



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

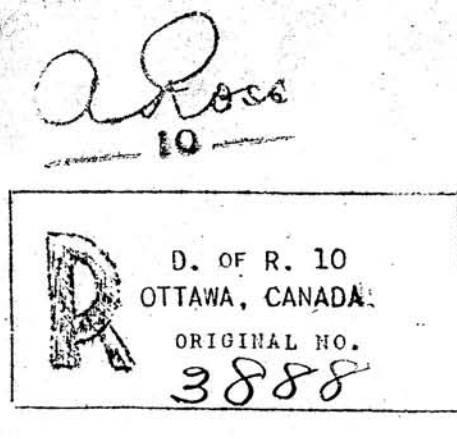
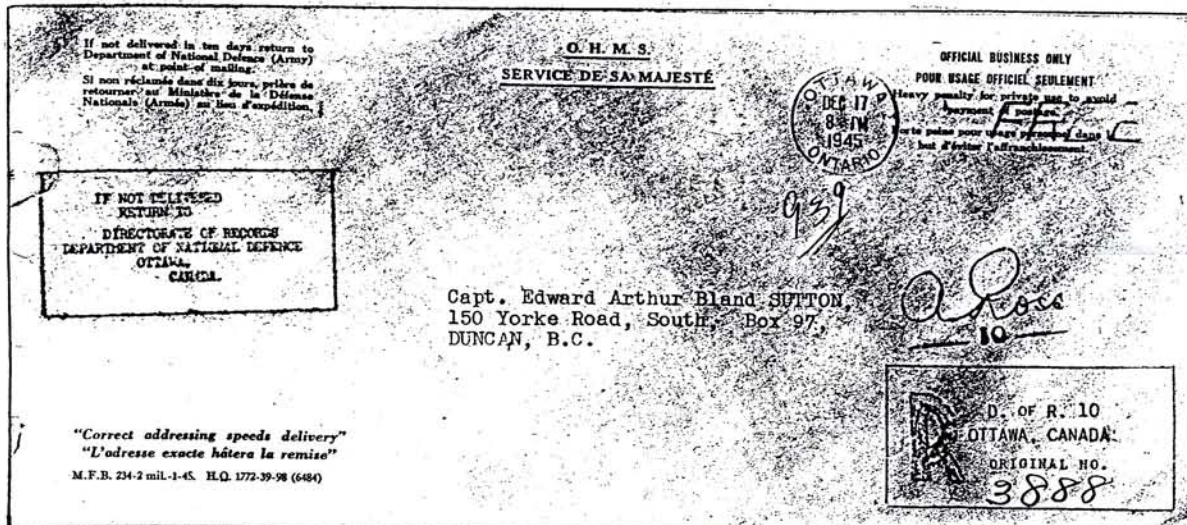
AUGUST 2006

NEWSLETTER NO. 176

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D.N.D. DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS REGISTRATION MARK--By C.
Doug Sayles

I cannot recall seeing this marking previously reported and certainly this is the only example I have ever seen. This may be the first report. The illustration /at 65% and 100%.Ed./ shows



that the registration marking is quite different than those in common use at the time, and appears to be very crudely made. I find it curious that the text portion appears very fully inked and clear, and yet the large "R" seems poorly inked. Note that both the marking and the privilege stamp of "A. Ross" are numbered "10". This would seem to imply that numbers 1-9 might also exist. Perhaps other members of the Study Group can add further information?

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MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CORRESPONDENCE

This multi-coloured postcard is now used as an acknowledgement of receipt



of correspondence by Canada's Minister of Defence. It is dated July 10, 2006. It's at 90% of the original.

* * * * *

DUNDURN MILITARY CAMP F.P.O.: A QUERY--By George Sawatzki

I have a question that one of our members may be able to answer. At this year's ORAPEX, I found this postal stationery card (UX52) with the "DUNDURN MILITARY CAMP/F.P.O./SASK." postmark.

When I started to look up the various references to document the new acquisition, I discovered that:

1. Bailey and Toop, in their The Canadian Military Posts: Between The Wars And World War Two, 1920-1946 (Vol.II) on pages 162 and 163, show two cancels:

CANCEL A. 9 Jun 1936 - 1 May 1941

CANCEL B. 7 Jul 1936 - 16 Jul 1936
 5 Jul 1937 - 21 Aug 1937
 1 Jul 1938 - 20 Jul 1938

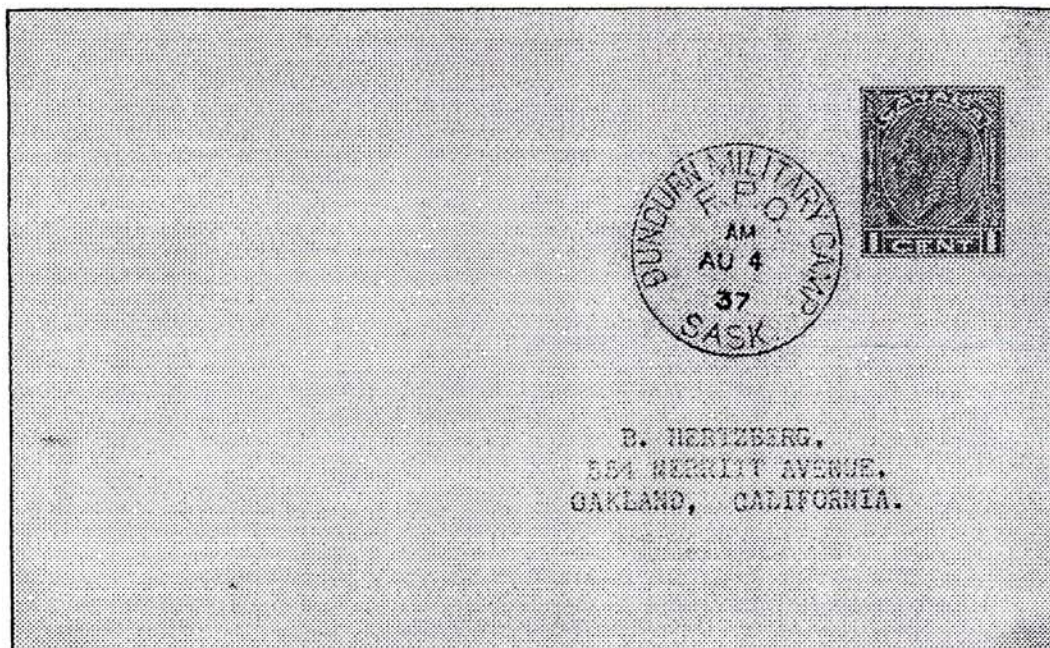
(Cont'd.)

2 Jul 1939 - 16 Jul 1939
20 May 1940 - 30 Apr 1941

2. Canadian Military Markings (Vol.I) by W.J. Bailey and E.R. Toop, on page 198 shows only one cancel that was proofed on June 9, 1936. The proof date coincides with the start date shown as "Cancel A".

3. Both earlier references by the same two authors in Canadian Military Post Offices To 1986, and Canadian Military Post Offices to 1993 respectively, show the July 7, 1936 proofed cancel, ie. the one shown as "Cancel B". Also, in the 1975 Canadian Military Postmark Checklist by W.J. Bailey, only one cancel dated "PM JUN 30 40" is shown.

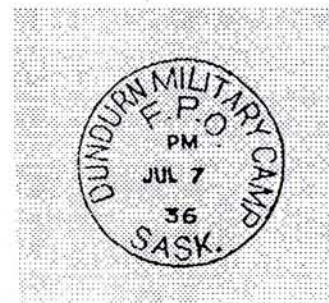
Can anyone tell me the difference between "Cancel A" and "Cancel B" shown in Bailey and Toop in their The Canadian Military Posts: Between The Wars And World War Two, 1920-1946 (Vol.II)?



Canadian Military
Postmark Checklist



Canadian Military Post
Offices To 1986



Canadian Military
Post Offices To 1993

(Cont'd.)

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Canadian Military Markings (Vol.I)

Dundurn Military Camp FPO - Sask.
Summer Army Camp



A. 9 Jun 1936 - 1 May 1941

Cancel A. The Canadian Military Posts: Between The Wars And World War Two (Vol.II)



B. 7 Jul 1936 - 16 Jul 1936
5 Jul 1937 - 21 Aug 1937
1 Jul 1938 - 20 Jul 1938
2 Jul 1939 - 16 Jul 1939
20 May 1940 - 30 Apr 1941

Cancel B. The Canadian Military Posts:
Between The Wars And World War Two (Vol.II)

NEW BOOKS!

Information has been received regarding several new publications which members may find interesting. The Civil Censorship Study Group has recently issued a new volume entitled British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II: Canada and Colonies in the Caribbean and North and South America by Christopher Miller. It contains 67 pages on Canada as well as Newfoundland. It is over 300 pages. Price in the U.S. and Canada is US\$60.00 airmail postpaid. Payments can be sent to Charles LaBlonde, 15091 Ridgefield Lane, Colorado Springs, CO USA 80921-3554. European residents can obtain the book from Christopher Miller, 161 Upper Woodcote Rd., Caversham, Reading RG4 7JR England and the price is £35.00 plus postage for non-members of the CCSG. All payments should read "C.C.S.G." and more information can be obtained from Chris at: cpbmiller@aol.com or Charles at: clablonde@aol.com (.)

Another book by Charles is entitled The Suspension of United States Mail to Switzerland 1942 to 1944/1945. One of the chapters includes the stoppage of Canadian mails too. Price in the U.S. and Canada is US\$20.00 airmail postpaid. Payments should be made out to "Charles LaBlonde" with contact details noted above.

Two new BNAPS publications are in the "works" and are relevant to our members. More information on post-Second World War military markings and the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force* will be forthcoming!

It was very nice to see some recent editions of BNA Topics and the PHSC

(Cont'd.)

Journal include several military-related articles!

*A review will follow.

CANADIANS IN RUSSIA--A REVIEW--By David H. Whiteley

Burgers, Hendrik. Canadians In Russia: The Last Contingent of World War I; An Exhibit. BNAPS Exhibit Series, No.41. BNAPS Ltd., August 2006, 95 pages plus bibliography.

Hendrik Burgers has put together a majestic and comprehensive collection of difficult-to-find and limited material from four little known Canadian adventures. They took place between late-1918 and early-1919 in Siberia, Northern Russia, Trans-Caucasia, and Southern Russia. These Expeditionary Forces, to which some six thousand Canadians were attached, were the brain-child of the Allied High Command; conceived in an effort to fill in the void following the Russian Revolution and subsequent peace agreement between Russia and Germany.

The majority of Canadians were sent to Siberia in October 1918 and returned home in late May and June 1919. A Canadian artillery unit consisting of the 67th and 68th Batteries, Canadian Field Artillery, together with railway troops and dog team drivers, were sent to North Russia as part of the British contingent to "Elope" and "Syren" Forces. There were also some thirty-five Canadians serving with the R.A.F. supplying air support to the North Russian Campaign (nominal rolls of Canadians known to have been in North Russia are available in the Public Archives). Some Canadian volunteers were attached to "Dunsterforce" which operated briefly in Trans-Caucasia. Twenty Canadian flyers were also attached to 47 Squadron, commanded by a Canadian, Major Raymond Collishaw, DSO, DFC, Croix de Guerre, of Nanaimo, B.C. This was supposed to be a technical and training squadron for General Deniken's White Russian Forces, but found itself engaged in active air support missions.

The exhibit covers the activities of the Canadians with all these initiatives, and tells a chronological story from the time of inception of the plan. Starting with the Siberian Expeditionary Force, Burgers illustrates the story with considerable collateral material. He shows the camps where the units were assembled and the transports hired to convey them to Vladivostok, with postcards depicting some of the ships and some early correspondence from some of the troops posted to the force. He then traces the arrival in Vladivostok with an outline of No.5 Postal Unit, postal rates, and cancelling devices (including the enigmatic Hammer 2, of which only two examples are known; both dated in early October). Covers from various members to and from the force are illustrated together with the various collateral cachets and censor markings (many of which are either the only example known, or one of less than ten). There are a number of covers that were sent through the Russian civilian post offices rather than through the military post office. The Siberian chapter closes with the troops' return to Canada, and mail from a number of Canadians who remained in Siberia (either working with the Red Cross or the British Mission).

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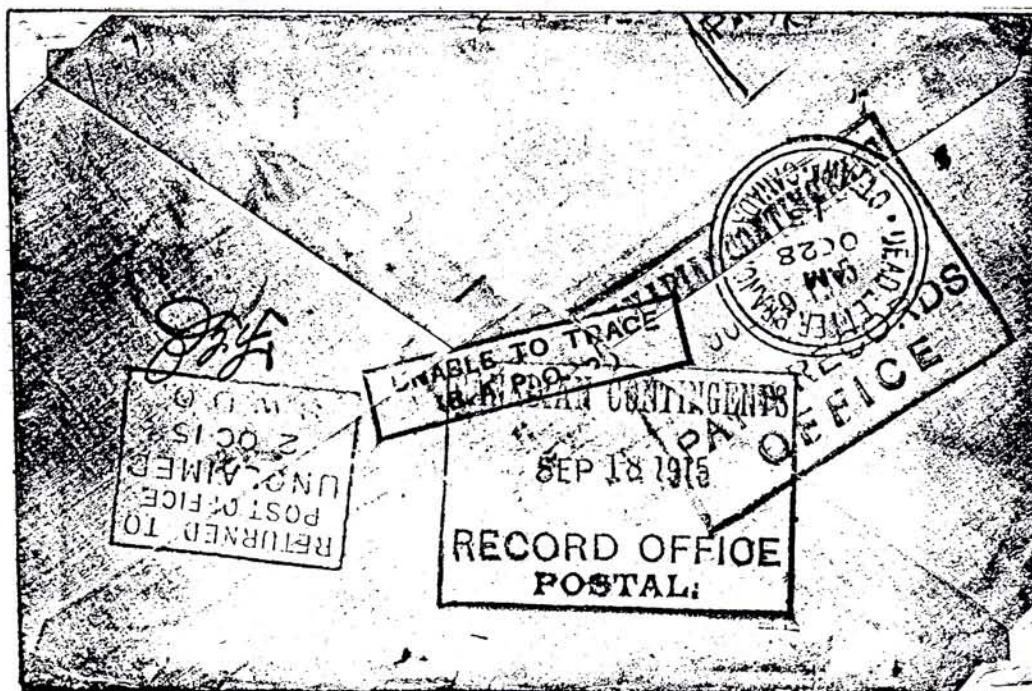
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A few covers from Canadians serving in North Russia have survived; mostly from the Griffin/Mason correspondence. Mail to and from Canadians attached to "Syren" and "Elope" Forces were handled by the British Army Postal Services. The FPO's used are all double-ring with the letters "P.B." followed by a number. Again, from these numbers, Burgers is able to pinpoint the location of the various FPO's.

Covers from the Canadian officers and NCO's serving with "Dunsterforce" are very rare. Burgers illustrates one cover from Tehran censored by Dunsterforce (I personally know of two other covers from members of Dunsterforce in private hands). Mail from Canadians serving in South Russia is virtually unknown, even though there was a military post office attached to units in the theatre. Burgers illustrates one cover from a Major G. Hickie to his wife in Cheltenham, England.

In conclusion I must say I enjoyed this exhibit which, in far less words than I could ever do, gives the reader both a pictorial and historical account of the various expeditionary forces and the mail associated with them. The exhibit is superbly and logically put together which, with its extensive bibliography, should become a major work and a must for anyone interested in the postal history of these long-forgotten campaigns.

1915 CANADIAN PAY AND RECORDS OFFICE--By Colin Pomfret



The above is a reverse of a cover addressed to a corporal in the Canadian Army Medical Corps dated "Montreal June 28, 1915".

The Canadian Pay and Record Office kept the service records of each Can-

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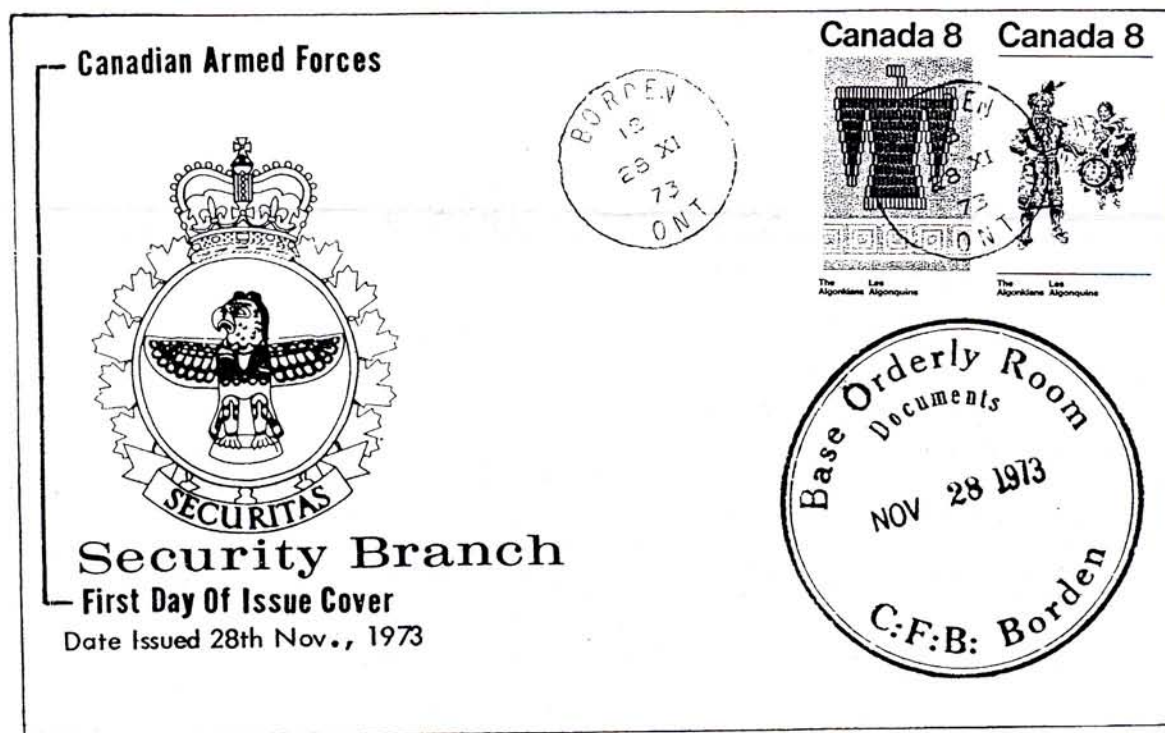
adian soldier and was frequently called upon to redirect mail. Sometime in 1915 the office was split up; with the Record Office assuming responsibility for postal matters.

The cover bears markings "CANADIAN CONTINGENTS/JUL 19 1915/PAY & RECORDS/OFFICE"; "UNABLE TO TRACE/(B.A.P.O. 2)" (Rouen); "CANADIAN CONTINGENTS/SEP 18 1915/RECORD OFFICE/POSTAL."; "RETURNED TO/POST OFFICE/UNCLAIMED/2 OC 15/S.W.D.O."; and "DEAD LETTER BRANCH/AM/OC 28/15/OTTAWA CANADA".

It's an unusual cover in that it was despatched to France by the Pay and Record Office and received back by the Record Office as the combined office had apparently ceased to exist.

BASE ORDERLY ROOM/DOCUMENTS, C.F.B. BORDEN

Here's an interesting marking on a first day cover from November 28, 1973. Note the unusual usage of colons rather than periods through "C:F:B: B:":



H.M.C.S. HUSKY--By W.G. Robinson

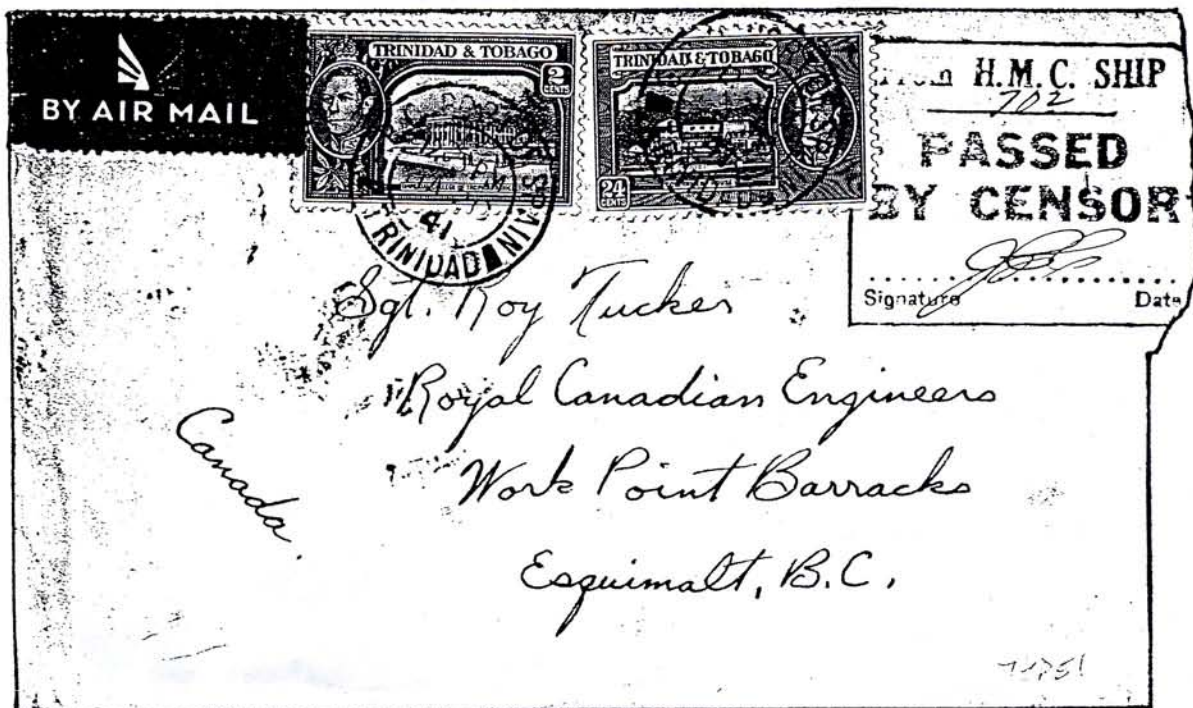
Husky was an armed yacht built in 1930 by the Defoe Boat and Engine Works, Bay City, Michigan. It was originally named Wild Duck. She displaced 360 tons, with dimensions 153x25x10 feet, and had a speed of 10 knots.

She was converted and armed at Quebec City in June 1940, and commission-

(Cont'd.)

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ed at Halifax on July 23, 1940. She was under the command of Lt. H. Free-land, R.C.N.R., with a crew of 5 officers and 35 ratings. She carried one four-inch gun at the bow.



Husky served with the Sydney anti-submarine force to December 1940, then at Trinidad to September 1941. She was with the Saint John Force and on training duties at HMCS Cornwallis until decommissioned in 1945. She carried the pendant number S06 and later Z13.

This cover was mailed by a member of Husky's crew at Port of Spain, Trinidad, on January 20, 1941, addressed to Esquimalt, B.C. It bears the Type I R.C.N. square censor mark, initialed by an officer, and the ship is identified by the Fleet Mail Number 702 on this marking. These numbers were confirmed by Canadian Confidential Naval Order No.392, dated August 18, 1944./Members may recall another cover Bill sent in but addressed differently in NL#158 (Jan.2003), p.665.Ed./

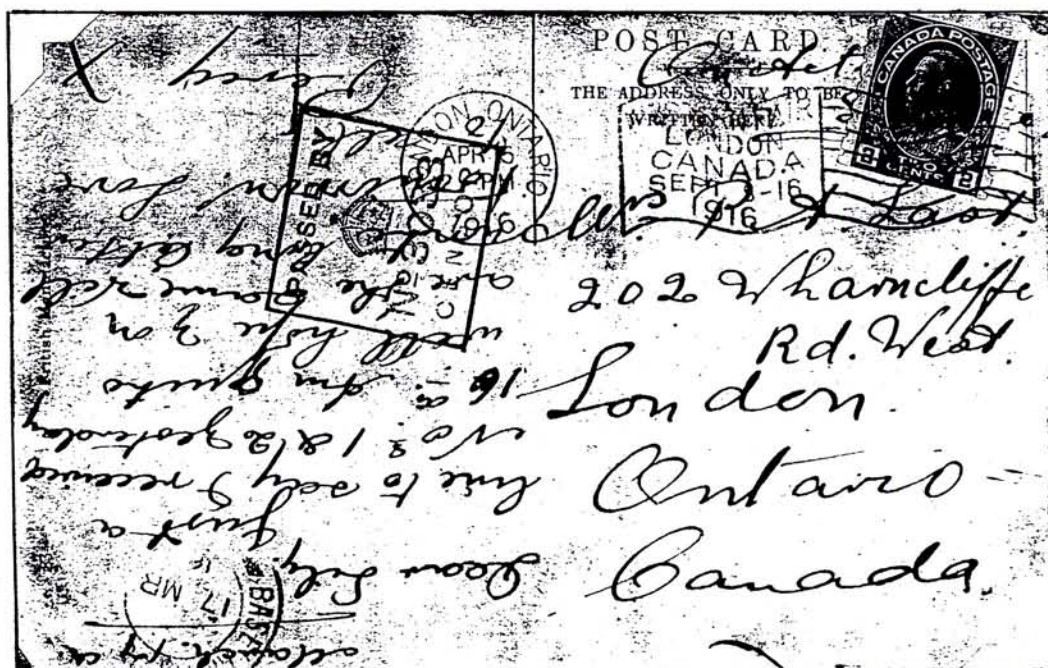
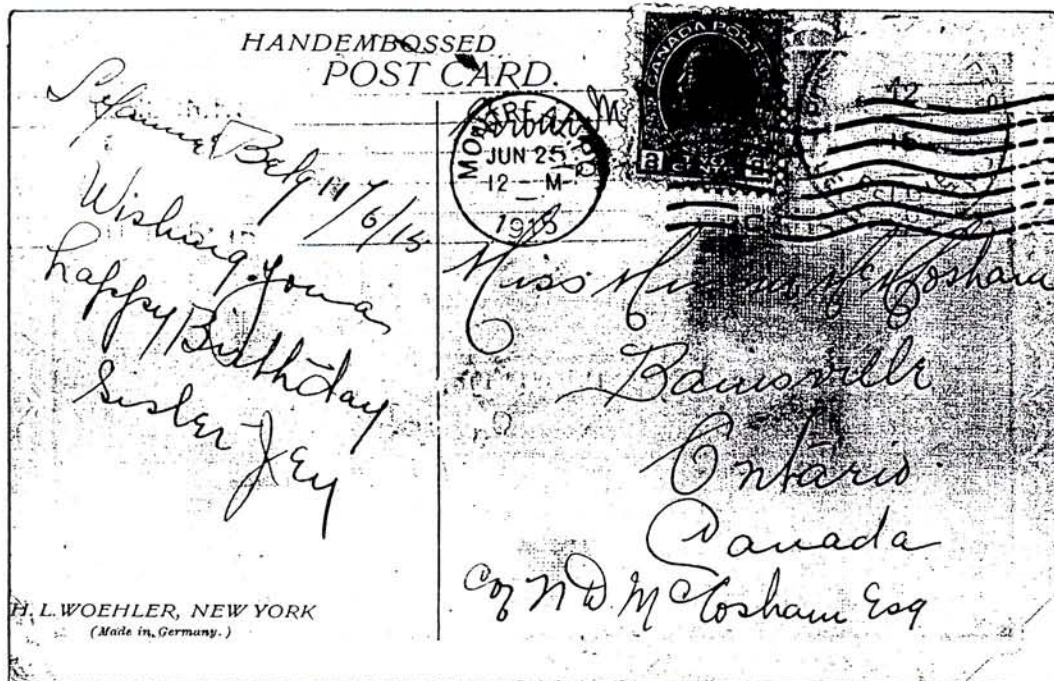
SOME GREAT WAR HOSPITAL/NURSING SISTER "GEMS"--By Colin Pomfret

The first card is noted "M.S. Service Militaire" from La Panne, Belgium dated June 11, 1915. It's addressed to Ontario from "Sister Jey" (or Jan?) with the Ocean Ambulance, a multi-national unit caring for wounded Belgian soldiers. In April 1915, twenty-two Canadian nurses were recruited and mobilised in Montreal by Dr. G.B. Armstrong for this Ambulance.

A second card, postmarked "B.A.P.O. 3/17 MR/16" from Boulogne, France with Censor No.2/3033, is from No.3 Canadian Stationary Hospital. No. 3 C.S.H. sailed from Lemnos for France on February 6, 1916 and ar-

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rived at Boulogne on March 10. Note the use of the Lemnos censor stamp in France.

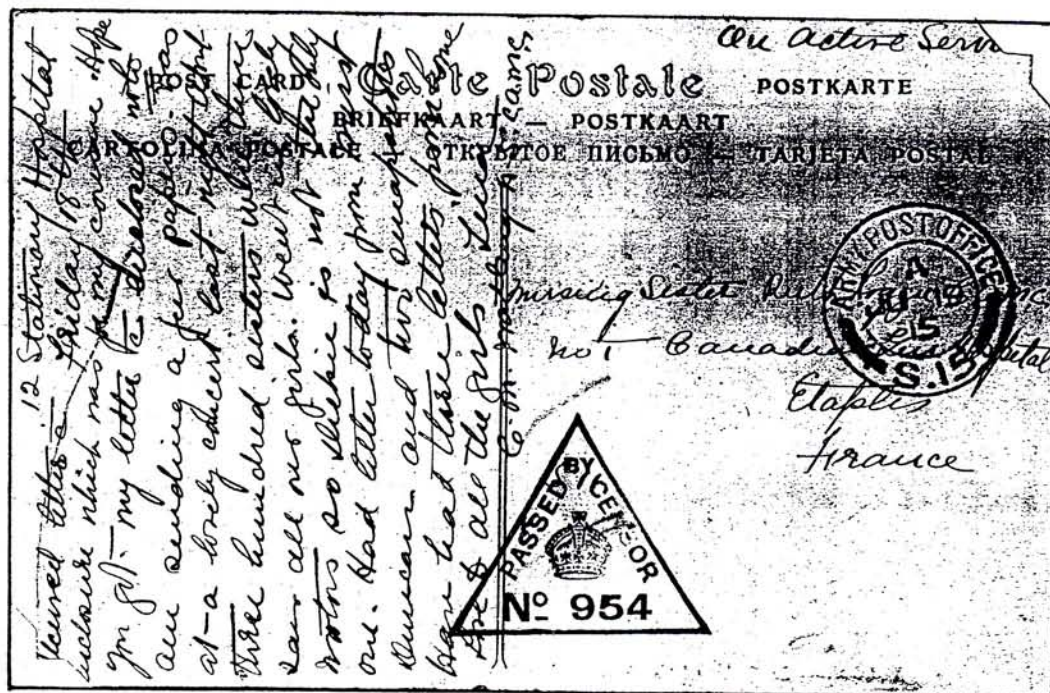


The following cover, mailed from "Paris 71/Pl. Victor Hugo", is dated April 16, 1916 and bears the "Hopital Canadien-St. Cloud/L'Officier d' Adon de 2e classe, Gestre" cachet. It was from No.4 Canadian Stationary

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Hospital at St. Cloud, Paris.



No.3 Canadian General Hospital arrived in France on June 16, 1915, and

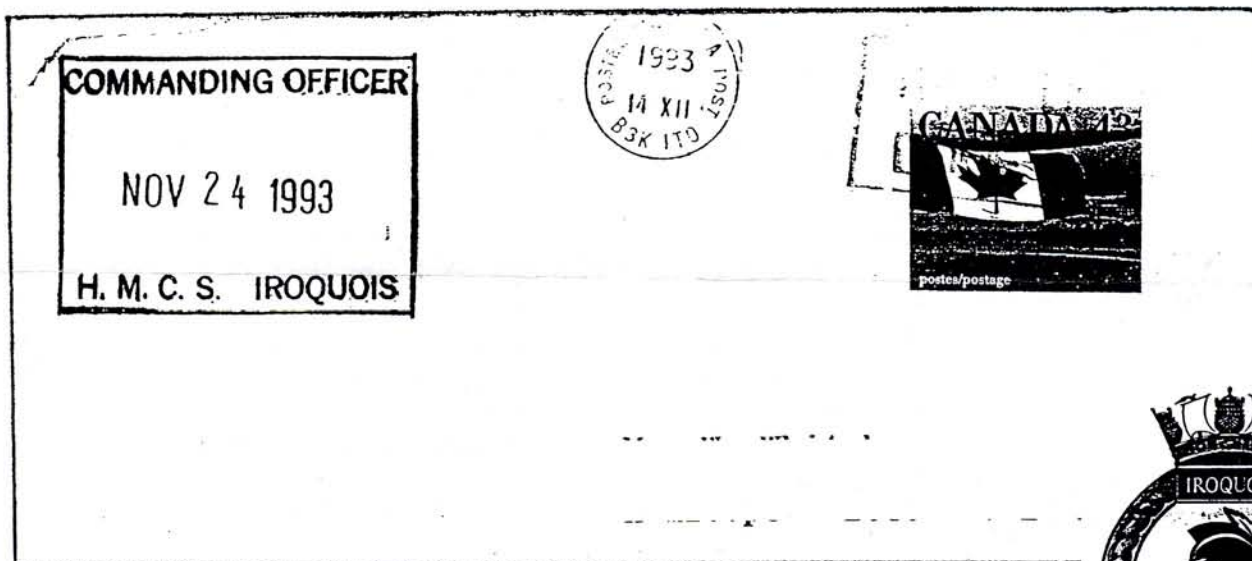
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became operational on August 8. In the interim, twenty-one Sisters and the Matron were temporarily assigned to hospital units in the vicinity to gain experience. They returned to No.3 C.G.H. on July 29.

The preceding postcard, with an "A.P.O. S.15/A/JU 19/15" dater from Bruyere Camp, Rouen, bears Censor No.3/954. It was sent from Nursing Sister Christina Mary Watling, C.A.M.C. who was at No.12 Stationary Hospital (Imperial) to another stationed at Etaples, France.

H.M.C.S. IROQUOIS ON U.N. SERVICE OFF YUGOSLAVIA--By Wilf Whitehouse

Under the command of Commander L.J. Edmunds, Iroquois departed from Halifax on September 25, 1993 and arrived at Punta Delgada, the N.A.T.O depot in the Azores, on September 30. After a brief stop for fuel and provisions, it went to Gibraltar, into the Mediterranean, and met with Algonquin at Palma Mallorca on October 4.



Here Iroquois took over as command ship of the Standing Naval Force Atlantic (SNFL) from Algonquin and then proceeded to the Adriatic via Taranto, Italy, while Algonquin sailed west to Canada.

Arriving off the Albanian coast, Iroquois joined up with ships from other N.A.T.O. countries carrying out Operation "Sharp Guard"; the boarding and searching of merchant vessels bound for Yugoslavia. Ships were on station for approximately two weeks, followed by a five or six day port visit where the time was equally split between required maintenance and shore leave. Ports visited by N.A.T.O. ships have been in Italy, crete, Greece, and Sicily.

Official ship mail has been seen with postage applied by Pitney-Bowes postage meter #847949 denoting "FMO HALIFAX/current date/NS", while personal letters required a 43¢ stamp as illustrated on the cover above (reduced). In most cases, mail took two to three weeks in transit to

(Cont'd.)

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Canada. The ship's deployment had been set for six months. Her badge is illustrated on the cover's reverse.

Dear CMMSG Member:

Fall is here and another collecting season has begun. Members will have already noted that our Chairman/Treasurer, Doug Sayles, has recently taken up the BNA Topics Editor's position. Good luck Doug! Doug has also completed his The BNAPS Catalogue of Canadian Military Mail Markings, Volume III--From Victory in 1945 to Afghanistan 2006. Spiral bound, 314 pages. A review will follow in a future edition. Thanks also to David Whiteley who has kindly provided us with a review of Henk Burger's exhibit book, Canadians in Russia: The Last Contingent of World War I. Further details can be obtained from the BNAPS Book Department, c/o Ian Kimmerly Stamps, (613) 235-9119; fax (613) 235-9504; <http://www.iankimmerly.com/books> (.)

Unfortunately I don't have anything to report related to our study group meeting at BNAPEX 2006 in Sudbury, but I know that our member John Frith and Harry Machum (co-chairmen) did a wonderful job! Congratulations are heartily extended to the following for their exhibits:

COLIN POMFRET, "Canadian Airmen in the Great War," Vermeil; Sam Nickle Military Award

Members will have seen many of Colin's superb items within past issues of our newsletter, but seeing many of them in one exhibit would have delighted most of us!

At BNAPEX 2005 a decision was made at our group meeting to call for dues this year (from what I can find, our last call was in November 2004). We don't accumulate funds every year but only when we need them to continue the newsletter. The increase shown is for a multiple-year period (as is often the case) and a dues notice is enclosed. Thank you for an early response and if membership is no longer of interest, please advise Doug.

SMALL ADS

WANTED: WWII FPO covers. Condition not important but must be used during months of: FPO 434 or other 4 CIB usage: JA'42;JU'42;FE'44;MR'44;MY'45; FPO 435 or 5 CIB usage: OC'41;NO'41;OC'43;FE'44;JY'44;AP'45; FPO 436 or 6 CIB usage: AP'41;OC'41;FE'42;MY'42;OC'44;JA'45;MR'45;MY'45. Buy or trade. Kim Dodwell, Middle House, Cruckmeole, Hanwood, Shrewsbury SY5 8JN, U.K. (5/10)

WANTED: Canada Air Letters with postage paid by adhesive stamps mailed to Canadian Armed Forces personnel overseas (except Britain and Ireland) between September 1945 and December 1952. Please send with price to Mike Street, 73 Hatton Dr., Ancaster, ON L9G 2H5 or advise by email: mikestreet@hwc.org (5/10)

FOR SALE: Big Military Section on our website: www.canadacovers.ca (2/4)

Although I still have a few items on hand, the cupboard of articles is almost empty! Please send along that special item purchased/traded at BNAPEX, a favourite cover/card, or a question/comment. Thank you!

