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BULLETIN 142

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March 2007

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B.C.S.C. website: http://users.skynet.be/lindekens/

Receipts and payments account Year to 31st December 2006

Income	Yr to 31 Dec. 2005	Yr to 31 Dec. 2006
	£ sterling	£ Sterling
Subscriptions received (#1)	310.07	532.08
Subscriptions in advance	75.47	42.85
Commission on stamp/auction sales (#2)	780.58	0.00
Books and document sales	6.75	52.65
Bank interest	29.35	34.94
Total income	1202.22	662.52
Expenditure		
Bulletin, Auction list and Index (2005 only)		
- UK Rest of World production, printing & distribution	on 417.76	490.03
Competition entry – Espana 06		70.01
Bulletin, Index – Editorial and production costs	163.19	0.00
Cost of sales and new book purchases	0.00	37.55
Annual meeting and AGM	314.48	289.54
Officers expenses	270.27	249.28
Secretarial – postages, stationery etc	24.06	59.47
Insurance	161.75	142.07
Subscription to A.B.P.S.	16.20	15.00
Total Expenditure	1367.71	1352.95
Surplus/Deficit	-£165.49	-690.43
Balance on hand at start of period	£1,945.78	£1780.29
On hand at end of period (#3) - represented by balance held at H.B.O.S.	£1780.29	£1089.86

I certify that the 'Receipts and Payments Account' is a complete account of all transactions for the year ending 31 December 2006.

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 donation was received during 2006 from the Belgian membership in the sum of £255.30. This is included in the figure presented.

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. Whilst there was no transfer of 'commission on Auction sales' during 2006, those credits were held on deposit in Belgium and are reflected in the figures given below.
- 3. Balances held on deposit at 31 December 2006

From the Editor



Articles for publication - PLEASE HELP

On this occasion my contribution is confined to producing and assembling the Bulletin. All I would add is simply to repeat my usual plea that 'without your contribution – there is no Bulletin'.

As usual I am greatly indebted to our President who never lets me down. Will all those intending to and who can contribute, please continue to help.

By the time this Bulletin reaches you, the annual meeting in Brussels will have taken place. A report on that meeting and presentations given will be summarised in the next Bulletin.

Membership list

As it is two years ago since we last published a list of members, I have included an update on the final pages of this Bulletin. Whilst every attempt is made for this information to be absolutely right, rarely is it - so with apologies in advance for any errors, please let me know of any amendments or corrections.

Message from the President

Several events in our philatelic activities during 2006 have touched me, and two of them concern contributions made by our younger members.

At the annual meeting last March, the presentation by our youngest member **Thomas Lindekens**, of his collection of the 1918 Red Cross charity issue, was indeed very impressive. Whilst recognising that he has a distinguished father and godfather to help him in building up his collection - the knowledge and relaxed and ensured way of presenting his lecture was admirable and something that gives us all hope and inspiration for the future.

Johan Sander Jantzen from Denmark and our second youngest member, impressed me at Belgica 06 in Brussels with his display 'Congo Free State and Belgian Congo 1886-1923'. He was pronounced as the 'World Champion of the Youth Philately of Belgica 06.' Congratulations are indeed called for and well deserved.

From the midst of our more established members I must mention **Patrick Maselis** whose book 'From the Azores to New Zealand' is an outstanding milestone in Belgian philately and serves us well in the field of early postal history of the Congo.

Although **Stuart Smith**, our Bulletin editor is always on a knife edge and short of new articles for publication, he obtained a large silver medal for literature with his entry of the 2005 Bulletins at the international exhibition España 06 in Malaga. I had the good fortune of seeing the other entries and can assure you that our Bulletin stood out very well.

It remains only for me to call on you all, to promote our Study Circle in any way you can. I appeal to you to try to secure some new members in your own neighbourhood and contribute to our Bulletin with any news or small article in your philatelic area of interest.

As a specialist society we are doing well, but any contribution is more than welcome, especially from English writing members.

Walter Deijnckens.

Membership News

Richard Rouse.

It is with much sadness that we report Richard's passing in December. Richard had only been a member for a relatively short period and I never had the pleasure of meeting him. We did however have the odd chat and exchange the occasional letter. Our sympathies have been sent to his wife.

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to two new members and trust they enjoy and find benefit from their association with us.

France - Bruce Lockhart; Le Village, F84110 Villedieu

- E-mail: bruce.lockhart@telia.com

U.S.A. - Lyle Wienick; *c/o Landmark Development*, 65 *Albany Ave.*, *Suite G*,

Kingston, New York 12401

- E-mail: LGPW@aol.com

Addresses

Address changes. Amend to read –

U.S.A. - H.V. Maulding; 165 Mendham Road E., Mendham NJ 07945'

Events 2007

Joint Meeting with the 'East Africa Study Circle'

Saturday 3rd November 2007 At the 'Union Jack Club' in London

There is to be a joint meeting of the two Study Circles, prompted by a common interest in the '1st World War campaign in German East Africa'.

The date and location has been chosen so as to coincide with the ever popular 'Philatex Stamp Fair', held at the 'Horticultural Halls in nearby Victoria.

Each Study Circle has been invited to display 60 sheets of material of mutual interest. Those able and wishing to contribute in some way as well as those simply hoping to attend and support this meeting, are requested to let either Stuart Smith or Walter Deijnckens know.

Questions and Answers

In the American Press - Bulletin 141

In the last Bulletin we featured an enquiry, originating in **LINN'S STAMP NEWS APRIL 24, 2006** and asking "Has any reader ever seen any illustrations like these? Can anyone identify the artist?"

Answer

Very promptly there were two replies from our members and I believe that between them all is revealed!

Belgian member Wim Lambrechts responded:

"I have two letters which I believe were from the same person. I bought them separately and they appear to be hand painted. The first was sent from Bujumbura to Tervuren, and whilst the date isn't legible, it does carry a return address at Bujumbura. The second was sent from Bujumbura on 25 May 1984 to Gembloux and also has a return address in Bujumbura, though to a different Box No."

Perhaps more enlightening was a reply from our new member Bruce Lockhart.

"This is generic Congolese art. Post cards and envelopes are available in any tourist market and in front of tourist hotels in Kinshasa or any other big city in Congo.

Almost all the artists produce the same designs so it is almost impossible to distinguish one artist from another."

The handpainted cachets on these two airmail covers, one mailed from Kinshasha, Composition of the Congo, to the Congo, the

Cancellers and cancellations

Has anyone seen this Australian military F.P.O. cancellation and cachet before? Can anyone provide more information? Details to the editor please.







Is this a new find?

Kigali T.S.F.



This Kigali 'TSF' cancellation from 1945 has just been found.

Has anyone seen it before, is it a new find?



For those with a particular interest in cancellations, we will feature in the next Bulletin an update on George Celis's publication 'Deutsch Ost Afrika Ruanda-Urundi Post Office Cancellations, 1902-1996'.

The article has already been prepared in draft format BUT there is time for any further news which members can contribute. The more information we have, the better.

Have you seen this red 'Tabora' censor mark before?

Figure 3 on the following page illustrates another particularly interesting and truly commercial item of inland mail from Kigoma to Bagamoy, bearing a red oval Tabora censor mark dated 2nd September 1917.

'I have not previously seen this mark on Belgian occupied German East Africa correspondence' – says Walter Deijnckens. Any information about its use would be most welcome.

Figure 1 is a computer enhanced image of the canceller and whilst the wording in the original is smudged, it was clearly applied at Tabora.

Figure 2. On the reverse of the cover there is a British military F.P.O. mark $-N^{\circ}$.320.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

Du Four refers to such F.P.O. marks and confirms the existence of numbers 320, 322, 338 and 349.



Figure 3.

Mandungu to Inkissi - 1897



Illustrated above is a 15 centimes imprinted card, used internally and addressed to '*Inkissi*'. ^[1] The writer was based in *Mandungu* – a small village approximately 110 km upstream from Bumba on the north bank of the Congo tributary river 'Likati'.

In 1897, mail feeding into the normal postal system would have been carried by porter or friend to the nearest post office at Bumba where it was received 2 days later and duly cancelled 21 November 1897. From there the first part of its journey was predictably, down stream to Leopoldville (1300 km) where it was received on 8th December. (*Note the inverted date plug*)

As the transit marks confirm, it was then forwarded via Lukungu to Matadi.

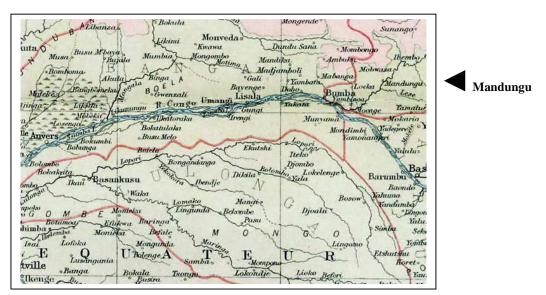


Figure 1.

Before completion of the new railway line, the 'old caravan route' to Lukungu was well established and its location is shown here in figure 2. [2] However, why the card was forwarded from Lukungu to Matadi is not at all understandable as Inkissi was to the northeast and in the opposite direction - on the projected new rail road, approximately mid way between Thysville and Madimba.

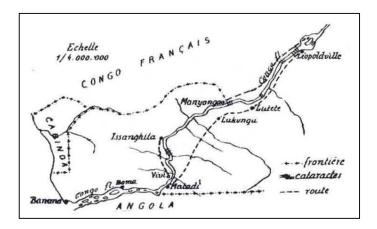


Figure 2

It is a fact that in 1897, at the time of this correspondence, the new railway from Matadi to Leopoldville was not finished, but the section from Matadi to Tumba had been. As from 1st July 1896, it is said ^[2] that Lukungu became the terminus of that section with its own '*sous-perception*' but on the 26th November that terminus was re-established at nearby Tumba. It is also recorded that the 'Lukungu' canceller was subsequently transferred to the Tumba office and used concurrently, along with that of Tumba.

In researching the routing of this card it became apparent that the exact location of Lukungu is close to the south bank of the river Congo at the point near to where the river Lukungu joins the Congo – and certainly not on the projected Matadi to Leopoldville rail route.

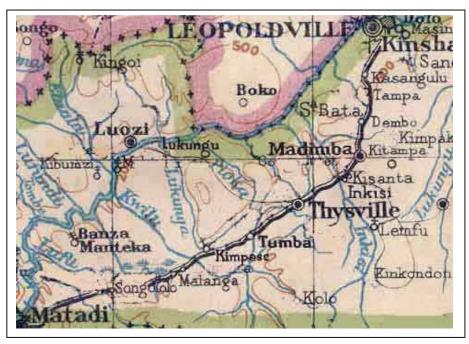


Figure 3.

Figure 3.

However it will be apparent that if the town of Lukungu is situated only a few kilometres from the shores of the river Congo, it cannot possibly serve in practical terms as a terminus on the railway line from Matadi to Leopoldville - which was being constructed well to the south.

The 'Internet' came to my rescue and in particular Charles Stockmans site which makes things clearer and if I have interpreted correctly is surely of interest to those like me not previously 'in the know'. From it I deduce that 'Lukungu' was a 'convenience title', and that the canceller was never used there but probably at Kimpesi, where the river Lukungu crossed the rail line.



Why was the card forwarded to Matadi?

- 1. Why was the postal stationery card forwarded from Lukungu (Kimpesi) to Matadi? Was it a simple case of misdirecting?
- 2. Bearing in mind that the Lukungu/Kimpesi/Tumba to Matadi section of rail road was already completed would the card have been forwarded to Matadi using that facility or travelled by way of the previously established caravan route. It took 4 days!

Stuart Smith

- 1. INKISSI (as written) = INKISI
- 2. Heim & Keach. 'The Cancellations of the Normal Post Offices of Belgian Congo 1886-1960 etc.'
 Ch. Stockmans. 'Congo Belge et Ruanda-Urundi, 77 ans d'histoire postale en Afrique centrale. Tom III'

The Local Albertville issue

By – Walter Deijnckens

During the occupation of Albertville by the 'Leopoldville Central Government Troops' on 15th December 1962, the stock of Katangese stamps at the Albertville post office were overprinted **'CONGO'** in black by a hand stamp. These stamps were officially available and sold by the post office from January to March 1962, until the official supply of Congolese stamps arrived from Leopoldville.





Illustrated is an airmail cover dated 23rd March 1962 from 'Albertville 1 H' to Bruxelles, and bearing examples of the overprinted Katangese '*Arts*' stamps - 1,50 and 2 francs.

The cover was weighed at 25 grams and the total cost of 15 francs rate was made up as follows: The first 20 grams was charged at 3 francs with an additional 1 franc for the next 20 grams. Additional Airmail charges for the first 10 grams were 3.50 francs plus 2.50 francs for each additional 5 grams.

Of note is the mixed combination of stamps used:

 3×1 franc 'Indépendance Congo' stamps overprinted L'ETAT DU KATANGA which came into use from 20^{th} of October 60,

All 3 of these additionally overprinted with the troops occupation **'CONGO'** hand stamp. 2 x 3.50 fr. Stamps of the 'République du Congo' who arrived in Albertville in March 1962.

In total only 20 different stamps of the Congo republic or of Katanga were overprinted with the **'CONGO'** hand stamp.

Foreign Censor Marks - continued

By – Walter Deijnckens

Sudan and Military Censor Marks in Egypt

Sudan

Censor Labels

One of the prominent attractive features of correspondence opened in transit by the Sudanese authorities, is the very distinctive green text label -

OPENED BY / EXAMINER #.

This is known to exist with numbers 18, 19 and 20.



For convenience and future reference, the labels illustrated have been arbitrarily described as 'Types 1, 2 and 3.'

It has been established that the label referred to as 'Type 2' exists in green but unfortunately the colouring of 'Type 3' is not known.



Type 1.



Type 2.

The numbers and design format vary. Those recorded are listed below - all on correspondence spanning the year period from 1940 to 1943.



Type 3.

Label N°	Mail routes	Period	Transit/Censorship
5	Reported as seen but	t no other details available	2
16	Jadotville → Belgium	December 1940	
13	Irumu → England	March 1941	
20	Poste Militaire → England	September 1941	
20	Aba → England	October 1941	Cairo
20	Aba → New Jersey	October 1941	Cairo
18	Kigali → Zurich	November 1941	Usumburu, Albertville, Aba
19	Aba → Chicago	January 1942	Cairo
19	Irumu → England	May 1942	Aba, Cairo
19	Aba → England	March and April1943	
20	Aba \rightarrow England	April 1943	

Censor Marks

All the marks seen are similar in design and comprise outer and inner triangles incorporating the words PASSED CENSOR SUDAN with a 'censor number' in the middle. Whilst many 'censor numbers' exist, only three have been recorded as part of this study: 2, 13 and 15.



Censor N [•]	Mail routes	Period	Transit/Censorship
2	Reported as seen but	no other details available	
13	Irumu → England	March 1941	Aba, Cairo
13	Aba → England	March 1943	Elisabethville, Cairo
13	Aba \rightarrow England (x2)	April 1943	Elisabethville, Cairo
15	Jadotville → Belgium	December 1940	German label, Berlin

Military Censor Marks in Egypt

The active and important Military presence in Egypt during World War II resulted in there being both *military* and *civilian* censorship. As a consequence 'Military Censorship' has been identified as a subject of importance in its own right and is dealt with here as a sequel to the article on *Egyptian Civilian Censorship* which was published previously in Bulletin 141.

In that article, reference was made to the 'Deputy Chief Field Censor', repeated here as Figure 1 and used by the British censors during 1944. In this study it has been recorded used as follows:

Mau route	Date	O CHES
Poste Militaire No. 101 → England	March 1944	
Troupe Coloniales Belges → Costermansville	April 1944	6 35
Poste Militaire No. $101 \rightarrow \text{Costermansville}$	Sept. 1944	ENSUA
Costermansville \rightarrow RAF	Nov.1944	
Costermans ville \rightarrow C.M.F.	Nov. 1944	Figure 1.

Figures 2, 3 and 4 illustrate examples of the British 'Circular and Crown' military censor mark that was used worldwide. These have been seen in blueblack and violet-purple inks. Numbers vary, and those recorded on mail originating from either the Belgian Congo or Belgian Congo personnel stationed elsewhere, are listed below:



Figure 2



Figure 3

Censor N [•]	Mail route	Date
6346	Troupes Coloniales Belges → Luebo	Jan. 1943
6367	B.P.M. 101 M.E.F. (Syria) → Luebo	Sept. 1943
6547	B.P.M. 101 M.E.F. \rightarrow Kilundu	Oct. 1943
6457	Poste Militaire No. $101 \rightarrow \text{England}$	March 1944
6679	Poste Militaire No. $101 \rightarrow Elisabethville$	March 1944
6282	Troupes Coloniales Belges → Costermansville	April 1944
6690	Poste Militaire No. 101 → Kasai	July 1944
6690	Poster Militaire No. $101 \rightarrow \text{Dibaya}$	Aug. 1944
8381	$F.P.O. \rightarrow Basoko$	Oct. 1944

The following censorship numbers have also been seen but routing information is not known: 5027, 6380 and 6391.

A Military Post (Bureau Postal Militaire) was established in Cairo during April 1943 and operated under the auspices and in conjunction with the British Post Office until May 1944. It was attached to the 1st Brigade Motorisée du Congo Belge (BMCB) and functioned as a separate department, within the British Military office. As such it was allocated with the number '*BPM 101*'. There was also a BAPOF (Belgian Army Field Post Office) providing a service for troops based in other parts of the Middle East and this too was managed as a function of BMCB. ^[1] - refer Figure 4.

From April 1943 a Belgian officer was appointed to each 'Unit' as a 'Franking Officer'. This 'Officer' was initially allocated with the 'Circular + Crown' and a little later the 'Shield' design censor mark, which he applied to open correspondence submitted to him for scrutiny and acceptance. In some cases such correspondence was further checked by the 'Deputy Chief Field Officer'.

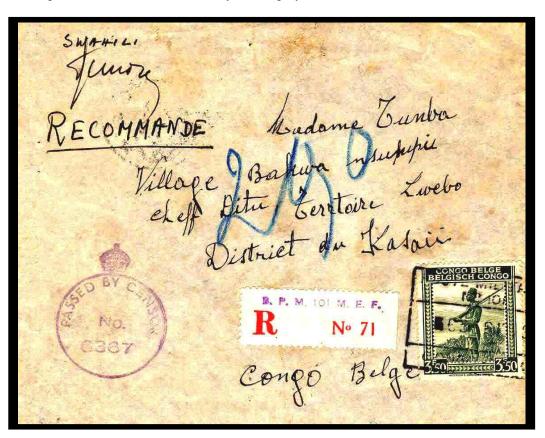


Figure 4

Figure 4 is a fine and informative example of a letter from a Congolese soldier serving with the Belgian Congo army and stationed 'somewhere' in the Middle East. The cover is endorsed in the top left corner that it is written in Swahili, and was censored by a Belgian officer who applied the *British Military canceller* No. 6367. The cover bears an Elisabethville 22 September 1943 transit mark, and was then forwarded to Luebo where it was received, 27 September.

As 'Military mail', it was only necessary to pay the registration fee of 3,50 francs as the stamp and registration label attest.

Figure 5. The 'Shield and Crown' design of British Military Censor marks was introduced at a later date and the examples recorded and applied in Egypt are listed below.



Figure 5.

This same mark is additionally illustrated in 'Figure 6' on a cover subsequently re-opened, sealed with a 3 lined EXAMINED / BY / BASE CENSOR label type 'A.F. W3312', and additionally cancelled by the British Military censor 'Deputy Chief Field Censor and Crown'

It is further endorsed CENSURE /

CONGO BELGE with **15** hand stamp.

(This latter is a very scarce Congolese censor mark. Only two numbers exist: 15 and 17.)

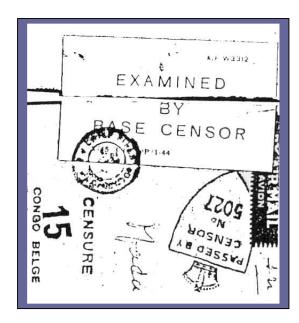


Figure 6.

	Mail route	Transit	Date
5023	Reported, but no other details available		June 1944
6690	Reported, but no other details available		July - August.1944
1455	Reported, but no other details available		August 1944
5027	Poste Militaire No. $101 \rightarrow \text{Costermansville}$	Elisabethville	September 1944

1. André Jeukens. 'La Censure au Congo Belge, Civil et Militaire. Guerre 1939 - 1945'

In preparing the article the author acknowledges the information and assistance provided by Emile Hoorens, Alan Morvay, Jean Oth, Stuart Smith and Michael Wright.

Campaign Post Offices

B.P.C.V.P.K. - 11, 13 and 14. Bureau de Poste de Campagne – Veld Post Kantoor

An interesting cover from – Walter Deijnckens

Preamble

Interesting articles relating to the 1st World War post offices at Tabora and Karema have been published recently, both of which were favourably well received. It appears that this period has wide appeal amongst our membership and is also the subject matter of a joint meeting with the East Africa Study Circle in London later this year.

By way of keeping the ball rolling, the following contribution about a cover in our President's collection just adds a little more to the pot.

It is always pleasing to find a cover that confirms facts that other philatelists have published. [1] This is one of them and I refer specifically to the 'Field Post Office' B.P.C.V.P.K. transit marks, their location and dates of use.



Figure 1.



Figure 2



Figure 3

The Registered cover was sent by 1st Lieutenant Boeymans of the 2nd battalion of the Brigade Sud (B.S.) on 30th August 1917 to Mr A. Degroodt at Kwidjwi in the Kivu district. (*Kiwidjiwi, now known as Iidjwi is situated on Lake Kivu*.)

The letter did not claim its 'S.M.' (Service Militaire) rights as 'Free of charge' and was franked at 30 centimes which was sufficient for 40 grams. The additional 25 centimes represented the mandatory 'Registration' charge.

According A. Vindevoghel ^[2] the *Brigade Sud* arrived at Ifakara on the 29th of August and camped there guarding the east bank of the river Lumene.

(Ifakara lies 100 km. north of Mahenge and approximately 240 km south of Kilosa.)

A particular feature of this correspondence is that not only do the 'Field Post Office' B.P.C.V.P.K. transit marks confirm the route, but very importantly their usage also confirms previously documented 'dates of use' which as Field Post Offices were often rarely static in a war theatre.

It is with reference to Andre de Cock and subsequently Du Four [1] that we provide the following dates of use, though in the light of this letter some further amendment can now be made.

	Du Four			
	B.P.C.V.P.K. #	allocated to	Dates of use	This letter
Figure 1.	N°13	Ifakara	B.S. 17 Aug.1917	30 Aug. 1917
Figure 2.	N°14	Kilosa	Aug – Oct. 1917	3 Sept. 1917
Figure 3.	N°11	Dodoma	July 1917	6 Sept. 1917

Figure 4. From Dodoma the letter was forwarded to and received at Kigoma, 11 September and then to Uvira, 26 September and Rutshuru 12 October. (*It would be interesting to know the reason for the long transit delay between arrival in Uvira and that in Rutshuru – 16 days!)*



Figure 4.

Post amble

Very many 'Campaign' items of correspondence from this theatre of war bear stamps to a value far in excess of that necessary - typically as in the case of the *S.M.* example illustrated here (Service Militaire – free of charge).

In the editor's opinion and by way of conjecture, the Military personnel were very much inclined to provide mementoes, and use of extra stamps available would be one of the few ways of expressing this.

- 1. DuFour, 'Congo, Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postale'
- **2.** A. Vindevoghel; 'Chronologie des mouvements des troupes militaires Belges dans l' Afrique Orientale Allemande pendant la guerre 1914 1918'

March 2007

Belgium

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