

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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**BULLETIN 120**

**JUNE 2001**

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## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

As the new editor of the Bulletin I would first like to thank the editors who have gone before me. I have been a member of the Belgian Congo Study Circle since 1980. During that time there were only two editors, Ralph Jacquemin and Edwin Lavitt. If that trend continues it means I will be giving up this job in about 2011. While I may not have their staying power I do hope to follow in their footsteps and produce a quality publication for the Study Circle as they did for so many years. In order to do this I will need the same (or more) assistance from the Study Circle members than they enjoyed. So consider this a plea from the editor. Please write and send me any articles concerning philately of the Belgian Congo and its' associated areas such as Ruanda-Urundi and Katanga. These articles can be of any length from a paragraph to a hundred pages, which would appear as a series in multiple issues. I will gladly accept articles in English or French. Articles in French I will have translated into English so do not hesitate to write an article just because English is not your first language. If someone wishes to write an article in Flemish I will accept it but I will need to find someone to volunteer to do the translation. As much as possible I will put all articles in English, only because I believe almost all of our members can read English, while a substantial number cannot read French or Flemish. Also do not hesitate to write an article just because you feel your grammar or composition skills may not be as polished as you would like. As editor I will be glad to work with authors to polish up the articles as necessary. I would prefer that articles be submitted via e-mail or diskette using Microsoft Word or a similar word processor, but I will gladly accept hard copy articles, preferably typed so that I can read them..

Just as I will gladly accept any articles I will also gladly accept any suggestions, thoughts or criticisms concerning the Bulletin. There have already been some good ideas presented to me that I plan on implementing. Alan Morvay has suggested that a new feature be started called "My Favorite Cover". This would feature illustrations of a cover from a member's collection with a brief write-up discussing interesting aspects of the item. The initial installment of this feature showing Alan's favorite cover appears in this issue. Everybody has a favorite cover, so make a clear photocopy of yours, add a brief write-up and send it to me for inclusion in a future Bulletin. I would also like to start a "Letters to the Editor" column where members can express their thoughts both on Circle business and philatelic subjects. Over time the look of the Bulletin may change. Hopefully it will always be for the better, but if not let me know.

As you have noticed this issue is somewhat late. This is a situation that I hope ends with this issue. Besides the changing of the guard of the Bulletin editor, I wanted to wait until after Belgica 2001 so that a report could be made on the exhibiting results there as well as a review of the Study Circle meeting, which was held. These are included in this issue.

I will close by making one last plea for articles from our members. If I run short of articles for future issues I will reprint articles from earlier Bulletins that I think would be of interest to our newer members. I hope that this will not have to be done very often however as I know there is still much to be written concerning the philately of the Belgian Congo. So when you make a discovery, write it up and share the information with the other members.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Danish member Morten T. Lintrup has moved to Uffesvej 9, DK-3600 Frederikssund, Denmark

## **PRESIDENTIAL THOUGHTS**

First of all, I would like to say how pleased and honored I was to be elected President. And surprised too. Although I have been a member of the Study Circle since 1956, my philatelic attention has often been elsewhere, notably with the Rhodesian Study Circle, for whom I have at various times been Auctioneer and Journal Editor, had one postmark handbook published, and another nearing completion. Perhaps the Presidency is a gentle reminder to do more for the Congo! It has certainly made me think about what has happened in the Circle over the past 44 years, and made me thankful for the extraordinary work put in by people like Ray Keach and Lawrence Green, who were my seniors when I joined and are happily still with us, and others like Peter Foden, Brian Hudson and George Celis who are sadly missed. The Circle has seen a steady growth in numbers, especially in Belgium and the USA, and a steady increase in interest in Congo in the philatelic world as a whole. This has its "down" and "up" sides. On the one hand, it is increasingly harder to pick up "job lots" of stamps or covers cheaply, but on the other hand, higher prices do bring more interesting stuff "out of the woodwork". We live in interesting times, and I am happy and proud to be part of those times. HAL HOYTE

## **BELGICA 2001**

Belgica 2001 was a great show for collectors of the Belgian Congo and associated areas. The many international dealers present offered an interesting range of material for purchase from inexpensive modern stamps to the only known example of the 10 centime Etat issue invert on cover which was offered at 21,000 British pounds. The last time I passed that dealer's booth the invert cover was still available.

In addition to the material offered for sale there were a number of exhibits dealing with Congo philately. World chess champion Anatoly Karpov had on display a small portion of his great Congo and Belgium collections. There were four Congo related exhibits that were entered competitively. The Bulletin's editor, Ron Strawser received a gold medal with felicitations of the jury for his exhibit "Postal Cards of the Belgian Congo" in the postal stationery class. Jean-Pierre Flamand's aerophilately exhibit "Le courrier par avion au, du, vers le Congo Belge 1921/1945" was awarded a large silver medal. There were two Congo related postal history exhibits. The exhibit "Occupation Belge dans l'Est Africain Allemand 1914-1918" by Jean-Marie Frenay was awarded a vermeil medal while Danny T. Swarts exhibit "Belgian Congo - A Postal History 1872 - 1960" won a large vermeil medal. Thus the Congo was well represented at this exhibition.

On Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>, a Belgian Congo Study Circle meeting was held at the show. Outgoing President Emile Hoorens chaired the meeting. Members attending were Emile Hoorens, Ron Strawser, Ed Lavitt, Ray Keach, Hawkins Maulding, G. Borower (father & son), W. Deynkens, T. Frennet, M. Frevelshausen, R. Gallant, Philippe Lindekens, D. Bilmans, Ch. Stockmans, J. Van Casteren, Yves Winand, P. Daniels, L Vander Maercken, and some members of the Belgian Study Circle. Presentations were made by Emile Hoorens, Philippe Lindekens and W. Deynkens. A few pages that were shown by Mr. Lindekens are included in this Bulletin.

## **New Member**

The newest member of the BCSC is Mr. P. Daniels, Avenue Saint Hubert 104, 7090 Braine le Comte, Belgium.

## BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

### *Literature available*

The Study Circle has stocks of the following books, which are available to members at the prices stated: -

Mailboat Services from Europe to the Belgian Congo (1879-1922) - Abbé G.Gudenkauff	£5.00	
BELGIAN CONGO - Postal History of the Lado Enclave (1897-1910) - Abbé G.Gudenkauff	£9.00	
BELGIAN CONGO - Mailboat Steamers on Congo Rivers & Lakes - Postal History and Cancellations - Abbé G.Gudenkauff	£4.50	
Étude du 5 Francs Mols, État Indépendant du Congo - J.M.Frenay (** see below)	£4.00	
E.I.C. le 5Franc de 1886 - E.Deneumostier	£4.00	
<del>The Cancellations of the Normal Post Offices of Belgian Congo (1886-1960) and Ruanda Urundi (1917-1962), Second edition - Heim &amp; Keach</del>	£7.00	OUT OF STOCK
Arretes et Ordiances Concernant les Tarifs au Congo Belge et au Ruanda Urundi 1886-1952 (Letter rates including air mail and small packets, 1886-1952) - Stockmans and Gallant.	£10.00	
Ditto - Parcel post rates	£10.00	
Service des Postes du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi - Rapports Annuels 1909-1958 - Stockmans & Gallant	£15.00	

Photocopies of pages from the following are available at £0.06 per page :-

Congo Belge - Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postale - Jean Du Four

A Philatelic Bibliography of Belgian Congo & Ruanda Urundi - Keach (1976)  
 ditto Addendum (1983)

La Censure au Congo Belge Guerre (Civile & Militaire) 1939-1945 - A.Jeukens

Any issue of the Belgian Congo Study Circle Bulletin or article therein

The following accessories are available :-

Full circle protractor for angular measurement of cancellations £0.25  
 (This protractor is supplied free with the publication 'The Cancellations of the Normal Post Offices of Belgian Congo (1886-1960) and Ruanda Urundi (1917-1962)')

Transparency of Maes CONGO BELGE overprint gauge. OUT of STOCK £0.75

Copy of 1960 map (103x84 cms) positioning all existing post offices and means of transport between them £2.00

Orders for and enquiries about the above should be sent to:-  
 Mr.A.J.D. MacLaren, 'Moray', 43 Millar St. Carnoustie, Angus DD7 7AT, SCOTLAND

Postage and packing will be charged as an extra for all items.  
 Please make cheques payable in £ sterling to A.J.D.MacLaren

(Jan.2001)

*The following books, written by members, are available from the authors:-*

**\*\* État Indépendant du Congo - Étude des timbres Mols** - J.M. Frenay in collaboration with Abbé G.Gudenkauf

(This is a series of publications detailing individual stamp plating characteristics from this period. Each value is covered in a separate publication)

5c, 10c, and 15c, each	B.Fr 750
25c, 40c, 50c, 1fr, 3,50fr and 10fr, each	B.Fr 450

It should be noted that the 5 Francs volume is available directly from the Study Circle as offered above. Other volumes are to be purchased directly from J-M Frenay, Ave. du Fonds des Carpes 14, 1380 Lasne. Belgium.

**Chronologie des Mouvements des Troupes Militaire Belges dans l'Afrique Oriental Allemande pendant la Guerre 1914-1918** - A. Vindevogel. (Available from J-M.Frenay)  
B.Fr .800

**Histoire Postale de l'Etat du Katanga 1960-1963** - E.Hoorens B.Fr 500

**Congo et Congo Belge 1894-1923 - Emission 'Mols et Van Engelen'**  
- Etude du 10c 'Stanley Falls' - L.Tavano B.Fr 700

**Het Luchtpostvervoer Tussen België en Belgisch-Congo 1920-1940. De Luchtrechten & de Bepalingen Betreffende de Luchtpost** - F.Broeckaert B.Fr 350

**Les Timbres-Taxe du Congo de 1886-1960** - J.M.Frenay B.Fr 800

**Histoire du Service Postal au Congo Belge (1886-1960)-Tome II:- les valeurs postales**  
- R.Gallant and G.Huygebaert B.Fr 1200

**L'Emission des Timbres-poste ART INDIGENE du Congo Belge du 8 December 1947 et du Ruanda Urundi du 18 Mai 1948** - F.Vanderveken B.Fr 135

### The Library

We have a library of original books and periodicals which includes practically everything that has been published about the stamps and postal history of Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi. The contents of those published up to 1983 are listed according to subject in the Bibliography itemised under *Literature available*. Photocopies of any pages or any work in the library can be provided.

The library holds master copies of all back issues of the Study Circles Bulletin and the librarian can also provide photocopies of complete issues or of single pages -

**Mr.A.J.D. MacLaren, 'Moray', 43 Millar St. Carnoustie, Angus DD7 7AT**

**For purchases from the Librarian please make cheques payable in £ sterling to A.J.D.MacLaren**

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## LITERATURE AVAILABLE

Les Postes Civiles Belges dans l'Est Africain Allemand pendant la guerre 14-18' J-M Frenay (30 A4 pages)

This book briefly recounts the history of the Belgian conquest of the western provinces of German East Africa during the 1914-18 war and then continues with the story of the civilian post offices that were reopened there. The book is admirably illustrated with maps of the area and covers and cancellations used at the offices, not only during the Belgian occupation but also during the earlier German period. For anyone interested in the postal history of the area during that period the book is essential reading. Copies of the book are obtainable from the author, J-M Frenay, Avenue du Fond des Carpes 14, 1380 Lasne, Belgium. The price is 250 francs plus postage.

## 2002 CATALOGUE OFFICIEL BELGE

A Belgian member has again very kindly offered to purchase and dispatch to non-Belgian members copies of the new edition of the catalogue. The cost of the catalogue is presently unknown. The cover price of the 2001 edition was 785 francs and we were able to purchase it for 650 francs, postage and the cost of the wrapper of course being extra.

For several years there has been included with the catalogue a miniature sheet and it is expected that such a sheet will be included with the new edition. Although of no postal value the sheet is of interest and value to some Belgian collectors. Purchasers of the catalogue willing to accept it without the sheet can expect a modest reduction in the price. A bill will be sent with the catalogue and payment may be made in Belgian francs, British pounds or US \$.

Requests for the catalogue, stating if the miniature sheet is not required and specifically if required to be sent by air mail, to be received not later than 15 August, to R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE, England.

## A POSTAL CARD VIA DIPLOMATIC MAIL



During WWI the postal services between Belgium and the Belgian Congo were interrupted by the Germans. In May 1916, efforts were made to obtain the transmission of the mail through diplomatic services. Some postal cards were carried via this method and upon arrival in Belgium a special cachet was applied by the German authorities:

Aus Belgisch Congo	which means:	From Belgian Congo
Zugelassen durch		Authorized by
Generalgouvernement		General Government

The announcement of this service is shown below:

AVIS AU PUBLIC :

Boma, le 10 mai 1916.

J'ai l'honneur de porter à la connaissance du public que M. le Ministre des Colonies m'a annoncé qu'il s'efforcera à titre d'essai de faire parvenir à destination, par la voie diplomatique, les correspondances que des sujets belges résidant au Congo voudraient adresser à leurs parents résidant en Belgique.

Les correspondances affranchies au tarif international pourront donc être remises à la poste à partir de ce jour. Elles ne sont pas susceptibles de recommandation.

Ces correspondances seront censurées et elles ne pourront comporter qu'une page d'écriture très lisible. Une seule lettre ou carte par personne sera admise à l'expédition.

Il est recommandé d'écrire par carte postale plutôt que par lettre dans le dessein de donner plus de chance de succès à la tentative qui sera faite.

Toute allusion à des événements politiques ou militaires même présentée sous une forme voilée, doit être proscrite.

Les correspondances qui ne seraient pas déposées au moins 24 heures avant la date fixée pour la fermeture du courrier seraient exposées à des retards.

J'attire toute l'attention des intéressés sur la nécessité d'observer strictement ces instructions.

Le Gouverneur Général,  
HENRY.

Cet essai n'eut pas le résultat espéré, l'autorité allemande s'étant opposée à sa continuation.

## MY FAVORITE COVER

The cover shown on the following page is the favorite cover of Alan Morvay.

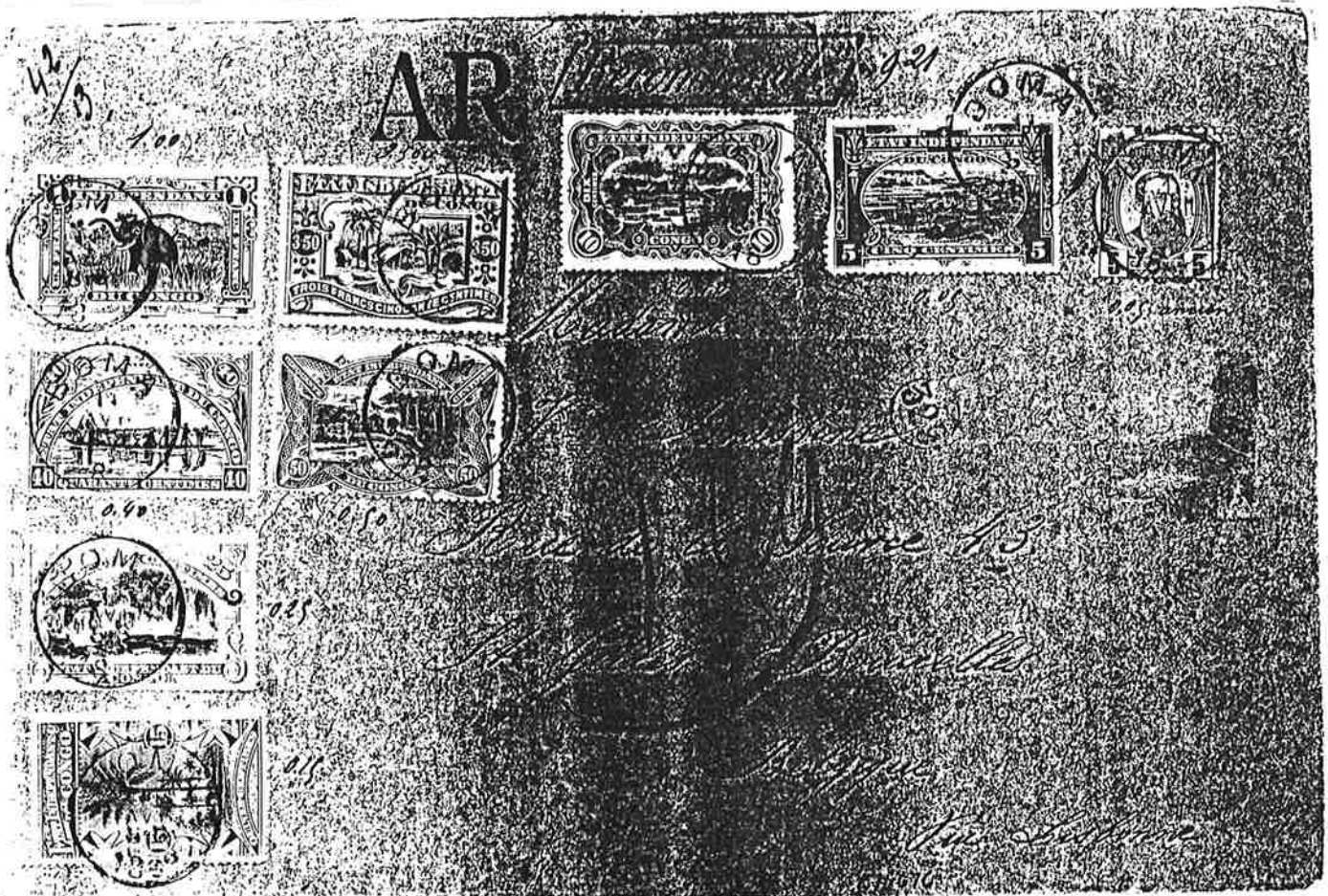
This cover traveled. All eight Mols bear genuine strikes, applied in Boma, of BOMA 1.4 DTMY 11 AVR 5-S 1899. On many, the 99 can't be seen but it is apparent on the 15 centime. It is backstamped with the double oval BRUXELLES (RECEPTION) 7 MAI 22-23 99. The obverse bears a Brussels delivery postman's 329 in circle mark. The 42/3 in ink, in the extreme upper left corner, surely means 42 grams/3 port (triple weight, logical for a cover this large) and should've had 2.50 francs postage (50 centimes x 3 for surface mail to Belgium in 1899, 50 centimes for registration and 50 centimes for the AR-return receipt). Instead it has 5.95 francs of genuinely applied postage comprising the eight Mols values which is greatly overpaid and is obviously philatelic. The 5 centime second portrait issue is cancelled BOMA 1.3DMTY 1 AVRIL 18???. Over a quarter of the cancel is off the right side of the stamp but no trace of it is seen on the cover.

Worse, there is a small part of another cancel on the left side of this stamp which should be almost entirely on the 5 centime brown Mols stamp next to it, yet there is no trace of it either. Thus, this stamp did not originate on this cover. Also, another stamp of portrait issue size has been removed from below the other. In short this cover has had some alterations. It is nevertheless, only one of 5 covers \* with the 3.50 franc of 1898 known to exist at this time.

The perforations of the 9 stamps are:

5 centime of 1891	regular 15
5 centime brown Mols	regular 15-15.05
10 centime blue	regular 15
15 centime ochre	regular 15-15.05
25 centime orange	regular 15-15.1
40 centime turquoise	13.5 and 13.9/14, thus irregular 12-14
50 centime olive	regular 15 ± 0.05
1 F violet	regular 15 ± 0.05
3.50 F vermillion	regular 14.25-14.30 (called regular 14)

- Editors note. I have a 3.50 F Etat solo usage on cover that I doubt was counted amongst the five known covers, so it should be considered that there are six such covers.





## BELGICA KATANGA PRESENTATION

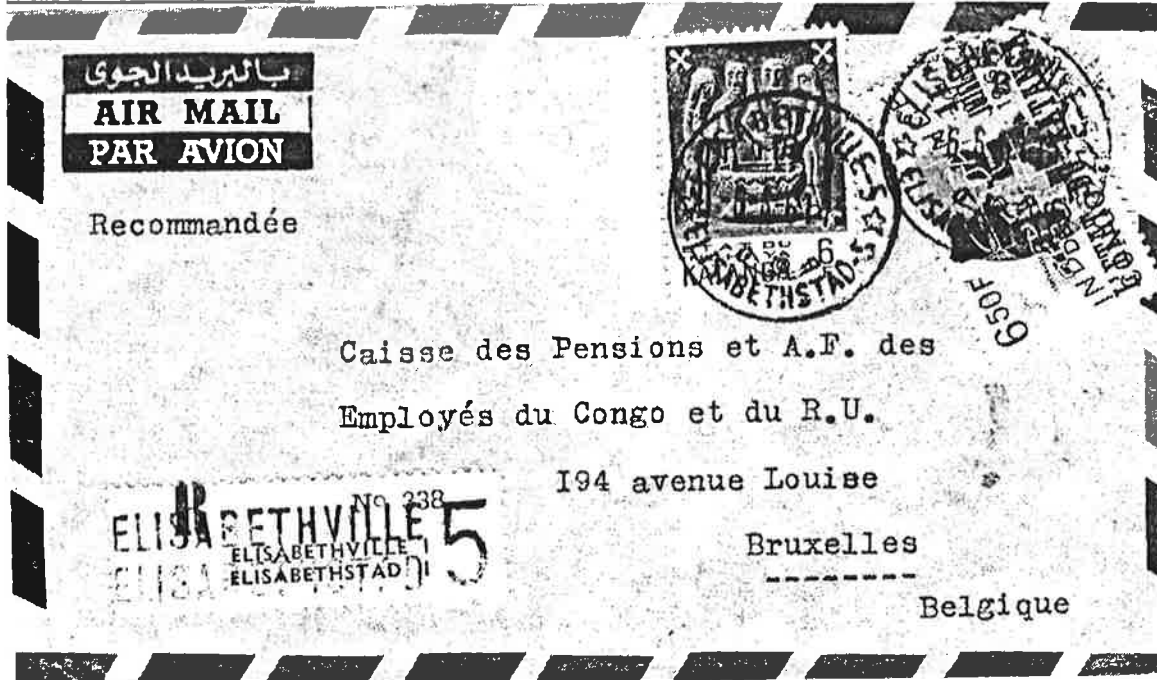
Philippe Lindekens gave a presentation illustrating the various aspects of Katanga postal history at the BCSC meeting during BELGICA 2001. Here are three examples of the material he presented:

### Postage Due Chapter



Airmail Cover from Beliot / France 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 1961 sent to Jadotville with French "T" and manuscript "0.60 f" – equivalent to 6 Katangan Frs.

4 Frs & 2 Frs postage due stamps (Belgian Congo with violet KATANGA overprint) cancelled at Jadotville with telegraphic cancel "JADOTVILLE – JADOTSTAD TT 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 1961" (type TT2.1-Dmyt – Heim & Keach classification)



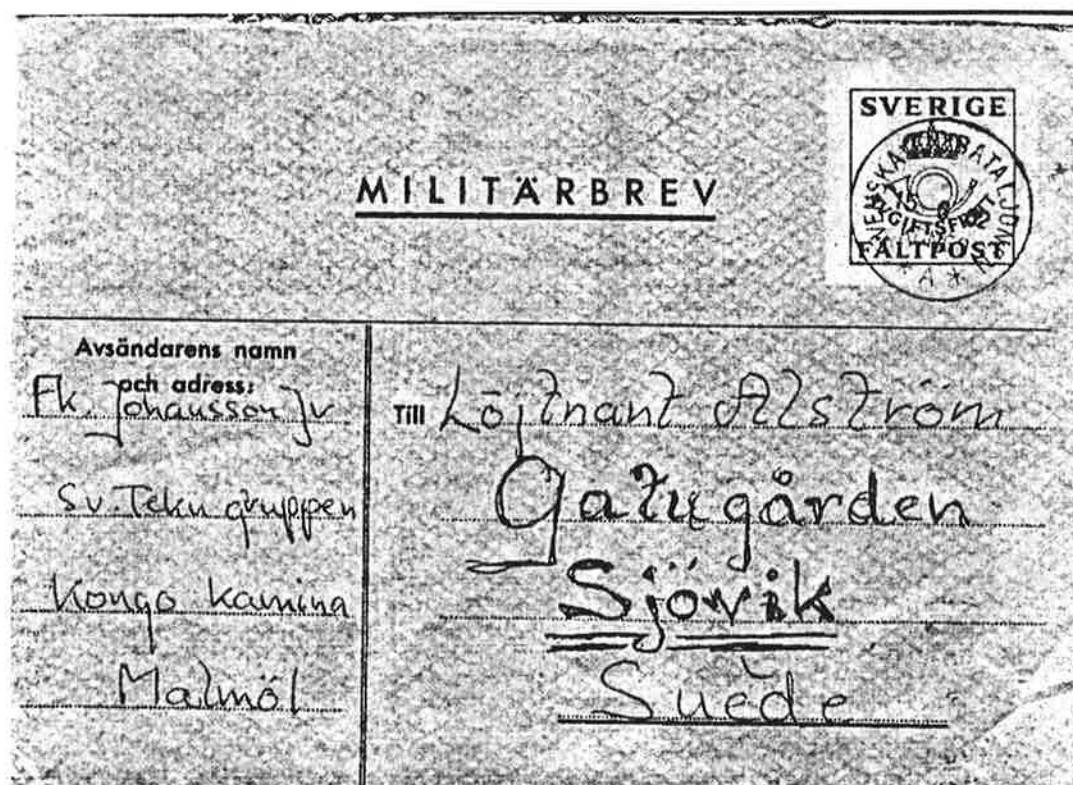
Registered cover sent from Elisabethville (6/6/61) to Brussels.

Postage rate : 6.50 Frs (airmail) and 6 Frs for registration

Cancellation : ELISABETHVILLE 5 type 12B(B)1- according to Heim & Keach classification

Registration label of Elisabethville 1 post office overprinted by hand cancel Elisabethville 5

UNO chapter



Military Forces Letter from Swedish UNO forces based at Kamina sent with special cancel SVENSKA FN BATALJONEN KONGO \*A\* 15 June 1962. This special entire has a special stamp for reply at the back.