



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018

NEWSLETTER NO. 233

Page 1571

CHRISTMAS 1918/NEW YEAR 1919-49TH EDMONTON REGIMENT (FRANCE)

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, here is a card from a member of the 49th. It's a different one than that illustrated in NL#187 (Nov. 2008, pp. 1003-1004).



The 49th, from Edmonton, Alberta, was in France from October 9,

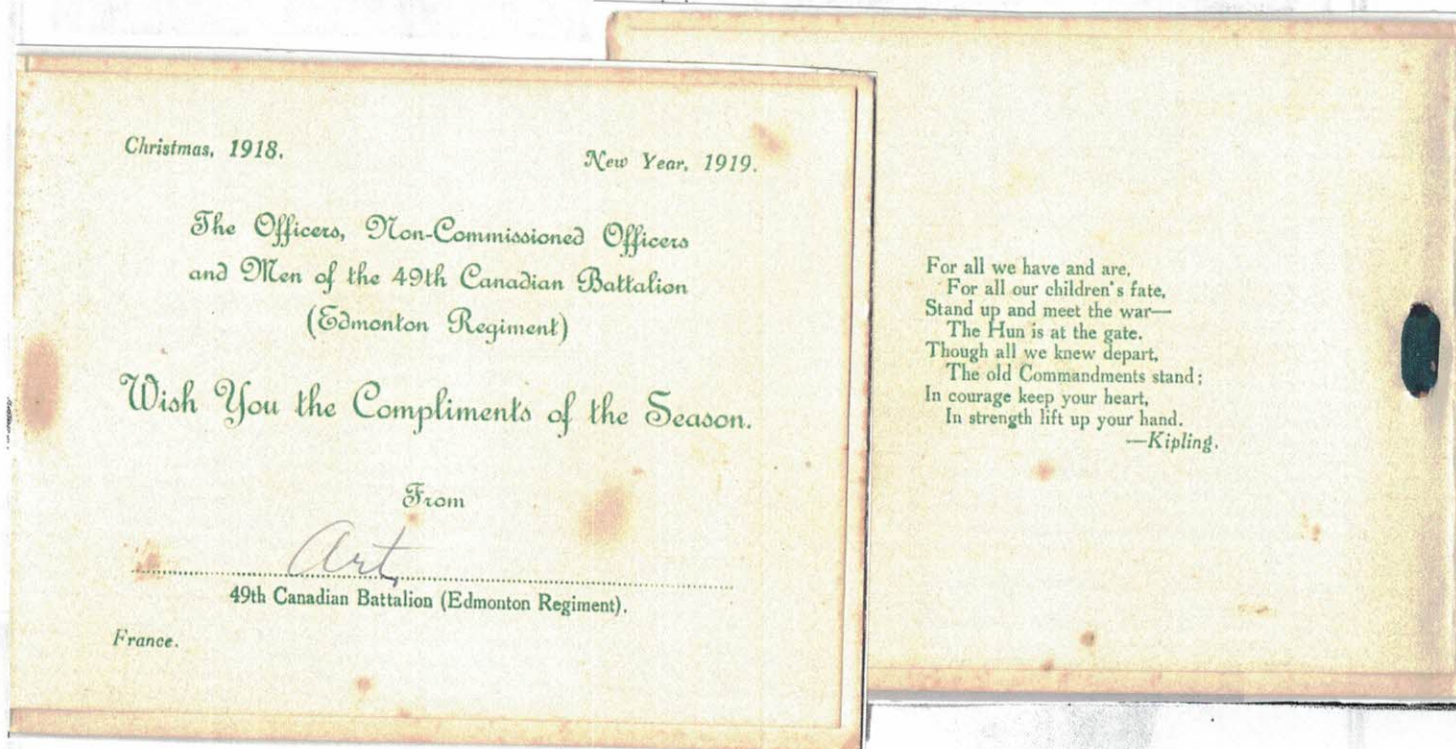
[Cont'd.]

**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)**

Page 1572

1915 to February 9, 1919. The regiment returned to Canada aboard the Cameronia on March 8, 1919. At the time the O.C. was L/Col. R.H. Palmer, DSO from October 2, 1918 to demobilization. Significant battle honours at this time included the Scarpe (1918), Hindenburg Line, Canal du Nord, Pursuit to Mons, and France and Flanders 1915-1918. It was part of the 3rd Division, 7th Infantry Brigade. The card's attractive green and gold ribbon matches the green printed salutation inside.



SECOND WORLD WAR "CANADIAN MARITIME MAIL" CACHET--By Jon Johnson, OTB

Through a study of the covers shown below I have come to the conclusion that the "CANADIAN/MARITIME/MAIL" (CMM) cachet was exclusively used for, and by, the Second World War Canadian merchant navy.* Any further information and/or comments are welcome:

FIG.1 [over.Ed.] shows the earliest CMM cachet I have seen. Measuring 47mm x 26mm**, it is on an Armed Forces Air Letter dated April 8, 1945 with more questions than answers. There are no postmarks. The return address is "Tweedsmuir Park, c/o Box 9000, Montreal". Mail addressed "c/o P.O. Box 9000, Montreal" and "c/o P.O. Box 9000, Vancouver" were part of a Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) mail forwarding programme handling Canadian merchant navy mail. So we know this cover is from a Canadian merchant mariner. The writer is "In Port" [sic] without saying where that may be. The ship manager was McLean Kennedy Ltd., Montreal, Quebec. Notably, the cover was posted unpaid and was not charged postage due for the deficiency.

FIG.2 [again over.Ed.] is an interesting cover. Clearly Mr. G.J. Lund***

[Cont'd.]



FIG. 1

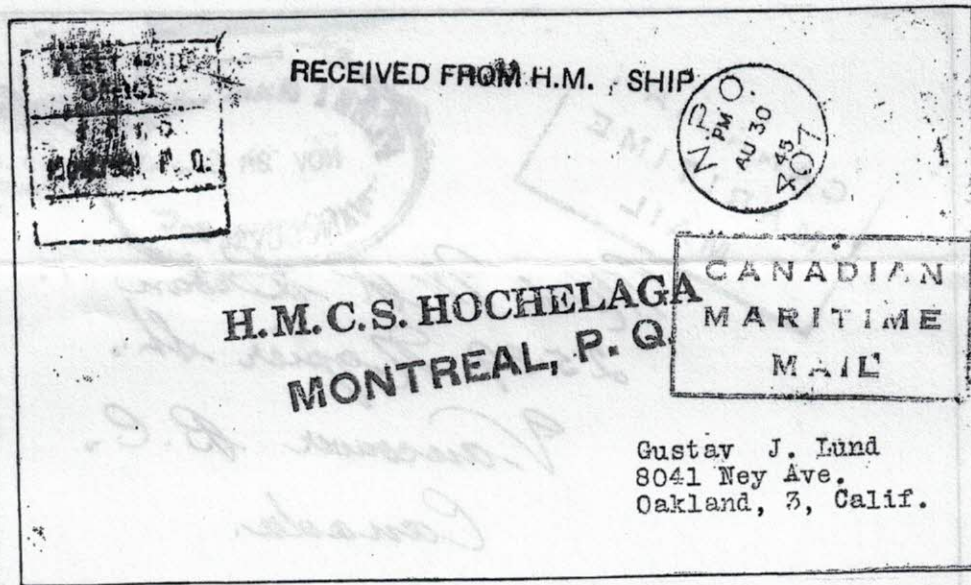


FIG. 2

(see my note at the end) sent a cover to NPO 407 (HMCS Hochelaga) requesting copies of all available cancels and cachets on the cover. The cover received an NPO 407 strike dated "AU 30/45". This date correctly falls inside the four week period when merchant sailors could send surface mail posted unpaid. The CMM cachet proves that the CMM rubber stamp was available at NPO 407. NPO 407 was a non-accounting post office which means it did not sell stamps; it only processed incoming and outgoing merchant navy mail. The "RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIP" ("C." being removed) presumably is for use on any Royal Navy mail received at NPO 407. There is an unrecorded "FLEET MAIL/OFFICE/N.O.I.C./MONTREAL, P.Q." cachet. For colour there are large miscellaneous cachets "H.M.C.S. HOCH-ELAGA" (NPO 407 location) and "MONTREAL, P.Q." in red.

I have a second and third Lund philatelic cover (not illustrated) both dated "03 SP/45". They have an NPO 407 strike on a 1¢ Scott #231 and a pair of 1¢ Scott "178 respectively. Both have CMM and RECEIVED FROM H.M.

[Cont'd.]

Page 1574

H.M. SHIP cachets.

On September 31, 1945 NPO 407 in Montreal closed as the RCN ceased operating the "c/o P.O. Box 9000, Montreal" and "c/o P.O. Box 9000, Vancouver" system. Mail, and presumably miscellaneous post office equipment, was redirected to NPO 409, Montreal (HMCS Donnacona).

FIG.3, dated November 26, 1945, is a cover with a CMM cachet and an unrecorded "FLEET MAIL OFFICE/VANCOUVER, B.C.". The return address is the freighter S.S. Cromwell Park. The ship manager was Canadian Transport Company, Vancouver, B.C. The Vancouver Fleet Mail Office and "c/o P.O. Box 9000, Vancouver" were both located in NPO 1117, Vancouver (HMCS Burrard).

On February 28, 1946 NPO 409, Montreal closed. Mail, and presumably miscellaneous post office equipment, was redirected to a desk at the main Montreal Post Office.

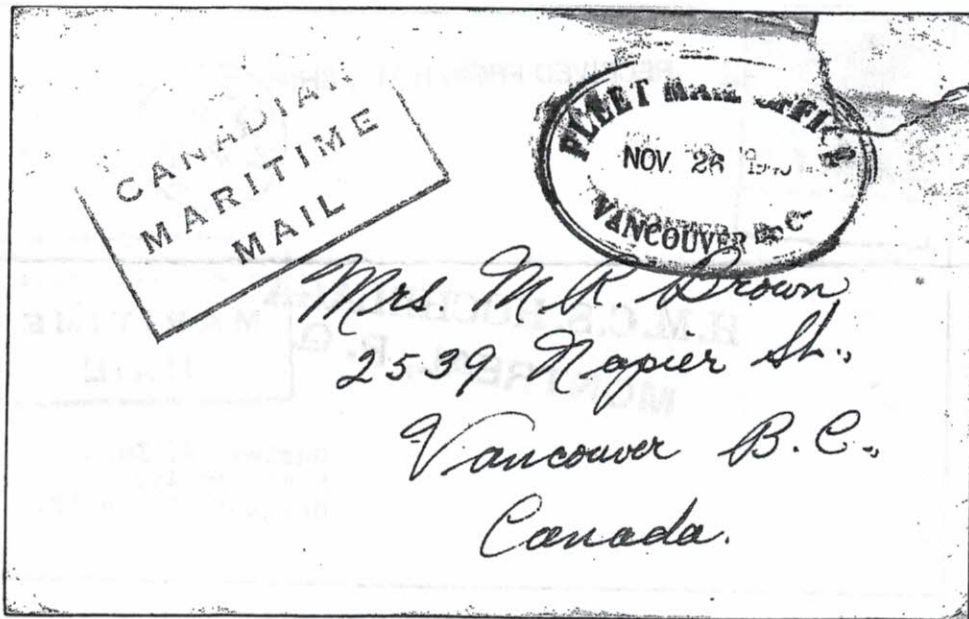


FIG.3

FIG.4 [over.Ed.] is a philatelic cover cancelled "DE 10/47" at Montreal addressed to "Mr. John F. Field" with a CMM cachet and "M.V. CANADIAN CHALLENGER" cachet. Clearly the NPO 407 CMM cachet survived at the bottom of a drawer at the aforementioned desk in the main Montreal Post Office. Prior to 1947 Canadian Challenger had been named S.S. Sutherland Park (and managed by Canadian National Steamships Ltd., Montreal, P.Q.).

In summary, of twelve covers with a CMM cachet, eleven have a visible link to the Canadian merchant navy. Therefore this CMM cachet should be considered to have been for exclusive use on mail originating from the Canadian merchant navy. Eight covers have a connection to Montreal, one has a connection to Vancouver, leaving three without enough information to say where the CMM cachet was applied. From this I am certain that a CMM rubber stamp was located in NPO 407, Montreal. The one cover linked

[Cont'd.]

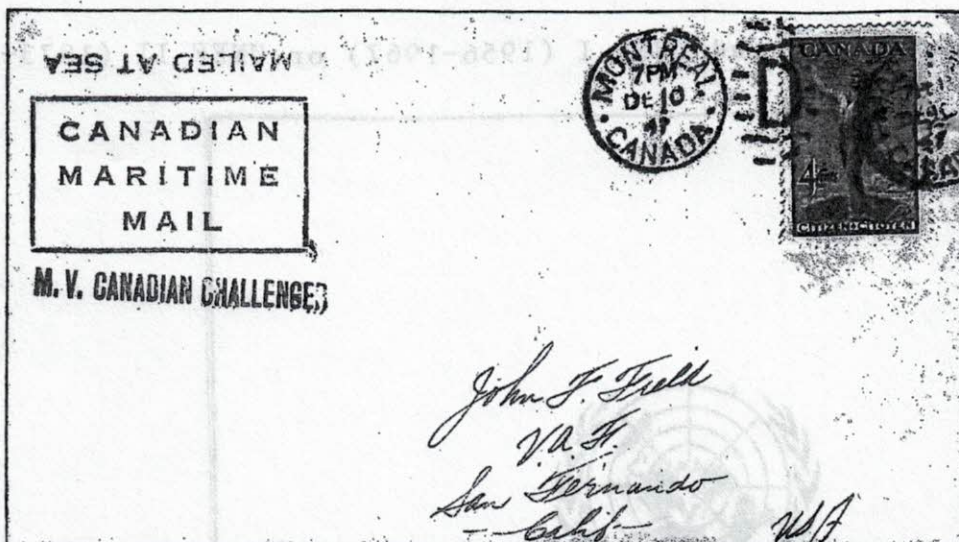


FIG.4

to NPO 1117, Vancouver suggests that a second CMM rubber stamp may have been located in the "c/o P.O. Box 9000, Vancouver" office of NPO 1117.

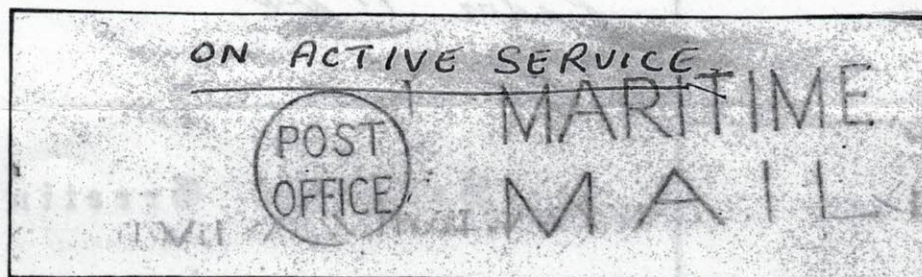


FIG.5

NOTES

- [*] The CMM cachet probably originated as a Canadian equivalent to the undated British GPO machine cancel "POST/OFFICE/MARITIME/MAIL" in use 1943 to 1964. See FIG.5.
- [**] The 47mm by 26mm CMM cachet has been seen in blue, black, and burgundy.
- [***] Gus Lund was a collector and cataloguer of worldwide paquebot markings. See: Gustav J. Lund, The Paquebot Marks of the Americas.

U.N. MISSIONS' CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: UNMOGIP & UNEF, CAIRO--By Robert Toombs

[Bob sent along the following Christmas cards from UNMOGIP (1949-1979)

[Cont'd.]

Page 1576

in India and Pakistan, and UNEF I (1956-1967) or UNEF II (1973-1979) in Cairo.Ed]



Padre Walsh

Season's Greetings
and
Best Wishes

Pad

UNITED NATIONS MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP
IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

[Cont'd.]

United Nations Emergency Force

CAIRO



*To wish you much happiness
for the season
and prosperity
throughout the New Year*

AFEHYIA PA

BONNE ANNÉE

DOSIEGO ROKU

FELIZ E PROSPERO ANO NOVO

GOTT NYTT AR#

GLUEKLIGES NEUES JAHR

HYVÄÄ UUTTA VUOTTA

HAPPY NEW YEAR

NAYA BARSA CO SUBA KAMANA

NOLLAIG FE MAISE DHUIT

SALAMAT TAHUN BARU

Page 1578

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 1918 FROM THE FOURTH BATTERY, C.F.A.(GERMANY) &
LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE (ROYAL CANADIANS)(FRANCE)

Members may recall the Canadian Field Artillery card from the late Steve Luciuk (NL#127, Nov. 1996, p.269). Given the timeliness of the anniversary, I hope that members feel it again appropriate.

The 4th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, was a part of the First Canadian Division, C.E.F., First Brigade, C.F.A. A few details of the junior officers' Military Cross awards include:

Lt. Frederick Drury Baragar, M.C., London Gazette: 31119/11, Jan. 1919
 Lt. De St. Denis Duchesnay, M.C., " : 31119/11; "
 A/Capt. John Archibald Gordon, M.C. (Lt.) " : 31219/8, March 1919,
 (Awarded near Haynecourt, N.W. of Cambrai, 31583/4, Oct. 1919
 September 28, 1918)
 Lt. Henry Aicken Stewart, M.C. (2Lt., Royal F.A.)":30287/17, Sept. 1917

The reverse of the card has a multicoloured patriotic cinderella label affixed; possibly a souvenir from the sender.



With Best Wishes
 for
 the Merriest Christmas
 and
 the Happiest New Year
 of the War
 from
 The Officers of the Fourth Battery
 Canadian Field Artillery

Christmas, 1918,
 Germany.

Major Alex. O. Mc Murtry, D. S. O.

A/Capt. J. Archie Gordon, M. C.

Lieut. H. A. Stewart, M. C. Lieut. F. D. Baragar, M. C.

„ D. Duchesnay, M. C. „ J. A. Cole

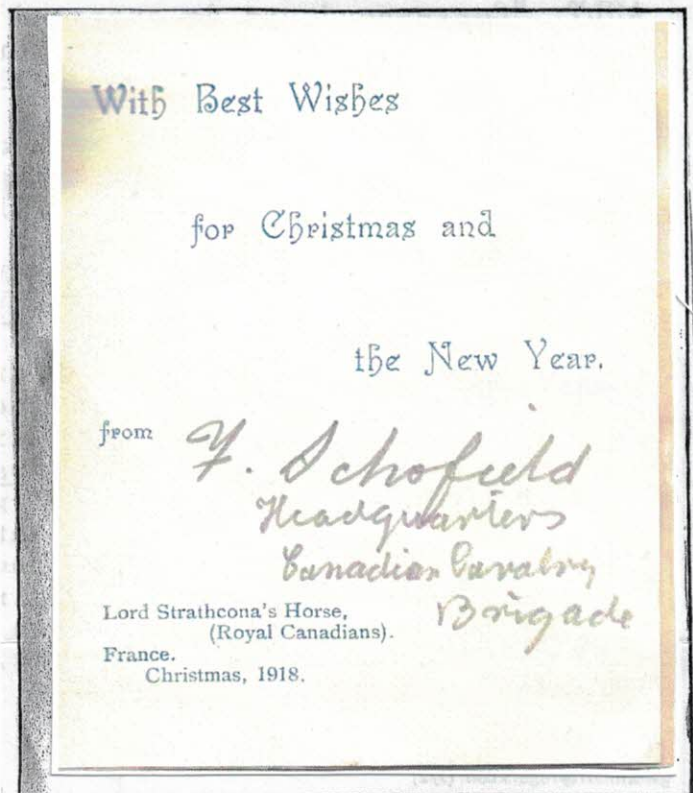
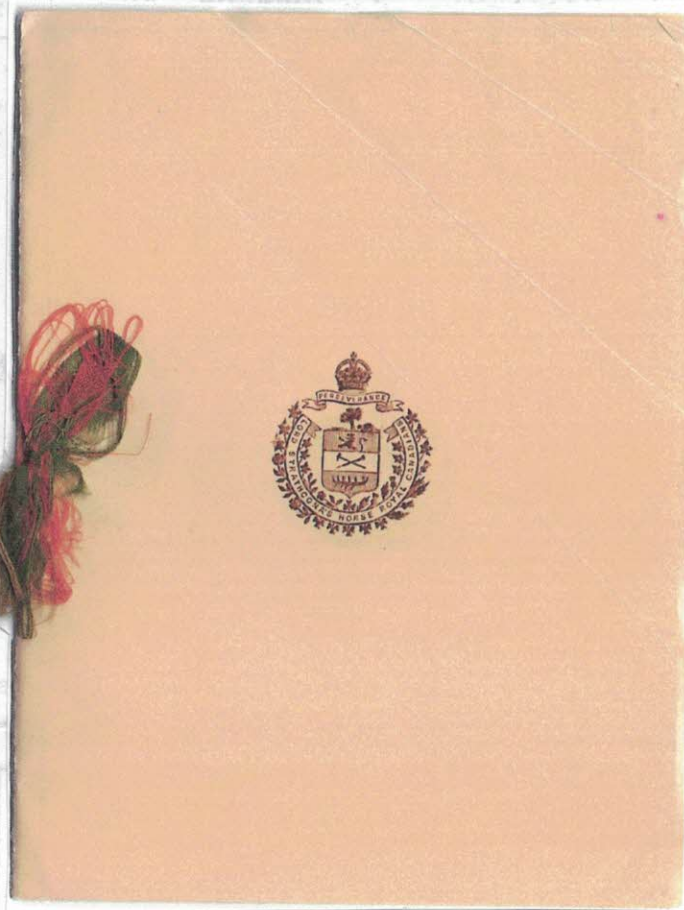
„ D. A. Mac Donald „ E. L. Casey

Lieut. G. H. Lutz



[Cont'd.]

Battle honours for the Lord Strathcona's Horse (R.C.) included Pursuit to Mons, and France and Flanders 1915-1918. Information on the sender, F. (?) Schofield, Headquarters, Canadian Cavalry Brigade, is not known at this time.



Dear Study Group Members:

Mike and I extend our very best wishes for the upcoming holiday season and an equally happy, healthy, and prosperous 2019!

The cupboard is empty with few articles therein so members are once again encouraged to send in anything of interest. Thanks to those who contributed for this issue. Military postal history is still "hot", and many substantial collections have been (or will) come onto the market, so there is (will be) a good deal of material to showcase.

Welcome to our newest members: NEIL RITCHIE (U.K.) and JIM ETHERINGTON (U.K.) who have joined our ranks.

Congratulations are extended to the following at BNAPEX 2018, September 21-23, at Quebec City:

[Cont'd.]

Page 1580

J.M. POWELL, "The Great War Internment Camps of Canada", Horace Harrison Grand Award, Canadian Military Mail Study Group Award, Gold, the E.R. "Ritch" Toop Memorial Award for 2017: Canadian Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees in Europe During the Great War; J. JOHNSON, "Canadian Merchant Navy, July 1943 to September 1945", Gold (one frame); C. LIVERMORE, "Military Toronto: 1793 Through the 1940's", Vermeil; L. LEGAULT, "Correspondence de guerre d'Emile Martin (1914-1916)", Vermeil (one frame). Few military postal history exhibits obtain a BNAPEX Grand Award so congratulations to Mike as well as all the other exhibitors.

At VICPEX, October 6-7, congratulations are extended to H. KELLETT, "British Commonwealth Air Training Plan", Gold, W. (Bill) Sach Award (best display of Canadian material).

MERRY CHRISTMAS 1944 FROM "SOMEWHERE IN HOLLAND" R.C.A.F.

Here, in blue, is a card from "Ian" with the R.C.A.F. in Holland. According to Bailey and Toop's The Canadian Military Posts (Volume II), when the 1 Canadian Army Base Post Office (1 CABPO) moved to Antwerp in October 1944, the R.C.A.F. relocated several airport detachments to airfields in Eindhoven as well as Antwerp in Holland (p.124). Presumably Ian was at, or near, one of these stations.

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 (1/10)

WANTED: WWI covers/contents to "Miss Margaret Rymal, Toronto". She was an Eaton's employee who wrote to fellow employees in the C.E.F.; email Wayne Schnarr at: gwschnarr@rogers.com (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 (5/5)

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 (2/5)

