

Underpaid Mail

New Zealand Postage Due Payment prior to the Introduction of Postage Due Stamps in December 1899

From 1878 to 1899 Unpaid Postage Dockets were issued to collect unpaid postage. The dockets were generally attached to the reverse of the cover and removed when the postage was paid. This sheet gives examples of two covers that received a postage deficiency charge prior to the introduction of the first Postage Due stamps, which were introduced in December 1899.

Image of an UNPAID POSTAGE DOCKET

(from The Postage Stamps of New Zealand Volume 1)



To the Right is a cover posted in Croydon on 8 August 1896 with a 2½d stamp on to New Brighton in Canterbury. The backstamps show that the letter arrived on 25 September 1896. An Underpaid Postage docket had been attached to the back of the cover and 5d Deficiency postage was paid on 26th September. The postage rate was 2½d per half oz so the letter was double weight and underpaid by 2½d and a double deficiency charge of 5d was applied.



To the Right is a cover posted in Darfield on 11 February 1898 with two 1d stamps paying 2d postage to the Union Bank of Australia in Christchurch. The backstamps show that the letter arrived on the same day 11 February 1898. An Underpaid Postage docket had been attached to the back of the cover. The postage rate was 2d per half oz so the letter was double weight and underpaid by 2d and a double deficiency charge of 4d was applied. The remains of the UNPAID POSTAGE DOCKET gum is visible on the image of the reverse of the cover and was removed when the 4d was paid and charged to the companies account.



New Zealand Postage Due Stamps 1899

Stamps used on Cover

This sheet shows usage of the 1/2D., 1D., 2D. and 4D. stamps on four covers/cards. Dates of usage range from 1900 to 1908.



Top right. 2D. stamp paying double deficiency on a local Timaru cover bearing a strip of four x 1/4d Discount stamps which were invalid for postage purposes. 11 March 1901.

Bottom right. 2 x 1D. stamps paying double deficiency postage on 12 May 1903 due on a cover from Stroud in England.



Top left. Block of 10 x 1/2D. stamps paying 5d double deficiency postage due on letter from Burg (Fehmarn) to German Consul, Dunedin. Cancelled in Dunedin on 5 July 1900 it was forwarded to Queenstown and cancelled on 7 July 1900.

Bottom left. Strip of 5 x 4D. stamps paying 1/8d postage / customs duty on a parcel on 22 May 1908. The stamps have been attached to the Customs/ Duty notice.



1907 MISSENT Cover from Dallas USA



1909 Underweight Cover from Victoria



1924 Cover From Shanghai - Underpaid mail

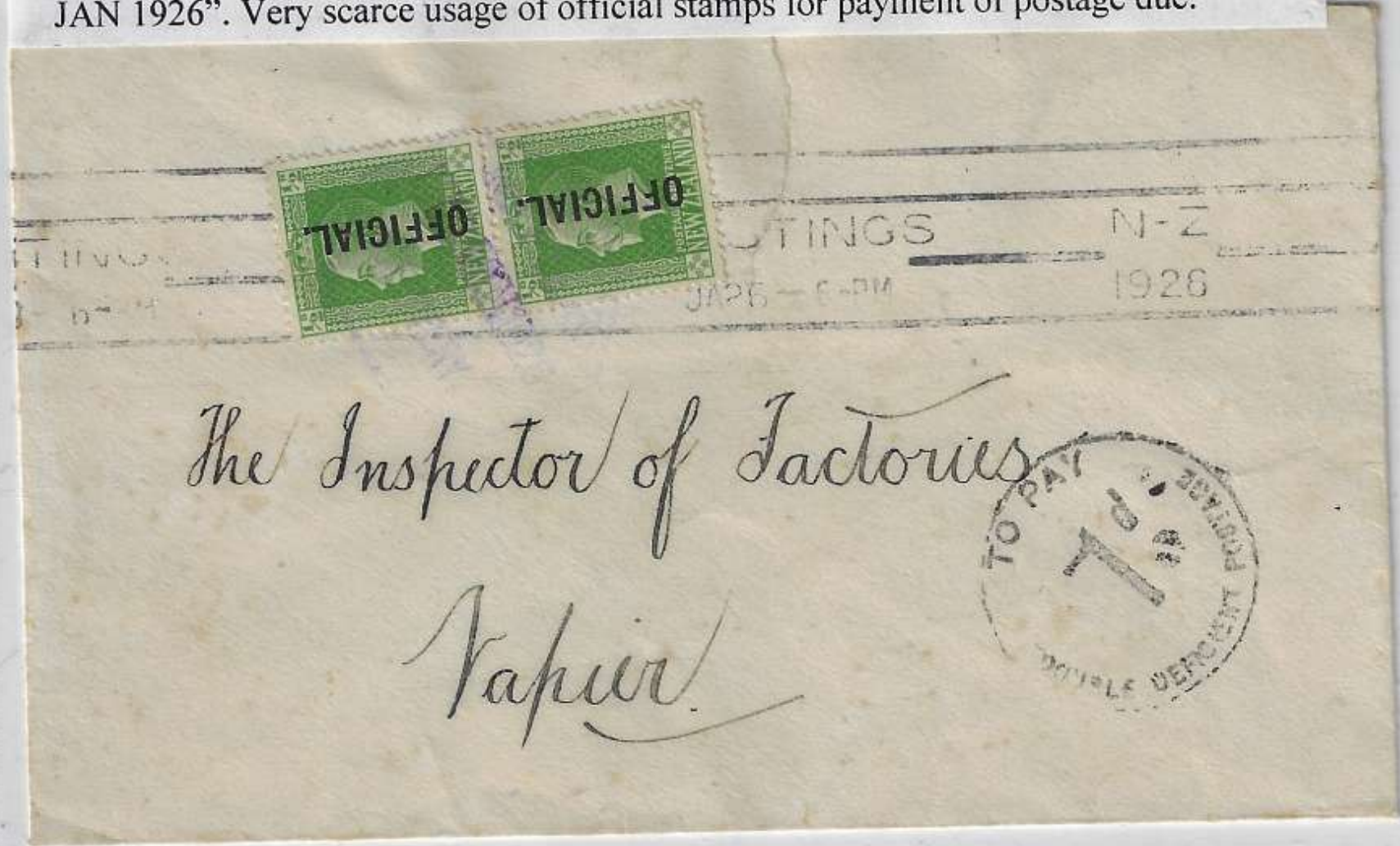


Use of both types of Postage Due Stamps.

Although the first type postage due stamps with values of ½d, 1d and 2d were demonitised on 31 December 1913, values of 3d to 2/- could still be used until 31 December 1934.

1926 Use of KG V Official stamps to pay Postage Due

1926 Postage Due Paid with Official Stamps - Scarce. Hastings to Napier cover sent to govt. official with no stamp attached. 2 x ½ d George V officials used to pay postage due. Stamps cancelled with hexagonal rubber stamp "Napier Delivery 15 JAN 1926". Very scarce usage of official stamps for payment of postage due.



New Zealand Postage Due Stamps 1902 - 1938

Stamps Used on Cover 1931-34

This sheet shows uses of the 1D and 2D stamps on three covers in 1931 to 1934.

The cover below was posted in RAURIMU ON 2 OC 1931 to Auckland with a 2d stamp paying postage. The cover was found to be open and containing a bank note. This led to compulsory Registration which resulted in a 6d Postage Due charge being made, which was paid with 3 x 2D stamps. An illustration of the reverse of the cover is shown at the bottom of the sheet.



The cover on the right was posted in HELL (Norway) on 5 October 1934 to Wellington. The letter has an arrival backstamp on 1 November 1934. The stamps were removed by the Post Office as being 'invalid' for postage and a 5d double deficiency Postage Due charge was applied. 5 x 1D postage Due stamps were attached and cancelled by a WELLINGTON REGISTERED cancellation dated 12 November 1931.



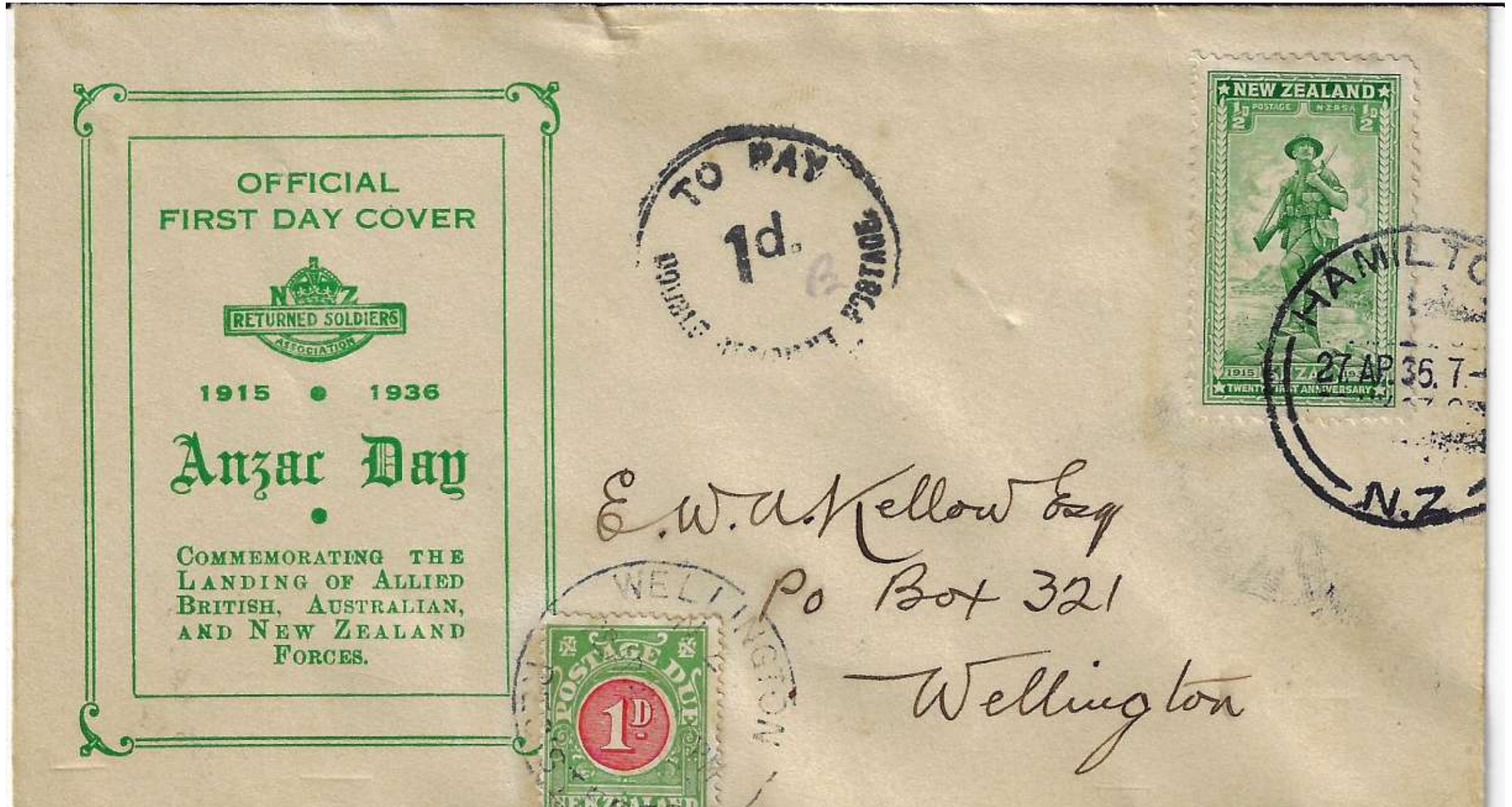
The cover on the right was posted in Hastings on 20 Jan 1934 with the special 7d AIR MAIL stamp and was one of the covers flown to Sydney on the first Trans Tasman Airmail service on 17 February 1934. It bears the AUKLAND date cancellation for that day and the special cachet. It was returned by Surface mail to Hastings. No postage had been applied to pay for the return journey and 4d Postage due was paid in Hastings on 28 February 1934.



1933 Underpaid due to use of Wages Stamp



1935 Underpaid Anzac FDC



1936 Cover From South Africa



New Zealand Postage Due Stamps 1902 - 1938

Stamps Used on Cover 1937-39

This sheet shows uses of the 1/2D (x4), 1D (Block of 18) and a 3D stamp on three covers in 1937 to 1939. Further details about the use of the stamps are written up in the sheet.

This cover was sent by Air Mail from London to Cambridge in New Zealand with four 1½d stamps paying 6d postage. In June 1938 the airmail letter rate was 1/3d per ½oz, the postcard rate was 6d. The postage was underpaid by 9d and 1/6d was required to be collected (double deficiency) before delivery. An image of the front of the cover is shown on the right. The letter arrived in CAMBRIDGE on 28 JE 1938 at 8pm, although the date on the cancellation looks like 1933. The letter was redirected to Auckland. 18 x 1D were applied to the reverse of the cover – far right and a PONSONBY cancellation was applied on 30 JE 1938.



The cover on the left was posted in Hastings on 15 DE 1937 to Fielding with a 1d Dominion stamp attached. This stamp had been demonetised on December 31 1934 and was not valid to pay postage. A 2d double deficiency postage due was required, which was paid on 16 DE 1937 using 4 x ½D postage due stamps.

The cover on the right was posted in Winnipeg on JUN 14 1939 to Wellington, with two stamps paying 3 cent postage. A cachet was applied advising that the letter rate from Canada was 6 cents per ½oz. A 3D postage due stamp was applied.



New Zealand Postage Due Stamps 1939

Stamps used on Cover / Post Card between 1939 and 1945

This sheet shows uses of the 1D and 2D Postage Due stamps on two covers and a post card between 1939 and 1945. Further details about the covers and the post card are explained below.



The cover on the left was posted in PAKAKURA on 16 AU 1939 at a local rate of 1d. It was subject to compulsory registration as it contained a coin and a 6d registration fee was payable. Corner blocks of 4x 1d and 4 x 1½d were applied to pay the postage due. This was the first day of issue of the new Postage Due stamps, so possible philatelic use?

The cover on the right was posted in WINDSOR on 11 May 1940 to REMUERA. 4 stamps paying 5½d were affixed to the front and 2 stamps paying a further 5d attached to the back of the cover, paying 10½d. The airmail rate at that time was 1/3 for the first ½oz so the letter was 4½d underpaid. A 9d double deficiency Postage Due charge was applied, paid for by 4 x 2d stamps and a 1d stamp. These were cancelled in REMUERA on 31 MY 1940.



The post card on the far right has two postal date stamps. The first is a cancel from CRISTOBAL in the Canal Zone on 11 Jun 1942. The second cancellation is SAN FRANCISCO in SEP 1945. Two 1 cent stamps were applied to pay 2c postage.

The illustration of the image on the postcard on the right depicts 5 US 'C' class submarines in the Panama Canal. It is likely that the sensitive subject of the picture meant that the post card was held in the US and not sent by the post office until after the end of the WAR in 1945. There are no sensor marks or other explanation for the delay visible on the card. The card was surcharged with a 1d postage deficiency charge, which was paid with a 1d Postage Due stamp and cancelled at WAIUKU on 9 OC 1945.



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New Zealand Postage Due Stamps 1939-49

Stamps Used on Cover 1949 - 1950

This sheet shows uses of the ½d, 1d, 2d and 3d values on four covers between 1949 and 1950. Further details about the covers are explained below.



The cover on the left was posted in Shirley on 28 JL 1949 with no stamp attached to Christchurch. Postage should have been 2d so 4d Double Deficiency postage was due. This was paid with a block of 8 1/2d stamps in Christchurch on 29 JL 49.



The cover below was posted from the British Solomon Islands to Auckland in October 1949, with a 3d stamp attached. The postage should have been 7d so a double deficiency charge of 8d was applied and the postage due paid with 4 x 2d stamps.



The cover on the right was posted in Nelson on 6 MR 50 with 4d postage on the cover including a health stamp. The cover was judged to be 5d underpaid and a 10d double deficiency postage due was applied – being paid by 2x3d and 2x2d postage due stamps.



The commercial cover above was posted with no stamp. A 2d Double deficiency cancel was applied but 4d was paid with a block of 4 1d stamps.

