

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

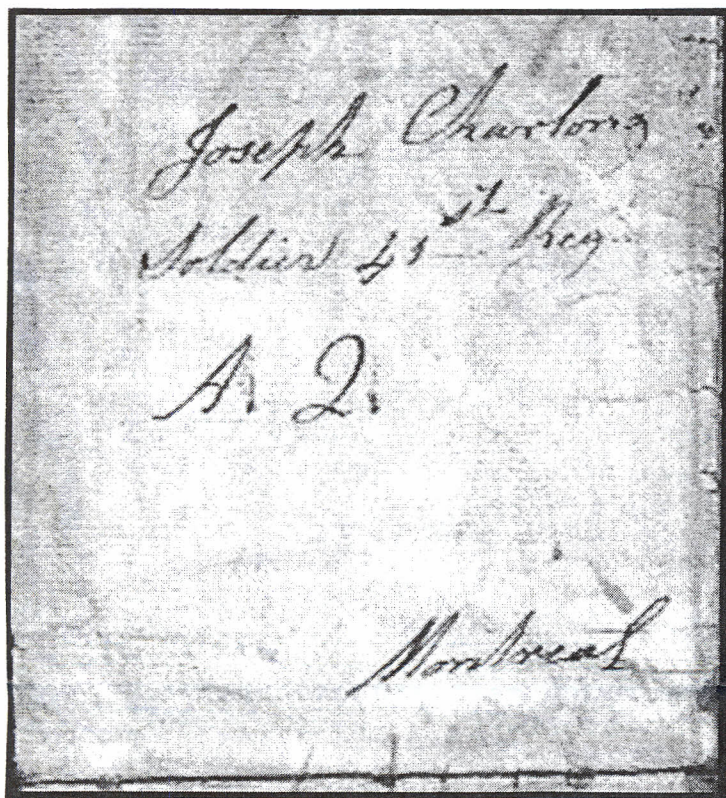
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2015

NEWSLETTER NO. 220

Page 1417

CANADA'S SECOND OLDEST SOLDIER'S LETTER: MORE THAN MEETS
THE EYE--By David Hobden



Being a soldier in the British army has never been a high paying occupation. In 1800 an enlisted soldier in the British army was paid 6d [1] per day, cavalry were paid slightly better at 9d. It is interesting to note that a horse without a rider, albeit complete with forage and bedding for the day was remunerated at 1s6d per day; double the pay for a soldier. By the last part of the 18th century another general change was taking place in British society in general--people were learning to read and write! As a result parliament enacted a bill in 1796 allowing concessionary postage rates for enlisted men; effectively allowing non-commissioned personnel (ie. all but officers) to send, or receive prepaid letters up to $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce anywhere within the

British Empire at a rate of 1d per letter. At a time when the rate for a single letter from Upper Canada to Scotland was 4 shillings (48 pence), the cost saving is evident.

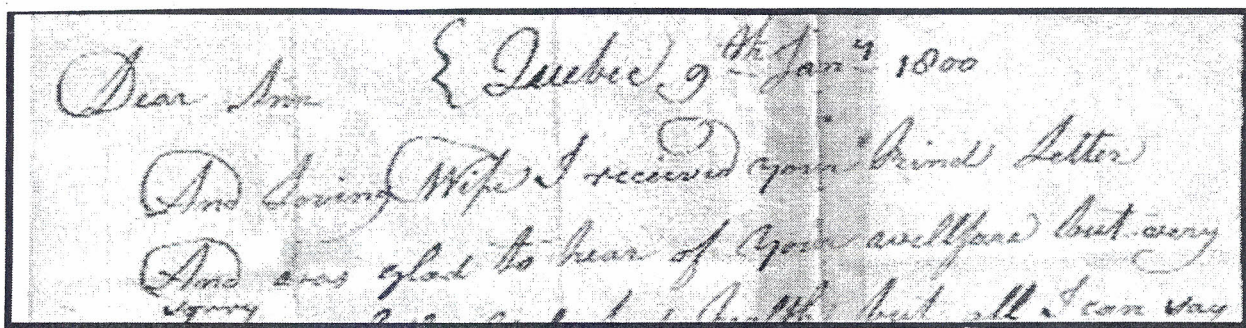
[Cont'd.]

CHAIRMAN: T.B.A.

EDITOR/TREASURER: DEAN MARIO, P.O. BOX 342, STATION MAIN, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3
(blueputtees@hotmail.com)

Page 1418

The preceding image is the address panel to Canada's second oldest reported soldier's letter and, at first glance, the oldest letter to a soldier. Dated January 9, 1800 it was sent from Francis Quin in Québec to Joseph Charlong in Montréal. Both men were of the 41st Regiment of Foot; Quin an officer and Charlong a private. Hence being to an enlisted man, in this case Private Charlong, the letter was allowed to pass at the concessionary rate. It is interesting to note that unlike later soldiers' letters there was no countersignature on the face of the letter. Such was a later requirement enacted to prevent such as this type of fraud. The letter is rated prepaid 1d as noted by the somewhat faded red (for prepaid--black for due) manuscript "1d" in the upper right. Also of note and unexplained, at least until the cover is opened, are the initials on the address panel: "A.Q."



The "A.Q." is explained when the letter is opened being headed "Dear Ann....Loving Wife I received your kind letter...." and concludes, "Your loving husband til Death, Francis Quin". The "A.Q." on the address panel was a cryptic warning to the receiver Joseph Charlong, that the letter was to be passed along to the officer's wife; saving Mr. Quin the difference in postage being 9d for 100-200 miles from Québec to Montréal vs. 1d expended postage: a savings of 8d!

To put the value of 8d in perspective, a soldier was only receiving 6d per day. Quin, as an officer [2] received better remuneration but junior officers were required to pay their own mess and accoutrement costs. Quin further bore the cost of keeping his wife and baby daughter in lodgings in Montréal. Direct comparisons are difficult as unlike our economy of today, cash was always in short supply and much of the economy was trade and barter. In the inflated wartime economy during the War of 1812, labourers were being paid about 2s6d per day in the shipyard at Kingston. This rate was probably double a prewar labourer's rate. Compared to a current labourers rate of \$200 per day, Mr. Quin saved himself half a day's pay, or \$100 in today's currency!

One further note on the concessionary rates of the period, I remember seeing the results of a survey of trans-Atlantic mails in the middle part of the 19th century [3]. I was astounded to see what a large percentage of the mails at the time were comprised of soldiers letters; it was somewhere in the 35-40% range. While I have not conducted a survey of the percentage of existing covers from the period that are soldier's letters, I would suggest that 1-2% would not be inaccurate, perhaps far

[Cont'd.]

less. So what has happened to all of these soldiers' letters? Stuck away in archives? Well a few but not too many. After much consideration the only conclusion I have been able to draw is that the relative scarcity of existing material is a reflection of the social stability of the persons receiving the letters. If you were an enlisted man in the British army or navy in the 1840's you and your family's social economic status was such that you wouldn't have tended to keep things for generations. You were poor, your needs were far more utilitarian than we are used to now. You either had a greater use for the paper after having read the letter perhaps in the little house with the hole in the seat out in the back garden, or starting a fire, or simply lost over the numerous moves and relocations.

So concludes a quick look at not only Canada's second earliest concessionary rate cover, but the first of such to a soldier, and an 8d defraudment as well!

- [1] 6 pence Sterling, British currency--12 pence (d) to a shilling (s), 20 shillings to a pound, hence 240 pence to a pound.
- [2] Quin further notes that the letter's shortness is due to his attention to regimental duties; hence Quin was an officer. Should he have been an enlisted man the letter could have been sent at a soldier's rate without all the skulduggery.
- [3] This will teach me to keep better notes. I believe that it was Arnell but can't seem to find it. The author would appreciate any information regarding said survey.

[The 41st Regiment arrived at Quebec from Ireland on October 24, 1799 and moved two weeks later to Montreal; with a few men remaining on the pay lists on command at Quebec. Thanks David for a wonderful piece, and your comments related to the scarcity of soldiers' letters I'm sure reflect the opinion of many members. Any assistance on David's query? Ed.]

NEW CMMSG BNAPEX AWARD PROPOSED FOR BEST MILITARY MAIL/POSTAL HISTORY

Fellow member and BNAPS Awards Coordinator Jon Johnson has recently noted that the Sam Nickle Award for the best military exhibit at the annual BNAPEX Convention and Exhibition is slowly drawing to a close. He has suggested that the CMMSG may be interested in continuing the tradition of honouring the best military mail/postal history exhibit at the annual event. Costs would be kept at a minimum and he has already done a great deal of initial work in designing the award (with input from Mike Street and myself). What do members think? The first award, if members agree, will be awarded (presuming that a qualified exhibit is applicable) at BNAPEX in 2016. Costs will be ascertained and members notified when finalized. Personally, I believe that an award of this nature will enhance the collecting and exhibiting of military mail and I am encouraged that such an award may be extended for the future. However, as a bit of a "purist" when it comes to the types of exhibits considered, I would hope that strictly "military-themed" displays be considered. Members who have opinions either way are invited to contact me, Mike Street, or dis-

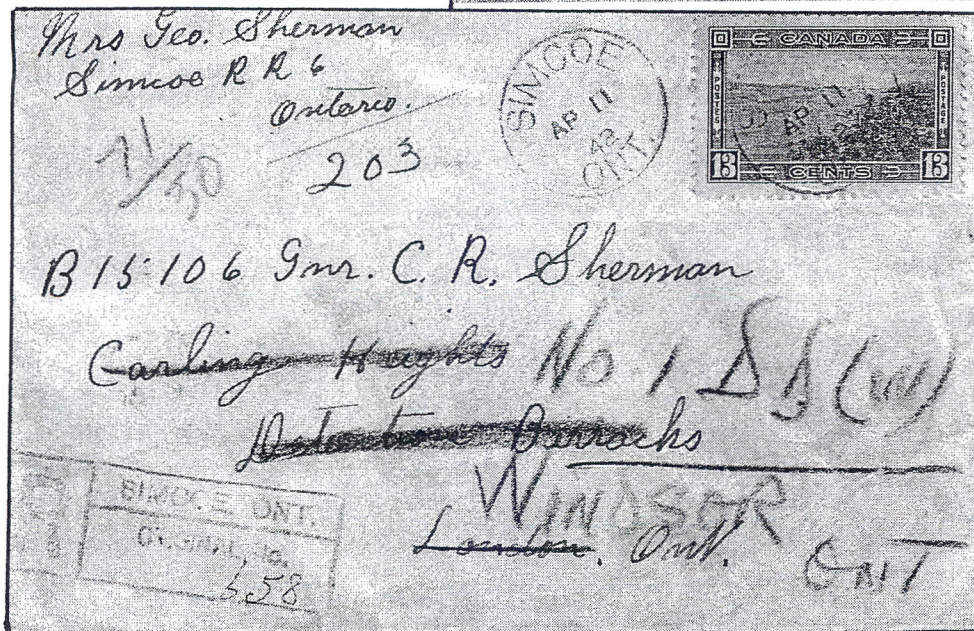
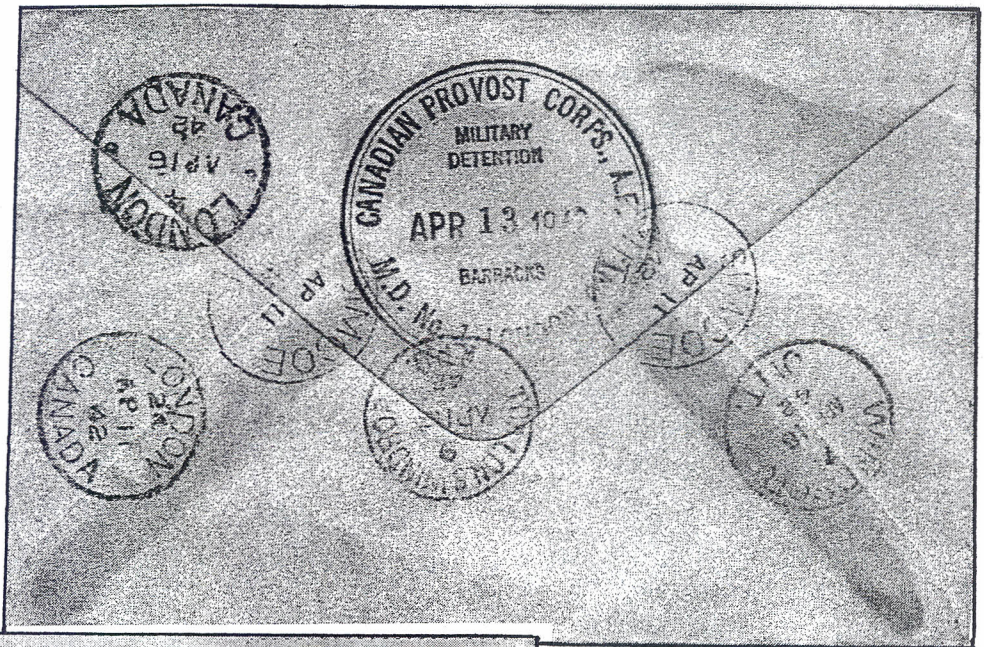
[Cont'd.]

Page 1420

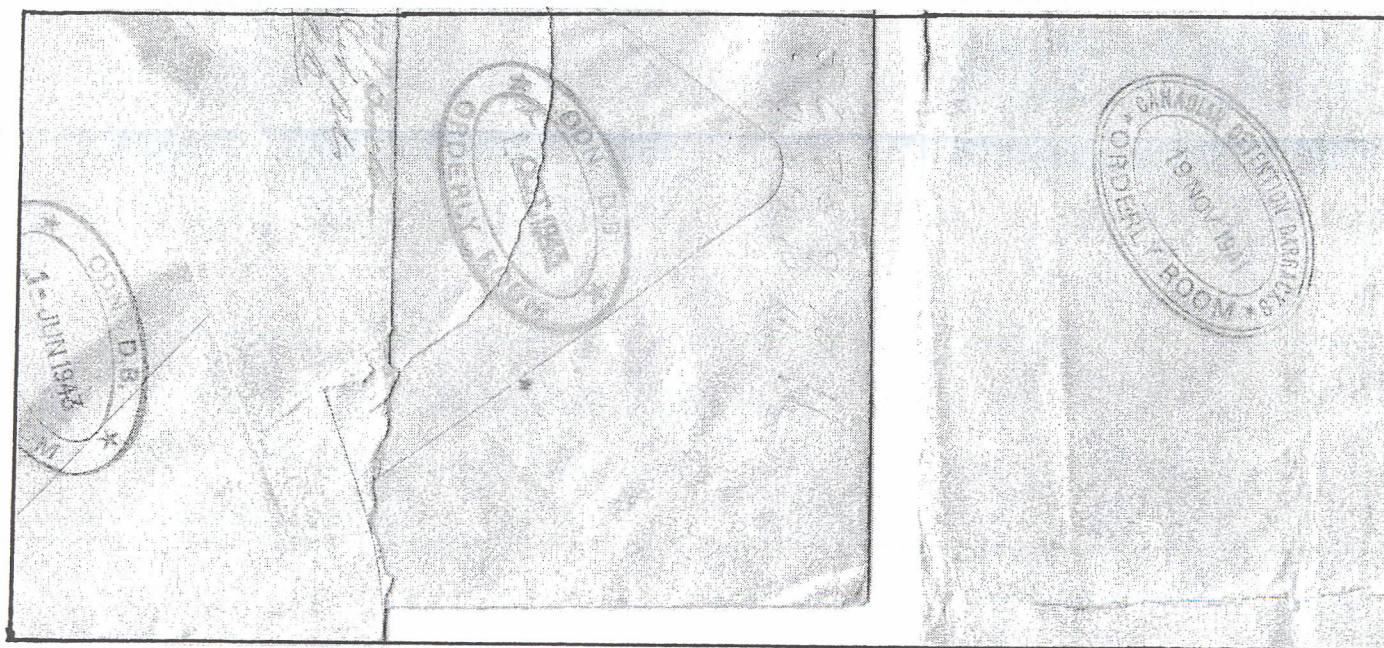
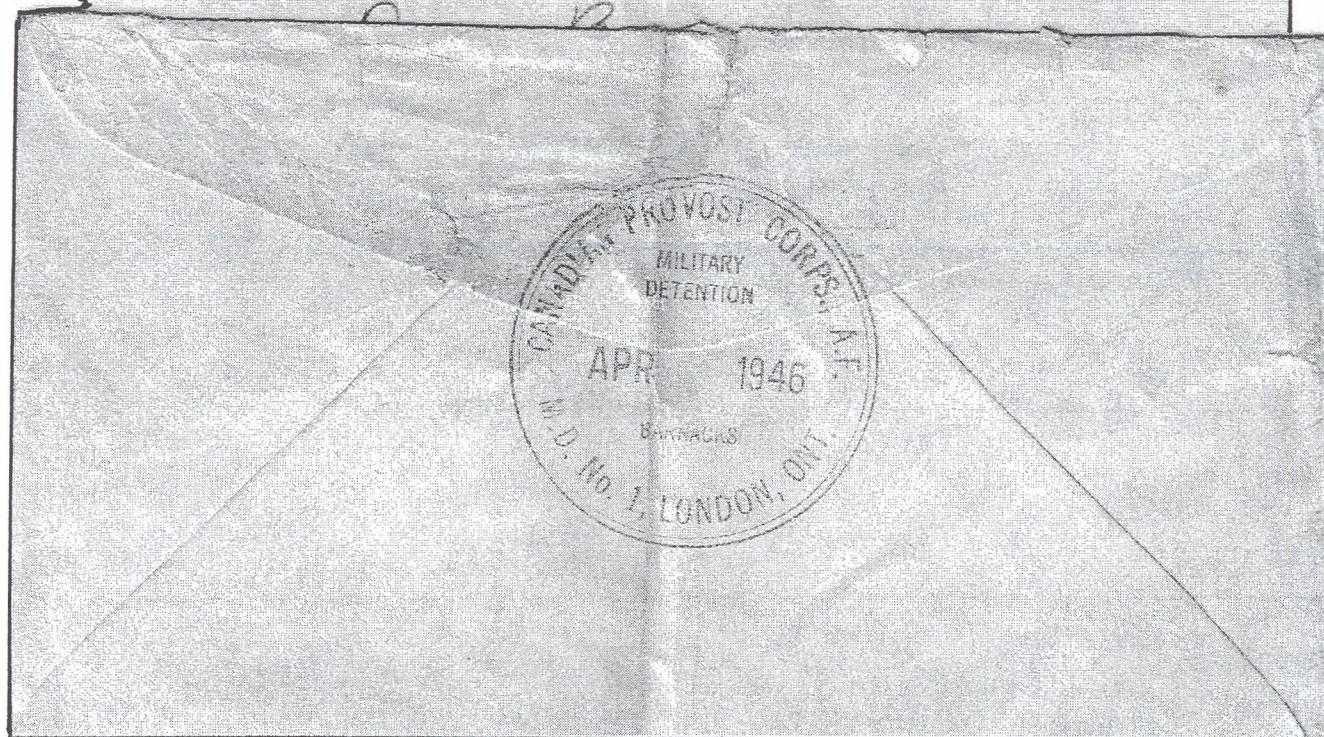
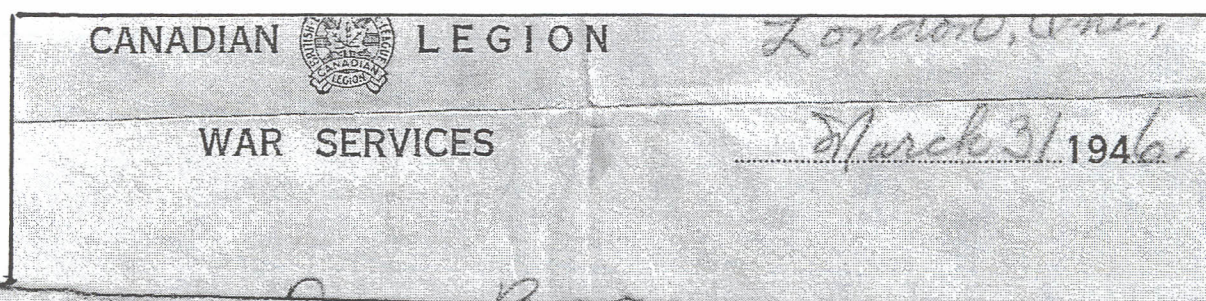
cuss them at our study group meeting at the upcoming convention.

MILITARY LAW AND ORDER: THE CANADIAN PROVOST CORPS' MILITARY DETENTION BARRACKS--By David Hanes

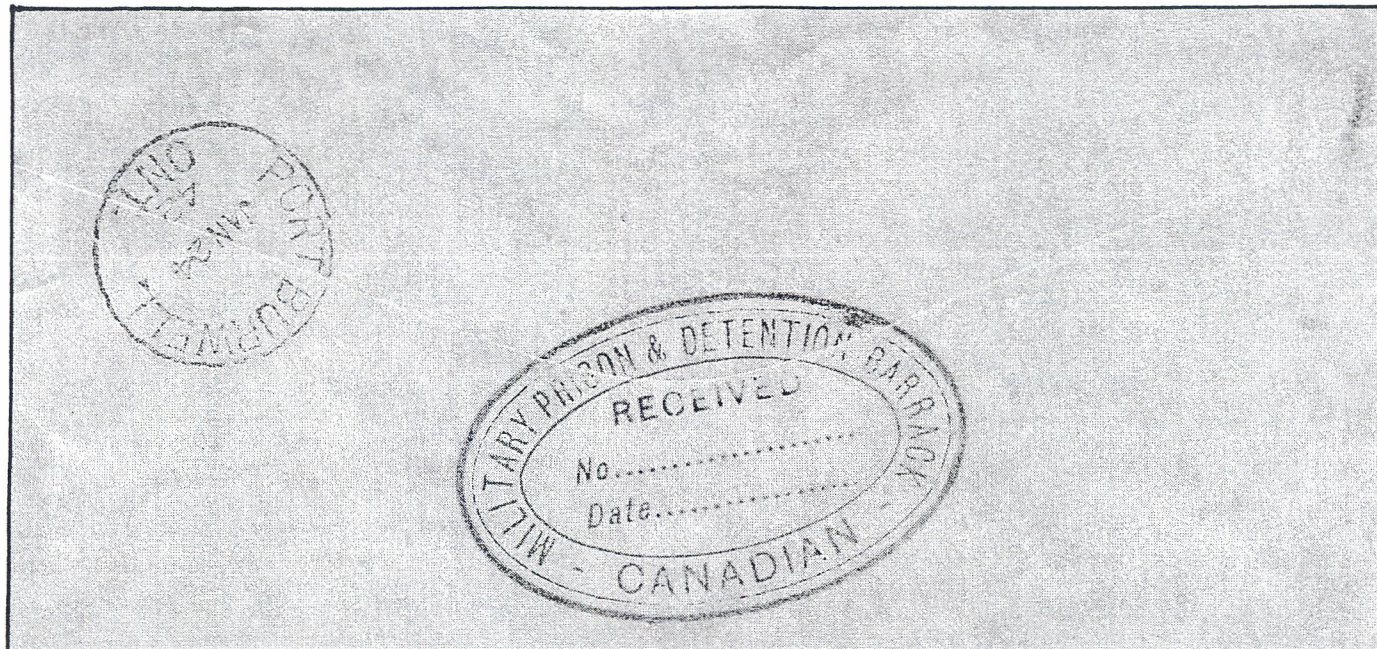
[Dave has scanned and sent along the following items connected with the subject of Military Detention Barracks. Two are illustrated showing the Barracks in London, Ontario dated 1942 and 1946; three other markings are from the Detention Barracks overseas in England (1941 and 1943); a 1942 "RECEIVED" oval marking; a return address from the Barracks at C.A.P.O. No.1 in St. John's, Newfoundland (No.82 Military Detention Barracks); a May 1943 rectangular "MILITARY DETENTION BARRACKS/CAMP BORDEN, ONTARIO/CENSORED" marking (enhanced); a return address from the 25th Field Detention Barracks in Korea; along with a 1956 marking from Werl, Germany.Ed.]



[Cont'd.]



Page 1422



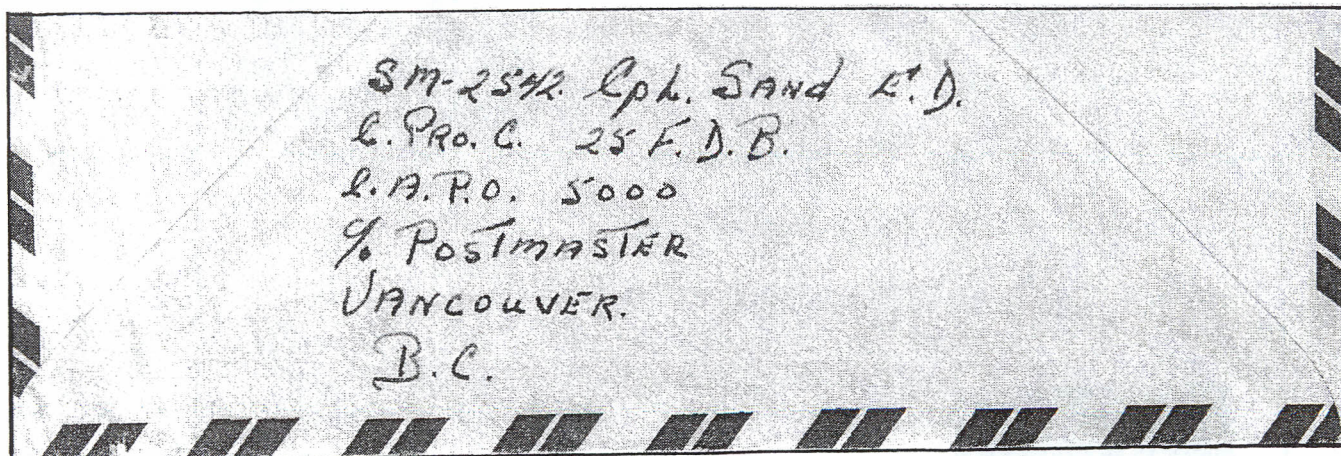
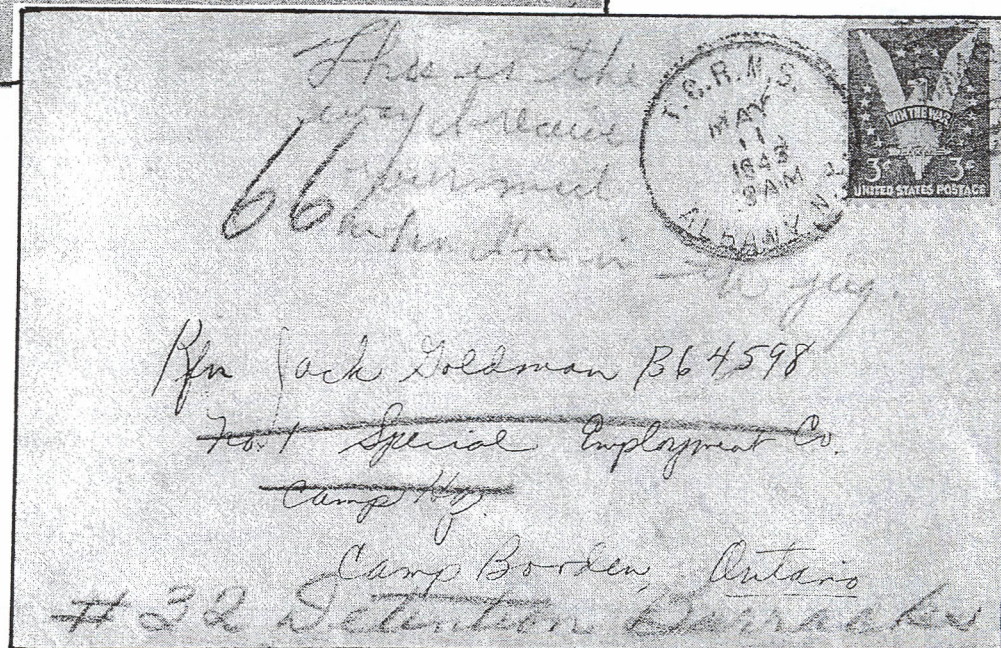
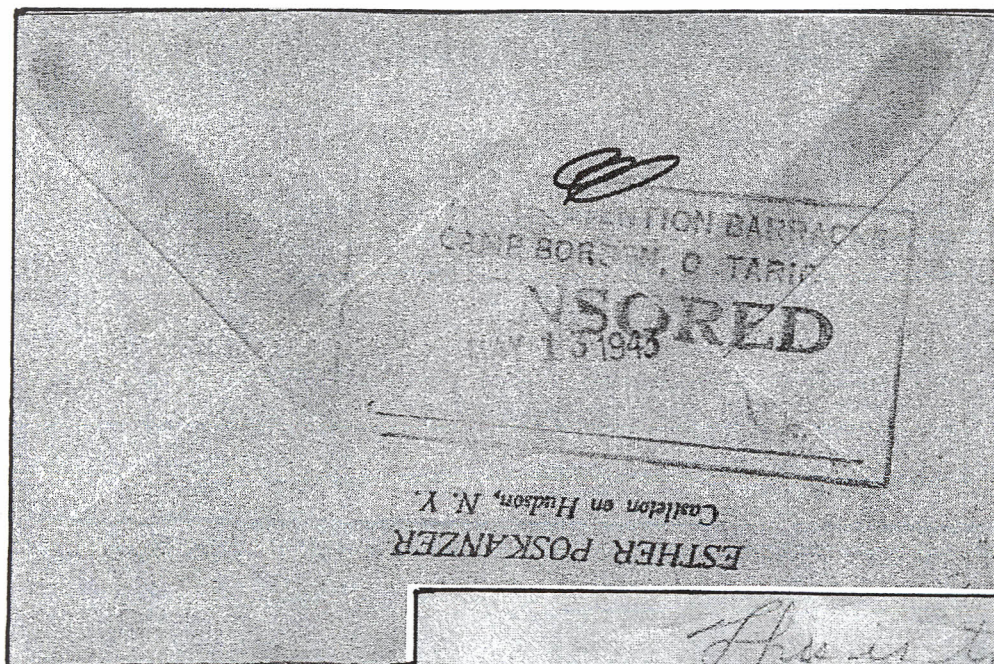
	D46028 NAME <i>Sgt Goodhue A.W.</i>
	UNIT <i>Cdn Post Corp</i> <i>Military Det. Barracks</i>
	NO. <i>C.A.P.O. #1</i> <i>Cdn. Army Overseas</i>
	SERVING WITH CANADIAN FORCES

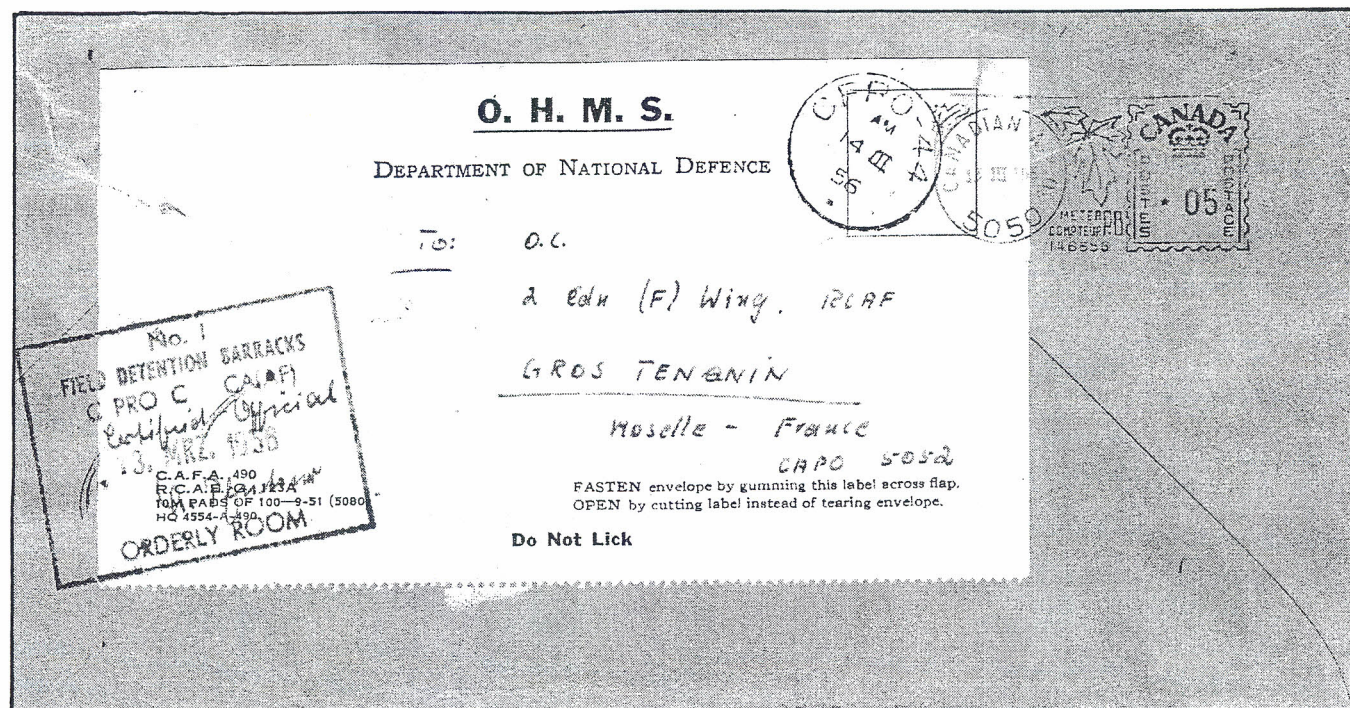
BY AIR MAIL PAR AVION	
--	--

--	--

Mrs Arthur W. Goodhue
Lennoxville, P.R. #4
Que Canada

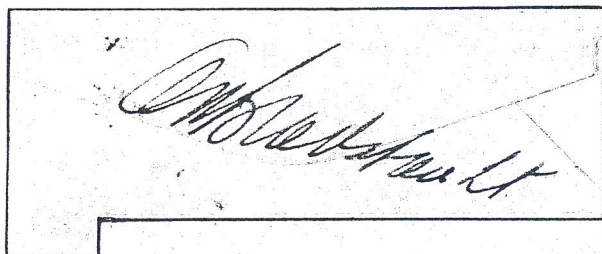
[Cont'd.]



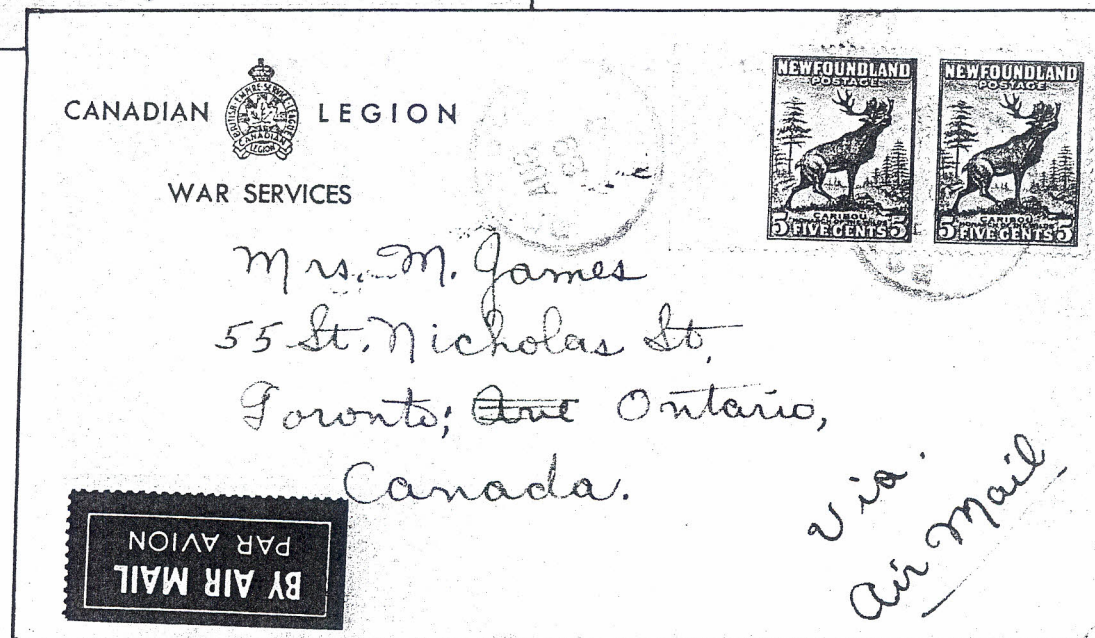


EARLY SECOND WORLD WAR NEWFOUNDLAND MILITARY CENSORSHIP--By Colin Pomfret

[Early military censorship often consisted of officers' signatures alone or with the "P.M.C." (Passed Military Censor) marking. Ed.]



Botwood, August 29, 1940



[Cont'd.]

Botwood, September 21, 1940

B64077. B Coy.
Rgn. W. Land.

[Handwritten signature]
M C



M. L. Allen. R. Land.

Upper Duplex.

17 Elgin Avenue.

TORONTO.

CANADA

Ontario.

CANADIAN  LEGION

WAR SERVICES

B63872 CPL. JAMES G. R. C.
"A" COY. 1st. BATT. "W" FORCE
C. A. S. F. NEWFOUNDLAND



MRS. M. JAMES
55 ST. NICHOLAS ST.
TORONTO, ONTARIO:
CANADA.

P.M.C.

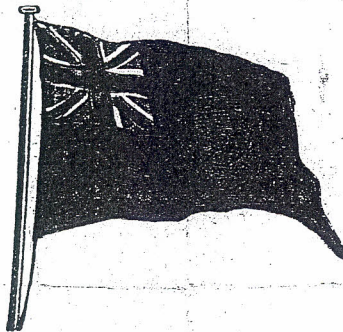
B. J. Macneil
Capt.

No postmark. Grid cancellation only.

Page 1426

GREAT WAR SALVATION ARMY STATIONERY--By James Felton

[Jim sent along this Salvation Army letterhead but the accompanying letter, if there was one attached, was separated. These auxiliary services were extremely important for troops, and offered such amenities as canteens, "huts" for recreation and stationery for troops to write home. A bit "cropped" to allow for space requirements, this item was addressed to "A.P.O. 'S' 22", presumably the Canadian Base Depot at Etaples, France (August 19, 1916 to June 14, 1919). The location was bombed by the enemy on June 1, 1918 with several casualties.Ed.]

The Salvation ArmyWith His Majesty's Canadian ForcesSalvation Army Chaplains with
the Canadian ForcesFrance

HON. CAPTAIN A. STEELE
HON. CAPTAIN W. CARROLL

England

HON. CAPTAIN R. PENFOLD
HON. CAPTAIN T. WALTON
HON. CAPTAIN J. MCGILLIVRAY

Canada

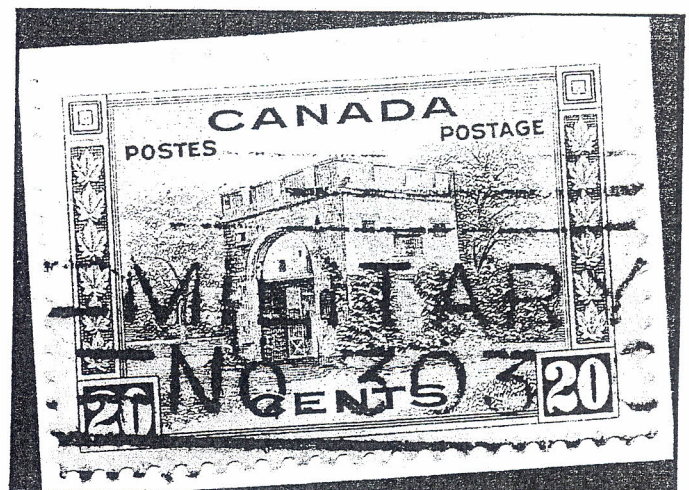
HON. CAPTAIN W. WHITE

191

648287 A/Sgt Elliott B.
Can Gen Base Depot
A.P.O. 'S' 22
France

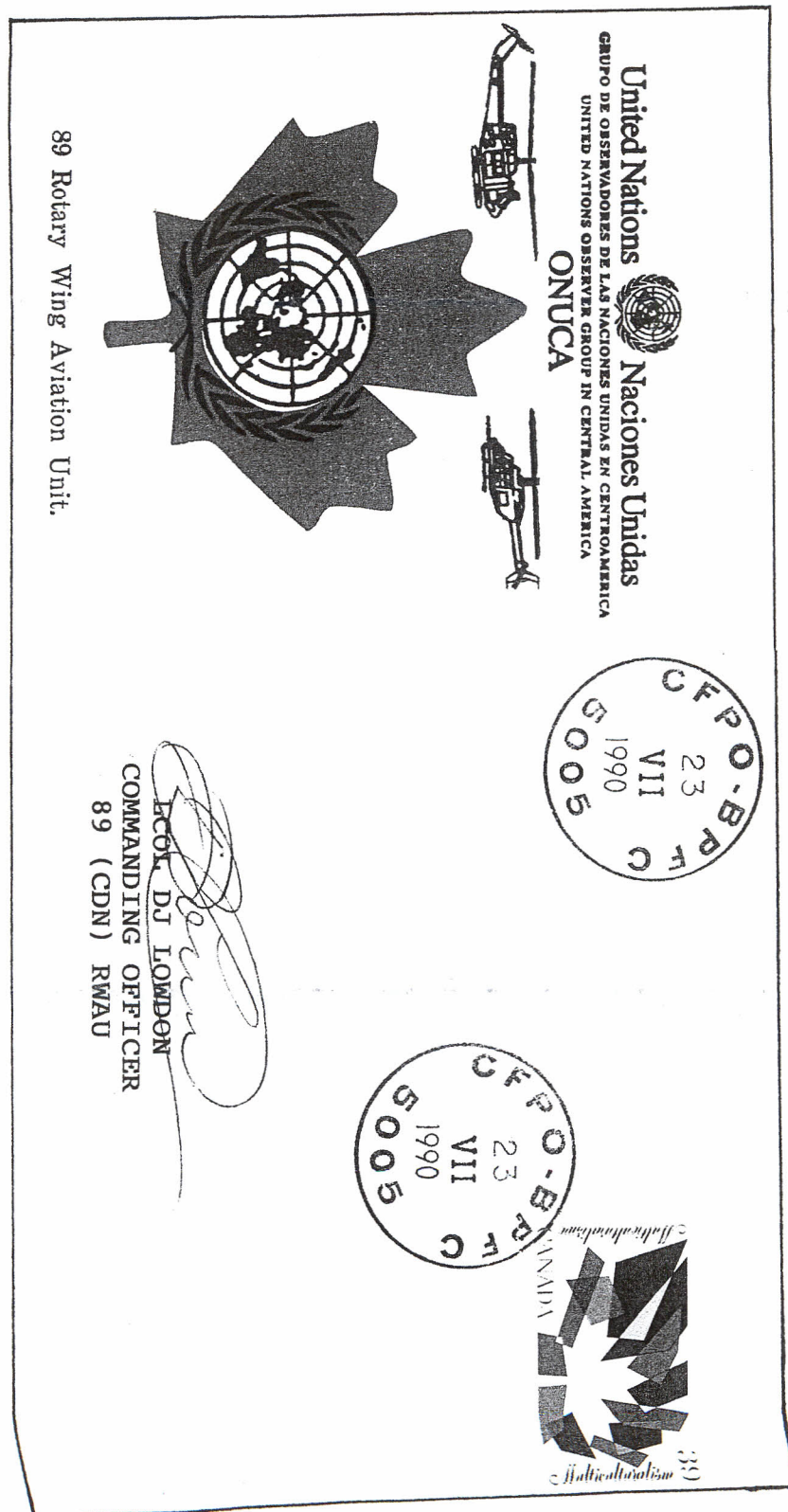
MPO 303-RCAF STATION TRENTON ROLLER:
A NEW ILLUSTRATION--By Wayne Schnarr

[On p.62 of Doug Sayles' The BNAPS Catalogue of Canadian Military Mail Markings, Vol.II (2011), he noted "A roller cancel for MPO 303 has been reliably reported, but no example could be found to make an illustration" (Sayles #D386). It is unlisted in Bailey & Toop's Canadian Military Postal Markings, Vol.I (1996). Wayne has discovered this strike and sent in a scan.Ed.]



ONUCA HONDURAS CFPO 5005--By Vernon W. von der Heydt

[Vernon sent along this U.N. Central America Observer Group cover from Teguchigalpa, Honduras where observers from Canada were there from February 23, 1990 until November 30, 1990. The cover is a bit "cropped" for space requirements.Ed.]



Page 1428

Dear Study Group Members: This will be our last issue before the BNAPEX convention and Study Group meeting. Good luck to all exhibitors and I hope to have a full report on the meeting in the next issue. A re-examination of current and proposed future international postage rates resulted in a modest increase of dues for our non-Canadian members. Most will have received a dues notice via email and those without email will find a membership form enclosed. MANY THANKS to those who have acted promptly and your continued support is much appreciated. A warm welcome is extended to **Wayne Schnarr** and **Ken Fry**. Our condolences to family and friends of Gary Collins and Wayne Curtis are extended. The much-anticipated A Guide to Canadian Military Postal History 1636-1970 by Lt.Col. R.H. Webb; edited by Gray Scrimgeour, Brian Plain, and member Robert Toombs should be available soon. For more information see: www.postalhistorycanada.net or view: <http://www.postalhistorycanada.net/php/Library/Books/Webb/index.php> (.) The pre-publication deadline has passed but Postal History Society of Canada members may view the electronic file on the website. Until November happy collecting!

SMALL ADS

Looking for something? Have something for sale? Why not try our small ads? Buy/Sell/Trade. Still only \$1 per issue (Canadian stamps @ face ok). Copy and payment to the Editor please.

WANTED: Collector is looking for CFPO 5106/POCON 103985 and CFPO 5107/POCON 103993 cancelled covers used in conjunction with the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Purchase or trade. Please contact Kon Sokolyk at kwsokolyk@yahoo.com (2/5)

FOR SALE: Henk Burgers' Canadian Siberia Expeditionary Force (CSEF) Grand Award exhibit and other military collections. For more information and details contact R.F. Narbonne, OTB, FRPSC, Greenwood Stamp Company, 136 Morphy St., Carleton Place, ON Canada K7C 2B4; telephone (613) 257-5453 or toll-free 1-800-247-5619 (2/3)

WANTED: Japanese Canadian Nisei volunteers and non-Japanese Canadians in WWII Intelligence Service Far East. Especially seeking Japanese Language School (S-20) drafts, interpreters, war crimes units etc. in South East Asia Command; Canadians associated with Nuremburg War Crimes Trials; Canadian POW's in Buchenwald/Colditz (Oflag IVC) and Stalag Luft III escapers; Canadians in Gibraltar/Malta; WWI Newfoundland. Contact the Editor at blueputtees@hotmail.com (2/5)

WANTED: Veterans' Guard covers from WWII. Please send photocopies/scans with price to Hal Kellett, #412-106 Armistice Way, Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H4 or telephone (306) 374-4282; email: hkstampsandcovers@shaw.ca (2/3)

WANTED: Canadian covers to or from these military missions: MONUC/MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of the Congo since 2000); United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (1993-1996); United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE 2000-2001); United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ 1992-1994); United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS 2011-present); United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM 1990-1995). Please contact Major Anthony Fulmes: ajfulmes@gmail.com (1/6)

FOR SALE: WWII MPO collection for sale (or trade). Total of 304 covers/cards plus numerous on stamp/piece in 4 binders. Sorted using B & T. 160 different cancels on cover and an additional 55 different cancels on stamp/piece. A list of the cancels can be emailed. Contact Wayne Schnarr @ gwschnarr@rogers.com (1/1)
