

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GB ZOOM MEETING
SATURDAY 19 MARCH 2022

ODDS AND ENDS
OF
NEW ZEALAND DISASTER MAIL
FROM
BRIAN PEACE

1851 NEW PLYMOUTH POST OFFICE DAMAGED BY FIRE

On 28 June 1851 the New Plymouth Post Office was damaged by fire.

The hand-stamps were sent to Wellington for replacement or repair.

In the absence of hand-stamps the New Plymouth Postmaster applied the manuscript

P O N P (Post Office New Plymouth) and dated the cover.



This cover dated 26 July 1851 is the earlier of two examples recorded.

The other is in a museum archive.

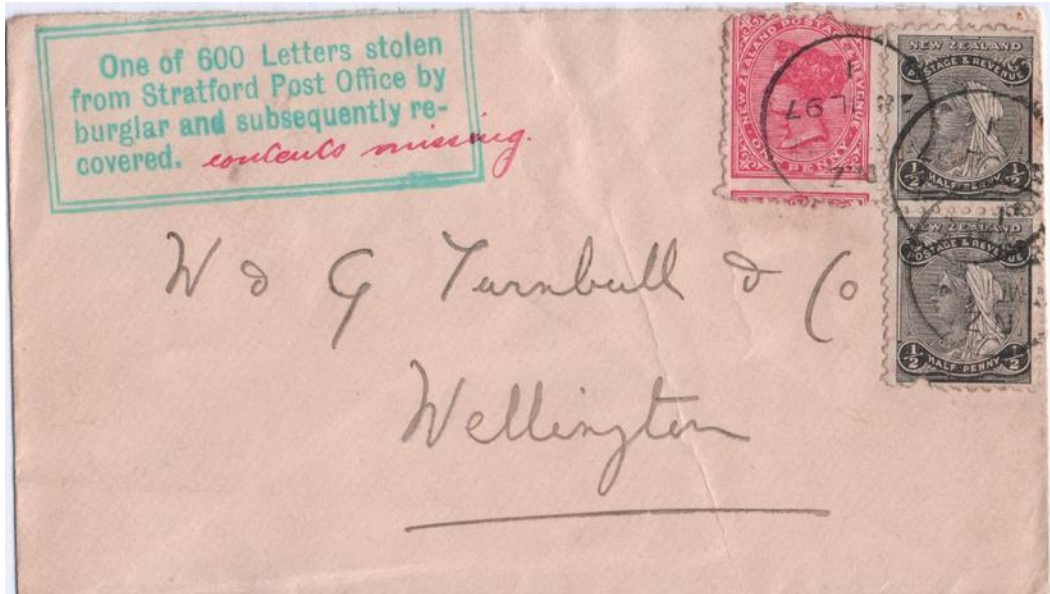
Manuscript 2 in black denotes postage to be paid by the recipient, being the ½ oz rate from 1 April 1851.

Cover was sent via Wellington AU 4 1851 to be paid for on arrival at Nelson AU 12 1851.

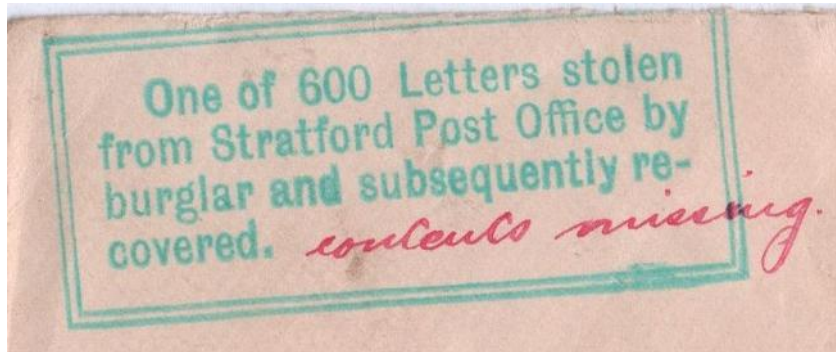
The replacement and repaired hand-stamps were in use by 1 September 1851.

Provenance: Woolfe and Gwynn

STOLEN FROM STRATFORD POST OFFICE, NZ, 1897



Cancelled Stratford 28 JL 97 1 back-stamped Stratford 28 JL 97 2



Three other examples of this cachet are recorded, one of which is cancelled at New Plymouth on 28 July

STRATFORD POST OFFICE ROBBERY.

[BY TELEGRAPH.—PRESS ASSOCIATION.]

STRATFORD, Monday.

THE letters stolen from the post office have been recovered. They were hidden in a stump by the side of the main road two miles north of the township. All the letters had been opened. Inspector McGovern has received word this afternoon of the arrest of a man named Roderick McKenzie at Eltham, on suspicion of being connected with the robbery.

NZ Herald 3 Aug 1897 page 5

THE POST OFFICE ENTERED.

[UNITED PRESS ASSOCIATION.]

WELLINGTON, July 30.

A daring burglary has occurred at Stratford.

The Post office was entered and every letter stolen, including those sorted into the private boxes. The drawer was broken open, and nearly £5 in cash and stamps stolen.

The thief was apparently disturbed opening another drawer, and decamped, leaving a brace bit on the counter. He took away a postman's bag. No attempt was made to open the strong room, in which registered letters and other valuables were kept.

Marlborough Express 31 Jul 1897 page 2

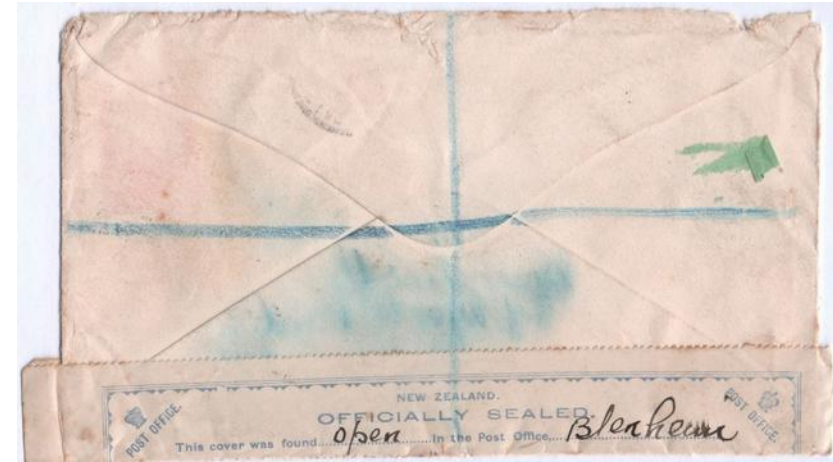


On the night of 28/29 July 1897, Roderick McKenzie broke into Stratford Post Office by forcing a window. He stole 600 letters, the remains of which were found by the roadside between Stratford and Midhirst

1911 BLENHEIM COACH ACCIDENT



Cancelled N.Z. CANVASTOWN 30 OC 11 A and bearing OFFICIALLY SEALED label applied at Blenheim



Posted Monday 30 October at Canvastown on the Nelson - Blenheim road and carried that afternoon east to Blenheim. The *Marlborough Express* was not published on 1 November but does, in early November, makes several references to road damage from *recent flooding*.

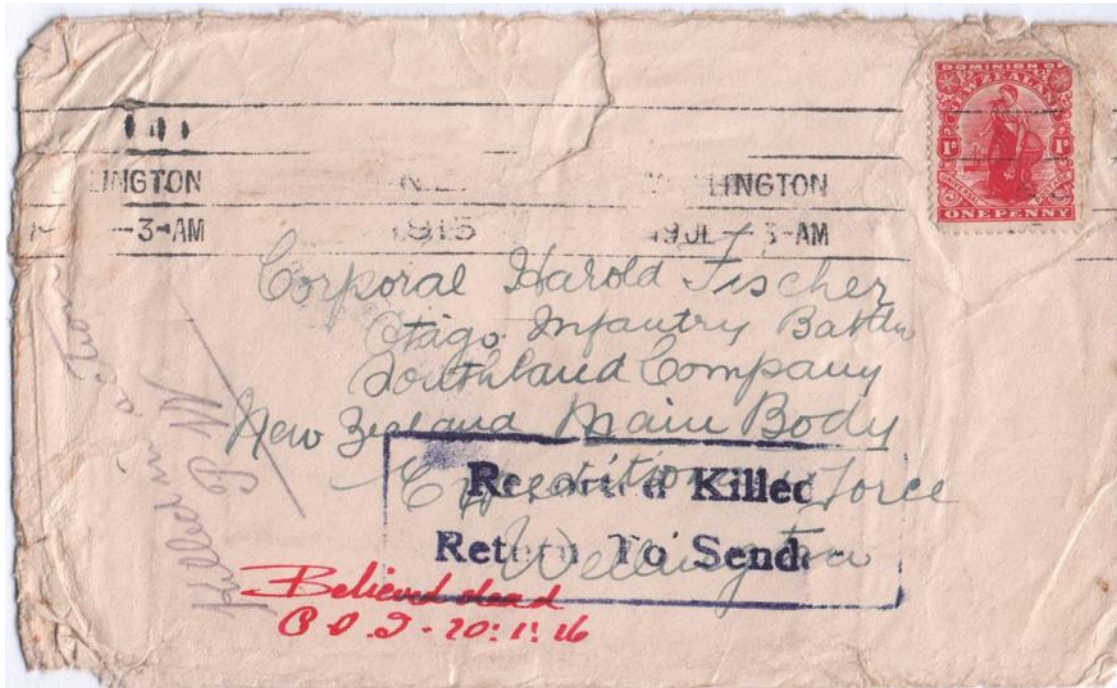
COACH ACCIDENT DAMAGED BY WATER

Official Post Office files for this period have long since been destroyed

One of two covers recorded

(the second cover is also registered and from Canvastown on 30 October)

1915 KILLED IN ACTION



Cancelled WELLINGTON 19 JUL 3-AM 1915

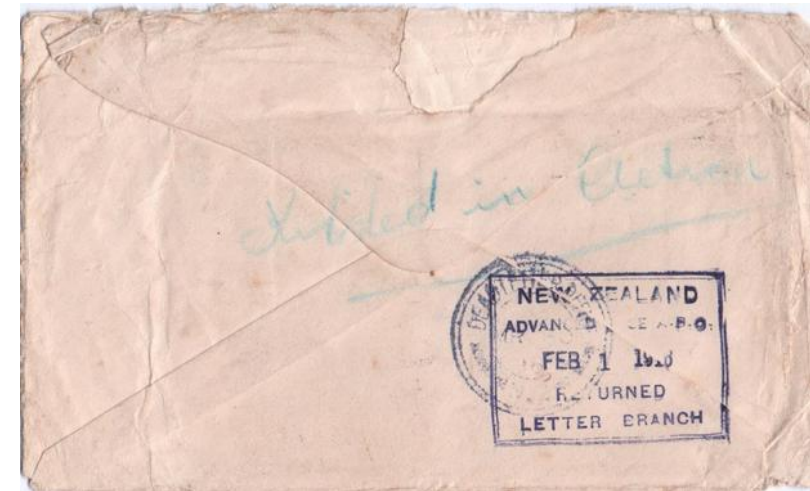
Believed dead

C O J 20:1:16

Killed in action

J W

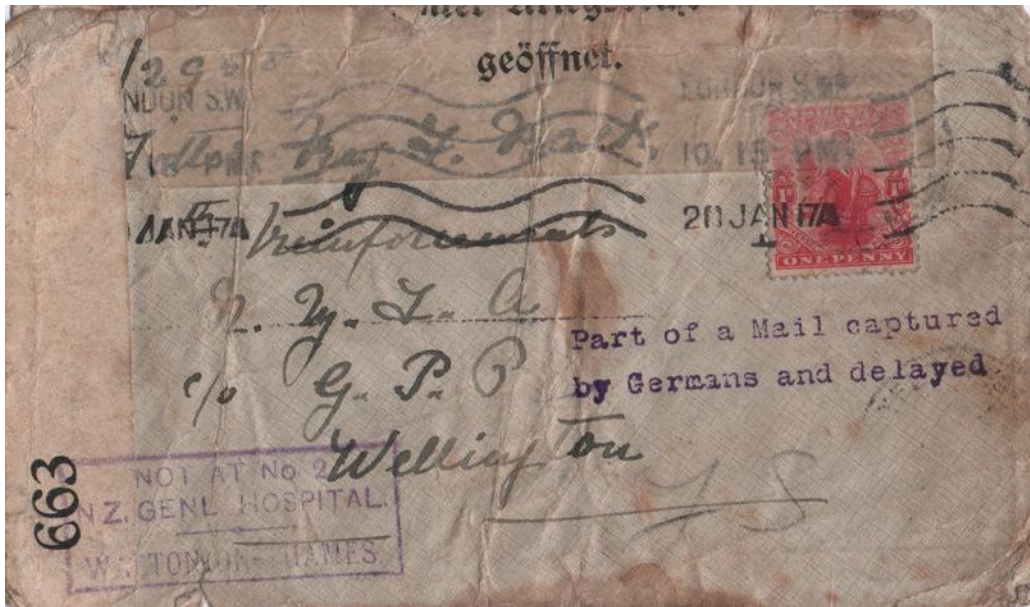
Reported Killed
Return To Sender



Cancelled DEAD LETTER OFFICE MR 30 16 NZ

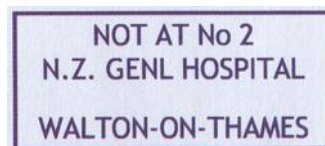
NEW ZEALAND
ADVANCED BASE A.P.O.
FEB 1 1916
RETURNED
LETTER BRANCH

1917 MAIL CAPTURED BY GERMANS



Cancelled LONDON S W 1015 PM 20 JAN 17A
NZ despatch date-stamp indecipherable

Part of a Mail captured
by Germans and delayed
cachet size 56 x 9mm



cachet size 44 x 17mm



Back-stamped NEW ZEALAND 24-MA-17 BASE ARMY POST OFFICE

German and Allied censor tapes attached