



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

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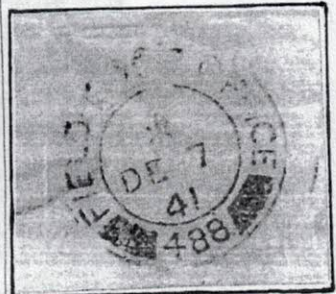
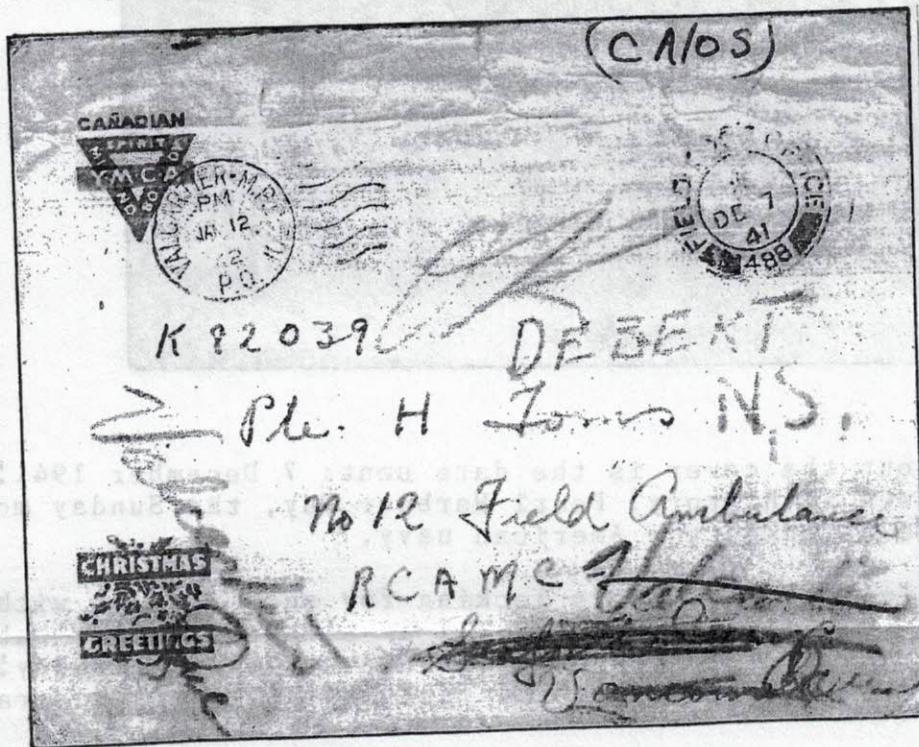
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2019

NEWSLETTER NO. 236
Page 1603

A CANADIAN CONNECTION TO 7 DECEMBER 1941--By David Hanes

In the last Newsletter Dean mentioned Ron Leith's auction had several nice military items. He was right as I added the following cover to my collection.



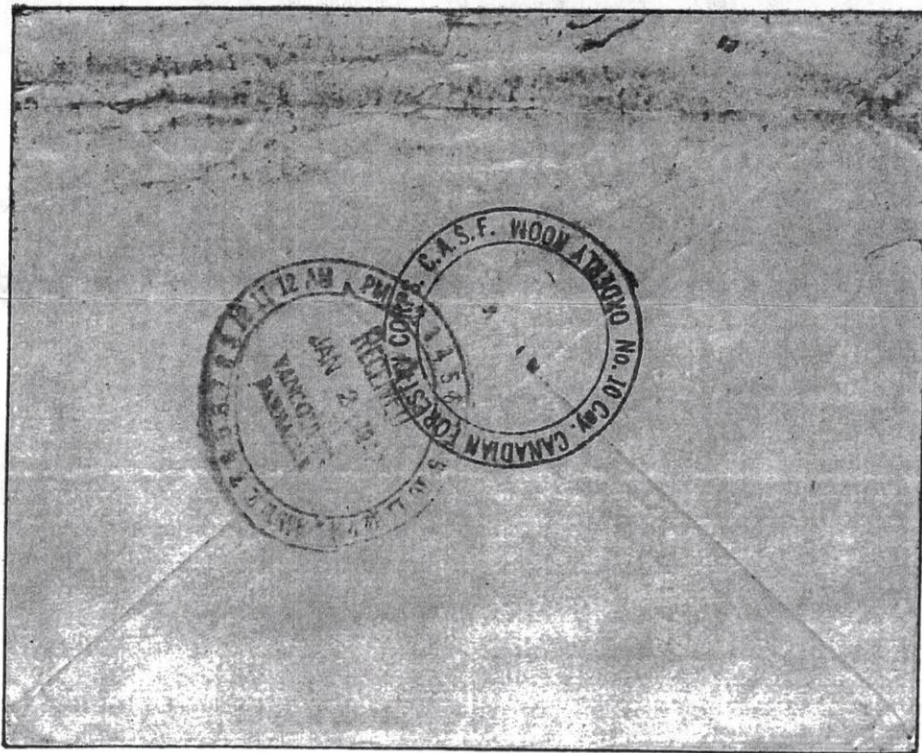
It is a YMCA Christmas cover, sent from FPO 488 and dated DE 7/41. It was sent by a member of the 10th Company of the Canadian Forestry Corps, located in Scotland, and addressed to a Private [Cont'd.]

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Toms with the 12th Field Ambulance, Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in Seaforth Camp near Vancouver. This address was scratched out and the cover was re-addressed to Valcartier Camp near Quebec City. It appears that Private Toms had moved again and the cover was re-addressed to Debert, Nova Scotia (northwest of Truro).



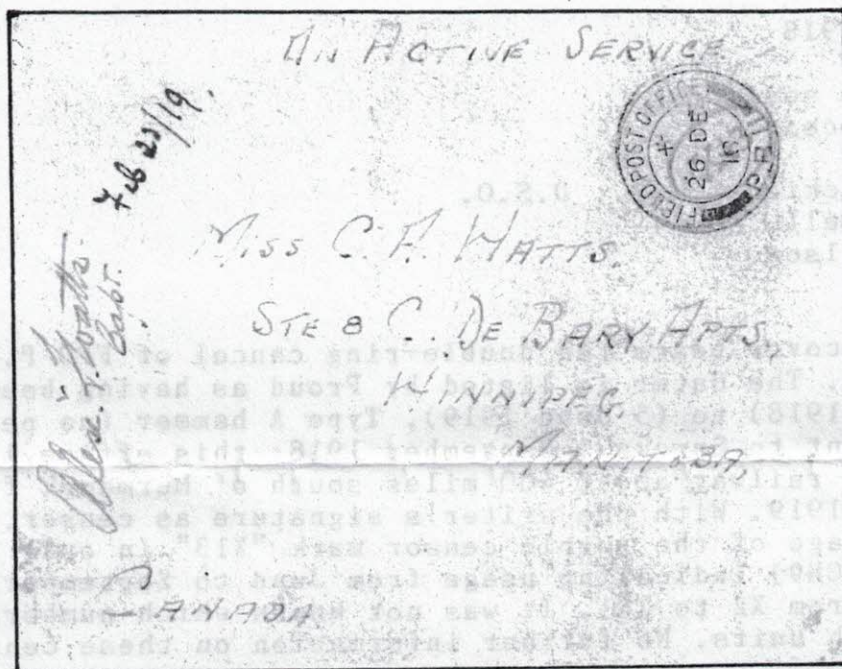
The big thing about the cover is the date sent: 7 December 1941! A date that went down in history! Pearl Harbour Day, the Sunday morning when the Japanese attacked the American navy.

I have spent well-over fifty years looking for such a cover with this date. 7 December 1941 is my birthday....I am a Pearl Harbour baby! [We finally now know what to get Dave for his upcoming birthday! Military postal history is collectible and fascinating for a wide range of reasons.Ed.]

CANADIAN SYREN PARTY, NORTH RUSSIA EXPEDITIONARY FORCE--By Jerry Glasgo

Some years ago I did a trade for some Great War covers and amongst them was one with an enclosed letter by a Captain A.F. Watts to his sister who lived in Winnipeg. The cover was cancelled with British Field Post Office P.B.11 dated +/26 DE/18. Watts had indicated at the end of this letter his return address as "Can Syren Party, N.R.E.F. c/o Army PO London". Upon further investigation I found more information on this individual.

[Cont'd.]



In August 1918 Canada agreed to send 18 officers and 74 other ranks, commanded by Lt.Col. J.E. Leckie, to Syren Force. They assembled at Whitley Camp and embarked for Russia on 17 September 1918 and disembarked at Murmansk 28 September 1918. They were sent to instruct and command locally-recruited Russian units during an advance south from Murmansk.

As per A.F. Watts' service record and two London Gazette excerpts:

17-9-18, to be Acting Capt. while sec'd. for special duty with War Office (Syren Party), LG 30924

17-9-18, Seconded for duty with War Office Syren Party, LG 30964

LG Issue 30924
p. 11516, 28 September 1918
Manitoba Regiment
The undermentioned temp. Lts. to be actg. Cpts. while seed, for duty with the War Office:--
17 Sept. 1918.
W.B.W. Nicholson.
A.F. Watts.



[Cont'd.]

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LG Issue 30964

p. 12463, 21 October 1918

Manitoba Regiment

The undermentioned are seed, for
duty with the War Office:--

17 Sept. 1918.

Temp. Lt. Col. J.E. Leckie, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Temp. Capt. I.G. Mitchell.

Temp. Lt. W.B.W. Nicholson.

Temp. Lt. A.F. Watts.

As aforementioned the cover bears the double-ring cancel of FPO P.B.11 dated 26 December 1918. The dater is listed by Proud as having been in use from (15 November 1918) to (5 June 1919), Type A hammer (no period after "11"). It was sent to Suroka 3 September 1918; this office located at Suroka on the railway about 400 miles south of Murmansk from December 1918 to July 1919. With the writer's signature as censor, it also bears an early usage of the purple censor mark "X13" in oval (Kennedy & Crabb Type CM9) indicating usage from June to September 1919. The series ran from X2 to X81. It was not known which numbers were allocated to which units. No further information on these censor markings found so far.

Captain Watts was awarded the Order of St. Stanislaus 3rd class for services in North Russia. His citation, dated 13 September 1919, reads in part:

In recognition of valuable services rendered to the Russian Army
and activities within the Northern Region,
I award the Order of St. Stanislaus, 3rd Class.

His other medals include the British War and Victory Medals, the War Medal 1939-45, and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal.

References

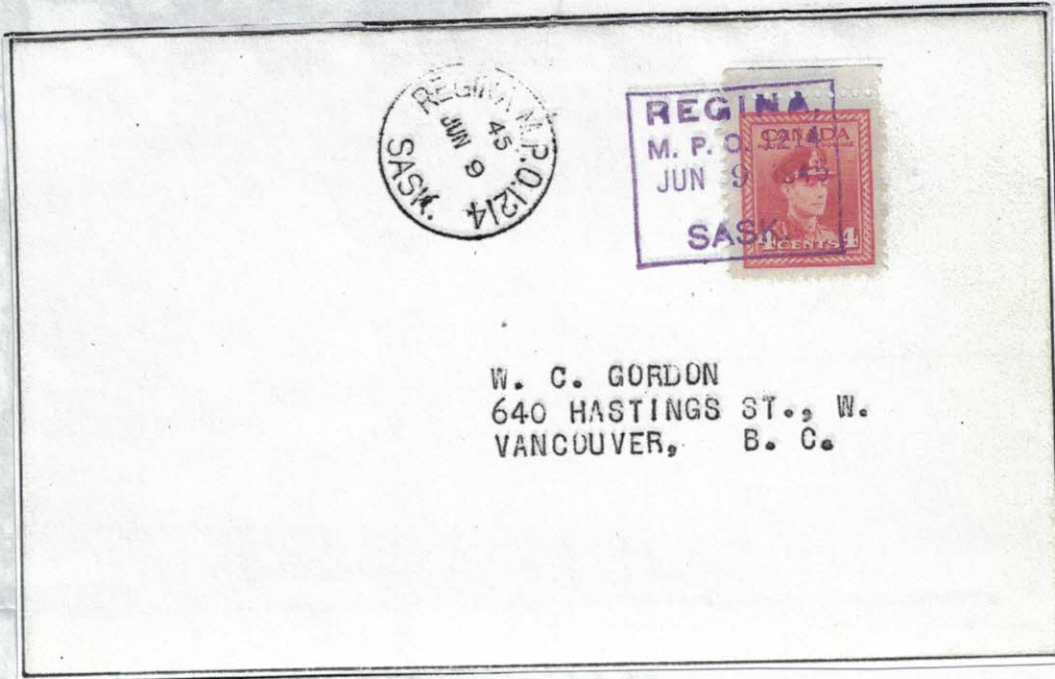
- 1) Proud, E.B. History of British Army Postal Service Vol.II: 1903-1927 (1970), p. 277.
- 2) Kennedy, A. & Crabb, G. The Postal History of the British Army in WWI Before & After 1903 to 1929 (1977), p. 266.
- 3) Library & Archives Canada, Personnel Records of the First World War.
- 4) The Gazette, Official Public Record.
- 5) Correspondence with Hendrik Burgers, December 2007.

BNAPEX 2019-OTTAWA-CMMSG STUDY GROUP MEETING

We will have a study group meeting, chaired by Mike Street, on 31 August 2019 at 15:00-16:00 in the Capitale Room. Our thanks to member Wayne Schnarr who will present "Surprises While Researching For Sayles' Canadian Military Mail Postmarks, Volume I". Thanks Wayne and Mike! For any updates be sure to see the website: www.bnaps.org.

UNREPORTED MPO 1214 REGINA, SASK. M.O.T.O., 9 June 1945

As noted in Newsletter #235 (May 2019), p. 1602 illustrated below is an example (philatelic?) of the Regina, Saskatchewan M.P.O. 1214 Money Order Town Office dater in purple ink. Editor J. Paul Hughes, in his Proof Strikes of Canada, Vol. XXVI: 'Military Proof Strikes of Canada' (Kelowna, BC: R.A. Lee Philatelist Ltd., 1993) illustrates a proof date of "APR 19 1945" (p. 29). When enhancing the marking for reproduction in W.J. Bailey and E.R. Toop's Canadian Military Postal Markings: Vol. I (Waterford, MI: C.G. Firby Publications, 1996), p. 364, the year was inadvertently marked "1943". It is unfortunate that Doug Sayles' BNAPS Catalogue of Canadian Military Mail Markings: Vol. II (2011) did not include "...markings seen only as proof strikes...." (p. iii), as this error may have been corrected. B & T may have caught the error as they noted (p. 232) that MPO 1214, #15 SFTS (Service Flying Training School) RCAF was opened on 23 April 1945 and closed on 30 November 1945 (32 weeks) so the 1943 date would not have made sense. The Regina MPO 1214 CDS (B&T #M13-442) was proofed on 20 April 1945 (B&T p. 322), so that too would have been a clue.



CORRECTION: NEWSLETTER #235 (May 2019) By Michael Dobbs

Michael recently wrote: "In your latest issue (No. 235-May 2019, pp. 1599-1601), you have an article on FPO 376 in France. There is a reference to Proud who shows FPO 376 as being allotted to 2nd Army and attributes it to FPO AD2. This has been wrongly accredited as standing for Armoured Division. Datestamps FPO 377 to 378 were issued to Second Army Postal Unit on 19 June 1943. Second Army Postal Unit served HQ Second Army and operated FPO's designated as FPO A.2, AA.2, and AD.2 (serving HQ 2nd Army Main, HQ 2nd Army Rear, and 2nd Army Postal

[Cont'd.]

Depot). Armoured Division FPO's were designated with the prefix DA (eg. FPO DA.7 for 7th Armoured Division). Unfortunately the War Diary for Second Army Postal Unit does not show too much detail or the locations of the various FPO's operated; in any event it was not continued after June 1944". [Thanks for the information Michael. Hopefully when records are released for personnel from the Second World War more will be known for a complete story.Ed.]

"POSTCARDS FROM JUNO": 75 YEARS LATER

Did any member receive one of these postcards? The Juno Beach Centre came up with an innovative idea to inform Canadians of the sacrifice made on Juno Beach, 6 June 1944. Representatives were kind enough to send me an unused sample of the card (reverse at 65%). The story of the cards, along with the background history of the Canadians on D-Day, follows.[Ed.]

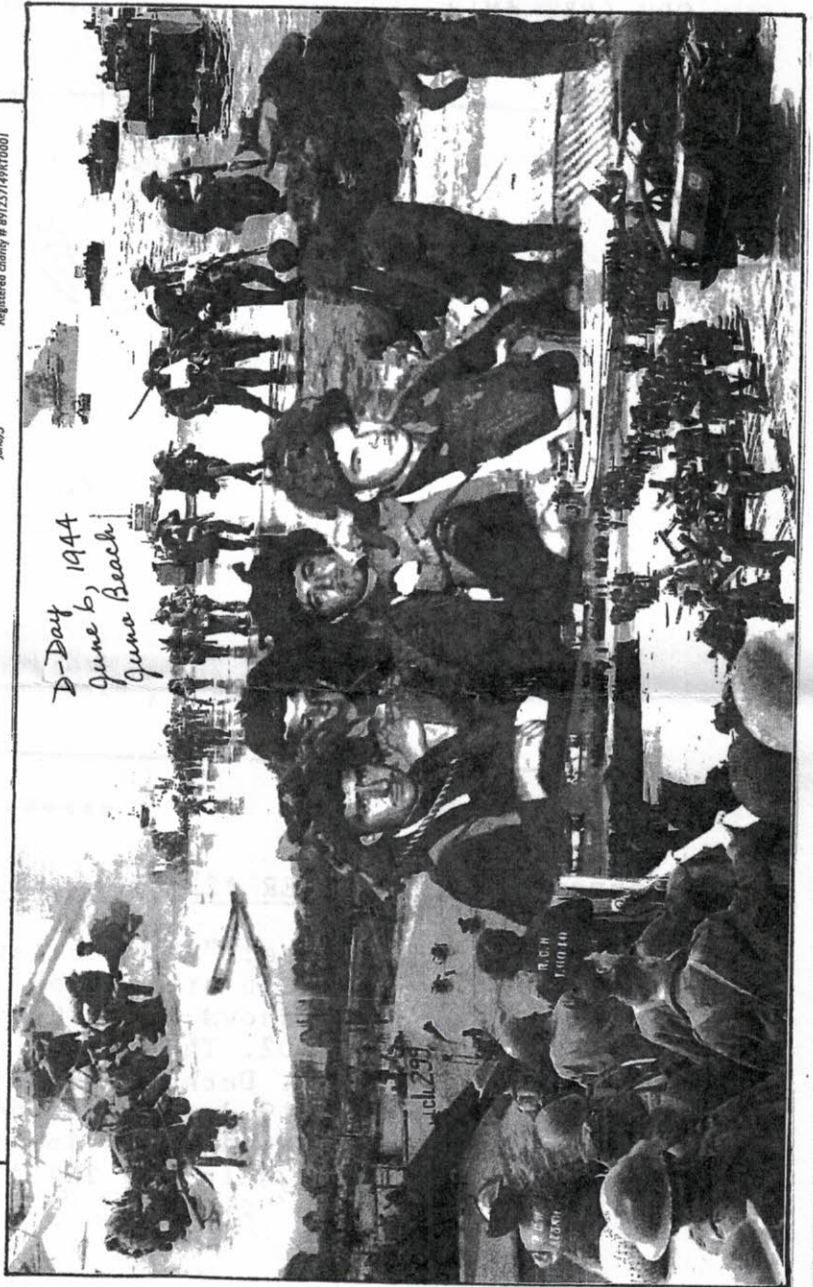
POSTCARD FROM JUNO
CARTE POSTALE DE JUNO

Share your home's special history or your personal thoughts on receiving this card at junoPostcards@junoBeach.org or 1-877-828-JUNO (5866).

   @JunoBeachCentre #JunoPostcards



The Juno Beach Centre is Canada's Second World War museum, located on Juno Beach in Brudenell, Ontario. Registered charity # 89123747670001



[Cont'd.]



"POSTCARDS FROM JUNO" SENT HOME 75 YEARS LATER:

JUNO BEACH CENTRE SHARES THE MEMORY OF CANADIANS KILLED IN ACTION ON D-DAY

TORONTO, May 9, 2019 -- June 6th, 2019 marks the 75th anniversary of D-Day when 14,000 Canadian soldiers stormed Juno Beach on France's northern coast. Part of the largest seaborne invasion in history that included 142,000 British and American allies, D-Day marked the beginning of Europe's liberation from Nazi Germany and the end of the Second World War. Tragically, more than 900 Canadians from communities across Canada died during the first five days of the Battle of Normandy -- between June 6 and June 10, 1944.

To mark this important milestone in Canadian history and honour the fallen, the Juno Beach Centre, Canada's only Second World War museum located on Juno Beach itself, is sending personalized postcards to the current residents of hundreds of homes across Canada linked to the soldiers who died. The postcards include the name, rank, and age of the soldier linked to each address.

"Letting someone know that a Canadian war hero left their house 75 years ago is a very special way of preserving the stories of these soldiers," says Mike Bechthold, Executive Director of the Juno Beach Centre Association. "It's also a unique way to bridge the years and connect generations so young people today can get a glimpse into the lives of the young soldiers who once lived in their very homes -- all of them volunteers."

Recipients of "Postcards from Juno" are encouraged to share their home's special history and their personal reflections on receiving the card, through social media (@JunoBeachCentre, #JunoPostcards).

D-DAY FAST FACTS

The beaches: On June 6, 1944, the Allied assault force landed on a 75 km stretch of heavily-defended beach on the northern coast of France, in the Normandy region. From west to east, the beaches were codenamed Utah (American), Omaha (American), Gold (British), Juno (Canadian), and Sword (British).

D-Day participants by nationality: The Allies landed 156,000 troops on D-Day. By sea, the Americans landed 23,250 at Utah and 34,250 at Omaha, the British landed 24,970 at Gold and

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28,845 at Sword, and the Canadians and British landed 14,000 and 7,000 respectively at Juno Beach. Approximately 23,400 paratroopers landed by air on the extreme west and eastern flanks of the assault area.

Canadian objectives on D-Day: The Canadian objective on June 6th was to storm Juno Beach and reach a railway line linking Caen in the east to Bayeux in the west. They would dig in here, link with British troops on their left and right, and create a fortress defence against expected German counter-attacks.

What the Canadians accomplished: While the Canadians did not capture all their objectives on D-Day, they did advance the furthest. Over the following three days, the Canadians fought a series of bloody battles holding off repeated German counter-attacks that threatened the entire Allied front line in France.

What happened next: After 76 days of intense combat in Normandy, the remnants of two defeated German armies retreated across France. The Canadian Army joined in the pursuit and fought through Belgium and the Netherlands before striking into Germany, which surrendered on May 8, 1945.

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Resources:

- [D-Day FAQs](#)

Videos:

- Only known video of Canadian soldiers approaching Juno Beach by landing craft on D-Day (4:00)
- Jim Parks, D-Day veteran, describes landing on Juno Beach (0:13). Private Jim Parks served with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and was 19 years old on D-Day. He was born in Winnipeg but now lives in Mount Albert, Ontario (north of Toronto).
- Robert Spencer, D-Day veteran, describes the secrecy surrounding D-Day (0:16). Lieutenant Robert Spencer enlisted with the Victoria Rifles but served overseas with the 15th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, 4th Canadian Armoured Division. Robert was 23 on D-Day and lives in Ottawa. He was enrolled at McGill University in Montreal when he volunteered for the Army.

About the Juno Beach Centre

The Juno Beach Centre is Canada's Second World War museum and cultural centre located on Juno Beach in Courseulles-sur-Mer, Normandy, France. Founded by veterans and volunteers in 2003, the Centre's mandate is to preserve the legacy of all Canadians who served during the Second World War. Fifteen years and one million visitors later, the Juno Beach Centre has been designated a site of national historic significance to Canada. The Juno Beach Centre Association is a Canadian charitable organization which owns and operates the Juno Beach Centre.

For more information, please visit www.junobeach.org.


SECOND WORLD WAR MERCHANT SEAMEN CAPTURED BY GERMAN SURFACE WARSHIPS--By Jonathan Johnson, OTB

During the Second World War only two Canadian merchant navy ships were sunk by German surface warships with most of the crew being captured and confined to a POW camp for more than four years. Surprisingly SS Canadian Cruiser and SS A.D. Huff were sunk on sequential days in different oceans. Shown are two POW items from the crew of each ship.

21 FEBRUARY 1941

SS Canadian Cruiser (7,178 gwt, owner Montreal-Australia-New Zealand Lines of Montreal) was sailing alone from Colachiel, India to Durban, South Africa with a cargo of iron ore. About 600 miles east of Kenya, Canadian Cruiser was sighted by an Arado airplane scouting for the German pocket battleship Admiral Sheer. By dusk Canadian Cruiser was being shelled and the crew of 35 took to their lifeboats. German seamen boarded the ship and placed explosives below the waterline, sinking Canadian Cruiser. The crew were held in Admiral Sheer for several days before being transferred to the German supply ship Ermland. Then, with crews from half a dozen Allied freighters, Ermland took these merchant navy POW's to Bordeaux, France. While travelling by train to a naval internment camp OS W.H. McArthur escaped. Travelling through France and Spain, he reached Gibraltar where he advised authorities of Canadian Cruiser's fate. After 14 months at Stalag XB the POW's were transferred to Marlag und Milag Nord camp in northern Germany. The camp was liberated 27 April 1945.

Item 1. Trilingual postage free Prisoner of War Mail card with mute 23. 2.44. Acknowledgement of receipt of a parcel of cigarettes and signed on the reverse by Fred Betts, Able Seaman, age 42. German censor "5" and Canadian censor "DB/650".

<p>Prisoner of War Mail Poste aux Prisonniers de Guerre Kriegsgefangenenpost</p>	
<p>OVERSEAS LEAGUE CANADA. TOBACCO & HAMPER FUND. 51 KING ST E. TORONTO, ONT., CANADA.</p>	
<p>POSTAGE FREE FRANC DE PORT GEBUHRENFREI</p>	<p>EXAMINED BY DB/650</p>
<p>P. W. 2 - 50NT - 8-45</p>	

[Cont'd.]

Name
Nom.....

File No.
Dossier N°.....

33892 PARCEL RECEIVED Date
COLIS REÇU le 12.2.44

Signature.....

Address
Adresse.....
MARLAG UND MILLAG NOED
(MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA)

Sender's name
Expéditeur.....
MARLAG UND MILLAG NOED
5
Melbourn

Item 2. Postage free Prisoner of War Mail card with roller mute cancel 18.1.44. On reverse, signature of Floyd Domina, W/O, age 31, for receipt of a parcel from his wife. German censor "17" and Canadian censor "DB/576".

Prisoner of War Mail
Poste aux Prisonniers de Guerre
Kriegsgefangenenpost

(18.1.44-15) (18.1.44)

Mrs. W.F. Domina
371, Strathmore Blvd.,
Toronto, Ont.,
CANADA

POSTAGE FREE
FRANC DE PORT
GEBUHNENFREI

P. W. 2 - 50M-3-43

S3x/42450
EXAMINED BY DB/ 576

Name Nom.....	
File No. Dossier N°.....	
	PARCEL RECEIVED Date COLIS REÇU le..... 7. 1 44
Signature.....	93339
Address Adresse.....	MARLAG UND MILAG NORD (MERCHANT NAVY SECTION)
Sender's name Expéditeur.....	

22 FEBRUARY 1941

SS A.D. Huff (6,219 gwt, owner Atlantic Transportation Company of Montreal) was returning alone from London under ballast when about 600 miles east of Newfoundland an Arado airplane dropped a message for A.D. Huff to stop. The message was ignored until a ship appeared on the horizon and 11-inch shells began landing around A.D. Huff. Quickly approaching was the German battle cruiser Gneisenau, which continued shelling until A.D. Huff sank. Two men in the engine room were killed; 40 crewmen safely got away in lifeboats and were picked up by Gneisenau. Three days later these POW's were transferred to Ermland, joining the crew of Canadian Cruiser. While travelling on a French train A.D. Huff's Bosun, Ernie Shackleton, and AB Percy Coe escaped. They made it through France and Spain, eventually reaching Gibraltar. After 14 months at Stalag XB the naval POW's helped dismantle Stalag XB. The POW's and camp material were moved to Westertimke where the rebuilt camp was named Marlag und Milag Nord. Marlag is short for Marinelager (naval prisoner of war camp), Milag is short for Marine-Internierten-Lager (marine internment camp) and Nord is North. The POW's could not work outside the camp but they could earn up to 40 Rfg per day working in the camp kitchen or cleaning the grounds. The camp was liberated 27 April 1945.

Item 3. Airmail postcard (German instructions) with mute 10.11.42 postmark from Harry Dominy, 2nd Mate, age 29, to C.C. Barnes thanking him for a food parcel that arrived "last week". German censor "15" and Canadian censor "DB/602". Tax/postage due 40 Rfg cachet and airmail cachet.

[Cont'd.]

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Postkarte

Via *Air Mail* *10.11.42 16-17.*
Taxe perche *Minimum* *li de a*

An *Mr. G. B. Barnes*
Sun Life Building
Montreal, P.O. Canada

Absender:
Vor- und Zuname: *HARRY L. TOMINY*
Gefangenenummer: *86886*
Lager-Bezeichnung:
Marlag und Milag Nord
(Milag)
Deutschland (Germany)

Empfangsort: *MONTREAL, P.O.*
Straße: _____
Land: *CANADA.*
Landesteil: (Provinz usw.) _____

Marlag u. Milag Nord
15
Gebührenfrei!

EXAMINED BY: B. 602

Kriegsgefangenenlager

Datum: *20/10/42.*

Marlag u. Milag Nord
15
geprüft

Dear Mr. Barnes; it gives me great pleasure to inform you that we received your Food Parcel intact last week. All arrived excepting two but expecting them any day. I assure you they are greatly appreciated by us. Many thanks for all you are doing for us. We are all feeling fine. Wishing you a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. Yours truly, Tominy.

Item 4. Letter sheet (German instructions) sent airmail with mute 13.3.44. postmark from Hugh McDowall, Master, age 44, to C.C. Barnes thanking him for letters and food parcels. German censor "15" and Canadian censor "DB/643". Tax/postage due 40 Rfg cachet and airmail cachet.

Kriegsgefangenenpost

AIR MAIL

Taxe percue 40 Rfg
Müller Schwaninger

An **C. C. BARNES**
1452 BISHOP STREET

Empfangsort: _____
 Straße: MONTREAL
 Kreis: Q. QUEBEC
 Land: CANADA
 Landesteil (Provinz, usw.): _____
EXAMINED BY D.B.

15
 gepostet

Gebührenfrei

Absender:

Vor- und Zuname: CAPT. HUGH C. McDOWALL

Gefangenenummer: 100594

Lager-Bezeichnung: Marlag und Milag Nord (Milag)

Deutschland (Allemagne)

References

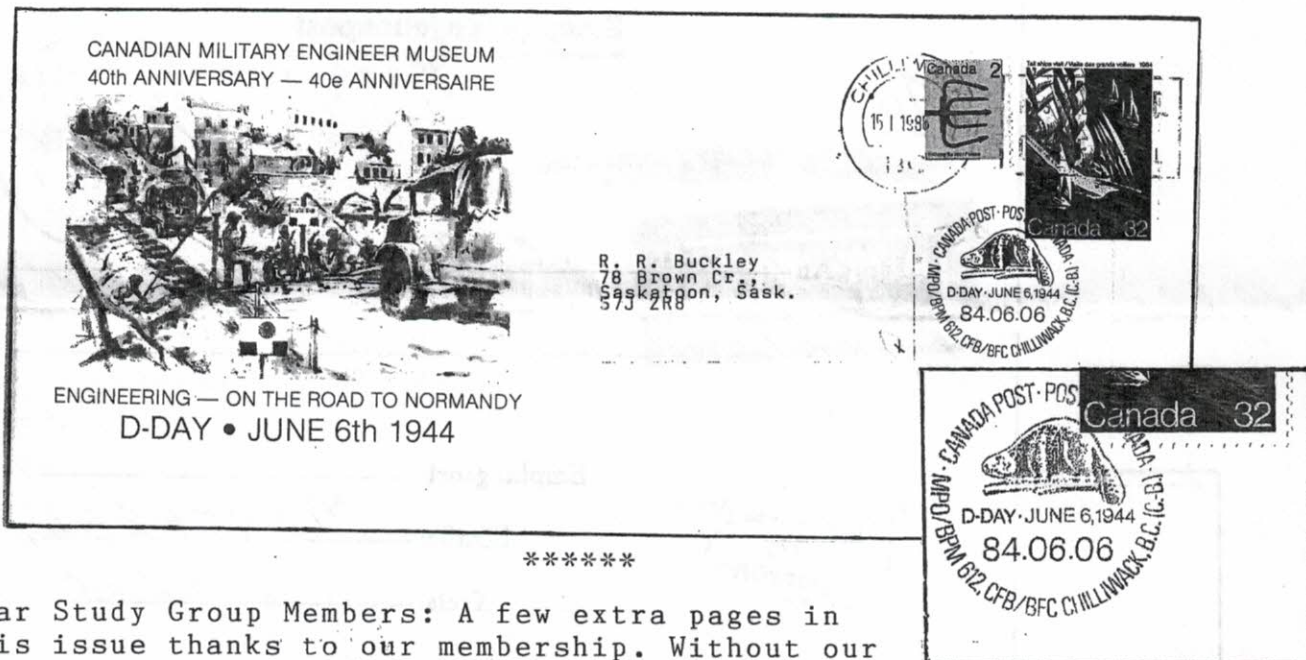
McKee, Fraser M. Sink All The Shipping There. St. Catharines, ON: Vanwell Publishing, 2004, pp. 102-110.

Library and Archives Canada, RG12-B-14-c, File 170 (A.D. Huff) and File 172 (Canadian Cruiser). Articles of Agreement Employment Contracts signed by all on board and lists positions.

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D-DAY+40: MPO 612/CFB CHILLIWACK, B.C.

This cover (reduced to 65%) features Bailey & Toop's #M17-180 commemorating the 40th anniversary of D-Day. The cover was actually mailed on 15 January 1986 with the additional 2¢ stamp added for the correct .34¢ rate.



Dear Study Group Members: A few extra pages in this issue thanks to our membership. Without our contributors these newsletters would not survive. Thank you to them and please keep sending in your items of interest. Mike and I hope that your summer has been going well and naturally invite you to our study group meeting at Ottawa's BNAPEX. Details elsewhere. Good luck if exhibiting and good hunting for those special items of interest. Thanks also to Wayne for his presentation. Remember to keep sending him updates for future publication. Until the fall....

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: Sewell Camp and Camp Hughes postal history on cover, postcard, money orders, what have you? Buy, sell, trade. Darcy Hickson, Brandon, MB. Call (204) 724-2028 or email: darcy@hickson.ca (4/10)

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; WWI Newfoundland. Contact the Editor at blueputtees@hotmail.com (3/5)

WANTED: WWI/WWII covers/cards/photos/ephemera related to the Canadian Military Police Corps; Dominion Police (Military Service Act); Canadian Provost Corps; Military Detention Barracks; Special Investigation Sections (including War Crimes Unit). Contact the Editor at blueputtees@hotmail.com (5/5)
