



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

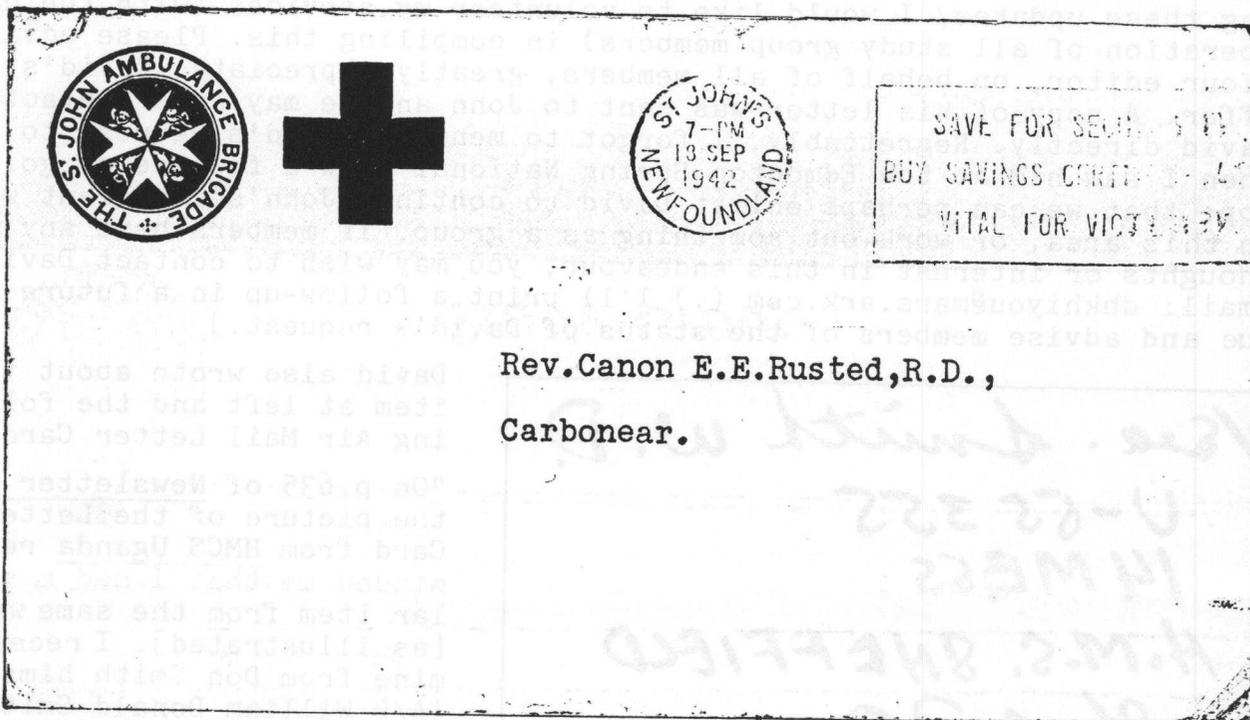
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2003

NEWSLETTER NO. 159
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NEWFOUNDLAND'S S.J.A.B. 1942

Although strictly not a "military" cover per se, I trust that members will indulge me as it is one of my favourites. The St. John Ambulance Brigade has always maintained a pseudo-military relationship with the armed forces. One of its many important resources,



in a military context, was the organization's excellent training of military nurses (and, to some extent, orderlies and other hospital personnel). The above free-franked cover from St. John's is attractive. The cross is, naturally, in red. The reverse address has "The St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas/Newfoundland District/ P.O. Box E 5121" printed in black. Many members will also know of our Chairman/Treasurer's close relationship with the S.J.A.B.

[Cont'd.]

CHAIR/TREAS.: W.J. BAILEY, #5-8191 FRANCIS RD., RICHMOND, BC V6Y 1A5
EDITOR: D. MARIO, BOX 342, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3

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After Bill Bailey's career as a regular officer in the Canadian Army from 1951 throughout the world, he had also served with the St. John Ambulance from 1978 until 1989. He is still connected with the group to some extent; having also served at one time as the Deputy Provincial Commissioner. Bill's service was recognized with his recently being appointed to Commander of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (CStJ.); the Grand Priory having been incorporated by Royal Charter in 1888.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

David Kelly writes:

"As most of the members of our study group, I possess a copy of A Canadian Military Postal History Anthology (published in 1991). As a collector of First World War FPO's, I am constantly referring to the chapter titled 'Allocation of Field Censor Handstamps--WWI' (p.149) by John Frith. As one can see, there are many blanks and questions of the marks listed. Has there been a follow-up on these censor handstamps? Is John compiling a list of additions and updates to the previous list mentioned above? If so, what is the status of same? If there is no one spearheading these updates, I would like to volunteer my services (with the cooperation of all study group members) in compiling this. Please advise." [Your editor, on behalf of all members, greatly appreciates David's kind offer. A copy of his letter was sent to John and he may have contacted David directly. Regrettably, I forgot to mention David's request to John when I saw him at the Edmonton Spring National show a few weeks ago. I hope that we can perhaps enlist David to continue John's excellent work in this area, or work out something as a group. If members have any thoughts or interest in this endeavour, you may wish to contact David by email: dhkhiyou@mars.ark.com (.) I'll print a follow-up in a future issue and advise members of the status of David's request.]

NOTE:

Letters to the Editor are encouraged.

David also wrote about the item at left and the following Air Mail Letter Card:

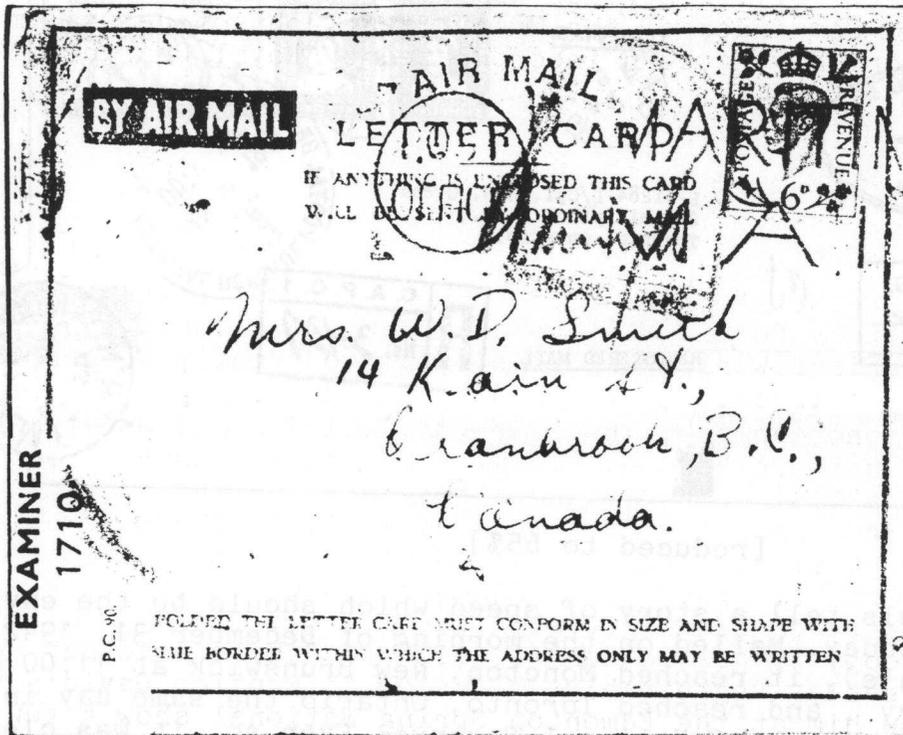
"On p.635 of Newsletter #156 the picture of the Letter Card from HMCS Uganda reminded me that I had a similar item from the same writer [as illustrated]. I received mine from Don Smith himself (A/B William Donald Smith). It is addressed to his mother Mrs. William David Smith. William, naturally, being Don's father.

One of Don's duties was handling the shells which are mentioned in Colin's article, re. 'shelling Japanese airfields on Formosa'. From the two letters, one can see that Don was an Ordinary Seaman on the Sheffield, and was promoted to Able Seaman on the Uganda. Another point to note is that the Letter Card from the Sheffield required a 6p stamp for postage. The Letter Card from the Uganda required no postage, due to the ship being on loan to Canada and

[Cont'd.]

*o/sa. Smith W.D.
U-85355
14 MESS
H.M.S. SHEFFIELD
% B.P.O.
London, Eng.*

being under Canadian rules. I am interested in when, how, and where Colin Pomfret acquired his Letter Card. Can you remember Colin?"



Wilf Whitehouse has also written:

"Reference to Newsletter #158, p.667, and Alan Baker's article on HMS Montgomery and HMCS Giffard. His comments were appreciated. There is no question that HMS Montgomery existed regardless of my article about the Christmas card in Newsletter #153. You may recall my letter advising of the book Warship Perspectives--Flush Deck Destroyers in WWII and the review of the book. In the review, there is mention of photos of Montgomery as "H.M.S." in Arctic seas and in drydock in 1943.*

Alan stated that Montgomery was transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy in 1942-1943, but I don't believe that this transfer ever took place. There were only a total of eight flush deckers turned over to the R.C.N., six from the U.S. Navy in 1940 and two from the Royal Navy (HMS Hamilton became HMCS Hamilton in July 1941 and HMS Buxton became HMCS Buxton in November 1943."

*See p.679.

C.A.P.O. NO.1 REGISTRATION--By C.D. Sayles

Illustrated on the next page is a lovely C.A.P.O. cover. It is the first I have seen with an orderly room handstamp--I have no idea what purpose it served or why it was added to this particular letter. The second remarkable feature is the O.H.M.S. handstamp. I have never seen this before and, again, what purpose did it serve? Sixteen cents postage is paid and presumably this was the applicable rate for registered airmail [my

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sources indicate that a registered letter to Canada was fifteen cents ie. 10¢ registration and 5¢ letter rate.Ed.]. The airmail sticker has been largely torn off, but a remnant remains at the bottom of the front.

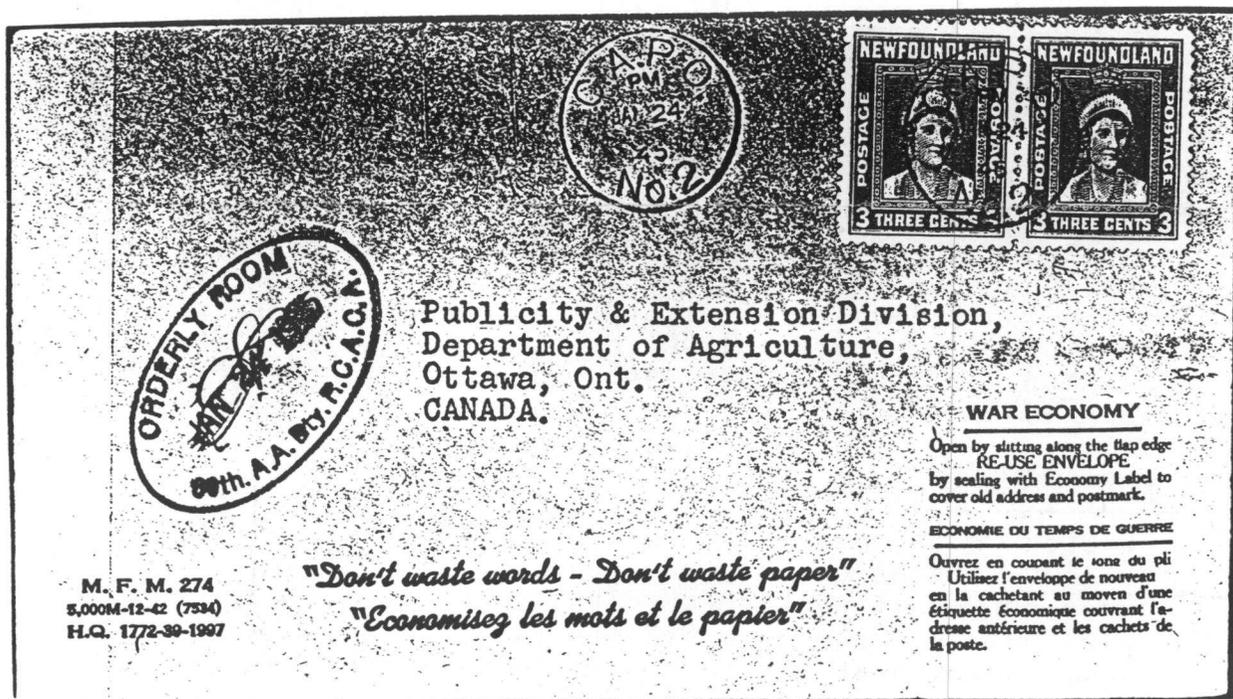


[reduced to 65%]

[backstamps]

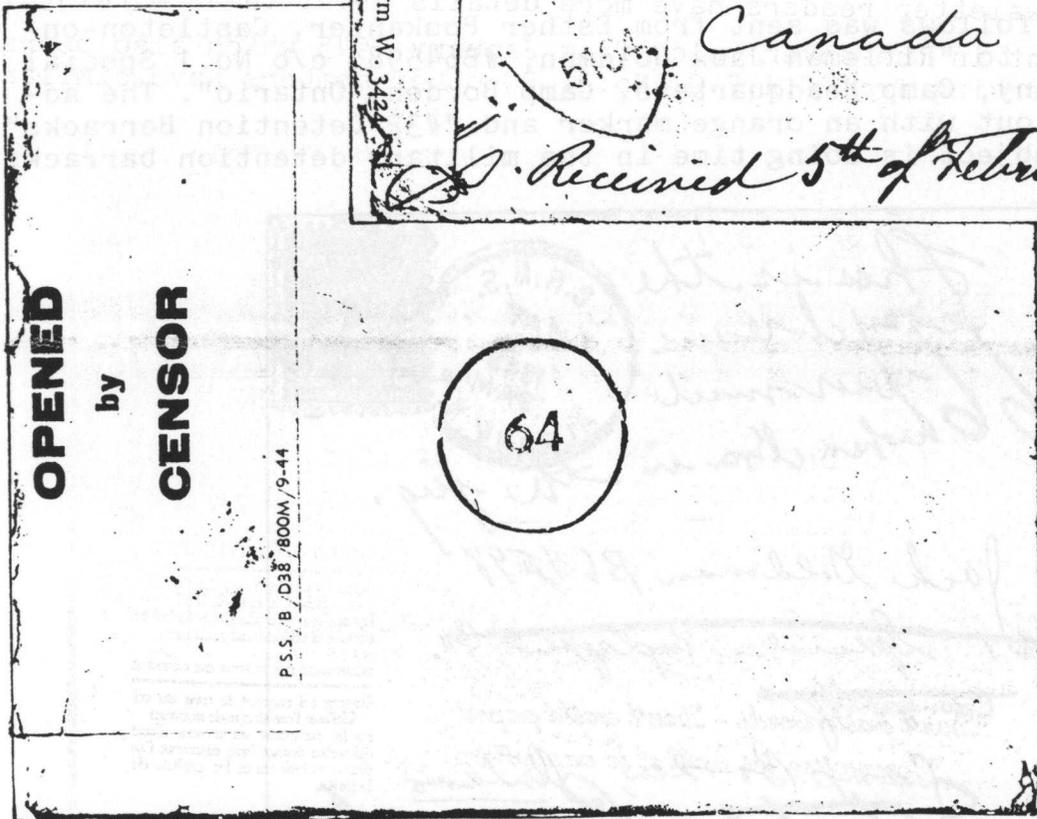
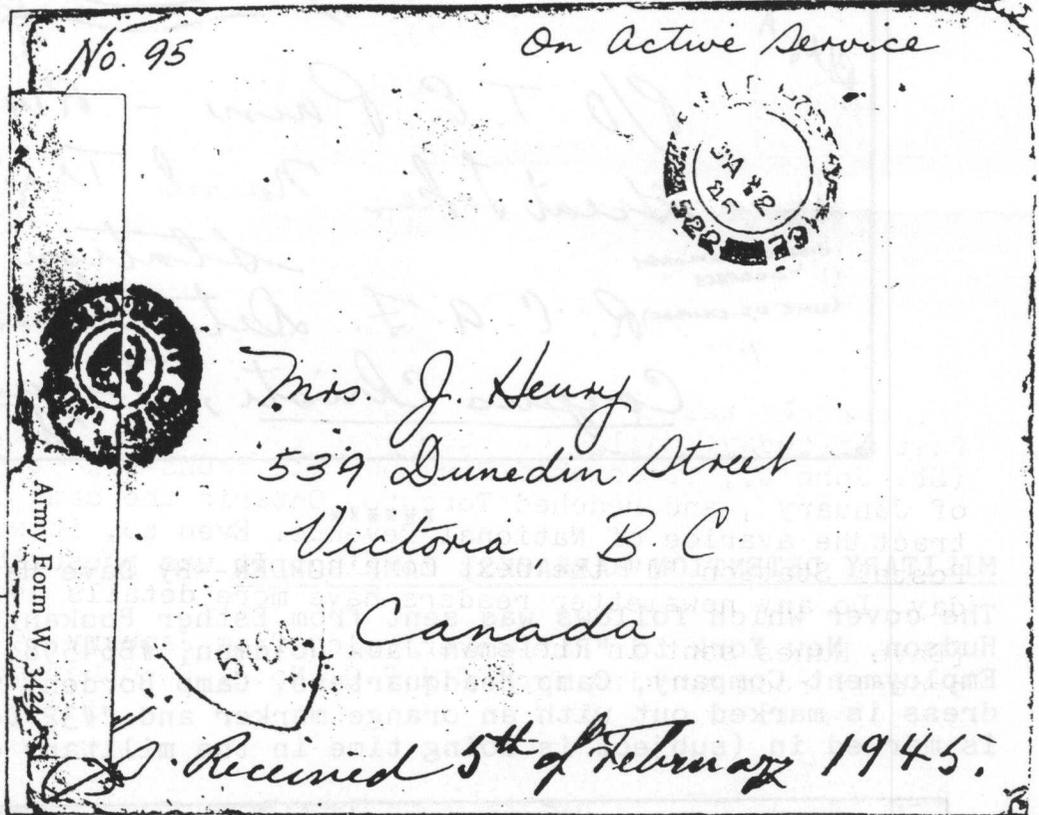
The cancels tell a story of speed which should be the envy of the Canada Post of today. Mailed on the morning of December 31, 1942 at C.A.P.O.No.1 (St. John's), it reached Moncton, New Brunswick at 11:00 a.m. on the 4th of January , and reached Toronto, Ontario the same day in time to attract the avarice of National Revenue. Even so, it was cleared and at Postal Station "J" the next morning. It was presumably delivered that day. Do any newsletter readers have more details about these markings?

[Dave Hanes sent in the cover below from January 1945 which also bears an orderly room marking from C.A.P.O. No.2. Do other members have similar examples to share? Ed.]



INFORMATION REQUESTED PLEASE

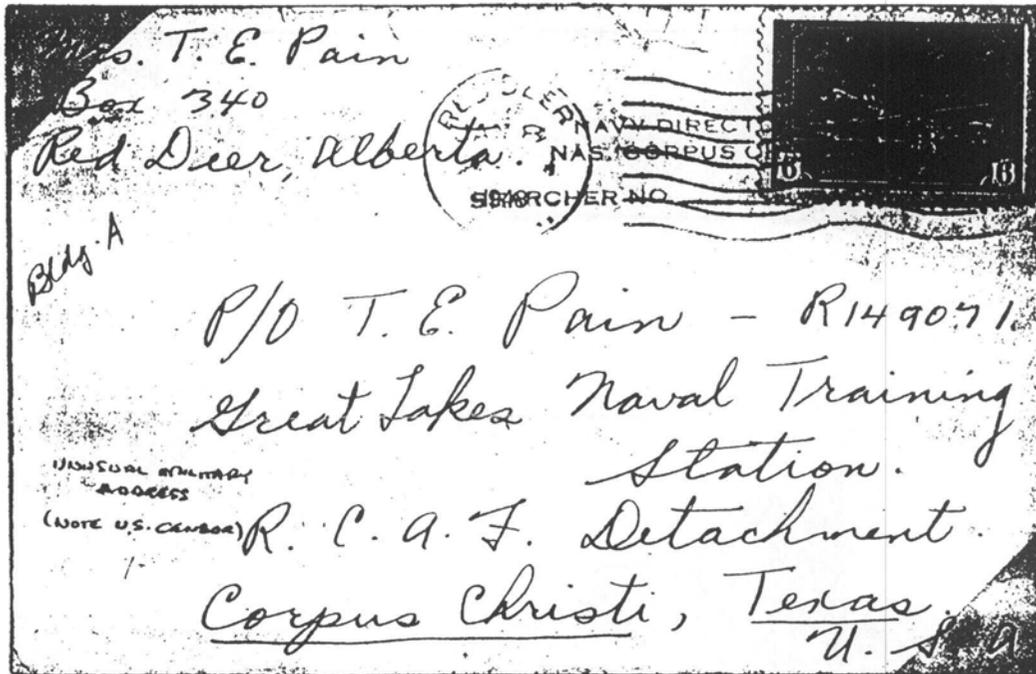
The cover below was shown to the Editor who hopes that the membership can assist in its identification. You'll note the FPO 522 which places the location in the Cattolica Area, Italy (from late December 1944 to early February 1945; Bailey/Toop, Vol.2 #M15-170). The odd item is the encircled "64" in violet which, I suspect, may be a British marking but I cannot say that this is definite. Can any members shed some light on the unusual marking? It's the only one among a large group of correspondence.



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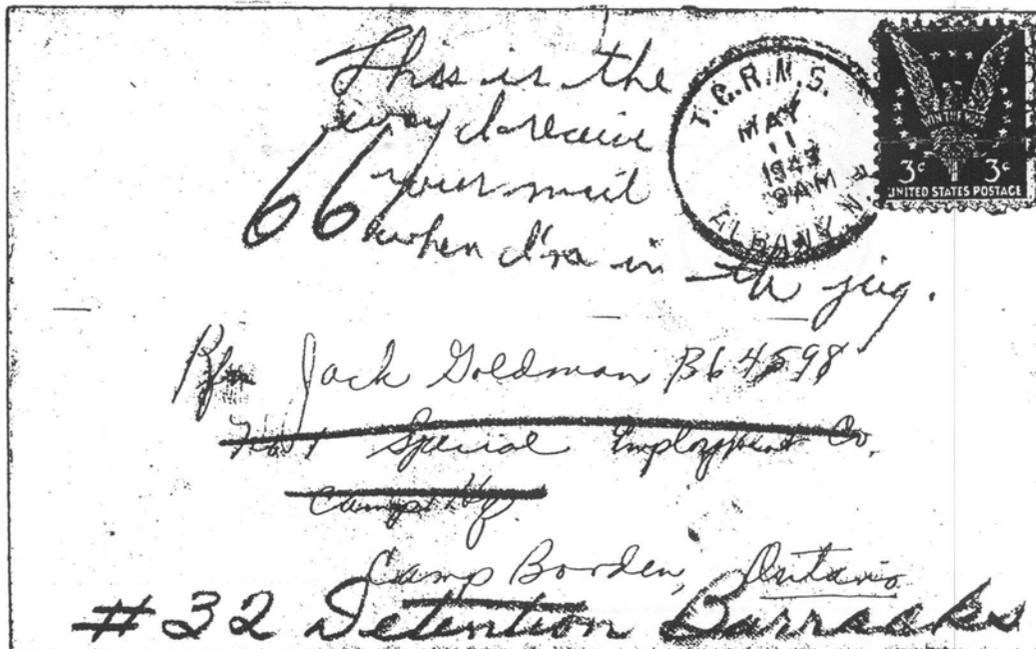
GREAT LAKES NAVAL TRAINING STN., RCAF--By C.D. Sayles

I cannot find any record of such an RCAF detachment. Could members fill in the blanks please?



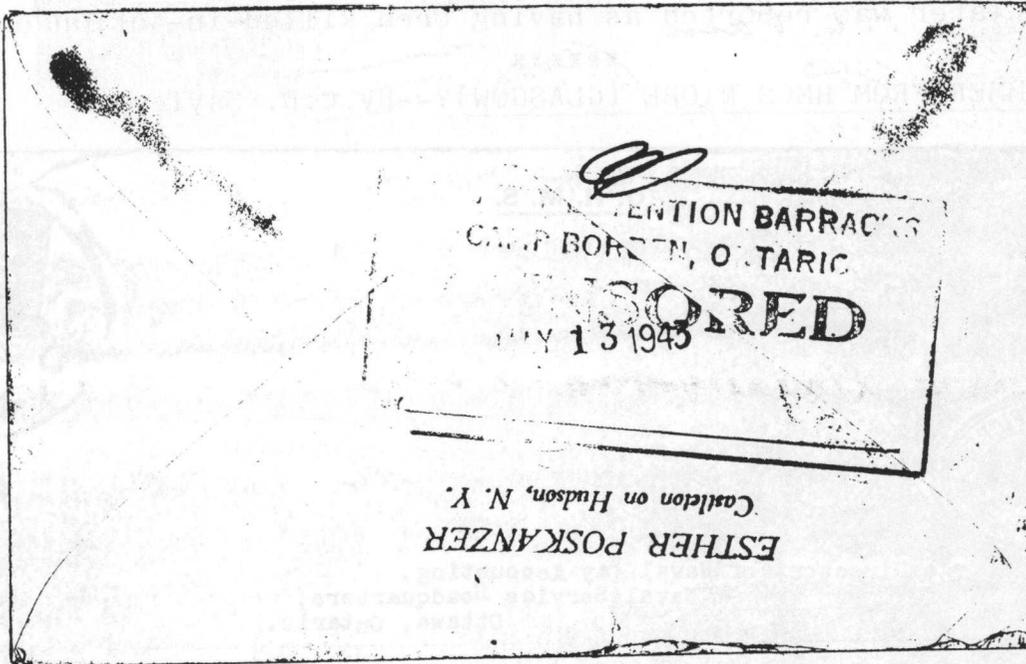
MILITARY DETENTION BARRACKS, CAMP BORDEN--By Dave Hanes

The cover which follows was sent from Esther Poskanzer, Castleton-on-Hudson, New York to "Rifleman Jack Goldman, #B64598, c/o No.1 Special Employment Company, Camp Headquarters, Camp Borden, Ontario". The address is marked out with an orange marker and "#32 Detention Barracks" is marked in (subject is doing time in the military detention barracks).

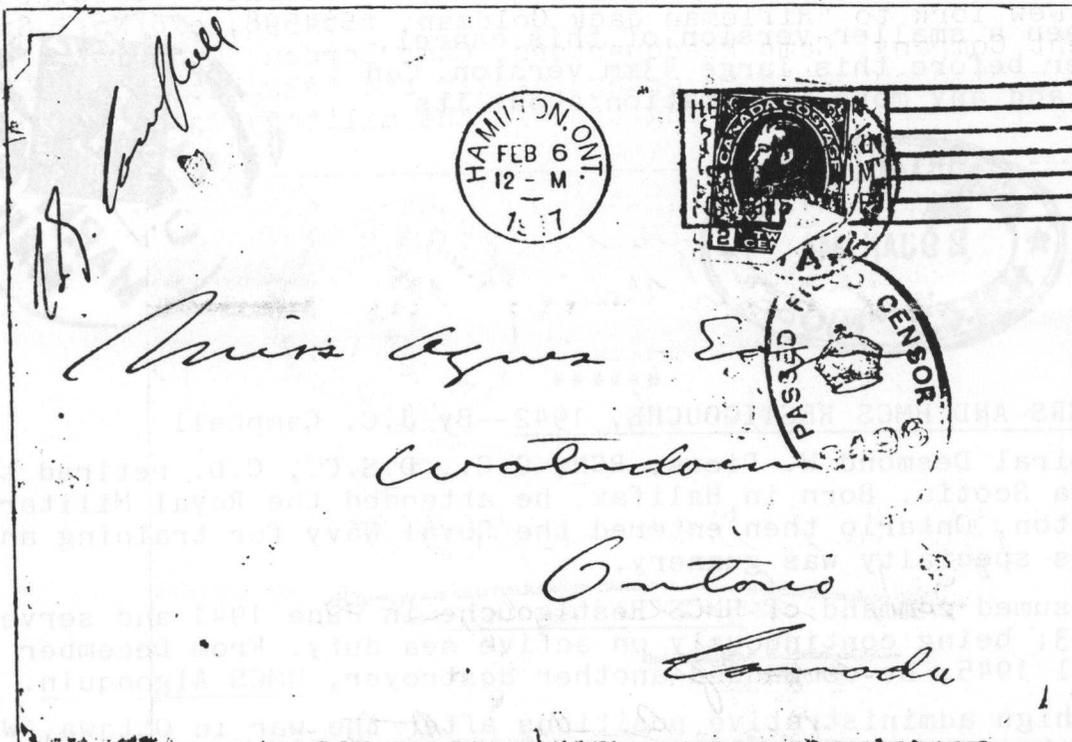


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He must have sent the envelope back to the sender as he has written on the top in pencil: "This is the way I receive your mail when I'm in the jug"! On the back of the cover in a rectangular box is "Military Detention Barracks/Camp Borden, Ontario/CENSORED" and it is dated May 13, 1943.



F/L C.G. CAMPBELL, 45 SQUADRON, 1917--By Colin Pomfret

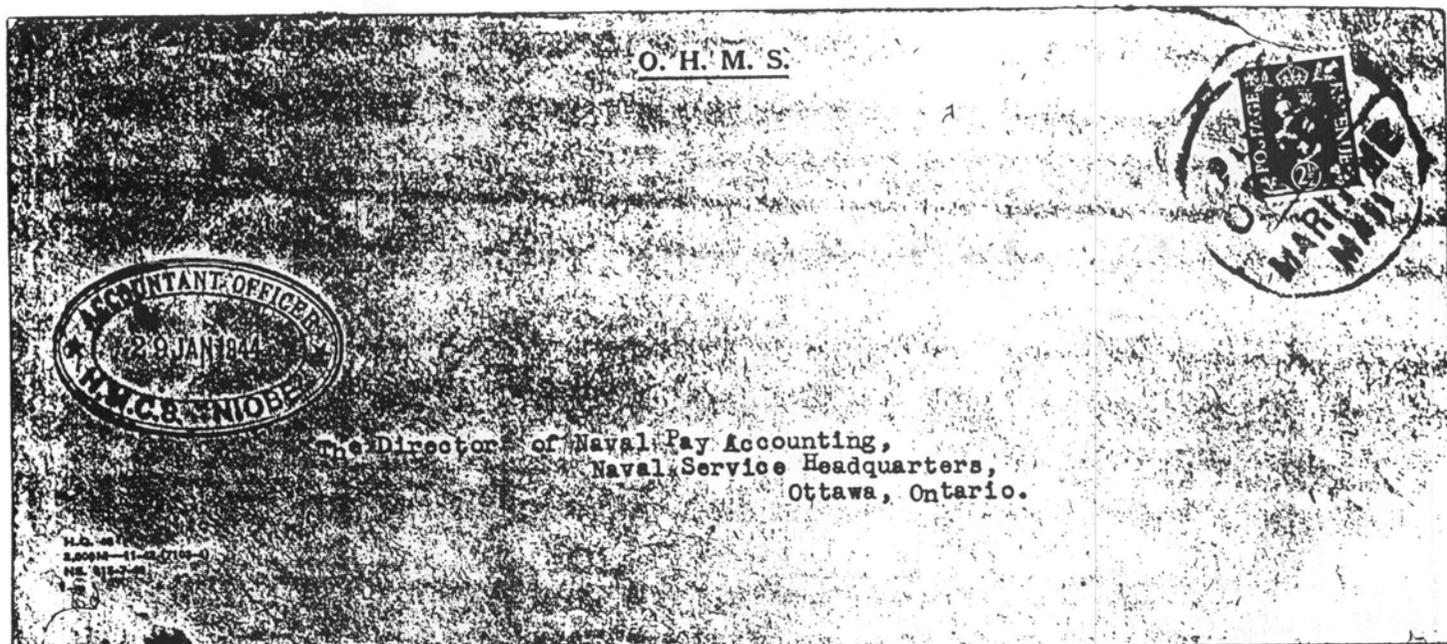


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The preceding cover, sent from FPO A.2 dated January 21, 1917 (Second Army H.Q.), bears the signature of Flight Lieutenant Colin St.G. Campbell, Royal Flying Corps. Campbell was posted to 45 Squadron in December 1916. At that time the Squadron was flying Sopwith two-seaters in an army co-operation role. F/L Campbell was reported missing on April 6, 1917 and later was reported as having been killed-in-action on that date.

A NEW HAMMER FROM HMCS NIOBE (GLASGOW)?--By C.D. Sayles



I have seen a smaller version of this cancel, but never before this large 43mm version. Can readers add any more information about its usage?



D.W. PIERS AND HMCS RESTIGOUCHE, 1942--By J.C. Campbell

Rear-Admiral Desmond W. Piers, RCN, O.C., D.S.C., C.D. retired to Chester, Nova Scotia. Born in Halifax, he attended the Royal Military College at Kingston, Ontario then entered the Royal Navy for training and service. His specialty was gunnery.

Piers assumed command of HMCS Restigouche in June 1941 and served until June 1943; being continuously on active sea duty. From December 1943 until April 1945, he commanded another destroyer, HMCS Algonquin.

He held high administrative positions after the war in Ottawa, Washington, and London, England. He also commanded Kingston's R.M.C.; being the first officer with a naval background to do so!

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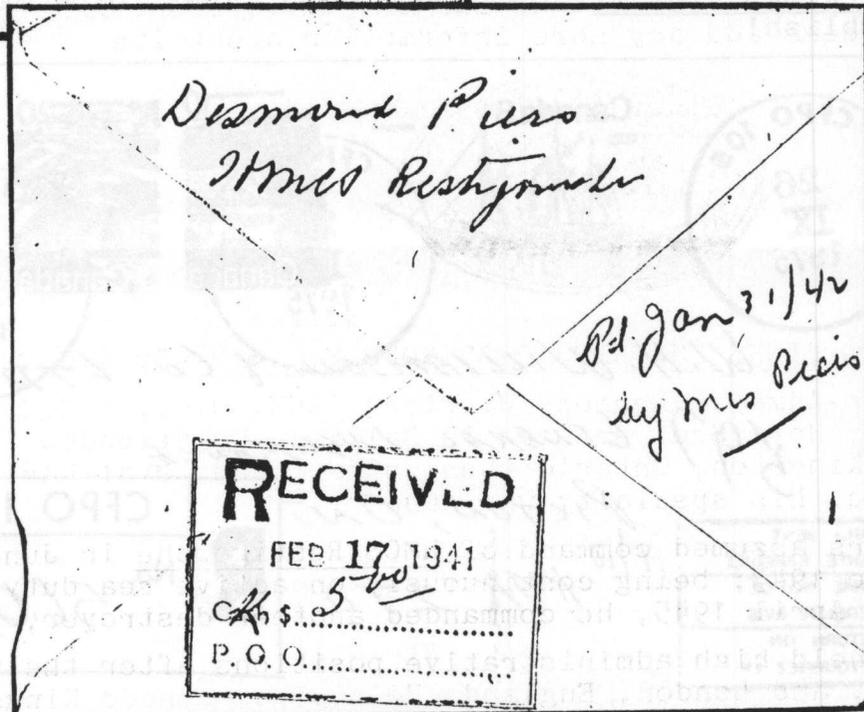
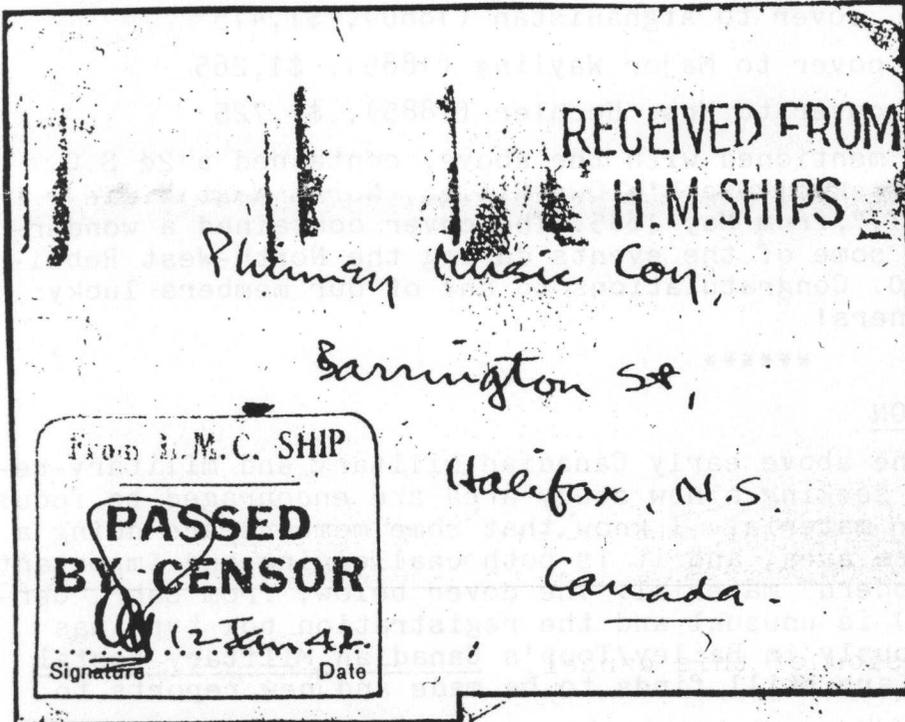
The destroyer HMS Comet was launched at Portsmouth, England in September 1931. In June 1938 she was re-commissioned HMCS Restigouche and reached Canada in September of that year. She was initially based at Esquimalt, BC but upon Canada's declaration of war, she was assigned to the Atlantic for active service.

In November 1945, Restigouche, with the unique pennant number H-00, was turned over to War Assets for disposal. Her displacement was 1,375 tons, length overall 329 feet, breadth 33 feet, speed 32.25 knots and had a complement of 145 officers and crew.

The straightline machine "RECEIVED FROM/H.M. SHIPS" marking identifies the cover as ship mail and ensured "free" service.

The "From H.M.C. SHIP" censor marking is the first of the Canadian tombstone style appearing as early as June 1940 on Royal Canadian Navy mail.

The "RECEIVED" handstamp was incorrectly dated 1941 by the Phinney Music Company.



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EARLY MILITARY MAIL AT AUCTION RE-VISITED

Members will recall last issue's p.666 and some illustrations from the November 23, 2002 public sale conducted by Longley Auctions (Box 620, Waterdown, ON LOR 2H0; website: www.longleyauctions.com). I requested the prices realized and once again Bill kindly sent them along. I was a bit surprised at the final hammer prices and it is quite interesting to see some of the earlier pieces getting their "due" and "respect"! I'll provide an abbreviated description and prices (which include the 15% buyer's fee):

FIG.1 (lot 66), 5¢ Small Queen cover to Surgeon Neilson (1884), \$2,760

FIG.2 (lot 67), 10¢ S.Q. cover to Afghanistan (1880), \$7,475

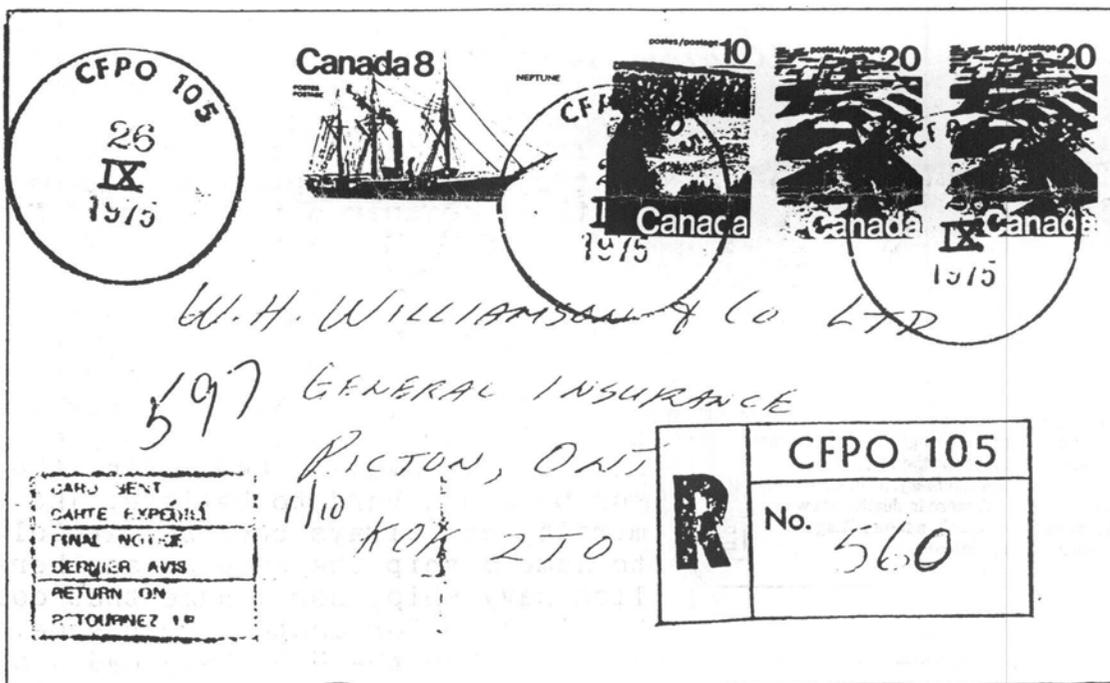
FIG.3 (lot 19), 2¢ S.Q. cover to Major Wayling (1885), \$1,265

FIG.4 (lot 33), 2¢ S.Q. cover to Mrs. Hechler (1885), \$1,725

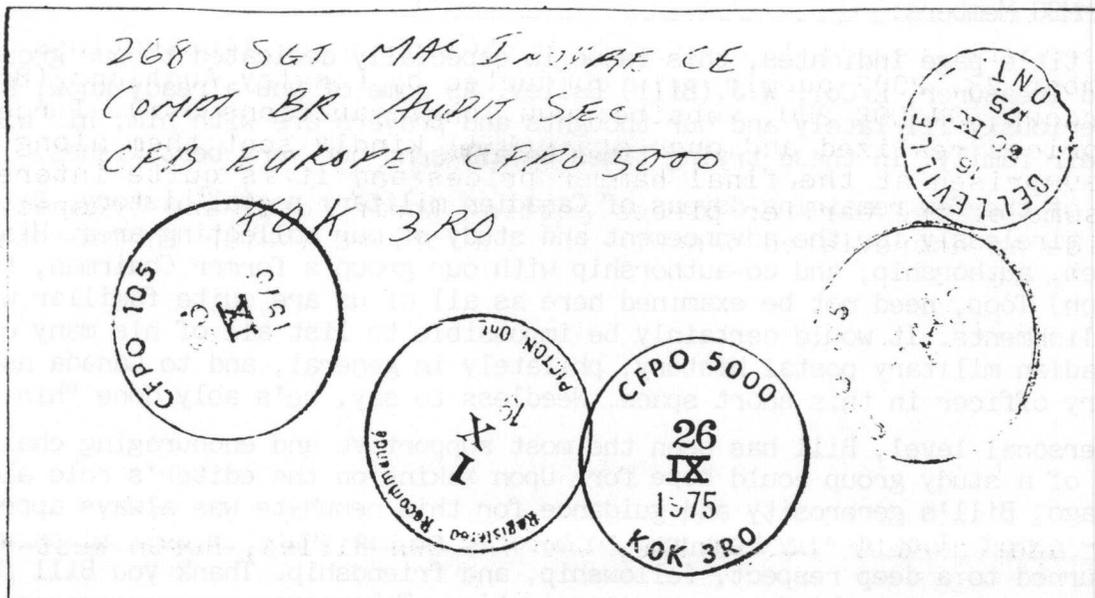
Lot 20 in the sale, not mentioned with the above, contained a 2¢ S.Q. cover addressed to "Lt. Mickle, Queen's Own Rifles, North West Field Force, Battleford, N.W.T.", from May 1885. The cover contained a wonderful enclosure detailing some of the events during the North-West Rebellion. It sold for \$2,530. Congratulations to any of our members lucky enough to be the new owners!

C.F.P.O. 105 REGISTRATION

Given the scarcity of the above early Canadian military and military-related items, collectors seeking a new study area are encouraged to focus upon the post-Korean War material. I know that some members are doing a great deal of work in the area, and it is both challenging and important to document the more "modern" material. The cover below, from Lahr, Germany (27/03/67-30/06/93) is unusual and the registration box type has not been recorded previously in Bailey/Toop's Canadian Military Postal Markings, Vol.II. There are still finds to be made and new reports to publish!



[Cont'd.]



WARSHIP PERSPECTIVES: A REVIEW--By Wilf Whitehouse

[I had hoped to include Wilf's above review, as well as his notations on p.671, in a future issue but this one seems more appropriate]. Wilf wrote:

"Quite by accident I ran across an ad in a British magazine for a book in connection with four-stacker (flush deck) destroyers shown below. You'll

note the mention of a modelmakers plan for the ship HMS Montgomery. I read a book review in a British magazine where a reviewer noted, in his words 'astonishing photos of HMS Montgomery in arctic seas with a crusting of ice six feet thick'. A photo of Montgomery in drydock in 1943 is also mentioned. I went looking through some long-forgotten newspaper cuts and notes I have made and found a list of the fifty U.S. destroyers, their pendant numbers, and their new names in the Royal Navy

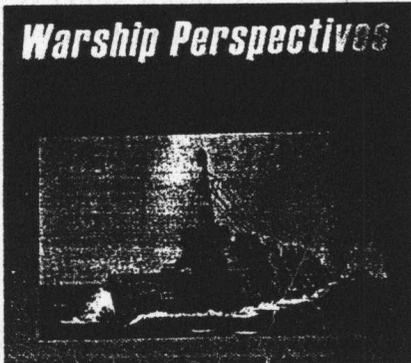
and the Royal Canadian Navy. There I found that the USS Wickes (#75) became HMS Montgomery! In view of the above, it appears there was a Montgomery after all and Janes seems to be in error. Bill Robinson, who kindly assisted me in trying to track down a copy of the book (to no avail), and I find the error by Janes hard to believe. The Admiralty has always been so careful not to name a ship the same as another allied navy ship, nor a name that could be mistaken for another ship name. So

Warship Perspectives - Flush Deck Destroyers in World War Two

By Glenn R. Arnold with drawings by Alan Raven. Published by WR Press Inc. New York. Paperback, 80 pages, 305mm x 230mm, numerous b&w photos and line illustrations plus a plan. Available from: Sambrook Maritime Models, 214 Ruxley Lane, West Ewell, Surrey KT19 9EZ. Tel: 0208 391 5144. Fax: 0208 397 6430. Email: sambrook@dial.pipex.com. Price £17.95 plus £2.50 p&p UK.

This latest work from WR Press is by Glenn R. Arnold and covers one of the most diverse ships in terms of arrangement and capability, the American flush deck destroyer. From its beginnings in 1917 as an 'almost too late to participate' class of ship towards the end of WW1 through its final decommissioning after WW2 in 1947, the flush deck destroyer as a class has seen and done perhaps more than any other single class of ship in history.

Between 1917 and 1920, no fewer than 273 flush deckers were commissioned. They saw service



as a huge variety of tasks and went on to ultimately serve in RN, RCN, RNN, Polish and USSR navies, as well as American.

Like previous 'Perspectives' in this series the book is aimed at the warship enthusiast or modeller, and is packed with photographs and drawings - and includes a full size plan at a scale of 1:114! which gives a length of approximately 32ins for the ship, HMS Montgomery, as in early 1943.

A more in-depth review will appear in a future Range Finder column.



why they let the name of Montgomery stand when the U.S. Navy had a ship with the same name (and even the same class of ship), makes me wonder".

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Dear CMMSG Members:

As the title page indicates, this issue is especially dedicated to our group's Chairman and Treasurer, L/Col. W.J.(Bill) Bailey. As some of you already know, Bill has been seriously ill lately and our thoughts and prayers are with him, his wife Jane, and their family. In these trying times we all send our very best wishes.

As one of the few remaining doyens of Canadian military postal history, Bill has worked tirelessly for the advancement and study of our collecting area. His philatelic research, authorship, and co-authorship with our group's former Chairman, the late E. R.(Ritch) Toop, need not be examined here as all of us are quite familiar with Bill's accomplishments. It would certainly be impossible to list all of his many contributions to Canadian military postal history, philately in general, and to Canada as a career military officer in this short space. Needless to say, he's ably done "his bit".

On a personal level, Bill has been the most supportive and encouraging chairman any editor of a study group could hope for. Upon taking on the editor's role almost eight years ago, Bill's generosity and guidance for this neophyte was always appreciated and most welcomed. I am deeply honoured to be able to say that our initial casual acquaintance turned to a deep respect, fellowship, and friendship. Thank you Bill for your never-ending support, kindness, and inspiration. Take care.

Member Charles Verge has written a wonderful piece related to Surgeon-Major Neilson and the Khartoum Relief Expedition in the March 2003 issue of the American Philatelist. He illustrates several covers and has amassed a record of mail related to the Canadian Voyageurs in the Sudan from 1884-1885. A very interesting article Charles!

Congratulations are extended to member D.D.(Pete) Gray for his exhibits at Marietta, Georgia's Peach State Stamp Show in September 2002. His "Canadian Internment Camps in World War II" received a Vermeil, and his "Canadian Armed Forces Air Letters" achieved a Silver.

Congratulations are also extended to several study group members who entered exhibits in the recent Edmonton Spring National Show. Alan Meech's "Japanese Occupation of Burma, 1942-1945" was the only military-related entry (non-member).

Member C. Ron McGuire has agreed to display his "Force C" material at Ottawa's ORAPEX (May 3-4, 2003). There are plans for him to address the Postal History Society of Canada's meeting on May 3 at 3:00 p.m. (please confirm the time if attending). Show information from R.K. Malott, 16 Harwick Cresc., Nepean, ON K2H 6R1; (613) 829-0280; or email: rmalott@magma.ca (.) Ron also plans on attending the Hong Kong Veterans Assoc. meeting in Victoria, BC in August (exhibit and presentation--details pending).

SMALL ADS

WANTED: Letters to/from William Maitland-Dougall in period 1910-1917. Send photocopy/price required to C.D. Sayles, 25 Howard Blvd., Waterdown, ON LOR 2H4 or email: saylesd@aecl.ca (7/10)

WANTED: Explorer, ex-Timor, needs low-value U.N. Timor stamps on village/local mail covers; U.N.-PK covers. Will exchange/buy. Also require UNMEE covers (Ethiopia/Eritrea) etc. Information sheets available. Dr. Gale Raymond, Box 228, Sugar Land, TX USA 77487-0228 (1/2)
