

# G A M E O



Journal of the  
West Africa Study Circle

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 1

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# STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA

Sold By Christie's



Niger Coast: 1893 (Sept.) 1/2d. on 1d. Lilac, unsevered pairs in a vertical se-tenant pair; top stamp with surcharge in violet, lower stamp with surcharge in vermilion. Sold by Christie's in London, March 1994, for £4,830.

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TOGO

Envelope from Huddersfield to Lome, Togo, surcharged 50 centimes, with 50 cents black & yellow orange applied as a postage-due adhesive. The envelope was refused and returned to England. Backstamps, "Lome/Togo" & "R.L.O." Accra/Gold Coast

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Members will notice that we are now publishing in A4 format which I hope will make member's presentation of articles much easier. It certainly has eased your Editor's task particularly as regards illustrations. In my previous editorial I promised you amongst other articles, an article on Current Numbers. Recent research however, about to be published in the *London Philatelist* has delayed publication in the *Cameo*. A study is being made of the printings of the Southern Cameroons; Stanley Gibbons numbers 4 to 4c inclusive; the shade allocation in Stanley Gibbons does not appear to be correct. Please could readers with any information on the subject contact Michael Wright.

**Publications:** Jeremy Martin's book on Togo is progressing and should now be published during March. It will be both in hard bound and soft bound covers. For those members wishing a hard bound copy which will cost approximately £10.00 more, could they please contact Frank Walton.

Our recent publications of Neville Jones' *Nigerian Postmarks* and Jeremy Martin & Frank Walton's *West African Censorship WWI & WWII* have sold and are still selling splendidly and have made a substantial contribution to the Society's funds.

A cumulative index of *Cameo* will be compiled for distribution with the July 1995 edition. It will be in a form to enable members to either bind it with the old size *Cameo* or with the new A4 size *Cameo*.

This note on Publications would not be complete without my noting John Sacher's very generous gift of his and Jack Ince's *The British Postal Services of the Nigeria Region* to the Library.

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Advertising Rates: Full Page £35; Half Page £20; Members small advertisements 50p per square inch, plus in the event of a sale, a fee of 1% of price (minimum fee £1).

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## AUCTION REPORT

### TOGO AT CHRISTIE'S

---

**Jeremy Martin**

The Christie's Robson Lowe sale on 14 September, 1994 contained a wide range of *Occupation* material which attracted bidders from overseas and also two people bidding by telephone. there was spirited bidding for many items, particularly those where few were known to have been issued and had not been on the market for some time.

Prices realised include the 15% buyer's premium. Catalogue values are taken from the 1994 Stanley Gibbons Part 1, British Commonwealth. Starting with the 1914 Wide Setting issue, the 10pfg. carmine overprint inverted, used, made £1,380 (£1,000-£2,000); a pair of 50pfg.fine used on piece £5,750 (£7,000-£9,000) and a 2m overprint double fine used on piece, only eight used examples recorded, £5,980 (£5-6,000).

Next came the Narrow Settings. The 3pfg. fine used SG H14 fetched £667 (£250-£300) and the 5pfg. also used £460 (£180-£220). The 10pfg. SG H16 fine used soared to £1,955 (£600-£800) being catalogued at £1,800. It is believe only 15-20 copies exist and they are all used. The 50pfg. fine used on small piece reached £4,830 (£2,500-£3,000).

Turning to the May 1915 Accra overprints, the varieties saw keen competition:

- ☒ ½ overprint double, mint, SG H34g £460 (£100-£120) Catalogue £350.
- ☒ 1d overprint double, mint, SG H35g £184 (£70-£90) - stamp had slight faults.
- ☒ 1/- overprint double, mint, SG H41g £552 (£150-£180) catalogued £500.
- ☒ 1d overprint inverted and small "f" is "FRENCH" mint, £667 (£180-£200) catalogued £700.
- ☒ 20/- thin G in Togo mint £299 (£100-£200)

Most of the mixed lots sold above estimate and there was keen competition for many of the covers. A highly successful sale which will probably mean a revision of some catalogue prices.

(Estimates in brackets)

---


GAMBIA TELEGRAPH DATESTAMPS

Philip Beale

I recently came across a number of telegrams I had sent during 1969 from the Telegraph Offices outside Bathurst. One from Kuntaur and the envelope that included the telegram from Basse are illustrated.

The datestamps of Kuntaur, Basse, Mansakonko, Kaur and Kerewan were struck in black with Bansang and Georgetown in blue. Each datestamp is 24mm and all are similar to that illustrated, with code ★ and a two line date. Only Bansang shows the month before the day.

Charges to pay  
 ..... s. .... d  
 RECEIVED

**POST**  **OFFICE TELEGRAM**

No. .... OFFICE STAMP

TELEGRAPH STATION  
 ★ 13 MY  
 KUNTAUR

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.  
 At ..... m. ....

To .....  
 By .....  
 KUNTAUR

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM 29  
 NO CHARGE FOR DELIVERY

BASSE  
 13 MY  
 GAMBIA

The C.I.T.O.  
 G.P.O.  
 Bathurst

For form the

ABF 55-116

" or call, with this  
 m, and, if possible,

## Sierra Leone First Sixpence - Marginal Inscription

Frank Walton

The first Sierra Leone sixpence stamp was printed in large sheets comprising twelve panes of twenty stamps. Between panes 1 & 4, 2 & 5, 3 & 6, 7 & 10, 8 & 11 and 9 & 12 there is the following inscription:

PRICE.                      6 Pence              2 Shillings              1 Pound  
per Label.              per Row of 4.              per Sheet of 40.

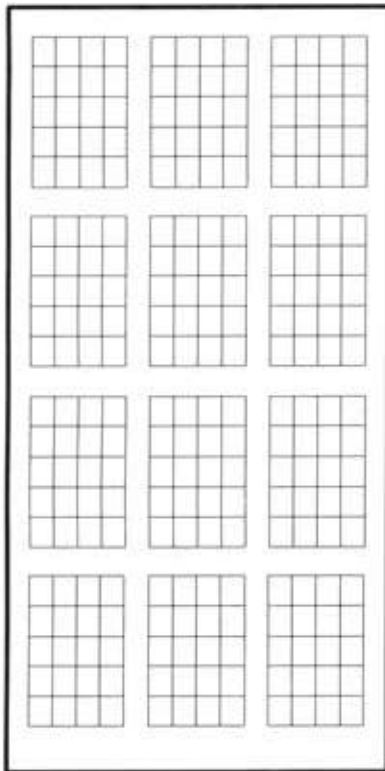


Plate Arrangement



Stamps from Eighth Printing

The phrase '1 Pound per Sheet of 40' would suggest that the original intention in 1859 was to deliver the stamps to post offices in a joined pair of two panes. The shape of the uncut sheet and the inscription implies that this would have been a vertical pair.

From the tenth printing of 1895, one large block has survived in the form of three complete panes joined horizontally. The existence of this piece clearly shows that the guillotining was not, at this time at least, done to make vertical pairs of panes.

A used block of four stamps from the eighth printing of 1878 has now come to light which includes the inter panneau gutter proving that stamps were indeed delivered in panes vertically joined. It would be most interesting to learn of the existence of any other pieces which include stamps from more than one pane.

### Sierra Leone - First Sixpence

Year	SG No.	SG Shade	Perf	Wmk	Printing	Beale Shade	Spec
1859	1	Dull Purple	14	None	1	Dull Purple	Yes
1865	2	Grey Lilac	14	None	2	Grey Lilac	Yes
1872	3	Reddish Violet	12.5	None	3 & 4	Purple	Yes
1874	4	Reddish Lilac	14	None	5,6 & 7	Violet	Yes
1885	35	Dull Violet	14	CC	8	Violet	No
1890	36	Brown Purple	14	CC	9	Brown Purple	Yes
1896	37	Purple Lake	14	CC	10	Purple Lake	No

### Sierra Leone - Numeric Postmark Codes

Frank Walton



Code 1



Code 2

The codes normally seen in Sierra Leone datestamps are A, B, C or \*. Exceptionally, Freetown has been known to use a D. Recently, postmarks have been recorded with numeric codes of 1 or 2 as illustrated above. Additional examples are known with what appears to be two 1s widely spaced; of three examples of this seen, only one has a readable date. Further reports of similar items would be welcomed.

Code	Dates Recorded
1	3 Oct 1898
2	11 Oct 1898
1 1	26 Jan 1899

## SIERRA LEONE : SHAINGAY, SHENGAY, SHENGEH or SHENGE ?

F.L. Walton, P.O. Beale & J. Forrest

For some while now the attribution of all of the above spelt places to the same location within Sierra Leone has been in doubt. In both *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone* and *The Postmarks of Sierra Leone*, one single site is given on the coast roughly halfway between the colony and Sherbro Island. Going through in some detail all of the notes made from the blue books, gazettes etc, a different story can be supported, indicating that Shaingay, Shengeh and Shenge are synonyms but that Shengay is a totally different place.

### Shaingay, Shengeh and Shenge (Map Reference 7.55° N 12.58° W)



A customs port from 1884, this place had a post office from 1892. The post office annual lists between 1892 and 1898 make references under all three spellings of the office name to the postmaster Rev L.O. Burtner. There were frequent changes of postmaster: Rev J. Gomer (until Jan 1892), Rev L.O. Burtner (Dec 1892 to Mar 1897 and Mar 1898 to Dec 1900), Rev A.T. Howard (Mar 1897 to Mar 1898), I. Albert (Jul 1901 to death in 1902), A.C.T. Sumner (Mar 1903 to Dec 1903), N. Dillet (Jan 1904 to Dec 1904), B.S. Caulker (Jan 1905 to Nov 1909) and G. Wolseley (Dec 1909 to Dec 1917). It is important to note that this office appeared in every annual return between 1892 and 1917. The office re-opened in 1925, and has remained open since. The postmarks Walton Refs. 145.01, 145.02, 145.03, 145.06 and 145.07 were used at this office.

### Shengay (Map Reference 7.36° N 11.54° W)



The transfer of Mopalma post office, via Bompehtok, to Shengay in Sep 1907 provides the opening for this location. There were three postmasters: B.H. Dauphin (Oct 1907 to Feb 1910), E. S. Williams (Feb 1910 to Jul 1911) and J.E. Cuthbert (Aug 1911 to Dec 1912). J.E. Cuthbert was appointed to the GPO in Freetown in Jan 1913. The siting of this office is uncertain, but Goddard's *Handbook of Sierra Leone* (p 184) provides confirmation of the location of Mopalma. A War Office map of 1907 shows Bompetuk, Mopalma and 'Saingai' within five miles of each other just north of Lake Kasse. The post office lists refer to Shengay as being in Northern Sherbro District East, which supports this position. Shengay appears in every post office list between 1907 and 1912. The postmarks Refs 145.04 and 145.05 were both intended for use at this office, but only Ref 145.05 with the lower portion reading SHERBRO has been recorded to date. It is possible that Ref 145.04, which reads SIERRA LEONE at the base, was deliberately not put into use.

## References to SHAINGAY, SHENGAY, SHENGEH or SHENGE

Date	Office Name	Details	Post Master
31 Dec 82	SHAINGAY	Annual return : Rcvd 86, Sent 233 = Total 319 items	
06 Aug 83	SHAINGAY	Appointed "a Station for vessels to bring to"	
06 Aug 88	SHAINGAY	Oval Pmk Ref 145.01 earliest & latest recorded date	
05 Jan 92	SHAINGAY	Post Master died	Rev J Gomer
01 Oct 92	SHAINGAY	Establishment as Inland Post Office	
01 Dec 92	SHAINGAY	Postmaster appointed; salary £5pa; "member of the Gospel"	L O Burtner
09 Apr 96	SHAINGAY	CDS Ref 145.02 earliest recorded date	
26 Apr 96	SHAINGAY	CDS Ref 145.02 latest recorded date	
31 Dec 96	SHENGE	PO listed	L O Burtner
25 Mar 97	SHENGE	Postmaster appointed; "Minister of the Gospel"	A T Howard
31 Dec 97	SHENGE	PO listed	A T Howard
29 Mar 98	SHENGEH	Postmaster appointed; "Minister of the Gospel"	L O Burtner
28 Apr 98	SHENGE	Post Office destroyed during native rising	
31 Dec 98	SHENGEH	PO list "closed for most of year"	L O Burtner
31 Dec 99	SHENGEH	PO listed	L O Burtner
31 Dec 00	SHENGEH	PO listed	L O Burtner
19 Jan 01	SHENGEH	Double Ring Ref 145.03 sent from London	
01 Jun 01	SHENGE	Establishment of Post Office	
01 Jul 01	SHENGEH	Postmaster appointed; salary £5pa	Ira Albert
22 Aug 01	SHENGEH	Double Ring Ref 145.03 earliest recorded date	
31 Dec 01	SHENGEH	PO listed	Ira Albert
31 Dec 02	SHENGEH	Post Master died; office closed 'before end of year (1902)'	Ira Albert
28 Mar 03	SHENGEH	Postmaster appointed; salary £10pa	Alfred C T Sumner
31 Dec 03	SHENGEH	PO listed	Alfred C T Sumner
09 Jan 04	SHENGEH	Postmaster appointed; salary £5pa	Nathaniel Dillet
31 Dec 04	SHENGEH	PO listed	Nathaniel Dillet
16 Jan 05	SHENGEH	Postmaster appointed; salary £5pa	Benson S Caulker
31 Dec 05	SHENGEH	PO listed	Benson S Caulker
31 Dec 06	SHENGEH	PO listed; salary £15pa	Benson S Caulker
09 Jul 07	SHENGE	CDS Ref 145.06 sent from London	
31 Dec 07	SHENGEH	No change noted from PO listing	
31 Dec 08	SHENGEH	No change noted from PO listing	
01 Dec 09	SHENGEH	Postmaster appointed; salary £10pa	Garnet Wolseley
31 Dec 09	SHENGEH	No change noted from PO listing	
31 Dec 10	SHENGEH	PO listed	Garnet Wolseley
31 Dec 11	SHENGEH	PO listed	Garnet Wolseley
31 Dec 12	SHENGE	PO listed	Garnet Wolseley
31 Dec 13	SHENGEH	PO listed	Garnet Wolseley
17 Jun 14	SHENGEH	CDS Ref 145.03 latest recorded date	
31 Dec 14	SHENGEH	PO listed	Garnet Wolseley
31 Dec 15	SHENGEH	PO listed	Garnet Wolseley
23 May 16	SHENGEH	Postal Agency closed; correspondence to Sembahun	
31 Dec 16	SHENGE	PO listed	G R Wolseley
31 Dec 17	SHENGE	PO listed	G R Wolseley
31 Dec 18	SHENGE	PO not listed	
06 Jan 25	SHENGE	CDS Ref 145.06 earliest recorded date	
21 Jan 25	SHENGE	Postal Agency re-opened; mails via Moyamba & Sembahun	
01 Jan 31	SHENGE	Population 1,400	
01 Sep 07	SHENGAY	Mopalma PO, temp at Bompehtuk, transferred to Shengay	
18 Sep 07	SHENGAY	CDS Ref 145.05 sent from London	
01 Oct 07	SHENGAY	Postmaster appointed; salary £20pa	Benson Henry Dauphin
31 Dec 07	SHAINGAY	MOO established during year	
16 Sep 08	SHENGAY	CDS Ref 145.04 sent from London; not recorded	
31 Dec 08	SHENGAY	Postmaster "Clerk & Interpreter to DC"; salary £20pa	Benson Henry Dauphin
31 Dec 09	SHENGAY	No change noted from PO listing	
17 Feb 10	SHENGAY	POSB opened	
18 Feb 10	SHENGAY	Postmaster appointed; salary £20pa	Edmund Solomon Williams
17 Jun 10	SHENGAY	CDS Ref 145.05 earliest recorded date	
31 Dec 10	SHENGAY	PO listed	Edmund Solomon Williams
06 Aug 11	SHENGAY	Postmaster appointed	J E Cuthbert
31 Dec 11	SHENGAY	PO listed; MOO listed	J E Cuthbert
31 Dec 12	SHENGAY	PO listed	J E Cuthbert
01 Jan 13	SHENGAY	POSB closed	
01 Jan 13	FREETOWN	5th Grade Clerk Appointed	J E Cuthbert
15 Jul 13	SHENGAY	CDS Ref 145.05 latest recorded date	

FROM SIERRA LEONE TO INDIA AND BURMA WITH THE WEST AFRICAN FORCE

Jeremy Martin

Recently I was able to purchase two almost identical correspondencies from a dealer at a fair near London.

The Wallis correspondence to Gravesend, Kent is more interesting since the letters include interesting comments concerning the post. In some cases, only the letters remain with no envelopes. The more interesting are featured below:-

Written

6. 19 Sept 1941. Letter only written from APO S101, West African Forces. "I have been in Africa for several days ..."
9. 15 Oct 1941 Air Mail Letter Card with GB dark G VI 3d. postmarked FPO 41 in 1941. Date not clear. A 200 violet censor 2710. Beale Type 1 PC 90 label black on white 'OPENED BY/EXAMINER 3498' . Not previously recorded. See illustration.
12. 5 Nov 1941 FPO 41 dated 7 Nov 41 from APO S101. "Let me know how long these Air Mail letters take to reach you. We get them once a fortnight and if they reach you promptly they are well worth the 3d. stamp.
13. 10 Nov 1941 A.M.L.C. with dark GB 3d. violet with FPO 41 dated 12 Nov 41. A 200 violet censor 645 not previously recorded. See illustration.
16. 4 Dec 1941 A.M.L.C. marked by sender 'Christmas Card' and allowed post free. FPO 41 dated 6 Dec 41. From APO S101. A 200 violet censor 645. "We were told this is the last Air Mail before Christmas ... By the way, don't use the Air Mail in future as these letters come by ordinary mail. See illustration.
- 17A. 7 Jan 42 A.M.L.C. FPO 41 dated 14 Jan 42. Violet censor A 200 number 1560 not previously recorded. "Your letters take from a month to six weeks to reach here."
21. 15 April 42 A.M.L.C. with red diagonal notes. No postmarks. Recorded used in Gold Coast but not previously Sierra Leone. See illustration. "As you can see we are allowed to send these Air Mail letters free of charges now."
- Query either carried privately or sent through post with no markings applied.
25. 10 Jan 43 Letter from R.W.A.F.F. "I was very pleased to receive a letter from you recently. Apparently six of your letters are missing, including all the Christmas mail, has gone 'West' ." (sic)

By June 1943 the correspondent had been posted to 'R.W.A.F.F. Indian Command' . The remaining correspondence was from India and all sent from the West African Force.

30. 1 Oct 43 A.M.L.C. with Indian FPO 61 date 5 Oct 43.
32. 27 Dec 43 A.M.L.C. Double circle with '107' at top and date 31 Dec 43 across centre.
41. 10 July 44 A.M.L.C. Same type as letter 32 but '306' dated 20 Aug 44.
43. 4 Nov 44 As 41 but '7' dated 5 Nov 44.
46. 13 Jan 45 A.M.L.C. with Indian FPO 158 17 Jan 45.

Written

53. 10 April 45 A.M.L.C. as 43 but 51 dated 8 April 45. (sic)
55. 8 April 45 A.M.L.C. as 53 with S-15 FPO dated 9 May 45. (sic)

The second correspondence to Sussex consists of just over forty covers. Three seem to be from Nigeria and these will be the subject of a separate article.

1. 20 Nov 41 ) Stampless cover from a Captain. FPO 41 dated 30 Nov 41. Written  
23 Nov 41 ) up-country "In the Bush" and sent to the coast by train. A 200 violet  
25 Nov 41 ) censor 1949 not recorded previously.
2. 7 Dec 41 Stampless cover with FPO 41 dated 16 Dec 41. Violet A 200 censor 3364  
not recorded previously.
4. 21 Dec 41 Stampless, FPO 41 postmarked 27 Dec 41. Violet censor A 200 3364. Type 1  
censor label "OPENED BY/EXAMINER 8938" plus "PC 90" and  
"51 - 2116- G.W.D."
6. 19 April 42 Stampless FPO 41 dated 23 Apr 41. With red A 500 censor 3032.  
See illustration.
7. - Stampless FPO 41 postmarked 11 June 41. Violet censor A 500 2864  
(not recorded).
9. - Stampless FPO 41 date 7 Nov 41. Violet A 500 censor 3024 (not recorded).
10. 10 Jan 43 Stampless FPO 41 dated 16 Jan 43. Violet A 500 censor 3075.  
"It is now a considerable time since I had any letters. We have been told  
officially that some have been lost but I hear now that some have arrived."
16. 8 Nov 43 INDIA - from "6" W.A. Field Coy W.A.F. India Command".
18. 2 Dec 43 FPO 699 postmarked 9 Dec 43. Arakan area of Burma. See illustration.
43. 14 Sep 45 FPO 696 postmarked 15 Sep 45 - India.

#### SUMMARY

##### West Africa

Sierra Leone A 200 violet censor numbers 645, 1453, 1560, 1949, 2710, 3364.  
A 500 violet 2864, 3024.  
red 3032.  
all not recorded before.

Type 1 censor label "PC 90 OPENED BY/EXAMINER 3498" and also  
"PC 90 OPENED BY/EXAMINER 8938/51 - 2116 - G.W.D." neither recorded before.

December 1941 Air Mail Letter Card marked "CHRISTMAS CARD" and post free.

April 1942 Air Mail Letter Card with diagonal red lines.

January 1943 Both writers mention Christmas 1942 mail being missing.

##### South East Asia

India Indian F.P.O.'s 61, 158, 610  
F.P.O. 696, S-15  
Security marks 7, 51, 107, 306.

Burma F.P.O. 699

Note: Proud advises that "Security marks" were supplied through Army H.Q. to the Commands for distribution to Civil Offices.

Sources: Beale "The Postal Service of Sierra Leone".  
Proud "History of British Army Postal Service Vol. III - 1927 - 1963".  
Proud "History of the Indian Army Postal Service Vol. III 1931 - 14 August 1947".

Illustrations [reduced 41%]

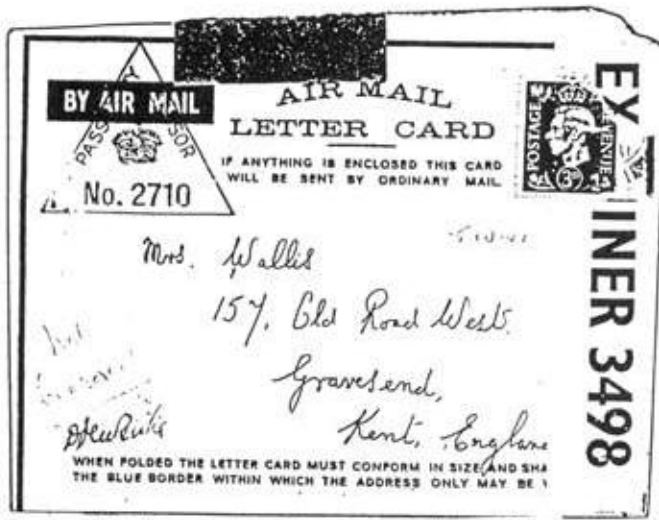


Fig.1 Kent no.9 with A200 censor cachet & Type 1 label



Fig.2 Kent no.13 with A200 censor cachet 645 in violet



Fig.3 Kent no.16 CHRISTMAS CARD free postage 2 F.P.O. 41 dated 6 Dec 41

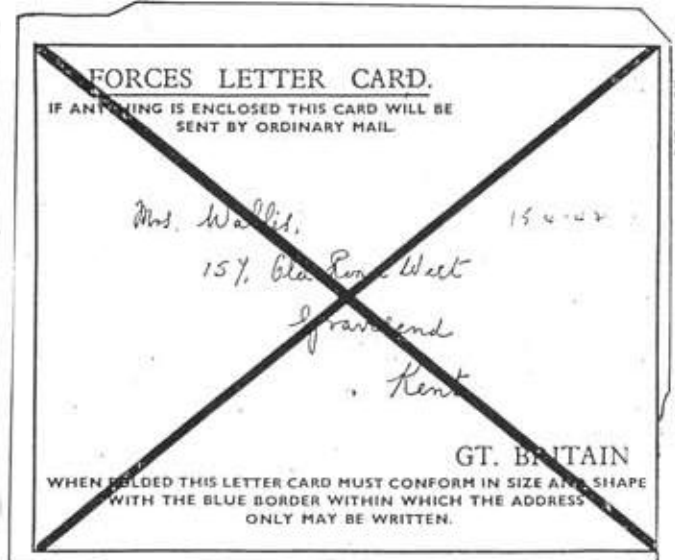


Fig.4 Kent no.21 Special A.M.L.C. with red diagonal lines see text.

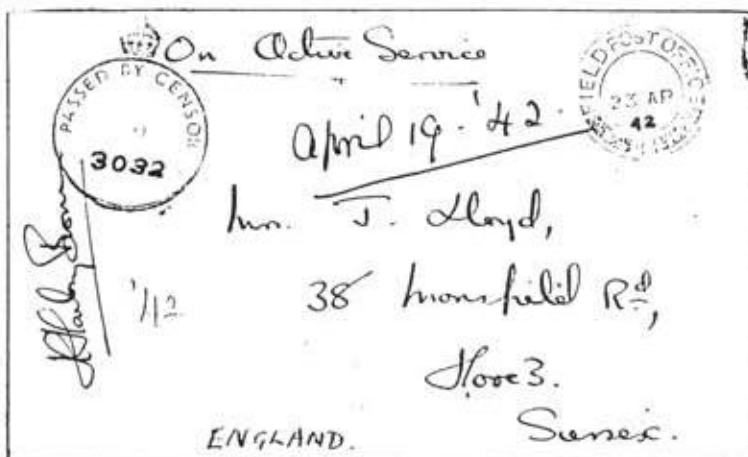


Fig.5 Sussex letter no.6 Type A500 censor 3032 unusually in red



Fig.6 Sussex letter no.18 with F.P.O. 699 dated 9 DE 43 from the Arakan area of Burma

## GOLD COAST POST MARK DISCOVERY

**Dickon Pollard**

I recently purchased a set of three Gold Coast Coronation stamps, which were all struck with nice clear 'Accra/M.O. & S.B.' CDSs, Mackin type 17, on the grounds that they didn't ring a bell.

However, I had not expected it to be unrecorded by Mackin. Indeed, there are no M.O. & S.B. CDSs recorded for Accra so it seemed worthwhile having it photographed. The date is My 12 1937.



# Murray Payne Ltd

P.O. Box 1135, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2EW

Telephone: 01934 732511

Fax: 01934 733498

### WEST AFRICA OFFERS FROM STOCK

Ascension	SG 38-47	Archival Specimen 10 x strips of 3, 2/6d with davit flaw, on large piece	£600
	SG 38b	um 1/2d block, R4/2 line through '2'	£10
	SG 40	um block, R5/6 + 6/6 re-entries	£15
	SG 40db	um block, R3/1 cut mast and railings	£35
	SG 40e	fu single, R3/1 cut mast and railings	£18
	SG 41a	um strip, 'G' scratched out and R4/4 Mountaineer flaw	£35
	SG 42a	um imprint block, R10/3 extra rocks	£15
Gold Coast	SG 46a	um imprint block	£125
	SG 117-9	mm Coronation Specimens	£32
Nigeria	SG 135-46	um 1948 Specimen set	£150
	SG 46-8	mm Coronation Specimens	£35
St Helena	SG 53	unused 3d Specimen with receiving h/s	£15
	SG 131-40	Archival Specimen 10 x strips of 3 on large piece	£500

## GOLD COAST TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFERS

E.W. Proud

In preparing the forthcoming book on "The Postal History of Gold Coast", I noticed while examining fairly substantial quantities of Queen Victorian postmarks that some datestamps only appeared on values the majority of which were not covering the usual postal rates and showed the typical percentage of material removed from telegrams. The fact that I cannot find any example used on letters or postcards seems to confirm this. I illustrate the marks below and will be delighted to hear from any member who can produce a photostat of an example on cover.



D9 (14.12.93)-(13.12.95)  
Telegraphic?



D2 (9.4.93)-(5.7.04)\*

Used telegraphically after 1904?



D5 (8.10.89)-(15.1.92)  
(Telegraphic?)



(SE 2 1901)  
Telegraphic?



D15 (6.11.23)  
Telegraphic?



D4 (10.7.89)-(13.5.96)  
Telegraphic?



D5 (26.9.93)-(23.4.03)  
Telegraphic?



D4 (19.2.92)-(5.3.97)  
Telegraphic



D3 (14.1.89)-(2.5.96)  
(Telegraphic?)



D3 (31.3.89)-(18.9.91)  
Telegraphic?

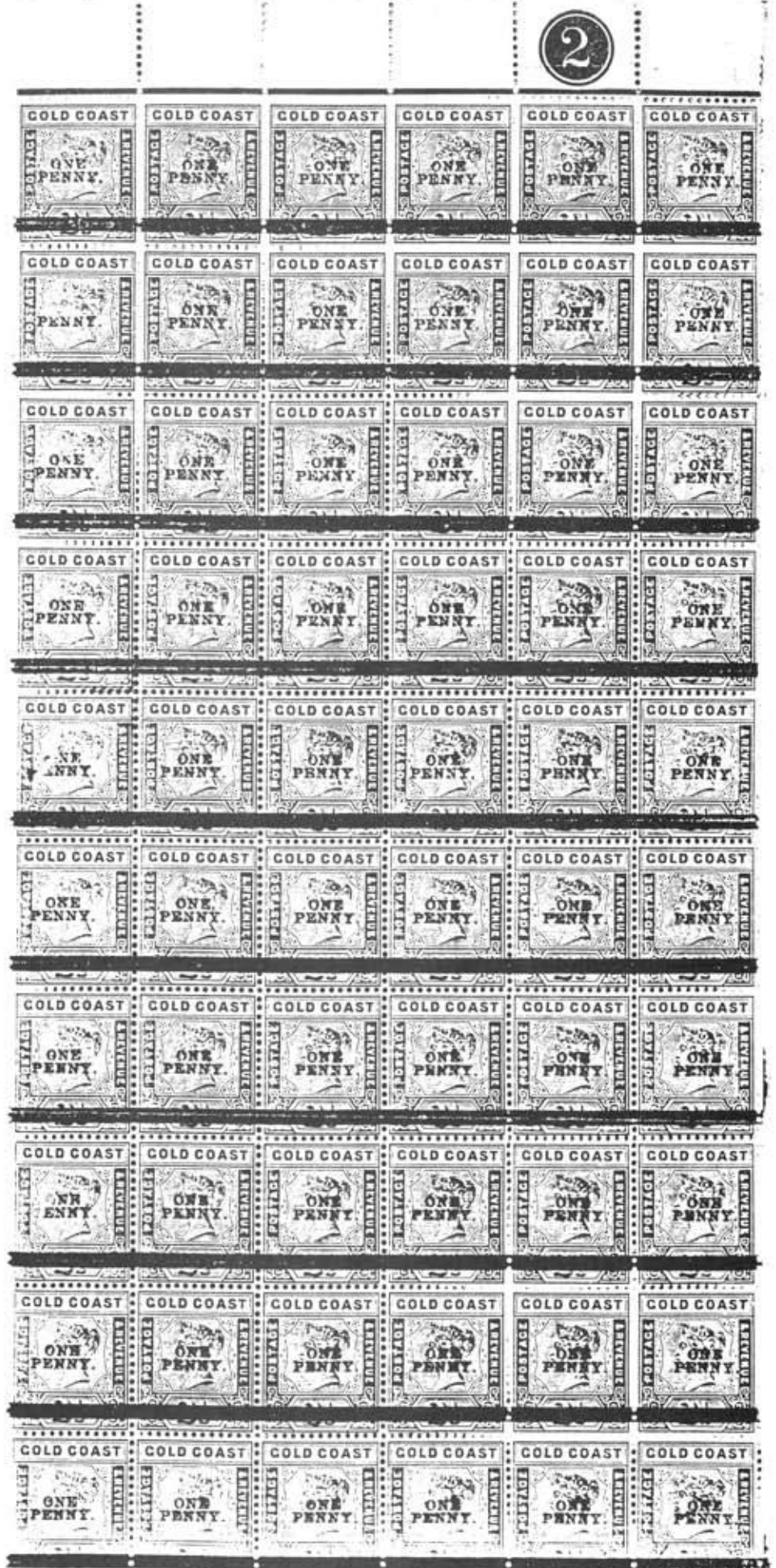
☞ Members should be aware that the Cape Coast type 14 mark is one of three known for Cape Coast and it is only the mark illustrated that I believe to be telegraphic. As regards Winnebah members should note that this is the largest lettered Winnebah out of the three known types. It is only this larger lettered one that I believe to be telegraphic.

# GOLD COAST

Position of SG 35 var  
One Penny on  
Twopence Halfpenny  
"One" Omitted

## The Editor

By kind permission of Her Majesty The Queen, I reproduce opposite the right hand pane of a sheet of 120 which shows that the error occurred on number 1 row 2 and also shows the following other varieties: "Pe" defective number 1 row 5 and number 1 row 8 "O" & "P" omitted.



# POSTAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BRITISH AND ENEMY OCCUPIED TERRITORY

R.J. Maddocks

Instructions to Postal Censorship staff issued in May 1940 by the Ministry of Information P&T Censorship Dept., London covered inter alia postal communication between British and enemy territory. There were two special channels by which persons might communicate with friends and relatives in enemy countries and territory occupied by the enemy. These were:-

1. through Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son Ltd., Berkeley Street, London

2. through the International Red Cross Society, Geneva

- subject however, to certain conditions.

In respect of 1, guidelines and conditions were set out in a leaflet issued in the UK and believed to have been available to the public through Post Offices. A photocopy (Fig.1) is herewith. By Circular No. 160 of 13/8/40 the Secretary of State for the Colonies forwarded a copy to the Governor of the Gambia and the

Governors of the other three West African colonies for information of the general public who might wish to use the service.

In respect of 2, and vide para 7 of the above mentioned leaflet, it was elsewhere stipulated that personal messages were to be of not more than 20 words, between relatives and written on a prescribed form (not seen on file). Letters were not permitted through this channel. Forwarding particulars were also not seen on file but the Notes mentioned that these were obtainable at the Post Office.

Outward correspondence for transmission to enemy territory (which passed via a neutral country) was to be handed in unsealed for censorship, thereafter sealed but not closed with the Examiner's label or marked with other indication of censorship. This instruction however was not followed to the letter in two cases shown here (Fig.2 & Fig.3)

Letters to or from Prisoners of War and persons interned whether British, allied or enemy in British, allied, neutral or

enemy territory and whether passing as an enclosure or otherwise had to be transferred to the Prisoner of War Branch of censorship control. So too had letters relating to such persons to or from any recognised Red Cross Society of Prisoners of War Information Bureau as well as letters between the headquarters and branches of such Societies and Bureau.

Outward correspondence for transmission to enemy territory would be returned to sender with the appropriate preprinted insertion slip (not seen on file) unless it was properly despatched through one of the above channels. A similar slip would also be inserted in inward correspondence from enemy territory arriving through unauthorised channels.

fig.1

**Notes for persons wishing to communicate with friends in Enemy Countries, or Territory in the occupation of the Enemy**

Authority has been given to permit communication with persons in enemy territories, subject to the following conditions.

The territories included in these arrangements are: Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Denmark, France (German-occupied), Germany, Holland, Italy and Italian Possessions, Luxembourg, Norway and Poland (German occupied).

1. Communications must be brief, clearly written or typed on one side of the paper only, and writers should request their correspondents to observe the same rules and not put more than one letter in the same envelope. Erasures and corrections or mutilated stationery and additions by other people are not permitted.
2. Letters and envelopes must omit the sender's address. They may be in English or in the language of the country for which they are intended (except Czech and Hebrew), and must contain nothing but *matters of personal interest*.  
(a) No reference may be made to any town, village, locality or journey, or to the Censorship or to any other phase of the war, or to Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., or any of their offices, or to the means by which the letter is sent. No enclosure of the following nature is permitted: printed matter, map, plan, sketch, drawing, print, photograph, or other pictorial representation, or postage or revenue stamp.  
(b) Business letters and letters containing directions about property or money matters must not be sent to Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., but should be submitted by the sender to the Trading with the Enemy Branch of the Treasury and Board of Trade, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.
3. Each letter must be placed in an open unstamped envelope fully inscribed to the addressee, who should be asked to address any reply to *your full name, care of Post Box 506, LISBON (Lisabon)* in the case of letters from Germany or German-occupied territory, Portugal. Poste Restante addresses are not accepted. The use of titles or Naval, Military or Air Force rank is forbidden.
4. The open envelope containing the letter should be placed in an outer stamped envelope and sent to Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., Berkeley Street, Piccadilly, London, W.1, together with a memorandum, plainly written, containing in block characters the name (Christian name first) and full address of the sender. A married woman should give her own as well as her husband's initials.
5. The communication to Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., must enclose Postal Order value 2s. (*stamps or International Coupons cannot be accepted*), which fee will cover the postage of one envelope containing one communication to the neutral country, and from the neutral country to the addressee, also of a reply (if any) from the neutral country to Messrs. Cook's Head Office in London, and from that office to the intended recipient. The fee does not include the cost of postage of the reply from enemy territory to the neutral country.  
For an extra fee of 6d. each, letters can be sent by Air Mail to Lisbon.  
*Envelopes must not be endorsed "Air Mail."*  
Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., undertake this transaction at the sole risk in all respects of the party requiring their services, and on the express understanding that no action will lie against them by reason of any act or default on their part or on the part of any person or agent employed by them.
6. Letters under this scheme may not cover remittances, directly or indirectly, to enemy territory, for which a licence of the Trading with the Enemy Branch (*see paragraph 2b above*) is necessary.
7. Communications for Prisoners of War, *i.e.*, British and Allied Naval, Military, and Air Force prisoners and Civilian internees, must not be sent under the foregoing arrangements, but forwarded in accordance with the regulations of which particulars may be obtained at any Post Office.

*Parcels cannot be dealt with under the foregoing scheme.*

Unless these directions are followed EXACTLY, delay and extra expense will result. These notes convey ALL information available.

149 12 40 J.R.P.

Cover from British Cameroons to International Red Cross, Geneva postmarked Victoria 27/5/40. This could not have been handed in unsealed for it has been opened and then closed by Opened by Censor label which has been tied to the cover by hexagonal Passed by Censor/11/ Nigeria cachet. There are no other markings or transit/received stamps. Of interest is the fact that censorship was undertaken not at Victoria itself but in Nigeria, probably Lagos. It has been established from sighted covers that Victoria, from at least September 1940, had its own censor office using an hexagonal cachet numbered 19, perhaps at the time of this mailing; some five months earlier the Victoria office had not yet been established.



fig.2 (reduced 78%)

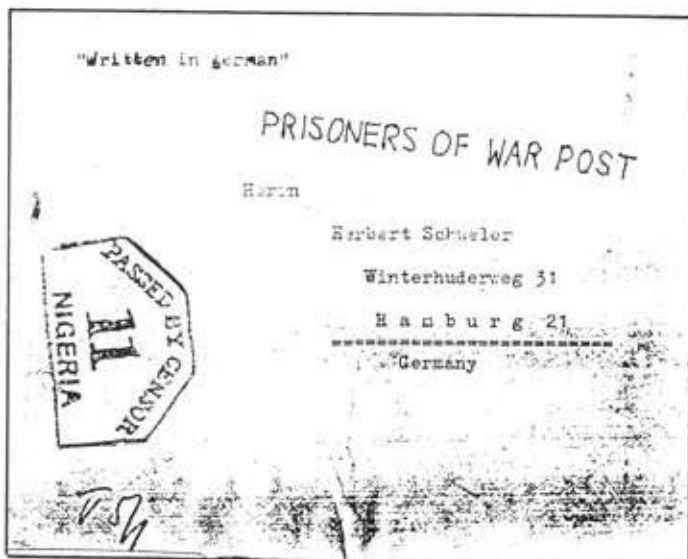


fig.3 recto (reduced 41%)

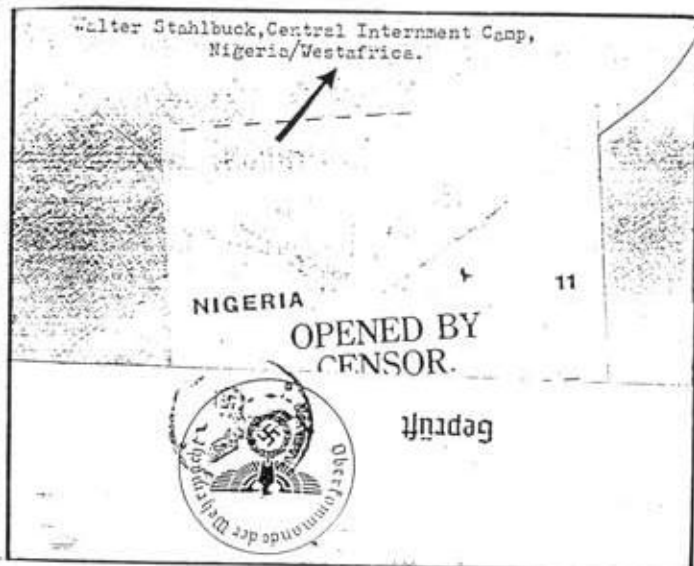


fig.3 verso (reduced 41%)

Stampless, undated Prisoner of War cover from Nigeria to Germany. This was sent by a German prisoner, Walter Stahlbuck, from Central Internment Camp, Nigeria - it is not known whether this was in Lagos or Ibadan. An employee of the Woermann Shipping Agency, Douala, French Cameroun - he had been interned by the Free French, and in view of the strong pro Vichy French presence there, he and another 40 Germans were subsequently shipped to Lagos in 1940. Here too, the letter had been closed by examiner's label Nigeria 11/Opened by Censor and on the face struck in red with the hexagonal Passed by Censor/11/Nigeria cachet. Again there are no transit or received stamps but the envelope had been opened and resealed by a German Wehrmacht censor as evidenced by the label. The Prisoners of War Post straight line cachet is in red. Several of this group of prisoners, if not all, were later transferred to P.O.W. camps in Jamaica.

In both cases the procedure followed by the Nigeria censor seems to have been at variance with that laid down by P&T Censorship Dept. in London, but no doubt it was subject to periodic change according to exigencies of wartime, though more likely such procedure was the practice before receipt of the circular and leaflets.

On 1/12/41 Secretary of State for the Colonies circulated the W.A. colonies to the effect that information was being passed by means of writing behind stamps on letters and parcels from the enemy territories for prisoners of war. Military Authorities had issued instructions in the UK that all stamps must be removed before mail was delivered to P.O.W. camps and had communicated with Commands overseas with view to similar action by them. It was suggested that, if not already taken, similar precautions should be taken with regards to mail for internees in West Africa.

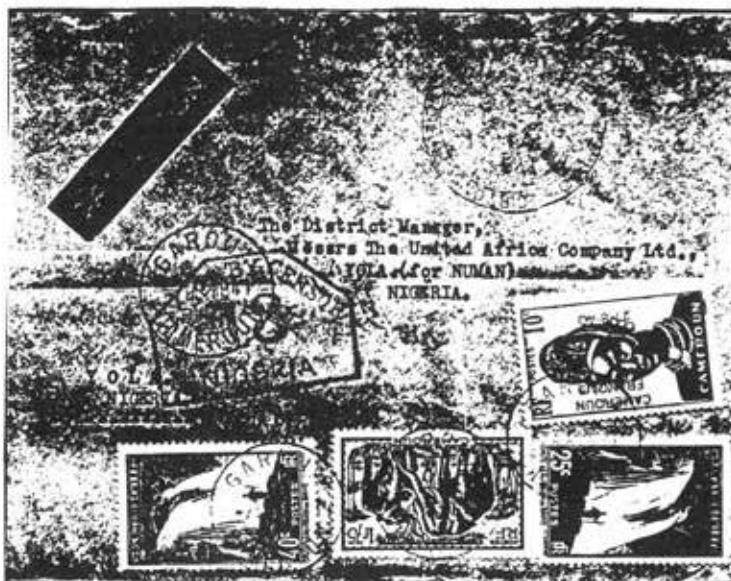
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## NEW DISCOVERIES

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### The Editor

*The opposite Nigerian W.W.II Censor mark number 18 (Red) does not appear to have been seen before in any form.*



☒ *Jeremy Martin reports having seen two Sierra Leone W.W.I. Civil Censorship items namely Martin and Walton type 1(B) PASSED BY CENSOR (normal censor numbers in blue crayon) recorded 11 in pencil and type (2) Passed by Censor Normal Censor number 1 in blue crayon. Number 3 in Red crayon now noted.*

☒ *Your editor has seen 3 used copies on cover of Ghana SG1643 Black omitted. This apparently will be listed in the next Stanley Gibbons catalogue.*

☒ *Your editor has an apology to make in respect of the New Discoveries in Cameo, July 1994. Steve Drewett has pointed out that the Rotombo overprint on Sierra Leone of the 1884 issue actually appeared in the MacMillan Sale and was mentioned in Cameo January, 1978 edition.*

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'The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons  
under British Administration, 1916-1961'  
by R.J.Maddocks & M.P.Bratzel, Jr.

Jan Schelling

The publication of the Circle's Bulletin on the Postal History of the British Cameroons, edited and written by Michael Wright in 1983, initiated a lot of research in this field, resulting in numerous publications, especially on the postmarks.

In the new book by Bob Maddocks and Marty Bratzel all new findings are added to the original information compiled by Michael Wright, and the result is a very usefull, well-written and well-documented (80 references) book. Moreover, it is a good-looking book in a very handy format.

The need for this book is clearly shown by the question on the use of the first Bai skeleton postmark posed by R. May in Cameo of July 1994; the answer to this question, related to the opening date of the Bai Postal Agency, is given on page 35.

The strength of the book is surely the extensive listing of all known postmarks used in the British Cameroons, and the clear illustrations (elaborate work by Marty Bratzel) of almost all the types listed. The addition of original photographs (made by Bob Maddocks), showing various Post Offices and Agencies, gives the book that extra documentary background. It is fascinating to see illustrations of the recently discovered new types of postmarks from the John Forrest-collection (for instance, the rare Dschang Telegraph Cancellor, described earlier in Cameo of July 1992). Given the possibility of more new types of postmarks to be found, it might prove difficult to include these in the list, as a continuous method of numbering is used.

Further, a lot of unpublished research on postal history matters is included, and in describing postal routes and methods of mail transport (overland, maritime and air mail) photocopies of relevant covers are added (though, the cover illustrated on page 103 lacks any clear connection with the British Cameroons).

The following 'chapters' on British Cameroons censorship, registration and other postal markings give a strong impression of incompleteness, being either a summary of an article published earlier (censorship), or giving only a few examples (registration markings). These subjects are very much related to the postal history of Nigeria, and should, in my view, be part of a more complete Nigerian study (as was already done on World War II censorship).

Unfortunately, the most interesting postal history of the British Forces in the Cameroons Campaign (1914-1916) is dealt with only in a few pages. I hope this will be the subject of a new book by the same authors, who have already published several articles related to the Campaign.

Concluding, this book will be the standard work on postmarks and postal history of the British Cameroons, and all collectors interested in this field will, for many years to come, benefit from the hard work done by Bob and Marty in publishing such an excellent book on this fascinating collecting field.

## THE SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE IN WEST AFRICA IN W.W.II

R.J. Maddocks

Here illustrated **Fig 1**) are both sides of an airmailed *On Active Service* cover posted in June 1944 through the U.S. Army Post Office at Accra, Gold Coast by a member of the South African Air Force serving in West Africa during W.W.II.

It posed a couple of questions: firstly what occasioned the presence of a S.A.A.F. Squadron in that theatre of operations and secondly why would one of its members despatch his mail home through a U.S. Army Post Office instead of through his own or a British unit, paying postage when ordinarily "O.A.S." mail went free of franking.

Following a lead when in South Africa and whilst researching the enigmatic presence of Italian prisoners of war in West Africa (see *Cameo* July 1994) I discovered that the 26th Squadron, to which the sender of this cover belonged, had been sent from Cape Town to the Gold Coast about the same time as these Italians. Indeed, though they were on a different assignment, one speculates whether the airmen might possibly have been used expediently to escort the P.O.W.s to West Africa. In the book *Eagles Victorious* by Martin and Orphen (vol.6 in the series *South Africans in W.W.II*) it is stated ".... after escorting Italian P.O.W.s from Zonderwater to Cape Town, the 26th Squadron under Lt Col D.A. du Toit had sailed in the *Queen Mary* for Sierra Leone in April 1943 and by 4th May it was at Takoradi off which U-boats were very active". [Zonderwater was an internment camp in the Transvaal where over 70,000 Italians were held. According to a camp history, the Central P.O.W. Post Office handled 3,325,444 outgoing and 3,144,831 incoming letters during 1943]. Without details of documentation such as the Embarkation Rolls for the *Queen Mary's* sailing, such speculation must remain. However, from the State Archives in Pretoria, I did ascertain that there were Italian P.O.W.s aboard the SS *Britannia* which left Cape Town on 17th April 1943. This ship arrived in Liverpool on 11th May 1943 but no details of intermediate ports of call have so far been ascertained. The G.O.C. West Africa on 22nd May 1943 confirmed that the prisoners had arrived in Lagos.

According to the same South African source, some Italian trouble makers in the Gold Coast were transferred back to South Africa in 1944 - this would evidence a third P.O.W. camp in West Africa; Lagos and Freetown being the others known.



fig.1 recto (reduced 41%)

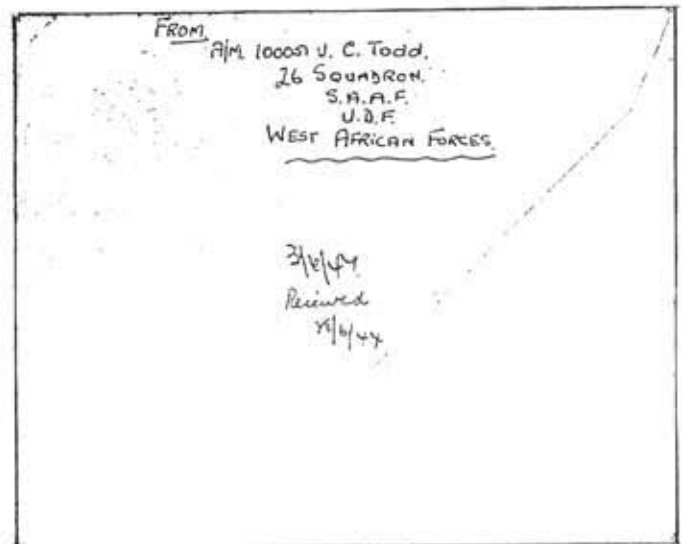


fig.1 verso (reduced 41%)

In the case of this cover the sender, Airman Todd, was probably on a mission away from his Takoradi base and availed himself of the U.S. Army Postal Service at Accra (A.P.O. No.606) for its despatch for whatever reason. Presumably, it was in anticipation of a faster transit time, possibly via Pan Am flight to the Congo thence by Sabena. Accordingly, he would have had to purchase and affix a U.S. postage stamp - 6 cents seems to have been the then U.S. Forces basic airmail rate to the U.S.A. according to transatlantic covers sighted. Presumably also there were some arrangements between the British and American Postal Services for the latter to be used by other Allied military personnel and without evading censorship.

The location of U.S. Base Examiner No. 2102 (as per cachet struck in mauve) has not been ascertained by me. According to information on the reverse, *Received 28/6/44*, the letter was some 3 weeks in transit. Depending on whatever and whenever naval vessels calling in at West African ports were en-route to South Africa, surface transit time would probably have been faster.

As an amusing aside, given that Africa was regarded as a country not a continent, here is another wartime cover with a US/South African connection (**fig.2**). It was posted from Philadelphia U.S.A. on 5/10/1942 addressed to *Ikot Ekpene, South Nigeria, Union of South Africa!!* There is no indication that the letter ever passed to or through South Africa but it too, was over 3 weeks in transit before reaching Ikot Ekpene on 31/10/42 via Aba (30/10/42) and Lagos (28/10/42) as per the only backstamps.

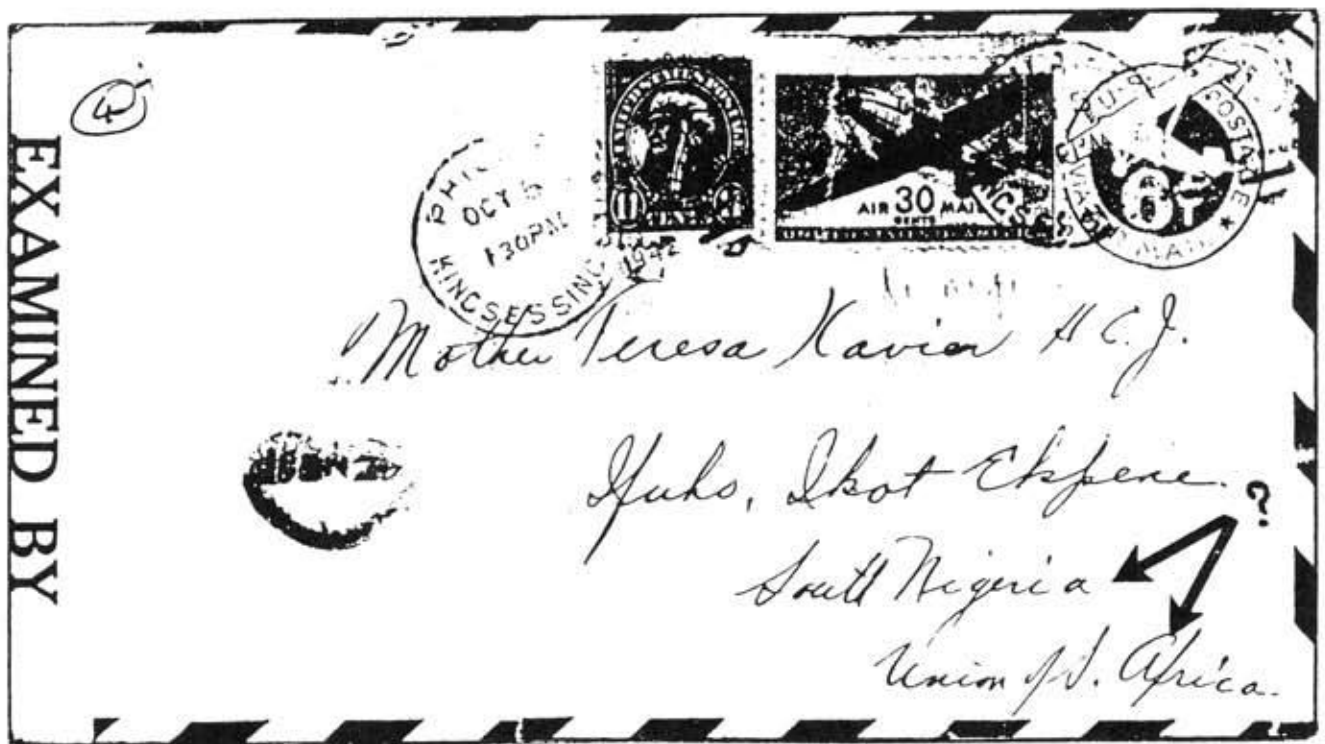


Fig.2

The 26th Squadron was equipped with Wellington XI aircraft and consisted of three Flights. These were at Takoradi (its HQ), Pointe Noire in the Gabon and Lagos, Nigeria, though the latter was within weeks absorbed into the other two. Eventually, the two became one, based at Takoradi. It's duties were reconnaissance, anti-submarine sweeps and coastal escorts over the next 20 months or so until the U-boat war had ended in mid-1945. Sorties were also flown from Yundum (Gambia), Waterloo (Sierra Leone), Robertsfield (Liberia) and Ikeja (Nigeria) as well as Ouakam (Senegal). In this time several aircraft crashed and nearly 40 aircrew lost their lives. (Source: *Eagles Victorious*).

Although ordinary *On Active Service* mail was carried free by surface, airmail (also registered and parcels mail) required pre-payment of postage. It was sometimes convenient for an individual, particularly if away from base, to use the Post Office of some unit or service other than his own. The British Military administration in West Africa seems to have given little if any priority to the homeward air despatch of its Forces unofficial mails, mainly because so it claimed - shortage of available aircraft cargo space.

The situation was however much improved from mid-1943 onwards and although details have not been ascertained there were even airmail despatches between West Africa (Lagos) and South Africa (Durban) and vice versa to A.P.O. Takoradi also. Mailings from members of 26th Squadron S.A.A.F. can probably be found where they survive, originating from divers places visited in the course of duties on the Coast. Other South African personnel were also periodically at Takoradi - there were two aircrews of No.17 Squadron engaged in ferrying aircraft across Africa to Egypt.

Below: Air and ground crew of 26 Sqn in front of a Wellington at Takoradi.



Finally reverting to the Italian P.O.W's mail as discussed in *Cameo's* July 1992 and July 1994 and more particularly the censor's cachet *P/W Censorship/West Africa(n) Force*, it is opportune to mention that, contrary to earlier elsewhere expressed beliefs, the West African Force does not refer to the Royal West African Frontier Force (R.W.A.F.F.) per se, but to the combined British and dominion military forces drafted for wartime operations into the four West African colonies and under the overall command of a G.O.C. in Accra. Though initially A.P.O. numbers were used, by late 1942, or even earlier, the address of units and serving individuals in West Africa was simply *West African Forces* as can be seen from the reverse of Todd's letter. No country was shown and colonial stamps were not used on outward correspondence. The R.W.A.A.F. which consisted of regiments of African troops recruited in the respective colonies, is not believed to have been part of that overall command and was therefore unlikely to have been controlling the P.O.W. camps in West Africa.

## BY AIR VIA ZINDER TO LAGOS

Jeremy Martin

The British Post Office did not encourage customers in the 1930's to use foreign air-lines for mail transit when Imperial Airways were getting ready the Khartoum-Kano connection.

The information in this note is due in large part to Barbara Priddy. She has recorded covers from Nigeria via Zinder by Air Afrique to the UK but not in the reverse direction.

The cover illustrated was posted at Liverpool on January 10, 1936 and marked *Via AIR route to ZINDER - via Franco.* It was franked 1/3" and reached Paris on the 17th. Air Afrique took it from Marseille to Algiers and then across the Sahara to Gao and Niamey to Zinder.

A mail-car took it to Kano (Jan.22) and it completed the journey by rail to Lagos (Jan.25).



Fig. 1 recto [reduced 41%]



Fig. 2 verso [reduced 41%]

## POSTAL FORGERIES FROM NIGERIA

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**Michael St. John Wright**

Postal forgeries - that is stamps forged to deceive the post office rather than collectors - are fairly uncommon in Commonwealth countries; the GB1/- "Stock Exchange" forgery and two Australian forgeries of 2d stamps in the KGV era come to mind. Recently two such forgeries of stamps of independent Nigeria have been offered by British Auctioneers. With the help of Jeremy Martin, and photographs taken by Don Cross, I now record these.

The first is of the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company printing of the 2'6 Kobs stamp, which appeared in 1972 (it was originally printed by Harrisons in 1966). The normal (SG229) is well-printed by photogravure in three colours, perf 13 x 13½. The forgery is lithographed, rather crudely; the white lettering is much narrower, and poor printing has almost obliterated the hoofprints at the edges of the design. Whereas the original has quite subtle shading on the animals' bodies, on the forgery most of the colouring is quite even, but there are a few extra lines of the dark colour. Finally the perforation, which is very rough, leaving unsevered disks, is 11-12.

The two copies we have seen appear to be postmarked in 1973 (one in April) but the places are illegible. Given how it can fairly easily be spotted, and is on a value many of which would have gone abroad, particularly to the UK, it seems surprising that it appears not to have been recorded before.

The second forgery is of the lithographic printing of the 10k Cheetahs stamp (SG296, issued in 1973 without any watermark, or SG344 with one). This is not quite so obvious, because of the very poor printing of many genuine copies of this value, with much of the original detail (including the designer's name and the printer's imprint) degenerating into mere smudges. It could be described as a stamp asking to be forged. (The same applies to many copies of the 5k value).

The lettering is quite similar to that of the original. A closer look, however, shows that the shading of the animals' bodies consists of a number of rough lines like random scratches rather than the neat "patches" on the correct stamp. The perforation again is 11-12 instead of 14. It is again very rough, and on the two copies seen the stamps are very badly centred, with the perforation through the design of the adjacent stamp. (Although the stamp is a different size from the previous forgery, it may not be a coincidence that this is the same gauge - though perhaps few perforating machines were available in Nigeria). The postmarks are largely illegible, but one date can be seen (matt against the highly-reflective printing ink) as 30 NO 83.

Before I offered the above to the Editor I attended the Salisbury meeting where our member Rob May showed members yet another more recent forgery, which he found while sorting kiloware. He has kindly contributed the following paragraph: *The forgery is of the 50k value African Catfish of the 1991 Nigerian fishes special issue (SG615). There were three separated examples, very roughly perforated 11½ x 12 line, on a piece from an airmail envelope. The stamps appear to have been printed individually as the positioning of NIGERIA 50k differs markedly between the stamps, the blue in the sky is differently shaped in each stamp, the red colour separation of the fish is displaced in one stamp and the green background shapes are different. The printing is, all-in-all, very crude. The postmark is very indistinct; I can make out the town ILESHA and DE91.*

Perhaps these reports will lead members to take a closer look at their modern Nigerian stamps.



Genuine 1



Forgery 1



Genuine 2



Forgery 2



Genuine 3



Forgery 3

# NIGERIAN MANUSCRIPT POSTAL MARKING "S.A.B.S."

R.J. Maddocks

This unusual and previously unexplained marking is seen on the three covers here illustrated. These were posted by registered airmail in 1955 and 1956 from Zaria and Bukuru, Nigeria to Mail Order companies in England.

The two from Zaria are superscribed "Forces Air Mail" and give the respective sender's address as "Boys' Company, Nigeria Regiment Training Camp, Zaria"; there is no indication as to the sender on the Bukuru cover.

The former are stamped 1/- each, the latter 2/-.

Both the registration and S.A.B.S. markings on each individual cover have been made by the same hand and ink (red re Zaria) and pencil (Bukuru) which would confirm that S.A.B.S. was written by a postal officer. Thus what do the initials S.A.B.S. stand for? Since enquiries of Nigeria collectors drew a blank, my own theory is that they indicate "Stamp(s) affixed by Sender".

The lead is found in Nigeria Post Office Regulations that state that postal staff are forbidden to affix stamps to postal articles on behalf of the public. Secondly,

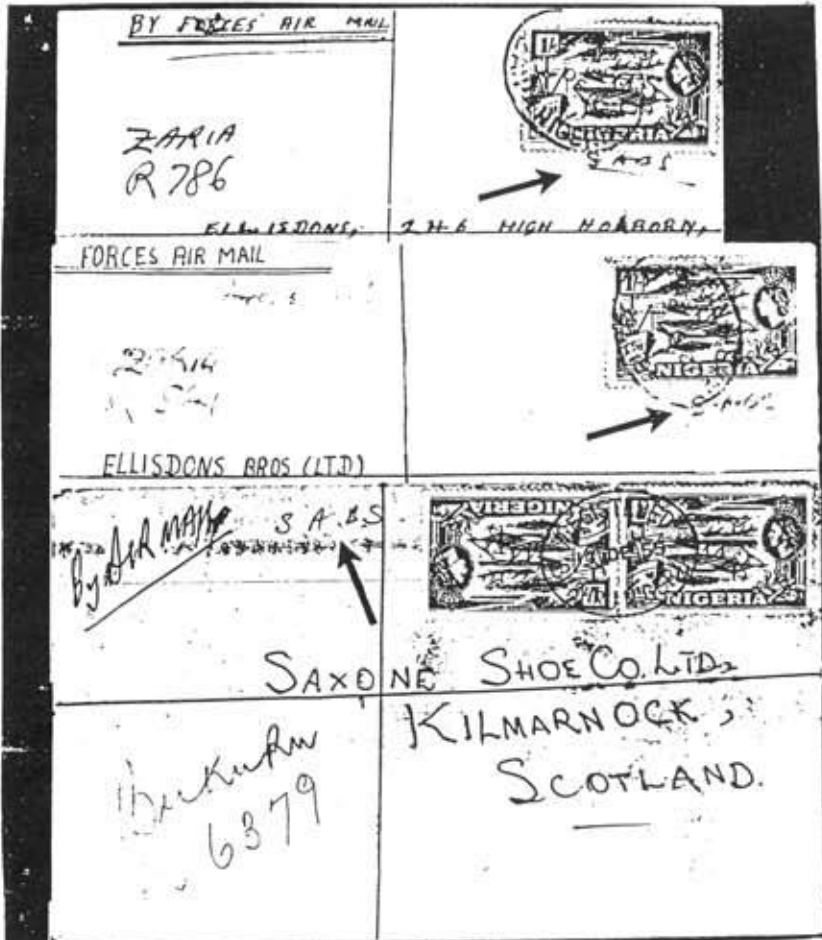
that there was an Armed Forces Concession Postage airmail letter rate applicable only if letters were handed in for posting at P.O. counters by the sender in person so that his military bonafide could be verified by a postal office - not necessary of course if there was a camp P.O.

In the mid-1950's the normal airmail rate for letters to the UK was 1/3d per 1/2oz; registration, where required, was 4d making a total franking of 1/7d. The Forces' concession rate was 3d per 1oz but there was no reduction in the registration fee, thus total franking required

was 7d on basic mailings.

It is seen that all three covers have been overfranked by the respective senders and presumably, prior to posting, the postal clerk, in accepting and recording the registration, had noted the excess postage paid and accordingly marked the envelope to indicate that the sender and not himself i.e. Post Office was responsible.

fig.1  
(red.  
78%)



HISTORICAL  
RESEARCH

- § Military
- § Naval
- § Political
- § Biographical

in England and the  
colonies .. 17Cent to  
20Cent.

Dr.P.J. LeFevre\*  
Ms.J.G. Evans\*  
48, Vincent Sq.  
London  
SW1P 2NR  
☎ 630 1969

\*Member of Institute of  
Historical Research  
University of London

## WEST AFRICA IN EUROPE

Jeremy Martin

In the autumn of 1994, I spent a week at stamp exhibitions in Paris and The Hague and thought members might be interested in the West African material available. Both exhibitions attracted good crowds and plenty of young collectors were in evidence, many more than are seen at Stampex.

The First European Exhibition of Stamp Leisure was held in the Floral Park on the outskirts of Paris. In

particular, I was looking for French Togo and found some used stamps. I also obtained four items of unused Dahomey overprinted postal stationery. However, I also came across 1964-65 covers of Gambia with a large violet oval enclosing



Fig.1

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE/BATHURST, GAMBIA. There was a 1961 cover from the U.N. Force in the Congo [Fig.1] and finally a 1939 registered and censored envelope from Nigeria to Switzerland. This had a wax seal *CENSOR/CROWN/POST & TELEGRAPH*. Was it applied in the U.K. or Nigeria?

FEPAPOST took place in The Hague and one dealer had a reasonable selection of material. I acquired a Gold Coast Type 5 ADA cancel of 1899 on a postal stationery card. A picture postcard of 1916 to Switzerland had a crayon "PC" for *Passed Censor* which I do not think had been spotted [Fig.2]. An October 1957 envelope from APAM still had *GOLD COAST* in the date stamp but a *GHANA* handstamp had been applied alongside. [Fig.3]

There was an unusual cachet *POSTAGE/NIGERIA/PAID* which I had not seen before [Fig.4]. It seemed that Dutch seamen on tankers could write back to Holland from Nigeria and use Dutch stamps which then were cancelled in Nigeria but with ordinary date-stamps, two examples.

Finally a German dealer had a nice picture postcard franked with a Gold Coast Edward VII 2d and addressed to Switzerland in 1911. There was a manuscript *Late fee paid* [Fig.5]

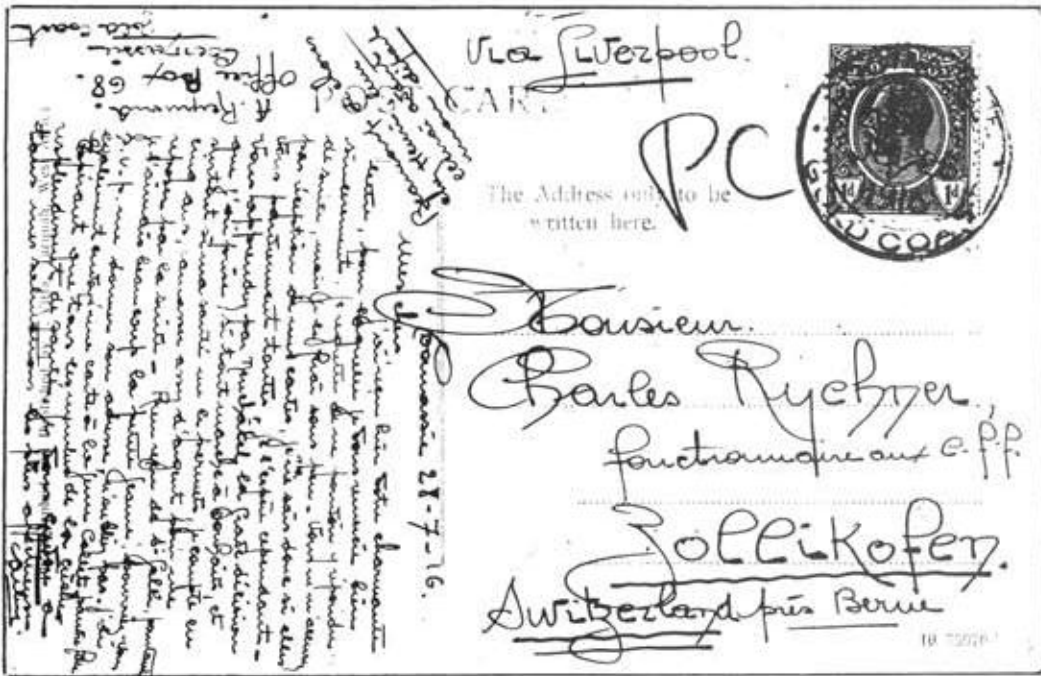


Fig. 2.

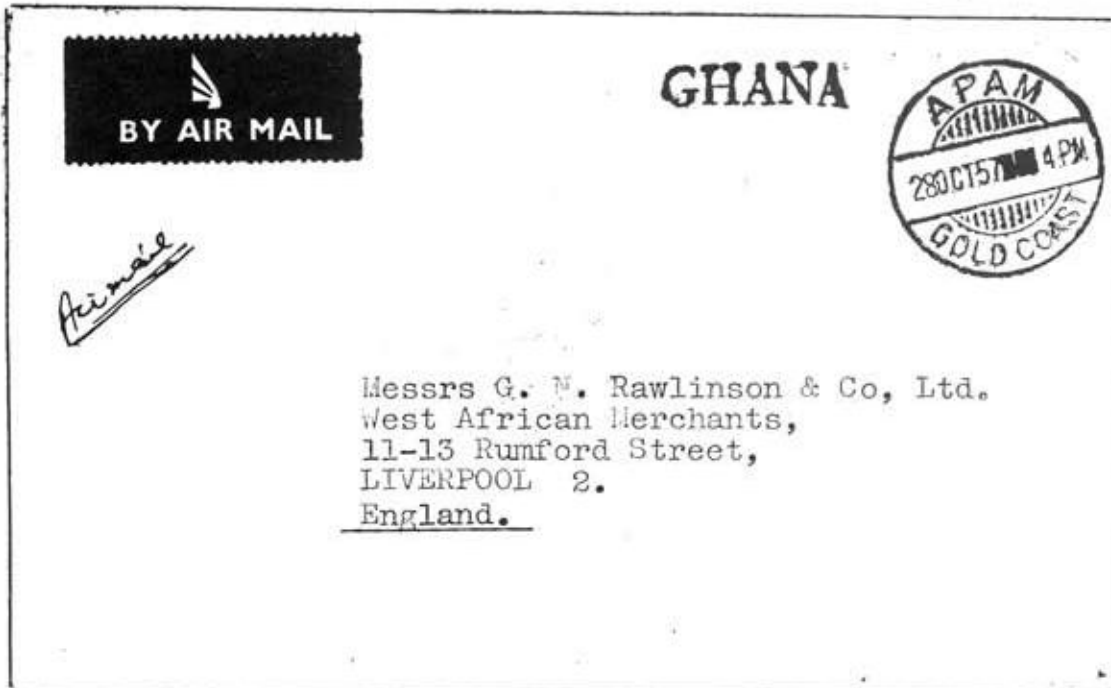


Fig. 3



## NIGERIA IN THE SPACE AGE

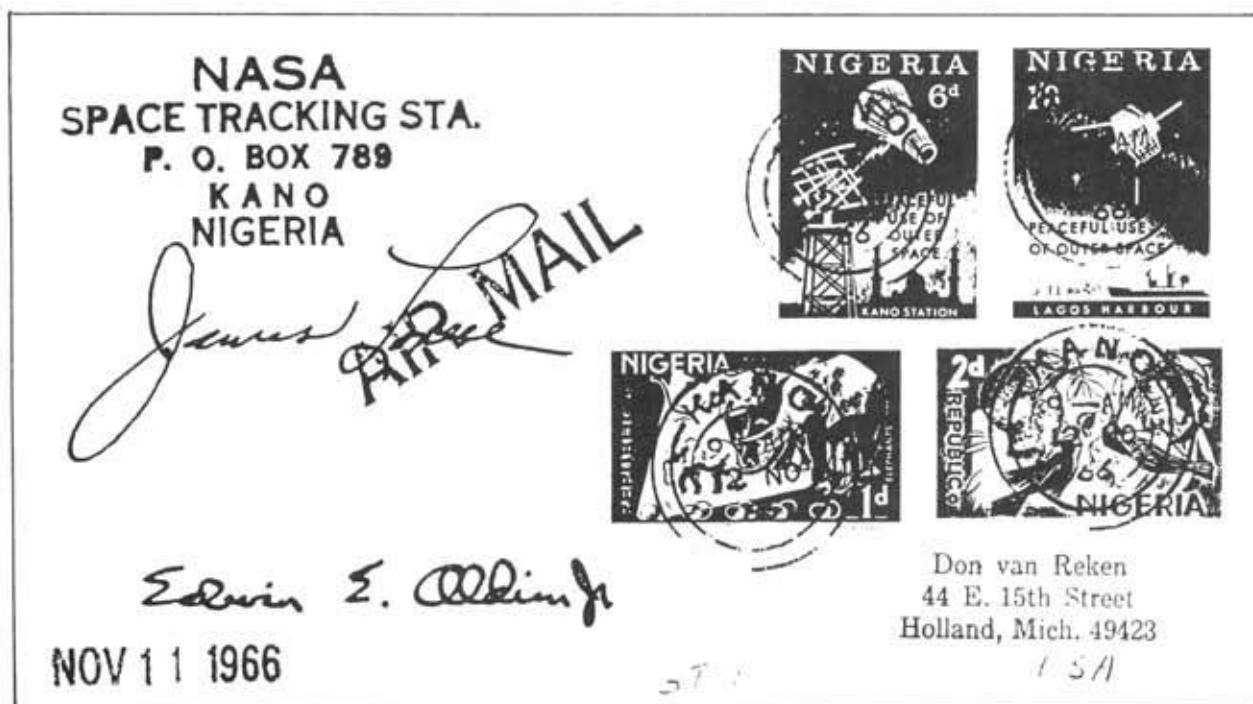
D.L. Van Reken

Nigeria was very much involved in the beginnings of the space age. It took note of the peaceful use of outer space with two stamps issued on June 2, 1963 (SG # 131,132). The 6d. value noted the Kano Space Tracking Station while the 1/3d. value honored the *SYNCOM* satellite which was controlled from a ship in Lagos harbor.

For a time, in the 1960s, the United States needed a series of tracking and communication stations worldwide for its space program. One of these stations was in Nigeria and it was used during the series of *Mercury* and *Gemini* space flights.

There were six manned space flights named *Mercury*. The first two, on May 5 and July 21, 1961, were suborbital and each had only about 15 minutes in space. The later four flights, beginning on February 20, 1962, had 3, 3, 6, and 22 orbits. The next sequence of 10 space flights were named *Gemini* with the first flight on March 23, 1965 and the last on November 11, 1966. The *Apollo* sequence of space flights began on October 11, 1968 with *Apollo 8* lifting off on April 16, 1972.

For each of the flights the NASA Space Tracking Station in Kano arranged for flight covers to be sent. These covers had the station's address stamped at the top left corner and normal Nigerian stamps and cancellations on the top right corner.

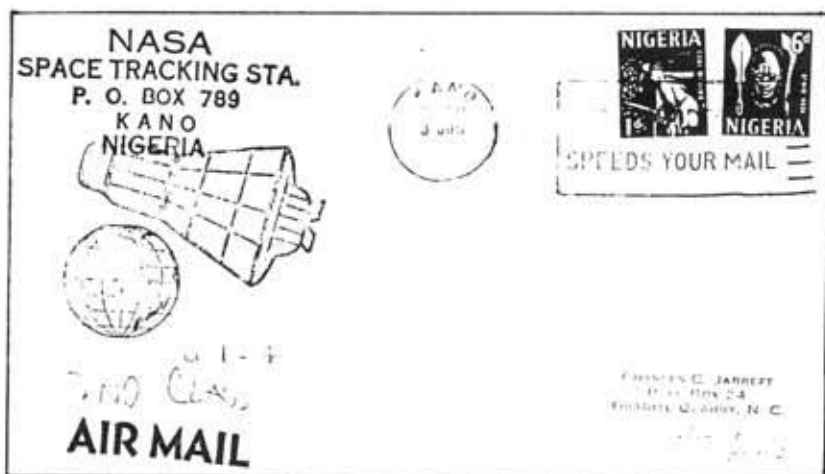




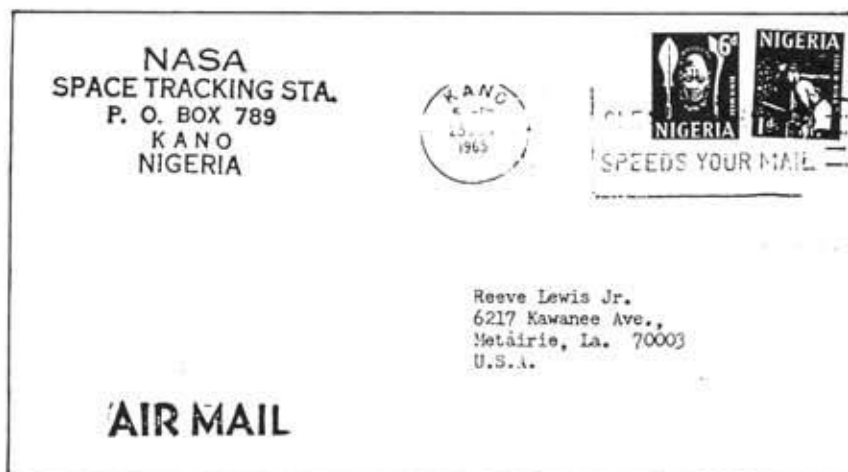
On November 29, 1961, a chimpanzee in a *Mercury* capsule made two orbits of the earth. I know of no covers. The first and second *Gemini* flights, in April 1964 and January 1965, were unmanned flights to test the spacecraft. *Gemini 3*, sent into orbit on March 23, 1965, carried a crew of two: Virgil I Grissom and John W. Young. Covers from Nigeria exist for this and for many subsequent flights until the Kano station was closed on November 18, 1966. This closing is confirmed by a personal letter from Chris C. Stephanides. Was it reopened for the Apollo flights which began on October 11, 1968?

Flights and Dates from which covers are known from the Kano Tracking Station

Mercury Atlas 15 May 1963 (also named Faith 7)	
Gemini 3 23 March 1965	Gemini 8 16 March 1966
Gemini 4 3 June 1965	Gemini 9 3 June 1966
Gemini 5 21 August 1965	Gemini 10 18 July 1966
Gemini 6 15 December 1965	Gemini 11 12 September 1966
Gemini 7 4 December 1965	Gemini 12 11 November 1966



(Reduced 41%)



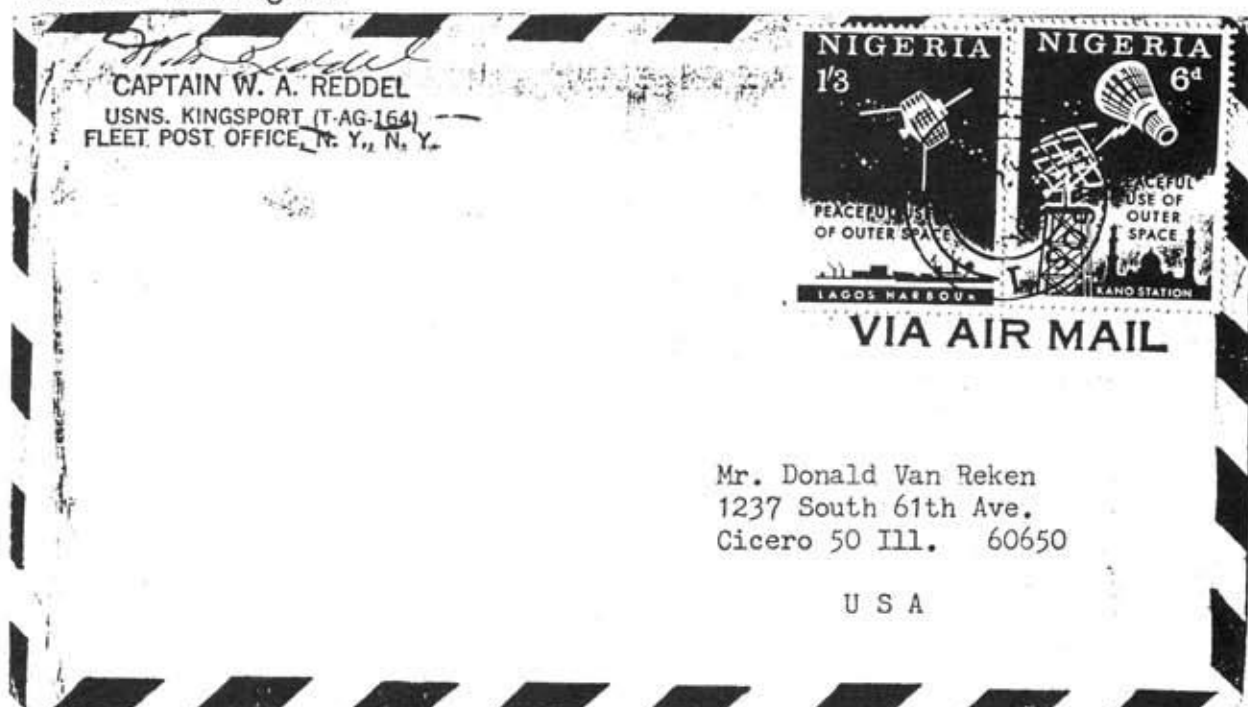
(Reduced 41%)

In the early 1960s SYNCOM communications satellites were first placed in orbit. Perhaps there were covers from the Space Tracking Station in Kano to celebrate this event, but the main effort, in Nigeria, was by the U.S. Naval Ship *KINGSPORT* which was stationed in the harbor at Lagos for this purpose. This is indicated in the higher value stamp issued in 1963.

In 1950 the *KINGSPORT* had been converted to a satellite communications ship in a coordinated military venture at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. The Bendix Company designed the electronics installation. The ship was 455 feet long, with a beam of 62 feet, and displaced 11,000 tons. The spherical radome on the after deck house contained the largest antenna of its kind ever installed on a ship. It was a stabilized 30 foot parabolic which weighed about 50,000 pounds and it was capable of automatically tracking a satellite at an altitude of 22,300 miles. It was also able to transmit and receive communications to and from a satellite at this altitude. There was also a multiple array antenna mounted on the top of the foremast for additional communications.

There were accommodations on board the ship for over 100 crewmen and for the many engineers and technicians. The equipment and personnel areas were all air-conditioned for tropical operations. Special roll stabilizing tanks limited the ship's roll and a helicopter platform was in place for personnel or equipment transfer.

The *KINGSPORT* was involved in many of the early space flights. In July 1963 its crew sent and then received messages from the harbor at Lagos to the satellite SYNCOM II. In the next weeks it relayed messages and photo facsimiles from the orbiting satellite. Photographs of President Kennedy and Nigerian Governor General Azikiwe were part of this exchange. After satellites came into more common use the ship was retired from this activity. Two covers are illustrated. One, from Lagos, is canceled on 22 Aug 1963. It has no other markings except the return address. The second cover, canceled on August 23, 1966 with U.S. postage has a cachet which shows the ship. A personal note from Capt. W.A. Reddel states that he was not permitted to use the cachet on the cover from Nigeria.



CAPTAIN W. A. REDDEL  
 USNS. KINGSFORT (T-AG-164)  
 FLEET POST OFFICE, N. Y., N. Y.

*W. A. Reddel*



VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. Donald Van Reken  
 1237 South 61th Ave.  
 Cicero 50, Ill. 60650  
 U S A

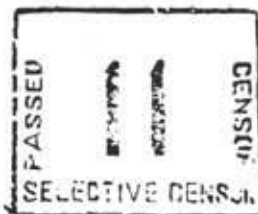
NIGERIAN MILITARY SELECTIVE CENSOR NO. 11

Anthony J Plumbe

A new type of the Army A1303 PASSED/11/CENSOR/SELECTIVE CENSOR cachet has come to light since Martin & Walton's publication appeared. Visually the principal differences are that the two strokes of the 11 are further apart, the size of the lettering is larger, and *Passed* and *Censor* both extend beyond the top of the strokes of the "11" as shown in the illustration. The cachet remains in purple and my cover is postmarked at Lagos on 14 June 1941 on a cover addressed to West African Forces based in Nairobi. The New type appears alone, whereas the earlier known type often appears in combination with other Army censor cachets such as Type A1301 Nos. 14 and 17. Full differences are:-

	Existing Type	New Type
Width of Cachet (mm)	32	32
Height of Cachet (mm)	27	28
Width between 11 stokes (mm)*	4	5.5
Height of Letters (mm)	2	3

\* edge of stroke to edge of stroke



Type  
 Known



New  
 Type

NORTHERN NIGERIA  
ILLO/N. BORGU PRIVATE MAIL



Jack Ince

The following article seeks to update the information contained on pages 286/287 of Ince and Sacher's recent book The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region, primarily as a result of three further examples having come to hand, one of which remains on piece with 2 x 1/2d. KE VII stamps.

The province of Borgu, lying to the west of the Protectorate, was adjacent to the French territory of Dahomey, and, following the period of serious tension from 1894 with the French over territorial claims, in 1897-98 the province was partitioned north to south. The British portion was never under the administration of The Royal Niger Company, but was placed directly under the control of the military, viz. The West African Frontier Force, which force had been formed in 1897-98 primarily to secure British interests against the incursions by the French.

As part of the military administration, garrisons were located in the chief towns pending agreement on delineation of boundaries. Following the declaration of the Protectorate on 1st Jan., 1900 and as relations with France improved, these garrisons were progressively withdrawn except for that at Illo, which was the nearest town to the frontier on the British side where the R. Niger entered the Protectorate. As such it was the entry/exit point for customs purposes for the passage, when depth of water permitted, for the French waterborne convoys. In 1905 a small garrison of W.A.F.F. troops was still maintained in the town.

As early as 1902, Illo was noted in official records as a station on the up-river mail distribution route, which at that time ended at Argungu, some 90 miles to the north in Sokoto Province. In the Nigerian Gazette of 31 August, 1904, it was officially listed as a post office. However, no official canceller with the town name has been recorded and it is probable that, like so many other towns at this period, it was only issued with the general purpose canceller type 1 A with no town name. Circulation of mail, certainly from 1902, was via the Zungeru post office (see page 265 of the book).

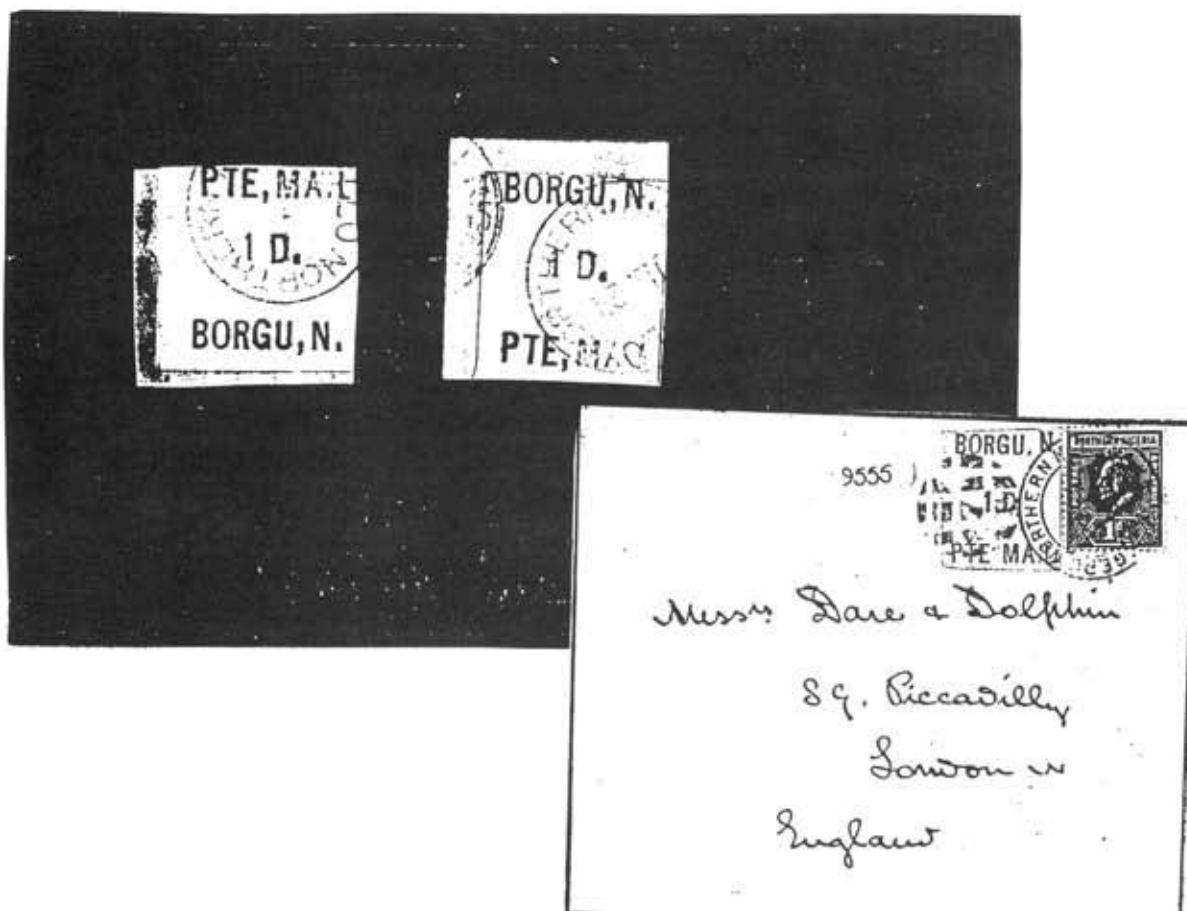
Examples occur, off cover, of 1d. KE VII stamps, carrying in violet ink, a strike of type 1 A c.d.s. with Illo incorporated at the foot between the "N" of Northern and "A" of Nigeria (see illustration). The date is inverted but carries no year, most examples being "AP 17" or "AP 24". In some examples there is superimposed a strike of type 2 c.d.s. Zungeru, presumably applied in transit, and in at least one example the date of May (MY) and the year 1905 can be clearly identified.

In addition to these single stamp examples at least two covers have been seen, and now three pieces, the pieces showing use of this Illo c.d.s. to cancel the private mail label which reads variously "BORGU, N/ID./PTE, MAIL", the date on two being "J 24". On one piece the wording of the label is reversed, viz. "PTE, MAIL/ ID./BORGU, N". It would appear that a block of these labels was printed as each carries a boxed frame line, except for one which has been badly cut to omit the upper and right hand lines.

Clearly the label, and the alteration of the type 1 A c.d.s., were not official. It is conceivable, owing to distance and time in transit Illo/Zungeru (ten to twenty days according to season), that the W.A.F.F. garrison arranged its own mail runner operating more frequently and in addition to the official service (which was unreliable and often delayed), and perhaps levied an extra penny to pay for the runner. This service and the label used were both unofficial and short-lived--perhaps 3 to 4 months--and it probably ceased when a reprimand was received, when the responsible officer went on leave or perhaps was posted elsewhere.

These labels, by themselves "off-cover", certainly have an "interest" value to a collector while stamps off-cover rank as "village cancellations" and both single labels and the stamps occur but rarely. The covers themselves, while certainly not official, are scarce and thus have a rarity value but valuation is difficult and depends on what a collector would be prepared to pay.

As the late Colin McCaig wrote twenty-five years ago, "perhaps some bored officer in charge of the small W.A.F.F. garrison, acting also as customs/postal officer, devoted some of his idle moments to devising some interest for future philatelists."



Reduced by 50%



NORTHERN NIGERIA  
THE CAPT. W. H. WILKIN CORRESPONDENCE  
1901 and 1905-6

by

JACK INCE

I have been given the opportunity to see (from photocopies) two letters of April and July, 1901, and eleven letters from September, 1905, to May, 1906, written by Capt. W. H. Wilkin to his half-brother in London, Rupert Shoolbred. Wilkin, commissioned into the Notts & Derbys Regiment, fought in the S. African Boer War, 1899-1900, for which he received a "Mention in Despatches", notified in The London Gazette in September, 1901. By this date, like many other young officers, he had volunteered for service in the N. Nigeria Regiment of The West African Frontier Force and was actively engaged in small operations bringing law and order to the new protectorate. This is evidenced by his letter of 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1901, where Wilkin comments at length on successful operations, by implication, against the Munchis .... "we opened up roads. We marched 422 miles in 29 days". The same letter confirms the re-routing of the telegraph line from Lokoja to Ibi which had originally been laid via Akwanaja.

For the record I have listed below a summary of all thirteen letters. Regrettably, except for the two written in 1901, there is little in the contents giving any new information on the postal services at this early period. However, as the listing shows, the date stamps on the covers give valuable information (especially when related to the date and place where the letter has been written) not only on transit times in the protectorate but also, in some cases, confirm manuscript (m/s) cancellations applied as a precaution against removal and re-use of the adhesives, but also the absence of any post office. In the case of the letter date stamped Bautchi (sic) on 17/1/06, this is the earliest recorded date of use for this office.

Whether during his service in Northern Nigeria or later, Wilkin was promoted major and served in World War I. His military record shows that he received the African General Service Medal, with clasps for the campaign against the Emir of Yola (August/Sept. 1901) and for the expedition to Bornu (February/May 1902). It would be of great interest to be able to locate the present whereabouts of other letters written in 1901/2 and for those in the interval to 1905/6 so that their contents can be examined and recorded.

1901 and 1905/6

No.	DATELINE	C.D.S.	ARRIVAL D.S.	TRANSIT TIME	REMARKS
1.	Akwanaja, April, 1901 (Easter Sunday)	m/s Akwanaja 7/4/01; Lokoja "oval" 12/2/01	London 27/5/01	50 days	"...I only heard at breakfast this morning that the mail goes out at 10 a.m., the canoe having come down

						from Ibi two days before it was expected."
2.	Ibi 14/7/01	m/s P.O. Ibi 23/7/01 N. Nigeria Type 1A c.d.s. (probably Lokoja) 30/7/01	London 30/8/01	48 days		"...out in bush from June to July 6th...and received 2 mails and found another on return here"...I am here awaiting orders but expect to proceed to Lokoja for someone else has begun to pull up the (telegraph) wire at Akwanaga (sic), I do not envy him (The telegraph line was re-routed).
3.	S.S.Burutu "off Portugal" 5/9/05	S'hampton Pkt letter c.d.s. 16/5/05	---	---		Capt. Wilkin was returning from leave to rejoin the 2 <sup>nd</sup> N. Nigeria Regt.
4.	S.W. Empire at Burutu, Niger Delta, 20/9/05	K.E. Id. adhesive not cancelled	London 13/10/05	24 days		
5.	Lokoja "Oct. 1905"	Lokoja 4/10/05	—	—		
6.	Lokoja 8/10/05	Lokoja 9/10/05	London 1/11/05	23 days		On regimental notepaper
7.	Lokoja 17/10/05	Lokoja 19/10/05	London 15/11/05	28 days		
8.	S.W.Stark 24/11/05	Lokoja 4/12/05	Indistinct	?		Letter refers to passage upstream from Lokoja via Loko, Udeni (Odeni) bound for Amar on board steam powered launch 60ft. long with 9ft. beam
9.	Amar, 1/12/05	c.d.s. (probably Ibi) date indistinct, Lokoja 7/12/05	---	---		Note: Amar is some 50/60 miles upstream from Ibi on R. Benue
10.	Nafada 9/1/06	Bautchi (sic) 17/1/06 Lokoja 21/2/06	---	---		Nafada (Bauchi Prov.) on R. Gongola (tributary of R. Benue)
11.	Nafada 25/2/06	Bautchi 2/3/06 Zungeru 3/4/06 Lokoja 5/4/06	London 3/5/06	68 days		News of uprising at Sokoto & defeat of British led troops Note: 3 days between Zungeru and Lokoja makes the Zungeru date suspect. In 1902, 8 days was the scheduled time

12.	Jemma 4/4/06 (not Jemaa)	Lokoja 25/5/06	?	---	Expedition (on Bauchi Plateau, S.E. to Kwol (sic - Kwall) via Bukuru. "Jemma" is stated by Wilkin to be 30 miles W of Bauchi town. It has not been located, and it is not the location off the plateau in Nassarawa province where a post office was opened in 1913
13.	Het 12/5/06 and Vom 23/5/06	Keffi 3/6/06 Lokoja 20/6/06	London 27/7/06	69 days	*A tax collecting patrol via Amo, Bukuru, Vom and Miango on Bauchi Plateau

\*"When we return to Lokoja, our route will be thro' Keffi, Nassarawa to Loko" (on R. Benue).

This was the established trek route to the Bauchi Plateau and the source of alluvial tin mineral and the old trade route from the R. Benue to the northern cities of Sokoto and Kano.

To comment on the letters listed herewith:

- a) Lokoja, at the confluence of the Niger and Benue Rivers, was the main post office for the North through which all mail was routed until the arrival in the protectorate of the railway in 1909. Mail was carried from that post office to the port of Forcados in the Niger Delta by a service of sternwheeled (s.w.) paddle boats.
- b) The river boat service on the R. Benue by sternwheeled boats was only practicable as far as Yola during the season of high water, approx. June to October. As the water level fell, the service was progressively reduced to the use of smaller craft down to motorised canoes (see letters 1, 2, 8 and 9).
- c) The Sept. 1902 tabulation of offices of the N. Nigeria Inland Postal Service, with mileages between offices and methods of carriage as given on pages 265/267 of the book by Ince and Sacher, The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region, is relevant. At that date it would be another two years before Amar (between Ibi and Yola on the R. Benue) became the administrative center of the Muri Province and probably three before a post office was opened. Until that time, mail to/from Amar would have been passed through the Ibi Post Office.

- d) In the same way, mail from Nafada in north-east Bauchi at the conjunction of the then provincial boundaries of Bauchi, Kano, Bornu and Yola was passed through the Bauchi post office, an office at Nafada not being opened until 1910. However, in the wet season, supplies for the military probably travelled by river from Lokoja, along the Benue to its junction with the Gongola River (near Yola) which flows in from the north (see letter 10).
- e) As the influence and control of Government was extended, so the postal routes were developed and expanded. By 1904 there was established between important centres a system of mounted messengers supplied under contract with native chiefs. One difficulty which arose was the problem of carrying “the enormous weight” of newspapers—an indication of the expatriates’ (mostly military) hunger for news of home and the very cheap postal rates applicable, viz. 1/2d. per ounce with a maximum weight of 5lbs. In 1906 transport of mail along the Benue River was being effected with “commendable regularity” with mail runners through Bauchi and Bornu Provinces still being supplied by native chiefs.
- f) The speed of transport and the route travelled would vary according to the season, i.e. wet or dry, especially for the more distant locations, where the service would be only fortnightly, rather than weekly.
- g) In letter no. 12, Wilkin ends his letter .... “by the time I reach Bukuru (on Bauchi Plateau) I shall have trekked 850 miles since leaving Amar (on R. Benue)....with 110 men, a subaltern and a colour sergeant. ....I expect to go down to Lokoja when things are settled (here)”. You had to be fit to survive and the discipline of Wilkin in ensuring his regular correspondence was maintained is something for which postal historians have come to be grateful.

Oh, to locate the missing letters!



Northern Nigeria 1901. Based on Lugard's map of this period

## MIS-SENT TO NIGERIA

N.M. Jones

Recently, I obtained a cover which had been mis-sorted, possibly because of the knowledge of the sorter rather than the lack of it.

The cover was posted in Edinburgh on 8th June 1936 and addressed to Nasarawa, via Gudi, Northern Province, Nigeria.

It is backstamped Madras S.P.O. on 14th June!

I can only assume that the sorter knew that Northern Province was in India and looked no further at the address, simply putting the letter in the India mail bag.

There is no indication as to how the letter finally arrived in Nigeria, but further backstamps of Kano on 20th June and Kaduna North on 21st June, would seem to suggest a return to Khartoum and then across to Kano.

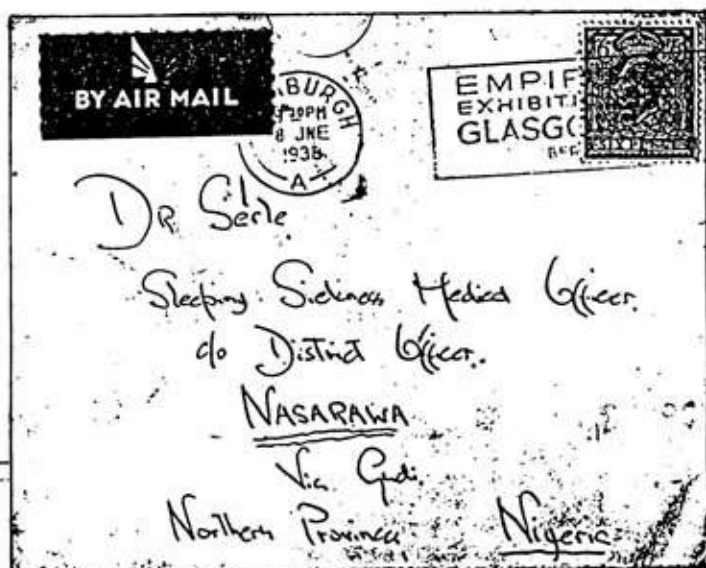


fig.1 recto (reduced)

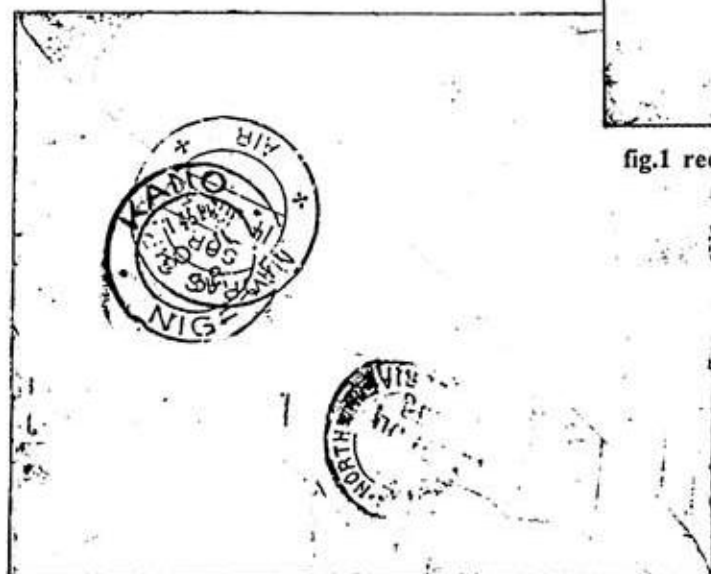


fig.2 verso (reduced)

## PAID LIVERPOOL BR. PACKET ON TOGO MAIL

E.J. Mayne

Collectors of early TOGO are aware that good landing facilities were not established until a pier was erected at LOME and was open to traffic in 1904.

The WOERMANN LINE had the contract for collecting mail and ships called at either KLEIN POPO, LOME or BAGIDA. It was not uncommon for mail to pass by hand either to the GOLD COAST for collection by BRITISH SHIPS or to DAHOMEY for collection by FRENCH SHIPS.

Indeed a reproduction postcard of 1894 issued by the German Auctioneers HEINRICH KOHLER to mark the centenary of the Colonial Mail Service in 1988 shows clearly mail in a bag bound for LIVERPOOL.

In their OCTOBER 1993 auction KOHLER offered a cover from LOME to DORSET with a pair of MICHEL V47c cancelled LOME 15.3.1894. The reserve for this item was DM 5000 excluding V.A.T. and local taxes and this reflected the catalogue value of the stamps, one of the scarcest of the GERMAN issues used in the colonies.

This item addressed to ENGLAND may have been intentionally routed via QUITTAH and ACCRA whose backstamps are noted. This would have been the quickest route. It was carried by a British ship to LIVERPOOL where it received the red PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET cachet on 17.4.1894 before routed to SWANAGE and eventual redirection to LONDON. This item would have been extracted from a mail bag at LIVERPOOL.

At STAMPEX last autumn the writer acquired a GERMAN POSTAL STATIONERY CARD cancelled LOME 23.5.1894. and addressed to GERMANY. This item was marked for collection by the ALINE WOERMANN which operated along the HAMBURG WEST AFRICA route from 8.4.1891 to 27.1.1905. This item was also marked for collection at QUITTAH, GOLD COAST where the ship was scheduled to call.

It was routed via QUITTAH on 25.5.1894 and then to ACCRA where it was backstamped on 29.5.1894. Was it delayed at QUITTAH or did it arrive too late to catch the ALINE WOERMANN. I suggest the latter and this explains why it was sent on to ACCRA in the hope that it may catch the GERMAN ship when she put in at that port. Again arriving too late to catch the ship the item was sent to LIVERPOOL on A BRITISH ship as a loose letter i.e. outside the bag, and on arrival at LIVERPOOL it received the LIVERPOOL cachet 25.6.1894 before being sent to GERMANY.

Apart from these two items the writer has not seen any other examples of mail from TOGO which has received the LIVERPOOL packet cancel. Do any other members have items of this nature. Any information would be welcome. In particular I would welcome details of the names of ships of the THE BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY and AFRICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY joint service operating along the WEST AFRICAN coast up to 1920 and which carried mail. Details as to where this information can be found would be helpful. The writer has information in respect of the GERMAN vessels and FRENCH ships for this period and knows of no other countries whose ships called at TOGO to pick up mail. Perhaps there were other BRITISH companies operating these waters during this period.

May be this article will unearth some information. I do hope so. Please communicate direct with me at 41 THE WHEATLANDS BRIDGNORTH SHROPSHIRE WV16 5BD. Thank you. [copies to the Editor please]



— TOGO: Hilfsbeamte der Kaiserlich Deutschen Postagentur KLEIN-POPO um 1894



SIERRA LEONE INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS

N. LUTWYCHE

Both Philip Beale and Frank Walton describe the FREETOWN RETURNED LETTER BRANCH handstamp in their respective books (as type M19 and 719.01 respectively) and both say it is known with smaller letters than in their illustrations.

At Scottish Congress earlier this year I picked up a rather grubby manilla envelope with a partial impression of this handstamp on the reverse. The date was given as '5 SP 42' with the numerals '5' and '42' being noticeably smaller than the lettering. This date is a few years later than quoted in Frank Walton's book but as a last known date this may have been superseded anyway.

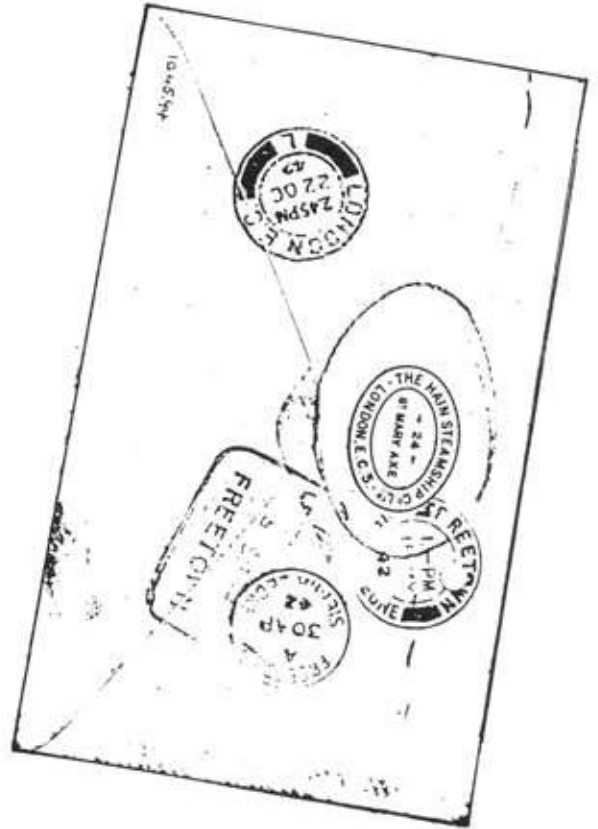
However, the front of the cover proved to be far more interesting as it has in black an approximately 24mm x 14.5mm boxed handstamp enclosing the words "Non réclamé./Not called for". All the lettering is seriffed but the "Non réclamé" is in italics. This handstamp is virtually identical in size and style with the "Parti/Gone Away" instructional handstamp as described by Philip Beale as M9 and Frank Walton as 709.01 and the "Inconnu./Not Known" instructional handstamp described by the two authors as type M13 and 713.01 respectively.

I assume that the "Non réclamé" handstamp was prepared for use at the same time as the "Parti" and "Inconnu" handstamps, sometime towards the end of the last century.

In case the cover does not photocopy well, I'll give details of its travels. It was sent by The Hain Steamship Company of London to Freetown on 9th April, 1942. On arrival at Freetown, the cover received on the reverse a 23.5mm or 24mm FREETOWN single circle cds with the code letter 'A' dated '30 AP 42' (the code letter 'A' is apparently unrecorded). Attempts were made to deliver the letter to the addressee but were unsuccessful. On the front in manuscript is "Try Colonial Secretary's Office, Freetown". On the reverse is another FREETOWN handstamp, this time a partial double circle with medium bars dated '18 MY 42'.

It appears that the letter kicked its heels in Freetown until it received on the front the "Non réclamé./Not called for" instructional marking. Immediately above this mark is written in blue pencil the date "17/8/42". At some point, someone added in pencil at the bottom of the cover "Not known".

On 5th September, 1942, the cover received its "Returned Letter Office, Freetown" handstamp on the reverse. I assume that it was at this point that the address was deleted in red pencil and the sender's name and address on the reverse was circled as an indication as to whom the letter should be returned. Sometime subsequent to that date the letter was returned to the United Kingdom. On its arrival, the cover was backstamped with a "London E.C.L." cds arrival mark of 22nd October, 1942, while on the front it received the standard boxed two line 'UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED/RETURN TO SENDER', in purple. It was thereafter delivered to The Hain Steamship Company who promptly had two holes punched in the cover and filed it in an A4 type binder of the period. (Personally, I prefer the shoebox method!)



[Reduced]



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