



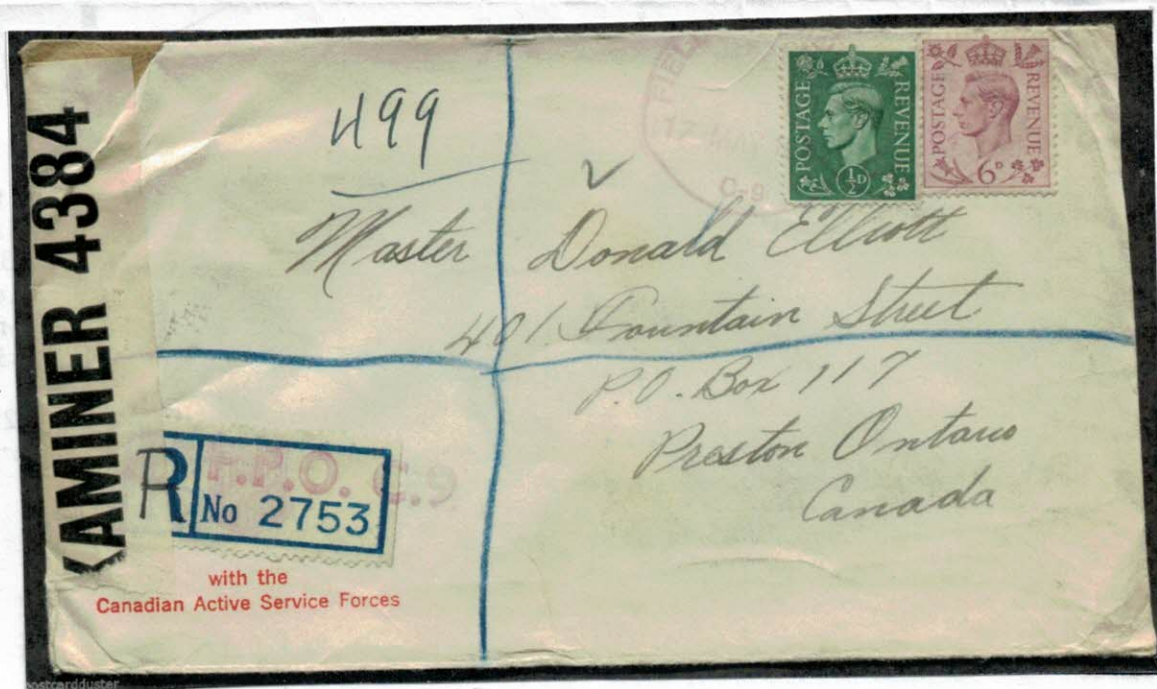
# Canadian Military Mail Study Group

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

NEWSLETTER NO. 223  
Page 1453

F.P.O. C.9 STRAIGHT-LINE MARKING--By Mike Street



Has anyone seen another example of the "F.P.O. C.9" straight-line marking shown on the registration label above [enhanced due to the strike in red which doesn't copy well in black and white.Ed.]? Has anyone seen a similar straight-line mark for any other Second World War Canadian Field Post Office? Please let me know. Image courtesy of Peter Piszko (eBay store "Postcardduster"). The reverse of the cover is illustrated opposite. [The Highland Light Infantry of Can-  
[Cont'd.]

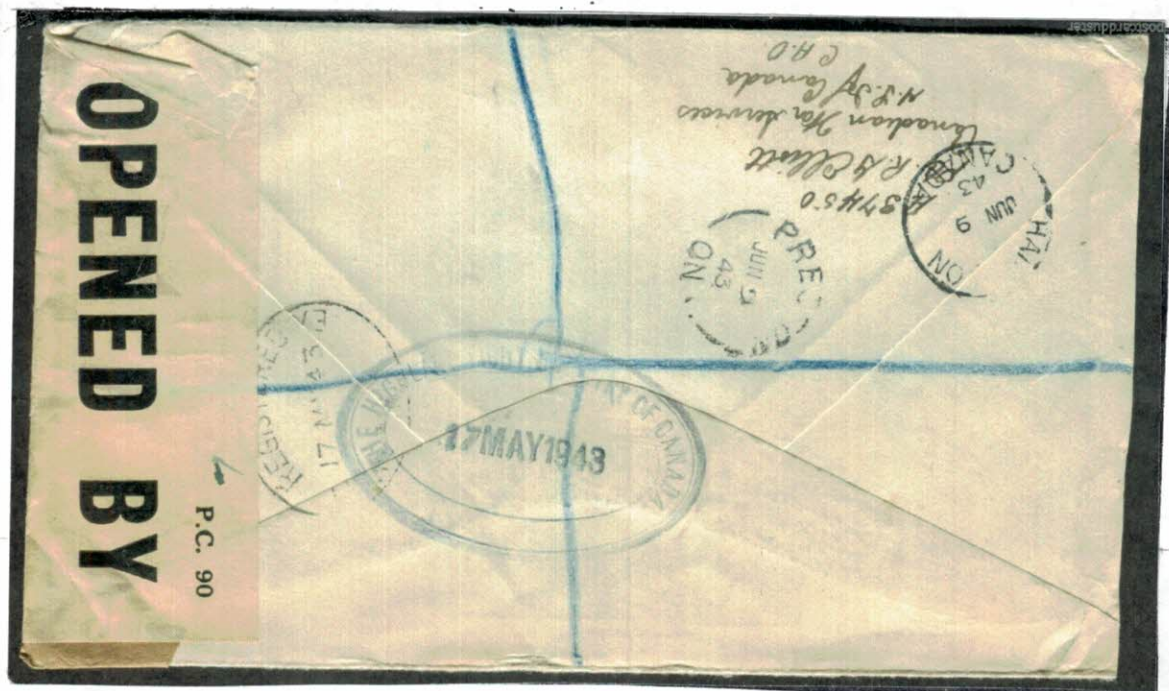
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ada was part of the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade, along with the Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry Highlanders and the North Nova Scotia Highlanders (Bailey & Toop, The Canadian Military Posts Vol.II, 1985, p.301). It was formed in the United Kingdom in July 1941, and was operational there from March 6, 1942 until April 26, 1944. The Brigade landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944 as part of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division.

In his BNAPS Catalogue of Canadian Military Markings Vol.II (April 2011) Editor C.D. Sayles noted (p. 183) that the accompanying F.P.O. date-stamp (17 May 1943) is equally interesting:

### FPO C 9

HQ 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade UK, N.W. Europe  
(Jul 42) – Jan 44

Not Known

NUMBER: H20  
PROOFED: Unknown  
SIZE: 32 mm  
RF: D  
NOTE:  
B & T NUMBER: Unlisted



Telephone Mike at (905) 648-3737 or email him should members have other examples (and cc the Editor please for future inclusion in a follow-up issue). Thank you.Ed.]

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ARMED FORCES AIR LETTER SHEET--By Earle Covert

From De  
163 Wellesley Cr  
London ON M5V 1J6

Open Here

To A Sgt K.R. B. ~~FOR~~  
~~CFPO 5003~~  
~~KOK 380~~

RETURN TO SENDER  
REVENIR À L'EXPÉDITEUR

☐ Unknown  
☐ Not claimed  
☐ No such address  
☐ Address incomplete  
☐ Address unknown  
☐ Part of address of address  
☐ No such Post Office  
☐ Bureau incertain  
☐ Refused by addressee  
☐ Refused for to destination  
☐ Deceased  
☒ Unknown

22 X 1996  
CFPO-BPFC  
E003

Canada 45

Second Fold Plier ensuite ici

Les lettres-avion pour militaires sont réservées à la correspondance avec les membres des Forces canadiennes qui se trouvent à l'extérieur du Canada et qui sont desservies par un bureau de poste des Forces canadiennes (BPFC) ou un bureau de poste navale (BPN) et à la correspondance de ces membres avec des personnes demeurant au Canada.

Sous réserve de certaines conditions, les membres de forces armées d'autres pays qui sont stationnés au Canada peuvent utiliser les lettres-avion pour militaires pour correspondre avec des personnes de leur pays d'origine.

Forces Air Letters are authorized for use only in writing to members of the Canadian Forces outside Canada who receive mail through Canadian Forces Post Offices (CFPO) or Fleet Mail Offices (FMO) and by these Forces when writing to persons in Canada.

Forces Air Letters may under certain conditions also be used by members of the Forces of other countries, serving in Canada, for communicating with persons in their homeland.

Ne ren insérer No Enclure Permitted

LETTRE-AVION POUR MILITAIRES FORCES AIR LETTER

[An AFAL Returned From Daruvar, Croatia (UNPROFOR)]

The last two Armed Forces Air Letter Sheets (AFALs) issued by Canada were on green paper printed initially in red 43-79-078 (9-74), and then printed in black 43-79-078 (8-75). These are common unused but are very hard to find non-philatelically. There are many philatelic uses of the post-Second World War AFALs. Even this one seems to be philatelic as it is blank inside, addressed to an unknown person, and from the address of a member of BNAPS.

Collectors may find accumulations of these last AFALs as the individuals to whom they were addressed downsize or die. Accumulations of Second World War AFALs were obtained when some members in my wife's family were moving into smaller accommodations about twenty years ago and I was fortunate enough to be there when "accumulations" were being discarded.

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A CANADIAN RADAR SPECIALIST WITH RAF NO. 109 (PATHFINDER)  
SQUADRON--By Robert Toombs

From the Wireless Intelligence Development at Boscombe Down, engaged in research into radar and radio navigation aids (both British and German), RAF No. 109 Squadron was formed in December 1940. The No. 109 Squadron was subsequently split into three flights: the Wireless Development Flight, the Wireless Reconnaissance Flight, and the Wireless Investigation Flight. It was involved with the development of the Oboe (radar) navigation aid.

In August 1943 No. 109 Squadron joined No. 8 Bomber Group's Pathfinder Force, led by Air Vice Marshal D.C.T. Bennett<sup>1</sup>. On December 20, 1943 RAF No. 109 Squadron, as part of No. 8 (Bomber) Group's Pathfinder Force flying in deHavilland Mosquito aircraft, carried out its first pathfinder mission. Soon after, using the new Oboe (radar) navigational aid, No. 109 Squadron led the December 31, 1943 air raid against Dusseldorf. Additional navigational aids such as Gee and H2S were later used to find the targets of attack more accurately than the main force could on its own. RAF No. 109 Squadron flew with No. 8 Group's Pathfinder Force for the rest of the war, leading the main bomber force over Germany; combat flying casualty rates were extremely high.

While the majority of Pathfinder Squadron personnel were from the Royal Air Force, also included were many from the air forces of other Commonwealth countries. One, from Canada, was LAC (later Cpl.) Piehl, Clarence F., Can R-99525, RCAF attached RAF, as seen in the following three covers.

<sup>1</sup> It was Bennett who, in November 1940 as a captain in the CPR Air Services, later RAF (No. 45 Group Dorval) Transport Command, led the first trans-Atlantic aircraft delivery by air east-bound from Gander, Newfoundland (piloted by civilian American and Canadian (bush) pilots that he trained up).



FIG.1: Letter envelope with backstamp November 25, 1941,

[Cont'd.]



at Radio School RAF Cranwell, in the United Kingdom, where he was in training. It passed post free through BFPO 130 (ie. Canadian FPO SC2) on November 29, 1941, arriving at Tavistock, Ontario on December 29, 1941.

The cover likely went by sea, as transit was more than a month.

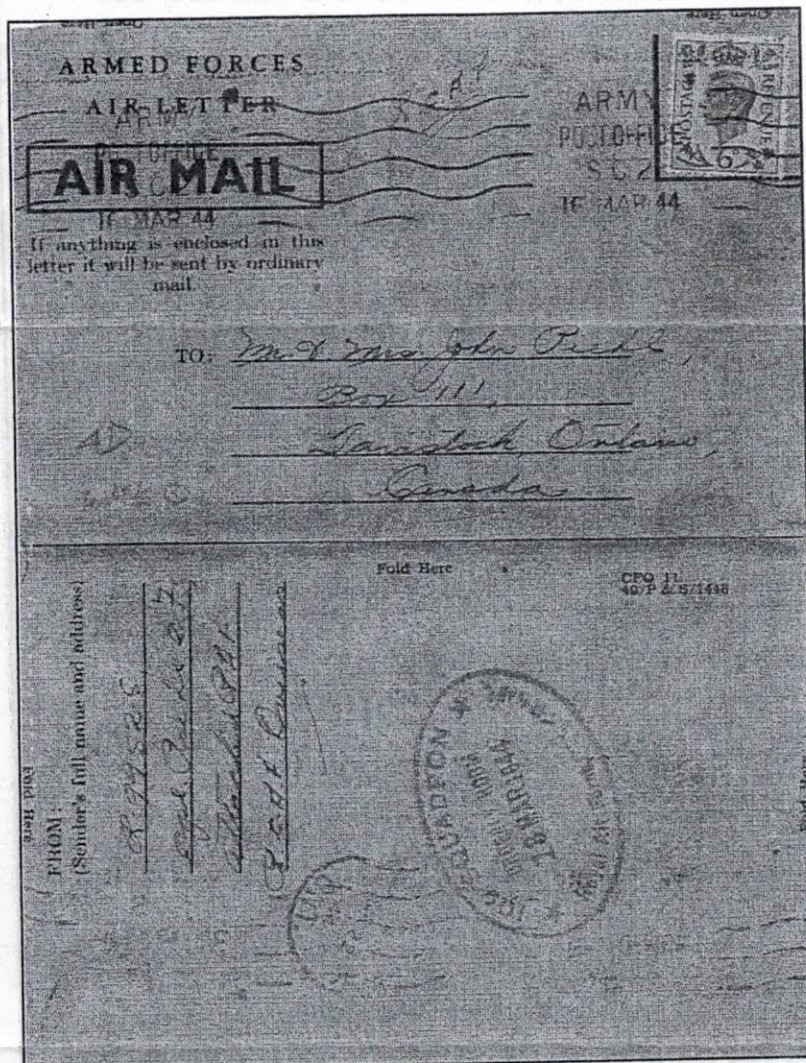


FIG.2: AFAL from Cpl. Piehl, written on March 12, 1944 and carrying "109 SQUADRON/Orderly Room/18 MAR 1944/Royal Air Force, -----[location excised]". The 6d postage stamp AFAL rate was postmarked March 18, 1944 at Canadian FPO SC 2. Backstamp of March 22, 1944 shows arrival at Tavistock, Ontario four days later. Transmission across the Atlantic was likely by air, with RCAF No. 168 Squadron ("Mail-can") out of Prestwick, Scotland.

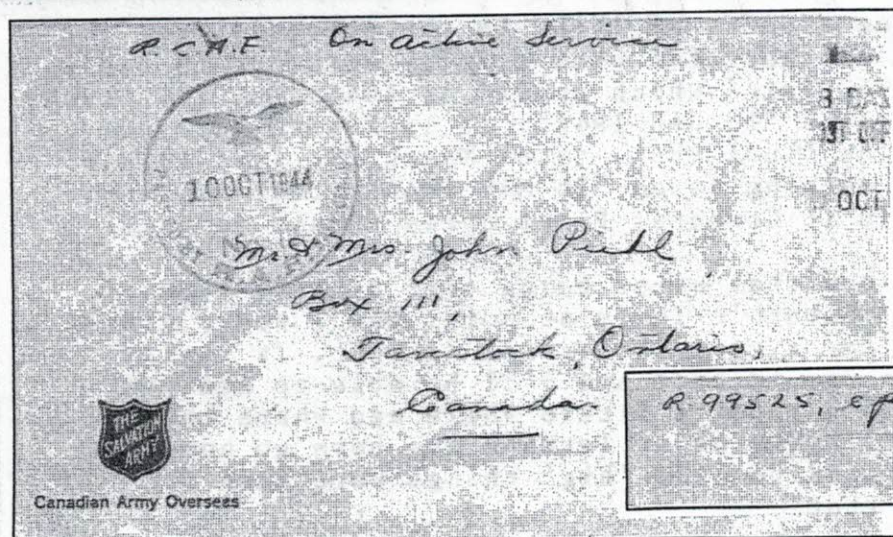


FIG.3: Salvation Army letter envelope with RAF censor marking Daynes Type R20/12 dated 10 OCT 1944. BAPO 8 occurs commonly with this censor mark as seen in partial strike (same date) top right. It passed post-free, arriving

[Cont'd.]

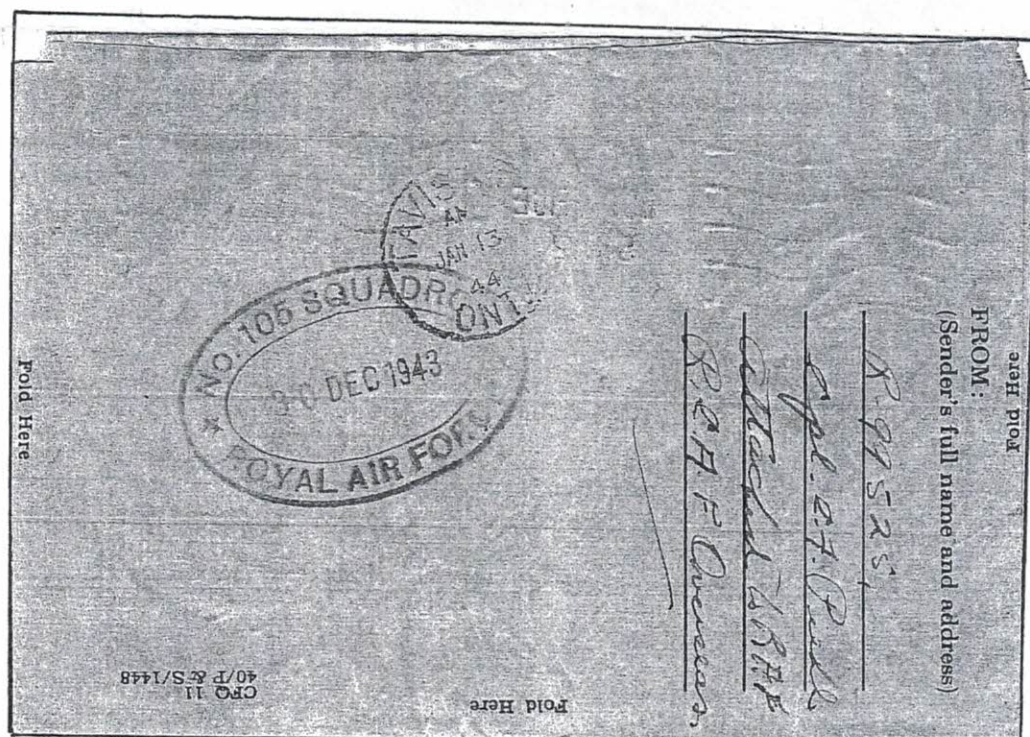


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at Tavistock, Ontario ten days later on October 20, 1944. The cover likely went by air again, as later in the war, with RAF No. 168 "Mailcan" Squadron, but with less priority than a franked AFAL as seen in FIG.2.

[It is likely that Piehl's correspondence appeared on the market several years ago as I too have a few pieces. I have a similar cover to Bob's FIG.1. Mine bears an RAF Cranwell orderly room oval dated "19 JAN 1942" with an FPO 130 dated February 4, 1942.

I have another AFAL dated December 29, 1943 with Corporal Piehl now attached to No. 105 Squadron, RAF as indicated below. It bears a machine APO S.C.2 dated January 3, 1944, along with the customary 6d rate paid by stamps.



One of the more interesting aspects of AFALs is the potential for interesting content. I have another AFAL with similar markings to Bob's FIG.2 dated January 13, 1943 [sic] which should be 1944. The 109 Squadron orderly room mark is dated "13 JAN 1944". It is filled with the usual family matters but the final AFAL, dated March 25, 1944 (with a 109 Squadron orderly room marking dated "26 MAR 1944") contains more interesting information. In it Corporal Piehl notes to his parents:

"You're right when you say that after being over here 2½ years I should be entitled to a month's leave at home, and I would gladly give up all my leaves for a year if I could do that. It really will be great when the war is over and I'll be able to see you again. I was reading in a paper a little while ago where they brought that up in Parliament about letting the boys go home for a leave but it was dropped because 'big' things were soon 'to come' so that settles that".

[Cont'd.]



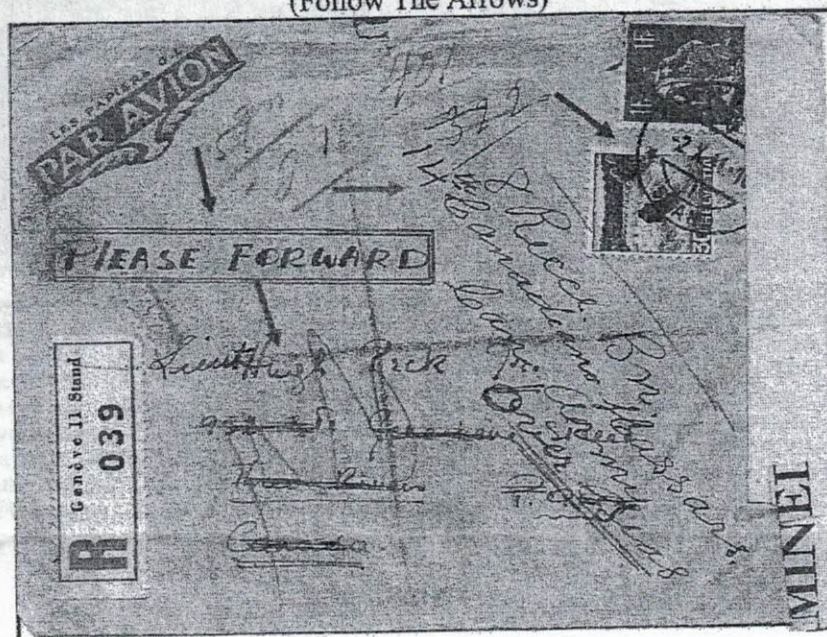
One wonders if the "big" thing was reference to D-Day and the Normandy invasion, just under three months away? Rumours were commonplace leading up to June 6, 1944 and while the German High Command, including Field-Marshal von Rundstedt and Rommel who predicted an Allied invasion was inevitable (the former believing that the Pas de Calais would see the main landing, and the latter realized the Normandy beaches were vulnerable), one would suspect that Parliament (of all places) would have been more discrete! Ed.]

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### SWITZERLAND TO HUGH PECK FOLLOW-UP--By Peter McCarthy

[Peter sent along this cover as a follow-up to Colin Pomfret's re-directed 1944 cover to the same fellow (NL 222, Jan. 2016, pp. 1441-1442). Note the CANADIAN BASE POST OFFICE OVERSEAS NO.1 large double-circle similar to the series in Bailey & Toop #M9-156 (Vol.1, p. 192 ie. "Parcel Section") and Sayles #F-220 (p. 16, "Letter Section"). Mike Street notes that Peter's "Registration Branch" is a new listing for this series.Ed.]

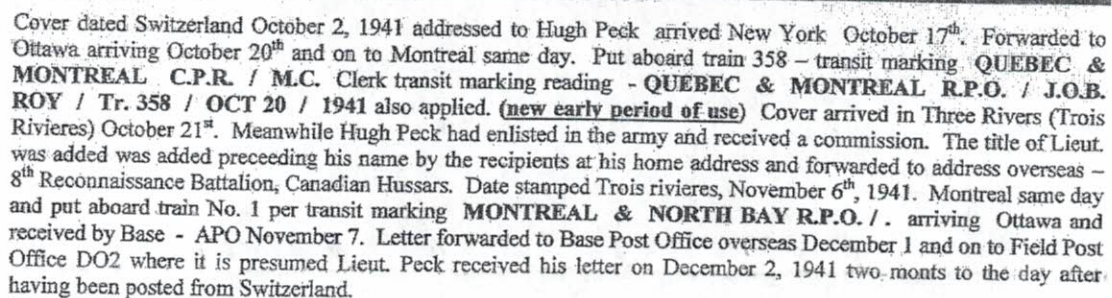
### Switzerland to England via Three Rivers (Follow The Arrows)



Cover dated Switzerland October 2, 1941 ← addressed to Hugh peck, 952 St Genevieve St., Three Rivers, P. Que., Canada ← Arrived New York October 17<sup>th</sup> ← Forwarded to Ottawa arriving October 20<sup>th</sup> ← and on to Montreal the same day. ← Put aboard train 358. ← Cover arrived in Three Rivers (Trois Rivieres) October 21<sup>st</sup>. ← Meanwhile Hugh Peck had enlisted in the army and received a commission. The title of Lieut. was added preceeding his name by the recipients at his home address ← with a request to 'please forward' ← 8 Recce. Bn, 14<sup>th</sup> Canadian Hussars, Can. Army, Over Seas. ← The cover was date stamped Trois Rivieres November 6, 1941 ← Montreal the same day ← and put aboard train #1, Montreal & North Bay R.P.O. ← arriving Ottawa and Base- APO November 7. ← Letter forwarded to Base Post Office overseas December 1 ← and on to Field Post Office DO2 where it is presumed Lieut. Peck received his letter on December 2, 1941 ← two months to the day after being posted from Switzerland.

[Cont'd.]





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## MILITARY MAIL GEMS AT AUCTION

Military mail enthusiasts have been treated to some incredible opportunities recently with several wonderful collections coming onto the market. One of these impressive holdings has been from the estate of Dr. Donald Thompson; well-known for his collections of Western Canadian postal history and both Riel Rebellions. The February 19-20, 2016 sale conducted by Eastern Auctions Ltd., P.O. Box 250, Bathurst, NB E2A 3Z2; 1-800-667-8267; [www.easternauctions.com](http://www.easternauctions.com) contained several of Dr. Thompson's rare and well-known military cards and covers. It is hoped that our members were successful in obtaining items for their studies. A brief review of some selected items follows. Thanks to Gary Lyon for permission to quote from the sale.

[Cont'd.]



## RIEL REBELLION

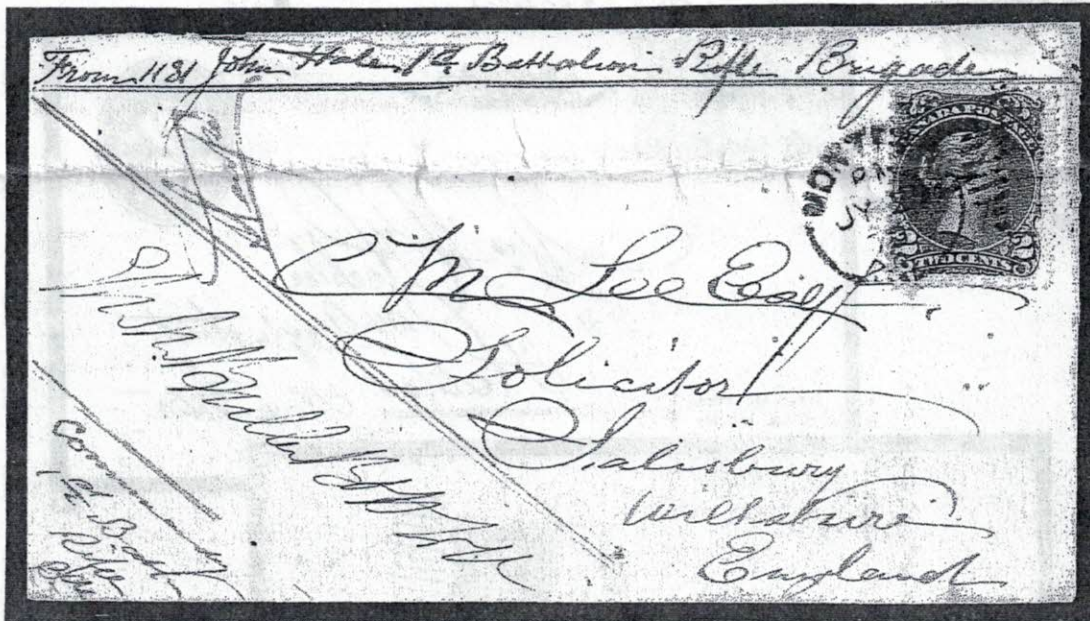


554



555

Two of the curious red "Riel Essays" were featured in lots 554 and 555. The former sold for \$1,300 and the latter realized \$900 (prices do not include the 15% buyers' premium).



The historically-important July 29, 1870 2¢ Large Queen Soldier's Concessionary Rate cover, endorsed "1st Battalion Rifle Brigade" en route to Fort Garry (part of the Red River Expedition); countersigned by Captain Redvers Henry Buller, reached \$14,000. It remains as the only-known 2¢ rate cover from the First Riel Rebellion. Ex. Charles de Volpi Fur Trade Collection, May 1982 (lot 129), and Sam Nickle Collection (Firby Auctions, Jan. 1996, lot 335 where my notes indicate it sold for US\$5,500). This was lot 557.

Dr. Thompson owned an incredible holding of material from the Second Riel Rebellion/North-West Rebellion. Members familiar with this conflict will no doubt recognize many of the following covers (which may have eluded them, including this writer!).

Henry Hechler's covers were well-represented and two of the more-desirable were contained in lots 562 and 563. Lot 562 featured a June 4, 1885 1¢ blue postal stationery envelope overprinted with his "coat of arms" cancelled with a Moose Jaw, ASSA. split-ring hammer. It sold for \$1,700. Lot 563 was a similar cover but not registered. It reached \$625.

A July 2, 1885 Soldier's Concessionary 2¢ letter rate with a Winnipeg, Canada duplex tying a Montreal printing Small Queen (ex. Alan Selby)

[Cont'd.]



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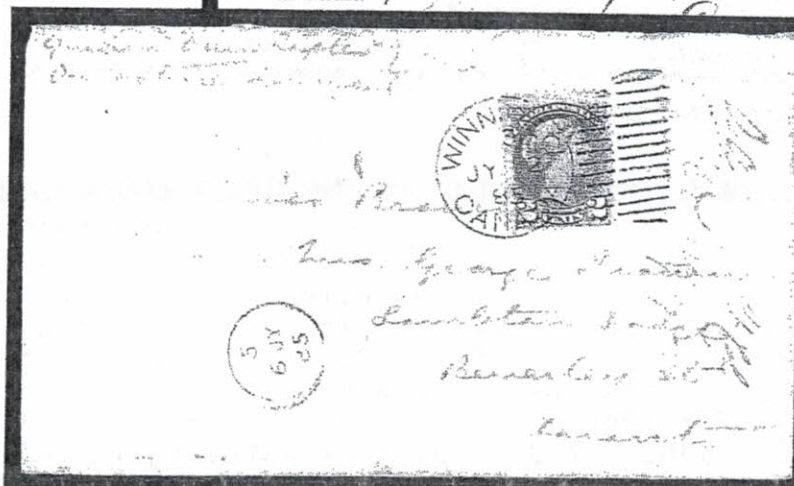
to Toronto was in lot 564. It realized \$1,800.



562



563



564

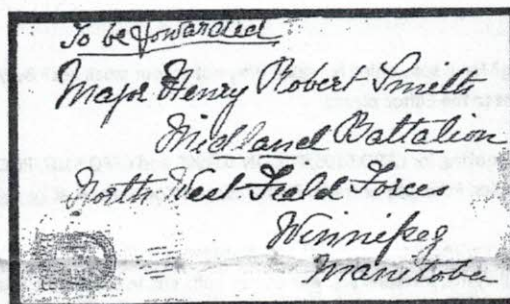
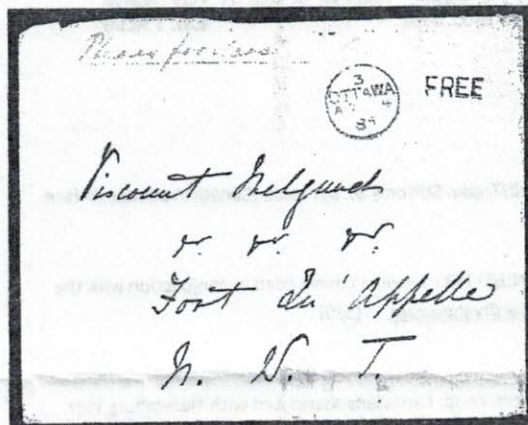
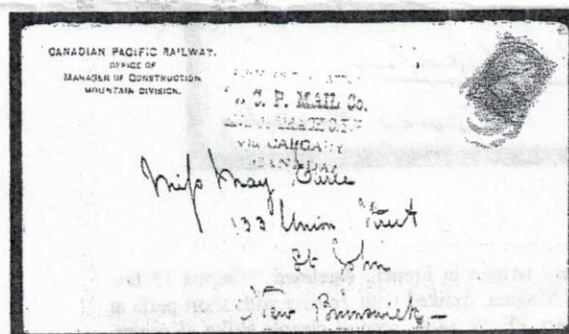
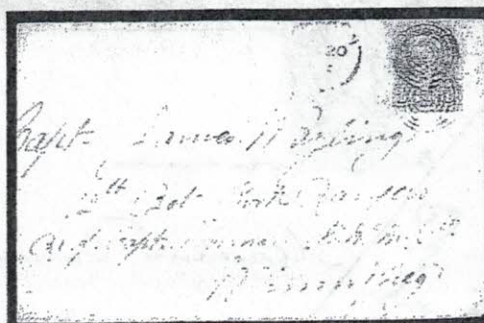
Perhaps one of the "bargains" of the sale was lot 565 containing the "balance of the North-West Rebellion exhibit" of twenty-five covers and cards. Featuring mainly military mail or items from or to individuals who had participated directly or indirectly in the Rebellion, it obviously attracted a good deal of attention from bidders. Several stampless covers, including those to William J. Tupper, Halifax Battalion (one of three sons of Sir Charles Tupper who became Canadian Prime Minister in May 1896), and Viscount Melgund (on General Middleton's staff and Military Secretary to the Governor-General. He later became Canada's Governor-General as Lord Minto from 1898-1904), were in the lot. The lot sold for \$6,000.

Lot 784 which follows was not (I believe) part of the Thompson holding. It featured a February 19, 1866 cover paying the 2¢ Soldier's rate and

[Cont'd.]



## BALANCE OF THE RIEL REBELLION EXHIBIT



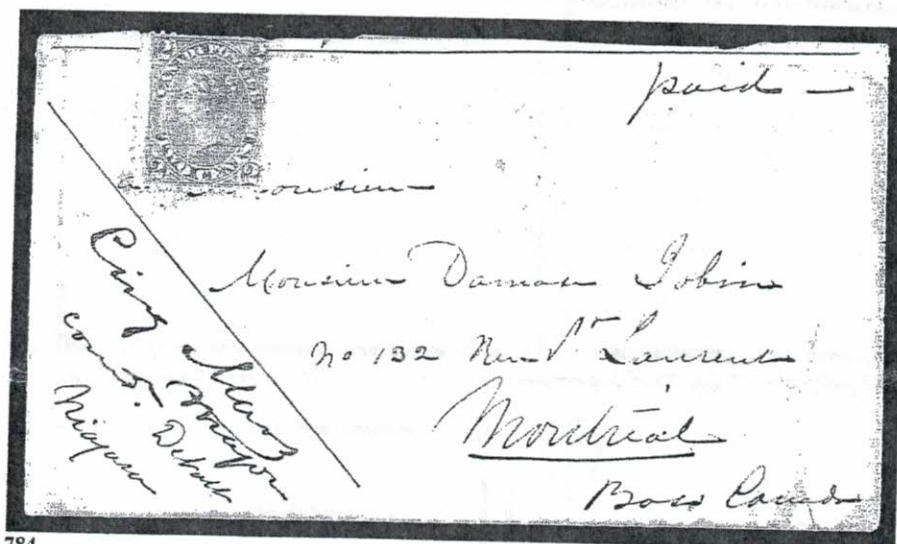
- 565 ☒ Balance of Exhibit Comprising 25 covers / cards; mainly military mail or from / to people that had participated directly or indirectly in the Riel Rebellion, all mounted on illustrated pages with write-up. Noted 1885 Qu Appelle Station postmark cover, two 3c covers dated June 1885 addressed to Lt. Mickle, North West Field Force, Battleford; 2c (MY 14 1885) and 3c (AP 26 1885) Small Queen covers to Captain and newly promoted Major James Weyling; 3c Small Queen with handstamp End of Track; One cent postal card "Service" Hechler overprinted card addressed to Halifax dated May 28, 1885; a few stampless covers including 1885 (AP 4) "FREE" handstamp cover to Viscount Melgund, Fort Qu'Appelle, NWT; 3c Small Queen dated JU 18 1885 cover mailed from Kingston to a Major of Midland Battalion, North West Field Forces, Winnipeg, Manitoba, etc. Despite condition being mixed which is quite understandable for mail sent to / from Soldier's and Officers, nevertheless many are no doubt, rarely seen or offered. Several covers originate from the important Sam Nickle Military Collection (January 1996). An excellent opportunity to acquire a nucleus collection ready for further specialization.

Est. 2,500.00+



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was addressed to Montreal. Some months later in June, a group of Fenians crossed the Niagara frontier and defeated Canadian militiamen at the Battle of Ridgeway. After some spirited bidding, the lot was hammered down at \$575. [Ed.]



784

- 784 ✉ 20, 1866 (February 19) Envelope with letter content written in French, datelined "Niagara 15 fev. 1866", countersigned by the commanding Major at Niagara, franked with 2c rose with short perfs at top due to placement, tied by barely legible Niagara FE 19 1866, second clearer strike at centre, addressed to Montreal with faint receiver on back; cover slightly reduced at top. A very scarce domestic 2c Soldier's letter rate, authorized on February of 1865, Fine Est. 750.00

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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) (5/5)

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) (5/5)

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: [aifulmes@gmail.com](mailto:aifulmes@gmail.com) (4/6)

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; [Darcy@hickson.ca](mailto:Darcy@hickson.ca) (3/10)

WANTED: 1) Mail to and from RCAF No.124 and RCAF No.170 Squadrons serving in Canada during WWII; 2) Mail to and from RAF No.231 Squadron, sometimes at Dorval, QC, but flew outside Canada too during WWII. Purchase or trade. Please contact Bob Toombs at [a1a92784@telus.net](mailto:a1a92784@telus.net) (second character is number "one") (1/1)

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