

B N A P S

Our
25
th

Canadian Military Mail Study Group

1450 Ross Road,
Kelowna, B.C.
V1Z 1L6

January 23, 1978

Dear Member:

Our Armed Forces Air Letter supplement this time totals 5 pages on which Wilf Whitehouse has recorded facts on the "Privelege" form of Air Letter. Please note on page 9 Wilf's request for a photocopy of the 1942 type form showing the March 1944 postal instructions added. He illustrates the production form of "Honour" Air Letter and then records the beginning of public usage of AFALS.

147...New Member

A welcome to Lawrence Matthews, Box 354, Bracebridge, Ontario, POB 100. We look forward to a sharing of information on the military mail topic.

148...MPO/NPO Survey- Manitoba

An increase of about 30 individual items reported over our first attempt of August 1974. Notice 6A and 6B type MOTOs? Please re-check types. While on the subject of surveys you will note we have no provincial survey this time but rather a survey on a specific group of cancellations which should prove interesting. Ontario is the last province we had planned to re-survey using the latest revised TYPING chart.

149...MPO 1314 - Type 1C

Further to para. 142. Ed Harris sends photocopy of MPO 1314. Our first survey did not reveal the type 1C, nor did our second attempt but now we have an example and readers may make their own notes for their future reference. We have two notes as follows:-

- 1 MPO 1314 was entered in Postal Gazette as MPO CANADA 1314.
- 2 MPO 1314 was in Edmonton but served the Winter Training School at Jasper, Alberta where skiing, snowshoeing, etc. was taught. The MPO was open about 5 months Dec '43 to May 1944.

Two reports of MPO 1202 were received late and a photocopy has been requested.

150...NPO 1112 - type 2A

Request for sketch brought photocopy of NPO 1112 which is type 1B. For next NL has anyone an example of a duplex 2A from this NPO?

151...MPO 100 - Wayne's reply

152...Early Canadian Military cover

153...MPO number series cancels survey

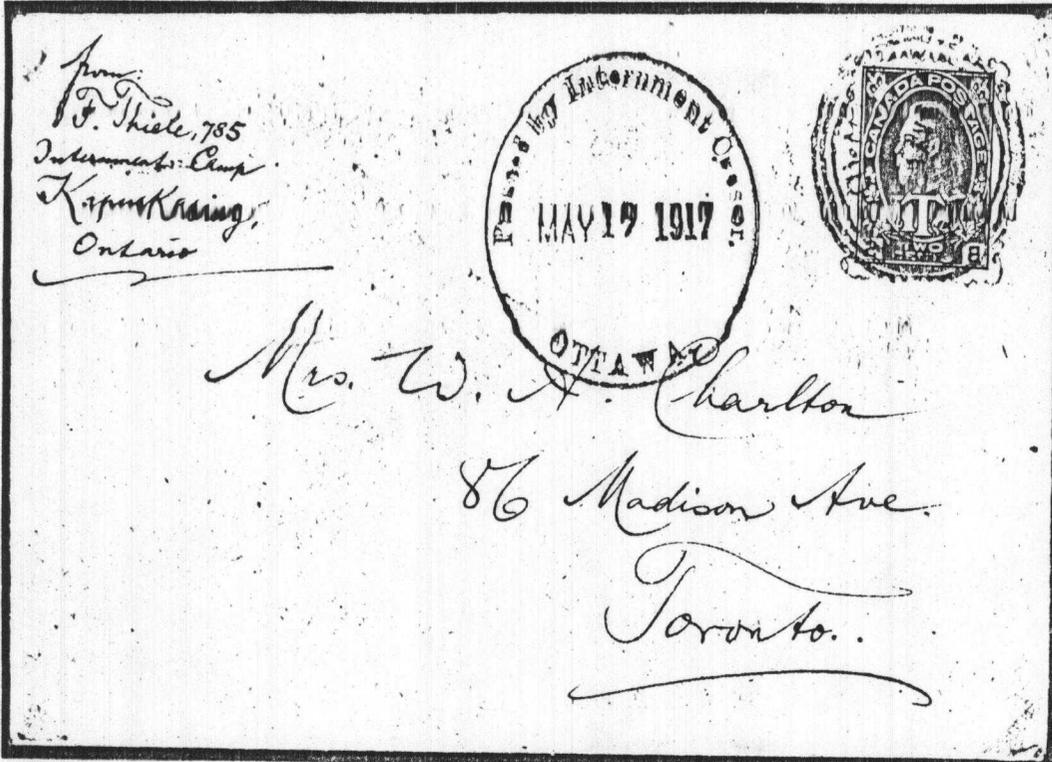
Your replies please to the above address.

154...Censor marking - OTTAWA

Reference is made to Newsletter #20, page 7 and listing of Internment camps - WW1. At the time of writing-up this page the Ottawa censor mark was not known to your scribe. The photocopy illustrated was received from a reliable source of information and is the first evidence of this censor marking.

154... cont'd.

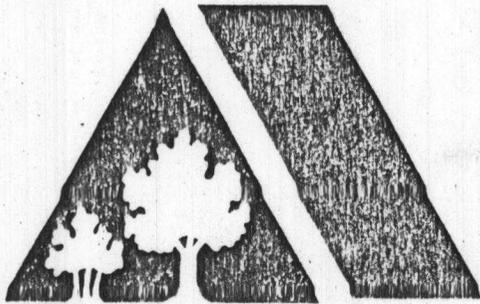
Present information suggests that the Kapuskasing censor marking listed on page 7 was not in use as early as May 1917. Any information pertaining to the Ottawa and Kapuskasing markings is requested and will be passed along to Study Group members.



BRANCH	NUMBER	LOCATION	ROLE	1A	1B	2A	4A	4A	5A	6A	10A	blank
	148...	MPO/NPO survey - MD10-Manitoba										
	1001	A Shilo	A-3 CATC S-14 C Para TC	8		5	3		3			
	1002	R Dauphin	10 SFTS	6								
	1003	R Brandon	12 SFTS 2MD	8								
	1004	R Macdonald	3 B & G	7						1		
	1005	R Paulson	7 B & G	6								
	1006	R Rivers	1 Cen Nav S	7		7	1					
	1007	R Carberry	33 SFTS	7								
	1008	R Souris	17 SFTS	4		4						
	1009	R Winnipeg	2 Trg Comm	4								
	1010	R Gimli	18 SFTS	6								1
	1011	R Winnipeg	1 W/T School	7								
	1012	R Portage	7 AOS 14 EFTS	7								
	1013	R Winnipeg	5 AOS	6								1
	1014	A "	103 Pas TC 10 Voc TS	5								
	1015	A Churchill	Defence Research B	5		4*				1		1

* ONE OF THESE IS DATED DEC 16, 1948

151.. MPO 100 - further to our item 128



CJ '77

"CANADIANS ALL" — "TOUS CANADIENS"
CANADIAN JAMBOREE CANADIEN
July 1 — 10, 1977
Cabot Park, Prince Edward Island



Wayne Curtis answered our request for a photocopy of a cover from this MPO which apparently had a very brief life.

The Canadian Philatelist for Sept- Oct, 1977 printed details of the office's operation. In part, the MPO was open from 2 July to 11 July, 1977 to provide post office service to the Scout Jamboree. It was located at Cabot Provincial Park, Prince Edward Island. The official office number was 060763.

A cut-square showing another cancel is included, the covers having identical cachets. Thanks Wayne.

149...MPO 1314 - type 2A

**O. H. M. S.
S. DE S. M.**

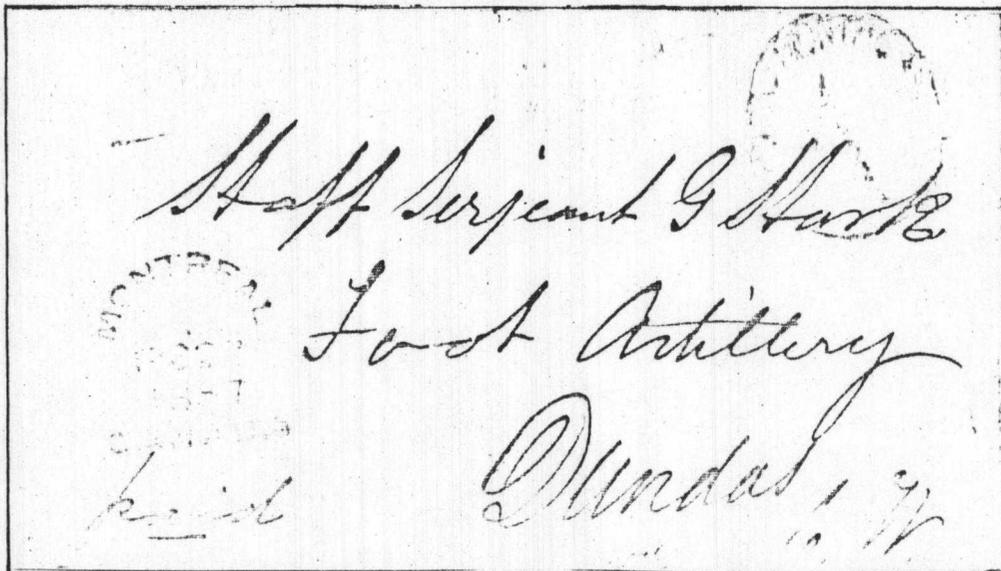


Officer Commanding,
A-16 C.I.T.C.,
Currie, Barracks,
Calgary, Alta.

152 ... Interesting and scarce

This borrowed item is illustrated for members to see an early military cover. It is clearly dated FE 27 1857 by a tombstone cancel, Boggs' H32a. The 1 penny rate was PAID at MONTREAL as evidenced by the hand struck circular stamp. Two years later decimal currency was introduced,

From the information on the front of the cover it is not possible to state with certainty the military affiliation of the addressee but strictly as an opinion we believe the Staff Serjeant would have been a British regular.



In 1857 there were considerable numbers of Militia forces in Canada as well as, perhaps, 2000 British Garrison troops. Of the latter the 9th, 39th, 62nd and 63rd Regiments of Foot are listed in a reference.

The term, Foot Artillery, to quote one historian, was once in common use to distinguish from the more glamorous Horse Artillery and the more or less stationary Garrison Artillery. Evidence is not at hand concerning troops at Dundas but it is obvious that some Artillery were there.

It might be pointed out that in the period 1856-1867, following amendments to the Militia Act of 1855, a great many volunteer units were formed, armed and trained but not paid. The Active Militia, also volunteers, were paid.

Despite the numbers of Militiamen who likely spent from 10 to 20 days each year away from their homes few covers from them have been found by collectors.

On the reverse is a fine railway post office marking, Boggs' type 12 reading BR. GRD. TRK. R.W. MAIL COND'R No ?, or in full, MONTREAL & BROCKVILLE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY MAIL CONDUCTOR No ?. The date is FEB 28 1857.

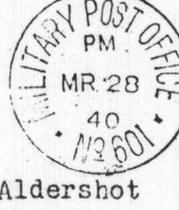
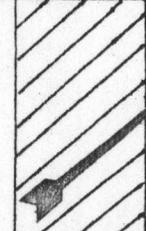
DUNDAS U.C. receiver's mark is dated MR 2 1857.



Additional information on early covers in general, or the above, will be welcome and would be passed along via the Newsletter.

153...

5
MPO NUMBER SERIES

Branch	Role	your dates			your dates		Role	Branch
		1939	1940	1941	1941	1940		
 Toronto	R C A F #1 MD #1 ITS		Jun 26/40			Apr 1/40	Tech. Train Sch'l	 St. Thomas
 Ottawa	R C A F				Feb 27/41	Jun 25/40	#1 CFS	 Trenton
 Barriefield	A R M Y CA(A)		Oct 12/40	Feb 5/41			camp	 Aldershot
 Valcartier with dots	A R M Y CA(A)		Oct 12/40					 Valcartier no dots

Note 1: the dates shown in the above photo-copies are the actual proofing dates

Note 2: list all dates you have, or, if you wish, only earliest and latest for any one cancel



Valcartier

The first digit of the MPO number denoted the Military District in which the office was situated.

The results of this survey can determine the approximate scarcity of each cancel and the earliest and latest dates of usage. The more reports we receive the more valid the rarity factor.

Notice St. Thomas MPO 101 has a large 0 in NO. and one dot only at NO. 101.

The assistance of Staff at Postal Museum is acknowledged.

Arrow could be a new one to the scene?

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS 1942/45

(continued)

The widespread use of the air letter mentioned earlier brought about the need for a Privilege or Honour form as a substitute for the Honour envelope. The British had such a form available to them which contained a blue triangle on the front and the "Honour" certificate on the back panel. Provided the certificate was signed by the writer, the letter could be passed to the base without having been censored by the Officers of the writers unit.

Prior to such a form being available to Canadian Forces, the certification was written by hand or typewriter (Fig. 9), or if available the British "Honour" air letter was used (Fig. 10)

Fold Here

CFQ 11
40/P & S/1448

Fold Here

FROM: Sender's full name and address

I certify on my honour that the contents of this letter refer to nothing but private and family affairs.

Signature: *[Handwritten Signature]*

Fold Here

Fold Here

FROM: (Sender's full name and address)

M.....

.....

.....

I certify this contains personal affairs.

[Handwritten Signature]

CFQ 11
40/P & S/1448

Fold Here

FROM: (Sender's full name and address)

M..... *ROSS*

.....

.....

I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family affairs.

Signature

[Handwritten Signature]

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS - 1942/45
(continued)

125

-8-

BY AIR MAIL AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS CARD WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



Miss. E. ...
760.
Outreniont
Montreal.
Canada.

RELEASED BY BASE CENSORS



WHEN FOLDED THE LETTER CARD MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN
AF W3077

NOTE.—

Correspondence in this Letter Card need not be censored Regimentally
The contents are liable to examination at the Base.

The following Certificate must be signed by the writer:—

I certify on my honour that the contents of this Letter Card refer to nothing but private and family matters.

Signature — Name only. *A. P. 117*

Fig. 10 - British "Honour" form used by a Canadian soldier in Italy. The triangle appears to be overprinted on a early type air letter and was very short lived.

All examples seen are used from Italy

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS - 1942/45

(continued)

Once again following the British lead, Ottawa directed #1 P&S Detachment to prepare a "Honour" Air Letter. As an interim measure a blue triangle was over-printed on some existing stocks of the 1942 type form which was illustrated in Fig. 4, no Honour certificate was included on the back panel (Fig. 11)

On the same form they subsequently added the postal instructions from the March 1944 issue on the front and the Honour certificate on the back panel. I regret that I do not have a copy of this particular sheet for illustration, perhaps one of the readers could provide a copy to the Editor at a later date.

Open Here

ARMED FORCES
AIR LETTER

AIR MAIL

If anything is enclosed in this letter it will be sent by ordinary mail.

#2 Group Adq
Victoria
TO: W 3
B.C. CPH P.
M. 20 405 Lachina P.Q.
CANADA

25-2-44

FIELD POST OFFICE
JAN 10 44
SHERBROOKE P.Q.
FEB 25 44
ONT.
POSTAGE
REVENUE
CANADA

Fold Here

CFQ 11A
40/P & S/1448

Fold Here

FROM:
(Sender's full name and address)

Mr. A. S. E. Walsh
P.O. Box 100
St. Catharines, Ont.
C.A.C.O.

JAN 28 1944
SHERBROOKE P.Q.
FEB 25 44
ONT.
P.O. 44
LAC

JAN 27 1944

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS - 1942/45

(continued)

The "Honour" Air Letter in its production form was designed similar to that illustrated in Fig. 7 with the addition of a blue triangle on the front and the Honour certificate on the back panel (Fig. 12)

There does not appear to be a specific date when this form was first made available. The only date we have to go on is a routine order dated 17 April 1944 announcing the availability of the Honour form, however we know that the overprinted 1942 forms were available months before.

There are a number of varieties in layout and types of paper.

ARMED FORCES AIR LETTER

AIR MAIL

Open Here

Open Here



This letter must be posted in Armed Forces Postal channels. If posted in a Civil Post Office or pillar box, it will not be given air transmission.



Mrs. J. E. Thornley,

322 Victoria Street,

Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.

If anything is enclosed in this letter it will be sent by ordinary mail.

FROM: (Sender's Regt'l No., Rank and Name only)

A55

Sigran. M. P.

Stamp

This Armed Forces Letter cannot be accepted for registration.

NOTE — Correspondence in this A.F.A.L. need not be censored regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base.

The following certificate must be signed by the writer:

I certify on my honor that the contents of this Armed Forces Air Letter refers to nothing but private and family matters.

SIGNATURE: (Name only)

M.E. [Signature]

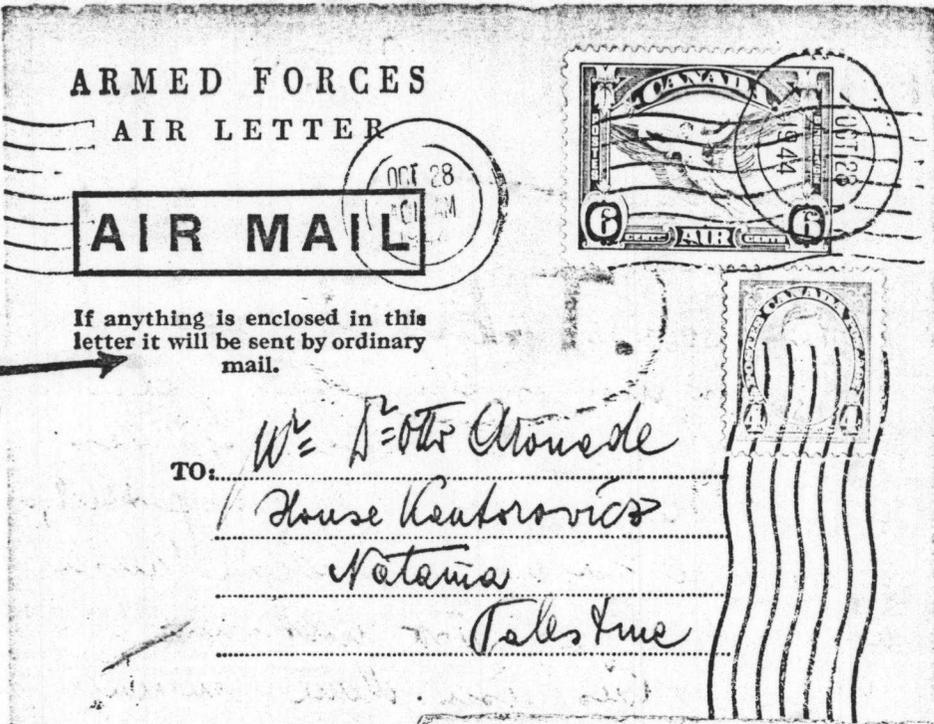
CFQ 11A
40/P & S/144R

Fold Here

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AIR LETTERS - 1942/45

(continued)

By mid-1944, the R.C.A.F. was hitting its stride in providing reasonably regular mail deliveries overseas and vice versa, now with "Liberator" aircraft becoming available to help the ageing "Fortresses" Canadian Authorities announced that the Armed Forces Air Letter could be used by the public to correspond with civilian relatives and friends overseas. The date for commencement of this new service was set at 11 September 1944. It is assumed that these civilian letters were transported via commercial airlines which had been relieved of the military mail by the R.C.A.F.



"O.A.T."

Note use of the manuscript "Civilian" used on many of these letters.

