

A POSTCARD FROM FORT CHARTER

Overseas mail from Fort Charter, built by members of the Pioneer Column en route into Mashonaland in 1890, is not common. Furthermore, I was intrigued by the fact that this postcard was addressed to an English woman in Germany.

This postcard had received a Charter postmark of 13 December 1900 and was addressed to a Miss E. Morecroft, c/o Fraulein Mensching, Hildesheim, Hanover. The Anglo-Boer War was still being fought in Southern Africa but the siege of Mafeking had been lifted earlier that year (May) and the railway line from Bulawayo to the South had been re-opened allowing the transit of overseas mail to Cape Town. This postcard passed through Bulawayo, having received a transit strike strike of 15 December 1900. The arrival date of the postcard at its destination was 21 January 1901.



The reverse reads:

- ◆ Best of luck & good wishes for Xmas & New year.
- ◆ J.B. Hall (signature)
- ◆ Shall be leaving for England about end of March.

Footnote

One might deduce from Mr. Hall's message that Miss Morecroft had taken up a new position, perhaps as a Children's Governess?

Unfortunately, Mr Hall does not give his address or an indication of what he was doing at Fort Charter?

Perhaps, further correspondence will surface which will provide more information on those two individuals at the dawn of a new century.