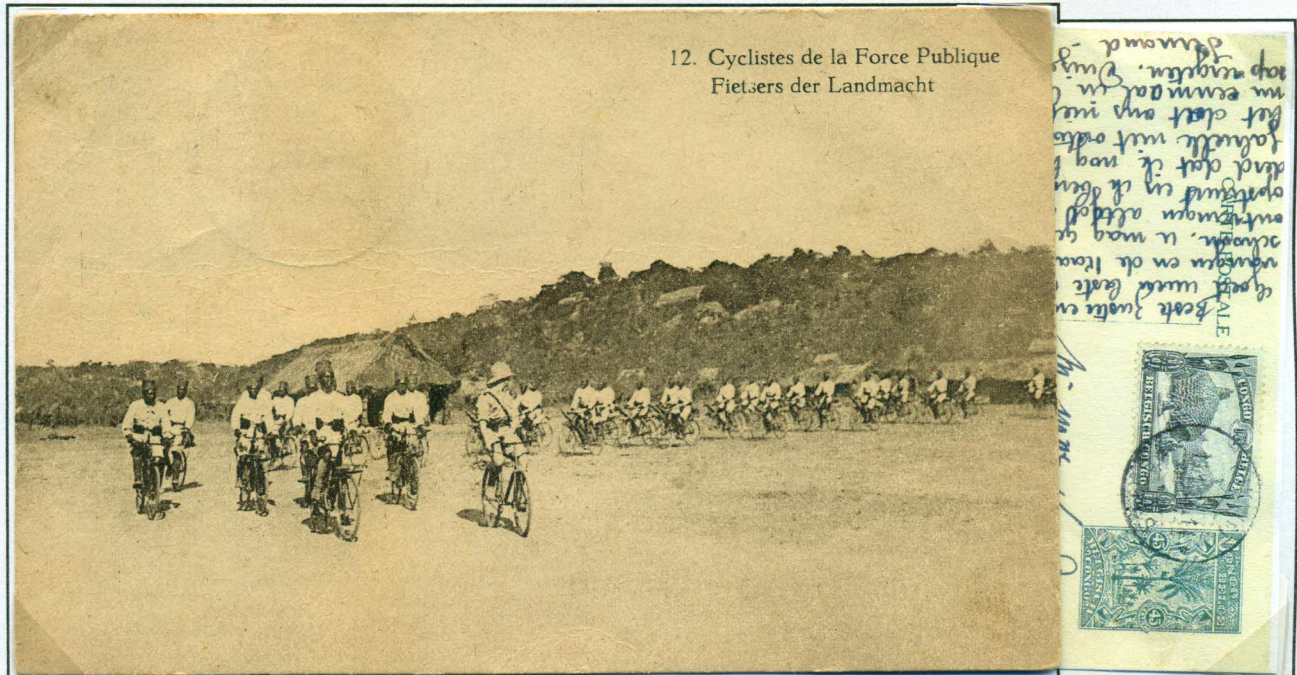


# THE BICYCLE INFANTRY

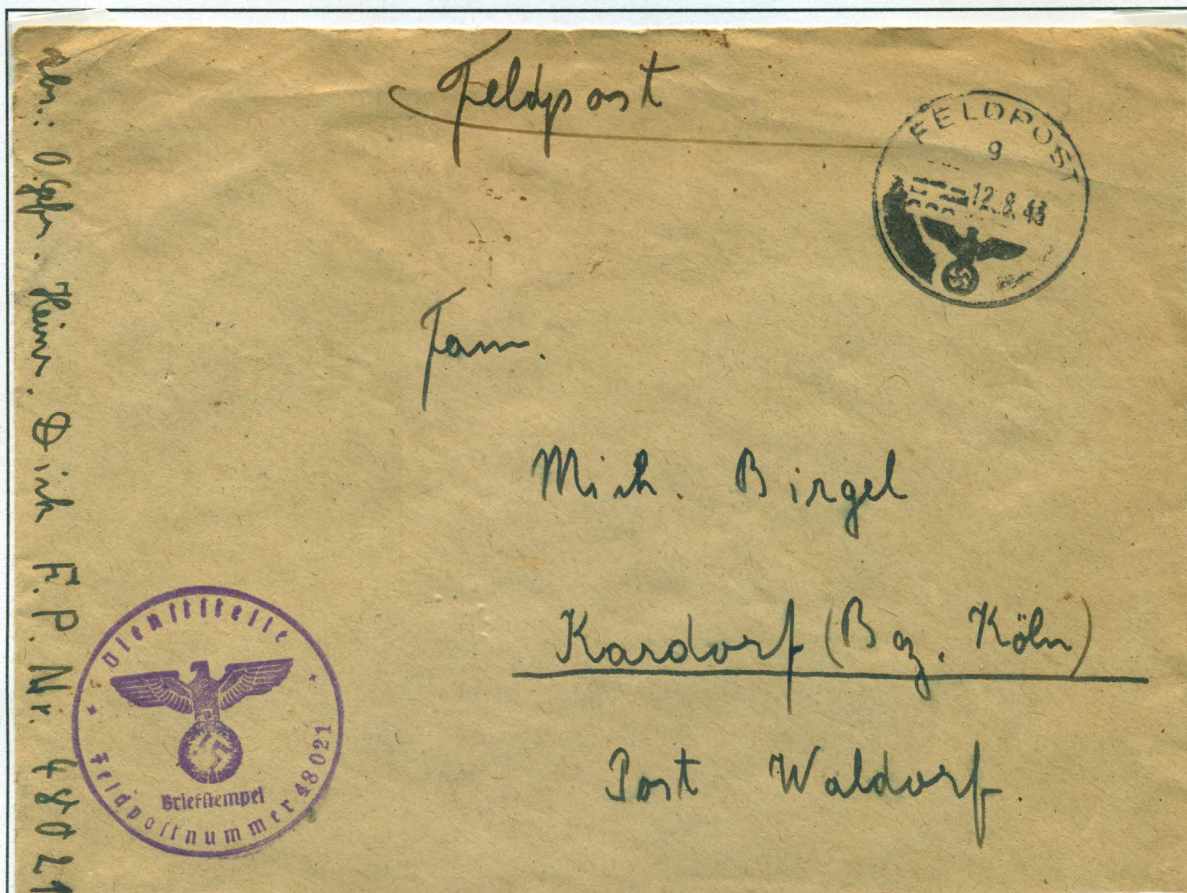
Jan Keuleers



The bicycle infantry is a military unit of soldiers, who mainly traveled on the battlefield by bicycle. The term dates back to the end of the 19th century, when the bicycle was used in the USA in 1860 during the civil war for the evacuation of the wounded. The first report in which a bicycle is officially mentioned dates from 1870. Later, messages were transported by bicycle in Italy and in 1885 soldiers riding bicycles were also equipped with rifles, the so-called "Brighton rifles".



At the beginning of the 20th century, bicycles were seen in almost all armies worldwide, often with a low frame, sometimes even as a folding bicycle, with or without a gun rack and used in battle or as a means of communication.  
 Stationery Belgian Congo – Illustrated cart with cyclists in the army



In World War I and II, various corps also used bicycles, mainly to deliver messages.  
 Fieldpost Letter Sender Fp nr. 48021 = Radf. Schwdr1071 = 171 Res. Division Dixmuide Belgium