



# Canadian Military Mail Study Group

## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2017

NEWSLETTER NO. 229  
Page 1525

### THE 58TH REGIMENT-WESTMOUNT RIFLES CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

In September 1914 authority was granted to organize a militia regiment under the designation of the 58th Regiment, Westmount Rifles for militia home service (unbrigaded, 4th Divisional Area; authorized G.O.2, November 1914). Early in 1915, Lt.Col.



*Lieutenant Colonel C. M. Strange and Officers  
58th Regiment Westmount Rifles  
Westmount  
Extend Heartly Greetings and Best Wishes  
for the New Year*

[Cont'd.]

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Frank Fisher began to organize a battalion for overseas service under the designation of the 23rd Westmount Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. This resulted in a necessary change in command of the 58th.

Captain Courtland M. Strange was promoted to Major, and then later to Lieutenant-Colonel commanding. In 1915 the 58th Westmount Rifles were given the privilege, with Divisional troops, to parade for inspection by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Canada's Governor-General with 541 all ranks. Strange was still C.O. when the 58th Westmount Rifles were assigned special service in 1917 and supplied guards for the armouries in District Four.

Ottawa ordered the amalgamation of the 14th Battalion, C.E.F. (1st Westmount Battalion) with the 58th, and Lt.-Col. Strange posted as the Commanding Officer for a few days. He was succeeded by Major C. Basil Price of the 14th Battalion. The new unit was designated "The Royal Montreal Regiment" with Frank Fisher appointed Honourary Lt.-Col.

This insert card, with the unit's insignia in green, should therefore date between Christmas 1915 to 1917.

#### REFERENCE

Renouf, Edwin C. The 58th Regiment-Westmount Rifles, Canada Militia 1914. Montreal: Privately Printed, 1970; <http://archive.org/details/58thregimentwest00reno>

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#### 5 B.A.P.O.-B.N.A.F.-CANADIAN SECTION--By Mike Street

The cover shown was illustrated as Item 30 in Hugo Deshayes's email sale #253. Mailed at Hamilton, Ontario on January 25, 1943, it was



[Cont'd.]



addressed to R139113, L.A.C. Jamieson, JK/Attached R.A.F./RCAF/Overseas. It appears the letter first went to 150 Squadron where it was endorsed "Not Known at 150", then was redirected to 1662 C.U. ("C.U.'s" were Conversion Units where personnel were sent for training when switching from one type of aircraft to another; 1662 C.U., stationed at Blyton, Lincolnshire, processed personnel for Halifax II, Halifax V, Lancaster I, and Lancaster III bombers).



After getting to 1662 C.U., the letter bounced around in the United Kingdom for almost eight months before reaching the Canadian Overseas Postal Depot near London on October 5, 1943. From there it went to the Directory Service of the Canadian Section of Number 5 British Army Post Office, British North Africa Force, where it arrived on October 17, 1943. It must have reached LAC Jamieson soon after, because there are no later dates and because the letter not only survived the war but also the seventy years since.

Endorsements on front (sequence not certain):

- 1662 C.U. in black pencil (not crossed out)
- "150 Squad" in blue pencil (crossed out)
- "Not Known at 150/PM" in blue pen (crossed out)
- "265" in blue pencil, circled (not crossed out)
- N/T in red ink (crossed out)
- U?? in black pencil (crossed out)
- N/R over 15/9/43 in blue pencil (crossed out)

Postmarks on reverse:

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a) FIELD POST OFFICE/22 MR/43/??   | b) Straight line date: 15<br>May 1943 |
| c) Straight line date: 20 May 1943 | d) FIELD POST OFFICE/*/13 JY/         |

[Cont'd.]



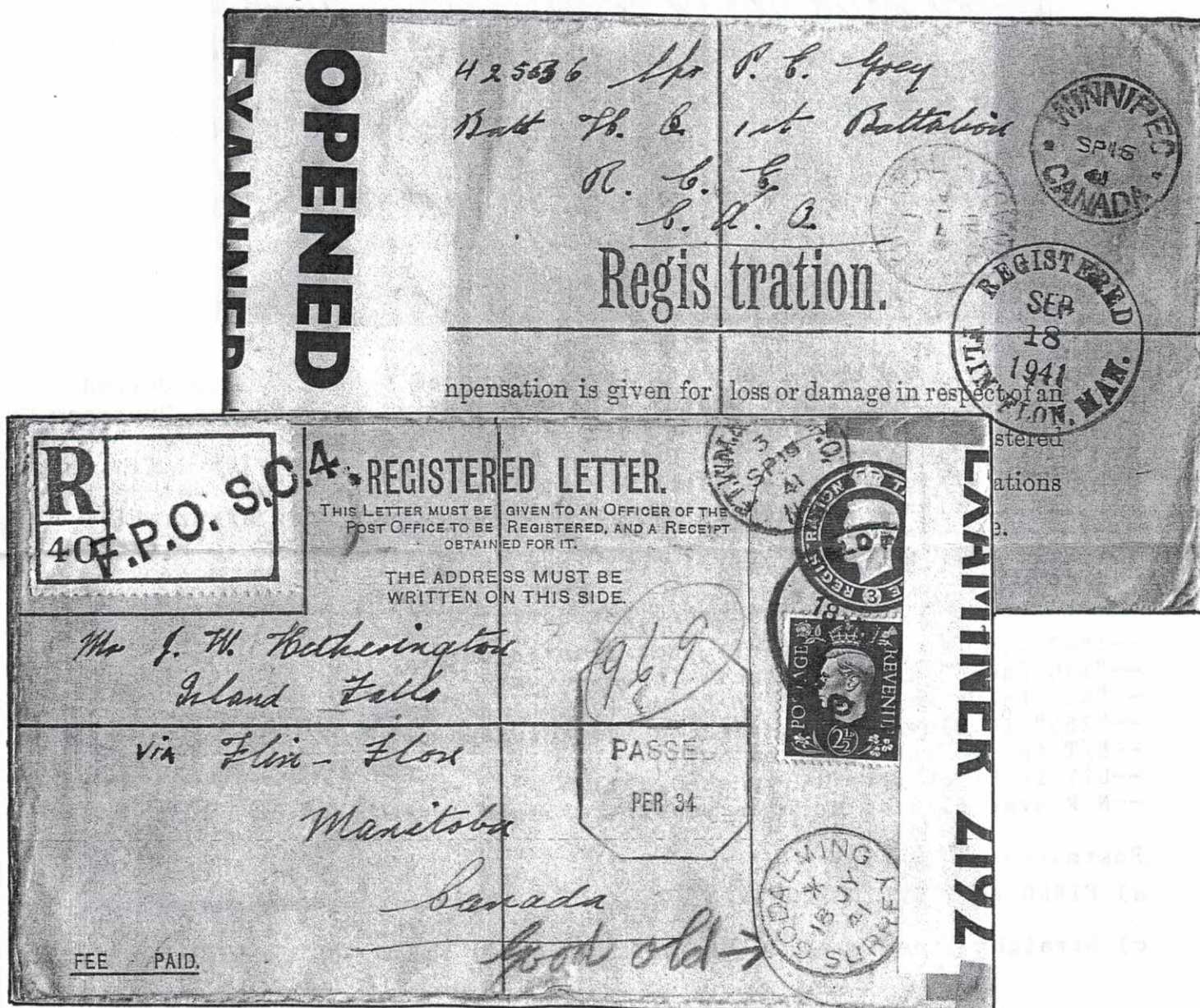
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- 43/717 e) Straight line date: 25 AUG 1943  
 f) \*CANADIAN OVERSEAS POSTAL DEPOT\*/C.P.C. R.C.A.F. SECTION/5 OCT 1943/DIRECTORY/SERVICE [Sayles F361]  
 g) CANADIAN SECTION/OCT. 17 1943/DIRECTORY/SERVICE/5 B.A.P.O. B.N.A.F. [Sayles F383]

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F.P.O. S.C.4 STRAIGHT LINE MARKING--By N.F. Lee Dowsley

Here is a straight line marking on a registered cover dated July 18, 1941 from the Canadian Engineers (Canadian Reinforcement Unit) at Witley, Surrey, England to Manitoba. The postal marking is not listed in any of my books. [Mike Street illustrated a similar straight line "F.P.O. C.9" in NL#223 (March 2016), p. 1453. It too was on registered mail.Ed.]

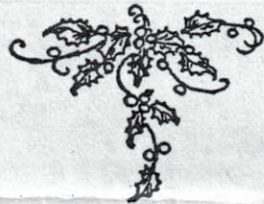


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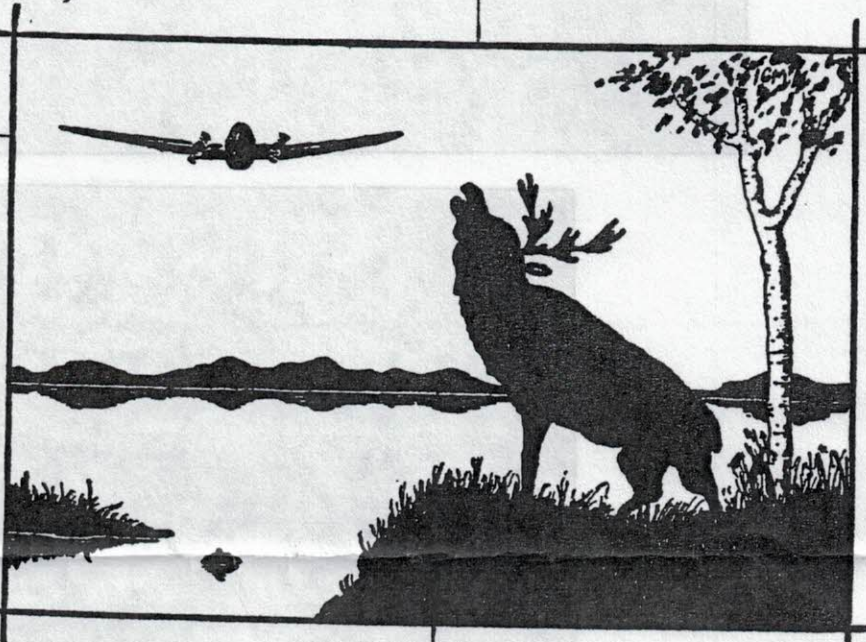
CHRISTMAS 1941 R.A.F. TRANSPORT COMMAND--By Dave Hanes*Christmas Greetings*

AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR



*Cecil G. Leary*  
*("Sparks")*

*Christmas*  
*1941*



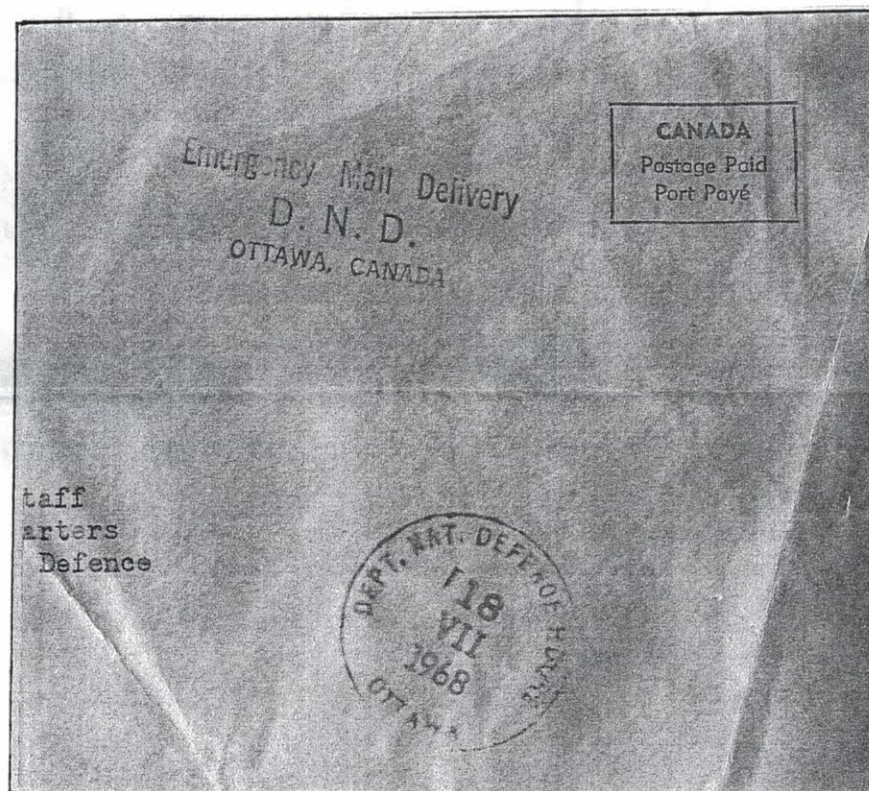
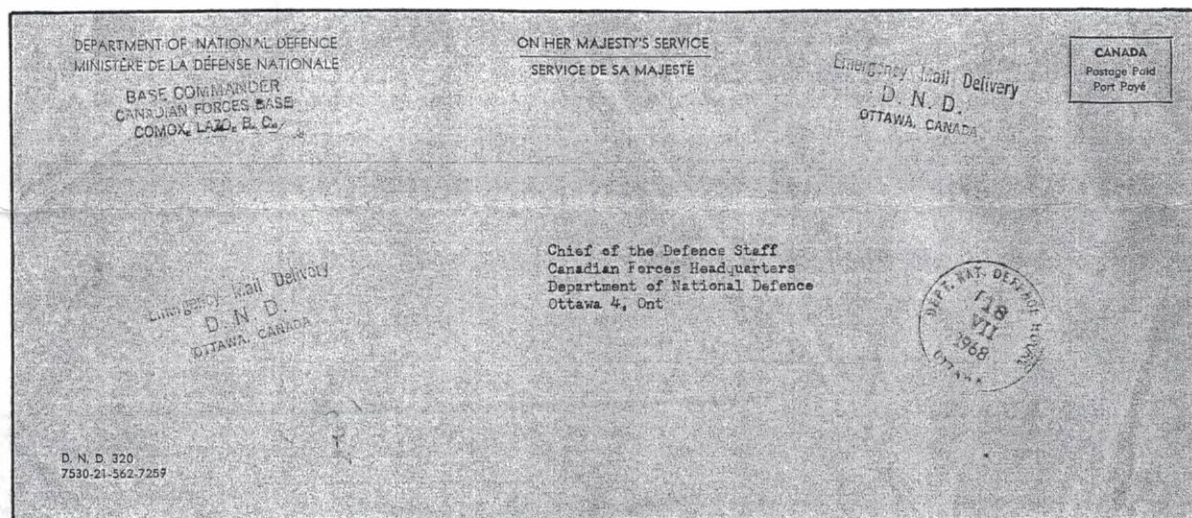
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1968 EMERGENCY MAIL DELIVERY, D.N.D., OTTAWA--By C.A. Stillions

[Clarence sent in this rather large manila D.N.D. OHMS cover (11.5" x 5" or 292mm x 127mm) with the unusual "Emergency Mail Delivery/D.N.D./OTTAWA, CANADA" handstamp in red (illustrated below at 50% and the markings cropped at full size). The cover originated from the Base Commander at C.F.B. Comox, Lazo, British Columbia. The circular "DEPT. NAT. DEFENCE HQ./18/VII/1968/OTTAWA" also appears in red ink.Ed.]



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ORAPEX, OTTAWA, MAY 5-6, 2018

Members will find an enclosed reminder of the military-themed show and exhibition. Member J. Michael Powell encourages all members to attend [Cont'd.]



the event and invites military-related (and other) exhibits. Check the ORAPEX website for details and contact information!

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CMMSG MEETING AT BNAPEX 2017 CALTAPEX--By Mike Street

At 10:30 Saturday, September 2, 2017, Interim Chairman Mike Street opened the Canadian Military Mail Study Group meeting at BNAPEX 2017 CALTAPEX in the Doll Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Calgary. The fourteen members and visitors present were: Murray Bialek, James Bone, Earle Covert, Eldon Godfrey, Chris Hargreaves, Jon and Leanna Johnson, Hal Kellett, Ron Leith, Ken Lemke, Doug Lingard, Peter McCarthy, Ken Pugh, and Mike Street.

Mike first showed the new CMMSG Award for the Best Military Mail exhibit at BNAPEX. Designed by Dean Mario, Jon Johnson, [and Mike Street], the plaque replaces the Sam Nickle Award. Mike then told the group about the new Great War Internment Camp Organization memorial pavilion which is part of the Cave and Basin National Historic Site at Banff National Park. The third announcement was a recommendation that all present view Jon Johnson's excellent Great War Nursing Sister mail exhibit in the main show room (at the Awards Banquet it was announced that Jon's exhibit won the first CMMSG Award). Doug Lingard reminded everyone that the theme of ORAPEX 2018 in Ottawa next spring will be Canadian military mail and asked for exhibits. Murray Bialek described the Naval Museum of Alberta housed at The Military Museums in Calgary. Peter McCarthy encouraged all present to support the Group's Editor by submitting articles, large or small, for the newsletter [many thanks Peter!Ed.]. Ken Pugh asked for a CMMSG contact person to consult on military items if and when his Fakes and Forgeries Group gets an Editor.

Jon Johnson closed out the meeting with an excellent slide presentation of items from his new project: mail to and from sailors and gunners who served on the ships of the Second World War Canadian Merchant Navy.

[Jon also sent along this additional information from the meeting:


"James Bone, Archivist, Private Archives Branch, Library and Archives Canada, attended the CMMSG meeting at BNAPEX In Calgary. He advised that digitization of Great War Canadian Expeditionary Force personnel is up to the last names beginning with 'S'. The digitization project is expected to be complete next year. So, up to 'S', the complete file for each C.E.F. member is now available online.

To view the C.E.F. files, James' direction to me was:

The search page is available here: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx>--search for a name and then click on them. You should get a preview of their attestation paper and if their file has been digitized (most should be by this point), there will be a link beside "Digitized service file--PDF format". Ed.]

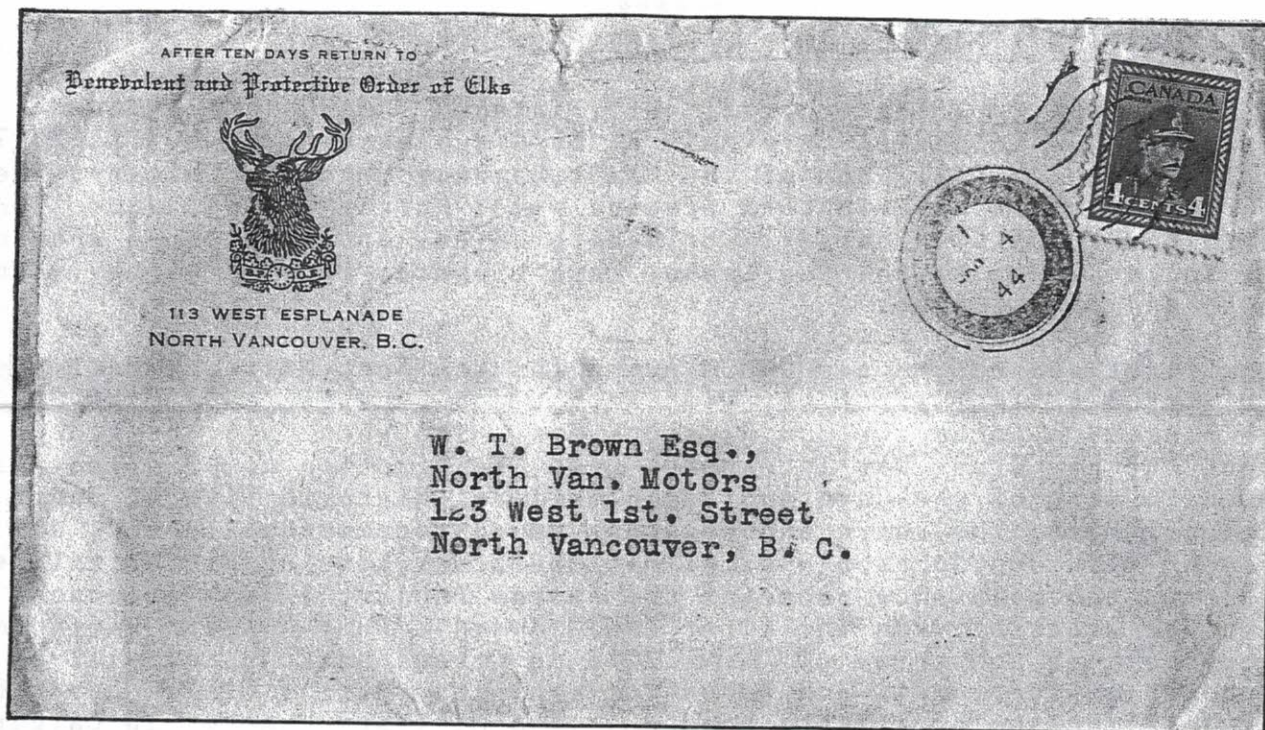
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LEST WE FORGET FOR THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES  
SO WE CAN LIVE OURS





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UNRECORDED DUPLEX BLACKOUT, NORTH VANCOUVER--By N.F. Lee Dowsley

The above cover may be an unrecorded duplex blackout cancel from North Vancouver, British Columbia. It is dated January 4, 1944, and both the corner card and the address designate the location. There is nothing listed anywhere about a blackout duplex from North Vancouver.

At first glance I thought it may be from Moncton, New Brunswick but the Moncton blackouts that I have seen either have no time mark or a "PM". This example has a "1" for a time mark. I then made a transparency of the new cover and laid it over the "Moncton" duplex dated January 25, 1945 that I own--it didn't match. The circle was larger on the 1944 version and the wavy bars didn't quite line up.

Blackout cancels have been around for seventy-five years and it seems strange to find a new one at this stage. I have talked to Gray Scrimgeour about it and he thinks it could be legit. In any case I have had three weeks of fun with it and it makes a great addition to my blackout cancel collection. [Normally our group has shied away from blackout cancels as they tend to fall in the "civilian" area and usually studied by Bill Pekonen's World War II Study Group (contact Bill at #201-7300 Moffatt Rd., Richmond, BC V6Y 1X8). However, as many of our members do collect blackouts as well, and considering that this item may be an important new discovery, I felt a "one-time" entry would be forgivable! Ed.]

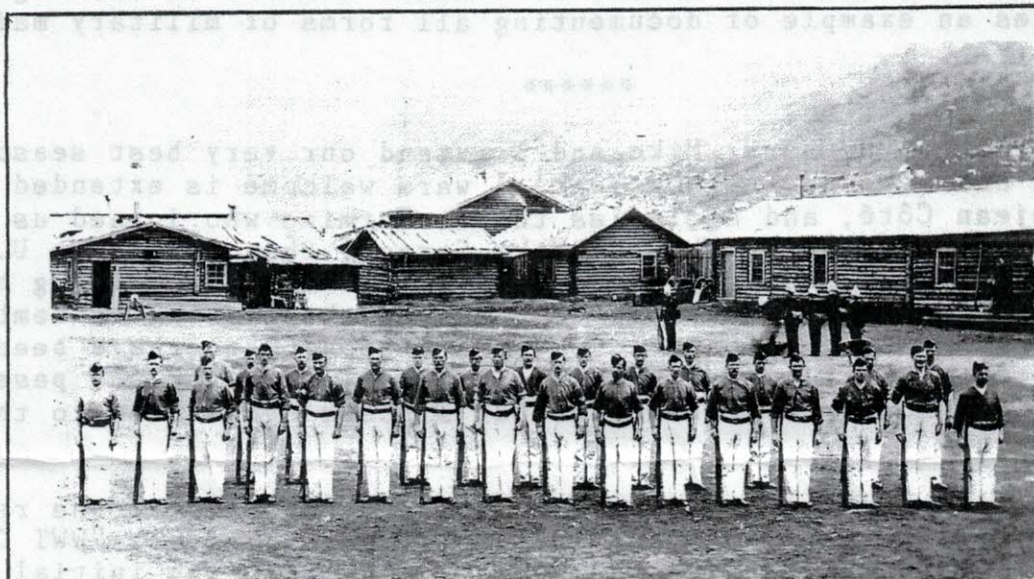
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Wishing  
you a wonderful  
Christmas and a  
very happy new  
year!

Season's Greetings

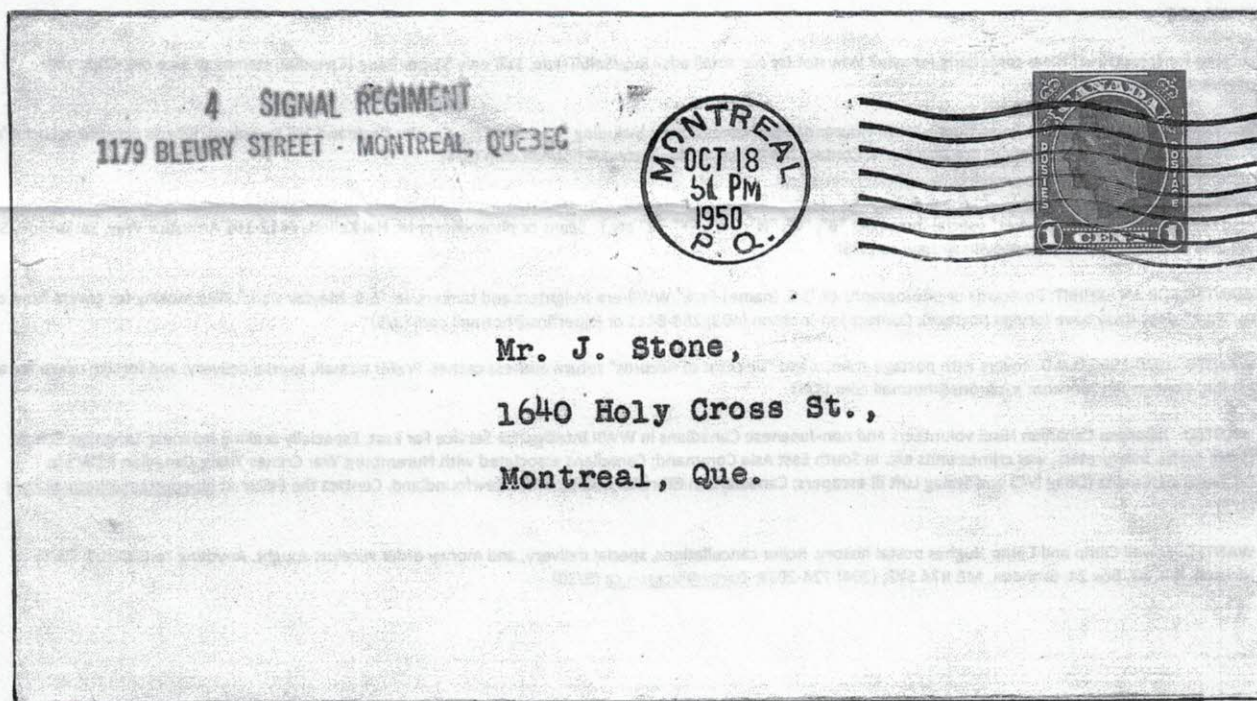




PHYSICAL DRILLING, YUKON FIELD FORCE 1900 REPRINT PHOTOCARD*Physical Drilling Yukon Field Force, 1900*

My apologies if I've illustrated the above card previously. It is an undivided-back unused (no publisher noted) ca. 1950's or 1960's and is reprinted from an archival photograph. The Y.F.F. was sent to the Klondike to assist the North-West Mounted Police in guarding the gold fields and to maintain order.

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4 SIGNAL REGIMENT, MONTREAL, 1950

The above 1¢ postal stationery envelope (unsealed drop letter/printed  
[Cont'd.]



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matter) was an economical method to contact members of the regiment and illustrates an example of documenting all forms of military mail in peacetime.

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**Dear Study Group Members:** Mike and I extend our very best seasons' greetings and a wonderful New Year! A warm welcome is extended to new member **Rejean Côté**, and apologies to **Yan Turmine** who joined us in April. I am saddened to report, through Mike Street, that long-time U.K. member **Kim Dodwell** passed away on October 1, 2017 at his nursing home in Shrewsbury. I was also saddened to learn of the passing of member **Barry Dales** in the recent BNAPS TOPICS. Cards of condolence have been sent on behalf of the membership. Mike also informed us of the sad passing of the late **Henk Burgers'** wife **Helen**. Our sincere sympathies to their family and friends.

Congratulations are extended to successful exhibitors at the recent **BNAPEX 2017 CALTAPEX**. As noted previously, **Jon Johnson's** "WWI Canadian Army Nursing Sisters Serving Overseas" was awarded the initial **CMMSG Award** for the best military-themed exhibit. Jon also was awarded a **Gold Medal**. He also received the **PSSC Specialization Medal**. The **E.R. "Ritch" Toop Memorial Literature Award** went to **J. Michael Powell** for his 2016 Postal History of the Great War Internment Camps in Canada. Several members did well with their non-military themed exhibits. Congratulations to all!

Don't forget about next year's **ORAPEX** and **BNAPEX 2018** in **Quebec City**. **ORAPEX's** theme is "The Military" and **BNAPEX** will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the **Great War Armistice!** **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR AND 2018!**

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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:** Great War-related Royal North-West Mounted Police covers/cards including "A" Squadron, Cavalry Draft and "B" Squadron, Siberia (see Steve Luciuk's Anthology (1991) article "Riders of the Plains...."). Contact the Editor at [blueputtees@hotmail.com](mailto:blueputtees@hotmail.com) (3/4)

**WANTED:** WWII Canadian P.O.W. mail from Germany (especially Dieppe-related); Canadian military postal history WWI/WWII with "missing" or "KIA" markings. Also seeking the WWII "alphabet" special forces (ie. "B", "C", "N", "W", "Y", "Z" etc.). Scans or photocopies to: Hal Kellett, #412-106 Armistice Way, Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H4 or email: [hkstampsandcovers@shaw.ca](mailto:hkstampsandcovers@shaw.ca) (3/6)

**WANTED FOR AN EXHIBIT:** Postcards or photographs of "S.S. (name) Park" WWII-era freighters and tankers, ie. "S.S. Mayfair Park". Also looking for covers from or to "Park" ships (may have foreign postage). Contact Jon Johnson (403) 253-8411 or [jcperfins@hotmail.com](mailto:jcperfins@hotmail.com) (3/5)

**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: [jcperfins@hotmail.com](mailto:jcperfins@hotmail.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 Nuremberg 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) (1/5)

**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) (9/10)

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