

Wonderful wartime artifact

(by Robert G Pelley, 2021-05-30)
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As the saying goes, sometimes the best things come in small packages. And that is certainly the case this time. A small item indeed, that somehow survived up until today.

It was also an item that has been around, geographically speaking, as it was obtained from a gentleman in Orlando, Florida. If it had been something related to the American wartime presence in Gander, finding it in Florida would be quite logical.

On the contrary - it is related rather to the Royal Canadian Air Force. And in a sense, it is "pre-Gander". It is inscribed as "Newfoundland Airport", a name which was used basically from late 1939 to mid-1941. This artifact is therefore quite rare.

Gander's different names over the years can be found here:

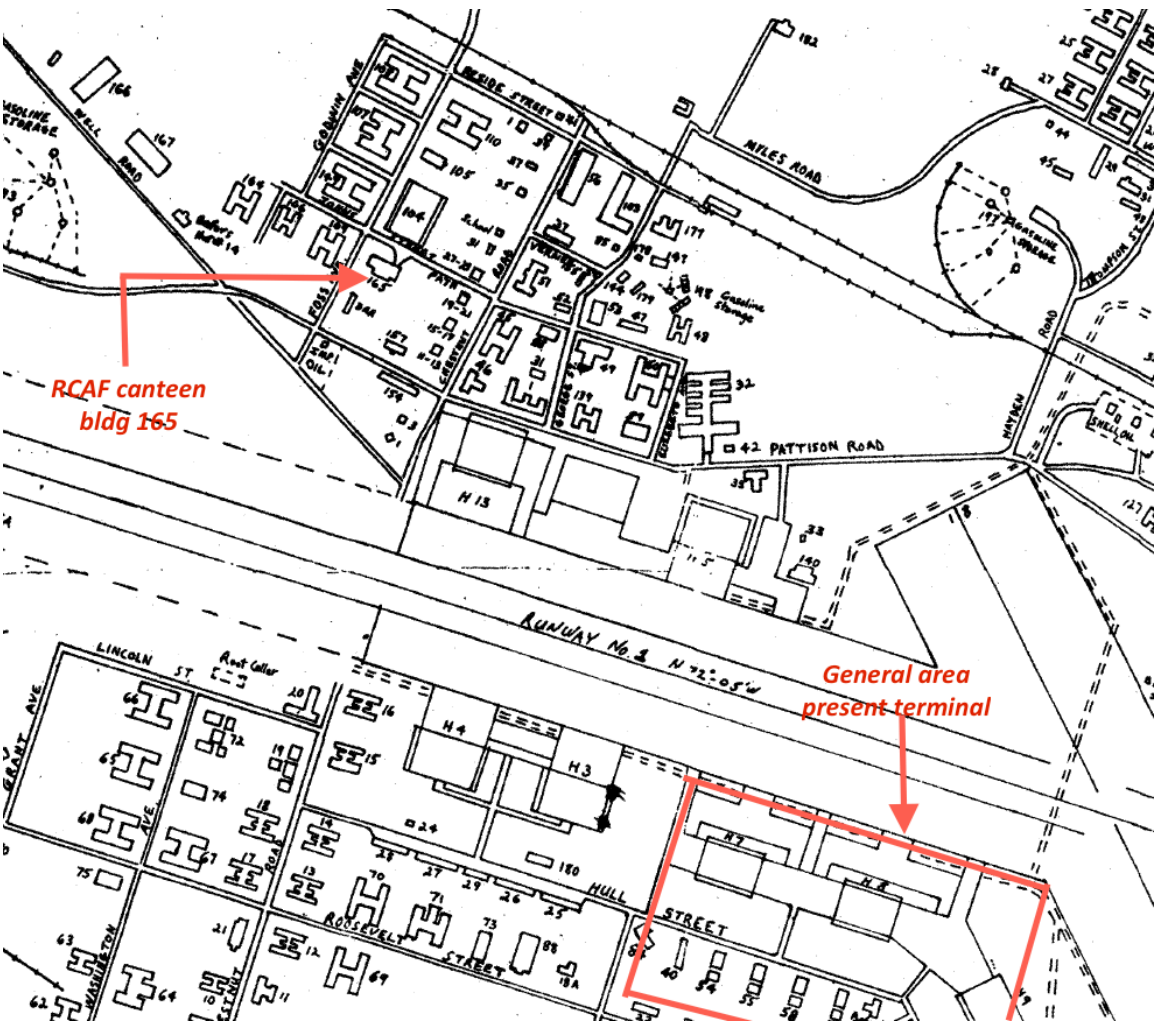
<http://bobsganderhistory.com/NamesGander.pdf>

The artifact in question came from a building that, after the war, became known as "Goodyear's cash and carry". Though Goodyear's had a better-known canteen near the train station, it was sometimes also called a canteen - and for a good reason. It was located on what was called during the war the "Canadian side" or RCAF side, near the drill hall.

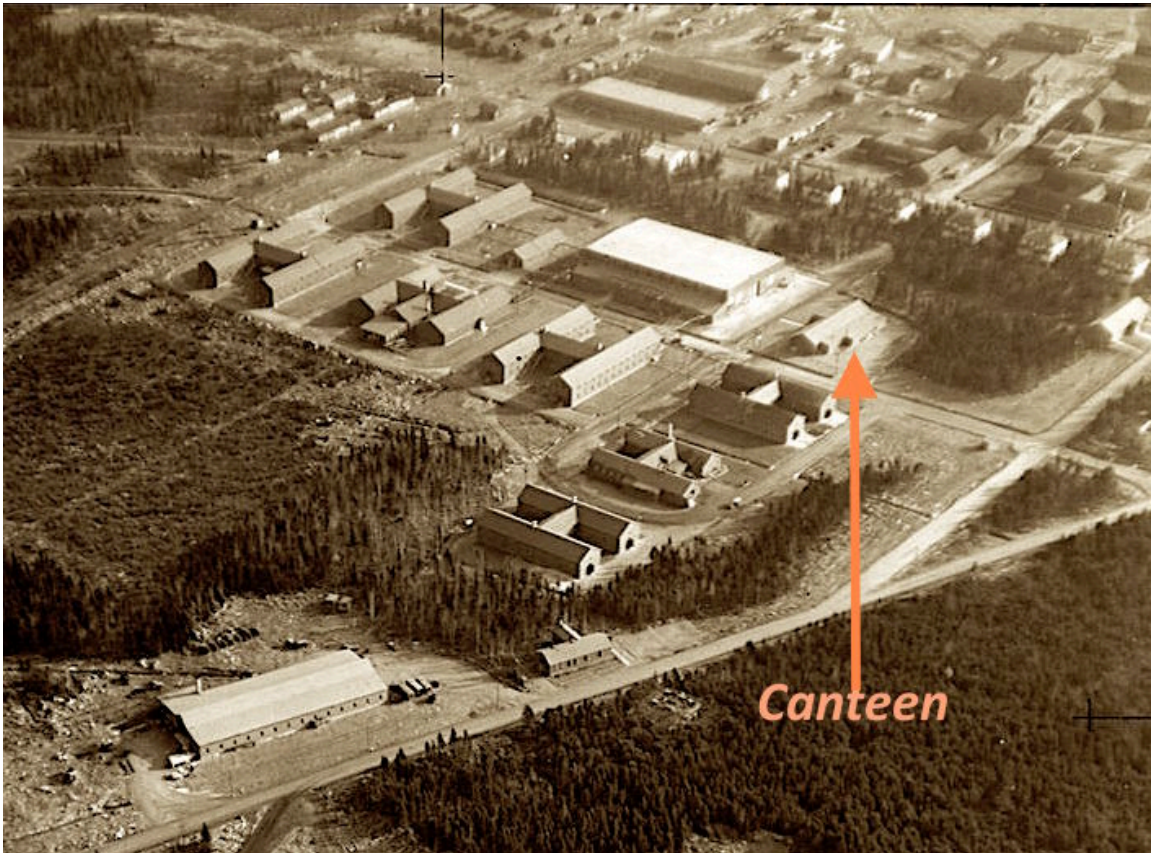
The different "sides" of old Gander (Canadian side, Army side, RAF side, the American side and several other sectors) can be visualised at this address:

<http://bobsganderhistory.com/SIDESgander.pdf>

The Goodyear's Cash and carry was in fact the RCAF wartime canteen, as indicated on the following sketch:



The canteen can be better located on the air photo below:



The artifact was something of general use. While it is very small, it was of great importance, especially back in those days when just about everyone smoked cigarettes, cigars or a pipe.

Very simply, we are talking about matches!

On the next page is shown the matchbook cover in question.



Luckily there are people who collect matchbook covers. They can be thanked for saving this one!