TERRITORY of PAPUA – Fifth Rates Period 1931 - 1942

Mail to British Empire

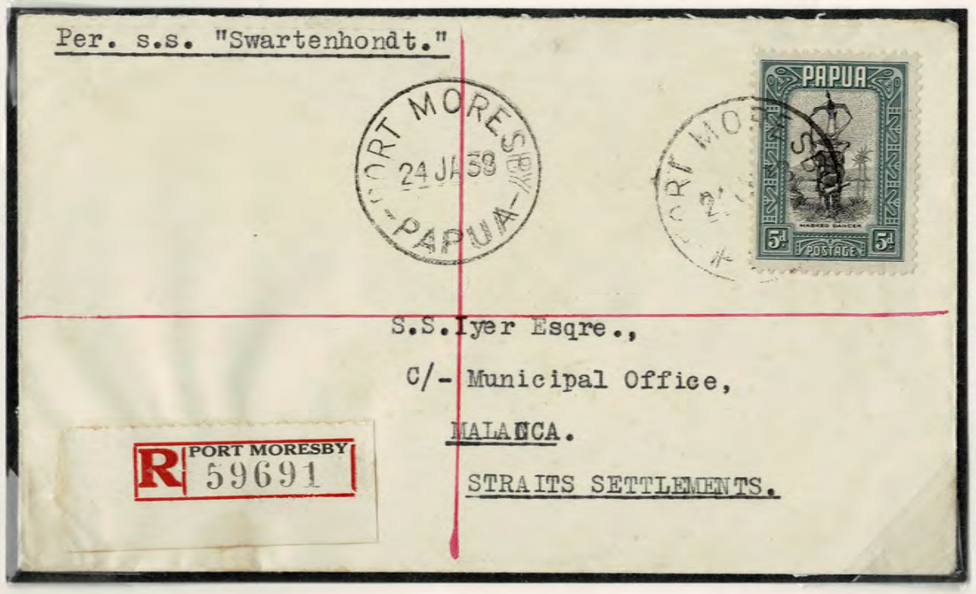
1931, December 2, Port Moresby to Scotland, single 2d letter rate + 3d Registration fee.
Backstamped Brisbane 14.12.31 and Adelaide 17.12.31

First day of use for a new registration label design.

1936, April 18, Daru to Honiara, British Solomon Islands Protectorate,
triple 2d letter rate (cover reduced)

1937, September 29, posted aboard ship, single all up 1/6d airmail rate to England.
PAQUEBOT handstamp, Air Mail Brisbane 29.9.37 and Brisbane 29.9.37 datestamps, all applied on arrival.

Letter correctly endorsed for carriage on the Australia, Singapore, England airmail service.



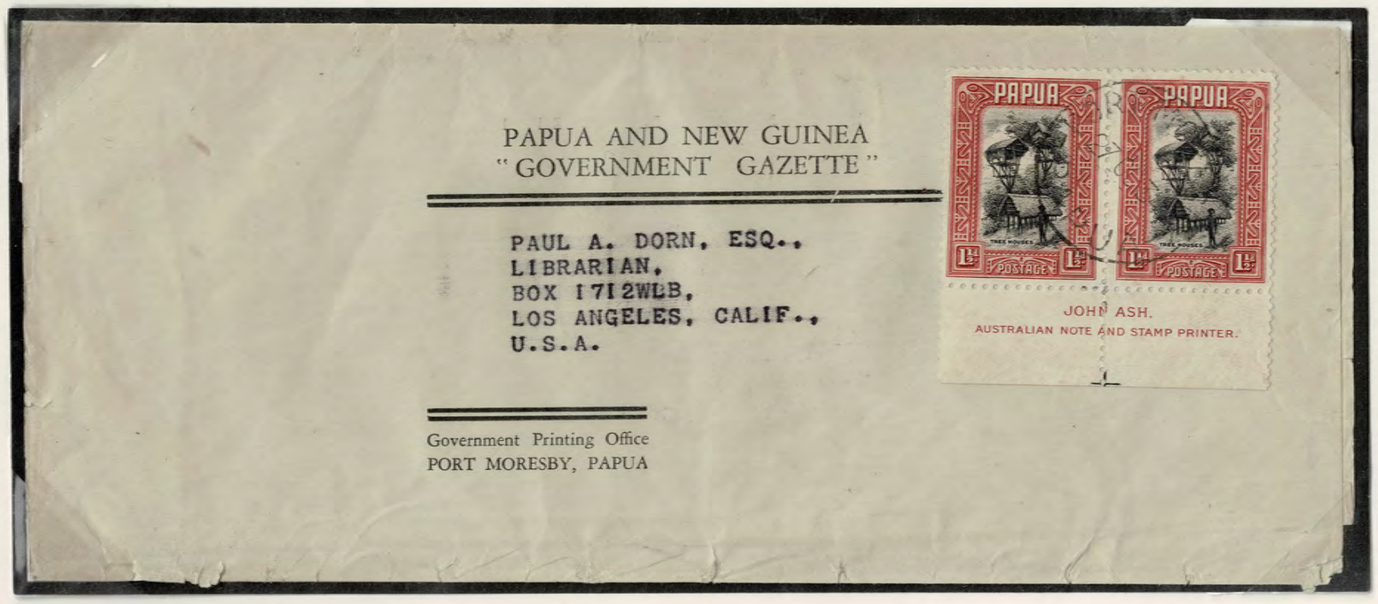
1938, January 24, Port Morsby to Malacca Straits Settlement,
single 2d letter rate + 3d Registration fee.
Backstamped Port Moresby 24.1.38, Singapore 18.2.38 and Malacca 19.2.38

Letter carried on Dutch KPM ship S.S. "Swartenhondt"

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Fifth Rates Period 1931 - 1942

Mail to Non British Empire

1933, January 16, Samarai to Kuopio, Finland, single 3d letter rate + 3d Registration fee.
Backstamped Samarai 16.1.33, Melbourne 26.1.33 and Kuopio 9.3.33



1934, October 27, Port Moresby to Los Angeles, United States of America, Printed wrapper, using single 3d letter rate.

1939, July 31, Kokoda to California, United States of America,
single 3d rate + 3d airmail rate (1d underpaid).
Airmail Papua to Australia only. Backstamped Redlands, California 5.9.39.

Various USA tax marks and franked 4c USA Postage Due stamps (equivalent to 1d deficiency + 1d fine),
and then cancelled at Los Angeles, after redirection.

1938, May 8, Ship letter to New York, United States of America,
via Soerabaja, Dutch East Indies, (now Indonesia)
single 3d letter rate.

M.V. MAETSUVCKER N.V.KONINKLIJKE PAKETVAART MAATTSCHAPPU

Cancelled en route to Soerabaja

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Fifth Rates Period 1931 - 1942

Mail to Non British Empire

1941, Port Moresby to Delaware, United States of America single 1d Printed Matter rate.

ESPERANTO cover from Dr F.J.Williams, Port Moresby, PAPUA PASSED BY CENSOR handstamp applied at Cairns.

1937, December 30, Port Moresby to Suez, Egypt, single 3d letter rate. Backstamped Port Taufiq (port of Suez) 30.1.38 and Suez 31.1.38

1935, August 21, Port Moresby to Switzerland single 3d letter rate + 3d Registration fee. ➔ Backstamped Port Moresby 21.8.35, Brisbane 28.8.35, Sydney 30.8.35 and Feuerthalen 5.10.35.

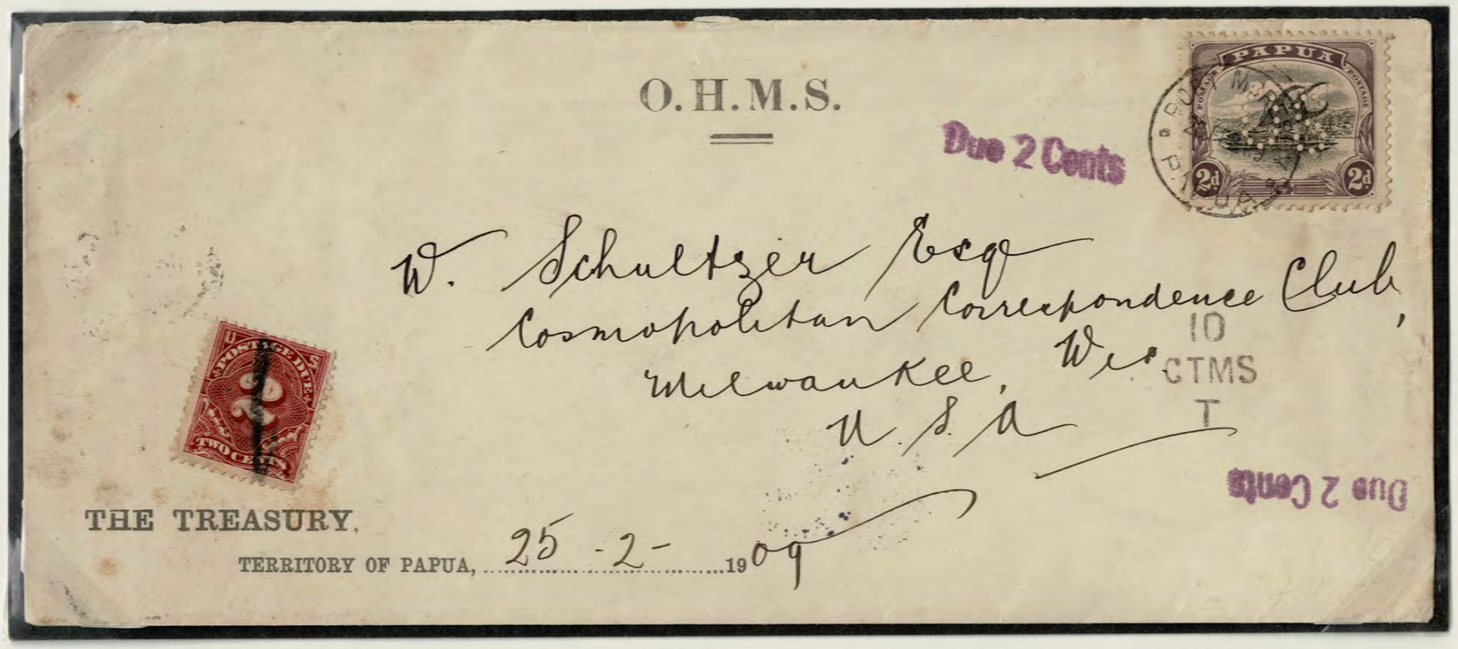
1933, September 25, Port Moresby to Buenos Aires, Argentina, single 3d letter rate.

1941, October 24, Port Moresby to New York, United States of America, single 3d letter rate.

PASSED BY CENSOR handstamp applied at Cairns.

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Special Purpose Instructional Markings

Taxed Mail



1909, February 25, Port Moresby to Milwaukee, United States of America, single 2½d letter rate (underpaid ½d).
Backstamped Cooktown 3.3.09, Brisbane 11.3.09 and Milwaukee 14.4.09

Generic 10/CTMS/T tax handstamp applied at Port Moresby, being ½d deficiency+ ½d fine, collected on arrival.

(E) 1914, October 9, Daru to Kobe, Japan, single 2½d letter rate (underpaid 1½d).

TAX handstamp and C30 (30 centimes – equivalent to 3d) in blue crayon, applied at Daru.
Boxed Japanese tax handstamp (translated), states "money outstanding 12 sen", equivalent to 3d, being 1½d deficiency + 1½d fine.

1929, January 29, Samarai to Chicago, United States of America, single 3d letter rate (underpaid 1½d).

TAX handstamp and 3d in crayon, applied at Samarai, being 1½d deficiency + 1½d fine, collected on arrival.

1913, May 24, Port Moresby to Paris, France, single 2½d letter rate (underpaid 1½d)
Backstamped Paris 5.7.13

Generic 30/CTMS/T tax handstamp applied at Port Moresby, tax collected at Paris.

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Special Purpose Instructional Markings

1920, July 10, local Port Moresby letter, triple 1d letter rate (unpaid)

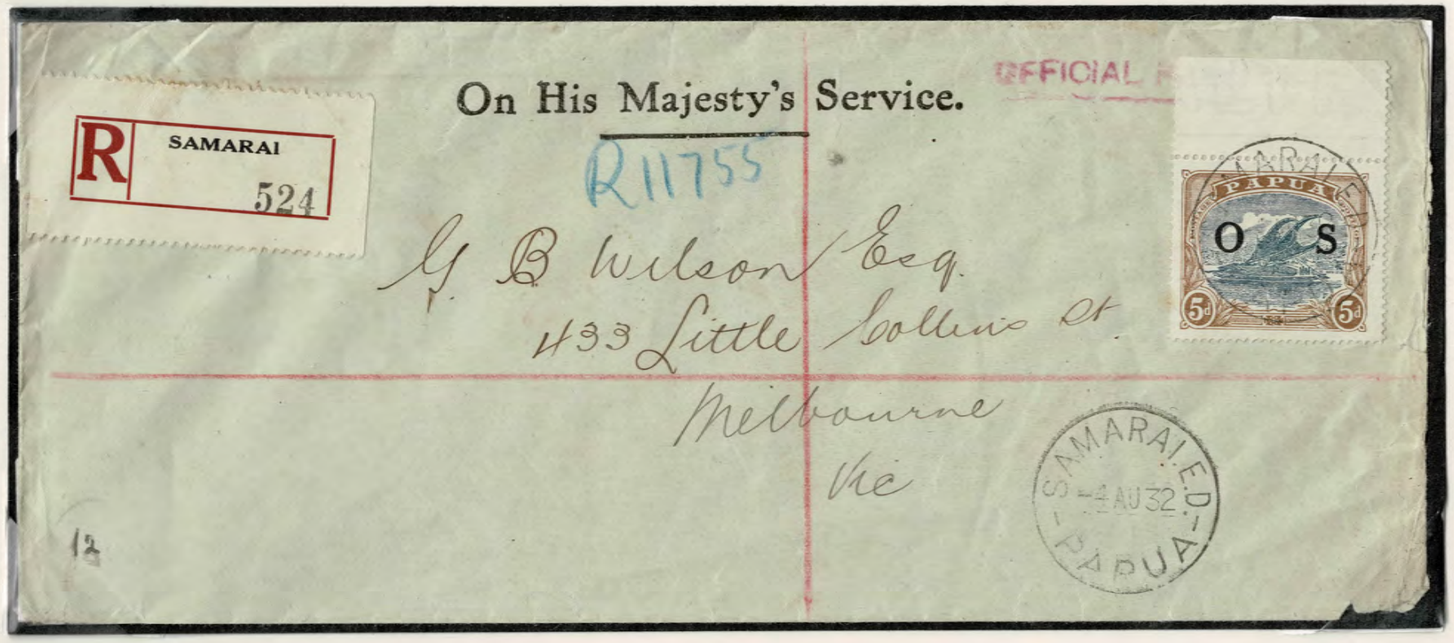
TAX 6d indicates 3d deficiency + 3d fine, paid by affixing normal stamps cancelled with TAX handstamp.

(E) 1931, February 6, Kulumadau to Samarai, missent to Port Moresby, single 2d letter rate.

Earlier of two recorded examples of Port Moresby straight line MISSENT handstamp on cover.
Scarce first double ring POST OFFICE/PORT MORESBY/PAPUA handstamp used occasionally 1930-35.

1936, July 10, Port Moresby to Sydney, double 2d letter rate + 1d late fee.

Rare use of the TOO LATE handstamp at Port Moresby, after failing to make the intended mail despatch.



1932, August 4, Samarai to Melbourne, single 2d letter rate + 3d Registration fee.

Rare use of OFFICIAL FREE handstamp at Samarai.
There was no free franking of OHMS mail to overseas destinations, thus requiring normal postage be paid using OS stamps.

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Special Purpose Instructional Markings

(E) 1914, November 9, Samarai to Philadelphia, United States of America, double 2½d letter rate + 3d Registration fee.
Backstamped Sydney 20.11.14, Chicago 14.12.14 and Philadelphia 15.12.14

Three covers bearing the straight line SAMARAI handstamp are recorded.

Registration labels were used at Samarai from 1910. Use of the straight line REGISTERED handstamp in combination with the straight line SAMARAI handstamp and a handstamp number, indicates no Registration labels were available.

(E) 1901, July 25, Bogi (Gira) to Tasmania, stamps removed.
10 Bar BNG, GIRA BNG and REGISTERED/BOGI/GIRA BNG handstamps on cover face.
Backstamped Samarai 14.8.01, Cooktown 22.8.01 and Hobart 3.9.01

The above "Tattersalls" cover is one of six which emerged in 1988, all with no stamps.

The Clunas & Clark (Storekeepers) Imprint on the cover flap,
suggests that their employees were obtaining lottery tickets through the mail.
Although planned, a Post Office at Gira never opened, and the Gira post office cancellers were used at Bogi.
The above cancellers were allocated by Lt. Governor, Sir George Le Hunte, to the Clunas & Clark Bogi store,
located on the Kumusi river,to set up a Deputy Post Office, and were in use between 1.7.01 and 27.12.01
when the Post Office was renamed Kumusi, and new cancellers issued.

(E) 1928, November 10, Port Moresby to Liverpool, England, double 1½d letter rate + 3d Registration fee.
Backstamped Port Moresby 10.11.28 and Brisbane 19.11.28.

Only recorded example of straight line PORT MORESBY on cover, probably used during a temporary shortage of Registration labels.

(E) 1914, July 13, Samarai to London, England, single 1d letter rate.

Only example recorded on cover of this POSTAGE PAID handstamp used at Samarai.

POSTAGE PAID ***handstamps were used on bulk mail, for which postage was paid in cash. However, on this occasion, it appears to have been used as a provisional marking during a stamp shortage.***

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Special Purpose Instructional Markings

(E) 1934, July 25, West Brompton to Port Moresby, triple 1½d letter rate + 3d Registration fee + 3d Airmail fee.
Backstamped West Brompton 25.7.34, Perth 23.8.34, Melbourne 23.8.34, Port Moresby 10.1.35, Brisbane 19.1.35, Redcliffe Gardens and Walham Green 25.2.35.

Only recorded cover with UNCLAIMED AT PORT MORESBY handstamp.

1935, August 3, Samarai to England, single 1/6d all-up airmail rate. →

POST OFFICE/SAMARAI PAPUA 3.8.1935
Double circle handstamp applied to face.

TOO LATE handstamp applied at Samarai, indicating the letter would miss the flight.

1927, February 5, Kobe, Japan to Samarai, then redirected to Cairns, Queensland.
2 sen (½d equivalent) Japanese postcard rate.
Samarai 28.3.27 and Thursday Island 7.3.27 handstamps on face of card.

2d Postage Due stamp affixed in Australia, being 1d postcard redirection postage plus 1d penalty for deficient postage.

Rare MISSENT handstamp applied at Samarai ↓

1910, July 13, Yokohama, Japan to Kingston, British Guiana, single 10 sen (equivalent to 2½d) letter rate.
Backstamped Yokohama 15.7.10, Townsville 19.8.10, Port Moresby 23.8.10, Cooktown 8.9.10, Cairns 9.9.10 and Georgetown, British Guiana 8.11.10

Unrecorded MISSENT handstamp applied at Port Moresby.

← **(E) 1931, November 11, Argentina to Spain, unstamped card. Samarai 29.1.32 arrival and straight line MISSENT TO SAMARAI handstamps.**

Only recorded example of the straight line MISSENT TO SAMARAI handstamp on card/cover.

69 day voyage from South America is verified by the average 60-65 day ship sailing time to Australia.

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Special Purpose Instructional Markings

Ship Mail

1935, October 29, Ship letter via Thursday Island to Cairns, single 2d letter rate.

Manuscript ***Loose Ship's Letter*** *applied by addressor.*

1935, December 12, Ship letter to Sydney via Cairns, single 2d letter rate. →

PAQUEBOT cancel applied en route to Cairns

← **1930, June 17, Ship Letter to Sydney, via Brisbane, double 1½d letter rate.**

LOOSE SHIP LETTER cancel en route to Brisbane.

The B.N.G. Trading Co. Ltd., Port Moresby PAPUA envelope stationery has been used.

1936, July 13, Ship letter to Essex, England via Adelaide, single 2d letter rate.

Rare PAQUEBOT cancel applied en route into Adelaide.

1938, September 26, →
Ship letter to Bristol, England, single 2d letter rate.

SHIP LETTER handstamp of Steamships Trading Co. Ltd vessel "PAPUAN CHIEF" countersigned by Commanding Officer Andersen, en route Port Moresby to Samarai.