



THE KIWI



THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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WHOLE NUMBER 328

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 26TH 2008 AT THE UNION JACK CLUB, SANDELL STREET, LONDON STARTING AT 11.00.

THE SUBJECT OF THE MEETING IS 'POSTCARDS'.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE PAGE 26 OF THIS ISSUE OF *THE KIWI*.

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The Society is affiliated to: The Association of British Philatelic Societies, The New Zealand Philatelic Federation and the Midland Federation

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SOCIETY NEWS:

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome:

D. Curtis, London
J. Miller, Glasgow
R. Morris, Derbyshire
Miss A. Stimmers, Aberdeen
G. J. Williams, Surrey

DECEASED:

E. W. Leppard

NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Society will be on the subject of 'POSTCARDS'. The emphasis will be on pictorial cards with a connection to NZ philately and postal history rather than postal stationery.

Contributions are invited from all those attending with material of interest. If you are intending to bring material to show, please let Bernard Atkinson know - ☎ 0208 560 6119.

NEXT MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH GROUP

The Spring meeting of the Scottish Regional Group will be held at the Scottish Congress, Dewar Centre, Perth on Saturday 19th April, 2008. This will be the usual informal meeting over a drink and a bite to eat. We will meet at 12.30 in the first floor room overlooking the dealers tables and displays – adjoining the bar.

NEXT MEETING OF THE MIDLAND GROUP

The next meeting of the Midland Group will be held at Warwick and Warwick Auction Rooms (postcode CV34 5DB) on Saturday March 8th, 2008 starting at 14.00. This will be a members meeting and all those attending are invited to bring along mini displays on any subject loosely connected with New Zealand.

A further meeting has been arranged for Saturday October 11th: further details will be published when they are available.

For further information, please contact Ian Samuel: ☎ 0121-449-0849.

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIETY HELD ON JANUARY 26TH, 2008

This was a joint meeting with the Pacific Islands Study Circle. Derek Diamond welcomed all those present and commented on the large number of attendees. He started by announcing the death of the Society President, Ernie Leppard on January 31st 2007 and paid a short tribute. He said that four members of the Society had attended his funeral and that the floral tribute had depicted the Second Pictorial 1d Kiwi. The meeting stood for a minute in Ernie's memory.

The meeting saw a number of fascinating displays:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Don Scregg | First two issues of the Cook Islands and the KGV overprints |
| Lawrence Kimpton | The history of BCPA and the mail that was carried |
| Tony Eastgate | The Line Islands |
| Andrew Dove | The Samoan Relief Force – 1914 |
| Maurice Allan | 1d Dominions overprinted for use in the Dependencies |
| Bryan Jones | Fijian Airmails and Mail from the 8 th New Zealand Brigade in Fiji in the Second World War |
| Margaret Noack | Norfolk Island Postal History |
| David Alford | Fijian Postal History |
| Peter Forestier-Smith | Cook Islands and Aitutaki New Zealand Postal Authority |
| Ian Stevenson | Tonga 1895 Definitives |
| John Ray | Miscellaneous NZ related covers |

Each display was fascinating and the range of subjects was wide. Some common themes in the displays emerged:

The history of the carriage of mail across the Pacific was covered by two displays: chronologically, **Bryan Jones** started with the story of the Short S30 Flying Boat, ZK-AMA, *Aotearoa* which was purchased as one of a pair by TEAL which arrived in Fiji in September 1939 and was captained by Captain J. W. Burgess. Because of the exigencies of the War, the British Government would not allow the second plane to be delivered. During the wait for the second plane, the *Aotearoa* made survey flights around the Pacific charting potential landing sites for, presumably, military flights as well as the airmail service. Some mail was carried but there was no official cachet applied so identifiable mail is rare. A feature of the display was a number of photographs of the service and those involved in its provision. These had come into Bryan's collection following a fortuitous approach from New Zealand from the executors of the estate of R. A. Phillips who had served as First Officer on these early flights.

The period just after the Second World War was covered by **Lawrence Kimpton's** display on British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines. This enterprise was founded in 1946 as a joint initiative between Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom in an attempt to counterbalance the

potential domination of the route by Pan American Airways. Initially, the airline had no aeroplanes and had to rent four DC4s from the Australian Government. The first service was between Sydney and Vancouver and started in September 1946. The service between Auckland and Vancouver via Fiji, Canton Island, Honolulu and San Francisco (Oakland Airport) was initiated in April 1947. Lawrence's display included not only a comprehensive showing of the covers carried but also a wide range of ephemera from the flights. This included the three different types of airmail etiquettes, postcards and publicity brochures.

Rare postal history items were shown by three exhibitors: **Tony Eastgate** showed items from the Line Islands – Fanning Island, Washington Island and Christmas Island. Although these islands are some distance from New Zealand, their Post offices were administered by the New Zealand Post office. The earliest cover from Fanning Island was dated 1889 and had been posted by somebody on board USSS Nipsic which was stationed in Samoa at the time. The letter was addressed to Philadelphia and it travelled via San Francisco where a surcharge notification was applied. In 1911, the supply of stamps ran out and a 'Paid 1d Fanning Island' cachet was applied. It was thought that this occurred was in June, but a more recent find has shown that it was also used in May. The Christmas Island mail included a letter from America and Bannockburn in Otago dated July 1908 from the wreck of the 'AEON'. A total of 57 people and the mail were rescued but they were stuck on Christmas Island for about 3 months. Also on show was a cover from Christmas Island with a copy of the well known local stamp produced by the owner, Abbe Rougier, which appeared – most unusually – to be a commercially used cover. It was addressed to a French lady at Papeete who had moved to Makatea before the letters arrival. The envelope had had a French Oceania stamp added in transit.

Margaret Noack entertained with early Norfolk Island mail. The first was dated 1861 and was from the settlement on Pitcairn to London. Next were covers from the Reverend Nobbs correspondence which had appeared on the market about 5 years ago. The first was from the Bishop who was in Kohimarama, the headquarters of the mission, to Pitcairn. The letter had been carried by the *Hero* but unfortunately the corner had been eaten by vermin on the Island so the date could not be distinguished. In all, there were 12 early ship mail covers shown. One of the later items was an IN MEMORIAM card for a victim of the wreck of the *SS Wairarapa*. **David Alford** showed Fiji Postal History including 3 missionary covers.

The stamps were also on show. **Ian Stevenson** showed the Tonga 1895 definitives and told the story of Fred Melville and his concocting the story of the issue for a book. Unfortunately, the story that he created resulted in the order of the issue of the two sets being reversed. This mistake was perpetuated for many years and it is only recently that the record has been corrected in Stanley Gibbons. An envelope was also shown which is of historical interest as it contained stolen sheets of stamps worth £15 which had been sent to Australia with a request for £5.

A number of the displays showed New Zealand stamps which had been overprinted for use in the Dependencies and the point was made that the number of sheets was often very small. For example, most of the KGV recess printed definitives had less than 100 sheets produced making the Plate Blocks rare.

Military activity was also covered with **Andrew Dove** showing some rare postcards from the Samoan Relief Force which sailed to capture the islands in August 1914 and some letters from the German civilian leaders who were subsequently interned on Motuihe Island. **Bryan Jones** covered the story of the 8th New Zealand Brigade in Fiji during the Second World War.

John Ray finished the displays with 5 covers including a 1938 Tin Can Mail which had been compulsorily registered as it contained coin and a 2006 cover from New Zealand to Fiji which appeared to have reached the wrong mailbag as it travelled via to South Londonderry/Vermont and Cairo.

Chris Griffin, Deputy Chairman of PISC thanked all those who had displayed and noted the quality of the material on display.

Derek Diamond closed the meeting at 16.15 with the comment that there did not appear to have been any Pitcairn Islands or Tokelau so there must be scope for another joint meeting!

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Society publications are now available:

SP 1: *Aspects of Collecting New Zealand Stamps.*

SP 2: *Index to The Kiwi Volumes 1 to 50.* Printed and CD Version.

SP 3: *The Kiwi Volumes 1 - 50.* Full text on CD

Price: SP 1: £10 inc. P. & P.

SP 2 & SP 3, £30 in UK and £35 overseas airmail inc. P. & P. (Society members will receive a 40% discount)

Payment accepted in NZ\$, US\$ or £St. All orders to:

New Zealand Society of Great Britain
9, Ashley Drive,
Walton-on Thames,
Surrey KT12 1JL

FROM THE COMMITTEE

A Committee meeting was held on Saturday 26th 2007. Amongst the matters discussed were:

- The programme for 2009: the dates are not yet finalised but the subjects will be: a workshop on Perforating Problems, the 12 sheet competition, a members meeting (possibly jointly with the National Philatelic Society) on the subject of overprints and surcharges, Social Philately, a members meeting outside London and the AGM/Auction. Confirmation of the programme and the dates of the meetings will be published as soon as it is available.
- Membership: there was a discussion about ways to increase the number of members. It was agreed that we should write to dealers and see whether they would be willing to publicise the Society. If anybody has any further ideas or the opportunity to encourage collectors to join, please contact the Hon. Secretary.
- Festival of Stamps, London 2010: the Society has agreed to sponsor some frames and will seek as much publicity as possible from the donation.
- Society Weekend 2008: Preparations are well advanced for the meeting in Torquay on September 26th – 28th (**NOT 27th – 29th as previously publicised**). There will be a total of seven sessions and, at present, these will cover: an invited visitor display, Coasts and Offshore Islands, Special Philatelic Days, Back of the Catalogue material (Including Postage Dues, Life Insurance etc), a display by Western Group Regional Members and Viewing of the 16 Sheet Competition Entries and Judging critique. A dealer will also be in attendance for the weekend. A booking form will be included in *The Kiwi*. At present, the cost for 2 nights accommodation will be about £110. A reminder that the weekend is being held at the Livermead Cliff Hotel, one of the Best Western Group, postcode TQ2 6RQ.

- The Library: Michael Wilkinson reported that progress was being made in including the books loaned to the NPS Library in their on-line catalogue. Further details will be publicised when the work is completed. He also reported that he had compiled a list of books that he felt the Society should purchase to add to the Library and requested that if any members were aware of any new books that they felt should be included they let him know.
- The Annual Auction: was discussed – see separate note below.

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THE ANNUAL AUCTION

The annual auction will be held at the November meeting. The closing date for the submission of lots for inclusion will be mid July. Full details and instructions will be published when available but **PLEASE** start looking out the surplus material that you have.

It is proposed that the **Auction Catalogue** will be sent electronically to all members for whom we have an e-mail address. Paper copies will be sent to those who do not have e-mail and anybody who requests it. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy, please let the Hon. Membership Secretary know. A notification of the availability of the catalogue will be included in the appropriate issue of *The Kiwi*. This will represent a significant cost saving to the Society and should help to keep the Auction financially viable.

ERNIE W. LEPPARD
AN APPRECIATION

DEREK DIAMOND



Ernie Leppard died on the last day of 2007 after spending the previous six months in hospital. Although unwell for several years, he never complained and always made light of his troubles but the last time that we met, some 4 months before his death, he was complaining for the very good reason that he found it impossible to be active collector of New Zealand philately from his bed in the ward. Ernie had two hobbies – to both of which he devoted truly immense amounts of enthusiasm – the history of the Sherwood Rangers (his own Regiment) in World War II and the philately of New Zealand. The first was clearly born of his distinguished wartime as a tank radio – operator but the second was unexpected as he never visited New Zealand nor had any family connections there. However the former did, I believe, give birth to the latter to the great good fortune of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain.

The story that he told me was that on arriving in Berlin in 1945 (having had several of his tanks destroyed on the way from Normandy) as a non-smoker, he traded his accumulation of cigarettes for a New Zealand stamp collection, which turned out to be almost valueless as they were all stuck down. From this highly inauspicious beginning, Ernie built up one of the worlds most diverse and broad-ranging collection of New Zealand stamps which he delighted in sharing with members. I do not recall even one meeting in the last ten years when Ernie was not only present but had something of real interest to display together with pertinent comments.

Not surprisingly, the postal history of New Zealand's armed forces was a particular enthusiasm stretching from the Boer War to Korea. He had other areas of specialisation including a notable study of the Penny Universal issue but the remarkable thing was his 'strength across the board' as the experts would say. From an early date, he was anxious to obtain artists essays, die proofs, plate proofs and varieties as well as the more usual items. He wanted to tell the story of each issue as fully as possible so he helped to found the Waterlow Study Circle (with Stanley Cross-Rudkin) to learn more about the first Pictorial issue. He was inquisitive and imaginative in his research and never failed to share it with others through publication. A quick glance at the *Index to the First 50 Years of The Kiwi* will reveal how prolific he was – and as many Editors will confirm, the mechanics of writing were not his forte. It was his deep commitment to collaborative action that propelled him to write, participate and serve the N.Z. Society of Great Britain.

It is as impossible to exaggerate his contribution to the Society over many years as it is difficult to describe it, mainly because he never sought recognition preferring to work behind the scenes with inspired suggestions and genuine support of his fellow officers. His response to being awarded an ABPS medal and being invited to be President was 'bloody heck'. He was a cautious Treasurer who has left the Society financially sound and he has placed in the Society digital archives copies of his First Pictorial and Penny Universal collections along with colour copies of his amazing accumulation of proofs and essays connected with the 1949 and 1952 Royal Visits that never were. It was also he who got the Royal Philatelic Society of London to invite us to display around the time of our 50th Anniversary and it was he who promoted the idea of Regional Groupings. Indeed, his influence was felt on every issue of substance and consequently he will be

genuinely missed in the management of the affairs of the Society to which he was so devoted. Probably more important is our loss of his wonderful participation in meetings. He set a superb standard in all aspects of his interest in New Zealand philately from which we have all benefited immensely. Ernie, thank you so much – we miss you.

Gerald Elliott has written to say that he was really sorry to get news about Ernie Leppard as he had been a great member. Allan Berry comments that Ernie would always have interesting material to display and talk about in his inimitable honest way. A note has also been received saying that Ernie was a valued and respected member of the Forces Postal History Society and served as its Secretary (1996 - 2000) and Treasurer (2000-2002).

Ernest W. Leppard (January 1926 – December 2007) joined the New Zealand Society of Great Britain in September 1980 and served as Treasurer between 1989 – 2007 and President 1999 – 2007.

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN SPECIAL PUBLICATION No.3

A few members have been in touch because they have been unable to open their copy of the CD containing the scanned images of Volumes 1 to 50. The reason for this is unclear but the advice that we have received is that if your copy of the CD is working satisfactorily, you should transfer a copy to your computer hard drive and use this in future.

If you attempt to open the CD and it is not functioning, please contact Derek Diamond or Andrew Dove and a replacement copy will be provided.

AN INVITATION

Adam Miller, President of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, has written to enquire if any members of the Society are planning to go to New Zealand for Tarapex in November, 2008. If so, he has invited them to attend a joint meeting of the RPSNZ and Hutt Valley Philatelic Society which is being held at that time and talk about their exhibit.

The Royal would cover expenses involved in getting from New Plymouth to Wellington (if required) and organise an overnight stay if needed.

If anybody is interested, could they please contact Adam directly: e-mail ambj@clear.net.nz.

FEEDBACK FROM A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Following my note in the last issue, a number of members have taken the trouble to write and comment on *The Kiwi*. The overwhelming view expressed was the magazine served its primary purpose of acting as a means of communication between members and a way to share a common enthusiasm with like minded people. I am grateful to all who communicated.

Nevertheless, I repeat that any publication can only be as good as the contributions received so, if you have anything to write and share, I will be only too pleased to hear from you.

CORRECTION TO THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE SCOTTISH REGIONAL GROUP CO-ORDINATOR

Please note that the telephone number of John Studholme, Co-ordinator of the Scottish Regional Group is 01875 852171.

INFORMATION RECEIVED:

MEDIA RELEASE

UNDERWATER GRANDEUR FEATURE IN LATEST RANGE OF NZ POST STAMPS

3 DECEMBER 2007

While New Zealand is famous for the unspoilt beauty of its forests, beaches and mountains, its underwater landscapes are now spectacularly revealed in the latest range of stamps from New Zealand Post.

With more than 15,000 kilometres of coastline from which to choose images, the Underwater Reefs range offers surprisingly colourful images from New Zealand's deepest waters.

Corals from Dusky Sound, Fiordland – one of two World Heritage areas in New Zealand feature on the 50c stamp. The Sound is home to about seven million colonies of black coral

The \$1.00 stamp shows the splendid perch – one of New Zealand's most colourful fish species as they swim over a forest of kelp.

The \$1.50 stamp features red coral, which is not a true coral but a related type of animal – a hydrocoral. While the \$2.00 stamp reveals the diadema urchin – one of the world's finest urchins.

The images come from the lens of acclaimed underwater photographer Kim Westerckov.

New Zealand Post stamps general manager Ivor Masters says Kim's images are astonishing.

'Kim gets us up close and personal with some the sea's most colourful inhabitants – from the white-on-the-outside-but-black-on-the-inside black coral to the vibrantly orange 'splendid perch', and from the sharply spiny diadema urchin to the brilliant red coral. It's the world that most of us can only imagine – but few can visit.'

The issue comprises a range of collectibles including self-adhesive and gummed stamps, a first day cover, miniature sheet and miniature sheet first day cover, and handy self-adhesive stamp booklets and dispenser boxes.

The stamps, miniature sheet and first day covers were designed by Tim Garman of Silver – I Design Associates. The gummed stamps were printed in Cartor Security Printing, France and the self-adhesive stamps by SEP Sprint, Australia in offset lithography. They will be available from the usual outlets from 9 January 2008.

NEW ZEALAND POST CELEBRATES THE CHINESE LUNAR YEAR OF THE RAT

3 DECEMBER 2007

The humble, and often maligned, rat will feature on the latest range of New Zealand Post stamps as it celebrates the '*Year of the Rat*' for the Chinese New Year.

According to the Chinese Lunar Calendar people born in the Year of the Rat, are leaders and pioneers who are charismatic, passionate, practical and hardworking. They can also be obstinate, quick tempered and aggressive.

While in New Zealand the common Norwegian rat is considered a pest by the Department of Conservation, according to Chinese myth rats are held in high regard, originally bringing the gift of rice to humankind.

The rat is the first animal of the 12 in the Chinese Lunar Calendar, and according to Chinese legend was the first animal to cross the river as ordered by the Yellow Jade Emperor, the Enceproro of Heaven. The 12 animals: rat, ox, tiger, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and the pig came to represent different types of people.

If you were born between the following dates you were born in a Year of the Rat

- 18 Feb 1912 – 5 Feb 1913
- 5 Feb 1924 – 24 Jan 1925
- 24 Jan 1936 – 10 Feb 1937
- 10 Feb 1948 – 28 Jan 1949
- 28 Jan 1960 – 14 Feb 1961
- 15 Feb 1972 – 2 Feb 1973
- 2 Feb 1984 – 19 Feb 1985
- 19 Feb 1996 – 6 Feb 1997
- 7 Feb 2008 – 25 Jan 2009

William Shakespeare, Winston Churchill, Truman Capote and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart were all born in the Year of the Rat.

Pocket Pets

This stamp issue also focuses on the category of animals known as Pocket Pets which include rats, but also rabbits, guinea pigs and mice which are popular pets for many New Zealand children.

New Zealand General Post General Manager Ivor Masters says *'While rats are considered a pest in new Zealand many children grew up with pet rats, mice and guinea pigs, so it seemed appropriate to recognise this under the theme of Pocket Pets. These are animals which have been with civilisation, for better or worse, since it began. We hope people enjoy these stamps.'*

The Pocket Pet series also comes with specially embossed first day cover sheet which features all four stamps:

- 50c – Rabbits
- \$1.50 – Rats
- \$1.00 – Guinea pigs
- \$2.00 – Mice

The stamps, first day cover and miniature sheet were designed by Lindy Fisher, Auckland and printed by offset lithography by Southern Colour Print of Dunedin. They will be available from the usual outlets from 7 February 2008.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

'SEND ME A POSTCARD'

'New Zealand Postcards and the Story they tell'

Author: William Main. Pub. Craig Potton Publishing, 98, Vickerman Street, PO Box 555, Nelson, New Zealand. Web site www.craigpotton.co.nz. ISBN Number 978-1-877333-72-9. Price NZ\$35.

Pp. 140. Soft bound. Fully illustrated in colour.

This book has not been written specifically for collectors of postcards or postal history but rather to record the social history reflected in the range of postcards issued over the years with scenes of New Zealand. The book is a companion publication to *'Wish You Were Here'*, the publication co-authored by William Main and Alan Jackson and published in 2005. This latest contribution covers the local personalities involved in the publication of the cards and brings the story up to date with an account of recent give-away cards.

The introduction (4 pages) gives a brief history of the card. This is followed by 10 subject chapters on topics ranging from 'Cards for Tourists – Rotorua' to 'Popular Postcards – Imports' and 'Postcard Portraits'. The penultimate chapter covers the local publishers and the book finishes with a series of pairs of cards of the same scene separated by years with the older in black and white and the more recent in colour.

As you would expect from Craig Potton, the book is superbly produced and the illustrations clear and informative throughout. Overall, this is an interesting book which will find a place on many bookshelves.

Len Jury Catalogue of New Zealand Stamps 2008 – 38th Edition

Pub. Len Jury Ltd., PO Box 4400, Auckland, New Zealand. Price NZ\$13 +P&P.

As always, this is a simplified listing of all the stamps of New Zealand with each one illustrated in colour and including some of the 'back of book' material and CALs. It is always welcome as it is well produced and very good value. Overall, it provides a helpful check list and is to be commended.

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RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS ARTICLES:

A COMMENT ON THE FOLLOW UP TO 'WHAT WOULD SMITHY HAVE SAID?'

EVAN WILLIAMS

In the January issue of *The Kiwi* (1), Harry Fox takes me to task for using expressions such as 'first day' and 'cachet'. I would like to point out that my information was taken from Volume Two of *The Airmails of New Zealand*. The sub-heading of the Chapter describes the flight as 'THIRD NEW ZEALAND – AUSTRALIA TRANS – TASMAN FLIGHT IN VH-USU 'SOUTHERN CROSS' KAITAIA – SYDNEY (NINETY BEACH-MASCOT) CARRYING FIRST OFFICIAL 'SOUTHERN CROSS' AIR MAIL'. To my mind, this

suggests that mail and any other philatelic material carried on that flight is 'first day' of the service.

The chapter also describes how all mail posted under its own cover from the other offices throughout New Zealand received the postmark as an additional postmark or 'cachet'. Perhaps it is all down to interpretation and semantics.

However, the purpose of my article, and something that Harry fails to mention in his note, was to describe a Kingsford-Smith cover with a Ulm special overprint stamp which, I think, makes it quite unusual.

Reference:

1. Fox H. 'A Follow up to 'What Would Smithy Have Said''. *The Kiwi* (2008). Vol. 57 No.1 Pp. 15-6.

DX MAIL

ALLAN P. BERRY

I was most interested to read the article by Alan Tunnicliffe concerning the handling of British Mail inwards to New Zealand by DX Mail (1). While Alan correctly identifies the marking that DX Mail have been putting on items that they handle, he does not mention the howls of protest coming from collectors concerning the "desecration of the addressees beautiful stamps", as it has been put by a formal letter to the New Zealand Philatelic Federation by the Southland Philatelic Society. I, myself, have received mail so mutilated, and I have been in touch with DX Mail to seek some clarification and information. Their spokesman replied as follows:

The purpose of the 'DXMail' indicia on all items carried by DXMail is compliance with the New Zealand Postal Act that stipulates that all items carried by postal operators must bear the postal operators registered logo. The logo is further used to cancel out the stamp on the item to denote postage has been paid and the stamp used. MED have intimated that the top right hand corner is the recognised place for displaying a Postal Operator's indicia. This area of the envelope is also recognised overseas as the area designated for an indicia/cancellation mark.

I do not know what MED stands for and I do not understand this comment. Previously mail from the United Kingdom handled by New Zealand Post had no further markings added to it, unless the item was forwarded or registered. I have not been able to confirm that it is a requirement of the New Zealand Postal Act that a marking must be applied. I pointed out that it would not matter if the DXMail logo were placed anywhere EXCEPT on the stamps.

The response was to state that:

Current practise for identifying indicia and cancellation is top right of envelope. I will forward your comments to MED with respect to placement of postal indicia/cancellation and any subsequent indicia.

Royal Mail has approved the DX indicia and its placement, but will forward your comments to them also.

I have been in touch with Royal Mail to try and ascertain if this is correct. The only response that I have received is that Royal Mail has no control over what markings other postal administrations place on their mail.

There have been other problems with New Zealand Couriers, also a subsidiary of the Freightways Group. A registered item was delivered simply by being placed in the box at the end of the drive of the person to whom it was addressed. As it was a valuable item from an auction house in the United Kingdom, a complaint was made to DX Mail and New Zealand Couriers. So far, the only response has been to suggest that the complaint be put to Royal Mail.

I had thought that matters were improving in that the marking shown at Figure 1 in Alan's article appears to be used more frequently, and as is the case with the illustration, does not further cancel the stamps, or when it does, is not so offensive as the markings at Figure 2 and 3. However, recent mail still carries the red marking ruining the stamps, and it appears also that DX Mail is also handling mail coming in from Canada.

Alan mentions labels being used on certain items of mail. These carry the usual logo and are applied to items which are often contained in plastic bags. In one instance, such an item addressed to me had the label affixed over the stamps, thus ruining them completely.

There is another query that has not been addressed. All mail coming into New Zealand is screened by our Customs and Bio-Security authorities, using sniffer dogs and X-Ray machines – there have been programmes on our television about the process. I ask the question – has DX Mail set up its own international mail centres at the International Airports in New Zealand to permit this essential process to take place, or do they rely on New Zealand Post's facilities to carry out this vital work. Certainly, so far as Thames is concerned, mail is still delivered by New Zealand Post. At the moment, there matters stand. As the New Zealand Philatelic Federation, the New Zealand Stamp Dealers Association, the Association of British Philatelic Societies and the Philatelic Traders Society have all been informed concerning what is happening I feel certain that there will be further developments.

Reference:

1. Tunnicliffe A 'British Mail Inwards to New Zealand now Handled by DX Mail'. *The Kiwi*(2008). Vol. 57. No. 1. Pp 18-20.

POSTAL STATIONERY QUERIES

ALLAN P. BERRY

I was interested to read the article by Neil Jones in the last *Kiwi* (1) particularly Figure 2. First, a correction is needed – Queen Victoria died on 22nd January 1901. Looking at the illustration in Figure 2, from the layout compared with items in my collection, I do not think that this is an envelope – rather, I think it is a wrapper. Certainly, I have not seen such an early print order number as is shown with the E.R. monogram.

Since I wrote a number of articles on the subject of the Printing and Stationery Department Printed Franks which were published in *The Kiwi* (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) Volume which the late Robert Samuel used for the chapter on this material in Volume 9 of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* (7), yet more items have come to light, which I will touch on later. In these articles, the earliest print order number that I recorded for the fourth frank, which is the item under discussion, was on an envelope, and is 2,000/8/1901 – 6510].

In 2000 in *The Kiwi* I wrote (5):

The exact date that the new frank was introduced is not given in the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Official Circulars. In that for May 1, 1901, there is a brief note: -

Mourning for the late Queen discontinued.

Official mourning for the late Queen was discontinued on the morning of 18th April.

In fact, a period known at the time as half-mourning would continue for a further six months. This is shown by a new find – an envelope carrying the fourth frank with the print order number 750/11/1901 – 8608], used from Wellington on 18 NO 01. It has a mourning corner added at top left. The low number printed would be in recognition that mourning would cease completely on the anniversary of Queen Victoria's death, namely, 22nd January 1902.

In the same article (5), I wrote further:

In the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Official Circular for July 1, 1901, there is another brief note:

The King's Monogram adopted.

Officers were instructed on the 30th May to substitute His Majesty's monogram E.R. for the late Queen's in all places where the Sovereign's monogram is used.

Therefore, one cannot expect any covers carrying the fourth frank to appear before June 1901.

The evidence of the wrapper/envelope illustrated at Figure 2 shows that the last statement is manifestly incorrect. However, any material bearing the V.R. monograms held by departments would be used up before those bearing the new E.R. monogram came into use. This would make economic sense. It is demonstrated by other items that I have in my collection. I have three envelopes carrying the V.R. monogram with the print order number 10,000/7/1900 – 4794]. One plain one was used OCT8 430pm 1900, the second with part address by rubber handstamp *The Clerk / Magistrate's Court* was used 2 SP 00. Finally, there is one used 4 SP 01, to which a mourning corner has been added at top left.

Another recent acquisition is a cover bearing the Treasury Department second frank, measuring 228 x 102 mms, with a full mourning border. It was used from Wellington on 28 JA 01. The contents were still with the cover – a copy of *The New Zealand Gazette Extraordinary, published by authority, Wellington, Thursday, January 24, 1901*. It bears a *Proclamation notifying the demise of the Crown*. It also bears a notice *Death of Her Majesty – Public Observances as to Mourning*. There is a full mourning border around the piece, which is foolscap and printed one side only.



Colin Capill has also responded: I have an identical wrapper from the Printing and Stationery Department with the same Printing No. It is interesting to note that the dates of issue of these two wrappers (several years after it was printed). The one illustrated in *The Kiwi* is dated 26 November 1903 and mine is 14 November 1904. With a printing number of 2,000, this implies that there must have been little use for this particular wrapper.

The Official records that I have seen (all that I know of) do not give any actual date when the frank was authorised by the Post Office.

The earliest usage of this ER frank that I have is dated Wellington 12 October 1901 on a small size half mourning envelope (black triangle across the top left corner) with the printing number 2,000/8/1901 – 6510.

References:

1. Jones N. 'Postal Stationery Queries'. *The Kiwi* (2008) Vol. 57. No. 1. P. 21
2. Berry A.P. 'The Printing and Stationery Department Franks (Part 1)'. *The Kiwi* (1999). Vol. 48. No. 3. Pp. 64 – 70.
3. Berry A.P. 'The Printing and Stationery Department Franks (Part 2)'. *The Kiwi* (1999). Vol. 48. No. 5. Pp. 106 – 112.
4. Berry A.P. 'The Printing and Stationery Department Franks: Corrigenda and Additions to the Record'. *The Kiwi* (2000). Vol. 49. No. 1. Pp. 17 – 19.
5. Berry A.P. 'The Printing and Stationery Department Franks – Further Finds'. *The Kiwi* (2000). Vol. 49. No. 6. Pp. 131 - 133
6. Berry A.P. 'The Printing and Stationery Department Franks – a New Discovery'. *The Kiwi* (2001). Vol. 50. No. 3. Pp. 59
7. Samuel RD 'The Postage Stamps of New Zealand Volume IX' Pub. Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Inc., Wellington, New Zealand (2006). ISBN 0-95977883-7-9.

HELP PLEASE WITH AN UNUSUAL POSTAGE LABEL

Allan Berry writes: I believe I can offer Eric Lewis at least some help with his query (1). According to *Wises New Zealand Guide, 8th Edition, 1987*: -

Ponui Island is at the east end of the Tamaki Strait in the Hauraki Gulf, Auckland, lying about 1300m off the south-eastern coast of Waiheke Island, and 4km off the north-eastern coastline of Manukau City. To the north of the island is Rotoroa Island, and to the south Pakihi Island. Farming, and the cultivation of mussels. Also known as Chamberlins [*sic*] Island after the family that has been established there for many years. The name means *lit.*: *po*: night; *nui*: long.

The island is visible from the deck of my home in Thames, although it does not look like an island. I have not been able to find any details concerning George Chamberlain, but *Cyclopedia of New Zealand, Volume 2, Auckland*, mentions one Henry Chamberlin [*sic*], who had extensive properties in the Auckland area, notably Drury. He was born in Norwich in 1825 and died in 1888. His marriage is recorded, but no children are mentioned. He first came to New Zealand in 1853. Although it cannot be proved, I suspect that George Chamberlain on the address was a descendant, whose name is incorrectly spelt on the label.

Robin Startup in *New Zealand Post Offices* (2) lists:

Ponui Island AK Sheep farming, Hauraki Gulf, 32km east Auckland. Alternate name Chamberlin's [*sic*] Island. TO (Telephone Office) 17.12.1951-3.6.1977.

The Reed Dictionary of New Zealand Place Names states that the island was purchased from the Maori by one Charles Chamberlin in 1853.

Robin Startup adds: I can confirm that 'P.B.' stands for 'Private Bag'. One of the Chamberlin daughters was a collector and a member of the Postal History Society of New Zealand in the 1960s and this is probably why odd items to or from the island appear on the market from time to time.

The island also had a P & T Radio-telephone office named 'Ponui Island' from 17 December 1957 to 2 June 1977 with its own datestamp to cancel postage stamps affixed to call cards and telegrams. I had examples of this in my NZ civil postal history collection.

Gerald Elliot notes that Ponui Island is in the Hauraki Island just south of Waiheke Island (where he lives) and is mainly used for sheep rearing. The sacking could have contained anything, presumably - maybe a wool sample. The mail to the island was sent through Auckland by boat. I wondered whether the George Chamberlain could have been our very well known NZ Philatelist George Chamberlain who worked for the Dominion Laboratory in Wellington and was very active in the 1960s. It is, however, that the resident family was named 'Chamberlin' and the name was misspelt on the label illustrated. It is a shame that there is no indication of the date on the piece.

References:

1. Lewis E. 'Help Please with an Unusual Postal Label' *The Kiwi* (2008). Vol. 57 No. 1. P. 18.
2. Startup RM 'New Zealand Post Offices'. Pub. Postal History Society of New Zealand (1993). ISBN 0-908588-42-9.

THE 1945 HEALTHS

GWYN J. WILLIAMS

Having recently joined the Society, I was reading the back numbers of *The Kiwi* (Sept. 2007) when I noted the article by Roger Plumb about the lines on the 1945 Health Stamp. I have had a look at the complete sheet of the 1^d + ½^d that I possess and, assuming that I am looking in the right place, I could find no trace of the line. My sheet is from plate A1 so I assume that the line must be plate specific.

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMBERS QUERIES:

(The following article was first published in *The Informer*, the Journal of the Society of Australasian Specialists (Oceania), in April 2004 and is reproduced with the permission of the Author and the Editor)

MOTUIHI AND SOMES ISLAND - WORLD WAR I NEW ZEALAND INTERNMENT CAMP MAILS (Part 1)

GEORGE BRANAM

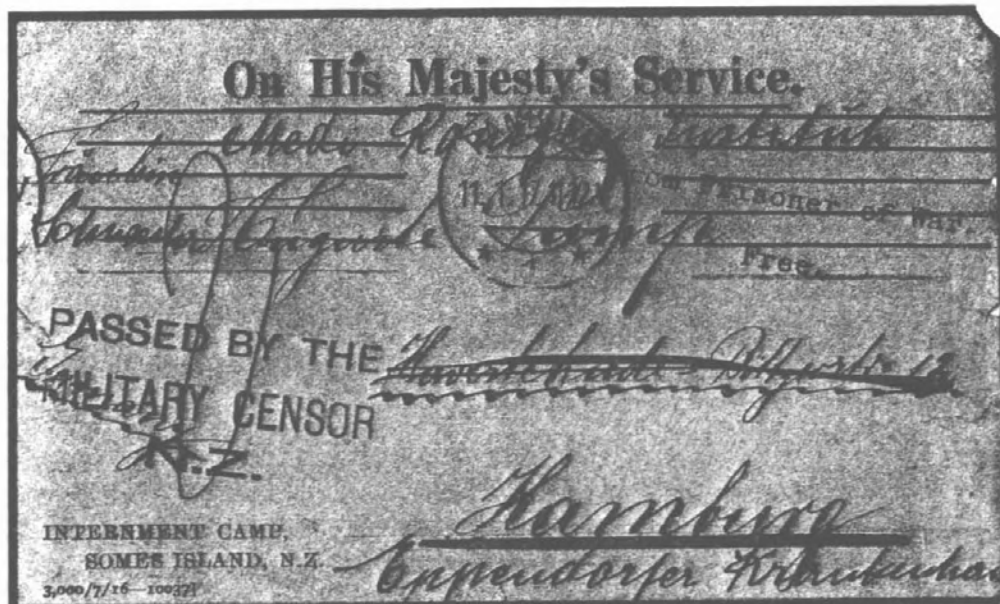


Figure 1: Somes Island OHMS Envelope

When Great Britain declared war on Germany in August, 1914, New Zealand immediately followed suit. On August 6, New Zealand was invited in very diplomatic terms by the British Command to undertake the occupation of Samoa to neutralize the German wireless station there. Germany's East Asiatic Fleet was operating in the Pacific with two battle cruisers, Gneisenau and Scharnhorst, and half a dozen smaller warships. Therefore, the Samoan station was of consequence. With remarkable speed a force of 1,413 men was assembled and a co-ordinated plan worked out to reinforce the task force with Australian and French warships. By August 15, the New Zealand contingent was under way. Picking up their escorts at Noumea, they reached Suva on August 26 and then on the Apia on the 29th where after some negotiation the capture was effected with no military resistance. On the last day of August, with the New Zealand forces installed in occupation, the transports headed back to New Zealand with the German Governor, Dr. E. Schultz, and a few other prisoners of war who would need to be accommodated in some sort of internment facility.

A need had already been anticipated for the internment of enemy aliens within New Zealand deemed a potential threat. In addition to transients such as crew members of ships caught within New Zealand ports at the time of the declaration of war, New Zealand in 1914 had about 3,000 resident German nationals. Immigration of Germans had occurred mainly in the 1870s. New Zealand was no melting pot, and xenophobia was common and sometimes virulent among the predominantly British population. The government therefore deserved praise for a reasonably levelheaded screening of German nationals. The transients would have to be interned, but resident internment was kept low, never above about 280 at the peak including all nationalities. There was

special apprehension about men with German army reserve status, but concern was also shown for keeping families viable. Internees were often released on probation and many were simply required to report to the police periodically without ever being interned.

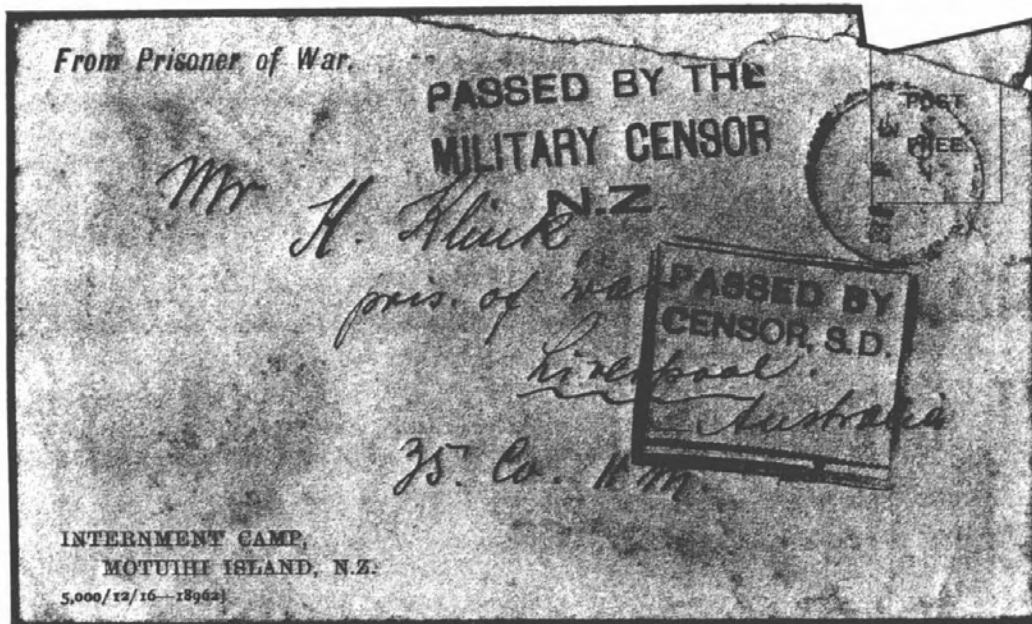


Figure 2: Motuihi Island Envelope with the Motuihi Telegraph Office Cancellation

Two internment camps were established in August 1914, both on islands that had previously served as quarantine islands. The larger one was Somes Island in Wellington Harbour, and it was used primarily for the domestic population, though lines were never demarked firmly. Still, Motuihi Island in the Hauraki Gulf at Auckland seemed to be dedicated to the more orthodox prisoners of war. It received the group brought from Samoa, followed about a month later by a group of German crewmen from the passenger-freighter liner *Elsasse*. That ship had sought refuge in Apia after a narrow escape from Sydney harbour when the war began. It then moved on to Pago Pago where it was interned by the Americans. Eleven of the crew, believing Apia still to be in German control, made the error of escaping into New Zealand hands.

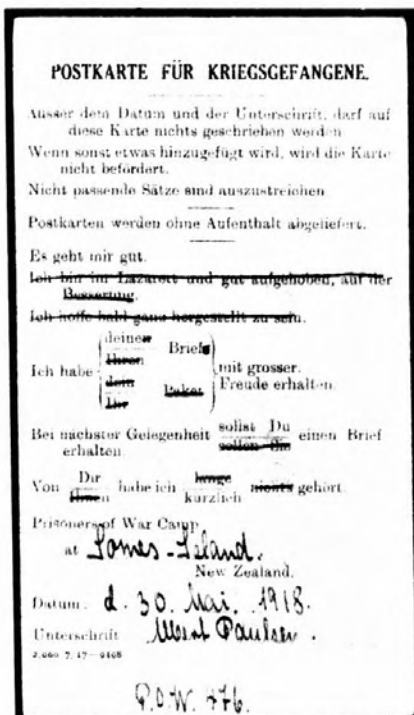


Figure 3 German Formulary Card

The warships of Germany's Asian fleet were fairly soon destroyed. The Battle of Coronel, off Chile, on November 1st, inflicted heavy losses upon the British. In the later Battle of the Falklands in December, the British prevailed decisively. Earlier, the *Emden*, and armed merchant cruiser acting as a detached raider, created havoc to shipping and posed a direct threat to New Zealand and Australian forces in the first convoy to Egypt, but was destroyed on November 8th by the Australian light cruiser, *HMAS Sydney*, in the Indian Ocean. Survivors from the *Emden* ended up in an Australian POW camp. Subsequent German actions were clandestine, involving raiders either laying mines or attacking detached ships. Motuihi generally got later German Naval prisoners, but they were not numerous. Included, however, in 1917, was the famous raider

Count Felix von Luckner and most of the crew from the *Seeadler*. Von Luckner made headlines by stealing the Motuihi camp commandant's launch and leading a well-planned escape. He was not recaptured until he had managed to board a timber scow in the Hauraki Gulf and make his way to the Kermadec Islands. Von Luckner's spectacular success suggests that security at Motuihi might have been a bit relaxed.

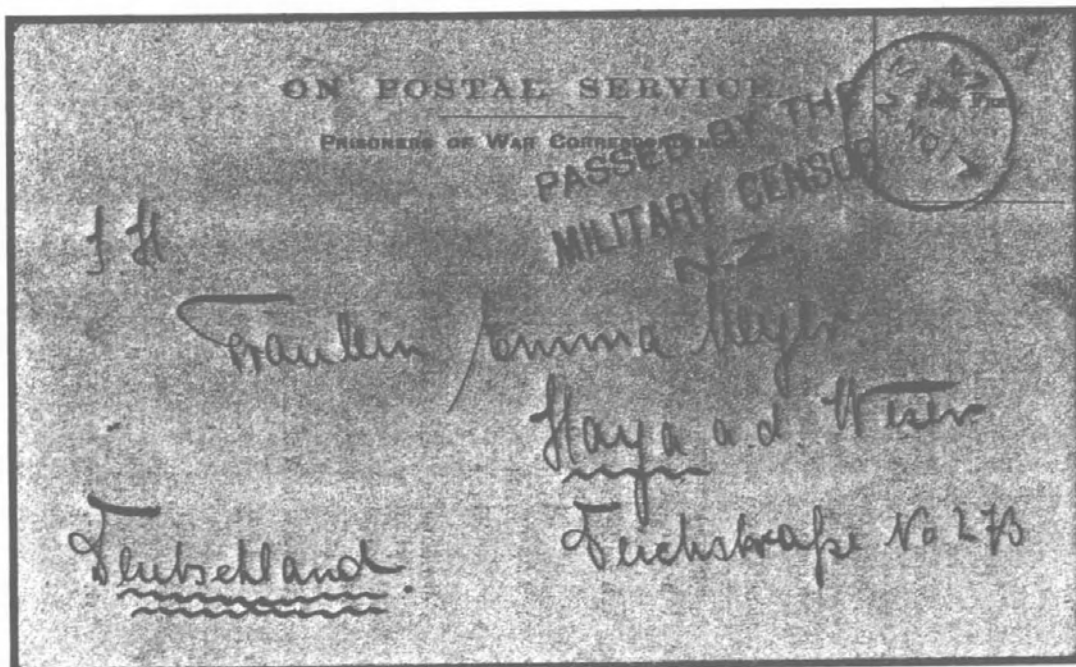


Figure 4. Front of German Formulary Card

Motuihi remained a small installation, having 42 prisoners in 1916 and 55 in 1917. Startup (1) sets the maximum at 83. Somes, on the other hand, was more than a holding camp. Many of its early internees remained for the entire War, but some were released on probation and new ones taken into custody. A 1917 Register of Aliens lists 277 at Somes of whom 84% were German. Only 52 are listed as married (18.8%). A good many are seaman, and a number are traders or planters from Samoa. Among the occupations listed for New Zealand residents were waiter, farmer, labourer, bookkeeper, cook, clerk, upholsterer, shopman, sheep farmer, secretary and baker. A number of musicians represent a travelling group caught by the beginning of the war. All were men.

Internees in both the Motuihi and Somes camps were provided a mails service free of postage. Printed envelopes and letterhead stationery were provided but their use was not obligatory. I have seen three printings of the Somes Island envelope (there may be more). The first two Somes Island envelopes had **On His Majesty's Service** centered at the top and an inscription at the lower left 'INTERNMENT CAMP, /SOMES ISLAND, N.Z.' (See Figure 1). On the flap is the oval deal of New Zealand in red. This was simply a Somes imprint on a stock OHMS envelope. The stock OHMS envelope was occasionally used without camp imprint. The Motuihi envelope was somewhat different, lacking the OHMS inscription and seal, but having 'From Prisoner of War' in the upper left corner, and a stamp size box at the right with **POST / FREE** in the centre. Its inscription at the lower left was similar to the Somes envelope, but read 'INTERNMENT CAMP, / MOTUIHI ISLAND, N.Z.' (see Figure 2). Both Motuihi printings that I have seen were in the same format. The third Somes printing was similar to the Motuihi format but with 'PRISONER OF WAR' centered at the top.

It is uncertain how often the prisoners were allowed to write letters. A generic postcard was also supplied for use between letters. It was printed in German on the message side with alternate phrases, the non-applicable ones to be lined through (Figure 3). Camp address and date were provided at the bottom. Since the instructions directed writers not to add anything to the message, a glance was all the censorship required. The address side was headed at the top: ON POSTAL SERVICE. / PRISONERS OF WAR CORRESPONDENCE. (Figure 4).

Neither camp had a Post Office although a civilian telephone/telegraph facility (a post office function) on Motuihi was administered by the camp personnel. The mail from Motuihi was posted at Auckland and that from Somes at Wellington. The practices of postmarking differed at the two sites. At Wellington, mail from Somes addressed to Germany was not date-stamped with the Wellington c.d.s. but letters for New Zealand were. Most letters from Motuihi, whatever the destination, were postmarked with the Auckland c.d.s. although, in 1917, mail was sometimes marked instead by the Motuihi datestamp used by the telephone office (Figure 4). At both camps the postcards might or might not be postmarked.

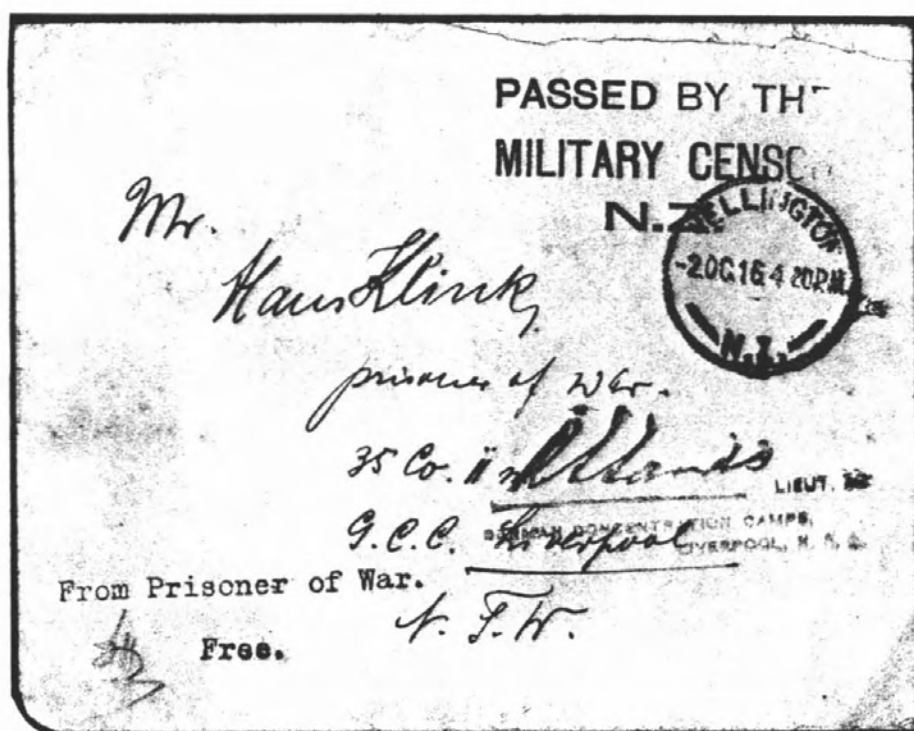


Figure 5. Motuihi Cover with Wellington c.d.s. and Australian POW Camp Censor Mark

Irregularities exist. Some letters from Motuihi were apparently sent to Wellington not completely processed and carry Wellington markings. Figure 5, for example, addressed to the Liverpool POW Camp in Australia is identifiable as originating from Motuihi only by its return address. This may indicate a pooling of certain groups (such as mail to particular destinations) at Wellington. Figure 2 was also addressed to Liverpool Camp, however, and was fully processed at Motuihi. Other mail from Motuihi to the Cook Islands and the U.S.A. bear a Wellington datestamp.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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