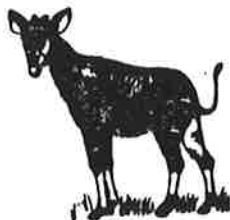


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BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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Members who reconstruct sheets of Mols stamps, have, I think, always been very well served by the 'Sales Department' but, particularly in recent years, other members who have submitted 'wants lists' have not been so well treated. This is entirely my fault in that I have never translated wants lists, other than those for plate reconstructions, into composite lists so that, if a stamp is offered for sale, I can easily find who wants it. I promise to make a determined effort to improve the service by preparing composite lists.

Members are therefore invited to submit wants lists which, at least for the present, can be in the following areas:

1. 'Straight-forward' stamps, unused and used, preferably according to Catalogue Officiel- although I can translate the numbers of most catalogues;
2. CONGO BELGE overprints according to type;
3. Mols stamps according to perforation
4. Balasse Varieties. Members who want them can conveniently send photocopies of pages 124-141 of the Balasse with stamps they already have or do not want ticked or crossed through.

It may be possible later to include other areas of Congo collecting but not at present.

The success or failure of this activity is entirely dependent on members providing me with their duplicates to offer to others, the Study Circle taking a very modest 5% commission. Vendors must always fix prices, either individually or as a percentage of Catalogue Officiel.

The following are available:

(Apologies for the L for English Pounds--unfortunately the American typewriter lacks the proper symbol--Ed.)

Various picture post cards with 1900 10c (I2+B1) @30p each

Various picture post cards with 1896 15c (I+A1b) @ 30p each

Various cover fronts, each with one stamp: 1910 25c (plates II2+A4); 1915 15c (IV+C1, and 2nd booklets) and 1915 25c (III+B, III+C, III+D and 1st booklets) @ 30p each

Postal Stationery Cards

1900 10c Stibbe 18 CTO	50p
1910 10c/15c Stibbe 35L CTO	75p
1910 10c/15c Stibbe 35T used	L3

5c 3rd printing pane beta	L3
5c 2nd printing pane alpha	
but without top selvage	L3.40

Postage on the above extra

R. H. KEACH
25 KINGSWOOD ROAD
TADWORTH,
SURREY KT20 5EE GB

EXPERT COMMITTEE

Stamps, cancellations, etc. for Certificates of Authenticity are invited to be sent to R. H. Keach to be recieved not later than 5 May 1991.

THE 40TH YEAR OF THE BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE MEETING CELEBRATING THE 40TH YEAR OF THE BCSC WILL BE HELD AT OAKLANDS PARK HOTEL (half-way between Walton-on-Thames and Weybridge--about 15 minutes from Heathrow) FROM THE 3RD THRU THE 5TH OF MAY 1991. FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS PLEASE CONTACT, IMMEDIATELY, L. G. Green, Secretary, BCSC. 29 New Road, Esher, Surrey KT10 9PG Great Britain.

NEWS AND VIEWS

With this issue both the American and the European versions of the Bulletin will come to you printed on both sides of the page. Postal Rates have militated against the continuation of the single page copy.

Member Dr Harry W. Wilcke is to be doubly congratulated: He recieved a 'Gold' with an exhibit of German Bizone Postal Stationery of 1945-46 at the Philadelphia National Show and, "The Belgiophile", the American-Belgian Philatelic Society Bulletin, of which he is Editor, recieved favorable notice in the American Stamp newspaper--Linns.

Members are reminded 1991 dues are due. Post Offices operate on a cash only basis. If you have overlooked same please send your checque at your earliest convenience.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ralph Jacquemin, in most timely fashion, sends in a fotocopy of two covers which appear at the end of Mr. Jeukens fascinating and instructive article. Jacquemin asks for further comment about GERMAN censorship in the Congo. (see Ann. 13) Please send comments and answers to your Editor so that they might be shared with the membership.

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THE SECOND WORLD WAR

CENSORSHIP IN THE BELGIAN CONGO

An update of the study made in 1975 by Arthur Heim of the Belgian Congo Study Circle on the censor marks of the Belgian Congo during the Second World War has been carried out by Peter Foden, Secretary of the same Society, with participation by members, both of the Study Circle and of the Civil Censorship Study Group. The review has allowed us to place some 800 relevant covers on record. This has formed a major source of data for the present article.

Research at the Brussels African Library and in the Archives of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, which inherited the archives of the former Colonial Ministry, has brought to light further information, which provides a better understanding of the subject.

It is this total database which is referred to in the following commentary. However, we must also remember the excellent study by Mr J. Fr Zaalen in Balasse Magazine No. 56 and subsequent issues:

First, a reminder of the development of censorship in the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi during the war, commencing in May 1940. From the outset, the censorship measures affected 3 sectors:

- correspondence, parcels and telegrams entrusted to the post, and which might "disclose information of which the communication could pose a threat to national security or to public order (Legislative Order 75/PT of 17th May 1940);
- correspondence of an economic nature "to avoid the transmission to enemy territory of information relating to the financial situation, or to the development and production of industrial, commercial and agricultural enterprises" (Legislative Order 217/ST of 9th August 1940, rounded off in October and November 1940 by Orders 370 and 454 SI).
- political and philosophical documents as well as newspapers and periodicals of which "the distribution, sale, reproduction and despatch to foreign countries will be submitted for examination and approval by a censor" (Legislative Order No. 99/APAJ of 2nd June and 358 of 4th October 1940, 85 and 495 of February and November 1941).

Here, a question: why were all these Legislative Orders issued at the level of the Colonial Governor General? Quite simply because the events of May 1940 and subsequently had led to the Belgian Government being dispersed in Belgium, France, Portugal and Great Britain. This made communications difficult and decision-making virtually impossible. So Governor General Ryckmans had to legislate. In April 1943,

the Belgian Government, by then established in London, enacted a legal decree to confirm the various Orders which had set up the censorship.

The Colony's entry into the war began on 15th May 1940, when the Units charged with the defence of the lower river on the Banana-Boma - Matadi axis were placed on a war footing to cover the eventuality of enemy action from the sea. The entry of Italy into the war on 10th June 1940 was followed by the deployment of a Brigade on the North Eastern Frontier (Troupes de l'Est) in order to prevent any Italian incursion towards the gold fields in the Kilo-Moto region. Finally, the entire Force Publique was mobilised, as confirmed by the Governor General's Ordinance 23/FP of 14th January 1941.

The increase in the numbers of military personnel and the corresponding increase in the volume of mail required a level of control which the Civil Censorship system could not deal with:

- by his Legislative Order 102/PT of 6th March 1941, the Governor General stated that "correspondence, parcels and telegrams entrusted to the post by, or addressed to, military personnel, could also be censored by Military Authorities as designated by the Commander in Chief of the Force Publique".

This instruction thus did not exclude the possibility of Civil Censorship, as is evidenced by the existence of covers bearing both Civil and Military markings.

In studying the Censor marks themselves, the following 3 categories fall to be considered:-

- Censorship of private and/or commercial mail;
- Censorship of newspapers, periodicals and leaflets;
- Censorship of mail from, or to, military personnel.

1. Censorship of private and/or commercial mail

Order 75/PT provided that "the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi and the Heads of the Provinces should determine the post and telegraph offices at which a censorship service should be set up and should designate the persons responsible for acting as censors". During the months and years which followed, these details were to appear in the Congo Administrative Bulletin, printed at Leopoldville. Unfortunately, due to circumstances, distance and dilatoriness, not all of the Provincial Executive Orders were published. Occasionally, certain orders which were published even referred to others which had not been.

Reading the successive orders, 3 phases become apparent in the evolution of censorship in the Belgian Congo:

- in 1940 it was limited to correspondence from/to Europeans or Asians and the Censors were named individuals;

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- with the creation of the Native Affairs and Labour Service (AIMO) in 1941, postal and telegraphic censorship was extended to all non-Europeans. The Territorial Administrators, or Assistant Administrators, were responsible for ensuring the service, sometimes through Postal Officials, as at Port-Francqui and Luputa;
- finally, referring to the Decree passed at London in April 1943, the Governor General published Security Order 303 in August 1943, extending Censorship to include all correspondence carried between locations where no Post Office was established.

There is no trace of any Provincial Orders to give effect to this last decision, which had probably become urgent as a result of agitation in some parts of the Congo. The decision was presumably communicated in some confidential document.

One can only imagine the increase in bureaucracy caused by this instruction and also understand why the level of remuneration for Official Censors (i.e. public servants) set in June 1941, below that for private individuals appointed as Censors became identical"October 1944. It appears that Censors were "acting unpaid" before June 1941.

It was not practical for the Censors to examine every item of mail entering, leaving, or circulating within the country, nor do we know the normal percentage which would have been examined and which was, no doubt, indicated in a general instruction which has yet to be discovered. Further, by order of the Governor General, certain Belgian political personalities, having escaped to the Colony, had the benefit of exemption from censorship for their correspondence, as was evidenced on their mail (Annex 1).

The provisions concerning Civil Censorship were abrogated by Security Order 11 of 2nd January 1946. Peter Foden's previous study showed that, so far, the latest recorded use of a Congo Censor mark was 10th November 1945; the first date recorded was 3rd June 1940. Both of these were applied at Leopoldville.

Establishment of the Civil Censorship Offices

Putting together the names of Censor Offices which appeared in the Provincial Orders with those produced by Arthur Heim and Peter Foden in their studies of actual postal items, the following is the full list (those marked by an asterisk have not been evidenced by postal items to date):

Aba	Elisabethville	*Lisala
Albertville	Irumu	Luluabourg.
Bunia	*Kasongo	Lusambo
*Bumba	Kindu	Matadi

Buta	*Kindu-Port Empain	Stanleyville
Coquilhatville	Leopoldville	Tshikapa
Costermansville	*Libenge	Usumbura
	Watsa	

This list is almost certainly incomplete and may well be extended by future discoveries.

The location of these offices on a map shows that the Censor Offices were reasonably well spread, geographically speaking, except in Katanga where just 2 Offices, Albertville and Elisabethville, had to deal with a very high volume of correspondence, taking into account the close relations with Tanganyika and, above all, the countries of Southern Africa.

Civil Censorship Marks

From the beginning to the end of Congo Censorship, 3 groups of marks were used by Civil Censors. (They are rarely found on purely local correspondence):

- printed tapes or labels intended to re-seal letters opened by the Censors. Printed in black on white paper. Where the printed strips were unavailable - and particularly in the early period - certain Offices used strips of plain brown gummed paper. These strips were usually cancelled by the Post Office datestamp in lieu of a censor mark.
- handstamps which indicated that a postal item had passed through censorship. Normally used on cards, they are also often found on covers and it is not uncommon to find a resealing tape and a handstamp on the same cover. Perhaps they were applied at different offices, although certainly in some cases the same office appears to have been responsible for both!
- Censor numerals which appear to identify each Censor within each office. These numbers extend in range in accordance with the importance and size of the office - i.e. the number of persons it employed on censorship duties.

No trace has been found of any official instructions covering the use of these marks. Logically, it can be assumed that some basic regulation was issued by the Authorities in Leopoldville and sent to the Provinces. It would be most interesting to find a copy, which might also show the guidelines for any marks which were to have been used on parcels and telegrams.

The Re-sealing Strips and Labels

The identifying letters are those first used by Arthur Heim in his original study of the strips and marks, extended as necessary for later findings.

4 different re-sealers are known, all printed in black on white paper, and are illustrated, together with a note of their dimensions, in Annex 2. On 535 items recorded by Foden, the distribution of re-sealers was as follows:-

Aa	from all offices	520	continuous strips
Ab	Watsa	6	
Ac	Usumbura	3	
Ad	Albertville	6	labels

Although clearly a sample only, these figures indicate the relative scarcity of all re-sealers other than type "Aa". It can also be assumed that type "Aa" was the official type as supplied by the Government Printers at Leopoldville, the other types stemming from local initiatives.

The official strips seems to have been supplied in rolls. They were stuck down, folded over the open ends (or sides) of envelopes and cut to size. However, a certain degree of licence was occasionally taken (Annex 3).

Certain Censors also apparently felt it necessary to justify their action by adding a reference to the relevant Provincial Order to the re-sealing strip (Annexes 4, 4 bis, 4 ter)..

Some parenthesis may be useful to explain this: If the Censor was well able to retain his anonymity in the large towns, this was far from being the case in some of the smaller towns and villages, such as Lisala, Libenge, Bumba, Kasongo, where there were never more than a few Europeans (basically, the missionaries). Censorship became a real intrusion into the private life of a neighbour, who was also very often a personal friend. It can easily be understood that censorship marks have not been found on the mail from these communities, although Censor Offices were officially established in 1940.

The Handstamps

Arthur Heim listed 16 in his study, of which only 13 were evidenced by the later study. Those mentioned by Heim are shown, with their dimensions, in Annex 5. Those which did not re-appear in the Foden study (despite the total population being 5 times larger than seen by Heim) were types "Bab", "C", and "G".

Contrary to what appears to have been the rule with the re-sealing strips, the handstamps were not normally cancelled by or associated with a datestamp to indicate their origin.

The Foden study of 220 covers bearing handstamps gives the following distribution:

Baa	from all origins (black, blue-black blue, violet, purple)	155
Bb	Elisabethville (black)	5
Bc	Albertville (violet)	2
Bd	Costermansville (black) Luluabourg (black)	2 1
Da	Albertville (black)	1
Db	Elisabethville (black)	7
Ea	Albertville (violet)	2
Eba	Elisabethville (black)	17
Ebb	Elisabethville (black)	15
Fa	Irumu (red)	5
Fb	Irumu (red)	2
H	Buta (black)	6

Here again the numbers provide assistance in determining the comparative scarcity of the types. The approximate period of their use and the numbers of types listed for each location, are shown on Annex 6.

As with re-sealing strip "Aa", it would seem that handstamp type "Baa" was the official type. Reading from the list of different types it is also clear that Katanga (Elisabethville and Albertville) showed the greatest creativity in producing handstamps. At Albertville, the official type "Baa" appears never to have been used at all. At Elisabethville, "Eba" and "Ebb" seem to have remained in use alongside "Baa". Many questions remain on the use of particular types of handstamps.

The Censor Numerals

As for the 2 other groups, no trace of any official instruction on the use of these has been found to date.

Following the Foden study, the first recorded Censor numeral for Stanleyville was in March 1941 (No.1). This corresponds with the period of establishment of Censor Offices in this Province, confirmed by Security Order 37 of 31st March 1941. This order was unfortunately never published in the Administrative Bulletin; its existence can be deduced from Security Order 43 of 25th June 1941, which referred to the establishment of an Office at Watsa.

By the same logic, Censor numbers should have appeared from May 1940 on mail emanating from Leopoldville, Coquilhatville and Costermansville where censorship was established in that month. However this was not the case, which tends to support the belief that the identification and enrolment of censors was not completed for all the Provinces until the beginning of 1941.

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The information in the Foden study argues that the numbers issued to the Censors were distributed as follows:-

Coquilhatville Province	4	numerals
Costermansville Province	4	"
Lusambo Province	4	"
Stanleyville Province	6	"
Elisabethville Province	15	"
Leopoldville Province	50	"

which corresponds reasonably well with the respective importance of each Province.

It is very difficult to associate censor numbers with any of the smaller offices or to differentiate any such censorship from that of the Provincial Capitals, where mail was often censored in transit. It is also impossible to "locate" a censor, where the handstamp is type "Baa" and there is no clearly associated town datestamp.

The following table takes the detail of the censor numbers shown in the Foden study and relates them to the Provinces and localities to which they relate (as the organisation of censorship was on a Provincial base):

<u>Province de Coquilhatville</u>									
Coquilhatville	1	2	3	4					
<u>Province de Costermansville</u>									
Costermansville	1	2		4					
<u>Province de Lusambo</u>									
Lusambo	1	2	3	4					
Tshikapa	1	2	3						
<u>Province de Stanleyville</u>									
Stanleyville	1	2		4		6	14	17	
Aba	1	2							
Bunia						6			
Irumu	1	2	3						
Watsa		2	3		5				
<u>Province d'Elisabethville</u>									
Elisabethville			3			6	7	8	
		10		12			15		
Albertville			3						
<u>Province de Leopoldville</u>									
Leopoldville	1	2	3	4	5		7		
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	17	18	19	20	21				
		26	27	28	29	30	31		
		34		36	37	38		40	
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	
	49	50							
Boma			3						10
Matadi			3						
<u>Ruanda-Urundi</u>									
Usumbura		2							

The above table shows that some numbers, which should logically exist, have not yet been seen on censored documents. Perhaps they were never issued, or their holders could not use them for censorship following transfer or for some other reason.

It would be particularly interesting to discover if the numbers issued were transferable and if the same censor could act in a new location using the same number. The answer to this question could explain the apparent duplication of numbers within a single Province as is evidenced in the table.

2. Censorship of Newspapers, Periodicals and Leaflets

This form of censorship was instituted from 2nd June 1940, by Legislative Order 99/APAJ for newspapers and periodicals. Publication was subordinated to the approval of a Censor-in-Chief for each Province. It was completed in October 1940 by Legislative Order 358/APAJ, which included political and philosophical leaflets. Security Order 232 abrogated these provisions on 29th August 1945.

Order 358 stated that leaflets should bear an indication of the approval, its date and the Provincial Authority by which it was given. Among other things, "Philosophical Leaflets" included many missionary society publications which were generally mailed in a wrapper or in a "Printed Matter" envelope.

Certain editors of these leaflets had come to know how they were affected by the censorship regulations - a very elaborate example appears in Annex 7 - and that further censorship of their circulation was not necessary.

Others perhaps expressed the same intent in a more clumsy fashion, as seems to have been the case with 2 items recorded by Peter Foden (Annex 8), where improvisation has been the name of the game. Both these items appear to have contained missionary material sent as printed matter. It is certain that few such wrappers and envelopes can have survived and every additional discovery is of great interest.

3. Military Censorship

The role of the Force Publique (FP) in the Belgian Congo in peace-time was to assure Colonial rule and the defence of the Territory, and to maintain peace and public order.

Order 69 bis/FP of 15th May 1940, placed the defence units of the Lower Congo on to a war footing. Other units were concentrated on the North-East frontier (Troupes de l'Est). Later, 3 Brigades were placed on a war footing - 18 Infantry Battalions plus support units. This phase was effectively achieved by the end of 1940, which allowed Governor General Ryckmans to announce in his Order 21/FP of 18 January 1941: "The Force Publique is mobilised".

In fact, from this time units of the Force Publique were present on the side of the Allies in several theatres of operations:

Abyssinia - February 1941 - March 1942 (Belgian Contingent in Sudan - BCS 1 - 3)
Nigeria- September 1942 - March 1943 (Belgian Troops - West African Forces)
Middle East April 1943 - end 1944 (Belgian Expeditionary Forces in the Middle East)
Belgian Campaign Hospital (Casualty Clearing Station - 10CCS) Abyssinia - Madagascar - Burma - August 1940 - January 1945.

We should also mention those members of the Force Publique who undertook flying training in South Africa at 75 Air School in Lyttleton and who later flew with the Royal and South African Air Forces. Also the exploits of the motorised units of the FP Expeditionary Corps in Nigeria who, between March and July 1943, drove to Egypt with a convoy of 800 vehicles over an unproven route of 7,000 km, without the loss of any equipment or materials.

Establishment of Military Censorship

By his Legislative Order 102/FP of 6th March 1941, the Governor General completed his earlier instructions for Civil Censorship and inaugurated a Military Censorship which was to control correspondence from/to members of the Force Publique, without, however, necessarily excluding all Civil Censorship of the same items.

Congolese Military Censorship was applied solely to mail from units of the Force Publique and not to that from those units which were integrated into Allied formations, such as the Campaign Hospital, and from which mail was censored at the receiving unit. Furthermore, it does not appear that the Military Censor had any involvement in exchanges of official military correspondence on Congolese Territory.

The Censor Marks

These were either manuscript or handstamped according to the relevant zone of operations. It is therefore necessary to study the movements of each of the Expeditionary Corps of the Force Publique. No censor marks are known for the Campaign Hospital, nor for the convoy from Nigeria to Egypt.

Abyssinia

The 3rd Brigade of the Force Publique started for Abyssinia in February, 1941, as part of the general British offensive. It took the title "Belgian Contingent in Sudan" (BCS). BCS1 remained at Juba to ensure security of communications, transport and supply.

BCS2 harassed the Italian formations retreating from Malakal, entered Abyssinia and seized Gambela. Reinforced, it became BCS3 and continued in the campaign until the victory of Saio and the Italian surrender.

At Gambela (March 1941) the BCS was provided with a Military Post Office (No.3) which continued to function at Saio from August to December 1941.

On official mail from the Congolese troops can be found some marking in manuscript and some roughly handstruck "Belgian Army/Official" in 2 lines. Personal mail was signed on the envelope by a censor who was apparently based at Headquarters. All these marks were usually countersigned by a Sudanese Military Censor. Covers often bear the triangular cachet of Sudanese Civil Censorship and, some, Belgian Congo Civil Censorship mark(s).

Nigeria

The 1st Brigade, forming the Belgian Congo Expeditionary Corps in Nigeria, was equipped and trained in the Lower Congo between March and September 1942. Postal communications were ensured by Military Post Office No.1, which probably had a Censoring Service attached. The troops were in place in Nigeria in September 1942.

The objective of the Congolese Forces, which were drawn up along the frontier with Dahomey, was to guard against any incursion by Vichy troops and to assist in protecting the Lagos - Fort Lamy leg of the air route to the Middle East; vital at the time. Dahomey and the other territories of French West Africa finally threw in their lot with the Algerian National Liberation Committee in November 1942, so allowing the redeployment of the Congolese units.

Military Post Office No. 4 opened at Abadan (September 1942) and then moved to Lagos (December 1942) and was undoubtedly accompanied by a Censoring Service. It closed in March 1943. It operated via the Base Army Post Office for West African Forces at Lagos. Only Air Mail Letter-Cards could benefit from the 3d. air mail rate from Lagos to the Congo. In the other direction, letters had to be within a $2\frac{1}{2}$ gram weight limit.

Covers sent through P.O. No. 4 can be found bearing a handstruck censor mark in 2 lines "Censure Militaire/Troupes Coloniales Belges" (violet - 69 x 8mm).

Middle East

The Belgian Congo Expeditionary Corps (1st Brigade Motorisee du Congo Belge - BMCB) had a double objective of guarding military installations and providing other security measures while perfecting its military training prior to participating in active operations for the Allies. The favourable resolution of the war brought an end to the project by the close of 1944. The mission was

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carried out in Egypt from March 1943 to May 1944, then in Palestine until the last troops were repatriated at the beginning of 1945.

The Postal Service for the Congolese troops had at its disposal a Military Post Office, with a British number - 101. This office was in Cairo, attached to a British Base office. There was also a BAPOF (Belgian Army Post office in the Field) which followed the BMCB to Egypt and Palestine. No. 101 ceased operations at the end of November 1944.

Transmission of mail between No.101 and the BAPOF was through the Post Offices of the British Army at Division or Corps level, in accordance with the following regulations, extracted from the Instructions defining the Postal Service for Belgian Congo troops in the Middle East:

- all mail from the Brigade and its rear elements should be sent in sealed bags to BPM 101; BPM 101 will sort the mail;
- official mail between the Brigade and Allied Units in the Middle East, as well as official mail between Brigade and Belgian Liaison Officer Middle East (BLOME) should be sent to the nearest British Post Office.
- all private air mail for the Belgian Congo should be sent in sealed bags to the British Post Office in Cairo which will ensure onward transmission to Stanleyville;
- all private surface mail for the Belgian Congo will be sent to the British Post Office which will ensure onward transmission;
- all private mail, by air or surface means, not destined for the Belgian Congo will be sent to the British Post Office which will ensure onward transmission.

Censorship of mail from the Belgian Congo troops conformed to the "Field Censorship Regulations" issued in April 1942 by British Headquarters in the Middle East. The significant points were as follows:

S7 - Codes, Ciphers

i) Private correspondence in the field must be in plain language.

ii) All the contents of an envelope will be written in one language only. If the language used is other than English this will be indicated by writing on the top centre of the outer cover the language in which the contents are written.

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S8 - Passing of Correspondence

i) All letters from all ranks, to any destination and with any stamps **MUST BE POSTED IN ARMY OR ROYAL AIR FORCE POST BOXES.**

ii) It is forbidden to despatch or carry correspondence by the hand of any officer, soldier, airman, or civilian, **FROM** any place **TO** any place either within or outside the Command. A personal search may be conducted at any point in transit, and correspondence being carried by hand will be confiscated and destroyed. Disciplinary action will follow against the carrier and writer.

S20 Franking of Correspondence

i) All mail (except that to enemy territory, neutral countries bordering on enemy territory, and Allied prisoners in Germany or Italy) is to be franked by officers of the unit or formation to which the writer belongs or is attached before the unit censor stamp can be impressed. The officer must read the letter and sign at the bottom of the text and on the envelope on the top left hand of the address side. Initials are not sufficient.

ii) In signing the letter and the envelope, the officer is responsible for ensuring that the letter contains nothing contrary to the censorship regulations.

iii) Letters may not be sealed by the writer; this must be done by the officer. (NCO's in the Force Publique were permitted to frank their own letters).

iv) After closing the cover, the officer will forward it to the holder of the unit censor stamp for impressing.

v) Franking officers will not pass letters that do not bear the official postal address at the head.

vi) The only effective method of deletion is by cutting out offending passages.

vii) No remarks or comments will be written on any communication by the franking officer. If a remark is required it will be written on a separate sheet of paper and inserted in the envelope.

viii) The franking of the correspondence of civilian employees, interpreters, and allied personnel will be carried out by the British officers under whom they are working or to whom they are attached.

ix) Mail from wives and families of Europeans and Troops can only be opened by the Censor Office.

x) Officers franking correspondence will respect the secrecy of information which comes into their possession whilst franking letters. They will on no account divulge

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any such information either in public or in private, except when a report to senior authority is called for.

xi) Registered correspondence will be franked in the presence of the sender or his representative. The correspondence will then be closed, also in the presence of the sender or his representative, who will be responsible that the contents are complete, except for any censored matter.

xii) Parcels will be examined and franked in the same manner. They must bear on the outside a declaration of their contents.

xiii) Officers (and NCO's of the Force Publique) are permitted to frank their own correspondence. They must however realise this is a privilege which, if abused, will be withdrawn. (This applied also to female personnel on active service, such as in the hospitals).

S21 Unit Censor Stamp

i) After being franked, correspondence will be passed for impressing with the unit censor stamp to the officer appointed unit censor stamp holder by the Commander of the unit, area, garrison, or post.

ii) Before impressing the stamp the Officer in charge of it will see that the letter is properly franked by a person authorised to do so.

iii) Correspondence from a unit not holding a censor stamp will be franked and then passed for impressing and posting to the nearest unit holding a stamp.

S22 Censoring of Correspondence

i) After posting, correspondence is despatched to various centres where there are Field Censor Sections.

ii) These Sections re-examine a percentage of the correspondence passing through their hands.

iii) Letters opened by them will be closed with a label bearing the words "Examined by Base Censor".

Within the framework of S21, an interesting element in our latest research has been the discovery of a form acknowledging receipt from British Middle East Headquarters of a censor stamp destined for a Congolese Unit (Annex 9). It consists of a crowned circle and "Passed by Censor" with a serial number of 6XXX, such as can be found on mail from the first period (Egypt). This receipt allows us to draw the conclusion that in these circumstances the handstamp became a Congo censor mark and thus not a British censor mark as was previously assumed.

The "shield and crown" cachets with the serial numbers 1XXX were apparently treated in the same way during the

second period (Palestine). It would be very interesting to try to record the dates and places of use of these 2 types of cachets.

Along with the above marks can sometimes be found handstamps with frames (84 x 13mm) or without (69 x 8m), printed in black in 2 lines "Censure Militaire/Troupes Coloniales Belges". Doubtless these were applied upon the arrival of the military mail at the distribution centre at Stanleyville; however, any firm evidence of this would be extremely welcome.

There is also a 3-line cachet "Passe à la/Censure/Militaire" reported by J-F. Zaalen and it would be very interesting to discover where this was applied.

As to re-sealing strips found on covers of military origin, apart from the standard type "Aa" of Civil Censorship which is sometimes found, a recent discovery has made an appearance on a letter sent to "South Africa - a printed label (black on white) originating with Congo Military Censorship. This example is damaged (Annex 10), but the text can be read "TROUPES COLONIALES (Coat of Arms) CENSURE MILITAIRE".

The Coat of Arms is that of the Belgian Congo. The strip also bears a reference "A42" and a sign whose significance remains unknown.

The word "CENSURE" is illegible and could read "CONTROLE" but that seems unlikely because of the disequilibrium this would cause between the text and the Coat of Arms.

The censor label is complemented by the unframed cachet "Censure Militaire/Troupes Coloniales Belges" and the cover is datestamped: Leopoldville 1 - 29 April 1943. From all the evidence, this cover was sent by a military man stationed in, or near, Leopoldville.

The fact that the label is printed and bears a reference number seems to exclude any idea of improvisation and shows an established use, at least for a certain period. Any further information on this subject would be highly valuable.

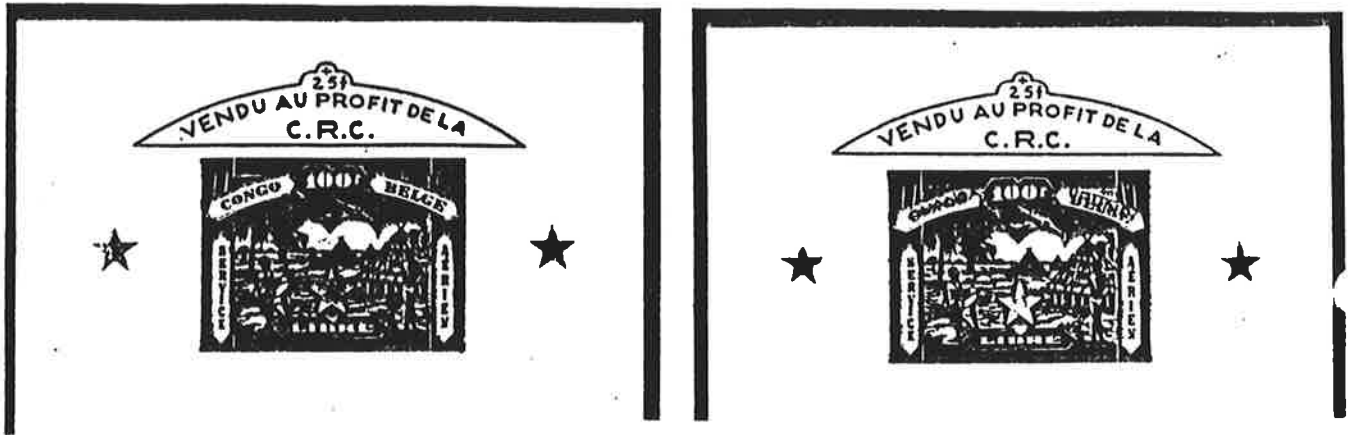
In a similar system of classification to that used by Arthur Heim, but using a prefix "M", the label and handstamps used by Congolese Military Censorship are shown, and described, on Annexes 11 and 12.

Marks "MB" and "ME" reported by J - F. Zaalen, have not been seen, so the colour of the ink is unknown. Illustrations of documents bearing these marks would help to complete the present study.

79/18

CONGO 'CINDERELLA' STAMPS

Dr. H. Wilcke has sent for comment photocopies of two miniature sheets that he has acquired, one inscribed 'CONGO BELGE' and the same overprinted 'RUANDA URUNDI'. They appear to have been sold for the benefit of the Congo Red Cross. Both are printed with the frame, including the lettering, in green, the centre in black and the three stars in yellow. The designs are typographed or lithographed. The Sheet is gummed and the 'stamp' imperforate.



(The bottom and portions of the side black frame photographically cropped. Ed.)

Obviously produced before Independence it is curious that the inscriptions are only in French.

Dr Wilcke would welcome any information on the date, availability and use of these 'stickers'.

Jeffrey Kalp has shown me yet another 'Cinderella' item pictured below. The stamp is printed in red and black.



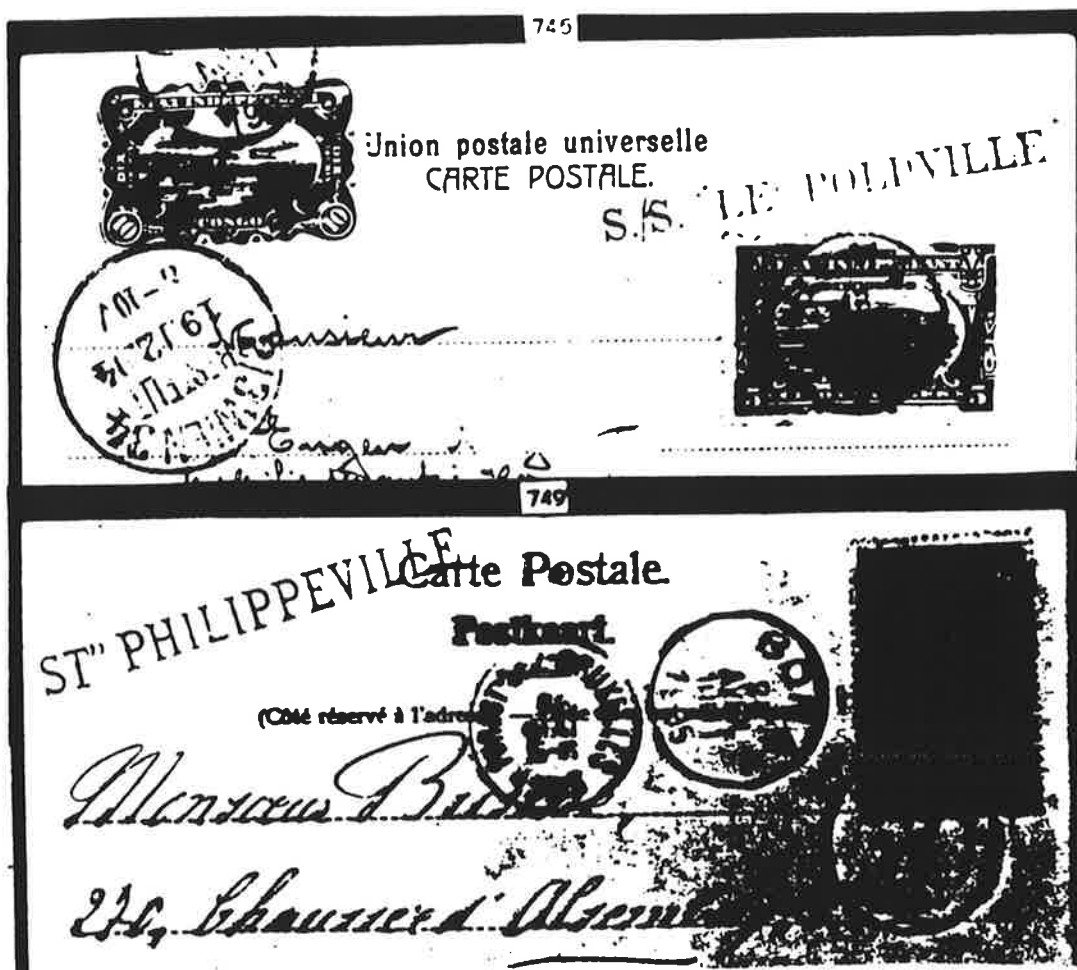
RHK

C. M. B. STEAMSHIP MARKINGS

The Expert Committee has recently given 'good' certificates to two post cards bearing unusual Compagnie Maritime Belge steamship markings, one of S. S. LEOPOLDVILLE (dated 1904) and the other of S. S. PHILIPPEVILLE (1905).

These cachets, which, of course, were not intended as postal cancellations but were doubtless for striking on official documents and were, therefor, applied to post cards either by favour or at the whim of the ships purser.

Why the Philippeville mark should have read 'ST' PHILIPPEVILLE. The ST can hardly be an abbreviation of 'SAINT' but may be of the English 'STEAMSHIP.'



RHK

JOINT MEETING WITH BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

This was held at Buxton in Derbyshire on 14th-16th September (seven members present). The subject of airmails was logical for the joint meeting of the societies as post from Belgium plays just as important a part of the study as does post from the Congo.

Norman Clowes warned his audience at the outset that his approach would at times be irreverent, as he believed that the subject was varied enough to allow enjoyment without being too serious. In order to prove the point, he had made up a new category for special-ists - 'TOOT' Mail - and showed a 1953 cover bearing 'T' and 'O' markings coincidentally making up that word.

The first major development in the Congo had long been known to collectors as the 'First LARA' (Ligne Aérienne du Roi Albert), being the 1920-22 trial, and then, theoretically, fortnightly flights connecting with sea mail from Antwerp. By 1922 the service had extended as far as Stanleyville. Mail from that early phase is not easy to find and is almost entirely philatelic. A halt was called in June 1922 and it was not until 1925 that SABENA began flights towards Katanga, this service becoming known as the 'Second LARA'.

While progress was being made within the Congo there were initially no regular flights from Europe. However, the French airline to Casablanca, extended to Dakar in June 1925, meant that letters to and from Europe were speeded up considerably. It was not until February 1935 that a regular service was set up, Belgian and French aircraft flying in alternate weeks. A feature of this joint service was the way in which SABENA gave little publicity to the French alternate week flights, and vice versa. Whereas Belgium was more concerned with flights to the Congo, France saw the service as a major part of the important link with Madagascar.

Examples of various early individual flights from Europe to or through the Congo were displayed : again, Belgian and French writings sometimes gave biased, partial or even incorrect accounts.

Although regular services from Belgium and France were aimed at Leopoldville (and later Elisabethville), examples were shown of mail out of the Congo linking with the Imperial Airways service through central Africa to and from Cape Town.

There was a lot to be learned, even today, about the main 1920/30s formative period. For example, mail from Dundo (on the Congo/Angola border) was routed via Tshikapa in order mainly to take advantage of the internal Congo air service from the latter village. Such mail is not too elusive and Mr Clowes commented on the mixed franking thereon, and on the way in which no proof had yet been found that the mixed franking (and especially the apparent sale of Congo air stamps at Dundo) had any official backing.

Emphasis was laid on the interest to be found in mail to the Congo from obscure places : here the major factor was patience in rummaging through dealers' stocks.

Mr Clowes concluded with his favourite philatelic motto : "Do not despise the oversized," showing by way of example a massive 1942 commercial cover from Usumbura to the U.S.A. bearing 64 examples of the then highest value on sale, 20frs.

André Jeukens provided material for three sessions, almost entirely material not previously seen by the British members..

His first session covered sea, land and air routes between the Belgian Congo and Portuguese East Africa, British East Africa, Zanzibar, German East Africa and Tanganyika, in addition to Belgium and the U.K., the period covered being between 1900 and 1940. Two very useful maps of the routes were shown. The actual display dealt only with EST routes in detail. Particularly notable were :

- 1) a cover from Belgium to Mtowa via Chinde, 1902;
- 2) several rare postcards with DEUTSCH OSTAFRIKA stamps;
- 3) a 1932 letter from Usumbura to Brussels with the PAR AVION label barred with a black St Andrew's cross;
- 4) a 1937 letter bearing the 5fr airmail cancelled with a large black PAQUEBOT (KIGOMA) fr BATEAU-COURIER - the second stage by airmail for Dodoma.

His second session dealt with REBUT and RETOUR À L'ENVOYEUR marks on covers. Amongst many others were :

- 1) the rare mark, best described as a horizontally divided rectangular frame, the upper portion bearing the word REBUT and the lower "parti", this on a 1916 letter from Kilossa to Wales and back;
- 2) an early REBUT on an 1896 letter from Belgium;
- 3) a 1937 "PAS À BORD / Retour à l'envoyeur" addressed to a "Garçon à bord Th. Leopoldville" at Matadi.

Also featured were First and Second World War covers with "DESTINATION INACCESSIBLE - Retour à l'envoyeur".

His third session dealt with RECOMMANDÉ, ENREGISTRÉE, AR, EXPRES and REMBOURSEMENT marks, including the different types of registration labels on later issues, in particular :

- 1) a 1911 cover with RECOMMANDÉ in black between parallel bars (42x10mm);
- 2) a 1902 postcard from Basoko to Brussels had an ENREGISTRÉE mail at Basoko with '244 - à Recommander' in manuscript, all this barred with a St Andrew's cross at Leopoldville, where a RECOMMANDÉ marking was placed on the card.

Both Ray Keach and Peter Foden provided supplementary material to the second and third of the above sessions. The meeting was most appreciative of all the work and fine material shown by Mr Jeukens.

The remaining session was open to all members : Ray Keach extolled the virtues, as well as the varieties and problems, of the EST AFRICAIN

ALLEMAND overprint; Laurence Green showed various aspects of the 1921 overprint; and Peter Foden supplied a fascinating display of Cinderella material.

1991 is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Belgian Congo Study Circle, and it has been decided to hold a special meeting in May of that year, the venue to be in the vicinity of Heathrow Airport.* Special efforts will be made to persuade eminent Belgian and American philatelists to come over and show some of their treasures. Details will be sent out to all members as soon as possible - meanwhile, please note the date (3rd/4th May 1991) and the venue (*Oatlands Park Hotel).

LAURENCE GREEN, Secretary.

FUTURE BULLETINS

The BCSC membership list which has been prepared by the Secretary but is omitted here because of bulletin size constraints, A paper read by A. JEUKENS at the May 1990 meeting on MAIL ROUTES 1900-1940, two newly found LADO covers, and the report of the 40th anniversary meeting and such additional items as the membership may suggest to the Editor.

CENSORSHIP REFERENCES

For those interested in further study of censorship markings your Editor refers you to BCSC BULLETIN ARTICLES as follows: 15/20(16); 24/1-7 WWII Censored Covers-Heim; 31/10 A new WWII marking-Heim; 34/3 Bermuda-Trinidad censorship;; 58/19 WWII a new censor tape; 60/8 a comment on a previously reported censor tape; 60/17a censored cover from Katanga; 61/10-15 La poste militaire colonial belge en 1940-45; 66/4-8 Belgian Congo Censorship During World War 2-P. S.Foden; 71/9-25 WW 2 Censorship in the Belgian Congo--Peter Foden; 73/15 some notes on civil censorship in WWI..

Your Editor finds it difficult to believe that there remains new material "out there" not covered in these, and Mr Jeukens, all encompassing articles but exist it must and members are "challenged" to find such material and share any such with our Society.

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLEIncome and Expenditure Account for the Nine Months to 31 December 1990

	£ <u>Year to 31/3/90</u>	£ <u>9 Months to 31/12/90</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Subscriptions received	666.57	291.37
Commission & Sales of stamps	922.63	507.75
Expert Committee Certificates	180.90	182.20
Sales of books and documentation	479.34	80.59
Interest received	69.15	83.01
Donations	6.88	4.35
Sundries	<u> </u>	<u>12.70</u>
	<u>£2,325.47</u>	<u>£1,161.97</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Costs of Bulletins	868.50	722.48
Costs of Expert Committee	92.19	85.79
Costs of commission and packet sales	210.53	53.64
Costs of books & copies for sale (including copies of books for STOCK)	237.65	80.11
Stationery and bank charges	80.07	29.56
Postage on correspondence	100.25	108.51
Membership of BPF	18.00	-
Membership of WSC	6.00	-
Costs of annual competition	17.49	-
Hire of room for meeting at Regents College	<u> </u>	<u>65.00</u>
	<u>£1,630.68</u>	<u>£1,145.09</u>
SURPLUS for the Period	694.79	16.88
Cash in hand at the Beginning of Period	<u>1,201.41</u>	1,896.20
	<u>£1,896.20</u>	<u> </u>
Cash in hand 31 Dec 1990		<u>£1,913.08</u>

7/2/91 **L G GREEN FCA**
 Hon Treasurer

In view of the changing last year of the subscription period from year to 31 March to a calendar year subscription to 31 December, the Accounts have been drawn up for the 9 month period to 31 December 1990, so that in future they will be coterminous with the subscription.

VIA STANLEYVILLE-LE CAIRE

HONG-KONG-LE CAIRE

PANAMERICAN AIRWAYS

M. Albert KREGLIN

CREDITO TERRITORIAL
SUD-AMERICANO

165 RECONQUISTA

BUENOS-AIRES

REPUBLICA ARGENTINA



EXEMPT DE CENSURE
(Instructions Gov. Général)

GODDING
AVENUE STRUCH
LEOPOLDVILLE
CONGO BELGE



OPENED BY

P.C. 90

EXAMINER 411

MARQUES DE CENSURE
suyant la classification de Mr.A.Heim (B.C.S.C.)

BANDES DE FERMETURE IMPRIMEES

Type "Aa"
(noir s/blanc)

Censure = 18 mm
Congo Belge = 30 mm

CENSURE

CENSURE

CENSURE

CONGO BELGE

CONGO BELGE

CONGO BELGE

Type "Ab"
(noir s/blanc)

Censure = 21,5 mm
Congo Belge = 34,5 mm

CENSURE

CENSURE

CONGO BELGE

CONGO BELGE

Type "Ac"
(noir s/blanc)

Censure Congo Belge = 55,5 mm

RE CONGO BELGE

CENSURE CONGO BELGE

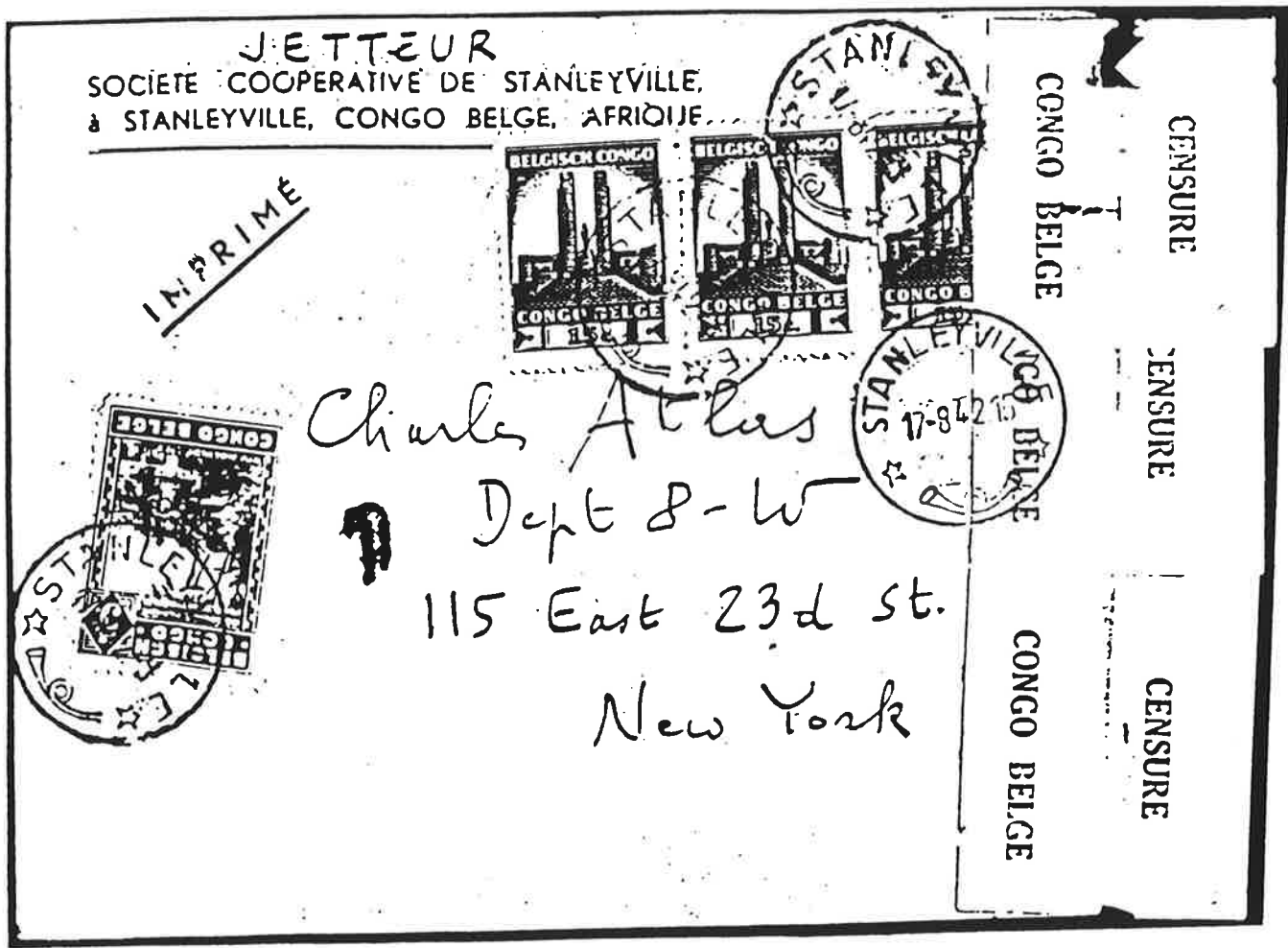
RE CONGO BELGE

CENSURE CONGO BELGE

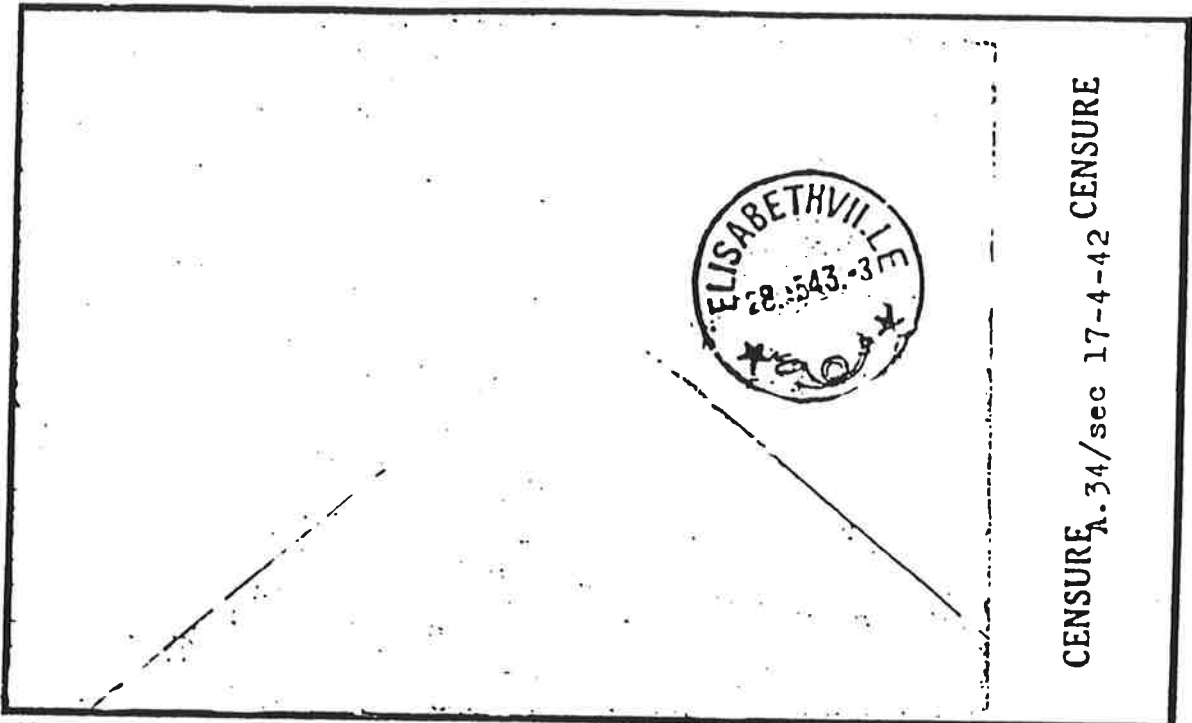
Type "Ad"
(noir s/blanc)

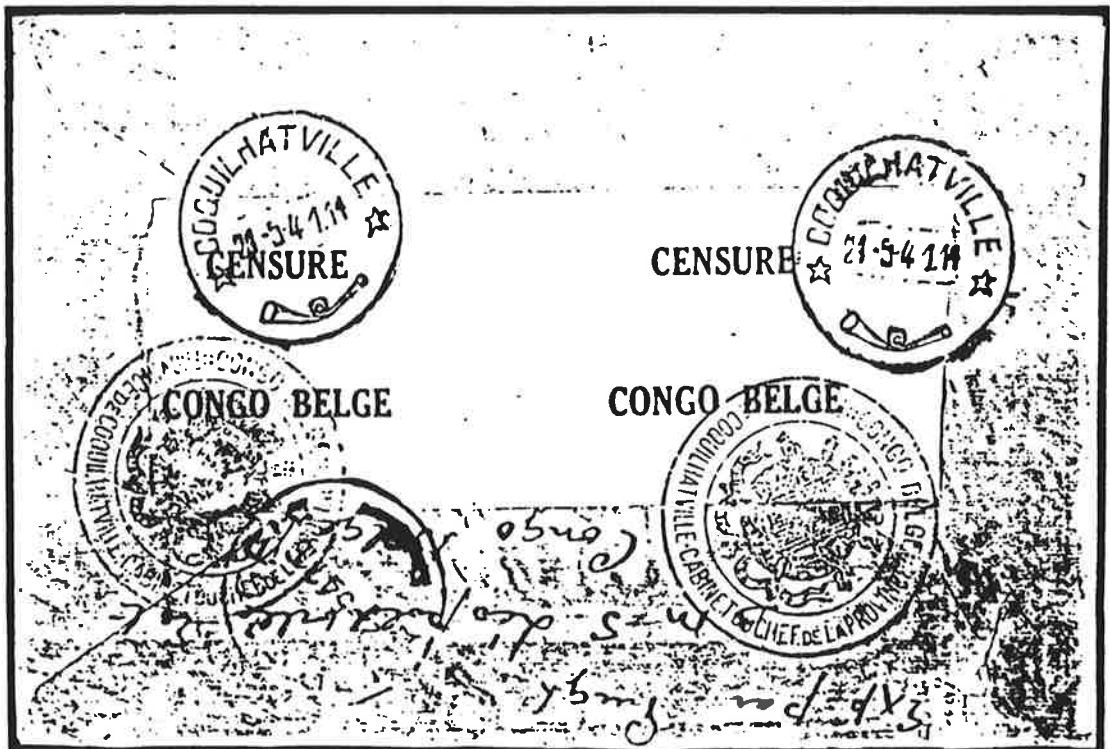
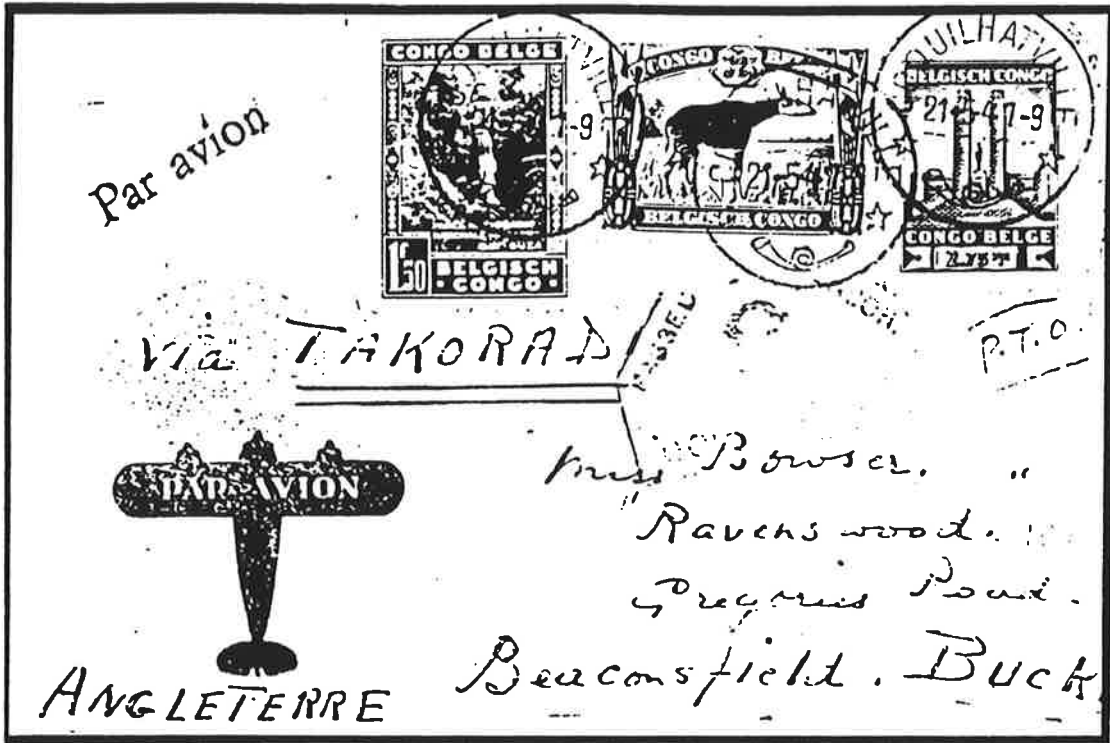
Censure = 24 mm
Congo Belge = 40 mm

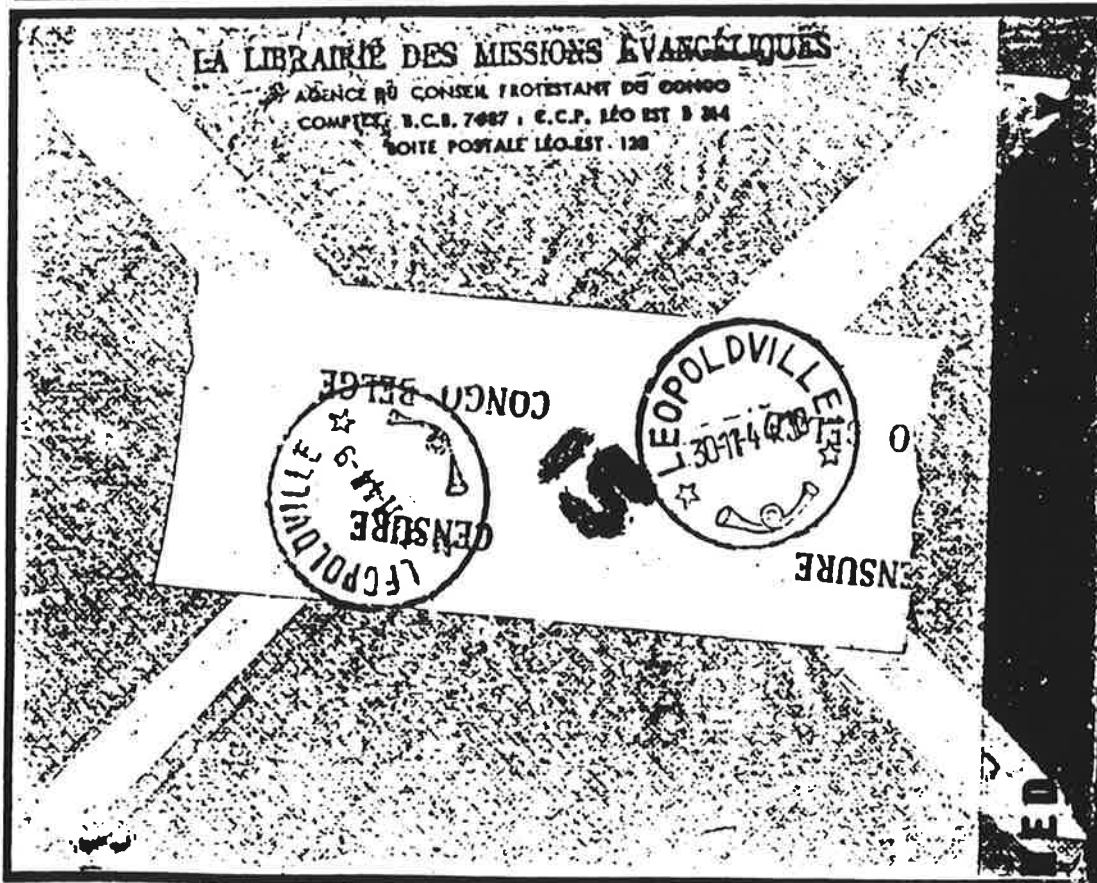
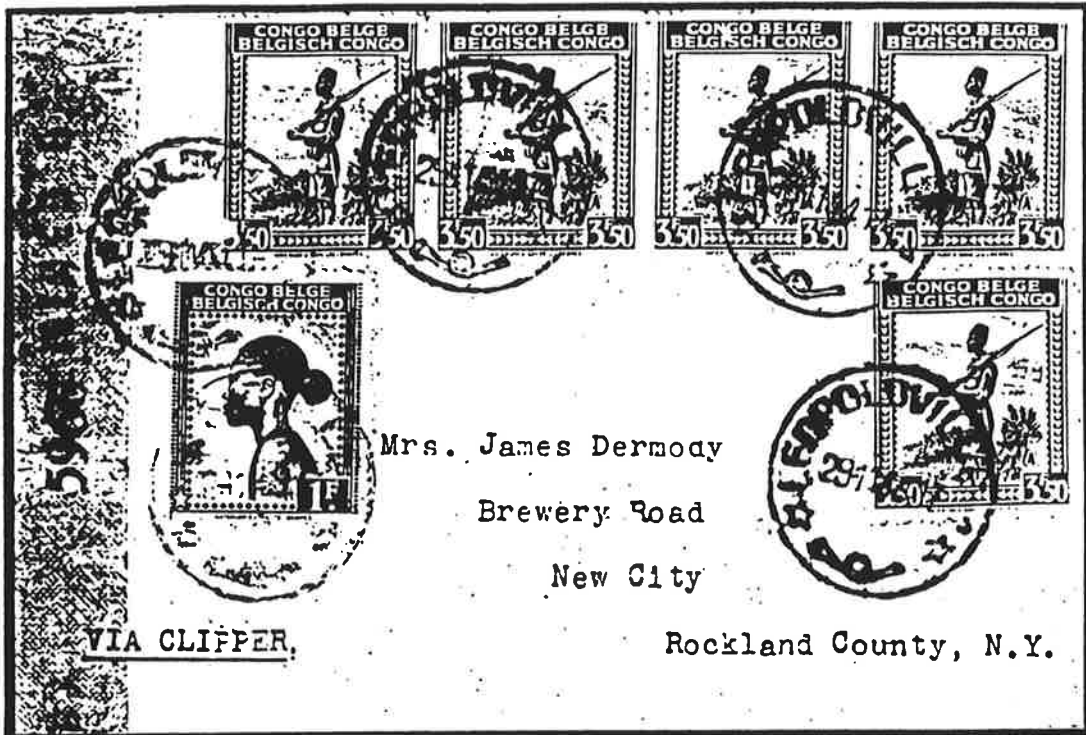
Censure
Congo Belge



Pli "Imprimé" expédié de Stanleyville vers les Etats-Unis - 17 Août 1942
 Censuré à Stanleyville le 17 Août - Chiffre du Censeur "1" (noir)
 Bande imprimée de fermeture type "la" de la Censure Congolaise
 découpée par le Censeur





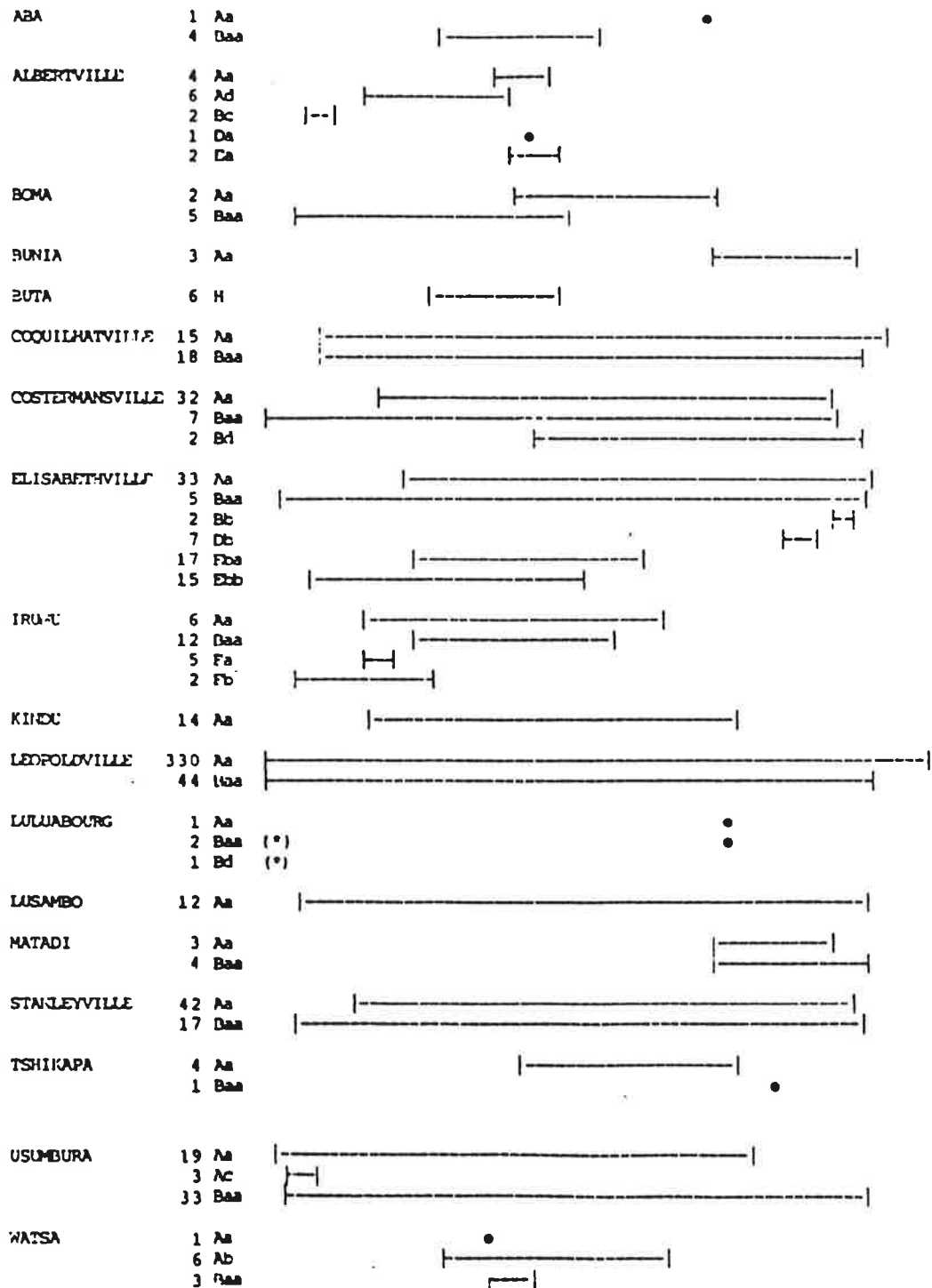


Types "Baa" & "Bab" (noir/violet/bleu noir)	CENSURE CONGO BELGE	Baa = 53,5→55,5 mm Bab = 52 mm
Type "Db" (noir)	CENSURE CONGO-BELGE	57,5 mm
Type "Bc" (violet)	CENSURE CONGO BELGE.	74 mm
Type "Bd" (noir)	« CENSURE CONGO BELGÈ »	59 mm
Type "C" (?)	Censure Congo Belge	37 mm
Type "Da" (noir)	PASSE CENSURE ALBERTVILLE	67 mm
Type "Db" (noir)	« PASSE CENSURE ELISABETHVILLE »	82 mm
Type "Ea" (violet)	Passé Censure ALBERTVILLE	55 mm
Type "Eba" (noir)	Passé Censure ELISABETHVILLE	59 mm
Type "Ebb" (noir)	Passé Censure ELISABETHVILLE	65 mm
Type "Fa" (rouge)	« Passé Censure Irumu »	59,5 mm
Type "Fb" (rouge)	« Passé Censure Irumu N° 1- »	69 mm
Type "G" (?)	• Passé par censure à AB (Congo Belge)	41 mm
Type "H" (noir)	CENSURE DU CONGO BELGE BUREAU DE BUTA	62 mm 50 mm
Type "J" (noir)	CENSURE	23 mm
+ Chiffre de Censeur entre les lignes	CONGO BELGE	29 mm

MARQUÉS DE CENSURE

Durée d'utilisation des Types

1940....|....1941....|....1942....|....1943....|....1944....|....1945....|.



● = seule date connue

(*) = date indéchiffable

selon données du recensement de P.Foden - 1989)

Mrs Kialpatuck,
6, Clevedon Crescent,
Glasgow W.2

Lease



Soumis à la censure
conformément à l'ordonnance
législative N° 99/A. P. A. J.
du 2 juin 1940.
Hannah Wade Press, Bolobo.

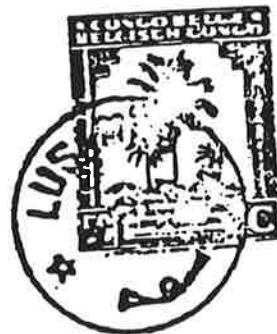
CENSURE
C.B



imprimés

Mr. & Mrs Clifford Atwater
35- Carlson St.
New Britain, Conn
U. S. America

M. E. C. M.
Wembo Nyama
Lusambo
Congo Belge.



Mrs. Bertha Dishman,
Piney Woods, Miss., U.S.A.

(CENSURÉ)

Imprimés

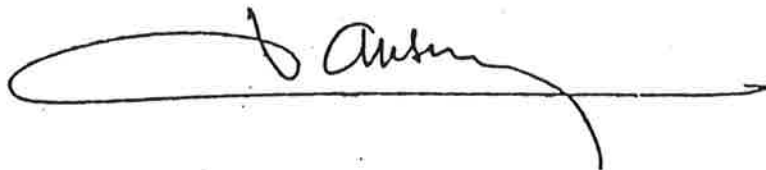
BELGIAN LIAISON OFFICER MIDDLE EAST
" B.L.O.M.E. "

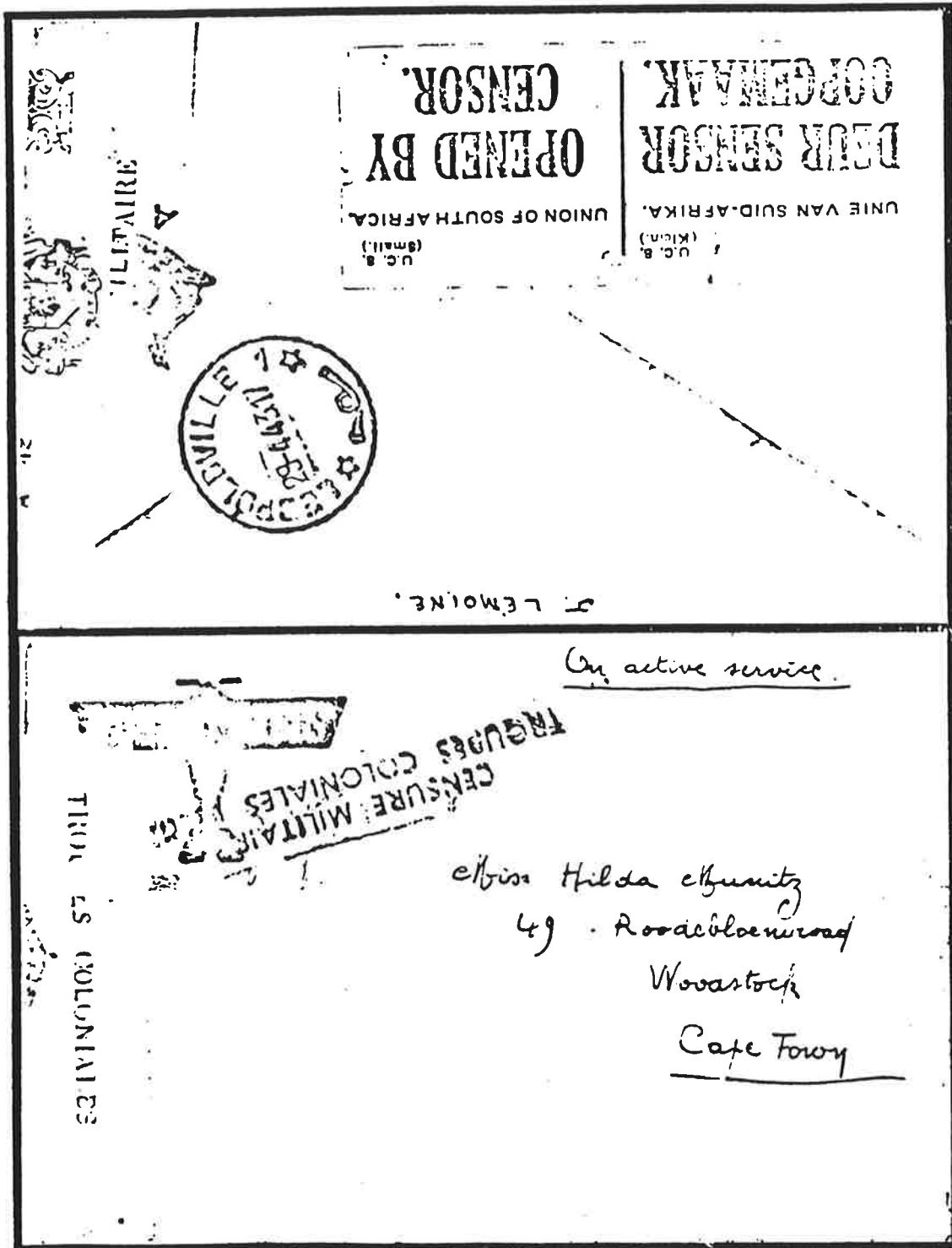
II

Received from Allied Liaison Staff
G.H.C./M.E.F. one "Passed by Censor" Stamp N° 6231.

Cairo, 30th April, 1943

Major E.R. JANSSENS Brev.E.M.
" B.L.O.M.E. "





La Bande de fermeture de la Censure Sud-Africaine
 a été décollée pour dégager la Bande de la
 Censure Militaire Congolaise

BANDES DE FERMETURE IMPRIMEES
DE LA CENSURE MILITAIRE

TROUPES COLONIALES

A. 49



MILITAIRE

Type "MAa"
(noir s/blanc)

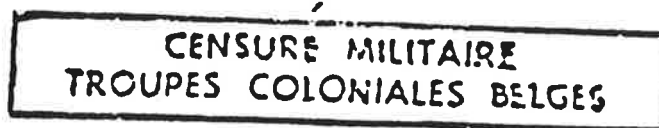
Troupes Coloniales	52 mm
Référence & Emblèmes	60 mm
Censure(?) Militaire	?

**BELGIAN ARMY
OFFICIAL**

Type "MB"
35x15mm

**CENSURE MILITAIRE
TROUPES COLONIALES BELGES**

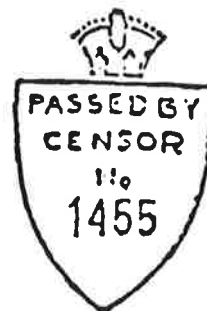
Type "MCa"
69x8mm
Violet, Noir



Type "MCb"
84x13mm
Noir



Type "MDa"
Ø 30mm
Violet, Bleu-Noir, Pourpre



Type "MDB"
25x40mm
Violet

**PASSÉ A LA
CENSURE
MILITAIRE**

Type "ME"
34x30mm

LIBOUTON
YANK - TADOTVILLE
CONGO - BELESE
B.P. 370



The Hollicrafters Inc.
2677 Indiana Avenue,
Chicago

U.S.A
Amérique



499/140

Mr. and Mrs. E.O. Jewell
1746 Camulos Ave
Glendale
California
U.S.A.



R. L. Jones
Hitler Mission
P.O. Usambi
Victoria
E. Africa