



Canadian Military Mail Study Group



NEWSLETTER

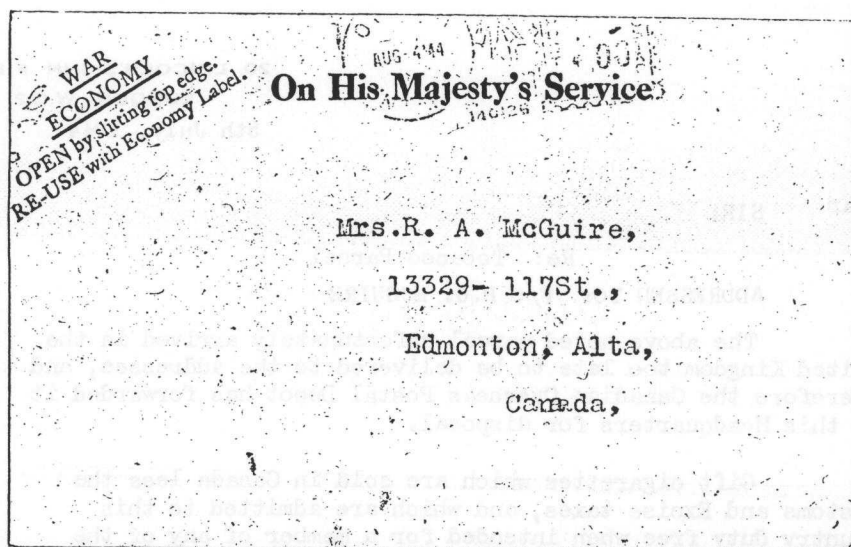
NOVEMBER 2003

NEWSLETTER NO. 162

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...WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Members know that the most common pieces of military mail often have interesting stories connected with them. Such is the case with the item below and the enclosure which follows.



This buff "War Economy" cover, dated August 4, 1944 with a red Ottawa meter, is innocent enough at first glance. What is a bit extraordinary is that it came with its enclosure: a rather ordinary form letter from the Overseas Headquarters, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, of the R.C.A.F. The following story concerning the cover and letter is pertinent at this time when we take a moment to honour and remember.

Flying Officer (N) Patrick Gregory McGuire, J20897, of Edmonton, was Killed In Action on February 25, 1944. He served with #115 Squadron ("Despite The Elements"). His Lancaster aircraft #LL-

[Cont'd.]

CHAIRMAN/TREAS.: C.D. SAYLES, 25 HOWARD BLVD., WATERDOWN, ON LOR 2H4
(saylesd@aecl.ca)

EDITOR: D. MARIO, P.O. BOX 342, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3

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644 went missing during night operations over Schweinfurt, Germany. P/O's D.A. Price and D.R. Robinson; SGT.'s R.G. Dennis (RAF), C.E.W. Gardner (RAF), J.J. Tobin (RAF); and F/O R.F. Nice (RAF) were also killed. F/O Navigator P.G. McGuire is buried in the War Cemetery at Durnbach, Germany.

Source: Allison, Les, and Harry Hayward. ...They Shall Not Grow Old: A Book of Remembrance. Brandon, MB: Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum, 1991.



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE
OVERSEAS HEADQUARTERS

20, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS,
LONDON, W.C.2.

5th July, 1944

Dear SIR:

Re: Tobacco Parcel

ADDRESSED TO: F/O P.G. MCGUIRE

The above noted parcel unfortunately arrived in the United Kingdom too late to be delivered to the addressee, and therefore the Canadian Overseas Postal Depot has forwarded it to this Headquarters for disposal.

Gift cigarettes which are sold in Canada less the Customs and Excise taxes, and which are admitted to this country duty free when intended for a member of any of the three Services, cannot be returned to the sender at home when the parcel fails of delivery. In the R.C.A.F. these cigarettes are distributed to hospitalized Canadian airmen and to aircrew returning from operations, and this has been done with the parcel sent by you.

It is disappointing that the parcel could not be delivered as you originally intended but it may be a consolation to you to know that your kindness has brought pleasure to other Canadians of the R.C.A.F. serving overseas. I trust that you will approve of the action taken.

Yours sincerely,

(L.S. Breadner) Air Marshal,
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief.

A PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED MILITIA MARKING--By C.D. Sayles

[Here is an unrecorded, presumably rubber type marking, from the "BRIGADE OFFICE/JUN 18 1896/MIL'Y. DIS'T. No.2" which Doug sent along. It was on a 1¢ postal stationery card sent from a Lt.Col. who planned on an inspection of "arms and armoury".]



* * * * *

NO.7 CDN. GENERAL HOSPITAL "EN ROUTE" CARD?--By Doug Lingard

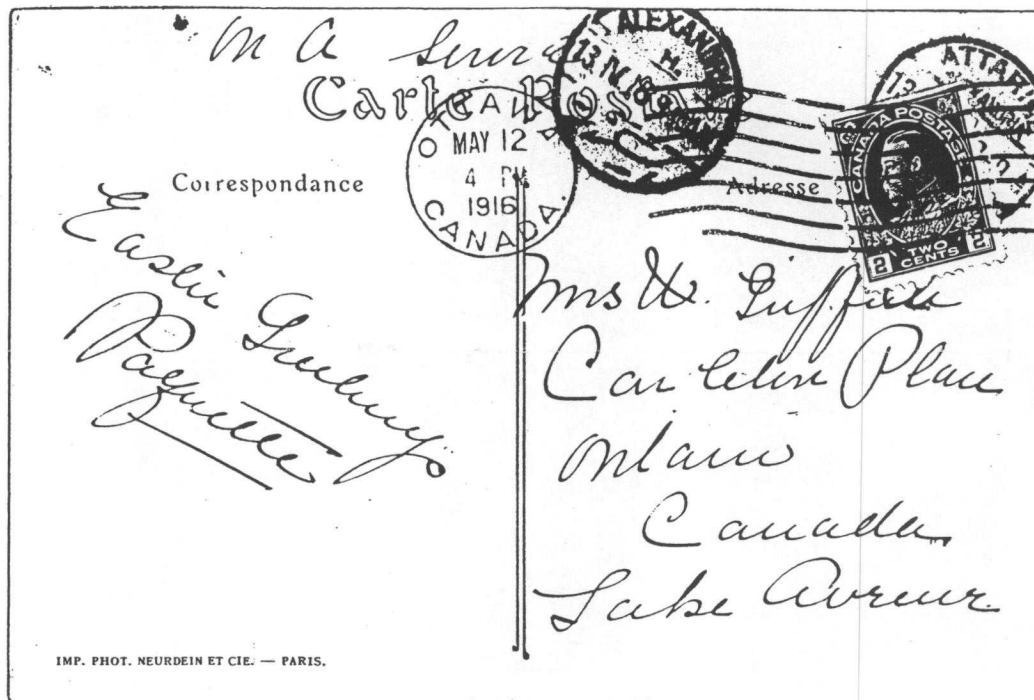
The following photocopy of a view card illustrates a possible posting by a member of the No.7 Canadian General Hospital (CGH) as the unit was transferring from Cairo to Le Treport in France. Bailey and Toop indicate in Volume II of Canadian Military Postal Markings that the hospital operated in Cairo, Egypt until April 10, 1916 and then began operating in Le Treport, France on April 22, 1916.

The card, addressed to Carleton Place, Ontario, has a manuscript "ON A

[Cont'd.]

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SERVICE" and appears to be from a Canadian since it has a 2¢ Admiral affixed to the card and the stamp is tied by an "Ottawa, May 12, 1916" machine cancel. Under the 2¢ Admiral there is an "ATTARINE/ALEXANDRIA" circular datestamp dated 8-9AM 13 APR 16 and there is an ALEXANDRIA transit dater with the letter "M" (for main post office?) that is dated 13 IV 16 9:30 AM.

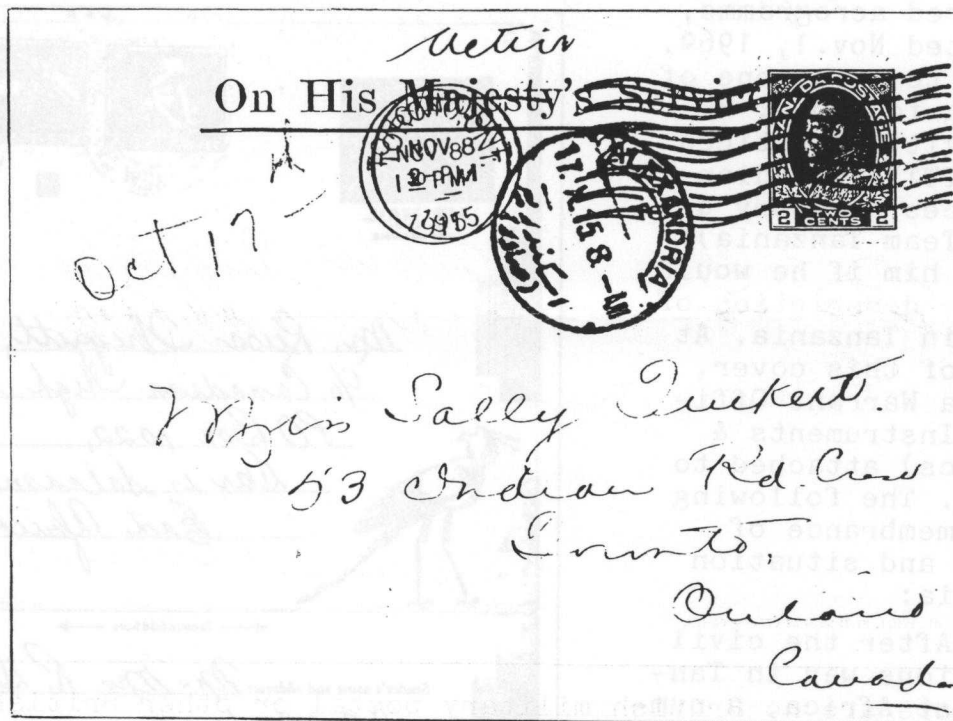


Since there are no British military postal or other British markings (eg. a censor marking) on the card, it was probably included in a bag of mail collected from the hospital staff and processed through the Egyptian postal system to Canada (as the hospital staff passed through Alexandria en route to France). The morning of April 13 is just three days after the hospital ceased operations in Cairo and they probably passed through Alexandria where it seems they would have embarked on a ship for France. Upon reaching Canada, the card was treated as regular Canadian "OAS" mail.

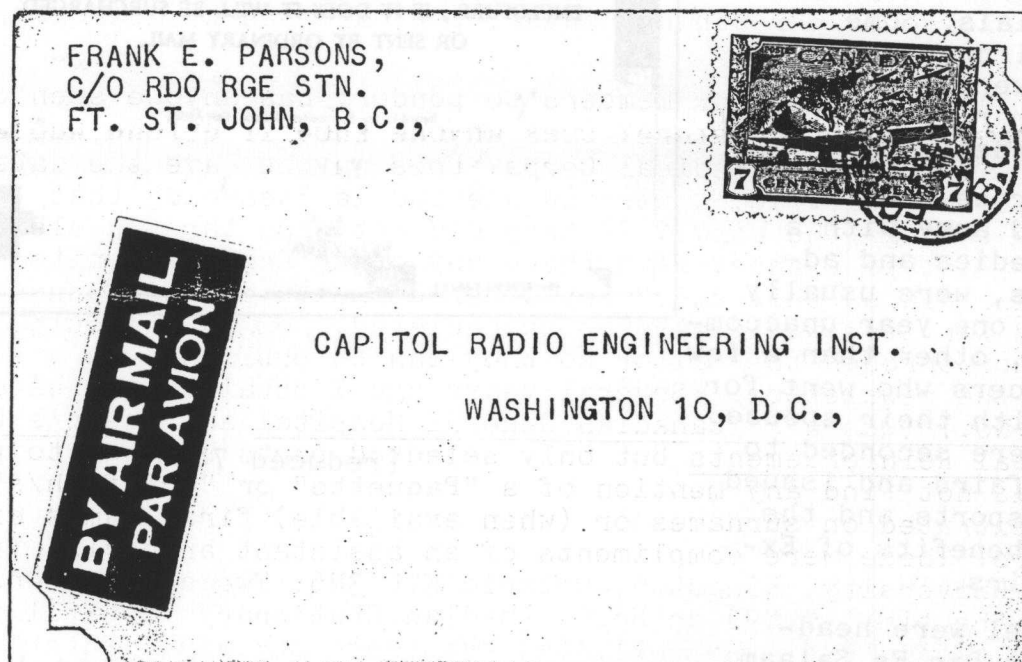
Here are a few questions for members to ponder: has anyone seen correspondence from "Paquette" before? Does anyone know if he/she was a member of the Canadian Army Medical Corps? Does anyone have the date(s) the staff of the No.7 C.G.H. were in Alexandria (assuming that they did indeed pass through the city)? If they did not pass through Alexandria, how did they get to France? Were there any other Canadian units in or around Alexandria on this date? Any other comments on this unusual First World War item would also be appreciated. Comments should be sent to the author through the Editor so they can be published in a future edition of the newsletter. [Several years ago I obtained copies of A History of No.7 (Queen's) Canadian General Hospital and Queen's University Hospital Reinforcements but only selected parts related to personnel. I could not find any mention of a "Paquette" or "Griffith/s" noted but I concentrated on surnames or (when available) first names of nursing sisters. These were compliments of an assistant archivist (Records) at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6. Two collections were present at the time (1989) on No.5 Canadian Stationary Hospital and No. 7 C.G.H. ie. Coll.3692a and Coll.1069 but these contained material

[Cont'd.]

primarily connected with the hospital/s in France. Hopefully members can help with some of Doug's questions. Following is another cover with some similarities to Doug's postcard but it was sent much earlier. The reverse has the notation "From Nursing Sister Tuekent(?)". I cannot find her listed in my various sources, and assistance from the membership would also be appreciated. Ed.]



RADIO RANGE STATION, FT. ST. JOHN--By Colin Pomfret



[Cont'd.]

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The preceding cover from Fort St. John, BC, dated February 1, 1944, bears the "Radio Range Station" within its return address. The R.R.S. broadcast a radio signal on a specific wave length as an aid to aerial navigation for the Northwest Staging Route.

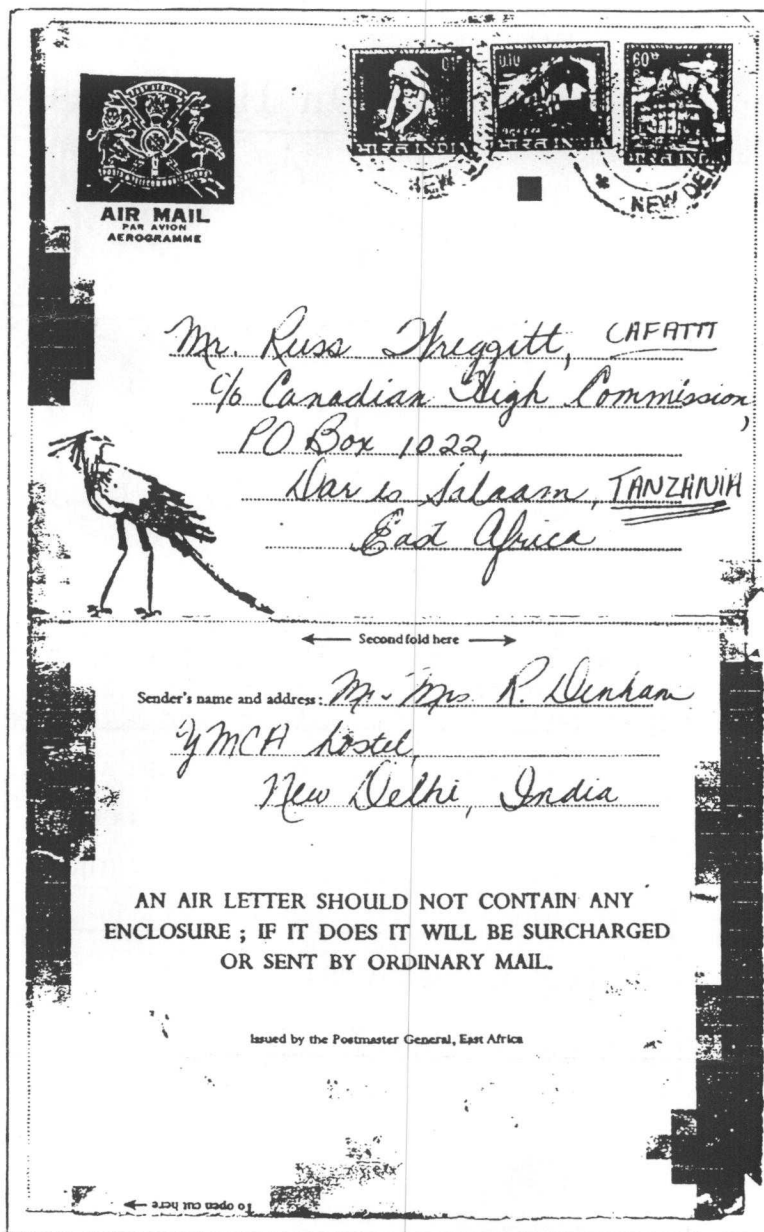
C.A.F.A.T.T.T.--By David H. Kelly

The pictured aerogramme, inside dated Nov. 1, 1969, was given to me by one of my golfing foursome, Mr. Russ Wreggitt. I noticed the "CAFATTT" (Canadian Armed Forces Advisory & Training Team Tanzania) and asked him if he would write up a description of his time in Tanzania. At the time of this cover, Russ was a Warrant Officer I/E (Instruments & Electronics) attached to this team. The following is his remembrance of this time and situation in Tanzania:

CAFATTT: After the civil and religious war in Tanzania, East Africa, a number of countries offered assistance. In 1965 Canada provided a five-year renewable programme to train troops and supply Caribou and Otter aircraft plus other materials. Some Tanzanian aircrew and groundcrew were trained in Canada; primarily at Trenton and Camp Borden.

Canadian Forces, mostly airforce and army with a few naval medics and administrators, were usually posted on a one year unaccompanied tour, other than a few senior officers who went for two years with their spouse. All troops were seconded to External Affairs and issued special passports and the associated benefits of External Affairs.

All personnel were headquartered in Dar Es Salaam,



[reduced 78%]

[Cont'd.]

the Tanzanian capital and a jewel of a city on the coast of the Indian Ocean, although many army troops were sent to various outposts where they lived with the native troops. They were often subjected to a number of deprivations such as fire ants, poisonous spiders and snakes, and various other insects and maladies.

Personnel in Dar were housed in three, three-floor buildings with separate one or two bedroom units, all within a large local housing development. One of each was designated for junior ranks, senior NCO's, and officers, and each had their own dining mess and social mess. Because of heat, working hours were generally 0700 to 1400 daily.

Many opportunities were available for unusual travel, eg. Mt. Kilimanjaro, Zanzitiar, Bagamoyo, Ngorogoro Crater, Lake Manyara etc., plus opportunities to catch malaria, yellow fever, and numerous tropical parasites. Flies were everywhere!

It was also an excellent area for snorkelling, swimming, boating, and fishing. Because the salinity of the Indian Ocean was quite high, floating was effortless.

The intent of the programme was to continue for subsequent five year periods but in 1968-1969, the Tanzanian government requested Canada to fund a railroad from Zambia to Dar. Canadian staff said it was uneconomical as did the Germans but the Chinese said it was feasible. They offered to do it as long as they received various trade concessions. Canada's five-year programme ended in December 1969.

One Canadian was killed in a flying accident. Captain W. Carscadden is buried in Nairobi. The last Commander of the group was G/C F. Sheffield and on shutdown, most assets were donated to local charities. A great experience for Canadians and a tremendous benefit to Tanzania.

With regards to the postal arrangements, all mail was sent and received through External Affairs. Mail to and from this team is probably quite scarce.

SMALL "CROWN OVER CIRCLE" CENSOR ADDITIONS--By Owen L. White

I can add to C.D. Sayles' previous summary (NL#161,p.695) a few No.316 examples:

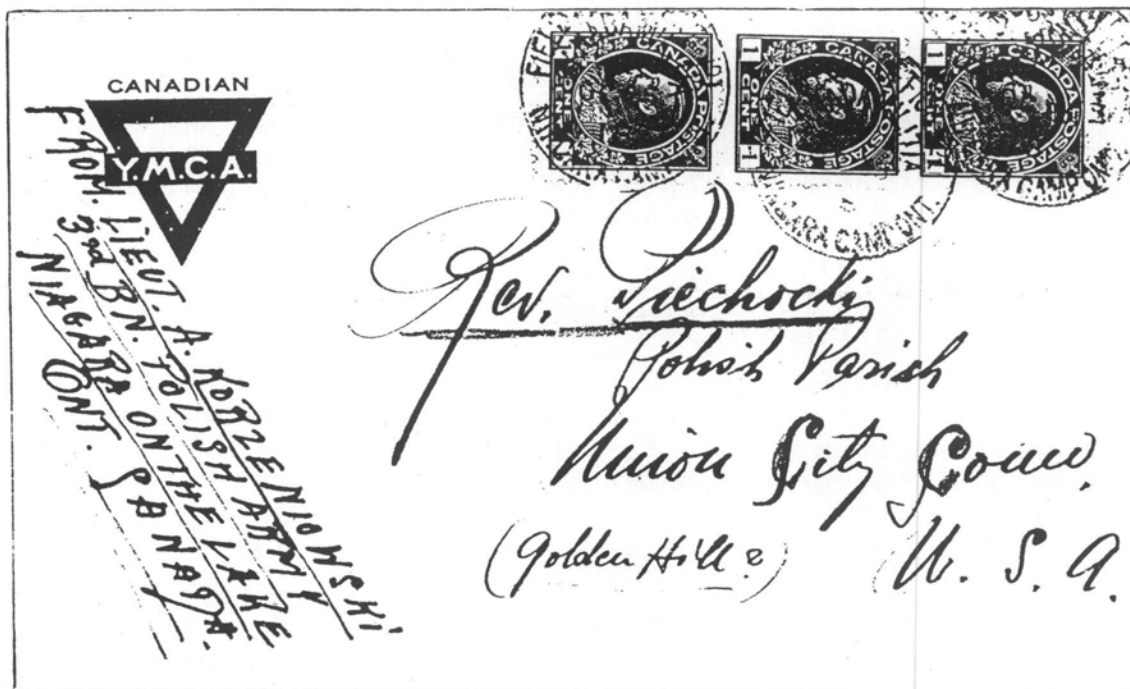
<u>Location</u>	<u>Unit Identified</u>	<u>Postmark</u>	<u>Destination</u>
Jamaica	Irish Fusiliers of Canada (Vancouver Regt.)	Oct.20, 1943 (new ERD)	Duncan, BC
"	None	Mar.2, 1944	Torrington, Alta.
"	Irish Fusiliers	Mar.14, 1944	Galt, Ont.
"	None	July 3, 1944	Torrington, Alta.
"	None	Sept.25, 1944	Peterborough, Ont.
? no stamp (cover marked "free")	None**	None	Tillsonburg, Ont.

**Guertin suggests that "free" transmission was possible towards the end of the war. This needs following up. I hope you get a good response to your request. I commend Doug Sayles for his efforts. More needs to be done on lots of aspects of "Y" Force. [Thanks Owen. Yours is the only update so far but I'm encouraged by your participation. Do other members have other updates? Ed.]

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POLES AT NIAGARA CAMP, 1918--By Dr. Gale J. Raymond

[Gale sent along the cover illustrated below. It is from a Lieutenant in the Third Battalion, Polish Army, which trained at Niagara Camp during the Great War. Training was from approximately late September 1917 to February 1919. The cover bears the Niagara Camp Militia F.P.O. dated October 25, 1918.



Through negotiations with the United States, Canada provided training facilities for Polish volunteers. By November 1917, more than three thousand men had arrived at the Polish Army Camp (known as Camp Kosciuszko after the Polish General and hero of the American Revolution), and by the end of the year the number had doubled.

The Poles were initially under French control and were used as replacements for its Fourth Army. In August 1918, French authorities finally authorized a Polish Army Division.

Sources: Kinsley, B. "The Polish Army Camp of Canada--World War I". Military Postal History Society Bulletin, 41 (1), Winter 2002, 15-16;

See also Colin Pomfret's related article on Serbs and Poles in the CMMSG NL#157 (Nov.2002), 650-652.]

FIELD POST OFFICE 89--A NEW REPORT?--By David H. Kelly

I recently purchased the following cigarette acknowledgement card with the postmark FPO 89 dated "8/JU 29/45". According to "Bailey & Toop", this FPO was used by the Second Canadian Division H.Q. in N.W. Europe from February 1945 to February 1946.

Listed as "M15-85", it has a rarity factor of "U" (ie. unreported postally used but observed on various documents). This card obviously shows the postal usage of this FPO.

Is it unique? Does anyone have a similar copy of postal use? [Cont'd.]



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

POST CARD.



National Steel Car Cigarette Club,
Hamilton,
Ontario.

CANADA.

FOR GIFT CIGARETTES,
PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE BY MAILING CARD
TO SENDER'S ADDRESS ON
PARCEL LABEL

JUNE 27/45.

d the
etes you

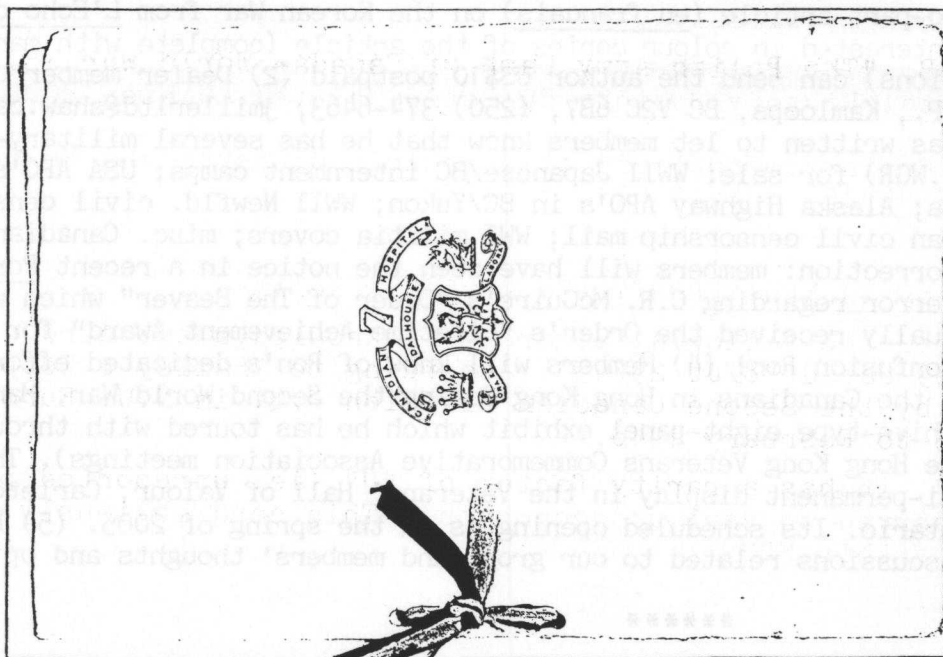
have sent me. I certainly
appreciate them.



I thank you.
Chn. A. Arrowsmith,
B135136,
6 C.I.B. w/shop, R.C.E.M.E.,
C.A.O.

NO.7 STATIONARY HOSPITAL GREETINGS--By Colin Pomfret

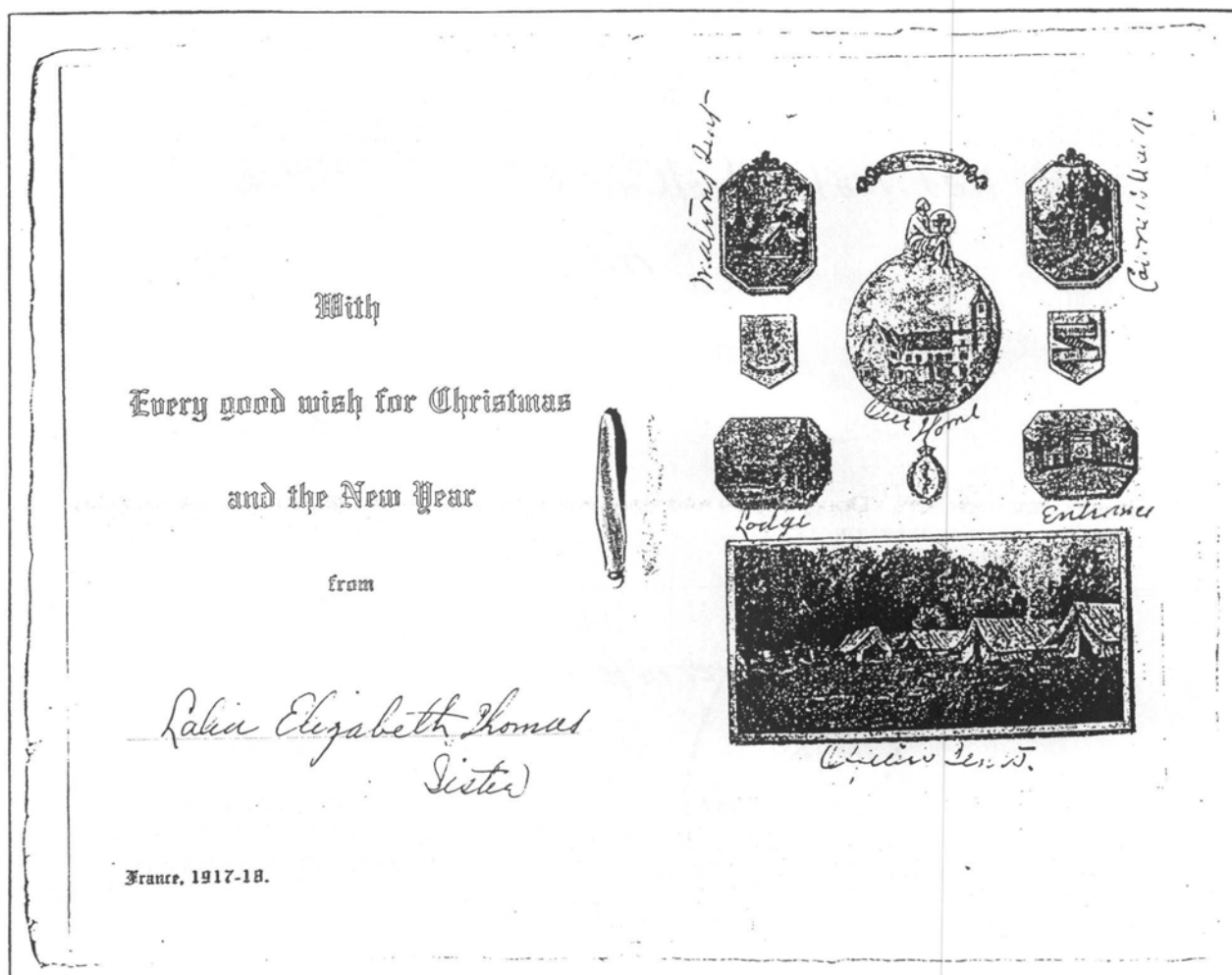
[Colin sent along a Christmas and New Year's greeting card (reduced to 73%) from France, 1917-1918. The No.7 (Dalhousie University) was, according to Bailey & Toop, organized at Halifax on October 21, 1915.



It was located at Arques, France from May 14, 1917 to April 18, 1918 when, presumably, the card was sent. The card's interior illustration follows.]

[Cont'd.]

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MEMBERS' NEWS AND VIEWS

A great deal of information has arrived on your Editor's desk so I will pass it along to the members! (1) J.-L. Emmenegger, Box 110, CH-1009, Pully, Switzerland sent copies of his interesting two-part article (en francais) on the Korean War from L'Echo de la Timbrologie. Anyone interested in colour copies of the article (complete with many stamp/cover illustrations) can send the author US\$10 postpaid (2) Dealer member Jim Miller, Box 3005 M.P.P., Kamloops, BC V2C 6B7, (250) 374-6463, jmillerltd@shaw.ca, www.canadacovers.ca has written to let members know that he has several military-related collections (ex.WGR) for sale: WWII Japanese/BC internment camps; USA APO's in BC/Canadians in Alaska; Alaska Highway APO's in BC/Yukon; WWII Newfld. civil censorship mail; WWI Canadian civil censorship mail; WWI militia covers; misc. Canadian military mail (3) A correction: members will have seen the notice in a recent Portraits related to an error regarding C.R. McGuire's "Order of The Beaver" which was passed along. Ron actually received the Order's "Lifetime Achievement Award" for his work. Sorry for the confusion Ron! (4) Members will know of Ron's dedicated efforts concerning Force "C"; the Canadians in Hong Kong during the Second World War. Many may have seen his archive-type eight-panel exhibit which he has toured with throughout Canada (often with the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association meetings). This exhibit will be a semi-permanent display in the Veterans' Hall of Valour, Carleton Place Town Hall in Ontario. Its scheduled opening is in the spring of 2005. (5) Look to see many future discussions related to our group and members' thoughts and opinions will be solicited!

2003 LONDON MEETING REPORT

Mike Street, who kindly chaired our group meeting in London, kindly sent along the following report. We hope members had a good time at the meeting and convention. Thanks again are extended to Mike, Doug Sayles, and to Henk Burgers for their efforts. Please think about some of the great suggestions below and your participation is encouraged and appreciated!

MMSG Seminar at BNAPEX 2003, London, Ontario

The BNAPS Military Mail Study Group meeting held Friday, September 26, 2003 at BNAPEX 2003 in London, ON was well attended. Meeting Chairman Mike Street welcomed Henk Burgers, Wayne Curtis, John Frith, Pete Gray, Ed Harris, Mark Isaacs, Bob Lane, Doug Lingard, Charlie Livermore, Steve Prest, Doug Sayles, Mary Jane Sayles and Joe Smith to the session.

The passing of MMSG Chairman Bill Bailey was noted by the group and a request for nominations for a new Chairman made. In what may be a first in the history of BNAPS Study groups, two members - Doug Sayles and Henk Burgers - were nominated and a vote actually held! Doug Sayles was elected Chairman of the MMSG. Doug will work closely with Dean Mario, who has indicated that he will stay on as newsletter Editor, to continue the MMSG's long history of good philately.

BNAPS Webmaster Bob Lane then asked members of the MMSG to work together to prepare a contribution to the Specialist Philately section of the society Website (www.bnaps.org). These pages are intended to illustrate for website visitors the 'what and why' of collecting Canadian Military Mail. It was also suggested that an index to the articles in each new MMSG Newsletter could be posted to the website to spark interest. In a similar vein, BNAPS First-Vice President Charlie Livermore told the group that the Board has decided to update Ed Richardson's handbook, Canada - B.N.A. Philately (an Outline). The booklet may be reprinted or made available on the BNAPS website, or possibly both, and the Board would like the MMSG to oversee revision of the Military Mail section. Anyone interested in taking on or helping with these closely related tasks is asked to contact Doug Sayles.

In the discussion part of the meeting it was pointed out that after the passing of Ritch Toop, Bill Bailey had accumulated many new early and late dates of Canadian military postmarks. John Frith offered to try to check on the status and location of this information. Pete Gray volunteered to put it all in a computer database and keep it up to date. It was then mentioned that the allocation list of Naval Censor stamps could also benefit from computerization. Mike Street offered to contact several members to see if anything could be accomplished in this area.

Stephen (Steve) Prest advised those present of the formation of a new George VI Study Group and asked for input on both the stamps and postal history of the era. It is possible that while studying things military MMSG members may have gleaned information pertaining to civilian mail and/or to the stamps of the period, and some Military Mail articles could be of interest to a broader group of collectors. Please keep Steve and the George VI group in mind. Steve can be contacted by email at stephen.prest@sympatico.ca or at P.O. Box 686, Ayer's Cliff, QC J0B 1C0.

The balance of the meeting was given over to Doug Sayles' very interesting slide presentation of covers and photographs and accompanying talk on William McKinstry Maitland-Dougall of Victoria, BC. In the months just before World War I, the young Royal Navy officer-in-training found himself in the unlikely position of organizing the reception of two submarines purchased not by the Government of Canada but by the government of British Columbia! He went on to become the first 'colonial' to be given command of a Royal Navy ship, and perished during a WWI 'friendly-fire' incident. Maitland-Dougall's submarine was patrolling in the English Channel when spotted by a French airship which altered course to investigate the submarine sighting. M-D fired the recognition code for the day - red flares. The French airship crew had not been told of this signal, and believed they were being fired on. They dropped two bombs which sank the sub. It was the only successful aerial attack on a sub of the whole war!

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Dear CMMMSG Members:

Fall is here and it's time for our annual holiday season issue. First of all let me begin by informing members that we now have C.D. Sayles as our new group Chairman and Treasurer. We all wish him well in his two new postings! Doug and I have had several telephone conversations and he has lots of good ideas for our group--some of which will be noted below and some which will be continued over the next few issues.

BNAPEX 2003

On the previous page Mike Street informed us of the group's activities and there are several good initiatives for us to participate in. Congratulations are extended to member P. Charles Livermore for his Silver medal and BNAPS Novice Award. Charlie's exhibit was entitled "Thanks For The Smokes", which illustrated the familiar tobacco cards, forms, letters, and even the packages themselves! It remains as one of the very best studies of this material around. Kudos are also extended to members with non-military exhibits. Dealer member R.F. "Hank" Narbonne was elected as a member of the Order of The Beaver and congratulations are extended to him for this well-deserved honour. C. Ron McGuire was awarded the 2002 E.R. "Ritch" Toop Award for the best Canadian/BNA military mail article for the past year. Well done Ron!

BNAPS WEBSITE

Bob Lane has done a wonderful job as BNAPS Webmaster. You'll already have read his comments in Mike's report. Doug Sayles and I think that it is a great idea which may attract more members or inform "visitors" of the many facets of military mail. The extra exposure may attract more young collectors and now that the Web has become more user-friendly, it may also attract more senior collectors, veterans, or their families. Doug has called for input by members so please let him know via email or regular mail (his addresses are on the front page).

Should we have a general information page explaining some of the points of military mail? Illustrations of censor markings? Post an older issue of the newsletter to showcase our publication (current issues concern us)? Doug has echoed Bob's suggestion to illustrate some basic covers, along with a story about them to connect the cover and its history. It would be best to feature the \$5-\$10 covers which are common enough and are usually seen in most collections/dealers' stocks (members know that many of these are more "interesting" to the collector than the rare and unique items). Volunteers? We'd need about five or six people to do this over a one-year period to see how it might work. Please contact Doug with your thoughts and whether this sounds like a good idea (other groups have done it with much success). WE WILL NEED YOUR INPUT AND IDEAS! Thank you.

MEMBERS' LISTING

In our next issue a nominal roll/members' list will be printed. Should you NOT wish your address to be published, please let me know asap. I shall include email addresses, when known, and if you wish your's included please contact me.

SMALL ADS

WANTED: Letters to/from William Maitland-Dougall in period 1910-1917. Send photocopy/price required to C.D. Sayles, 25 Howard Blvd., Waterdown, ON LOR 2H4 or email: saylesd@aecl.ca (10/18)

WANTED: Non-philatelic Canadian Korean War items. Needed are: CFPO 28 (without dash); CFPO 30 & 32 covers. Also registered covers, military Christmas cards from Korea, and "HUBBA - HUBBA" markings. Appreciate priced photocopies. S.C. Luciuk, 1542 East Heights, Saskatoon, SK S7J 3B5; (306) 374-1727 (1/3)

TO ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES: HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND BEST WISHES FOR THE
NEW YEAR, FROM DOUG AND DEAN!!!