

Postmarks of the Initial Training Wing (ITW)

Sources: Memoir 17 & South of the Zambesi

The ITW opened in Bulawayo in April 1940. RAF cadets were required to first learn some basic army and fighting skills. This they did at ITW and it served trainees from across the Commonwealth during WW2. After passing through ITW they were then sent on to learn their specialised skills at the other RAF bases such as Heany, Kumalo, Thornhill etc. There is no official end date for the ITW closing in 1945, but the last postmarks found are dated 20 April 1945.

Four cancels are known from ITW, a Skeleton cancel and three Double Cancels. Using the classification from Memoir 17, the best source of information on all things Philatelic and WW2 in Rhodesia, they are PMK 12, PMK 13 and PMK 14. One other is recorded in South of Zambesi, 13Gs.2

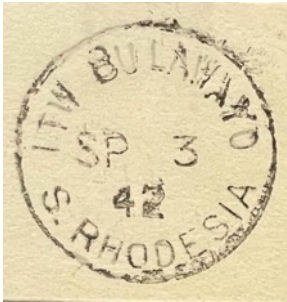
PMK 12 – This skeleton cancel is scarce and there are many wonderful spellings of Bulawayo. There is ITW BULAWA O, ITW BULAAWYO, BULAWAOY ITW, ITW BOULAWAYO and ITW BUALWAY. These alternative spellings are all Extremely Rare.

PMK 13 – This cancel is Rare and has a standard size of 30mm:19.5mm for the double rings.

PMK 14 – This is a much bigger postmark than the previous ones, with measurements of 38mm:27mm and is classified as Rare.

13Gs.2 – This is recorded in South of Zambesi with dimensions of 30.5mm:19mm. Only one copy has been recorded with the date of 29 JN 43. The month is 2 letters, unlike PMK 13 which has 3 letters.

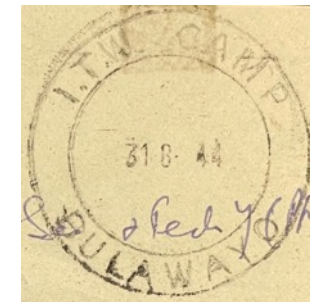
PMK 12



PMK 13



PMK 14



13Gs.2

