

# The Cover Story

Oh, The Things You Can Learn Stamp Collecting!  
"Iceland Military Covers" Part 2 by Mike Schumacher

In part 1 [See July issue, Insert A] we left off with FPO # 306 the British Army Units Headquarters in Reykjavik. Well, it turns out not all FPO # 306 letters are the same. Letters from Army units can be distinguished by their censor markings from RAF units. Censor markings on letters from Army units have a rectangular box censor (note the example cover found in part 1) or a triangle censor mark (**Figure A1 below**) whereas letters from RAF units have their own censor markings (**Figure A2, A3 & A4**). RAF units in Iceland were stationed at Fossvogur, Geithals, Camp Cook and Reykjavik airfield, Camp Winston.

Figure A1



Figure A2

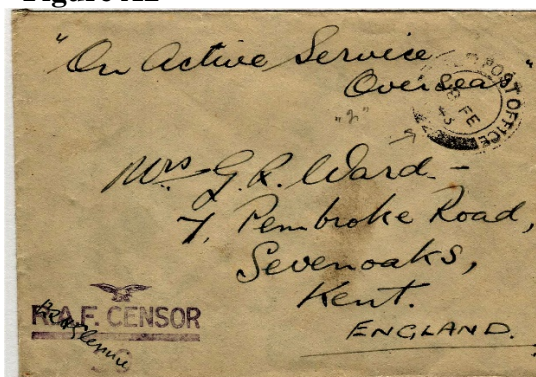
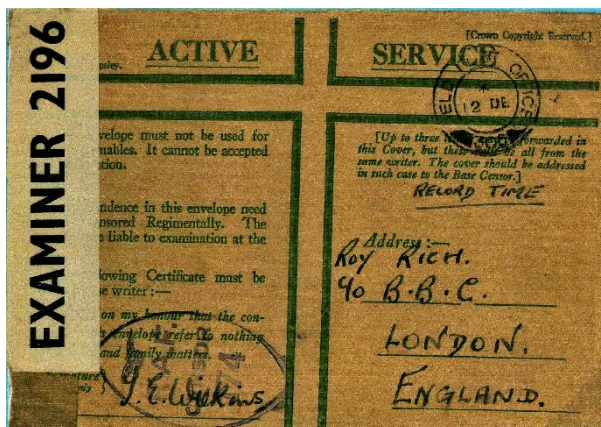


Figure A3



Figure A4



**F.P.O. # 305** British Army units were also stationed in Reydarfjordur (east coast) to protect the harbors where the British Navy was responsible for convoy duties along the east coast. F.P.O. # 305 was operational during the period 3.8.1940 to 20.7.1942 (**Figure A5**) RAF personnel were also stationed here as evidenced by the letter with an RAF censor (**Figure A6**).

**F.P.O. # 307** was used by HQ Southern Sector near Reykjavik at Geithals during the period 7.10.1940 to 7.4.1942 Letters with F.P.O # 307 are rather elusive (less than 25 known) (**Figure A7**).

**F.P.O. # 307** was used at **Borgarnes** by British Army Units during the period 2.10.1940 to 12.4.1942



Figure A5



Figure A6

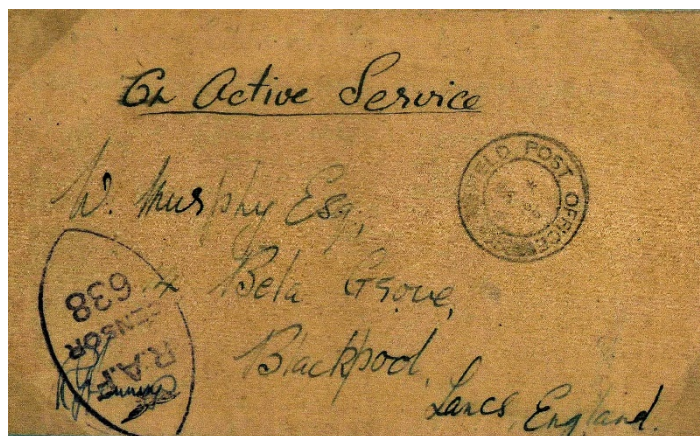


Figure A7

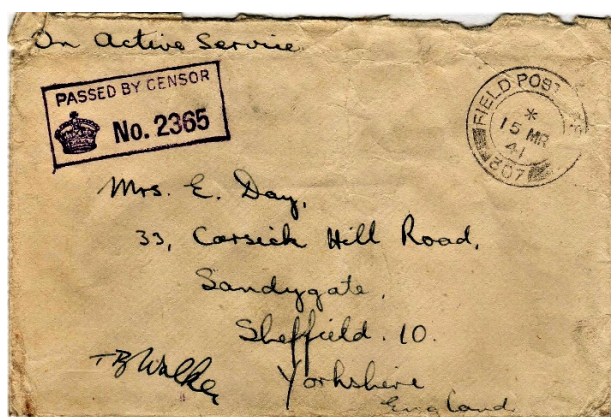
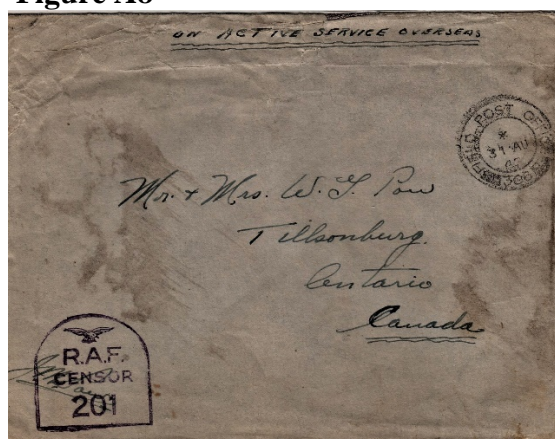


Figure A8



Now here is where the plot thickens! Shortly after the British invasion of Iceland Canada was asked to provide troops, so that British troops could be redeployed to defend other fronts. An agreement was reached on June 5<sup>th</sup> and by June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1940 Canadian forces had arrived in Iceland. Canadian forces utilized British F.P.O.'s.

**Figure A8** shows a cover from R.C.A.F. member J.M. # 6232 to Tillsonburg, Ontario Canada

Z Force Brigade & Royal Regiment of Canada were stationed in Iceland from 17.6.1940 to 31.10.1940

**Figure A9 (on front cover)** shows a cover from Capt. Ed Spencer "Z" Force. Back-side receiving cancel Musquash, New Brunswick; a rather lengthy letter enclosed. **Figure A10 (on front cover)** shows Canadian Forces defending Iceland.

Who know so much philately could result from an Invasion of Iceland in 1940?

And we haven't even gotten to the arrival of the U.S. Marines. More to follow in Part 3 of this article.

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