



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

NEWSLETTER NO. 244
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PREVIOUSLY? UNRECORDED "INVALIDED TO CANADA FOR/FURTHER
MEDICAL TREATMENT" (CONT'D.)--By Dean Mario



Let's resume Pte. Ray Wesley Webster's story (NL#243, Jan. 2021, pp. 1693-94), as he was recuperating in the Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Bearwood (a most impressive hospital as illustrated on the above photo postcard [2]). As noted previously on p.1694, a card was sent from his brother postmarked 2 April 1917

[Cont'd.]

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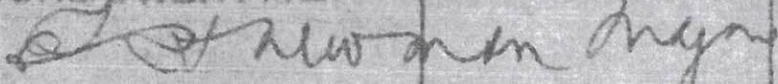
which read:

"Sackville Apr.1st 17.

Dear Brother, I think it is two letters received from you the last being from your new add. We are still in Sack. being held here on account of mumps and may not get away for about three or four weeks. It is not a very big dump but we are getting acquainted with the skirts which helps some. I skated last night and the ice wasn't bad considering. Lot of route marching but not very far at a time. One day we had a look at part of the Bay of Fundy. Will let you know when we leave. Ted."

The card must have reached the C.C.H. after Webster was discharged on 11 April. He sailed from Liverpool aboard the H.M. Hospital Ship Letitia back to Canada on 21 April 1917. He was now suffering from neuralgia⁺along with his other ailments and wounds. In early May he was transferred to a military convalescent hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba and a military medical board examined his case in late June. The examiners found him needing further convalescence and, on 30 November 1917, he was discharged from His Majesty's Service due to his wounds and disability (⁺neuralgia is acute pain that follows the course of a nerve).

One of the interesting facets of this unusual marking is that it was used by an officer (Major Newman) as the "Hospital Representative, Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Bearwood Park, Wokingham" as illustrated below the "Invalidated to Canada...." marking. Both of these markings were also found on Pte. Ray Wesley Webster's file! Illustrated below (at 154.5%) is his record file with these markings.

From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B 213, Army Form A. 35, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date
a.c.	T.O.S. as O/Seas Casualty	Shoreham	10-10-11
a.c.	S.O.S. on trans to Sask. Regt	Hastings	10-3-11
INVALIDATED TO CANADA FOR FURTHER MEDICAL TREATMENT			for
<p style="text-align: center;">  HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE, CANADIAN CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL, BEARWOOD PARK, WOKINGHAM. </p>			

I presume that there are other military medically-related markings used as postal auxiliary markings, but this interesting "dual" usage adds to Pte. Webster's story.

- [1] LAC File RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 10194-12, Item 623040.
 [2] For further information on the Bearwood Hospital see "The Canadian Convalescent Hospital Bear Wood, 1915-18", archive.org> details>McGillLibrary-osl_Canadian-Conv....

CORRECTION TO NL#242, NOVEMBER 2020, PP.1672-1675



My sincere apologies are extended to Peter McCarthy who authored the article "North Star/HMCS Prince Henry", and to Jon Johnson who was incorrectly credited as the author. Ed.]

A DETECTIVE STORY: WHO WROTE THIS POSTCARD?--By Wayne Schnarr

I have asked CMMSG members to send me scans of their WW 1 covers and cards with censor markings for my update of the original Frith listings. I have had several responses including numerous scans from Jon Johnson related to his nursing sisters and CAMC interests. This detective story is about my journey, including many email exchanges with and suggestions from Jon, to try and identify who wrote this postcard and to what unit this censor marking should be assigned.

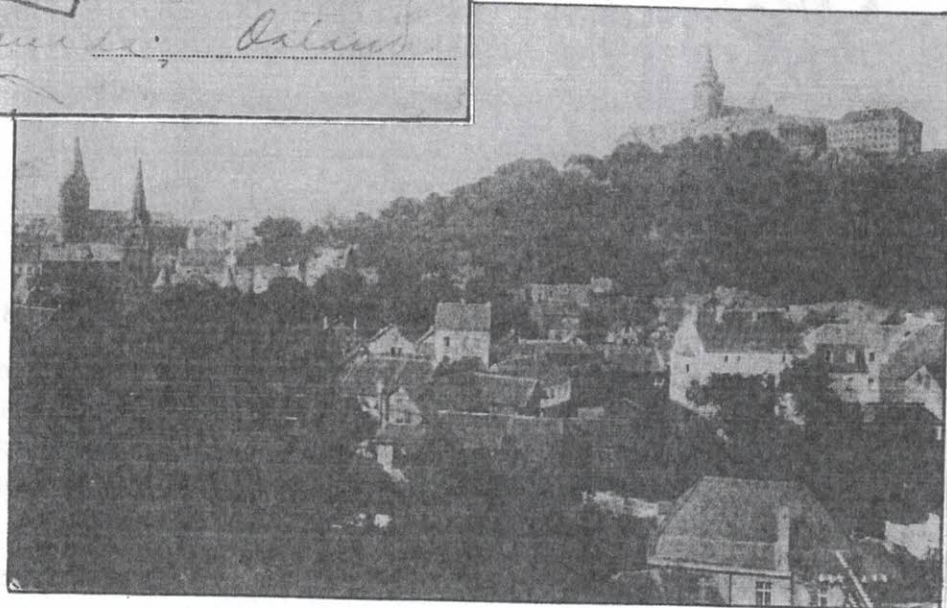
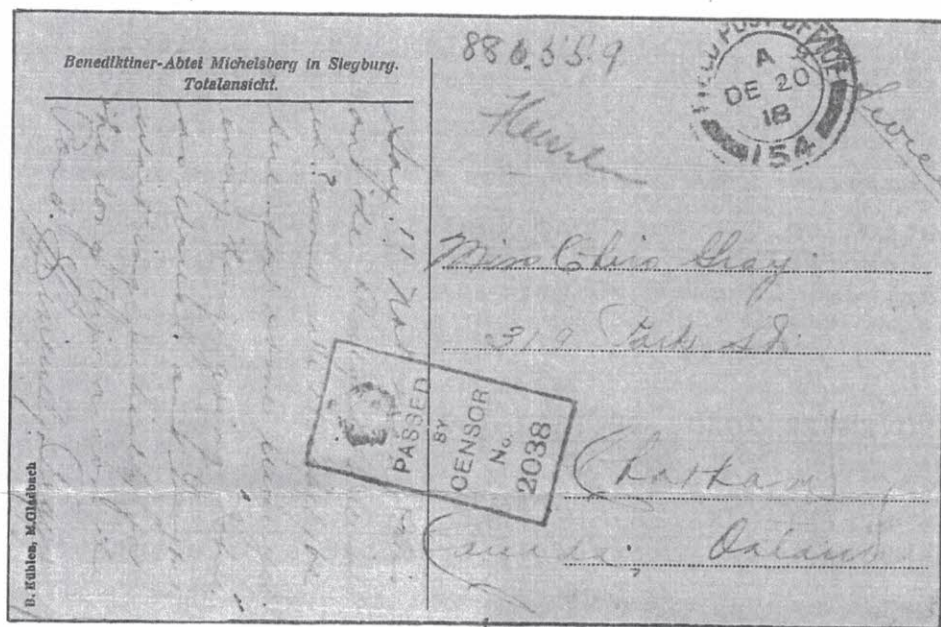
Where was the postcard mailed from? The picture on the front of the postcard is the Michaelsberg Benedictine Abbey in Siegburg. The CPC marking FPO 154 was assigned to 4 Canadian Brigade (4 CB), which had crossed the Rhine at Bonn as part of the 2nd Division on December 13, 1918. The 4CB war diaries show that the brigade established its billets in Siegburg, about 10 km from Bonn. Easy and consistent story so far. [+Germany . Ed .]

To whom was the postcard sent? The addressee was Miss Chris Gray in Chatham Ontario. A search of the 1921 Census of Canada revealed a Miss Christena Gray at the address on the card in the 1921 census - occupation listed as saleslady. Another easy step.

Who sent the card and in what military unit were they serving? Now the real detective work starts. The message is signed Peggy and the normal assumption would be that the sender is a nursing sister named Margaret, for which Peggy is a common alternative for daily use. There is a list of about 2,500 Canadian nursing sisters who served overseas in WW 1. A quick look at the list shows 181 nursing sisters named Margaret, none named Peggy and there is no way to do a quick search for nursing sisters who had moved into Germany with their medical units.

Jon suggested that the message included slang terms and a general tone which would not be expected of a nursing sister 100 years ago. The slang term 'jake' is used, which means okay or satisfactory (this could also be the German *jah* meaning sudden or sharp). There is another probable slang term 'flies'. When checking for Peggy used as a slang term, in nautical slang it means a person who performs menial work on board a ship, such as cooking duties.

[Cont'd.]



The number at the top of the card, 880559, looked like a regimental number and when this number is checked in the WW1 list, it was assigned to James Alphonso Sugrue. His attestation papers show he was a barber in Paris, Ontario before the war and a check of the 1921 census shows he was then a barber living in Chatham. Bandsman James A. Sugrue went overseas with 186 Battalion March 26, 1917, serving as a Bandsman at Bramshott Camp. He was a private serving with 18 Bn, part of 4 CB, at the date on the postcard.

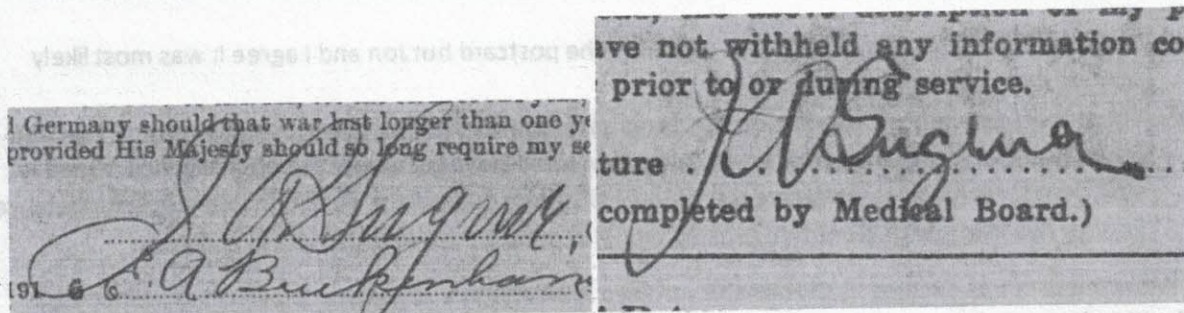
It is possible that Sugrue was the sender of this postcard but it was also necessary to investigate whether a nursing sister named Margaret was with 4 CB in Siegburg. The first question is what medical units were with 2 Division and the following list was found in a history of the CAMC.

- No. 4 Canadian Field Ambulance, Bonn (Cavalry Barracks, Rheinorfer-Strasse).
- No. 5 Canadian Field Ambulance, Putzchen.
- No. 6 Canadian Field Ambulance, Siegburg.

- No. 2 Canadian Sanitary Section, Troisdorf.
- No. 1 Canadian C.C.S., Euskirchen (moving to Bonn on 20th).
- No. 2 Canadian C.C.S., Bonn.

Nursing sisters were at hospitals and casualty clearing stations but not with field ambulances. With fighting completed, there would be no need for nursing sisters at the casualty clearing stations and there is no record of any hospitals being established by the CAMC in Germany. I have not found any information supporting the movement of Canadian nursing sisters into Germany with medical units.

One tool which can be useful in identifying senders and censor is handwriting comparisons. The attestation papers were probably signed at a desk in an office with a good pen whereas letters were often written and censored quickly in a tent in the field. Signatures range from clear elegant writing styles to illegible scribbles. This is not a perfect tool as Sugrue's signature on the attestation papers is substantially different from one on another document in his files. The best conclusion which can be drawn in this case is that the writing styles of the attestation papers and postcard are similar.

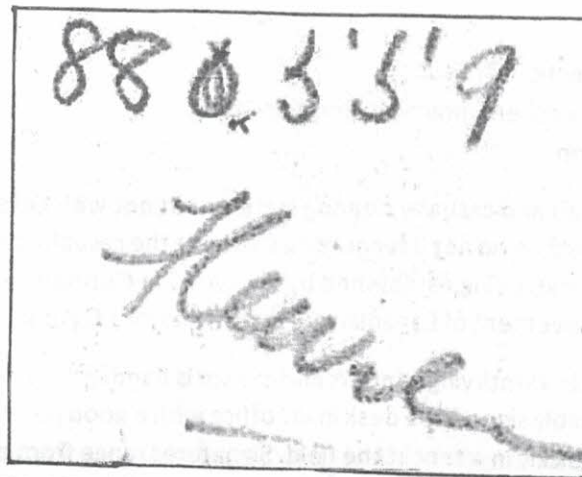


Sincerely, Peggy Lake
 Helen, M. Gladbach

Censor marking CM6 2038 had previously been tentatively assigned to No. 4 Canadian Field Ambulance. In attempting to update the censor marking tables, I have assessed or seen notes on three items with this censor marking.

- Cover; FPO 154 (4 CB), 1918-11-16; censor not identified
- Cover; FPO 5P (5 CB), 1919-04-01 (very late usage); censor not identified
- New Frith note; FPO T36 (2 Div Train), 1918-10-27; censor identified as Capt. Fred Carlyle Wilson, a physician with No. 6 Canadian Field Ambulance

Identification of the censor is the key to assigning a censor marking to a specific unit. It is difficult to read the presumed censor's signature just below Sugrue's regimental number. There are no initials, the first part of the surname could be Fl or H or K, the next part could be ew or em and the ending is not distinct. There are 39 entries for Kew, 35 for Flew* and 433 for Hew*, where * is a combination of letters in the database. The censor has not been identified.



What is the result of this detective work, which included many dead ends and hours of internet searching not outlined here?

- We could not prove in a court of law who sent the postcard but Jon and I agree it was most likely sent by James Alphonso Sugrue.
- There is no detailed information on the items assessed for Frith's original unit assignment for CM6 2038. His new information with an identified censor in Siegburg where the postcard was mailed is sufficient for tentatively assigning the CM6 2038 censor marking to No. 6 Canadian Field Ambulance. Four or five items with identified censors would be needed for a definitive assignment.

I know this is not as exciting as CSI or NCIS solving a homicide in a one-hour television show but this is the life of a postal history detective.

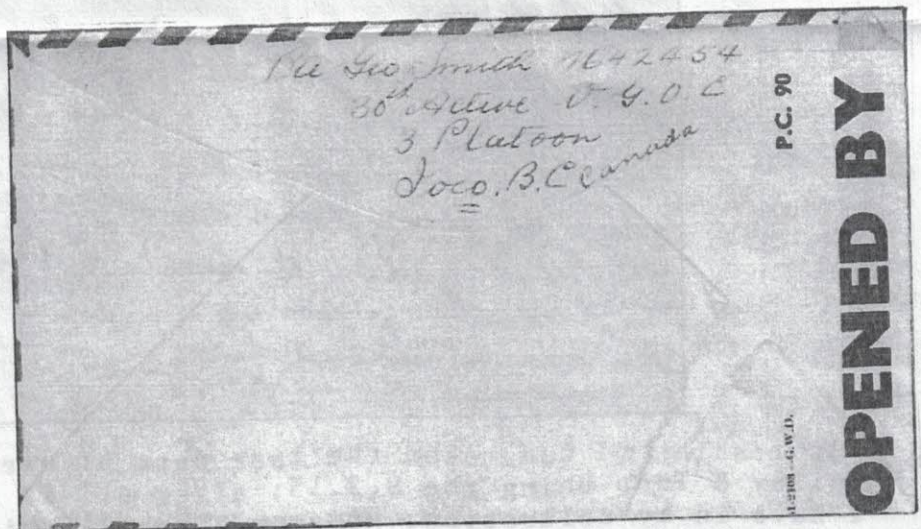
Information Sources:

- FPO/APO Canadian assignments – Bailey & Toop, CANADIAN MILITARY POSTAL MARKINGS 1881 – 1995, VOLUME 1, table on pages 70 & 71, Firby Publications (1996)
- 4 CB war diaries 1918/1919 – <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/CollectionSearch/Pages/record.aspx?app=fonandcol&IdNumber=2005809&new=-8585932836128258996>
- 1921 Census of Canada – <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1921/Pages/introduction.aspx>
- List of Canadian Nursing Sisters – <http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/Regimental/NursingSisters.asp>
- WW1 Personnel Files Search page – <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx>
- CAMCHistory – <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/themes/defence/caf/militaryhistory/dhh/official/book-1925-medical-services-en.pdf>
- Current Canadian censor marking assignments - Frith, John, **Allocation of Field Censor Handstamps – WWI in A Canadian Military Postal History Anthology**, pp. 149 – 159; Published by the British North America Philatelic Society (1991)

30TH ACTIVE VETERANS GUARD OF CANADA, IOCO, B.C. 1942--By
Robert Henderson

An airmail cover from Private George Smith, M42454, 30th Active V.G. of C., 3 Platoon, Ioco, B.C. to Scotland dated 24 August 1942. The censor sealing label is a standard one from Great Britain. The "snapshot" is not enclosed with the envelope.

Ioco was a port for ships and submarines during the Second World War. Smith was probably on protective duty. [According to George Melvin's The Post Offices of British Columbia: 1858-1970 (Vernon, B.C.: Wayside Press, 1972, p.54) Ioco was 1½ miles north of Port Moody on the north shore of Burrard Inlet. It was named after the Imperial Oil Company. The postmaster in August 1942 was J.H. McCullough. Ioco later changed to New Westminster--Ioco on 21 July 1970 as a Sub Post Office (Bill Topping's British Columbia Post Offices, 1983, p.28 denotes 20 July 1970).Ed.]



[Cont'd.]

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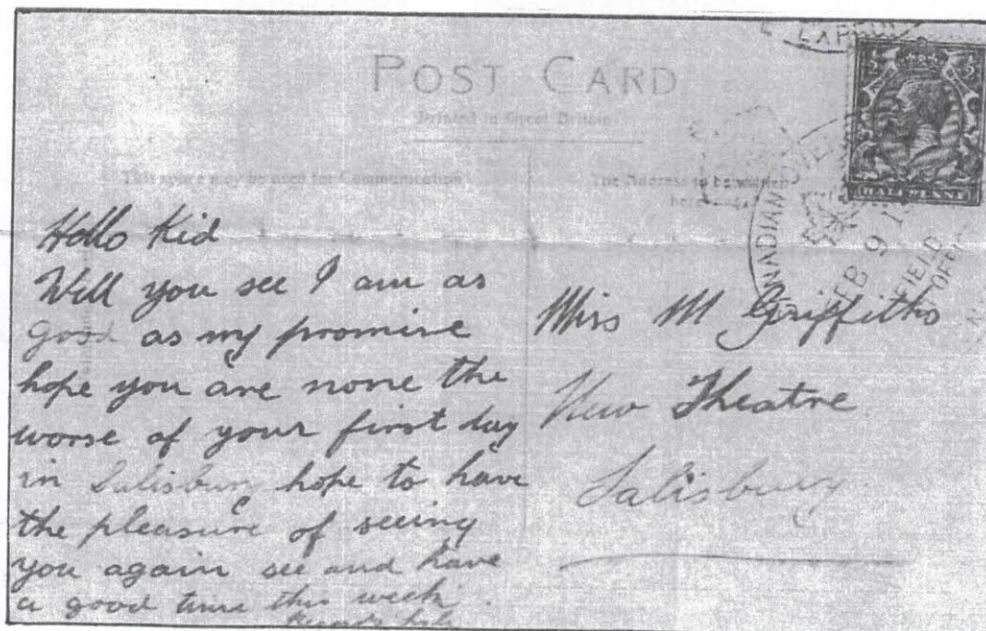
LAST DATE OF USE FOR THE C.O.E.F. HAMMER FOLLOW-UP--By Neil Ritchie

"I had to put pen to paper to answer the query regarding the last date of "normal" usage of the COEF postmarks [NL#243, Jan.2021, pp. 1688-1689.Ed.] I have attached a little piece about the example in my collection dated 9 February.

The question also arises as to the first date of use of the steel hammers and Proud states 20.1.15 - 9.2.15; I have examples dated 11, 13, 16, as well as the 20th. Of course it leads onto the question of the last date of use of the rubber hammer Proud D1.A which he states is 13.10.14 - 9.1.15. The last date in my collection is 16 December and I haven't come across any that are later....

So what happened between 16 December and 11 January? Or, according to Proud, the gap would be 9 January to 20 January. Was no mail carried by the CEF?

I also have a Ross favour envelope which I think is dated 27 July although it's not that clear and it has the FPO 15 hammer. Just a quick couple of comments on the 26 June example. I have been through my collection of some forty odd covers and not one has as fine a strike as this one, almost but not quite, and I have no example on a Field Service Postcard. I don't think they were available until the Canadians reached France, which makes it likely to be a Ross inspired item. I too would like to see the whole card".

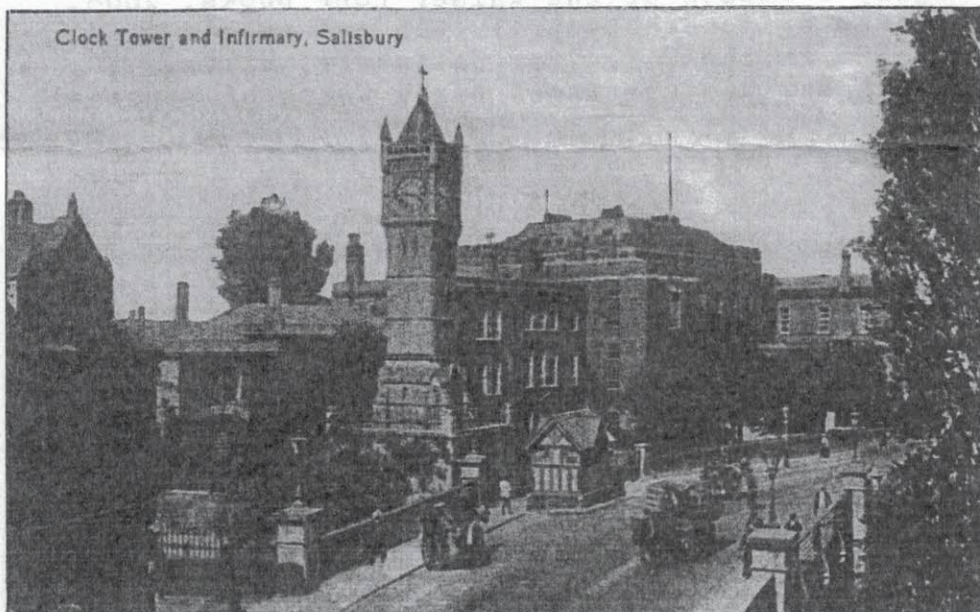
COEF CROWN-OVER-CIRCLE FIELD POST OFFICE CANCELLER--LAST DAY OF USE--By Neil Ritchie

Interestingly I had taken the last date of use to be that shown in Bailey & Toop being the 9.2.15; after all it matches the last date I have in my collection. However like all things lost in the great philatelic history it is until a later one is discovered.

[Cont'd.]

The postcard probably was sent by a C.E.F. member (I would find it hard to believe that a member of the public went all the way up to the camp on Salisbury Plain to use their postal system) to a Miss M. Griffiths at the New Theatre, Castle Street, Salisbury. There is no further information that can be truly relied upon except that if the sender's name is "Lyle", it could be Lyle William Jamieson #24313, of the 13th Battalion of the First Contingent. It looks as if the handwriting matches that on his attestation form. He was reported missing on 29 May 1915 and spent the rest of the war as a POW*.

Clock Tower and Infirmary, Salisbury



[Cont'd.]

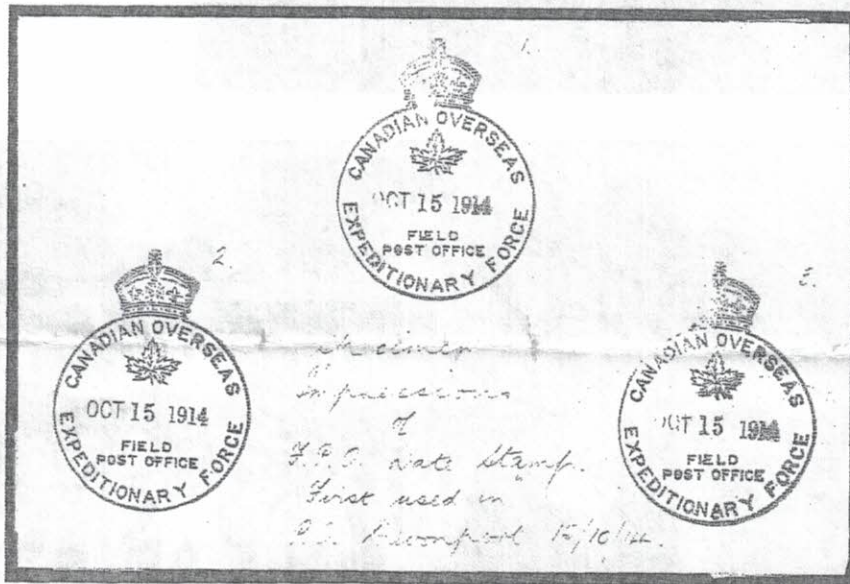
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The New Picturedrome & Theatre was opened in 1910 and was part of the Albany Ward Circuit. It was remodelled in 1913 with the seating capacity increased to 800 and renamed New Theatre de Luxe. It was mainly used for live shows, with films running at other times. The business was taken over by Provincial Cinematograph Theatres (PCT) and in February 1929 they were taken over by the Gaumont British Theatres (GBT) chain. GBT closed the New Theatre de Luxe on 30 April 1932.

[*According to E.H. Wigney's Guests of the Kaiser (CEF Books, 2008, p.71), Jamieson was taken prisoner 24 April 1915 and released 12 December 1918. He was SOS in the U.K. (for Salisbury, Wilts.) 3 September 1919. The 13th Bn. was the famed Black Watch of Montreal. Ed.]

ADDENDUM TO ABOVE

[Neil noted the question as to the rubber hammer (Proud/B&T D1.A) last date of use. In my files I came across an interesting piece from the David Cornelius Military Mail Collection (Lot 358, Cavenish Philatelic Auctions Ltd., Derby, England, Sale #677, 23 November 2005) related to the initial dates of this hammer's usage (in Devonport). I do not know the price realized. Ed.]



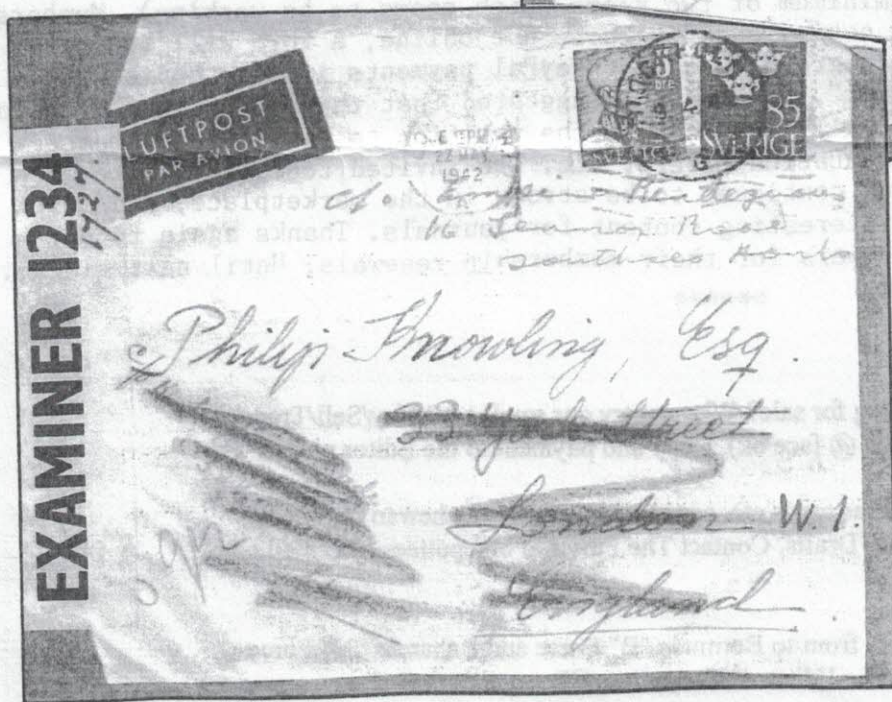
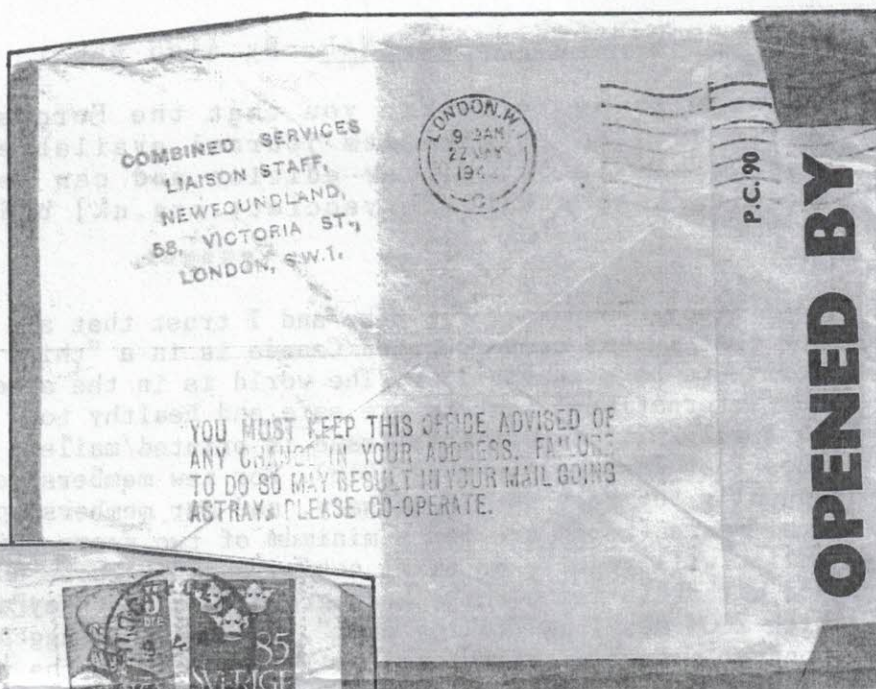
WWI CANADIAN OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE C.D.S. PROOFS & BUNDLE LABELS; Remarkable 15/19 Oct. 1914 pages (3) from an autographs (?) book with "Souvenir" examples of the yellow card "RED Star Line S.S. LAPLAND From SOUTHAMPTON/SECOND CLASS" immigration cards (2; one with superb large crowned "CANADIAN OVERSEAS/[Maple Leaf]/OCT 17 1914/FIELD/POST OFFICE/EXPEDITIONARY FORCE" c.d.s.) used as improvised mail bundle labels by the "Canadian Exped. Force during their stay here [in Devonport] en route to France", and having 3 pieces annotated as having "specimen Impressions of F.P.O. Date Stamps First used in P.O. Devonport 15/10/[19]14", having superb strikes of the same crowned c.d.s.'s, dated 15 Oct. 1914. Remarkable group obtained in 1914 by P.O. Telegraphist W.J.L. Cornelius, the father of David Cornelius. Not previously offered in the market. (3 items). [Ex David Cornelius.] **PHOTO - ABOVE**

£150

FIGHTING NEWFOUNDLANDERS 1942--By Paul Binney

Here is an interesting piece of correspondence from Sweden to Philip Knowling, Esq. in 1942. Mailed in Stockholm on 9 April 1942, the letter was of great interest to the censors. The envelope was cut open and, after examination, was re-sealed with brown paper. It was then sealed by an EXAMINER 1234 tape further inscribed with the number 1727 (most likely a second censor).

Philip Knowling was a Newfoundlander who, according to contemporary postwar descriptions, "travelled extensively in service during the war". The original address was struck out, and the letter forwarded to the Newfoundland Trade Commission, 58 Victoria Street, London SW1. There it was stamped by regulation markings to "KEEP THIS OFFICE ADVISED OF ANY CHANGE IN YOUR ADDRESS" and a further identification that the letter had been handled by the "COMBINED SERVICES LIAISON STAFF".



[Cont'd.]

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The letter was forwarded from London on 22 May 1942 to 16 Lennox Road, Southsea, Hants. This is a southern district of Portsmouth, a large naval base. Several possibilities present themselves: Knowling was part of the navy (but no rank designation is provided); he was a member of military intelligence (but most likely would have been a part of the British Intelligence Service and not connected to the Trade Commission); or the correspondence was simply to a commercial operative who had business dealings in Sweden (Sweden, although "neutral", supplied ball bearings to both Germany and Britain during the war). The handling of the letter by the Combined Services Liaison Staff does suggest a military connection to the correspondence. The interest of the censors in the letter is understandable. Like many pieces of wartime correspondence, the questions remain unanswered. [Can members shed any light or provide more information?Ed.]

FPHS "FREE" ONLINE JOURNAL--By Alan Baker

"I am writing to advise you that the Forces Postal History Society has again decided to make its journal available to view for non-members online. This is our Winter edition and can be accessed on our website [www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk] under "Free Resources"."

Dear Study Group Members: Mike and I trust that all members continue to be safe and now that it has been reported Canada is in a "third wave" of the pandemic, we all strive to be ever-vigilant. The world is in the same predicament and we hope that our international members are safe and healthy too. Our bank account sits at \$324.83 (4 April 2021) before this issue is printed/mailed, so we feel that it is time for dues (our last call was in 2018). For new members/reminder, we don't charge dues annually but only when necessary, and our membership dues have not changed for several years (terms are for a minimum of two years which seems to be working). Members online will receive an email notice and for those not online, a form will be included with this issue. Mike has agreed to accept PayPal payments if more convenient. With ZOOM meetings "taking over", it has been suggested that the CMMSG might wish to conduct a few in the future. While I am not in the position to participate, members with ideas, suggestions, presentation offers, etc. are invited to contact Mike with their input. Military material continues to be strong in the marketplace, and more authors continue to provide interesting content for journals. Thanks again to our contributors and thanks to members for their membership renewals. Until next time....

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 (3/5)

WANTED: Seeking WWII covers/cards from/to Bermuda "B" Force and Bahamas "N" Force. Particulars/scans/photocopies/price to The Editor at blueputtees@hotmail.com (1/5)
