

WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

When Germany invaded Belgium in 1914, the Railway Parcel stamps in use at the time were looted in huge quantities. Even the highest values (5fr & 10fr) can still be acquired for less than one Euro.



These stamps were invalidated when the German Post Office took over the handling of parcels weighing up to 5 kilos. Stamps of the then current *Germania* issue were overprinted 'Belgien', with new values denominated in 'centimes' (later 'cent.') for both letter and parcel use.

German-style 'bridge' cancellers were brought into use in major post offices, though other offices continued to use pre-war Belgian-style cancellers.



Basic parcel rate of 50 centimes/cent. with bridge type cancellations of MAESEYCK and NAMECHE

A 'Paketkarte' (bulletin d'expédition), printed in German with French and Flemish translations, was required to be franked with the appropriate postage, and the stamps cancelled on despatch. A further 10c stamp had to be applied and cancelled at the destination.



10c with Belgian circular date stamp cancellation of SENEFFE

WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

Standard Paketkarte - printing reference 'A 20 Belgien (1.16)'

Deutsche Postverwaltung in Belgien.
Deutsch Bestuur der Posten in België. — Administration des Postes Allemandes en Belgique.

Freimarken.
Postzegels.
Timbres-postes.

Anbei
Hierbij
Ci-joint

603 b **Brüssel 2**
(Nordbhf)

n d'expéditeur

er Zoll-
ärungen*
ane-verklaringen
eclarations en douane

40 40
Belgien
40 cent
DEUTSCHES REICH

An
Aan
À

W. Chevy
Directeur de l'École Centrale
Bouillon

Bestimmungsort
Plaats van bestemming
Lieu de destination

Wohnung (Straße u. Nr.)
Adres (straat en n°)
Adresse (rue et n°)

par Vicinal

Postgewicht
Gewicht
Poids

P.P. Paliseul

* Im innerbelgischen Verkehr nicht.
In het binnenlandsch verkeer niet noodig.
Pas nécessaire dans le service intérieur belge.

11.9.18
From Brussel Nord
To Bouillon
3.3 kg

'par Vicinal'

'P.R. Paliseul'

Backstamp
PALISEUL/13 dots

c. 1.10.17
From Verviers
To Waremme
5 kg

'Luttich'

Arrival mark 2.10.17
(not usually found)

Backstamp 3.10.17
BORGWORM/WAREMME
bridge type

472 **Verviers**
(Belgien)

Belgien.
Postes Allemandes en Belgique.

40 40
Belgien
40 cent
DEUTSCHES REICH

ulletin d'expéditi

Anbei
Hierbij
Ci-joint

un paquet

Anzahl der Zoll-
inhaltsertlarungen*
Getal der douane-verklaringen
Nombre de déclarations en douane

An
Aan
À

monsieur J. Bourtois
Boiffers
Waremme

Bestimmungsort
Plaats van bestemming
Lieu de destination

Wohnung (Straße u. Nr.)
Adres (straat en n°)
Adresse (rue et n°)

210 172-38
Waremme
de la station
Lüttich

Postgewicht
Gewicht
Poids

5 kg

* Im innerbelgischen Verkehr nicht erforderlich.
In het binnenlandsch verkeer niet noodig.
Pas nécessaire dans le service intérieur belge.

A 20 Belgien (1.16)

WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

Nachname Paketkarte - *printing reference 'A 20a (5.14)'*
(not specifically for Belgium; French translation only)

Deutschland.
Administration des Postes d'Allemagne

461 **b** **Brüssel 2**
(Nordbhf)

185

Remboursement

Anzahl der Zoll-
inhaltsertklärungen
Nombre de déclarations en douane

Wertangabe
Valeur assurée

Nachnahme
Remboursement *cent quarante sept Mk*

An *Mesdames Chaidron soeurs*
à *négociantes*
Corbion (par Paliseul)

(Bestimmungsort) in
(Lieu de destination) à
Wohnung
(Straße und Hausnummer)

Postgewicht. Poids. Zollgebühren*).
Droits de douane.

*) Von der Grenz-Eingangs-Postanstalt des Bestimmungslandes auszufüllen.
Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrée du pays de destination.

26.8.18
From Brussel Nord
To Corbion
4.5 kg

Remboursement
147.96 Mk

'par Paliseul'

Backstamp
PALISEUL/13 dots

Franked 50 Cent. + 10 Cent.
=60 c

24 IV 18
From Dison
To Neufchateau
3 kg

Remboursement
348 Mk

Backstamp 26.4.18
Neufchateau/Prov Luxemburg
bridge type

Franked 75 Centimes + 10 Cent.
=85c

Deutschland.
Administration des Postes d'Allemagne.

012

Nachname
Remboursement

Anbei 1
Ci-joint

Anzahl der Zoll-
inhaltsertklärungen
Nombre de déclarations en douane

Wertangabe
Valeur assurée

Nachnahme
Remboursement *trois cent quarante huit Mk*

An *Monsieur*
à *M. Firthomme*
Neufchâteau
rué de Longlier

(Bestimmungsort) in
(Lieu de destination) à
Wohnung
(Straße und Hausnummer)

Postgewicht. Poids. Zollgebühren*).
Droits de douane. Postleitvermerk:
Acheminement:

*) Von der Grenz-Eingangs-Postanstalt des Bestimmungslandes auszufüllen.
Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrée du pays de destination.

A 20 a
(5.14)

It is not clear why the second packet cost 25c more than the first, even with a higher amount of Remboursement.

WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

Recommande (Registered) with red station labels

Deutsche Post
Belgien.
Duitsch Bestuur de
Belgien.
Postes Allemandes en Belgique

Pakette 277 **Brüssel 2**
(N, bhf.)

Letin d'expédition
Anzahl der Zoll-
inhaltsklärungen*
Getal der douane-verklarings
Nombre de déclarations en

Anbei
Hierbij
Ci-joint

RECOMMANDE

An
Aan
À

Verboven
St R. Marchi au Beurre

Bestimmungsort
Plaats van bestemming
Lieu de destination

Diest

Wohnung (Straße n. Nr.)
Adres (straat en n°)
Adresse (rue et n°)

Postgewicht
Gewicht
Poids

4 kg

* Im innerbelgischen Verkehr nicht erforderlich.
In het binnenlandsch verkeer niet noodig.
Pas nécessaire dans le service intérieur belge.

Standard Paketkarte

22.1.18
From Brussel Nord
To Diest
4 Kg

Backstamp 23.1.18
Diest - bridge type

Franked 75 Centimes

Nachnahme Paketkarte

27.7.18
From Brussel Nord
To Namur
2.4 Kg

Remboursement
58.40 Mk

Backstamp 29.7.18
Namur-Namen bridge type

Franked 50 Cent. + 25 Cent.
= 75c

Recommande
Deutschland.
Administration des Postes d'Allemagne.

Nachnahme
Remboursement

1000 **Brüssel 2**
(N, bhf.)

Wertangabe
Valeur assurée

Cinquante huit Mk 4 off

Nachnahme
Remboursement

Cinquante huit Mk 4 off

An *Mons Mairy*
À

15 rue du fer
Namur

(Bestimmungsort) in
(Lieu de destination) à

Wohnung
(Straße und Hausnummer)

Postgewicht. Poids.

2 1/4 kg

Zollgebühren*
Droits de douane.

Postleitvermerk:
Acheminement:

Nr. 15

*) Von der Grenz-Eingangs-Postanstalt des Bestimmungslandes auszufüllen.
Cadres à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrée du pays de destination.

Both packets were charged 75c, I.e. 25c premium, despite the second one using the Remboursement service as well as the Recommande charge.

WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

10 centimes payable when packet was collected from arrival office.

Lagerbuch
Register van aankomst
Registre d'arrives

Nr. 10

Postvermerk über die Aushändigung.
Afschijfbericht.
Indication de la personne à laquelle le colis a été remis.

Emilie Malpas

Quittung des Empfängers (bei Einschreibpaketen).
Kwitantie van den bestemming (bij aangeteekende pakketten).
Quittance du destinataire (pour les colis recommandés).

Amstehende Sendung erhalten
Vorenstaand pakket ontvangen
Le colis indiqué d'autre part

Ort Plaats Lieu den den le 191

ANGLEUR
8-9
3
VIII
1918

Unterschrift des Empfängers
Ondertekening van den bestemming
Signature du destinataire

ANGLEUR
13-14
Belgien
10 Cent
DEUTSCHEN REICH

3 VII 1918
ANGLEUR 1
(Belgian datestamp)

15.9.18
BRUSSEL (NORD BHF)
(bridge type)

+ 'Gebührenbezahlt'

Lagerbuch
Register van aankomst
Registre d'arrives

Nr. 10

Postvermerk über die Aushändigung.
Afschijfbericht.
Indication de la personne à laquelle le colis a été remis.

Emilie Malpas

Quittung des Empfängers (bei Einschreibpaketen).
Kwitantie van den bestemming (bij aangeteekende pakketten).
Quittance du destinataire (pour les colis recommandés).

Amstehende Sendung erhalten
Vorenstaand pakket ontvangen
Le colis indiqué d'autre part

Ort Plaats Lieu den den le 191

BRUSSEL
15-9-18.10-11N

Unterschrift des Empfängers
Ondertekening van den bestemming
Signature du destinataire

BRUSSEL
10 Cent
DEUTSCHEN REICH

WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

The responsibility for parcels weighing over 5 kilos remained with the railways. These two documents headed 'Frachtbrief' are waybills for gifts for Belgian prisoners-of-war, carried free-of-charge under Article 16:2 of The Hague Orders.

i) from LIEGE 18 August 1915 with: indistinct Nord Belge line departure mark; state line CHARLEROI-SUD transit mark ; German occupation arrival mark of MONS 24 August 1915

ii) from BRUSSELS, 29 December 1915 with: BRUXELLES/TOUR ET TAXIS departure mark; German occupation arrival mark of MONS 1 January 1916

The Belgian Government Ministry for Railways, Marine, Post & Telegraph was evacuated to le Havre. This letter was sent to 'Chef de section principal des Chemins de fer Etat Belge' at Roosendaal in Holland.



Franked by two 20c Pellens large head without designer's name (cob 124).
Postmark LE HAVRE (SPECIAL) 28.5.15, backstamp ROOSENDAAL 2 on 5.VI.15

Kurzwagen Nr. 42 über hono Abgangsbüh. Nr. 6

Frachtbrief

(Für den Frachtvertrag gelten die Vorschriften der Militär-Generalkommission der Eisenbahnen.)

Agence Belge de Renseignements

pour les Prisonniers de guerre et les Internés.

in Mons (Wohnung) Rue Samit n° 9
 Bestimmungsstation Mons (Belgique)
 Bestimmungsort (Nur anzugeben, wenn er ein anderer ist als die Bestimmungsstation.)

Zulassung oder vorgeschriebene Erklärungen wie: Bahnagrad, Anschließigkeit, Zoll- oder Steuerbefreiung in ... n. dgl.

Adresse oder Zeichen	Anzahl	Art der Verpackung	Inhalt	Wichtiges Rohgewicht in kg
<u>Antenne</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Ballot</u>	<u>TRANS-GAB-T</u> <u>von Deutschland</u>	<u>35 kg</u>

Wohnung Brüssel den 29 von September 1915
 Unterschrift des Absenders
S. R...



Stempel der Lade- und Umbehandlungsstationen.

Interesse an in Buchstaben der Lieferung) FRACHTBRIEF

Einzel- nachweis Barvorschuß nach Eingang

Nachnahme Barvorschuß nach Eingang

Berechnung:	Vom Absender bezahlt		Rechnung	Vom Empfänger zu erheben	
	Fr. es.	Fr. es.		Fr. es.	Fr. es.
abgerundetes Gewicht kg			Gebühr für das Interesse an der Lieferung Nachnahme { Barvorschuß nach Eingang Nachnahmegebühr		
Tarifklasse					
Frachtsatz für 100 kg					

G. B. T. A. S. S. Art. 16 Abs. 2 der Haager Landkriegsordnung
 Fracht bis ... den ...
 FRACHTBRIEF

Stempel der Versandstation: BRUXELLES, 29 SEPTEMBER 1915, TOUR ET TAXIS

Wägestempel

Duplikat- (Aufnahmeschein-) Stempel

Stempel der Bestimmungsstation: BRUXELLES, 29 SEPTEMBER 1915, MONS

WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

In the unoccupied part of North-West Flanders the Belgian railway parcels service continued to operate. The Belgian Government Ministry for railways, located in Le Havre during the war, issued two sets of railway parcels stamps for use in unoccupied Belgium.

The first, on 22 June 1915, was a provisional set comprising overprints on the 1912 Pellens issue. Quantities genuinely overprinted were extremely small - between 200 and 750. Forgeries and reprints from a reserve plate exist in much larger quantities - the stamps below fall into this category.



The second set, known as the 'du Havre' emission, was issued on 20 December 1915; this was printed by Waterlows of London. It was, of course, not used in Le Havre and the stamps below with LE HAVRE (SPECIAL) post office cancellations would have been cancelled by favour.



The next sheets display:

- > proofs in issued colours with value tablets blank
- > set (excluding 1,10 Frank) imperforate, with gum
- > set as issued
- > 10c and 25c imperf between stamp and margin
- > 35c and 1F in mint blocks of 4 and 2F in irregular block of 14 used

RAILWAY STAMPS - 1913

Waterloo 'du Havre' issue

Printed in issued colours with value tablets blank
Imperf and no gum



70c
Gribben 140



90c
Gribben 142



1 F 10c
'FRANKEN'
Gribben 144



3 F
Gribben 146



4 F
Gribben 147



5 F
Gribben 148



10 F
Gribben 149



1915 - Winged wheel and Train - 1st set
 Printed for Belgian Government in exile at L'Havre (France) by
 Waterlow & Sons
 Small figures of value in lower corners



RAILWAY STAMPS - 1915

Waterloo 'du Havre' issue



Imperf between stamp and margin 10c used 25c mint x 3



Mint blocks of 4 x 1 Fr & 4 x 35c



Used block of 14 x 2 FR

WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

UNOCCUPIED BELGIUM

There were five railway stations operating in the unoccupied area: ABEELE, ADINKERKE-PANNE, AVECAPELLE, FURNES and POPERINGHE. Cancellations below are of ADINKERKE-PANNE ('LA' removed) and FURNES used in 1917.



There were also five post offices handling parcels for the railway service: LOO, NIEUWERKE / NEUVE EGLISE, OOSTVLETEREN, RENINGHELST and WATOU. Cancellations below are of RENINGHELST and WATOU used in 1917.



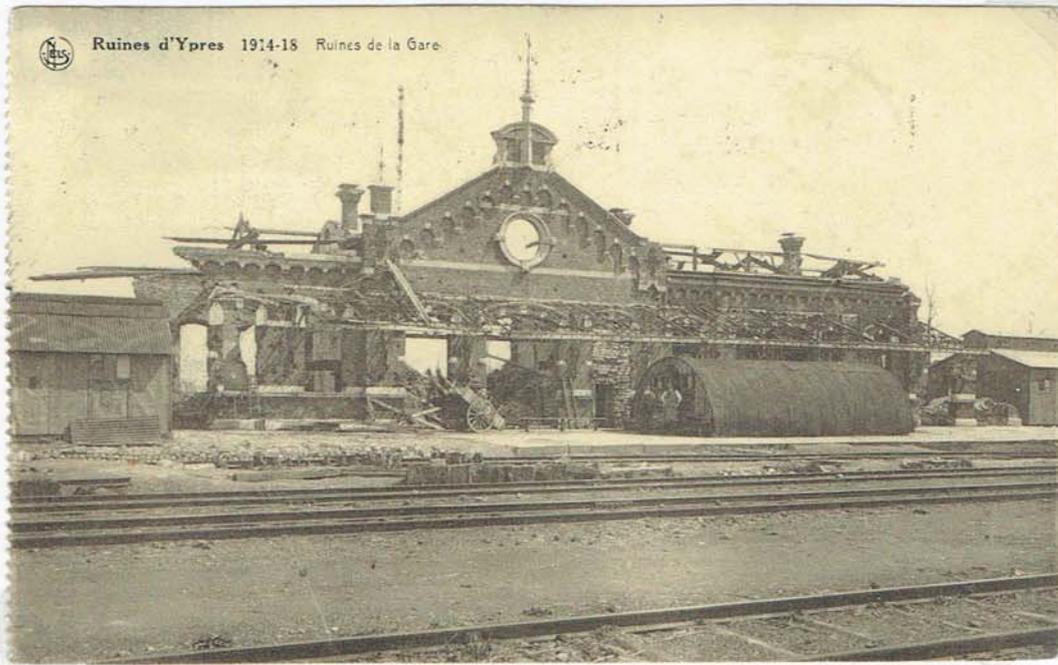
New cancellers were brought into use during the War, rectangular in format, with 'C.F.B.' on the first line, date on the second and '1ERE SECTION No 1' or 'No 2' on the third line. These continued in use after the War. Cancellations below are dated 1916 and 1918 (with '191' inverted)



WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH

The railway infrastructure suffered severe damage during the War, as depicted by this postcard of the Ruins of Ypres Station.



Cancellers in a similar format to that used in the unoccupied area continued to be used by stations on the lines from Ypres. Below are 'C.F.B.' cancellations of '3E SECTION No 2' and '7E SECTION No 12' used in 1919.



'C.F.B.' cancellations were used by the stations of POELKAPELLE, WESTROOSEBEKE, STADEN and ST JOSEPH on the Ypres to Kortemark line; a 'C.P.B.' cancellation was used by WERVICK on the Ypres to Menin line. The canceller of WESTROOSEBEKE (*see next page*) was still in use in 1935.



WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - Old cancellers brought back into use

Pre 1879 relict

MOULINS (dependence of Warnant)



Hexagons

ACHEL (broken '8' to make '9')



ERQUELINES (no centre)



EYNE FROIDTHIER ('1919') GAMERAGES (manual date) WAUTHIER-BRAINE



Later dates -

WESTROOSEBEKE (1935)

SYNGHEM (1925)

WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - Continuing use of pre-War chamfered rectangles

The 1915 Waterlow stamps, which had been in use in the unoccupied enclave, were after the War brought into use throughout Belgium. The normal cancellation found on this issue is the chamfered rectangle widely in use before the outbreak; a high percentage of Waterlow stamps received such cancellations.



WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - abnormal and 'fortune' cancellations

In many localities, the cancellers in use at the outbreak of war were destroyed or mislaid. When the parcels service resumed, railway and postal officials employed whatever means of cancellation was readily to hand or could quickly be manufactured with available resources.

The rest of this display comprises emergency cancellations from the early post-War years grouped into the following categories:

- i) cancellations used at State line stations including manuscript, various forms of manufactured or adapted cancellers, reweighing cachets
- ii) cancellations used at private line stations
- iii) telegraph office cancellations (parcels could be posted at telegraph offices when railway station offices were closed)
- iv) post office cancellations (from localities not served by the rail network)
- v) electoral cachets (being a handy source of a handstamp with adjustable date)
- vi) other non-standard cancellations

Manuscript: COURTRAI DIEST (indelible pencil) GEMBLOUX (handstamp date) GOUVY (no date) HAL (handstamp date) HASSELT MONS TIRLEMONT (red ink) DATE ONLY



Home-made from printing set, some mixed upper & lower case letters: CHenee
ETHE GOUVY LA HULpe OostROosebeke



WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - abnormal and 'fortune' cancellations

Station name on first line; Le _____ on second line; unframed



Station name on first line; date on second line; unframed. Range of style and quality of print. AUDERGHEM BORGERHOUT CORBEEK LOO FLORENNES GEDINNE LEIGNON LIGNE MASTA MARLOIE QUIEVRAIN SILENRIEUX SOIGNIES SOMBREFE VIGNEE VISE WILDERT



WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - abnormal and 'fortune' cancellations

Letters in white (cut into block): VEDRIN



Station name on one line (2 lines for bilingual) without frame; date in various forms, or not dated



Station name on one line with frame



WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - abnormal and 'fortune' cancellations

Station name in box with space for date on second line



Station name in box with printed date on second line



Three-line rectangle with centre line blank for insertion of date: AUVELAIS / MARCHANDISES BOURG-LEOPOLD / no 1 BRUGGE / BRUGES COURTRAI / KORTRIJK\FACTEUR COUILLET No ? / ornaments MONS No /BERGEN ROULERS / ROESELAER TOURNAI / No 8

Green ink similar to ink used in 19th Century for railway marks on letters



Three lines without frame: ENSIVAL / Marchandises GRAND LEEZ / THOREMBAIS VERVIERS-EST / No 1



WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - Reweighing cachets used as cancellers



BRUXELLES-OUEST DISON DAMPREMY-STATION COUVIN ENGHIE (2 types) FLORENVILLE



Bilingual: BRUSSEL-WEST / BRUXELLES OUEST WIELSBEKE



Date inserted by handstamp: FARCIENNES MARLOIE



Date inserted manually: MONS SILENRIEUX SILLY SOIGNIES



Without station name: Accepte / Poidsreconnu

WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SRVICE

AFTERMATH - Private Lines - Chemin de fer de Chimay



Station name unframed: AGIMONT Mariembourg ROMEREE Soloignes-Monceau



Three-line rectangle: AGIMONT-VILLAGE BOUSSU-EN-FAGNE MOMIGNIES
ROMEREE SELOIGNES-MONCEAU VILLERS-LA-TOUR



Three lines: MARIEMBOURG / blank / RECETTES, CHEM. DE FER DE CHIMAY /
blank / SELOIGNES MONCEAU, Chem de Fer-Chimay / MOMIGNIES / date



POIDS RECONNU A AUBLAIN

WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - Private Lines - Others

Nord Belge line:



ERQUELINES (2) FRAMERIES JAMBES JEMEPPE-SUR-SAMBRE LOBBES (2)



Gent-Terneuzen line: TERDONCK

Malines-Terneuzen line: ST NICOLAS M-T / MAGASIN



Chemins de fer Prince Henri (Luxemburg): ATHUS

WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - Telegraph Offices - pre-War octagon cancellers

a) centre blank: COUVIN **** LANAOKEN (ST.)* STAVELOT 1914 (year not changed) THIENEN/TIRLEMONT bilingual



b) date in manuscript: LA HULPE/TER HULPEN NINOVE *** TERVUEREN-STAT.*



c) dated by separate handstamp: BLATON*** LEUZE-LONGCHAMPS*



d) complete except year slug: GEMBLOUX** THEUX***



Provisional rectangular cancellers with three x's on third line: BARVAUX
COURRIERE PETIT ROSIERE



WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - Telegraph Offices - provisional rectangular cancellers

Three stars in third line; date in centre, sometimes blank, usually manuscript, occasionally separate handstamp; various coloured inks.

a) sans-serif lettering: AERSEELE ANDERLUES BLANDAIN COURCELLES-MOTTE QUIEVRAIN SOIGNIES VILLE-POMMEROEUL b) letters with serifs: EERNEGHEM JAUCHE KAIN SCHAFFEN



Date incorporated into canceller:

a) in box: BEERNEM EPPEGHEM MOORTZELE SCHELLEBELLE ZARREN
 b) in central segment: LIEGE-PALAI (third line - only two stars with and without '1' between



WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - Post Office cancellers

a) centre blank: DENDERLEEUEW (year still '14') NEDERHEIM *OISQUERCQ*



b) date manuscript: DENDERLEEUEW (year '14') EGHEZEE (year '15?') HUPPAYE



c) '19' century used as year: LIBIN MIGNAULT *PONDROME* ST HUBERT



d) German occupation cancellers with 'BELGIEN' erased: BRAIVES FALLAIS
GRAND-HALLEUX MOL (BELGIE.) ROANNE-COO SPONTIN Thimister-Clermont



WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - Post Office cancellers

e) '1919' emergency cancellers: COGNELEE JESSEREN NECHIN SIVRY SAINTES



LEOPOLDSBURG/BOURG LEOPOLD - three types - (i) no inner or outer circle (ii) outer circle only (iii) both circles but no '1919', with & without manuscript date



LODELINSART: top segment and centre blank, with & without manuscript date



WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - Electoral cachets etc

Place name in a curve, letters with serifs, purple ink, date in straight line below:
HOUGAERDE OBIGIES



Place name in a curve, letters without serifs, black or blue ink, date in three lines, 'E B' or '1E B' at base:

EYGENBILSEN JEMAPPES MUNSTERBILSEN (date manuscript)



Place name in a curve, letters without serifs, black ink, date in three lines:
ASSCHE DEERLYK HALANZY INGELMUNSTER THUILLIES (with & without year;
with date manuscript) WAREMME WAVRE (purple ink, time instead of year)



WORLD WAR I - THE PARCELS SERVICE

AFTERMATH - various non-standard cancellations

Outer circle comprised of dashes:

ST DENIYS WESTREM LEDE LENS LIERRE (centre blank)



LIEGE GMINS / No 1 / ornament; '38'



Cachets normally used for other purposes:

REMBOURSEMENT EXPRES SPOEDBESTELLING / EXPRES FRANCO
DEBOURSES (with and without frame)



MANAGE / ACCEPTE / PESANT / LE PESEUR; VLAAMSCH HOOFD / TETE DE
FLANDRE

