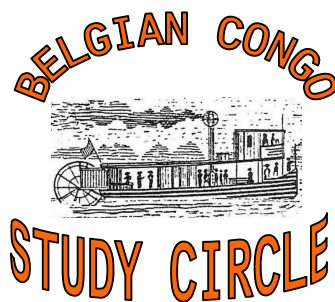


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**BULLETIN 146**

**March-April 2008**

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**Our website address**  
[www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be](http://www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be)

**Receipts and payments account**  
**Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007**

Income	Year to 31 Dec. 2006	Year to 31 Dec. 2007
	£ sterling	£ Sterling
Subscriptions received (#1)	532.08	437.99
Subscriptions in advance	42.85	21.60
Commission on stamp/auction sales (#2)	0.00	1040.20
Books and document sales (#3)	52.65	36.30
Bank interest	34.94	23.98
<b>Total income</b>	<b>662.52</b>	<b>1560.07</b>

## Expenditure

Bulletin, Auction list and Index (2005 only)		
– UK Rest of World production, printing & distribution	490.03	363.86
Competition entry – España 06	70.01	0.00
Cost of sales and new book purchases	37.55	164.55
Annual meeting and AGM	289.54	324.96
Officers expenses	249.28	241.12
Secretarial & Librarian – postages, stationery etc	59.47	125.14
Insurance	142.07	142.07
Subscription to A.B.P.S. (Membership discontinued 2007)	15.00	0.00

<i>Total Expenditure</i>	1,352.95	1,361.70
--------------------------	----------	----------

Surplus/Deficit	<b>-690.43</b>	<b>**£198.37</b>
	=====	=====
Balance on hand at start of period	£1,780.29	£1,089.86
On hand at end of period (refer #4 and #5)	£1,089.86	£1,288.23

I certify that the '*Receipts and Payments Account*' is a complete account of all transactions for the year ending 31 December 2007.

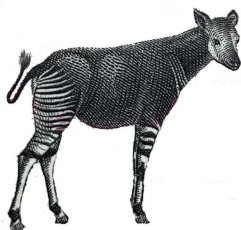
# Stuart S. Smith

Honorary Treasurer

### Notes to the accounts

1. **Subscriptions** – In addition to those received from the ‘UK’ and ‘Rest of World’ – a further contribution of £200 was received during 2007 from the American membership. This is included in the figure presented above. *Belgian and American subscriptions are banked in Belgium and the U.S.A. respectively. These are used to fund their Bulletin reproduction and distribution. Any surpluses are transferred periodically as stated.*
2. The figure includes commissions of £1,015 (1,500€) accumulated over a period of approximately 18 months transferred from and previously held in the Belgian ‘Auction account’.
3. Additional income of \$65 was received and is included in the USA ‘Balance held on deposit’ (Refer #4 below)
4. Balances held on deposit at 31 December 2007
- |              |                                     |  |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| - in Belgium | €1091.81 (Auction sales commission) |  |
| - in U.S.A.  | \$608.45                            |  |
5. Balance at HBOS (Bank), 31 December 2007
- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Less un-presented cheque (Expenses outstanding to SSS from 2006 account) | <u>£135.50</u>   |
| Balance ‘at end of period’ as above                                      | <u>£1,288.23</u> |

## From the Editor



### *The Librarian.*

As reported in the last Bulletin we have a new librarian - Bernard Harris. The transfer of books and Bulletins has been completed, and it is to him that all future enquiries should be addressed. Bernard's address and contact details are provided on the title page of this Bulletin.

Please note: The Dutch version of 'De geschiedenis van de postdienst in Belgisch Kongo (1886-1960) Deel 1' by Roger Gallant is held in the possession of Walter Deijnckens; requests for this item should be addressed separately to him.

### *The A.G.M. – some important decisions*

Since the last Bulletin another very successful annual meeting and AGM has been held in Bruxelles and a full report will follow in the next issue. Whilst the following will be included as part of the official AGM report (Bulletin #147), it is worth recording here that some matters discussed are being addressed and/or implemented with immediate effect. These refer specifically to the administration of our quarterly auctions.

1. To avoid any confusion with regard to 'exchange rates' and the payment for auction lots – **'the price charged and due is calculated and based on the exchange rate in place on the day of the sale.'** (*This will be fairly obvious to those of us who regularly buy internationally, but needs confirming so as to avoid any future misunderstanding*).
2. Members are reminded that in addition to the purchase price, they are also required to pay all 'add on' postage and packing costs.
3. There is a considerable amount of time consuming work and administrative costs involved in describing and preparing the auction. It was unanimously agreed that the 'auction sale' benefits to members is substantial **but** the financial benefits to the Study Circle are extremely small and insufficient in support of and for investment in our future activities – typically new publications, etc. With effect from the next new auction '2008 (2)' a 5% buyers premium will be added to the 'Lot' sale price.

### *Subscription reminder*

A number of members have still not paid this year's annual subscription and whilst they may still do so, those in arrears by the time of the next Bulletin, will be automatically removed from our list. It is my intention to publish an up to date membership list for inclusion in our next issue.

### *Bulletin 145 – “O.A.T. – Onward Air Transmission” by Thomas and Philippe Lindekens*

Since writing the above article, the authors and editor have become familiar with a recently published and updated work by Murray Heifetz on the subject of O.A.T. markings. As a consequence, several of the questions raised have been answered and the provisional allocation of 'New type numbers' will need a reassessment and hopefully be the subject of a further article at a future date. **Watch this space!**

## *Membership News*

Once again we note and offer our congratulations to Ron Strawser who tells us that he had a one frame exhibit titled “*The Belgian Congo 3 fr., 3.50 fr. and 10 franc Mols issues of 1898-1921*” at the ‘Ameristamp Expo’ in Charlotte, North Carolina. He received 92 points and a gold medal as well as the ‘American Philatelic Society 1900-1940’ medal of Excellence.

There were other Belgian Congo exhibits, one of which “*The Belgian Occupation of German East Africa*” was awarded a Vermeil medal.

### *New Members*

We extend a warm welcome to Vincent Schouberechts who has rejoined the Study Circle and to Arthur Orme, our other new member. As always we trust they will enjoy and benefit from their association with us:

**Belgium** - **Schouberechts, Vincent**; Avenue E. Kufferath, 53. 1020 Bruxelles

**U.S.A.** - **Orme, Arthur** ; 2305 N. McKinley, Flushing, Michigan 48433  
e-mail: [orme@oakland.edu](mailto:orme@oakland.edu)

### *Residential and e-mail address changes*

**Belgium** - **Gudenauf, G**; Rue Emmanuel Vandriessche, 20. 1050 Bruxelles.

- **Borrower, Gérard**; Jan Van Rijswijcklaan, 166 A/3. 2020 Antwerpen

**Kenya** - **Cruickshank, A.J.M.**; e-mail: [tonine@wananchi.com](mailto:tonine@wananchi.com)

**U.S.A.** - **Adams, Gene**; 515 Oreland Mill Road, Oreland, PA 19075-2238

- **Babicki, Joe A.**; e-mail: [joebabicki@yahoo.com](mailto:joebabicki@yahoo.com)

- **Hoffman, Reg**; e-mail: [rgmmhoffman@comcast.net](mailto:rgmmhoffman@comcast.net)

- **Pat Dowling**; e-mail: [pjd0@comcast.net](mailto:pjd0@comcast.net)

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

## Questions, Answers and can you Help?

### Question – *Why the mixed franking?*

Elsewhere in this Bulletin, Philippe Lindekens has written a short article on the subject of two covers he has found and both with very unusual but perhaps understandable 'mixed frankings'.

However he also enclosed copy of the 'mixed franked' letter illustrated here, posted presumably in Tshikapi. The cancellation of the two Angolan stamps is not clear.

By way of broadening the topic, illustrated also is an example from the editor's collection and about which I seek an opinion.



This card was clearly posted at Santa Cruz and appears to originate from a passenger on board a cruise ship, docked there?

The 'Congolese' postage rate to foreign destinations was 15 centimes and to meet that requirement a 'Congo' 5 centimes stamp has been applied to up-rate the 10 centimes imprinted card.



**But why has the Spanish 5 cents stamp been added and did the Santa Cruz post office not recognise the 10 centimes value imprinted stationery card as being valid?**

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

## An answer

In Bulletin 145 we illustrated what we believe to be, a previously unrecorded and unusual printing flaw found by André Vannerum on a RUANDA URUNDI overprinted card, Stibbe 19, view card # 50.

I can confirm that several members have reported the same flaw and on the same view card, but equally it isn't always present.



Interestingly Walter Deijnckens has an example of the 'smudge' in its early stages, i.e. as a small dot. This would suggest that the 'smudge' started life as a 'spot' which became more prominent over a period of time.

As anticipated, the flaw is not confined to 'view card #50' and the *early stage* example shown here appears on view card #21.

(Sorry but not easily seen on this reproduction)



X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

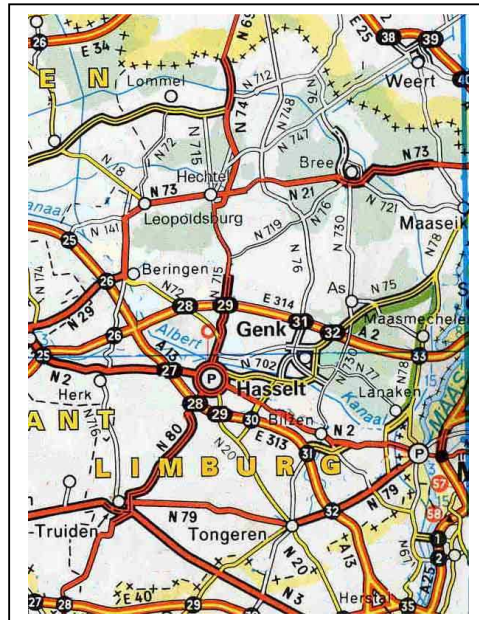


# Wants - can you help?

## Inward mail from the Belgian Congo to 'Limburg'.

Belgian member Ludo Achten is an enthusiastic collector of Belgian Congo postmarks on inward mail addressed to the towns and villages in **Limburg**. Limburg is situated in the Flemish north east area of Belgium with Hasselt as its principal city.

If any member has any items which fall into this category and are interested in either selling or exchanging such material, will you please contact Ludo by email: ludoachten@hotmail.com



X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

## Mixed franking

By – Philippe Lindekens

Par AVION  
à partir de Matadi

### Preface

*In the section on 'Questions and Answers', attention was drawn to the lack of understanding as to why there was 'Mixed franking' on two items of correspondence. In this communication from Philippe Lindekens we are able to illustrate others but in this case understandable, examples.*

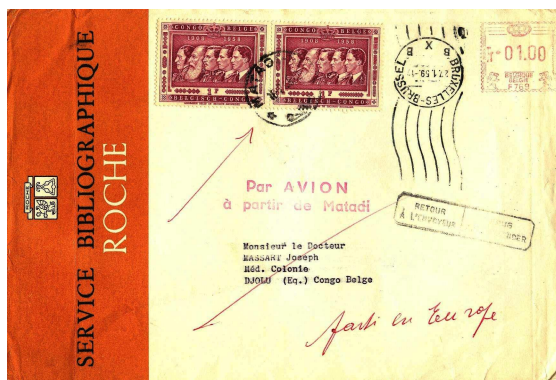


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

Fig 1: 'publicity' cover from Brussels (January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1959) to Matadi (February 2<sup>nd</sup>) and then to Djolu by airmail where it arrived on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Red ink note "Parti en Europe" (return to Europe) and bilingual framed mark "return to sender"

Fig 2: 'publicity' cover from Brussels (February 24<sup>th</sup> 1959) to Matadi (March 22<sup>nd</sup>) and then to Fizi by airmail where it arrived on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Bilingual framed mark "return to sender" + "REBUT"  
Both these covers were sent from Brussels to the Belgian Congo in 1959. Neither can be described as scarce and both are commercial 'printed matter' franked by meter marks. Initially they travelled as surface mail but most interestingly the sender has added Belgian Congo stamps to make up the rate necessary for Airmail inland forwarding to their final destination after arrival in Matadi.

This is surely something special and uncommon.

Thus, when the covers arrived by boat at Matadi, they were then forwarded by the internal airmail system at the reduced rate for the printed matter. That would be a significant cost saving as compared against the normal airmail printed matter from Belgium.

Belgian Congo postage rates:

- Printed matter = already paid at Belgian Post Office to the final destination
- Airmail = 1.20fr. / 25gr. internal Belgian Congo

Both were franked

- 1fr. - Belgium to Matadi by surface mail
- 2fr. - the internal Belgian Congo airmail rate

Neither me nor Charles Stockmans are able to explain why the sender has applied stamps to the value of 2 francs instead of 1.20fr or 2.40 Fr – that needed to meet the official relevant postage rates. Perhaps a BCSC member could provide us with an alternative calculation of the rate.

*(I suggest those were the only stamp values the writer had at his disposal. It often happens to me! Ed.)*

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

## Sona Congo

Yves Winand acquired these!

Illustrated are several cards from an archive recently obtained by our Belgian member Yves Winand. Most striking is the blue postmark style 'SONA CONGO' and correspondence to that location.

What a find! The mark is 25mm in diameter.

This short article started as a "what is this" and as such was to have appeared in the section under **Questions and Answers**. However since circulating an initial enquiry about the mark, we have been enlightened with a fascinating explanation and others may be able to provide more.



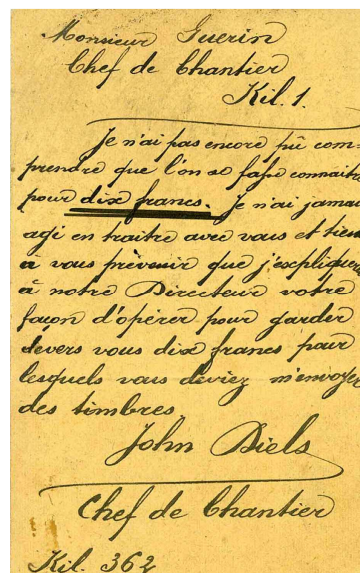


With an acknowledgement to 'Le Rail au Congo Belge' we now know that this rare mark was used on the Matadi → Leopoldville railway at 'stop 231.5 km' where the location **SONA CONGO** was used to assemble and service locomotives. This station was subsequently renamed 'THYSVILLE' in late 1904 or early 1905, in honour of Albert Thys, the lines constructor.

As far as is known the SONA CONGO mark was used on documents from June 1904 and whilst not an official 'postmark', it was a postally designated 'station' with its own very interesting 'station mark'.



From the same source we are also able to illustrate a fine example of the Leopoldville hand stamp - 'Cie du Chemin de Fer du Congo'.



foreign Censor Marks – continued



## Australia, New Caledonia, India, Pakistan and Japan.

### Australia

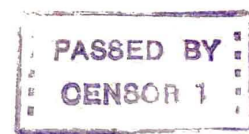
Three items of correspondence have been recorded as part of this study.

The first from Basankusu, 21<sup>st</sup> February 1940 was opened on arrival in Australia as indicated by the boxed 'PASSED BY CENSOR 3' which was in use from 20<sup>th</sup> March 1940 until 8<sup>th</sup> March 1943. The label with '5 dots' identifies the location as being the 5<sup>th</sup> military district of Perth. Records indicate that such censorship was in operation from 20<sup>th</sup> March 1940 until 11<sup>th</sup> January 1942.



Figure 1.

The second was an open 'IMPRIME' cover to Western Australia. As such it was duly rated at 50 centimes and verified 'CENSURE CONGO BELGE' in Leopoldville. The several transit marks confirm the routing: Aba, 12 November 1941; Sudanese double ring stamp with 'A' (21mm); Egyptian Cairo 'Circular censorship Dept. M mark', 3 December and censor number 8957 on the reverse side.



On arrival in Australia (no date stamp) it received the boxed 'PASSED BY CENSOR 1' incorporating 5 dots – (5<sup>th</sup> Military district of Perth).



Figure 2.

The third item was an airmail cover from Leopoldville to Brisbane during the latter part of the war – posted 29<sup>th</sup> May 1945.

It bears the Nigerian transit mark ‘PP/22’ and was directed via Cairo, where it acquired the Group III mark ‘M41’. (Refer Bulletin 141, page11) On arrival in Australia the diamond shaped ‘1 PASSED BY CENSOR - 114’ mark illustrated as figure 3. The numeral ‘1’ identifies the location as Brisbane.

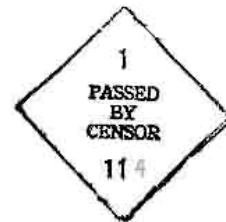


Figure 3.

## New Caledonia



Figure 4.

Figure 4 shows a cover from Elisabethville to ‘French’ New Caledonia, which was initially directed via Brazzaville where it received the ‘Contrôle Postal Commission A’ mark. On arrival in Sydney (Australian Military district 2), the diamond shaped ‘2 PASSED BY CENSOR 1187’ mark was applied.

An indistinct double circle ‘CENSURE ALLIEE 7 NOUVELLE CALEDONIE’ was the final destination censor receiving office mark.

## India and Pakistan

*During the period of World War II, India and Pakistan was one nation. For that reason the summary which follows does not differentiate nationally between them.*

Figure 5.  
Basankusu → Balangir, April 1945.  
Opened by Belgian Congo censor in Coquilhatville, April 1945.  
Transit marks: Watsa, June 1945.  
Nigeria, Egypt ‘M34’.  
Arrival: Balangir, 28 Sept. 1945.  
British civilian type censor mark:  
DHA/9



Figure 5.



Figure 6  
 Leopoldville → Sibsagar,  
 February 1943.  
 Transit mark: Kenya 'A'  
 in circle.  
 British civilian type  
 censor mark:  
 DHA/10

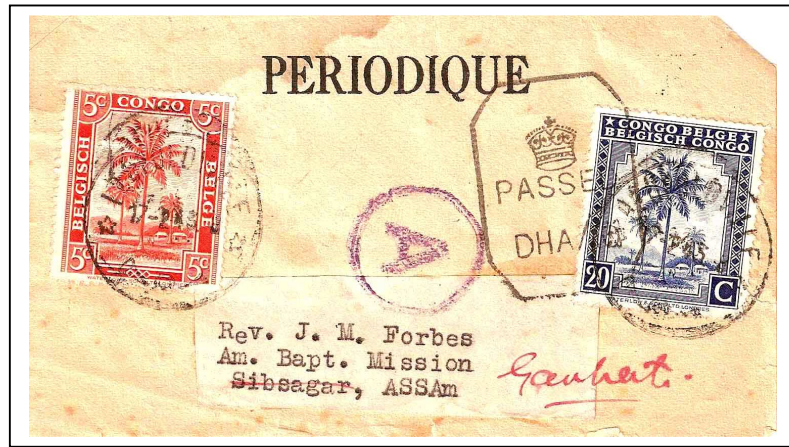


Figure 6.

Figure 7  
 Elisabethville → ????,  
 April 1942.  
 British civilian type  
 censor mark:  
 DHC/21 and on the  
 reverse an unboxed  
 straight line DHC/349  
 hand-stamp.

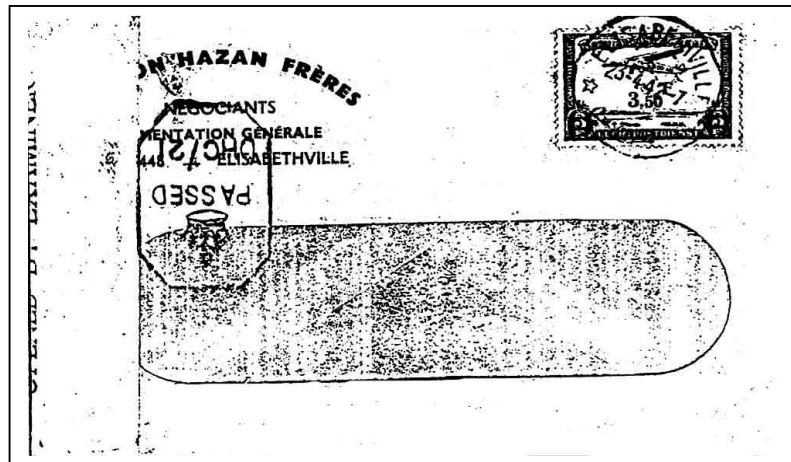


Figure 7.

Figure 8  
 Stanleyville → Karachi,  
 March 1940  
 Transit mark: Egypt 'M'  
 (Gp.III)  
 Arrival: Karachi '8' in  
 triangle.



Figure 8.

Figure 9.  
Lusambo → Bombay, Jan. 1941  
No other details are available but  
the cover bears triangular censor  
marks with N<sup>o</sup>.14 and central  
crown – *typical of British military*  
*marks.*

The 'OPENED BY CENSOR'  
mark has been applied by  
handstamp.

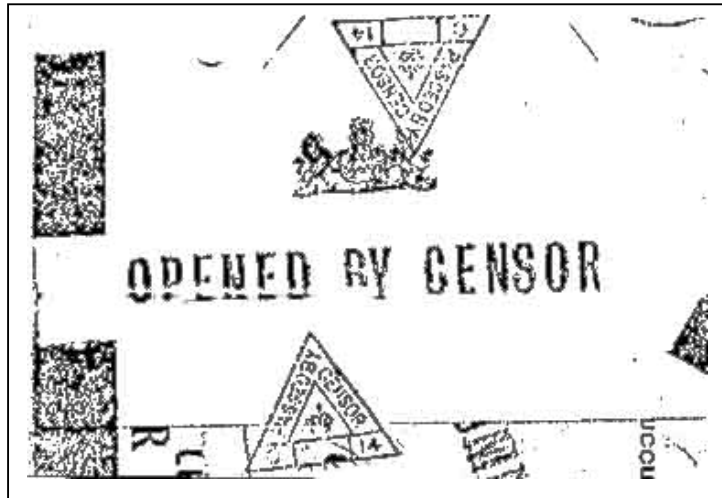


Figure 9.

## Japan

Figure 10.  
Elisabethville → Nagoya , March 1948.

Label 'OPENED BY MIL. CEN. - CIVIL MAILS', over stamped with a censorship mark as illustrated below.



Figure 10.

*In preparing the article the author acknowledges the information, illustrations and assistance provided by Gordon Graham, Alan Morvay, Charles Stockmans, and Stuart Smith.*



# **The Belgian Occupation of German East Africa – *Hand stamped issues***

by - Walter Deijnckens

*The substance of this article is reproduced from that first published in the East Africa Study Circle Bulletin, No. 88, January 2008. It is an edited version of the outline notes provided for the information of those attending the joint meeting with the German East African Study Circle which took place at the Union Jack Club in London on 3rd November 2007.*

## **The Main Campaign**

The Belgian forces existed in two Brigades.

The battle started in April 1916.

The Northern Brigade, coming from Lake Kivu, attacked Ruanda and Urundi.

Kigali was taken on 6th June; Kitega on 17th June.

The troops continued to move south to Lake Victoria.

Muanza (Mwanza) was taken by British troops on 14th July 1916 and the Belgian 'North Brigade' arrived a few days later; from there they fought their way to Tabora.

The 'Southern Brigade', situated at Albertville, destroyed the German fleet on Lake Tanganyika and crossed the lake to occupy Kigoma on 28<sup>th</sup> July.

They followed the railway east to Tabora and took the fortress of Ussoke.

The campaign ended with the fall of Tabora on 19th September.

## **The Belgian Occupation**

The occupation took place in three stages.

1. The march of the troops and the fall of Tabora.

The Belgian forces occupied the area north and west of Tabora as far as Lakes Kivu, Victoria and Tanganyika during the period May 1916 to 25th February 1917.

2. The Belgian forces handed over Tabora to British forces on 25th February 1917.

The Belgians remained in occupation of a large area east of Lake Tanganyika including their temporary capital Kigoma from 25<sup>th</sup> February 1917 until 22nd March 1921.

3. The Belgians left Kigoma on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1921 and Ruanda and Urundi became mandated territory.

## **The Last Campaign**

In April 1917, as result of the German counter attack, the Belgian forces moved south east at the request of the British. The town Mahenge was taken on 9th October 1917. South of Mahenge numerous hostile attacks took place between October and the middle of December. By the end of December, the Germans had surrendered or fled to Mozambique. This last campaign of the Belgians involved no formal occupation and the only philatelic consequences were in the use of some of their BPC VPK cancellations.

BPC VPK =

**Bureau de Poste de Campagne  
Yeld Post Kantoor**

## **The Hand-stamped Issues**

At the end of May 1916, the Ministry of Colonies authorised the Belgian forces to use Belgian Congo stamps with a handstamp of the occupied territories Ruanda and Urundi.

By a decree of 11<sup>th</sup> June 1916, General Tombeur organised the use by the mail services of two small cancellers to handstamp the Belgian Congo stamps. The cancellers were ordered and delivered from Nairobi. The hand stamping of these Belgian Congo stamps and postal stationery was carried out at Pambani and started at the end of August 1916. However the advance of the Belgian forces was so fast that use of the stamps was allowed outside Ruanda and Urundi. It would appear that the hand stamping was done only as needed to meet immediate requirements as when the Ministry requested that the cancellers be sent to Le Havre, the military authorities reported that there was no stock in hand. The cancellers were sent back in October 1916.

### 'Tombeur' Hand-stamp

The Ruanda and Urundi hand stamping was carried out on the first printings of the Belgian Congo stamps issued in 1915, perforation 14 for the centime values and perforation 15 for the values in francs. A few copies of the 1 and 5 francs are known in perforation 14. The stamps used were the 5c, 10c, 15c, 25c, 40c, 50c, 1fr and 5fr denominations. It is believed that the number of copies supplied for each territory was 250 for the 5c through to the 1fr values and only 50 copies for the 5fr.



The new Le Havre overprinted stamps arrived in November 1916 with the overprint: **Est Africain Allemand Occupation Belge - Deutsch Oost - Afrika Belgische Bezetting**, so it seems likely that the cancellers Ruanda and Urundi were indeed sent back. The stamps were officially demonetised 1st January 1917 but their use was permitted during February of that year.

### 'Le Havre' Hand-stamp

The same Belgian Congo stamps of the 1915 issue were hand-stamped in Le Havre with the original two cancellers **Ruanda** and **Urundi** which had been sent back from Africa. It is believed that 2500 copies were made for each territory of the 5c through to the 50c denomination. Of the 1fr stamp, it is thought that 1000 copies were produced for each territory. The 5fr stamp was never hand-stamped.



These stamps were never used in Africa and can be regarded as never having been issued. They do however produce a great deal of confusion with the original Tombeur handstamps.

### 'Tabora' Hand-stamp

After the fall of Tabora on the 19th September 1916, stamp collectors requested copies of these overprinted stamps. The Tombeur cancellers were used but applied with blue ink and mostly cancelled with a double ring cancel of Tabora dated 19 September 1916 also in the same blue ink. This overprint was never accepted as being genuine.



### 'Grysolle' Hand-stamp

M. Grysolle was responsible for the military post office in Tabora. His title was "Inspector of Military Post" but this did not give him authority to issue stamps. It is generally considered that Grysolle produced hand-stamps entirely on his personal initiative, in order to satisfy those amateur collectors who had not managed to acquire some of the 'Tombeur' stamps. Both the Ruanda and Urundi overprints are 1/2 mm longer than the Tombeur overprint and usually show traces of the hand-stamp frame under or above the overprint.

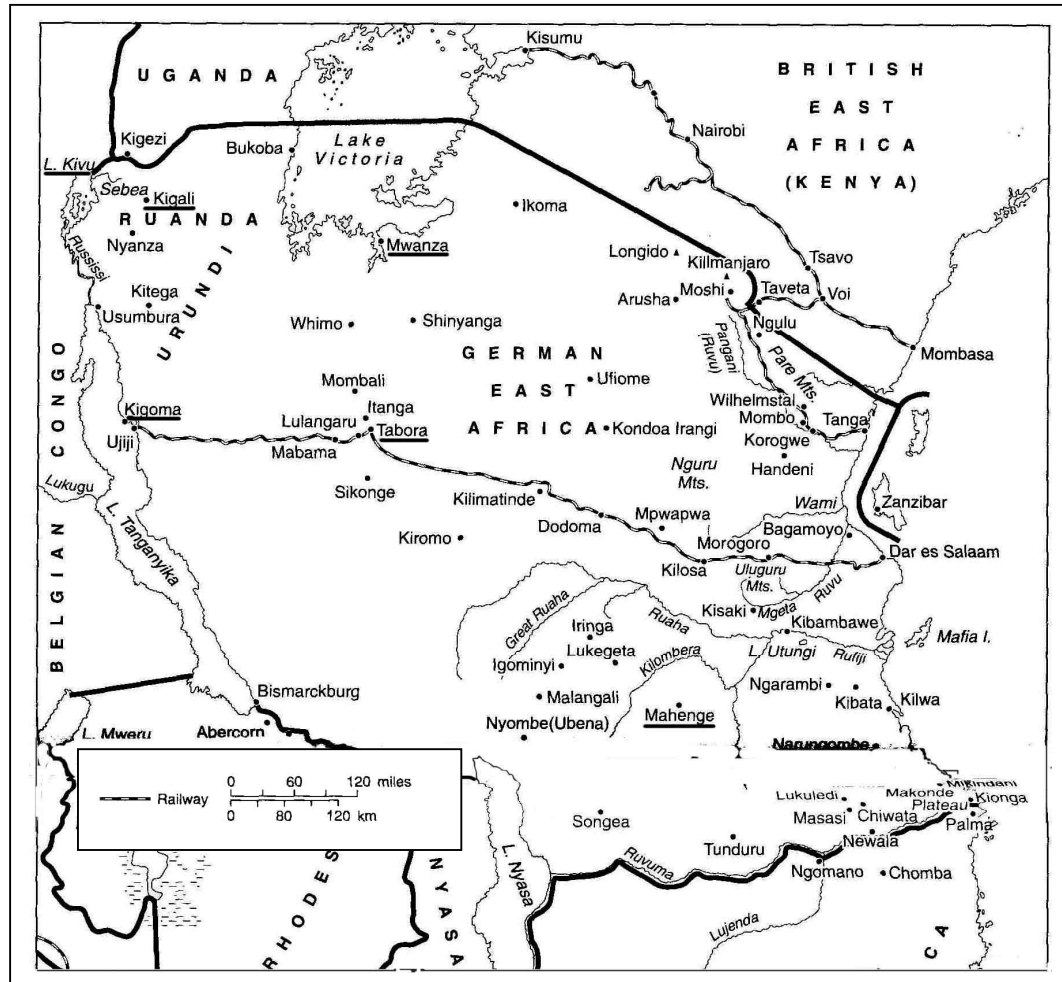


*It is regretted that "Catalogue Official Belge" allows recognition of the Grysolle issue and accords it a position of importance that it does not merit.*

### Other Hand-stamps

Framed overprints of either **Ruanda** or **Urundi** on genuine Belgian Congo stamps of the 1915 issue can be found on the market, but these together with a number of other overprints (including typewritten) are considered to be forgeries.

## Map of German East Africa in 1915-6

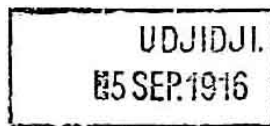


### The Cancellations

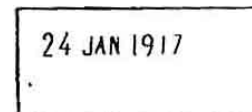
#### *Mutilated German Date Stamps*



Without date and  
used only a few months







Administrative date stamp



Possibly a railway cancellation  
Dar-es-Salaam → Kigoma

### *Belgian Marks and Cancellations*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kisoma</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">In violet. Gothic letters.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kigoma</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">In two lengths: 24mm and 20.5mm. Violet-black or black.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>USSOKE</b> <b>3 2 17</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Railway station. Not known on regular mail.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TABORA</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Seen in violet on one postcard dated September 22, 1916.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TABORA</b></p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tabora</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Seen on four documents and on telegrams.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Usumbura</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Used from January until March 1917.</p>	
 <p style="text-align: center;">Violet until June 1917.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Black from July 1917.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Black, early 1917.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Black, early 1917 until May 1917.</p>

### *British Cancellations*

Some examples of British cancellations and censor marks found on Belgian Congo mail.

 <p style="text-align: center;">F.P.O. 320 (Tabora). 322, 338 and 349 are known.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">One example of a British military cancellation.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Used in 1917. T.F. may be a telegraphic designation.</p>
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Other recorded examples:

*Used on registered cover from Kigali 16 Mar 18 to Switzerland. Arrived Bern 6.VIII. 19.  
'Opened under Martial Law' on yellow label.*

*On postcard Gottorp 12-5-17*

Framed with blue inscription: PASSED BY POSTAL CENSOR DARESSALAAM.





Illustrations reproduced from 'Le Congo Belge et ses Marques Postales', André DE COCK

By way of complimenting the original article we are able to illustrate two related and very special cards.

The first from Tabora and written (20<sup>th</sup> September 1916) shows a rare fine strike of the KISUMU BPCVPK cancellation,



The second, which was previously shown and referred to in Bulletin #145, is as far as we know, the only known example of a genuinely used copy of a 'Tombeur' hand-stamped URUNDI with 'Tabora' straight line hand-stamp.



◀ Tabora

Reference to the previously published article on 'Tabora Post Office cancellers' by Leo Tavano provides a further insight into this topic. Bulletin 141, page 18.

### Summary of Campaign cancellers

‘POSTES MILITAIRES’ Use of this canceller was possibly limited because it was not bi-lingual.  
(N° 1-12)

KISUMU/ B.P.C.V.P.K.	In black at Kisumu from 27 Aug. 1916 until end Mar. 1917.
B .P.C .V.P.K. N°1.	In blue at Tabora from 16 November 1916 until 24 February 1917. In black at Tabora from 18 December 1916 until 24 February 1917.
B .P.C .V.P.K N°2 and N°3.	Neither is known on cover.
B .P.C .V.P.K. N°4.	In violet at Kigoma from 19 November 1916 until 22 February 1917. In black at Kigoma from 22 December 1916 until 30 April 1917. In blue at Kigoma from 10 February 1917 until December 1917. In black at Kitega from December 1917 until April 1918.
B .P.C .V.P.K. N°5.	In black at Kigali from November 1916 until May 1918.
B .P.C .V.P.K N°6.	In blue at Udjiji (Ujiji) from April 1917 until March 1918.
B .P.C .V.P.K. N° 7.	In black at Karema in April 1918.
B.P.C.V.P.K. N° 8.	In black at Kigoma at 25 March 1917. In black at Usumburu from September 1917 until May 1918.
B .P.C .V.P.K. N° 9	Not known on covers
B .P.C .V.P.K. N°10.	In black at Gottorp from February until March 1919.
B .P.C .V.P.K. N° 11.	In blue at Dodoma from July until October 1917. In black at Dar-es-Salaam from November until December 1917. In black at Albertville from June until November 1918.
B .P.C .V.P.K. N°12.	In blue at Tabora from July until October 1917. In black at Gottorp from March until December 1918.
B .P.C .V.P.K. N° 13.	In blue and black at Ifakara from July until October 1917.
B .P.C .V.P.K. N°14.	In blue and black at Kilosa from July until October 1917.
B .P.C .V.P.K. N°15.	In blue and black at Kilosa from September 1917 until February 1918. In black at Lugufu from May 1918.
B .P.C .V.P.K. N°16.	In green at Gottorp from February until March 1918. In black at Kilosa from September until December 1918.
B .P.C .V.P.K. N°17.	In black at Udjiji from February until August 1918.

# Post office applied 'Pen annotations' Part I

By – Philippe Lindekens

## Preface

Philippe Lindekens has submitted a substantial quantity of material for inclusion in the Bulletin – all of which falls under the umbrella and are best described as 'Red ink ascribed notes' by *Post Office officials*. As editor I have decided to run his submission as a series, each under a separate title. All relate to penned notes applied to correspondence either by way of simple instruction or declaration of an anomaly.

## Only 'State' produced 'Postal Stationery' accepted !

### Return to Sender

By way of a reminder or indeed new information for those unaware of the fact, until May 1902 it was only permissible for correspondents to use the official 15 centimes 'overseas postcard rate' on postcards produced by the Congo State. If the card had been privately or commercially made by or for any other party, then postage on that card was due at the official 'simple letter rate' – 50 centimes.



This picture post card was sent from Coquilhatville, 9<sup>th</sup> November 1898 to Diest in Belgium; it bears a transit Leopoldville transit mark, 16<sup>th</sup> November.

As can be seen, the postcard was franked at 15c with the Mols 1894 printings of a 5c red-brown and 10c blue-green. In effect it was underpaid by 35 centimes and it is interesting to note that the Coquilhatville post office had accepted the card without comment – there was no note or indication of further taxation due.

At Leopoldville, the post man or office has added a note in red ink : “Retour à l'expéditeur, Les cartes seules de L'Etat sont admises” – ‘Return to sender, only State (Congo Free State) cards are authorized’. Postage due taxes would have been 70c, that is 2x 35c and it is perhaps a good reason for the officer at Leopoldville to have taken action and returned the card; it is likely that the Belgian recipient would not have been happy about paying tax on such a simple postcard.

