

1



1a



2



3



5



4



6



6a



FAKE



REAL



12



14



15





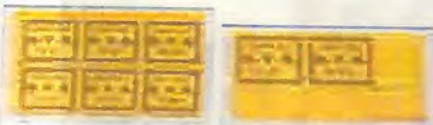
The "Commando Brief" Frank

For

The "Commando Brief" frank was used during the second Boer War (1899-1900) by members of the OFS forces on active duty. Originally, the requirement for letters to pass through the OFS field post system was that they be initialled by the Commanding Officer of the unit the soldier belonged to. Before long, the volume of mail seems to have become large enough that this was causing problems, and this frank came into existence.

The frank was designed by A. Hochapfel, a Bloemfontein chemist, and was printed by Curling & Co. of Bloemfontein in black on yellow paper, laid out in sheets of 20 comprising 5 columns and 4 rows. The sheets were then line perforated 12. There is evidence that each row was printed separately. In addition, it is possible to identify which position in the row any particular frank comes from, as there are relatively large differences between the five dies used.

The two examples below show all five positions between them. The first example shows positions 1, 2 and 3 from the top two rows of a sheet, and the second example shows positions 4 and 5 from the bottom row.



As relatively few sheets were printed, and as the frank was not in use for very long, examples are reasonably uncommon. Blocks of franks in particular are very rare. According to [Rich²](#), most of the unused copies in existence were taken from General Piet Cronje's camp when it was captured by the British during their advance north through the Orange Free State. The illustration below shows a partially reconstructed sheet except for the two lower position 3 stamps.



Genui

'O.V.S. Commando Brief' Censor stamps

1899 These stamps were issued during the boer war in South Africa by the army of the Orange Free State. Actually they are more labels than stamps. The inscription reads 'COMMANDOBRIEF O.V.S. FRANKO' and they were intended to be put on soldier letters to indicate that the contents were 'screened' by an army officer. They were printed in 5 types in sheets of 20 stamps (one row of 5 sheets were printed at a time). They are perforated 12 and were used from october 1899 to mars 1900. A total number of 10.000 stamps were printed.









Johannesburg International Philatelic Exhibition, 1936.



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WMK
2



WMK
3















TOGO Anglo-French
Occupation



SWAZILAND



TANGANYIKA

