

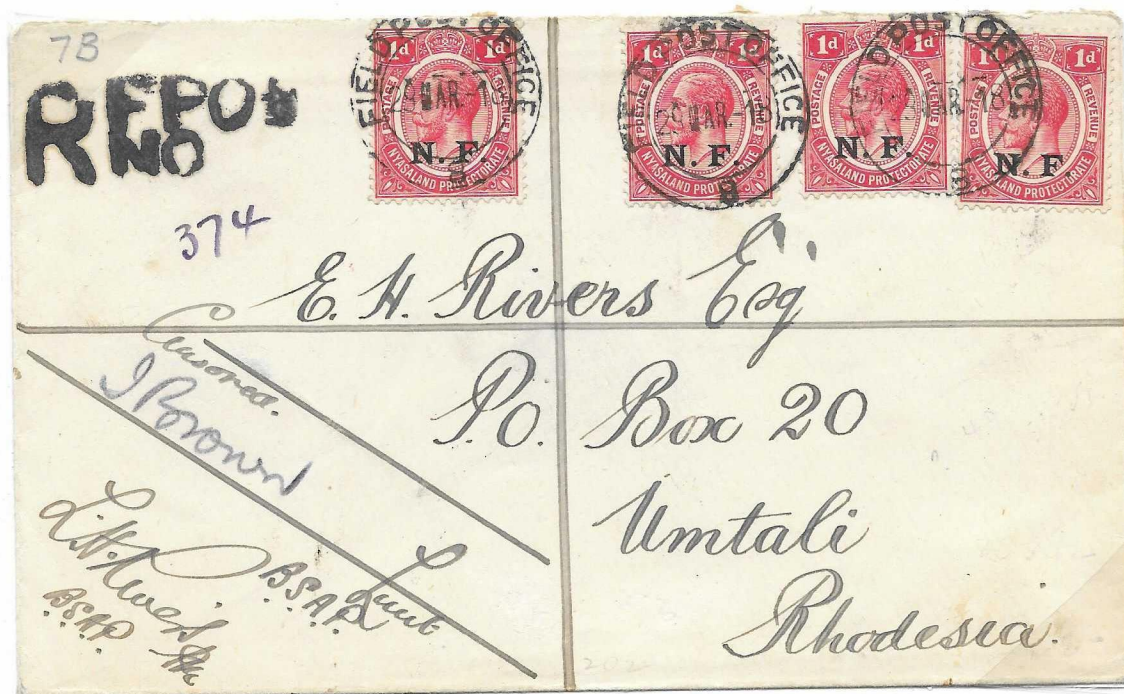


The rarest of the Belgian field post cancels is believed to have been supplied in 1916. However, in view of the fact that it was inscribed only in French without the equivalent Flemish, it was rejected. Nevertheless, three examples have been recorded on cover, including this postal card sent from Mwanza via Mombasa to France. An extraordinary military usage.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Nyasaland Field Force

Field Post Office 7
28 September 1917

Field Post Office 8
29 March 1918



Upper registered cover sent from FPO 7 at Old Langenburg (from 3 March 1917 to July 1918) to London. Lower cover sent registered from FPO 8 at Mbamba Bay (from 1 December 1917 to 8 August 1918) to Rhodesia.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Nyasaland Field Force

FPO 10
14 June 1916
21 May 1917
23 March 1918



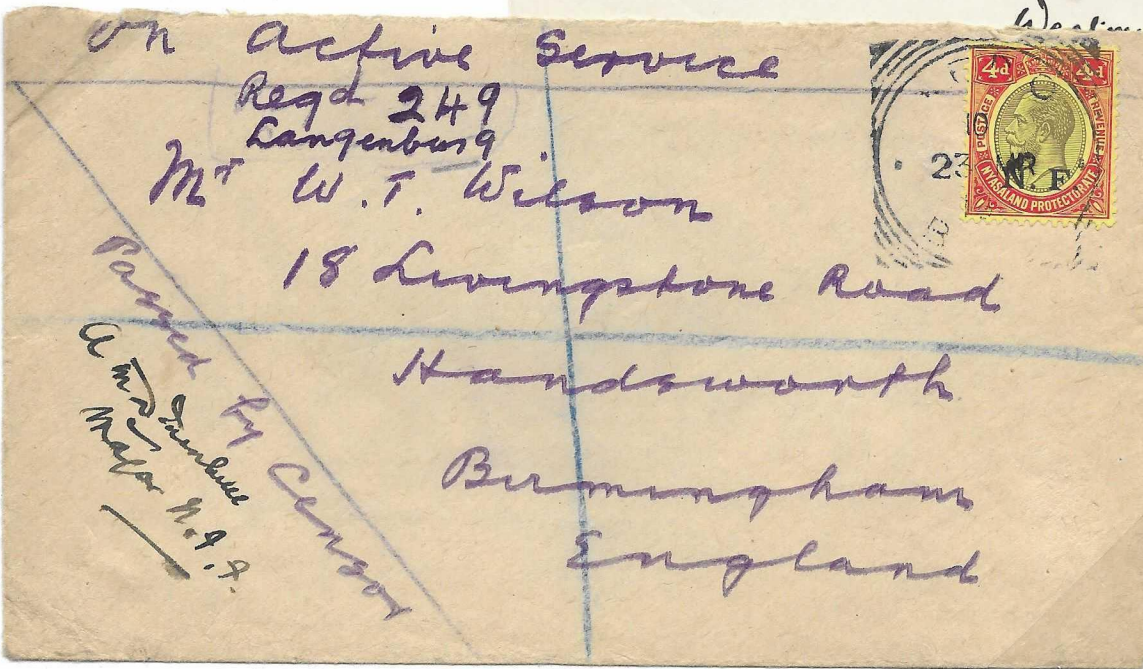
Neu Langenburg German E. Africa
14 June 1916 - My darling Flo
Here is a postcard of interest
from showing a nice glimpse
of the inside of the "fortress"
of New Langenburg where I am
now living in peace & security
It is a fine type of old fashioned
fashions really built against nature
- T. Loring Dadd

Verleger Walter Döbberin, Dusseldorf und Tanga.



On Active Service

The Secretary
The Army & Navy Cooperative Society Ltd.
105 Victoria Street,
Westminster
London, S.W.
England



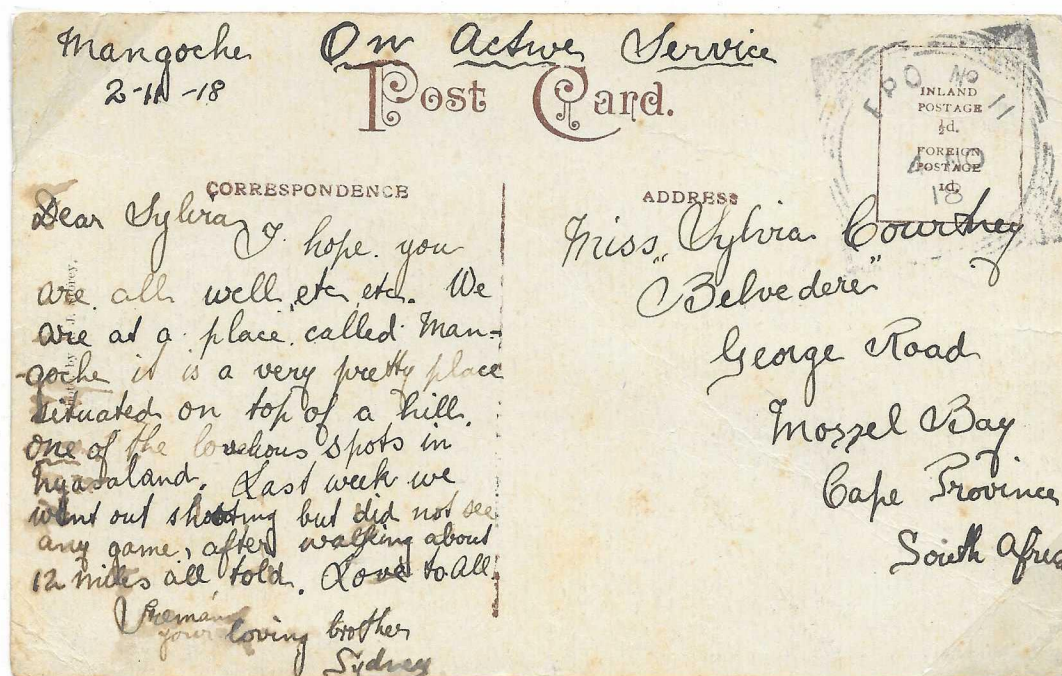
On Active Service
Regd 249
Langenburg
Mr W. T. Wilson
18 Livingstone Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
England

FPO 10 was located at New Langenburg. For some reason, it was not issued a regular postmark, so provisional ones were employed. The first was typewritten on Nyasaland and German adhesives on a postcard sent by Brig. Gen. Northey to his daughter to commemorate the occupation of the town. Later, the Ruo postmark was altered to read "FPO" and used from 4 April to 13 June 1917. Finally, the the postmark of Neno was altered to read "FPO/B.C.A." with a "10" above the date. This marking was used from 10 July 1917 to 23 March 1918 (LRD above). Not surprisingly, the provisionals are among the scarcest postmarks of the entire campaign.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Nyasaland Field Force

Field Post Office 9
16 December 1918

FPO No. 11
4 November 1918



FPO 9 was located at Headquarters in Zomba, Nyasaland from 5 April 1917 until 5 February 1919. Its postmark is used above on a registration envelope sent to Portuguese Zambezia. Portugal was an ally by that time and apparently recognized the military franchise, so only the registry fee was paid. FPO 11 was the highest number in the series. Its cds was used at Songea from 6 August to 4 November 1918. Picture postcard was mailed to South Africa on the latest recorded date.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Inbound Mail to the NFF

Umtali
11 April 1917



Mail sent to members of the Nyasaland Field Forces is seldom seen as it was difficult for the troops to save letters while tramping around chasing Germans in the back country. This cover was sent from Umtali to Private Rivers of the Southern Rhodesian Volunteers in care of the Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General of the NFF and was backstamped in Chinde, Zomba and Blantyre. Censored by the Portuguese and Nyasaland authorities.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Nyasaland Field Force in Mozambique

Nyasaland FF2
4 July 1918



In the process of chasing the remaining German *Schutztruppe*, who retreated into Portuguese East Africa late in the war, the NFF found themselves in Mozambique. Enterprising philatelists acquired some of the highly attractive Nyassa Company stamps and used them to mail souvenir covers while at Mteugula. This example was mailed by Sgt. Jones of the South African Service Corps. Such covers were postmarked with the Nyasaland FF2 cancel that had been used earlier in GEA and was still available; thus producing an unusual souvenir and an extremely elusive postal usage.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Lake Tanganyika Flotilla

Kambove
31 August 1915

APO/Northern Rhodesia
30 October 1916

On His Majesty's Service.



Commanding Officer,
H.M.S. "President"

Deptford.

London S.E.

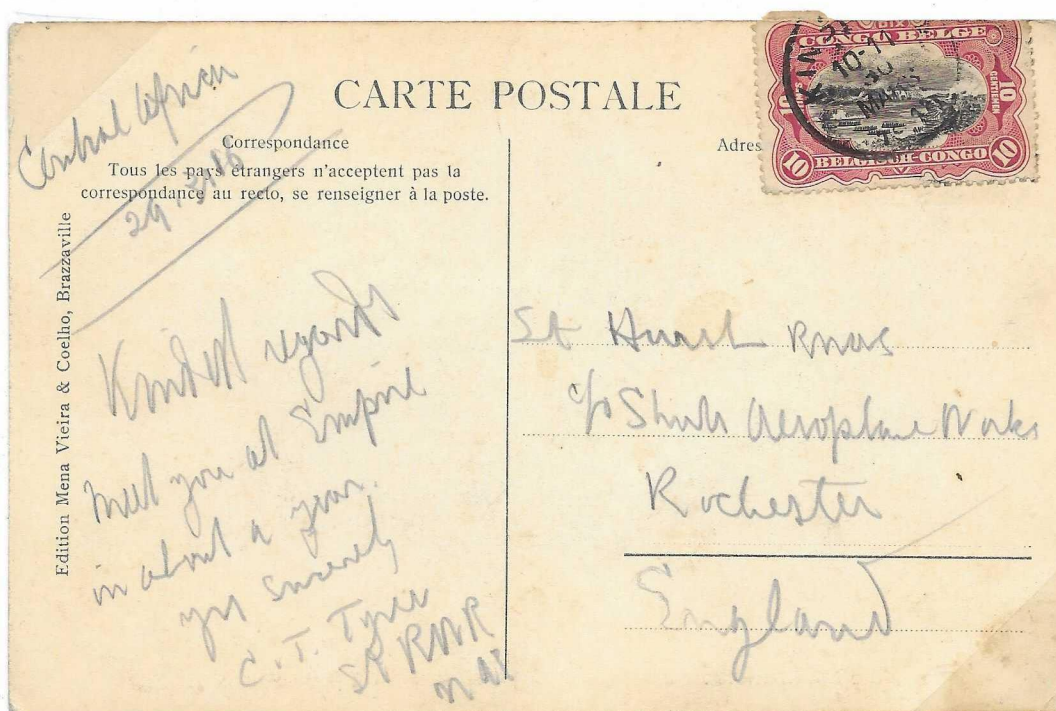


The Allies were concerned about the presence of three German gunboats on Lake Tanganyika which prevented the movement of supplies by water. To counter this threat, a plan was devised to transport two disassembled British vessels by rail, water and road from Capetown to Lukuga on the Belgian side of the lake, where they were reassembled. The British plan was successful, with one German ship sunk and a second captured; the Germans scuttled the third when Allied forces came around the lake. These examples are from Tanganyika Flotilla members at Kambove, Belgian Congo and the APO in Northern Rhodesia. Note the "Africa Expedition" cachet and crown and anchor censor marking used by the flotilla.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Lake Tanganyika Flotilla

Kabalo
25 September 1915

Kinshasa
30 March 1916



During the 3,000-mile journey to Lake Tanganyika, this cover and postcard were sent to England from the Belgian Congo by members of the Flotilla. Examples of mail from this expedition are exceedingly scarce, with only 15 pieces being reported by Drysdale and Pennycuik.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
British Occupation
Lake Tanganyika Flotilla

Kasanga
22 October 1917

15 September 1918



Once in control of the lake, the 40 members of the flotilla contingent continued to send mail, which was identifiable by the crown and anchor censor mark with the number 26. These examples were sent free of postage although bearing stamps as souvenirs. They were carried to London by naval pouch rather than through the field post service, thus bear no postal markings.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
BELGIAN OCCUPATION

Kigoma
25 August 1916

FPO No. 1
18 January 1917



Once the German gunboats on Lake Tanganyika were eliminated, the Belgians began to advance into GEA from the Congo. Kigoma, on the east side of the lake, was occupied on 28 July 1916. Initially, Belgian Congo adhesives were used and a provisional cancel reading "Kigoma" applied. As the troops advanced, a new series of postmarks was introduced. They were inscribed "B.P.C.V.P.K." with a number. The initials stood for Bureau Postale Campagne Veld Post Kontor (field post office) in French and Flemish. FPO No. 1 was used at Kigoma in 1917.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
Belgian Occupation

FPO No. 4
19 November 1916

FPO No. 5
6 January 1917



The primary goal of the Belgians was to take over the German provinces of Ruanda (Rwanda today) and Urundi (Burundi). Once that was accomplished, 250 Congo stamps were hand overprinted with each of the two names to celebrate the capture of those areas and used at the field post offices there. FPO No. 4 was located at Kitega and FPO No. 5 at Kigali. Mail franked with the these overprints is extremely elusive; fewer than a dozen covers recorded.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
Belgian Occupation

FPO No. 6
29 January 1918

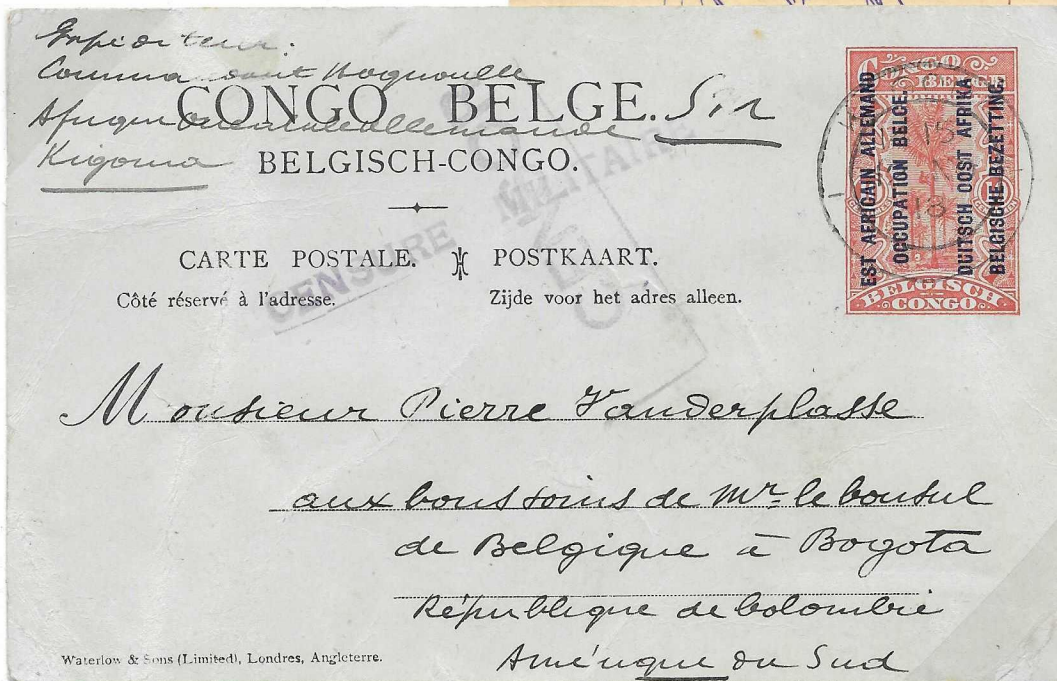


Later in 1916, eight denominations of Congo stamps were overprinted "German East Africa/Belgian Occupation" in French and Flemish. These were used both at the field post stations and the civil post offices that followed. Above philatelic cover sent from FPO 6 (then at Udjidji) was franked with the complete set and sent to an official assigned to the Belgian army fighting in France.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
Belgian Occupation

Kigoma
12 November 1918
4 March 1919

FPO No. 17
25 March 1918



In addition to the stamps, Belgian Congo postal cards were overprinted for use in GEA. Lower example has the very unusual destination of Bogota, Colombia.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
Belgian Occupation

Kigoma
31 December 1918

Kigali
4 June 1920



In 1918, a set of semi-postal stamps was issued to raise funds for the Red Cross as Congo stamps were overprinted "A.O. (East Africa)" and a surcharge was added.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
Belgian Occupation

FPO No. 10
1 March 1918

FPO No. 11
11 November 1917

FPO No. 12
8 May 1917



Additional examples of mail sent via the field post stations. At the times that these were mailed, FPOs 10 and 11 were located at Gottorp and FPO 12 at Dodoma. As an extraordinary destination, it should be noted that the upper card was sent to Port Louis, Mauritius.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA
Belgian Occupation

FPO No. 15
1 January 1918

FPO No. 16
27 April 1918

FPO No. 17
25 February 1918



Upper cover represents inter-Allied mail sent from British HQ at Dar-es-Salaam via Indian FPO No. 24 to a Belgian Lieutenant at Tabora. Middle cover from FPO 16 at Tabora, struck on a special OAS envelope from the Indian Army. Below, a picture postcard sent registered from FPO No. 17 at Udjidji to France.

Peter Holcombe

(Philatelic Expertising)

Postfach 1470

6006 Luzern 15

Switzerland

Tel. 041 - 51 56 25

Opinion only / Nur Gutachten

Ruanda. Urundi. (Belgian occupation of German East Africa) / Rhodesia. — 1916 (and 1918)
A Belgian Congo 5c Green Postal card, overprinted for use in the former German East Africa
bearing an additional: Rhodesia 1918-22. 1½d Bistre brown. Paj 14. SG 195 Scott 121.
to pay the postage from a British ship, serving in East African Waters, cancelled by
a straight line received from H.M. Ship. No charge to be repaid, and with a sender
date of 15 Sept 1918. Forwarded by Naval Bureau No 26. and delivered to the Admiralty
London, England. in my opinion genuine —
A most unusual usage, and combination of postage which was
unusually as Naval Mail was postage free. —

June 1 1993