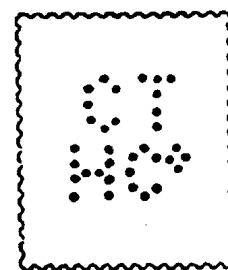


While sorting through perfin it sometimes pays to keep a lookout for unusual postmarks, or postmarks from small towns. A case in point is that of Calne, Wiltshire, which my gazetteer records as being Sm ESE of Chippenham. More than that, the compiler of the gazetteer saw fit to include the comment 'Dominated visually by famous bacon and pork pie factory'.

The perfin CT/HC° (C7700.01) is known on issues of Edward VII with CALNE postmarks, and is identified in Tomkins (and Tilles) as belonging to C & T Harris (Calne) Ltd. 'The Key British Enterprises (1938)' entry for C & T Harris (Calne) Ltd. lists them as bacon curers of Mill St., Calne, Wilts., with factories elsewhere in southern England.

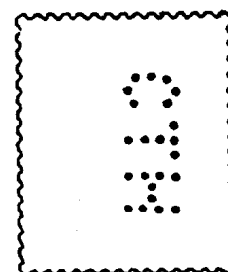


C7700.01

A privileged look at the Sloper Wartime ledger (currently being researched by Dave Hill) records the following entry:

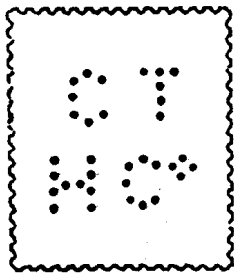
<p>HARRIS C &amp; T . LTD.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">H</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12</p>	<p>CT</p> <p>HC°</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>CTH</p> <p>ROLLS</p>
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The perfin CTH on rolls must be C7690.01 which is known with CALNE postmarks on sideways watermark issues of GV (both typo and photo) and GVI (dark colours). None of my examples show cut sides, only cut tops and bottoms produced when the rolls were manufactured. This implies that the coil was not used in an affixer but simply had the stamps torn from the roll and affixed manually.



C7690.01

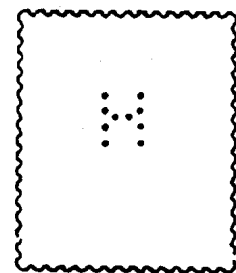
But what of the manuscript entry CT/HC°? C7700.01 would appear to be too early to be a candidate, but C7700.02 has the style of lettering associated with a pre-war die. Does anybody hold a copy of this die with a CALNE postmark, as this would surely clinch the identity?



C7700.02

Both the roll die CTH and the sheet die CT/HC° are thought to have been destroyed in the Blitz on Sloper's Works in May 1941, and if our interpretation of the register entry is correct, were replaced by the single letter H (H0010.05). The small figure '12' is assumed to refer to a '12 over' die, i.e. one with twelve perforating heads to perforate a complete row of £sd definitives in one operation.

Although H0010.05 is a common die and used by many users, I do have one copy of it on a sideways watermark GVI light issue with a clear CALNE postmark. This must act as confirmation as having been used by C & T Harris, but does anybody hold examples of it used on stamps from sheets with CALNE postmarks?



H0010.05

Please help in confirming these identities by checking your holdings of all four dies illustrated, looking in particular for CALNE postmarks, and reporting to me the values, issues and dates involved.

I would like to thank all members who have responded to my various requests for information in recent Bulletins, and make the point that every piece of information is duly recorded. There is I know, a core of regular contributors, but it's always nice to hear from someone new!