



## Canadian Military Mail Study Group

OUR  
25<sup>th</sup>\*  
YEAR!

### NEWSLETTER

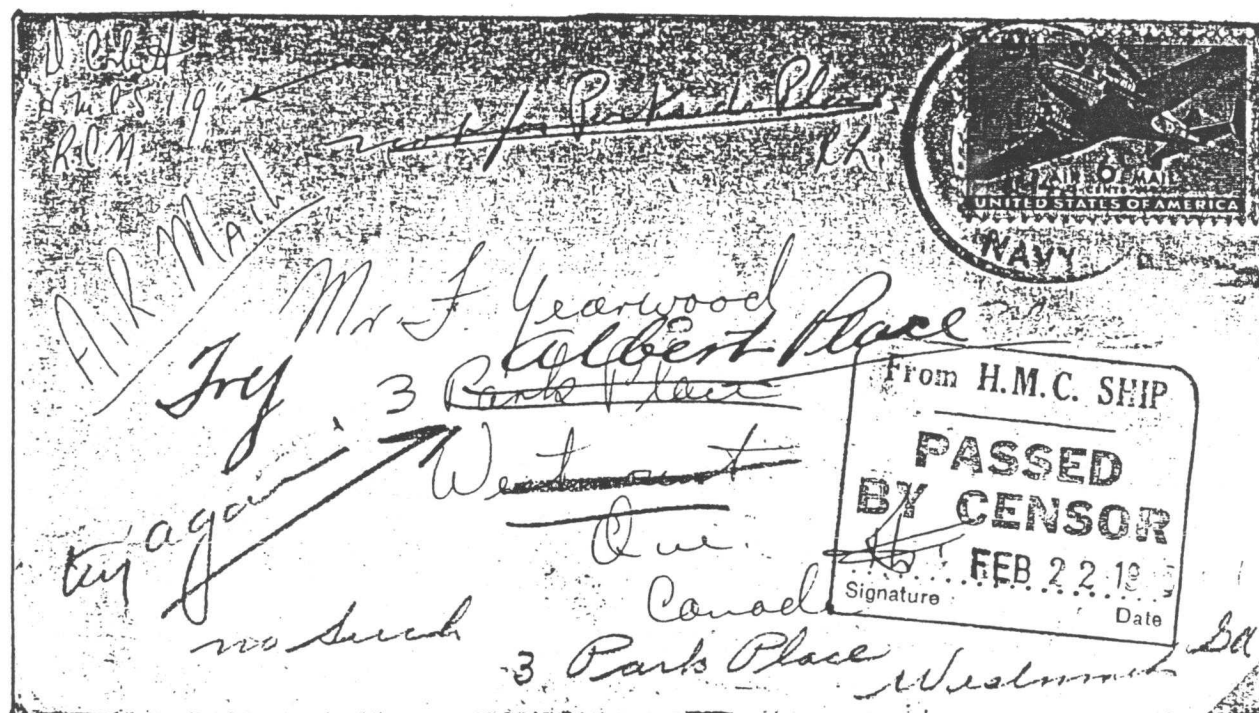
AUGUST 1998

NEWSLETTER NO. 136

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HMCS OAKVILLE--By W.G. Robinson

This corvette, Pendant No. K178, was commissioned on November 18, 1941. It was employed on the Eastern Sea Frontier, guarding convoys from New York to Guantanamo, Cuba, from December 1, 1942 to March 22, 1943.



This cover was mailed through a U.S. Navy postal facility on February 22, 1943. It has an R.C.N. censor marking of the same date, and backstamps of "Montreal Station 'M'" and "Montreal Westmount" dated February 25. It was probably mailed from New York.

Ship identification is possible because of the return address "H.M.C.S. 119". Canadian Confidential Naval Orders No. 392 of August 18, 1944 shows this number was allotted to Oakville. The ship was sold to Venezuela in 1946 and served as Patria until being scrapped in 1962.

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CHAIRMAN/TREASURER: W.J. BAILEY, #5-8191 FRANCIS RD., RICHMOND, BC V6Y 1A5  
EDITOR: D. MARIO, BOX 342, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3

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THE CMMSG AT 25!

A brief history of our Study Group, given this important occasion, is relevant in this issue. On September 21, 1973 the BNAPS Canadian Military Mail Study Group was "born". The event was BNAPEX '73 in Calgary and the late (and great) postal historian Ed Richardson, along with several others, felt that such a group was important and necessary. Fourteen "charter" members joined at an initial meeting: Ed Richardson, J. Colin Campbell\*, Ed Harris\*, Ken Ellison\*, Michael Dicketts, Robert Baker, Del Allen, Dr. E.L. Covert\*, R.J. Wooley, C.A. Stillions\*, J.S. Karr, James Lehr, Brian Horne, and W.H. Howes.

J. Colin Campbell was the Group's first Chairman/Editor and issued the first Newsletter in October 1973. Ken Ellison was the Sec.-Treasurer. Both dedicated individuals held these positions for fifty issues! The early editions, comprised of one to three pages, were filled with important information, research, surveys, and new discoveries. Ed Harris had volunteered to do the Group's photocopying (these machines were rather scarce back then!), and after many issues was relieved by Sid Bedwell.

This is an important anniversary for students of Canadian military cancellations, postmarks, covers, and postal history. The Group has preserved a vital aspect of Canadian military history by the study, research, and publication of military mail. The Anthology, a celebration of the Group's first 100 Newsletters under the guise of former Editor Ken Ellison and our late Chairman E.R. "Ritch" Toop, could not have been possible without the dedication of our members. We owe these members a debt of gratitude and hope that their legacy and the CMMSG will survive and thrive for the next twenty-five years!

\*Current Group members

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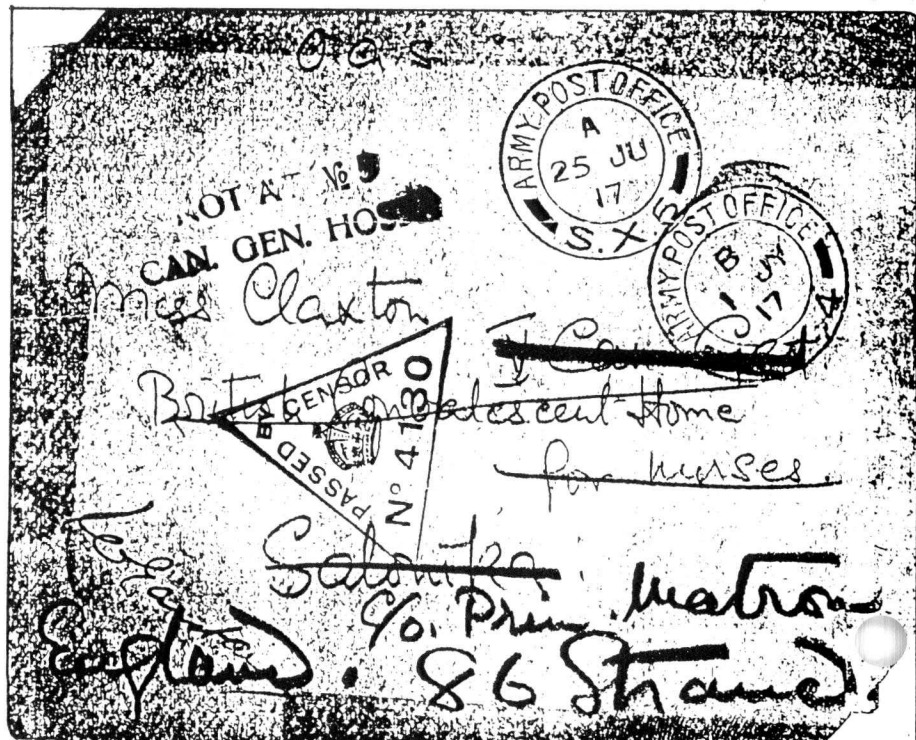
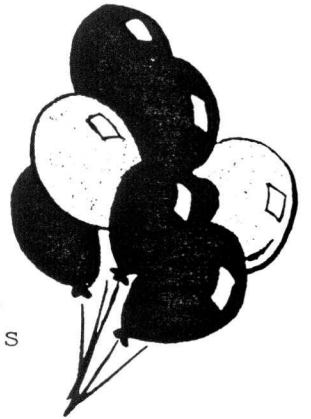
RE-DIRECTED 1917 N/S COVER--By Colin Pomfret

A cover to Canadian Nursing Sister H.C. Claxton at the British Convalescent Home for Nurses with APO S.X.6 (Vertekop), BAPO X 29 JU 17 backstamp (Salonika), and APO S.X.4 (Kalamaria); and redirected to "V Can.Gen." and stamped there "NOT AT No. 5/CAN.GEN.HOSP."; and redirected from there with [manuscript] "c/o Prin. Matron/86 Strand/England".

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# BNAPEX '98

## Orlando, Florida



# THE 1939 ROYAL VISIT--RE-VISITED--By Wilf Whitehouse

John Wannerton's cover from HMCS Skeena dated aboard on June 14, 1939 (N/L 133, p. 327) is without doubt connected to the Royal Visit, or should we say, the Royal departure.

The Royal Couple left Halifax aboard the Empress of Britain on June 15, 1939, escorted by HMCS Saguenay and Skeena to the three-mile limit, at which point the escort was taken over by two Royal Navy cruisers HMS Glasgow and Southampton for the trip to Newfoundland.

A similar philatelic cover from Saguenay dated June 15 is illustrated in FIG.1. [The Saguenay and Skeena] were the only R.C.N. destroyers on the East coast at this time.

Returning to the article in connection with the Royal Visit to Vancouver and Victoria (N/L 128, pp. 276-77), covers from HMCS Restigouche and St. Laurent have come to hand (FIG.2).

It should be mentioned here that although the St. Laurent cover was cancelled aboard on May 29 at Vancouver, it did not enter the mail stream until June 1 at Victoria.

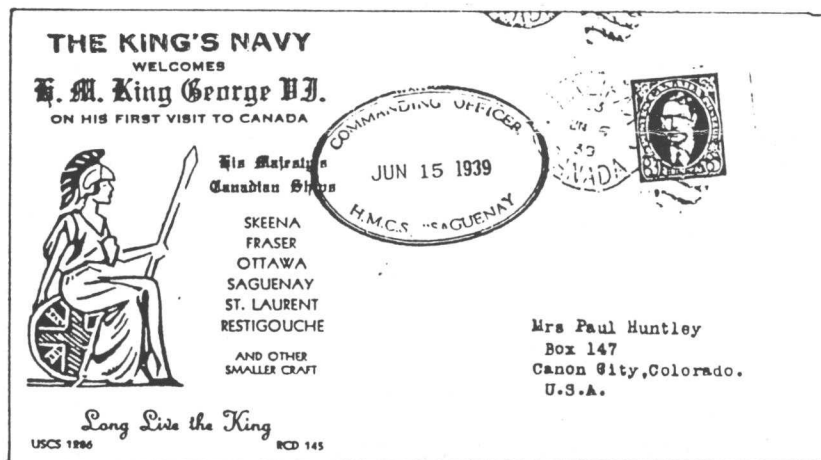


FIG. 1

There would be good reason for this delay. On May 30, the first day of the visit to Victoria, King George VI presented the King's Colour to the R.C.N. at Beacon Hill Park with the crews of all four ships very much involved in this ceremony. The next day, Thursday May 31, would be their first opportunity to deliver the mail to the Fleet Mail Office. It was also the day for Their Majesties to return to Vancouver aboard CNSS Prince Robert, with escort once again provided by the four destroyers.

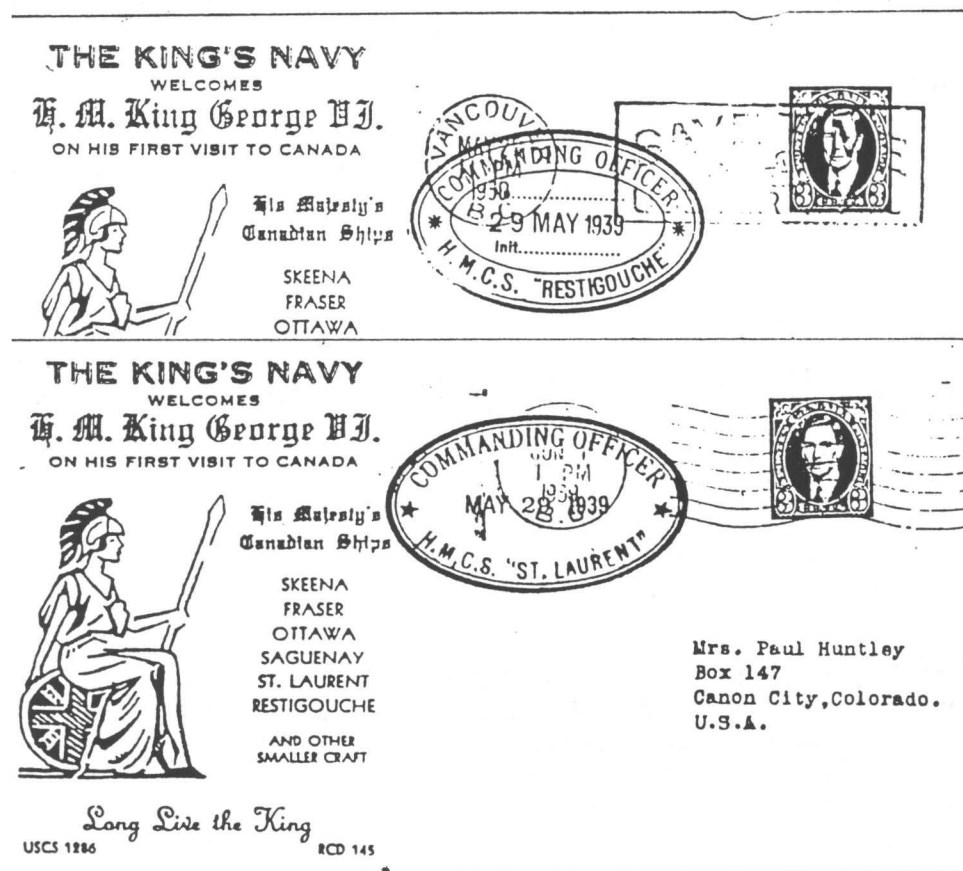


FIG. 2

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NEW CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY BOOK--By Mike Street**The Canadian Military Experience 1867-1995**

Third Edition. A bibliography by O.A. Cooke of published primary sources and secondary works on Canadian military topics, excluding poetry and fiction (with one exception), covering the period from confederation to the present. Entries in the bibliography represent printed monographs, books and pamphlets and serial titles. The prime criteria for inclusion was that the work be chiefly or uniquely both Canadian and military in its content. Index. Bilingual.

(Dept.: National Defence)  
• Softcover • 1997 • 16.5cm 24.5 cm •  
Cat. No. D63-1.2-1996 Canada \$17.95  
ISBN 0-660-60164-8



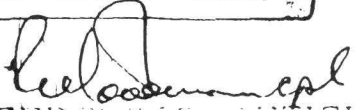
Mike sent in the information at left and I placed an order for it. Although I was initially sent the wrong book (with "interesting" results), the "right" one was worth the wait. It's a compilation of most of the literature (books, pamphlets, monographs) associated with Canadian military history. Periodical articles, newspapers, newsletters (including our own!) have been excluded. It is still a useful bibliography for anyone seeking more historical information behind that special cover (although postal history publications are sparse). Shipping and GST charges are extra. The book is 520 pages in length.

Canadian Government Publishing can be contacted at 1-800-635-7943 or (819) 956-4800 in the Ottawa-Hull region; Fax 1-800-565-7757 or (819) 994-1498;

Email: [publications@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:publications@pwgsc.gc.ca) or on the Internet: <http://publications.pwgsc.gc.ca> [...] The book is also available through bookstores.[Ed.]

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UNEF RCAF AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND, BEIRUT--By Willem Put

UNITED NATIONS  EMERGENCY FORCE		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>COMMANDING OFFICER</b>          HQ ATO          CAPD 1964          UNEF MIDDLE EAST       </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;">   <b>CERTIFIED OFFICIAL</b> </div>		
<p><u>Lettergram AE2011L d/14 May 64</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FLOWN FROM HQ UNEF BEIRUT LEBANON BY RCAF ATC</p>		

I would like to know more about the three-line rubber marking "FLOWN FROM HQ UNEF/BEIRUT LEBANON/BY RCAF ATC". I can guess what it means but wonder why this marking was placed on this apparently-genuine service cover? I have only seen the marking twice so far. When was it used? Was it for a particular transport and therefore only used for a limited time, and was there a special reason to use this three-line cachet, ie. what was the purpose of making the marking anyhow? [Members' responses to the Editor for future printing please.]

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This [stampless folded letter] was written by Captain Alexander Grant who was commissioned in the 71st Regiment, 1st. Battalion, in April of 1813. The Regiment was first raised in 1777 and was known as "The Highland Light Infantry" or the "City of Glasgow Regiment". Their nickname was "The Glesca Keelies Peninsular".

The 71st served twice in Canada, [from] 1824-1831 and 1838-1852. They arrived from Cork on June 23-25, 1824 on transports Prince of Orange, Cato, and Fanny. Detachments were dispatched to locations in Lower Canada. On June 1, 1829 they moved to York [now Toronto] with detachments at various locations in Upper Canada. In October 1831 the Regiment moved to Bermuda.

reduced 86%]

YORK  
DEC  
5  
UP-CAN

James Hunt  
Win  
Luck

3/

Captain Grant's letter (see illus.) was written January 17, 1831 to James Hunt, Wine Merchant, Quebec. The folded letter is on clearly-watermarked paper reading "G. Wilmot, 1830". This manufacturer was at Shoreham Hill, Kent, England. The postmark, in red ink is shown in similar form to the actual strike. The message to Mr. Hunt is brief:

York, U. Canada, 17  
January 1831

Sir,

I enclose a Bill for  
£66.3.6 Halifax Cur-  
rency, which be so good  
as credit to the Mess  
of the 71st Regt., and  
acknowledge the same.

Your Most Obt. Ser-  
vant,

S. Grant  
Captain 71 Regt.

The cost of postage was three shillings. Mr. Hunt answered on January 27.

Wine was a popular beverage in the Officer's Mess at that time and remains so to this day! Mr. Hunt apparently had a good supply of the "Right Stuff", and no doubt shipped many a barrel to the various British regiments serving in Canada until 1855 when the Canadian Militia Act was passed. The last British troops left the Dominion in 1906.

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PHSC'S E.R. "RITCH" TOOP MEMORIAL AWARDS

Members are reminded about the above awards which were instituted to honour the late "Ritch" Toop, OTB, FRPSC, one of Canada's foremost military postal historians, PHSC Director, and former Chairman of our Study Group. The criteria for the awards are as follows:

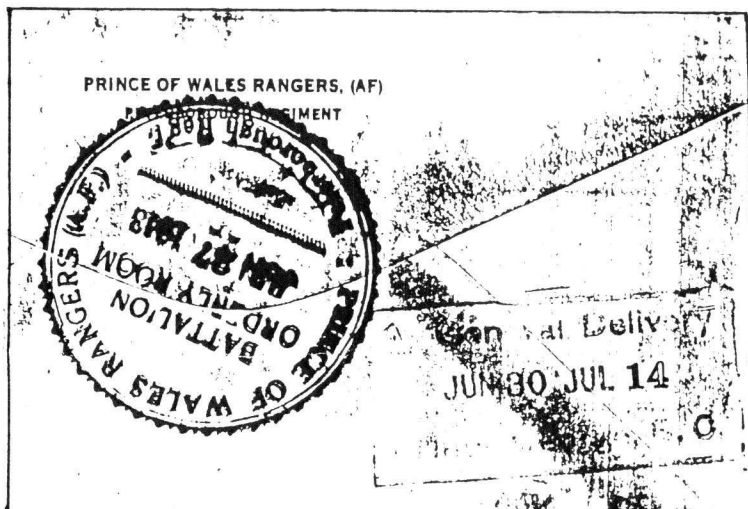
- 1) They will be awarded twice annually. Once at each of these national-level exhibitions: the Edmonton Spring National and at ORAPEX in Ottawa;
- 2) The award will consist of a plaque with the name of the recipient, PHSC logo, and where awarded;
- 3) This award will be offered to the exhibitor with the best military postal history exhibit as decided by the judges, irrespective of the country of origin of the material exhibited;
- 4) The exhibit must be awarded at least a Silver Medal in order to be considered. If no suitable exhibit is displayed, the award will lapse for that show;
- 5) An exhibit (not exhibitor) is eligible to win only one award;
- 6) The plaque becomes the property of the recipient.

A separate fund will be administered by the Treasurer of the Postal History Society of Canada for these awards and information can be provided by contacting G.R. Newman, 13 Scott Cresc., Perth, ON, K7H 3J4. [It's never too early to begin thinking about an exhibit for either of these two exhibitions and the award has become a prestigious honour among military collectors. Ed.]

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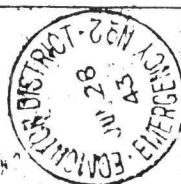
EMERGENCY RPO AT PRINCE GEORGE--  
By Kevin O'Reilly

Here's something which may interest members. I've had this cover for a while but don't know why there is an Edmonton Emergency



hammer [Ludlow E-25, Type 35A]. The Rangers were based at Prince George and probably used MPO 1108. Was the Emergency hammer used there or somewhere else?

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*Mrs. H. Heidman,  
General Delivery,  
Prince George  
B.C.*

# GREAT WAR INTERNMENT OPERATIONS, FORT HENRY--By Ken Ellison

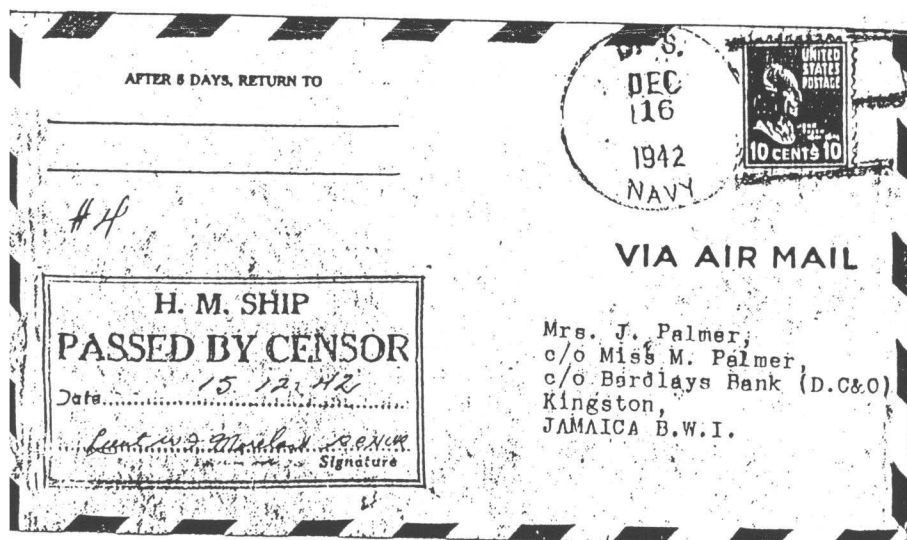
The original Fort Henry was completed in 1836. In a different role, it was commandeered to accept German prisoners of war on August 18, 1914. At one time there were as many as 515 prisoners in residence there. Not being the most suitable for the purpose, it was closed on May 3, 1917. The Austrians and Turks were allowed to go free, but the Germans were sent to other camps.



This cover was sent to a prisoner at Fort Henry and on its arrival there on August 11, 1916, the double-ring oval marking was applied.

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## H.M. SHIP CENSOR/RCNVR--By Jim Felton



Jim sent in this cover at left (reduced) and pointed out the interesting addition of the censoring officer in the R.C.N.V.R.

Can any of our members identify the ship from Lt. Moreland's presence in December '42? Responses would be welcomed! [Ed.]

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CAPO/CFPO POSTMARK DESIGNATION--By Robert Toombs

The Canadian Postal Corps was reactivated to serve the troops in Korea on November 1, 1950. As part of a military postal agreement between Canadian, American, and British Forces, Canadian Forces adopted the following designations for their postmarks: C.A.P.O. (Canadian Army Post Office; military main post office, four-digit numbers); and C.F.P.O. (Canadian Field Post Office; military sub-post office, two and three-digit numbers).

On January 1, 1965 all CFPO's and all CAPO's were redesignated as Canadian Forces Post Offices (CFPO's). This required a change of the four-digit CAPO postmark hammers to the CFPO format. The two and three-digit CFPO hammers did not require a change.

New cancelling devices were, however, not available until mid-February 1965. The table lists dates for "LAST DAY/FIRST DAY" of use of CAPO/CFPO postmark cancellers for the four-digit post offices.

FOUR-DIGIT MAIN OFFICES IN EUROPE (NATO)

<u>POST OFFICE NO.</u>	<u>CAPO LAST DAY</u>	<u>CFPO FIRST DAY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
5047	11 FEB 65	12 FEB 65	Decimomannu, Italy <sup>+</sup>
5050	???	???	Werl, Germany
5051	12 FEB 65	15 FEB 65*	London, England
5052	???	???	Metz, France
5053	11 FEB 65	12 FEB 65	Paris, France
5055	11 FEB 65	12 FEB 65	Zweibrucken, Germany
5056	11 FEB 65	12 FEB 65	Baden-Soellingen, Germany
5057	9 FEB 65	10 FEB 65	Marville, France

\*15 February fell on a Monday.

+FIG.1 & 2

FOUR-DIGIT MAIN OFFICES OUTSIDE OF EUROPE

5001	12 FEB 65	13 FEB 65	Nicosia, Cyprus (UNFICYP)
5049	Early CFPO use:	1 MAR 65	Rafah, Egypt (UNEF 1)

Notes:

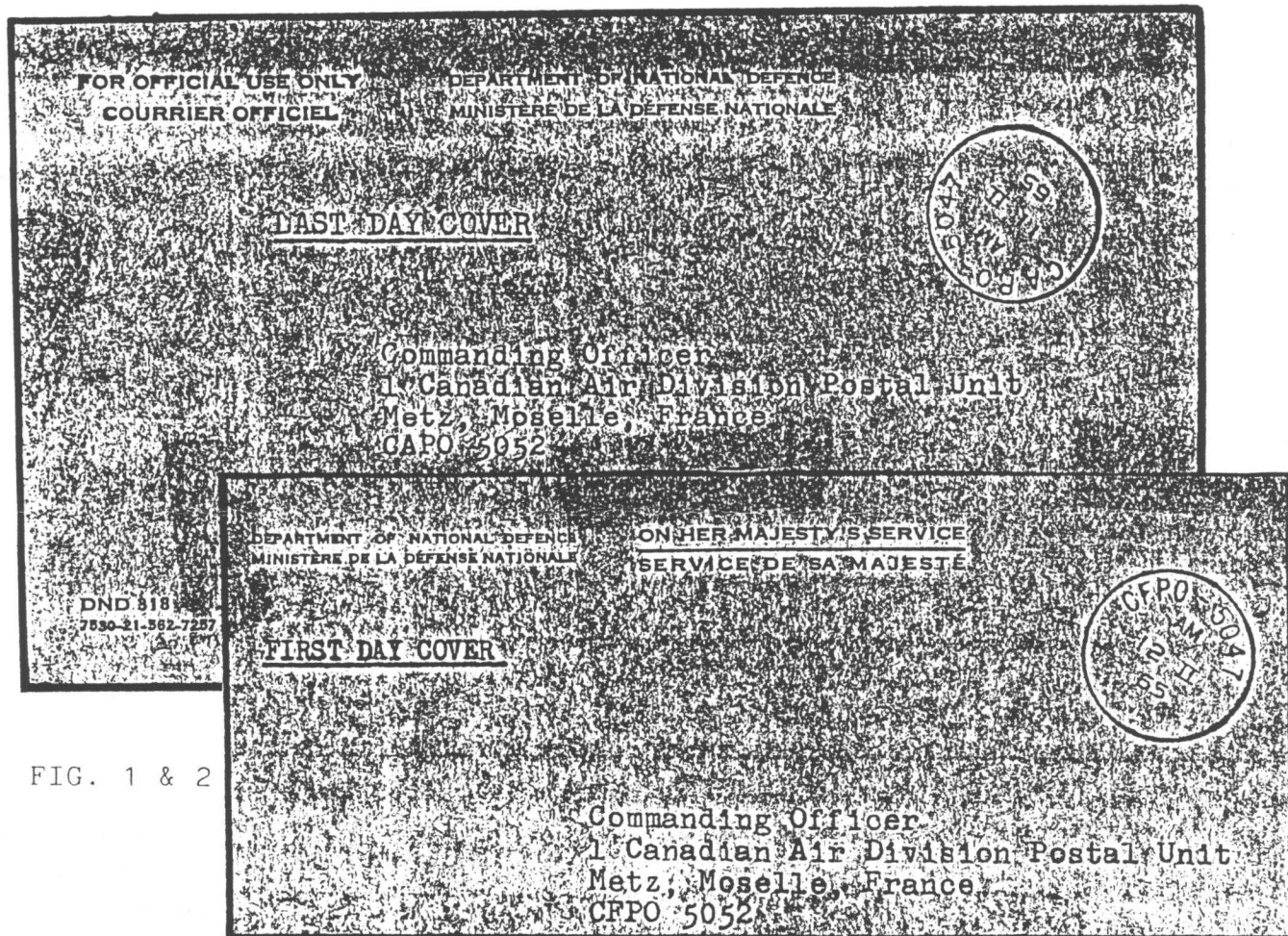
The following CAPO's were dormant during this transition period in early 1965 and hence are not tabled above: 5000, 5002, 5003, 5054, 5058. They received their CFPO cancellers when they re-opened at some future date beyond this point.

References:

1. Bailey, W.J., and E.R. Toop, Canadian Military Postal Markings, 1881-1995. Volume II (pp. 552-557). Waterford, Michigan: C.G. Firby Publications, 1996.

[Cont'd.]



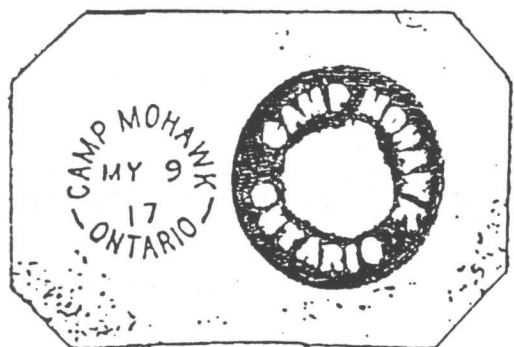


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# FIRST REPORT: CAMP MOHAWK-1917--By Colin Pomfret

[Colin Pomfret has recently discovered the only-known/reported postal usage of the Camp Mohawk broken-circle postmark (illustrated on the following page)! This marking has only been previously known in the "proof books".

The broken-circle and wax seal were previously featured in N/L 35, p.2 (Nov. 1979), whole number p. 191 (illustrated below). To refresh memories we'll re-examine an excerpt:



". . . [Camp] Mohawk began building in April 1917 and flight training commenced in May. Early in the summer . . . [Camp Mohawk and Camp Rathbun] housed 43 Wing (RFC) with Headquarters in nearby Deseronto.

By November 1918 accommodation was provided at Mohawk for 71 Officers, 320 Cadets, 69 Warrant Officers and Sergeants and 450 rank and file."].

[Cont'd.]

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Camp Mohawk,  
Ontario, Ju-  
ly 18, 1917.

A card from  
the Granville  
Canadian Spe-  
cial Hospital  
to Belleville,  
Ontario, and  
re-directed to  
Camp Mo-  
hawk.

The addressee  
was probably  
a civilian em-  
ployee of the  
43rd Wing,  
R.F.C., who  
was based in  
the town of

Deseronto. This second strike on July 19, 1917 of this hammer was prob-  
ably a despatching mark to the 43rd Wing H.Q. but hand delivered and by-  
passed the Deseronto P.O. [Congratulations Colin for an incredible find  
and thank you very much for sharing it with the membership. Ed.]

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Dear Fellow CMMSG Members:

I trust that everyone enjoyed their summer, certainly one of the hot-  
test on record! Fall days will soon indicate another collecting season  
and increased activity. This is a very special issue celebrating our  
Group's 25th anniversary! A great deal of information has resulted. Al-  
so in this issue is the first report of the rare Camp Mohawk broken-  
circle by Colin Pomfret. Where does he find these treasures? Our next  
issue in November will be our Christmas Newsletter, and the last of  
the expanded 12-page format. A new group of BNAPS Officers will be  
inducted at BNAPEX '98 in Orlando. Thanks to those retiring and good  
luck to the "new" Executive. Smooth sailing to our new President, E.L.  
Covert too, one of the founding members of our Group! Until November,  
good collecting!

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#### SMALL ADS

They're back! Members wishing to buy, trade, or sell material are in-  
vited to send their ad (\$1/insertion or mint Canadian stamps) to the  
Editor!

WANTED: WWII Airgraphs (Canadian/  
British). Also related envelopes,  
return to sender, notice cards.  
R. Stendel, 1041 N. Dee Rd., Park  
Ridge, IL USA 60068 (1/1)

FOR SALE/TRADE: Bailey/Toop's Cdn.  
Military Posts, V.II (1920-1946), VF  
condition. Will trade for Gould/Proud  
History British Army Postal Service,  
V.III (1927-1963). Contact the Editor. (1/2)

WANTED: Cdn. military postmarks  
on cover from Korean War. Needed  
for exhibit: CFPO 25 (without dash);  
CFPO 28(with/without); CFPO 29 (wi-  
out); CFPO 30 (with/without); CFPO  
32. Also registration/other mark-  
ings. S. Luciuk, 1542 E. Heights,  
Saskatoon, SK S7J 3B5. (1/3)

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