

A curious postcard from the Cameroons campaign

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Sept 1914- March 1916

Two post offices

Although nominally a joint Anglo-French campaign the British and French columns did not mix and liaison was only at the senior HQ level.

Shortly after Duala was captured at the end of September 1914 each contingent set up its own forces post office. The French took over the German Post Office, shown here, and the British set up their office in a quayside warehouse. The British also took over the German cancellers whilst the French used their own **Tresor et Postes** devices

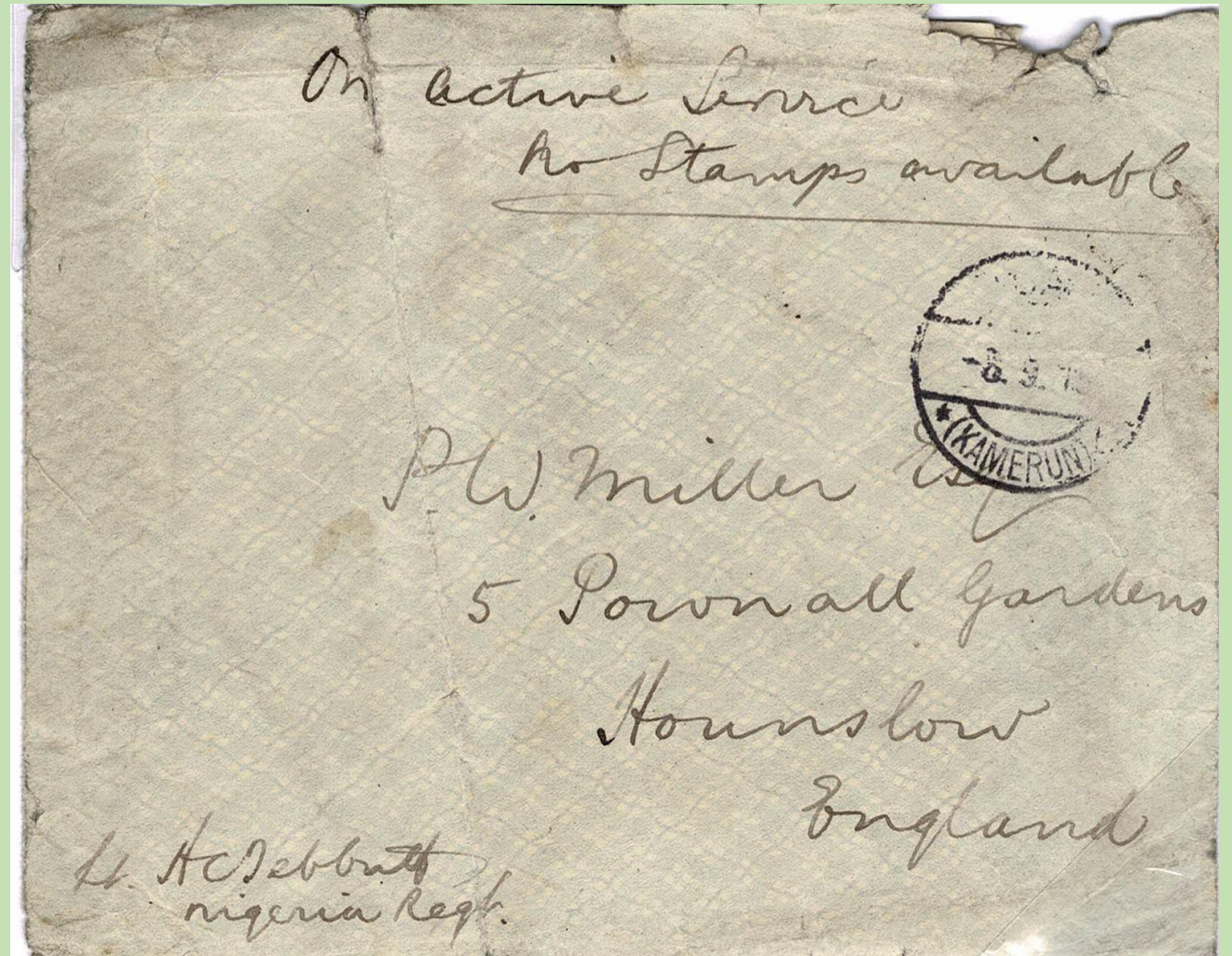
These were the only post offices in the whole country until after the end of the campaign.



8 September 1915
entire letter

This rather distressed entire letter was written at Duala by Lt Herbert Tebbutt of the 2nd Nigeria regiment on 7 September 1915.

It was cancelled by the British forces post office on 8 September and almost certainly caught the homeward sailing of the Akabo that afternoon



The curious French forces postcard

This postcard was written on 6 Sept 1915.

It was handed in at the French forces post office and struck with its *Tresor et Postes aux Armees / Cameroun* postmark in blue, the same day.

Movement of mail between the French and British post offices was exceptional but seems to have happened to this card as it bears the British CEF 1d adhesive and the former German cds used only by the British.

The French ship *Afrique* left Cameroun on 3 September and there may not have been another French ship due for some weeks, so this card was probably carried by the *Akabo* on 8 September, to Lome or to France.



The NO CHARGE TO BE RAISED cachet

I have not seen this cachet previously recorded

I think it was probably applied at the British post office at Duala

I think it was applied because 1d was not sufficient postage for civilian mail to France (postage rate was 2½d) but the 1d stamp was superfluous if it was to be carried as post-free forces mail.

Other ideas about it will be welcome!

