

## Canadian Military Mail Study Group

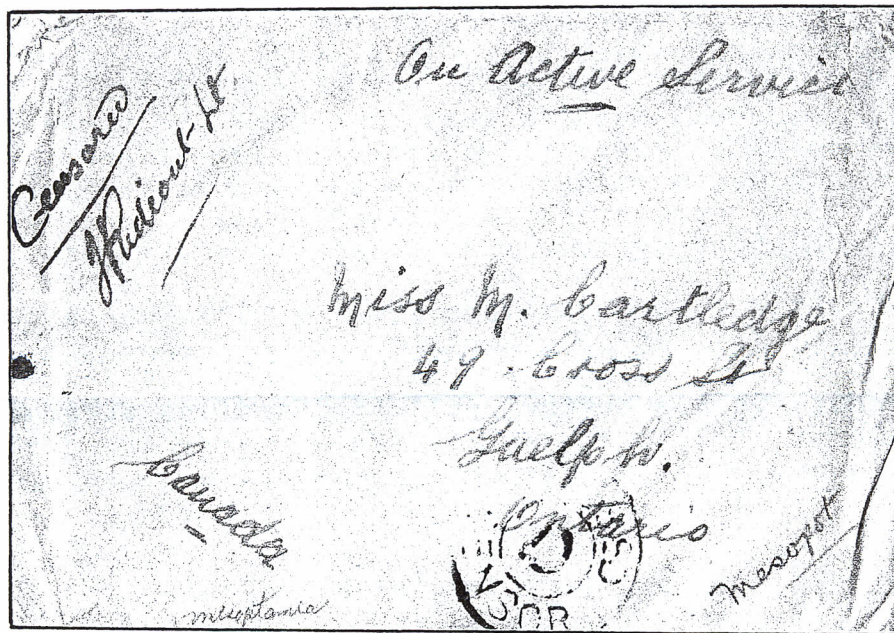
### NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014

NEWSLETTER NO. 215  
Page 1357

# THE GREAT WAR

A "DUNSTERFORCE" COVER TO CANADA--By John Watson



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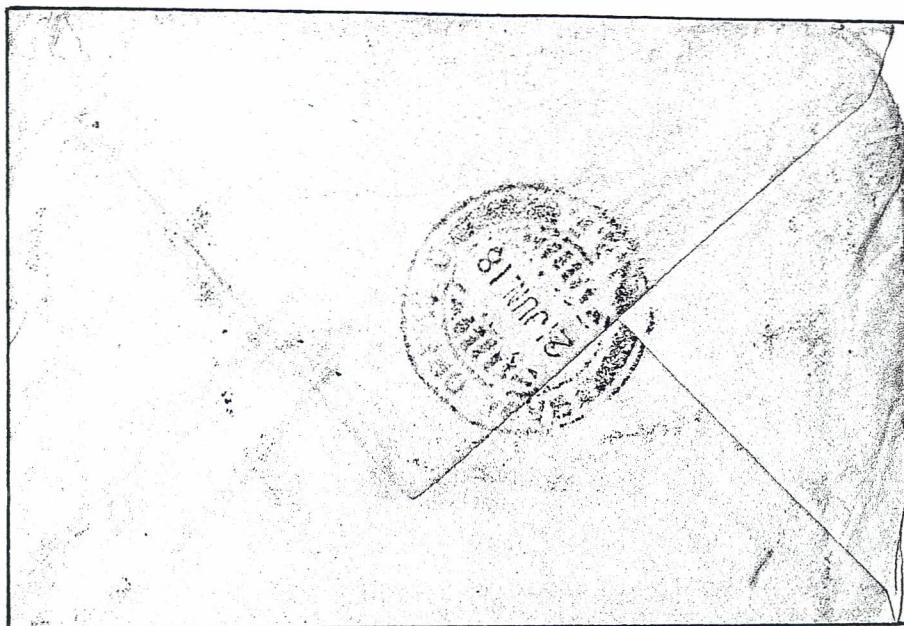
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[John sent in the above unusually scarce cover addressed to "Miss M. Cartledge" in Guelph, Ontario. It bears a partial red "PASSED/D/CENSOR" as well as a "BASE OFFICE D/IEF" (Basra) dated June 21, 1918. It was censored by Lieutenant "T (?) Rideout (?)".

Members will know that Dunsterforce was a small Allied force, comprised of Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans, British, and a small group of Imperial Russian Army officers. Led by Major-General Lionel C. Dunsterville, it was given rather vague orders to move from Mesopotamia through Northern Persia into the Caucasus in order to deny the Germans and Turks access and control of the oil reserves in the region. Mail from this contingent to Canada is quite rare.

Author David H. Whiteley's "Canadians Serving With Dunsterforce: 1918-1919," (BNA TOPICS, Vol. 66 (2), Whole No. 519, Second Quarter (April-June 2009), pp. 30-41) provides an examination of Canadians with this unusual contingent. On his nominal roll of Canadians attached on p.40 there is no "Rideout" (?) listed, nor is there anyone connected with the "Cartledge" surname. However, further research may prove otherwise. Ed.]

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#### 1915 CIVIL CENSORSHIP TYPE 2 TAPE--By Colin Pomfret

The following cover from Dundee dated September 9, 1915 bears an endorsement "Via Liverpool" and was sent to Sydney, Cape Breton.

The authority for civil censorship of mails in Canada during the First World War is found in the Canadian War Measures Act of 1914, giving the Postmaster General the power to examine mails carried by ship; neutral or otherwise.

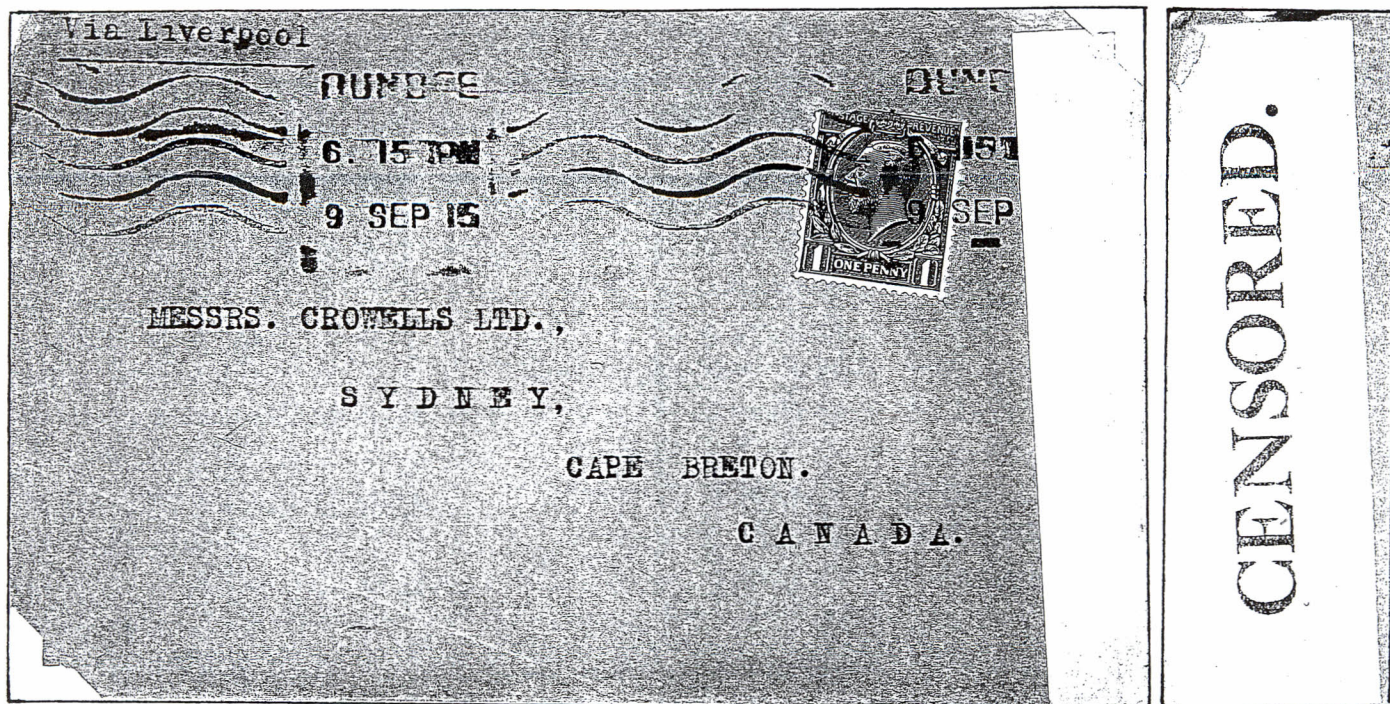
A censorship station was established at Halifax, Nova Scotia to examine mail carried by neutral vessels which stopped at Halifax. Mail there was examined by military censors appointed by M.I.9 who worked with the  
[Cont'd.]



Naval Control Officers.

This cover is the second reported 1915 civil censored cover to my knowledge.

Steinhart, Allan. Civil Censorship in Canada During WWI. Toronto: The Unitrade Press, 1986.



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WELCOME TO WINDSOR?--By Jim Felton

At places where the train stopped, service organizations handed out postcards by the millions to the soldiers in transit; to be mailed back to family and friends assuring them things were going well.

Like most of the surviving cards I've seen, this one was provided by the American Red Cross through its Canteen Service. The Waterloo, Iowa source was rubber stamped on a Waterloo picture postcard. In a few scrawled lines the sender tells his wife back in Oskaloosa, Iowa he was "all o.k.", that he left camp the previous Wednesday morning, and he was leaving Kalamazoo, Michigan as he wrote the message. The card then entered the mail stream at Detroit, Michigan on August 3, 1918. That made it July 31, 1918 when he left camp; presumed to be Camp Dodge at Des Moines.

Checking an old railroad atlas one can see two possible routes taken from Camp Dodge to Detroit. The journey would have started on the Chicago Great Western (CGW) as it was a direct line between Des Moines and Waterloo where the card was handed out. Then, staying on the CGW, he

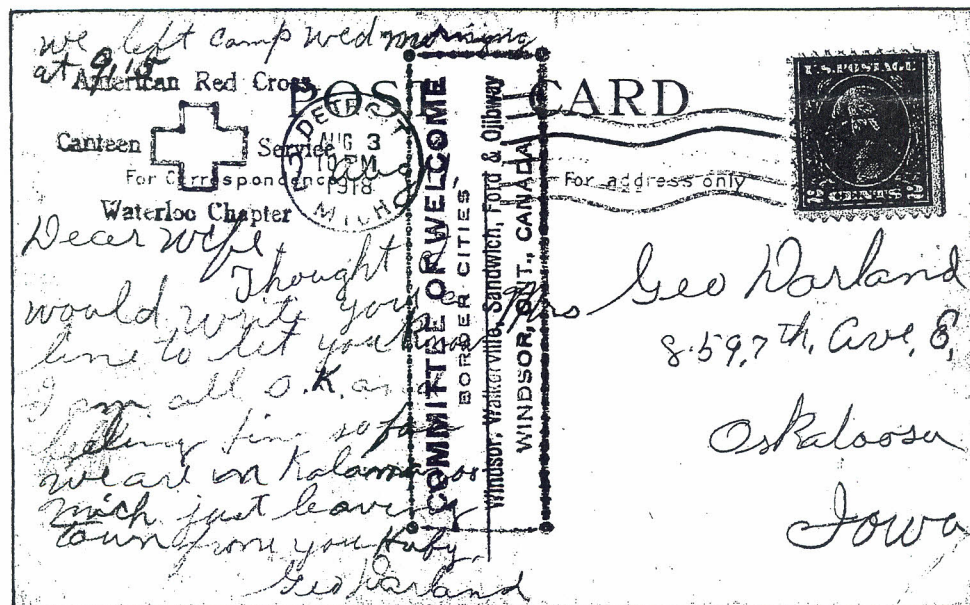
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could have continued on to Chicago by way of Oelwein, Iowa. A shorter routing would have been to change at Waterloo and take the Illinois Central to Chicago. From Chicago the only way to Kalamazoo was via the New York Central subsidiary Michigan Central, which continued to Detroit as the postmark indicates. A bit more informative than most such cards but all in all pretty typical.

Until one notices the second rubber stamp. It reads "COMMITTEE OF WELCOME/BORDER CITIES/Windsor, Walkerville, Sandwich, Ford & Ojibway/WINDSOR, ONT., CANADA" which is surrounded by an ornamental border. What is this and what is going on with this postcard?



An internet search led to the "WARTIME CANADA" site put up by the University of Western Ontario with three photos showing civilians receiving American soldiers in a railroad context:

#### A Welcome For Doughboys in Windsor

Women from the Border Cities Welfare League of Windsor, Ontario, provided cigarettes and writing materials to American soldiers who passed through the city on their way to Europe.

[Wayne State University has one of the same photos in its digital collection.]

What I imagine is when this troop train stopped at Windsor, the Com-  
[Cont'd.]



mittee members gladly collected any mail the soldiers had ready and someone took it to Detroit because of the affixed U.S. postage.

Digging still further, it was the 88th Division that prepared at Camp Dodge and shipped out in late July 1918. Passages from History of the Three-hundred-fiftieth Infantry A.E.F., compiled and edited by Proctor M. Fiske (Cedar Rapids: Laurance Press, 1919) confirm the routing across southern Ontario. Of the many trains needed to transport this unit eastward, two trains took that routing: one carrying the Regimental Headquarters, the Headquarters Company, and the Band; the other taking Companies G and H. They went by way of Waterloo, Dubuque, Chicago, Detroit, St. Thomas (Ontario, Canada), Buffalo, Utica, and Albany to Weehawken, New Jersey, where they ferried to Camp Upton. After a brief rest, the Division left Upton for Europe beginning August 10.

That information does not entirely settle the question of by what means the troops got to Chicago: by Chicago Great Western or did they change to the Illinois Central, because both railroads served Dubuque? On the other hand, the routing through Utica, N.Y. means they took the New York Central system between Chicago and the east coast.

I didn't find our George Darland's name in that 350th Infantry history; for sure he was not listed among those killed in action. Nor did I find him in a very faint copy of the history of the 351st Infantry. But anyway, thanks for the card you sent George!

[Members will recall the following postcard and message from NL#155 (May 2002), p. 623-"Yanks Enroute Thru Canada, June 1918". The card depicted the "Experimental Farm, Brandon, Manitoba" and the Canadian stamp was cancelled by the #0-192 (North Bay & Ft. William) RPO. Sgt. Antonini noted that he was having a "great time in Canada" and "the people are all glad to see the Yankees". Troop trains carrying American soldiers must have been a common occurrence throughout the summer of 1918.Ed.]

POST CARD.	
<p>June 27th.</p> <p>En Route thru. Canada.</p> <p>Hello Ella:</p> <p>Well I am on my way. We are sure having a great time in Canada. The scenery is most wonderful and the people are all glad to see the Yankees. I hope you are well. Annie was at camp to see me before I left. Well we will soon arrive at a town where we are to parade so I guess I will close.</p> <p>Best wishes.</p> <p>Sgt. A. Antonini.</p>	<p>ADDRESS</p> <p>Miss Ella Condron,</p> <p>Seneca,</p> <p>California.</p> <p>U.S.A.</p>

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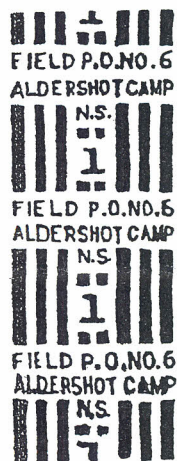


THOSE ELUSIVE CANADIAN MILITARY CAMP ROLLER DEVICES

There are many rare and unusual Canadian military postal markings from the Great War period. Among those include roller cancels; some of which were periodically used in Canadian "summer" militia camps prior to the war. They then saw greater service when these facilities became more permanent as war training intensified.

Roller cancels are perhaps among the most mundane and utilitarian of postal devices. They were primarily designed to simply and quickly cancel postage stamps with a rolling motion and were especially useful when more than a single stamp was affixed on an item of mail. While cumbersome these devices were essential for larger or odd-shaped items (such as newspaper wrappers and parcels [1]) and bulk mailings. Items requiring a date of mailing would necessitate a different device; as only the identifying location and a numerical designation were inserted in the roller.

There have been six identified roller devices used at Canadian military camps to date, as noted by the illustrated proof strikes provided in the works by William "Bill" J. Bailey and E.R. "Ritch" Toop. [2,3] Most are very scarce, with only strikes from Aldershot Camp, Nova Scotia being regarded as "slightly" more common by the authors above. Even though several had been previously listed by author E.A. Smythies in his Canadian Roller Cancellations, 1894-1930 (1968), some forty years ago (and early in our study group's history) they were so scarce that former CMMSG Newsletter Editor the late J. Colin Campbell remarked that "...we have not seen any of these". [4]



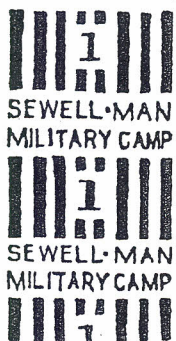
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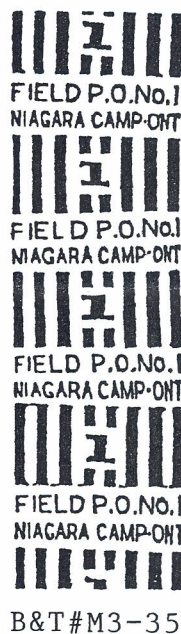
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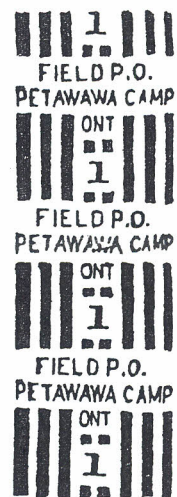
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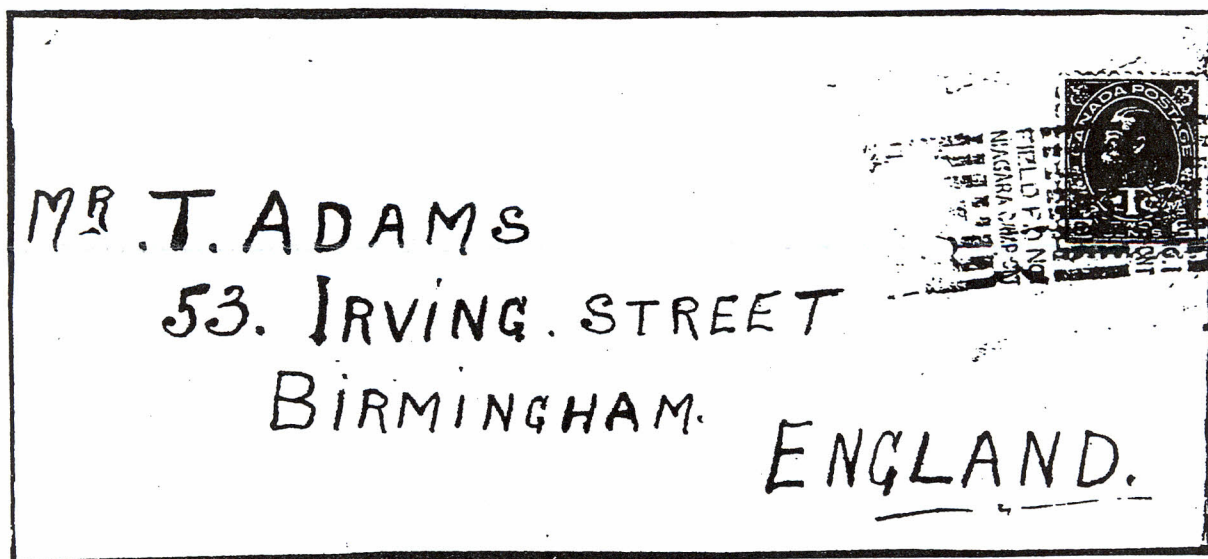
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Shortly after that declaration, study group members shared examples and proof examples came to light.[5] The response, however, was intermittent given the markings' scarcity.

E.R. "Ritch" Toop had owned a newspaper wrapper with the Field Post Office No.1 Niagara Camp, Ontario roller marking cancelling a 2¢ + 1¢ War Tax Admiral.[6]



In 1987 a news release from the National Postal Museum indicated that two of these Great War-era roller cancellation devices were contained within the Museum's collection. [7] They were the Camp Borden, Ontario Military Camp (Hammer No.1) along with the one used at Sewell, Manitoba Military Camp (Hammer No.1).

Why are these roller cancellations so scarce? Most of the strikes, as previously indicated, would have been upon newspaper wrappers and on the outer wrapping of parcels. The survival rate of these, given their disposable nature, would have been low. Presumably those in the camps would have been more likely to receive parcels rather than send them to their family or friends. Still, camp souvenirs are quite well known so it is possible that covering packets would have been sent out of the camps. A roller device, rather than the larger camp CDS, might well have been used by postal clerks.

Members are encouraged to send in examples of these interesting and rare cancellations for future publication.[Ed.]

[1] Carstairs, Dr. M.W. "Notes on Canadian Forces Postmarks, 1914-1920". Maple Leaves. Vol.11 (2), #98 (Dec. 1965), p.42.

[2] B&T numbers are from Bailey, W.J. and E.R. Toop. Canadian Military Postal Markings. Vol.I. W.J. Bailey, Ed. Waterford, MI: C.G. Firby Publications, 1996.

[3] Bailey, W.J. and E.R. Toop. The Canadian Military Posts. Vol.I. E.B.



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Proud, Ed. Heathfield, East Sussex, U.K.: Proud-Bailey Co., Ltd., 1984.

[4] CMMMSG Newsletter #7 (October 12, 1974), p.2.

[5] See CMMMSG Newsletter #38 (May 31, 1980), p.1 and CMMMSG Newsletter #75 (September 1987), p.10 for early examples.

[6] McGuire, C.R. and R.F. Narbonne, Eds. The Major E.R. Toop Collection of Canadian Military Postal History. Vol.I. Stoney Creek, ON: BNAPS Ltd., 1996, p.47.

[7] The Museum had just recently obtained the RCAF STATION/SUMMERSIDE, PEI ten-bar roller device from the Atlantic Division, Slemon Park, PEI Post Office. It was similar to the RCAF STATION/MOOSE JAW, SK device already in the collection. "National Postal Museum Acquires Historic Military Roller Cancelling Device". Canadian Philatelist. Vol.38 (1), #218 (January-February 1987), p.38.

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#### GREAT WAR-RELATED EXHIBITS IN OTTAWA--By C.R. "Ron" McGuire

[The recently-arrived issue of BNA Topics contained the following and it is useful for members who are in the National Capital Region to plan a visit or to visit the websites indicated. Ed.]

**World War I Exhibits in Ottawa:** C.R. McGuire writes, "Since 1997 I have assisted Nepean-Ottawa area institutions with advice and the loan of artifacts and postal history material from my collections. Three of these exhibits, all remembering the beginning of the First World War, are being held this summer. Residents and visitors may wish to visit one or more.

**War Craft: Art and memorabilia of the Great War,** September 2014 until November 2015, Nepean Museum, 16 Rowley Ave., Ottawa, ON K2G 1L9. Free admission. For hours and further information phone 613-723-7936 or visit the website: <http://www.nepeanmuseum.ca/>

**In it Together: Our city during the Great War --the war on the Home Front:** July 1 to 30 October, thereafter by appointment until Remembrance Day, 11 November 2014, Billings Estate National Historic Site, 2100 Cabot St., Ottawa, ON K1H 6K1. Admission fees. For hours and further information phone 613-247-4830 or visit the website:

<http://www.ottawa.ca/billingsestate>

**Charles Pinhey and the 38th Ottawa Battalion: From Bermuda to the Somme:** June 7 to August 31, Pinhey's Point Historic Site, 270 Pinhey's Point Road, Dunrobin, ON K0A 1T0. Free admission. For hours and further information phone 613 832-4347 or visit the website: <http://www.ottawa.ca/pinheyspoint>

The exhibit in the Nepean Museum is a large selection of examples from my collection of 'Trench Art' and other forms of handicrafts made by serving,, convalescing or post-war members/veterans of the three services and Prisoners of War. The majority of these objects are made from artillery shell casings, originally things of destruction, and now items of beauty, ingenuity and utility. They were made to commemorate battles, occupy spare time, and for use to sell or trade. In addition to the war related exhibits, the two historic homes are well worth a visit at any time to see what else they have to offer. Both are located on beautiful sites, the Pinhey estate in the country, west of the city overlooking the Ottawa river. Be sure to bring a picnic to enjoy on the grounds.

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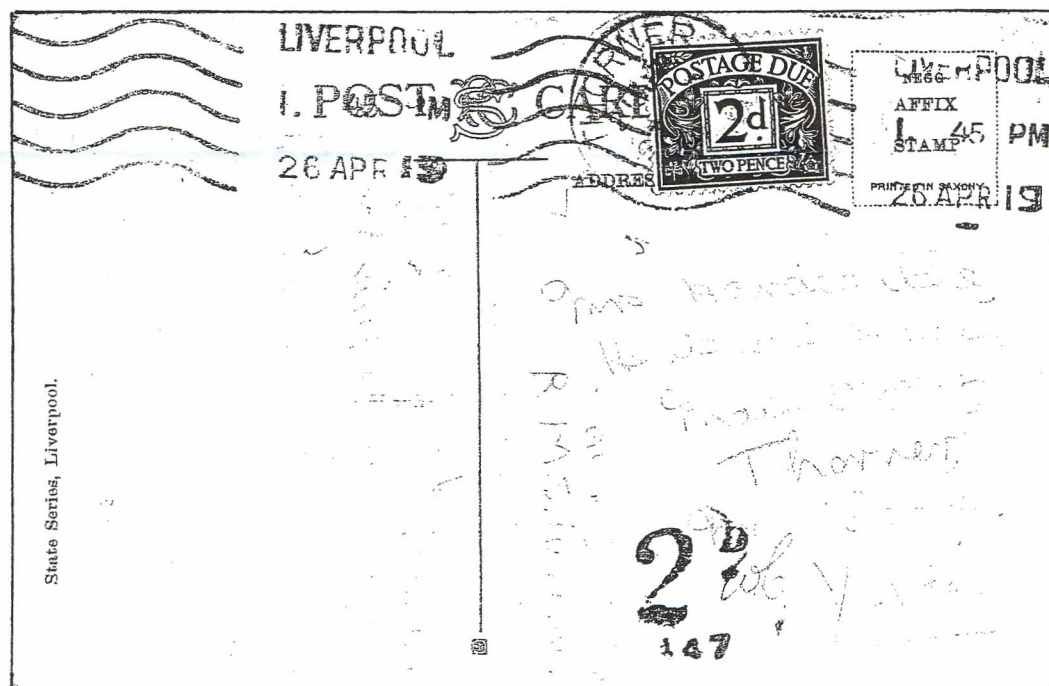
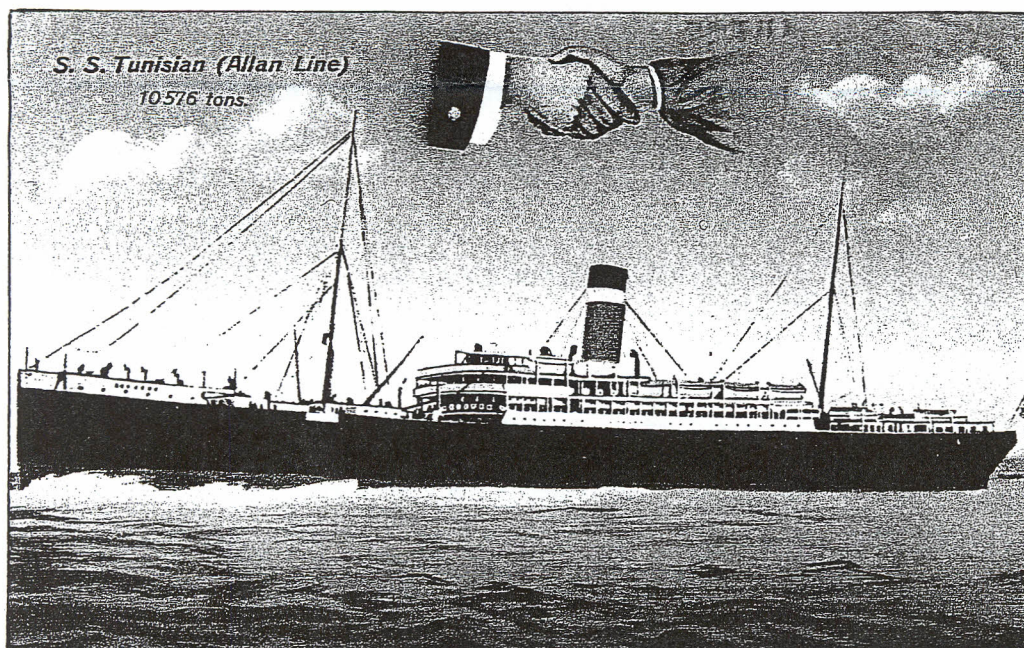


"KIT BAG" PACKED BUT NOT QUITE READY TO GO--By Colin Pomfret

This postcard featuring the Allan Line's S.S. Tunisian bears a Liverpool machine cancellation dated April 26, 1919. The message from a soldier returning to Canada reads:

"On Board R.M.S. Tunisian.

Just a P.C. to say we are still here owing to a dock strike. All the luggage is not on board yet, & the boat has yet to get back in dock sometime this morning to try and get it."

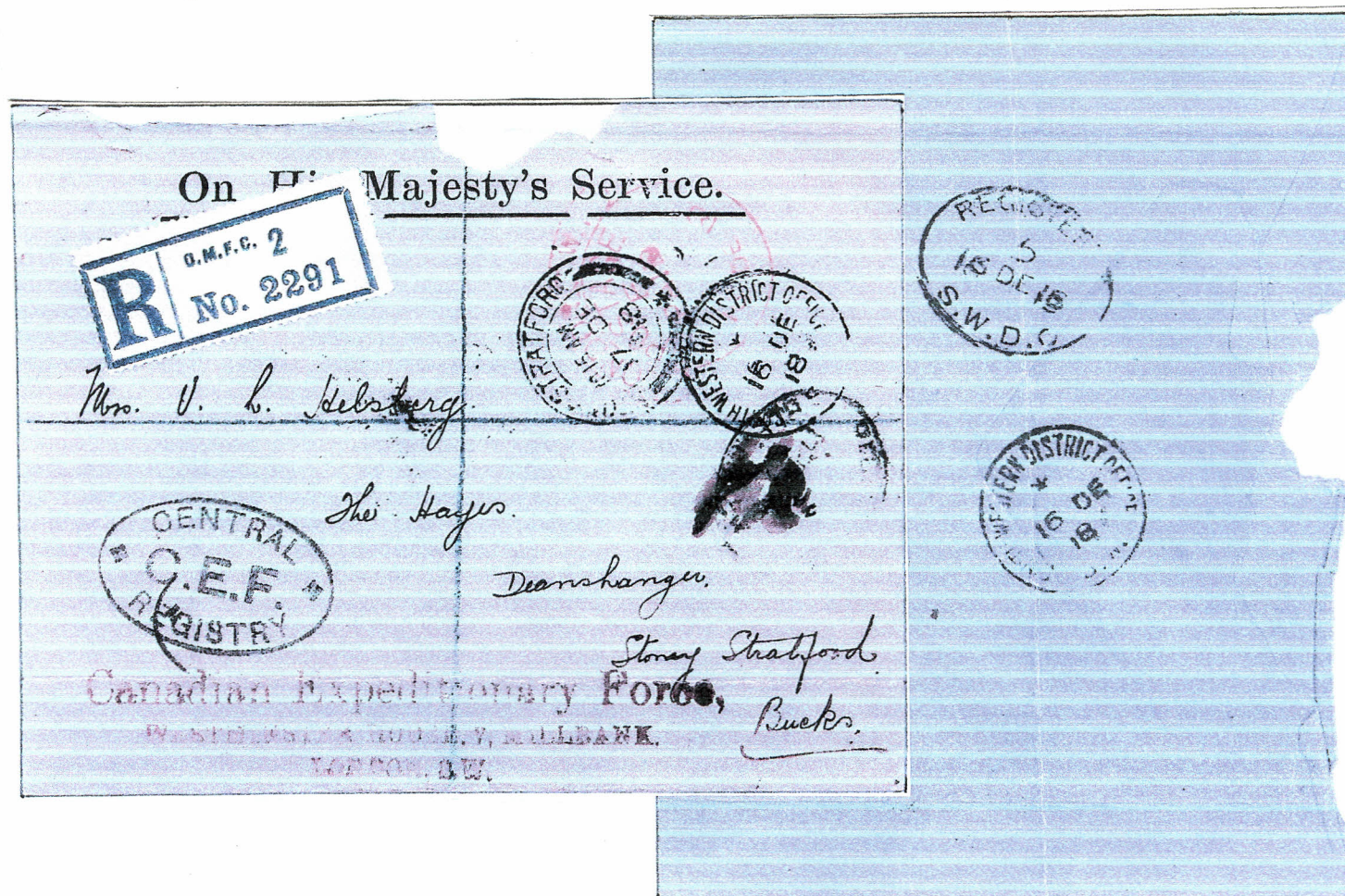




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C.E.F. WESTMINSTER HOUSE, LONDON, DECEMBER 1918--By Robert Henderson

This registered mail envelope bears a three-line "Canadian Expeditionary Force, /WESTMINSTER HOUSE, 7, MILLBANK, /LONDON, S.W." return address, along with an oval "CENTRAL/C.E.F./REGISTRY" handstamp. A "SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE/\*/16 DE/18/S.W." CDS (and backstamp); an oval "REGISTERED/5/16 DE 18/S.W.D.O." (and backstamp); and a red "LONDON, S.W./POSTAGE/E/PAID/16 DE 18" hooded circle are also present. There is a receiving DCDS "STONY STRATFORD/10:15 AM/17 DE/18" upon delivery.



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DETAILS REGARDING GED TAYLOR'S MILITARY MAIL AUCTION & CPSGB SALES

Members not contacted via email will be pleased to know that Auctioneer Graham Searle, FCPS has provided details for our members regarding the dispersal of our late member Ged Taylor's military mail collection. Through the kindness of his family, Graham, and Peter High of the Forces Postal History Society, members not currently belonging to the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain will be allowed to participate in upcoming auction sales. The material will be offered online for the fourth quarter of 2014 and early in 2015. Members can view the auction

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site at: <http://www.canadianpsgb.org.uk> [.]

The auction will be listed in pdf format to view online or download to print (access through one's public library system would be ideal). Please denote "CMMSG" when submitting bids to alert Graham of your association with our group. There will be a bid sheet included online.

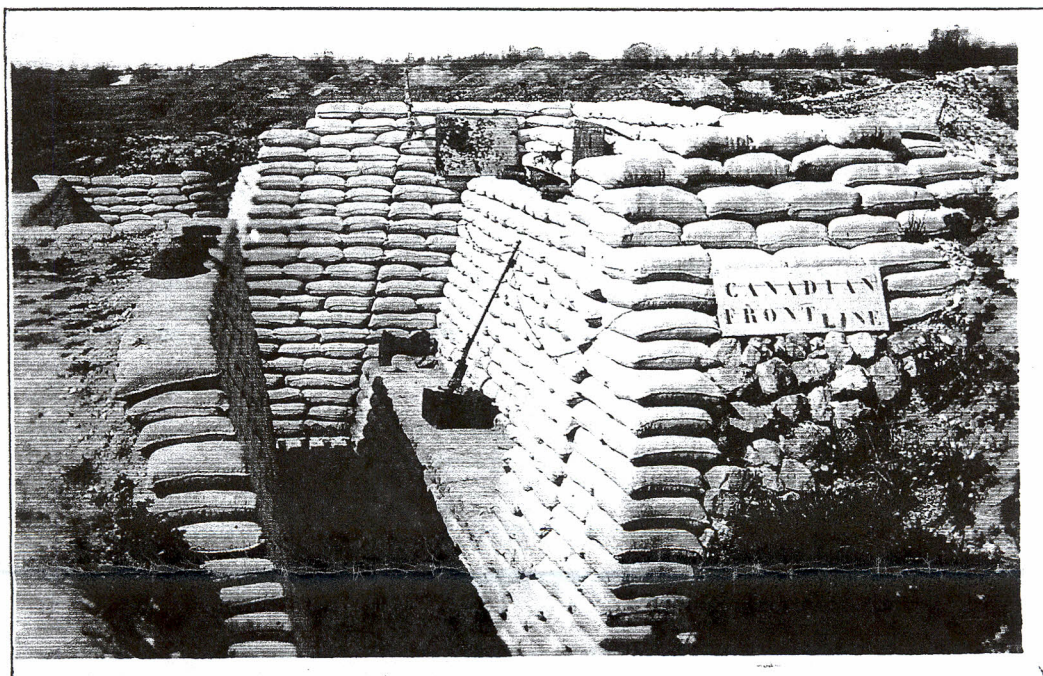
Graham has indicated that a printout of auction lot text may be possible for those not online. Contact him for details and costs involved by writing to him at:

Graham Searle, FCPS  
Ryvoan, 11 Riverside, Banchory,  
Aberdeenshire, AB31 6PS United Kingdom

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#### THE CANADIAN FRONT LINE: POST-WAR TRENCH RESTORATION/RECLAMATION

The following two real photo unused postcards (with typical French "Carte Postale" on reverse) illustrate the recent post-war restoration



of at least part of the Canadian front-line. The photos must have been taken in the early 1920's. Much of the backdrop landscape is still raw and typical of the devastation seen during the Great War.

Note several artifacts perched atop the trench line sand bags, such as the symbolic "Brodie" helmet; perhaps placed as a memorial in honour of the troops that bravely fought and fell.

I have often wondered about the man and his dog (mid-right) on the following card. Was he a local who worked on the trenches, a French veteran, or a visiting Canadian with a local canine paying tribute to his friends who sacrificed so much? Unfortunately we will never know.

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BNAPEX 2014 BALPEX

Although circumstances will prevent both Henk and Dean from attending our study group meeting this year (scheduled for 0930-1030, Saturday August 30), we will have a meeting and presentation! Thanks to Jon Johnson, who will chair the meeting as well as provide us an interesting power-point display related to "HMCS Rainbow and her Conspicuous Shadow, August 1914". Thanks very much Jon and good luck to exhibitors and attendees.

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Dear Study Group Members: Our Great War issue will remind members the interesting variety of postal history connected with this conflict. Thanks to contributors! The cupboards are almost bare once again so members are encouraged to send in their articles etc. Until November, good hunting!

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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) (9/10)

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) (4/5)

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