

CAPTAIN COQK

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC

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Railways Newspaper Stamps With Postal Cancellations



Railway Newspaper stamps were first issued in 1890 and were intended to pay for the carriage of newspapers by the railways. They were not meant to be used for posting letters and the instructions to staff in 1889 were "that sending stations cancel the stamps by drawing the pen diagonally across them: thus X". This was not always the case and they are typically found defaced with any amount of different squiggles, lines, circles, and crosses, and generally lacking in visual appeal.

Although clearly CTOed, this is what makes the above group so attractive. They are all on horizontal wove paper, perf 14 and fully gummed. As they haven't been "used", and have been stored in ideal conditions, they are as fresh as they were when purchased in 1917.

Stephen Jones

SOCIETY NEWS

August Meeting

Whilst the printed program advertised as an annual sales & silent display night, members were treated to several talks and several excellent displays during the buy sell and swap evening. Despite selling a little material, the president ended up buying more than she sold!

Visiting from Auckland, long time member Gerald Elliott gave a small talk on a collection from the late John Muir on how he interpreted 'a letter' in a novel philatelic way.



Gerald Elliott presenting his talk "Postal History File 12.99" (file 13 being the rubbish bin)

Local member, Edward Fairbrass, spoke about his 1906 Exhibition postmarks from his extensive 1906 Christchurch exhibition collection. Other members provided a wide variety of silent displays = thank you so much. I would remind members attending meetings that there is now an opportunity apart from the annual sales night scheduled on the calendar for mid-year that they can bring along items prior to the Tuesday night meetings and for approximately half to one hour, buy sell and swap surplus material.

I look forward to seeing you - free from 'lockdown' and enjoying a night out at the philatelic rooms.

Sue Claridge - President



Postponed, and will be rescheduled, due to Covid 19

SOCIETY PAGE

PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 6 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP Open for all members

SEPTEMBER 14 SOCIETY MEETING **Geoff Tyson**
Japan

Geoff Tyson - Japan

Geoff has been accumulating this traditional collection of the stamp of Japan for many years and members will enjoy seeing material that is not commonly seen

Geoff, a CPS thirty-year member and previous committee member, has a wide knowledge of philately and supports the youth running the local junior stamp club

SEPTEMBER 21 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

SEPTEMBER 28 POSTCARD GROUP Open for all members
Disasters

OCTOBER 4 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP Open for all members

OCTOBER 12 SOCIETY MEETING **Tim Beach**
James Berry

OCTOBER 19 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

All meetings are held at the Philatelic Centre, 67 Mandeville St, Riccarton, and commence at 7.30 pm. (Library night closes at 10 pm)

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The view expressed in this issue of CAPTAIN COQK are not necessarily those of the Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society (Inc) but are simply those of the respective authors.

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Where On Earth Is: Obock

Obock is a port city on the northern coast of the Gulf of Tadjoura in Djibouti. It was the site of the first French colony on the Red Sea.

On May 20, 1830, the steamer HCS Hugh Lindsay departed Bombay for the port of Suez on the Red Sea, arriving on April 22, and was the first steamer journey from India to Egypt return.

It revolutionized transport from Britain to British India as it cut out going around the Cape. It reduced passenger travel time from six months to two months. Mail could travel in 33 days. It quickly became apparent that the steamers could not carry enough stores or coal for a trip.



In 1838, Sultan Muhsin bin Fadl of Lahej ceded 194 km², including the port of Aden, to Britain. It became the revictualing stop between India and Egypt.



France and Britain, though at peace since 1815, still considered each other as mortal enemies in the colonial sphere. France had to buy its coal through Aden on the India-Egypt route. France thought it unwise to rely on British supply if war between the two resurfaced. On March 11, 1862, France signed a treaty with the local Afar rulers. France did not initially occupy Obock but used it as a coaling depot.

On June 18, 1884, Obock became a colony. On June 24, a protectorate treaty is signed with the Sultan of Tadjoura, which secured the territory around Obock. A better port was discovered in the south of the Gulf of Tadjoura: Djibouti. In 1885 France gained control over the entire Gulf. On February 9, 1888, Britain recognized the French protectorate over the Gulf of Tadjoura. The administration moved to Djibouti. The territory was called Djibouti Somali Coast Protectorate.



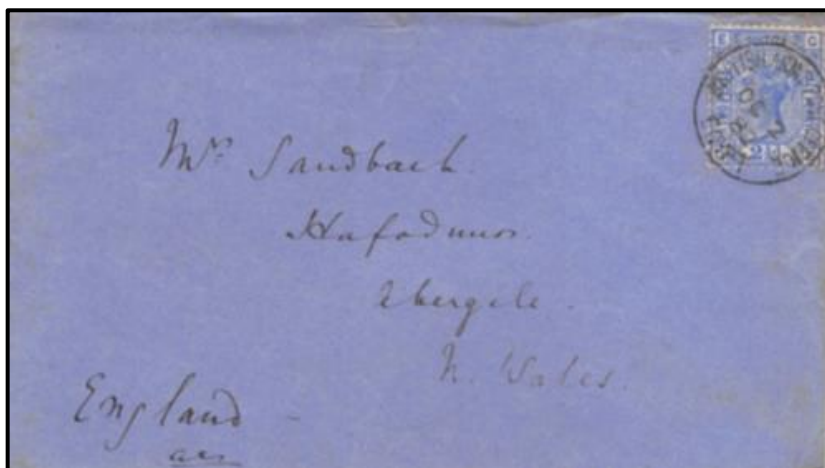
Muhammad Ali, Khedive (Viceroy, de facto ruler) of Egypt, invaded and captured Sudan from 1820-1824. Egyptian rule was harsh, repressive, and corrupt. As a result, on June 29, 1881, Muhammad Ahmad, a Nubian Sufi religious leader, claimed to be the Mahdiyya (Mahdi), to prepare the way for the second coming of the Prophet Isa (Jesus).

On August 11, 1881, the Mahdist insurrection started in southern Sudan and quickly spread. By the end of 1885 the Mahdists had conquered Sudan.



Sudan 2020 Mahdiyya

On November 17, 1869, the Suez Canal opened. Britain saw it as strategically important for its control of India. British foreign policy then aimed at protecting the trade route via the Suez to India and Asia. In 1875 the Khedive, Isma'il Pasha, went bankrupt, owing over £100 million.



British military cover from the Anglo-Egyptian War



British Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, purchased, on behalf of Britain, the Khedive's 44% share in the Suez Canal Company for a mere £4 million.

The Caisse de la Dette was established by the European powers, May 2, 1876, to effectively control the Egyptian government to ensure the repayment of the debt. This angered the Egyptians and led to the 'Urabi revolt, 1879-1882. Britain feared losing control of the Suez decided to intervene. France and the other European powers declined. Britain took control of Egypt, though still nominally an Ottoman vassal, after the British victory in the 1882 Anglo-Egyptian War. Britain was set to crush the Mahdist revolt, but on May 8, 1885, due to a feared Russian invasion of India, Britain withdrew its troops and forced Egypt to abandon Sudan.

In the British-Congolese Treaty, May 12, 1894, Britain leased part of the Nile basin, Lado Enclave, to Leopold II's Congo Free State. However, Leopold II had designs to take southern Sudan. In September 1896 a large Congolese column left Stanleyville and a smaller one left in December 1896 to occupy the Lado Enclave.

Both had secret orders to occupy Fashoda, Sudan, after securing Lado. The Congolese in the larger column mutinied on 18 March 1897 and the column disbanded without reaching Lado. The smaller column secured the Enclave but could not proceed further.



Congo Free State Lado Enclave usage



Cover with Egypt 1874 stamp cancelled Massawa (Eritrea)
28 Nov 84

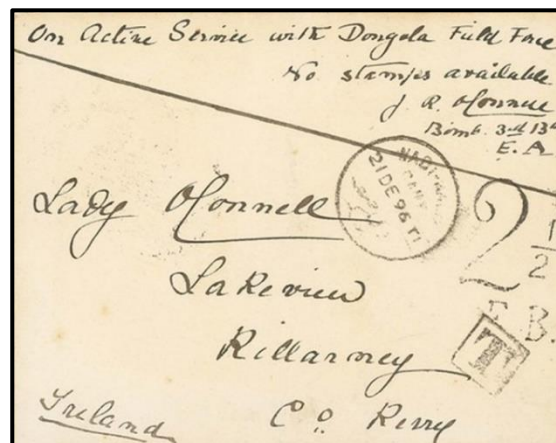
In 1846 Massawa, and in 1865 much of the Northeast African coast of the Red Sea, came under Egyptian rule with Ottoman consent. Britain did not want the expense of ruling Eritrea.

The Hewett Treaty, June 3, 1884 (Britain, Egypt, Ethiopia), allowed Ethiopia to occupy parts of Eritrea to prevent France from claiming it.

However, Britain encouraged Italy to claim Eritrea, which it did on February 5, 1885. Italy claimed the Treaty of Wuchale, (Italy, Ethiopia) May 2, 1889, made Ethiopia an Italian Protectorate. Ethiopia disagreed. Italy was decisively defeated in the ensuing First Italo-

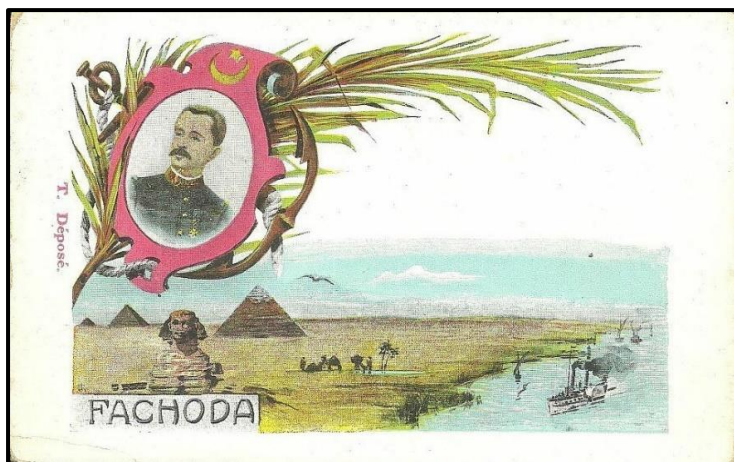
Ethiopian War, 1894-1896. France supported Ethiopia with weapons. French prestige in Ethiopia soared. On 20 March 1897, the Franco-Ethiopian Alliance was signed, further increasing French influence in Ethiopia.

Until 1882, Egypt was in the French sphere of influence, and France wanted it back. France did not recognize British control of Egypt. France believed the key to Egypt was Sudan and the control of the Upper Nile and Bahr al-Ghazal region. On September 8, 1893, France and Britain discussed Sudan. Since 1885 Sudan was under Mahdist control. France argued that the Berlin Decree (Congo Conference 1884-85) of effective control, meant that Egypt no longer had "effective control" of Sudan, and France could claim Sudan. Britain demurred.



Military mail Dongola Field Force 21 December 1896

This and the French influence in Ethiopia caused Britain to relook at Sudan. It now realized the importance of Sudan. On March 12, 1896, Britain authorized a partial reconquest of Sudan to Dongola, 200km inside Sudan. When Britain learned of the French Expedition to claim Sudan, this changed to a full reconquest. The French plan to claim Sudan was to have two expeditions converge on the town of Fashoda (Kodok, South Sudan) on the White Nile. One expedition from Djibouti via Ethiopia, the other from Ubangi Chari (Central African Republic). The Djibouti expedition started in March 1897. The difficulty of crossing Ethiopia and the withdrawal of Ethiopian support caused the Djibouti expedition to be abandoned in December 1897.



French postcard celebrating Marchand's Fashoda stand

On March 10, 1897, the Ubangi Chari expedition started. When the expedition reached Bahr el-Ghazal region, they established outposts, including Fort Desaix (now Wau) in December 1897.

On July 10, 1898, the Ubangi Chari expedition arrived at Fashoda and claimed the Bahr el-Ghazal and Upper Nile for France.

On September 18, the first of the Anglo-Egyptian forces arrived at Fashoda. Both claimed the Bahr el-Ghazal and Upper Nile region and neither side would back down. Both waited for further orders from London and Paris. In France and Britain, the now "Fashoda Incident" stirred patriotism and calls to go to war. Both sides started to prepare for war. However, the Dreyfuss Affair irrupted at the same time. It brought down the French government.

The new government wasn't prepared to go to war over Sudan and was wary of German intentions. On November 3, 1898, the French government ordered the Ubangi Chari expedition to withdraw. In France, this was seen as a humiliating surrender to their old enemy.



Lord Kitchener - he led the Anglo-Egyptian reconquest

The 1898 Anglo-French Convention was amended on March 21, 1899, to define the Ubangi Chari-Sudan border. In the Entente Cordiale, April 8, 1904, France confirmed Egypt as British while Britain reciprocated over Morocco. The Entente Cordiale settled all outstanding British-French colonial disputes.



Centenary of the Entente Cordiale



In 1913 French possessions in Africa totaled 10.8 million km² while British possessions totaled 8.8

Had France been successful, France was expectant that it could do a land deal with Ethiopia to connect Sudan with Djibouti. This would have fulfilled the dream of France to have an unbroken chain of French possessions from Dakar (Senegal) to Djibouti. It would definitively stop Rhodes' Cape to Cairo plans, even though in 1891 German East Africa had put a stop to that. Obock's (then Djibouti's) importance lay in that it was the only French colony on the east coast of the African continent. Also, in the Red Sea/ Middle East/ Arabian Gulf area until 1918. Much is made of the Anglo-German colonial rivalry as a cause for World War 1. In reality it was not the case. After 1904 the only international colonial disputes were the two Morocco crises in 1905 and 1911. They had nothing to do with Morocco per se, as it was Germany's attempt to break up the Entente Cordiale.

In 1902 Obock used stamps of the French Somali Coast Protectorate. Stamps of Djibouti from 1894 to 1902 were either overprints of Obock inscribed "Djibouti" or Djibouti stamps inscribed "Djibouti Somali Coast Protectorate". After a second rigged plebiscite which rejected independence from France March 19, 1967, France changed the name from French Somali Coast Protectorate to the French Territory of the Afars and Issas on July 3, 1967. On June 27, 1977, it became independent as the Republic of Djibouti. As was common when the administration moves to another location, Obock declined in population and importance.



1902 Djibouti overprinted on Obock



Djibouti stamps with Obock themes



Djibouti stamps with Obock themes

Murray Taege

New Zealand 1940 £130,000 Revenue

New Zealand's first duty stamps were required from, and issued, January 1, 1867. The initial legislative requirement resulted in numerous printed value stamps with the highest value being £10. Within a short time, it must have become apparent that higher values were needed, and the top value was increased to £50. During the 1880's this was increased further to £500 and finally in 1913 to £1000. However, there were times where the duty payable on the estate would require multiple high value stamps to receipt the payment.

Consequently, it was decided to print, in gold, single stamps with the required duty amount on them. Initially based on the Die II fiscal design, this practise continued using a modified Arms design through to the 1950's when the use of duty stamps was phased out. The stamps are known amongst collectors as "Ultra High Values" or "Gold Revenues".



£130,000



"Cleaned" image

The highest value recorded in the printing records for both designs was £190,225, for an estate valued at £796,448 belonging to Annie Quayle Townsend, a wealthy philanthropist of the period. This stamp is the subject of an article written by CPS member Paul Woods.

It was during his research for this stamp that Paul very kindly supplied me with some background to the estate that my £130,000 stamp was produced for.

Using the date, October 8, 1940, Paul was able to find the name of the estate, RW White, the stamp was ordered for. Armed with the name, Paul was then able to find further details on the person.

| SPECIAL DUTY DELIVERED—continued. | | | | | | 81 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|----|----|-------------|-----------------|
| Name. | | Value. | | | Voucher No. | Sheet No. |
| | | £ | s. | d. | | |
| Hugh Adam | | 15,000 | . | - | 794 | 314 814. |
| R. W. White | | 130,000 | . | - | 795 | " |
| R. W. White | | 20,053 | . | - | 796. | " |
| October | 2 nd | 15,000 | | | October | 2 nd |
| " | 4 th | 130,000 | | | " | 4 th |
| " | 9 th | 20,053 | | | " | 9 th |

Register for Special Duty stamps with the entries for Richard White

The deceased's full name was Richard Wadeson White, and he died June 27, 1940, aged 92. White was born on Waiheke Island on January 28, 1848, and lived the majority of his life in the Auckland Province. White began work as an apprentice in a ship building yard and volunteered when he was 14, along with many of his older fellow apprentices who were called

up, to serve in the militia against the Maoris. White was stationed in Otahuhu and years later related that many died while in the service owing to the hard life in the bush.

Subsequently he went to Thames in the days of the gold rush, doing mainly contracting work but occasionally trying his luck at prospecting. Returning to Auckland he became foreman in the construction of the first railway wharf in the site of the present King's Wharf. At the age of 26, White started a contracting business of his own and undertook a good deal of pile driving and reclamation work for the Auckland Harbour Board, which had then not long been in existence.

He built the present Stanley Bay wharf, the Rangitoto wharf and the old wharf at St. Heliers, which was demolished in the late 30's, and also constructed 14 miles of railway between Hamilton and Morrinsville. White retired in 1921.



Golden Wedding notice, Auckland Star 08/09/1927

White married Eleanor Coghlan in 1877, celebrating their golden wedding anniversary in 1927.

At the time of his death in 1940, he was survived by three daughters and one son.

According to a piece written for his 90th birthday celebrations, in spite of his years, Mr White retained his faculties and memory to a remarkable degree. He maintained his interest in business and conducted his own affairs, spending several hours each day in the city, and he enjoyed a game of billiards. White was still physically active, going for a swim at Glenbrook beach a few days before his birthday.

White's death notice was published in the Auckland Herald on June 28. The following month there was a further small piece commenting on the unexpected size of the estate and that he died without leaving a will.

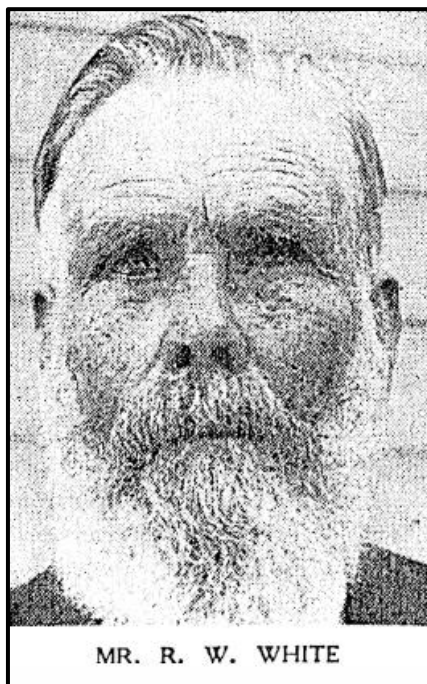


Photo accompanying White's death notice
Auckland Herald 28/06/1940

Auckland Herald 20/07/1940

LEFT £330,000
CONTRACTOR'S ESTATE
WHARVES AND RAILWAYS
NO LUCK ON GOLDFIELD

Application is to be made in the Supreme Court shortly for letters of administration in the estate of Richard W. White, a pioneer wharf and railway contractor, whose death occurred at the end of last month. The estate turned out to be an unexpectedly large one, and has been provisionally valued at about £330,000. As Mr. White left no will, it will be necessary to obtain letters of administration.

Mr. White was born at Awaroa, on Waiheke Island, more than 92 years ago, and after meeting with poor success on the Thames goldfield, he turned his attention to contracting until his retirement in 1921. He is survived by a son and three daughters and a number of grandchildren.

Stephen Jones

Operation Cornflakes – Your Idea Mr Kellogg?

Operation Cornflakes was a morale operation by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II that aimed to fool *Deutsche Reichspost* into inadvertently delivering anti-Nazi propaganda to German citizens through mail.

The operation involved special planes that were instructed to airdrop bags of false, but properly addressed, mail in the vicinity of bombed mail trains. When recovering the mail during clean-up of the wreck, the postal service would hopefully confuse the false mail for the real thing and deliver it to the various addresses. Theory and practice do not always work.

Background and Theory:

The OSS was formed from the division of the Foreign Information Service (FIS) and the Office of the Coordinator of Information (COI), a division that President Roosevelt enacted by Executive order 9128. The remainder of the COI was renamed the Office of Strategic Services. The newly formed OSS was under jurisdiction of the Joint Chief of Staff, giving the OSS the capability and status of a military branch. The overarching goal of the operation was to disrupt the morale of the German people by using a large scale psychological warfare operation (PSYOP) that the British MI6 had been pushing into service with the help of the Royal Air Force (RAF). Using the same pattern of mission as a previous OSS operation in Hungary, the OSS crafted their more intricate Operation Cornflakes. The distribution of propaganda in letters and distributed by the German postal system was thought to be an ideal method of reaching the German population and undermining support for Adolf Hitler.

| PLAN | DECLASSIFIED | EXECUTION |
|---|---|---|
| <p>SITUATION</p> <p>In spring of 1945, disintegrating Nazi administrative functions presented MO/Rome with unrivalled chance to infiltrate MO printed material, through exploitation of tottering German Postal System.</p> <p>OBJECTIVE</p> <p>(1) To weaken further the will of Wehrmacht and civilians to continue losing fight. (2) Add more confusion to already chaotic communications and transport services. (3) Convince German people through dissemination of MO printed material of existence of Anti-Nazi group within Germany, especially strong in business and banking circles.</p> <p>IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>Counterfeit letters packed into faked German mailbags carried by 14th Fighter Squadron.</p> | <p>Authority: NND 853154</p> <p>By: J.T./K.M. HARA, Date: 12/1/82</p> | <p>OPERATION</p> <p>From February 4, '45 to April 15, '45, the 14th Fighter Squadron of the 15th Airforce, on 20 sorties carried 320 "German mailbags" stuffed into 7 inch smoke shell bombs - each bag carrying 300 letters, and filled with copies of Das Neue Deutschland, MO leaflets, etc. R.R. stations and marshalling yards the targets where mailbags were dropped on strafing missions. By special device, bags dropped free of bombs, thus removing tell-tale white source of drops.</p> <p>EQUIPMENT</p> <p>Paper stocks, counterfeiting plates, MO printed material.</p> <p>PERSONNEL</p> <p>ROME: 3 Officers; 5 EM; 5 Civilians BARI: 2 Officers; 4 EM; 2 Civilians.</p> |

Card from the OSS archive summarising "Operation Cornflakes"

Operation Cornflakes began with OSS officials collecting all German POWs that had experience with the German postal service or Reichspost. These prisoners of war were given better meals in exchange for information in collection, sorting, cancelling and delivery of the mail. The OSS did not infiltrate Germany directly because they felt it necessary to focus their efforts on the liberation of France in 1944, but by the waning years of the war Secret Intelligence agents of the OSS could be found trickling in. The information came from nearby outposts in neutral countries that would supply the OSS with information. With this

information the OSS and German exiles scoured the telephone directories and pulled over two million, randomly selected names registered within the Reich to send forged letters to. A unit of the OSS in Rome claimed to have forged over 15,000 envelopes a week.

The letters contained writings about family happenings and gossip about non-existent people, the idea being that the domestic mail was not censored unlike the business mail. The letters coming out of Rome to be mailed were completed in different cities around Rome. The envelopes were addressed and sealed in Siena, then went to Rome where they would be placed into the counterfeit mail bags where the mail would be finally sent to Bari to be routed and cancelled.

In hopes of shaking the morale further in the German people, the OSS called upon master forgers similar in nature as MI6 once had, but rather than having an image of Heinrich Himmler replacing Hitler, the OSS used a stamp of Hitler, but with some minor modifications. The modifications included a skull overlay that resembled a portion of Hitler's jaw having been "eaten away". The German subscript at the bottom of the stamp was also altered from 'Deutsches Reich' (German Empire) to 'Futsches Reich' (ruined empire). These stamps were known as the "Death Head" and were usually placed in the letter with other subversive materials.



"Bomb" being loaded with mail

The letters were arranged in Reichspost bags that the OSS had forged to resemble the original bags. These precisely made bags were indistinguishable from the real German mail bags and were mimicked down to the material used. The bags would then be loaded aboard bombs specially designed to deploy the bags near a destroyed train, preferably one carrying mail, and drop the forgeries in amongst the originals in hopes that they would be put into circulation with the rest of the mail.

However, all the prior planning was almost for naught because in August 1944 the Reichspost altered their franking machines on the domestic mail making the thousands of letters previously written void.

The OSS obtained a copy of the frank design and went to work again drafting up new letters and with the letters' subversive material. By September, the next blow to the OSS operation was intelligence gathered that no domestic mail would be delivered due to wartime internal power struggle within Germany.

One page newspaper leaflets called *Das Neue Deutschland* which contained material that the official newspaper would never print were placed into some of the outgoing letters to be dropped by the 15th Air Force. The 15th Air Force and fighter group detachment would be tasked with the destruction of the mail train and the planting of the mailbags of propaganda (Cornflakes) amongst the debris. The first mission of Operation Cornflakes took place on 5 January 1945, when a mail train to Linz was bombed. Bags containing a total of about 3800 propaganda letters were then dropped at the site of the wreck, which were subsequently picked up and delivered to Germans by the postal service. Within 1944-45 twenty missions had been completed, reporting a success rate of 50%, leaving the 15th Air Force with over 320 delivered mailbags of propaganda.

The Stamps:



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

The British were the first to forge the Hitler head stamp in 3, 4, 6 and 8 pfennig values from 1941 until the end of the war. These stamps were of better quality versus the Americans' attempt at forgery because the British used actual stamp production facilities whereas the Americans did not have access to quality ingredients such as paper, ink or engravers. The British Political Warfare Executive (PWE) produced these stamps as part of a complicated propaganda campaign.

Two major varieties exist of the Himmler head 6 pfennig stamps. The first printing (Michel 28 II), shown in Figure 2, from December 1942 has fine lines, poor shading, white splotches on the face, and overall poor quality in the design. The April/May 1943 printing (Michel 28 I), shown in Figure 1, has wider lines, and is overall a much better, more attractive design. The Type numbers are the opposite of the printing order because the second printing (Michel 28 I) was the first reported variety!

The American forgeries focused much of their efforts on the 12 pfennig stamp, shown in Figure 4. These featured Hitler's head and exposed skull, easily seen in Figure 5.

The postage stamps used on the envelopes were forged 6 and 12 pfennig Hitler head stamps intended to look identical to genuine German stamps of the era, though these forgeries were printed by the Office of Strategic Services. Modern day reproductions of these forgeries may be found and are easily discerned. These have optical brighteners in the paper which were not available in the 1940s.



Figure 6: British forgeries on forged cover

Practice:

A major oversight by the OSS and its task force in Rome was that the ravages of war shut down many of the cities' critical services and in some cases the postal service. While some cities continued its services of mail delivery, the allied bombing had turned many residences into piles of rubble; millions of people without a home were displaced and forced to leave and seek refuge elsewhere, in many cases with relatives. Without a physical address left to deliver the mail to, much of it was discarded. Another oversight was simply the fact that when people received mail from an unknown source, they would usually destroy it, especially if the letters contained allied propaganda, either out of loyalty or fear of punishment!

The stamps were used on mail sent throughout Germany in the hope of spreading the rumour that Himmler had ordered the stamps as part of secret preparations to become the new Führer. The plan was a failure however, in that the rumour was too far-fetched, and the design of the stamp was so close to the original Hitler head definitive design, shown in Figure 3, that few noticed the stamp.

The Cornflakes:

The Americans' envelopes were printed on yellowish paper. When dropped in and around a bombed mail train they would have looked like a mass of cornflakes from the air ...

References:

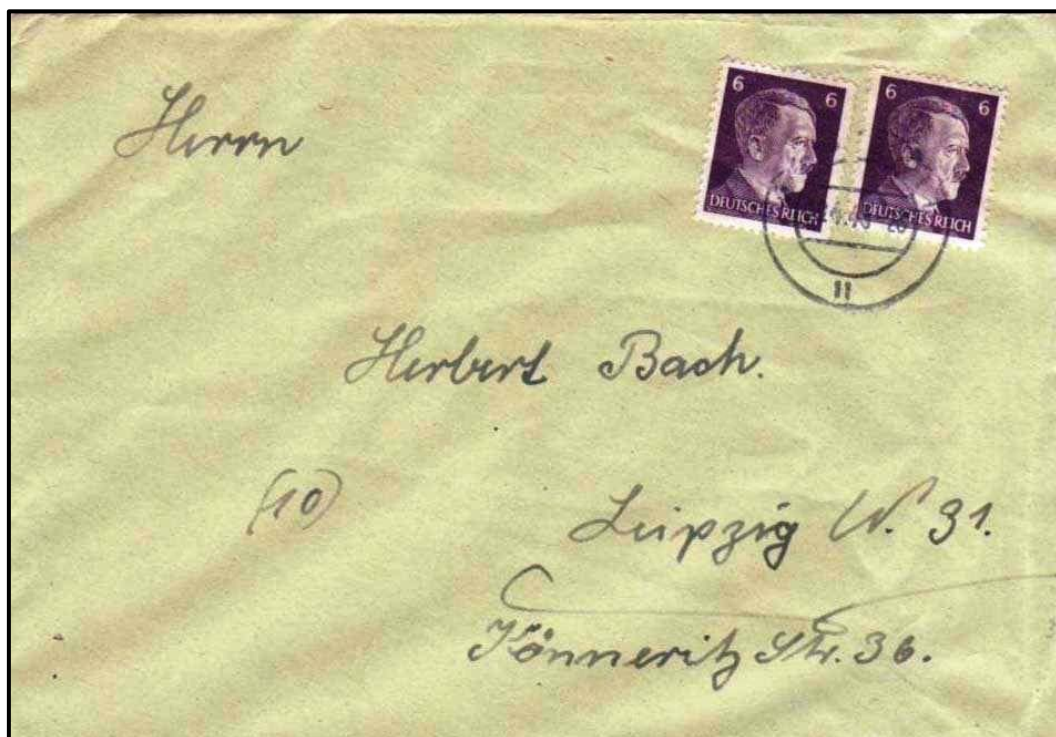
Wikipedia

www.psywar.org Propaganda & Espionage Philately: Part 1

www.bestmastersinpsychology.com

www.stampcommunity.org

David Smitham



British 6 pfennig forgeries on forged cover

2021 NZ Personalised Postage Labels

Hemiandrus jacinda

Being Labour Party red in colour and with long limbs, a recently discovered species of endemic New Zealand wētā has been named *Hemiandrus jacinda* after the NZ Prime Minister Jacinda Adern.

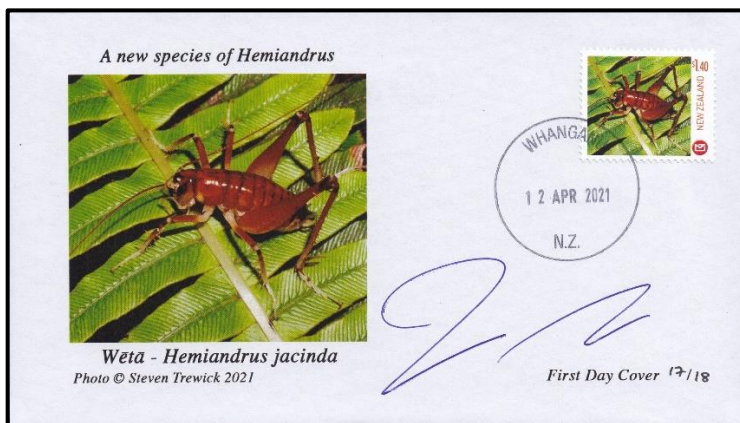
Adern already has a lichen, a beetle, and a Saudi Arabian ant named after her. Now a wētā. In naming the new discovery, Professor Steven Trewick of Massey University said, "it was a striking species", considered it beautiful, and it "reflected traits of the Prime Minister".

To mark the occasion philatelically, two personalised stamps were produced, using photos kindly provided by Prof Steve Trewick. 100 stamps of each issue were produced. There are 14 unsigned FDC's, four FDC's of each issue signed by Prime Minister Jacinda Adern, and two corner blocks signed by Prof Steve Trewick of each issue also. FDI 12/04/2021.

We felt this issue might be of interest to Te Papa, so we applied online to the Philatelic Curator requesting to gift 2 x signed FDC's and a block of four 4 mint stamps of each issue to the Philatelic Collection. Much to our delight the offer was accepted, saying Te Papa has a strong Entomology Department and close connections with Steve Trewick so they will be most appropriate additions to the collection.

Hemiandrus jacinda is found in native forest areas in Northland, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Coromandel, and around Taranaki. Even though this wētā is newly identified this year, like many other native insects they are prey to introduced predators and loss of natural habitat and sadly are likely to already be heading towards extinction.

It is important to note the use of macrons in the word 'wētā'. Weta in Te Reo Māori means excrement, wētā is the insect we either love or detest.



Wētā PPL FDC signed by Jacinda Ahern.



Hilton Dickens PPL

Hilton F Dickens

After the passing of Hilton Dickens in December 2019, recently we were finally able to obtain a suitable image from his family to produce a personalised stamp in his memory. There were 100 gummed \$1.40 stamps produced (two sheets), and 25 FDC's. First Day of Issue was 15/06/2021 which would have been Hilton's 88th Birthday.

Hilton was well known to many, a keen philatelist, and still actively involved in farming - his other passion. He singlehandedly produced over 270 very informative monthly Wairarapa Stamp Club Newsletters, sharing his extensive philatelic knowledge. We like to think Hilton would be secretly chuffed with this issue.

Jo Blyth & Tony Ward



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