



L8: 5d SWORDFISH TYPE (Recess) Notes from New Zealand Stamp Images

There were three plates of the five pence second pictorial: numbered 1, 2 and 3 with the issued sheets having 120 stamps in 10 rows of 12. Stamps printed from plate 2 appeared in 1942. The first printing was by De La Rue, but due to Blitz damage to De La Rue's works, the

sheets were sent to Waterlow where they were perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$.

In November 1942, stamps from plates 1 and 2 appeared printed and perforated $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ by De La Rue. Stamps printed from plate 3 were issued in 1944.

The first issue on 1 May 1935 was on single watermarked paper perf $13-14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. Stamps then appeared perf $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. In August 1936 stamps were issued perf $13-14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ on multiple watermarked paper.

Plate 1 was handed over to Waterlow in late 1940 and in February 1941, an order of 21,000 were printed and perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ by Waterlow on a fine paper. They were issued in July 1941.



Plate 1 was returned to De La Rue in September 1941. In December, sheets were printed by De La Rue on a coarse paper, but sent to Waterlow where they were perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$. Although some of these sheets were from plate 1, the majority were from a new plate 2. They were issued in 1942. Later in 1942, stamps from plate 1 were issued perforated $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

The first stamps from **Plate 2** were printed by De La Rue and perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ by Waterlow. In November 1942 they appeared printed and perforated $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ by De La Rue. The stamps perforated $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ exist with the direction of the perforation top to bottom (perforation extending through bottom selvedge) and bottom to top (perforation extending through bottom selvedge). Both the plate blocks shown are top to bottom.

In addition, different $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ comb heads were used giving a different alignment of perforation holes [1]. The alignment can clearly be seen to be different in the two plate blocks.



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Pitting of the plate



The 5d plate 2 is of special interest as the plate deteriorated during use and became pitted resulting in spots appearing on the issued stamps. As an example the scans show the bottom left stamp before and after pitting occurred. In this example, the pitting is mostly below the swordfish.

Progressive Development of Flaws

In addition, various flaws progressively developed at certain positions in the plate. Two examples are the impressions at positions Row 9/1 and 10/2. There are no flaws in the printings perforated 12½, but at R10/2, a flaw to the left of E of ZEALAND exists even in early printings perforated 13¾x13½. During the printings perforated 13¾x13½, the T of POSTAGE at R9/1, became progressively more deformed. Later, at R10/2, a flaw developed on the A of POSTAGE.

As a plate block of 4, contains the stamps at positions 9/1, 9/2, 10/1 and 10/2, positional blocks are readily available. However, I have not found any reference to these flaws and their different states in the literature. I have blocks in each of the following states.

Perf 12½ no flaws: In the issue perf 12½., there is no flaw on the T at R9/1 or on either the E or A at R10/2.



E flaw, trace of T flaw, but no A flaw: Early printing perf 13¾x13½, beginning of the T flaw on R9/1, while on R10/2, the flaw to the left of E is clear, but there is no A flaw.



E flaw, T flaw pronounced, still no A flaw:
Much more developed T flaw in POSTAGE on



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R9/1, but the A flaw on R10/2 is still not present while E flaw is unchanged.

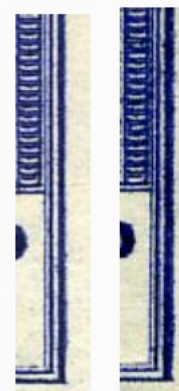


Spotted plate with all three flaws: Severe spotting developed on the plate. The T flaw in POSTAGE on R9/1 became much more pronounced and the A flaw on R10/2 appeared.

Spots removed, but the flaws remain: The spotting on the plates was subsequently removed, but the flaws on E, T and A remained although the flaw to the left of E is smaller.

In addition, the impressions at R9/1 and R10/1 were re-entered. In the comparison of the bottom right corner of the original and the re-entered states of R9/1, note the doubling that has occurred.

One question remains; the impression at R9/1 has been re-entered, so why does the flaw the T remain? Is it because the flaw is due to the surface of the plate being pitted and re-entering the image has not changed that?



5d plate 3

Stamps from plate 3 were first issued in April 1944.

They were perforated $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

The 5d was withdrawn on 30 April 1947