

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

4d First Sideface. I recently came across a fine used copy, perf. 12½ all round, but with an additional horizontal row of perforations gauging 10 running through the design below the 12½s at the top - in other words, an example of **true mixed perforations**. Irregular compound perfs have long been known on this value, but this is seemingly the first record of a true "mixed". However, similar mixed perf varieties (albeit rare) are known on the 3d and 6d of the same series, so it is not altogether surprising that they might exist on any other value where the perf. 10 (a rotary machine) was used in combination with the 12½ (a line machine), i.e. the 1d, 2d, 4d and 1/-. What is surprising is that the 4d has indeed been around, but apparently unrecognised, for well over a century - the probability is that this is not the only example to have survived.

Incidentally, still on the subject of the 4d perforations, can anyone confirm the existence of a **regular** compound perf. 10 and 12½? (As will be seen from the footnote under C4b in the C.P. Catalogue, only the irregular compounds mentioned above are known to us).

The Emergency Earthquake Flights of 1929 and 1931. Concluding the record of these historically interesting flights. Again with acknowledgement to "The Air Mails and Pigeon Posts of New Zealand", by R.J.G. Collins, published in 1931 by The Air Mail Society of New Zealand, P.O. Box 29144, Fendalton, Christchurch 4, N.Z.

6th February 1931. Earthquake Emergency Flight: Hastings to Auckland. From the 5th to the 8th of February, 1931, six flights were made from Auckland to Hastings, via Gisborne and Wairoa, but only telegrams were carried.

From the 6th to the 10th, eight flights were made from Hastings to Auckland, and on six of these flights the mails comprised letters as well as telegrams. Although no details were kept as to the number of letters carried, the following particulars in regard to these flights were recorded at the Auckland chief post office:

Date	Depart Hastings	Arrive Auckland	Pilot
6th	11 a.m.	2.44 p.m.	S. Wallingford
*6th	3 p.m.	6.50 p.m.	L.M. Isitt
*6th	3.15 p.m.	6.50 p.m.	D.M. Allan
7th	11.15 p.m.	2.30 p.m.	G.M. Firth
7th	3.5 p.m.	6 p.m.	S. Wallingford
9th	11 a.m.	2.20 p.m.	S. Wallingford
9th	3.10 p.m.	6.30 p.m.	F.V. Somerset-Thomas
10th	11.30 a.m.	3.10 p.m.	G. Field

* Telegrams only

As no extra postage was charged for letters carried by air, and as no special endorsement was applied to the envelopes at the time, it is possible definitely to identify covers as having been conveyed in connection with an emergency flight only when transport by air was the only method of conveyance available.

Fortunately, no difficulty occurs in respect of the flight from Wellington to Hastings on the 4th (see April Bulletin) and of the flights between Gisborne and Hastings (see May Bulletin); but of the six flights from Hastings to Auckland only one must be recognised.

Until the 7th of February, the damage to the roads, leading from Hastings to the railhead from which connection could be made by train with Auckland, was sufficiently severe to render it unwise to risk the conveyance of mails by motor transport. By the 7th, however, some temporary repairs had been effected to the worst parts of the roads, and, from that date, mail was despatched by motor car to connect with the railway service. Although advantage was taken of the opportunity to despatch mails by air on the 7th, 9th and 10th, covers carried on these dates were not backstamped on arrival at Auckland, and therefore no evidence may be produced to prove conclusively that a cover bearing the Hastings postmark of the 7th and later was included in the air mails.

The official records, however, show definitely that all letters for Auckland, posted at Hastings before 10.30 a.m. on the 6th, were included in the bag which was conveyed to Auckland by Flight-Lieutenant Wallingford.

Editor's note: The following 6th Feb. flights are not listed in later publications, but we can confirm, from several covers handled by us, that the Duthie flight at least ought to be.

6th February, 1931. Earthquake Emergency Flight: Hastings to Wellington. Aeroplanes were used from the 4th to the 10th of February 1931, to carry mails from Hastings to Wellington.

On the flights made on the 4th and 5th, only telegrams were carried, and from the 7th, mails were carried from Hastings by road to the railhead, in addition to those carried by air. Hence the same remarks apply to these mails as applied to those for Auckland, and only the covers carried on the 6th may be described, without any doubt, as flown covers.

As mails for Wellington and southern offices, from Hastings and Napier, were conveyed to Feilding on the 5th, the mails carried on the 6th comprised letters posted after the bag had been made up on the 5th.

Three flights were made from Hastings to Rongotai Aerodrome, Wellington, on the 6th. Pilot-Officer C.M. Duthie, of the Wellington Aero Club, left Hastings at 12.30 p.m., and carried a bag containing less than 200 letters posted at Hastings and addressed to Wellington and southern offices. Flight-Lieutenants M.W. Buckley and H.B. Burrell, of the Permanent Air Force, left Hastings at 4 p.m.

The first mail of any size to be made up at Napier closed at noon on the 6th, and comprised 294 letters for Wellington and southern offices. This mail was conveyed by road to Hastings, and was entrusted to Flight-Lieutenant Burrell. The bag which Flight-Lieutenant Buckley carried contained letters that had been posted at Hastings between noon, when the mail carried by Flying-Officer Duthie had closed, and 3.30 p.m.

7th and 9th February, 1931. Earthquake Emergency Flight: Wairoa to Hastings. The road between Wairoa and Hastings was so badly damaged by the earthquake that it was not until the 16th of February that the Public Works Department had been able to effect repairs so that motor traffic could use the road.

Except on the 7th and 9th of February, letter mails from Wairoa for Napier and Hastings were forwarded to Gisborne and thence overland, via Opotiki and Rotorua, to connect with the Main Trunk railway, although telegrams on several occasions were conveyed from Gisborne to Wairoa and from Hastings to Wairoa by air.

The flights which were made on the 7th and 9th of February from Wairoa to Hastings were conducted by Flight-Lieutenant W.H. Lett, and the mails comprised letters for Napier and Hastings.

No record was kept of the number of letters carried, but the mails on both occasions were small.

NEW ZEALAND AIR COVERS

An unusual, interesting and attractive listing of flight covers, not from the earlier (and generally more expensive) 1919-1935 period, but from the later K.G.VI and Q.E. eras which saw many increases in the N.Z. air services. Commencing here with internal flights, although we will progress to overseas covers in future Bulletins (All 'Handbook' references are to Volume 1, The Internal Air Mails of N.Z.).

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|---------------|--|---------------|
| 601(a) | 16 March 1936 Union Airways of N.Z. Ltd, first flight of mail-carrying regular service Palmerston North — Blenheim — Christchurch — Dunedin (Handbook page 41). Complete set of all stages — 12 covers | £70.00 |
| (b) | As above. Cook Strait Airways Ltd simultaneous opening of the Nelson — — Blenheim — Wellington service, also on 16 March 1936. Five of the six stages (Handbook page 42) — five covers | £25.00 |
| (c) | As above. Third section of these 16 March 1936 flights, a link up between Union Airways, Cook Strait Airways, and Air Travel (N.Z.) Ltd for mail to and from South Westland (Handbook page 42/43). No less than 12 of the 14 stages — 12 covers | £70.00 |
| (d) | As above. Two "double-stage" covers (i) Palmerston North — Dunedin — Palmerston North, (ii) Blenheim — Wellington — Blenheim | £12.50 |
| (e) | As above. Large multicoloured "connection" cover (Handbook page 42/43), bearing the crests of all three airlines, and signed by pilots Gerrard, Bolt and Mercer. Obviously a limited edition, this one is numbered 17 | £20.00 |
| (f) | As above. Finally a Palmerston North — Nelson — Blenheim — Palmerston North cover, where the wrong date stamp has been applied at Nelson, the | |

	date 5 MR being amended to 16 MR in manuscript (similar to the cover described on page 42 of the Handbook)	£20.00
602	28 June 1936. Experimental flight Dunedin to Invercargill and return. Three different stages, two being pilot signed (Handbook page 44)	£27.50
603	7 Dec. 1936. Napier — Gisborne — Napier "double-stage" cover, on the re-opening of this service (the service officially opened on 16th April 1935 mail being carried only on that day). Little publicity was given to the re-opening (Handbook page 47)	£30.00
604	23/24 Feb. 1937. Nelson — Greymouth — Hokitika service, six different stages each on a specially printed cover (also included is a photograph of one of the 'planes used) — Handbook page 48	£50.00
605(a)	27 June 1937. Wellington — Palmerston North — New Plymouth — Auckland service. 10 of the 12 stages (Handbook page 49/50)	£65.00
	(b) As above. Same service, but connections from the South Island. Two covers, Dunedin — New Plymouth, Dunedin — Auckland, plus aerial photograph of Taieri Airport, Dunedin (Handbook page 50)	£15.00
	(c) As above. Same series of flights, two covers Auckland — Nelson and vice versa, together with two photographs of the Lockheed Electra 'planes'	£17.50
606	31 Oct. 1937. Union Airways of N.Z. Ltd., two covers, Dunedin — Gisborne (Sunday air mail service cover), Dunedin — Auckland (cover with special Dunedin Boys High School sticker). Interestingly, the Handbook (page 53) records covers from the North Island to the South Island, but mentions nothing about mail from Dunedin. The two covers	£15.00
607	1 Jan 1938. No covers, just two photographs (i) D.H. Dragon-fly on beach landing strip at Jacksons Bay, and (ii) Jacksons Bay wharf from the air (Handbook page 53/54)	£12.50
608	10 Jan. 1938. East Coast Airways Ltd., trial service between Palmerston North and Wanganui. Three different stages, one cover with "HE IS WORTH SAVING, PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY" sticker	£27.50
609(a)	7—9 Nov. 1938. N.Z. Air Mail Exhibition, Christchurch. Two copies of the specially produced envelopes, both with first day cancels, one cover with part of design royal blue, the other deep blue. Nice !	£15.00
	(b) As above. Another of these specially produced envelopes, posted on the last day of the exhibition	£7.50
	(c) As above. The miniature Commemorative Pigeongram envelope (95mm x 70mm), dated 7th Nov, together with a copy of the 'small' pigeongram which was carried by pigeon post from Rangiora to Christchurch on 7th Nov.	£7.50
610(a)	15 March 1939. Westport — Wellington — Hokitika service. Four different stages together with a photograph of pilot Orchard (Handbook page 58)	£40.00

(b)	As above. Two further stages, Hokitika — Westport, Westport — Hokitika, only 5 and 15 carried respectively	£50.00
611	20/21 March 1939. Auckland — Tauranga — Opatiki — Gisborne. Complete run of all 12 stages, a matching set of specially produced covers (Handbook page 59)	£100.00
612	30 Oct. 1939. Nelson — Napier cover, with AIR SERVICE INTERRUPTED boxed cachet. Seldom seen	£25.00

(to be continued)

1967 PICTORIALS, Concluded.

613	5c Clematis (OD7a). Two blocks (of 12 and 8 stamps respectively) with the plate 1B — R6/1 and 14/9 varieties (ODV7 b/c)	£9.00
614(a)	7c Rata (OD9a). Marginal block of 6 with R9/1 retouch (ODV9e) and R10/3 variety	£5.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 10 with R16/5 variety	£7.00
(c)	As above. Plate and imprint blocks (two different of each). The four blocks of 6, complete	£15.00
615(a)	8c N.Z. Flag (OD10a). Marginal block of 4 with R12/1 retouch	£2.50
(b)	As above. Corner block of 12, also including R12/1 and with varieties on R12/3 and 15/3	£7.50
(c)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 8	£5.00
616(a)	15c Tiki, Original Issue (OD12a). Imprint/plate block of 12 and a sheet value block of 4	£22.50
(b)	As above. Inverted Watermark Variety (OD12aZ)	£4.75
(c)	As above. Two copies with inverted watermark, dark and pale green shades. Unusual	£12.50
(d)	As above. Sheet value block of 4, also inverted watermark	£22.50
617(a)	15c Tiki, Redrawn (OD12b). Imprint/plate block of 6	£5.00
(b)	As above. Complete set of counter coil pairs (ODC12), nos 1—29, together with starter and centre papers. Cat. \$ 190	£45.00
618	20c Maori Rock Drawing (OD13a). Two sheet value blocks of 4, in fine shade contrasts of the buff background	£15.00
619(a)	25c Butter Making (OD14a). Imprint/plate block of 6	£11.50
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 6 with the R8/6 flaw (ODV14a)	£12.50

620(a)	30c Park, Watermarked Paper (OD15a). Imprint/plate block of 6 with the original gum arabic	£27.50
(b)	As above. Similar imprint/plate block of 6, but with the later PVA gum	£27.50
(c)	As above. Two single stamps, both gum arabic, in light and dark green shades. Nice !	£7.50
(d)	As above. Marginal block of 4, gum arabic, with the R2/1 retouch	£15.00
(e)	As above. Similar block with R2/1 variety, but PVA gum	£15.00
(f)	As above. Marginal block of 4, gum arabic, with R8/1 retouch (ODV15b) ...	£15.00
(g)	As above. Similar block of 4 with R8/1 variety, but PVA gum	£15.00
(h)	As above. Corner block of 9 (PVA gum) with imprint/plate markings and R8/1 retouch (ODV15b). Unusual positional piece	£42.50
621(a)	30c Park, No Wmk (OD15b). Corner block of 4 with R2/1 retouch (Catalogued \$ 120 as single stamps)	£37.50
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4 with R8/1 retouch (ODV15b on no wmk paper)	£37.50
622(a)	50c Sutherland Falls (OD16a). Imprint/plate block of 10, gum arabic	£22.50
(b)	As above. Sheet value block of 4, also gum arabic	£10.00
623(a)	\$1 Tasman Glacier (OD17a). Single copies of the two listed shades (one with gum arabic, the other PVA gum). Cat. \$90	£27.50
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, with the original gum arabic (Cat. \$280)	£82.50
(c)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, with the later PVA gum	£82.50
624	\$2 Magenta (OD18a). Imprint/plate block of 10 (Cat. \$600). Special offer at	£187.50
625(a)	7c Fishing (OD20a). Two shades, good contrasts	£1.50
(b)	As above. Both imprint/plate blocks of 6 (plate nos 1111, 1a1a1a1a)	£10.00
626	8c Fruit (OD21a). Both imprint/plate blocks of 6 (plate nos 1111, 1a1a1a1a) .	£10.00
627(a)	10c Timber (OD22a). Imprint/plate block of 6	£2.50
(b)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£1.75
628	25c Dairy (OD25a). Imprint block of 6	£17.50
629(a)	7½c Trout (OD26). Imprint block of 6, plate block of 6, sheet value block of 4, all with watermark sideways (OD26a)	£15.00
(b)	As above. Imprint block of 6 with extra double perms in the bottom selvage, also sideways watermark	£10.00

(c)	As above. Two stamps (both OD26a) in superb green shades	£3.00
(d)	As above. Imprint block and plate block, both upright watermark (OD26b). The two blocks (of 6 stamps each)	£12.00
630(a)	28c Fox Glacier (OD27a). Imprint/plate block of 10	£11.50
(b)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£5.00
(c)	As above. Corner block of 6, R3/10 retouch (ODV27a)	£8.00

1898 — 1908 PICTORIALS, MINT AND USED

621(a)	6d Red, Perf. 14 (E14g). Superfine mint copy	£23.00
(b)	As above. Finest used example (cheapest shade)	£3.50
(c)	As above. Set of four used shades, complete as listed in C.P.	£17.50
632	6d Red, Mixed Perfs. (E14j). Fine mint copy, originally perf. 14 all round, re-perfed 11 horizontally. Rare	£160.00
633(a)	6d Reduced Design, Perf. 14 (E15a). Unhinged mint copy in the red shade ..	£35.00
(b)	As above, but hinged mint, in carmine pink or red, each	£20.00
(c)	As above. Superfine used copy in carmine-pink	£4.00
(d)	As above. Set of four used, in shades of carmine-pink, deep aniline pink, deep rose-red and red (regret we can't complete the set with the rare pale rose — sorry !)	£42.50
634	6d Reduced Design, Perf. 14 x 12½ — 13¼ (E15b). Finest used copy, lightly cancelled and superbly centred. Extremely scarce thus	£60.00
635(a)	6d Reduced Design, Perf. 14 x 15 (E15c). Superfine mint example in carmine pink	£22.50
(b)	As above. Finest used copy	£4.00
(c)	As above. Set of two used, in quite outstanding shades	£9.50
636(a)	8d London Print (E16a). Mint copy, hinged but fine	£16.50
(b)	As above, but two superb shades. The pair	£35.00
(c)	As above. Fine used example	£11.50
(d)	As above. Set of two used, in the listed shades of indigo and Prussian blue, Magnificent contrasts	£25.00
637(a)	8d Perf. 11, Unwmk'd (E16b). Superfine mint example	£14.50

(b)	As above. Corner block of 4, including the minor R10/1 and 10/2 re-entries. Couple of very minor perf. tones, otherwise very fine	£52.50
(c)	As above. Another block (marginal), showing the R10/11 re-entry (minor). Finest mint	£57.50
(d)	As above. Marginal strip of 4, including the major R10/9 re-entry (illustrated in C.P.), as well as the minor one at R10/11. Gum faults on one stamp, but immaculate facially	£45.00
(e)	As above. Set of two used, in the listed shades of deep blue and Prussian blue ..	£18.00
638(a)	8d Perf. 11, Wmk'd (E16c). Superb mint copy in a bright shade	£15.00
(b)	As above. Set of three magnificent shades, fine used	£22.50
639(a)	8d Perf. 14 (E16d). Fine mint copy	£15.00
(b)	As above. Corner block of 4, centred high otherwise very fine mint	£45.00
(c)	As above. Set of two fine used, in the listed shades of steel blue and deep blue ..	£10.00
640(a)	9d London Print (E17a). Superb mint copy	£16.75
(b)	As above. Brilliant mint block of 6, four of the stamps showing re-entry doubling in and around the left value panels (full plating details supplied). Five stamps unhinged, one very lightly hinged	£135.00
(c)	As above. An absolutely perfect used copy (minor re-entry is a bonus)	£15.00
641(a)	9d Perf. 11, Unwmk'd (E17b). Fine mint copy	£14.75
(b)	As above, but finest used	£4.50
(c)	As above. Set of three shades, complete as listed in our Catalogue, finest used ..	£15.00
642(a)	9d Perf. 11, Wmk'd (E17c). Fine mint copy	£14.50
(b)	As above, but finest used	£4.25
(c)	As above. Set of three magnificent shades, fine used	£15.00
(d)	As above. Mint copy with variety Watermark Reversed (E17cW). Very scarce ..	£40.00
(e)	As above. The same reversed wmk. variety, but fine used	£25.00

(to be concluded)

RECENT ISSUE

\$5 Bird (Takahe) Definitive — superb design, once again maintaining the high standard of this set. Issued 20/4/88.

Mint single	£3.20
Imprint block of 6	£22.25
Sheet value block of 4	£16.00
Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk)	£3.40