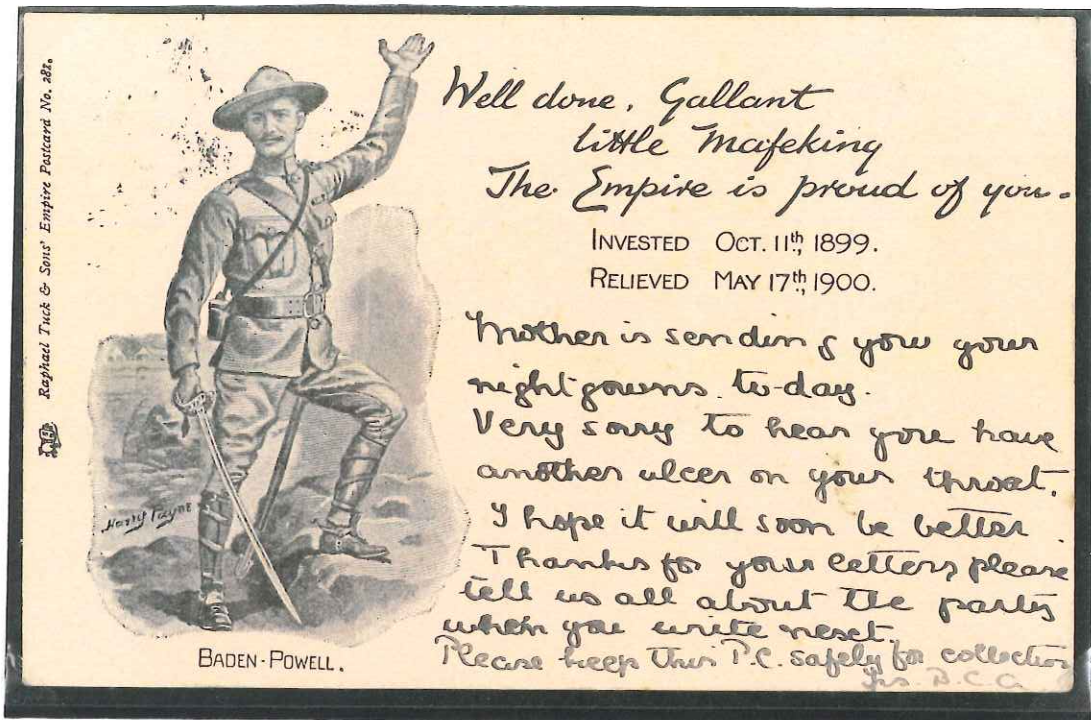


THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING



The collection contains 96 sheets with the following chapters :

PRESENTATION	Page 2
BACKGROUND	Page 4
LOCAL POST	Page 10
EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS	Page 15
POSTAL FEES	Page 28
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SURCHARGED STAMPS	Page 43
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MAFEKING RELIEVED	Page 90

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

The aim of this collection is to show stamps and postal history items used at Mafeking, during the siege in the Anglo-Boer war (October 14, 1899 - May 17, 1900)

Since the town of Mafeking was cut off from the outside world and normal means of communications severed, **native postal runners** (Kaffir) were entrusted with the hazardous task of carrying the mail through the enemy lines surrounding the town, running the risk of being shot if caught. Many were shot and for this reason compensation for this dangerous occupation was high, finally £25 per run.

Initially the message conveyed by the runners were official communications only, but at a later stage private mail was carried.

According to the published rates in the "Mafeking Mail", post carried by the **Southern Route via Kimberly** was 6d and post carried by the **Northern Route via Bulawayo** was 1s, while the rate for the **local post** (Mafeking town and their forts), carried by the "cadets", was still 1d and 3d.

For mail to Europe a third way was used - "**via Beira**" a harbour in the coast of Portuguese East Africa, to be reached after Kimberly.

In view of the dangerous nature of carrying the mail, it is not surprising that soldiers were expected to pay the full rate for their mail instead of the usual concessionary rate.

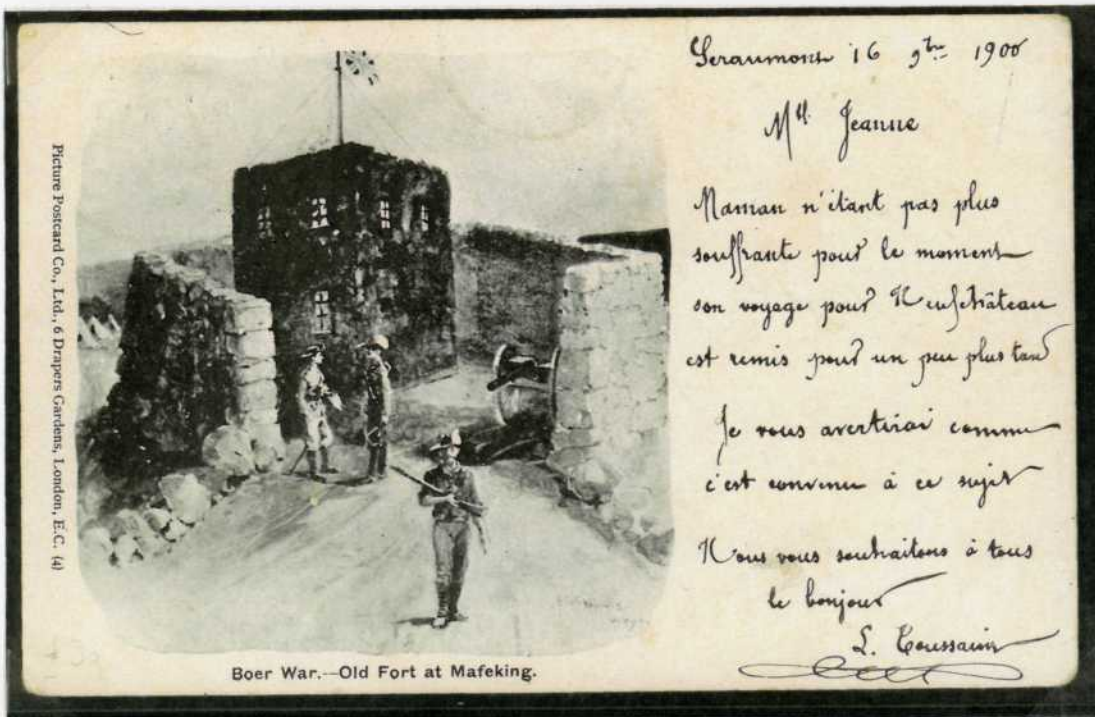
This notice appeared in the "Mafeking Mail" on 22 March 1900 (the 161st day of siege) "Private letters will in future be sent by the Intelligence Department, by runners in batches of 30 (letters, not runners) at a time, first come, first served, the Communications will be despatched in the order they are received."

Note that the Southern Route was much more dangerous, with a greater risk of not getting through.

To satisfy the high cost of the service **stamps were overprinted** with higher value and a set of **new stamps were locally produced** (the Mafeking blues).

The hero of Mafeking, was Colonel Robert Baden-Powell.

It was during the siege that young boys who had already been formed into a cadet corps, were first used by the military for running messages and errands. They proved so useful that Baden-Powell conceived the idea of founding the Boy Scout movement.



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

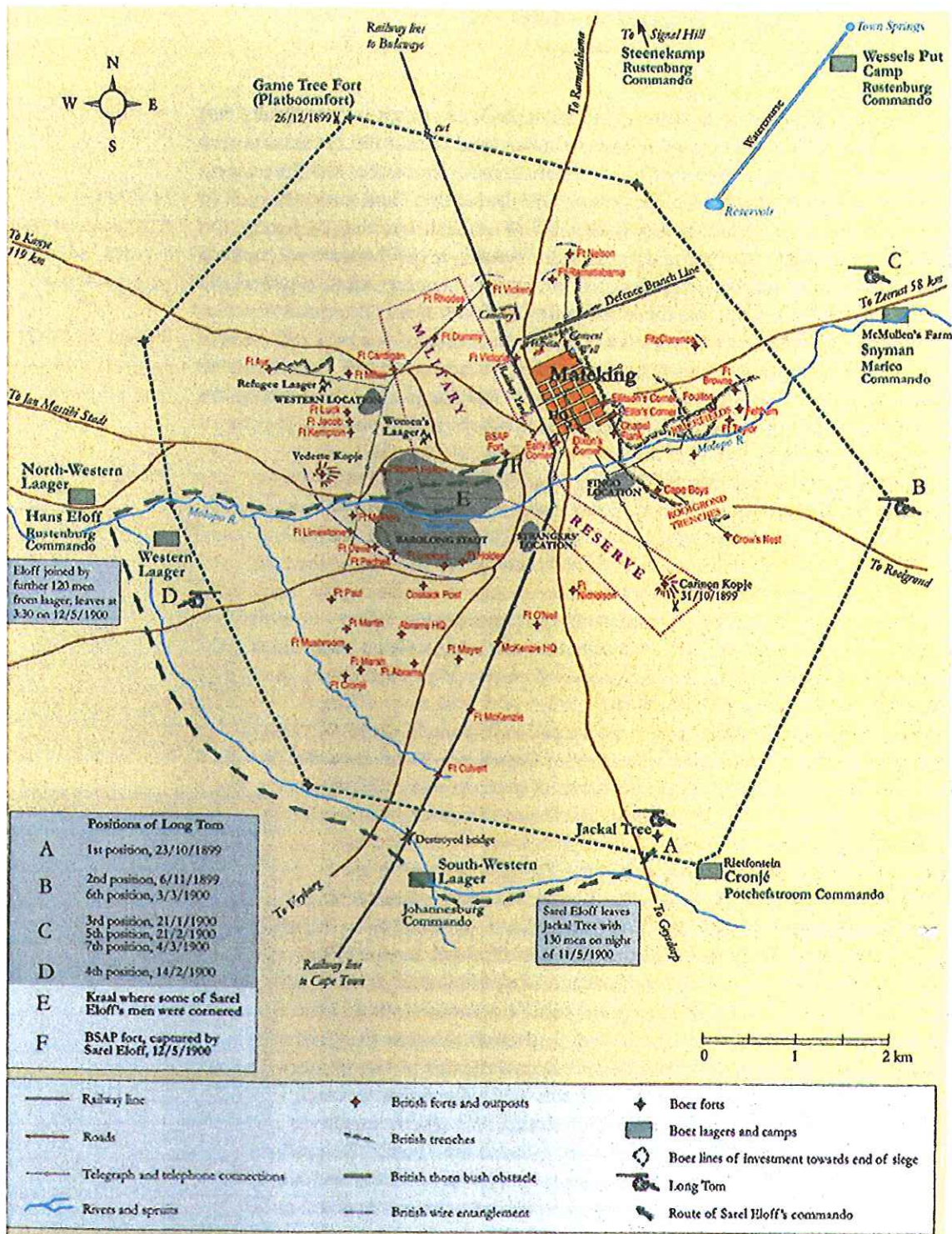


PLATE 83 The Boer positions around Mafeking and their movements of laagers and guns at different periods during the siege. After a major engagement in the Brickfields on 3 March 1900, during which Sergeant-Major Taylor was mortally wounded and the Boer gunner killed by a British sniper, the Long Tom was moved overnight to a less vulnerable position.

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

BACKGROUND

At the outbreak of the Boer War, the town of Mafeking, located near the frontier of the Bechuanaland Protectorate and also its administrative capital, was an important railway town on the Cape Town - Bulawayo line. With a population of 9.800, of whom 1.800 were of European origin, Mafeking was prepared for the ensuing siege by the Boers with 1.200 British and Cape troops being stationed there to fortify and defend the town.

On October 12th, 1899 (the day after the declaration of war), Boer forces under the command of Cronje (8.000 men and well equipped with artillery) began the siege, after crossing the Cape border and marching from Zeerust.

“Mafeking besieged” surcharged on stamps was a strong warning for the whole British Empire.



In retrospect, there is little doubt that, had the far superior Boer forces made a determined offensive attack on the town, Mafeking would have fallen.

Z.A.R.: “Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek” surcharged over Cape stamps, clearly shows the initial success of the Boer forces.



They also issued their own cancellations (not stamps) with the name “ Hoofd-Lager, Z.A.R. – Mafeking”



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

BACKGROUND

TELEGRAAFDIENST, Z. A. REPUBLIEK.

A.K. 908

Soort _____ Tijd _____ Klasse _____ Aangenomen door _____

Route *Eastern* Woorden: _____ Verzonden: _____ Geparafeerd door: _____ No. _____

Bedrag £ *10/2* ten _____

Kantoor van Afzending: _____ Binnenlandse kosten: _____ aan _____ door _____

KABELTELEGRAM.

VERZOEKE BUIDELIJK TE SCHRIJVEN.

VAN *Press Prepaid* AAN *Sur London*

Announced over Commandant Cronje

1 PENNY *1 PENNY* *1 PENNY* *1 PENNY*

Handtekening van den Afzender } *J. S. Druis*

50,000—Jan. '96.

JOHANNESBURG 12 OCT 1899

October 12, 1899, black and red telegram from Johannesburg (Transvaal) to London with message "Announced Commandant Cronje over border" intended for the London press, bearing Transvaal 1d block of four tied by square-circle d.s. in blue and showing "GEWEIGERD" (refused). A rare and most unusual item written the day after the war began.

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

BACKGROUND

Typed "Orders by Colonel Baden Powell". An interesting signed Baden Powell document. These general orders go a long way towards establishing the date of the siege with greater precision. The probable date of true investment was 15 October 1899.

O R D E R S

By Colonel Baden-Powell.

It is reported that a large force of Boers under Cronje is marching upon Mafeking from Rietfontein. this day.

It is advisable that every one should remain alert whether on his post at present or not.

MAFEKING, 12:5 p.m.,

Baden Powell

Colonel

14 - 10 - 99

Comdg: "Frontier Forces"

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

BACKGROUND

Order to economise water was issued by Colonel Baden-Powell on October 14, 1899

O R D E R S

BY Colonel Baden Powell

Every effort should be made to economise water owing to the possibility of the present supply at the waterworks being cut off. All cisterns should be filled up and kept full and the ordinary supply should be used for absolutely necessary purposes, as otherwise it will not run through in sufficient quantity for present requirements.

BY ORDER

Arthur May capt

for C.S.O.

MAFEKING,

14 - 10 - 99

Lieut Gemmill
Beckham Capt.

Please note contents

Bro Bowman Capt
Capt Westmoreland

THE MAFEKING MAIL SPECIAL SIEGE STAMP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 1

Mafeking, November 1st, 1899.

Technical difficulties prevented the issue of the "Mafeking Mail" for Saturday last. Those difficulties we hope speedily to surmount. In the meantime we purpose keeping our friends informed of happenings from day to day; "Oud Kraker" or "Black Maria," *et hoc genus omne* permitting.

The Mafeking Mail.

MAFEKING, 1ST NOVEMBER, 1899.

HOW WE ARE TO-DAY.

WE have borne the much feared bombardment for a fortnight and still Mafeking stands. From what we have experienced we do not consider ourselves too optimistic in anticipating a successful ending to the contest. For the first time in the history of Boer warfare

tional circumstances thrust upon us could have made possible, we are in a position to judge and recognise the steady determination that British blood and British pluck exhibit when such a crisis as the present arises, and we know that the memory of Bronkhurst Spruit, Majuba and Potchefstroom will make that determination, supported by the knowledge of our grand successes of the past fortnight more firm, more strong and more united than has been before, and this, with the grand soldier, who is in command here will render certain the first stages towards the complete crushing of the enemy.

AND WILL BE NEXT WEEK.

There is no doubt that there was landed in South Africa by Sunday last a body of fifty-seven thousand men, including probably Twelve or Fourteen Regiments of Cavalry, Twenty or Twenty-two

territory as the Transvaal. Let it be placed, say, in the space opposite the entrance to the Railway Station, raised on end, and the unexploded shells piled at its base, with a description of Colonel Baden-Powell's clever defence of the place. We hope the Colonel will bear the town in mind when the disposal of the gun is under discussion.

THE CANNON KOPPIE FIGHT.

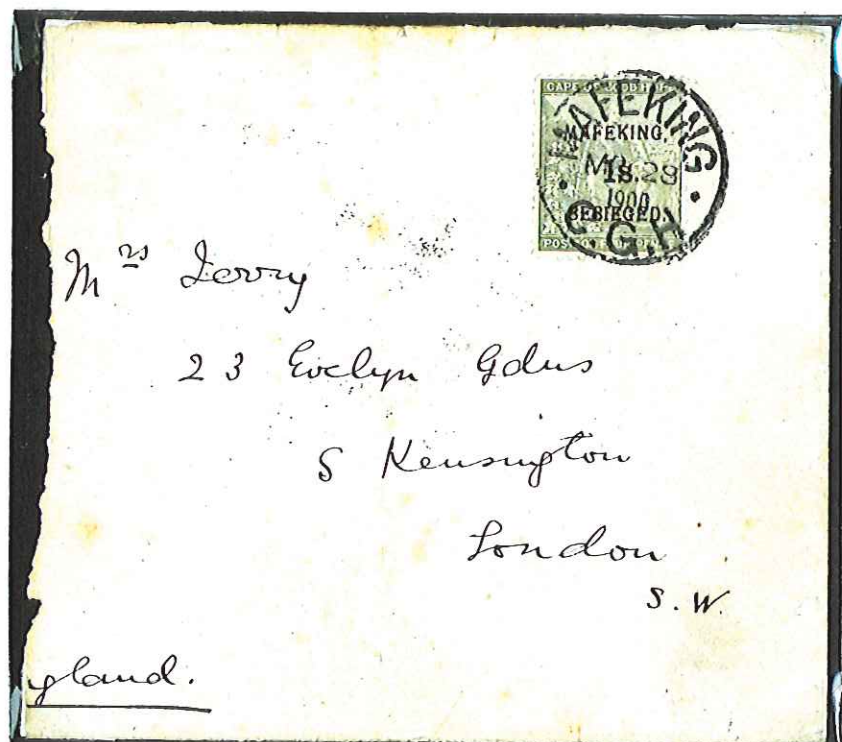
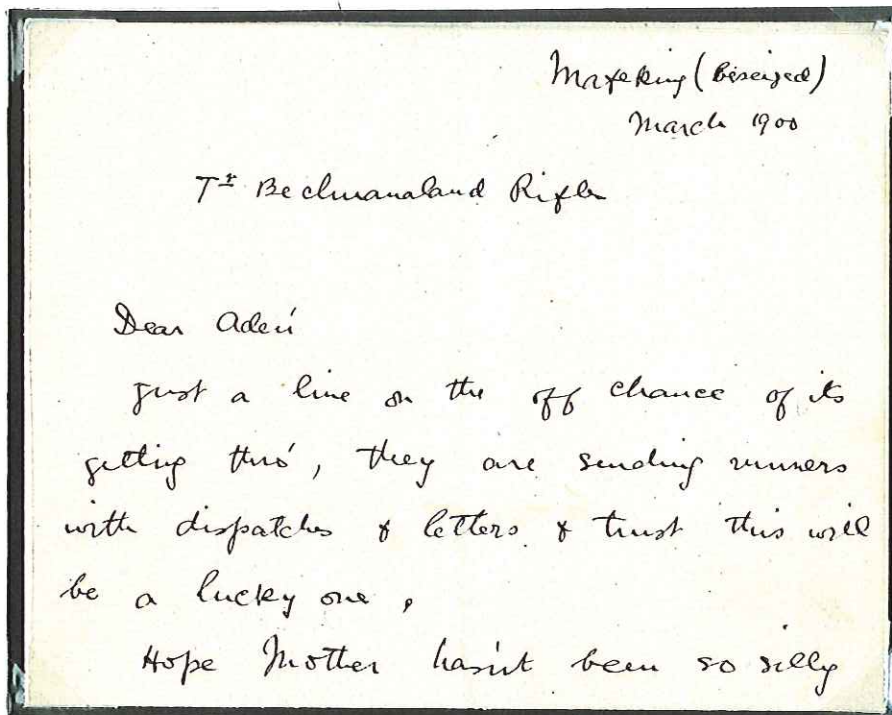
Major Lord E. Cecil, C.S.O., last evening issued the following under the heading of General Orders:—

The detachment of B.S.A. Police forming the garrison of Cannon Kopje, under command of Colonel Walford, have this day performed a brilliant service by the gallant and determined stand made by them on their post in the face of a very hot shell fire from the enemy. The intention of the Boers had been, after getting their guns and

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

BACKGROUND

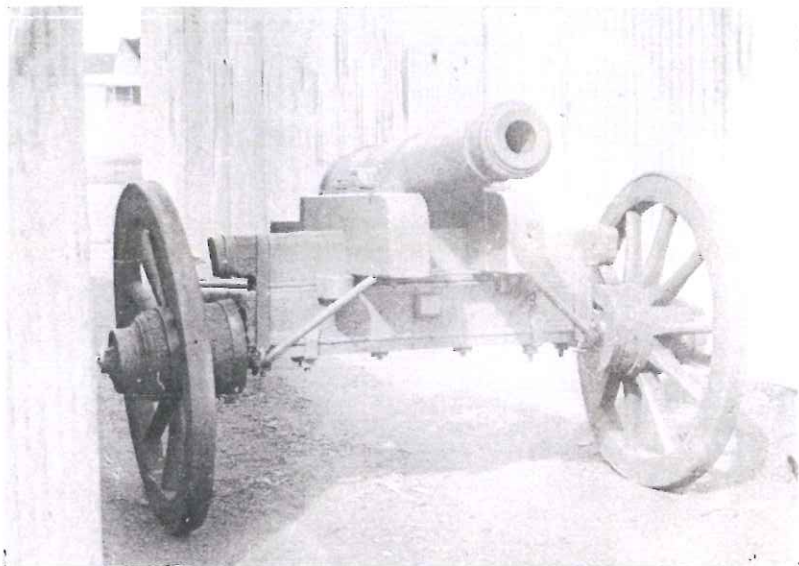
Cover to London, posted on March 28, franked at 1s. rate for northern route to Bulawayo with transit backstamp of "9 APR 00". The original letter, from a soldier in the Bechuanaland Rifles, headed "Mafeking (besieged)" begins "just a line on the off chance of its getting thro, they are sending runners with dispatches & letters & trust this will be a lucky one" and continues with many vivid details.



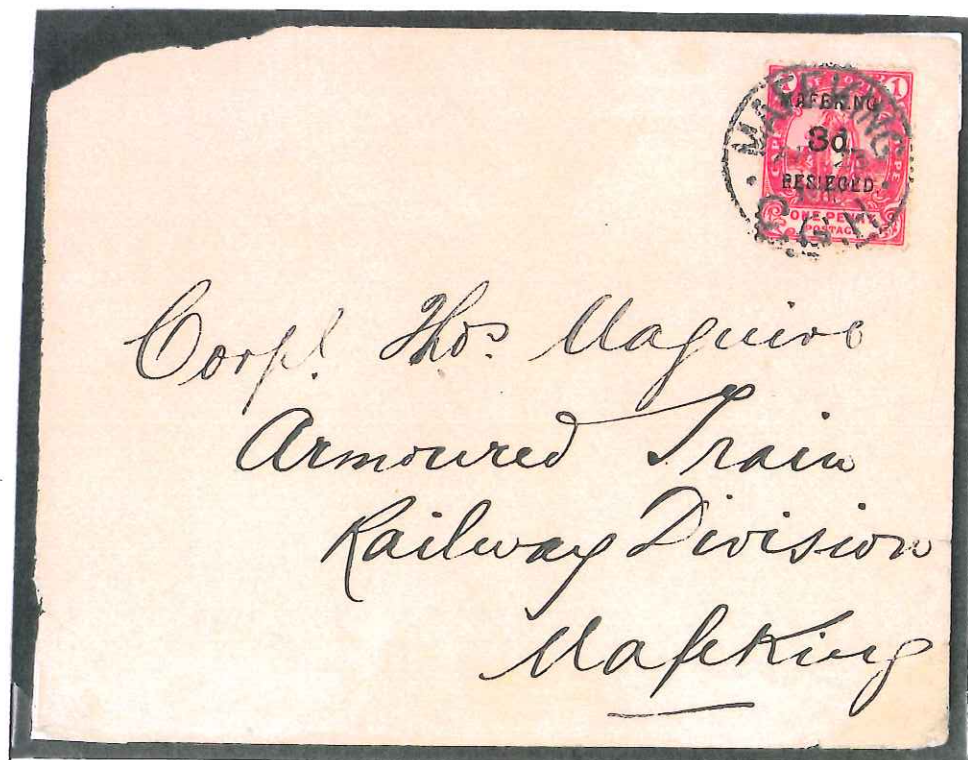
THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

LOCAL POST

3d on 1d carmine, clearly tied on 1900, April 23rd, envelope to "Corpl Thos Maguire, Armoured Train, Railway Division Mafeking". An extremely scarce and most appealing local use cover.



Lord Nelson 18th century 6 lb. naval gun. During the siege of Mafeking the barrel was found and mounted on a wagon base. Cannon balls were made in the Railway workshop. The gun's range was 3.000 yards.



At the beginning of the siege good use was made of an armoured train. A few days after war broke out a party of Boers was observed approaching from the north. The train set out, and, supported by some troops, a useful small action resulted which heartened the besieged and discouraged the enemy. But this could not be repeated often, for soon the Boers had cut the railway line on each side of the town.

A small railway line was built across the town. Baden-Powell had an armoured train from the Mafeking railway yard loaded with sharpshooters and sent up the rail line in a daring attack right into the heart of the Boer camp, followed by a safe return to Mafeking.

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

LOCAL POST

Mixed stamps on covers

SG1 and SG3 stamps
in blocks of 4 on a
cover dated 29-3-1900
addressed to "Colonel
R.S.S. Baden Powell /
Head Quarters / Dixon
Hotel / Mafeking"



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

LOCAL POST

Mixed stamps on covers



April 17



March 30

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

LOCAL POST

Mixed stamps on covers



April 20



April 10

"opened under ..." : censor's strip

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

LOCAL POST

Mixed stamps on covers



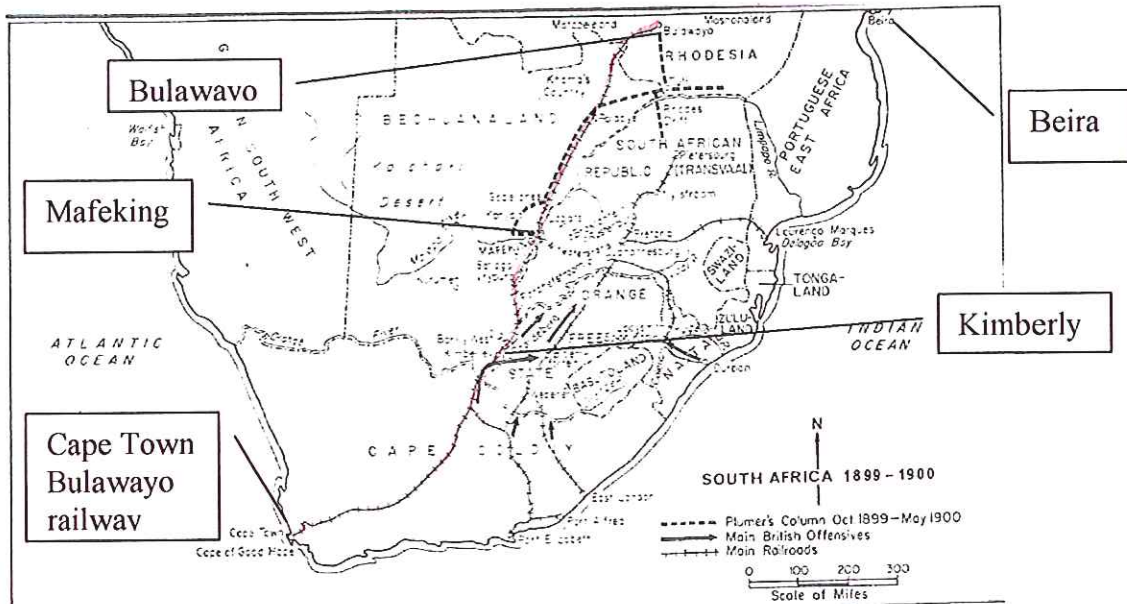
AP 26

MY 3 : mail to Hidden Hollow fort , north of Mafeking



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS



In their advance towards Mafeking the Boer forces captured sections of the railway line to the north and south of Mafeking, so isolating the town. The defenders had an armoured train for which a spur line was constructed on the north side of the town to strengthen its defences there.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS : SOUTHERN ROUTE VIA KIMBERLY



Letter from Mafeking (MR 28) to London (JU 16) Via Kimberly (MY 22)



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS : SOUTHERN ROUTE VIA KIMBERLY

1900 (March 29) envelope to Graaf Reinet, endorsed "On Active Service", "HM Troops Mafeking" and "per Native Runner", bearing fancy surcharge on Cape 3d. on 1d. pair, Kimberly transit square circle of "MY 22" on front and Graaf Reiner arrival of "MY 25".



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS : SOUTHERN ROUTE VIA KIMBERLY



Letter from Mafeking (MR 24) to Capetown (AP 25), via Kimberly (AP22)

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS : NORTHERN ROUTE VIA BEIRA/BULAWAYO

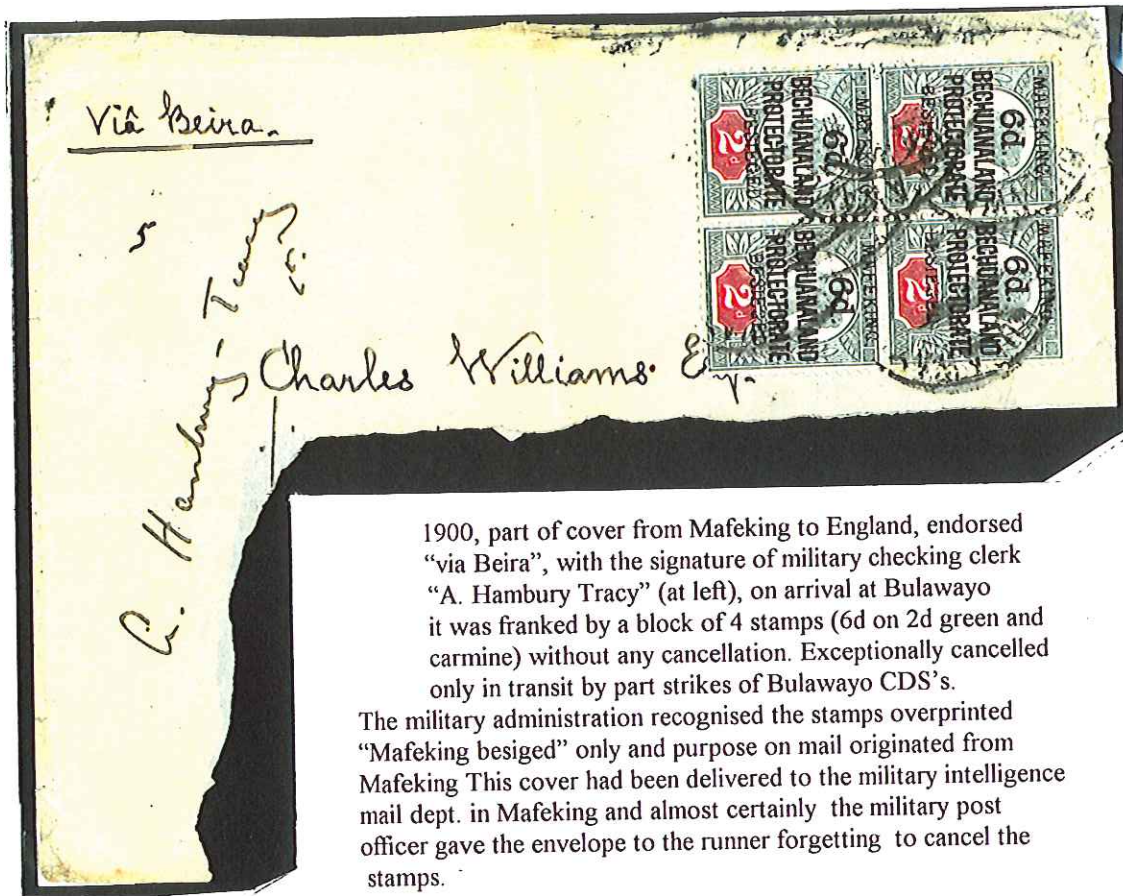
1900 Cover to Port Elizabeth franked Type 1 ovpts strip of 3 x 1d. un 1/2d Graaf Reinet, endorsed "On Active Service Cape Hope seated, 3d. on 1d. Hope standing and 6d. on 3d. British Bechuanaland make up 1/- rate all tied Mafeking cancels "MR 30 1900" addressed to Port Elizabeth and endorsed at lower left "via Beira" for exit by Northern route. It appears cover did not leave Mafeking at the time with addressing having been crossed through lightly in blue crayon and with apparent endorsement "Mr. Wirsing/Mafeking" (in same blue crayon) which coincides with printed backflap "Wirsing Brothers, Mafeking" i. e. returned to sender, subsequently a further 1/- on 4d. British Bechuanaland adhesive added cancelled "MY 16 00" the day siege was lifted (? for re-posting to original destination).



WIRSIING BROTHERS
MAFEKING,
BECHUANALAND.

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS: NORTHERN ROUTE VIA BEIRA (BULAWAYO)



1900, part of cover from Mafeking to England, endorsed "via Beira", with the signature of military checking clerk "A. Hambury Tracy" (at left), on arrival at Bulawayo it was franked by a block of 4 stamps (6d on 2d green and carmine) without any cancellation. Exceptionally cancelled only in transit by part strikes of Bulawayo CDS's.

The military administration recognised the stamps overprinted "Mafeking besiged" only and purpose on mail originated from Mafeking This cover had been delivered to the military intelligence mail dept. in Mafeking and almost certainly the military post officer gave the envelope to the runner forgetting to cancel the stamps.

On arrival at Bulawayo the checking clerk noted the stamps uncanceled and knocked nervously down eight datestamps of Bulawayo. On reverse there is large part of Bulawayo C.D.S. "6 MEY 0010 11AM" and part of London E.C. arrival.



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS : NORTHERN ROUTE VIA BULAWAYO

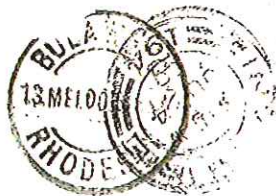
Commercial cover to Italy, redirected to France, paid 1/- for the northern route out of Mafeking via Rhodesia, franked by Mafeking surcharge on Cape 1d block of four (the lower pair over the envelope edge and consequently damaged) each cancelled by "MAFEKING/C.G.H." c.d.s. , backstamped at "CROCODILE POOLS/SOUTH AFRICA" (in Bechuanaland, 6 miles south of Gaberones) on April 25 and "BULAWAYO/RHODESIA" on April 30.



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS : NORTHERN ROUTE VIA BULAWAYO

Mail from Mafeking (May 1) to Inverurie (Aberdeenshire), received on June 24, via Bulawayo, cancelled on May 13.



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS: NORTHERN ROUTE VIA BULWAYO

Letter from Mafeking (April 20) to Leamington, England (June 8) cancelled at Crocodile Pools (April 25).



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS: NORTHERN ROUTE VIA BULAWAYO

Cover from Mafeking (March 28) to London (May 25) franked at 1s rate for northern route in Bulawayo, by March 24, 1s on 4d sage-green, tied by fine cds.



ALDRED ROSS
Auctioneers and Surveyors
Stationers
MAFEKING

BULAWAYO
MARCH 25 1900
M.C.C.

RODD'S

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS : NORTHERN ROUTE VIA BULAWAYO

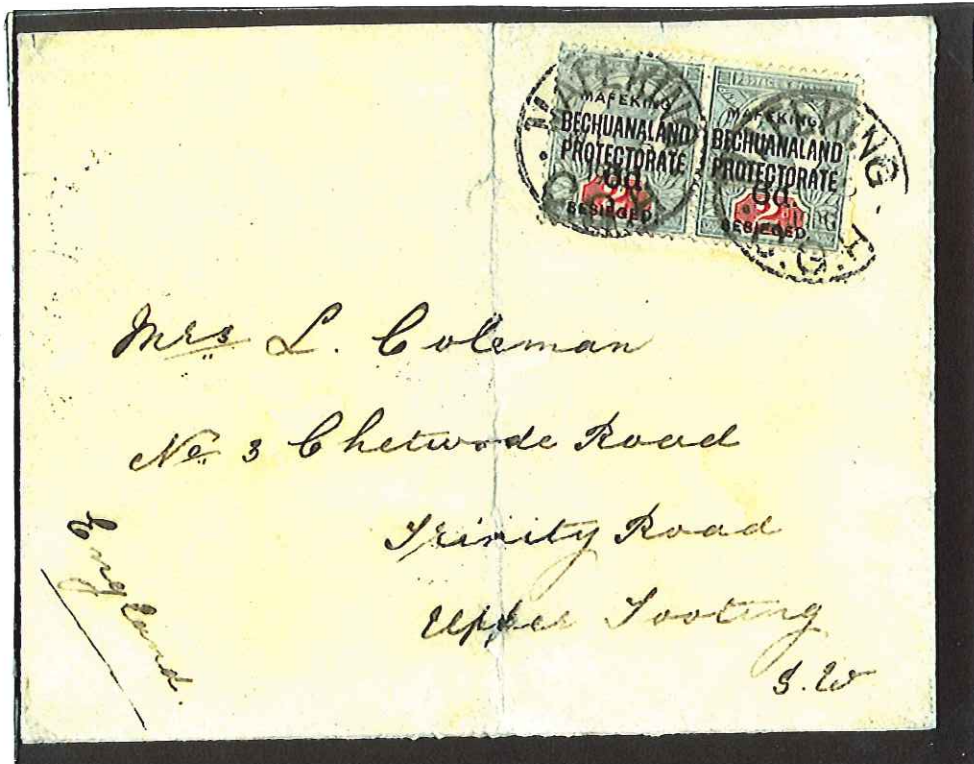
Letter from Mafeking (April 26) to Bulawayo, received on May 6.



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS : NORTHERN ROUTE VIA BULAWAYO

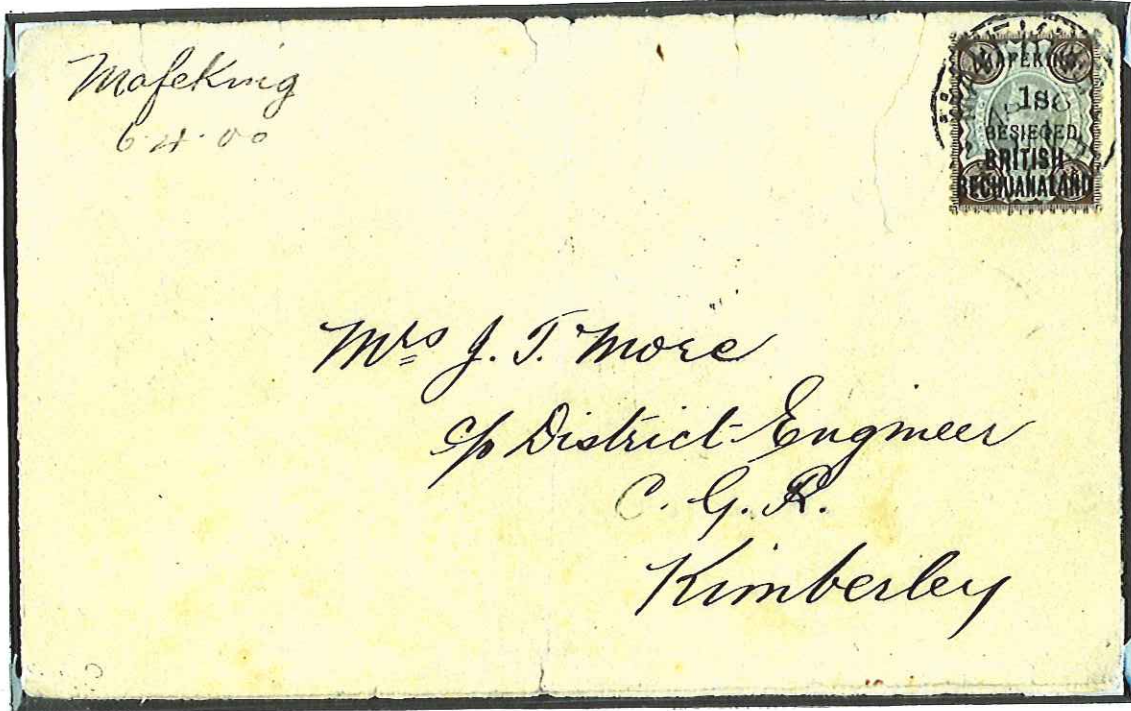
Cover mailed from Mafeking (May 5) to London (June 23), via Bulawayo (May 13, 1900)



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

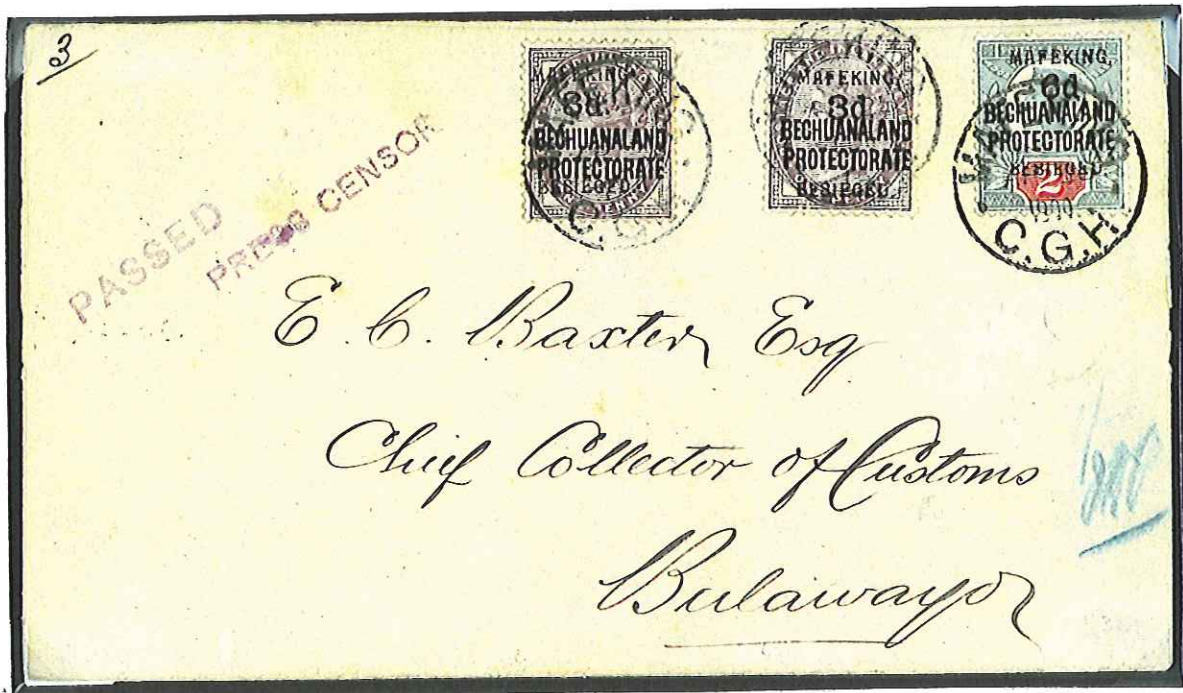
EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS : SOUTHERN ROUTE VIA KIMBERLEY

Letter from Mafeking (April 6) to Kimberley (May 18), via Crocodile Pools (April 20), Bulawayo (April 23) and East London (May 16).



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS: NORTHERN ROUTE VIA BULAWAYO



The purple "Passed press censor" was applied by the British army at Bulawayo.

1/JHP blue pencil "checking mark" indicates that the postagewas checked to be 1s by John H. Powell, Bulawayo Postmaster.

NOTICE.

New Arrangements for the Transmission of Telegrams and Dealing with Letters.

THE Bombproof at the end of Minchin's yard, at Headquarters, will be open daily to receive Letters and Telegrams for North and South, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. (Sundays excepted). The following are the rates for Telegrams: Via the North, 9d. per word, plus a fee of 1/- for a receipt, duly stamped; Telegrams for Cape Colony and Natal will be accepted by this route.

Telegrams via the South for Cape Colony and Natal will also be accepted, the rate being 1/- for 12 words, plus a fee of 1/- for a duly stamped receipt. Cablegrams 4/9 per word, plus a fee of 1/- plus 1/- receipt fee.

The sale of stamps for letters for local delivery will be restricted. Letters for Northern and Southern routes must be handed to the Postal Official on duty, and stamps cannot on any account be sold.

RATES OF POSTAGE.—LETTERS.

- Local delivery (within town limits), 1d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
- Delivery at Outposts and Forts, 3d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
- Letters for United Kingdom, Cape Colony and Natal via the South, 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
- Letters for United Kingdom, Cape Colony, Natal and Rhodesia, via the North 1/- per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
- Newspapers for local delivery 1d. per paper. Book Post 1d. per ounce.

PILLAR AND WALL LETTER BOXES.—Pillar or Wall Letter receivers are erected at the following places in Mafeking and are cleared at the times mentioned:—
Latest time for posting letters, &c., for each collection.

Pillar & Wall Boxes.	Morning.	Afternoon.
Dixon's Hotel	9-55 a.m.	3-55 p.m.
De Kock's Corner	9-40 "	3-40 "
Victoria Hospital	9-30 "	3-30 "
Post Office	9-35 "	3-35 "
Railway Division	9-30 "	3-30 "
Whiteley, Walker & Co	9-45 "	3-45 "

The following table shows the hours at which the Letter Box is closed for the different Suburban Offices, and the hours at which mails are due to arrive at this Office:—

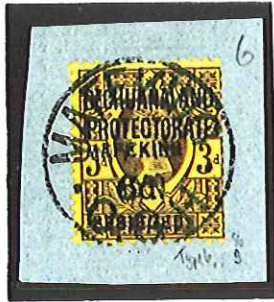
Letter Boxes close at Mafeking at	For	Letters due at Mafeking at
5-0 p.m.	Brickfields	9-0 a.m.
"	Barabing Stadt	"
"	B.S.A.P. Fort	"
"	Cannun Kopje	"
"	Native Location	"
"	Western Outposts	"
"	J. V. HOWAT, Postmaster.	

Mafeking, 22nd March, 1900.

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

POSTAL FEES

No. 99
ISSUED DAILY, SPECIAL PERMITTING.
THE MAFEKING MAIL
SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.
Saturday, March 24th, 1900.
TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.
163rd Day of Siege.



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

POSTAL FEES

From "The Mafeking Mail – special siege slip.", on Saturday, March 24 th, 1900 :
 "NOTICE. New Arrangements for the transmission of Telegrams and dealing with letters.",
 signed by J.V.Howat, Postmaster :

The sale of stamps for letters for local delivery will be restricted.
 Letters for Northern and Southern routes must be handed to the Postal Official on duty, and stamps cannot on any
 account be sold.

Rates of Postage – Letters

Local delivery
 (within town limits)
 1 d. per ½ oz.



Delivery at Outpost
 and forts
 3 d. per ½ oz.



Letters for United Kingdom, Cape
 Colony and Natal, via the South,
 6 d. per ½ oz.



Letters for United Kingdom, Cape
 Colony Natal and Rhodesia, via the North,
 1/- per ½ oz.



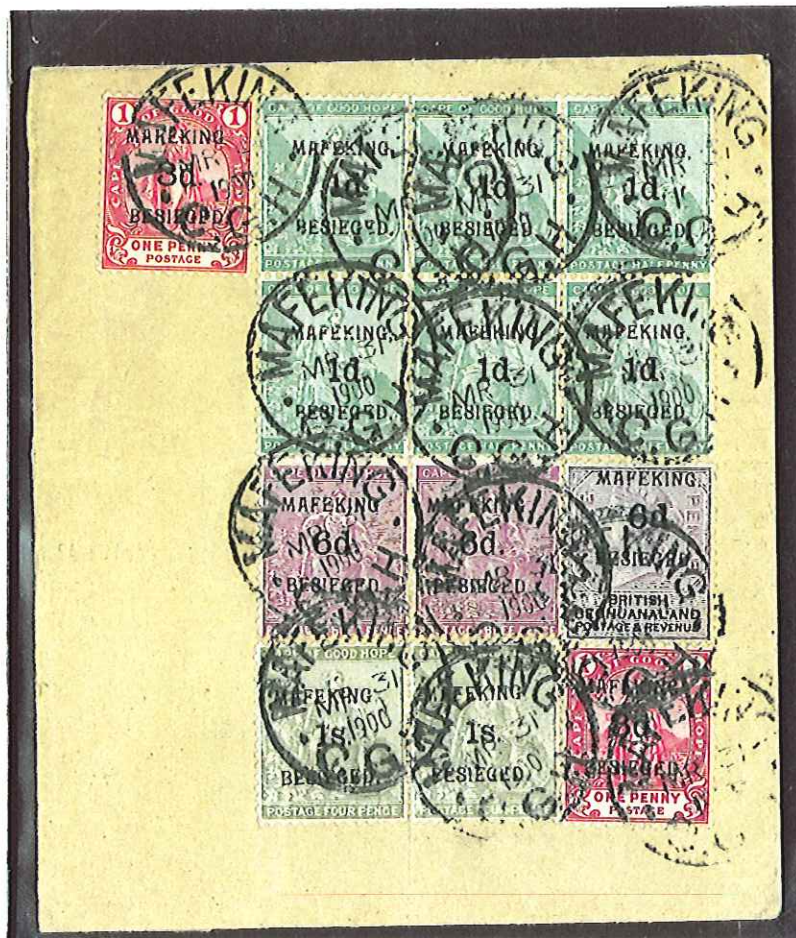
THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

POSTAL FEES

Mixed stamps on covers



AP 17



MR 31

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

POSTAL FEES

forged stamps / overprint



No. 108

Tuesday, April 3rd, 1900.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING

THE MAFEKI

SPECIAL SIEGE

mark his high appreciation of the gallant part they had taken in the fighting in Natal.

BRITISH CASUALTIES

All over Africa up to February 1st are:—

Died of disease: 393; Missing: 2,765; Wounded: 4,966; Killed: 1,537.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS

By Colonel R. S. S. Baden-Powell, Commanding Frontier Force.

MAFEKING, 2ND APRIL, 1900.

It is with great regret that the Colonel Commanding has to announce the death yesterday, in the Boers' Hospital, of Capt. Crewe, Rhodesian Regiment. He died of wounds received in action on the 31st ultimo. This officer was, in the Matabele War, 1896, recommended for the Victoria Cross for gallantry in action. At our

Stamps or Notes: Photographs of, etc.—Persons are warned that they render themselves liable to heavy punishment should they be convicted of forging by copying, reproducing, or imitating by photography, or any such means, any Note or Stamp, or surcharge thereon, whether for purposes of passing or not, which may have been, or which may be brought out by the authority of the Colonel Commanding the Forces.

Gaol Constables.—The Civil Commissioner is hereby authorised to enrol four additional Native Gaol Constables at the rate of 1/6 each per diem pay, and rations.

Fencing Removed by Government.—Persons at present holding acknowledgments from the Imperial Authorities to replace fencings removed for purposes of firewood, are requested to communicate with Capt. Ryan. Also any persons who have not received such acknowledgment and require same are requested to make application. The following information is required in respect to this matter: No. of Erf or Erven and the length and breadth of the area which was originally enclosed by the fencing removed.

By order,
E. H. CECIL, Major,
Chief Staff Officer.

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

FAKED AND FORGED ITEMS: FAKED POSTMARKS



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

FAKED AND FORGED ITEMS: FAKED POSTMARKS

Differences between genuine and faked cancellations

FAKED

1. More than $\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. space between letters and circle
2. Legs of 'M', 'N' and 'H' are parallel

GENUINE

1. Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. space between letters and circle
2. Legs of 'M', 'N' and 'H' slope inwards towards centre



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

FAKED AND FORGED ITEMS: FORGED OVERPRINTS

INVERTED SURCHARGES



DOUBLE /TREBLE OVERPRINTS



NO CAPITAL LETTERS



WRONG SIZE OVERPRINTS



By
HARRY BURGESS

The first issue, which was overprinted in fancy type, has varieties with double or treble overprinting, they were not however supposed to have been issued and were withdrawn as discovered, but some specimens found their way into collectors' hands. An inverted surcharge error can be found on the 1d. on ½d. orange and the 6d. on 3d. purple on yellow exists with double or inverted overprint, whilst the 3d. on 1d. lilac is known with double overprint and the 1/- on 4d. green and brown with double and treble overprints, and also double, one inverted.

Fortunately, the forgeries that exist of these overprints are more or less easy to recognise provided one knows what to look for and below are a few hints on how to recognise the genuine. Firstly, the word "Mafeking" should measure 12½mm. long, in the forgeries it is usually 13mm. Secondly, the word "Besieged" should measure 11½mm., not 12mm. Thirdly, the "B" of "Besieged" should extend to roughly the centre of the "M" in "Mafeking" and the cross bar of the "A" should tilt upwards to the right. On the forgeries the "B" of "Besieged" is usually found to the left of the "M" of "Mafeking" whilst the "A" has a straight cross bar.

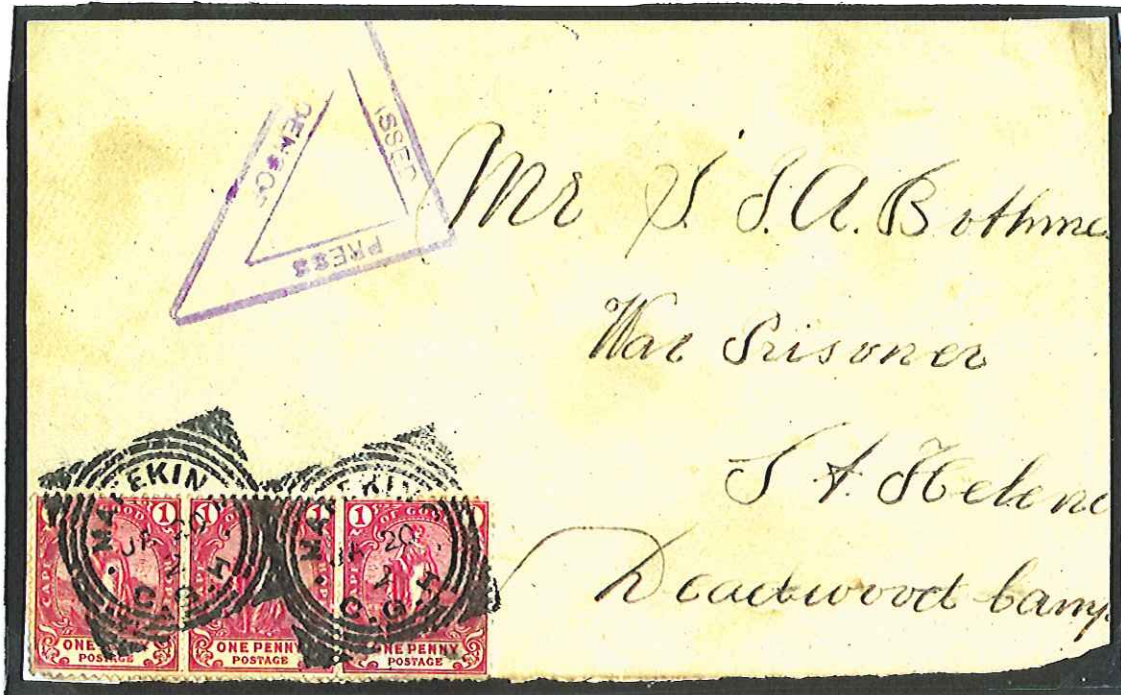
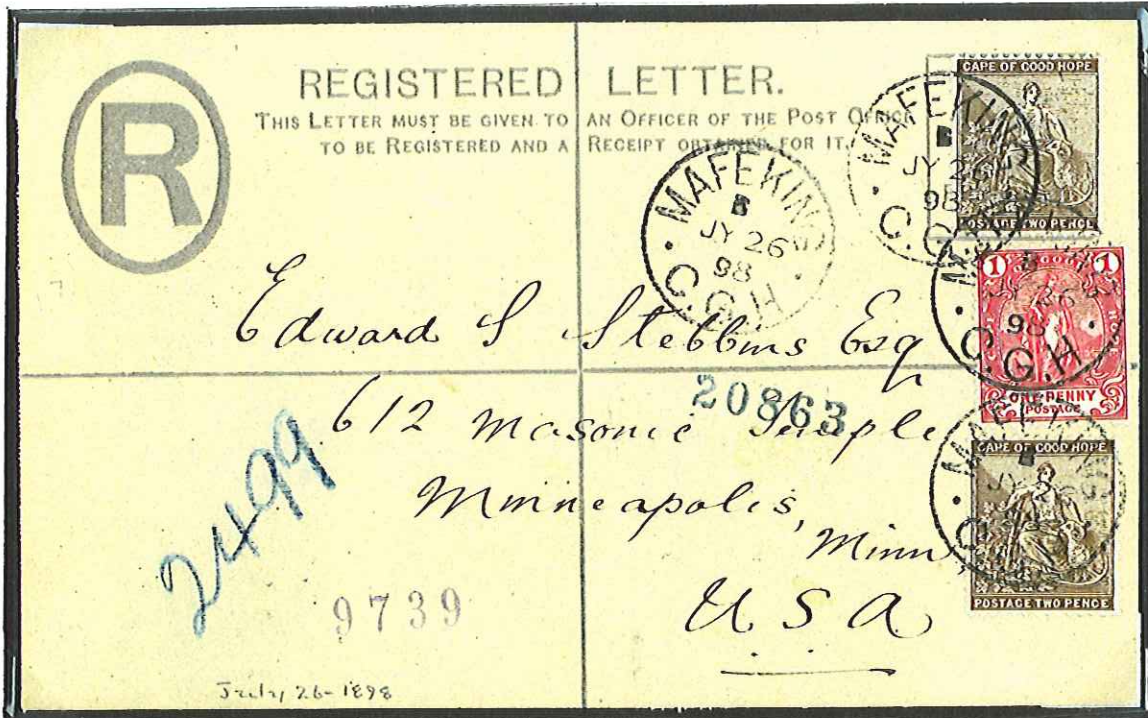
It should be remembered also that the words of the genuine are clear cut, evenly spaced and in a straight line, whilst the forged overprints usually show the type uneven and of somewhat ragged appearance, with alignment of the full overprint displaced.

S.M. SEPT 1949

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

Registered letter from Mafeking to Minneapolis, U.S.A. bearing stamps for a total of 5 pence and a date stamp dated July, 26, 1998. It is the only postmark type used during the siege.



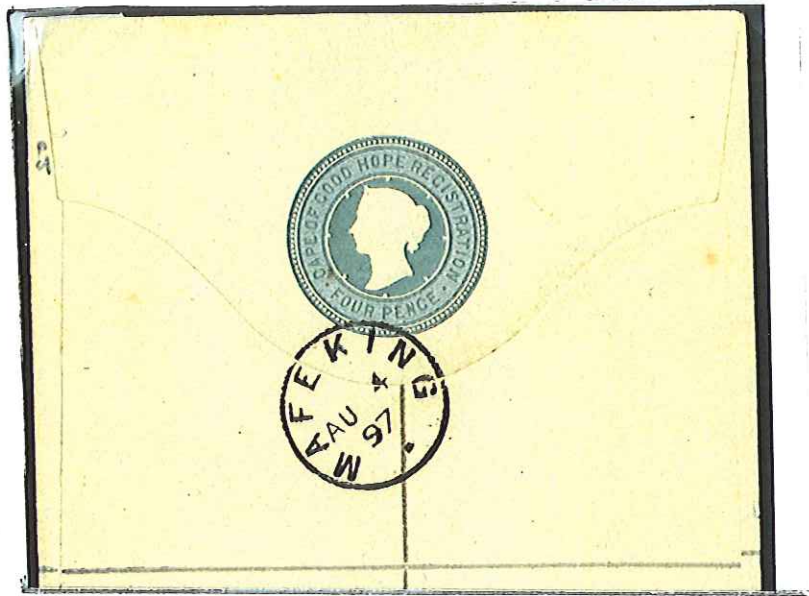
Cover to a War Prisoner dated January, 20 1902 mailed from Mafeking bearing 3 stamps of 1 penny each. Violet Censor 's mark.

Note that the year of the postmark has only one digit (2) while generally has two digits (02).

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

Mail before the siege (small cancellation on receipt)



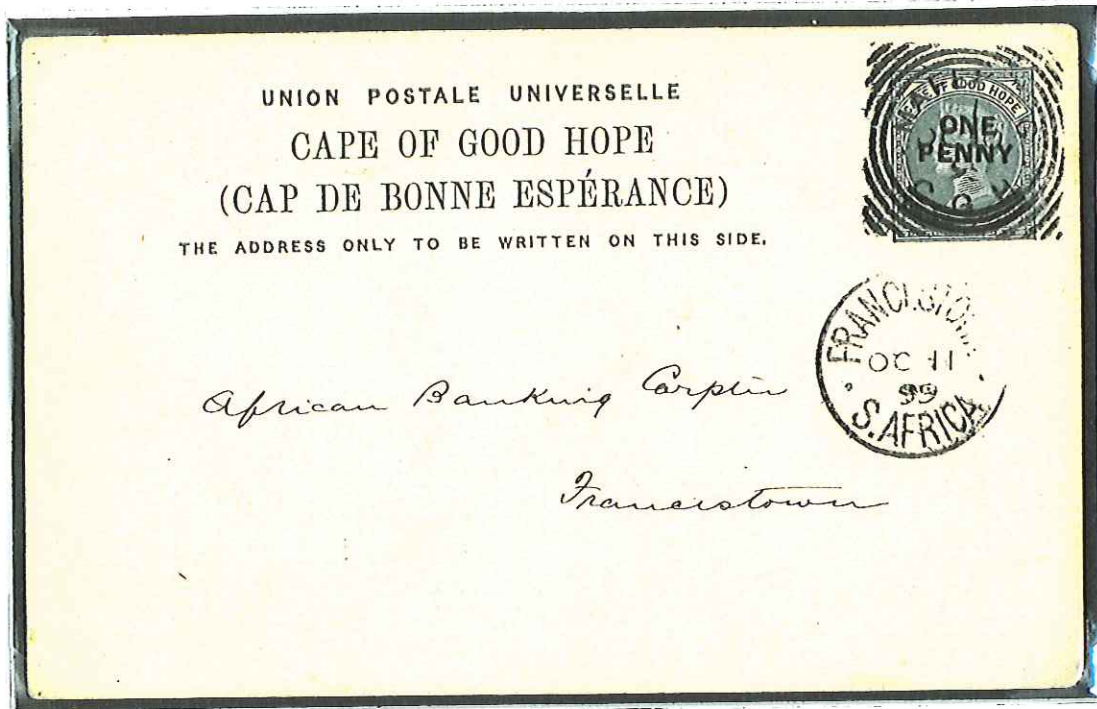
Registered letter to Mafeking (AU 4, 1997) from KIMBERLY (AU 2, 1997)

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

Mail before the siege (square cancellation)

Card from Mafeking (OC 10, 1999) to Francetown (OC 11, 1999), few days before the siege.



Dear Sir

*Your of 6th inst to hand with
stated enclosures*

Yours faithfully

Rivry

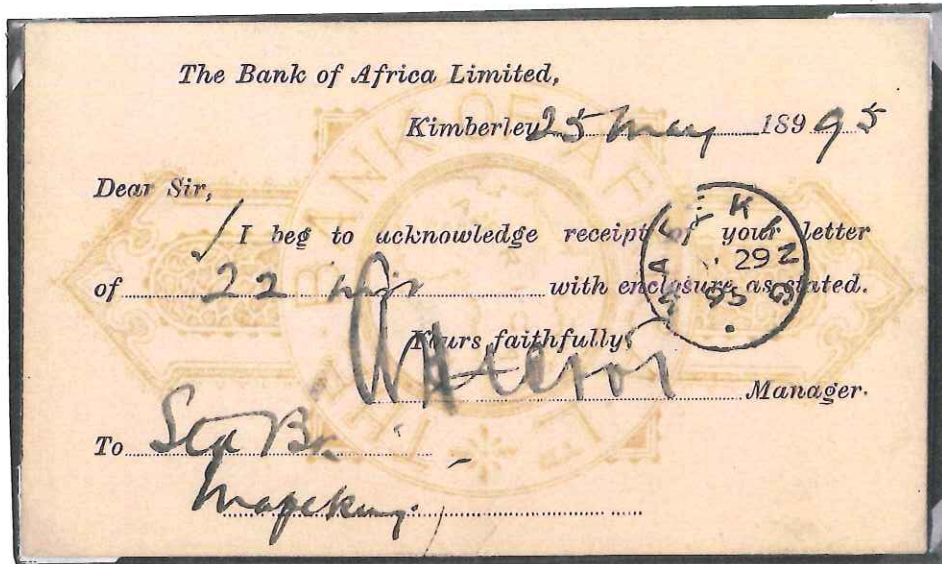
Manager



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

Mail before the siege (small cancellation on receipt)



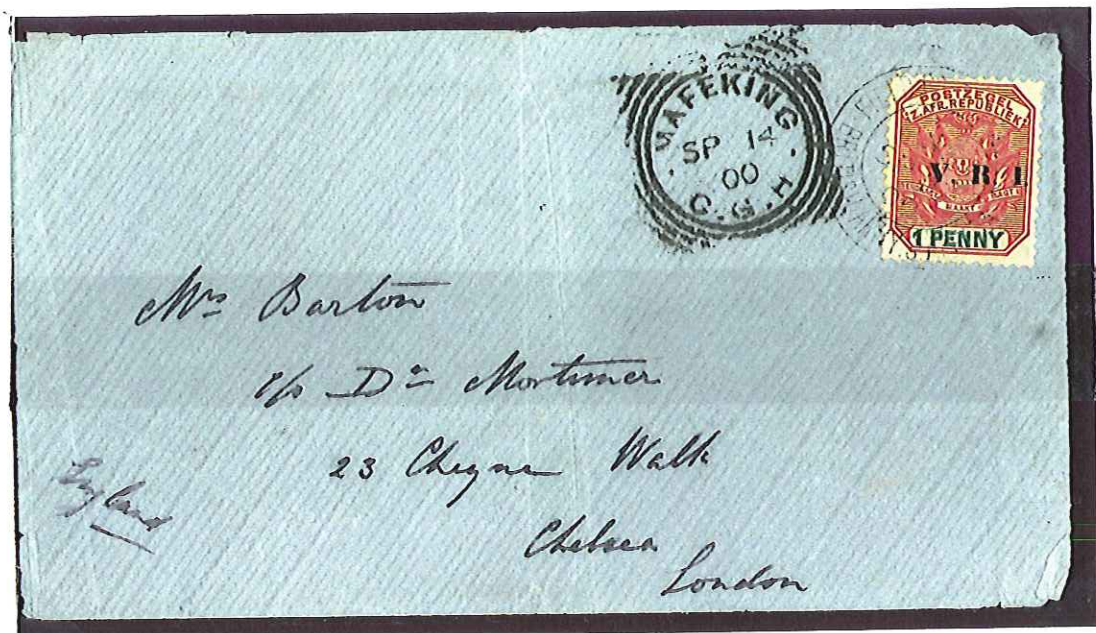
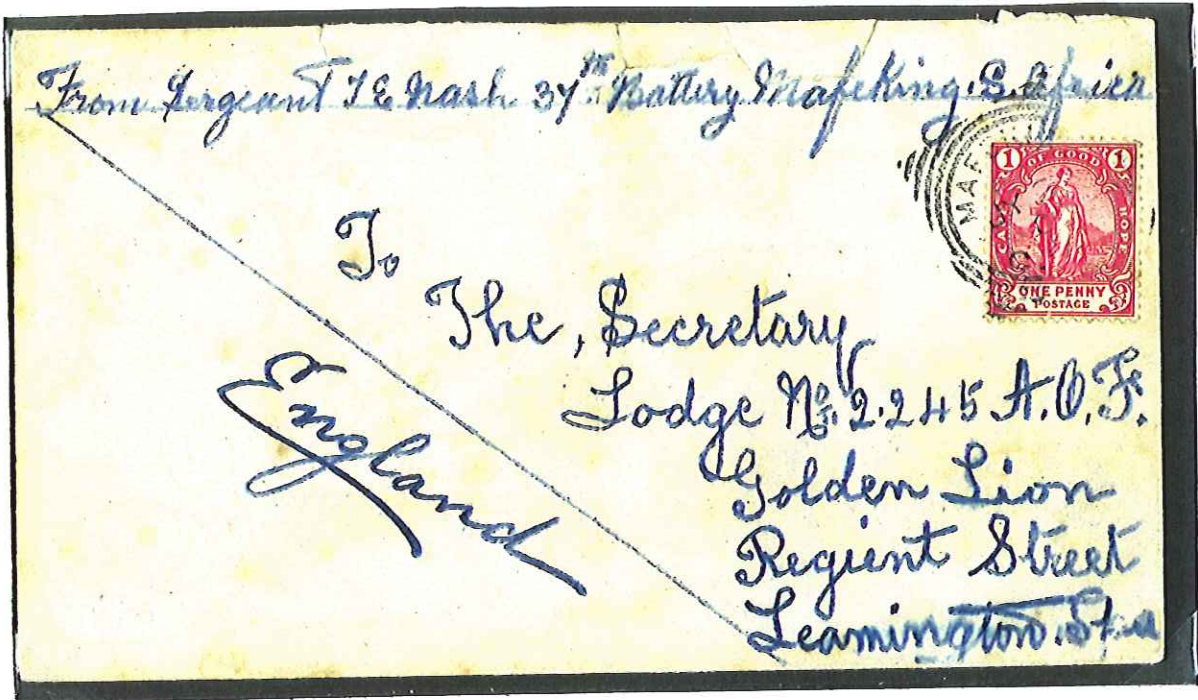
Card to MAFEKING (MY 29, 1995) from KIMBERLY (MY 25, 1995)

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

Mail after the siege

Cover from sergeant T.E. Nash, 37 Battery, bearing a Mafeking date stamp for July 1900 and a Leamington Spa arrival stamp dated August 19, 1900

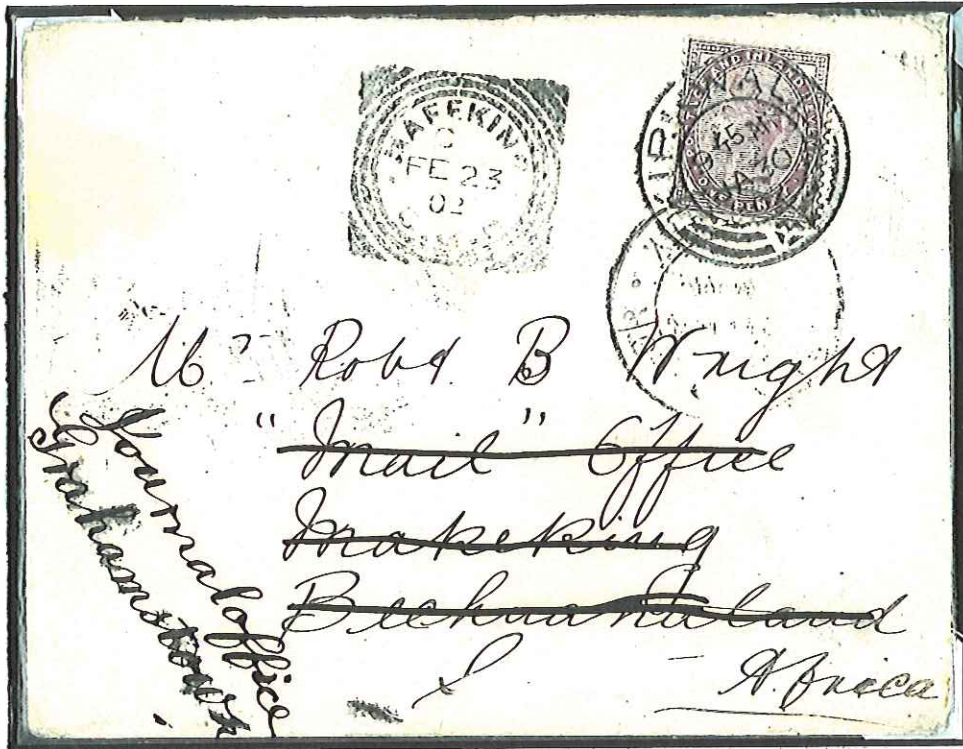


Cover bearing a Mafeking date stamp for September 14, 1900 and a London S.W. arrival stamp dated October 5, 1900

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

Mail after the siege (square cancellation)



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

Mail after the siege (square cancellation)

Stampless covers were also accepted but the right postal rate had to be paid. So we can see the Mafeking squared circle date stamp (SP 3 1900), the British "PAID" mark in red (29 SP) and the "BRITISH ARMY S AFRICA FIELD POST OFFICE" (SP 7 1900)



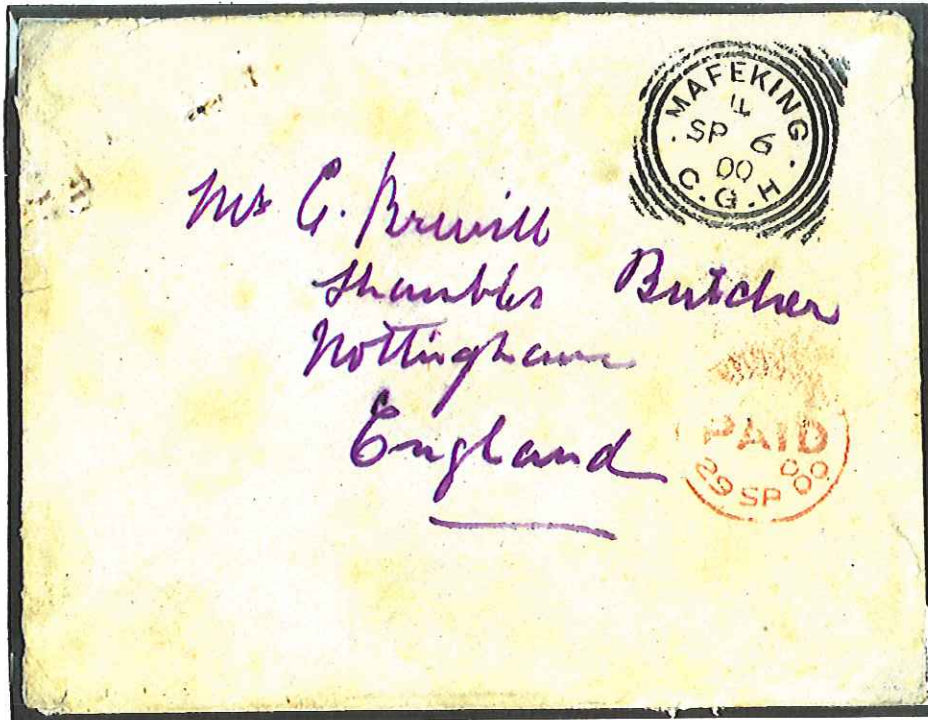
Letter "On Active Service" from Mafeking to St. Leonards on sea, England (October 1st)

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

Mail after the siege (square cancellation)

Stampless covers were also accepted but the right postal rate had to be paid. So we can see the Mafeking squared circle date stamp (SP 6 1900) and the British "PAID" mark in red (29 SP)



Letter from Mafeking to Nottingham, England (October 1)

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

The military authorities purchased, from the Postmaster Mr Howat, at their full face value, the entire supply of stamps in the Mafeking Post Office and the Head Office of Bechuanaland Protectorate.

In order to assist in the defraying of the costs of the runners, an increased postal rate had to be levied for the carriage of private letters which was duly announced through the medium of the "Mafeking mail" :

- 1/- per ½ oz. for mail carried by the Northern Route via Bulawayo
- 6d. per ½ oz. for mail carried by the Southern Route via Kimberly
- Postal rate for Local post unchanged
 - 1d. per ½ oz. for delivery in town limits
 - 3d. per ½ oz. for delivery at outpost and forts

To give effect hereto it became necessary for the Military Administration to surcharge the stocks of stamps purchased from the Post Office. The stamps had to be overprinted with the wording "MAFEKING BESIEGED" and the surcharged rate. The printing was carried out between 23 March - 3 May 1900.

The original stamps before overprint



The normal larger letters, which were cancelled between 23 March to the middle of May 1900 in the bombproof underground Post Office, had, in part, if they were addressed to the outside, to wait until 17 May 1900 when they could be forwarded further.

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

The military authorities bought the entire supply of stamps from the Mafeking Post Office. At this time Mafeking was the administrative capital of the Bechuanaland Protectorate. Townshend & Sons, local printers, overprinted the stamps with either double or triple their face value, as required. The overprint "MAFEKING/BESIEGED" therefore exists on stamps of the Cape of Good Hope, British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate. These administrations recognised the stamps only on mail originating from Mafeking.

The "forme" of the "set up" consisted of six subjects only. The basic stamps were printed in panes of 240 (20 rows of 12 stamps) and the overprint was therefore applied a row at a time. The sheet had the selvedge removed from the outside; it was then split into 6 rows of 20 stamps ready for overprinting. Only the 1s on 4d British Bechuanaland was an exception as these stamps unoverprinted came in sheetlets of 20, thus only 5 subjects were applied at a time. There are at least four separate printings as indicated by different spacings of the overprint. The 16 overprinted stamps came with two different overprint styles: fancy letters and sans-serif letters.

The One penny and Threepenny were intended to be purely local in their use, a postal service having been arranged in the town and between it and the outposts; but as a sufficient number of each of those values could be (and were) used together to make up the higher rates, they can be classed as ordinary postage stamps, though issued at one place only, available either together or with other values, to frank letters overseas (i.e. to United Kingdom).

The values used during the siege were One penny, Three pence, Six pence, One shilling and Two shillings and all were made by overprinting available stamps of Cape and Bechuanaland overprinted with a new higher value and "MAFEKING/BESIEGED"



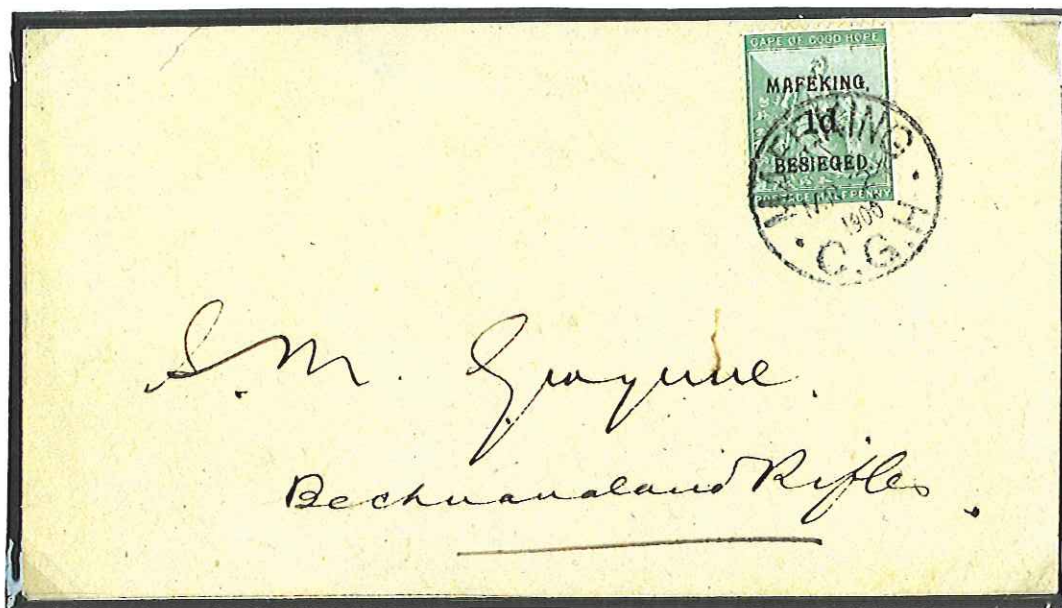
THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on Cape of Good Hope Stamps
1d on half penny - Green Hope Seated - issued 23.3.1900 - 7.680 printed



Variety "no comma"



Local Mafeking letter (March 24)

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on Cape of Good Hope Stamps
 1d on half penny - Green Hope Standing - issued 24.3.1900 - 5.280 printed



variety "no comma"
 position 6 of setting



MR 28



MR31



AP12



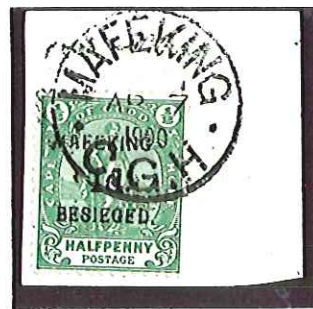
AP2



AP5



AP 6



AP 7

variety "no comma"
 position 6 of setting

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on Cape of Good Hope Stamps
3d on one penny - Carmine Hope Standing - issued 23.3.1900 - 6.000 printed



variety "no comma"
position 5 of setting



March 27



April 13



April 2



Letter from Mafeking (March 23, F.D.C.) to Bulawayo. There is an endorsement at lower left "received minus 2 stamps at P.O. Bulawayo. J.H.Powell" (Bulawayo Postmaster)

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on Cape of Good Hope Stamps
3d on one penny – Carmine Hope Standing – issued 23.3.1900 – 6000 printed



Letter from Mafeking (April 20) to Leamington, England (June 8) cancelled at Crocodile Pools (April 25).



MR 22



MR 29



MR 31



MY 7

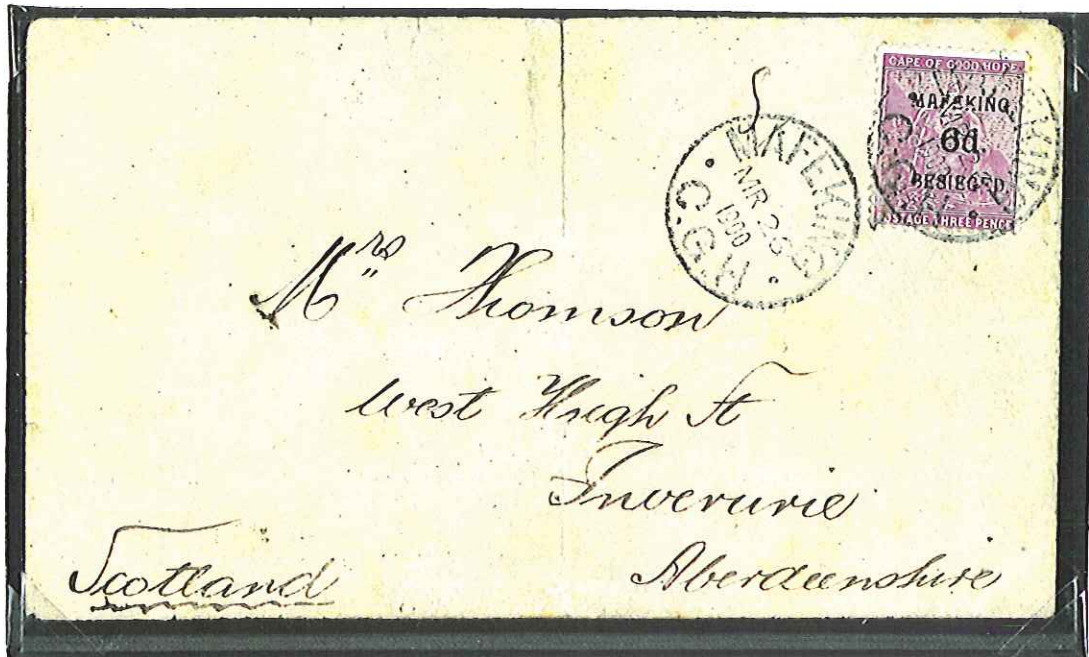
THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on Cape of Good Hope Stamps
6d on threepence - Magenta Hope Seated - issued 24.3.1900 - 840 printed



The 6 different overprint positions



Letter from Mafeking (March 26) to Inverurie, Scotland (received on May 7), via Barkly West (April 11)

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on Cape of Good Hope Stamps
1s on fourpence - Sage-green Hope Seated - issued 24.3.1900 - 1.440 printed



AP 16

MR 29



Mafeking local post on MR 29

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on Bechuanaland Protectorate Stamps
1d on half penny - Vermilion - issued 28.3.1900 - 6.000 printed



variety "no comma"
after Mafeking



there exist 4 types of overprinting, which differ for the position of "1d."



Letter from Mafeking, on April 3rd, to Major Francis Panzera, commander of the Artillery

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on Bechuanaland Protectorate Stamps
1d on half penny - Vermilion - issued 28.3.1900 - 6.000 printed



Inverted surcharge



No comma
after Mafeking



Surcharge left aligned



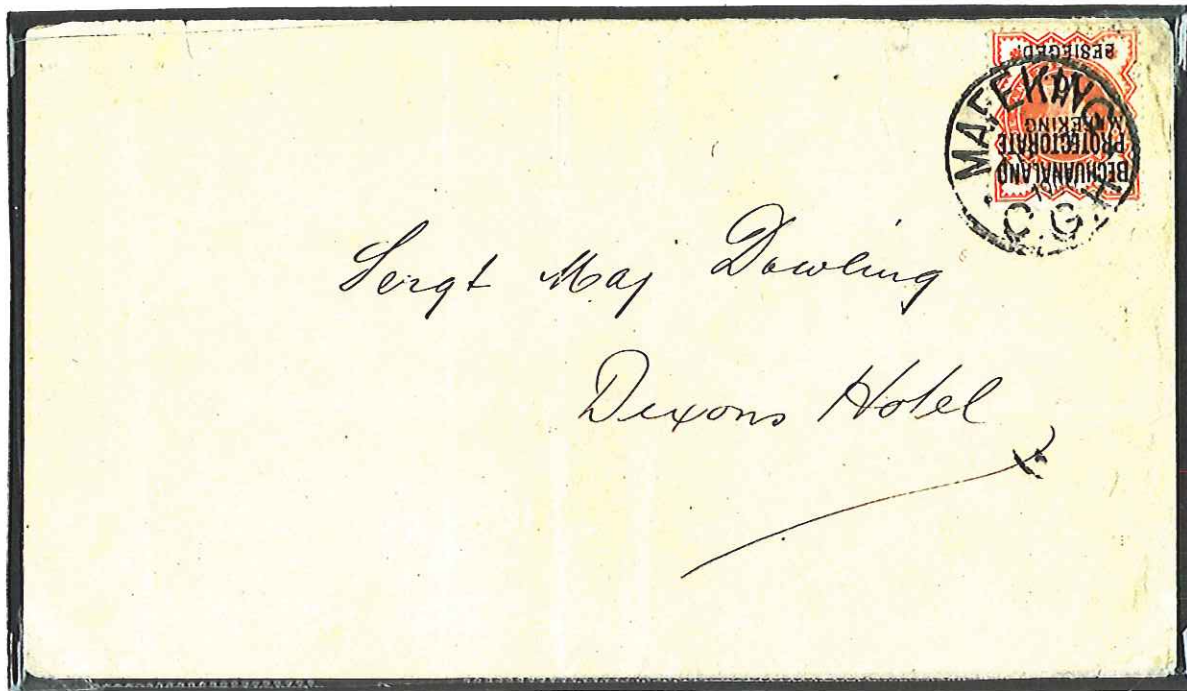
AP 2



AP 10



AP 3



Mafeking local post : letter to Serg.t Major Dowling (April, 4)

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on Bechuanaland Protectorate Stamps
3d on one penny - Lilac - issued 4.4.1900 - 1.800 printed



variety "no comma"
after "Mafeking"



AP 13



MY 9



AP 22



Letter to Mrs. Mac Kenzie, written by lieutenant Mac Kenzie,
from Mafeking (April 21) to Harding, Natal (June 11), via Bulawayo (May 6) and Durban

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on Bechuanaland Protectorate Stamps
6d on 2d - Green and Carmine - issued 6.4.1900 - 1.200 printed



AP



MY 3



mint



AP 13



Cover from the "Panzera" correspondence paid at the 1/-Northern route to England franked Mafeking 6d on Bechuanaland Protectorate 2d pair cancelled "MAFEKING / C.G.H." c.d.s. Backstamped at "CROCODILE POOLS / SOUTH AFRICA (April 25th), "BULAWAYO / RHODESIA" (April 30th) and "HARWICK" (June 9th)

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on Bechuanaland Protectorate Stamps
6d on 3d - Purple and yellow - issued 30.3.1900 - 1.440 printed



Mint



AP 2



AP 14



MY 2



at left



centered



lower



higher

"MAFEKING" OVERPRINT

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on British Bechuanaland Stamps
6d on 3d - Lilac and black - issued 27.3.1900 - 3.600 printed



No comma after "Mafeking"



Surcharge left aligned

MR 28

MR 31

MY 12



Letter from Mafeking (March 29) to Belfast, via Bulawayo (April 9) franked with a 6d pair, both without comma after "Mafeking"

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on British Bechuanaland Stamps
1s on 4d - Green and purple-brown - issued 29.3.1900 - 2.320 printed



Double surcharge
Trial printing



Letter from Mafeking (April 2) to Harding, Natal (May 7), via Bulawayo (April 14) and Durban (May 4)

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Fancy type, on British Bechuanaland Stamps
1s on 4d - Green and purple-brown - issued 29.3.1900 - 2.320 printed



March 29 First Day known



MR 31



AP2



AP 3



AP 29



The 5 different overprint positions

Little known was that the Great Britain 4d only appeared in panes of 5.
Hence the absence of position N° 6.

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Sans-serif letters, on Bechuanaland Protectorate Stamps
3d on one penny - Lilac - issued 25.4.1900 - 1.800 printed



MY 14



MY 11



Letter from Mafeking received in Bulawayo on April 15 at 8 – 9 AM. Purple cancel “Passed Press Censor” and J.H. Powell, Bulawayo Postmaster, blue signature : JHP.
Note, in the stamps, the distance between “3d” and “Bechuanaland”

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Sans-serif letters, on Bechuanaland Protectorate Stamps
3d on one penny - Lilac - issued 25.4.1900 - 1.800 printed



MY14 : Surcharge right /centred aligned on the stamp "A", left /centred aligned on stamps "B" and "C"



AP 16



AP ?



MY 1



MY 11



MY 7

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Sans-serif letters, on Bechuanaland Protectorate Stamps
6d on 2d - Green and carmine - issued 25.4.1900 - 1.200 printed



AP 26



MY 5



This cover was not handled by the postal authorities at Mafeking during the Siege as witnessed by the absence of cancellations and the request that it be registered at base. Conceivably it was carried by a private runner at the instance of a reporter or merchant. It could have been dispatched immediately after the Siege using prepurchased Siege issues. Although these were military issues they were accepted by the GPO, Cape Town, as valid for ordinary civilian use until November 1900.

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Sans-serif letters, on Bechuanaland Protectorate Stamps
1s on 6d - Purple and rose-red - issued 25.4.1900 - 1.440 printed



mint



Mail from Mafeking (April 30) to London, received on June 23.

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Sans-serif letters, on Bechuanaland Protectorate Stamps
1s on 6d - Purple and rose-red - issued 25.4.1900 - 1.440 printed



The front of the envelope sent from Mafeking to London, is addressed by the hand of General Baden-Powell to the photographer "E. L. Thomas Esq."

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Sans-serif letters, on British Bechuanaland Stamps
1s on 6d - Purple and rose-red - issued 15.4.1900 - 240 printed



AP 15



AP 29



AP30



MY 7



MY10



Letter from Mafeking (May 11) to Bulawayo

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

SURCHARGED STAMPS

Sans-serif letters, on British Bechuanaland Stamps
2s on 1s - Green - issued 13.4.1900 - 570 printed



MY ?



Surcharge
left aligned



MY 10



AP 28

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

Produced photographically by Dp. D. Taylor, perf. 12
on unwatermarked horizontally laid paper



The "Mafeking Blues" refer to the 1d. bicycle stamp, 3d. Baden-Powell stamp and £1 Siege Note, which were produced by the photographic ferroprussiate process.

About 800 sheets of 12 stamps each, of the 1d. were issued. The 3d. came in a narrow and wide format. About 500 sheets narrow format and 200 sheets wide format were issued.

In March 1900, only 683 blue banknotes of £1 were issued, signed by R. Urry, Manager of the Standard Bank and Capt. Greener, the Chief Paymaster of the garrison.



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

The "bicycle" one penny stamp

This stamp depicts Sgt. Major Warner Goodyear, a twelve-years-old lad, who was the epitome of the ideal Boy Scout, in uniform with delivery pouch on his bicycle.

Dr. Taylor, the official "printer" of the stamps, took first a "reduced" photo of the accepted design. From the negative thus obtained, 12 prints were made and pasted on a sheet of cardboard, arranged in 3 rows of 4. He then photographed this arrangement, thus obtaining finally by contact a 12 subject negative glass plate. A contact print was made from this negative on "blue print" paper and thereafter washed and developed in a similar way to an ordinary photo print.

There were 3 printing plates used to produce the 9.476 stamps of this issue (approximately 800 sheets of 12 stamps each).

The first printing, from Plate 3, accounted for 400 sheets.

A second printing, from Plate 2 accounted for 334 sheets.

A small third printing, from Plate 1, probably done just prior to the relief, accounted about 68 sheets only.

The stamps were perforated by Townshend and Son" in Mafeking, they used a Line Comb perforator.

Because they operated under harsh wartime conditions, some errors were made, even the position of the perforating was not always centred.



23x26 mm

24x25 mm

24x27 mm

23x28 mm

24x28 mm

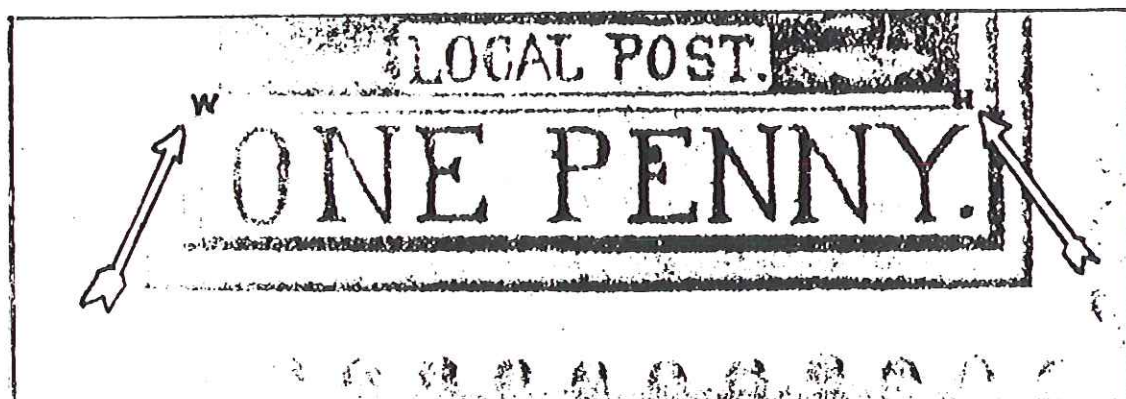
24x29 mm

Size



White dot on the top variety

The "designer" of the "Bicycle" stamp, Dr. W.A. Hayes, incorporated his initials ("W" and "H") in the design of the stamp. This will be found in the space separating the value tablet from the portion representing the original photograph.



Ref: "South African Philatelist"

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

The "bicycle" one penny mint stamp



unusual format

badly perforated

damaged plate

broken plate variety

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

The "bicycle" one penny stamp

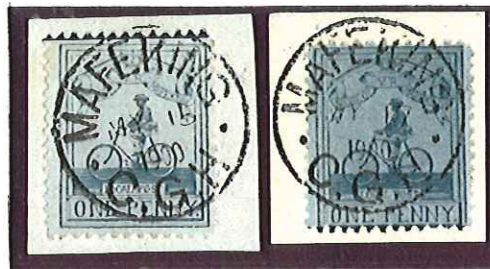


a sheet of 12 stamps

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

The "bicycle" one penny stamp



The causes of the great range of colours :

1. The length of exposure time given
2. The primitive chemical process employed in preparing the paper
3. The deficiency of a plentiful supply of chemicals

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

The "bicycle" one penny stamp

The "broken plate" variety of 1d "Bicycle" shows the "break-up" of the value tablet. A number of white lines extend vertically into the value tablet and are joined irregularly at the base close to the bottom perforations.

The stamps are from the bottom row of the third plate and are, in all probability, the final printing to have been made from that plate, and seem to have been brought into use only very shortly before the siege was lifted.

What caused this variety? The emulsion on the glass negative underwent a process of expansion (through the application of heat or otherwise) causing it to thicken on those portions of the glass negative plate where these lines occur.

Thus on printing from this glass negative plate white lines appeared at the base of the stamp.



Broken value tablets

There are also differences in the bar characteristics of the three printings of the stamp. The stamps can be divided into three main groups and their relative positions on the sheet are as follows :

- Stamps with blue bars at the top are from the top rows of the sheet
- Stamps with bars at the bottom are from the bottom rows of the sheet
- Stamps without bars are from the centre of the sheet



Centre of the sheet



Blue bars at the top



Blue bars at the bottom

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

The "bicycle" one penny stamp

Rebuilding of plate 3



25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36

25	Dark point under "N" of ONE
26	Point over "G" of SIEGE
27	Dark point on "V.R."
28	Large blot on the "EK" of Mafeking
29	Small circle inside the back wheel
30	Dark point in the middle of the circle at top right
31	Blot under "T" of SIEGE
32	White stroke before the cyclist
33	Stroke under the "O" of ONE
34	Very broken lines at bottom stamp
35	Broken lines at bottom right
36	Bad printing at bottom left

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

The "bicycle" one penny stamp



Addressed to Mr J.V. Howat , Mafeking Postmaster on MY 11



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

The "bicycle" one penny stamp



Mafeking, local mail on MY 3



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES



Photograph of Baden Powell
taken by Mr. D. Taylor in 1900
which was used as main design
for the 3d B.P. stamp.

With compliments
to Mr. Fred Schulze,
from

K. Freund.
(Dr. K. Freund,
Bloemfontein,
South Africa)

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

Baden -Powell small format mint stamps



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

Baden-Powell small format stamps

DATE OF ISSUE

NOTICE.

THE new issue of stamp bearing the Colonel's photograph, will be produced on Monday, the 9th instant. These stamps can only be issued on production of letter addressed locally (Mafeking or forts). No person can for the present be allowed to hand to the officer in charge of Siege Post Office more than one letter per diem.

J. V. HOWAT,
Postmaster.

Mafeking,
April 7th, 1900.



CANCELLED "9 AP 1900"
IN MAFEKING MAIL NEWSPAPER



CANCELLED "7 AP 1900"
REF. RL. ENCYCLOPEDIA
Vol 2 - page 124



CANCELLED "6 AP 1900"
REAL FIRST DAY

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

Baden-Powell small format stamps



AP 28



AP 9



AP 13



AP 30



AP 19



MY 12



unusual format



badly perforated



white dot variety

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

Baden-Powell small format stamps



MY 3



AP 9



AP13



AP 18



AP 20



AP 23



MY 9



MY 10



MY 13

The causes of the great range of colours : it will be immediately be appreciated that the authorities were not concerned with bringing out an issue of stamps for posterity, but were only concerned with fulfilling an existing need to produce stamps for payment of local postage. They were not particularly concerned with ensuring that the uniformity of colour was maintained.

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

Baden-Powell small format stamps



AP 27
bottom right corner



AP 27
top left corner



AP 20
top right corner



AP 16



MY 1
bottom left corner



MY 10
bottom left corner



MY 11



AP 7
bottom left corner



MY 13

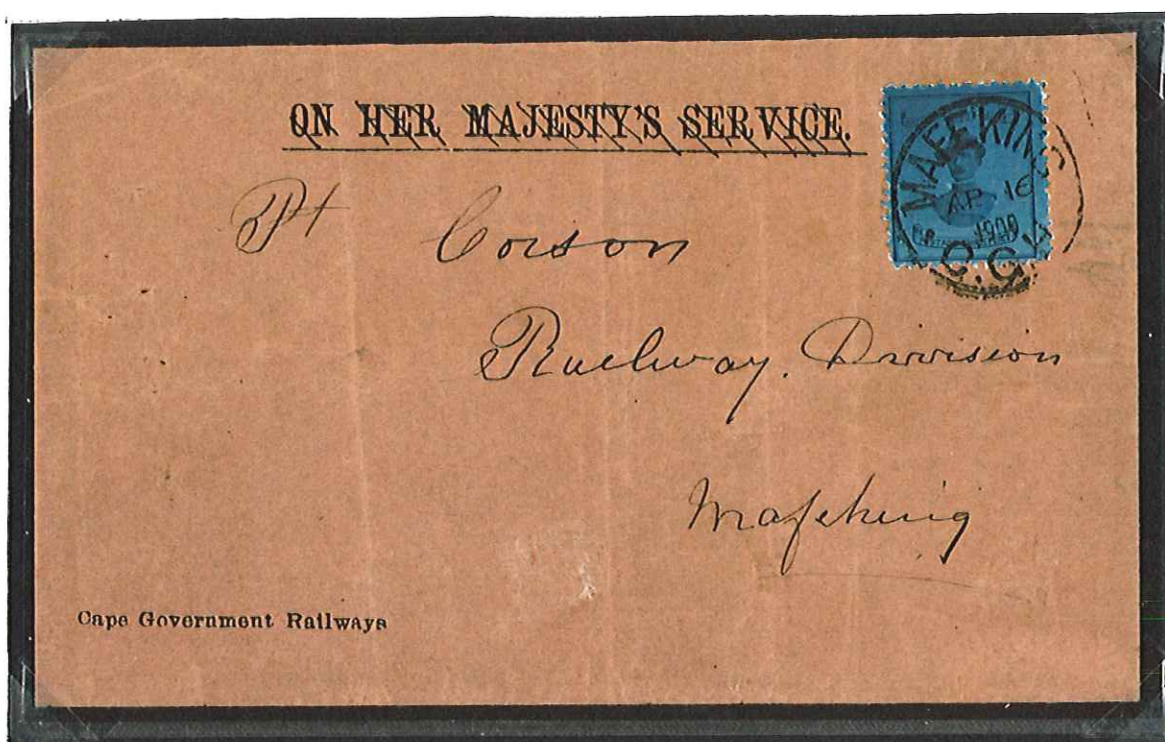
THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

Baden-Powell small format stamps



Local Mafeking letter (April 10)



Local Mafeking letter (April 16)

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

Baden-Powell small format stamps

Mafeking local post, letter of May 1st, franked with four small Baden-Powell stamps, top of the sheet.



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

Baden-Powell small format stamps

Letter from Mafeking (April 13) to Bulawayo (April 23).

The purple "Passed press censor", was applied at Bulawayo.
Franked with four small Baden-Powell stamps, bottom of the sheet.

Error on the cancel : AP 1Σ instead of AP 13 (inverted "3") . The cancel was used on a small number of pieces of mail before the error was discovered and corrected.



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

Baden-Powell large format stamp



Mint



Mint



May 11



The rare variety on vertically laid paper



April 13



April 13 First Day known

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

Baden-Powell large format stamp



April 25



April 26



May 2



May 12



May 14



May 15

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

Baden-Powell large format stamp



AP 26



MY 4



MY 5



AP 26



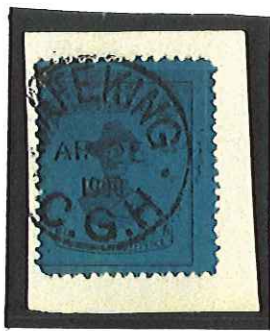
April 26

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

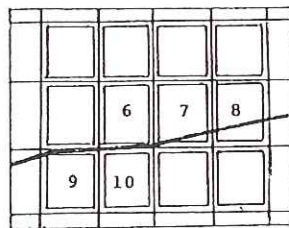
MAFEKING BLUES

Baden-Powell large format stamp, issued on April, 13th

At the beginning of April 1900 the large plate was broken into two parts. Despite the plate being broken, before the glass negative was destroyed, they made further prints.



Left shifted
print



*The break in the plate positions.
Ref: 'The South African Philatelist'.*



WATERMARK
shows letter "O"
"OCEANA/FINE"



position 6
"cracked plate"



position 7
"cracked plate"



position 8
"cracked plate"



position 9
"cracked plate"



position 10
"cracked plate"



position 10
"cracked plate" mint
The only known stamp
mint and cracked

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING BLUES

Telegraph cancellations



G.D. 510.
1. 27.

W & K & Sons - 41679 - 5000,000 - 8,98.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

If the accuracy of this Telegram (being an Inland Telegram) is doubted, it will be repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission; and, if found to be incorrect, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Cablegrams. When the cost of a reply to a Telegram has been prepaid, and the number of words in the reply is in excess of the number so paid for, the sender of the reply must pay for such excess.

N.B. - This Form should accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Charges to pay £ _____ s. _____ d.

CAPE UNIFORM TIME is observed throughout Cape Colony, Rhodesia, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

No. of Message.

Dated Stamp of



Handed to at

Durban

at

12 5

M.

Received here at

12 5

M.

Delivering Office.

From

McCall
Branch Customs

To

Gemmel
Mafeking

How is wife this season
Very anxious

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING RELIEVED

Mafeking Relieved after 220th day of Siege.

(By Telegraph.—Per Eastern Company's Cable Received and Published May 19 noon.)

LONDON, 18 May, 10.30 p.m.—(Reuters Agency.)—The enthusiasm in London is universal and unbounded owing to the receipt of a Reuter's telegram announcing the relief of Mafeking, which was posted at the Mansion House, at half-past nine o'clock this evening. The news spread like wild fire and passed along the Ministerial benches and afterwards through the House of Commons, amid a general hum of satisfaction.

The streets are crowded, and by a quarter to ten there was wild cheering and waving of flags. The police were obliged to divert the traffic round the Mansion House, which is brilliantly illuminated, and a portrait of Col. Baden-Powell displayed.

Mafeking was threatened by the Boer forces under General Cronje on Friday, 18th October, and there was severe fighting four miles from the town when the enemy's loss was reported to be 53 killed, many doubtless from the explosion of two trucks of dynamite which were carefully shunted down the railway line in the direction of the approaching enemy. Next day there was fighting with two armoured trains and the Boers fled out of range.

On Monday 16th the first shells fell into the town, the hospital being struck three times, the fifteenth shell struck Reisle's Hotel, but although over fifty shells were fired there was little damage and no loss of life. Since that day Mafeking has been closely invested, and though called upon to surrender has stoutly defied assault to the last. Cronje got so utterly sick of fruitless bombarding that he forsook the job and went South to Magersfontein, saying: *he could fight men, but the garrison of Mafeking were devils.*

His successor Commandant Snyman has had no better success.

One of the most notable incidents of the siege took place on the night of Friday October 24th., when the enemy were attacked in their trenches, with the bayonet, causing them heavy losses, and forcing them to evacuate Signal Hill, our loss was six killed and nine wounded.

On Friday 31st. October the enemy made an assault upon the town; it was gallantly attempted and gallantly repulsed, but their loss was so great that up to the date of relief no serious attempt was made to carry the position, desultory bombardment and the hopes of starving the garrison into capitulation were the only means used, and failure marks their end.

The latest events of striking interest are dated:—

March 23.—Boers evacuate a strong position known as "The Brickfields," after three months' fighting. Their attempts to mine the trenches with nitro-glycerine was discovered, and the fring current wires cut.

March 31.—Col. Plumer's forces got within six miles and in sight of Mafeking, but had to retire before overwhelming numbers, the enemy being two to one of our forces.

April 10.—Fearfully heavy bombardment by Boer ordnance, and 68 shells from big siege gun, but resulting only in one casualty. The bread ration further reduced.

The siege will ever stand as amongst the most gallant in British history, and we think a special medal should be struck to commemorate the bravery of the Military and Civilian garrison.

As for the principal Hero, whose portrait we reproduce above, there is no distinction too great to be conferred upon him.

Printed and Published for the "Yellow Press" by the Colonist Printing Syndicate, 52 Bree Street, Cape Town.



On May 17th (1900), Mafeking is relieved after a siege of 220 days.



THE SIEGE
OF
MAFEKING

MAFEKING
RELIEVED

May 17, 1900

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER
TO BE REGISTERED AND A RECEIPT

REGISTERED.

OF THE POST OFFICE
OBTAINED FOR IT.



*Mrs B. B. Ward
Barbrook
Leipheim
Cape Town*



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING RELIEVED

The defence of Mafeking and its ultimate relief was jubilantly greeted throughout the Cape Colony and England



Card from Bloemfontain to England dated May, 19, 1900, 2 days after the relieve of Mafeking, franked with a stamp of "Orange Staat" overprint with "VRI" Victoria Regina Imperatrix.

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING RELIEVED

Telegram from the Superintendent of telegrams, Beira Railway, indicating that Telegraphic communication with Mafeking had been resumed following the raising of the siege.

MEMORANDUM.

FROM

PAULING & CO., LIMITED.

The Beira Railway.

190

To

Communication by Telegraph with M A F E K I N G from the North has ~~been~~
been reopened.

A. Preston

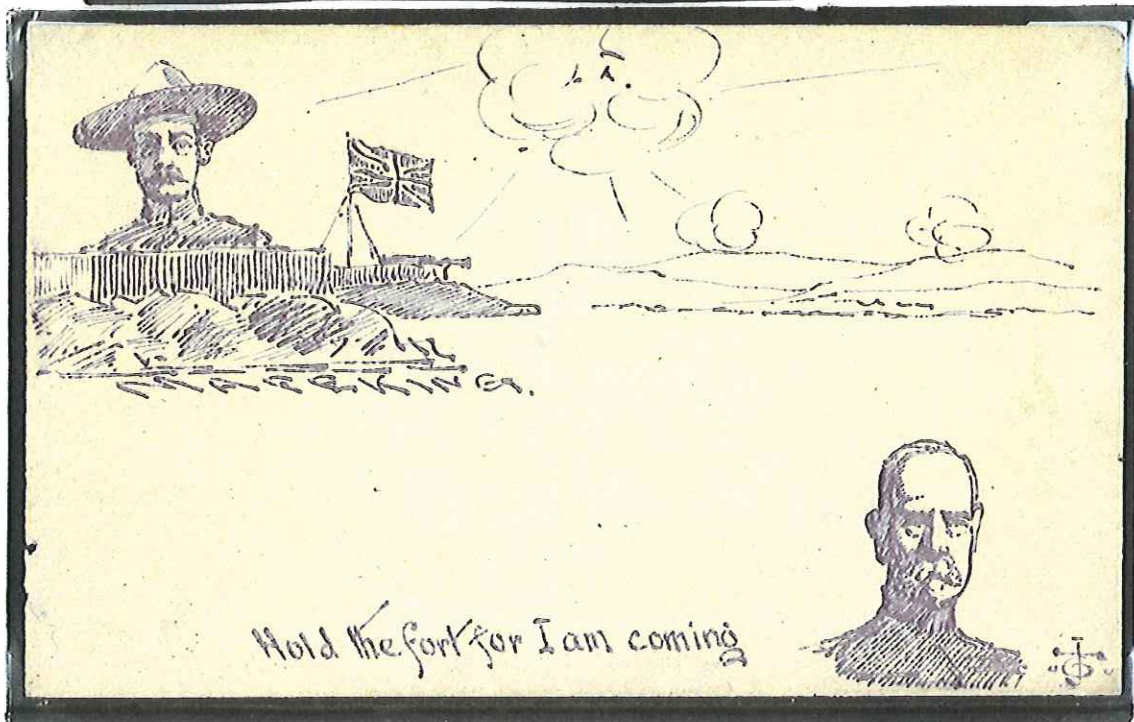
Beira 28th May 1900.

Superintendent of Telegraphs.



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING RELIEVED



A series both of envelopes and postcards was drawn by Caporal Payne of the Army Pay Corps, before the relief of Mafeking.

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING RELIEVED

V.R.I. : Victoria Regina Imperatrix



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING RELIEVED

V.R.I. : Victoria Regina Imperatrix
 E.R.I. : Edward Rex Imperator

Due to the death of queen Victoria, the british overprint on boer stamps was changed to E.R.I.
 Boer War ended with the Declaration of Pace on 31st May 1902.
 Transval and Orange loose there indipendence and were joined to the British Empire.



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING RELIEVED

V.R.I. : Victoria Regina Imperatrix
E.R.I. : Edward Rex Imperator

On the death of Queen Victoria, Edward became the king/imperator of the British empire.

The 2 stamps on this letter to Leipzig, Germany, show with the different overprint (V.R.I. and E.R.I.) what happened.



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING RELIEVED

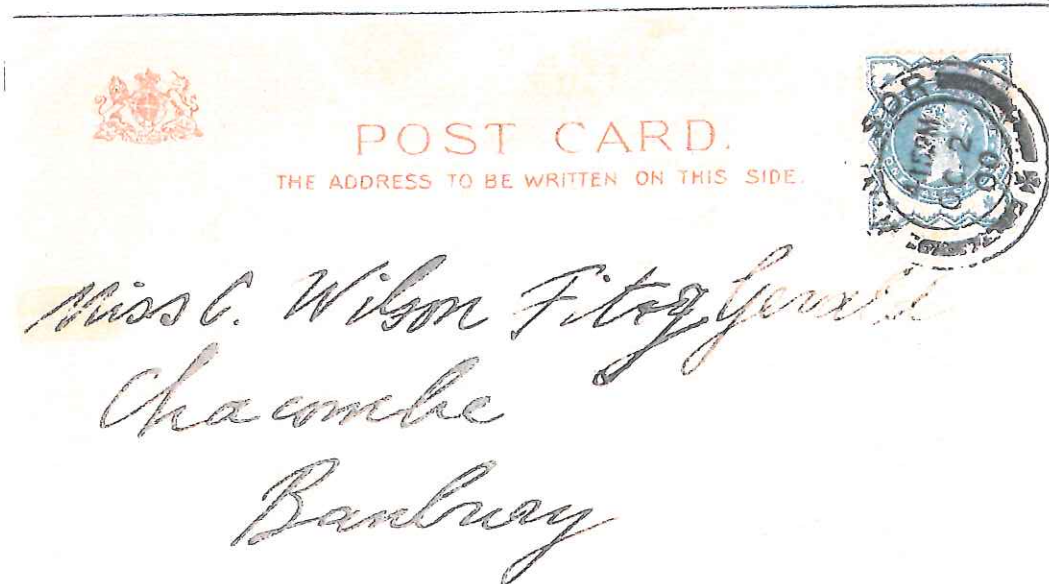
V.R.I. : Victoria Regina Imperatrix
E.R.I. : Edward Rex Imperator

Registered letter from Pretoria to Maastricht (22 Sep 1901), via Liege (22 SEPT) with the black "Pretoria registered" postmark over the 2 stamps overprinted "V.R.I.", with the "Pretoria passed censor" cancel, with the red strip "opened under martial law" on the back, together with overprint "E.R.I." on the printed 4 pence postmark. Also on the back are the two postmark of Liege end Maastricht.



THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING

MAFEKING RELIEVED



Card mailed from Windsor on October 2^d, 1900