



Canadian Military Mail Study Group



NEWSLETTER

JULY 1996

NEWSLETTER No. 125
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Dear Fellow CMMG Members:

CAPEX is now over and hopefully everyone had an excellent time. Thanks are extended to Jon Johnson and Peter McCarthy for doing an excellent job in their respective positions. Good luck to Doug Lingard and David Whiteley (both Study Group members!). Another varied selection of topics for members this time, and hopefully it will provide members some pleasure in these lazy days of summer. You will also find an insert from the Canadian War Museum and trust that your support will be appreciated. It is a worthwhile cause. Some work on future monographs is proceeding and please note the call for information by David Whiteley. Both Bill and I want to also wish members the best for the summer. See you in September!

SUB. P.O. "X", TORONTO, ONT.--By J.C. Campbell

Further to the above title in Newsletter 122, pages 212, 213, and 219. The reason that the Canadian National Exhibition facilities were used by the army during the First World War may best be explained, at least in part, by a quotation from Canada in the Great World War, Volume 2, page 255:

Through all the late summer of 1915 the lack of elbow room for the men in training was apparent, particularly at Niagara and London. Enlistments were heavy in Western Ontario and it became clear that some preparation must be made to accommodate the swelling army. For the winter the Exhibition Camp at Toronto was used again, nearly ten thousand troops finding shelter.

A newspaper clipping of 1968 headed "Fifty Years" reads as follows:

Jan. 10, 1918. About 30 young men of Peel (County) left yesterday for the Exhibition Training Camp in Toronto. They make up the first calling of draftees under the Military Service Act. Across the country 20,000 will be called up and will be overseas within a few weeks.

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A variety of postal cancellations were used before and during the First World War, some of which are shown below:



(FACSIMILE)



(A)

(B)

Another cancellation used at Exhibition Camp during the War is illustrated below and it is a difficult one to add to a collection:



FIELD POST OFFICE

According to the writings of the late Lt. Col. R.H. Webb, this machine was used sporadically between Camps Borden, Toronto, and Niagara during 1917 and 1918. Toronto dates in January, February, March, and April have been reported.

In some research notes compiled by Susan Sheffield, these useful comparisons are related to the story:

TORONTO SUB. OFFICE "X"

	MONEY ORDERS ISSUED	GROSS REVENUE
1914	270	\$1,023.25
1915	2740	\$5,987.46
1916	2866	\$9,410.51
1917	2825	\$11,405.73
1918	-	\$11,963.39

These figures indicate a substantial rise in revenue during the war years and is indicative of the number of soldiers passing through Exhibition Camp. This is also surprising when one considers the rates of pay in those days!

Some of the units represented at Exhibition Camp per notations on postcards by writers were: 25th Brantford Dragoons; 58th Pioneers; 13th, 15th, 20th, and 33rd Batteries (C.F.A.). Based on fourteen Sub. X cancels dated within the war years the earliest date is November 25 (or 28), 1914, with a close second being November 29, 1914. The latest is November 18, 1918 on a soldier-related cover. Sorry to report that the photocopies of the cancels were not clear enough to determine whether the strikes were hammers "A" or "B".

Those readers wishing to add to the numbers of Toronto Sub. "X" CDS cancels, and who might be able to contribute to the ERDs or LRDs may send photocopies to the writer or the Editor of the CMMSSG. Please identify cancel dates and types from the original.

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THE CANADIAN PROVOST CORPS, PART II--By A. David Hanes

After the Second World War the peacetime strength of the regular portion of the Corps was cut to 17 officers and 118 men. The strength of the Corps was later gradually increased, however, due to the Korean War and the NATO European contribution which built the Corps to its peacetime peak of 100 officers and 1,400 other ranks.

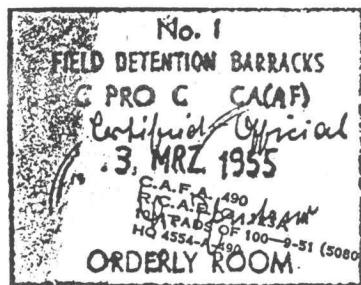
At the end of the Second World War the Canadian Armed Forces in Europe were returned to Canada. Canada's participation in the North Atlantic Treaty involved, among other commitments, the maintenance of armed forces in Europe. Accordingly on November 10, 1951, the first Canadians of an Infantry Brigade Group went back to Germany. The Canadian Provost Corps was represented by 27 Pro. Det. until 1953, then by 1 Pro. Coy. (Europe). Later, when 4 CIBG took over the NATO duties in Europe, 4 Pro. Platoon was the C.Pro.C. element.

During the UN operations in Korea, a C.Pro.C. force of 150 integrated with the British and Australians to form the famous Commonwealth Division. The Corps operated the only Detention Barracks in Korea and supplied police and criminal investigators from Tokyo to Seoul.

In February 1957 the UNEF Military Police Company was authorized by the UN. The MP Company set up with its Headquarters, a Special Investigation Section, and a Police Detachment in Gaza near the UNEF Headquarters. The MP Detachment performed duties normally assigned to a C.Pro.C. detachment along with the investigation of all incidents (whether serious or minor).

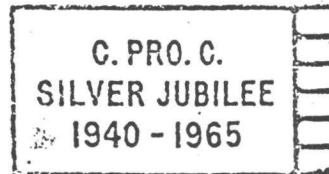
In 1960 Belgium withdrew from her former colony in Central Africa and an independent Republic of the Congo was established. Extreme disorder developed between political, military, industrial, and religious interests and the UN was asked for assistance. Canada provided Military Police along with other countries. Their duties were demanding and, at times, frustrating. This was especially true when attempting to act as a link between local police and ONUC, when UN military or civilian personnel became involved with them.

In December 1963 the Greek and Turkish communities on the island of Cyprus started killing each other. The UN was requested to take action. Members of the Provost Section of the Royal 22nd Regiment landed on March 16, 1964. This UN deployment was originally scheduled to last only six months but actually ended over twenty-eight years later! Two orderly room markings are illustrated below:



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The Canadian Provost Corps celebrated twenty-five years of service in 1965. A slogan cancel was prepared and used during the month of June at Edmonton, Montreal, Toronto, and Camp Borden:



At the time of unification, the Canadian Provost Corps and the Air Force Police trades were joined to become the present day "Military Police".

The two cancels/markings below are unusual in that they indicate Naval Provost Marshall use. The Canadian Navy did not have Police Services as did the Army and the Air Force, but utilized the services of personnel assigned shore patrol duties. It appears that Army Provost Officers were assigned "attached" duties with the Canadian Navy during the War. The marking on the left was used at Halifax and the one on the right was used at Esquimalt.



THE GODERICH MILITIA CAMP--By C.D. Sayles © 1995

This Newsletter has not provided any information on the Goderich Militia camps. The story is interesting, and the summary below is intended as an introduction which, I hope, will stimulate Study Group members to further study.

The Western Ontario Militia Camp of Instruction operated near Goderich in 1908, 1911, and 1912. That the 1908 Camp was held at Goderich was the result of several years of lobbying by local boosters, along with some luck. Because the plan to concentrate all of the Militia in Quebec City for the Tercentenary celebrations in 1908 fell through, a camp was hastily organized for Goderich. Preparations for the Camp were practically complete by June 11, 1908. The advance parties from the Companies were scheduled to start arriving on June 13, and the main bodies of troops (totalling over 3,500 men) on Monday, June 15. Most troops departed on June 26.

This was before the Canadian Postal Corps (CPC) was organized so the troops had to use the civil post office at nearby Goderich. There was a booth at the entrance to the Camp selling postcards. Local enterprises produced a series of real photo postcards of Camp activities. I know of three such cards and undoubtedly there are others. All that I have seen were used at the Goderich civil post office. Figure 1 is an example of such a postcard, and is captioned "The parade at close of Goderich Military Camp" [illustration following on page 245].

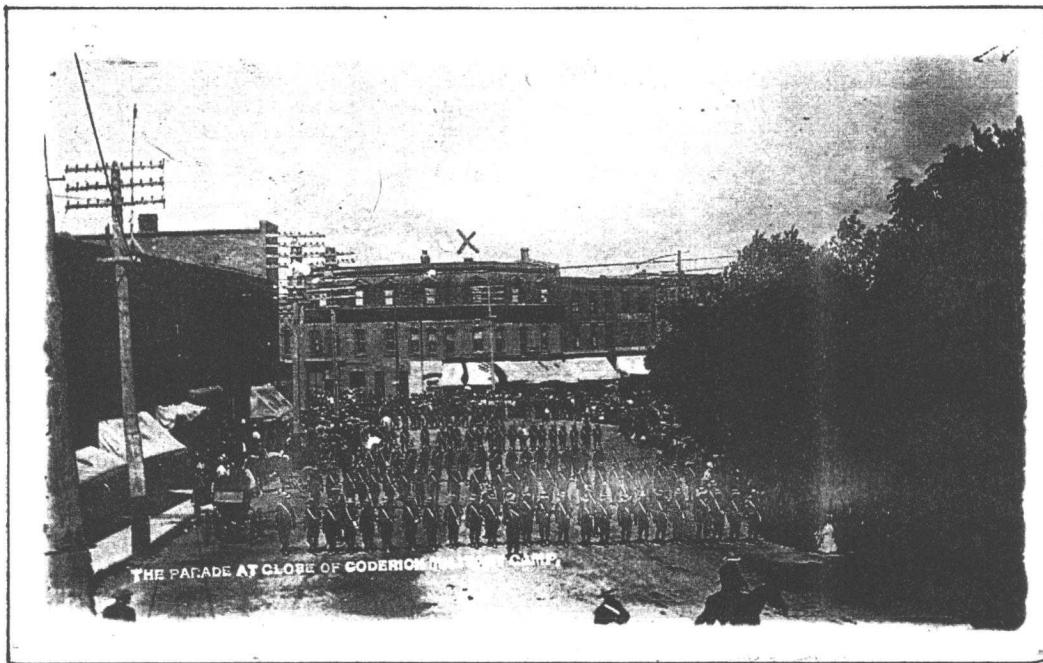


FIG.1

In 1911 the Camp returned to Goderich from Carling's Heights near London. The arrangements for the Camp were the same as in 1908, but with the addition of CPC postal service. The Camp ran from June 19-30, although the advance parties arrived on June 17. Again, real photo cards were available to the troops. To quote the Goderich Signal's acid report:

A postal service has been established, and a number of letter boxes are scattered through the camp. . . . The hours (for collection) now are 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., just in time to miss the trains leaving Goderich.

The earliest reported date (ERD) in the CMMSSG Anthology for 1911 is June 10. Given that the advance parties were not on site until June 17, this early usage needs explanation. I would very much like to hear from the owner of that June 10 cover!

The 1912 Camp opened June 17 and ran to June 28 (some city regiments left on June 27). About 3,200 men attended the Camp. The Minister, Sam Hughes, and Inspector-General Otter, made inspections. The CPC was of course present. The local paper reports:

The camp postal department announces a very brisk sale of postage stamps. The boys are sending home vast numbers of souvenir postcards, which can be purchased right on the grounds.

I think it is a reasonable assumption that the ERD could be June 17 and the LRD could be June 28. Figure 2 [following page] is a card from this Camp. The obverse is a real photo of the YMCA tent.

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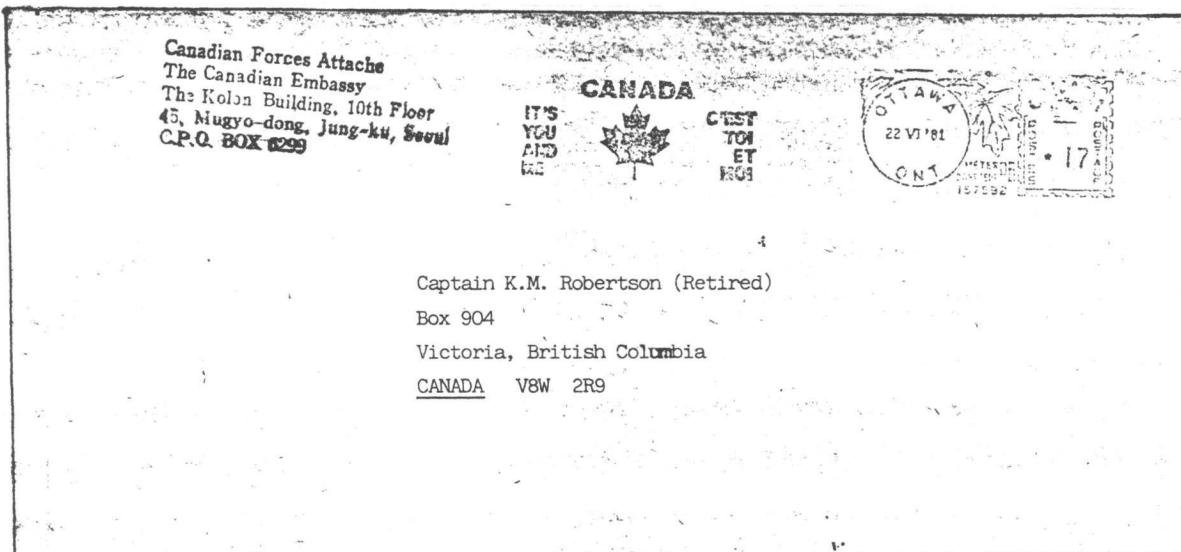
FIG.2

As always, research breeds more questions than it answers. These Goderich Camps were well-attended, yet examples of postal usage have so far appeared to be almost rare. Why?

UNCMAC--UNITED NATIONS COMMAND
MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION--By Robert Toombs

Hostilities in Korea ceased on July 27, 1953. UNCMAC was formed shortly after the armistice in Korea. Canada has been represented on this military armistice commission since 1954. This is the commission that meets at Panmunjom regularly which we hear about from time to time on the news. Since 1980, the Canadian Forces Attaché in Seoul, a Major, assumed responsibilities as the Canadian representative to UNCMAC.

Shown below is a 1981 cover to Canada from the Canadian Forces Attaché in Seoul. It likely travelled to Ottawa by diplomatic bag where it was meter franked with the then current 17¢ domestic rate and entered the domestic mailstream for Victoria.



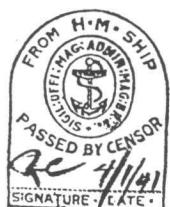
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1940-41 U.K. PHILATELIC NAVAL COVERS--By W. Whitehouse

The illustrated letter and its cover (FIG.1) addressed to Captain I.C. Morgan of Montreal from HMCS Skeena in January 1941 is rather interesting.

H.M.C.S."Skeena"

O. H. M. S.



RECEIVED FROM
H.M.SHIPS

Capt. I.C.Morgan
5477 Eranscliffe Ave.,
N.D.G.,
Montreal, Canada

M. F. B. 299
700M-6-40 (5524-5-6)
H.Q. 172-40-278

FIG.1

We know that Capt. Morgan was a well known military cover collector of the period and although we don't know exactly what he requested be done with his self-addressed cover, we can safely assume he wanted the Commanding Officer handstamp applied to the cover and returned to him through the mailstream.

Under ordinary circumstances a request of this nature, during wartime, would have gone unanswered. However as the request came from an army officer, the Commanding Officer of Skeena probably requested a reply be made.

The replying officer, a Sub/Lt., R.C.N.V.R., could not resist the opportunity to take a jab at his army counterpart. However Capt. Morgan appears to have had the last laugh; he got the return of his cover although perhaps not with the exact marking he had requested. Nevertheless, the cover identified the ship and the censor mark it was using.

Members may recall that early in 1940 Ottawa ordered that the ship name should not appear alongside the cen-

Jan. 7th 1941



H.M.C.S. Skeena
% G.P.O.
London.

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of Nov. 21st 1940 just received, I should like to point out that your request is contrary to all censorship rules and naval regulations and can therefore not be granted!

I am amazed at the military lack of knowledge regarding Naval Affairs (i.e. addressing Skeena % Victoria) In spite of having been in the Atlantic since the beginning of 1938, not to mention the fact that we have been over here since May 1940, you're not doing to badly!

Well I thought I would just write & tell you I can't do as you ask!!

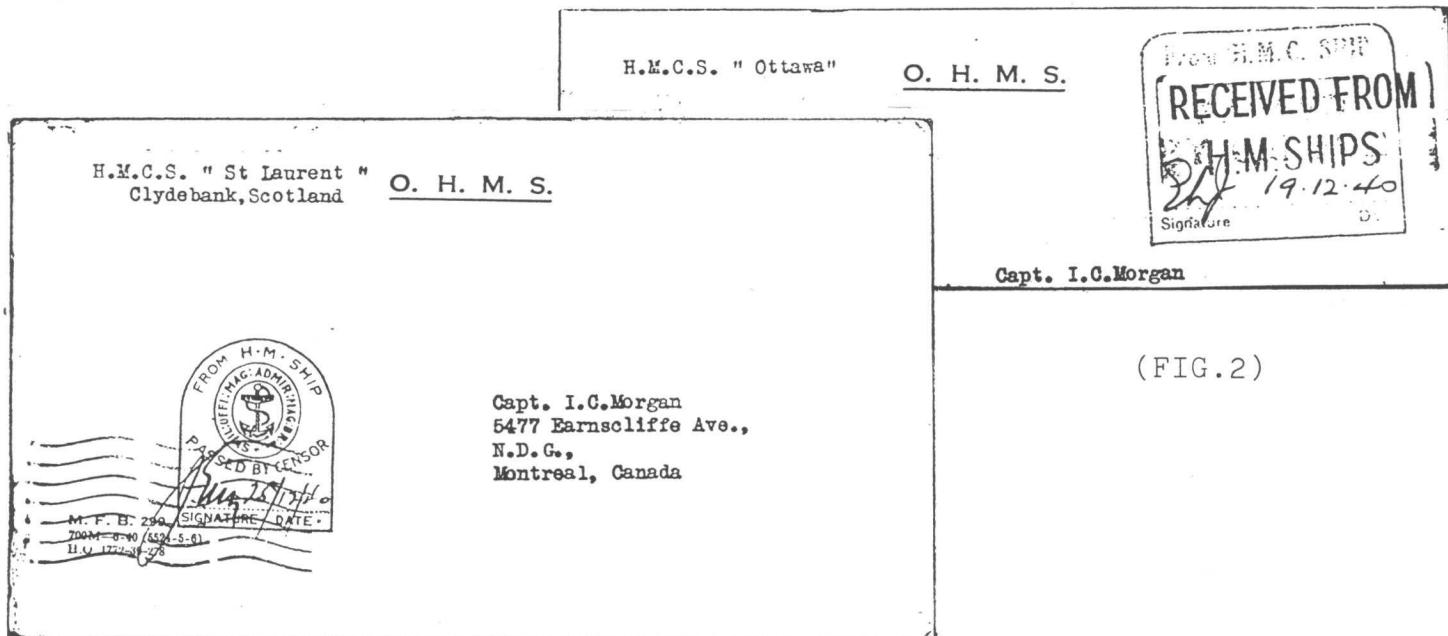
Peter J. B. Crole
Sub Lieutenant

Mail Officer

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sor marking (at that time it was the "PASSED BY CENSOR" mark). But in this case, after scolding Morgan for making his request, the Sub/Lt. applied the ship's censor mark, the "tombstone", immediately below the ship's name which had been typed on the cover.

It seems Skeena was not the only ship to break the rules on behalf of Capt. Morgan. Ottawa and St. Laurent also returned his self-addressed O.H.M.S. covers which contained the ship name in the upper left hand corner (FIG.2). Even the strict postal censors in England did not pick up the breach of the regulations.



(FIG.2)

At this time there were four H.M.C. Destroyers operating in U.K. waters; all were members of the 10th Escort Group based at Greenock, Scotland. The fourth member of the Group was H.M.C.S. Saguenay who, in December 1940, was in dry dock undergoing repairs to her bow after being torpedoed off Ireland. It would be interesting to learn whether Saguenay complied with Morgan's request assuming, of course, that he wrote to the ship. Does any member have such a cover?



H.M.T. OLYMPIC UPDATE

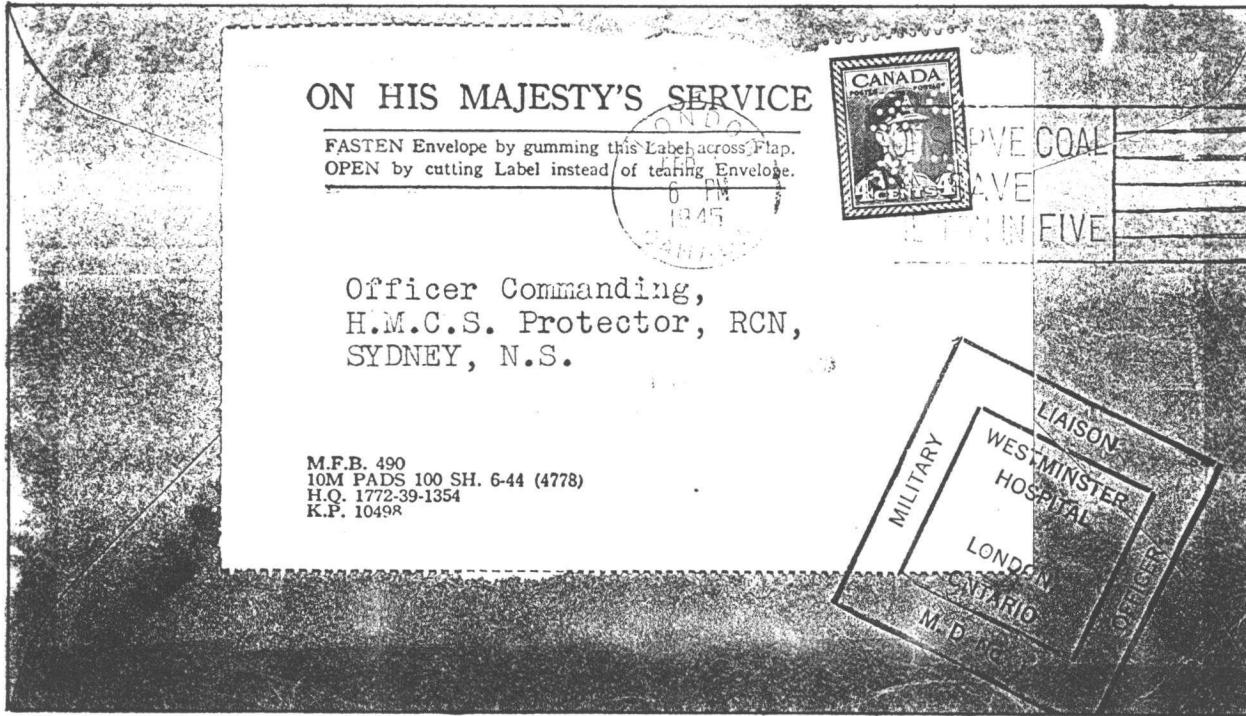
Another report of different dates for this picture postcard, January 11/January 17, 1919. This is a different card than those illustrated in Newsletter 120, p. 200, and Bailey and Toop's Canadian Military Posts, Vol.2, p.9.



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M.L.O. WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL--By Jon C. Johnson

The cover below illustrates an unusual square marking. The cover is dated February 1, 1945 from the Westminster Hospital, London, Ontario, to the naval base at H.M.C.S. Protector, Sydney, Nova Scotia and arrived on February 5. The rubber marking is from the Military Liason Officer, Military District No. 1. The stamp is the four-hole O.H.M.S. Perfin type 08.

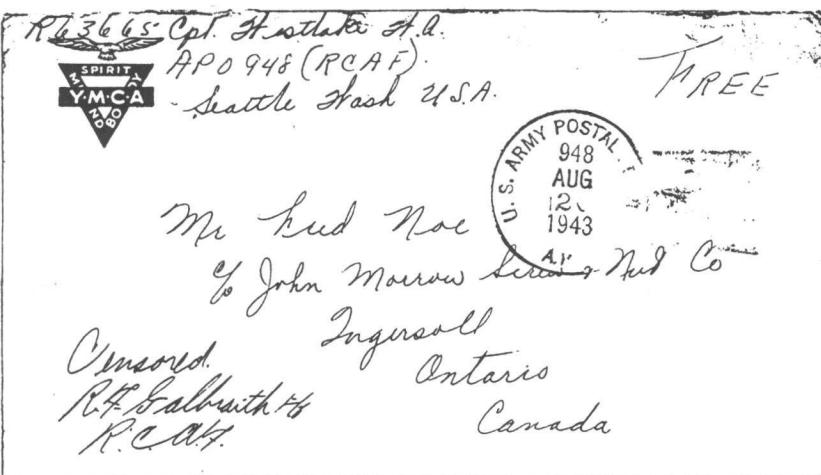


BNAPEX '96, FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Word just in that Jon Johnson will be presenting a seminar on "Medical Matters of the Services". This will be an excellent programme and one certainly not to miss! Contact Jeff Switt for more information.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to ERIC P. YENDALL, 1110 SECOND AVE., OTTAWA, ONTARIO, K1H 8E1!



R.C.A.F. IN ALASKA (1943)

The cover shown at left illustrates an uncommon R.C.A.F. "outpost" with the APO 948 based in Alaska. There were at least three sqn. based at Anchorage and Annette Island.



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COMIC NETHERLAND POSTCARDS UPDATE

Ken Ellison sends in two more of these wonderful cards as shown in Newsletter 124, p. 236. Any more in this series?



CMMMSG MEMBERSHIP LIST

Production of the membership list will be included in a future issue. Those members who do not wish their addresses published, please contact the Editor as soon as possible please for deletion. Thank you! In keeping with today's technology, the following E-Mail addresses might be useful to members:

MIKE STREET: Mikestreet@freenet.hamilton.on.ca
 KEN ELLISON: ken_ellison@mindlink.bc.ca
 ROBERT TOOMBS:rgtoombs@uniserve.com
 GINI HORN (APS LIBRARY): gini@stamps.org

SMALL ADS

The Newsletter will accept small ads from members. One insertion of up to four lines for a "Loonie"! For our overseas friends, that's a Canadian dollar. Please send your ad with "real" money or mint (Canadian preferred) stamps to the Editor's attention.

WANTED: Covers or cards addressed to, or from, members of the Cdn. Provost Corps; SIS Units; or Service Detention Barracks (SDB's).

A.D. Hanes, 33 Lillian Cresc., Barrie, ON, L4N 4P8 (4/4)

WANTED: Still looking for "Z" Force incl. related British Home Depot/ ABPO etc. (see N/L, pp. 315-18 by J. Davis). Photocopies welcomed or the "real thing" on approval.

D. Mario, Box 342, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3L3 (1/2)

WANTED: Information/descriptions regarding the POW Camp at Gravenhurst, ON; Toronto's "Little Norway"; and "Little Norway, Muskoka, ON". Sue Sheffield, c/o Muskoka, "A Summer Love Affair", Box 67039, Meadowlark RPO, Edmonton, AB T5R 5Y3, FAX (403) 481-1144 (2/5)

RESEARCH REQUEST

David Whiteley's work on the CSEF covers (N/L 121, p.204) is near completion and he issues a "last call". He also needs info. related to the N.Russian Force-ELOPE and SYREN Forces.