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From the Editor,

As I mentioned in my previous editorial, Pacific '97 will be held in San Francisco May 29 - June 8, 1997. ASN P has managed to arrange for a meeting room on Tuesday June 3 from 2-4 p.m. It is up to us to decide how we will use this time, so let's have your input. John Hardjasudarma already has offered to give a talk, but additional suggestions certainly would be appreciated. We are a unique organization, because we never meet. Here is our chance to get to know each other.

Another benefit bestowed upon us (as is on other organizations) by Pacific '97 is the availability of a one frame exhibit, again, the contents of which are entirely up to us, as long as it is 'consistent'. This one frame exhibit will be on the exhibition floor during the entire duration of the show, so it is important that we use it well. Do we show stamps, covers, or do we want to use it primarily to get new members? We need your input. All this takes prep time and I realize you probably don't get to read this until sometime in January. So, don't procrastinate and let your input count.

In the Dutch paper 'NRC Handelsblad' of September 19 there was an interesting story about the waning interest of collecting stamps. It mentions that there are about 400 stamp dealers (not all with their own shop) left in the Netherlands for about 600,000 to 800,000 collectors. Not bad you would think. But next you read that the Dutch PTT (called KPN these days) has about 240,000 of those collectors as its subscribers, taking away a lot of potential customers for these dealers. Obviously the dealers are not too happy with KPN aggressively pursuing the same people they do.

Since the speculative days of the late 70-s and early 80-s stamp prices have dropped dramatically, and with it the interest from speculators. Now however prices have stabilized and there is a slight increase in membership of the Dutch stamp clubs and with it a bit more future for the dealers. Next time you visit the Netherlands drop by one of the stores and see if they can help you. Your visit would be appreciated.

Rests me to wish each and everyone of you a healthy 1997 with as much philatelic fun and satisfaction as you hope for.

The editor, Hans Kremer
(e-mail: mercator@sprynet.com)

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French Department Markings on Dutch Mail during the French Imperial Period, 1810-1814

by John van Rysdam

At the Treaty of Paris on March 16, 1810, the following postal districts were combined with the French system into one:

ZEELAND
BRABANT

THE LAND BETWEEN THE RIVERS MAAS AND

WAAL

THE BOMMELERWAARD

THE LAND OF ALTENA

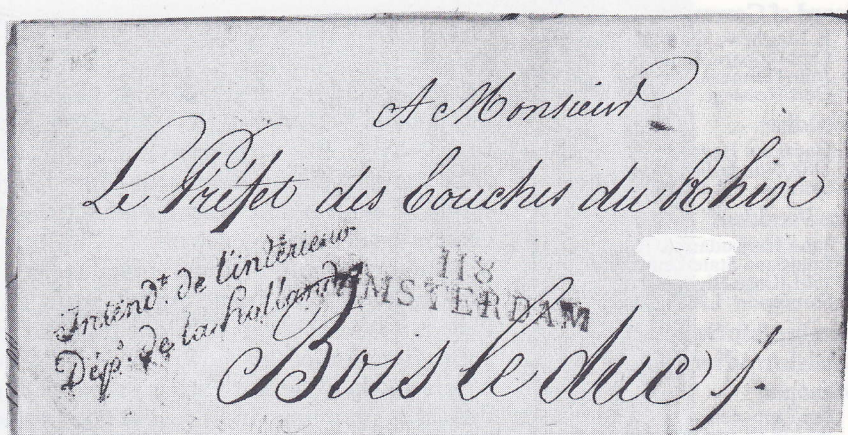
latest list (Geuzendam's Catalogue) is used as reference here)

REGULAR STRAIGHT LINE TOWN NAMES WITH NUMBER

118
ALKMAAR

118
ZAANDAM

On July 13, 1810, the Netherlands were completely annexed by France and by Emperor Napoleon's decree of December 14, 1810, all Dutch postal divisions were incorporated into the French system, which was outlined in the "Instruction Generale Sur Le Service Des Postes Aux Lettres" (General Instructions for Mailing of Letters). These instructions were printed by the Imperial Printers in Paris, with the Dutch text on the left and the French text to the right. The enforcement data for postage and duties (taxes) on letters etc., took effect based on the law of 22 Frimaire of the Year VIII, which was the third month of the Republic, or December 13, 1799.



118 Amsterdam

These General Instructions governed the execution of the Postal Service in all its details, and was an excellent organized work, which until 1850 served as the cornerstone of the Dutch Postal System.

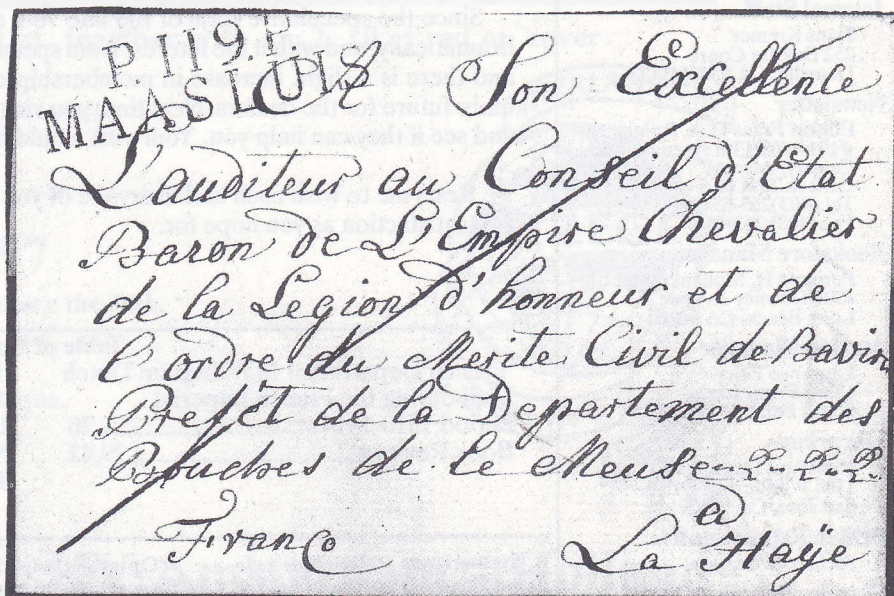
These instructions also covered cancellations with all their rules and regulations. All letters had to be cancelled by the Departure Postoffice at the top side of letters and documents. The cancel had to include the town name and also its department (district) number.

By Imperial Decree of September 13, 1810 the Dutch Postal Area was, per January 1, 1811, divided into nine departments (numbered 118 through 126). Prior to this time there were already several other numbers in use. These places were a part of the Austrian-Netherlands Territory, and although they later became part of the territory of the nine new departments, the cancels themselves still show the previously issued older numbers, such as 92, 93 and 95.

THE TYPES OF CANCELS

(since there are conflicting lists (Korteweg, Vellinga, and Geuzendam), the

P 119 P Maashuis



P.P. (PORT PAYE) CANCEL

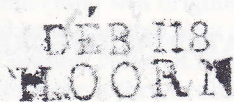
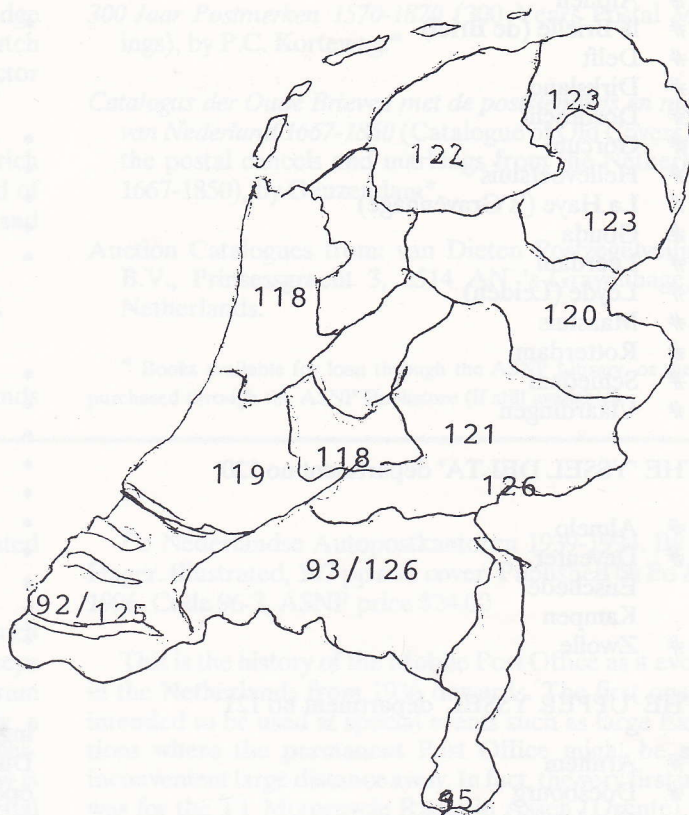
Before the introduction of postage stamps, most early and eo-philatelic mail was mailed without postage, which was collected from the receiver upon delivery. On many eo-philatelic covers we find therefore manuscript notes of what the postage rate was to be collected, either in ink, pencil or crayon. To let the mailman know that the postage was fully paid for by the sender, the letters P.P. were placed around the townnumber, indicating that the postage was paid for in that town. The town names of these types are flagged with an * in the list of town names.

DEBOURSE CANCEL

These were the cancels used on letters for which it was impossible to collect postage; either by refusal of the recipient, addressee having moved out of the area, or mis-sent letters. The town names of these types are flagged with an # in the list of town names.

THE TOWN NAME LISTS BY DEPARTMENT

The spelling of the town names is as shown on the original Postal Documents and, as ordinary writing ink was too fluid, printing inks had to be used for the cancels. No color restrictions were mentioned and we find cancels both in black and red.



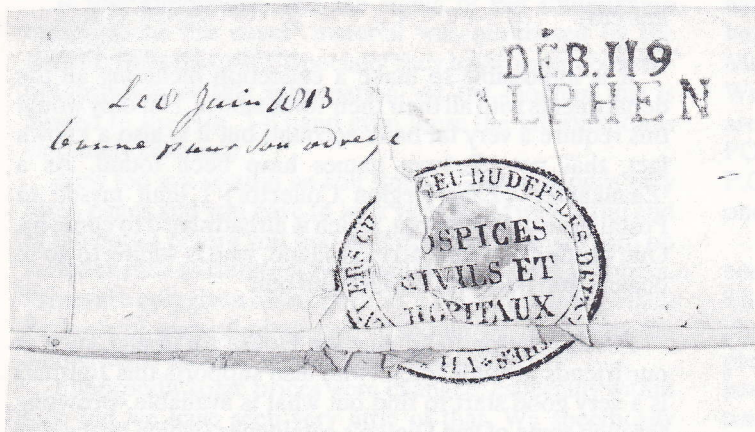
- * # Steenbergem
- * Willemstadt
- * Zevenbergen

THE 'BENEDEN MAAS' (LOWER MAAS) department no. 95

- * # Maastricht
- * Ruremonde (Roermond)
- * Venlo

THE 'ZUIDERZEE' department no. 118

- * # Alkmaar
- * # Amersfoort
- * # Amsterdam
- * Beverwyk
- * Edam
- * Enkhuisen
- * # Haarlem



THE SCHELDE department Old no 92, later part of department no 125.

- * Flessingue (Vlissingen)

THE 'TWEË NETHEN' department Old no. 93, later part of department no 126.

- * # Berg-op-Zoom
- * # Breda
- * Geertruidenberg
- * Oudenbosch
- * Rosendaal

- * # le Helder (den Helder)
- * Hoorn
- * Loenen
- * # Medenblick
- * Munnikendam (Monnikendam)
- * Naarden
- * Purmerend
- * # Schoonhoven
- * le Texel (Texel)
- * # Utrecht
- * # Woerden
- * Zaandam

THE 'MAAS DELTA' department no 119

- * # Alphen
- * # la Brielle (de Briel)
- * # Delft
- * # Dirksland
- * # Dordrecht
- * # Gorcum
- * # Hellevoetsluis
- * # La Haye ('s Gravenhage)
- * # Gouda
- * # Leerdam
- * # Leyde (Leiden)
- * # Maasluis
- * # Rotterdam
- * # Schiedam
- * # Vlaardingen

THE 'YSSEL DELTA' department no 120

- * # Almelo
- * # Deventer
- * # Enschede
- * # Kampen
- * # Zwolle

THE 'UPPER YSSEL' department no 121

- * # Arnhem
- * # Doesbourg
- * # Harderwyk
- * # Hattem
- * # Thiel
- * # Wageningen
- * # Zutphen

THE 'FRIESLAND' department no 122

- * # Dokkum
- * # Franeker
- * # Harlingen
- * # Heerenveen
- * # Leeuwarden
- * # Sneek

THE 'WESTERN EEMS' department no 123

- * Assen
- * Delfzyl
- * # Groningue
- * Meppel
- * Weener
- * # Winschoten

Weener is located in Oost Friesland (Germany).

THE 'EASTERN EEMS' department no 124

These towns are all located in Germany

- * Aurich
- * Embden
- * Esens

- * Jever
- * Leer
- * Norden
- * Wittmund

THE 'SCHELDE DELTA' department no 125

- * # ter Goes
- * # Middelbourg
- * Tholen
- * ter Veere
- * Zierikzee

THE 'RHINE DELTA' department no 126

- * Baartwyck
- * # Bois le Duc ('s Hertogenbosch)
- * Bommel
- * # Eindhoven
- * # Grave
- * Helmont
- * # Heusden
- * # Nimegue (Nijmegen)
- * # Tilbourg
- * # Woercom

This ends the philatelic part of the Dutch Postal Markings during the French occupation of Holland. With the Dutch Independence in 1813/14, a new era in Postal History opened up, but that is another story entirely.

HOW TO FIND MATERIAL TO FORM A COLLECTION OF THIS ERA

How do we go about collecting Postal History covers of this era?

It is impossible to make a collection including all the departments with all their town names. Not only would this require a very fat bank account, but it is also a known fact, that not all town names have been found. As a 'Zaankanter' (Zaan-Region Collector) I limit myself to Postal history of this area, which is already hard to come by. One needs a good friend in Holland, who is willing to go to dealers and auctions, to dig them out.

A subscription to an Auction House catalogue, such as our friends at van Dieten (who also supports this Journal) is a very good start to find out what is available. Browsing through some of van Dieten's catalogues (which by the way are worth collecting by themselves) one finds Estimated and Starting Bid prices from Hfl. 100, up to Hfl. 1,000 (about \$ 65 to \$ 650). Some auction realizations are even higher, all depending on condition and extra cancels etc. on covers. To these prices one has to add the customary Dutch Auction Fee, Value Added Tax (refundable, if lots are sent directly to the US), and Postage & Insurance, which will add another 25% to the cost. If one wants to get into collecting Dutch Postal History covers of these older eras, one has to be prepared to pay the price.

I have been most lucky browsing through dealer's boxes at US Philatelic Shows. As the demands in the US are not as high as in Holland, and also as the US dealers knowledge of Dutch Postal History is often not up to the Dutch knowledge, one can be lucky. So, as they say, "The Collector Beware".

Nevertheless, collecting this area is an historically rich experience, as it not only opens a rather unknown field of Dutch Philately, but also that of a period in the Dutch and French history well worth studying.

So, good luck.

References:

De Poststempels van Nederland 1676-1915 (Netherlands

Postal Cancellations of 1676-1915), by O.M. Vellinga.*

300 Jaar Postmerken 1570-1870 (300 Years Postal Markings), by P.C. Korteweg.*

Catalogus der Oude Brieven met de poststempels en merken van Nederland 1667-1850 (Catalogue of Old Covers, with the postal cancels and markings from the Netherlands 1667-1850), by Geuzendam*.

Auction Catalogues from: van Dieten Postzegelveilingen B.V., Prinsessgracht 3, 2514 AN 's-Gravenhage, the Netherlands.

* Books available for loan through the ASNP Library, or they can be purchased through the ASNP Bookstore (if still available).

BOOK REVIEWS

NVPH Speciale 1997 Catalogus. 56th edition. Illustrated in colour, 647 pages. Code 96-4; ASNP price \$19.00

At 21 more pages than the previous edition our much beloved (and sometimes hated) NVPH catalogue keeps growing at an alarming pace. 647 pages now and 800 gram heavy, one wonders where this will lead. Inevitably a lightweight version will become necessary, perhaps covering the Netherlands only. Question is only: "When". New is the three-column (mint with original gum, mint with partial or no gum, and used) pricing now starting with No. 49, the Inauguration Guilder. None of the B.O.B. material or any of the "Colonies" have a three-column pricing yet, so there is still lots of improvement possible.

It was announced that the rights of the Buitenkamp catalogue of "on cover" material was purchased by the NVPH. With this 1997 "Speciale" they have begun to incorporate some of that information. At the moment this is limited to the Nos. 1-83 and even there the information is extremely summary.

New too is a section on roll stamps. This section is only three pages and you have to look very hard (way at the end of the book) before you find it. It does not give any info on varieties such as different typography of the back numbers. Prices are only given for strips of 21, 11 and 5 as appropriate. Perhaps of some limited use, it should be moved to the Netherlands section, following the booklets.

Supposedly some prices were changed, especially within sets, but we have seen very little of that. We specifically looked at the 1948-1963 years. We saw only one such adjustment within a set. Virtually all prices in this era were unchanged. This, in spite of the fact that even NVPH dealers sell these stamps at a discount, since everybody knows that the official NVPH prices are too high. The Catalogue Committee is still hung up on the crazy psychology of 1977, when everybody and his mother was speculating in stamps. A bit more sense of reality, Gentlemen, would suit you better.

There was a considerable hullabaloo in the Netherlands about the colour reproduction in this catalogue. True, the shades are a bit off, here and there, but hey, this is a catalogue, not a stamp collection. Watch for our review of the CD-ROM version of this catalogue.

De Nederlandse Autopostkantoren 1939-1994. By J.M. Hager. Illustrated, 107 pp soft cover. Published by Po & Po 1996. Code 96-3, ASNP price \$24.00

This is the history of the Mobile Post Office as it evolved in the Netherlands from 1936 onwards. The first one was intended to be used at special events such as large Exhibitions where the permanent Post Office might be at an inconvenient large distance away. In fact, the very first usage was for the TT Motorcycle Races in Assen (Drente). The combination consisted of a Chevrolet cabin tractor, which was pulling a 44 ft DAF-built trailer. In this trailer were three wickets, three telephone cells, two vending machines for stamps and one more for postal cards. There were writing tables and a lot more facilities. It was by far Europe's largest and best Mobile Post Office. Later came the touring Mobile Post Offices, such as those associated with the Child Welfare stamp actions. Then came the M.P.O. for rural areas, where the low population did not warrant permanent POs. Finally, and that was indeed the final version, Mobile P.O.s consisted of the milkman taking your mail and selling one or two denominations of stamps.

Author J.M. Hager describes all this in great detail, complete with a lot of documents from the PTT Archives. There are many figures, mostly of pieces of mail but also photographs of the various vehicles. The most gorgeous picture is shown in full colour on the front cover; the never issued 3 ct postal card with a full length picture of the tractor-trailer combination of the M.P.O. This card (and a similar 7 ct card) was finished and ready for release just as the Germans invaded in May 1940. The vehicle was hidden but its hiding place was betrayed to the Germans at almost the end of the war. This beautiful Jugendstil design vehicle found its end in the ruins of a German city. The cards were destroyed in 1945, except for one of each for the PTT Museum, where they can still be seen today. Excellent reading for those who are postal history inclined.

F.R.

Index to Netherlands New Guinea Articles in *NP*

by Leon G. Stadtherr

To aid researchers interested in Netherlands New Guinea (NNG) or West New Guinea (WNG) postal history, a list is given here of articles concerned with this geographic area which have appeared in this journal over its first twenty years.

The postal history of West New Guinea can be broken down into six periods:

- I. Before World War II – 1898 to 1942
- II. During WWII – 1942 to 1945 – Japanese occupation and liberation
- III. After WWII – 1945 to 27 Dec. 1949 – part of Netherlands East Indies
- IV. Netherlands New Guinea – 1950 to 30 Sept 1962 – a non-self governing territory under the Dutch crown with an independent postal administration.
- V. UNTEA – 1 Oct 1962 to 30 Apr 1963 – U.N. Administration
- VI. Irian Barat – 1 May 1963 to present – part of Indonesia.

A review of the first 19 volumes of this Journal (from September 1975 to June 1995) yielded the list below of articles concerned with WNG. The historical period(s)

List: Articles in *NP* concerned with WNG including NNG & UNTEA

vol.	issue	pages	author(s)	title/topic	period no. covered
1	4	52-58	John W. van Buskirk & Paul E. van Reyden	Merauke – Forgotten Outpost of the Indies	II
3	3	34-48	J.W.F. Bunge	Unique Philatelic Aspects of New Guinea	I, II, III, IV
3	4	54-56	„	Part II	„
4	2	29-30	Vic Esbensen	NNG - Further Information	II, IV
4	4	59-60	Wm. van Zandhoven	Neth. Indies 1945	III
9	4	77-78	G.A. Geerts	Resumption of Postal Activities in the Former NI from 22 Apr 1944 (2 parts)	III
10	1	10-16	„	„	„
12	1	1-13	G.C.F.W. Poenitz	NNG Postal Services Up to Japanese Occ.	I
12	1	13-26	Leon G. Stadtherr	P.O. & Cancels of NNG 1950-1962	IV
13	4	52-56	M. Hardjasudarma	UNTEA - The Domestic Postal Money Orders	V
14	3	42-46	M. Hardjasudarma	Circles of Ink - Spheres of Influence	IV, V, VI
15	3	52-64	M. Hardjasudarma	Prisoners of War & II (NI) Civilian Internees	IV, V
16	1 & 2	20-22	M. Hardjasudarma	Shopping in America	II
16	1 & 2	24-26	M. Hardjasudarma	Three Wet Letters	II
16	3	30-37	M. Hardjasudarma	The Rising Sun Over Insulinde	II
18	2	31	W.V.M. Wiggers de Vries	Int'l Reply Coupons	III

covered in each article is (are) indicated in the last column.

Of course to do a really thorough background preparation on any NNG postal topic one needs to check Netherlands Indies (NI) sources also, because NNG was part of the NI until 27 December 1949. Some of the entries in this list are concerned with the NI but it was felt that the information contained in these articles was sufficiently significant to NNG postal history to warrant inclusion.

There is a shortage of material (covers and cancels) to be found from all eras of WNG postal history. Over its first twenty years our Journal has presented a thorough overview and some in-depth articles for the early periods I - IV (up to 1963), but little or no information/research on the more recent periods V and VI (since 1962). In fact a handbook of NNG postal history could be easily put together from the articles that have appeared in *NP* during its first twenty years. NNG collectors hope this interest continues and that articles on NNG stamps and postal history will continue to be published in *NP* in the future.

There certainly are areas and topics of WNG philately which have not been written up in *NP* and others, which need research. There are also articles in Dutch, German, and possibly other languages which could be translated and published for us 'English-only' readers of *NP*

From all collectors of WNG:

Thanks to all past *NP* editors for their interest in WNG and here's hoping future editors will continue this interest.

United States Military Post Offices in NNG during WWII

by Leon G. Stadtherr

Early in World War II (WWII) the Japanese military invaded the Netherlands Indies (NI) including most of Netherlands New Guinea (NNG). The first Japanese military landings in NNG were in early 1942. At that time the only Dutch force on the island was a force of 73 men stationed at Manokwari. The Japanese landed at Manokwari on April 12th and the Dutch withdrew into the surrounding Arfak Mountains. Most of this force was captured in April 1942 and beheaded. By the end of April 1942 the Japanese occupied most of NNG; only Merauke, Digoel, and Enarotali were not occupied.² The Japanese made Manokwari their headquarters in NNG.

In late 1942 the Allied Forces began their counter-attack on the Japanese by "island-hopping" across the Pacific. The Allied Forces were made up of primarily U.S.A. troops but did include some Australian and Dutch forces. Fighting on the New Guinea Island started on November 20, 1942 and on January 3, 1943 the Allies captured Buna in eastern Australian New Guinea. It took a year for the Allied Forces to advance 240 miles along the NG coast to the north and west of Buna.

In the spring of 1944 General MacArthur decided to "jump" to Hollandia (NNG), an important supply depot for

the Japanese in the SW Pacific. Hollandia and the nearby Tanahmerah Bay were taken in April 1944, as were the Japanese airfields in the area. The Hollandia area became MacArthur's headquarters. The Allies then worked their way west along the NNG coast. On May 15 they started the invasion of Wakde Island and on May 17 at Sarmi. On May 27 they started the attack on Biak Island where the Japanese had 10,000 troops. They took Biak on June 22. In July they took Noemfoor Island and Cape Sansapor (some maps use Sausapor). Then they moved on from NNG toward the Philippine Islands. Nearly all of the fighting in NNG occurred along the north coast of the island and on the smaller islands on the NW side of the main NG island. It is estimated the Allies "hopped around" and isolated 18,000 Japanese troops dug in on NNG, most of them near Manokwari, Babo, and Sorong. It took years for some of the Japanese troops to come out of hiding. For instance, in September 1954 four Japanese soldiers walked into Hollandia to surrender. On September 15 the Allied attack started on Morotai, an island NW of NG and just north of Halmahera Island (where the Japanese had 30,000 troops).

As U.S. forces advanced through the SW Pacific, military post offices followed. Most of the mail handled by the U.S. military postal system was canceled with APO

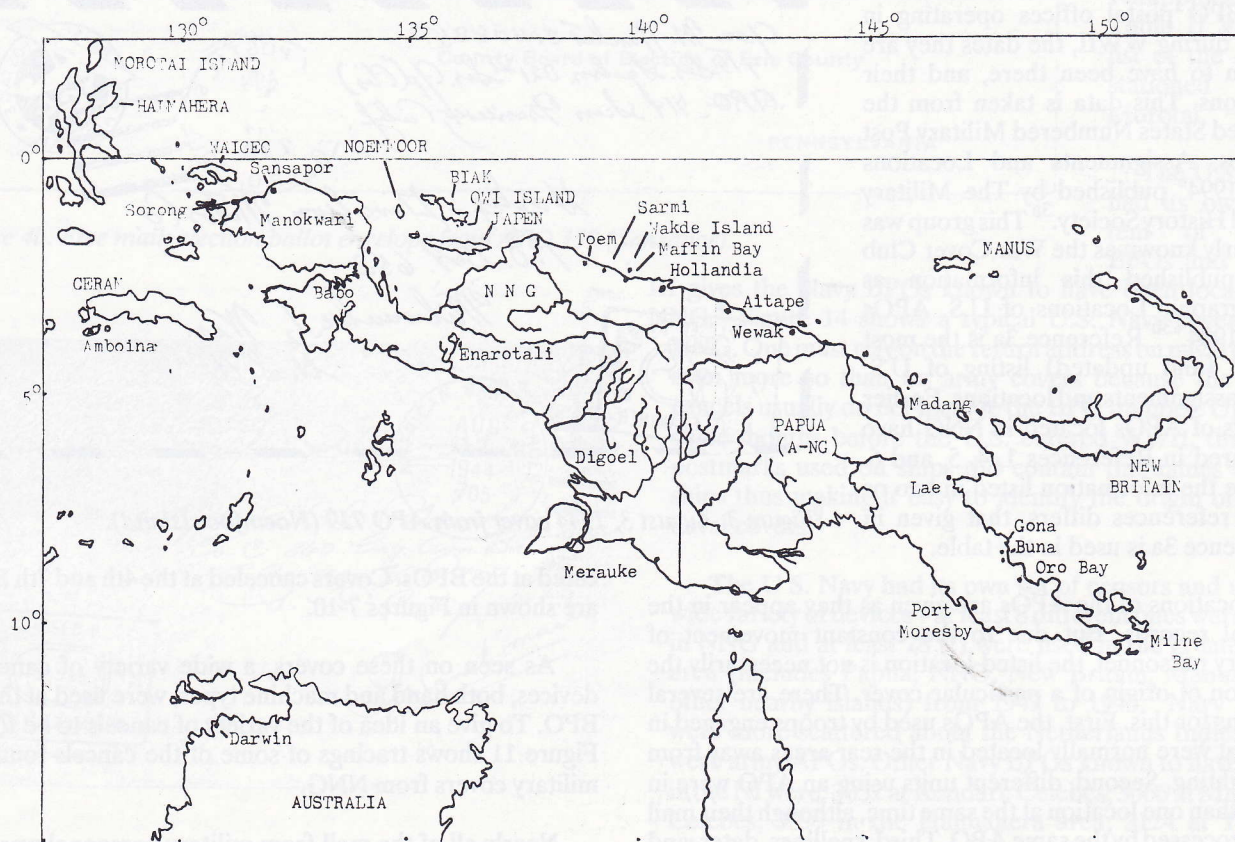


Fig. 1 Map of the New Guinea Island Area showing WWII points of interest.



Figure 2. Cutdown cover from APO 565 (Hollandia) to another soldier at APO 711 (probably in Australian NG) and forwarded to APO 321 which was briefly at Hollandia in Sept-Oct 1944.

(Army Post Office) or BPO (Base Post Office) cancels. Each military unit was assigned an APO number. Servicemen were required by regulation to put their return addresses including their base and/or unit and their APO number on their mail. Knowing the location of the various military units and knowing their APO number one can then determine where a particular piece of war time mail was mailed.

Table I lists the known U.S. APO and BPO postal offices operating in NNG during WWII, the dates they are known to have been there, and their locations. This data is taken from the "United States Numbered Military Post Offices, Assignments and Locations 1941-1994" published by The Military Postal History Society.^{3a} This group was formerly known as the War Cover Club and published this information as "Geographic Locations of U.S. APOs 1949-1984."^{3b} Reference 3a is the most recent (and updated) listing of U.S. APO assignments and locations. Earlier listings of APOs located in NNG have appeared in References 1, 4, 5, and 6. Where the information listed in two or more references differs, that given in Reference 3a is used in the table.

Locations of the APOs are given as they appear in the official records. But due to the constant movement of military personnel, the listed location is not necessarily the location of origin of a particular cover. There are several reasons for this. First, the APOs used by troops engaged in combat were normally located in the rear areas away from the fighting. Second, different units using an APO were in more than one location at the same time, although their mail was processed by the same APO. Third, spellings, dates, and some locations in the records have been known to be inaccurate.



Figure 3. August 3, 1944 cover from APO 719 (Noemfoor Island).

cated at the BPOs. Covers canceled at the 4th and 7th BPOs are shown in Figures 7-10.

As seen on these covers, a wide variety of canceling devices, both hand and machine types, were used at the 7th BPO. To give an idea of the variety of cancels to be found, Figure 11 shows tracings of some of the cancels found on military covers from NNG.

Nearly all of the mail from military personnel was censored. Figure 12 shows some censor marks found on covers from NNG. Almost certainly others can be found.

The APO number in a cancel on a cover might differ from the APO number in the return address. This could happen in a number of ways including: a) the sender posted the mail while away from his assigned base, b) the mail may have been censored by the base censor, or c) the mail was from detached troops away from their assigned APO.

Normally a posted piece of mail would include an APO number in the cancel which is the same as the APO in the return address as shown in Figures 2-5

From July 1, 1942 to March 10, 1943 the U.S. War Department directed that APO numbers should not be included in the canceling devices.³ Apparently many of the numbers were not returned to the devices after this date, as many APO cancels without the APO number can be found used in NNG in 1944 and 1945. Three are shown in Figure 6.

Often in NNG the cancel used on soldiers' mail is that of the Base Post Office. This may have been because of censoring of the contents. Base Post Offices were located at convenient or central points and usually handled mail for all the APOs operating in the same general area. V-Mail stations and the central directory service were generally lo-

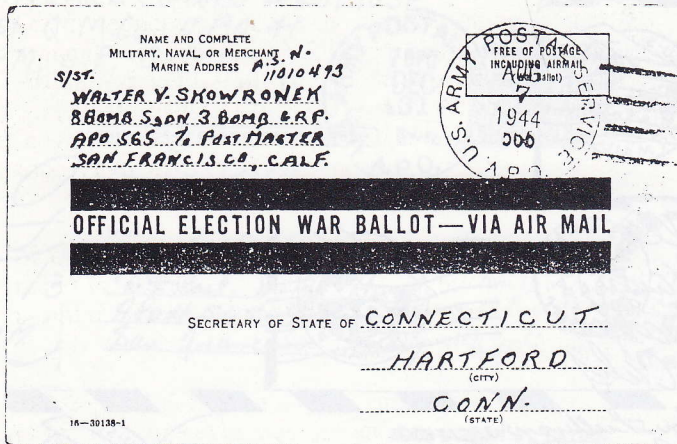


Figure 4a. Free mail: request for an election ballot from APO 565 (Hollandia)

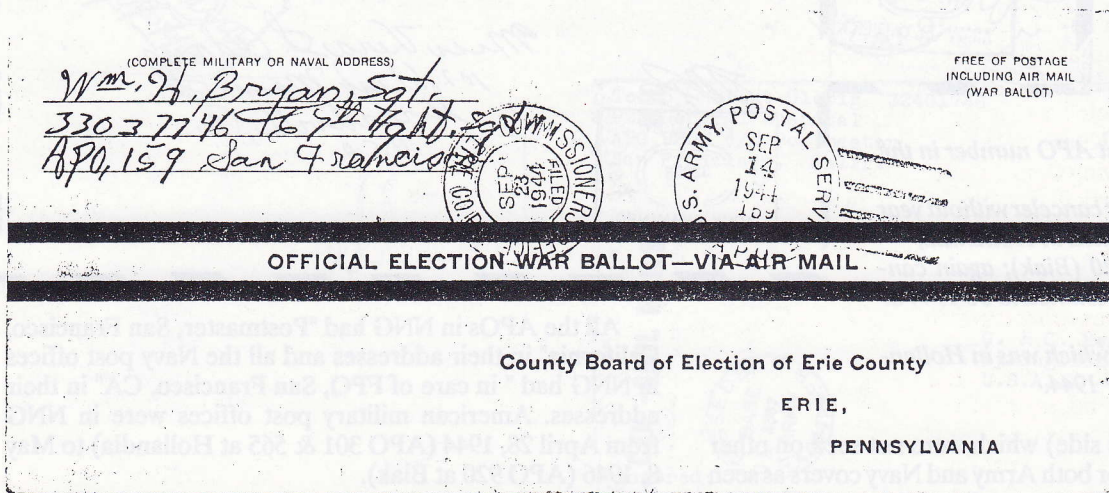


Figure 4b. Free mail: election ballot envelope from APO 159 (Sansapor).



Figure 5. A cutdown cover to APO 920 August 17, 1944 (Biak) from APO 705 (Aitape, Aust. NG).

On some covers no censor mark is found, only a signature or initials of the censor (see Figure 6a). The censor marks are found in a variety of ink colors including black, blue, shades of violet, green (rare), and shades of red.

Envelopes and post cards used by the WWII military personnel frequently had patriotic cachets. Figure 13 illustrates two of these, both are in red and blue. The cancel ink on the post card in Figure 13b is red and the censor mark is in green ink.

All the other army cancels shown in this article are in black ink except Figure 8c which is in light purple.

As seen in Table I, many of the military post offices moved to the Philippine Islands upon leaving NNG. The Allied strategy in the Pacific was one of island hopping and frequently bypassing heavily fortified and/or heavily manned islands. Thus the only other Netherlands Indies

island used by a number of the U.S. army post offices was Morotai, an island in the Moluccas, north of Halmahera Island and which was on the way from NNG to the Philippines.

Table II gives a list of the APOs stationed at Morotai.

The U.S. Navy had its own system of shore BPOs and Table

III gives the Navy BPOs known to have been located in NNG.⁴ Figure 14 shows a typical U.S. Navy cover from NNG. One must rely on the return address on naval covers even more so than on army covers because the naval cancels usually do not include the BPO number. Up until some months before the U.S. entered WWII, the navy postmarks used on ships did contain the names of the ships thus making it easy to identify the origin of these naval covers.⁹

The U.S. Navy had its own set of censors and used a wide variety of devices—at least 8 different ones were used in NNG and at least 28 (!) were used in the greater NG area (includes Papua, NNG, New Britain, Manus, and other nearby islands) from 1942 to 1945.⁷ Navy BPOs were more scattered about the Netherlands Indies than were army APOs. Other Navy BPOs known to have been in the NI were: 3052 at Kendari, Celebes; 3066 at Manado, Celebes; 3099 in the Halmahera area; 3124 at Talaud Island; and 3135 at Ceram Island.

Registered covers usually had registry handstamps

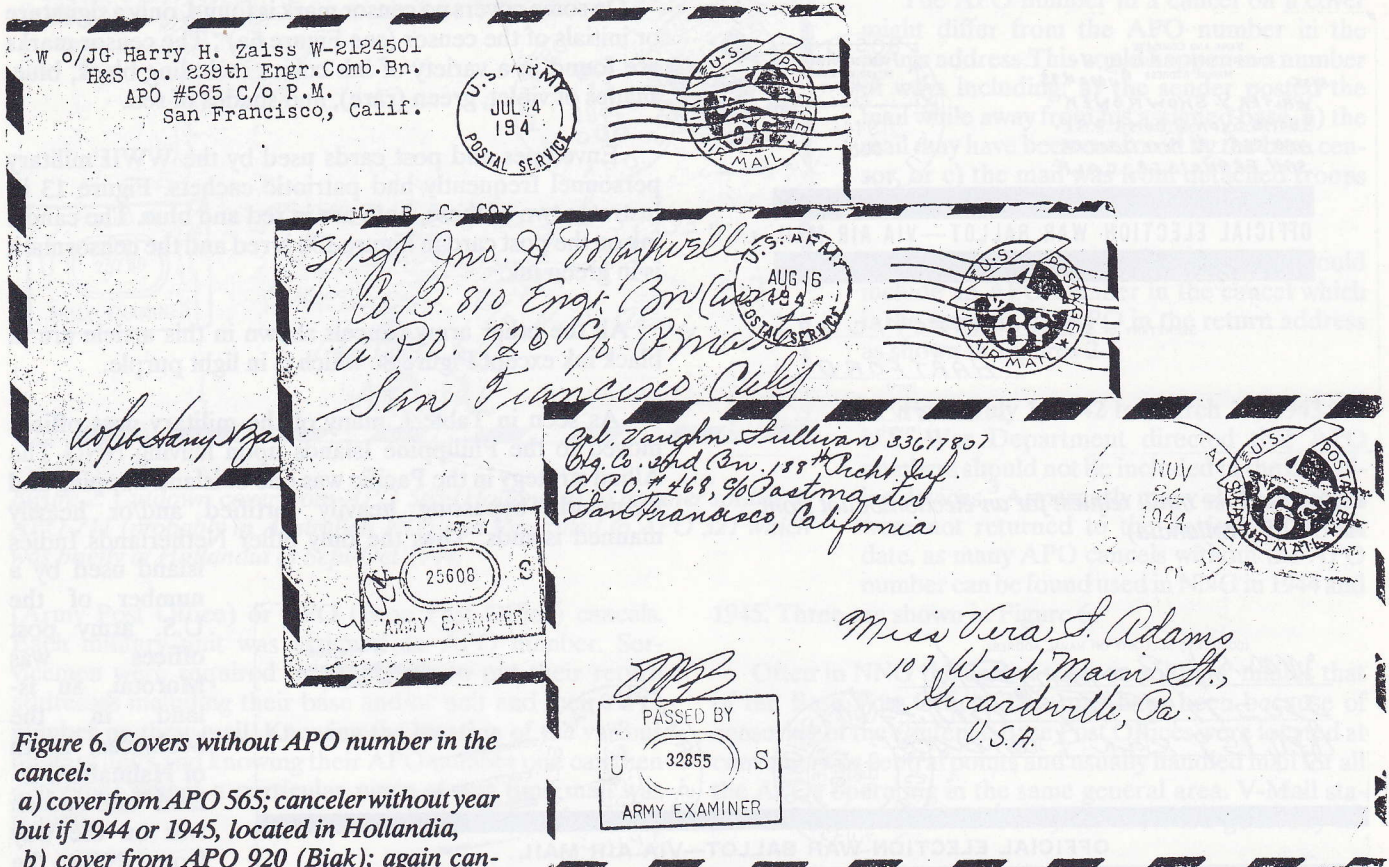


Figure 6. Covers without APO number in the cancel:

- a) cover from APO 565; canceler without year but if 1944 or 1945, located in Hollandia,
- b) cover from APO 920 (Biak); again canceler without year but presumed to be 1944 or 1945,
- c) cover from APO 468 which was in Hollandia briefly in November 1944.

(usually on the reverse side) which were not seen on other covers. This was true for both Army and Navy covers as seen in Figures 15 and 16. The postmarks on the reverse side of the registered Navy FPO (Fleet post Office) cover are particularly interesting: the Navy 3115 is from Hollandia, the Navy 10088 Br is from Pearl Harbor, and the Navy 10461 Br. is for the U.S. Pacific Fleet & Pacific Ocean Areas.

All the APOs in NNG had "Postmaster, San Francisco, California" in their addresses and all the Navy post offices in NNG had "in care of FPO, San Francisco, CA" in their addresses. American military post offices were in NNG from April 28, 1944 (APO 301 & 565 at Hollandia) to May 8, 1946 (APO 920 at Biak).

To reduce the bulk of the mail to and from the military forces and those back home in the U.S., V-mail was used. V-Mail was the microfilming of mail a one end, sending the film across the ocean (by plane), and developing the film at the other end as enlarged positives and then distributing them in the regular mail stream. The advantage to using V-mail was the reduction in bulk and weight; a ton of letters, about 85,000 pieces of mail, could be reduced to 20 pounds by the V-mail process.⁹ Figure 17 shows a piece of V-mail from APO 159.

Without a date on it (nor its envelope with a cancel on it) one can not be sure where it originated but the NNG collector would hope it was at Sansapor!

Besides the U.S. military mail from the Allied Forces in NNG during WWII, one can also find Australian military post office and censor marks on mail from NNG. Bulterman lists six Australian Air Force Post Offices (AFPO) stationed in NNG.⁴ Houwink⁸ gives Australian Army (10) and

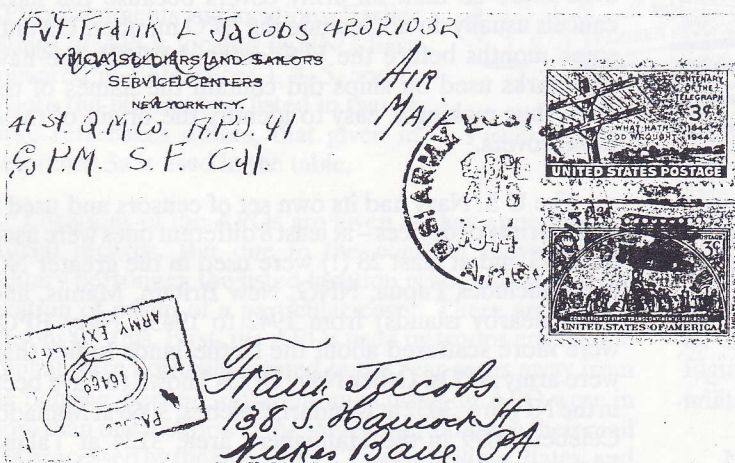


Figure 7. Cover from APO 41 (Biak Island) with 4 BPO cancel.

EC. Erdink L Jacobs 42021032
11 St. Q. M. Co. A.P.O. 41
8 P.M. S.F. Cal.
78PO
DEC
131
ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
A.P.O.

From: Cpl. B. T. Brown 33535454
6th Regt. Surg. Hoop.
APO # 565 40. Pm.
San Francisco, Calif.
78PO
AUG
19
1942
ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
A.P.O.

The
SGT. NORMAN J. HAYDEN
Det. 2, Seventh Base Post Office
A.P.O. 920
San Francisco, Calif.
78PO
MAY
23
1945
ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
A.P.O.

To: Robert Glorig 32401746
9th General Hospital
APO 920 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
78PO
MAY
1945
ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
A.P.O.
G. & C. Merriam Co., Publishers
Springfield, Mass.
U.S.A.
78PO
MAY
1945
ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
A.P.O.
Censored:
John B. Ogilvie
A.P.O. M.C.
78PO
MAY
1945
ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
A.P.O.

Figure 8. Covers with 7 BPO handstamp cancel:
a) APO 41, b) BPO 565, c) APO 920, and d) APO 920 with censor tape.

P.F.C. Earl G. Tooley
60TH Depot Supply Sgd
APO 920 % Postmaster
San Francisco Calif.
6-19-45
PASSED BY
U 3
William F Tooley
No #1 - Sherman Street
5 Albany
New York
78PO
JUN 19
1945
ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
A.P.O.

Figure 10. Cover from APO 920, with 7 BPO single circle machine cancel.

Navy (1) post office numbers used in NNG and illustrates some of the censor marks used by the Australian Army, Navy, and Air Force on mail from NNG. It is not known how complete these listings are. Among other places, the Australians had a small force near Merauke throughout the war. The Dutch had some forces (Royal Netherlands Indies Army troops) in NNG also, but no field post office cancels for them are known. Apparently they used U.S. and/or Australian military postal services until the regular post office was reopened in Hollandia.

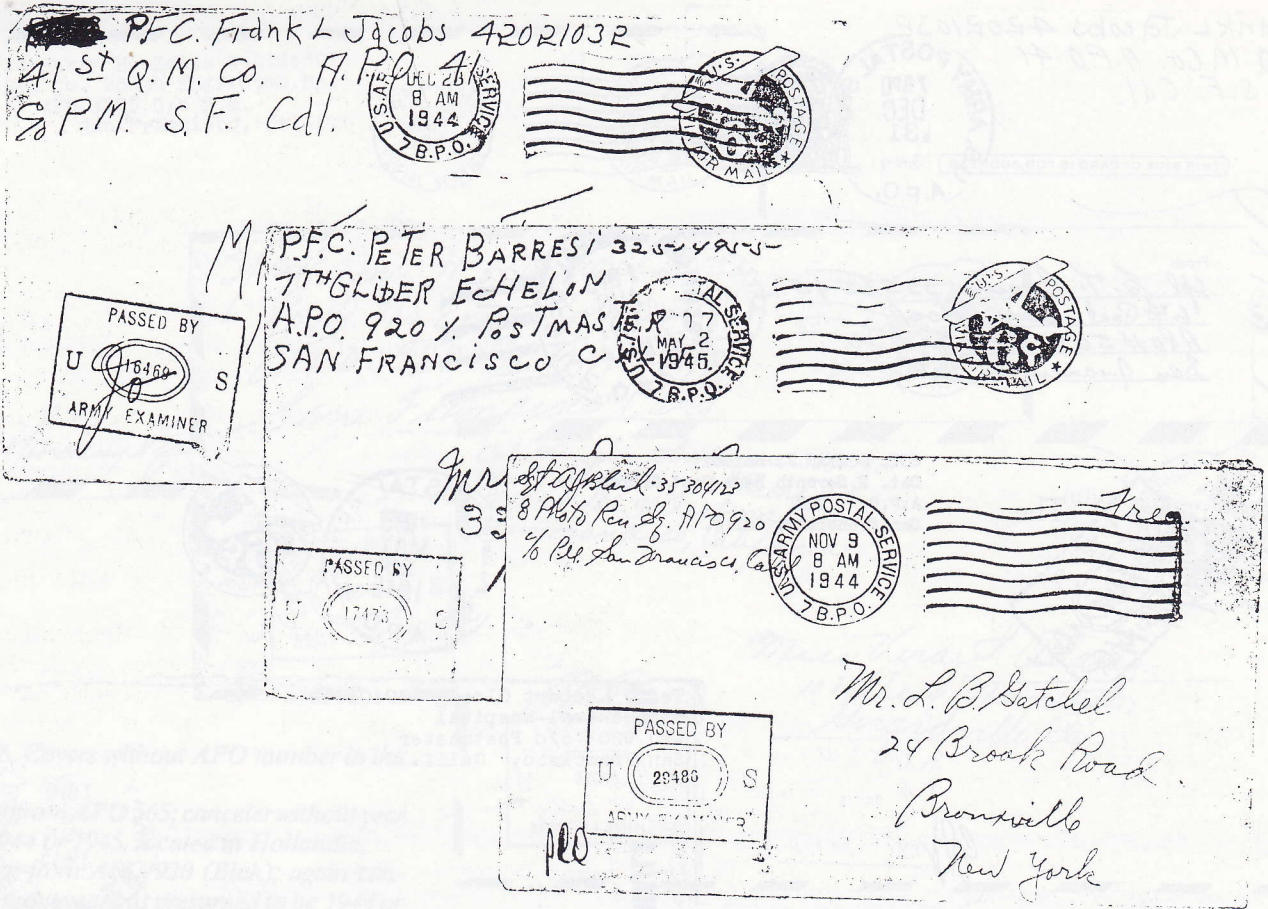


Figure 9. Covers with 7 BPO double circle machine cancels: a) APO 41, b) and c) APO 920,

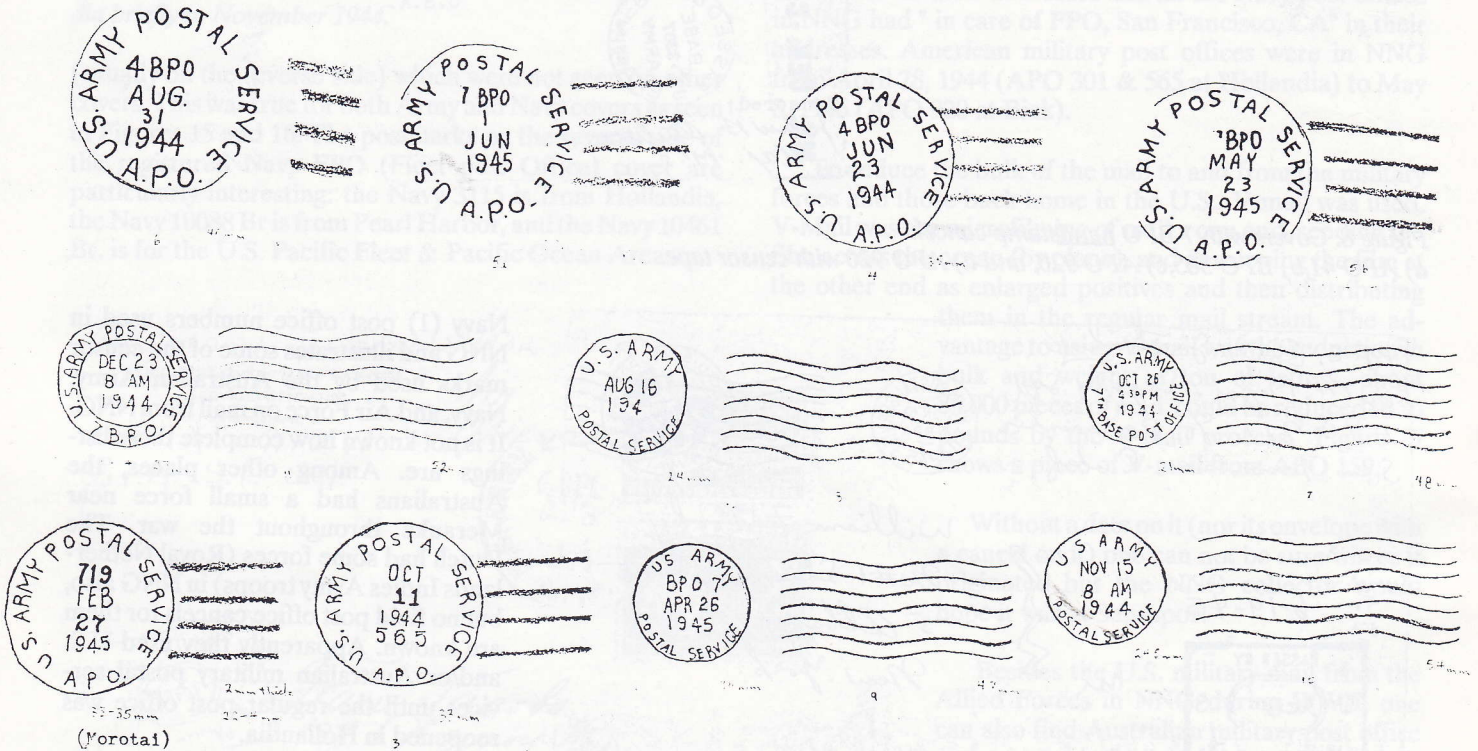


Figure 11. Tracings of some U.S. Army cancels found on military covers from NNG.

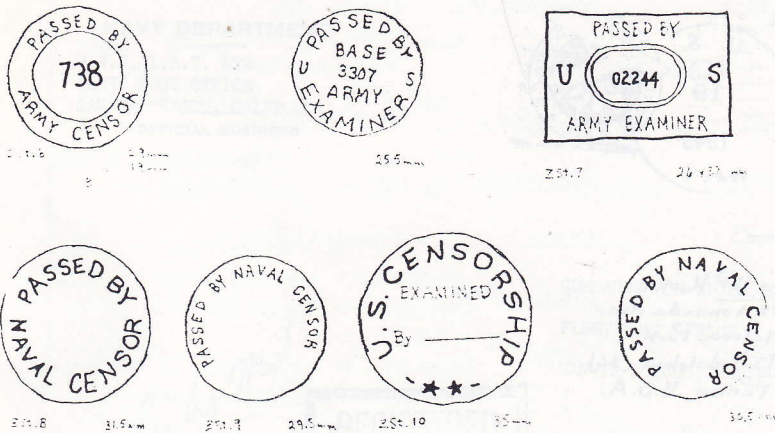


Figure 12. Tracings of some Army and Navy censor marks seen on WWII U.S. military covers from NNG.

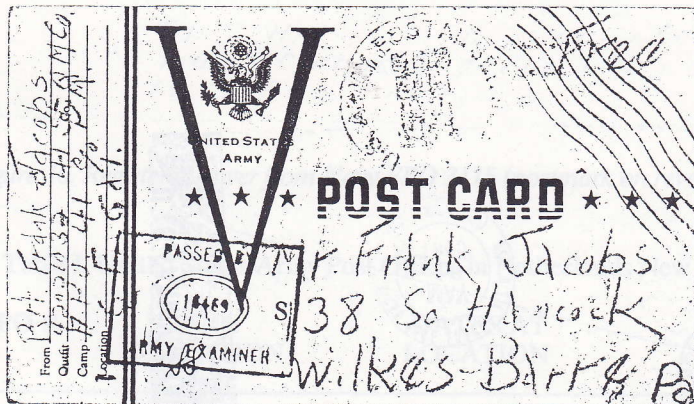
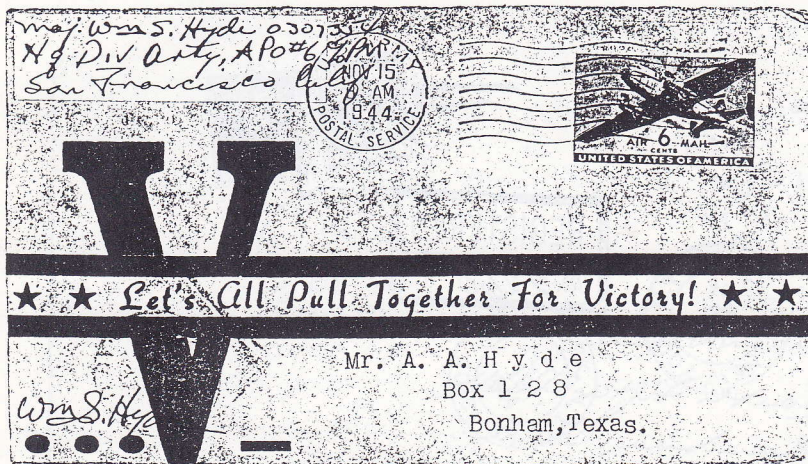


Figure 13. Patriotic cachets on covers from: a) APO 6 (Nov. 15, 1944) at Sansapor, b) APO 41 (June 23, 1944) at Biak Island.

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1. J. W. F. Bunge, *NP* 3 (3) March 1978, p. 34.
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3. a) George Cosentini and Norman Gruenzner, ed., *United*

States Numbered Military Post Offices, The Military Postal History Society, 1994.

- b) James Schaffer, *Geographic Locations of U.S. APOs 1941-1984*, The War Cover Club, 5th edition 1985.
4. P. R. Bulterman, *Poststempels Nederlands-Indie 1864-1950*, Uitgeverij Davo B.V. Deventer, 1981.
5. J. A. Jennings, *Netherlands Philatelist (U.K.)*, 10, (3) April 1970, p. 41.
6. Vic Esbensen, *NP*, 4 (2) December 1978, p. 29.
7. *ZWP*, 7 (1) January 1975, p. 030/006 (WWII-018), taken from Clyde Carriker, *The Australasian Informer*, Jul-Aug 1974.
8. Roel H. Houwink, *Die Briefmarken von Niederländisch-Neuguinea*, Heft 14 der Schriftenreihe Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde, Frankfurt am Main, 1963.
9. Richard B. Graham, postal history column in *Linn's Stamp News* covers U.S. Army and U.S. Navy cancels from time to time. See the issues of Feb. 16, 1987 and March 21, 1994.

Abbreviations used in Tables

ATC	Air Transport Command
CO	Ceased Operations or ceased to be used as a mailing address
Com	Command
FE	Far East
HQ	Headquarters
Inf Div	Infantry Division
Pac	Pacific
P.I.	Philippine Islands
SF	San Francisco
USAFFE	U.S. Army Forces Far East.

From: Lieut. Comdr. H. P. Harkins (MC) U.S.N.R.
 U.S.N.B. Hosp. No. 17 Navy 3115 C/O T.P.O.
 San Francisco, Calif.



To:
 Mrs. H. P. Harkins
 102 Towanda Ave.
 Melrose Park,
 Philadelphia (26)
 Penna. U.S.A.

Figure 14. U.S. Navy Post Office 3115 (Hollandia) cover with Naval censor mark.

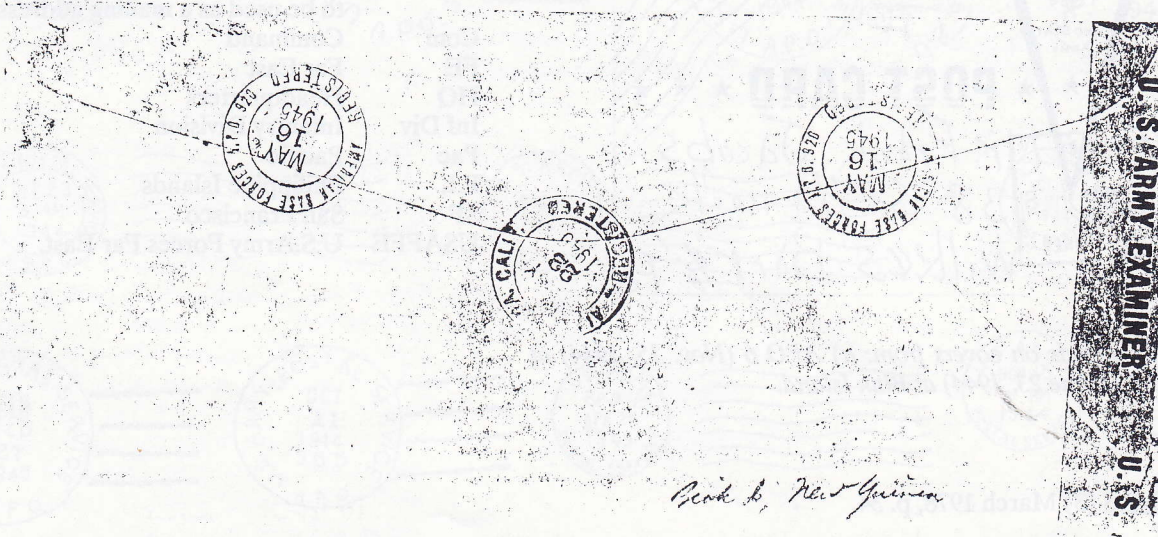


Figure 15. Registered letter from APO 920 (postmark on reverse side) in May 1945 with two censor marks and censor tape.

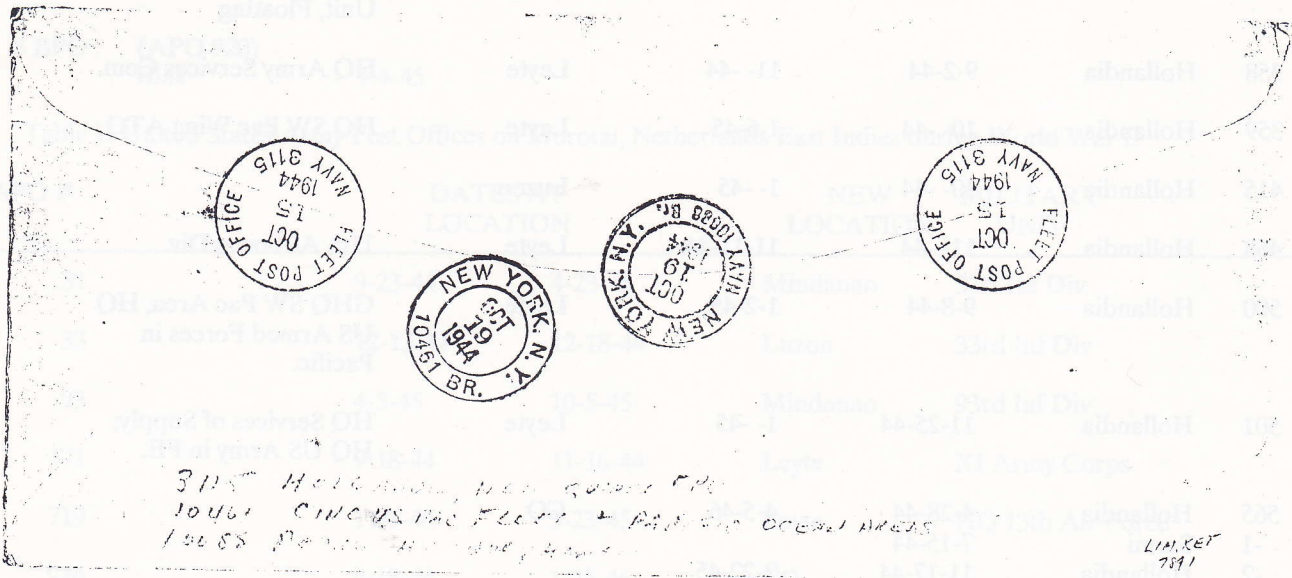
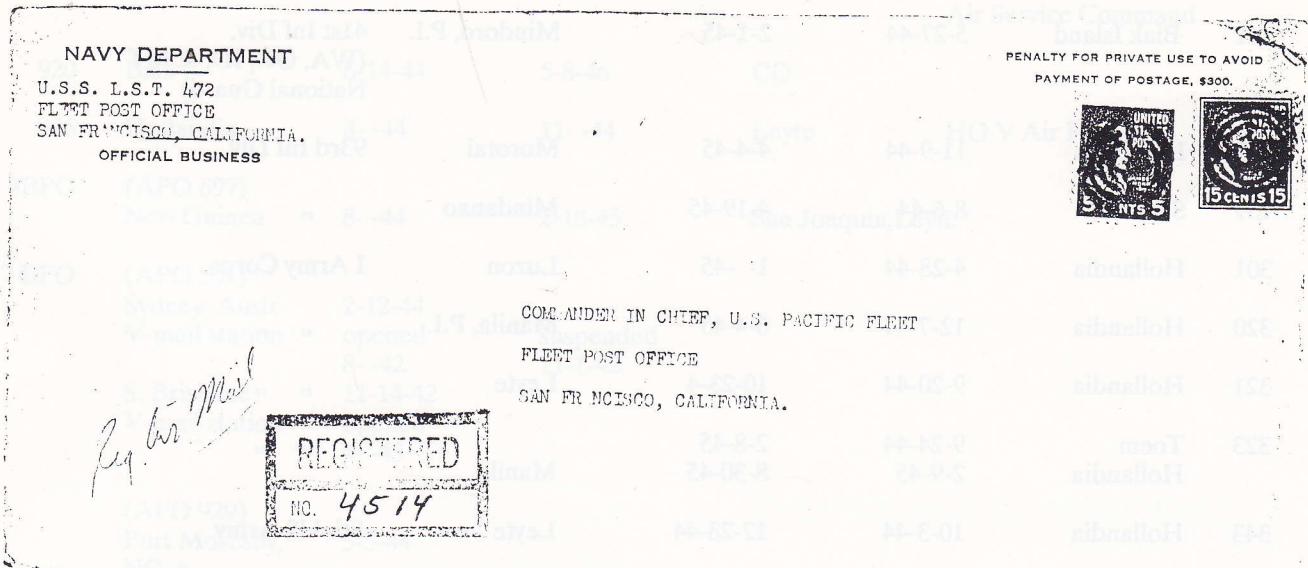


Figure 16. Registered cover from Navy FPO 3115 (postmark on reverse) to San Francisco.

Table I. United States Army Post Offices in Netherlands New Guinea during World War II.

APO #	NNG LOCATION	DATES AT LOCATION		NEW LOCATION	MILITARY UNIT
6	Wakde Island Sansapor	6- -44 8-12-44	8-11-44 12- -44	Luzon	6th Inf Div
24	Hollandia Biak Island	5-30-44 6-15-44		Leyte	24th Inf Div
31	Toem Maffin Bay	7-14-44 9-11-44	9-22-44	Morotai	31st Inf Div (LA, MS, AL & FL National Guard)
32	Hollandia	10-1-44	10-7-44	Leyte	32nd Inf Div (MI, WS Nat. Guard)

41	Biak Island	5-27-44	2-1-45	Mindoro, P.I.	41st Inf Div. (WA, OR, ID, & MT National Guard)
93	Hollandia	11-9-44	4-4-45	Morotai	93rd Inf Div.
159	Sansapor	8-6-44	4-19-45	Mindanao	"
301	Hollandia	4-28-44	1- -45	Luzon	I Army Corps
320	Hollandia	12-7-44	6-4-45	Manila, P.I.	" "
321	Hollandia	9-20-44	10-23-4	Leyte	" "
323	Toem Hollandia	9-24-44 2-9-45	2-8-45 8-30-45	Manila	" "
343	Hollandia	10-3-44	12-28-44	Leyte	8th US Army
347	Biak Island	2-21-45	4-3-45	Leyte	6th Aircraft Repair Unit, Floating
358	Hollandia	9-2-44	11- -44	Leyte	HQ Army Services Com.
359	Hollandia	10- -44	1-6-45	Leyte	HQ SW Pac Wing ATC
415	Hollandia	10- -44	1- -45	Luzon	
468	Hollandia	11- -44	11-11-44	Leyte	11th Airborne Div.
500	Hollandia	9-8-44	1-2-45	Leyte	GHQ SW Pac Area, HQ US Armed Forces in Pacific.
501	Hollandia	11-25-44	1- -45	Leyte	HQ Services of Supply; HQ US Army in FE.
565	Hollandia	4-28-44	4-5-46	CO	
-1	Sarmi	7-15-44			
-2	Hollandia	11-17-44	2-22-45		
-3		11-6-44			
697	Hollandia	11- -44	2-20-45	Leyte	
703	Hollandia	10- -44	10-24-44	Leyte	4th Repl Depot
704	Wakde Island Pilfoera, Noemfoor Isl	6- -44 7-21-44	7-20-44 4-28-45	Manila	
707	Hollandia	9-8-44	2-3-45	Leyte	HQ Services of Supply USAFPE; HQ Armed Forces West Pac
710	Biak & Owi Isl	8-10-44	11- -44	Leyte	HQ 5th Air Force
712	Hollandia	8- -44	10-23-44	Leyte	
714	Hollandia	12-13-44	4-25-44	Manila	
719	Noemfoor Isl	7- -44	10-31-44	Morotai	HQ 13th Air Force &

Air Service Command

920	Biak	6-14-44	5-8-46	CO	
925	Hollandia	8- -44	11- -44	Leyte	HQ V Air Force
4BPO	(APO 697) New Guinea	8- -44	2-18-45	San Joaquin,Leyte	
7 BPO	(APO 501) Sydney, Austr V-mail station	2-12-44 opened 8- -42	suspended 11-1-42		
	S. Brisbane V-mail station	11-14-42 opened 4- -43			
	(APO 929) Port Moresby, NG-A	3-5-44			
	Manila	3- -45			
3 BPO	(APO 920) Biak	9-4-45			

Table II United States Army Post Offices on Morotai, Netherlands East Indies during World War II

APO #	DATES AT LOCATION		NEW LOCATION	MILITARY UNIT
31	9-23-44	4-23-45	Mindanao	31st Inf Div
33	12-13-44	12-18-44	Luzon	33rd Inf Div
93	4-5-45	10-5-45	Mindanao	93rd Inf Div
471	9-18-44	11-16-44	Leyte	XI Army Corps
719	11-1-44	3-23-45	Leyte	HQ 13th Air Force
926	9-18-44	1-25-46	CO	" "

Table III. United States Navy Post Offices in NNG during WWII

Navy BPO	Location
3085	Waigeo Island (Kabarei Bay)
3115	Hollandia
3121	Japen Island
3123	Cape Sansapor
3151	Cape Sansapor
3155	Noemfoor Island (Kornasoran)
3265	Noemfoor (Kamoe & Kameri)

Navy BPO	Location			
3266	Jef Leo (by Sorong)			
3415	Wakde Island			
3505	Biak Island & Woendi Island			
Navy Br.				
10412	Hollandia - Base Hospital #17	9-12-44	10-11-44	CO
	- Naval Base	8-22-44	--	
	Manila	--	4-13-46	CO
10667	Hollandia	12- 2-43	12-12-45.	



Figure 17. V-Mail (the positive enlargement) sent from APO 159 to Michigan presumably at Christmas time 1944 when APO 159 was at Sansapor, NNG.

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BOOK REVIEW *FR.*

Rolzegels, Automaatstroken en Automaatzegels - Nederland - Speciaal Catalogus (Coil stamps, Vending machine strips and stamps from Vending machines; specialised catalogue of the Netherlands. By R.J Hamminck and P. Portheine. Illustrated, 84 pages. Seventh Edition. Code 96-1, ASNP price \$23.00.

As was the case with pretty well every previous edition of this catalogue, there is a lot of new contents. For the first time the Kluessendorf Vending machine strips (Automaatstroken) are catalogued. Introduced in 1989, most denominations now are known in four varieties, depending on the letter type of the numbers on the back. A lot of errors, freaks and oddities are also listed and valued in this section. Then there is a much expanded section on test (coil) stamps. No less than six pages of it. This is followed by a six page section on the commercial 10 000 and 5 000 subject rolls of stamps, complete with pictures of all the pre-cancels used. New too is a long list of all the coils ever issued, with date of introduction (this also for all the varieties), number of rolls delivered and the number of stamps per roll.

Perhaps most interesting is a new section on stamps from vending machines, which were available as early as 1909. These stamps can only be recognised by the way the machine cut them from the roll at top and bottom and sometimes too by the way the sides were cut. In early days sheets were torn, so the sides look normal. Later, however, the sheets were cut into strips with knives and this leaves a very characteristic signature on the stamp. Such stamps sat in the machine as rolls. Originally these could give only one stamp at the time, except for the 1 ct stamps, which were issued in pairs. The blue Verblifa machines that so many of us will remember could issue pairs and strips of three. This 12-page section is complete with an extensive price valuation for unused, used and on cover.

This brings us to the main section of roll stamps as they emanate from the issuing apparatus that the Post Office clerks have at their disposition. Prices seem to have stabilised with a slight downward trend. Very useful is a LOOSE sheet with all seven letter types that we now have, plus pictures of the different ways the back numbers may be applied on the stamp's back. Saves a lot of leafing up and down. In short, a very good catalogue again. Even the price is reasonable, all things considered. Warmly recommended.

THE COIL CORNER

by Frans H.A. Rummens

It is with considerable trepidation that we are using a title that the late Larry Rehm used so excellently for many years. We will not claim that our knowledge of coils matches that of Larry, but an empty spot needed to be filled for the benefit of the ASNP members. The field of coil stamps – more properly called roll stamps – is a fast developing speciality, which makes it imperative to report on the changes.

Elsewhere in this issue there will be a Review on the 7th edition of the Hammink/Portheine Roll stamp catalogue. That catalogue is an excellent starting point for going over the basics and then add the new material as needed.

In this column we would like to talk about the letter types that have been used on the back of the coils (oops, we meant "rolls"). Figure 1 is a direct copy from the above mentioned catalogue. We see that today there are no fewer than seven types to be distinguished. Useful as this figure is, it must be used with considerable caution. For one, the dimensions as given in this figure may not be right. Types 1 and 2 are actually only 2.3 mm, but in the catalogue figure they are shown as 3.5 mm. Type 3, in actuality only 2.8 mm, is shown as 4.5 mm. Only the types 4-7 are shown at their approximate correct absolute and relative sizes. It follows, incidentally, that you need a good magnifying glass with a built-in scale if you want to participate in this speciality.

Types 1 and 2 may be very difficult to distinguish, since they are exactly the same size at 2.3 mm. Note how the numerals 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 0 are almost or entirely the same. The 1 and the 4 can be distinguished by the serifs in type 1; the 3 of type 1 has a flat top and the 5s have different bellies. This should be kept in mind when buying such roll stamps. In auctions the back numbers are always specified and now you know one of the reasons. There is no danger in buying No.450, but you may want to shy away from No. 080. Type 3 presents no problem because this letter type is notably bigger, even to the naked eye.

Starting with type 4, we enter the era of ink jet printing. The numbers are built up from dots, as by a dot matrix printer, with this difference though that the ink is actually sprayed on. This gives rise to variations in SIZE AND in the SLANT of the number. Hence the range of 2.6-3.1 mm given for type 4. Type 5 is always smaller than type 4, but otherwise the numerals are virtually identical. The symbol in front of the 2.6 mm means "smaller than" so the range starts with 2.5 mm and then down. This is important, because it means that there is really no overlap in size with type 4. Type 6 is easy; the numerals are larger or equal than 3.1 mm. This might lead to a size overlap with type 4, but the spindly shape of the type 6 numerals is very distinct. It also helps if you know that type 6 has only been found on ONE stamp, namely the 1988 "200 years Australia" stamp!! Type 7 is approximately 3.0 mm, but it may vary from 2.5 to 4.7 mm, meaning a potential overlap with type 4. Actually this is the only ink jet sprayer where the numerals are straight up, without a slant. Also, all the numerals are wider; note in particular the 5 and the 0.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0	type 1		2,3 mm
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0	type 2		2,3 mm
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0	type 3		2,8 mm
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0	type 4		2,6-3,1 mm
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0	type 5	<	2,6 mm
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0	type 6	≧	3,1 mm
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0	type 7		±3,0 mm

Figure 1: Letter types used on the back of Netherlands Roll stamps.

Coding the letter types. We will discuss the coding of roll stamp varieties. In this particular column we will discuss only that part of the code that pertains to the letter type. It is never the first part of the entire code; you will find it directly after a capital letter, usually a K, an L, an R or an N (where K = Kopstaand (upside down), L = Links (left), R = Rechts (right), and N = Normaal (normal)). The letter type code then begins with the type number, a choice from numeral 1 to 7 inclusive. Then, sometimes, there is a lower case c (= compact) or an s (= narrow); we will discuss these later. Then, between brackets, is the number of numerals that make up the number. This varies from 3 to 5, so that part becomes (3), (4), or (5). For the types 1-3 this information is often omitted, since these letter types occur only with 3-digit numbers. Sometimes there is a capital letter "A" added in the bracketed part, so this part may read (4A); this too will be explained below. The letter types were introduced chronologically, but their use overlapped often with other types. With that we mean that earlier types continued to be used, long after new types were introduced. We may draw up the following table of usage though:

letter type 1: 1965 - 1977
letter type 2: 1967 - 1986
letter type 3: 1969 - 1982
letter type 4: 1986 - 1989
letter type 5: 1987 - 1988
letter type 6: 1988
letter type 7: 1989 - present

In 1989 so-called "compact" lettering emerged. It was first found in the first printing of the 1989 stamp "100 years Royal Netherlands Soccer Federation". That stamp has letter type 4(4); in the normal case the width of the lettering is 10.5 mm, whereas in the compact version 4c(4) this is only 8.2 mm. The other compact lettering occurs with letter type 7, of sub types 7c(4), 7c(4A), 7c(5) and 7c(5A)

The widths are as follows:

4(4):	10.5 mm'	4c(4):	8.2 mm
7(4):	10.5 mm	7c(4):	8.2 mm
7(5):	13.3 mm	7c(5):	11.7 mm
7(5A)	unknown	7c(5A):	13.8 mm

The extra letter "A" of which we have spoken already was introduced in 1990. It was added directly to the back number so that 0860 would become 0860A. This was done to avoid confusion and errors because some numbers can be read up-side-down (0860 might be read 0980!). The "A" is always found in conjunction with letter type 7 or 7c, but not every issue with letter type 7 or 7c has the letter "A", such as the

1991 and 1992 rolls of commemoratives and the 75 ct pink Beatrix of which a 7(5) version appeared after a 7(4A) variety.

Finally the subscript "s". This stands for the Dutch word "small", which does not mean "small" in English, but rather "narrow". This refers to the numeral "0", which in the normal version has three dots at the top and bottom but only two in the narrow version. As far as we know this variety has only been found with a 65 ct Crowel type 7s(4) and a 75 ct pink Beatrix type 7s(4). Unfortunately we have neither, so we can not show you an example.

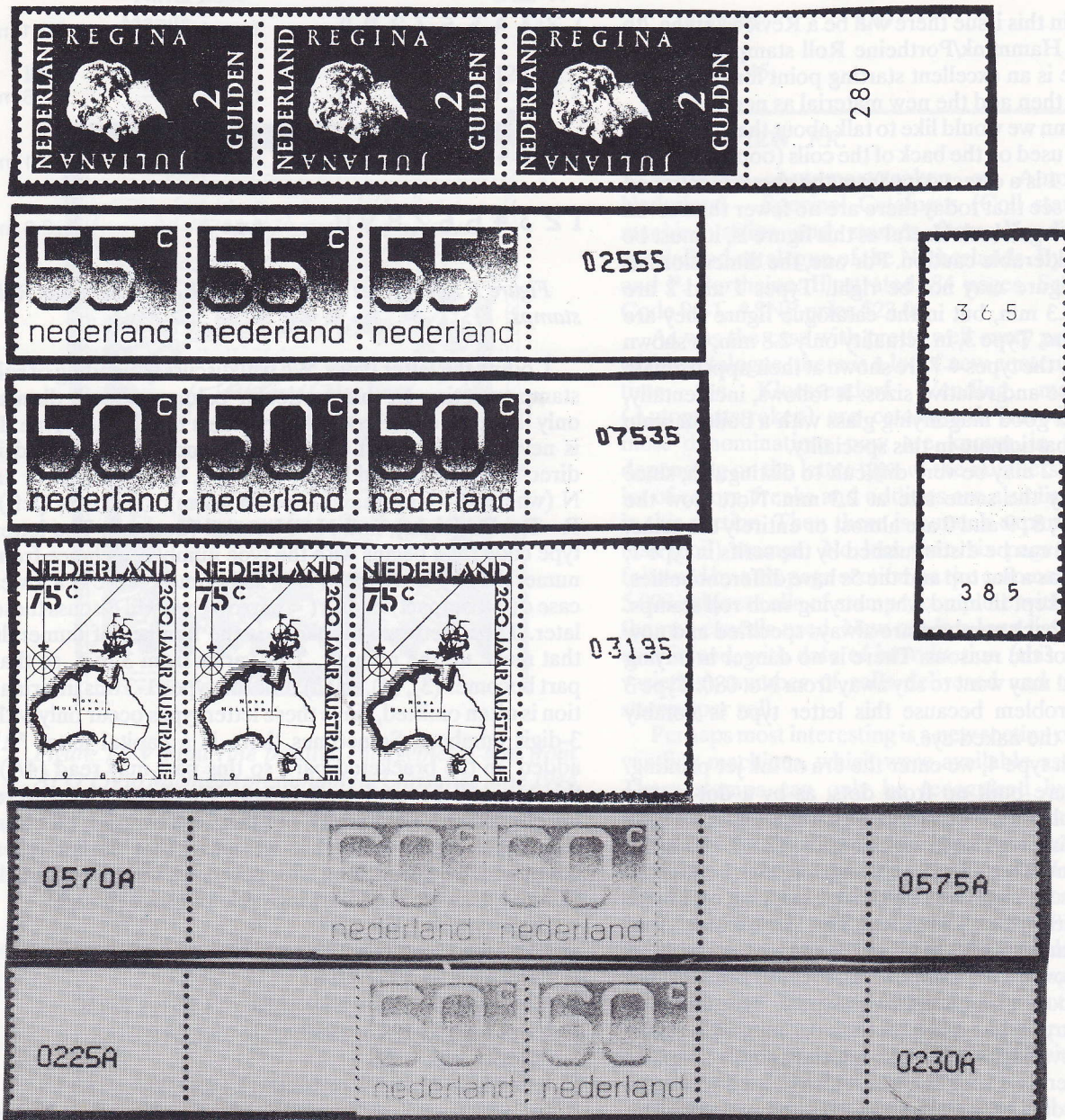


Figure 2.
Examples of the various letter types
280 in type 3 on a 2 gld *Wilhelmina* design Hartz strip of five. Notice larger size.
02555 in type 4 on a 55 ct Crowel strip of five.
07535 in type 5 on 50 ct Crowel. Note smaller size. Strip of five.
365 in type 1 on a 35 ct *Wilhelmina* design Hartz vending

machine stamp.
385 in type 2 on a 40 ct *Wilhelmina* design Hartz vending machine stamp. Notice the difference in the 3 and the 5.
03195 in type 6 on Australia roll stamp. Larger, spindly size. Strip of five.
0570A and 0575A in type 7(4A) on unfolded strip of six.
0225A and 0230A in type 7c(4A) on unfolded strip of six. Note compact width of the number.