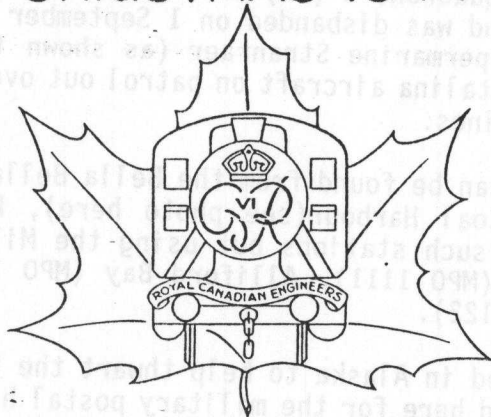


Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER NO. 102
DECEMBER 1991

Page No. 11

CHRISTMAS 1944



1 CANADIAN RAILWAY OPERATING GROUP
CANADIAN ARMY OVERSEAS

Christmas Greetings
and
Best Wishes
for
The New Year

H.Q. 1 Canadian Railway Operating Group
1 Canadian Railway Operating Company
2 Canadian Railway Operating Company

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE SERVICES

A **MERRY CHRISTMAS** is extended from your Chairman and Editor. It has been a very busy year for us and the many kind expressions on the ANTHOLOGY are greatly appreciated.

In keeping with past 'tradition' we present a few interesting Christmas cards from the services. This time we have a nice army item courtesy of Jim Felton and the story for it comes from Bill Robinson. A couple of RFC items come from who else but that indefatigable man about Ontario, Dave Hanes. This is followed by a RCAF card from an unusual location. As for the RCN, we can't seem to lay our hands on one we had planned to use.

Bill Robinson has excerpted the following from Vol. 2 of the History of the Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers by Kerry and McDill. "The unit was called out on active service on March 19, 1943, under command of Lt.Col. F.E.Wooton, MC, ED, RCA, who had about 40 years of railroad construction and operating experience. He selected nine officers and numerous men from Canadian Railways, and a HQ, No.1 Railway Operating Company and No.1 Railway Workshop Company were established at Stratford, Ontario. At the same time No.2 Railway Operating Company was formed at Longmoor, Hampshire, from railway men culled from the Canadian Overseas forces.

The Canadian portion of this unit sailed from Halifax in the *QUEEN ELIZABETH* on July 23, 1943. The whole unit trained with the British Railways until September 1944 when they moved to the Continent. They worked mainly on French railways - repairing and operating until February, 1945, when No.2 Company was moved to Nijmegen to prepare to operate railways on the other side of the Rhine. For the remainder of the war, they repaired and operated lines as far as Bremen, Germany. The operating companies were disbanded in July 1945, and the Group Headquarters finally finished its work on November 29, 1945. A stained glass window in the garrison church at Longmoor, Hampshire, commemorates all Canadian National and Canadian Pacific employees who fell in World War II."

AN UNUSUAL RCAF CHRISTMAS CARD FROM WW II

BELLA BELLA was situated 'half' way up the British Columbia Coast and here was located an RCAF base in WW II. RCAF # 9 Squadron, a (BR) Bomber-Reconnaissance unit was formed here on 9 December 1941 and was disbanded on 1 September 1944. This was a seaplane base that used the Supermarine Stranraer (as shown in the photo), the Consolidated Canso A and the Catalina aircraft on patrol out over the Pacific Ocean looking for Japanese submarines.

Covers marked from the civil post office can be found from the Bella Bella RCAF Station as well as those at Ucluelet, Coal Harbour (see photo here), Prince Rupert, Sea Island and Port Hardy. Other such stations but using the Military Post Office Numbers were: Jericho Beach (MPO 1111), Alliford Bay (MPO 1127), Patricia Bay (MPO 1102) and Tofino (MPO 1122).

At this time RCAF units were also stationed in Alaska to help thwart the threat of Japanese invasion. There is a good field here for the military postal history collector and Christmas cards from the stations are an added bonus.

With hearty Christmas Greetings

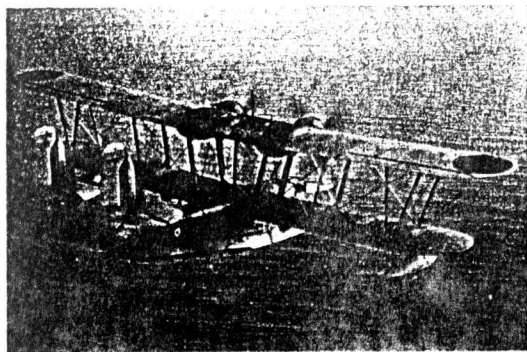
and every Good Wish

for the New Year

*Best wishes
Don*

R. C. A. F. Station

Bella Bella, B. C.



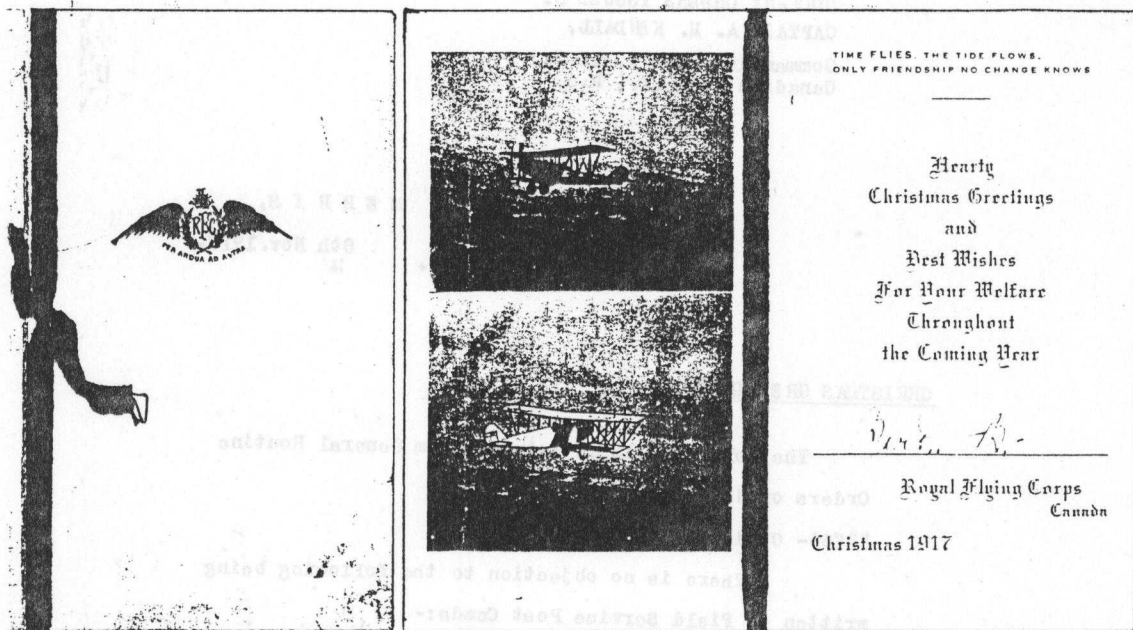
*D. M. Marté R149656,
R.C.A.F. Station,
Coal Harbour, B.C.,
Canada.*



*American Radio Relay
League,
West Hartford,
Conn.*

**BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

U



RFC cards courtesy Dave Hanes, top one reduced in size as is the Bella Bella one.

MANY LETTERS OF LATE

Thank you to all those who have written commenting on our *ANTHOLOGY*. Your letters are appreciated and it is hoped that everyone is happy with the book. Only four of our members have not ordered it. We still have several on hand of the 'soft' covered ones for those still wanting to get their copy. Bob Lee has some more hard backed ones that are available - please see his advert herein.

The accounting on the *ANTHOLOGY* is not yet complete and we hope to be able to give this info to you in the next N/L.

COMPANY ORDERS ISSUED BY
CAPTAIN A. H. KENDALL,
Commanding 58th B.G.O.C.,
Canadians, R.O.D., R.E.

M E R R I S,

8th Nov. 1917.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

The following is an extract from General Routine
Orders of November 4th 1917.:-

"2766- Christmas Greetings. /

There is no objection to the following being
written on Field Service Post Cards:-

'A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'

Attention is called to the fact that the sending
of Christmas and New Year Cards, books, photographs, etc.,
to enemy or neutral countries is forbidden."

A. H. Kendall
Captain,

O/C., 58th B.G.O.C., Canadians, R.O.D., R.E.

FIELD SERVICE POST CARDS IN WW I

If you care to refer back to Page 667 in the Christmas 1989 Newsletter you will note that the reduced in size letter here gives the official permission to add *A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR* to the Field Service Post Cards. No extra writing was allowed and the dispensation given here was unusual. How many of these A.F.A. 2042 cards have you gone through looking for the *MERRY CHRISTMAS...* Thanks to John Frith for pulling this out of RG 9 III C7 Vol.4498 File # 10 at the Archives!

HUBBA HUBBA



You likely had thought you had seen the last of these Korean War 'markings'? Another one, shown here, appeared in Ron Leith's latest auction catalog, Lot 1435. "1952 HUBBA HUBBA cartoon h/s on free frank airmail rated American soldier letter from APO 970 at TAEGU/KOREA to USA, routed via APO 90 at SEOUL/KOREA, May 31, 1952..."

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Plomish, Walter R., 703-69 Jamieson Court, New Westminster, BC, V3L 5P8
Tanner, Albert G., 300-1298 West 10th Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6H 1J4
Wolf, Philip, 9832-19th Street, SW, Calgary, AB., T2V 4C3

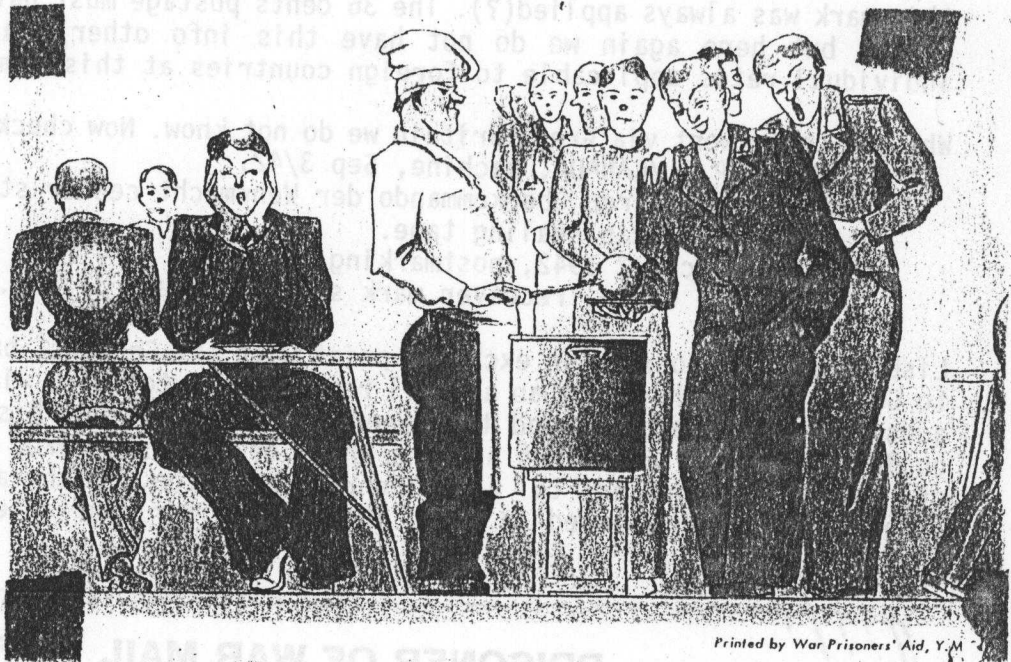
Rob't A. Bayes, 1268 Marine Drive W., PO Box 34512, North Vancouver, B.C., V7P 3N8

There seems to be a great variety of these illustrated I.O.20 postcards that were sponsored by the YMCA. John Wannerton sent in 3 of these, two of which are shown here. Both of these are colored, in blue, yellow, red and black. The third card is in black only and is in vertical mode with a drawing of a barracks and fir(?) trees all covered with snow.

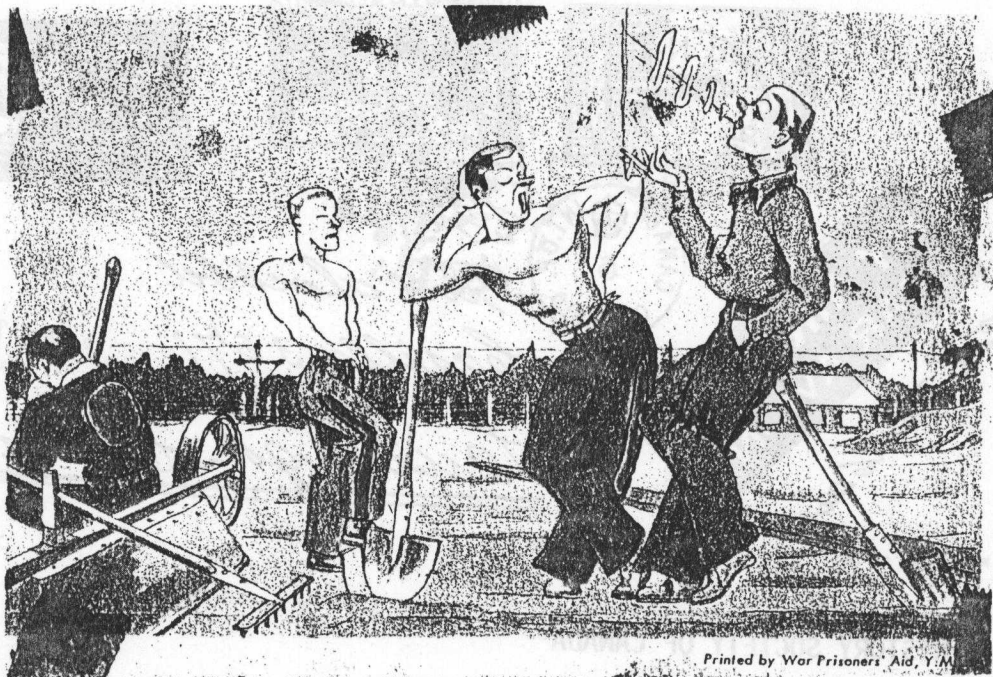
PRISONER OF WAR MAIL

FREE

FRANC DE PORT



Printed by War Prisoners' Aid, Y.M.



Printed by War Prisoners' Aid, Y.M.

Sender.....
 Base Post Office - OTTAWA, CANADA
 Internment Camp "....."
 Service.....
 No.....

FORM I.O. 20.

A P.O.W. COVER TO CHILE 1942

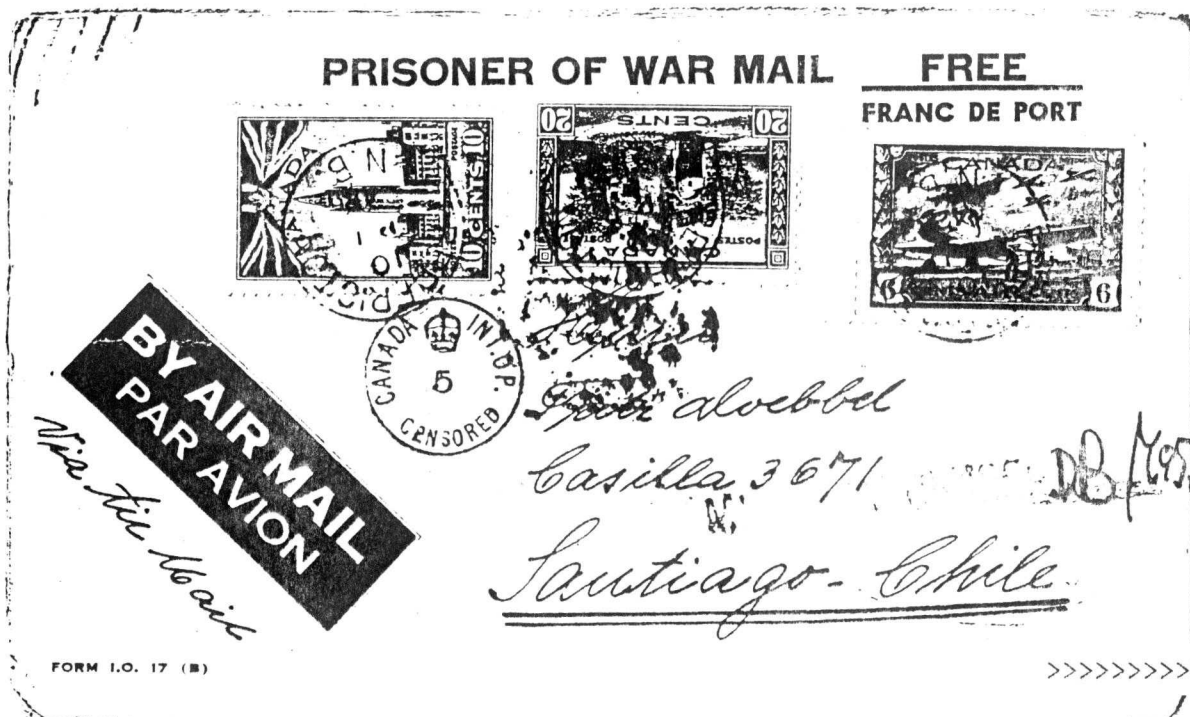
From Bill Walton, the postal stationery guru, comes this interesting item for your comment either to the Editor or to Bill at 125 Turtleback Road, Califon, N.J., 07830.

The Prisoner of War stationery was postmarked at Fredericton, N.B., on 1 September 1942 with a destination of Santiago, Chile. The EXAMINED BY CENSOR straight line is light but complete although not photocopying well. The other front marking does not show up at all - the oval red O.A.T. - but it is very important showing that the cover travelled (we think) via Great Britain where this mark was always applied(?). The 36 cents postage must have been the rate to Chile, but here again we do not have this info other than that there were individual rates applicable to foreign countries at this time.

Why the cover went via Great Britain we do not know. Now check the backmarkings:

- BASE A.P.O./CANADA, machine, Sep 3/42.
- two inverted red Oberkommando der Wehrmacht censor strikes tying the 'opened' German sealing tape.
- Lisbon, Oct. 2 1942, postmarking.
- Santiago, Chile, receiver mark slogan cancel, 12 Nov. 1942.

Lisbon was , of course, an exchange point with the Germans, but did the cover go to Germany? Was there not an airmail route direct to Chile via the USA? All this adds up to a nice cover and the owner only wants it for his postal stationery collection! Bill also sent along a photo of a Brazil card, postal stationery, of course, addressed to Fort Henry, Kingston, with a nice Passed By Internment Censor as used in 1917. Thanks Bill for your interest!



POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA

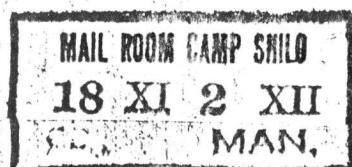
The above PHSC has asked our permission to reprint an article from the *ANTHOLOGY*. Steve Luciuk's *RIDERS OF THE PLAINS ON ACTIVE SERVICE* has been chosen and permission of the Author, Publisher, etc. has been given. Maybe we can get a plug for our CMSG in there too?

[illegible]



FEB 1 1962

COMMANDING OFFICER
SUPPLY DEPOT RCAF
LANGAR NOTTS ENGLAND.



FROM SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Dean Mario sends along a couple of unusual O/R type markings both found on the same official envelope addressed to the C.O. at RCAF Langar, Notts., England. Note also the date conveniently added near the marking. This is from a large envelope so we have extracted the pertinent parts.

Also from Dean comes the re-directional Shilo marking as used in 1959. As well he reports a later use for a *POST PAID* from RCAF Station NAMAQ at Lancaster Park, Alberta. In this regard Dave Hanes, from Barrie, sends us a 'sheaf' of photos on this subject. Every office seemed to have its own version! Several other members have also noted other *POST PAIDS* too. How about Dave doing a study for us on these 'things' since he has the mother lode.

ADVERTISING *Buy Sell Trade*

Some have suggested that we allot space for some member advertising. Let's see how it works - send \$1.00 for each maximum 4 line insertion which will include name/address. Best way would be to send photocopies of items.

WANTED: Royal Newfoundland Regiment; WW I & II Canadian Chaplain; and WW II Canadian Orderly Room markings on cover. Have some material for trade if interested. Dean Mario, Box 342, Saskatoon, Sask., S7K 3L3.

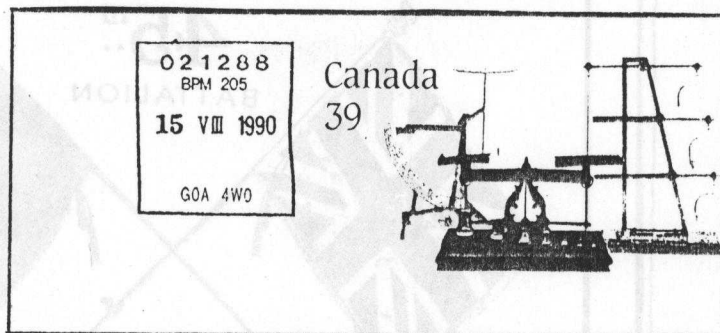
MILITARY ANTHOLOGY available in hard cover @\$44.89 in Canada; in USA and O/S US\$40.00; Soft cover edition, \$Can. 32.05; USA and O/S \$US 30.00; all Postpaid. Order from Robt. A Lee, #203-1139 Sutherland Ave., Kelowna, BC, V1Y 5Y2

ONE response to my 'add' re *CANADIAN FORESTRY CORPS*. Covers, postcards wanted, especially WW I. Ken Ellison, R.R. # 1, Oyama, BC, V0H 1W0. Send photocopies.

NEWFOUNDLAND WANTED: Covers to and from Newfoundland Servicemen, all periods. Civil and Military censorship covers concerning Nfld. also desired. Send photo copies, even if you do not want to trade the material. Doug Hannan at 23 - 1950 Burtch Street, Kelowna, B.C., V1Y 4B2.

THREE SHIP POSTCARDS WANTED, but photocopies in any case. CPR's *MONMOUTH* (built 1900); Donaldson's *LAKONIA* (built 1899); Atlantic Transport's *MANITOU* (built 1898). Any postcard will do but prefer WW I period. J. Colin Campbell, 1450 Ross Road, Kelowna, B.C., V1Z 1L6

SUPPORT YOUR ADVERTISERS - YOU JUST MIGHT LOCATE THAT ITEM YOU HAVE HUNTED FOR.



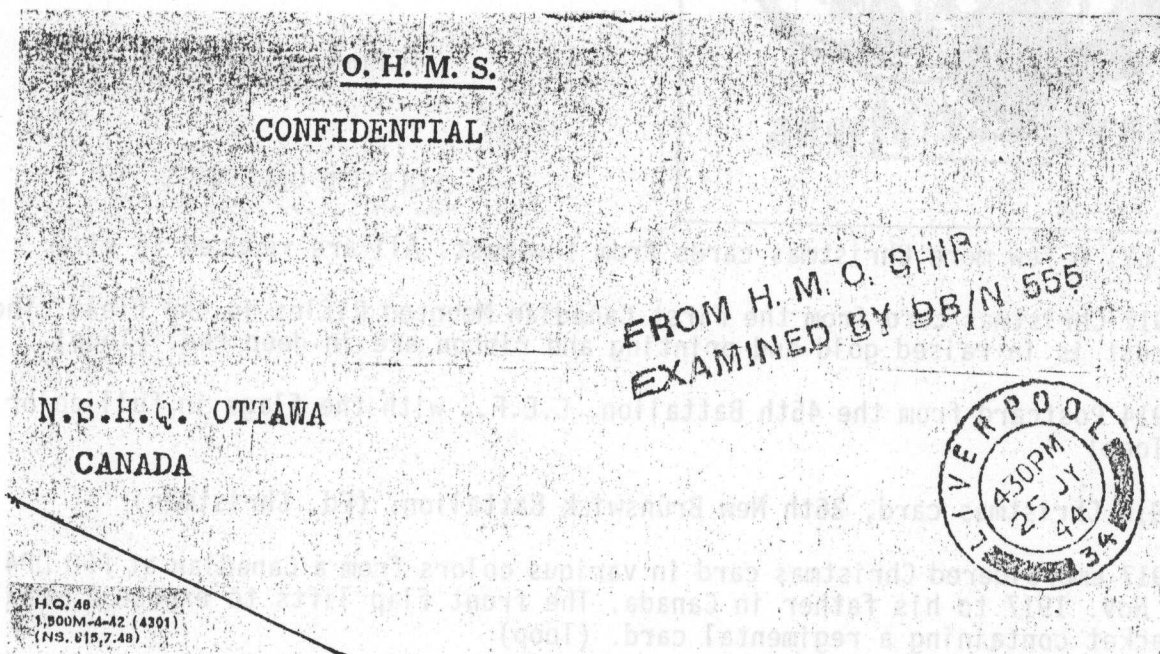
M.P.O. 205 CFB ST. HUBERT, P.Q.

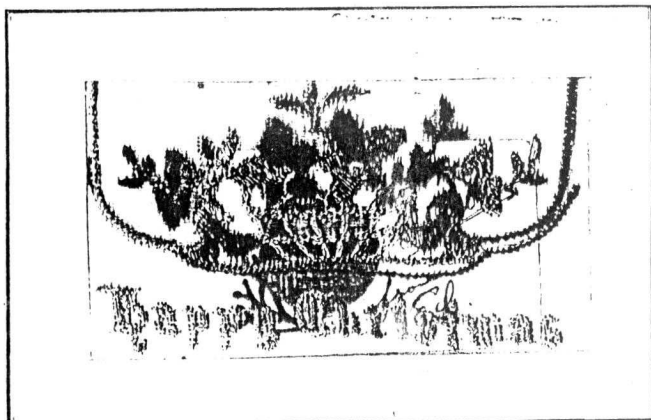
During the stand-off at Oka between the Native Indians and the Canadian Army in the summer of 1990 the post office at CFB St. Hubert was used as noted by the illustrated marking. MPO 205 was open from 15 August 1990 to 5 October 1990 for the use of these troops. (Info from Cdn Forces Postal Service via Ritch Toop)

RCN CENSOR HANDSTAMP AT LIVERPOOL

Ken Barlow has been trying to figure this one out. The markings shown here are taken from an official OHMS cover addressed to NSHQ at Ottawa and marked confidential.

Ken postulates that there is a mystery in how the envelope got the Liverpool CDS. Maybe the ship had someone visit the Western Approaches Command in the Liverpool Exchange Buildings and they handed the cover over to the post office operating there. Although, FROM H.M.C. SHIP / EXAMINED BY DB/N 555 was applied to the cover, there was no civil censoring noted as would normally have been carried out on mail in civil channels. Does anyone know the ship using this censor number? As Ken further states "Many weird things happened during the war." Comments to Ken Barlow whose address you will find in the list on Page 10 of the last N/L.





Christmas, 1916.

YULETIDE GREETINGS.
Don R. Smith

FINALLY, A few more Christmas cards from the past. All are reduced in size.

- 1) 1917 Christmas card from the First Canadian Mounted Rifles in the field. The crest is in raised gold and printing and ribbon are in deep red. (Toop)
- 2) 1914 Postcard from the 45th Battalion, C.E.F., with the flags in full color. (Toop)
- 3) 1916 Christmas card, 26th New Brunswick Battalion. (Ed. Christman)
- 4) 1917 embroidered Christmas card in various colors from a Canadian at FPO DP4, 9 Nov. 1917 to his father in Canada. The front flap lifts to expose a small packet containing a regimental card. (Toop)

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!