

Postal Services to the Canadian North

Jack Elliot was a pilot in Western Ontario in the early 1920's. He acquired several Curtiss JN-4 Canuck airplanes and by 1925 had formed his own flying school out of Hamilton, Ontario. Elliot became aware of problems in supplying some of the northern mining communities of Ontario with basic materials. He started the Jack V. Elliot Air Service company using two of his JN-4 Canucks, fitting them with skis for winter conditions and started flying key supplies north.

The Canada Post decided to take advantage of this service and contracted Mr. Elliot to deliver mail to the north at a cost of 25 cents per letter, even allowing him to print his own Air Service semi-official postage. The contract allowed Elliot to fly mail from Rolling Portage, later renamed Hudson, Ontario, to the mining town of Red Lake. Canada Post had regular postal delivery to Rolling Portage.



Jack V Elliot Air Service Stamp
Issued on March 6th, 1926



Photo of the Curtiss JN-4 Canuck



The above cover was mailed from Richmond Hill, Ontario, postmarked March 20, 1926. The cover was franked with a 1 cent Canadian stamp covering delivery from Richmond Hill to Rolling Portage. It was also franked with a Jack V. Elliot Air Service stamp covering the last step of the journey to Red Lake. The post mark indicates it arrived in Red Lake March 30, 1926.