



# Canadian Military Mail Study Group

*Sheddings  
of the Season*

## NEWSLETTER

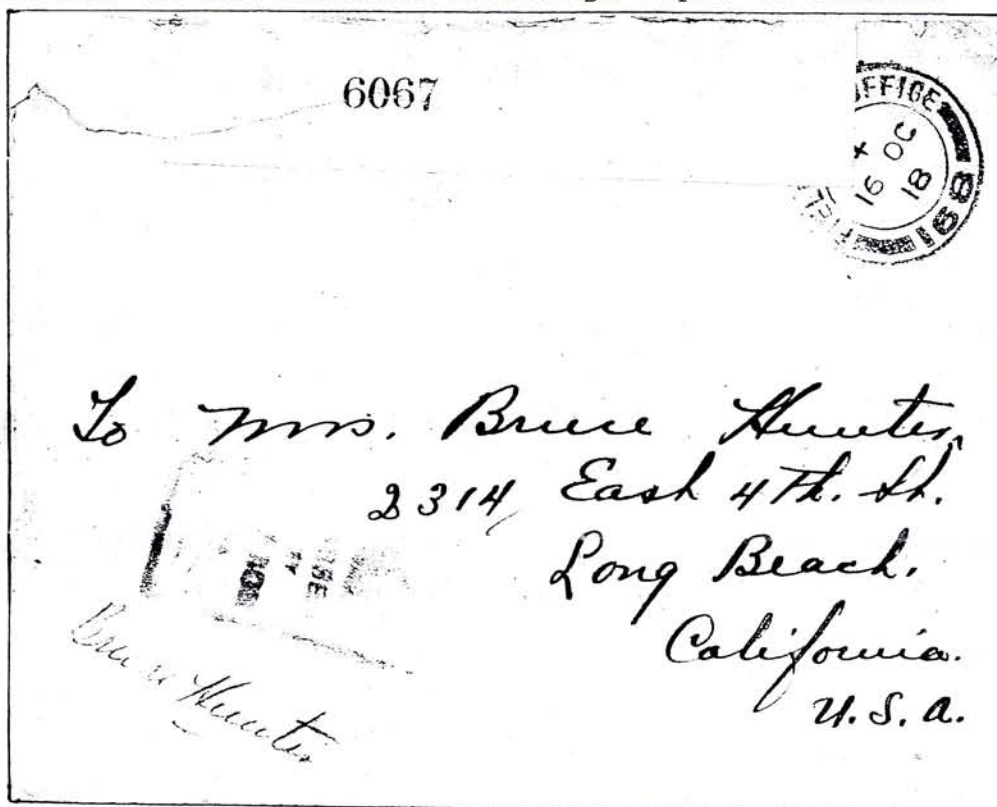
NOVEMBER 2006

NEWSLETTER NO. 177

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HON. CAPTAIN J.B. HUNTER--By Colin Pomfret

The following cover to California, self-censored by Hon. Captain John Bruce Hunter, Canadian Chaplain Service, was sent when he was attached to the 85th Battalion. It bears an "FPO 168/16 OC/18" (12th Canadian Infantry Brigade H.Q.). Prior to his attachment with the 85th, Hunter served as Chaplain with the 208th Battalion and at the Canadian Discharge Depot at Buxton.



(Cont'd.)

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While attached to the 85th Battalion, he was awarded the Military Cross for his work with the wounded at Bourlon Wood on September 27, 1918. In October of the same year he was named "Hon. Major" and was attached to the Canadian Corps Headquarters as Corps Chaplain.

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CANADIAN RED CROSS OFFICERS' HOSPITAL, LONDON--By John Frith

The oval marking shows "Canadian Red Cross Officers' Hospital/London/17, North Audley St. W.1./16 May 19". This was the Petrograd Red Cross Hospital for officers at the Petrograd Hotel in London, England. It operated from November 25, 1918 to October 16, 1919. Officers commanding included Lt.Col. S.H. McCoy and Lt.Col. A.E.H. Bennett. The hospital's Matron was E.B. Ross.



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GREAT WAR CANADIAN NURSING SISTERS--By John Frith

/John also had sent along some items related to Canadian nursing sisters which coincide nicely with the above.

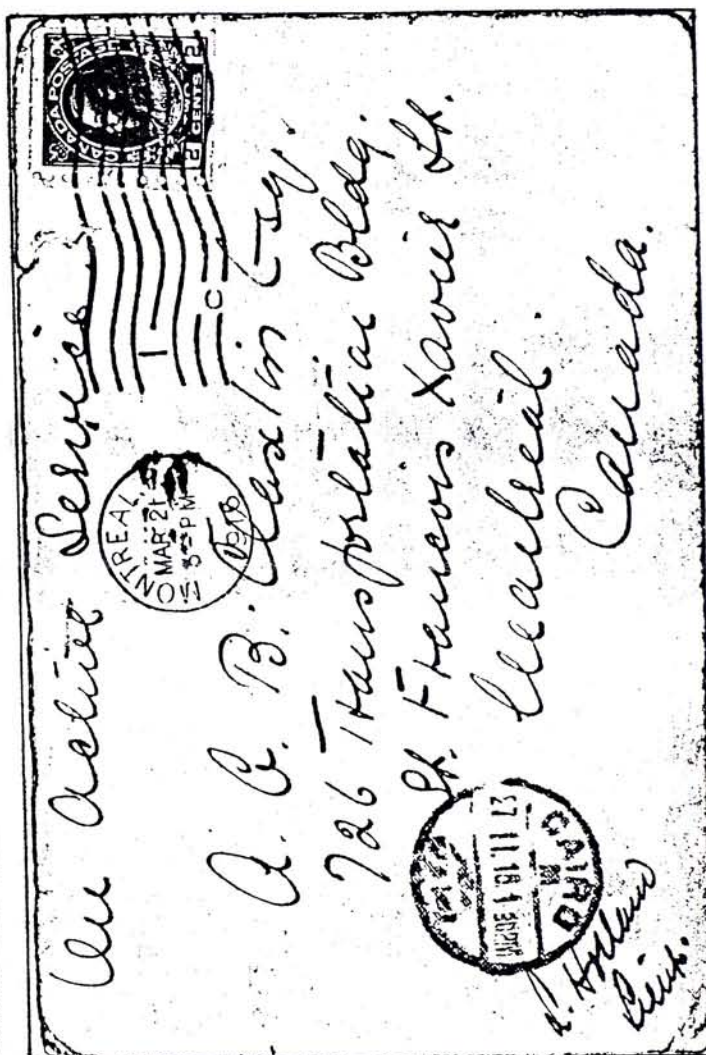
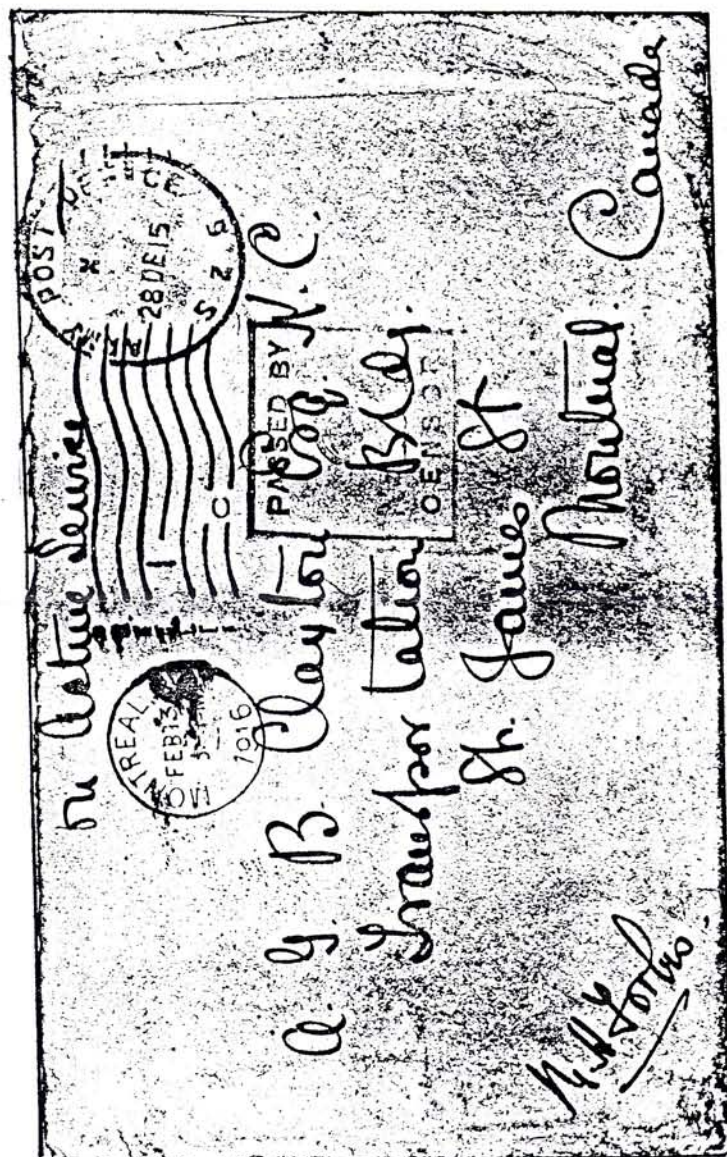
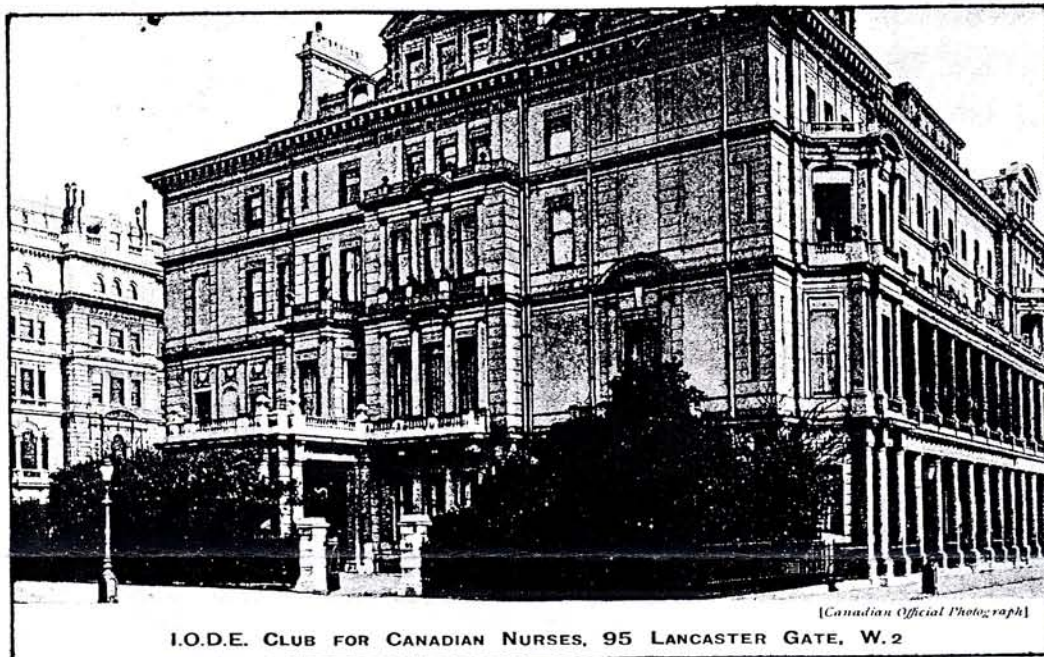
The following postcard depicts the I.O.D.E. Club at 95 Lancaster Gate in London. It's an impressive building.

Nursing Sister Mildred H. Forbes sent the next item to Montreal. The CM2 (m)/2963 censor was that attributed to the No.1 Canadian Stationary Hospital. The APO of December 28, 1915 signifies its Lemnos location (from August 16, 1915 to January 31, 1916).

Another cover to Montreal, sent from Nursing Sister Lt. Laura Holland, is dated November 27, 1915 with a Cairo, Egypt dater. The No.1 Canadian Stationary Hospital personnel were at Cairo while the hospital was enroute from Lemnos to Salonika (it was located at Salonika from March 3, 1916 to September 4, 1917).Ed./

(Cont'd.)







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CANADIAN FORCES FIRE ACADEMY GREETINGS

*Best Wishes*

*for a*

*Merry Christmas and a*

*Happy New Year*

*Commandant and Staff*

*Canadian Forces Fire Academy*

*Meilleurs voeux pour un joyeux Noël*

*et une heureuse année*

*Le commandant et le personnel*

*de l'Ecole des Pompiers des Forces Canadiennes*

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MOTOR LAUNCH 105--By W.G. Robinson

This ship was built in 1943 and served in Canada and Bermuda. She displaced 79 tons, with dimensions 112' x 18' x 5', and carried a crew of three officers and 14 ratings. She was capable of a speed of twenty knots, and was armed with three 20mm cannon.



The above airmail cover was mailed at Bermuda during the winter of 1943-1944 while M.L.105 was serving there with the 78th Flotilla. It also bears the oval "POST OFFICE/POST PAID/MARITIME MAIL" frank used at Bermuda. The return address shows "V45829, HMCML-105-FMO-Halifax, N.S.". /For more information on these and similar markings see NL#79 (Feb.1988), pp.7-8 .Ed./

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NO.4 CANADIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL, SALONICA--By Jon Johnson

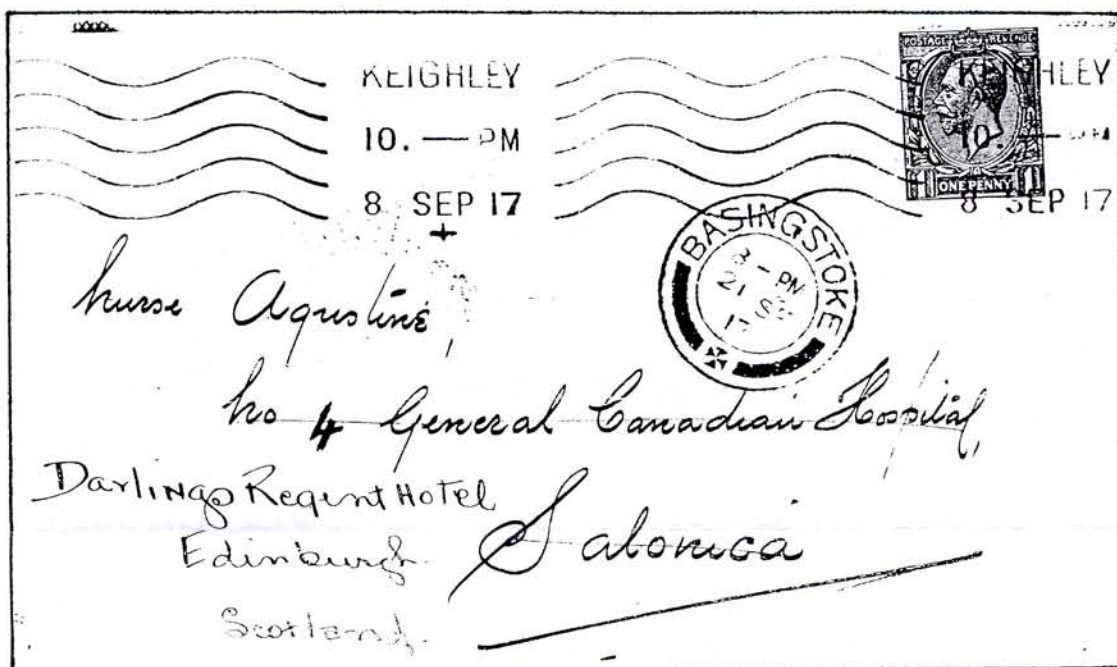
The following cover was mailed on September 8, 1917 from England to a Canadian nursing sister serving with No.4 Canadian General Hospital at Salonica. As Salonica is in Greece and not England, the post office was probably confused and the cover was subsequently sent to the Dead Letter Office in London, England (cancel on reverse is dated September 10, 1917). The D.L.O. sent the letter to Basingstoke, England, where No.4 C.G.H. had opened on September 17. On September 21, 1917, No.4 C.G.H. forwarded the letter to Nurse Agustine at Edinburgh, Scotland.

No.4 C.G.H. had actually left Salonica over a year earlier (on May 18, 1916), and had been at Kalamaria, Greece from May 19, 1916 to August 17, 1917. Kalamaria is about three miles south of Salonica. The move was prompted because Salonica's location was in the vicinity of malarial marshes. Furthermore, there were large ordnance and other depots beside the hospital which were frequently bombed by enemy aircraft so the hospital was continually at risk.

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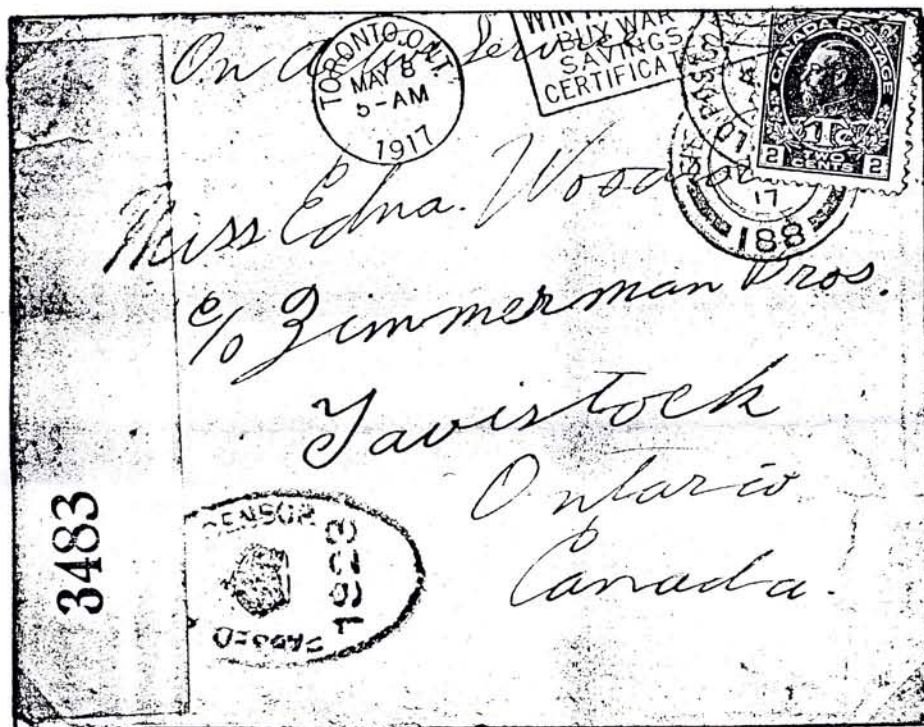


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FPO 188--By J.C.  
Campbell



FPO 188 was used by the 4th Canadian Division, 10th Brigade during the period February 1917 to June 1917. At the time this cancel was struck, the Brigade was in France in the Arras area. The following Battalions made up the Brigade at this time: 44th Winnipeg; 46th Regina; 47th New Westminster; 50th Calgary. Note the civil censor tape affixed.

Upon arrival in Canada, May 8, 1917, a flag-type cancel was applied. It is Richardson's "Type D" or #23-12.

The postage rate, in 1917

as noted, is correct for a domestic letter  
ie. 2¢ plus 1¢ "war tax".

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POSTAL USAGE OF FPO 89 BY FPO D.C.2 POST-FEB. 1945--By Kim Dodwell

Barry Dale, writing in NL#163 (Jan.2004, p.726) added to David Kelly's query in NL#162 (Nov.2003, pp.712-713) concerning postal usage of datestamp FPO 89, and perhaps I may add yet further to the story. It was certainly used quite frequently on 2 CID's mail in March and April 1945. It also appears likely that it replaced datestamp FPO 432 when the latter became worn (at FPO D.C.2).

My collection is of Brigade material only. I have twenty-one examples of the use of datestamp FPO 432 on out-going mail (postally used, that is), between 2 CID's arrival in Normandy and February 9, 1945 (but none thereafter). I have six examples of datestamp FPO 89 used (in the same circumstances as was FPO 432 earlier) between March 8 and May 4, 1945--when the war, and my collection, ends.

This is all on mail emanating from the three infantry brigades (4,5, and 6) of 2 CID identified by known unit censor handstamps. I suspect that a study of mail from 2 CID H.Q. and from Divisional troops would support the theory of FPO 89 replacing FPO 432 and recruited for fairly common usage. I could be wrong! It could also close my wide gap between the last use of FPO 432 and my earliest FPO 89. The Brigades had, of course, their own FPO's, but once the Division moved out from Normandy, the appearance of datestamps 434, 435, and 436 is rare, sporadic, and apparently without logic. A study of the FPO D.C.2 war diary might throw some light on this problem.

Bailey & Toop show FPO 432 (on p.288 of The Canadian Military Posts, Vol. II, 1985) as having been in use up to October 1, 1945 /B&T's Canadian Military Postal Markings, Vol.II (1996) indicate the FPO's closure as February 1946, p.426.Ed./, and this may well have been so, but I do think that it was taken out of use (at least temporarily) for repair in February 1945, when FPO 89 was used in its place.

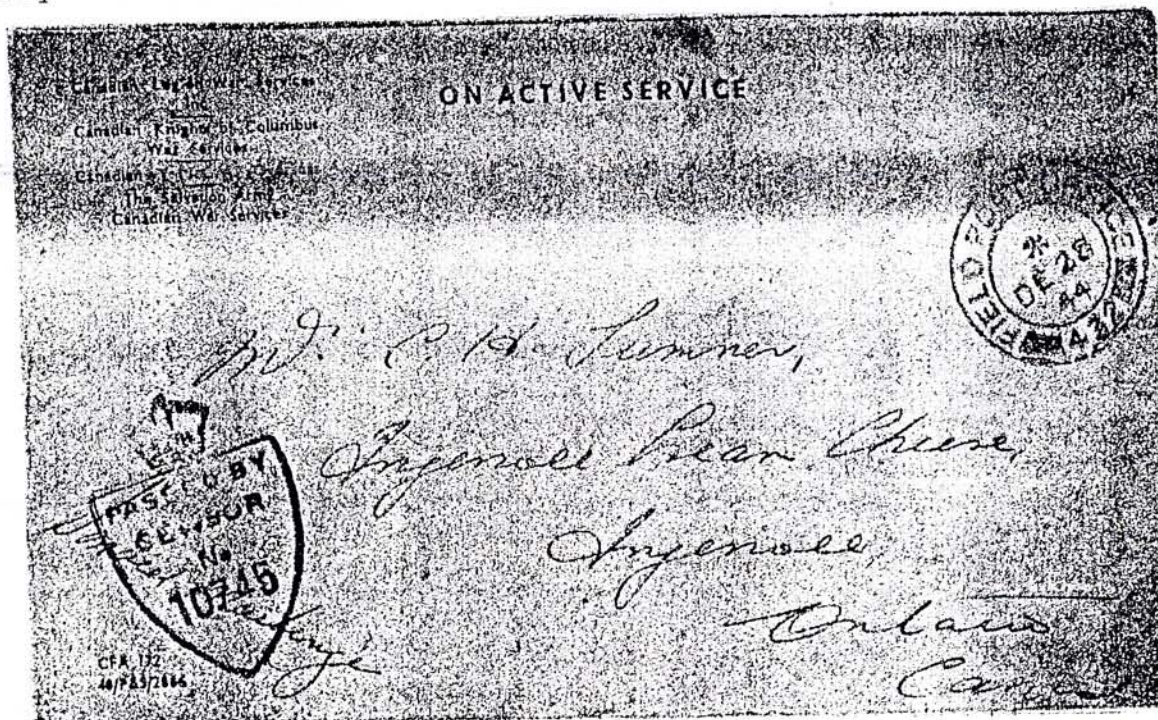


FIG.1

(Cont'd.)



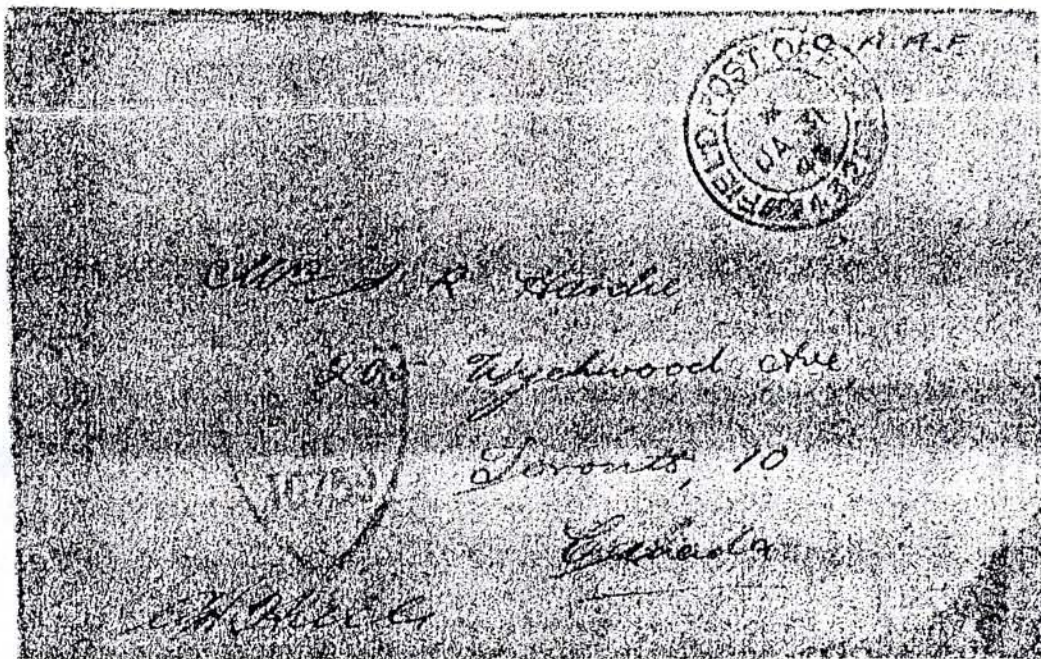
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I have included two copies of my clear examples to support my suggestion. Both show minor wear on the outer rim at six and seven o'clock positions. The disfigurement is not major, but it may have been enough to offend a "perfectionist" who, perhaps, sent the dater off for sharpening up at a workshop.

FIG.1, dated with the FPO 432 (December 28, 1944), is a cover from Major Donald Mackenzie of the Essex Scottish. He wrote to Ontario during the confused period following the German offensive in the Ardennes which started December 16, 1944. On December 26, 2 CID had been placed in Corps Reserve and the 4th and 6th Brigades were withdrawn from the line and ordered to the Mook-Makden area. They remained there until it was obvious that the German threat was past. They returned to the old Nijmegen positions in the first week of January. Major Mackenzie had come over to England as a Second Lt. on the Empress of Australia in 1940 and remained with the battalion throughout the war. He was Mentioned-in-Despatches.

FIG.2 is a cover from Pte.S.R. Hardie, The Black Watch, posted from FPO 432 on January 31, 1945. Canadian II Corps had relieved British troops in the Nijmegen bridgehead on November 9, 1944, and they remained in static positions until their involvement in Operation "Veritable" which began on February 8, 1945. Apart from a large-scale raid on the German position which D Company (of the Black Watch) mounted in early December, only patrolling by both sides broke the monotony.

FIG.2



On the previously-noted p.288 of Bailey & Toop, the authors included a note under the datestamp FPO 89 which reads:

"Although the number was being used on Registered Labels in May 1945, the old d/s was still being used."

(Cont'd.)

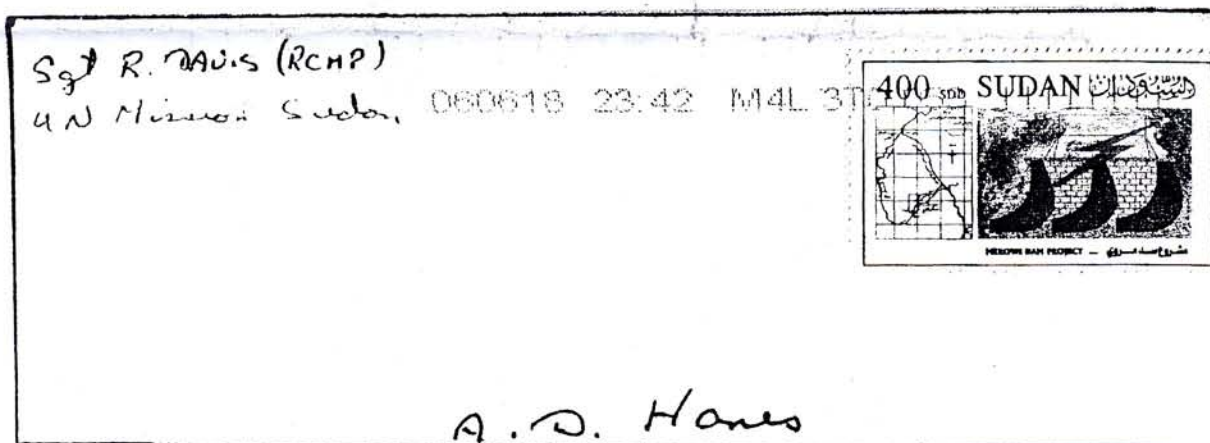
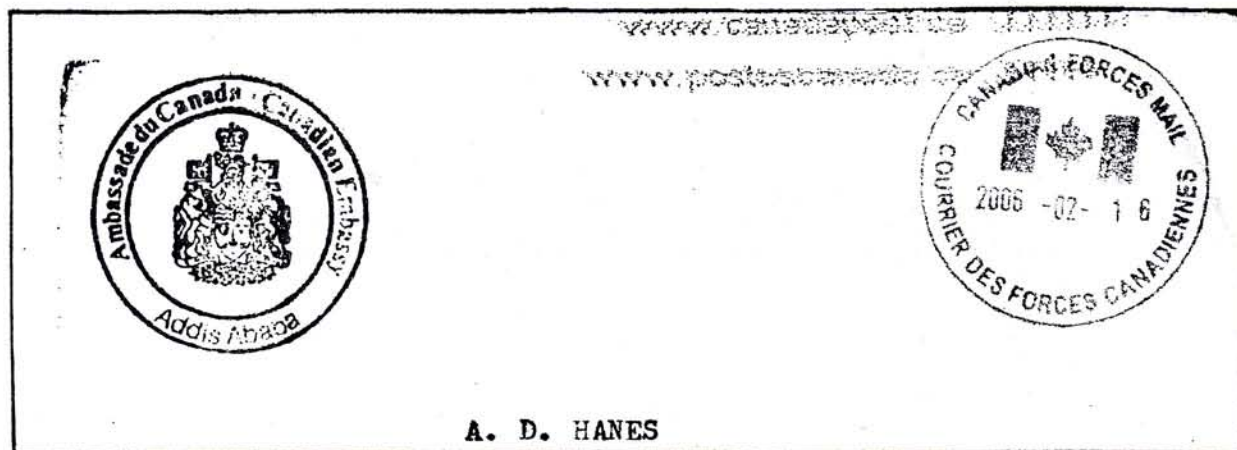


This is not altogether clear to me, but I assume that the "old datestamp" was FPO 432. Because my collection ends on V-E Day, I have no examples. /Thanks Kim. Can any other members add anything to this report? Ed./

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OPERATION "AUGURAL", 2006--By Dave Hanes

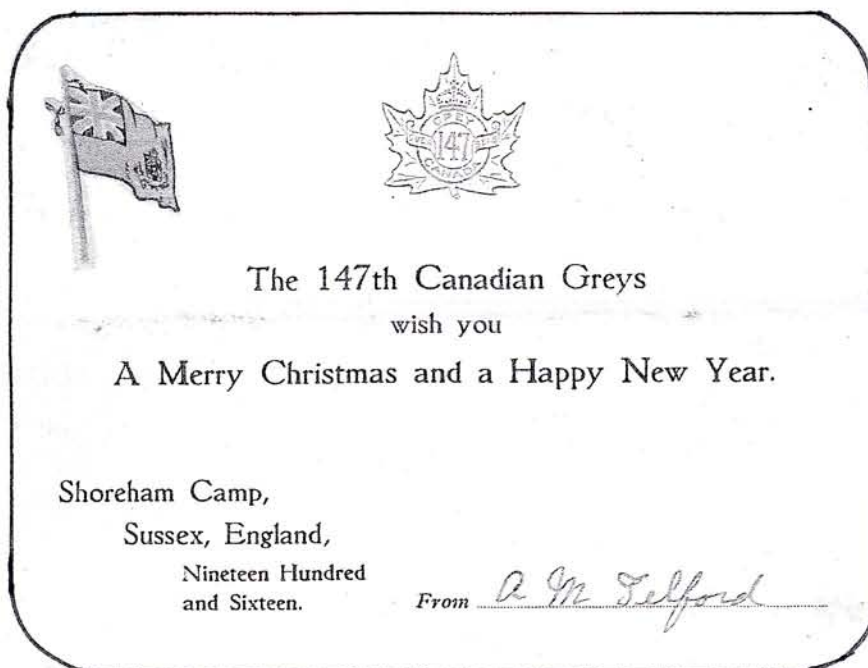
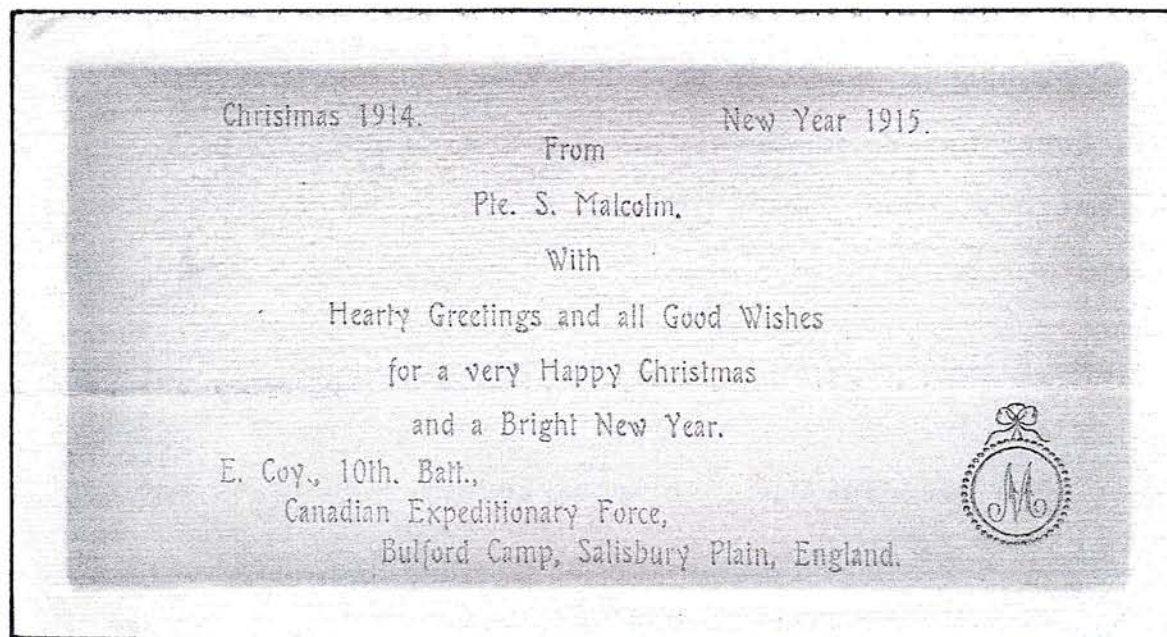
Canada is contributing humanitarian aid and support to help the African Union resolve the crisis in Darfur. Together with Foreign Affairs and the International Development Agency, the Canadian Armed Forces are playing a key role in providing this support. We presently have twenty personnel deployed on this mission (which commenced in December 2005). With no Canadian Forces Post Office assigned, mail is sent through a diplomatic bag from the Canadian Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Shown below /reduced and cropped.Ed./ is an envelope with the Canadian Embassy cachet from Addis Ababa in red, along with a blue Canadian Forces "free mail" marking applied in Ottawa. The cover is dated February 16, 2006. Also illustrated is a cover from an R.C.M.P. Sergeant using civilian postage from Sudan. The Canadian ink-jet spray receiver shows a date of June 18, 2006.



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GREETINGS FROM THE 10TH AND THE 147TH C.E.F.--By Steve Luciuk

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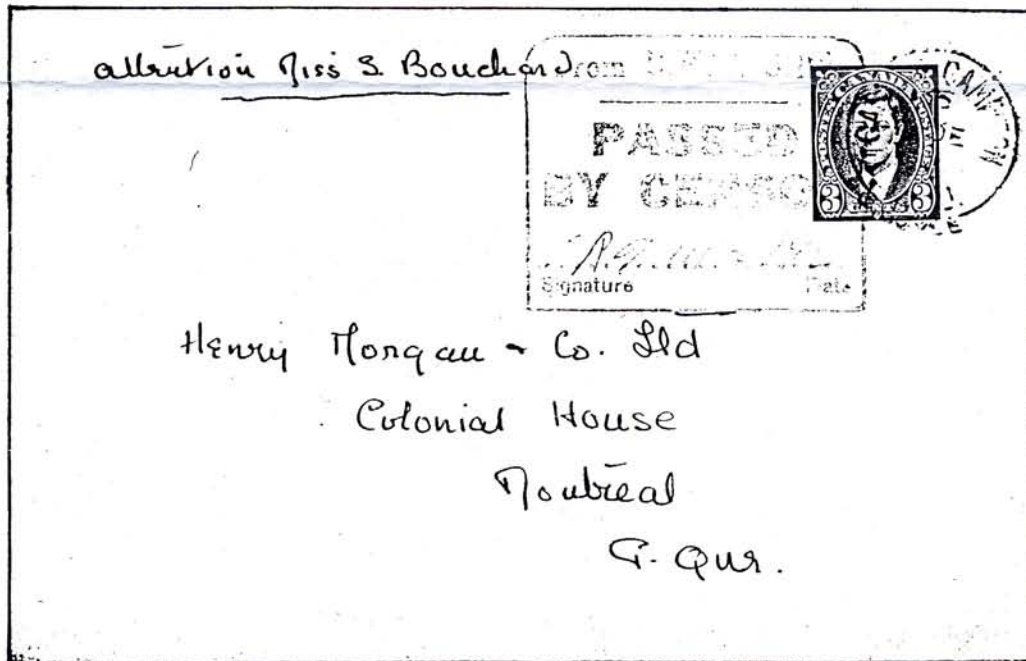


H.M.C.S. FORT RAMSAY, GASPE, QUEBEC--By J.C. Campbell

This Second World War cover was censored on December 11, 1942 at the Royal Canadian Naval Base at Gaspé, Quebec. The base complement at that time was less than one hundred (all ranks).

Commissioned on May 1, 1942, H.M.C.S. Fort Ramsay served as a base of operations for Gulf Escort Force, whose task was sea-going security patrols, rescue, inspections, etc., in the St. Lawrence River and the Gulf. The base also served as a two-hundred ton pull-out slip.

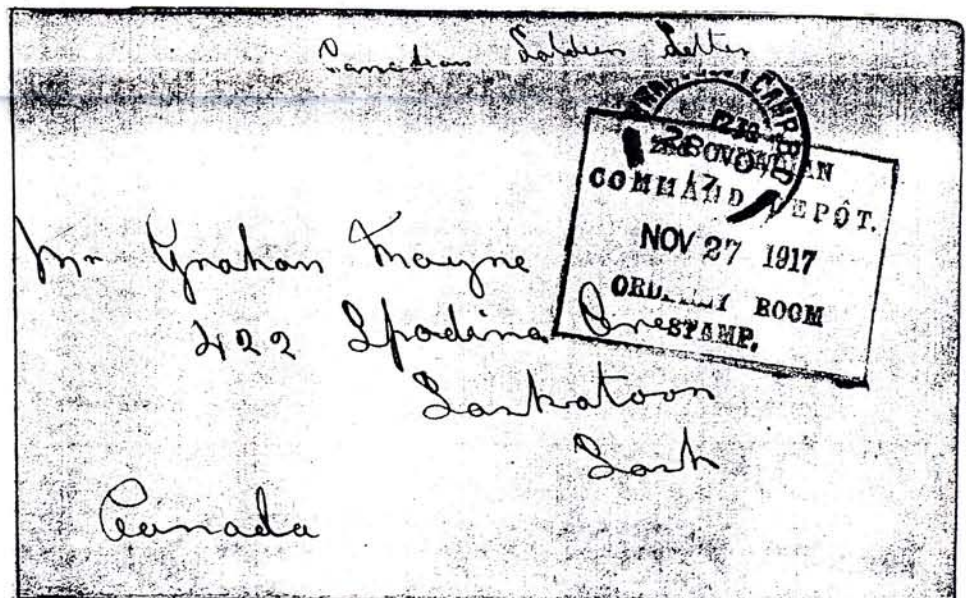
The cover bears a "Gaspé & Camp'ton/35/11 DE/42/R.P.O./G. DOYLE" railway post office circular dater (Ludlow Q-16A; Type 21F).



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SECOND CANADIAN COM-  
MAND DEPOT, BRAM-  
SHOTT CAMP, 1917

*Wishing you every happiness  
this holiday season  
and throughout  
the Coming Year.*



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Dear CMMSG Member:

Time has come to issue our last newsletter for the year and Doug and I hope that members will enjoy a wonderful holiday season! Some members have responded to my call last time for snippets, articles, etc. and it is appreciated. Members are also reminded of the call for dues in the last issue and thanks are extended to those who have already sent in their payment. I mentioned several books within our specialized field are now available from the BNAPS Book Department in the August issue. Ian Kimmerly Stamps can be reached at their new address: 62 Sparks St., Ottawa, ON K1P 5A8. The firm's fax, internet address, and telephone have not changed. Several members have recently had some health issues and we extend our very best wishes.

A few members have enquired about the costs associated with the group and our newsletter. Our only costs are the occasional telephone call (as I'm not online presently), postage, and copying. The "regular" newsletter ie. without colour illustrations, usually costs approximately \$135-\$145 per issue. We currently have 63 members in Canada (including sample issues/exchanges etc.), 20 members in the U.S.A., and 14 international members. On occasion, issues are sent to the philatelic press for review in the hopes of encouraging membership interest. Doug and I (as in the past) run a "tight ship" with our budget and hence the call for dues only when we need funds to continue. We hope for many "re-ups" for 2007 and beyond!

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SMALL ADS

Our "Small Ads" are still only \$1 per insertion (face Canadian postage is fine). Buy, sell, or trade! Payment to the Editor please.

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. (6/10)

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](mailto:mikestreet@hwc.org) (6/10)

FOR SALE: Big Military Section on our website: [www.canadacovers.ca](http://www.canadacovers.ca) (3/4)

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BNAPLEX 2007: Mark your calendars now! August 31-September 2, 2007 at the Westin Hotel, Calgary, Alberta. Further details to follow when available!

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*Thank You for Your Support*