

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

No. 116-117

Summer 1994

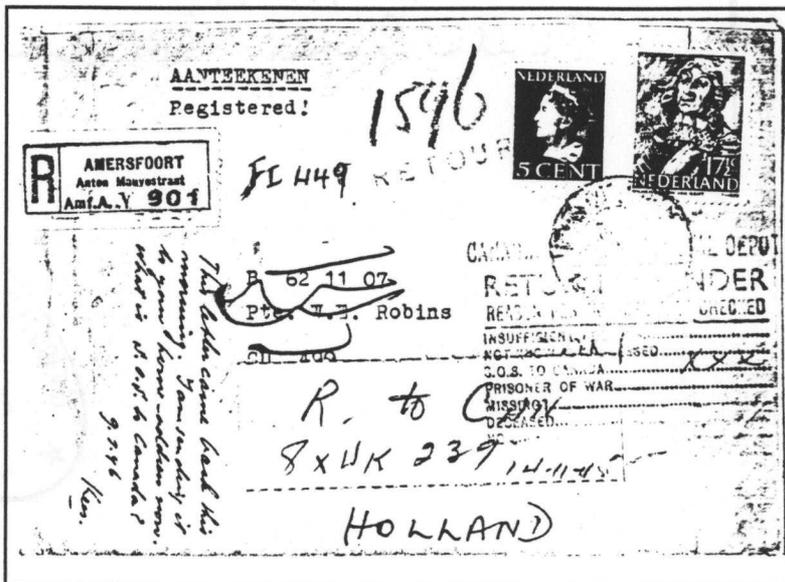
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Editorial Ramblings

As the old hackneyed phrase has it: ...the best laid plans of mice and men...! Which means that my desire to retire is not about to be fulfilled. At least, not yet. Meanwhile, back here at the CMMSG we have prepared yet another delectable, albeit slightly delayed, double-issue Bulletin for you. This one should reach you around the end of November; our next issue is scheduled for December.

Enjoy the fall and this issue of our Bulletin.

Henk Burgers



Coming in Future Issues:

Articles on new UN Peacekeeping operations, Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camps in various countries during WW II, book reviews and, of course, lots of other interesting news and other items submitted by our members.

The Canadian Military Mail Study Group Newsletter is the publication of the Canadian Military Mail Study Group of the British North America Philatelic Society.

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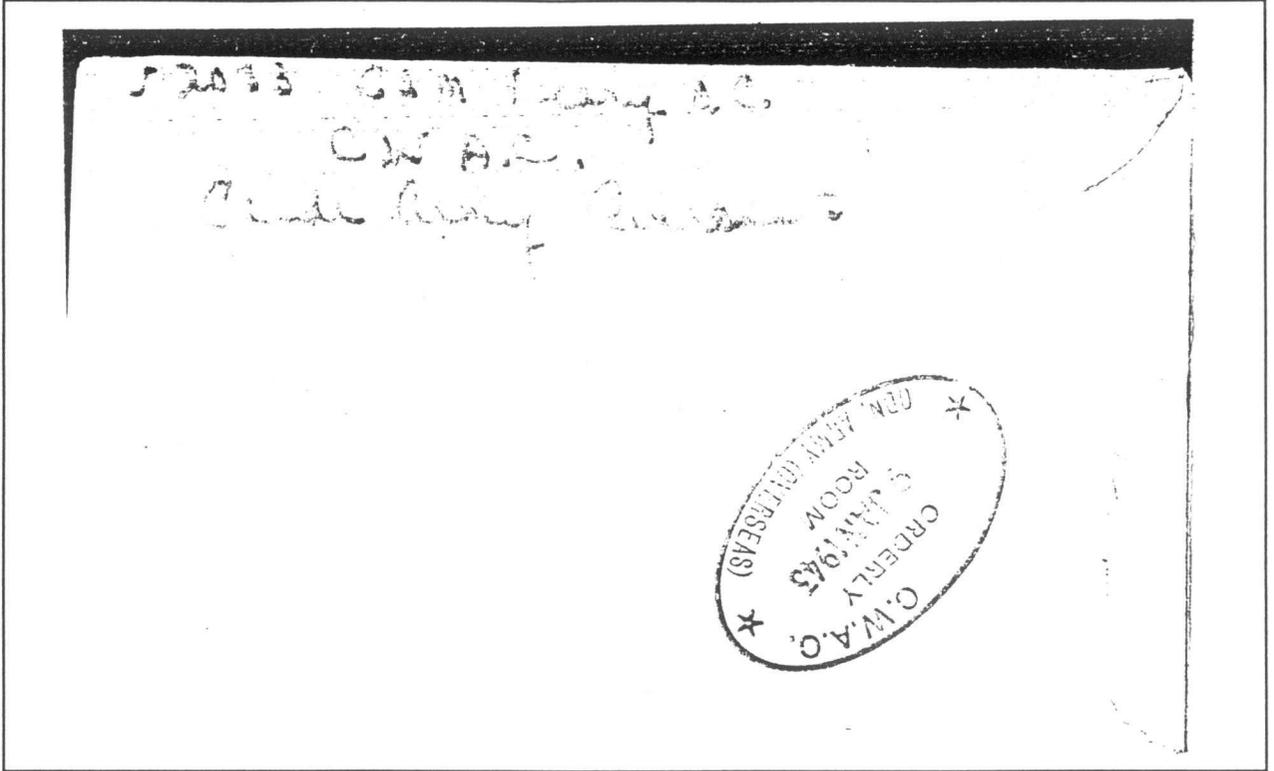
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Please address mail to:
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11 Elma Street,
Gloucester, ON
Canada K1G 3N2
Fax: 613-737-7996

More CWACS needed

Dean Mario

Here are two pieces regarding the C.W.A.C.s (I wish I had had some of this material for my *Anthology* pieces!).



The Orderly Room oval on the reverse shown is in magenta and the cover has the F.P.O.-S.C.7/2 cancellation (Canadian Military H. Q., London, UK) dated JAN 9/43 on front.



REMEMBER D-DAY JUNE 6 076 100699

The other little item is an attractive coloured recruiting postcard featuring a proud C.W.A.C. member in full uniform. The reverse has the following text:

Pictured on the front of this post card is one of the thousands of patriotic Canadian girls in the Canadian Woman's Army Corps. Recruits are urgently needed.

I assume that this was a series printed in Canada -- do any other members have similar items?

(Please have a look through your collections and accumulations. Perhaps you'll find something to link to this story - Ed.)



Sam Steele and the Mails

Dean Mario

CMMSG Members might be interested in the following information regarding postal matters found in the Routine Orders of the Strathcona's Horse during 1900.

"Orders By Lt. Col. Steele,
Commanding Troops on Board, S.S. Monterey

April 10th, 1900

R.O.299 Until further orders Regt. No. 277 Corporal Cree, A.H. will act as Post Office Orderly. Officers mail will be collected by the P.O. Orderly, Sergts. mail will be left in the Sergts. mess room for him. Corporals and Privates mail will be left at the Hospital for him while aboard ship....";

"By Lt. Col. Steele,
Commanding Strathcona's Horse

Green Point Camp, 15th May 1900

R.O. 573 All letters franked "Strathcona's Horse on Active Service" with the name, reg. no., and rank of the sender in the lower left hand corner of the envelope will go free of postage, if posted at the Camp before 9.00 am each Wednesday. To expedite matters mail should if possible be posted at the Camp on Monday of each week. All newspapers and parcels must be postage paid....;

R.O. 614 Attention of the Regiment is drawn to Regt. Order No. 573 of the 15th May relating to the free carrying of letters. "This only applies to Canada and the United Kingdom" all other destinations must have postage prepaid, the amount to the U.S. being 2½...."

My thanks to Capt. Michael Clare for this information.

WWI Embarkation/Disembarkation Postcards Used By C.E.F. Units On Voyages To The U.K.

John Frith

I have been putting aside any copies of these cards I've come across with the intention of checking what ships they were used on, units involved; etc., as I have a copy of the sailing lists of the C.E.F. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that what were at first glance "identical" types of cards, turned out to be "different" printings, and aside from identical wordings on each card, they all have one very large item in common.

Embarkation Cards¹

These cards are all headed "Somewhere on the East Coast" (Rev) and all types seen are printed on white paper, (most appear buff because of aging), 140 x 90 mm (approximately).

Type I² (Fig. 1A) • No "SANCTIONED BY THE WAR OFFICE" line on reverse

Figure 1A

Dear *Mr. Banks* SOMEWHERE ON THE EAST COAST.

I arrived here safely, and feel none the worse for the train journey.

I am anticipating a pleasurable sea voyage, and will send another post card on arrival at destination.

Kindly note the mailing address.

Address (Name and Rank) *Mr. J. J. Williams*

Medical Officer No. *222164*

13th Bn. C.E.F.

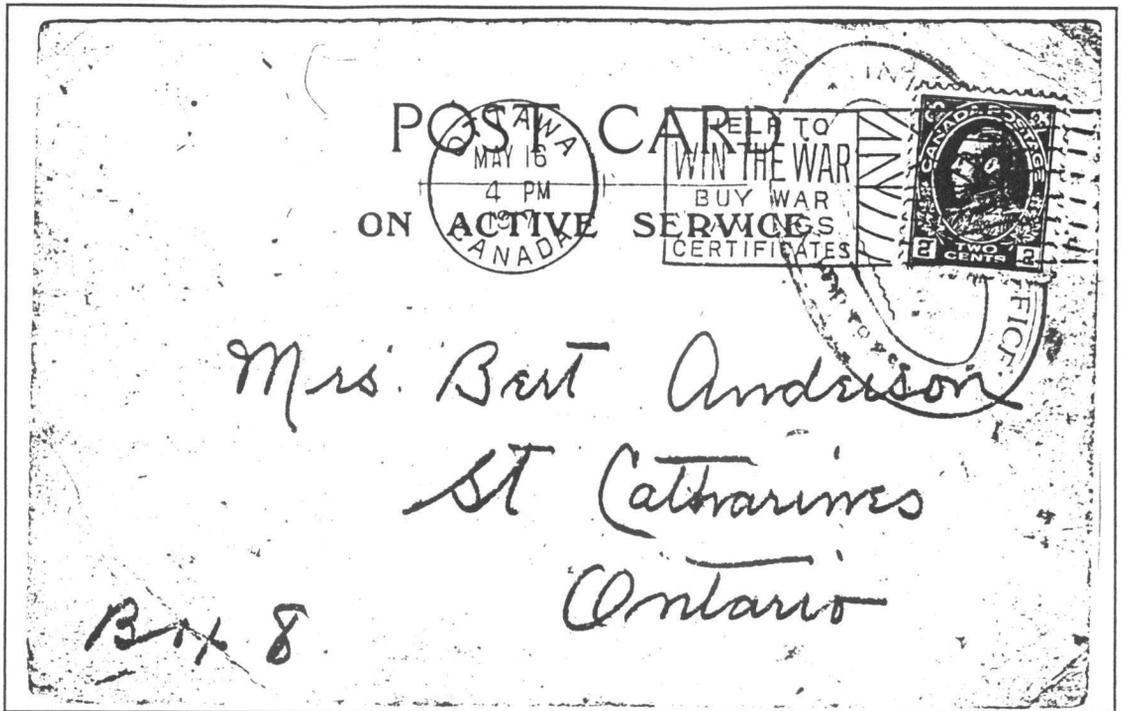
Canadian Expeditionary Force,
c/o. Army Post Office, London.

Use: H.M.T. "OLYMPIC" - Halifax, N.S., 13 Oct 16, to Liverpool, U.K. 18 OCT 16

Type II (Fig.2 & 2A) Printing Differences:

1. Front: "N" of "ON" directly under "P" of "Post"
2. Reverse: No colon after "Address"

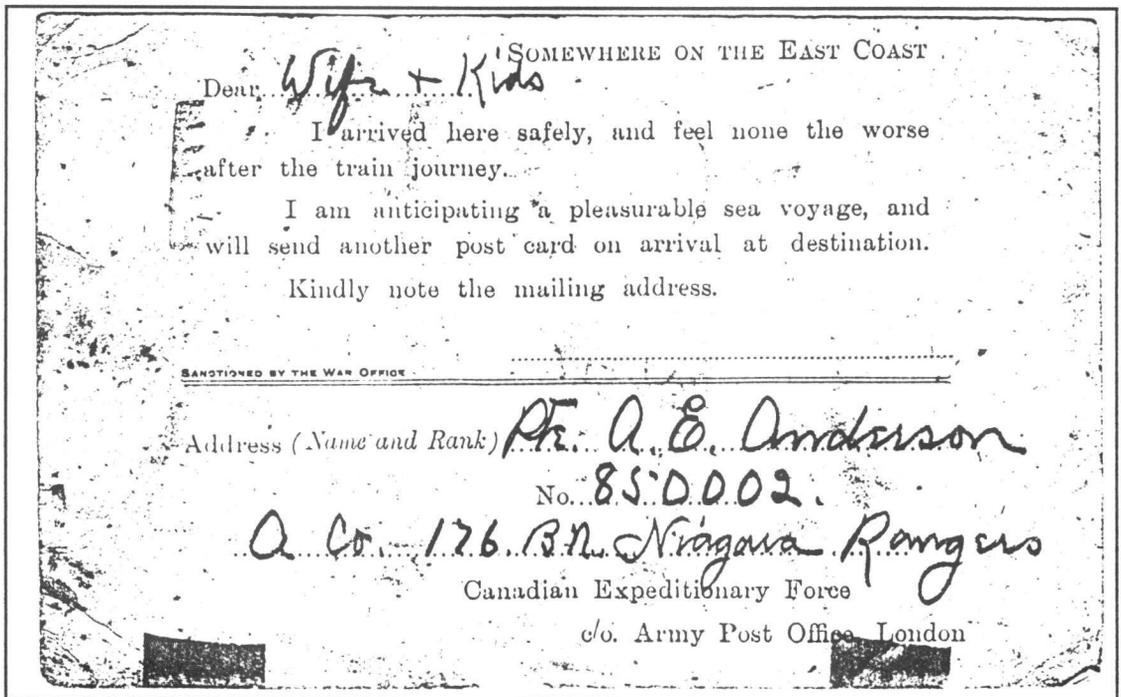
Figure 2



Use:

H.M.T.
"OLYMPIC"
- Halifax,
N.S., 29
APR 17, to
Liverpool,
U.K. 4
MAY 17

Figure 2A



Type II (a) (Fig.3 & 3A)

- Printing Differences:
1. Obverse: "N" of "ON" between "P" and "O" of "POST"
 2. Reverse: Colon after "Address:"

Use:

H.M.T.
"OLYMPIC"
- Halifax,
N.S., 2 JUN
17, to
Liverpool,
U.K., 7
JUN 17

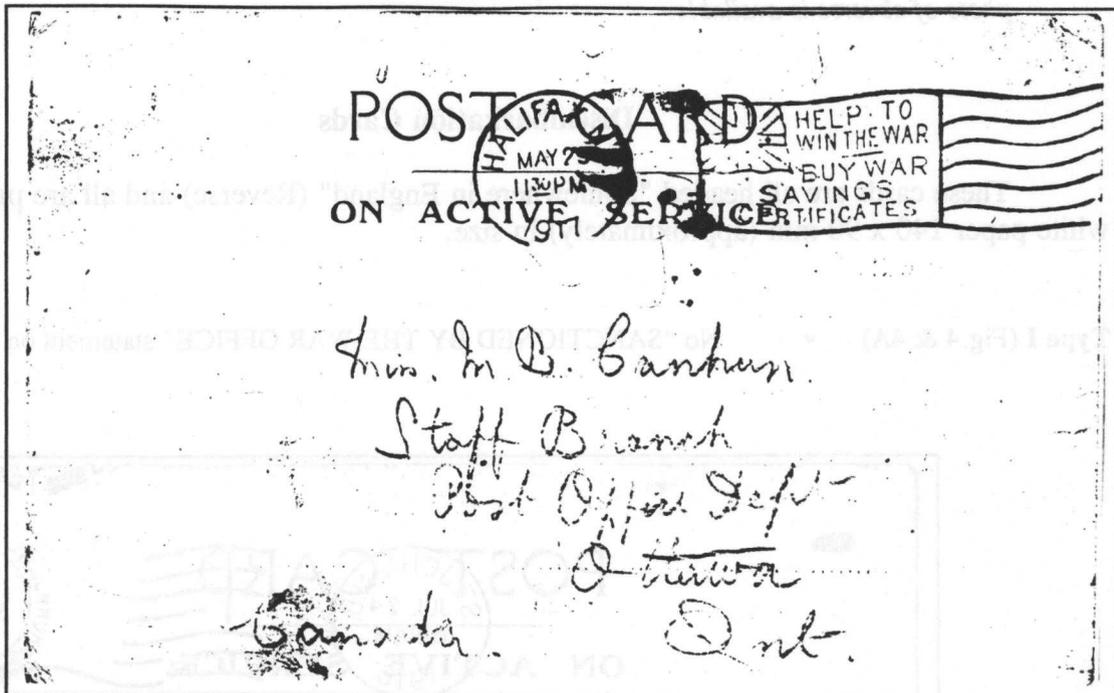
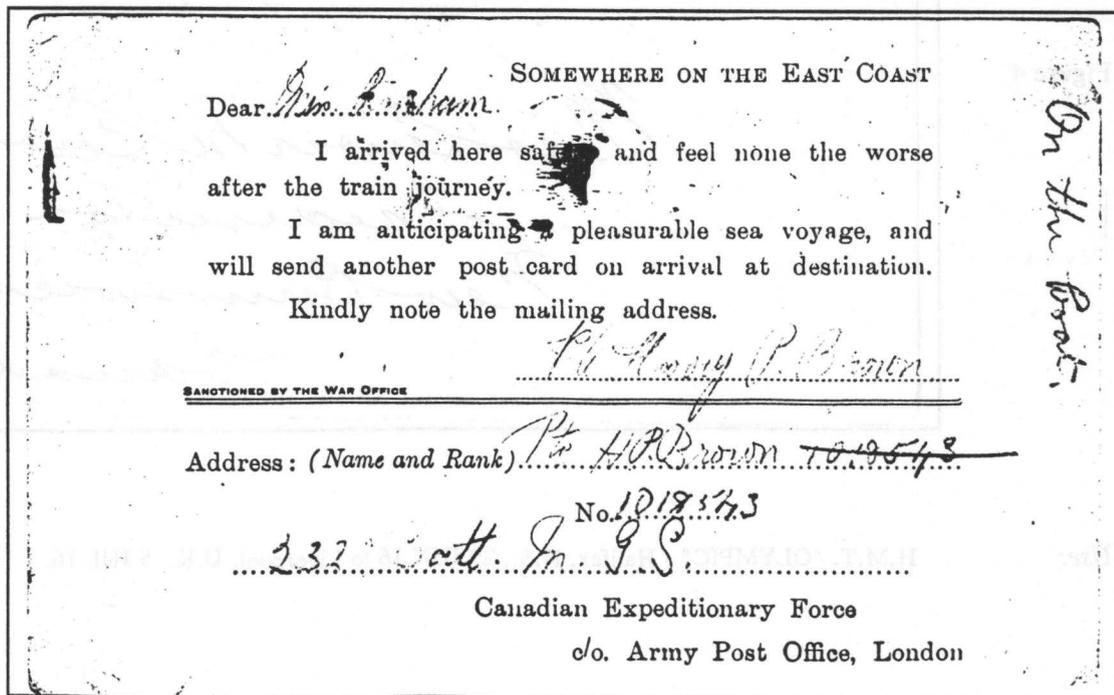


Figure 3

Figure 3A



Notes: ¹ This type of card is described in the book "I AM WELL", which was privately compiled and printed in the U.K. in 1987 by Peter C. Burrows. He designates it as TYPE 3.13.

² This photocopy from cover of Colin Pomfret in CMMSG NL 740, page 749, and unfortunately no photo of obverse is available.

Disembarkation Cards

These cards are all headed "Somewhere in England" (Reverse) and all are printed on white paper 140 x 90 mm (approximately) in size.

Type I (Fig.4 & 4A) • No "SANCTIONED BY THE WAR OFFICE" statement on reverse.

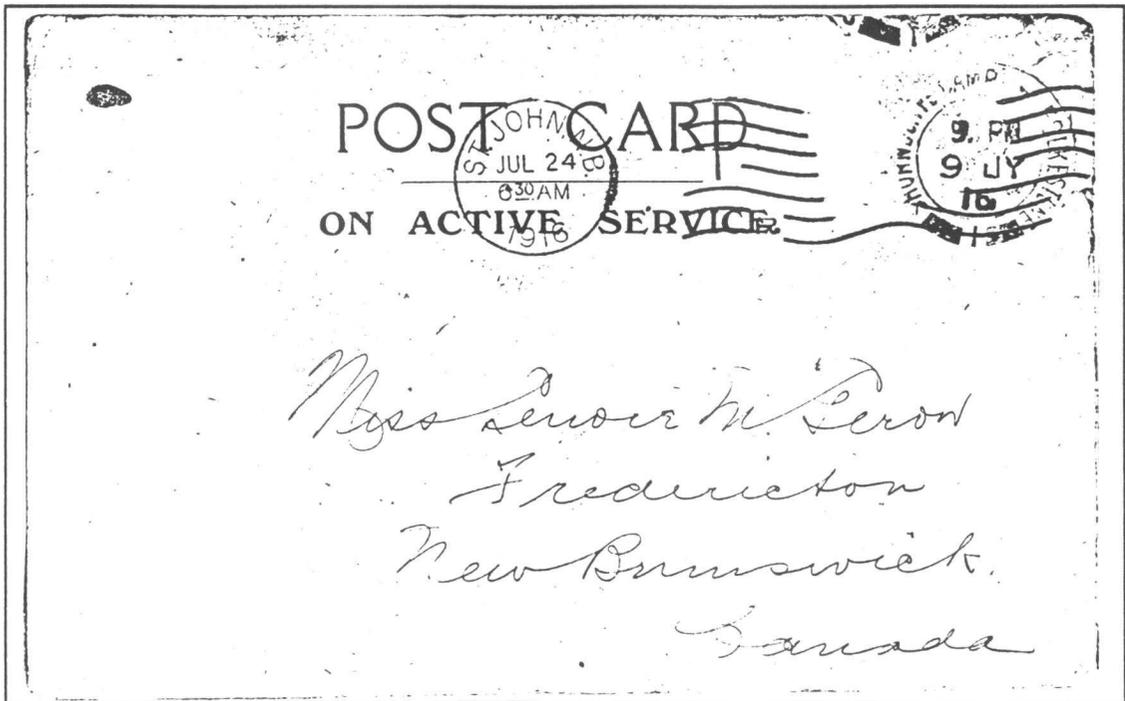
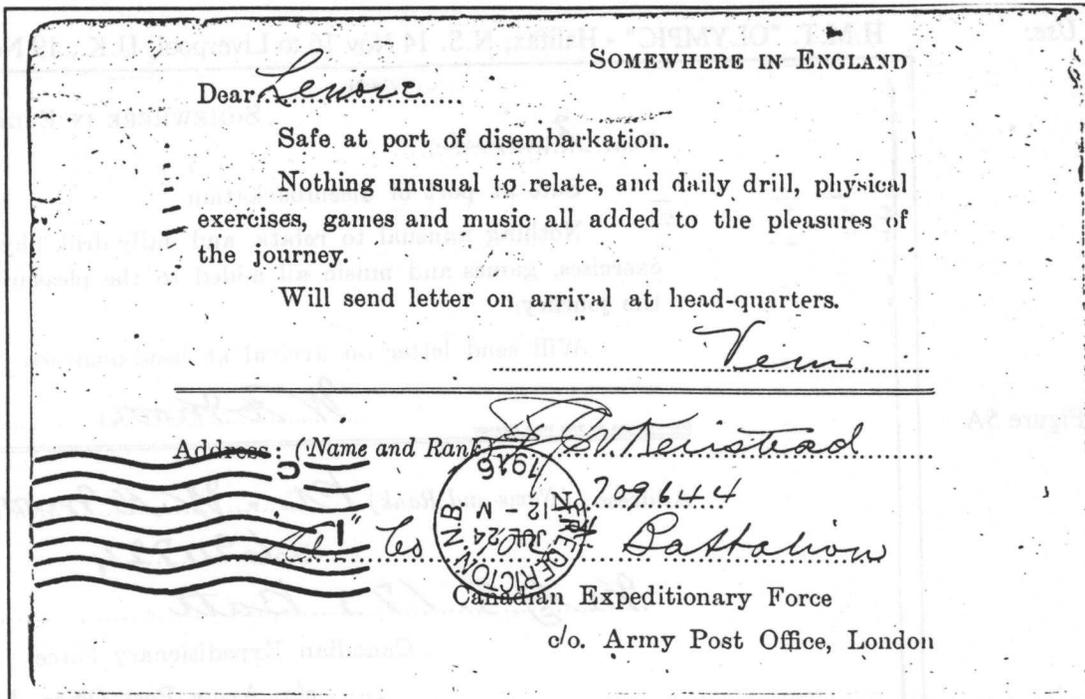


Figure 4

Use: H.M.T. "OLYMPIC" - Halifax, N.S., 29 JUN 16 to Liverpool, U.K., 5 JUL 16.

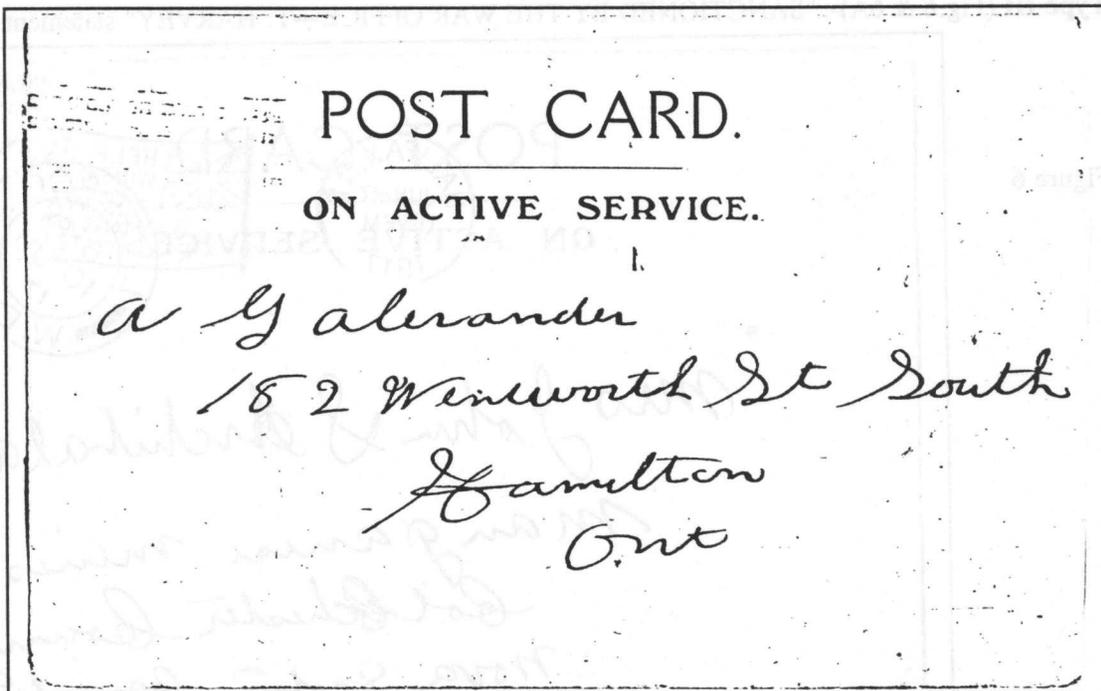
Figure 4A



Type II (Fig.5 & 5A) •

"SANCTIONED BY THE WAR OFFICE" statement on reverse.

Figure 5



Use: H.M.T. "OLYMPIC" - Halifax, N.S. 14 Nov 16 to Liverpool, U.K., 19 Nov 16.

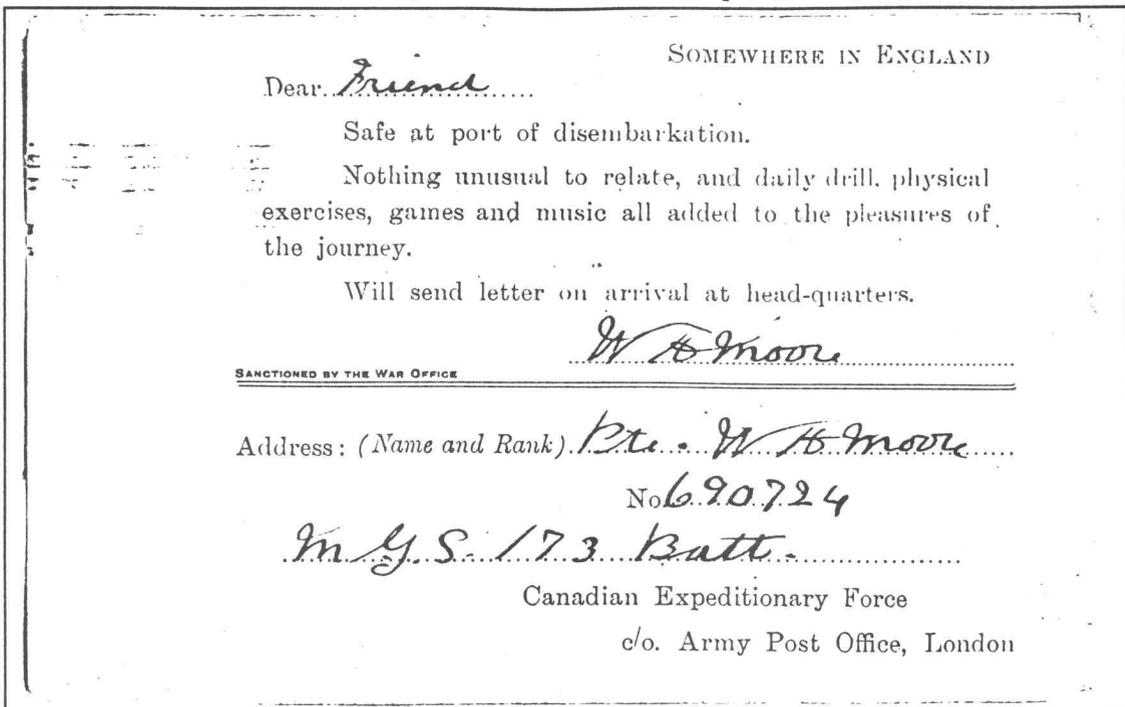


Figure 5A

Type III (Fig. 6 & 6A)- "SANCTIONED BY THE WAR OFFICE---T. HARVEY" statement on reverse.

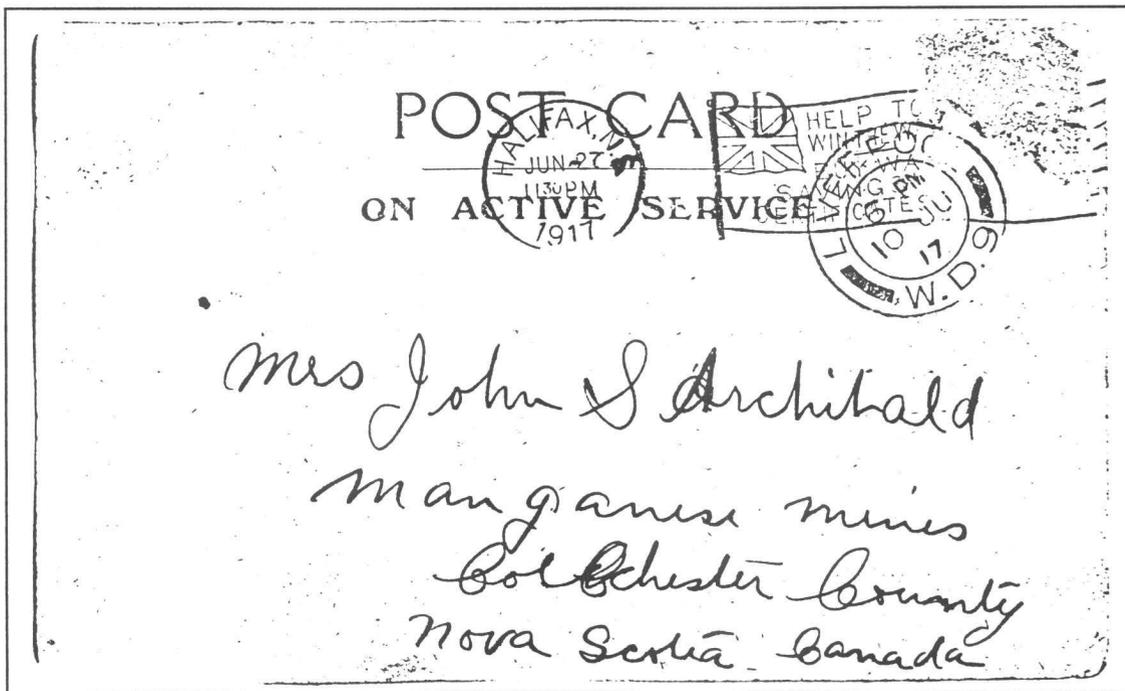


Figure 6

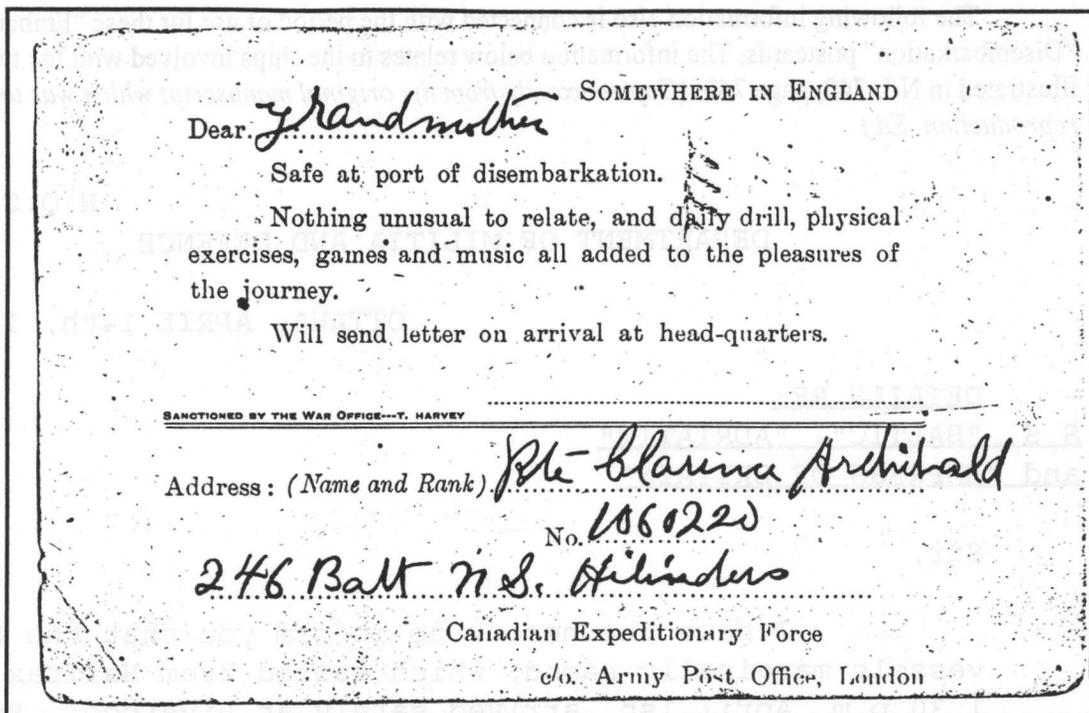


Figure 6A

Use: H.M.T. "OLYMPIC" - Halifax, N.S. 2 JUN 17 to Liverpool, U.K. 7 JUN 17

Note: In Type III (OB) the "P" of "POST" is directly above the "N" of "ON", while in Types I and II (OB) the "P" is between the "O" and "N".

As no doubt everyone has observed, all these cards were used aboard H.M.T. "OLYMPIC", and because of this, I have come to the following conclusions:

1. These were not "OFFICIAL" government issue stationary. If they were, they would have had a printing code or number and also would not have had the "SANCTIONED BY..." statement on them.
2. These cards were only used on H.M.T. "OLYMPIC". It seems more than mere "coincidence" that after more than 15 years, the only six cards I've seen are off "OLYMPIC". This statement could be easily disproved if someone can find one that wasn't used on her and to that end, I would be willing to check the date of any card held by our members. All I require is either a data or BN number from the card.
3. As everyone of the above card is different, these cards can only be described as "very scarce" to find as a group and "rare" as to individual types.

The following information also is connected with the period of use for these "Embarkation" and "Disembarkation" postcards. The information below relates to the ships involved with the two cards illustrated in N/L 740, page 749. (Copied exactly from the original manuscript which was too dark for reproduction. Ed.)

H.Q.C.593-3-25

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE

OTTAWA, APRIL 14th, 1916

DETAILS RE:

S.S. "BALTIC", "ADRIATIC"
and "EMPRESS OF BRITAIN"

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the three vessels marginally named, which sailed from Halifax, N.S. at 1.30 p.m. April 1st, arrived safely at Liverpool, Eng. at 3 p.m. on the 9th idem with the following troops on board: -

S/S "BALTIC"56th Overseas Battalion - Calgary

40 Officers,
1070 Other Ranks

62th Overseas Battalion - Vancouver

36 Officers
1037 Other Ranks

No.6 General Hospital (Laval Univ'y) - Montreal

38 Officers
45 Nurses
196 Other Ranks

C.O.T.C. ContingentUniv. of British Columbia - Vancouver

3

Univ. of Alberta - Edmonton

7

Univ. of Toronto - Toronto

35

Naval Ratings

3 Officers

87 Other Ranks

Civilian Medical Practitioners for R.A.M.C.

Lieut. G. Joyce

" D. L. Mckenna

Dr. G. T. Nelson

Details

Capt. W.H. Taylor, 9th Art'y. Bde.

Lieut. H.C. Hill, 89th Battalion

" A.F. Cote, A.M.C.

Pte. T.D. Gervan, 23rd Res. Batt'n

" A.S. Faulkner, A.S. C. (Imp. Chauff)

S/S "ADRIATIC"64th Overseas Batt'n - Halifax

38 Officers

1089 Other Ranks

73rd Overseas Batt'n - Montreal

36 Officers

1033 Other Ranks

No. 8 Field Ambulance - Calgary

10 Officers

182 Other Ranks

Details

Lieut. J.H. McCoy-16th (O.S.) Batt'n

S/S "EMPRESS OF BRITAIN"53rd Overseas Batt'n - Winnipeg

35 Officers
1063 Other Ranks

74th Overseas Batt'n - Toronto

34 Officers
1046 Other Ranks

75th Overseas Batt'n - Toronto

36 Officers
1114 Other Ranks

"A" Sect. No.1 Field Ambulance Depot-Draft-Winnipeg

1 Officer
75 Other Ranks

"C" Sect. No.1 Field Ambulance Depot-Draft-Calgary

2 Officers
39 Other Ranks

"C" Sect. No 2 Field Ambulance Depot-Draft-London

1 Officer
30 Other Ranks

Field and Heavy Artillery draft-Quebec

1 Officer
61 Other Ranks

DETAILS

Colonel Meighan & batman - 87th Batt'n

Major E.A. Williams, att'c R.C.D.

Pte. W.R. de Groat -- A.M.C.

The Deputy Postmaster General,

Ottawa,

(SGD)

Ont.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient Servant,

EUG. FISET

Surgeon-General

Deputy Minister.

(Here are the figures for the "Olympic". Ed.)

149 S.S. "OLYMPIC"

Embarked at Halifax 12th October. 1916.

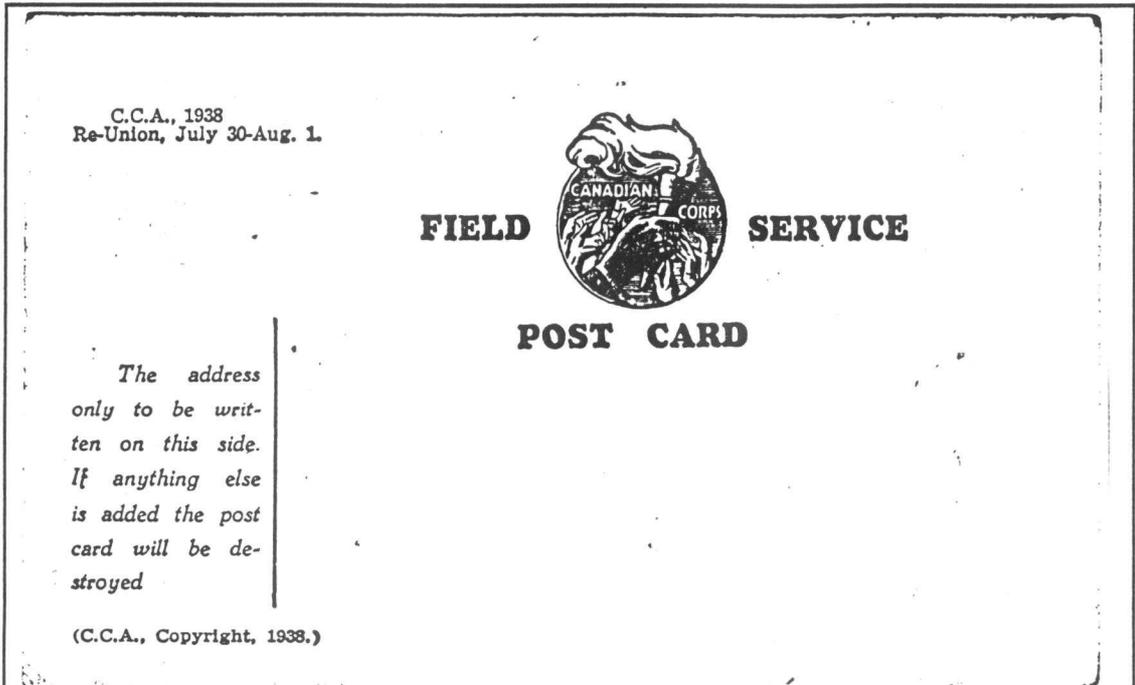
Units &c.	Officers	O.R.	Total
188th O.S. Bn., Camp Hughes	32 "	1004	1035
Hdqrs. Staff N.S. Highland Bde Aldershot	4	4	8
85th Os. Bn.	" 34	1001	1035
185th "	" 33	1008	1041
193rd "	" 32	1020	1052
219th "	" 33	997	1030
½ of 166th " Camp Borden	18	485	503
Supernumerary Officers 97th Bn	23		23
C.A. DENTAL CORPS	10	27	37
Naval details		37	37
Royal Flying Corps	32	--	32
I.M.C.A. Representatives	6		6
Details	17	6	23
Lascar Seamen		125	125
TOTAL-	274	5714	5988

Field Service Post Cards Imposters

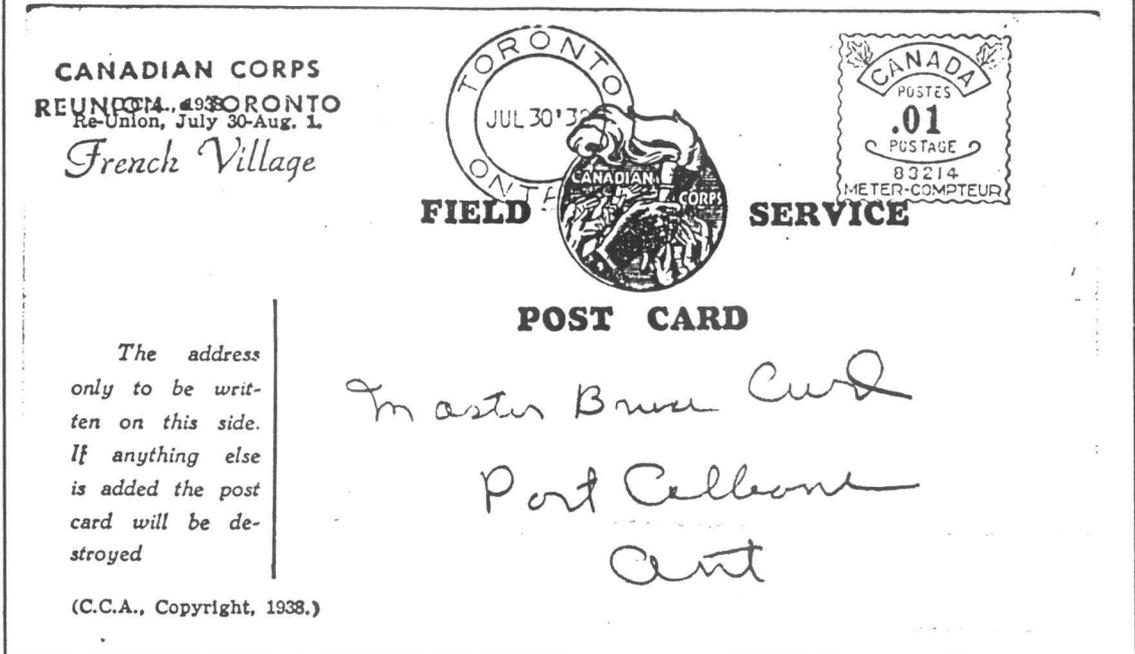
John Frith

Two examples of post-World War I cards produced by the Canadian Corps Association spoofing the original cards.

Unused card, front



Used card, front. The meter is printed in red.



NOTHING to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

(Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.)

I have been a { good boy
bad boy

I only took { one look
three looks
at Mademoiselle from Armentieres in the French Village.

I have been promoted to { Sanitary fatigue
Horse lines
Corps Headquarters

The General said to me you are looking { Younger
Brighter
Sober
Lousy
(Name)

And I said to the General { And you
Thank you
..... you

Letter follows at first opportunity but in the meantime follow our doi... in The Globe and Mail.

Signature only

Date

Issued under authority of Canadian Corps from their main base. the Dominion of Canada.

(Copyright, Canada, 1938, Canadian Corps Assn.)

NOTHING to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

(Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.)

I have been a { good boy
bad boy

I only took { one look
three looks
at Mademoiselle from Armentieres in the French Village.

I have been promoted to { Sanitary fatigue
Horse lines
Corps Headquarters

The General said to me B.F.K.T. you are looking { Younger
Brighter
Sober
Lousy
(Name)

And I said to the General { And you
Thank you
..... you

Letter follows at first opportunity but in the meantime follow our doi... in The Globe and Mail.

Signature only

Date July 30, 1918.....

Issued under authority of Canadian Corps from their main base. the Dominion of Canada.

(Copyright, Canada, 1938, Canadian Corps Assn.)

Unused card, reverse.

Used card, reverse

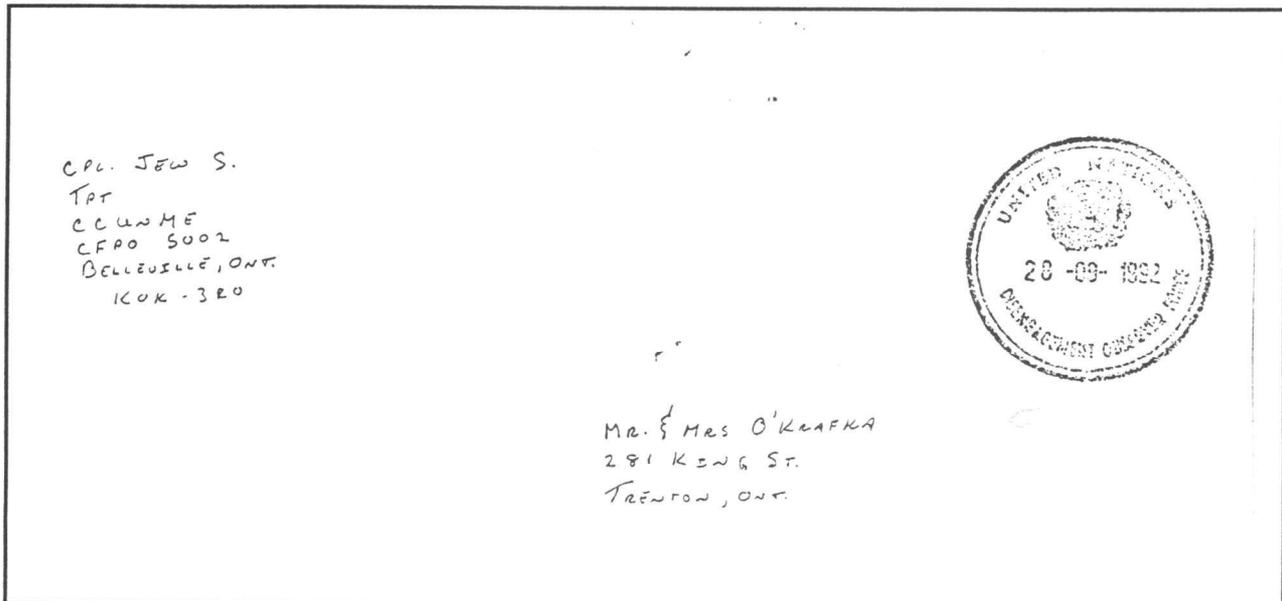
The Observer

The May/June issue of the Australian Forces Mail Research Group Newsletter contains a number of interesting items on Australians in Somalia, Boer War postcards, Defence Forces Customs Declarations and a page and a half on AIF Base and Command depots in England during WW I. The issue concludes with an item on "Phono Post" as used to Australian Forces in Vietnam.

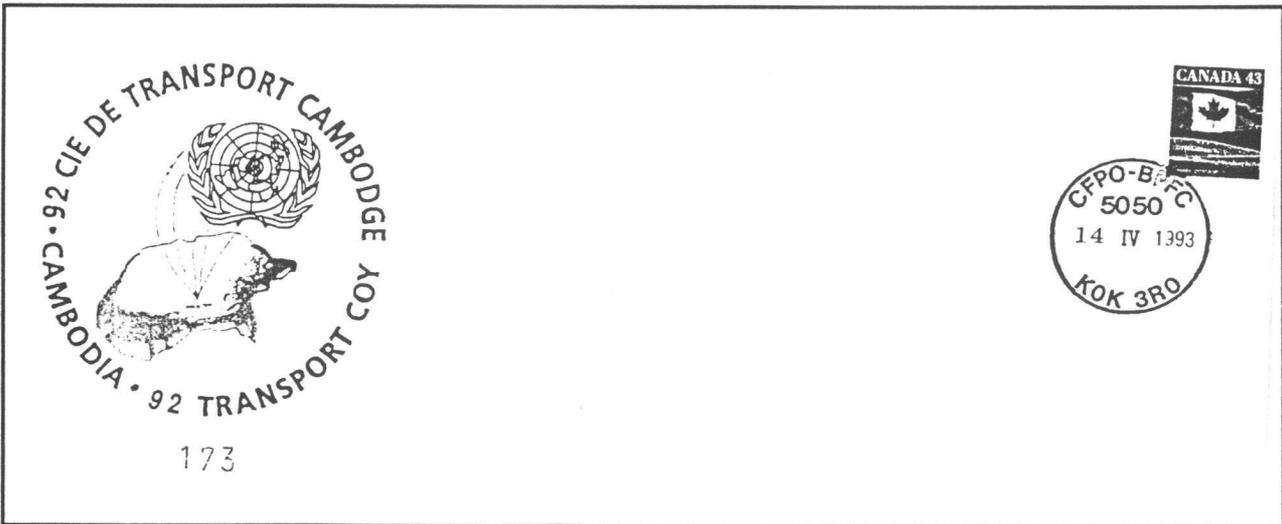


UN Updates

With the recent proliferation of United Nations peacekeeping and other missions, it is sometimes difficult to keep up with the postal markings. Here are two from recent years: CFPO 5002 in the Golan Heights and CFPO 5050 in Cambodia.



Cachet applied is UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE. The Canadians in UNDOF are served by CFPO 5002.



Canada's contribution to the Cambodia mission included 92 Transport Company and postal service provided by CFPO 5050.

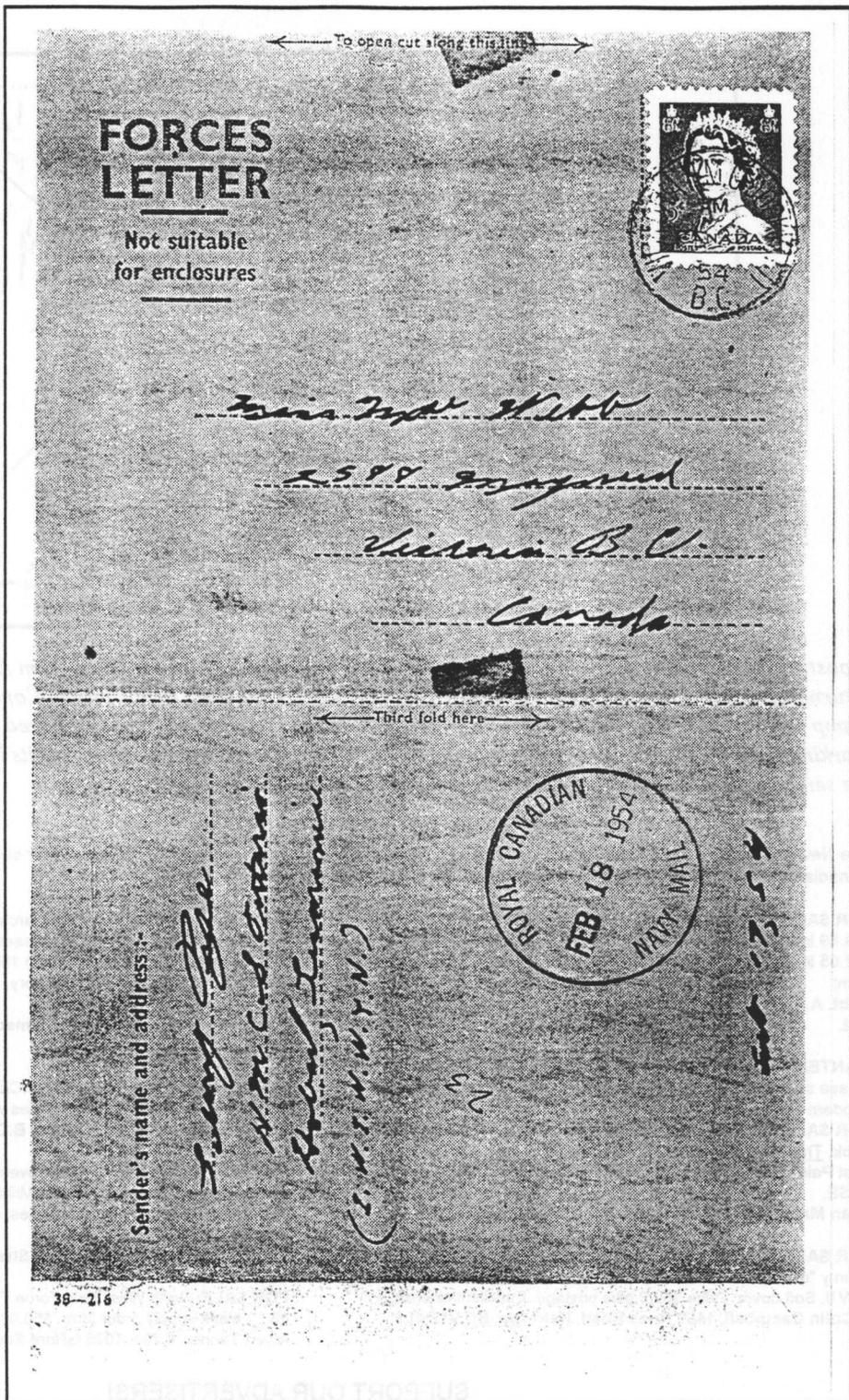
HMCS Ontario Redux

Wilfred D. Whitehouse

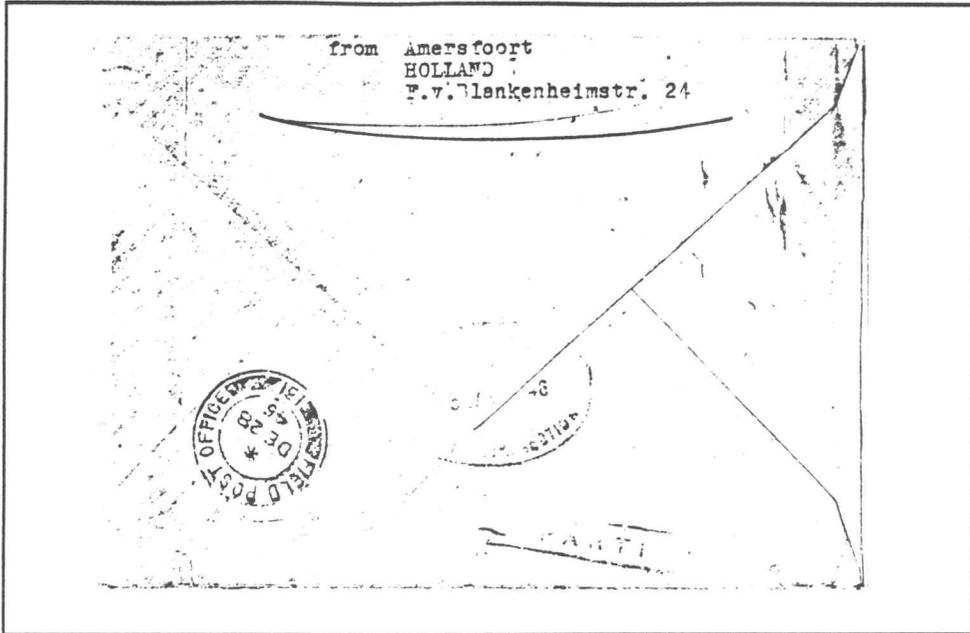
In NL No. 113, David Collyer asked for information regarding the cruise to Australia by HMCS Ontario in 1954. The illustration below is of a similar aerogramme to the one he described as having been mailed from Hobart on 18 February and which arrived at Victoria - HMC Dockyard on 22 February. The cachet "ROYAL CANADIAN / date / NAVY MAIL" was applied aboard ship and was used on mail when away from the ship's home port, in this case Esquimalt, BC.

HMCS Ontario never served in Korean waters. The ship departed Esquimalt on 12 January 1954 and after a number of stops arrived in Hobart on 11 February 1954. There it joined other Commonwealth ships prior to the arrival of HM The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

If David Collyer would like more information on this cruise of HMCS Ontario, I would be happy to help him.



Cover-Cover



A postwar registered letter sent to a soldier in the R.H.L.I. (part of 4 Cdn Inf Bde) from Amersfoort, Holland. It was returned to sender, because he had been SOS to Canada, as indicated by the purple Canadian Overseas Postal Depot stamp on the front. The reverse bears an FPO 131/DE28/45 handstamp, a purple boxed "PARTI" and an oval marking from the Postal Tracing Section (3 JAN 46). The letter eventually made it to its intended recipient, because the sender mailed it to his home address in Canada.

Small Ads

The Newsletter will accept small ads from members. One insertion of up to four lines for a Loonie! (For our overseas friends, that's a Canadian dollar) Send your ad with real money or mint (Canadian preferred) stamps.

FOR SALE: CMSG MILITARY MAIL ANTHOLOGY. Hard Cover - \$44.89 in Canada; US\$40.00 for USA and overseas; Soft Cover - \$32.05 in Canada; US\$30.00 for USA and overseas; Post Paid. Order from:
Robt. A. Lee, #203-1139 Sutherland Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 5Y2.

WANTED: Falklands Island invasion material (yes, Falkland Islands!). Please send photocopies/prices desired. Have material for trade (modern Canada/UK/USA).

FOR SALE: Booklet "The Alberta Field Force of '85" (1931) VF @\$21; Book, The North-West Rebellion (1886), Ex. Libris, VG @\$80 (Both Post Paid). Lots of items in a "mini-auction" sale for postage/large SASE.

Dean Mario, Box 342, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3.

FOR SALE: DEEMED SUSPECT by Eric Koch. The story of 2290 enemy "aliens" from Germany and Austria interned in Canada during WW II. Soft cover. Price \$5.00 plus postage. Excellent reference.
J. Colin Campbell, 1450 Ross Road, Kelowna, BC V1Z 1L6.

WANTED: INFORMATION. Researching movements/locations/dates of West Nova Scotia Regt. (3CIB); Essex Scottish (4CIB); North Nova Scotia Highlanders (9CIB); while in Britain 1939-44. Does any member have access to War Diary or Regt. History, or know a veteran of these battalions?

Kim Dodwell, Middle Ho., Cruckmeole, Hanwood, Shrewsbury, SY5 8JN, U.K.

WANTED: FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE Canadian covers. (See article in N/L 109); even photocopies will do!

Ken V. Ellison, R.R. #1, Oyama, B.C., V0H 1W0.

NEWFOUNDLAND WANTED: Covers to and from Newfoundland servicemen, all periods. Civil and Military censorship covers concerning Nfld. also desired. Send photocopies, even if you do not want to trade the material.

Doug Hannan, 23 - 1950 Burtch Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 4B2.

FOR SALE: North West Field Force Transport Office Qu'Appelle Station 18_, blank supply order form. \$50.00.
Albert Tanner, # 201, 1025 Gilford Street, Vancouver, BC V6G 2P2.

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