

# Canadian Military Mail Study Group

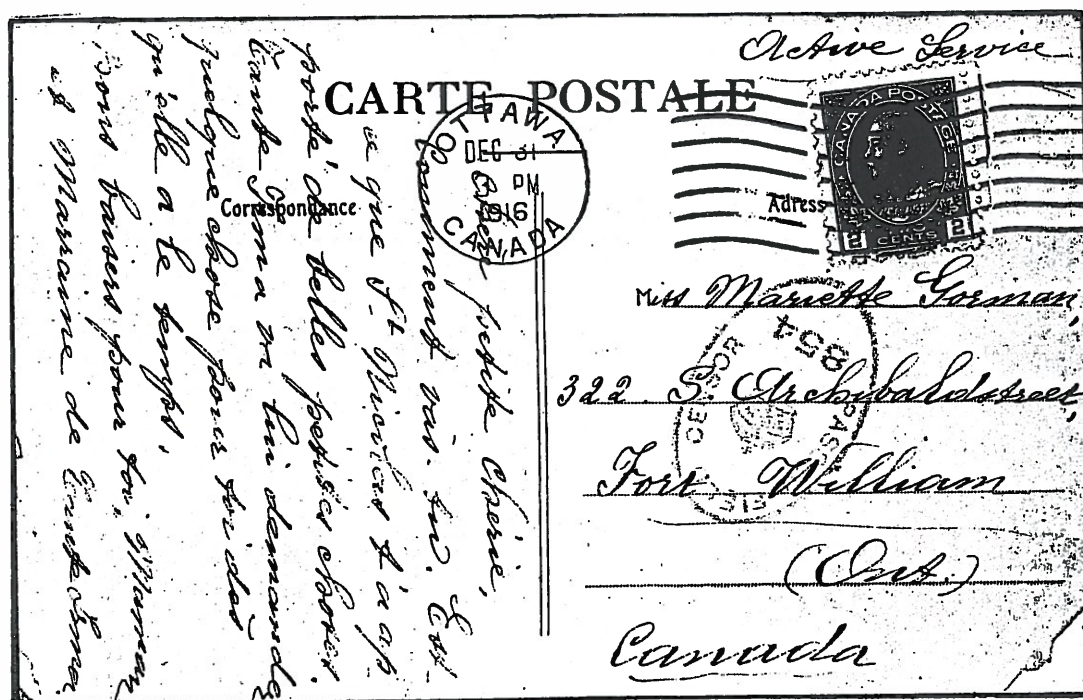
## NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013

NEWSLETTER NO. 209  
Page 1285

### A CANADIAN NURSING SISTER IN HOSPITAL--By Colin Pomfret

The following is a card from Canadian Nursing Sister Irma van Bockstaele who was a patient at Villa Tino, a hospital for nursing sisters operated by the staff of No. 24 General Hospital (Imperial). It bears an APO 3 dated December 17, 1916 (Boulogne) on the view side. The censor No.5/854 is associated with the 24th.



At the time the C.A.M.C. had no facilities for caring for sick  
[Cont'd.]

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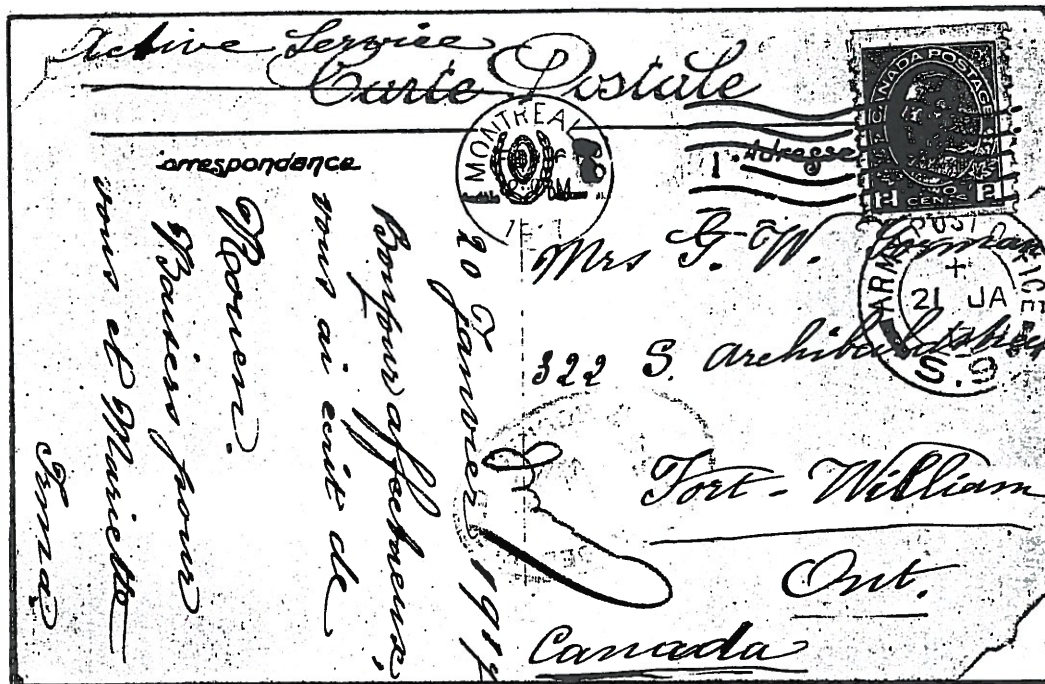
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or injured Sisters, but a ward for female patients was opened at No. 8 Canadian General Hospital in Paris at a later date.

Here is another card from N/S Irma van Bockstaele at the Convalescent Home for nurses at Etretat. It bears the APO S.9 dated +/21 JA/17 with censor No.5/2544. The home was quite small; having only a staff of a Matron, for V.A.D.'s, and a medical orderly.



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# THE CIRCULAR ARMY CENSORSHIP MARKINGS, NEWFOUNDLAND: PART II--By Paul Binney

A short update is in order as I continue to locate additional material for this type of marking. The ultimate goal of this study is to track the use of the censor markings and identify which markings were used by individual units and other markings that were assigned to censors serving a number of units or offices. This article will deal with the additional insights into the manufacture and distribution of these markings. The observations presented here should only be considered as preliminary pending the addition of further information.

The generosity of many members of the group has provided additional information such that I now have data from almost 400 covers. In total, 88 of the 100 markings have been identified with at least one example. Furthermore, 42 of the censor numbers have three or more examples, and twelve of the censor numbers have ten or more examples.



TYPE I: Single ring  
censor marking



TYPE II: Double ring  
censor marking

[Cont'd.]

I have presented a table and graph showing use of this type of censor mark. Most censor marks originated with the army regiments associated with CAPO 1, 2, and 3. A few covers were mailed at CAPO 4 (Gander) and CAPO 5 (Torbay). The single example I have from CAPO 4 is [from] a serviceman with the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps while the examples from Torbay are from the 27th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery. This latter unit appears to have mailed outbound correspondence from CAPO 5 while receiving their inbound mail through CAPO 1 as shown by the return address on the covers. No covers from CAPO 10 (Goose Bay) are known with this particular style of censor mark.

### Military Censor Markings - Summary

Censor #	type	# strikes	EKD	LKD	CAPO 1	CAPO 2	CAPO 3	CAPO 4	CAPO 5
1	TYPE II	2	1942.01	1942.06	X				
2	TYPE II	11	1940.12	1944.06	X	X	X		
3	TYPE II	21	1940.11	1945.02		X	X		
4	TYPE I	27	1941.04	1944.12	X	X			
5	TYPE I	9	1941.02	1942.08	X	X			
6	TYPE I	9	1941.12	1943.03	X				
7	TYPE II	4	1941.01	1941.12	X				
8	TYPE II	6	1941.10	1945.03	X		X		
9	TYPE II	18	1941.01	1942.11	X		X		
10	TYPE I	9	1941.03	1942.12	X	X			
11	TYPE I	8	1941.02	1942.06	X	X			
12	TYPE I	6	1941.04	1945.05	X				
13	TYPE II	19	1941.05	1945.03	X	X			
14	TYPE II	2	1941.12	1944.04	X				
15	TYPE II	5	1942.02	1943.12	X				
16	?	1	1945.04	1945.04	X				
17	TYPE I	1	1943.09	1943.09	X				
18	TYPE I	3	1941.08	1945.03	X				
19	TYPE II	12	1942.12	1945.04	X				
20									
21	TYPE II	2	1943.04	1943.04	X				
22	TYPE I	8	1941.11	1945.03	X				
23	TYPE I	1	1943.03	1943.03	X				
24	TYPE I	3	1941.06	1944.10	X	X			
25	TYPE I	5	1941.12	1943.05		X			
26	TYPE I	4	1944.06	1944.07	X				
27	TYPE I	4	1941.12	1943.06			X		
28									
29	TYPE I	13	1941.12	1943.07	X				

[Cont'd.]



30	TYPE I	15	1941.07	1945.03	X	X	X		
31	TYPE I	10	1941.08	1944.12	X	X		X	
32	TYPE I	6	1941.09	1945.03		X			
33	TYPE I	3	1941.11	1943.11	X				
34	TYPE I	9	1941.09	1943.03			X		
35	TYPE I	8	1941.12	1945.05	X		X		
36	TYPE I	1	1942.12	1942.12		X			
37	TYPE I	15	1942.05	1944.10	X	X			
38	TYPE I	2	1942.09	1944.07	X		X		
39	?	2	1944.05	1944.06	X				
40	TYPE II	3	1941.11	1942.06			X		
41	TYPE I	2	1943.04	1944.09	X				
42									
43	TYPE I	1	1942.07	1942.07		X			
44	TYPE I	1	1942.09	1942.09	X				
45	?	3	1944.01	1944.07	X	X			
46	TYPE I	1	1943.11	1943.11	X				
47									
48	TYPE I	5	1942.01	1943.12		X			
49	TYPE I	4	1943.06	1943.10		X			
50	TYPE II	4	1942.12	1943.12			X		
51									
52	TYPE II	5	1943.04	1944.03	X		X		
53	TYPE II	1	1945.05	1945.05	X				
54	TYPE II	3	1942.11	1943.12	X				X
55	TYPE II	4	1943.06	1943.09	X				
56	?	2	1944.06	1944.08		X			
57	TYPE I	1	1944.04	1944.04		X			
58	TYPE I	1	1944.04	1944.04		X			
59									
60									
61	TYPE I	4	1944.01	1945.05	X				
62	TYPE II	2	1943.03	1943.12		X			
63	TYPE II	1	1943.12	1943.12	X				
64									
65	TYPE I	1	1942.12	1942.12	X				
66									
67									
68									
69	TYPE II	3	1943.07	1943.08		X			
70	TYPE II	16	1944.03	1945.03	X				
71	TYPE II	2	1944.03	1944.04	X				
72	TYPE II	1	1945.01	1945.01	X				
73	TYPE I	3	1943.06	1943.11	X				
74	TYPE I	1	1944.12	1944.12	X				

75									
76	TYPE I	1	1945.02	1945.02	X				
77									
78									
79	TYPE II	2	1943.07	1943.12			X		
80	TYPE II	1	1945.01	1945.01			X		
81	TYPE II	1	1945.04	1945.04					X
82	TYPE II	13	1943.06	1945.05	X	X			
83	TYPE I	1	1943.09	1943.09	X				
84	TYPE I	2	1944.09	1944.11			X		
85	TYPE I	1	1945.02	1945.02	X				
86									
87	TYPE II	3	1943.01	1945.03		X			
88									
89									
90	TYPE II	1	1944.04	1944.04	X				
91									
92									
93									
94									
95	TYPE II	1	1944.10	1944.10	X				
96	TYPE I	1	1943.06	1943.06		X			
97	TYPE II	5	1944.12	1945.06	X				
98	TYPE II	1	1944.03	1944.03	X				
99									
100	TYPE I	4	1944.05	1944.10	X				

Some preliminary observations include:

---Censor markings run from numbers 1 to 100.

---The markings were made of vulcanized rubber, possibly using metal "masters" to create the moulds for casting.

---It appears that at least three batches of markings were manufactured if the pattern of the types is any indication. The first batch of markings was numbers 1 to 21 and these appeared to be made in groups of three. Censors 1, 2, and 3 were double-ring markings, then 4, 5, and 6 were single ring markings, and so forth up to censor number 21. The second batch of markings, for number 22 to 49, all appear to be single-ring marks (TYPE I). The batch of censor numbers from 50 to 100 do not appear to have any regular production plan. Some groups of 6 are seen, other groups of 4, and in some cases due to lack of data it is impossible to determine the pattern of production.

---A plot of early and late use for each type of marking appears to show a pattern even with this limited amount of data. The earliest recorded

[Cont'd.]

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use of the first group of censor marks was November 1940 (Botwood, November 26). There appears to be [a] trend to later issue for the higher numbers of this grouping. Many of this first group of markings continued in use until May 1945. The second manufacturing group begins to appear by May 1941 and these markings too had a long life, with many still in use in 1945. The markings from 50 to 100 did not start to appear until late 1942. Fewer examples of these markings are captured by the study to date, but some of the censor numbers had extensive use. This is a function of the preservation of the correspondence and the frequency of the letter writing. The best example of this is Censor 70, associated with the Dental Corps and the correspondence of Godard and others.

The colour used in the marking appears to be merely a factor of what was available at the moment. Red appears most common, followed by purple, black, blue, and green. The same censor mark can be seen from the same location with a variety of coloured inks.

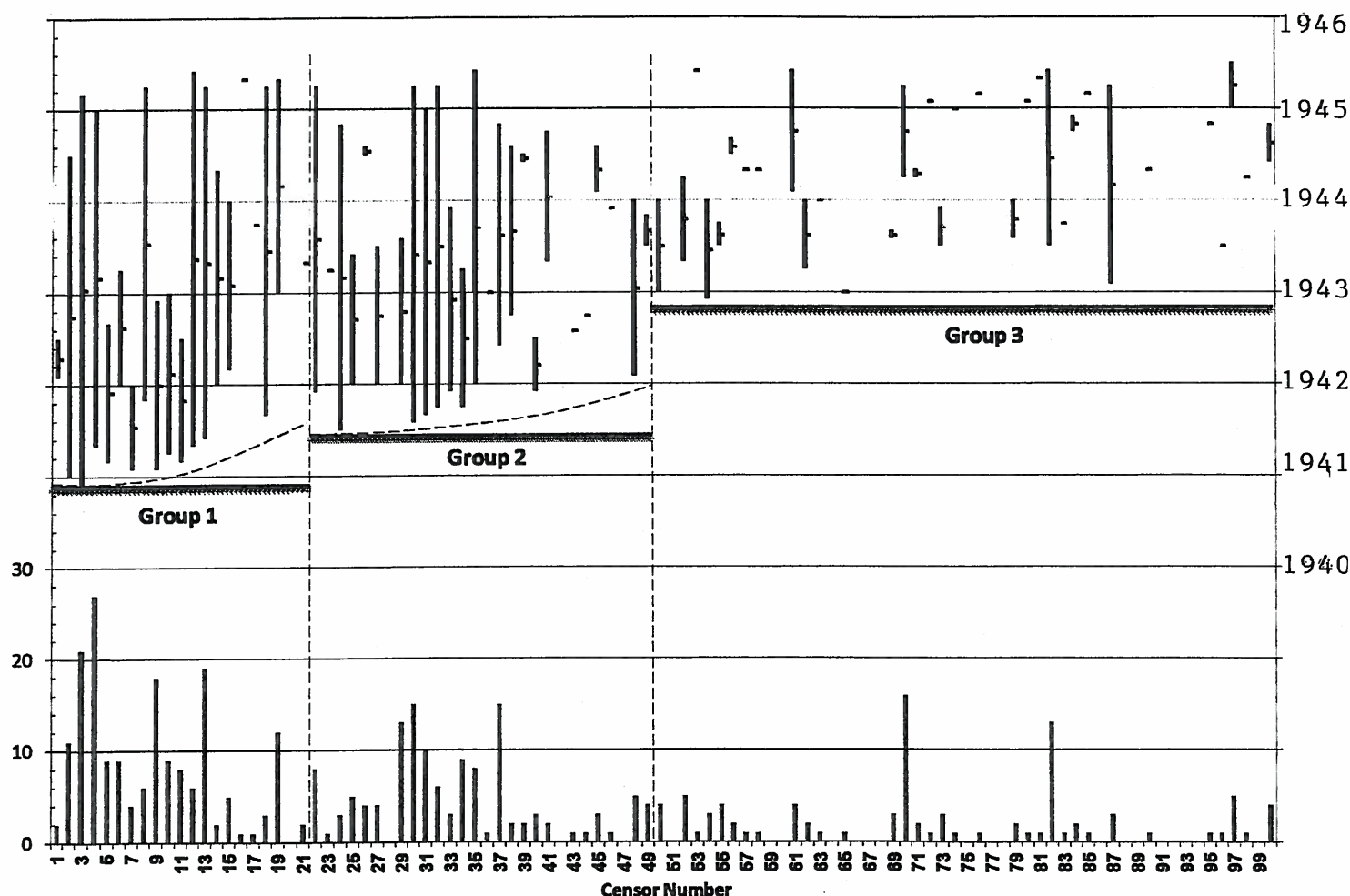


Figure showing the number of strikes recorded for each censor marking with vertical bars at the base and legend on the left side. The upper bars show the range of use (by year) for each censor number. Censor numbers are shown along the base of the chart. Vertical dashed lines indicate at least three proposed periods of manufacture for the censor markings and the thick horizontal lines indicate apparent earliest time of use within each manufactured group. Dotted curved lines suggest later issue of markings with higher numbers in groups 1 and 2.

[Cont'd.]



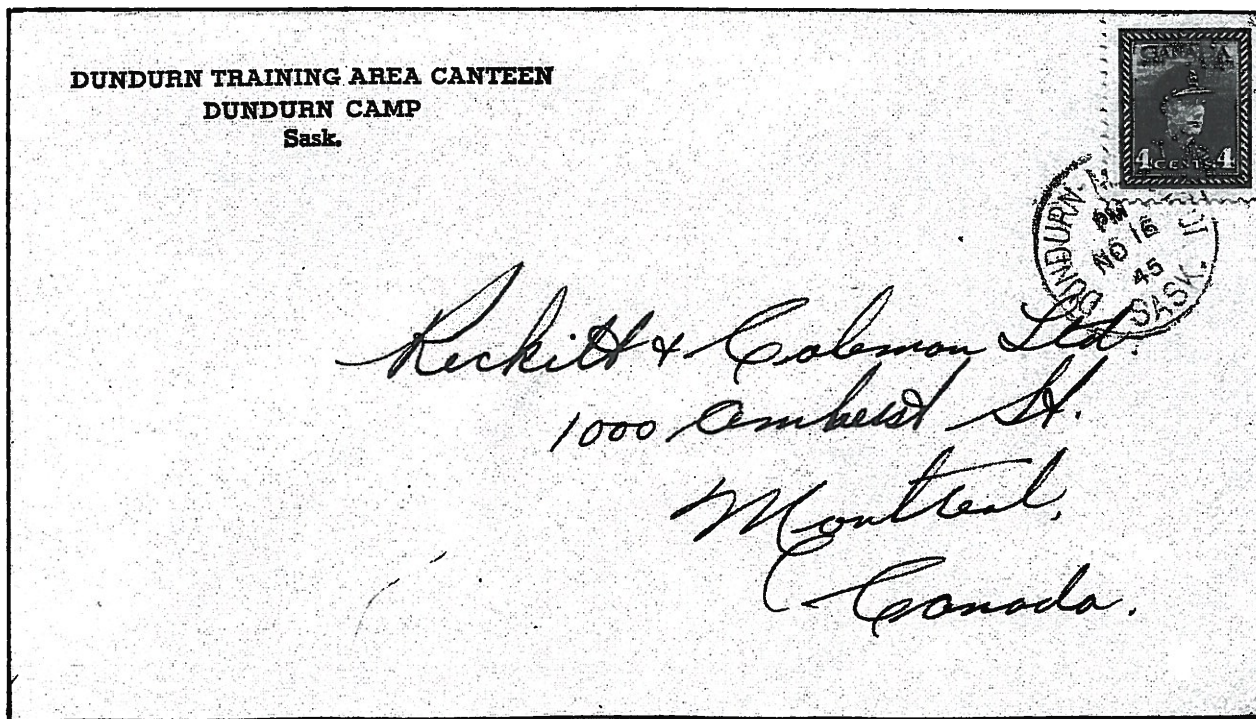
At this time I would like to thank those people that have provided tables of information or scans of covers to aid this study. Contributors include: Dwight Gray, Dave Hanes, Dean Mario, Colin Pomfret, C.A. Stillions, G.E. Taylor, Klaus Wehlt, the late Doug Sayles, the late John Frith, and numerous dealers [who] have allowed me to examine their stock of Newfoundland material. Particular thanks are due to Kevin O'Reilly who took the time to scan his extensive collection of Newfoundland material and send a CD of same for use in this study.

Additional material will be added to this study in the near future and then an attempt will be made to document the use of each censor marking by regiment and time period. As always, additional documented covers either as scans, or tabulated descriptions, are welcome. Please send all information to: [pbinney@persona.ca](mailto:pbinney@persona.ca) or if you use normal postal service to: Paul Binney, 1 Courtney Hill, Sudbury, ON P3E 5W6.

Of particular importance are the military unit and the date of use. I am trying to document the assignment of the markings to individual military units and then track the usage by location and date. This should provide a "time-line" showing when, where, and by whom each marking was used throughout the war. When sufficient information is received, I will provide additional articles for the Newsletter with usage information. Thank you for your assistance. [Thanks Paul for your continued efforts in this area. It is nice to know that several members have assisted in the project. Paul also noted that Ron McGuire will be contributing to the study in early May as well. Ed.]

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DUNDURN CAMP TRAINING AREA CANTEEN--By Jim Felton



Here is a nice post-war MPO 1201 Dundurn Camp cover (open July 7, 1936 to May 21, 1946). During the war it has home to No. 121 Basic Training Centre. Dundurn Military Camp continues to operate today.

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THE CANADIAN CORPS OF OVERSEAS FIREFIGHTERS: AN ADDENDUM--By C.R. (Ron) McGuire

[My apologies to Ron and members for inadvertently missing a few paragraphs from Ron's original article in NL #208 (March 2013) pp. 1273-1278. Ed.]

When not fighting fires the men wore the familiar fireman's navy blue dress uniform but with a red cloth flash with "CANADA" in white letters on each shoulder. They were given the equivalent of a regimental number beginning with the alphabetic prefix "T" (why? I have no idea). I think it would have been far more appropriate had it been an "F" for "fire-fighter". They were paid \$1.30 a day, the same rate as those in the military services.

During their period of service--24 months, 8 weeks, and 14 days--Corps members worked countless hours; virtually around the clock. Much of the time at great risk under perilous conditions, to make rescues, battle countless fires, and to provide aid in other emergency situations. It should be remembered they were using British equipment, very different to what they were familiar with using at home. Three members were killed in the line of duty (their mothers and/or wives received the Memorial Cross) and three others were seriously injured for a total of eleven casualties. J.A.W. Cassidy, to whom the cover in FIG.2 was sent, was one of those seriously injured from a V-1 "Buzz Bomb" blast that killed his colleague who was nearby.

For firefighting duties with the invasion forces on D-Day, the British formed a new contingent: the Special Service Company. Some 101 Corps members volunteered to join but they were not used as it was decided to reduce the size of this unit. Twelve members remained in Britain to join the Canadian military or several of the Auxiliaries like the Canadian Legion War Services when their time with the Corps was completed. Before the Corps' departure to return to Canada, thousands of grateful citizens lined the streets of London on November 2, 1944 as the firefighters paraded from Trafalgar Square to take the salute in front of Canada House. For his service with the Corps, Chief Huff was awarded an O.B.E. Among the other awards were one M.B.E., two British Empire Medals, and three Royal Humane Life Saving Certificates.

The Government of Canada promised those who served benefits and recognition which later were not honoured because the firemen were "civilians". It was not until 2000 that those left received what they should have decades earlier. But that is a repeat of similar mistreatment and broken promises to other Canadians who fought and died in many of the wars in which Canada was/is involved.

For an excellent detailed overview of what this little-known group of Canadians did and endured, with five relevant photographs, I suggest reading the article by Keith Hart in the Canadian Military History [as noted on p. 1278. Ed.]. It contains Cassidy's story and those of other members. It may be viewed on the C.M.H. website along with all four annual editions up to the year 2001. Many of the articles are on obscure topics and the index is well worth a look.

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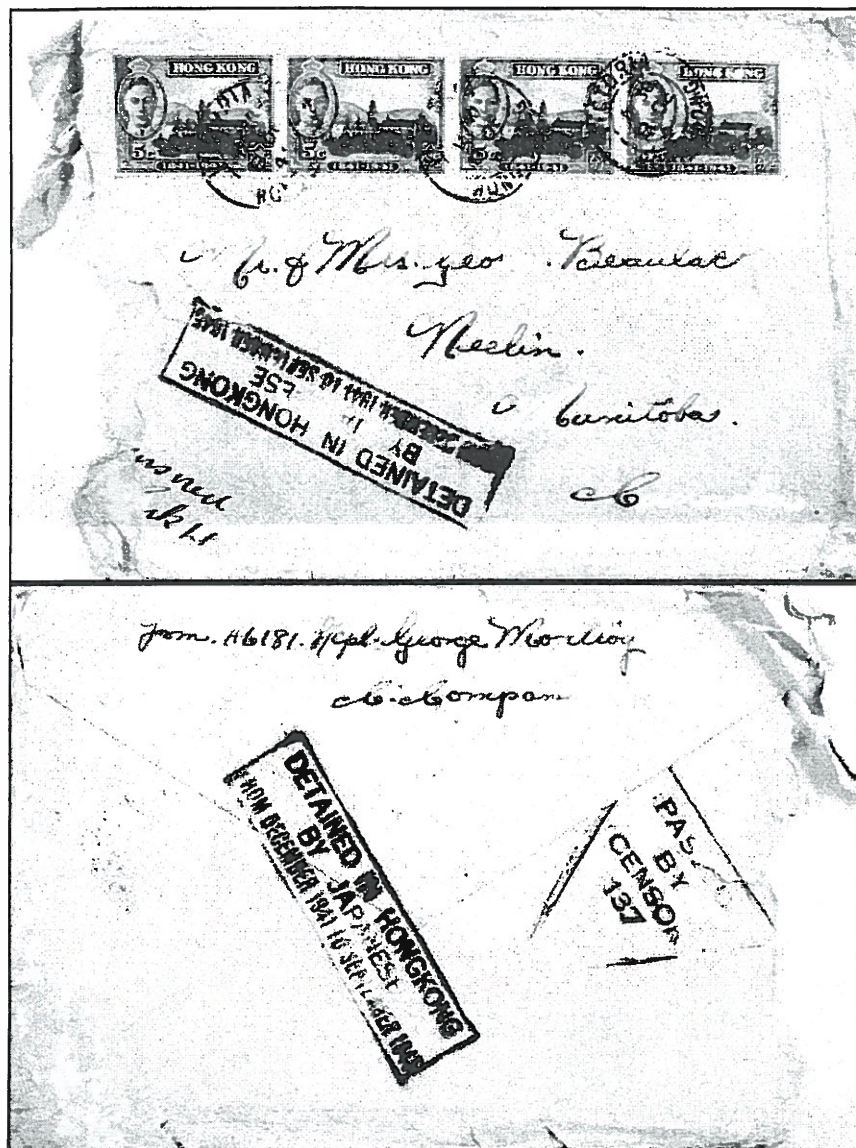
**Detained cover from Force "C" in Hong Kong**

A member reported that this cover on eBay sold for the princely sum of US\$1,225 end of last month.

Described as 1941 censored Hong Kong to Neelin, Manitoba, Canada postal history cover with "Detained in Hongkong by Japanese...." and "Passed by Censor 137" stamps.

Datestamped 8 December 1941, this letter was written by Staff Corporal George Montroy of the C-company but mailed too late for dispatch and therefore held at the Hong Kong GPO until liberation. The writer was a member of the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the triangular 137 belongs to the censor of this battalion.

Four other detained covers of the Force "C" postmarked 6 and 7 December have been recorded by the author Ken Ellison of the book "Force C, the Canadian Army's Hong Kong Story 1941-1945".

**Background**

On 8 December 1941, a day after the Japanese Air Force had devastated the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour, the Japanese attacked Hong Kong.

The Royal Rifles of Canada and the Winnipeg Grenadiers battalions left Vancouver on 27 October and arrived on 16 November 1941. Initially, the Grenadiers were dispatched to the Gin Drinkers' Line, a chain of defenses in the New Territories to hold back the onslaught. But heavy air raids and artillery attacks forced the Commonwealth troops to withdraw back to their Hong Kong Island garrison. After several days of heavy bombardment, the Japanese stormed the island's northern beaches on the night of 18 December.

The Japanese, well supported from the air and reinforced from the Mainland, quickly separated the British East and West brigades, thus severing the Canadian contingent into two. With both brigades isolated, it was only a matter of time before the Island would fall.

On Christmas Day, the Canadians were forced to surrender and the surviving force was imprisoned.

Among the 1,050 strong C-force in Hong Kong, the total death toll was 554 - 290 killed in action and 264 died in the POW camp.

For an account of the Battle of Hong Kong please visit: [www.canadaatwar.ca/page42.html](http://www.canadaatwar.ca/page42.html)

**The Winnipeg Grenadiers in Hong Kong**

The defending forces of the Hong Kong Island was broken into two commands; the East under Brigadier Wallis consisting of the Royal Rifles and the Rajputs and the West under Lawson with the Winnipeg Grenadiers, Punjabs and the Royal Scots. The Middlesex regiments were scattered about the Island holding all of the static positions on the coast. The Grenadiers were stationed in the south-west and centre of the Island. Between the 14th-17th they experienced very little activity beyond shelling and air strikes. "A" company was at Little Hong Kong, "B" company at Pok Fu Lam, "C" company at Aberdeen, "D" company at the Wong Nei Chong Gap acting as brigade reserve, and battalion HQ was in the Wan Chai Gap in the centre of the Island.

For a detailed account of the Winnipeg Grenadiers in Hong Kong, please refer to the link below: -

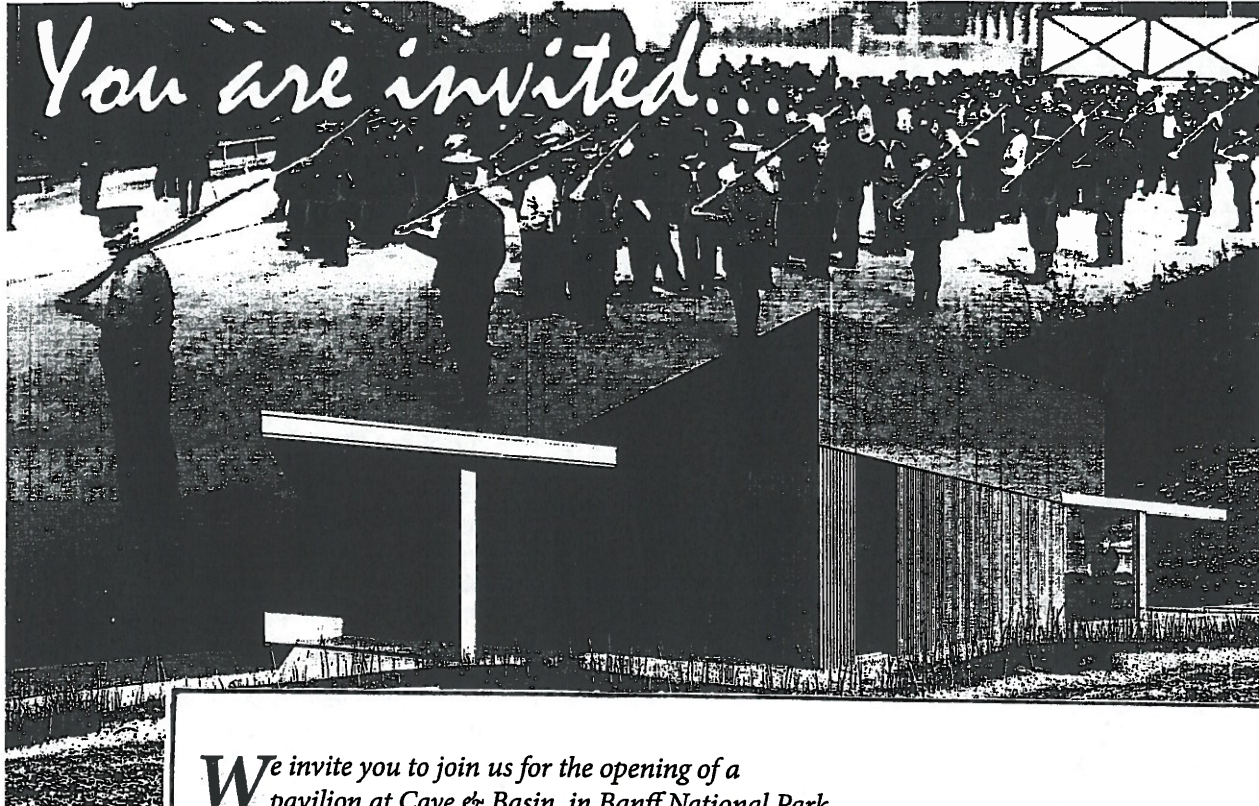
[www.canadaatwar.ca/index.php?page=Page&action=showpage&id=45](http://www.canadaatwar.ca/index.php?page=Page&action=showpage&id=45)



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"YOU ARE INVITED...": BANFF'S NEW INTERNMENT CAMP INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

[A very kind member (presumably) sent along this card (note the "OHMS" pseudo-stamp) which announces the opening on June 20, 2013 of the Pavilion at Cave & Basin, Banff National Park. It will "tell the story" of the local internment camp at Castle/Banff. Members in the area are encouraged to attend the opening! Thanks to the "anonymous" member for his/her thoughtfulness. Ed.]



**We** invite you to join us for the opening of a pavilion at Cave & Basin, in Banff National Park, recalling Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920.

Date: Thursday, 20 June 2013

Place: Cave and Basin National Historic Site,  
Banff National Park, Banff, Alberta

To

Local Contact: Steve Malins, MA  
Project Lead | Chef de projet  
National Historical Recognition Program Project (Banff) | Projet de  
programme national de reconnaissance historique (Banff)  
Parks Canada Agency | Agence Parcs Canada  
Box 900, Banff, Alberta, T1L 1K2  
  
steve.malins@pc.gc.ca  
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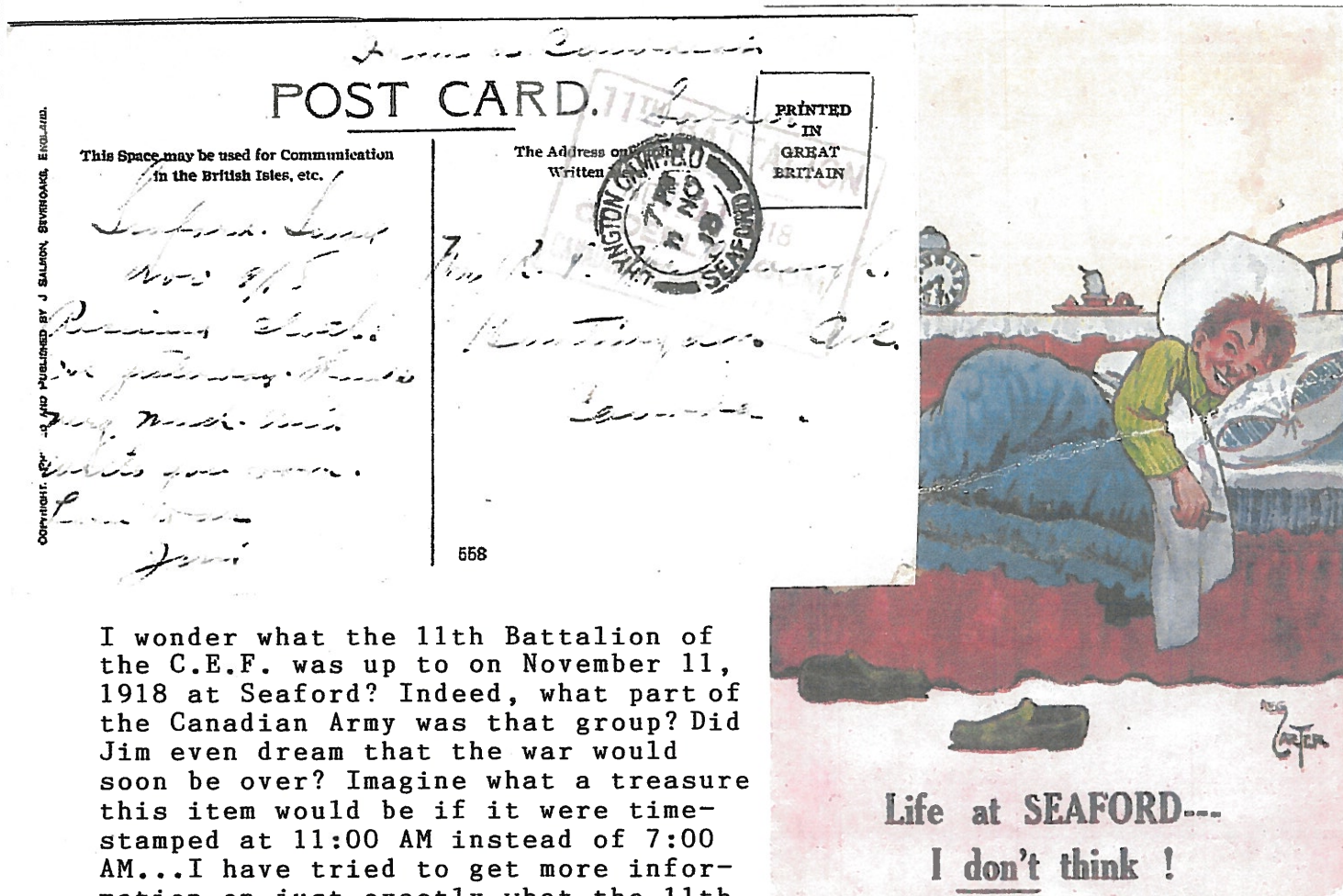


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CMMSG  
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CHYNGTON CAMP B.O., SEAFORD/11TH BATTALION ON NOVEMBER 11, 1918--By  
David B. Dawes (Guest Contributor)

[David wrote: "I do have an interesting item that begs some discussion of military matters. This is a card from a Canadian Serviceman named 'Jim'. He writes from the Seaford, Sussex Military Base on November 9, 1918 to Mr. R.V. McCullough at Huntington, Quebec, Canada. He says 'Received clothes OK yesterday. Thanks very much. Will write you soon. Love to all. Jim'.

What makes this item interesting is the handling at the 11th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force Orderly Room, date stamped 11 November 1918. The date we now celebrate [sic] as Remembrance Day. This is over-stamped 'Chyngton Camp B.O./Seaford/7 PM/ 11 NO/18'.



I wonder what the 11th Battalion of the C.E.F. was up to on November 11, 1918 at Seaford? Indeed, what part of the Canadian Army was that group? Did Jim even dream that the war would soon be over? Imagine what a treasure this item would be if it were time-stamped at 11:00 AM instead of 7:00 AM...I have tried to get more information on just exactly what the 11th might have consisted. A very kind local military buff has told me that the 11th Battalion never got out of England to France except for replacements late in the war...[sic] he thinks they must have been held in England to do the paperwork for the rest of the battalions coming from Canada to go to France. I do know that the 11th Battalion was recruited in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (I'm quoting my source here); it had 1,119 men and was commanded by Lt. Col. E. Burritt. If any reader can add to this bit of knowledge, I'd

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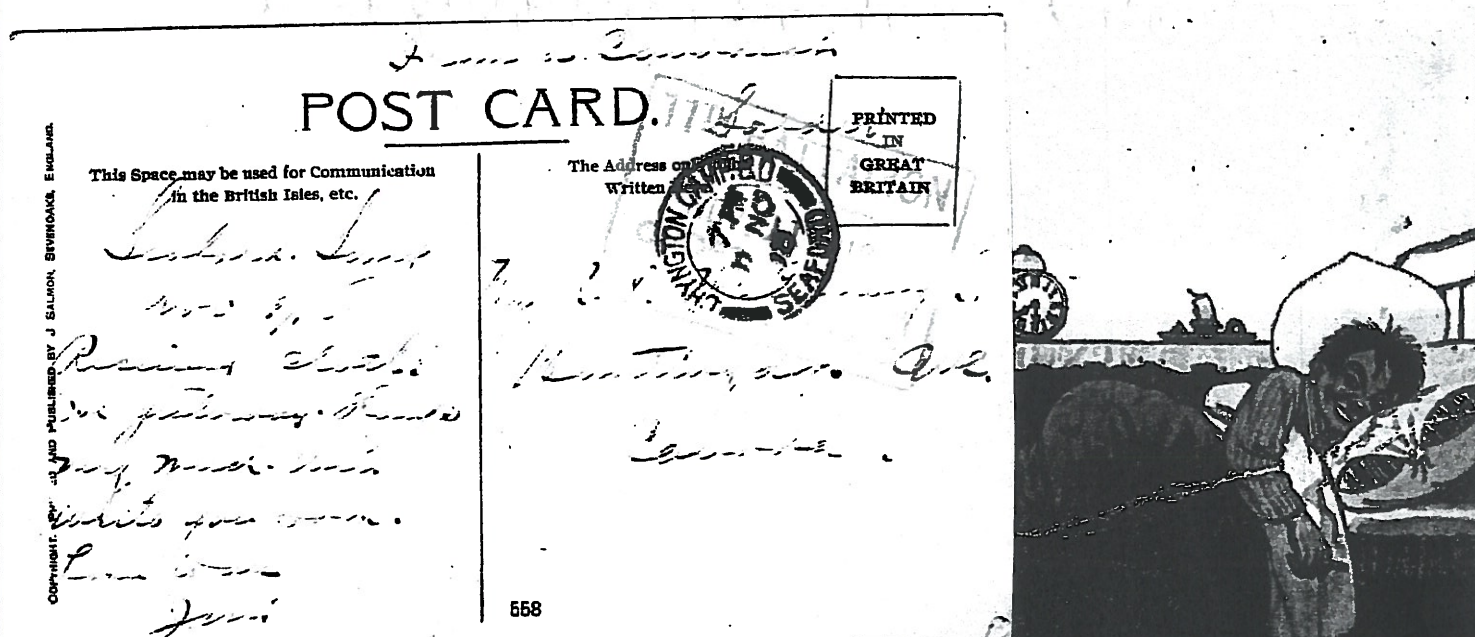




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**Life at SEAFORD---**

**I don't think !**

[Cont'd.]

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really love to hear. I can be reached at: [maggiedave@shaw.ca](mailto:maggiedave@shaw.ca) [If members have more information to add, please "cc" the Editor. The postmark was in use from 1915-1919. Ed.]

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UNPROFOR/YUGOSLAVIA MAIL BAG TAGS (SOUTH/WEST)--By Dave Hanes

UNITED NATIONS MAIL UNPROFOR		By air mail	
from UNBPO - ZAGREB		Aeroport Destination UVAO	
To HQ SECTOR WEST POSTAL OFFICER		Aeroport Transporement DAR	
Flight No:		Bag No.	
Despatch. No.			

UNITED NATIONS MAIL UNPROFOR		By air mail	
from UNBPO -			
To HQ SECTOR SOUTH POSTAL OFFICE Knin			
Despatch. No.		Bag No.	

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**SMALL ADS**

Small ads from members are always welcome. Buy/Sell/Trade. Only Cdn. \$1 per insertion (or mint Cdn. postage @ face ok). Copy and payment to the Editor please.

WANTED: Camp Hughes, Sewell Camp, Camp Shilo postal history on covers and postcards. Buy, sell, trade. Contact: Darcy Hickson, R.R. #2, Box 24, Brandon, MB R7A 5Y2; (204) 725-0621; or [hicksondj@mts.net](mailto:hicksondj@mts.net) (3/10)

WANTED: All covers/cards related to Great War Newfoundland; Canadian POW's IN Germany (WWI/WWII); Canadians in Gibraltar/Malta during WWII. Contact: The Editor or [blueputtees@hotmail.com](mailto:blueputtees@hotmail.com) (3/5)

WANTED: Camp Borden MPO 208 and MPO 210--MOOD's and REGISTERED markings on postcard or cover. Contact: Dave Hanes (705) 722-6316 or [dhanes@sympatico.ca](mailto:dhanes@sympatico.ca) (2/5)

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