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## CONTENTS.

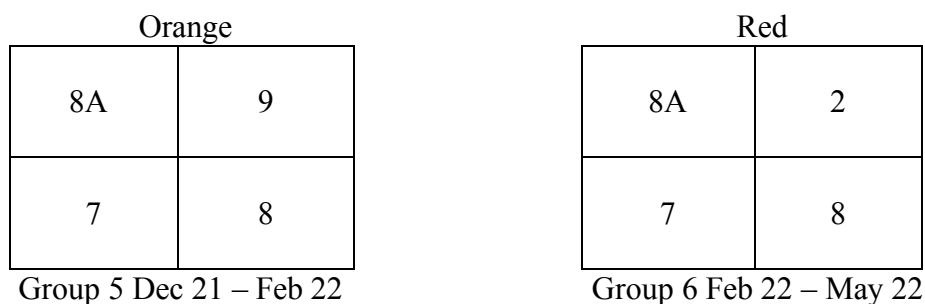
SHIP DISMASTED AND RETURNED TO SYDNEY WITH MAILS by Brian Peace (395).....	25
QUERY 717. UNUSUAL 'DAMAGED IN MACHINERY' CACHET from Dee Pullan (1208).....	26
QUERY 713. 2/- KANGAROO 1929-30 DIE II FRAME FLAW. Further responses.....	26
THE POSTAGE DUE MARKINGS OF OUTGOING MAILS OF AUSTRALIA 1901 TO 1965. Part 3: South Australia. Further information from Patrick Reid (1112).....	27
K.G.V. 2d DIE I. SOME FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE REPLACEMENT OF ELECTRO 9 BY ELECTRO 2 By Don Landers (1027).....	28
BOB'S CORNER. Page No. 12.....	37
THE SILVER JUBILEE 2d FLAWS by Hammond Kenlin (1283) concluded.....	39
POSTAL HISTORY SOUGHT 1841 – 1850 from John Beagle (non-member) and Malcolm Groom (1397).....	43
MODERN SCENE WITH SEL PFEFFER.....	43
QUERY 719. INFORMATION WANTED ABOUT THESE POSTAL MARKINGS From Colin Salt (1269).....	45
HYERONIMUS REVISITED by Graham Chard (1490) Part 4.....	46
QUERY 718. IS THIS CANCELLATION RARE? From Ron Fowler (598).....	47
BSAP FORUM – SUMMARY FOR THE FIRST 7 MONTHS.....	48
REQUEST FOR HELP FROM Chris Harris (1783).....	48
QUERY 720. NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAL STATIONERY. CAN YOU HELP from Peter van Gelder and John Bell.....	49
AND FINALLY.....	49

**2380. KING GEORGE V – 2d DIE 1. SOME FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE REPLACEMENT OF ELECTRO 9 BY ELECTRO 2 By Don Landers (1027).**

Lot 1130 in the October 2009 auction conducted by Status International was described as follows- “*2d Intense orange (on semi-surfaced paper) perf OS blk of 12 (3x4) with 4 "minor" constant plating varieties, tied to Official stationery piece by multiple strikes of "Duntroon/6 Nov 23/Australia" cds. Scarce shade, impressive multiple. ACSC 95c?*” On inspection the colour indeed could be said to be ‘intense orange aniline’ which, according to the *ACSC (i)*, would date the printing at December 1920. However the paper is semi-surfaced which is not generally associated with printings from late 1920 but more with the printings of late 1921 and early 1922. The piece has not been used postally and one can speculate as to how it came about.

The “minor” constant plating varieties suggested that the piece came from the right pane of electro 2. However this has turned out not to be the case. The possible plating and the initial thought that the printing was late 1921 or early 1922 instead of December 1920 caused me to again consider the sequence of events surrounding the printing of this stamp in early 1922 when the colour was changed from orange to red.

The year 1997 saw the publication of the seminal work on this stamp by *Parson & Sandy (ii)* in which it is stated that electro 2 was first printed below electro 1 in the late 1920 printings in orange, and then in red printings in an upper right position when printed in a quartet in early 1922, replacing electro 9 in this position. The groupings of the electros at this stage were diagrammatically displayed as follows.



In 2003 Richard Guy published an article entitled “*Electro 2 in 2d Orange KGV Die 1 Found in an Upper Right Printing Position*” (*iii*) which indisputably established that electro 2 had been also printed in orange in the upper right printing position as well as the theretofore recognized position below electro 1.

In 2007 a second edition of the original work of *Parsons and Sandy* was published by *Parson, Sandy & Wawrukiewicz (iv)*. In the Introduction to the Second edition which was written by Mr Wawrukiewicz, it was acknowledged that for much of the additional information in the second edition, the authors were greatly indebted to Richard Guy. Throughout this work there are references to information supplied to the authors by Richard Guy at various times, even up to the year of publication i.e. 2007. However there was no mention whatsoever of the information contained in the 2003 article by Richard Guy mentioned above. I found this omission to be somewhat strange and I asked Richard why this information had been omitted from the work. His reply was that he believed that while the authors did not dispute his actual finding, they did not agree with some of the conclusions that he had drawn from the discovery.

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Page No. 12

April 2010

My thanks to David Adams for further information on HMHS Braemar Castle and also to Peter High for the information that it is not unknown for a certain printer of postcards to add hospital livery to a civilian postcard of a ship and the left hand illustration of the Braemar Castle is probably one such.

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Meetings reports are not the usual fare of this particular page of the Bulletin but I'm sure that no one who attended February's London meeting will be surprised if I make a mention of Neil Russell's display of Christmas cards printed by the Australian authorities for internees and POWs during WWII. These took the form of typical Australian scenes with a German or Italian write up, Neil actually apologised for not having an Italian copy for one of the years when most of us had not only never seen these items before but didn't know they existed. He has a penchant for what I call 'niche displays', a good show on a somewhat small but interesting subject. Where he finds the material I know not but more power to his elbow.

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### One that got away

Lot 945 Sale 98 Premier Postal Auctions.

Had, as I remember, a description along the following lines, "50+ used picture postcards which appear to have been sent mainly undercover to Australia from Mesopotamia. One speaks of returning to Enzeli tomorrow". The describer had added that mail from this area was difficult to find". It showed two illustrations,

I e-mailed David Wood to see if it were possible to see scans of more of the cards as dates and any postal marks would be very useful in determining the source and relevance of the material,

While awaiting his reply I tried to find out what I could about Dunsterforce from Google, I knew that Australian forces from the 1<sup>st</sup> Wireless Squadron and from the Flying Corp had served with D Force in Mesopotamia but information on whether they had been attached to Dunsterforce was very sparse. Bob Emery on the subject of Dunsterforce was more definite but listed only six items known.

Google turned up a lot of general information on the force and the fact that Enzeli was a port on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea. But nothing on Australian troops serving with Dunsterforce.

The further scans when they arrived were of two types, some were scans of single cards which could be magnified and read and others crammed onto an A4 sheet from which you could just about see that they were not postally used so for my purpose were useless.





What I did find out however were that one was signed by someone called Andy, that a series of them were addressed to a lady called Mrs. Fletcher that lived in DONALD in Victoria and that four of them, whilst not showing a censor mark of any type, had been signed by what looked like a Lieutenant called White as evidence of censorship.

With these clues I looked through the embarkation rolls and discovered that a Sapper Andrew Fletcher who's next of kin was Mrs. Fletcher of DONALD in Victoria had embarked

on the Saldanha (A12) with the 1st Australian Wireless Squadron which left Melbourne on 5/2/16 and what's more a Lt.S.J.White was in the same unit. I checked the signatures on his attestation and it matched those on the cards. I checked in my copy of 'With Horse and Morse in Mesopotamia' and found that both men were listed as serving with 'The Pack Troop' in Mesopotamia, these were troops with mobile radios, either horseborne or on trucks that were attached to units within D Force which was not the same as Dunsterforce. The former was a largely Indian army force that had been set up in 1915 to clear the Turkish troops out of Mesopotamia whereas Dunsterforce was a much smaller force commanded by General Dunsterville set up in late 1917 to try to prevent the Germans coming through Turkey and Persia and on to India

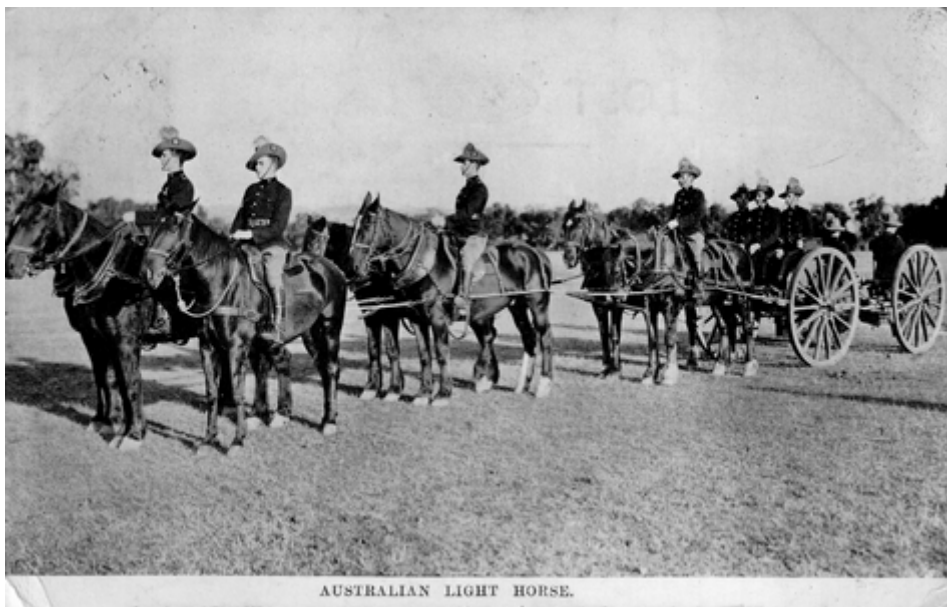
The next things to check were the individual records of the two soldiers, where I found confirmation that they had both left Melbourne on the Saldanha (A12) and had served in Mesopotamia, both were mentioned in despatches and Lt. White was made OBE for his services, however there was no indication of a connection with Dunsterforce.

At this point I decided to make a modest bid as there appeared to be a good chance that the stuff was genuine and worth having a punt on. I also requested the Royal for a sight of the Australian Gazettes which I knew to be in their vaults to confirm the MIDs and the OBE. This was granted but the weather intervened and before I could check the Gazettes the auction took place and someone who was braver than me, and had a much longer pocket bought the lot. I asked David Wood if he would pass my e-mail address to the winner but so far no reply. So there I was without the postcards but with an urge to know more.

*Continued in the next issue*

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Just to finish the page a postcard of the Light Horse.



2383. THE SILVER JUBILEE 2d FLAWS by Hammond Kenlin (1283) concluded.



**2361. HYERONIMUS REVISITED by Graham Chard (1490). Part 4.**

26 August 1953, 7d POSTAGE DUE, Watermark C of A. SG D126 (BW D136).

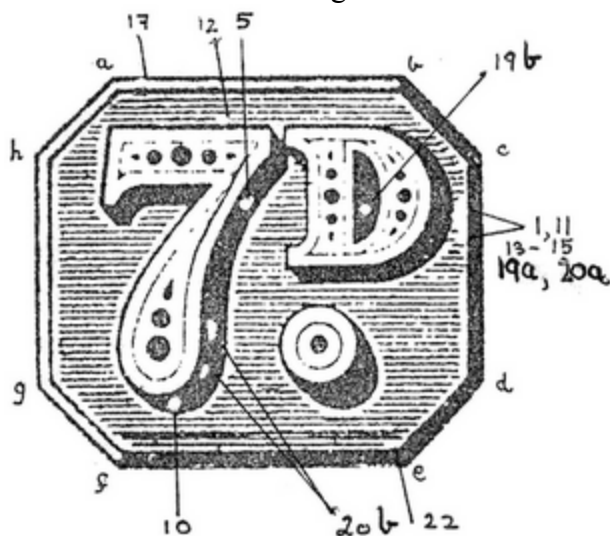
A. A complete sheet of 120 stamps with "by authority" imprint along with the Plate Number of "-1-". This sheet has very few possibly constant flaws - the two previously listed as Secondary flaws C24 and D13 by Hyeronimus are not evident on my sheet. It has therefore been impossible to assign Electro identification to any of the 30 units. I have therefore merely taken each electro of 30 units and identified them as: Top left, Bottom left, Top right and Bottom right. There are no apparent Master Plate flaws.

Top left Electro:

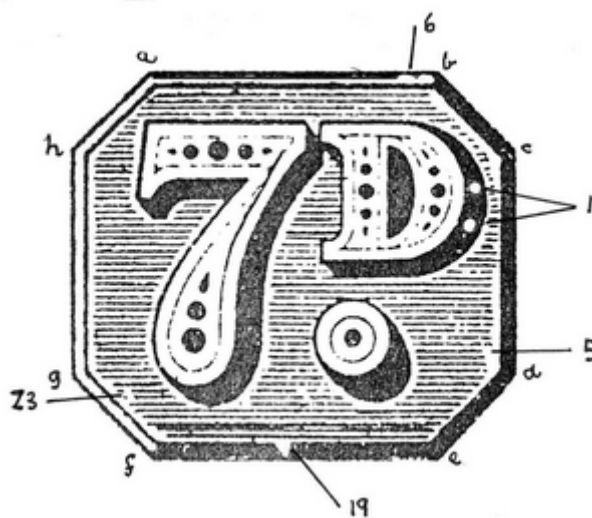
1. 16th to 22nd shading lines behind. 'D' shortened or missing.
5. Large white mark in solid shading at the back of '7'
10. White round mark in solid shading at base of '7'.
11. Similar to 1 above.
12. ¼ mm break in the 4th shading line above the centre of '7'.
13. )
14. ) Similar to 1 above.
15. )
17. V notch in the underside of the upper frame of the octagon 1mm from a.
- 19a. Similar to 1 above.
- 19b. White dot on the solid colour in the middle of 'd'.
- 20a. Similar to 1 above.
- 20b. 2 white marks in solid colour back lower of '7'.
22. 1st line of shading above e shortened.

Bottom left Electro :

1. 2 white circular marks in solid shading back of 'D'.
5. 12th to 14th shading lines shortened by frame of octagon to the right of the value stop.
6. Underside of outer frame of octagon irregular for 1½ mm to left of b.
19. V notch in solid colour of octagon. between e and f.
23. 7th and 8th shading lines broken close to octagon frame between f and g.



Top left.  
Possibly Electro 'A'



Bottom Left  
Possibly Electro 'C'