

# NETHERLANDS PHILATELY



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# ASN P



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From the Editor:

This summer my private life went haywire, and since I appear to have a one-track mind what suffered was the extracurricular work on the ASN P journal. You must have been looking for the September journal - in vain - but here it finally is.

This issue is entirely - almost - devoted to Netherlands New Guinea, and most likely will contain only two articles. The first one is by Mr. G.C.F.W. Pönitz, and was originally published in "12 Filatelistische Essays" (12 philatelic essays), issued in 1980 for the 75th anniversary of the Philatelistenclub 'Rotterdam.' We thank the club for permission to republish this important article in an English translation.

The second - and last article - is by our fellow-member Leon G. Stadtherr, who also promoted an entire article devoted to Netherlands New Guinea, an area which has been and still is a philatelist's paradise as far as postal history is concerned, even though it is now a forgotten corner of the former Netherlands Indies.

A coil corner by our Vice-President is also part of this issue.

One result of the late appearance of this issue is that the December journal is almost ready. We will have two translations, and several articles on "new" subjects.

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**Some Aspects Regarding Postal Services  
in Netherlands New Guinea  
Until the Japanese Occupation**  
by G. C. F. W. Ponitz

In this article I hope to give you an idea of the postal services in Netherlands New Guinea, an almost forgotten outpost in what was then the Netherlands Indies, up to the Japanese Occupation.

In 1855 the first missionaries settled in Netherlands New Guinea, to wit, on Mansinam, a small island in the Bay of Manokwari.

The missionaries carried out a regular – and for those days – intensive correspondence with the Rev. O. G. Heldring. This correspondence, including the envelopes in which it was sent, was saved until about ten years ago. It was then that Mrs. Heldring donated the letters to an archive for safe-keeping.

Before she did so, however, she removed the envelopes, as she told me, because these did not matter and did not look clean too; hence these landed in the garbage can. Through this action this source of information about postal movements from northern Netherlands New Guinea with the rest of the world during the second half of the last century was irretrievably lost.

On request of the British government a detachment of the Royal Netherlands Indies Army (KNIL) was stationed east of Merauke on December 7, 1892, to keep the population from robbing incursions in British territory. The detachment did not stay long because the attacks of the Papuans caused so many casualties that practically nobody survived this adventure. Of the two Europeans, ten Indonesian troops and ten involuntary workers, within a few days there were ten casualties and one dead.<sup>1</sup>

Regardless of circumstances, members of this

detachment must have had correspondence, among others with superior officers or civil servants stationed elsewhere. How this contact was kept is still not known, because up to now not a single postal item has surfaced.

The Royal Pacquet Company (KPM) opened a regular route to Netherlands New Guinea per January 1, 1891, so that mail, to and from this part of the colony, could be sent by these ships.

One of the few remaining pieces from this early period is a cover with an imprinted 10-cent stamp, sent from Ternate and addressed to the missionary-teacher J. L. van Hasselt at "Mansinam"! In blue pencil is found an inscription, possibly by a postal worker, "near Doreh," a native village near Manokwari. This piece must have been dispatched with one of the first KPM ships which every twelve weeks sailed to New Guinea, possibly with the fourth trip.<sup>2</sup>

The opening of the first postal facilities did not go smoothly. It was the intention to open the sub-post offices at Manokwari and Fakfak in 1898. This date is mentioned in many philatelic articles as the opening date of these sub-post offices; however, wrongly.

In the "Survey of the Postal and Telegraph Service in the Netherlands Indies for the year 1899" is mentioned on page 8 that they were not opened until that year.

Another indication that operations at Fakfak cannot have been begun before 1899 we find in the journal of the Royal Netherlands Geographic Society, volume 22 (1905) in an article by J. W. Hille (pp. 233–330), in which he tells:

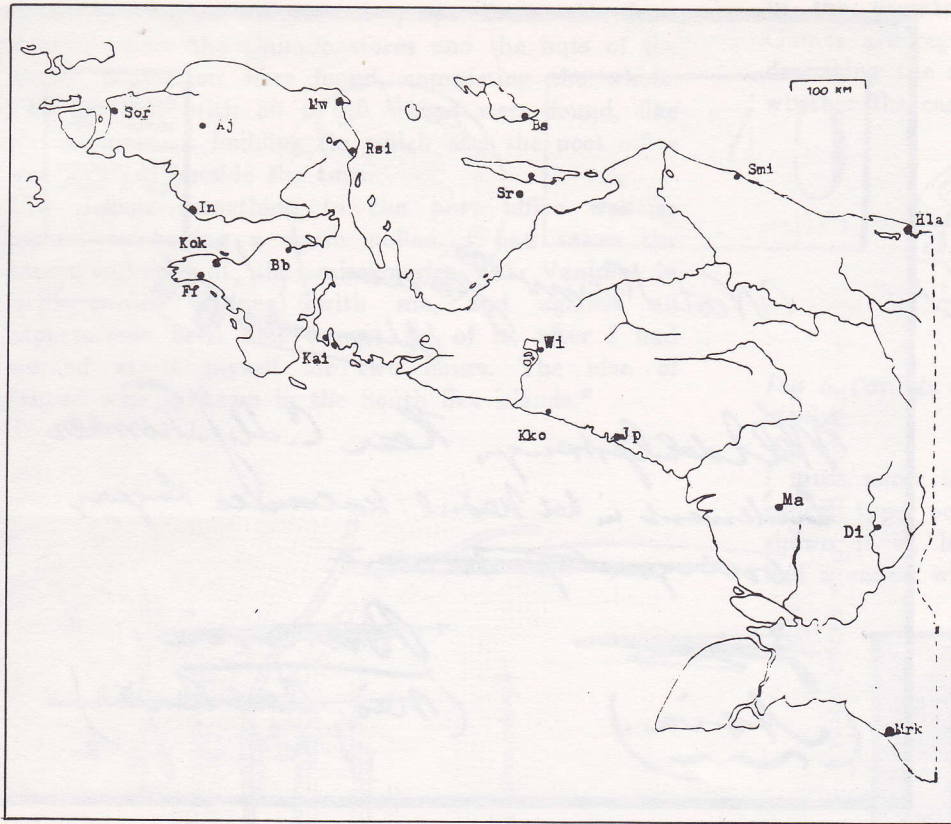
"... *Vis-a-vis the Controleur\** who in November 1898 had appeared, Matasmadi claimed to be the owner of the land and in a written contract of May 3, 1899, he sold it for fl 100.00 (afterwards another amount was paid, to the real owners; the tenants moreover sold the already thrice-paid-for cocopalms once more for fl 5.00 to fl 10.00 a piece) ..."

\*Controleur was the lowest rank in the Civil Service (BB) in the former Netherlands Indies for Dutch nationals (although it is possible that in the later days an Indonesian was appointed to this rank).



Fig. 1. Postal stationery of 10 ct with numeral cancel 53 (Ternate) and date cancel Ternate 28 September 1891 with a (postal?) indication "bij Doreh" (Collection Bunge)





Simple map of Netherlands New Guinea with the prewar postal facilities.

It is clear that the land on which the government buildings were to be erected was not available before May 3, 1899, and no post office could have been built. Moreover, the notice that the Controleur "appeared" means that he did not live there, or had lived there already<sup>3,4</sup>

Drs. K. W. Galis mentions in the book *Nieuw-Guinea* among other things: "*Fakfak for instance was still attacked on November 16, 1900.*"<sup>5</sup> It doesn't seem to have been very quiet there. But from the cited remark it could be surmised that this was the last attack.

In the course of the years it became apparent that more postal facilities were needed in Netherlands New Guinea. Before the Second World War a total of nineteen<sup>8</sup> was established, to wit:

- |                                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Ajamaroe (Aj)                    | Kokas (Kok)     |
| Babo (Bb)                        | Kokenaoe (Kko)  |
| Bosnik (Bs)                      | Manokwari (Mw)  |
| Digoel (Di)                      | Mappipost (Ma)  |
| Fakfak (Ff)                      | Merauke (Mrk)   |
| Humboldtsbaai,                   | Ransiki (Rsi)   |
| later changed to Hollandia (Hla) | Sarmi (Smi)     |
| Inanawatan (In)                  | Seroei (Sr)     |
| Japero (Jp)                      | Sorong (Sor)    |
| Kaimana (Kai)                    | Wisselmeer (Wi) |

The abbreviations between brackets are also found on map A.

From the statistical survey of the parcel post service it can be seen that in 1899 in Fakfak no parcels were sent, nor received.<sup>6</sup> In the following year, 1900, already eighteen parcels were received and sixteen sent. This also proves that the office was not yet functioning in 1899.

Complete postal items mailed from or to Netherlands New Guinea from the opening of the first post offices there to about 1920 are rather difficult to find. The native population could not yet write so did not need to participate in the postal service. This left government employees, the military, missionaries both protestant and R.C., and the few, mostly Chinese, businessmen.

Up to the beginning of the First World War several military expeditions were undertaken. The participating troops were sometimes used for various explorations which caused some difficulties in handling their correspondence. Proof can be found in the cover seen in Figures 2a and 2b.

Here it concerns a Chilean piece of postal stationery for registered mail with the imprinted "stamp" on the back flap, sent by the Consulate General of the Netherlands at Valparaiso (Chile) to Lt. C. J. M. Tismeer, care of the Department of War in Batavia. This department changed the address to West New Guinea *Merauke*, as seen by the purple stamp "DvO" next to Merauke. After arrival at Merauke our lieutenant went to Fakfak to lead a new expedition from there,<sup>7</sup> which was the reason for Merauke to be cancelled and to add in red pencil "fak-fak" above as well as below the original address. (Fak-fak is a wrong spelling, used until long after WWII.)

The route of this letter can be very well followed by the various cancels on the back of the cover:

Departure Cancel	Valparaiso/Chile	8 SET 1908
Arrival Cancel	Batavia	23 11 1908
Forwarding Cancel	Soerabaja	27 NOV 08
Arrival Cancel	Merauke	11 12 1908
Forwarding Cancel	Amboina	25 12 1908

Furthermore, a large letter N was applied to the back which I have, so far, not been able to identify. Fakfak did not place an arrival cancel, although according to the existing regulations, this should have been done.



## Postal Establishments

In a completely arbitrary sequence we will describe these postal establishments in short, it being understood that sub-post offices come first (post offices were unknown in Netherlands New Guinea in the period treated), followed by postal facilities of a lesser order.

HOLLANDIA, situated on the coast in the farthest north-east of Netherlands New Guinea in a canyon of the Cyclop Mountains, originally carried the name of the bay on which it was found, namely HUMBOLDTSBAAI. The change in name took place in 1913, after the Germans in what was then German New Guinea had founded a small town Germania (which did not have a long life).

Hollandia did not amount to much in the twenties and thirties of this century. The

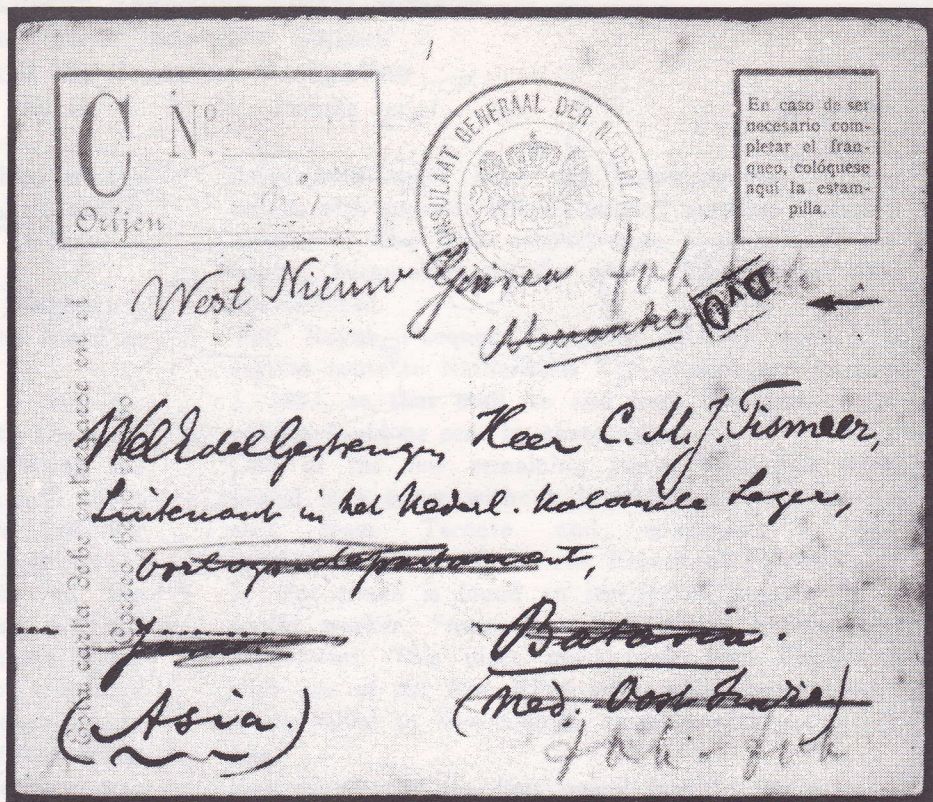


Fig. 2a. Front of a Chilean piece of postal stationery with various changes of address and stamp D.v.O. (Department of War) in frame.

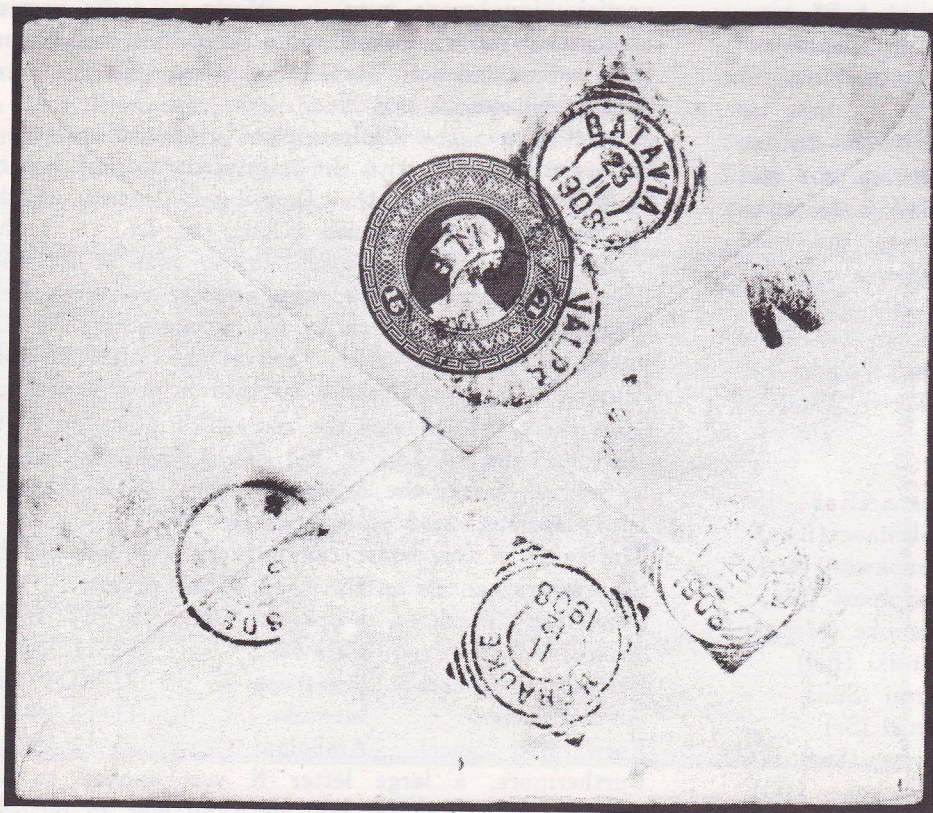


Fig. 2b. The back of the same with various cancels, among which Merauke square circle cancel 11 December 1908.

journalist Alma M. Karlin, who visited Hollandia around 1925, writes in her book *Im Banne der Südsee* (publisher Wilhelm Kohler Verlag) on page 239<sup>o</sup>:

"While the houses in the native villages were thrown together, being built helter-skelter and obviously without any plan, just where the builders had liked to put them, the houses in Hollandia ranged along with typical Dutch sense for order as it would have been done in Holland itself.

"Thus one can see real streets here, to wit three, and one dockside street. The main street ran down the hill from the house of the government official at the end of the canyon (the place lies in a narrowing canyon in the Cyclop Mountains) to the sea; likewise the Bergstraat (Mountain Street) at which the Mosque is situated.



Furthermore, two alleys ran perpendicular to these streets, where the Chinese stores and the huts of the Malay population were found, completing the whole. The barracks with 30 to 40 troops were found, like the government building (in which also the post office was located) outside the town.

"To deliver something to the post office was as painful as having a tooth pulled. I had taken the correspondence of the missionaries (at Vanimo in British New Guinea) with me, and against all expectations been able to get rid of it, after I had worked at it myself for two hours. The idea of "time" was unknown in the South Sea islands."

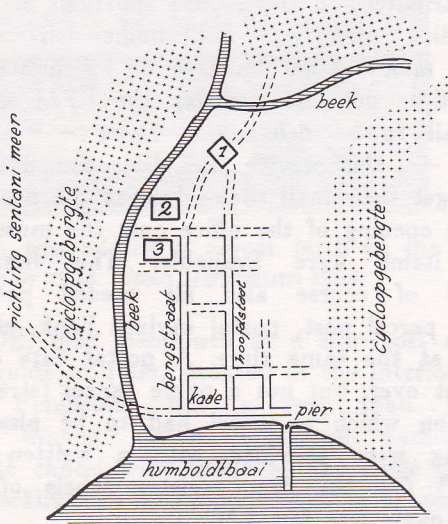


Fig. 3. Sketch plan of Hollandia at the end of the twenties.

So far Ms. A. M. Karlin. An old KNIL member who had been there at the end of the twenties made the sketch for me (Fig. 3) which fits the description of the journalist pretty closely.

In 1923 the District Officer of Vanimo, later Director of Native Affairs of the Territory of Papua & New Guinea, Mr. A. A. Roberts, visited Hollandia. During the visit a photo was made on which also the sub-post office at the time is portrayed.



Fig. 4. Sub-post office (left of the stairs) in Hollandia in 1923.

In the literature, cancellations of Netherlands New Guinea are regularly mentioned, but almost always in describing the so-called biffage cancels we don't hear whether the cancel has a single or double biffage.

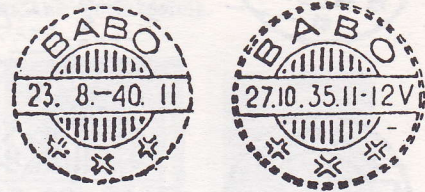


Fig. 5. Cancels of Babo with single and double biffage circles.

I must agree that it is sometimes hard to see which cancel type occurs on loose stamps. On the cover shown it is, however, clear that Hollandia in 1923 had a cancel with a double biffage circle.



Fig. 6. Cover from Hollandia of January 31, 1923. Cancel with double biffage circle.

BOSNIK before the Second World War was the government center for the island of Biak. In 1922 a sub-post office was opened which, after 1932 was degraded to a "functioning" sub-post office, and after 1937 was only known as a "Delivery Post" (Bestelhuis).

It is remarkable that cancels from this sub-post office are up to now only known from the years 1924 and 1925. It seems as if only the missionaries used this office before they moved to Korido, also located on Biak Island<sup>10</sup> (the mission suffered a lot from malaria). Afterwards this office did not perform any services most likely, and existed in name only.

After this downgrading to a Delivery Post, at which Bosnik received a so-called delivery post cancel without date indication, only pieces from 1940 have been discovered up to now.

MANOKWARI has a rich philatelic history because no other office in Netherlands New Guinea has had so many different cancel types before the Second World War. The reason for this must be sought in the fact that it had a considerable postal volume, and a very damp climate, which made Manokwari the place to test newly developed cancel types in practice.





Fig. 7. The various main types of date cancels of Manokwari.

The first cancel that was given to this place was a straight-line cancel without date, with the wrong name MANAKWARI, which was in use till 1912.



Fig. 8. The first cancel of Manokwari was a straight-line cancel without a date and the wrong inscription MANAKWARI, in use from 1899(?) until 1912.

SEROEI, situated on the island of Japen, was probably since 1891 already a place where the KPM docked, before it even got a sub-post office. Mr. H. F. D. Aponno, who was the supervisor and who trained the other personnel, still lives (1980), and he told me a short time ago the following:

"In the second half of 1932 I was ordered to train the Javanese radio-telegraphist of the Civil Service, Mr. Soekidjo, who was at Seroei, as sub-post office supervisor, and to open a sub-post office in the place.

"The training of the prospective supervisor went well and already after two months the office could be opened. But in those two months the public also had to be made "post-minded." It was used to arrange postal matters in a different way than via a post office.

"Correspondence was handled through the intermediary efforts of the KPM, and monetary affairs went via Chinese dealers. Reasons enough for me to visit all prospective clients of the PTT personally to convince them to use the services of the post office. To accustom the new supervisor to his duties the population was asked to hand over letters, registered pieces, packages too, and even postal money orders, addressed to themselves -- before the official opening -- at the post office. During this trial period nothing had to be paid for these services. Pieces destined outside Japen handed over during the trial period of course had to be franked normally.

"This trial period was also meant to teach the delivery man how to sort the pieces to be delivered and distributed. In those days the mail in Seroei and surrounding area was still home-delivered. The delivery man did not have to do much because most of the time only on the day the KPM ship arrived had mail to be delivered. Later -- still in the thirties -- this service was discontinued and people had to get their mail themselves at the post office.

"At the opening of the office only the most requested postal items were available. This first delivery included of course also all needed postal forms because parcel post, postal savings bank, etc. services started at the same time. A postal date cancel was also sent over, but not a name cancel (straight-line). Forms on which a cancel had to be placed in the beginning were provided with a written indication "Seroei." On the first registry labels of Seroei a printed name was found."

When exactly the office was opened, Mr. Aponno could not tell me. It must have been in the fall of 1932, however, because he managed to be back at Ternate, his official post, before Christmas 1932.

Confronted with the facts published by Dr. W. Vink in the Records of the South-West Pacific Study Group (Mededelingenblad van de Studiegroep Zuid-West Pacific) in which it is stated that according to the lists of the Post-, Telegraph- and Telephone Guide of the Netherlands Indies of 1933 and 1934 it could be surmised that the sub-post office at Seroei was opened later than he told me, he reacted as follows:

"Supplying the facts concerning the postal facilities, telegraph offices, etc., in 1932 (the request for this information to be used in the guides Bandoeng, where the direction was located, usually sent out around June-July of the year previous to that in which the guides were shipped -- as far as the Outer Islands were concerned) which were included in the guide for 1933 regarding Seroei, it could not be mentioned that the simple sub-telegraph office at Seroei was transferred from Amboina, under which it functioned until 1932, to Ternate under which it was to be placed as soon as the postal facility was an accomplished fact.

"When the sub-post office was to be opened could



not yet be determined in 1932. Among other things this depended on the speed with which the civil service telegraphist could master the postal requirements; as well as on the fact at what time a civil servant from Ternate could be released for the training of this functionary. Thus the listing of the guide for 1933 of the sub-telegraph office at Seroei, without a mention of the transfer office, while before 1933 it was already a sub-post and telegraph office, with its head office at Ternate."

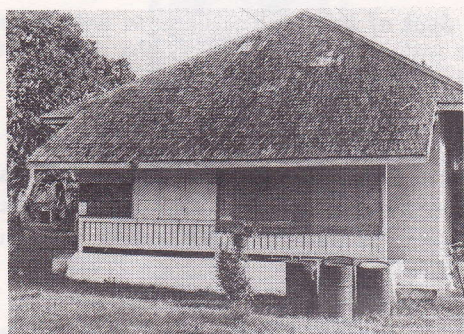


Fig. 9. Sub-post office at Seroei, built in the thirties, probably after 1934. Photo Mehlbaum 1954.

AJAMAROE, first mentioned as a sub-post office in the PTT guide of 1939, situated in the interior of the Vogelkop Peninsula, has a less than pleasant reputation among stamp collectors; namely, the prewar date cancel with single biffige circle has been faked. Luckily this counterfeit usually is placed on postwar stamps, and even on stamps of Netherlands New Guinea, so that it is easily recognizable, since this cancel got lost during the war years and hence cannot, really used, appear on these stamps (see Fig. 10b).

It was very rarely also used on prewar stamps and it is then more difficult to recognize it if it concerns stamps which were valid when the office was opened.



Fig. 10a and b. Fake cancels of Ajamaroe on stamps of Netherlands Indies: Official 2 1/2 ct (1911); the Ajamaroe office did not exist at that time; and Neth. New Guinea, 17 ct (1959); the office then did not exist any more.

FAKFAK. As was mentioned in the beginning of this article, Fakfak belongs to the earliest offices in Netherlands New Guinea, opened in 1899. It is thus not so remarkable that the counterfeiters also were concerned with a cancel of Fakfak, for this place has a well-known sound for collectors, and stamps with

such a cancel could well be valuable. Even so, the counterfeit cancels are easily recognizable, for they are too well done. The vertical stripes above and under the date, which lack in the real cancel, are neatly positioned in the counterfeit.



Fig. 11a. Real prewar cancel of Fakfak without the vertical lines above and below the date. Netherlands Indies 17 1/2 ct with overprint JAVA, October 25, 1912.  
Fig. 11b. Fake prewar cancel of Fakfak with the vertical lines above and below the date. Neth. New Guinea 45 ct, 1958.

What the oldest sub-post office at Fakfak looked like, I don't know. The "new" sub-post office, probably built in the twenties, survived the war, and served until the sixties as sub-post and telegraph office. Whether it is still in use is unknown to me.

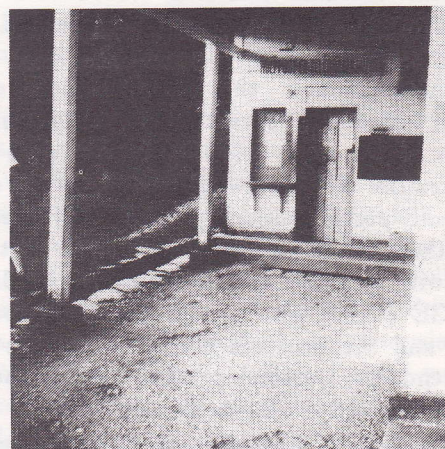


Fig. 12. The prewar sub-post office at Fakfak. The photo was made in 1951 (Mehlbaum)

MERAUKE, the most important place on the southern coast, already in 1902 enjoyed a sub-post office. In the same year it became a "transfer office" (that is, an office where mail for foreign countries is transferred) - a very unusual function for a non(major) post office - for correspondence intended for Queensland, and further on, New South Wales and Victoria.

Starting December 19, 1912, mail pouches closed by the offices in Batavia, Sourabaya and Merauke, and destined for the above-named territories, were transported by KPM ship to the transfer office on Thursday Island, situated between Papua and Queensland. Already in 1903 the KPM stopped the regular service between Merauke and Thursday Island



so that less than a year later this transfer was cancelled.<sup>12</sup>

In 1920 a new sub-post office was built at Merauke, which is still in service.



Fig. 13. The sub-post office which was opened in Merauke in 1920 is still in use (1980). Photo made in 1951 (Mehlbaum).

Merauke is the only place in the former Netherlands East Indies which during the entire Second World War had a postal facility functioning under a Dutch government. Merauke was then forced to become once again a transfer office because there was no other possibility.

It is understandable that during the war various activities, normally speaking not performed by a sub-post office, were undertaken. As since December 1941 Merauke did not receive any further supplies of stamps and postal stationery, temporary measures had to be taken. This was done by means of two rubber stamps with inscription FRANKERING BETAALD/POSTAGE PAID; with pen or pencil the postage was filled in and the post office chief added his "E" short for Eykendorp. Censorship also had to be endured; special censor strips had to be supplied.

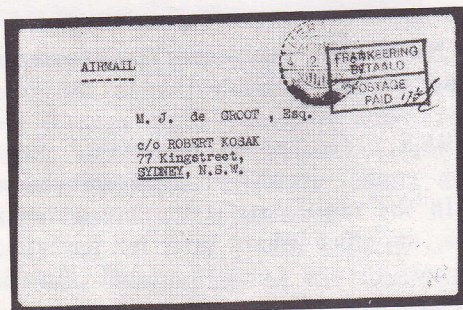


Fig. 14a. Cover with franking stamp of Merauke, December 4, 1944. Paid amount 17 1/2 ct. filled in with pen with initial of the head of the office of Merauke.

Although postal censorship has nothing to do with the post office, I feel that I should mention this, because for collectors this aspect of postal history is also important.

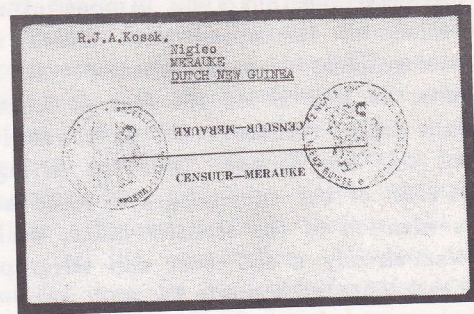


Fig. 14b. Back of the cover of Fig. 14a with censor tape of Merauke and official stamp of the Area Civil Servant of South New Guinea.

Next to its own post office, two Australian field post offices were found in Merauke during the war, to wit: Air Force P(ost) O(ffice) 250, from September 29, 1942, until January 18, 1946, and the Aust(ralian) F(ield) P(ost) O(ffice) 192 from 1943 to 1945; the exact opening and closing dates are not yet known.

DIGOEL is the name of a river; nevertheless a post office was named after it, although this was situated at Tanah Merah, on the upper reaches of the Digoel River. This office had become necessary after a camp for political delinquents was established near Tanah Merah on the left bank of the river. The population of Tanah Merah increased sharply, not only by the internees who were detained there, but also by the military guard detachment, as well as by a few civilian officers and merchants.

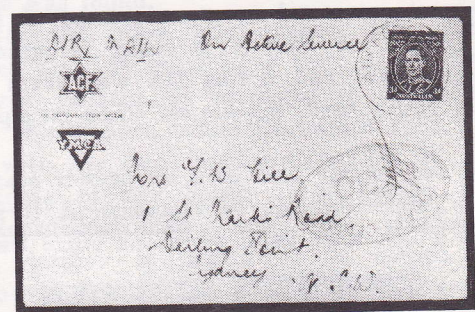


Fig. 15. Australian field post cover, mailed at Merauke in its Air Force P.O. 250, 2 ?? 1944.

The office was opened in 1927 and closed in 1943 after the internees for safety measure were transferred to Australia earlier that year.<sup>22</sup>

At the end of the thirties there must have been a regular air mail connection between Java and Digoel. Most likely this was done with military planes which regularly came to Digoel and carried mail to Java. In this way the mail arrived a month earlier.

My informants, that is, a civil servant of the Internal Service (Binnenlands Bestuur) the military physician of the KNIL, Mr. Nanninga, as well as an ex-internee, Mr. I. F. M. Salim, who were all there, acknowledged the existence of this air mail connection, although nothing about it is found in the official archives. The flights seemed to have been



made without a landing at Merauke, because the head of the post office at that place has never known anything about this postal connection.

Finally it must be said that the cancel of Digoel also has become a victim of the counterfeiters' efforts. Up to now this is the third fake cancel known from the prewar period.



Fig. 16a. Real prewar cancel of Digoel, January 22, 1942.



Fig. 16b. Fake cancel (prewar) on stamp of Neth. New Guinea, Social Care 1961.

**BABO.** In 1935 a sub-post office was opened here for the Dutch New Guinea Oil Co. (NNGPM), which had its headquarters here for the exploration efforts in Netherlands New Guinea. How important Babo was at that time can be seen, among other things, from the fact that it became a center for KNILM flights to Netherlands New Guinea that were started in 1940, as well as the fact that this was the only office in Netherlands New Guinea of which is known that it sold the air mail stamps of 4 1/2 and 7 1/2 guilders, and the Konijnenburg stamp of 25 guilders, stamps which normally were only carried by the "large" post offices.

**KOKAS.** Here a sub-post office was opened in 1914. In the PTT guides KOKAS is mentioned as such up to 1922. Cancels are known from (1916?), 1921 and 1922. In 1937 it seems that a Delivery Post was opened of which nothing further is known.<sup>13</sup>

**SORONG,** opened around 1922, seems to have been a rather busy office, especially in the early years of its existence, because many cancels from the middle twenties are known to me. Thereafter the intensity diminished, so that at the end of the thirties they become, relatively, scarce.

Next to the sub-post offices Netherlands New Guinea also knew the "delivery office with the rank of a functioning sub-post office" (*Bestelhuis*). These were not postal facilities in that sense, but posts of the Civil Service, where simple postal activities could be handled.

Registry was impossible, for instance, because that was done by the sub-post office under which the delivery office was placed. Also payment of other and higher charges and the responsibility for these was handled by the sub-post office; payments, however, happened via the delivery station.

The exact number of delivery stations in function before the war is not known to me.

According to the late Father Drager, who at the end of the thirties was at MAPPIPOST, among other places, there was no delivery station at the place. However, the Dutch *Maandblad voor Philately* of 1937 mentions the opening of this delivery station, as well as that of JAPARO.<sup>13</sup> No cancellation is known of either delivery station.

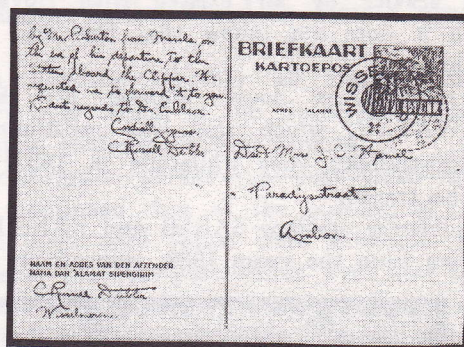


Fig. 17. Postcard sent from Enarotali with the delivery station cancel Wisselmeer (*Collection Spoor*).

Regarding mail transport from Mappipost, Father Drager told me the following:

"When we had to mail letters we gave them to a person who had to go to Merauke. Usually this was a Chinese merchant who had to pick up merchandise at that place. He took with him his own mail, the mail of the mission, and that of the Civil Service (BB). Sometimes we did it ourselves, or otherwise someone from the Civil Service. This mail was always unfranked and was only supplied with stamps at the post office at Merauke. Returning home, the mail for Mappipost was picked up at the post office and distributed at arrival (thus without the intermediary efforts of the Civil Servant who would have been responsible for the mail if there had been a delivery station)."

A well known delivery station was WISSELMEER, situated at Enarotali in the Wisselmeren district. Here too the postal name is not the official one. The opening of this delivery station was connected with the expedition of the Royal Netherlands Geographic Society which took place in this area in 1939.

In 1939 Dr. J. V. de Bruijn was placed at Enarotali as Civil Servant. He tells about his trip to this new post in his book *Het Verdwenen Volk* (The Disappeared people),<sup>14</sup> that he was flown in with a plane of the Naval Air Service. The trip was not direct but via Aika near Cape Steenboom, where the NNGPM (oil company) had an exploration post, and



where mail had to be delivered. From Dobo the plane would travel on to Boven Digoel; he himself flew with another plane to the Wisselmeren. This proves again that there was a connection by plane from outside New Guinea to Boven Digoel, flown with planes of the Naval Service, and that these planes carried mail.

There is no mention in the book of mail for Boven Digoel, but considering the information mentioned under Digoel (see before), it would not surprise me if mail for this place also was transported with this plane.

This could be seen as the fourth item to prove that a mail service by air existed with Boven Digoel, although it does not follow that this was a regular connection.

Some cancels on loose stamps are known of INANAWATAN, which also was mentioned in the Dutch *Maandblad voor Philatelie* in 1937<sup>13</sup>; a date cannot be traced.

Of the delivery stations SARMI and RANSIKI cancels are known from the years 1938, respectively 1939.



Fig. 18. Social Bureau stamp of 10+2 1/2 ct, 1939, with "posthuishouder" cancel of Saonek. At Sorong cancelled again, March 13, 1940.

About the delivery stations KAIMANA and KOKENAOE nothing further is known<sup>13,16</sup> although these too were mentioned in the *Maandblad* of 1937<sup>13</sup> with the note that Kokenaoe already in 1937 was closed.

### Other Cancels

Apart from the postal cancels other markings can also be found on postal pieces. There were also "posthuishouders" (a "posthuishouder" was the lowest rank in the Civil Service and the "posthuis" had nothing to do with a postal facility) who had a supply of stamps which they used on their own mail, or mail which they received for forwarding, and which they marked with the Civil Service marking. Such pieces were later postally cancelled by the postal facility where they were mailed (see Fig. 18).

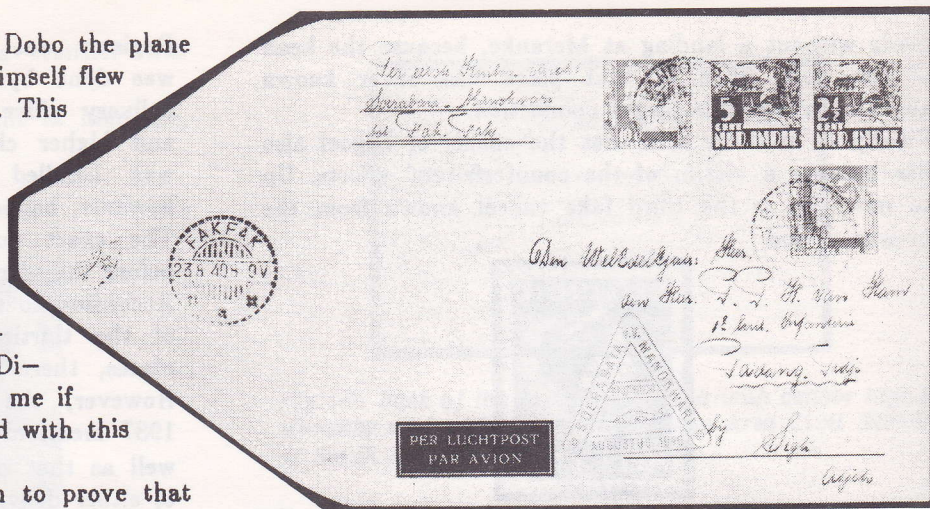


Fig. 19. Normal first flight cover with special cancel next to the stamps, and date cancel on the stamps. With arrival cancel Fakfak, August 23, 1940.

### Air Mail Service by the Royal Netherlands Indies Airline (KNILM)

Up to 1940 air mail service was incidental. Among other occasions a few pieces were flown from Hawaii to Hollandia with an airplane of the type "Guba" of the Archbold Expedition in 1938. Furthermore, at irregular times planes of the oil company and the Navy would have flown mail (see also under Digoel). Not until 1940 was Netherlands New Guinea added to the flight schedule of the KNILM. In August of that year the route Sourabaya—Manokwari was opened; places touched in Netherlands New Guinea were Fakfak, Babo and Manokwari (see Fig. 19).

On October 1, 1940, a second route to New Guinea was started, but now from Makassar via Tondano, Ternate and Amboina.

On the occasion of the opening of the first flight from Sourabaya, the mail received a special cancel which had to be placed NEXT to the stamps. At Babo some pieces got this special cancel on the stamps and the date cancel next to them, while a few times the date cancels were completely forgotten.

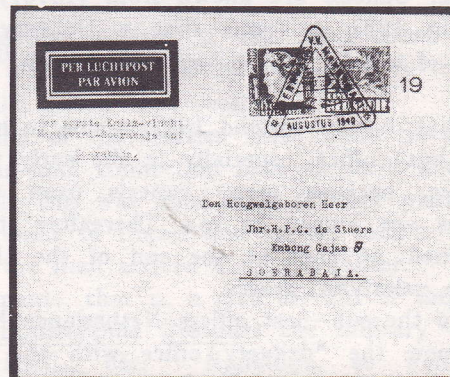


Fig. 20. First KNILM return flight Manokwari—Sourabaya. Cover was carried from Babo to Sourabaya, with no date cancel of Babo and the special cancel on instead of next to the stamp.



The opening of the second route was the occasion for using a special cancel for both the outgoing and returning flights. Since only the route Makassar-Paloppo-Gorontalo-Tondano-Ternate-Namlea-Amboina was considered to be a new project, only in these places was the mail supplied with this special cancel. Mail FROM New Guinea theoretically cannot have this special cancel. Yet up to now four pieces are known FROM New Guinea flown with the first return flight via Ternate, which left New Guinea on October 5, with this special flight cancel.

One piece came from Babo and was destined for Makassar.

The second piece, also from Babo, was franked again at Amboina, and destined for Sourabaya.



Fig. 21. Cover from Manokwari (Oct. 3, 1940) by first return flight Babo-Makassar via the Minahassa, with final destination Malang (transfer cancel of Makassar Oct. 7, 1940).

The last two pieces are from Manokwari and were destined for Malang. How especially these two pieces received their special cancels, and how they came to be on this return flight is unclear to me since the flight began at Babo, and mail from Manokwari should have been transported anyway via the southern route.

It must have been the intention to give this route an extension from Babo, via the Wisselmeren to Hollandia, for in the book *The Indies and the Flying Dutchman* (Indië en de Vliegende Hollander)<sup>19</sup> by J. Meijer is found a map of the network of KNILM flights in which this extension has already been added (see Fig. 22).

In an even earlier stage a route seems to have been projected from Babo to Tanah Merah. On the back of an air mail envelope, issued around 1937 by

the KNILM, this route is already indicated (see Fig. 23).

In the earlier mentioned book *Het Verdwenen Volk*, Dr. de Bruijn mentions the extension to the Wisselmeren.<sup>20</sup> Since December 21, 1940, this route was flown weekly until Christmas 1941 when this connection had to be stopped because of the war, as was the case with all routes of the KNILM. The flights to the Wisselmeren were, however, not a regular service, as can be surmised from the book, but were flown in charter, as Dr. de Bruijn later wrote me. Mail service was regularly performed with these flights.

### Stamps and Postal Stationery of the Netherlands Indies Used in New Guinea

It is a question whether all stamps and postal stationery ever issued in the Netherlands Indies were also used in Netherlands New Guinea.

In the description of the sub-post office of Seroei I already mentioned that at the opening of this office only the most used values were available. But since all heads of the sub-post offices were able to request all stamps and stationery which they thought they might need, it would in theory be possible to find all these with cancellations of Netherlands New Guinea.

The oldest stamps known with cancels from this area are the numeral stamps (issue 1883-1890) and the Netherlands stamps with overprint "Ned. Indië" of

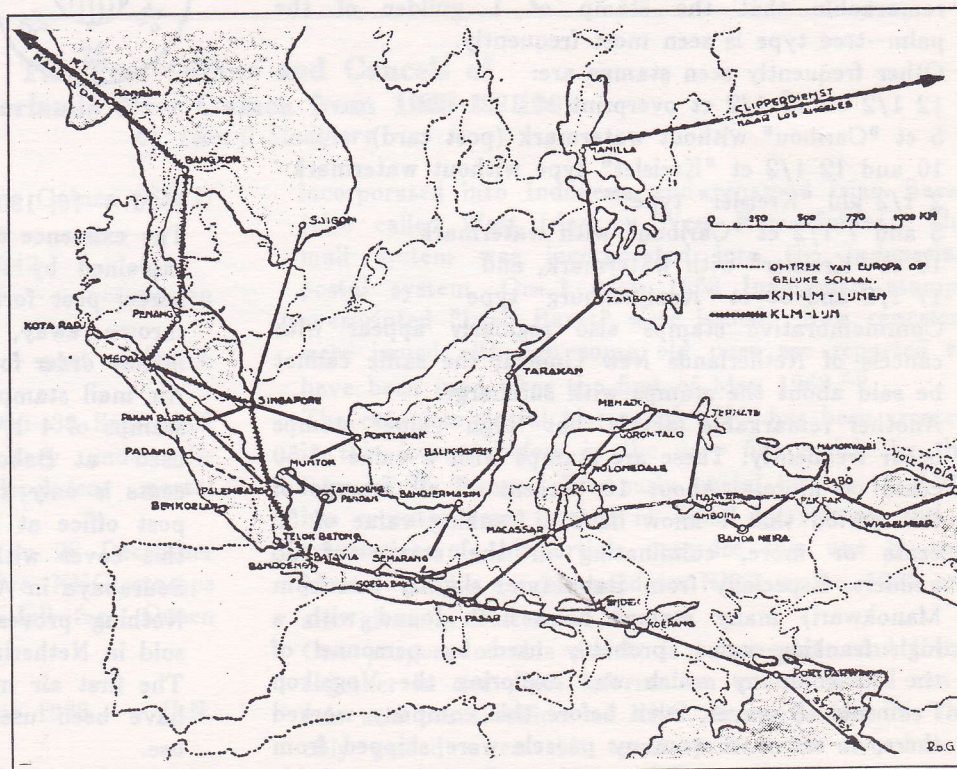


Fig. 22. Map of the Netherlands Indies with the routes of the KNILM. Included is the non-existing line Babo-Wisselmeer-Hollandia.



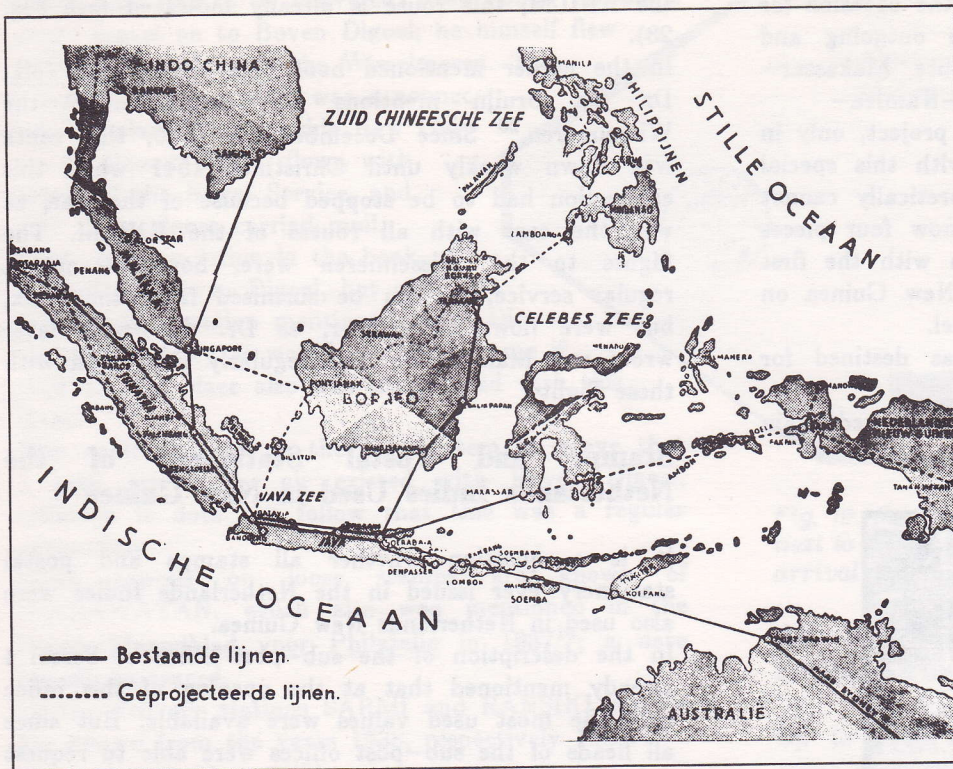


Fig. 23. Back of a KNILM envelope with the projected line Babo-Tanah Merah.

1900. Since the first offices were already opened in 1899 it should be possible to find stamps of the "Queen with long hair." All following normal definitive issues occur frequently, while it is remarkable that the stamp of 1 guilder of the palm-tree type is seen most frequently.

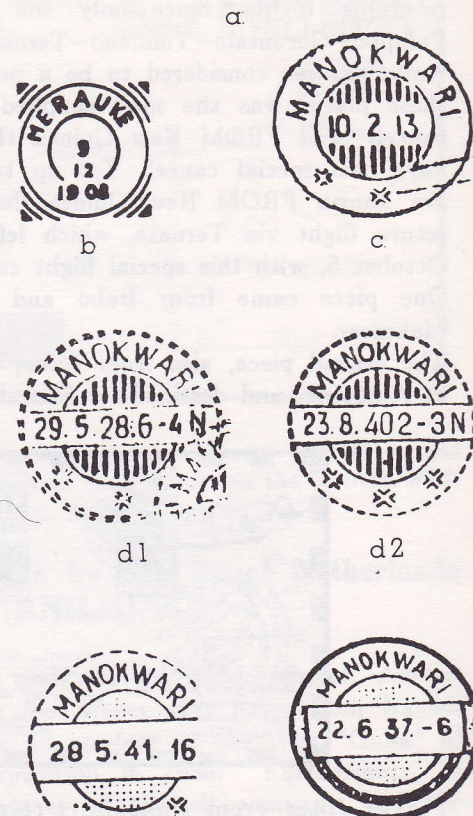
Other frequently seen stamps are:

- 12 1/2 on 17 1/2 ct overprint of 1921-22
- 5 ct "Caribou" without watermark (post card)
- 10 and 12 1/2 ct "Kreiser" type without watermark
- 2 1/2 gld "Kreiser" type
- 5 and 7 1/2 ct "Caribou" with watermark
- 10 ct "Kreiser" with watermark, and
- 17 1/2 and 80 ct "Konijnenburg" type

Commemorative stamps also regularly appear with cancels of Netherlands New Guinea; the same cannot be said about the stamps with surcharge.

Another remarkable fact is that "high-value" stamps occur frequently. These are stamps with a value of 50 cents or more. About 10 percent of all stamps of this period that I know have a franking value of 50 cents or more, culminating in the stamp of 25 guilders. Especially from Babo (and slightly less from Manokwari) many stamps have been found with a high franking value, probably used by personnel of the oil company which was exploring the Vogelkop Peninsula. However, even before this company worked there, it seems that many parcels were shipped from Netherlands New Guinea. According to a table published by Dr. W. Vink in the *Mededelingenblad van de Studie-Groep Zuid-West Pacific*<sup>21</sup> the following numbers of parcels were mailed from Fakfak:

## MANOKWARI



- a. straight-line cancel
- b. square circle cancel
- c. short bar cancel
- d. 1 to 3: bifface cancels
- e. long bar cancel with dots
- f. "delivery station" cancel



1900 - 16; 1902 - 21; 1910 - 27

The existence of many high value stamps can also be explained by the state auctions of the stamps from parcel post forms. Covers with low values were soon thrown away, but not the parcel post forms and money order forms.

Air mail stamps are not very common, except for the stamps of 4 1/2 and 7 1/2 guilders, which were often used at Babo. The stamp for special flights of 30 cents is only known to me on one letter, sent to the post office at Manokwari with the request to return this cover with the first regular flight Manokwari-Sourabaya in August 1940.

Nothing proves that this triangular stamp was ever sold in Netherlands New Guinea.

The first air mail stamps of 1928 also seem never to have been used there; I have never heard of their use.

Official stamps were used in Netherlands New Guinea, but I have not heard of many.

Postage due stamps also occur with cancels of this area. A few copies are known of the 1892-1909 set.



Of the next regular series (issued from 1913 to 1940) many stamps are known, especially the 20-ct value. However, the usage of postage due stamps was not very large, which was proven when I saw a piece some time ago which had a 2 1/2-ct postage due stamp of the double printing, cancelled at Manokwari in 1939.

Against this it can be stated that the postage due stamps printed by Kolff in Batavia in 1941 also were

used in Netherlands New Guinea.

Postal stationery is also known with cancels from this area, but this is scarce.

To conclude I want to thank Messrs. J. W. F. Bunge, E. A. Mehlbaum and P. F. Spoor for the loan of photographic material to illustrate this article, and Dr. W. Vink who allowed me to include various cancels published by him in many Mededelingenbladen of the Study Group South-West Pacific.

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4. ZWP 6, pp. 27-29
5. Nieuw Guinea, part I, 1953, Dr. Ir. W. C. Klein, page 27
6. ZWP 6, page 29
7. Verslag van de Militaire Exploratie van Nederlands-Nieuw-Guinea 1907-1915, Weltevreden 1920
8. ZWP 5, page 4
9. Im Banne der Südsee (Wilhelm Köhler Verlag), no date, A. M. Karlin, page 239
10. Kruis en Korwar, F. C. Kamma, 1953, pp. 89-91
11. ZWP 019 - NING 017-019
12. ZWP 7, page 74
13. Nederlandsch Maandblad voor Philatelie, 1937, pp. 152, 161-164
14. Het Verdwenen Volk, Dr. J. V. de Bruijn, 1978, page 47
15. ZWP 037 - PI-WNG 032-033
16. ZWP 021 - PI-WNG 007-008
17. ZWP 029 - NING 030-032
18. ZWP 018 - NING 015-016
19. Indië en de Vliegende Hollander, J. Meijer, no date (between 1940 and 1945), page 92
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22. Vijftien Jaar Boven Digoel, I. F. M. Salim, 1973
23. ZWP 012 - NING 026

## The Post Offices and Cancels of Netherlands New Guinea from 1950 to 1962

by: Leon G. Stadtherr

The postal history of Netherlands New Guinea (NNG) can be broken down into four periods:

- I. Before World War II or 1898-1942
- II. During WW II -- 1942-1945 -- occupation and liberation
- III. After WW II -- 1945-1949 -- part of Dutch East Indies
- IV. Netherlands New Guinea -- 1950-30 Sept 1962 -- "a non-selfgoverning territory under the Dutch crown" with an independent postal administration.

The NNG PTT actually took over on 28 December 1949 and on 2 January 1950 twelve NNG stamps were issued, six numerals and six full-face Queen Juliana.

A fifth period can be added:

- V. UNTEA -- 1 Oct 1962-30 Apr 1963 -- U.N. Administration<sup>20</sup>

On the first of October 1962 the Dutch handed the territory over to the United Nations. On the first of May 1963 at 12:30pm the UN handed the territory over to Indonesia. Thereafter the NNG territory was

incorporated into Indonesia and renamed Irian Barat (also called West Irian or West New Guinea). The mail system was incorporated into the Indonesian postal system. On 1 May 1963 Indonesian stamps overprinted "Irian Barat" were issued. New cancels were issued although some old ones are reported to have been used after the first of May 1963.<sup>2,8</sup>

The complete postal history of NNG has been treated in this journal before in the very fine article by the late J.F.W. Bunge.<sup>1</sup> The early postal history of NNG has recently been treated in detail by Pönitz, and a translation of this article precedes this one in this journal<sup>12</sup>. The cancels used in NNG up to 1950 are also given in Bulterman.<sup>14</sup>

One purpose of this article is to up-date and bring together in one place information on the postal cancels and postal offices of NNG during period IV, the only period when this territory had its own independent mail system. Even during this period it was not truly independent. The Dutch PTT supervised its operation and trained native personnel to carry out the functions of a modern postal system.<sup>15</sup>



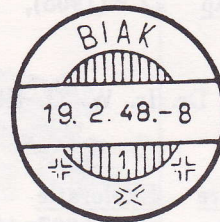
At the beginning of 1950 there were only 9 small post offices operating in the territory along with an unknown number of small village or delivery offices. Several cancels in use in the territory before its separation from the Netherlands Indies/Indonesia continued in use for several years. Three types known to have been used before and after 2 January 1950 are given in Table I. See Bunge<sup>1</sup> for illustrations of type 3.8a (dashed outer circle) cancels of Fakfak and Hollandia used in 1950. The Hollandia cancel was still in use on 20 October 1960 (see Figure 1). Both the Biak cancel and the Hollandia cancel of this type are known to have been used in 1962 and 1963,<sup>9,10</sup> respectively. So these devices were available although

little used during the 1950-1962 period. Cancels of type 3.8a are 29 - 29.5 mm in diameter and have 10 bars in the inner circle above and below the date bar. More will be said about the cancels of table I later.

The basic cancel used in NNG during her "independence" was Type 4.1 (see Table II). This cancel was introduced in 1950 and for most offices was used until 1962 and in many offices through the UNTEA administration. Cancels of Type 4.1 have a double circle with full date bar and 10 bars inside the inner circle. Most have a canceller number below the date bar and three ornaments in the lower ring. Several variations of this cancel type exist as shown in Table II.

Table I. Cancels used before and after 1950

cancel type	Bunge	Houwink	Post office	Latest use <sup>a</sup>
3.8a	18	E.8	Biak	9.58 (1.10.62)
			Fakfak	12. 9.50
			Hollandia	20.10.60 ( . .63)
	20		Monokwari	3. 7.50
			Sorong	51
3.8b	19		Sorong-/Doom	21. 2.51
3.9	21	E.9a	Biak 1	?
			Hollandia 1	?
3.10	22	E.9b	Sorong	?
			Hollandia-/Basis	?
			Hollandia-/B	8.11.55



<sup>a</sup>Subject to change as new dates are reported. Dates in parenthesis are from the UNTEA period.

**Afzender / Si Pengirim**  
*Hollandia*  
*T. 12*

**NED.-NIEUW-GUINEA ADRESKAART**  
**KARTU ALAMAT**  
 Voor binnenlandse postpakketten zonder verrekening  
 Postpakket dalam negeri tidak dengan perhitungan

Aan *[redacted]* / *[redacted]* / *[redacted]* / *[redacted]*

FL *[redacted]* CT *[redacted]*

(Bedrag in letters voluit) / Besarja uang dengan huruf

AAN *G. Anderson*

KEPADA *[redacted]*

STRAAT *[redacted]*

DJALAN *[redacted]*

TE *[redacted]*

Di *[redacted]*

Num Segi *72 HOLLANDIA*

Gewicht Beratnja *500*

N.B. Invullen met inkt of inktpotlood.  
 Isi dengan tinta atau potlot tinta.

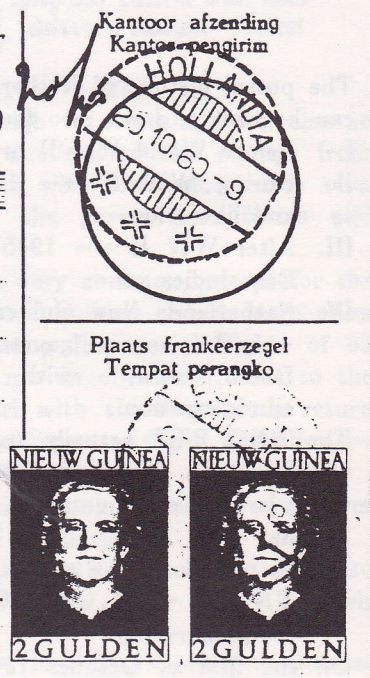


Figure 1 Pre-1950 cancel of type 3.8a still in use in Hollandia on 20.10.60 on a domestic parcel post address card.

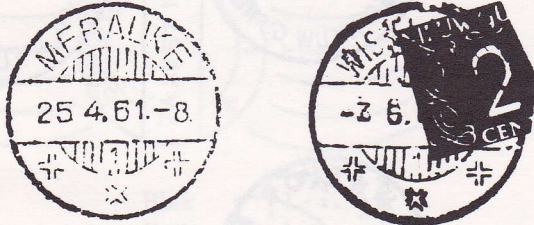


Table II. Cancels Introduced 1950-1962

cancel  
type Bunge Houwink Description/Post office

1 double circle with full date bar  
ten bars in inner circle 28.5-  
29.5mm dia.. Used 1950-1963

4.1a 23 10a canceler number below date bar  
three ornaments in lower ring



Biak	1	2	3	Manokwari	1	2	3		
Digoel		1		Merauke		1	2		
Enarotali		1		Sarmi		1			
Fakfak		1		Seroei		1			
Hollandia		1		Sorong		1	2	3	5
Ifar		1		Sorong-doom		1			
Kaimana		1		Tanahmerah		1			
Kokonoa		1		Wisselmeren		1			

4.1b 24 10b two-line name/canceler  
25 10c number/no ornaments



Biak/Luchtpost	1
Hollandia/Basis	1 2
Hollandia/Binnen	1 2 3 4
Hollandia/B	1
Hollandia/Noordwijk	1
Hollandia/Stad	1 2 4 5
Hollandia/S	5
Sorong/Pakketpost	1

4.1c 27 10e canceler number  
no ornaments



Hollandia 1 2 4 5

cancel  
type Bunge Houwink Description/Post office

4.1d 26 10d no canceler number  
three ornaments



Kokonoa Sorongdoom  
Ransiki Steenkool  
Sentani Teminaboean

4.1e no canceler number  
two-line name no ornaments



Sorong-/Remoe

4.1f no canceler number  
one-line name no ornaments  
Hollandia

2 single large circle with date in  
center between 2 horizontal lines  
post office name in top portion  
34mm dia. Used 1954(?)-1963

4.2a 28 11 NIEUW-GUINEA in lower portion



Ajamaroe  
Kaimana  
Kokonoa



Table II. Continued

cancel  
type Bunge Houwink Description/Post office colors<sup>a</sup>

4.2b NED.-NIEUW-GUINEA

Hollandia Hamadi	
Nabire	bk
Oebroeb	p
Okaba	b
Pirimapoen	p
Steenkool	
Waghete	bk
Wamena	p
Waris	p
Warsa	bk



4.2c Ned.-Nieuw-Guinea

Agats	
Inanwatan	
Wasior	bk p



4.2d 30 12 NEDERLANDS/NIEUW-GUINEA  
Used 9/56-12/62

colors			colors
Agats	b bk r	Korido	bk
Bade	bk p	Mindiptana	b bk
Bosnik	bk	Moeting	
Genjam	b bk	Napan-Weinami	p
Kameri	bk p	Sibil	bk
Kepi	bk p	Teminaboean	bk
Kimaan	b bk	Waren	b bk p
Kokas	r	Wasior	bk p



4.3a straight single line  
variable length  
letters 5.5-6mm high  
Used 1950(?) - ?

Moeting	Ransiki
Nabire	Waren
Okaba	



4.3b 31 13 addition of straight date line  
below town line  
letters 3.5mm high  
Used 1956(?) - 1963

Betaf	Mindiptana
Bosnik	Moeting
Demta	Okaba
Genjem	Toep
Kameri	Waren
Kimaan	Wasior
Korido	

BETAF

23 SEP 1957

OKABA

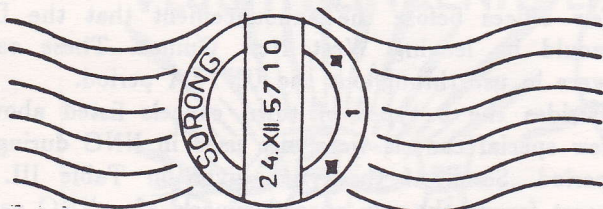
1 JAN. 1958



Table II. Continued

cancel  
type Bunge Houwink Description/Post office

4.4 29 14 hand roller  
overall: size 27 x 80mm  
circle: 25mm dia.  
Used 1955(?) - ?



Biak 1  
Hollandia 1  
Sorong 1

4.5 43 15 single circle  
date in center between 2  
half moons  
canceler number at bottom  
28-28.5mm dia.



Used 4.61(?) - 4.63  
Hollandia 3  
6  
7  
8  
HB  
Hollandia-Noordwijk 2  
Manokwari 4  
Veldpost 96 (Biak)  
Used 27.7/ 2.11.62  
Veldpost 97 (Sorong)  
Used 2.8/ 7.11.62  
Veldpost 98 (Hollandia)  
Used 2.8/ 24.10.62  
Veldpost 99 (Biak)  
Used 27.7/ 2.11.62

Notes: <sup>a</sup>cancel ink colors: b - blue  
bk - black  
p - purple  
r - red

date question marks:  
(?) - known to author but earlier/later usage probable  
? - unknown to author; further information sought

All cancels of type 4.1 which the author has checked have 10 bars in the inner circle. In previous articles concerned with NNG cancels some of the cancel illustrations show more than 10 bars. It is assumed these are redrawn cancels done without regard to this detail. Please notify the editor or the author if you find any NNG cancels with more or less than 10 bars.

A note concerning the numbering used here for the NNG cancels: The first digit indicates the era or time period during which it was introduced. Thus 3 indicates between 1945-1949 and 4 indicates between 1950-1962. The number after the period is arbitrary although usually chronological, otherwise ascending with the infrequency with which the cancels occur.

The two most used non-Dutch sources of information on NNG cancels are Bunge (English) and Houwink (German). References 1 and 3. Therefore cancel types in this article are cross referenced to those given in these two sources.

Getting back to the pre-1950 cancels used after 1950. Type 3.9<sup>x</sup> differs from type 4.1 in that the lettering is thinner and smaller in the former than in the latter. The type 3.10 on the other hand has heavier inner lines than type 4.1 and the letters also are thicker. The HOLLANDIA/BASIS cancel of type 3.10 had the ASIS removed to give HOLLANDIA/B which was used for a short time in 1955 and 1956 at the Hollandia Binnen sub-post office.<sup>1,5</sup>

Cancels of type 4.1 were made of metal and used by all the major post offices and sub-post offices. The status of each office is given later in this article.

A second type of cancel frequently found in NNG is type 4.2 used primarily by the 'bestelhuis' or delivery station,<sup>2</sup> also called a rural office<sup>5</sup> or forwarding office.<sup>6</sup> Some of the smaller sub-post offices, i.e., Kajmana and Hollandia Hamadi, also used this large round 34 mm diameter single circle cancel as well as those offices which changed status from rural to sub-post office or vice versa, i.e. Ajamaroe, Kokonao, Teminaboean, and Steenkool. If cancels/covers from the period of status change could be found, one could prove or disprove the thesis that when an office moved up from a rural office to a sub-post office, the canceler of type 2 was replaced by one of type 1. The type 2 cancelers were usually made of rubber but could be of rubber or metal. Some were used throughout the UNTEA period and into the Indonesian period.<sup>8,9</sup>

Another cancel found from the smaller offices is the straight-line type. This definitely appears to be a temporary or emergency-use-only cancel as few are to be found. It may also be that it was used as a favor on stamps ... That its purpose was other than the canceling of stamps/covers.

Most cancels of this type include the date but a few have been found without a date included (see Table II). According to Jennings<sup>5</sup> rural offices received a



straight line rubber hand stamp in the post-war (1945-9) period. Some of these may still have been in use in the 1950s, but it is likely that they had deteriorated by this time. It is known that many rural offices opened in the 1950-1962 period were provided with both a round cancel of type 4.2 and a straight-line cancel of type 4.3. Bunge believed the straight-line cancels were introduced after the large circular cancels.<sup>1</sup>

A cancel seldom seen used but which nevertheless goes back to the early 1950s is the hand roller cancel of type 4.4. Only three post offices (probably the three in the country with the highest volume of mail) seem to have been issued this type. One reason few of these cancels are seen today is that it was probably used primarily for bulk/package mailings and

few of the wrappers have survived.

In 1961 new cancelers appeared (Type 4.5). As they are similar to those used at this time in the Netherlands, they were probably manufactured (of metal) in the Netherlands. They consisted of a single circle of 28-28.5 mm diameter with the post office name at the top and a canceler number (or letters) at the bottom. The date is in the center between two half-moons. These cancels were introduced to only a few offices before the announcement that the Dutch would be leaving West New Guinea. These cancels were in use throughout the UNTEA period.

Besides the 5 types of town cancels listed above, a few special cancels were also used in NNG during this period. Some of these are given in Table III. The most frequently seen special cancels of NNG are the

Table III.  
Special cancels used 1950-1962

cancel type	Bunge	Houwink	Description/Post office	Size	Dates of use
EERSTE DAG VAN UITGIFTE					
FD1	37	SSt.1	bird of paradise in circle	35mm dia.	1 Oct 57
FD2	44	SSt.2	double oval date bar in center	27x44	1 Oct 58 p <sup>a</sup> 10 april 1959 p
FD3	48	SSt.3	words in circle date in center	26mm dia.	16 XI 59 p 16 III 62 1 IX 60 28 IV 62 5 IV 61 18 VII 62 15 IX 61 17 IX 62
FD4			mother and child in barbed circle	35mm dia.	7 April 1960
Sp1	45		EXPEDITIE STERRENBERGTE 1959 helicopter/mts in circle	36mm dia.	10 April 1959
Sp2	49		MANOKWARI JAARMARKT 1959	35mm dia.	27-? Aug. 1959 b
Sp3a <sup>b</sup> Sp3b Sp3c			BIAK Marinepostkantoor	34mm dia.	? - 23 Nov 1962

<sup>a</sup> b - blue; p - purple; others known in black only

<sup>b</sup> One metal and two rubber cancelers. See text.



FD1



FD2



Sp1



Sp2



Sp3c



first-day cancels. Four are known to have been used starting in 1957 with the semipostal Child Welfare issue. This first special first-day cancel did not include the date which was 1 Oct. 1957. It was used along with one of the circular date cancels. The other

three first-day cancels did include the date, but every first-day cover also has a town cancel indicating the post office where it was canceled. Table III gives the known dates of use of each cancel. The Dutch scientific expedition to the Star Mountains

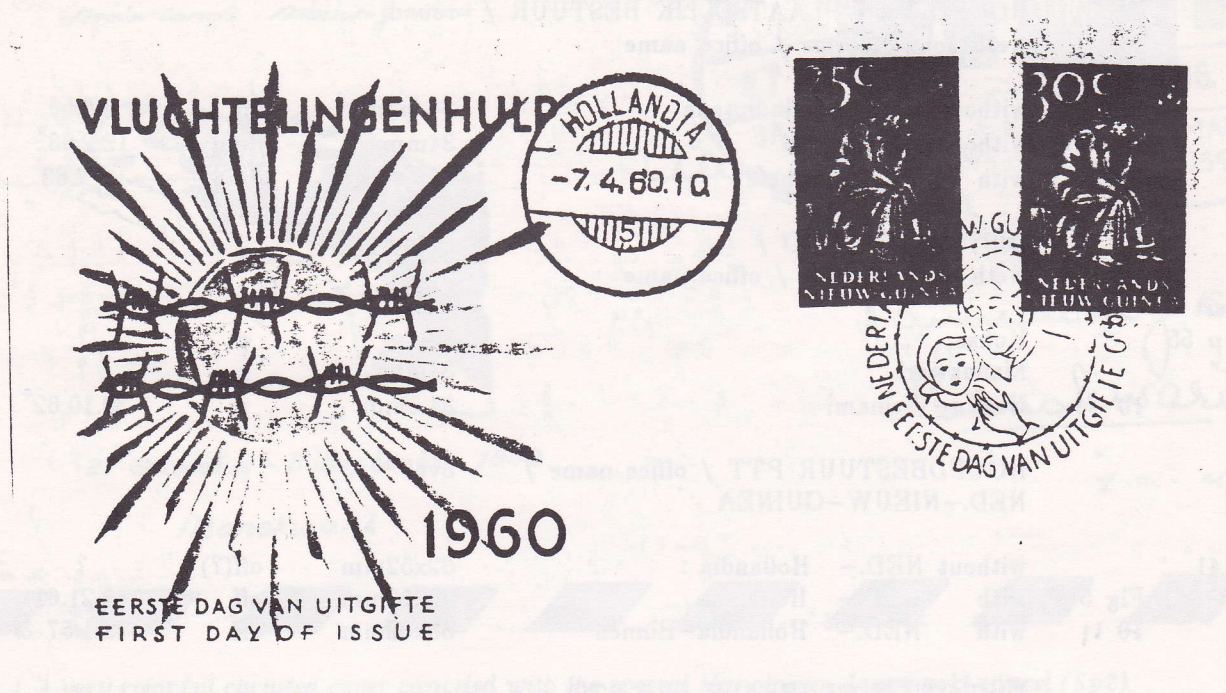


Figure 2. First-day cover of World Refugee Year issue of April 7, 1960 showing special first-day cancel (FD4) used only on this date.



SOCIALE ZORG 1960. EERSTE DAG VAN UITGIFTE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Figure 3 Typical first-day cover showing use of a special first-day cancel (FD3) and post office (town) cancel.



Table IV. NNG PTT Administrative Handstamps<sup>a</sup>

cancel type	other Bunge <sup>1</sup> ref.	Description/Post office	size	use <sup>b</sup>	date used
Of1		HOOFD VAN PLAATSELIJK BESTUUR / Neth coat of arms / office name	round		
a	10 11	without VAN te Mindiptana	34.5mm	off	9.6.56
a	10 21	without VAN Seroei	34mm	dmo	12.2.63*
b	7A 8	with VAN Waghete <sup>c</sup>	?	dmo	7.63
Of2		DISTRIKTSHOOFD / Neth coat of arms / office name	round		
	part 2 p 55	Kokas	33mm	p	?
	"	Manokwari	34mm	p	?
	10 11	Napan-Weinami	34.5mm	p	30.10.62*
Of3		HOOFDBESTUUR PTT / office name / NED.-NIEUW-GUINEA	oval		
a	41	without NED.- Hollandia	32x52mm	off(?)	?
b	Fig 5	with NED.- Hollandia	33x52mm	off	15.21.61
	10 11	with NED.- Hollandia-Binnen	33x52mm	off	19.1.57 & 1.7.57
Of4		DIRECTION GENERALE DES PTT / office name / Nouvelle-Guinee Neerlandaise	oval		
a	part 1 p 43	P.T.T. & bottom line in caps Hollandia-/Binnen	34x52mm	off	?
b	Fig 6	as above Hollandia	34x53mm	off	16.3.61 & 6.1.62
	20 22	as above Hollandia <sup>d</sup>	34x53mm	?	27.3.63*
Of5		POST-EN TELEGRAAFKANTOOR / office name / 6 pointed star	oval		
	10 11	Biak	32x52mm	off	15.11.54
	42	Hollandia	30x51mm	off(?)	?
	Fig 7	Sorong	32x52mm	dmo	17.7.61

<sup>a</sup>. This table includes items from the UNTEA period; they are marked \*.

<sup>b</sup>. Abbreviations: dmo - domestic money order, off - official mail, p - postal cancel.

<sup>c</sup>. Altered -- coat of arms removed. Indonesian period usage.

<sup>d</sup>. Altered -- Neerlandaise removed. UNTEA period usage.



Of1a



Of3a



Of4a



Of5





Figure 4 A very colorful cacheted cover canceled with the special Manokwari Jaarmarkt cancel (Sp2).

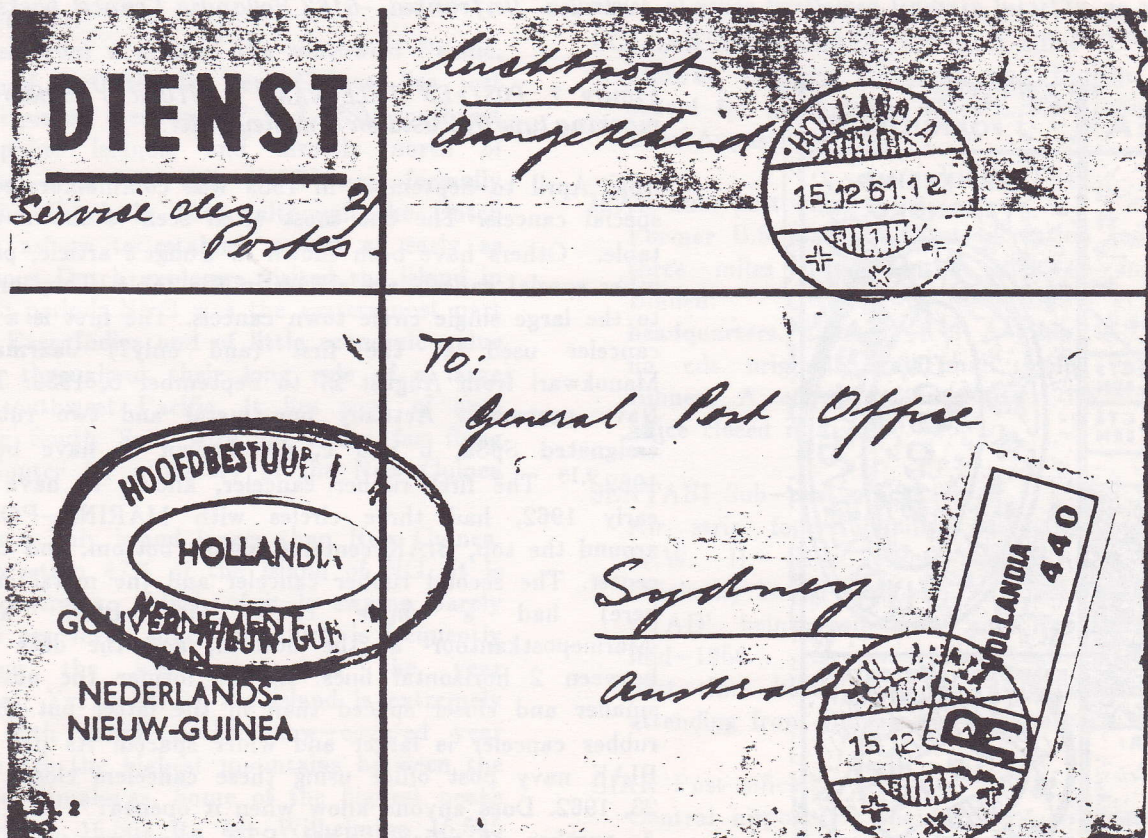


Figure 5. HOOFDBESTUUR PTT / HOLLANDIA / NED.-NIEUW-GUINEA. Type Of3b PTT office marking on an official airmail registered cover to Australia.



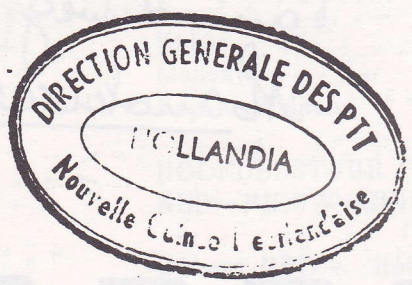
*Plank V.V.P.  
 Per postal service*

*Luchtpost  
 = R =*

*To: The Director of Posts*

*Sydney*

*Australia*



2.

Figure 6. DIRECTION GENERALE DES PTT / HOLLANDIA / Nouvelle-Guinée Neerlandaise. PTT office marking type 0f4b in purple on official airmail registered cover to Australia. Unfranked. -6.162 Hollandia 1 cancel, backstamped -8.162 Biak / Luchtpost 1.

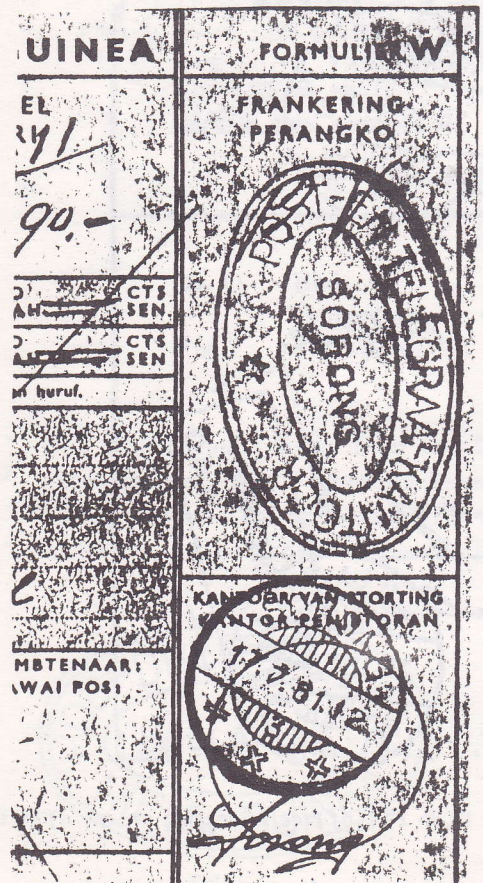


Figure 7. POST-EN TELEGRAAF KANTOOR / SORONG. PTT office marking type 0f5 used on a money order.

from April to September in 1959 was commemorated with several special cancels. The one most often seen is shown as Sp1 in the table. Others have been shown in Bunge's article, part 1.<sup>1,11</sup> Two other special cancels are shown in the table. They are very similar to the large single circle town cancels. The first is a special rubber canceler used at the first (and only?) Jaarmarkt held at Manokwari from August 27 to September 5, 1959. The other is a Navy postmark. Actually one metal and two rubber cancelers, assigned Sp3a, b and c, are known to have been in use in 1962.<sup>9,13</sup> The first rubber canceler, known to have been used in early 1962, had three circles with MARINE-POSTKANTOOR around the top, BIAK centered at the bottom, and the date in the center. The second rubber canceler and the metal canceler (shown here) had a single circle with BIAK at the top, 'Marinepostkantoor' at the bottom, and the date in the center between 2 horizontal lines. In the former the outer lettering is smaller and closer spaced than in the latter but the date in the rubber canceler is larger and wider spaced! As per Esbensen<sup>2</sup> the BIAK navy post office using these cancelers closed on November 23, 1962. Does anyone know when it opened? A number of official NNG PTT handstamps or administrative cancels as Bunge refers to them<sup>1</sup>, can be found on official PTT business mail or infrequently on other postal covers and PTT forms such as money orders and parcel post forms. Table IV lists those postmarks known to the author -- other types may well



exist. The two round handstamps, with the Netherlands Coat of Arms in the center, are official handstamps or seals of the District Head of Civil Administration. Figures 5 and 6 show late use of ~~the~~ administrative postmarks as free franking markings for official PTT mail. Cancel Of4 may have only been used on foreign destination official mail. All five of these types of postmarks were probably made of rubber. They are frequently found in purple ink -- otherwise black.

Until further reports on their use are published, no other generalizations on use of these postmarks can be made.

Other postal markings to be found from this period include:

- special cancels for first flights -- see Rabarts<sup>23</sup> and Bunge<sup>1</sup> part 1
- meters -- see Bunge<sup>1</sup> part 2
- various military markings and cancels including free franks
- ship cancels -- see Esbensen<sup>2</sup>

Each of these areas could be the subject of future articles in the NP. Hopefully other members/readers will let the editor know what they have in their collections. Sharing these items will increase our knowledge of the postal history of this territory and its postal administrations during this period. Please report any additions, errors, or omissions in this article to the editor.

As can be seen from a map of the southwest Pacific, the territory of Netherlands New Guinea lies just south of the equator (between 0° and 9°S), southeast of the Philippine Islands, and directly north of Australia. The area we call NNG was formally claimed by the Dutch in 1848, although the Dutch sent explorers ashore to establish a fort as early as 1828 and various Dutch explorers visited the island in the 1616-1643 period. NNG was the easternmost part of the Dutch East Indies and of little economic value to the Dutch throughout their long rule of a large area of the southwest Pacific. It lies west of area known as the South Seas with its many far flung islands. See Souter for a history of the New Guinea island.<sup>17</sup>

Greenland is the only island larger than New Guinea. NNG is the western 47% of the island of NG. It is an island of contrasts. Much of it is swamp barely 50 feet above sea level, much of which is frequently flooded during the wet season of the year (January-June). Yet much of the island is extremely mountainous with many peaks snow-covered year around. These are the highest mountains between the Andes and the Himalayas. Some of the highest peaks are Mt. Carstenz 16,503 ft., Mt. Wilhelmina 15,585 ft., and Mt. Juliana 15,426 ft. The large peninsula on the northwestern side of the island is known as the Vogelkop. Geelvink Bay is the large bay on the northern coast between the Vogelkop and the main

body of the island. The Schouten Islands in Geelvink Bay are part of NNG.

Following is a brief description of the post offices of NNG during the 1950-1962 period.<sup>5,10</sup>

#### HOLLANDIA. Full Post Office

The principal town in the territory. Situated on the north coast 22 miles west of the border. (The border between NNG & Papua is the 141° east longitude line.) During 1954 and 1956 was known as HOLLANDIA BASIS (base). Established by the Dutch in 1910 as HUMBOLDTSBAAI, renamed in 1913. Pop. 1961 est. 14,100.

#### HOLLANDIA BINNEN. Sub-post office

Situated 9 miles south of Hollandia. Headquarters of the government administration. Opened under the name of HOLLANDIA STAD (town) during 1950. In 1955 the name was changed to HOLLANDIA BINNEN. First used a cds (circular date stamp) from Hollandia Basis with the letters "asis" removed. Early 1956 the new cds HOLLANDIA BINNEN (inland) was brought into use.

#### HOLLANDIA NOORDWIJK Sub-post office

Residential area of Hollandia. Post office opened 1 March 1958.

#### HOLLANDIA HAMADI Sub-post office

Midway between Hollandia and Binnen. Training school for government officers. Post office opened after August 1960.

#### IFAR Sub-post office

Former U.S. Seventh Fleet recreation center, some three miles from Sentani and 16 miles from Binnen. General MacArthur's wartime headquarters. Opened on 1 August 1955. Ifar had no cds originally, all mail being canceled at Binnen. A cds came into use 1.3.56, and the office closed mid-1956.

#### SENTANI Sub-post office

Air strip for Hollandia, originally built during W.W. II. Post office opened 1 Aug 1955. Originally issued with old HOLLANDIA STAD cds ('TAD' being removed) and the office closed mid-1956. Reopened in August 1956 on a part-time basis (with its own cds) - a clerk attending from Binnen for 2 hours each day.

#### BIAK Post office

Central airport for the territory. Situated in Biak Island, largest of the Schouten Islands. Auxiliary office only in 1950; later in the year was raised to a sub-post office; later still raised to a full post office in view of the importance of the airport. Pop. 1961 est. 9000.



MANOKWARI Post office

On the northeast coast of the Vogelkop. Dutch Protestant missionaries landed in 1855 on Mansiman Island near here. Government settlement built here in 1898. First 'capital.' A sub-post office opened here in ~~1898~~ 1899.

MERAUKE Post office

On the far southeast coast, 40 miles west of the Papua border. Established in 1902 to control Tugeri (also spelled Toegeri) headhunters. Pop. 1961 est. 6000.

SORONG Post office

Chief oil center situated on far west coast. Oil fields topped in 1932; began to produce significant quantity of oil for export in 1946. Pop. 1961 est. 9150.

SORONG DOOM Sub-post office

Island off the coast opposite Sorong, with a large radio station.

SORONG REMOE Sub-post office

Four miles south of Sorong. Opened early 1959, closed May 1961.

AJAMAROE later TEMINABOEAN Sub-post office to Sorong

Ajamaroe opened as a rural office prior to 1950. Raised to a sub-post office in 1951. In late 1955 was closed when the administration of the district was transferred to Teminaboean and a post office opened there. Teminaboean was reduced to a rural office on 12.11.56 but upgraded to a sub-post office during 1957. It is at the mouth of the Kalbus river in the southwest of the island, with Ajamaroe some 20-30 miles inland on a lake of the same name.

DIGOEL later TANAHMERAH Sub-post office to Merauke

Digoel was already open as a rural office in 1950. In 1953 was raised to a sub-post office. During December 1955 was renamed Tanahmerah. Town is on Digoel river 190 miles north of Merauke; 40 miles west of the border. Chosen as a political prison camp in 1927 by the Dutch. Sukarno spent time here -- the Dutch imprisoned him in 1929; between 1929 and 1942 he spent 11 years in prison. The Japanese released him in 1942.

FAKFAK Sub-post office to Sorong

Southwest coast. Government settlement built here in 1898; a sub-post office was opened in ~~1898~~ or 1899.

KAIMANA Sub-post office to Biak

On south coast. Office opened 1.8.55.

KOKONAO Sub-post office to Biak

On south coast. Opened as a rural office in 1952. In mid 1955 upgraded to sub-post office.

RANSIKI Sub-post office to Manokwari

South of Manokwari on the coast. Opened 1.1.51.

SARMI Sub-post office to Hollandia

On north coast west of Hollandia. Opened 1.1.51.

SEROEI Sub-post office to Biak

On Japen Island in Geelvink Bay. Pop. 1961 est. 2750.

WISSELMEREN later ENAROTALI Sub-post office to Biak

Meren means lakes and refers to a group of lakes discovered in 1936 by a Captain Wissel. Post office opened in 1950 as Wisselmeren and in late 1955 was renamed Enarotali which is on Lake Paniai, largest of the Wissel lakes, central NG.

AGATS rural office under Merauke

On Flamingo Bay, south coast. Opened 1.9.56. Center of cholera epidemic in the fall of 1962...500 died.

BADE rural under Merauke

70 miles up Digoel River in south NG. Opened 1.9.56.

BETAF rural under Hollandia

Between Sarmi and Hollandia on north coast. Opened prior to July 1956 and closed prior to December 1959.

BOSNIK rural under Biak

On southern coast of Biak Island. Opened prior to 1957.

DEMTA rural under Hollandia

About 40 miles west of Hollandia on north coast. Opened prior to 11.56 and closed before end of 1959.

GENJEM rural under Hollandia

35 miles southwest and inland from Hollandia. Opened prior to 1955.

KAMERI rural under Biak

On island of Noemfoor west of Biak Island. Opened prior to 1955.

KEPI rural under Merauke

On Obaa River in south NG. opened prior to 10.56

KIMAAN rural under Merauke

On Frederik Hendrik Island off the SE coast.



- Opened prior to October 1956.
- KOKAS** rural under Sorong  
On the McCluer Gulf due north of Fakfak. Opened prior to 1956.
- KORIDO** rural under Biak  
On Soepiori Island, the most northerly of the Schouten Islands. Office opened prior to 1957.
- KORIM** or **KOREM** later **WARSA** rurals under Biak  
On north coast of Biak Island. Office opened at Korim on 17.11.59. Transferred to nearby Warsa in early 1960.
- MINDIPTANA** rural under Merauke  
Due north of Merauke in the interior. Opened prior to 1955.
- MOETING** rural under Merauke  
100 miles due north of Merauke on the Bian River. Opened prior to 7.56.
- NAPAN WEIMANI** later **NABIRE** rurals under Biak  
Napan is on the north coast in Geelvink Bay east shore, and Nabire some 30 miles to the south. Office opened at Napan prior to 9.58, and late 1960 or early 1961 was transferred to Nabire.
- OEBROEB** rural office under Hollandia  
In interior about 90 miles south of Hollandia. Opened 15.3.61.
- OKABA** rural under Merauke  
On south coast, 80 miles northwest of Merauke. Opened prior to 9.56.
- PIRIMAPOEN** rural under Biak  
On south coast of Agats. Opened prior to 1.4.61. Near site of last (?) cannibal (headhunting) raid in August 1957.
- SIBIL** rural under Merauke  
On east border near the Star Mountains in central NG. Opened early 1959 when Star Mountains Expedition took place.
- STEENKOOL** rural under Sorong  
Port on the McCluer Gulf. Originally opened 17.4.56 as a sub-post office; on 15.9.61 was downgraded to a rural office.
- TOEP** rural under Merauke  
In south NG. in the Masin-Kepi region. Opened prior to 10.55 and closed in late 1956.
- WAGHETE** rural under Biak  
Near Enarotali. Opened prior to 3.61.
- WAMENA** rural under Hollandia  
In Baliem Valley in central highlands. Opened prior to 8.60.
- WAREN** rural under Biak  
On north coast facing Japen Island, east coast of Geelvink Bay. Opened prior to 9.56.
- WARIS** rural under Hollandia  
50 miles south of Hollandia, very near eastern border. Opened prior to 3.60.
- WASIOR** rural under Biak  
On a peninsula in Geelvink Bay overlooking Wandammen Bay. Opened prior to 1957.
- BABO** ? status  
Probably not re-opened after WW II. On Bintoeni Bay, east of Kokas and across the bay from Steenkool.
- INAN WATAN** ? status, probably rural under Sorong  
50 miles southeast of Teminaboean on the south coast of the Vogelkop. Office opened 1.9.1962.
- JAPERO**  
On south coast between Kokonao and Agats. Probably did not have a post office during this period.
- MAPI (MAPPIPOST)**  
Southern part of island on Digoel River. Probably did not have a post office.
- MASIN**  
North of Kepi on the Obaa River. Not an official office - telegraph stamp (from pre-war radio station) use to cancel stamps on request.
- Other points of interest:  
**WAKDE ISLAND** - off the north coast between Sarmi and Betaf.  
**TOEM** - small village about 18 miles west of Sarmi.  
**OWI ISLAND** - off southern coast of Biak Island near Bosnik.  
**NOEMFOOR ISLAND** - between Biak Island and Vogelkop in Geelvink Bay.  
**SANSAPOR** - on west coast of Vogelkop, north of Sorong.  
**MOROTAI ISLAND** - small island NW of New Guinea (part of the Moluccas).

Acknowledgements I would like to thank the ASNP librarian F.H. Mollenkramer for his unselfish responses to my numerous requests for literature and literature searches for even more information related to NNG and her postal history. A special thanks to L.E. Kieffer for sharing information on his NNG covers and PTT markings with me. This article would be



much less complete without his input! I also owe thanks to Paul van Reyen and Frans H.A. Rummens for translating a number of articles from Dutch so that information from them could be included in this article.

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#### Non-philatelic

15. If the Dutch plan for this territory had been carried out, there would more than likely today be an independent country on the western half of the New Guinea island or an united government over the whole island. The Indonesian take-over of this territory has been an ongoing series of problems for the native peoples. For background see 16 and 18. For an account of native life in NNG before civilization arrived, see 19.
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#### A PHILATELIC CALENDAR

by: Julius Mansbach

March 14, 1978



A pair of special stamps were issued on this date to introduce the General Post Code to the public. This new Post Code was tested initially in 1977, and the planned result will be to enable sorting machines to sort the mail automatically. It's alphanumeric, and consists of four digits and two letters. For instance, in the code 6789 KL, the four digits identify the town. The first letter indicates a number of streets combined into a group. The second letter divides this group of streets into smaller groups of individual addresses.



## Coil Corner

The latest issue of the Postuumaat Bulletin disclosed that the 65 ct Crouwel coil has appeared with an inverted control number. This follows the recent release of the 55 ct Crouwel coil with an inverted control number, as mentioned in our previous column. And to add to the list of new coil varieties, the inverted 55 ct Crouwel was issued with two distinctly different gums: the normal white Db2, and a gum in a more yellow color. The yellow gum is felt to be a variety of the long-obsolete Henco type (now termed "Delfts Nationaal") and has been assigned classification B2b.

Considerable thought is being given to assigning classification designations for the new ink-jet numbers, primarily on the vertical-format Beatrix definitives. The new numbers read vertically, rather than horizontally, while the opposite is of course true for the Crouwel numerals. It has been decided that the ink-jet numbers are Type 4, so the designation for normal position is N4 and for inverted, K4, but it has not been decided how to show the change from horizontal to vertical, as well as which new position is "normal" and which is "inverted".

It has been announced that both the Royal 50th anniversary and the two "Year of the Homeless" commemoratives will be in coils of 5000 as well as in normal form, and will be made available to collectors through the Philatelic Service. Stamps, printed in offset only, will not be made into coils.

It is likely that before the end of the year, coils of 10,000 subjects will make their appearance.

POKO coils still hold a great deal of interest in the Netherlands. An article in the Maandblad several months ago concerns the question of a rare black POKO. Back in 1974, Jan Dekker had nominated the four-sided black 60 ct synco (NVPH #56) with perfin SZ (in this case, N.V. Pieter Schoen en Zoon of Zaandam) as the "Black Tulip" of the POKOs. A copy had been reported in a 1936 issue of the Maandblad, but it has never been reported since.

In the February 1987 issue, collector J. Sloot writes that since it has never been seen since, the original report was very possibly in error, so as a new candidate for the rarest black POKO (or "Black Tulip"), he is nominating NVPH #56 with perfin IG, the coffee and tea merchant "Insulinde" of Groningen. He has found several examples of this POKO in a large unpicked mixture, and feels that the four-sided 60 ct synco with perfin IG is truly the "Black Tulip" of the POKOs.

As POKO collectors are aware, the two-sided 60 ct POKO synco with IG perfin, is relatively common, so it is not surprising to learn that examples of this perfin are turning up on the four-sided version as well. A number of hitherto unreported varieties of POKOs have come to light since the publication of Burton Bauder's authoritative book on POKO issues several years ago, and some thought is being given to publishing a second revision, in order to list these new discoveries.

Acknowledgements are due: Postuumaat, the editors of the Maandblad, Frans Rummens, Nico Druif, and Jan Enthoven.

LHR