

C. S.

CONFIDENTIAL.
No. G/12/45

19 45

Secretary of State.

SUBJECT.

19 45.

28th September.

CANCELLATION MARKINGS ON COLONIAL POSTAGE STAMPS

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

1.

la.

S. of S. Confidential Circular despatch of 28/9/45.

Subsequent Paper.



CIRCULAR

Downing Street,

CONFIDENTIAL

28th September, 1945.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have recently had submitted to me a number of colonial postage stamps from which the cancellation markings had been removed without apparent damage to the stamps themselves.

2. The Postmaster General, whom I have consulted in the matter, informs me that this is only possible in the case of stamps which have not been obliterated with special ink such as that issued to postmasters in this country, since that ink has a carbon content which renders it quite fast and impervious to any chemical action. The marking inks sold for ordinary office use are capable of being removed, and it is believed that such inks have occasionally been used both in this country and in colonial territories when supplies of the special Post Office ink have not been available.

3. You will appreciate that where high value stamps in particular are used to any great extent, e.g. on parcels, or on heavy or insured air mail packets, there is a risk of the stamps being removed, cleaned, and used again to defraud the revenues, if the ink with which they have been obliterated is capable of being removed. The Crown Agents for the Colonies are in a position to supply ink which cannot be removed, and when orders are placed with them for the supply of ink to be used at Post Office counters or in Revenue Offices for the obliteration of stamps, it should be stated that the ink to be supplied must be similar to that employed in the Post Offices in this country for that purpose.

4. It is understood that the Postmaster General in this country is issuing an instruction to postmasters reminding them of the importance of maintaining adequate stocks of the right kind of ink, and of ensuring that counter clerks do not use any other ink for the purpose of defacing stamps which have been affixed to postal packets or are being used for other revenue purposes. You may think it desirable that similar instructions should be issued in the territory under your administration.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

G. HALL.

The Officer Administering
the Government of

FALKLAND ISLANDS

See 74a in 24/46 - Stamps
for Dealers.

P.M.

1 Pe. paper incident to go
by tel. for appropriate ink to
supply see P.O.'s.

ABL
21.8

Hon. Col. Sec.

As all postal stores are ordered through
the G.P.O. London, Stores Department, and not
direct from the Crown Agents, could I send
a telegram to the G.P.O. as follows:-

"Please forward one gallon ink for
obliterating stamps, similar to that
used in U.K. Post Offices."

W. Ag. Gen.
21/8/47

P.M.

Des. Bone see § 3 7 1.

ABL
21.8

Hon. Col. Sec.

I have despatched a telegram in accordance
with para 3 of 1.

W. Ag. Gen.
22/8/47

PA ABL
22/8