



Canadian Military Mail Study Group

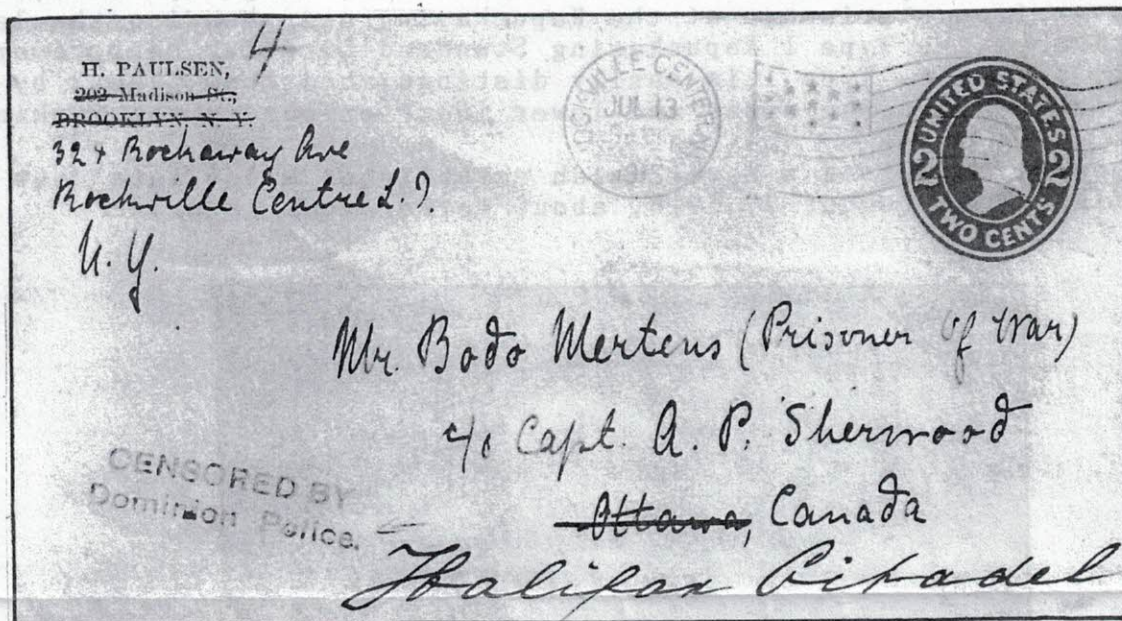
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018

NEWSLETTER NO. 232

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A SECOND TWO-LINE DOMINION POLICE CENSOR MARKING--By J. Michael
Powell



In my book Postal History of the Great War Internment Camps in Canada (p. 34), I describe the only known example of a two-line censor marking applied by the Dominion Police in Ottawa on a cover intended for a prisoner at the Halifax Citadel. The marking has no date, but the cover is postmarked June 1, 1915 at New York. This is after the period during which the Dominion Police were responsible for the censorship of P.O.W. mail. I deduced

[Cont'd.]

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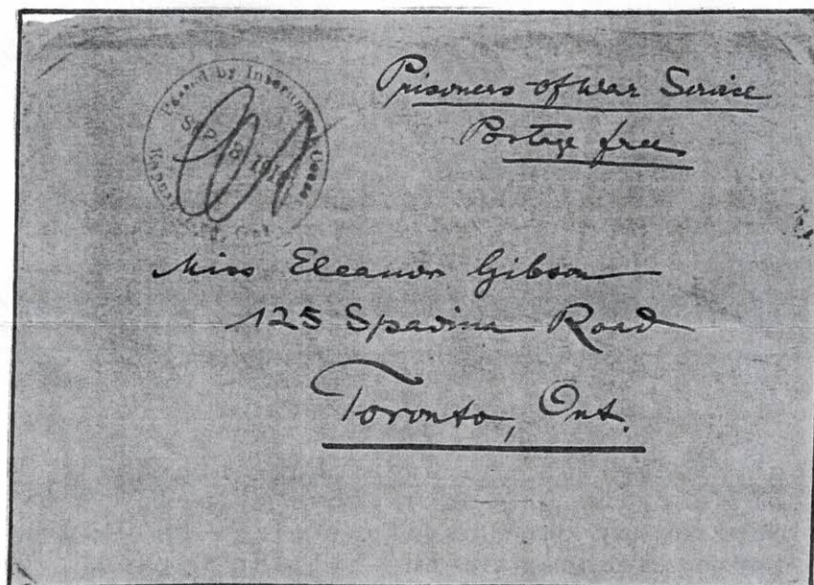
that this was addressed by the writer to the "Chief Commissioner of Police" because he had received earlier correspondence with a Dominion Police censor and had assumed he was to route his correspondence through that agency instead of directly to the internment camp. That remains my working theory.

A second cover from the same correspondence has been recently added to my collection. It is from the same sender as the discovery example, and is postmarked July 15, 1915, or about six weeks later.

A NEW LATE DATE FOR THE TYPE 1 KAPUSKASING STANDARD CIRCULAR CENSOR MARKING--By J. Michael Powell

In my aforementioned book on Great War internment camps (p. 326), I show a cover from a prisoner at the Kapuskasing camp bearing the latest known strike of the Type 1 Kapuskasing Standard Circular censor marking dated July 13, 1918. Type 1 is easily distinguished from Type 2 by the wide spacing between the upper and lower inscriptions in the marking.

I have recently acquired a cover which establishes a new late date for this marking of September 3, 1918, about seven weeks later.



The cover also bears a strike of the four-line Kapuskasing Censor Receiver marking on the back (not shown), also dated September 3, 1918. The correspondence was subject to a second examination by civil censors in Ottawa, but only remnants of the censor label remain on the back.

The correspondence remained in the envelope, and also received a strike of the same censor marking. However there is another feature of this item which is very unusual. It is written on stationery which appears to have been crudely printed at the camp; using poor quality paper. Another item likely printed at the camp appears on page 313 of my book.

[Cont'd.]

My dear Eleanor
I am thinking very often of you and of all
those who are dear to you, and I am sending this
letter to your dear mother, I have promised her
as a present, reminding me, really, of a pre-
sented, your birthday. Thanks to the way I thought
it possible, I was by your mother's great love, which
I have not given growing up from a dear little
girl, and I remember you as when I was a little
in happier days. These supplemented by some
very rich snapshots - I think, I can fairly
well imagine what you are like now when, in
wishing these few lines with the intention to con-
vey to you my heartfelt affection and love to your
beloved. May this happy day, happy for you,
my dear young friend, as for your dear father and
mother, may all wishes commendable to me
as often as I receive news of all you are happy
in good health of body, as of mind, and
may your blessings increase to the days of our
life. I love you like the little pictures which go
so you with these few words and which, I actually
desire to be as perfect, it may possibly remind
you of some thing, tell you better, to me with
regards to the mother who is to you.
Give, please, my best regards, to your dear
parents, grand parents and aunts.
With love
Your sincere friend
L. Maria Anna, Countess
October 2nd 1918. Truly, Alice



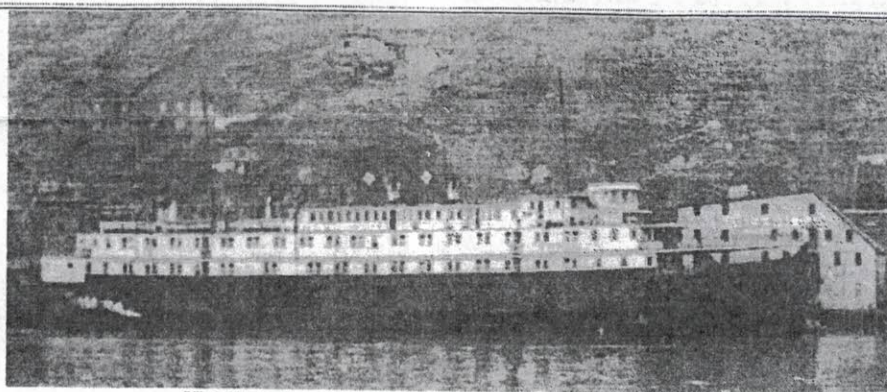
For Posterity's Sake

A Royal Canadian Navy Historical Project



HMCS AVALON II

Former Great Lakes Steamer Georgian



HMCS Avalon II (ex SS Georgian) in St. John's, Nfld in 1942

From the collection Roger Litwiller

Courtesy of Ross Milligan, RCNR (RTL-REM037)

Click on the above photo to view the full image

Acquired by RCN: Jun 1941

Fate: Unknown

HMCS Avalon II was the former Great Lakes Steamer Georgian. She was acquired by the RCN in Jun 1941 to be used as floating barracks at St. John's, Nfld, for the expansion of the roll of St. John's as a convoy hub. HMCS Avalon continued to use her as a floating barracks even after more barracks were built ashore.

Commanding Officers

LCdr Harold Wilson Balfour, RCNVR - 30 Mar 42 - unk

LCdr Joseph Joachim Deslauriers, RCNR - 27 Jul 1943 - unk



In memory of those who have crossed the bar



They shall not be forgotten

Former Crew Members:

Arbuckle, John Cameron, Slt, RCNVR - 04 Jul 1944

Bonnell, Henry Nathan, Lt (E), RCNR - 10 Mar 1942

Cook, Thomas Stephenson, Lt, RCNVR - 12 May 1944

Cunningham, William Ford, Surg/Lt, RCNVR - 05 Jun 1943

Deakin, Ernest, Wt (E), RCNR - 03 Mar 1942

Douglas, Alan St. Clair, Surg/Lt, RCNVR - 01 Apr 1944

Lavoie, Joseph Cyrille, A/War (E), RCNR -

Robinson, Peter Lewis, Slt, RCNVR - 24 Feb

Webster, Edgar Francis, Lt, RCNVR - 26 Jun

BNAPLEX 2018 QUEBEC CITY STUDY GROUP MEETING DETAILS

We will have a Study Group meeting 1400-1500 on Sunday, September 23, Ravel Room, Hotel Plaza Québec and all members are welcome to attend. Our thanks are extended to member Mike Powell for agreeing to present his "Canadian POW's in Germany During the Great War". This is a change from the recent BNA Topics notice. Check the show programme for the final schedule. Good luck to all members exhibiting and have a wonderful convention!

NO POSTAGE STAMPS USED AT HMCS AVALON: A GENERAL OVERVIEW--By John Burnett

If someone were to ask you "What was the longest battle in the Second World War?" could you answer them? The answer is the Battle of the Atlantic which started in September 1939 and lasted until Germany's capitulation in May 1945.

One very important factor in that battle was the build-up of naval forces in Canada to escort convoys to Great Britain. Initially Canada lacked the vessels and England stationed Royal Navy ships in Halifax, Nova Scotia and St. John's, Newfoundland. When I speak to many people about this subject it amazes me just how many younger collectors (post-Second World War) just don't realize that Newfoundland was a colony of Great Britain and not a province of Canada during the war. In fact, Newfoundland was Great Britain's oldest colony.

As a colony Newfoundland had her own stamps and mail coming from HMCS Avalon (the naval base at St. John's) was franked with the unique stamps of the colony. This was no issue when there was only a small force at HMCS Avalon. As Britain started to build up her naval force and Canada started to supply more ships (including some of the Lend Lease ships from the U.S.A.) at St. John's, this build-up became evident with increase of mail bearing the unique stamps of Newfoundland. This increase in Newfoundland-franked mail was a potential signal to any enemy agent watching such things as to what was going on at HMCS Avalon. The navy decided that they would not use Newfoundland stamps on their mail but instead would accept cash for the letter and handstamp the envelope with a triangular rubber stamp. Shown in figures 1, 2, and 3 are scans from an English Royal Navy ship at HMCS Avalon. Figure 1 shows the overall cover, figure 2 shows the English tombstone censor handstamp used by the Royal Navy, and figure 3 shows the triangular handstamp in blue ink.

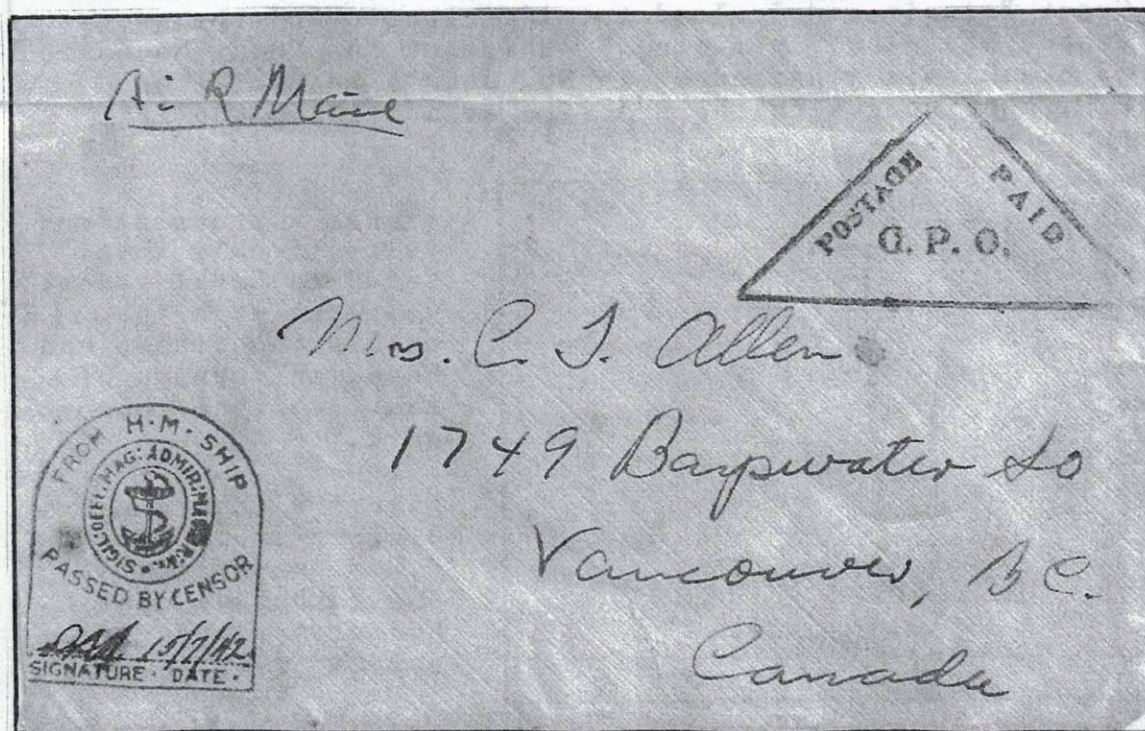


FIG. 1

[Cont'd.]

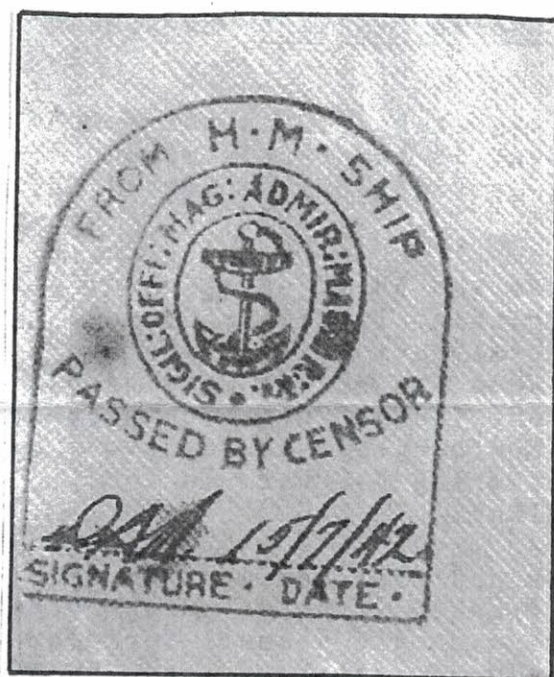


FIG. 2

The Royal Navy's tombstone censor handstamp in red, dated July 15., 1942

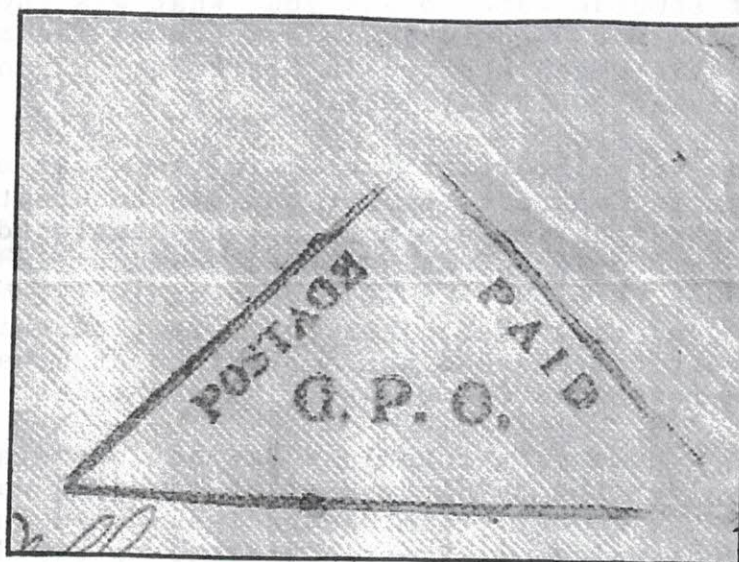


FIG. 3

The General Post Office 50mm triangular handstamp indicating postage paid at HMCS Avalon

As Canada ramped up her ship building and after Great Britain had eliminated the German battleship Bismarck, the Royal Navy concentrated on convoy escorts from Great Britain and Ireland to mid-Atlantic and the escort of convoys from Canada was slowly replaced by ships of the Royal Canadian Navy. The build-up of ships and personnel in St. John's was still an issue, so the R.C.N. continued with the practice of utilizing the triangular handstamps on mail.

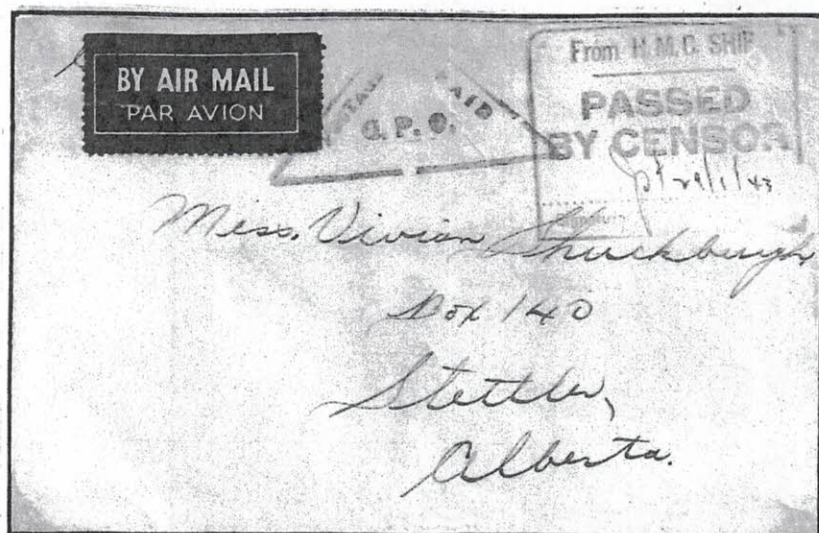


FIG. 4

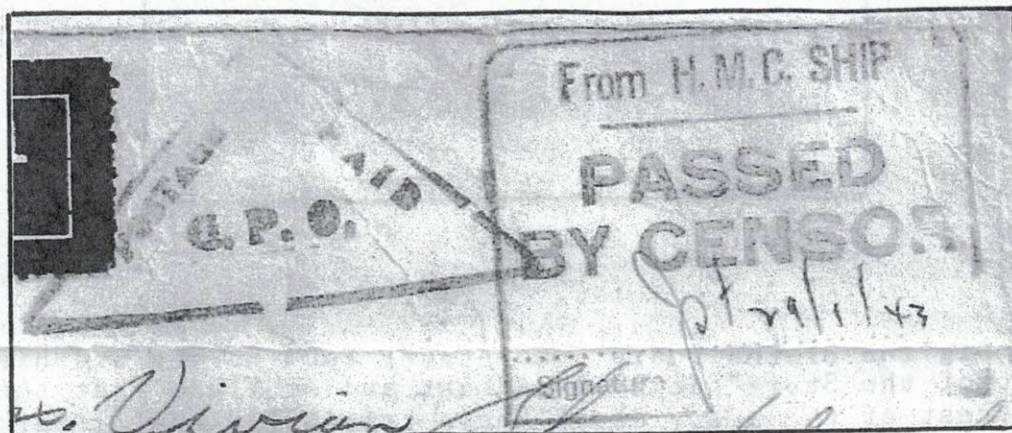
Figure 4 shows an envelope from a Royal Canadian Naval vessel complete with the triangular handstamp and Canadian version of the tombstone censor mark.

Figure 5 (over) shows a close-up of the R.C.N.'s version of the tombstone censor handstamp dated January 29, 1943 and a

[Cont'd.]

50mm triangular handstamp in blue ink.

FIG.5



I have found five different sizes of handstamps to date, I dare say there are more to find. So far I have identified a 46, 49, 50, 60, and 67mm triangular handstamps (measured across the bottom of the triangle), the 49 and 60mm marks are not recorded by Bailey and Toop in their opus Canadian Military Postal Markings and are new finds. One has to ask are there any more unrecorded sizes out there? [Members may refer to previous studies by member Paul Binney and his original research, along with his updates of John Frith, Wilf Whitehouse, and the Editor's previous findings.Ed.]

Figure 6 shows an air mail cover that has been handstamped with the largest triangular stamp found to date, it measures 67mm. Figure 7 shows a later censor mark showing a straight line "FROM H.M.C. SHIP/EXAMINED BY DB/N 503". The 500 series of censor numbers were all assigned to ships. I have yet to identify on just what ship the censoring officer using 503 was assigned to serve.

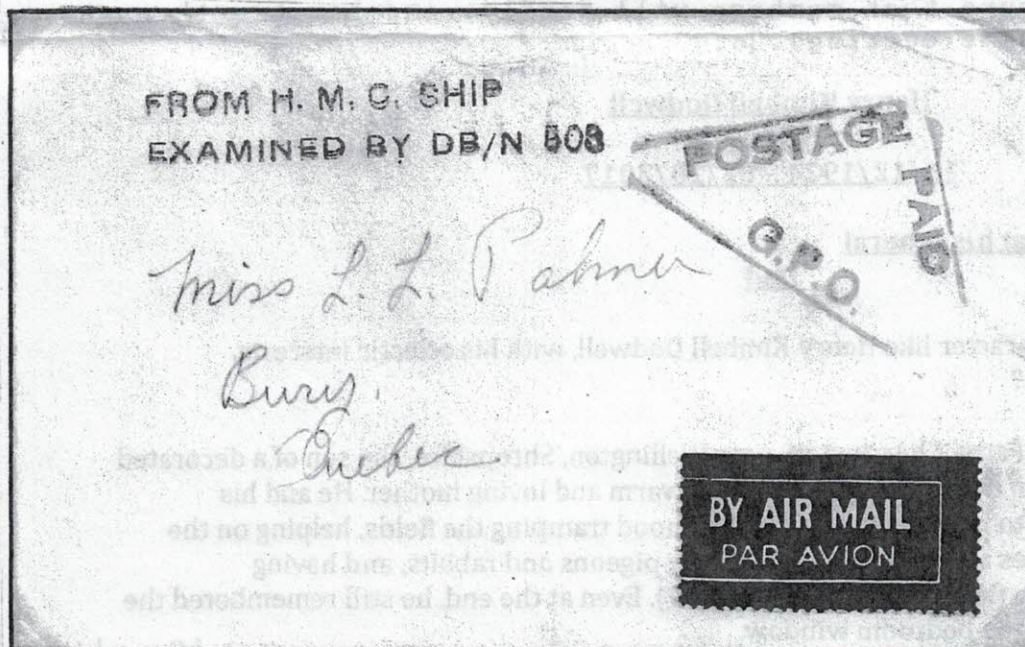


FIG.6

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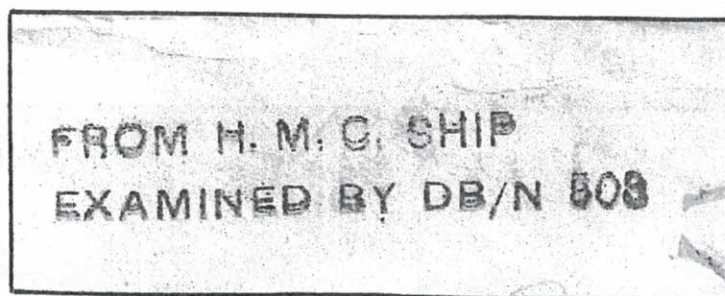


FIG.7

I was a big fan of the radio commentator Paul Harvey and his "And Now the Rest of the Story" daily broadcast and so I use that theme to tell you the rest of the story about these triangular postal markings. The triangular handstamps were brought out to confuse a possible enemy agent watching such things as increased postal activity in key military areas. The markings were used because the increase in the use of the stamps of Newfoundland would be a sure indication of increased naval activity at St. John's. I find it interesting that these postal markings were never used at any other location and so were just as unique as the stamps of Newfoundland were and an enemy agent had exactly the same information available to him as he would have had looking at stamped envelope activity.

H.K. "KIM" DODWELL: A TRIBUTE

[Members will recall the late Kim Dodwell's passing last year. He was an extraordinary fellow, a kind and knowledgeable collector (especially of Canadian military postal history from the Second World War), a keen author (within these pages and that of Maple Leaves, the journal of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain) and a frequent financial contributor to our Study Group. I apologize for the tardiness of the following but I am sure that members will fondly remember him through this tribute (with some editing).Ed.]

Henry Kimbell Dodwell

"Kim"

16/12/1924 - 02/10/2017

Tribute given by his children at his funeral

Dad

How do you try to capture a character like Henry Kimbell Dodwell, with his eclectic interests, colourful history and love of life?

Dad was born at the Day House Farm, Cherrington, near Wellington, Shropshire, the son of a decorated war hero, who had lost an arm in the 1st World War and a warm and loving mother. He and his younger brother, Richard, seem to have had an idyllic childhood tramping the fields, helping on the farm with the threshing machines and cart horses, shooting pigeons and rabbits, and having adventures collecting birds' eggs (it was okay in those days!). Even at the end, he still remembered the sound of the corncrake through the bedroom window.

[Cont'd.]

These early years left a lasting legacy of interest in, and knowledge of, wild flora and fauna, wherever he lived.

Dad attended the Old Hall School in Wellington followed by Shrewsbury School, where he was a day boy and enjoyed cross country running, shooting and boxing.

He took his first exams to become a doctor, and was accepted at Caius College, Cambridge to study medicine. However, war had broken out and, as soon as he could, he volunteered.

He joined the Green Howards, and then volunteered for the Parachute Regiment, and dropped into Normandy in the early hours of D-day as part of the Pathfinders force, to lead the way for the following airborne assault on occupied Europe. Whilst a relatively short period in his life he was proud to have played a part in such an important event and took us as children to Normandy to share his memories and visit the grave of his lost friend and comrade.

After seeing action in Normandy, he took an emergency commission and was posted to the 1st 1st Gurkhas in India.

We would like to share part of a tribute from John Cross, with whom he was at school and also in the same Gurkha battalion:

Late 1946 we moved to the North-West Frontier, at a place named Razmak, in Waziristan province within about twenty miles from the Afghanistan border.

Kim and I shared a room for just over a year and we became close friends. He was put in command of D Company and he was the best rifle company commander there was, tactically astute when operationally taking up hill top positions against Pathan marauders and sharpshooters on the days we had to open the road for convoys to revictual and keep us joined to the real world, a realistic trainer, relying on his own war-time knowledge from Normandy, administratively competent and greatly admired by his men. His language skills increased considerably. In essence he was the archetypical representative of all that was good in a good regimental officer in the Indian Army. He never showed anything but a serious aplomb when necessary, never getting angry and often lightening any tensions with his wonderful smile.

He was a good shot and in the chaos of post-Partition when we had virtually nothing to replenish our meagre rations, he would take his rifle out and, with his orderly, go shooting birds for the Officers' Mess dinner – otherwise we ate vegetarian.

We kept contact over the years. He was one of the best men it has been my privilege and pleasure to know, a devoted husband and father. I doubt I will ever meet such a wonderful man ever again even if I lived much longer than my ration. May his soul rest in perpetual peace.

After Partition Dad was demobbed as a Captain. Back in England he decided against medicine, and took up a career as a Tea Planter in the district of Cachar, Assam, India. He fell in love with his 1st Manager's daughter, Jean Vipan. They were married in September 1952 in England. For the next 22 years they moved to various tea gardens from under the foothills of the Himalayas, which he particularly loved, to the south bank of the Brahmaputra, ending up as Superintendent of several gardens. During this time Sally and Rick were born in India, and Clare while they were home on leave in England.

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In 1974, along with many other British planters, he retired from India, at the age of 50. They had to make a new life back here, where he started a gardening and tree surgery business, building up a loyal client list of wisterias and fruit trees, by whose owners he was sometimes known as "Old Honey Fungus".

They made a home back in Shropshire, soon moving to Middle House where they always welcomed our friends as well as their own. The family grew as we children married and five grandchildren arrived. We all loved to visit, and the grandchildren learnt much from his imaginative and carefree ways of entertaining and teaching them.

As many of you will know he had an eccentric interest in so many things. His hobbies and inquisitive mind meant that he had wide-ranging collections, studies and projects through out his life, which ranged from silver teaspoons to Shropshire bricks, from stamps to bread ovens, from staircases and trees to elephant ornaments. Sometimes he would knock on complete strangers' doors and ask if he could measure their trees, or see their bread ovens or staircases. He and Mum had a joint love of the countryside and places of interest, and of course bird watching, which they shared with Kim's brother, Richard and Shirley, and Jean's brother, Bob and Ann. He also loved poetry and often used to quote lines.

When Mum died in 2009, he could not see a future without Middle House, so moved into the flat that had been built for his Mother and Sally, David & Esther moved into the main house. We believe that the seasonal jobs in that garden helped carry him through. Things needed to be planted, watered, tended and picked, which gave him a daily purpose through the seasons.

In the last couple of years he needed the extra support of carers coming into Middle House; then & in his last six months at Isle Court, he never lost his lifelong interest in the people around him, asking the nurses and carers where they came from, what their interests were and about their lives. Even though his sight and health were failing, his mind was keen and he still had the twinkle in his remaining eye.

He always appreciated the support and love of his family and friends, and tried to ensure that we all knew it. We would like to thank those who cared for him and those who came to visit him at home and in Isle Court - it made a huge difference to his narrowing life. Thank you.

CMMMSG MEETING AT ORAPEX 2018--By Mike Street

The CMMMSG meeting at ORAPEX 2018 on May 5 was attended by twelve members and guests. Mike Street's presentation, "Correspondence Home From an An-caster Doctor in Belgium and France During World War I", was well-received. The postal history aspects of Dr. George Devey Farmer's passage from O.C., 5th Field Ambulance, C.E.F. in Belgium, to O.C., 2nd Canadian Stationary Hospital in France, to O.C., 5th Canadian General Hospital in Liverpool, England were very interesting. What was surprising were Dr. Farmer's very frank comments on different aspects of the war to his son who, at the time was only in the second grade of elementary school, and who was the addressee of almost all the letters in the correspondence.

ORAPEX 2018 MEMBER AWARDS

Several members and non-members showcased their excellent exhibits on various military themes. Congratulations to the following members:

J. Michael Powell, "The Great War Internment Camps of Canada", Gold; A. David Hanes, "Camp Borden, 1916-2016", Large Vermeil; Robert Toombs, "RAF Ferry Command (Dorval): Military Mail to and from Global War Fronts", Vermeil; Jon Johnson, "WWI Canadian Army Nursing Sisters Serving Overseas", Large Silver/AAPE Sterling Achievement Award. ONE FRAME EXHIBITS: Darcy Hickson, "Sewell Camp", Large Gold/One Frame Grand/BNAPS Best BNA One-Frame. David Hobden and Jon Johnson both had military exhibits in the show's Court of Honour.

EDMONTON SPRING NATIONAL 2018 MEMBER AWARDS

Congratulations are also extended to members with the following military exhibits:

Hal Kellett, "Canada's Military Missing/Killed in Action During World War II", Gold/BNAPS Best 2 x 4; Hal Kellett, "The Raid on Dieppe, August 19, 1942", Large Vermeil/APS Medal of Excellence, 1940-1980. ONE FRAME EXHIBITS: Jon Johnson, "Canadian Merchant Navy, July 1943-September 1945", Gold/BNAPS Best BNA One-Frame/Edmonton Stamp Club Best One-Frame.

1971 D.N.D. 709 (REVISED JANUARY 1966) SECRET LABEL--By Hal Kellett

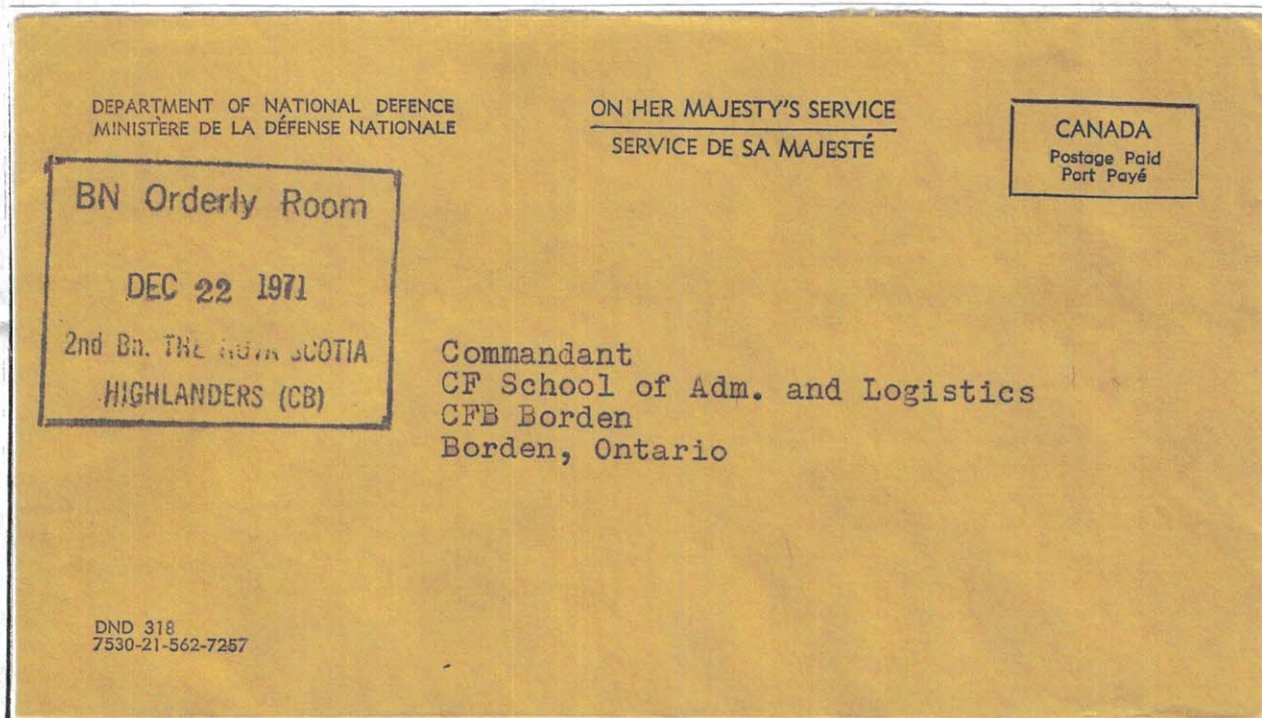
[Hal showed me this cover with its unusual label (printing in red). I

Department of National Defence - Ministère de la Défense Nationale	
TOP SECRET - TRÈS SECRET	
SECRET - SECRET	
CONFIDENTIAL - CONFIDENTIEL	
RESTRICTED - DIFFUSION RESTREINTE	
(Delete whichever of the above not applicable) - (Rayer les mentions inutiles)	
TO A	
FROM DE	
FILE NO. DOSSIER N°	T.D. D.T.
DATE	
DND 709 (REV. 1-66) 7690-21-842-6111	

[Cont'd.]

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suspect that it was used simply as an interesting addition. Note the orderly room marking of the Nova Scotia Highlanders. Thanks Hal.Ed.]



Dear Study Group Members: Many thanks to those who have sent in their dues. Those a bit late will see a form included. Thank you in advance. Congratulations are extended to Mike Street who was elected as a Fellow at the 2018 Royal Philatelic Society of Canada convention. A well-deserved honour! Have a great BNAPEX!

We're reminded about CANPEX 2018 from October 13-14, Hellenic Community Centre, 133 Southdale Rd., West, London, ON. Free admission, free parking, lunch counter, youth table. Qualified as a WSP show.

General inquiries info@canpex.com

Web site: www.canpex.ca

The "article cupboard" is just about bare so please send along anything for next time! Thanks and have a great dog days of summer.

SMALL ADS

Looking for something? Have something for sale? Why not try our small ads? Buy/Sell/Trade. Still only \$1 per issue (Canadian stamps @ face ok). Copy and payment to the Editor please:

WANTED: WWI covers/contents to "Miss Margaret Rymal, Toronto". She was an Eaton's employee who wrote to fellow employees in the C.E.F.; email Wayne Schnarr at: gwschnarr@rogers.com (1/2)

WANTED: Covers related to the B.C.A.T.P. in Canada. Especially seeking covers to/from airmen attending from other countries. Please send scans to Hal Kellett at: hkstampsandcovers@shaw.ca or telephone (306) 374-4282 (1/1)

WANTED: WWII Canadian P.O.W. mail from Germany (especially Dieppe-related); Canadian military postal history WWI/WWII with "missing" or "KIA" markings. Also seeking the WWII "alphabet" special forces (ie. "B", "C", "N", "W", "Y", "Z" etc.). Scans or photocopies to: Hal Kellett, #412-106 Armistice Way, Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H4 or email: hkstampsandcovers@shaw.ca (6/6)

WANTED: Japanese Canadian Nisei volunteers and non-Japanese Canadians in WWII Intelligence Service Far East. Especially seeking Japanese Language School (S-20) drafts, interpreters, war crimes units etc. in South East Asia Command; Canadians associated with Nuremberg War Crimes Trials; Canadian POW's in Buchenwald/Colditz (Oflag IVC) and Stalag Luft III escapees; Canadians in Gibraltar/Malta; WWI Newfoundland. Contact the Editor at blueputtees@hotmail.com (4/5)

WANTED: WWI/WWII covers/cards/photos/ephemera related to the Canadian Military Police Corps; Dominion Police (Military Service Act); Canadian Provost Corps; Military Detention Barracks; Special Investigation Sections (including War Crimes Unit). Contact the Editor at blueputtees@hotmail.com (1/5)