



THE KIWI



THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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WHOLE NUMBER 268

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE LONDON CENTRAL CLUB,
16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET, LONDON WC1B
ON MAY 30TH, 1998 STARTING AT 2 P.M.

THE SUBJECT IS THE CENTENARY OF THE ISSUE OF THE FIRST PICTORIAL ISSUE
THE MEETING WILL BE LED BY ERNIE LEPPARD (WITH ENTHUSIASTIC ASSISTANCE
FROM DEREK DIAMOND) AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

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The Society is affiliated to The Association of British Philatelic Societies and The New Zealand
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SOCIETY NEWS:

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome:

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RESIGNED:

L.W.F. Wheeler, Huntingdon Cambs.

NEXT MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SECTION

The next meeting of the Scottish Group will be held at Long Niddry on Saturday, June 13th, 1998 starting at 12.30. The Subject will be a contribution of 10 - 12 sheets from those attending. For further details, please contact Alex McCulloch on Telephone Number 01557 814553

NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHERN REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting will be held at St. Luke's Church Hall, Orrell on May 30th, 1998. starting at 13.30.

The subject of the meeting will be "Captain Cook". The display will be given by the Secretary of the Captain Cook Study Unit, Mr. Alwyn Peel. This is an excellent display so please come.

If any members have interesting items connected with Captain Cook bring them along.

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON MARCH 28TH, 1998

Alan Baker, our Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming a new member, Joe Baben, to his first meeting. He also welcomed Frank Jones who was to judge the Annual Competition. Frank was conducted into purdah to undertake his task.

Whilst the judging took place, a number of items of interest were shown: Alan Baker showed a Miniature Sheet of the 1964 2½d. + 1d. stamp with a shift of the black printing of about 3mm., a block of the 1d. 1947 stamp with a large printing flaw and strip of three of the 1986 stamp with a dry printing of the blue shade. Philip Hoare showed an attractive series of recently discovered essays for the Second Pictorials.

Tony Stephens showed a 2d. First Sideface with a triangular cancellation: after much interesting discussion, this was revealed as a ship marking. Ernie Leppard gave a first airing to a thematic collection on the topic of "The Kiwi" that he intends to display at Thematica. Lew Giles had a cover which had been mutilated by the New Zealand Post Office.

The meeting then heard about Derek Diamond's evacuation to New Zealand in 1940 on board the Rangitikei; he showed a postcard of the vessel in 1934 and asked for information about its pre-war activities. He also asked why a cover he showed carried 1d Postage Due stamps when it was an OPSO Returned Letter.

Frank Jones then returned and spent much appreciated time talking about all of the entries in the competition. There had been a total of seventeen with two in the Classics, four in Moderns 1, four in Moderns 2, two in Moderns 3 and five Postal History entries.

The results were:

CLASSICS:

Winner: Paul Wreglesworth: Specimen and Presentation stamps of the Second Sidefaces.

Runner-up: Ernie Leppard: 1898 4d Lake Taupo stamp.

MODERNS 1:

Winner: John Smith: 1935 Pictorials, 1d Kiwi stamp

Runner-up: Philip Hoare: 1935 Pictorials, ½d Fantail stamp

MODERNS 2:

Winner: John Smith: 1/- King George VIth stamp

Runner-up: Ernie Leppard: Queen Elizabeth II middle values

MODERNS 3:

Winner: John Smith: 1960 Pictorial issue, 3d Kowhai stamp

Runner-up: Ernie Leppard: Self Adhesive stamps

POSTAL HISTORY:

Winner: John Woolf: 19th Century Handstruck Instructional Markings

Runner-up: Andrew Dove: New Zealand Troopships in the First World War

John Woolf also received a novice award as this is the first time he has won in the competition.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Frank proposed by Alan Baker and an assurance from our President, John Smith, that his entertaining the judge to lunch was unrelated to his success in the competition! The meeting closed at 17.00.

NORTH OF ENGLAND REGIONAL MEETING

The North of England Group met at Orrell on Saturday, 14th February, 1998. Fourteen members were present and apologies had been received from a further three. The topic was "six sheets on any subject" and the following displays were given.

Tom Hetherington showed a large map of New Zealand and covers from the Christmas Air mail Flights of 1931 which had been flown by three different pilots and carried various cachets in different colours. Jack Lindley showed a range of Chalon covers illustrating the different routes used; via Suez, Marseilles, Panama and California. Richard Simmons showed the 1946 Peace Issue. Aubrey Halpern displayed some of the Postal History of the Ross Dependency.

As this is the Centenary of the issue of the First Sidefaces, it was interesting to view Norman Lloyd's display of this issue. Then, Mike Hanson showed a selection of Perfins and value blocks of the Eros Health issue. He also had a single from this issue with the Plate number; this is usually removed during the guillotining of the sheets. Ian Cook showed different postcards, including the Otto Zeiher stamp cards. Harry Fox started with recent booklets and then moved on to early flight covers with Health stamps.

Paul Wreglesworth illustrated perforation varieties from the Second Sidefaces; included was a block of seventy with numerous different types of perforation. Tom Latto had items from the Chatham islands which had been sent to him by a member of the Society who had noticed his interest in this

area in a previous issue of *The Kiwi*. Don Scregg showed the 1906 Exhibition with Cinderellas and Medals as well as the issued stamps. The last display was from Geoff Wragg who showed a range of items including a message in a bottle and Social security stamps illegally used on cover.

A collective vote of thanks to everybody was given and the meeting closed at 16.35.

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Enclosed within this issue of *The Kiwi*, you will receive a membership card for the ABPS. In addition to proving your membership, the card entitles you to concessions negotiated on your behalf by the Association. These include:

1. LINK HOUSE MAGAZINES: publishers of STAMP MAGAZINE are willing to give ABPS members a reduced subscription of £20 (against the normal £25).

2. QUEEN'S MOAT HOUSE HOTELS: will offer ABPS members 25% off their weekend break packages during 1998.

Bookings should be made through QUEEN'S-LINE UK Reservations; Tel No. 0645 712 713. Members should quote "ABPS Offer" to identify themselves as qualifying for discount.

Bookings must be for a minimum of 2 consecutive nights, one of which must be a Saturday, for two adults sharing a twin or double room. Children will be accommodated free of charge if they are sharing with a room with parents: those under the age of 6, eat free and those aged between 6 and 15 pay a fixed rate of £5 for breakfast. This offer is available until January 1st. 1998.

3. INTERSTAMPS: will offer free postage to ABPS members on lots secured at Auction or 2½% off the final bill in the room.

4. WESTERN AUCTIONS Ltd., CARDIFF: will offer free catalogues to Societies plus a reduction of the vendor's commission by 2½% for all ABPS members on sales, through auctions, over £5,000.

5. DAVID LOFFSTADT, BROMLEY: will offer 10% off all items in stock to ABPS members (British Empire stamps, postal stationery and postal history up to 1952, maritime and military mail).

6. WARWICK & WARWICK: will offer 25% off catalogues (i.e. £40 reduced to £30) plus auction commission rate reduced from 15% to 10% on property valued in excess of £500.

7. STAMP INSURANCES SERVICES (BARRY HORNE): offers a £2.00 discount to members of ABPS affiliated Societies who insure their collections through their company.

8. THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF LONDON: will offer 10% off their standard fees for expertisation. Standard fees are £18 up to the value of £750 and for items valued in excess of £750, 2.5% to a maximum of £250. The fee for "negative" certificates is £18. The fee for covers (good or bad) is £20.

9. QUARTERLY PRIZE DRAW: your numbered membership card will be automatically entered into a quarterly draw for a philatelic prize such as a stock book. The winning number will be publicised through the ABPS News and published in the next issue of *The Kiwi*. Prizes will be sent by post on request.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION:

EDITORS NOTE: Readers have, no doubt, been aware of the forthcoming privatisation of the New Zealand Post Office. I, like others, was interested in the detail and the implications. Robin Startup has kindly provided this summary of the likely process and possible consequences. It is clear from the article that major changes will be occurring soon and that they will have significant consequences for stamp collectors.

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE "DEREGULATED"

ROBIN M. STARTUP

The Postal services Act 1998 has "deregulated" the post office in New Zealand from April 1st., 1998. What does this mean? But, first, the background.

The former New Zealand Post Office, a 130 - year old Government department and New Zealand's sole carrier of written and telecommunications, was restructured from April 1st, 1987 as part of major organisational changes in New Zealand aimed at moving the bureaucratic civil service towards a market driven competitive business. The Post Office was split into three "corporatised" state owned enterprises, PostBank, Telecom and New Zealand Post Ltd.

PostBank, taking over 1,000 postal order and savings bank offices and agencies, was "privatised" in February 1989 when it was sold to Australia and New Zealand Banking Corporation for NZ\$678 million. Earlier, in February 1988, over 600 of the PostBank Agencies had been closed. Today, the PostBank Division branches have largely been merged into ANZ Bank branches and few distinctive branches remain. Telecom Corporation was "privatised" when sold in September 1990 for NZ\$4,250 million to a consortium largely supported by American interests. Its sale came at a time when the introduction of electronic technology was well advanced, allowing staff numbers to be ruthlessly decimated as the company has made what many people regard as outrageous profits for its entrepreneurs.

New Zealand has continued as a wholly owned state enterprise. Government has met stiff public opposition to any of its suggestions that it be privatised. Though the present National (Tory) Government would love to sell it off it is prevented from doing so by the insistence of its coalition partner, New Zealand First. The latest idea floated is to retain Crown ownership but to sell shares in the company to the public.

New Zealand Post, under its appointed Board of Directors and energetic Chief executives, has been changed from an unprofitable rule-ridden department to one of the most efficient and innovative Postal Authorities in the world.

The postal service has been rationalised. Instead of each of the 1100 salaried and agency post offices each processing locally posted mail several times daily, mail collection and processing has been concentrated into one late evening shift at thirty large and small mail centres. All mail, first class (Fastpost) and standard, is targeted for clearance to delivery centres and branches that night. Distribution by posties, private boxes and bags, and rural delivery is aimed for the following business day morning. 98% - 99% delivery on target time is being achieved.

Products have been simplified, rates being based by size and whether fast or standard post. Courier-post handles urgent and valuable articles, and a wide range of postage-inclusive envelopes are sold. Some 800 post offices and agencies were forced to close when PostBank withdrew its business. Post offices have become post shops, both salaried and franchised, selling both postal-related products and stationery and magazines. These changes are bewildering but a good summary will be found in Volume VIII of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* which will soon be published by The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand.

The Stamps Business Unit is one of New Zealand Post's important units, responsible for increasing revenue from sales of postage stamps and philatelic products, at the same time maintaining quality and collector interest.

NZ Post has been opened to competition since its creation; packages and heavier items being carried by express freight or courier business. The Postal Services Act ends NZ Post's monopoly as a carrier of letters weighing 200g. or less with a fee of less than 80c. It allows for other companies to be registered as postal service carriers, to compete directly with NZ Post, including setting up alternative mailboxes and issuing their own stamps. Such stamps may not bear the words "New Zealand" unless they are an integral part of the operator's company name.

NZ Post is required to maintain its current service including six day a week delivery to 95% of households. In return, NZ Post remains, for five years, the Government's authorised Universal Postal Union representative with the right to issue "Official" postage stamps bearing the country name "New Zealand."

Under the legislation, alternative postal operators are required to apply a "postal indicator" to the mail they handle. Should this mail get into the New Zealand Post system, accidentally or by agreement, and become undeliverable, it will be returned to the operator to arrange return to sender. This already happens with bulk mail brought into New Zealand by international carriers such as TNT or DHL. We are also likely to see Mail Boxes Etc and United Parcel Services mail being handled in the same way.

NZ Post has continued to scrutinise its organisation and operations for efficiency and effectiveness. Culler-facer-canceller (CFC) machines were installed in seven key and provincial mail centres in 1993. At the same time, Klussendorf electronic cancelling machines have displaced the Universal electric-drive machines. Today, five centres are having installed NZ\$5 million Integrated Mail Processors (IMP), as now used in the United Kingdom, and the displaced CFCs will be moved down the line to other centres. The new IMPs have the capability of reading and coding hand-written addresses as well as mechanically applied addresses providing a high level of automation. Though a post code system exists in New Zealand it is not mandatory for the man in the street - its main outside use is to assist address-label pre-sorting from computer databanks by large commercial mailers.

This centralisation of mail processing means that most of the mail posted is postmarked in one of some twenty mail centres. For example, mail posted in the North Island between Ohakune south to Levin, from Bulls east to Dannevirke, will all be cancelled in the Manawatu Mail centre. Mail handed over the counter of the 310 post shops is likely to be cleared to a mail centre for cancelling, or may be locally cancelled with self-inking rubber faced date stamps. Reiner hand roller datestamps or the "old fashioned" circular steel-faced datestamps seem to be becoming rarer and rarer by the month.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

NEWS RELEASE

TE PAPA STAMPS GET WIRED

What's diamond shaped, travels the world promoting New Zealand's cultural and natural heritage, and holds the key to a mine of information on Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum?

The answer is two stamps launched by New Zealand Post on 11 February to commemorate the opening of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

The 40 cent stamp depicts a range of people entering the museum entrance, while the \$1.80 cent stamp highlights the grandeur of the Te Papa's waterfront location.

The stamps stand out for a couple of reasons. It's the first time New Zealand Post has issued diamond shaped stamps, and it's one of the first stamps in the world to include a website address.

"Both these features add an exciting dimension to stamps. New Zealanders and people around the world can not only keep the stamps as a souvenir of the opening, they can also visit Te Papa through the internet and enjoy an interactive experience with the museum" says Wendy Riley, Stamps Marketing Manager, New Zealand Post.

"Te Papa also brings to life the stories of people who live in New Zealand, and we want to mark this historic occasion through stamps, which will not only capture our nation's identity, but are a unique way of recording our history," says Wendy Riley, Stamps Marketing Manager, New Zealand Post.

The stamps and first day cover were designed by Joanne Kreyl of Wellington and printed in lithography by Southern Colour Print in Dunedin. The stamps can be purchased from 11 February 1998 at any Post Shop, including the Post Centre on site at Te Papa, Stamp Sales Centres and the Stamp Centre in Wanganui.

FAVOURITE FELINES PUT THEIR PAW ON LATEST STAMP ISSUE

The cat, one of the most well-loved household pets, has been honoured by New Zealand Post on the "Favourite Felines" stamp issue, which were released on 11 February 1998.

The "Favourite Felines" stamp issue pays tribute to six breeds of cat which are popular in New Zealand. The six breeds to feature include; the Domestic Moggy - 40 cents, Burmese - 80 cents, Birman - \$1.00, British Blue - \$1.20, Persian - \$1.50, and Siamese - \$1.80.

New Zealand Post's Marketing Manager Wendy Riley said the company chose to honour this country's favourite felines for two main reasons.

"There are an astounding number of domestic cats in New Zealand, with more than half of this country's households owning at least one cat," said Ms Riley. "This is one of the highest rates in the world, which demonstrates that many New Zealander's have a real affection for cats."

"The release of the cat issue also coincides with the year of the Tiger, the second issue in New Zealand Post's lunar calendar series," said Ms Riley. In 1997, the first year of the lunar calendar series, New Zealand Post highlighted New Zealand Cattle in celebrating the Year of the Ox.

To complement the "Favourite Felines" stamps, each sheet features a lunar calendar tiger figure as a gutter strip.

The stamps, first day cover, and souvenir envelope were designed by Julie Grieg of wellington, and the miniature sheet and lunar calendar figure were designed by Lindy Fisher of Auckland, and printed by lithography by Southern Colour Print in Dunedin. The stamps can be purchased from 11 February 1998 at any Post Shop, Stamp Sales Centre, and the Stamps Centre, Wanganui.

VIRTUAL ALBUM ADDS NEW DIMENSION TO NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

For a colourful and unique way of exploring the rich history of New Zealand stamps you can't go past the Virtual Album CD-ROM launched today by New Zealand Post.

The New Zealand Stamps Virtual Album opens up a whole new interactive world of stamps which will to the stamp collector, both young and old, and also to people interested in New Zealand history and culture.

"For the first time collectors can view and easily access large scale illustrations and detailed information about every stamp produced in New Zealand from 1855 to 1997," says Wendy Riley, New Zealand Post Stamps Marketing Manager.

The Virtual Album also offers a Kiwiana section, an encyclopaedia, the ability to create your own albums and a good games section for children.

"It's a great way for adults and especially kids to get involved in stamp collecting using tools that they're familiar with and making it fun to learn about stamps," says Ms Riley.

The CD ROM's innovative design is the work of students from the Wanganui Polytechnic School of Graphic Design which has an international reputation for excellence in multi-media design.

"We're delighted with the students' work and the creative approach they've taken with this challenging project. The Virtual Album adds an exciting dimension to the world of stamps and will be an invaluable resource for stamp collectors both in New Zealand and around the world," says Ms Riley.

EDITORS NOTE:

For members who may be interested in purchasing this CD-ROM, further details follow:

Minimum System Requirements:

WINDOWS 95/NT: 16 MB RAM, 32 MB free HD space, 486DX/100, 2 x CDROM, Soundcard, SGVA Monitor (256 colours).

MACINTOSH: OS 7.1, 16 MB available RAM, 32 MB free HD space, 2 x CD ROM, 68040, 256 colours.

For those wishing to purchase the CD-ROM, it is available from: New Zealand Post, Private Bag 3001, Wanganui, New Zealand Please quote ref. "A Virtual Album".

The price is \$69.95. Postage is \$20.00 by airmail or no postage charge by Economy post.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

A Bibliography of New Zealand Cinderellas by D. E. Hurley. Published by The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Incorporated, P.O.Box 1269, Wellington, New Zealand.

There are a huge number of publications about New Zealand stamps and Postal History. Unfortunately, one of the major problems for Editors and Researchers is in locating publications on particular subjects due to the lack of effective indexing.

This publication is Number One in a new Bibliographic Series which uses the resources of the library of the RPSNZ to collate information.

The book is a mine of information about sources although, obviously, users have to have access to a library to actually obtain copies of articles cited. Subjects covered range from Anglicans in Aotearoa to Gramophone Royalties and Whoppa Swoppa Labels.

I must admit to a little confusion as my copy contained an errata slip for the index on Page 3 but Page 3 contained no index. Nevertheless this is an important contribution to the effort to make information accessible and is to be commended.

1998 Len Jury Catalogue of New Zealand Stamps. Published by Len Jury Ltd., P.O.Box 4400, Auckland, New Zealand. Price N.Z.\$7.50.

This is the 28th year of publication of this simplified catalogue of New Zealand stamps. The listings are complete and prices updated. Prices for Um and MM are given. The illustrations are in colour and, although reduced in size, of good quality. A useful little handbook.

RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS ARTICLES:

RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS ARTICLES

CHRIS FOOTE

In my capacity as Librarian of the Postal History Society of New Zealand, I have recently read the September and November, 1997 issues of *The Kiwi*. I think I can contribute to some of the items discussed.

1936 South African Empire Exhibition postcard (1). Coincidentally, the day before reading the article in your September issue about this card, I had catalogued a run of The Airpost Journal and I recalled that one of these postcards is reproduced on the front cover of the December, 1936 (Vol. VIII No.3) issue. It was addressed to Mr. Walter Conrath, then President of the American Airmail Society, in Albion, Pa, U.S.A. There is a also a picture view reproduced, presumably the other side of the postcard, showing the Imperial Airways Atalanta Amalthea at Rand Airport with the arrival of mails from Europe.

New Zealand Education Department Post Cards (2). The earliest printing referred to seems to be February, 1927. I have an Education Department postcard (Figure 1) dealing with the Annual

Examination of 1908 - 9, with printing details of 5,500/7/1908 - 7913. Is this from a separate series of cards? I cannot find reference to them anywhere.

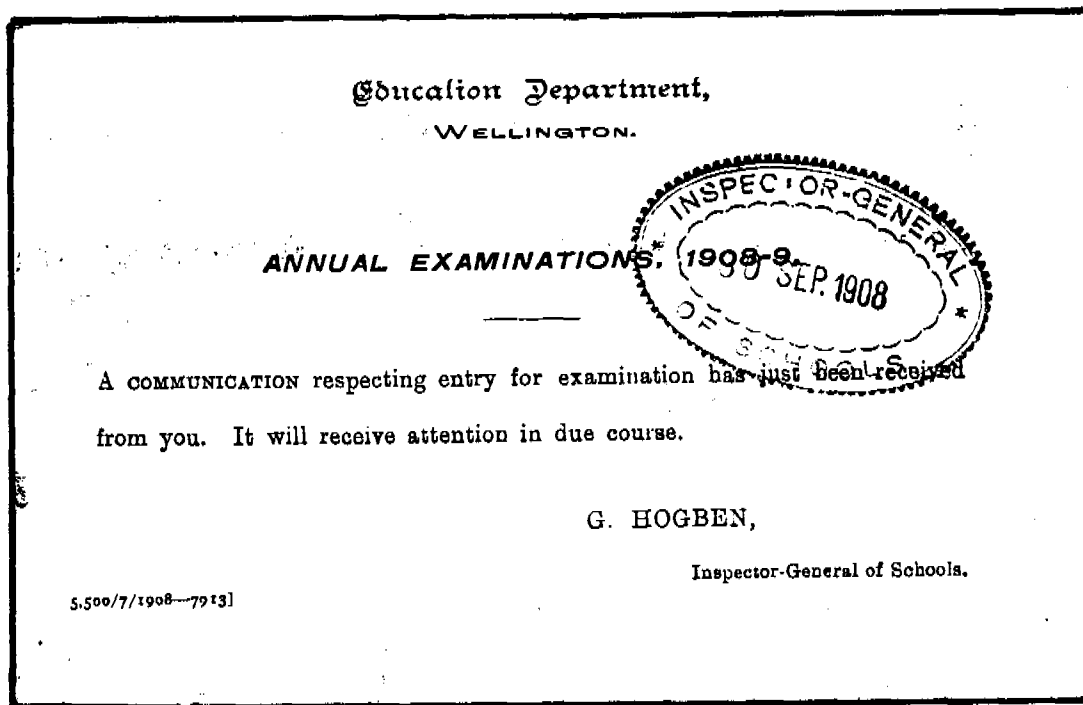


Figure 1

Found Open and Officially Sealed (3). For the sake of completeness, I enclose a copy (Figure 2) of the side of an envelope received by me last week showing the current tape worded "OFFICIALLY SEALED - NEW ZEALAND POST" in alternate lines. Incidentally, I have an example of the earlier POST OFFICE tape on an envelope from a prison inmate. I have always wondered whether the prison authorities used this tape after examining outgoing mail. Has anyone else encountered this kind of usage?



Figure 2

Mr. R. J. Dickie (4). A glance at the index of my catalogue of PHSNZ periodicals showed that under Stamp Vending Machines, I have recorded articles which were published in *Captain Cook* (May 1992, Vol. 20 No. 4) and in *The Kiwi* (November 1980, Vol. XXIX No. 6 and March 1981, Vol. XXX No. 2). Therein will be found variously, a photograph of Mr. Dickie and his machine and a good potted biography. The *Captain Cook* article refers to Mr. Dickie's machine being the subject of a cereal card which was issued in a series on New Zealand Inventions and Discoveries. This card was published in 1991 by New Zealand Post Limited in conjunction with The Sanitarium Health Food Company.

References:

1. Shand M., Airmail between South Africa and New Zealand. *The Kiwi*. 46. (5). P. 99.
2. Dove A.F., Education Department Postal Stationery. *The Kiwi*. 46. (4). Pp. 79 - 80.
3. Wreglesworth P., Found Open/Officially Sealed. *The Kiwi*. 46. (2). Pp. 31 - 33.
4. Gardiner A., Mr. R. J. Dickie. *The Kiwi*. 46. (6). Pp. 121 - 122

THE 1991 SCENIC ISSUE

Following David Stalker's request for information about Castle Hill, Canterbury and The Organ Pipes, Mt. Holmes (1), several members have responded. Many thanks to Bernard Symonds, Rob Talbot at C.P. and Robin Startup.

Castle Hill is a Coaching Stop on the overland route from Greymouth to Christchurch near Lake Pearson. It is described as "an old coaching inn - there were also changing and holding paddocks for the horses and oats were grown as fodder. There used to be a blacksmith's shop".

Organ Pipes seem to be more elusive: the publicity leaflet issued with the issue describes them as being on the slopes of Mount Holmes in the volcanic hills surrounding Dunedin. The name "Organ Pipes" is not, however used as a map name, according to the Lands and Survey Gazetteer of New Zealand Place Names.

Reference:

1. Stalker D., "Help, Please with the 1991 Scenic Issue." *The Kiwi* (1998). Volume 47. No. 2. P. 31

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT POSTAL STATIONERY AND OFFICIAL SHORT - PAID LETTERS
ROBIN M. STARTUP

Allan Berry's article on this subject in the last issue of *The Kiwi* (1) was fascinating, partly because I started my career with 12 months as a mail and records clerk in a Government Office in 1950. The system that Allan brought to light only applied to some Government Departments - in my own case, the Social Security Department operated a "Postage Payable on Delivery" reply envelope scheme and any deficient items came within that. The Post Office and the Department assessed, about twice a year, the volume of such mail being handled, and the Department paid the Post Office a lump sum based on that.

Reference:

1. Berry A., "Education Department Postal; Stationery and Official Short-Paid Letters". *The Kiwi* (1998). Volume 47. No. 2. Pp. 27 - 29

ORIGINAL ARTICLES AND READERS QUESTIONS:

MILITIA VOLUNTEER MAIL (Part 1)

ALLAN P. BERRY

For many years, I have collected Official Postal Stationery. As you would expect, I have acquired certain very interesting items, leading to a variety of avenues of research. One aspect is the mail associated with the various Militia Volunteer Units that were formed in New Zealand.

According to the *Encyclopaedia of New Zealand*, the Volunteers were created by the Militia Act of 1858 and continued until 1910. Each Corps' strength fluctuated between 40 and 100 men and the total strength was stabilised at about 6,600. Acts passed in 1865, 1881 and 1886 varied the force's central organisation, but a provision which permitted units to elect their own Officers remained until 1910.

The various militia units were subject to inspection and reports by professional officers and various changes were recommended. It is clear that, while the spirit of the men was almost universally praised, the standard of training and efficiency, the variation in uniform and equipment

left much to be desired. Moves were made towards standardisation in all these aspects, but eventually, the Defence Act of 1909 replaced the old Volunteer Force by a Territorial Force recruited by compulsory military service.

The New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department List of Persons authorised to Frank Telegrams and to Frank and Receive Free by Post Letters and Parcels, on Public Service only was published periodically. That of 1st January, 1898, is the only one to survive. Under the Titular List, one finds that Officers Commanding Volunteer Districts were permitted to frank and receive letters and parcels, but that Volunteer Officers were only permitted to frank unsealed notices to Volunteers of drills to be held. Such franked mail could pass free through the post. Over the years a number of these items of mail have been acquired, some quite plain, others much more fancy.

The area from which most covers have surfaced is that of Otago. Dunedin was the city where one of the most famous military men of New Zealand at the turn of the century was brought up and started his military career. Major-General Sir Alfred William Robin, KCMG, was born on 12th August, 1860, at Riddles Creek, Victoria, Australia. The family moved to Dunedin in 1861 and Robin was educated at the Otago Boys' High School, where he started his military career as battery bombardier in the school's artillery cadet corps. He was posted to the retired list on 1st January, 1921 with the rank of Major-General. From 1891 to 1898 he commanded the Otago Hussars. He commanded the First Contingent despatched to the South African War in October, 1899, serving in South Africa until May, 1901. On his return to New Zealand, he commanded the Otago Militia and Volunteer District to the end of 1906. All these units are of interest to this story.

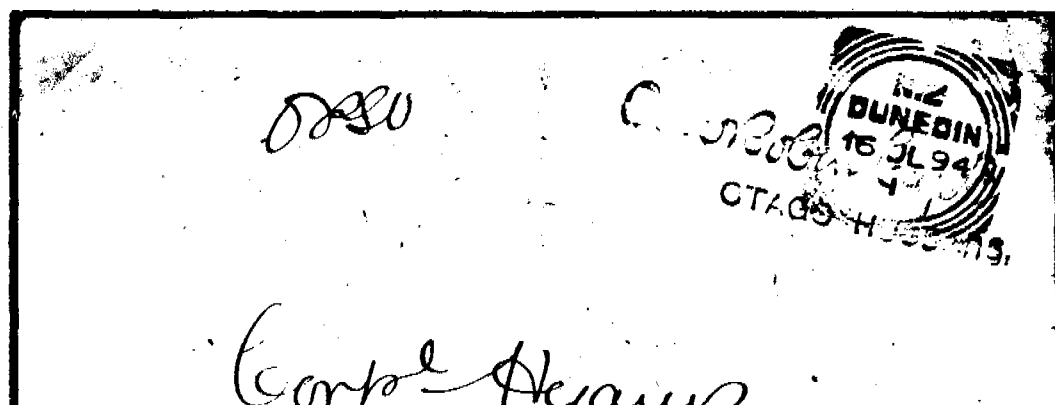


Figure 1

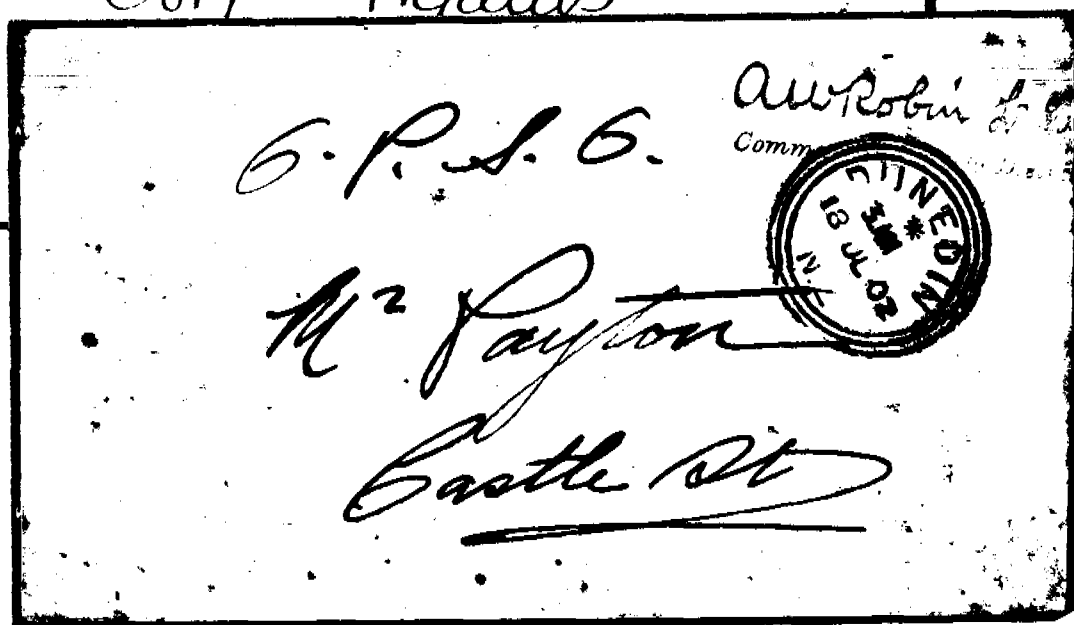


Figure 2

Figure 1 shows a plain cover endorsed OPSO in manuscript, addressed to one Corporal Hyams, Princes Street, [Dunedin]. It carries the facsimile handstamp signature of A.W.Robin, Capt. OTAGO HUSSARS. It is datestamped N.Z DUNEDIN 16 JL 94 1. Figure 2 shows a further plain cover, endorsed O.P.S.O. in manuscript and addressed to Mr. Payton, Castle St., [Dunedin]. It carries the facsimile handstamp signature of A.W.Robin, Lt. Col. Commanding Otago District. This cover is datestamped DUNEDIN * 3.AM 18 JL 02 N.Z. The period of almost exactly eight years which these two covers span was momentous for this Officer.

Figure 3 shows an unused cover, printed O.P.S.O., with the printed signature of W.H.Webb, Lieut.-Col. Commanding District. Figure 4 shows a plain cover which carries the same frank in the form of a facsimile handstamp. This has the duplex datestamp N-Z PORT-CHALMERS 16 MY 00 A. Lt. Col. Webb is listed in the *New Zealand Official Year-Books* for 1899 and 1901 as commanding the Otago District. In the *New Zealand Official Year-Book* for 1902, he is shown as being in command of the Canterbury District and in that of 1903 in command of the Wellington District. In the *New Zealand Official Year-Books* of 1899, 1901 and 1902, there is listed North Otago as a Sub-District under the command of V.D.Major, later Lt. Col. Alfred Headland. The district is not listed in the *New Zealand Official Year-Book* of 1903.

Figure 3

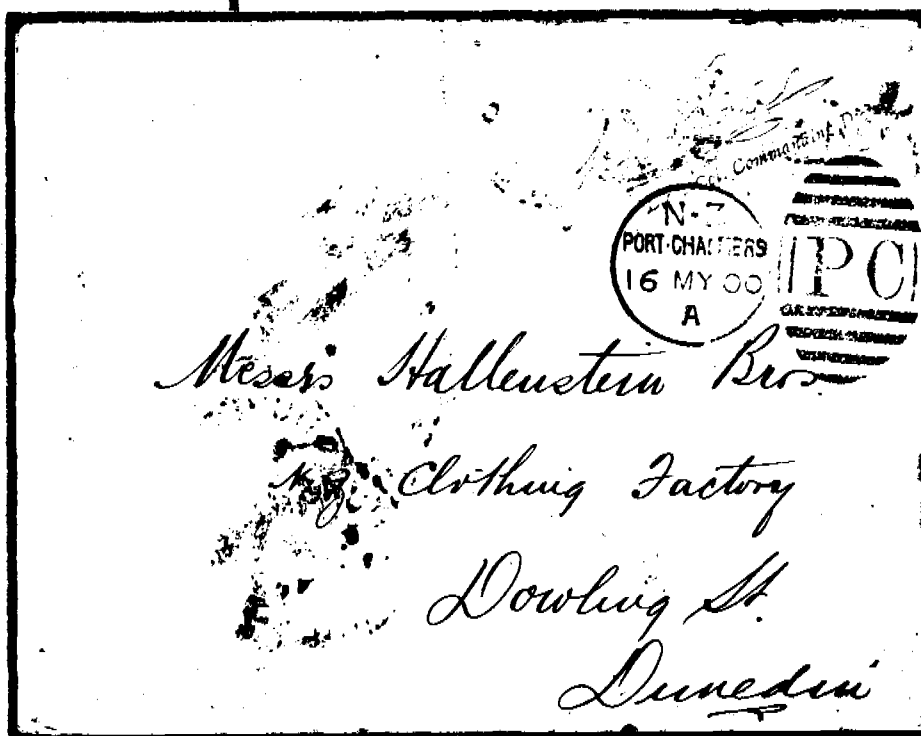
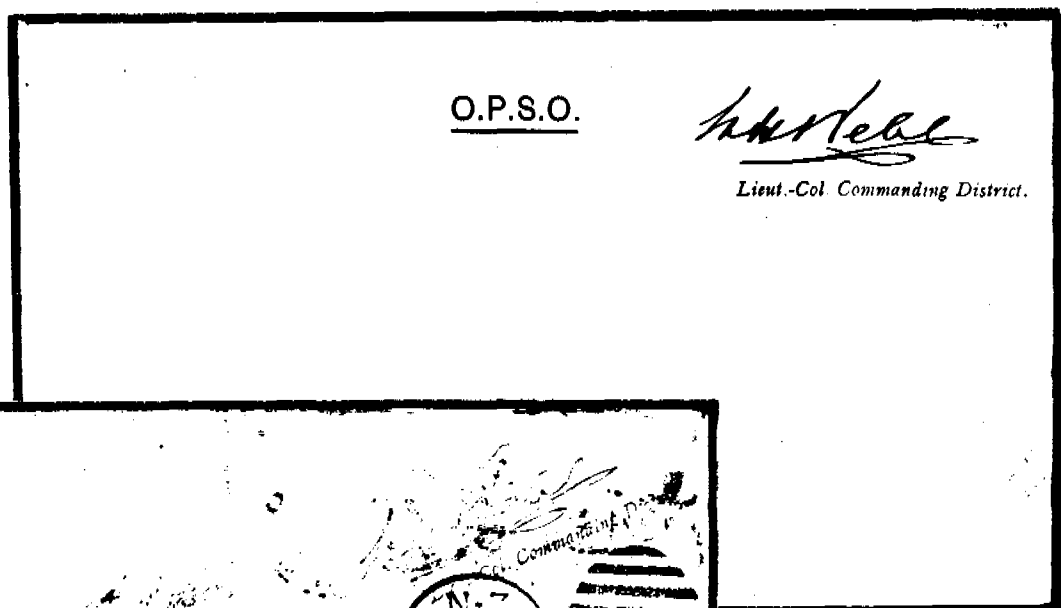


Figure 4

Lt. Col. Webb is listed in the *New Zealand Official Year-Book* of 1907 as being the second Military Member of the Defence Council, Colonel A.W.Robin being the first Military Member.

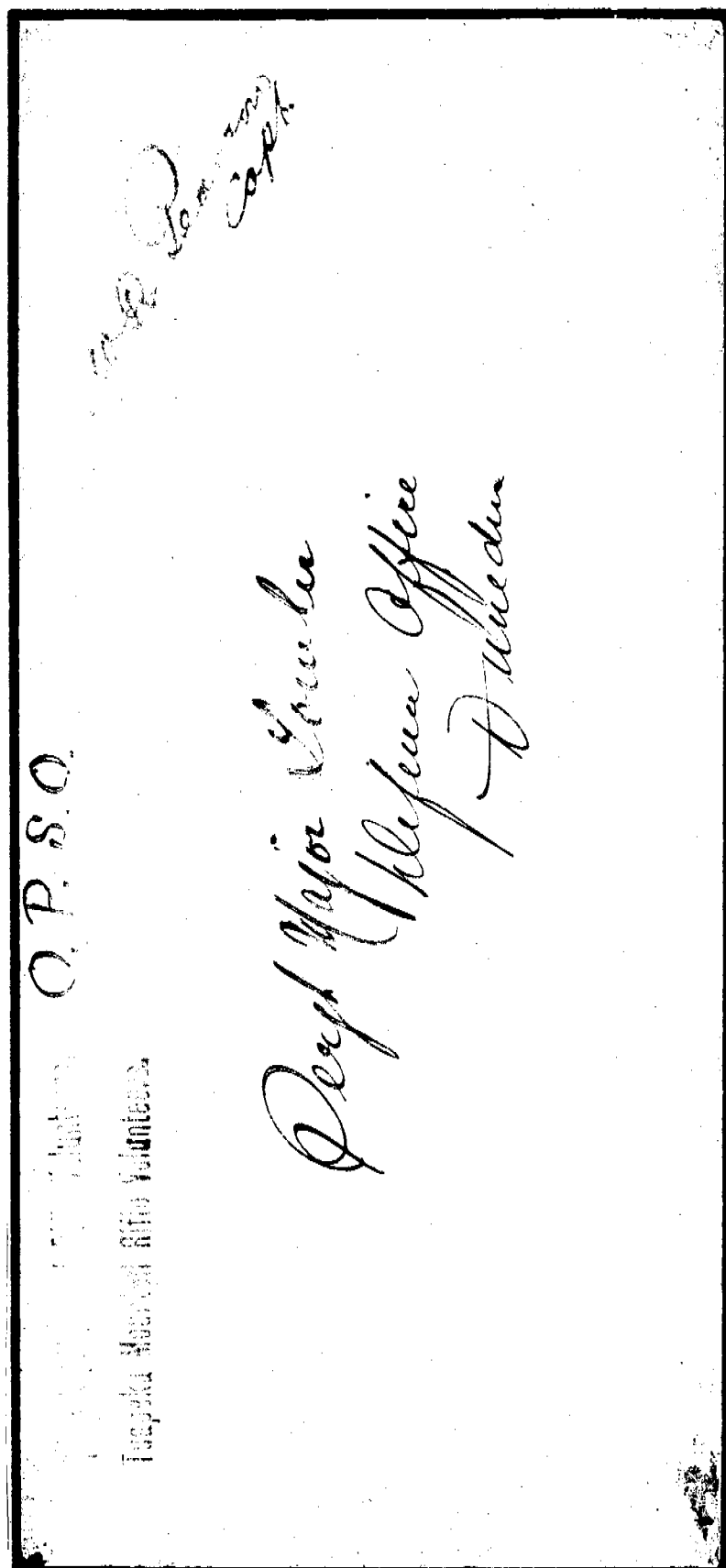


Figure 5

Col. Webb is listed in the *New Zealand Official Year-Books* of 1908 as Member and Secretary to the Council of Defence. Thereafter, William Holden Webb is not listed in any of the books currently available to me. He does not figure in the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*, Volume Three, 1902-1920, nor in the *Encyclopaedia of New Zealand*. His listings in the *New Zealand Official Year-Books* show him to have been late H.M. 109th Foot, suggesting that he was English and returned to that country at some time. If anyone can provide further information, it would be greatly appreciated.

According to the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, Volume 4 - Otago and Southland Provincial Districts, the First Regiment Otago Mounted Rifles was formed on 1st May, 1901. A Squadron was the Otago Hussars previously mentioned.

E Squadron was the Tuapeka Mounted Rifle Volunteers. Figure 5 shows a cover from this unit, with the facsimile handstamp signature of W.R.Pearson, Capt. I can find no reference to W.R.Pearson.

F Squadron was the Taieri Mounted Rifles. Figure 6 shows a cover from this unit, whose separate identity must have been maintained in view of its date. It shows a cover from the unit, endorsed by one John Campbell, Lieut. Commanding T.M.R. It is dated N.Z. MOMONA 12 OC 03 1. I can find no reference to John Campbell. *The Taieri Plain - Tales of Years that are Gone*, by Margaret S. Shaw and Edgar D. Farrant, published by the Otago Centennial Historical Publications in 1949,

passing reference to the fact that the unit was formed at Outram in 1901, although a Taieri Cavalry Troop of the Otago Hussars was formed at Mosgiel in May, 1882.

The letter contained in this cover also survives and is shown at Figure 7. None of the names that appear in the letter are mentioned in the book *The Taieri Plain - Tales of Years that are Gone*.

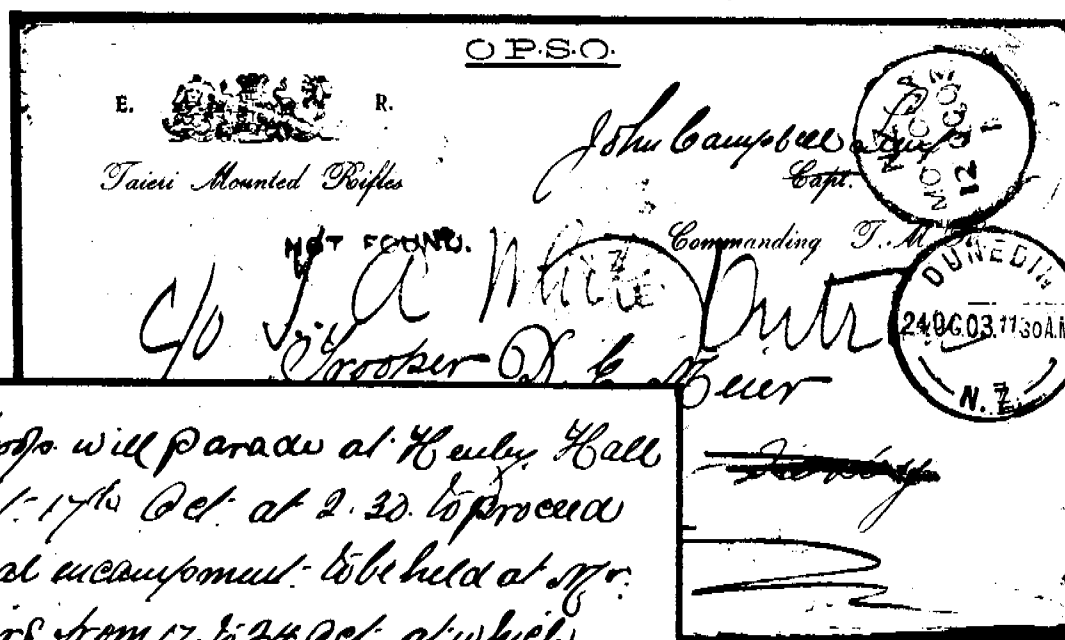


Figure 6

The Troop will parade at Healy Hall on Sat. 17th Oct. at 2.30. to proceed to Annual encampment to be held at Mr. Jno. Blairs from 17. to 24. Oct. at which every Member must be present to qualify for Capitulation. Strict proceedings will be enforced on absences. Horse-covers. horse-bags. Halters to be provided by Trooper. Mr. Tracy provides all table requisiments. Full dress Uniform. arms & accoutrements. water Bottle &c.

John Campbell Esq.
Commanding T.M.R.

Figure 7

Figure 8 shows a cover from the North Otago Mounted Rifles which became B Squadron of the First Regiment Otago Mounted Rifles. The cover has the rather smudged facsimile handstamp signature of George Sumpter, Commanding OAMARU DISTRICT. The cover is datestamped N.Z OAMARU 6 OC 93 6. According to *The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand, Volume 4 - Otago and Southland Provincial Districts*, George Sumpter was born in Middlesex, England, in 1836. He

came to Otago via South Australia in 1861. He was connected with the Volunteer Movement for over thirty years, being promoted to Lt. Col. In 1889. He held command of the district for a number of years. He died on 11th November, 1900. There is no specific mention of the unit in the section of the Cyclopedia devoted to Oamaru, although the third battalion of the Otago Rifles is listed.

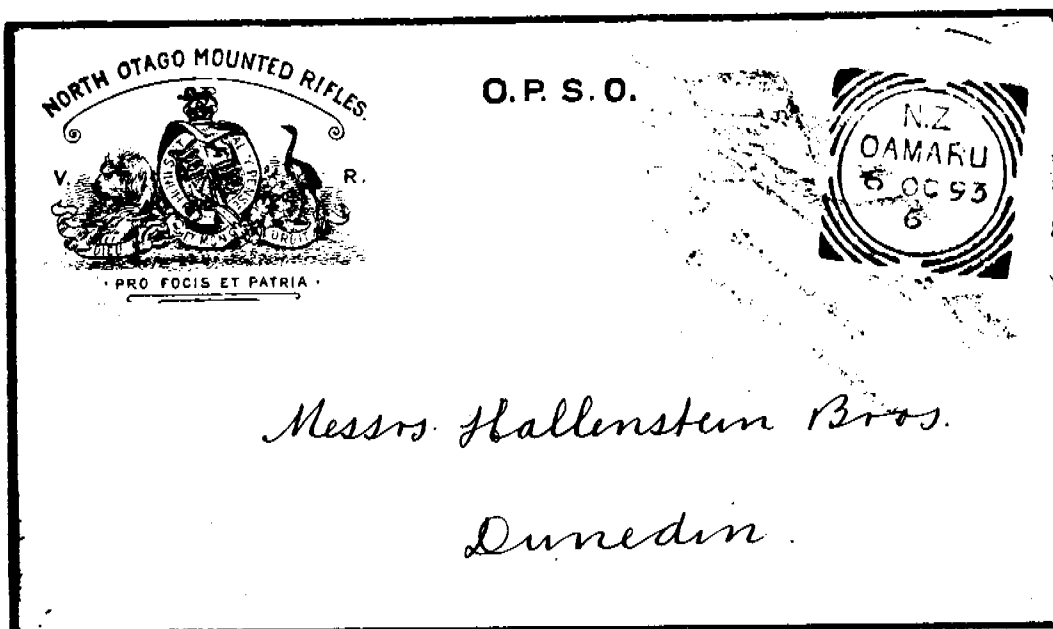


Figure 8

Figures 9 and 10 show the front and back of a card instructing one Seaman Brain to attend a parade of the Oamaru Naval Artillery.

Figure 9

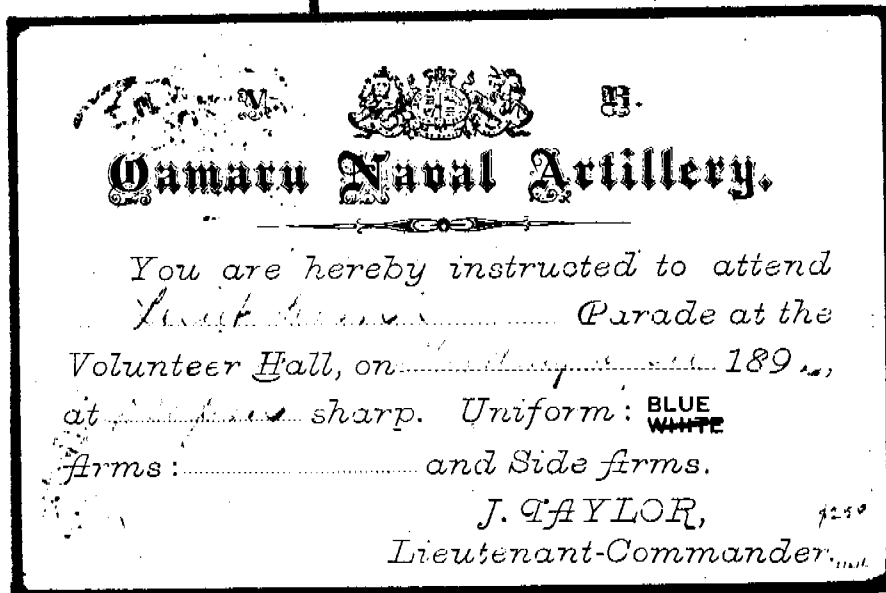
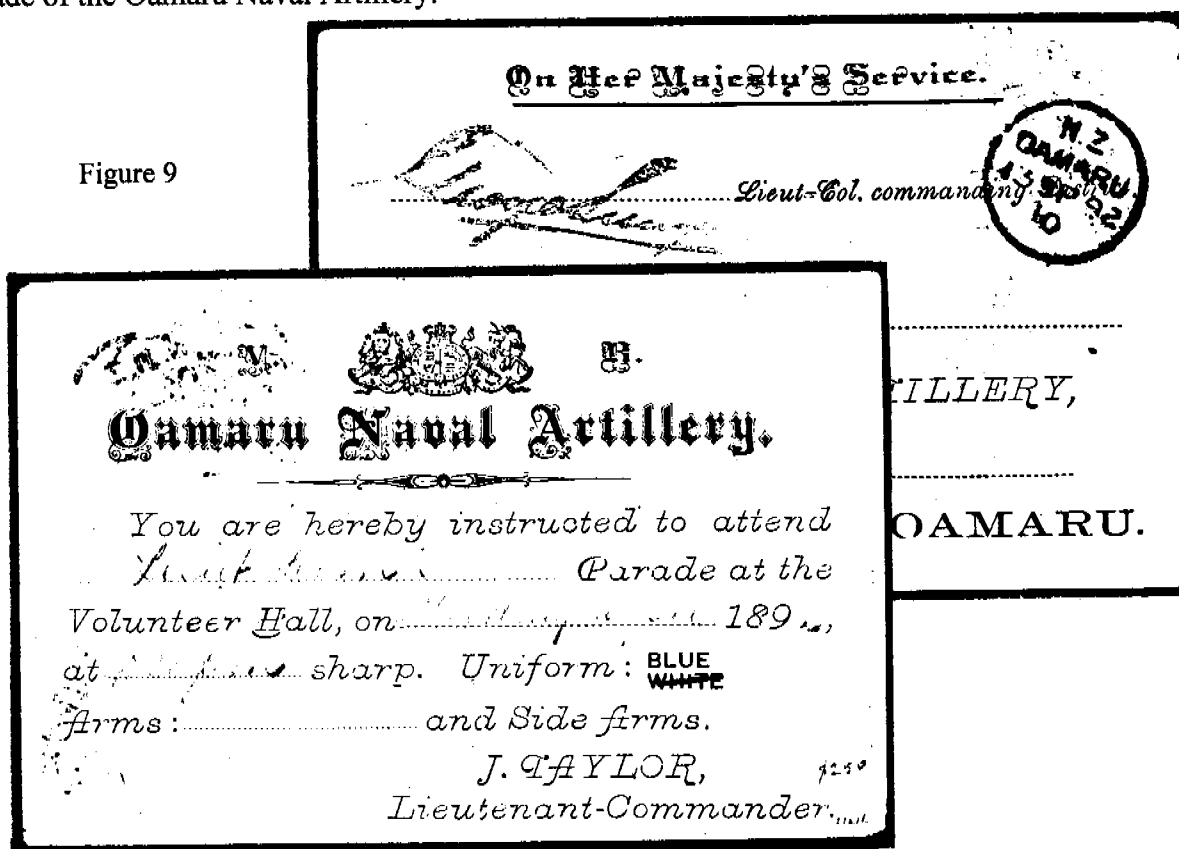


Figure 10

The card has the same rather smudged facsimile handstamp signature of George Sumpter, Commanding OAMARU DISTRICT, although the printing would suggest that one Lieutenant-Commander J. Taylor was in command of the unit. It is datestamped N.Z OAMARU 13 SP 92 10. I can find no specific information about this unit and would be glad to hear from anyone who can fill in the details. There is no information I can glean from *The Cyclopedia of New Zealand, Volume 4 - Otago and Southland Provincial Districts*, nor from the section on Defence in the *Encyclopaedia of New Zealand*. In the latter publication, it is stated that in 1880 it was recommended that the four main ports of Auckland, Wellington, Lyttelton and Dunedin be fortified and manned by regular troops assisted by special volunteers. Oamaru was and still is a significant port, but is not mentioned.

TO BE CONTINUED

CHRISTMAS AIR MAIL FIRST OFFICIAL FLIGHT
NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA-LONDON 1931

KEITH COLLINS

At first sight the cover which is illustrated below (Figure 1 and 2) is not unusual. As can be seen it was posted on 12 NO 31, traveled by the S.S. Ulimaroa to Sydney and was then flown as air mail arriving at Croydon Airport on 16th December, 1931, being delivered to the London address the following day. It is known that the covers were not backstamped on arrival but that a few were backstamped at Post Offices local to the addressee.

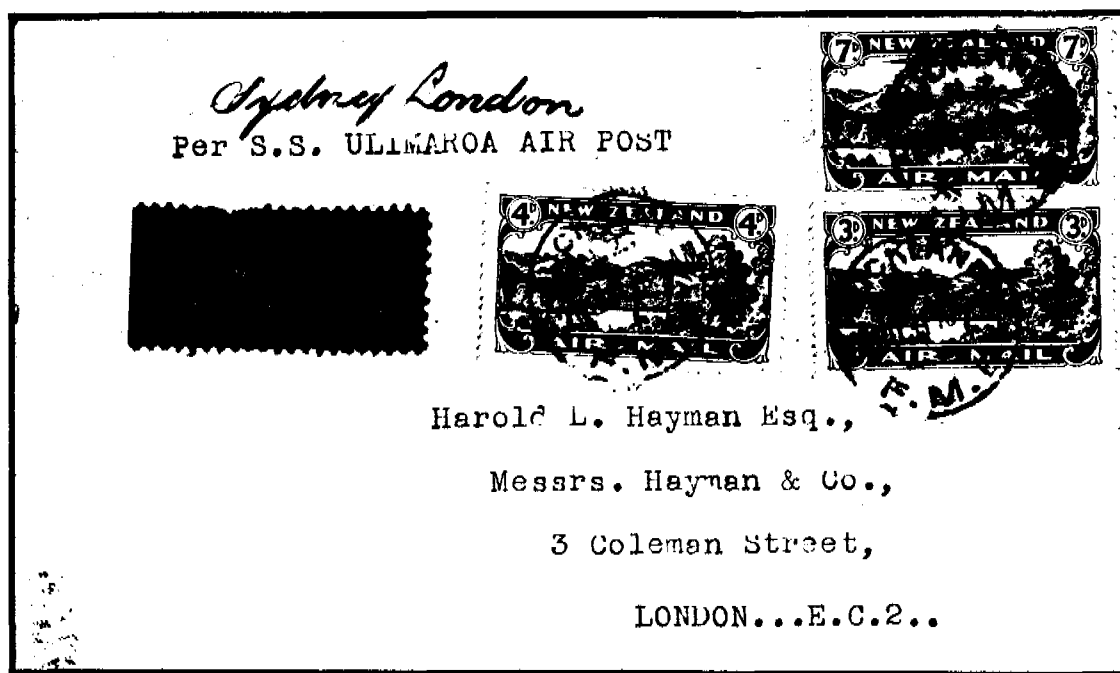


Figure 1

The mystery surrounds the ½d. King George V G.B. definitive stamp, cancelled on 18th December, 1931, at ARTHUR'S HILL NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. How did the cover get to Newcastle-on-Tyne the day following its delivery to the London address? Did the firm P. Hayman & Co. have an office in that city, to which the cover was carried by hand of an employee? Was the ½d. King George V definitive stamp added to pay for the privilege of a backstamp - and if so, was this a legitimate charge? Or was the cover placed back in the mail to New Zealand, relying on the

½d. postage and the rather unhelpful cachet of the firm to secure delivery back to the sender? Answers from members would be appreciated, through our Editor.

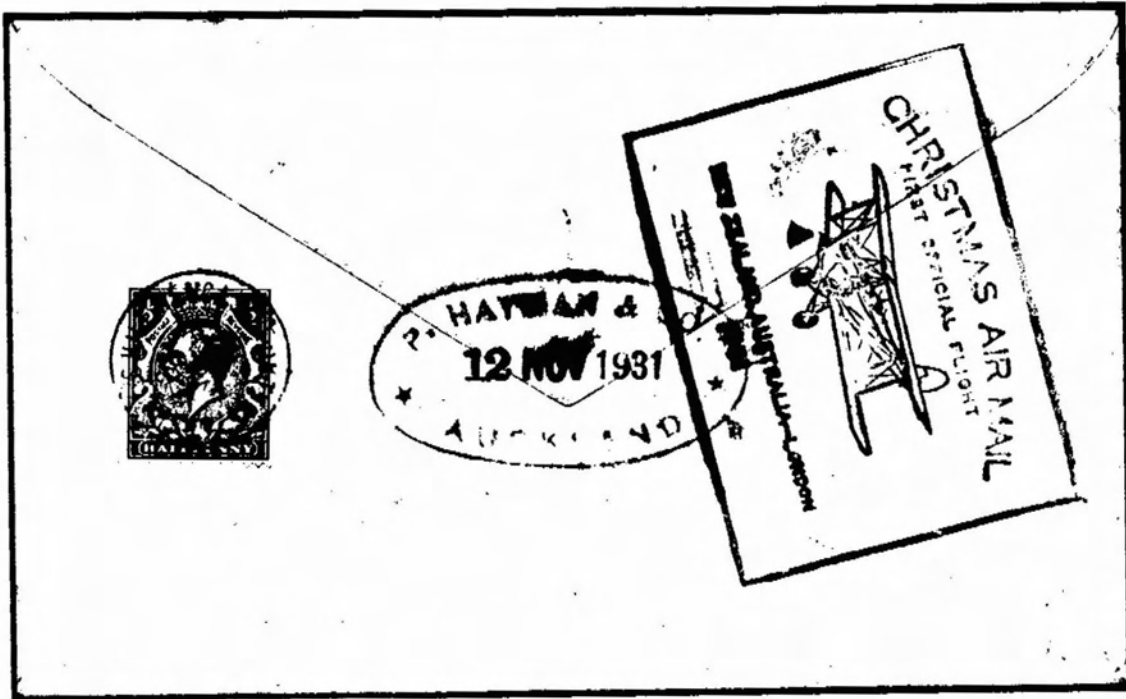


Figure 2

THE SHORT LEGGED WREN - ANSWERS AT A COMPETITION

ANN CARTER

I was intrigued to receive a copy of this self-adhesive 40c stamp recently (Figure 1). The interesting variation was a yellow band about 1.5mm thick located 4mm from the bottom of the stamp. Unable to explain this, I took it along to the Society's Annual Competition and, lo and behold, the answer was revealed in Ernie Leppards display of Self-Adhesive stamps. The booklets in which the stamps were issued had the stamps aligned vertically with the yellow band between (Figure 2); normally, the perforations are situated about two millimetres away from the band but, it appears that the perforations were considerably misplaced in my example to cause the variety.



Figure 1



Figure 2

HASTINGS CINDERELLA - AN UNEXPECTED RESULT

SAFARI

Most readers are familiar with Cinderella labels issued in the 1950's in conjunction with the Hastings Highland Games which were held during the Easter holidays and the Hastings Blossom Festival in September. Examples of the labels are shown below (Figs. 1 - 4) to refresh your memory.

During my wanderings last year, I found another example (Figure 5). This example was acquired in New Zealand and advertised "Hastings Carnival Week July 3 - 10, 1954". I must admit that I fully expected that it would relate to our very own Hastings in Hawke's Bay but, after scanning the local papers of the day and consulting the local archivist, I drew a complete blank. In desperation, I wrote the Hastings Borough Council, East Sussex in the United Kingdom and have just received a most helpful and informative reply.

It appears that there was, indeed, a Carnival week held there in 1954. The Week was a long standing tradition and occurred every year. Publicity material was produced including stickers, badges and leaflets. Catherine Walling, the Assistant Curator, kindly answered my query and, even, enclosed a photocopy of the 1954 Programme.

It just shows the benefits of research and of not jumping to wrong conclusions in the first place!



Figure 1

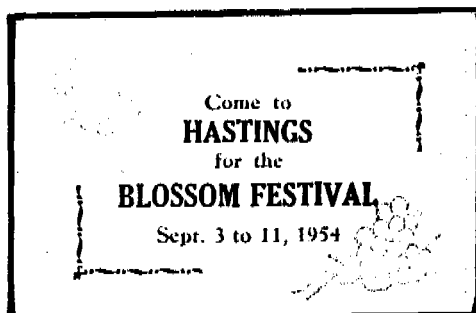


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

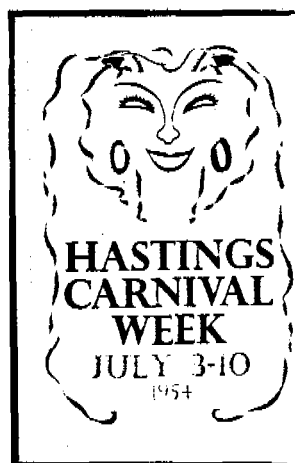


Figure 5

WARTIME LABELS BY "FOUGASSE"

ERNIE LEPPARD

Part of the British wartime scene was a series of Official Ministry of Information cartoon posters by "Fougasse" this was a pseudonym used by Cyril Kenneth Bird (1887 - 1965). The original posters now reside in the Imperial War Museum in London where they have been reproduced as postcards and packs of memo cards.

Illustrated are three posters reproduced as wartime labels (Figures 1, 2, 3). They were used early in the War, in April and July, 1941 and January 1942. I have not seen these labels used in any other country and so, the question is; how did they come be produced in New Zealand? Archivists at the Imperial War Museum are unaware of these reduced size reproductions although they observe that the posters would have been supplied officially to New Zealand by the Ministry of Information.

Chris Miller who is Secretary and Newsletter Editor of the Cinderella Stamp Society has contributed two further examples (Figures 4 and 5).

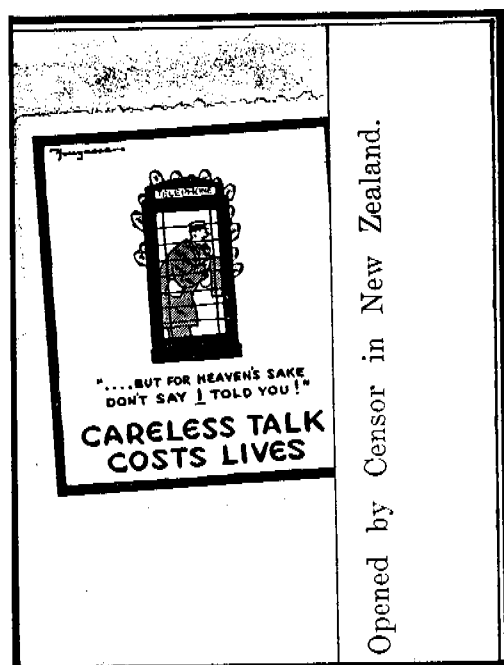


Figure 1

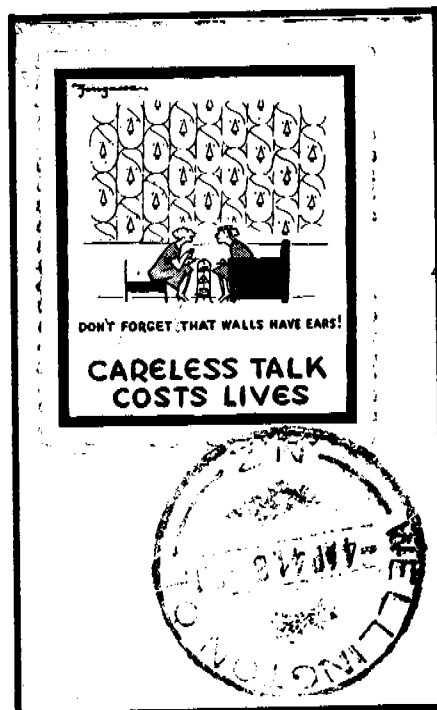


Figure 2

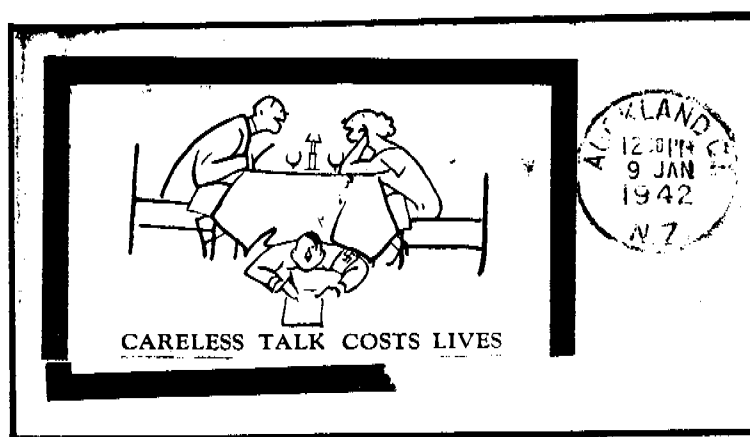


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Has anybody got any more information? The Editor would particularly like to publish any further examples.

A NEW WORLD WAR 1 POSTMARK

K. BRACEY

I recently bought the cover illustrated in Figure 1. Research has revealed some interesting information.

From a collection of letters on headed notepaper, it is apparent that an Isolation Hospital for soldiers with infectious and contagious diseases was established at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, during the First World War. New Zealand soldiers were amongst those admitted.

No distinctive postmark has previously been recorded. The card illustrated is in red on orange card. The postmark is also in red and is, unfortunately, undated.

It is interesting to note that in September, 1944, a camp was, again, opened in Aylesbury for use as the Headquarters for the repatriation of Prisoners of War.

With thanks to Ernie Leppard for extra information.

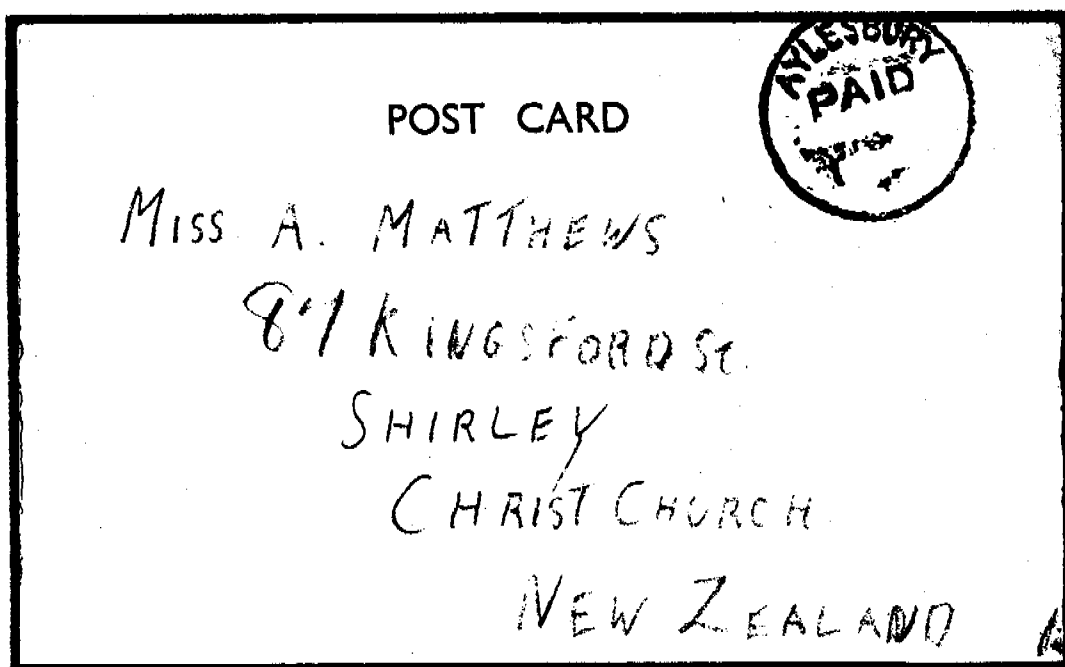


Figure 1