

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

Bulletin No. 23

August, 1974

The increased postal rates are a heavy burden on the Study Circle finances and it is regretted that, once again, the coffers are empty. The last call for funds was in January, 1972 and members are now requested to donate a further £1.

The recent circulating packet was a conspicuous success, as were the trial small packets of post-1923 issues, two of which small packets had to be withdrawn because their contents were practically exhausted. The problem has always been to get books from members and this popular activity cannot continue without assistance from more members. All members must have some duplicates or material for which they have no great affection. Interest by more members in the cancellations means that copies of common stamps with readable cancels find a ready market.

In Bulletin No. 22, the Secretary unfortunately omitted M. Celis' name from the article "The President Mobutu Issue" and offers his apologies for the oversight.

A current list of members is enclosed.

NEW MEMBERS

Since the issue of the last Bulletin, the following new members have joined the Circle:

A.H. Fitt, 6 Greenwich Road, Diep River, Cape Town, South Africa.

H.M. Slabbinck, 48A Roberts Jones Straat, B-1180 Brussels, Belgium.

The Rev. Strickland has, unfortunately, decided to resign his membership, due to lack of interest in the country.

JEAN DU FOUR

Many members will have read with deep regret of the death in March of one of our founder members, General Jean Du Four.

The General must have been an outstanding soldier but we knew him as a philatelist the greatest and most knowledgeable student of the stamps and postal history of the Congo. His book "Congo - Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postale" is one of the philatelic masterpieces and will keep his memory fresh in the minds of all collectors of the country.

General Du Four was a modest man; it is understood that he twice refused a barony.

No-one was ever more kindly disposed towards his juniors in the study of stamps. In the early days of the Study Circle he came to London and showed us the greatest of his treasures, wonderful and unique pieces that we cannot hope to see again.

We owe much to the General for his contributions, both direct and indirect, to our past Bulletins and will sadly miss his guidance.

THE 1915 ISSUE - ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA (Bulletin No. 22)

10 Centimes It was said that all impressions of frame plate V have a "short break in the red circle around the 10 in the bottom left corner". This is not entirely true. The circle is continuous in position No. 33, presumably by retouching, and on Nos. 37 and 38, although there is a weakening of the circle at this point, there was, in the earliest printings, no actual break.

25 Centimes It was said that in the sheets of fifty, the following combinations of plates exist: III1+B, III1+C, III2+D and III3+D. This should have read: III1+B, III1+C, III2+C, III2+D and III3+D.

Mr. Molander has made an interesting and important discovery, booklet stamps of the 2nd. printing (in the second state with the frame plate retouched) perforated 15. They are clearly very much more uncommon than the same stamps perforated 14 but it is not as yet possible to judge their rarity. A few years ago, only a single copy of the 3rd. printing with the same perforation was known but, with the announcement of its existence, many other copies and several complete panes came to light. Members are invited to check their stamps of the 2nd. booklets and all their copies perforated 15 and advise if they are fortunate in their findings.

THE "EST AFRICAIN" OVERPRINTS

M. Vindevoghel and the Abbe Gudenkauf have been studying these overprints and have sent details of their discoveries to supplement the information given in the article on the subject in Bulletin No. 20. The nomenclature used in that article is continued in this addendum.

The "Short" Overprint

A sheet of the 5c. with the second C closed to give "OCOUPTION" has been studied. The variety exists on all stamps of the 4th. vertical column (Nos. 4, 9, 14 &c.). The setting of the overprint appears to be identical with that of a similar sheet without the variety and it is considered that the two were from the same overprinting plate, that with the closed C being the first state. The closure could have disappeared with wear during use but it seems very much more likely that the "error" was noticed after a few sheets were overprinted and the plate corrected by cutting away the offending pieces of metal. S1 and S2 are therefore presumed to be the same, the former being the early state and restricted in its use to the 5c. value. The perforation of the sheet with closed C is 14.

The "Long" Overprint

There was a further plate which, to retain the sequence of numbers given in the earlier article, will be called L6 which had the second C closed to give "OCOUPTION" on all stamps of the second vertical column (in L2 the variety exists in the first vertical column). It is known to have been used for the 1 franc as was L2 and only perforation 14 has been seen. The closure of the C is different in the two settings as is illustrated below:

L2

L6

Other observations on the various settings are given in detail.

Setting L1 (that with the long T)

On the same stamps with the long T (2nd. vertical column of the overprints) there is a clear hole in the vertical leg of the T of "DUITSCH").

Setting L3

Position No. 4 of the overprint has the E of "EST" damaged with the top left corner of the letter missing and cut off at an acute angle.

The setting has been seen on combinations of plates and with perforations additional to those given in the tabulation: 10/5c V + F perf. 15; 50c III2 + C perf. 14; 5F III + A2 perf. 14.

Setting L3A (L3 with badly damaged L on No.39)

Additional combinations of plates: 25c III1 + C or III2 + C perf. 14 (previously only generally recorded for the value by General Du Four); 50/25c III1 + C perf. 14; 5/50c III2 + C perf. 14.

Setting L5

Additional combinations of plates: 10c V + D2 perf. 14; 30/10c V + D2 perf. 14; 15c IV1 + C perf. 14; 40c II + A3 perf. 14; 25/40c II + A3 perf. 14.

Setting L6 (OCCUPATION)

The 1F has been seen as II2 + A5 perf. 14.

Unidentified L plates

Delete 10/5c V + F perf. 15 (L3 or L4) the overprinting plate has now been identified; add 15c IV1 + C perf. 15.

FORGED 19th CENTURY BANANA CANCELLATIONS

In the 19th century, and particularly before about 1895, the quantity of mail from the Congo was very small and, as a result, very few used copies of the stamps were available for collectors whereas, through the philatelic agency in Brussels, unused copies were freely available to dealers at face value. In those days used stamps were, in general, preferred to unused and the dealers had to do something to cope with the demand. There were not facilities in Brussels for cancelling-to-order and sending sheets of stamps out to the Congo for cancelling was a long and, maybe, hazardous business. Dealers therefore undertook the cancelling themselves, having obliterators specially made, generally similar to those used by the Congo post office. Most of these counterfeit cancellors did not copy the rare postal marks such as Vivi as the intention was simply to obliterate the stamps and few, if any, collectors in those days were interested in the cancellations as such.

Boma, probably because it was the capital and the most frequently seen genuine cancellation, suffered the most with counterfeits but Banana had its fair share, and the object of this short article is to endeavour to describe the forgeries that have been noted.

Let it be said, quite clearly, that most collectors, although they would be distressed to have forged stamps in their collections, have no such inhibitions about "used" stamps with forged cancels; such stamps are not worth less than

their genuine counterparts any more than are the modern cancelled-to-order copies, so popular with collectors of many countries e.g. the few remaining British colonies.

All the cancels of the 19th century were "small circle" with time according to the 12-hour clock with M (matin) for a.m. and S (soir) for p.m.; the 24-hour clock for the cancellations was not introduced until about 1902.

The basic tool used for recognition of the individual cancelling stamps, both genuine and forged, is the transparent plastic full circle protractor, not the semicircle commonly in use by schools. Some additional marks normally need to be engraved on the protractor; the 10° radii need to be extended towards the centre and concentric circles, say 23, 30 and 35mm diameter need to be inscribed on it. The only satisfactory way of adding these extended lines and circles is with an engraving machine, available in many engineering workshops. As a substitute, B & K Cancellation gauge, marketed by Bridger and Kay at 75p., can be used for the purpose but it is necessary to prepare a tabulation for converting the graduations on the gauge to degrees of arc. If anyone has such a gauge and wishes to use it for the purpose, the writer can help.

The protractor is placed concentrically on the cancellation with the 0° on the vertical stroke of the B of BANANA, at the mid-point of its thickness; if the vertical stroke is not truly radial, a point half way up the stroke is selected as 0° . Let it be emphasised that the centering of the protractor relative to the circle of the cancel is critical. Measuring clockwise, the angular positions of the apex of the last letter A (if the latter does not come to a point, where that point would be) and of the 1 of 18 of the year (half way up the vertical stroke if not radial and at the mid-point of its thickness). As far as is known and can be ascertained, all the 19th century cancellations of the Congo had the first two figures of the year as a fixed part of the cancelling stamp.

Apart from the angular measurements, the diameter of the circle of the cancel and other linear measurements of selected letters are made to assist in the classification.

Genuine Cancellations

Before coming to the forgeries, it is necessary to consider the four genuine and well authenticated 19th century cancellations.

Type 1.1 Angles (from B): to last A (apex) 144° ; to 1 of 18 - 281° .
Diameter of circle 23.0mm.
B 3.2mm tall; lower loop of B 2.4mm wide (heights are between centres of horizontal lines; widths between centres of vertical lines, not overall heights and widths). 1 of 18 of year with small serif at angle of about 35° to vertical stroke.

Around 1890, the bottom left corner of the B was damaged and this forms an easy method of recognition of the cancellation during the later days of its use. The figure 4 of 1894 was very crude, either "home made" or, possibly, a figure 9 crudely altered to a 4.

Type 1.2 Angles: to last A 142° ; to 1 279° .
Diameter of circle 24.0mm.
B 3.4mm tall; lower loop 2.0mm wide.
1 with large serif at angle of about 40° .

- Type 1.3 Angles: to last A 136° ; to 1 275° .
 Diameter of circle 24.0mm.
 B 3.2mm tall; lower loop 2.0mm wide.
 1 with large serif at angle of about 50° .
- Type 1.4 Angles: to last A 140° ; to 1 283° .
 Diameter of circle 23.0mm.
 B 3.0mm tall; lower loop 2.3mm wide.
 1 with large serif at angle of about 40° or a little less.

Forged Cancellations

- Type A Angles: to last A 145° ; to 1 284° .
 Diameter of circle 23.2mm.
 B 3.0mm tall; lower loop 1.5mm wide (narrow letter is quite characteristic).
 1 with medium serif at angle of about 30° .
 This was a Fournier production and has been seen only on forged stamps, always dated 2 MARS 8-M 1896.
- Type B Angles: to last A 146° ; to 1 280° .
 Diameter of circle 23.5mm.
 B 3.0mm tall; lower loop 2.1mm wide.
 1 with medium serif at angle of about 45° .
 Seen only on forged stamps and dated 18 MAI 10-M 189 (last figure unknown).
- Type C Angles: to last A 120° ; to 1 255° .
 Diameter of circle 22.0mm.
 B 2.9mm tall; lower loop 1.9mm wide.
 1 with medium serif at angle of about 30° .
 Seen with varying dates on genuine stamps and postal stationery.
- Type D Angles: to last A 135° ; to 1 274° .
 Diameter of circle 23.5mm.
 B 3.3mm tall; lower loop 2.0mm wide.
 1 with large serif at angle of about 50° .
 This forgery may easily be confused with the genuine Type 1.3 but the genuine has the upper loop of the figure 8 of 18 1.8mm wide whereas the forgery is only 1.5mm. Another clear indication of the forgery is the gross misalignment of the last two figures of the year relative to the first two figures; a straight-edge placed along the tops of the last two figures cuts the 8 of 18 at about its centre bar.
 Seen on genuine stamps with various dates; 12 JUIN 3-S 1886 and 12 OCT 3-S 1886 appear to be the most frequently met.
- Type E Angles: to last A 140° ; to 1 282° .
 Diameter of circle 22.7mm.
 B 3.0mm tall; lower loop 2.4mm wide.
 1 with large serif at angle of about 30° .
 The last two figures of the year are badly out of alignment with the first two; a straight-edge placed along the tops of the last two figures is in line with the top of the 8 of 18.
 Seen on genuine stamps with various dates in 1887.

- Type F Angles: to last A 137° ; to 1 275° .
Diameter of circle 24.00mm.
B 3.4mm tall; lower loop 1.8mm wide.
1 with large serif at angle of about 50° .
Two examples have been seen on 1894 and 1896 issues with differing dates.
- Type G Angles: to last A 136° ; to 1 280° .
Diameter of circle 24.0mm.
B 3.4mm tall; lower loop 1.9mm wide.
1 with medium serif at angle of about 40° .
Three examples have been seen on genuine stamps with various dates but the month in each case is MAI.

No forgeries of 20th century cancels of Banana have been recognised.

Let it be understood that, except for the forged cancellations on forged stamps, A and B above, it is quite possible, but thought to be unlikely, that cancellations, stated to be forgeries, may be found on genuine covers and thereby shown to be good. It seems improbable however that Banana had more than four cancelling stamps for the volume of its mail during the period 1886-1899. Of the 20th century small circle obliterations, in general use from 1900 until about 1921, only two have been recognised as different.

Whereas the list of genuine cancels is probably complete, it is not pretended that there are not more forgeries than those described. The writer will be very grateful for the opportunity to inspect any obliterations thought not to conform to the descriptions given in this introductory study.

THE POST OFFICES OF ZAIRE

Mr. Celis has obtained from a friend in the local Zairean post office an up-to-date (May 1974) list of the post offices currently open. These are allocated to their respective regions with the principal post offices (Perceptions) preceded by a P and followed by the offices responsible to them, sub-post offices preceded by SP (Sous-perceptions) and auxiliary post offices preceded by BA (Bureaux auxiliares). No mention is made of postal agencies which appeared in 1960 (the writer does not know if these agencies had obliterations or what purpose the agencies served).

Region de Bukavu

- P Bukavu 1: SP Bagira, Bukavu 2, Kalehe, Kamituga, Mwenga, Nya-Lukemba, Walikale.
 BA Bukavu 3, Bunyakiri, Kabare, Kabunga, Katana-Lwiro, Kiniezire, Nya-Ngezi.
- P Butembo: SP Beni, Lubero, Mutwanga.
 BA Kayna-Luofu, Vuhovi.
- P Goma 1: SP Kirotshe, Masisi, Mweso, Rutshuru, Rwindi.
 BA Minova, Tshengerero.
- P Kalima: SP Kailo, Kampene, Pangi.
- P Kasongo 1: SP Kabambare.
 BA Kasongo 2, Kipaka-Lutshi.

- P Kindu 1: SP Kibombo, Kindu 2, Kindu 3, Lokandu, Samba (Maniema).
BA Kindu 4.
- P Punia: SP Kasese, Lubutu, Yumbi (Maniema).
- P Shabunda: SP Lulingu
BA Kigulube.
- P Uvira: SP Fizi
BA Baraka, Luberizi.

Region de Bandundu

- P Bandundu: SP Mushie, Nioki, Oshwe.
BA Bagata, Fatundu, Lokolama, Mambenga S/Kasai, Nkaw, Semendwa.
- P Idiofa: SP Dibaya-Lubwe, Gungu, Mangai
BA Kipuku, Mateko.
- P Inongo: SP Kiri, Kutu.
BA Bolia, Bandjow-Moke, Ireko, Pendjwa, Toto.
- P Kenge 1: SP Kasongo-Lunda, Popokabaka.
BA Kenge 2, Kimbau, Kolokoso.
- P Kikwit 1: SP Bulungu, Feshi, Kahemba, Kikwit 2, Lusanga, Masi-Manimba,
Panzi.
BA Bilili, Kwaya, Mayoko, Mikwi, Nkara, Pay-Kongila, Kianza.

Region de Kinshasa

- P Kinshasa 1: SP Bolobo, Kwamouth.
BA Yumbi-(Bolobo), Nkolo.
- P Kinshasa 2: SP Kinshasa 12.
BA Kinshasa 32.
- P Kinshasa 6: SP Kinshasa 7, Kinshasa 9.
- P Kinshasa 21:
- P Kinshasa 8: SP Kinshasa 3, Kinshasa 4, Kinshasa 5, Kinshasa 31.
BA Kinshasa 11.
- P Kinshasa 23: SP Kinshasa 20, Kinshasa 22.
- P Kinshasa 24: SP Kinshasa 18, Kinshasa 19, Kinshasa 34.
BA Kinshasa 33.
- P Kinshasa-Aerogare C.T.T.
- P Limete: SP Kinshasa 11, Kinshasa 16.
- P Kinshasa-Gombe: SP Kinshasa 10, Kinshasa G.C.
BA Kinshasa 14, Kinshasa (Palais de la Nation)

Region de Kisangani

- P Aketi: SP Bondo, Likati.
- P Basoko: SP Lokutu
BA Yahuma.
- P Bunia: SP Aru, Djugu, Irumu, Kilomines, Mahagi, Mambasa, Mongwalu,
Nioka.
BA Kasenyi, Nizi.
- P Buta: SP Ango, Bambesa, Bambili, Titule, Zobia.
- P Isiro: SP Dungu, Niangara, Poko, Wamba.
BA Doruma, Rungu, Tapili.
- P Kisangani 1: SP Bafwasende, Banalia, Kisangani 2, Lowa, Opala, Ubundu.
BA Bengamisa, Kisangani 3, Kisangani 4, Kisangani 6,
Kole (Haut-Zaire).
- P Watsa: SP Aba, Faradje, Gombari, Mungbere.
- P Yangambi 1: SP Isangi, Yangambi 2
Yanonge

Region de Lubumbashi

- P Dilolo: SP Kapanga, Sandoa.
- P Kabalo: SP Nyunzu.
- P Kalemie 1: SP Kalemie 2, Kalemie 3.
- P Kamina 1: SP Kabongo, Kamina 2, Kamina B.M.2, Kabongo-Dianda.
BA Kikondja.
- P Kaniama:
- P Kipushi: SP Mokambo, Sakania.
- P Kolwezi: SP Kasaji, Kisenge, Mutshatsha.
- P Kongolo:
- P Likasi 1: SP Kambove, Likasi 2 Mitwaba, Tenke.
- P Lubudi: SP Luena, Bukama.
- P Lubumbashi 1: SP Lubumbashi 2, Lubumbashi 3, Lubumbashi 4, Lubumbashi 7.
- P Lubumbashi 6: SP Kasenga, Kilwa, Lubumbashi 5(Aerogare), Lubumbashi 9,
Lubumbashi 10, Pweto.
- P Manono: SP Ankoro, Malembe-Nkulu.

Region de Kananga

P Ilebo:

P Kananga 1: SP Demba, Kananga 2, Kananga 3, Luiza, Tshimbulu
BA Bena-Tshadi, Dimbelenge, Katwambi, Kazumba.

P Luebo:

P Mweka: BA Dekese

P Tshikapapa:

Region de Matadi

P Boma 1: SP Boma 2, Lemba, Lukula.
BA Kangu.

P Inkisi: SP Kasangulu, Madimba.
BA Kimvula, Malele, Luila.

P Matadi 1: SP Matadi 2, Seke-Banza, Songololo.
BA Inga.

P Mbanza-Ngungu: BA Gombe-Matadi, Mbanza-Ngungu 2.

P Moanda: SP Banana.
BA Nsia-Mfumu

P Kwilu-Ngongo: SP Lufu-Toto, Kimpese, Lukala, Luozi.
BA Kimpangu, Kivunda.

P Tshela: BA Bata-Siala, Sumbi.

Region de Mbandaka

P Basankusu: SP Bolomba.

P Boende: SP Befale, Bokote, Bokungu, Djolu, Ikela, Mondombe, Monkoto.
BA Lokolia, Mompono.

P Bumba: SP Yakoma.

P Businga: SP Bosobolo, Karawa, Mobayi.

P Gemena: SP Bozene, Budjala, Kungu.
BA Bomboma, Dongo, Kuma.

P Libenge: SP Zongo.
BA Montenge-Boma.

P Lisala: SP Binga, Bongandanga
BA Busu-Djanoo, Busu-Melo, Busu-Simba, Gumba-Mongala.

P Mbandaka 1: SP Bikoro, Bomongo, Ingende, Irebu, Lukolela, Makanza, Mbandaka 2
BA Lulonga, Gumba-Mobeka.

Region de Mbuji-Mayi

P Gandajika:

P Kabinda: SP Lubao, Tshofa.
BA KamanaP Lodja: SP Bena-Dibele, Djalo, Katako-Kombe, Lomela.
BA Kole (Kasai Oriental).P Lusambo: SP Lubefu, Wembo-Nyama.
BA Tshumbe.

P Luputa:

P Mbuji-Mayi: SP Katanda, Mbuji-Mayi 2, Mbuji-Mayi 3, Miabi, Tshilenge.
BA Kabeya-Kamunga, Lukalaba, Tshishimbi.

P Mwene-Ditu: BA Kanutshina.

Many old frields are missing and M. Celis advises the following changes in names: Banningville to Bandundu, Luluabourg to Kananga, Stanleyville to Kisangani, Elisabethville to Lubumbashi, Coquilhatville to Mbandaka, Bakwanga to Mbuji-Mayi, Ponthierville to Ubundu, Kole(Stan) to Kole(Haut-Zaire), Kole(Kasai) to Kole(Kasai Orientale) Yumbi to Yumbi(Maniema), Paulis to Isoro, Albertville to Kalemie, Jadotville to Likasi, Baudouinville to Moba, Port Francqui to Ilebo, Thysville to Mbanza-Ngungu, Banzyville to Mobayi and Leopoldville to Kinshasa.

Some of these post offices are still using date stamps with the old names.

The list of changes is incomplete and one can conjecture others: Leverville to Lusanga, Elisabetha to Lokutu, Charlesville to Katwambi, Moerbeke to Kwilu-Ngongo, Vista to Nsia-Mfumu, Cattier to Lufu-Toto, Nouvelle-Anvers to Makanza, maybe Senterly to Lubao and maybe Bena-Bendi to Mambenga-sur-Kasai.

It is curious that Kamina-Base Militaire 2 remains in existence and that Kamina-Base Militaire 1 has disappeared, also that the French Kilomines and the apparently English Kwamouth still remain unchanged.

THE 1915 ISSUE - OVERPRINTS & SURCHARGES

Several members have written expressing appreciation of the article in Bulletin No. 22 and, as it appears that its contents were of practical value to some, this is an effort to extend it to the stamps of that issue subsequently overprinted.

It is thought that this can best, and most conveniently for reference purposes, be done by means of tabulations, one for each value, inserting in the tabulations the perforations 14 and 15 that have been seen by the writer. Where no perforation figure is included, such a combination of basic stamp and overprint has not been seen but, in some cases, may very well exist.

The 1915 booklet stamps do not exist with overprints although it should be mentioned that the 5c value has been seen with forged local 10c surcharge, normal, inverted and in pair, with and without surcharge.

In the tabulations, RU indicates "RUANDA" and "URUNDI" overprints, EAA "EST AFRICAIN ALLEMAND....." and EAA MAL "EST AFRICAIN ALLEMAND....." with Malines surcharge.

| | V + E | | | V + F | VI + F |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| | Yellow-green, fine centre | Yellow-green coarse centre | Blue-green | | |
| 1921, 10c surcharge | | | 14 | | |
| 1922 Malines | 14, 15 | | 14, 15 | | 14, 15 |
| 1922 Local, Type A | | | | | 14, 15 |
| Type B | 14 | 14 | 14 | | 14, 15 |
| Type C | 14 | | 14, 15 | | 14 |
| Type D | 14 | | 14, 15 | | 14 |
| 1922 Local, sur. 25c | 14 | | | | 14 |
| RU, Kigali | 14 | | | | |
| RU, Grysolle | 14 | | | | |
| RU, Havre | 14 | | | | |
| EAA, short o'print | | | 14 | | |
| EAA, long o'print | | | 14, 15 | 14, 15 | |
| EAA MAL | | | 14, 15 | 14, 15 | |

10 Centimes

| | V + D2 | V + D3 | V + E |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1921, 30c surcharge | 14 | | |
| 1922 Malines | 14, 15 | 14, 15 | 14, 15 |
| 1923 Elisabethville, 1st. surcharge | | | 14 |
| 2nd. surcharge | | | 14 |
| RU, Kigali | 14 | | |
| RU, Grysolle | 14 | | |
| RU, Havre | 14 | | |
| EAA | 14, 15 | | |
| EAA MAL | 14, 15 | | |

15 Centimes

| | III4 + B3 | | III5 + C | IV1 + C |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|---------------------|
| | Brown-black centre | Black centre | | |
| RU, Kigali | 14 | | | |
| RU, Grysolle | 14 | 14 | | |
| RU, Havre | 14 | 14 | | |
| EAA, short overprint | | | 14 | |
| EAA, long overprint | | | 14, 15 | 14, 15 ^x |
| ^x perf. 15 seen by Abbe Gudenkauf | | | | |

25 Centimes

| | III + B | | III + C | | III + D |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------|
| | Fine centre | Coarse centre | Fine centre | Coarse centre | |
| 1921, 50c. surcharge Malines, vermilion carmine | 14 | 14 | 14 14, 15 | 14 14 | 14 14 |
| RU, Kigali | 14 | | | | |
| RU, Grysolle | 14 | | | | |
| RU, Havre | 14, 15(R) | | | | |
| EAA, short overprint | | 14 | | | |
| EAA, long overprint | | 14, 15 | 14, 15 | | |
| EAA MAL, vermilion carmine | | 14 | 14, 15 | | |

(R) indicates RUANDA only

40 Centimes

| | II + A2 | II + A3 |
|------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1922 Malines, vermilion carmine | 14 14, 15 | 14, 15 14, 15 |
| 1922, Local, Type A | 14 | 14, 15 |
| Type B | | 14 |
| Type C | 14 | 14, 15 |
| Type D | 14 | 14, 15 |
| RU, Kigali | 14 | |
| RU, Grysolle | 14 | |
| RU, Havre | 14 | |
| EAA | | 14, 15 |
| EAA MAL, vermilion carmine | | 14 14, 15 |

50 Centimes

| | III2 + B3 | | III2 + C | |
|--|-----------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| | Deep plum | Lilac-brown | Deep plum | Deep lilac-brown |
| Malines, shiny surcharge matt surcharge | 14 | | 14 | 14 14 |
| RU, Kigali | 14 | | | |
| RU, Grysolle | | | | 14 |
| RU, Havre | | | 14(U), 15(R) | 14, 15(U) |
| EAA, short overprint | | | 14 | |
| EAA, long overprint | | | 14 | 14 |
| EAA MAL, shiny surcharge matt surcharge | | | 14 14 | |

(R) indicates RUANDA only, (U) URUNDI only

1 Franc

| | II1 + A4 | II2 + A5 | II3 + A5 | II4 + A5 | II5 + A5 |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1922 Local | 15 | | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| RU, Kigali | | | | | |
| RU, Grysolle | | 14 | | | |
| RU, Havre | | 14 | | | |
| EAA, short o'print | | 14 | | | |
| EAA, long o'print | | 14 | 14 | | |

5 Francs

| | II1 + A2 | II1 + A3 | II2 + A3 |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1922 Local | | | 14, 15 |
| RU, Kigali | 15 | | |
| RU, Grysolle | | | |
| EAA, short overprint | 14, 15 | | |
| EAA, long overprint | 14, 15 | | 14 |

It has to be admitted that the choice of "fine" and "coarse" centres for the 5c V + E and 25c III + B and III + C is rather arbitrary in that there is no well-defined change from fine to coarse.

R.H.K.

HIGGINS AND GAGE CATALOGUE

A new edition of the Higgins and Gage postal stationery catalogue has been issued, an improvement on its predecessor with better illustrations and with the handstamped and typographed "Congo Belge" overprints separated in the surcharged 1910 issue. No mention, however, is made, as yet, of the existence of handstamped and typographed surcharges on this issue, nor of the six different handstamps of both 15 and 30, on the 1921 issue.

Prices of issues up to 1910, but excluding the 1909 unilingual pair, show very little change, only a few being marked up and very modestly. Later issues, and particularly those after 1924, show very substantial increases, the 1942 Waterlow series being increased from five to twenty times the earlier prices. The prices for the "Cartes Incompletes" are generally double what they were.

The minimum price of a card is now 25c.

Compared with the Davo catalogue, although the latest prices we have here are a few years out of date, the Higgins and Gage prices are very high and it is unfortunate that these are the basis on which British dealers trade.

AEROPLANES ON CONGO STAMPS

One of our members was asking for the identities of the aeroplanes depicted on Congo stamps and other members may be interested to have the information taken from a series of articles in "Stamp Collecting" February and March, 1971.

- 1920 Airmails - Bleriot XI
- 1930 - De Havilland D.G.50
- 1934 - Fokker F.VIIb-3m (built in Belgium by SABCA)

| | | |
|---------|------------------|-----------------------|
| | 1963 UPU | - Boeing 707 or 727 |
| | 1963 Air Congo | - Boeing 707 or 727 |
| Katanga | 1961 airmails | - Farman pre-1914 |
| Burundi | 1967 airmail 10F | - Boeing 707 |
| | | 14 & 26F - Boeing 727 |
| | | 17F - Vickers V.C.10 |

THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION IN THE CONGO (O.N.U.C.)
(Continued from Bulletin No. 22)



ITALY Italy has 84 airmen, 2 staff officers and 57 administration personnel in the Congo. The air contingent received newspaper publicity in November 1961 when thirteen of their members were massacred by mutinous Congolese troops. I have two covers from the Italians as follows:

- A) Cover with Italian adhesive postmarked Pisa, bearing a violet rectangular cachet 88 x 23mm. reading O.N.U.C./C.119 ITALIAN GROUP LEOPOLDVILLE/46 AEROBRIGATA T.M. - PISA - ITALIA/liason office/ufficio collegamento.
- B) Italian Red Cross cover with Italian adhesive postmarked Rome. Also d.c. cachet in red reading ONUC HOSPITAL/ELISABETHVILLE, with a red cross in the centre surmounted by ITALIAN RED CROSS.

LIBERIA Liberia's present contribution is 235 troops and 3 staff officers. This, I believe, is known as the 4th. Liberian contingent; Liberian troops first arrived on 25th. July 1960. I have no covers from this source and have heard of no unit stamps or cachets. I've written on many occasions to the Congo and to Liberia and have not had a single reply. Would welcome any information.

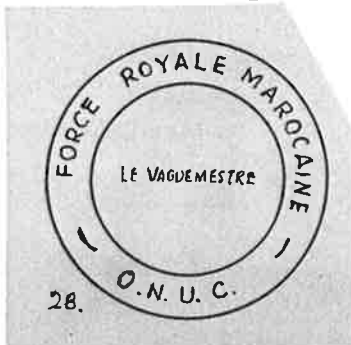
MALAYA The federation has 1513 troops of the Royal Malay Regiment with ancillary personnel, and 9 staff officers serving with the Congo Special Force. The first contingent was the 4th Bn. Royal Malay Regt., which arrived on October 29th. 1960. The present battalion is the 6th, which is due for relief, I understand.

Mail from the Malaysians is impressed with a rectangular boxed cachet reading MALAYAN SPECIAL FORCE. I have two covers - one bearing Congo adhesives and the other the UPF U75 meter mark - both bearing the cachet. A christmas card from the battalion bears the regimental badge in red with VI below it.



MALI FEDERATION Early in the emergency this country had a large contingent in the Congo, but it was withdrawn late in 1960 after some troops had mutinied. Again I have seen no mail from this source and have heard of no cachet etc.

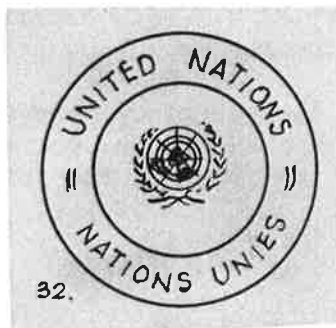
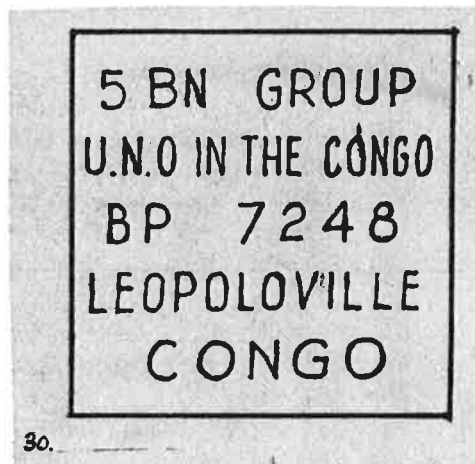
MOROCCO Morocco had 3,240 troops in the Congo from 15th July 1960 until they were withdrawn early in 1961. They were a well-disciplined force and played a valuable part in keeping the peace in the early days. Mail from the Moroccans is very scarce, and I would be very interested to hear of items for disposal. A d.c. cachet was used on mail reading FORCE ROYALE MAROCAINE/ONU LE VAGUE MESTRE struck in red.



NETHERLANDS This country's contribution numbers six in all, I have heard of no covers or cachets.

NEW ZEALAND There was one military observer from New Zealand with the U.N. Force, and although I haven't a cover I understand that no rubber stamp was allocated to this gentleman!

NIGERIA Nigeria has two battalions in the Congo, numbering 1,703 men. These serve six months with the U.N. Force - the first contingent arriving together with a strong force of Nigerian Police within a few days of Nigeria's Independence, 1st October 1960. All five battalions of the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment have taken their turn.



My notes on their activities are as follows:

A) 5th Bn. Q.O.N.R. The first battalion to arrive in the Congo - stationed at Bukavu until April/May 1961 when relieved by the 2nd Bn./* which rescued the Austrian medical team in December 1960. In this action one British officer and three Nigerians were wounded and one man killed. The Congolese lost ten killed and forty wounded. The wounded British officer was later awarded the M.C. There are two UN cachets on my covers from this battalion - one a large s.c. in violet with the UN emblem in the centre, ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES/AU CONGO around the top and UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION/IN THE CONGO around the bottom. The other is square and reads 5 BN Group/U.N.O. IN THE CONGO/BP 7248/LEOLOVILLE/CONGO. (Note spelling - Leopoldville). A further cachet from the 5th Bn. has two outer rings and an inner with 5TH BN THE QUEEN'S OWN NIGERIA REGIMENT between the inner ring and the double outer ring. The 1960 Christmas card was white with a small black UN emblem and a blue ribbon. Inside was a photograph of a Nigerian soldier on guard at Bukavu.



* It was the 5th Bn. /

B) 4th Bn. Q.O.N.R. This battalion arrived with the 5th and left in May 1961, being relieved by the 3rd Bn. The 4th was involved in many major operations and was based at Manono. The CO was awarded the DSO and one of his officers the MC for bravery in action between Kamina and Manono. My cover bears only the Orderly Room stamp as illustrated; I have seen no UN cachets on mail from this battalion.



C) 2nd Bn. Q.O.N.R. Arrived in May and left in November 1961. It was stationed in Leopoldville, with a detachment at the former military base of Kitona. The only UN cachet seen has the UN emblem in the middle, with ONUC KITONA around the top and CHEF DES SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVES.

D) 3rd Bn. Q.O.N.R. Arrived with the 2nd Bn. and was stationed at Luluabourg in Kasai Province. A d.c. UN cachet was used on mail from this battalion with UN emblem in the centre and UNITED NATIONS/NATIONS UNIE round the circumference.

E) 1st Bn. Q.O.N.R. Arrived in November 1961 and due for replacement June 1962. Mail in my collection received a treble ring rubber stamp in violet with ROYAL NIGERIAN ARMY across the top, CONTINGENT at the bottom and CONGO in a box running right across the circles.

F) 5th Bn. Q.O.N.R. Arrived again with the 1st Bn. and so far only the square UN cachet has appeared on my covers.

An account of the Nigerian force cannot be completed without mention of the RAF Detachment stationed at Ikeja airport, Lagos. This numbers about 30 including aircrew, who aid the transportation of men and materials for the Nigerian forces in the Congo. Although the forces' mail rate applies to mail from the UK to the detachment, the RAF personnel have to pay the full rate of 1/3d on their letters home.

NORWAY Norway has 79 airmen, and 74 administration/staff personnel with the UN force. I have seen no mail from this source either.

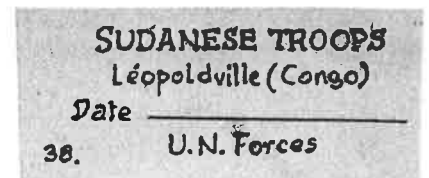
PAKISTAN This country has an ordnance company in the Congo working full time transporting stores from Dar-es-Salaam to the UN stockpiles. This unit was raised specially in August 1960 and numbers some 671 men. I have three covers:

- A) Ordinary cover to USA with meter U75 and purple d.c. cachet PAKISTAN ORDNANCE COMPANY and ONUC across the centre.
- B) ONUC official cover with UN datestamp and cachet as before.
- C) ONUC official cover to Pakistan with s.c. cachet in black PAKISTAN ORDNANCE COMPANY/O.N.U.C./Date.... UN rubber datestamp in purple.



SIERRA LEONE A force of 111 men of the Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces arrived in the Congo on 26th January 1962. They are attached to the 5th Bn Queen's Own Nigerian Regiment and expect to be in the Congo for six months. As yet I have seen nothing from this contingent.

SUDAN Two infantry companies, some 400 men, served in the Congo and were withdrawn in March or April 1961 after 135 members had been defeated by the Congolese at Matadi. The Sudanese fought well but had only light weapons, whereas the Congolese had heavier arms. My only cover has a four-line violet rubber stamp SUDANESE TROOPS/Leopoldville(Congo)/Date..../U.N. Forces.



SWEDEN This contingent numbers 874 and was one of the first to reach the Congo - being transferred from the Gaza garrison. It has its own FPO using steel s.c. dies of two types lettered SVENSKA FN BATALJONEN/B/KONGO and SVENSKA FN. BAT.KONGO/D. I also understand that another new type is now in use reading SVENSKA TEKNIKERGRUPPERNA/KONGO/A, but haven't seen it as yet. The Swedish airmen, numbering 121 officers and men, fly Saab jet fighters.



TUNISIA First troops began to arrive on 16th July 1960, and soon 3,000 were in the Congo. They were involved in several incidents and many were killed, the brigade being recalled to Tunisia on 31st July 1961 when the French tried to break out of Bizerta. My cover bears a purple rectangular cachet BRIGADE TUNISIENNE/O.N.U.C./ (date in box)/Le Vaguemestre. Early this year a battalion group of 548 men was again sent to the Congo, and my covers bear a treble-ring cachet in red ARMEE TUNISIENNE/14^e BATAILLON/Le/Chef/de Bataillon, and an oval one in purple ARMEE NATIONALE/Bataillon d'Infanterie/Le Vaguemestre.



UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC A paratroop force of 519 men was sent 20th-21st August 1960, which left on 6th-7th February 1961. They were stationed at Gemena. Mail bore a s.c. cachet in violet ONUC/emblem/R.A.U. Cont. My only cover is an official UN one with R.A.U. CONTINGENT printed under the ONUC legend.



YUGOSLAVIA Communist participation was limited to 21 Yugoslav pilots who left in February 1961. I have seen nothing from them at all.

That covers the UN Forces pretty well, I think, but no collection would be complete without items from the Belgian troops who were there. I have a few covers from that source as follows, and I understand that no Belgian FPO was in operation:

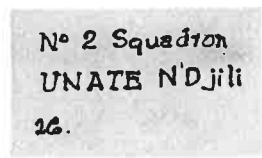
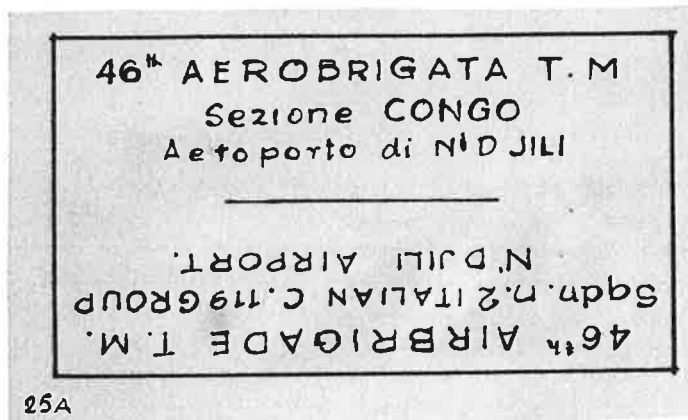


A) Three covers bearing the Independence set overprinted Katanga, cancelled by Kamina military d.s. KAMINA/MILITAIRE BASIS/-1-/ BASE MILITAIRE with letter C above date.

B) Cover bearing Congo adhesives cancelled by s.c. administration stamp MINISTERIE DE LA DEFENSE NATIONALE/MINISTERIE VAN LANDSVERDE DIGING/BASE DE KAMINA/COMMANDEMENT. Also on the cover a 3-line rubber stamp BASE DE KAMINA/Etat Major/Secretariat. All these in violet. I also have a cover with these markings on Belgian stamps. On the reverse is a rectangular stamp reading C.DIS.M.D.N./24-10-60/VERD.C.M.L.V.

There are several new markings which have been since since this article was commenced, which it may be convenient to include here.

Two from the Italians at N'Djili Airport:



Two covers from Bapaka to Leopoldville (30.12.60), and from Kabunga to Leopoldville (20.1.61) bearing a civilian censorship stamp CENSURE as illustrated rubber stamped on white sealing strip. Also a cover bearing the UN machine marks below:-



No doubt there are a lot of gaps in this account of the Congo operations, and I would welcome correspondence from anyone who can supply additional information. In this connection, I must thank those who have already provided help in this way, notably Miss Betty Miller, G.F. Crabb and A. Kennedy. Likewise, I would like to hear from anybody who has any ONUC material for disposal - especially items from Morocco, Liberia, Ethiopia.

As the operation is still active, doubtless new material will continue to turn up, and I hope to supplement this account with any new arrivals in due course.

-oOo-oOo-oOo-oOo-oOo-oOo-oOo-

A FOLLOW-UP (NOV. - DEC., 1964)

Now that the last United Nations soldier has left the Congo, and chaos reigns supreme yet again, it is time to review the situation and bring my notes of 1962 up to date. On the whole, the operation was a success, considering the hostile conditions under which the troops lived and worked, and the language

problems caused by the many national contingents. There was considerable misunderstanding and misinterpretation of orders, but the majority of the contingents came out of the Congo with colours flying very high indeed. At the other end of the scale, certain contingents - who shall be nameless - appeared to be in the Congo for one purpose only - loot! - and I'm informed these could be seen homeward bound loaded down with "liberated" luxuries - refrigerators and television sets amongst them! (Some men have even boasted of saving £10,000 during a three years tour of duty).

The last troops to leave were Nigerians and Canadians, and the last man up the gangway was the six-foot-four Nigerian Force commander, Major-General J.T.U. Aguiyi-Ironsi. Incidentally he was C.O. of the 5th Bn. Queen's Own Nigeria Regt. - the first Nigerian unit to enter the Congo way back in the dark days of 1960. After the end of the Katanga operations, the military era of the O.N.U.C. came to a close. This meant a phased withdrawal of all troops to be completed by June 30th, 1964 - almost four years since the call for help was made - leaving only civilian administrators and four hundred Nigerian policemen behind. Consequently in 1963, the printed stationery of the Force was changed from Organisation des Nations Unies au Congo to Operation des Nations Unies au Congo.

I give details below of covers I have received, and information I have been given in addition to that already set out.

ONUC Headquarters. The rubber handstamp (Fig. 1, Bulletin No. 22) was first used on 6th September 1960 and continued in use right up to the end of June 1964. The machine cancel (Fig. 50, page 19) first came into use on 8th October 1960. At least two types of the hand cancellation are known. In addition to these, an oval double-ring datestamp was used by the UN Base Post Office at Elisabethville (Fig. 51). My earliest is 1st August 1962 and I have only seen it used as a backstamp or administrative cachet.



Argentine By December 1962 the Air Force Detachment was 50 pilots etc. and 2 staff officers. No cachets are known, but the 1962 Christmas card was adorned with a 2fr. Wildlife stamp postmarked Leopoldville on the inside.

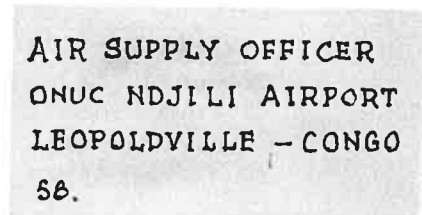
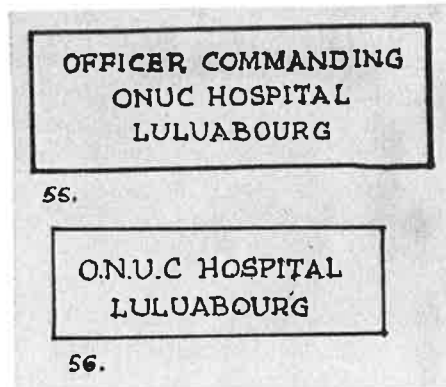
AUSTRIA The Army Medical team was stationed at Stanleyville in April 1962 and two cachets were used (Figs. 52 and 53). When the Indian branch hospital closed down at Luluabourg, the Austrians took it over and four cachets are known to have been used on its mail (Figs. 54-57).

AUSTRIAN MEDICAL CONTINGENT

52.

UN-SANITÄTSKONTINGENT DER
REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH

53.



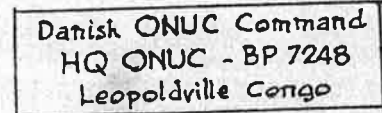
CANADA Canada maintained her contingent of about 300 officers and men right up to the bitter end. A large single-ring rubber cancel reading "CANADIAN ARMY POST OFFICE/ 5046" was used in August 1960. I have not seen one as yet and would be glad of a chance to obtain an example. I did, however, manage to obtain a small number of CFPO 25 with the airport cachet (Fig.58). I have some to dispose of but they're expensive! They are the type without the hyphen between CFPO and 25. A further cover from 57 Sigs. Unit bears a different cachet (Fig. 59) and CAPO 5046 steel.

CEYLON I managed to obtain one cover from Major Withane, C.O. of the Ceylon contingent. It bore Congo adhesives and there was no cachet used. Mail to Ceylon often went via the Indian FPO 660 at Leopoldville.

CONGO The Congolese Army supplied a contingent of 790 officers and men from December 1962 onwards. I have seen no mail from them however.

DENMARK The Danish contingent consisted of 264 officers and men at the beginning of 1963, but this was run down by the end of the year. I've received

a number of covers from the unit and two new cachets have appeared. Fig. 60 on a cover from the M.P.Coy., and Fig. 61 - a new type postal cancel cachet used in June 1964.



61.

GHANA I had the great fortune of meeting the Royal Signals captain who was in charge of the Ghana Signals detachment in the Congo. One of his tasks was organising the mail services, and the incoming mail - usually three or four bags - were collected at the airport and sorted by him and his staff-sergeant. A unit P.O. was soon set up and a system of cancellation of outgoing mail was organised. Firstly it would be stamped with the Ghana Brigade cachet (Fig.10), then the Signals stamp (Fig. 9) was applied. The mail was then sent to Gifford Camp, Accra, where the FPO was applied. Mail to and from the Congo which originated in Ghana bears this postmark and was carried free, and the earliest date I have seen of FPO 1 is July 25th 1960, probably the first day. I have also obtained an official cover bearing the Army Signals stamp LEO-Z (Fig. 63). Ghana maintained a battalion in the Congo until Christmas 1963 - the last unit being the 4th Bn. Ghana Regiment. The Government awarded a medal for service in the Congo, and the ribbon is pale blue with a central scarlet stripe.



63.

INDIA



64.

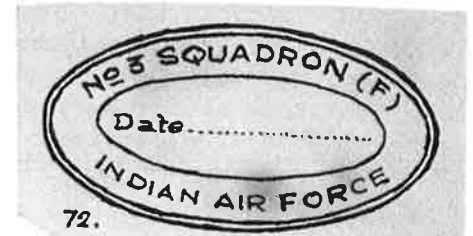
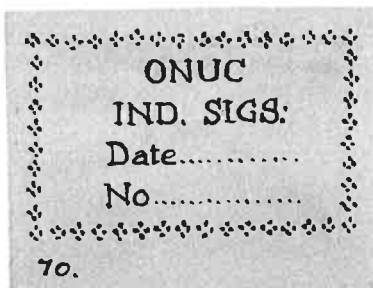
Lt - Colonel
Commanding 152 General Hospital

65.

HEAD CLERK
158 IND. GENERAL HOSPITAL

66.

This country withdrew most of her contingent in March 1963, leaving only 224 administrative personnel behind. These included the hospital staff at Leopoldville, who used at least three cachets (Figs. 64-66). Mail from the hospital was carried via Indian FPO 660. During the early summer of 1962, 99 Infantry Brigade was relieved by the Indian Independent Bde. Group, consisting of 4th Bn. Madras Regt., 4th Bn. Rajputana Rifles, 2/5th Gurkha Rifles and 4th Mahar M/G Regt., supported by 63rd Cavalry. Mail from the HQ at Elizabethville received FPO 716 with a distinctive cachet (Fig.67). Each of the units of the group had its own rubber stamps which were freely applied to mail, but as they were not produced specially for the Congo, I am not illustrating them. The 2/5th Gurkhas incidentally had two VC holders on its strength! Some of my most valued covers of this period are from the 2/5th to members of the British Gurkha Battalion Group then stationed at Tidworth. The Brigade was heavily committed during the Katanga battles of December 1962 - January 1963, against the remnants of Tshombe's mercenary army. After a series of sharp and bloody battles, the Indians captured all the Katanga bases and arrested the guerilla and mercenary troops found in them.



Two scarce postmarks are known to have been in use in the Congo (Figs. 68 and 69). I haven't seen either, but I'm convinced they were used in the Congo, and at the time of writing this account, enquiries are being made as to their period of use etc. I've also been informed of three cachets used on mail from ONUC - these are illustrated in Figs. 70-72, and are self-explanatory.

ETHIOPIA This nation maintained a contingent of over 2,000 right through 1963. During this time an Ethiopian - Lt.Gen. Kebede Guebre - was ONUC Force Commander. I have obtained an internal cover bearing a large cachet in Amharic similar to Fig. 62. Translated, mine reads "GENERAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE TEKIL BRIGADE SENT BY ETHIOPIA TO THE CONGO". On July 23rd 1962, three postage stamps were issued in the "Collective Security" series depicting Ethiopian troops in the Congo.



INDONESIA In late 1962, Indonesia again sent a contingent to the Congo. This time they numbered 3,313 officers and men, and they were withdrawn towards the end of 1963, mainly for political reasons - Malaysia and all that! They were drawn from the Brawidjaja Division and known as Garuda III. Brigade staff and 530 Parachute Bn. arrived December 19th-25th 1962, to be followed by a L.A.A. Bty. on January 15th 1963. The 1st Bn. Raiders followed on 9th-14th March and a Recce Bn. 13th-18th March. During 1963 they were joined by new troops known as Garuda II.

Two cachets are known on mail from the contingent (Figs. 73-74). A distinctive aerogramme was issued to the troops to send to their relations in order for them to qualify for free postage to the Congo. It is printed in blue with the Army Postal Service seal and INDONESIA/ARMY POSTAL SERVICE/AIR LETTER in the top left-hand corner, address headings and INDONESIAN CONTINGENT/ONUC BASE POST OFFICE LEOPOLDVILLE/THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO in the bottom right-hand corner. I have only seen mint specimens and at least one dealer in London had them for sale.

KONTINGEN INDONESIA
GARUDA III
73.



IRAN 46 pilots of the Iranian Air Force arrived in the Congo early in 1963 and stayed through the summer. No cachets have been seen and mail usually received the UN meter cancel U 75. A commemorative postage stamp was later issued by Iran to mark the participation of her forces in the UN cause.

(to be continued)