

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY

RHODESIA

King George V

1917 The Livingstone Provisional's - War Tax

A War Tax had been promulgated on 9th May 1917, adding to existing postage rates. It was levied at ½d per ½ ounce letter across parts of Southern and Central Africa and 1d per ½ ounce letter to other parts of the British Empire. It was effective in Southern Rhodesia from 16th May 1917 and Northern Rhodesia from 1st June 1917. The 1d (Admiral) stamp from the British South Africa Co., Rhodesia issue, printed by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, was surcharged 'Half Penny' by the Northern Rhodesian Administrative Press in Livingstone.

Two separate printings of the surcharge were undertaken. Both settings were of two rows of ten, applied three times to a sheet of sixty stamps. Two stamp printings and two surcharge colours are noted on the first surcharged printings. A shaded ear printing (1913) and unshaded ear printing (1917) are noted, the majority of stamps being from the latter.



Shaded ear



½d on 1d
Shaded ear
(1913)



½d on 1d
Shaded ear
Surcharge 'Offset' on reverse



½d on 1d
Unshaded ear
(1917)



Unshaded ear



½d on 1d
Wider space between
'n' and 'n' (3 positions)



½d on 1d
Wider space between
'n' and 'y' (9 positions)

1d, Rose-carmine (shades), Unshaded ear, surcharged in Violet or Violet-black, no hyphen or full stop

The first surcharge overprint was released on 15th August 1917. It was done on an old smaller printing press with a limited capacity. An inverted surcharge variety, reportedly originating from two mint sheets, occurred on this printing. Also found is a wider spacing between the 'n n' (1mm, 3 positions), and 'n y' (2mm, 9 positions), of 'Penny'.



½d on 1d
Surcharge in Deep Violet



½d on 1d
Surcharge offset on reverse

The second printing, using a larger machine, was released on 22nd September 1917, producing a better aligned print in Deep Violet which now includes a hyphen and a full stop. To date no printing errors are recorded. Officially withdrawn on 1st March 1924 it is believed stocks were exhausted well before the end of April 1917.

Acknowledgements: Stanley Gibbons, Mashonaland Guide, Mr W O'Connell & Rhodesia Philately to 1924.