

A FIRST PHILATELIC STUDY OF BIAFRA

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for

THE BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

Since Biafra declared itself independent of Nigeria, a limited amount of information has been published in the philatelic press.

This first philatelic study consists of available information from all sources:- published articles, items offered for sale and fellow enthusiasts, but the greater part of the information comes from three private collections.

Our own Study Circle now has the opportunity to greatly expand the information available from both our own Members and other philatelists and to catalogue it before time blurs the details or articles are overlooked.

The attached study must of necessity be incomplete and it is most probable that some part of the study will soon need revision, also errors may be inadvertently included. You are therefore requested to contact the writer regarding any alterations, additions, clarifications and/or mistakes as soon as possible so that the matter can be fully investigated and the revisions then incorporated in a future supplement.

I should like to acknowledge information that has been passed on to me by the Rev. R. Maher.

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D.H.Prestedge.

## BIAFRA

### GEOGRAPHY

When Biafra declared itself independent of the Republic of Nigeria its boundaries coincided with those of the Eastern Region, i. e:- the seaboard from Calabar to the River Niger and including the majority of the Niger Delta in the south, the east bank of the River Niger in the West, an intricate boundary in the north running roughly 10 miles to the north of Nsukka and Ogoja, whilst in the East a common border with Cameroons Republic. An area of approximately 30, 000 square miles.

The Capital of the Eastern Region became the Capital of Biafra, having important rail, road and air facilities and also including a P & T complex, radio and television stations etc., as well as being the coal mining centre. As with other regional capitals, important Government training centres were in the area, e. g:- Veterinary Dept. etc., whilst to the north at Nsukka a University had been in existence for a few years.

At independence Biafra had a total population of approximately 14 million people.

### POLITICAL

The cause of the rift between Biafra and Nigeria was basically that of tribal differences. The dominant tribe in the Eastern Region is the Ibo who have been described both as the Jews of West Africa and the Shopkeeper of Nigeria, the result mainly of taking advantage of missionary education. Another factor that has not (up to now) been fully explored is the influence of religion, for the Ibo and other tribes in the same area are mainly Christians whereas the Northerners are mainly Muslims and the Westerners of mixed religious beliefs. Over the years the Ibo migrated to the other parts of Nigeria, as did the other tribes but the integration of all these people into one Nigerian society never really materialised whilst the Federal type of Government only tended to emphasise the differences.

Tribes and faiths tended to form separate communities in major towns, indeed in Kano the locals lived inside the City walls whilst others had to live outside the City walls in Sabongari - The Strangers town. It was in Kano, that the Ibos claim that 2, 000 of their kinsmen were massacred in May 1966, and 30, 000 in Sept, 1966.

There can be little doubt that many Ibos met an untimely end, and that those that escaped death returned very hurriedly to their homeland.

It is still not clear whether the responsibility for the situation was the Nigerian Government's, as the Biafrans claim, or whether tribal or other differences (over which the Nigerian Government would have had no control) developed into local warfare which would have necessitated local Government action to contain it.



The Eastern Region, rich in natural resources, was the economic backbone of Nigeria, and when oil was discovered and exploited, the Ibos, already complaining about "their" lost riches, realised that the royalties for the oil were going to the Federal Nigerian Government. As Editor it is not for me to justify or condemn the Ibos actions but just to record that on the 30th May 1967 they declared themselves independent from the Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Biafra was born under the leadership of Lt. Col. Ojukwu.

Shortly after independence Biafra introduced its own banknotes to replace the Nigerian notes that were in circulation, the sterling system being maintained. Two types of bank notes were issued, the first in February 1968 consisting of 5/- and £1 denominations (as illustrated on the 5/- value of 1st Anniversary of Independence) but the paper on which these were printed was found to be unsuitable and they were withdrawn and replaced by the second issue in March 1969. The second issue was redesigned and printed in different colours, the denominations being 5/-, 10/-, £1, £5, and £10. Biafran (alloy) coins were put into circulation in April 1969 (3d, 1/-, 2½/-.)

### HISTORY

Having declared their independence the Biafrans awaited the reaction of the Federal Government. They did not have long to wait, for the Federal Government announced an economic blockade of Biafra which led to the U.K. suspending all mail services with Biafra on 5th June 1967.

On 6th July 1967 the Federal Nigerian Government mounted a three pronged attack against Biafra, from the north one thrust was towards Nsukka and another towards Ogoja, whilst in the south a seaborne invasion was aimed at Calabar.

The Federal attack failed to daunt the Biafrans who appeared to contain the thrusts into their territory, so much so that about August 1967 the Biafrans launched a counter attack into the Mid West Region. Very quickly they gained control of a lot of this region and Biafran scouting troops were reported to be in Ore and Epe, the latter only a mere 40 miles from Lagos as the crow flies. The Biafrans planned to call the Mid West the Republic of Benin. It seems likely that the Biafran counter attack was misconceived strategy for the Federal Government did not lessen its attack on Biafra but succeeded in capturing Ogoja in the north east.

Following an attempted coup inside the Biafran Army which effectively deprived the occupying forces of leadership, the Federal Forces repulsed the Biafrans, pushing them out of the Mid West in September/October 1967 and then pushing back the Biafran boundaries in the north and in the south. All the time the Biafrans resisted fiercely often recapturing key towns and it is interesting to note that right up to the end of the war they still held part of the west bank of the Niger below Asaba and territory to the north of Onitsha and Awka although the latter was cut off from the main Biafran territory.

The Federal Forces obviously found it difficult to retain effective control over some

areas that they had captured or had difficulty in re-establishing postal services as can be seen from the following list of places and dates when postal services from the U.K. were resumed:-

Ogoja		Postal services resumed from U.K.					10. 1. 68
Calabar		"	"	"	"	"	13. 3. 68
Abonnema	}						
Degema							
Eket							
Ikot-Ubo		"	"	"	"	"	23. 12. 68
Oran							
Port Harcourt	}						
Uyo							
Abak	}	"	"	"	"	"	19. 2. 69
Bonny							
Ikom							
Nembe							
Opobo	}	"	"	"	"	"	
Okrika							
Enugu		"	"	"	"	"	15.10. 69
Etinan	}						
Itu		"	"	"	"	"	17.12. 69
Nwaniba							
Obubra							
Obudu		"	"	"	"	"	14. 1. 70

From the accompanying map (page 15) it can be seen that Biafra was still very much in existence up to the middle of 1969, over two years after the declaration of independence, and as far as can be ascertained the map shows the situation at July 1969, the front line passing through or near the following towns and villages:-

Aba,	Aba Ala,	Agwa,	Amaeke,	Bende,	Igirita,
Ogwe,	Okigwi,	Onitsha,	Ovim,	Ukpo,	Umuahia.

The remaining towns and villages within the area are listed below and should make a reasonably complete check list, although I cannot confirm that all have post offices or agencies.

Abala	Eziama	Mbidi	Obiakabi	Orodo	Umuna
Afara	Ibakesi	Mbubo	Obinze	Owerri	Umu Nehu
Agulezechulu	Ihaila	Nanka	Obotme	Ozubulu	Umu Oye
Akanu	Ihite	Ndi Oru	Oguta	Uli	Umu Uvo
Amakoma	Ikembara	Ndun	Okpo	Umuaka	Urualla
Arochuku	Ikot Ineme	Nguru	Okpuala	Umuakpu	
Asa	Itu Ikala	Nnewi	Okwele	Umu Duru	
Atla	Izombe	Obaku	Orlu	Umuhu	
Emekuku					



With ever shrinking frontiers, Biafra had to move its Capital back into safer territory - from Enugu to Umuahia, from Owerri to Orlu. As at July 1969 the area of Biafra was approximately 2,000 square miles containing an estimated population of 5,000,000.

The passing of three months saw the Biafrans in difficulty, the Federal Forces mounting strong attacks against the perimeter at its northern and southern points in an effort to split the territory into two parts, but the Biafrans resisted and although losing ground managed to hold their lines intact.

Every passing week enabled the Federal Government to build up its potential, armoured cars, long range guns, aircraft etc., whilst the Biafrans, having lost Umuahia, were having to rely on the airstrip at Uli for all supplies; an airstrip that could only be used safely at night time.

This airstrip was adapted by the Biafrans from a main road, the bush being cut back approximately 100 yards either side of the road and the necessary lighting being installed for night operations. The aircraft using this strip were mainly the cargo versions of the DC.6. and the Stratocruiser, and at the peak of operations it was not unusual for 28 aircraft (not ferrying arms) of the relief organisations to land and take off again in one night. At the same time the Biafran Government was also using the airstrip to ferry in military and other essential supplies.

The Biafrans, gradually starved of food and war materials could not resist the superior forces opposing them and early in January 1970 Ferret and Saladin armoured cars of the Nigerian Forces broke through the lines and raced into the centre of Biafra. Within days Uli airstrip was under fire from the Nigerian artillery, Biafran resistance was crumbling rapidly and the end of the war was in sight.

On January 11th, General Ojukwu fled from Biafra leaving his second in command Brigadier Phillip Effiong, a non Ibo, to negotiate a settlement. The next day, January 12th, the Biafran Forces surrendered to the Nigerians and a cease fire came into operation, so ending the war.

Within hours the Biafran leaders were flown to Lagos where a surrender document was prepared for their signatures and which incorporated the declaration that Biafra ceased to exist.

The rebel state had existed for two years and seven and a half months.

#### POSTAL HISTORY

With the declaration of Independence, Biafra became isolated and therefore unable to replenish supplies of stamps and as these ran out in June/July 1967, the adhesives were replaced with rubber handstamps at certain offices.

Two types of rubber stamps seem to exist. The least common is a simple PAID cachet followed by a script figure recording the amount paid and these were in use from approximately June 1967 to February 1968.

The more common type of rubber handstamp was of a regular size and format indicating centralised production for the various offices; a rectangle 26 mm by 19 mm enclosing the words:- BIAFRA - Postage Paid, in two lines and set in between them the amount paid. Presumably these handstamps were in use for six months from July 1967 to 5th February 1968 when the first Biafran adhesives were issued. Covers bearing the Postage Paid cachet are not plentiful.

In April 1968 the Biafran authorities released for use the standard Nigerian definitives overprinted "Sovereign Biafra." This was a surprise issue especially as the "Postage Paid" handstamps had been prepared to meet the interim shortage and also that two months previously the first Biafran adhesives had been released. At first sight this situation appears crazy, the holding back of stamp stocks for overprinting, the preparation of handstamps and all the administrative problems that this would have entailed.

There is a reasonably logical explanation for this issue however, and it has nothing to do with internal administration. In the month of August 1967 the Biafran Forces launched a counter attack into the Mid West Region of Nigeria and it is most probable that large quantities of stamps were captured which were sent back to Biafra where they were overprinted for use. From the examination of dates etc., this explanation would appear to be the only one feasible.

It is interesting to note that covers can be obtained bearing not only stamps of one particular period e.g:- Nigerian overprints, but also bearing Nigeria definitives and commemoratives (Meteorological) and Biafra Independence issue.

The Biafra Post Office continued to run efficiently in spite of difficulties, the main one being front line operation and here collectors must exercise great caution when using postmarks to authenticate dates and places. It is well known that the hand cancellers from Enugu, the Capital, were removed by the retreating Biafran Administration and that these remained in use for some time in other locations.

Similarly Aba, which was fought over considerably, is a problem postmark. At the beginning of October 1969 Aba itself was about threequarters under Federal control but the town administration and Post Office were operating in exile a few miles from Mbutu Ngwa. As late as the 17th November 1969 the Aba cancellation was being used on mail.

Although internal mail was well organised, Biafra, not being recognised by the majority of countries and therefore not being a member of the U.P.U. could not receive or despatch external mail in the normal way. Two countries who had recognised Biafra, Gabon and Ivory Coast, were of assistance and throughout the war Libreville and Abidjan were the collecting agencies for ingoing mail. Initially private arrangements ensured that mail entered Biafra e.g:- sent in by the relief organisations on their relief flights. Later the service was carried out by Biafran aircraft on an official basis but postage due was charged at the rate of 5/- and letters were subject to Government censorship, censor cachets being applied to the mail.

Biafra Missions had been operating in many countries and it had been possible for letters to be posted at these Missions, the necessary postage being prepaid in



Biafran stamps which were on sale at them and the mail being forwarded to Biafra where the stamps were cancelled and the mail censored.

Outgoing mail started in a similar fashion, the relief organisations carrying out private mail which was then posted in the normal way at either Libreville or Abidjan etc.

In October 1969 it was reported that Biafra had produced an Airletter for external use. The procedure was that the Airletter was purchased over the Post Office counter for 2/6d (originally this was demanded in equivalent foreign currency e.g:- British Postal Orders, but this ruling was later relaxed) and after completion the A. L. was handed back over the counter unsealed. No Biafran stamps were to be used and the item was not to be postmarked. After censorship the A. L's were sent to a friendly country where they were reposted using that country's stamps.

On the 25th October 1969 it was announced that the Biafran Post Office would accept ordinary mail for overseas bearing Biafran stamps. The charge was 2/6d per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz and after acceptance the mail was (presumably) censored, the stamps cancelled locally, and then flown to Libreville where it was date stamped alongside the Biafran adhesive. The letters reached their destination via France.

#### POSTAL RATES

<u>Internal</u>	Printed Papers	per 2 oz.	2d
	Normal Mail	per 1 oz.	4d
	Registration Fee	(extra)	1 / -.
	Forces Mail		Free
<u>External</u>	Air Letter		2/6d
	Air Mail	per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	2/6d

#### Inward Mail

Letters entering Biafra were considered to be not pre-paid and they therefore attracted postage due. The external mail rate was 2/6d and the PD surcharge at twice this rate was therefore 5/- per letter.

## CANCELLATIONS

The basic types of cancellations that were in use in the Eastern Region of Nigeria were altered by the Biafrans so that all reference to Nigeria was removed. In the case of the skeleton cancellers it was an easy task to remove the offending slugs but with others it was necessary to deface the type. Where the type had been filled in it is described as "blocked" and where attempts to remove the type have been made the descriptions are "blank" or "partially removed" according to the success or otherwise of the operation.

Listed below is the identification code.

- |         |                    |                                 |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Type A. | 31 mm Single ring. | (Skeleton).                     |
| Type B. | 24 mm Single ring. |                                 |
| Type C. | 27 mm Double ring. |                                 |
| Type D. | 27 mm Triple ring. |                                 |
| Type E. | 31 mm x 25 mm      | Oval and similar. (Registered). |



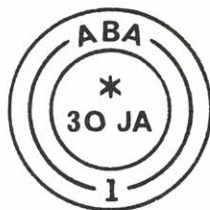
Type A  
Skeleton.



Type B  
Nigeria partially  
erased.



Type C  
Nigeria Blocked



Type D  
with control



Type E  
Nigeria partially  
erased.



BIAFRACANCELLATIONSABA

Type B. Aba / - / 17NO / 19 / Blank.  
 Type C. Aba / 2PM / 14MY / - / Blank.  
 Type D. Aba / ✕ / 14NO / 67 / 1  
 Type E. Registered / 21 JU - / Aba Blank.

ABAKALIKI

Type C. Abakaliki / 8AM / 10FE / - / Blank.

ABBA ORLU

Type B. Abba Orlu / ✕ / 15NO / - / Blank.

ABO MBAISE OWERRI.

Type B. Abo Mbaise Owerri / - / 17SP / - / Blank.

AGUATA

Type B. Aguata / ✕ / 30SP / - / 427.  
 Type D. Aguata / 2PM / 3 AU / -

AGULU

Type B. Agulu / ✕ / 4JY / - / Nigeria Blocked.

AHIABA P. A.

Type A. Ahiaba / 25 OC / 19 / Postal Agency.

AJALLI

Type B. Ajalli-1 / ✕ / 30 DE / - / Blank.  
 Ajalli-2 / - / 3 AU / - / 28.  
 Type D. Ajalli-1 / 8AM / 14 MY / -

ALOR NNEWI

Type B. Alor Newi / ✕ / 13 MR / 19 / Blank.

Note. Above can be obtained with year slug as shown or completely blank. Possibly with 19 up to March/April 1968 and from then on blank.

AMAEKPU UMUOHA P. A.

Type A. Amaekpu Umuoha / 21 JY / P. A.

ANKA AWKA

Type B.

AWKA

Type B.

Awka / ✕ / 10 JU / - / Blank.

BENDE

Type D.

Bende / 8AM / 22 FE / 19 / 1

BORI OGONI

Type C.

Bori Ogoni / 8 AM / 31 JY / 67 / Nigeria. (Unaltered, early date)

DIKENAFAI-ORLU

Type B.

Dikenafai-Orlu / ✕ / 28 OC / - / Blank.

DOUGLAS ST OWERRI

Type B.

Douglas St Owerri / ✕ / 25 JU / - / Blank.

ELELE-PORT HARCOURT

Type B.

Elele-Port Harcourt / ✕ / 24 FE / - / Blank.

ENUGU

Type A.

Enugu / 30 MY / 1968 / Blank.

IDIMA ABAM P. A.

Type A.

Idima Abam / 12 FE / 19 / P.A.

IHALA

Type D.

Ihiala / 8AM / 27 NO / - / 1.

Type E.

Registered / 1 JY - / Ihiala.

NKWERRE ORLU

Type B.

Nkwerre Orlu / ✕ / 7 JY / 19 / Blank.

NNEWI

Type B.

Nnewi-1 / ✕ / 21 NO / - / 525.

Type B.

Nnewi-2 / ✕ / 6 JY / - / 525.

Type D.

Nnewi / 8 AM / 29 MY / -

NNUBI NNEWI

Type B.

Nnubi Nnewi / ✕ / 14 NO / - / Blank.

NSU

Type A.

Republic of Biafra / 1 SP / 69 / Nsu.

Type C.

Nsu / ? / 2 NO / - / Blank.



OHAFIA

Type A. Ohafia / 30 SP / 19 / Sub P.O.

OKIGWI

Type D. Okigwi / 8.30AM / 3 JY / -  
Type E. Registered / 16 JY - / Okigwi 1 Blank.

OKIJA ONITSHA

Type B. Okija Onitsha / 19 / 1 JU / Blocked or ringed.

ORLU

Type D. Orlu / 3PM / 22 OC / 19  
Note. Also recorded without 19.  
Type E. Registered / 29 OC - / Orlu Blank.

OSUSU

Type A. Osusu / 12 FE / 69/ Postal Agency.

OWERRI

Type D. Owerri / - / 28 MY / - / No control.  
Type D. Owerri / 8AM / 22 AU / 19 / 1

OWERRINTA

Type B. Owerrinta / - / 20 JU / - / Nearly blank.

PORT HARCOURT

Type B. Port Harcourt / x / 14 NO / 67 / Blank.

UMUAHIA

Type C. Umuahia / 11AM / 8 MR / 19 / Blocked.  
Note. Also recorded without 19.  
Type E. Registered / 18 FE 19 / Umuahia, Nigeria partially erased.  
Note. Also recorded without 19.  
Machine. Umuahia / 2PM / 27 MY / 1968 / Blank / 3 sets lines.

UMUAHIA TOWN

Type B. Umuahia Town / x / 29 NO / - / Nigeria partially erased.

UMUDURI - OKIGWI

Type B. Umuduri-Okigwi / x / 18 DE / - / Blank.

UMUNKPEYI P. A.

Type A. Umunkpeyi / 17 NO / 19 / Postal Agency.  
Note. Also recorded with 68 in place of 19.

UMUNZE - AJALLI

Type B.          Umunze-Ajalli / x / 19OC / - / Blank.

UZUA

Type D.          ?

Philatelic Cancellation.

A special handstamp, which has not been recorded used on normal mail, has been used for the preparation of philatelic items, in particular it has been used to produce the DC7 Red Cross covers alleged to have been carried out of Biafra on the Red Cross flights. It has also been used for the cancelled-to-order items that are quite common. The cancellation is similar to the skeleton type being 31.5 mm in diameter and reading Umuahia / date / year in full, the place name letters being approximately 50% larger both in height and width.

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COVERS
Rubber Handstamps.

When supplies of stamps ran out in June/July 1967 rubber handstamps were prepared for use to bridge the gap until the first Biafran adhesives were available.

Two types were produced, the well known "Biafra-Postage Paid" in rectangle, Fig. 1. page 15, and a little known "Paid" cachet, Fig. 2, page 15. It seems probable that any "Paid" cachets that exist were prepared locally when the stamp shortage first became apparent and were used until the centrally prepared rubber handstamps were available or perhaps continuously in the case of small offices which might not have received the official handstamp. The "Paid" cachet is normally followed by the amount paid in script and it has been reported that this cachet can also be found used in conjunction with Nigeria adhesives to make up the correct postage rate.

The "Biafra Postage Paid" cachets are of uniform size and design and it is safe to assume that these rubber stamps were produced in bulk and distributed to most offices by P & T Headquarters.

Check List of "PAID" cachets.

Umuaka Linaze - Owerri.          (11.11.67)

cont'd/



COVERS cont'd/Check List of "Biafra Postage Paid" cachets.

ABA	2d	4d	Black
BENDE		4d	Black
CALABAR		4d	Violet
ENUGU	2d	4d	1/4d Violet
MBAITOLI		4d	Violet
ONITSHA	2d	4d	1/4d Black
ORLU	2d	4d	Violet
OWERRI		1/4d	Black
PORT HARCOURT		4d	Black & Violet
UMUAHIA	2d	4d	Black

Combination Covers

At the declaration of independence the following Nigeria adhesives were available:-

- 1st Definitive Issue
- 2nd Definitive Issue
- World Meteorological Issue

Within twelve months the Biafrans themselves had produced two issues:-

- Declaration of Independence issue
- Sovereign Biafra overprints

Various combinations of these issues can be found on cover and it is possible to find up to three different issues on the same cover.

Forces Covers.

Biafran Forces were allowed to have their mail carried free of charge. Usually cachets were applied to mail in place of the stamp by the despatching unit and a post-mark was applied adjacent to this by the receiving Post Office.

In some cases only "O.A.S." was applied in script, in others "On Active Service" was applied in script or typewritten whilst some units had their own individual rubber stamps. It is this latter section that provides the most interest, for the various units of the Biafran Forces appear to have had a free hand in designing their own cachets (or in some cases combination cachets) and it is therefore possible to identify units by these. The locations, where quoted, would be the H.Q. of the unit in normal circumstances.

Official Mail.

To distinguish official mail, Government Departments endorsed the front of the envelopes B.G.S. either in script or by means of a rubber stamp.

BIAFRASTAMP ISSUES

1968 5th February Independence. Typo & Litho by the Mint, Lisbon in sheets  
10 x 10, Perf 12½.

2d.	Map of Biafra.	Multicoloured
4d.	Arms, flag and date of Independence.	"
1/-.	Mother, child and manilla.	"

## Varieties:-

2d.	White dot in position of Calabar.
4d.	Green missing from centre of flag.
4d.	Double printing of Green - extra green bar below flag.

1968 April Provisionals. Nigeria Definitives of 1965 overprinted  
"Sovereign Biafra" with Biafra Coat of Arms. Nigeria  
cancelled with two bars.

½d.	Overprint	Black
1d.	"	"
1½d.	"	"
2d.	"	"
4d.	Perf 14 x 13½	"
6d.	"	"
9d.	"	"
1/-	Overprint	Black & Red
1/3d	"	"
2/6d	"	"
5/-	Chestnut.	"
5/-	Pale Chestnut.	"
10/-	"	"
£1.	"	"

## Varieties:-

½d.	Top bar of overprint misses Nigeria, no extra bar.
1d.	Offset overprint on back.
1d.	Lower bar of overprint misses Nigeria, no extra bar.
1d.	Basic stamp, weak black background, no trees.
2d.	Lower bar of overprint misses Nigeria, no extra bar.
9d.	Maurice Fievet very weak. (Basic stamp)
1/3d.	Sovereign Biafra missing.
5/-.	Sovereign Biafra missing.
10/-.	Triple bar cancellation of Nigeria. Lower bar misses Nigeria completely and additional bar at top put in by ball pen.
£1.	Basic stamp, ET of Fievet partially missing.

cont'd/



## Quantities overprinted:-

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. 43,500, 1d. 10,800,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. 10,000, 6d. 14,250, 9d. 30,000,  
1/3d. 6,250, 2/6d. 20,500, 5/- 22,250, 10/- 7,000, £1. 8,000.

1968 30th May

1st Anniversary of Independence. Lithographed by the Mint, Lisbon,  
in sheets 10 x 10, Perf  $12\frac{1}{2}$ . Designer, S.Okeke.

4d. Flag of Biafra, scientist and rocket.  
1/- Headless body of Biafran railwayman.  
2/6d Nurse and Biafran refugees.  
5/- Biafra Coat of Arms and banknote.  
10/- Biafran orphan.

## Varieties:-

2/6d Green omitted from flag.  
10/- Green omitted from flag.

1968 30th May

Charity Issue (Children). Set as above but surcharged and over-  
printed "Help Biafran Children". Produced in sheets 5 x 10.

4d. Plus 2d.  
1/- Plus 6d.  
2/6d Plus 1/-,  
5/- Plus 2/6d  
10/- Plus 2/6d

## Variety:-

1/- + 6d. Overprint shift, strip of 10 shows one stamp  
without overprint which is printed on opposite  
selvedge.  
10/- + 2/6d Green missing.

1968 2nd Sept.

Butterflies and Plants. Lithographed in sheets 5 x 10, Perf 14.

4d. Butterfly and plant.  
1/6d " "  
2/6d " "  
5/- " "

1968

Mexico Olympics. Set as above but overprinted with Olympic  
symbol and "Mexico Olympics 1968" No surcharge.

1969 30th May

2nd Anniversary of Independence. Lithographed in sheets  
10 x 5, Perf  $13\frac{1}{2}$ .

2d. Child in chains on background map of world.  
4d. " " " " " " " "  
1/- " " " " " " " "  
2/6d " " " " " " " "

cont'd/

Miniature sheets, depicting Biafran children suffering from malnutrition. Believed issued in the ratio of one imperf. sheet to every 10 perf.

10/- Imperf, simulated perforations.

10/- Perf, 13.2

1969 25th Sept Popes visit to Africa. Lithographed in sheets 10 x 5, Perf 13 x 13½

4d Pope Paul & map of Africa

6d " " " " "

9d " " " " "

3/- " " " " " (Red background)

3/- " " " " " (Reddish-brown background)

( 2, 000 only printed.)

Miniature sheets, portrait of Pope Paul and quotation. Believed issued in the ratio of one imperf to every 10 perforated.

10/- Imperf, simulated perforations.

10/- Perf, 13.2

Basic set of four values issued imperf. (500 sets issued)

From information received the following issues were never on sale at Biafran P.O's and were not used for postal purposes:-

1968 30th May Overprint, "Help Biafran Children", all values.

2nd Sept Butterflies and Plants, all values.

- Overprint, "Mexico Olympics 1968", all values.

1970 9th Jan Overprint, "Save Biafra 9th Jan 1970", all values.

The last mentioned issue was due on sale only three days before the capitulation of Biafra and although, except for the 1968 issues listed above, the Biafran postal authorities had pursued a policy of genuine postal use etc., there must be some doubt about this issue. Should any postally used items be discovered then there can be no doubt about its intended validity but stocks held by the Agent and sold after the 11th January were intended as fund raisers for the "Malta Order" and proceeds were to be used to help the Biafran people.

1969 Dec. Christmas. Set as above overprinted:- "Christmas 1969, Peace on earth and goodwill to all men." No surcharge. Miniature sheet overprinted "Christmas 1969." Original value obliterated and increased value of £1 inserted.

1970 9th Jan Save Biafra. Set as 30th May 1969 with black border and overprinted:- "Save Biafra 9th Jan 1970" in red. Surcharged.

cont'd/



2d. Plus 8d  
 4d. Plus 1/4.  
 1/- Plus 4/-  
 2/6 Plus 10/-

Variety:-

Reversed date, overprint reads:- "Save Biafra 1970 9th Jan"

### Postal Stationery.

It is not known if any items of Nigeria postal stationery were overprinted or otherwise adapted for use.

An Air Letter was produced for external use about October 1969. The sheet when folded measures  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $3\frac{3}{4}$ ", is self coloured pale blue, dark blue block in top left corner with "Air Mail Par Avion" in two lines, Biafran symbol in yellow-ochre in lower left corner, three address lines in dark blue prefaced by "To".

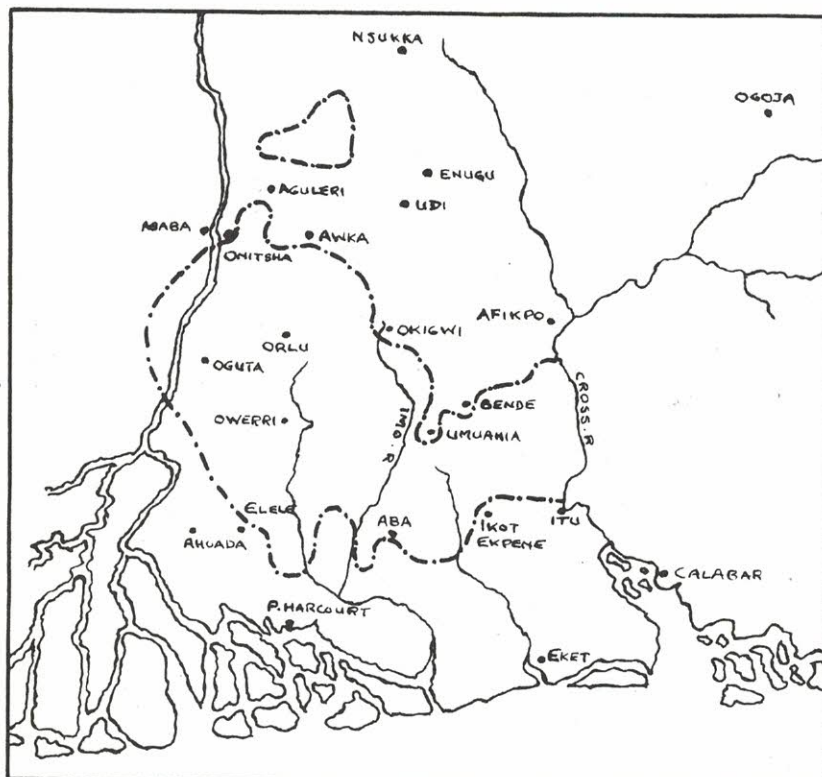
Reverse, three address lines in dark blue prefaced by "From." Two gummed flaps.

### ADDENDUM

Page 3.

### Resumption of postal services.

Ikeduru.	Postal services resumed from U.K.					?
Aguata	}	"	"	"	"	13.5.70
Ajalli						
Arondizuogu						
Nbawsi						
Ngwogwu						
Nimo						
Nnewi						
Nsukka	}	"	"	"	"	15.7.70
Oguta						
Abakaliki						
Ahoada	}	"	"	"	"	5.8.70
Onitsha						
Owerri		"	"	"	"	"



Approximate area held by the Biafran Forces at July/August 1969.

Boundary shown by broken line and limited in the east by the Cross River.



Fig 1.

**PASSED BY CENSOR**

Recorded used on inward mail during Sept 1969 and Nov 1969, latter item back stamped Ihiala.

**B.G.S**

Official mail marked B. G. S (Biafran Government Service) in script or by rubber hand stamp.

**PAID**

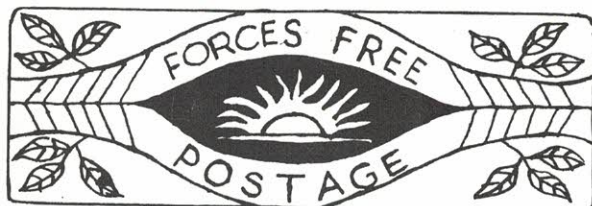
Fig 2.



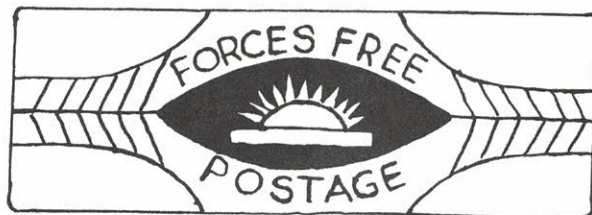
Recorded used during Sept 1969.

**B.G.S**

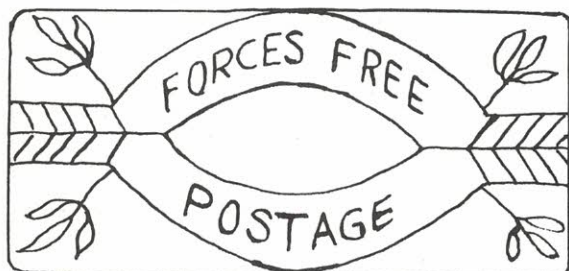
## FORCES CACHETS



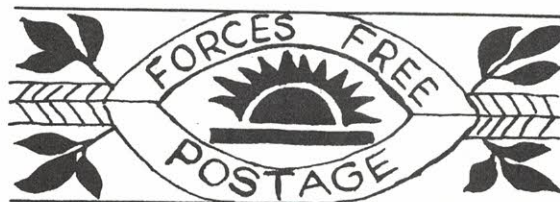
Army Garrison, Enugu  
and Navy H.Q., Ogutu.



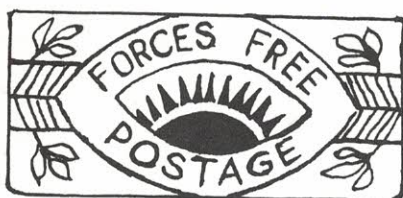
62 Brigade H.Q.



32 Infantry Battalion



Camp H.Q., 58 Brigade Force



31 Infantry Battalion.



76 Infantry Battalion.



4 Commando Brigade  
Nsukka Strike Force.

Used in conjunction  
with below, right.



All skull & crossbones cachets used by  
4 Commando Brigade.

"Madonna 4"



Unidentified



C Squadron Engineers,  
61 Brigade.



BIAFRA

## FORCES CACHETS



10 Battalion, Training Depot.



55 Brigade, Enugu.



65 Brigade.



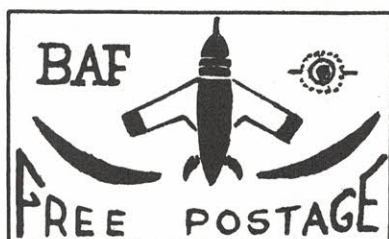
12 Division.



Army Engineers HQ.



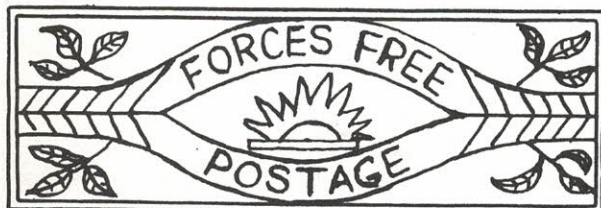
61 Field Engineers.

Army  
Music  
School

Air Force Training Base.



Air Base, Ihiala.

Unidentified  
(Calabar area)

Air Base, Ihiala.



Biafran Air Force.



Biafran Air Force.



Naval Hospital.

2nd. B. A. F. Regiment.  
(Uga Airstrip)