

POSTAL HISTORY of DEUTSCH NEU-GUINEA and the TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA, 1885 through 1941

Objective

This objective of this exhibit is to 1) define the postal rates within this timeframe, and 2) document the wide variety of towns of origination and destinations, especially within Germany, and the transit times over the exhibit's timeframe. Also illustrated is the decade-long transition using provisional postage at the beginning of the Australian Administration (1914-1925).

Organization

- Frames 1-2: *German New Guinea Postal Rates*, grouped by rate, and secondarily by year.
 Frames 2-7: *Australian Territory of New Guinea Rates*, grouped by rate, and secondarily by year.
 Frame 7: *All-Up International Airmail rates from Dec 1934-1941.*

Background

On 15 May 1885, the *German New Guinea Company* was granted Imperial charter to govern the northern side of Island of New Guinea east of the 141st parallel, as well as all the islands surrounding/associated with the islands of New Ireland, Bougainville and Manus. In 1885 Australia occupied the southern coast of New Guinea east of the 141st to protect the northern coast of Queensland, Australia (British New Guinea/Papua). WW1 came to New Guinea beginning on 11 Sep 1914. Australia fully occupied German New Guinea on 9 Dec 1914. Australia's Civil Administration of New Guinea was suspended following the Japanese invasion of New Guinea on 23 Jan 1942.

Discussion

The timeframe of WW1 is broken into two parts – 1914/16 and 1917/18. Postage stamps were scarce immediately after occupation, and the first two years saw periods of no stamps, locally overprinted provisional "G.R.I." stamps, provisional "G.R.I. registration stamps, military issued Australian OS punctured stamps, provisional "Northwest Pacific Islands" stamps, as well as unissued but valid Australian stamps hand carried by soldiers. By 1917, only N.W.P.I. stamps were available for sale. The first *Territory of New Guinea* stamps were not issued until 1925.

The shipping frequency changed dramatically from German occupation to Australian occupation during the war. During 1915-1919, it appears minimally one mail run a month was made between Rabaul and Sydney.

Summary of Transit Times From N.G. by Ship and Air		Time Frame	Median days to Europe	Average days to Europe	Min/Max days	Samples	Median days to Sydney	Average days to Sydney	Min/Max days	Samples
	Sailing Dates	1885-1914	48 days	49 days	41-58 days	18				
		1915-1919	89 days	97 days	54-152 days	14	24 days	34 days	12-65 days	17
		1925-1939	(Not enough data)				14 days	14 days	4-27 days	11
	By Air	1935-1939	20 days	27 days	10-56 days	6	3 days	4 days	1-7 days	5

Since only airmail rates changed after Aug 1930, the international airmail rates are grouped separately at the end.

Rate Period	German New Guinea Postal Rates													
	Date		Letter Empire Foreign			Business Correspondence		PC Empire Foreign			Reg.	Printed Matter		
1	Pfg.	15-May-85	15gr	20		50gr	20	All	10		+20		5	
2		1-May-99	<15 gr	10	20	N/A		<5wrds	3			<50gr	3	
3		1-Apr-00	<250gr	20				>5wrds	5	20				
	Territory of New Guinea Postal Rates													
	Date		Letter Empire Foreign			Com. Paper		PC Empire Foreign			Reg.	Printed Matter		Airmail
4	Pence	Sep-1914	1/2 oz	1d	21/2d	2 oz	1d	1d	11/2d	+3d	2 oz	1/2d	N/A	
5		28-Oct-18	+1/2d War Tax			+1/2d War Tax		+1/2d War Tax			+1/2d War Tax			
6		1-Oct-20	1/2 oz	2d	4d/1oz	2 oz	11/2d	11/2	2d		2 oz	1d	Dec-1921 Aus	
					+2d/oz							1/2oz +3d		
7		1-Oct-23	1 oz	11/2d	3d	2 oz	1d	1d	11/2d		4 oz	1d	1929 N.G.	
					+11/2d/oz							1/2oz 11/2d*		
8		4-Aug-30	1 oz	2d	3d			11/2d	2d				1932 N.G.	
					+2d/oz								1/2oz +11/2d / 3d	
9		8-Dec-34	International Airmail rates, noted on pages											

* All up