

Australian Journal of Philately

(Incorporating: The Date Stamp and Australian Journal of Postal History)

No. 131 March 2015



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Meetings: The Australian Philatelic Society meets bimonthly on the third Monday of (February, April, June, August, October, December), at 7.45 pm at the RSL Canterbury Memorial Homes, 152 Canterbury Rd, Canterbury, Melway Ref: page 46 C 10/11. Visitors welcome.

Subscription. The annual subscription: In Australia: \$A25.00 (Australian Journal of Philately by surface); Asia/Pacific - including New Zealand: **\$A25.00 (2 mail outs), \$A 35.00 (4 mail outs)**, (airmail*); ROW: USA, Canada, Europe etc: **\$A28.00 (2 mail outs), \$A 41.00 (4 mail outs)**, (airmail*). Society members receive four copies of The Australian Journal of Philately each year. (* airmail is now the only AP option)

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Advertising in the Journal:

Half Page \$A30.00

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Full Page \$A50.00

Full Page Colour \$A100.00

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Date	2015 Programme	Display
20 April 2015	Belgium Centenary Issue (1949)	Michael Barden
	PNG Date Stamps	Simon Alsop
15 June 2015	Ireland, 1849 –1920	Michael Lee
17 August 2015	AGM	Members—Work in Progress

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<i>Michael Barden</i>	
Front cover:	
<i>From Nina Dowden</i>	
A registered cover postmarked Woodside Camp 19 AU 53.	
Woodside Barracks is located on approximately 170 hectares of land, 25 kilometres east of Adelaide in the Adelaide Hills region.	
The base was originally known as Woodside Camp and was used for the training of light horse and infantry.	
The base was expanded during World War 2 to accommodate up to four infantry battalions, and was converted into a refugee camp in 1949 to house up to 3,000 people.	
Woodside Barracks is currently home to the 16 th Air Land Regiment.	



Editorial

Tony Lyon

Welcome to another issue of the journal. We have another interesting lot of articles for you. Please supply feedback if you find that you have information that may correct something written or can supply additional information. We certainly rely upon our member's knowledge.

Ian Cutter is a valuable contributor with many one and two page items of interest. These are invaluable and I would encourage others to think about supplying these type of articles, items of interest, or responses to questions. Ian has two questions he would seek answers for so get your thinking caps on.

Articles do not need to be ready for direct insertion in the journal. They can be edited. All that is required is the illustrations and some text.

This of course brings me to the next request. We need articles for future issues. I currently have an article pending from Dr John Courtis entitled **Early Non-Post Office Wrappers of Victoria: Colonial History Insights**. This will appear in the June issue.

Don't forget the April member's meeting. Michael Barden will display **Belgium Centenary Issue (1949)**, and we are also privileged to have a display of **PNG Date Stamps** from Simon Alsop. Simon is featured in the article on page 23 **Where did we come from?** This promises to be a good night of viewing.

Thanks again to George Vearing for his compilation of Hand Held Date Stamps. This column is one of the key source for modern postmarks.

Ciao for now.

Privacy Statement

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2. inform members about the Society's activities;
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From the President

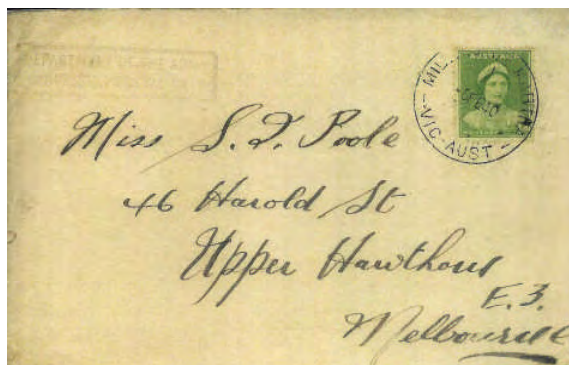
This month I have only to say a belated Happy New Year to members, so I will follow with a story from the Second World War.

In about 1998 I bought a box of envelopes, all addressed to Miss Shirley Poole of 46 Harold Street, Upper Hawthorn, Victoria. The envelopes came with all their contents, mainly letters from an airman, John Fraser Swain.

Harold Street has become a by-pass route around the busy Camberwell shopping area, carrying traffic between Burke and Camberwell Roads. Many houses were knocked down for parking, but Shirley's house was still there in 1999, but boarded up. Over fifty years before, the postman delivered the letters to her.

Two weeks after the declaration of war John Swain enlisted at Melbourne on 18 September 1939, at the age of 19 years and 8 months. He was Private Swain, C Company, 5th Battalion, located at the Portsea camp. On Monday 9 October he wrote the first letter to Shirley.

His arrival at Portsea was marked by coastal squalls and endless meals of stew. By January 1940 John, known as Jock, had moved to Mount Martha camp which held about 3000 men. Portsea is at the end of the Mornington Peninsula and Mount Martha is about 40km away, towards Melbourne, looking out on Port Phillip Bay.



Concessional postal rate from Mount Martha Camp
6 Feb 1940

John's Mount Martha letters to Shirley concluded with a telegram dated 16 March 1940 saying "Leave tomorrow Puddles / usual procedure ok / love Scotty". The rest of 1940 is a mystery, but in February 1941 Jock is on a ship to Vancouver, on his way to air pilot training at Saskatoon. Numerous Trans-Pacific air and surface letters followed, and John was commissioned as a Pilot Officer, RAAF, in June. He crossed from Halifax, Canada to England in July, from where another batch of letters came.

RECEIVED TELEGRAM		The first line of this telegram contains the following particulars in the order named.	
Office of Origin.	Words.	Time Lodged.	No.
3. Military Camp MtMartha	16	7-56pm	5th
Remarks.	To Miss Shirley Poole 46 Harold St Upper Hawthorn		
<p>for morning delivery</p> <p>This message has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.</p> <p>The time received at this office is shown at the end of the message.</p> <p>The date stamp indicates the date both of lodgment and of transmission.</p> <p>Spoken utterance shown after the particulars of time lodged.</p>			
<p>LEAVE TOMORROW PUDDLES USUAL PROCEDURE OK LOVE</p> <p>SCOTTY</p> <p>9-13a 11</p>			

Telegram 16 March 1940



Franked 2d NZ Stamp, cancelled Mail
Dispatch Branch / Trans-Pacific ? / Feb 17
1941 / Vancouver, B.C. Additional Paquetbot
machine cancel Feb 16 1941.

Then silence between October 1941 and April 1942 when an Active Service letter arrived from West Africa, where Pilot Officer Swain RAAF was with 200 Squadron RAF. The West Africa correspondence lasted until December, and by March 1943 John was back in Australia with a DFC, a mo and a dose of malaria.

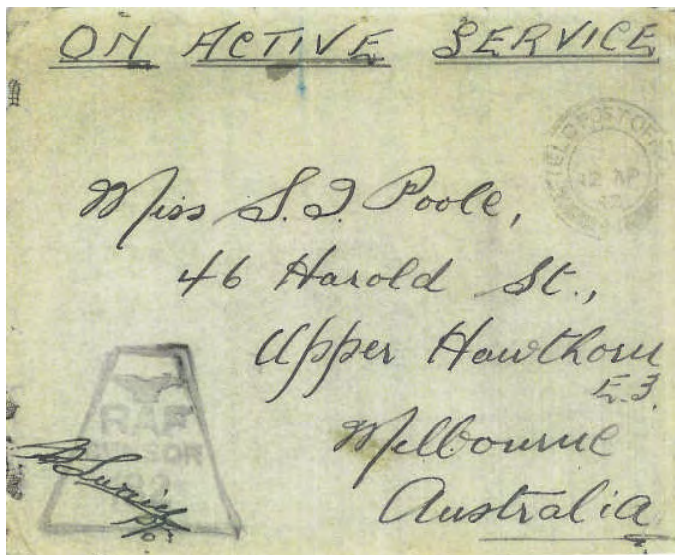


Trans-Pacific letter April 10 1941, correctly franked 70 cents, from Saskatoon, Canada.



Trans-Pacific / USA / Pacific airmail, England to Australia, 20 Aug 1941. Correctly franked 4 shillings 6 pence.

John Swain was Shirley's Swain, but there is no surviving correspondence from him after West Africa. Shirley left nothing to explain her relationship with John, but she kept all the letters; and she also kept letters from other enlisted men who paid her some attention. One of these was Corporal John Dickson.



Post Free from Field Post Office 41, West Africa, 12 April 1942

Corporal Dickson knew John, and served overseas in New Guinea. He was in Lae in December 1945 when he resumed writing to Shirley after a long break in correspondence. He regretted the break, but explained that things between them had come to a stage that "there wasn't any future in it". He then mentioned that it had been a "tragic thing about Jock, especially as the whole thing was so futile eventually... He was certainly a changed man when he returned but it was aggravated by your refusal".

John had taken his own life on 7 October, and Shirley had borne him a child. His letters had sometimes betrayed tenseness and awkwardness, but there was little doubt about his love for Shirley. What had John seen or experienced in the war, and how did

circumstances overpower him? It's an unanswered war mystery, with a reminder that the war front and the home front both endured their tragedies.

Advanced Notice

At the 19 October 2015 members meeting John Young will display his Trans-Pacific Airmails 1930's – 1940's. Those who have viewed John's other displays of airmails would highly recommend that you don't miss this members meeting.

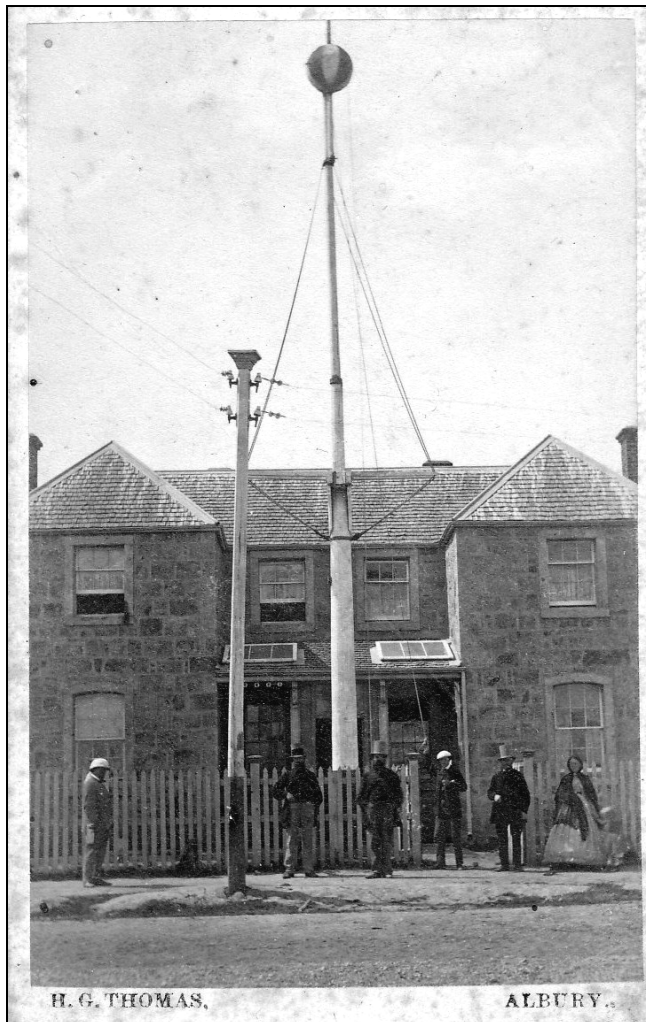
Our member's meetings are well worth the effort to attend. They are informal and concentrate on the displays and members enjoying time to swap ideas and request information. The meeting closes with a light supper. There is also usually a small sale by tender.

The Time Ball at the Albury Telegraph Office

Michael Barden

Last year, erstwhile APS member, John Lancaster, was trolling through Abracadabra's postcards looking for something to add to his research into Australian Colonial Customs buildings. Lo and behold, he was handed a *carte de visite* size image of a time ball tower before a double fronted building. In front, stood six people in c.1850s dress. The card was labelled Albury. The ears pricked up and the eyes opened wider. What have we here?

Time ball towers were usually associated with custom's buildings as at Williamstown (Vic), Semaphore (SA) and Port Macquarie (NSW), the purpose of which was to enable ships' officers to set their chronometers or the local citizenry the checking of clocks and pocket watches. The Albury and District Historical Society (ADHS) related that their time ball tower had nothing to do with a customs building, but rather the telegraph office there, which functioned for both Victoria and NSW. Thus it helped keep the two states in sync and their residents to some semblance of time.



Henry G Thomas first advertised his profession in the *Border Post* Wed. November 22nd 1865, announcing he has opened his photographic rooms. It means this photograph is likely to be 1866 or 1867. The telegraph office consisted of a semi detached building, one half for the NSW staff and the other for the Victorian. The time ball tower was placed on the dividing line between them with the entrance door centrally placed behind it.

Joe Wooding of the ADHS supplied the information below concerning the time ball and tower. He gleaned the information to provide Albury's first time standard from the **Border Post** and **Albury Banner**.

November 29th 1856. A Town Clock - Now as we have no recognized authority in Albury in matters of time, we consider the example of the people of Beechworth might be most advantageously followed by our fellow citizens. As the discrepancies between the watches and clocks of the Albury folks are very great, a sundial would form a great acquisition to the town, and might perhaps be found more useful – because more reliable, than a clock.

February 19th 1859. One of the most urgent wants of our town and one which can be most easily supplied, is the necessity for establishing some public record of the 'time of day'. The variation in the different ideas of time is at least half an hour and hence it is customary at every public meeting or private appointment in Albury, to give half an hour's grace. The waste of time thus produced is considerable, and the inconvenience caused in cases where punctuality is necessary, such as the sitting of courts &c. is most serious. Our neighbors in Beechworth purchased a town clock long ago, the denizens of the little town of Gundagai have provided themselves with a time gun, and it is high time the Alburyites took a similar step. A clock is liable to get out of order; a sun-dial is a reliable but a silent monitor. We prefer a time gun, if it can be fired by the electric telegraph, punctually at one o'clock a gun can be heard all over the town, and people hearing the discharge, would be

naturally inclined to compare their clocks with the time thus heralded. A sufficient sum to purchase a gun could be raised amongst our men of business in half an hour; our guinea is ready whenever it may be called for.

February 9th 1861. Town Clock - *The town clock is much required. Should not the Council see to this? They hold the public funds, and it would save a great waste of their own valuable time, as well as that of the ratepayers, if they would vote from 50 to 100 pounds for a good clock.*

April 6th 1861. Time Ball – *A public subscription has been opened for the construction of Albury's time ball, which will be placed at the corner of the Telegraph Office.*

May 1st 1861. Time Ball – *The wood for erecting the flagstaff of the time ball has been procured and Mr Owen has already commenced his construction.*

July 10th 1861. The Albury Time Ball – *That great log of rough Howlong pine that might have been seen lying in front of the new Telegraph Office for some time past, having not been polished after the similitude of a main mast, was, on Saturday last, hoisted into its perpendicular resting place. The work of putting it in position was conducted by the contractor, Mr Robert Owen, who was assisted in his task by the combined intelligence of a lot of townsfolk who were present to witness the operation. Our Police Magistrate, too, had a finger in the pie, and seemed to enjoy what was going on, giving orders with the greatest sang froid, and with the air of one accustomed to quarter-deck life, sayings and doings. A few days, we believe, will see the affair complete in all its arrangements, and we hope it will prove a complete success in regulating the time of this town, and do away with that perfect Babel of timepieces which has reigned in Albury for so long a time. We hope our friends the jewelers will lose nothing by this addition to our town improvements.*

July 17th 1861. Time Ball – *This affair is now properly fixed in front of the new Albury Telegraph Office and Mr Kraegen expects to commence dropping the ball precisely at 1 o'clock before the end of the present week.*

(Dr Andrews' History of Albury' informs us that the Council was to provide £20 for the installation but only provided £10 with Mr Kraegen, then telegraphist, having to find the balance.)

July 20th 1861. Time Ball – *This affair is now in working order. It dropped on Thursday for the first time, and will continue to do so now regularly every day. It will be hoisted at five minutes before one, and fall precisely at that hour. The ball is between three and four feet in diameter, formed of canvas stretched on a wooden frame, and painted in alternate stripes of black and white. It is a conspicuous object, and can be seen from all parts of the town, except where some specially (sic) tall buildings obstruct the view.*

July 20th 1861. Time Ball – *Un fait accompli. A good many persons were witness (watches in hand) of its first operation last Thursday and may be considered an ornament to the town.*

January 25th 1864. *The time ball at the Albury Telegraph Office is now once more in working order, thanks to the recent visit of Mr Cracknell, and is lowered, as formerly, precisely at 1 o'clock.*

The Telegraph Office in 1861 was located on the corner of Dean & Kiewa Streets, where the Post Office now stands. A new Telegraph Office was built east of the Court House, the foundation stone for which was laid by Mr Kraegen on 31st October 1867.

November 7th 1868. *A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday for the purpose of taking some action to have the Telegraph Time Ball erected in a more conspicuous position. From statements made at the meeting, it appeared that the Time Ball had been erected by private subscription, the government undertaking to have the apparatus in order and to work it. It was proposed to increase the height of the spar by another 10ft. I am having difficulty in verifying the Andrews report that the Council voted £20 and only provided £10 in 1861.*

By 1871 the following report shows the time ball had moved to the new building.

January 4th 1871. Time Ball – *"Time is Made for Slaves". As a remedy for the present confusion of time, we would suggest that the time ball at the rear of the Telegraph Office be raised daily at 1 o'clock pm Albury mean time. Should any difficulty arise from the gear being out of order, or is no ones' business in particular to look after it, a representation in the proper quarter would no doubt, have a beneficial effect.*



This is the site (facing south) of the time ball photo. It has now a post office sign, which means it is a post 1870 photo. The building to the left was the Globe Hotel (1861), which building is still there (below).



A sad footnote. The Death of Mr CW Kraegen – **Border Post, Wednesday January 14th 1872** – *The Late Mr Kraegen (aged 40) was for some years telegraphist for this town. We are informed that the death of Mr Kraegen, who was to be stationed at Alice Springs, arose from thirst. He and 2 others of the operating party, traveling northward, made one stage of 35 miles before they came to water. Another long journey lay before them ere they could reach a fresh supply and on the way, they drank all they had with them. Two of the party felt so much*

exhausted that Mr Kraegen pushed on alone, intending to fill the bags again and come back to meet them. He missed the water however, and did not return. Meanwhile, his companions thirst increased so much that they were obliged to kill a horse and drink its blood. They travelled on and came to the water, but found nothing of their missing comrade. Mr H Boucaut, who was following this advance party, found poor Kraegen dead about 3 miles distant from the water he had been endeavouring to reach.

Albury's first telegraph office opened on 9 April 1858 after Mr John Nichols, landlord of the Rose Hotel, provided a room free of charge for the office. By the end of the year, the Government took over, leasing the office at the Rose Hotel and Mr H Lay was appointed the first master, but left the service shortly after, to be replaced by Mr CWE Kraegen.

My thanks to John Lancaster for providing the initial information with extra notes; also to Joe Wooding for kindly making his original work available electronically, and then twice checking this article before it went to press.

New Zealand Musings—New Zealand at War 1939-45

Tony Lyon

Far East - Dutch East Indies

Cover from an RNZAF Pilot Officer serving at RAF HQ Far East Command Singapore. Posted at Soerobaia, Dutch East Indies 29 July 1941. The route was KNILM to Sydney then sea mail to Auckland. On-forwarded to Oamaru New Zealand. Censored at Soerabaia and sealed with tape and censor mark 41. Postage 15 cents foreign letter rate per 20 grammes.



Singapore



Cover from FPO SP 501 at Singapore dated 25 OC 41 about 2 weeks before war with Japan broke out with the bombing of Pearl Harbour. Censored by a type R8 (Colley & Garrard) censor No 20. Airmail rate 25 cents.

Pacific Region

This next part looks at covers from and to the Pacific area. It had been decided in 1938 that Fiji and Tonga would form a portion of the outer ring of the defence of New Zealand. The decision was ratified by a Pacific Defence Conference early in 1939. New Zealand was to be responsible along the line Tonga-Fiji-New Hebrides. A distinctive Triangular Service Censor cachet was used in this region. Numbered from 1 – 132, numbers 1-7 were allocated but as far as known were not used. A number of the higher numbers have not been reported (Censored in the Pacific, R M Startup).

Plaine des Gaiacs - New Caledonia

202 Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery was part of 28th Heavy A. A. Regiment. They left Wellington on the 5th November 1942 on the US Army Transport *Mau*i destined for New Caledonia arriving at Noumea on the 11 November 1942. In late November 1942, 202 Battery moved to Plaine des Gaiacs.

Sent by Gunner W T Anderson of 202 Heavy A. A. Battery, he enclosed letter is dated 13 Dec 1942 and was received at Auckland 6 JAN 1943. Second Lieut W. P. Archibald, 202 Heavy A/A Battery, was the censor and held No 12. Surface mail was free.

Most of the mail was flown to New Zealand by RNZAF, after October 1943 there was at least a weekly service by RNZAF. Transit of about three weeks suggests by sea.



Stirling - Treasury Island



Field Post Office NZAPO 150 4 was located in the area and served the NZ artillery units. Censor no 12 had been held by 202 Battery, which was one of the batteries of 28th Heavy AA regiment which ceased to exist 7 Oct 1943. It would appear that censor 12 was reallocated to the 23rd Field Company which used NZAPO 150 4.

This was used on Stirling Island, Treasury Group from 4 November 1943 until 15 May 1944. From the 25 May 1944 until about 1.8.44 NZAPO 4 was used at Bouloupari. Sender is Sapper F J Trevelyan of the 23rd Field Company. The censor is Lieutenant N. N. Carnell also of 23rd Field Company. It was sent from the Treasuries. Surface mail free.

New Caledonia—Tontouta

Gunner E. W. Smith served with 203 Battery, 28th Heavy AA Regiment which was located at Tontouta. The censor No 13 has been signed by Lieutenant (later Captain) H. H. Grey.

Field Post Office NZEFAPO 150 No 8 is known used at Tontouta 12.4.1943—19.5.1944. Surface mail free.



New Caledonia—Ile Nou



NZEF NZAPO 150 No 1 cover with triangular censor 25 signed by Lieutenant T C Eady. Eady took command of N section signals attached to 33rd Heavy regiment in February 1943. This unit was located at Ile Nou, New Caledonia during this period.

The sender is Signaller E D Salisbury NZ 71212. There is receiving cancel of Egmont Village 17 MR 1943. Surface mail free.

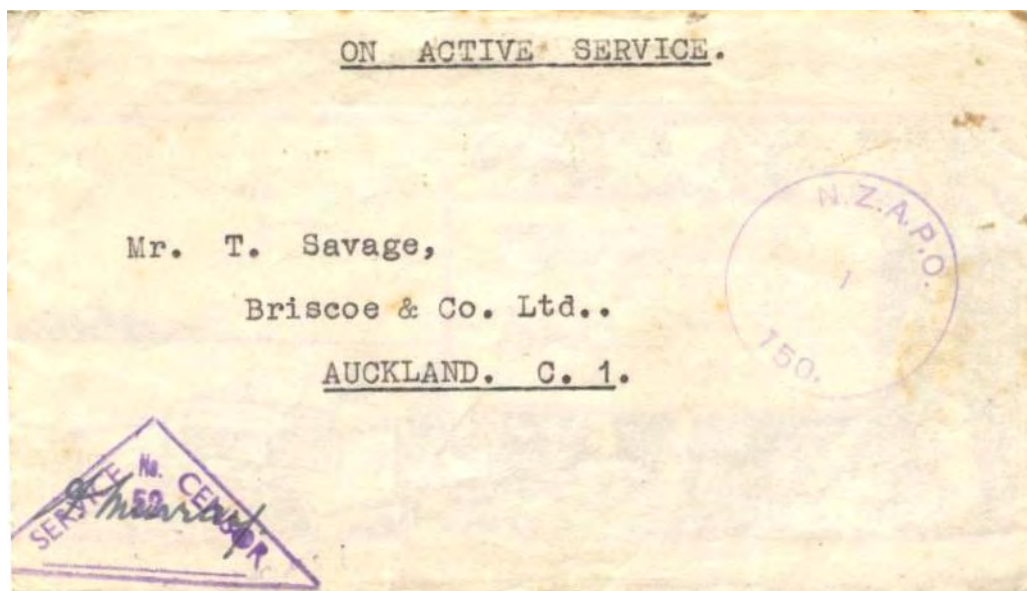
New Caledonia

NZEF FPO cover sent by Corporal R A McDonald (later Lance Sergeant) and censored by triangular censor 34 signed by Captain G M Parkhouse, J section signals officer with 8th Brigade HQ. MacDonald did not serve at 8th Brigade HQ but was a signalman, I would think with J section. Surface mail free.

No examples of 34 recorded *Censored in the Pacific*.



New Caledonia—Bourail



NZAPO 150 1 cover sent by Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Murray 465693 (Murray was CRE Third Division Engineers during the actions which resulted in the capture of Vella Lavella, Treasury Islands and the Green (Nissan) Islands Group. Triangular Censor 52 has been signed by Murray.

The enclosure is a Greeting for Xmas & New Year 1943-44. The location was Bourail from 5.1.43 to about 25.9.43, although this cover would suggest later, possibly November 43. Murray was succeeded as CRE by Lieutenant-Colonel J Brooke-White after the Solomon's campaign.

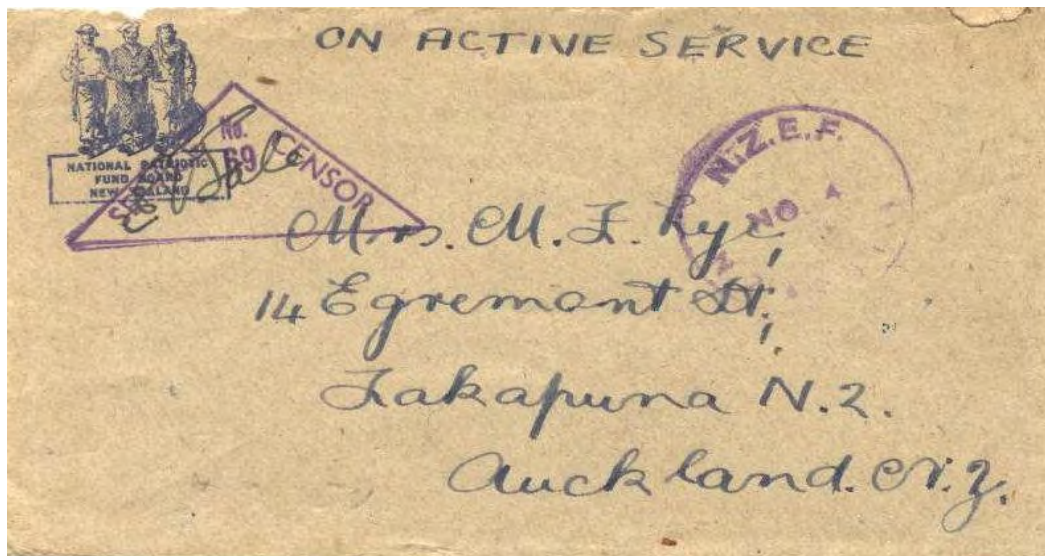
New Caledonia—Bourail

NZEF NZAPO 150 No 1, cover sent by Private S Lye of 29th Battalion and censored by triangular censor 25 signed by E V Bale (not of 29th Battalion).

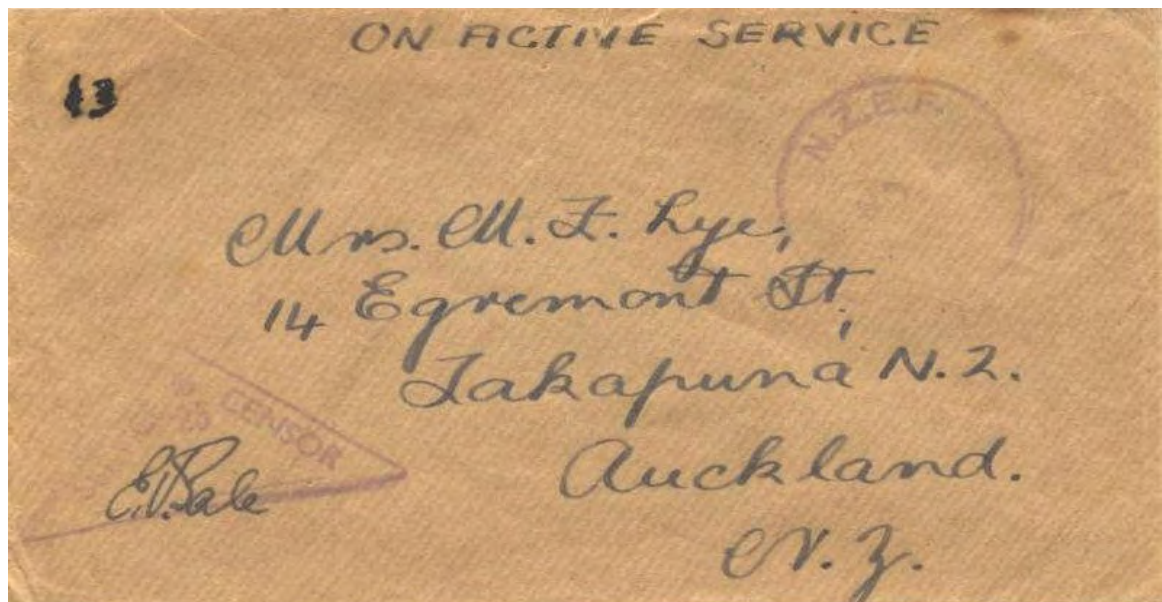
29th Battalion arrived in New Caledonia 3 January 1943 and by the 7th had moved to the Nepoui Valley. C Company moved to Plaine des Gaiacs to guard the airfield there while the Battalion moved to Bouloupari where they remained for 7 months.

One of the duties was port details at the Nouméa docks.

Sent from Bourail the location of the Base Post Office. Covers seen through this office between 5.1.43—25.9.43. Surface mail free.



New Caledonia—Bouloupari

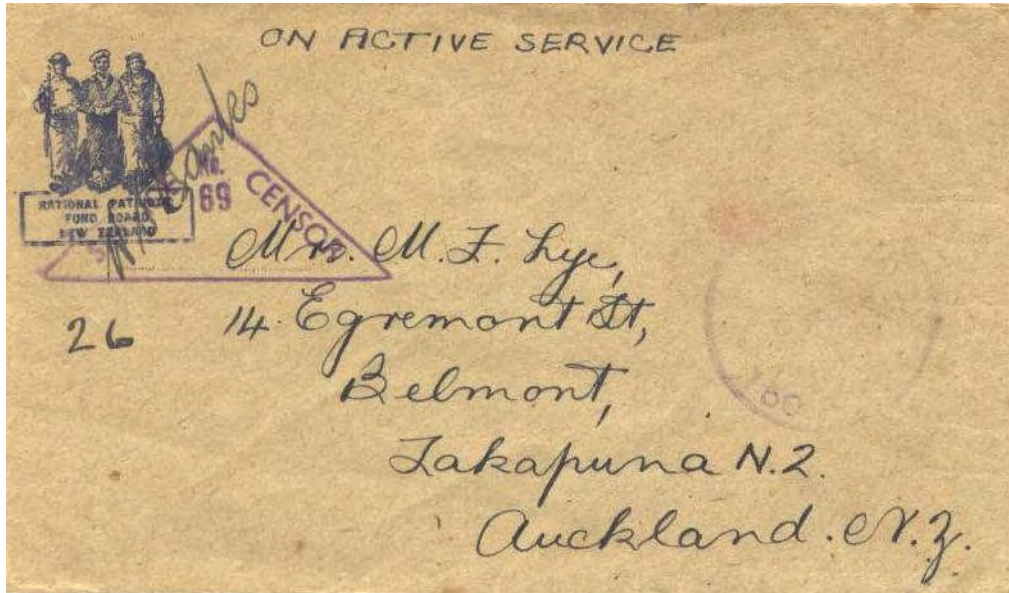


A second cover sent this time through NZEF NZAPO 150 No 4 by Private S Lye of 29th Battalion and censored by triangular censor 69 and signed by E V Bale (not of 29th Battalion). NZEF NZAPO 150 No 4 was located at Bouloupari from 12.1.43—about 20.2.43.

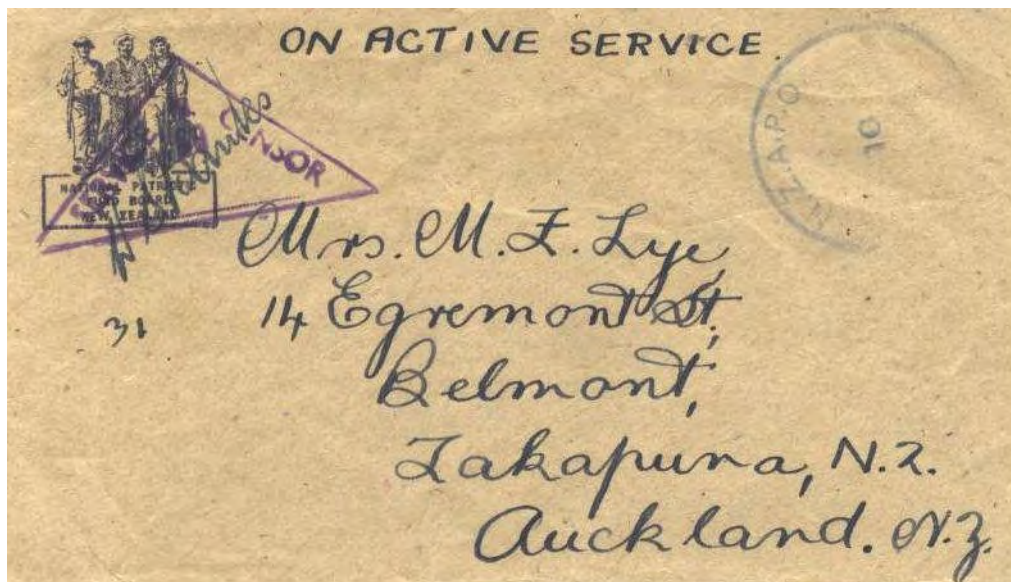
It may have remained there until the 29th left with 8th Brigade for Guadalcanal. Lye or the recipient noted the number of letters sent/received. The previous cover was No. 13 and this cover No. 15. Surface mail free.

New Caledonia—Bouloupari

NZAPO 150 4, cover No. 26 sent by Private S Lye 29 Battalion. Censored by triangular censor 69 and signed by Captain W S Banks an officer serving with 29th Battalion. Startup suggests that this censor marking was not a HQ 3 NZ Division censor as has been assumed (Censored in the Pacific, p21). Surface mail free.



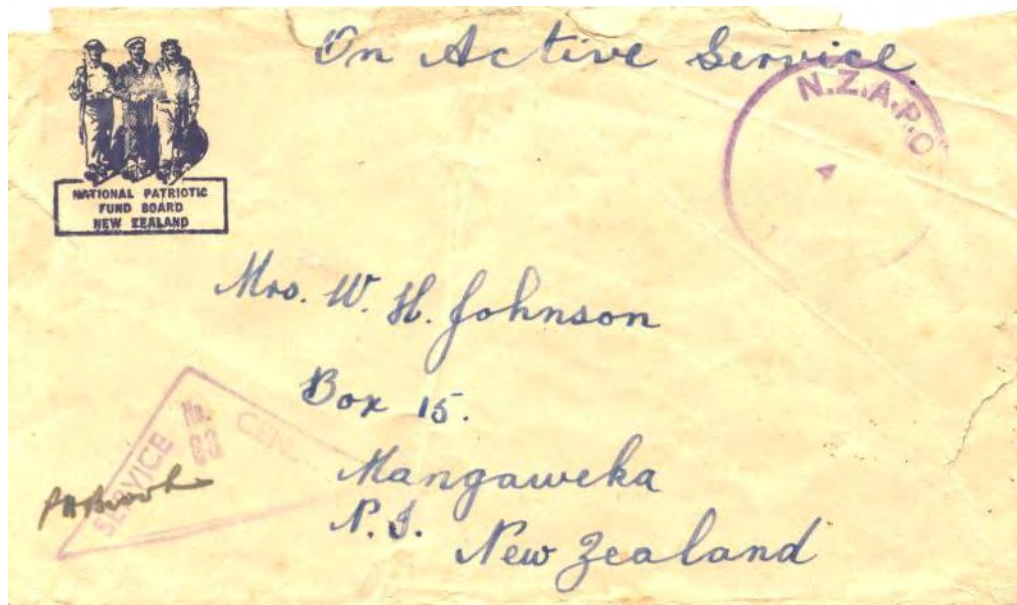
Lunga—Guadacanal



NZAPO 150 10, cover No. 31 sent by Private S Lye. Again censored by triangular censor 69 and signed by Captain W S Banks an officer serving with 29th Battalion. NZAPO 150 10 is known used from Lunga, Guadalcanal from 4.9.43—5.6.44 which was the Advanced Base PO. Surface mail free.

Stirling Island—Treasures

NZAPO 150 4 cover sent by Lance Corporal R D Johnson, 34 Battalion and censored by triangular censor 83 signed by Captain (Later Major) P H Brookes, B Company, 34 Battalion. Surface mail free.



NZAPO 150 4 cover sent by Lance Bombardier H A Bright 517131 (Bright was with 49th Battery of 38th Field Regiment) This cover was also censored by triangular censor 83 signed by Captain R H Burnes of HQ, 34th Battalion. 49th battery was part of 8th Brigade which landed on the Treasury Islands in October 1943 providing artillery support to the infantry units which included 34th Battalion. Surface mail free.

Tonga

Tonga was seen as a strategic island that had to be denied the Japanese. In February 1942, US troops started to arrive to take over the role from what was a small garrison force. This operation was codenamed BLEACHER and was an effort to protect the Island as a strategic advanced air and naval base. They were supplemented by 34 Battalion who arrived there 27 October 1942. Because 34 Battalion (Bn) was needed back with 3rd Division, it was replaced by a Territorial Force (TF), the 6th Battalion Canterbury Regiment which became part of 16 Brigade stationed on Tonga. They arrived there in early April 1943.



NZEF FPO cover with triangular censor 101. It is signed by Capt Derrett, Intelligence Officer with 6 Battalion Canterbury Regiment in command of the intelligence unit on Tonga. Surface mail free.



NZEF FPO cover with triangular censor 105. Signed by Capt Derrett the usual unit censor. Surface mail free.

Tonga

The majority of the mail from the Pacific region was postage free of charge "on active service". A revised regular mail service was arranged from the Pacific region as of 31 May 1943 called the Islands Mail Service. This mail service was from Whenuapai — Norfolk Island — Tontouta — Santo — Nausori — return. The mail for Tonga was flown to Nausori and then flown onwards by US Naval Air Transport services



The majority of covers show the circular rubber N.Z.E.F. Field Post Office cancel. There was no distinguishing number, nor a date, and not all have been positively identified to a particular APO. Above is a cover sent by Capt. Derrett which has been censored with triangular censor 106 and signed by Derrett. Surface mail free.



NZEF FPO cover with triangular censor 106. Signed by another officer. Surface mail free.

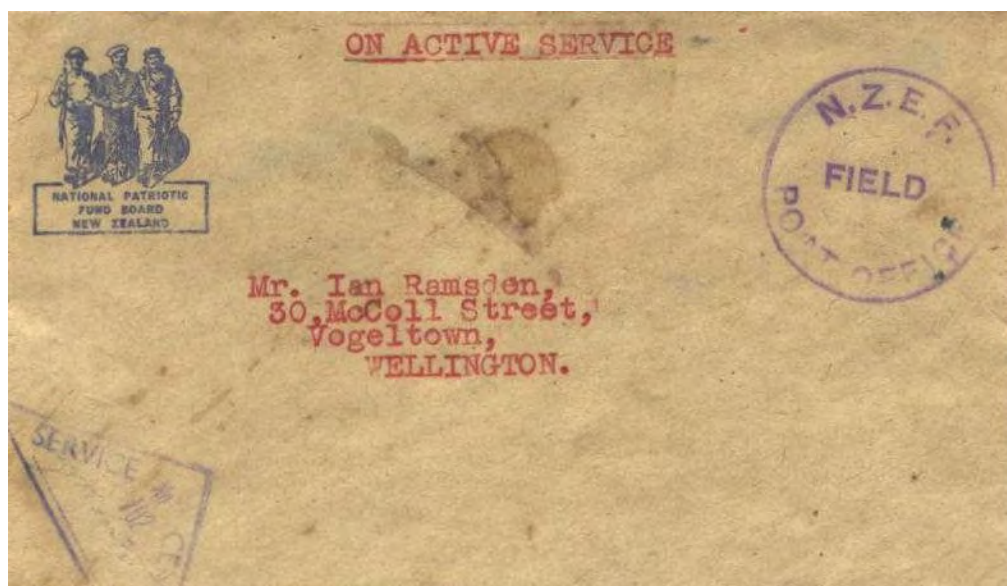
Tonga

Censor 110 which is listed in *Censored in the Pacific* as not recorded was used by Derrett on Tonga. Have sighted a mail tag franked 2 x 2d & 1 x 1/- Silver Jubilee of Queen Salote's accession. The NZEF NZAPO 200 datestamp and censored by triangular censor 110. The censor was Wilson. Scan taken from auction catalogue.



NZEF FPO cover with triangular censor 102. Gunner J P Brandon 391684 returned from the Middle East where he was attached to 14 Battery 12 Field Regiment. He was sent with group C, T Force to No 1 A.T R. (Artillery Training Regiment) (See next cover which has been redirected from Middle East).

Cover dated 11 FEB 1943 sent from MPO KW 4 which at that time was situated at Tripoli, Libya. Censored by Crown over Circle No 1437 (4NZ Armd Brigade) to Gunner J P Brandon at Waiouru Camp dated 1 AP 43. Redirected to Wanganui dated 8 APR 43 and redirected to T Force in Tonga. He was attached to 55th Field Battery. The sender is Private J D Brandon who was with C Troop 25 Battery 4 Field Regiment. Surface mail free.



NZEF FPO cover with triangular censor 102. Sender is LAC W H Newell NZ 426539 who gives his return address as NZAPO 200 which was Tonga. Surface mail free.

Strange Place to Find a Postmark

Ian A Cutter

Strange place to find a postmark (I)

The illustration shows a piece of cloth with the word **President** printed on it in Old English typeface.

It may not reproduce particularly well because the original is wrapped in cellophane, but the wrapping was left in place because it could well have been there for seventy years. I say this because on the back of the piece of cloth was a datestamp, AIRMAIL EXHIBITION / -5OCT37 / MELBOURNE . VIC.

The datestamp was quite legible, but a better example was on an associated cover, which is also illustrated. (The datestamp is enhanced for reproduction, but not embellished.)

Presumably some officials responsible for the event were given badges of status, authenticated by the "backstamp".

The other cover illustrated was obviously printed for use at the exhibition, but was actually postmarked on 30SE37 (which is authenticated by the arrival at Footscray on -1 OC 37). Why the premature use, and why at a Field Post Office, one wonders?

Strange place to find a postmark (II)

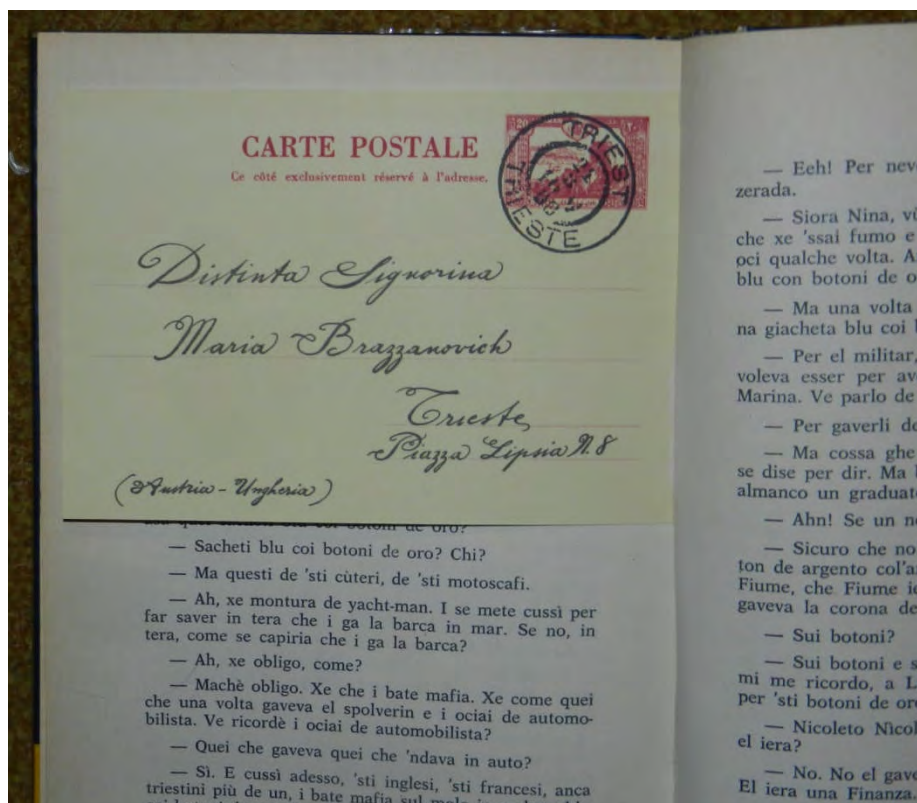
Illustrated is the cover of a book, *La Maldobrie* which looks like an historical work. When first opened it appeared that the last reader had used a nice example of an old



postcard as a bookmark. However, it soon became apparent that this could not be so, because the card was bound into the book. In fact the title page of the book stated "Con 12 documenti postale". These cards appear to be copies of authentic originals as far as the picture goes - for example an image of the S.S. Martha Washington matches that of a known early postcard, as do the stamps and datestamps - but the authenticity of the written messages is unknown. The datestamps are all of K und K MILIT POST (with the only clear locality being POLA) or TRIESTE.

Research revealed the book to be a collection of tales about a fictional location, around the north of the Adriatic, and a fictional time, around the Great War, written by a pair of newspaper columnists.

The postmarks look nice, anyway.



On another matter Ian Cutter has two questions he seeks answers for:

1. The municipalities of Baarle Nassau in the Netherlands and Baarle-Hertog in Belgium are contiguous; like Coolangatta and Tweed Heads to give a local example. Together they form a town of about 10 000 people. Because of the complex shape of the border, the Belgian part is completely surrounded by the Netherlands. [Actually, there are also parts of the Netherlands inside the part of Belgium inside the Netherlands, but that does not matter in this case.]

There would seem to be an interesting story here about the postal arrangements: the effect of mail from one part of the town to another being international, and mail from one part of Belgium to another passing through another country. Does anybody have any information?

2. Volgograd, (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volgograd>) previously Tsaritsyn (1589–1925) and Stalingrad (1925–1961), is a city of one million on the Volga River.

I read that "From February 2013, the city's name has been changed back to "Stalingrad" for six days every year in commemoration of the famous battle". Is there any philatelic outcome from this?

Where Did We Come From?

Ian Cutter

I have been a member of the Postal History Society for longer than I care to remember, but I was not familiar with the actual beginnings of the society.

Conversation with Simon Alsop shed some light on the question, and I thought the matter should be put on record. These are admittedly slight findings, but I would not want to limit the opportunity for anybody to write a proper account of the history of the Society, nor a biographical note on Simon himself for that matter.

Simon did have some relevant experience early on. In year eleven at secondary school he decided that he would like to collect stamps, and he pointed out to the school that there was no school Stamp Club, and was told by his class teacher that the solution was to form one himself, which he did.

Later at Melbourne University he found that again there was no philatelic society, and applied the same solution. (In other words, with the help of the Melbourne University Students Union he created one.) At Melbourne he demonstrated his skill at networking, where his contacts included a cleaner at the Conservatorium of Music who was able to provide a lot of quality exchange sheet material for meetings. Eventually Simon decided to just collect postmarks and arranged for the Money order staff at the Carlton Post Office to save used Money Order envelopes for him – this was around 1966, so those involved are probably now safe from censure. Simon chose Carlton as he realized that many parents would be sending their student children money orders from all over the state, and in fact these covers started off his collection. [Later evidence of this ability to network within Australia Post was his use of internal Post Office contacts to provide a subscription service for tied relief covers.]

Simon was introduced to postmark collecting by Bob Sutton of the Balwyn Philatelic Society. Contemporaries with similar interests included David Wood, John Webster and Dudley Robin.

He and Dudley agreed that it was terrible that there was no society in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne interested in Postal History, so they decided to create one. Simon agreed to find a meeting room and book it for a meeting if Dudley (who wrote for the Australian Stamp Monthly) would publish an invitation for interested parties to attend the meeting in his monthly column; the successful response led to the formation of the Postal History Society as we know it.

Simon chaired the first meeting, which had about 25 attendees. Once the Society was established, Simon and John MacDonnell thought the society needed a magazine, and between them they created one which Simon named 'The Datestamp'. It was produced by cyclostyling, a process invented in 1890. John was an accomplished 'old style' postal historian with an award winning collection of Scandinavian TPOs. He couldn't see the point of promoting current Australian postmarks. Consequently a number of issues of The Datestamp came in two halves, each with its own page numbering system. John produced the first half of the magazine which contained Postal History stories, while Simon produced the second part of the magazine, which was devoted to postmark news, on his Apple Mac I.

The magazine reached to the other side of the world, although meetings were centred on Melbourne. These have been held in several venues, with the structure of the meeting determined to some extent by the available seating.

On Father's Day 2000 Simon suffered a debilitating stroke and was forced to drop out of active participation in the Society's affairs. However, he continues his involvement with postmarks, as is evident from the accompanying photograph.



The photograph shows Simon engaged in transforming his postmarks from an accumulation into a collection.

Hand Held Datestamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

Simon Alsop and his mate John have been travelling around New South Wales , Tasmania and Victoria and most of the datestamps are from their travels. Well done and many thanks to Simon and John.

They have come across quite a few peculiarities in strikes at some of the post offices and the most notable is the spelling of Mowbray Heights (Tasmania) , it is correct on the counter datestamp but the spelling on the Postal Manager is Mobray Heights i.e. no W.

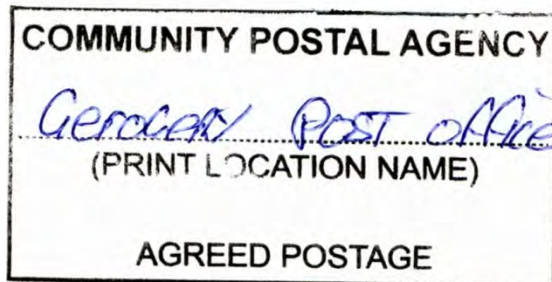
In the N.S.W. section is a datestamp (or is it a type of cachet or postal marking as it has no date) from the Gerogery Post Office and where would it go in a collection? The Berrigan Post Office now has one with a slogan i.e. BETTER IN BERRIGAN across the top half on the datestamp.

Many thanks to Simon Alsop, Richard Peck and John Treacy for their contributions to keep this column going.

N.S.W. :- Earlier datestamps-HENTY(116/24), JUNE (97/27), LOCKHART(116/25), MILLTHORPE (118/24), OAKLANDS (98/22), URANA (116/25)



N.S.W.:- (CONT)



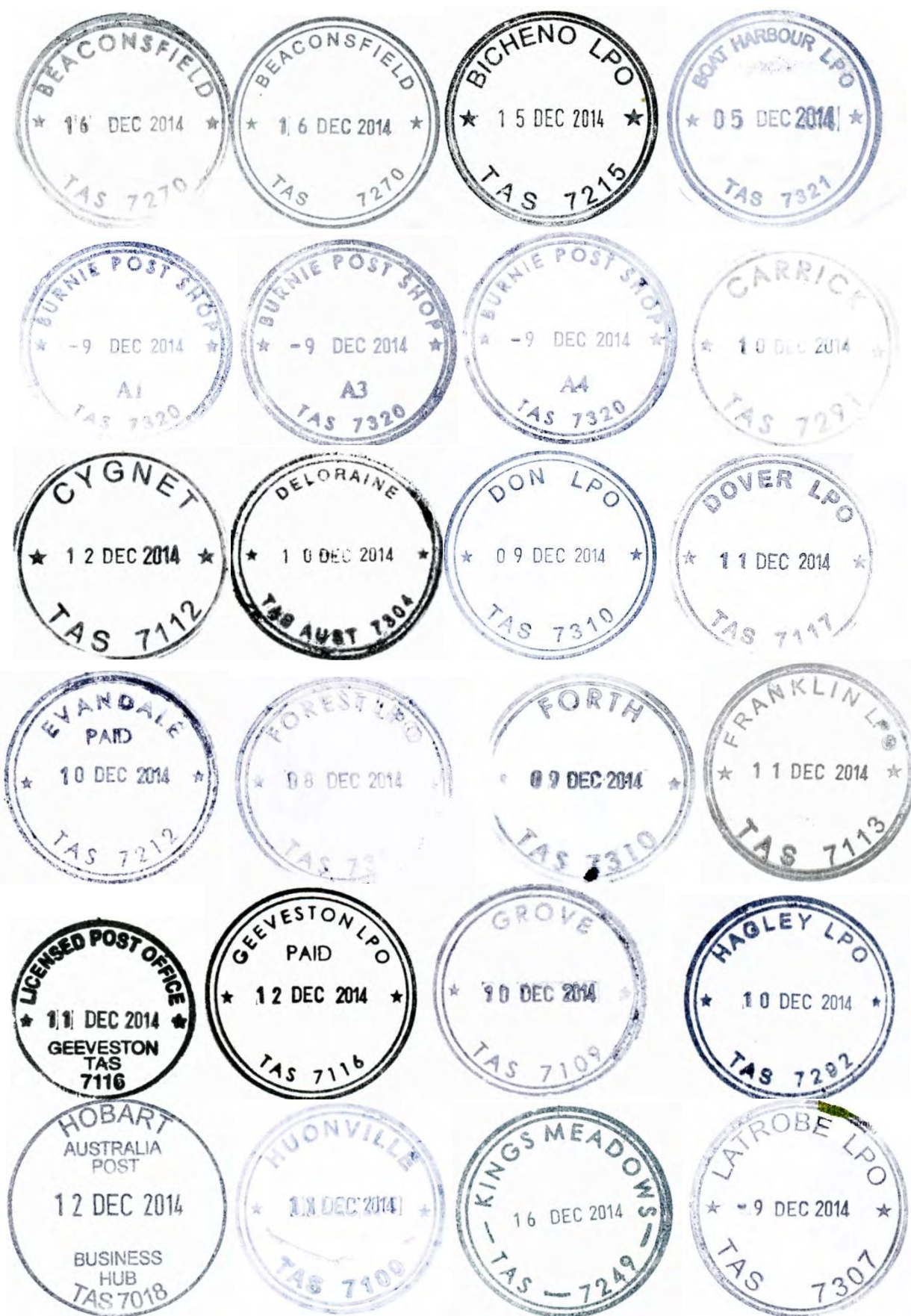
ORANGE-MOULDER ST CPA



QLD.:-



TAS.:- Earlier datestamps-BICHENO(120/26),CARRICK(103/30),HUONVILLE(118/26),
LONGFORD(103/31), PERTH(103/31)



TAS.:- Information on the GRINDEWALD SWISS VILLAGE

Postal Marking comes from a visit to the resort by Simon Alsop on his Tasmanian trip. The postmark is not a datestamp as it has no date but is applied to all mail posted in a red Victorian style pillar box at the resort.

There is a Community Postal Agency hidden away at the reception desk at the resort and it holds and uses the handstamp. The CPA is shown in the Australia Post documentation as Grindelwald (extra L). There is no separate PO at the resort and the CPA operates without any signage.

Postmark slightly reduced actual diameter is 61 mm



TAS:- (CONT)



VIC:- Earlier datestamps:-ANGLESEA(130/25),BIRREGURRA(99/27)COCKATOO(118/27)
GEELONG EAST(120/27) GARFIELD(112/30)



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What YOU can do to help the Australian Philatelic Society?

- Sign up a new member
- Write an article for the Journal (Better still, write two!)
- Send the Editor any interesting philatelic news
- Come to the bi-monthly meeting if in Melbourne
- Help George Vearing with his Datestamp Notes
- Get involved in one of the Study Groups
- Enter the Society Competitions
- Volunteer to display your collection at the monthly meeting
- Ensure the Council receives your feedback and suggestions for the Society

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Mr. Michael Barden
Box 156
Balwyn Victoria 3103
AUSTRALIA

2015 colourful envelope from Jemeppe-sur-Sambre to Melbourne
Posted 10 February, Sydney SWLF 17 February and collected Balwyn 19 February
Postage paid 160 Fr (3.96 €), which is the rate for no value ROW stamps. It should have cost
+ 0.3 € more for a variety of stamps as was used.
Many Belgians refuse to pay the 10% higher cost for their own stamps vs no value.
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