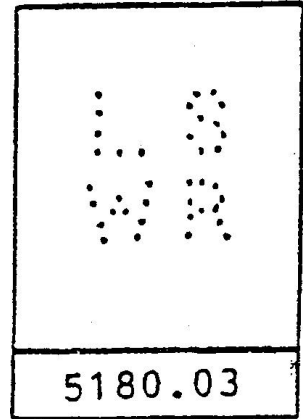
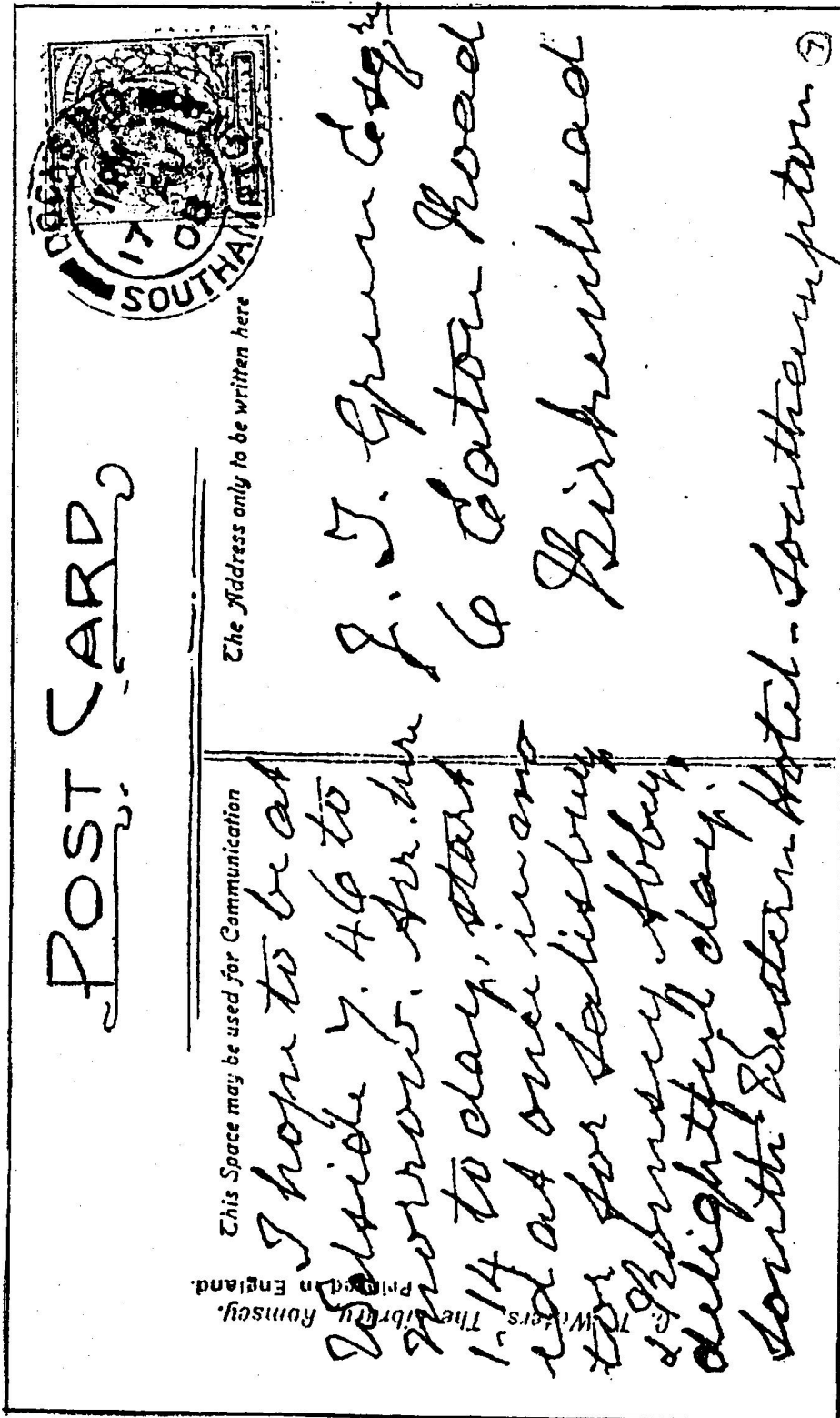


THE SOUTH WESTERN HOTEL, SOUTHAMPTON

By John Button

At one time it was common for hotels to provide their guests with writing paper and envelopes; many even sold postcards. So does this postcard represent an official use of perfin L5180.03 - LS/WR?



The Act of 1864 permitted the London and South Western Railway to lease part of the land at the Terminus Station, Southampton to the Southampton Imperial Hotel Company for a hotel which was constructed by 1865. This was not a success as the Southampton Times records, in the 17th October 1868 edition, that a sale of furniture from the hotel was to be held in London as it had been out of use for some time.

In December 1882 the hotel was purchased by the LSWR and then leased to a Mr E H Rand but when the lease expired in 1899 the Company took over direct control.

During the peak years between 1900-1940 the red coated porters would meet the boat trains which used the port of Southampton. In 1940 the hotel was requisitioned by the navy and was named HMS Shrapnel. This lasted until 1953 since when it has been used as commercial office accomodation.

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