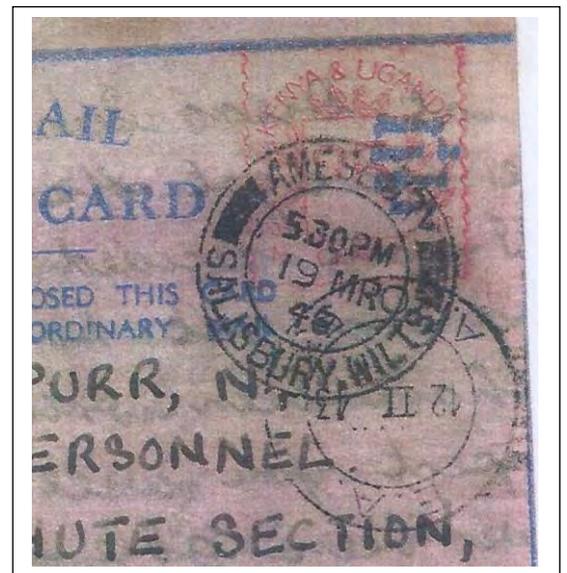


Dear Michael, the first question is raised by the AMLC pictured here. I should say I only have images the specimens are with the owner in Oz



This is actually a lightweight paper AMLC posted from Madagascar (Diego Suarez) EA-APO 53 in Feb 1943. Colley quotes East Africa 25c for HM Forces posting to GB and the Empire.

This is correct, isn't it? Air Mail letter cards could be actual folded card or, like this one, foldable light weight paper. They were distributed to active service military units on a ration basis for those service personnel who were prepared to pay for airmail. Because of their lighter weight, the rate to GB and the Empire from East Africa was only 25c. Stamps were applied when the letter was handed in to the APO and in Madagascar most APOs used KUT stamps during the occupation, though Rossiter illustrates use of GB stamps instead.

I assume that the common procedure was to obtain the AMLC when it was "your turn" to share in the ration and pay the 25c when you handed it in to the APO. (from where it was passed to the censor). In this case the censor is only listed by Rossiter as being in Mombasa in 1944 (not Feb '43). Whatever, it only affects my question a little.

This card has a machine printed frank which I think is for 25c under the title Kenya-Uganda with a coat of arms.

- A. Would that have been printed on before distribution to units and those obtaining them paid 25c to the distributor, with nothing to pay on posting

B. OR was the case that machine print was applied at the post office (which in this case could have been in Mombasa).

I ask this because the EA APO Mark does not seem to cancel the machine mark so is the frank both a receipt for payment and "self cancelling" or is the EA APO mark just badly placed as it was meant to cancel it?

In summary,..... When (before or after distribution) and where was the machine mark applied?

2. POSTAGE PAID AT APO



Here I am trying to find out what was actually happening. It is, I think, a civilian letter posted in Tananarive and censored there (mark of Censor 252-1 on the reverse). This payment was obviously not enough to pay airmail to USA but it was cancelled by the civil PO in Tana. The KUT stamps are applied AFTER censorship and cancelled by straight line mark POSTAGE PAID AT APO which is very faint especially on the lower cluster (frame line crosses head of 15c)



The P of APO can be seen over the King's left eye.

So what does the rubric mean.

Is the APO "paid at", the one marked 84 (which Rossiter gives as Mombasa)?

WHO paid at the APO? not the sender if the APO referred to is 84

If it was paid at an APO in Tananarive then why not apply the circular cds there? Were they out of stamps?? That seems rather unlikely and I am sure that would have been written on the cover, in that event

If the rubric means the payment was made at one place (Tana?) and the stamps applied at another (Mombasa?), how did the second place know that? because the rubric was applied at the same place as the stampswherever that was.

Rossiter shows (next page) a cover from Tana with the same Censor and about same date (Feb 43) and French postage but Registered and Airmail fee paid in GB stamps with the rubric. This looks as though the stamps were applied in TANA because it was registered there and the blue cross is over the stamps so why not use the APO cancel perhaps because it was registered at Tana Civil PO and it only went to an EA-APO for Censoring (all the APO marks are over the censor label). In which case where were the stamps and rubric applied? NO explanation of any of my queries is offered by Rossiter.

So those are my questions and if you can help me out so that I can get the thing correct for the GEOSIX article and my colleague in Oz, we should be really grateful, at least enough to buy you a drink or two, if we are both at the Royal for the opening meeting in September.

Of course if the details are actually obscure then, for me, it is just as important to say so.

Yours Brian

