

# THE BRITISH WEST INDIAN PHILATELIST

EDITED BY E. F. AGUILAR

ISSUED QUARTERLY  
7/- Yearly

EDITOR E. F. AGUILAR  
P.O. BOX 406 - KINGSTON.

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JACKSON TOWN TRD.  
See Page 39

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*Have You Read*  
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Here are a few comments by some of the  
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## **Editorial**

On the first of January 1951 all printing costs were increased in this Island due to the fact that paper is very much tighter, and comes from a dollar area.

It has now come about with the increased cost of printing and paper, I deeply regret I am forced to put up the price of this quarterly magazine or else discontinue publishing it: I feel: sure that many readers throughout England America, Canada, .South America and Australia will not mind putting a small addition of 2/- per year which as long as prices hold will remain the same.

All subs paid prior to January 1st 1951, will hold good until date of renewal when they will then come under the new rate:

Any special articles one may require on the BWI Islands, the Editor will be only too glad to receive information from collectors abroad . The yearly sub. to this magazine is now 7/- post paid to any address in the world or one dollar US

## **Notes For The B.W.I. Philatelist**

### **Grenada – 1951 Jan New Definitive Issue**

The new Grenada which were issued on the 8th January are very well designed stamps. The values do not quite comply with the BWI rates as \$2.40 equals 10/ and their \$2.50 stamp is just a little over.

### **Jamaica – TRDs**

Temporary postmark collectors of Jamaica will be interested to learn that Adelphi is known in type 12 and Islington in Type 14. Direct Cable in Type 25 is known in three sizes 26 x 40 mm, 20 x 46 ,and 21 x 43. Rock Spring in Type 33A is known dated on copies the 10th March 1942 while Treasure Beach is known recorded on 27th August 1941 in Type TD 37. Collectors of these postmarks should make a note or add same to the Philatelic Handbook. On January 2nd a new Postal Agency was opened in St. Ann's namely Madras. Information from the G.P.O. states that there will be between 12-15 new Postal agencies this year.

### **Jamaica – University College TRD**

A .very interesting discovery recently made was at the commencement of the University College of Jamaica. They used a rubber stamp and most material was cancelled with same. This however, was quickly stopped, as they were not authorised to use any postal cancellations. Thus all letters bear the same rubber stamp to the Kingston postmark.

As soon as this University is completed it will have its own facilities for a Post Office At present all material is usually posted in Kingston; while letters go to Liguanea.

### **BWIA Air Mail Rates 1951 Jan**

On. January 1st, all Air Mail rates were increased by BWIA from 2½d to 6d to all the Caribbean Islands. While Air Mail was stepped up from 1/3 to 1/6 to London by B.O.C.A, and Australasia 3/- to 3/3 per ½oz. This applies to very nearly all of the Caribbean Islands.

### **BWI – University Set Issue 1951 Feb**

The long awaited University set was released on February 16 and should be extremely popular stamps. The corresponding Values in George VI issues are being withdrawn from circulation. These stamps if not careful will be on the same level as the Peace issue.

### **Jamaica – PO Guide**

The GPO in Kingston will be publishing in the very near future a Post Office Guide, so as to help collectors overseas: I will be stocking a number of these books and will be advertising them in my B.W.I. Philatelist as soon as they come to hand.

### **Jamaica – Mr Darnton Visit**

We were very glad to see Mr. Darnton in Jamaica, where he spent a month before continuing on to Barbados, Trinidad, and then return to England. We do trust that his wife and self had a very pleasant holiday, and trust they will visit the Tropics again in the very near future. Also on a short visit last year was Mr. Jack Mestier from St. Kitts who specialises in the stamps of that Island, but is now in Trinidad for the best part of this year.

### **Dominica – 1951 Definitives New Issue**

The new Dominica set is due out very shortly and will have the following ,values; ½c, 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 8c, 12c, 14c, 24c, 46c, 60c, \$1.20 and \$2.40.

### **St Lucia – 1949 Definitives 1c Perf 14**

Reports state that a number of St. Lucia 1¢ sheets have been found in perf. 14. This is most likely one reason why the prices have declined slightly on these first coils.

### **St. Lucia – 1951 New Constitution Ovp**

News from this island states that a new set is being planned and should be issued around March or April of this year, to commemorate the new Constitution. The set will be overprinted.

WANTED:

Old Jamaica Philatelists from No. 1-20. , Best. prices paid.

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P. O. Box 406, Kingston, Jamaica. B.W.I.

### **Jamaica Temporary Rubber Date Stamps New Discoveries**

**By L.C.C. Nicholson**

Mr. R. V. Swarbrick of St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancs., England, has recently shown me two very interesting Jamaican items, which help to clear up types 5 and 6.

The first item is a Queen Victoria postcard, ½d red-brown on buff card (Type P.C. .3 in the 1928 Jamaica Handbook)" which was sent from Bethel Town to Brown's Town on 1st April 1892.

For the benefit of readers who do not know Jamaica, Bethel Town is in the NW of the island about 5 miles due south of Montpelier, on the road from Montego Bay to Black River. Brown's Town is in the north, half way across the island; and about 8 miles by road S.E. of Dry Harbour. Now at this date (1892 ) the Railway did not go any further than Porus, as this extension to Montego Bay was not a built until 1895. One would think therefore that the mail would go from Bethel Town to Brown's Town along the north coast road, via Montpelier, Montego Bay; and Little River to Falmouth, and then branch off inland via Clark's Town and Stewart Town to Brown's Town; but it did not do so, as this :postcard went via Kingston.

The Bethel Town T.R.D. is not on the stamp but is at the top left corner of the postcard, and is a very clear Type 5 dated in ink 1.4.92. This is the only dated copy I have ever seen.

On the stamp is Kingston's first type of "Street Letter Box (The, Diamond type) used on 2nd April, 1892, which is the latest date known for this type. It is badly worn. Type 2, (The first double ring type) is known dated 2nd July 1892.

I do not think this postcard was actually put into a Streeet Letter Box when it got to Kingston, but the mark was probably used to obliterate the stamp which was still uncanceled. It reached Brown's Town the same day (2nd April 1892), An extremely interesting item.

The second item is a. pair of ½d green Queen Victoria stamps, Wmk. Crown. C.A: (not on cover) with "Jackson Town" TRD This is in purple ink, undated It has a very clear double ring, exactly the same size as Type 5, but the name of the town and the word "Jamaica" are both in large sans-serif letters 2½ mm high.

It is nothing like Type 6, so I can only conclude that the fragments of Type 6 which I have seen, were all "Davis Town". This Jackson Town (which I have illustrated at the top of this article) should be called Type 5A.

Jackson Town is half way between Clarks Town and Stewart Town mentioned above.



## **United States Used In Jamaica**

**By Charles M. Gildart**

For 81 years since 1860, no stamps other than Jamaican, issues were used for postal purposes in the Colony. However, World War II changed a lot of things - the mails were no exception.

### **History**

In order to understand why United States of America postal issues were valid in Jamaica, we must go into history. For the defense of the western hemisphere it was necessary that the armed force bases be established Under the "lend-lease" agreement. Jamaica was one of the British Islands where the United States was permitted to establish and maintain naval and air bases for 99 years. It is the largest of the British West Indies and one of the most important. Kingston, the capital, has served as a base for the British Navy ever since the Island was taken from Spain in 1655

Regarding the postal arrangements, a member of the Colonial Office in London has informed the author "Under Article XVI of the Agreement made on the 27th March 1941 between the Government of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, regarding the lease of those bases, the United States may establish Post Offices for the exclusive use of the United States forces and United States civilians employed at the bases. Post Offices established under this Article could not be used by the Colonial population, and all letters mailed in such Post Offices required United States postage stamps and were processed by United States Officials"

### **Marines**

As is usual when the United States armed forces "occupies" anything it falls to the Marines to be there first. The landing on Jamaica by the U.S. Marines, a department of the Navy, was no exception. Two weeks before the "lend-lease" agreement was signed, The Marine Detachment, Portland Bight, Jamaica, Branch of New York was established on March 15, 1941. This installation was located on the Naval Air Station at Portland Bight at Old Harbour Bay in the Parish of St. Catherine, about 3 miles south of the town of Old Harbour.

C.D. Sketoe, Head of the Postal Affairs Office of the Marine Corps states, "Records at this Office indicate a New York Branch Post Office was established on 15th March 1941 to serve the Marine Detachment, Portland Bight, Jamaica and that it was discontinued on 15th February 1943. The organization was a Security Detachment and averaged approximately seventy in number. Upon disbanding of the Marine Detachment located at Portland Bight, the majority of the personnel were transferred to various Marine Corps stations on the East Coast of the United States.

### **Navy**

After the Marines had the "Situation well in hand" the U.S. Navy took over. Lt. Colonel Donald T. Jones, of the Public Relations Office of the Defense Department states, "Navy records show that the only Post Office assigned to the Island was Navy 10938, which was assigned to the Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, Portland Bight, Jamaica. The Post Office was established on 20th February 1943, and discontinued 1st September 1944."

According to Capt. O'Keefe of the Navy Department, "U.S. Mail originated by U.S. Navy personnel in Jamaica was postmarked "U.S. Navy." (Since this is true of all U.S. Navy shore installations, absolutely authentic covers with U.S. Navy markings used in Jamaica are unobtainable). Capt. O'Keefe continues, "The Naval air station was the only U.S. naval activity shore based in Jamaica. Approximately 500 U.S. military personnel were assigned to the Naval Air Station, Jamaica at the peak of operation. Upon disestablishment of the Naval Air Station their personnel were reassigned to various naval ships and stations."

### **Army**

The principal American military installation on the island, was Vernam Field, which was named for Lt. Remington De B. Vernam, an American ace who was shot down in combat in 1918. (WDGON, 6 1941). Vernam Field was on the same reservation as Fort Simonds. The installation was located in Clarendon Parish about 5 miles South of Four Paths and 33 miles W.S.W. of Kingston with Sandy Gully being the nearest town.

Construction of the base was principally the work of American civilian contractors under the supervision of Army engineers.

Except for a few minor projects, the work was completed between 1st July 1941 and 26th August 1942.

The first troops, known as Force Tuna, arrived on November 21 1941. Company "A", 89th Infantry formed the nucleus to which were joined Medical, Ordnance, Signal, Quartermaster, Finance and Airways detachments for a total strength of 311 men. There was a steady increase in the garrison until March 1943 when the total was 1292. After that month, there was a general reduction in strength until the B-29 training programme brought a new high in strength of 1138 in March, 1945.

Jamaica not only served as one of the main defences of the Caribbean area but also carried an important training programme, The Antilles Department, comprising the Caribbean area was selected as a proving ground for the B-29. This instrument dealt crushing blows against Japan. Vernam Field was one of the principal bases for these giant bombers.

Ground troops also received training including assault landing manoeuvres with the British and the "Tiger Patrol", the name given to an unusual and effective project developed by the local command. Small groups of men were taken to unfamiliar parts of the Island 50 miles from Headquarters. Each man had a light pack, his individual weapon and three "K" rations. The patrol leader was then given a compass, an inadequate map and a bottle of iodine for water purification, without further clause he was told to get his men back to the base and submit a report of observations along the way. Meanwhile, the local constabulary was alerted to catch them if possible. Many who took this training served later with roving patrols to Burma.

On August 1, 1948 Vernam Field was placed under the Caribbean Air Command. Then to close an era in Jamaica Philatelic History, on January 2, 1950 the American Base was handed over to the Jamaican Government, who had purchased all stock and accessories plus building, runways, and equipment.

### Cancellations

#### **"Mar.Det Portland Bight – Jamaica Br."**

##### **The Marine Detachment, Portland Bight Jamaica**

British West Indies cancellations exist in three different types. In general the descriptions are about the same:- a single lined circle 33mm in diameter, from the right of which extend three 2 mm wide bars, the top and bottom being 33 mm and the middle 29 mm in length. These bars are spaced 9½ mm apart. Within the circle arranged around the upper segment are the words "MAR. DET. PORTLAND BIGHT," and around the lower segment "JAMAICA BR." In the centre letters and figures arranged in 3 lines give the month; day and year; with a distance of 4½ mm separating the lines of the day and year.

Type 1 - Contains the words "FIRST DAY CANCEL" between the bars and was used only on the first day of use, July 18, 1941. On each cover in the upper left hand corner is a stamped number in blue-green ink. The "Jamaica Philatelist" reports, "Each first day cover appears to have been numbered serially, and we have seen 1276, the highest of the serials to have come under observation"

Type 2 - This is similar to the above, but without the words "First day Cancel". This was the cancellation in general use until the early part of 1942.

Type 3 - This cancellation is similar to the above two types with the exception that between the top and middle bar is the word "BRITISH" and between the middle and the bottom bar, the words, "WEST INDIES". For security reasons this cancellation was in use but a short time. (The copy in the author's collection is dated October 20 1941.)





#### "A.P.O."

Type 4 - This type is the forerunner of the "A.P.O." cancellation. This is a single lined circle, 31½mm in diameter. From the right of which extend four heavy 2 mm wide bars, the top and bottom being 22 mm and the middle two 21 mm in length. The bars are spaced 3½ mm apart. Within the circle, arranged around the upper two thirds, are the words "AMERICAN BASE FORCES A.P.O. 804". In the centre letters and figures arranged in four lines give the month, day, time and year. Censor marks appear on the face of the covers from this and the following A.P.O. The army censor examination mark which is usually a double line oval circle with his number in the middle and "Passed by Army Examiner" at the top and bottom and U.S. at the sides. The censor mark is a rubber stamp, rectangular in shape, 37 x26 mm.

The first date this cancellation was used was on Nov. 17, 1941. The last data it was used was in the early part of 1942. (Probably May). (It is interesting to note that "A.P.O. 804" had quite a long life -from Jamaica it went in 1942 to Amiens, France and thence to San Francisco, California.)

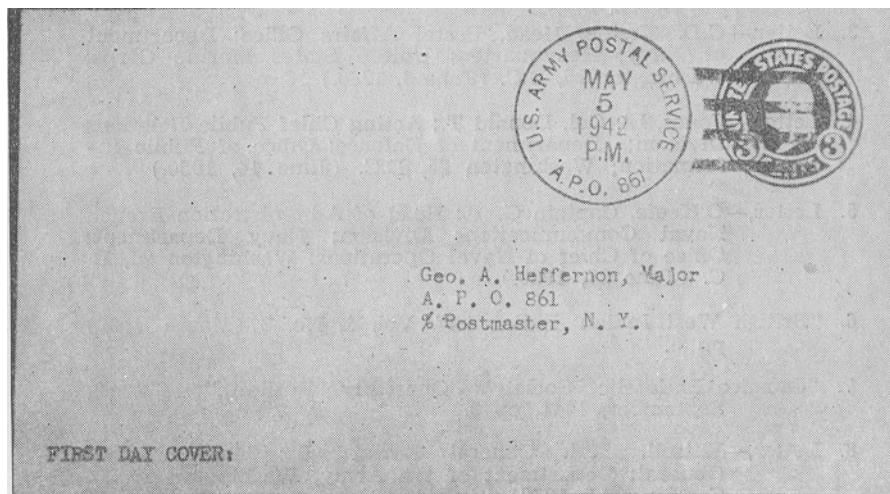


### "A.P.O. 861"

Although not substantiated by army or postal authorities "A.P.O. 804" was replaced by "A.P.O. 861" on May 5, 1942 and was used at Fort Simonds until December 6, 1949. It exists in two distinct Varieties.

Type 5 - This is the first of the universal A.P.O. cancellation types. It has essentially the same measurements as the above type. Within the single lined circle in the upper two-thirds segment are the words: 'U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE' and in the bottom part, "A.P.O. 861." In the centre letters and figures arranged in four lines give the month, day, year and time.

The first date of use was May 5, 1942. The last date for this type is unknown.



Type 6 - This is the second of the universal A.P.O. cancellation types. The measurements are about the same as the aforementioned types. Within the single-lined circle in the upper two-thirds segment are the words "U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE" and in the bottom part, the abbreviation, "A.P.O." In the centre letters and figures are arranged in four lines with "861" at the top then the month, day and year.

The first date of this type is unknown. The last date this type was used, December 6, 1949.

### NOTES

If a collector should try to obtain one each of these types he will find that it is no small matter. The "Marine Detachment" and "A.P.O. 804" cancel can only be found on US, stamped covers

As it operated prior to the enactment of Public Law 507. 77th Congress, 27th March 1942, free postage was not available for military personnel using this A.P.O. However, A.P.O. 861 can be found with U.S. postal issues and also with the military's "Free" frank.

For the most part, mail for the services stationed in Jamaica was sent to and received from the Postmasters department in New York City. However, with the advent of Type 6 it is noted from the "Free" franks that the Postmaster in Miami Florida handled the duties.

It should be also noted that commissioned officers were allowed to censor their own letters. Enlisted men relied on the official army censor.

Authorities of the Army, Navy, Marine and Postal departments have told the author that Jamaican stamps were not valid for postage by military personnel stationed at the installations. However, there always seem to be exceptions to prove the rule. A relative of the author, a Colonel in the army, wrote regarding this point, "About February in 1942 troops were forbidden to use local foreign postage for mailing letters, on account of the necessary national censorship. We preferred to depend upon our own censors. However, I remember in late 1941 and early 1942 receiving letters from the garrison in Jamaica directed to Panama bearing Jamaican Postage. I think the regulation was strictly carried out from about the 1st of March 1942 onwards."

It the author's belief that in this instance Jamaican adhesives were used for expedience sake. For mail to go through "regular channels" to the army post at Panama it would have to go first to New York, by using the Jamaican Postal service it would go directly to Panama. Needless to say, it is the author's great wish to obtain one of these covers.

Now a complete Jamaica Postal History collection will start as usual, with the pre-stamp covers and Great Britain used in Jamaica, to a new ending - that of United States Used in Jamaica.

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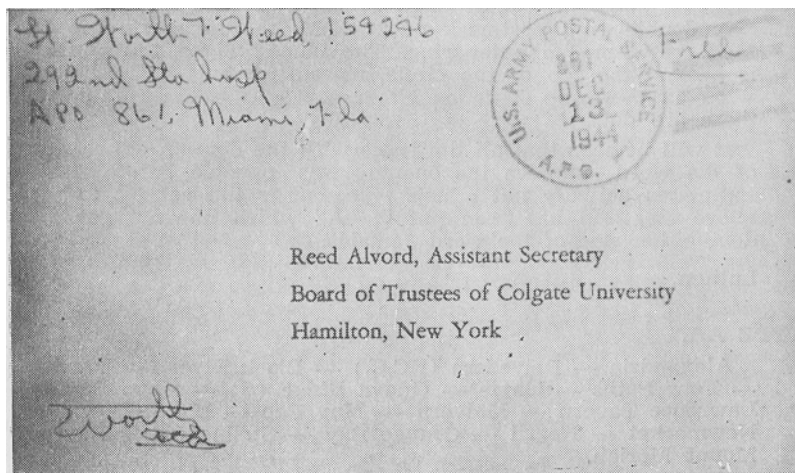
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## Double Ring Postmarks Of Jamaica

### **TYPE A.**

This is to my mind the first type - very nearly all the important early P.O.'s are known in this type. A, AA, or B, BA. The double letters has the dots either side of the word Jamaica.

A double ring postmark of 27 mm the inner ring is 1½ mm between the outer ring. The name of the Post Office is around the top of the circle, measuring 3 mm in height, while in the same circle on either side of the word Jamaica there are dots.

It will be seen that all the types with the dots on either side of the word Jamaica the opening was possible before 1900. Latium is actually not a true type but is the nearest to the above ring and has been put in 'A' which has not got the dots either side of the word Jamaica.

Latium

### **Type AA.**

Alexandria - Bevedere (N.C.C.) - Black River - Bowden - Four Paths - Gayle - Guava Ridge (C) - Hope Bay - Lawrence Tavern - Malvern - May Pen - Moore Town - Newmarket - Negril - Orange Bay - St. Margarets Bay - Mount Moriah



### **TYPE B.**

Very similar to A, but letters are squarer; many P.O.'s are still using this die, and it's interesting to note that this die was put into operation as late as the 20's. The earlier types had the date either side of the word Jamaica. (A double ring between 25 to 27½ mm).

Alley - Alligator Pond - Alston - Bethel Town - Boroughbridge - Brainerd - Green Island - Grange Lane - Harkers Alley - Hectors River - Johns Hall - Laughlands - Linstead - Lucea - Mandeville - Milk River Bath (?) - Moneague - Montpelier - Old Harbour - Oracabessa - Port Antonio - Retreat - Runaway Bay - Saint Annes Bay - Savannah le Mar - Walkers Wood.



### **TYPE BA.**

Alley - Bensonton – Buff Bay - Castleton – Cave Valley - Cedar Valley - Christiana – Half Way Tree - Jackson Town - Liguanea - Little River – Manchioneal – Middle Quarters – Morant Bay - P. G. River – Priestman's River – Salt River - Sandy Bay - Spanish Town -- Spur Tree - Port Royal.

### **TYPE NO. 1.**

A double ring around 25-26 mm. with large square letters, usually 3½ m.m. high. The word Jamaica is also the same height and has the dots either side of the word in the older types. An early die - all P. O's in this type have the dots at either side of the word Jamaica - Ramble ring is still in use even though very battered, likewise Bamboo.

### **TYPE NO. 1A.**

Alley - Annotto Bay - Bamboo - Bensonton - Clonmel - Hampden - Highgate - Lime Hall - Little London- Mile Gully - Myersville - Maidstone - Point Hill - Ramble - Pepper -Springfield - Spring Hill – Siloah - Walderston - Williams Field - Skibo.



### **TYPE NO.2.**

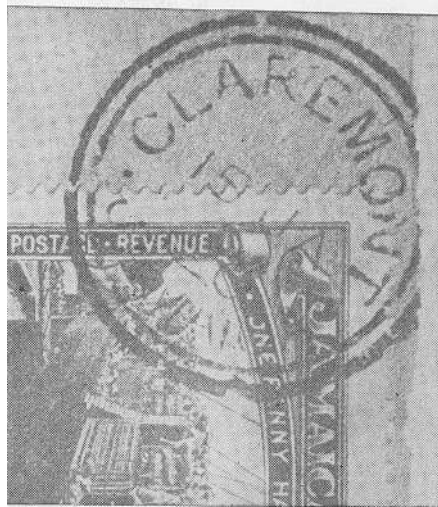
A small double ring - usually the word Jamaica is a bit smaller in the size of letters as to the name of the P. O. Once a few of these early offices are still using their dies for example Albany and Bluefields.

Lucea - Prattville.



**TYPE NO. 2.A.**

Albany - Bluefields - Cambridge - Cascade - Claremont – Clark's Town – Deeside – Duncans - Grange Hill - Mocho - Montego bay - Port Maria - Richmond - Riversdale - Troy -Warsop,.

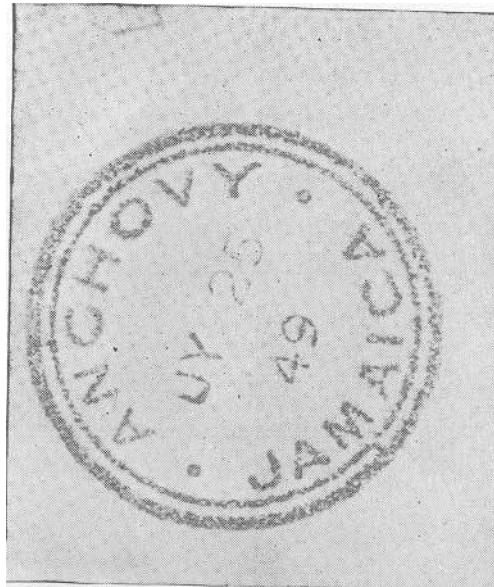
**TYPE NO. 3.**

A double ring with small lettering - Many P.O's had this type as their first; again a few P. O's are still using this die. An interesting type is the New Port being spelled in two words all later types are in one word.

Albert Town - Coleyville - Comfort Hall - Cross Roads - Craig Head -Dry Harbour - Elderslie - Falmouth - Ipswich - Kellets - Long Bay -Manchioneal - Myrtle Bank - New Port - Petersfield - Port Morant – Red Wood – St. Peters - Santa Cruz - Stony Hill.

**TYPE NO. 3a.**

Adelphi - Alexandria - Anchovy - Annatto Bay -Balaclava - Black River – Bog Walk -Buff Bay - Bushy Park -Cambridge - Chapelton -Constant Spring - Cross Roads - Fyffes Pen - Golden Grove - Gordon Town - Guanaboa Vale - Hope Bay - Mountainside - Newcastle - Pedro Plains (C) - Race Course - Smith's Village (NC.C.) Spaldings – Windward Road.



**TYPE 4.**

A double ring of 27 to 28 mm inner circle of 1-1½ mm. The lettering is of the smallest type known on any of the dies for Jamaica. Milk River Bath has been listed in this type but there is a chance of this type being a temporary mark

A double ring with very small Letters.

Crooks River - Ewarton - Fairy Hill - Llandewey -Milk River Bath (Rn. C.) - Newport - Pear Tree Grove - Rio Bueno

**TYPE 4a,**

Bowden - Montego Bay Street Letter Box - Middle Quarters - Newmarket - Shooters Hill.

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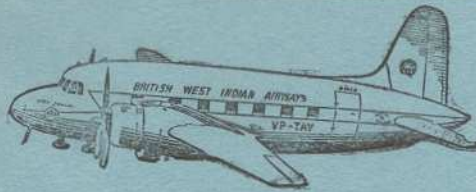
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