

Descriptions:

The detailed descriptions are mostly self-explanatory, starting with whatever appears at the top of the date-stamp – usually the office name, separated by / from whatever appears at the bottom of the date-stamp, and then a description of the side ornaments if present:

- asterisk is avoided as lacking precision
- 5-pointed and 6-pointed stars are frequently used as side ornaments in ZAR date-stamps
- x is frequently used as an ornament, especially in Transvaal date-stamps; because of wear and ink build-up, it is sometimes hard to distinguish from a large dot or a +-cut stop
- +-cut stop – a stop cut vertically and horizontally, creating four smaller stops in an x
- hollow crosses, found in some ZAR date-stamps (e.g. BARBERTON Put 8 and Add 8x) are large cross-shaped stops with a cut (i.e. a white line) down the middle of each arm of the cross; these can fill with dried ink, and are subject to damage with use
- Maltese crosses are less often used in Transvaal than in the Cape; however
- x-cut stops – a stop cut from top left to bottom right and from top right to bottom left, leaving four smaller stops in a cross-shaped pattern, which with wear and dried ink accumulation, can start to look like a small Maltese cross, especially when the stop that is cut is approximately square or rectangular.