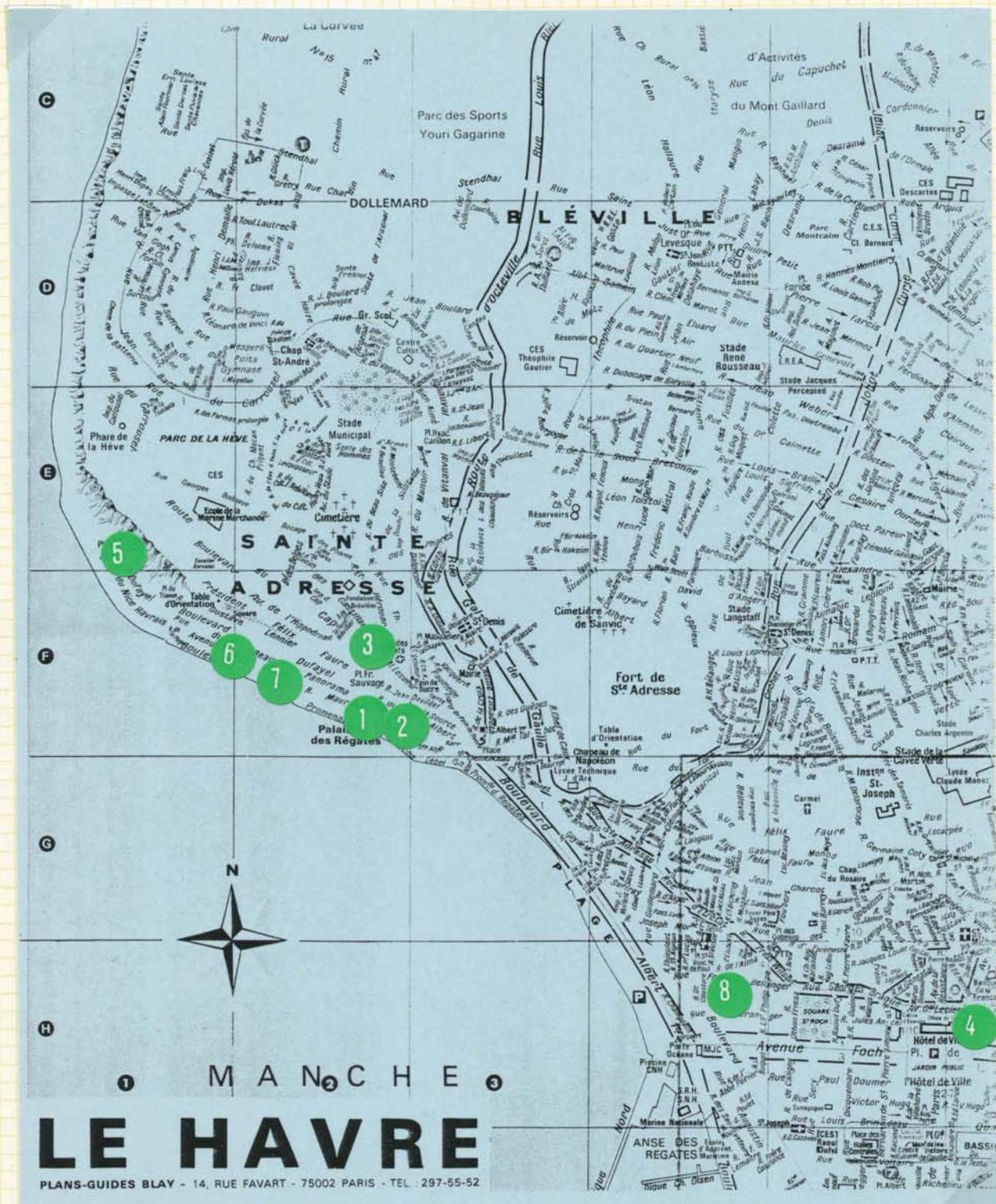


Belgium: The Government in exile, 1914-1918. : Le Havre .



1 Belgian Post Office (Le Havre Special) 1914/15
Palais des Régates

French Post Office, Ste Adresse.

2 Belgian Post Office (Ste Adresse) 1915/18
4 Place Frédéric-Sauvage.

3 "Bureau de Correspondance Belge"
36 Boulevard de Strasbourg.
October 1914 - November 1917

4 Villa Hollandaise - Belgian Government HQ
and Sonacé

Villa Villeroy - Diplomatic Corps.

5 Villa Louis XIV Belgian Military HQ

6 "Bureau de la Correspondance Belge"
38 rue du Dr-Couture
December 1917 - November 1918.

The Belgian Government in exile, 1914-18.

French cancellations on Belgian stamps:

Until December 1914, mail stamped with Belgian stamps would be cancelled at Ste. Adresse, without comment.



"L'Hôtellerie" was the residence of the Belgian Ministers.

Belgians working in Le Havre itself would stamp their mail with Belgian stamps which would be cancelled at the recette principal



Le Havre - Loiret : 16th August 1915.

Belgium: The Government in Exile, 1914-1918

Le Havre (Spécial): Seine Infre.

Three hand cancellers of 27mm diameter were supplied to the Belgian post office by the French P.T.T. administration. They are distinguishable by the time code and slight differences in the lettering, and the word spacing.



Type I

Time code hour and *

Full stop between "Seine" and "Infre"

Lettering evenly spaced



Type II

Time code without *

Full stop between "Seine". "Infre"

Lettering slightly more spaced.

Type III

Asterisk (*) replaces tire-code

Hyphen between "Seine". "Infre"

Lettering widely spaced,
particularly between "Le"
and "Havre"



Type I used on November 18th 1914, still clear and crisp, exactly one month after introduction —

Belgium : The Government in Exile, 1914-1918

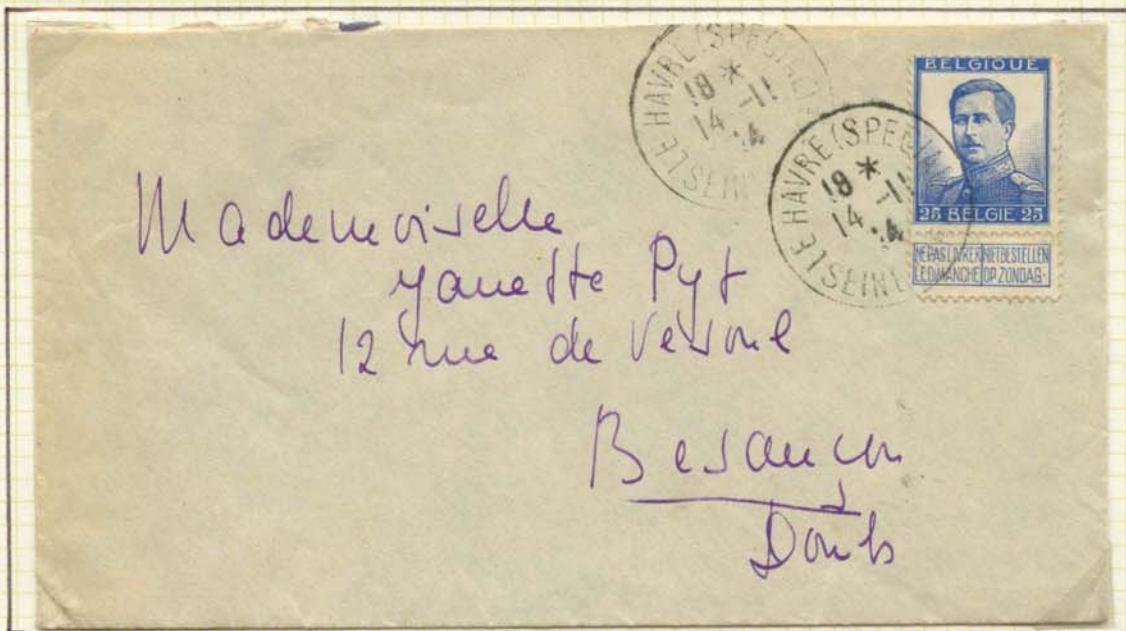
Rates and Routes ~

The Belgian postal tariff of May 1st 1910 was authorised for use at Le Havre

The internal rates were applicable for delivery in the commune of Saint-Adresse, the unoccupied salient of Belgium and the exclave of Barle-Duc. (q.v.)

Mail to elsewhere (including the greater Le Havre area, the rest of France and Great Britain) was rated at the U.P.U. rates of 10 centimes per postcard, 25 centimes per letter.

The only exception was mail to Holland, governed by the postal treaty of 1879 with a basic rate of 20 centimes per 20 grs letter



Le Havre (Spécial)
- Houlgate

17th February 1915

correct overseas 10
centime postcard
rate



The Belgian Government in Exile, 1914-1918.



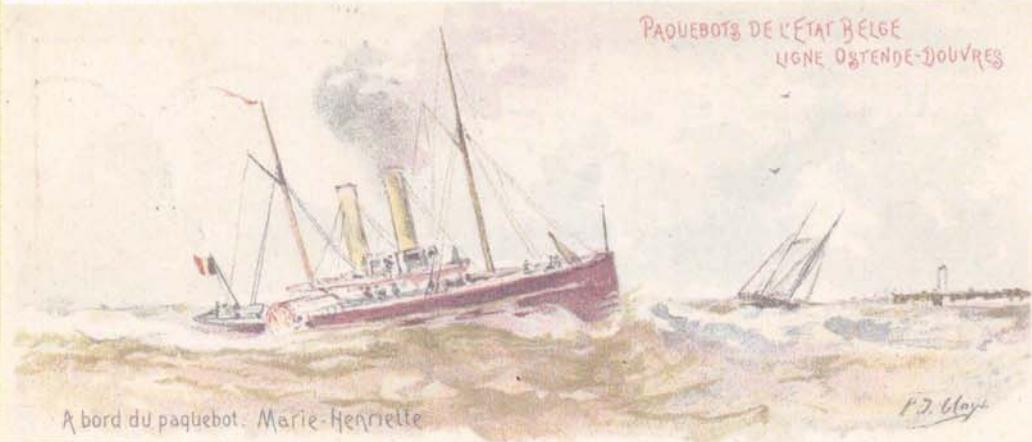
"Marie-Henriette" postal stationery Ostend-Dover 10 cent card of 1899 used in 1915.

Registered card from Le Havre (spécial) to Ministry of War, (villa Louis XIV, avenue des Régates, 5^e Adresse)

N.B. Registration Label # 1 : 11*13·2/15

Franked 27 centimes : correct rate should have been 30 centimes (5 cent postcard + 25 cent registration)

Note that although this card travelled only 250 m between the Belgian Post Office in the Palais des Régates, to the villa Louis XIV, it was transferred from the Belgian mail service to the French and received a receipt strike of LE HAVRE/SEINE INFRE/8*14-2/15 datestamp of the Bureau auxiliaire



Belgium : The Government in Exile, 1914-1918

Rates and Routes : Mail within Sainte-Adresse, rated as Belgian internal mails.



Rue de Normandie was within the commune of Sainte-Adresse, hence 10 centime letter rate
11th March 1915



Although within Sainte-Adresse, this postcard could have been delivered for 5 centimes, but a 10 centime international stationery card was used
28th December 1916~

Belgium, The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.

Registered
Letters to Italy

2 covers to the
erminent Italian
philatelist, Dr.
Emilio Dicena, showing
the 50 centime overseas
registered letter rate,
both under, the Le
Havre (Special) and
Sce Adresse post
officer, showing both
French and Belgian
usages ~



23rd April 1915

GRAND HOTEL
DES
ARMES DE LA VILLE

H. THOMMEREL
LE HAVRE

S.E. DR. Dicena
Téléphone 11.37



Messieurs le Dr.
Emilio Dicena

Rome

40 via litt. Colonna.



9th November 1915

Belgium: The Government in exile, 1914-1918.

Rates and Routes: Holland

The allies recognised the Le Havre Special and accepted mail from it immediately. Neutrals, like Holland, did not until the Director-General of the U.P.U. officially sanctioned the arrangement on 6th February 1915.



Le Havre - Rotterdam
10th February 1915
4 days after U.P.U.
recognition.

Route, via Folkestone
London, Harwich
and the Hook

Backstamp: 15th
February 1915.

Rate should have
been 20 centimes
(Postal Treaty of
1879) but 25
centime adhesive
(normal overseas
rate) affixed.



Belgium: The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.

Rates and Routes: Le Havre (Spécial) to England.



Le Havre - Brookbourn (Herts) 26th June 1915 (Type III):

Rate 25 centime overseas letter + 25 centime registration fee = 50¢ adhesive

French registration label # 815, overprinted LE HAVRE SPÉCIAL

Routed to Folkestone for Censorship and passing on to British postal authorities

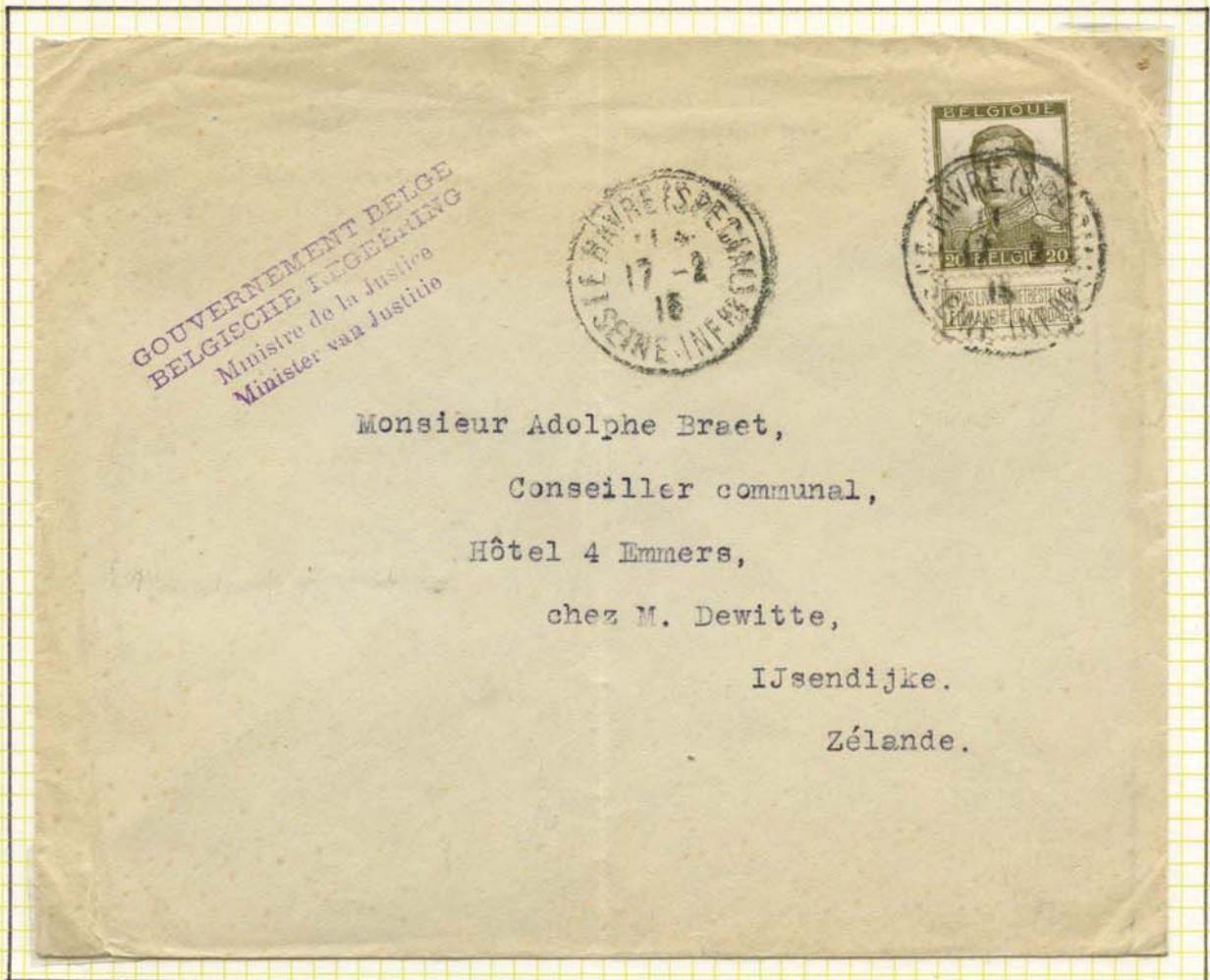
Opened by British Postal Censor in London, "hooded" registration c.d.s.
LONDON E.C. 27 JV 15 (backstamp)

Oval LONDON / REGISTERED : 29 JV 15 (backstamp, after censorship)

Belgium : The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.

Belgian Ministries at le Havre

Ministry of Justice, Henry Carton de Wiart, Minister



The Justice Ministry was charged with negotiating the release of Belgian soldiers interned in Holland, so much of their mail demonstrates well the special 20 centime letter rate to Holland ~

Le Havre - IJsendijke (Zealand) [Netherlands] : 17th February 1915
(receipt 24th February 1915)

via England.

The Belgian Government in exile, 1914-1918.

Belgian Ministries at Le Havre

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Minister: M. Davignon, until 27th July 1915, when he was granted sick leave

Acting Minister: Baron Beyens, confirmed 18th January 1916

Minister: Ch de Broqueville, 4th August 1917 till December 31st 1918



The Ministry was headquartered in the Villa Hollandaise

Most Foreign Ministry Mail is found addressed to Belgian consulates

25 centime overseas rate

4 line cachet

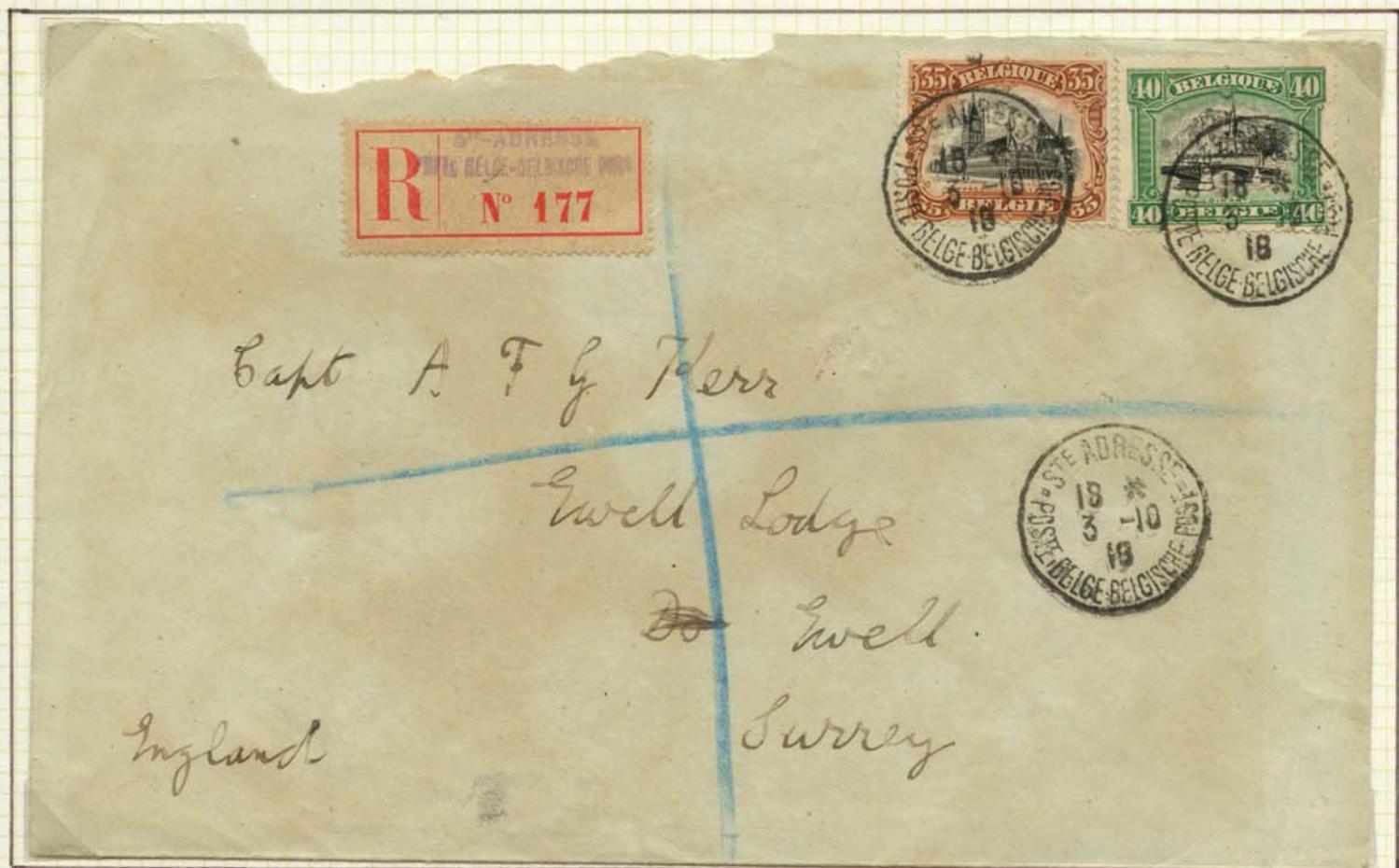
GOVERNEMENT BELGE
BELGISCHE REGEERING
Ministère van Buitenlandsche Zaken
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères

Belgium: The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.

Rates and Routes: Registered Mail to the United Kingdom



Le Havre (Spécial) - London, 5th March 1915 (received 6th March) : Rate 10c postage + 25c reg. (20c over)



Sainte-Adresse - Ewell, 3rd October 1918. postage 75cme (50 centimes postage for 40grs weight + 25centimes registration.) Received, 7th October 1918 (backstamp.) ~

Belgium : The Government in Exile, 1914 - 1918.

Rates and Routes : North and South America



Le Havre (Spécial) - Massachusetts U.S.A. 23rd March 1915. Letter rate 25 centimes : 5c overpaid



SG-Adresse - Buenos Aires, 2nd December 1916. received 28th January 1917. Reg. label # 380
Rate, 25 cent postage + 25 cent registration ~

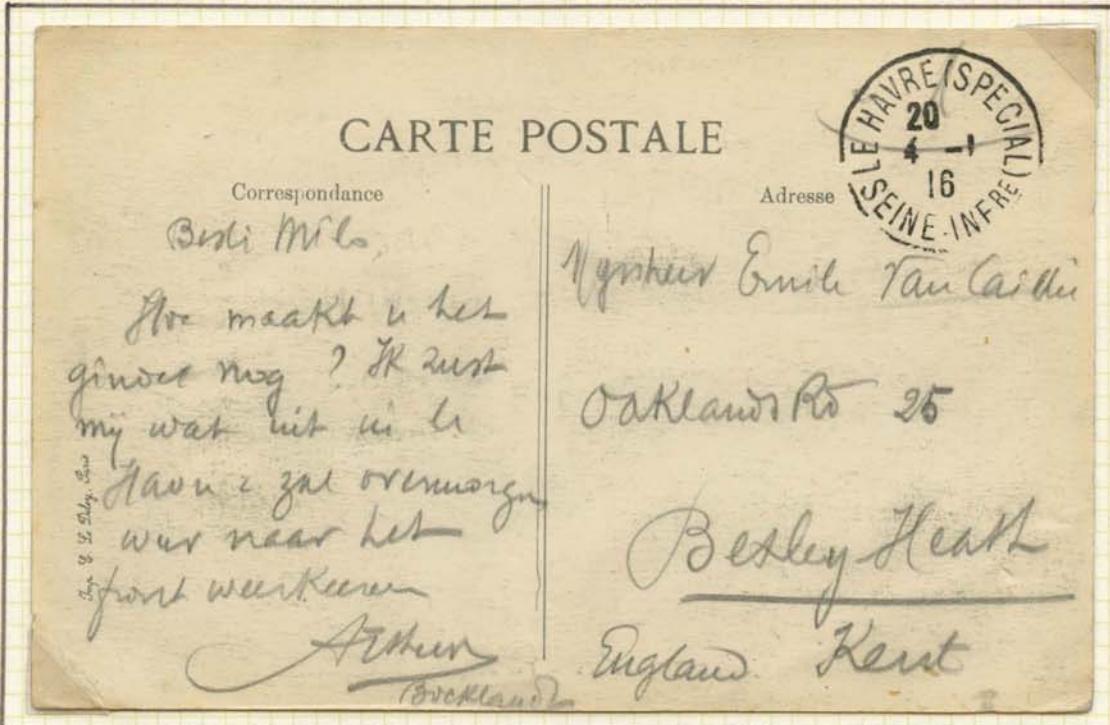
Belgium: The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.



A Beautiful lithographed correspondence card in four colours
Type I Le Havre (Spécial) c.d.s.
8th January 1915

Belgium: The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.

Le Havre (Spécial) : Late Use.



According to the official history, the three "Le Havre Special" datestamps were destroyed when the Belgian post office transferred from the Palais des Regates to the Palais Dufayel on 15th October 1915 -

However, Silverberg records the use of Type III on a registration receipt dated 3rd January 1917, and an internal army message, dated 20th December 1917 (Type I)

The above strike of Type II proves that all 3 cancellers survived, and this is the only strike that seems to have unequivocally gone by open mails.

Who and why the datestamps were used in this late period is unknown, although all usages seem to be military in association.

Belgium: The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.
Philatelic abuses at Le Havre



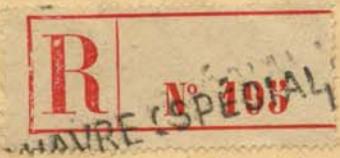
Monsieur SIMON
Ministère de la Justice
Le Havre

Forged low values
of the 1914 Red
Cross charities, with
genuine strikes of
Type I.

There is no evidence
that this envelope
passed through the
mail.

15 centimes was
not a correct rate

Henry Carton de
Wiart, Minister of
Justice had no
"Monsieur Simon"
on his staff



Monsieur Paul Jéquier
Grande Rue 3 Peleurier
Neuchâtel, Suisse

Grossly overfranked, this cover was delivered to Neuchâtel, Switzerland, despite the mixed Belgian-French franking which was specifically forbidden by the postal agreement.

Belgium : The Government in exile, 1914 - 1918

The French P.T.T. provided a new c.d.s inscribed "St Adresse : Poste Belge / Belgische Post" for use on mail posted at the Hotel Dufayel

Two Types exist :

Type I No star after hour : Month in Roman Figures. 1915 - 1917.



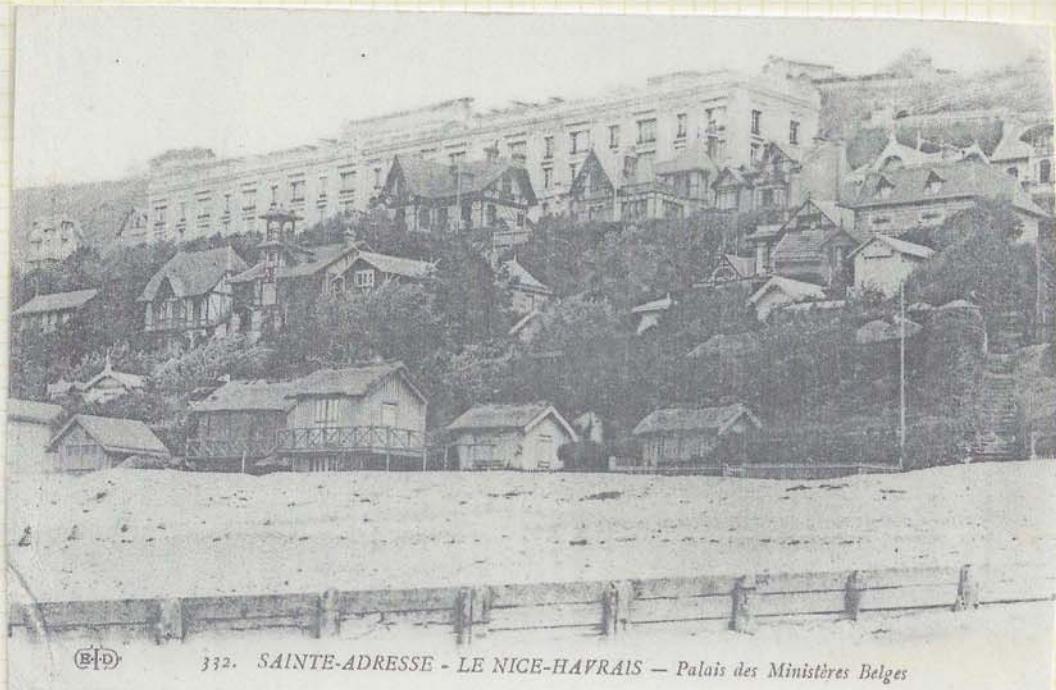
Type II Star after hour : Month in Arabic Figures. used only in 1918.



Belgium : The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.

"Ste. Adresse : Poste Belge"

On 15th October 1915, the Belgian post office was moved to the former Dufayel department store, 4 place Frédéric-Sauvage, which was renamed "Palais des Ministères Belges." The Belgian Ministries remained there until September 30th 1919



Reverse of the card shows the Palais Dufayel from the beach

Belgium : The Government in exile, 1914-1918

Belgian Ministries at Le Havre

Ministry of Railways, Marine, Posts and Telegraphs : Minister Paul Segers.



Registered letter
to the United States.

SE-Adresse
8th December 1915.

London (backstamp)
11th December 1915

Chicago (backstamp)
27th December 1915

Minneapolis (backstamp)
28th December 1915

Rate, postage
45 centimes (60
gram weight) +
25 centimes regis-
tration.

Ministry of War
Artillery section
Minister (1914-17)
Charles de Broquerville.
(1917/18) General
de Ceuvinck.

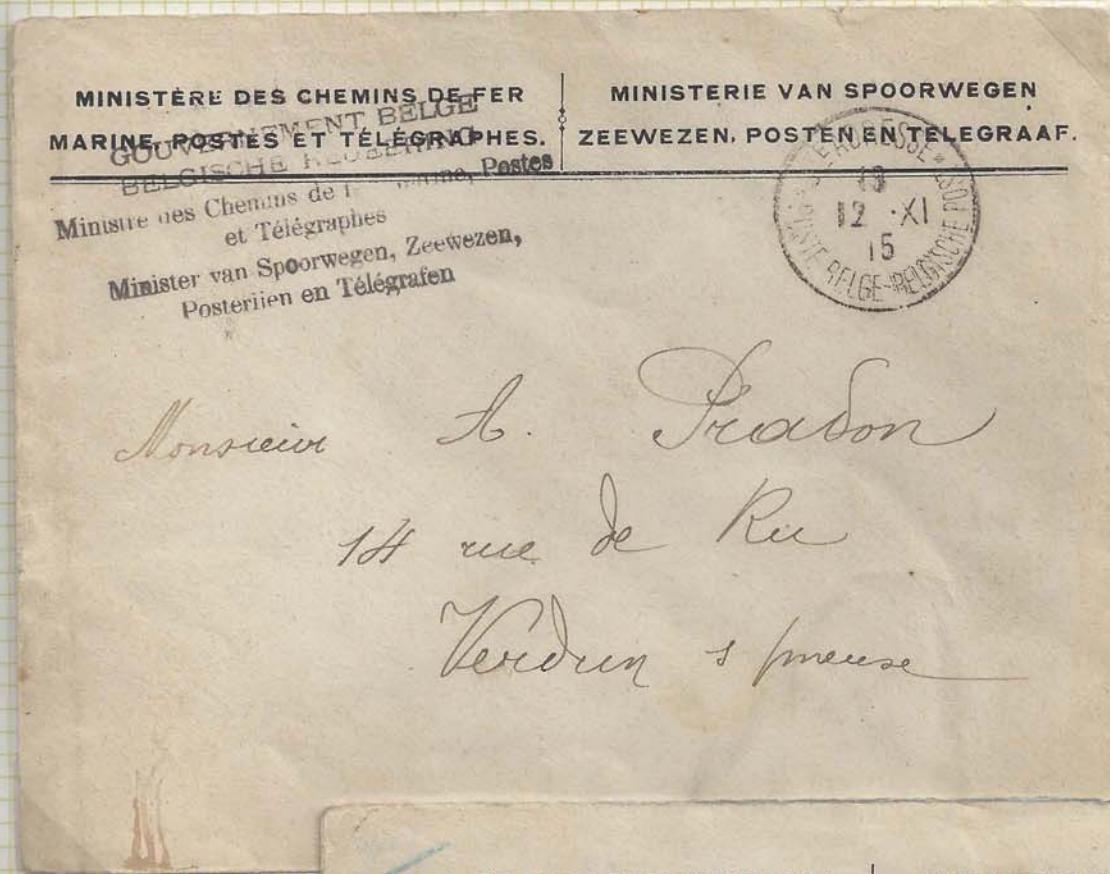
Located at the
Villa Roxanne,
Avenue des Régates

SE-Adresse
9th February 1918.



Belgian Government in Exile 1914-18

Ministry of Railways, Marine, Posts and Telegraphs

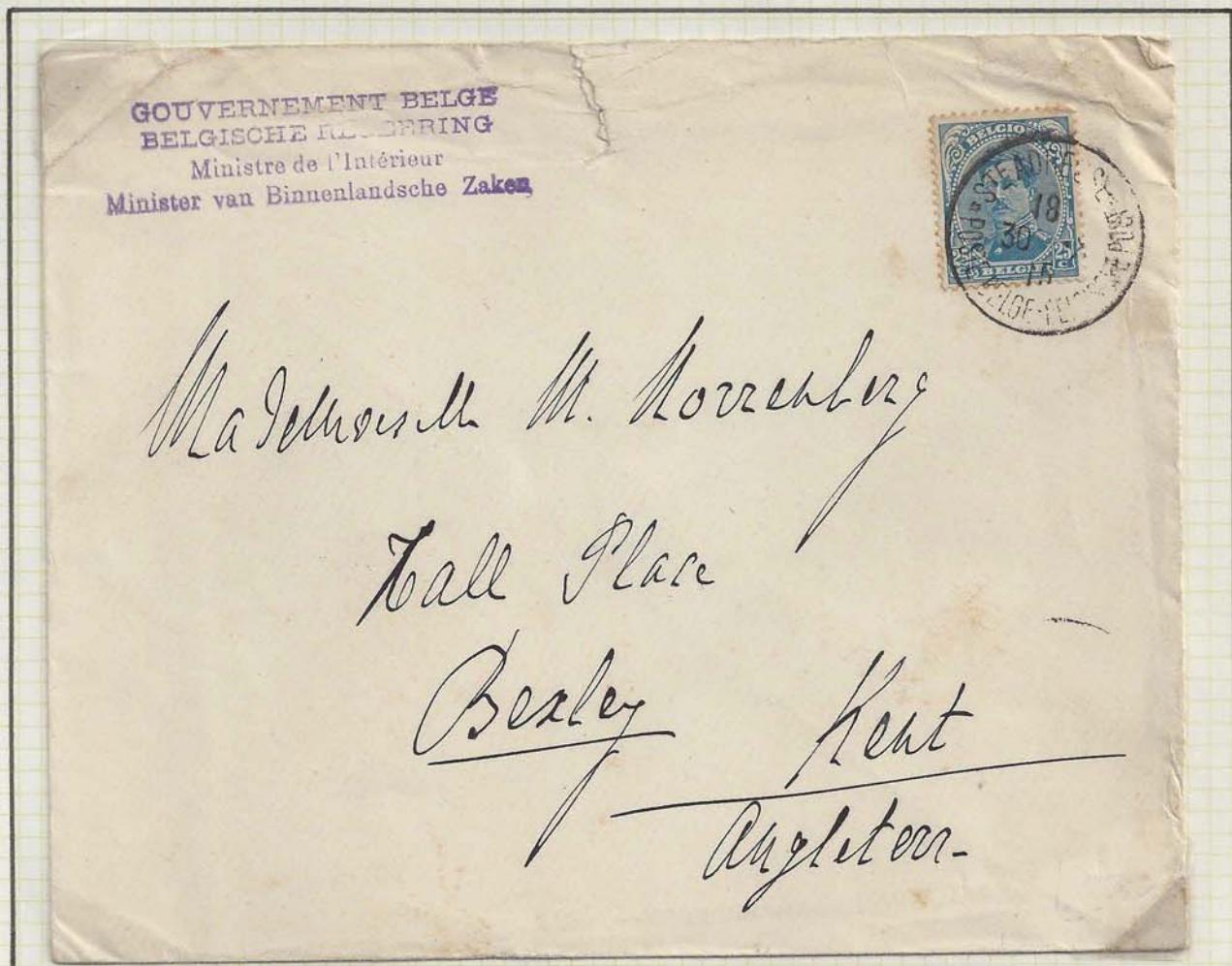


Belgium : The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.

Belgian Ministries at Le Havre

Ministry of the Interior: Paul Berryer, Minister

*The Ministry was situated at 6, place Frederic-Sauvage, next door to
the Hotel Dufayel*



SE. Adresse - Bexley (Kent) U.K. 30th October 1915 : 25 centime rate
Received 3rd November 1915



Minister's Seal on envelope flap.~

ROYAUME DE BELGIQUE

MINISTÈRE DES CHEMINS DE FER
MARINE, POSTES ET TÉLÉGRAPHES

MINISTERIE VAN SPOORWEGEN
ZEEWEZEN, POSTERIJEN EN TÉLÉGRAFEN

LE HAVRE

1 décembre

1916

N° 691 P.

Monsieur,

ANNEXE

Comme suite à votre lettre du 30 novembre dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que je tiens à votre disposition les timbres demandés qui vous sont transmis dès réception de la contre-valeur en mandat postal.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considérable distinction.

Le grevylem de poste,

(Douriez)



N.B. - Les timbres à être versé (francs),
sont à échapper à l'oblitération postale en vertu d'

Monsieur L. Billequin,

Caporal,

67^e d'Infanterie

Section hors rang,

Dreux (Eure-et-Loir).

Belgium; The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.

Rates and Routes: Government offices elsewhere in France

Until October 14th 1915, Mail franked with Belgian stamps could be posted anywhere in France, and cancelled at the office of posting

Afterwards Mail franked by Belgian stamps had to be forwarded to SE-Adresse for cancellation.



(Paris) - SE Adresse → Lowestoft (Suffolk, England) 26th February 1917.
R 234.

The Belgian Government "Tribunal de Sursis" (Conscription Appeals Board) operated from 70 rue d'Amsterdam, Paris between 1915 and 1918

This letter addressed to a sailor on board the fisheries protection vessel "Ville d'Anvers" was posted to England from Paris, "Franchise de Port". (Post Free)

On receipt at SE Adresse 65 centimes in stamps were applied (40cts postage: 25cts basic overseas postage + 15cts 40grs weight surcharge + 25cts registration)

Belgium : The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.

Belgian Government Agencies in Le Havre.

Belgian Wounded Soldiers Asylum, Harve Committee, 13 rue Pasteur



Reverse of Police cover
"Military Railway Service/
Regulatory Commission.
Military Commissioner"
(French)

Belgian Territorial Civil Police, Commander, Le Havre.

Le Havre (Spécial) - Cambo-les-Bains

correct 25centime rate
to non-local France.

Belgian Government in Exile, 1914-18.

Belgian Official Committee for Aid to Refugees.

COMITÉ OFFICIEL BELGE DE SECOURS
AUX RÉFUGIÉS

4, Place Frédéric-Sauvage
S^e ADRESSE

SEINE - INFÉRIEURE

*
Officiele Belgisch Comiteit van Hulpbetoon
aan Vluchtelingen

Section : Renseignements
et Correspondances.

AFDEELING : INLICHTINGEN
EN BRIEFWISSELING

FRANCHISE



Côté réservé à l'adresse

Zijde voor het adres bestemd.

M^{le} le Colonel Commandant
du camp d' Internés de
Zeist
Hollande

18th Sept 1916

Advice Card to
Colonel Commandant
of Zeist camp,
advising him of the
whereabouts of a
Belgian Refugee in
Lyons.

Franked by a strike of "President de la Chambre/
de Representants".

COMITÉ OFFICIEL BELGE DE SECOURS
AUX RÉFUGIÉS

4, Place Frédéric-Sauvage
S^e ADRESSE
Seine-Inférieure

Officiele Belgische Comiteit
van Hulpbetoon voor Vluchtelingen

Section : Reuseignements
et Correspondances

Afdeeling : INLICHTINGEN
EN BRIEFWISSELING

FRANCHISE

Côté réservé à l'adresse
Zijde voor het adres bestemd



15th June 1916.
Advice card from
the Committee to a
Member of the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs at
Le Havre, advising
that the person
enquired about
cannot be traced.

Monsieur C. De Ceuleneer.

attaché au M^{me} des Affaires Etrangères
de diligenter a l'adresse

Franked by a strike of "Ministry of Agriculture and Public Works" stamp

Belgium: The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.

Rates and Routes. Post Free Military Mail within France

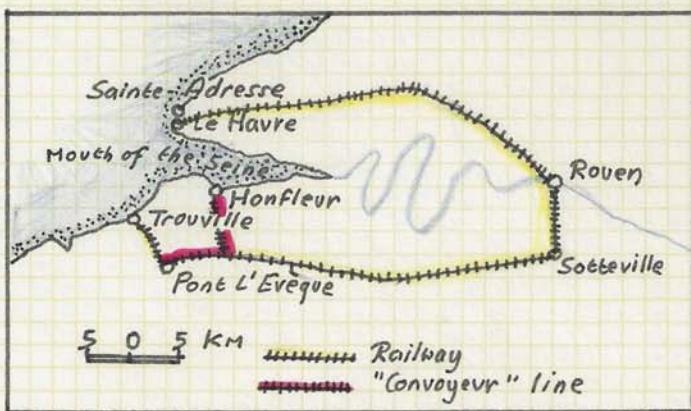


Convoyeur - Ligne Honfleur - Pont l'Evèque : 3 June 1917 - St Adresse

The French Ministry of War and the P.T.T. decreed on 21st September 1914 that members of the Belgian Military could enjoy the free postage privilege while on active service. Mail would be endorsed "STM" = "Service Militaire" or F.M. = "Franchise Militaire"

Addressed to M(agasin) (d') A(pprovisionement) (des) T(roupes) A(rmées), Le Havre. The Belgian Military Supplies Central Warehouse -

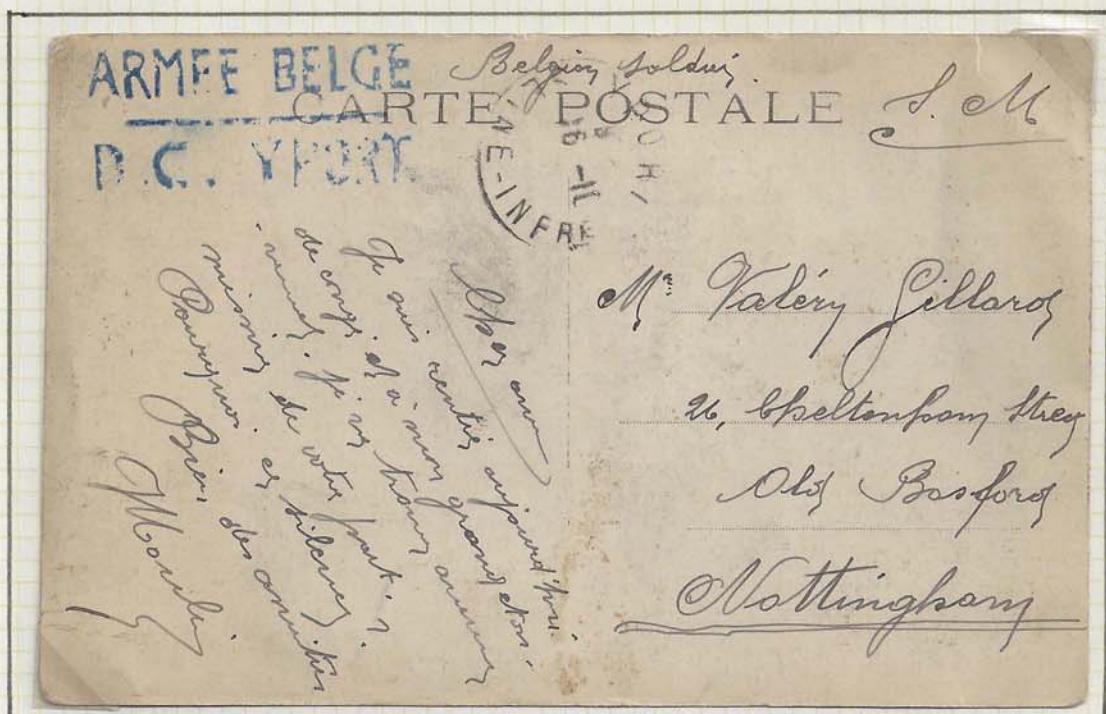
Receipt mark of St Adresse (Type I) 11am : 6th June 1917.



Route taken by this postcard
Note 3 days to travel 10 kilometres!

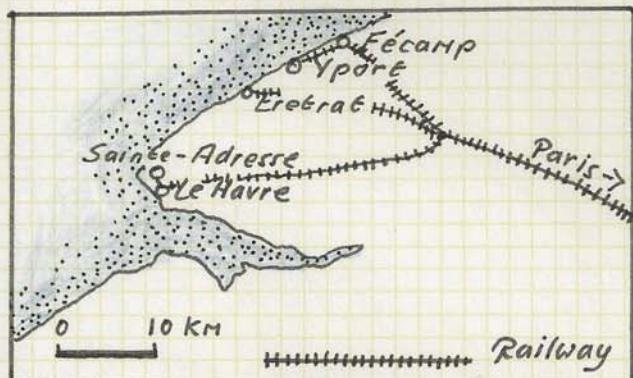
Belgium: The Government in Exile, 1914 - 1918.

Rates and Routes: Post free Military Mail within France.



Dépôt (de) Construction Yport - (Le Havre) - Nottingham.
16th October (1916?)

S.M. = Service Militaire. "Belgian Soldier" added in English



Yport had a Belgian Army Engineers dépôt, supplying the Army in the salient.

Belgium : The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.

S.S. Adresse : Belgian Post

Standard overseas rates

10 centime overseas postcard rate : S.S. Adresse - Paris 7th September 1917.



25 centimes overseas letter rate; S.S. Adresse - Droitwich, England 10th Jan. 1916



Both these letters are addressed on the reverse from "4 place Frederic-Sauvage"

Belgium:
The Government in Exile,
1914 - 1918.

The Diplomatic Corps at
Le Havre ~

The United States
consulate to the Belgian
Government was opened
at 23 Place Gambetta
in November 1914



St. Adresse - Le Havre
18th November 1915
(backstamp Le Havre/ Seine
Infra: 19th November)

Belgium: The Government in Exile, 1914 - 1918.

The curious career of Monsieur Gevers

Belgian businesses also resettled in Le Havre: The most prominent of these was Jacques Gevers, patent and Trade Mark agent of Antwerp

J. GEVERS & CIE

INGÉNIEURS

2, Avenue Désiré-Dehors

STE-ADRESSE LEZ LE HAVRE
(FRANCE)

SIÈGE : ANVERS (BELGIQUE)



Branch at
2, av. Désiré-
Dehors

Commercial
letter for
Rome

25th Jan
1916

25 cts rate

MONSIEUR LETTERIO LABOCETTA,

VIA DUE MACELLI, 31

Agence de Brevets et Marques de Fabrique.

J. GEVERS & Co. Ingénieurs.
70, Rue St. Jean, Anvers (Belgique).



Another branch
was established
at the Belgian
exclave at Barle-
Nassau-Duc:

Barle-Hertog/
Barle-Duc

↓
Rome

3 January 1916
(received 10 Jan)

25 cts rate

MONSIEUR LETTERIO LABOCETTA

VIA DUE MACELLI 31

ROMA

Succursales:

HOLLANDE: Barle-Nassau-Duc.

LE HAVRE: 2 Avenue Désiré Dehors Ste Adresse.

Impr. 314.

Belgium: The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.

The curious career of Monsieur Gevers.
Two examples of Gever's souvenir cards from Baarle and Le Havre.



Baarle-Duc - Palembang (Holland): 15th July 1915 (received 27th September)
Franked to 38 centimes (!), sold for 50 centimes.

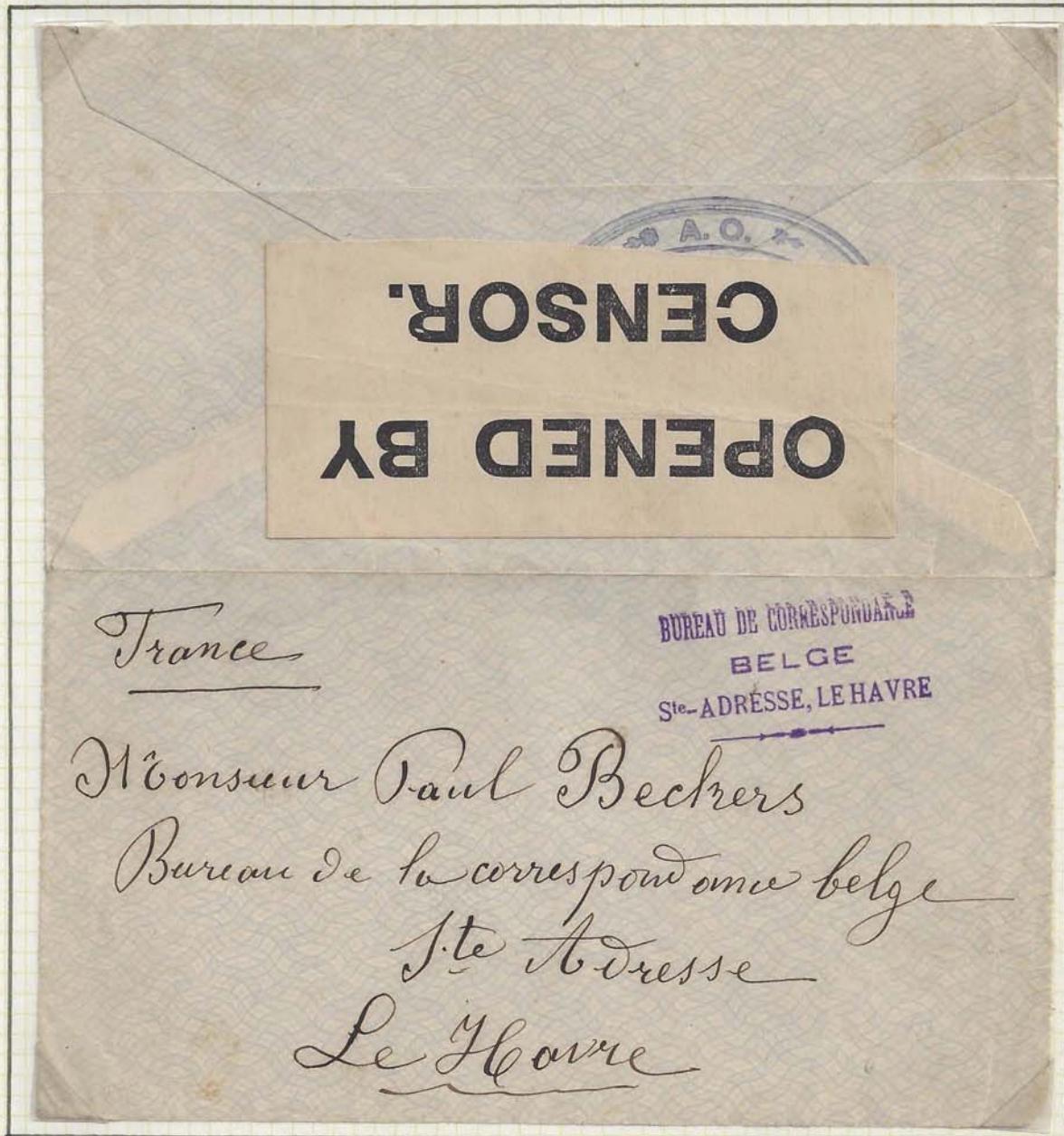


Le Havre (Spécial) - Baarle-Duc : 9th August 1915
One Centime internal printed matter
2cts stamps sold for 25cts.-a broader profit margin!

Belgium: The Government in Exile, 1914-1918.

"Le Bureau de Correspondance Belge"

"A.O. Folkestone" (Army Liaison Office, Belgian Military Office,
17 Copehall Gardens, Folkestone, Kent: 23rd December 1914 ~



This Bureau, opened in October 1914, at 36 Blvd. de Strasbourg, Le Havre (later at 33 rue du Docteur Courteau) was a liaison office to pass messages from Belgian soldiers and civilians in Le Havre and Folkestone to their families in occupied Belgium.

This complex operation involved the writing of messages on special cards which were sent to the Bureau in sealed covers as above. At the Bureau, the messages were censored and then copied onto blank Dutch p.s. cards which were then taken to Holland which had postal relations with German-occupied Belgium. The agents who mailed these cards posted small batches in different towns to avert suspicion ~

Replies from Belgium could be mailed to the addresses written as "sénder" on the p.s. cards, which were "safe houses" rented by Bureau agents.