



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

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1938 D.N.D. COVER RELATES TO WORLD MILITARY HISTORY--By Bill Pekonen

At first glance this 1938 cover may be considered to be of little interest to the Military Mail Study Group. But wait one moment. In the context of history, a different conclusion might be reached. The seeds of war do not sprout overnight nor does any country hop-

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ing to win begin a war without considerable planning beforehand.

This British cover from the War Office, dated December 19, 1938, makes one wonder what it was all about. Only the cover survived [Might it have contained a Christmas card or seasonal greetings? Ed.]. Curiously it is addressed to Oakville, Ontario. Oakville is located on Lake Ontario between Toronto and Hamilton. It had become a shipbuilding centre. Also, during the Second World War, a plant was built in that city by Ford Motor Company.

The cover also raises several questions that perhaps one of the other readers may be able to answer. Some of us lived during the Second World War and remember a few details about what happened before the war began. Here are a few brief snapshots of time before September 3, 1939:

1. Hitler introduced compulsory military service during March 1935.
2. On March 12, 1938, German troops crossed the border into Austria to "liberate" the people. Germany was in compliance with the Treaty of Versailles.
3. In May 1938, British and French became alarmed because of rumours which might result in the outbreak of war between Germany and Czechoslovakia.
4. September 12, 1938-Hitler makes an inflammatory speech.
5. September 27, 1938-The British Fleet is sent to War Stations. Chamberlain's agreement with Hitler was not "swallowed" by many British.
6. The September 1938 Munich Crisis highlights the fact that France and Britain were not prepared for war. Their defences were weak. There was no political appetite to disturb the peace, especially since they had not recovered from the 1930's Depression.
7. October 1938-Japanese forces land near Hong Kong.
8. November 1938-Japan announces a "New Order for South-East Asia" to become the dominant economic power.
9. November 1938-German thugs attack Jewish homes and businesses in Germany raising worldwide indignation.
10. December 19, 1938-The British War Office wrote a letter to the Department of National Defence in Oakville.
11. In contrast, Great Britain did not introduce conscription until May 1939.
12. May 17, 1938-King George VI and Queen Elizabeth begin a month-long tour of Canada.
13. May 19, 1938-King George VI opens the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa. The King wore the uniform of a Field Marshal.
14. Were the uniform and the Royal Visit some kind of subtle signal that a possible war was about to begin?
15. Were the British bureaucrats secretly preparing for war?
16. September 3, 1939-Britain declares war on Germany.

Why was a Department of National Defence office located in Oakville? What do the initials "D.P.R." represent? Anyone know the answers? [Could the letter have included, as Bill suggests, something connected with these events or, as I eluded, was simply an innocuous seasonal greeting from a British acquaintance to Lt.Col. Louis Keene? Members may know that Keene was an interesting individual within Canadian military history. He served in the Great War and was part of the Canadian Siberian Expedi-

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tionary Force. He also served as a Canadian war artist and has several works in the Canadian War Museum. I believe that both his mother and father were accomplished photographers and artists. Members will recall Keene's "Cheerio" Christmas card and artwork for the 20th Machine Gun Co., C.E.F. Siberia in Newsletter #121 (December 1995), p.205. Keene went on to command the Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin, and Halton Regiment) during the Second World War. Correspondence I have reveals that he lived on Second Street in Oakville, so Keene could have worked in the D.N.D. office there. We will never know if the cover contained a simple Christmas card or something more "historically important". Could the "D.P.R." (presumably British) designate "Director/Department Personnel Records"? Members are encouraged to contact the Editor with further details.Ed.]

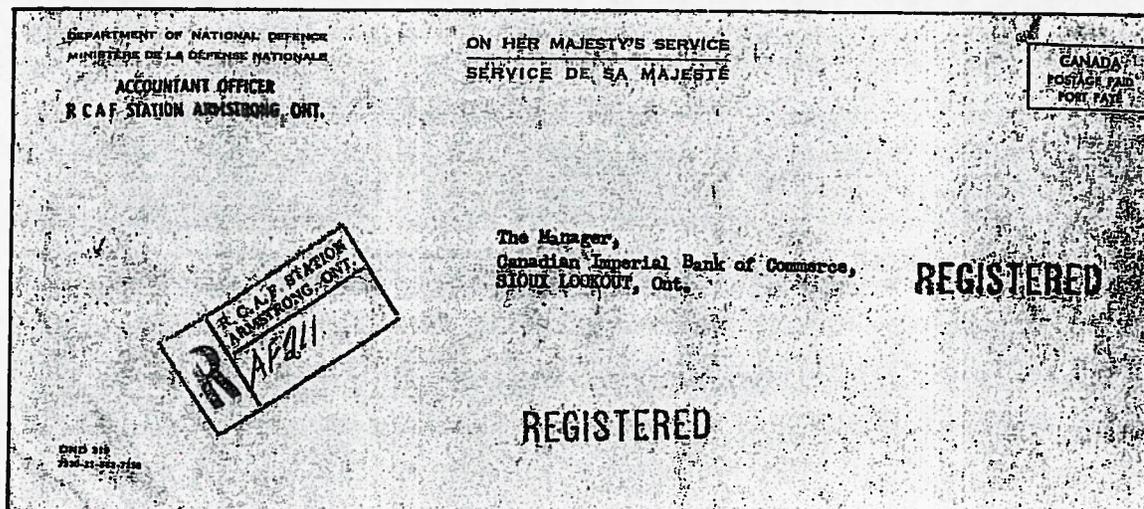
R.C.A.F. STATION, ARMSTRONG, ONTARIO-1966--By George Sawatzki

I recently acquired this cover. In searching my military mail references published by W.J. Bailey and E.R. Toop, as well as the two volumes published by C.D. Sayles, I could not find many references to "RCAF Station Armstrong".

The Canadian Military Post, Volume III by Bailey and Toop (p.79) notes under their paragraph "Pine Tree Line Stations" makes mention of Armstrong with "...the following sites were not provided with distinctive military cancellers; Armstrong, B.C.,...." I cannot find any reference to R.C.A.F. Armstrong, Ontario in the various references available.

However, in searching the Internet I found an interesting article on CFS Armstrong under: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CFS_Armstrong [which briefly states:

...that Canadian Forces Station Armstrong was a General Surveillance Radar Station located 1.1 miles (1.8km) east of Armstrong, Ontario and was operated as part of the "Pine Tree Line" network controlled by NORAD and built in 1952. It was closed in 1974.Ed.]

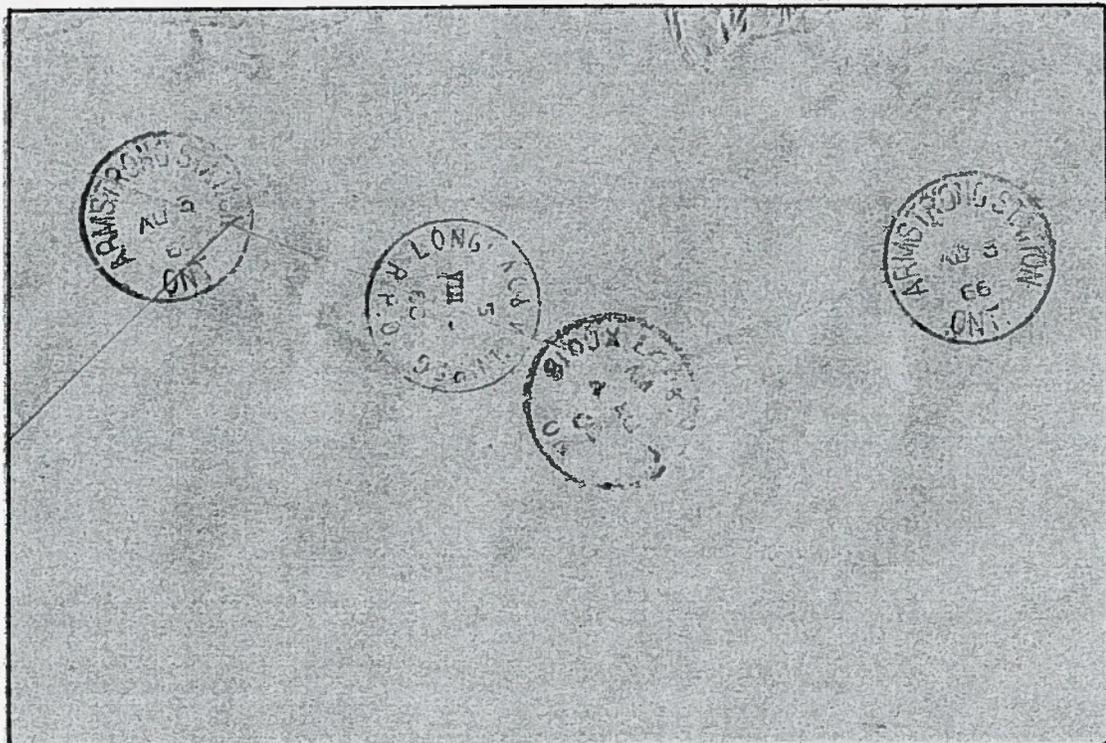
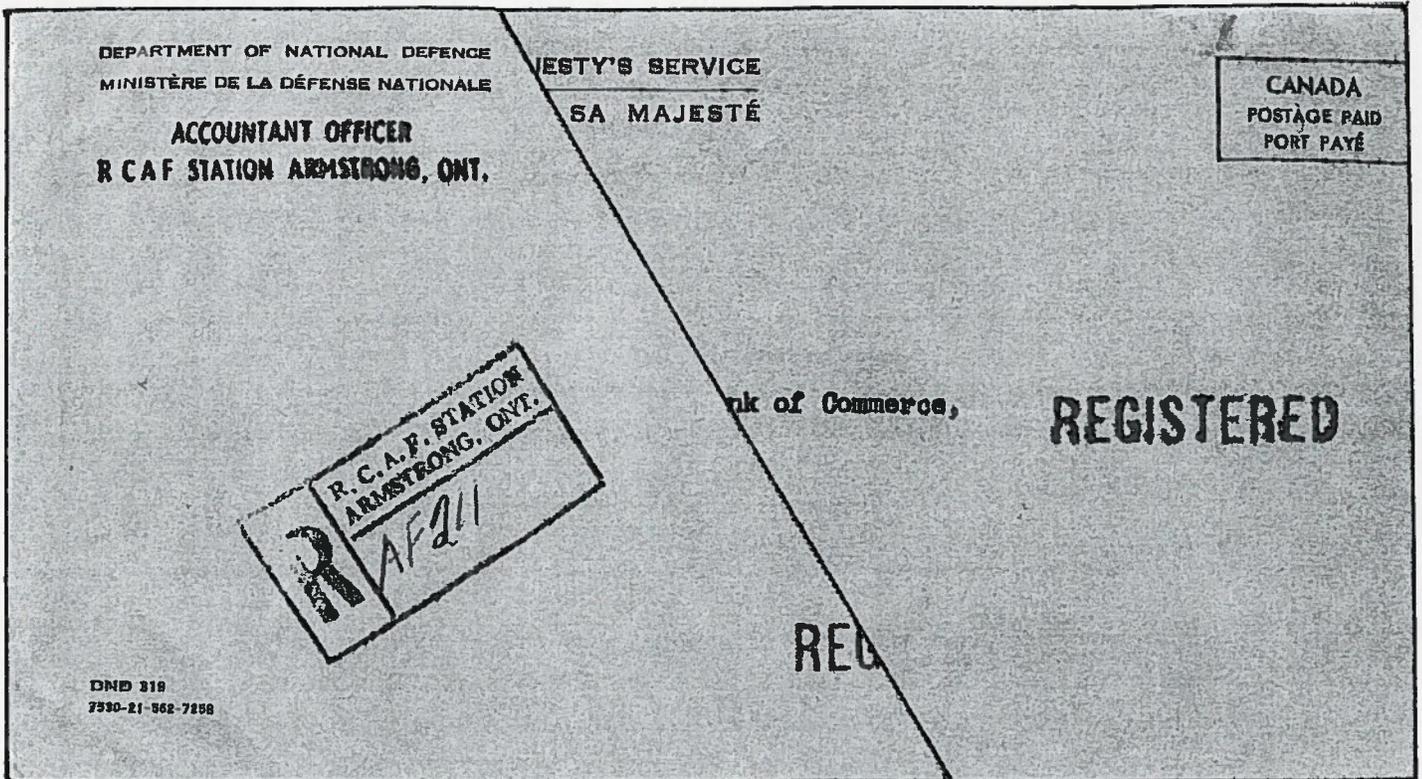


[Reduced to 75%. Detailed strikes follow.Ed.]

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Two 23mm CDS on the back only show "Armstrong Station, Ontario".



[Thanks George. This office seems to be a new report. It seems to have (sorry for the pun) fallen off of the radar! Are members able to record others similar?Ed.]

CANADA'S EARLY MILITARY CONNECTIONS TO EGYPT--By Mark B. Trumpour (Guest Contributor)

I was led to your Editor Dean Mario in the course of conducting research into Canadian institutional collections of ancient Egyptian material. I am the lead researcher for a project entitled "In Search of Ancient Egypt in Canada/À la recherche de l'Égypte ancienne au Canada". It is sponsored by the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities, a not-for-profit charitable Toronto-based organization (website: www.thessea.org). Time put into the project is volunteered. You can access more via the SSEA website (click on "Fieldwork") or directly at: <http://sseamontrealvip.homestead.com>.

The Project is identifying the location of artefacts from ancient Egypt in Canadian institutional collections. In the process we have come across the stories of many people who brought these items back to Canada. A mummy resides in the collection of the Museum of Vancouver, donated by a Dr. Kidd, who brought it back after serving in Egypt in WWI. It was this mummy that prompted my research into Kidd's story, and that in turn led me to the door of the CMMSG. An online Newsletter article by Colin Pomfret first made me aware of the existence of postcards to and from Dr. Kidd and, subsequently, John Watson and Dean Mario have also been helpfully passing along copies or scans of other Kidd correspondence. These have helped me to flesh out the story of his Egyptian sojourn.

George Edward Kidd (1883-1948) was born in Renfrew County in eastern Ontario. He was a professor of anatomy at Queen's University when he volunteered for service in April 1915 with the Number 5 Stationary Hospital, raised by Queen's University from among its staff and students. They were assigned to establish a military hospital in Cairo's Abbassia Barracks to assist with the stream of casualties from the Gallipoli campaign. The hospital functioned there from August 1915 to April 1916 [becoming No.7 General Hospital on January 26, 1916.Ed.]. At some point over this period, the Major (soon-to-be Lt.Col.) Kidd acquired a mummy--an extension of his interest in anatomy? How he was able to bring it with him when his unit left Egypt is a mystery that remains to be solved. Regardless, the mummy successfully accompanied him home after the war, first to Kingston and then to British Columbia, where he set up practice. In 1922 he donated the mummy to the Museum of Vancouver where it still makes its home.

Two other military connections to Egypt have fallen under my gaze. Benares House is a small museum in Mississauga, Ontario that occupies the original home of one Captain James Harris (1797-1884). In 1991, an excavation of a portion of the grounds turned up a small ancient Egyptian figurine known as a shabti. How had it come to be there?

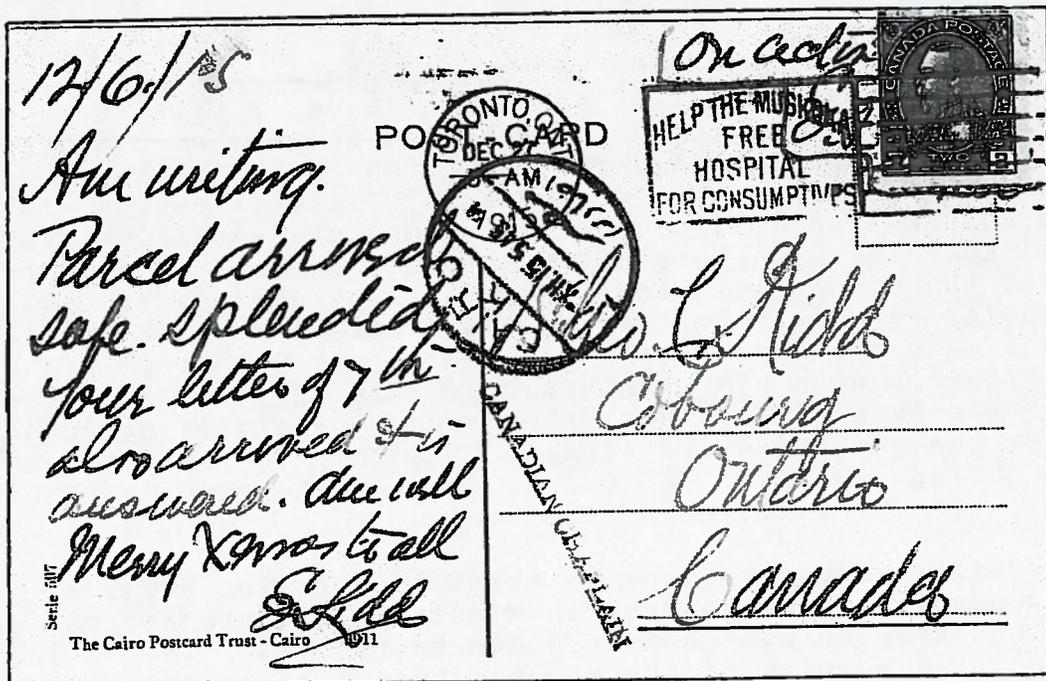
Capt. Harris served in the British Army in India with the 24th Regiment of Foot. Egypt was the key stop-over point for military personnel travelling between Britain and India, so it seems that he had taken advantage of the fact that he was in transit to spend time in Egypt; coming home with a few souvenirs (another one was a red fez). The good captain sold his commission in 1836 and used the proceeds to purchase Benares House. In 1855, and again in 1856, the home suffered fires.

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Refuse from the fires was piled in the back of the property, where the shabti was discovered. It can be seen on display in the Interpretation Centre. Benares House has an added connection to Canada's cultural history; it served as the inspiration for Jalna, the estate featured in the Whiteoaks of Jalna novels of Mazo de la Roche.

Another Canadian military man with an Egyptian connection was James Frederick "Cupid" Wilson (1852-1911). Born in Kingston, Ontario, he was a major with "A" Artillery Battery in the new Canadian Army when he volunteered for service in the 1884 expedition to rescue General Gordon at Khartoum. His offer accepted, he joined a group of almost three hundred voyageurs who were also sent over to help get the expedition force past the rapids on the upper Nile. Wilson was assigned to the First Battery of the First Brigade of the Southern Division, and likely saw action as part of what was called the Desert Column; which successfully fought off two attacks by the forces of the Mahdi. Roy MacLaren's book, Canadians on the Nile, 1882-1898 (1978) documents the Canadian involvement with a few references to Wilson. For his efforts, Wilson received the Khedive's Star and the Nile Medal (the whereabouts of which are not known). He went on to serve a distinguished career, and was appointed Major-General just prior to his retirement in 1908; the first Canadian to attain this rank. Wilson died in Montreal, so possibly material of his--some from Egypt--may be found somewhere in that city.



[Example of a typical card from Kidd with his distinctive handwriting. Ed.]

The Museum of Vancouver has been good enough to give me permission to publish photos from their collection, including Dr. Kidd's mummy, in the journal Historic Kingston. The piece includes both Kidd and Wilson. In return I am passing on materials related to Kidd to the Museum.

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Should any members of the CMMSG happen to have other material related to any of our trio, Kidd, Wilson, or Harris, I would welcome hearing about it. I can be reached at: trumpoma@msn.com, or at 2 Lakehill Crescent, Toronto, ON Canada M1M 1E6. Keep up your good work! [Many thanks Mark for a very interesting story! Thanks too to Vice-President, Study Groups Peter MacDonald for first bringing this story to my attention. Can other members help out? One is continually made aware that Canadian military postal history is an increasingly-important aspect of our country's heritage.Ed.]

1942 POSTAL & TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP: AN UNRECORDED EXAMPLE?--By C.Ron McGuire

I was recently in Ian Kimmerly's stamp store in Ottawa. He had just bought the cover which is the subject of this article. It intrigued me because I had not seen another censor item like it before.

The interesting four-page letter [reduced 73%.Ed.] was written on September 16, 1942 by Jerry Stubbs, serving with the "C.A.S.F." (Canadian Active Service Force) near Littlehampton, Sussex, to his parents in Winnipeg. It was postmarked the next day; contrary to regulations, at the Littlehampton civilian post office.

[Along with the letter came a...] British "Postal & Telegraph Censorship" form ("P.C. 72") dated "23.9.42". The form's complete reference is on the back at the lower left--"(685) MI4496/75 6/42 50,000(3) W.B. & S. 40(3)" and confirms it was from a printing of 50,000 copies done the previous June and to me, that it was not an uncommon form type. Furthermore the "(3)" after the quantity may indicate it was the third such amount printed since the war began.

The completed form indicates that the original letter and contents were submitted by Liverpool Operating Unit Examiner A/E. Kitwood to M.I.12 (the military censorship section of the Ministry of Information) on "22.9.42". Copies were also sent to "I.R.B.". None of my normally-excellent explanation sources for abbreviations had this one. Does anyone know what "I.R.B." represents?

The form also has the following which records its subsequent movements:

- a pencil notation "4/Censor/4/8-MI (Military Intelligence)-No Trace";
- a red pencil "CMHQ" (Canadian Military Headquarters) written above the once-common adjustable datestamp-"25 SEP 1942" in red ink, which I think is the date it was sent to CMHQ; and
- a Canadian Military/H.Q. "clock" CDS (my term for this type of postmark with a 24-hour time indicator), in violet ink, time/dated "11:45 am/26 Sep 1942"; the day it was received at H.Q.; three days after the form was dated.

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| POSTAL & TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP P.C.72. | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|---|---|
| TERMINAL MAIL | | SUBMISSION No. LIV/39228/42 | | Date 23.9.42. |
| Air | | Surface | | |
| From | JERRY (STUBBS), England, Littlehampton, Sussex. | | To | MR. & MRS. LEWIS ST. GEO. STUBBS, Ste 14 Ellesmere Apts., 74 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. |
| Address or postmark | | | Language | English |
| Date of Letter or postmark | 16.9.42. | | SUBMITTED TO 25 SEP 1942 Original to M.I.12 for Field Censor (Home) Copies to I.R.B. | |
| ORIGINAL LETTER: (State whether Submitted, Photographed, Retained, Released or Returned to Sender) | | | | |
| Submitted | | | | |
| Seen by: Naval Adviser | Air Adviser | M.I.12 | | |
| Operating Unit Liverpool | Section M1. 27 | Examiner 172 | D.A.C. A/E. Kitwood | Date 22.9.42. |
| SUBJECT (Include necessary references to Watch Lists, with Authority requiring the Watch) | | | | |
| Enclosures: 4 snaps. | | | | |
| A Canadian, whose morale appears to be otherwise excellent, complains of the inhumanity of Army mentality and cites an alleged case of brutality. | | | | |
| <u>Extract from letter:</u> | | | | |
| "It is two years now. Two years which have seemed like an eternity. The days, weeks and months succeed one another and somehow we keep going, laughing a little, and ever thinking of the time when our job will be finished and life will assume a | | | | |

Accompanying Censorship Form [73%]
(Front)

The form and the typewritten excerpt of Jerry's letter that was of concern to the censor is self-explanatory. The treatment of Jerry's friend naturally upset him and he expressed it clearly in fully half of his letter.

Understandably, the censor could not allow the letter to pass because it recorded the brutal treatment of a soldier which reflected detrimentally on the army. Jerry probably thought this and purposely mailed it at a civilian post office, without a return address, in the hope it would circumvent censoring.

From the file holes in the letter, form, and envelope, I believe it was never sent to Jerry's parents and was filed somewhere at CMHQ in London. The fact these forms were handled in this manner explains why I have not

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little of the grace and dignity which make it worth the living. These two years of army life have been the most amazing and the most gruesome of my 28 years. If I am spared I shall never forget them. Always I have felt an inner satisfaction and been consoled and also inspired by the thought that it is an honor and privilege to suffer and fight in such a war, for such a cause. And yet at times, these feelings have almost been crushed by the unbelievable stupidities and cruelties of army mentality. It is difficult to fight for truth and justice when these two supreme virtues are themselves shamefully ignored and abused. We are supposed to be a peoples army fighting a peoples war of liberation and yet at times we are treated like convicts and slaves, and it is forgotten that we are individuals and volunteers fighting for the cause of freedom for everybody. Never have I seen the fundamentals of truth and justice so abused. One of my friends has been treated in a manner that would do credit to the torture camps of the Nazi beasts. And apparently such methods are commonly used and practised. For smacking a stool pigeon in one of our Field Punishment Camps, he was handcuffed to the wall in a dark cell with a stone floor, and fed on bread and water, and forced to sleep without blankets in this ignominious position for three nights. In these camps, everything is done on the double and the idea seems to be to humble and degrade and to reduce the prisoners to a state of complete docility by sheer brute force. My friend lost 25 lbs, and it is rumored that our Colonel was delighted with this testimony of the success of his punishment. However, enough of this, Fate may be kind enough to enable me in the future to record my feelings, without danger of being punished for so doing".

FOR MINISTRIES ONLY

Recommendation for Disposal of Letter and Reason

FOR CENSORSHIP INTERNAL ACTION

Letter Condemned

Returned to Sender

Released

(685) M11-196/75 4/42 50,000(3) W.B. & S. 40(1)

(Reverse)

seen another in over forty years of collecting censored mail. Fortunately this one was eventually "liberated" and saved for military postal history posterity and, my collection.

The previous owner told Ian it was the only item he had and thought it might have some value. It also came with four small 1 3/4" x 2 3/4" photographs, noted as "enclosures" on the censorship form. The noticeable bulge the photos made in the envelope may have alerted the postmaster who forwarded it to the censor. Their small size is a result of wartime economy and I have seen litterly hundreds over the years; some even smaller in size. It never ceases to amaze me that, despite their diminutive size, they invariably depict very clear and distinct images.

Fortunately this group was documented on the back (often they are not) and confirm that three photos were taken of Jerry at Tilgate Camp at

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Crawley in July, while one was at Selsey Camp in August. They were wrapped in a short note: "How do you like the Snaps! Terrible I think. However, I have lots of negatives & will send along some later. LOVE". [Thanks very much Ron. Can some of our British members, perhaps more familiar with Form P.C.72, comment?Ed.]

SPECIAL BNAPS NOTICE

From Mike Street: Status – Doug Sayles' Canadian Military Postmark Catalogues

With the gracious help of Mary Jane Sayles, the BNAPS Book Department now has what appears to be all of Doug's military postmark computer files and research notes, as well as copies or scans of Doug's collection of pre-1936 covers and some additional material.

The amount of computer data is huge – 33,919 files to be exact. It will take time to fully sort and identify all of them. However, a preliminary survey shows that the great majority are image files, many with similar names, indicating that they are progressive versions of cancellation images made as Doug prepared his illustrations. The MS Word files on hand include the master copies for the previously published Catalogue Volumes 2 and 3, as well as an update to those volumes that will soon be posted on the BNAPS web-site. Much to my relief, there is also a significant number of pages from Volume 1, on which Doug was working when he died.

Where does this leave things? BNAPS is committed to seeing that Volume 1 is completed. For this we need a new Editor with reasonable knowledge of Word (and military mail, of course) to take over the master files and finish the task. If the Editor is not up to speed on graphics programs such as Photoshop or similar, we will also need someone capable in that area to assist. The Volume 1 Editor will of course contact collectors knowledgeable in the pre-1936 eras to see if they have any items to add to the catalogue.

In the future, BNAPS would also like to publish new editions of Volumes 2 and 3, bringing them up-to-date with additions brought to light since the catalogues were first published. For this we need one or more volunteers to take on the task of gathering and organizing new material. This will involve obtaining from other collectors scans and images of items not currently in Volumes 2 or 3. It will also entail keeping track, with the help of other collectors, of new items that appear in auctions or on Internet sales sites such as eBay. How this material will be incorporated into new editions will be determined later – the important thing is to gather the information. Ideally, we could use three volunteers for this part of the job - one each for Army, Navy and Air Force markings.

If you would like to help with any of the above tasks, please call/write/email me as soon as possible. Thanks very much.

Mike Street: 73 Hatton Dr., Ancaster, ON L9G 2H5 or <mikestreet1@gmail.com> or 905-648-3737.

NEW CMMSG "INTERIM" CHAIRMAN: HENK BURGERS

Our group has a new "interim" Chairman who will be quite familiar to many members. Henk Burgers has kindly accepted an invitation for the position. Henk took over the Editor's position from Ken Ellison and was Editor from issue No. 104 (April 1992) to No. 116-117 (Summer 1994). Members will remember Henk's previous articles within this publication as well as TOPICS. Henk was a past recipient of the BNAPS E.R. "Ritch" Toop Award For Literature, and is an accomplished exhibitor. Henk has agreed to stand for election at BNAPEX 2012 in Calgary later this year.

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Dear CMMSG Members:

Thanks are extended to several members for sending along articles. We cannot continue without the great support extended!

Members will have noted that **Henk Burgers** is now our group's "interim" Chairman until the Calgary BNAPEX Convention and Exhibition on August 31 to September 2, 2012. We do plan on calling a Study Group meeting and plans are being finalized. Unfortunately I cannot attend but if the membership is willing, I will stay on as Editor. Given the untimely passing of some of our former Chairman who have also held the Treasury concurrently (which has sometimes created difficulties), I will take on that role (I'm usually the only officer that spends money anyway).

A warm congratulations is extended to member **C. Ron McGuire**, FRPSC, OTB who has recently been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his outstanding work with the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association! Ron is the N.E. Ontario Regional Representative for the organization. He currently has an interesting write-up on their website concerning the previous Victoria Cross stamp issue. The website is a very interesting and well-done source of information: www.hkvca.ca (.)

A recent announcement from The Royal Philatelic Society, London relates to the launch of the Global Philatelic Library (www.globalphilateliclibrary.org (no hyphen), which will be a central information destination for philatelic researchers. Thanks to the Forces Postal History Society for forwarding it to our membership.

Belated welcome to new member **W. Temple**, Regina who joined our group late last year and another to recent member **T. Nieforth**, Pasco, WA!

The most recent TOPICS related to military subjects was a tremendous effort. Congratulations to "Interim Editors" Messrs. Burgers, Donen, Lemire, Philip, and Street. Please consider helping out with the Sayles' series and future updates on the preceding page.

Member **Gary Collins** has recently sent along a note with some great ideas related to future group projects. He wondered if Canada Post will be commemorating the Great War and Canada's participation in 2014-2018. He also suggested a splendid idea concerning a special theme/exhibition/or Court of Honour related to the Great War at the BNAPEX in 2014. What do members think? Contact Henk or the BNAPS Board of Directors with your input.

Until next issue and on behalf of Henk, we hope that members have a wonderful summer!

SMALL ADS

WANTED: Sewell Camp/Camp Hughes postal history on postcards and covers. Pre-WWI militia camps and 1915/16 C.E.F. eras. Eagerly seeking registered mail, incoming mail, and EKU, LKU strikes. Darcy Hickson, RR#2, Box 24, Brandon, MB R7A 5Y2; (204) 725-0621; or email: hicksondj@mts.net (10/10)
