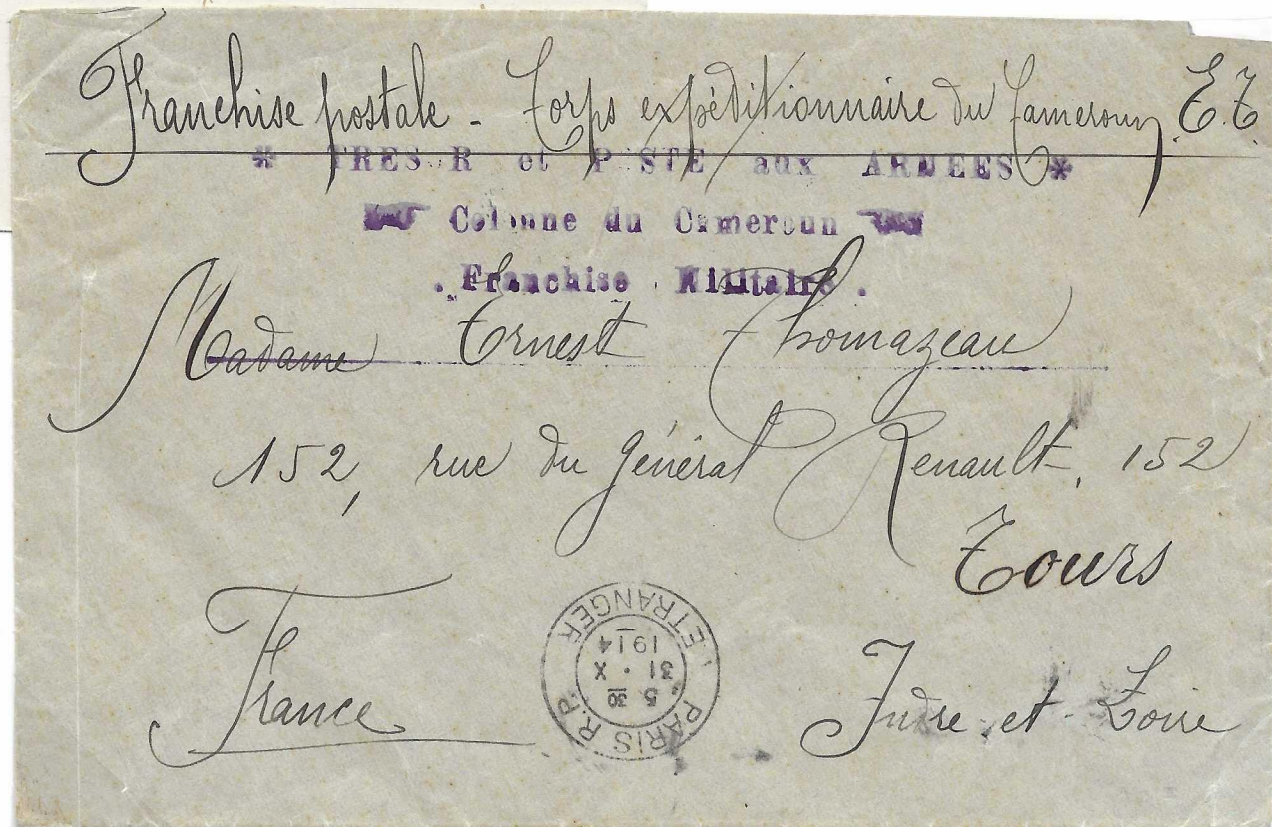
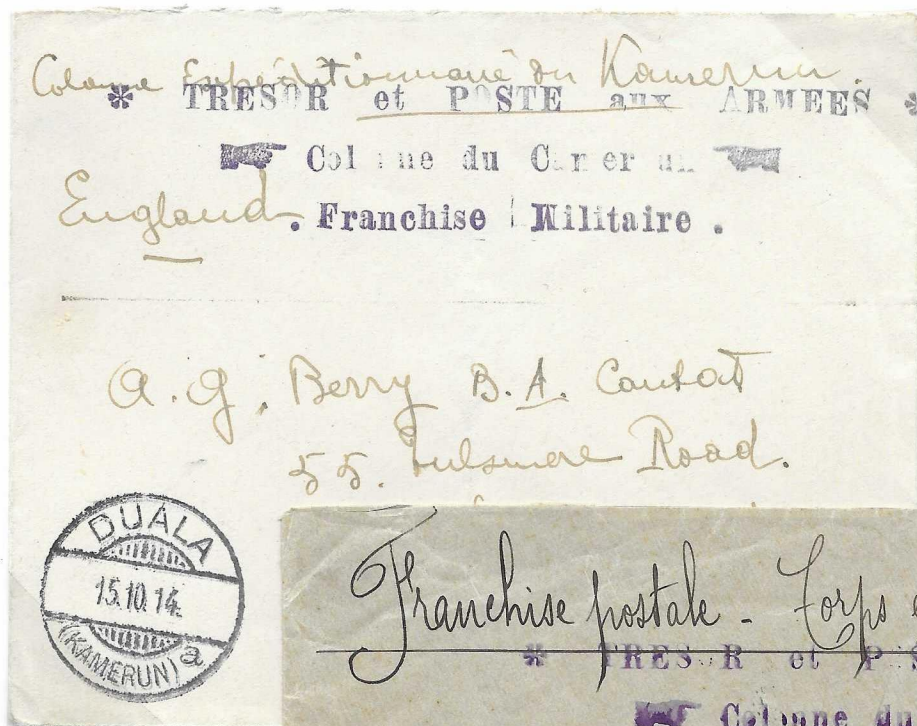


CAMEROONS

FRENCH OCCUPATION

Following a naval bombardment, Allied troops landed at Duala, the capital of German Kamerun, which surrenders on 27 September 1914. However the German militia (Schutztruppe) retreated inland and continued to resist for an extended period. The last defenders crossed the border into internment in Spanish Rio Muni on 17 February 1916. The colony was divided into French and British zones for administrative purposes, with the French receiving the largest portion to the east.

Colonne du Cameroun
October 1914



Initially, the invading forces did not have fieldpost markings, so a three-line provisional handstamp was used as an authorizing cachet and postal marking. The literature (Waugh & Luft) regards this marking as rare and notes that it was used only on early military franchise mail. These examples sent to England and France, respectively. Upper cover endorsed on reverse as sent by a Doctor in the French Field Hospital.

CAMEROONS
French Occupation

Tresor et Postes/aux Armees
14 October 1915
12 December 1915



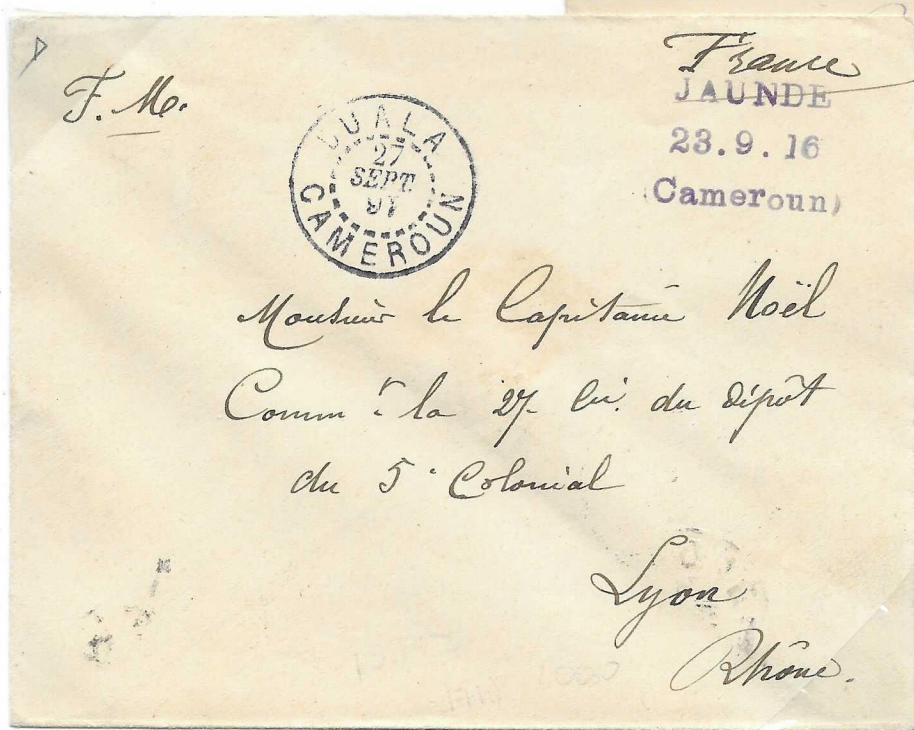
A second provisional cachet was provided and used on military mail for an extended time -- at least into 1916. It was undated and inscribed "Paymaster and Postal Officer/from the Army" and applied in purple or black. Above usages from members of the Cameroon Column to France.

CAMEROONS
French Occupation

Tresor et Postes/aux Armees
11 January 1915

Ngaundere
August 1915

Jaunde
23 September 1916



A third military postmark was provided, again inscribed "Paymaster and Postal Officer/from the Army" but with "Cameroun" below and the date in the middle, applied here in blue. Two provisional markings for civil post offices but used on military letters to France are shown below.

CAMEROONS
French Occupation

Colonne du Sud Cameroun
25 September 1915



One French column from Gabon was attempting to chase down the remaining Germans in the southern Cameroons. This cover to France from an officer in the group is shown with a dateline indicating that it was written at Eboro on 25 September. It was carried by messenger and turned in at the nearest French post office at Mitzig, Gabon ten days later. Mail from this small unit is highly elusive.

CAMEROONS
French Occupation

Tresor et Postes/aux Armees
22 February 1916
25 February 1916

Exp. M. LAVAL Lucien s/sofficier d'infanterie coloniale
colonne de gauche du detachement Est-Cameroun YAOUNDE
via DUALA " CAMEROUN " .

RECOMMANDE .

~~~~~

A . R .

Monsieur le DIRECTEUR de la

BAIQUE de FRANCE

succursala de MARSEILLE .

~~~~~

MARSEILLE .



35

306



M^r V. Brooks

Lome

Togoland



Passed by Censor



For use on civil mail and to pay fees for special services on military mail, the current definitives of Gabon were overprinted "Corps Expeditionnaire/Franco-Anglais/Cameroun" and placed on sale in November 1915. These were not sold to the public but affixed to letters by the postal clerks as required.

CAMEROONS
French Occupation

Tresor et Postes/aux Armees
14 February 1916

Yaounde
18 June 1916



Lower cover has a provisional postmark of Yaounde (Jaunde) of 28 June, but the postage was affixed and cancelled in Duala and the letter sent to Bordeaux via French mail steamship.

CAMEROONS
French Occupation

Duala
20 October 1916

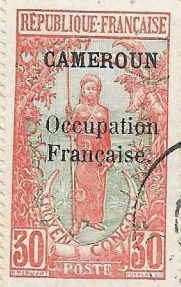
Lolodorf
23 August 1917

Bana
26 April 1919

EXPRESS

RECOMMANDÉE

Mademoiselle Solz



Bana - CAMÉROUN
R-333

Monsieur J. Grecht
17 Furkheimerstr 17
Bâle (suisse)

in 1916, the joint French-British occupation was ended and each country took its own administrative zone. As a result, a new set of overprints inscribed "Cameroun/Occupation/Francaise" was made on definitives of the Middle Congo and placed on sale in 1916 an 1917.

CAMEROONS
French Occupation

Duala
15 September 1916

N'Kong-Samba
10 February 1916



Most of the stamps in this set were used on philatelic covers. This is especially the case of the high values, for which there was no commercial need. Note the different overprint on the postal stationery envelope shown above.

CAMEROONS
French Occupation

Duala
6 July 1917
24 July 1918

Official Cachets



Official covers sent from the French administration in Duala, the capital of the colony. Upper cover sent to Switzerland required payment of postage, although it appears to be underpaid by 5 centimes. Lower cover has elusive cachet of the Railway Unit not previously reported.

CAMEROONS
French Occupation

Duala
13 May 1918
25 September 1919

Official Mail



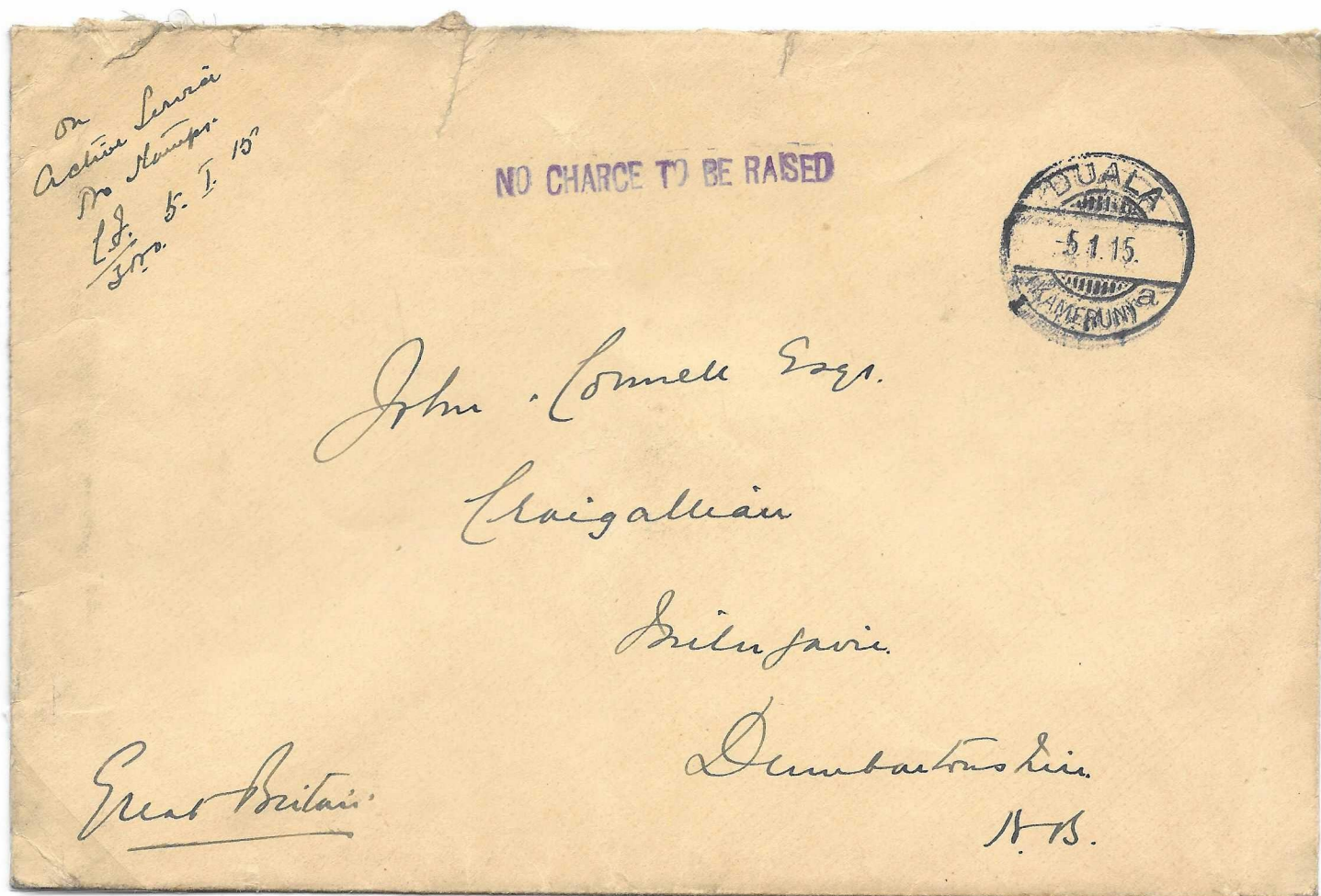
Covers with official corner cards of the Cabinet of the Governor and Commissioner of the French Republic. Lower cover with the imprinted "Occupied Territory of the Former Cameroons" shows late use of old German registry label in 1919, although provisionally changed from Fontemdorf to Duala.

**CAMEROONS
BRITISH OCCUPATION**

Duala
16 December 1914
5 January 1915



Skeleton postmark inscribed "Expeditionary Force/Duala" is known postally used for just a few days in December 1914 – making it one of the scarcest British Army cancels reported from World War I.

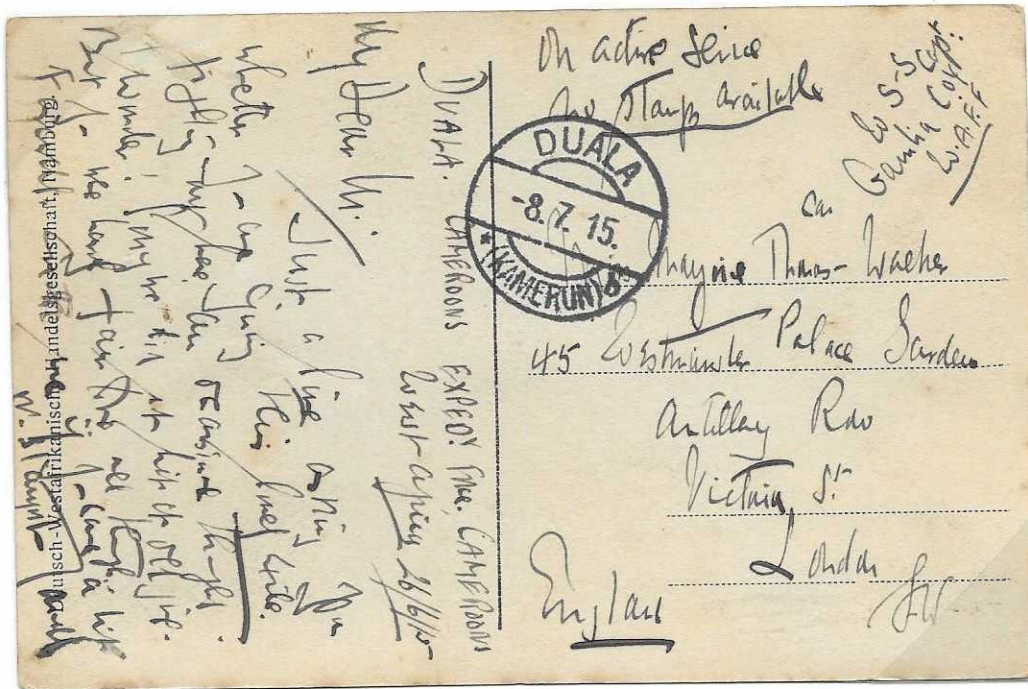


Except very briefly at the beginning of the occupation, the British did not operate military post offices in the Cameroons, but sent mail through the former German civil post offices using the old German postmarks well into 1918. Military letters were free of postage if properly endorsed. The example here has manuscript notation "on active service/no stamps." In addition, a handstamp reading "No charge to be raised" was applied.

CAMEROONS

British Occupation

Duala
8 July 1915

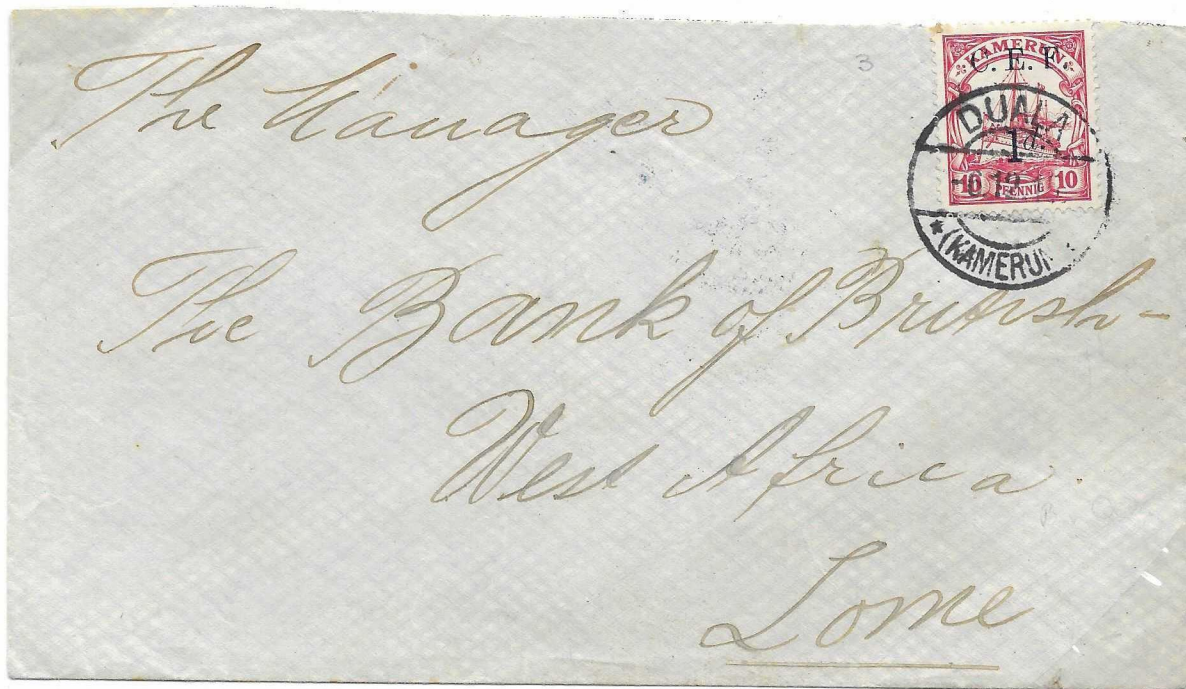


Upper card was sent by a member of the Gambia Company of the West Africa Field Force to London. It was free of postage due to endorsement "On Active Service/No Stamps Available." Lower card shows British forces preparing to embark (likely in Lagos, Nigeria) to attack Duala, the capital of the Cameroons.

CAMEROONS
British Occupation

Duala
6 December 1915

Buea
10 September 1918



Because substantial quantities of German stamps were found in the post offices, the British (but not the French) decided to overprint these in 1915 with "C. E. F." for Cameroons Expeditionary Force and surcharge them in British currency. These issues could be used on their own or in combination with Nigerian stamps.

CAMEROONS
British Occupation

Victoria
21 June 1919

Bemenda
22 May 1921



Although the higher value German stamps were overprinted "C. E. F.," there was no commercial need for these denominations. As a result, any on cover usage is philatelically-inspired as on these registered covers to Switzerland.

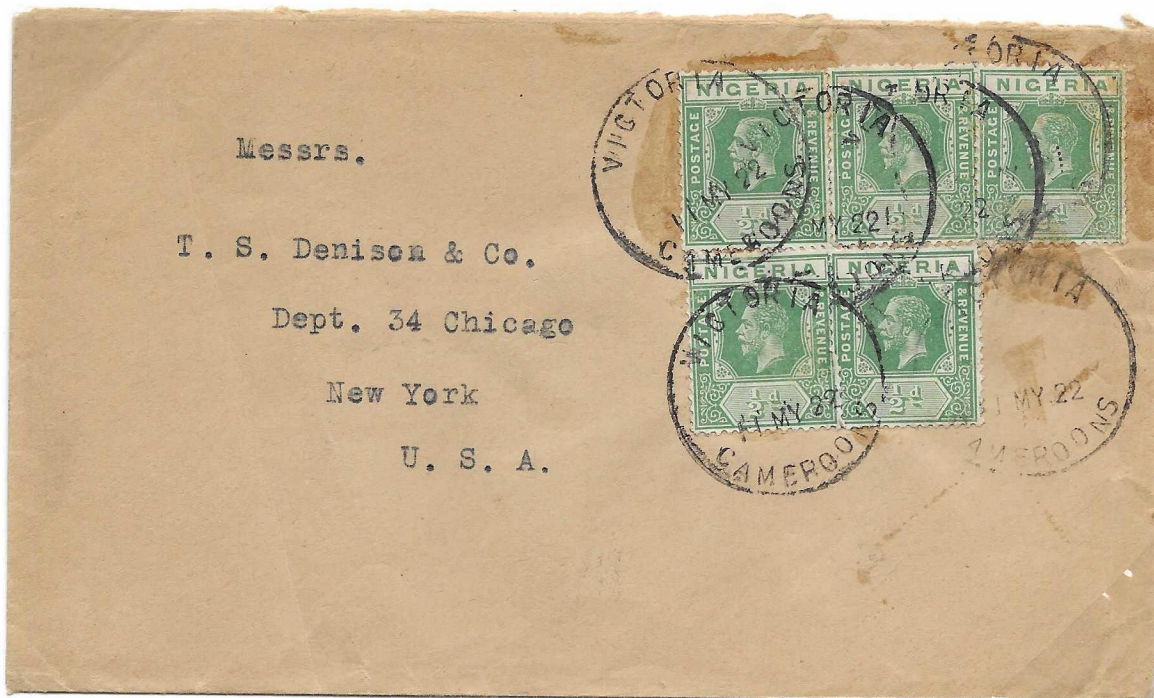
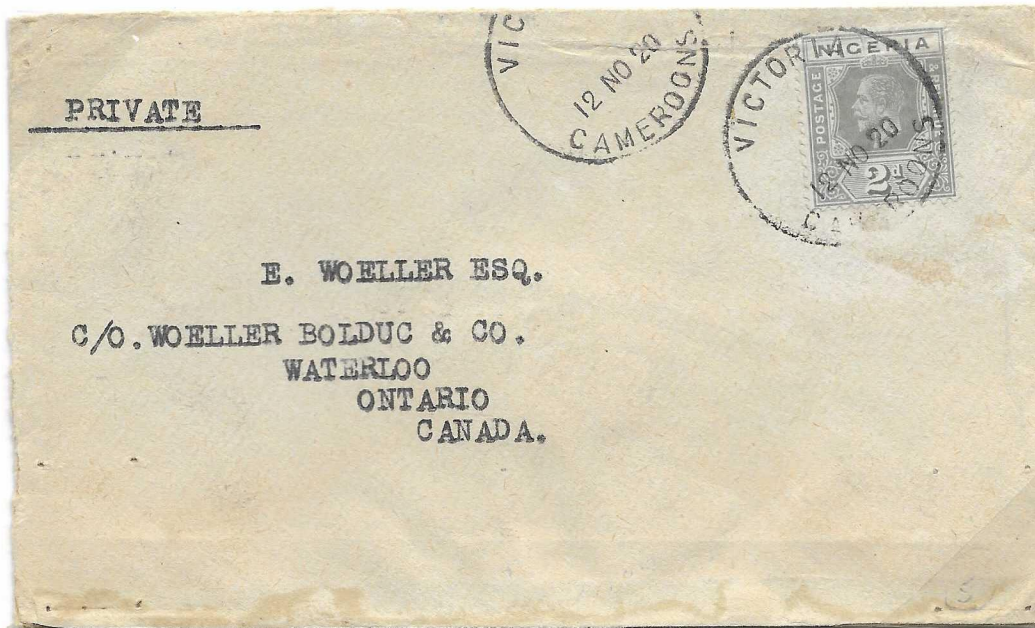
Tinto
17 January 1921



Upper German postal card (not valid but postage not required) sent by a captain in the British forces attempting to round up the remaining Germans in the central Cameroons. Written at Kumbo, it went by messenger to the nearest British post office at Ibi in Northern Nigeria, thence to Lagos and forwarded to Calabar. Lower cover shows late use of overprints and Nigerian stamps to Switzerland. Victoria and Buea (Cameroons) transit markings on reverse.

CAMEROONS
British Occupation

Victoria
12 November 1920
11 May 1922



As a result of the territorial settlement after the war, the western part of the Cameroons, i.e. the area occupied by the British, was annexed to Nigeria.