

Major/Lt Col Kent Covers from Jamaica

From the late 1850s until the 1870s, much correspondence was sent from Jamaica to Major (later Colonel) Henry Kent. These are often, philatelically and visually, most attractive covers, as he was stationed in India which required a high postage rate and hence unusual combinations of adhesive stamps.

Information on Henry Kent is limited but the following has been assembled from internet sources:

Date	Middlesex Regiment	Kent	Ref
1787	Regiment raised in India		1
1807	Various assignments in Europe and West Indies, then Peninsula war		1
1814–20	The 77th remained near Bayonne until 25 Aug, 1814, being the last regiment to leave the Peninsular. It landed on 8/9 September at Cork and began six years service in Ireland.		1
1820–23	In November 1820 the regiment changed to England , and after a year at Rochdale, Sunderland and Hexham, went first to Glasgow and then to Edinburgh, and finally in June 1823 went back to Ireland		1
1824-34	In January 1824, the 77th embarked at Cork for Jamaica , where they remained ten years.		1
1825		Born	4
1834 May 17	The 77th left Jamaica on 17 May 1834, and landed on 24 Jun at Portsmouth. Two months later they went to Scotland , and at the end of the following year to Liverpool, and thence in April 1836 to Ireland , where they remained a little over 18 months.		1
1837 Nov 21	The 77th embarked at the Cove of Cork for Malta , where it was stationed until Feb 1842.		1
1842 Feb	Corfu – After barely a year at Corfu the 77th went again to		1
1843 Apr	Jamaica , where it arrived in April 1843 and remained till January 1846.		1
1845 Aug 8		Ensign (purchased) in the 77th (East Middlesex) Regt of Foot	3
1846 Jan	The next move was to Canada , where the stations were Halifax, St. Johns (Canada East) and Montreal.		1
1848 May 19	The regiment left Montreal on a steam vessel, and next day embarked for England at Quebec.		1
1849 May 22	The 77th remained at home till the outbreak of the Crimean War, its stations being Portsmouth, Newport, Plymouth, Weedon and Glasgow.		1
1850 Aug 23		Lieutenant (purchased)	3
1854 to 1856	The Regiment fought in the Crimea from 1854 to 1856. (click here for image) Varna, Alma, Inkerman, Sebastopol		1
1854 Sept 27		Captain	3
1856	The 77th reached England on 23 July 1856; and, after spending less than a year at Aldershot and Dublin ,	Not listed amongst officers who returned to the UK	1

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Date	Middlesex Regiment	Kent	Ref
1857	embarked for New South Wales in June 1857, before the news of the Indian Mutiny had arrived. Arrived NSW 30 Sept. Little over seven months had been spent at Sydney, when,		1
1858	in April 1858, orders were received to proceed to India . The voyage took eight weeks, and it was only on June 13th that the Regiment landed at Calcutta. It was the hottest season of the year, and the men sickened so fast that the 77th was kept at Calcutta till the spring, when it was too late to have any share in the fighting. Colonel Straton died immediately after his arrival in India on 15 June 1858. Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. A.G. Chichester then held command for ten years,		1 2
1858 Aug 24		Major	3
1859-70	The 77th which had been raised for service in India, had now returned after an interval of 50 years. Its second term was as free from incident as the first had been the reverse. The stations were:		1
1859	Sasseram		1
1859 Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benares, where a detachment under Major Kent was employed in April 1859 against a body of rebels in the Kymoor Hills, 		1
1860 Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazaribagh 		1
1862 Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allahabad 		1
1864 Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bareilly 		1
1866 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agra 		1
1867 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peshawar 		1
1868 Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nowshera (1868). 		1
1869 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agra -- In the autumn of 1868 disturbances in the Hazara country led to the dispatch of an expedition under General Wilde. Two companies of the 77th, which happened to be employed in road making between Abbotabad and Murree, under the command of Captain C.E.Leggett, formed part of the 2nd Brigade under Brigadier Luther Vaughan. Though the force employed was of a considerable size, and the campaign lasted some weeks, there was very little fighting 		1
1868 Jun13	Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Kent succeeded Hon. A.G. Chichester (in command of the 77th (East Middlesex) Regt. of Foot)	Lieutenant-Colonel (in command of the 77 th)	1
1870	The 77th left India in April 1870 being the first regiment to pass through the Suez Canal. At Portland, Dorset		1
1870-80. 1873	Ten years were spent at home .	Colonel	3
1876 May	In Ireland, returned to England Feb 1880		

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Date	Middlesex Regiment	Kent	Ref
1880 June 21	Colonel Kent retired after thirty-five years service , and was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Humphrey M. L. Colquhoun.	Retired from 77 th	2.2
1881 Jul 1	77th (East Middlesex) Regiment of Foot united with the 57 th Regiment to form The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment).		2
1883		Major-General	4
1886		Retired (as Hon. Lieut. General)	4
1900 Nov 30	Sir George Willis, first Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment, died in 1900 and was succeeded on November 30 by Major-General and Honorary Lieut.-General Henry Kent , who had joined the 77th so long ago as 1845, and is now, after seventy years, still Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment. He has been Hon. Colonel of the Royal East Middlesex Militia (now the 6th Battalion) since 1890.	Made Hon. Colonel of the Middlesex Regmt.	2
1920 1921	Regiment renamed to The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own)	Died (Wimbledon – 16 Glenthorne, The Downs)	2

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Notes:

- 1 From the web page 'The Middlesex Regiment 1755-1966' the history of the regiment is taken:
¹ <http://www.prole.demon.co.uk/middlesex>
- 2 Records of the Seventy-seventh (East Middlesex) By Henry Herriott Woolright
http://www.archive.org/stream/recordsseventys00woolgoog/recordsseventys00woolgoog_djvu.txt
- 2.1 The whole corps remained at Sasseram till the 12th March 1859, when the left wing, under Colonel Deverellt marched to Benares and occupied Raj Ghaut Fort there.
On the 1st April a party of the right wing, under Major Kent, was ordered out in pursuit of a body of rebels, who had suddenly appeared on the grand trunk road, and proceeded into the Kymoor Hills. Owing, however, to want of water and transport difficulties, the detachment was unable to come up with the enemy, and returned to Sasseram on the 6th April. The rebels, having suddenly come down from the hills in the neighbourhood of Jdianabad, Major Kent's party was ordered out again at 2 a.m. next day, and marched to Jdianabad (16 miles from Sasseram), arriving there at 7 a.m. The same day they resumed their march, and continued in close pursuit of the rebels, until they had driven them on to the banks of the Ganges, where another column sent in pursuit cut them off. The 77th detachment returned to Sasseram on the 12th.
The headquarters of the regiment, with the band and staff, proceeded on the 20th July to Benares, the right wing, under Major Kent, remaining at Sasseram 1860. till it marched to relieve the 37th Regiment at Ghazepore on the 1st March, 1860.
- 2.2 Colonel Kent was placed on half-pay on the 21st June, and announced his retirement in the following Regimental Order? — "Seventy-seventh — for thirty-five years I have served with you; for twelve years I have commanded you. It is with no ordinary feeling of regret that, on being placed on half-pay, I take leave of the regiment so dear to me, and that I love so well. Most of my happiest recollections are, and will be, associated with it. Many of you were not born when I first joined the regiment under that distinguished officer Colonel Graham Egerton. But from my first day with it to the last I have ever felt an increasing attachment to it, and when by the favour of Her Majesty, and with the approbation of His Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, I was called to the command of it, it was my earnest desire to realize the importance of the trust committed to me — and looking back on the past I can truly say that I have spared no pains, no effort to make it as efficient as possible in every respect.
** Nor in saying this do I assume to myself any credit, as I only tried to do my duty; while for the efficient state of the regiment I am mainly indebted to the zealous support which I have received from the officers and non-commissioned officers.
"It will always be a source of pride and pleasure to me that while maintaining the strictest discipline you have looked upon me more as a friend than a commander over you, and with the sincerest Wishes for your future success and welfare, I bid you all affectionately farewell"
- 3 From 'Hart's Annual Army List, Militia List, and Imperial Yeomanry List' By H G Hart we learn that he was assigned to the 77th (East Middlesex) Regt of Foot and from the article below he became an officer and retired.
<http://books.google.com/books?id=INvBgNn-rjEC&pg=RA98-PA357&lpg=RA98-PA357&dq=%22major+kent%22+india&source=web&ots=GlcjI5c49m&sig=3RIINy9Yxaqf2j39kS371prYAX4>
- 4 Atmore, Bill

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Inventory of Correspondence to Maj./Col. Kent

Image	col b/w	Full/ Part	DH Ref	Date	Destination	Adhesives	Rate	Pmk	Comments	Provenance
Image	col	part		26 MAR 1859	India. (Major Kent)	G.B.6d x2	1s	A01		Brassler
Image	b/w	full	1	11 AUG 1859	Bengal, India (Major Kent)	G.B.6d x2	1s	A01(Z1)		JE GBU, SG Retail (1990, stated by SG as Ex Gibson), Wood 2009
Image	b/w	full	2	11 OCT 1859	Calcutta, Bengal, India (Major Kent)	G.B.6d x2	1s	A01(Z1)		JE GBU, Simpson (Sissons)
Image	b/w	full	3	27 DEC 1859	Bengal, India (Major Kent)	G.B.6d x2	1s	A01(Z1)		JE GBU, Andre Bollen
Image	b/w	full	4	24 MAR 1860	Bengal, India (Major Kent)	G.B.6d x2	1s	A01(Z1)		JE GBU, Andre Bollen
Image	col	full	5	25 MAY 1860	Bengal, India (Major Kent)	G.B.6d x2	1s	A01(Z3)		Hemmings
Image	b/w	full	6	24 AUG 1860	Bengal, India (Major Kent)	G.B.6d x2	1s	A01(Z1)		JE GBU, PH 1/6/89, Gaston
Image	col	full	7	24 APR 1861	Hazareebagh, Bengal, India. (Major Kent)	G.B.6d x2	1s	A01(Z2)		Swarbrick, Hemmings
Image	b/w	full	8	24 MAY 1861	Hazareebagh, Bengal, India. (Major Kent)	6dx2	1s	A01(Z2)		JE GBU, Simpson
Image	col	full	9	24 JUN 1861	Hazareebagh, India. (to officer 77th Regt)	6dx2	1s	A43		Surtees; Grosvenor 20090923
Image	b/w	full	10	9 SEP 1861	Hazareebagh, Bengal, India. (Major Kent)	6dx2	1s	A43	Red hs '1d'	JE GBU, Woodward, Erickson, RL Bermuda 1979 (679)
Image	col	full	11	9 DEC 1861	Hazareebagh, Bengal, India. (Major Kent)	6dx2	1s	A43		Hemmings
Image	col	full	12	24 OCT 1864	Bareilly, India (Major Kent)	6dx2	1s	A01(Z2)	redirected from Allahabad	Spink 13/4/2007, Hemmings
	none			?? ??? 1864	Bengal, India (Major Kent)	1d, 4d, 6d x2	1s5d	A42	Note A42 assigned to Gordon Town Oct 1862	Brinkley Turner Lot 60 (1942)
Image	b/w	full	13	24 NOV 1864	Bareilly, India (Major Kent)	1d.,4d.,1/-	1s5d	A42		Atmore
image	col	part		24 JAN 1865	Bareilly, India. (Major Kent)	6d x2	1s	Kingston		Hart (1978), Freeland
image	col	full		25 APR 1865	Bareilly, India. (Major Kent)	6d x2, 2d x 2, 1d	1s5d	A42		Watts, RL 19/9/91, Larson 12/2008
Image	b/w	full	13a	24 MAY 1865	Bareilly, India. (Major Kent)	2d.,3d.,6d.x2	1s5d	A42		Simpson (Sissons 1982), Erickson, Hart
Image	b/w	part	14	24 JUN 1865	Bareilly, India. (Major Kent)	1d.,4d.,6dx2	1s5d	A42		Surtees (658), RLB 27/1/78
Image	col	full		24 Aug 1865	Bareilly, India. (Major Kent)	1d, 2dx2, 6d	1s5d	A42		VIC 24/6/96, Soler y Llach 13/10/2006
Image	col	full		23 SEP 1865	Bareilly, India. (Major Kent)	1d, 4d, 6dx2	1s5d	A01		Siegel 2009/12
Image	b/w	part		24 OCT 1865	Bengal, India. (Major Kent)	6d x 2, 1d, 2d x 2	1s5d	A42		Hart
Image	b/w	full		24 NOV 1865	Bareilly, India. (Major Kent)	6d x2, 2d, 3d	1s5d	A42		Victoria 24/6/96
Image	col	full	15	24 DEC 1865	Bareilly, India. (Major Kent)	1d.,4d.,6dx2.	1s5d	A42		Brassler, Hemmings

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Image	col b/w	Full/ Part	DH Ref	Date	Destination	Adhesives	Rate	Pmk	Comments	Provenance
	none			1866	to India.	2d, 3d, 6d x2	1s5d	Kingston		Burrus (1964)
Image	b/w	full	15a	24 FEB 1866	Bareilly, India. (Major Kent)	2d.,3d.,6dx2	1s5d	A42		Hart, Simpson
Image	b/w	full	16	24 MAR 1866	Bareilly, India. (Major Kent)	1dx2.,3d.,6d.x2 Pine	1s5d	A42	Bareilly crossed out and envelope endorsed "ON leave Mussoorie"	Erickson, RL 13/6/91, Brinkley Turner Lot 59 (1942)
Image	b/w	full		24 APR 1866	Bengal re-addressed Simla (Major Kent)	6d x2, 1d, 4d <u>front</u>	1s5d	A42		SG.stock
Image	col	full	17	24 JUN 1866	Bareilly, India. (Major Kent)	1d.,4d.,6dx2.Pine	1s5d	A42	Redirected to Simla	Hemmings
	none		18	24 AUG 1866	Bengal (Major Kent)	1d.,4d.,6dx2.Pine	1s5d	Kingston		Surtees (659)
Image	b/w	full	19	28 SEP 1866	Bareilly, India. (Major Kent)	1d.,4d.,6dx2.Pine	1s5d	A01(Z1)	Redirected to Umballa	Surtees (660)
Image	b/w	full		8 JAN 1867	Peshawra, India. (Major Kent)	6d x2, 1d, 4d	1s5d	A42		Woodward
Image	b/w	full		24 JUL 1867	Cabul, East Indies (ie Afghanistan). (Major Kent)	2d, 3d, 6d x2.	1s5d	A42		Pinchess (1946), (Hugh Wood) DBZ 16/2/90, Nicholson 231? RL Bermuda 1979 (680)
image	b/w	part		SEP 1867	to ' Peshawar, Cabool, India	1d, 4d, 6d x2	1s5d	A42	M/S '1' and '1/4' on face	RL Bermuda 1979 (680)
Image	col	full	20	26 NOV 1867	Peshawar, Cabul, India (Major Kent)	2d.,3d.,4dx3.Pine	1s5d	A01(Z1)	Redirected to Nowshera	Spink 13/4/2007
Image	col	full	21	10 DEC 1867	Hazareebagh, Bengal, India (Major Kent)	6dx2 Pine	1s	A43		Spink 13/4/2007
image	b/w	full		25 DEC 1867	Peshawar, India, (Major Kent)	1s	1s	Kingston	black MORE-TO-PAY (D1).	Simpson Lot 423
Image	col	full	22	24 MAY 1868	Nowshera, Cabul, India (Major Kent)	2d.,6dx3.Pine	1s8d	A42		Spink 13/4/2007
	none		23	6 AUG 1868	India (Major Kent)	2d.,6dx3	1s8d	A01		Surtees (659)
	none			1869		3d x 2, 6d x 2	1s6d	A42		Burrus
Image	b/w	full	23a	24MAY1869	Agra, Bengal, India (Major Kent)	2d.,3d., 6dx2	1s5d	A01(Z2)		Simpson (Sissons 1982)
Image	col	full	24	25 JUN 1869	Agra, Bengal, India (Lt. Col. Kent)	3d.,6d.x3	1s9d	A01(Z1)	1/9d.rate	Surtees,Postiljonen 22/3/96, Atmore
Image	col	full		25 AUG 1869	Agra, Bengal. (Lt. Col. Kent)	2d, 3d, 1/	1s5d	A42		Brassler
Image	col	full		24 SEP 1869	Agra, Bengal. (Lt. Col. Kent)	3d x 2, 6d x2	1s5d	A42		Brassler
Image	col	full	25	24 OCT 1869	Agra, Bengal, India (Lt. Col. Kent)	3d.,6dx3	1s9d	A42		Surtees, RL 13/6/91, Ken Watson, Hemmings
	none			9 OCT 1870	Portsmouth (Lt. Col. Kent)	6d x2	1s	A01 duplex		MH
Image	b/w	part		24 NOV 1870	Portsmouth, UK (Lt. Col. Kent)	5dx2	1s			
	none			9 DEC 1870	England (Lt. Col. Kent)	6d x2		A42		Hooton Mitchell Lot 89
Image	col	full		8 FEB 1871	Portsmouth, UK (Lt. Col. Kent)	6dx2	1s	A42		Soler y Llach 11/2007

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Image	col b/w	Full/ Part	DH Ref	Date	Destination	Adhesives	Rate	Pmk	Comments	Provenance
Image	b/w	full		10 MAR 1871	Portsmouth, UK (Lt. Col. Kent)	6dx2	1s	A42		Stanton
	none			9 MAY 1871	England to (Lt. Col. Kent)	4d x3	1s	Kingston		Hooton Mitchell Lot 59
Image	b/w	full		8 JUN 1871	Portsmouth, UK (Lt. Col. Kent)	4dx3	1s			
Image	col	full		24 JUL 1871	Portsmouth, UK (Lt. Col. Kent)	4dx3	1s	A42		
Image	b/w	full		8 AUG 1871	Portsmouth, UK (Lt. Col. Kent)	1s	1s	A42		Hooton Mitchell Lot 89
Image	b/w	full		9 DEC 1871	Portsmouth, UK (Lt. Col. Kent)	6dx2	1s	A42		
Image	b/w	full		24 FEB 1872	Portland, UK (Lt. Col. Kent)	6dx2	1s	A42		
Image	b/w	full		24 MAY 1872	Portland, UK (Lt. Col. Kent)	3dx4	1a	A42		

Our thanks to Michael Hamilton for supplying his information for this inventory.

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Appendix

Web References

1840	Henry Kent Magistrate 1840 JAMAICA ALMANAC, CIVIL LIST, COUNTY OF SURREY, CITY AND PARISH OF KINGSTON	http://jamaicanfamilysearch.com/Samples/1840civl.htm
1862 June 23	Leave of absence granted to Captain Henry Kent, stipendiary magistrate.	http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/displaycataloguedetails.aspx?CATLN=7&CATID=-4398197&FullDetails=True&j=1&Gsm=2008-08-08