

GILBERT D. HEDDEN

December 8th 1940
19 McKinley Ave.,
East Orange, N.J.

Mr. R. V. Harris
Court House
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Harris,

My apologies for not writing to you sooner. Quite frankly I have not had the time for I have been working day and night and very often a good part of Sunday. Early last September I heard of what seemed to be a rather wonderful opportunity in the British Purchasing Commission in New York and I applied there for work. I was immediately accepted and have been with them since. I have been in the Service Division of the Aircraft Section and you can realize what a turmoil it is when I tell you that I have not had dinner with my family, other than on Sundays, since I started there. Week-ends I am working at two other book-keeping jobs and, somehow, by cutting all possible corners we manage to make both ends almost meet. The opportunity was not quite as advertised and my main satisfaction at the moment is that I am working for a good cause. My personal difficulties with the government are gradually being ironed out, and as one of my worst fears was in connection with their possible appropriation of Oak, I am very happy to be able to tell you that in that particular case, everything is at last alright and there will no longer be any question to my continued ownership.

I have seen Hamilton several times and have kept him informed of the details of the situation as it progressed and he seems quite satisfied with his progress of this current year and eager to go on next season. To that effect I have agreed with him to continue the present agreements in force and have covered the matter by letter. While I am on the subject, it occurs to me that I asked you some time ago to forward me copies of any existing agreements. I have not received them as yet and would like to have you send me copies of everything at your convenience for my files. Several agreements were entered into the first year of Hamilton's work and I am not too familiar with the terms. I would suggest that you examine them and see if it might be well to have another extension letter from Blair.

Hamilton was quite successful this year in that he tunneled from my shaft, around the Chappell shaft, in search of the Halifax Co. tunnel and found it just to the South East of my shaft. You will recall that we found a tunnel in my shaft in 1937 and thought it to be the Fraser tunnel. We find now that it was a part of the Halifax tunnel. Hamilton followed the tunnel with one of his own, as the original was badly collapsed, for quite a distance on the top of the hill. He then searched for the other end by going out of the so-called Halifax pit near the Beach. He located the tunnel and followed it in a state of good repair pretty well up to the top of the hill finding a branch in it just beyond the Sink-Hole Pit, laid out so that the tunnel went close to the pit and on both sides of it. Some of the original wooden track rails were still in evidence and it substantiated Chappell's story of his traversing it in 1897. The work was slower than it sounds in the telling and they were forced to stop work before completing their exploration. We are convinced from Blair's records and the story of Chappell that the Halifax tunnel ended at one time in the actual Money Pit and we have suspected for some time that Chappell was a bit off in his location when he put the shaft down in 1931. Hamilton is very anxious to get started early next year, complete his exploration of the tunnel, establish a correct location if possible and explore it when found. I think the

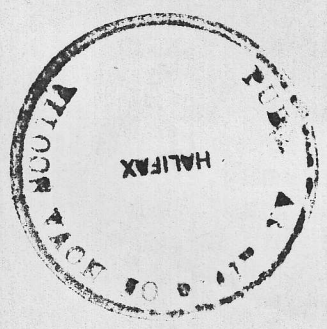
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work of exploration could be completed by the end of July and if the War permits, we may have the answer to several questions by next August. If time and finances will permit I will plan to visit the site in the middle of July as I was not able to get up at all this year and have seen none of Hamilton's discoveries at first hand. I will keep you informed of any change in my plans or fortunes and will appreciate it in the mean time if you will forward the agreement copies to this address.

From what I can learn of War activity you must be in it quite feverishly yourself and I can only say that we down here are doing all we can to help in every way we can My regards to Mrs Harris and to the boys. Let me hear from you when you get time.

Sincerely

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