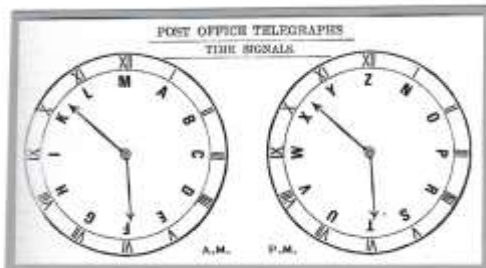From 1854 the G.P.O experimented with ways of speeding up the mail due to the tremendous increase since 1840. Enfield initially fell outside the trials as it was deemed a London District and was allocated the office number 11 of the London District Post. When Enfield received the Square Circle obliterator it also contained a time code. Initially this was just a single letter to denote the time.

Hours of collection	Code
AM 9, 10, 11	B
AM 11-30	C
Noon 12	D
PM 12-30	E
PM 1	F
PM 1-30, 2	G
PM 2-30, 3	H
PM 3-30, 4	J
PM 4-30, 5, 5-30	K
PM 6	L
PM 7, 8	M

This single letter code was replaced with a code system as used by the Telegraph Office, and was in use between 21st December 1894 and 11th June 1896.

The Post Office started a trial in 1893 by introducing time codes which were represented by a letter, A to M (excluding J) representing the hours 1 to 12; and A to L (excluding J) representing 5 minute intervals followed by a ж and either A or P for am or pm.

As the obliterator quite often got clogged with ink and debris the clarity became poor, thus they changed to a simpler version showing the actual time plus AM or PM.