

duiker, and steinbok. Parties of not more than five can obtain a licence to shoot large game at the option of any Assistant Commissioner exercising authority within the territory of any chief. The licence is good for twelve months, and the fee is £100, a quarter of which goes to the Chief and the remainder to the Government. From 1st September to the last day of February is the close season, during which no shooting is allowed. Natives are, however, permitted to hunt and kill large game within the limits of their own territory.

I have purposely refrained from alluding to the **Minerals** of Bechuanaland, because, although various finds of gold, coal, even diamonds, and other valuable minerals have been reported from time to time, there is no reliable information available as to the worth and extent of these discoveries.

REFORMS

There are several reforms being agitated for by the inhabitants of Bechuanaland, the principal of which are (1) The reduction of high quitrents; (2) a licence or other system by which natives could be practically compelled to carry out their contracts with farmers; (3) extra police in the outlying districts to check stock thefts, and the appointment of special J.P.'s, who could deal summarily with minor offences, without the necessity of bringing in the prisoners some 40 or 50 miles to the office of the nearest Resident Magistrate; (4) A law to counteract the clearing of large districts of timber; (5) The throwing open to emigrants, at points near the railway line, of small holdings of 300 or 400 acres, at a nominal charge, thus opening up markets and feeding the railway. That all these

concessions will be granted in the near future may be reasonably expected. **The climate** of Bechuanaland is generally fresh and bracing, and to use the words of Dr. Livingstone, "It is the complete antipodes of our cold, damp, English winter." As the winter is perfectly dry, damp and cold are never combined. Although in the summer months, the thermometer frequently stands at 99 degs. F. in the shade, especially before rain, yet the atmosphere never has that debilitating and straining effect so well known in India, and in parts of the coast region of South Africa. In winter the climate is delightful, the atmosphere being most exhilarating and stimulating.

CONCLUSION

In concluding this necessarily sketchy paper, I must express my regret if I have unduly tried the reader's patience in the unavoidable relation of the incidents leading to Imperial rule and the settlement of the country. I trust, nevertheless, that its perusal may be the means of giving information to many, and that it may have the effect of deciding some intending farmer or settler to choose this country of great promise as his future home. If it succeeds in this object it will not have been written in vain.

BARRY RONAN

Dec. 5, 1893.

NOTE.- I have to acknowledge my indebtedness to the following works of reference for much assistance in compiling this article, viz.: Theal's "History of South Africa"; Mackenzie's "Austral Africa"; and Noble's "Official Handbook".

**Official Free Markings
Part 3 - Straight Line Markings
(Installment 1)**
by Dennis Firth

This is the first attempt to list all the known Official Free markings used in Bechuanaland Protectorate and Botswana, which, as far as I know, have not been recorded elsewhere.

The listing will be in three main parts:

- Bechuanaland Protectorate (Runner Post #63)
- Botswana markings which show the office of use and the words "Official Free" or similar on the same handstamp (Runner Post #64 -69)
- Official Free handstamps (usually straight line) which are used in association with departmental cachets. The cachets will not be recorded, but the known offices of use will be shown.

Part 3 - "Straight Line" Official Free markings used in association with Office Handstamps

This part is divided into four sections. Each section is listed in order of ascending size.





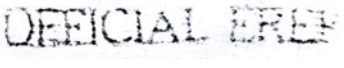

- No surround (just the words OFFICIAL FREE)
- Line above and below OFFICIAL FREE
- Boxed OFFICIAL FREE
- Markings of an unknown size

Acknowledgment

I am indebted to the late Sir John Inglefield-Watson, John Schaerer, Gordon Smith and Bruce Warrender for sending me details of items they have in their collections.

The number to the right of the description is my reference number. For a future update I would be looking for some assistance in using the postmark typology to describe the markings.

Section 1: Markings without surround

	31.5mm x 4.5mm	601
26-Nov-2001	NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATING AGENCY GABORONE	
	38mm x 5mm	611
12-May-1980	DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE PO BOX 157 FRANCISTOWN	
	38.5mm x 4.5mm	613
17-Dec-1991	REGISTRY 2 BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS FRANCISTOWN BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE	
	40mm x 4.5mm	615
07-May-1980	DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICER FRANCISTOWN DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION	
	41.5mm x 4mm	617
11-Oct-2004 to 12-Nov-2004	ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION ABATTOIR REGISTRY P.O. BOX 1159 FRANCISTOWN	
	43.5mm x 5mm	619
04-Jun-1991 (sent from Gaborone Village) [STRUCK IN BROWN]	AIR ARM HEADQUARTERS REGISTRY BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE	
	45mm x 5/6mm	621
21-Jan-2001	DEPARTMENT OF NON-FORMA EDUCATION MASUNGA	
no date	NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY (CO-ORDINATING) AGENCY REGISTRY PRIVATE BAG 0068 GABORONE BOTSWANA	
04-Nov-2004 to 05-Nov-2004	REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL OFFICE CROP PRODUCTION AND FORESTRY P.O. BOX 16 MAUN BOTSWANA	

OFFICIAL FREE		46.5mm x 4.5mm	625
23-Mar-1991 [STRUCK IN RED]	DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND NATIONAL PARKS KANYE		
19-Oct-2000	DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION P.O. BOX 250 GABORONE		
11-Oct-2004	PRINCIPAL NGAMILAND P.T.C. P.O. BOX 149 MAUN		
29-Oct-1985 (sent from Gaborone Village)	STAFF OFFICER FINANCE BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE		

OFFICIAL FREE		47.5mm x 6mm	628
12-Oct-2004 [STRUCK IN GREEN]	ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION PRIVATE BAG 0011 LETLHAKANE		
29-Oct-2004	DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND YOUTH PRIVATE BAG 00185 GABORONE		
07-Jun-2001	DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT GABORONE		

OFFICIAL FREE		49mm x 4.5mm	630
25-Mar-1980 (sent from Gaborone)	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BOTSWANA		
03-Nov-1980	SENIOR SUB-TRIBAL AUTHORITY NGWATO TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION TONOTA BOTSWANA		

OFFICIAL FREE		49.5mm x 6.5mm	633
25-Apr-2001 to 07-Dec-2001	DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND YOUTH GABORONE		
27-Dec-1993 (sent from Kasane)	IMMIGRATION OFFICER ARRIVAL KAZUNGULA FERRY		
18-Jan-2001	MINISTRY OF WORKS ROAD DEPARTMENT TSABONG		
29-Oct-2001 to 21-Nov-2001	PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF HEALTH GABORONE		
14-Nov-2001 [STRUCK IN RED]	POST OFFICE MAUN		

OFFICIAL FREE		49.8mm x 5mm	634
26-Oct-2004	Cover from Palapye		
13-Oct-1981	DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE GABORONE		
25-Mar-1980 to 01-Sep-1983	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION GABORONE		
08-Oct-2004	PRINCIPAL MAHALAPYE RURAL TRAINING CENTRE CROP PRODUCTION AND FORESTRY P.O. BOX 390 MAHALAPYE		
11-Oct-2004 to 11-Nov-2004	PRINCIPAL VETERINARY OFFICER ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION PRIVATE BAG 364 MAUN		
11-Dec-2000 to 11-Dec-2001	REGISTRY OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL EVENTS NO 3 GABORONE		

OFFICIAL FREE		49.8mm x 5.8mm	636
17-Jul-2002 to 04-Sep-2002	DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT ADMIN P/BAG 443 GABORONE		

OFFICIAL FREE		50.3mm x 5mm	637
14-Feb-2001 to 23-Apr-2001	ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE CLERK OF THE COURT MAUN		
28-Aug-1984	NATIONAL MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY GABORONE		

OFFICIAL FREE		51mm x 4/5mm	640
19-Feb-2002 [STRUCK IN RED]	DISTRICT COMMISSIONER FRANCISTOWN		

OFFICIAL FREE		52mm x 5.5mm	642
10-Apr-2004 to 08-Nov-2004 [STRUCK IN VIOLET AND BLACK]	ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION PRIVATE BAG 0011 LETLHAKANE		

OFFICIAL FREE		52.5mm x 5.5mm	644
09-Dec-2001	PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT BOTSWANA POLICE SERVICE P/BAG 0012 GABORONE		

OFFICIAL FREE		52.5mm x 6.5/8mm	646
09-Oct-2001	BOTSWANA CUSTOMS AND EXCISE PASSENGER IMPORT RAMOKGWEBANA		

OFFICIAL FREE		55mm x 5.7mm	648
02-Nov-2004 to 03-Nov-2004	LIVESTOCK ADVISORY CENTRE (MACHANENG) P.O. BOX 3 MACHANENG		

OFFICIAL FREE		61mm x 7/8mm	650
12-Aug-1998 to 08-Aug-2002 [STRUCK IN RED]	BOTSWANA CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SOUTH CENTRAL COLLECTION REGISTRY GABORONE		
16-Feb-1995 to 27-Feb-1995	BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE ACCOUNTING UNIT FRANCISTOWN		
07-Jul-1995	BOTSWANA POLYTECHNIC ACADEMIC REGISTRY PRIVATE BAG 0061 GABORONE		
21-Mar-1991 to 04-May-1991 [STRUCK IN PURPLE]	DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND NATIONAL PARKS TSABONG		
03-Nov-2004 to 10-11-2004 [STRUCK IN MAUVE]	REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL OFFICER P.O. BOX 67 FRANCISTOWN		
24-Jul-1996	VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE PALAPYE		


OFFICIAL FREE		62.5mm x 6mm	653
circa 2000	GOVERNMENT GAZETTE GABORONE		

		84mm x 9/9.5mm	656
12-Oct-2004	DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION NATIONAL BULL STUD		
18-Oct-2004 to 01-Nov-2004 [STRUCK IN BLACK] 08-Nov-2004 [STRUCK IN GREEN]	DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER BOX 3 PITSANE		
09-Jun-2000	DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND YOUTH GABORONE		
28-Jan-2000 to ?2-May-2001 [STRUCK IN RED]	DEPARTMENT OF TOWN REGIONAL PLANNING GABORONE		
11-Oct-2004	DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICE P.O. BOX 9 LETLHAKANE		
02-Nov-2004	LIVESTOCK ADVISORY CENTRE SETHITWA REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA		
05-Oct-2001	NATIONAL REGISTRATION KASANE		
13-Oct-2004 to 09-Nov-2004	PRINCIPAL TECHNICAL OFFICER ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION P.O. BOX 51 SHAKAWA		


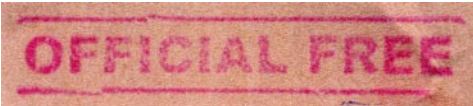
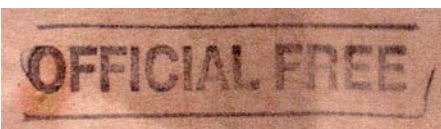
		89.5mm x 8.5/9mm	658
15-Nov-2001	JWANENG TECHNICAL COLLEGE JWANENG		

		98mm x 11mm	659
<i>not known</i>	<i>not known</i>		

Section 2: Markings with line above and below

		61mm x 8/9mm	660
18-Oct-2004 to 10-Nov-2004	ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION P.O. BOX 101 KASANE		
10-Oct-2004 to 09-Nov-2004	ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION TSETSE CONTROL DIVISION P.O. BOX 14 MAUN		

08-May-2000	ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING HEADQUARTERS BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT
19-Oct-2004 to 29-Oct-2004	BUILDING AND ENGINEERING SERVICES HEADQUARTERS GABORONE
07-Mar-2003 {STRUCK IN RED}	COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTRE BOTSWANA POLICE SERVICE P.O. BOX 72 GWETA
20-Aug-200?	DABS / SECTION 7 GABORONE
07-Oct-2004 [STRUCK IN BLACK] 27-Oct-2004 [STRUCK IN VIOLET]	DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION MASUNGA
29-Sep-2004 to 09-Nov-2004	DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION P.O. BOX ?? TUTUME
13-Oct-2004 to 08-Nov-2004	DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION P.O. BOX 19 FRANCISTOWN
03-Nov-2004	DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION PRINCIPAL TECHNICAL OFFICER P/BAG SOWA
04-Nov-1991 {STRUCK IN RED}	DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND NATIONAL PARKS RAKOPS
28-Jan-1992 {STRUCK IN RED}	DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND NATIONAL PARKS SEROWE
03-Sep-2002	DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND NATIONAL PARKS ADMINISTRATION BOX 4 TSABONG
11-Oct-2004 to 04-Nov-2004 [STRUCK IN VIOLET]	DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICE P.O. BOX 194 SELEBI-PHIKWE
08-Nov-2004	DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICE CROP PRODUCTION AND FORESTRY P.O. BOX 14 MACHANENG
04-Nov-2004	DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICE NGWAKETSE CENTRAL P.O. BOX 114 KANYE
08-Oct-2004 to 05-Nov-2004 [STRUCK IN VIOLET]	DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICE P.O. BOX 15 GANTSI
14-Dec-1991 {STRUCK IN RED}	HIGH COURT OF BOTSWANA FRANCISTOWN
11-Oct-2004 to 12-Oct-2004	PRINCIPAL VETERINARY OFFICER ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION PRIVATE BAG 364 MAUN
14-Oct-2004	SENIOR VETERINARY OFFICER ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION P.O. BOX 51 SHAKAWA

	67mm x 9mm	662
13-Mar-2001	PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE RECORDS MANAGEMENT UNIT REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA	
	size not known	663
08-Nov-2004 {STRUCK IN RED}	PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT WILDLIFE AND TOURISM REGISTRY P/BAG BO 199 GABORONE	
	size not known (may be a box type)	664
24-Oct-2004	ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION P.O. BOX 21 MOPIPI	

Sections 3 and 4 will appear in Runner Post #71

Editor's Note on Measurements

I measured the horizontal dimension as from the left centre of the 'O' to the end of the middle stroke of the 'E'. The vertical dimension is usually the height of the first letter 'I'.

Dimensions are to the nearest 0.5mm, unless the dimension is constant across the handstamp and clearly defined, in which case to the nearest 0.1mm.

A range is given when the handstamp has a large variation in one or both dimensions.

Measurements were taken by the computer, based on the images supplied and were in most cases very similar to Dennis' hand measurements.



Example of one of the Office Handstamps combined with an OFFICIAL FREE marking (601)

Dates are in "dd-mon-yyyy" format. Handstamps are struck in black - unless otherwise indicated

If any member has Botswana items in their collection which are not listed above or are used outside any date range shown, or differ in place used or ink colour - please send me full details.
 If any member discovers items not listed here or in the early instalments appearing in Runner Post #63 to #69 please also send me full details.
 Photocopies of unlisted items would be appreciated which show the date and place of use and the colour of marking if other than black.
 Images, scans and e-mails can be sent via the Editor.
 Dennis Firth, 28 Greenside Drive, Wortley, Leeds. LS12 4SF, UK.

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