

Paper currency of the Hay Internment Camps 7 & 8, 1940-1941

Discovery of further examples of the Hut and Geometric notes

by Tony James

Introduction

There were three internment camps created at Hay NSW, they became known as Camps 6, 7 and 8 in the national numbering of internment camps. On the 6th September 1940, approximately 2000 of the mainly German and Austrian Jewish refugees who had been sent from the UK aboard the infamous HMT *Dunera* arrived at Hay. Initially only Camp 8 was ready for occupation, however within two weeks the group divided in two, with approximately 1000 in each of Camps 7 and 8. Camp 6 opened on the 2nd November 1940 and housed civilian Italian internees transferred from other camps in Australia. The 'Dunera Boys' were transferred out of Camps 7 and 8 by the 22nd May 1941 to be replaced by Italian POWs, and in December 1941, 745 Japanese internees were placed in Camp 6.

Those who are collectors or students of military numismatics may be reasonably conversant with the banknotes of the Hay Internment Camp 7. The notes are in denominations of 6d, 1/- and 2/-, with designs that include barbed wire fences, a coat of arms with a shield displaying a sheep supported by a kangaroo and emu, a border of coiled barbed wire with hidden messages, text, signatures and a serial number. The back of the note includes sketches of 25 sheep as well as text.

Since Campbell published the first edition of his catalogue in 1989 and the second edition in 1993, there have been five series of notes or paper tokens attributed to the Hay camps complex.



Hay Internment Camp 7, 6d Epstein/Stahl signatures

First Series

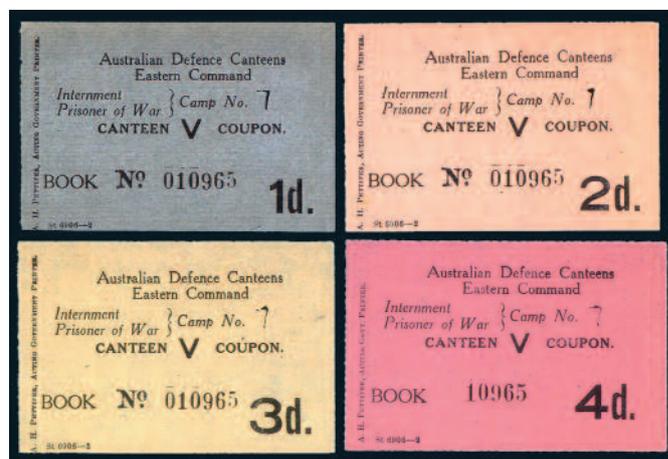
The first is the 1d (green) and 3d (cream) uni-face issues printed on 80 x 45mm card with serial numbers, plus the text INTERNMENT CAMP HAY, VALUE, P (denomination) Penny, CAMP SEVEN BANK. Despite a small hoard of these notes coming onto the market in the last few years, these notes remain the rarest currency to have been issued in the camps; there are fewer than 30 examples known of the two denominations combined.

Second Series

The second series is the legendary Camp Seven Bank 6d, 1/- and 2/-. They were printed at the "Riverine Grazier" newspaper in Hay; they all measure 138 x 76mm, and are printed in blue (6d), green (1/-) and red (2/-). The number of these notes extant stands at little more than 300 spread between the three denominations, which is not a lot to go around the collecting fraternity, hence the high demand.

Third Series

The third series, known as the "Hut" series, show the denomination within a silhouette of a hut and in text at each side. Examples of this series have been observed and recorded in



Australian Defence Canteens E. Comd. 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d denominations in booklet with Camp 7 punch domiciled



Hut type note 5/- denomination s/n. 3476 with signatures.



Hay Camp 2/- Hut type note with serial number and signatures

the set originally owned by Rabbi Falk and others. The approximate number of examples of these notes catalogued is only 40, over six denominations, most of which have never seen the numismatic market earning these notes the triple R rating.

Fourth Series

The fourth series is the Geometric notes, about which little is known, apart from the four examples in the Falk collection and those identified in Benzion Patkin's book "The Dunera Internees" published in 1979. Recently, some new examples have surfaced. These items belonged to Dunera Boy Kurt Morgenroth, who was interned in Camp 8. It is believed he was a member of the Camp 8's Money Issuing Department. His son Alan has been researching these family treasures and approached me in 2008 for further information. His father retained several examples of Hut and Geometric notes, Coffee Stall Vouchers and menus and details of provisioning for Camp 8. There are now only around 20 examples of these notes known and they are therefore by far the rarest of all the Hay notes. In fact because almost all of them are different from each other, they are all practically unique examples of their kind!

Fifth Series

The last series is the Canteen Coupons of the Australian Defence Canteens Eastern Command series, a few booklets of which appear to have been domiciled Camp No 7 by having the numeral 7 punch cut into the vouchers. These were issued sometime after the Dunera Boys had left Hay in May 1941 and before the general issue of metallic Internment Camp tokens in 1942/43. This voucher series was not restricted to the Hay camps; it was introduced into any internment camp and POW camp that had a canteen run by the Australian Army Canteens Service (AACS).

Canteen records

The financial records of the Camp 8 canteen and coffee stall have been located in the Erwin Kallir personal documents collection held at the Weiner Library in London. Cartoons

held in the collection illustrate that Erwin Kallir and others ran the canteen (camp shop) and provided welfare funds to take care of those less fortunate internees in the camp who had no funds of their own. These records, which are written in German, commence the week of 20-28 September 1940, just two weeks after the Dunera arrived at the camp. The documents include balance sheets and profit and loss statements for periods from October 1 1940 to May 1 1941. These accounts mention not only cash in hand but also the community fund and vouchers in hand as well as vouchers in circulation (noted as at December 31 1940).

Other items in the collection, including clothing tokens, a coffee stall voucher issued at Xmas time in 1940 and the receipt for transfer of an internee's funds upon being moved from Hay to Tatura in May 1941, are all from Camp 7, and are all recorded in "The Dunera Affair, a Documentary Resource book" by Paul R. Bartrop & Gabrielle Eisen. published in 1990.

Australian National Archives records

There is official acknowledgment of the canteen that was organised and run in Camps 6, 7 and 8 in the National Archives of Australia (barcode 3357091 with the reference - Memorandum 94235 of Dec 9 1941 reference G255 714 197)

"Point 83. LATE INTERNEES CANTEEN"

"The internees established and conducted Canteens in three compounds under the supervision of the CO without any advance from Army. They financed the establishment out of their own money, prepared their own cheque forms as tender within the Compound, and did their own book-keeping, etc., under the supervision of the Camp Commandant. Purchases were made as instructed, through the Canteen Board, and the profits were distributed for the benefits of the internees. A cheque of £68 from profits was also donated for tobacco for the POWs."

Another reference, dated 1941 August/ September, indicates that new instructions were issued:-

Military Board Circular No. 61251 dtd. 20 August 1941 Ref G255 705 23

"viii. Tokens will be used for all Canteen purchases except that copper coins may be used in accordance with National Security Regulations.

ix. Tokens when accepted will be immediately cancelled and on no account will be re-issued to POW's or Internees as 'change.

x. Tokens taken in Canteens will be redeemed by Camp Paymaster on presentation by Canteens Service."

Internees were permitted to hold Australian legal tender in ½ and 1d coins to a total value of one shilling, which could be banked and reissued if the internee was transferred between camps.



Geometric Note:- 1 in a circle within an inverted V

Military Board Circular No. 66295 Ref. G255 705 29 of 12 September 1941 read:

“ 6. Only coupons supplied by the District Finance Officer will be valid in Internees Canteens No other paper or token currency will be permitted to be used in these camps.”

Further details regarding the report of Camp 7 manufacture and issue of “Internees Token Money” and its prohibition is recorded in Australian Military Forces communication to the Group Commandant Hay Reference 489/1/1821 dtd. 14 May 1941 reference 47972.

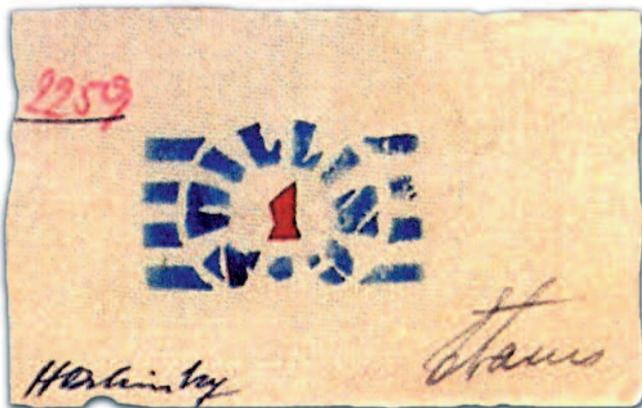
This instruction confirmed the illegal issue by the internees of Camp 7, of the “bank notes” token money. It also stipulated that any token money issued for use in internment camps should be the Australian Defence Canteens Eastern Command Canteen Coupon booklets.

The three Camp Seven denominations

Opinions vary regarding the serial numbers and the total number of notes printed by the Riverine Grazier newspaper office. Bullus has recorded the following serial number blocks as being used and lowest and highest serial numbers sighted. These have since been updated by Vort-Ronald in auctions sales results:

- 6d block C39000 to C41999 (Total 3000)
low/high C39111- 41984
- 1/- block D 20001 to 229999 (Total 3000)
low/high 20001-22899
- 2/- block E 39001 to E41000 (Total 2000)
low/high 39007-40979

There are several numbers recorded by Vort-Ronald outside these ranges which are questionable in their authenticity, as well as the 000000 specimen notes. Cataloguers and researchers have now agreed that the somewhat peculiar range of serial numbers was deliberately chosen by the internees



1/- two colour geometric note handwritten serial number and signatures.



Community Fund note 1/- three signatures and handwritten serial number.



3d in circle and diamond – Geometric note in red with signatures and serial number 25 416 and dated 31 3 41 From the Falk Collection.

so that some matched their Australian interment numbers, which for the Dunera Boys at Hay were from E39000 to E40998. In this way, the internees were able to souvenir notes with serial numbers that matched their internment registration number. For example, the 2/- note s/n E40161 sold by the Maass family a few years ago, matched the owner Henry Maass's internment number E40161.

Hut notes

The notes in the Hut series are known in 2d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 5/- denominations.

They have serial numbers stamped above the design and bear two signatures lower left and right. The serial numbers range from four to five digits. The design shows the denomination in words on the left and the unit of value on the right; each side of the central hut has the denomination in figures. The recorded notes are issued in purple - 2d, red - 3d and 6d, blue - 1/- and 2/- and purple again for the 5/- denomination.

Geometric notes

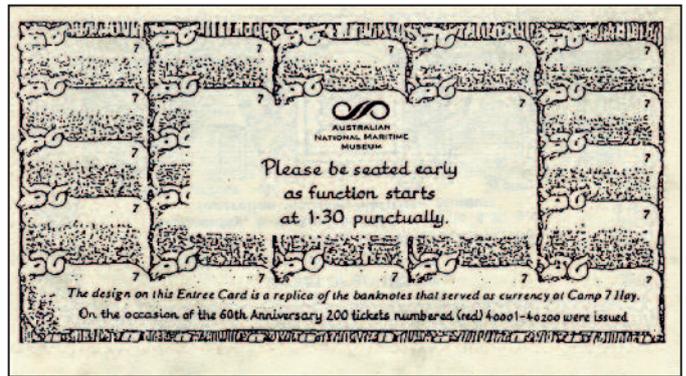
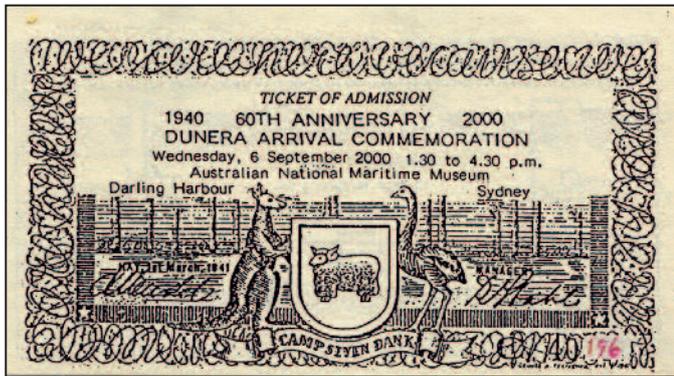
The 10/- serial number 3676 illustrated in Silent Witnesses - reference Feller AU-955 that was taken from Patkin's book and possibly recorded as Campbell 1238 in his 2nd edition catalogue, is now known to be the cover of a booklet of Hut notes totaling 10/-. Alan Morgenroth has traced a booklet complete with notes to the daughter of a Dunera Boy who worked in the Camp 8 Canteen.

Another internee (Walter Fleiss) has made an audio testimony that booklets were made up of “money made from toilet paper printed with potato cut printing blocks ... using ink made from aniline dye ... values of sixpence or a shilling ... buy cigarettes with them.”

The notes of the Geometric series appear to be a work in progress, as there are several styles, designs and denominations. Much of the detail is still being investigated. The most crudely produced note has a numeral 1 within a circle in a V with signatures and serial number. The next design is another crude potato cut print parallel lines surrounding a circle of letters (? one penny) with the numeral 1, written serial number and signature.

A better printed note in two colours follows the same design in blue with a numeral 1 in red surrounded by stylised letters “shilling” a serial number top left and two signatures lower left and right. Another two-colour potato cut has a large CF (Community Fund?) at centre with 1/- at each side, serial number top left and one signature at the top and two at the bottom. Interestingly, the 1d first issue note Camp Seven Bank s/n 5567 illustrated in Patkin's book has Community Fund stamped on the face of it. This seems to indicate that while the different camps operated separate monetary systems, they operated similar welfare systems.

Another series has the denomination in figures in the centre of a circle which itself is centered in a diamond. The few existing



Admission ticket for the 60th Anniversary of the Dunera arrival 6 September 2000 modeled on the Camp 7 Hay notes.

examples of these notes have signatures and serial numbers, and some have a line date stamp that shows all or part of a date 31 3 41 (31st of March 1941?). These surfaced in the notes held in the Rabbi Falk provenance. Others are illustrated in Patkin's book with the date 31 3 41 and 10 3 41 which appear to signify different dates of issue.

Memories fade, interest remains

While memories fade and the number of surviving internees dwindles, researchers continue the hunt for elusive information that sits uncatalogued or misfiled, and numismatic treasures such as these remain undetected in estates and archives. Fortunately, descendants remain curious as to the activities of older generations and while much still ends up in the trash or the tip, the sharing of information results in a growing library of information.

Acknowledgment

I am deeply indebted to Alan Morgenroth, United Kingdom, for scans and information regarding these new discoveries from Hay Camp 8. In particular, he would like to find an answer to the riddle of why anybody would issue a note for 10½d. (Rabbi Falk Collection). This is the only mention of a ½d so it must have been for something very specific. He also recalls how his father told him that he had been responsible for signing some of the early Camp 8 notes and hopes that one day a note

signed by his father will turn up! Alan would welcome scans and further information regarding these notes by email to: a.morgenroth@hotmail.com

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Book Review by Dr K.A. Rodgers

Boar Horse

Boar Horse, Matthew Rich. Chris Rudd Aylsham 2014. 80pp. ISBN 978-0-9566889-2-7. Soft cover only.

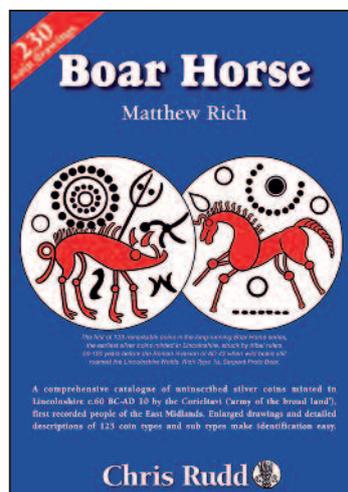
This is a delightful small book. The title caught my eye when it was mentioned briefly in *CAB's* September issue. I went out and got myself a copy. I have no regrets.

I congratulate the author, Matthew Rich, in delivering a most delicious collation. The book is both readable and has instant eye appeal. I am no devotee of pre-Roman British coins but I have no hesitation in recommending this book to all who are intrigued by the history of coinage.

Matthew's account of the coins of the Iron Age Corieltavi (they lived around modern Lincolnshire) is an object lesson in how careful and thoughtful analysis of coin designs can unearth the development of a linked series of coins - as

well as providing simple aids to those coins' identification.

Both the wild boar and the horse were important in the lives of the Corieltavi. Both animals dominate the designs of their silver coins - with the occasional stag and wolf thrown in for good measure. The portrayal of these animals evolved throughout the years 60 BC to AD 30.



The tribe's artistic style was vigorous and individualistic, quite distinctive from neighbouring Iron Age tribes.

Matthew recognises 123 design subtypes that he groups in 44 types. His analysis divides these into four distinct design stages. The reader is led through both the analysis and interpretation via numerous superb, clean, uncluttered illustrations drawn by the author.

The descriptions are amusing. Among the additional symbols found on the coins are wishbones, bats, shrimps, kites, and even the Mercedes logo that gives its name to Matthew's *Mercedes Proto Boar*.

Tables of die chains, weights and cross references of the Corieltavi coin units and half units are assembled at the back. These are Matthew Rich's hard data and a valuable source for future researchers.

For those who enjoy a thought-provoking read this book is excellent value for money. It can be obtained from Chris Rudd - email: liz@celticcoin.com. Cost is £15 plus postage.

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