

NEWSLETTER NO. 69
SEPTEMBER 1986

By now BNAPEX 1986 at Dearborn will be 'history' as they say. We are sure that it will have been a great show and are sorry not to have gone, but.... Our study group will also have held its meeting with always reliable Bill Robinson as the 'C.O.'. News of the meeting will be forthcoming in the November Newsletter.

September 26, 1986 marks the founding of this group thirteen years ago at the Calgary Convention (1973). Over this 'long' period we have always met our publication dates and have had a stable membership of 40 to 50. If you look back through your Newsletters you will find an immense amount of information. We would like to think that the study group has advanced the research and recording of Canadian Military Postal History a considerable distance.

For your information, our bank balance, before this N.L., reads \$179.93. Of this sum, \$98.50 must be allotted to pre-paid dues, which, if nothing else, shows that quite a few members are confident of this groups future. The tally of members shows 44 persons thereon. A listing of members will be included herein.

A letter has come in from Jean-Marc Villemagne of 47, rue de l'Abattoir, 68330 Huningue, France, who advises that he would like to trade UN Peace Keeping Forces mail with anyone caring to write him.

From the DID YOU KNOW DEPARTMENT-- You will recall that Fort Churchill, on Hudson Bay, had a Military Post Office from, my notes say, 23 January 1947 to well into the 1950's. The designation was M.P.O. 1015. Now for the "Did You Know" part. The United States also had a military post office there from 1948 to 1954(?) and they used the same number --A.P.O.# 1015 also. (From the new USAPO book mentioned in the last N.L.) Does anyone have this A.P.O.?

Your editor wishes to appologize for an ommission on the second page of the last N.L. under "A Page From the Collection of". This interesting page was from Bill Robinson.

A 'PAGE'FROM THE COLLECTION OF COLIN CAMPBELL.

CANADIAN RECORD OFFICE - OLD BAILEY. E.C.

This circular date stamp has been enlarged for clarity. It was found in an envelope, along with other markings from WW I, in Kingston, Ont., in September 1981. It had been trimmed right out of the original cover. It is not a postal item but probably a receiving handstamp from that office in London. Never have found out what the letters R.R. stand for. It is another piece of Canadian militaria however.



Part 2 of SHIPS IN CONVOY follows.

J. Colin Campbell	1450 Ross Road, Kelowna, B.C., V1Z 1L6
Ed. A. Harris	620-75th Ave., Calgary, Alta., T2K 0P9
Ken V. Ellison	R. R. # 1, Oyama, B.C., V0H 1W0
Clarence Stillions	5031 Eskridge Ter., Washington, D.C. 20016
Sid F. Bedwell	Box 206, Salmon Arm, B.C., V0E 2T0
R. Thurlow Fraser	205-1521 Blackwood St. White Rock, B.C. V4B 3V6
Wm. J. Bailey	2107 West 51st Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6P 1E4
Wayne R. Curtis	Box 74, Station A, Toronto, Ont., M5W 1A2
Ken Barlow	1055 Ottawa Ave., West Vancouver, B.C., V7S 2J2
Wm. G. Robinson	5830 Cartier St., Vancouver, B.C., V6M 3A7
Ron Kitchen	1387 Pearl St., Ottawa, Ont., K1T 1C6
Wally L. Gutzman	272 Vinet Ave., Dorval, P.Q., H9S 2M6
Wilf D. Whitehouse	2427 Greenfield Ave., Kamloops, B.C., V2B 4P6
E. R. Toop	Box 9026, Ottawa, Ont., K1G 3T8
Gordon M. Hill	320-1001 13th Ave., SW, Calgary, Alta., T2R 0L5
Philip Wolf	636 Woodbine Blvd., SW, Calgary, Alta., T2W 4W4
Sam C. Nickle	1208 Belavista Cres., Calgary, Alta., T2V 2B1
Lawrence Mathews	Box 354, Bracebridge, Ont., P0B 1C0
James E. Miller	Box 160, Kamloops, B.C., V2C 5N3
Dr. B. C. Plain	230 Robson Road W., Kelowna, B.C., V1X 3C8
John Wannerton	8 Pearson Ave., Kenilworth 7700, Cape Prov. S.A.
J. B. Dale	Box 675, Station B, Ottawa, Ont., K1P 5P7
John E. Frith	Box 286, Copper Cliff, Ont., P0M 1N0
Graham J. Noble	Box 80, Kingston, Ont., K7L 4V6
Ed. Richardson	Box 939, League City, Texas, 77573
Jack Davis	Box 1839, Peterborough, Ont., K9J 7X6
James R. Goblen	304 W. Lincoln St., Bloomington, Ill., 61701
A. D. Haines	33 Lillian Crescent, Barrie, Ont., L4N 4P8
Dr. J. Frank	50 Cotswold Dr., Saxonwold, Johannesburg, 2196, SA
Dr. Robt. C. Smith	Box 9383, Alta Vista Term., Ottawa, Ont., K1G 3V1
Dr. K. S. Mackenzie	78 Prince Edward Ave., Pte. Clair. PQ, H9R 4C7
Peter K. Eggett	207 Lafferty Ave., Windsor, Ont., N9J 1K2
Paul Burega	Box 15765, Station F, Ottawa, Ont., K2C 3S7
Robt. N. Wyse	262 Gardenvue Dr., Burlington, Ont., L7T 1K4
Robt. E. Gagnon	BP 284, Ste. Therese, PQ, J7E 4J2
Steven C. Luciuk	1542 East Heights, Saskatoon, Sask., S7J 3B5
John Tyacke	115 Ridge Drive, Toronto, Ont., M4T 1B6
Martin Haller	C.P. 35, St. Hubert, PQ, J3Y 5S9
Michel Gagne	72 DeMontbrun, Boucherville, PQ, J3Y 5S9
Robt. B. Soper	Box 2311, Halifax, N.S., B3J 3C8
Floyd G. McNey	Box 177, Stony Plain, Alta., T0E 2G0
L. D. Mayo Jr.	Box 22338, Kansas City, Mo., 64113
P. R. Sanderson	Box 174, Lindsay, Ont., K9V 4S1
Colin Pomfret	R. R. # 1, Millgrove, Ont., L0R 1V0
John Burnett	BNAPS Study Group Co-ordinator, 757 Parkwood St., Sidney, Ohio, 45365
H. Mike Street	BNA TOPICS Editor, Box 7230, Ancaster, Ont., L9G 3N6
Don Makinen	BNAPS Library, Rt. 2, Box 38, Freeport, Texas, 77541
National Postal Museum	Philatelic Library, Sta. 23, Ottawa, K1A 0B1
A. J. Brown	Forces Postal History Society, 17 Wimbledon Park Court, London, SW19 6NN, GB

1st CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE - SHIPS IN CONVOY - 1914

Colin Campbell

Part 2

The following people have been most helpful in providing material and information for this series of articles. Not all belong to our study group. Welcome..Ken Ellison, Bill Robinson, Bob Wyse, Don Johnston, Arthur Mears and Kim Dodwell. Thank you gentlemen.

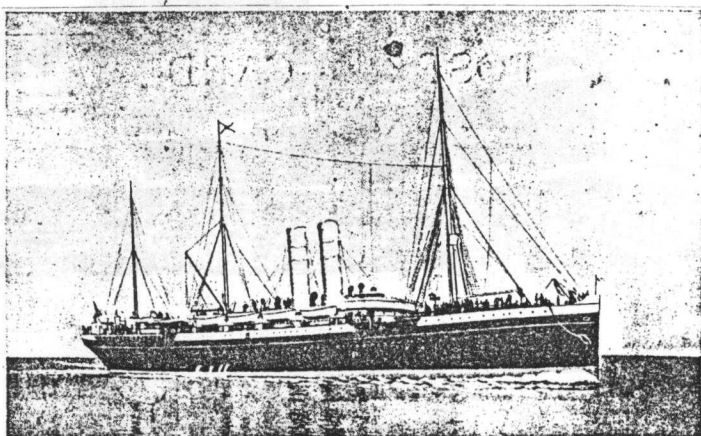
We still require photocopies, or cards, of these ships..

RUTHENIA MONTREAL MONMOUTH MANITOU TYROLIA MONTEZUMA

Please send to Colin direct. Will return post cards.

In the first part of this series we illustrated a souvenir card listing the ships in the convoy. H.M.S. AARON, listed on the port side of the card, presents us with a bit of a mystery as all sources, including the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, report "unknown".

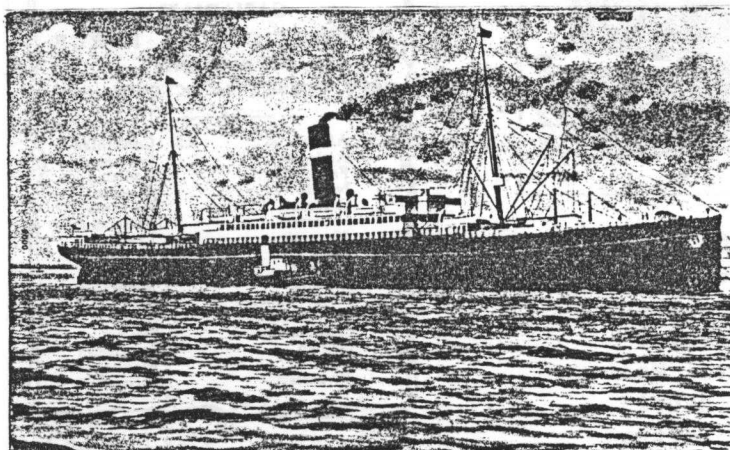
LAPLAND, at 18,694 tons, was the largest ship in convoy. See Part 1.



R.M.S.P. "CARIBBEAN" (Dominion Line)

CARIBBEAN belonged to Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Built 1890 and oldest ship in convoy. Tonnage 5,824. Carried some 9th Battery CFA, ammo column troops, some 4th Bde Inf Trans, some #3 Field Amb, Depot Co AMC, some Vet Corps people and stragglers. Also rifles and other Ord Stores. 382 troops in all. Loaded by October 1 and off-loaded Plymouth October 16.

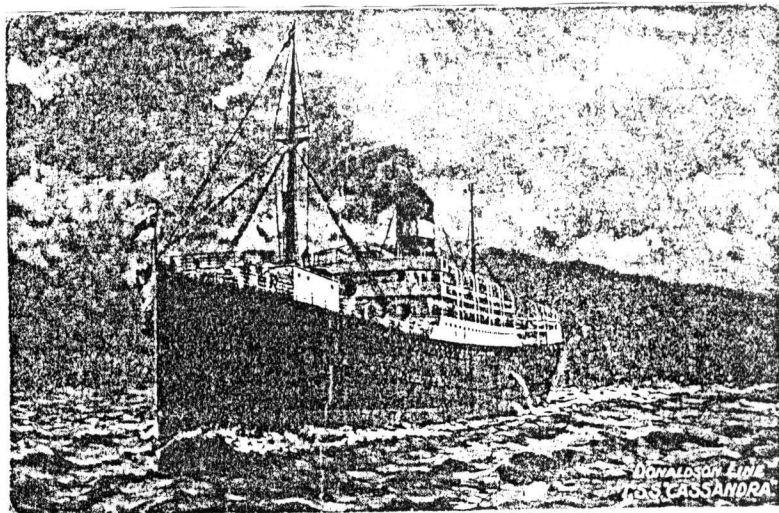
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S. S. Canada. (Dominion Line.)

S.S. CANADA - Dominion Line at 9,415 tons. Built 1896. Transported 1,069 Officers and men of 2nd Battalion Lincolns, from Bermuda, plus general cargo. Left Halifax September 26 joining convoy at Gaspé Bay.

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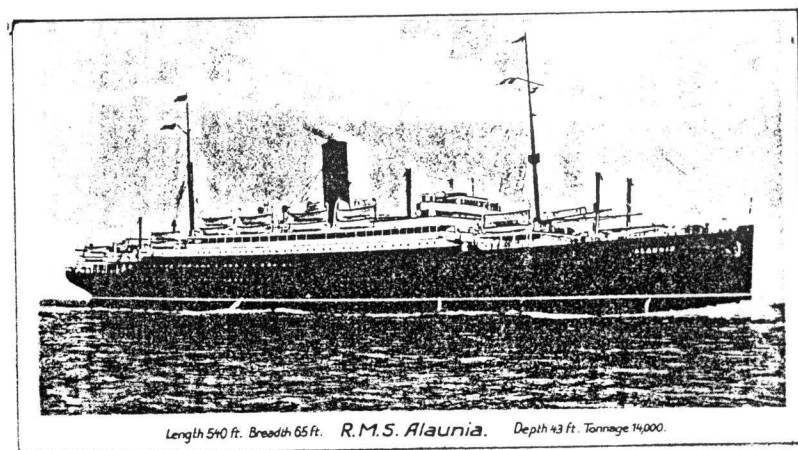
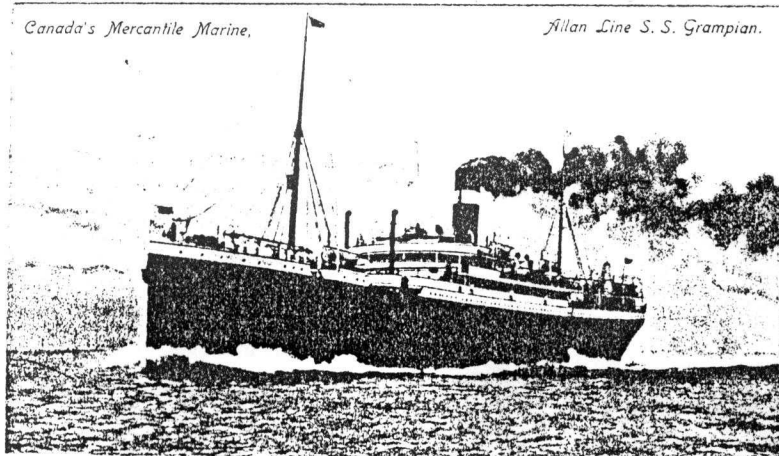


CASSANDRA- Donaldson Line was built 1906 at 8,135 tons. Carried 1199 Officers and men of 2nd Btn (1st Bde) & some #2 Field Amb, also rifles ammo, saddeltry, grain and flour. Ready September 26 and offloaded October 25.

GRAMPIAN launched 1907 at 10,946 tons for Allan Line. Carried 3rd Bde C.F.A. personnel and ammo column, mainly, for total 634. Also, vehicles, horses and general cargo. Ready to sail from Quebec September 28 and unloaded October 20, 1914.

Canada's Mercantile Marine.

Allan Line S. S. Grampian.



ALAUNIA was a Cunarder at 13,405 tons launched 1913. She transported 2,062 troops plus 2000 tons of grain and 50 tons lumber. Her passengers were 13th Battalion (Royal Highlanders of Canada) and 14th (Royal Montreal Regiment) as well as Div Train people.

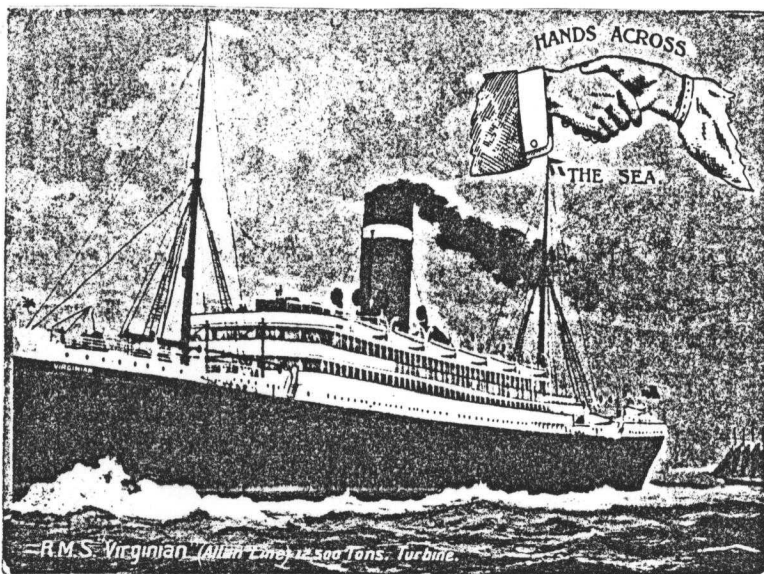
Ready to sail September 27 and berthed for unloading October 15. ALAUNIA was mined and sunk in 1916.

Souvenir	
LIST OF SHIPS CONVEYING THE CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE TO ENGLAND. LEFT QUEBEC, 1st OCTOBER, 1914.	
S.S. Alaunia	S.S. Corinthian
Andania	Gramplan
Franconia	Tunisian
Ivernia	Athenia
Saxonia	Ruthenia
Laurentic	Cassandra
Megantic	Lakonia
Canada	Tyrolia
Lapland	Montreal
Zeeland	Montezuma
Royal Edward	Monmouth
Royal George	Arcadian
Scandinavian	Florizel
Sicilian	Caribbean
Scotian	Manitou
Virgolian	Bermudian

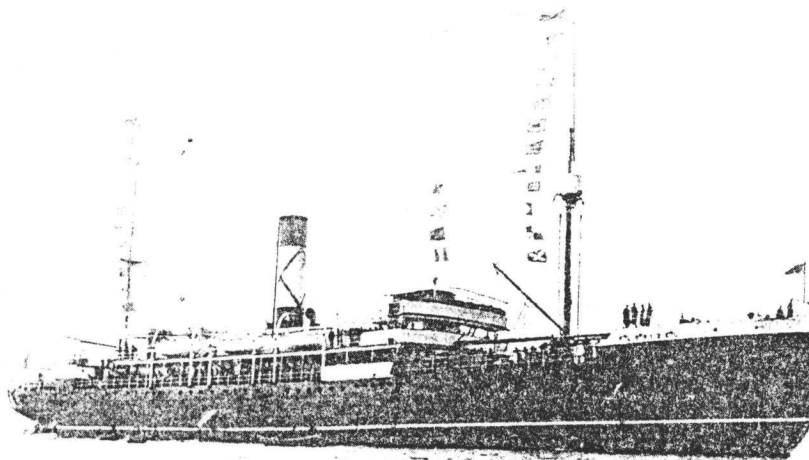
RED BORDER

S.S. "Alaunia."

PRINTING IN BLUE

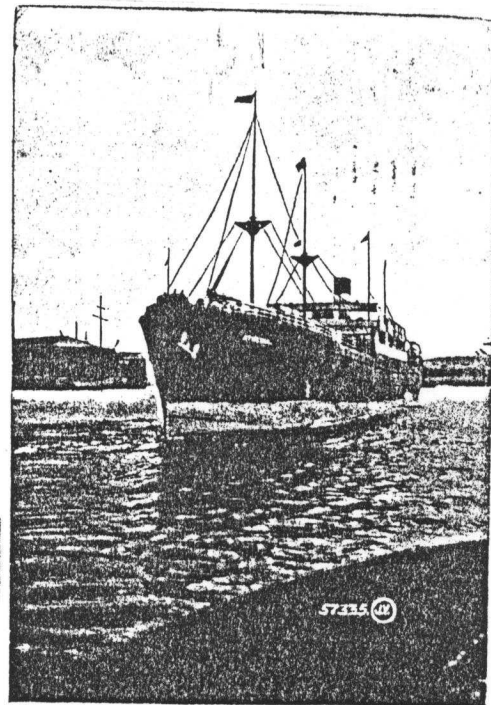


VIRGINIAN was launched 1905 for Allan at 10,757 tons. She carried 1394 troops as well as ammo, medical stores, flour and lumber. Troops were 7th Btn (2nd Inf Bde) from B.C. and Div Train, Railway Supply and hospital staffs. Completed loading September 28 and unloaded October 16.



The S.S. Florizel, transporting 540 men of the First Newfoundland Regiment overseas in October, 1914.

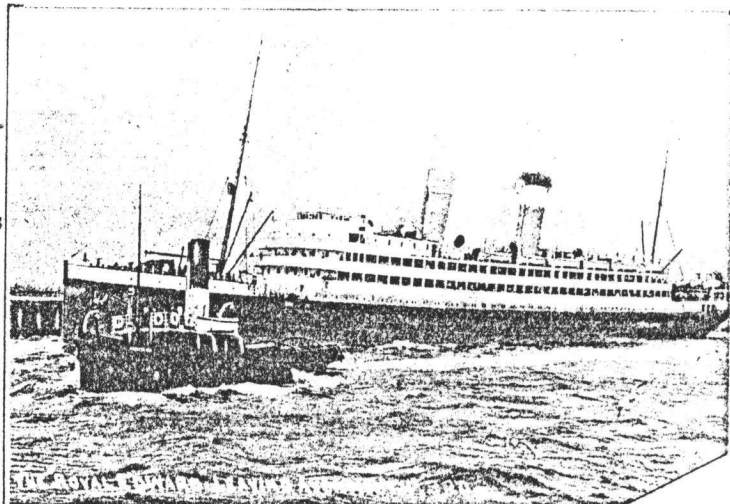
S.S. FLORIZEL was the smallest ship at 3,081 tons and she joined the convoy off Cape Race on October 5. She carried 539 Officers and men of the Newfoundland Contingent who later were to serve at Gallipoli and the Western Front.



Donaldson Liner "Athenia"

ATHENIA was a Donaldson liner of 8,668 tons built 1904. She carried 553 troops, rifles, grain, etc., plus one aeroplane! Yes, a Burgess-Dunne biplane flown from the USA to Valcartier but never flew overseas.

ROYAL EDWARD (1908) of Can. Nor. S.S. at 11,117 tons. Carried 1,197 troops of 11th Btn who went to Reserve. Off-loaded at Avonmouth October 18. NOTE: This card was posted at Bristol, Eng. 12 AU 14 and message indicates she was on her way to Canada to join the convoy.



C.C.A.C. CANADIAN CASUALTY ASSEMBLY CENTRE

This cover started its journey in July of 1916 from Nova Scotia to a private with the 64th Batt. believed to be at Sandling Camp in Kent County of England. The letter then followed the soldier to the "21st Batt., B.E.F., Canadians, France (with initials)." The Field Post Office 7X marking of 22 AU 16 indicates the letter arrived there where Private Barrett was serving in the 4 Canadian Brigade of the 2nd Division.

Unfortunately he was wounded, or became sick, and was sent back to England before he got the letter. On the front of the cover in manuscript are the letters C.B.D., AUG 29/8 in an oval, but the significance of this not known to the writer. On the reverse of the cover is stamped "CANADIAN SECTION G.H.Q. / 3rd Echelon AUG 30 1916", and again on the front, there was a label 17 x 89mm., mostly removed, likely directing the cover back to England.

The cover was next marked by two C.C.A.C. cancels, one of which is noted on page 218 of the Bailey and Toop new book, THE CANADIAN MILITARY POSTS, Vol. 1, while the other is 'unlisted'.

CANADIAN POST OFFICE / C.C.A.C. / FOLKESTONE // 2PM/SP 22/16

POST OFFICE, C.C.A.C. / FOLKESTONE // ? SEP 1916 (in purple)

It appears that at this point the cover was delivered to Pte. Barrett!

From HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN FORCES, 1914-19, MEDICAL SERVICES, by Sir Andrew Macphail, 1925, comes the explanation of the above casualty centres on pages 206-208.

"Previous to the creation of the command depot a sincere attempt had been made in the Canadian service to carry the soldier over that difficult period between his discharge from the convalescent hospital and his return to the reserve unit on his way to the line, to other duty, or to civil life. It was inhumane to compel a man fresh from the hospital and still suffering from the results of sickness or of wounds to endure the routine of the reserve unit. The result was that the hospitals were crowded or the reserve units burdened with men for whose care they were not designed. It was only a partial remedy that these men found private quarters for themselves and were lost to the service until they could be discovered.

The Casualty Assembly Centre, established at Folkestone, February 13, 1916, removed to Shoreham in October, and to Hastings in November, was formed to meet this need, and it remained in operation until superseded by the reorganized Command Depots in April, 1917. A complete and perfect system for the disposition of casualties had been created by the director of recruiting and organization."

CANADIAN SECTION G.H.Q.

3rd Echelon AUG 30 1916

