TERRITORY of PAPUA – Fourth Rates Period 1924 - 1931

Because of the rugged terrain and lack of roads, aerial services were critical to the exploration and development of areas away from the coast, particularly to the interior and across the Owen Stanley Ranges. Aeroplanes were the only means of bringing both men and equipment into the remote goldmining regions of the Territory. This resulted in regular inter-territory aerial and airmail services being developed.

Shipment of gold bullion by registered airmail later proved to be the most secure and quickest method of transporting the gold, to recover costs and profit for the gold miners.

Airmails within the Territory

1930, March 6, Samarai to Port Moresby, single 1½d letter rate + 3d airmail fee.

1930, July 19, Port Moresby to Salamaua, 1½d letter rate + 3d Registration fee + 3d airmail fee.

The B.N.G. Trading Co. Ltd., Port Moresby, Papua imprint on back of cover.

1930, September 13, Port Moresby to Salamaua, New Guinea, single 1½d letter rate + 3d airmail fee introduced in 1930.

Carried by Morlae Airlines Ltd, whilst carrying equipment to the New Guinea goldfields, and signed by pioneer airman Ray Parer.

1931, February 21, Port Moresby to Salamaua, New Guinea, double 1½d letter rate + 3d airmail fee.

Carried by the short lived Pacific Aerial Transport Ltd, on the first official Port Moresby to Salamaua airmail service, and signed by the pilot Lionel Shoppee, a pioneer of the crossing of the Owen Stanley Range to the New Guinea goldfields.

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Fourth Rates Period 1924 - 1931

From 4 June 1924 the British Empire letter rate was lowered from 2d to 1½d, and postcards lowered from 2d to 1d to all destinations.

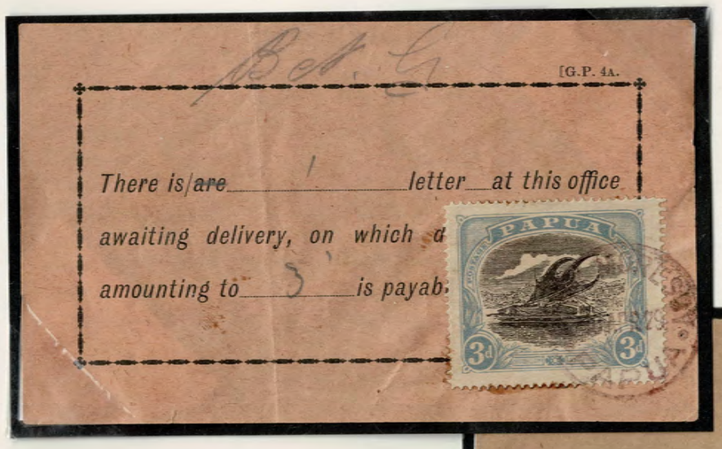
Mail within the Territory

(E) 1929, October 11, Port Moresby to Salamaoa, New Guinea, double 1½d letter rate.

Commercial Banking cover carried per favour by pilot Ray Parer from Morlae Airlines Ltd, prior to airmail rates being struck for the Territory in 1930.

1930, March 29, Losuia to Rigo, single 1½d letter rate.

Sydney H. Chance was Assistant Resident Magistrate at Rigo. →



← **1929, April 10, Postage due advice notice for an unpaid letter, held by the Post Office for collection, until 3d outstanding postage, (being 1½d deficiency + 1½d fine) is paid.**

3d stamp affixed in lieu of postage due and cancelled with circular datestamp, as postage due stamps were never issued in Papua.

1930, August 1, Port Moresby to Rigo, single 1½d letter rate.

1927, April 16, local Port Moresby letter, single 1½d letter rate. →

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Fourth Rates Period 1924 - 1931

Mail to Australia

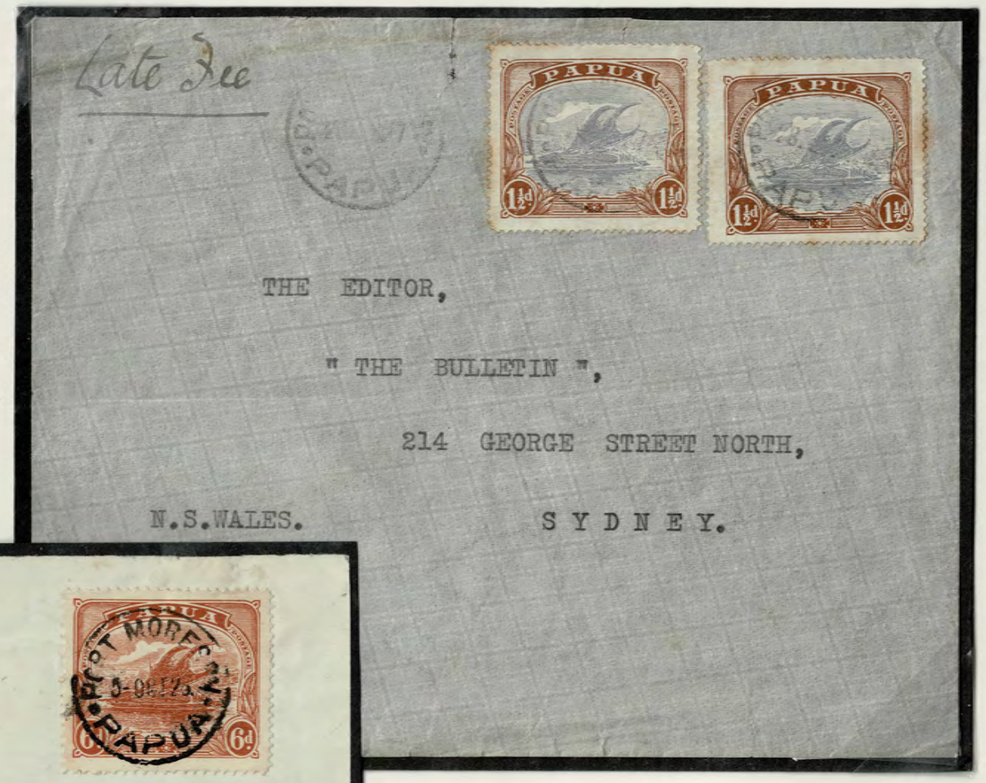
1930, February 7, Kulumadau to Parkside, South Australia, single 1½d letter rate (½d underpaid) + 3d Registration fee + 3d airmail fee (Australian leg)
Backstamped Kulumadau 7.2.30, Samarai 19.2.30, Sydney 5.3.30, Adelaide 7.3.30 and Parkside 7.3.30

Manuscript 1d Tax, being ½d deficiency + ½d fine.

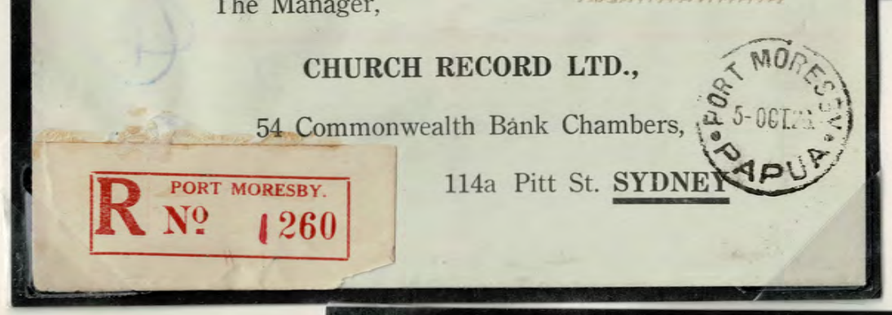
1930, December 8, Port Moresby to Sutton Coldfield, England, via Adelaide, single 1½d letter rate (½d overpaid) +3d Registration fee + 3d airmail fee (Australian leg).

1927, February 28, Port Moresby to Sydney, single 1½d letter rate + 1½d late fee.

A late fee paid for inclusion of the letter in the ship's box after closure of post office sorting. →



1929, September 18, Port Moresby to South Australia, 1d newspaper rate. →



← **1926, October 5, Port Moresby to Sydney, double 1½d letter rate + 3d Registration fee.**
Backstamped Port Moresby 5.10.26 and Sydney 19.10.26

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Fourth Rates Period 1924 - 1931

Mail to British Empire

1927, October 7, Samarai to London, England, return usage of 1½d + 1½d reply half of postcard, that under UPU Regulations, did not require local postage to be affixed.

1929, August 17, Ioma to Bristol, England, double 1½d letter rate + 3d Registration fee. Backstamped Samarai 21.8.29 and Melbourne 19.9.29

Latest recorded use of Ioma REGISTERED handstamp.

1924, October 13, Samarai to Liverpool, England, single 1½d letter rate.

1930, February 11, cover to Glasgow, Scotland, posted aboard ship, double 1½d letter rate.

Unrecorded LOOSE SHIP/LETTER handstamp applied en route to Townsville.

1931, March 20, Port Moresby to Edinburgh, Scotland, single 1½d letter rate, + 3d Registration fee + 3d airmail fee. Backstamped Cairns 10.4.31, Brisbane 14.4.31, Perth 20.4.31 and Edinburgh 18.5.31

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Fourth Rates Period 1924 - 1931

Mail to Non British Empire

1929, September 10, Port Moresby to Chicago, United States of America, single 3d letter rate.

1927, August 18, Port Moresby to Abadan, Persian Gulf, ➔ single 3d letter rate + 3d Registration fee. Backstamped Sydney 18.9.27, Dhanushkodi 29. 9.27 and Abadan.

Abadan was an independent island until 1947, when Persia (now Iran) acquired the island.

1926, May 28, Samarai to Saginaw, Mich., ➔ United States of America, single 3d letter rate + 3d Registration fee. Backstamped Samarai 28.5.25, Melbourne 9.6.25, San Francisco 8.7.26 and Saginaw 10.7.26.

1930, December 22, Port Moresby to Graz, Austria, single 3d letter rate + 3d Registration fee. Backstamped Port Moresby 22.12.31, Sydney 12.1.31 and Perth 17.1.31

(E) 1926, February 17, Tahira to Falls River, Mass., ➔ United States of America, single 3d letter rate.

Tahira was located 10 miles South-East of Port Moresby, and the rare date stamp was only in use from December 1925 until October 1926.

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Fourth Rates Period 1924 - 1931

Mail to Non British Empire

1926, July 16, Port Moresby to New York, United States of America, single 3d letter rate + 3d Registration fee.
Backstamped Port Moresby 16.7.26, Melbourne 11.8.26, San Francisco 7.9.26 and New York 13.9.26

1926, April 23, Samarai to Finland, single 3d letter rate + 3d Registration fee.
Backstamped Samarai 23.4.26, Melbourne 10.5.26 and Hameenlinna 18.6.26

1931, October 2, Kulumadau to Chestnut Hill, Mass., United States of America, single 3d letter rate.

1930, December 23, Port Moresby to New York, United States of America, single 3d letter rate + 3d Registration fee.
Backstamped Sydney 12.1.31, New York 17.2.31 and Jackson Heights 17.2.31

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Fourth Rates Period 1924 - 1931

Mail to Non British Empire

1930, January 31, Samarai to Rotterdam, Holland single 3d letter rate (underpaid 1½d).

TAX 3d applied at Samarai, but appears tax not collected.

1925, July 13, Port Moresby to Philadelphia, United States of America, single 3d letter rate. Travelled by ship to Seattle, where the pre-affixed USA airmail stamp cancelled 21.8. 25

From 1924 it was possible for the sender to affix USA stamps to pre-pay the USA internal airmail There were three airmail zones across the USA, requiring payment of 8c per zone.

Earliest recorded use in Papua of the USA internal airmail fee Treaty.

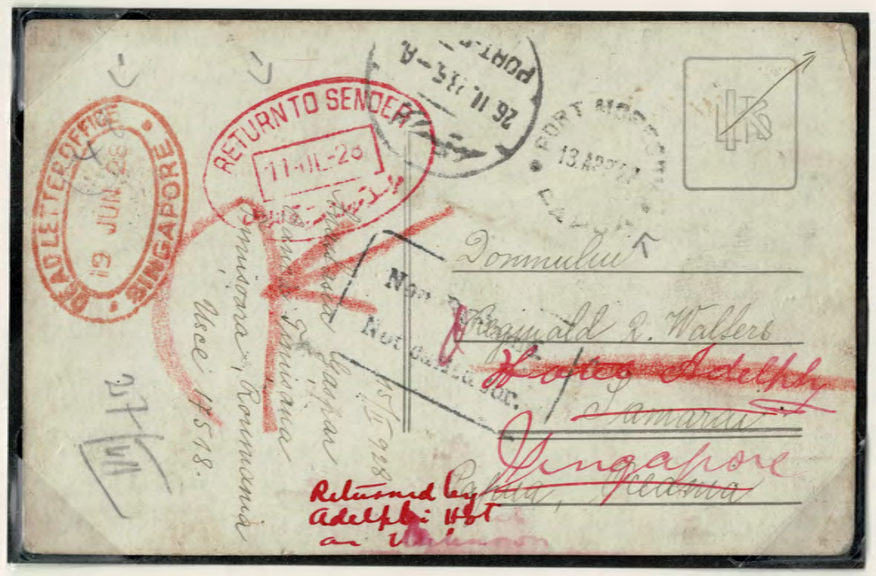
1926, April 5, Abau to Chicago, United States of America, 1d postcard rate (½d overpaid).

1925, March 14, Port Moresby to Long Beach, United States of America, handmade wrapper, single 1d newspaper rate.

1927, November 22, Port Moresby to Salonica, Greece, single 3d letter rate + 3d Registration fee. Backstamped Port Moresby 22.11.27, Sydney 7.12.27 and several Greek 8.1.28 arrival handstamps

TERRITORY of PAPUA – Fourth Rates Period 1924 - 1931

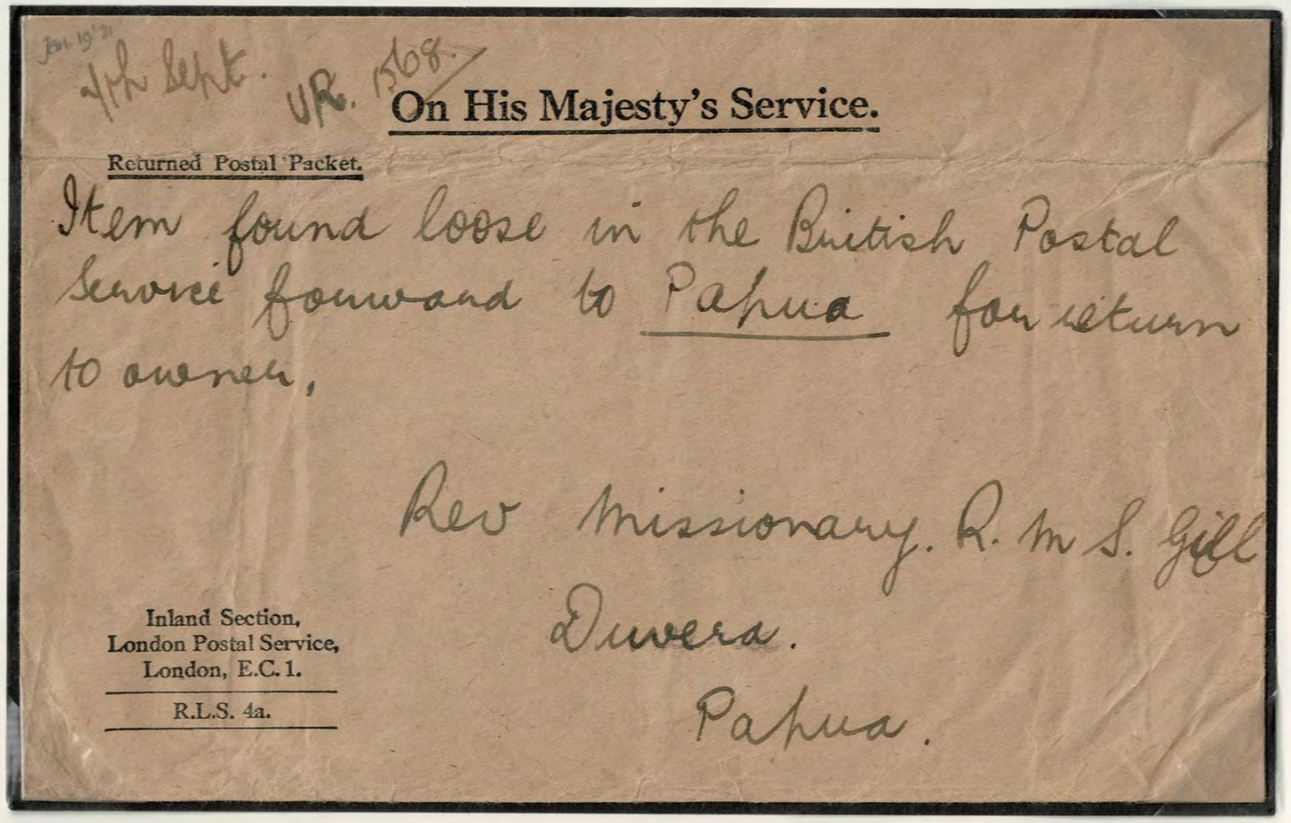
Inwards Mail



1928, February 17, Timisoara, Rumania to Samarai,
then redirected to Singapore, postcard rate on reverse.
Port Moresby 13.4.28, SINGAPORE, DEAD LETTER OFFICE 19.6.28,
RETURN TO SENDER 11.11.28 and Port Said 26.11.28 on face of card.

1928, February 13, Bath, England to Port Moresby, no Postage paid.
Octagonal T 30 applied in England and Oval TAX 3d applied at Port Moresby 10.4.28

Papua did not produce Postage Due stamps, therefore a normal 3d Postage stamp was used to satisfy the Postage Due.



1930, September 7, London Postal Service to Duvera, Papua, no postage paid on Returned Postal Packet.
Backstamped Brisbane Dead Letter Office 14.10.30
Further effort on reverse to locate Addressee dated 14.11.30, with receipt date 19.1.31 by Rev. S.R.M.Gill.

Reverend S.R.M.Gill was a Missionary at the Anglical Mission, Duvira, located at the mouth of the Mamba River.

1928, January 6, Cherry Valley, NY, United States of America, to Samarai, then redirected to Singapore, 3 cents postcard rate.
Samarai 26.2.28, Port Moresby 6.3.28 and SINGAPORE, DEAD LETTER OFFICE 25.5.28 on face of card.