



# Canadian Military Mail Study Group

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

NEWSLETTER NO. 243

Page 1683

### THE YUKON MOTOR MACHINE GUN BATTERY: AN INCOMING AND AN OUT- GOING COVER--By Kevin O'Reilly

This cover (Figure 1) appears to have been sent within the UK to a member of the Boyle Yukon Motor Machine Gun Company and was censored and received by Trooper James Edelston while at Shornecliffe, England on July 1, 1915 (see the weak receiver on the back). Any assistance with the censor markings, routing or other information on this World War I cover would be appreciated. Are other covers to or from the Boyle Yukon Motor Machine Gun Company known? A brief history of the unit follows assembled from a variety of internet references (any corrections appreciated).

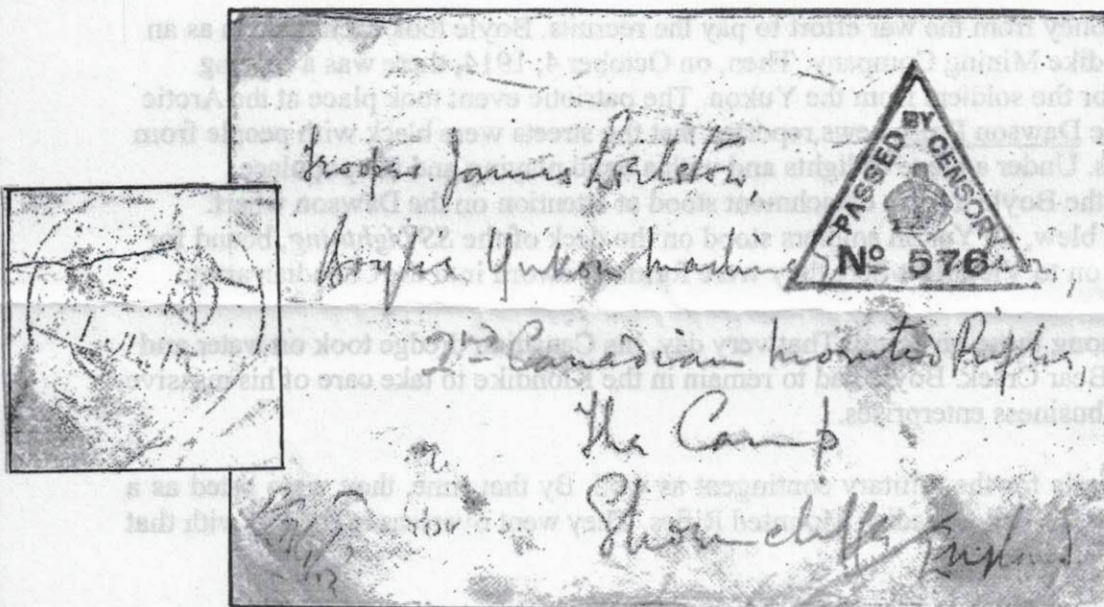


Fig.1

[Cont'd.]

\*\*\*\*\*

CHAIRMAN: H.M. (MIKE) STREET, OTB, FCPS, UNIT 105, 1136 MARITIME WAY,  
KANATA, ON K2K 0M1 (mike.street1@gmail.com)

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

\*\*\*\*\*

On August 4th, 1914, Britain declared war against Germany which meant that Canada too was at war. Canadians by thousands were signing up to go overseas. Joseph Whiteside Boyle, a Dawson mining magnate, was determined the Yukon would not be left out of the action. He wired Sam Hughes, the Minister of Defense, saying he could assemble a 50-man machine-gun company from the Yukon to assist in the war effort. On September 4th, 1914, the offer was accepted. The Boyle Yukon Motor Machine Gun Company was established.

Within a week, 50 men had signed up. One of those who signed up was James Edelston who had served with the Northwest Mounted Police (NWMP) who was the recipient of this cover. Edelston was born in August 1876 in England, likely in the Blackpool, Lancashire area where his mother lived and where he later worked for the Cornbrook Brewery as a horse driver (LAC, RG 18, Volume 3430, File 4047). He appears to have immigrated to Canada and settled as a farmer in the Winnipeg area where he applied to join the Northwest Mounted Police on July 14, 1903. After a medical exam, he was accepted into the force for a five-year term on July 21, 1903. He arrived in Skagway on September 20, 1903 on his way to his assignment in Dawson at the NWMP B Division. He applied for an early discharge in about June 1906 after receiving an offer of employment with his brother who was an indigo broker in Calcutta, India. It is not clear what happened with his early discharge application which was approved internally on June 16 but he was imprisoned on July 24 for 21 days. A Board of Officers proceeding was held on August 7 where he was dismissed from the NWMP effective August 8, 1906. The report indicates Edelston's service with the NWMP as "bad" and it is not clear what happened or what he did afterwards. He signed on to the Boyle Yukon Motor Machine Gun Company after remaining in Dawson but nothing further has been located on his fate or further career.

Since there was no money from the war effort to pay the recruits, Boyle took each man on as an employee of his Klondike Mining Company. Then, on October 4, 1914, there was a rousing parade and send-off for the soldiers from the Yukon. The patriotic event took place at the Arctic Brotherhood Hall. The Dawson Daily news reported that the streets were black with people from the city and the creeks. Under a blaze of lights and with a band playing and the populace shouting, the boys of the Boyle Yukon detachment stood at attention on the Dawson wharf. When the last whistle blew, 50 Yukon soldiers stood on the deck of the *SS Lightning*, bound for Whitehorse, and then on to Victoria where they were formally sworn into the Canadian army.

Joe Boyle was not among those on board. That very day, his Canadian dredge took on water and sank in its pond near Bear Creek. Boyle had to remain in the Klondike to take care of his massive and now problematic business enterprises.

There were many ordeals for the military contingent as well. By that time, they were listed as a machine gun section to the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles. They went overseas to the UK with that regiment in May 1915.

When these independent MG units arrived in the UK, resistance by the British Army led to their delay in sailing for France. When in the UK, the Yukon Battery was amalgamated for a short time with one of the other four units; the Borden Battery. The unit first known as the Boyle Mounted Machine Gun Detachment was attached to the Eaton MG Brigade but were not on establishment and had no guns or equipment for many months. Through the winter of 1915-16, they remained at Shorncliffe in the UK until 33 of their 50 originals who had not been selected for drafts to France

were formed into a battery which later became divisional troops of the 4th Canadian Division in training at Bramshott.

By June 1916, the Yukon's total strength had dwindled to 34 men. It was then sent to the Canadian Machine School as a prelude to being attached to 4th Canadian Infantry Division. In August 1916, having received its complement of Armoured Autocars and other equipment, it was sent to France to join the 4th Division. On 19 August 1916, the Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade was created overseas, by a reorganization of these various MG units.

- A Battery was a redesignation of the 1st Battery of the Automobile MG Bde
- B Battery was a redesignation of the 2nd Battery of the Automobile MG Bde
- C Battery was a redesignation of Borden's Motor MG Battery (raised 1 Jul 1915 at Ottawa)
- D Battery was a redesignation of Eaton's Motor MG Battery (raised 1 Jul 1915 at Toronto)
- E Battery was a redesignation of Boyle's Yukon Motor MG Battery (raised 1915 in Yukon Territory)

Each battery was divided into three sections, each section having two Colt machine guns, five motorcycles (three with sidecars), and a car. The battery was led by 4 officers and had 45 other ranks.

It fought with 4th Division until December 3, 1916 when it finally joined the other motor machine gun batteries in what was known as 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade (1stCMMGB). In 1917, the Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade transferred to the CMGC.

The Brigade fought as machine gunners in all of the major battles that Canadians participated in such as Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele among others. They also supported many different British formations.

On June 8, 1918, the Brigade was reorganized with the addition of new units and it was split into two brigades, the 1st and 2nd CMMGB. The Yukon Machine Gun Battery was moved to 2nd CMMGB and fought with that unit to the end of the war. Both brigades came into their own during the desperate German offensive of 1918 where they moved throughout the battlefield in their armoured Autocars providing machine gun support wherever required. On October 10, 1918, a 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade was formed, with "D" Battery of the 1st being transferred as a cadre. In August of 1919, just three of the 50 men returned to the Klondike. Both brigades were officially disbanded on 15 November 1920. Joe Boyle didn't return either. He spent his last days in England, where he died in 1923.

Joe Boyle of the Canadian Klondyke Mining Company offered to sponsor a 50 man machine gun detachment at the outbreak of World War I. The offer was accepted by Sam Hughes, Canada's Minister of Militia and Defence. Thirty-eight men signed up and they left Dawson on October 9, 1914 and about a dozen more joined them in Whitehorse. This unit eventually became known as the Yukon Motor Machine Battery.

Here is some further background information on this unit:

- Organized in August 1914 as Boyle's Yukon Mounted Machine Gun Detachment
- Composed of 50 men, originally commanded by Captain Knot, later by Captain H. F. V. Meurling.

- Raised in Dawson and equipped by J.W. Boyle of Canadian Klondike Mining Co.
- Uniform: Stetsons, khaki-coloured mackinaw coats, breeches, long boots.
- Mobilized at Victoria and attached to 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles.
- Left Montreal 12 June 1915.
- Attached to Eaton Motor Machine Gun Battery, 26 July 1915.
- Name changed unofficially to Boyle's Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery in July 1915.
- Redesignated Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery, 16 June 1916.
- Arrived in France 16 August 1916 and attached to 1st Canadian Motor machine Gun Brigade.
- Absorbed by 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade 8 June 1918.

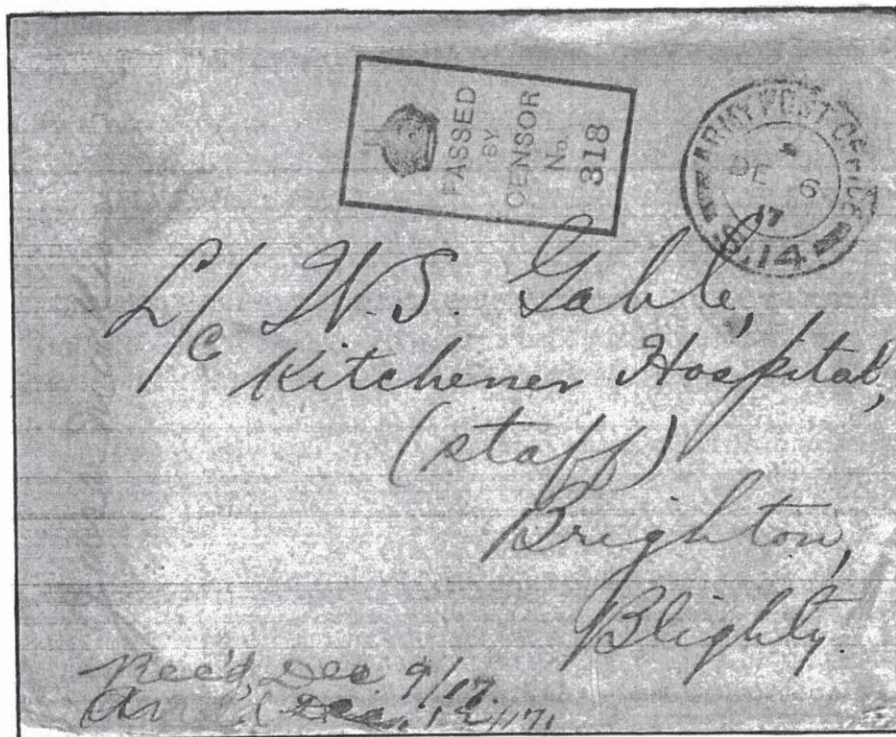


Fig.2

Here is an outgoing cover mailed from the Yukon Motor Machine Battery during World War I while this unit was at Pernes, France according to its War Diary. The cover has the circular date stamp of the British Army Post Office S.14 and the item was also censored using a red boxed censor marking (number 318). The cover was sent by Virden Gable originally from Swan River, Manitoba. It was sent his brother Wellington Samuel Gable (note the docketing at bottom indicating the item was received on December 9 and answered three days later, in Wellington's handwriting). Virden Gable started out with an assignment to the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion and was reassigned to the Yukon Motor Machine Battery in November 1917. [ Fig.2 ]

On December 5, 1917 Lieutenant James Anderson McKinnon (1872-1938) assumed command of the unit. He also censored this cover. McKinnon had been a placer miner in Dawson at the beginning of WWI and volunteered to serve with Boyle's unit. He enlisted on November 10, 1914 in Vancouver and returned to Canada in April 1919 and was listed as returning to Dawson, Yukon

[Cont'd.]

but nothing further was found on him. This is the only reported item sent by a member of the Yukon Motor Machine Battery.

### References

Gates, Michael. 2017. From the Klondike to Berlin: The Yukon in World War I. Madeira Park, BC: Harbour Publishing Co.

Library and Archives Canada (LAC). RG18, Records of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Series G, Volume 3430, File 4047, James Edelman.

LAC. Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 3347 – 34. Virden Gable. <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=405867>

LAC. Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 3347 – 35. Samuel Wellington Gable. <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=405868>

LAC. Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 7003 – 26. James Anderson McKinnon. <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=166594>

LAC. n.d. Guide to Sources Relating to Units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Machine Gun Units. <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/Documents/machine%20gun%20units.pdf>

LAC. RG 9 III-D-3, vol. 4988, folder 632. Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery War diary, 1 Aug. 1916 - 8 June 1918.  
[http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayEcopies&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=2004855&rec\\_nbr\\_list=2004855&title=War+diaries+-+Yukon+Motor+Machine+Gun+Battery+%3D+Journal+de+guerre+-+Batterie+de+mitrailleurs+motoris%C3%A9s+Yukon.&ecopy=e001196792](http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayEcopies&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2004855&rec_nbr_list=2004855&title=War+diaries+-+Yukon+Motor+Machine+Gun+Battery+%3D+Journal+de+guerre+-+Batterie+de+mitrailleurs+motoris%C3%A9s+Yukon.&ecopy=e001196792)

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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 covers/cards/Xmas cards etc. connected with Saskatchewan regiments; the P.P.C.L.I.; and R.N.W.M.P. Cavalry Drafts. Contact The Editor at [blueputtees@hotmail.com](mailto:blueputtees@hotmail.com) (2/5)

\*\*\*\*\*

Page 1688

THE "REGULAR" C.O.E.F. HAMMER LATEST DATE RECORDED?--By Dean Mario

Members will know that an archive of previous auction catalogues can be very useful. I came upon this item in a catalogue from R.A. Lee Auctions (#71, 13 February 1993) which members might find interesting. It may be the latest recorded date for the "usual" crown-over-circle Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force devices. It appears to be one of the steel hammers (ie. Bailey & Toop #'s M4-2 to M4-9; 1, pp.35-37). Bailey & Toop note that these hammers "appear to have been recalled in March 1915" [1, p.34]. E.R. "Ritch" Toop previously examined these hammers but did not determine the period of usage [2]. In his collection, however, a crown-over-circle steel dater is illustrated with an "8 FEB 1915" date [3, p.69], which may have been the latest date recorded until the item below appeared and was recognized as significant.\*



Lt.Col. R.H. Webb noted that the latest recorded known date (at the time) was 4 February 1915 of the C.O.E.F. Type 5.02 hammers (when in England/Salisbury Plain)[4, pp.93-94]. However the Editors do point out that a much later date of 27 July 1915 has been found on the various "Ross" favour covers but on a different C.O.E.F. FPO No. 15 hammer (with the misspelled "EXEPDITIONARY") cancelling French [and Belgian.Ed.] postage stamps [4, p.92]. One of these is illustrated in [3, p.71].

Is 26 June 1915 the latest recorded date for the "regular" C.O.E.F. hammers? The description in the Lee Auction catalogue noted that it was on a Field Service Post Card addressed to Toronto, but did not illustrate the entire card. Do any of our members have this card and can send in a complete version. Could it be another "favour" strike like those of FPO hammer No.15? Is it possible to research the sender to ascertain more about this item?

I am not a specialist on these hammers and if members can enlighten

[Cont'd.]

us on the card, the dates of usage, and other information on these hammers they are invited to contact the Editor.

### Sources

- [1] Bailey, W.J. and E.R. Toop. W.J. Bailey, Ed. Canadian Military Postal Markings. Vol.I. Waterford, MI: C.G. Firby Publications, 1996.
- [2] Toop, E.R. "Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force Postmarks, 1914-15-Part I". PHSC Journal 31, 30 September 1982, pp.36-38.
- [3] McGuire, C.R. and R.F. Narbonne, Eds. The Major E.R. Toop Collection of Canadian Military Postal History, Vol.I. BNAPS, 1996.
- [4] Webb, R.H. Lt.Col. A Guide to Canadian Military Postal History, 1636-1970. R. Toombs, G. Scrimgeour, B. Plain, Eds. PHSC, 2014.

### \*Postscript

As with most things in postal history, there always seems to be additional information which arises post-analysis. In seeking some other information, I again came upon the previous sale of the Ed Richardson Military Collection by C.G. Firby Auctions, 13-14 November 1991. Lot 226 was of interest:

"CANADIAN OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE steel hammer FEB.9, 1915 ties 1p G.B. [part of the illustration shows the addressee as 'Mr. Percy Dawson, c/o Messrs. Heymann & Alexander'] on VF cover to England. This is probably the last day of legitimate usage of these hammers as there is extant a card dated FEB.9, 1915 from a member of C.P.C. that states 'these hammers are to be withdrawn today'. Slight toning mentioned for the record. Estimate \$100.00"

Is 9 February 1915 indeed the "last day of legitimate usage", albeit this was noted in 1991? The 26 June 1915 example surfaced in 1993. Members comments are solicited.

\*\*\*\*\*

### WE WILL REMEMBER THEM--UPDATE--Robert Henderson

[Bob sent along an update to his previous (NL#242, Nov.2020, pp.1676-1677) related to 859706, Pte. Alexander Nicholson. He was born 27 September 1892 and was the son of John and Jessie Nicholson of Ninette, Manitoba. His grieving mother was the recipient of the estate information. Nicholson was a member of the 43rd Battalion (Manitoba Regiment).Ed.]

\*\*\*\*\*

### FYI: WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Members will no doubt be aware of the following related military postal history and military websites. As a refresher, here are a few of potential interest:

Forces Postal History Society: [www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk)  
 Military postal History Society: [www.militaryphs.org](http://www.militaryphs.org)

[Cont'd.]

Page 1690

Orders and Medals Research Society: [www.omrs.org](http://www.omrs.org)  
Military Collectors Club of Canada: [www.mccofc.ca](http://www.mccofc.ca)  
Canadian Society of Military Medals and Insignia: [www.csmmi.com](http://www.csmmi.com)  
Orders and Medals Society of America: [www.omsa.org](http://www.omsa.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

UPDATE--REVISED WWI CENSOR NUMBERS TABLES--By Wayne Schnarr

All military mail sent by Canadian soldiers in the field in WW I should have been censored, as indicated by the censor signature and the PASSED BY CENSOR handstamp. With minor exceptions, the handstamps allocated to the Canadian units in France were of types CM2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. An article which summarizes the allocation of censor type/number to specific Canadian units was authored by the late John Frith, with data supplied by fellow members of the CMMSG, as part of the BNAPS 1991 publication 'A Canadian Military Postal History Anthology'.

I have just completed a review of all files created by John Frith which were kindly supplied to Mike Street by John's widow and I have finalized a format for the tables to be included in Volume 1 of the Military Mail Markings catalogue to be hopefully published late in 2021. A copy of the first page of the CM6 table is shown in this article.

- The CM6 table has 292 numbers where a unit has been assigned to a number and 158 numbers where a unit could not be assigned. The CM5 table has 224 assigned numbers and 117 unassigned numbers.
- Numbers are unassigned if the censor name is not legible or cannot be matched to the government list of WW1 soldiers and nurses.
- It was suggested that an ERD/LRD listing be created like the one used in the RPO catalogue. You will notice that there are some listings in the table with only an ERD listing – this would be the date on the one cover for which I have a scan or other information. There are also some listings which have neither an ERD nor an LRD – these are usually for numbers assigned by John Frith but for which I have no information on the covers used for that assignment. If any CMMSG member worked with John on the Anthology article or unpublished updates, this information would be a major contribution to improving these updated tables.

Approximately 71 million letters were sent by Canadian troops during WW 1, according to CPC records. My personal estimate for the number of surviving covers and cards is about 25,000 items or 0.035% of the mailed items.

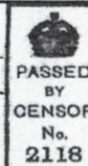
I have never seen any reference to a master list which assigned the censor numbers to specific military units. It may never have been created due to security concerns. If each unit had one censor handstamp in use each year, if there was an average of 500 soldiers in each unit and if each soldier sent one letter every week, there would be 26,000 letters with each censor marking. If Canadian units were assigned 2,000 of the CM2 through CM6 censor numbers and each censor number was placed on 26,000 letters, that would cover 52 million of the estimated 71 million letters and cards mailed by Canadian soldiers. Given this large number of potential data points, it has been frustrating to have only one letter with an undecipherable censor signature for many of the censor numbers.

If you have any WW 1 covers or cards with censor markings, please send scans of those items to me at [gwschnarr@rogers.com](mailto:gwschnarr@rogers.com) so I can update the tables before publication. I thank all contributors in advance for their help – but most importantly, keep safe and healthy during this pandemic.

[Cont'd.]

## CANADIAN CM6 CENSOR NUMBERS

CENSOR NO.	UNIT / CORPS	INF BDE	DIV	CONF. LEVEL	PRIOR LISTING BY FRITH	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	FPO / APO DATE	
							ERD	LRD
10	2 DIV SIGNAL COY		2	1		Assignment based on two covers with same identified censor and new Frith notes	1917-12-11	
42	1 BDE, CFA		1	1		Assignment based on new Frith note with two matches	1919-01-03	
65	HQ, NO 5 DISTRICT, CFC			2		Three covers, two with CFC censors; No. 5 District, Jura Group was composed of numerous companies	1918-02-16	1919-02-22
69	44 BN	10	4	1		Two covers, one with firm censor identification	1918-05-23	1918-07-17
175	116 BN	9	3	1		Assignment based on new Frith note on one cover with identified censor	1918-05-02	
190	HQ, 7 BDE	7	3	1		Assignment based on new Frith note on one cover with identified censor	1917-04-29	
224	4 DIV TRAIN, CASC		4	1		Assignment based on one cover with censor identified		
230	FORT GARRY HORSE		CAV	2		Assignment based on several covers with two identified censors	1918-01-10	1919-04-06
258	3 BN, CRT			2		Assignment based on several covers with two identified censors ad two identified senders	1917-12-01	1918-11-08
318	YUKON MOTOR M G COY			3	X	No change from original Frith assignment; supported by other covers	1917-11-03	1917-12-28
331	4 BDE, CFA			4	X	No change from original Frith assignment; supported by other covers	1917-12-24	1919-02-09
342	7 BN, CRT			1		Assignment based on new Frith note on one cover with identified censor	1917-10-22	
375	2 BN, CRT			1		Assignment based on one cover with censor identified	1918-07-15	
453	3 CDAC (1 SECT.)		3	1		Assignment based on new Frith note (no detailed information); one additional cover has censor with Res Bde, CFA	1919-01-06	
463	EATON M M G BTTY			1		Assignment based on two covers to Ottawa with the same identified censor; see 484 below (Eaton M M G Btty became part of 2 M M G Bde)	1918-05-16	1918-10-26
474	8 BDE, CFA			4	X	No change from original Frith assignment; one supporting cover	1917-12-28	1918-12-07
484	2 MOTOR M G BDE			1		Assignment based on one cover with censor identified (see 463 above)	1918-01-17	
486	6 BDE, CFA			2	X	No change from original Frith assignment; no additional information		
539	1 BDE, CGA			1		Assignment based on one cover with censor identified; unit was previously known as 1 Cdn Siege Btty	1918-01-02	1919-02-18
541	10 BDE TRENCH MORTAR BTTY	10	4	1		Assignment based on one cover with a return address	1918-10-01	
560	87 BN	11	4	1		Assignment based on two covers with same identified censor	1918-04-14	
566	85 BN	12	4	1		Several covers assessed; assignment based on two identified censors with this unit; alternative assignment is Cdn Corps Reinf Camp	1917-11-23	1918-08-06
672	2 DIV M G BN		2	2	X	Frith had assigned to 6 M G Coy, which became part of 2 Div M G Bn in 1917-09; a new Frith note on one cover has a censor with 14 Coy, 2 Div M G Bn; assign this censor number to 2 Div M G Bn	1918-03-11	
686	1 CDAC (1 SECT.)					Assignment based on new Frith note (two matches) and one cover with censor identified	1917-12-03	1918-03-10
698	7 M G COY			3	X	No change from original Frith assignment; supported by one cover (Frith note); reorganized on 1918-03-19 as 3 Battalion, Canadian M G Corps	1918-02-28	1918-05-19





CM2



CM3



CM4



CM5



CM6

\*\*\*\*\*

CORRECTION NL#242, PAGE 1676 (MENIN GATE)--By Mike Street

[Mike Street kindly wrote to correct my misstatement regarding the British memorial at Ypres, Belgium. Unfortunately I used the source's jargon of "buried"/"cemeteries" when, as Mike pointed out, no soldiers are physically buried at Menin Gate. Mike continues:

"In 1969 my first wife and I went to the Vimy Memorial in France to look for the name of her uncle who disappeared during WWI. Her mother had been one of the ladies who unsuccessfully walked the 'Chemin des Dames' during the 1920's looking for anything that might help find their loved one.

When we didn't find the uncle's name on the monument we walked over to the reception building and asked the gentleman there for help. He asked us to wait and made a phone call, giving the uncle's details. While waiting for the return call we talked. It turned out that he was a Canadian Commissionaire on assignment to Vimy to greet visitors. I asked who he had called and he replied 'The Imperial War Graves Commission office'. A few minutes later the phone rang and he wrote down some information. He then told us that the uncle's name was on a specific panel at the Menin Gate Monument in Ypres, and explained that the names of 55,000 [some references note 57,000\*] Imperial soldiers lost in the battles around Ypres who had no known grave had been inscribed there.

We drove to Ypres to visit the monument and took pictures of it and the uncle's name on the panel we had been told to look for. Here's a reference for more information:

Menin Gate (Ypres) Memorial-The Canadian Virtual War Memorial-

[Cont'd.]

Some of its information reads:

TO THE ARMIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE WHO STOOD HERE FROM 1914  
TO 1918 AND TO THOSE OF THEIR DEAD WHO HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVE.

Over the two staircases leading from the Main Hall is the inscription:

HERE ARE RECORDED NAMES OF OFFICERS AND MEN WHO FELL IN YPRES  
SALIENT BUT TO WHOM THE FORTUNE OF WAR DENIED THE KNOWN AND  
HONOURED BURIAL GIVEN TO THEIR COMRADES IN DEATH.

The dead are remembered to this day in a simple ceremony that takes place every evening at 8:00 p.m. All traffic through the gateway in either direction is halted, and two buglers (on special occasions four) move to the centre of the Hall and sound the Last Post. Two silver trumpets for use in the ceremony are a gift to the Ypres Last Post Committee by an officer of the Royal Canadian Artillery who served with the 10th Battery, of St. Catharines, Ontario in Ypres in April 1915".

\*Glenn Wright's Canadians at War 1914-1919: A Research Guide to World War One Service Records (Milton, ON: Global Heritage Press, 2010), p.106. The booklet by Veterans Affairs Canada "We Will Remember...." (Ottawa, ON: Information Canada, 1973, p.57) notes "...nearly 55,000 dead of the armies of the British Commonwealth....". It also notes that there are 6,994 Canadians memorialized (p.57). In any event, it is a fitting memorial to those with no resting place.Ed.]

\*\*\*\*\*

PREVIOUSLY? UNRECORDED "INVALIDED TO CANADA FOR/FURTHER MEDICAL TREATMENT"--By Dean Mario

This stationery post card dated 1 April 1917 (with a "Sackville/AP 2/17/N.B." duplex) was sent from Pte. R.W. Webster's brother to him while recuperating at the Canadian Convalescent Hospital Bearwood\*, Wokingham, Berkshire in England. It was operational from 20 September 1915 to 24 July 1919.

The two-line auxiliary marking is one which I've not encountered before. Presumably this rubber stamp marking (in blue) was not unique to the C.C.H. at Bearwood, and would have most certainly been used as a forwarding instruction by other hospitals to those soldiers receiving mail and who had been invalided back to Canada. I'd welcome hearing from members if they have an example or have seen it listed where I may have overlooked it.

Private Ray Wesley Webster, #151330, was born on 30 August 1894. He was single, 5'8½", fair haired with blue eyes, a law student, and a Methodist. His mother, Mrs. J. Webster, Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, was listed on his Attestation Papers [1] as his next of kin. He had previously served for three years in the 99th Regiment/Manitoba Rangers. Webster joined up at Brandon, Manitoba on 22 November 1915 and was originally attached to the 79th Overseas Infantry Battalion (Manitoba Battalion). The 79th saw service in Canada and England, but Webster is

[Cont'd.]

Page 1694

subsequently listed as a member of the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles when it proceeded to France.



Webster saw service in France but was seriously wounded in early October 1916 and was initially admitted to No.12 General Hospital at Rouen suffering from gun shot wounds to his back, buttocks, groin, and bladder. A visit to the 1st Stationary General Hospital, Birmingham (Stourbridge Section) was followed by his hospitalization in the C.C.H. at Bearwood on 2 February 1917.

Due to space limitations, I'll end this story here to be continued in the following issue. [\*"Bearwood" is sometimes referred to as two words ie. "Bear Wood", but the former will be used here].

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Study Group Members: Mike and I want to convey our very best wishes for a Happy New Year and 2021! COVID-19 has been something we have had to deal with but hopefully the pandemic will ease with promising vaccines. After some good-hearted cajoling I have reluctantly now used by name as an author, although I had surmised that any "anonymous" pieces were done by the Editor! I have hesitated to "serialize" articles but the above one needs extra "flushing out". It is amazing how research now (with online research through the National Archives) is fruitful and greatly assists in telling the story of former servicemen and women. I do hope that records from the Second World War will be accessible soon. Recognition is due to several of our Charter Members who have been with the CMMSG from the beginning (1973) namely: **Earle Covert (#8)** and **C.A. Stillions (#10)!** Charter Members - #1-#14 who have served continuously from 1973-2021 - is really something. **C.R. McGuire (#21)** also deserves special mention. Thank you for your support gentlemen. Thanks again to those who sent along articles for this issue-- without you the Newsletter would be non-existent! Until next time.....

\*\*\*\*\*