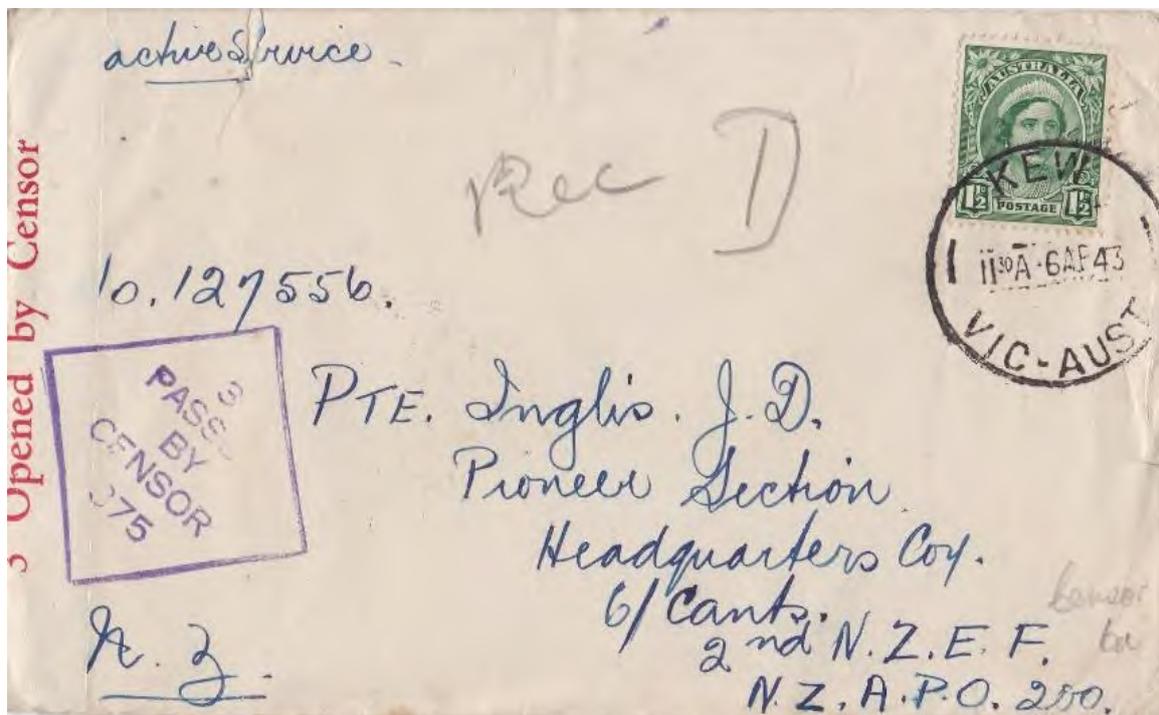


# Australian Journal of Philately

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

No. 143 March 2018



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<b>Date</b>	<b>2018 Programme</b>	<b>Display</b>
16 April 2018	Michael Barden	Belgium, mail from international Trade fairs 1897 - 1958
18 June 2018	John Rennie	Australian Forces Mail 1945—1973
20 August 2018	AGM	Members works in progress

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Interesting WWII cover posted at Kew, Vic, Australia addressed to NZAPO 200 (Tonga) but diverted to NZBPO in Cairo, Egypt. Received 24 JU 43 evidenced by Egypt Postage Paid 25.	



## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

Firstly we must offer our apologies for the late emailing of the December journal. It resulted from a misunderstanding as to whom would do the sending. Michael Barden took that responsibility but felt he could no longer. Anyway we have sorted it.

Please note that the cupboard is bare and we desperately need articles for the June journal.

June's journal will not be available until July as I will be in Tanzania for 3½ weeks from mid April and then in Europe on holiday with my wife. It would be great if when I return there is sufficient material to quickly compile. This journal I wrote a fair proportion and I will of course write about my interests. Therefore for varieties sake please put pen to paper or tickle that keyboard.

I have noticed a disturbing trend when it comes to international exhibiting. It is often said that one needs deep pockets to compete at the highest level and that is fine with me. If I enter an exhibition it will be about a subject I am interested in and I certainly don't have deep pockets.

What is happening though is the frame fees have now reached, in many cases, \$US 80.00 per frame. If one adds to this an APF frame fee and it can cost over AUD750 to enter 5 frames. I suggest that the ordinary exhibitor is thinking twice about entering. Thus the plea that comes asking for participation in some of the exhibitions recently.

Notwithstanding the previous gripe I am happy with the State Gold medal awarded for my Canberra entry "New Zealand Forces Mail to and from the South Pacific 1940—1945" and I appreciate the recognition from the judges.

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# From the President

## British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines

Before the end of World War 2, Great Britain and some Commonwealth nations became concerned about Pan American Airlines securing something approaching a monopoly over trans-ocean air routes. PAA's chairman had more than hinted about such an ambition. In February 1946 the British, Australian and New Zealand governments met to plan a trans-Pacific air service. Canada was content to be an onlooker. In June 1946 a company was registered in NSW to run such a service, with ownership divided between Australia [50%], New Zealand [30%] and UK [20%]. Named British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines, the company's chairman was Arthur Coles, one of the famous brothers who owned the Coles variety store chain. Coles was already chairman of the Australian National Airlines Commission and had been Lord Mayor of Melbourne [1938-40] and an independent member of the Australian federal parliament [1940-46].

Finding pilots was not particularly difficult, but finding suitable planes for a passenger service was a challenge. Coles managed to charter four planes from ANA, and on 15 September 1946 BCPA's first commercial flight set off from Sydney to Canada. The route was Sydney, Fiji, Canton Island, Honolulu, San Francisco and Vancouver. Flying time and refuelling stops took about 43 hours. On 25 April 1947 a second service from Auckland to Vancouver began. Within a year or so BCPA carried double the number of passengers across the South Pacific that PAA attracted, until PAA also had a fleet with pressurised cabins.

BCPA ran until April 1954, when it was taken over by Qantas Empire Airways.

BCPA is now history. The first serious account of the airline was not published until 1993 and that remains the only one so far. In Australia BCPA ranks as barely a footnote in aviation, but New Zealand at least took the trouble to print BCPA airmail labels.

An example is shown on the cover flown from Nelson to Portland, Oregon. Its transmission was 1.30pm 3 May 1948 to 8 May [San Francisco].

A somewhat nicer souvenir of BCPA is the postcard menu for breakfast between Canton Island and Honolulu. The postcard was sent to Australia from Morro Bay, south of San Francisco in 1953, and is neatly franked with the USA Golden Gate bridge stamp.



# Types of Postmarks Found on Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers of Victoria

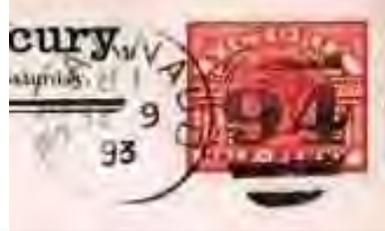
Dr John K. Courtis FRPSL

An analysis of 1,447 post office postal stationery wrappers of the state of Victoria, Australia that are in the author's database of used images has identified about ten basic types of postmarks used. These images have been hand-collected daily since September 2003 mostly from eBay listings. An understanding of these cancellations can be useful in identifying postmarks that are uncommon or in recognising numerals that have not previously been recorded on wrappers. What is different in this postmark study is that the analysis concentrates on postmarks that have actually appeared on wrappers rather than a study of postmarks that are purported to have been used. Interest in postmark collecting has spawned a huge corpus of literature worldwide. This study of postmarks appearing on the wrappers of Victoria adds a different perspective to this literature.

## Victoria

It is convenient for this study to think of Victoria as comprising the city of Melbourne and more than 2,000 country towns. This simplistic dichotomy enables us to classify the bulk of postmarks according to the *Cancellations of Melbourne* (Davies and Linfield 1980) and the *Numeral Cancellations of Victoria* (Freeman and White 2001). Cancellations not falling neatly into these categories can be examined separately. Ten basic types have been identified, with four types showing a numeral cancellation within obliterator bars or together with an open or closed circular date stamp. Of the 1,447 images of postmarked wrappers of Victoria examined, 502 are readable numeral cancellations of the kind listed in Freeman and White (2001). The duplex Melbourne-Victoria cancellation series is a study in its own right encompassing around 500 varieties. Recognition is assisted considerably by illustrations and descriptions in Davies and Linfield (1980).

Victoria: Basic Postmark types found on wrappers

			
Numeral Melb.-Vic duplex	Open numeral duplex	Circular date stamp	D/circle & numeral duplex
			
Post & Telegraph Warragul	Numeral obliterator	Double circle	Frameless or Open cds
			
Single rim & numeral obliterator	Single rim & T.P.O with 7 beneath	1 = Melbourne 15-bars type KA	

Using the above classification to identify basic types used on wrappers, the following table is a summary of the quantity appearing under each type in the sample. Only 16% of wrapper postmarks show a Melbourne cancellation.

Basic Cancellation Types	Quantity in sample	Percentage
Melbourne – Victoria duplex	71	5
Open numeral duplex cancellations	794	55
Single rim circular date stamp	203	14
Double-circle & numeral duplex	2	<1
Post & Telegraph double oval	16	1
Numeral barred obliterator	147	10
Double circle	53	4
Open Circular date stamp	145	10
Single rim & numeral	5	<1
Single rim and Travelling Post Office	10	.5
Melbourne type KA	1	<1
	<b>1447</b>	<b>100</b>

Postmark collectors interested in collecting different numerals will find the following checklist useful in identifying numerals that have appeared in the sample and in assessing the “uncommonness” of some town numbers. There are 98 different numerals.



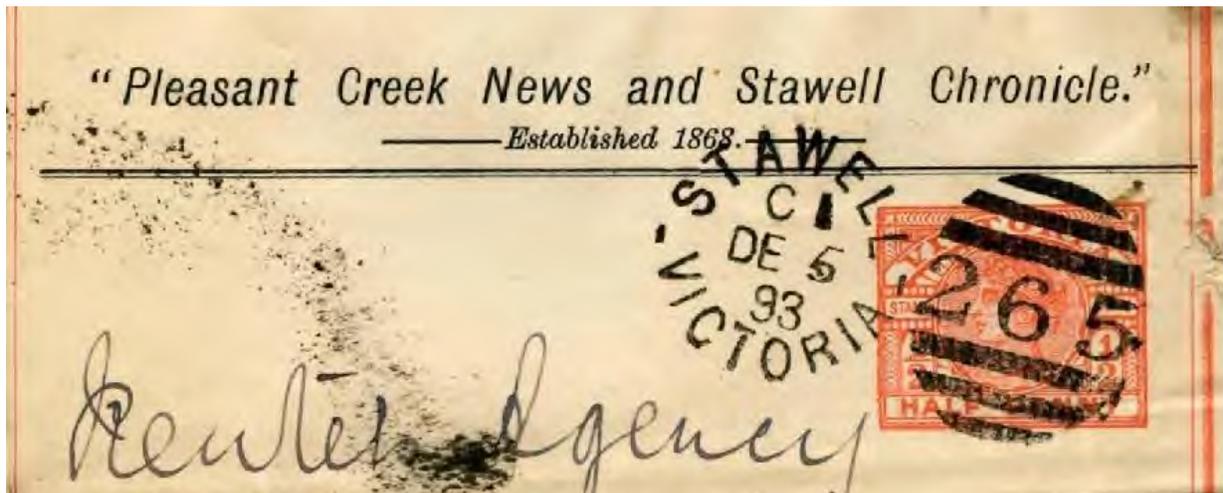
120 was allocated to Kerang in 1856 and to Wedderburne in July 1858

Numeral	Town	H & G E #s	Quantity	Numeral	Town	H&G E #s	Quantity
1	Melbourne	11 15 16	6	174	Bairnsdale	15	2
2	Geelong	17 19 26	3	177	Omeo	17	2
3	Castlemaine	15 17 19	13	194	Koroit	15	3
4	Bendigo	17 19	9	200	South Yarra	12 18 21 24	6
5	Ballarat	15 17 19 23b 24	5	207	Kerang	15 17 19	12
6	Port Fairy	15 17	3	210	Gordons	18	1

8	Portland	15 17	14	239	Dunolly	15 17 19 21b	5
9	Beechworth	11 15	6	243	Violet town	17	1
10	Warnambool	13 15	2	247	Rosedale	15	2
11	Williamstown	25	1	249	Mortlake	15 17 18 19	11
13	Apsley	15	3	254	Terang	15	1
15	Bacchus Mrsh	15-17	8	265	Stawell	15 17 19	25
18	Benalla	15 17	8	268	Chiltern	15 17	10
20	Broadford	17	1	275	Romsey	15	3
23	Buninyong	14-18 20 24	20	279	Bright	15 19	12
26	Camperdown	17	3	300	Elsternwick	11	1
28	Casterton	15 17	2	303	Donald	15 17	12
31	Colac	15	4	314	Lilydale	15	5
32	Coleraine	15 18 20 24	19	318	Rutherglen	15	1
40	Echuca	15 17	24	326	Traralgon	15	8
41	Euroa	15	5	327	Tarnagulla	17 25	3
46	Hamilton	15 17 19 25	17	347	Yapeen	15	1
51	Horsham	15 17	8	383	Bruthen	17	1
54	Kilmore	15 19 21	5	433	Dimboola	19	1
57	Kyneton	17 25	5	477	Maffra	13 15 17	17
66	Oakleigh	15	3	440	Rochester	15 17	4
69	Prahran	7 11 15 24a	4	481	Walhalla	15 17 18	13
70	Queenscliff	17	1	587	Cobden	15 17	14
71	Richmond	4 11 15	3	607	Clayton	12	1
73	Port Melb'n	14 17-8 24 26	6	712	Nagambie	13 15 17	7
78	St. Kilda	7 12	2	737	Foster	19	1
82	Wangaratta	15	7	824	Fitzroy	15	1
86	Charlton	15 17	5	845	Natimuk	15	1
93	Ararat	15	1	847	Boort	15	1
94	St. Arnaud	15 17 19	7	849	Murtoa	15 17 19	7
95	Ceres	11	1	860	Yarrowonga	15 16	10
98	Malmsbury	15 19	4	913	Pyramid Hill	15	2
103	Wodonga	15 19	2	945	Natimuk	15 17 27	5
114	Yackandandah	15	4	961	Drouin	15	1
119	Woodend	15	3	985	Warragul	15 17	12
120	Kerang	15	2	1032	Wycheproof	17	3
120	Wedderburn	15	1	1091	Numurka	19	1
130	Cranbourne	15	2	1342	Birchip	27	1
132	Newstead	19	1	1414	East Melb.	8a	1
142	Frankston	15 19	6	1427	Korumburra	17	1
149	Footscray	15	3	1527	Windsor	9 11	2
158	Collingwood	15	1	1504	Malvern	21	1
160	Lancefield	15	4	1592	Leongatha	17	1
168	Yea	15	4	1624	Ascot Vale	24	1

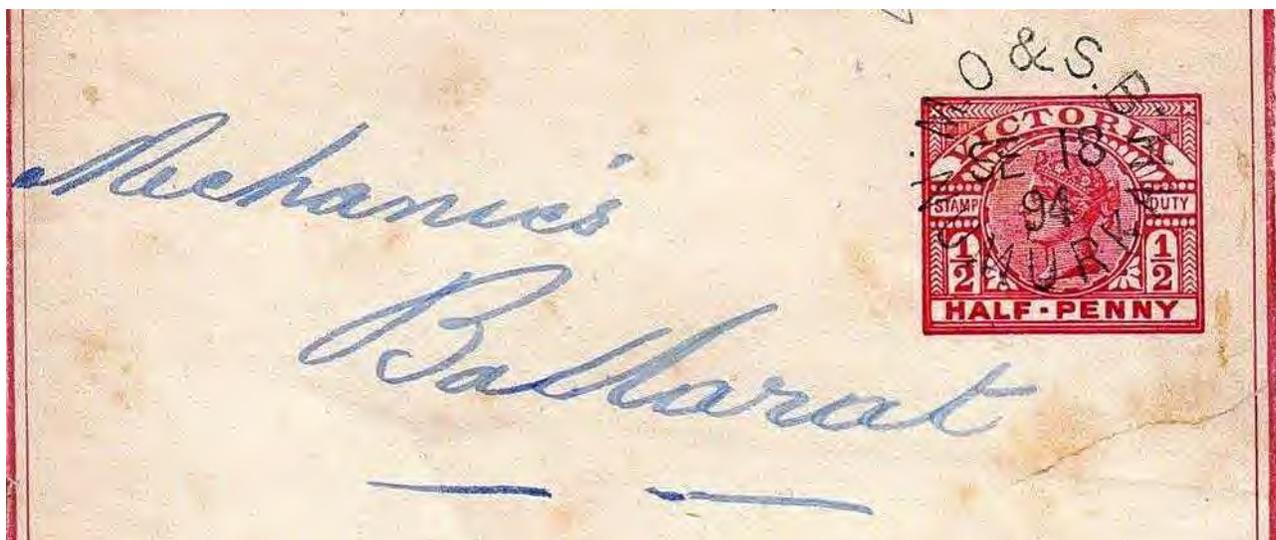
Some missing numbers in a sequential run such as 7 (Creswick), 12 (Port Albert), 72 (Sale) and so forth suggest that there are more to be found (Freeman and White). There are 30 towns with a single example of a numeral cancellation. Conversely the ten towns with the highest number of extant numeral cancellations total 173 wrappers with Stawell and Echuca with 25 and 24 examples each. The prominence of Stawell can be explained by the supply of *Pleasant Creek News and Stawell Chronicle*

private printing on copies of the E15 type. There are 2,100 numerals listed in Freeman and White with post offices opening until 1906 when the policy of allocating numerals was discontinued. The 98 numerals listed represent only 5% of this total, thereby adding to the likelihood that more numerals on wrappers remain to be found.



265 = Stawell, private printing added

Some examples of other types of postmarks demonstrate the diversity awaiting the patient postmark collector. The first cancellation shows the letters M.O. & S.B. which is the abbreviation for the Mail Order and Savings Bank. According to Watson, Webster and Wood (1989) there are no markings of a postal nature known with this marking. Hence, this usage on a post office wrapper might be atypical.

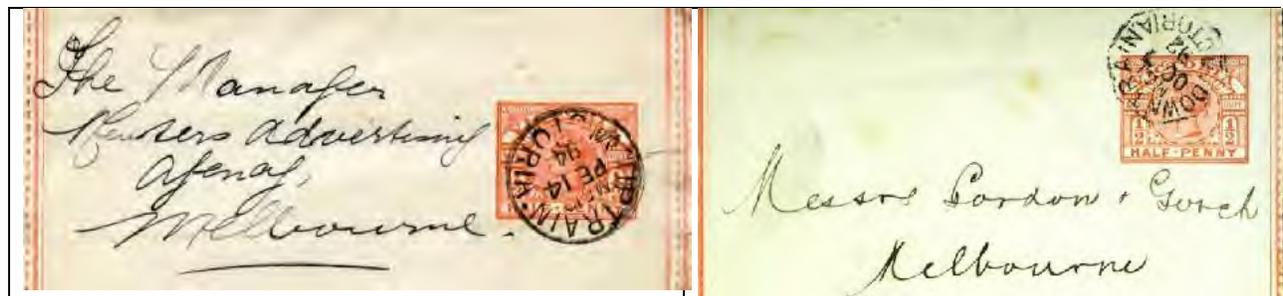


M.O. & S. B. – Mail Order and Savings Bank

Some examples of open cancellations are shown. Most of these open cancellations can be found also on numeral cancellations. A sample of numerals within horizontal bars are illustrated with one, two and no side bars. The sample contained 203 single rim postmarks, the dominant types being Melbourne. Close inspection of the sample does reveal the occasional single rim country town cancel, and Seymour is shown as an example.

				
M. O. & S. B. = Mail Order & Savings Bank, Numurka	Hamilton	Warrnambool	Yea	Gordon's
				
1 = Melbourne	3 Castlemaine	40 = Echuca	142 = Frankston	847 = Boort
				
cups Up Train	cups Down Train	cups Seymour	Duplex w/numeral in square (or side bars)	
				
cups Geelong	"The Romans" MD/27 = 1527 = Windsor	Blue cancel 10 = Warrnambool	Double circle	cups Melbourne

There were several Up Train cancels but only one Down Train and these are illustrated.



This analysis of the postmarks of Victoria is indicative of what can be found. It is not exhaustive and there are likely more varieties. It is hoped that it could provide some direction for the specialist. Separating the postmarks into periods of pre-and post-Commonwealth would provide another layer of analysis. Illustrations of the principal categories of datestamps used in the commonwealth era can be found in *The Post Offices and Hand-Held Datestamps of Victoria* (Watson, Webster & Wood 1989).

The details of the cancellations of Melbourne run into the hundreds. For example, cancellers were numbered from 1 to 24 and 26, and within each number the settings of Melbourne varied as well as the size of the letters. There are 143 different canceller number-setting varieties listed in Davies and Linfield and 305 combinations of single circle canceller number and code (time) letter. Not all possibilities appear on wrappers. Some examples illustrate the canceller number and time codes.

		
Canceller No. 1 (type 5) K = 10.45 to 11.30am	Canceller No. 6 (type 5) A = 6.00pm to 7.30am	Canceller No. 7 (type 10) A = 6.00pm to 7.30am
		
Canceller No. 10 (type 3) A = 6.00pm to 7.30am	Canceller No. 14 (type 4ii) T = 1.00 to 2.30pm	Canceller No. 26 Type 2) H = 10.00 to 10.45am

### Summary

An analysis of 1,447 post office postal stationery wrappers of the Australian colony/state of Victoria pre- and post-commonwealth periods reveals at least ten basic types were used, plus others used on traveling post offices and for usage by the post and telegraph office. The most common type found on wrappers is the numeral duplex with 98 town names identified. The gaps in allocated numeral sequencing insinuate other names are still to be found. Melbourne cancellations up to 1912 provide some examples of canceller numbers and time codes.

The survey revealed one case of an early experimental killer canceller with numeral 1 within 15 horizontal bars. Several Up-Train cancels were observed but only a single instance of a Down-Train. Only one case of an M.O. & S.B. postmark was observed, one case of a coloured (non-black) cancellation and one case of a numeral canceller where the numeral appears to be within a square. There were a few cases where "the romans" were used. Overall, the postmarks used on the post office wrappers of Victoria, Australia are an interesting study with enough diversity to challenge the collector.

### References

Davies D. G. and Linfield G. R. (1980), *The Cancellations of Melbourne 1861-1912*, Royal Philatelic Society, London, pp. 63.  
 Freeman Hugh H. and White Geoff T. (2001), *The Numeral Cancellations of Victoria*, Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Melbourne, pp. 420.  
 Watson Gary, Webster John & Wood David (1989), *The Post Offices and Hand-Held Datestamps of Victoria*, Volume I, Watson, Webster & Wood Philatelic Publishers, Melbourne, pp. B-143.

### Acknowledgements:

I wish to thank Allan Gory for reading and commenting on an earlier draft and to Sheila Mackenzie for editing the paper.

## New Zealand Musings – New Zealand at War 1939-1945

**Tony Lyon**

### 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. These troops 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. On 8 March, two New Zealand ships *Monowai* and *Wahine* hove-to in Nuku-alofa Harbour, and disembarked the 6th Battalion Canterbury Regiment.

The embarkation of the 34 Bn. and loading of cargo was completed during the night, and early in the morning of the following day the ships moved out and headed westwards, destination New Caledonia.

There were two Army Post Offices serving the personnel on Tonga. APO 200 was located on Mua-Tongatabu and covers from this office are known between 10.11.42 and 31.1.44. Covers from this location are very elusive. The second, APO 200 – FPO1 was located at Nukualofa.

**APO 200 – FPO 1 30.4.43 – 31.1.44**

### 6th Battalion Canterbury Regiment (TF) - Tonga

An OAS from Captain Raymond Coleridge Derrett 42801 addressed to his wife.

Derrett was the Intelligence Officer with 6 Battalion Canterbury Regiment in command of the intelligence unit on Tonga.

He was promoted to Captain 2 March 1943



Censor 101: Sent from Tonga.

### No 15 Fighter Squadron – Tonga



Censor 102: Sent from Fuamotu airfield

An OAS cover from LAC (leading aircraftman) W H Newll NZ426439. He gives his return address as NZAPO 200 which was Tonga.

No. 15 Fighter Squadron sailed from Wellington in the *USS President Jackson* on 23 October, arriving in Tonga four days later. There it took over the aircraft and equipment belonging to No. 68 Pursuit Squadron at Fuamotu airfield, and the American unit moved on to the forward area.

The squadron spent three and a half months in Tonga. From the end of December 1942 until it finished its tour of duty in Tonga, No. 15

Squadron had attached to it a radar unit sent from New Zealand. The party comprised three officers and radar operators, electricians, mechanics, and the other personnel necessary to make it self-supporting.

The unit remained at Tonga until February 1943, when it was posted to Santo for local defence there and as a reserve for the fighter forces at Guadalcanal.

**No 1 A.T.R. – Tonga**

OAS 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 No 1 ATR. The sender is Private J D Brandon who was with C Troop 25 Battery 4 Field Regiment.



Censor 102: Sent from Tonga

An OAS FPO from gunner J P Brandon 391684. He returned from the Middle East where he was attached to 14 Battery 12 Field Regiment. He was sent to group C, T Force, No. 1 A.T R.

There was a 37mm anti-tank platoon formed on Tonga.

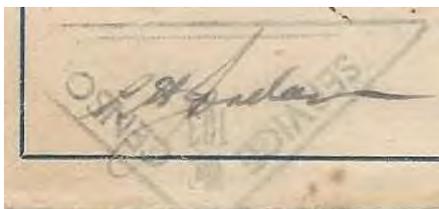
**Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery**

An OAS envelope with 'Greetings from Tonga' and cachet from Bombardier William Archibald Batchelor 482748 serving on Tonga with a heavy anti-aircraft battery tasked with guarding Fuamotu aerodrome.

It has been censored by 2 Lt. Phillip Hamilton Jordan 49311 of the Heavy Anti-Aircraft unit. He is writing to his wife.



Censor 103: Sent from Tonga



This is Part 1 – to be continued.

## Stationery Necessitated by Wartime Conditions

**Tony Lyon**

This display looks at the stationery that resulted from the condition of war that existed during the period 1939-45. It is primarily focused on New Zealand service persons or citizens. However there were many New Zealanders who served in The Royal Navy and RAF in particular.

It is interesting to note that for the some philatelists, these items would not be classed as postal stationery; due to the lack of indicia. A stamp needed to be added to provide the postage. However many others would accept that these types of envelopes constitute postal stationery.

### **The Green Envelope**

The first type of envelope available to the New Zealand service person was what was commonly called 'the Green envelope'. It is also referred to as the 'honour envelope' as the writer was on their honour to not divulge any information that might be useful to the enemy. The exact wording was:

*I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters*

The writer had to sign at the bottom of the envelope. Using this type of envelope meant that the mail was not necessarily censored at the unit level. It could still be censored by the Base Censor and indeed a proportion of the mail was censored. This was particularly so when there was a big operation planned. It was important not to give anything away to the enemy if mail was intercepted or captured. Of course, reading through some of the enclosures show that this rule was flouted. Some personnel had given their families a predetermined code to alert them to where they were at the time of writing. However a breach of this rule had serious consequences. The Field Service Pocket Book Pamphlet No. 3, 1939, Paragraph 21 stated:

The Green envelope (Army Form A 3078) is issued to the troops for the transmission of letters relating to private and family matters only. The Green envelope will be posted by the sender's unit without franking, but its contents are liable to censorship at the base. There provision will be regarded as a privilege to be withdrawn at any time. The existence of these envelopes will not be used to absolve officers from their duties of regimental censorship, or to induce or compel men (sic) to send all their letters by them. Any misuse will be regarded as a serious offence. (Startup, Robyn M. 1978. *Green Envelopes*. The Mail Coach. Vol 14 No. 5. pp. 112-117. Auckland: Postal History Society of New Zealand Inc.).

### **The Air letter Card**

The second type of wartime postal stationery was the Airmail Letter Card. Introduced in the 1930's in Iraq. It was designed by Douglas William Gumbley a Guernseyman, the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs and Director of Civil Aviation initially in Mesopotamia 1919, which was renamed Iraq in September 1921.<sup>1</sup> This air letter was first issued in Iraq 15 July 1933. It included an impressed 15 fils. stamp. (Jennings, Peter. 2011. *The Great Britain Air Letter, 1941-2011 A Miscellany to Celebrate 70 Years*. G.S.M. August 2011. pp. 55-59. London: Stanley Gibbons Publication).

Introduced May 1941 by the British Post Office, for use by Great Britain and British Forces in Egypt The privilege was extended to New Zealand troops who had relatives or next of kin living in the United Kingdom, (had to use 3d *British* Postage stamp, and 5 July 1941, with New Zealand postage being used, they could be sent to New Zealand addresses, still at 3d. (Startup, Robyn M. 2012. *New Zealand Overseas Airmail Postage Rates – 1930-2011*. p.58. Christchurch: The Airmail Society of New Zealand co published with Mowbray Collectables, Wellington).

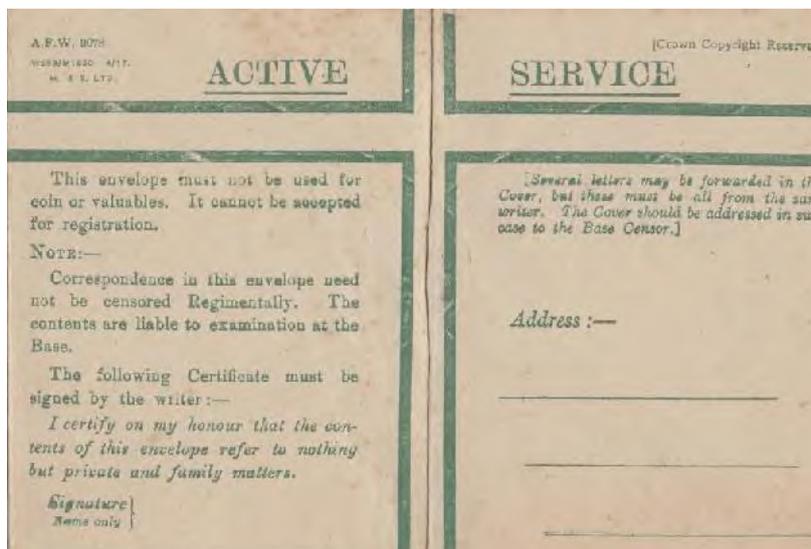
<sup>1</sup> See AJP 128, p5.June 2014. *Who Invented the Aerogramme?* Michael Barden

New Zealand Introduced the Air Mail Letter Cards 13 December 1943 to naval personnel serving overseas and made these available from post offices. In June 1944 they were made available for general use.

## The Green Envelope

The first example is from World War 1 which was introduced in March 1915. It was Army Form W 3078. The scheme was then reactivated in 1940 and provided to the troops by the British Army and was used by New Zealand Troops.

**A.F.W. 3078 YY 299 M1950 4/17 printed by M & S Ltd.**



Example from the April 1917 printing unused printed green on Manila paper

**A. F. W3078**

**[Crown Copyright Reserved]**

Glen Stafford in a published article concerning *Privilege Envelopes used by Australia Soldiers during World War II* classified this as Type 1. Stafford modified the numbering system that Carl L. Stieg had used in his article on *Australian "Active Service" Envelopes* which more accurately define the differences. (The Informer: Journal of the Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania. July 2014).



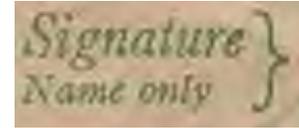
These differences distinguish between different types of envelopes.

- The wording on the upper left corner;
  - The wording on the upper right corner;
  - The last line of description on the left side; and
  - Any other variations
- On the rear of the envelope:
- Top or side open envelopes;
  - Rounded or squared flaps on the envelopes.

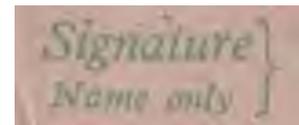
### Type 1

Sent by Sergeant Alvin George Wiley 27332 of 16<sup>th</sup> Railway Operating Company which was located at El Daaba. It has been posted through EPP 37 which was a South African A.P.S. Censor 206 was held by 2 Div. NZ HQ

This is clearly another printing of the Type 1. It differs in a number of areas as highlighted with a red arrow and circle. In this type the period falls between 'to and nothing' while if the previous example the period aligns with 'refer'. A further difference is in the shape and length of the brackets '}' as examples below right



5 mm



6 mm

Also space between Signature and Name.

Type 1(a)

There is no information as to who the printer was. It was sent by Pilot Officer N Lord NZ422297 through Field Post Office 520 located at Foggia, Italy 28.10.44-4.2.45 to Hastings, New Zealand. RAF Censor 211 Collyer and Garrard type R15.

The 8<sup>th</sup> army captured the airfield on the 27 September 1943 and it became a base for bomber and Spitfire squadrons.

Type 1 (b) differs from the previous type 1's in regard to the paper it is printed on. It is very poor quality and very thin.



Type 1(b)

Cover sent by Gunner James William Prescott 61258 of 14<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. Sent through MPO KW 1 dated 15 JAN 42, which was at Maadi camp 5.1.42 to (19.1.42). It was the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade MPO. The censor mark is Daynes type A 201 No 3027.

A. F. W3078.(M.E.)

[Crown Copyright Reserved]

576/ PMEO-5,000,000- 3/41

Printed by Army Printing Service, Cairo

Type 2 (a) are distinguished from (b) by the print number 576/PMEO-5,000,000- 3/41



Type 2 (a)

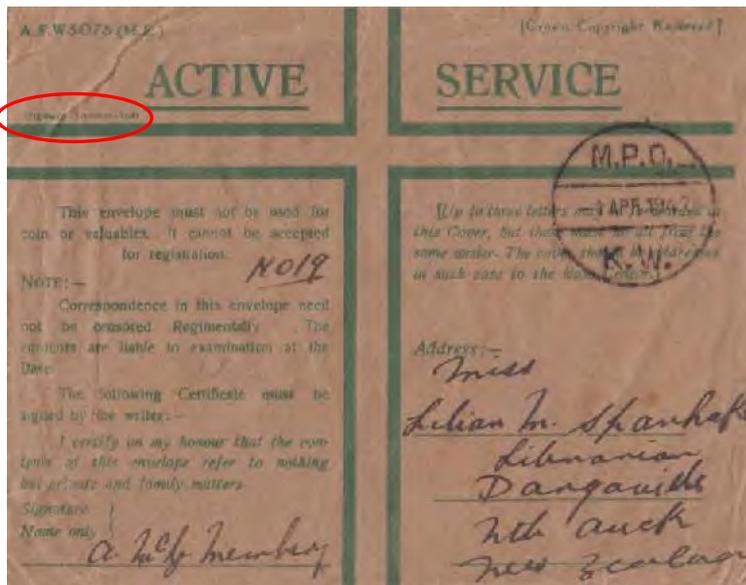
An example sent from RAF base at Habbaniya 9 Aug 41 to Wellington. Back-stamped Baghdad 27 AUG 41 and Basra 30 AUG 41. RAF censor 110 which is a Colley and Garrard type R9. Civilian postmarks of Iraq tied to R9, re-appear in August 1941.

A. F. W3078.(M.E.)

[Crown Copyright Reserved]

1712/PMEO – 3,000,000 – 11/41

Printed by Army Printing Service, Cairo



Type 2 (b) 1712/PMEO – 3,000,000 – 11/41

Type 2 (b)

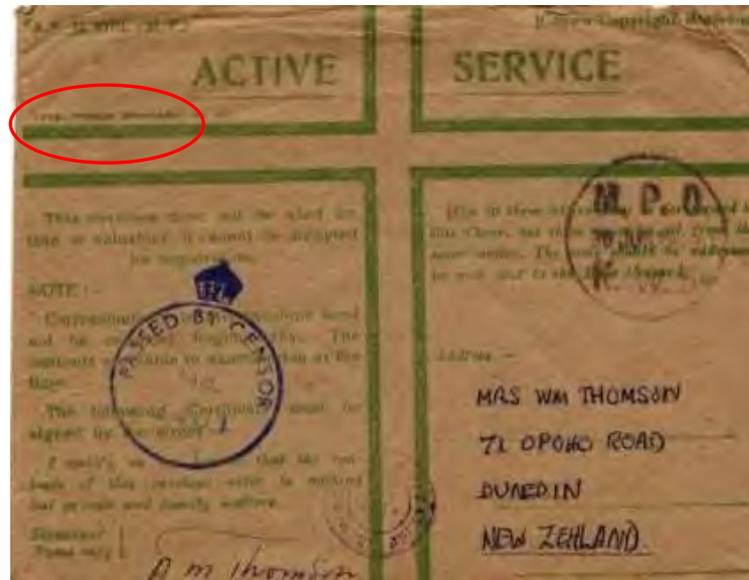
It was sent by Private Archibald McGeehie Membery 22133 of 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion. This cover was sent through MPO KW from Maadi Camp used during the period 28.3.42 to 3.4.42. Not seen (N.S.) by Proud Startup.

Type 2 (c) is another printing of the A. F. W3078.(M.E.). See below for illustrations.

OAS cover sent by Private Asquith Morrell Thomson 13131 of NZEF Base.

It has been sent through MPO KW 5. Dated 30 JUN 43? When the location was Maadi.

Unit censor a crown over circle 6461 held by 2<sup>nd</sup> Echelon Office 2 NZEF.



Type 2 (c)



Type 2 (a)



Type 2 (b)

Oblique between 1712 and PME0 and a dash before 3, 000,00 and before 11/41



Type 2 (c)

A dot after 1712 and no dashes.

One observation in viewing many examples is that printing 1712 11/41 is much scarcer than 576 3/41. A ratio of at least 3 3/41 to 1 11/41.

C & Co (B) Ltd

Type 3 envelopes were possibly privately printed in Cairo. The designation [Crown Copyright Reserved] indicated 'that the Copyright of the Green Envelope is vested in the Crown; the use of any imitation of it is an infringement of the copyright.' (Startup, R. M. (1978). *Green Envelopes: 1940 – 1945*. The Mail Coach, Vol. 14, No. 5, January 1978 p112. Auckland: The Postal History Society of New Zealand Inc.).

I have also seen on the internet instead of (B) it is shown as (BAL), but I have not seen these used by New Zealand military personnel.



Honour envelope was sent by Gunner Cyril Robert Frederick Blackmore 1902 of 25<sup>th</sup> Field Battery, 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment while located at Gerawala, Western Desert.

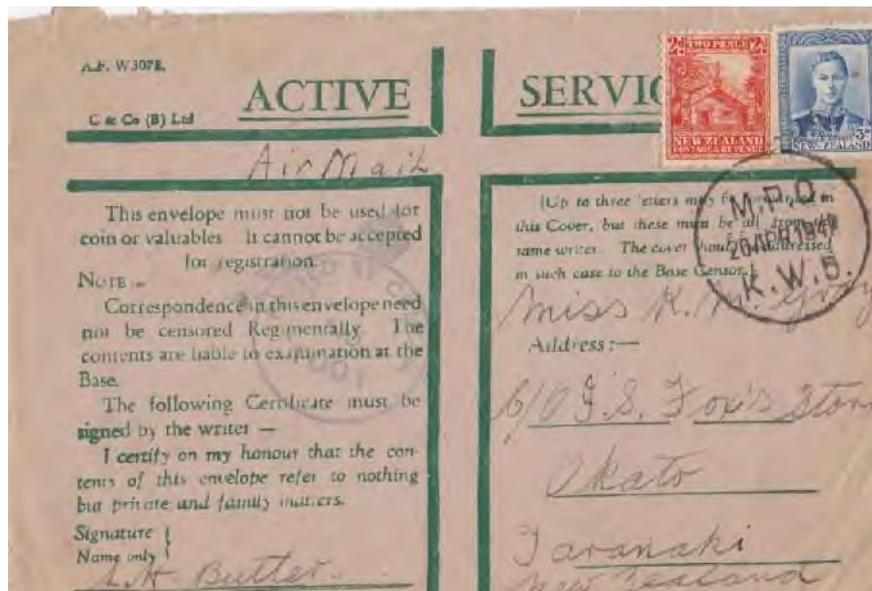
Sent through FPO KW 2 dated 19 AU 1940. It has been censored by Lieutenant (later Captain) Leonard Merrington Kissel 1534 an officer of 26 Fld Bty.

On the reverse in notes the weight as 28 grms which was between 2<sup>nd</sup> step and 3<sup>rd</sup> step rate. The soldier has franked the cover with 90 mils.

Step 2 was 70 mils for 20 grams.

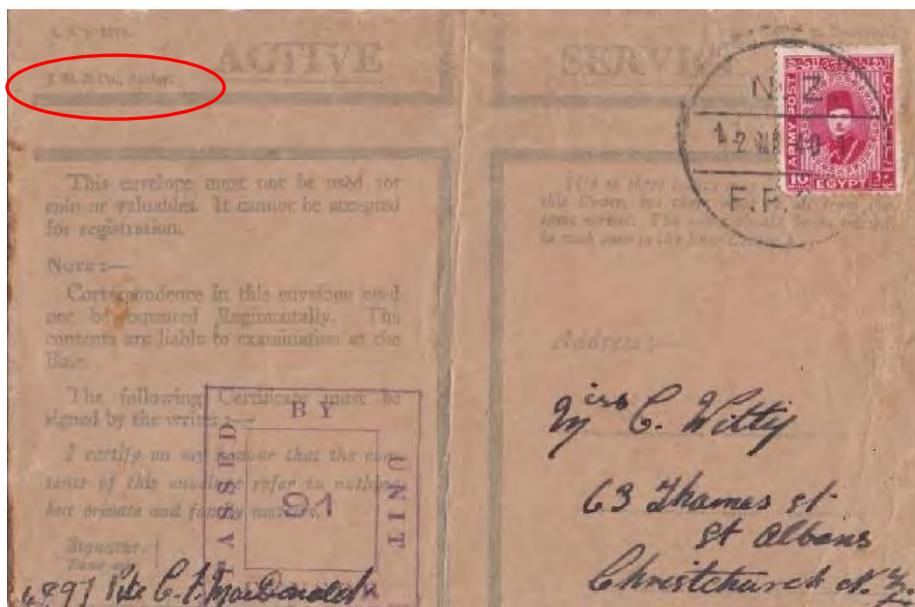
Step 3 was 110 mils for 30 grams

90 mils for 28 grams is somewhere between?



Honour envelope was sent by Private Leonard Harold Butler 45861 of 25 Battalion. It has been franked with 5d in NZ stamps which was the airmail rate from 12 June 1942. It is dated 20 APR 1942 and on the reverse is a J32 mm Okato NZ cancel dated 16 JE 42 of about 7 weeks for airmail? Censor No 1001 was held by 25 Battalion.

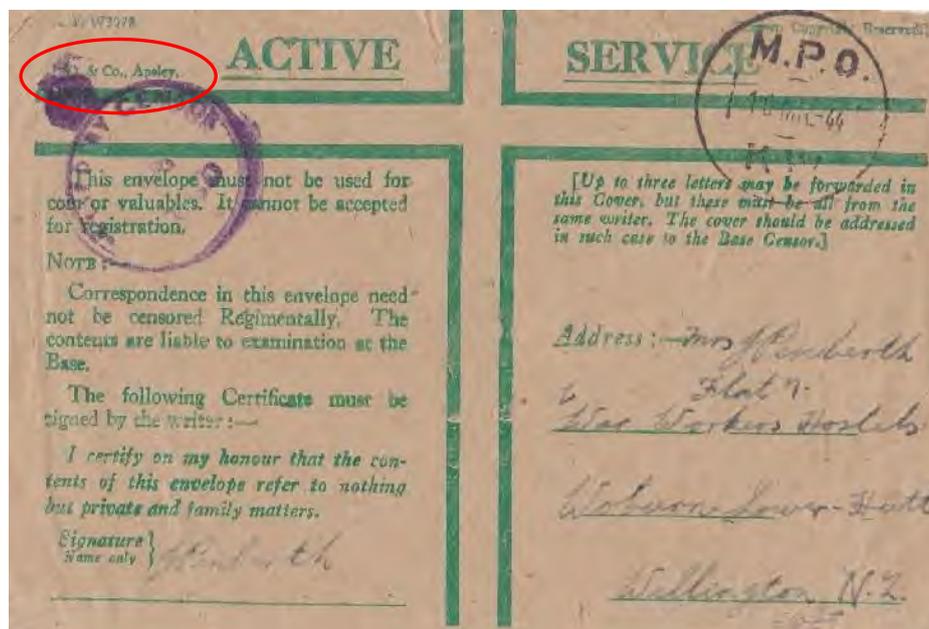
J. D. & Co., Aspley (John Dickenson & Co. Ltd)



Type 4 (a)

This is the earliest example in my collection of usage of Green envelope by NZ personnel. The sender sailed with the 1st echelon, Private Colin Frederick McDonald 4897 of the HQ 19<sup>th</sup> Wellington Rifle Battalion. It shows the surface rate of 10 mils per 20 grammes prepaid by Egypt Army Post stamp. Posted through the NZ FPO 1 dated 12 MR 40. ... This was located at Alexandria Civil Post Office 5.3.40—21.6.40. It has been censored and a squared unit censor No. 91 applied

A.F.W 3078 J. D. & Co., Aspley (John Dickenson & Co. Ltd) A Later Printing



A later Printing by Dickenson The green is much brighter and the paper is different. Sent by Driver James Penberth serving with HQ NZASC. The MPO KW somewhere in Italy Presenzano and Monteraduni. During this period Supply Company was working between the railhead at Sparanise and the supply point near Cassino. (Bates P. W. 1955. Supply Company. Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War 1939-45. Wellington: War History Branch. Department of Internal Affairs).

To be Continued

## Australia House Mail

### **John Young**

Following on federation in 1901 it became necessary for Australia to have a representative in London, and the office of High Commissioner was established by the Commonwealth Parliament in 1909. The premises used by Victoria's Agent General in London at first served as the High Commissioner's office. The foundation stone for a separate Commonwealth building, Australia House, was laid in 1913, and the building was completed in 1918 at a cost of 450,000 pounds.

Over the years most Commonwealth departments have had branches at Australia House, and immigration was busy in the post-war years. By then there were over 600 staff in Australia House. Mail from Australia House was franked with British stamps, perfined CofA.



The cover shown was mailed from Australia House in 1953. It was one of a bulk mailout for an afternoon tea party. It was apparently customary to avoid sticking on stamps and instead use a franking impression. The cover has a red 'Official Paid' mechanical postmark, identified as London EC and dated 26 June 1953. The left hand 'franking stamp' inscription carries the words 'Australia for your future', an invitation for harassed Britishers to emigrate to Australia: meat rationing was still in operation in 1953. The invitation was from the High Commissioner, Sir Thomas White, and Lady White.

The High Commissionership was Tom White's last posting. Born in North Melbourne in 1888, White was a pioneer World War 1 airman who had the misfortune to be caught by Turkish forces near Baghdad. He managed to escape, and wrote of his adventures in 'Guests of the Unspeakable' [1928].

In London in 1919 White met Vera Deakin, the third and youngest daughter of Alfred Deakin, federation father and former prime minister. They married in 1920 at St John's Church of England, Toorak. White went on to be a Commonwealth Parliamentarian. He was a special constable during Melbourne's police

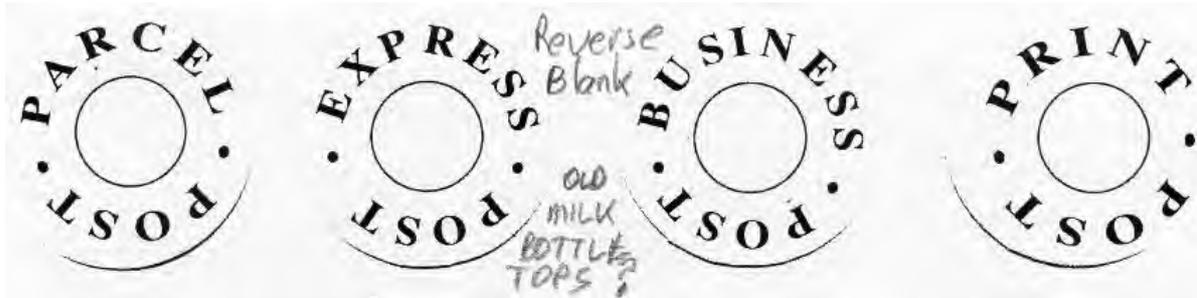


strike in 1923, was a solid Empire man, and was active in pilot training in World War 2. He became High Commissioner in 1951 and retired from there in 1956. He died the year after, but Vera survived him by 21 years. She was a talented organiser for Red Cross and other charitable bodies.

Answers Please?

**Brian Fuller**

The discs are? I do not know except Australia Post seems to have had a promotion sometime. One group advertising AP services I have 4 of a series of ?? Whilst the AP promotion discs are part of a set possibly 30+ They are the same size and thickness card as the old milk bottle tops. Can anyone help please?



The Penny pink M cancels/overprints belong to which firm and/or what reason please? Pre-perfin?



The UK Cinderella was very common several years ago but does anyone know who or where from please?



# Lions and Donkeys: 10 big myths about WW1 debunked

Dan Snow



Much of what we think we know about the 1914-18 conflict is wrong, writes historian Dan Snow.

No war in history attracts more controversy and myth than World War One.

For the soldiers who fought it was in some ways better than previous conflicts, and in some ways worse.

By setting it apart as uniquely awful, we are blinding ourselves to the reality of not just WW1, but war in general. We are also in danger of belittling the experience of soldiers and civilians caught up in countless other appalling conflicts throughout history and the present day.

Fifty years before WW1 broke out, southern China was torn apart by an even bloodier conflict. Conservative estimates of the dead in the 14-year Taiping rebellion start at between 20 and 30 million. Around 17 million soldiers and civilians were killed during WW1.

Although more Britons died in WW1 than any other conflict, the bloodiest war in our history relative to population size is the Civil War which raged in the mid-17th Century. It saw a far higher proportion of the population of the British Isles killed than the less than 2% who died in WW1.

## 1. It was the bloodiest war in history to that point



By contrast around 4% of the population of England and Wales, and considerably more than that in Scotland and Ireland, are thought to have been killed in the Civil War

**2. Most soldiers died.** In the UK around six million men were mobilised, and of those just over 700,000 were killed. That's around 11.5%. In fact, as a British soldier you were more likely to die during the Crimean War (1853-56) than in WW1.

**3. Men lived in the trenches for years on end.** Front-line trenches could be a terribly hostile place to live. Often wet, cold and exposed to the enemy, units would quickly lose their morale if they spent too much time in them.



As a result, the British army rotated men in and out continuously. Between battles, a unit spent perhaps 10 days a month in the trench system, and of those, rarely more than three days right up on the front line. It was not unusual to be out of the line for a month.

During moments of crisis, such as big offensives, the British could occasionally spend up to seven days on the front line, but were far more often rotated out after just a day or two.

**4. The upper class got off lightly.** Although the great majority of casualties in WW1 were from the working class, the social and political elite were hit disproportionately hard by WW1. Their sons provided the junior officers whose job it was to lead the way over the top and expose themselves to the greatest danger as an example to their men.

Some 12% of the British army's ordinary soldiers were killed during the war, compared with 17% of its officers. Eton alone lost more than 1,000 former pupils - 20% of those who served. UK wartime Prime Minister Herbert Asquith lost a son, while future Prime Minister Andrew Bonar Law lost two. Anthony Eden lost two brothers, another brother of his was terribly wounded and an uncle was captured.

#### 5. 'Lions led by Donkeys' .



**George V and his generals, Buckingham Palace 1918**

*"British commanders were thrust into a massive industrial struggle unlike anything the Army had ever seen"*

This saying was supposed to have come from senior German commanders describing brave British soldiers led by incompetent old toffs from their chateaux. In fact the incident was made up by historian Alan Clark.

During the war more than 200 generals were killed, wounded or captured. Most visited the front lines every day. In battle they were considerably closer to the action than generals are today.

Naturally, some generals were not up to the job, but others were brilliant, such as Arthur Currie, a middle-class Canadian failed insurance broker and property developer.

Rarely in history have commanders had to adapt to a more radically different technological environment.

British commanders had been trained to fight small colonial wars, now they were thrust into a massive industrial struggle unlike anything the British army had ever seen.

Despite this, within three years the British had effectively invented a method of warfare still recognisable today. By the summer of 1918 the British army was probably at its best ever and it inflicted crushing defeats on the Germans.

## 6. Gallipoli was fought by Australians and New Zealanders



Australians and New Zealanders mark Anzac Day in Gallipoli, 2011

Far more British soldiers fought on the Gallipoli peninsula than Australians and New Zealanders put together.

The UK lost four or five times as many men in the brutal campaign as her imperial Anzac contingents. The French also lost more men than the Australians.

The Aussies and Kiwis commemorate Gallipoli ardently and understandably so, as their casualties do represent terrible losses both as a proportion of their forces committed and of their small populations.

## 7. Tactics on the Western Front remained unchanged despite repeated failure

Never have tactics and technology changed so radically in four years of fighting. It was a time of extraordinary innovation. In 1914 generals on horseback galloped across battlefields as men in cloth caps charged the enemy without the necessary covering fire. Both sides were overwhelmingly armed with rifles. Four years later, steel-helmeted combat teams dashed forward protected by a curtain of artillery shells.

They were now armed with flame throwers, portable machine-guns and grenades fired from rifles. Above, planes, that in 1914 would have appeared unimaginably sophisticated, duelled in the skies, some carrying experimental wireless radio sets, reporting real-time reconnaissance.

Huge artillery pieces fired with pinpoint accuracy - using only aerial photos and maths they could score a hit on the first shot. Tanks had gone from the drawing board to the battlefield in just two years, also changing war forever.



The World War One Centenary showing the author

**8. No-one won.** Swathes of Europe lay wasted, millions were dead or wounded. Survivors lived on with severe mental trauma. The UK was broke. It is odd to talk about winning.

However, in a narrow military sense, the UK and her allies convincingly won. Germany's battleships had been bottled up by the Royal Navy until their crews mutinied rather than make a suicidal attack against the British fleet.

Germany's army collapsed as a series of mighty allied blows scythed through supposedly impregnable defences. By late September 1918 the German emperor and his military mastermind, Erich Ludendorff, admitted that there was no hope and Germany must beg for peace. The 11 November Armistice was essentially a German surrender.

Unlike Hitler in 1945, the German government did not insist on a hopeless, pointless struggle until the allies were in Berlin - a decision that saved countless lives, but was seized upon later to claim Germany never really lost.

**9. The Versailles Treaty was extremely harsh.** The treaty of Versailles confiscated 10% of Germany's territory but left it the largest, richest nation in central Europe.

It was largely unoccupied and financial reparations were linked to its ability to pay, which mostly went unenforced anyway. The treaty was notably less harsh than treaties which ended the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War and World War Two. The German victors in the former annexed large chunks of two rich French provinces, part of France for between 2-300 years, and home to most of French iron ore production, as well as presenting France with a massive bill for immediate payment.



After WW2 Germany was occupied, split up, her factory machinery smashed or stolen and millions of prisoners forced to stay with their captors and work as slave labourers. Germany lost all the territory it had gained after WW1 and another giant slice on top of that.

Versailles was not harsh but was portrayed as such by Hitler who sought to create a tidal wave of anti-Versailles sentiment on which he could then ride into power.

**10. Everyone hated it.**



**Two German soldiers with two Polish women**

Like any war, it all comes down to luck. You may witness unimaginable horrors that leave you mentally and physically incapacitated for life, or you might get away without a scrape. It could be the best of times, or the worst of times.

Many soldiers enjoyed WW1. If they were lucky they would avoid a big offensive, and much of the time, conditions might be better than at home.

For the British there was meat every day - a rare luxury back home - cigarettes, tea and rum, part of a daily diet of over 4,000 calories.

Absentee rates due to sickness, an important barometer of a unit's morale were, remarkably hardly above peacetime rates. Many young men enjoyed the guaranteed pay, the intense comradeship, the responsibility and a much greater sexual freedom than in peacetime Britain.

**Dan Snow is a BBC writer and presenter. The origin of this article is unknown, but used with thanks. MB**

## Help Wanted

### **Brian Fuller**

The envelope from John McNamara & Co Pty Ltd Melbourne C1 to Messrs Marriner Bos of Hordern Vale NSW was postmarked by Melbourne machine cancel 27SEP48.

Underneath in purple ink is a cachet 52 x 16mm with the word VICTORIA and the date in pencil 29 8 48 and outside underneath the cachet is a D also in pencil and the same hand. One month earlier than the machine cancel.

Has anyone a better explanation please than: On 29AUG48 cacheted by GPO and returned to McNamara to get State location then reprocessed?

Has anyone seen a similar cachet?

Michael Barden responded:

It would seem the letter was first sighted on 29 Aug 48. The Clerk was smart enough to recognise 2018 and 3238 Hordern Vales and sent it back for addition of Vic or NSW. When NSW was added, it was cancelled by GPO on 27 Sep and delivered.

The sender was damn slow in adding the State.

Brian's Response:

One little hiccup is that Hordern Vale only exists in VIC and the stock agent was selling sheep for Marriner probably at Newmarket.

I cleaned my glasses and found that NSW had a pencil line through it. - done probably some time ago with the GPO cachet.

I suspect the typist left the State out. Someone put it in ink, the GPO then scrubbed it all out, then one month later it was reprocessed.

I do not like that scenario either. The one month delay has me confused.

Which choice do you prefer? Do our readers decide?

Hordern Vale is in the Otways.

Editor responds: There is no Hordern Vale in NSW. Postcode 2018 is the postcode for Eastlakes and Roseberry. Therefore whoever inserted NSW was wrong. Postcodes were not introduced in Australia until 1967 so using the postcode is a red herring.

Any other thoughts?



## Is the Date Right?

### *Ian Cutter*

One expects the date on a postmark to be correct.

But, if it is not right there is usually no way of telling, so it is hard to collect information about how often this happens.

However, I recently came across a small notebook that sheds some light on the subject. My parents were touring in southern NSW and my mother had volunteered to collect some postmarks for me. She really did apply herself, as can be seen from the number collected in one day.

I remember her recounting the varying reception she would receive, from the extremely helpful to the grumpy uncooperative (which I suppose demonstrate that some things don't change over fifty years).

One page of eight datestamps (illustrated here) started with Holbrook, Tarcutta, Adelong and Gilmore, each one dated 19MY66.

The first of the bottom four, from TUMUT, is a slightly different type, with a smaller NSW, but does show the same date. The next one, from WEE JASPER is in error by 11 years. Also of note is the two different versions of the "5" in the year.

The one at bottom left, MANUKA, at first sight looks like 29MY 66, but could well be 20 MY 66, which would be correct.

The final example, from BREDBO shows 30MY66, but the next over the page (not illustrated) is Cooma 20MY66, which date would then also apply to Bredbo.

So, perhaps an interesting observation, although we have to remember that these would be "on the counter" datestamps rather than "out the back" versions. Also the proportion of time spent displaying an incorrect date may not translate directly into the same proportion of incorrect impressions.



## Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

During December I went and visited some post offices in my area. I also found a bit of history about the post offices of Waaia and Picola which is mostly correct if my memory serves me right.

Waaia was run at the General store till the store closed and was then run from a house in Sutcliffe St until about 10 years ago and then to its present position on the outskirts of town on the Waaia to Bearii road with opening hours of 9am to 10 am daily with provision to get parcels at any time. First photo is the P.O. of Waaia which is now a Community Postal Agency.



Second photo shows the boxes at Picola .Post office is now run from the Picola Pub with limited postal service. Post office was run by Lill Maskel at the general store for many years and was transferred to the Pub in 2010. Datestamp only went to 2015 and an illustration in this edition shows that. Latest information is that a new postmarker has arrived. Mail from Picola is sent to Shepparton from where it is processed.

Information from Simon Alsop is that Market Square Geelong has reopened in Moorabool St. where the main P.O. was and the main P.O. is now in the Business Centre in Gheringhap St. Geelong.

Also on his rounds he was informed that Ross Creek near Ballarat has no datestamp.

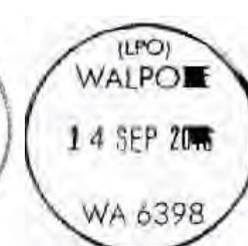
Many thanks to Simon Alsop Frank Adamik and Tony Lyon who help to keep this column going and unless I am to get more datestamps then this column may have to go into recess for awhile.

N.S.W.:-



S.A.-

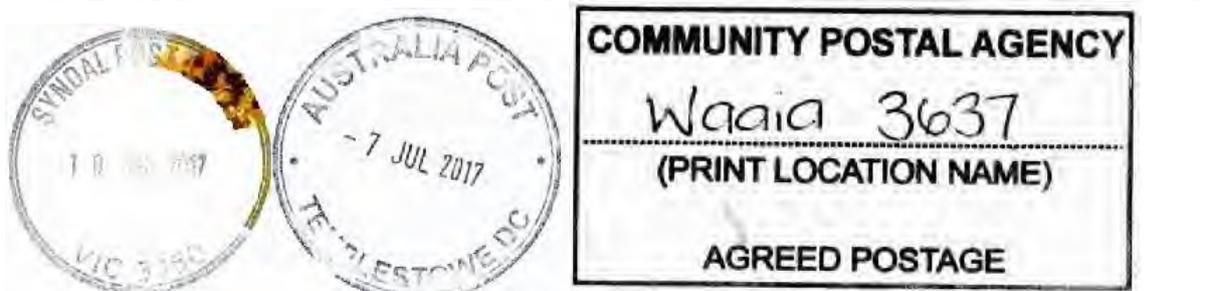
W.A.:-



VIC.- Earlier datestamps-BALLARAT WEST (124/27), BELL PARK (124/27), BENTLEIGH EAST (118/27),CORIO [2][3](117/27),DIMBOOLA(122/25),HIGHTON SOUTH(136/28),KEW NORTH (133/28),KINGSVILLE (118/28),LANGWARRIN(125/29)LANG LANG(122/26)LITTLE RIVER(125/27)



VIC:-Earlier datestamps-POOWONG (122/27), SEBASTOPOL (125/28)  
 Pictured here are the postmarkers from Picola and Waaia



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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

## Palestine Registered Inland Mail

**Tony Lyon**

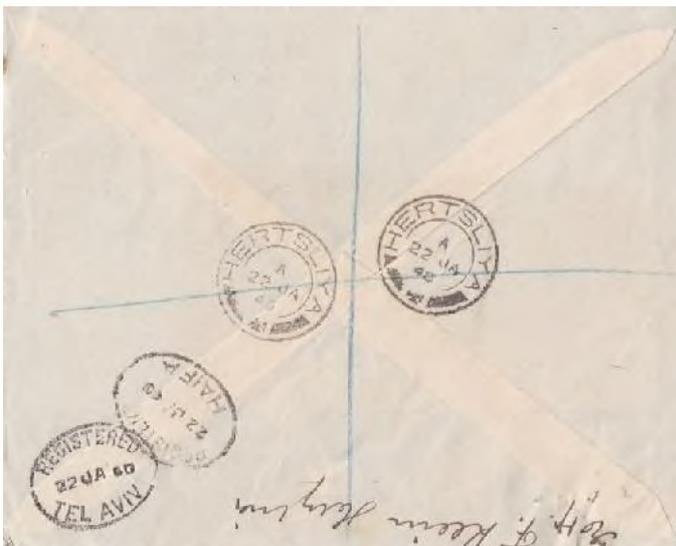
HERTSELIYA (Name changed from HERZLIA to HERTSLIYA on the 3 January 1935, and to HERTSELIYA on the 19 January 1944.). It is now known as HERZLIYA. It was founded in 1924 being named after Theodor Herzl the founder of modern Zionism. It is situated about 14 km north of Tel Aviv.

HERZLIA is an affluent city in the central coast of Israel, at the Northern part of the Tel Aviv District known for its robust start-up and entrepreneurial culture. In 2016 it had a population of 93,116.



Registered cover sent from Hertsliya 22 JA 40 to Tel Aviv 22 JA 40. The Hertsliya cancel is Proud D4 used (5.1.37) – (3.8.43) [brackets indicate possible earlier and later usage].

It is franked with 18mils, which is correct. The inland letter rate was 5 mils / 20 grms 16.2.40 – 30.4.40 with registration 13mils 1.10.21 – 30.6.40.



Backstamps Hertsliya 22 JA 40,

Haifa Registered 22 JA 40 Proud R17 shows usage (7.8.45) – (8.5.47) this is the only cancel shown that it closely matches and therefore could be an earliest date 22 JA 40? Or, an unlisted cancellation; which is more likely?

Tel Aviv Registered 22 JA 40 Proud R7 (4.1.37) – (16.9.40).



R17. (7.8.45)-(8.5.47)