

NEW MILITARY CAMP POSTMARKS

by Fernand Bélanger (2940)

In 1908, Quebec City celebrated the Tercentenary of its founding. During these festivities people from England, the United States and from all over Canada came to attend. There were thousands of civilians but also a great number of soldiers who participated by assisting the police in maintaining order and also by joining in their marches and other related activities.

The celebration lasted from the 19th to the 30th of July. During this time the Post Office Department put into operation four temporary post offices meant to be used by both civilians and the soldiers. In Volume 1 of the Pritchard and Andrews proof books (page 14) there is a group of 4 strikes (fig. 1) proofed on 6 and 9 of July, 1908. The words Tercentenary Celebrations are written in manuscript in the center of the group.



1. Proof Book Specimens

To shed more light on these events, and to find out if any of the post offices had been used exclusively by the soldiers, I checked through the newspaper *Le Soleil* and recorded the pertinent information. I will treat each of the 4 places individually.

QUEBEC (CARRÉ DE SALABERRY)

There is only one mention of this place. It says . . . "There will be a complete city of tents for soldiers at the de Salaberry Square." It was noted that soldiers who were members of the 5th Company of the Commissary Service of the Canadian army, as well as 60 men from the first Ottawa contingent were present. These soldiers

left Quebec City at the end of celebrations. I believe these soldiers stayed at the de Salaberry Square due to their small number and to the small size of the site.

QUEBEC (PARC SAVARD)

" . . . In Parc Savard there will be 2 Divisions with a total of approximately 8,000 soldiers." The soldiers of the first division were from Western Ontario (Sarnia, London, Hamilton and Toronto) and they stayed in the western part of the camp. The second division included voluntarily enlisted men from the Royal Hussars of St. Jean, the 7th Hussars of Bury, the 11th Hussars of Richmond, the 6th Duke of Connaught, the 13th Scottish Dragoons and the 17th Regiment, all of whom camped in the eastern part.

The first division, the cavalry, was under the command of Colonel Turner, while Colonel Gordon of Kingston was the commandant of the second division, most of whom were part of the artillery.

CAMP LEVIS

" . . . the 3rd division, under the command of General Buchon, will stay at St. Joseph-de-Levis (Camp Levis). There will be 3 brigades, 2 from the province of Quebec and one from the Maritimes. There will be 3,000 men in the camp." This camp was on the other side of the St. Lawrence River. To provide transportation, the ferry company assigned the boat the "James" for the exclusive use of the soldiers.

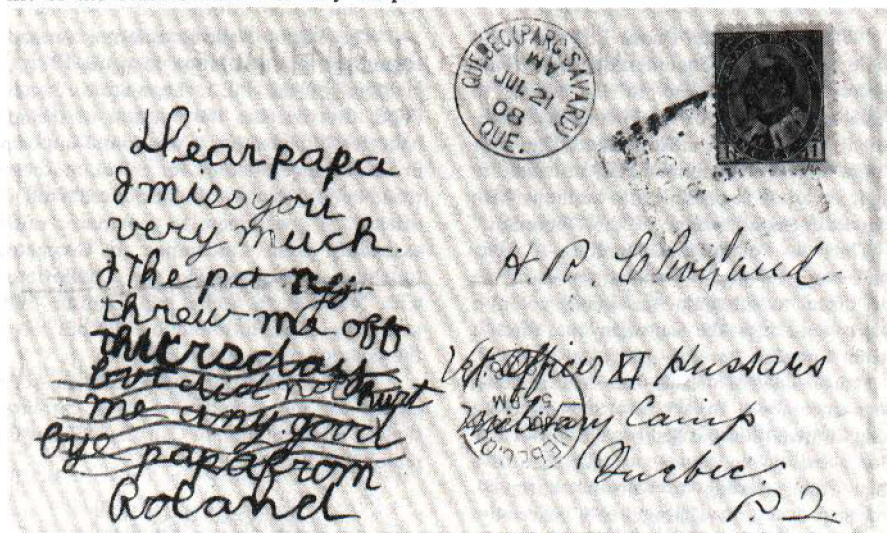
QUEBEC (VILLE DES TENTES)

"The travellers will have all the best comfort in the City of Tents." The city was situated on the Plains of Abraham. This place was the best site from which to celebrate the Tercentenary, because the processions passed close to it and from there it was also possible to see all the ships anchored in front of Quebec City.

In light of the available information, I think we can say without any doubt that 3 of the 4 proof cancels were used at temporary Military camps, while the one for Quebec (Ville des Tentes) was used at a civilian camp. Illus-

trated is a postcard showing the Parc Savard cancel. Note that the postcard was sent to a soldier of the 11th Hussars and was inscribed "Military Camp". With this proof, I think these 3 temporary military camps should be added to the list of the other Canadian military camps.

I would appreciate hearing from other collectors who might have covers bearing the following cancels: Quebec (Carré de Salaberry), Camp Lévis (July 1908), and also Quebec (Ville des Tentés). Such additional information would confirm their use.



2. Postcard backstamped at Parc Savard camp

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