

## Chapter 17 - Return to Sender - 01 49 47



DVD capture



Contributed photo

**DVD Time Code = 01 49 47**

**Location: Fort Macleod, AB, Java Shop / Greyhound Station, 2302 2nd Avenue**

**GPS: 49d 43m 29.64s -113d 24m 30.66s**

**Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)**

**Site Name: Bus Café**

### **Travel Directions:**

Navigation in Fort Macleod is made interesting by the fact that most streets have at least two names. Nonetheless, the town is small enough so that you are never lost. The Java Shop / Greyhound Bus Station is located at 2302 2nd Avenue (Haulton Ave.) near the intersection of 23rd Street (Chief Red Crow Boulevard). See map of [Fort Macleod](#).

See also:

[http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit\\_map.pdf](http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit_map.pdf)

### **Remarks:**

Sadly, the days when Brokeback pilgrims could enjoy coffee and apple pie at the [Java Shop](#) are now gone. This restaurant, located in the town's Greyhound bus station, served locals and weary travelers for decades before economic pressures finally forced its closure.

Judy Thomas, a Java Shop waitress for more than 20 years and something of a classic in her own right, often told customers, "Every week we get another one in here, 'Is this the same pie Heath Ledger ate?' they always ask. And I go right ahead and tell them, 'It sure is. We been keepin' it for years just waitin' for you to come in and finish it.'" See:

<http://www.fortmacleod.com/>

### **Quotation:**

"Hey, Ennis del Mar. Where you been?"

### **Pictures of surrounding area:**



Revised 28 May 2015

## Chapter 17 - Return to Sender - 01 49 58



DVD capture



Contributed photo

**DVD Time Code = 01 49 58**

**Location: Fort Macleod, AB, Java Shop / Greyhound Station, 2302 2nd Avenue**

**GPS: 49d 43m 29.64s -113d 24m 30.66s**

**Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)**

**Site Name: Bus Café**

### **Travel Directions:**

Navigation in Fort Macleod is made interesting by the fact that most streets have at least two names. Nonetheless, the town is small enough so that you are never lost. The Java Shop / Greyhound Bus Station is located at 2302 2nd Avenue (Haulton Ave.) near the intersection of 23rd Street (Chief Red Crow Boulevard). See map of [Fort Macleod](#).

See also:

[http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit\\_map.pdf](http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit_map.pdf)

### **Remarks:**

“Enjoy life, eat out more often,” was the motto of Fort Macleod’s iconic Java Shop. Although Cassie and Ennis did not find much enjoyment here, the Brokeback prop team did get a break at this place. Very little needed to change to turn it back 25 years. The counter candy rack, tables, and chairs used in this scene were all authentic.

Darryl Solly, locations manager for the film, recalls Ang Lee’s initial reaction to the Java Shop. “When we [first] walked in ... we knew this was going to be our diner. Where we’d encounter potential problems, Ang’s reaction was, “Don’t worry about it, this is going to be it; it’s perfect.” He walked around, loved the whole thing - the cafeteria line, everything is stainless steel, you know - fantastic.” Sadly, economic pressures forced the [Java Shop](#) to close in February 2008. See:

<http://www.fortmacleod.com/>

### **Quotation:**

“Yeah, Carl’s nice. He even talks.”

### **Pictures of surrounding area:**



Revised 05 March 2010



### Chapter 17 - Return to Sender - 01 51 50



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 51 50

Location: Rockyford, AB, Main Street at 1st Avenue

GPS: 51d 14m 0.78s -113d 8m 28.32s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Post Office

**Travel Directions:**

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 21 north to Township Road 263. Turn right (east) on 263. Rockyford is at the intersection of 263 and Range Road 233. The Riverton Post Office building is on Main Street at 1st Avenue. See:

<http://www.FindingBrokeback.com/Rockyford/r05.htm>

**Remarks:**

It was here, on simple postcards, that Ennis wrote “You bet” and later read the word “DECEASED.” Though the neighboring brick structure has been demolished, the Riverton Post Office stands and reminds us of the power small words have to change lives.

Look over your shoulder and see JT’s Bar, and to the left of it the exterior of the Childress Dance Hall. And by all means don’t leave town without seeing the Electra and Childress Rodeo Grounds. They are two blocks away.

**Pictures of surrounding area:**



For more pictures taken at this location see DVD Chapter 11, 01 01 34, 01 01 52, Chapter 15, 01 35 37, 01 35 48.

## Chapter 17 - Return to Sender - 01 51 55



DVD capture



Contributed photo

**DVD Time Code = 01 51 55**

**Location: Rockyford, AB, Main Street at 1st Avenue**

**GPS: 51d 14m 0.78s -113d 8m 28.32s**

**Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)**

**Site Name: Phone Booth**

### Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 21 north to Township Road 263. Turn right (east) on 263. Rockyford is at the intersection of 263 and Range Road 233. The Phone Booth site is adjacent to "JT's Bar," now "The Pub on Main" (previously Dun Rovens Pub), on Main Street at 1st Avenue, opposite the Riverton Post Office building. See:

<http://www.FindingBrokeback.com/Rockyford/r05.htm>

### Remarks:

*Ecce Homo.* Within a mere half hour of film time, Ennis del Mar suffers Alma's "Jack Nasty" blow, reads the fateful word "DECEASED," and learns about "some ranch neighbor a his from down in Texas." Pain, pain, and more pain.

### Quotation:

"Deceased."

### Pictures of surrounding area:





**For more pictures taken at this location see  
DVD Chapter 11, [01 01 34](#), [01 01 52](#), Chapter 15, [01 35 37](#), [01 35 48](#).**

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## Chapter 17 - Return to Sender - 01 52 06



DVD capture



Contributed photo

**DVD Time Code = 01 52 06**

**Location: Rockyford, AB, Main Street at 1st Avenue**

**GPS: 51d 14m 0.78s -113d 8m 28.32s**

**Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)**

**Site Name: Phone Booth**

### **Travel Directions:**

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 21 north to Township Road 263. Turn right (east) on 263. Rockyford is at the intersection of 263 and Range Road 233. The Phone Booth site is adjacent to "JT's Bar," now "The Pub on Main" (previously Dun Rovens Pub), on Main Street at 1st Avenue, opposite the Riverton Post Office building. See:

<http://www.FindingBrokeback.com/Rockyford/r05.htm>

### **Remarks:**

The prop phone booth has a story. On the eve of the final Rockyford shooting day, the set crew began looking for the phone booth. It was nowhere to be found. Realizing that they had forgotten to BRING the phone booth, location manager Darryl Solly drove through the night to Calgary, found the phone booth in a warehouse there, strapped it in a truck and sped back to Rockyford, praying that it would not fall out. The phone booth made it, along with an exhausted Solly, in time for the morning's shoot.

From the phone booth spot one can see the Riverton Post Office where Ennis was to first experience joy, and later grief, as well as the exterior of the Childress Dance Hall. See:

<http://www.FindingBrokeback.com/Rockyford/>

Jack and Lureen's parking spot, as well as the Childress and Electra Rodeo Grounds, are two blocks away.

### **Quotation:**

"No ma'am, we was herdin' sheep on Brokeback one summer, back in '63."

### **Pictures of surrounding area:**





**For more pictures taken at this location see  
DVD Chapter 11, [01 01 34](#), [01 01 52](#), Chapter 15, [01 35 37](#), [01 35 48](#).**

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## Chapter 17 - Return to Sender - 01 53 13



DVD capture



Contributed photo

**DVD Time Code = 01 53 13**

**Location: Range Road 283, near Conrich, AB**

**GPS: 51d 6m 20.46s -113d 50m 31.98s**

**Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)**

**Site Name: Jack's Murder**

### **Travel Directions:**

Calgary's McKnight Boulevard NE, eastbound, becomes 48th Avenue NE and, finally, Township Road 250. The suburb of Conrich is at the intersection of Township Road 250 and Range Road 284. (There is a Gas Plus station at this corner.) Continue east on Township Road 250 1.6 km to Range Road 283 (also known as "Rainbow Road"), turn left on Range Road 283, go 1 km toward the rail tracks but do not cross them. The site is to the left.

### **Remarks:**

Just as there is a great amount of confusion as to how Jack died, there is more than a little bit of misinformation out there about where he died. We chased many false leads before finding this site. Ponder the awful power of fear and hatred as you contemplate this very sad spot.

After tirelessly searching BBM shooting locations for a week, Canadian philanthropist and *Brokeback* truck owner Rob Freeman (see: [www.thebrokebacktruck.ca](http://www.thebrokebacktruck.ca) for information) noted that Earl's life ended in "Dorothy," while Jack met his fate on "Rainbow Road." Coincidence, Judy?

One visitor to this solemn location writes, "May the hatred, intolerance and ignorance represented here be banished from the heart and consciousness of humankind, overcome by the higher experiences of love, compassion and understanding."

### **Important:**

Range Road 283 is in very poor condition. Depending upon your vehicle, it may be best to park and walk the short distance (about 300 m or 1,000') to the tracks.

### **Quotation:**

"Terrible thing, he was only 39 years old."

### **Pictures of surrounding area:**



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