



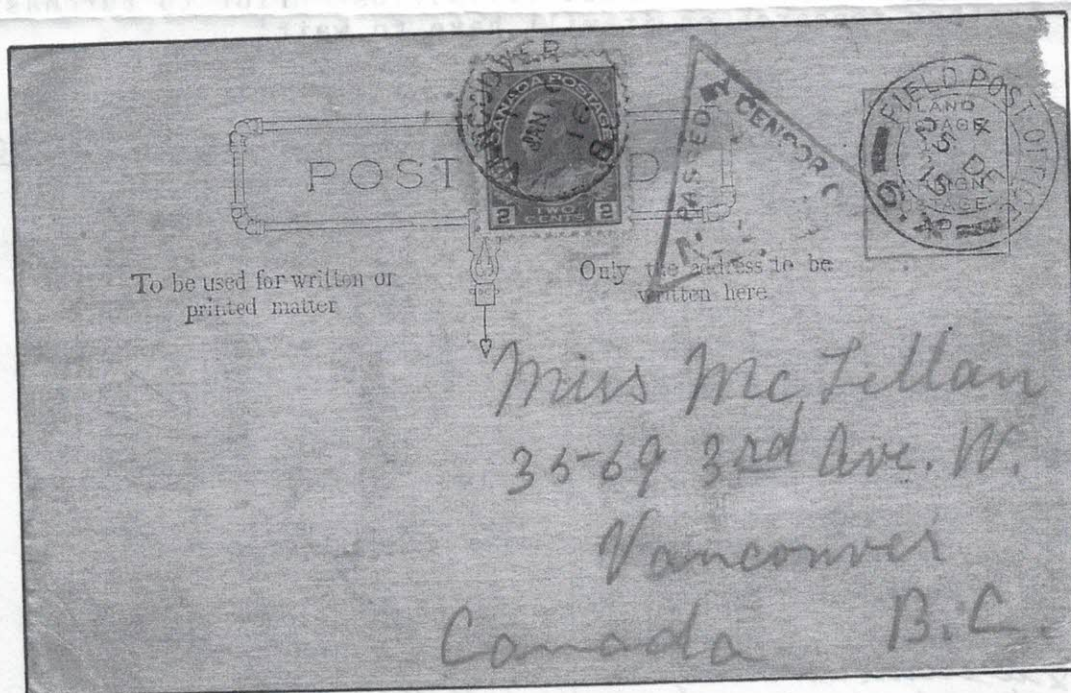
# Canadian Military Mail Study Group

## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

NEWSLETTER NO. 225  
Page 1477

### CHRISTMAS DAY 1915 GREETINGS FROM FRANCE



This unofficial, rather plain post card was sent by a member of the C.E.F. ("B.E.F." on the reverse) and presumably from one of the 29th Infantry Battalion's "Tobin's Tigers". The 29th was part of the 6th Canadian Brigade in 1915 within the 2nd Canadian Division. Field Post Office 6.X, according to Bailey & Toop (Canadian Military Posts, Colonial Period To 1919, Vol.I. Ed. E.B.

[Cont'd.]

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(mikestreet1@gmail.com)

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(blueputtees@hotmail.com)

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Proud, 1984, p. 191) was located in the Vierstraat area in France from September 23 to December 23. The CM3 triangle censor No. 2192 (in carmine) is confirmed by F.W. Daniel's "The Field Censorship System and the Canadians, 1914-1919" (*ibid*, p. 264) for the 29th Battalion. The message reads:

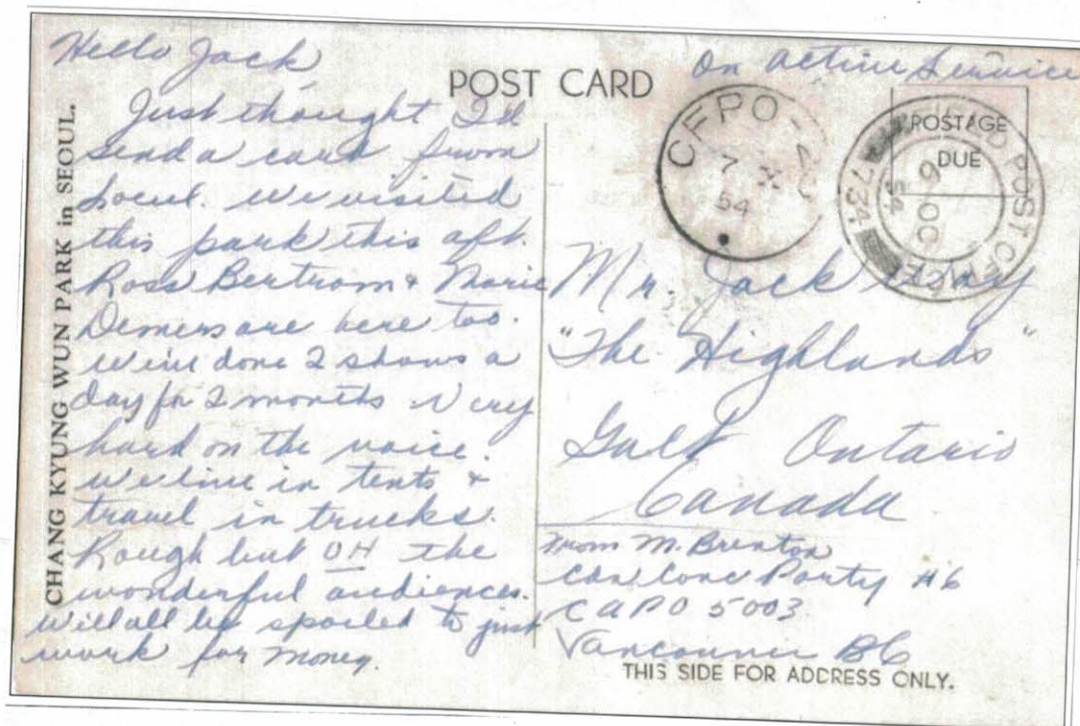
"B.E.F./Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Thanks very much for your most useful gift. Hope you are enjoying the festive season and your holidays. We are in fairly comfortable quarters at present and are not having a bad time of it in spite of much rainy weather. Best wishes for the New Year. D.R.H."

Unfortunately, as is often the case, I had just recently sold my copy of The 29th (Vancouver) Battalion, C.E.F.: A Pictorial Record and Original Muster Roll by John N. McLeod (1919) just prior to purchasing this card so further research on it will have to wait!

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CANADIAN CIVILIAN USE OF "ON ACTIVE SERVICE" ENDORSEMENT DURING THE KOREAN WAR--By Mike Street



The card illustrated above, postmarked at British FPO 734 (Seoul) on October 6, 1954 and at CFPO-25 (Seoul) the next day, was sent "On Active Service" by an entertainer in "Canadian Concert Party No.6". The first Canadian Concert Party featuring well-known comedians Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster, accompanied by musicians and other entertainers, arrived in Korea on March 28, 1953 [1]. They proved very popular with the Canadians serving in Korea; so much so that by the fall of 1954 at least six Concert Parties had toured there.

[Cont'd.]



"Hello Jack,

Just thought I'd send a card from Korea. We visited this park [2] this afternoon. Ross Bertram [3] and Marie Demers [4] are here too. We've done 2 shows a day for 2 months. Very hard on the voice. We live in tents & travel in trucks. Rough but OH the wonderful audiences. We'll all be spoiled to just work for money.

From M. Brenton  
Cdn Conc Party #6  
CAPO 5003  
Vancouver BC"

[1] Ted Barris, Deadlock in Korea: Canadians at War, 1950-1953.

[2] Card picture: Chang Kyung Wun Park in Seoul.

[3] Ross Bertram was a magician who was featured for nineteen years at Toronto's Royal York Hotel. "In 1954, Ross joined the Korean War effort as part of a unit entertaining Commonwealth troops stationed there, traveling with a troupe of four other performers. He acted as the Master of Ceremonies and did a turn as a magician performing in over sixty shows". Later he was a favourite performer at trade shows. Source: [http://speedydeletion.wikia.com/wiki/Wikipedia\\_talk:Articles\\_for\\_creation/Ross\\_Bertram](http://speedydeletion.wikia.com/wiki/Wikipedia_talk:Articles_for_creation/Ross_Bertram) [.]

[4] May 22, 1954, The Ottawa Journal, p. 8. Marie Demers was named in an ad for the "Second Ottawa Valley Trade Fair" at Pembroke, Ontario along with other entertainers accompanying the Mart Kenney Band.

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#### POMFRET, Colin

Published: Oct 31, 2016

Event Date: Oct 28, 2016

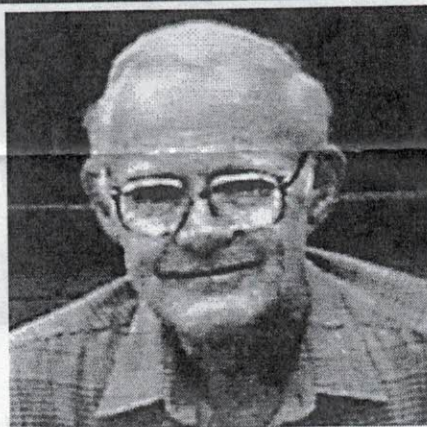


**BAY GARDENS  
BURLINGTON**

*Every Life Tells A Story*

#### Colin POMFRET

POMFRET, Colin It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our loving father and grandfather on October 28, 2016 at the age of 82. Beloved husband of the late Ann. Cherished father to Norm (Annice) and Ruthann (Dillon). Proud grandfather to Rebecca. Will be forever remembered by Natasha, nieces, nephews and friends. Colin was an avid fisherman, who taught us all the love for nature and the outdoors. He will be truly missed by all he leaves behind. Visitation at **Bay Gardens Funeral Home**, 1010 Botanical Drive, BURLINGTON (905.527.0405) on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., followed by a funeral service in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m. Burial to follow at Woodland Cemetery. For those who wish, memorial donations made to the Cancer Research Society would be appreciated.



#### IN MEMORIAM: COLIN POMFRET

We were very saddened to learn of the passing of long-time member and enthusiastic contributor Colin Pomfret who passed away on October 28, 2016. Members will know that Colin's favourite area was the Great War, but he seemed to enjoy all aspects of military mail. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed.





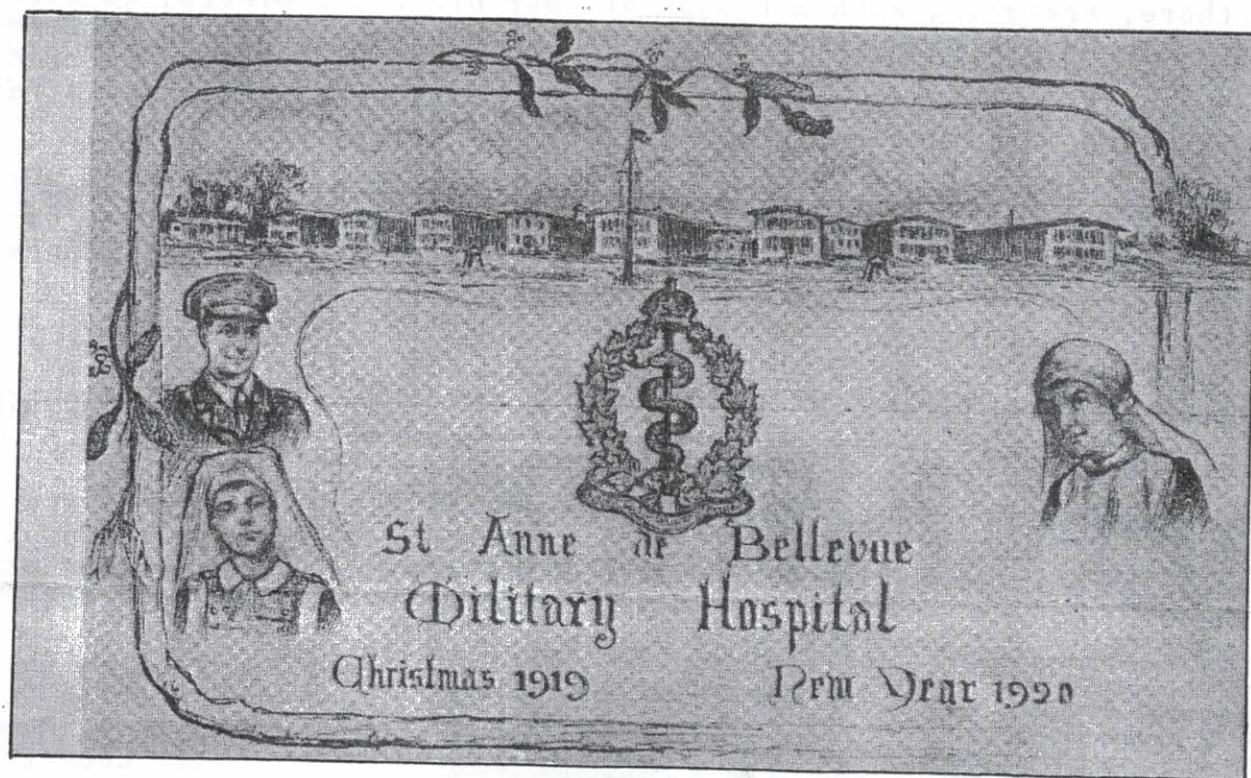
**Second Canadian Military Postal History Anthology Proposed by Mike Street**

In 1991, to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Newsletter*, members of the Canadian Military Mail Study Group worked together to produce *The Canadian Military Postal History Anthology*, a 240-page collection of articles on subjects ranging from the North-West Rebellion to the Boer War through Militia Camps, WWI, the Siberian Expedition, and many aspects of WWII. The late Ken Ellison edited the volume. Shortly before Ken passed away this summer his daughter Liz contacted me and asked if Ken's WWII Special Forces (aka the Devil's Brigade) exhibit would be worth publishing. An immediate "YES" by email was followed by the thought that a terrific way to honour all of Ken's efforts on behalf of the CMMSG would be to make this exhibit the first submission for a second *Canadian Military Postal History Anthology*.

Much new information on Canadian Military Postal History has come to light since publication of the first anthology, and new postal history has been generated by the Peacekeeping missions in Bosnia, Serbia and Afghanistan. Do you have an article or small exhibit on any aspect Canadian Military Postal History that you would like to see published? Please contact me at <mikestreet1@gmail.com> or by phone at 905-648-3737 or regular mail at 73 Hatton Drive, Ancaster. Please note – while I am willing to coordinate reception of articles and will arrange for publication, because of my other BNAPS duties I cannot also edit the submissions. A volunteer for this position will be required, and some writing may be needed. Please contact me if you are interested in helping with this project. Thanks very much.

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**ST. ANNE DE BELLEVUE MILITARY HOSPITAL CHRISTMAS GREETINGS, 1919-1920--**  
By Jon Johnson



[Jon sent in a scan of the above card from Quebec. I've found that domestic military hospital Christmas cards are quite scarce. Have other members seen similar cards from other Canadian locations? Ed.]

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*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*



BNAPEX 2016 FREDERICTON STUDY GROUP MEETING--By Mike Street

Fifteen members and visitors attended the CMMSG meeting at BNAPEX 2016 Fredericton on Friday, September 30, 2016. Chairman Mike Street passed on greetings from Editor and Treasurer Dean Mario who is willing to continue in both his important roles. Dean asks for articles, whether short or long, for the Newsletter.

BNAPS President-elect Eldon Godfrey's very interesting presentation: "Initial Implementation of Foreign Exchange Controls during World War II" was well-received by those present. The effort to keep Canadian money in Canada to help pay the huge costs of World War II was extensive. Postmasters cleared some letters at local post offices and financial institutions certified their own mail, while a large number of inspectors at offices across the country opened and reviewed the contents of randomly-selected mail not passed by other offices.

The next CMMSG meeting will be held at BNAPEX 2017/CALTAPEX in Calgary next Labour Day weekend.

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2016 E.R. "RITCH" TOOP MEMORIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

This year's award for the best book or article on Canadian or B.N.A. military mail was presented to **BRIAN PLAIN, GRAY SCRIMGEOUR, and ROBERT TOOMBS** for their editorship of the Lt.Col. Roland H. Webb book, A Guide to Canadian Military Postal History, 1636-1970. It is an excellent work and congratulations are extended to all of the recipients.

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MEMBERS WRITE:

Our member "down-under", David Collyer, emailed:

"Thank you for Newsletter 223; always interesting reading. In regards to the Swiss item on page 1459 [NL #223, March 2016.Ed.], I think the 1.30SFr equated to 30¢ UPU/Foreign Letter Rate (per 20g) + 70¢ air (per 5g) + 30¢ Registration fee.

Using aircraft movements data from Aitink and Hovenkamp (bridging the continents in wartime), you have an arrival marking at New York of October 17, 1941. This is PAA service 436 from Lisbon on October 16, Azores the same day. Bermuda October 17 and New York the same day. The even numbered flights were from Lisbon and the odd numbered flights were from New York.

If mail was held over at Bermuda for inspection by the British Censors, the likely services would have been:

--430 Lisbon October 9, Azores October 9/10, Bermuda and New York on October 11

--432 Lisbon October 11, Azores October 11/12, Bermuda and New York on October 13

[Cont'd.]



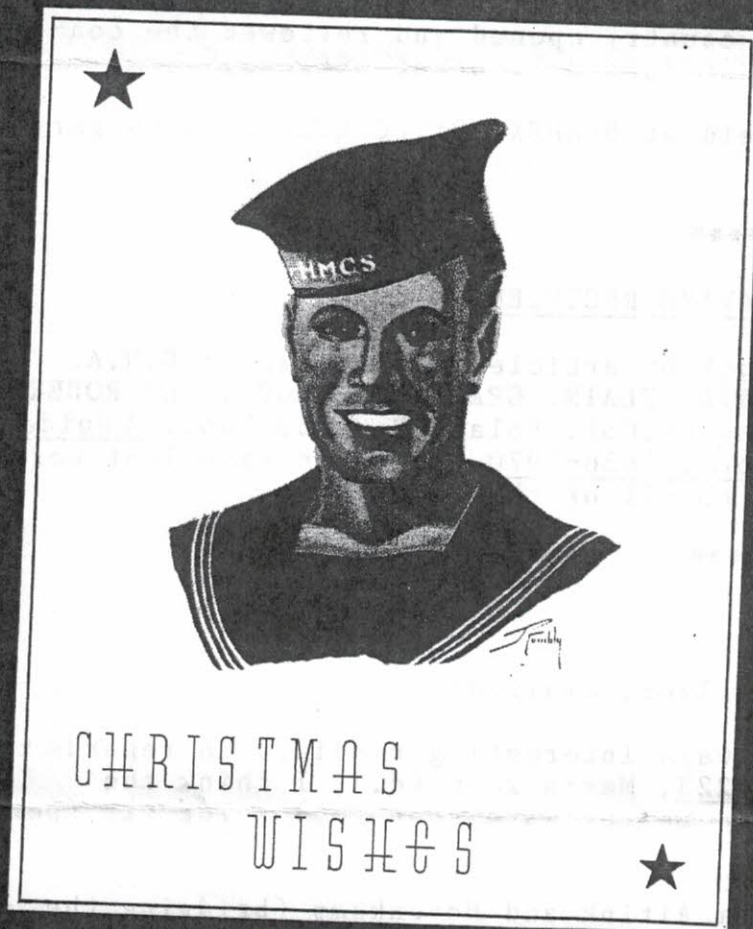
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--434 Lisbon October 12, Azores October 12, Bermuda and New York on October 13

In regards to the article on 109 (Pathfinder) Squadron, D.C.T. (Donald Clifford Tyndall) Bennett was born at Toowoomba west of Brisbane on September 14, 1910, and died on September 15, 1986. Before 109 Squadron, Bennett assisted in setting up the Atlantic Ferry Organization."

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HOMEFRONT NAVAL GREETINGS FOR CHRISTMAS--By Robert Henderson



MAY YOU HAVE  
*FAIR WEATHER,*  
*SUNNY HOURS,*  
 AND *SMOOTH SAILING*  
 THROUGH A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
 AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
 TO REESE EVANS  
 FROM JACK CRANG

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BNAPS BOOK DEPARTMENT OFFERING

Members will have no doubt been contacted about the new book by member Michael Powell, Postal History of the Great War Internment Camps in Canada, which is now available through the book department's agent Sparks Auctions.

[Cont'd.]



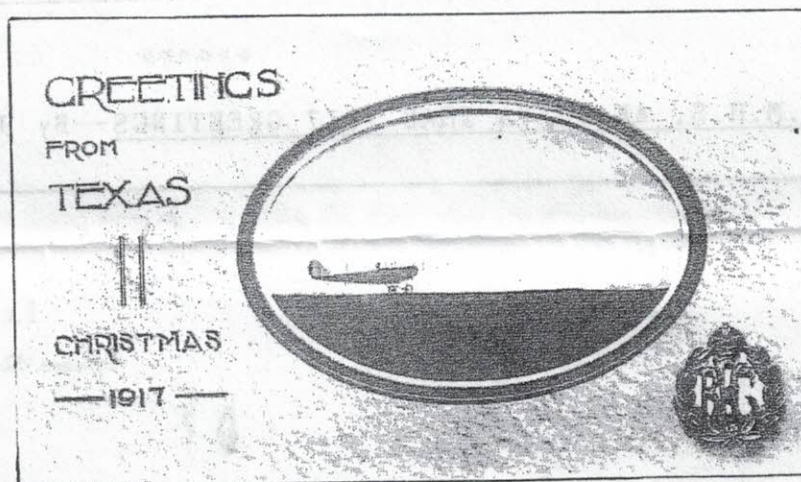
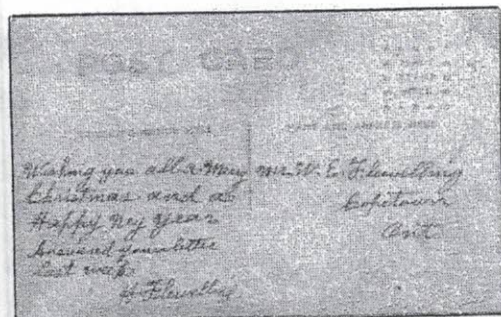
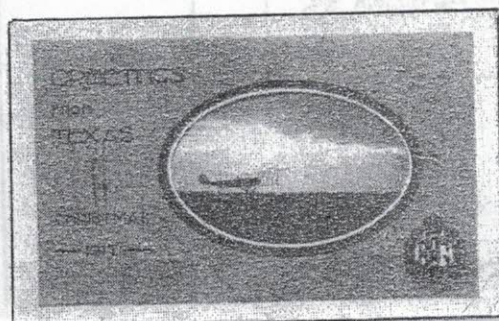
The work is a superb study related to the various Canadian Internment camps established across the country during the Great War. The amount of research involved, excellent reproductions of camp markings and related postmarks, and the extensive use of contemporary postcards and photographs makes this book an excellent addition to one's library. It is a wonderful companion to Mike's previous 2011 book, Notes Through Barbed Wire (also published by BNAPS), on Internment mail during the Second World War. Spiral bound; 676pp., 8.5" x 11", colour. Stock No. B4h083-1. Price \$175.00 (BNAPS members 40% off). Available from Sparks Auctions, 1550 Carling Ave., Suite #202, Ottawa, ON K1Z 8S8. Phone (613) 567-3336 or view the website at: <http://sparks-auctions.com/bnapsbooks/>

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### GREETINGS FROM TEXAS--By David Hanes

[Dave sent along scans of the following postcard from H. Flewelling to (presumably) his father in Ontario. In June 1917 American cadets came to Canada for training, and in exchange Canadians with the Royal Flying Corps travelled to Texas for training in the winter months. Camp Taliaferro near Fort Worth was chosen, along with its three aerodromes: Hicks, Everman, and Benbrook fields.

Ken Ellison illustrated a similar Christmas card but his appears to be somewhat different with a dimpled border and background ("RFC/RAF Canada Christmas Post Cards 1917-18," BNA Topics, Vol.46, No.6 (Whole No. 434), Nov.-Dec. 1989, p.27) which is also illustrated. His article is an excellent study.Ed.]



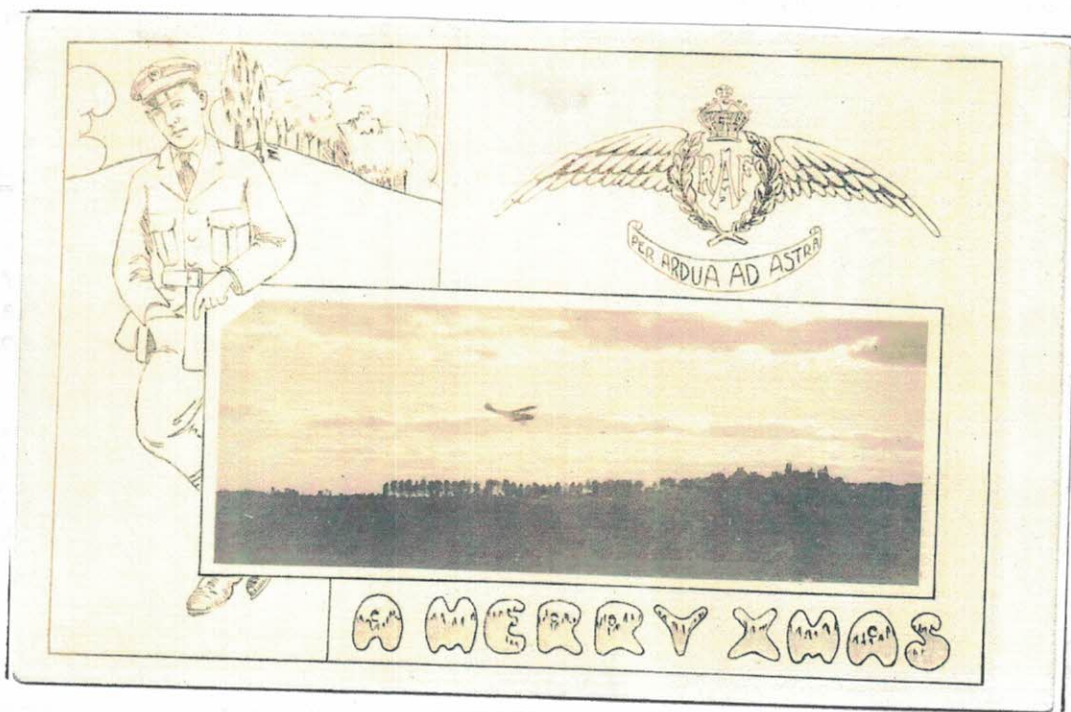
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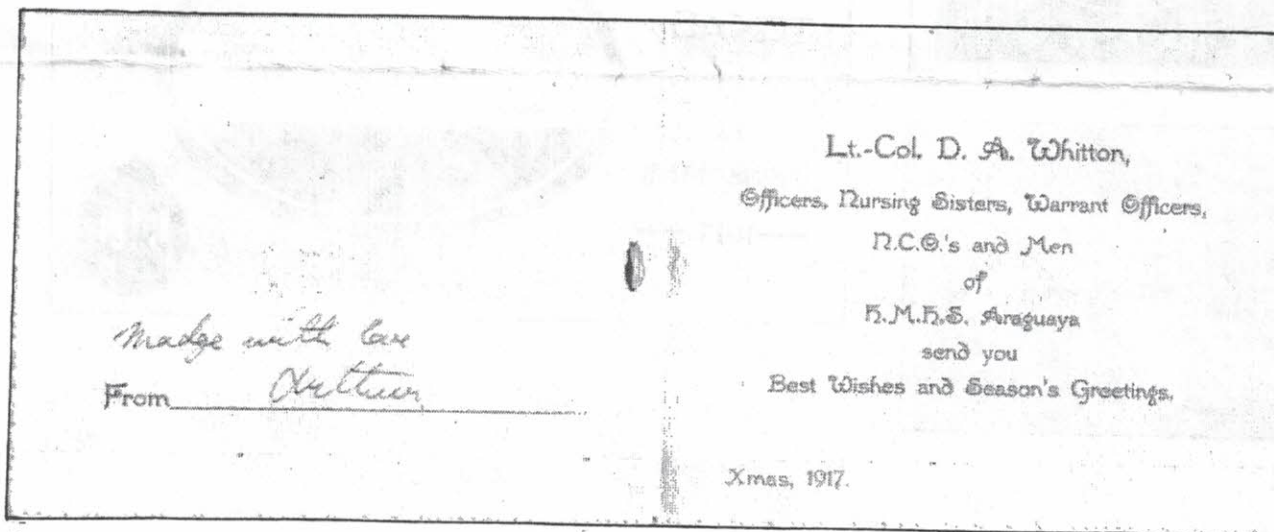
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"A MERRY XMAS" R.A.F./R.F.C.

In keeping with the air service theme, here's another real photo post card with an AZO stamp box and "MADE IN CANADA" line of origin on the reverse. The line drawing depicts a stylized "R.F.C." cap badge on the figure at left. Artist unknown. Members' thoughts as to the locale welcomed but it could simply be a generic photo of an airplane over some trees and buildings at right. I don't remember showing this previously but apologies if this is the case.



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H.M.H.S. ARAGUAYA XMAS 1917 GREETINGS--By Jon Johnson

[Cont'd.]



[The preceding interior salutations from Hospital Ship Araguaya was mailed during its third voyage. Jon notes that the Canadian Army Medical Corps badge graces the front of the card.Ed.]

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"BE OF GOOD CHEER" FROM THE HOME FRONT, SECOND WORLD WAR--By Robert Henderson



Santa took a look around -  
He scratched his head in wonder -  
"What will become of Christmas  
With derry out to plunder?"

His worried look turned to a smile -  
"Those derries must be fools -  
There'll always be a Christmas  
While Britain gets the tools!"

*Merry Christmas  
From Robber Family.*

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1943 R.A.F.T.C. GANDER--  
By David Hanes

Here's a cover to the C.O.  
of the R.C.A.F. Station in  
Gander, Newfoundland.

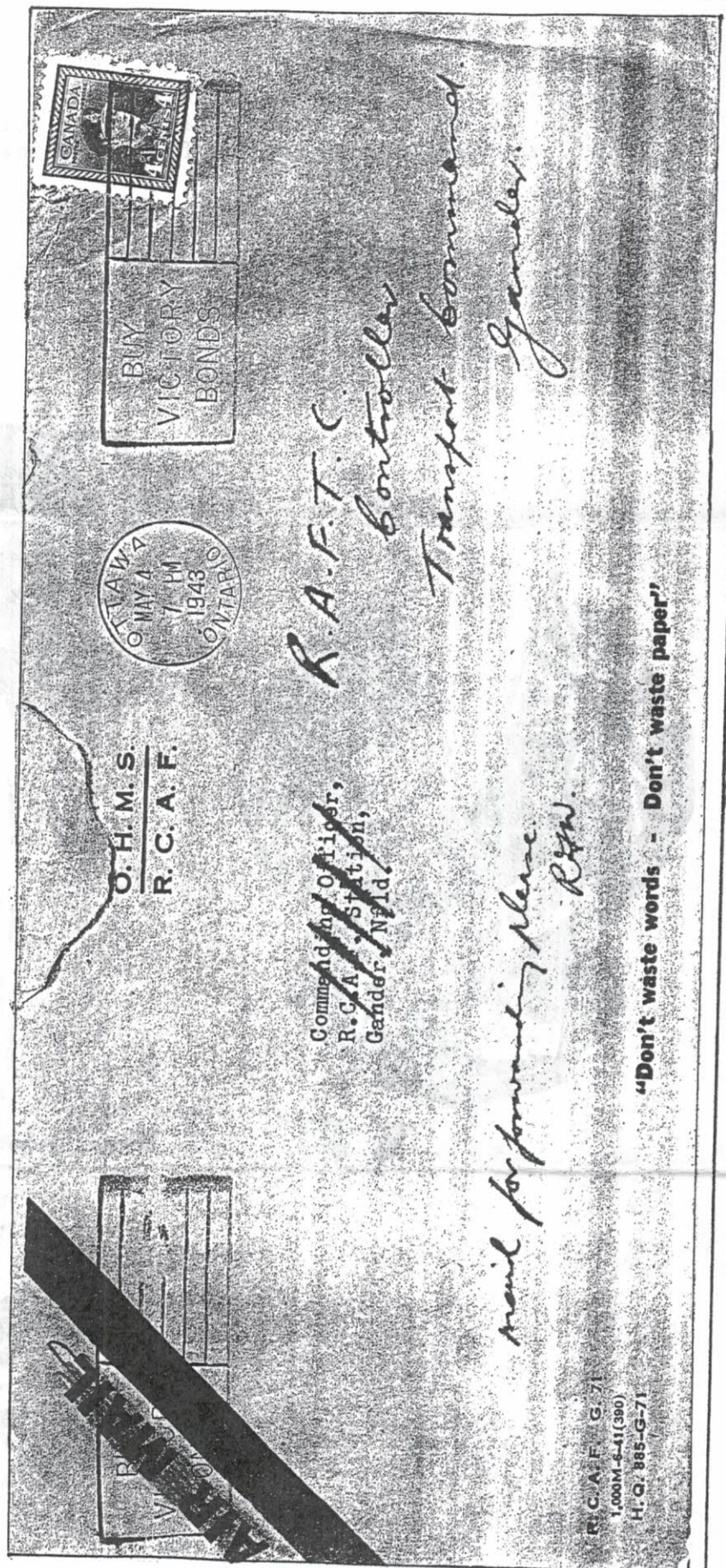
It was re-addressed/for-  
warded to Transport Com-  
mand, Gander. It's always  
nice to find R.A.F.T.C.  
material which is often  
uncommon.

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YEAR-END FELLOW-SOCIETY  
CONTACT INFORMATION

A few of our fellow so-  
cieties regularly give us  
some publicity which is  
appreciated. Members may  
wish to view the follow-  
ing if interested:

- 1) The Forces Postal His-  
tory Society is our  
main "sister" group.  
View: [www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk)  
(all one word).
- 2) The Military Postal  
History Society has  
included more world-  
wide material along  
with its regular U.S.  
fare. View: [www.militaryPHS.org](http://www.militaryPHS.org).
- 3) Collectors of military  
artifacts and non-mili-  
tary mail may wish to  
see the Military Col-  
lectors' Club of Cana-  
da website at: [www.mccofc.ca](http://www.mccofc.ca) and the  
Canadian Society of Mil-  
itary Medals and Insig-  
nia at: [www.esmmi.com](http://www.esmmi.com).
- 4) Chairman Bill Pekonen of  
the BNAPS War Times Study  
Group is still going



[Cont'd.]



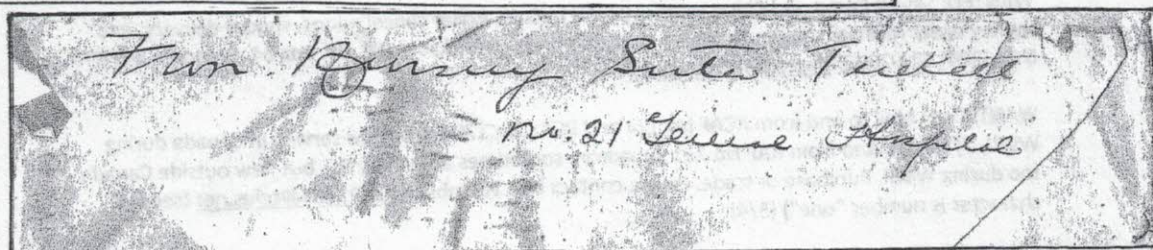
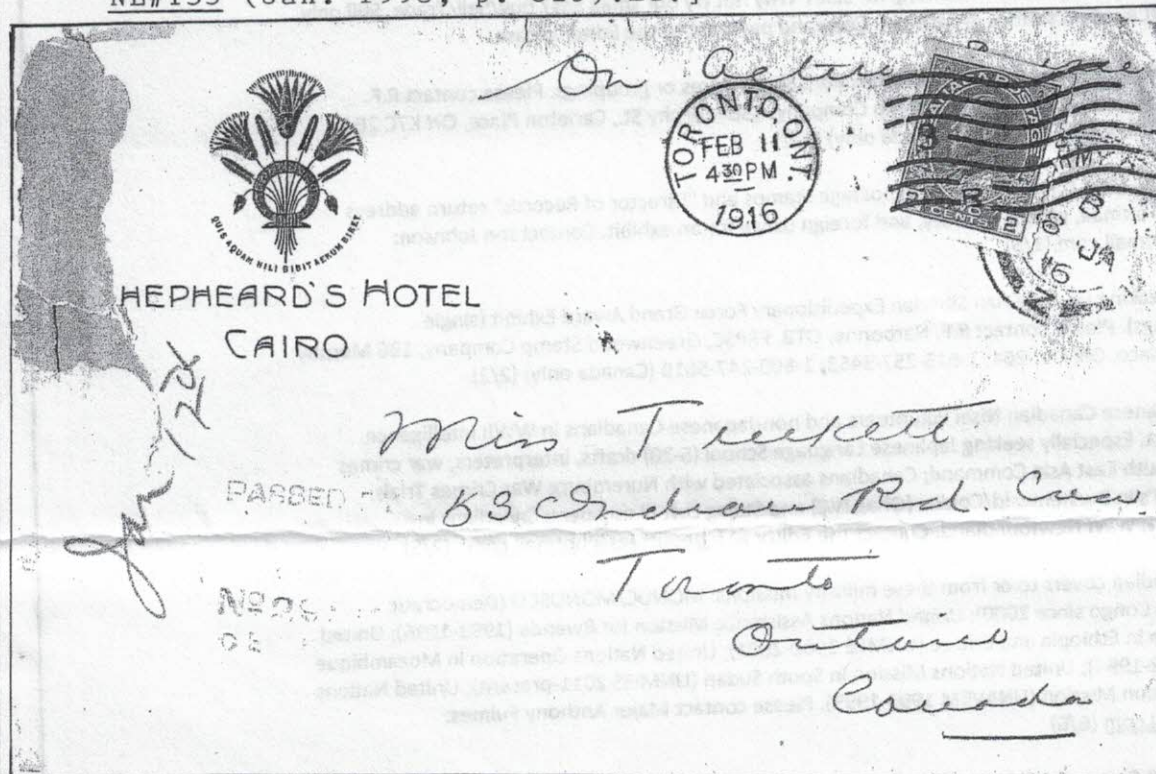
strong! It's the non-military study group for the Second World War. Contact Bill at: #201-7300 Moffatt Rd., Richmond, B.C. V6Y 1X8 Canada.

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CANADIAN NURSING SISTER AT SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL, CAIRO 1916--By John Watson

[We haven't run a nursing sister cover for a few issues and John sent along one from Nursing Sister Tuckett [Trickett?] to her sister [?] in Toronto. It bears a Base Army Post Office/B/8 [or 18?] JA/16 postmark. The return address of "No.21 General Hospital" is not a Canadian one so presumably this nursing sister was seconded to a British hospital. I've tried to locate this nursing sister among my rolls but was unsuccessful. Do other members have any more information on her? The Base Office was at Alexandria so she must have been on leave in Cairo or?

Upon further thinking about this cover, my memory was tweaked and it happens I too have a similar cover (NL#162, Nov. 2003, p. 709)! It was also from her in Alexandria. Jon Johnson, in NL#164 (March 2004, p.740) noted that he too has a cover from her identified "P.L. Tuekett" with the Q.A.I. M.N.S.R. (Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Reserve). For another associated medical cover and the Sheppard's Hotel see NL#133 (Jan. 1998, p. 325).Ed.]



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Dear Study Group Members:

It's that time of year again and Mike and I wish to convey our very best for the coming Christmas season and the New Year and 2017! Thanks are extended to our authors and several members have sent along some wonderful articles which we will see in the future. Members are always encouraged to send along anything for these pages. Some nice material has come onto the market recently and hopefully members have been able to add to their collections. Our bank account reflects a balance (prior to this issue) of \$1,166.75 which should cover our costs for several issues. Congratulations to incoming BNAPS President Eldon Godfrey and Vice-President (Study Groups) William Radcliffe who join our group as ex-officio members. This past year saw many commemorative events surrounding the Battle of the Somme and 2017 will see a good deal of attention to Vimy Ridge, Langemarck, Hill 70, and Passchendaele anniversaries. Covers associated with these battles would be a good fit for an article! Until January 2017, great collecting!

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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.

FOR SALE: Colin Pomfret's military mail collection. Single items or groupings. Please contact R.F. Narbonne, OTB, FRPSC, Greenwood Stamp Company, 136 Morphy St., Carleton Place, ON K7C 2B4; 1-613-257-5453; 1-800-247-5619 (Canada only) (1/2)

WANTED: 1920-1950 D.N.D. covers with postage stamps and "Director of Records" return address cachet. Prefer airmail, special delivery, and foreign usage for an exhibit. Contact Jon Johnson: [jcjperfins@hotmail.com](mailto:jcjperfins@hotmail.com) (1/5)

FOR SALE: Breaking up Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force Grand Award Exhibit (single items/groupings). Please contact R.F. Narbonne, OTB, FRPSC, Greenwood Stamp Company, 136 Morphy St., Carleton Place, ON K7C 2B4; 1-613-257-5453; 1-800-247-5619 (Canada only) (2/2)

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) (2/5)

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) (6/6)

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) (5/10)

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") (3/4)

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