

# Cameroons WW2 Censorship Part 1



WASC Zoom

22 February 2025

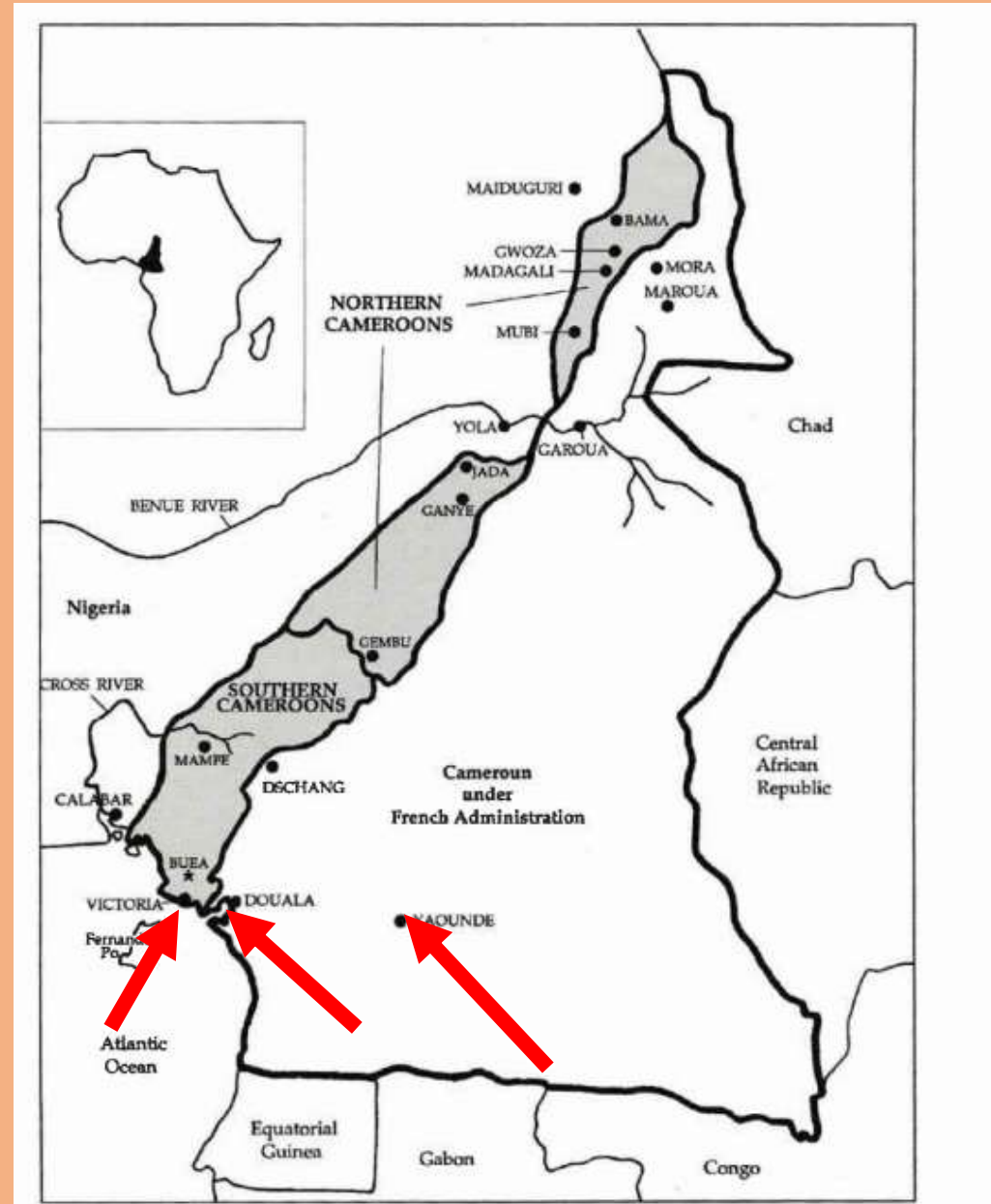
Tony Plumbe

# WW2 Cameroons Censorship: Background

## British and French Administered Cameroons 1916 – 1960/61

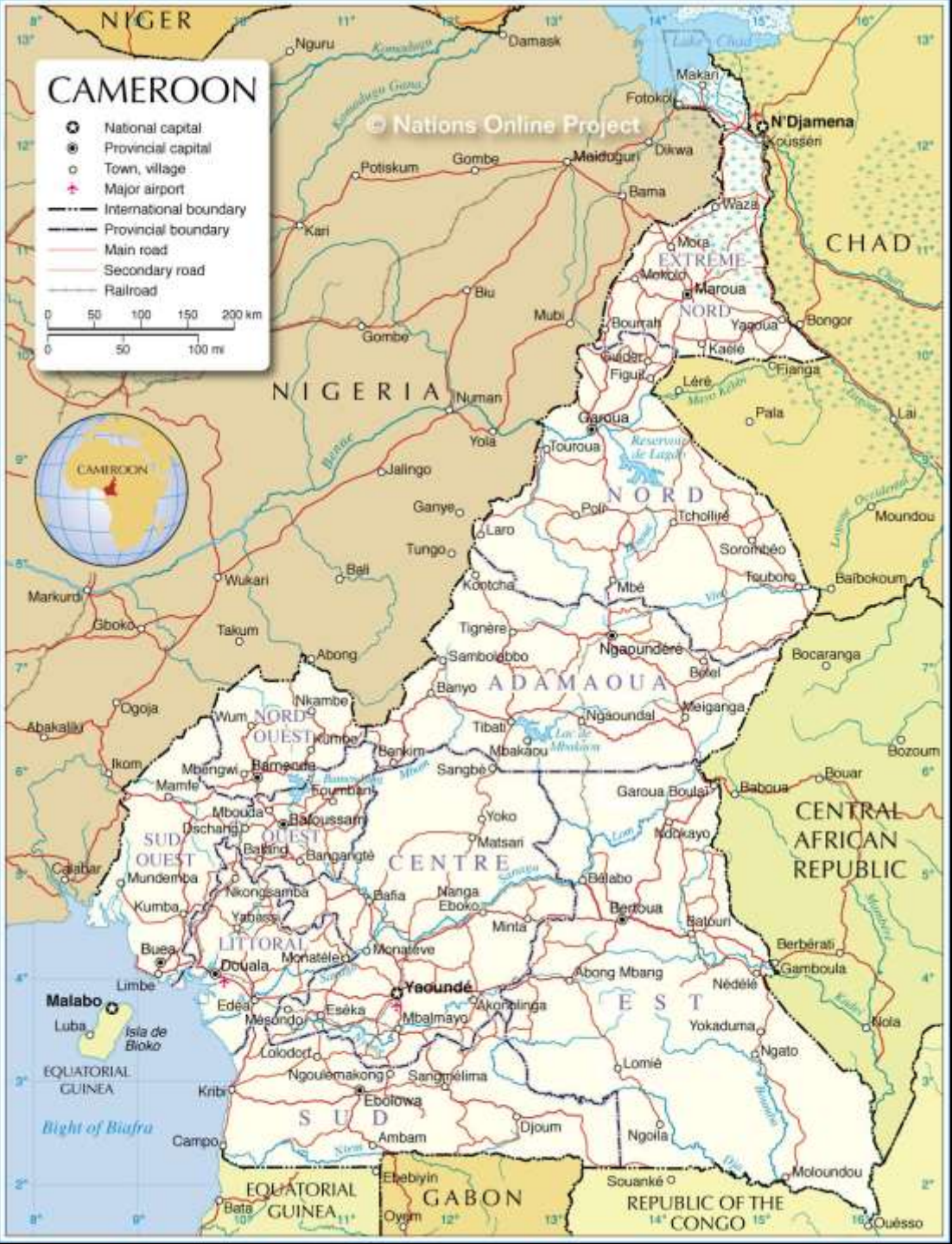
British strip alongside Nigerian border divided into Southern and Northern Cameroons, with the Northern Cameroons divided itself into two parts. French Cameroons abutted Nigeria directly only where river Benue crossed border between Garoua & Yola (no road).

Map: ex-Bratzel



Censorship centres

Post  
Independence  
Modern Maps:  
'Southern  
Cameroons' joined  
independent  
Cameroon &  
'Northern  
Cameroons' joined  
independent  
Nigeria



# WW2 Cameroons Censorship: Background

## Siding with Free French in 1940:

De Gaulle radio appeal to join Free French on 18 June 1940

Governor of Chad declared allegiance on 26 August 1940

De Gaulle emissary Col Leclerc went to Lagos, landed in Douala on 26 August & took control of Douala on 27 August 1940, and same day removed pro-Vichy Governor in Yaounde

De Galle emissary Col de Larminat entered Moyen Congo and removed pro-Vichy Governor on 28 August 1940

Gabon resisted until captured by force of arms led by Col Leclerc on 12 November 1940.

## WW2 Cameroons Censorship: Background

### **Siding with Free French Posed Postal Problem:**

UPU did not recognise Free French territories  
as a legitimate nation

So sending international mail potentially blocked

British quickly provided a solution by turning a blind eye to  
such officialdom, and allowed mail from Francophone

Cameroun and other Free French declaring AEF territories to  
pass through Nigeria & other British colonies to international  
destinations – to the benefit of postal historians!

# WW2 Cameroons Censorship: Background

**Censorship cachets on mail used in Anglophone Cameroons and some other Nigerian censor cachets on Free French mail:**



Type 1A No.19



Type 1E No.19



Type 2.16 checker

# Nigerian Type 1A No.19 Cachet, Inward from Switzerland and India to Anglophone Camerouns



14 May 1940 Inward Basel to Buea,  
Nigerian Type 1A No.19 cachet on  
arrival, Tape Type 1B w/o dashed line  
below 'CENSOR' (rare), 30+10c rate



12 August 1940 Inward Calcutta to Mamfe,  
redirected Kano & Lagos, Nigerian Type 1A  
No.19 cachet, Indian 'NOT OPENED BY CENSOR'  
& Egyptian cachet, airmail horseshoe route,  
maybe via Khartoum not Durban, 1R6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>a rate

# Nigerian Type 1A No.19 Cachet, Francophone to Anglophone Cameroons



3 January 1941 Registered  
Yaounde to Victoria, Nigerian Type  
1A No.19 cachet, Controle Postal  
Commission B of Yaounde, 5F rate



8 December 1940 Yaounde to  
Victoria, Nigerian Type 1A No.19  
cachet, Controle Postal Commission B  
of Yaounde, 2F25 rate



# Nigerian Type 1A No.19 Cachet, Outward from Anglophone Cameroons to England & Eire

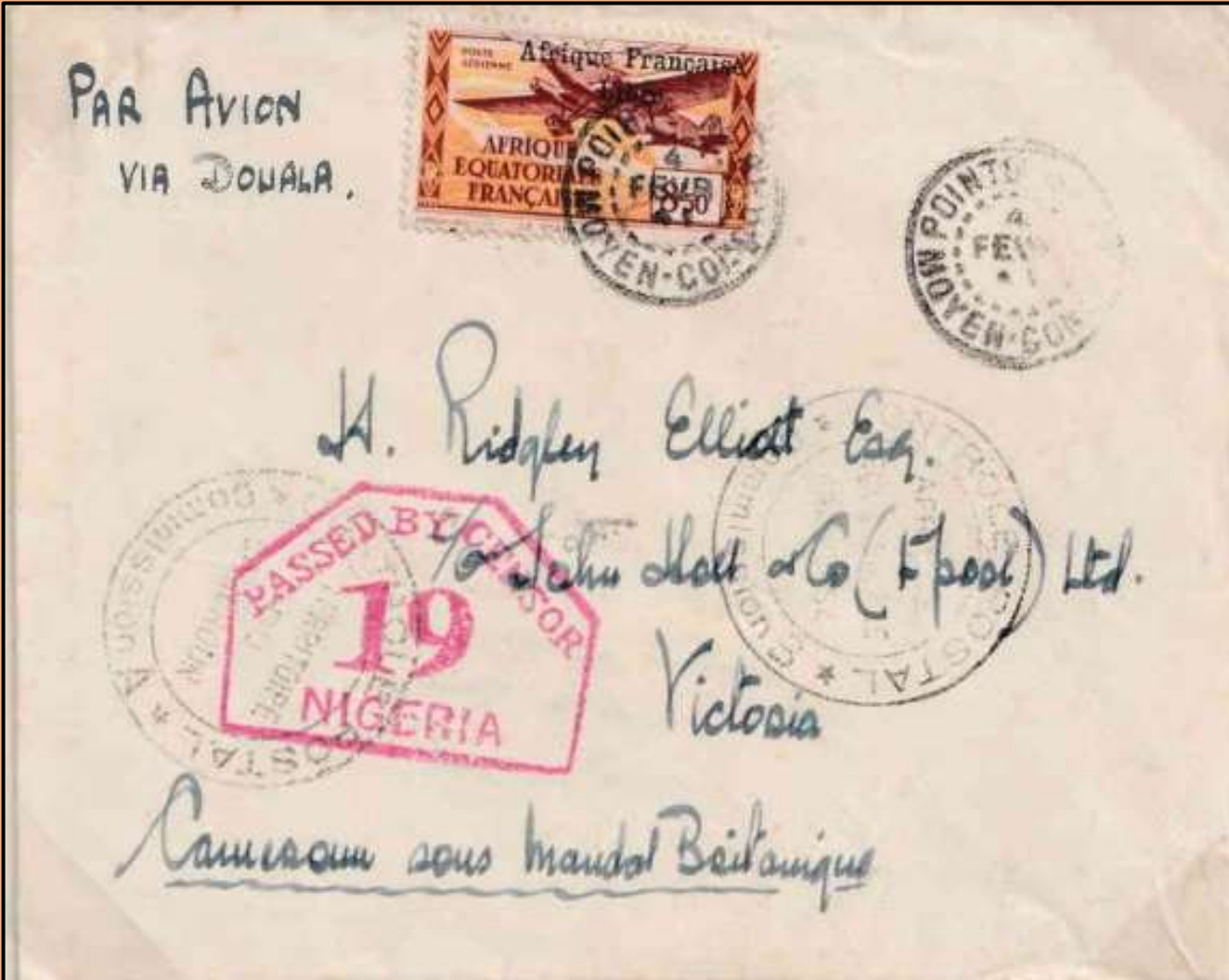


11 November 1940 Outward Kumba to Blackheath London, Nigerian Type 1A No.19 cachet applied in transit at Victoria, cover opened and sealed Type 2 tape, surface 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d empire rate



19 February 1941 Outward Buea to Boyle, Eire, Nigerian Type 1A No.19 cachet applied in transit at Victoria, cover opened and sealed tape no.32, surface 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d empire rate

# Nigerian Type 1A No.19 Cachet, Inward from Free French AEF to Anglophone Cameroons



4 February 1941 Airmail inward to Victoria from Pointe-Noire, Middle Congo (now Republic of Congo), CONTROLE POSTAL Commission B of Youande, CONTROLE POSTAL Commission A of Douala, Nigerian Type 1A No.19 cachet applied on arrival at Victoria, cover not opened, via Douala, 8F50 rate, backstamped BUEA CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH MANDATE dated 25 February 1941 (21 days in transit)

# Nigerian Type 1A No.19 Cachet, Outward from Anglophone Cameroons to South Africa



13 April 1943 Outward Kumba to P.O. Dynamite Factory, Cape, South Africa, Nigerian Type 1A No.19 cachet applied in transit at Victoria, where cover opened and resealed Type 4 P.C.90 OPENED BY EXAMINER white tape, airmail at 1/3d rate, backstamps are Lagos registered of 15 April 1943, Apapa dated 16 April 1943, and Kano 21 April 1943. Arrived Dynamite Factory on 3 May 1943 probably via Khartoum (20 days in transit)

# Nigerian Type 1E No.19 Cachet (less common) Outward from Anglophone Camerouns to USA & England



11 November 1940 Outward Kumba to Philadelphia, USA, Nigerian Type 1E No.19 cachet applied in transit at Victoria, cover opened and sealed OBE P.C.90 tape, surface 3d foreign rate (only 2d paid)



25 July 1944 Outward Victoria to Hailsham, England redirected Cheltenham, Nigerian Type 1E No.19 cachet applied at Victoria, cover opened and sealed OBE P.C.90 light blue tape, airmail at 1/3d rate (27 days in transit)

# Other Nigerian Censor Cachets on Cameroons Mail

## Civilian Type 1A No.11 Applied on Transit Mail



7 November 1940 Cover censored in transit with Nigerian Type 1A No.11 cachet tying tape Type 1A applied at ?Lagos, Dr Schweizer, Lambarene AEF (Gabon) posted Port Gentil to Zurich, opened & sealed by another British censor in UK, 2F50 rate



17 September 1941 Anglophone Cameroons Mamfe to Geneva IRCC, Nigerian Type 1A No.11 cachet applied in transit at Lagos (5/10/41) tying tape Type 1B, also cover opened and sealed in UK, surface 3d foreign surface rate

# Other Nigerian Censor Cachets on Cameroons Mail

## Civilian Type 1A No.12 Applied on Mail from Nigeria to Francophone Cameroons



2? December 194? Cover from American consulate in Lagos, Nigeria to American Protestant Mission, Elat, Ebolowa, Francophone Cameroons. Checker Nigerian Type 1A No.12 censor cachet but not opened, Francophone CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE tape tied OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE, and negative CONTROLE POSTAL Commission B of Yaounde. 3d foreign surface rate. Probably Christmas Greetings: who was being the nosiest?

Same treatment handed out to French Consulate Bissau cover posted in Lagos to Yaounde.

# Other Nigerian Censor Cachets on Cameroons Mail Civilian Type 1A No.17 Applied on Mail in transit Chad to UK



?? December 1940 Cover from Moundou, French Equatorial Africa (Chad) to Bible Society London, Nigerian Type 1A No.17 censor cachet (scarce) applied Maiduguri tying Nigeria OBC No.13 tape Type 1B, CONTROLE POSTAL Commission F but not opened, Routeing Archambault 6/12/40, Maroua Cameroun 21/12/40, Maiduguri 30/12/40, smudged Nigeria probably Jos 2/1/41, Lagos machine 4/1/41. Rate 2F50.

# Other Nigerian Censor Cachets on Transit & Cameroons Mail Civilian Type 2.16 Applied at Victoria on Mail in transit



31 July 1941 Douala to Victoria, negative  
CONTROLE POSTAL Commission A of Douala &  
Nigerian 'half-moon' civilian censor Type 2.16,

11 July 1941 Douala Francophone Cameroons to Victoria Anglophone  
Cameroons, negative CONTROLE POSTAL Commission A of Douala &  
Nigerian 'half-moon' civilian censor Type 2.16, not opened.

Francophone opened CONTROLE  
POSTALE MILITAIRE tape tied  
OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE



# Other Nigerian Censor Cachets on Transit Cameroons Mail Civilian Type 7 No. PP/14 on Francophone Cameroons to UK Mail



9 November 1944  
Commercial CFAO airmail  
from Douala to Manchester,  
UK, CONTROLE POSTAL  
MILITAIRE tape tied  
CONTROLE POSTAL  
Commission A of Douala, en  
route Nigerian Type 7  
No.PP/14 tying blue-grey  
P.C.90 OPENED BY EXAMINER  
tape – ‘EXAMINER’ 33.5mm  
long and Type not recorded  
by Torrance & Morenweiser,  
further brown censor tape en  
route. Colossal 148F rate.

Reduced, actual is 24 X 16.5cm, 2 scans joined

# WW2 Cameroons Censorship

**End of Part I:**

**Questions ?**

**Comments welcome !**

**Focus has been mainly on use of Nigerian censor cachets  
but also seen some Francophone Cameroons cachets**