

A Canadian Soldiers Postcards ~ Mailed From the Somme & Flanders WWI ~ May 1915 - April 1916



RPPC of Pte. W. E. Marley, Reg.#9698 (left indicated with arrow) CEF ~ Canadian Expeditionary Force Varcartier PQ, late August 1914 ~ 1st Div. 1st Infantry Brigade, 3rd Battalion, 5th Company ~ Toronto Regiment

Postcards were a way to communicate to a family from the trenches of the Western Front (fig.1) during WWI. The postcards displayed here are of a patriotic design, expressing both sentimental & patriotic feelings ~ some were comic, injection of humor or satire ~all were to project a good sentiment or feeling from the Soldier, W.E.Marley

The exhibit displays the postcard as well as message which was written in pencil, to the person.

All cards were dated when sent, as no indication of where soldier was located would have been allowed past censor.

Research of the Toronto Regiment diaries has indicated where the battalion was located and has been noted with cards

Postcards were addressed & mailed from FPO HQ 1st Division (fig.2) with type 3 triangle censor marks as well as FPO with type 4 hexagon censor marks (fig.3) and APO ~ British, with type 4 hexagon censor marks (fig.4)

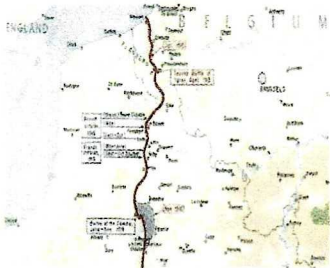


Fig.1 Western Front 1915-16




Fig.2 FPO - HQ 1st Div
type 3 censor mark



Fig.3 FPO - HQ 1st Div.
type 4 censor mark



Fig. 4 APO ~ British
type 4 censor mark

The postcards were mailed or enclosed in letters, all were censored & mailed without cost to soldier. Most of the cards were photographed in a studio, with backdrops, as monochromatic (black & white) then were hand tinted or coloured, and reshot & printed in a series. The silk cards were handmade of local origin & marked  are significant & scarce because they were more costly for soldier

Every effort has been made to identify the origin of the producer/printer of cards, where research was available, and this is indicated in exhibit