London Postal History Group

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NOTEBOOK

Number 121 March 1996

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EDITORIAL

The first advice to readers is to amend your programmes. The November meeting is on the 16th, not the 6th. The second is the date for the Silver Jubilee meeting. According to your Editor's diary, Saturday is the 18th., not the 19th. but the Union Jack Club think Saturday is the 19th. Whatever you might think the date is, we meet on SATURDAY.

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We are have been advised by Lambeth Council on the parking regulations around the Union Jack Club on Saturday afternoons. The whole area is within the North Lambeth Controlled Parking Zone and restrictions apply 08.30 to 18.30 Monday to Saturday. Be advised and exercise caution by parking on meters; some give free parking.

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What did you think of the new venue for STAMPEX ? The advantage of everything under the one roof was offset, for many visitors, by the indifferent, overpriced refreshments and the prevailing chill became obvious all too soon. To cap everything, it appears the nearby Angel tube station does not open on Sundays, although it must be agreed there are many bus services passing. One can only hope the number of dealers attending gets back to normal for the Autumn STAMPEX. That glass roof on a hot day might do wonders for mint adhesives though.

Several LPHG were seen at STAMPEX but enquiries as to what had been found yielded little positive response. One can only conclude there is some form of postal history black hole, into which the range of choice items of twenty years ago have disappeared. If anyone knows a Star Trek dealer with powers to go where others fail to reach, do let the Editor know.

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The David Trapnell collection of British Parliamentary postal history, 1790 - 1800 was offered through Cavendish Philatelic Auctions in their sale on the 9th. December. Of the 44 lots offered, only 6 were unsold. As a record of this sale we are reproducing the introduction and lot description with price realised, these being entered in manuscript against each lot.

Lot No. Description

CAVENDISH PHILATELIC AUCTIONS LTD.

Estimated Value

THE DAVID TRAPNELL COLLECTION OF BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY POSTAL HISTORY, 1790-1990.

The Collection that is offered in the 44 lots that follow is a unique study of covers posted from the Houses of Parliament (both the Lords & the Commons) during the last two centuries. Due to the surprising rarity of mail from Lords and M.P.'s that was actually posted from their "Houses' during this period, very few collections of this kind have ever been formed. However, David Trapnell has had both the necessary persistence and the patience to create and exhibit this collection, but it did take him more than twenty years. All serious collectors of British and Parliamentary Postal History now have the chance to acquire a whole range of rarities that have not been on the market for many years. David is going to concentrate his efforts on his equally fascinating collection of early Uganda.

The most difficult hurdle for any collector of this material to tackle, is the famous group of "Houses of Parliament", "House of Lords" and "House of Commons" envelopes. These were issued during the hiatus between the introduction of Uniform penny Postage and the eventual issue of the 1d Black and 2d Blue, during the early months of 1840. This collection includes all three 1d envelopes, as well as a fine example of the extremely rare 2d "Houses of Parliament" envelope.

Less well known than these early Postal Stationery envelopes, but every bit as rare, are the prestamp 'HP' marks, the similar "HP" mark of the 1840's, the inexplicably elusive "House of Commons" undated circle, the "Par. Pro" wrappers, the very rare "HP/1" cancellation of the later 1d Red period, and the "H.C.S.W." postage due marks. This collection includes examples of all of these. In addition there is what is probably the finest study of the 20th century mail of the Houses of Parliament that has ever been assembled. Even today, many of the Houses' marks, cachets and stationery are very rarely seen. My personal 'modern' favourites are the 1908 "express" cover and the 1908 Parcel Post label; I have not recorded any other examples. This could rightly be described as a collection of rarities.

586 EARLY LETTER FROM THE "HOUSE OF COMMONS" WITH SCARCE "FREE/P" LAUREL LEAVES MARK; 21st May 1790 EL (filing folds barely detract & with interesting contents ref. Corn Law legislation & other parliamentary proceedings) from "H. of Commons" to Glasgow, with a fine purple strike of the scarce encircled "FREE/P" mark with laurel leaves decoration on the front. Plus a small coloured print of the pre-1834 Palace of Westminster. (2 items). PHOTO £70 £100

587 EARLY "HOUSE OF COMMONS" LETTER WITH CANCELLED "FREE" MARK; Unusual 29th Jan. 1807 EL (worn fold at foot barely detracts) from the "Ho. of Commons" to Buckingham with a very fine strike of the elusive double ring "apple" type "FREE" c.d.s. of London on the front, crossed through in manuscript & replaced by a "7" m/s charge; presumably the letter was posted at the House along with many others that were[NX] franked but this letter was not franked. PHOTO £100 £75

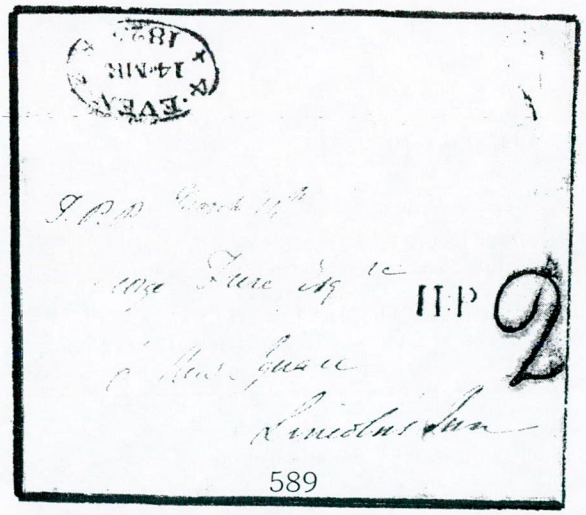
588 PRINTED "HOUSE OF COMMONS/FREE F. FREELING" FRONT, ETC.; 1821 franked front from London to Sandbach with a partly printed address and headed "HOUSE OF COMMONS" (the rare forerunner of the 1840 envelopes), 1822 EL with m/s "On Parliamentary Business" above the address but not sent free, and 1807 EL from the "House of Commons" to Daventry charged "7". (3 items). £100 —



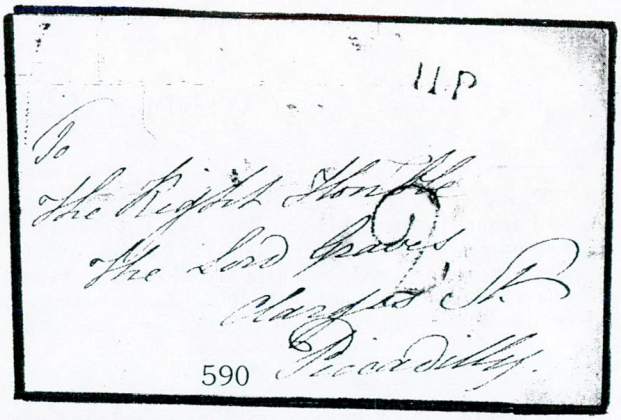
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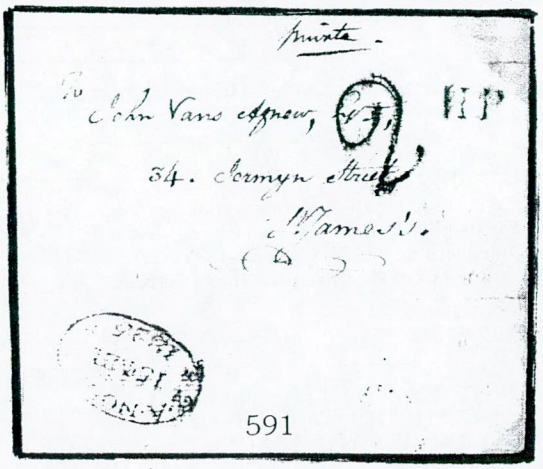
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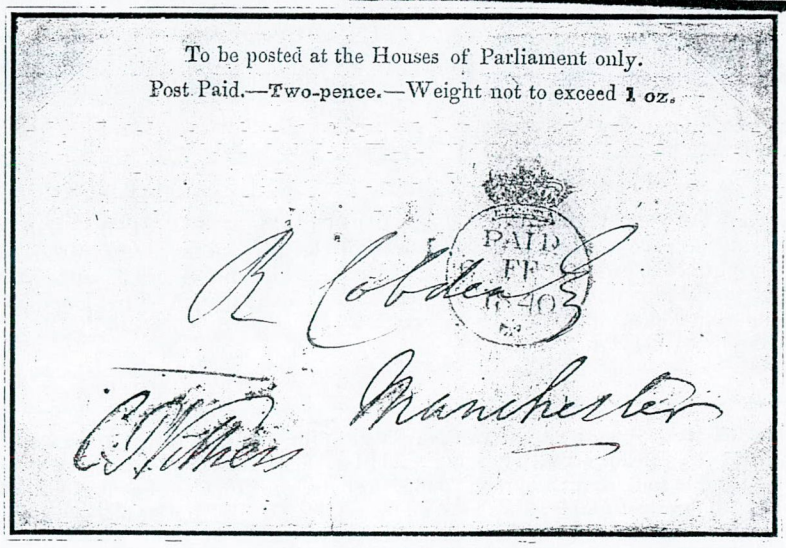
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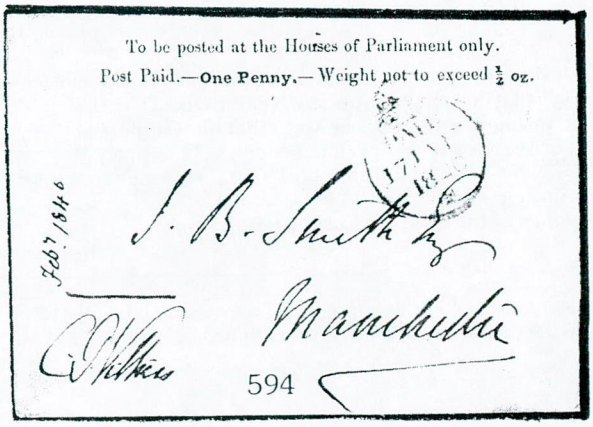


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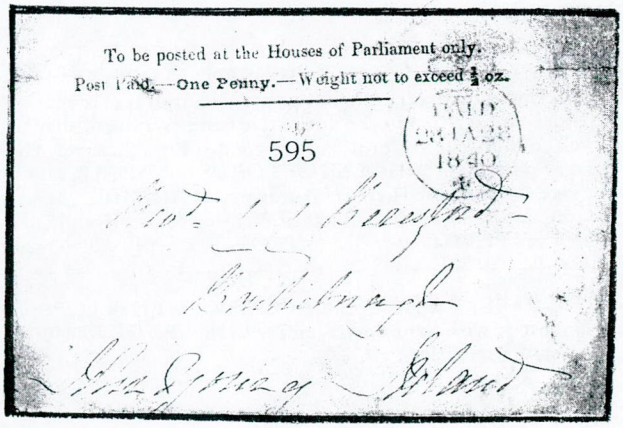
Lot 593

in colour on the front of the catalogue





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All illustrations are reduced size

589 THE VERY RARE "H:P" LONDON LOCAL POST MARK OF THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT; 10th March 1825 EL from "Tullagh" (in Ireland) to "Lincoln's Inn" but sent under separate cover to Westminster (to an M.P. to avoid postage?) and posted in the Houses of Parliament P.O. Receiving House with a v. fine small red "H:P" (Jay L560) on the front (crossed by a light fold which passes between the letters), beside a v. fine black handstruck "2"; having a fine red oval framed "4 EVEN. 4" d.s. of the 14th of March on the reverse. Endorsed "T(wo) P(enny) P(ost)" above the address. Only six examples of this mark have been recorded.PHOTO £900 £600

590 Similar 31st July 1834 Entire (mourning paper) to Lord Graves in Piccadilly with a near v. fine strike of the "H:P" mark (Jay L560; 8 years later than recorded) on the front with a black "2" nearby and a "7 NIGHT 7" oval d.s. on the reverse. Very rare.PHOTO £550 £500

591 Similar 15th March 1825 E.L. from the "House of Lords" to Jermyn Street with a fine strike of the "H:P" mark (Jay L560) on the front with a black "2" mark, having an oval 15th March d.s. on the reverse. Very rare.PHOTO £400 £500

592 THE VERY RARE LARGE "H.P." MARK USED AFTER 1840; 26th May 1843 Entire to Holborn franked by a 1d Red imperf. (cut into at top right otherwise with good margins) tied by a v. fine black Maltese Cross, having a fine (if a little overinked) strike of the much rarer "H.P." mark (Jay L560a) alongside, with an "8 NT.8" d.s. on the reverse. This is the latest known date for an H.P. mark and it is the only example known to us that was used after 1839. An important and spectacular Exhibition piece.PHOTO £650 £750

593 THE VERY RARE "TWO-PENCE" BLACK "HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT" ENVELOPE; COMPLETE 6TH FEBRUARY 1840 USAGE OF THIS EXTREMELY ELUSIVE ENVELOPE WITH THE "To be posted at the Houses of Parliament only./Post Paid.-Two-pence.-Weight not to exceed 1 oz." WORDING PRINTED ABOVE THE ADDRESS, WITHOUT A HORIZONTAL LINE. ONLY A HANDFUL OF THESE 2D ENVELOPES EXIST IN PRIVATE HANDS, AND THIS EXAMPLE IS IN VERY FINE CONDITION (MINOR CREASING, CONSISTENT WITH AN ORIGINAL BULKY ENCLOSURE). IT IS SIGNED "C.P. VILLIERS" (SEE NEXT LOT) ON THE FRONT AND ADDRESSED TO THE FAMOUS RADICAL POLITICIAN RICHARD COBDEN IN MANCHESTER. (WATERMARKED WITH A LARGE FIGURE OF BRITANNIA IN AN OVAL). THE KEY PIECE FOR ANY GREAT BRITAIN, PARLIAMENTARY OR POSTAL STATIONERY COLLECTION. (EX OSWALD MARSH). COLOUR PHOTO - FRONT COVER. £13,000 £8500

594 SECOND DAY USAGE OF THE 1D BLACK HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT ENVELOPE; 17th January 1840 usage of the rare type 1 (no line between the heading & the address) "To be posted at the Houses of Parliament only./Post Paid.-One Penny.-Weight not to exceed ½oz." envelope addressed to Manchester and signed by "C.P. Villiers" (and therefore forming a remarkable matched pair with the previous lot). Sn. ll tear on reverse barely affects the front, & the flap has been somewhat damaged, but sealed with a red wax "HOUSE OF/(CROWN)/COMMONS" seal. Rare thus and a good early date.PHOTO £900 £1000

595 THE TYPE 2 1D BLACK HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT ENVELOPE USED TO IRELAND; 28th Jan. 1840 usage of the second type 1d env. (with the line between heading & address; some faults inc. horiz. crease through the heading with hinge reinforcing at one end) from London to "Bailieburgh, Ireland" (in Co. Cavan); signed "John Young" on the front, with a fine 30th Jan. 1840 Dublin transit d.s. on the reverse. (Wmk. "J. RUMP/1839"). The first Parliamentary envelope addressed to Ireland that we can recall having seen.PHOTO £700 £600

596 THE 1D RED HOUSE OF LORDS ENVELOPE; Local London 8th April 1840 usage of this rare env. (flap lost & with closed tear at left of address panel clear of text & markings) to "Clayes street", unusually NOT SIGNED by the sender, but written in the distinctive hand-writing of the Duke of Wellington. (Perhaps he knew that his writing was well enough known for it to be as good as his signature!) The text above the address is printed in red; "(Temporary.)/ To be posted at the HOUSE OF LORDS only./Post Paid.-ONE PENNY.-Weight not to exceed ½ oz." with a line above the address. There is no crowned "PAID" c.d.s., but a near fine local London post "1840/AP 8/P D/8Mg" octagon d.s. on the front instead. Very rare; surprisingly few examples of the House of Lords envelopes have survived.PHOTO — £3000

597 THE 1D BLACK HOUSE OF COMMONS ENVELOPE; 7th Feb. 1840 local London usage of the env. (one side flap lost & with light horiz. fold) with the "PD/FE 7/1840/8NT" octagon d.s. in red on the front; signed by "G. Pryme". Attractive.PHOTO £280 £400

To be posted at the House of Lords only.
Post Paid.—**ONE PENNY.**—Weight not to exceed ½ oz.

596

To be posted at the House of Commons only.
Post Paid.—**ONE PENNY.**—Weight not to exceed ½ oz.

597

To be posted at the House of Commons only.
Post Paid.—**ONE PENNY.**—Weight not to exceed ½ oz.

598

To be posted at the House of Commons only.
Post Paid.—**ONE PENNY.**—Weight not to exceed ½ oz.

599

Turnpike Roads (Scotland).

A

BILL

INTITULED

An Act for repealing so much of an Act passed in the First and Second Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *William* the Fourth, intituled *An Act for amending and making more effectual the Laws concerning Turnpike Roads in* Scotland, as relates to Powers of Justices to grant Licences to Tacksmen of Tolls, &c.

601

(*Presented by* [illegible] *of Richmond.*)

Ordered to be printed 20th April 1843.

(142.)

Par. Pro.

To be Posted at the House of Commons only.

POST PAID.

Ex603

Par. Pro.

To be Posted at the House of Commons only.

POST PAID.

To

604

All illustrations are reduced size

598 Similar 11th Feb. 1840 usage of the 1d black "House of Commons" env. to Manchester, with a fine crowned London "PAID" d.s., signed by "Robert Hyde Gray". The typeface and layout of the heading differs from that of the previous lot.PHOTO £380 £450

599 Similar 11th Feb. 1840 usage of the 1d black House of Commons env. (minor toning & with a closed tear that affects the heading but with a black wax "(LIBRARY H)OUSE OF COMMONS" seal) to "Berry Narbor Rectory, Ilfracombe" (a very rural spot; this describer spent a happy summer holiday there earlier this year!) with a faint London crowned "PAID" c.d.s. on the front. Not signed but initialled by the sender. Again there are slight differences in the heading.PHOTO — £400

600 "TOO LATE" MARK ON THE 1D HOUSE OF COMMONS ENVELOPE; 21st Feb. 1840 usage of this env. to Edinburgh with a v. fine red "Too Late" mark matching the v. fine plain London "PAID" c.d.s.; exceptional usage without the Official Paid crowned c.d.s. and with a Too Late mark. Signed "R. Alsager". Rare thus. £140 £100

601 RARE COMPLETE PRINTED PAPER SENT AT THE SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS RATE; 21st May 1845 EL consisting of a 2-page printed "Turnpike Roads (Scotland) BILL" sent from London to Scotland & redirected, endorsed "Par(liamentary). Pro(ceedings)." and so sent at the special rate; unpaid but only charged "1" & not charged for redirection. Very rare in complete posted condition. (With copy of related article in the P.H.S. magazine, no.249).PHOTO £170 £150

602 THE "Par. Pro./To be Posted at the House of Commons only./POST PAID" HEADED WRAPPERS; Rare complete 1848 wrapper sent to Derby with this printed heading, with red m/s "1" and London crowned "PAID" d.s.; plus similar 1844 "Par. Pro." wrapper front sent to Aberdeen. Different types. (2 items).PHOTO £220 £200

603 Similar trio of partly printed 1844/8 "Par. Pro." wrappers; complete 1846 wrapper to Stockbridge prepaid "3d", plus pair of 1844/8 fronts to Evesham/Great Yarmouth prepaid "3d" and "1d" (latter signed "Joseph Hume"). All with London crowned "PAID" c.d.s.'s, but all with different type settings. (3 items).PHOTO £170 £250

604 Similar complete 1856 "Par. Pro." headed wrapper sent from London to Birmingham signed "R. Spooner" with red m/s "2d", etc.PHOTO £160 £150

605 Similar 1878 "Par. Pro." wrapper sent from London to Norwich with a v. fine "LONDON-OFFICIAL/PAID" c.d.s. and red m/s "½" charge (presumably the rates had been reduced by this time), plus an 1853 "Par. Pro." front sent from London to Scotland. (2 items).PHOTO £130 £150

606 LATER "PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS" WRAPPERS; Fine 1903 wrapper with "SW" c.d.s. and v. fine blue oval cachet of the "HOUSE OF COMMONS/SPEAKER", plus 5 similar 1965-84 wrappers. (6 items).PHOTO £50 £75

607 1D BLACK COVER FROM THE SPEAKER AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS; 13th July 1840 envelope (vertical crease clear of stamp, seal & marks) to Basingstoke, franked by a fine 4 margin 1d Black (TC; plate 1b) tied by a near fine orange-red M.C. with a fine London "S"-code c.d.s. (a Monday!) on the reverse; signed "C.S.Lefevre" on the front and sealed with a v. fine red wax "SPEAKER'S SECRETARY/HOUSE OF COMMONS" seal on the reverse. 1d Black covers from the Houses of Parliament are seldom seen.PHOTO £180 £150

608 THE VERY RARE RED "HOUSE-OF-COMMONS" UNDATED CIRCLE; 17th March 1848 Entire (interesting contents ref. the day's business at the House inc. the introduction of Income Tax!) sent to "Corfu, Ionian Islands", prepiad "1/3" with various transit marks & rates on the front. On the reverse (across the join) is a mostly fine strike of the extremely elusive "HOUSE-OF-COMMONS" undated circular Receiving House mark in orange-red ink. This mark was issued in Feb 1843, but only this example and a July 1853 example in black have ever been recorded; both are on letters sent overseas, so it is possible that the mark was not used on inland mail which might explain why it so rare. An important Parliamentary Rarity.PHOTO £1400 £1500

609 WAX SEALS, LONDON'S "CODELESS CROWN" DATESTAMPS, ETC.; 1848-56 group of covers mostly with wax seals of the House of Commons, all with fine strikes of the elusive red (3; one with " ⋆" at foot) & black (4; two with " ⋆" & two with "1" at foot) c.d.s.'s (Alcock & Holland figs.50/51) on the reverse. Recent research has shown that these datestamps were used on private letters originating from Government offices/buildings in mailings of mostly Official Paid letters. Plus a normally posted 1846 E with 1d reds (2 faults) with House of Commons seal, showing the normal double ring, coded crown London c.d.s. (AH48) that was used on larger letters/packets. Scarce lot. (8 covers). £110 £150

610 Similar group of 1853-81 covers with House of Commons flaps/seals inc. one black "codeless crown" c.d.s. (with "⋆" at foot), spectacular & rare 1854 black wax "HOUSE OF COMMONS/LIBRARY" seal, etc. Useful lot. (8 covers). — £100

611 THE "HP/1" CANCELLATION; 7th April 1859 env. (part flap lost) to Dublin franked by a 1d Red "stars" tied by a very fine (for this) strike of the rare Houses of Parliament "HP/1" mark which had only been issued on 23rd March 1859. Surprisingly few examples of this cancellation have been recorded. The flap shows part of an embossed "(HOUSE OF COMMONS)/LIBRARY" device.PHOTO £350 £500

612 THE "HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT/S.W." DATESTAMP WITH THE "HP/1" CANCELLATION; 19th April 1859 env. to Exeter with a 1d Red "stars" (corner fault) tied by a partly off-edge but otherwise fine strike of the rare "HP/1" numeral, having a fine strike of the rare matching c.d.s. (code "4") on the reverse. This c.d.s. is almost as rare as the "HP/1" mark itself.PHOTO £130 £150

613 TRANSATLANTIC COVER WITH THE "HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT" C.D.S.; 5th Aug. 1859 stampless EL (posted in London but written from Birmingham) to Baltimore, with a mostly fine strike of this rare c.d.s. (code "2") on the front, and with a second strike on the reverse; charged 24c on arrival in New York with a v. fine "19/ CENTS" accountancy mark nearby. The only such overseas usage of this mark from the Houses of Parliament that we have seen. Very rare.PHOTO £240 £250

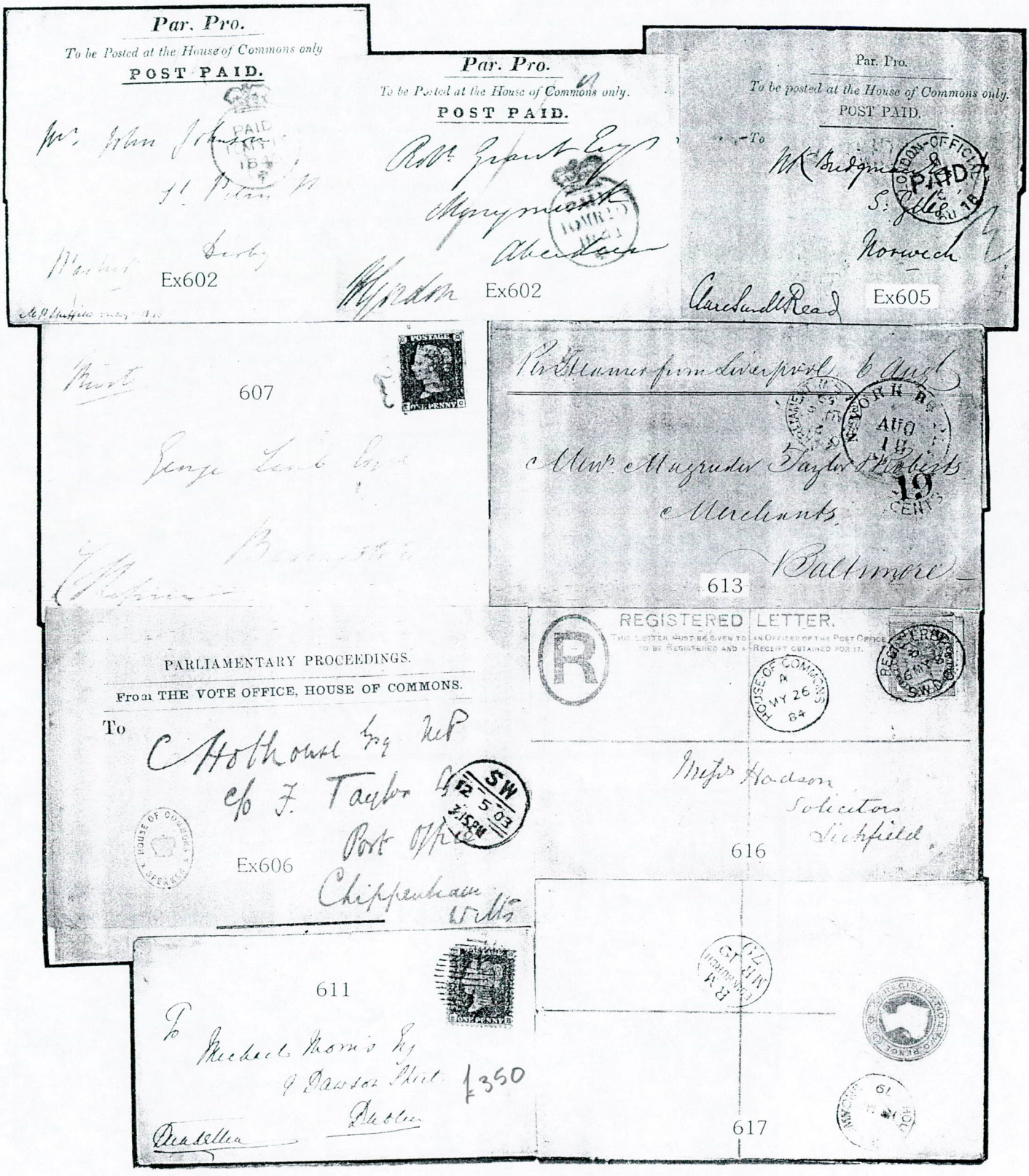
614 THE TINY HOLLOW TRIANGLE INSPECTORS' MARKS; 1861-5 covers (4) each with a red "OFFICIAL-PAID/ LONDON" c.d.s. on the front, all from the Houses of Parliament or signed by politicians, and each with a fine strike of this unusual Inspector's mark on the front. This mark may have been applied during spot checks of Official Paid mail. (4 covers). £50 £75



608



612



All illustrations are reduced size

615 EMERGENCY CANCELLATIONS USED ON MAIL FROM THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT; 1862-76 covers (4) each bearing a 1d Red tied by an unusual undated cancellation; vertical oval "11", the "34" & "11" in large circles of bars (Westley Fig.98), and the "8" in plain bars (Westley Fig.97); all have House of Commons flaps, and it seems likely that they were in the last late mail from the House sent in the evening to the Chief P.O. and so specially cancelled for despatch the same day. Rare group. (4 covers). £170 £150

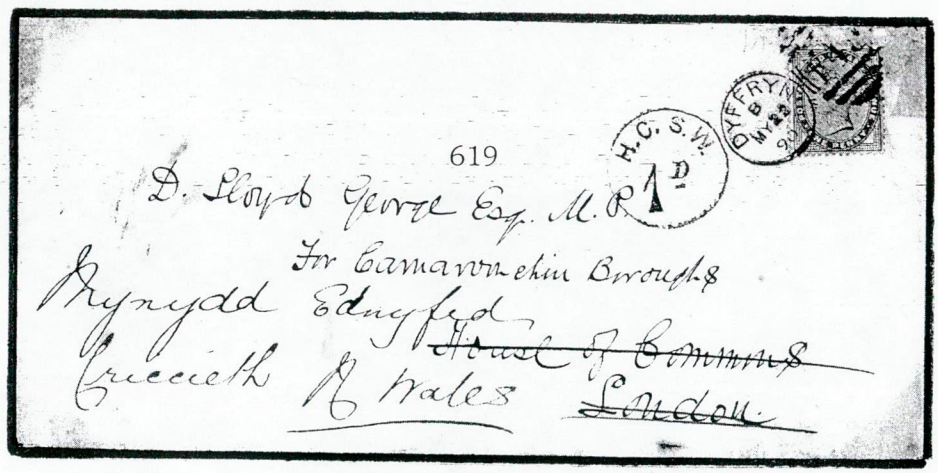
616 **RARE EARLY USAGE OF THE "HOUSE OF COMMONS" C.D.S. ON REGISTERED COVER; 26th May 1884 usage of the 2d registered envelope to Lichfield (minor wear but with original contents) with a 1d lilac tied by a v. fine "REGISTERED/S.W.D.O." oval d.s., having a v. fine strike of the rare "HOUSE OF COMMONS" c.d.s. (code "A") alongside. Very attractive & one of very few such early Parliamentary registered covers that have been recorded.PHOTO** £180 £200

617 Similar 18th March 1879 usage of the earlier 2d registered envelope to Edinburgh with a 1d Red (plate 207) tied by an indecipherable vertical oval, having a near fine strike of the uncoded "HOUSE OF COMMONS" c.d.s. across the flap on the reverse and a v. fine "REGISTERED/LONDON" oval d.s. on the front. Rare.PHOTO £110 £150

618 THE "HOUSE OF COMMONS/40" DUPLEX; 1888/9 pair of 1d lilac covers with mostly fine strikes of this elusive duplex, both coded "ZI"; one with original contents. £80 £100

619 **THE EXTREMELY RARE ENCIRCLED "H.C.S.W./1d" POSTAGE DUE MARK ON A LETTER TO LLOYD GEORGE; 22nd-23rd May 1890 long env. (slightly reduced at each end) from Wales to the House of Commons, but redirected back to Wales with a lovely strike of the "H(ouse of). C(ommons). S(outh). W(est London)." postage due mark nicely placed on the front. Only two examples of this mark (issued on 28th March 1889) have been recorded. Spectacular Exhibition item.PHOTO** — £500

620 **THE EXTREMELY RARE ENCIRCLED "H.C.S.W./1½d" MARK ON A LETTER TO LLOYD GEORGE; Similar 12th-14th April 1890 long env. (some wear & reduced at left) from London to the House of Commons with a 1½d Jubilee tied by a squared circle, but redirected to Wales with a very fine strike of this understandably rare House of Commons mark - the SOLE EXAMPLE RECORDED - on the front. An important cover and a key piece for any Parliamentary Collection.PHOTO** £480 £500





Illustrations are reduced size

621 THE NORMAL ENCIRCLED "SW/½d" CHARGE-MARK ON A POSTCARD REDIRECTED FOM THE "HOUSE OF COMMONS"; 15th Oct. 1890 ½d brown p. stat. PC from Liverpool to the House, but redirected to Wales with a near fine strike of this head office mark with a supporting "LONDON S.W." c.d.s. on the reverse. Why was the "H.C.S.W." mark (which had been issued in 1889 but has yet to be recorded) not used in this case? Rare thus.**PHOTO** £50 £75

622 LATER - KEVII PERIOD - "HOUSE OF COMMONS" DUPLEXES; 1911 PC & env. franked by KEVII ½d & 1d respectively, each tied by v. fine strikes of the scarce "40" duplex, with "10 PM" & "7.30 PM" codes. Attractive & elusive pair. (2 covers).**PHOTO** £220 £100

623 REMARKABLE HOUSE OF COMMONS "EXPRESS" COVER; Unstamped (i.e. cash paid) local 17th July 1908 env. (House of Commons motif on flap) to Grosvenor Place with a superb large oval framed purple "EXPRESS" mark on the front, beside a v. fine "HOUSE OF COMMONS/S.W." c.d.s. with " ★" code. Most attractive and the first of its kind that we have seen. Exhibition Quality.**PHOTO** £300 £150

624 **THE RARE HOUSE OF COMMONS "PARCEL POST" LABEL, ETC.; 5th Nov. 1908 used example of the P.O. printed "LONDON HMK/(House of Commons B.O., S.W.)" label franked by a KEVII 4d tied by the "S.W.D.O." head office roller cancellation, with a near fine "HOUSE OF COMMO S/S W." c.d.s. (code " ★") alongside. Even Arkell did not have one of these!! The first that we have seen. Plus an off-centre but sound Q.V. 10/- grey-green (SG128) with a rare 1882 "HOUSE OF COMMONS B.O./S.W." c.d.s. and a block of four Q.V. Jubilee 1/- greens (washed colour) with v. fine larger "HOUSE OF COMMMONS/S.W." c.d.s.'s. Rare group. (3 items).PHOTO** £550 £250

625 RARE FANCY "SPEAKER/(CROWN)/OFFICIAL PAID/HOUSE OF COMMONS" CACHET; Attractive 9th July 1913 stampless local env. with a lovely strike of this spectacular mark beside the red "OFFICIAL PAID/LONDON S.W." c.d.s. The first example that we have seen.**PHOTO** £220 £75

626 OTHER PARLIAMENTARY OFFICIAL PAID MAIL CACHETS; c.1890-1992 collection inc. rare early purple oval c.1890 "CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENTS/HOUSE OF LORDS", 1908 stampless env. with Speaker cachet & fine "HOUSE OF COMMONS/40" duplex (code "8.30PM"), and a good range of QEII period types. (13 covers). £110 £100

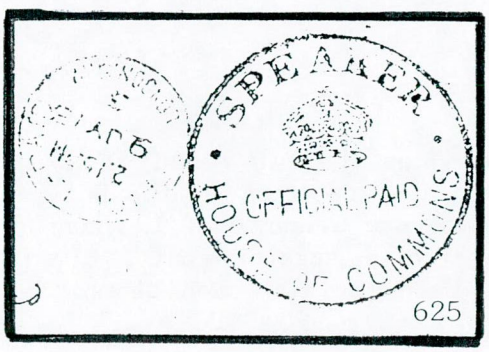
627 THE LATER "HOUSE OF COMMONS" C.D.S.& MACHINE CANCELLATIONS; 1922-93 group of covers with the double arc c.d.s.'s & machine marks used to cancel adhesives. Including a good range of official cachets, some Official Paid types used in error (one amended in m/s), etc. Scarce lot. (21 covers). £110 £100

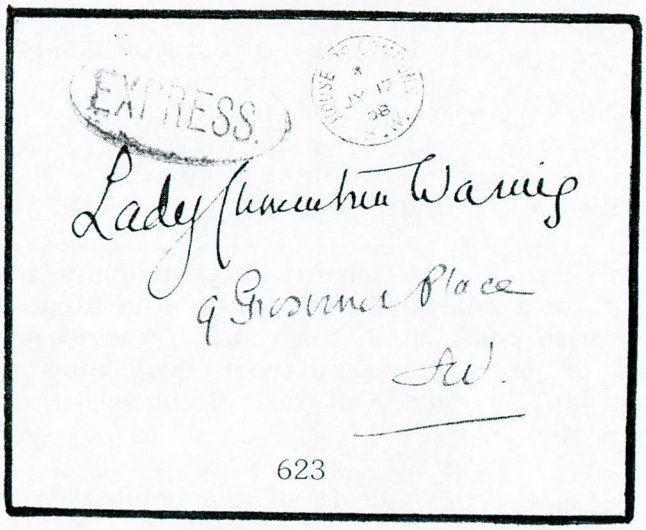
628 MODERN PARCEL & REGISTERED MAIL, ETC.; 1964-92 covers & a few parcel pieces, inc. 1968 "REDIRECTED PACKETS" form with a v. fine rare red boxed "URGENT M.P.'S/MAIL" mark, 1991 boxed "Not in Parliament/Not Known" cachet on returned env., unaddressed 1971 env. with "CHARLES TAYLOR /SPECIAL COURIER /XXXSERVICEXXX" 5d strike label tied by the "SPEAKER" cachet, etc. Useful lot. (19 items). £65 £100

629 THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT STATIONERY COLLECTION, RESEARCH NOTES, ETC.; The balance of this remarkable collection inc. Q.V. to Q.E.II postal stationery and plain stationery with embossed House of Commons/ Lords motifs, printed designs, etc. Also some ephemera and a very useful group of research notes, clippings, articles, etc. all relating to British Parliamentary Postal History. Good nucleus for expansion. (62 covers; plus notes, cuttings, etc.) — £150









Illustrations 621 and 623 are reduced size

CARSHALTON C.S.O. STAMP



In his book on Carshalton Postal History, Don Franks drew attention to at least two Twopenny Post stamps which had, quite clearly, been replaced at least once during their long use. From the few examples available it appears the "new" stamp was a replacement for one worn or damaged, that is, there is no evidence of any overlapping of dates of use.

It is now known this is not the case with the Country Sorting Office date stamps. As can be seen from the two (enlarged) photocopies alongside, the style of the lettering of the name is quite different. In particular, the "O" of "CARSHALTON" is - in 1843 - rounded whereas the 1844 example shows a long, oval"O". Indeed, all the lettering in the 1844 stamp may be described as slim and tall when compared with that of 1843. The position of the duty, MG and EV, is different and this is cause for comment later.



Carshalton C.S.O. stamps are not common, their use, contrary to regulations, apparently being restricted for use on Bye Letters. Examination of four letters from 1838 and 1839 and eight letters, with dates between 1840 and 1849, shewed no C.S.O. stamp.

Of the four C.S.O. stamps listed below, three are to the same address in Croydon.

These four examples may be listed thus :









Date	Duty	Round "O"	Oval "O"
2 FE 1841	EV		✓
JA 12 1843	MG	✓	
OC 18 1844	EV		✓
AP 3 1845	EV	✓	

A careful check using a tracing verifies the two round "O" examples have identical measurements for the single ring rim. The position of the Duty is in the same position in the round "O" version. Both these are evidence of the concurrent use of both stamps without one being reserved for a specific duty. Given the potential frequency of use discussed already, the need for two such stamps is far from clear.

A draft of the original article was sent to Peter Bathe who provided a number of very useful comments.

The apparent restriction by the Carshalton Receiver of the use of the C.S.O. date stamp to Bye Letters is, as noted, quite contrary to regulations. According to a notice issued on January 1, 1820 the rule was "This Form (when the proper Dates are fixed) to be marked on *all Letters put into Sorting Offices* and all Letters for the Bye Post brought in from other offices of the same district" (italics not in original notice:[1]).The term "Form" is Post Office speak for date stamp ! The earlier notice of 1811, issued on the introduction of the CSO stamps and the Bye Letter service makes no such inclusive regulation.(Different versions of the notice are shown p.9 [1] and p.9 [2])

Carshalton was not made a Bye Letter Office until February 1837, there being an interesting footnote to the report which recommended the considerable extension of the facility "This arrangement...cannot be carried into effect until early in the ensuing year for the Bye Forms and Stamps must be prepared..."(p.37 [2])

Peter also provided an explanation for the concurrent use of two CSO date stamps and a comment on the dating layout; the following paragraphs are a slightly edited version of his letter.

"The generally accepted view is that new stamps (of any type) were issued only as replacements for worn or damaged stamps. However, there were doubtless occasions when a replacement had to be issued when a stamp was "lost" as, for example, when a receiver absconded. There were, probably, occasions when the appointment was removed from someone as a result of a dispute with the Post office or when the Receiver died and the TPP had difficulty in regaining possession of the stamps to pass to the new Receiver. In such cases it would have been much easier to issue new stamps to the new appointee. Indeed, it may have become standard practice to issue new stamps whenever a new Receiver took office (although perhaps not when the appointment was "inherited" by a member of the same family as the previous Receiver. Although there has been no opportunity to make a detailed study across the whole of the TPP, on the face of it, the evidence at Woolwich tends to point that way.

"If that were the case, what happened to the old stamps ? Some may have never been retrieved by the TPP; others may have been returned eventually and then treated as scrap or kept in store as spares, possibly to be reissued at a later date. Some may have been passed direct to the new Receivers - for them to return ? - and, of these, a few may have been kept as spares at the Receiving Houses themselves (although this practice was probably not encouraged by the powers that be).

"George Norman was appointed Receiver in February 1842 - which is after the first quoted example of the "Oval O" and before the first known example of the "Round O". Could Norman have been issued with "Round O" on his appointment and been given "Oval O" by the previous Receiver? He might than have used whichever came to hand or applied them systematically. With so few examples one cannot judge.

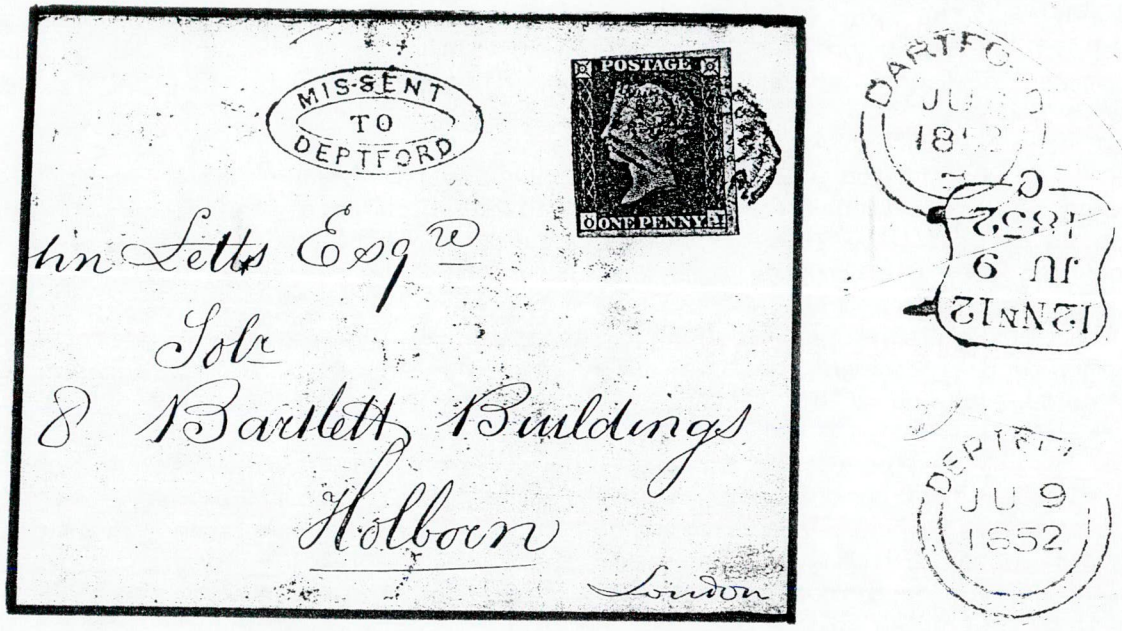
"Certainly there seems to be no significance to a day/month or month/day sequence for the movable type - putting in the correct date and getting the type the right way up were, presumably, more important than the sequence."

Since Carshalton's C.S.O. stamps were not issued until February 1837 and were - no doubt - withdrawn by 1849, this being the latest year recorded in Jay, the need to record all examples readers either have or have recorded will be very useful. We might then expand the enquiry to other offices within the Two Penny Post system to ascertain if differences in the stamps employed before and after changes of Receiver.

[1] "Postal History of Carshalton in Surrey" D.G.T. Franks
[2] "The Bye Posts and Cross Posts of London" P.J. Bathe

MISSENT TO DEPTFORD

The envelope has been trimmed by about one inch on the left hand side, possibly to destroy the recipient's annotation (e.g. Mrs Blogg's estate £xxx). Despite this, it appears the important stamps are complete.



The penny imperf. is cancelled by the 1844 issue number 236, with the Dartford date stamp for JU 8 1852 (struck in blue) on the reverse.

The MIS·SENT / TO / DEPTFORD in in blue, as is the town date stamp, dated JU 9 1852.

The London District Post time stamp is for 12 Noon, also JU 9, (the usual red-brown colour).

Can one make a reasonable sound speculation on the routing of this letter or, more importantly, what prompted the Deptford Receiver to have a mis sent stamp made ? June 8th. 1852 was a Tuesday and was, presumably, posted late enough in the day to delay transmission to London until the following day. There is, clearly, no doubt about the address. Was it just thrown into the wrong bag at the end of a tiring day ? In any event, it arrives in Deptford, either too late for processing or the following day, where the ever ready Receiver applied the Mis sent stamp, thoughtfully for us, neatly to the left of the adhesive. It is re-bagged for London where it receives the noon time stamp. According to the 1857 British Postal Guide * there were, at that date, just two despatches from Deptford in the morning, the second being 11.30 (from the Broadway): presumably the letter went off first post.

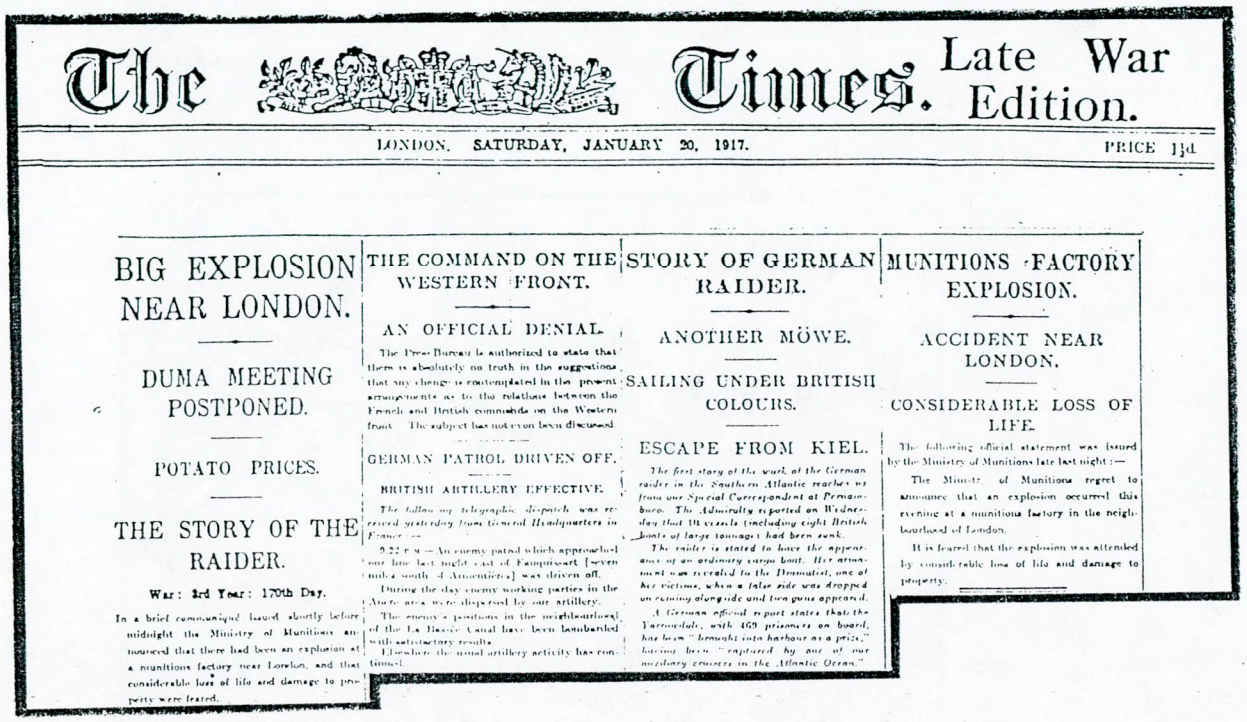
What is so interesting is the reason for such a stamp at Deptford. The close spelling of Deptford and Dartford may afford a clue. Was it that mail addressed to the much larger post town in Kent was so frequently appearing in the Deptford bag, the Receiver - becoming weary of a lengthy manuscript endorsement - had this, possibly unique, stamp made. Ever concerned at just single examples of such a desirable mark, news of at least one other would be very welcome. Assuming the speculation on the need for the stamp to reflect the position, it must be a Kent collector who has the confirming copy in the collection.

.....

THE GREAT SILVERTOWN EXPLOSION

Complied and researched by James Norris

This has a personal connection. the writer of the five letters which start the article being the compiler's Grandfather. The terrible explosion near Woolwich Arsenal occurred on Friday 19th. January, 1917 made headline news in "The Times" the following day.



The Times. Late War Edition.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1917. PRICE 1½d

BIG EXPLOSION NEAR LONDON.

DUMA MEETING POSTPONED.

POTATO PRICES.

THE STORY OF THE RAIDER.

War: 3rd Year: 170th Day.

In a brief communiqué issued shortly before midnight the Ministry of Munitions announced that there had been an explosion at a munitions factory near London, and that considerable loss of life and damage to property were feared.

THE COMMAND ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

AN OFFICIAL DENIAL.

The Press Bureau is authorized to state that there is absolutely no truth in the suggestions that any change is contemplated in the present arrangements as to the relations between the French and British commands on the Western front. The subject has not even been discussed.

GERMAN PATROL DRIVEN OFF.

BRITISH ARTILLERY EFFECTIVE.

The following telegraphic despatch was received yesterday from General Headquarters in France:—

9.22 P.M.—An enemy patrol which approached our line last night east of Fampoux[seven miles south of Arras] was driven off.

During the day enemy working parties in the Arras area were dispersed by our artillery.

The enemy's positions in the neighbourhood of the La Bassée Canal have been bombarded with satisfactory results.

Elsewhere the usual artillery activity has continued.

STORY OF GERMAN RAIDER.

ANOTHER MÖWE.

SAILING UNDER BRITISH COLOURS.

ESCAPE FROM KIEL.

The first story of the work of the German raider in the Southern Atlantic reaches us from our Special Correspondent at Pernambuco. The Admiralty reported on Wednesday that 10 vessels (including eight British) of large tonnage) had been sunk.

The raider is stated to have the appearance of an ordinary cargo boat. Her armament was revealed to the Dramatist, one of her victims, when a false side was dropped on coming alongside and two guns appeared.

A German official report states that the Yarrowdale, with 469 prisoners on board, has been "brought into harbour as a prize," having been "captured by one of our auxiliary cruisers in the Atlantic Ocean."

MUNITIONS FACTORY EXPLOSION.

ACCIDENT NEAR LONDON.

CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF LIFE.

The following official statement was issued by the Ministry of Munitions late last night:—

The Ministry of Munitions regret to announce that an explosion occurred this evening at a munitions factory in the neighbourhood of London.

It is feared that the explosion was attended by considerable loss of life and damage to property.

First hand experience of the disaster is detailed by the enclosures of the following covers. the correspondence is between Fred Balcombe, a gunner in the Royal Horse Artillery, stationed at Woolwich Barracks and his fiance Millicent Todd, a munitions worker at a factory in Aylesbury, Bucks. The letters give a graphic account of the destruction caused. The adhesives are the 1d. red Profile Head issue of King George V with the envelopes displaying a good example of the language of stamps frequently used. An adhesive positioned at the top right hand side of the envelope, angled with the monarch's head facing downwards, conveyed the message "do you love me dearest?". The reply would, hopefully, have the adhesive angled with the head tilted back, meaning "a kiss".

The first letter was written on the same evening as the incident.

January 19th.,1917

Woolwich Barracks 'Q' Battery R.H.A.

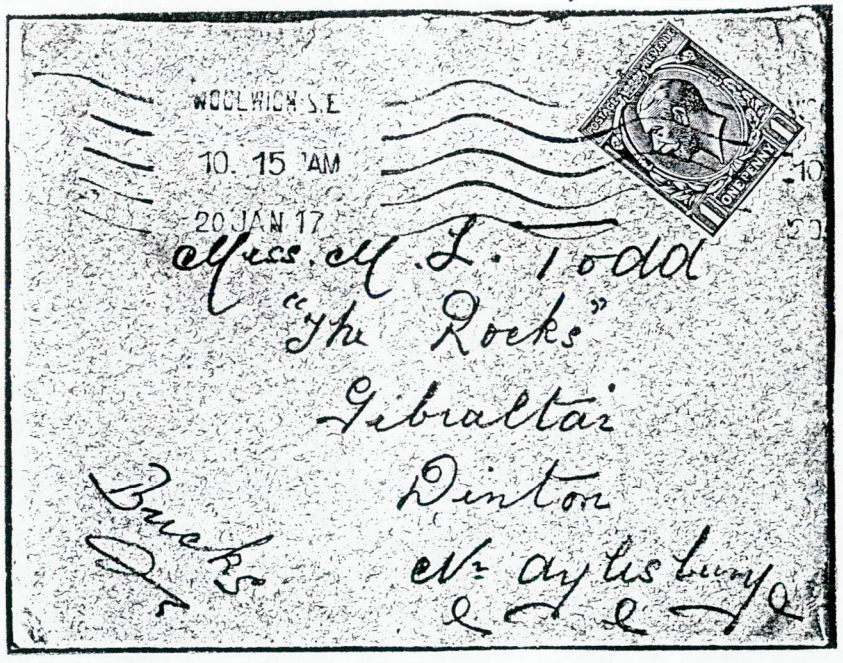
"There has been a terrible explosion not far from here tonight, but we couldn't get to it from here as it was across the Thames, but you could see it for miles around. It regular shook Woolwich - broke hundreds of panes of glass. We don't know what damage was done, but I will let you know more news when I write again..."

January 22nd., 1917

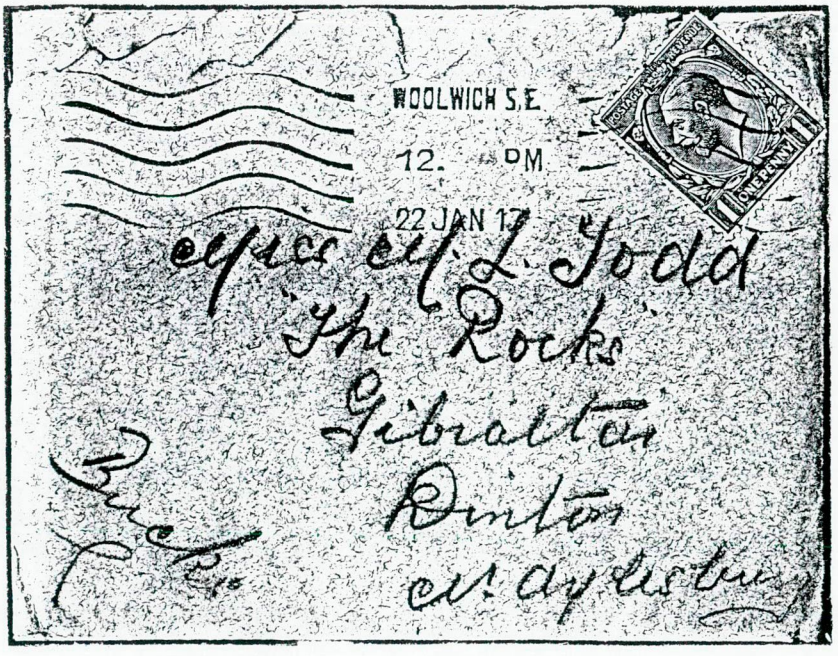
<u>Woolwich Barracks 'Q' Battery R.H.A.</u>

"Dear Mill, You know that explosion I told you about, it was at Silvertown not far from here. It regular shook all Woolwich, we thought the Zepps had come so we put the lights out and soon got downstairs. We thought the roof was coming in. The sky was lit up for miles around - they say the fire is still burning now. It is a terrible thing, there are three streets regular in ruins. Some of our fellows say there was a factory with 500 girls and not one rescued. they are sending relief parties from here night and day to help remove the debris and get the bodies out. I shouldn't wonder that I have to go tomorrow - I should have gone today but i was on Zepp guard. they say the casualties are very heavy, but of course they don't put half in the papers...".

Covers are cancelled by the Krag continuous impression machine "Woolwich S.E."



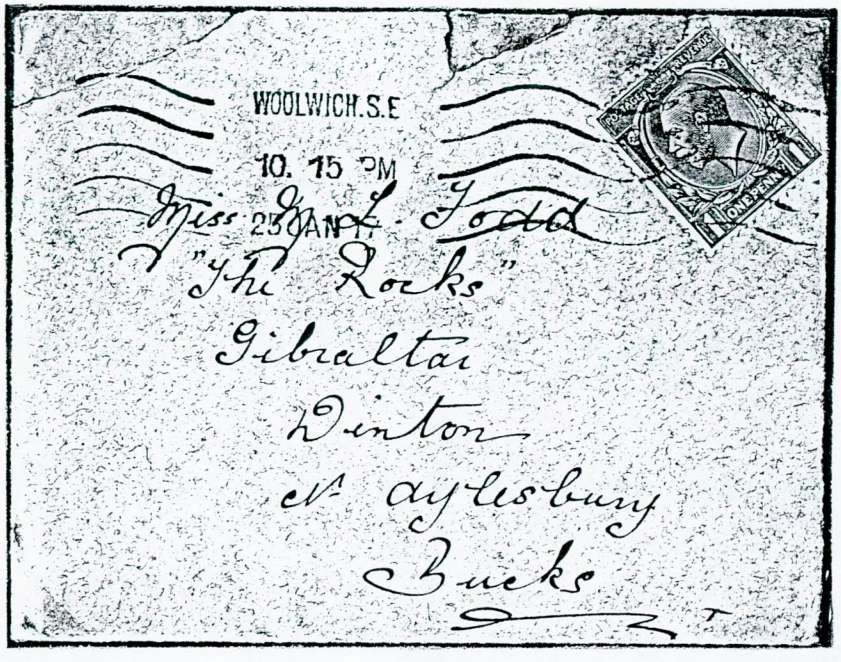
10.15 AM 20 JAN 17



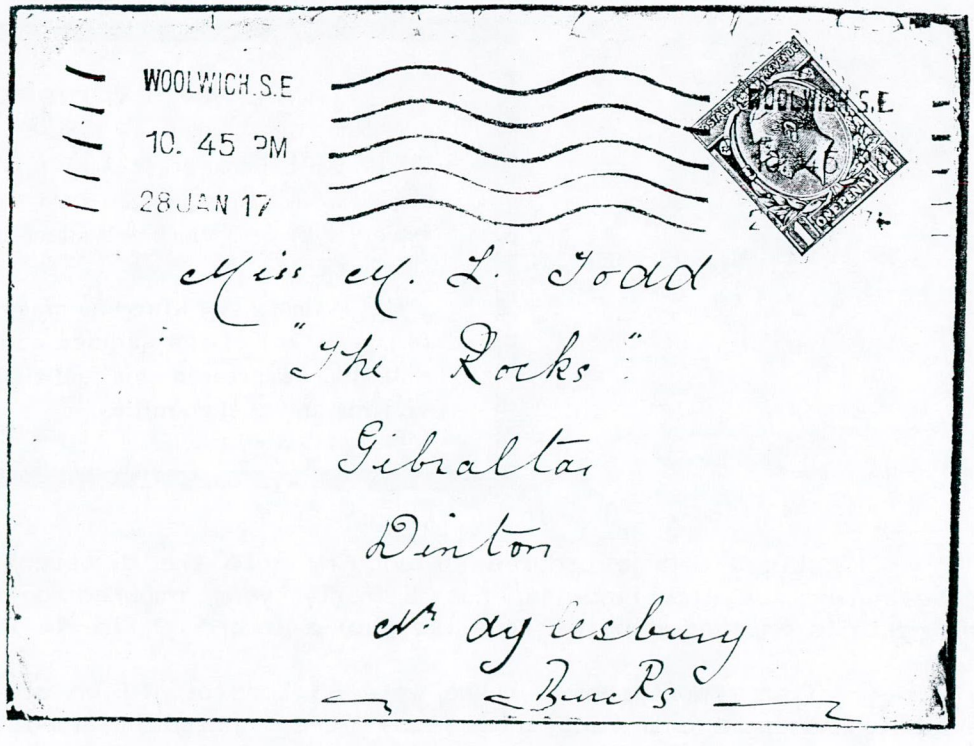
12 PM 22 JAN 17

Woolwich Barracks 'Q' Battery R.H.A.

"I have had rather a hard week this week as I have been working on the site where the terrible explosion was. It was a site to see - a perfect mass of ruins, but I will write and tell you more about it in a day or two....."



10.15 PM 25 JAN 17



10.45 PM 28 JAN 17

Woolwich Barracks 'Q' Battery R.H.A.

"I have been over where that explosion was, three times this week, so you can tell I have not felt much like letter writing. It is a good hours walk from here, we did not know how to put one leg before the other last night, I felt absolutely done in. There are hundreds of sacks of corn buried and burned at the docks and hundreds of houses completely wrecked. There is a boiler there weighs a ton and a half, blown about 400 yards. It is a sight I shall never forget. The Salvation Army are doing good work for the homeless - It is a pitiful site to see the poor children, their homes are destroyed. I was speaking to a soldier that had been to the front - he said it is the very picture of Belgium and Ypres and all around there. I could tell you heaps more but it would take too long...."

In 1915 TNT was most urgently needed for the war effort. Lloyd George, then Chancellor, and Lord Moulton agreed the disused Brunner Monds chemical factory in Silvertown to be used for the refining process of raw TNT into crystals for shells and bombs, despite being aware of previous explosions at three other TNT plants.

In Sacred Memory of
the
VICTIMS of the GREAT
EXPLOSION
in the East End of London
on Friday evening, January 19th, 1917.

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE.

With sincere sympathy to the friends and relatives.

LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE.

About seven o'clock a fire started at a factory in the East of London, near the river, which was employed as refining explosives, a few minutes after an explosion occurred which was attended by considerable loss of life.

His Majesty the King has made inquiries as to the extent of the damage and loss of life, and has expressed his solicitude for the victims and their families.

Lloyd George ordered an enquiry into the disaster but, due to the sensitive nature of the findings, put a forty year embargo on publication; the dreadful details emerged, finally, from the Public Records Office in 1974.

The report showed there were 83 tons of TNT on site at the time of the explosion, despite only nine tons a day were manufactured and should have been shipped out on a daily basis. The TNT was made unstable by the presence of caustic

soda - previously made at the plant - though Lloyd George and Moulton did not tell the chemists in charge about the earlier incidents of which they were aware.

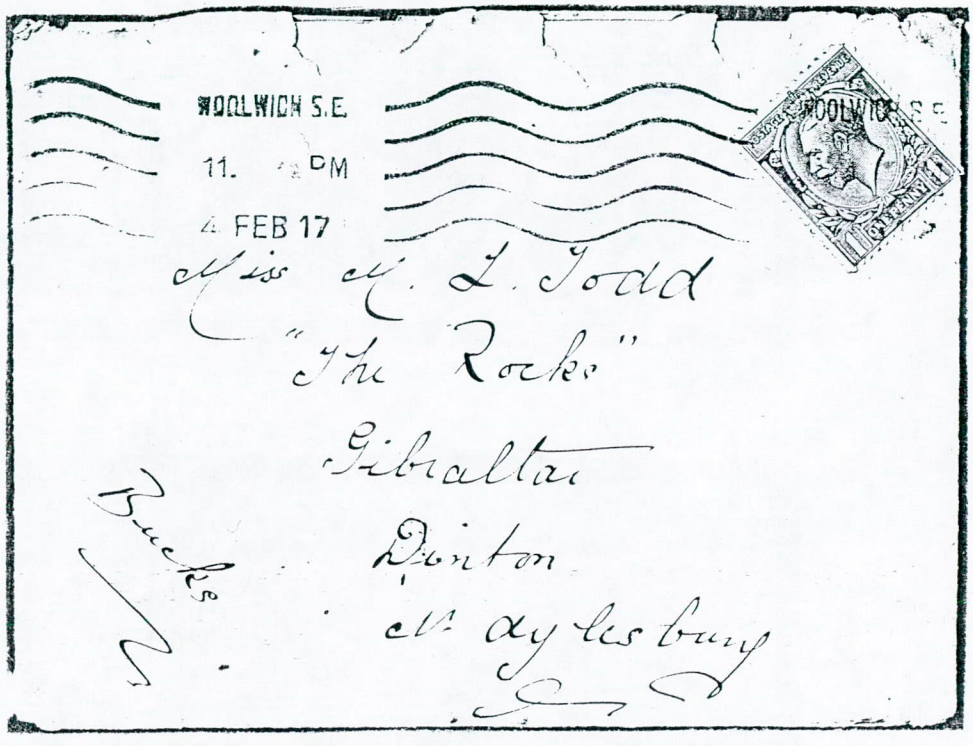
King George V was at Sandringham at the time of the explosion and is said to have rung the war Office, having seen the red glow in sky over London. The shock wave rattled doors and windows in St. Albans and was felt as far away as Cambridge.

The final letter relating to the explosion was written on the 4th. February :

Woolwich Barracks 'Q' Battery R.H.A.

"We have now finished going over to Silvertown where the explosion was. I think we are not sorry neither as so many of us have caught nasty colds but still I don't mind going as were doing good work. I will tell you all about it when I come home....."

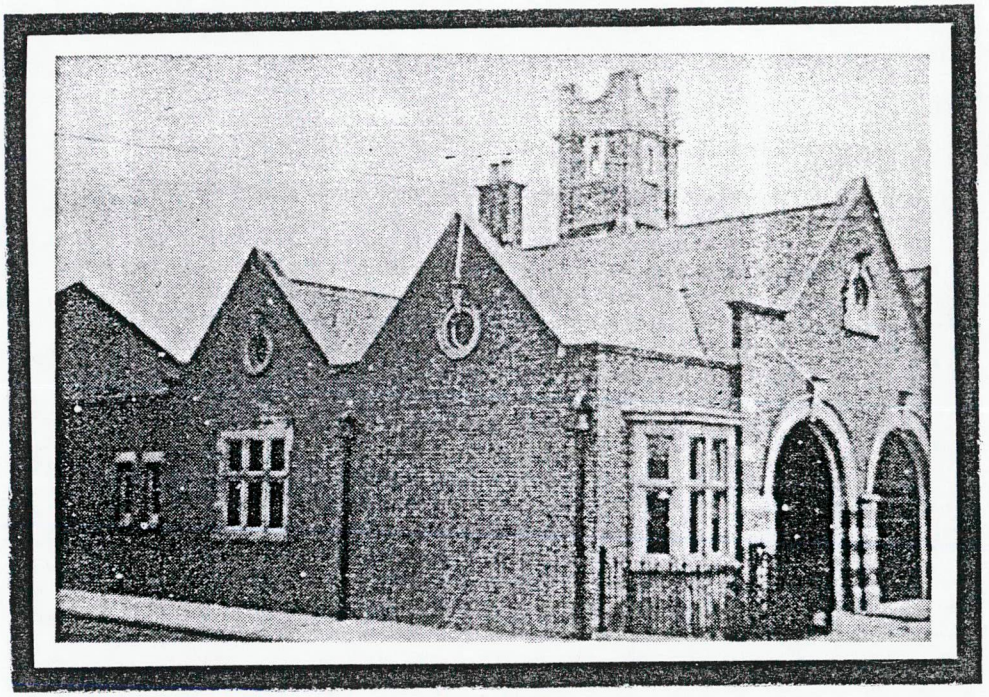
11 PM 4 FEB 17





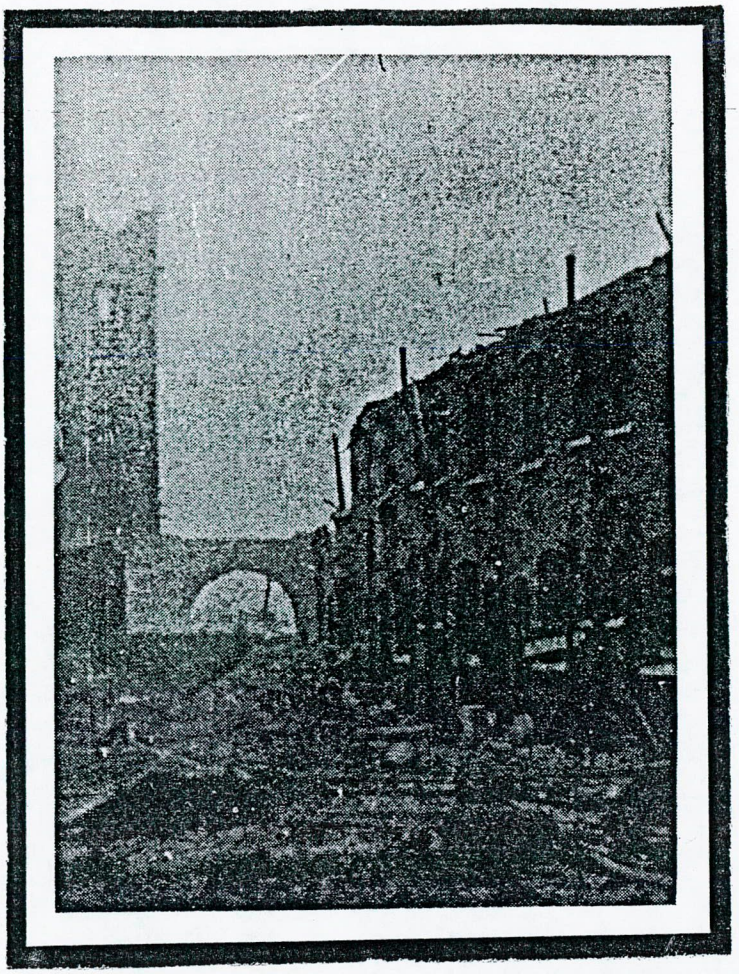
Original mourning card issued for a memorial service held near the scene 14th.March, 1917

Silvertown Fire Station - Before and After





The Fire Station was at the junction between
Fort Street and North Woolwich Road



The damage to Fort Street

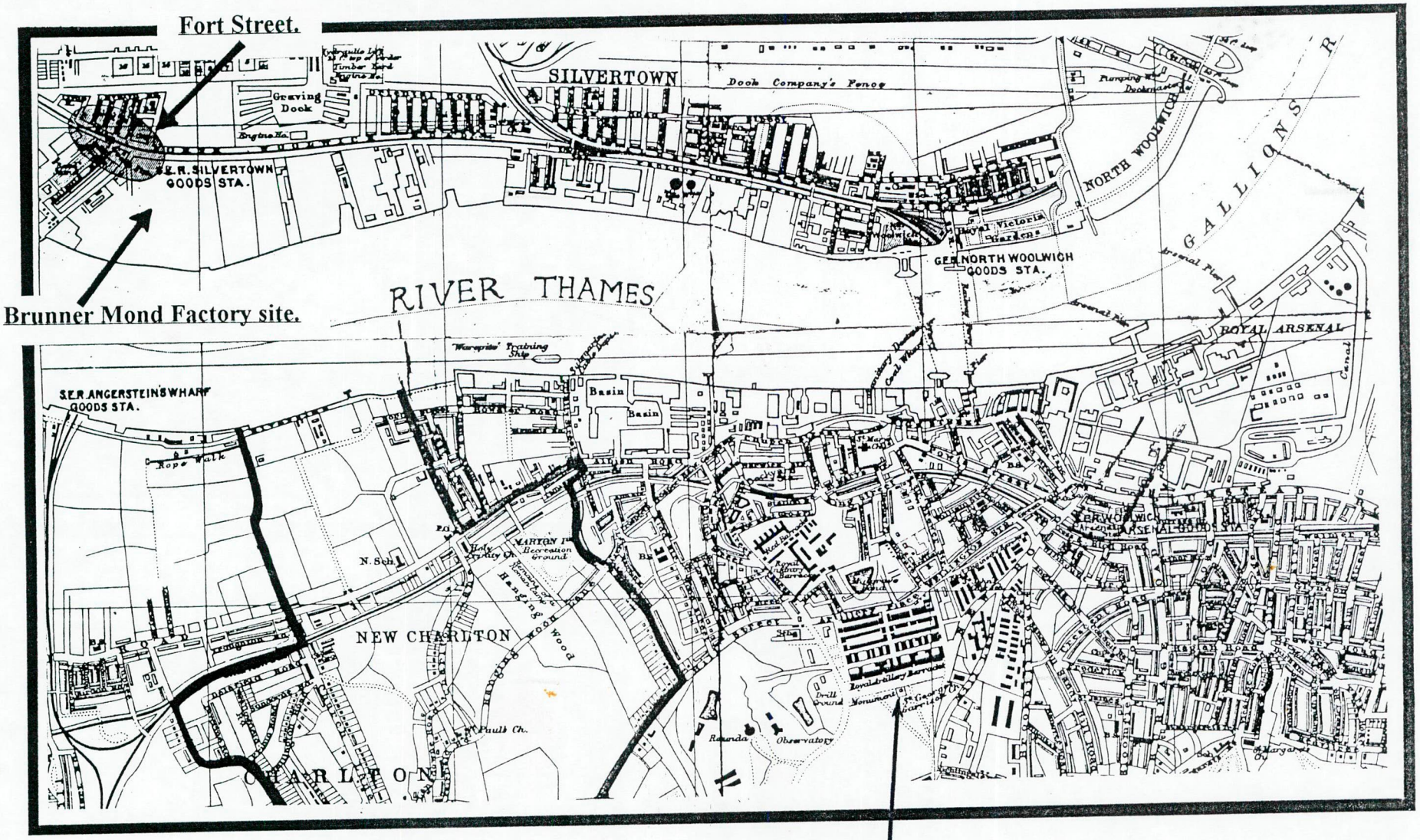
The explosion completely obliterated the purification plant, leaving only two great craters and piles of furiously burning rubble. molten metal, bricks and hundreds of tons of earth rained down on the surrounding area, causing enormous damage and many injuries. Every building within a 400 yard radius was demolished. Amazingly, the Fire Station's high water tower was left standing.



The scene after the incident
was likened to a battle field on the Western Front

MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT

SILVERTOWN NORTH OF THE RIVER THAMES: WOOLWICH TO THE SOUTH



Scale: 7 Inches to 1 mile.

Royal Artillery Barracks.

121.20