



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2011

NEWSLETTER NO. 199
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POSTAL SERVICES ON OPERATION JADE, TASK FORCE MIDDLE EAST-- By Anthony Fulmes

Operation JADE is the name for the ongoing small deployment of Canadian Forces officers in the countries of Israel, Lebanon, and Syria. It is under the umbrella of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and is the oldest peacekeeping mission dating from 1948. It was formed to supervise the truces put into play after the war that established Israel as a state between it and its Arab neighbours. The mandate of UNTSO is not tied to time or geography but the hoped-for "final peace" in the Middle East.

The Canadian contingent is composed exclusively of officers on one-year tours of duty who perform either as unarmed United Nations Military Observers (UNMO's), or as staff officers support the mission's operation and administration. During my tour between August 2009 and 2010, I worked as an UNMO within Observer Group Golan, Damascus (OGG-D), Syria. This involved patrolling and monitoring the Syrian side of the cease fire line between Syrian and Israeli military forces that was negotiated after the October 1973 war. Another armed UN military presence is within the area: the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) with two Canadian Majors serving in that mission. It strictly is responsible for monitoring the Golan Heights vice the whole Middle East. We observers working in the Golan have been tasked by UNTSO to be under command of UNDOF. Bi-weekly counts of troops and equipment are made as well as routine patrols throughout our area of responsibility. Identical tasks are conducted by another group of UNMO's based in Tiberias on the Israeli occupied Golan region.

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The divided Golan Heights runs 75 km. from north to south and has two 25 km. wide Areas of Limitation (of troops and military equipment) on both sides of the line of disengagement; which also acts as a type of border between the two nations. Within this area are eleven UNMO manned observation posts (OP's), two bases run by UNDOF, and a number of smaller sites manned by the armed UNDOF personnel. Within the UNDOF operated base in Syria, Camp Faouer, is the post office for use by all UN personnel (PHOTO 1).



Photo 1. Austrian Feldpost

The post office is manned and operated by the Austrian contingent and provides a full range of postal services. They are linked into the Austrian postal service in Vienna. Mail going into or out of the mission is routed through these offices. The address and format used to send mail to the Canadians serving in UNTSO or UNDOF is:

Rank First Name LAST NAME
OGG-D, ISMAC House
A-1500 UNDOF/AUSBATT
AUSTRIA

Outgoing mail can be either hand-delivered to one of the postal clerks or put into one of the mail boxes scattered throughout Camp Faouer (PHOTO 2). The letter rate to Canada is $\text{€}1.40$, however as the UN deals in and pays the deployed members in US dollars, US currency is used and the charge is \$2.00 per letter or postcard. Parcels are charged by a combination of weight and size. Incoming mail is sorted at Camp Faouer and mail for the UNMO's is delivered to the OGG-D headquarters in Damascus where each UNMO has his own locked pigeon hole. It is then collected by the UNMO whenever he is at the building. A letter from Canada using this address will take about three to four weeks to arrive.

[Cont'd.]

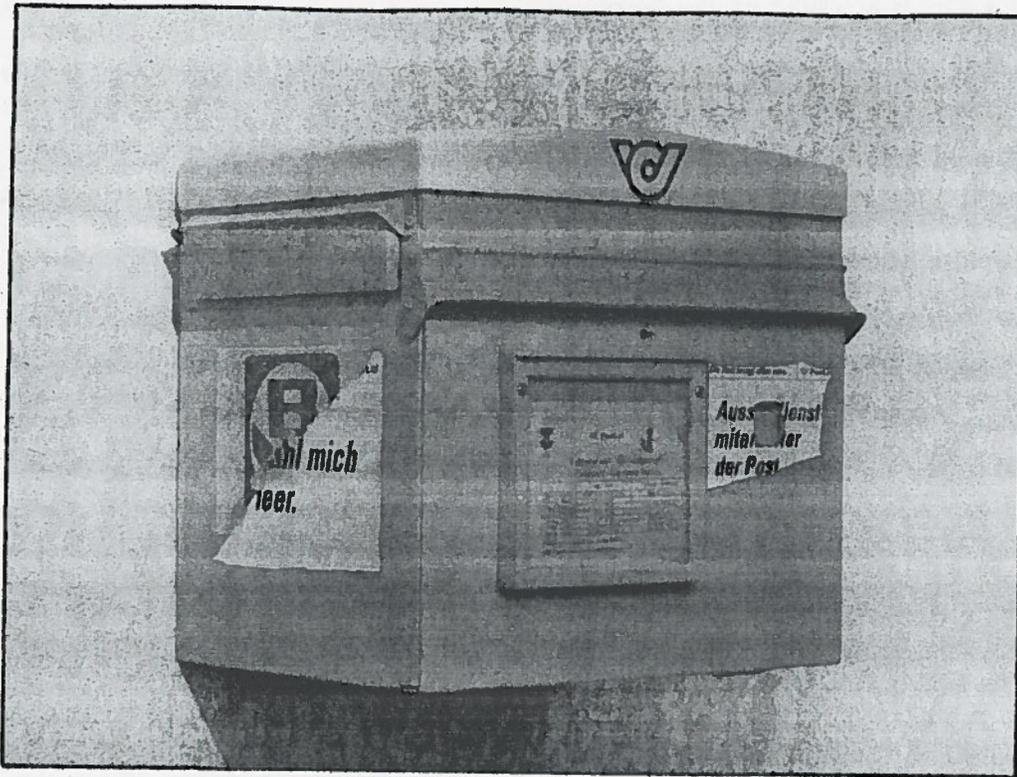


Photo 2. Austrian mailbox at Camp Faouer

PHOTO 3 shows a registered letter sent from the Austrian Feldpost office. Notable points are the "UNDOF" CDS cancels on the UNTSO envelope

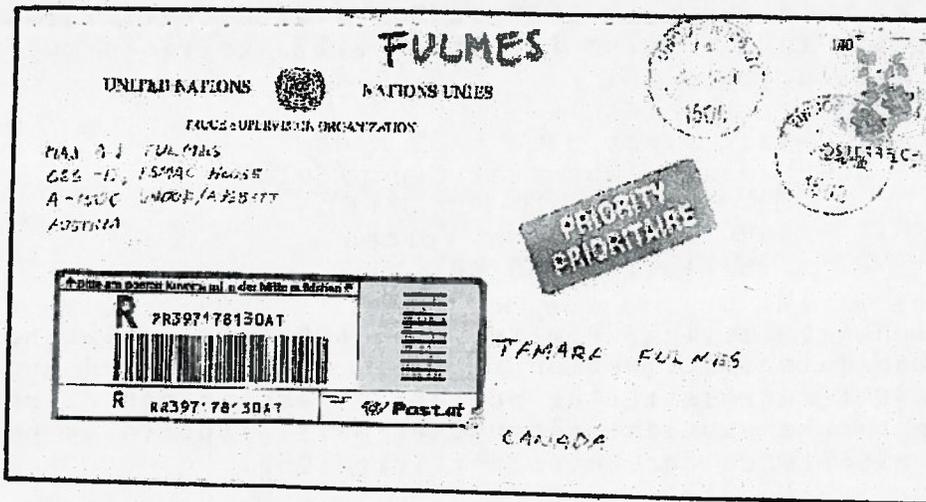


Photo 3.

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and only 1.4 Euros of postage. 1.4 Euros was the normal letter rate. The additional fee for the registration is shown by an Austrian registration label. The priority label was attached by the postal clerks on most mail going out of the office. The reverse has a Canada Post registration receipt label.

Canadians can also avail themselves of the local Syrian Postal system. Post Offices are available in most larger towns and all over Damascus. Letters to Canada cost 55 Syrian Pounds (about \$1.20 Cdn.) while postcards are only 35 SYP (75¢). Letters to or from Syria via Syria Post take much longer. Outgoing mail sometimes takes over two months and incoming up to six weeks. Mail sent to the following address is picked up by UNTSO civilian staff at the main Syrian Post Office in downtown Damascus. Letters to Canadian UNMO's through Syria Post use this address:

Rank First Name LAST NAME
OGG-D
PO Box 2374 DAMASCUS
SYRIA

Mail can also be sent in via the UNTSO HQ in Jerusalem. This requires the sender to place the appropriate postage from Canada to Israel (currently \$1.75). The mail is then sorted by nationality by the UN clerks and picked up by the Canadian officer that is posted in Jerusalem. He then sorts out all the mail for Damascus, places it in a large envelope and it is forwarded to Syria inside a UN diplomatic bag. The address via this means is:

Rank First Name LAST NAME
UNTSO HQ, Government House
PO Box 490
91004 JERUSALEM
ISRAEL

The final means to send in mail is through the Canadian Forces Post Office. Mail is sent to the mail CFPO in Belleville, Ontario who forwards it on to the UN HQ in Jerusalem in large mail bags via a courier company. The address for this is:

Rank First Name LAST NAME
OGG Damascus/Observer Group/UNTSO
TF MIDDLE EAST (Op JADE)
PO Box 4239 Stn Forces
Belleville ON K8N 5W6

Op JADE, the longest lasting UN mission, has become a fixture within the Middle East. Canada's contribution is small and respected and greatly contributes to the success of the operation. Though postal services are used less than in the past the receipt of mail, especially parcels, is still a happy experience for those participating.

Bio.: Major Anthony Fulmes is a serving Signals officer currently posted to Canada Command in Ottawa. In his twenty-four years of service he has served on deployments in Bosnia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and the Middle

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East where he fully taxed the local post offices with his purchases and mailings. [Many thanks Anthony. As an addendum I will illustrate another cover from Anthony for members. Note the special stationery supplied by the Salvation Army; a long-standing tradition for over a century! Ed.]

23 Nov 2009

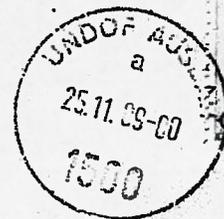


Keep in touch with the folks at home
Restez en contact avec vos proches



Hello Dean,
and greetings from the Syrian side
of the Golan Heights. My wife brought me

the
Peter
leave
way
MAJ ANTHONY FULMES
UNTSO HQ, Government House
PO Box 490
91004 JERUSALEM
ISRAEL

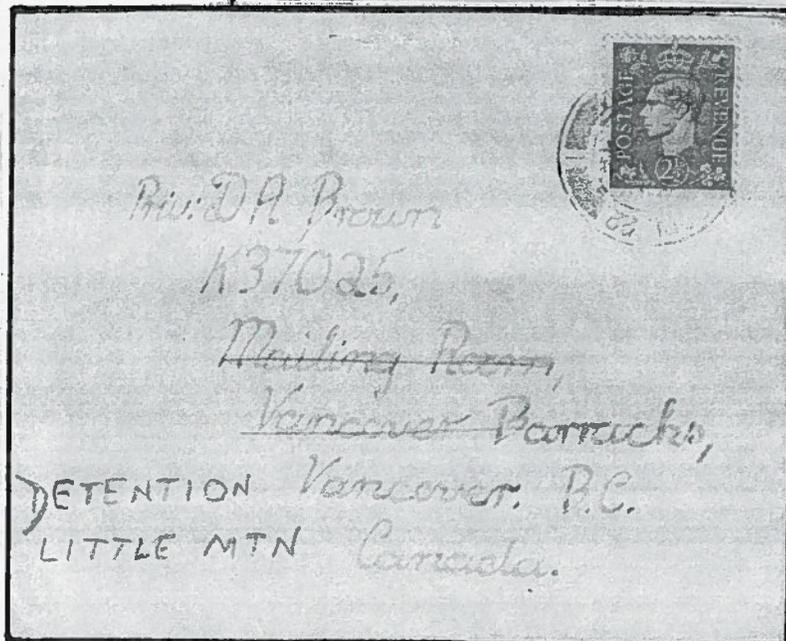
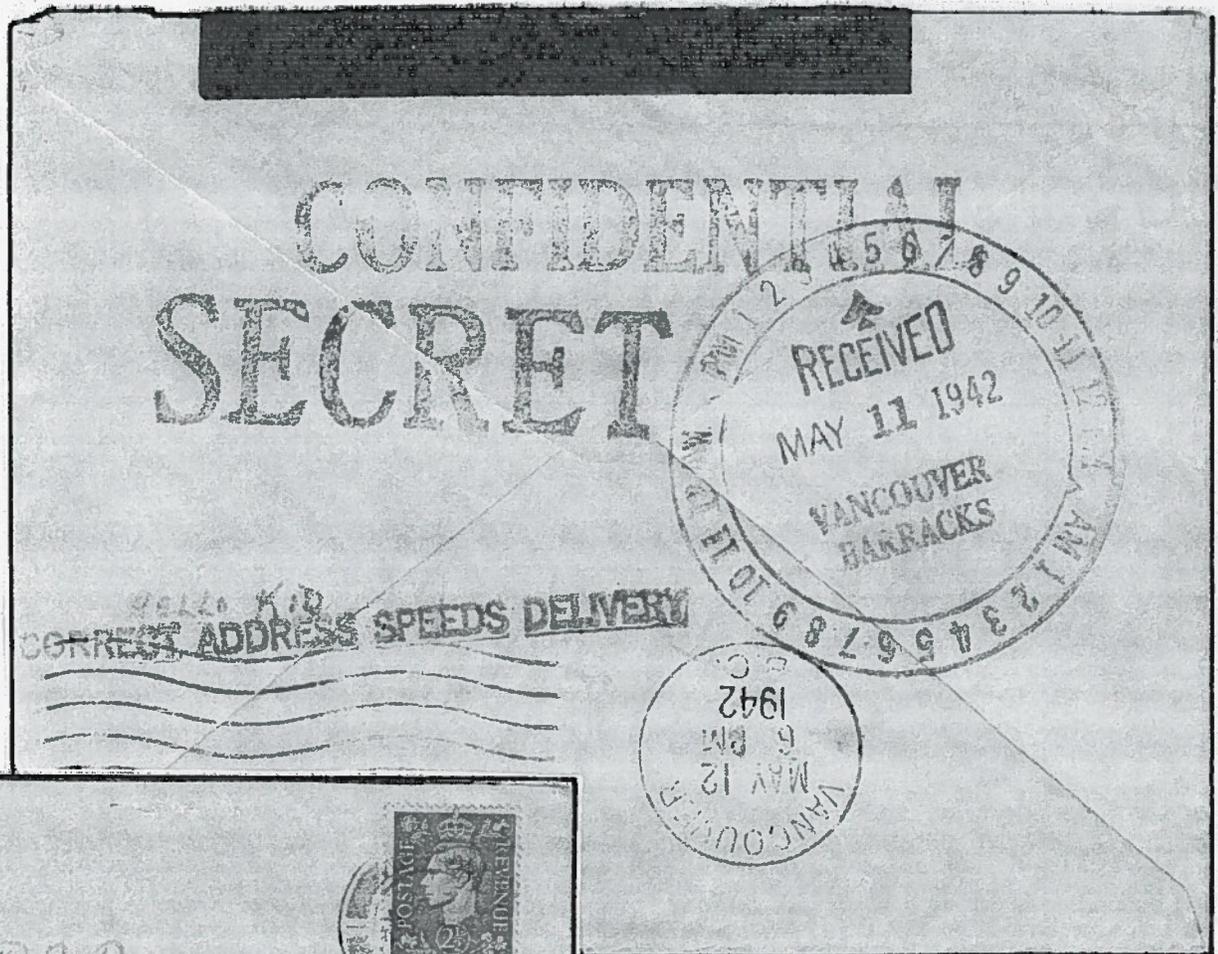


**PRIORITY
PRIORITAIRE**

Dean W. Mario
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Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3
Canada

LITTLE MOUNTAIN BARRACKS: MILITARY HOSPITAL OR DETENTION BARRACKS?--
By A.D. Hanes

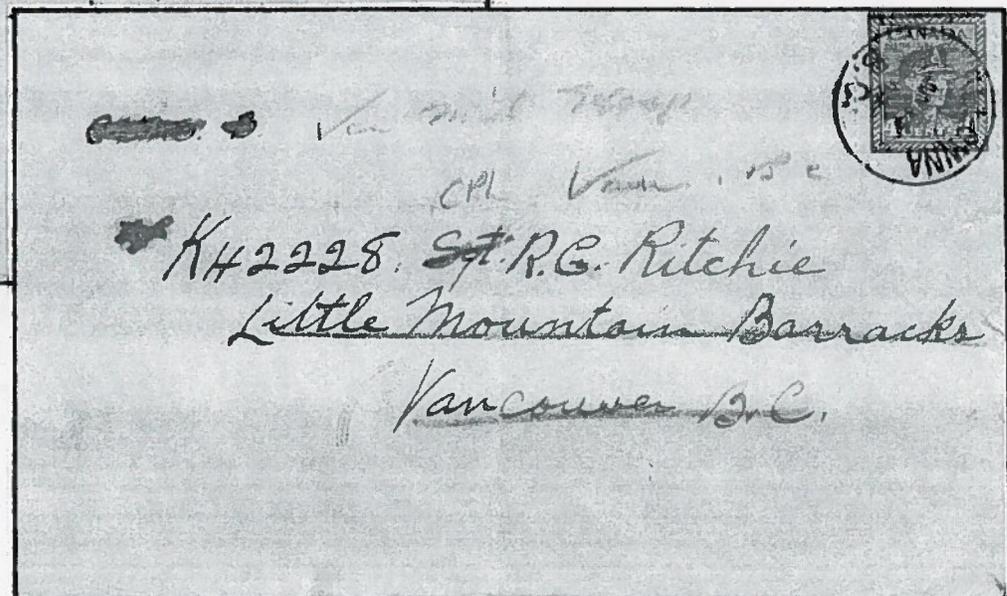
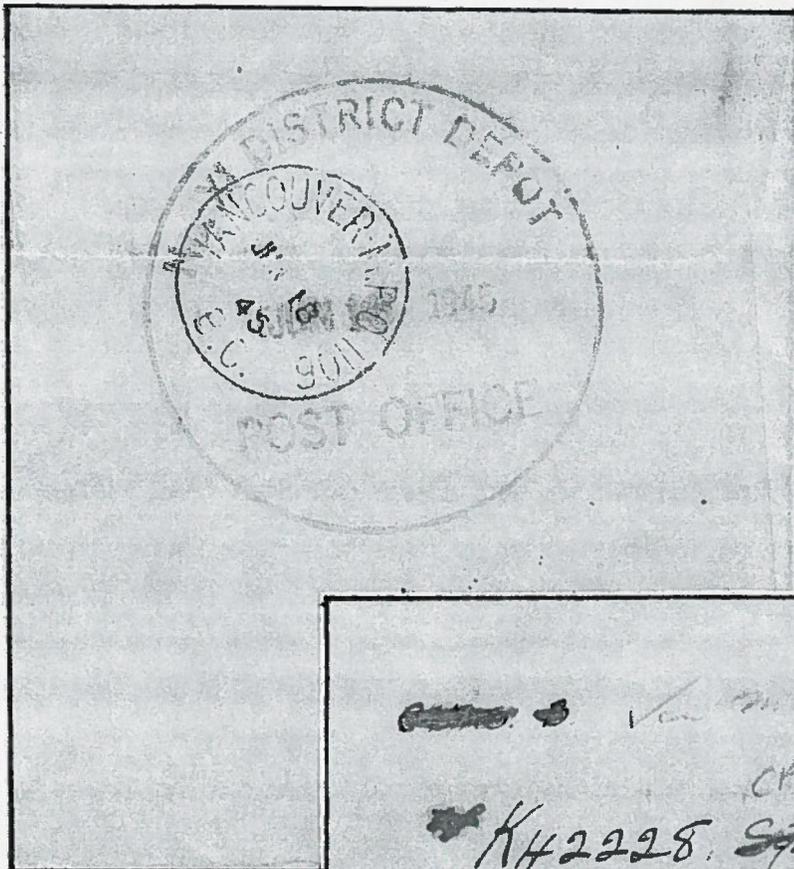
The following are a continuation of Jon Johnson's and Lee Dowsley's articles on Little Mountain [NL#193 (Jan. 2010), pp. 1078-1079; NL#194 (March 2010), p. 1096.Ed.]. The first cover was sent from England and addressed to a Private D.A. Brown at Vancouver Barracks (with the receiver on reverse). Like the two previous covers, the address has been marked out and written in pencil is "DETENTION/LITTLE MTN".



[Cont'd.]

The second cover is similar to Jon Johnson's with the "Little Mountain Barracks" marked out and readdressed to the "Van Mil Hosp". There is the large circular datestamp, in carmine, and also a Vancouver MPO 1106 cancel on reverse.

Here is again my question: was the Little Mountain Barracks a Detention Barracks? [Any suggestions or more information from members? Could the reduction in rank of Sgt./Cpl. R.G. Ritchie be a clue in terms of Dave's new observations? Ed.]



1918 SPADINA MILITARY HOSPITAL/WHITBY CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL CORRESPONDENCE--By Colin Pomfret

FOR GOD FOR KING
AND FOR COUNTRY



WITH THE CANADIAN
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

*Spadina Mil. Hosp.
Feb 8th /18*

Dear Dad:-

*Arrived O.K. about ten last night
as I spent the afternoon in Toronto.*

*I went up to Barton and found that they had
sold but they have some*

*or have
good a
Now's
and s
at On
Car fo
suit y*



*W. J. Furlong
Ottawa
Ont.*

*they run
they
e down
e nearly
hold a
hat would
ey raise*

[Cont'd.]

FOR GOD FOR KING
AND FOR COUNTRY



WITH THE CANADIAN
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Whitby Conv. Hosp.
Feb. 26/18

Dear Mother:-

*Arrived O.C. yesterday and found the place
flowing over it was almost necessary to carry a boat with
us if we went out much. The whole performance from
Shea's Hippodrome came down yesterday afternoon and gave
us a dandy ~~concert~~ concert in our theatre here it sure
put in the afternoon alright.*

Monday Saturday

*I am
so effes
have son
I have a
but I say
Grenville
some on
for an*



*Mrs M. Furlong
Otterville
Ontario
Canada*

[Cont'd.]

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[Colin sent along the preceding illustrated Y.M.C.A. stationery from the same sender to his parents in Otterville, Ontario. I believe that both bear separate RPO cancels (Ludlow #Q165 and #Q170). Military mail from domestic hospitals and medical facilities is also a fascinating area to collect and study. Ed.]

INVITATION FOR UPCOMING CMMSG ANTHOLOGY II
CELEBRATING NEWSLETTER #200

[Here is the text from a recent email sent to those I have email addresses:

Greetings! As you all will know, issue #200 is just around the corner. Unfortunately circumstances did not permit another Anthology as previously published but we should plan something a bit more "special" for this momentous occasion. I don't know if we could even come close to the wonderful publication under Ken's editorship anyway given the time constraints. However, something is worth a try as I doubt that I'll be around for the 300th!!!!!!

That being said, colour may be an option. While I cannot guarantee that all submissions will be in colour, given space and costs involved, should members wish to send me something for the next-but-one issue, that would be great. Colour scans or photocopies must be sent to me via snail mail as I cannot print off anything in colour at this time. However, any article text can be emailed to me for printing if that is desired.

I am hoping, to achieve maximum participation, that members send items in around $\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ pages of any "show-stopper/mouth-dropping" covers that they think might reproduce well in colour. Any era/period/Theatre/subject is fine.

I will place a note in the coming issue too for those who I don't have an email address for presently. Apologies in advance to those whom I've missed.

Deadline/cut-off would be around the early-mid part of April 2011. I realize that time is a bit short, for which I humbly apologize, but should you see fit to send me something that would be wonderful. I may attempt to do it "in house" which may cut costs down depending upon the success of the above request.

Many thanks for your participation in advance. Any questions feel free to email me and I will hope to get back to you ASAP.

Best regards and thanks again!

Yours, Dean Mario, Editor CMMSG Newsletter

.....Well, what do members think? I welcome any submissions which you

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feel would be best illustrated in colour. Items not previously published would be preferred. I am uncertain as to the success of the preceding request but I invite all members to participate. Should there be an overwhelming response, and members are agreeable, any "surplus" material may be sent to the Editor of BNA Topics for future reprinting within the popular "Matters Military" column. Ed.]

RECENT MILITARY MAIL AT AUCTION

Military mail, despite the economic slow-down recently, is still popular among collectors. R. Maresch & Son Auctions conducted a sale of member Ed Harris' collection on October 20-22, 2010 in Toronto (Sales #461-#464). I hope that both Ed and lucky collectors were happy with the outcome!

Some interesting items included Lot 301, an 1850 stampless cover rated "1" in manuscript (soldier's letter rate) with a June 19 Quebec CDS and crowned circle from a member of the Grenadier Guards to Grenville, C.E. It sold for \$517.50 (prices include the 15% buyer's fee). Lot 308 contained Ed's famous "Siberian Geishas" C.S.E.F. cover from January 1919. Members will remember it from the Anthology. It went to a new home for \$632.50. Also from the Anthology was Ed's Niagara Camp Souvenir card dated June 16, 1909 with the FPO No.1 Canada Militia datestamp. This wonderful item (Lot 306) sold for \$891.25. Lot 307 contained a large Canada Militia Camp collection (over 105 items). It included such camps as Aldershot, Beamsville, Borden, Long Branch, Valcartier, and Lévis etc. Estimated at \$1000+, it sold for \$3105. A "typical" Anglo-Boer War cover to Canada from South Africa with an oval May 7, 1900 "Canadian Contingent/South Africa" datestamp with a legible strike (just over the cover edge) was in Lot 328. It realized \$264.50. Lot 320 contained over 500 covers and cards with Second World War FPO's from #4-#900 plus many registered, illustrated, and DC/SC/TC etc. strikes. It reached \$1380. A wonderful 1¢ postal stationery card from Swift Current, ASSA. dated April 18, 1885 to New Jersey from General Middleton's Formation during the North-West Rebellion realized \$747.50 against an estimate of \$250+!

Future sales by the firm will include material from the late William G. Robinson collections as well. Contact: www.maresch.com; (416) 363-7777.

MILITARY TOPICS FROM OUR SISTER ORGANIZATIONS

Members who do not belong to the British Forces Postal History Society or the American Military Postal History Society may find their recent journals of possible interest. The FPHS Journal (#286, Winter 2010) contained interesting articles by Andrew Brooks on Great War oval and square army unit cachets (is there a member of our group studying these and a future article forthcoming?), and Hal Vogel on the North Russian Expeditionary Force (including some discussion on Canadian-related mail) from 1918-1919. See the Society's website: www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk (no hyphen).

The MPHS Bulletin (Vol.50, No.1, Winter 2011) was printed in full-col-

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our; resulting in an attractive effort. Articles included South Vietnamese naval mail by the late J.J. Cartafalsa; James R. Miller's discussion on "philatelic genealogy" of the A.E.F. in the Great War (see his Philgen.org); and an interesting story related to the Whitehead torpedo and the musical Von Trapp family! The Society's webpage may be of some interest: www.militaryPHS.org [.]

Dear CMMSG Members:

Doug and I would like to convey our sincere thanks to members who have already sent along their membership dues and indications of collecting interests. A membership list will be published in due course. We also hope that members who have not yet renewed will do so soon. This will be your LAST ISSUE if we have not received your dues!

Our Study Group's 200th Newsletter will be up next. Please read the note within this issue. Although time is short, submissions need not be too lengthy but we hope that everyone can contribute to the project. All members will have a favourite cover or card in their studies; why not share them? Thank you for participating and I hope that we can produce an awesome issue!

Apologies are due for the inadvertent re-printing of Colin Pomfret's 1942 Special Delivery postcard in NL#198 (Jan. 2011, p. 1143) from the original (NL#180, May 2007, p. 919). Unfortunately the Editor stumbled on this one. However, the most recent illustration is a bit better than the original printing given better reproduction facilities. It was the Editor, not Colin, who erred.

Doug and I are hoping that members will take advantage of this great opportunity to participate in our 200th issue. Future projects will also demand members' participation and assistance. We have some of the most knowledgeable specialists on Canadian military mail within our group and together we can expand our collective study for the future.

SMALL ADS

Still only C\$1 per insertion! Send copy and payment (mint postage at face ok) to the Editor. Buy/sell/trade!

WANTED: WWII Canadian POW's in OFLAG IVC & Buchenwald covers; F.S.S.F. (Devil's Brigade) covers; WWI Newfoundland cards/covers; Victoria Cross recipient postal history; 19th century Royal Navy & pre-1920 Royal Canadian Navy postal history. Details to the Editor or: blueputtees@hotmail.com (2/5)

WANTED: Sewell Camp/Camp Hughes postal history on postcards and covers. Pre-WWI militia camps and 1915/16 C.E.F. eras. Eagerly seeking registered mail, incoming mail, and EKV, LKV strikes. Darcy Hickson, RR#2, Box 24, Brandon, MB R7A 5Y2; (204) 725-0621; or email: hicksondj@mts.net (6/10)
