



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

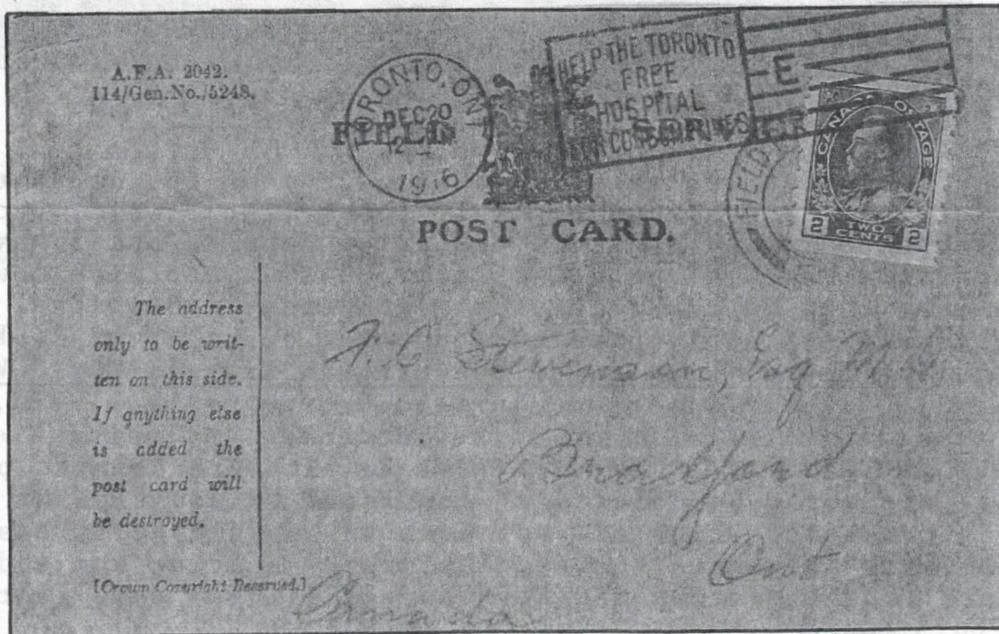
MARCH 2020

NEWSLETTER NO. 239

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FRED STEVENSON'S FSPC SEASONS' GREETINGS--By Jennifer Denman

This Field Service Post Card was sent by Fred Stevenson to his father Dr. Fred Stevenson in Bradford, Ontario on 29 November 1916. The FPO number is unreadable, and the only other cancel that exists on the address side is for Toronto, Ontario, 20 December 1916.



The post card, like others of its ilk, contained instructions that said only the date and sender's signature were to be added and warned that if anything else was added, the post card would be destroyed. Not to be deterred, Fred added the message "Merry

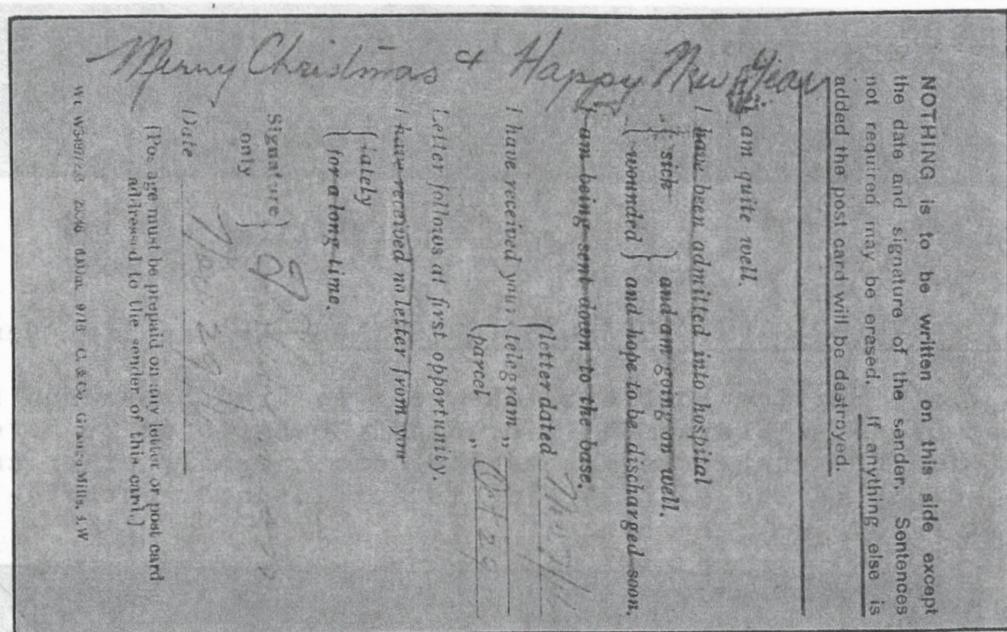
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**CHAIRMAN: H.M. (MIKE) STREET, 73 HATTON
DRIVE, ANCASTER, ON L9G 2H5
(mikestreet1@gmail.com)**

**EDITOR/TREASURER: DEAN MARIO, P.O. BOX 342, STATION MAIN, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3
(blueputtees@hotmail.com)**

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Christmas & Happy New Year". Luckily for him, the Grinch was not working in the Field Post Office that day.



I have not noticed a message like this on any of the other cards in my collection. The handwriting certainly looks like Fred's, based on the writing on the card and on his attestation papers, and I have no reason to suspect this message was added later. Has anyone else come across messages like this on Field Service Post Cards? [Additional messages on these cards are certainly uncommon. However on p. 35 of A. Kennedy and G. Crabb's The Postal History of the British Army in World War I: Before and After--1903 to 1929 (Epsom, Surrey: George Crabb, 1977), the two authors examined censorship and correspondence, including Field Service Post Cards and commented that these cards with pre-printed phrases "... which only needed to be deleted or completed by addition of dates to provide a basic message which did not need to be delayed by base censorship--any cards which infringed the regulations by bearing any additional message (apart from Christmas and New Year greetings) were sent to the base censor". Ed.]

Fred's attestation papers show his DOB as 4 June 1892. He enlisted on 3 June 1915, just the day before his 23rd birthday. His father, also named Fred, was a well-respected doctor in Bradford. From the Bradford archives we learn the following:

After he finished his studies, Fred joined the staff of the Bank of Toronto in Bradford, moving in 1912 to Gananoque, then to head office in Toronto, and finally to the west coast, where he enlisted with the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders. Shortly after enlisting, Fred was transferred to Barrie where he trained with a company of the 37th Battalion C.E.F., and later moved to Niagara Camp. Wounded and gassed overseas in 1918, he was sent back to Canada in December of that year and received his discharge the following month. He returned to Bradford and to the Bank of Toronto,

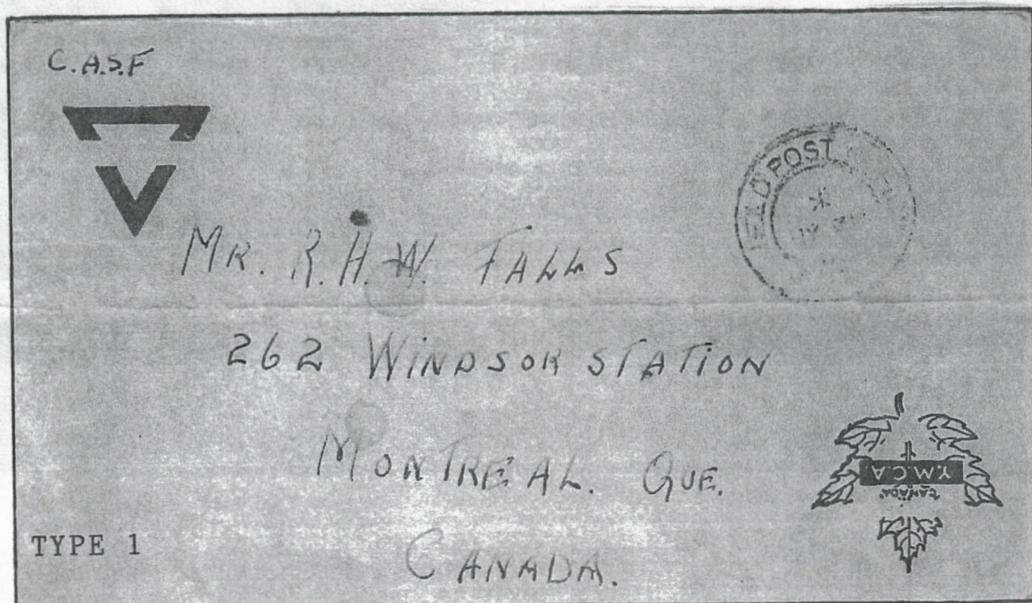
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where he worked until 1952. Fred passed away at his home in Barrie on Wednesday, 29 April 1953. He had been in poor health for some time, not having recovered from an operation just before Christmas the previous year (Source: The Bradford Witness, Wednesday, 6 May 1953).

Fred's older brother Armiger also enlisted in the Great War. He died 16 September 1916 and is buried in Courcelette British Cemetery. [Jennifer has also noted that her Grandfather Fred also served in the Second World War and was hoping to request his service file. Ed.]

SECOND WORLD WAR YMCA AUXILIARY LOGOS--By Jon Johnson

Some time ago I picked up the only Second World War YMCA cover I have seen with a printing error. The red triangle is correct but the blue maple leaf is inverted. I have yet to see a normal example of this logo. [TYPE 1]



It occurred to me to wander through my files to see what I could find. The first to show up [see the following page. Ed.] was a Christmas card envelope. I have two copies, 8 December 1941 and 21 November 1942. To stay with the Christmas theme the printing is red and green. [TYPE 2]

Second from the left (top) is a logo with an eagle that is printed in red and blue. Again, two copies showed up with both dated 1942. [TYPE 3]

Third from the left (top), the word "Canadian" in a small black font is above the triangle. The two copies are dated 1942 and 1943. [TYPE 4]

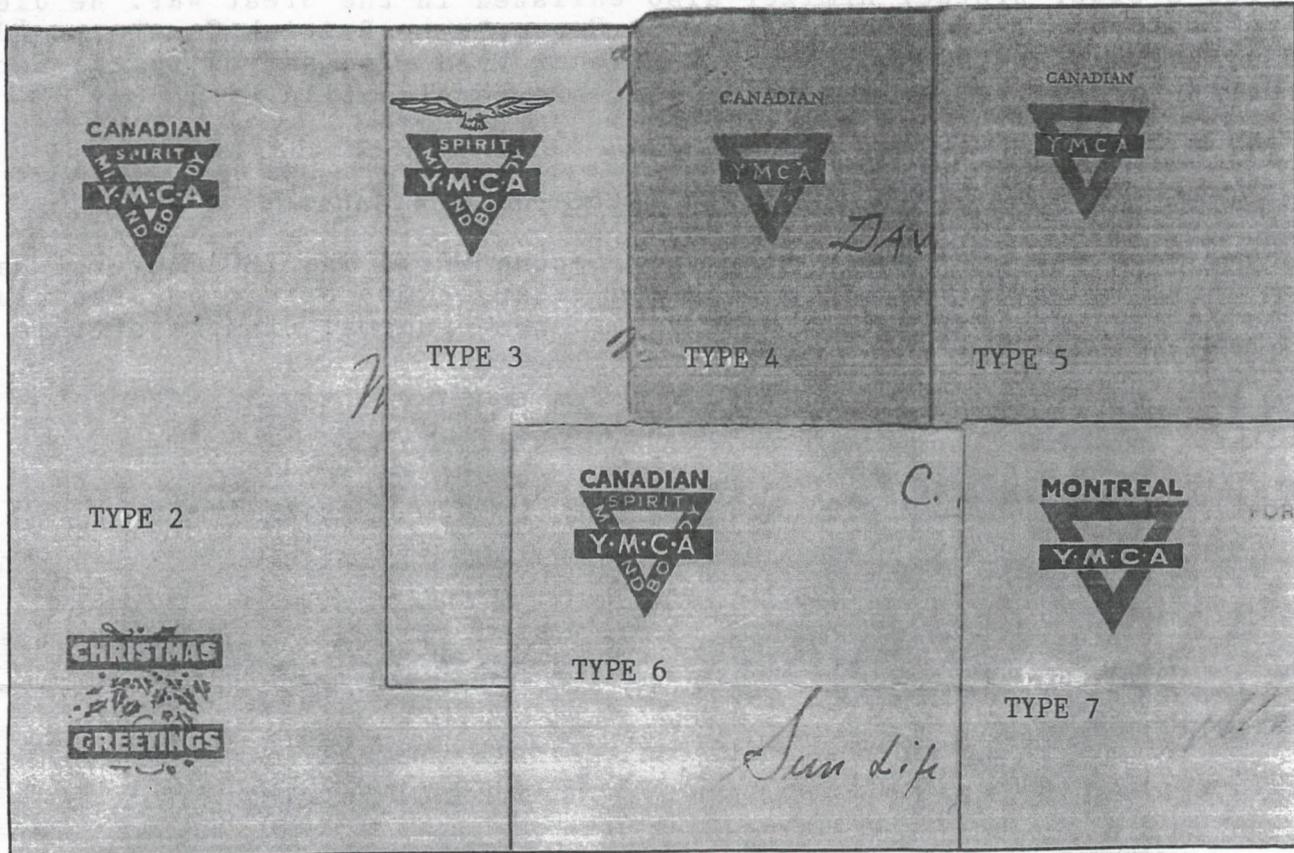
Top right is an even smaller black font dated 1940. [TYPE 5]

The bottom (middle) logo seems to be the standard. Red with black print, I have lots of this logo dated 1941, 1942, and 1943. [TYPE 6]

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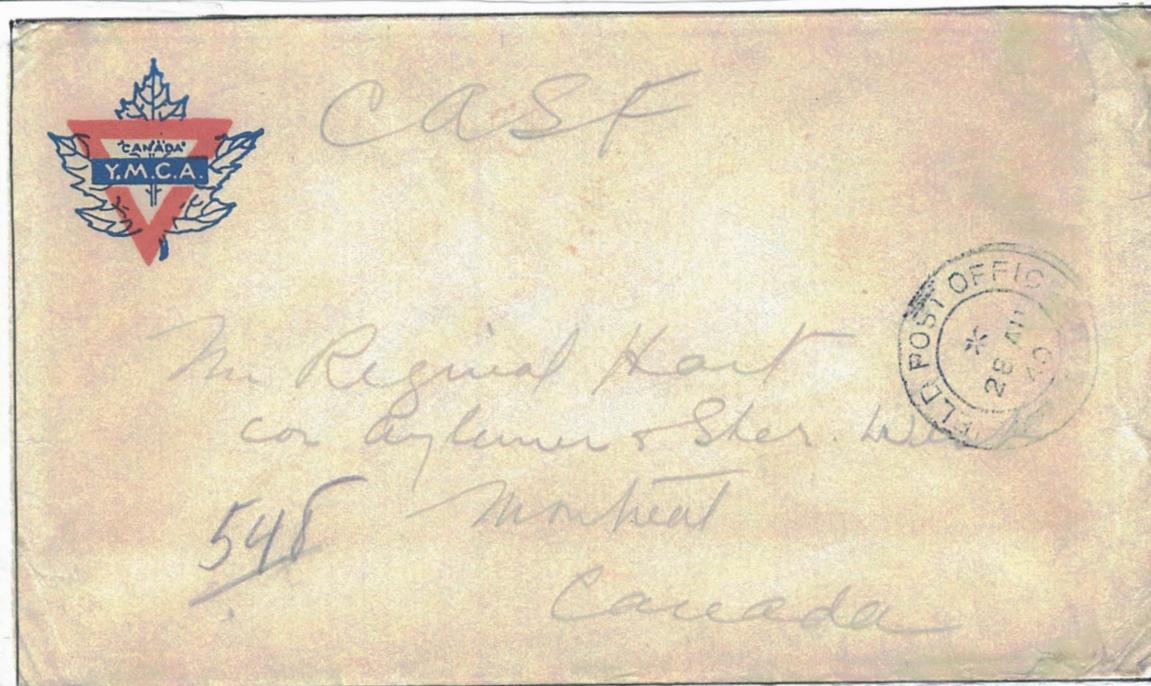
The bottom right logo is another stand out. It is dated 18 July 1940 and is the only copy I have and is the only one posted in Canada. [TYPE 7]



[Thanks Jon for observing that there are so many subjects, themes, and topics left for us to study and collect. Members may recall similar observations undertaken by the late Bob Bayes in his "Auxiliary Service Covers of the Canadian Armed Forces," BNA Topics, Vol.50 (No.2), Whole No.454, March-April 1993, pp. 19-22. Bob's interests then were to focus on the Great War period and expanded to include not only the YMCA but the Salvation Army (along with the late Leslie Clinton), Church Army, and the Red Cross. Certainly we've all benefitted from the incredible study and research by Charles Livermore of Second World War cigarette acknowledgement cards (and his "Thanks For The Smokes" exhibit). In the interest of possible future study, and hopefully with Jon's permission pending his approval, I have numbered his various "types" so members may find it easier to refer to them with future updates. Ed.]

BNAPEX 2020 HALIFAX
4 SEPTEMBER TO 6 SEPTEMBER 2020

YMCA AUXILIARY LOGO FOLLOW-UP



Having a quick look at my material I am able to provide the above

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examples and additional updates to Jon's remarks. I can confirm examples of TYPE 2 dated 28 January 1942 and an additional associated piece of "Christmas" stationery dated 29 December 1941. I have covers of TYPE 4 dated 1941, TYPE 5 dated 1941, and TYPE 6 dated 1944 and 1945.

The illustrated examples offers a "regular" TYPE 1a dated 28 August 1940 with a "1st DIVISIONAL/Orderly Room/AUG 27 1940/DENTAL COY. C.A.S.F." oval marking on reverse. TYPE 8 is YWCA and used from Mountain View MPO 309, Ontario and dated AU 2/45 (6 Bombing and Gunnery School, RCAF). It is in blue. TYPE 9 is in red (vertical lines in triangle) and I have dates of JY 26/40 and NO 14/41. TYPE 10 has a larger "CANADIAN" than that of TYPE 6 and the DB/N 657 censor can be traced to HMCS Transcona.

I'm sure that there are other types, or sub-types out there and Jon has identified that there is a lot more to discover! Members are encouraged to contribute or if they are advanced in this study to send in details.

NO. 15 O.T.U., R.A.F. C/O FERRY COMMAND, HARWELL 1942--By Hal Kellett

This is an airmail cover mailed at Lefroy, Ontario in late March or early April 1942 (the date is illegible) to an addressee in London,



England. An arrival stamp on reverse is 11 April 1942. The cover has manuscript "Unable to Trace", "Return to Sender", "No Trace", and a blue pencil that appears to be "F Flyer". The cover was returned to the Returned Letter Office on 24 July 1942. It also bears a P.C.90 Examiner 421 censor tape. The interesting thing about this cover is

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that it was forwarded to No.15 O.T.U., R.A.F. c/o Ferry Command, Harwell, Berks..

R.A.F. Harwell was open from February 1932 to March 1944. Various bomber squadrons were stationed at this airfield. From August 1940 to September 1941, the airfield suffered numerous Luftwaffe raids. In March 1944 it was re-allocated to 30 Group Airborne Forces where it mainly



operated aircraft able to tow gliders. The first glider-born troops to arrive in Normandy on D-Day came from R.A.F. Harwell.

Harwell was also home to several training units including No.15 Operational Training Unit, and 1443 Flight Ferry Training from 21 January 1942 to 20 April 1943.

UNUSUAL "POST OFFICE"/25 MAY 1943/1 CDN BASE PARK R.C.E.--By John Watson

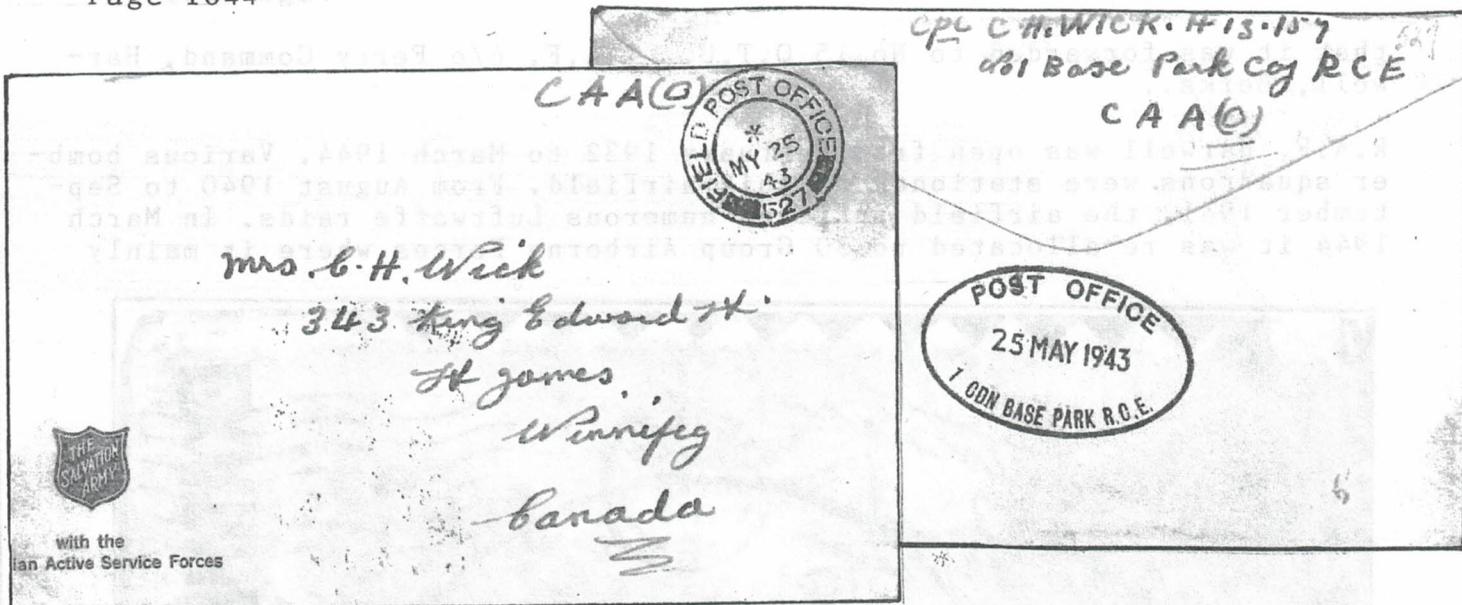
I've just come across another item in my collection that you may like for the Military Mail Newsletter.

It is a letter from FPO 527, 1st Canadian Anti-Aircraft Artillery Brigade in the U.K. [U.K., Surrey, 24-11-41 to 7-3-44, Bailey & Toop (Proud), p. 248.Ed.]. On the reverse is a lovely oval "POST OFFICE/25 MAY 1943/1 CDN BASE PARK R.C.E." which is the same date as the FPO.

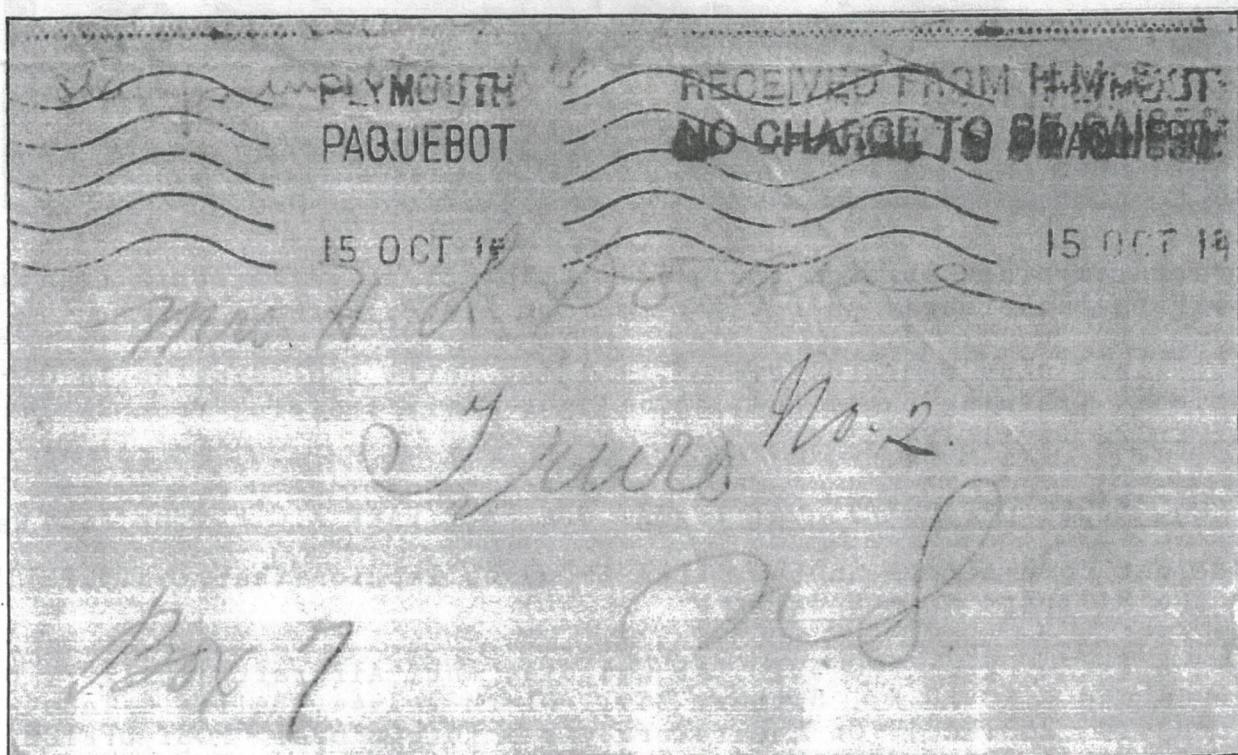
I don't know whether it is a postal marking or an Orderly Room type of mark (it doesn't say "orderly room"), however whatever it is it's on a properly used cover from a soldier to, presumably, his wife or mother and not a philatelic creation.

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GREAT WAR COVER FROM ONE OF THE FIRST CANADIAN ARRIVALS IN ENGLAND--
By Wayne Schnarr



Mike Street found this cover on eBay and pointed it out to me-and I could not resist starting a search to put some history behind this.

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First stop was the Library and Archives Canada site listing the Great War personnel (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx>) and the search for the surname "Doane" gave 29 results-a reasonably small number to assess. The letter might have been to his wife but the two listings with the initials "H" and "L" had not enlisted by this date. Assuming the letter was to his mother, an examination of the other personnel on the list identified Gunner Rowland Herbert Doane, #46139 whose next of kin was "H.L. Doane" in Truro, Nova Scotia.

The full personnel file was available which showed that Gnr. Doane enlisted at Valcartier Camp on 28 September 1914 and was assigned to the 17th Battalion. Next stop is an excellent site for looking up unit histories (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/Pages/units-canadian-expeditionary-force.aspx>). There is a 737-page pdf listing the Infantry Battalions and the synopsis of the 17th Bn. history shows it was organized in Valcartier Camp in September 1914 and was composed of recruits from Nova Scotia and one company from Toronto. This unit sailed from Quebec on 30 September 1914 aboard Ruthenia and disembarked in England on 14 October 1914-one day before the postal marking date on this letter.

While researching hundreds of Great War covers and cards, many searches have shown that the sender or censor was killed in action; some within a week of the date on the item I was assessing. Fortunately, Gnr. Doane survived the war without any serious injuries and was discharged due to demobilization at Halifax in July 1919. Although many Canadian soldiers married while serving overseas, this is my first search where I have seen the marriage information in the files-Gnr. Doane married Annie Tomlinson Brown in Ashford, Kent on 28 October 1916. One happy ending after a brutal conflict.

YMCA AUXILIARY LOGO FOLLOW-UP-II

TYPE 11 just found in another batch of covers was sent from NPO 1113 at Esquimalt, B.C. (HMCS Naden) and dated 18 August 1943. "CANADIAN" and "Y.M.C.A." are in blue.



IN MEMORIAM: MAJ. RICHARD K. MALOTT (RET'D.)

We were very saddened to learn of the passing of Dick Malott on 31 January 2020. Members will remember him as a long-time air mail enthusiast, author, researcher, and dedicated BNAPSer. I don't recall

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his being a member of our group but his membership could have preceded my joining. In any event, we will be familiar with his philatelic efforts promoting the Snowbirds and, naturally, his cached military covers. More detailed remembrances will undoubtedly follow elsewhere. He was a true gentleman and will be greatly missed. Our condolences to his family and friends.

A QUESTION FOR THE NEWSLETTER.

Both Jennifer Denman and Wayne Schnarr have coincidentally written with an age-old dilemma: how to remove (gently) those Admiral stamps from Great War-period (primarily) covers and cards which often hide FPO date-stamps, censor markings, and censor signatures? What is the best way to remove the stamps while keeping any markings or writing intact (Jennifer suggested gently lifting or steaming, while Wayne also noted that the same procedure could be used on censor tapes). Wayne also asked if there is a way to view the markings and writing without removing the stamp? [I'm sure that some of our members can enlighten us. I have an old bottle of "Super Safe Stamp Lift Fluid" (ex. LaMor Corp.) but never considered using it on stamped covers for fear of permanent damage. I have tried a damp model paint brush with mixed results. I have been lucky by simply using a small flashlight to view the stamp-covered FPO from the inside of the envelope but success depends upon the clarity of the ink/strike and the paper thickness. What can members suggest? Ed.]

Dear Study Group Members: Another issue for your reading. I'm grateful for the wonderful support and material members are sending in. Keep 'em coming! Spring is just around the corner and members are reminded of the many shows across the country, the 2-9 May London (U.K.) International, and of course our own BNAPEX 2020 in Halifax, Nova Scotia in September. Until next time, happy hunting and good collecting!

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: WWII MPO 1314 (Edmonton/Jasper- Army Mountain Warfare School) covers/cards. Sayles #D1880/#D1882 or B&T #M13-487-489. Especially registered; MOTO; overseas destination usage. Contact the Editor at blueputtees@hotmail.com (2/2)

WANTED: Correspondence from/to Alfred Jeremiah Stuckey (No.374, Pte., 2nd CMR--Boer War period/Lt./Capt., 1st South Africa Infantry-Great War period). He was from the Vernon, BC area; Hechler and other related 1885 N.W. Rebellion ephemera (not "unofficial" stationery); WWII Newfoundlanders in British Forces. Contact the Editor at blueputtees@hotmail.com (3/3)

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 (7/10)
