

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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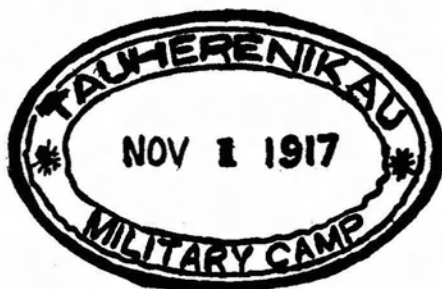
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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton



Tauherenikau Military Camp. This was one of several World War I training camps in the Wellington area. Its post office was open for several short periods until December, 1918. Several distinctive datestamps are recorded for this particular camp, two being circular (for letters) and three octagonal (for registered mail and for parcels). None of these is common, but we now illustrate another marking which as far as we can ascertain has never previously been recorded. We recently acquired a registered cover (complete with Camp registration label) on which this rubber datestamp had been used to cancel the K.G.V 3d adhesive. A lovely item! Not only has this marking not been recorded for Tauherenikau, but nothing resembling it appears to exist for any of the other contemporary Military Camps.

The Emergency Earthquake Flights of 1929 and 1931. With acknowledgement to the Air Mail Society of New Zealand (address: P.O. Box 29144, Fendalton, Christchurch 4, N.Z.) for permission to quote from "The Air Mails and Pigeon Posts of New Zealand" by R.J.G. Collins, published by the Society in 1931. Last month's Notes covered the flights relating to the 1929 earthquake which affected part of the South Island's West Coast. Now we move on eighteen months or so, to the considerably more serious 'quake of 1931.

Although the West Coast earthquake of 1929 was the cause of widespread damage and loss of life, it was not comparable in effect with an earthquake of similar intensity that occurred, on the 3rd of February, 1931, in the Hawke's Bay Province of the North Island.

The two populous and flourishing towns of Napier and Hastings suffered damage to the value of hundreds of thousands of pounds, and the loss of life was appalling.

The post office at Napier, a large new building, was damaged by the earthquake and, soon after some of the equipment and the mails had been removed, was reduced to ruins by a fire which followed the upheaval.

No regular postal facilities were available at Napier on the day following the earthquake, not, for that matter, was there the immediate need, by the stricken residents of the town, for such facilities.

On the 5th of February, an endeavour was made to establish a temporary post and telegraph office at the railway station, and early in the morning a small batch of letters was sent to Hastings. But the continuance of earth tremors was sufficiently alarming to cause an evacuation of the temporary premises, and it was not until the 6th that an office of any permanence was set up in one of the schools.

At Hastings the post office was considerably damaged, but, after the first shock, the officials were able to make use of a portion of the building in which to continue operations, and, although all the usual facilities were not immediately available, mails were made up and despatched with a minimum of delay.

Profiting by the experience gained at the time of the West Coast earthquake, use was early made of aircraft to convey medical supplies to Hawke's Bay, and, for a week, 'planes were constantly flying to and from Hastings.

As telegraphic communication with Napier and Hastings was impossible use was made of aeroplanes to carry telegrams to Hastings; but, in view of the congested conditions under which the officials were obliged to work, it was not considered advisable to add to the confusion by hastening the dispatch of ordinary letter mails to the earthquake area. Hence, although planes were used to despatch letter mails from Hastings, with three exceptions letter mails were not carried to Hastings by air.

No extra postage was charged for letters carried by air, and no cachet was applied at the time, but with the approval of the Postal Department, the various pilots, on application, signed covers carried by them. In accordance with an arrangement between the pilots and the Committee of the Air Mail Society of New Zealand, all such signed covers, with the exception of those comprising the mail from Wellington to Hastings, were endorsed with the inscription, "EMERGENCY EARTHQUAKE AIR MAIL", in purple.

4th February, 1931. Earthquake Emergency Flight: Wellington to Hastings. The first air mail carried in connection with the Hawke's Bay earthquake was despatched from Wellington on the 4th of February.

At the request of the postal authorities, Mr. G.G. Wallace, of the Wellington Aero Club, left Rongotai Aerodrome, Wellington, at 5.20 a.m. in a Moth 'plane and reached Longlands Aerodrome, Hastings, at 7.25 a.m.

Soon after the arrival of the plane, an official of the Hastings post office took delivery of a mail bag containing a very large batch of telegrams and twelve special delivery letters.

These special delivery letters had been despatched only because, from the Department's point of view, they were considered to be in the same category as telegrams, but no ordinary letters were included.

Each envelope was franked with the 6d special delivery stamp in addition to the 1d postage stamp, and each envelope bears Mr. Wallace's signature.

5th February, 1931. Earthquake Emergency Flight: Gisborne and Hastings to Feilding. Owing to the damage to the road between Gisborne and Napier, letters addressed to Wellington and southern offices, posted at Gisborne after 8 a.m. on the 2nd of February had not been despatched by the 4th, and the chief postmaster at Gisborne therefore arranged to despatch them by 'plane to Hastings.

Flying-Officer G.A. Nicholls, a Gisborne pilot, left in his Desoutter monoplane at 5 a.m. on the 5th and carried a mail bag which he delivered to the post office at Hastings.

At Hastings, a mail for Wellington and southern offices had been accumulating since the 3rd, and a small bundle of letters had also been received from Napier. The three mails were placed in a bag at Hastings and were carried to Feilding by Flight-Lieutenant H.B. Burrell, who left Hastings at 11.30 a.m.

At Feilding, connection was made with the Main Trunk express, by means of which the bag was conveyed to Wellington.

Under the conditions it is not surprising that neither at Napier nor at Hastings was a record kept of the number of letters despatched, but the mails were not large.

The Gisborne portion of the mail consisted of 180 letters.

Evidently owing to the lack of a sufficient supply of cancelling ink, the Napier and Hastings postmarks, for some days after the earthquake, were generally pale in colour although quite legible.

Because of the difficulty of obtaining stamps at Napier and Hastings post offices, letters posted soon after the earthquake are occasionally found endorsed "No stamps available", and in such instances the postal authorities at the offices of receipt charged the amount of the postage only, and not the double fee ordinarily levied on unpaid correspondence.

(To be continued)

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401

EXPRESS DELIVERY — A GREAT RARITY

Express cover from Wellington to Auckland, bearing pair of K.G.VI 1d red and 6d Express Delivery adhesive, tied by Wellington c.d.s. of 2nd August, 1939. **The Express stamp is the very short-lived issue on Wiggins Teape paper, perf. 14 x 15 (U1e), and the usage is beautifully contemporary.** The stamp was on issue only from April to 15th August 1939, and (bearing out the footnote on rarity under this issue in the C.P. Catalogue) this is only the second genuine usage on cover we have seen. The rare Express cover

£225.00

COMMEMORATIVES — SOME UNUSUAL OFFERS

402

Christchurch Exhibition 1d. A magnificent block of 9, with selvage at top and right, and inter-pane gutter at left (the issued sheets were of 60 stamps arranged in two panes of 30 (each 3 x 10), with wide vertical gutter between the panes). Stamps are all superb unhinged mint, a few creases and perf. reinforcements being confined to the selvage. A showpiece

£145.00

403

Dunedin Exhibition ½d. Fine mint block of 4, one stamp showing the constant and very prominent R2/1 "EXHIBITION for EXHIBITION" variety (SV17a) ..

£10.00

404

Dunedin Exhibition 1d. Corner block of 4 including, on R2/2, the 'Horseshoe' flaw which is common to all three values of the set in this position. Superfine mint, hinged in selvage only

£9.50

405(a)

Dunedin Exhibition 4d. Corner pair, including the R10/1 'POSTAGF' variety (SV17c(3)). Variety stamp has unobtrusive crease — appearance superb. This is the one listed as S.G. 538a

£75.00

(b) **As above.** Used copy (Exhibition c.d.s.) with the same variety

£85.00

(c) **As above.** Top left corner pair with, on R1/2, the other 'POSTAGF.' variety (with full stop), listed in C.P. as SV17c(1). Mint unhinged — minor natural paper flaw on variety stamp

£80.00

406

1936 Chambers of Commerce. Complete set of five values (½d — 6d) each in plate block of 4 superb used with central St. Kilda c.d.s. of 1st October 1936 (the first day of issue of the stamps). Unusual and attractive

£85.00

407

1953 Coronation 2d. Set of two sheet value blocks of 4, one with the normal '£1' marking, the other with this value obliterated and '10/-' substituted (the latter being from issued half-sheets, and quite scarce)

£15.00

408

1955 Stamp Centennial 4d. Unhinged mint copy with variety 'Blurred Centre' (S68aZ), with normal stamp for comparison. This is almost certainly a double print, one albino, the effect being identical to that of the blurred centres on the Q.E. middle values

£40.00

KING GEORGE VI

The concluding part of the popular listing. All stamps are mint, and full annotation included where necessary.

409(a)	2/- Wmk. Upright (M15a). Unmounted mint copy	£5.00
(b)	As above. Lovely block of 4, unhinged	£20.00
410(a)	2/- Wmk. Sideways (M15b). Two rather nice frame contrasts	£4.50
(b)	As above. Plate 1 — 1 block of 4	£10.00
(c)	As above. Three plate (1 — 1) blocks of 4: (i) with R15/1, 16/1 and 16/2 centre flaws; (ii) all three impressions re-entered; (iii) new R16/2 centre flaw and plate cracks between R16/1—2	£35.00
(d)	As above. Watermark Inverted (M15bZ):	
(i)	Unmounted single	£6.00
(ii)	Block of 4, also unhinged	£22.50
(iii)	Two fine frame shades	£12.50
(e)	As above. Thin paper varieties:	
(i)	Thin paper together with a normal (thick) for comparison	£7.50
(ii)	Two marginal blocks of 6 on thin paper with R12/3 and R13/1 flaws and retouched — MFV15b(d and e). Unusual	£40.00
(f)	As above. Two corner blocks of 4, one showing the mysterious orange 'A' which appeared in the top selvage above R1/10, the other showing no trace of the mark. Perf. reinforcement on the non variety block	£27.50
(g)	As above. Corner block of 4 with the R15/10 frame flaw	£15.00
(h)	As above. Block of 4 with R11/5 flaw (by side of neck) and the extensive plate cracks which occurred on this stamp	£15.00
(i)	As above. Three marginal blocks of 6, all with R12/1 centre flaw, (i) R12/3 and 13/1 pre-flaw; (ii) R12/3 flaw and R13/1 two flaws — MFV15b(d); (iii) R12/3 and 13/1 retouched — MFV15b(e). Superb	£75.00
(j)	As above. Large plate (1 — 1) block of 20 with R12/3 and 13/1 flaws — MFV15b(d); R14/4 first state of flaw, R16/1—2 early plate cracks, R16/4 flaw	£40.00
(k)	As above. A massive plate (1 — 1) block of 42 — including R10/6 flaw, R11/3 retouch, R11/5 flaw and heavy plate cracks, R12/3 and 13/1 retouches — MFV15b(e), R14/4 final state of flaw, R16/1—2 plate cracks fully developed, R16/4 flaw and R16/6 re-entry. A brilliant multi-variety piece. Stamps Cat. \$ 250 as normals	£75.00
411(a)	3/- (M16a). Just two stamps, but superb contrasts of both centre and frame ..	£9.00
(b)	As above. Plate (2 — 1) block of 4	£20.00

(c)	As above. Inverted Watermark Variety (M16aX)	£10.00
(d)	As above. Centre misplacement to right (white border between centre and frame). Nice	£7.50
(e)	As above. Two stamps, one normal, the other has a brown "wash" over the whole stamp (due no doubt to a fault in the printing process) — result, the stamp appears to be printed "on brown paper" !! Superb item and most unusual	£12.50
(f)	As above. Three blocks of 6, (i) R14/3 single flaw, R14/4 and 15/4 re-entered; (ii) R14/3 two flaws, R15/4—5 initial plate cracks; (iii) as (ii) but plate cracks more extensive. Stamps Cat. \$ 180 as singles	£40.00
(g)	As above. Two plate (2 — 1) blocks of 12 both with R14/3 flaws and R14/4, 15/4 re-entries, one block with R15/4 vertical line, the other without — MFV16a(e and f). Cat. \$ 240 and single stamps	£75.00
(h)	As above. Larger block of 15, this time plate 3A — 1 (see note referring to MFV16a(f) in the C.P. Catalogue), with R14/3 flaws, R14/4, 15/4 re-entries, R15/4 vertical line and R15/4—5 plate cracks. Cat. \$ 150 as single stamps ..	£45.00
412	1½d Provisional (M17a). Two sheet serial number blocks, block of 4 with black serial no., and block of 6 with red serial no. (All stamps with inverted watermark)	£5.00

1898 — 1908 PICTORIALS, MINT AND USED

A continuation from last month's initial listing.

413(a)	3d London Print (E9a). Superb unhinged mint copy — very scarce thus	£20.00
(b)	As above, hinged but fine mint	£12.25
(c)	As above. Set of two fine used, in the listed shades of yellow-brown and deep yellow brown. Marked contrasts	£9.50
414(a)	3d Local Print, Perf. 11, No Wmk. (E9b). Mint unhinged	£12.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4, stamps unhinged and superb	£50.00
(c)	As above. Two used, in superb shades of yellow brown and deep yellow brown as listed	£1.25
415(a)	3d Local Print, Perf. 11, Wmk'd. (E9c). Fine mint copies in yellow brown and bistre brown. The two	£16.25
(b)	As above. Lovely mint copy with the very scarce no watermark variety (E9cV). The bistre shade proves conclusively that this is not E9b — no bistroes exist in that issue	£12.50
(c)	As above. Set of four used, in magnificent shades ranging from yellow-brown through to pale bistre.	£4.25

(d)	As above. Five used pairs (three horizontal, two vertical) again in a delightful range of shades. Unusual	£10.00
416(a)	3d Local Print, Perf. 14 (E9d). Finest mint copy	£8.50
(b)	As above. Used set of three, in the listed shades of bistre brown, bistre and pale yellow bistre	£8.50
417(a)	3d Reduced Design, Perf. 14 (E10a). Fine mint copy in deep brown	£20.00
(b)	As above. Set of two used, in fine shades of brown and deep brown as listed ..	£25.00
418(a)	3d Reduced Design, Perf. 14 x 12½ — 13½ (E10b). Fine mint	£20.00
(b)	As above, but fine used	£12.50
419(a)	3d Reduced Design, Perf. 14 x 15 (E10c). Fine mint copy	£20.00
(b)	As above. Set of two, brown and yellow brown, mint and fine	£40.00
(c)	As above. The same two good shades, but fine used	£20.00
420(a)	4d White Terrace (E11a). Single copy, mint unhinged	£12.50
(b)	As above. Lovely mint set of four in all the listed shades of rose — dull, deep, bright and lake	£50.00
(c)	As above. Similar set of the four shades, but fine used	£37.50
(d)	As above. Finest mint block of 4 (dullish lake shade) including the major R2/5 re-entry	£50.00
(e)	As above. Marginal block of 6 in bright rose (all stamps brilliant unhinged), including the re-entries at R8/8 (major) and R10/9 (minor). Superb block ...	£77.50
421(a)	4d Lake Taupo, Perf. 11, Unwmk'd. (E12a). Single copy, mint unhinged	£6.00
(b)	As above. Three used, showing particularly fine shades of the central vignette ..	£5.00
422(a)	4d Lake Taupo. Perf. 11, Wmk'd. (E12b). Single copy, unhinged mint	£8.00
(b)	As above. Previously hinged, fine	£5.50
(c)	As above. Superfine mint block of 4	£27.50
(d)	As above. Corner block of 4 including the good R8/10 re-entry. Finest mint ..	£32.50
423(a)	4d Lake Taupo, Perf. 14 (E12c). Single copy, frame in yellow-brown shade, unhinged mint	£5.00
(b)	As above. Unhinged mint marginal block of 4 in the same shade	£22.50

(c)	As above. Superfine mint block of 4 in the palest of all the frame shades — pale brown-yellow	£17.50
(d)	As above. Set of three fine mint, with yellow-brown, chestnut and pale brown-yellow frames	£14.00
(e)	As above. Superb mint block of 4 with variety Watermark Reversed (E12cW) .	£30.00
(f)	As above. Set of four used, showing all the listed frame shades to perfection ..	£7.50
(g)	As above. Finest used copy with variety Watermark Reversed. Although relatively common on this issue, the reversed wmk. appears to occur only in conjunction with the yellow-brown and (rarely) the deep brown frame shades ..	£3.00
(h)	As above. Another set of four, finest used, showing all four possible variations of the watermark — normal, reversed, inverted and inverted-and-reversed (although previously noted, the last of these is not yet listed in C.P., but it will be in due course)	£25.00
424	4d Lake Taupo, Perf. 14 x 12½ — 13½ (E12f). The final (1908) issue, with neat, clean-cut and perfs., and a good stamp in fine used, as here	£12.50
425(a)	5d Otira Gorge, London Print (E13a). Single copies in red chocolate and sepia, mint. Wonderful contrasts! The two	£52.50
(b)	As above. Superfine used copy, in a typical red chocolate	£10.00
(c)	As above. Set of three used, in pale red chocolate, red chocolate and chocolate — effectively complete as listed, used sepias being practically impossible	£32.50
426(a)	5d Local Print, Perf. 11, Unwmk'd (E13b). Just two shades are listed for this issue, but we can offer four quite superb contrasts. Finest mint	£45.00
(b)	As above. Superb mint block of 4, one stamp showing a prominent flaw consisting of a straight line of six dots on the lower slope of the distant snow-clad peak. We have seen several examples of this flaw, so it appears to be constant, but its sheet position is unknown	£50.00
(c)	As above. As in the mint set above, we can do four lovely shades used, too ..	£10.00
427(a)	5d Local Print, Perf. 11, Wmk'd (E13c). Fine mint copy in sepia	£22.50
(b)	As above. Set of four used shades — red brown, deep brown, sepia, black-brown — complete as listed	£37.50
428(a)	5d Local Print, Perf. 14 (E13d). Finest mint copy	£10.00
(b)	As above. Set of three used, one in each of the listed shades	£12.00
(c)	As above. Similar shades set, but in fine used pairs	£25.00

(to be continued)