

## FIRST AIR POST STAMPS - 1925

### PRINT

Printed by the Cape Times Ltd.,  
Cape Town

### DESIGN

Bi plane in flight

### DESIGN BY

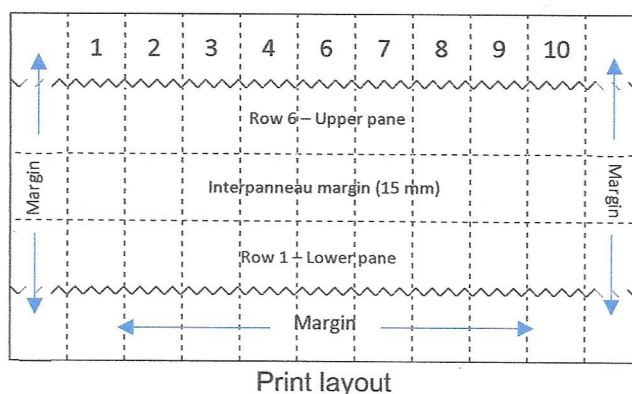
F W Mullins, Architect at PWD  
and drawn by Arthur Cooper  
from the Cape Times Ltd

Early 1925 the Government decided to institute a three-month Experimental Air Mail service between Cape Town and Durban from 2 March 1925

Four stamps were specially printed for this service and placed on sale from 26 February 1925. The stamps were available in areas served by the service, also at the General Post Offices in Pretoria and Johannesburg as well as at the High Commissioner's Office in London

It was the **first** stamps to be **printed** in the Union of South Africa by the Cape Times Ltd., Cape Town using a photo-lithographic offset process and the **first** printed and issued with Afrikaans inscriptions

Stamps were printed in sheets with upper and lower panes of 60 stamps each, with no cylinder control numbers, marginal arrows or sheet numbers. Each pane comprising six horizontal rows of ten stamps separated by a horizontal gutter of 15mm



These were the **first** definitive Air Mail stamps to be officially issued within the British Empire

SUIDAFRIKA spelled without a hyphen. This spelling of SUIDAFRIKA on Union stamps was changed in 1933 to SUID-AFRIKA when the hyphenated Definitive Issue was issued

Stamps were placed on sale from 26 February 1925 and were available in areas served by the service, General Post Offices in Pretoria and Johannesburg as well as the High Commissioner's Office in London

Sale of stamps were discontinued at the end of June 1925 except in Pretoria where it was continued until 31 October 1925. Plates were destroyed immediately, and all unsold stamps were officially destroyed on 5 December 1925

The stamps were only valid for prepayment of the Airmail portion at the following rate:

Post Cards :	Inland – 1d each	Overseas – 3d each
Letters :	Inland – 3d per oz.	Overseas – 6d per oz
Parcels :	Inland – 6d per oz.	Overseas – 9d per oz

Articles carried had to bear the normal Postage stamps as well

### WATERMARK

No watermark

### PERFORATION

12 x 12

### SHEET

Upper and lower panes of  
stamps in 6 rows by 10 columns