

NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE STAMPS ERRORS AND VARIETIES

NEW ZEALAND 1959 CENTENARY OF THE RED CROSS

PLATING

Illustrating a plating exercise for the 1959 Red Cross Stamp.

By Terry Hancox



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NEW ZEALAND 1959 CENTENARY OF THE RED CROSS

Illustrating a plating exercise for the 1959 Red Cross Stamp.



This work is supported by The New Zealand Society of Great Britain



The New Zealand Society of Great Britain

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The 1959 Red Cross Stamp

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INTRODUCTION

On the face of it, the 1959 Red Cross stamp is interesting, but perhaps not interesting enough to warrant specialist interest. It fits into an era that has many photogravure stamps with little to single it out from amongst the crowd. It is not until you begin to investigate the various flaws and retouches that you begin to find that the printer has taken trouble to correct major and minor blemishes, and that each stamp does indeed have some uniqueness from its neighbours that is perhaps worth investigating.

To the modest 'specialist' it is relatively easy to reconstruct the printed sheet. It also enables some stamps to be collected in a number of states, but not enough to seriously confuse.

In short, a well-designed stamp from a time between human endeavour and mass production that still manages to retain enough variety to stimulate specialist interest.

For comment and feedback, email the author at TAHNZstamps@gmail.com

* * * * *

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE 1959 RED CROSS STAMP

It was on the 9th May 1958 that representatives of the New Zealand Red Cross Society met with the then Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Right Hon. W Nash, to discuss the idea of a special issue of a postage stamp to commemorate the approaching centenary of the Red Cross.

This idea sparked much discussion to confirm the underlying date that would be commemorated, and there was general disagreement amongst many parties as to which date was 'significant'.

A short chronology has it that:

- Jean Henri Dunant wrote a book of his experiences at the battle of Solferino (in modern day Italy) in 1859 where after a battle between Piedmont-Sardinia supported by France against Austria there appeared to be little effort to treat or care for the 38,000 dead, wounded or dying soldiers. In the book published in 1862 he developed the idea that in the future a neutral organisation should exist to provide care to wounded soldiers. The book was positively received.
- The President of the Societe Genevoise d'Utilite Publique (Geneva Society for Public Welfare), made the book and its suggestions the topic of the 9th February, 1863 meeting of the organisation. A five person committee was created to explore the possibility of implementing Dunant's ideas. (Their first meeting on 17th February, 1863 is now considered the founding date of the International Committee of the Red Cross).
- In October (26-29) 1863 an international conference attended by Baden, Bavaria, France, Britain, Hanover, Hesse, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Prussia, Russia, Saxony, Sweden, and Spain, made recommendations that later resulted in the signing of the Convention of Geneva on 22nd August, 1864.
- The first Red Cross Society that appears was the Wurttemberg Red Cross Society in 1863.
- 1864 saw the founding of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Dominion Secretary of the Red Cross Society confirmed that 1959 was the year of commemoration of the Red Cross Organisation. Yet further enquiries with Australia Postal authorities gave 1964 as the year in which Australia would issue stamps to commemorate the centenary. Switzerland has already issued stamps back in 1939 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Red Cross, substantiating the stance of other Postal Authorities.

Understanding the dilemma, the New Zealand Red Cross Society approached the Postal Authorities referencing 1959 as the centenary of the birth of the Red Cross idea. This still did not appease all parties, but the date of the 'idea' was correct, and the issue of postage stamps was approved.

The New Zealand Red Cross Society had originally asked for the stamps to have a charity surcharge of 1d that would benefit Society funds. An objection from the Federation of New Zealand Health Camps was made on the grounds that there was not a clear break between the proposed Red Cross issue and the annual Health stamp. Further, the Federation and the Central Councils of the Health Camp Movement asked that it should be 'made plain that the Red Cross stamp would be in addition to the Health stamp, not a substitute for it'. The Postmaster General gave appropriate assurances and the Red Cross issued was scheduled for 3rd June 1959.

The Post Office began the process of securing an approved design for the stamp and a rough showing the two hemispheres and the flag of the Red Cross was put forward. The Postmaster General approved the design on 5th November, 1958. Messrs Harrison and Sons Ltd London secured the contract for printing of 8,000,000 stamps, from their tender of 22nd December, 1958. Small alterations were made to the essays received and final proofs were approved in March 1959. The stamps were printed on sheets of 120 stamps arranged in 20 rows of 6 stamps, and printed in two colours, plate '1A' for the red and '2' for the blue.

Although it had been proposed to print 8 million stamps, the number actually printed was 4,400,040 with 3,699,118 eventually sold before the stamp was withdrawn from circulation on 31st August, 1959. All unissued stamps were destroyed.

PUBLICITY MATERIAL

The N.Z. Red Cross Society Inc. arrange for publicity material to be distributed prior to the issue of the postage stamp to raise public awareness of the issue itself and the work of the Red Cross. Newspaper advertisements, 'Point of Sale' cards and leaflets were prepared and released.



Newspaper Advertisement (50% of actual size)

The publicity material featured the head and shoulders of a female nurse as the main focal point. The limitations of the newspaper had the advertisement in black, whilst the specially commissioned 'point of sale' card and leaflet allowed the nurse to be portrayed in colour, predominantly blue and red, as of the stamp itself.



Red Cross Stamp Leaflet, front and back covers. Shown at 50% of actual size



Red Cross Stamp Leaflet, inside pages. Shown at 50% of actual size.

The front and reverse of the leaflet (shown previously) advertise the postage stamp and 'official' Red Cross produced cover. The inner pages were designed to advertise the services provided by the Red Cross itself.

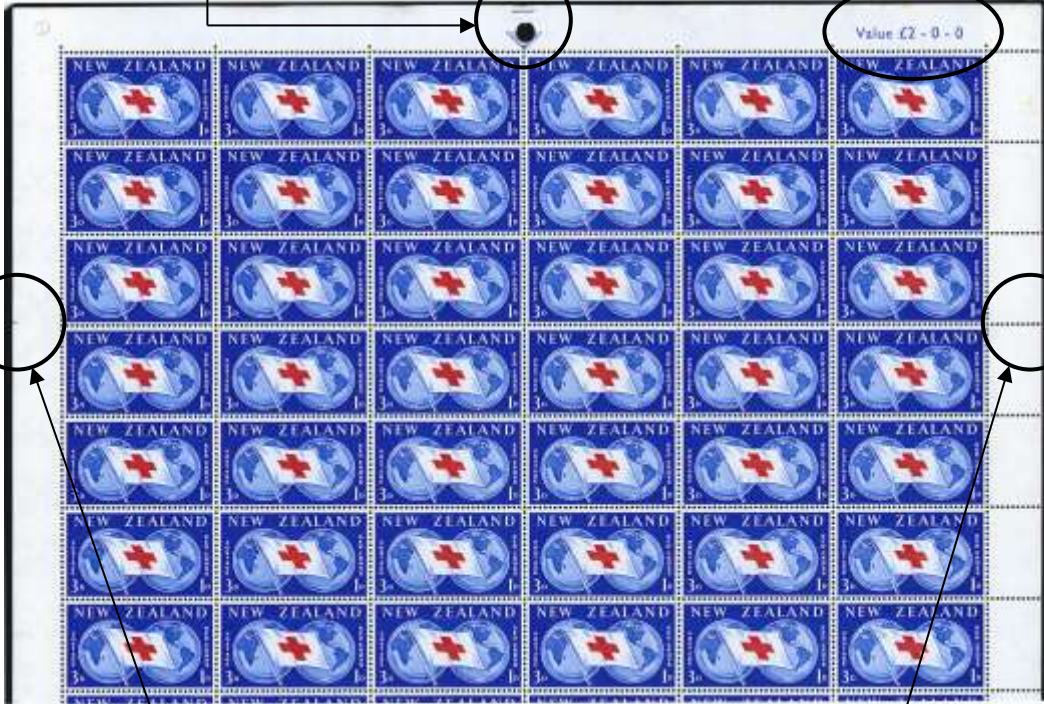
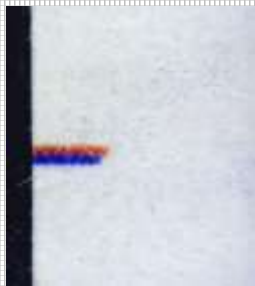
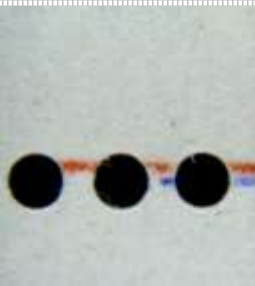


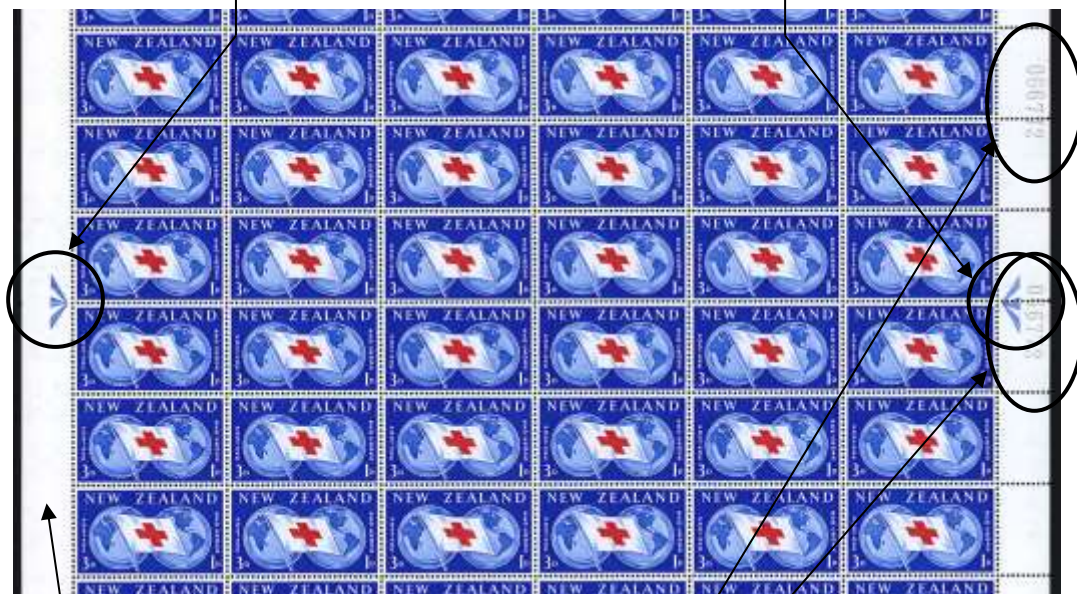
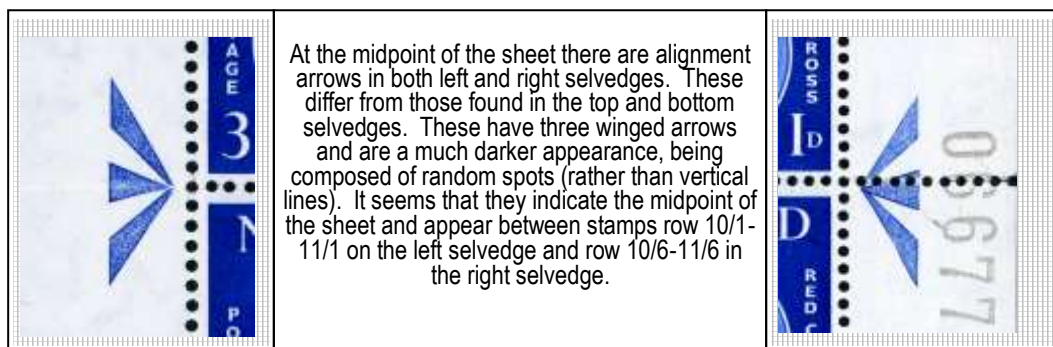
Point of Sale card (shown at 50% of actual size).

The card was printed in the front only and presumably designed to advertise the stamps could be purchased at the establishment displaying the card at the counter or in a window.

SHEET MARKINGS

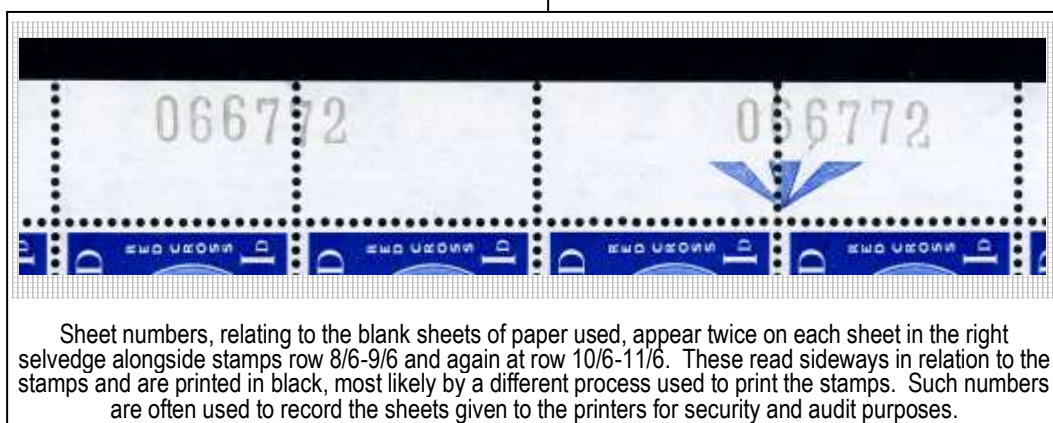
An understanding of the selvedge markings will aid positioning of block with selvedge attached, and are described below.

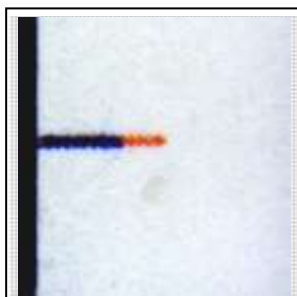
A central guide mark appears in the top selvedge above stamps row 1/3 and row 1/4. It appears as a double winged arrow shaded using vertical lines. There is a thin horizontal bar above the arrow head near the top edge of the sheet. A much thinned line can just be seen between the two objects. There is also a perforation guide hole that typically obscures the rear wings of the arrow.		The sheet value £2 – 0 – 0 is found in the top selvedge above stamp at row 1/6. 
		
	There are horizontal guide lines appearing in the top and lower half of the sheets comprising lines of both colours. These are used to view the relative vertical registration of colours of the printed plate. (There does not appear to be similar markings to gauge the horizontal registration). In badly aligned sheets the horizontal blue and red lines separate, but generally colour registration is good. In the top part of the sheet, these are found in the left and right selvedges, adjacent to stamps row 3/1-4/1 at left, and row 3/6-4/6 on the right.	



The left selvedge is generally imperforate but examples have been seen with perforations running through it to some extent, perhaps by a few holes. In a small number of sheets, these additional perforations may run into the stamps from column 1 producing partial double perforation error.

The right selvedge is perforated through.





There are horizontal guide lines appearing in the top and lower half of the sheets comprising lines of both colours. These are used to view the relative vertical registration of colours of the printed plate.

In the lower part of the sheet, these are found in the left and right selvages, adjacent to stamps row 17/1-18/1 at left, and row 17/6-18/6 on the right.

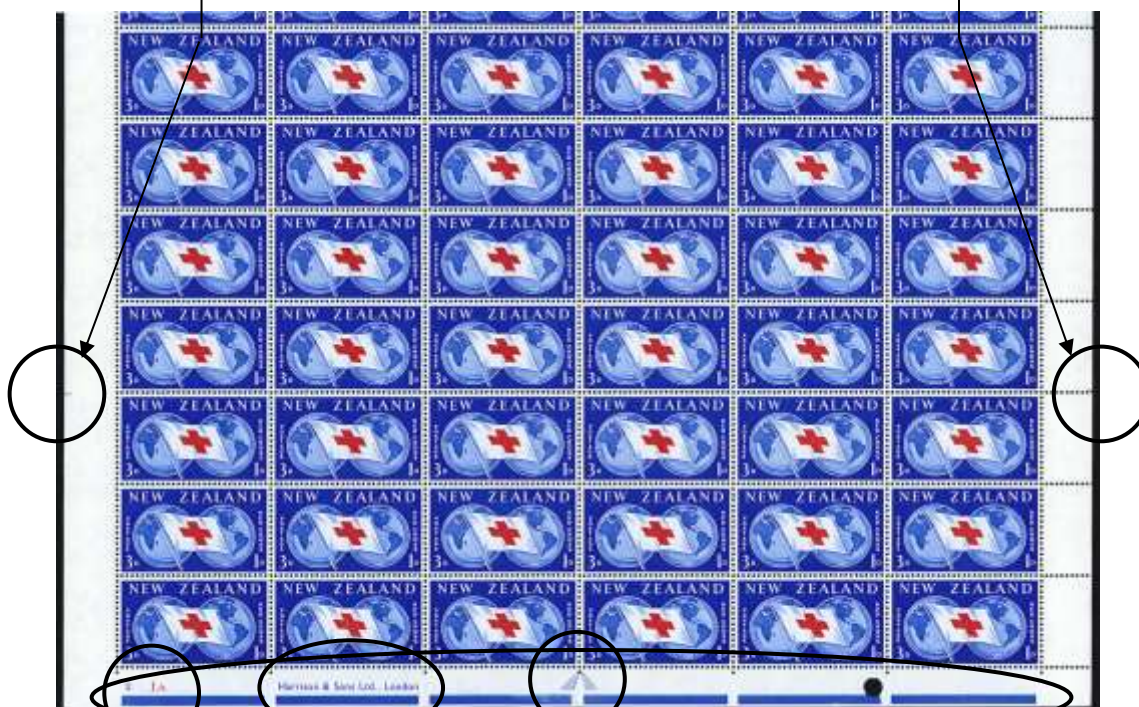
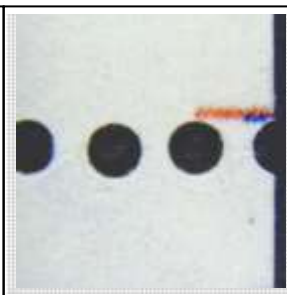
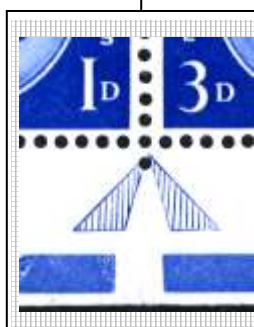


Plate numbers 2 (blue) and 1A (red) appear in the lower selvedge below stamp row 20/1, above the buffer bar.



The imprint 'Harrison & Sons Ltd., London' appears in the lower selvedge alongside the plate numbers under stamp at row 20/2.



In the lower selvedge appears an arrow in similar construction to its counterpart in the top selvedge, having two wings shaded by vertical lines.

This arrow appears between stamps row 20/3 and 20/4, and is used to indicate the vertical centre line of the sheet.

Sheet Buffer Bars

In the lower selvedge there are a series of six buffer bars appearing below all other markings. These horizontal blue blocks are some 3mm in thickness, but are just slightly shorter than the stamps themselves. They are constructed of a thick blue colour of uniform colour throughout.

It appears that some repair work has been carried out on some of the six buffer bars as follows:

	Column 1 (row 20/1), bar is normal. This bar can be identified easily as it is linked to the presence of the sheet numbers.
	Column 2 (row 20/2), bar is normal. Again, bar 2 can be identified by the presence of the printers' imprint directly above it.
	Column 3 (row 20/3), the top edge of the bar on the right appears broken, whilst the far right end appears to have been repaired by means of applying a series of dots and lines. The right vertical edge is wavy due to this repair. Bar 3 can be identified by the presence of the left part of the central arrow.
	Column 4 (row 20/4), appears normal. Bar 4 can be identified by the presence of the right part of the central alignment arrow in the lower selvedge.
	Column 5 (row 20/5), for the most part the bar is normal, but the right end is at an angle sloping backwards (shorter horizontal line at top). There is also a nick right of centre of the lower edge of the line. Bar 5 can be identified by the guide hole punched into the bar towards the top right edge.
	Column 6 (row 20/6), appears normal, but has a short diagonal scratch that runs almost through the middle. Bar 6 is the only bar that does not have any other associated marking or punched hole associated with it.

The normal purpose of buffer bars is to protect the leading edge of the first stamps from excessive wear from the impact of the rotary press. (In sheets that do not have this protection, it is usual to find the edge of the stamp to become thicker but weaker, perhaps leading to breaking of the frame and a doubling of the leading edge). The buffer bars are inserted into the cylinder to stop this wearing and doubling from occurring, and any damage is then restricted to the buffer bars themselves, which are much thicker and designed to take the impact.

With the buffer bars visible at the bottom of the sheet, it would suggest that the stamps are printed vertically from the bottom of the sheet upwards, i.e. row 20 is printed first. This vertical method of printing is confirmed by the vertical direction of the doctor blade flaws that are found in both colours of the stamp.

However, some examples are to be found where there is an extra wide top selvedge (example below).



Where a sheet is miscut with an abnormally wide top selvedge, these buffer bars may be seen at the edge of the top selvedge. Small varieties seen in the buffer bars themselves show that these are indeed the bars normally seen at the bottom of the sheet, and not a further set at the top.

There are no visible buffer bars for the red colour. Perhaps this is not really needed due to the relatively small amount of red in the design and relative thickness of it.

* * * * *

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS, CONSTANT AND MAJOR VARIETIES

It is possible to plate all 120 stamps to individual positions on the sheet by reference to tiny differences that are constant across the sheet.

The progress of printing was interrupted once to repair faulty stamps at row 7/5 and row 13/6 (as confirmed by Mr H.F.G. Harrison, MD of Harrisons and Sons Ltd)¹ and a second time to repair the shading on row 4/3. The result is that some stamps are able to be found in a flawed and retouched state. Generally the retouching was well done, but use of a graver tool to correct the faulty stamps leaves lines rather than screen dots in the retouched state of some stamps and as a result they are quite noticeable. The sequence of printing shows:

Original state. Some varieties were noted in the proof sheets and corrected prior to bulk printing.	Stamps retouched at proof stage: Row 9/2 retouch west of South America, leaving some of the flaw remaining. Row 11/6 retouch around the Falklands off South America. Row 13/5 retouched state to shading on the flag at top centre. * Row 15/5 retouched in the ocean at foot of Africa. Row 18/6 Galapagos islands retouched. Row 19/1 retouched by Antarctica. Flaws remaining after proof stage: Row 1/1 flawed – circle by Greenland. Row 4/3 flawed – break in shading on flag at top left. Row 5/3, 14/6, 20/5 and 20/6 blue spots. Row 7/5 flaw on Greenland. Row 13/6 flaw on flag in the shading at bottom right corner. Row 5/6 shows no sign of a significant spot. * It is reported that there were very few copies of the flawed state to row 13/6 (RPSNZ Vol 4, page 286).
Second Retouched state	Row 7/5 retouched, leaving faint blue area. Row 13/6 retouched, but leaving spots in the area.
Third Retouched state	Row 4/3 shading retouched. Row 5/3, 14/6, 20/5, 20/6 spot removed leaving a white patch. Row 5/6 significant blue spot appears. Row 9/2 retouch west of South America, shows no sign of the original flaw.

In the vast majority of stamps there are tiny spots of the blue colour to be found across the face of the stamp. These are in the form of highlighted or deepening screen dots (receiving extra ink on the sheet causing the screen dot to stand out), or 'larger' spots, much larger than the screen dots clearly a flaw on the printing plate.

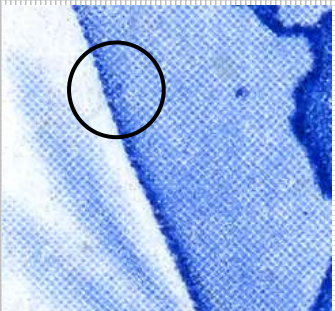
There are examples of additional red spots on some stamps, but these are not so common. These additional spots generally fade as the printing progressed. There does not appear to be any retouching on the red plate.

The colour, especially of the blue, varies in intensity during the printing. Early stamps tend to be a lighter blue shade than later printings that are much darker. It is easier to identify the varieties of the blue colour on early printings, where the bold screen dots stand out against the light blue.

¹ The reference in the RPSNZ Vol 4 page 286 suggesting that the sheet was only retouched once may actually refer to the stamp at row 13/6 having been retouched once, as clearly the sheet was retouched a second time to deal with the flaw on row 4/3.

Constant Spots

A word of warning. There are constant spots that appear on the stamp (as bold screen dots) that should not be confused with varieties. Although constant in position they vary in intensity across the sheet and between sheets. Therefore be aware when attempting to plate individual stamps, they may confuse. These are found at the following positions:

		
Near the top of the gap between the flagpole and the flag.	Adjacent to the right edge of the flag near the centre.	In the right hemisphere, near the rim on the right, top right of the Falklands islands.

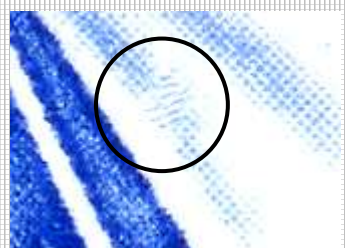
Major Varieties

Row 1/1 Flaw

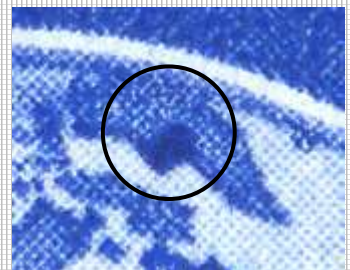
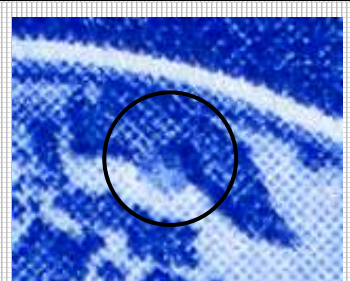
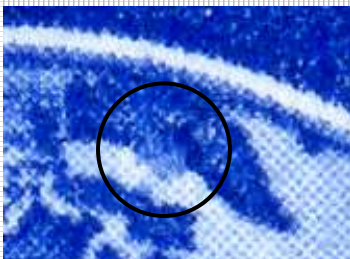
	There is a dark circle that appears on the tip of Greenland. This appears constant throughout the printing and no examples have been seen with the stamp pre-flaw or any attempts to correct it.
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Row 4/3 Variety and Retouch

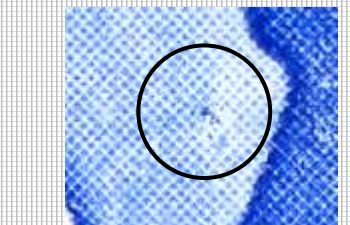
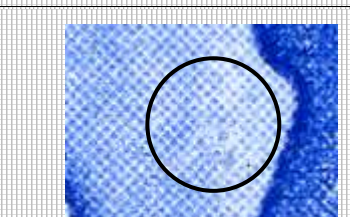
The stamp at row 4/3 shows both an original flaw and retouch to an area on the flag. In the top left corner of the flag are two diagonal shaded areas, the one on the left originally had part of the shading omitted, that was retouched later.

	Part of the shading of the blue at the top left corner of the flag is missing, causing a gap in the left patch of shading nearest the flagpole. The fault was not corrected when R7/5 and R13/5 were recut. The fault was noticed later and retouched, but after a small percentage of the sheets were printed. The original flawed state is relatively scarce.
	When the missing lines of shading were noticed, the engraver corrected the flaw by recutting a small number of near horizontal lines. Even in this state, the retouch is very evident. The retouched state is common.

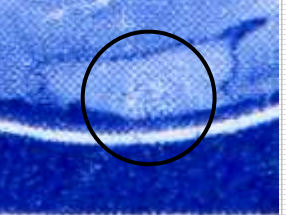
Row 7/5 Flaw and Retouch

	The first sheets printed had a prominent coloured spot half way along the south coast of Greenland in the right hemisphere. The spot is solid and differs in shade to the other dark blue areas of the stamp.
	 The spot of colour was retouched (at the same time as the flaw on row 13/6), to remove the coloured dot. The retouch was not effective, causing a blurred blue circle to appear on the coast. Early retouched sheets show the coloured spot in the bay quite visibly, whilst as printing progressed, this tended to blur further and extend to the land on the other side of the bay.

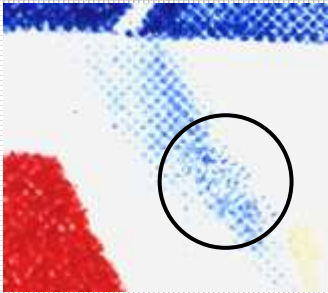
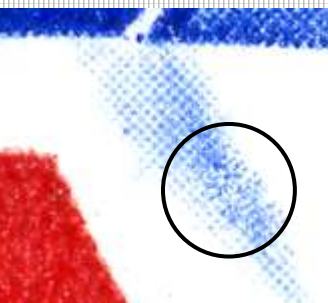
Row 9/2 Retouch

	RPSNZ Volume IV states that proof sheets showed the stamp at Row 9/2 having an uncoloured area to the left of South America repaired. Certainly there is a flaw at that point. In early sheets (with original flaw at row 13/6) there is a dark blue spot with a disturbance to the right of it. As the original flaw was retouched at the proof stage, there are no examples to be had of the original flaw.
	Later sheets show a distinct variance of this flaw, with the dark blue flaw 'removed' in that the disturbance has grown to the left, toning down the screen dots at that point. This makes the area more consistent with the background, but the early retouch is still visible.

Row 11/6 Retouch

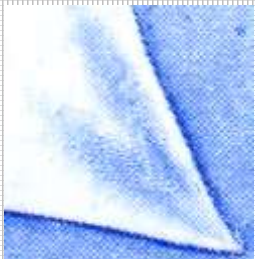
 	Whilst the stamp was at the proof stage, two white patches were noted and retouched. The first effectively removes one of the Islands from the Falklands group, the second affects most of the land mass of Antarctica, both in the right hemisphere. The original state does not exist in any issued stamp.
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Row 13/5 Retouch

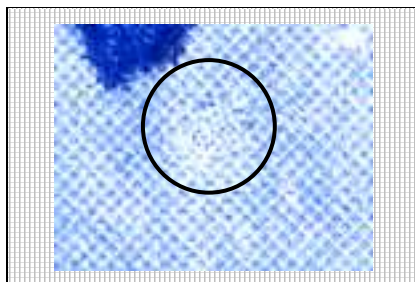
	The shading on the flag at top right of the cross is retouched, appearing as a series of spots towards the lower end of the shading. This is most likely to correct a flaw or omission of shading lines at this point. This appeared prior to the row 13/6 retouch and can be found in the positional block with the original row 13/6 flaw and its retouch.
	Later sheets show slight wear of the retouched spots, but bares close resemblance to the original retouched state. There are no examples of the original flaw, this having been corrected at the proof stage.

Row 13/6 Flaw and Retouch

The stamp at row 13/6 shows a well-known flaw and retouch (often given catalogue status in most specialist publications) most likely due to its prominence. The flawed state is rare, and the retouch can be found in a number of different states due to the wearing of the plate.

	Flawed state: After a small number of sheets had been printed it was noticed that there was a long, near vertical scratch in the bottom right corner of the flag. Either side of the scratch, horizontal lines of colour appear (against the direction of the printing) and are likely to be smudges of the colour caused by presence of the scratch.
	Retouched state: Along with the flaw on stamp row 7/5, this scratch was repaired by a skilled engraver. The first few sheets printed off showed a job well done, with only a small number of coloured spots in the 'V' of the shading remaining. The line of the scratch is still visible but is not very pronounced.
	As the printing progressed these small spots began to wear down and become more uniform, but they still do not fade into the background. The top part of the scratch becomes more visible.

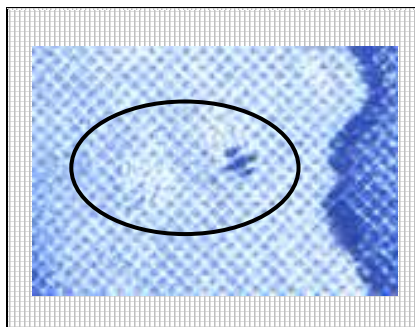
Row 15/5 Retouch



There is a disturbance in the ocean to the south east of South Africa in the left hemisphere. This disturbance has the overall appearance of a retouch perhaps to an uncoloured area at this point. The retouch is quite uniform from all printings seen so far.

The original flaw was corrected at the proof stage and therefore the original flaw no longer exists.

Row 18/6 Retouch

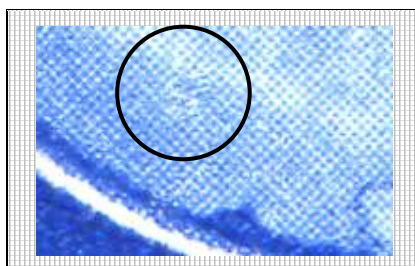


There is a definite retouch to what was apparently a small uncoloured area in the Pacific in the right hemisphere, to the west of the Galapagos islands. The Islands themselves have also received attention.

There is a light coloured patch around the Galapagos Islands, and it appears that the islands themselves have been retouched. On other stamps in the sheet the islands are quite blurred, this stamp has them appearing clean and prominent.

This retouch was effected at the proof stage.

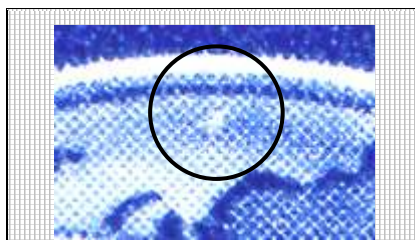
Row 19/1 Retouch



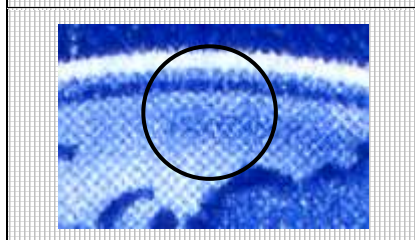
There is what appears to be a small retouch to the stamp at R19/1 that is found between New Zealand and Antarctica in the right hemisphere. It is quite small and difficult to see without the aid of a magnifying glass.

The shape of the retouch varies as the printing progressed, reducing in size.

Row 20/3 Flaw and Retouch



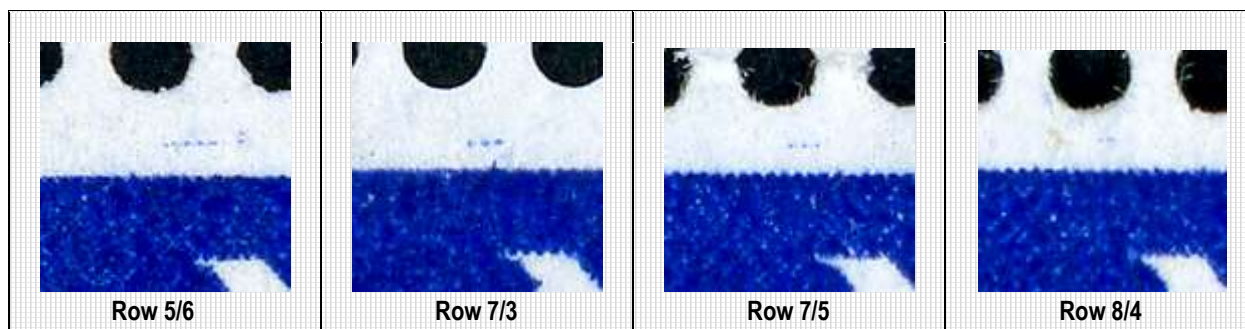
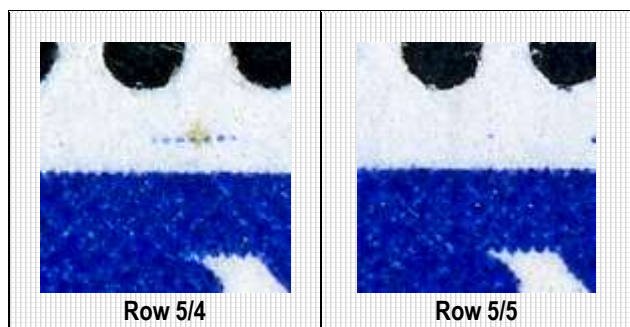
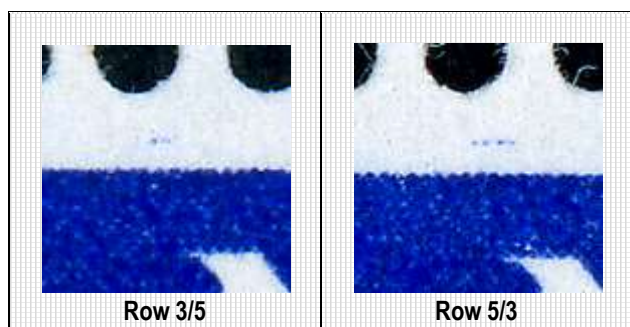
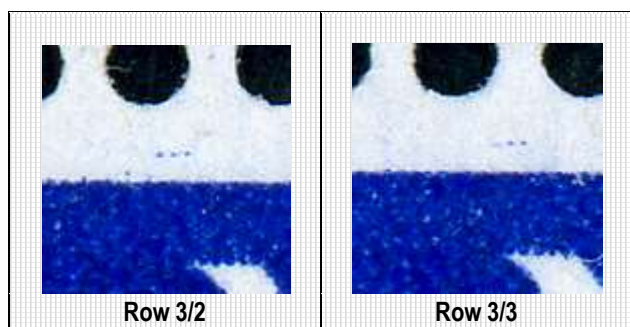
In early sheets there is a white patch at the North Pole in the left hemisphere where there is an absence of blue screen dots. This white patch has small darker blue spots beneath.



In later sheets it is apparent that an attempt has been made to correct the white area, with the screen dots patched in. This results in a much denser and darker area at this point.

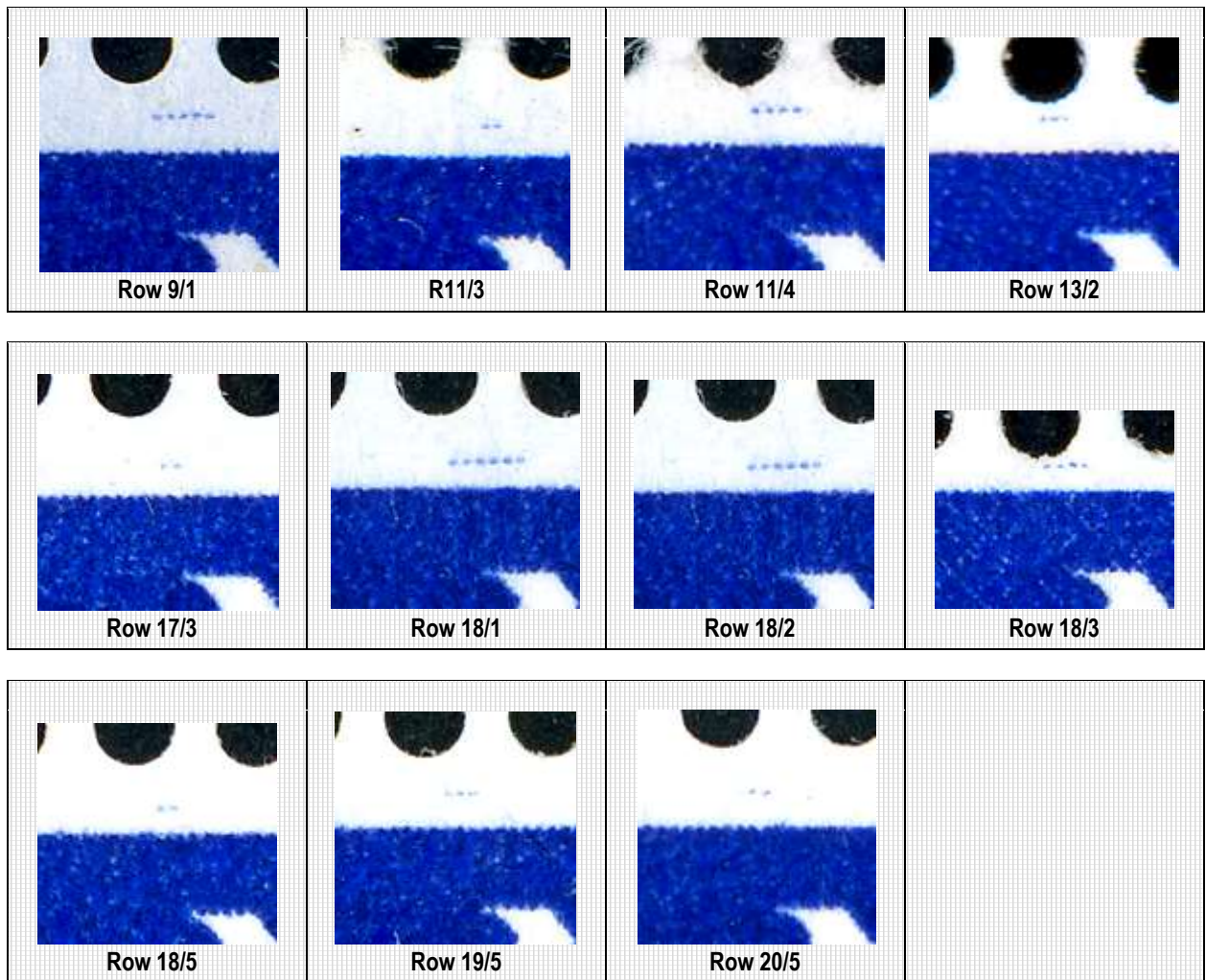
Line of dots top margin top left of 'N' of 'LAND'.

No less than 21 stamps show the same form of variety found in the top margin to the top left of the 'N' of 'LAND'. This variety has the appearance of a series of small dots arranged in a horizontal line. These varieties are illustrated here, to show the range of effects, and to act as a 'stamp finder' based upon this variety alone. Refer to the plating information for more information.



Pattern of stamps with dots above 'N' of 'LAND'

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						



It is interesting to note that the distance from the line of dots is not always the same. Look for the displacement of those from row 19 and 20 in comparison to examples from row 18. All examples are shown to the same scale.

ERRORS

Whilst this study concentrates on the varieties to be found in the Red Cross issue, it would be inappropriate to leave out a description of the errors that are found on this stamp.

Red colour Omitted



The most significant error of this issue was the omission of the red colour. This error was discovered affecting two sheets. The first sheet had red omitted from the bottom row (row 20) with the other sheet having red omitted from the top row and smudged, partial print on row 2. Thus there are only 12 stamps in existence with complete omission, and six with partial omission.

All error stamps have a very faint impression of the red colour, therefore this error is better classified as 'red virtually omitted'.

Examples with a dry print of the red colour may also be found, mainly affecting the left and lower arms of the cross.

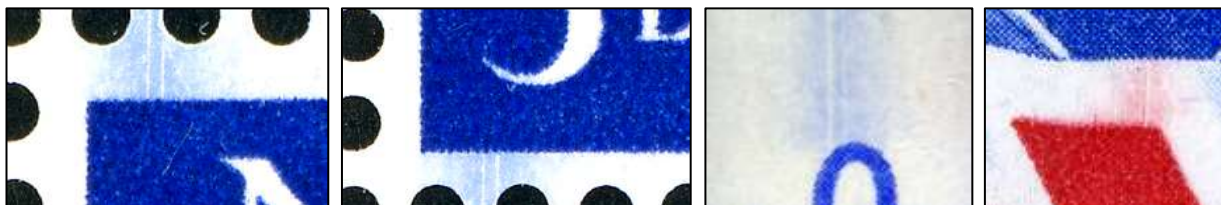
Dry Print of the Red Colour



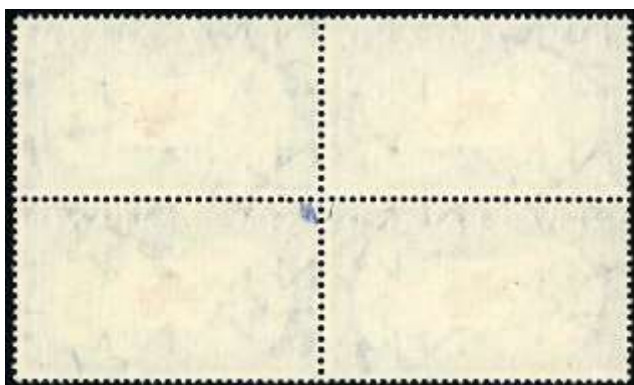
Doctor Blade lines



The two examples above show blocks having blue and red doctor blade errors. Both examples confirm the direction of printing, in that all doctor blades varieties to date are vertical in format. There are many examples that show small doctor blade lines of the blue colour affecting one or two stamps, but examples with red doctor blade lines are not so common.



Small Offset



It is interesting to see that several sheets, especially from the later printings show a small offset affecting the reverse of stamps row 11/3 and 11/4 (as shown above). Looking closely it can be seen that the offset is of the 'winged' guide marking that can be found at the centre of either the top or lower selvages. The offset is biased towards the left side of the guide, with only a few vertical lines appearing in the right. It is not apparent which of the guides is the likely cause, but may relate to the hole that appears in the top selvedge that cuts out part of this guide mark. This would imply that the hole was present in the paper prior to printing, the blue ink would be printed through the hole onto the cylinder, to be picked up on the reverse of the next sheet.

Set-offs



There are examples of set-offs of both colours affecting the reverse of some sheets. Given the state of the set-off, being blotchy, off-centre and at a slight diagonal, it is highly likely that these set-offs are caused by pressure over time, where sheets have been stored one on top of the other causing them to 'stick together'.

Partial double perforations.



In normal sheets the left selvedge does not have perforations running through it (whereas the right selvedge does). Some sheets have a small number of perforation holes cutting into the left selvedge, and in extreme cases, the additional perforations cut into the stamps from column one of the sheet.

In the example shown, the extra perforations affect the horizontal rows between stamps for four perforation holes.

PLATING

The exercise of plating should not be taken lightly. The process will take time and a lot of patience. This publication will help ease the process, so a few words to help illustrate how it will help.

This plating attempts to illustrate the varieties that are found on every stamp on the sheet. The narrative that accompanies each stamp directs the reader to look for those characteristics that best identify the stamp in question. The small thumbnail diagrams illustrate other lesser varieties that are to be found, some of which need to be used to make that important confirmation of the exact plate position.

Every 1959 Red Cross stamp can be plated to its correct position in the sheet based upon:

- Presence of blue and red spots in the design.
- Recutting of the design to correct small irregularities in the print.
- Small errors that remain uncorrected.

Often the identification of individual stamps can confuse, but it is possible to differentiate between them if you have a reasonable magnifying glass.

Background material has been included here to provide a rounded guide to the 1959 Red Cross stamp, but the main part of the guide is used to illustrate plate varieties on each stamp so that the collector may identify the stamp plate position.

The guide has been laid out in stamp order, starting from stamp at Row 1/1 finishing with stamp at Row 20/6. It is possible to search through the pages until you match the characteristics of the stamp you are looking for. However, included at the end of the guide is a 'map' of the positions of major varieties of the stamp. Initially, it is useful to visit the 'map', to compare the specimen stamp against the main varieties shown, then to make a positive confirmation, go to the page illustrating the stamp in detail to look for and compare the minor varieties present.

Due to the sheer number of varieties present on the 120 impressions, the map has been divided into four sections based on the quadrants of the sheet, each showing 30 stamps. Those varieties marked on the map correspond to the illustration on the detail page. Not all varieties are listed on the map. Only those illustrations on the detail panels that are shaded light yellow are found on the map. The detail page will also illustrate other lesser varieties found on the individual stamp to aid final verification.

The large illustration at the centre of the detail page is of the stamp from that position in the sheet. Although the thumbnail varieties illustrated show the main differences between it and its neighbours, the collector can use the main illustration to make other comparisons.

Row 1/1

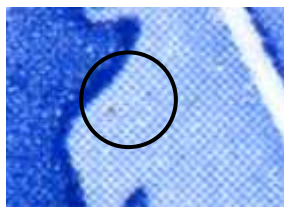
Most catalogues illustrate (or mention) the most prominent variety of this stamp as the circle on the coast of Greenland, at the top of the right hemisphere. Certainly this is unique and can easily distinguish this stamp from the others. No attempt has been made to retouch it. The flaw appears as a half circle on the southern tip of the island, as if a giant harbour has been built. If a check is needed, look for a small spot in the sea below the Falklands, as an extra island in the group.



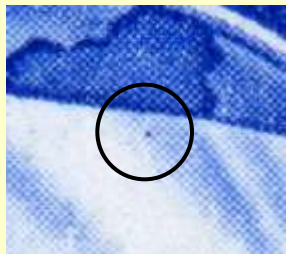
Row 1/2

There is nothing much to differentiate this stamp from the many that have stray tiny spots of blue on the flag. Perhaps it is the absence of other flaws that makes this stamp unique. There does not appear to be any other distinguishing feature (that is constant).

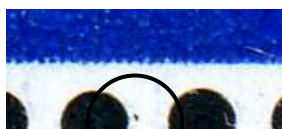
Two tiny islands appear in the ocean north of Madagascar, one blue and one red.



Tiny blue spot on the flag left of shading top centre.



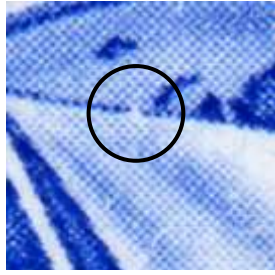
Tiny spot in the lower margin below Antarctica in the left hemisphere. Maybe cut off by the perforations.



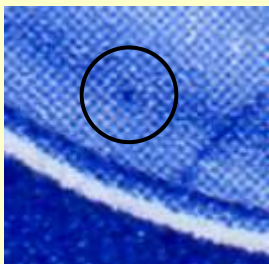
Row 1/3

There is a prominent spot on the left hemisphere in the Ocean west of Antarctica. Look for this first. To confirm, look for the break in the edge of the flag (where a coloured spot is missing), that can be found along the top edge of the flag near the left end by the flagpole.

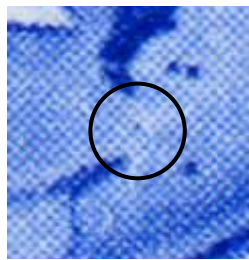
Break in the top edge of the flag near the left end.



Tiny island West of Antarctica.



Tiny island between S America and tip of Antarctica.

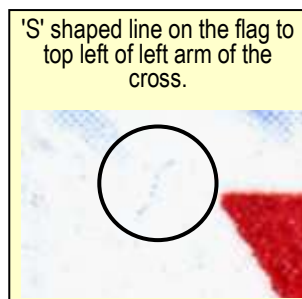
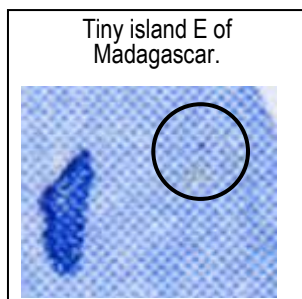


Tiny spur into the right margin by the lower 'S' of 'CROSS'.



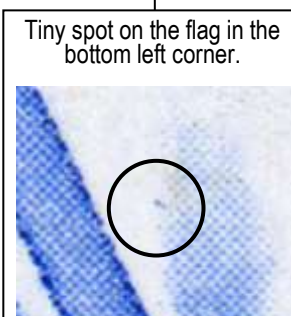
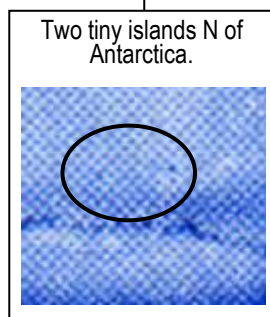
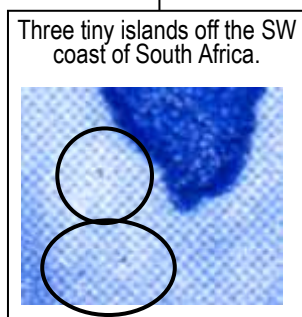
Row 1/4

There are a significant number of tiny blue spots across this stamp (as with many others). Look for the blue spot on the cross in the bottom left corner of the flag. The other spots, especially those in the Oceans around Africa and Antarctica are difficult to distinguish, especially on some stamps with deeper blue than normal. The group of three islands off the SW coast of South Africa may appear as two islands in some examples, the one at the bottom left of the triangle is faint. Use these to confirm the position of this stamp.



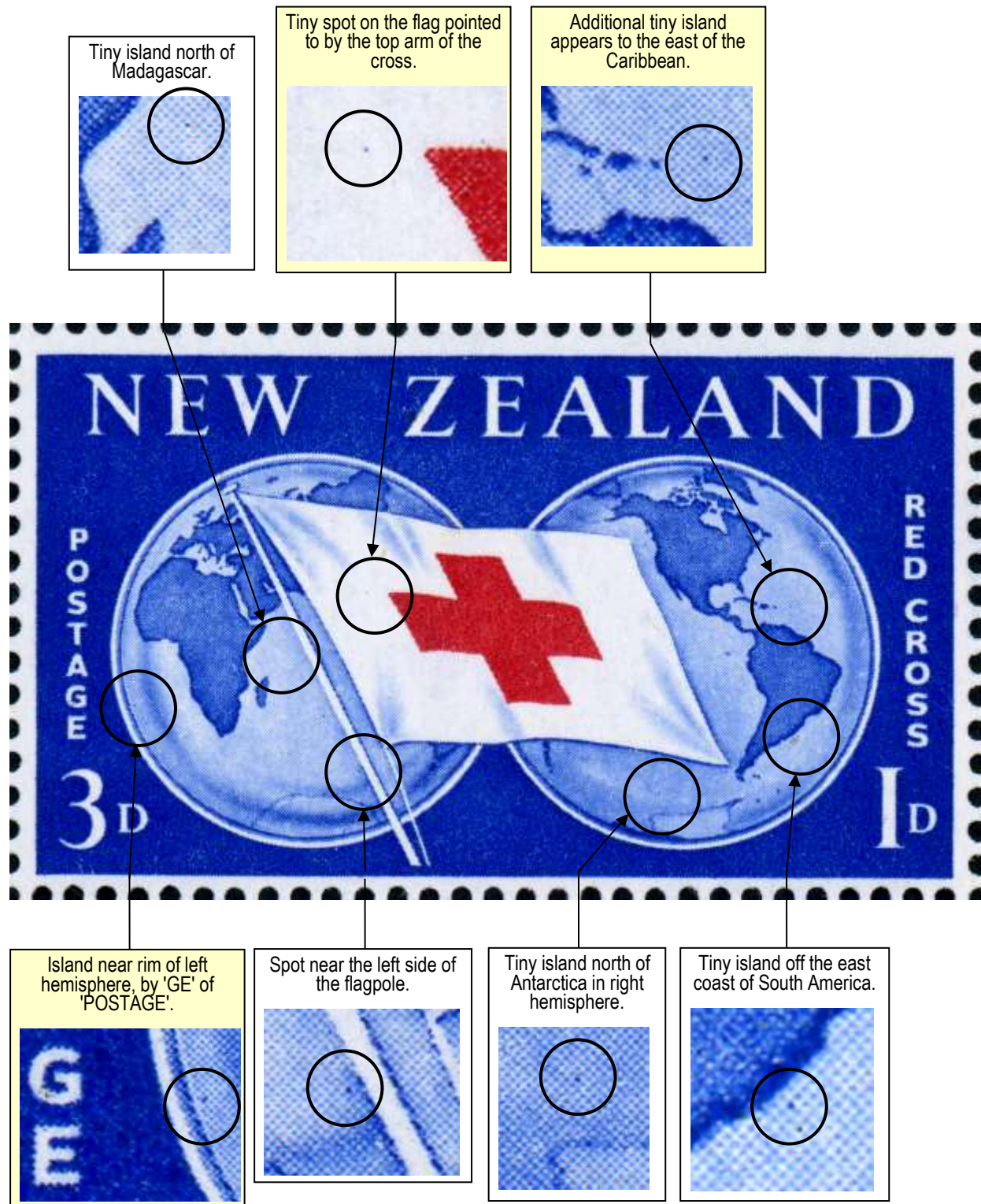
The disturbance west of Antarctica in the right hemisphere looks like a small retouch. On early examples the disturbance has a distinct horizontal striping effect. Latter examples have this smoothed out.

Look for an 'S' shaped line on the flag, top left of the left arm of the cross, this is quite faint and difficult to see, but will distinguish this stamp.



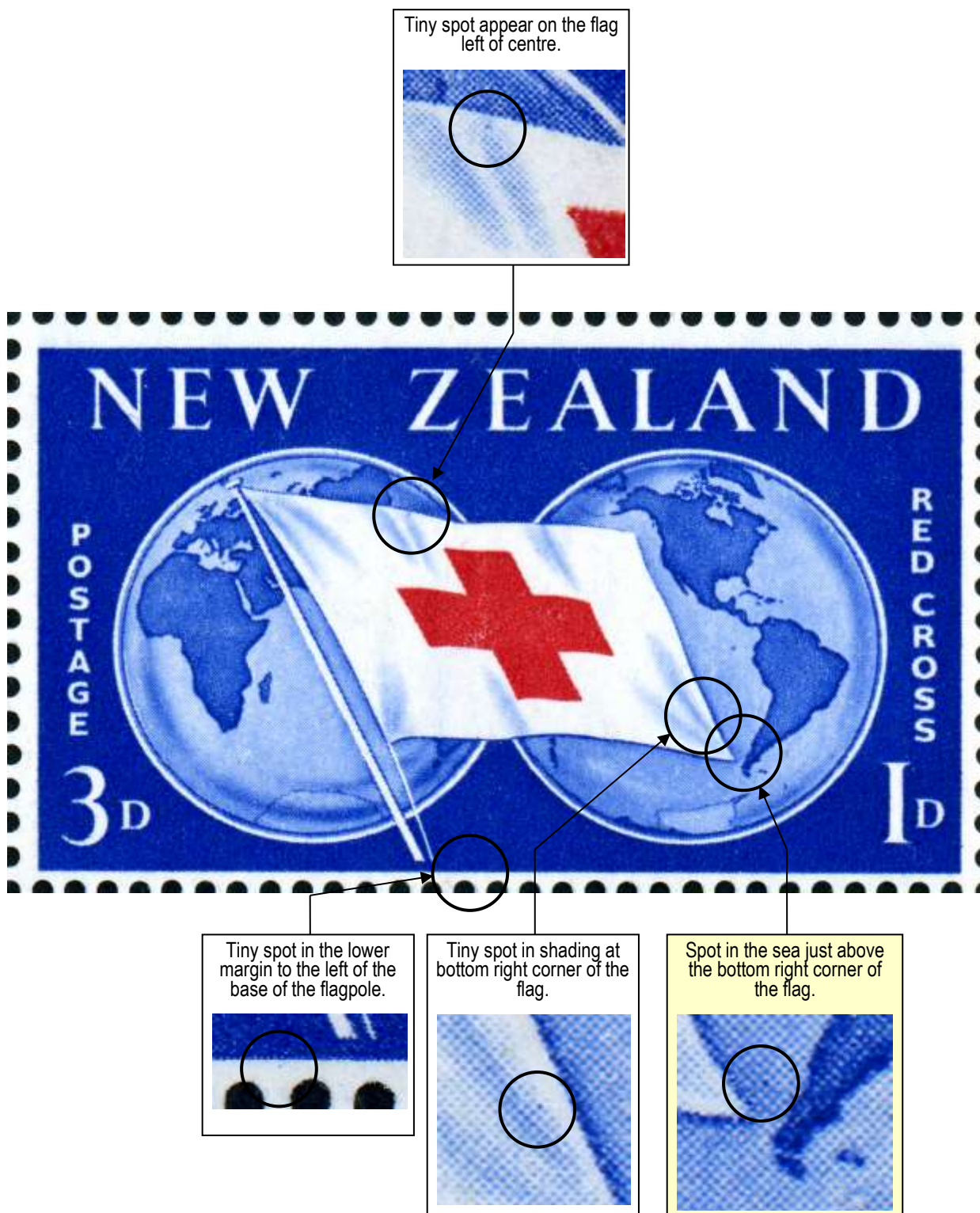
Row 1/5

Again a profusion of spots. Look for the lone spot on the flag pointed to by the top of the left arm of the cross. You can then use a number of other spots to prove this example; the spot by the left rim of the left hemisphere; the additional island in the Caribbean; or the spot by the flagpole are examples. In this example there is an additional spot left of the flagpole above the constant spot nearer the base. This additional spot is not constant and appears to be restricted to early sheets.



Row 1/6

Only four small varieties available to differentiate this stamp, all are needed. Again, the absence of other spots and more visible varieties are needed to prove this plate position.



Row 2/1

There is an eye visible variety on this stamp that appears in the bottom left corner of the flag. There is a disturbance in the shading at the bottom left corner, with a blue spot near the left edge but above it to the right are two horizontal lines through the shaded area. This is quite distinct. Blue spots elsewhere can be used to prove this plate position.

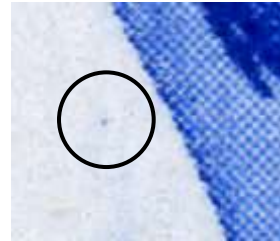
There is a spot on the flag near the bottom left corner, with lines of shading above.



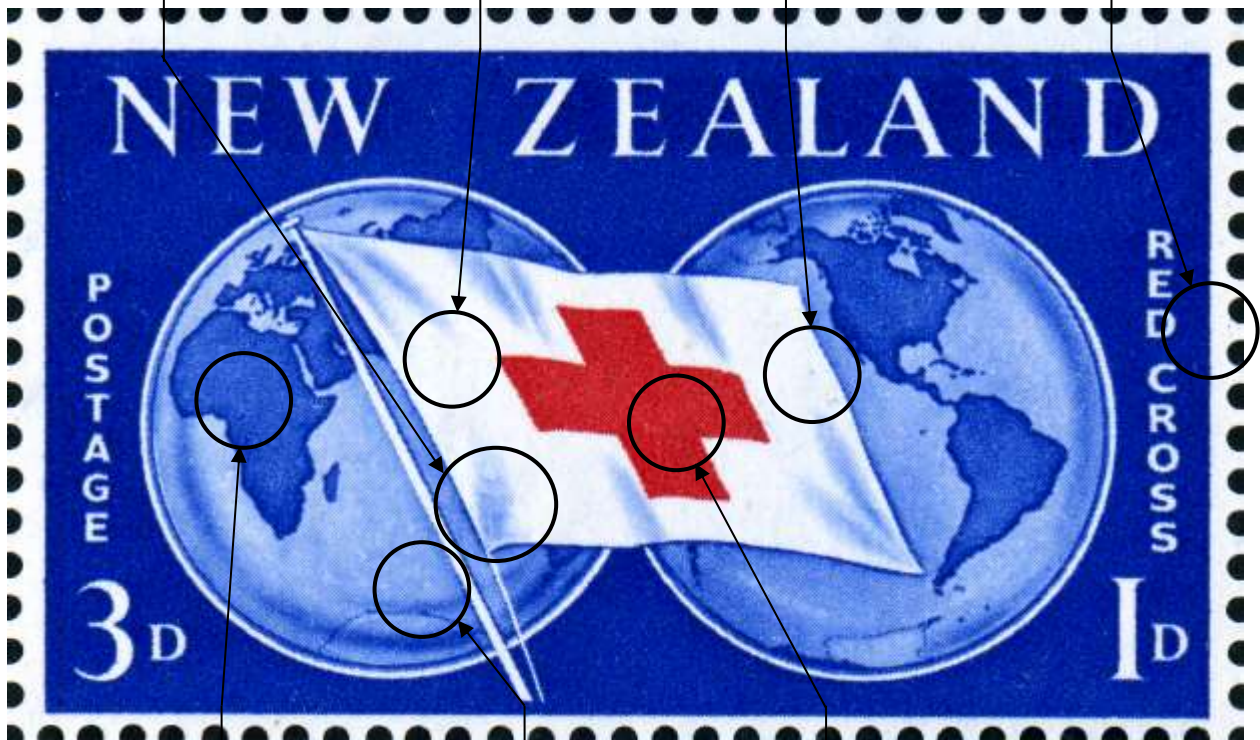
Tiny red spot on the flag between left edge and left arm of the cross.



Spot on the flag pointed to by the top of the right arm of the cross, west of California.



Two tiny spots in the right margin alongside 'D' of 'RED'.



Dark spot in the centre of Africa.



Red spot in the ocean north of Antarctica.



Blue spot near the centre of the cross.



Row 2/2

The spot in the top margin between the letters 'W' and 'Z' is the most obvious, and look for this first. The additional spots on the flag will help confirm this stamp.



Row 2/3

There is a dark patch on the stamp in the blue background near the bottom of the stamp just left of centre. This patch is quite noticeable even though it is the same colour, but makes the patch darker. What is interesting is that although the patch is constant, its shape varies between early and later sheets (see the illustrations at the foot of this page). There is also a group of spots on the flag at the end of the shading in the top left corner. These form a short line, and are unique to this stamp.

Group of tiny spots at end of shading top left corner of the flag.



Spot on the flag in the angle between top and left arms of the cross.



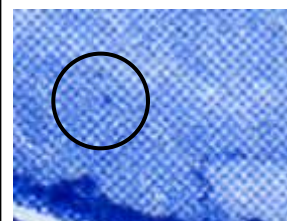
A dark patch appears in the shading near the bottom of the stamp at centre – early sheets.



Similar dark patch, but from later sheets. The patch has changed shape



Tiny island in the ocean west of Antarctica.



Row 2/4

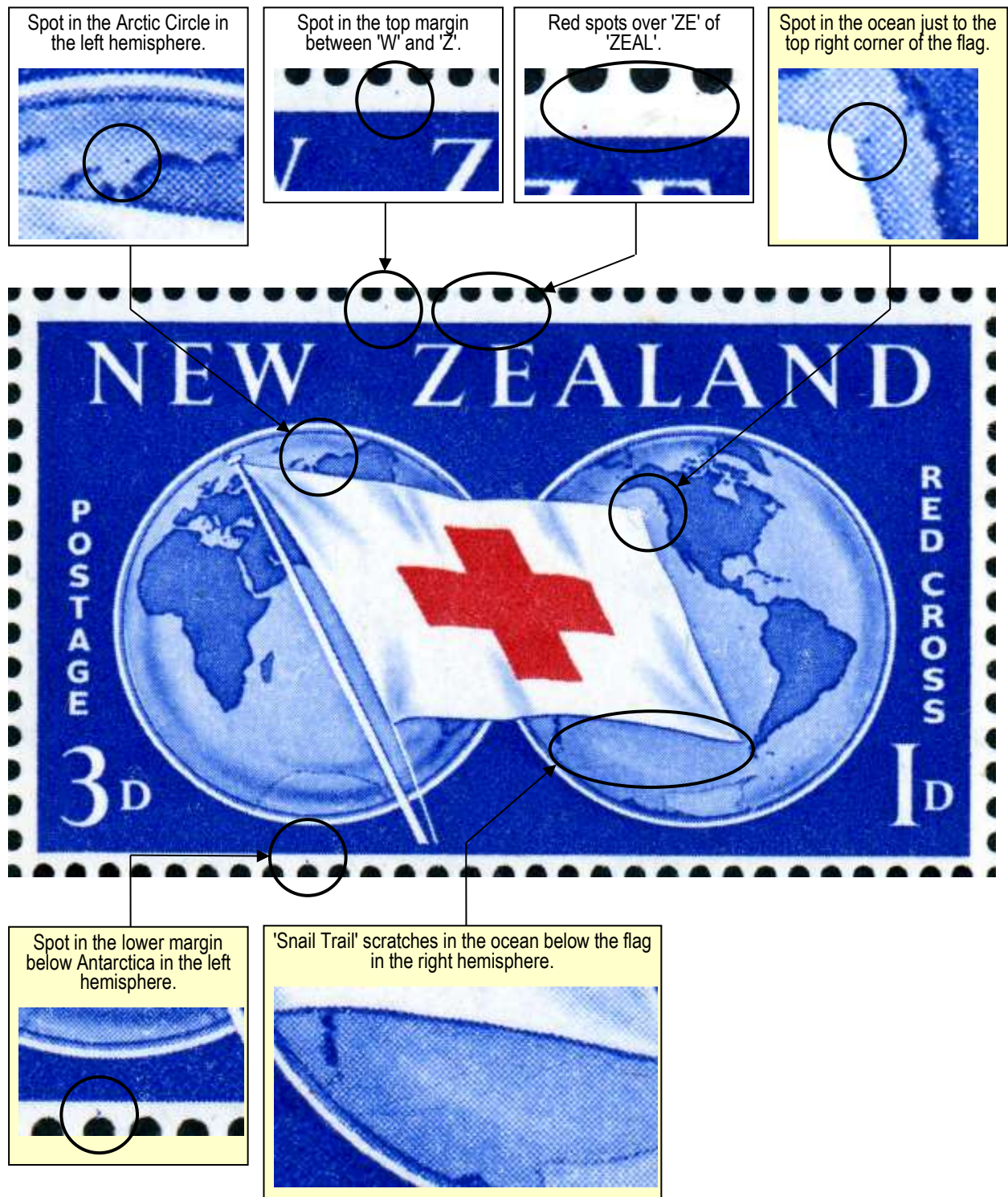
The most notable varieties on this stamp are the extraneous spots of blue in the top and bottom margins that may even be cut off by the perforations. There is little else to distinguish this stamp from others.



Row 2/5

There is an interesting variety on this stamp worthy of note. There is a series of scratches in the right hemisphere appearing below the flag and to the right of New Zealand. These scratches are constant but are haphazard in style, very reminiscent of a 'snail trail'. The scratches are faint but appear equal in intensity on both early and late printings.

Again, refer to the position of spots to confirm this stamp, but be aware that there are many transient spots in the selvages around the site of the spots described here, so care is needed.



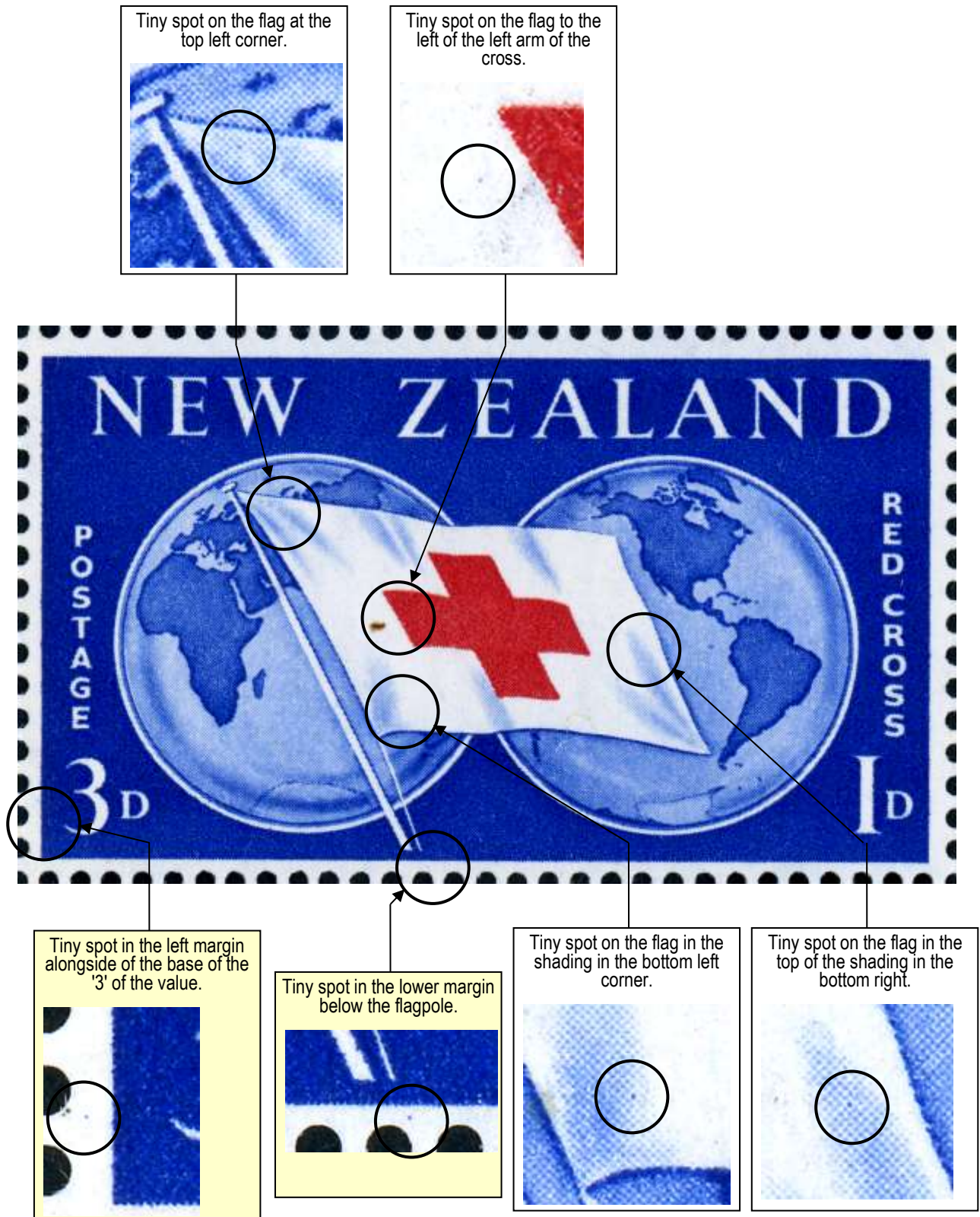
Row 2/6

As with most stamps, look for a combination of spots to determine this stamp position. The spot (or short line) on the flag is most prominent, then look for the spot or spur into the rim of the right hemisphere below New Zealand to confirm. The latter spur is unique, but not too obvious. This may have received attention to remove the spot, unsuccessfully.



Row 3/1

Take care when verifying this stamp as, although there are many spots on this stamp to check, there are many examples where other stamps show spots near to these positions (especially those on the flag). Look for the spots in the margin, as these are not so common.



Row 3/2

There are a number of stamps that show the short horizontal line above the 'N' of 'LAND' in the top margin, but this is a good place to start. Confirmation must be sought by small dots that are found elsewhere, such as those off the west coast of Africa, and at the tip of Antarctica in the right hemisphere. There are many spots on this stamp that will differentiate it from others.



Row 3/3

The prominent spot to check for is the one on the flagpole near the top, adjacent to where the land meets the ocean in the left hemisphere. This is quite obvious. The horizontal line in the top margin is present, with the first of the three dots that make up that line looking faint.

The red spot that appears between the flag and flagpole is not visible on many examples as the position of the red colour may place the spot amongst the dark blue areas and disguise it.



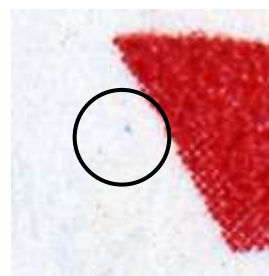
Row 3/4

The most prominent spot to look for is that which is found adjacent to the left edge of the flag about a third of the way up from the bottom. On some examples seen this spot can look quite flat and can blend into the background, appearing as a smudge rather than a spot. The spot near the rim by Scotland in the left hemisphere has a constant appearance.

Tiny spot north west of Scotland near the rim.



Tiny spot to the left of the left arm of the cross.



Spot near the left edge of the flag about a third of the way from the bottom.

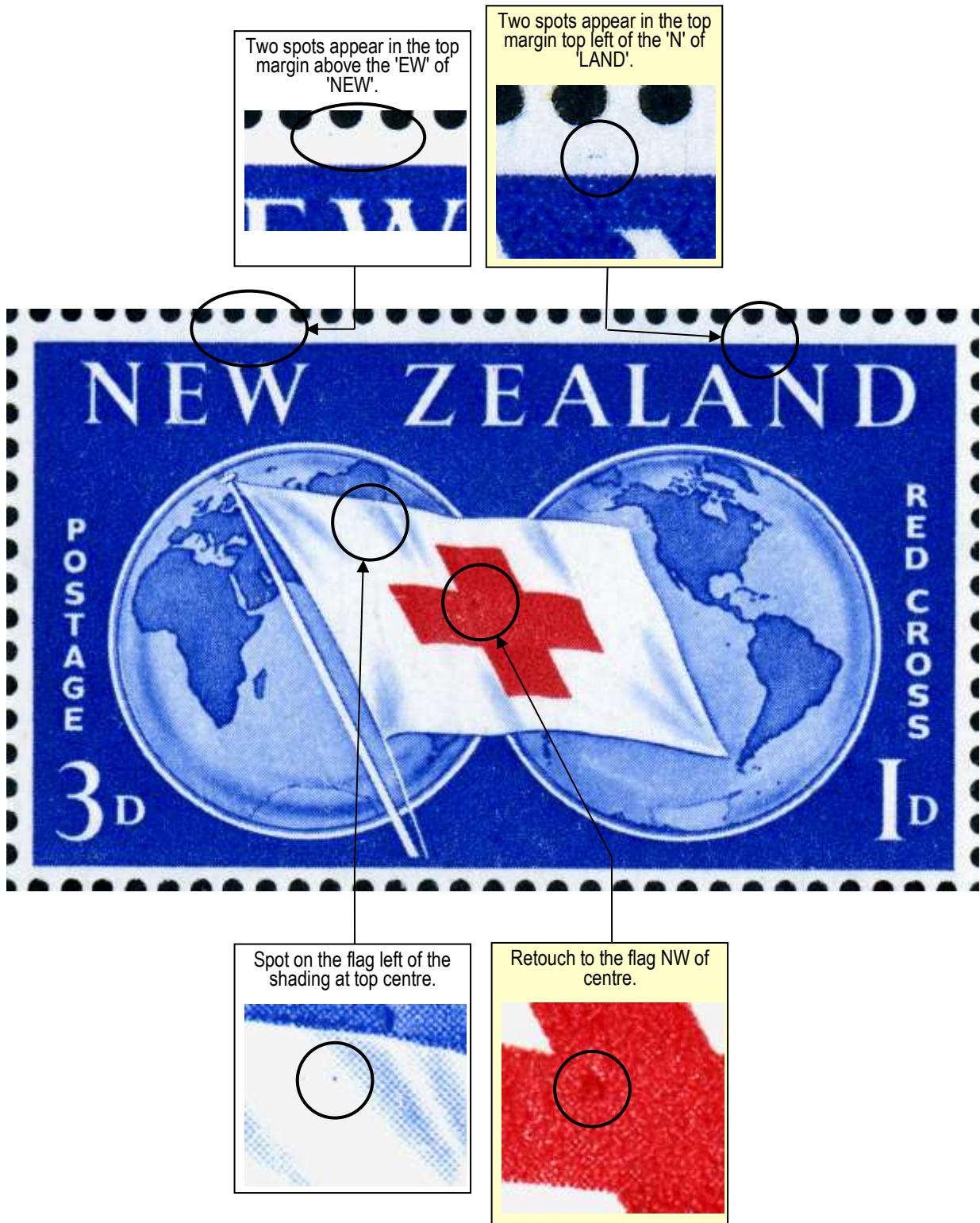


Two spots on the flag in the shading at bottom left corner near the edge of the flag.



Row 3/5

There is a prominent spot near the centre of the flag that appears in a darker red than normal. It has the appearance of a small retouch, given the white patch at top right of it, most likely applied to correct an uncoloured or weak area. The line in the top margin top left of the 'N' appears again, but it is shortened to two spots. Look to the prominent spot on the flag left of the shading at top centre for confirmation.



Row 3/6

There are only two differentiating features of this stamp, the most prominent of which is the red spot on the flag in the angle between the top and right arms of the cross. Under magnification it looks as though this spot is two smaller spots very close together. It is constant, but variation of the red colour can make the spot look weak. The blue spot in the top margin, top right of the 'W' of 'NEW' is obvious and in some examples seen, where it is not cut off by the perforations, there is a smudge of blue to the top right.

Spot in the top margin right of the 'W' of 'NEW'.



Prominent red spot on flag in the angle between the top and right arms of the cross.



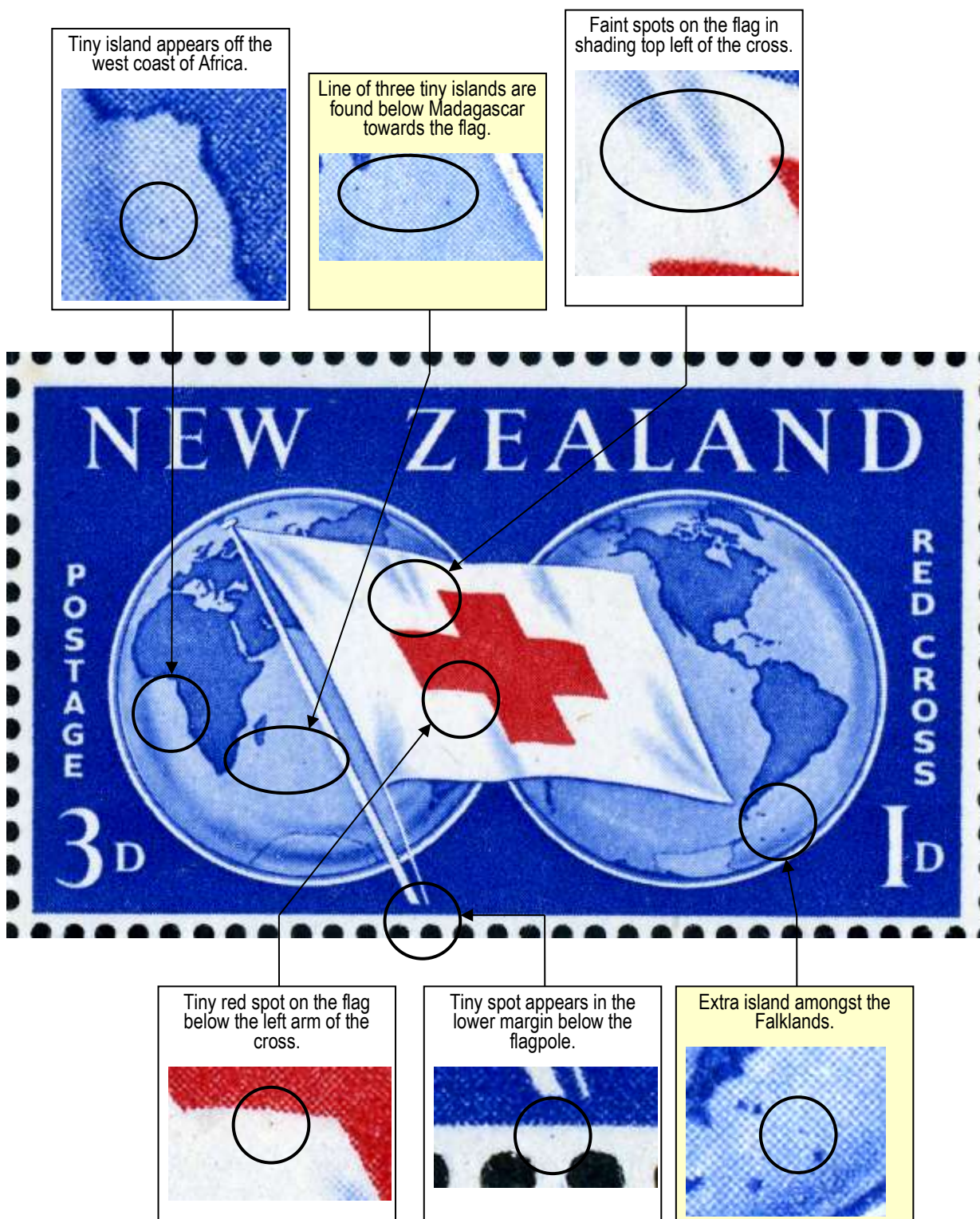
Row 4/1

More spots to look for. There are none deemed to be eye catching and therefore the use of the magnifying glass is recommended. The two or three spots in the right hemisphere above the north coast of South America, to the east of the Caribbean (the Bermuda triangle) are not seen elsewhere in the sheet, but these are relatively small, only the top right spot of the three is obvious.



Row 4/2

Look for an extra island in the Falklands group and confirm by reference to other spots on the stamp. The three tiny islands below Madagascar in a line towards the flag are unique – the middle spot on some sheets is very faint, the outer dots are quite noticeable, as is the spot to the west of Africa.



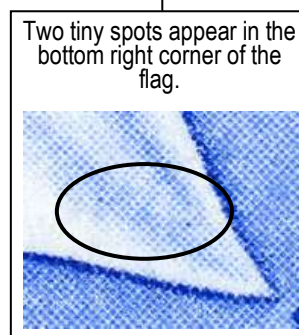
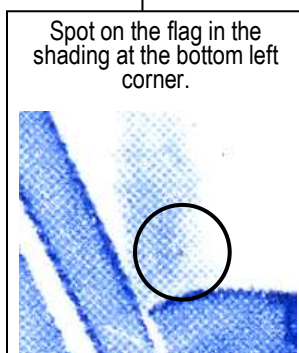
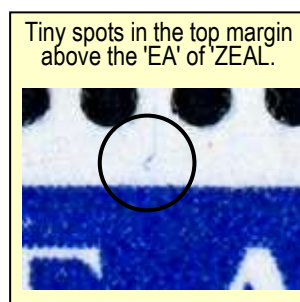
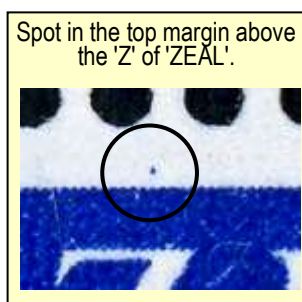
Row 4/3

This stamp shows a major flaw and retouch to the shading in the top left corner of the flag, see section on major varieties earlier. This should be sufficient to identify this stamp, but there are constant spots to confirm the identification.



Row 4/4

Look for the two spots in the top selvedge, above the 'ZEA' of 'ZEALAND'. The first spot is full and round, whereas the spot above the 'EA' is composed of a small spot and a short diagonal line, from the right end of which there is a vertical doctor blade line. The spots on the flag can be used to verify this stamp.



Row 4/5

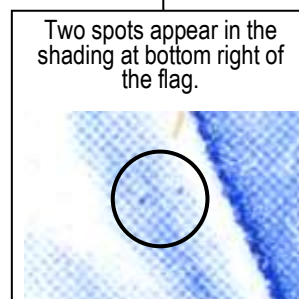
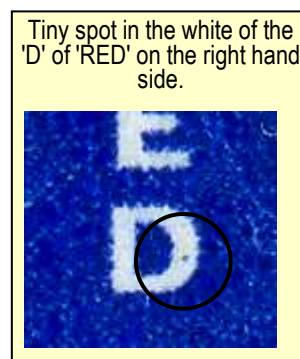
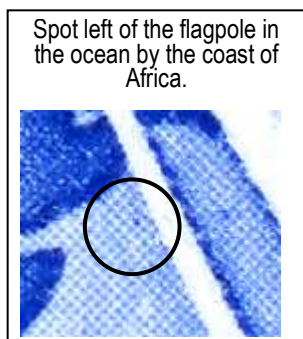
Look for the spots in the bottom margin, note that the red spot (on some examples seen) is cut off by the perforations. The red spot on the flag is constant but does vary in intensity becoming greater in intensity as the printing progressed. There are many tiny blue spots on the flag to verify this stamp.



Row 4/6

The unique element of this stamp is the small spot in the 'D' of 'RED' on the right hand side of the stamp. The spot is tiny, and is seen in the white side of the letter.

Of interest to note, the red colour on the right of the flag is patchy with a horizontal band that stretches from the left to right arm of the cross. It is seen like this on a number of stamps, but this example is perhaps one of the best seen.



Row 5/1

Although the series of six spots across the bottom left corner of the flag is unique, there are perhaps too many spots on the flag already to completely differentiate this stamp. Look for the tiny white spot between the 'E' and 'W' of 'NEW' as the first variety to confirm this stamp.



Row 5/2

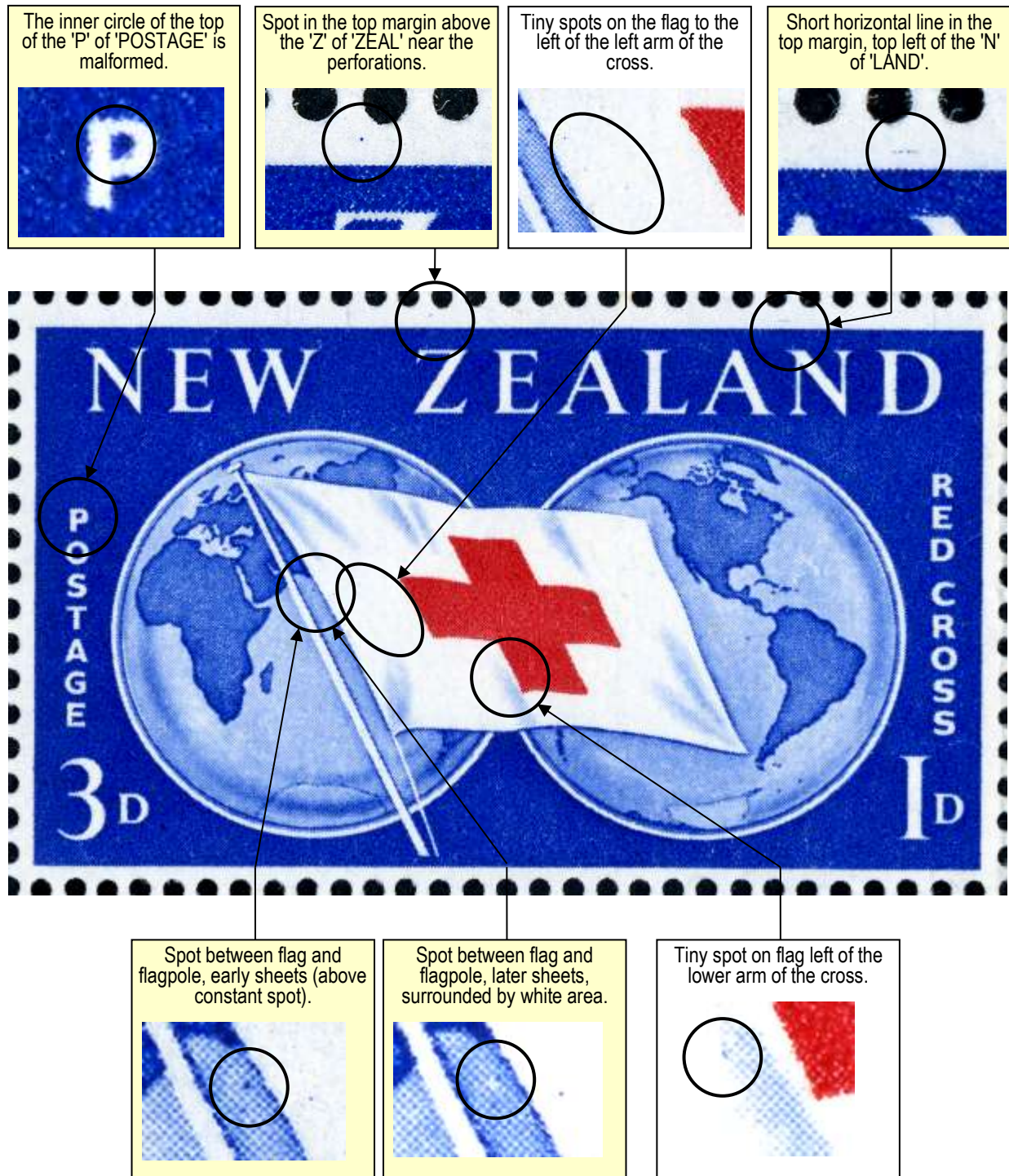
Look to the tiny spot that appears in the Arctic to the right of the top of the flagpole. Although a small flaw, this is unique to this stamp. The spot in the lower margin of the stamp is quite noticeable, but is too close to the perforations and may be cut off by them on some stamps.



Row 5/3

The blue centre of the 'P' of 'POSTAGE' is malformed at the lower right, almost cut diagonally, and is therefore quite noticeable. The short horizontal line top left of the 'N' of 'LAND' is also eye visible, but this exists on a number of stamps, therefore look to other varieties to identify this stamp.

The spot near the top of the gap between the flag and the flagpole is interesting. On early sheets the spot is bold and eye noticeable. In later sheets the spot is much reduced in size and boldness but below it and to the left there is a white area, as if an attempt has been made to remove the spot, but has met with limited success.



Row 5/4

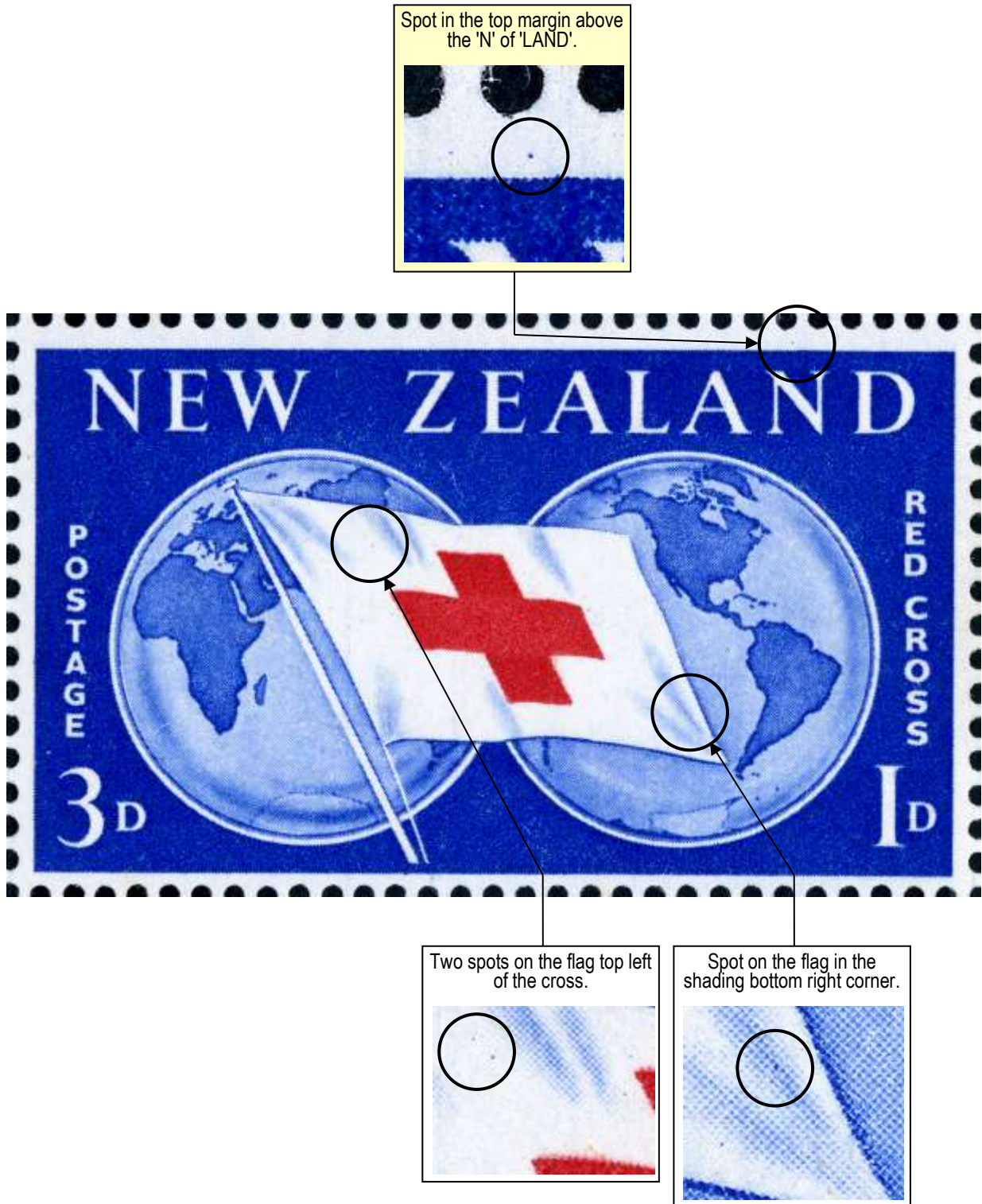
To identify this stamp look for the horizontal line top left of the 'N' of 'LAND' together with the two bold spots above the top right corner of the flag near Alaska.

On some later sheets there is an additional island in the Mediterranean east of Spain. This is very noticeable, but transient.



Row 5/5

To identify this stamp look for the blue spot in the top margin above the 'N' of 'LAND'. There is a faint spot to the left of this. Look to confirm using the other two spots.



Row 5/6

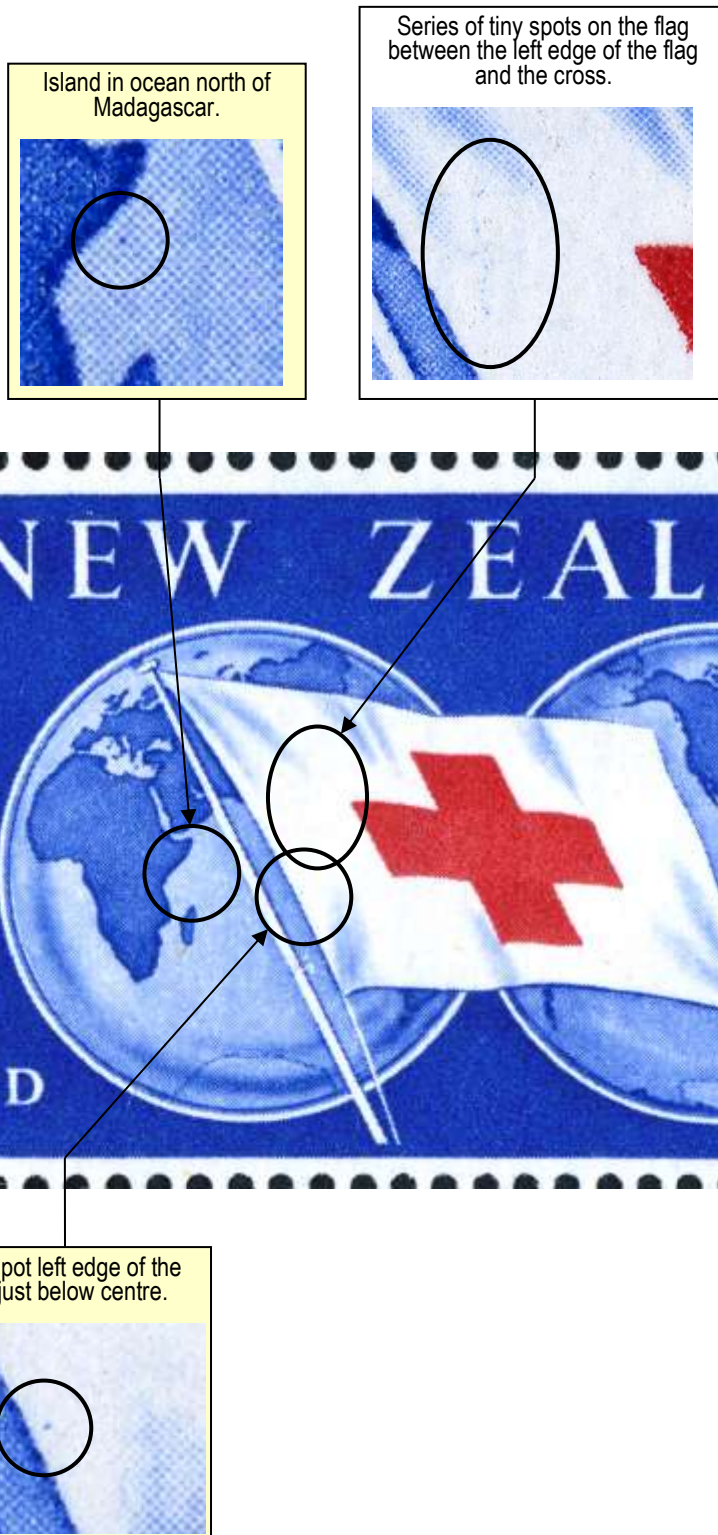
The short horizontal line in the top margin top left of the 'N' of 'LAND' is probably the best example of the sheet, but certainly not the only one. Again, not the only example, but certainly the best is the blurring of the right edge of the lower arm of the cross (this is constant, not a transient variety).

A dark spot appears off the west coast of Africa from print 2. Early sheets did not show this spot.



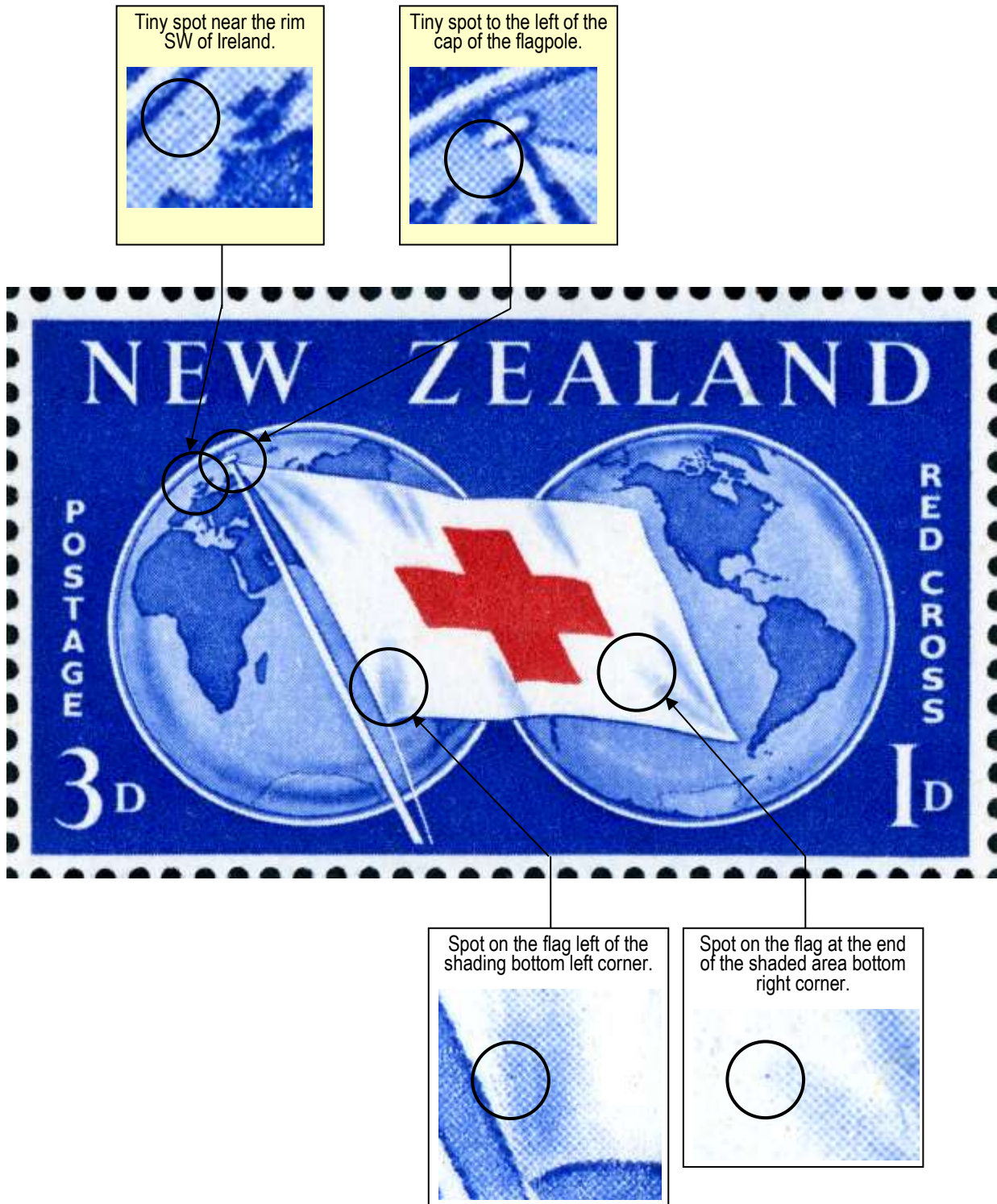
Row 6/1

The most notable varieties on this stamp are the two eye visible spots, one off the coast of east Africa, north of Madagascar and the other spot on the flag near the centre of the left edge. Take care as there are spots close to these on other stamps. Look for the series of tiny spots also on the flag near the left edge, in a near vertical line. In some examples these are weak and are not obvious.



Row 6/2

Even though they are really tiny, look for the two spots in the left hemisphere one at the left of the cap of the flagpole and another nearby as an island near the rim south west of Ireland. The larger spots on the flag cannot be used to verify this stamp as there are too many spots in a similar place on other stamps.

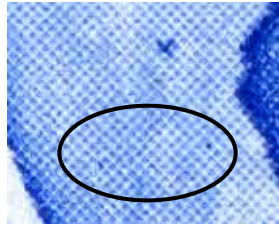


Row 6/3

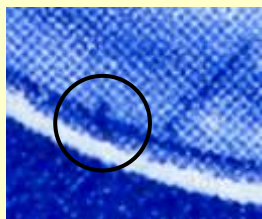
Look for the spur that appears in the bottom of the left hemisphere. This starts on the inner rim extending northward into the ocean west of Antarctica. Use other spots to confirm this stamp.

The group of spots on the flag amongst the shading in the bottom right corner is confusing. There are a number of spots present, four with any degree of clarity (and more if the stamp has a darker blue colour), but these tend to blur and cannot readily distinguish this from other stamps with spots in the corner of the flag.

Two additional islands appear in the Pacific south of the Galapagos.



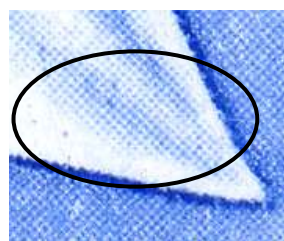
Spur into the left hemisphere west of Antarctica.



Spot on the flag at the end of the shading in the bottom left corner.



Four spots on the flag amongst the shading in the bottom right corner.



Row 6/4

There is a prominent red spot that appears in the background blue colour below the 'E' of 'ZEAL', this takes the form of a dark spot on the stamp, but is quite noticeable. There is one further red spot near the edge of the stamp above the 'E' of 'NEW', either just above the edge into the margin, or below into the background (where it is not so noticeable). Use the position of blue spots to confirm this stamp.



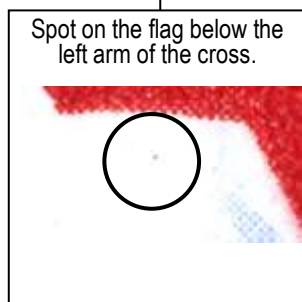
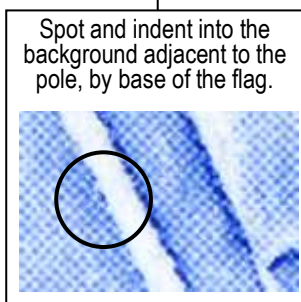
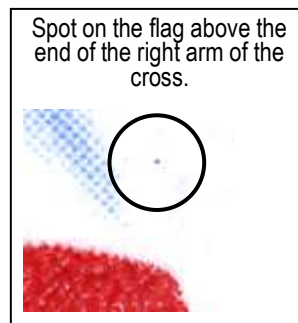
Row 6/5

There is no one flaw that distinguishes this stamp from the rest. Look for the blue spot in the left margin first, as this is more noticeable than the rest. Then look for confirming spots of colour, perhaps the red spots are more vivid than the blue.



Row 6/6

The most notable variety of this stamp is the blurring of the cross. This blurring appears on the right side of the upper and lower arms and on the top edge. Although this gives the outward appearance of a transient smudge, it appears that many sheets (from early to later) show some form of this variety. On some sheets the blurring has the red colour diffused into the background, whilst on others there is a definite edge to the spread of colour. To confirm this stamp, look for the other small spots of colour, so that transient smudges of red do not confuse.



Row 7/1

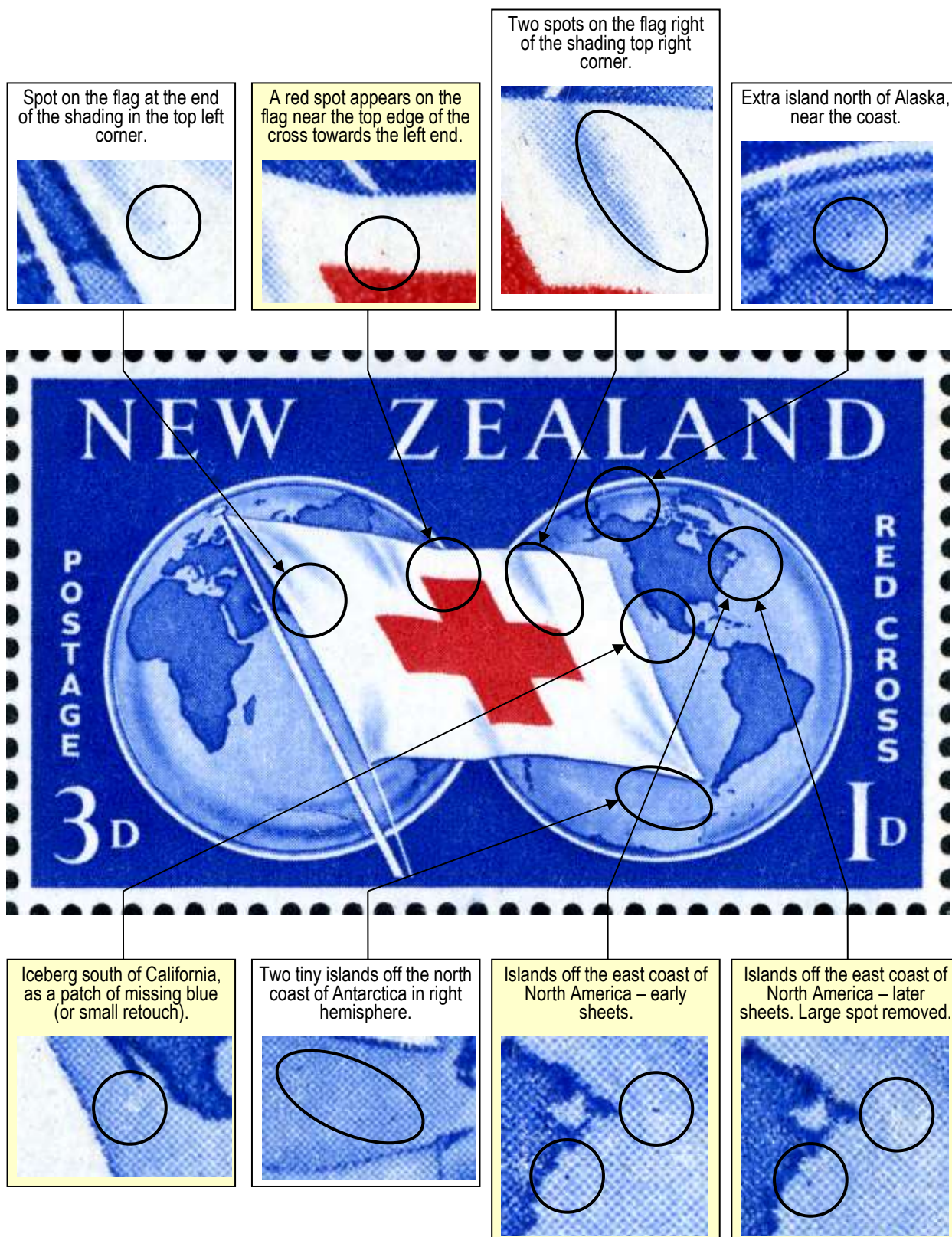
The obvious place to start to identify this stamp is the two spots that are found in the lower margin below Antarctica in the right hemisphere. To confirm, look for the two additional spots, one in between the flag and flagpole near the centre of the gap, and the second as an island north of Canada in the right hemisphere.

An interesting spot appears on early sheets can be found adjacent to the constant tiny spot on the flagpole near the base of the flag. This spot is quite large and easily noticed. On later sheets the spot appears to have been removed, and a white spot now appears close to, but not exactly at the same place as the original blue spot.



Row 7/2

There are many spots on this stamp to aid identification and plating. Firstly look for the red spot above the top edge of the cross, then look for confirming spots elsewhere. There appears to be a small retouch off the south coast of California that looks like a white patch in the ocean. Again, there appears to be a spot removed from the stamp off the east coast of North America, where early sheets show a bold spot and later sheets have a white spot in the same position.



Row 7/3

Do not use the short blue horizontal line (made up of three spots) in the top margin top left of the 'N' of 'LAND' as there are a few examples like this on the sheet. Confirm using other spots, such as the two close spots on the flag (that are quite bold), and the spot near the right edge of the flag (taking care to ensure that this is not the constant spot that appears nearby). Any spot that appears in the white area is a good indicator, and there are two on this stamp, one in the lower margin, and tiny spots in the 'E' of 'NEW'.



Row 7/4

Look to the single spot at the top of the 'N' of 'LAND' in the top margin, then look to confirm the other spots. On early sheets there appears to be a scratch through the white area at the top of the 'W' of 'NEW'. In later sheets this has gone but there the dark spot at top left of the 'W' is more obvious, as is the dark horizontal patch in the background below the letter.



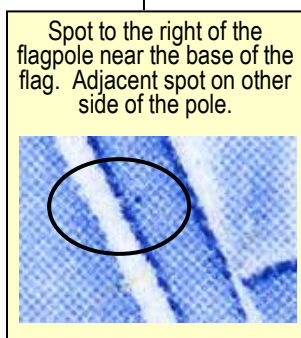
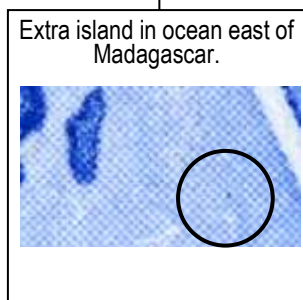
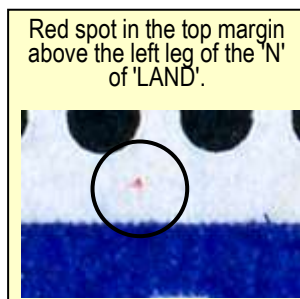
Row 7/5

There is a major flaw and retouch on this stamp that affects the south coast of Greenland. This appears as a blue spot (as the original flaw) and a fuzzy blue smudge (retouch). This alone is sufficient to identify this stamp. There is also a unique vertical blue scratch through the bottom right corner of the flag, unique to this stamp. Other coloured spots are superfluous in the identification of this stamp.



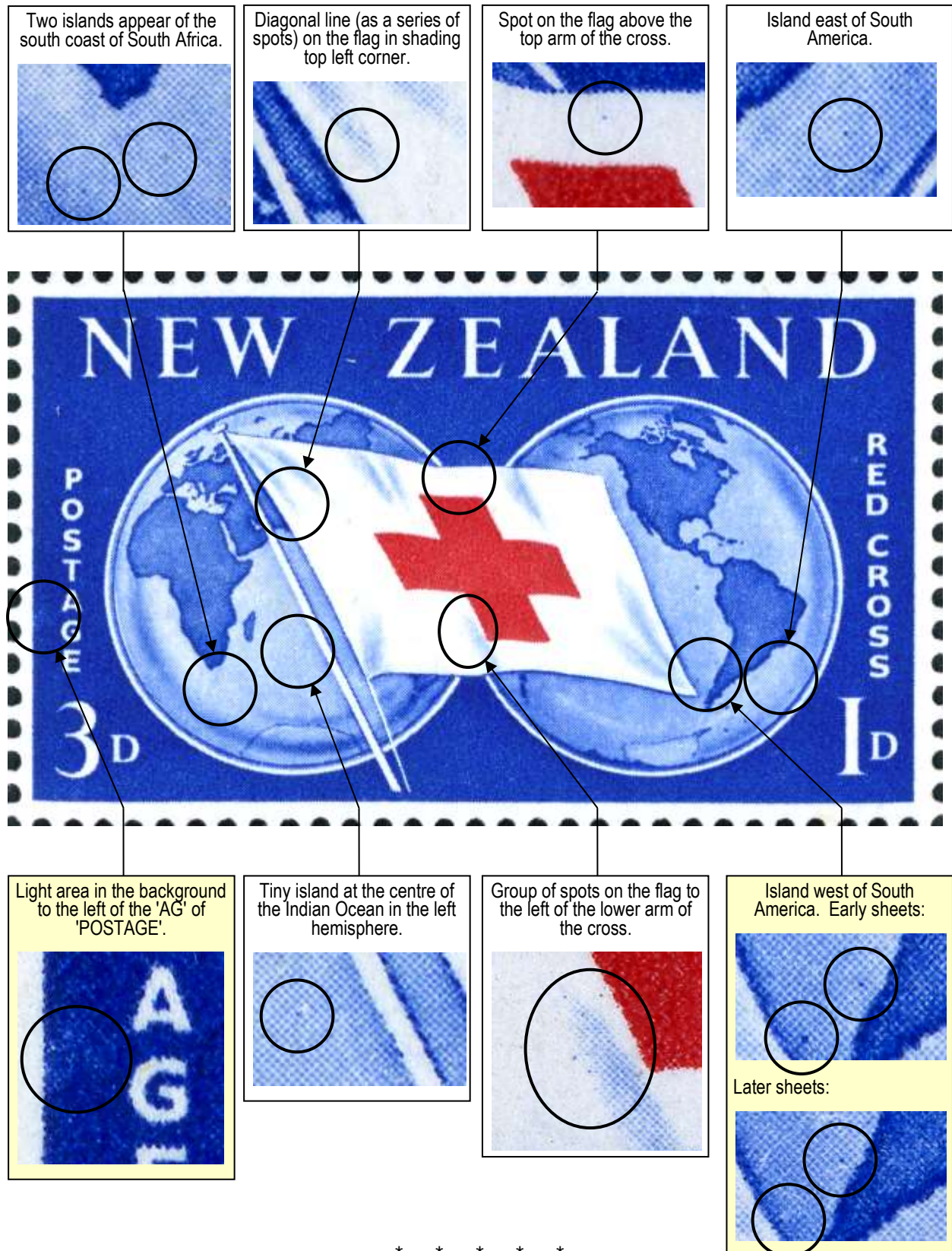
Row 7/6

There are few varieties on this stamp, probably the most notable is the red spot in the top margin top left of the 'N' of 'LAND'. This is unique. There are a small number of spots in roughly the same area on the stamp. Look to the flagpole, where there is a prominent spot in the gap between the flag and flagpole towards the bottom of the flag. There is a small spot nearby, on the opposite side of the flagpole, where the spot causes a small indent and darker blue spot.



Row 8/1

There are two readily notable spots either side of South America in the right hemisphere. Early sheets also show a spot of colour adjacent to the lower right edge of the flag diagonally below the constant spot on the west of South America. It almost appears to be connected to the flag by a short line. In later sheets this spot does not appear and is replaced by a lighter blue area (as if it is retouched). The short stem that connected the spot to the flag remains. Look to other spots to confirm this stamp. None of these varieties are prominent.



Row 8/2

There are two quite notable spots in the top of the gap between the flag and the flagpole. Normally there is only one spot, the second is placed diagonally lower than the constant one. There is also a notable spot in Antarctica near the rim of the left hemisphere. Other spots are minor in nature but can be used to aid identification.

Two spots appear in the gap between the flag and flagpole.



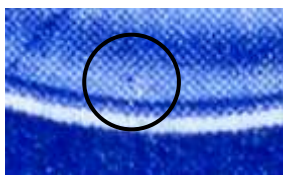
Spot on the flag at the end of the shaded area top left corner.



Two tiny islands appear south of South Africa.



Spot on Antarctica in the left hemisphere, left of centre.

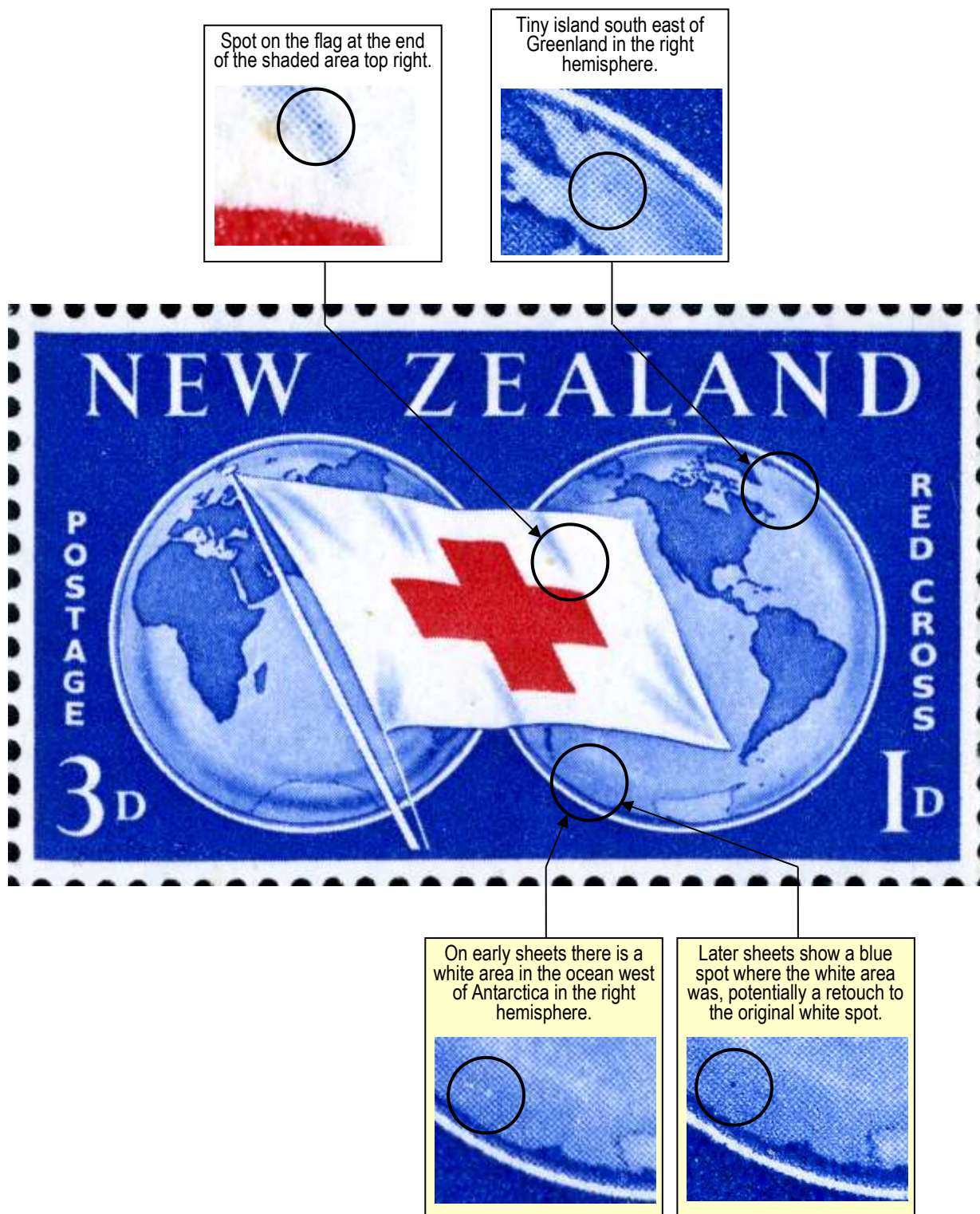


Spot in the ocean to the left of the flagpole.



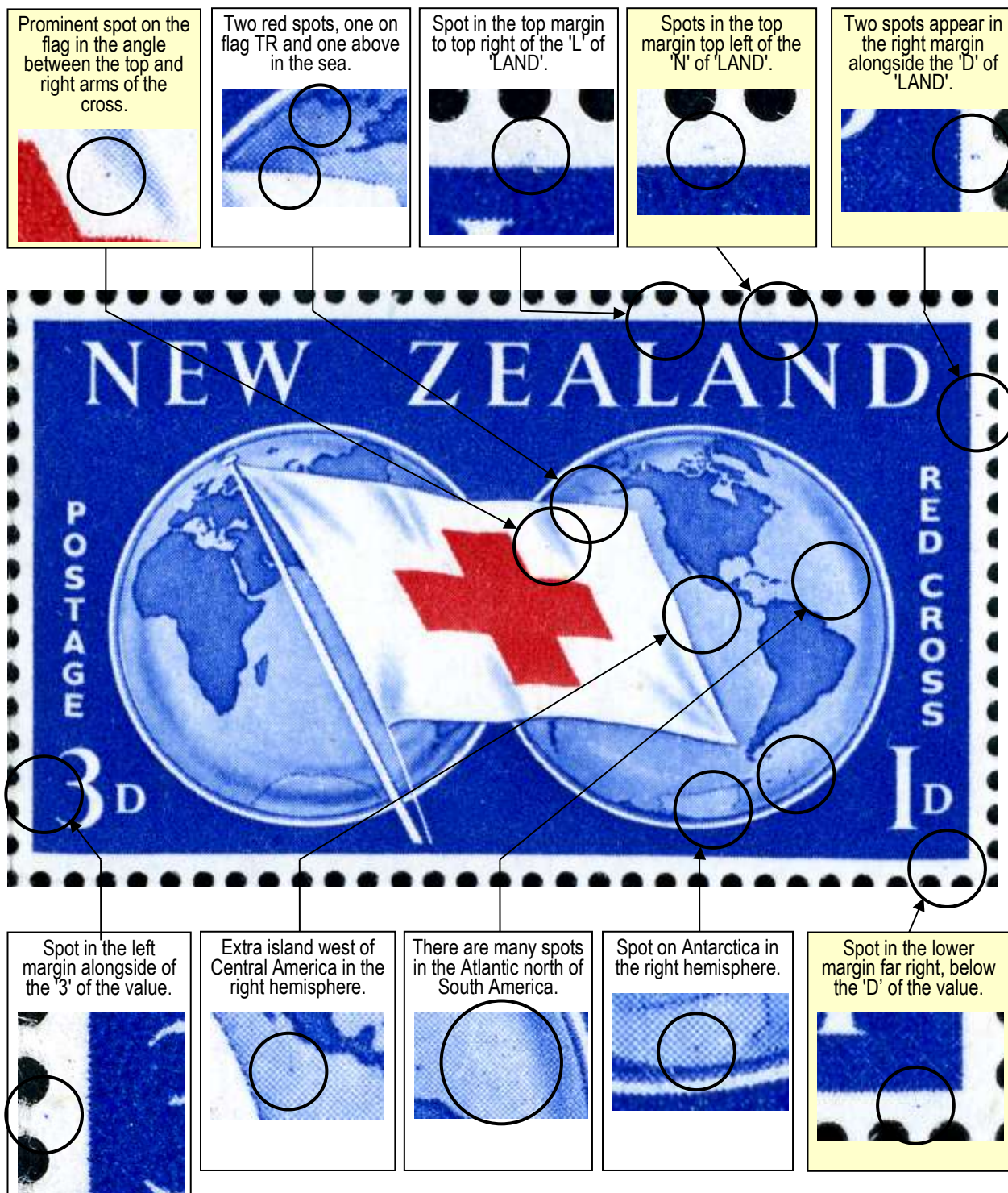
Row 8/3

There is an interesting flaw and retouch in the ocean left of Antarctica in the right hemisphere. Early sheets show a white spot where it is likely that there was a missing spot or group of spots in the background screen. Later sheets show a blue spot in this position, potentially illustrating where the white area was retouched. There is little else of merit about this stamp.



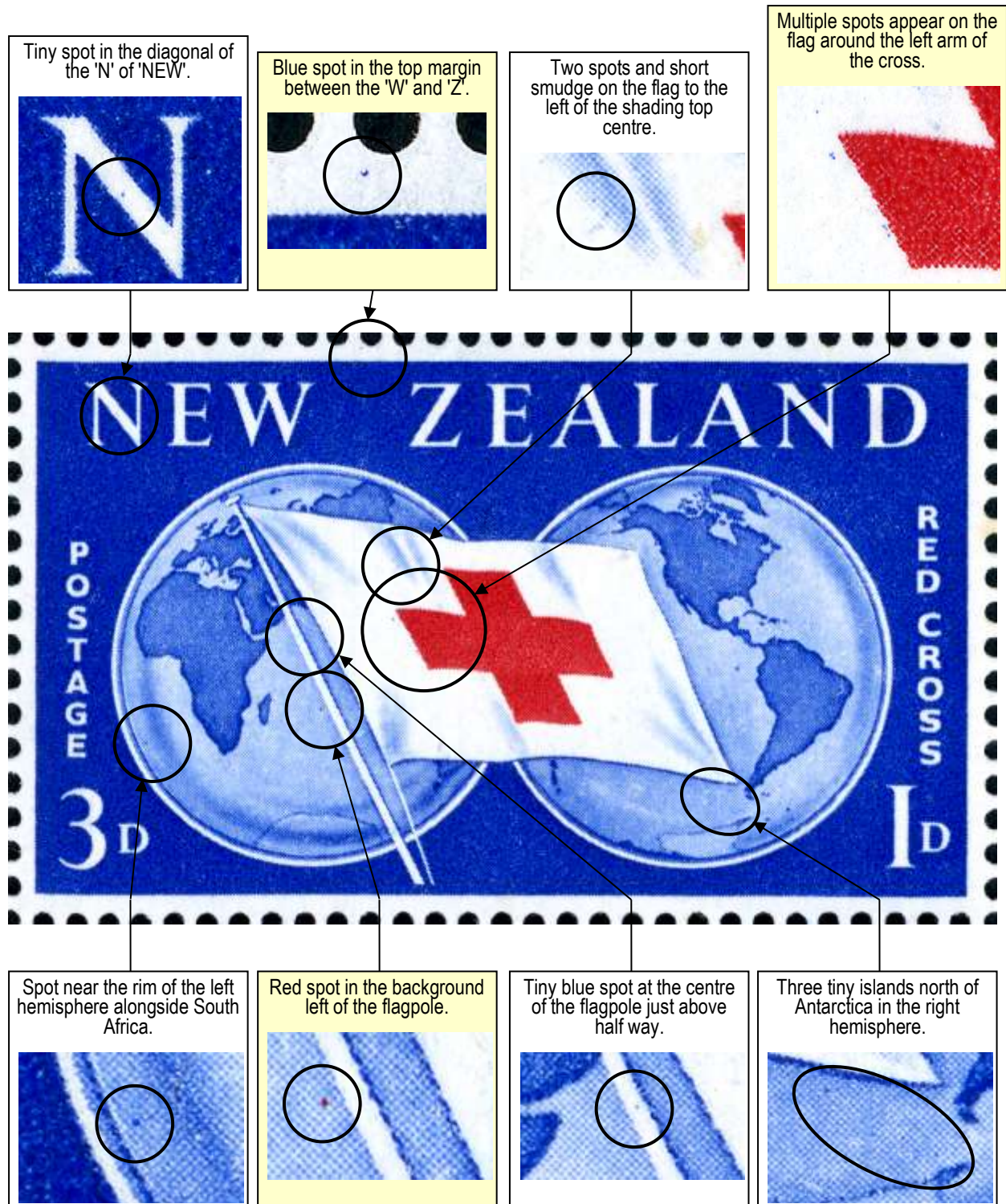
Row 8/4

There are many notable spots on this stamp, especially those in the margins, that can be used to identify this stamp. There is a prominent spot on the flag in the angle between the top and right arms of the cross that is eye noticeable. Once a magnifying glass is sought, there is a unique group of spots on the right hemisphere alongside Central America in the Atlantic. Although these are relatively small spots, there are a lot of them.



Row 8/5

The spots around the left arm of the cross on the flag are sufficient to identify this stamp. These spots are quite noticeable to the naked eye and are unmistakable and unique to this stamp. There is also a predominant red spot to the left of the centre of the flagpole, again very visible.

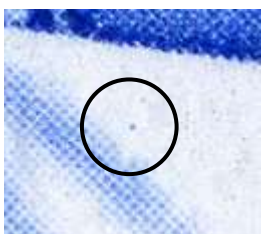


Row 8/6

There are many spots on this stamp, none of which are predominant. Look for the three additional islands in the Atlantic, north of South America, to identify this stamp as they are perhaps the more able to identify this stamp than any other.

Some stamps show a red scratch on the flag below the left arm of the cross. This is transient.

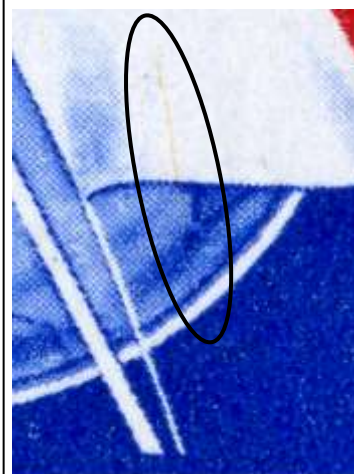
Spot on flag to the right of the shading in the top left corner.



Spot on the flag to the right of the shading bottom left corner.



Red scratch – transient



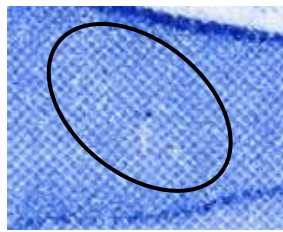
Islands in the ocean, south east of South Africa.



Spot on the on the lower end of the flagpole.



Three islands north of Antarctica in the right hemisphere.

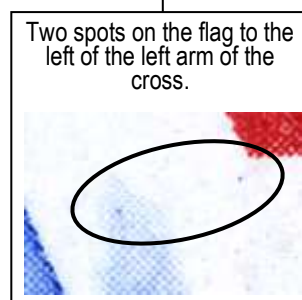
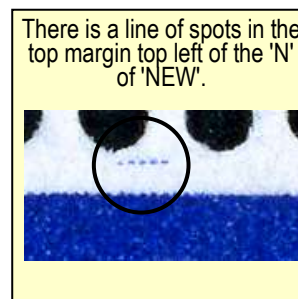
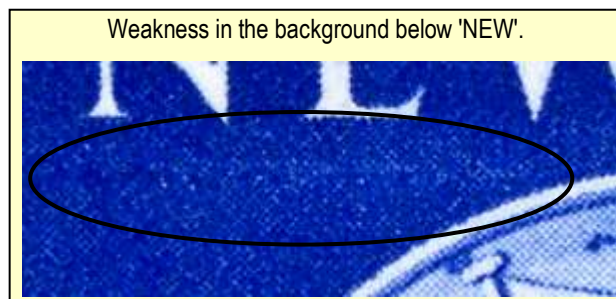


Three extra islands in the Atlantic north of South America.



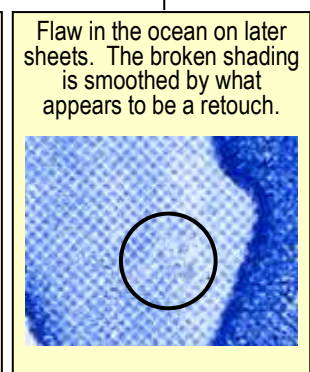
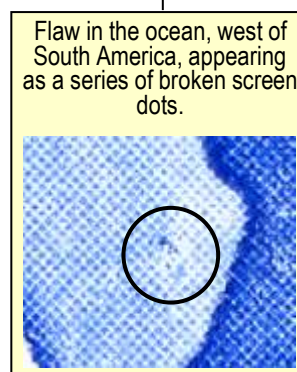
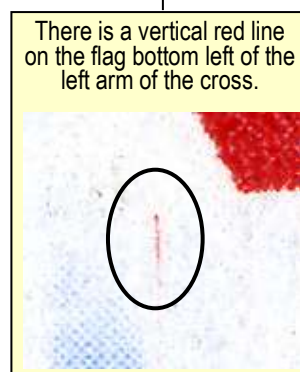
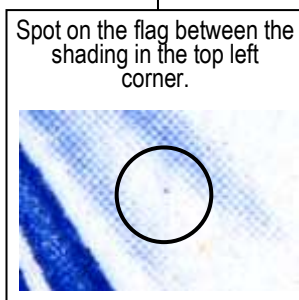
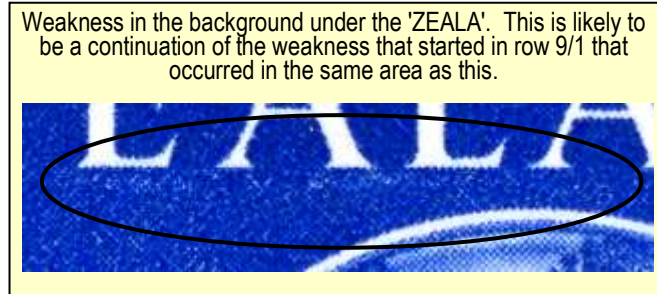
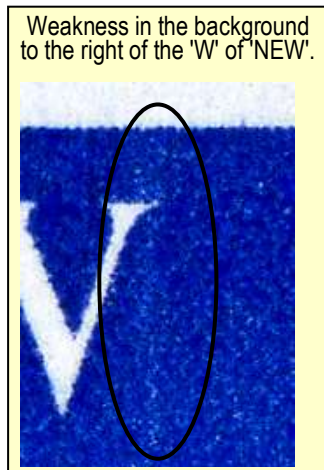
Row 9/1

There is a unique variety on this stamp in the form of a weakness in the blue background below the word 'NEW' in the top left hand corner. It appears, but with lesser effect, that the weakness continues across the stamp under 'ZEALAND'. Looking under magnification, the left end of this weakness has solid patches as though there was an attempt to correct this weakness, but it is still quite noticeable with the naked eye. In fact, it is more noticeable using the eye, rather than up close or under magnification, where the effect becomes lost.



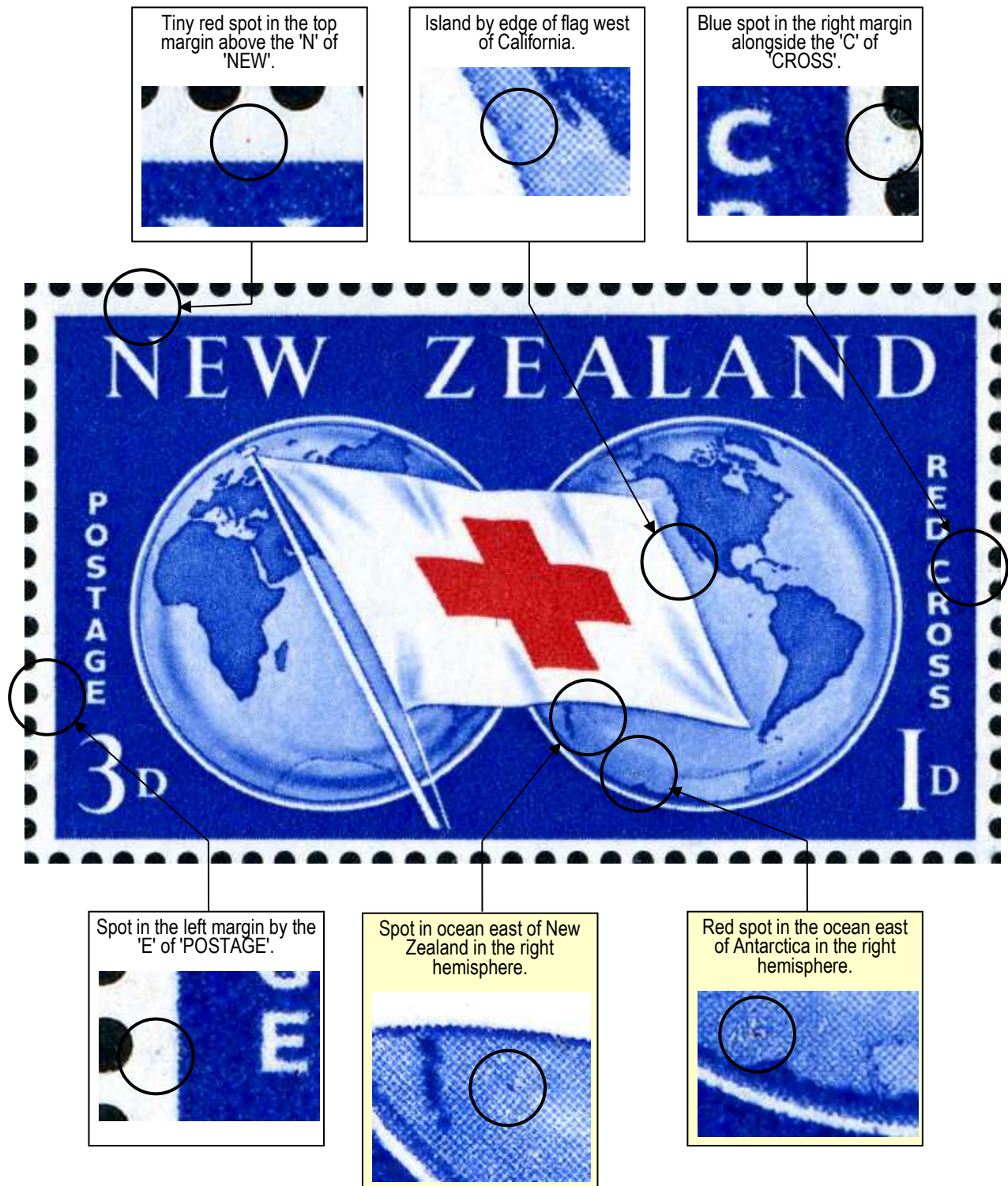
Row 9/2

There are two areas of general weakness on this stamp. Look for the vertical patch of lighter blue affecting the background left of the 'W' of 'NEW' and the lighter blue underlying the 'ZEALA'. This latter weakness is likely to be a continuation of the weakness that appears in row 9/1 on the left. There is also a unique vertical red line on the flag; and a flaw and retouch to a patch west of South America.



Row 9/3

Again, there are lots of spots in the margins that make it relatively easy to identify this stamp from these alone. There are two distinct spots in the right hemisphere that will aid identification. Look for the blue spot south east of New Zealand, and the red spot nearby, west of Antarctica.



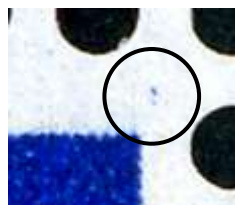
Row 9/4

Once again, look for the small spots on the stamp. The most notable is the spot that appears in the white rim of the right hemisphere south east of the Falkland Islands. The spot intrudes from the outer rim, looking like a spur into the white circle. There are also two small spots near the top and bottom of the flag, although small, are unique to this stamp.

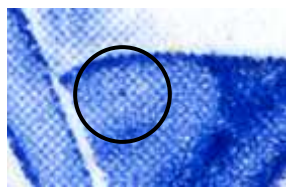
Tiny spot near the top edge of the flag at the left hand side.



A spot appears in the margin at the top right corner.



Small spot in the ocean below the bottom left corner of the flag, west of Australia.



Small spot in the rim of the right hemisphere, next to the Falklands.



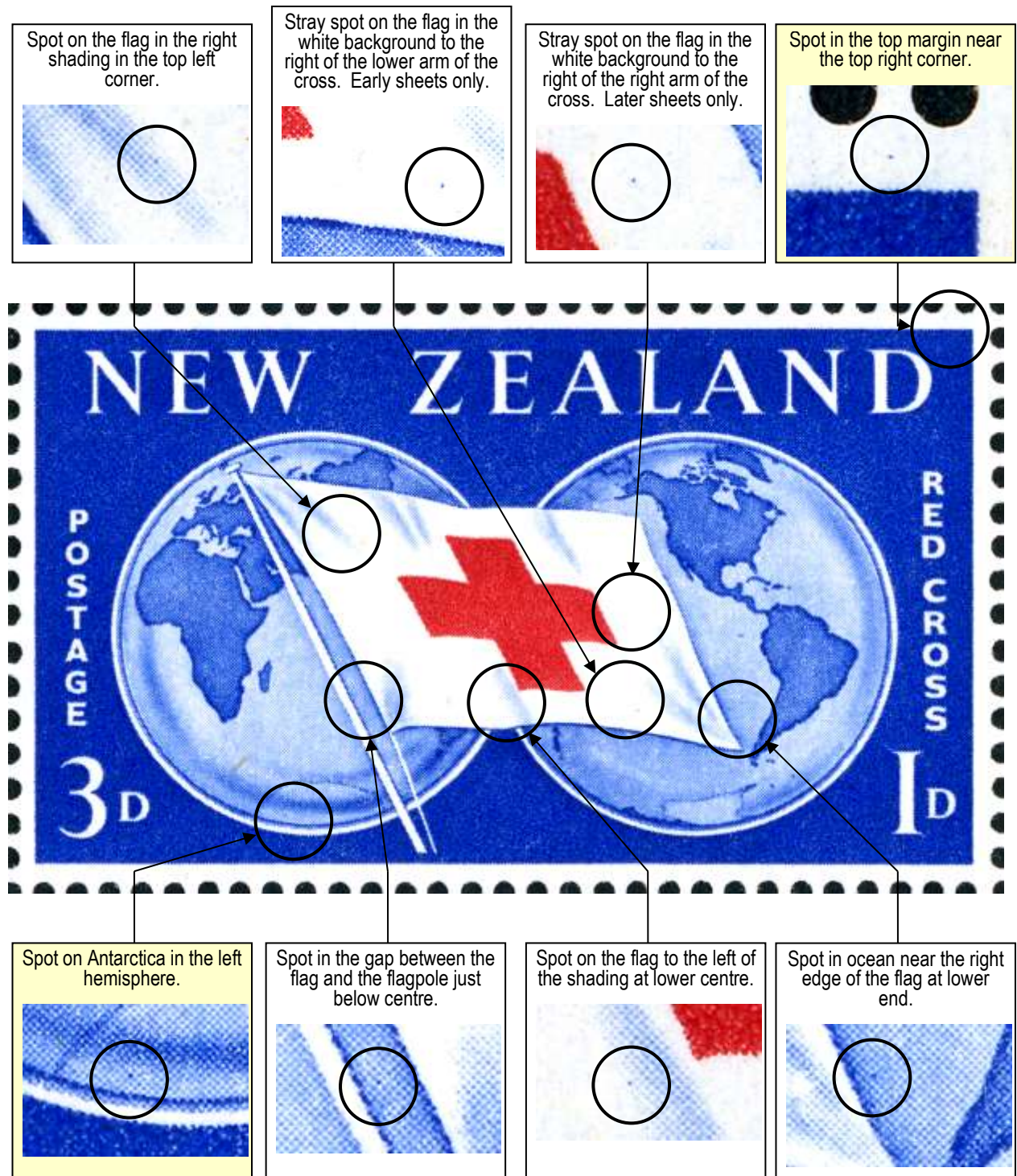
Spot in the right margin alongside of the 'OS' of 'CROSS'.



Row 9/5

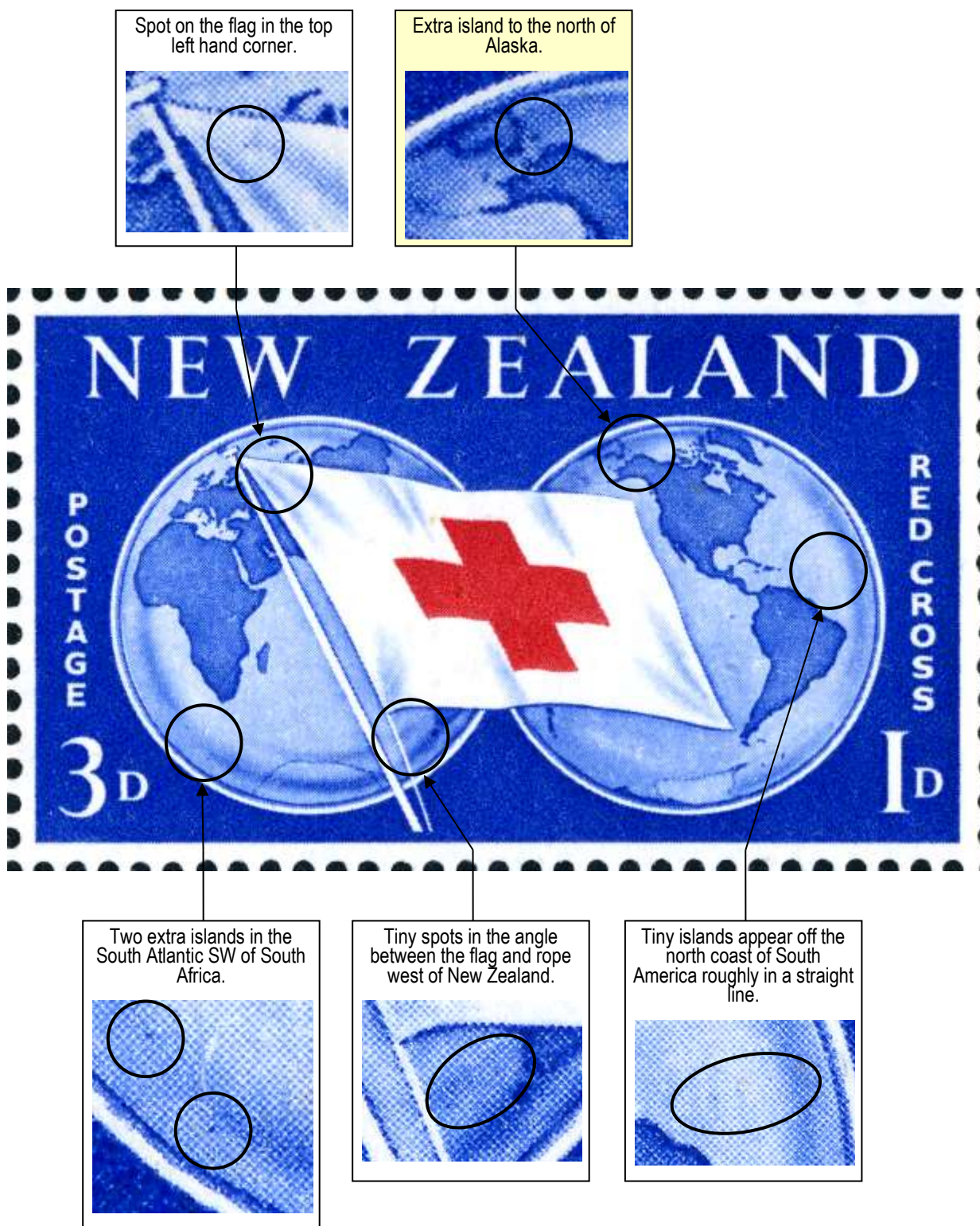
There are a significant number of spots on this stamp, and evidence of the changing nature of the spots between early and later printings. To distinguish this stamp look for the spot in the top right corner in the margin, coupled with the spot on Antarctica.

It is interesting to note that there are two 'transient' spots. There is a blue spot near the lower edge of the stamp right of the lower arm of the cross. This spot only occurred in early sheets. Later sheets show a spot above this, right of the right arm of the cross. Each example is quite pronounced and of the same style as other 'normal' spots.



Row 9/6

The main distinguishing feature of this stamp is the additional island off the north coast of Alaska in the right hemisphere. This is a relatively large spot that does not give the appearance of an extraneous spot of colour but rather a design feature. This is quite distinct, but because of the nature of the variety it may be overlooked as an additional island.



Row 10/1

The most striking feature of this stamp is the weakness that exists towards the top of the stamp in the background between the two hemispheres, encroaching into the left hemisphere. This is similar to a scratch, but is likely to be caused by damage to the plate, inhibiting the correct take-up of ink. This is quite pronounced and eye noticeable.

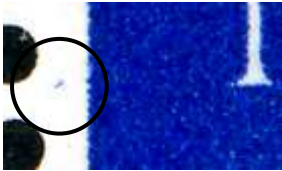
There are multiple spots that can be used to aid identification of this stamp, but none are really necessary.



Row 10/2

There are two areas of weakness on this stamp that makes identification relatively straightforward. Look for the near vertical band through the 'EA' of 'ZEALAND' and a smaller horizontal weakness above the 'R' of 'RED' on the right hand side of the stamp. Use the smaller spots to confirm.

Spot in the left margin alongside the foot of the 'N' of 'NEW'.



Spot on the flag between the two shaded areas at top centre.



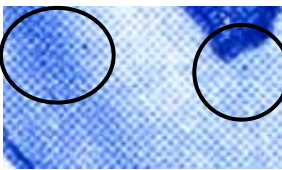
Weakness diagonally through 'EA'.



Weakness over the 'R' of 'RED' in the background.



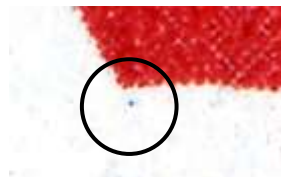
Two islands appear in the Atlantic west of, and one at the tip of, South Africa.



Small island off the coast of France and SW of the UK.



Spot on the flag beneath the end of the left arm of the cross.



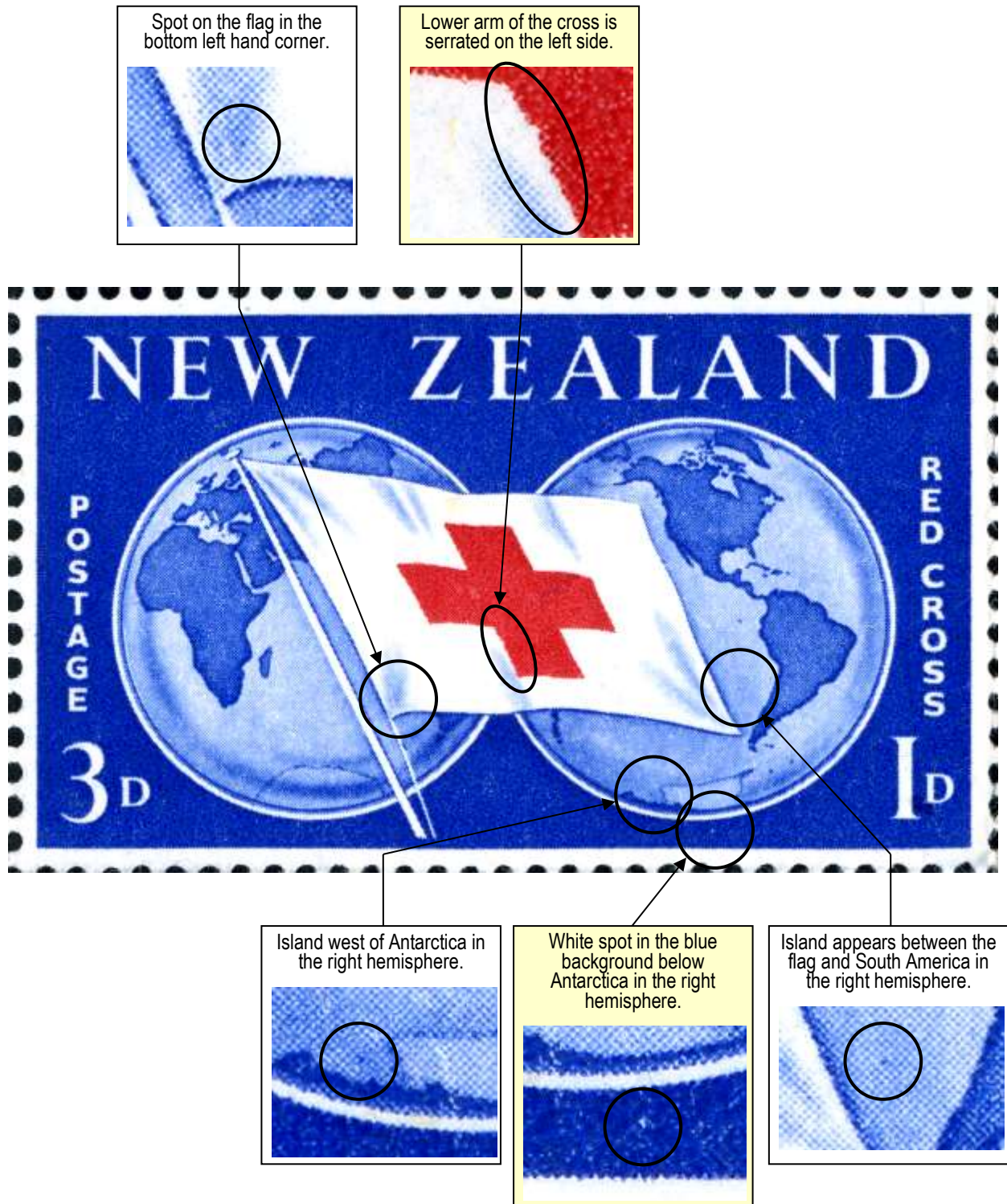
Extra island in the Pacific west of South America.



Row 10/3

There are a number of blue spots to aid identification, but there is a unique white spot in the blue background below Antarctica in the right hemisphere that will identify this stamp. This is where there is a missing spot in the blue screen.

The left edge of the lower arm of the red cross is serrated and not smooth as in the other stamps on the sheet. It is as though there are missing red spots at the edge causing small indentations.



Row 10/4

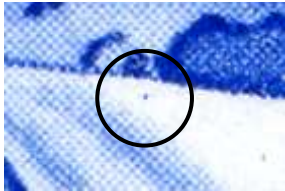
There are numerous spots to look for, the most obvious being the red flaw on the flag at the centre right. Being in a white background, the red mark is quite visible, even when the red colour is pale as in some printings. There are also distinctive spots off the coast of Newfoundland and in the lower margin below the value at the right hand side, making this stamp easy to recognise.



Row 10/5

There are two distinctive, eye noticeable spots on this stamp that will confirm its identification. Look for the island in the Hudson Bay, Canada, also there is a blue spot on the flag in the angle between the left and lower arms of the cross. The island in the Hudson Bay is unique to this stamp and confirmation can be found by using the spot on the flag; but not the other way around.

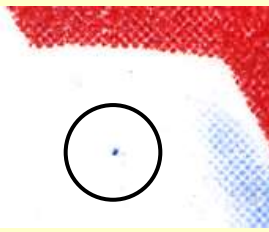
Spot on the flag near the top edge on the left.



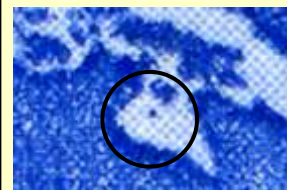
Spot in the top margin above the letters 'AL' of 'ZEAL'.



Spot on the flag in the angle between the left and lower arms of the cross.

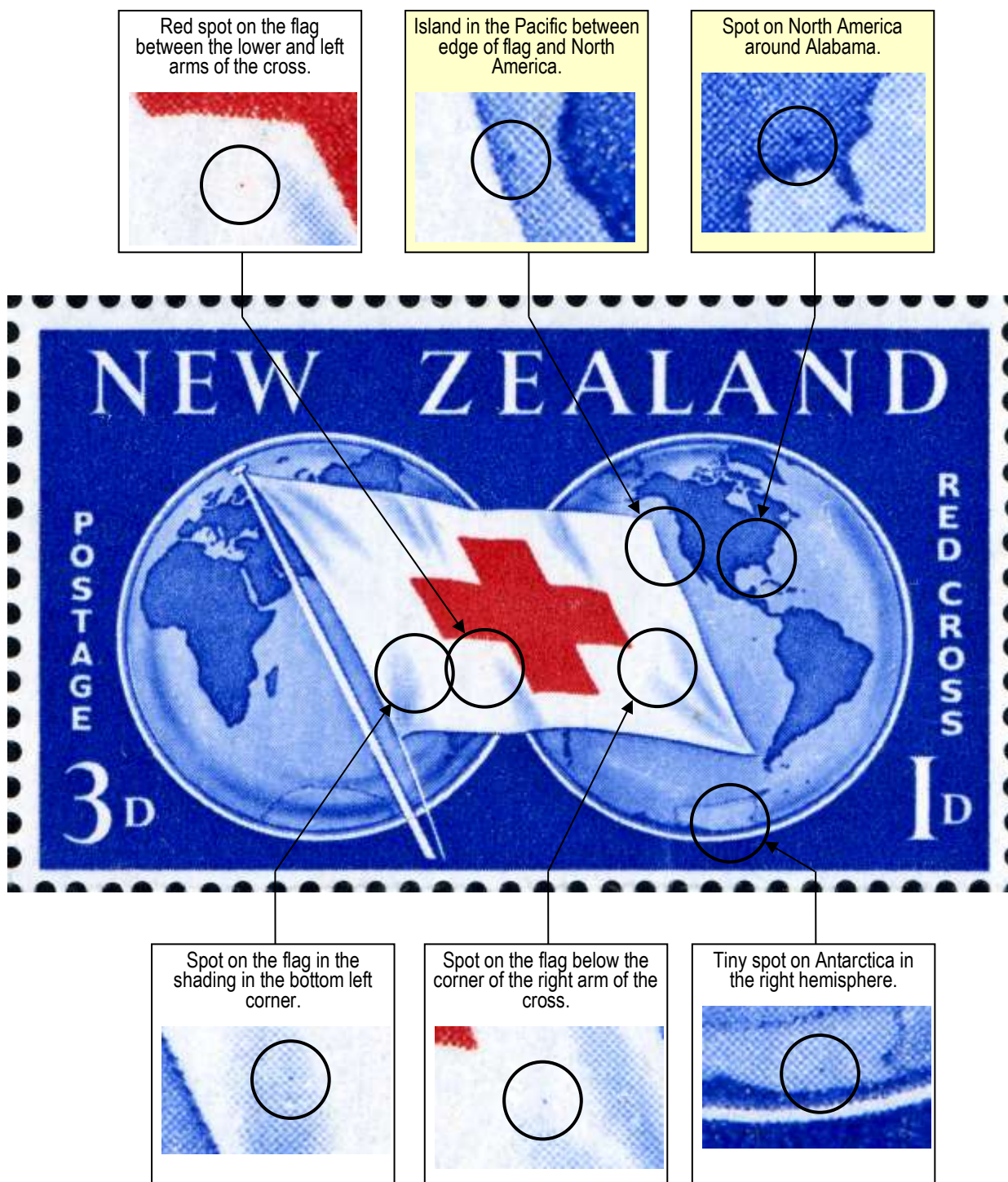


Distinctive spot in the Hudson Bay.



Row 10/6

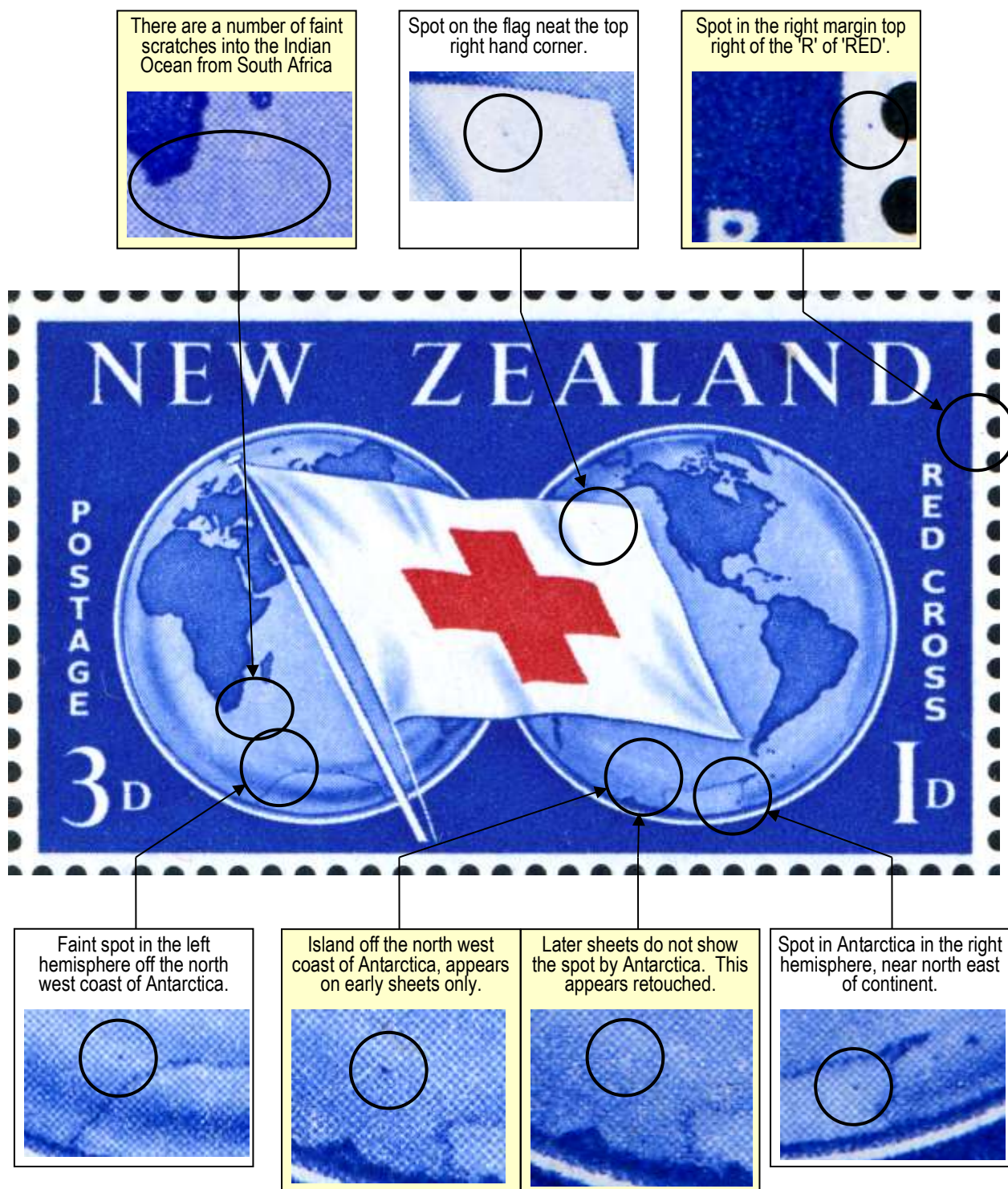
There are no really distinctive varieties on this stamp, just a few spots that will aid identification. Perhaps the most helpful spot is that which appears in North America around Alabama. Although this is a blue spot against a blue background, it does stand out quite well. Also look for the spot on the other side of North America in the ocean, almost alongside the edge of the flag.



Row 11/1

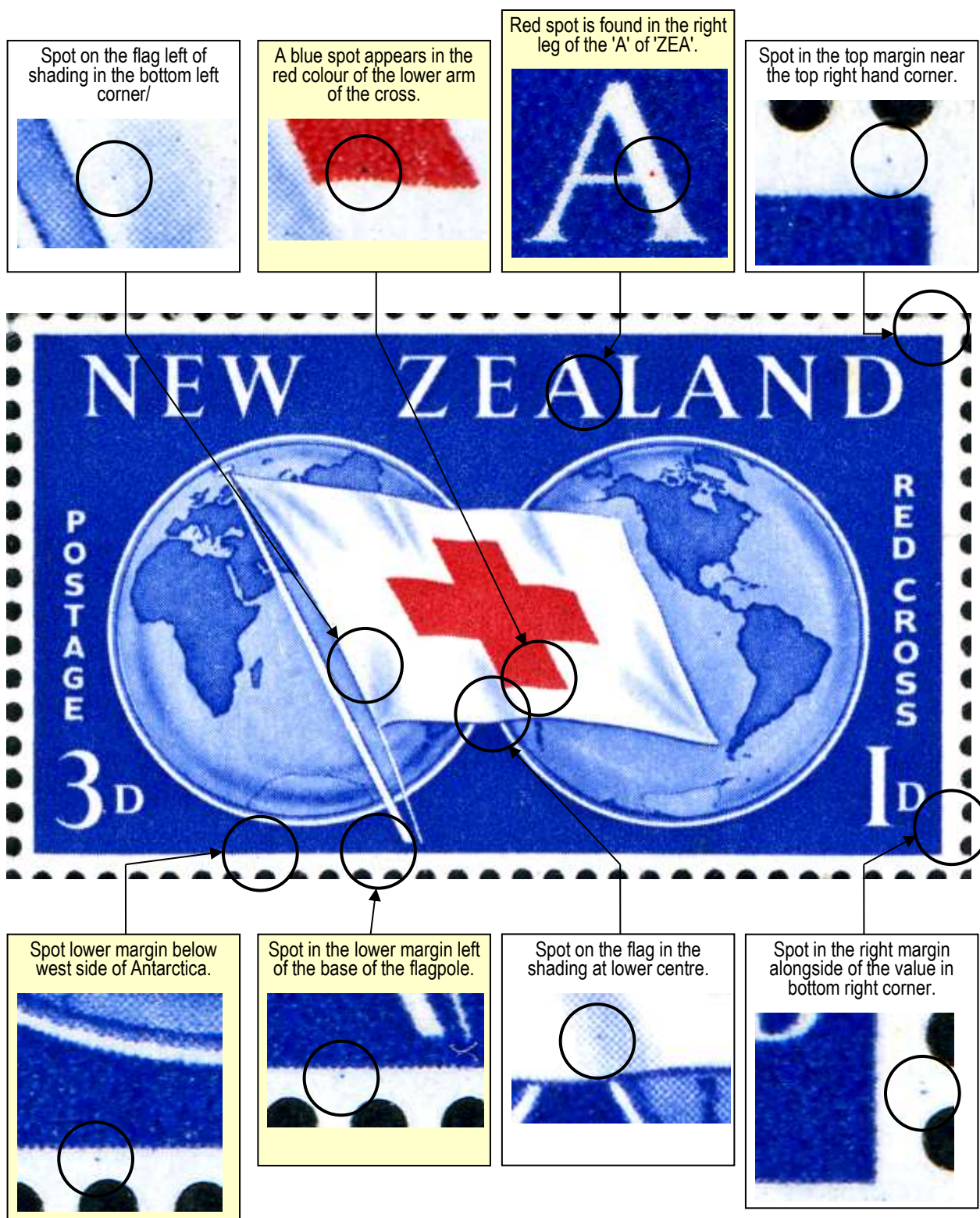
There is an interesting variety on this stamp that takes the form of small horizontal scratches around South Africa, in the left hemisphere, extending into the Indian Ocean. These are faint, but unique to this stamp. Look also for the obvious blue spot in the right margin top right of the 'R' of 'RED'.

On early sheets, there is a distinct spot in the right hemisphere to the north west of Antarctica. Later sheets do not show this spot, but there is a lighter patch of blue where the spot used to be, possible indication that the spot was removed by retouching.



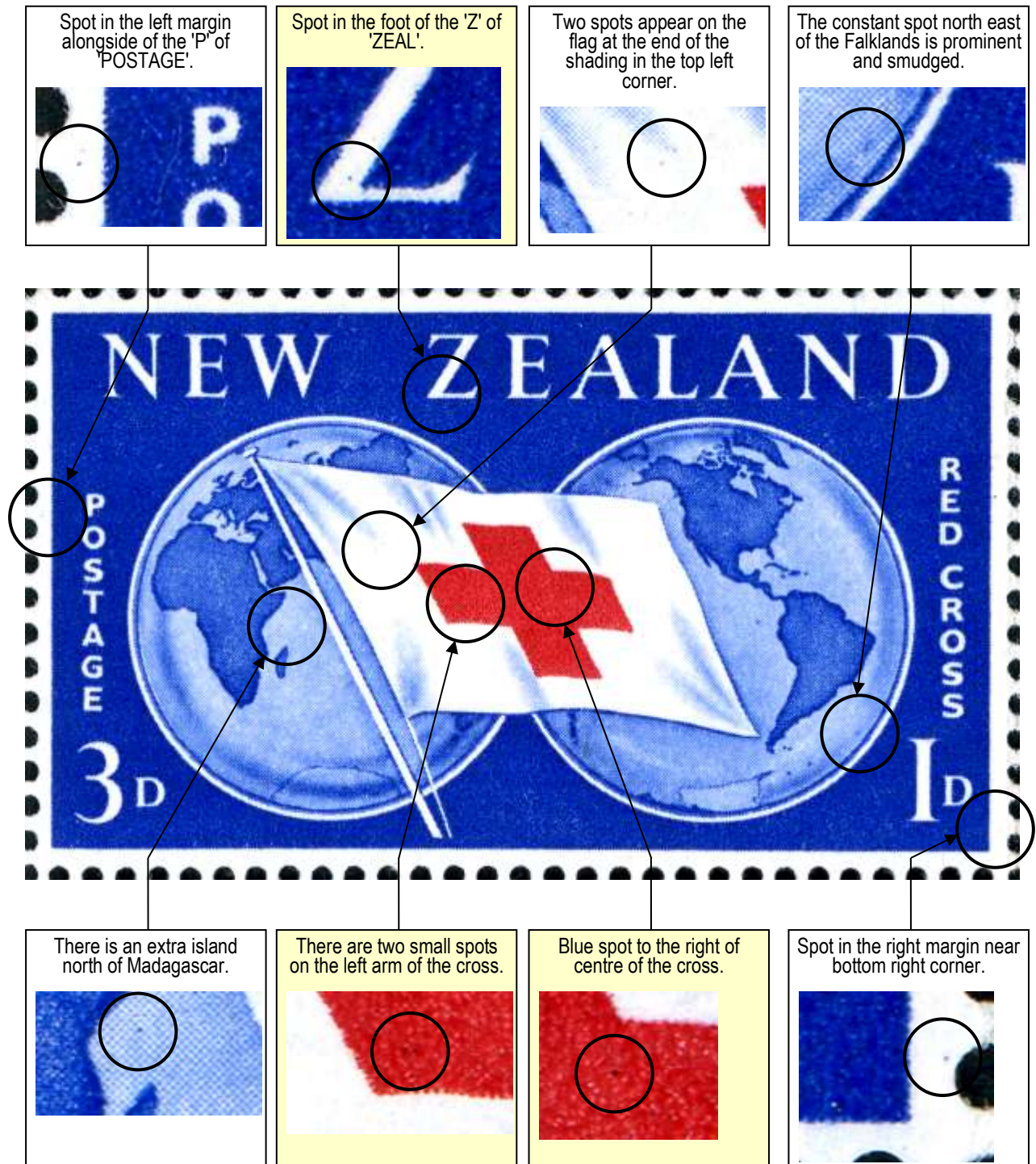
Row 11/2

There are many obvious spots in the margins to aid identification. Also look for two distinctive spots, one red spot in the white of the letter 'A' of 'ZEA', and another blue spot in the red area of the lower arm of the cross. It is relatively easy to distinguish this stamp from these spots alone.



Row 11/3

There are no prominent spots on this stamp, and a magnifying glass will need to be sought. Look for three blue spots on the red cross on the flag. There are two spots grouped on the lower part of the left arm of the cross, whilst the third is toward the right arm, just off centre. There are a number of spots in the margin, and at the foot of the 'Z' (the latter is unique), that will aid identification.



Row 11/4

The most prominent variety on this stamp is the short horizontal line in the top margin top left of the 'N' of 'LAND'. This line is made up of four small spots in perfect alignment. As this variety appears on a reasonable number of stamps, the presence of other spots must be used to confirm this stamp. The spot at the Cape of Good Hope is a good variety to look out for, as it is unique to this stamp.

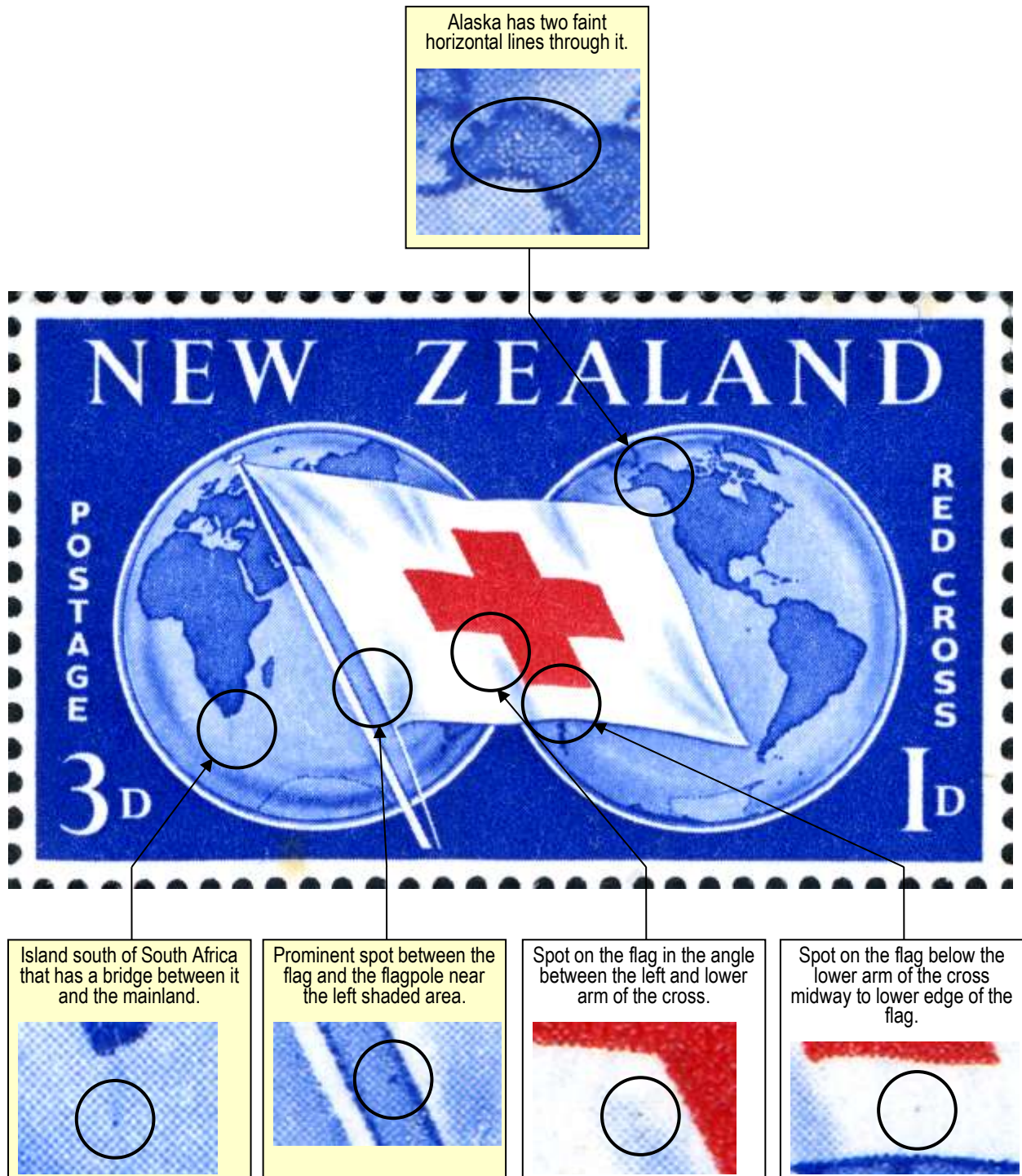
The spot in mid Atlantic, west of Africa, appears on early sheets. It is not constant and appears to have been removed at some point in the printing. There appears to be a small disturbance at the site of the spot in the later printings.



Row 11/5

There is a prominent spot just to the left of the flag, in the gap between the flag and flagpole, near the base of the flag. This is eye noticeable. There is also a small island south of South Africa that shows prominent shading between the island and the mainland. This shading is present on all stamps, but in this example it is more a bridge, rather than shade.

There is also an interesting feature on Alaska in the right hemisphere. There are two horizontal lines through the background, something similar to doctor blade lines. These are faint and probably only found if you 'know what to look for'.



Row 11/6

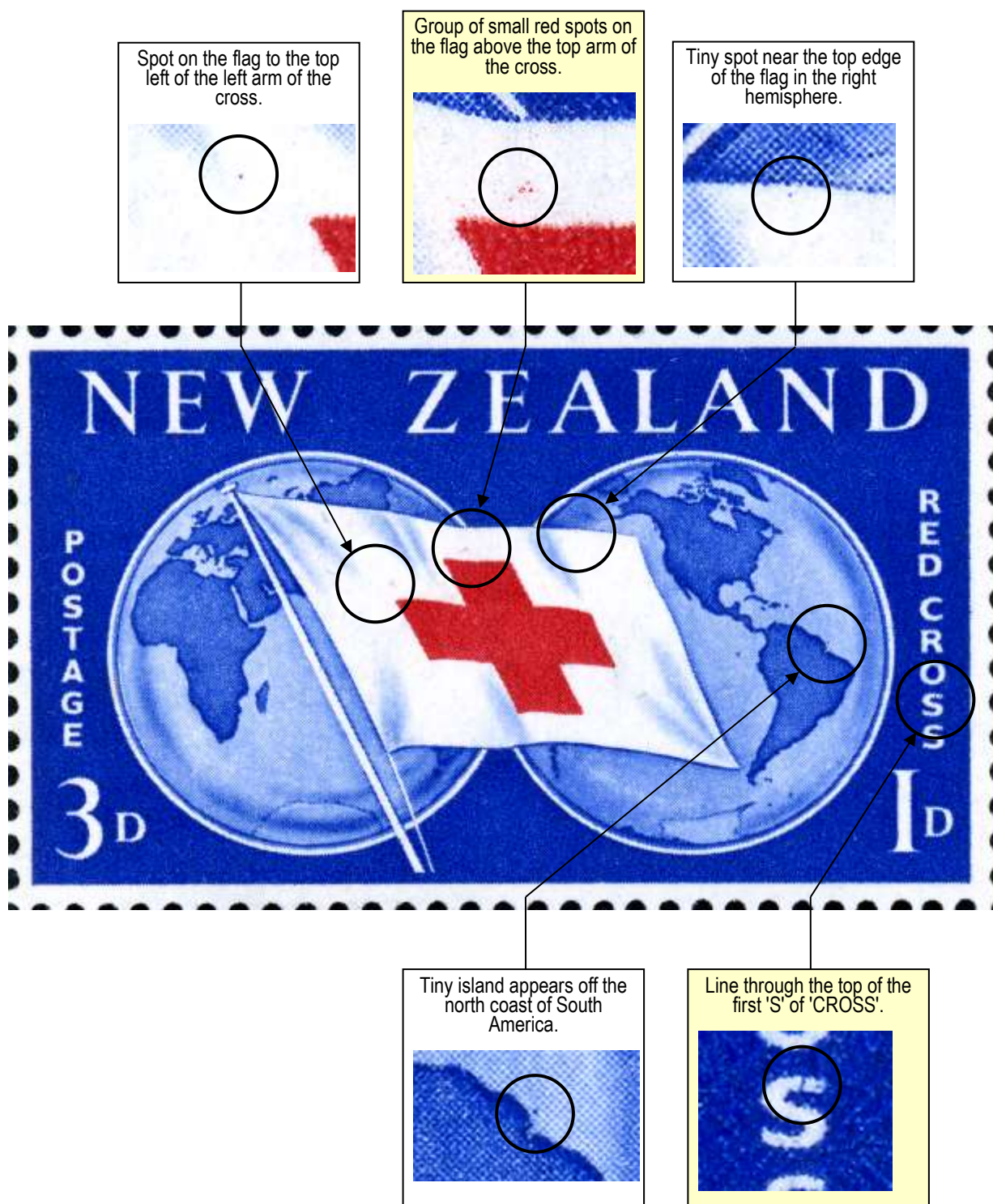
There are two prominent spots in the top margin that will identify this stamp. However, there are two significant retouches that are a lot more interesting.

Both early and later sheets show a significant retouch to Antarctica in the right hemisphere. This retouch covers most of the central portion of the continent, destroying the normal pattern of screen dots. There is a weakness from this retouch diagonally to the lower margin. The second retouch eliminates one of the Falkland Islands (of the two islands closest to Argentina, the one furthest away is retouched). It is not understood why it was necessary to retouch the stamp so extensively.



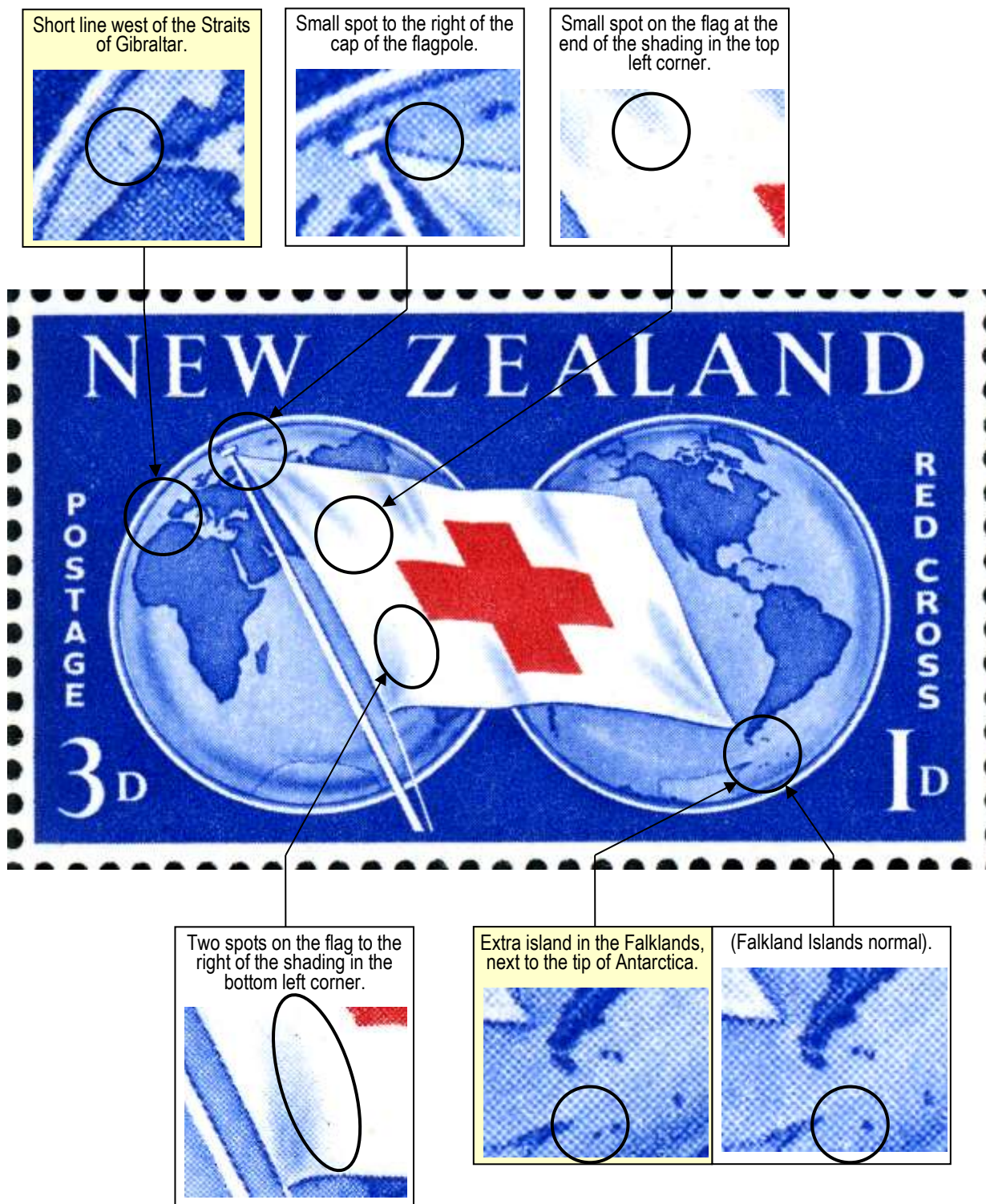
Row 12/1

Even though the most significant variety of this stamp is the group of red dots above the red cross, their prominence is variable between sheets, depending upon the shade of red. Look, with a magnifying glass, to the vertical line through the top of the first 'S' of 'CROSS' on the right hand side. This variety is unique to this stamp.



Row 12/2

There are two interesting features of this stamp. To the west of the Straits of Gibraltar there is a short horizontal line, at a diagonal to follow the direction of the screen dots. The second variety is an extra island in the Falklands group caused by a prominent blue spot. The 'extra island' is the one closest to the point of Antarctica.



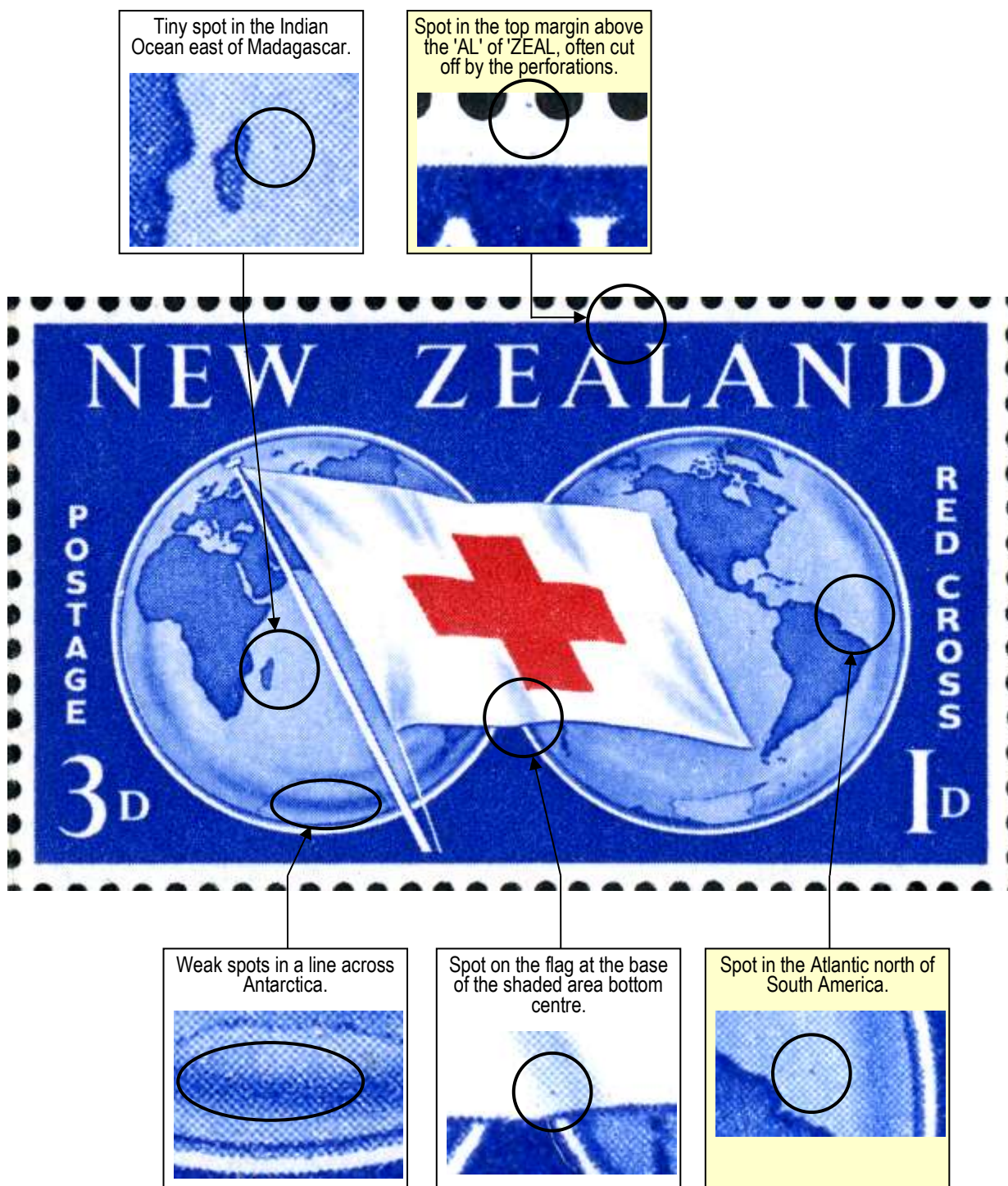
Row 12/3

There is nothing spectacular to readily identify this stamp. With use of a magnifying glass, look for the spot in the 'T' of 'POSTAGE' on the left side. This variety is unique to this stamp. The island north of Iceland in the left hemisphere is also unique, but is quite small.



Row 12/4

Again, there is not too much to help identify this stamp. The most prominent spot is likely to be cut off by the perforations in the top margin above the 'AL' of 'ZEAL'. There are lesser spots to look out for, but they need finding with the aid of a magnifying glass.



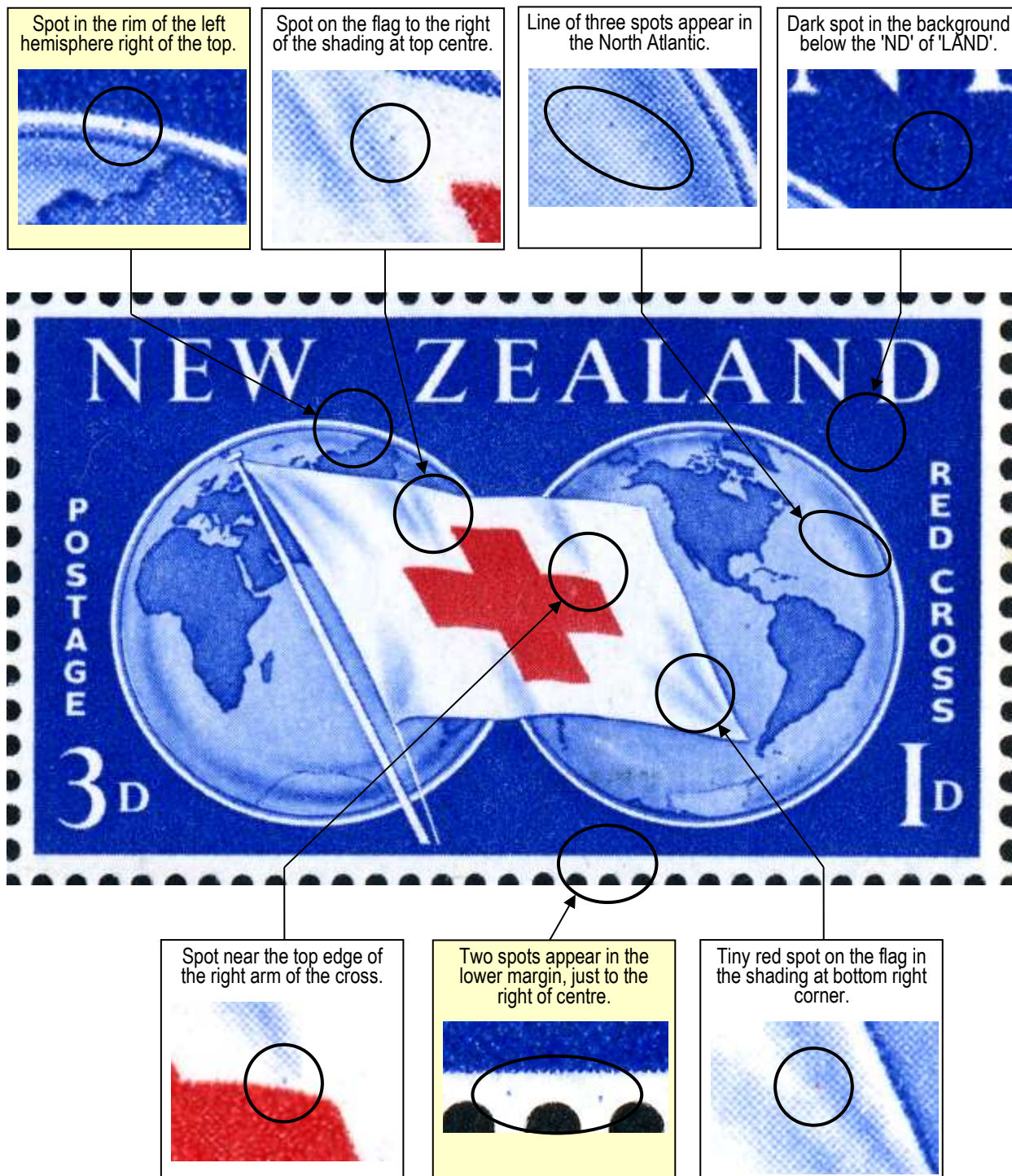
Row 12/5

There are numerous spots on this stamp, the two most readily noticed are, the one in the letter 'E' of 'ZEAL' and the prominent spot in the lower margin just to the right of centre. The red spot, even though it is unique to this stamp, may not show in the white area of the left leg of the 'A' of 'LAND' due to slight movements in the alignment of the two colours.



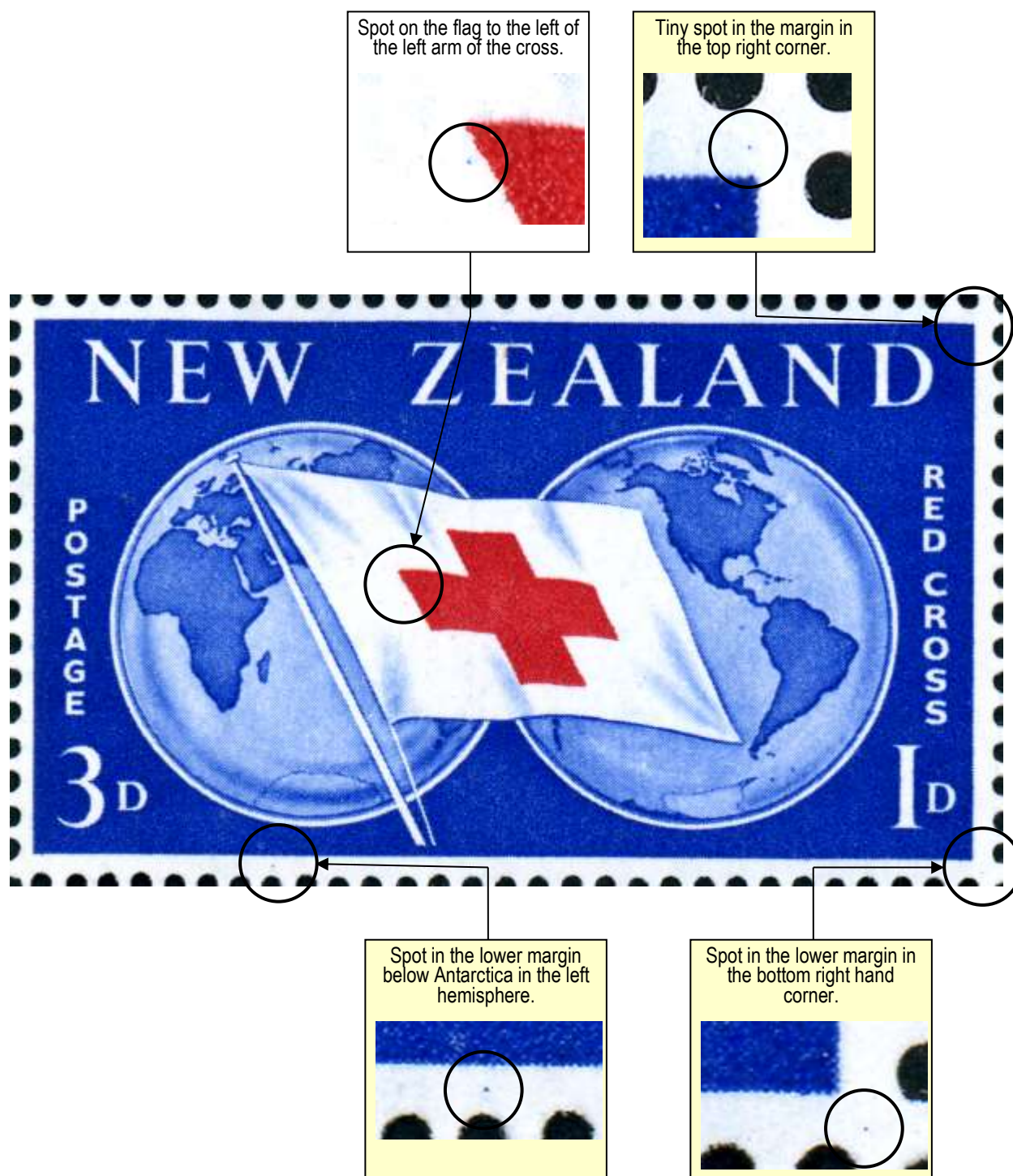
Row 12/6

Look for the two spots in the lower margin right of centre. They are prominent and unlikely to be cut off by the perforations. There are also a significant number of spots around this stamp, the one that is unique is that which appears in the white rim of the left hemisphere just to right of top centre. It will need a magnifying glass to detect it.



Row 13/1

Other than using the three marginal blue spots, there is little chance to plate this stamp. There are no significant varieties to show here.



Row 13/2

There are a multitude of spots on this stamp the most prominent of which is the spot on the flag in the shading at top right. Use this in combination with others to identify this stamp.

There is a group of spots in the Pacific worthy of mention. There are at least five significant spots and a few lesser spots in this area alone. It appears that some effort has been made to eliminate some of these spots, as in later sheets there are white spots where once they were blue.



Row 13/3

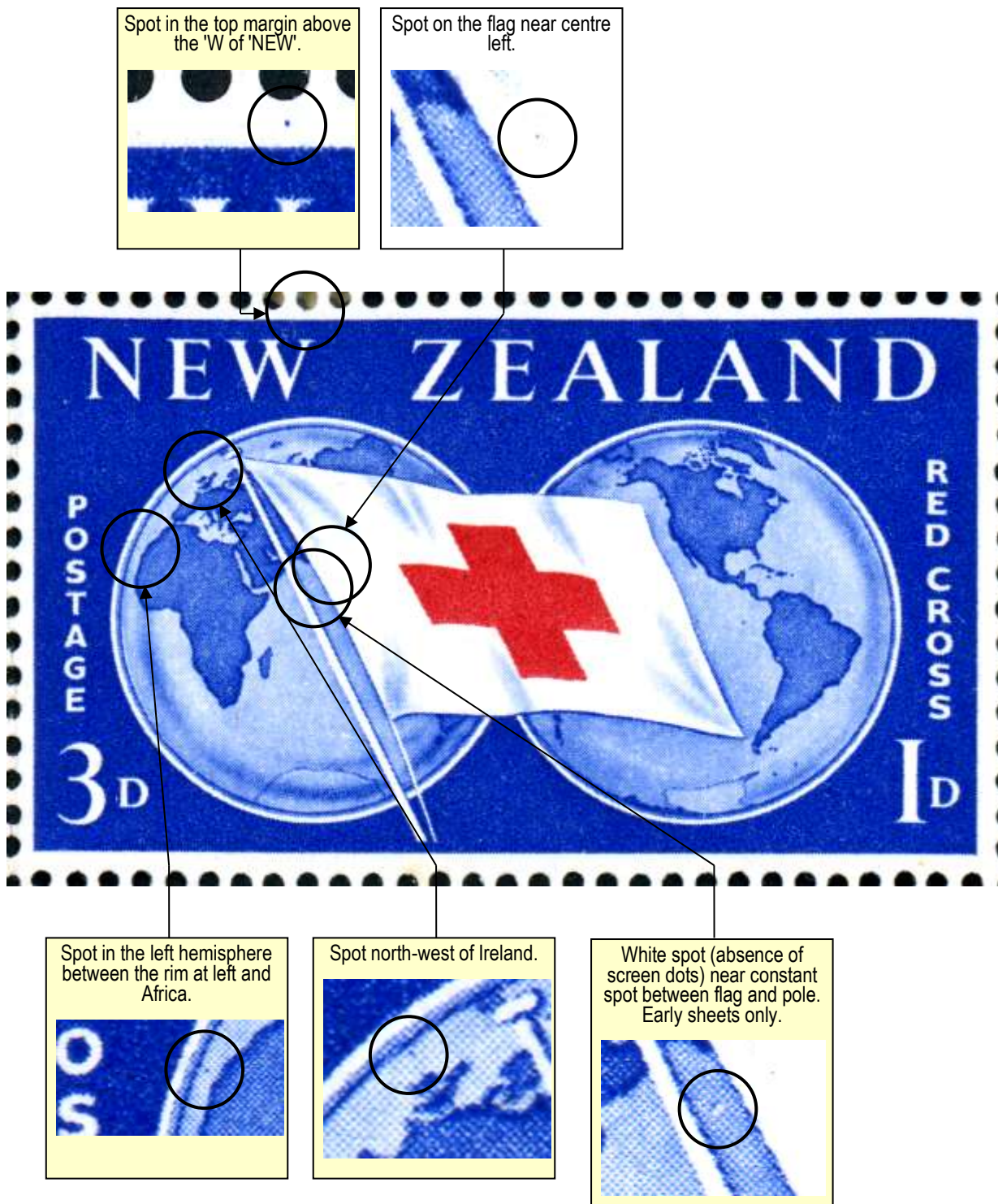
Although there are a significant number of spots on this stamp, they are of an insignificant nature. The only variety of merit is the additional island off the coast of Siberia in the top left of the right hemisphere. This spot is quite large, but is lost against the dark blue background. There is also a small spot in the top margin near the edge of the stamp in the top right corner. Marginal spots are quite visual against the white background.



Row 13/4

Look for the obvious spot above the right leg of the 'W' of 'NEW' in the top margin, if it has not been cut off by the perforations. There are also two spots in the left hemisphere that are prominent to this stamp. There is a spot between the rim at left and Africa at the narrowest gap, this is unique here. The second is a tiny spot north west of Ireland in the North Atlantic, similar to a spot that appears on stamp at row 15/5. Both are relatively obvious, but you need a magnifying glass to see them.

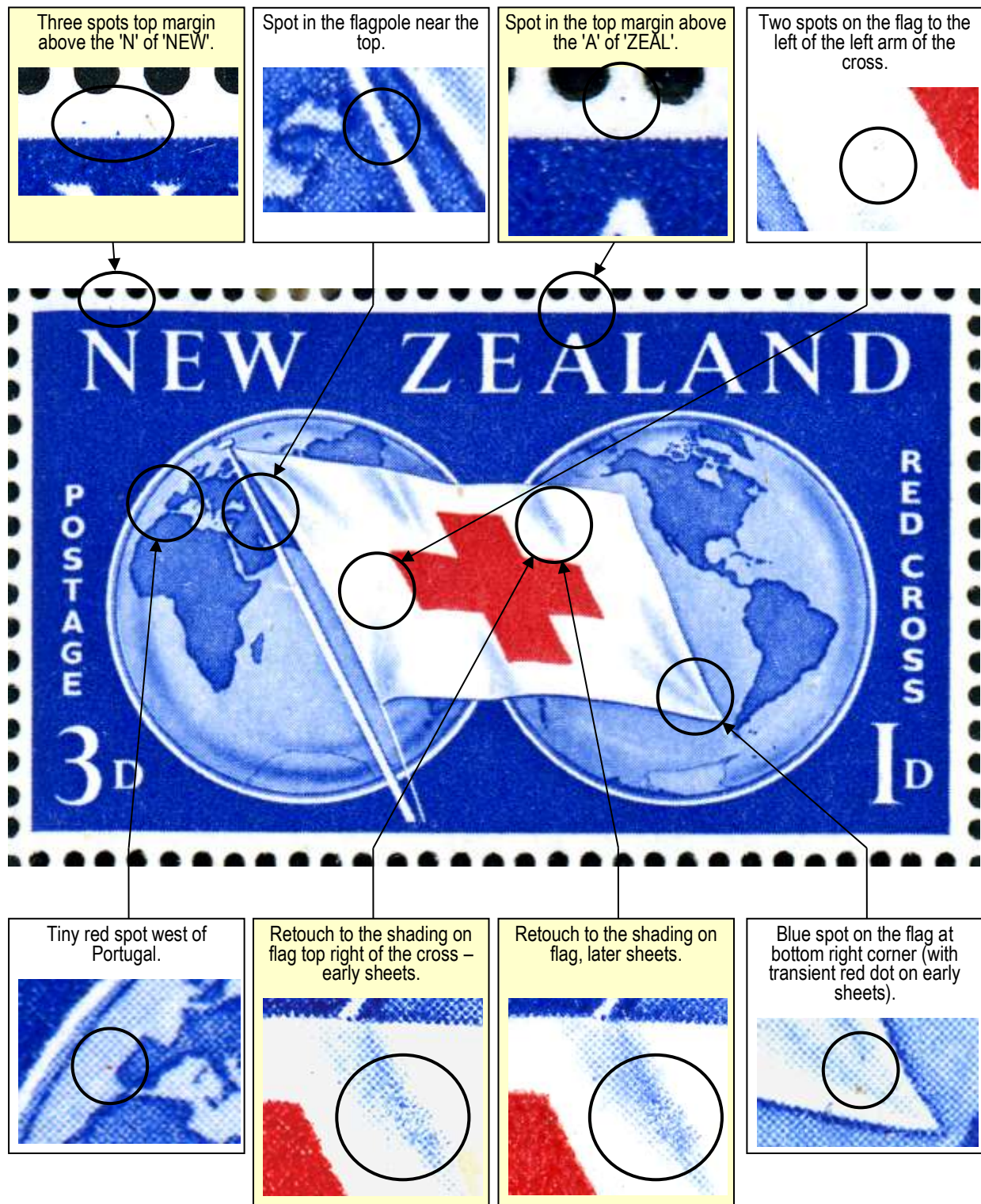
On early sheets there is a white spot in between the flag and flagpole near the site of the constant spot. In later sheets this is normal. This white spot is an omission of the blue screen dots at that point.



Row 13/5

This stamp is unique, showing a retouch to the shading on the flag top right of the cross. This appeared very early in the life of this stamp, prior to the flaw on stamp row 13/6. It is likely that the retouch was necessary to correct missing lines of shading that caused a white patch on the flag.

There are other significant and unique spots on the stamp, those in the top margin are the most obvious, especially the three spots above the 'N' of 'NEW'. The tiny red spot on the west coast of Portugal is often difficult to see, as the registration of the blue and red colours may have the spot on the land.



Row 13/6

This is an unmistakable stamp in both flawed and retouched state and is the one that is listed in many catalogues, as *the* variety in this issue. There are many unique scratches only one of which received attention. The vertical scratch at the bottom right corner of the stamp was retouched early in the life of the stamp and in either state is easily recognised (See Major Varieties earlier). There is also a curved scratch on the top left hand corner of the flag that did not receive attention, nor did the small vertical scratches in the bottom centre of the stamp running into the lower margin. It is interesting to see that at the left end of the curved scratch, the lower blue spot on later sheets is replaced by a white spot.



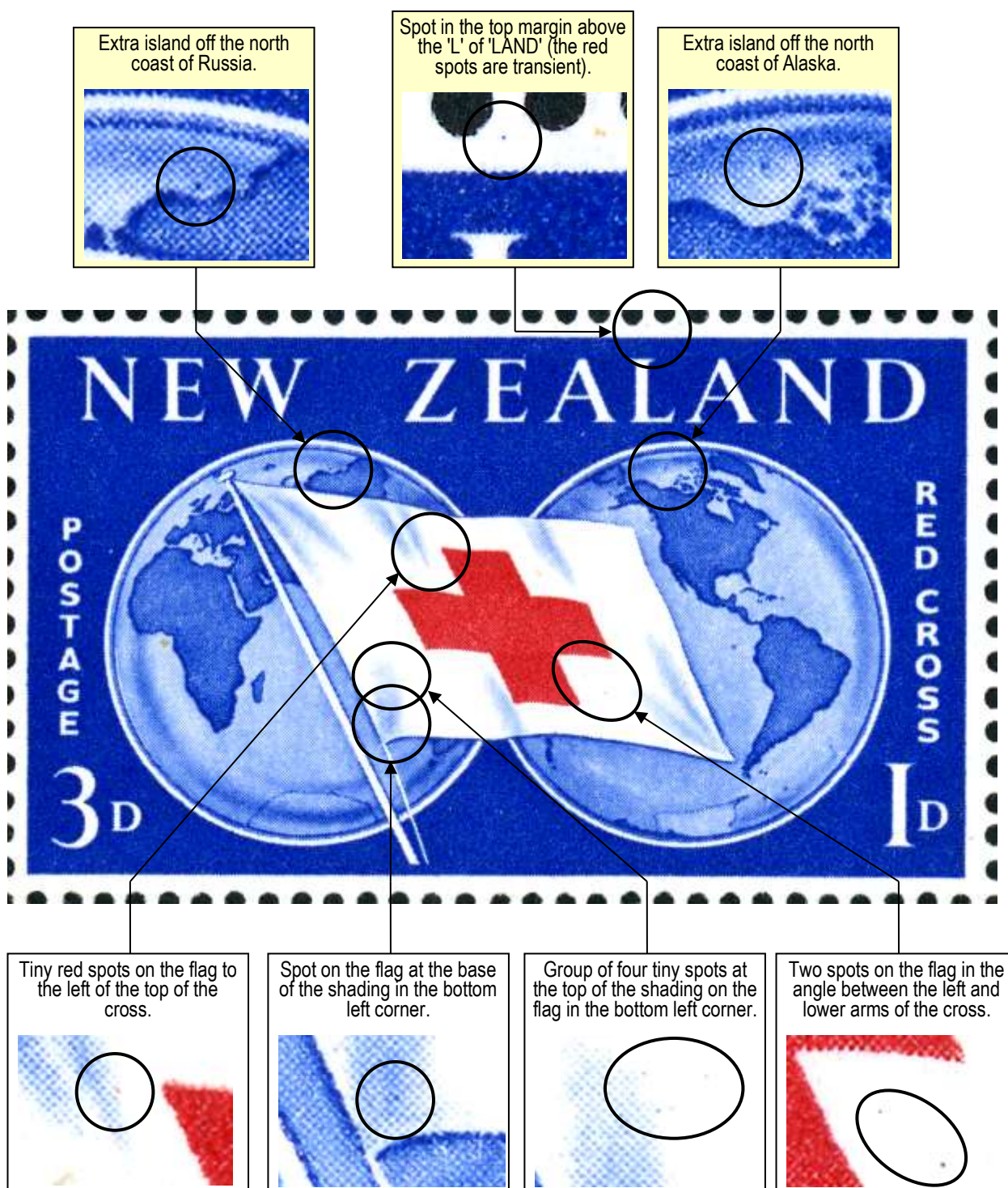
Row 14/1

The most notable variety of this stamp is the blue spot that appears in the diagonal of the 'N' of 'NEW'. This is an obvious variety to the naked eye. Also look for the group of red spots that appears in the rim of the right hemisphere as it appears from behind the flag. This has four tiny red spots and its position will vary slightly with the registration of the two colours. There are a number of other blue spots to be used to confirm this stamp.



Row 14/2

There are numerous small spots on the flag but are too insignificant to readily identify this stamp. Look for the spot in the top margin above the 'L' of 'LAND', and the two additional islands that appear, one in each hemisphere, not too far from the North Pole in each case.



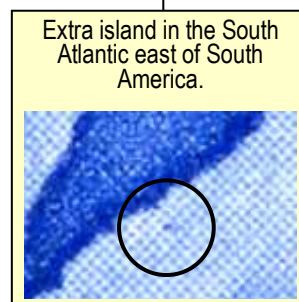
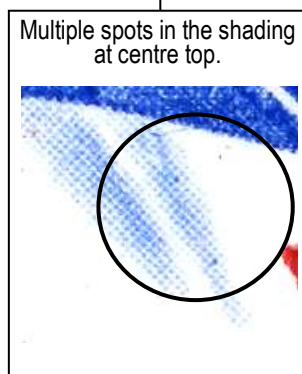
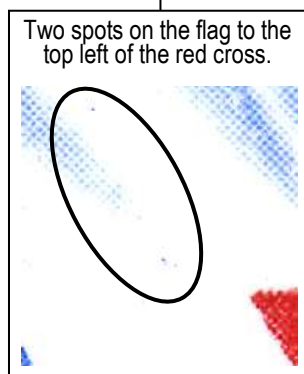
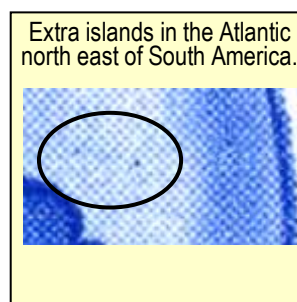
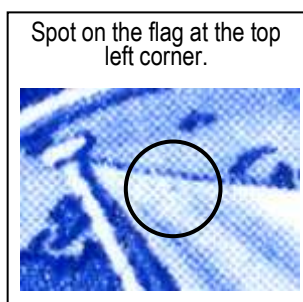
Row 14/3

There is a prominent spot in the lower margin bottom right of the base of the flagpole. There is also a unique spot in the lower part of the diagonal of the 'Z' of 'ZEALAND' (close to a similar spot on row 11/3), although this is quite small. There is also an interesting scratch in the Atlantic, south-west of the UK that stretches the screen dots at this position.



Row 14/4

There are multiple spots that appear on this stamp, but none that is significant enough to stand out from the rest. To distinguish this stamp, look for the two small islands that appear in the Atlantic, one off the north-east coast and one off the east coast, of South America. These are not obvious and will need the aid of a magnifying glass.



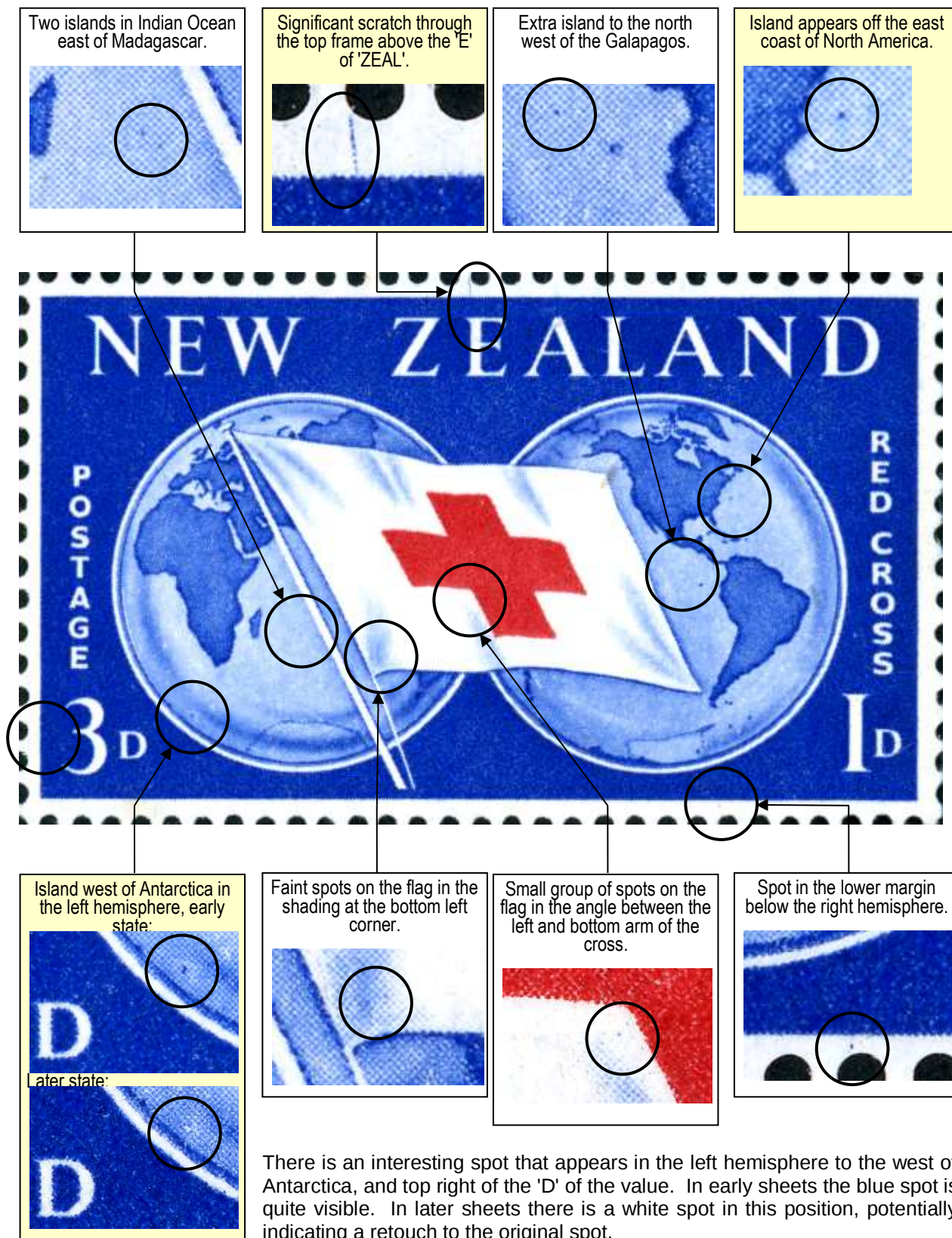
Row 14/5

There is a distinctive spot in the margin in the bottom left corner. There is also a large red spot in the right hemisphere to the west of New Zealand (the exact position varies in relation to the registration of the two colours). These two varieties will clearly identify this stamp. Other spots can be used to verify the position. The vertical scratch to the east of Madagascar is quite faint, but is constant.



Row 14/6

There is a unique near vertical line that appears in the top margin above the 'E' of 'ZEAL', bold enough to be seen with the naked eye. This looks like a continuation of the scratches that are found in the lower margin of row 13/6. This is enough to clearly identify this stamp. There are however a good quantity of tiny spots that will aid identification (but none is necessary).



Row 15/1

The most significant variety of this stamp is the extra island that appears in the Falklands group. There are similar 'additional islands' in the Falklands that affect other stamps on the sheet and in this example the additional island is near the east coast of Antarctica. (In itself, this is just an extra spot like many others, but its position makes it important).

There are other spots on this stamp that can be used to verify this stamp.



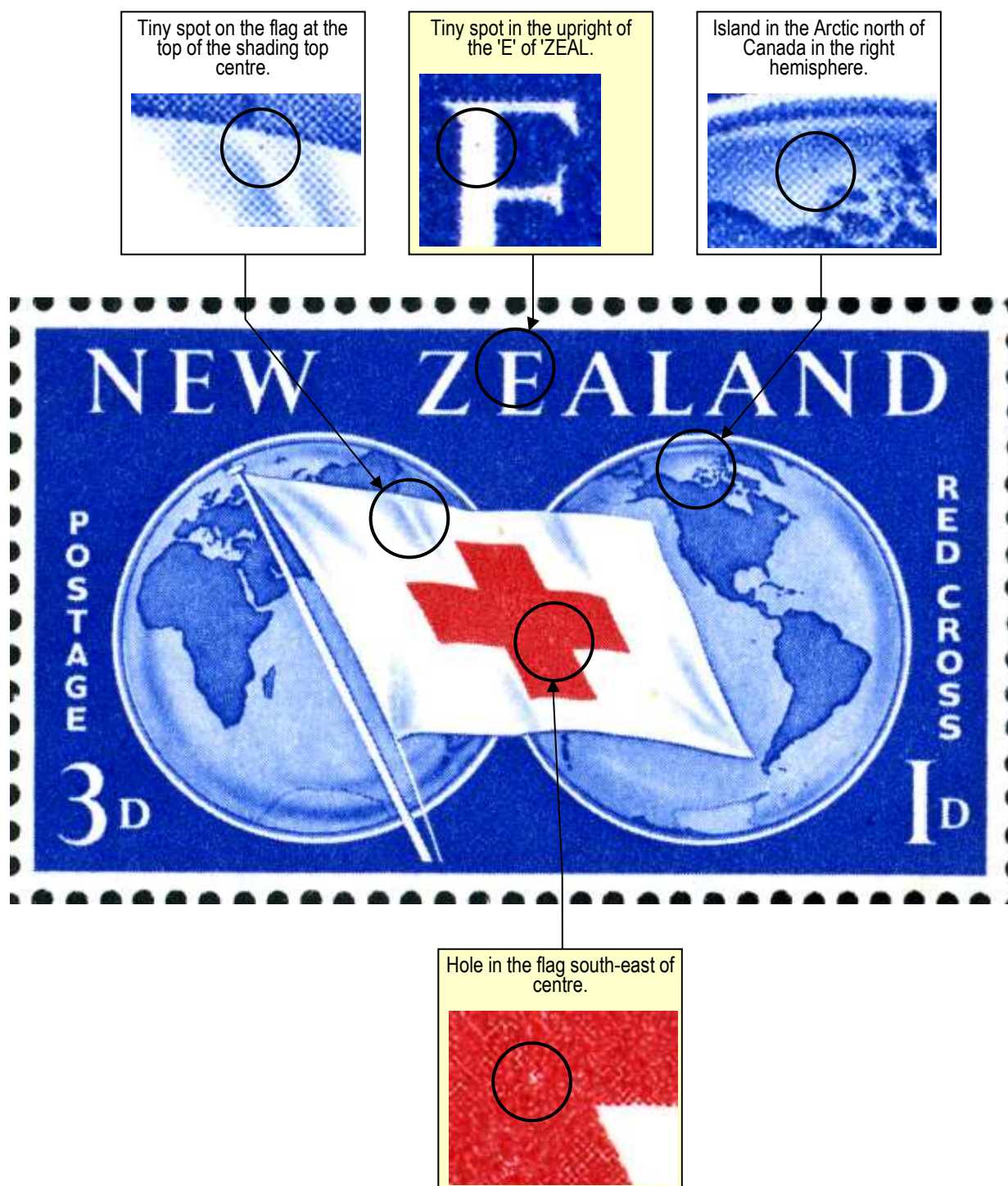
Row 15/2

There is a unique variety that appears as a horizontal line across the top of the 'A' of 'LAND'. It is quite close to the top of the letter and may not be distinguished by the naked eye. There is also a significant spot, or smudge, that appears in the lower margin below the base of the flagpole. The flaw varies in intensity and is very close to the perforations, so that in some sheets it may be cut off.



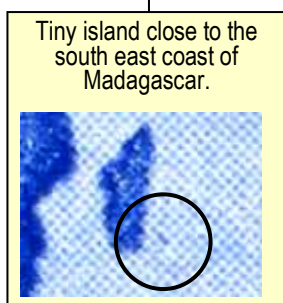
Row 15/3

There is a tiny blue spot in the upright of the 'E' of 'ZEAL' that needs a magnifying glass to see accurately. There is also a tiny red spot in the same letter, near the end of the centre horizontal arm, but in many examples it appears in the blue background and is lost. The hole near the centre of the flag is also tiny, but is also constant and unique.



Row 15/4

Care needs to be taken to identify the stamp as there is nothing really unique about the stamp. The red spot in Africa is the main distinguishing feature, but even that is quite hard to locate on some examples.



Row 15/5

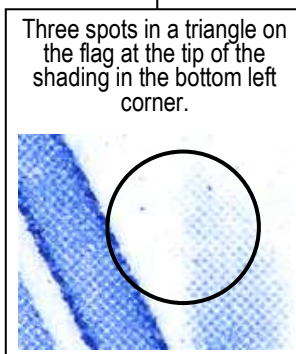
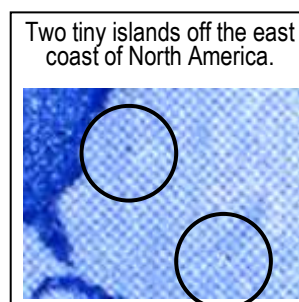
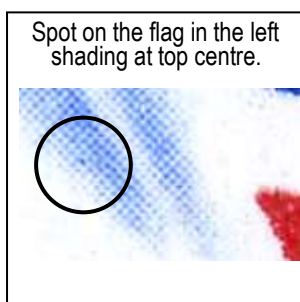
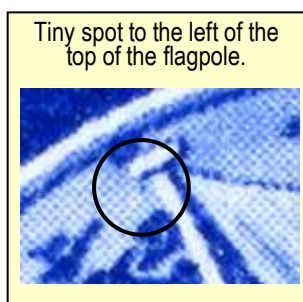
There is much to distinguish this stamp. The most unique feature, albeit not the most prominent, is the disturbance to the south east of South Africa in the left hemisphere. This has the appearance of a retouch (by the irregular placement of screen spots at this point) perhaps to correct a white area at this point. (No examples have been seen in a flawed state).

There are also two additional islands, prominent on this stamp. One is an island off the coast of Ireland in the left hemisphere (similar to row 13/4), whilst the second is a prominent island south east of New Zealand in the right hemisphere.



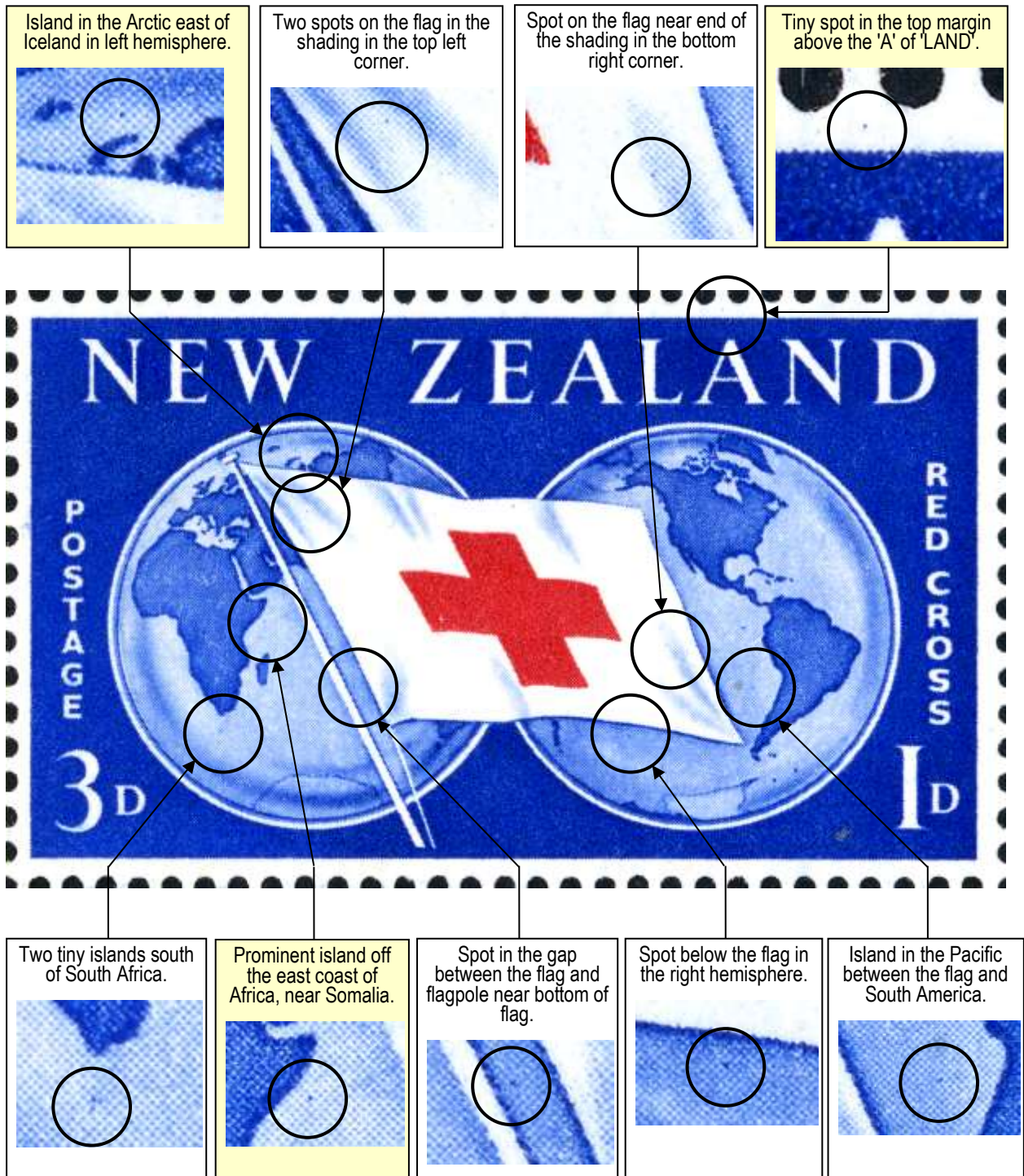
Row 15/6

Although there are ample varieties to identify this stamp, they are quite small and can easily be confused with the myriad of similar examples on other stamps. Look for the spot to the left of the top of the flagpole, and the three spots that form a triangle at the top of the shading on the flag at the bottom left corner.



Row 16/1

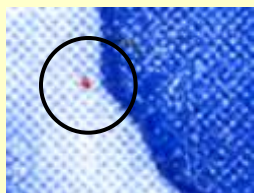
Again there are a multitude of spots to find that will require close examination. There are more prominent spots in the left hemisphere, one in the Arctic east of Iceland, and a second off the coast of Somalia, Africa. These are unique to this stamp at these positions. Look out for the tiny spot in the top selvage above the apex of the 'A' of 'LAND'.



Row 16/2

The only prominent variety on this stamp is the presence of a significant red spot near the west coast of Africa. Its exact position will vary with the registration of the two colours and may appear on the coast or just out to sea. There is little else to distinguish this stamp, but none is really necessary. The red spot is unique and eye visible.

Prominent red spot near the west coast of South Africa in the left hemisphere.



There is a small spot near the left edge of the flagpole near its centre.



Faint spots in the gap between flag and flagpole by the top of the shading bottom left corner.



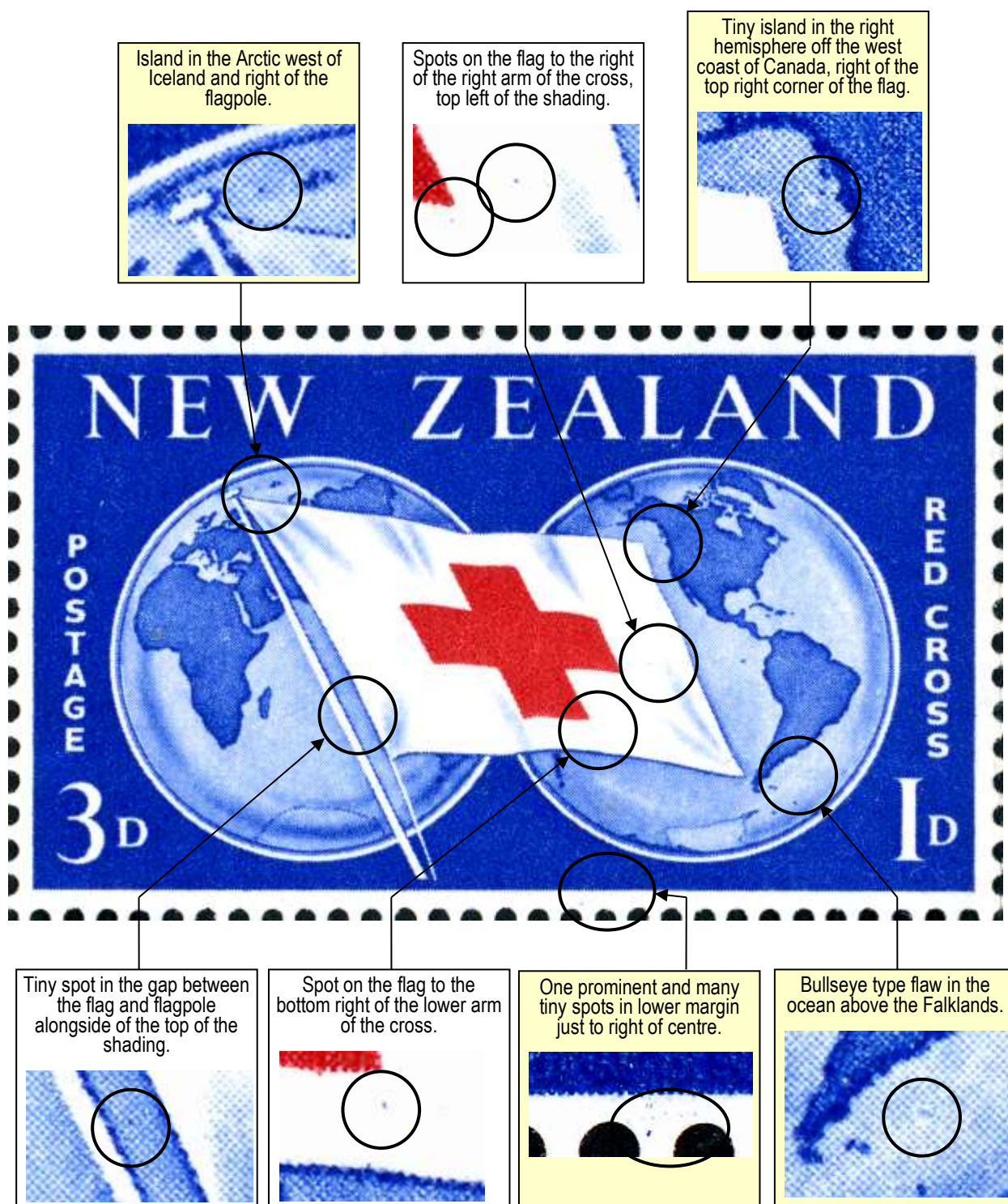
Spot on the flag below the shading in the bottom right corner.



Row 16/3

There is an interesting flaw that appears in the right hemisphere in the ocean just above the Falkland Islands. It gives the impression of a bullseye flaw, a central blue patch surrounded by a white circle. Given this method of printing, it is likely to be a retouch to a flaw at this position. The variety is interesting but not too prominent.

To distinguish this stamp readily, there are a number of prominent spots to look for, one appearing in the lower margin just to right of centre (that appears with a number of much smaller spots above and to the right) and as islands by Iceland and Canada.



Row 16/4

There is little to differentiate this stamp and what there is may be covered or cut off. There is a small group of red spots in the extreme top right corner of the margin which on some examples are cut off by the perforations. There is also a blue spot on the flag adjacent to the left edge of the left arm of the cross, which because of the colour registration may be overlaid by the red colour.

The interesting spot in the ocean near the lower right edge of the flag has a blue spot with a missing screen dot above. This is unique, but needs very close examination to confirm it.

Tiny spot on the flag to the left of the left arm of the cross (may be in the red area on some examples).



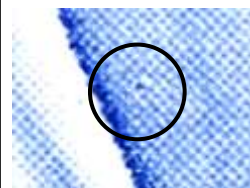
Two adjacent red spots appear in the extreme top right corner of the stamp in the margin.



A number of tiny spots appear on the flag at the end of the shaded area in the bottom right corner.

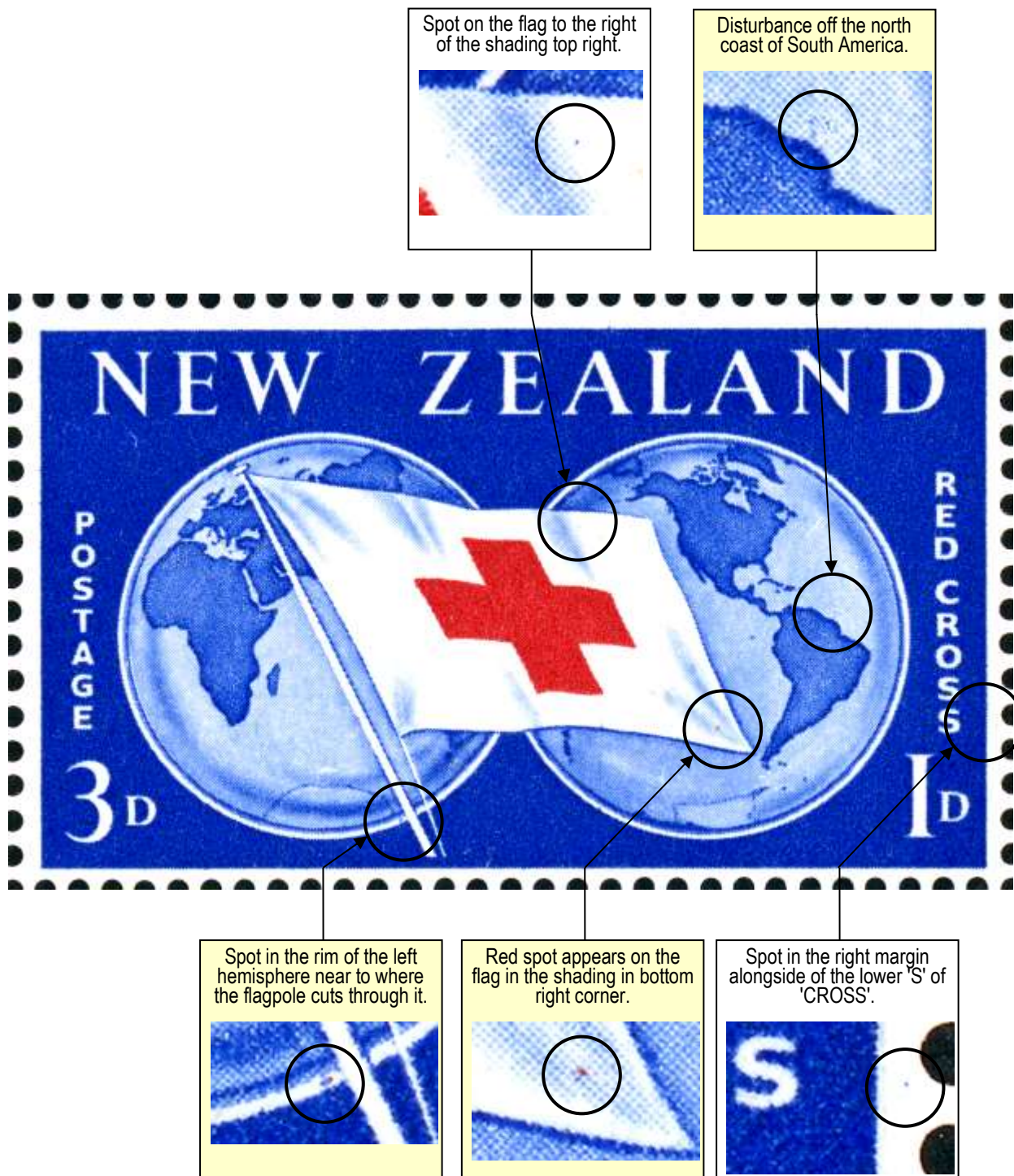


Spot in the ocean to the right of the right edge of the flag.



Row 16/5

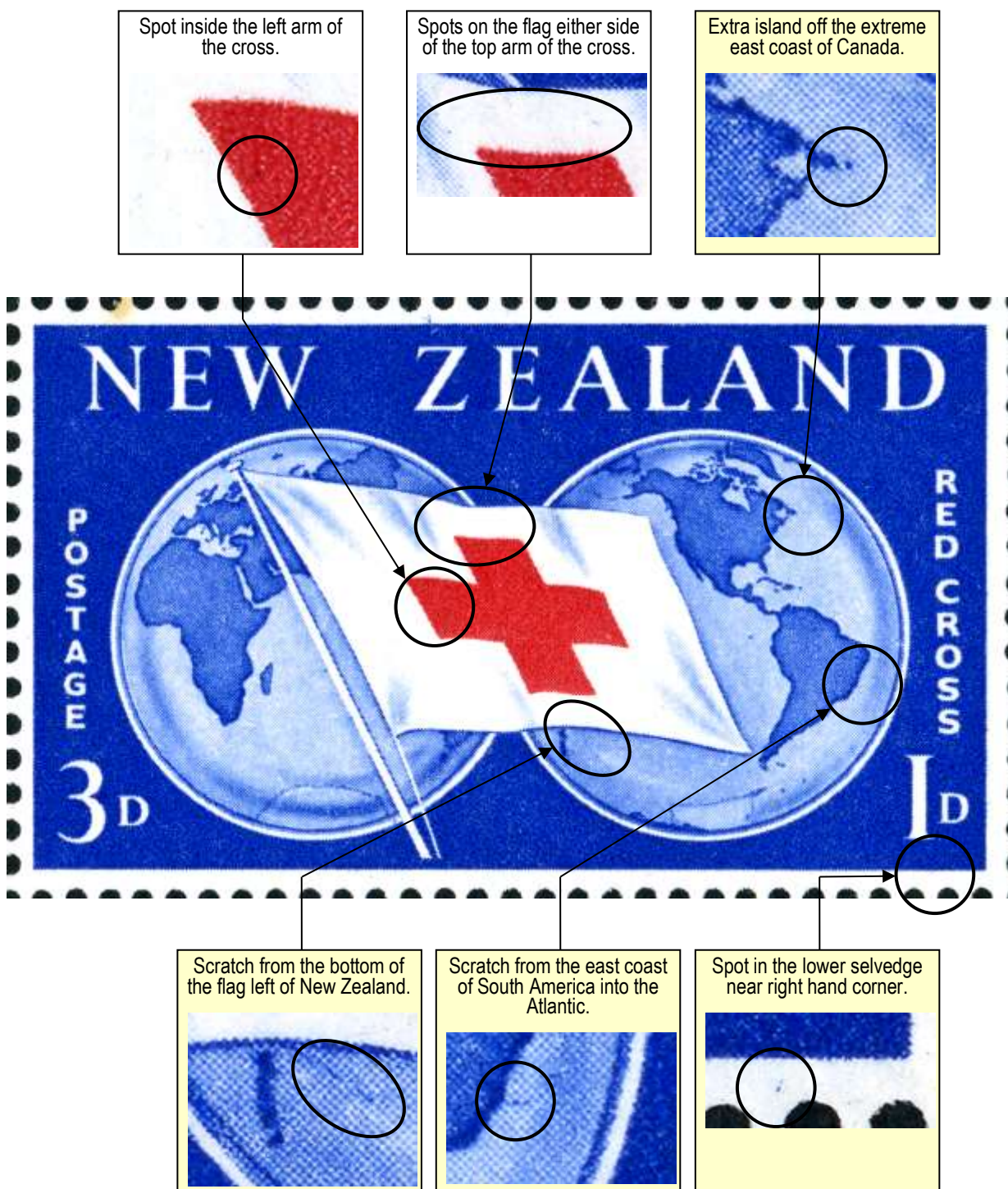
There are two unique varieties on this stamp. There is a significant red spot on the flag at the lower right hand corner amongst the blue shading. The spot does differ in intensity, but is relatively obvious. There is a second feature as an elongated spot in the rim of the left hemisphere, to the left of where the flagpole travels through the rim. In some instances, there is a red spot near the right hand side of the blue spot, elongating it even more. There is also a disturbance in the ocean off the north coast of South America that appears as extraneous small spots, could be a small retouch perhaps.



Row 16/6

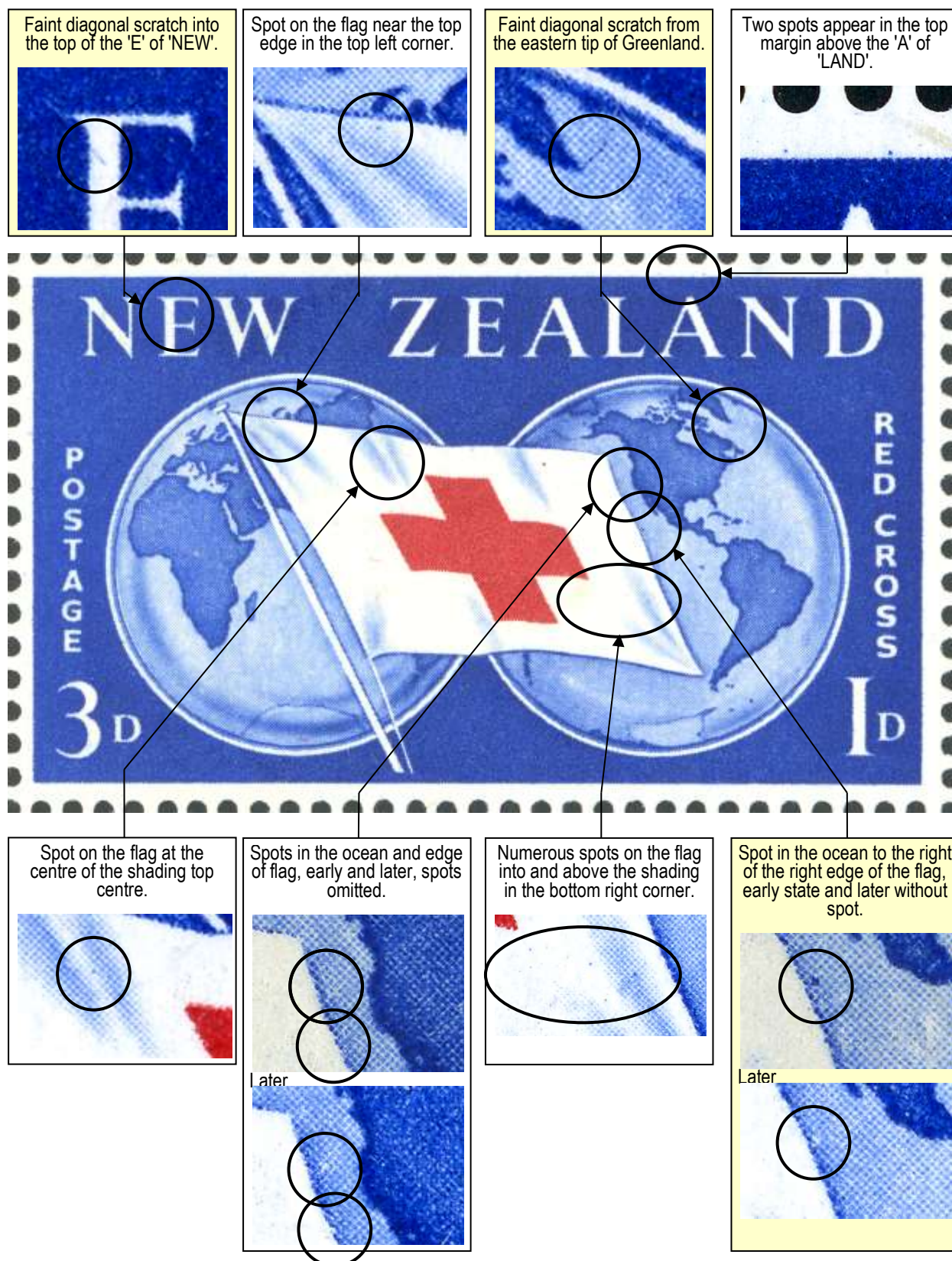
There are two unique 'scratches' on this stamp that will enable quick identification of this plate position. There is a diagonal scratch in the right hemisphere from the bottom of the flag into the Pacific east of New Zealand. There is a second scratch from mid South America into the Atlantic. Such scratches are not found on any other stamp in the sheet.

There is also a significant spot appearing as an island at the extreme east coast of Canada. The size and position of this variety makes it look like part of the design.



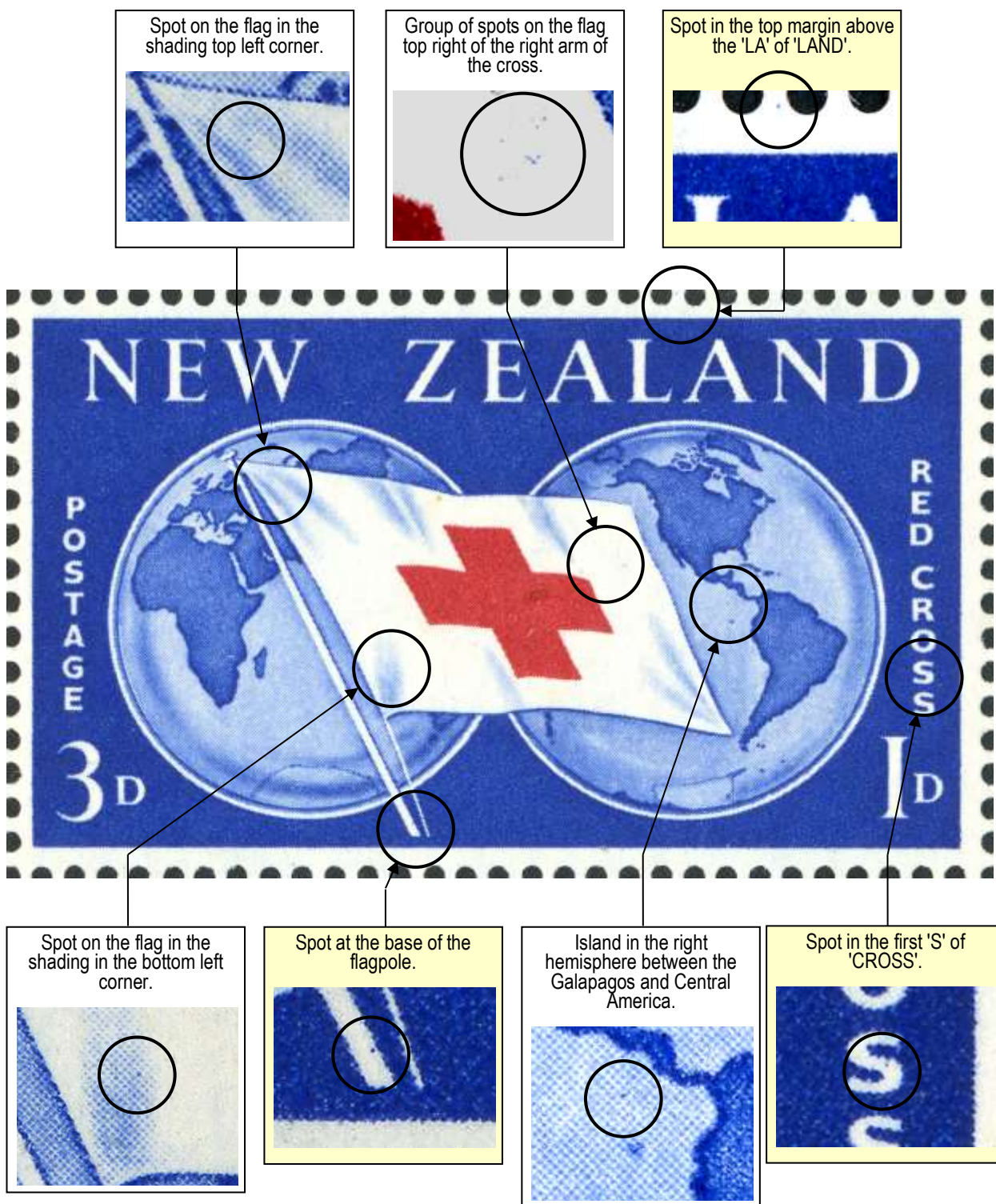
Row 17/1

There are a number of unique features on this stamp to readily identify it. There are two faint diagonal scratches to be found, one in the top of the 'E' of 'NEW' and the second attached to the far eastern edge of Greenland. Both are faint and require the use of a magnifying glass. Also look for the two spots in the top margin above the 'A' of 'LAND'. This stamp appears to have received attention in that faint spots on the right edge or near to the edge of the flag appear as white spots in later sheets, retouching?



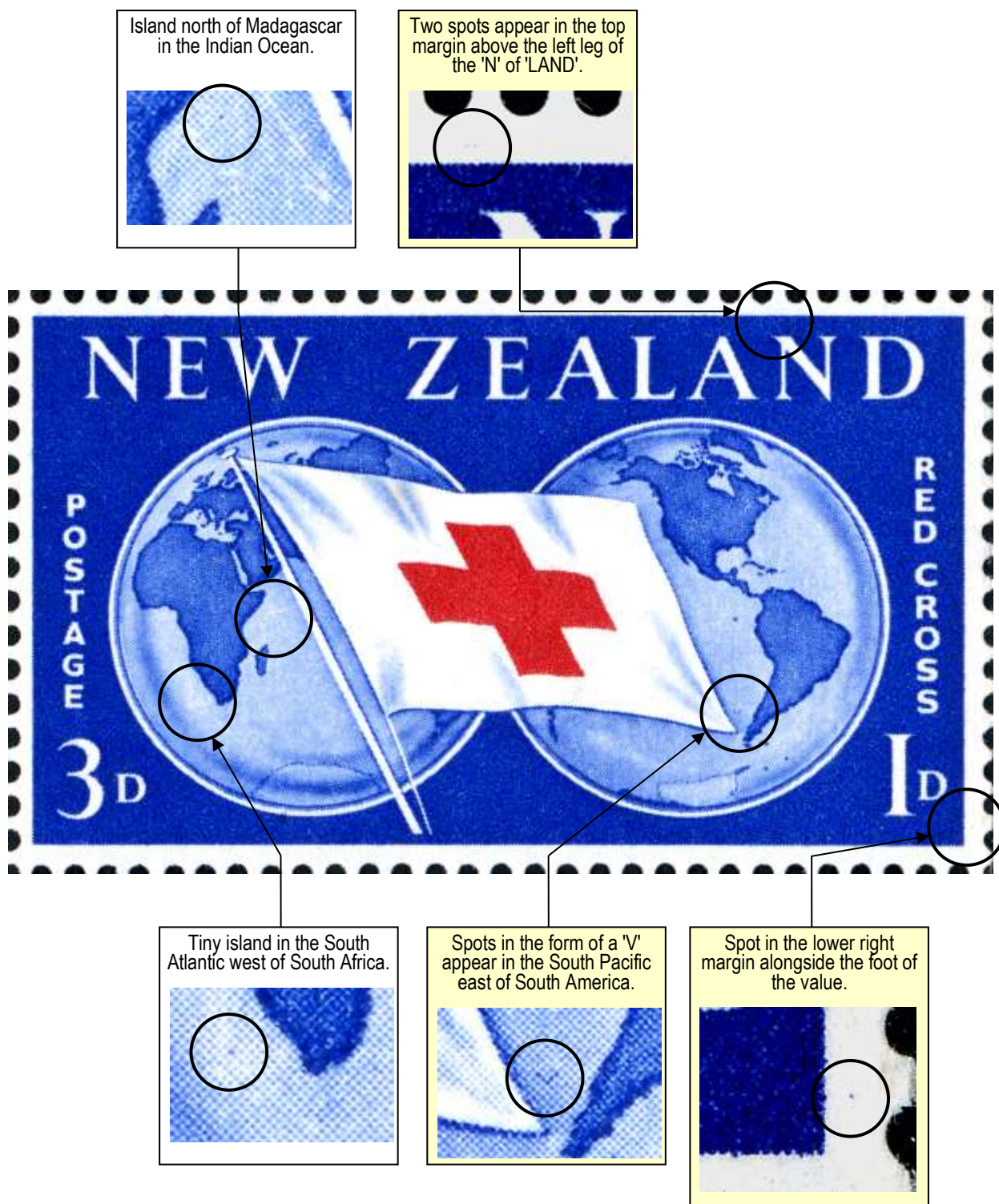
Row 17/2

There are a number of unique spots on this stamp. Look for the spot in the top margin between the 'A' and 'L' of 'LAND' almost cut off by the perforations. Also, there are spots in the flagpole near its base and a faint spot in the central curve of the first 'S' of 'CROSS' on the right hand side of the stamp. There is also a group of faint spots on the flag to the top right of the right arm of the cross. These are really tiny and need to be viewed using a magnifying glass.



Row 17/3

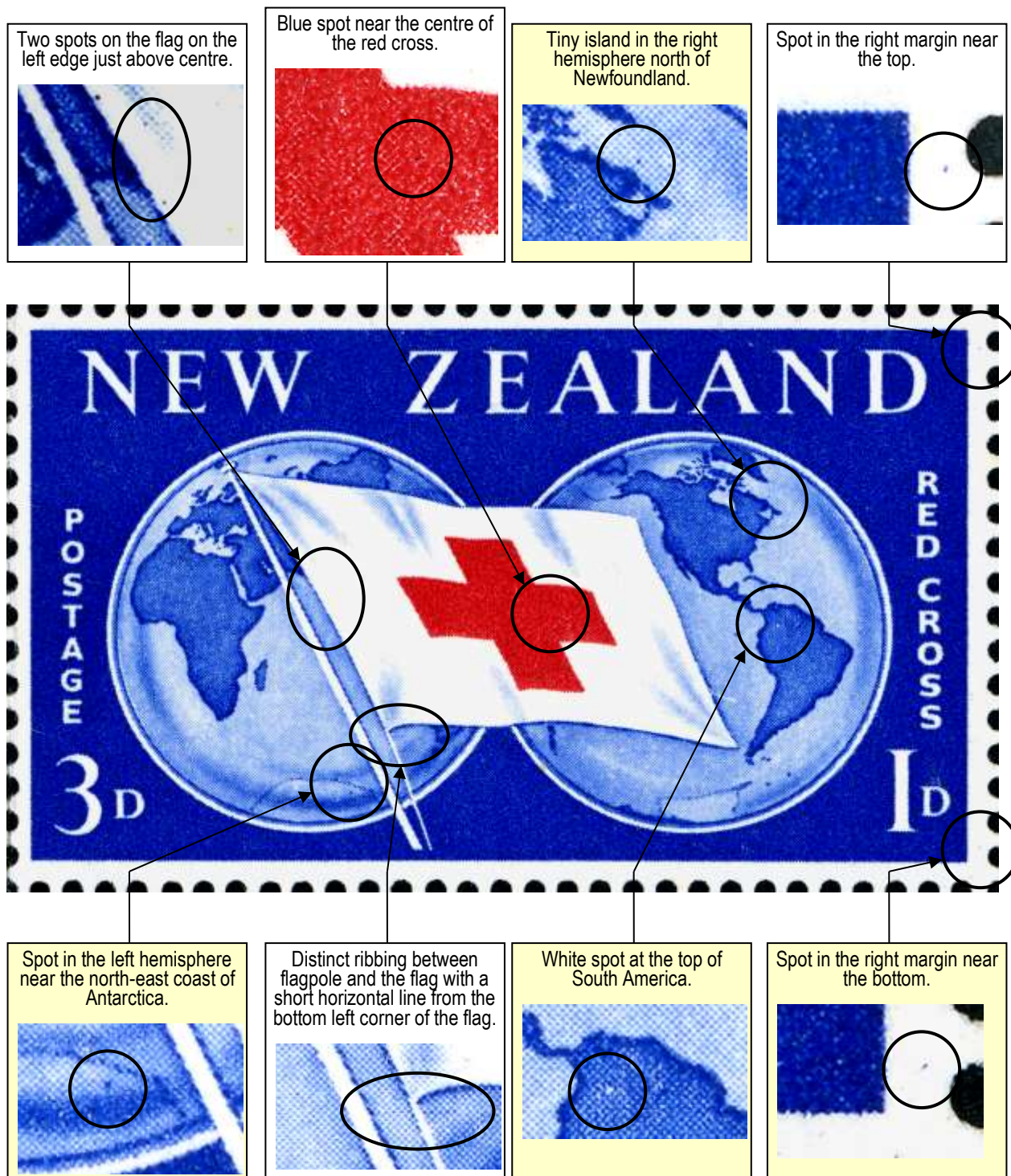
There is a unique formation of small spots in the South Pacific in the right hemisphere (near the bottom right corner of the flag) that looks like a 'V'. There is nothing else like it on the sheet. The marginal spots will need the aid of a magnifying glass to see them. There are other small 'islands' in the left hemisphere that will aid the confirmation of this stamp.



Row 17/4

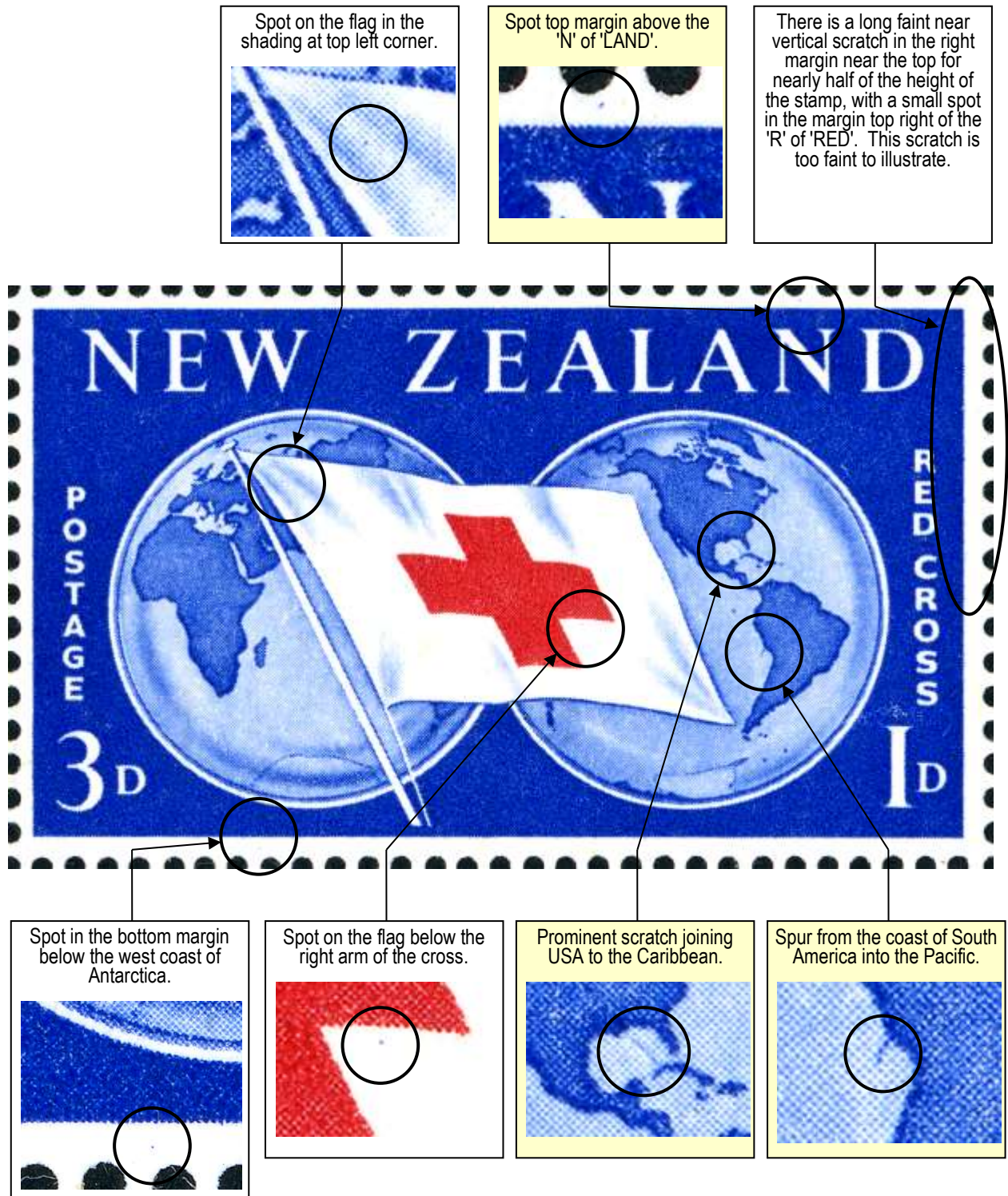
Look for the distinctive spot near the east coast of Antarctica in the left hemisphere, this is quite prominent. There is also a prominent island off the north coast of Newfoundland in the right hemisphere. The two spots in the right margin are quite faint and may be overlooked.

On many examples there is quite distinct ribbing of the blue background between the flagpole and the flag, with some showing what looks like horizontal lines, especially below the corner of the flag.



Row 17/5

This stamp has two examples of prominent scratches affecting the right hemisphere. There is a diagonal line that joins the USA to Cuba in the Caribbean (bridge to Cuba), and a second short diagonal spur from South America into the Pacific. These are unique and readily identify this stamp. There is a third scratch that appears on this stamp to be found in the right margin, stretching from the top to below half way down the margin. The line is very fine and very faint, needing good sunlight and a magnifying glass to see it. It is constant and is not a doctor blade line.



Row 17/6

There are a few unique features of this stamp to examine. Look for the small curved line that appears in the shading on the flag at lower centre. There is also a short diagonal line appearing in the South Pacific (right hemisphere) between New Zealand and Antarctica – this joins a number of screen dots. There are also a group of prominent spots on the flag at the top right of the right arm of the cross. Normally such spots are insignificant, but these are much more prominent.

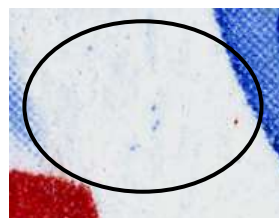
Short curved line appears on the flag in the shading at the bottom centre.



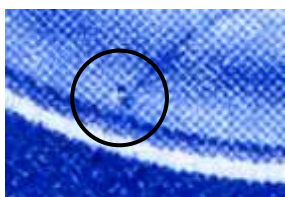
Short diagonal line in the South Pacific between NZ and Antarctica.



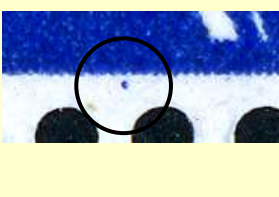
Multiple prominent spots on the flag to the top right of the right arm of the cross.



Spot near the west coast of Antarctica as it meets the rim of the left hemisphere.



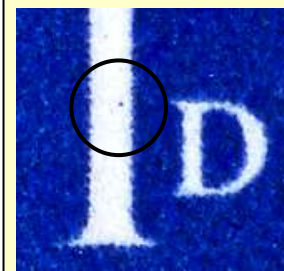
Spot in the lower margin to the left of the foot of the flagpole.



Spot near the west coast of Antarctica in the right hemisphere.

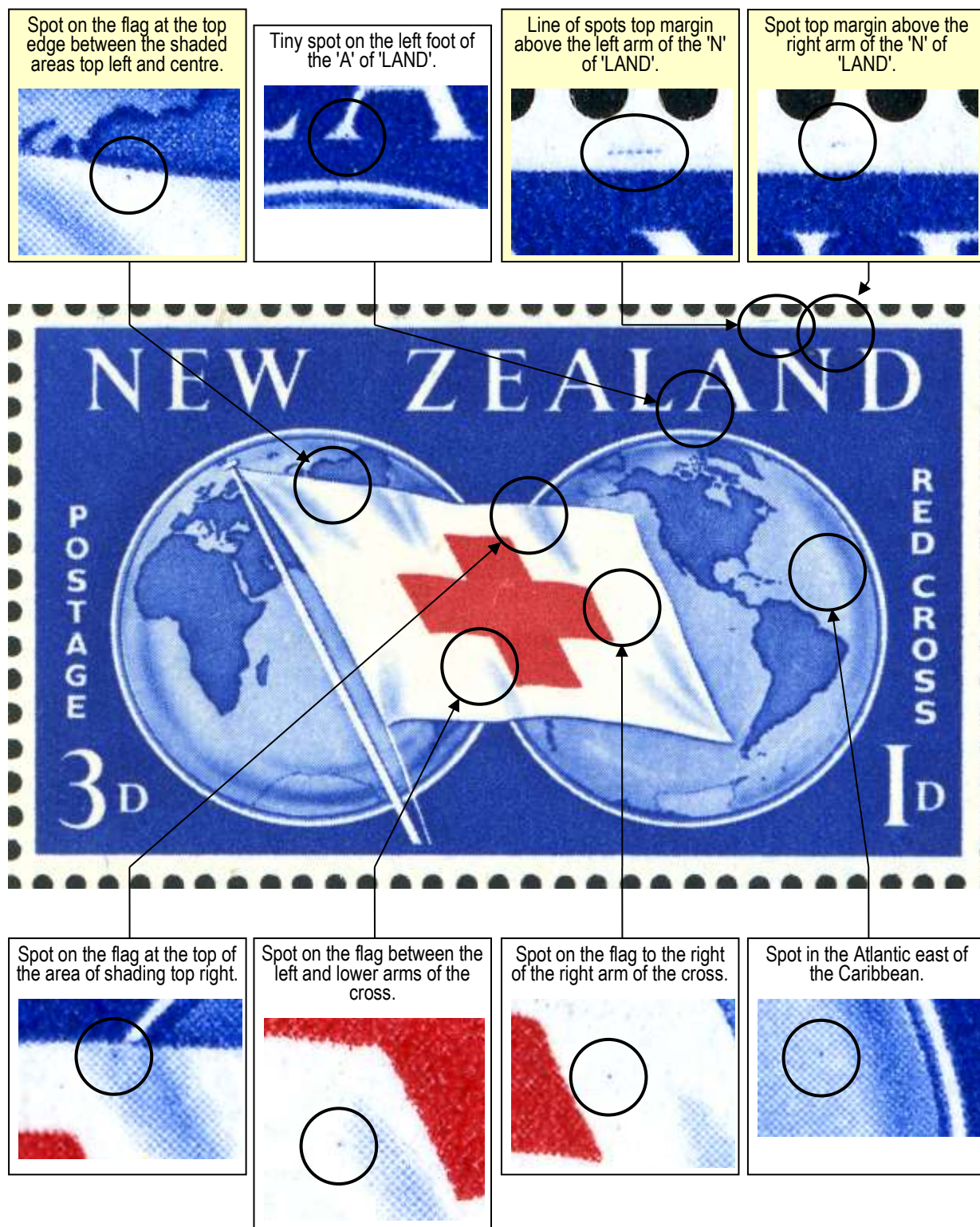


Spot at the centre of the 'I' of the value on the right side.



Row 18/1

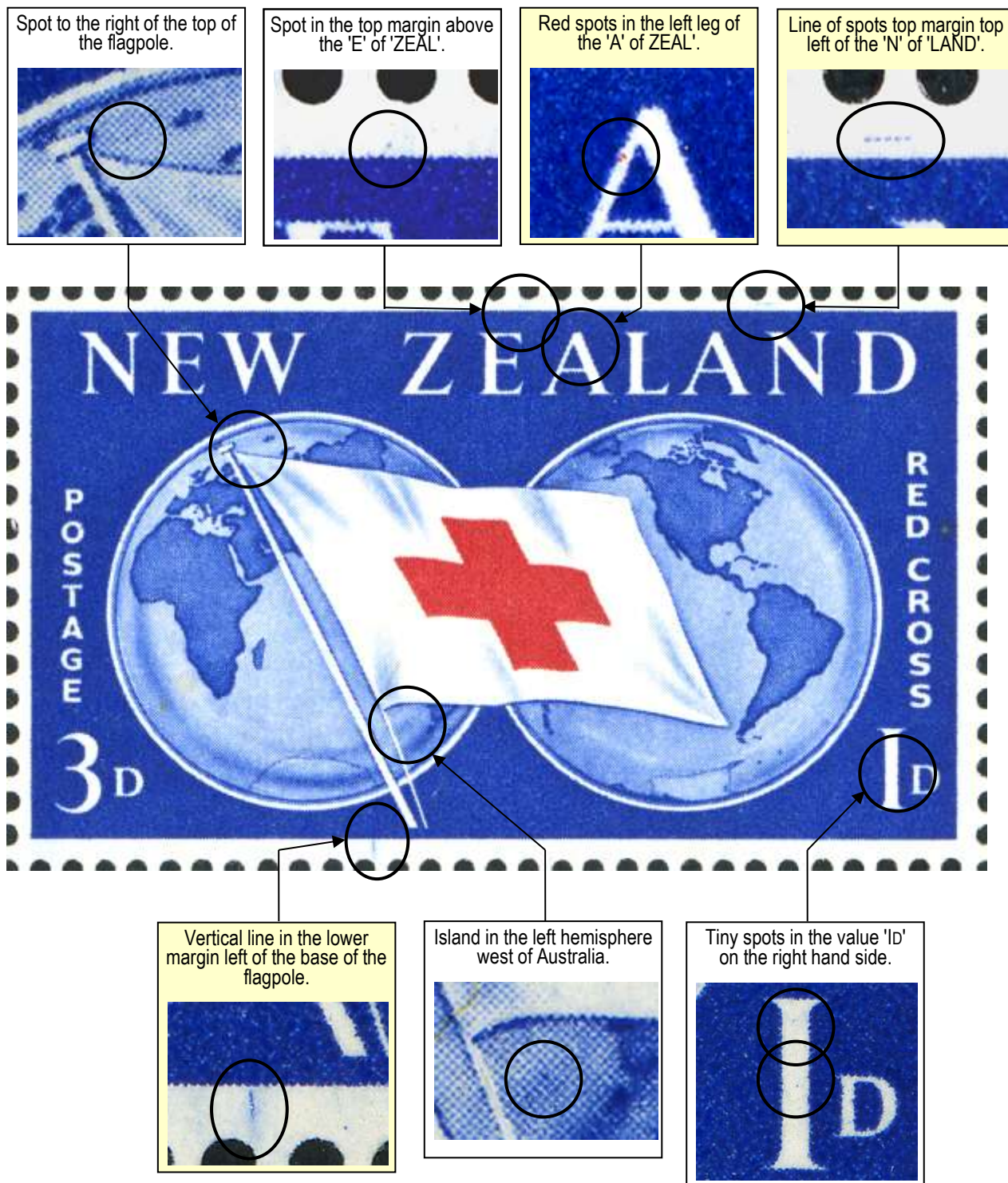
The most notable variety of this stamp is the line of spots that appear in the top margin above the 'N' of 'LAND'. Take care as there are a number of similar examples elsewhere on the sheet, perhaps not as pronounced. Confirm this sheet position based on other varieties to be found. Look for an adjacent spot above the right leg of the 'N' of 'LAND'. There is also a prominent spot on the top edge of the flag in the shading top right adjacent to the end of the rim.



Row 18/2

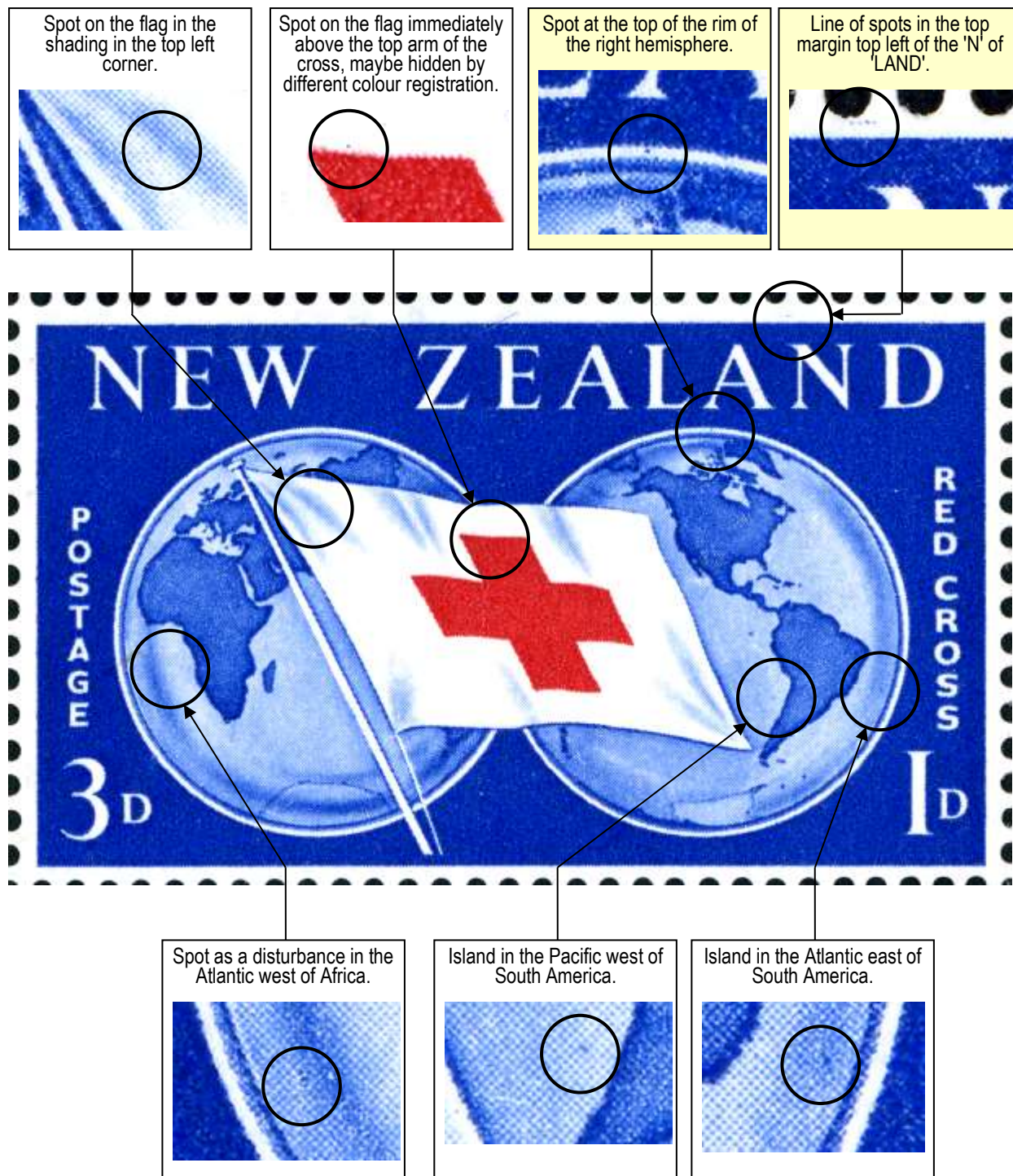
The most notable variety on this stamp is the short vertical line that appears in the lower margin to the left of the base of the flagpole. This line is surrounded by a pale blue 'wash' as if the variety is smudged. The variety is unique to this stamp.

Note that this is one of the examples where there is a line of spots in the top margin above the left leg of the 'N' of 'LAND'.



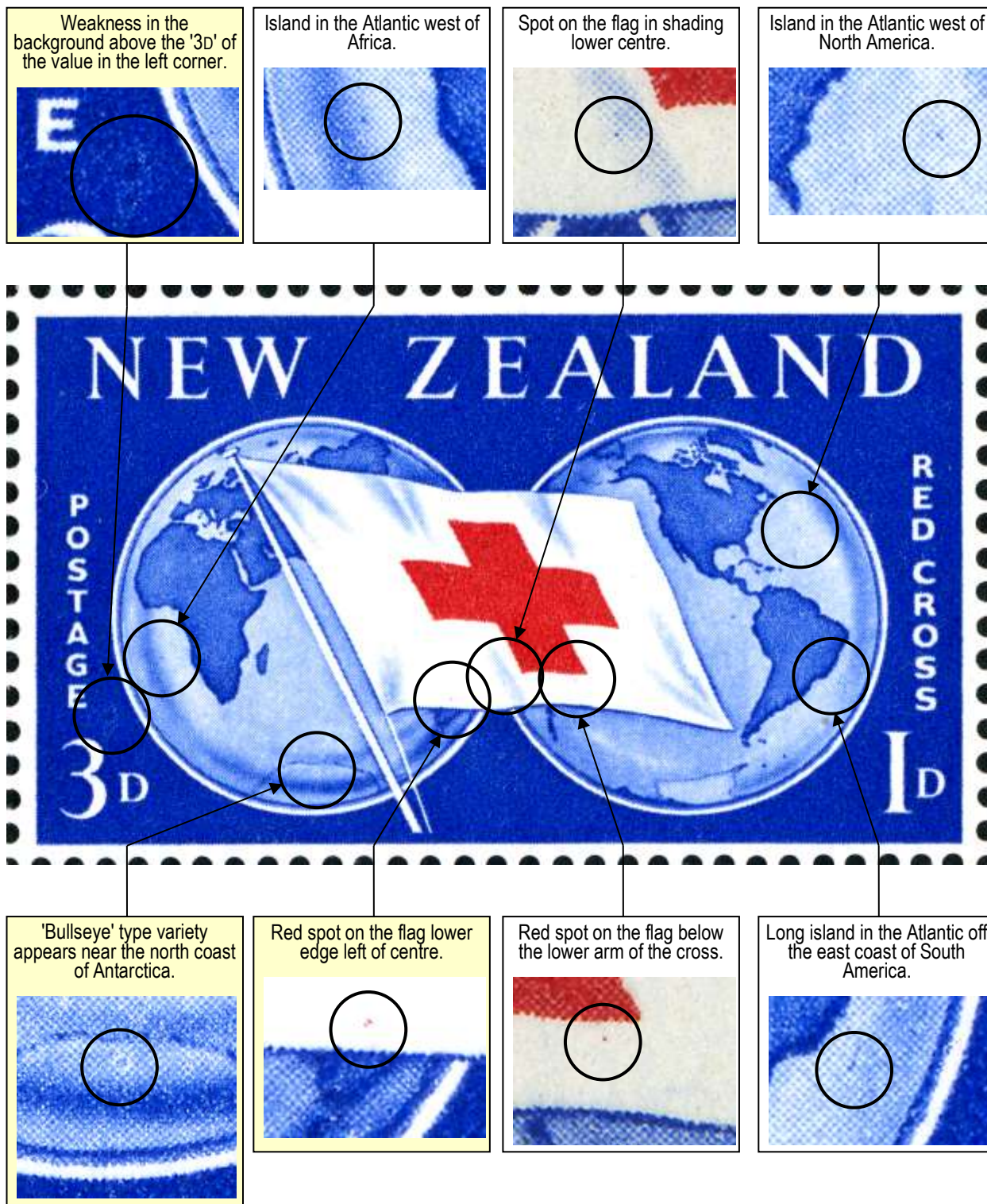
Row 18/3

The line of spots in the top margin top left of the 'N' of 'LAND' is readily seen but is not as pronounced as other examples on the sheet. Look for the small spot at the apex of the rim of the right hemisphere where a small spot exists. This is unique. There are other minor spots to look out for, but none are prominent.



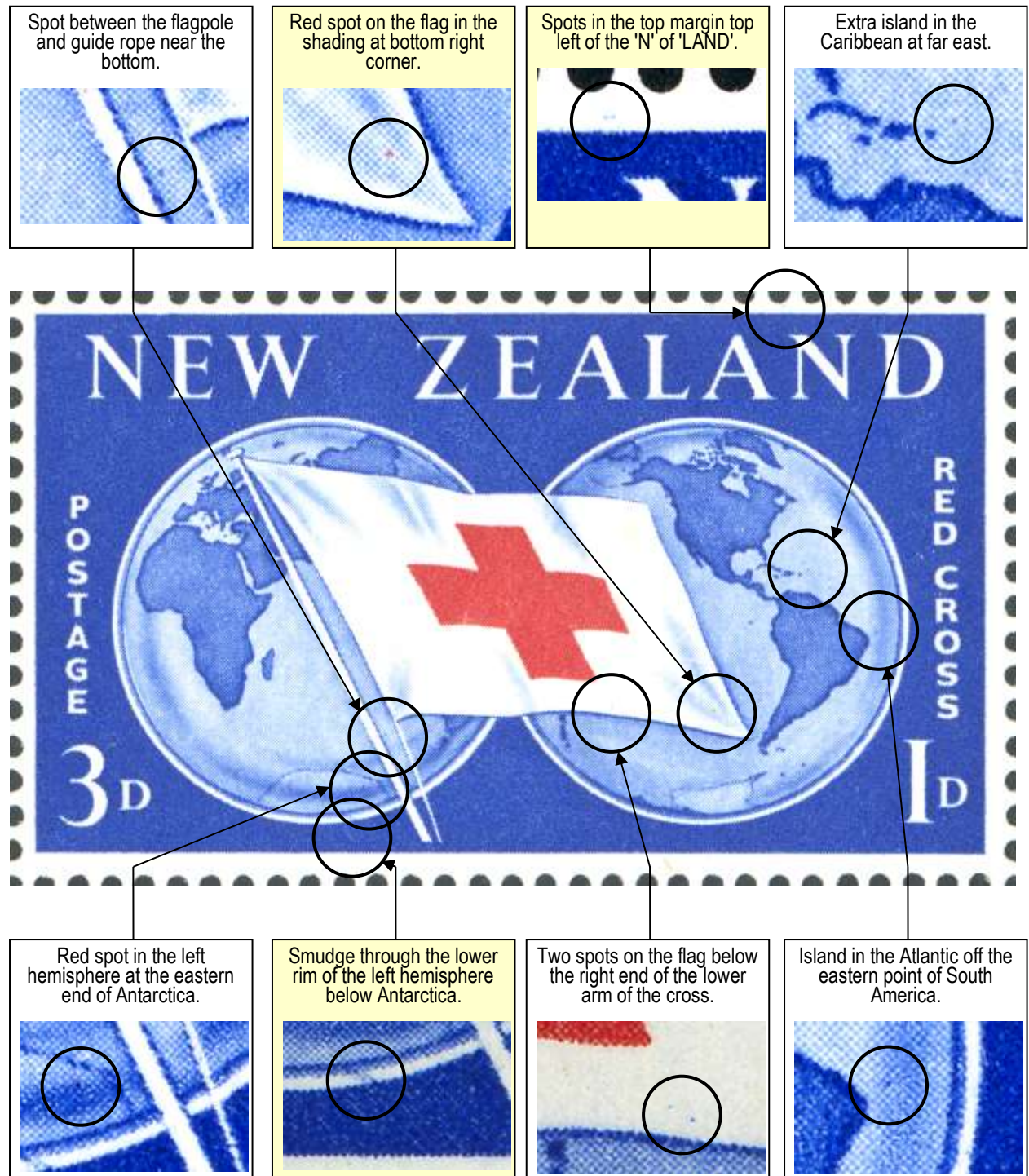
Row 18/4

There is a weakness in the blue background top right of the value '3D' in the lower left hand corner. This weakness has a dark centre surrounded by a paler colour blue. Although this is constant, and large, it is not readily apparent. There is also an interesting 'bullseye' type flaw in the left hemisphere near the north coast of Antarctica. This is also a flaw that has a coloured centre surrounded by a white circle. As normal, there are many other spots and islands, including two red spots on the flag, to confirm this plate position.



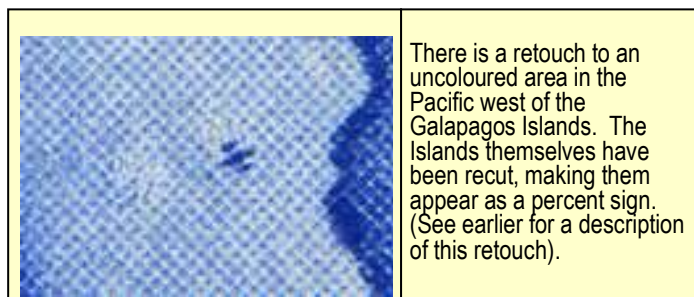
Row 18/5

There is a smudge that crosses the lower rim of the left hemisphere by Antarctica. This takes the form of a small group of screen dots that bridges the white rim at this point. The line of spots that appear in the top margin top right of the 'N' of 'LAND' is again reduced in size when compared to other examples on this row. Again there are two red spots to look out for.



Row 18/6

There is evidence of retouching to the left of the Galapagos Islands and to the islands themselves. This is a major variety (and is mentioned in some catalogues). The retouch is best seen using a magnifying glass, but the evidence can best be seen by looking at the shape of the Galapagos Islands, that appears like a percent sign.



There is a prominent vertical scratch in the right hemisphere through Greenland to North America.



Spot in the lower margin below the '3' of the value.



Red spot on the flag below the lower arm of the cross.



Spot on the flag in the shading in the bottom right corner.



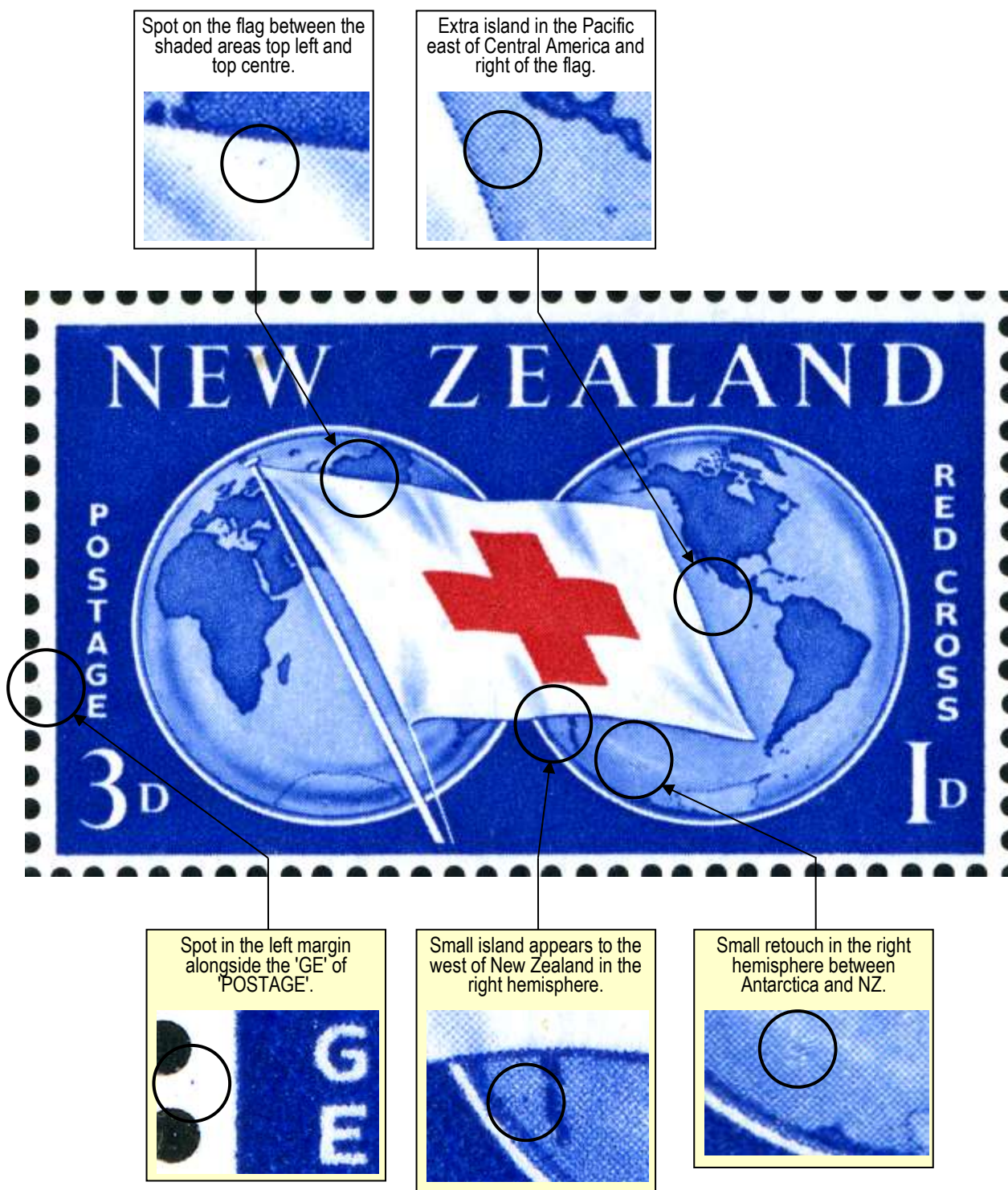
There are spots at the north coast and at the south of Antarctica in the right hemisphere.



There is also a major plate scratch on the right hand side of this stamp appearing as a near vertical line through the right hemisphere running from the edge of the globe, through the tip of Greenland and into North America.

Row 19/1

There are a few minor spots that affect this stamp and many are needed to confirm this stamp's plate position. Initially look for the tiny island that appears to the west of New Zealand in the right hemisphere, then use one of the other spots to confirm, perhaps the spot in the left margin alongside the 'GE' of 'POSTAGE'. There is also what looks like a small retouch that appears in the right hemisphere between New Zealand and Antarctica. The retouch is quite small and difficult to see with the naked eye. It appears to change shape as the printing progressed.



Row 19/2

There are only a few minor spots that affect this stamp and care must be used to correctly identify it. Look for the spot in the left margin, top left of the 'P' of 'POSTAGE'. Also look for the small island off the north coast of Antarctica in the left hemisphere. Use a magnifying glass here.

It is useful to illustrate a transient variety that appears on a few examples of this stamp. It takes the form of a short vertical line that travels through western France, just missing the UK. This appears to be a doctor blade line, the tram line characteristics of which can be seen as it crosses the rim of the hemisphere. Otherwise it is only visible in the light blue background and not the dark blue.



Row 19/3

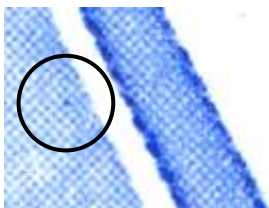
There is one significant variety to be found on this stamp. Look to the large spot to be found adjacent to the lower rim of the right hemisphere south west of New Zealand. The spot is so large that it may not be taken for a variety, but as part of the design. It appears as a bulge in the rim. Although it is not necessary, look for corroborating spots elsewhere on the stamp, perhaps confirming the island off the east coast of South America.



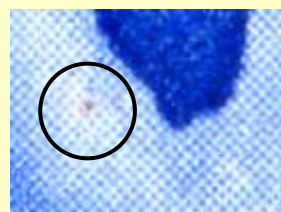
Row 19/4

There are only a few fly spec varieties that can help distinguish this stamp, so take care. Even the most significant of these minor varieties, the red spot west of South Africa varies in size and can sometimes be difficult to see. For once, the spots on the flag amongst the shading in the bottom right corner are quite significant (but plating cannot be done with these two spots alone – there are just too many spots on the flag on other stamps to be certain).

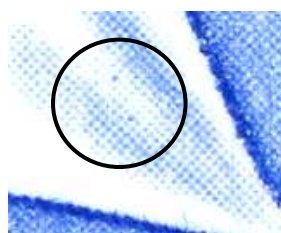
Tiny island to the left of the flagpole, west of Africa.



Red spot in the ocean to the west of South Africa.

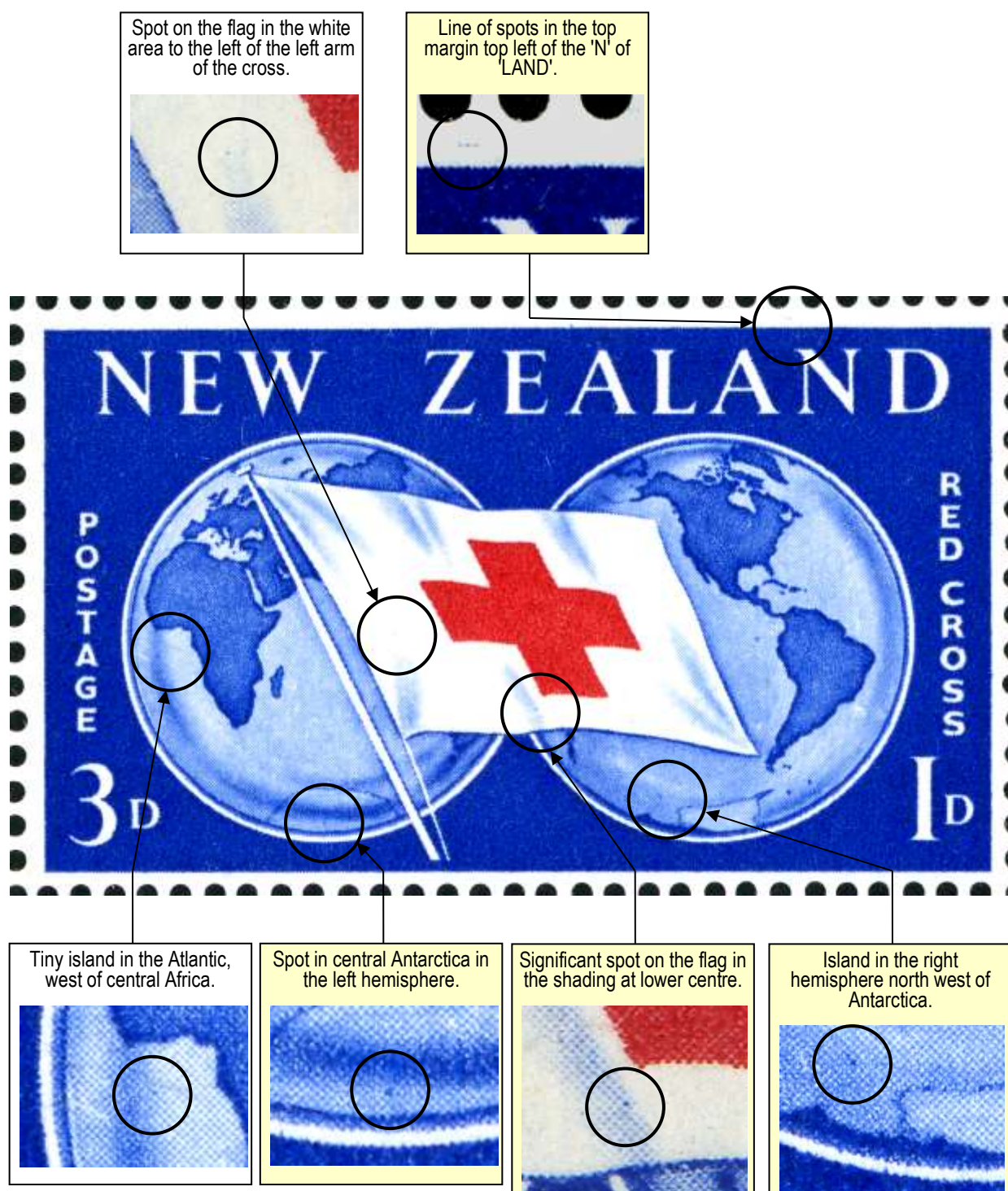


Two spots on the flag in the shading in the bottom right corner.



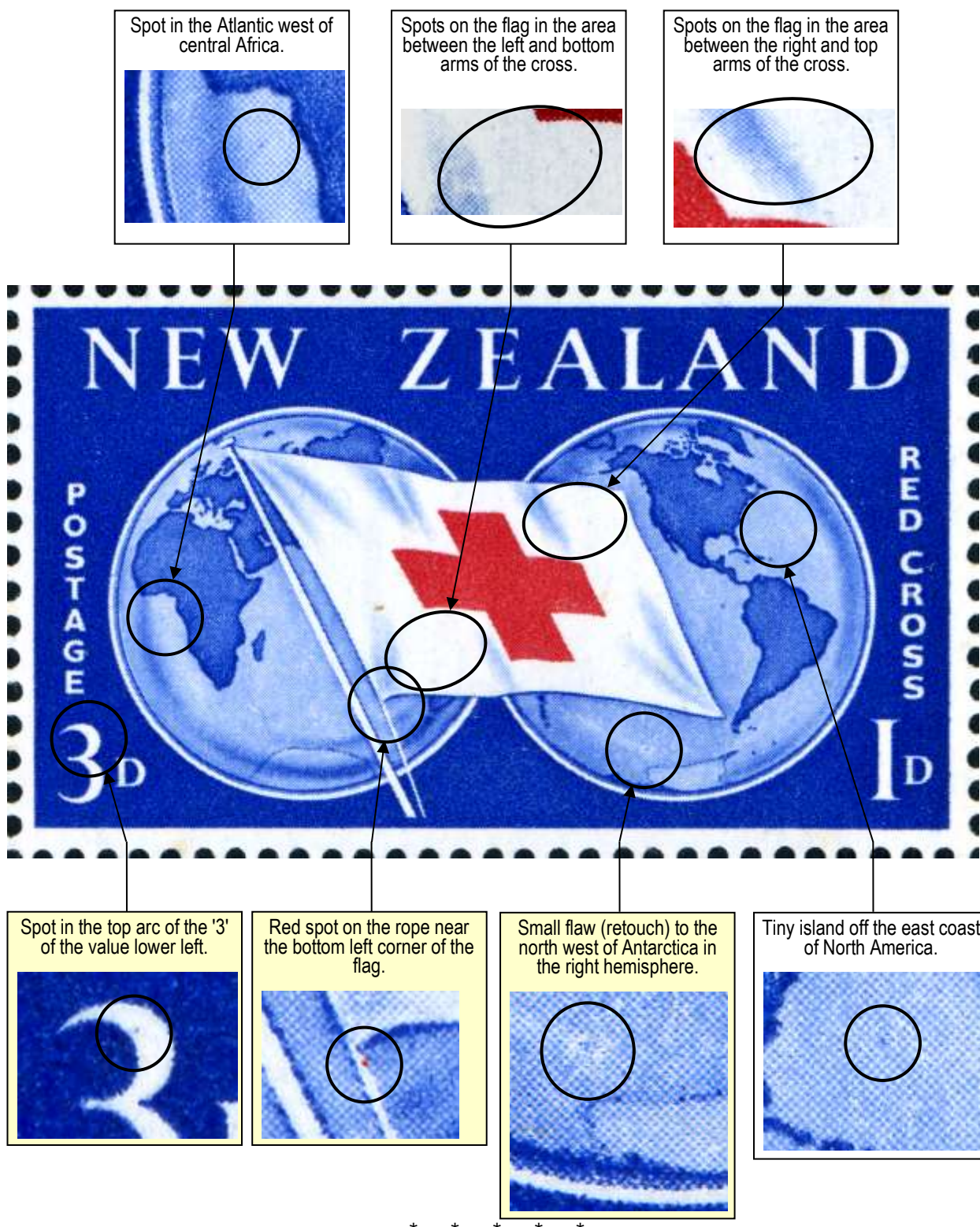
Row 19/5

There are few significant and unique varieties on this stamp to differentiate it from others. Look for the line of spots in the top margin top left of the 'N' of 'LAND'. This is similar but not as pronounced as similar varieties in the lower part of the sheet. There is one significant spot on the flag (don't normally refer to spots on the flag unless they are obvious, as there are too many insignificant spots) that appears in the shading lower centre. There are also two spots in and around Antarctica in both hemispheres that are relatively rare in the sheet.



Row 19/6

There is a disturbance in the right hemisphere off the north west coast of Antarctica. This gives the overall appearance of a retouch, but is unlikely to be one given the small size of the area concerned. However, the disturbance is constant, but will need the aid of a magnifying glass to see it. Look also for the red spot on the rope near the bottom left corner of the flag. This varies in size and may be overlooked. There is also a unique spot in the top arc of the '3' of the value on the lower left corner of the stamp. It is small, but will identify this stamp. (There are a multitude of spots on the flag, but too insignificant to use to aid a positive identification of the stamp).



Row 20/1

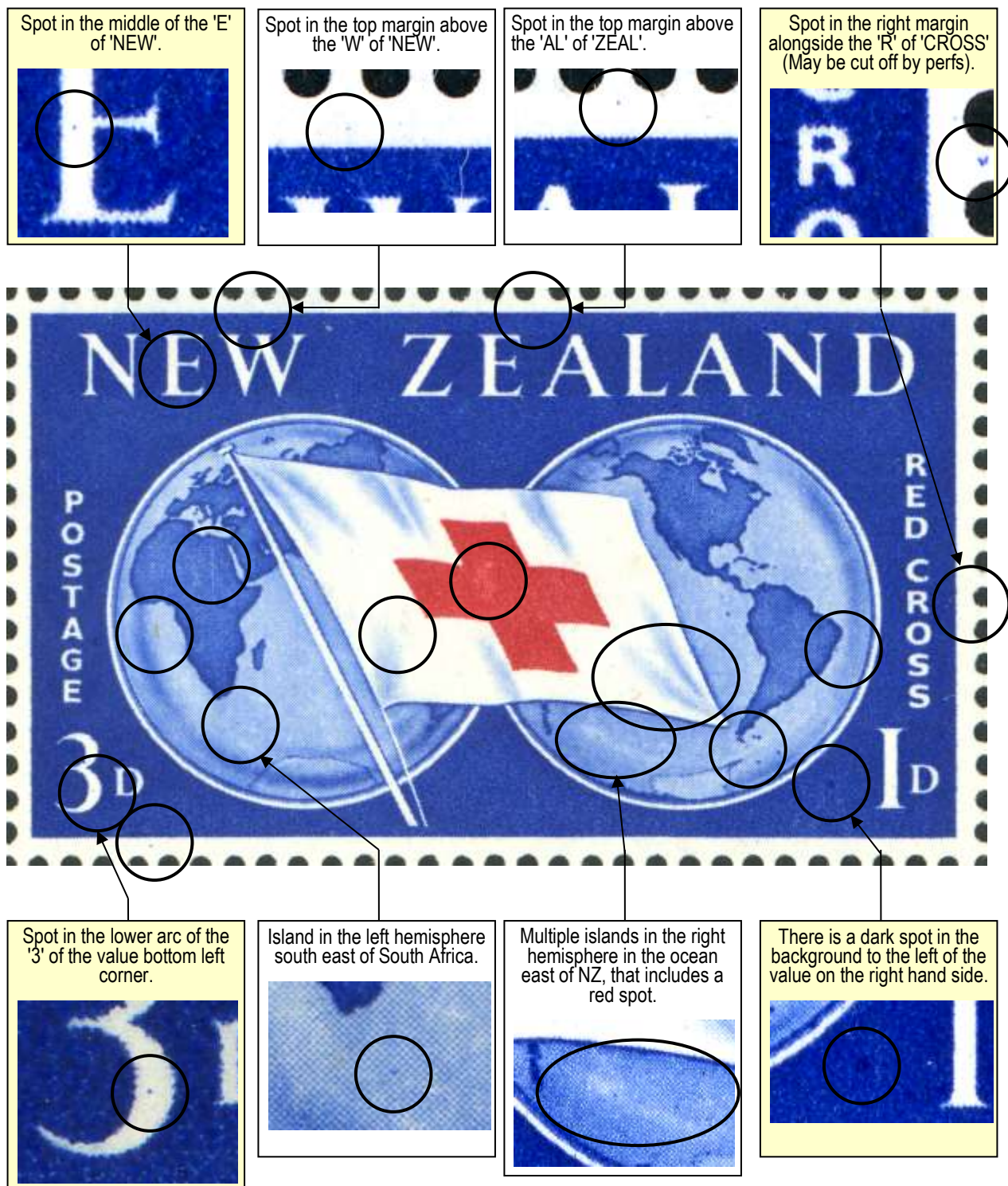
An intriguing (and unique) variety is the bridge that links Sicily with North Africa. It is a small variety caused by the strategic placement of a small blue spot, but its presence links the two land masses. To see it, use a magnifying glass. Also look for the dark blue spot that appears on west Africa, the land mass, not the ocean around it where spots are normally more visible. Also look for the red spot on the flag that is pointed to by the lower corner of the right arm of the cross. Use the small spots in the top margin to confirm if necessary.



Row 20/2 (part 1)

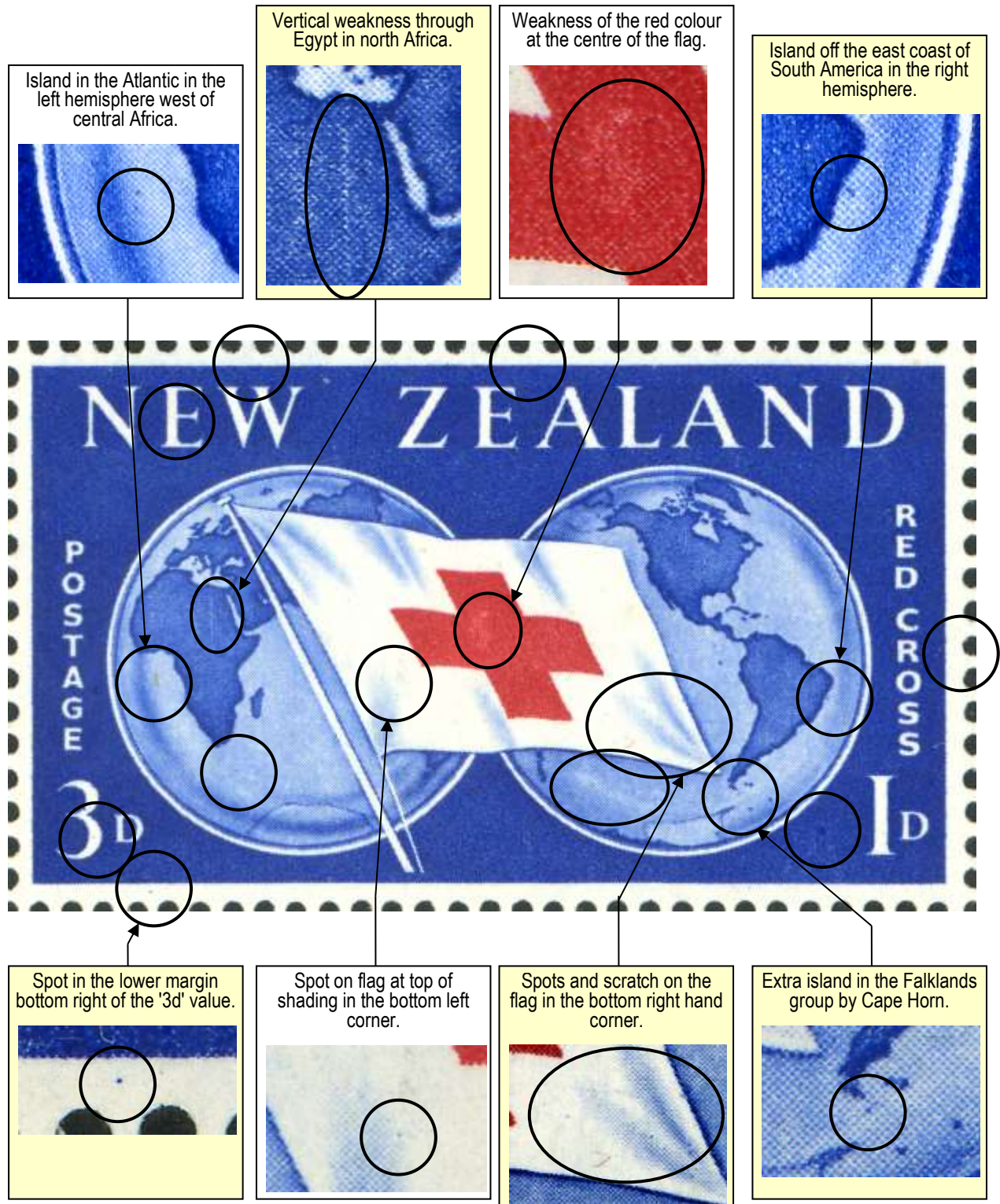
There are numerous small varieties on the stamp at row 20/2 that it is necessary to split the illustrations over two pages, see part 2 for the remaining 8 varieties, some of which are very significant.

This stamp has a number of unique features that make it readily identifiable. There are many small blue spots to look for in the selvages, and also a small spot in the lower arc of the '3' of the value in the bottom left hand corner.



Row 20/2 (part 2)

Look for the weakness of the red colour that affects the centre of the cross on the flag. This is noticeable as a naked eye variety. Some examples show tiny white patches at the centre of the cross, where the red colour is patchy. There is also a vertical weakness through Egypt /Sudan (the Nile variety) that gives the impression of a vertical scratch through the stamp. Look to the bottom right corner of the flag. There are numerous blue spots in this area and a faint horizontal scratch that goes through the top of the shading in the bottom right and corner. There is also an additional island in the Falklands, next to Cape Horn.



Row 20/3

There are many spots in the margins that will aid identification, but nothing of major significance. Care needs to be taken to identify this stamp from others, as many of the varieties consist of small spots that proliferate this issue. Best to look for the spot in the right margin alongside of the 'SS' of 'CROSS'.

There is also an interesting flaw and retouch to be found at the North Pole in the left hemisphere. Early sheets show a white area with tiny blue spots below, later sheets colour in the white patch leaving a much darker patch instead.



Row 20/4

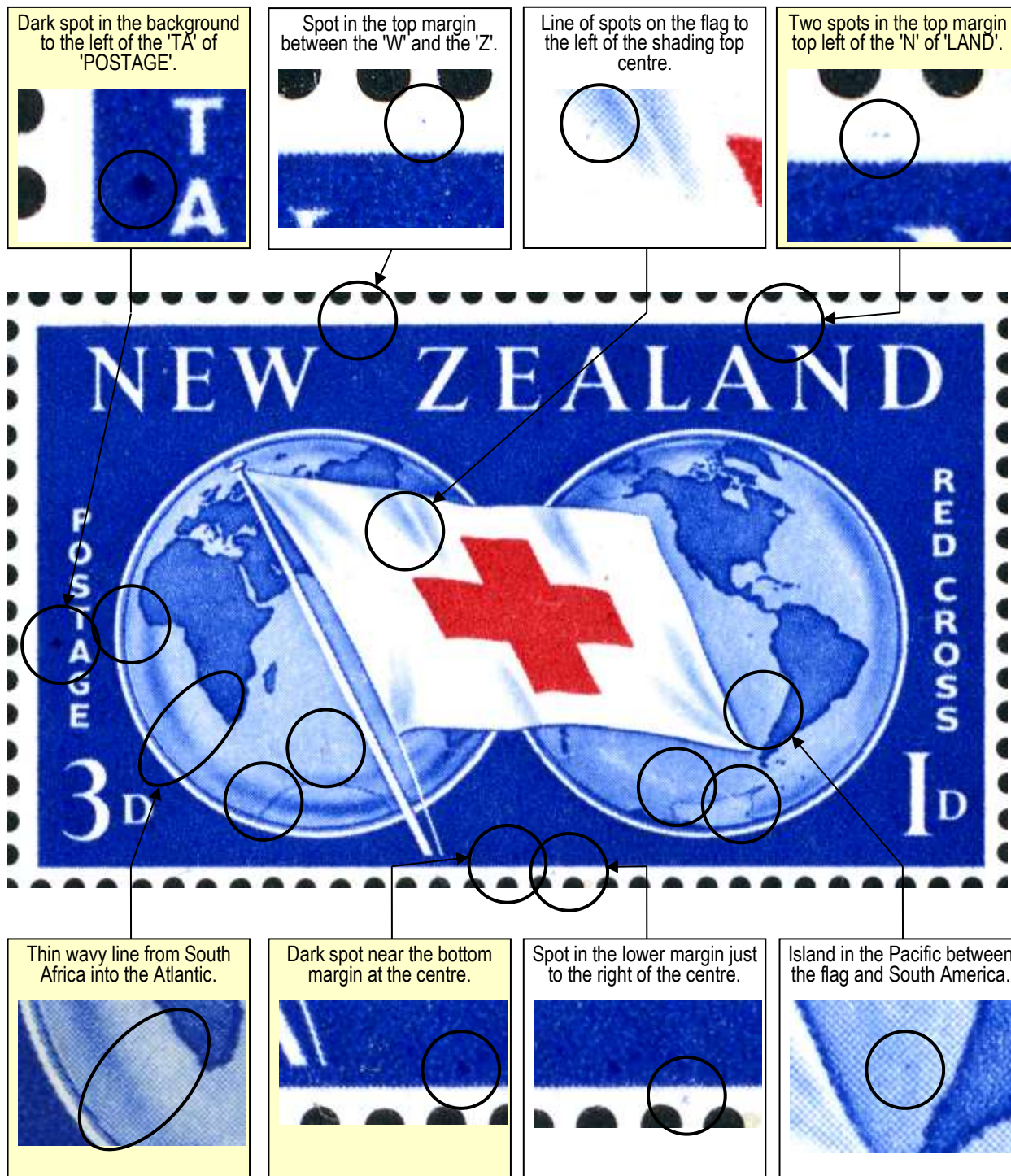
There are two interesting varieties on this stamp. There is a white spot in the ocean to the west of Africa. At this spot there is a missing screen dot. There is also a weakness in the background running vertically through the 'W' of 'NEW' and into the background below. A weakness has appeared on a number of stamps in the sheet. Use marginal spots to verify this stamp.



Row 20/5 (part 1)

As there are numerous small varieties on this stamp it is necessary to split the illustrations over two pages, see part 2 for the remaining 5 varieties.

There are a significant number of small spots on this stamp, amongst which are spots in the margin that will enable this stamp to be plated. There are two dark spots on the blue background. The most significant and visible is the one that appears to the left of the 'TA' of 'POSTAGE'. The smaller blue spot is found near the lower margin at the centre. The former spot is eye noticeable. Look also for a wavy line that appears in the left hemisphere stretching from South Africa into the Atlantic.



Row 20/5 (part 2)

Tiny spot near rim at the extreme left of the left hemisphere.



There is an interesting variety that appears in the left hemisphere just off the west coast of Antarctica. In early sheets this appears as a dark spot. In later sheets, this spot is removed, but there is still a small disturbance at the original site, and a thickening of the coastline just to the right.



Spot near the west coast of Antarctica in the left hemisphere.

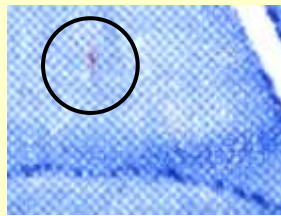
Early



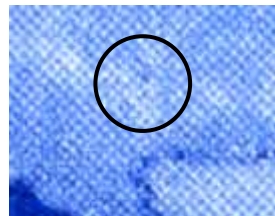
Later



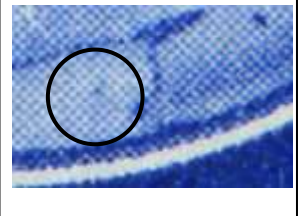
Red spot in the Indian Ocean north of Antarctica.



Tiny island to the north west of Antarctica.



Tiny spot on Antarctica in the right hemisphere.



The red spot that appears north of Antarctica appears to be relatively constant, unlike similar red spots that tend to vary in intensity during the printing.

Row 20/6

There are few varieties on this stamp, yet one of them received attention to correct it. On early sheets there is a spot off the west coast of Africa, quite prominent. On later sheets this spot was removed, leaving behind a small white area. It is difficult to understand why this spot received attention as the spot above Antarctica in the left hemisphere is larger and more prominent, yet this remains untouched. Therefore look for the large spot over Antarctica to identify this stamp.

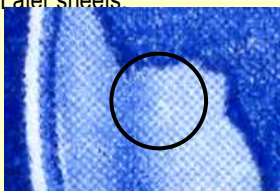


Island off the west coast of Africa.

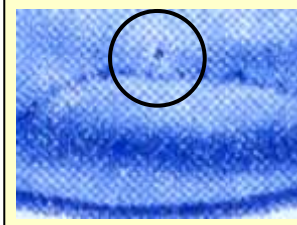
Early sheets:



Later sheets:



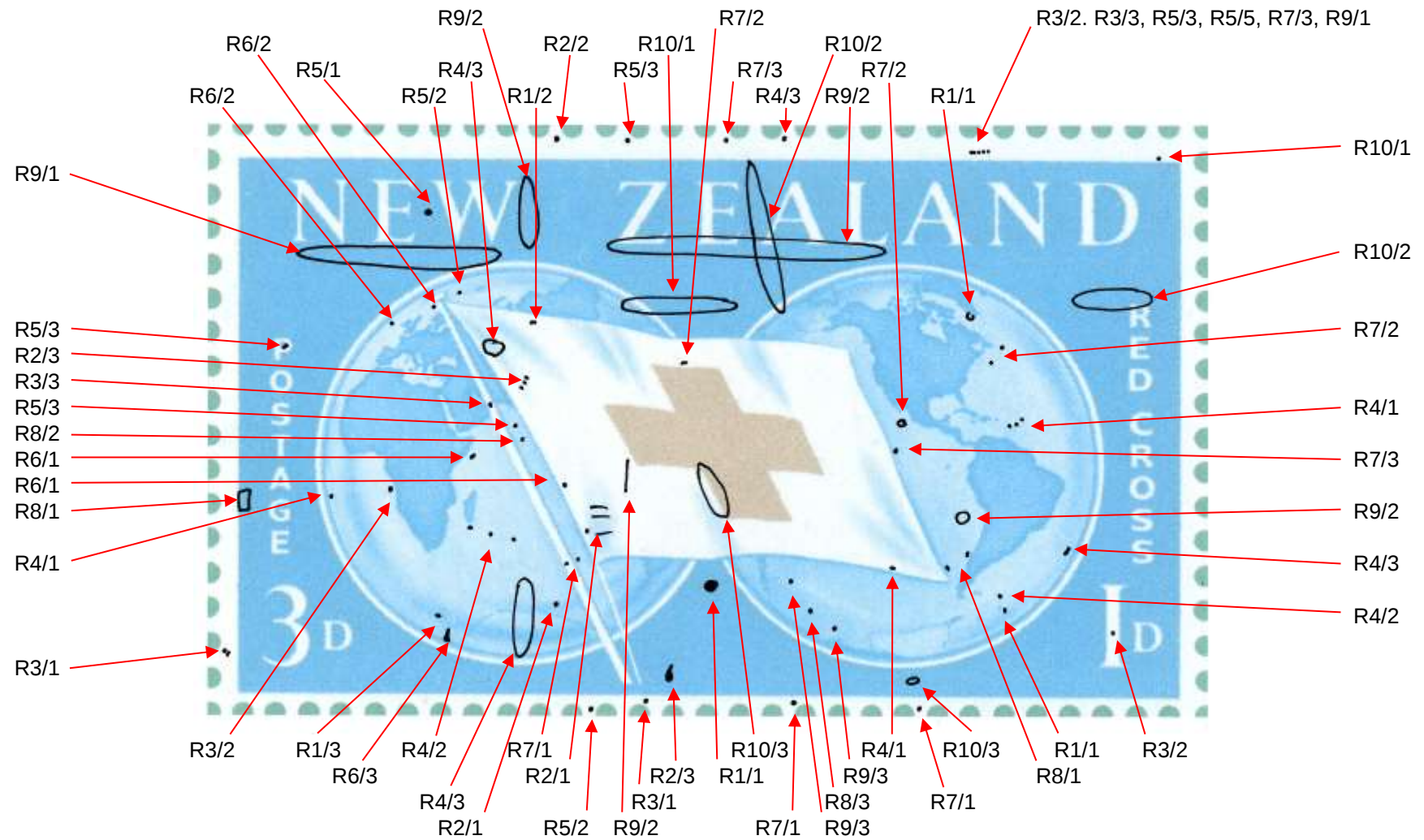
Island north of Antarctica in the left hemisphere.



Tiny spot in the lower margin to the right of the base of the flagpole.

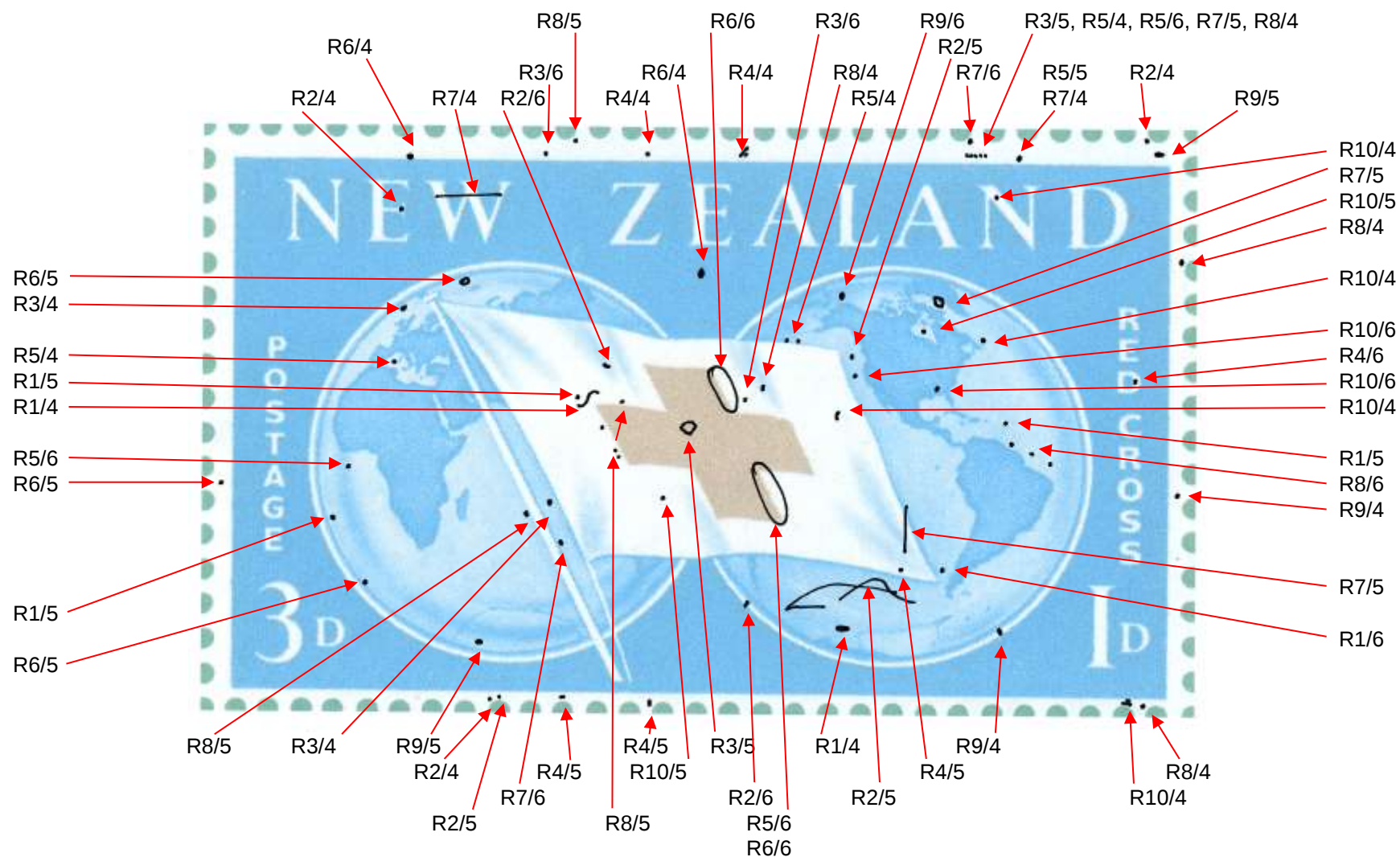


Row 1/1 to Row 1/3; Row 10/1 to Row 10/3, Top Left Quadrant



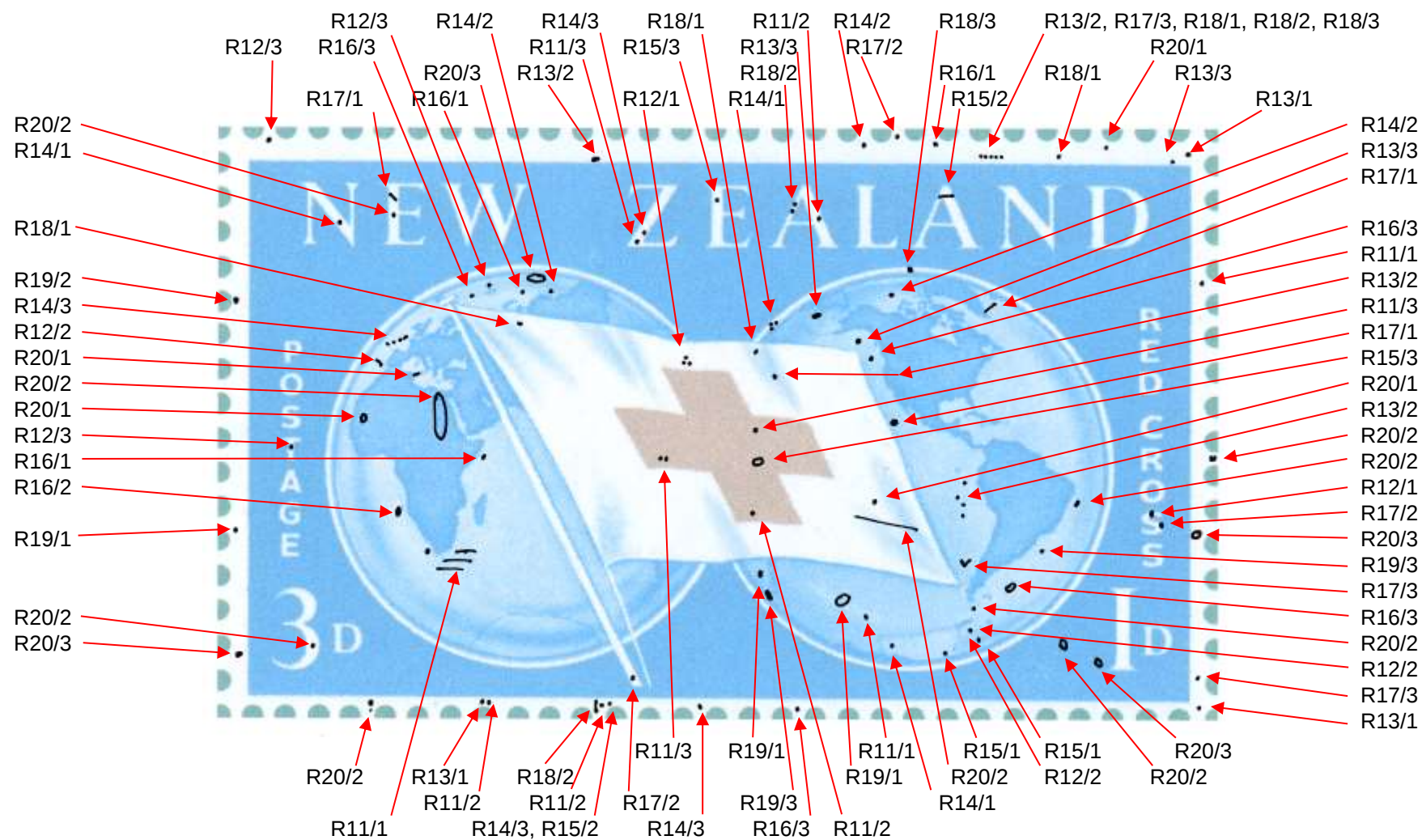
THE VARIETY 'MAP'

Row 1/4 to Row 1/6; Row 10/4 to Row 10/6, Top Right Quadrant



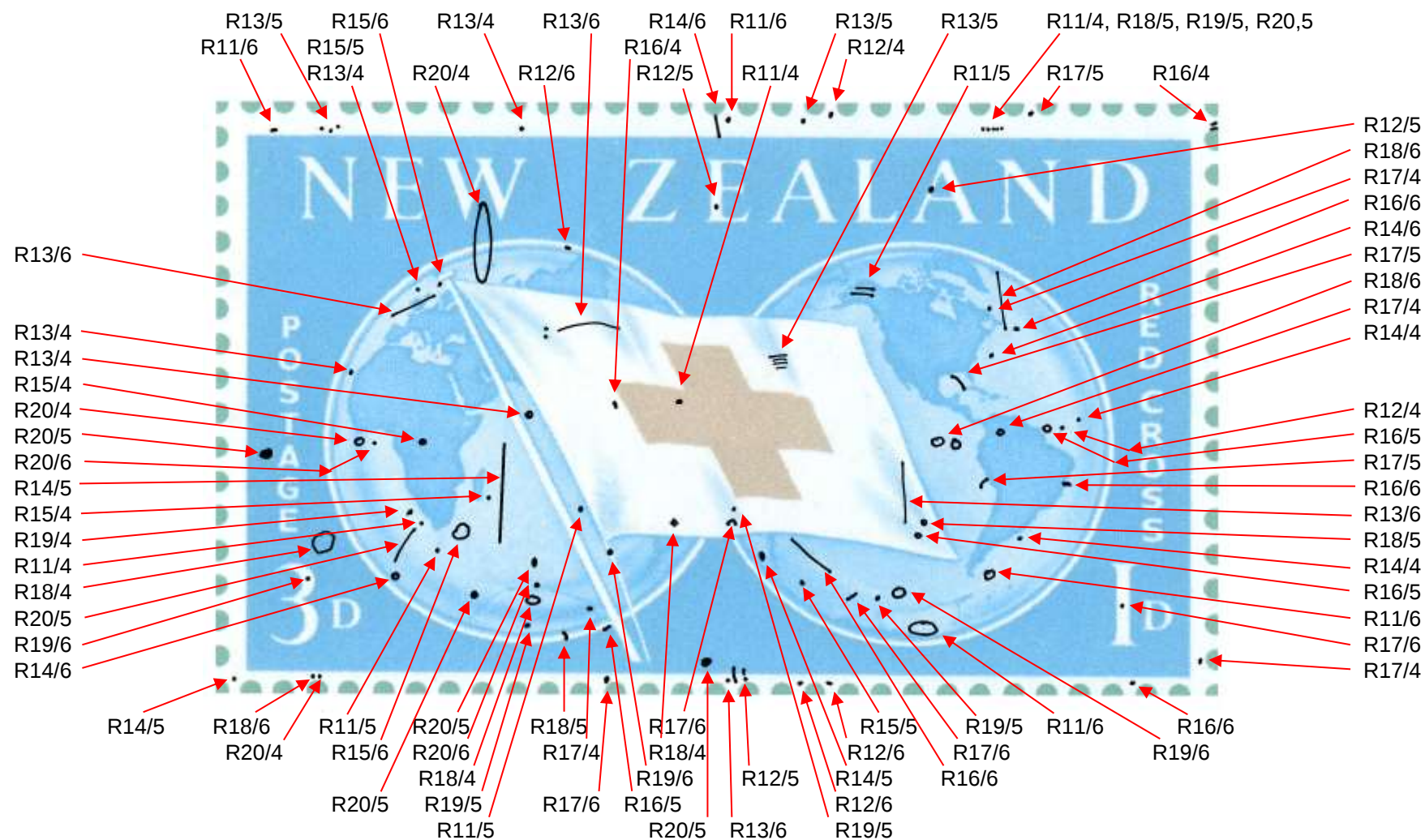
THE VARIETY 'MAP'

Row 11/1 to Row 11/3; Row 20/1 to Row 20/3, Bottom Left Quadrant



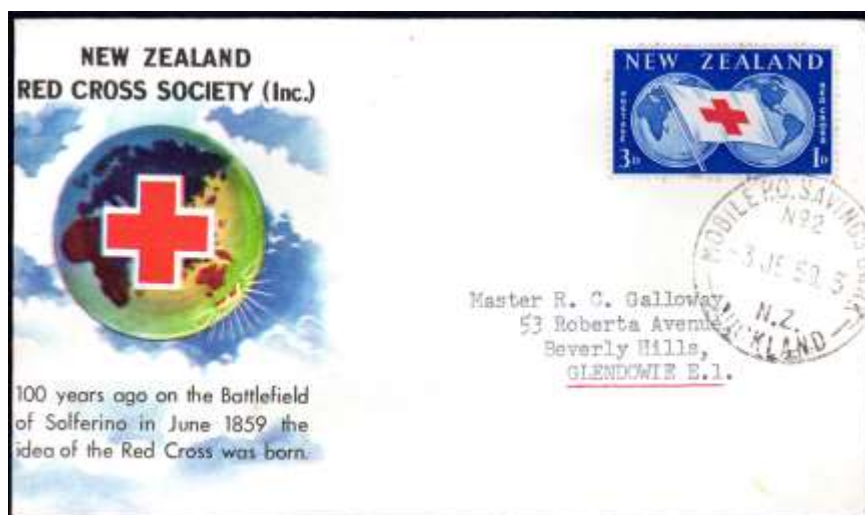
THE VARIETY 'MAP'

Row 11/4 to Row 11/6; Row 20/4 to Row 20/6, Bottom Right Quadrant



FIRST DAY COVERS

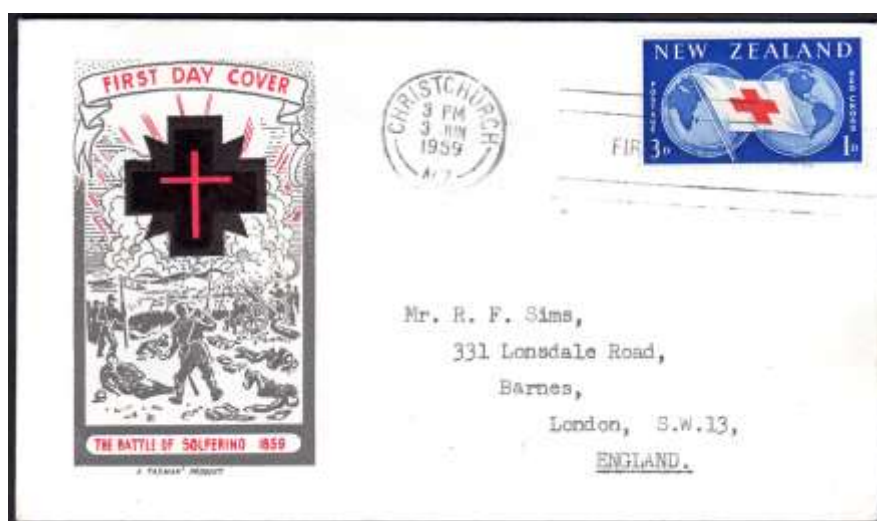
Illustrations of the various covers issued to commemorate the first day of issue of the Red Cross stamp.²



New Zealand Red Cross Society 'Official Souvenir Cover', postmarked 'Mobile P.O. Savings Bank'.

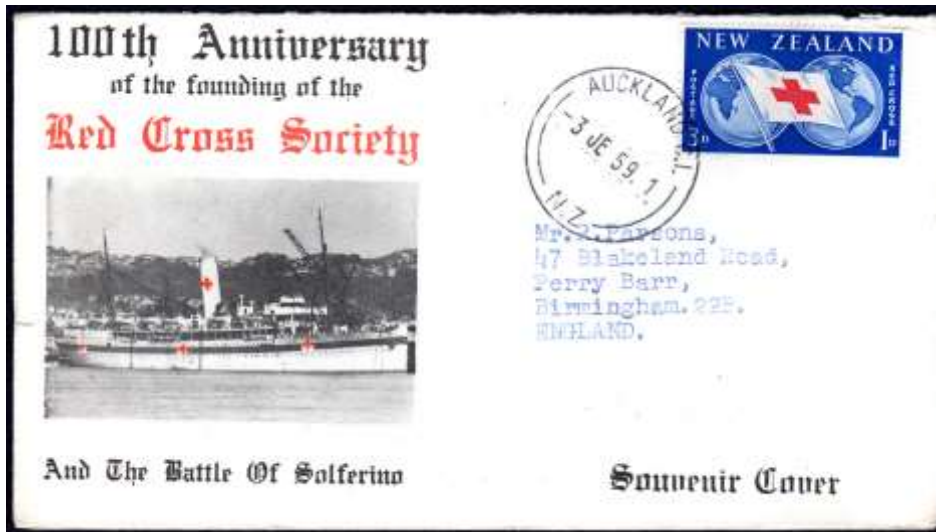
There was no commemorative datestamp produced to observe this first day of issue.

Reverse of the souvenir cover produced by the New Zealand Red Cross Society Inc.



Privately produced FDC showing a scene from 'The Battle of Solferino, 1859', with 'Christchurch 3 JE 1959' datestamp.

² Illustrations here are at 75% of the true size.



Privately produced
cacheted FDC showing
the hospital ship H.S.
Marama,. Postmarked
Auckland.

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REFERENCES and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Paul Wreglesworth for providing access to his collection of 1959 Red Cross errors and publicity material.

R.J.G.Collins and C.W.Watts, 'The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume IV', published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, Chapter XXVI pages 282-287.

T.C. Thackery, 'New Zealand First Day and Early Use Covers & Stamps 1855-2003', published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, 2004, Chapter IX, page 234.

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