



# Canadian Military Mail Study Group

## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2015

NEWSLETTER NO. 221

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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM PHNOM PENH 1957--By Robert Toombs

[Bob sent along this card connected with the International Control and Supervisory Commission in Indo-China (Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia). It was a non-NATO and non-UN commitment from approximately 1954-1974.Ed.]



[Cont'd.]

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1957

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

JOYEUX NOEL ET BONNE  
ET HEUREUSE ANNÉE

Canadian Delegation I.C.S.C.  
PHNOM PENH, Cambodia

Délégation Canadienne C.I.S.C.  
PHNOM-PENH, Cambodge

*Claude Chappell*

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AN AUSTRALIAN LAC IN THE B.C.A.T.P.--By David Collyer

A little over a month after the outbreak of the Second World War, it was announced in London on October 19 that the United Kingdom and the Empire's Dominions would institute the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP). It was also known as the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS).

The aim of the plan was to graduate 50,000 aircrew (pilots, navigators, bombardiers, wireless operators, flight engineers, and air gunners) each year. The plan would assist Britain to achieve air superiority. Selected volunteers would undertake their initial training in their country of residence and advanced training was undertaken in Canada. The annual make up was to be 22,000 from Britain, 13,000 from Canada, 11,000 from Australia, and 3,300 from New Zealand. The original agreement setting up the scheme was signed on December 17, 1939 at Riverdale in Ottawa.

Australian participants wore Australian RAAF uniforms and received Australian rates of pay. They were distinguished from members of the RAAF in Australia by having a specific form of serial number AUS 404 839 (the AUS indicating Australia; 40, year of enlistment, numbers ranging from 40 to 44; 4, State of enlistment, in this case Queensland; and 839, a three-digit number up to 999 for the number enlisted in that state in that year). The smaller states had only one location code number where the larger states had more than one location number. Location 9 seems to have been used as a "catch all".

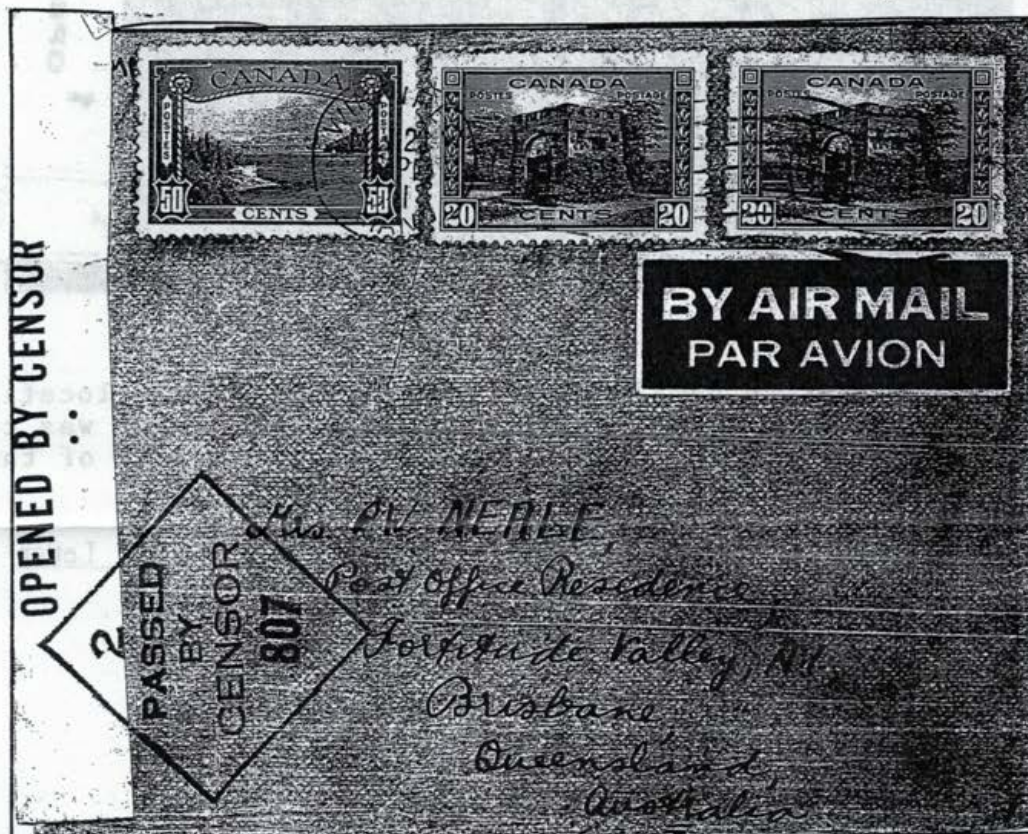
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AUSTRALIAN EMPIRE AIR TRAINING SCHEME STATE LOCATION NUMBERS

0, 1	Victoria	2,3	New South Wales	4,5	Queensland
6	Western Aus.	7	South Australia	8	Tasmania
9	Over flow				

This article features the correspondence from Leading Aircraftsman Laurence William Neale. He was born at Bowen on the coast of central Queensland on May 17, 1919. He enlisted in Brisbane, the state capital on December 6, 1940, and was assigned serial number AUS 404839. Neale was discharged as a Flying Officer from #1 Wireless and Gunnery School at Ballarat, Victoria on January 18, 1946. Whilst this research concentrates on his time in Canada, after graduation he wrote home from Britain in January 1942 and mail is known from India in October 1942. Later in the war he returned to Australia to the #1 Wireless and Gunnery School at Ballarat.



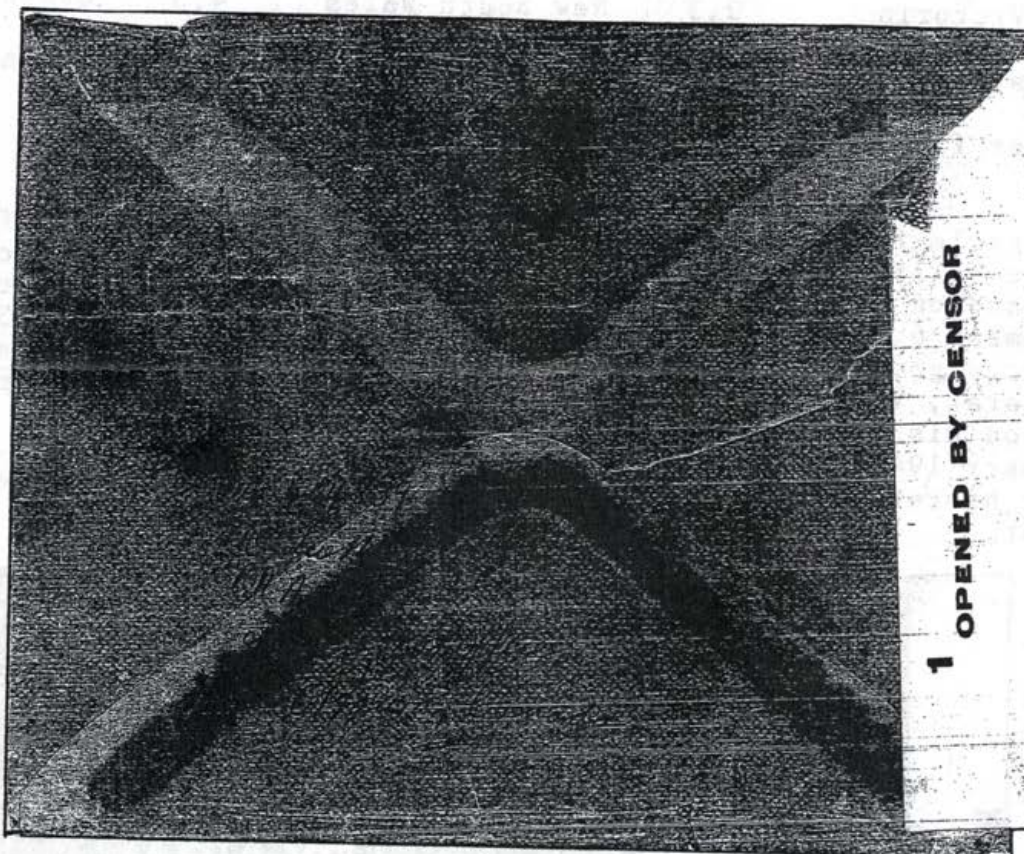
All but two items posted from Canada were addressed to Mrs. P.W. Neale, Post Office Residence, Fortitude Valley N1, Brisbane, Queensland. Laurence gives his next of kin as Percy Neale who probably was the Postmaster at Fortitude Valley, known colloquially as "the valley". It is located approximately one mile north of the G.P.O. Brisbane. The post office at Fortitude Valley no longer exists but it was located on the cor-

[Cont'd.]



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ner of Anne and Ballow Streets. As Anne Street was a major thoroughfare serviced by transit it is likely that the post office residence was on Ballow Street.



A record of the covers available follows including the location of posting, the date of posting, the franking, where the cover was censored in Australia, the individual censor number, and the number of the letter if given (\*indicates illustrated covers).

Location	Posted	Franking	Censor	Number	Letter
* Winnipeg	22/05/1941	90c	Brisbane	2/807	
Winnipeg	27/05/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/3	
Winnipeg	31/05/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/4	
Winnipeg	05/06/1941	\$1.06	Sydney	2/813	
Winnipeg	05/06/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/?	
Winnipeg	09/06/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/19	
Winnipeg	24/06/1941	\$1.00	Brisbane	1/2	
Winnipeg	30/06/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/2	18
Winnipeg	01/07/1941	90c	Brisbane	2/597	19
Winnipeg	29/07/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/2	25
Winnipeg	04/08/1941	90c	Brisbane	2/1006	27
Winnipeg	12/08/1941	\$1.00	Brisbane	1/39	
Winnipeg	18/08/1941	\$1.00	Brisbane	S.86 (2 on rear)	30

[Cont'd.]



Winnipeg	29/08/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/2	32
Winnipeg	29/08/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/2	33
Winnipeg	02/09/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/2	34
Winnipeg	13/09/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/23	35
Winnipeg	13/09/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/39	36
Winnipeg	23/09/1941	\$1.00	Brisbane	1/3	
Mossbank	01/10/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/2	39
Mossbank	07/10/1941	90c	AIF	None	
* Mossbank	11/10/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/39	
Mossbank	24/10/1941	90c	Brisbane	1/2	43

Items posted on June 5, 1941 and October 7, 1941 were addressed to his elder brother Percy Edward Neale (NX 23529) who was attached to 2/1 Anti-Aircraft Regiment (part of the 6th Division of the 2nd Australian Imperial Force or AIF).

The Winnipeg postmarks are from the civilian post office and from October 1, 1941 the postmarks are from Mossbank MPO 1203 Saskatchewan. Mail from May 22 to September 23, 1941 was posted through the civilian post office and the majority of these envelopes have the crest of the RCAP on the rear flap.

The mail does not appear to have been inspected by Canadian civil censors but was inspected by Australian civil censorship authorities [domestic Canadian civil censorship often despatched from military facilities was infrequent and thought unnecessary. Ed.]. As the mail was mostly addressed to Brisbane, one would have expected it to have been inspected in Brisbane as denoted by the prefix "1" for 1st Military District (Queensland). Four items were inspected in Sydney as denoted by the prefix "2" for the 2nd Military District (N.S.W.) and the letter "S" for Sydney.

The term franking has been used to indicate the amount of postage paid. For eighteen out of twenty-three items the franking was 90¢ Canadian that prepaid airmail to Australia via the Pan American Airways service from San Francisco, California to Auckland, New Zealand and thence by TEAL (Tasman Empire Airways Limited) from Auckland to Sydney. If air was used in Australia between Sydney and Brisbane, the carrier would have been ANA (Australian National Airways) or its partner AoA (Airlines of Australia).

There are three covers franked at \$1.00 Canadian which is interpreted as having no 20¢ stamps available and the rate was over-paid by 10¢. Two covers were posted at Winnipeg on June 5; one was franked 90¢ and the other was franked at \$1.06--50¢ x 2 + 6¢ airmail (possibly for Canadian internal airmail).

Neale was writing at least one letter per week but FAM 19 only flew to Auckland once a fortnight. The following table correlates letters with the dates of flights. It was common for more than one letter to be carried on a particular flight. From when FAM 19 started from San Francisco on July 12, 1940, Los Angeles was included at a stop over.

[Cont'd.]



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The American Clipper service departing San Francisco on June 28, 1941 arrived at Honolulu, Hawaii on June 29, 1941 but was delayed until July 5, 1941 with engine failure. Auckland was finally reached on July 8, 1941.\*

Location	Posted	San Francisco	Auckland	Clipper
Winnipeg	22/05/1941}	31/05/1941	04/06/1941	Honolulu
Winnipeg	27/05/1941}			
Winnipeg	31/05/1941}	14/06/1941	18/06/1941	Honolulu
Winnipeg	05/06/1941}			
Winnipeg	05/06/1941}			
Winnipeg	09/06/1941}			
Winnipeg	24/06/1941	28/06/1941	08/07/1941	American*
Winnipeg	30/06/1941}	13/07/1941	17/07/1941	California
Winnipeg	01/07/1941}			
Winnipeg	29/07/1941}	07/08/1941	11/08/1941	California
Winnipeg	04/08/1941}			
Winnipeg	12/08/1941}	25/08/1941	29/08/1941	California
Winnipeg	18/08/1941}			
Winnipeg	29/08/1941}	31/08/1941	12/09/1941	ANZAC
Winnipeg	29/08/1941}			
Winnipeg	02/09/1941}	24/09/1941	28/09/1941	Honolulu
Winnipeg	13/09/1941}			
Winnipeg	13/09/1941}			
Winnipeg	23/09/1941}	04/10/1941	10/10/1941	ANZAC
Mossbank	01/10/1941}			
Mossbank	07/10/1941}	19/10/1941	23/10/1941	Pacific
Mossbank	11/10/1941}			
Mossbank	24/10/1941	05/11/1941	10/11/1941	Pacific

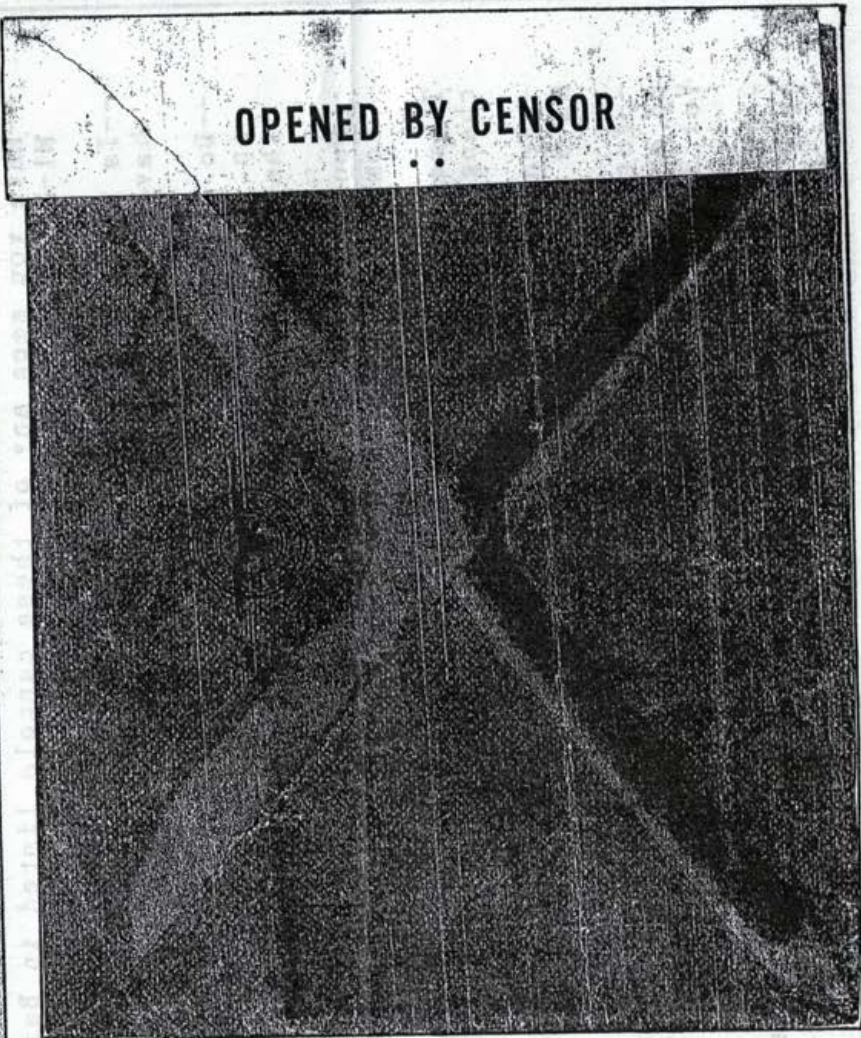
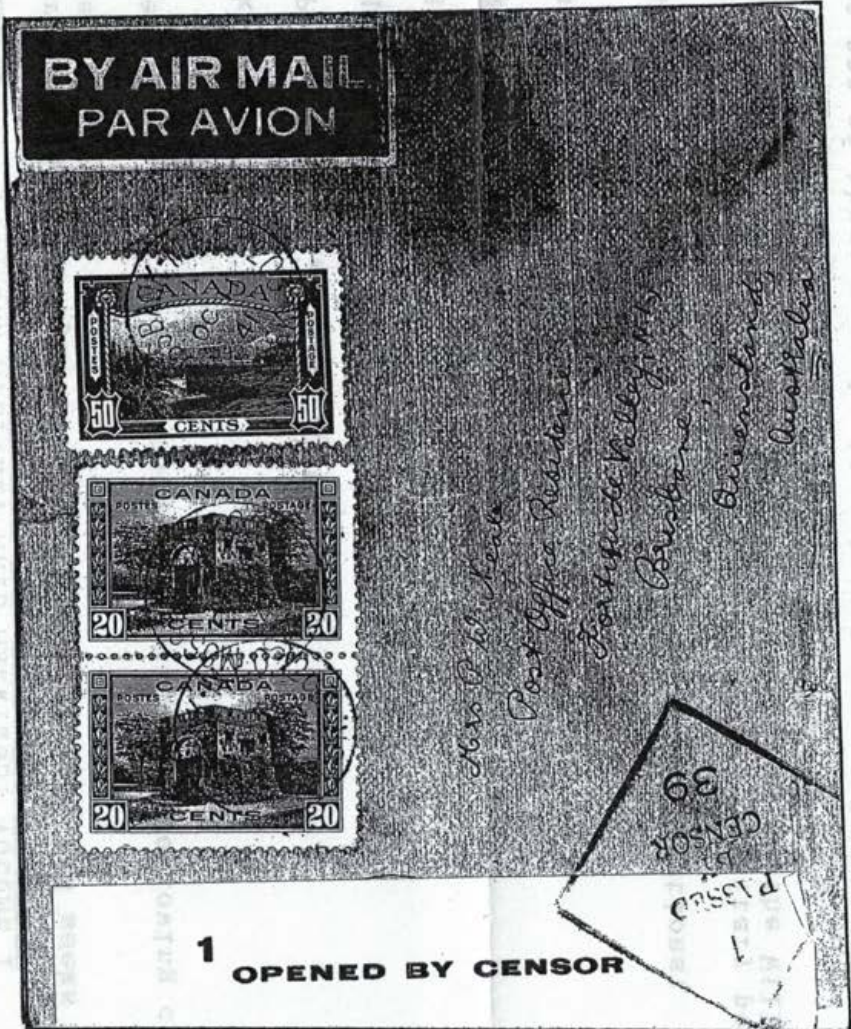
The Trans-Tasman Sea air service from Auckland to Sydney was operated by Tasman Empire Airways Limited (TEAL); later to become Air New Zealand using Short S-30 flying boats. This service started in March/April 1940 as weekly but by mid-1941 it was probably twice weekly. The air service between Sydney and Brisbane was flown by ANA (Australian National Airways) in partnership with AoA (Airlines of Australia) and both companies used DC2 and DC3 aircraft.

The Neale mail shows how airmail was handled from British Commonwealth Air Training Plan camps in Canada to destinations in Australia using the Pan American Airways FAM 19 service from San Francisco to Auckland, connecting with the Trans-Tasman air service and finally with Australian domestic air services.

[According to Spencer Dunmore's Wings For Victory: The Remarkable Story of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan in Canada (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart Ltd., 1995), Winnipeg was home to No.5 Air Observer School (Jan.6, 1941-Apr.30, 1945) and No.3 Wireless School (Feb.17, 1941-Jan.20, 1945). Mossbank hosted No.2 Bombing and Gunnery School (Oct.28, 1940-Dec.15, 1944); see pp. 354-355, 357. There were some 9,606 RAAF BCATP graduates from 1940-1945 (p.361).Ed.]

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Would you be willing to review this once it has been completed?

[Cont'd.]



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THE BNAPS CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN MILITARY MAIL MARKINGS: VOLUME I

[Wayne Schnarr has sent this update on the above project and seeks input from the members:

"There will be six chapters in this catalogue, with the following chapter headings:

1. Early Markings to 1909
2. Military Post Offices in Canada (1909-1936)
3. WWI--Canadian Expeditionary Force in England
4. WWI--Canadian Expeditionary Force in France and Belgium
5. Canadian Expeditionary Force--Siberia
6. WWI Internment Operations

Chapter 1 is almost complete but with a few outstanding questions:

- William Henry (now Sorel)--is there any evidence for a military postmaster in the early to mid-1800's; is there an article on the William Henry civilian cancels previously thought to be military?
- Have you seen any of these cancels listed in Bailey & Toop on a cover?  
M1-2, -13, -14; M7-23, -24, -26
- Is the following cancel a military or a general government cancel? I have seen this cancel on covers from non-military departments.
- Do you know of any good references which should be cited in this chapter? The new PHSC book will be referenced in the catalogue introduction.
- Would you be willing to review Chapter 1 once it has been completed?



There are also a few outstanding questions and proposed changes from the B&T listings on Chapter 5:

- From the M5-1 to M5-10 markings, the new catalogue will not include M5-3 and M5-10.
- For the censor markings 001 through 035, there will be a table similar to that prepared by Robert C. Smith and published in the PHSC Journal, Vol.36 (31 December 1983), p.8.
- In a letter from the C.S.E.F. HQ cited in the same PHSC Journal article, there is reference to "2 'Re-examined by Base Censor' " stamps--has anybody seen any proofs or uses of this stamp?
- Would you be willing to review Chapter 5 once it has been completed?

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If you can help with any of the other chapters, either information or reviewing drafts, please contact the Editor, Wayne Schnarr, by email at: gwschnarr@rogers.com or by snail mail at Wayne Schnarr, #619-112 George Street, Toronto, ON M5A 2M5".Ed.]

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#### CMMSG MEETING, BNAPEX 2015, NIAGARA FALLS

The CMMSG meeting was held Saturday, September 12, 2015 at 1600. Twelve study group members and other interested BNAPSers were in attendance. Interim group Chairman Mike Street asked if there were any nominations for, or interest in, the Chairman's position. There was no response. Mike introduced Wayne Schnarr, who has taken over the task of finishing Volume I of Doug Sayles' Catalogue of Canadian Military Mail Markings. Wayne asked for assistance from all members and will have a note in the next Newsletter outlining the items he is looking for.

Mike then introduced guest speaker and presenter Mike Powell, who showed some very interesting Great War P.O.W. and Internment material. Mike P. is working on both a handbook and a BNAPS Exhibit Series book on this subject.

To close out the meeting Eugene Labiuk showed those present some of the material he had gathered for his project entitled "Operation Magic Carpet, Manila Camp"; the story of the repatriation of the WWII British and British Commonwealth Liberated Prisoners of War (LPOW's), including Canadians from the Far East on their way home via Manila. Gene would like to hear from any study group member who has pertinent material or information.

Military mail exhibits on view included Earle Covert's "Armed Forces Letters" (Gold); David Hobden's "In Defence of the Border" (Gold/Sam Nickle Award); Doreen Fitzgerald's "World War I: Messages Home in Silk" (Silver); Darcy Hickson's "Sewell Camp: The White City, 1915" (Gold); and Jon Johnson's "Canadian Military Hospitals at Sea" (Gold). The "E.R. 'Ritch' Toop Memorial Award" for the best Canadian/B.N.A. military mail article or book published anywhere in 2014 was awarded to Eugene Labiuk for "Philippine-Canada Mail, 1941-1945" in the PHSC Journal (Vol.158, Summer 2014), pp. 11-27.

The bank balance is \$747.79 and the newsletters cost about \$150 per issue. Dues are now required for 2015-2016. A reminder was announced that more articles are always solicited for the newsletters.

CMMSG sponsorship of an exhibit award for BNAPEX was suggested due to the expiry of the Sam Nickle Award. Response was positive with no negative concerns [I have received one.Ed.] Mike S. and Awards Co-ordinator Jon Johnson will work on details and present their findings to the members through the Newsletter in the near future. [My sincere thanks are extended to Jon Johnson and Mike Street for co-chairing/chairing the meeting. Congratulations are extended to all exhibitors and award recipients. Thanks too are extended to Mike Powell and Eugene Labiuk for their presentations. I have been told that members enjoyed them immensely.Ed.]

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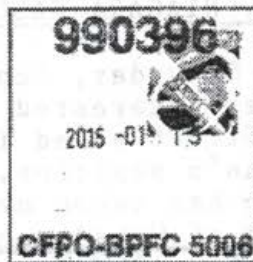
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CANADA'S EFFORTS COMBATING ISIS/ISIL--By A. David Hanes

[Dave sent along these samples from our Canadian Forces' strategic bombing mission. Given the new Liberal Government's decision to end this mission, these postal cancellations may be scarce in the future. Illustrations reduced for space.Ed.]

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R.C.A.F. SEASONS' GREETINGS--By Robert Henderson

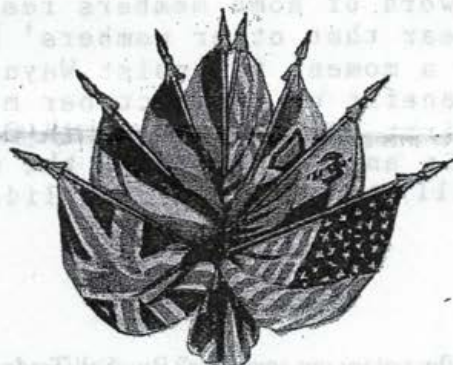
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SEASONS' GREETINGS FROM ONTARIO PREMIER HEARST

Here is a multi-coloured Great War card from the Conservative Premier who was in office from 1914 to 1919. Can any members date this card more precisely? The tone would suspect that it was near the end of the war (1917+ given the inclusion of the U.S. Stars and Stripes.Ed.)



## Season's Greetings

The Honourable Sir William Hearst  
Prime Minister of Ontario

on behalf of himself, his Colleagues

and the People of the Province

extends

to the Sons of Ontario

in the Canadian Overseas Forces

Warmest Congratulations and Best Wishes

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Dear Study Group Members:

It is that time of year that Mike and I want to extend our hearty good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year and 2016!

Many thanks to members who have "re-enlisted" and have sent along their

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membership dues in a timely fashion. Those still "delinquent" will find a form enclosed. The electronic request may have to be tweaked but it saved some time and funds. This will be the last issue if dues are not received by January 9, 2016! A warm thanks to two of our U.K. members **Alan Baker** and **John Watson** for their kind donations in excess of their dues. Members will find enclosures courtesy of **Bob Toombs** which may appeal to many of us seeking sources for research. Bob also kindly offered to fund the postage for this issue which was greatly appreciated too.

We officially welcome our new Chairman Mike Street who volunteered for the position despite having his plate already full with other BNAPS duties. While we have sadly received word of some members resigning from our group, we are also pleased to hear that other members' health have improved or stabilized. Please take a moment to assist Wayne Schnarr in his project which will ultimately benefit us all. October marked my two-decade anniversary as Editor (my first issue was #120 in October 1995!) and I appreciate all of the friendship and support from the members over this time. Thank you and I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season!

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## 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](mailto:kwsokolyk@yahoo.com) (3/5)

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 (3/3)

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](mailto:blueputtees@hotmail.com) (3/5)

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](mailto:hkstampsandcovers@shaw.ca) (3/3)

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](mailto:ajfulmes@gmail.com) (2/6)

WANTED: Sewell Camp and Camp Hughes postal history. Roller cancellations, special delivery, and money order receipts sought. Anything considered. Darcy Hickson, R.R. #2, Box 24, Brandon, MB R7A 5Y2; (204) 724-2028; [hicksondj@mts.net](mailto:hicksondj@mts.net) (1/10)

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