

CANADIAN MILITARY MAIL STUDY GROUP

Newsletter #5

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Dear Member:

More new members have been signed up and in our next newsletter we will provide a list of all members to date. Our notice in Topics, May 1974 has been effective.

Returns from Newsletter #4 are slightly down this time which might be credited to the postal strike? It would be most useful if we had at least 12 members reporting each time. Lets try for our next issue.

The Saskatchewan World War Two military camp survey result is as follows:

| FPO | circ. | remarks | FPO | circ. | remarks |
|---------|-------|-----------|------|-------|-------------------|
| MPO | dater | | MPO | dater | |
| Dundurn | 1 | F.P.O. | 1208 | 3 | N. Batt. #13 SPTS |
| 1201 | 4 | Dundurn | 1209 | 4 | Estevan |
| 1202 | 1 | | 1210 | 3 | S. Current |
| 1203 | 3 | | 1211 | - | |
| 1204 | 2 | | 1212 | 1 | Eskimo Force |
| 1205 | 3 | Yorkton | 1213 | - | Saskatoon NPO |
| 1206 | 3 | #5 B & G | 1214 | 1 | |
| 1207 | - | Pri. Alb. | - | | |

Have added a few locations for interest. Some of the stations were R.A.F. before being R.C.A.F. The opening date for Dundurn Military Camp F.P.O. (cancel shown in Newsletter #4) was July 7, 1936.

Moving now to the "keystone" province of Manitoba we have the earliest WW2 period postmark similar to Dundurn (previously illustrated) from Shilo, its date being June 12, 1939. Latest date known May 5, 1941. Shilo Camp is East of Brandon at 49° 49' 99° 38'. It was 1934 when mobile artillery went to Shilo for the first Central Camp at that site. Reference- The Gunners of Canada- Col G.W.L. Nicholson- page 623.

| FPO | circ. | other | site | MPO | circ. | other | site |
|-------|-------|-------|-----------|------|-------|-------|-----------|
| MPO | dater | | | | dater | | |
| Shilo | | | FPO | 1008 | | | Souris |
| 1001 | | | Shilo | 1009 | | | W'pg |
| 1002 | | | Dauphin | 1010 | | | Gimli |
| 1003 | | | Brandon | 1011 | | | W'pg |
| 1004 | | | Macdonald | 1012 | | | Portage |
| 1005 | | | Paulson | 1013 | | | W'pg |
| 1006 | | | Rivers | 1014 | | | W'pg |
| 1007 | | | Carberry | 1015 | | | Churchill |

See also the Shilo MPO 1001 duplex copy enclosed.

We would like to have "paragraph length" items from members such as those below. Canadian content, military postal history oriented, World War Two and prior to begin with. Include reference if possible. These will be used from time to time with your name appended. Send 3 or 4 while you are at it.

Second Riel Rebellion

Reference: The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps- Vol 5 (1973) by Robson Lowe. Quoted from a report by Major General Laurie in 1885. Quote- As there was only one passenger train weekly at Swift Current I arranged with Post Office Inspector McLeod of Winnipeg and with authorities of Canadian Pacific Railway that daily mails should be forwarded from Winnipeg and that all freight trains, Canadian Pacific Railway, should carry bags to and from Swift Current, and I at once established a Military Post Office, where letters from all portions of the Field Force were received and sorted and mails made up and forwarded by every opportunity, and a line of couriers with relays of ponies, was established on the Battleford Trail as Colonel Otter advanced and letters and despatches were sent by these mounted couriers. Unquote.

An interesting item of Canadian military postal history.

Lt. Col. R.H. Webb Handbook

During the R.P.S.C.'s 46th Convention in Winnipeg last month a seminar was conducted by Ed Richardson on Military Covers of Canada. He announced at that time that the above handbook would consist of about 450 pages, be of high quality with some coloured illustrations and be printed in English and French. Expected publication date is 1975 at a cost of approximately \$20.00.

Letters for Non-Commissioned Officers, Soldiers and Seamen, in Her Majesty's Service.

Reference: Canada Official Postal Guide (1893) REGULATIONS- page xxv.

Quote- Non-Commissioned Officers, Army Schoolmasters, School Mistresses, Private Soldiers, Writers in Her Majesty's Navy, or Seamen belonging to Her Majesty's Ships whether serving on sea or land, and whether in a British Possession or Foreign Country, as also enrolled pensioners in Canada, can send and receive letters by Packet or Man-of-War, for a postage of 2 cents; but if any such letters have to pass through a Foreign Country they are subject, in addition, to the foreign postage, whatever that may be. Unquote.

The majority of this type of material which has survived probably is in England.

Canadian Forces Museums Named

Reference: Sentinel Magazine Vol 9 (1973)

Quote: Manitoba has the RCA Museum at Camp Shilo and Calgary has the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Museum at Currie Barracks as is the PPCLI Museum in Calgary. Unquote.

It should be possible to write the next newsletter in August despite it being a holiday month. Your returns and postal history paragraphs will be appreciated.