

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY

RHODESIA

King George V

1917 The Livingstone Provisional's - War Tax



Crease from front



Crease from back

Second overprinting.

There were two different surcharge printings by the Northern Rhodesian Administrative Press in Livingstone, using two different printing machines. The first printing, released on 15th August 1917, was by an older, smaller printing press with limited capacity. This printing has a number of varieties. The second printing, using a larger machine produced a better aligned print with no errors recorded. (So it is reported!)

This second printing in deep violet, including a hyphen and full-stop, was first released on 22nd September 1917. Type settings were of two rows of ten applied three times to a sheet of sixty stamps.



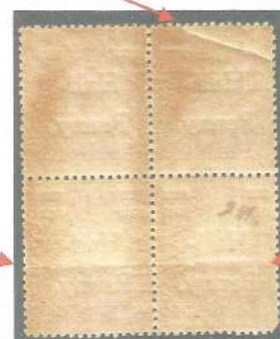
Front view, corner folded
Missing obliterator bars
Row 1 / 1 (stamp top left)



Missing obliterator bars



Horizontal crease, top stamps



Back view, corner fold
Row 1/1
Horizontal crease, bottom

Second ½d on 1d surcharge.
Blocks of 4 with top and bottom horizontal creases.

Before the overprinting could commence, all sheet margins were removed enabling the panes of 60 stamps to fit the press bed. The sheets of stamps were stored in a safe overnight, before being overprinted the following day. Due to the warm temperature in the safe, the sheets curled badly. In an effort to flatten them out the following morning, they were folded into three and pressed (flattened) using a letter press. These folds (creases) can be clearly seen across the sheets on the second and fifth horizontal rows of stamps, when viewed from the back. The block of 4 with missing obliterator bars is from Rows 1 & 2 the other from Rows 5 & 6. Gibbons advise that stamps from both the 1913 and 1917 stamp issue were used in this second overprint.

This issue was officially withdrawn on 31st March 1924 however stocks were exhausted by 22nd April 1918.

In Summary:

The block of 4 stamps with the folded corner and missing obliterator bars, Row 1/1, is unique. The missing obliterator bar is a result of the corner of the stamp, Row 1/1, being folded over during overprinting. The folded corner can be clearly seen on the stamp when viewed from both front and rear. The second row of stamps shows the 'crease' after flattening, identifying it as from Row 2.

It is reasonable to consider that when handling a sheet of stamps, prior to overprinting on an unsophisticated, unsuitable, printing machine, the corner stamp would be most vulnerable. It is on the vulnerable outer corner of the top corner stamp that the left-hand obliterator bar is missing. This block of four stamps is from rows 1 & 2 from the second printing. (Hyphen & Full-stop). The crease is on row 2. The stamp with the missing obliterator bar is therefore stamp Row 1/1.

The second block of four stamps is from Rows 5 and 6. The crease is across the top stamps.

Information: Stanley Gibbons, Mashonaland Guide, Rhodesia Study Circle Encyclopaedia, Mr W O'Connell & Rhodesia Philately to 1924