



The Kiwi



The Official Organ of the NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN.

Affiliated to: BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION

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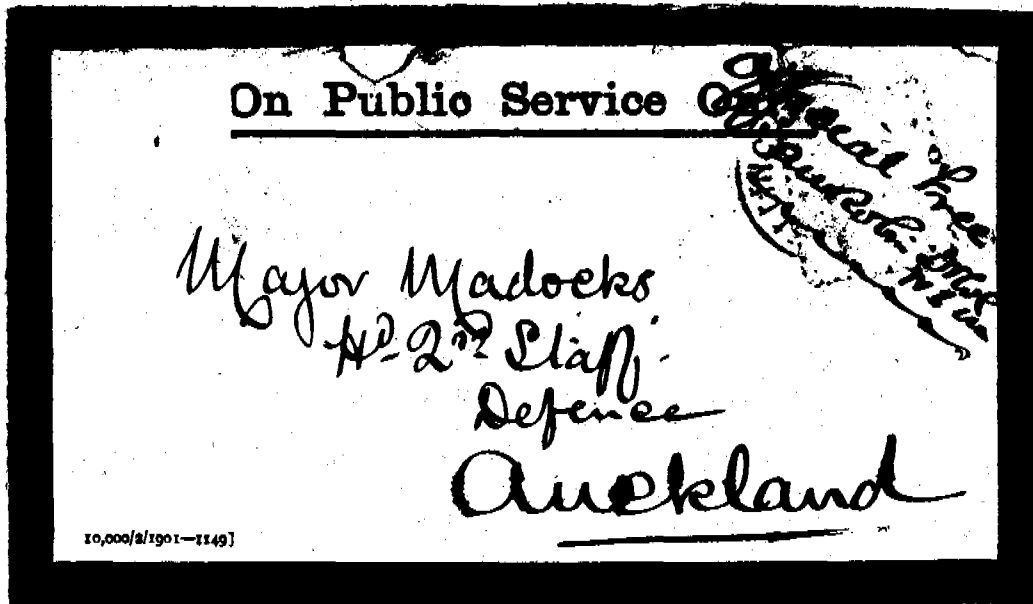
WHOLE 204

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 25TH JULY, 1987,
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

WALLY JACKSON WILL SHOW POSTAL STATIONERY POST CARDS

THIS IS A FURTHER INSTALMENT OF THE MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION OF
NEW ZEALAND POSTAL STATIONERY FORMED BY THE JACKSONS

BOER WAR ECHOES.



SEE PAGE 64

EDITORIAL.

Those of you who were not able to attend the last meeting of the Society missed a treat. The purpose of the meeting, the discussion of competition entries, was amply fulfilled. The variety of material on display was of great interest in its own right. We were all saddened that John Evans, the moving force behind the chosen subject for the meeting, was unable to attend. We all wish him well and a speedy recovery from his present illness.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

A.Ackerley, 5, Appleton Road, Skelmersdale, Yorkshire, WN8 8RP.
A.Butcher, 19, Llys Mair, Bryn Eithinog, Bangor, LL57 2LA.
J.Fitzpatrick, P.O.Box 35-307, Browns Bay, Auckland, New Zealand.
A.F.Z.Letts, 12a, Highgrove, Wood Road,
Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, WV6 8LQ.
R.H.Simmons, 23, Crescent Road, East Grinstead,
West Sussex, RH19 1HR.

LAPSED

Mrs. J.Bygate, Southover, Dikelands Lane,
Upper Poppleton, York, YO2 6JB.
Miss J.S.Cavell, 32, Shinfield Road, Reading, Berks., RG2 7BW.
J.Gott, Charmdale, 68, Queenmore Road, Caton, Lancaster, LA2 9NE.
A.Dale, 15, Wellwood Avenue, Muirkirk,
Ayrshire, Scotland, KA18 3RW.
J.S.Fenemore, 75, Littledale Road, Wallasey, L44 8EF.
Miss S.Hopkins, Crossways, 2, Fairwater Road,
Llandaff, Cardiff, South Wales.
Mrs. D.M.Isaacs, 10, Dukes Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 7RX.
D.K.Lindley, The Coach House, School Hill, Lindale,
Grange over Sands, Cumbria, LA11 6DE.
P.W.Penney, The Chalet, 29, Painshawfield Road,
Stocksfield, Northumberland, NE43 7PF.
Mr. & Mrs. G.A.Powell, 57, Downsview Road,
St. Helens, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 1YD.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Eddy van Beek, Ketel Berg 46, 5508 EZ Veldhoven, The Netherlands.
(previously of Kometenlaan 44, 5501 AH Veldhoven.)
G.E.Chowles, One Tree Hill Stamps, P.O.Box 84077,
Logan Park, Auckland, New Zealand.
(previously of Onehunga, Auckland, New Zealand.)
C.R.P.Goodwin, 3, St. Peters Place, Brighton,
West Sussex, BN1 4SA.
(previously of 38, Queens Road, Brighton.)
H.Mooring, 35, St. Helens Way, Adel, Leeds, LS16 8LP.
(previously of 9, Iveson Garth, Leeds.)
N.P.Osborne, 'Claremont', 10, Ashen Road, Clare,
Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 8LQ.
(previously of 12, Hertford Road, Clare, Suffolk.)

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 30TH MAY, 1987 - COMPETITION ENTRIES.

The meeting opened promptly at 2.30 p.m. with nineteen members

present. Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Stanley Cross-Rudkin, Tony Howie, Noel Turner and Alan Baker. The sad news that John Evans, the moving force behind this meeting, was unlikely to be able to attend further meetings due to illness was given. It was his idea that competition entries should be presented for the comments of members present, in the hope that all would learn and improve their standards.

Before the exhibits were put up, on behalf of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, the Collins Award for 1985 was presented to Allan Berry for articles published in the New Zealand Stamp Collector and in 'The Kiwi'.

A.E.Harrad presented his entry of the recess printed issues of King George V, which was awarded a Silver Medal at B.P.E. in 1982. Comments on this and other entries were given at first by Phil Evans and Allan Berry, both of whom had some experience of judging New Zealand material at National Exhibitions. This entry contained all the major varieties of proofs, imperf. blocks, plate blocks, colour trials and so on. It clearly required more than the 32 pages allowed to do it justice, and it was pointed out that it took great courage to leave out certain items to fall in line with this limitation.

J.G.Evans presented his display of the 1920 Victory Issue, which had been awarded a Silver Medal at B.P.E. in 1986. The Judges had commented that there was too much emphasis on the proof material. It was thought by those present that the Exhibit lacked a focal point, and it was suggested that the use of arricators should be avoided.

J.Buchanan presented a proposed entry of the 1953 - 1960 Health Stamps and Covers. This appeared to suffer from a repetition of the same style of cover to show the different Health Camp cancellations and the use of vertically and slant mounted covers was criticised. Where possible, blocks of stamps used should be matching, and evenly balanced on the page.

E.W.Leppard presented his Exhibit of the Postal History of the Middle East campaign, 1940 - 1945, which was awarded a Silver-Bronze Medal at B.P.E. in 1986. The original Judges had commented that it was overcrowded and needed re-writing. Our own comments were that there was too much writing, and a short course on Precis writing would be beneficial. The map presented should be centrally placed to assist locating places to which the covers referred.

Allan Berry presented his entry of the second issue of the New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department, which was awarded a Silver-Bronze Medal at B.P.E. in 1984, and was unchanged since then. It was thought that this would benefit from a stronger first page and a better focal point. It was also pointed out that backing covers with white card did not help the problem of covers blending into the album page rather than being defined.

John Smith presented two Society Competition entries, one of the 2/- value of the Second Pictorials, and one on the King George VI 1/- value. The problem of single stamp entries were pointed out, both probably being of interest only to the committed collector.

In thanking the resident experts, John Smith expressed his regrets that John Evans was not able to be present at what had been a most interesting and thought provoking experiment. The meeting closed at 5.20 p.m.

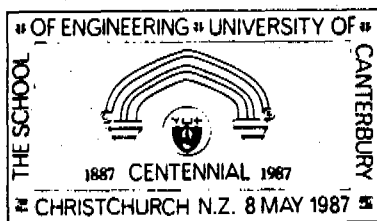
E.W.L.

1987 BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION AWARD OF MERIT.

Our Vice-President, Phil Evans, has received the Award of Merit of the British Philatelic Federation as a tangible recognition of his services to advance philately both locally and nationally. We all send our congratulations on this well deserved honour.

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

CENTENNIAL OF THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Christchurch on Friday, 8th May, 1987, to commemorate the Centennial of the School of Engineering at the University of Canterbury. The date stamp depicts the University of Canterbury Coat of Arms enclosed in an archway supported by two pillars.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND PLUNKET SOCIETY



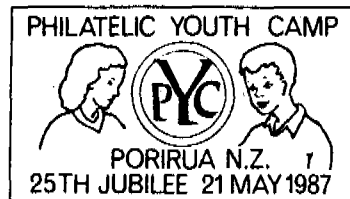
A special pictorial date stamp was used at Wellington on Thursday, 14th May, 1987, to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Royal New Zealand Plunket Society. The date stamp design is based on the Royal New Zealand Plunket Society logo.

SILVER JUBILEE OF TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Auckland on Thursday, 14th May, 1987, to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Toastmasters International. The date stamp design is based on the logo of Toastmasters International.

25TH JUBILEE NATIONAL PHILATELIC YOUTH CAMP



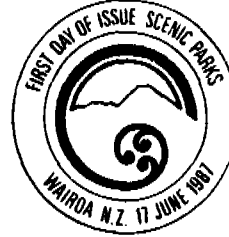
A special pictorial date stamp was used at Porirua on Thursday, 21st May, 1987, to commemorate the 25th Jubilee Philatelic Youth Camp. The date stamp design is based on the Philatelic Youth Camp logo.

1987 RUGBY WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Auckland on Friday, 22nd May, 1987, to mark the 1987 Rugby World Cup Tournament. The date stamp design is based on the Rugby World Cup Tournament logo.

SCENIC 'NATIONAL PARKS' STAMP ISSUE



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Mount Ruapehu, Turangi, Te Anau, Milford Sound, Mount Cook, Ohakune and Murupara Post Office and at Whakatane and Wairoa Area Post Office on Wednesday, 17th June, 1987, the first day of issue of the 1987 Scenic Stamp issue. This service is an extension to the usual "First Day" cover postmarking service.

DISPLAYS TO LOCAL SOCIETIES.

Ian Fogg and Ernie Leppard will be giving a display on behalf of the Society to the Basildon Philatelic Society on Monday, 6th July, 1987. The Society meets at the Painting Studio, Towngate Centre, Basildon, starting at 7.30 p.m. All members of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain are invited to attend.

AUTUMN STAMPEX / B.P.E. 1987

The Prospectus for Autumn Stampex / B.P.E. 1987 will be available at the beginning of June, 1987. Any member who would like a copy should write to:-

The Secretary, 27, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6HZ.

When writing, please also state the number of entry forms needed. Please note that the closing date for entry forms is:-

FRIDAY, 31ST JULY, 1987.

NEW ZEALAND POST PRESS RELEASE - EMBARGOED UNTIL MIDNIGHT 29.3.87

"PENNY POST" TO MAKE A BRIEF RETURN

New Zealand Post plans to mark the launch of the new Postal organisation on 1st April with a special "Penny Post" offer. This was announced today by Chairman, Mr. Michael Morris, who said the offer was open to everyone posting non-business mail.

New Zealand Post officially takes over the postal and agency business from the New Zealand Post Office on 1st April. To celebrate the occasion, they are making a special first day offer that allows private letters to be posted to New Zealand destinations using any value of current New Zealand postage stamp.

"Letters must be hand addressed and should carry the words 'First Day of NZ Post'", said Mr. Morris. "They can be posted for as little as one cent any time between midnight on 31st March and midnight 1st April".

New Zealand Post is expecting a big response to this once-in-a-lifetime offer, and Mr. Morris says it will help establish the new company as a separate entity in the public's mind.

Stamp collectors who want a permanent reminder of the first day of operation of New Zealand Post have also been catered for. Two special 40 cent Vesting Day stamps showing various aspects of the postal business will be available from 1st April.

BOER WAR ECHOES.

E.W.LEPPARD

The cover illustrated on page 59 is an Official Mourning Envelope for the death of Queen Victoria on 22nd January, 1901. It carries on the bottom left hand corner the print number 10,000/2/1901-1149. It is addressed to Major Madocks, who, as Captain Madocks, featured on the set of sixteen postcards showing views of the First and Second Contingents to the Boer War in January, 1900. Captain Madocks was a member of the Second Contingent.

The stamp affixed to the cover is a Penny Universal Local Print from Plate 2, showing the re-entry at Row 6, stamp 2. On lifting the stamp from the cover, it can be seen that it was franked as Official Free by Lt. Col. A.W.Robin. As a Major, A.W.Robin commanded the First Contingent of nine Officers and two hundred and six Mounted Riflemen which arrived in South Africa in November, 1899. They returned to New Zealand in November, 1900, having taken part in operations in the Orange Free State and the Relief of Ladysmith during March, 1900.

The Second Contingent arrived in South Africa in February, 1900, with the then Captain Madocks, and returned to New Zealand on 31st March, 1901. By June, 1901, both Officers had been promoted, and Major Robin went on to become General Sir Alfred Robin.

Having been franked as Official Free by Lt. Col. A.W.Robin, and being sent to an address within New Zealand, the question that arises is why the stamp was added to the cover. The stamp is cancelled at Wellington on 1 JE 01 at 3.00 A.M., at which time it may be that the postal clerk was rather tired!

NEW ZEALAND NUMBER 8 STATIONARY POST OFFICE.

E.W.LEPPARD

Following the publication of my article on the Number 8 Stationary Post Office in 'The Kiwi', Volume 36, pages 41 and 47 - 48, our member ERIC GIBBS has been kind enough to send photocopies of examples in his collection. The range of dates is interesting.

The first date is 22nd February, 1918, which is six months before the establishment was authorised in the Army Order of 31st August, 1918. In September, 1917, the New Zealand Rifle Brigade was transferred from Sling Camp to Brocton in Staffordshire, and used at first the British Brocton Camp B.O. datestamp. Eric's example appears to be the earliest recorded date of the specifically New Zealand datestamp.

The latest date from the examples sent by ERIC GIBBS is 19th February, 1919, which is very close to the date on which the camp at Brocton was closed down.

I am very grateful to ERIC GIBBS for sending in the details of his covers. If any member can extend the dates of use, I would be glad to hear from them, through our Editor.

THE 'SECRET' WATERLOW PLATE MARKINGS
FIRST PICTORIAL LONDON PRINTS - ONE PENNY, LAKE TAUPO

E.W.LEPPARD

Firstly, due acknowledgement must be given to the late Michael Burberry, without whose research work this article could not have been written. That he would not publish, as was his custom, until he was 100% certain on the accuracy of his assumptions has unfortunately prevented a dialogue being established between interested collectors.

It would be best to set out shortly the background to what was to become a controversial issue. When the decision was made that the recess method be adopted for the First Pictorial issue, given the approval of the New Zealand Cabinet on 5th August, 1897, no machinery existed in New Zealand for printing to be undertaken by this method. Thus Waterlow & Sons Ltd. were given the order to print the initial supplies, and to forward the plates and machinery to New Zealand for subsequent printings. When the first shipment arrived in New Zealand on board the S.S. Ionic, on 20th January, 1898, it was realised at once that the 1d. value had been printed mistakenly in the bi-colour design selected for the least used value, the 4d. It was calculated that to print sufficient quantities for a year's supply of the bi-coloured 1d. value, the printing machinery would be tied up for 46 weeks. Thus the 1d. Lake Taupo was never printed in New Zealand. Details of the letters pertaining to this controversy appeared in an article by Professor A.Hamilton in the Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal of 30th January, 1904. This also formed the background to the information in Chapter V of Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand.

Waterlow & Sons Ltd. had difficulties in registration between the Frame and Centre Plates, and had to limit the sheet size to 8 rows of 10 impressions. From the various re-entries seen, it has been known for a long time that three Frame Plates were used. Mainly through the researches of the late Michael Burberry, it was found that Waterlow & Sons Ltd. had made small 'secret' markings to distinguish between each of the various plates used. These occur in each of the four corner stamps of each plate, so that the three Frame Plates can be distinguished from each other with some degree of certainty.

In Frame Plate 1 (Figure 1) each corner stamp shows one small dot or nick in the outer frame lines. In Frame Plate 2 (Figures 2 and 3) the corner stamps show two small dots or nicks in the corner stamps and in Frame Plate 3 (Figure 4), three small dots or nicks. Re-entries are to be found on Frame Plate 1 at Row 1, stamp 10; on Frame Plate 2 at Row 1, stamp 1; Row 8, stamp 1 and Row 8, stamp 10. On Frame Plate 3, a re-entry is found at Row 1, stamp 10. This makes the identification of the Plate Markings that much easier.

What is a little more difficult is to separate the Centre Plates. From the markings shown on the illustrations, Figures 1 to 4, it appears that four Centre Plates were used. Centre Plate A, Figure 1, was used with Frame Plate 1. This has one dot or nick in the outer centre circle of each of the four corner stamps. Centre Plate B, Figure 2, has two dots or nicks in the outer centre circle of each of the corner stamps. Centre Plate C, the second to be used with

Frame Plate 1 - Centre Plate A

Re-entry

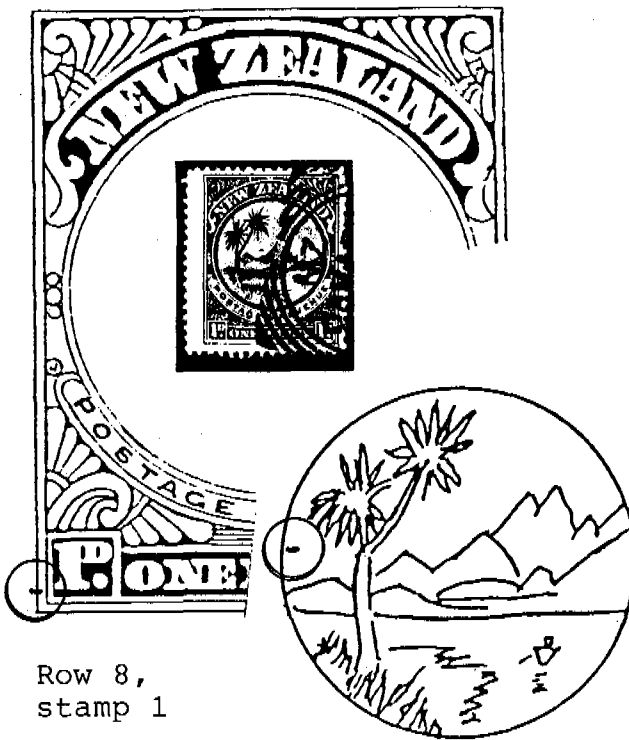
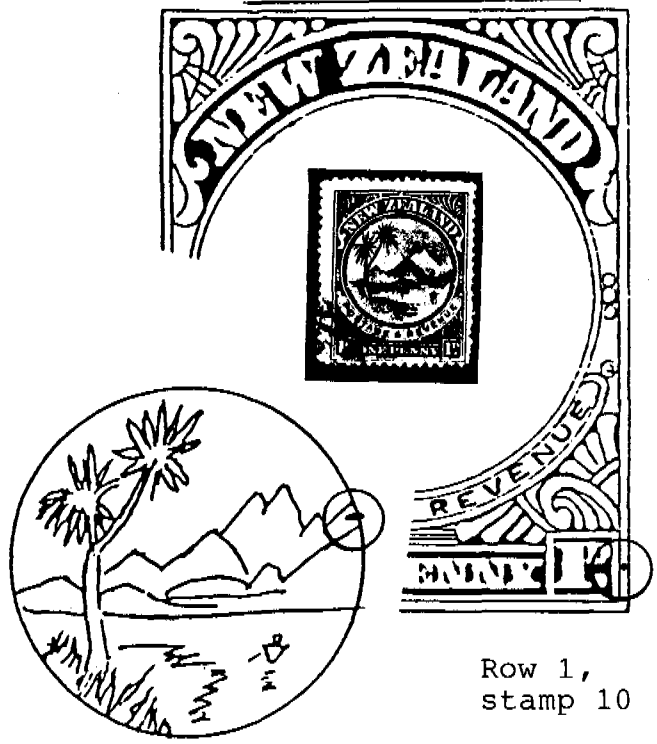
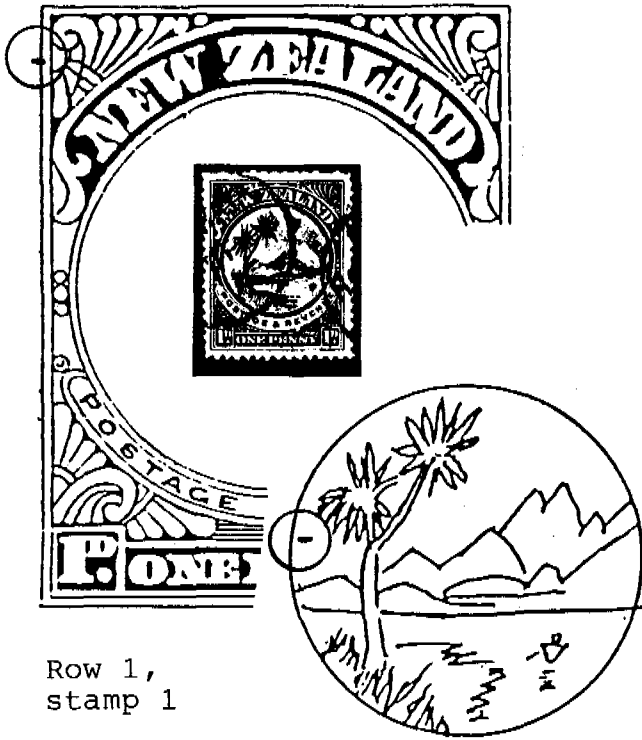


Figure 1

Frame Plate 2 - Centre Plate B



Re-entry -
Postage and
right hand
side



Row 1,
stamp 1

Row 1,
stamp 10



Re-entry



Re-entry
Row 8,
stamp 1

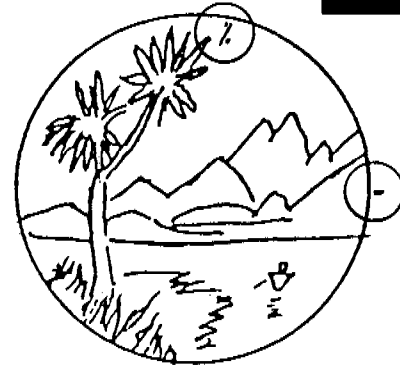
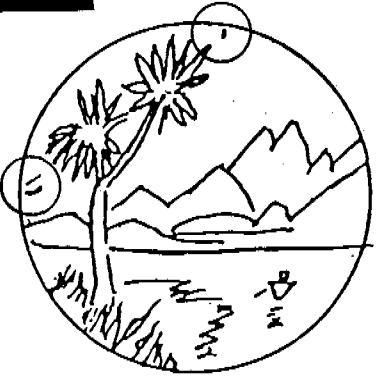
Row 8,
stamp 10

Figure 2

Frame Plate 2 - Centre Plate C



Re-entry -
Postage and
right hand
side

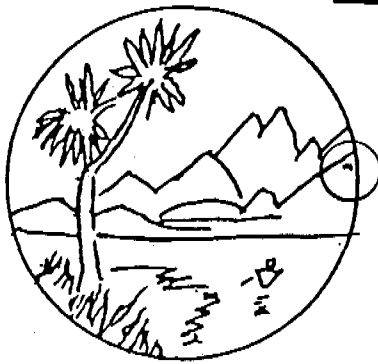
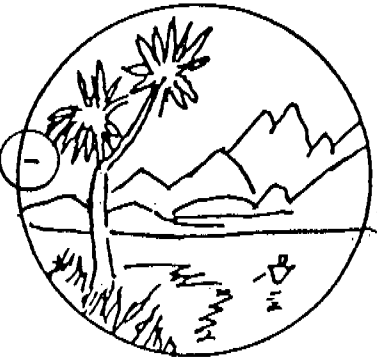


Row 1,
stamp 1

Row 1,
stamp 10



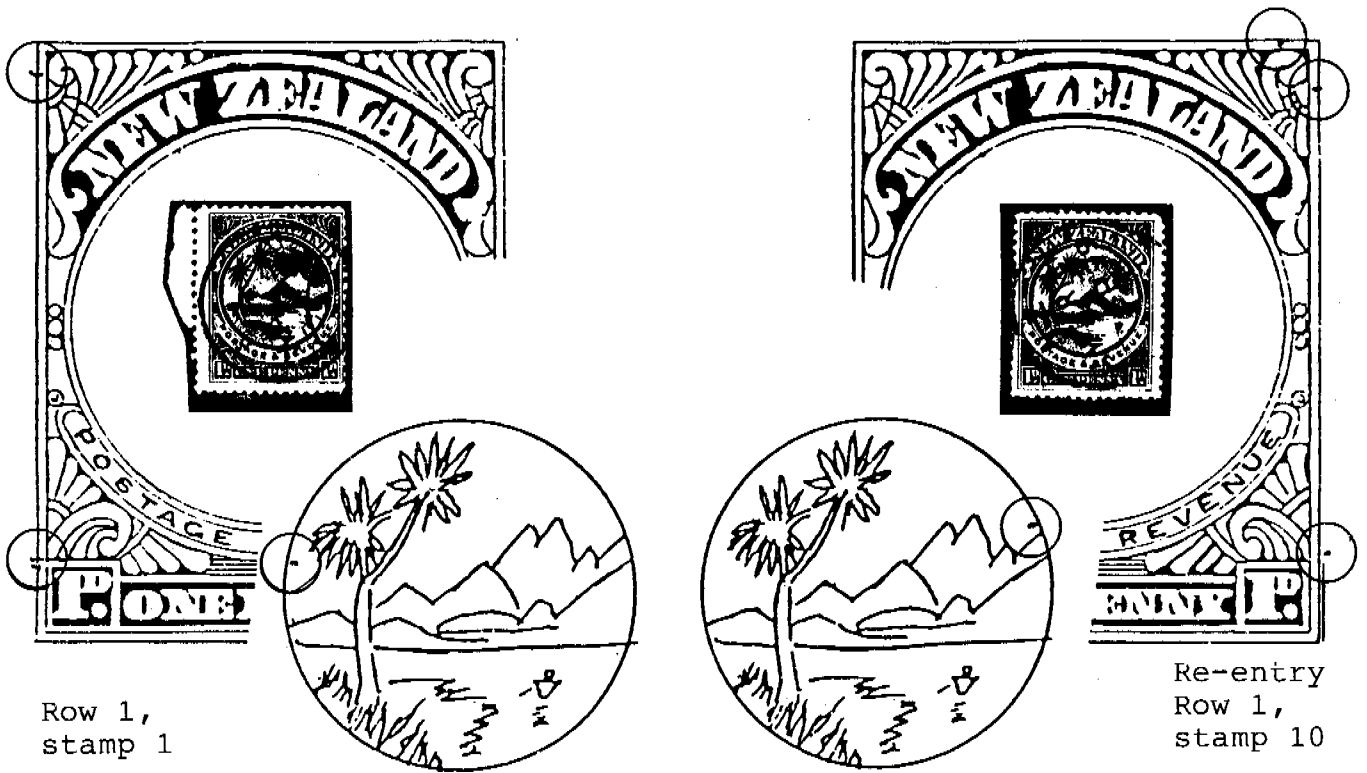
Re-entry



Re-entry
Row 8,
stamp 1

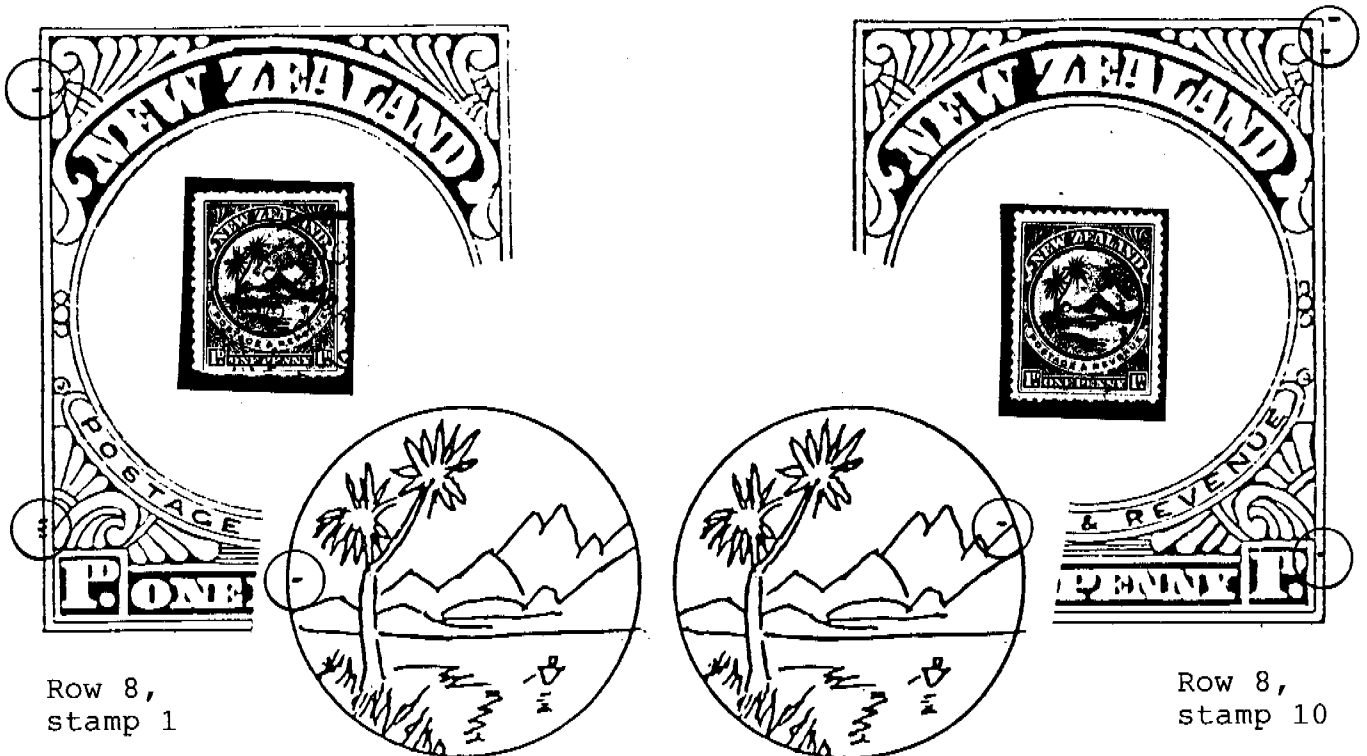
Row 8,
stamp 10

Figure 3



Row 1,
stamp 1

Re-entry
Row 1,
stamp 10



Row 8,
stamp 1

Row 8,
stamp 10

Frame Plate 2, has three marks on the top two corner stamps, Row 1, stamps 1 and 10, while the bottom two corner stamps, Row 8, stamps 1 and 10, have only one mark each. It was this inconsistency that caused Michael Burberry to hold back from publishing his findings, until further examples, and possibly a full sheet, became available for examination. Frame Plate 3 was used with the fourth centre plate, Centre Plate D. This appears to be the least common of the printings, from the copies available, and may have been held in reserve. Centre Plate D had a single dot marking on the outer edge of the centre circle of each of the four corner stamps. All the single dot markings mentioned are in different positions and of a different configuration, so that there is no duplication, as can be seen from the illustrations.

Having advanced a nice convincing theory, I must now show an exception to the rule, or more likely, a fly in the ointment.

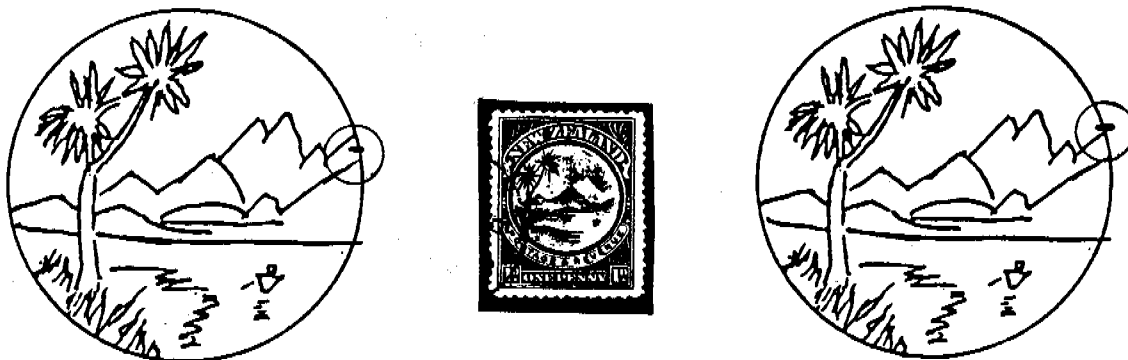


Figure 5

The examples illustrated above, Figure 5, are from Frame Plate 1 and Centre Plate A and show the centre plate marking to be in a different position and of a different configuration from that seen on a full sheet and a positional block of fifteen in my collection. As previously mentioned, there is a re-entry at Row 1, stamp 10, showing as doubling of the top frame line. An identical, single copy shows the same re-entry of the frame plate, and the different position of the centre plate markings. This suggests the possibility that perhaps another centre plate was used with Frame Plate 1.

Was another plate used? The original plates, Figures 1 to 4, from which the London Printings were made, were not sent to New Zealand. Waterlow & Sons Ltd., as was the case with the Penny Universal, had sent a different set of plates for local printing in New Zealand. The following is quoted from pages 175 and 176 of Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, and gives details of this:-

"For reasons unexplained, the plates used for the London printings were not forwarded for use in New Zealand. This seemed to have been the intention of Waterlows, for they had prepared a similar set of plates for use with the new machinery ordered by the Printing Department. These plates had already been forwarded before the notification of the above-mentioned alterations was received. The ½d., 1d., 2d. and 4d. plates were therefore useless, but on arrival of the set of plates printings from the others were commenced without delay. The new machinery had been installed under the supervision of Mr. W.C. Smith who was brought from New

York to superintend the erection of it and give instruction in its working.

"Prior to the despatch of the plates, imperforate proof sheets on unwatermarked paper and in colours closely corresponding to those of the London issues, had been printed. Some sheets of each value of this printing were forwarded with the plates. A quantity of these imperforate proofs are now in circulation and they might easily be mistaken for imperforate London prints. The paper, however is different and the proofs are ungummed. Some rather interesting re-entries occur in the proofs of the 1d. bi-colour, and these, of course, cannot be duplicated in any of the London issues."

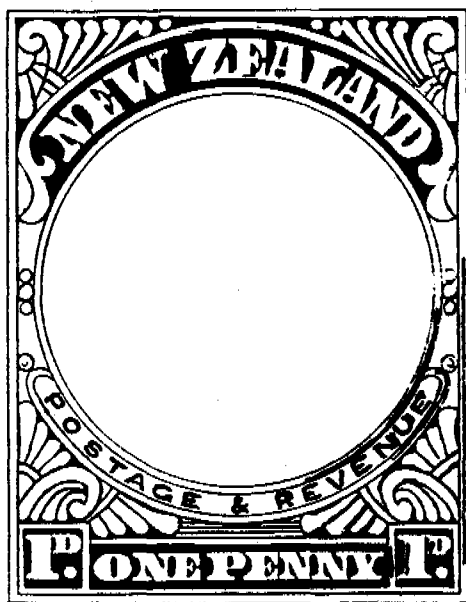


Figure 6

The blocks illustrated at Figure 6 are from Michael Burberry's collection, having previously been in the collection of John Currie, who was the Author of the Chapters on Proofs and Essays in Volumes 1 to 1V of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. All contain doubling which is quite extensive, an enlargement of one being shown in the same illustration.

We would be glad to hear from any member who has positional corner blocks and especially full sheets which can be examined. In particular, printings from Centre Plates B and C used with Frame Plate 2 would be of great value. We would also like to hear from any member who has examples that do not conform to the above theory. Corner blocks of the Currie Proofs, illustrated at Figure 6, and any plate markings they may have, would appear to be the missing link in the story. Please send any information to our Editor.

THE LYTH CORRESPONDENCE.

JOHN WOOLFE

An event of considerable interest to New Zealand Postal Historians took place at Phillips auction rooms on 12th February, 1987, with the auctioning of the Lyth correspondence. This comprised 45 entires sent between 1837 and 1850 to the Reverend R.B.Lyth and his wife at the Wesleyan Mission in Fiji, initially at Somosomo, and after 1842 at Laekemba. The earliest letters were all sent via Sydney, but 19 dated between 1843 and 1850 were sent via New Zealand, in particular via the Reverend Walter Lawry in Auckland. The New Zealand entires were addressed to Fiji or Feegee, or simply to Reverend Lawry for forwarding.

The earliest cover via New Zealand was a "Wesleyan Preachers Plan" for the Colchester Circuit 1844, posted from Colchester on 16th November, 1843. It arrived in New Zealand on 19th August, 1844, as indicated by a faint crown in oval mark, probably of Wellington, and was sent on to Auckland, where it arrived on 17th September, as shown by a NEW-ZEALAND date stamp. It eventually arrived at Laekemba on 7th June, 1845, about 18 months after posting. Later letters were landed at Wellington or Nelson with various examples of crown in oval postmarks, for Wellington dated JU 1 1844 and JY 22 1847, and for Nelson dated DE 12 1846 and SE 26 1847. Others arrived directly at Auckland and the last two at Otago and New Plymouth in 1849 and 1850 respectively.

The two most spectacular covers sent via New Zealand each carried eight Great Britain One Penny red-brown stamps, paying the ship letter postage. The earlier of the two had a crown in oval marking of Wellington dated JY 22 1847, and the latter an unframed arrival mark of Wellington dated AP 2 (?12) 1848, showing the change in datestamp use between these dates. The latter entire and another which landed at Wellington on the same day had the instructional figure '4' applied to denote the New Zealand charge. These are earlier than the dates recorded by Gerald Elliott for any New Zealand use.

Interesting marks applied at Auckland included a NEW-ZEALAND cancel, with long hyphen, dated SP 9 8146 (sic), and a NEW-ZEALAND cancel, with short hyphen, dated JU 17 1847, a date later than that previously recorded by J.J.Bishop.

The Lot which sold for the highest price was an entire landed at

Port Chalmers or Dunedin with the marking P.O.OTAGO / DEC 23 1849. This may be only the third example known outside archives. In general, prices were considerably above the auctioneers estimates. While the more interesting or spectacular items fetched sums in line with previous realisations, to me the main surprise was the amounts paid for literally any entire of the period, irrespective of condition or rarity.

A fascinating auction, the results of which will no doubt surprise the lady at a North of England farmhouse who showed them to David Boyd of Phillips with the enquiry as to whether or not they had any value!

MILITARY HISTORY - THE SOUTH AFRICAN OR BOER WAR

JOHN D. EVANS

The 1984 New Zealand Military Stamp Issue consisting as it does of four stamps on campaigns, almost invites one to look back at the history with at times personal reminiscence or experience of some of them and at the stamps which were issued or used. The subject is presented with an historical and thematic approach and so does not include the vast subject of Forces Postal History. Detachments of British Troops had arrived in New Zealand soon after Captain Hobson had established his authority as Governor in January, 1840, and by June, 1843, settlers at Nelson had also met with trouble over "the land question". A Militia Force was raised in 1845 partly if not exclusively for the protection of settlers.

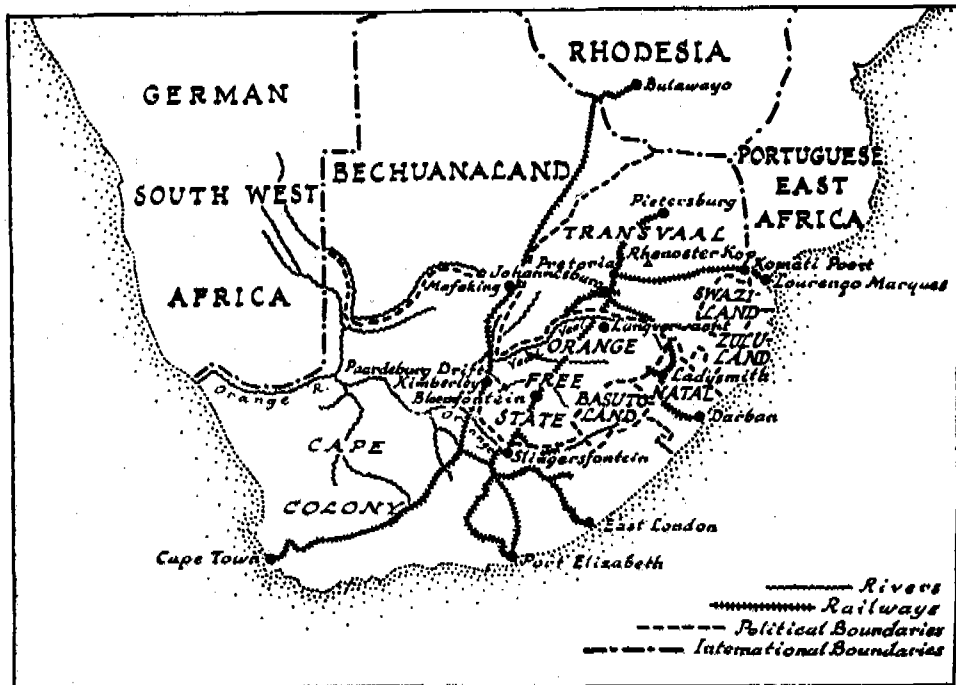
On "the land question" it may be of interest to note that the Land Clauses (Consolidation) Act, 1845, had become law in England and one may conjecture with some confidence that the compulsory acquisition of land which that Act largely dealt with would in principle be applied by the Local Purchase Office in New Zealand. The English basis of compensation was the value in the open market between a willing buyer and a willing seller but eliminating special purpose uses. When one looks, in imagination, at the open market value of land in New Zealand in 1843 or so one would almost be driven to the value with its existing use and it is not surprising that looked at after the event and award, Maoris became dissatisfied when they perceived or assumed the development of settlements. Also, there was the power of appropriation, that is compulsory acquisition in modern terms, which gave the idea to give the owners such compensation as the Land Purchase Department thought fit. In extreme cases there was also power to confiscate the land. The "land question" led to the Second Maori War which stretched over a period in the North Island from about 1860 or so until the Peace Agreement of 1865 but thereafter until 1873 there were sporadic skirmishes. For most of the period, British troops, local Militia and friendly Maoris served side by side and the last British Regiment, the 18th Royal Irish, sailed from New Zealand in 1870. The European-led Arawa Maori Column, referred to as "shawl parties", wore a bush jacket and tartan shawl over a kilt. This is shown on the miniature sheet of the 1984 New Zealand Stamp Issue of November of that year.

From 1872, New Zealand remained at peace until the outbreak of the South African or Boer War on 12th October, 1899. The Boer Republic of Transvaal invaded the British Colonies in South Africa

after their refusal to withdraw British troops, and the war resulted. At the outbreak of the war, New Zealand assembled its first Expeditionary Force. Richard John Seddon, the then Prime Minister, requested Parliament to ask the British Government to accept a contingent of 210 Officers and men. On acceptance, volunteers were called for and each volunteer was asked to provide his own horse. The first Volunteer Contingent consisted of about 700 men and their horses and this was despatched to South Africa soon after the outbreak of the war.

In January, 1900, a set of postcards with views and incidents of the departure of the New Zealand Contingents was issued. One of these contained the view of a troopship packed with troops with the caption 'Good-bye New Zealand'. The set was issued with patriotic motives, but my example is more down to earth, or steamer, for being posted from Tauranga on 22nd June, 1901, to Auckland, the message says - "Please forward by Tuesday's steamer the undermentioned goods and oblige; 1 Case Island oranges and 2 Cases of ripe bananas"!

The views and incidents on the set of postcards which included Officers of the Second Contingent, was bound to record events as we find not only from the postcard just described but also from another of the same series of January, 1900, with the view of the First Contingent entraining at Capetown. In fact, the First Contingent took part in Lord Roberts clashes with the Boer Armies retreating northwards from Cape Colony and in January, 1900, greatly distinguished themselves at Slingersfontein against an assault on a hilltop salient by superior Boer Forces. This hilltop was later called 'New Zealand Hill' and may be another example to our member and friend, Tom Hetherington, on his 'Musings', which often contain extra-territorial references to New Zealand. At this stage it may be helpful to show a copy of a map of South Africa at the time.



SOUTH AFRICA, 1899-1902

Eventually, by September, 1900, the Boer Armies had been forced

to defeat at Komati Poort on the frontier of Portuguese East Africa. Meanwhile, on 28th March, 1900, the issue of a 1½d. stamp was approved by the Postmaster-General for newspapers and it was thought that this should depict New Zealand Troops in South Africa. The United States "Mississippi" issues of 5 cents and 8 cents were considered good examples of what could be depicted and the design was by Mr. James Nairn of Wellington. The engraver was H.G. Thomas of New York who was supplied with photographs of troopers showing uniform and equipment. The stamps were issued on 7th December, 1900, some three months after the defeat of the Boers at Komati Poort. The Second and Third Contingents were despatched not long after the war began.

According to the description of the design of Mr. Nairn, the New Zealand Flag is prominently displayed, and on the left hand upper corner of the stamp the value is displayed against a background of clematis. Pausing here the Flag is shrouded by the value tablets and the 'New Zealand' tablet, and without the aid of a glass it is very difficult to see the clematis in the value tablet. Then on the left side according to the description New Zealand flax rises from before the Officer standing ready to draw his sword; beneath which appear the words 'The Empire's Call' with a winged figure, trumpet in hand, in the lower centre of the stamp. I confess that without the aid of the description the sword is very difficult to imagine. On the right hand side one sees a tree-fern in the background well out of proportion I would imagine, whilst the dismounted trooper partly obscuring his horse appears in front.

The stamp is popularly known as the "1½d. Contingent", S.G. 378, and the Contingent itself is the long line of mounted troopers meant to be at camp and on parade discernable with the aid of a glass ranging from the dismounted trooper to the middle background of the stamp. Inset is an enlarged copy of the stamp, the darker portions of which show the re-entry of Row 2, stamp 12 of the Local Plate. This is the outstanding re-entry, but Campbell Paterson's Catalogue lists some five others. It is not surprising that the design was subjected to a considerable amount of adverse criticism. It is obvious that too much detail has been crowded into the limited space.



"Local" Plate Row 2, No. 12

A 'khaki' colour was chosen for the stamp which was printed on Waterlow Paper with double-lined NZ and Star watermark, perf. 11. I have recently been privileged to see this stamp and officially in Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand "an approach to khaki is occasionally met with". To my eye the shade has a greenish tendency and would not match the khaki uniform of World War 1 or the battle-dress of World War 11, both of which I remember in the Officer Training Corps in the mid-1920's and much more vividly during six years in the Army in World War 11. It is said that the inks used gave more of a brown or chestnut colour. The brown is deeper and darker, but the chestnut varies from a very light to a

deep shade. There is also a shade of reddish chestnut and from used dated copies this occurred from July, 1901, to November, 1907, at least.

One of the set of postcards shows the Second Contingent encamped at Newton Park, Wellington, and another 'Breakfast in Camp', presumably the same camp. The first three contingents were of about 700 men.

After Komati Poort there was a second long drawn out phase of the War in which the Boers proved experts at assembling considerable bodies of men against single objectives. Lord Kitchener sought to sweep up this commando resistance by immense drives of many thousands of British Troops strung out in a line across the veldt, the open country. Peace was made at the end of May, 1902.

The Fourth Contingent of 467 men and the Fifth Contingent of over 500 men went to Rhodesia by way of Portuguese East Africa and operated in the Northern and Western Transvaal. The Sixth and Seventh Contingents, each of nearly 600 men, were sent to Africa in January and about March, 1901. The term of service was about a year so that this meant that there were men from the first three contingents who had returned to New Zealand and joined later contingents.

The last three contingents, each of over 1,000 men, did not sail until 1902, and the last reached Africa just before peace was made in May of that year.

The "1½d. Contingent" perf. 11 continued in issue until 1907. There are rare instances of imperf. and double perfs. which are listed in Campbell Paterson's Catalogue.

In February, 1907, the stamp was issued on Cowan Paper, perf. 14, with NZ and Star watermark in a shade described as pale chestnut, but I find that this has variations. The Boer War had been over for some five years but the stamp continued to depict 'The Empire's Call'. Mixed perfs. 11 and 14 are known and probably one sheet was issued with compound perfs. of 11 and 14. The demand for the stamp was by this time limited and the stamp was withdrawn on 31st October, 1909, and the remainder destroyed.

Returning whence we started, the 1984 24 cent stamp of the New Zealand Military Special Stamp Issue on 7th November, 1984, shows a mounted rifleman of the "Mounted Rifles Contingent" and in the background a platoon riding across a typical Transvaal landscape. The supply wagon is in the background. This was the first involvement of New Zealand Troops in an overseas theatre of war.

New Zealand sent nearly 6,500 men with over 8,000 horses to this war with Veterinary Surgeons to look after their welfare and the war was marked by a terrible wastage of horses.

The New Zealand Government spent £334,000 on the war, most of it on the first three contingents, and another £113,256 was raised by public subscription. The troops in South Africa were paid and provisioned by Britain which as would be expected bore the major cost. New Zealand losses were - Killed in Action = 70; Died of Disease = 136; Accidentally Killed = 25; and Wounded = 166.

References.

Maori Wars Postal Services, by R.M.Startup.
A History of New Zealand Life, by Morrell and Holt.
The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume 1.