

## Back Issue of Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin': (Bulletin May 1947)

Back issues of the Military Postal History Society 'Bulletin' are now available. The issues available span the period from 1937 to 2022. The MPHS is a non-profit organization for philatelists and stamp collectors interested in the collecting and studying of the postal aspects of all wars and military actions of all countries, including soldiers' campaign covers, naval mail, occupation and internment covers, patriotics, propaganda, V-mail, censorship and similar related material.

You are encouraged to join the MPHS to realize the additional benefits of membership. See: <http://militaryphs.org/membership>

### **List of Index Items for This Publication**

*Canadian Army & Navy in WWII (Post Offices, MPOs & NPOs)*

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**THE CANADIAN ARMY AND NAVY IN WORLD WAR II**

THIS ISSUE is devoted largely to the markings on the mail of the Canadian Armed Forces in World War II. We do not pretend to have illustrated every mark. Our showing of postmarks and POW markings is relatively complete. For many of the directory markings shown there are variations in size, in type of lettering, and sometimes in wording, but in general we believe that we have indicated the basic types.

The great majority of letters from Canadian soldiers overseas bore the British double-circle field post postmark (which will be illustrated in a later Bulletin). A list of such postmarks used on Canadian Army mail was published in the November 1945 Bulletin. The earliest letters from Canadian soldiers in England, sent before free franking was granted, bear British postage stamps and frequently have a British town cancel, usually Aldershot. Early in the summer of 1942, the Canadian Army Overseas began using its own FPO postmarks (Fig. 1, page 7). These did not become very common until 1944. A list of these postmarks appears elsewhere in this issue. A few covers may be found that bear postmarks of U. S. Army and Navy post offices, or of the Australian, New Zealand, or South African army post offices. Special blue air-letter sheets were available and several types of redirection cards were used.

Canadian troops served in Newfoundland, in several islands in the West Indies, in Hong Kong and in Alaska. Special markings were used only in Newfoundland and in Jamaica.

The Special Service Force of the 6th Canadian Division sent troops to the U. S. for training purposes. Mail from these troops bears U. S. camp or civilian postmarks.

Blind or blacked-out postmarks were used in a number of towns and cities in Eastern and Western Canada for security reasons.

A number of so-called "service organizations" furnished special envelopes to the troops. These organizations are: Canadian Legion, Salvation Army, Y.M.C.A., Red Cross, Knights of Columbus, Navy League, Lutheran Commission. There are many types of these envelopes. Some bear Christmas ornamentation. Perhaps the various kinds of cigarette acknowledgement cards should be classed along with these.

A list of Canadian POW camps and more detailed information on POW markings will be published in a later Bulletin.

A U. S. Army winter detachment was stationed at Camp Shilo, Manitoba, during the winter of 1942-43. The only cover seen bears the Shilo camp postmark. It is possible that APO 699, assigned to this camp, was the postal address of those troops. Some mail from U. S. Army personnel in Canada passed through the civilian postal system.

More detailed information about some of the markings illustrated may be found in articles by Major Ian C. Morgan in BNA TOPICS for October and November 1945, and January 1946.

Acknowledgement is made to Major Morgan and to Norman Hill for much of the information given in this issue.

(continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

The following are short comments on some of the marks illustrated.

PAGE 6. Fig. 19 - A scarce emergency postmark. For more information see the May 1945 Bulletin. Figs. 20, 21 - Roller cancellations for parcel post. Fig. 23 - Similar straight-line stamps were also used at several MPO's to postmark letters and parcels. Fig. 26 - Used with a machine cancel in Montreal. Fig. 31 - Used on mail of a joint commission that traveled about Canada in a special train to arrange for Americans in the Canadian Army and Air Force to transfer to the U. S. Forces. Figs. 32-38 - Used in Newfoundland and Labrador. See May 1945 Bulletin. C.A.P.O. No. 1 was also used on Exercise Musk-Ox in the winter of 1946. Fig. 39 - Used in Jamaica. Several varieties.

PAGE 7. Figs. 7, 8 - Continuous machine cancels of British origin. At least three varieties of Fig. 7. Figs. 21-23 - More varieties of these.

PAGE 8. Other varieties of most of the Navy marks. Figs. 14, 15 - Early marks, soon replaced by Fig. 16. Fig. 17 - A machine cancel with camp number used at most camps during latter part of war. Fig. 18 - A real camp postmark. More information on this rare and interesting marking in a later issue. Fig. 19 - Uncommon Canadian Red Cross censor mark. Fig. 22 - A hand-stamped frank. Fig. 23 - Machine cancel used exclusively on POW air mail and from only one camp so far as known.

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#### New Members

- 247 Isadore Willinger, 314 E. 163rd St., Bronx 56, N. Y. APO's
- 248 James R. Mundy, 1021-B Tacoma Rd., Erie, Pa. APO's W.W. 11
- 249 Gordon F. Johnson, P.O. Box 768, El Paso, Tex. W.W. 1 and 11, Civil War  
Patriotics, Navals, P.O.W's.
- 250 Edward Lovell, 119 East Third St., Charlotte 2, N.C. War Covers of the  
Whole World.
- 251 Irving Pelletier, 111 Allds St., Nashua, N.H. APO's W.W. 11.
- 252 Maurice G. Ainsburg, Sr., 38 Seaman Ave., Castleton on Hudson, N. Y. Any  
censored.

#### Reinstated and Change of Address

- 36 Homer G. Artist, Adair, Iowa.
- 208 G. J. Meylan to 18 Woodruff St., Cortland, N. Y.
- 56 Ian C. Morgan to 1455 Union Ave., Montreal 2, P.Q., Canada.
- 32 H. M. Sanford to 17473 Norton Ave., Lakewood 7, Ohio.
- 240 Elmer E. Shoemaker to P.O. Box 9, Waverly, Ohio.
- 171 Lowell H. Tuttle to 9424 Longwood Drive, Chicago 20, Ill.
- 228 Capt. H. J. Vacura, Hq and Hqts. Det. 89th Engrs. Composite Group, A.P.O. 807,  
N.Y.C.
- 83 Geo. J. Zimmerman to 986 So. 50th St., Omaha, Nebr.

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Tripp's location list was sent free to all members in good standing in lieu of the usual Bulletin. Those members who sent in money to pay for it before the dues notices were mailed out were billed accordingly.

Many copies have been sold to libraries and historical societies. Please contact any institution that might be interested in a copy.



CANADIAN MPO'S AND NPO'S, WORLD WAR II  
(continued from page 3)

M.D. No. 12, Sask.		Saskatoon NPO	1213	Penhold	1307
Dundurn	1201	Regina	1214	Calgary	1309
Regina	1202			Calgary	1310
Mossbank	1203	M.D. No. 13, Alberta		Wainwright Camp	1311
Saskatoon	1204	Sarcee Camp	1301	Vulcan	1312
Yorkton	1205	Edmonton	1302	Calgary	1313
Dafoe	1206	MacLeod	1303	Edmonton	1314
North Battleford	1208	Lethbridge	1304	Edmonton	1315
Estevan	1209	Calgary	1305	Calgary	1316
Swift Current	1210	Claresholm	1306	Calgary	1317
Prince Albert FPO					
Esquimo Force	1212				

Numbers not listed were not opened.

CANADIAN FPO POSTMARKS, WORLD WAR II

(In parentheses are shown the numbers appearing at the bottom of the dial. These are reported to have been used solely to confuse the enemy.)

AC - Canadian Army Headquarters  
 AC1 - 1st Canadian Army Headquarters (1)  
 DC - Canadian Divisional Headquarters  
 DC1 - 1st " " "  
 DC2 - 2nd " " "  
 DC3 - 3rd " " "  
 DCA4 - 4th Canadian Armored Division Headquarters (1)  
 DCA5 - 5th " " " (1)  
 HC - Canadian Corps Headquarters  
 HC1 - 1st " " " (1)  
 HC2 - 2nd " " " (1)  
 SC - Canadian Statistic Office  
 SC1 - Canadian Records Office, London (2)  
 SC2 - Canadian Overseas Postal Depot, London (2,3)  
 SC3 - Canadian Repatriation Unit, Bordon (1,2)  
 SC4 - 4th Canadian Repatriation Depot, Aldershot (1,2)  
 SC5 - 1st " " " , Thursley (2)  
 SC6 - Canadian Repatriation Unit, Horsham (1,2)  
 SC7 - Canadian Military Headquarters, London (1,2)  
 SC8 - Canadian Repatriation Unit  
 SC9 - Anti-Tank and Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Colchester  
 SC10 - U. K. 2nd Echelon Records, Farnham (1,2)  
 SC11 - Canadian Repatriation Unit, Aldershot (1,2,3)  
 SC12 - 3rd Canadian Repatriation Depot, Cove, Hants. (1)  
 TC - Canadian Division Troops Supply Office  
 TC1 - 1st Canadian Division Supply  
 TC2 - 2nd " " " (1)  
 TC3 - 3rd " " " (1)  
 THC - Canadian Corps Troops (Supply) Headquarters (1)  
 THC1 - 1st Canadian Corps (Supply) (1)  
 THC2 - 2nd " " " (1)

## YOU WANT TO KNOW

by A. J. Tripp

We all want to know where our APO covers originated. The recently published List of Locations and Assignments goes a long way towards fulfilling that desire, but it certainly should be possible to add to it. A friend of mine who was in the service from England to Germany and from Luzon to Japan, and who gave me much information on APO locations, stated: "If you can get another hundred guys to dig up that much, you may be able to complete the job." I am still trying to find that "100".

Much authentic information can be had from the return addresses (RA) on APO covers, especially those that are headed by the letters "HQ". In this way we can locate those combat units which have one or more HQ's, each using a different number; for example, the 11th AF in Alaska, with its HQ at Kodiak (937); the Rear Echelon HQ at Anchorage (942); and the HQ of the Advance Cmd. Post on Adak Is. (980).

We can assume that the 6th AF, with HQ at Albrook Field, C. Z., and the 5th and 7th AF's, which operated all over the Pacific Area, used many different numbers, although they may have been assigned a specific number for the HQ of their unit. History tells me that Nadzab, New Guinea, located just N. of Finchhaven, was the main base of the 5th AF in '44. Information as to what number was used there may be found in the RA on some cover, some day.

RA "Chaplain's Office, 1st AR, APO 251"; no number in cancel. Dated March 5, 1943. Translated: 1st Armored Regt., 1st Armored Division, which was assigned 251 and was in Algeria at this date.

RA "Hq. and Hq. Det., U. S. Military Gov't. Group, APO 235, c/o P. M., S. F." Postmark 235, March 5, 1946. This RA proves to be incomplete and is the number used by the Provincial Military Governor in Korea. "Hq. and Hq. Det." in any RA signifies that it is the "top" Hq. of that particular unit.

RA "31st PRS, APO 141, c/o P.M., N. Y." Postmark 225, Sept. 24, 1944. Insufficient data on dates to place the location, but it is known that Hq. XIX Tac. Air Cmd. used 141 in France and Germany, and also that 31st PRS was in Manila July 1, 1945.

I have indicated above by examples ways and means in which you can all help to fill the gaps and complete the records of locations of some APO's. Check over your Return Addresses and let me know your discoveries. When more or less complete we shall publish this information linking dates and locations of APO's.

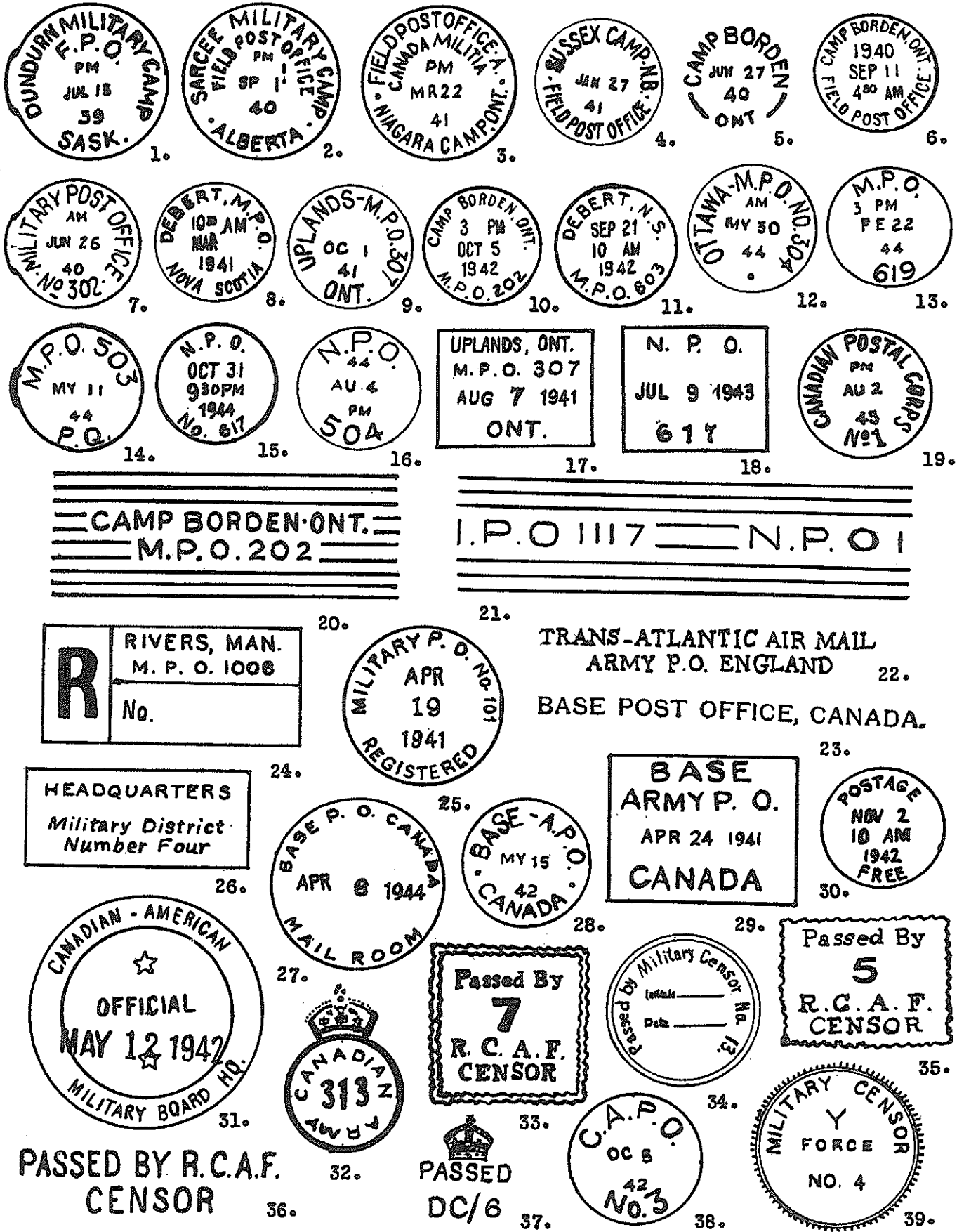
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At a brief ceremony on February 28, 1947, held at Camp Gennevilliers in a northern suburb of Paris, the last U. S. Army installation in Europe outside of the Occupied Countries officially ended its existence. This was undoubtedly APO 887. It will be interesting to note if APO mail is found after this date bearing APO postmarks assigned to points in Europe not in the Occupied Countries.

An attractive envelope with a specially designed corner card was available to the personnel of Task Force Williwaw which spent the past winter on Adak Island in the Aleutians (APO 980). So far as is known, Task Force Frigid operating in Alaska at the same time used only an identifying hand stamp on its mail (APO 731).

In the very scarce first volume of the Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks is a well-illustrated article on U. S. Military Postal Stations in the Philippines, 1898-1904. This article, the authoritative treatise on the subject, has been photostatted. Copies of the 24 pages may be obtained from the editor for the cost of the prints, which at the present writing is approximately three dollars.

MARKS ON CANADIAN ARMY MAIL, NORTH AMERICA, WORLD WAR II

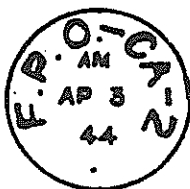




1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



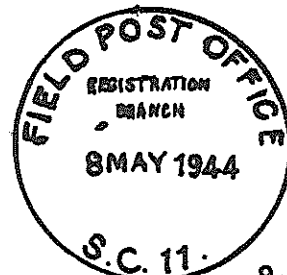
6.

ARMY POST OFFICE S.C.2. 27 APR 44

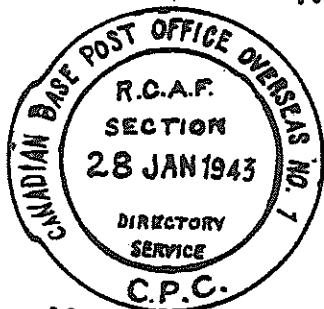
7.

1 CANADIAN A.B.P.O. 12 OCT 45

8.



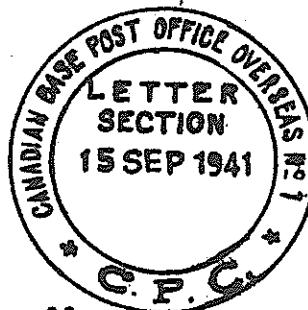
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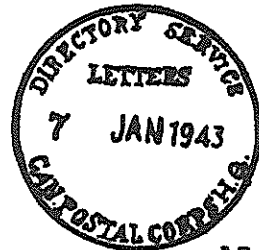
10.



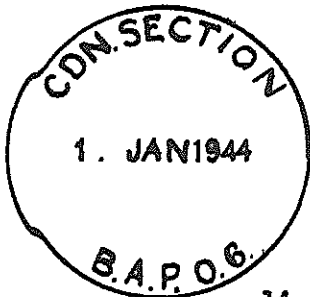
11.



12.



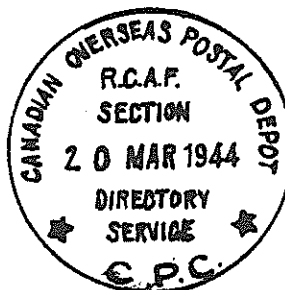
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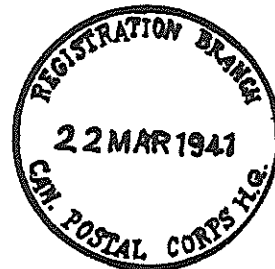
14.



15.



16.



17.



18.

ADDRESSEE RETURNED TO CANADA

20.

REPORTED DECEASED

19.

RETURNED TO CANADA

21.

UNABLE TO LOCATE WITH C.A.S.F. OVERSEAS

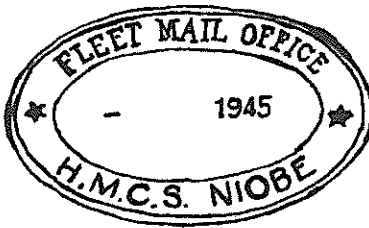
22.

IT IS REGRETTED THAT ADDRESSEE IS REPORTED DECEASED

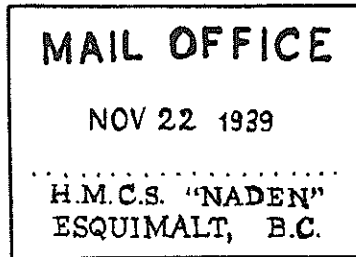
23.



CANADIAN NAVY MARKS, WORLD WAR II



1.



2.

F.M.O.  
HALIFAX  
H.M.C.S. STADACONA  
HALIFAX N.S.

3.

RE-DIRECTED TO  
H.M.C.S.  
FROM H.M.C.S. NIOBE

6.



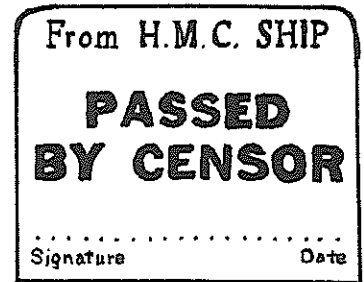
4.

**RCN (OVERSEAS)**

5.

PASSED BY CENSOR  
FOR TRANSMISSION THROUGH POST  
BUT NOT FOR PUBLICATION

8.



12.

FROM H. M. C. SHIP

7.

EXAMINED BY DB/N 506

9.

**PASSED BY CENSOR**

10.

C.F.M.O.  
10 HAYMARKET ST.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

11.

MARKS ON CANADIAN PRISONER OF WAR MAIL



13.



14.



15.



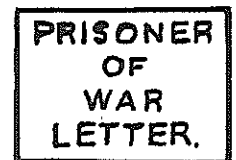
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NOT INTERNED  
IN CANADA.

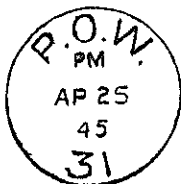
20.

**REJECTED**  
I.O. CENSOR 10

21.



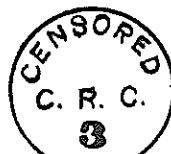
22.



17.



18.



19.

PRISONER OF WAR MAIL

**AIR MAIL**



23.

