

The Bulletin



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2387. PARTLY MISSING SEPIA IN 1972 7 CENT CWA ISSUE By Richard Guy (1616)

Many years ago, back in the eighties, I acquired a used copy of a Country Women's Association 50th Anniversary 7 cent stamp that had all the sepia missing from the left side. The "AUSTRALIA" was mostly missing, only showing the "ALIA", and the "7c". The sepia colour in the oval was also half gone, making the lady in the oval seem very pale. Her hair is faint, and much of the writing inside the oval is either weak or missing.

It was a stamp that never seemed to excite anyone else. "It must be a fake", I was told. I liked it, (the stamp, not the comment) but there were no other examples to be seen, so it sat in my collection for years.

The confused note in the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue (ACSC) (1) in note 1 under stamp 590 did not help either, as it confuses the missing crimson error with the half missing sepia error. To be fair, the editor removed the earlier classification because of this confusion, pending clarification. This paper clarifies half the problem, with the other half of the explanation is expected to follow soon.

Then a year ago, Melbourne stamp dealer Michael Eastick displayed a mint copy of this half missing sepia stamp on his web site. I was excited, and asked about it. I was told the stamp had "been all over Sydney" but not with my copy, and they did indeed look very similar. My interest grew. See figure 1.



Figure 1. The two copies of the partly missing sepia of the CWA issue of 1972, the used copy on the left.

I then noticed that the mint copy displayed one of the two retouches in the top left corner that positioned this stamp as lower pane, row 5, stamp 1 (or lower pane, stamp 41). As the colour was missing from the left side of these two stamps, this explains why no stamp with completely missing sepia has been seen. There was no stamp on the sheet to the left of these two errors. There could be another eight copies produced on the sheet, but they have probably been lost long ago.

I then asked Michael if I could send his stamp, with mine, for examination (and hopefully certification) by Chris Ceremuga in Sydney. Michael agreed. Chris had seen Michael's mint stamp before, and was not too keen about it. He did not know how it had happened, but he

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One that got away Part 2

I eventually got the chance to view the gazettes and confirmed that the MIDs and the OBE had been awarded for conspicuous service in the Mesopotamian campaign, but still no mention of Dunsterforce.

After the first attempt to reach Baku had failed Dunsterforce returned as far as Hamadan where they arrived on the evening of the 25th February 1918 to await further reinforcements and supplies. Any reference to communications units up to this point gives no indication that they were members of the 1st Australian Wireless Squadron travelling with the force of 41 cars and one armoured car.

The University of California gave me the opportunity to download "The adventures of Dunsterforce" the record of the operation written by Major General L.C.Dunsterville C,B, C.S.I. himself, who commanded the operation. I find it easier to read a real book rather than a download on the screen so I've had to wait while I printed and bound the copy. Having done so I can find no reference to the part played by the 1st Australian Wireless Squadron or further details of the awards made during the campaign.

On the assumption that Dunsterforce was a British army operation rather than an Australian one I decided to find out if there was anything in the archives at Kew, Searching on line for Dunsterforce didn't seem to have much success so I e-mailed Kew for their advice and they came through with a host of references which looked useful so I arranged for a trip to town to see what I could find.

The card shown here links Andy with S.J.White and the town of DONALD.



The visit to Kew proved to be very disappointing, there were a lot of war diaries to wade through including one entitled 'Pack Wireless Unit Dunsterforce'. However when I subsequently came to match the names found there to those in the Australian records I could make no matches although the latter turned up several mentions of Pack Units being with Dunsterforce. I can only assume that the pack unit diaries seen at Kew were solely British Army and, unhappily those of the Australian wireless

squadron only mentioned by name S.J.White who at the time of the diaries was acting commandant of the unit and therefore would not have been detached with one of the packs.

These war diaries of the 1st Australian Wireless Squadron listed packs being with, originally "Russians", then with Dunsterforce from April 1918 but give no details of personnel so at this juncture there is nothing to positively link Andy Fletcher with Dunsterforce other than the undated postcard of Baku (shown in the first part) saying that they would be leaving for Enzeli tomorrow, but this card also speaks of moving about in the snow. Records show that

Dunsterforce evacuated Baku for Enzeli on September 14th. Would there have been snow on the ground in Baku on this date? Dunsterville's report of the last days of the fighting for Baku do not mention snow at all.

In conclusion, I think from the items I have seen that it is safe to say that the writer was definitely a member of the 1st Wireless Squadron and served in Mesopotamia with D Force. The jury is still out on whether some of the cards can be classed as Australian Dunsterforce mail.

I hope that the winner of the lot will get to hear of this account of my research and get in touch as I would be very interested to find if the postcards that I could not read give more usable information. To either substantiate my account or blow it out of the water.

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Below is a recent addition to my collection it shows an example of PSE 32 from Bob's book and a sleeve obviously used to form a pack of envelopes, presumably for sale. However I can find no information on Barney Marshall. Please can any of our Australian members help.



2292. CONTINUING RESEARCH ON THE KGV 1d VARIETIES by Bert Wajer, Gordon Monk, and Paull Kaigg (1717). Part 13.

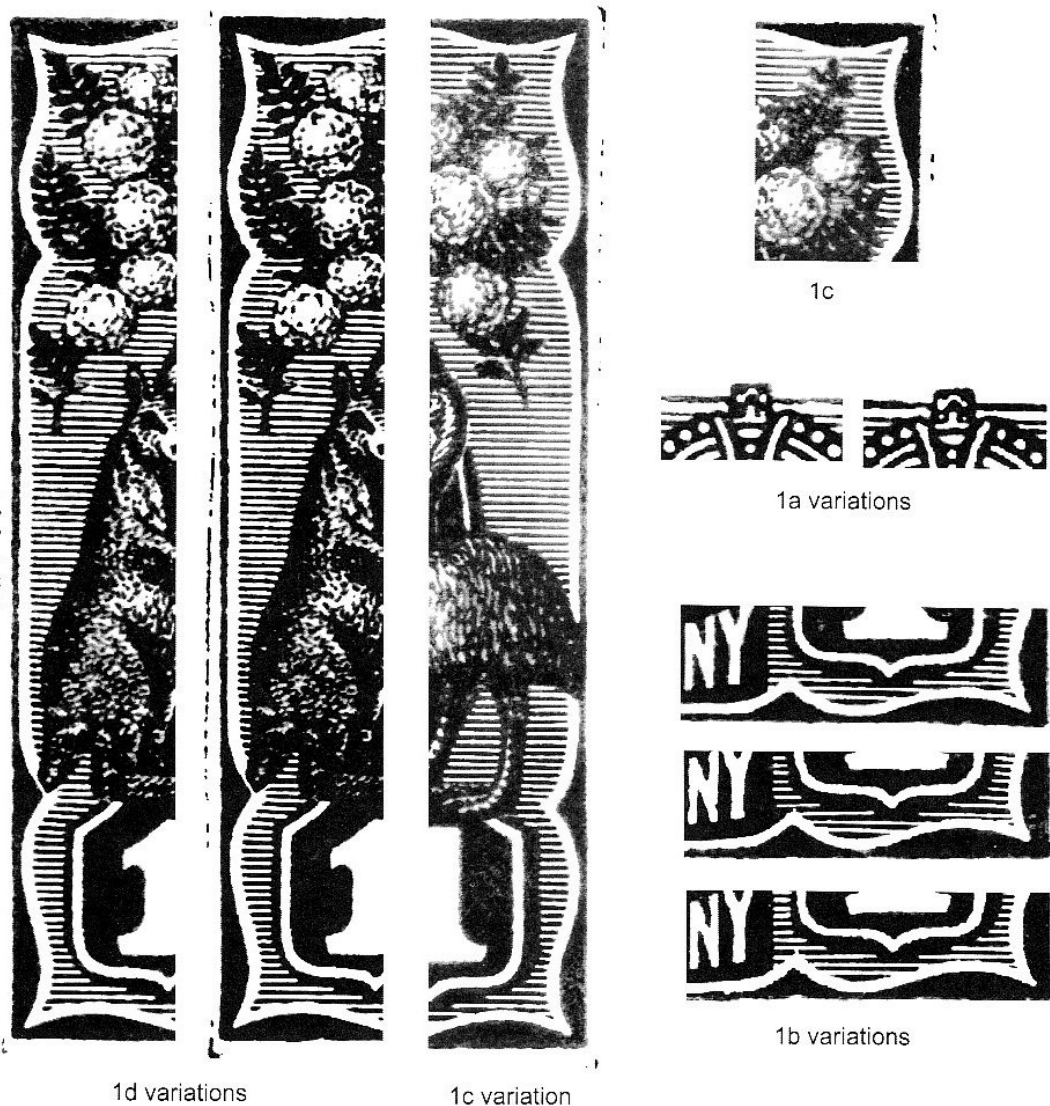
Pane 8 # 27

1st State Normal

2nd State February 1915 – Final

- 1a **Cross.** Dented in centre or sloping right to left.
- 1b **Bottom Frame.** Ragged at right with shallow dent under right v-scroll, inconstant but more common from the violet printings onwards.
- 1c **Right Frame.** Compartment marks appear at mid print run at TRC, and R3. The dot at R3 is constant. As the run progresses more marks appear between R14-R48 and at BRC, variable.
- 1d **Left Frame.** Compartment marks appear late in the print run between L59-L74 and at BLC. As the run progresses more marks appear between L23-L105 and at TLC, variable.

Note



2305. CONTINUATION OF A STUDY OF THE 5C QUEEN (ACSC 445) EIGHTH PART, (The Booklet Stamp). BY KELD JESS (943)

1. Upper left corner

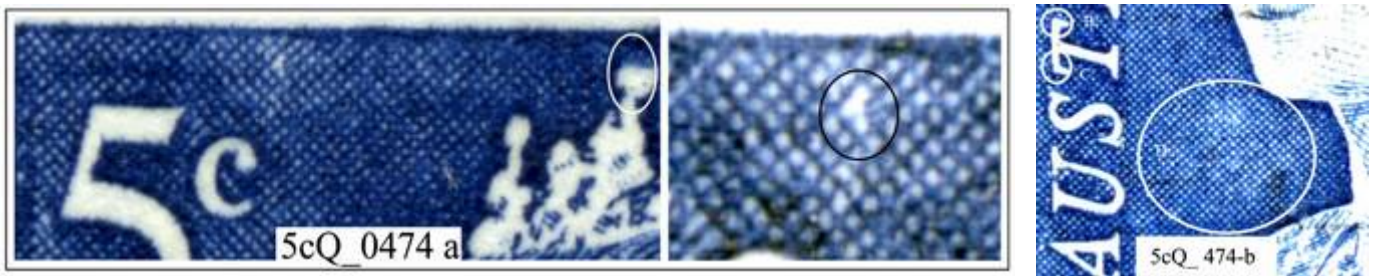
5c_0454 (S:2), U6, ACSC “g”, DMcC 76, “Blue corner” retouch.

This is one of the major 5c booklet varieties and possibly one of the more “known” varieties. I have not found any copies of this variety in the thousands of booklet stamps I have studied, but bought them at an auction. So it is at least scarce, if not rare.



5cQ_0045 (S:1), U6, DMcC 77

Another interesting and strong retouch. Note that one of the retouched lines goes into the top margin. Mentioned by DMcC, but not ACSC. Probably very (?) scarce.



5cQ_0474 a+b, (S:9), U3

Apart from the white/weak spot above & to the right of the “5c”, this unit has many of the same characteristics as the common 5cQ_0400/1 (Sh F, R 10-8 and others). That is: 1. blue spot in Tiara, 2. “B” “weakness between “AUS..” and chin (this varies from very weak to near normal amongst the 9 copies I have) , 3. half of the “T” flaw (“C”) is present, but the other half (“B”) is absent (for further details see 5cQ_0400/1).



5cQ_0473, (S:1), U6

This is a heavily inked copy, so the shown lines may not really be retouched lines. However, in spite of this I am inclined to believe there is some retouching in this area, a.o. because of the weak patches.