

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

Bulletin No. 24

July, 1975

NEW MEMBERS

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

Abbe G Gudenkauf, Messrs. P. Foden, T.A. Gunn, P. Halstead, P. Hill, R.B. McGarrity.

Their addresses appear in the list of members attached to this Bulletin.

Mr. Foden was a member some years ago but we lost contact when he moved to South Africa.

Dr. Gallagher has, unfortunately, decided to resign his membership.

THE POST OFFICES OF ZAIRE

Mr. Celis has sent the following corrections and additions:

Bena-Tshadi is now spelt Bena-Tshiadi.  
Leverville is now Lusanga.  
Bukavu 1: add BA Walu; delete Kiniezire and Kabunga, both now closed.  
Mungbere is transferred from Watsa to Isoro.  
Kilomines is renamed Bambomines.  
Inkisi: add BA Kibambi.  
Boende: Mompono is closed.  
Gemena: Kuma is closed.  
Lisala: Busu-Djanoa is closed  
Sentery is now Lubao.

WORLD WAR II CENSORED COVERS OF THE BELGIAN CONGO

Mail from and to the Congo Belge was supposedly censored beginning immediately after the outbreak of World War II. Many covers originating in the Congo and destined for the United States, Great Britain, Canada etc., however, show no indication of Congo censorship but were examined in transit, for instance in Egypt or at the destination country. Incoming letters were usually examined at the country of origin and were also sometimes examined in the Congo. A few covers of the war period show no censor markings.

Of the 151 covers, dated between 6 June, 1940 and 2 February, 1945, used as a basis for this article, only one was for a letter that was local or wholly within the Congo. This letter was from the internment camp at N'Gule and was addressed to Kolwezi. It was censored at Elisabethville. It seems a reasonable assumption that this was a special case and that ordinary mail, not intended to leave the country, was not censored.

The censoring of letters to and from the Congo was apparently a rather haphazard operation. No documentation has been available in the preparation of this paper and the data that follow represent conclusions (or guesses) drawn from the study of the covers in the author's collection together with those made

available through the kindness of Mr. R.H. Keach, Hon. Sec. of the Study Circle and Mr. R.E. Jacquemin, Editor of the 'Arizona Philatelist'.

One of the requirements for letters leaving the country was that the language of the contents should be noted on the envelope. Only a minority of the covers studied, however, bore such an inscription and there is no discernable pattern to indicate if the inscription or the lack of it had any influence on whether or not a letter was to be examined by the censor. There is nothing to indicate who did the examining - the military or the postal authorities or, perhaps, some special personnel - but it is probable that the locale was the post office. Wherever it was, they were known as Censor Bureaus. There were seventeen Censor Bureaus set up at the following locations:

Aba	Costermansville	Libenge	Usumbura
Albertville	Elisabethville	Lusambo	Watsa
Boma	Irumu	Matadi	
Buta	Kindu	Stanleyville	
Colquihatville	Leopoldville	Tshikapa	

When a letter was passed by the censor, if it had been opened, it was re-sealed, and sometimes a handstamped inscription was applied in addition to the seal. If a letter had not been opened, a handstamped inscription was applied. Some of these handstamps included the name of the Censor Bureau. When a seal was used, it was almost invariably tied to the cover by a postmark canceller which also identified the Censor Bureau.

Sometimes, a large numeral (1,2,3, etc.) as illustrated was also added, either on the cover itself or on the sealing tape and this we may assume identified the individual examiner. One special form of this numeral identification has been found on a cover with a military cancellation No. 101, which was used by the Congo forces in Ethiopia. The cover was first censored by a British censor, probably in Sudan. Over the British censor mark is the Congo Belge censor sealing tape, tied to the cover by the 'CENSURE 15 CONGO BELGE' handstamp. There is no way to tell where this was applied but, since the cover bears a transit cancellation of Kindu Port Empain, which was a Censor Bureau, the cover may have been censored there or else at the destination, Albertville, which also was a Censor Bureau.

**30**

CENSURE

**15**

CONGO BELGE

The whole operation was, as said before, a rather haphazard procedure and there are many instances where a letter was posted in a town that had a Censor Bureau but was not censored there and was opened in transit in another town, usually Leopoldville. Nineteen of the covers in this study originated in the Congo but were not censored at all until they were examined en route: to the United States, 3 by the U.S., 2 by Great Britain, 4 by Egypt, 4 by the Union of South Africa and one by Gold Coast; five to other destinations received similar treatment. Apparently, the censoring authorities of Great Britain, Egypt, Union of South Africa and the United States had little confidence in Congolese censorship for

more than half the covers that had supposedly been examined in the Congo were opened en route whether or not they had been opened previously. Of sixteen incoming letters to the Congo, five were not opened by Congolese censors and ten were, although five of these latter had been examined in the country of origin. One registered cover was not censored at all, perhaps because it was franked with official stamps of the Union of South Africa.

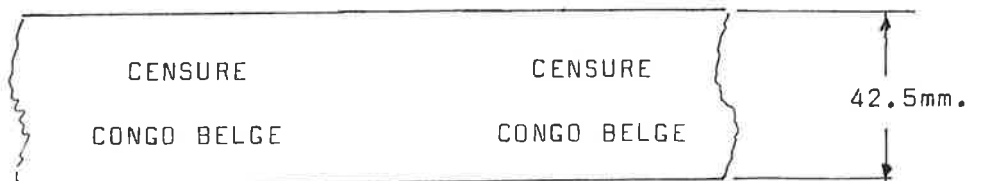
One interesting cover received the maximum treatment. Originating in Angola and addressed to Belgium during the period when Belgium was occupied by the Germans, it was first censored by the Portuguese, then opened again at Leopoldville, then in Cairo by the Egyptian censor and finally in Belgium by the German occupation army with a seal and a handstamp.

How and to what extent was censored correspondence examined? It is obvious, of course, that if the envelope had been opened and re-sealed, the contents had been scrutinized. But forty-five of the covers that were passed by the censor showed no sign of having been opened. (Some of these, however, are No. 12 envelopes with a large part of the cover cut away at the left side, and it may be that the part removed included a seal, indicating that the letter had been opened. These covers have a handstamp indicating that the letter had been passed by censor). It may be that the letters were brought to the post office unsealed so that they might be inspected there, or even that they were posted unsealed. Either seems to be an unsatisfactory arrangement, especially if the letter was posted at a village that did not have a Censor Bureau. And if this procedure was followed, did the censor seal the envelope by moistening the flap? Or could it be that some were certified just on faith where the writer was known to the authorities? We probably will never know for, if this had been the practice, it is doubtful if anyone would admit it.

Classification of Censor Markings

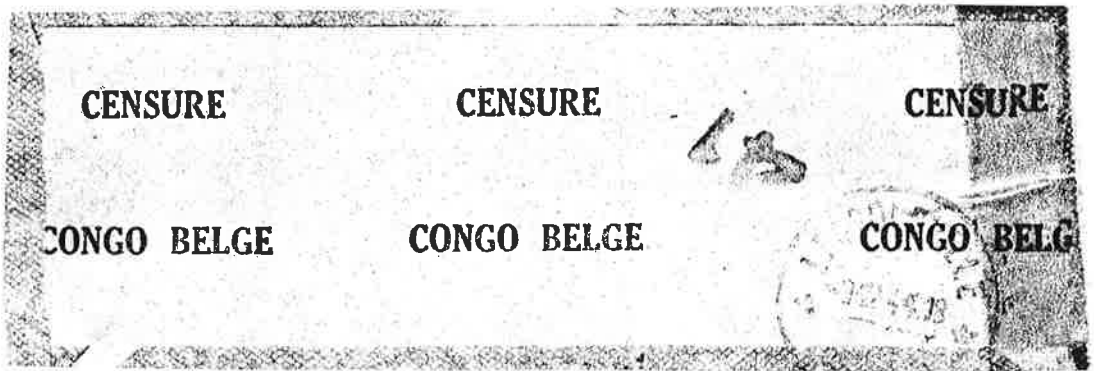
Censored mail by Congo examiners may be divided into two major categories: letters that were opened and resealed by the examiner and those that were apparently not opened but bear a handstamped imprint indicating that the letter had been passed by censor. Letters that were opened and resealed with strips of plain white or brown paper inscribed with or tied by one of the several handstamps are not considered separate types, nor are combinations of two or more indications of censorship. The covers bearing the handstamps fall into two groups: those that do not include the name of the town in the inscription (Types B and C) and those that do include the name (Types E, F, G and H).

Type A



Type A was a printed slip, probably issued as a continuous coil, folded at the centre and applied at one end or the other and then tied to the cover by a

postmark, usually on the back, identifying the Censor Bureau, with or without the individual identifying numeral. Eighteen of the covers have seals bearing enough of three inscriptions to show that the spacing alternated approximately 50mm. and 60mm. The clear space between the words 'CENSURE' was normally 30.8mm. or 40.7mm (both plus or minus 0.2mm, probably due to scratching or shrinkage of the paper). The space between the words 'CONGO BELGE', similarly, was 29.1mm. or 18.5mm, subject to the same plus or minus variation. The lettering is the old Columbian type, with serifs, with a type face approximately 3.5mm high (the American equivalent would be 18 point). Three variations have been noted. Type Aa has spacing between the words 'CENSURE' of 38.2 and 32.2mm. and between the words 'CONGO BELGE' of 29.0 and 18.6mm. Type Ab is the same as Type Aa except that the down strokes of the letters are noticeably thinner. Type Ac, a major variation seen used only at Watsa, has an entirely different type face, distinguished by much wider letters, particularly the C's, G's and O's.



Type A (normally folded down the middle)

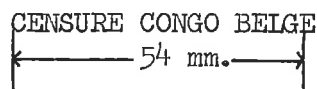


Type Ab

Handstamped Censor Markings

In the following list, Types Ba, Bb and Bc differ only in the length of the inscriptions and, in the case of Bc, the shape of the letters. There may be others of this type with different shaped letters.

Type Ba



Type Bb

CENSURE CONGO BELGE  
← 56mm. →

Type Bc

CENSURE CONGO BELGE  
← 52mm →

Type Bd

« CENSURE CONGO BELGE »

Type C

Censure Congo Belge

Type D

« PASSE CENSURE ALBERTVILLE »  
« PASSE CENSURE ELISABETHVILLE »

Type E

Passé Censure ALBERTVILLE

Type Ea

Passé Censure ELISABETHVILLE  
← 58½mm. →

Type Eb

Passé Censure ELISABETHVILLE  
← 63mm. →

Type Fa

↔ Passé Censure Irumu ↔ (in red)

Type Fb

↔ Passé Censure Irumu N°. 1-

Type G

Passé par censure  
à ABA (Congo Belge)

Type H

CENSURE DU CONGO BELGE  
BUREAU DU BUTA



Type Ba



Type Bc



Type Bd



Type C



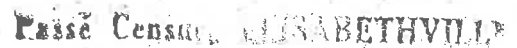
Type D



Type E



Type Ea



Type Eb



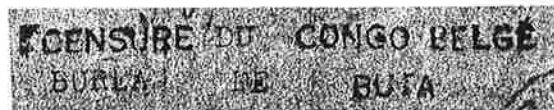
Type Fa



Type Fb



Type G



Type H

The various types have been seen used at the following Censor Bureaus:

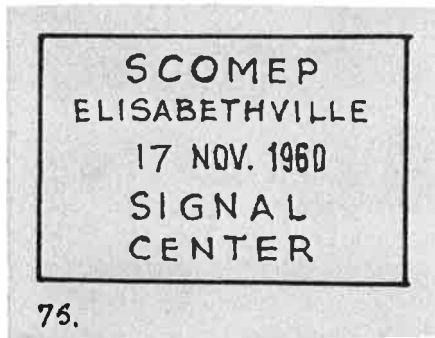
- A All bureaus except Aba, Buta and Watsa.
- Aa Stanleyville.
- Ab Watsa.
- Ba Boma, Coquilhatville, Costermansville, Elisabethville, Irumu, Leopoldville, Matadi, Stanleyville, Usumbura and Watsa.
- Bb Elisabethville.
- Bc Matadi.
- Bd Costermansville.
- C Elisabethville
- D Albertville and Elisabethville.
- E Albertville.
- Ea Elisabethville.
- Eb Elisabethville.
- Fa Irumu.
- Fb Irumu.
- G Aba.
- H Buta

The foregoing has been based on deductions from a limited number of samples and an almost complete lack of published data. It is recognised that the various listings may not be complete and any additional information and/or corrections will be appreciated.

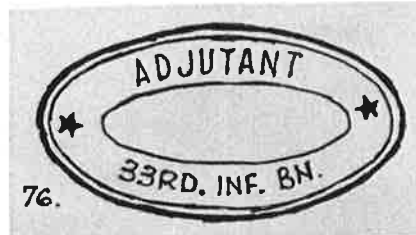
A. I. Heim

THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION IN THE CONGO (O.N.U.C.)

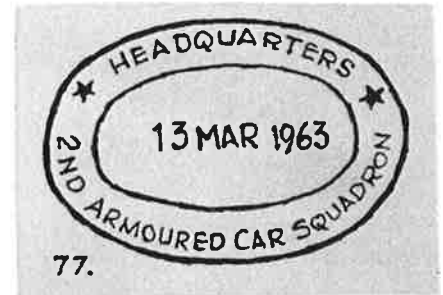
(continued from Bulletin No. 23)

IRELAND

76.



76.



77.

By early 1963 there were almost 900 Irish troops with the ONUC but these were nearly halved by the end of the year.

32nd. I have a cover bearing an Irish stamp, cancelled with the oval unit cachet, another bearing Katangan adhesives postmarked at Baudouinville and a third with no stamps but bearing the Dublin Paid stamp in red (Fig. 23).

33rd. Two different covers since my original article, both bearing Katangan overprints with the two different cachets, Figs. 75 and 76.

37th. This battalion relieved the 36th. during June, 1962. The cachet is similar to Fig. 21 but reads 37TH INF. BN.

38th. Flown out by the USAF early in November, 1962, and almost immediately saw action in Katanga. Over half the battalion had previous Congo experience; they all wore a new type red and black flash with the legend '38TH INF. BATT.' to help identification by other UN units. I have two items from the unit, one a UN aerogramme and the other a green Irish aerogramme, both bearing the meter cancel and 38th. cachet which is Fig. 22.

39th. The 39th. flew out in US Globemasters on 10 April 1963 and were based at Kolwezi, Katanga. Within a month, they were in action against the fleeing mercenaries and gendarmes. They returned to Ireland in October 1963. The two covers I have both bear the unit rubber stamp - similar to the 38th. - and one is posted at Kolwezi, the other at Leopoldville.

2nd. Armoured Car Squadron. The 100 officers and men flew out from Dublin on 24 October 1962 by Sabena. They were specially requested by the UN and took over the armoured cars which had been used by the Malaysians - using them to great effect in the Katanga battles of 1962-63. The unit produced a Christmas card for 1962 depicting the unit emblem - a mailed fist grasping the cross of St. James. Mail from them bore a distinctive cachet (Fig. 77).

2nd. Infantry Group. These took over from the 39th. Battalion but I was unable to obtain covers from them. I understand that they used a cachet similar to Fig. 22.



A 'must' for all students of the Congo operations is 'The Fighting Irish in the Congo' by Raymond Smith and available from Little & McClean, Langrishe Place, Summerhill, Dublin.

ITALY

The Air Force detachment at Ndjili airport returned home in June, 1962, leaving only the Italian Red Cross Hospital in operation in Elisabethville.

MALAYA

By April 1963, Malaya had only 12 men left in the ONUC - the balance being sent home since Christmas 1962 because of the border dispute with Indonesia. The 2nd. Bn. Royal Malay Regt. and the 2nd. Recce Regt. sailed for the Congo on board USNS General Blatchford on 16 June 1962. They were stationed at Goma and their mail was routed from Leopoldville to London and thence to Malaya, taking nearly a month in transit. A locally produced Christmas card was used in 1962, depicting the UN emblem in black-and-white and the regimental title. The 7th. Bn. was also in the Congo at the same time and used a MALAYAN SPECIAL FORCE cachet similar to Fig. 27 but larger and with seriffed letters.

MOROCCO

Two new cachets have come to light, Figs. 78 and 79, but I have yet to obtain a cover from this contingent.



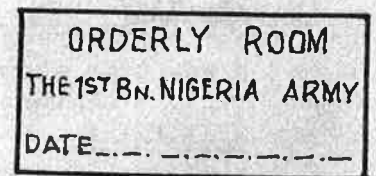
78.



79.

NETHERLANDS

A Dutch Red Cross team took over the Indian Hospital in Leopoldville in May or June, 1963. No cachets were used but the unit used envelopes bearing a Red Cross with AIRMAIL below it, and the legend THE NETHERLANDS RED CROSS SOCIETY/HOSPITAL TEAM CONGO.

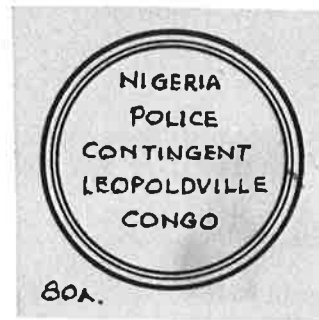


80.

NIGERIA

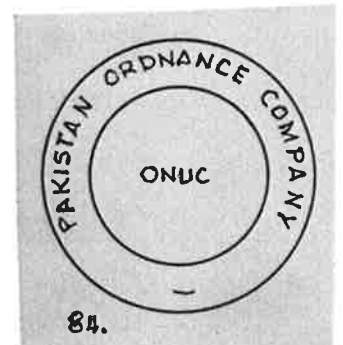
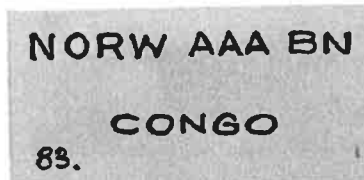
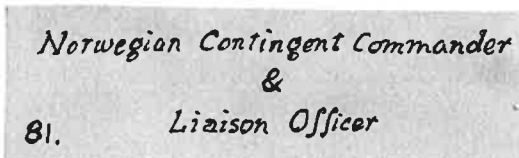
The 3rd. Bn. Queen's Nigeria Regt. was in the Congo at Christmas 1962 and used the cachet Fig. 29. Twelve months then went before my next cover arrived, this time from 1st. Bn. Nigeria Army and bearing the cachet, Fig. 80, as well as Fig. 33 with the 'ROYAL' cut away.

A 400 strong Nigerian civil police contingent has remained in Leopoldville until the Congolese Police Force was capable of running its own affairs. Although it was in the Congo from the very beginning, I have seen only one cachet from the contingent (Fig. 80A) struck in red.



NORWAY

After considerable trouble, I managed to obtain a cover bearing the Norwegian cachet (Fig. 81) and another bearing the NORCO stamp. Fig. 82. An anti-aircraft battalion, some 460 strong, was also at Kamina and used a cachet as Fig. 83.



PAKISTAN

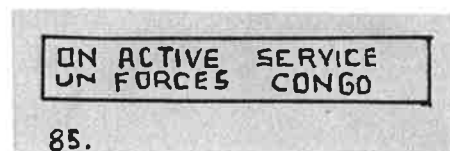
A new type stamp appeared on the 1963 Christmas card (Fig. 84).

PHILIPPINES

An air detachment of 77 arrived early in 1963 but stayed only a few months. No details or cachets are yet known.

SIERRA LEONE

'B' Coy., 1st. Bn. Royal Sierra Leone Regt. arrived in the Congo in January, 1962 and was relieved by 'C' Coy. during the summer, the contingent finally returning to Sierra Leone in February, 1963. In addition to company rubber stamps, my covers have a distinctive cachet (Fig. 85) which was a home-made affair. The contingent wore its normal blue palm tree flash in addition to the UN arm patch.



SUDAN

Another cachet has come to light, Fig. 86 but I have seen only a photostat of it.



SWEDEN

Sweden's contribution of troops, airmen and technical personnel reached over a thousand officers and men during 1963, and consequently quite a range of postmarks came to light. Type 39 now exists with A, B or C at the bottom, and the registration label reads SVENSKA FN - BATALJONEN/KONGO. The Technical Group had at least three cancels (Figs. 87-89). I have also been sent a tracing of a different type of 'Bataljonen' cancel (Fig. 90). Would welcome information on this. An oval date-stamp in violet was applied to the reverse of a re-directed item in my collection (Fig. 91) and the contingent commander used a very attractive cachet (Fig. 92).



TUNISIA

Another cachet, Fig. 93, has come to light, from the 9th. Tunisian Bn.

UNITED STATES

Although no ground forces were committed, U.S.A. did provide air and sea transportation facilities. The main trooper was USNS General R.M. Blatchford (10,034 tons), which transported most of the Far East contingents to Mombasa. I have no covers from her but a straight-line cachet is known.

This concludes my series on the Congo operation and I would like to thank the members who have helped and encouraged me in producing it, notably Miss Betty Miller and Fred Patka who have both taken the trouble to send me details of their own vast collections. No study of this nature would be complete without the co-operation of the many serving officers and men of many nationalities who were kind enough to service my covers, sometimes under great difficulty. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to them wherever they may be. This was a fair sized undertaking and no doubt errors and omissions exist. I would be glad to hear from anyone who can add to these notes in any way at all.

(Concluded)

#### THE 'FLOWERS' ISSUE

In Bulletin No. 21, Mr. Vindevoghel disclosed his discovery of a coloured grille pattern on the face of some copies of the 'Flowers'. He has found it on 25c, 60c and 3F values, all Congo. The Hon. Secretary has found such a grille pattern on 2F, 3F, 4F and 8F values, all Congo.

Careful study of more than fifteen thousand copies produced only one with this curiosity. If the copies were previously 'unsorted', this would indicate that stamps with the grille are decidedly scarce.

#### THE 25c 'MALINES' SURCHARGE

Very little has been written about the 1922 'Malines' surcharges, in fact the only detailed study we have been able to find in the literature is in General Du Four's book 'Congo - Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postale'.

In the book, the General considered each value and came to the conclusion that, in the cases of the 10c, 30c and 50c values, the surcharging plates were made up of five similar cliches of 10 units (5 wide by 2 high) and that for each value there were two or more different plates used. For the stamps with the 'Est Africain' overprint, generally similarly composed but different surcharging plates were used and, in this case, the 25c plate also was prepared from cliches of 10 (5X2). In the case of the 5c, both with and without the 'Est Africain' overprint, the surcharging plates each comprised ten similar cliches of 5 units (a horizontal strip). For the 25c Congo, however, there were blocks of 25 surcharges each made up of five similar cliches of 5 units (a horizontal strip) and there were four such blocks. To make up a surcharging plate of 50 impressions, two of the blocks were clamped together and, for various printings, different pairs of blocks were utilised and not always in the same positions, upper or lower.

Although with a very limited number of complete sheets to study, we have had doubts about some of the General's conclusions on these surcharges and greatly welcomed the recent opportunity to have assembled together three complete sheets and one nearly complete sheet of the 25/40c Congo and to compare the surcharges one with another and with the descriptions in the General's book.

General Du Four used as his criteria for identifying the cliches and blocks the horizontal spaces between adjacent surcharges and the variations from the horizontal in a horizontal row of five impressions in the sheet. Horizontal spacing of surcharges is measured from the right side of a right dot to the left side of the left dot of the next surcharge to the right, i.e. the gap between adjacent surcharges. Vertical spacings are from the top of the left dot of one stamp to the top of the left dot on the stamp immediately beneath. Horizontal alignment is ascertained by placing a transparent straight-edge horizontally

from a surcharge in the left column to that in the right column and judging the relative heights of the surcharges in the intermediate columns.

The General gave his dimensions to the nearest half-millimeter. We have endeavoured to measure to the nearest 0.1mm. It is appreciated that the surcharges have a very rough outline, presumably due to too fluid ink, and accuracy to less than 0.2mm. is too optimistic but something like 0.2mm. is achievable.

The 'Sheet Nos.' given below are the serial numbers handstamped on the sheets themselves and simply serve as a means of identification. In the case of 'Sheet No. ?', the serial number was, with that part of the selvedge, missing, as were some stamps so that certain dimensions, marked with a question mark, could not be ascertained.

We are adding to the criteria, the vertical spacing of surcharges; because it is not constant from row to row, the horizontal spacing of both the top and bottom rows of the half sheet are recorded.

The columns headed A, B, C and D are, for horizontal spacing, respectively the distances, in millimeters, between the surcharges of the 1st. (left) and 2nd. vertical columns, 2nd. and 3rd., 3rd. and 4th. and 4th. and 5th. (right) vertical columns; for vertical spacing, between 1st. (top) and 2nd., 2nd. and 3rd., 3rd. and 4th. and 4th. and 5th. (bottom) horizontal lines of the half sheet.

<u>Du Four, Block a</u>	A	B	C	D
Horizontal spacing	28	27	28	28½
Horizontal alignment	2nd and 3rd stamps, surcharge high			
 <u>Du Four, Block b</u>				
Horizontal spacing	28	28	27½	28
Horizontal alignment	2nd stamp low, 4th stamp high			
 <u>Du Four, Block c</u>				
Horizontal spacing	28	27½	28	28
Horizontal alignment	3rd stamp high			
 <u>Du Four, Block d</u>				
Horizontal spacing	27½	28	27½	27½
Horizontal alignment	perfectly aligned			
 <u>Sheet No. 154, Top Half</u>				
Top row, horizontal spacing	27.5	28.4	27.4	28.0
Bottom row (5th), horizontal spacing	27.3	28.8	27.1	28.1
Vertical spacing	24.9	23.0	24.8	24.2
Horizontal alignment	3rd and 4th stamps high			
 <u>Sheet No. 154, Bottom Half</u>				
Top row (6th), horizontal spacing	28.1	28.0	27.5	27.7
Bottom row, horizontal spacing	27.8	27.8	28.0	27.6
Vertical spacing	24.9	23.0	24.8	24.1
Horizontal alignment	2nd stamp a little low			

<u>Sheet No. 489, Top Half</u>	A	B	C	D
Top row, horizontal spacing	27.7	27.6	29.0	28.2
Bottom row, horizontal spacing	28.0	28.0	28.0	27.7
Vertical spacing	24.5	24.6	24.7	24.5
Horizontal alignment		2nd stamp very high		

<u>Sheet No. 489, Bottom Half</u>	A	B	C	D
Top row, horizontal spacing	27.9	28.0	28.8	27.5
Bottom row, horizontal spacing	28.6	28.3	28.0	27.0
Vertical spacing	24.4	24.5	24.5	24.5
Horizontal alignment		3rd stamp high		

<u>Sheet No. 486, Top Half</u>	A	B	C	D
Top row, horizontal spacing	27.2	28.2	28.0	28.1
Bottom row, horizontal spacing	28.0	27.9	28.0	28.2
Vertical spacing	24.5	24.5	24.6	24.5
Horizontal alignment		2nd stamp low		

<u>Sheet No. 486, Bottom Half</u>	A	B	C	D
Top row, horizontal spacing	28.3	28.0	28.5	27.2
Bottom row, horizontal spacing	28.6	28.0	27.6	28.6
Vertical spacing	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.6
Horizontal alignment		2nd and 4th stamps very low		

<u>Sheet No. ?, Top Half</u>	A	B	C	D
Top row, horizontal spacing	27.2	27.8	27.8	?
Bottom row, horizontal spacing	27.8	27.5	27.7	28.7
Vertical spacing	24.8	?	25.0	24.2
Horizontal alignment		3rd and 4th stamps little high, 2nd low		

<u>Sheet No. ?, Bottom Half</u>	A	B	C	D
Top row, horizontal spacing	27.5	27.4	27.3	28.0
Bottom row, horizontal spacing	27.0	27.6	28.0	28.6
Vertical spacing	25.0	23.1	25.0	24.1
Horizontal alignment		2nd, 3rd and 4th stamps low		

A glance at the foregoing figures makes it evident that no top or bottom half sheet is anything like identical with any other. It is most unlikely that there were so many different surcharging blocks and, if there were, that, by chance, we happened to have in the sheets examined so many different with no duplication.

Constant features are a) for any one half sheet, the horizontal alignment of each of the five rows is the same.

b) the vertical spacing of both halves of Sheet No. 154 and Sheet No. ? are all the same within 0.2mm.

c) the vertical spacing of both halves of Sheets Nos. 486 and 489 are all the same within 0.2mm.

The constancy of the alignment for a half sheet indicates that the surcharging plates were not made up of individual cliches that were 'floating' in the frame, as we found for two of the overprinting plates of the 'Est Africain' overprint.

b) above may well indicate that Sheets Nos. 154 and ? were surcharged with the same plate; c) that Sheets 486 and 489 came from the same surcharging plate.

Clearly, the stamps were gummed before they were surcharged and variations in the dimensions due to differential paper shrinkage is hardly believable. What explanation can there be for these variations? We have no ideas and will be glad of suggestions from someone with knowledge of printing or from someone with a more fertile imagination.

RHK

#### FORGED CANCELLATIONS

The article on the forged 'small circle' cancellations of Banana in the last issue of the Bulletin evoked some little interest but, on reflection, the inclusion of such an article was probably unwise. The introduction of members to the fascinating study of the forged postmarks would better have been effected more gradually rather than pitching immediately into the deepest end - not quite the deepest, Boma would have been worse.

In an effort to rectify this error of judgement and, I hope, to encourage a study of the cancels, it will be best to start at the beginning and make a simpler list of the forged cancellations of the country.

There are basically two types of forged canceller, the simpler, and fortunately the more common, with a fixed date and time, and the more complicated, simulating the proper post office date stamps, with adjustable date and time.

Several copies of each of the following forged cancellations have been seen and always with the same date and time and it is presumed that the date and time data were fixed. Any examples of such cancellations should be treated with the utmost reserve although it is appreciated that genuine cancels with the same date and time, in most cases, exist.

#### 'Small Circle' Cancellations

Banana: 2 MARS 8-M 1896; 18 MAI 10-M 189?.

Bena-Bendi: 2 MARS ? ?; 15 MAI 3-S ?.

Boma: 11 AOUT 7-S 1886; 3 OCTO 8-M 1886; 13 OCTO 2-S 1887; 7 AVRIL 7-M 1889;  
3 FEV 9-M 1892; 5 AVRIL 5-S 1892; 8-9 9 VI 1892; 28 JANV 8-M 1895;  
2 MARS 9-M 1896; 30 MAI 4-S 1897; 15 JANV 3-S 1898; 12 OCTO 16-17 1910;  
25 AVRIL 10-M ? ; 17 JANV 95 (no time); 16 11 M (no month or year);  
any with 17 for the day and 12-M for the time to be treated with suspicion.

Buta: 9 DECE 11-12 1910.

Dima: 11 SEPT ? ?.

Elisabethville: 3-4 20 JANV 1924.

Irebu: 12 AVRIL 15-16 1913.

Kinshasa: 12 JUIL 14-15 1912.

Leopoldville 20 JUIN 9-M 1900; 23 FEVR 11-M ?; 2 MAI 9-M ?;

Lukungu: 26 MARS 3-S 1898.

Matadi: 11 JANV 3-S 1895; 4 JUIL 7-M 1895; 13 JUIL 11-M 1895; 10 SEPT 5-S 1895;  
FEVR 21 11-M 1897; 23 DECE 11-M 1897; 8 JUIL 6-7 ?.

Nouvelle-Anvers: 30 DECE 3-S 1896.

Stanleyville: 13 MARS 8-9 1912.

'Large Circle' Cancellations

Irumu: 28.2.3=7.

Sakania: 20.8.3017

Large Circle with 'POSTES' Cancellations

Charlesville: 21.8. 26-9.

Coquilhatville: 7.9.27.11.

Tshikapa: 10.2.35 11.

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THE CANCELLATIONS OF THE NORMAL POST OFFICES

For those members who have a copy of the preprint of the above, Addenda and Corrigenda No. 2 is attached.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Wood has invited us to his house on Saturday, November 8th.

LES TIMBRES DU CONGO SURCHARGES A BOMA EN 1922-1923

This is an excellent monograph by the Abbe Gudenkauf on the four stamps with the Boma surcharges. Of particular value are illustrations of the varieties peculiar to each surcharging plate. Copies are available either from the author or from the Hon. Secretary.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PERIODICALS

La Revue Postale Nos. 91 & 92 - Congo Belge 1909 - Roland Ingels. Describes, with enlarged illustrations, the sixteen CONGO BELGE handstamps and gives estimates of their relative rarity.

Balasse Magazine Nos. 217-219 - Historique de l'emploi des marques de censure, pendant la Campagne de l'Afrique Orientale Allemande 1914-1918 - Dr. R. De Graeve. Gives a very good history of the allied campaign with illustrations of covers bearing military cancellations and censor markings.

Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin Vol. 1 Nos. 3 & 4 - Belgian Congo Censorship in World War Two. Describes the sealing tape and mentions several of the censor handstamps.