
- N.P.O. 605 (HMCS Scotian, Halifax, N.S.) October 12, 1945
- N.P.O. 618 (F.M.O., Halifax) October 12 & October 19, 1945

[My calculations indicate that the cover was in transit for 61 days!Ed.]



FOLLOW-UP: UNUSUAL CENSORSHIP FROM 4TH CDN. DIV.--By Graham Mark

[Graham, Hon. Librarian and Treasurer of the Civil Censorship Study Group, kindly sent in some information which may be pertinent to Colin Pomfret's previous article contained within NL#197 (November 2010, p. 1126)].

"[Colin's article] prompts me to send scans of some covers from a long correspondence that I acquired some years ago. All were from Lt. W.M. (Pat) Armstrong, 10th Hussars, who began the war as an unofficial A.D.C. to Brigadier General deLisle, Commander of 2nd Cavalry Brigade.

In October he was confirmed as A.D.C. when deLisle was promoted to com-
[Cont'd.]

mand 1st Cavalry Division. Pat Armstrong followed deLisle to Gallipoli, to Egypt in early 1916, and then to France. On Gallipoli he ceased being an A.D.C. and had other jobs on the staff of Infantry Brigades within the 29th Division, and continued with that type of appointment in the Division until he was killed at Arras on May 23, 1917.

As Pat Armstrong's jobs were as A.D.C., Staff Captain, Brigade Major etc., he would have carried the censor mark [device] at times, and otherwise would have had easy access to it. He was in the habit of pre-censor-marking his envelopes as demonstrated by these covers. Three un-addressed covers with Type 1, No.6 (allocated to HQ, 2 Cav. Bde.) and a cover from Gare de Lyon, June 3, 1915, with Type 3, No.26 (allocated to 1 Cav. Div.) are illustrated.

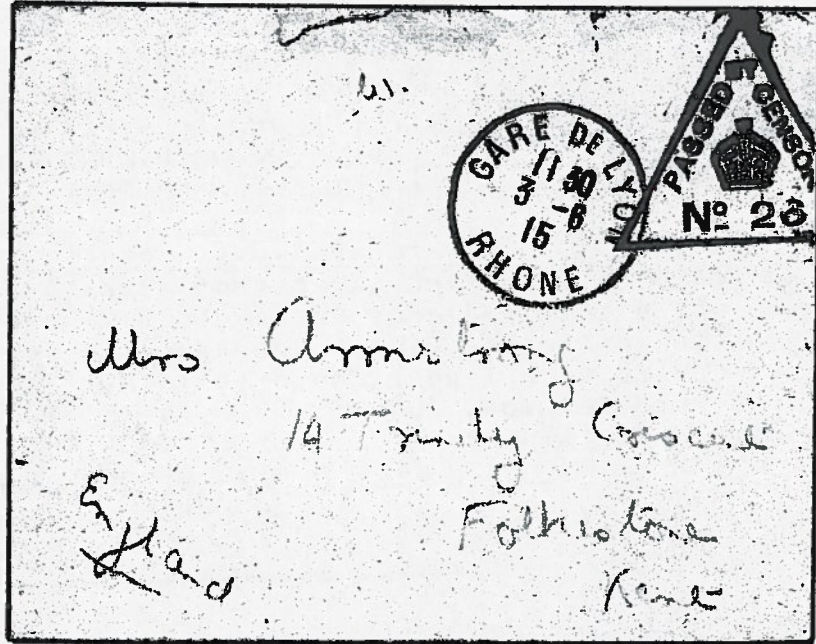


Type 1, No.6
2 Cav. Bde.

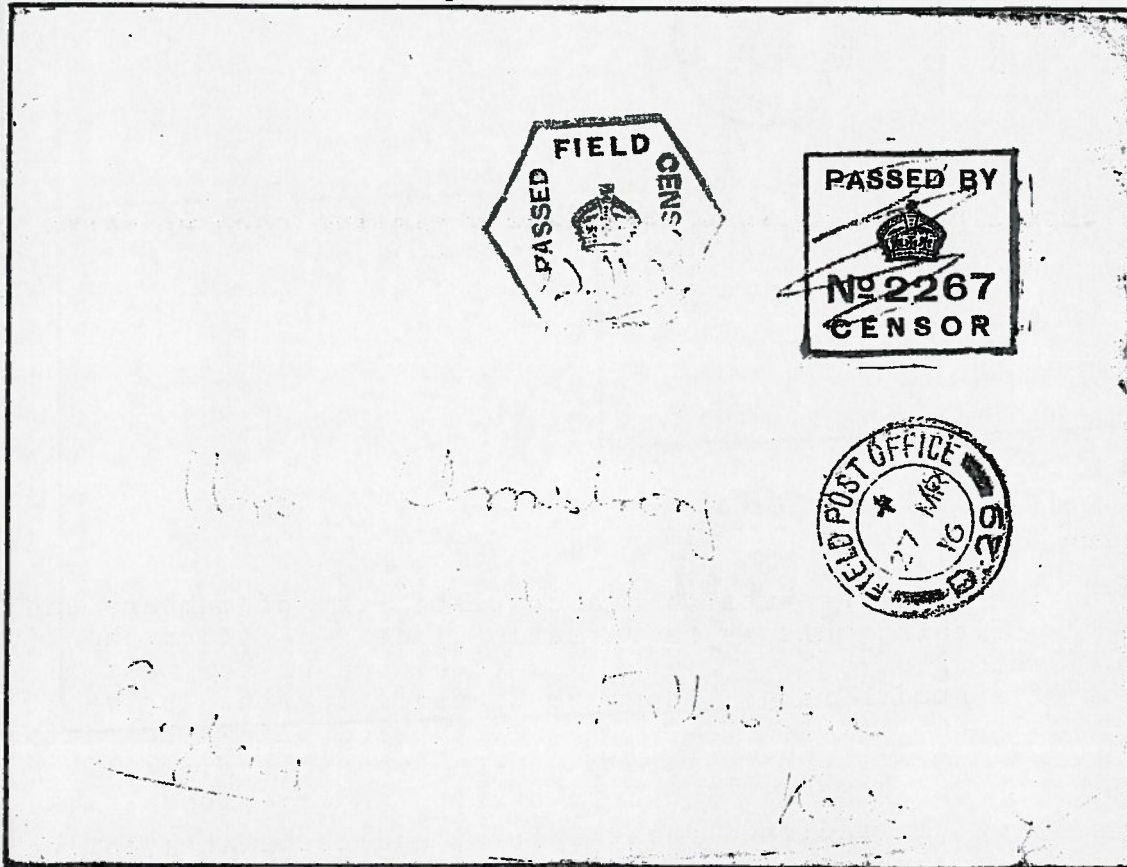


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Type 3, No. 26
1 Cav. Div.



The three unaddressed envelopes match his other envelopes of that period and came in the lot. The cover from Lyon establishes my case firmly. The letter, datelined "Lyon, June 3", is still with the cover and tells of his journey thus far from St. Omer. The censor mark was allocated to 1 Cav. Div. which remained in northern France and he would have given it up (if he was the custodian) when he first went on leave to the U.K. for a few days before returning to France and setting off for Marseilles and Gallipoli.

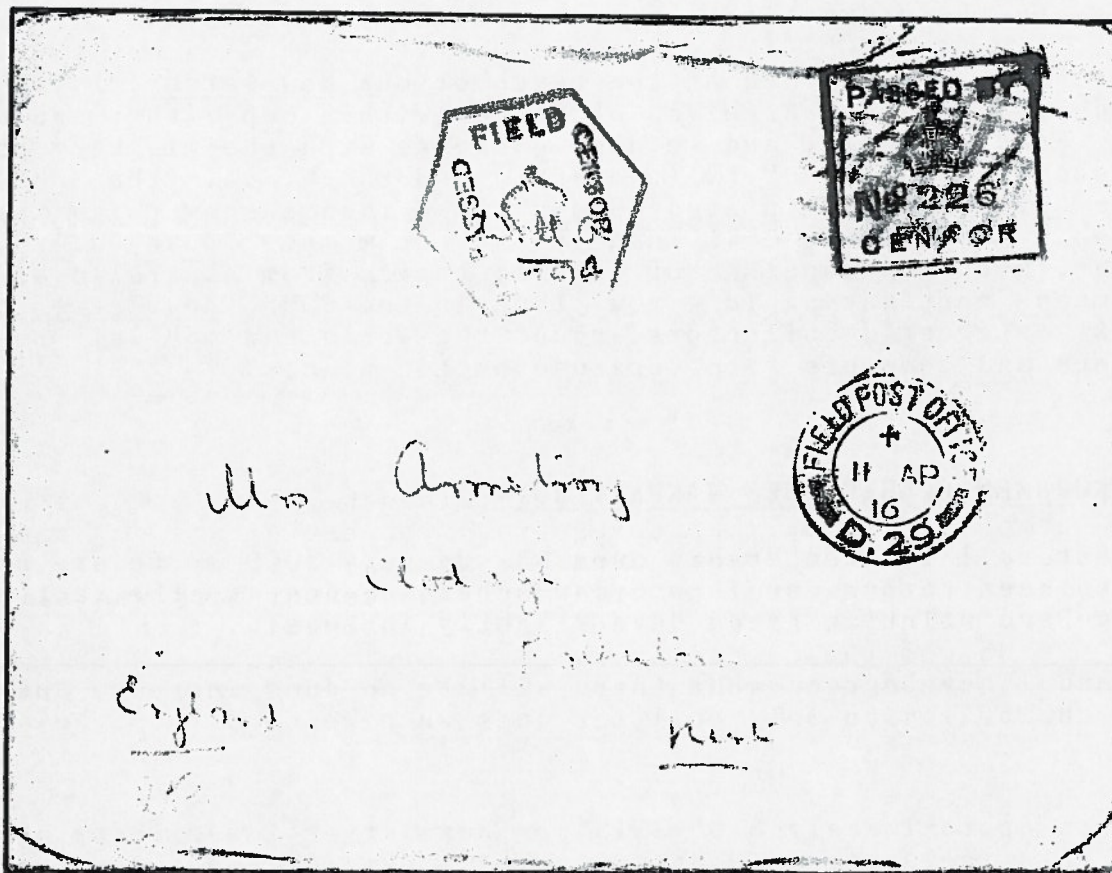


Type 2, No. 2267
HQ 88 Bde.

Type 4, No. 2794
HQ 29 Div.

[Cont'd.]

Later in the sequence, I have ten covers with two different censor marks both allocated to units in his Division, again suggesting that he pre-censored his covers at Gallipoli in late-1915, or Egypt upon evacuation, and was using them up when in France in March-April 1916.



It seems quite possible that Colin's cover was a similar case of marking up the cover and signing it in advance of writing the letter. I think the change-over of censor marks would have been quite swift, less than two weeks suggested in Colin's write-up". [Many thanks Graham. One can only imagine the horror and displeasure felt by censorship officials or superior officers who may have been "sticklers" for the existing regulations!Ed.]

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

It has been some time since we published a complete list of members and members' interests. I think this is regrettable since I consider the connecting of collectors of similar interests to be one of the most important benefits of a study group. Thanks to Canada's current "privacy" laws, we can now only publish a members list with the explicit consent of members. So we are offering a "negative option" to members. **IF YOU DO NOT WISH YOUR NAME OR INTERESTS KNOWN** to other members, please tick the appropriate box on the enclosed renewal form, and leave the "collec-

[Cont'd.]

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ting interests" section blank. Dean and I hope that most, if not all members, will want their special interests to be known to other members and look forward to a 100% positive response. This is important because in all areas and especially areas where material is scarce, only members working and researching together can discover and then document new knowledge and (we hope) put solid articles with the new findings into our Newsletter. Such articles are also an excellent way to expose other members to the attractions of your specialty interests.

Members may be surprised at the reach of our Newsletter. By law we must provide the National Archives of Canada with a copy (they are available in the Reading Room), and we also exchange with the military postal history societies in the U.K. (the FPHS) and the U.S.A. (the MPHS), as well as the Civil Censorship Study Group [as evidence shows with the article by Graham Mark within this issue.Ed.]. Our member "Down Under", David Collyer, keeps us apprised of related topics from Australia as well. This means that any article you place in the CMMSG Newsletter can be seen by interested collectors around the world and may well result in new data and comments from very unexpected places.

***** CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES JANUARY 2011**

The last call for membership dues was January 2009 so we are still managing to keep to our usual two-year schedule, despite the fact that both postage and printing rates have slightly increased.

Doug and I have agreed that there will be no dues increase and will continue the policy to only call for dues when we need them. Now is that time!

It costs approximately \$105-\$115 per newsletter issue (copying and postage). This includes, as Doug mentioned above, exchange issues and those sent to BNAPS ex-officio members. Some copies are distributed to interested organizations and potential members for publicity reasons.

Dues are:

CANADIAN MEMBERS/CANADIAN ADDRESSES: \$20.00 (Canadian)
U.S./INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS : \$20.00 (U.S. \$)

Please make payments to "C.D. Sayles" and remit to him at:

25 HOWARD BLVD., WATERDOWN, ON CANADA LOR 2H4

A renewal form is enclosed. Your attention is appreciated. We hope that everyone will "re-enlist"!!

UK Blackouts on Military Mail to Canada - Why? - - by Mike Street

While helping sort my late Mother-in-law's effects after she passed away, I came across several machine-cancelled letters written by her brother, a Can-Loan Sergeant attached to the Royal Air Force in England, to their Mother in 1942. (Sadly, he was killed in a plane crash and buried in Devon in 1943.) In addition to the significance to the family, my philatelic eye was caught by the fact that on two of the letters the name of the post office – but not the mailing date - had been obliterated by a thick black line drawn around the circumference of the postmark circle. The postmarks were dated 26 MAY/1942 (Figure 1) and 4 JLY/1942 (Figure 2). Both letters had been censored in the UK.

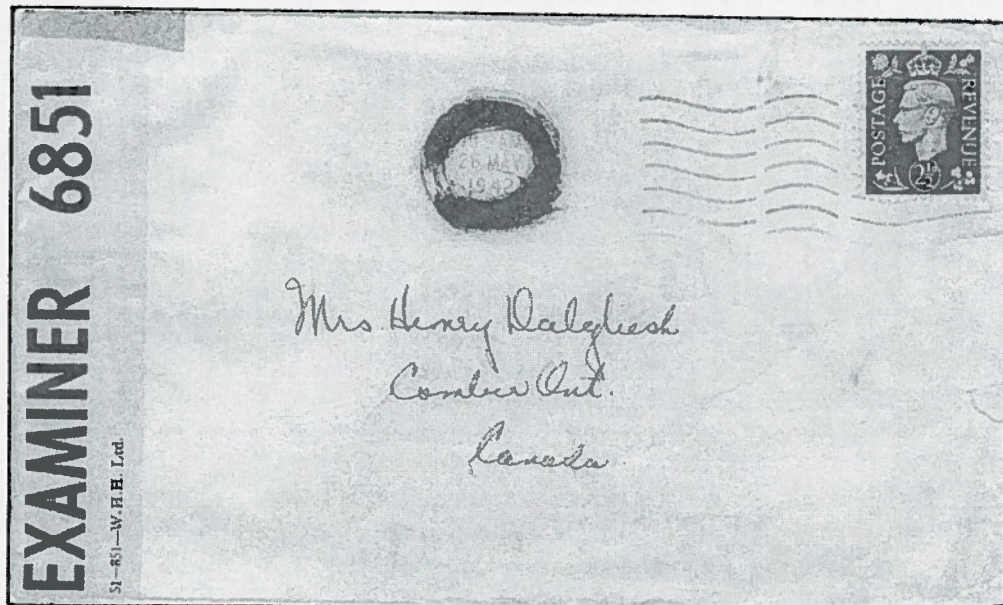


Figure 1 – letter to Comber, Ontario dated 26 May 1942

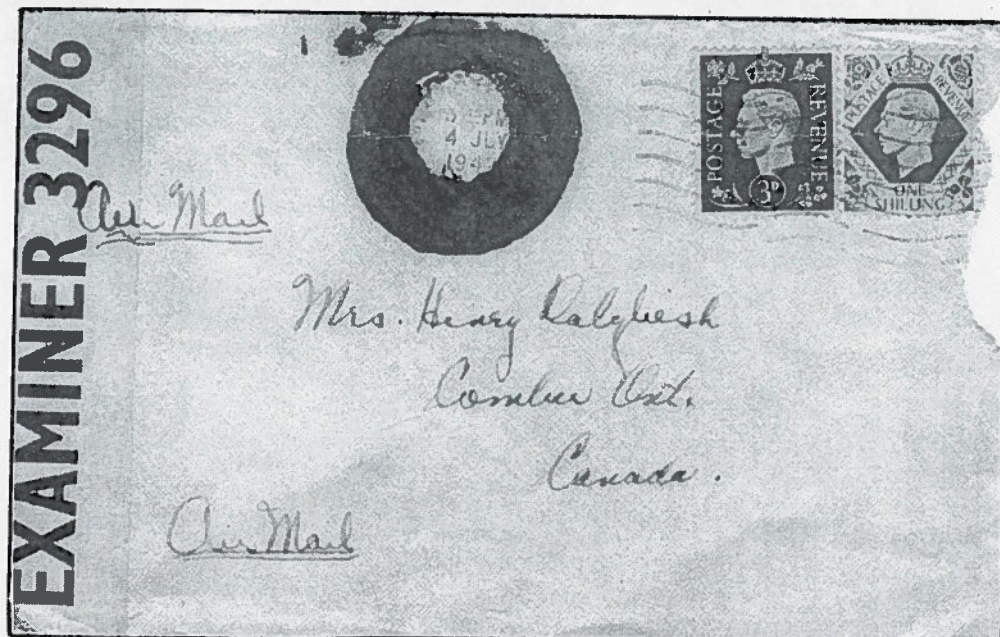


Figure 2 – letter to Comber, Ontario dated 4 July 1942

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When a third cover with a similar blackout cancel turned up on eBay in the summer of 2009, I began to wonder why these letters had been treated this way and bought the lot. Dated 20 APR/1942, this letter (Figure 3) was also addressed to Canada and censored, but carried no sender identification.

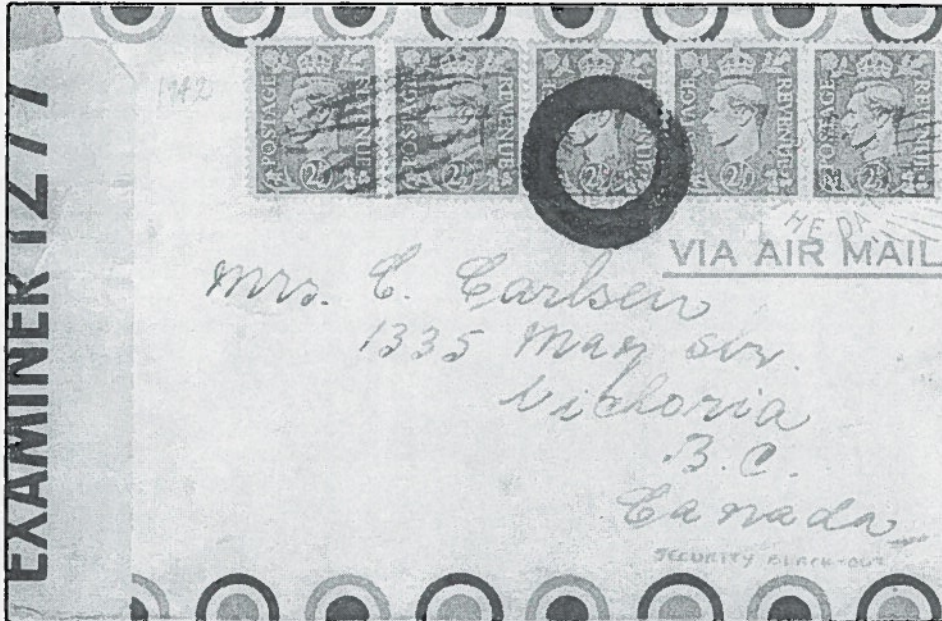


Figure 3 – letter to Victoria, BC dated 20 April 1942

An idea of the reason behind the blackouts began to form in my mind, and got even stronger at BNAPEX 2010, coincidentally held in Victoria, when I spotted a fourth British blackout cover in Cec Coutts terrific exhibit on Canadian Blackout cancellations.

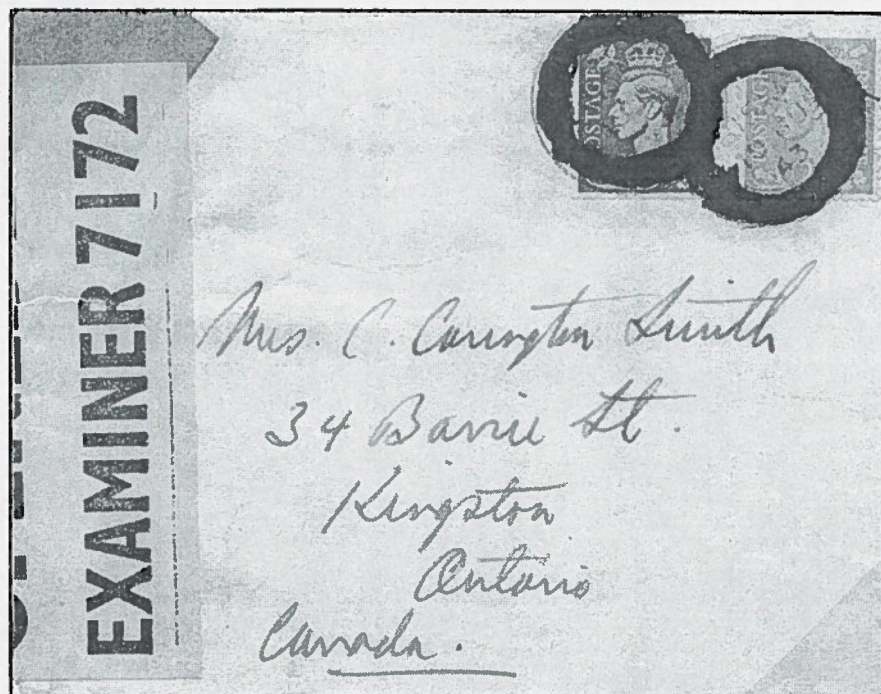


Figure 4 – letter to Kingston, Ontario dated 10 July 1943 (Courtesy Cec Coutts)

Cec's cover, postmarked 10 JUL/43, was addressed to Kingston, Ontario and had an interesting story of its own, separate from the blackout cancel. The letter was written by Col. Gordon Carrington Smith, who survived the sinking of the Canadian troop ship S.S. Nerissa, which was torpedoed off the Irish Coast April 30 1941 while enroute to Great Britain.

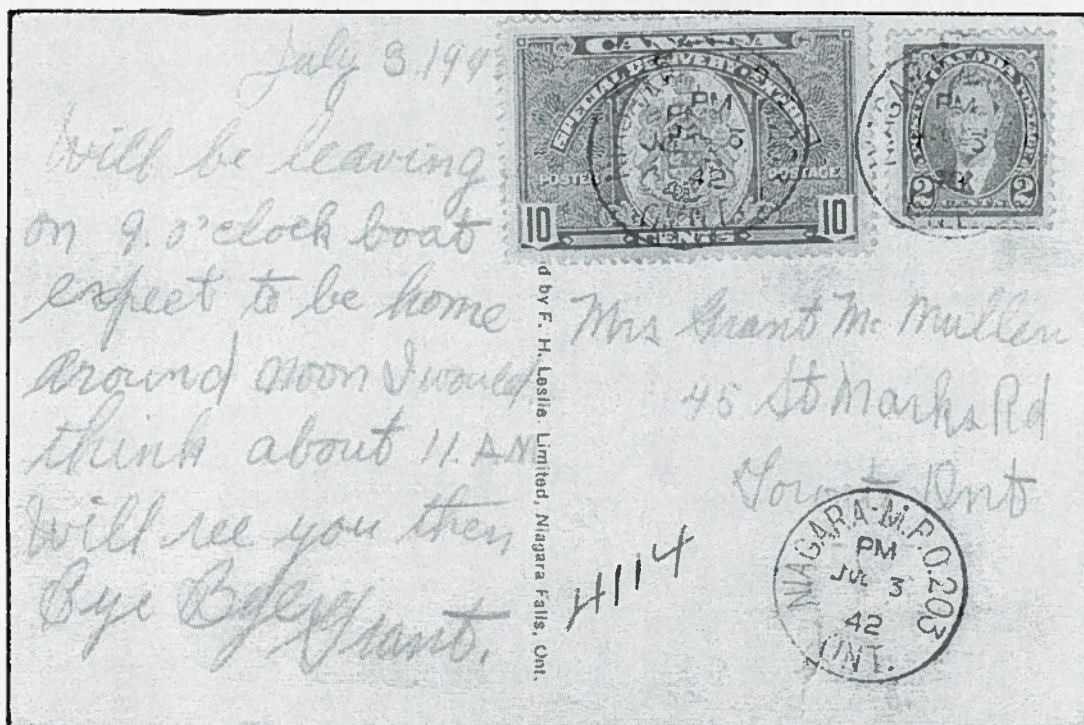
A Possible Explanation

Why were these covers treated this way when the town names were not blacked out on thousands of other letters written home by Canadians serving overseas in the early 1940s? I asked myself what major military operations had taken place in 1942? The answer was "Dieppe"! After seeing Cec Coutts' cover I asked the same question about 1943, and the answer came back, "Sicily"!

Hmmm. Operation Jubilee, the disastrous landing at Dieppe, took place on 19 August 1942. Operation Husky, the much more successful invasion of Sicily, started on 10 July 1943, the same day the cover in Figure 4 was postmarked. Could it be that the units of the servicemen who wrote the letters shown above were all involved in these two operations, and that mail from these units was subjected to special censorship in the UK before the operations took place?

Do any members of the MMSG have similar covers with UK postmarks blacked out in this way? Does anyone have any information to either back up my theory or, better, provide a definite answer? Any and all help would be appreciated. Please write to me at 73 Hatton Drive, Ancaster, ON L9G 2H5 or by email at <mikestreet1@gmail.com>.

An Urgent Postcard - - by Colin Pomfret



The postcard above was mailed from Niagara Camp by a serviceman to let his wife in Toronto know he would be home for a visit the next day. The '4114' confirms Special Delivery service was given.

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CORRECTION: CANADIAN ARTILLERY TRAINING CENTRE, CAMP SHILO--
By George Sawatzki

[George spotted a misnomer in Robert Henderson's "1942 'S.O.I.' Address: An Enquiry," (NL#197, November 2010, p. 1133) for which we are indebted. He also kindly enclosed two amazing Internet sites related to the history of Camp Shilo but space and copyright conditions do not allow us to reprint them here. However, members are directed to them and will find them of interest: <http://www.craxford-family.co.uk/themeorange/campsewell.php?tngprint=1>
http://www.army.forces.gc.ca/cfb_shilo/history_e.asp

"Camp Shilo never has been described as an "Armoured Training Centre". Reviewing the under listed references [including several titles by Bailey and Toop.Ed.], Camp Shilo was listed as a "Summer Camp" and [...] as "A3 Canadian Artillery Training Centre". This Advanced Training facility opened on February 15, 1941. "C.A.T.C." is also used as "Canadian Army Training Centre", and often as "Canadian Artillery Training Centre".

References

[Several listed but main source cited is Bailey, W.J. and E.R. Toop, The Canadian Military Posts, Vol. II: Between the Wars and World War Two, 1920 to 1946. E.B. Proud, Ed. 1985.]

Many thanks George. Camp Borden was the primary Canadian "Armoured" Training facility during the Second World War.Ed.]

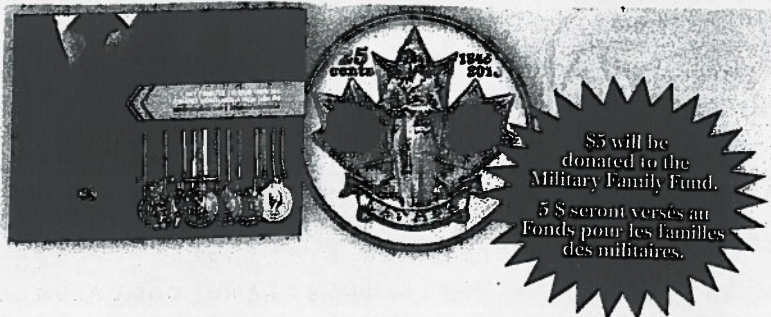
INTERESTING MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY SITES

Members may wish to see Charles Livermore's Toronto-related military site:

<http://charleslivermore.com/streets/military.php>

2010 REMEMBRANCE DAY COLLECTOR CARD

The Royal Canadian Mint has issued a commemorative card which includes



a 2010 25-cent Poppy circulated coin, spaces for other similar coins issued previously, and a postage-paid postcard which can be sent with a personal message to a Canadian Forces member serving abroad. It was issued on October 25, 2010.

IN MEMORIAM

It is my sad duty to report the passing of four members and past-members of our study group in December 2010. Space unfortunately does not allow full and more detailed tributes to these deserving gentlemen, so members are encouraged to visit the BNAPS website: www.bnaps.org

COLONEL WILLIAM GEORGE ROBINSON, CD, FRPSC, OTB--Bill passed away on December 4 at the age of 84. Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1926, he graduated from the UBC in 1947 with honours in Civil Engineering. He spent 30 years in the Canadian Militia and was past president of many philatelic organizations. He joined our study group in 1975 and was member #28. Bill was an active collector, researcher, author, exhibitor, and philatelic judge. He achieved great success with two of his exhibits recently, those on Canadian material during the Anglo-Boer War and the Canadian presence in Siberia, 1918-1920 at the BNAPS Convention in Victoria. Bill was always willing to provide advice and support, and his vast knowledge of a broad spectrum of Canadian military areas made him a valuable source of information.

STEVEN CECIL LUCIUK--Steve passed away on December 23 at the age of 73. Born in Prince Albert, Sask., in 1937, he graduated from the UofS with a B.A., followed by a B.Ed. Steve taught in various schools in Saskatchewan and was happy to combine his love of history with Social Studies. He was an officer in the Canadian Armed Forces (Reserves) for many years. Steve was an author, researcher, and collector. He formed one of the finest collections of Canadian Internment and POW Camp mail in the country. A successful exhibitor, he maintained that it was a wonderful way to showcase the study of Canadian military mail to a wider audience. Steve was a member of our study group since November 1984, and a regular contributor to the Newsletter and other philatelic journals.

WILLIAM J. MCCANN--Bill was perhaps more familiar to members as a stamp and cover dealer and for many years was a fixture on the show circuit. His approval selections of Canadian military mail were often greeted with delight by his many customers over the years, despite the fact that the area was not a major specialty.

JOHN COLIN CAMPBELL--Colin passed away on December 29 at the age of 89. Born in Benito, Manitoba in 1921, Colin joined the RCAF in March 1942 and served as an Aero-Engine Mechanic. He continued to serve in the RCAF for twenty-five years; stationed at posts throughout Canada. He and his wife Editha moved to Kelowna, BC upon his retirement from the military. Colin was a long-time member of BNAPS (#2986) and was most interested in military postal history (especially of the Great War), although he had other philatelic interests too. Our group is indebted to him (and the other charter members of our group) because, in 1973, Colin volunteered to be our group's first Chairman and newsletter Editor (as member #2). Colin continued to edit the Newsletter until 1982 with the completion of NL#50. He continued writing and researching various military-related topics and was a long-time contributor to this publication as well as other philatelic journals.

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Dear CMMSG Members:

Doug and I want to extend our best wishes for the coming year. As you have seen it is membership dues time and we hope that you will take a few moments to complete the renewal form and return it to Doug at your earliest convenience. Please also take a few moments to visit the BNAPS website and review the Memorials page. We have lost many good friends of our group during the last few months.

Feel free to include any suggestions, comments, or criticisms related to your group's newsletter along with the renewal form. Please don't forget to send to me an article, question, research query etc. during the next few months as your participation keeps these pages flowing. Thank you!

NEW BOOKS !

The BNAPS Book Department has recently announced two books:

---Bill Robinson's Canadian Participation in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902 (and in the S.A.C., 1901-1906) has been revised from the original BNAPS Exhibit Series #1. Many added covers and extra chapters are now included. Spiral bound, 88pp., Stock #B4h923.1.1. (colour C\$62.00); #B4h923.1 (b&w C\$35.95)

---Maurice Hampson's The Royal Canadian Navy Postal History, 1939-1945, Supplement IV (Vol.6) includes information the author gathered from 2005-2008. Several pages of additional DB/N censor numbers, misc. cancellations and markings, and different government official labels and covers have been included. Spiral bound, 40pp., Stock #B4h340.6 (b&w C\$24.95)

All books are available from Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 62 Sparks St., Ottawa, ON Canada K1P 5A8, (613) 235-9119 or orders can be placed on the Internet: www.iankimmerly.com/books/ (.) BNAPS members receive a 40% discount from retail prices. Shipping is extra (taxes too!).

SMALL ADS

Still only C\$1 per insertion! Send copy and payment (mint postage at face ok) to the Editor. Buy/sell/trade!

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 (1/5)

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 (5/10)
