

THE BREAK-UP OF THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE 1918-1923

This exhibit documents through contemporary postal material the history of the disintegration of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire into rump Austria and Hungary as well as the creation of several new successor states in Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and the augmentation of other neighboring countries, i.e. Italy and Romania. In a number of cases, disputes arose over specific territories, which either became subject to plebiscites and/or precipitated military conflicts before the final boundaries could be settled. In most cases, postal services remained in transition for some considerable period. Initially, the new governments continued to use the stamps of the old monarchy; then provisional overprints -- official, local or private -- were introduced; and, finally, definitives were produced reflecting the new political order.

As shown in the plan of the exhibit on the next page, the material is laid out geographically, extending from west to east. The story starts with the residual Austria and Hungary and their associated territories in the west and ends up with the Balkan states and Ukraine on the south and east. A reasonable selection of military mail is included in order to give a more complete story of the changes which occurred, but much of the material shown illustrates civil mail services of the various authorities, often in disputed, occupied and annexed areas.



Postcard sent by member of the German-Austrian Delegation negotiating the Treaty of St. Germain following the end of World War I. Under the treaty, Austria was required to give up all non-German speaking territories, and 5 million ethnic Germans were forced to live under foreign rule in Sudetenland and the South Tirol.

The theme of the exhibit, of course, is to trace the events following the collapse of the dual monarchy and to review the various new postal regimes created in the different corners of the former empire. Many of these changes proved to be relatively temporary themselves in that a little more than 20 years later, the stability of Central Europe was again subject to great turmoil in the period immediately preceding and during World War II.

THE PHILATELIC EFFECTS OF THE BREAK-UP OF THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE - PLAN OF EXHIBIT

Remainder Austria and Hungary:

1. GERMAN AUSTRIA
2. HUNGARY

Countries Enlarged:

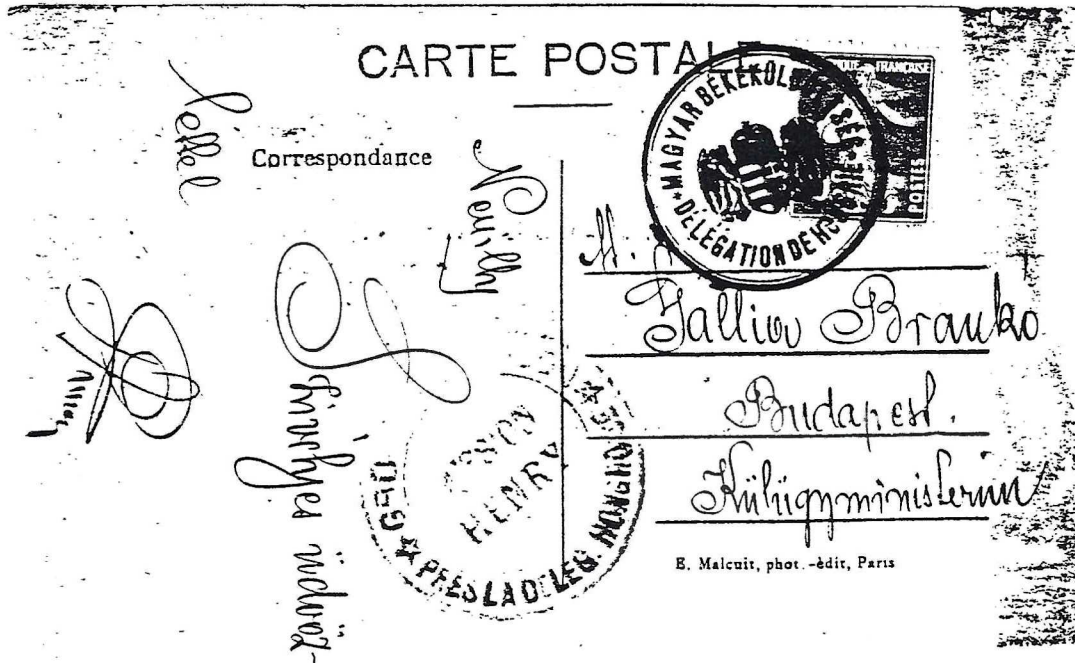
3. ITALY
4. ROMANIA

Free City Created:

5. FIUME

New Nations Created:

6. CZECHOSLOVAKIA
7. SERB, CROAT & SLOVENE KINGDOM
8. POLAND



Postcard sent by member of the Hungarian Delegation negotiating the Trianon Treaty (named after the Trianon palace at Versailles where the document was signed).

Under the treaty, Hungary was required to give up all non-Magyar territories and 3 million ethnic Hungarians were forced to live under foreign rule.

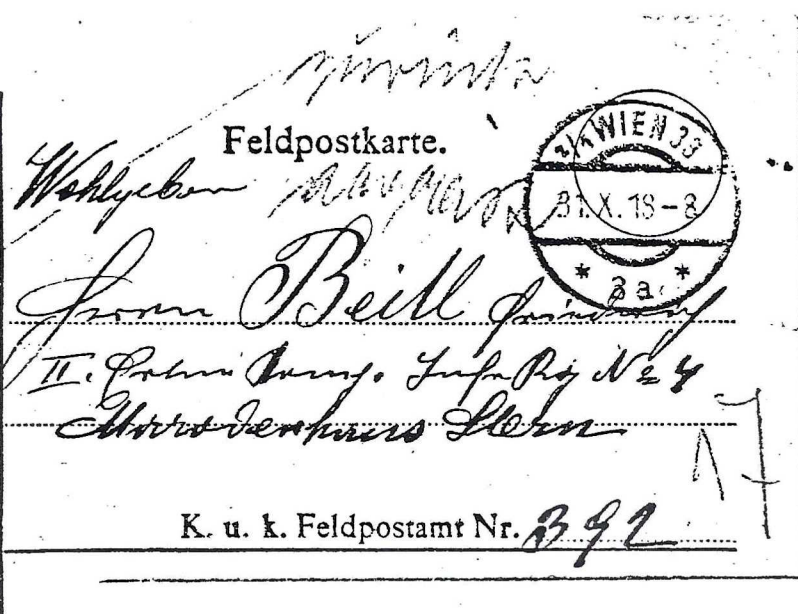
GERMAN-AUSTRIA

As World War I ended, the Hapsburg Empire began to break up even before the Austro-Hungarian army was defeated in the field. On 30 October 1918, the German-speaking members of the Parliament proclaimed the state of German-Austria, without specifying the form it should take. When Emperor Karl renounced his rights to govern on 11 November, German-Austria was declared a Republic the following day.

Forerunners

Absender:
Odesitateľ:
Nadawca:
Посылающій:
Mittente:
Pošilatelj:
Pošiljač:
Presentator:

Wien
 T. G. Schönbauer
 1918



Wien
31 October 1918

Feldkirch
27 December 1918

Postage-free card sent to a fieldpost station on the day after German-Austria was created. In the chaotic conditions at the end of the war, it could not be delivered and was returned to sender.



Wien
 Innsbruck
 Südbahn Nr. 4

The stamps of the Monarchy continued to be valid for postage in the Republic for an extended period of time, generally for two years until 31 October 1920. They were accepted either on their own or in mixed franking with German-Austria overprints and definitives.

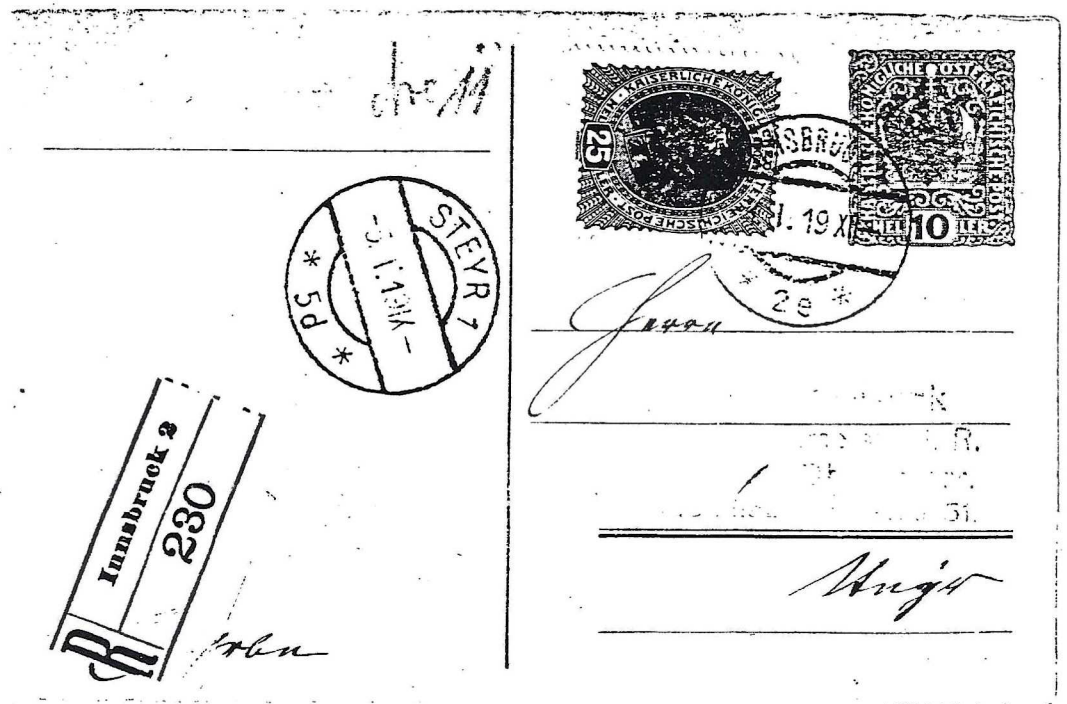
AUSTRIA
Local Issues

Knittelfeld
14 December 1918

Innsbruck
4 January 1919



Two values of the Knittelfeld locals used on cover were not canceled because the post office was aware that they would not be accepted upon arrival in Graz.



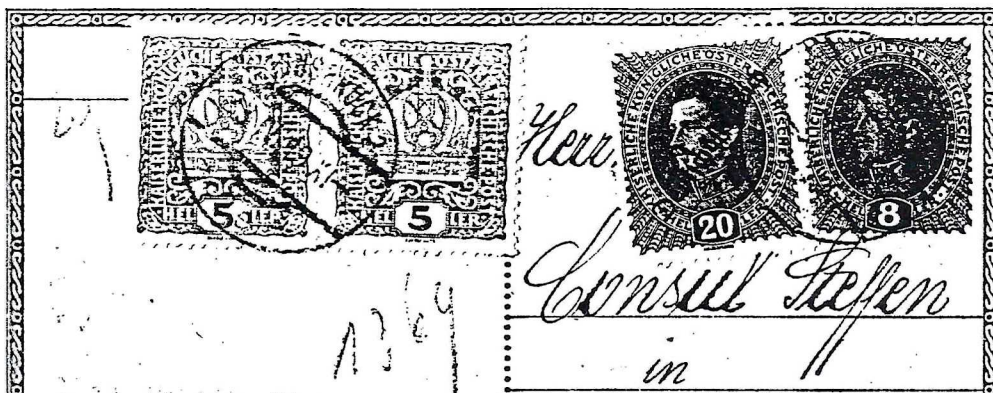
Local overprint depicting the Tirolian Eagle on postal card and additional stamp used to pay registration at Innsbruck.

In the aftermath of defeat, central authority was undermined and conditions remained abnormal for some period. Desiring to recognize the change in circumstances, some local authorities devised overprints to blot out the imperial symbols on the stamps. Two such cases are illustrated above.

GERMAN-AUSTRIA
Provisional Overprints

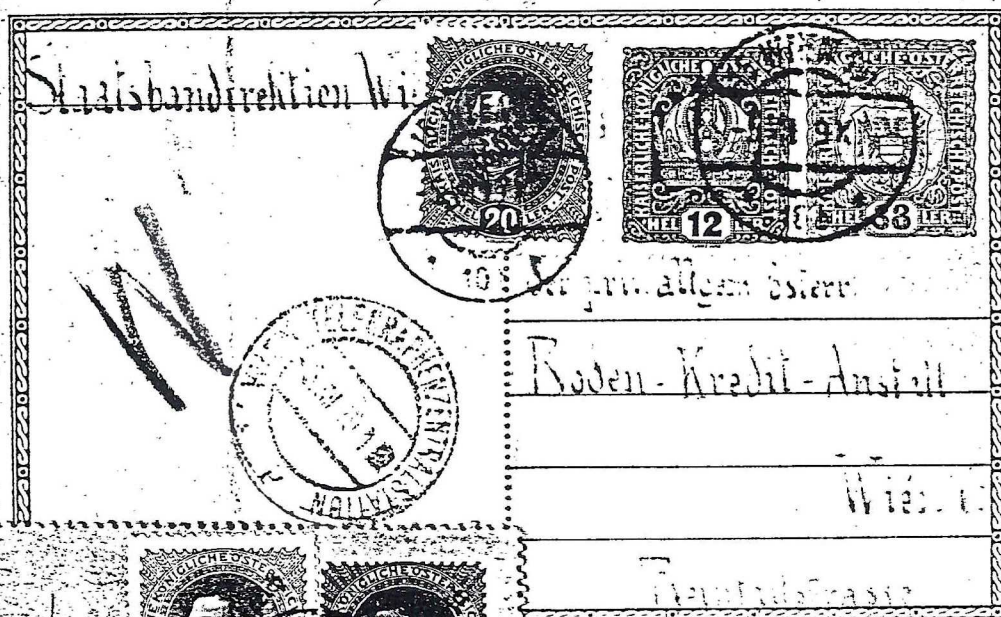
Innsbruck
23 April 1919

Wien
5 August 1919
19 February 1920



Imperial postal card uprated
by 30 heller in mixed issues
for registration to Bavaria

R Innsbruck 2
1794



Imperial pneumatic postal
card uprated from original
38 heller denomination to
70 heller due to increase in
postage. Sent by tube from
the Railway Administration
to Central Telegraph Office.



German-Austria stamp paid
postal increase on similarly
overprinted letter card.

The first stamps issued by the Republic were imperial issues overprinted "Deutschösterreich (German-Austria)." These were issued as production permitted, with the the 20 heller value becoming available in December 1918, followed by others out through June 1919. In all, 19 regular postage, 3 special delivery and 5 newspaper stamps were overprinted. As with the unoverprinted issues, the provisionals were valid for postage until 31 October 1920.

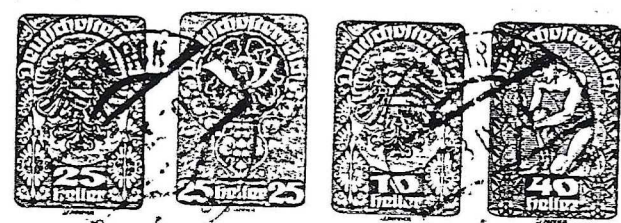
GERMAN-AUSTRIA
First Definitives

Linz
3 September 1919

Achenkirch
23 September 1920



Multiple franking of 20 heller on registered letter to Berlin. It was marked "refused" by postal control in Dresden.



174
 Karl Reichold,
 Rechtsanwalt,
 Grosshesselohe bei München.
 Hans Kwagge.

Four-color franking on letter to Bavaria. It was inspected by two of the currency control authorities in Germany, with two different labels being applied.

In July 1919 the first definitive stamps inscribed "German-Austria" were issued. The values through 1 krone depicted a posthorn, the arms of the republic, and a symbolic planting of a tree. This series was valid for postage through 31 July 1922.

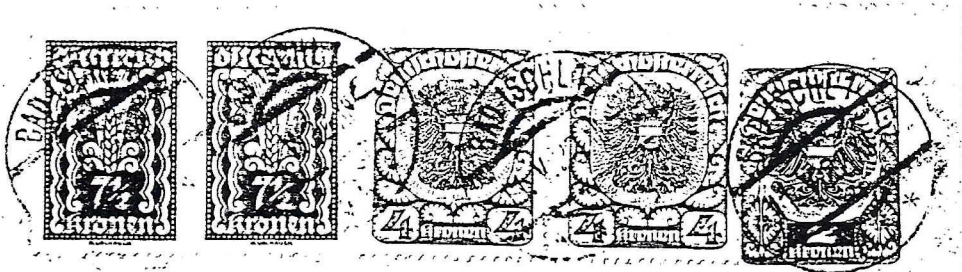
AUSTRIA
First Regular Postage & Airmails

Bad Ischl
11 May 1922

Alt Aussee
25 August 1922

Wien
31 October 1922

Mixed franking
of Austria and
German-Austria.

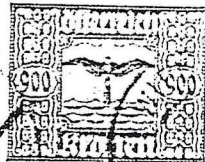


*2ln Cyrena Prognostico
Advar*

H. Jofantra Pa

Absender:

Postamt
Mater u. Fracht
in Puchen No. 92, Altes



Herrn

Siegmund Milch,

B u d a p e s t ,

Andrassy ut.48

Long
to
state

First day
cover of
Republic
air mail
stamps.

When the Treaty of St. Germain was signed, it officially ended the First World War for Austria. A provision in the treaty banned the unification of Germany and Austria without approval by the League of Nations and led the Allies to demand that the new state not be called German-Austria. Eventually, the name was changed, and stamps issued from January 1922 on (a period of considerable inflation) were inscribed simply "Austria."

AUSTRIA
Salzburg Plebiscite

Salzburg
21 May 1921
29 May 1921

Offizielle Abstimmungskarte

Herausgegeben und zu beziehen vom Abstimmungsausschuss
des Landes Salzburg

V. 21-9
Handwritten text on the official ballot card, including names and addresses.



Ausserfeld
8 June 1921

Propaganda card
and vignette used
to promote the
plebiscite.



Local overprint
cancelled on day
that the plebiscite
was held.

Express

Fritz Moser

Salzburg

Postkarte

Postkarte. Originalholzschnitt von Ernst Sompek jun. Salzburg für den Anschluss an das Deutsche Reich (29. Mai 1921).
Handwritten address: Fritz Moser, Salzburg, Postfach 1111.
A 40 Heller postage stamp is affixed to the postcard.

In spite of the Treaty of St. Germain, many Austrians wished to unite with Germany. Salzburg even conducted a plebiscite on this question on 29 May 1921, to no avail, of course. This effort did result in some locally-used overprints as well as propaganda postcards.

AUSTRIA
American Relief Organizations

London
21 February 1920

Wien
7 June 1920

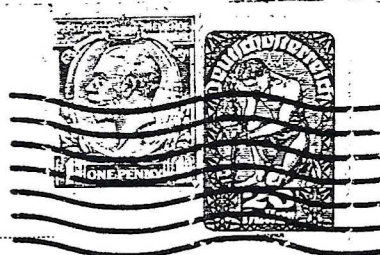
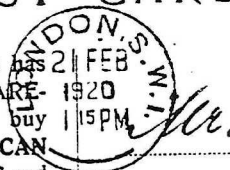
POST CARD

The American Relief Administration has established an AMERICAN RELIEF WAREHOUSE in Vienna, Austria. You can buy at any bank in the United States AMERICAN RELIEF WAREHOUSE FOOD DRAFTS and send them to us in Vienna. On presentation of these FOOD DRAFTS at the warehouse in Vienna, we can draw AMERICAN FOOD.

We are in great need of food in Austria. Individual food parcels sent from America usually do not reach us. Money does us no good when there is no food to buy.

HELP US IN OUR DISTRESS BY SENDING AN AMERICAN RELIEF WAREHOUSE FOOD DRAFT — QUICKLY!

For further information apply to AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION, 115 Broadway, NEW YORK CITY.



Mr.
Prof. M. Loivy
1251 Garden Street
308 2nd St N.Y.
Woodcliff N.Y.
Woodcliff

(over)

Diese Karte mitbringen

POST CARD

We have received from the American Relief Administration Warehouses the food consigned to us through the medium of the food draft Nr. _____ you sent us. The food including the government ration will last us about _____ weeks. We thank you for this valuable assistance and ask you not to forget us in the future.

If you wish to send us another draft apply to AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION, 115 Broadway, NEW YORK CITY or to your own or the nearest bank.

(over)



Wolff, Tomlinson
Louis Liegler
Beaver Dam
Brewer and Baller
Wisconsin
U. S. of America.

J. Weiner, Vienna

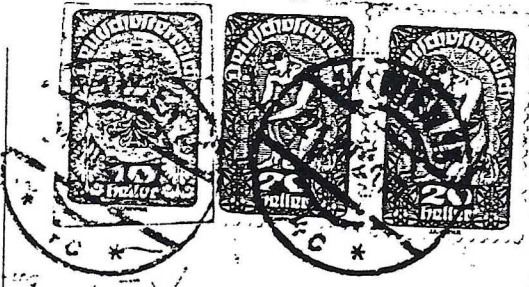
Food was scarce in postwar Austria. Due to the efforts of the American Relief Administration, it was possible for people in the U.S. to pay a sum of money to the ARA here and have a receipt issued which friends and relatives in Austria could take to a designated warehouse and get a food parcel. Upper card is a request form that were mailed to Americans. Lower card is a receipt that was to be taken to the warehouse in Vienna.

AUSTRIA
American Relief Organizations

Wien
21 July 1920
31 October 1920

Amerikanische Kinderhilfsaktion
Wien, I., Giselstraße 13.

Handwritten text in German, partially obscured by stamps and postmarks.



Handwritten recipient address:
Antonio Carraro
Attersee am Attersee
Postfach 112 14

CHRISTMAS FOOD PACKAGES.

For ten cents the AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION WAREHOUSES in Austria make delivered food packages to holders of food drafts. You can buy at any bank in the United States and at branch banks in South America, Central America and Canada. AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION WAREHOUSE FOOD DRAFTS (10¢ and 5¢) and send them to us in Austria. On presentation of these FOOD DRAFTS at the warehouse in Vienna we can draw SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PACKAGES containing SUGAR and COCOA in addition to the regular line of essential foodstuffs delivered during the past winter.

Autumn finds our food situation no better and the prospect of Christmas holds little hope for improvement.

HELP MAKE OUR CHRISTMAS BRIGHTER BY SENDING US AN AMERICAN RELIEF WAREHOUSE FOOD DRAFT.

For further information apply to
AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION,
42 Broadway, NEW YORK CITY
or to your own or the nearest bank.

POST CARD



Handwritten name: Hans Pfänger

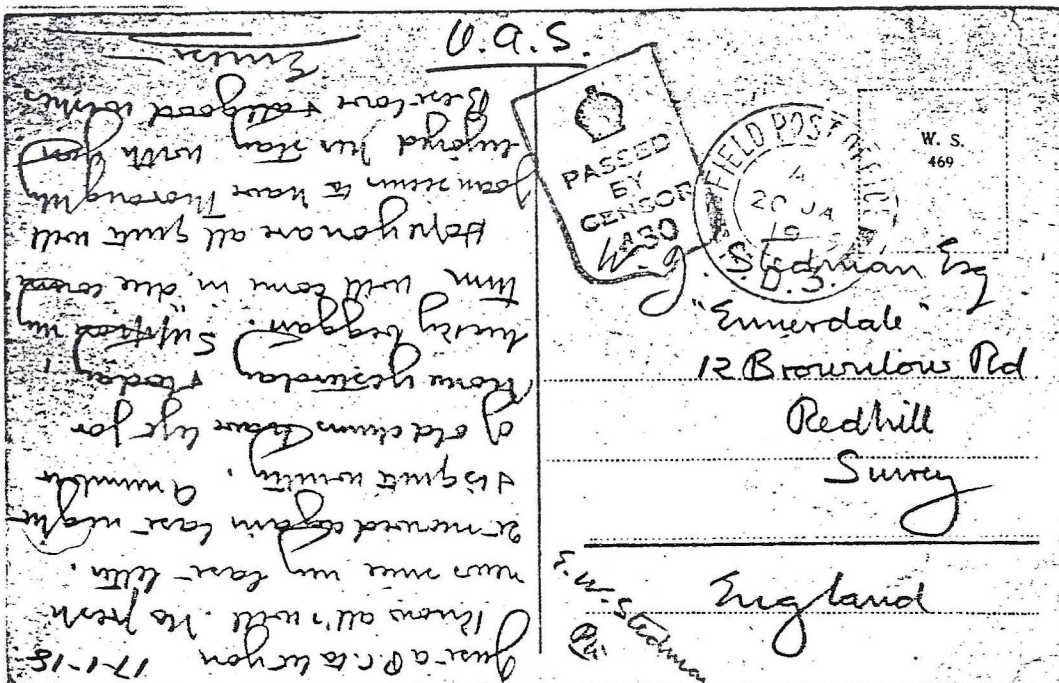
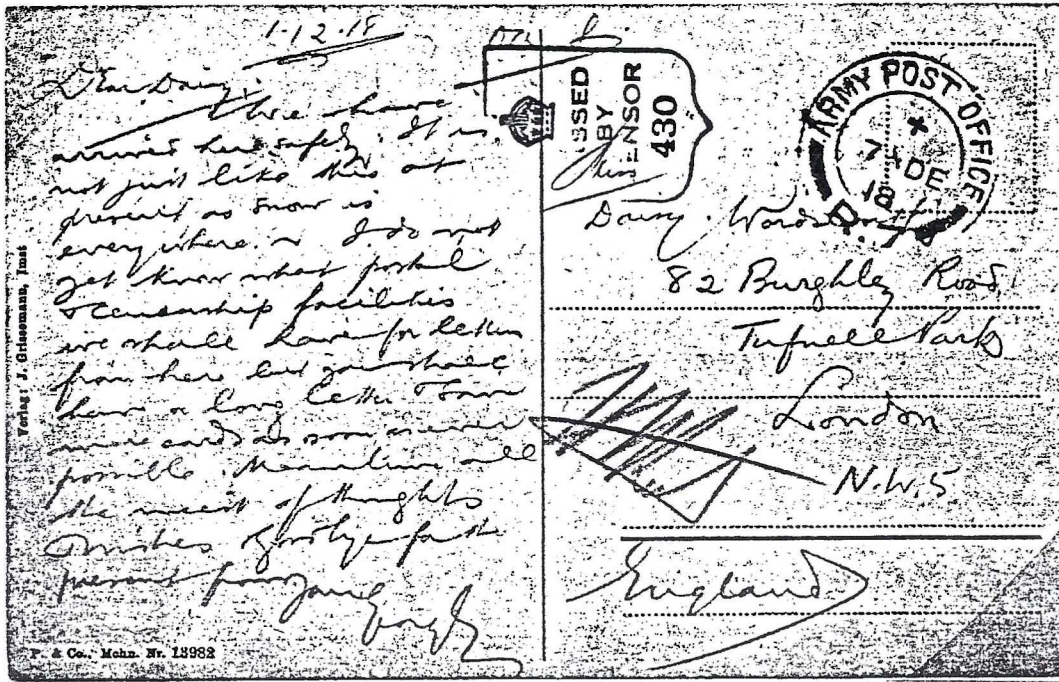
Handwritten address:
New York
969 Walton Ave
U. S. of America.

In addition to the ARA, there was an American Children's Aid Society which provided humanitarian services. Upper card was sent from that organization. Lower card is a special form from the ARA for a Christmas food package. Note special German/English propaganda postmark honoring the ARA's European Children's Fund.

AUSTRIA
British Forces

Army Post Office R.7
7 December 1918

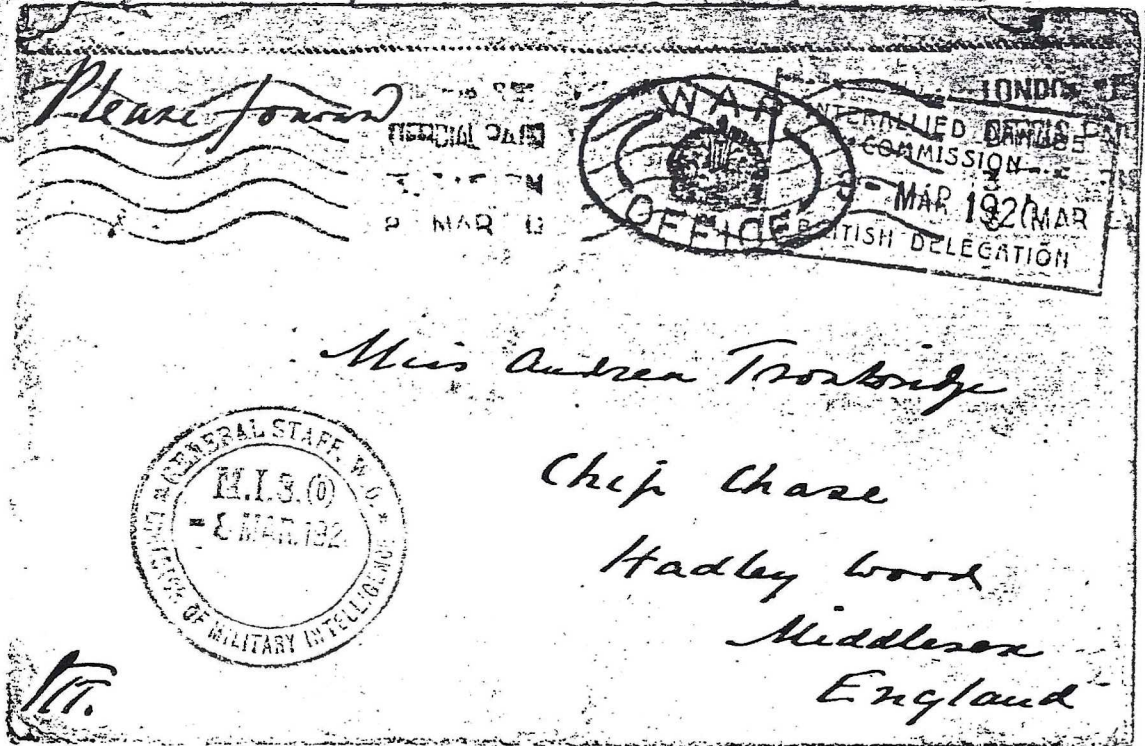
Field Post Office F.D.3
20 January 1919



Following the Armistice, one British battalion was selected from the forces in Italy and sent into Austria as part of the Allied occupation troops. It was stationed at the town of Imst in the Tirol from 28 November 1918 until April 1919. Lacking local field post facilities, mail was taken back to either the 7th Division Railhead or a field distribution center in Italy for postmarking.

AUSTRIA
British Forces

Danube Commission
September 1919
3 March 1920



Official mail from the occupation authorities set up by the Allies was carried by military pouch to the War Office in London, where it was transferred to the postal service. Above examples from regulatory bodies in Vienna for control of shipping on the Danube River.

AUSTRIA
British Mission

Interallied Food Mission/Vienna
1919-1920

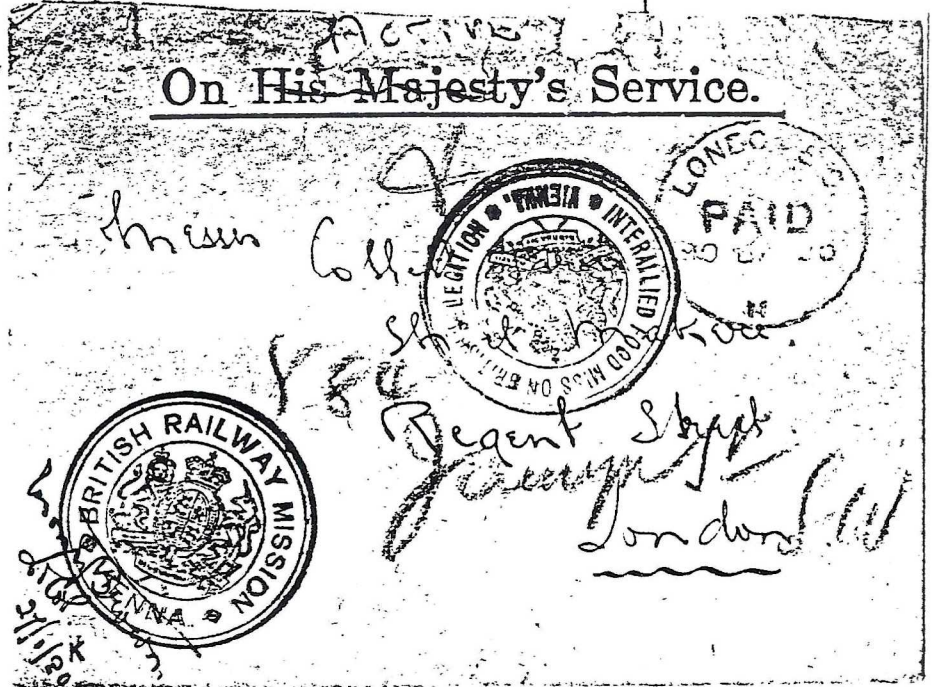
British Railway Mission/Vienna
27 January 1920

O. A. S.



Messrs Fernyhough & Asher
Lloyds Bank Buildings
King Street
G. K. Manchester

On His Majesty's Service.



Examples of mail from personnel involved in the British relief activities. Such mail was sent by diplomatic pouch to London and then turned over to the postal authorities.

AUSTRIA
French Military Mission

Tresor et Postes * *
28 April 1919

14 May 1920

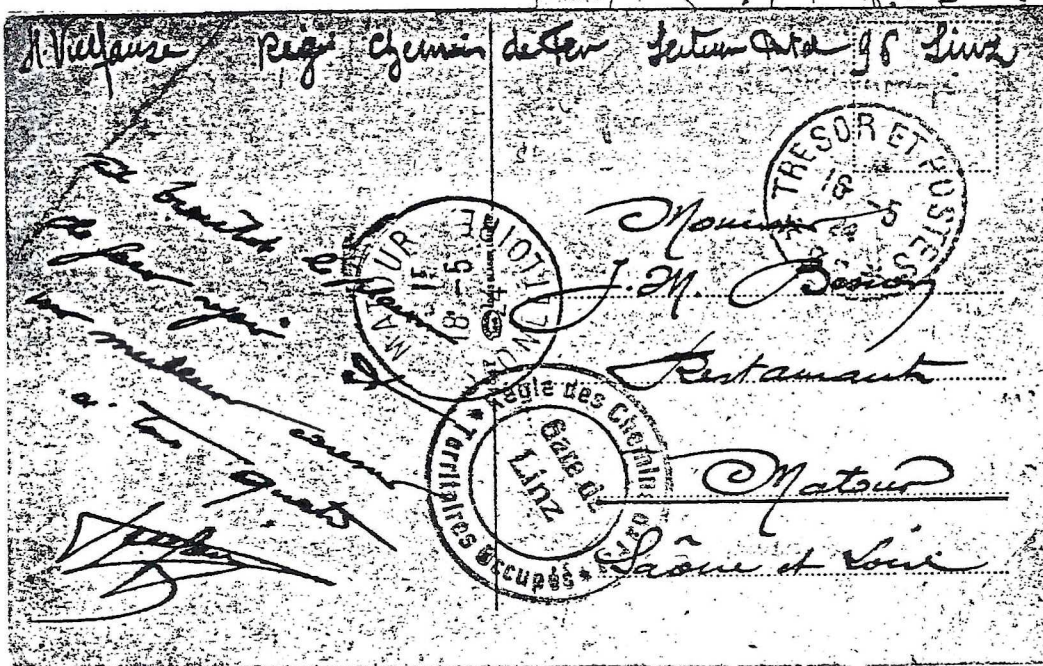
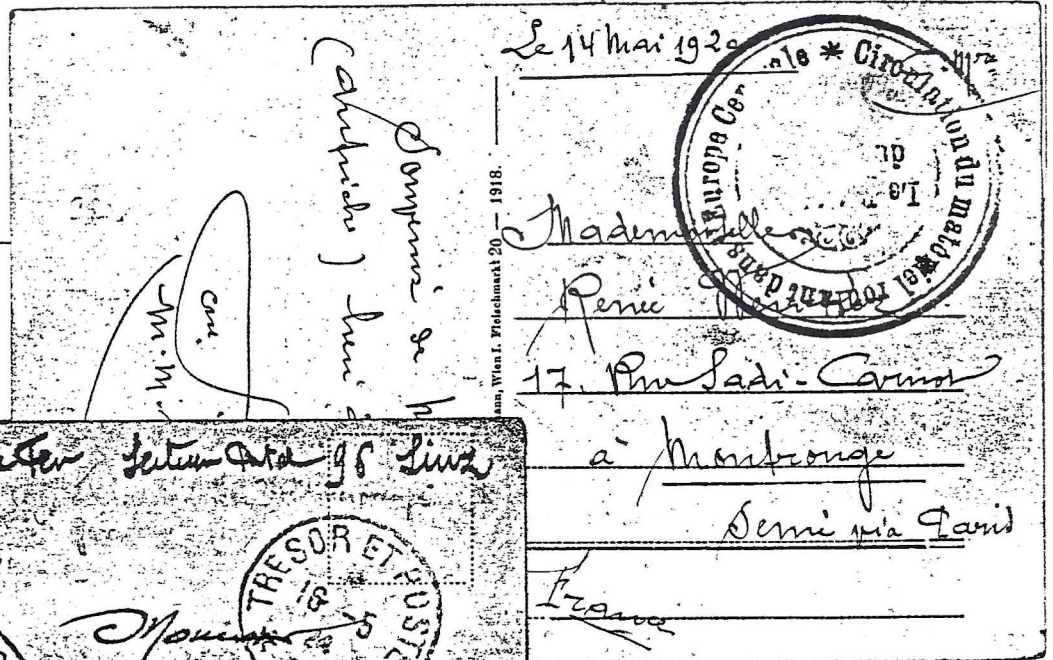
Tresor et Postes 96
16 May 1924



Monsieur Theodore Champion

13 rue Drouot

13



Unit cachets used during the occupation of Austria include the "Mission to Styria - Carinthia," the "Mission for the Circulation of (Railway) Rolling Stock in Central Europe," then located in Mariazell, and the "Railway Management for the Occupied Territories/Linz Station."

AUSTRIA
French Military Mission

Wien
November 1923

COMMISSION MILITAIRE INTERALLIÉE
DE CONTRÔLE
DANS LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'AUTRICHE

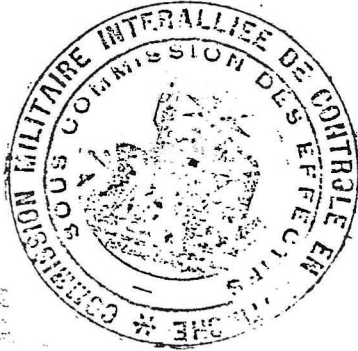
180/C. J.

Monsieur le Maréchal F O C H

Président du Comité militaire allié de Versailles

4bis Bd. des Invalides

P A R I S



Mademoiselle PERRET,
Chemin de Blémur

P I S C O P, par St-BRICE

(Seine-et-Oise)

F r a n k r e i c h



Upper cover represents official mail from the Inter-Allied Military Control Commission in Austria to Marshal Foch in Paris. Lower example was sent by the French representative on the Austro-Italian Boundary Commission in Bolzano (South Tirol) via the civil post office in Vienna.