



Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago

(Founded May 1942)

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PORT OF SPAIN MEETINGS: 6pm . second Wednesday every month, St. Mary's College, Frederick St.

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NEW ISSUE NEWS



NEW \$1.00 OVERPRINT ON \$2.50 STAMP OF THE 1990 BIRD DEFINITIVE

The second issue of 2014 was another overprint of \$1.00 on the \$2.50 denomination of the 1990 Bird definitive. The font of the \$1.00 was different and the black rectangle was across the width of the stamp. Roger Ramoutar reported the earliest known date in use 7th December. The quantity overprinted on this order was one million stamps. The printing was done by T&T Printing Works Ltd., Edward Street, Port of Spain. The overprinted stamps have been found with the Multiple Crown Script CA and Block CA Diagonal watermarks.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

All ordinary members are reminded that the 2015 dues were due by the 31st December 2014. The 2015 dues for local members are adults \$30.00 and juniors \$20.00. Please send early. Your dues can be paid either at the meetings or mail it to P.O. Box 596, Port-of-Spain. For our overseas members, the dues are UK 6.00 and all others US \$10.00. Please make cheques payable to the Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago. Ordinary members can pay two or more years at a time based on the annual given above. Life membership is TT \$500.00 for local members or US \$150.00 for overseas members. Due to bank charges in T&T, we ask our overseas members to send payment via a bank money order (bank manager's cheque) or personal cheque drawn on a USA bank. Please do not make any payment using a Postal Order.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th February 2015 at St. Mary's College, Frederick Street, Port of Spain. Nominations are required for all posts for the 2015/16 session. Please respond and nominate any member whom you believe could serve well, but please have your nominee sanction their acceptance.

PRISONER OF WAR POSTCARDS - WORLD WAR ONE



Fig.1: Front - KING EDWARD VII POSTCARD USED BY POW

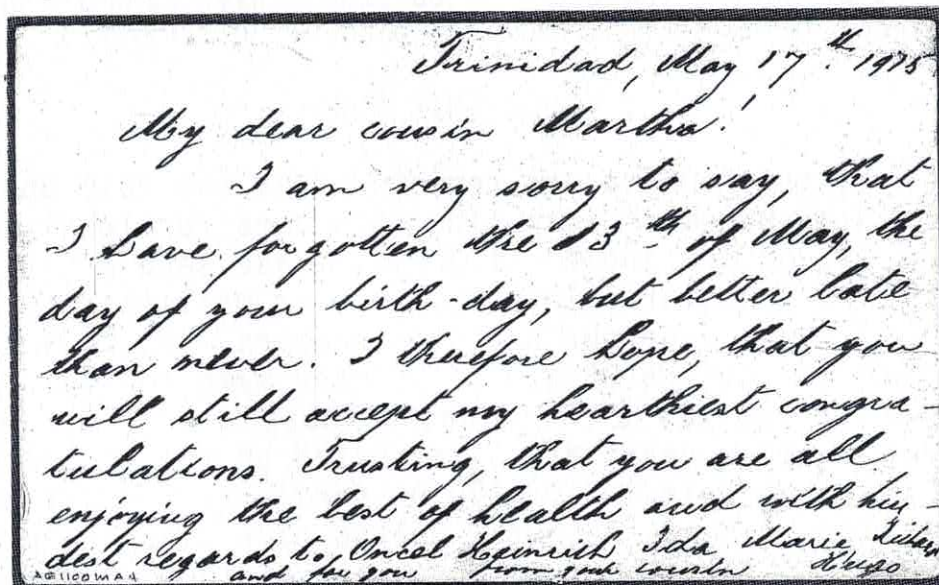


Fig.2: Reverse - KING EDWARD VII POSTCARD USED BY POW

During World War I, enemy aliens were detained at the Military Camp in St. James. They were Prisoners of War (POWs). By international convention the mail of POWs was post-free. While POW covers are seen relatively often, POW postcards are seen rarely.

The regular halfpenny postcard of King Edward VII (H&G #9) was used by a POW to Hamburg, Germany. The halfpenny postcard was rated for inland use, therefore, the word 'INLAND' was crossed out with three lines above the Colonial Arms. To the left of the printed stamp, the POW wrote: "Kindly put 1/2d stamp". An additional 1/2d stamp would have paid the 1d rate to Germany. Apparently, this POW was paying the postage for his mail. To explain this unusual occurrence, it appeared that the Camp authorities limited the amount of post-free mail. The limit could have been two pieces per month. As each piece of mail was censored by the Camp authorities, this limit was placed to ensure that the censors were not overwhelmed with mail. However, if a POW exhausted the quota, the POW could have paid regular postage and used the mail. On this postcard, no additional 1/2d stamp was affixed and the Camp authorities simply applied their rubber-stamp 'POST FREE/P.C./PRISONER OF WAR' which indicated the mail was now postage-free and was passed by the camp censors ('P.C.').

The front of the pc has the rubber-stamp 'MILITARY CAMP/TRINIDAD B.W.I.' on the lower left which gave its point of origin. The card received the GPO Port of Spain cds of 18th May 1915. The POW wrote on the top left 'Prisoner of War'.

Another POW postcard, illustrated in Fig.3, was printed for the POWs. It was mailed to Frankfurt, Germany, and has the GPO Port of Spain cds of 21st September 1915. On the lower left it has the rubber-stamp 'PRISONERS OF WAR/P.C./TRINIDAD'. The larger 'POST FREE/P.C./PRISONERS OF WAR' rubber-stamp in blue ink was applied in the United Kingdom as the mail had to transit there. The postcard measurements were 189mm x 86mm.

The POW card illustrated in Fig.5 had a different design to the Fig.3 postcard. It received the GPO Port of Spain cds on the 18th January 1916 and was mailed to Germany. The rubber-stamp on the lower left stated 'PRISONERS OF WAR/F.W.Y./Trinidad B.W.I.'. The larger 'POST FREE/P.C./PRISONERS OF WAR' was applied in red ink in the United Kingdom. The postcard measurements were 192mm x 90mm.

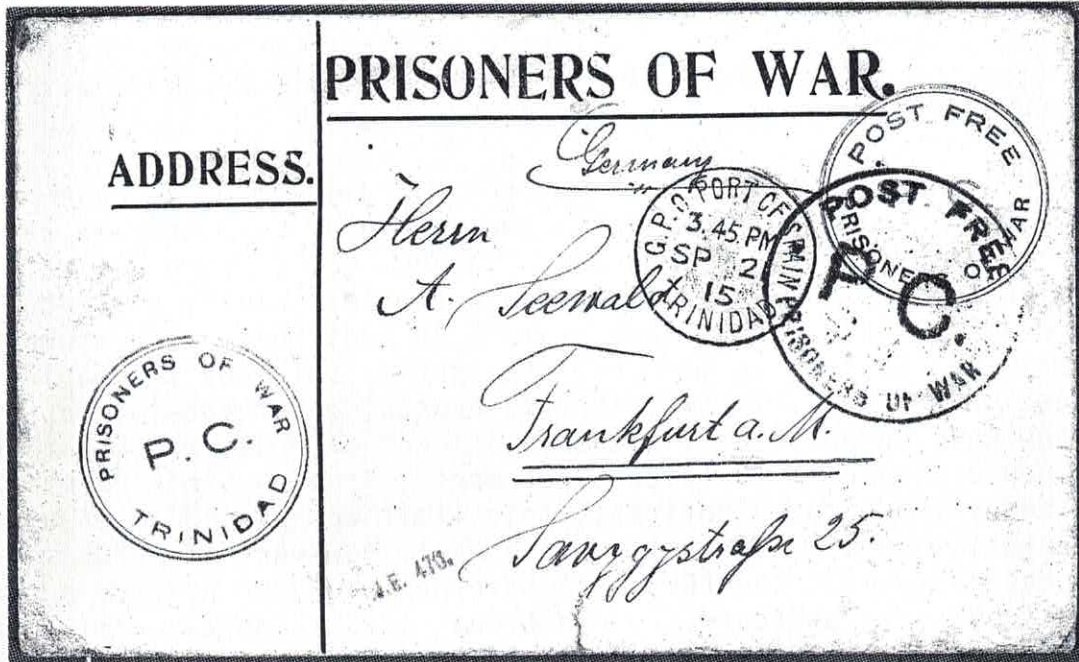


Fig.3: FRONT OF PRISONER OF WAR PRINTED POSTCARD MAILED 21st SEPTEMBER 1915

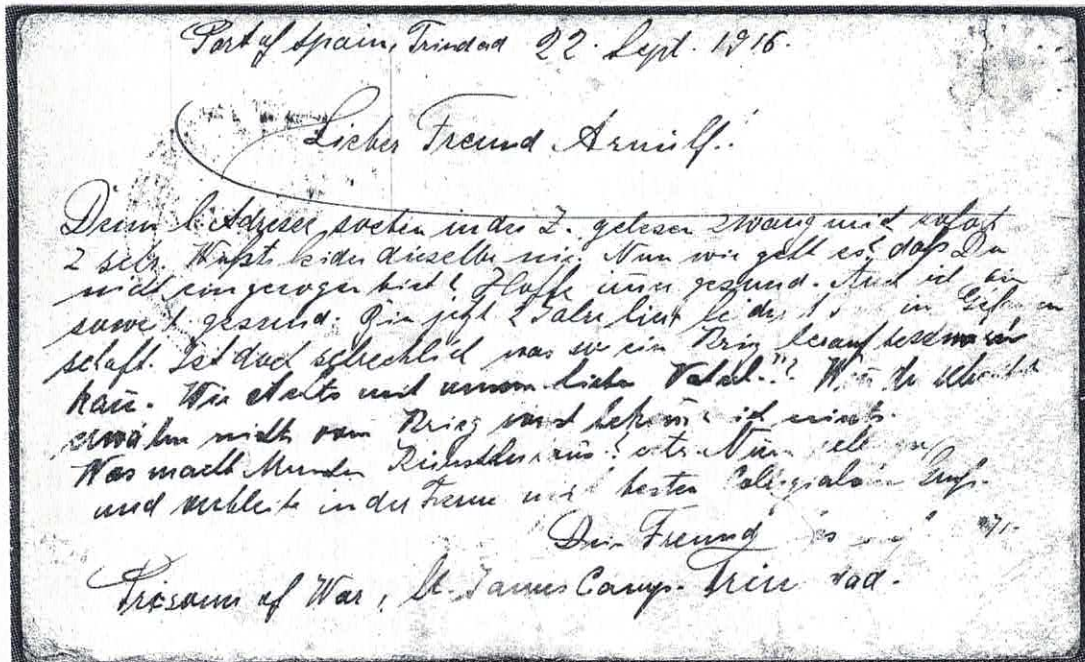


Fig.4: REVERSE OF ABOVE PRISONER OF WAR POSTCARD

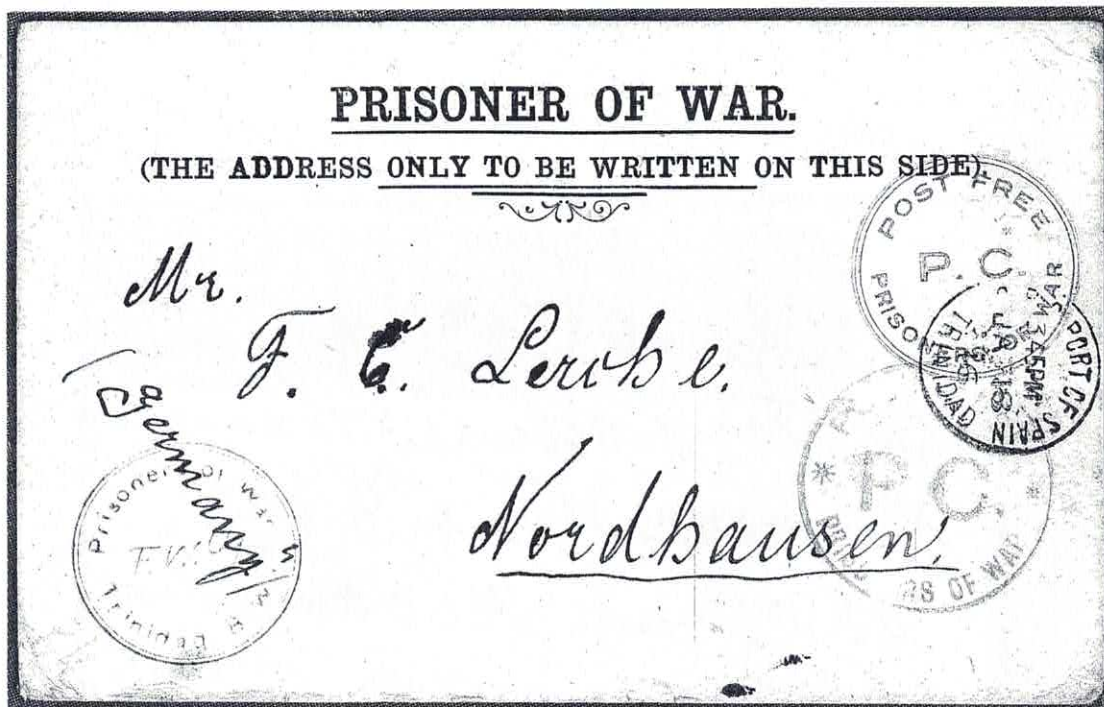


Fig. 5: FRONT OF PRISONER OF WAR PRINTED POSTCARD MAILED 16th JANUARY 1916

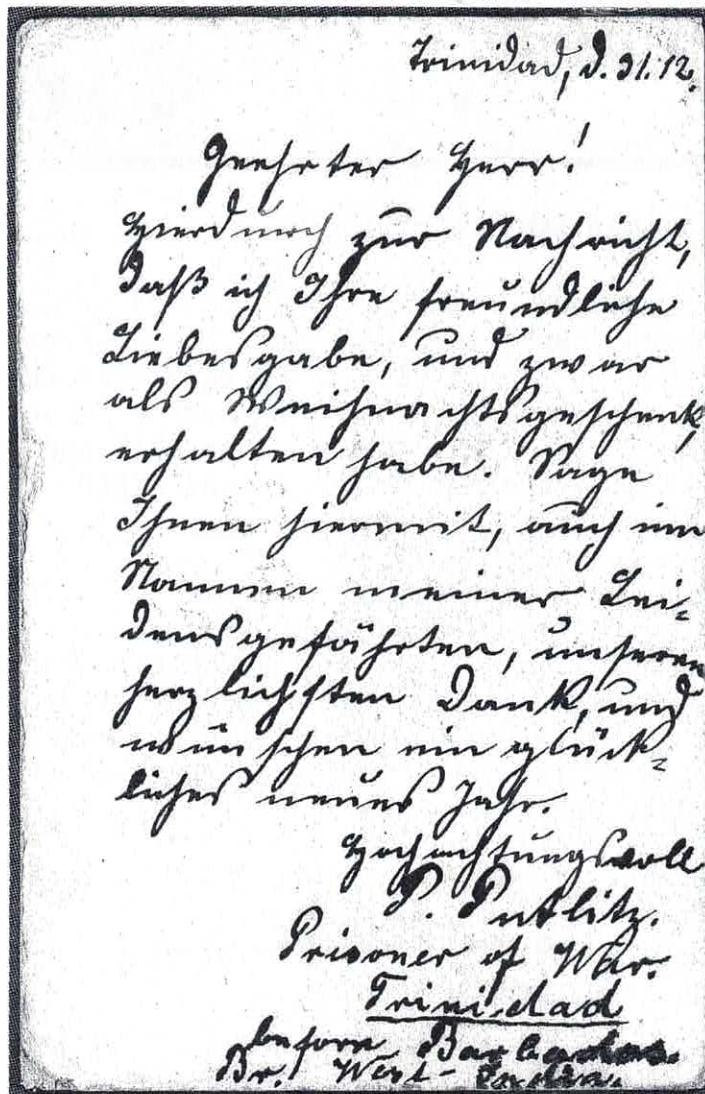


Fig. 6: REVERSE OF ABOVE PRISONER OF WAR POSTCARD

MAIL TO 63 BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS, B.E.F.



MAIL TO THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Above cover was mailed 1st October 1915 to Lieut. H. Selwyn, 63 Brigade Headquarters, British Expeditionary Force, France. The cover was franked with five 1/2d stamps (SG #149 / Sc #1) of the 1913 T&T definitive. In France, the front of the cover received the date-stamp PARIS R.P., ETRANGER (FOREIGN) 4th November 1915 and on the reverse FIELD POST OFFICE S.I. 6th November 1915 and FIELD POST OFFICE 63, 8th November 1915.

On the lower left of the cover, written with a blue pencil: 'Prisoner of War'. Unfortunately the addressee was captured by the enemy. The cover began its return journey to Trinidad with an oval date-stamp 13th January 1916 applied on the front in red ink. On the bottom right of the cover was the postmark 'UNCLAIMED' which most likely was applied in Trinidad. The sender did not write a return address on the outside of the cover.

Please note a worldwide selection of stamps is available at our monthly meetings FREE. Come and enjoy !!