

**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

**EBEYE, MH 96970 - THE LARGE CIRCULAR DATESTAMPS - BERND NEUHAUS**

This type of datestamp was first seen in use at Ebeye on April 10, 1992. These datestamps are self inking and therefore the colour of the impression remains constant. A careful study of the examples available suggests that five different devices have been used. Four use Black ink and one uses Red Ink.

**TYPE A:** [Illustration 14/16] Seen only in Black. The year is set very close to the inner of the two circles. Seen between April 10, 1992 and January 19, 1996 on philatelic covers.

**TYPE B:** [Illustration 14/17] Seen only in Black. The year is set well away from the inner of the two circles. Seen used between July 8, 1992 and July 9, 1995 on philatelic and commercial\*\* covers.

**TYPE C:** [Illustration 14/18] Seen only in Black. The centre of the star is noticeably small on this device. Seen between April 16, 1993 and December 1, 1993 on philatelic covers.

**TYPE D:** [Illustration 14/19] Seen only in RED. Seen between February 17, 1994 and March 24, 1994 on commercial\*\* covers including as a received marking.

**TYPE E:** [Illustration 14/20] Seen only in Black. Seen on March 15, 1996 on a cover containing a letter from the Postmaster. This datestamp is noticeably smaller than the Type A, B, C, & D datestamps.

\*\*These are not "genuine" commercial covers but items that are believed to have been handled as such. For example, when philatelic covers are returned under separate cover the outer envelope is cancelled on the same day but with a different postmark to that used on the philatelic covers, or on Advice of Delivery cards which accompanied a registered letter containing philatelic covers, and which were returned by Ebeye Post office to acknowledge receipt.

[The information above was supplied by Bernd Neuhaus, partly in the form of photocopies of pages from his collection, and written up for publication here by myself. I am very grateful to Bernd for his contribution. I am always happy to put together an item for publication from photocopies of pages from your collection or from rough details if you haven't time to prepare the item yourself.]

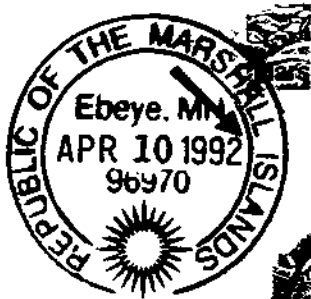


Illustration 14/16 ↑



Illustration 14/19 →

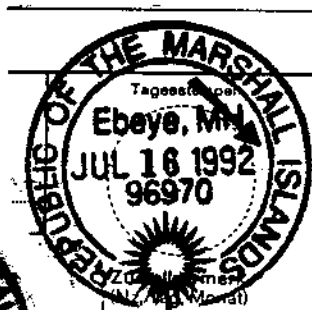


Illustration 14/17 ↑

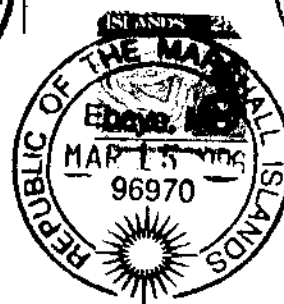


Illustration 14/18 ↑



← Illustration 14/20

**JALUIT MH 96961:** In December, 1995 I wrote to the Postmaster at Majuro asking for information about the Jaluit and Delap Post offices. I have recently received TWO replies, one directly, and one forwarded via a collector in the USA who found my letter, with a response on the reverse, enclosed in a cover he had sent to Majuro for datestamping, but which was returned from Jaluit. According to the letter dated June 28th, 1996 sent directly to me "Jaluit Post Office re-opened on June 15, 1994 and still functioning until now." However another, undated, letter - the one returned from Jaluit via the U.S.A., gives the date of re-opening as January, 1994. This letter goes on to say "Jaluit was closed on January 03, 1991 due to the typhoon on this date, which made it impossible to transport mail to and from Jaluit/Majuro. At this time the airfield closed within several months until it opened until now." I had understood that Jaluit P.O. closed during 1993 as a result of storm damage. The history of this office and the cancellations used were covered in edition # 6 of the Bulletin. In edition # 6 the latest known use of a Jaluit datestamp was given as December 4, 1992, which leaves open to question the closure date of January 3, 1991 in the letter from Jaluit? Majuro. It is of course possible that the Jaluit Datestamp was used at Majuro - but how did it get there if there was no communication with Jaluit? Alternatively, has Jaluit been closed [and re-opened] twice due to typhoons? Has any reader any information on this point? I have now seen a Jaluit cover datestamped July 18, 1995. [Illustration 14/21] but the year slug must be incorrect as the cover was sent to Jaluit for datestamping during 1996. Has anyone seen a cover dated after 1992 but prior to this date?

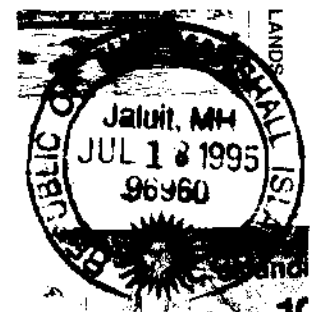


Illustration 14/21

**DELAP MH 96960:** "Delap Post Office still open and well functioning". Both letters [see Jaluit item above] agree - in almost identical words.

**KWAJALEIN - APO AP 96555:** In Bulletin edition # 12 a Registered Postal Service APDS datestamp was illustrated as Illustration 12/26. I commented that this appeared to be a new datestamp despite it being similar to Illustration 2/26 in Bulletin # 2. Bernd Neuhaus, who supplied Illustrations 2/26 and 12/26 believes they are in fact the same datestamp. After studying the datestamps again I am inclined to agree with Bernd.