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BULLETIN 98



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PETER S. FODEN

Sadly, Peter Foden, after fighting cancer for more than two years, died on September the 28th.

This is the greatest loss to the Study Circle in its 45 years of existence. Peter joined us, I think, in 1961 and was probably the youngest member who, at that time, we had. In sequence he was Bulletin Editor, Secretary/Treasurer for many years, and President; he was a member of the Expert Committee from its inception. In addition he gave me great help in 'general sales', always being prepared to spend hours plating Mols stamps sent for sale, and not only those for sale but those of members starting on the plating activity.

He was a keen and most perceptive student of the stamps and postal history of the Congo. He wrote some of the best articles that have appeared in our Bulletin (one of which was the lead article in the Journal of the American Philatelic Society) sometimes on subjects not previously studied in depth. His powers of perception led to at least four major discoveries requiring major alterations to the combinations of plates of the Mols stamps, discoveries which should have been made years earlier by those who had the material to make them.

His father died while Peter was still at school and he was unable to go to University as had been intended. He always regretted this and, when approaching the age of 50, he decided to take a seven-year part-time course in history with the Open University and he pursued this with enthusiasm even during his prolonged illness. Because of his inability to leave the house he took examinations with a university invigilator in attendance at home. It was only in the last few weeks of his life that he lacked the strength to continue his studies.

Such was the quality of the friend we have lost.

Our thoughts are with Marge, his widow, whom some of us have come to know well.

RHK

NEW MEMBERS

We continue to expand our international membership and we welcome the following new members:

Jerry Blair
Wappa Dam Road
Yandina QLD
Australia
45C1
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1070 Brussels
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Netherlands

SEPTEMBER 1995 MEETING

A meeting at Weston-super-mare was held jointly with the Belgian Study Circle on 16th/17th September although the weather was good the numbers of our members were dwarfed by the large turn out from the Belgian Study Circle. However with two local members supplementing our numbers, we were able to present some very good displays.

(The writer must admit that his main memory of Weston was not philatelic, but watching children enjoying Donkey rides on the firm sands. Happy days.)

A few notes on the shows:

Norman Clowes opened the proceeding with a display of Congo airmails. The attractions of this restricted field were several: it is a self-contained branch of postal history (about 1920 to 1960 for most collectors); there are still gaps in our

knowledge; there is no shortage of first flights and commercial mail; and the chance to study that there is more to the subject than just the early LARA flights and the later SABENA.

The speaker commented that the field reminded him of Caesar's Gaul, divided into three parts. The first (1920/21), and short lived, route from Kinshasa to Stanleyville was effected in three stages, as was the next (1925/27) route from Kinshasa (by now = Leopoldville postally) to Elisabethville. The whole of Congo airmail history could be split into three (1920/2, 1925/34, and 1935 onwards) or-at the speakers unconventional suggestion--into partly overlapping (1) 1920-34; (2) 1931 onwards for mail connecting with Imperial Airways routes through neighboring countries and; (3) 1935 onwards regular services to Europe.

The display covered most of the sections just mentioned although Mr. Clowes expressed regret of his lack of 1920/21 material.

In particular, emphasis was laid on collecting mail addressed to the Congo (apart from that originating in Belgium) less easily found as well as the more conventional material from the country.

Being a strong believer in the value of literature as an aid to understating, Clowes indicated how books showing e.g. other countries' tariffs, air mail cachets in general, wartime censorship, 1931-39 Imperial Airways flights in great detail... could increase our understanding of the covers in our hands. Naturally, the old favourites (Godinas, Henin et al) were still essential for reference but new publications were available. Particular mention was made of the 1994 book on air mail tariffs and rules 'De Luchrechten & de Bepalingen betreffende de Luchtpost. Het Luchtpostvervoer tussen Belgie & Belgisch-Congo 1920-1940' by Francois Broekaert. (and of course see previous issues of the *Bulletin for excellent articles on Belgian Congo Air Line routes--editor*)

The Laurence Green description of his display of CONGO BELGE Local Handstamps follows:

"An almost endless subject, particularly the Postal Stationery, of which more later.

The 7 types of Handstamp are well-known, the No 8 type is rare--I thought I had a complete No. 8 set, but all fell by the wayside, and I could only show a complete set of No. 8 forgeries.

One or two obvious points--each type of handstamp can appear on 15 stamps, when you take into account the two types of 5 centimes and 25 centimes, and the two distinct shades of 15 centimes, 50 centimes and 5 Francs.

I listed the many perforation varieties, drawing on the lists in Brian Hudson's Plating articles. There are at least 3 perf varieties of each value, except the 3,50F (just perf 14), the 10F (perf 12 and perf 14) and the 1F (violet and lilac). I am of the opinion that there are a few more perforation varieties to be found.

As a result there are at least 230 combinations of Congo Belge Local Handstamps *excluding* Balasse varieties and Tax Surcharges. Certainly there are plenty to look for.

I also showed a selection of blocks of four used and unused, and some of the doubled, misplaced, diagonal, reversed, violet and blue handstamps (the blue uncommon--mostly on C4). I warn all to beware reversed or unusual surcharges on higher values in particular--I have many forgeries.

In addition I showed the rare local handstamps on 1F, 5F and 10F of the 1921 Récuperation Issue.

And now to handstamps on Postal Stationery (the numbers used are taken from Stibbe)--recorded on 12 cards--effectively only 10 and No 20 is very rare and No 28 has never been seen. Nos. 21-25 were issued 1/1/09 and withdrawn 1/1/11. The second set of Nos 29-33 were issued 1/4/10 to align with the new U.P.U. tariffs and withdrawn Jan/APR 1916. Nos. 29, 31 and 32 were

revalued by the addition of "5" on 31 and 32 and "10" on 29.

Certain cards had a boxed CONGO BELGE handstamp on ETAT INDEPENDANT and examples were shown on nos. 31 and 32.

The 7 local handstamps are found on most of the cards--many are rare. I have only found 50% of the handstamps recorded in Stibbe notwithstanding that I have been searching for more than 30 years. These cards, in addition to the 7 types of handstamps, show other varieties viz:

- a. several shades of the cards;
- b. two types of the "5" and "10";
- c. 4 types of CARTE POSTALE INCOMPLETE surcharges;
- d. wavy lines in different shades and positions.

Cards frequently appeared understamped, as stamps had been removed also there were several examples of overstriking on cards used after the postal rates were reduced on March 3, 1913.

Interestingly the handstamp CONGO BELGE was more carefully applied to the cards than to the stamps--there exist only a few examples of misplaced etc. handstamps on the cards. When stamps were added to the cards, particularly later on, the handstamp on the stamp rarely was the same type as the handstamp on the card.

I have left out much detail on the Postal Stationery as I hope to prepare an article on the subject for a 1996 Bulletin."

The Mols presentation by R H Keach will be discussed in the March Bulletin.

Also at the meeting a fine presentation of the Idols issue, including many blocks and multiples, was made by Monsieur Van Der Veken.

SECRETARY'S NOTES-1996 MEETINGS

1. ~~1~~ January 1996--Thursday 25th

The first meeting to coincide with STAMPEX will be held at the home of Brian Hudson--92 Oakley St. London SW3 5NR (Telephone 0171-352-5265) at 1400

hours. No formal program is scheduled but it is hoped that our host will show us some of his collections and, perhaps, some of the Belgian members attending STAMPEX will also bring displays.

2. 4 May 1996 Saturday

Meeting at the home of L. G. Green 29 New Road Esher Surrey KT10 9 PG (Telephone 01372- 463101). This will be the Annual General Meeting, and will include approval of the accounts to 31 December 1995 (to be published in the March Bulletin) election of officers. Please forward nominations to the Secretary. Office holders are reminded to submit annual reports to the Secretary before February 28, 1995 so that they might be published in the March Bulletin.

3. 7 Sept. through 9 Sept. 1996

Our joint week-end meeting with the Belgian Study Circle at the SWALLOW HOTEL, PETERBOROUGH. More details about this meeting will appear in the March Bulletin

L. G. Green

MRS. HILDA JEIDEL

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Hilda Jeidel, a member for many years although, she being resident in Cape Town, South Africa, we saw her at our meetings only once.

Her main philatelic interest was Monaco for which collection she obtained several international gold medals. Her second preference was Israel and Belgian Congo her third but of that she had a formidable collection including the three Mols stamps with centre inverted including the 10c blue--on cover. She also had a most impressive assemblage of covers from the Lado Enclave.

She represented us in displaying Belgian Congo at the "Rare Stamps of the World" Exhibition in London this July and my great regret is that I was unable to visit that exhibition and meet Hilda once again. She died shortly after her return from that exhibition. She went out in a blaze of glory which is exactly what she would have wished.

RHK

FORGERIES AND FAKES

A "forgery" by definition, is a counterfeit-a false creation of an existing item (contrefaçon). L. N. Williams in his "Fundamentals of Philately" points out that it occurs "as a fraudulent imitation of stamp designs, overprints, surcharges and cancellations.

Two main categories exist: postal forgeries, that is, forgeries made with the intention of defrauding the revenue; and philatelic forgeries, that is, forgeries made with the object of defrauding collectors." In general we are concerned with the latter forgery.

Certainly these abound in the stamps of the Belgian Congo--most notably in the Portrait issues, the host of forged overprints easily found in the Elisabethville issue, the many in the Colis Postaux overprints and in the CONGO BELGE and 1921 overprints, among others. Our members have been warned in these pages to submit for expert opinion all of the more valuable of these issues. Further we report any new discoveries in this regard made known to us.

By contrast a "fake" or a "bogus item" is a creation of an object which does not exist nor has it ever existed. (Article truqué). Typical are the bogus surcharges 15c/50c, 16c/75c, 20c/1,00 F, 30c/1,25F, and 50c/2,00F with the fake overprint "16 X CENTS Detachment U S A --AIR MAIL" on the 1931 issue. (see Bulletin 19 page 9 and Bulletin 58 page 16) which illustrate the principal that the word "fake" includes in its definition genuine stamps (or covers) which have been tampered with for fraudulent purposes..

Your Editor recently saw, as a part of a very nice Belgian Congo collection, what purported to be "progressive die proofs" of the 1910 50 centimes issue.

These were, if your editors memory is correct, the subject of a commentary by R

H Keach in Bulletin 84 and an illustration of two of the 50c items appears therein..

He said "The forgeries (actually fakes or bogus-- *ed.*) are litho-photographic reproduction of fragments of issued stamps and, because of their 'flat' appearance with inked lines set in relief, they are not a hazard to (the) collector who is knowledgeable of die proofs of engraved stamps as opposed to die proofs of surface printed stamps".

Mr Keach states they are clearly "bogus" as there never were progressive die proofs of the 1910 50c stamp.

Members are again warned of these fakes. If offered them they are urged to submit any such "progressive die proofs" to the expert committee for opinion--assuming they have not satisfied themselves as to the authenticity or lack of authenticity of the offered items.

Should any genuine progressive die proofs of the 1910 50c stamp appear they would be a major discovery and would require rethinking of exactly how the plates for the printing of the issue were prepared.

For this reason also--any such "progressive die proofs" should be brought to the attention of the expert committee.

EML

MOLS STAMPS WITH MISSING LINES OF PERFORATIONS

In Bulletin 81 we reported on Mols stamps with missing lines of perforations. To the stamps with imperforate top margin set forth on the list one must add the 1922 Malines pair sold in our last auction. It is the 30c/10c V₂ + B₃ horizontal used pair (position numbers 4 and 5). It had not been reported to have existed until it appeared in the September sale. Should members know of any other copies please report same to the Editor and, if possible, the plate positions of the same.

EML

THE POSTAL RELATIONS BETWEEN BELGIUM AND BELGIAN CONGO DURING W. W. II--1939-1945

I. Transit between Belgium and Belgian Congo

When Germany invaded Belgium on 10 May 1940, all the mail was seized in the post offices and censored. Many letters were returned to the senders marked "Return-Service suspended-BPA 10 Köln Deutz". See Fig 1.

Fig. 1.: commercial letter sent from Brussels to Tshikapa on May 10, 1940 and returned to the sender.

On August 22, 1940, by service order number 30, the Belgian Postal Administration advised that the service was re-opened but only on postcards .

Fig. 2.: Postcard sent from Brussels on Aug. 24, 1940 to Inongo. This card was censored by the German services and arrived probably on Nov. 1, 1940.

Fig. 3.: Meanwhile, another card sent on Nov. 6, 1940 was returned to sender marked -"Return to sender-Service still suspended" which was applied by the Belgian Post Office.

Later, everybody tried to find, each in his own way, a method to get letters and cards through to the final destination in the Belgian Congo. The following are some examples of these efforts.

Fig. 4.: Correspondence from the Southern part of France (unoccupied by Germany) proceeded normally. This card, sent from Lyon on Dec 24, 1940 arrived at Elisabethville on August 24, 1941 after 8 months travel via Portugal;

Fig. 5.: Letter sent from Brussels to Lisboa-Portugal on Jan. 16, 1942

where it arrived on Jan. 24, 1942. It was censored in Munich by the German censors.

The letter was sent further to the "Compagnie Maritime Belge" in Matadi where it arrived on April 13, 1942 after being censored again by British censorship in South Africa and finally in Belgian Congo. This letter was in transit for more than three months.

Fig. 6.: Postcard sent from Brussels to Lisboa-Portugal on Jan 11, 1941. The address "Rua Alexandro Herculano" was a undercover address for the transmission of letters or cards to Belgian Congo or transmission to the Belgian Government in London.

II. Transit between Belgian Congo and Belgium.

It seems that many more letters and cards were sent from the Belgian Congo to Belgium during the first months of the war than the reverse.

Fig. 7.: This letter was sent from Stanleyville to Brussels on Aug. 7, 1940 vial Portugal. The letter was censored in the Belgian Congo, by the British censors and finally by the German censors in Munich (circular cachet AD in red).

Fig. 8.: Letter sent from Kitega (Ruanda-Urundi) to Mons, Belgium on April 29, 1940. This letter was surely detained a few days (or weeks) in Ruanda since the cachet "censure Congo Belge" has been applied. The date of the first censorship in Ruanda Urundi is unknown, but it has to be later than May 10, 1940. The letter was not censored in other countries and arrived in Belgium on Aug. 3, 1940. (arrival cancellation on the reverse.)

Fig. 9.: Letter from Jadotville to Geneva, Switzerland on Feb 14, 1942.

The message explains the use of this route to send letters to Belgium via Switzerland.

The message translated is:
"Dear Sir,
One of my neighbors, Mr. Lurquin, told me that you will accept, to be sent on to Belgium, familial correspondence. I should be grateful if you should accept to transmit some news to my parents in Belgium. I thank you....."

Fig. 10.: Postal stationery card sent from Leopoldville to Zurich-Zöllikon (Switzerland) on Nov. 20, 1941 and re-sent to Watermael-Brussels. Manuscript indication at the top of the card shows "received in Brussels on 1.4.42" The card was censored in Belgian Congo by the British and thereafter by the Germans before arrival in Switzerland or between Switzerland and Belgium.

Fig. 11.: This letter was sent with the first PANAM flight between Belgian Congo and USA in December 1941. Someone tried to send the letter to Belgium via that flight, but, after censorship in Trinidad by the British authorities, the letter was sent back with the legend "returned to sender--service suspended."

Fig. 12.: Some African countries around Belgian Congo were not involved in W. W. II especially the Portuguese Colonies Angola and Mozambique. This letter was posted in Mozambique in 1941 and censored only in South Africa and in Germany.

Fig. 13.: Letter sent on June 15, 1941 from Elisabethville to the Belgian Consulate in Lisboa-Portugal, with a second address in Hoboken in Belgium. The sender apparently hoped that his letter would go to Belgium with the diplomatic mail, but the letter was

refused by the British censor and sent back with a cachet "No service--return to sender". Some six months later the letter arrived in Elisabethville on December 10, 1941.

III. Red Cross Messages

Red Cross messages were used in both directions between Belgium and Belgian Congo. These messages were canceled by the local Red Cross offices and always by the Central Office of the Red Cross in Geneva. They were very often censored by the civil authorities.

The two main routes were via Portugal or via Egypt and the Middle East.

Fig. 14.: Front of a message with the transit cachet of "Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa".

Fig. 14 A.: Reverse of this same message with the answer of the addressee and other Red Cross cachets.

Fig. 15.: Front of a message from Belgian Congo to Belgium with the British censors cachet;

Fig 15 A.: Reverse of this same message with Egyptian censor's cachet.

IV. Vatican Messages

Another opportunity to transmit messages was via the services of the Vatican and countries which had an Apostolic Nuncio or an Apostolic Delegation .

Examples of these messages will be shown in the second part of this Article which will appear in the March Bulletin.

Emile Hoorens

**LES RELATIONS POSTALES
ENTRE LA BELGIQUE ET LE CONGO BELGE
ENTRE 1939 ET 1945**

par Émile HOORENS

1. Entre la Belgique et le Congo Belge

Lors de l'invasion de la Belgique par l'Allemagne le 10 mai 1940, le courrier en souffrance fut saisi et censuré. Bien des lettres furent retournées à l'expéditeur avec la mention "Retour - communication interrompue - BPA 10 Köln-Deutz" (fig. 1).

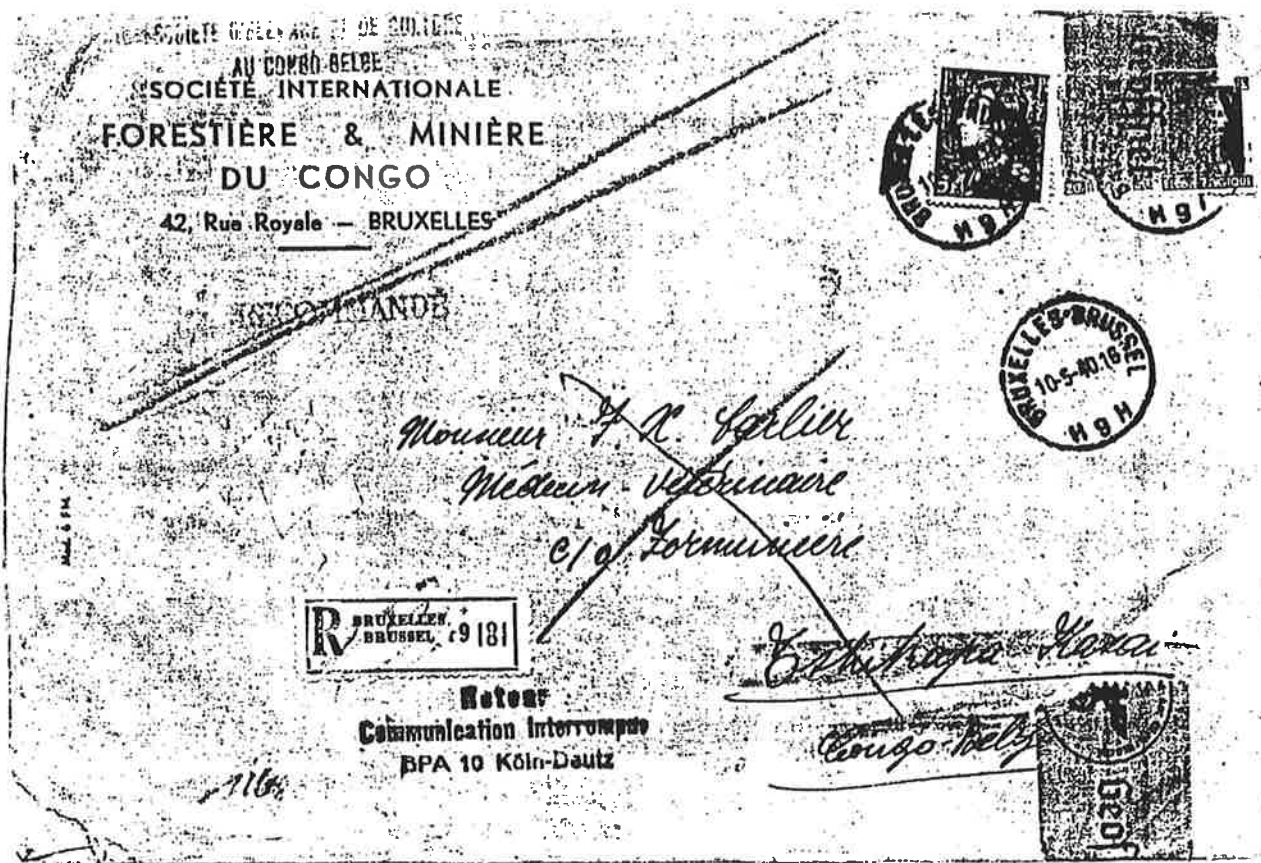


Fig. 1: Lettre commerciale expédiée de Bruxelles 9, le 10 mai 1940, vers Tshikapa et retournée à l'expéditeur.

En date du 22 août 1940, par sa note de service n° 30, l'administration des Postes signala que le service postal avec le Congo Belge était rétabli, mais uniquement pour les cartes postales (fig. 2).

(Note - the printing of some pages of this article is slightly smaller than normal. This is of no consequence in practice)

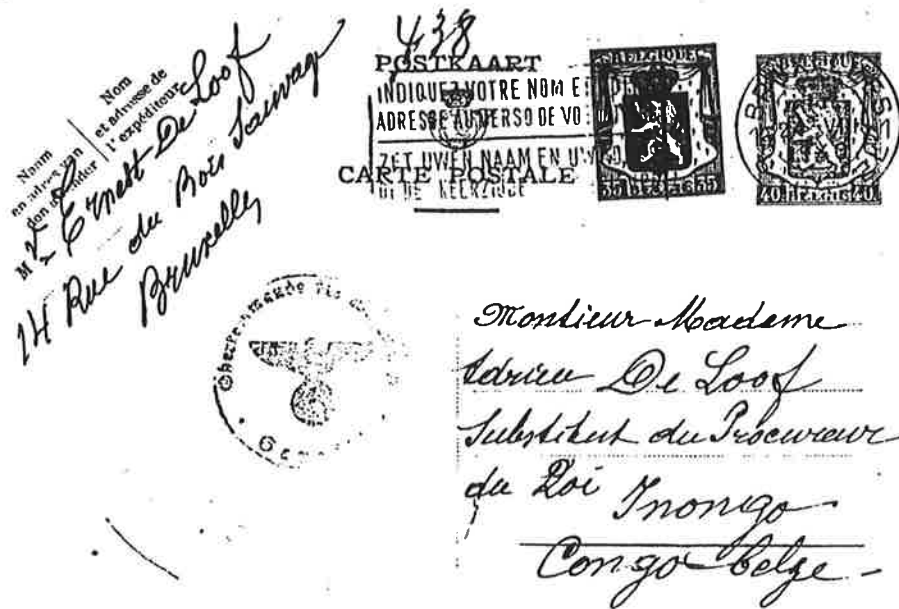


Fig. 2 : Carte postale expédiée le 24 août 1940 de Bruxelles vers Inongo et portant sur cette reprise des relations postales.



Fig. 3 : Par contre, une carte expédiée le 6 novembre 1940 est retournée à l'expéditeur avec la mention "Retour à l'envoyeur - service non encore repris".

Par la suite, chacun se débrouilla comme il le put pour faire passer le courrier vers la Belgique. En voici quelques exemples :

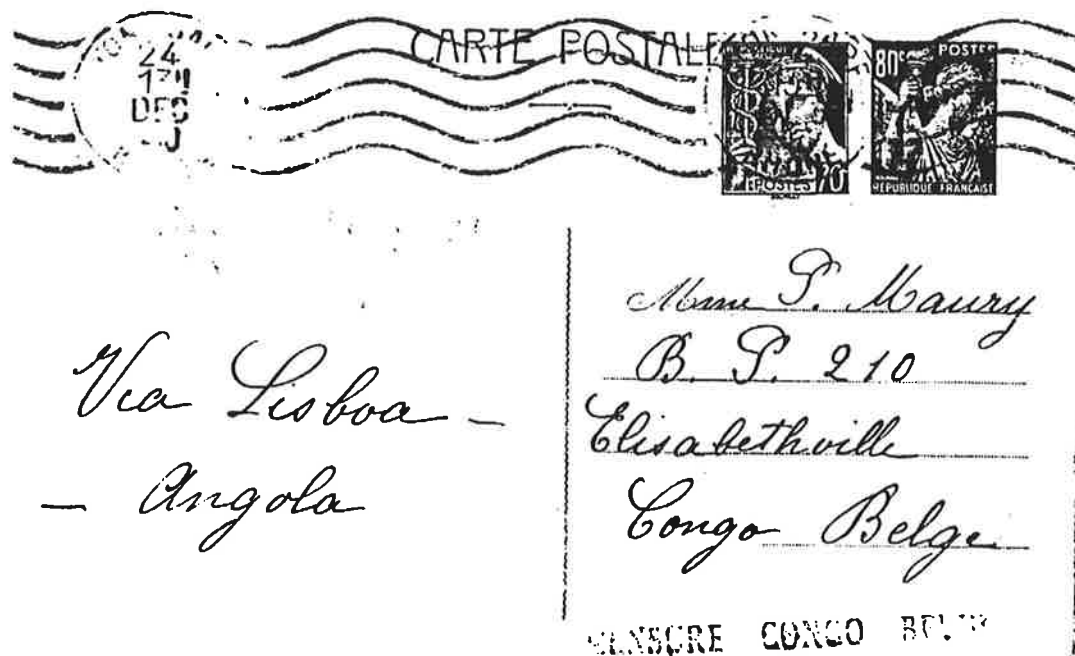


Fig. 4: Le courrier de la zone libre de France était acheminé normalement. Cet entier postal expédié de Lyon le 24 décembre 1940 est arrivé à Elisabethville le 28 août 1941 après huit mois de voyage via Lisbonne.



Fig. 5 : Lettre expédiée de Bruxelles le 16 janvier 1942 vers Lisbonne (arrivée le 24 janvier 1942), censurée à Munich. La lettre a ensuite été renvoyée à la Compagnie Maritime Belge à Matadi, où elle arrive le 13 avril 1942 après avoir été censurée de nouveau par la Grande-Bretagne, l'Afrique du Sud et le Congo Belge. Cette lettre a voyagé plus de trois mois.



Fig. 6 : Entier postal expédié de Bruxelles le 11 janvier 1941 vers Lisbonne. L'adresse "Rua Alexandro Hercula, n° 25-2" était une adresse "under cover" destinée à transmettre du courrier vers le Congo Belge ou la Grande-Bretagne" (la désignation correcte de la rue était probablement "Alecandro Herculano", nom d'un écrivain portugais).

Il y a aussi du courrier qui a transité par l'O.C.A. (office du colis alimentaire).

2. Entre le Congo Belge et la Belgique

Beaucoup plus de courrier semble avoir circulé au début de la guerre du Congo Belge vers la Belgique.



Fig. 7 : Lettre expédiée de Stanleyville le 7 août 1940 vers Boitsfort. La lettre a été censurée trois fois: au Congo Belge, en Grande-Bretagne et à Munich (cachet circulaire Ad).

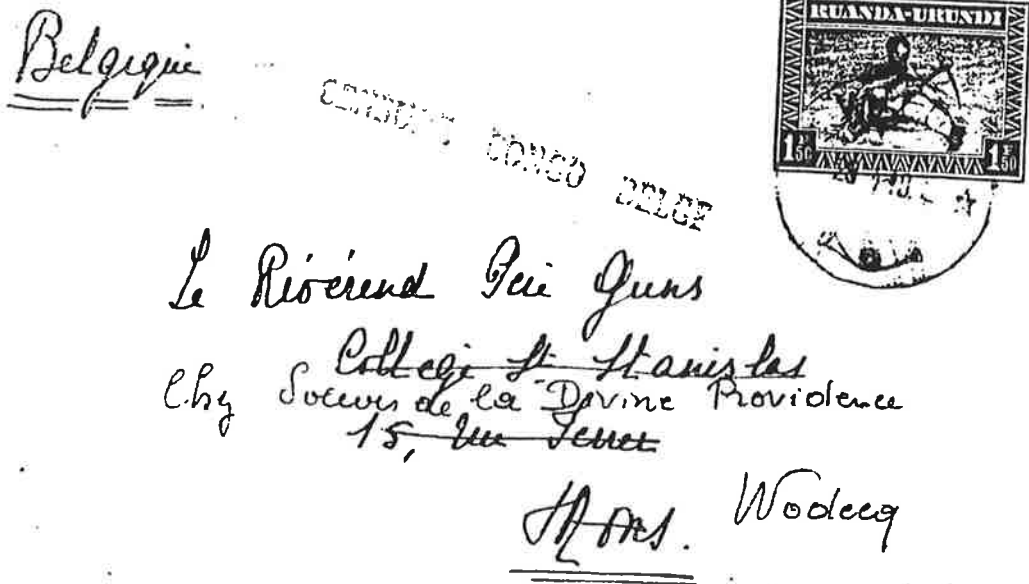


Fig. 8 : Lettre du Ruanda Urundi expédiée le 29 avril 1940 de Kitega vers Mons (arrivée le 3 août 1940). Cette lettre ne semble pas avoir été censurée ailleurs qu'au Congo Belge.

Par la suite, ce fut, comme dans le sens Belgique - Congo Belge, le règne de la débrouille.

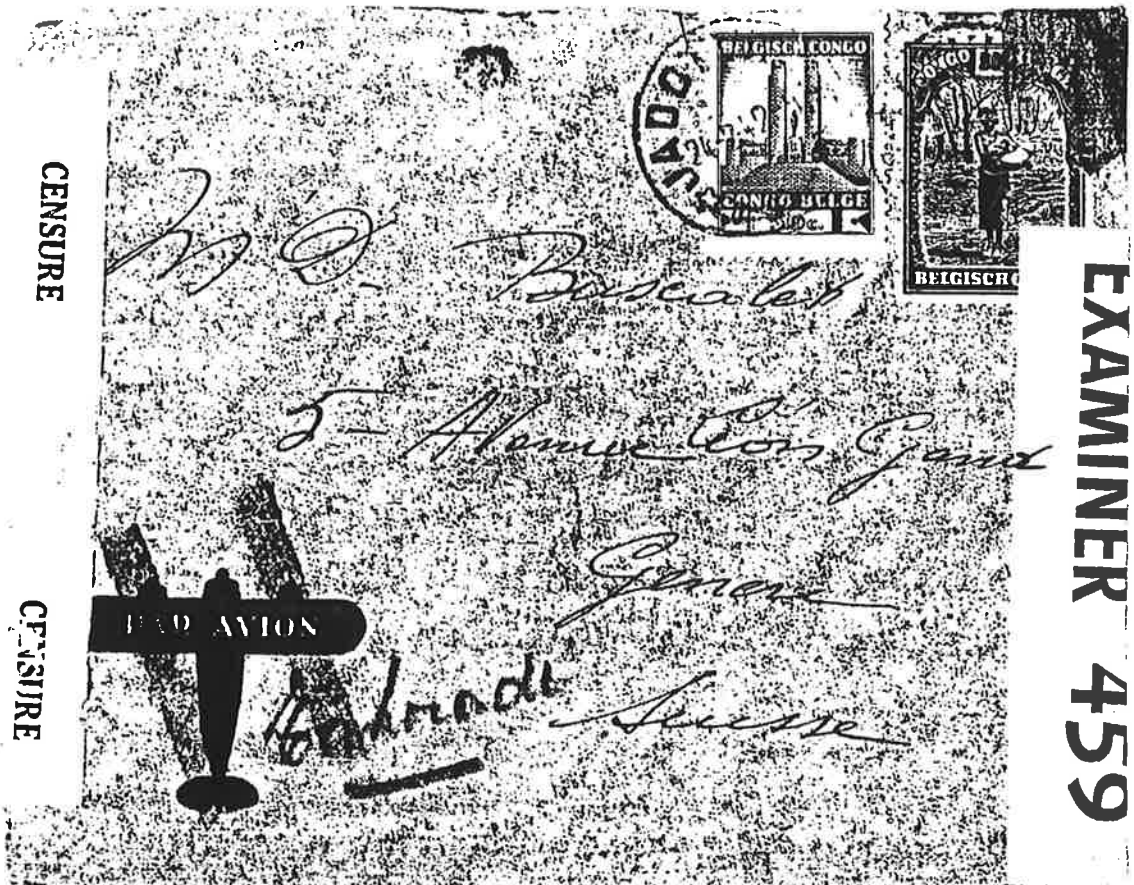


Fig. 9 : Lettre expédiée le 24 février 1942 de Jadotville vers Genève. Elle parle explicitement de la possibilité de transmission de correspondance familiale vers la Belgique via la Suisse.

Contenu de la lettre écrite le 23 février 1942 et expédiée le lendemain vers Genève :

M. Buscalet,
Genève.

Le 23.2.42.

Monsieur

Ayant appris par un de mes voisins
M. Lurquin que vous vous chargez
de faire parvenir en Belgique de la
correspondance familiale. Je vous serais
très reconnaissant si par votre entremise
ces quelques mots peuvent parvenir à
nos parents au pays occupé. Je m'excuse
d'être importun et je vous remercie très sincèrement.

Je vous prie de croire Monsieur à ma
considération très distinguée.

Woutquenne

WOUTQUENNE

U.M.H.K.

Genève - Congo-Belge

Monsieur,

Ayant appris par un de mes voisins, Mr. Lurquin, que vous vous chargez de faire parvenir en Belgique de la correspondance familiale, je vous serais très reconnaissant si, par votre entremise, ces quelques mots peuvent parvenir à nos parents au pays occupé. Je m'excuse d'être importun et je vous remercie très sincèrement.

Je vous prie de croire, Monsieur, à ma considération très distinguée.



Fig. 10 : Entier postal du Congo Belge expédié le 20 novembre 1941 vers Zürich-Zöllikon en Suisse et réexpédiée vers Watermael. Une mention manuscrite indique qu'elle est arrivée à Bruxelles le 1^{er} avril 1942 après avoir subi deux censures.

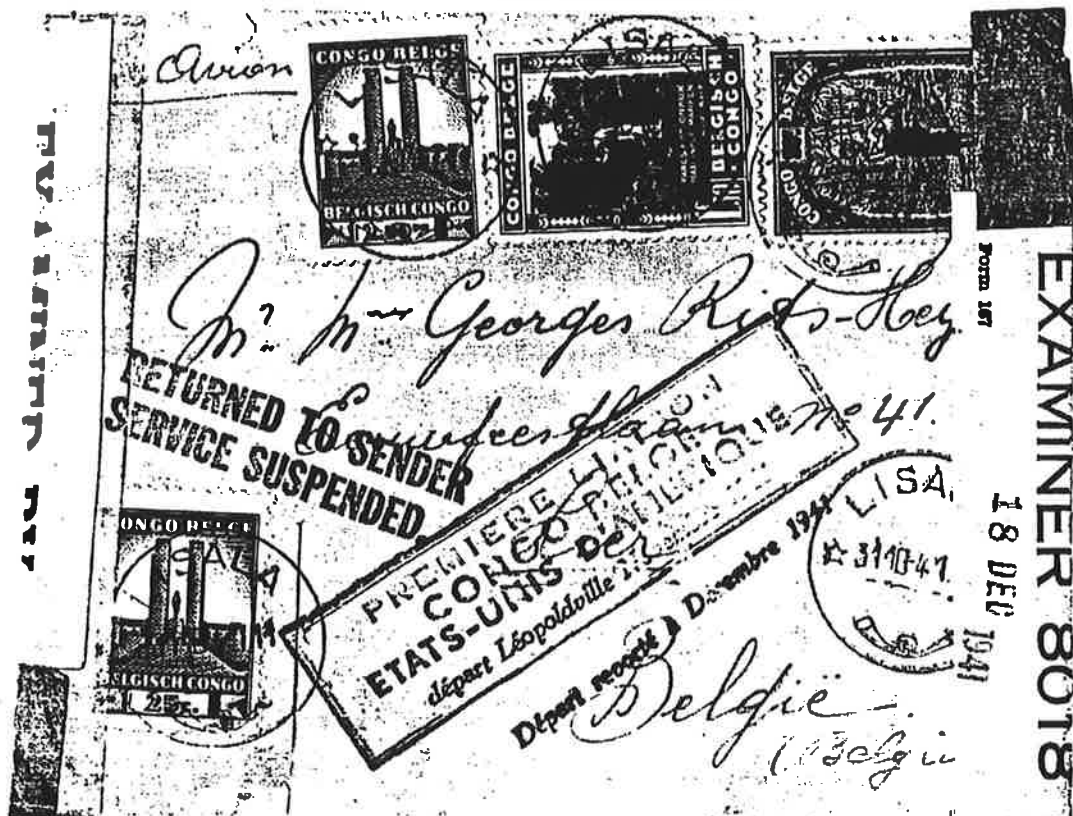


Fig. 11 : La lettre ci-dessus a emprunté le 1^{er} vol Congo Belge - États-Unis de décembre 1941 avec la Belgique comme destination. Elle a cependant été refoulée probablement aux Bermudes et retournée à son expéditeur (griffe "returned to sender - service suspended").

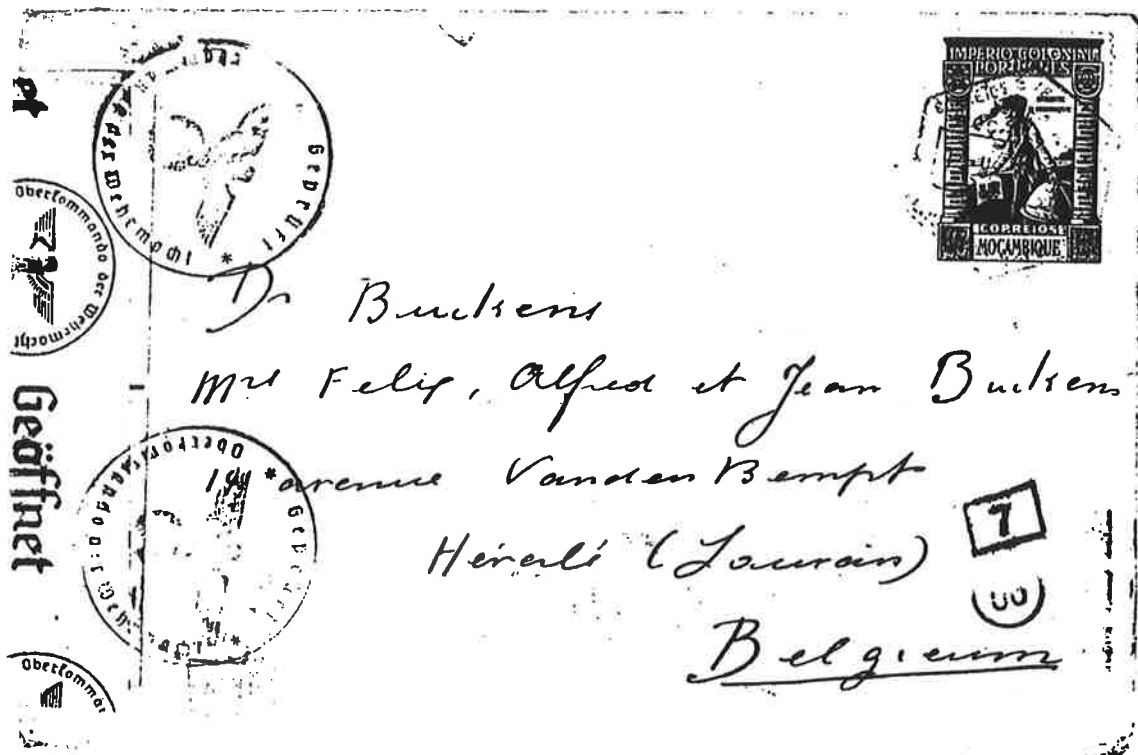


Fig. 12 : Lettre expédiée du Mozambique en 1941 vers Heverlee. Le Mozambique, tout comme le Portugal, était non-belligérant et le courrier était admis.

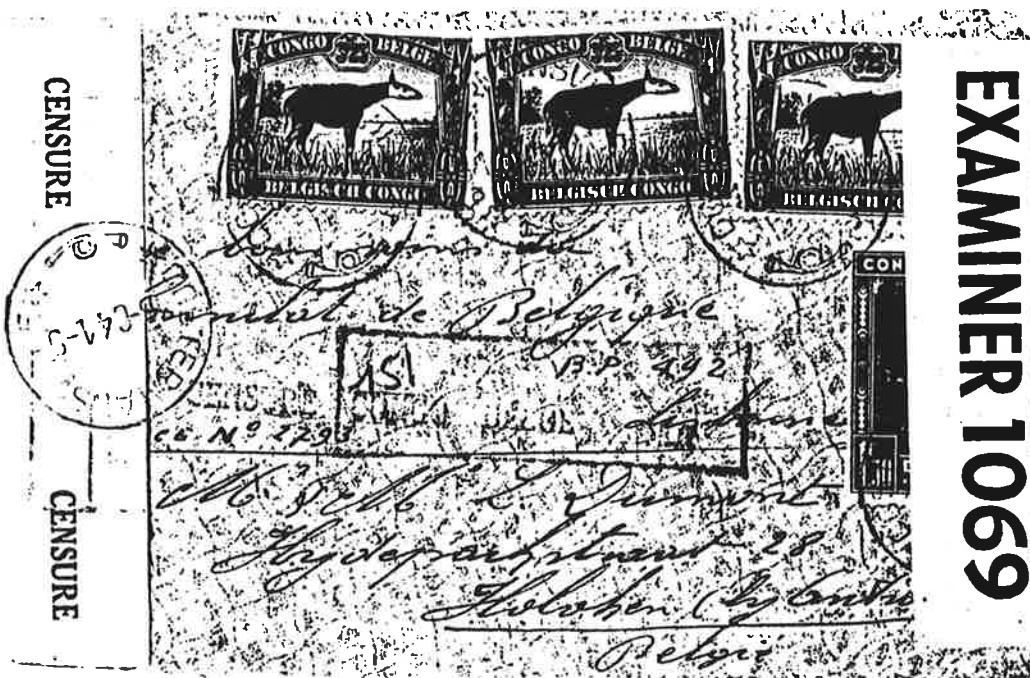


Fig. 13 : Lettre expédiée le 15 juin 1941 vers le consulat de Belgique à Lisbonne, avec, en plus, une adresse à Hoboken en Belgique. Cette lettre a été refoulée par les Britanniques avec le mention "No service - Return to sender". Cette lettre est revenue à Elisabethville le 10 décembre 1941.

3. Messages de la Croix-Rouge

Des messages de la Croix-Rouge ont été utilisés entre la Belgique et le Congo Belge ou vice-versa. Ces messages transitaient via le Portugal (fig. 14) ou via l'Égypte (fig. 15).

CROIX ROUGE DE BELGIQUE
 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat
 BRUXELLES
ROOD KRUIS VAN BELGIË
 BRUSSEL
BELGISCHES ROTES KREUZ
 BRUSSEL

+

Par l'intermédiaire
 de la Croix-Rouge Allemande
 Door tussenkomst
 van het Duitse Rode Kruis
 Durch Vermittlung
 des Deutschen Roten Kreuzes

15075

REQUÊTE au Comité International de la Croix-Rouge à Genève.
REQUEST aan het Internationale Comité van het Rode Kruis te Genève.
ANTRAG an das Internationale Komitee des Roten Kreuzes in Genf.

DEMANDEUR — AANVRAGER — ANFRAGESTELLER

Nom - Naam - Name **VAN LAETHEM;**
 Prénom - Voornaam - Vorname **EDWIN;**
 Rue - Straat - Strasse **7, rue Auguste Danse;**
 Localité - Plaats - Ortschaft **UCCLE.**
 Province - Provincie - Provinz **Brahant.**
 Pays - Land - Land **BELGIQUE.**

Message à transmettre — Mededeeling — Mitteilung
(25 mots au plus pour des nouvelles strictement personnelles et familiales.)
 (hoogstens 25 woorden voor streng persoonlijke en familieaangelegenheden.)
 (höchstzahl 25 Worte nur für persönliche und Familiennachrichten.)

TRES HEUREUX AVOIR RECU VOS NOUVELLES LE 28
11 OCTOBRE JIP LETTRE DU 10 AOUT / TOUT
VA BIEN. FAMILLE CUVELIER ET NOUS QUATRE
EXCELLENTE SANTE. AFFECTUEUX BAISERS.

Date - Datum **VAN LAETHEM.**
22 novembre 1941.

DESTINATAIRE — BESTEMMELING — EMPFÄNGER

Nom - Naam - Name **CUVELIER - VAN LAETHEM.**
 Prénom - Voornaam - Vorname **Paul.**
 Rue - Straat - Strasse **THYSVILLE.**
 Localité - Plaats - Ortschaft **Bas CONGO Belge.**
 Province - Provincie - Provinz
 Pays - Land - Land

15 JAN. 1942

Le destinataire répondra au verso.
 De bestemming antwoordt op keerzijde.
 Empfänger antwortet umseitig.

Fig. 14 : Recto du formulaire avec le message transmis via le Portugal.

Réponse du destinataire
Antwoord van den bestemmeling
Antwort des Empfängers

(25 mots au plus pour des nouvelles strictement personnelles et familiales.)
(hoogstens 25 woorden voor streng persoonlijke en familieaangelegenheden.)
(höchstzahl 25 Worte nur für persönliche und Familiennachrichten.)

Envoyez messages par Vatican -
Je tiens tout bien, tous excellente
santé - Jacques : en classe, très
content - Avons envoyé photos,
colis vivres - Bonne fête à
tous - Baisers.

Date : 17 mai 1942
Datum :

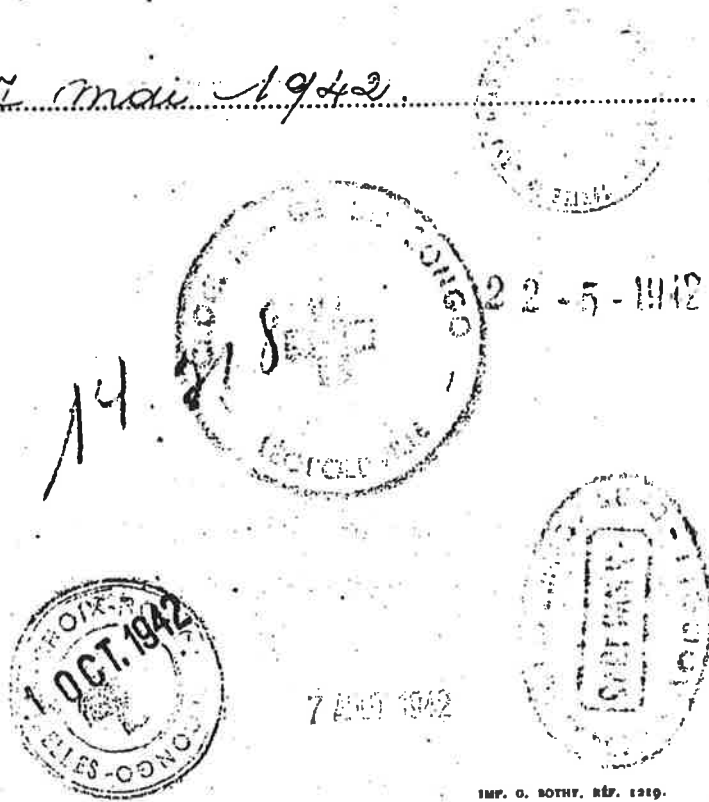


Fig. 14 bis : Verso du formulaire avec la réponse du destinataire.

CROIX - ROUGE DU CONGO

LÉOPOLDVILLE

61

Demande adressée au



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX ROUGE

Palais du Comité Général

GENÈVE (Suisse)



DEMANDEUR — ANFRAGESTELLER — ENQUIRER

Nom - Name Copland

Prénom - Christian name - Vorname William George Francis

Rue - Street - Strasse 11, rue de la Paix

Localité - Locality - Ortschaft Catillon

Département - County - Provinz Province de Balégar

Pays - Country - Land Belgique

Message à transmettre - Mitteilung - Message
 (25 mots au maximum - messages de caractère strictement personnel et familial
 (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten - (not over 25 words, only news of
 strictly personal character)

Message de Noël
de la part de bonne santé
meilleure Espérance
Guaraffette de
fraternité

Denis Lucien

Genève - Suisse - Nancy

Date - Datum

DESTINATAIRE — EMPFANGER — ADDRESSEE

Nom - Name Richard

Prénom - Christian name - Vorname Georges

Rue - Street - Strasse Avenue du Bois de Sapin

Localité - Locality - Ortschaft Wahwe Si Lambert

Province - County - Provinz Brabant

Pays - Country - Land Belgique

16 DEC. 1941

ANTWORT UMSEITIG. RÉPONSE AU VERSO REPLY OVERLEAF
 Bitte sehr deutlich schreiben Prière d'écrire très lisiblement Please write very clearly

Fig. 15 : Recto du formulaire avec le message transmis via l'Égypte.
 98:18

RÉPONSE

ANTWORT

REPLY

Message à renvoyer au demandeur — Mitteilung an den Anfragersteller zurück-zusenden — Message to be returned to enquirer.

(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) — (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten) — (not over 25 words, family news of strictly personal character)

Goeloot Julien
Coettier (Congo Belge)

Georgette pensionnat St Joseph
Botecorn bien soignée, bonne
santé, nous idem; trop d'élèves
flouverts. - apprend très bien
flamand. à bientôt. -

Date
Datum

27/1-1942.



Bons baisers
Eva George



30 OCT 1942

Bitte sehr deutlich schreiben. Prière d'écrire très lisiblement Please write very clearly

4. Messages via le Vatican ou ses représentations diplomatiques

Je n'en ai pas d'exemples, mais des messages furent également acheminées via les Délégations Apostoliques, les Nonciatures et le Vatican. Cette matière étant loin d'être entièrement connue, je serais heureux d'obtenir tout renseignement ou éclaircissement complémentaires.

Walter Mittelholzer - first Africa flight



Monsieur

Walter Gerber (1960)
Gerant de la C. X
Dima. (Kasai)
Congo Belge.
à faire suivre.



Zurich 28.11.26 to Dima via Alexandria 11.12, Kasenyi 9.1.27, Irumu 10.1 and Stanleyville 27.1

Mittelholzer was a most experienced Swiss pilot who had enlisted in the small Swiss flying corps in 1914. After the war he took part in numerous special flights, both for official and private principals, including two major ventures in Africa.

The first Africa flight left Zurich on 7.12.1926 and arrived at Cape Town on 20.2.1927. By arrangement with the Swiss Post Office mail was to have been carried to Naples, Athens and Alexandria. However, in practice almost all was unloaded at Naples to reduce weight and carried to Alexandria aboard the steamer 'Esperia'. The mail in question is not difficult to find as over ten thousand pieces were addressed to Egypt and beyond.

In recent years the writer has taken up the challenge of finding Mittelholzer mail addressed to unusual destinations and the cover shown above is the only one he has seen bearing a Congo address. It is less blatantly philatelic than many seen, being family mail to a manager at the Compagnie du Kasai, Congo Head Office, at Dima. It is a pity that the transit marks cease at Stanleyville as the total time taken must have been inordinate.

The route after arrival at Alexandria was probably by sea to Mombasa and then by a mixture of rail and road to Butiaba on Lake Albert. The lake steamer to Kasenyi in the Congo was regularly used to carry mail but the absence of railways in the northern Congo meant a long journey by road to Irumu and Stanleyville. It seems likely that the cover then went down the Congo river, perhaps to Kwamouth, and then up the Kasai river to Dima, about ten miles from the confluence of the Kasai and the Kwango.

The writer derives as much pleasure in delving into the routes taken by incoming air mail as the traditionalist does in those taken by outgoing. The cover above did at least fly part of the way to the Congo. Postage of 1fr05 appears excessive as the basic overseas letter rate was 30c and the special air fee for the flight was 50c; the next stage would have required a total of 1fr.

N. Clowes