MG1 Vol. 382

December 8th 1942

1620

Mr. R. V. Harris Box # 535 Halifax, N.S.

Hedden

Dear Mr. Harris:,

Many thanks for your note of the 2nd. As you can see I am away from home again and busily engaged on government work once more, though this time under more favorable conditions. My stay at this location is somewhat uncertain and I would suggest that you continue to use my home address.

I had a meeting with <u>Hamilton</u> recently, while home on leave, and discussed his progress of this year while with him. He has done quite an extensive job and is about at the end of his ideas. Very sketchily he has accomplished the following since I left there:

- 1. Opened and explored the shaft and tunnels near the shore.
- 2. Opened "Halifax Shaft" near Sink-hole Pit.
- 3. Opened and explored tunnels from Halifax Pit. These tunnels branched around Sink-hole Pit and extended well up the hill toward the site of original money pit. He also was able to contact the other end of the connecting tunnel by tunneling out from my shaft. Thus nearly the entire Halifax tunnel was located and explored with the exception of about 50 feet which had collapsed.
- 4. Extended my shaft to the same depth as Chappell shaft and explored area between shafts by drilling.
- 5. Extended Chappell shaft six feet to explore lime stone at bottom.
- 6. Recovered and explored Chappell tunnels at base of shaft
- 7. Ran an encircling tunnel from my shaft at about 110 feet.

In this work he has substantiated accounts of Fraser and others

His present conclusions are that either the whole thing is a cruel mirage based on fantastic imagination, or, that the exact location of the early money pit has been irretrievably lost. He is inclined to discount Chappell's account of his 1897 drilling on two counts. One that the detailed account was written so many years after the drilling and the other, that he thinks he has detected familiar phrases used in Chappell's account which coincide with the detail and language used in certain accounts of Fraser and others at a much earlier date. Frankly he is definitely disappointed and discouraged.

His equipment is still at the site but his plans for next year are decidedly indefinite for he feels that the government will discourage any further work at the site for the duration. I think he plans to check with you on the attitude of the government possibly

MGI VOL.382 /62/

WAR DEPARTMENT ARMY AIR FORCES MATERIEL CENTER EASTERN PROCUREMENT DISTRICT Office of the Army Air Forces Representative

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in February of next year. A watchman is still on the island and is at present engaged in cutting lumber for my account.

If the government will not permit further operations Hamilton will remove his equipment and will abandon the project temporarily. In that event I imagine that most of the buildings will disappear immediately and I will of course have anything of mine moved to shore at that time.

He has not advised Blair of his present conclusions but I think he intends writing him to the effect that he has exhausted all plans of recovery suggested either by Blair or myself, that he is completely at loss for further endeavor and is open to suggestions from Blair.

He further believes that he has discovered that my precious drilled stone markers are nothing but sockets for "Whim" axles. He in fact explored areas adjacent to other shafts and found at least one other drilled stone similar to the ones first doscovered. The hole in the new one was more crudely drilled but was very similar in size and depth. His conclusion there is very possible.

The only two items unexplainable are the work and fibre at the Beach and the parchment. Of course the parchment could have appeared from almost any source and could be discounted for that reason, but neither Hamilton nor I have any explanation to offer to cover the mystery of the beach.

I have not read the articles by Roberts if the Chronicle and in fact had not heard of them. I have not been contacted by Roberts at all and I am quite curious as to his references to me. As you are so kind as to offer copies of the articles I can assure you I would appreciate a full file at your earliest convenience.

Sorry to hear of the illness of Mrs. Harris and hope that her recovery continues.

I cannot predict right now when I shall visit Oak or Halifax again but you can rest assured that it will be my first project when the opportunity presents itself for regardless of all set-backs or misfortunes connected with the island, I love it almost as much as I do my home and I have a deep yearning to see all of my friends in that delightful land of Nova Scotia.

The family are all well and I can report quite some progress in . . my slow climb back to financial security. You failed to mention your boys and I certainly hope they are well. Greetings of the Season and the hope that 1943 will bring the Peace and Security we are all fighting for.

Sincerely Selbert D. Hedden Gilbert D. Hedden