

The Station Cancellation of Tasmanian Railway Parcel Stamps

Dr. O. G. Ingles

It seems a great pity that this fascinating field of railway cancellers in Tasmania has been so poorly studied; but then, material has always been rather scarce and it is only in the last 20 years that considerable supporting knowledge has emerged from postal cancellations applied at railway offices, thanks to the joint use of railway stations for telegraphic and postal (e.g. T.P.O.) transmission at the same time as parcels were being sent by rail. As a boy in the 1930's, I remember how mail that was too late for the post office could be taken to the Latrobe railway station for forwarding (and was no doubt cancelled appropriately).

Our search really starts only on the 17th December 1917, and finishes with the withdrawal of all railway parcel stamps on the 1st July 1977 - a period of just under 60 years. I don't recall seeing either a first or last day of use date, since dated copies are quite rare: but station NAME cancellers are not.

During those 60 years stations - and sometimes even lines - were opened and closed, and the history of those openings and closures is detailed in H.K. Atkinson's excellent book *"Railway Tickets of Tasmania"* (Regal Press, Launceston, 1991). Any station open for the sale of tickets would certainly have been handling parcels also, and thus might be expected to have cancelled parcel stamps (as required by the accountant's office in Hobart) either by manuscript or hand canceller - preferably with the station name. Indeed, in some cases it is clear that the station name was applied in Hobart before the parcel stamps were invoiced out to each station (Launceston is a case in point). Conversely, stations which operated solely as stopping points *by request* (e.g. Lisle) would have had no ground staff and hence never had a canceller. This is why station lists must be treated with caution when assessing what cancellers may have existed. Some were clearly locally procured, and other stations used only the telegraph or postal canceller instead of a specific railway parcels one. This article concentrates on stations which had a railway specific canceller; but clearly the field is much broader, and deserves more input from the postage stamp field with its many railway station P.O. cancellers, such as "Tonganah Rly.", "Ringma Rd Rly Stn" etc.

With the above provisos, the nearest list of stations which were staffed in 1917 is one uncovered by Mr. John Hardinge, dated 1st March 1915, addressed to the Chief Accountant of the Tasmanian Government Railways. Station cancellers in this list not so far seen on parcels stamps are underlined; but where postage stamps cancelled at the railway telegraph office with the station name are known to exist, an asterisk has been added.

This 1915 list is as follows (alphabetically):-

Allens* (canceller reads "Allens Rly."), Andover, Austin's Ferry, Avoca, Bellerive, Bishopsbourne*, Branxholm, Bridgewater Junction, Brighton Junction, Burnie, Campbell Town, Chudleigh, Clarendon* (mss. cancel reads "Clarendon Rly"), Cooee, Deloraine, Denison Gorge, Derwent Park, Devonport West (this always read only "Devonport"), Eden, Evandale, Fingal, Flowerdale, Glenorchy, Hagley*, Hobart, Kempton, Kentish, Latrobe, Launceston, Lillico (misspelt with one "l" in the list), Longford, Moonah, Mowbray Junction, Mole Creek, New Town, Oatlands, Oceana, Parattah, Penguin, Perth, Railton, Rhyndaston, Rocherlea, Ross, St. Leonards, St. Marys, Scottsdale, Seabrook, Somerset, Sorell, Staverton ("Staverton Rly." is known on postage stamps), Strahan Wharf, Tonganah ("Tonganah Rly." occurs on postage stamps), Ulverstone, Westbury, Wynyard, Zeehan* (canceller reads "Zeehan Rly.").

Only half the potential cancellers on this list have been sighted at the present time ! Three other lists are known for periods between 1917 and 1977, as follows:

- 1.7.1934 a complete list of all stations (reproduced in Atkinson, but a reduced size copy shown here annotated by the TGR chief accountant D.T.Yaxley in 1978)
- 1950-1960 a mss. list compiled by TGR accountant A.F.Eastoe on 18.9.1990 from memory
- 2.11.1961 a list compiled by the Station Master at Scottsdale (A.G.Cooke) as those stations issuing parcels stamps at that time.

These lists must be understood in conjunction with one vital recollection by the former Station Master at Winnaleah (Mr. C. Apted) that "NO STATION NAMES were applied as cancels after 1954". (That statement is not quite true, because stations which already had a canceller continued to use it. It was only NEW stations - like Winnaleah which opened on 10.8.1954 - which used the unidentifiable "cancelled" obliterations).

The Eastoe and Cooke lists are recorded below, as well as Eastoe's list of Station Masters during his time as Accountant. Some may be still living in retirement.

Atkinson also lists dates of opening and closing of Stations, which is very helpful. For example, Winnaleah is shown opening on 28.6.1926 and closing on 10.8.1928. Apted recalls its reopening on 10.8.1954 and the line was closed on 28.7.1956; so any Winnaleah cancel would be very scarce indeed, but it should have existed on Garratt parcels stamps as a station name canceller, even though the second opening canceller was unidentified by name (Apted).

In all, of more than 273 railway stations in Tasmania (the exact number may never be known) less than one quarter were "accounting stations" issued with parcels stamps (which had to be accounted for). And of 39 stations which appear on all three lists, four are still to be sighted (Brighton, Macquarie Plains, Westerway, Winnaleah). Three stations which appear on two lists have yet to be seen (Grantton, Hayes and Heybridge), although the last-named would not have

Red = certain

Black = Probable or not certain

Black = maybe

Wouldn't know about the earlier years, say, prior to 1950, I can't recall the West Coast.

The following are the numbers by which stations will be known in future:—

No.	Station.	No.	Station.	No.	Station.	No.	Station.
1. HOBART		70. Colebrook		Lemana Junction—continued.		207. Rocky Cape	
2. Botanical Gardens		71. Salmon's		139. Bentley's		208. Hellyer	
3. Cornelian Bay		72. Rhyndaston		140. Chudleigh		209. Mawbanna	
4. New Town		73. Tiberias		141. Wesley Dale		210. Black River	
5. Moonah		74. Stonor		142. Mole Creek		211. Wiltshire	
6. DERWENT PARK JUNCTION		75. Salmon's Siding		143. Bengoe		212. Stanley	
7. Lutana		76. Gatenby's		144. Dunorlan		211. WILTSHIRE JUNCTION	
8. Abattoirs		77. PARATTAH JUNCTION		145. Moltema		213. Forest	
9. Risdon		78. Eastern Marshes Road		146. Kimberley		214. Banking Siding	
10. Elwick		79. Bacon's		147. Merseylea		215. South Forest	
11. Glenorchy		80. Racecourse		148. RAILTON JUNCTION		216. Fahey's Lane	
12. Montrose		81. Oatlands		149. Stoodley		217. Irishtown	
13. Rosetta		82. Andover		150. Sheffield		218. Copper Creek	
14. Berriedale Road		83. Nala		151. Kentish		219. Eureka	
15. Chigwell		84. Lord		152. Roland		220. Edith Creek	
16. CLAREMONT JUNCTION		85. York Plains		153. Cement Siding		221. Mackay	
17. Cadbury's		86. Antill Ponds		154. Dulverton		222. Trowutta	
18. Austin's Ferry		87. Woodbury		155. Haines		217. IRISHTOWN JUNCTION	
19. Cheverton's		88. Tunbridge		156. Dawson's		223. Pulbeena	
20. Granton		89. Mona Vale		157. SHALE JUNCTION		224. Marthick's	
21. BRIDGEWATER JUNCTION		90. Military Siding		158. Shale Bins		225. Fenton	
22. Ravenswood		91. Ross		159. Elandan		226. SMITHTON	
23. Dromedary		92. Campbell Town		160. Latrobe		227. Redpa	
24. Bundella		93. CONARA JUNCTION		161. Tarleton		228. Marrawah	
25. Riverton		94. Barker's		162. Spreyton		229. Invermay Siding	
26. Boyer		95. Llewellyn		163. Quoiba		230. MOWBRAY JUNCTION	
27. Red Gum		96. Hanleth		164. Appledore		231. Mowbray Course	
28. New Norfolk		97. Eastbourne		165. Devonport		232. Rocherlea	
29. Valleyfield		98. Avoca		166. Mersey Bluff		233. Nelson's Creek	
30. Lawitta		99. Henbury		167. DON JUNCTION		234. Turner's Marsh	
31. Mayfair		100. Ormley		168. Don Township Crossing		235. Karoola	
32. Hayes		101. Tullochgorum		169. Tugrah		236. Lalla	
33. Plenty		102. Fingal		170. Melrose		237. Seafeld	
34. Yates		103. Iwawang Flag Box		171. Lillico		238. Downie	
35. Macquarie Plains		104. Irodsley		172. Leith		239. Lilydale	
36. Coniston		105. Mt. Nicholas		173. Clayton		240. Bacala	
37. Glenora		106. Cullenswood		174. ULVERSTONE JUNCTION		241. Tunnel	
38. Meadow Banks		107. Jubilee		175. Methanga		242. Lebrina	
39. Robinson's		108. St. Marys		176. Kerrison		243. Denison Gorge	
40. Rumley		109. Cleveland		177. Cateena		244. Wyena	
41. Westerway		110. Epping Forest		178. North Motton		245. Golconda	
42. Belcher		111. Walters		179. Wilsonia		246. Lone Star	
43. Chesterman's		112. Powranna		180. Hooper's		247. Greeta	
44. National Park		113. Clarendon		181. Preston		248. Nabowla	
45. Burnley		114. Evandale		182. Dooley's		249. Blumont	
46. Newbury		115. Western Junction		183. Breona		250. Lietinna	
47. Arcadian Home		116. Relbia		184. Nietta		251. Scottsdale	
48. Sharp's		117. St. Leonards		185. Ulverstone West		252. Ling	
49. Stephen's Bridge		118. Killafaddy		186. Westbank		253. Tonganah	
50. Tyenna		119. Newstead		187. 100-Mile Peg		254. Trewalla	
51. Fitzgerald - Haydon		120. LAUNCESTON		188. Penguin		255. Kamona	
52. BRIGHTON JUNCTION		121. Launceston Wharf		189. Sulphur Creek		256. Tullendeena	
53. Pontville		122. Perth		190. Howth		257. Legerwood	
54. Mangalore		123. Longford		191. Blythe - Hay Bridge		258. Bransholme	
55. Bagdad		124. Wilmore's Lane		192. Wivenhoe		259. Mara	
56. Orfield		125. Little Hampton		193. Burnie South		260. Telita	
57. Dysart		126. Bishopsbourne		194. Burnie		261. Derby	
58. Kempton		127. Oaks		195. Cooe		262. Winnaleah	
59. Mount Vernon		128. Whitmore		196. Freezers		263. Herrick	
60. Mount Vernon Gates		129. Hagley		197. Somerset		264. ZEEHAN	
61. Melton		130. Hogg's Lane		198. Seabrook		265. Eden	
62. Wylie		131. Westbury		199. Wynyard		266. Powell's	
63. Apsley		132. Tasman's Forest		200. Blackwall		267. Blacklow	
64. Tea Tree		133. Exton		201. Flowerdale Ballast Pit		268. Fowler's	
65. Rekuna		134. Ashley		202. Flowerdale Junction		269. Koyule	
66. Campania		135. Deloraine		203. Allen		270. Henty	
67. Lowdina		136. LEMANA JUNCTION		204. Myalla		271. West Strahan	
68. Woodlands		137. Needles		205. Watt		272. Strahan	
69. Reynolds		138. Ritchie's		206. Montumana		273. Regatta Point	

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The 1934 official list of Railway Stations with Yaxley's manuscript notations as to which ones cancelled parcels

had a name canceller according to Apted, as it opened only on 7.5.1956. Eighteen stations which do not appear on the known accounting station lists have been sighted as parcels stamp cancellers (some only in mss.).

Mostly, the cancellers were two line rubber stamps reading "cancelled / stationname": but they were frequently replaced, so different fonts and sizes occur for the bigger stations. Sometimes mss. cancellations with the station name are found in the early days (pre-1953). Hobart and Launceston had printed names, the types varying as follows:-

HOBART

1917-1940 serifs, 11 mm long
1941-1948 serifs, 10 mm long
1949-1952 sans serif, 9 mm long

LAUNCESTON

1917-1938 serifs, 18 mm long
1939-1949 serifs, 17 mm long
1950-1952 sans serif, 15½ mm long

The printed name is normally in the same color as the stamp, but between 1939 and 1949 (in the second type for both cities) black letter names occur about as frequently as colored ones. The close-off date for use of these pre-printed station name stamps is fixed by a railways "weekly notice" (#51-48, with effect 1/12/51) which survives and reads as follows:

LOCOMOTIVE, TRAFFIC AND WAY AND WORKS OPERATION.

Parcel Stamps. - The attention of the Staff concerned is directed to the new design of the parcel stamp. (this would be the issue date of the Diesel series - O.G.I.)

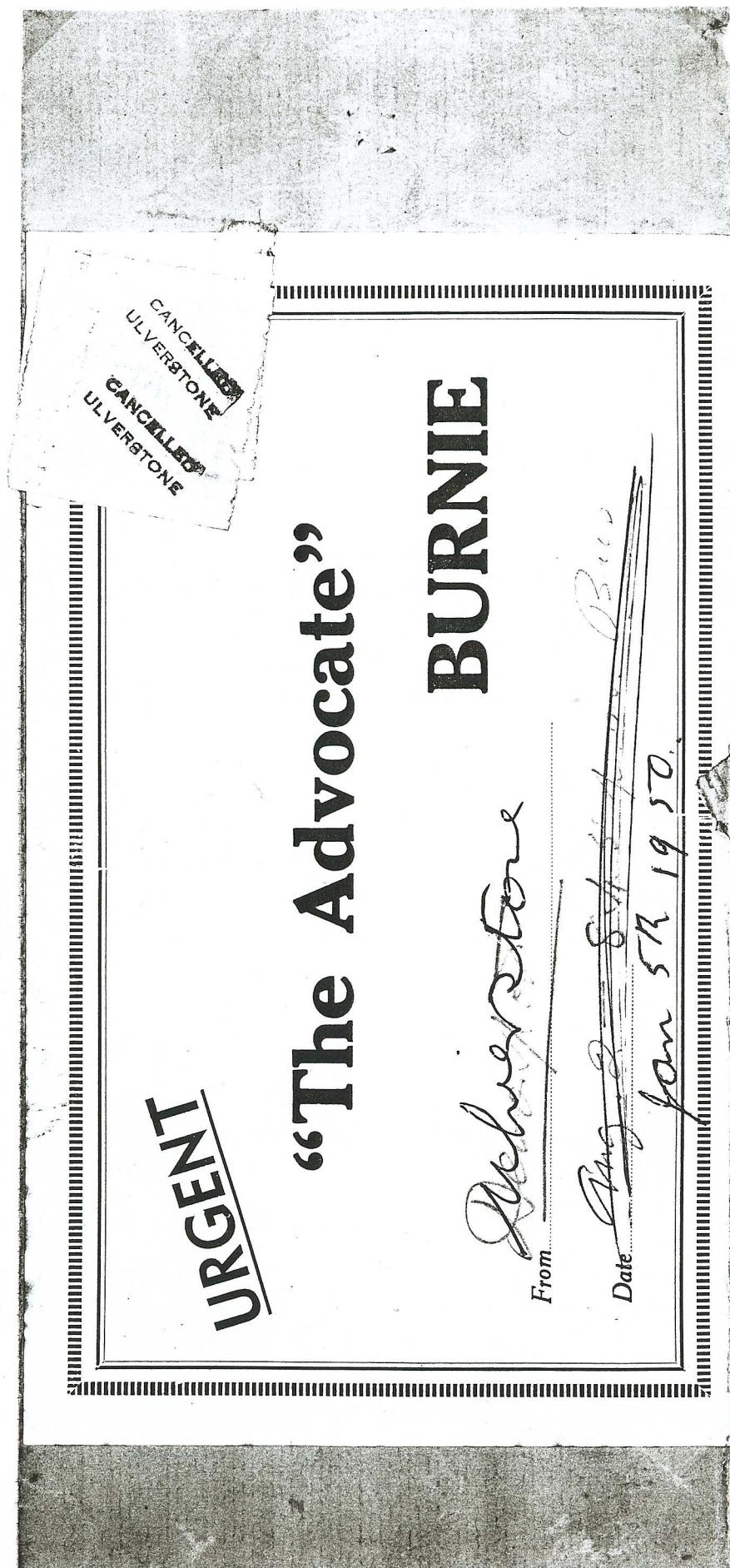
It is intended that the issue of stamps endorsed "Hobart" and "Launceston" be discontinued upon exhaustion of the present stock, and these stations will then use the "Blank" stamp.

Until such time as Hobart and Launceston stock of stamps is used, part of the supply on sale will be endorsed and part will be blank.

Commencing forthwith, each is acceptable. (Presumably, this last sentence is why so few parcels stamps bear a station name after 1951 - it was no longer deemed necessary, as "cancelled" by itself was all that was needed).

There are also a number of special cancellers, some of which are not yet fully understood. Circular cancellers reading "Hobart (or Launceston) T.B." and "cancelled" with the date in the centre were applied to parcels and baggage lodged at the Hobart (or Launceston) Tourist Bureau. Launceston has at least four varieties, some oval rather than circular. Some are illustrated. Launceston also has some mystery cancellers. There are at least two types of "Launceston W.L." which were at first thought to be an abbreviation for "Western Line", i.e. to be transferred at Western Junction; but which newer research has indicated was more probably a cancel applied to packages unloaded at the wharves for onward rail forwarding, since we now know that a branch office was active at Kings Wharf to receive incoming ships - hence the "W.L." may well have been an abbreviation for "Wharf Line": but proof is still lacking.

Finally, two complete puzzles: "Launceston M.B." as a circular rubber canceller, and "Hobart



A 1950 entire parcel from Ulverstone to Burnie showing the normal 2-line canceller

T.S.N." as an oval rubber canceller (both illustrated). Can anyone explain these abbreviations?

Clearly, the field is full of interest, and to stimulate collectors I close with a list of those cancellers I have seen: together with a short list of of probables and possibles according to Atkinson's opening and closing data and the 1954 name cutoff point. Obviously, the best field for further research is in the Garratt and Diesel series (especially the former) and in the postage stamps of the 1950's and 1960's.

STATION	CANCELLERS	STATION MASTER ('50 -'60 ex Eastoe)
Antill Ponds	(cds & 2-line)	
Apsley	(mss. only)	
Avoca	(mss. & 2-line)	Ron Anderson
Bishopsbourne	(oval)	
Bridgewater Junction	(2-line)	W. Eales
Burnie	(cds - 2 types, 2-line - 4 types, solo name)	Don Jones
Campania	(solo)	Jack Davy
Campbell Town	(2-line, solo - reads "campb'town")	C. Johnson
Claremont	(solo)	W. O'Keefe
Clarendon	(solo)	
Colebrook	(2-line - 2 types, solo)	R.W. Dent
Conara Junction	(2-line - 2 types, solo as "Conara Jn.")	B.M. Cliffe
Deloraine	(mss., cds, 2-line - 2-types)	P.J. Anderson
Derwent Park	(2-line)	Max Chatwin
Devonport Parcels	(2-line - 2 types)	Reg. Pulford
Devonport	(cds - 4 types, 2-line - 3 types, meter)	
Epping	(2-line)	
Evandale	(2-line - 2 types)	
Fingal	(solo - 2 types)	Mike Brown
Fitzgerald	(cds)	
Glenorchy	(2-line, solo)	C.R. Osbourne
Hagley	(2-line)	
Herrick	(2-line)	W.F. Cruse
Hobart	(mss.,cds-6-types, 2-line - 5 types, meters)	R.B. Murphy
Irishtown	(solo)	E. Sharman
Kimberley	(solo, 2-line spelled "Kimberly")	
Latrobe	(cds - 2 types, 2-line)	J.A. Stokes
Launceston	(2-line - 3 types, cds - 8 types, oval - 4 types, meters)	W.R. Stack(?)
Legerwood	(2-line)	Ray Ralph
Lemana Jion	(cds)	A.J. Lewis
Lilydale	(solo, cds)	

Longford	(solo, 2-line, cds)	L.C. Button
Mole Creek	(solo)	
Maydena	(2-line)	W. Flanagan
Moonah	(2-line, 2 types)	
Myalla	(solo)	
New Norfolk	(2-line - 2 types, solo)	A.W. Davey
New Town	(2-line - 2 types, solo)	H.A. Cromer
Oatlands	(2-line)	
Parattah	(2-line - 3 types, solo - reads "P'rattah Jn.")	Ron Davy
Penguin	(solo - 3 types)	G. Gowe
Perth	(mss., 2-line)	
Railton	(2-line - 2 types, solo)	A.J. Taylor
Ring'rma Rd.	(solo)	
Rocky Cape	(2-line)	
Ross	(2-line)	C. Duffy
Russell	(2-line)	
Scottsdale	(2-line, solo - reads "Scottsd'le")	A.G. Cooke
Sheffield	(cds, 2-line, solo)	
Smithton	(2-line)	C.W. Sweeney
Sorell	(2-line)	
Stanley	(cds)	
St. Marys	(2-line - 3 types)	L. Manser
Tunbridge	(2-line)	Roy Murray
Ulverstone	(2-line - 2 types, solo - 3 types, cds - 2 types)	J. Walker
Westbury	(2-line - 2 types, cds)	C.E. Cocker
Western Junction	(2-line)	A.A.Cruse, Ron Davy
Wiltshire Jcn.	(2-line)	
Wynyard	(2-line - 2 types, cds)	A.J. Viney
Zeehan	(cds)	A.J. Cruse

Other notes by Eastoe report T.A.Stokes at Regatta Point when closed, Roy Wicks at Westerway, and E.J.Clancy at Macquarie Plains.

The 1915 entry for "Seabrook" is curious, since this station does not appear in Atkinson's compendious work. The postal guides of that time list no such place, but it appears on the 1934 list as the last station before Wynyard..

In conclusion, the currently unseen 'probables' and 'possibles' are as follows:- 1. PROBABLES
Allen, Bellerive, Berriedale, Boyer, Burnie South, Brighton, Granton, Hayes, Lebrina, Leith,

Macquarie Plains, Nabowla, Spreyton, Stonor, Westerway, Winnaleah. 2. POSSIBLES are Bagdad, Cullenswood, Dunorlan, Exton, Heybridge, Karoola, Kempton, Marrawah, Melrose, Nietta, Powranna, Preston, Relbia, Regatta Point, St. Leonards, Staverton, Strahan, Trowutta, York Plains; but these might be looked for on postage stamps as much as on parcels stamps. There may be others ! Good hunting, and please report new finds.

APPENDIX

List of accounting stations (i.e. issuing parcel stamps). Left side, Cooke's. Right side, Eastoe's

Avoca	Avoca
	Boyer
Bridgewater	Bridgewater Junction
	Brighton
Burnie	Burnie
Campania	Campania
Campbell Town	Campbell Town
Claremont	Claremont
Colebrook	Colebrook
Conara Junction	Conara Junction
Deloraine	Deloraine
Derwent Park	Derwent Park
Devonport	Devonport
	Epping Forest
Fingal	Fingal
Glenorchy	Glenorchy
	Granton
	Hagley
	Hayes
Herrick	Herrick
	Heybridge
Hobart	Hobart
Irishtown	Irish Town
Kimberley	Kimberley
Latrobe	Latrobe
Launceston	Launceston
Legerwood	Legerwood
Lemana Junction	Lemana Junction
	Lilydale
Longford	Longford
Macquarie Plains	Macquarie Plains

Maydena	Maydena
Moonah	Moonah
New Norfolk	New Norfolk
New Town	New Town
Parattah	Parattah
Penguin	Penguin
Railton	Railton
Ross	Ross
St. Marys	St. Marys
Scottsdale	Scottsdale
	Sheffield
Smithton	Smithton
	Spreyton
	South Burnie
Stanley	Stanley
	Stonor
Tunbridge	Tunbridge
Ulverstone	Ulverstone
Westbury	Westbury
Westerway	Westerway
Western Junction	Western Junction
	Wiltshire Junction
	Winnaleah
Wynyard	Wynyard
	Zeehan
	Regatta Point

As an indication of rarity, it is interesting to note (ex Atkinson) the closing dates of the various rail lines where that preceded the withdrawal of parcels stamps. They were as follows. Beyond Wynyard, closed 1.9.56; beyond New Norfolk, closed 29.9.52; Apsley line closed 29.9.47; Oatlands line closed 10.6.49; Fingal line closed 26.7.57; Bellerive-Sorell line closed 30.6.26 - cancels now RRRR); North-eastern line (to Herrick) closed 28.7.56; Mowbray Racecourse line closed 2.6.39 (no cancel yet seen); Mole Creek line closed 4.12.50; Sheffield line closed 7.9.57; Nietta line closed 14.2.27 - no cancels yet seen; Strahan line closed 4.6.60.

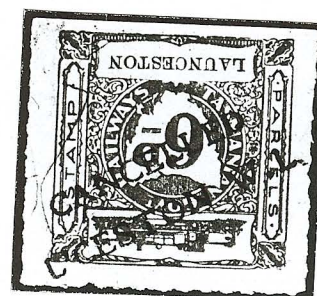
In conclusion, I would like to thank also Mr. I.T. Darcey, chief clerk at the Accounts Branch of the TGR in 1978, without whose help this material could not have been so meaningfully assembled; and the many collectors who allowed me to examine their collections.



2-line canceller
(common type)



Parcels Office canceller
(rare)



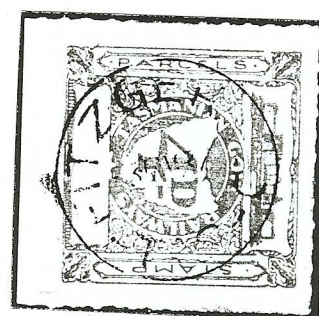
Launceston W.L. cancel
(wharf line??)



Ring'rma Rd. name cancel
(name cancels common,
this one very rare)



Single line name cancel



P.O. cds cancel
(scarce on parcel stamps,
this one very rare)



Single line "cancelled"
(unidentifiable stations,
all different size & fonts)



Single line name cancel
with mss. "RLY" added
(very rare)



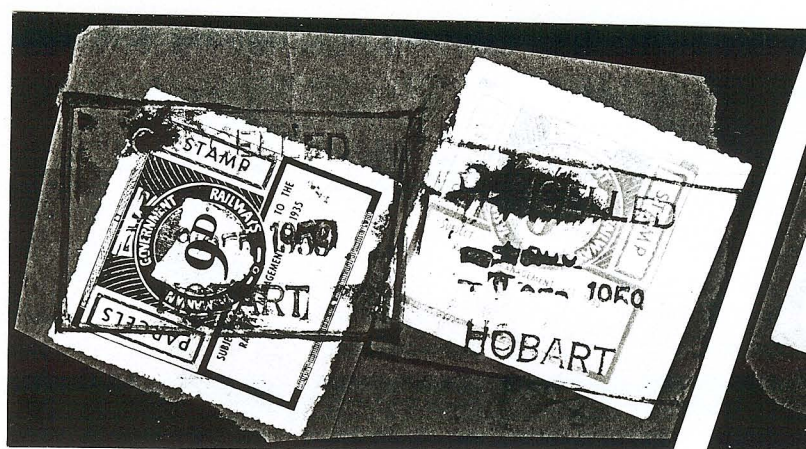
2-line railway canceller
on a postage stamp



Hobart Tourist Bureau cancel
(several varieties)

Launceston Tourist Bureau
(several varieties)

Pre-printed station name
(several varieties)



Large rectangular canceller
(there are also smaller
boxed cancellers with a
multiple format)

The mysterious oval Hobart T.S.N.
canceller

