



The Kiwi



The Official Organ of the NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN.
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WHOLE 243

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1994,
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

THE ANNUAL COMPETITION WILL TAKE PLACE, DETAILS OF WHICH MAY
BE FOUND ON PAGES 9 AND 10 OF THE LAST ISSUE OF 'THE KIWI'

DURING THE JUDGING, FRANK WIGGINS WILL GIVE A DISPLAY ON
'THE GREENWOOD RAILWAY'

NEW ZEALAND NAVY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR



Figure 7

THE REVERSE OF THE COVER ILLUSTRATED AT FIGURE 6 ON PAGE 44

EDITORIAL

It is sometimes very difficult to decide just what to write in an Editorial. It is a privilege to be given - or to take - a few lines in which one can express personal views.

Taking advantage of this privileged position, I have to say that I feel that New Zealand Post - and many other Stamp Issuing Authorities - are going astray with their programmes.

In days gone by, one of the most important criteria used for judging whether or not an issue was justified was the question of 'operational need'. A judicious choice of subjects to commemorate was accepted, as were issues sold at a modest premium for justifiable charitable causes.

Now, it appears that marketing and profit are all that governs the programmes. The Authorities - whoever they be - are aware that they have a fairly constant market. However, I submit that this is constantly changing, as those who become disillusioned with the plethora of even more expensive issues drop out, to be succeeded by others joining with initial high expectations of enjoyment, and, let it be said, profit on a perceived investment.

I believe that New Zealand Post can be accused of adopting just such an attitude to their stamp issuing policy, with its high marketing profile. I doubt if we will ever return to more sensible times, but I live in hopes. For myself, I will now only collect modern New Zealand stamps that I recover, properly used, from my mail. Perhaps in making this decision, I am fortunate. I have many family in New Zealand, and as Editor of your journal, I get much mail from New Zealand. Long may this continue - for all of us.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

J.W.Press, 15, Churchill Road, Church Stretton,
Shropshire, SY6 6EP.

RESIGNED

I Pettersson, Sodergaten 24A, 332 00 Gislaved, Sweden.
J.E.Lays, 5481, East Colorado Avenue,
Penver, CO 80222, United States of America.

DECEASED

J.P.Pearce, 8, Middleton Avenue, Littleover, Derby, DE3 6DL.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A.C.Collinson, 19, Clare Road, Bedford, MK41 8QX.
(previously of 61, Mendip Crescent, Putnoe, Bedford.)
D.MacGill, 39, Jacks Road, Salcoats, Scotland, KA21 5SH.
(previously of Millport, Isle of Cumbrae.)

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 29TH JANUARY, 1994.

STAMP BOOKLETS - BOOKLET STAMPS - ERNIE LEPPARD

Our Chairman, Alan Gardiner, opened the meeting at 2.30 p.m. with 19 members present. Apologies for absence were received from Allan Berry, Margaret Frankcom and Graham Vaughan. Graham Turner was welcomed with a round of applause to his first meeting, although he had been a member for 25 years. A letter was read from Ken McNaught thanking the Society for making him a Vice-President

and Life Member. Alan Gardiner reminded members that there is now a new section in the Annual Competition - the Novice Award - for those who have not previously won an Award. He then welcomed Bernard Symonds from Rugby who had brought a display of Booklets to show with that of Ernie Leppard.

Ernie began his display by pointing out that booklet issues commenced in New Zealand in April, 1901, and that after a period of 93 years are still running stronger than ever; that every decade has seen a major change in format and design; and that display itself becomes a problem. Ernie began by putting up the Penny Universal booklets, essentially a part of the Penny Universal story as the early booklet covers showed the range of places which reciprocated penny postage.

We saw the 1901 experimental booklet of 1/-½d. with the two panes of Pirie paper first local stamps perf. 11, followed by examples of the Royle plate 1/-½d., 2/-½d. and 2/6½d. booklets, the ½d. surcharge being added to defray the cost of producing the booklet. These showed the difference in the 1902 and 1905 issues, with the earlier having imperforate sides. From the Marcel Stanley collection there was an example of the mixed perf. pane, considered to be unique. Two 'Official' booklets were shown, complete with 20 panes were shown, one with mixed panes from positions 8 and 16, and the others all from position 9 on the sheet, with a guide to the various positions of the panes on the sheet.

The King Edward VII ½d. panes with a star in three positions on the pane to replace the ½d. surcharge were shown. This was followed by the electrotpe plates of 1915 and 1919 made from wax impressions of the Penny Dominion and the King George V surface printing plates, identified by minute flaws. The new 1919 steel plate proofs by Perkins Bacon came next, all of these showing the start of interleaving advertisements to defray costs of production. Some of the problems in guillotining wide and narrow format booklets were illustrated, and the use of selvedge bars to obtain even impressions. Ernie put up a range of the 1924 to 1930 advertisements on the selvedges of the panes, all arranged for the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department by Railway Advertising in Wellington.

In 1936 there was a reversion to interleaving advertisements, and the inauguration of the horizontal format. Here we saw the Penny Kiwi definitive, and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth 11 stamps, including proofs and tete beche pairs from the Bradbury Wilkinson archive sold in 1993.

Part two of the display included a fine display of similar material from the collection of Bernard Symonds. He stated that his interest centred on the booklets themselves, such as how to show both sides without dismembering the booklet. He demonstrated how different coloured leaves were used by different towns; red for Dunedin, lilac for Auckland, and so on. A pane of of the stamps of King George V perforated 14 x 15 was considered a unique item, as was one overprinted 'CANCELLED'. There was also an interesting item used for Post Office training purposes.

Part three opened with a display of Bradbury Wilkinson proofs of booklet panes, various errors, plating by flaws, and then a full and complete range of the colourfully designed modern booklets,

including such items as a 'Two-Kiwi' reprint that passed quickly out of use - after only two weeks. This shows that it is as well to have a thorough understanding with your supplier, in order not to miss such goodies. All the varieties of the Rock Wren, self-adhesive and hang-sell booklets, Christmas, Greetings, Message issues, panes overprinted 'Sydpex' and 'Stockholmia', the more recent 'Weta' and 'Dinosaur' issues, and the most recent showing the re-introduction of advertisements such as that for 'Seafood', together constituted a most interesting and comprehensive display.

Our Chairman thanked Ernie and Bernard for their impressive displays, and when his words had been endorsed by applause from those present, the meeting was closed at 4.30 p.m.

M.G.M.

DISPLAYS TO LOCAL SOCIETIES

In his capacity as President of the Kent Philatelic Federation, our member Lewis Giles will be giving a display of New Zealand to the Edenbridge Philatelic Society on Wednesday, 2nd March, 1994. The Society meets at Church House, High Street, Edenbridge, and the meetings start at 8.00 p.m.

In his capacity as President of the Kent Philatelic Federation, our member Lewis Giles will be giving a display of New Zealand to the Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society on Wednesday, 9th March, 1994. The Society meets at Committee Room, 84, London Road, Tunbridge Wells, and the meetings start at 7.30 p.m.

In his capacity as President of the Kent Philatelic Federation, our member Lewis Giles will be giving a display of New Zealand to the Woolwich & District Philatelic Society on Thursday, 10th March, 1994. The Society meets at Charlton House, The Village, Charlton Road, London, S.E.7. and the meetings start at 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.

In his capacity as President of the Kent Philatelic Federation, our member Lewis Giles will be giving a display of New Zealand to the Dartford and District Stamp Club on Monday, 21st March, 1994. The Society meets at Ashen Drive Centre, Ashen Drive, Dartford, and the meetings start at 7.30 p.m. for 7.45 p.m.

In his capacity as President of the Kent Philatelic Federation, our member Lewis Giles will be giving a display of New Zealand to the Orpington Philatelic Society on Wednesday, 23rd March, 1994. The Society meets at the Exhibition Room, Orpington Public Library, Orpington, and the meetings start at 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.

Our member J.G.A.Latham will be giving a display of New Zealand World War 1 and World War II Military Mail to the Eastbourne and South Downs Stamp Club on Thursday, 24th March, 1994. The Society meets at the St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters, Pevensey Bay, East Sussex, BN24 6AT, and the meetings start at 7.00 p.m.

In his capacity as President of the Kent Philatelic Federation, our member Lewis Giles will be giving a display of New Zealand to the Isle of Thanet Philatelic Society on Wednesday, 30th March, 1994. The Society meets at St. Laurence Church Hall, Ramsgate, and the meetings start at 7.30 pm. for 7.45 p.m.

In his capacity as President of the Kent Philatelic Federation, our member Lewis Giles will be giving a display of New Zealand to

the Romney Marsh Philatelic & Postcard Society on Wednesday, 13th April, 1994. The Society meets at St. Peters Church Hall, Robers Road, Greatstone, New Romney, and the meetings start at 7.30 p.m.

In his capacity as President of the Kent Philatelic Federation, our member Lewis Giles will be giving a display of New Zealand to the Ashford, Kent, Philatelic Society on Wednesday, 20th April, 1994. The Society meets at the Friends Meeting House, Albert Road, Ashford, and the meetings start at 7.30 p.m.

Our member Tom Latto will be giving a display of New Zealand Health Camps and Postal History to the Lytham St. Annes Philatelic Society on Wednesday, 20th April, 1994. The Society meets at the Drive Methodist Church Hall, Eastbank Road, St. Annes, Lancashire, and the meetings start at 7.30 p.m.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

1994 A.C.S. Colour Catalogue New Zealand Stamps. 17th Edition. Published by Auckland City Stamps Ltd., P.O.Box 3496, Auckland, New Zealand. 56 pages, illustrated in colour. Price - NZ\$5-00.

This Catalogue appears regularly, like an old friend. The 17th Edition is stated to include hundreds of price changes, and a listing of some Cinderellas. It is a handy guide to the basic listing of New Zealand stamps. It is available from many dealers in Australia, Great Britain and the United States of America, but anyone experiencing difficulty in obtaining a copy should write directly to the publishers.

REVIEW

Of Kauri and Gold, by Gerald Lawson. 86 A4 pages, ring bound, illustrated with bibliography and index. ISBN 0-908588-42-9. Published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand, P.O.Box 81-085, Whenuapai, Auckland, New Zealand. Price NZ\$20-00, plus NZ\$16-00 S.A.L. postage to the United Kingdom.

This publication is Handbook No. 33 of the Postal History Society of New Zealand. Once again, it is a sterling effort to list and give the histories of all the Post Offices ever open in a district of New Zealand. In this respect, the title chosen is unfortunate. It may be clear to those with a knowledge of New Zealand history that the Author is writing about the Coromandel area, where both Kauri logging, Kauri gum digging and gold mining were of the utmost importance in the early days of European settlement. The use of a sub-title to the book, giving the information, would not have detracted from its appearance, and would have improved its appeal.

Following an historical survey of the area, the author goes on to discuss the Post Offices, dividing them into three sections, depending upon which county they were situated in. The datestamps are listed by type, and one is reminded which is which from two useful pages of illustrations at the back. There are illustrations of interesting covers and postcards scattered throughout, and there is a very useful index and bibliography.

It is a pity, once again, that ring binding has been chosen. The appearance of the text would have been improved by being right

side justified, thus loosing its rather ragged appearance.

These criticisms may seem harsh, but as they could have been avoided so easily, it is a shame that such a magnificent work, the result of many hours of research, did not benefit from better care in presentation. Nevertheless, it is still a very worthy addition to the burgeoning list of publications on various aspects of the postal history of New Zealand.

NEWS RELEASE

NEW ZEALAND'S UNIQUE TOURISM CAPTURED IN STAMP ISSUE

New Zealand Post's first stamp issue for 1994 on 19th January recognised the importance of tourism at a time when there are thousands of overseas visitors enjoying our country.

The tourism issue depicts bungy jumping (45 cents), trout fishing (80 cents), jet boating (\$1-00), tramping (\$1-50) and heli-skiing (\$1-80).

In addition to the five stamps listed, a 45 cent booklet stamp featuring white water rafting has been produced to complement the issue.

Tourism has become one of New Zealand's major sources of income. Last year alone 1.1 million tourists visited New Zealand, many of them seeking an action holiday "down under".

Figures released by the New Zealand Tourism Board show significant increases in tourist numbers during September, October and November 1993 over the previous year.

November reported a 13% increase in arrivals, October a 19% rise and September a 14% increase.

With visitor numbers burgeoning, New Zealand Post considered it very appropriate to produce a tourism stamp issue which captures the essence of six of the most loved and sought after adventures in New Zealand.

The stamps range from heli-skiing and bungy jumping, a breathtaking activity synonymous with New Zealand and Queenstown in particular, to the quieter pursuits of tramping and fishing.

THE BRITISH PHILATELIC TRUST EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

PRESS RELEASE

STAMPEX are pleased to announce that, with the assistance and generosity of the Philatelic Traders Society and the British Philatelic Trust, they are introducing a new class in the AUTUMN STAMPEX competition, to be known as the OPEN CLASS.

The aim of the OPEN CLASS is to encourage those collectors who do not have high powered collections or whose exhibits do not conform strictly to the rules as laid down for the various existing classes, to show what they can do and how they enjoy the hobby.

Entrants will be able to take one or two frames, at an entry fee of £10-00 per frame, to display their stamps in a manner which is attractive to the public, who will be the judges, returning voting forms that will be in the catalogue.

The three prizes will be in the form of vouchers valued at £200, £125 and £75 that may be redeemed at any dealer who is a standholder at the current AUTUMN STAMPEX. Full information and an

entry form will be available at SPRING STAMPEX as a pull out centrefold in the catalogue or from the offices of the Philatelic Traders Society or the British Philatelic Trust at 107, Charterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6PT after the Exhibition.

Entry fees for the AUTUMN STAMPEX International and National competitions are being held at the 1992 levels. Entry forms will be available at SPRING STAMPEX and from the Offices of the Philatelic Traders Society or the British Philatelic Trust as above.

FRAMA LABELS

NEIL JONES

I was asked by a member of my local philatelic society to collect any FRAMA labels that I might see during a visit to New Zealand that I made recently.

With the help of a lady assistant at the Cathedral Square Post Shop, Christchurch, I was able to obtain a list of the sites which offered a 'FRAMA' service at the time of my enquiry, during the first week in July, 1993. The lady was most helpful, making two or three telephone calls on my behalf, and eventually obtaining the information by means of a fax message. The list given is given verbatim, and was as follows:-

AUCKLAND

AUCKLAND PHILATELIC BUREAU 1505

DOWN TOWN AUCKLAND 1508

NORTHERN DISTRICT

BIRKENHEAD 1102

BROWNS BAY 1088

TAKAPUNA 1370

WHANGAREI CENTRAL 879

WAIKATO MAIL CENTRE 1492

TAURANGA MAIL CENTRE 1502

MIDDLEMORE HOSPITAL 1504

NELSON 1382

RICHMOND 1106

WANGANUI PHILATELIC BUREAU 856

CHRISTCHURCH METRO

CATHEDRAL SQUARE 1385

I do not know the significance of the numbers given, and, of course, the list may by now be out of date. Perhaps a member more interested in the subject than I can clarify these matters.

THE DANISH POST AND TELEGRAPH MUSEUM

While attending Hafnia '94, the International Philatelic Literature Exhibition in which 'The Kiwi' and 'New Zealand - A

Philatelic Miscellany had been entered, my wife and I managed to visit the Danish Post and Telegraph Museum in Copenhagen.

The Museum is housed in a four storey, 16th century building, which means that its structure is not strong enough to take the modern exhibition frames used by similar museums to display their treasures. Thus there has to be a rotation of countries, and we learned that New Zealand had last been on display for a period of two months back in 1980.

The collection was stored in less than ideal conditions during the Second World War, which meant that the album sheets on which some of the early material was mounted had to be discarded. Records show that the first eight sheets on which New Zealand stamps were mounted were so affected, and they await re-mounting still.

There was a wealth of publicity material available - leaflets, postcards and books. The authorities have arranged for these to be available in English - even the large book about the Museum. We left feeling we had been privileged to see a going, active concern.

ALLAN P. BERRY

NEW ZEALAND - A PHILATELIC MISCELLANY

It has come to the attention of the Officers of the Society that there may be members who are not aware of the book 'New Zealand - A Philatelic Miscellany' which the Society published in February, 1990, to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. It contains a wealth of information in the form of articles written by members of the Society, and a Preliminary Bibliography of the Stamps and Postal History of New Zealand and its Dependencies.

Copies of the book are still available to members at a cost of £13-00, plus £3-00 postage and packing. Orders should be sent to the Editor at the address shown on the front page of 'The Kiwi', together with the appropriate remittance. It is a publication that none of you should be without!

ALLAN P. BERRY

COURIER POST

C.G.CAPILL

Articles on the Courier Post service operating in New Zealand have appeared in 'The Kiwi', Volume 40, page, 103, November, 1991, and Volume 41, page 71, July, 1992. Since then, additional information has been obtained, a number of changes have been made to envelopes and parcel tickets, and two new services have been introduced. This article therefore should bring readers up to date once again.

A previous article illustrated the set of five parcel tickets that were issued on 9th October, 1989, when the Courier Post service commenced. It has since been established that another set of five labels were issued, sometime between 9th October, 1989, and 1st July, 1991, when the Track and Trace system was introduced. New Zealand Post now have no record of when these other parcel tickets were introduced. One complete unused ticket -

Figure 1 below - has been located as well as coloured illustrations of all five tickets. They are in the same colours as the original tickets i.e. Local Delivery - pink; Local Towns - brown; One Sector - orange; Two + Sectors - green; Island to Island - blue.

PEEL HERE

COURIER POST

11 N° 37045

ISLAND TO ISLAND TICKET

COURIER POST DELIVERY PORTION

11 N° 37045

COURIER POST BRANCH COPY

11 N° 37045

COURIER POST PICK UP COURIER

11 N° 37045

COURIER POST CUSTOMER COPY

11 N° 37045

TO CPT 11

PEEL HERE

Figure 1

On 1st July, 1991, when the Track and Trace system was introduced five new parcel tickets were issued - Figure 2 on page 34. These are also in the same colours as previously used. These tickets do not have any peel-off portions as the bar-coded Track and Trace label now fulfils that purpose.

From March, 1992, all envelopes except the Legal Long size were introduced printed in a different design. Only slight modifications were made to the front while the reverse was completely redesigned and included telephone numbers for Customer Service and Sales Enquiries. On the A5 size the Olympic Games logo was transferred from the centre bottom to the top right corner. All envelopes had 'Pull Zip To Open' printed on the flap.

As the Legal Long envelopes were not widely used they were not reprinted. Since February, 1992, they had only been available to commercial customers from Sales Account Executives. In August, 1993, the Sales Account Executives were advised that there would be no more printings of these envelopes and that customers who used them be offered the remaining stock.



Figure 2

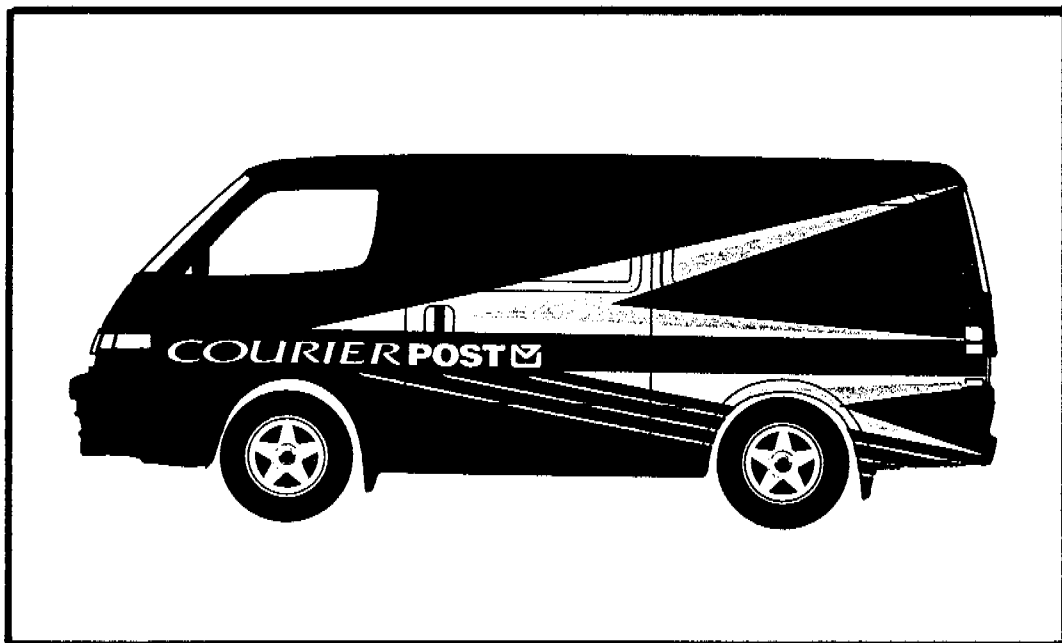



Figure 3

Late in 1992, a new image was adopted for Courier Post, this being a dart to indicate speed. Courier Post's vans and trucks were first to sport this new design - Figure 3 on page 34. In March, 1993, the Courier Post International (E.M.S.) envelopes were issued printed with this design, then from July, 1993, other Courier Post envelopes similarly printed were progressively issued - Figure 4 on page 36. All other Courier Post publicity material and products - parcel tickets, Track and Trace labels, etc. - were also progressively released over several months. During this change-over envelopes having the new design and Track and Trace label with the old design were available for a period. Figure 5 shows a selection of these products.

▲ TEAR OFF ▲


COURIER POST  **OVERNIGHT DELIVERY**

PREPAID PARCEL


FOR SAME DAY OR SATURDAY DELIVERY ATTACH STICKER HERE AND TICK BOX BELOW

EG 007 987 376 NZ


A. EG 007 987 376 NZ SAME DAY ☐ SATURDAY ☐




A/D EG 007 987 376 NZ




D EG 007 987 376 NZ SIGNATURE REQUIRED ☐



NAME (please print clearly)	SIGNATURE
-----------------------------	-----------

COURIER POST  **PREPAID PARCEL**

PEEL OFF HERE 

EG 007 987 376 NZ

YOUR REFERENCE

CUSTOMER COPY CPPIO

CPTOS PEEL HERE ▼

COURIER POST  **PARCEL TICKET**

ONE SECTOR

0136943 OS 15kg
OR PART THEREOF

COURIER POST  **SAME DAY DELIVERY**

Figure 5

Some A4 size envelopes have been seen on which Track and Trace label's serial number has been additionally computer-printed directly onto the envelope - Figure 6. New Zealand Post advise that ultimately all envelopes will have this number printed on them.

In November, 1992, New Zealand Post bought the courier company StreetFax Couriers. They were an urgent courier company,

A5

DELIVER TO:

COMPANY / NAME:

ADDRESS:

ATTENTION:

PHONE:

PLEASE COMPLETE ADDRESS PANEL WITH FULL DETAILS. FOR DOMESTIC USE ONLY.

COURIER POST
PREPAID ENVELOPE
EA 037 731 737 NZ

OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

FOR SAME DAY OR SATURDAY
DELIVERY ATTACH STICKER HERE
AND TICK BOX BELOW

A EA 037 731 737 NZ SAME DAY ☐ SATURDAY ☐



AD EA 037 731 737 NZ



D EA 037 731 737 NZ SIGNATURE REQUIRED ☐



NAME (please print clearly) SIGNATURE

COURIER POST
PREPAID ENVELOPE
EA 037 731 737 NZ
CUSTOMER COPY

PEEL OFF HERE

COURIER POST

Figure 4

established in 1989 and operating in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. They provided Local Urgent, Sameday Nationwide, National Overnight and International Express services. In Auckland they continued to operate under their existing name as a separate division of New Zealand Post, while their operations in Wellington and Christchurch were absorbed into New Zealand Post. In July, 1993, New Zealand Post launched two of these courier services under the names 'Courier Post Urgent' and 'Next Flight, Sameday, InterCity'.

A4

COURIER POST

OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

PREPAID ENVELOPE

FOR SAME DAY OR SATURDAY DELIVERY ATTACH STICKER HERE AND TICK BOX BELOW

EA 034 555 707 NZ

A EA 034 555 707 NZ SAME DAY ☐ SATURDAY ☐

EA 034 555 707 NZ

A/D EA 034 555 707 NZ

D EA 034 555 707 NZ SIGNATURE REQUIRED ☐

NAME (please print clearly) SIGNATURE

COURIER POST

PREPAID ENVELOPE

YOUR REFERENCE

PEEL OFF HERE

EA 034 555 707 1

CUSTOMER COPY CTR

Bar code : EA03455570712

NEW ZEALAND POST

Figure 6

Customer Manifest No 329661

PEEL LABEL HERE

No 329661TM

FAX

COURIERS

ON DEMAND 24 HR HOTLINE

AKL 0-9-525 1000

WLG 0-4-801 8800

ACC. NO.: DATE:

TO/FROM:

PRICE/EXCESS:

DELIVERY SIGNATURE No 329661

TIME COURIER

Figure 7

Courier Post Urgent is an under one hour delivery service which operates in Wellington and Christchurch under the name 'Courier Post Urgent' while in Auckland it operates under the name 'Streetfax'. Streetfax earlier introduced their own parcel ticket onto which was written the date of sending, the sender's name, destination and cost - Figure 7 on page 36. These continued to be used and in August they also introduced a Prepaid ticket, which was just an ordinary ticket rubber-stamped 'PREPAID' in red.

'Next Flight, Sameday, InterCity' is a next available flight service operating between 25 main centres from Kaitiaki to Invercargill. New Zealand Post did not introduce any special parcel tickets for these services but used job sheets for accounting purposes.

The writer would like to thank the Managers of Courier Post, Wellington, and Customer Service, Streetfax, for their help in supplying information about these services.

HOSPITAL SHIP CARNIVAL

PETER HIGH

The first hospital ship, engaged by the Government of New Zealand in the First World War was the 'Maheno', which sailed on her first charter on 25th May, 1915. Shortly after this, the Governor-General, the Earl of Liverpool, addressed an appeal to the people of New Zealand for their assistance in raising funds to provide the complete hospital equipment for a second hospital ship.

The Patriotic and Red Cross Societies, as well as many private individuals, began work, and funds poured in from all over the Dominion, as did large quantities of clothing and equipment.

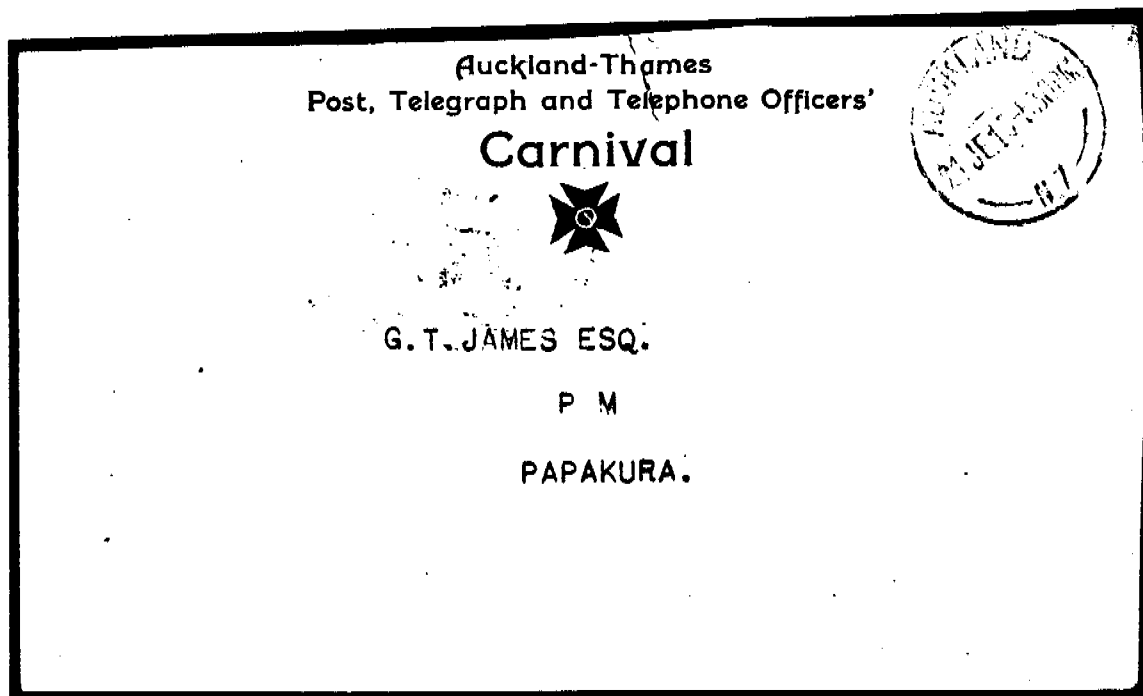


Figure 1



One event held to raise funds for this worthy cause was the Auckland-Thames Post, Telegraph and Telephone Officers' Carnival, which took place over the weekend of 11th and 12th June, 1915, in Auckland. The stampless cover illustrated at Figure 1 on page 38 is an example of the official carnival stationery. It is addressed to the Postmaster of Papakura, datestamped at Auckland on 21st June, 1915, and backstamped at Papakura on the following day. Illustrated at Figure 2 is a souvenir of the event that was contained within the cover. It is printed in sepia on silk. The Arms of the Governor-General, the Earl of Liverpool, are shown below the symbol of the Red Cross.

New Zealand's second hospital ship 'Marama' was commissioned in December, 1915.

I have also recently acquired a copy of the book "The Voyages of His Majesty's New Zealand Hospital Ships 'Marama' and 'Maheno'", published in New Zealand in 1917.

The book describes the second charter of the 'Maheno' and the first charter of the 'Marama'. It covers in detail the voyages and casualties cared for, listing at the end all the crew and medical personnel carried.

Figure 2

NEW ZEALAND NAVY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

E.W.LEPPARD

On 1st October, 1941, King George VI granted the use of H.M.N.Z.S. for Ships that were crewed mainly by New Zealand personnel. At the time, some 5,000 were serving in His Majesty's Ships. By the end of the War on 15th August, 1945, V.J. Day, over 10,000 had served in the Royal Navy, many attached to the British Navy.

The largest ships manned mainly by New Zealand personnel were the four cruisers, Achilles, Leander, Gambia and Neptune. Each was of around 8,000 tons, and armed with six inch guns. The crew numbered about 400 men. Covers from these ships are not easy to find, but each provide interesting background stories.

H.M.N.Z.S. ACHILLES

This ship is famed for its part in the Battle of the River Plate, where, with H.M.S. Exeter and H.M.S. Ajax, the German Pocket Battleship Graf Spee was forced to scuttle herself in the mouth of the river on 17th December, 1939. She took part in escort duties on convoys to the Middle East until Japan entered the war on 7th December, 1941, when she was transferred to Pacific United States Forces duties. She was hit by Japanese bombers in January, 1943. After temporary repair at Auckland, she sailed for refit in the United Kingdom in April, 1943.

Whilst undergoing dry dock refit in Portsmouth someone left three oxyacetylene cylinders on overnight. The following morning, 21st June, 1943, the work shift arrived, someone lit a match for a smoke, and there was an explosion in which 29 dockyard workers were killed and 60 injured.



Figure 1

The crew were transferred on 22nd September, 1943, to commission a new ship, H.M.N.Z.S. Gambia. Leander was in Boston in the United States being repaired, and her crew were transferred back to the United Kingdom to recommission the repaired Achilles.

The ship continued to serve in the Pacific after the war, and in 1949 was sold to the Indian Navy, when she was renamed 'Delhi'.

Figure 1 above illustrates a cover from the commissioning trip of March, 1937, when the ship's catapult plane collected mail from Wellington whilst H.M.S. Achilles was at anchor in Queen Charlotte Sound.

Figure 2 on page 41 shows a cover with the boxed 'PASSED BY NAVAL CENSOR / No. 10 (New Zealand). / Initials :.....' and the boxed 'ON ACTIVE SERVICE' markings which both distinguish mail from H.M.N.Z.S. Achilles. This has the initials of Captain Parry in the Censor Marking. He was Captain of the ship from February,

1939, to October, 1940, including the Battle of the River Plate. These earlier River Plate covers appear to have the boxed cachet 'ON ACTIVE SERVICE' in blue, and the 'PASSED BY NAVAL CENSOR / No. 10 (New Zealand). / Initials :.....' in red, as opposed to both cachets struck in black in the latter part of the war.

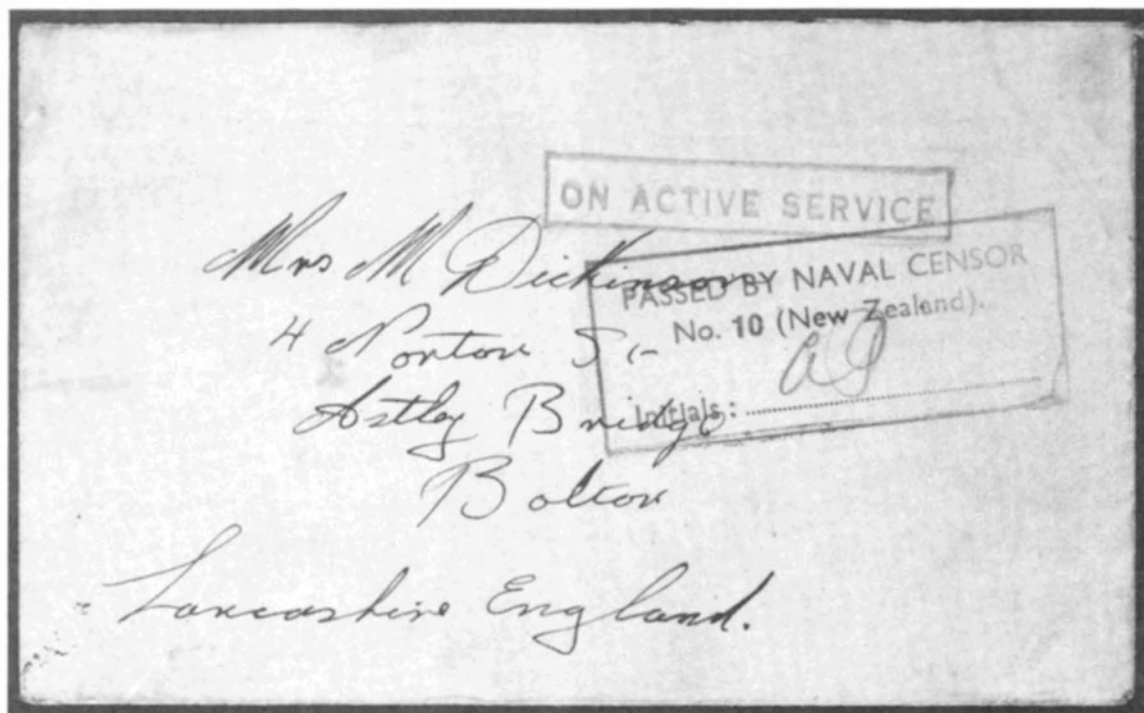


Figure 2

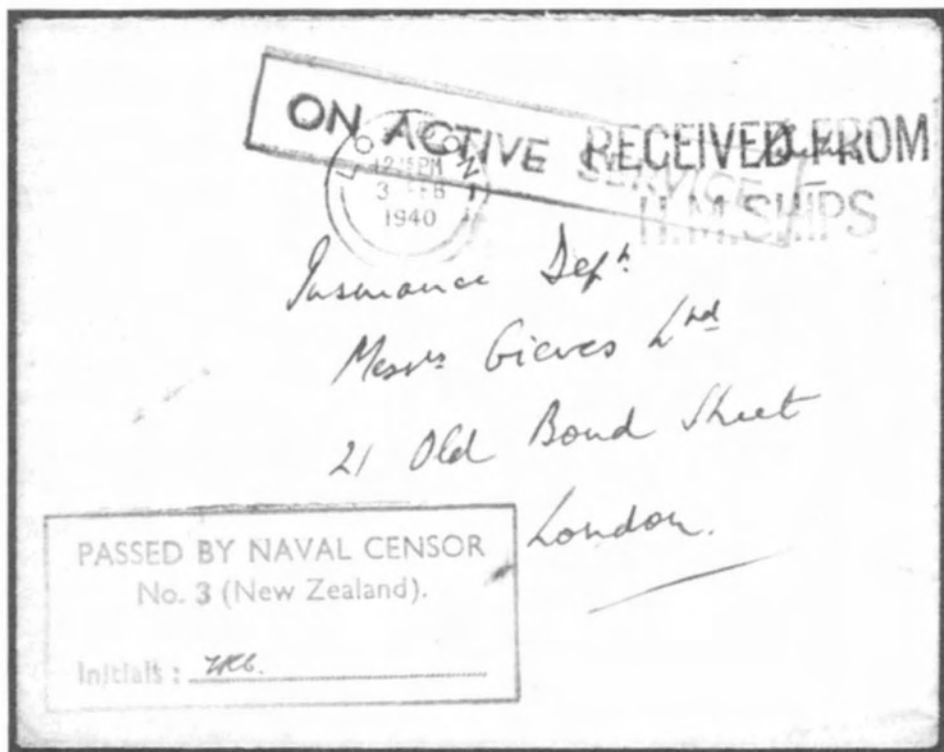


Figure 3

H.M.N.Z.S. LEANDER

Commissioned with New Zealand Naval Forces in 1937, she was a sister ship of the Achilles, both being Leander Class six inch cruisers. She performed escort duties to the First Echelon of New Zealand troops to the Middle East, but doubled back to take part in the Centenary Celebrations at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands on 6th February, 1940. During 1941 and 1942, she served with the British Fleet in the Indian Ocean. In February, 1941, she sank the Italian ship 'Ramb L' of 3667 tons, and in March, 1941, she captured the Vichy French ship 'Charles LD' of 5267 tons. After Japan entered the war, she served with the United States Task Force in the Pacific.

During the battle for the Soloman Islands at Kolombangara she was torpedoed, causing casualties of 29 killed and 15 wounded, and leaving a gash 12 feet by 30 feet in her bow. After temporary repairs in Auckland, she limped to Boston in the United States. She was paid off from the New Zealand Navy in December, 1943, and her crew transferred to Portsmouth in the United Kingdom to recommission H.M.N.Z.S. Achilles.



Figure 4

Two types of cover are seen from the Leander. One is a boxed 'PASSED BY NAVAL CENSOR / No. 3 (New Zealand). / Initials :.....', as seen on Figure 3 on page 41. Both Achilles and Leander have boxed 'ON ACTIVE SERVICE' cachets which differ in size, which can be seen alone on covers. The difference in size can be used to determine the origin of covers.

Whilst on duty with the British Fleet, Leander covers are

sometimes seen with the British tombstone ship's censor mark, identified at time by the Captain's initials - 'R.T.H.' for Captain Horan, as in Figure 4 on page 42, or 'R.Burney Capt.' during the Pacific period.

H.M.N.Z.S. GAMBIA

Commissioned by the crew of the Achilles in Portsmouth on 22nd September, 1943, she served with the Home Fleet until February, 1944, when she was transferred to the Pacific United States Task Force. She took part in all the major actions, and on 20th August, 1945, landed the first allied detachment on Japanese soil. She took part in the Official Surrender in Tokyo Bay on 2nd September, 1945.

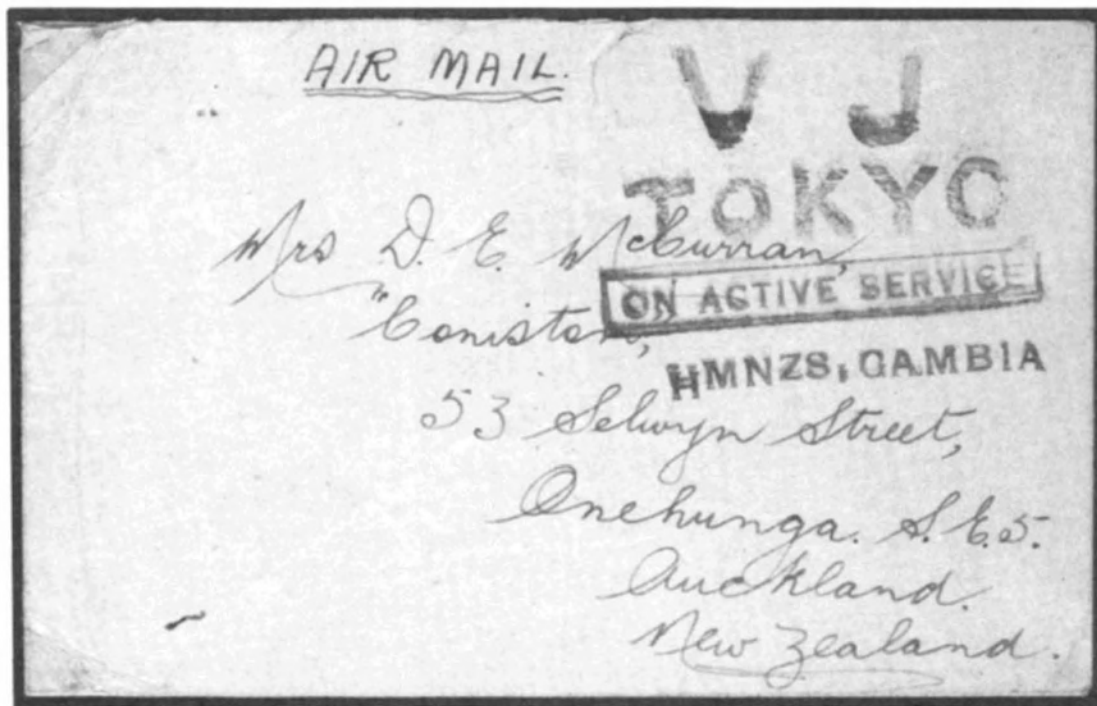


Figure 5

A distinctive cachet was used on this one day, as illustrated at Figure 5 above. Thereafter covers can be recognised by an unboxed 'ON ACTIVE SERVICE' cachet.

H.M.S. NEPTUNE

The last in this series was perhaps New Zealand's greatest naval disaster, although it may not be recognised as such. The Neptune was a British Cruiser of 7175 tons. In July, 1940, she took part in the Calabria operation, bottling up and sinking Italian ships in the Bay of Taranto. She was the Flagship of Admiral J.H.D. Cunningham of the Second Cruiser Squadron which took part in the sinking of the Bismark on 24th May, 1941. During this time, New Zealanders on Draft were being transferred for the ship to become a third New Zealand Cruiser. Unfortunately, the ship was sunk before it was officially recognised as a New Zealand ship.



Figure 6

The cover shown at Figure 6 above is dated 15th December, 1941. It is from Dominion Road in New Zealand, but never reached the addressee. Four days after the cover was posted, H.M.S. Neptune was sunk 12 miles out from Tripoli. As part of 'K' Force out of Malta, she ran into a minefield. She was damaged in the bow, and in reversing, hit a second mine, which disabled the propeller. A companion ship, H.M.S. Kandahar, took of some of the crew and returned to Malta. This ship was due to return again the next morning to take H.M.S. Neptune in tow. But during the night, Neptune drifted onto a third mine at 2.00 a.m. on 19th December, 1941, and at 3.00 a.m. she struck a fourth mine and sank immediately. Of the 238 crew remaining on board, 147 were New Zealanders. There was only one survivor who was picked up by an Italian Motor Torpedo Boat five days later. The boxed Naval 'Return to Sender / at Present Undeliverable / Naval Board Instructions' is struck in blue. It was probably applied in London and appears to be a very rare marking. The reverse of the cover is shown at Figure 7 on page 25.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION YET?
 IF THE LABEL ON YOUR ENVELOPE BEARS A BLUE CROSS
 IT MEANS OUR TREASURER HAS NOT YET HEARD FROM YOU.
 PLEASE SEE TO PAYMENT NOW - AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.
 WE DO NOT WANT TO LOOSE YOU!