

French Postcards: Postcards from France WWI.pdf

These notes accompany a pdf file with images of each of the postcards referred to below.

Eight postcards with fabric decoration are thought to have been sent by Robert Gaskell Woods to his wife, Sabina (7), and daughter, Winifred (1 – “to my little daughter”) while serving in the British Army, including during the WW I. They carry a variety of woven motifs, some of them military in nature: ‘Royal Engineers’ and flags of the allied nations.

The postcards were stored in a registered postal envelope postmarked Dec 1955 sent to Mrs Woods, 49 Ashburnham Mansions, (Chelsea, London,) SW10. The letter was from Miss B McEniry, 70A Aldenham Rd, Watford, Herts. This must be Bertha Ruth, the daughter of Bertha Adams and Henry McEniry, who appears to be still unmarried at the age of 36.

The envelope need not have anything at all to do with the postcards themselves.

Four postcards, one dated 1915, were sent to: 43 Second Ave, Bolton, the address of Robert, Sabina and Winifred from 1912. Robert and Sabina were married on 11 Mar 1911. Winifred was born 20 Jul 1912. On Winifred’s birth certificate Robert is described as ‘Tramcar driver’, but on the April 1911 census, at 28, he is living with his uncle Richard Woods in Bolton and is described as ‘Soldier Corporal’. Had he done a stint in the army and then left around the time he married? He could then have been recalled, volunteered or been conscripted at the outset of the war and stayed on (in France?) until at least 1915. (Flory Woods was born 10 Jun 1914, Barbara 3 Mar 1919.)

Another 2, including that sent to Winifred, were sent to 27 Sutton Rd, Watford. This was the address of the Sabina’s family (the Adams and Chowns). Presumably, Sabina and Winifred are staying with the family for an extended time; otherwise the cards would have been address to Bolton.

The remaining 2 are unaddressed.