

The Postal History of Aba, South-East Nigeria

Dr Simon Heap

This display is part of my collecting focus on certain Nigerian towns and cities I have shown you Lagos, Ibadan, Calabar and Port Harcourt.

Today Aba is a large city of over 1 million people, making it the 7th largest place in Nigeria. It also has a little-known Museum of Colonial History.

It is Aba, not Abba, so while you can sing Dancing Queen, Mama Mia or Money, Money, Money let's keep it philatelic, not musical!

The 1st Frame starts by giving you the location of Aba. It is in Nigeria, in the South-East, what others would call Igbo-majority area of the political zone of South East Nigeria.

You will notice the grid of straight road laid out by the British colonial administration. This 1930s map from the Bodleian Library is very detailed, but does not mark the location of the Post Office! I have added it in.

The frame then shows what Ted Proud's dictionary on Nigerian postmarks up to 1960. Aba and Aba Town cover three pages. It is comprehensive, but it is not complete.

The top row of the 2nd Frame shows stamps with Aba postmarks.

As with lots of places, getting clear cancellations is not easy. Aba also has its issues as a name. It is very short, and should not be confused with places like Asaba or Yaba.

Aba was in the British Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. As you can see, these are very difficult to find. There are the black ink cancels, but also a rare violet postmark.

The stamps are GV, GVI and QE2 and the period of Independence since 1960, stretching up to the hologram/no hologram definitives with 2013 cancels.

My first covers are from 1919-20. The bottom row has covers from Weeks Transport of Aba. George Weeks was a Briton who set up 'Weeks Transport and Engineering Company' in Aba. The final cover has the insignia of Weeks Transport for Reliability. His wife and daughter resided in Essex. His business complemented and competed with the colonial Eastern Railway, and in the end he was forced out of business.

That said, Aba remains a hub for transport, and several national luxury coach firms are based there, including *Ifesinachi* and *The Young Shall Grow Old*.

The 3rd Frame covers the period 1929 to the middle of World War Two. I have pulled out some of the references to Aba's postal service made in the Annual Reports of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

GV registered covers; a postcard to Milwaukee in USA which ends with the words, 'find a very great need for the gospel'.

GVI covers: 1939 one from Aba flown by airmail via Khartoum in Sudan to The Reverend Mother General in Rome.

Etinan was a postal office which became under the administration of Aba. It began in August 1938, and here is a cover from March 1939 heading to Frankfurt-am-Main in Germany.

A couple of censored registered covers to C.A. Edgar and Co of Manchester show the half-moon or tortoise-shell cachet.

The 4th Frame is firmly in World War Two, with covers from 1943 and 1944. Some of the covers are examined and taped up, while other have the tortoise-shell. Those going to America are opened, while those heading to the UK are not. The last cover from Etinan to Ireland gets the Irish purple cachet of 'Released by Censor in Gaelic and English'.

The 5th Frame looks at GVI covers from 1945 to 1953. Again I pull out from colonial Post and Telegraph Annual reports snippets of information. In November 1945 a system of postmen delivering mail was instituted. I also point out that pillar boxes were added in 1949-50 and two years later – a sign of the increase in sending mail.

There is a noticeable introduction of Aba Town to the postal history. Here are two covers with the place written in red: Aba Town and Aba.

It is always fascinating to read the sender's name and address, even occupation, on the back of covers. A cover with an American Tax Mark is from Vidah N. Worgu of 76 Cameron Road in Aba. Donald Cameron had been a British Colonial Governor of Nigeria. Elsewhere Governor Hugh Clifford has a street name after him.

An unsealed envelope from Aba to British Guiana in South America for 1½d looks a bargain when you know it went by rail to Port Harcourt, then by sea to UK and then mail boat for the West Indies and southwards.

A cover with the full set of UPU stamps to Milan is complemented by a nice Italian Panettone Motta on the back.

Here is my favourite postmark: a very large R Aba No. on black ink.

The frames ends with an Etinan registered cover with many cancels en route to Bristol.

The 6th Frame shows Air Letters and the varied and interesting commercial activities associated with Aba. Indeed, Aba remains an industrial place, with many workshops producing items which are cheaper than imports, such as shoes and toys. Being cheap also means it is not as long-lasting and indeed the epithet *Aba-made* means there is an expectation that, for example, the shoes will soon after purchase have to visit a local cobbler to be repaired and reinforced.

The topics in the Air Letters include:

Castor oil and the Board of Trade limits on exports.

Fun for Boys and Girls book.

Huntley and Palmer's Gem Biscuits.

Galvanised sheets, Hardware, Zinc Roofing Nails, Cement and Paints.

Calabar Piassava (for sweeping brushes) air letters to Stockholm, Sweden.

This 7th Frame looks at Tax Marks and also the Mobile Post Office No 1 of Aba, but it started with a cover and contents from the Motor Department of Societe Commerciale de l'Ouest Africane based in Aba to Dr Nunns of the Health Office, Port Harcourt, asking for settlement of 16s owed.

A cover which went to Edinburgh, USA is redirected to Scotland.

A cover from a Police Station address to New York gets the full Tax mark and postage due stamps.

A cover from Ezikwu postal agency under Aba is also Tax marked.

A page from an album stated the Mobile Post Office Number 1 was transferred to Aba on 31st May 1951. It has a picture of the mobile post office. It looks similar to Corporal Jones's converted butcher's lorry in Dad's Army!

I used to have to one cover of the Mobile Post Office, but thanks to an auction last year I now have several. However, the information on the activity of this operation remains unclear.

The 8th Frame is on 1953 to 1955. It starts with a mixed GVI/QE2 cover from John Holt's of Omoba to Bristol.

Note sender's addresses, including Aba Post Office Boxes 80 and 325.

A registered cover to 27 Jack o' Lanterns Place on Bodmin shows that mail to those selling charms continues.

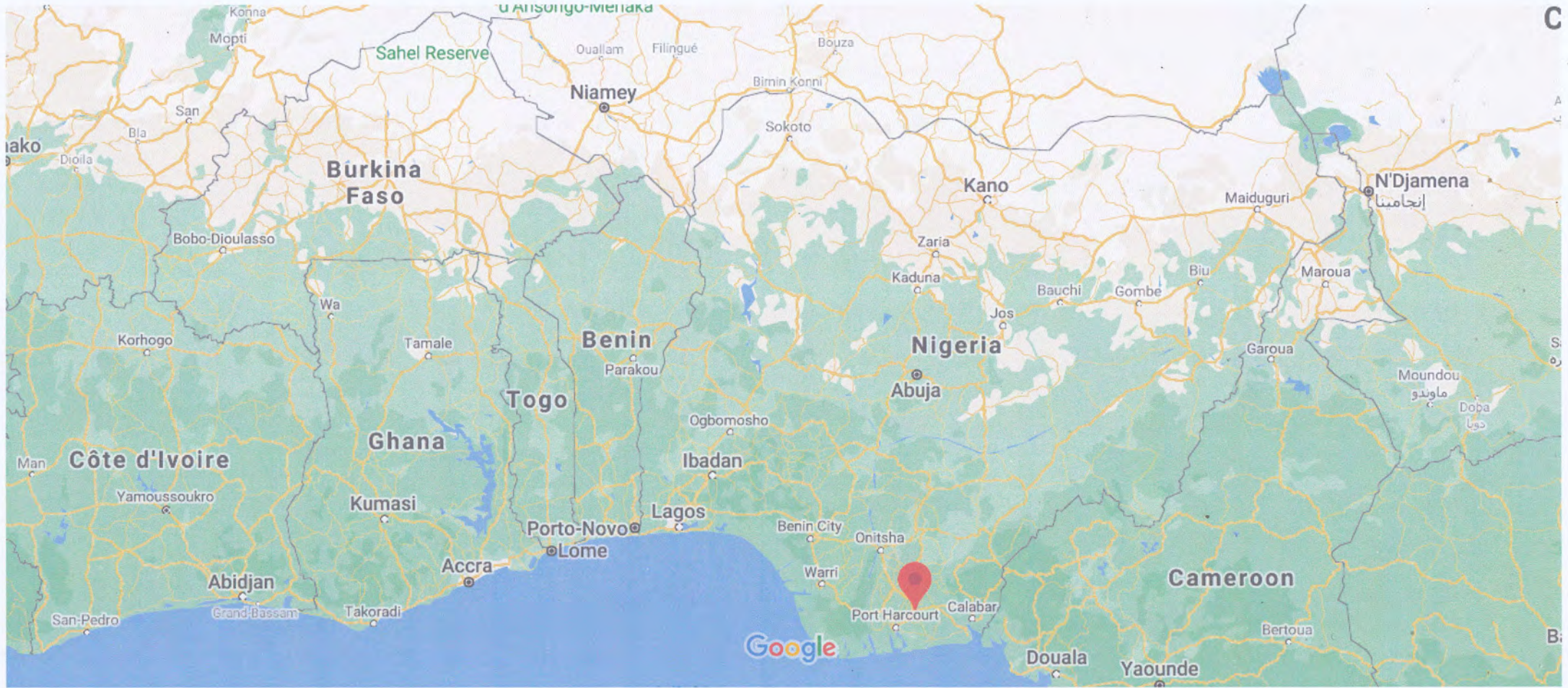
The 9th Frame covers the rest of the 1950s, again note the sender's addresses going to Dublin, Glasgow and London.

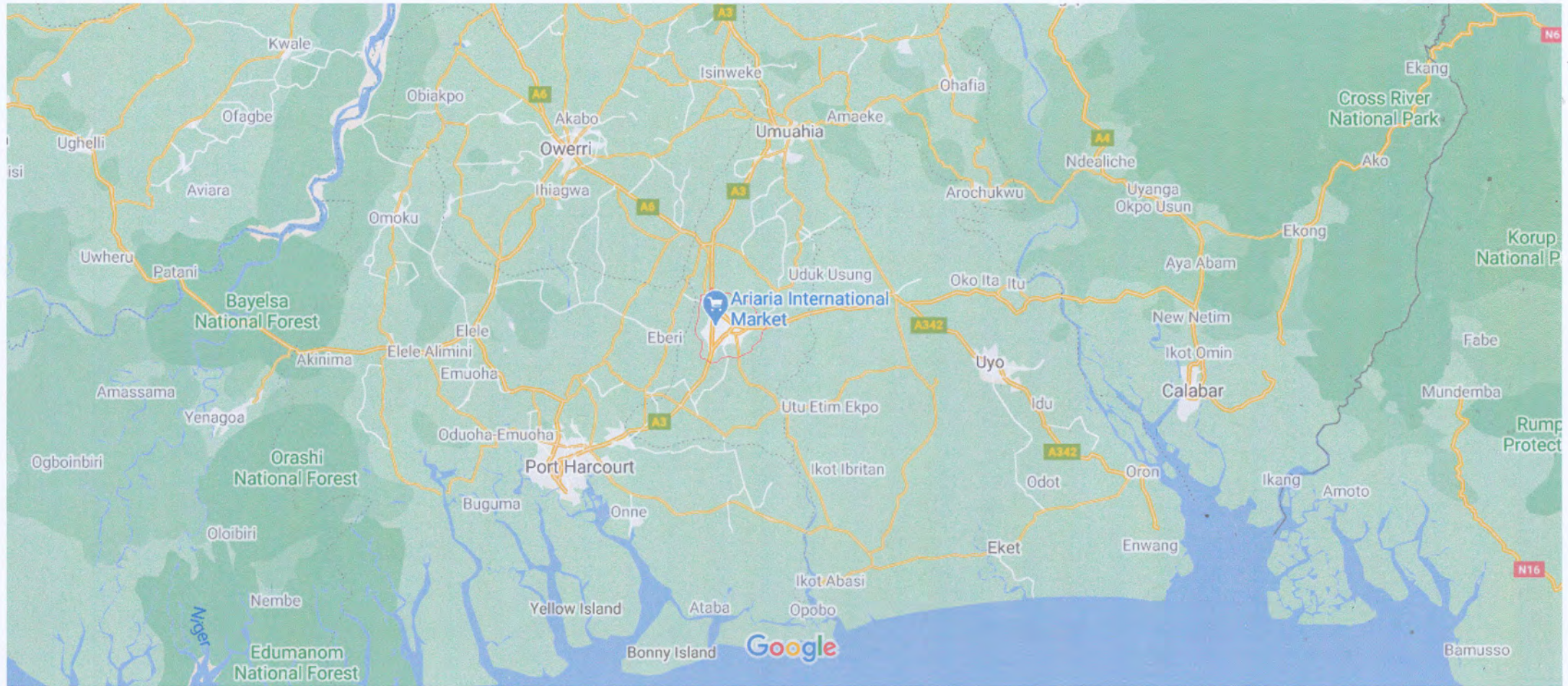
The 10th Frame concentrates on the Sporting Forecasts Ltd of Manchester. I have hundreds of these covers and by taking out specific Nigerian cities and towns some interesting things appear from what I call 'bulk philately'. In the case of Ana, there are a couple of December 1957 covers, but things get interesting in January 1958, specifically on the days of 10th and 11th January 1958. There are 3 covers postmarked the 10th and 5 on the 11th. All are registered, and we can see the rate of postal business being conducted at Aba's main post office. The 10th has registration labels numbered 6018, 6098 and 6222, while the 11th has 6267, 6315, 6320, 6321 and 6341. At least 223 registered letters in those two days.

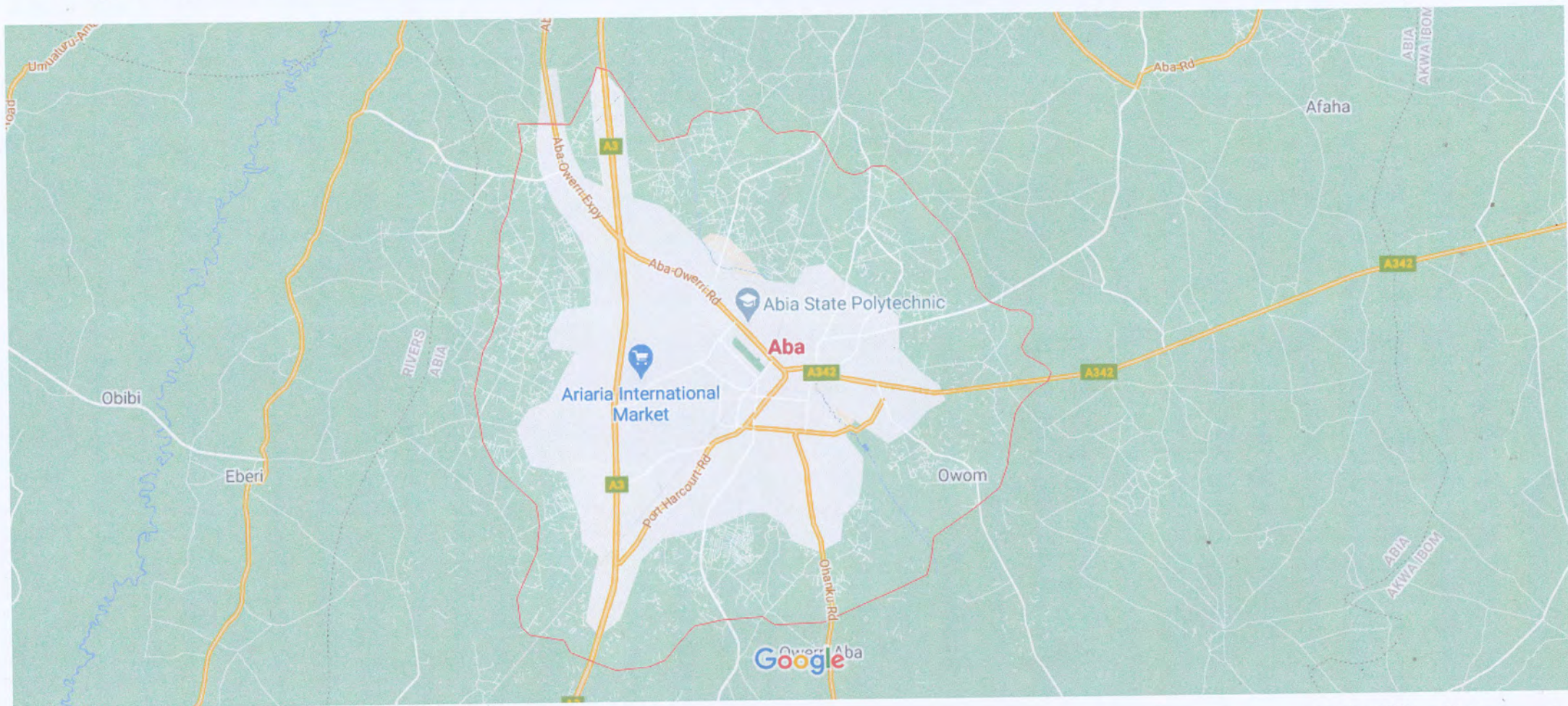
The 11th Frame covers the post-Nigerian Civil War, from 1970 onwards. Envelopes get generally larger, but postmarks get increasingly difficult to identify.

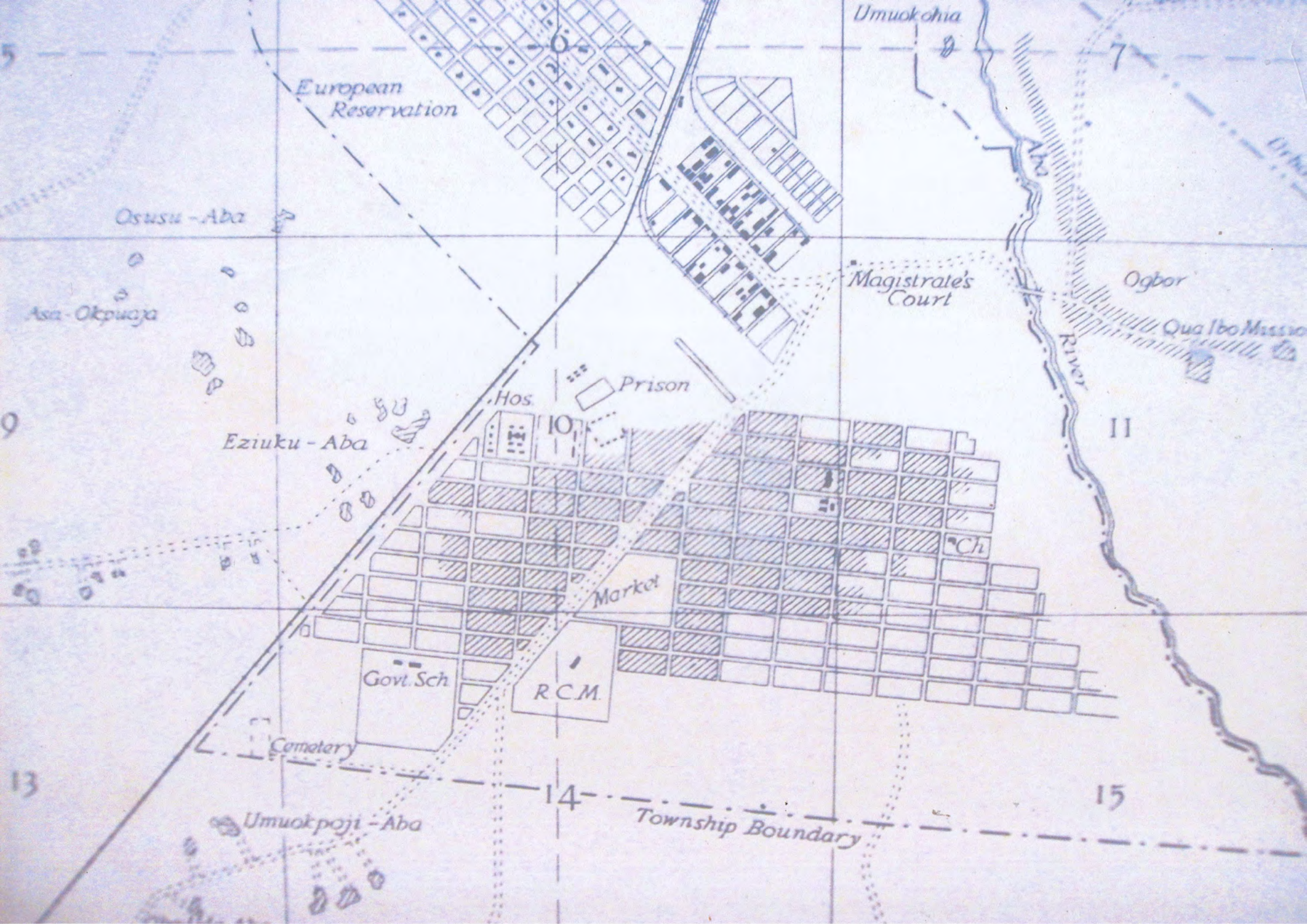
Note PO Boxes 748, 843 and 992 – another sign of growth in the postal service. Clifford Road is also an address. And also the Express labels indicating a new service for customers wanting faster delivery.

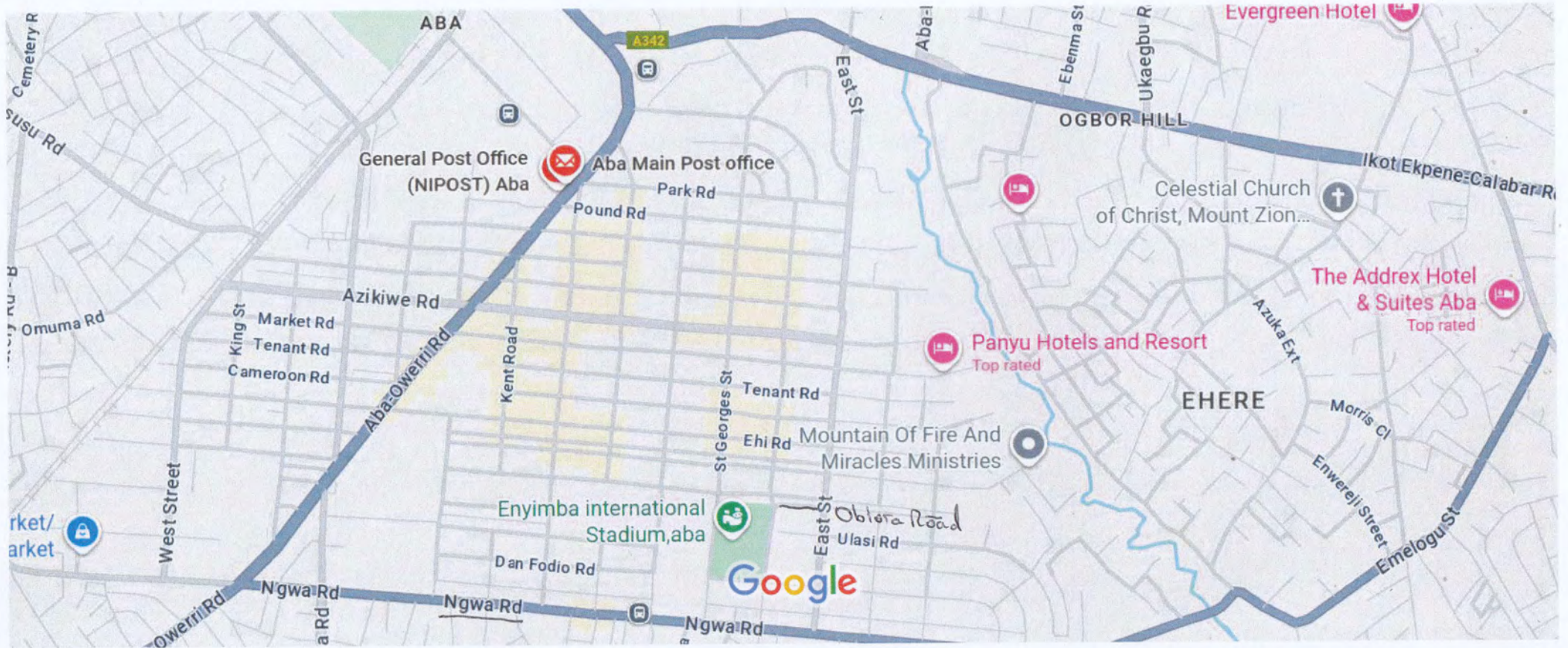
The 12th and final Frame shows Aba Town and Express in manuscript, Aba H.O – Headquarters Office – and 'Aba 6' on registration labels.

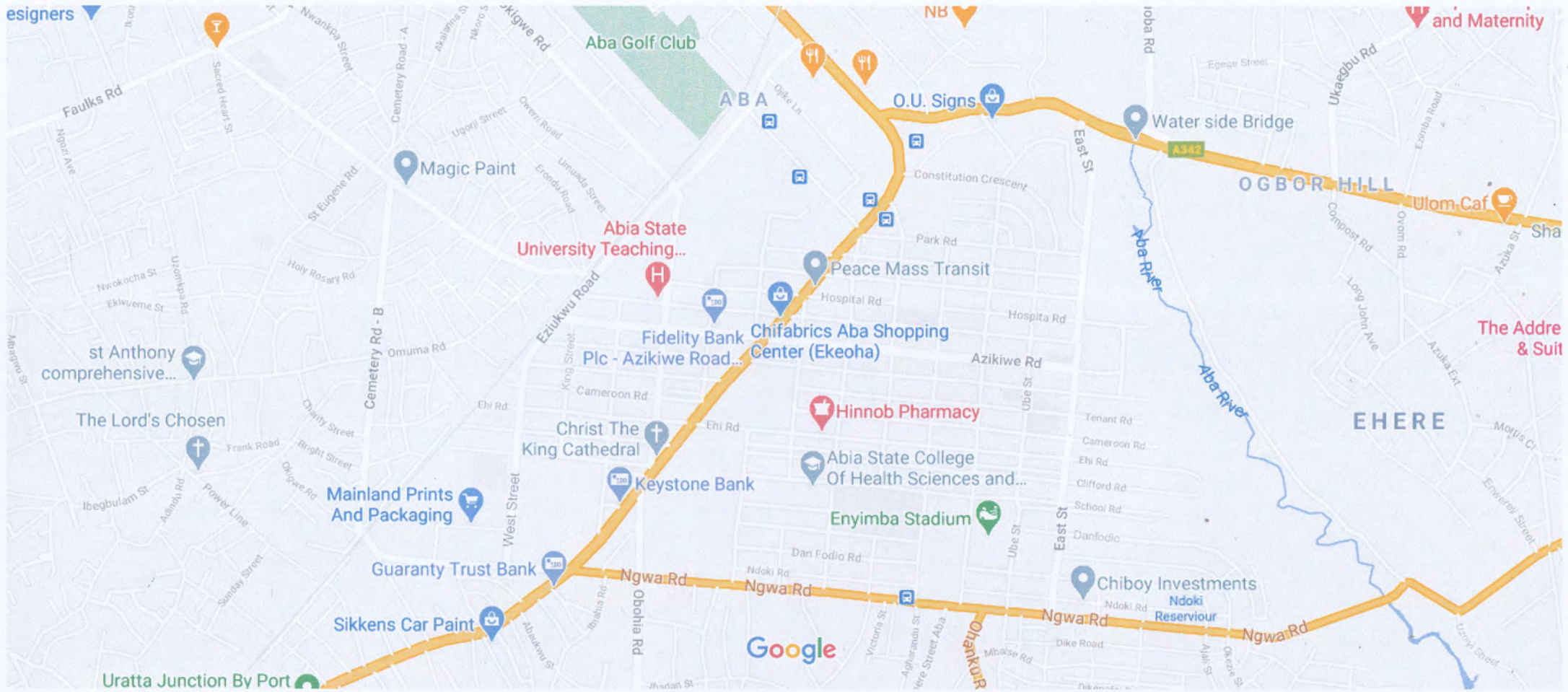












Rank	City	State	2006 census	Total area		Population density	
				km ²	sq mi	per km ²	per sq mi
1	<i>Lagos</i> ^[a]	Lagos	7,099,490	1,151.1	444.4	6,871	17,800
2	<i>Kano</i> ^[b]	Kano	2,828,861	523.6	202.2	6,300	16,000
3	<i>Ibadan</i> ^[c]	Oyo	2,559,853	563.1	217.4	985.13	2,551.5
4	<i>Benin City</i> ^[d]	Edo	1,147,188	344.8	133.1	953	2,470
5	<i>Port Harcourt</i> ^[e]	Rivers	1,005,904	394.5	152.3	2,726	7,060
6	<i>Aba</i> ^[f]	Abia	1,002,265	163.7	63.2	7,400	19,000
7	<i>Jos</i> ^[g]	Plateau	821,618	336.7	130.0	451	1,170
8	<i>Ilorin</i> ^[h]	Kwara	777,667	149.3	57.6	1,016	2,630
9	<i>Abuja</i>	FCT	776,298	865.6	334.2	439	1,140
10	<i>Kaduna</i> ^[i]	Kaduna	760,084	488.9	188.8	5,802	15,030
11	<i>Enugu</i> ^[j]	Enugu	722,664	186.8	72.1	1,300	3,400
12	<i>Zaria</i> ^[k]	Kaduna	695,089	132.3	51.1	1,234.6	3,198
13	<i>Ogbomosho</i> ^[l]	Oyo	602,690	119.9	46.3		
14	<i>Warri</i> ^[m]	Delta	557,398	214.8	82.9		
15	<i>Ikorodu</i>	Lagos	535,619	37.1	14.3	1,553	4,020
16	<i>Maiduguri</i>	Borno	521,492	194.7	75.2	3,807	9,860
17	<i>Ife</i> ^[n]	Osun	509,035	56.1	21.7	291	750
18	<i>Bauchi</i>	Bauchi	493,810	187.2	72.3	134	350
19	<i>Akure</i>	Ondo	484,798	196.4	75.8	489	1,270
20	<i>Abeokuta</i>	Ogun	451,607	242.1	93.5	510	1,300
21	<i>Uyo</i> ^[o]	Akwa Ibom	436,606	209.7	81.0	1,206	3,120
22	<i>Oyo</i> ^[p]	Oyo	428,798	42	16	177	460
23	<i>Sokoto</i>	Sokoto	427,760	138	53		
24	<i>Owerri</i>	Imo	401,873	201.1	77.6	729	1,890
25	<i>Yola</i> ^[q]	Adamawa	392,854	119.8	46.3	473	1,230
26	<i>Calabar</i>	Cross River	371,022	118.8	45.9	910	2,400

ABA

On the railway situated 39 miles north east from Port Harcourt and 40 miles north of Opobo. In 1939 a head office, under Southern Nigerian administration until 31 December 1913. Using violet ink from (22.3.11)-(9.5.11) and occasionally in 1914 & 1915.

(3.9.)08- S.O. 30.9.60
(22.11)-(9.5.12)

2 20



D2 (3.9.08)-(8.9.21)



D3 (21.12.15)-(18.4.16)



D5 (17.4.20)-(21.11.21)



D6 (29.1.21)-(4.10.21)



D7 (25.3.22)-(20.12.29)
Known with time omitted



D8 (29.2.32)-(5.12.38)



D9 (15.12.38)-(21.8.57)



D10 (11.1.46)-(8.12.50)



D11 (25.10.47)-(19.10.51)



D12 (12.3.47)-(31.10.49)



D13 (30.7.49)



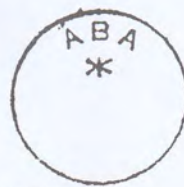
D14
Normally used on Telegrams



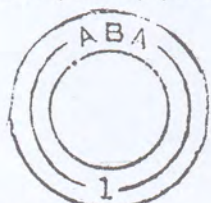
D15 (7.11.49)-(12.3.60)



D16 (8.9.52)- S.U. 30.9.60



Sent 3.12.57
D17 (1.10.59)-(26.1.60)



Sent 13.11.59
D18

Machine (M)



M1 State 1 (5.1.57)-(19.8.60)

Registered (R)



R2 (28.8.22)-(25.5.35)



R4 (15.7.36)-(30.7.49)



R5 (17.7.48)-(15.10.49)



R6 (6.1.50)-(9.2.54)



R7 (17.5.54)-S.U. 30.9.60



R9 (11.9.57)-(9.8.60)



Sent 12.2.58
R10

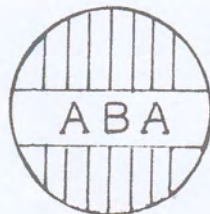


R11 (11.8.59)-(27.9.60)
Normally used on Telegrams



R15 (15.1.52)-(29.10.52)

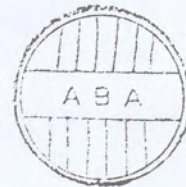
Parcel Post (PP)



PP2



PP4 (30.7.49)



PP5 (26.6.56)-(21.6.57)
Also used on registered labels

Unpaid (UP)



UP2 (27.1.57)-(5.6.60)

Aba Branch Office (Ngwa Road)

12.8.59 - S.O. 30.9.60

10 100

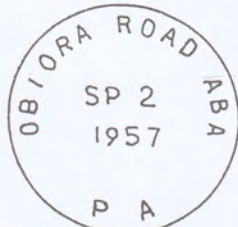


D1 (8.9.59)- S.O. 30.9.60

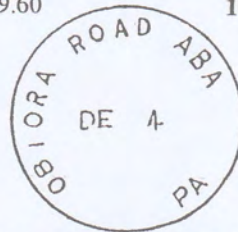
Aba - Obiora Road
Postal agency under Aba

14.7.57 - S.O. 30.9.60

10 100

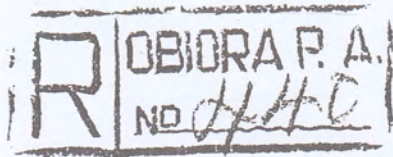


D1 State 1 (2.9.57)-(15.2.60)



D1 State 2 (16.4.58)- S.U. 30.9.60

Registered (R)



R1 (6.10.58)-(8.11.58)
Val x 2

Aba Town

Postal agency, situated 35 miles north east from Port Harcourt under Aba.

7.7.39 - S.O. 30.9.60

4 40



D1 (31.7.39)-(22.5.51)
Val x 2

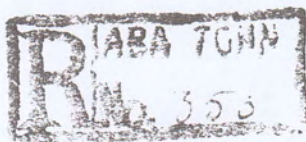


D2 (11.10.51)-(23.8.54)



D3 (25.10.54)- S.U. 30.9.60

Registered (R)



R2 (31.1.49)







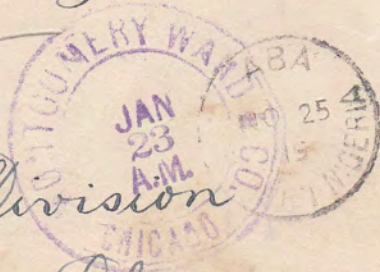


Montgomery Ward & Co.

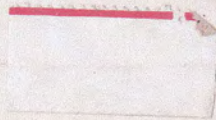
Export Division

Chicago

U.S.A.



OUT FOREIGN FILES JAN 26 11 30





ABA
No. 889

REGISTERED LETTER.
MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT



470
MRS. G. K. WEEKS,

43

38 SOUTHVIEW DRIVE,
WESTCLIFF ON SEA,
ESSEX.

U.K.





REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED. AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.



Mrs. George K. Weeks,

38 Southview Drive,

Westcliff on Sea,

U.K.

ESSEX.

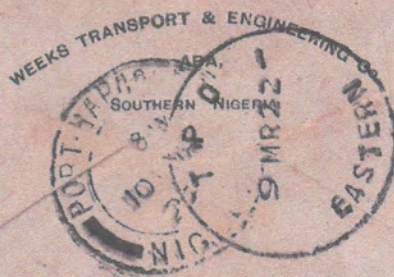


45.





Miss Miriam Weeks,
 38 Southview Drive,
 Westcliff on Sea,
 Essex. ENGLAND.



**WEEKS
TRANSPORT**
FOR RELIABILITY.



MISS MIRIAM WEEKS.

38. SOUTH VIEW DRIVE.

WESTCLIFF ON SEA.

ESSE X.

ENGLAND.

WEEKS TRANSPORT & ENGINEERING Co. Ltd.
ABA.
SOUTHERN NIGERIA.



Aba: postal history in the 1920s and 30s

In 1929 the Aba Post Office was extended to provide for a new telephone exchange.¹ During 1930, public telephone call boxes were installed at the Post Offices at Jos, Bukuru, Aba, Ebute Metta and Abeokuta.²

A new telegraph line between Aba and Opobo was brought into use on 9th October 1930 which has relieved the congestion on the lines in the Ikot Ekpene, Uyo, Eket area.³

In 1930, a case of affixing used stamps on telegrams at Aba came to light... the conviction of the offenders was secured.⁴

In 1932, a regular daily mail service in both directions between Calabar and Aba has been established. The improved condition of the Uyo-Oron road justified the abandonment of the less frequent overland service between Aba and Itu with its connecting river service from Itu to Calabar, and without additional expenditure the daily weekday service between Calabar and Aba via Oron has been substituted. Besides providing a more frequent mail service between Aba, Ikot-Ekpene, Uyo, Oron and Calabar, the change warranted the abolition of the Opobo-Eket service and its attendant expenditure; the existing service from Oron serving Eket now that the former station of in daily touch with Calabar and Aba.⁵

In 1933, the daily motor mail service in both directions between Aba and Oron was reduced to three times weekly.⁶

In 1933, a junior clerk at Aba was convicted and bound over for theft.⁷

¹ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs*, 1929, p. 3.

² *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs*, 1930, p. 7.

³ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs*, 1930, p. 6.

⁴ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs*, 1930, p. 10.

⁵ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs*, 1932, p. 3.

⁶ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs*, 1933, p. 3.

⁷ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs*, 1933, p. 9.

Messrs.



Groves &

Lindley.

Lion Buildings, Station
Street

Huddersfield.
England



REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



FEE PAID.



REGISTERED LETTER.

Aba
No. 8

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.
THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

147 B
William Watson Esqr

24 Grey Street
New Castle on Tyne

FEE PAID.





REGISTERED LETTER.

R *ABA*
No. 645

AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
MAY OBTAIN A RECEIPT FOR IT
IF HE WANTS IT WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

REGISTERED

Montgomery Ward & Co.

Chicago U.S.A.



FEE PAID.



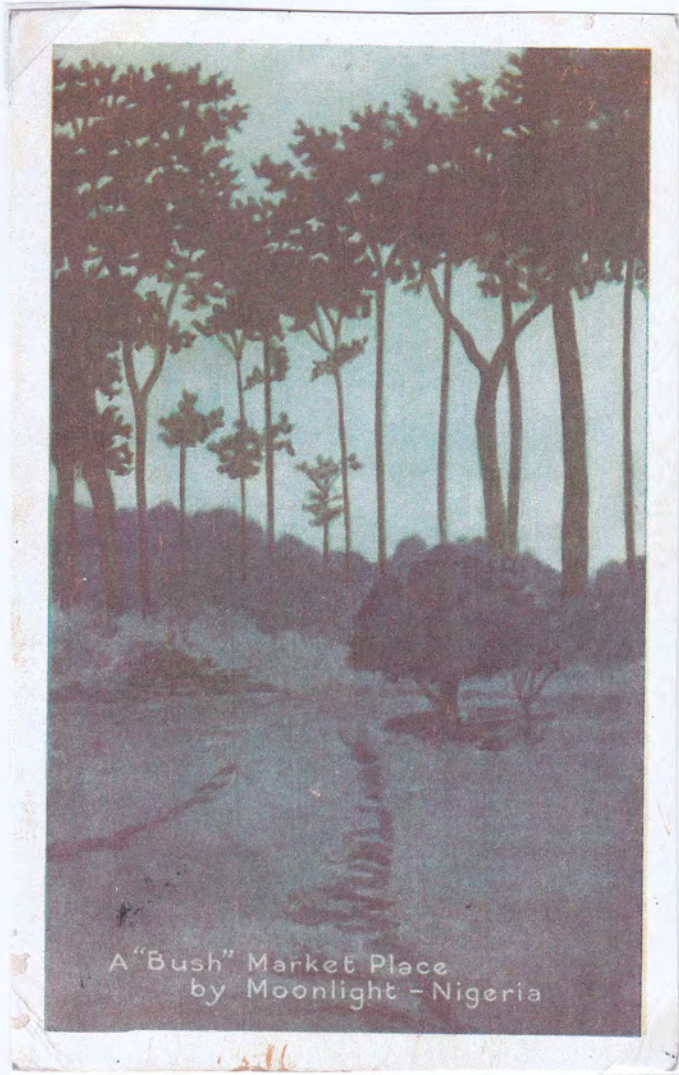
Moore

ET

Montgomery Ward & Co.

Chicago U.S.A.





A "Bush" Market Place
by Moonlight - Nigeria

E.H. 4. 135.
 4. 19. 4. 135. K...
 POST CARD
 King Nove, Nyo District
 Calabar Province So.
 Nigeria, 3/6/35.
 Dear Friend: I know
 you are all interested
 to receive a greeting
 from Nigeria. We
 are here in the thick
 palm-bush and find
 a very great need for
 the gospel. Best regards
 your H. Hau.

230 12 36 X add 4 36
 19421.

ABA
 5.10 AM
 12 MR
 35
 NIGERIA

Res. E. Dreyer,
 3053 N. 35. Street,
 Milwaukee, Wis.,
 U.S. America

1d

Printed in England by Cockayne & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.

Andrew Bascendine & Sons,
The School & College Booksewers,
14-15 Chambers Street,
Edinburgh, 1.



AIR-MAIL

Via Kato-Marsailles



Receives March 7th 1939

The
Reverend Mother General
Convent H. C. J.
10, Via Boncompagni
Rome.

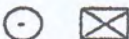
Italy



ETINAN

Situated 18 miles from Uyo. Opened as a postal agency. In 1939 listed as a Native Administration postal agency under Aba, by 1960 a post office.

1.5.35 - S.O. 30.9.60



6 60



D1 (12.7.35)-(4.10.38)

Val x 3

In 1937 using violet ink

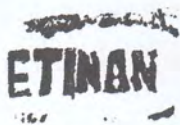
D2 (26.12.38)-(15.11.54)

D3 (8.9.54)-(8.7.55)



D4 (22.8.55)- S.U. 30.9.60

Registered (R)



R3 (4.10.52)-(29.12.55)

Val x 2



BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

R No. 877



5-
40
17
C. A. Edgar & Co. Ltd,
Whitworth Street West,
Manchester 1,
England.



R ABA TOWN
No. 470

15
6-

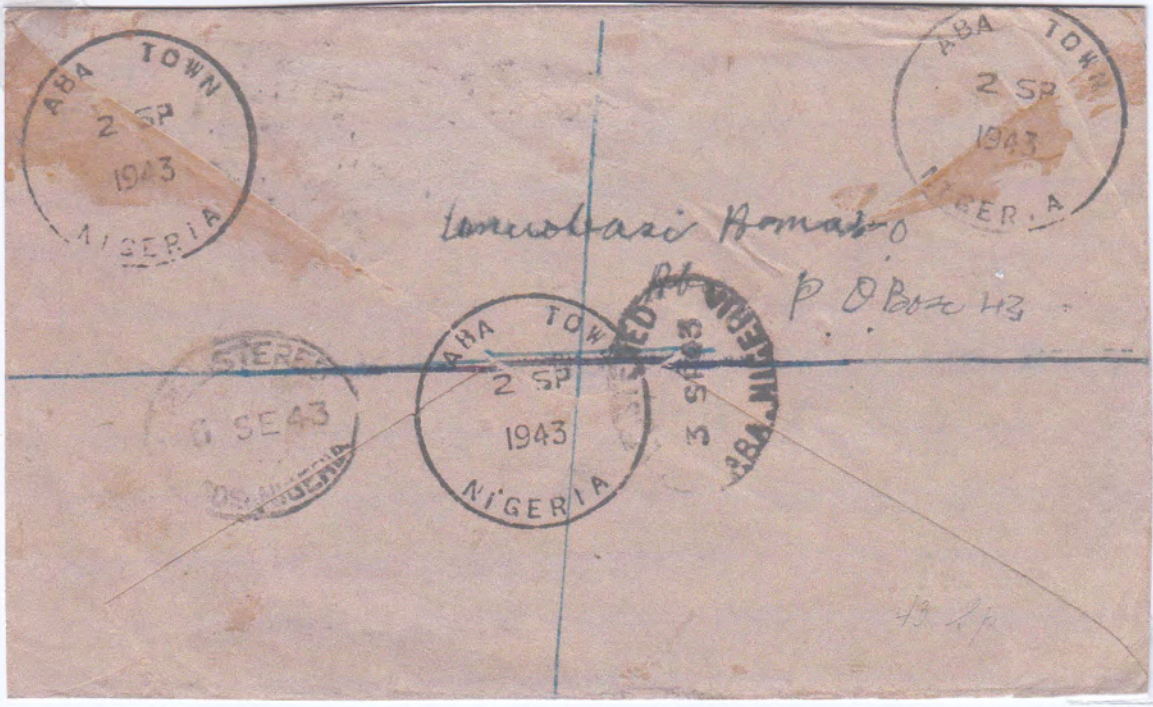


C. A. EDGAR & CO. LTD.,

17 Whitworth Street West,

MANCHESTER, 1

ENGLAND



FAITH TABERNACLE CONGREGATION
2738-40 NORTH SECOND STREET,
PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.
U. S. A.



7239

Faith Tabernacle Congregation
2738-40 N. Second Street
Philadelphia, PA. U. S. A.



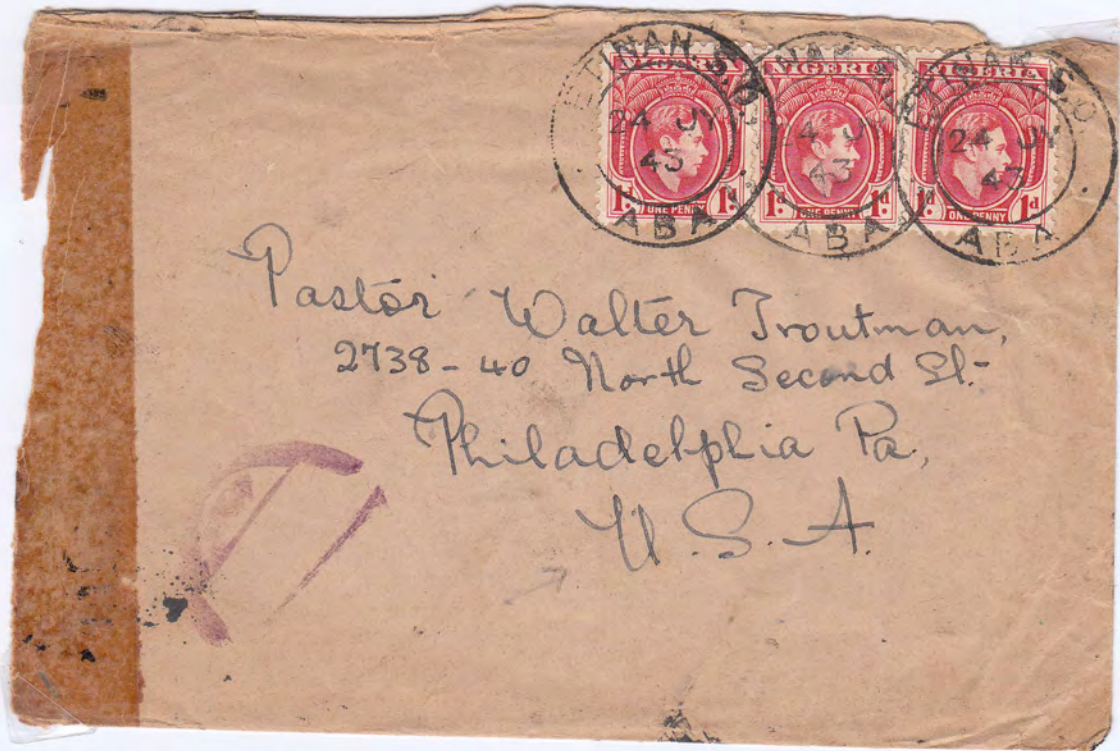
Okon *(handwritten signature)*



EXAMINED BY

EXA





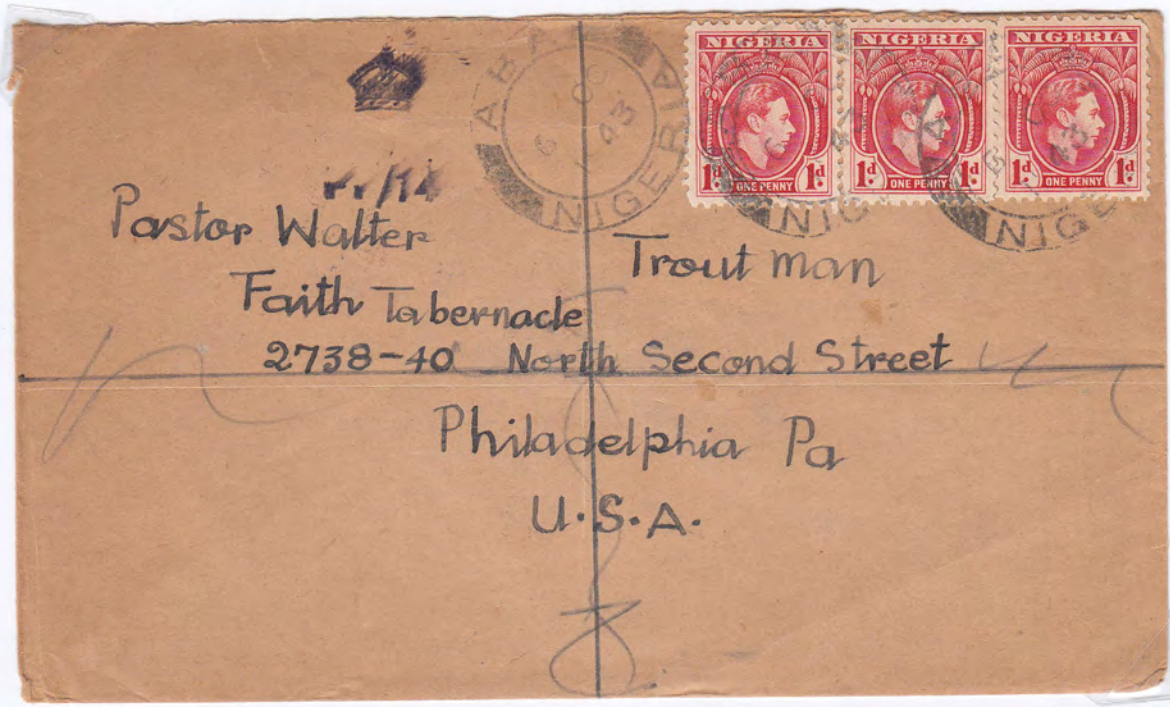


Pastor Rowland A. William
 Faith Tabernacle
 2738-40 N. Second Street
 Philadelphia Pa.
 U. S. A.



PASTOR WALTER TROUTMAN
 Faith Tabernacle congregation
 2738-40 N. Second Street, Philadelphia, Pa.,
 U. S. A.





Pastor Walter

Faith Tabernacle

2738-40 North Second Street

Philadelphia Pa

U.S.A.

Trout man





*The Principal,
The School of Accountancy,
2 West Regent Street,
Glasgow, Gt. Britain.*

*From A. J. Eke
Box 29,
Aba, Nigeria*



REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE. THE COST OF THIS ENVELOPE DOES NOT INCLUDE POSTAGE.

Etinan. 18
R No.
R

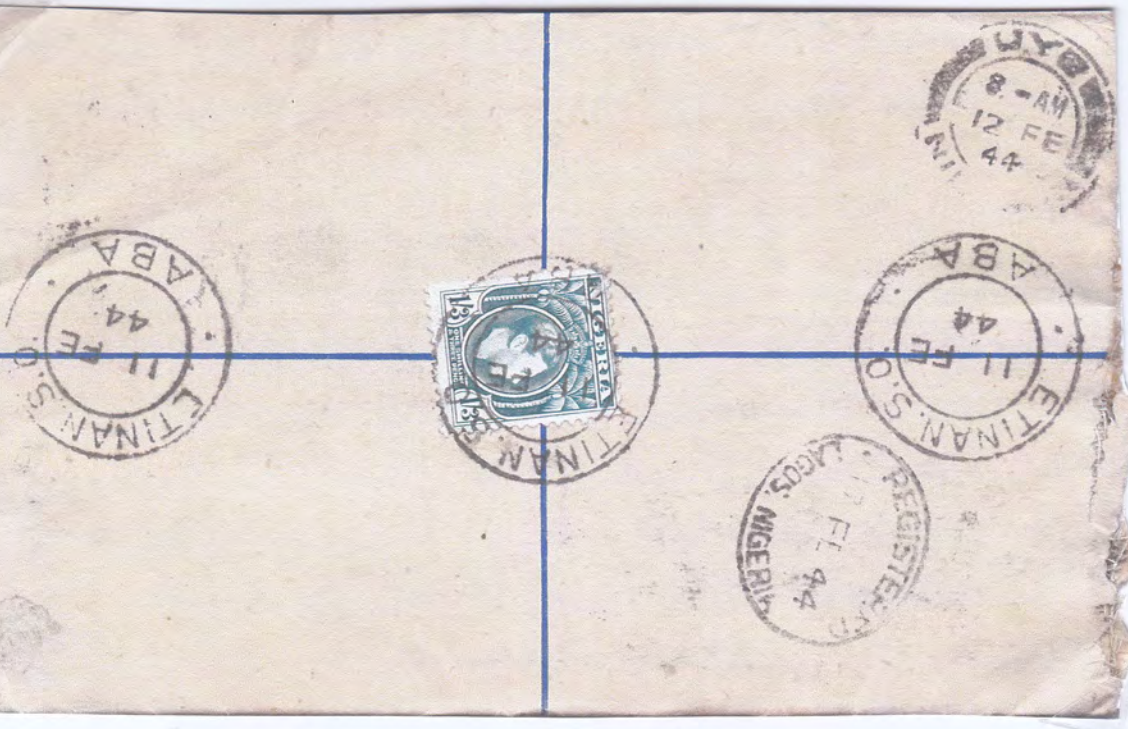
*Andrew Baxendine & Sons
Educational and
General Booksellers.*

14-15



*Chambers Street,
Edinburgh 1
Scotland.*

FEE PAID.



5342



SCOFIELD REVERENCE BIBLE
300 SOUTH, 17TH. STREET,
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
U. S. A.

Sender, Mr. Lawrence AND. NWA. STENO,
ST. Michael's School,
Aba, Nigeria West Africa.
P. O. Box 49.



EX
EXAMINED BY

R MBIASO
No. 968

501



The British & Foreign Bible Society
116 Queen's Victoria Street
London E.C.4.

6205

300064901





Aba: postal history in the 1940s and 50s

Delivery of correspondence by postmen was extended to Calabar and Aba in November 1945.⁸ In 1949-50, the delivery area at Aba was extended.⁹

In 1946-47, extension to the Aba Post Office was completed.¹⁰

Aba-Opobo Motor Service: increase in service from thrice weekly to daily in 1948-49.¹¹

In 1949-50, Okigwe Post Office and its dependent postal agencies were transferred from the control of the Surveyor, Enugu, to that of the Surveyor, Aba, for convenience of inspection and supervision.¹²

In 1949-50, one new pillar posting box was installed at Aba.¹³ In 1951-52, another new pillar box was installed at Aba.¹⁴

In 1949-50, new nests of Private Boxes were installed at Aba.¹⁵

In 1955-56, a mobile post office was stationed at Aba. Mobile offices are being operated at a loss but they do provide a service in rural areas when it has not been possible to provide static Post Offices.¹⁶

⁸ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs, 1945-46*, p. 4.

⁹ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs, 1949-50*, p. 6.

¹⁰ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs, 1946-47*, p. 1.

¹¹ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs, 1948-49*, p. 3.

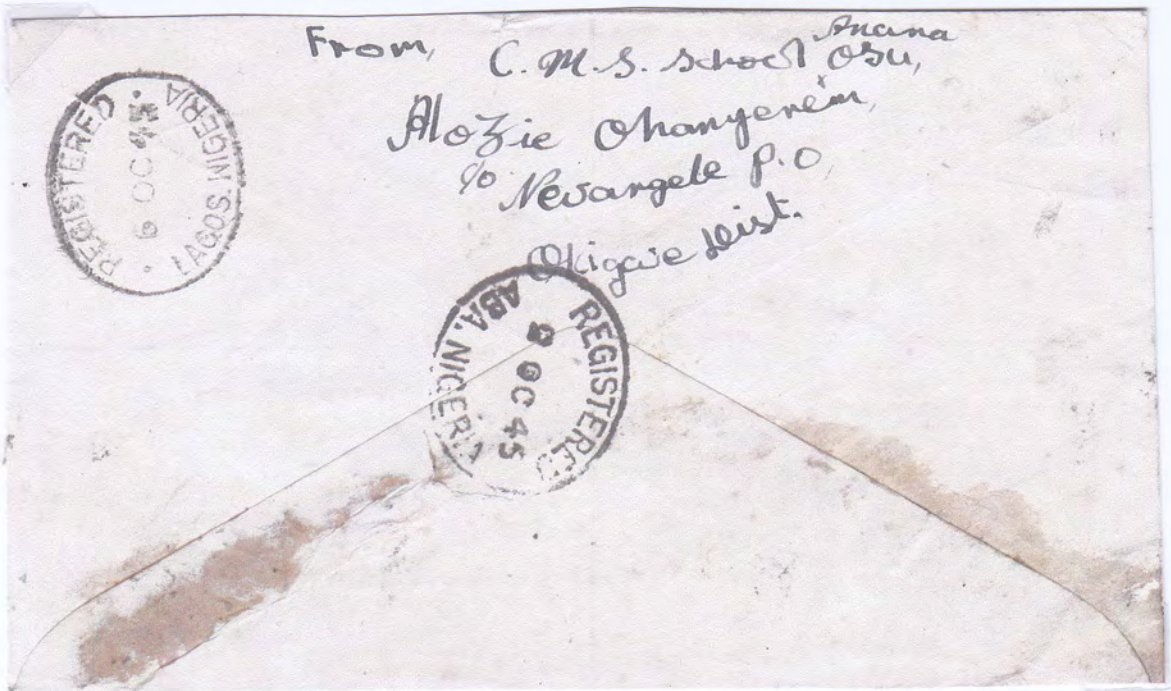
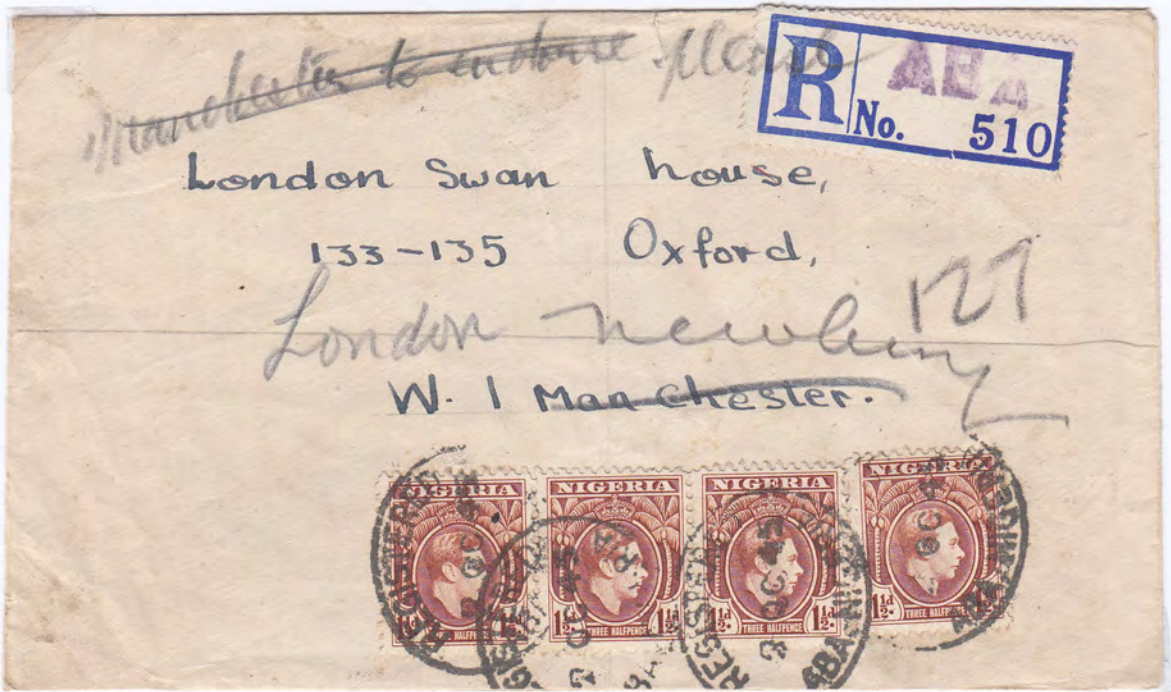
¹² *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs, 1949-50*, p. 1.

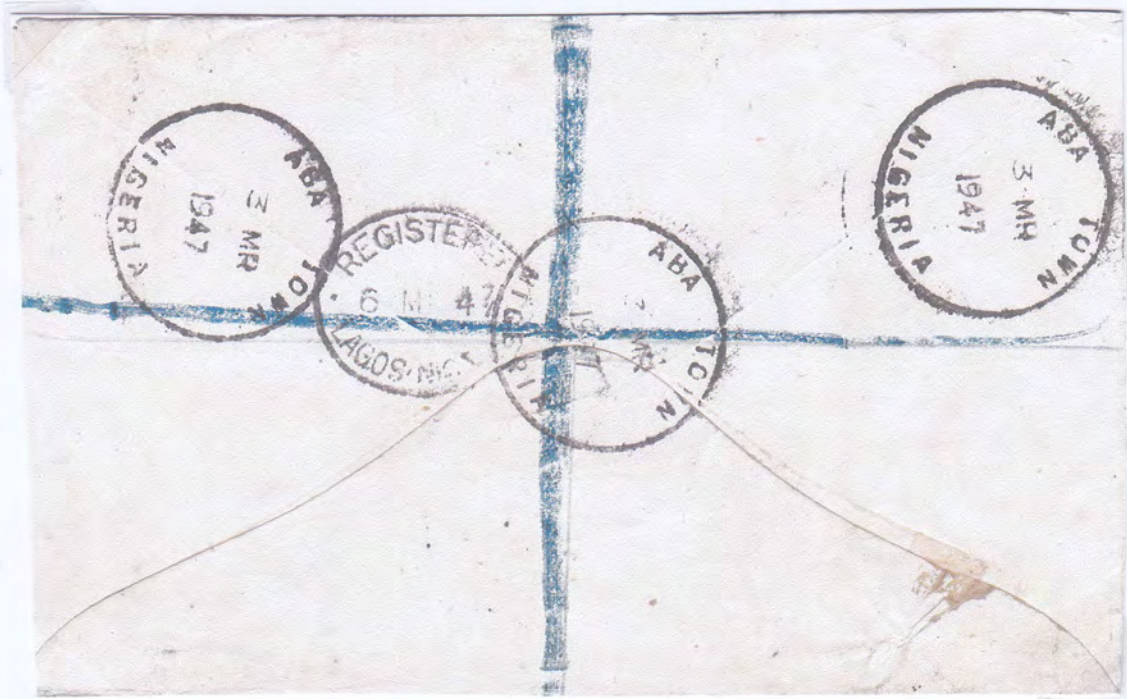
¹³ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs, 1949-50*, p. 6.

¹⁴ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs, 1951-52*, p. 10.

¹⁵ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs, 1949-50*, p. 6.

¹⁶ *Nigeria Annual Report of Posts and Telegraphs, 1955-56*, p. 8.





Emms. 403.
ARRA
R No. **231**



W. & G. Foyle Ltd.,

119 125 Charing Cross Road,

London, W. C. 2.



From:

*M. A. Oluosin,
N. A. Office,*

unsealed



Rev. Leslie Marshall, secy.

The Bible study school
380 Van Houten St., Paterson
I. N. J.



Sender

Vidal N. Worgan

76 Cameron Rd
Aba Nigeria west Africa

Unsealed.



J. A. Alexander,
P. O. Box 266,
Georgetown, Demerara,
Br. Guiana,
So. America

John Osolu
P. O. Box 157,
ABA — Nigeria,
Br. West Africa

Rate now 1½d. Aba to British Guiana 25 August 1948. By rail to Port Harcourt, Then to UK for transfer to West Indies mail boat.

BY AIR MAIL

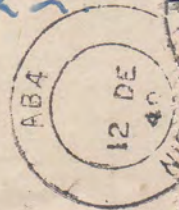
Airwings

Bianzino.

Via Siodoli N° 22

(Milano).

Italy



P. MICHELETTI.

210/11/12
4/0. C.



PANETTONE
Motta

B.W.A.

The Director of Studies,
The School of Accountancy,
2, West Regent Street,
GLASGOW, C 2,
Great Britain.



From: M. D. Goodhead,
S. D. A. Osanku,
Aba, NIGERIA,

RIABA
RIMP 423



THE SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY,
REGENT HOUSE, GLASGOW, C. 2.
SCOTLAND.

C. A. ELELE,
A. C. B. LTD.
6, MILVERTON AVENUE
ABA.



SURFACE MAIL



Pastor Walter Grootman,
2738-40 North Second Street
Philadelphia 33

By Air Pa. U.S.A



RIABA 29



Sender,



A. N. Ikendu,
P.O. Box 33 ABA
Nigeria

ABBA
92

443

458



Robert Ferber Ltd,
Asylum Road,
Hewellyn St London S.E. 15
S.E. 16

S. N. Gromah
No 3 School Rd,
Aba,
Nigeria



ETINAN

R 851



National Provincial Bank Ltd
31 Corn Street

Bristol, England.

ETINAN

R 851



National Provincial Bank Ltd
31 Corn Street

Bristol, England.

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL



J. M. Smith & Co (London) Ltd
Hampton Chemical Works
Camelot Street Old Kent Rd.
London S.E. 15

Second fold here

To open cut here

Sender's name and address:-

P.O. Chukwudum
P.O. Box 162
Aba, Nigeria

To open cut here

F. D. Chukwudum
P. O. Box 162
Aba Nigeria
17.7-48

Dear Sir,

Your letter dated the 12th was duly received. Contents assailed and astimulated.

Oh! it is a pity to hear that the board of trade could only permit you to despatch only 24 Dozen of Castor oil.

Send the 24 Dozen permitted first, but there is another suggestion which I will give you. Keep that 15 deposit with you, then after you have sent out the 24 Dozen first, then apply for another permit until that 150 Dozen ordered is correct then you deduct the deposit with you. Which means that you would be sending through C.O.D. at the British West Africa Bank Port Harcourt.

The other items you mentioned is not moveable here.

Awaiting for your invoice

Yours faithfully
F. D. Chukwudum

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL.



*The Dominion Mail Order Agency,
2382, Dundas St. W. -
Toronto, Ontario,
Canada.*

Second fold here

To open cut here

Sender's name and address:-

*M. N. Utley
P. O. Box 174
Iles, Nigeria, West Africa.*

To open cut here

Mr Ukaegbu U. Utchay,
P. O. Box 174,
Aba, Nigeria, West Africa.
26th April, 1957

The Dominion Mail Order Agency,
2382 Dundas St. W., Toronto, Ont.

Gentlemen,

I am interested - as the Managing Director of Ukaegbu Brothers International Services - in developing overseas sales for you of your book "Fun for Boys and Girls" and also other goods in which you deal, through postal sale.

I would be grateful if you would consider acceptance of my orders against a discount or commission basis: no agency is requested in the first instance.

On the other hand, I offer to you

1. My best efforts to place your goods before interested buyers in Nigeria.
2. Payment in advance by Irrevocable Letter of Credit. If this proposal is acceptable, kindly include the name of your

bankers (for payment purposes) when replying.
3. I would be prepared as long as this agreement is operative, to restrict sales to your goods only.

4. Direct Mail coverage is offered immediately if you wish. If necessary professional advertising assistance of the highest type will be called in to assist with design and layout.

Your early attention is solicited. I take this opportunity of assuring you of every possible effort on my part to make the proposed agreement mutually beneficial.

I would be very grateful to have a full and up-to-date catalogue of all that you deal in. Your reply, please, should be by air, to avoid delay. If possible send a copy of the Book "Fun for Boys and Girls" Cod. for display purposes.

Yours very truly,
Ukaegbu U. Utchay.

NB. Mail Order Service is my main line.

P.T.O.

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL.



Mr Ralinson

West African Merchant

54 Albany

Liverpool 3.

Sender's name and address :-

J. O. Ajegebo
c/o. Box. 52. Aba
Nigeria. B.W.A.

Second fold here

To open cut here

To open cut here

Wm Rawlinson
West African Merchant
54 Albany
Liverpool 3.

J. O. Ajegbo
P.O. Box 52.
3. 12. 51

~~BBWA~~

608.

ABA VIA
PORT HARCOURT

Quoted 17/10. 1/4

Sir.

Your letter of 26th ultimo was received with many thanks. I have seen the difference between Weston Gem, and Huntley + Palmers Gem biscuits. However I am still requiring Huntley + Palmers Gem biscuit according to your price, at 17/- 10d a dozen, C. F. F.

~~of 5580~~ Please will you kindly send me 10 fibre cases the same, instead that is 60 dozen instead of 5 cases or 30 dozen. Although I am a new customer to you, but I will not fail to send the balance immediately it arrives I hope, as this is a first trial you will not disappoint me. I am awaiting the arrival of the goods by next mail please.

Yours
sincerely

Yrs faithfully.

J. O. Ajegbo

To. A. Hershell & Co. Ltd.,
Liverpool, 3,
England.

Received:- 23 FEB 1953

Answered:- 26

J. S. N. Nwakor,
25, Asa, Road.
Aba, Nigeria, B.W.A.
16th, Feb. 1953.

Dear Sirs,

I am in response of your letter dated on the 4th instant,
with thanks together with quotation you was stated.

- (2) GALVANISED SHEETS, I have received the price from a certain firm @ £100: 0: 0. per ton C.I.F Port Harcourt Nigeria, but I did not make any enquiry yet for ordering same, because its abortive selling in our country.
- (3) Hurricane lantern Spare Globes Far East brand @ 7/10 per doz. from another firm
- (4) " " Lamps " " " " @ 5/9 " " " " " "
- therefore your quotation is too much of which I cannot accept them for ordering many thanks for your favour upon them.

Regarding FLOUR, I shall be soon apply for specific licence.

" " HARD WARE & HOLLOW WARE, SUNDRIES, I am suggesting them to be repeat from my another inquiries. Again I am sure that you might be able for give the quotations of followings: eg: $\frac{1}{2}$ x 49, 59, Zinc roofing Nails, with washer attached by a case contained 112 lbs. weight, Plastic Belts made with thicker materials, Ladies & Mens Hats & Bags, Lather Belts, Exercise Books 20 leaves, Note Books 80-100 lbs. Drawing Books 10-12 Leaves, Writing pads 50, — 200 Leaves, Writing Inks in powder, Black, Red, blue in small packets of 20zs each, Berve Batteries, Pen Knives & Hunting Knives, Prince of Wales Helments. etc. etc.

Regarding, I have heard that my Order for 5 TONS ^{CEMENT} was placed, thanks and kindly try to direct me to the firm having this Brands, Burham & Invieta, Cement.

PAINTS, I require Enamel Varnish paints 2-4 lbs. tins assorted colour and Shapes, eg: - Green, Red, White, Blue, Dark blue, Dark Green, Yellow packed in export carton contained 3 Doz. each. I am awaiting for the quotation of Footwear & Headwear, which you was mentioned coming by Surface Mail, Again give the price for Machine threads, White, Khaki, Black. Thanks in advance.

Yrs. faithfully,
J. S. N. Nwakor

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



Berndt G. Berggren & Co.,

Stockholm 50,

SWEDEN.

← Second fold here →

To open cut here →

Sender's name and address:-
ANANG PIASSAVA PRODUCERS COY.,

229 Clifford Road,

ABA - NIGERIA.

← To open cut here

#3962

21 JUN 1953

24/6

ANANG PIASSAVA PRODUCERS COY.,
229 Clifford Road,
A B A.
Date... 15/6/53...

Berndt G. Berggren & Co.,
Stockholm 50,
Sweden.

Dear Sirs,

CALABAR PIASSAVA

We are in receipt of your letter of 27th. May, and deeply regret the delay occasioned in replying to same due to our directors tour to French Cameroons, since we could not do anything to effect any reduction in the price during his absence.

In the recent meeting of our board it was after due consideration decided to communicate you as follows:-

- (1) For the purpose of encouraging and convincing you of the best quality of piassava you can ever get from Nigeria, the price should be reduced at our risk to £80 per ton F.O.B.
- (2) That if this is accepted, any orders should be accompanied by an irrevokable letter of credit as suggested in our last letter.

Yours faithfully,

[Handwritten Signature]

DIRECTOR.

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.

28 63



042

Messrs Berndt G. Berggren & Co.,

Stockholm 50,

Sweeden.

Sender's name and address :-

Annang Piassava Producing Co.,
229, Clifford Road,

Abe - Nigeria.

← Second fold here →

To open cut here →

To open cut here →

9/9
AUG 1953

Anang Piassava Producing Coy.
229, Clifford Road,
Aba: 31st July, 1953.

Messrs Berndt G. Berggren & Co.,
Stockholm 50.
Sweden.

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for yours of 25th July, 1953.

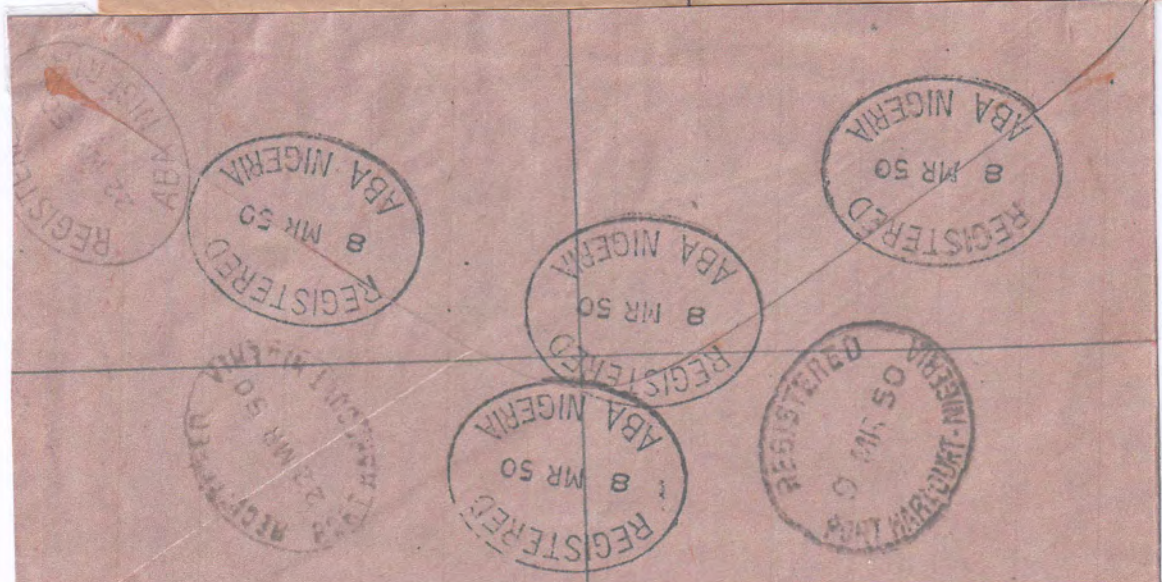
We have dispatched in a separate parcel another sample of piassava and hope to receive trial order covered by an irrevocable letter of credit per return mail from you.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
.....
Director.

JAA/EEA.

8/8 Anang Piassava



SOCIETE COMMERCIALE DE L'OUEST AFRICAIN
MOTOR DEPARTMENT.

A B A
 7th March 1950

Tele { Phone 126, P.H.
 " 9 ABA GARAGE Box { P.H., 61.
 Grams "TORFYR" ABA, 70.

Dr. Nunn,
 Health Office,
 Port Harcourt.

REGISTERED

Dear Sir,

Outstanding Account

We wish to draw your attention to your outstanding account of 16/- with us since August 26th 1949.

As we are now closing our financial year, we should be obliged if you would let us have your cheque in settlement of this account before 25.3.50.

Yours faithfully,

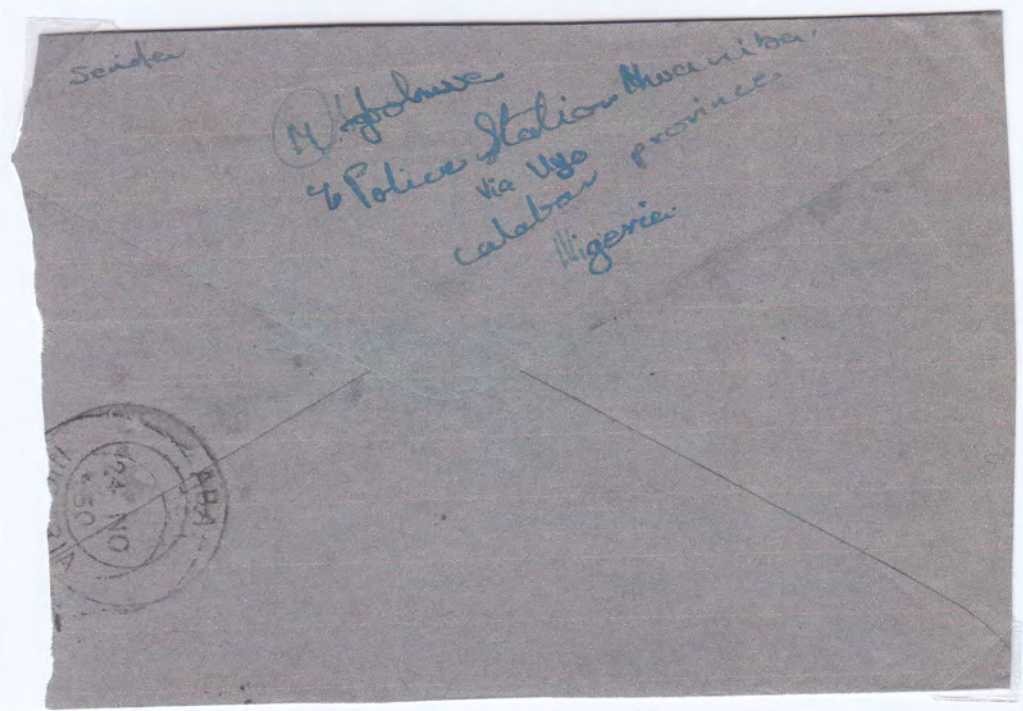
DEFICIENCY
IN ADDRESS
SUPPLIED BY
N. Y. P. O. I. S.

S

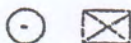


Andrew Bacendine,
Sons Educational,
And Jenneral Book Sellers,
14 - 15 Chamber,
Edimburgh. *U.S.A.*
Scotland

Sender, Mr, Julius O. Ogbuji,
Ogbuji's Villa Uratta,
Aochwerunta P. O,
Via Abba.



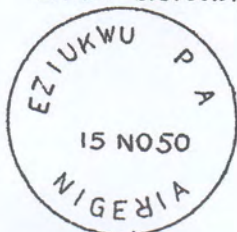
Eziukwu
Postal agency under Aba



8 80



26.6.50 - S.O. 30.9.60

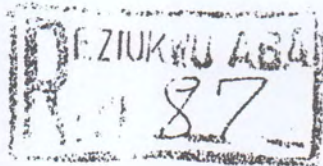


D1 State 1 (15.8.50)-(4.7.55)

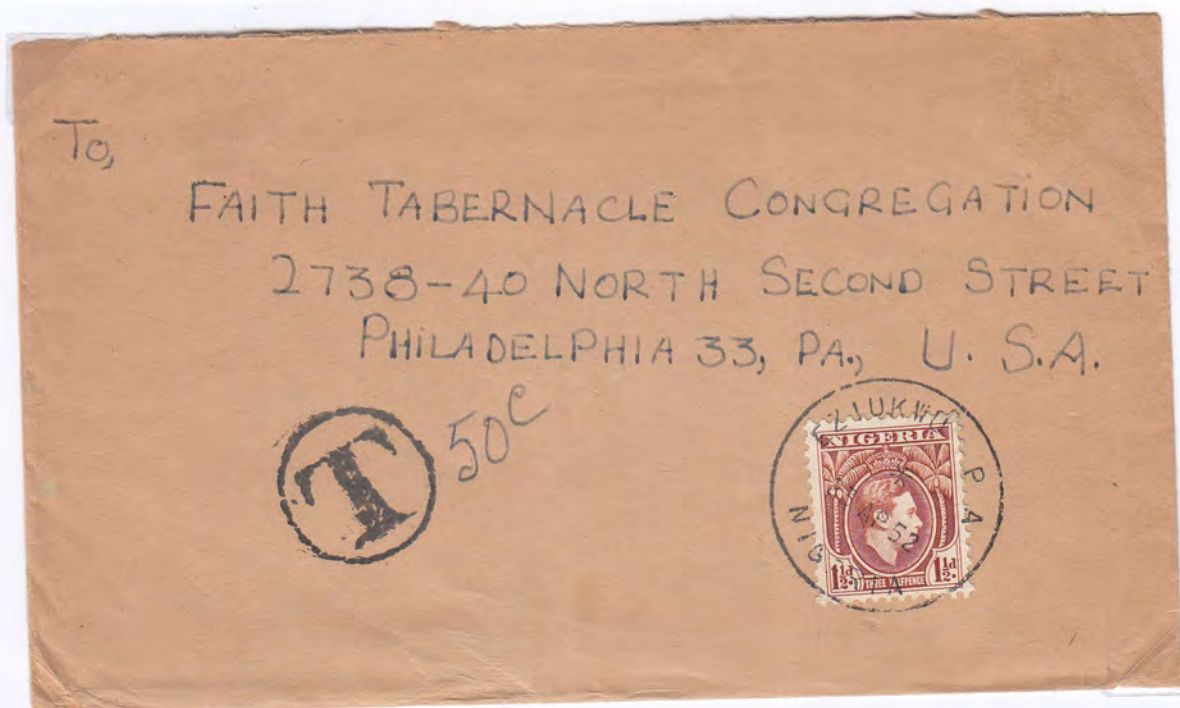
D1 State 2 (15.11.50)

D2 (7.9.55)-S.U. 30.9.60

Registered (R)



R2 (25.4.58)
Val x 2



Cover to Philadelphia USA dated 25th April 1952 with the George VI 1½d adhesive franked with the 30mm diameter single circle which was in use from 15th August 1950 to 4th July 1955.

From 1st April 1947 to 31st March 1954 a postal rate of 4d per ounce was in place for foreign letters. Consequently, an unpaid mark, serified 'T' in 20mm diameter circle, was applied.

The cover also shows a 50 cents manuscript mark.



PAR AVION
BY AIR MAIL
PER LUGROS



BURNS OATES & WASHBOURNE LTD.,
28 ASHLEY PLACE,
LONDON S.W. 1.



Bro. H. F. Funshunke,
General Bookshop,
84 Jubilee Road ABA,
B. W. A.



Office 1 - Aba

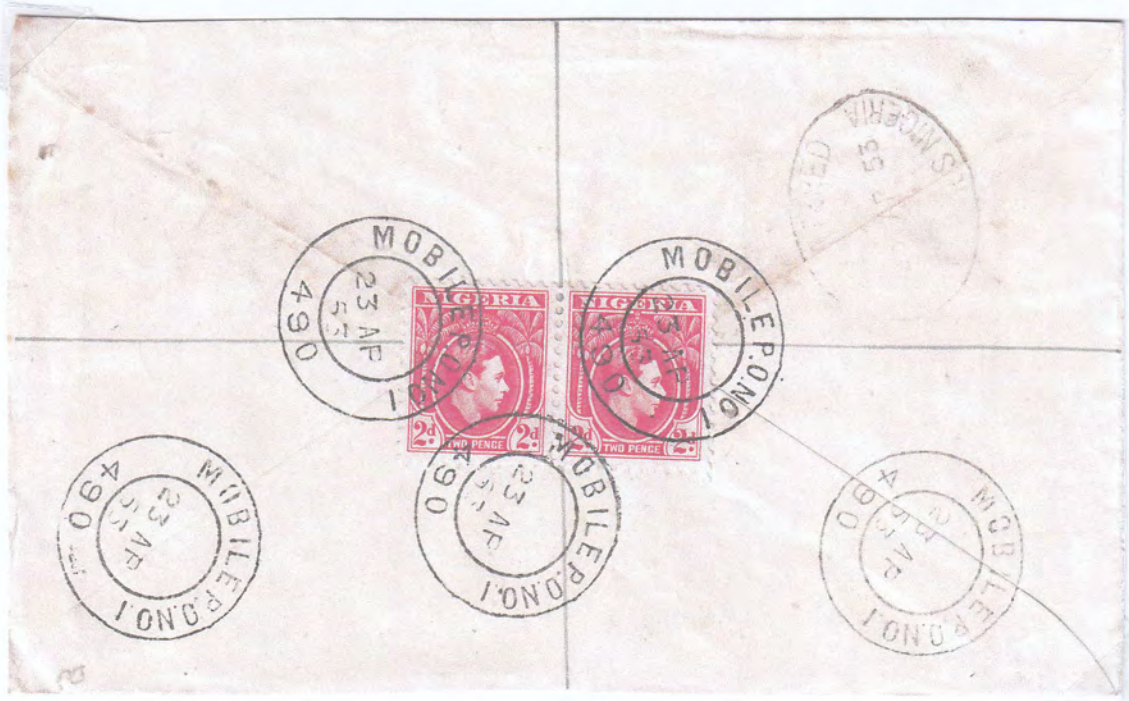
Mobile Post Office Number 1 was transferred to Aba on 31st May 1951.

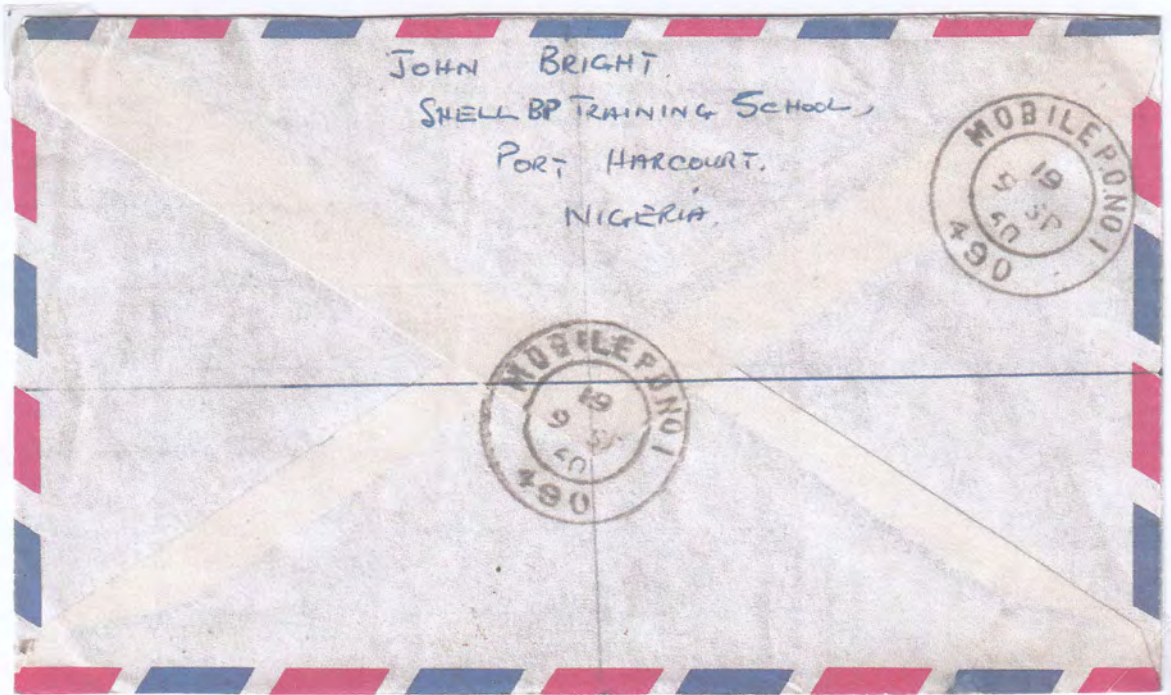


R. M. P. O. ABA
193



National Provincial Bank Ltd.
Bristol Branch,
31 Corn Street,
Bristol,
ENGLAND







DAVID ADDEY,
166, ASH GROVE,
HESTON, HOUNSLOW,
MIDDX., ENGLAND.



DAVID ADDEY,
166, ASH GROVE,
HESTON, HOUNSLOW,
MIDDX., ENGLAND.

POSTED AT HOUNSLOW
UNDER COVER TO R.P.M.
CF

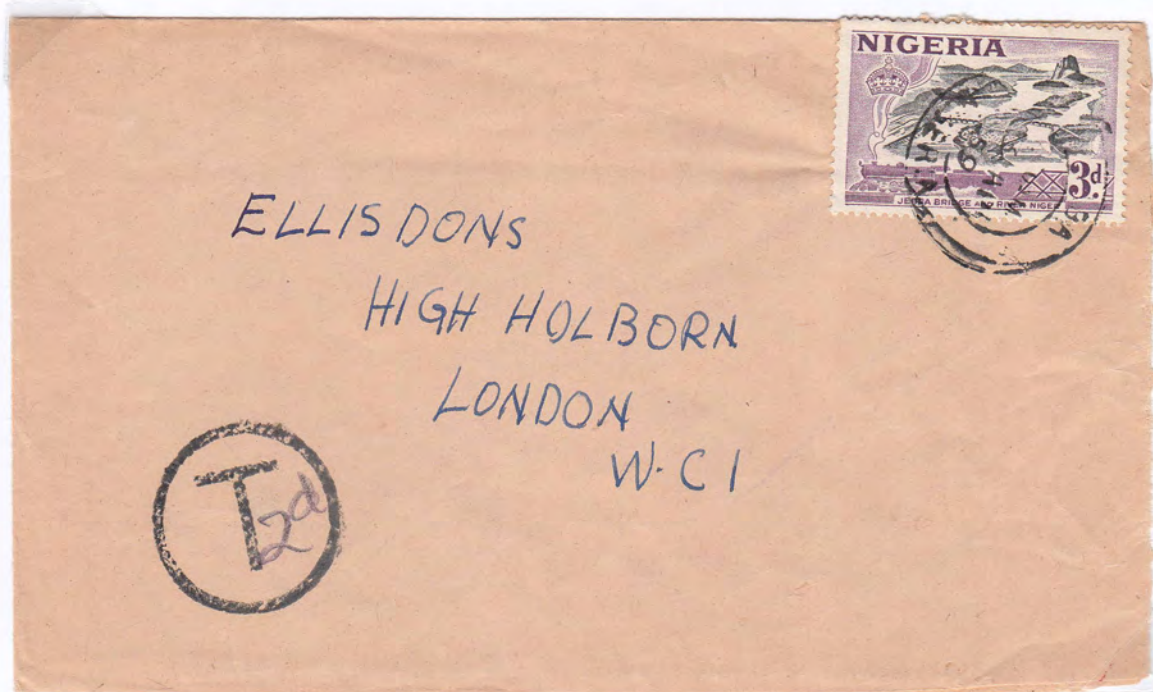




R *Kot Akan*
 No. 880

*Lakeside Bible House
 179 North Michigan Avenue
 Chicago
 Illinois U. S. A.*





From 1st April 1954 the postal rate for letters to the Empire was 2½d per ounce. It is assumed that the letter exceeded one ounce as an unpaid mark of a 'T' in a 24mm circle was applied with a '2d' in manuscript.

Ndiegoro

Postal agency under Aba, Owerri District

1.6.53 - 12.8.59

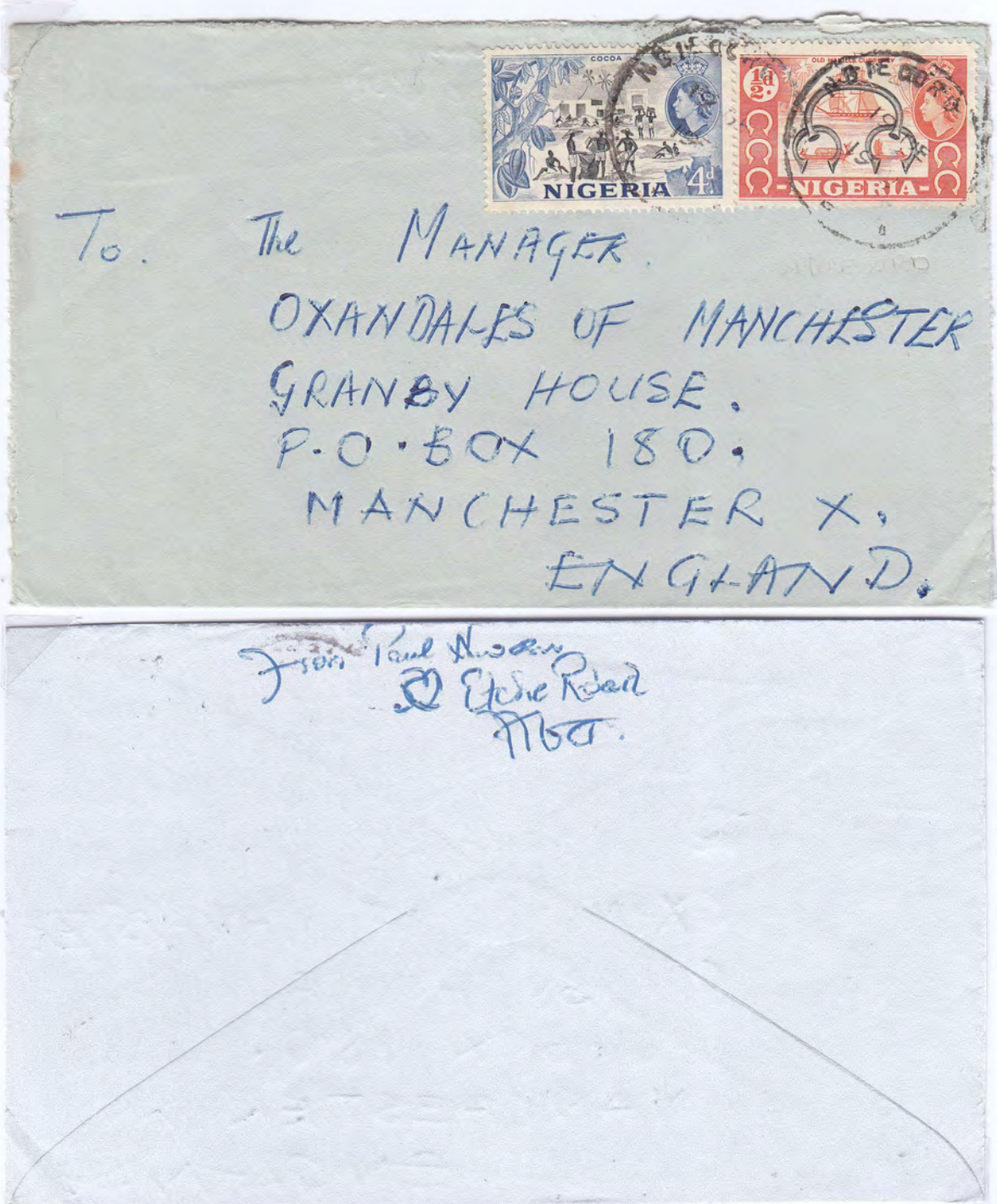
15 150



D1 (29.7.53)-(12.8.54)



D2 (4.9.57)-(4.5.59)*



To. The MANAGER.
OXANDALES OF MANCHESTER
GRANBY HOUSE.
P.O. BOX 180.
MANCHESTER X,
ENGLAND.

From Paul Nwosu
2 Eche Road
Aba.

بالبريد الجوي
AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

空

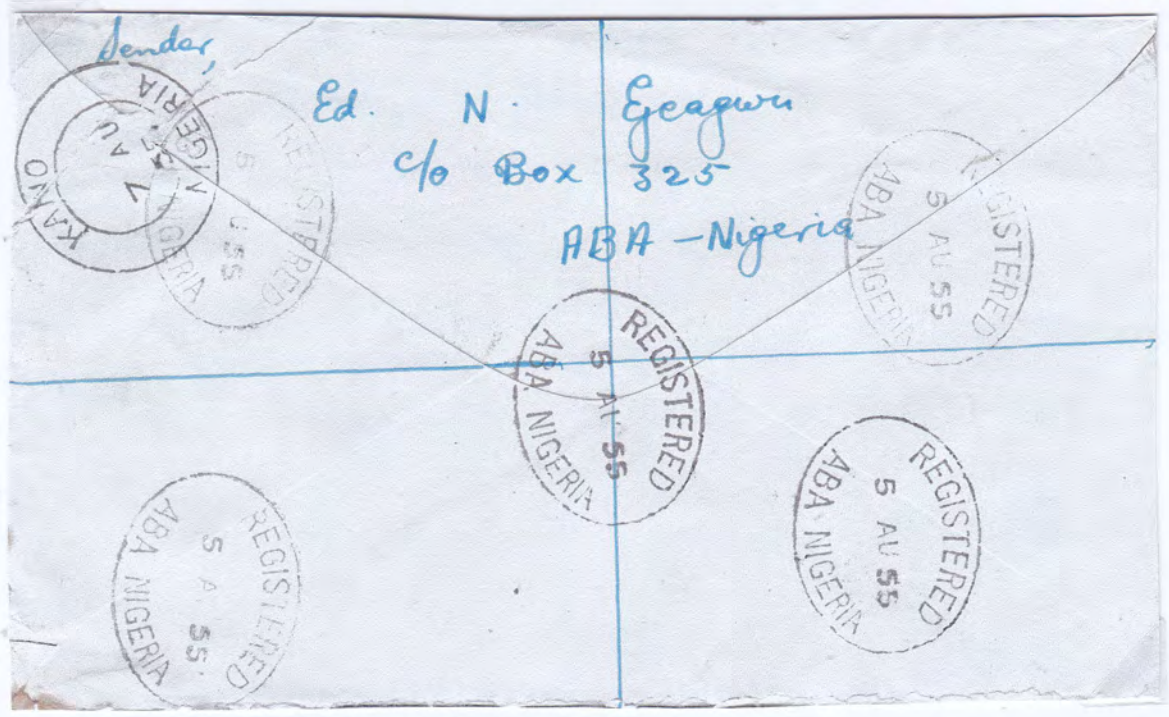


Faith Tabanade Congregation,
2738-40 N. Second Street,
Philadelphia 33 PA U.S.A



Sander
Michael Ukegbu.
p.o box 80
Aba
Nigeria
B.W.A

40



BY AIR MAIL



R ABA Town
966

ELLIS DONSON BROTHERS LTD
245-7 HIGH HOLBORN
LONDON W.C.1.

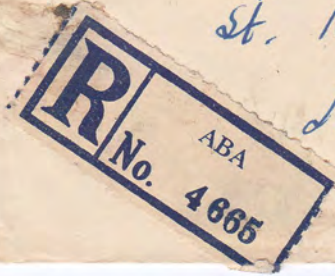


Sender M.O. Egunmat
17 A Sa Road
Abia, Nigeria. W.A.

PER AIR MAIL



27 Jack O' Lanterns Place,
St. Benets Abbey, Lanivet,
Bodmin,
Cornwall
England



Sunday 22 55
Mr A. I. Singh Wilson, Bururu.
92 Brikuni Road
Aba





THE DIRECTOR OF BOARD OF TRADE,
LONDON,
ENGLAND.

*ESB Registry
Room 828.
Lion Home.
W. C. I.*

R ABA
No. 7179

SW1

P. O. Box 37,
A b a. (NIGERIA) W. A.

REGISTRE
29 51 55

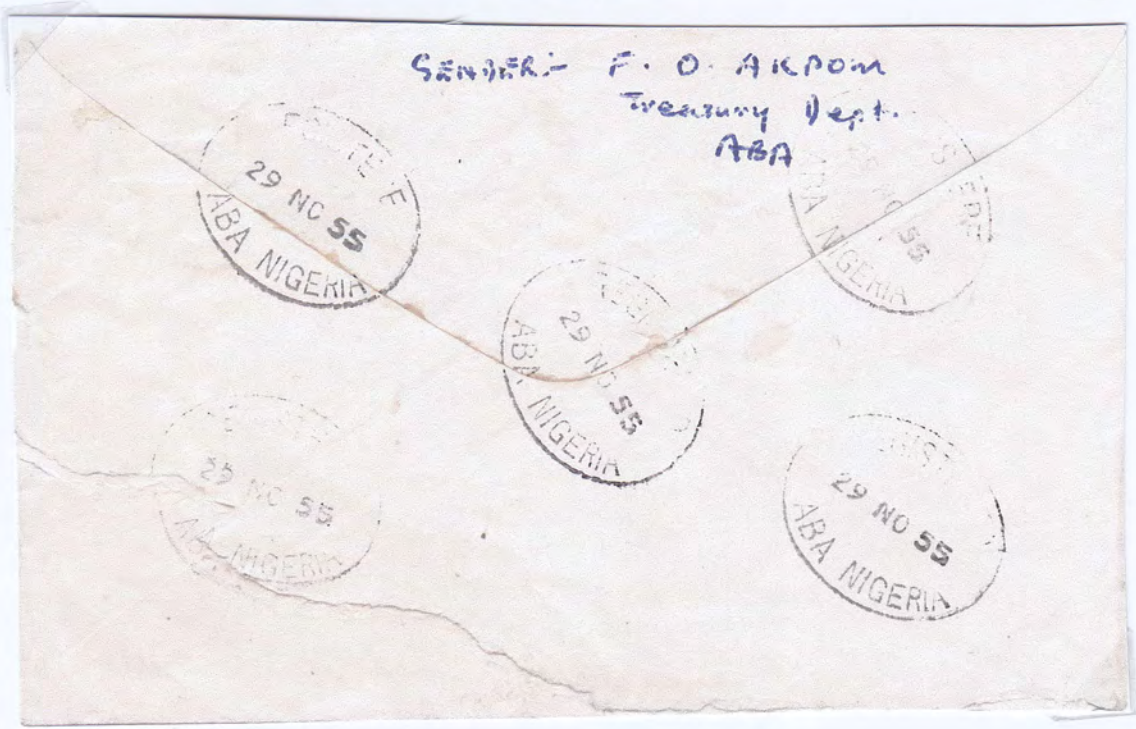
REGISTRE
29 51 55
ABA NIGERIA

REGISTRE
29 51 55
ABA NIGERIA

BOA...
26 OCT 1955
C. I. P.



The School of Accountancy,
2, West Regent Street,
GLASGOW, C. 2



Sender: F. O. AKPOM
Treasury Dept.
ABA

29 NOV 55
ABA NIGERIA

29 NOV 55
ABA NIGERIA

29 NOV 55
ABA NIGERIA

29 NOV 55
ABA NIGERIA

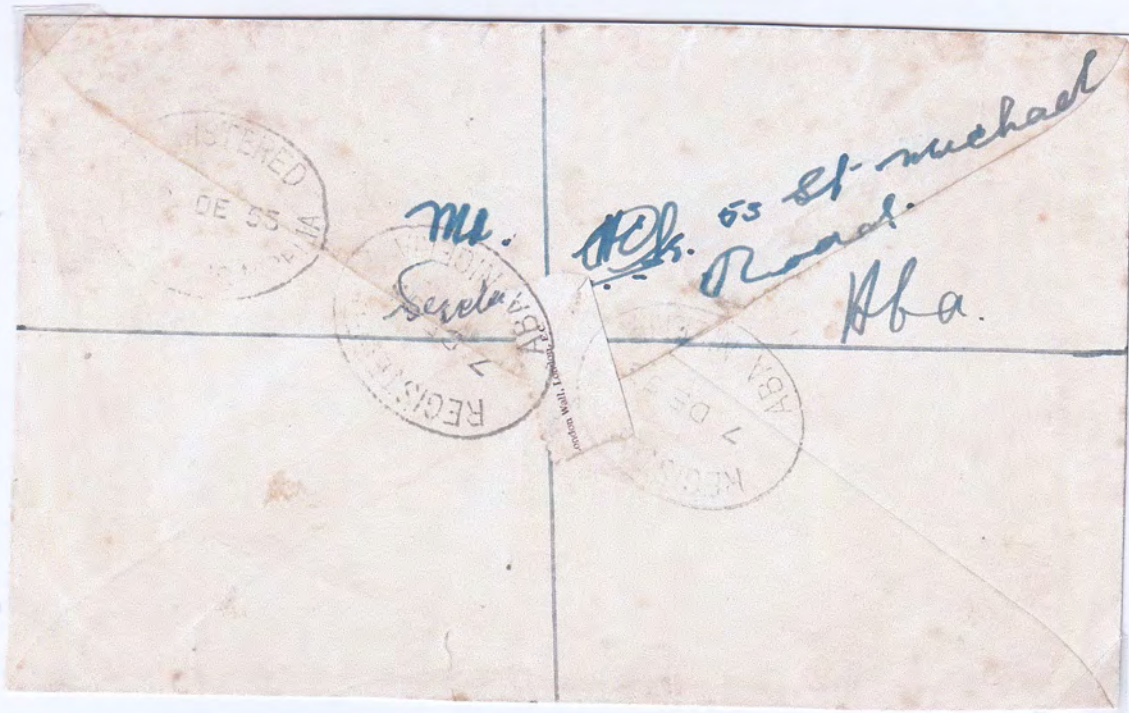
29 NOV 55
ABA NIGERIA



R ABA
No. 107

Tonsley Place
Lymington
Sw18

The Nazarene Institute,
~~7A Westway Road,~~
~~Drum London,~~
~~S.W. 20.~~



Mr. [unclear]
55 St Michael
Road.
Abba.

REGISTERED
ABA
7 DE 55

REGISTERED
ABA
7 DE 55

BY AIR



The School of Accountancy,
2 West Regent Street,
Glasgow. C. 2,



Bank of India
3 Park Rd
Abu



BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



The Director of Studies,
The School of Accountancy,
2, West Regent Street,
Glasgow, Great Britain

From F. E. Oduma
to J. Allen & Co. Ltd.
10a, Eastern Nigeria.

BY 1ST CLASS AIR MAIL

R
769
OGUTA



REGISTERED

REGISTERED
16 DE 57

TO. SPORTING FORCASTS LTD.,
95 SHKESPEARE STREET,
MANCHESTER 13,
ENGLAND.

F.N.C. ONUMONU,
~~POST~~ **Box 1**,
OGUTA, E. NIGERIA.

REGISTERED
16 DE 57
OGUTA NIGERIA

REGISTERED
18 DE 57
ABA NIGERIA

REGISTERED
16 DE 57
OGUTA NIGERIA

POST OFFICE
OGUTA NIGERIA

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



ECONOMIC EXPORTS LTD.,
LEITH HOUSE,
47 GRESHAM STREET,
LONDON E.C. 2.

R ABA
No. 4351



*Quijala Brothers
Bankers
Aba - Nigeria*

Quijala



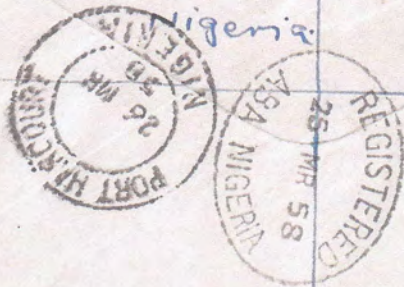
-AIR MAIL-



Ellis dons,
246 High Holborn,
London,
W. C. 1.

R ABA
No. 5080

Sender,
Bernard Uwaezuoke,
12 Market Road,
Aba.



BY AIR MAIL

R ABA TOWN
No. 198



The Director,
Ellisdon + Bros.,
246 High Holborn,
London, W. C. 1.
England.

From: R. N. Nwobia,
26 Asa Road,
Abia.



بالبريد الجوي
AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

空郵



To Sporting Forecasts L. T. D.,
Shakespeare Street,
Manchester, 13.

R ABA *Low*
No. 6078

Sender / Obed. O-E. Nwanke,
70 School Road,
ABA NIGERIA
B.W.A.



BY AIR MAIL



Sporting Forecasts Ltd,
95 Shakespeare Street
Manchester 13.

R ABA *En*
No. 6133

Sender

J.E. Chukwuezi
95 School Rd
ABA. Nig.

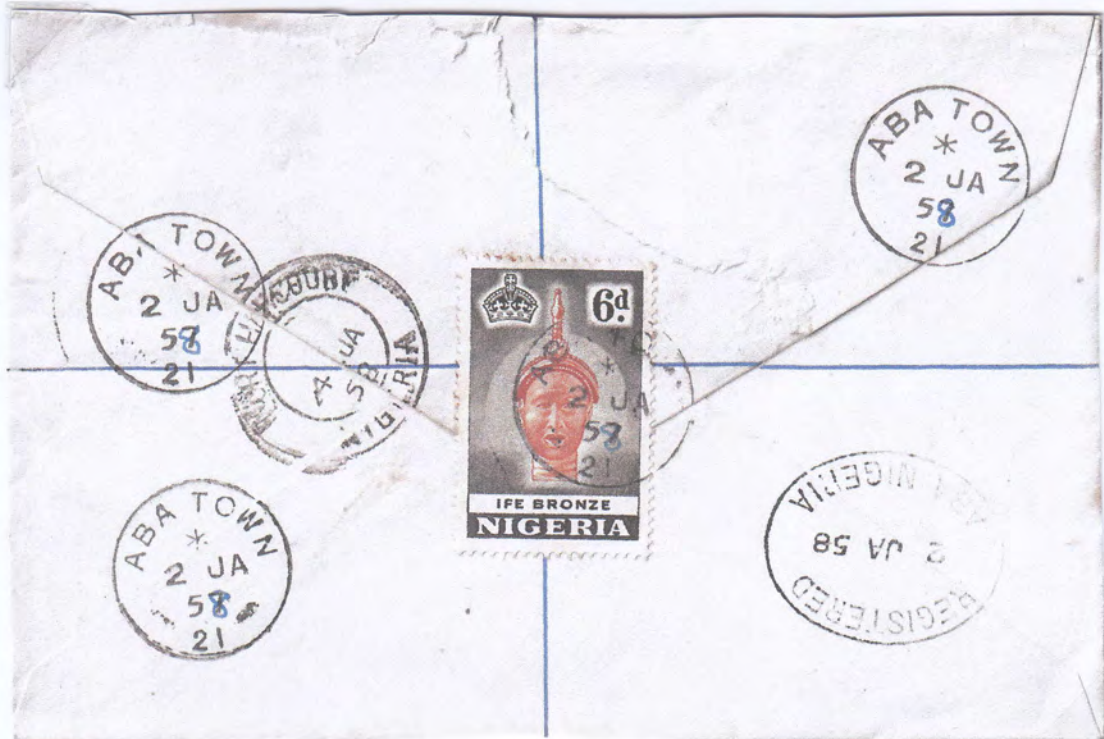


By Air Mail



THE SPORTING FORECASTS LIMITED (DEPT- REN.)
SHAKESPEARE STREET,
MANCHESTER 13.
ENGLAND.

R ABA ^{2m}
No. 6279





TO SPORTING FORECASTS Ltd.,
SHAKESPEARE STREET,
MANCHESTER, 13.

R ABA
No. 6018

SENDER
R. UME,
NO. A. 12 PARK ROAD,
ABA, E. NIGERIA.



REG. BY AIR.

R ABA
No. 6098



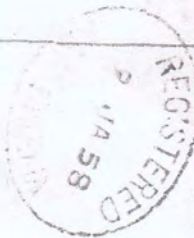
SPORTING FORECASTS LTD.,

95, SHAKESPEARE STREET,

MANCHESTER, 13.

ENGLAND.

SENDER:- D. N. UKPABI
49, CAMERON ROAD,
P. O. BOX 222, ABA
NIGERIA



BY AIR MAIL

ABA
No. 6222
R

ALFRED OLIVER, ESQ.,
DIRECTOR,
SPORTING FORECASTS LTD.,
95, SHAKESPEARE STREET,
MANCHESTER 13,
ENGLAND.

O. BALOGUN.
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MR. G. A. U. NWACHUKS
140 HOSPITAL Rd.
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Sporting Forecasts Ltd.

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Manchester 13

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No. 6315



Sender. O-6

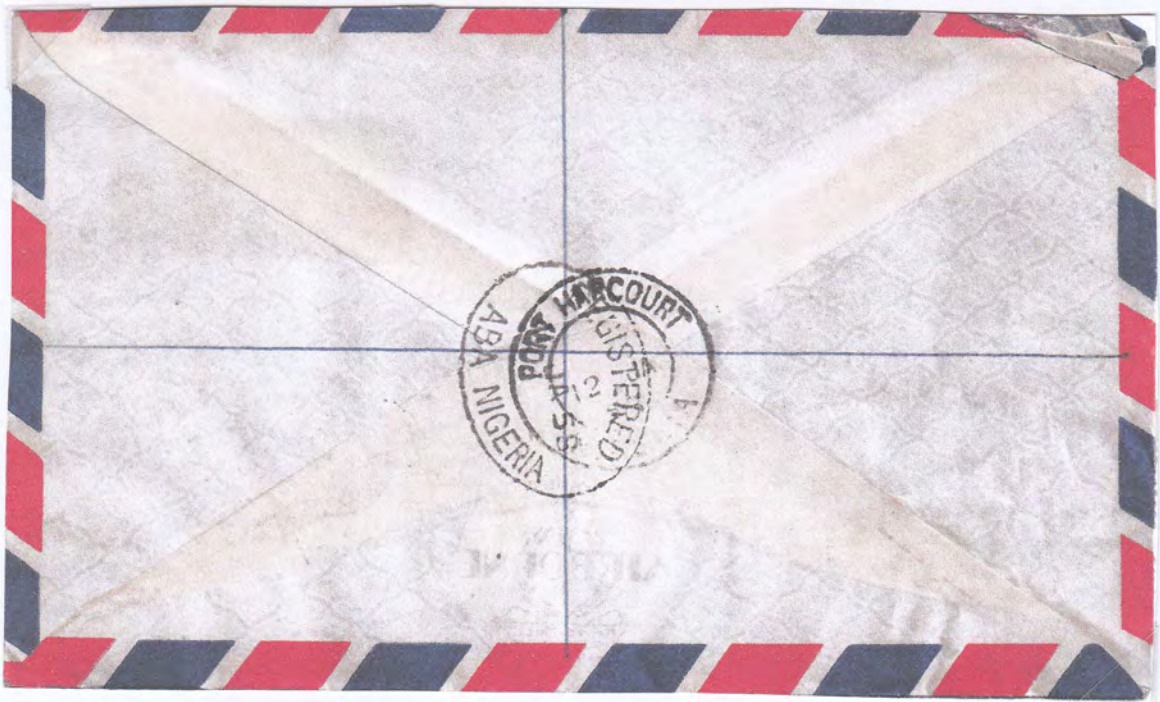
25. Aba Road
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95, Shakespeare Street,
Manchester, 13,
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SPORTING FORECASTS LTD,
SHAKESPEARE STREET,
MANCHESTER 13,
ENGLAND.

Sender:
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BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Dr. Georg Specht,
Wintererstrasse 19,
7800 Freiburg i. B R.,
West Germany.



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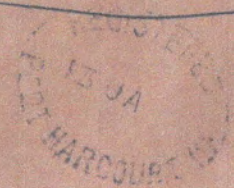
THE DIRECTOR

Deutscher Caritasverband E.U.
- Überseehilfe -

78000 Ersiburg Im Breisgau
WINTERENSTRASSE 19.

GERMANY

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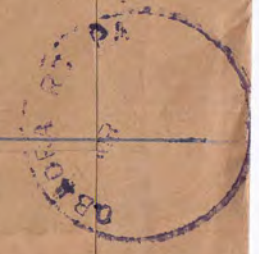


EDITOR, ~~SOON,~~ BOLNEY, HAYWARDS-HEATH, ENGLAND.

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From Samuel E. Ogburn
1/6 p.o. Box 992 Aba,
E.C.S. Nigeria.



FROM RABBI R. I. OKALANJO
S. C. + S. CHURCH, OHANISO
AKINETE 5, ABA ZIP # _____
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Chicago, Illinois 60601

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Fetter Lane,
London E.C. 4
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For THE UNION TRADING COMPANY
OF NIGERIA LTD.
BUSINESS PROMOTION DEPARTMENT
P. O. BOX 275,
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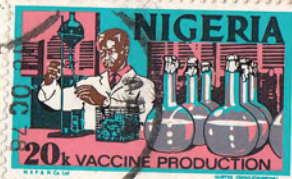
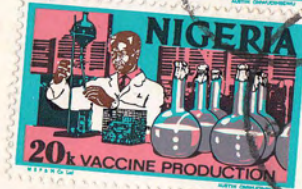
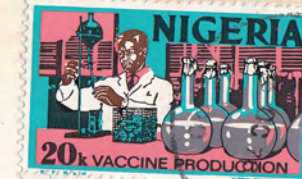


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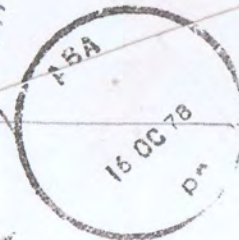
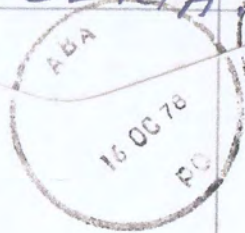
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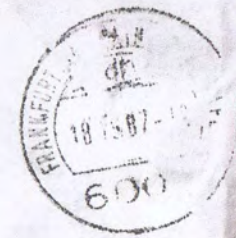
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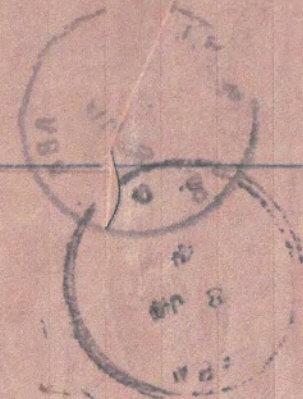
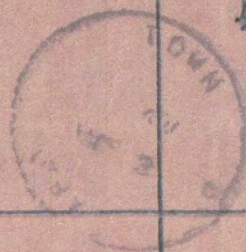
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Standard Bank (Nig) Ltd.
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72 Market Road, Aba.
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180 North Wabash Avenue Suite 601,
Chicago, ILL 60601,
U.S.A.





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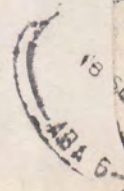
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SENDER,
REV. Mishael EKE,
P.O. Box 6785, Aba.
Imo State
NIGERIA.



R
No. 930

The Examination Offices
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P. O. Box 8477
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