





Not military use as such, this cover reflects the extension of the Serbian postal service to the newly-annexed southern territory following the Russo-Turkish War. Sent from Pirot to Sarajevo, Bosnia, it is franked with Prince Milan stamps -- a 10 para orange (fifth printing, perforated 12) plus a severed pair of the 40 para mauve (fourth printing, perf. 9 1/2). The manuscript "3 dr" indicates double weight status. Accordingly, postage was 2 x 25 paras international letter rate plus 40 paras registration. Backstamped in transit at Zimony (Hungary) on 9 April and for receipt at the Austrian military P.O. in Sarajevo on 14 April.

## SERBO-BULGARIAN WAR

When a Christian uprising in Eastern Roumelia permitted Bulgaria to annex that territory, Milan (having elevated himself to king in 1882) became very jealous about the expansion of his neighbor. He was nothing, if not intemperate, and on 14 November 1885 launched an unprovoked attack on the Bulgarians. However, the latter scored a decisive victory at Slivnitsa on the 19th and subsequently advanced into Serbia near Pirot. On the 28th the Austrian minister intervened and brought the hostilities to an end.

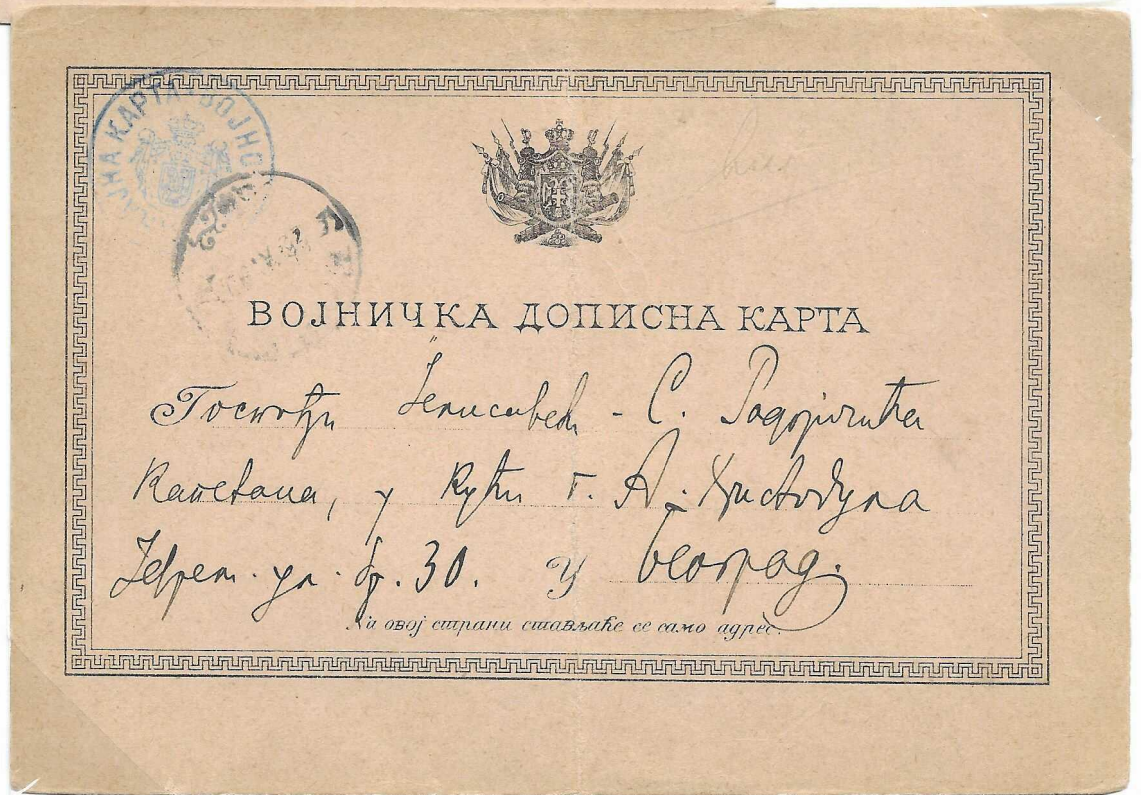
Bela Palanka  
8 November 1885



Military mail from this short campaign is quite scarce. The above military postal card was especially timely, being mailed prior to the outbreak of hostilities and arriving in Belgrade on the first day of the war.

SERBO-BULGARIAN WAR

Belgrade  
22 November 1885  
28 November 1885

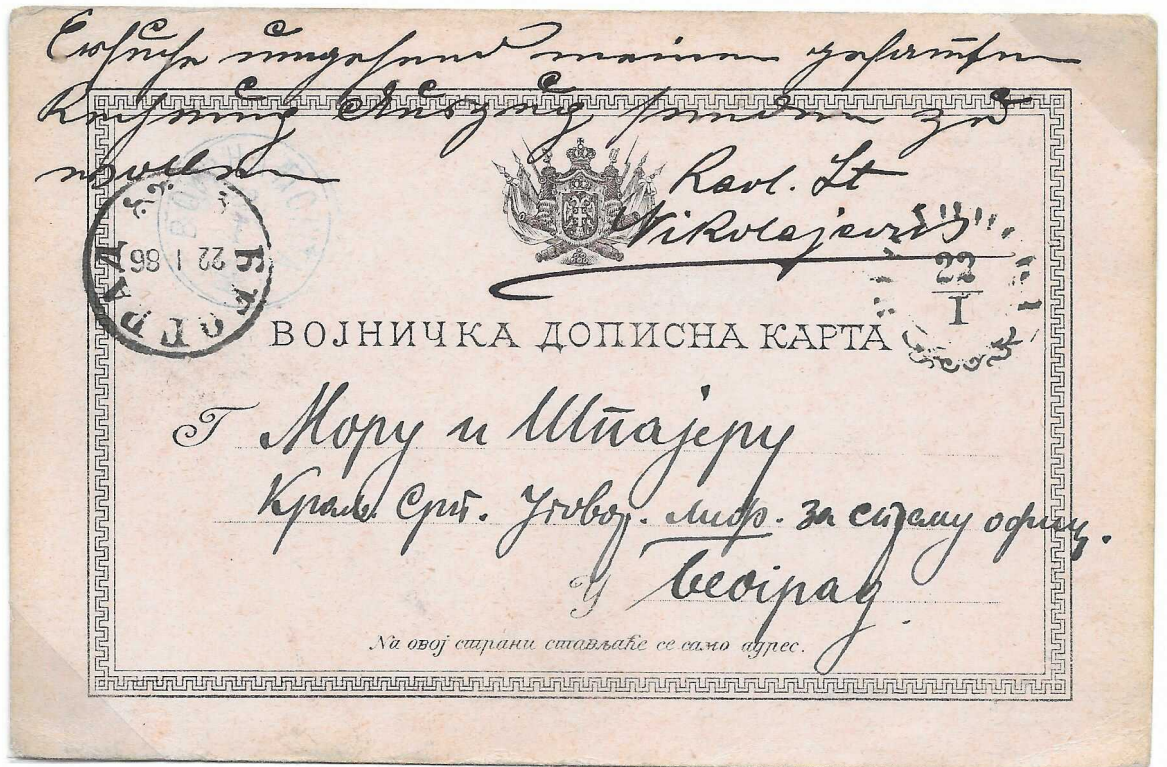


Upper card was mailed shortly before the end of hostilities and is datelined in manuscript on the reverse "22 XI. 1885 at the ferrying place." The blue cachet with the royal arms of Serbia in the center reads "Karta Vojno Saobracajna (Military Communications Card)." The lower card was mailed on the date that the Austrian minister arrived in Belgrade to negotiate an end to the fighting.

SERBO-BULGARIAN WAR

FPO 3  
6 December 1885

FPO 4  
22 January 1886



Although mailed shortly after the cessation of hostilities, these cards represent the discovery examples of the use of the old numbered military postmarks (from the time of the Russo-Turkish War in 1877-78) in the most recent conflict. Such usage is unrecorded by either Rasic or Glasewald. It is interesting that on the lower example, the fieldpost mark, a Jagodina transit mark and the receiving mark in Belgrade are all dated on 22 January, suggesting that this FPO was located within reasonable proximity to the capital.

SERBO-BULGARIAN WAR

Nish  
18 December 1885

Leskovac  
16 February 1886



Also mailed after the cessation of hostilities, these cards are additional examples of the special military postal cards supplied free to the troops. Rasic states that "Fieldpost correspondence of the Serbian army during this short war is rare." He does not record such use from Leskovac.

# FIRST BALKAN WAR

Observing the ease with which the Italians had seized Libya and the Dodecanese Islands, the smaller Balkan states joined forces to settle their grievances with the Turks. Serbia declared war on the Ottoman Empire on 17 October 1912 and a week later won a decisive battle at Kumanovo, which opened the way for the occupation of Macedonia, the Sandjak of Novi Bazar and Northern Albania. An armistice was signed on 3 December 1912.

29 October 1912

Vranya

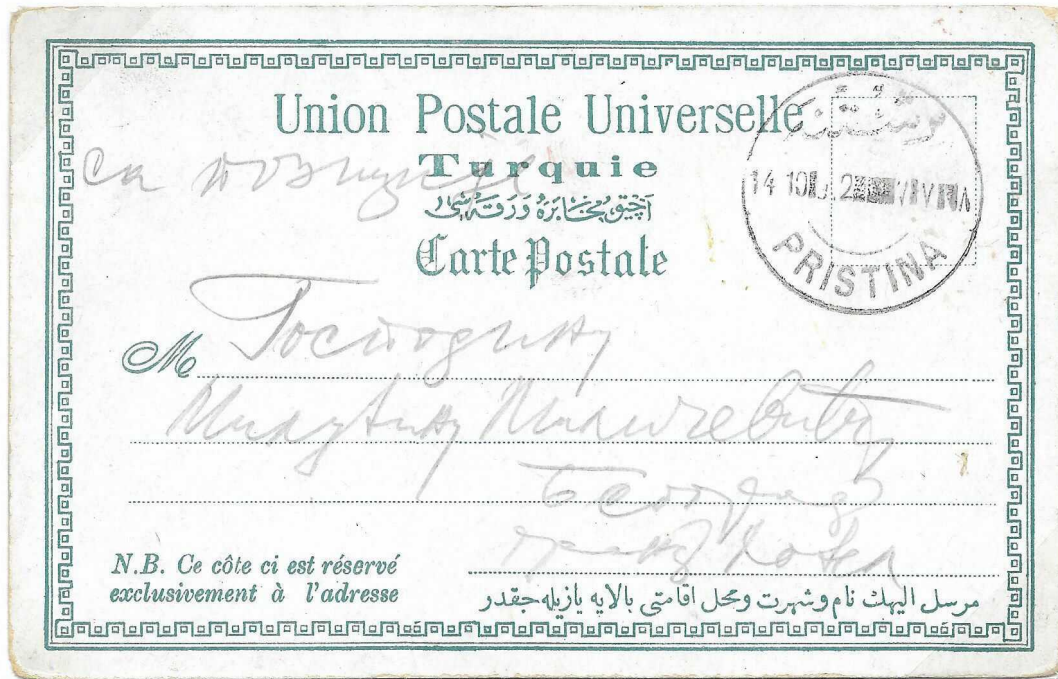
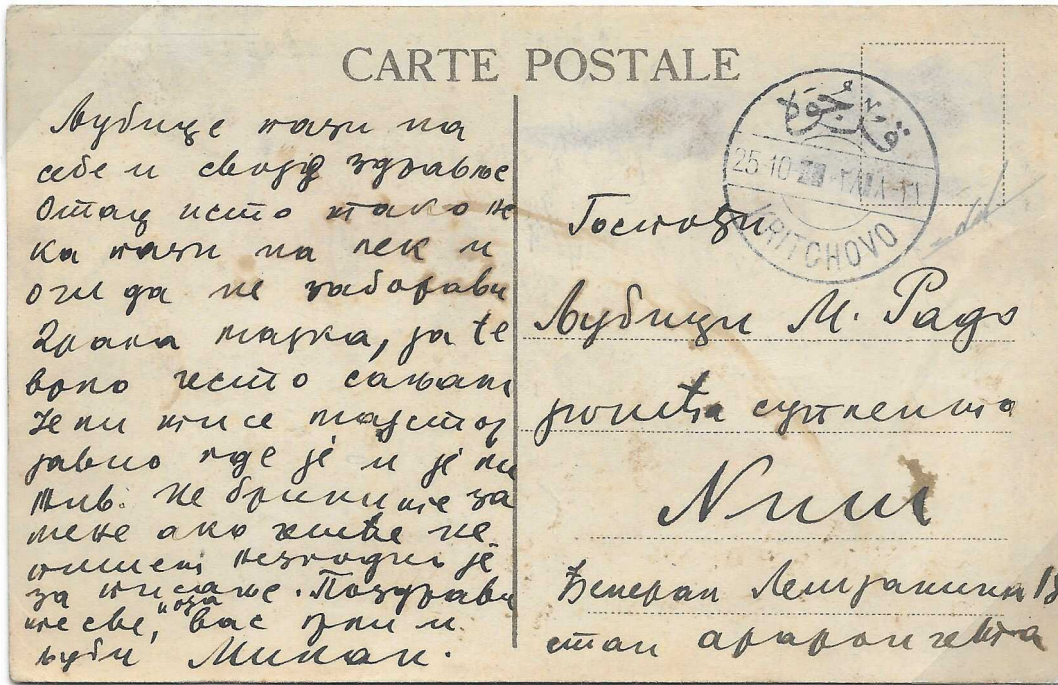
24 October 1914



Early usage of a Turkish postal card for fieldpost service to Knjazevac by a Serbian soldier. Unit marking of the 14th Regiment meant that the card was free of postage.

Very early use of a standard Serbian fieldpost card from Vranya to Nish. Unit marking of Military Medical Warehouse.





Some of the soldiers wanted to send messages home even before the fieldpost service was up and running. In such cases, old Turkish postal cards were utilized with Ottoman postmarks as forerunners. The above examples were so treated and not subjected to postage due even though no military markings were applied.

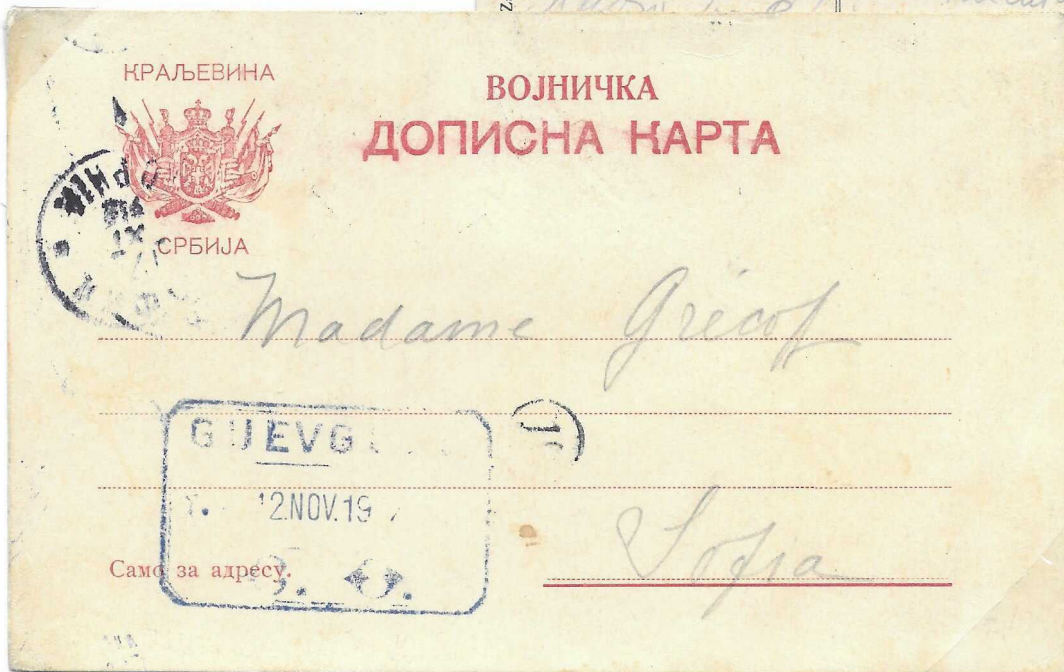


**BALKAN WAR  
Military Mail**

Mitrovitza  
26 October 1912

Monastir  
November 1912

Guevgelia  
12 November 1912



In the early days of the war, mail was cancelled provisionally with old Turkish markings found in postal facilities or railway stations. Above examples show such usage from Mitrovica, Bitolia and Djevdjelija, respectively.

*Ma Bawe*

Е.  **ПОТВРЂЕЊЕ ПРИЈЕМА** ПБр. 1.

равно примио пошилку ..... Бр. *264*  
поштку ..... гр. вреди ..... дин. .... пара, и словима .....  
..... дин. .... пара; дойлаша ..... дин. .... пара, под  
знаком ..... на адресу .....  
..... у .....  
**ТАКСА:** *68*  
За пошилку ..... дин. .... пр. *London*  
За дойлашу ..... дин. .... пр. .... ои ..... 190.....  
За упушницу ..... дин. .... пр.  
За телеграм ..... дин. .... пр.  
За прейоруку ..... дин. .... пр.  
За повр. рецејис ..... дин. .... пр.  
Свега *4* дин. *88* пр.

*Postmark: USKUB 1913*

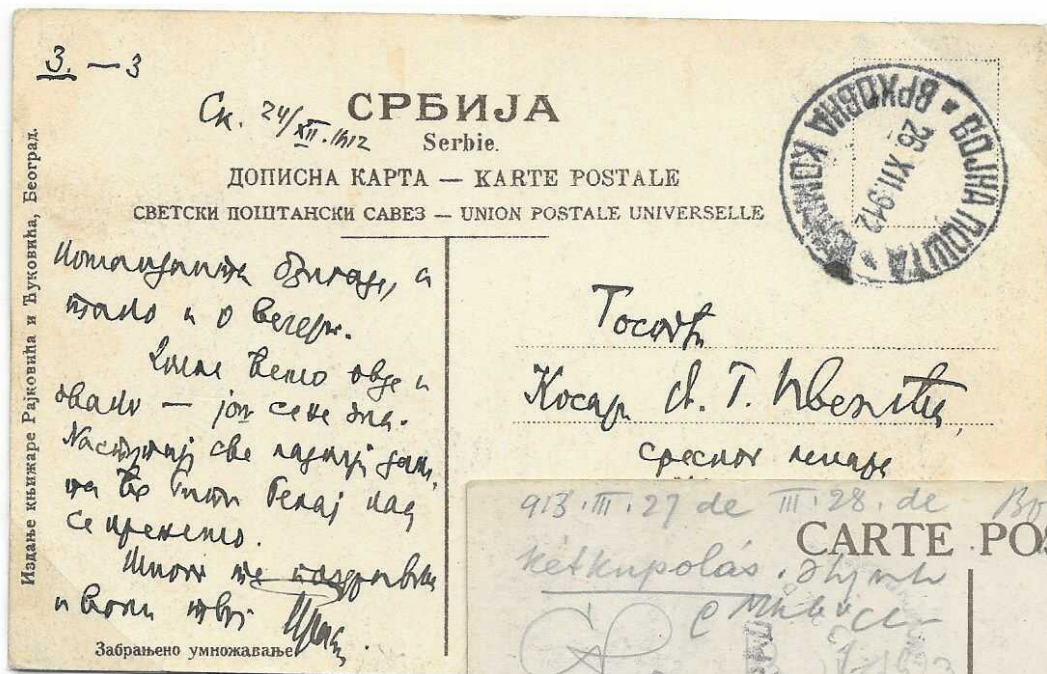
Пошпис: *JR*

This receipt for a telegram sent to London was franked with a 20 para stamp to pay the fee and then cancelled with the old Ottoman postmark. A very unusual usage.



**BALKAN WAR**  
**Military Mail**

Military Post/Headquarters  
23 December 1912  
26 December 1912  
14 April 1913



Several new fieldpost markings were introduced during the campaign. Above examples show two types used at General Headquarters, both with and without vertical lines around the date. Military mail was free of postage, except that the 25 para UPU rate had to be paid on the cover to Switzerland. (Note purple cachet of the Headquarters Staff and strikes of the old Turkish Mitrovitza-to-Uskub TPO marking.)

BALKAN WAR  
Military Mail

Military Post/Headquarters  
26 February 1913



ВРХОВНА КОМАНДА — ГЛАВНА ИНТЕНДАНТУРА

Бр 13917.

Господину  
Министру Војног.



Београд.

Fieldpost cover sent from Headquarters in the field to Belgrade. Note very elusive imprinted comercard of "Headquarters - Quartermaster Corps."

**BALKAN WAR  
Military Mail**

Military Post/I Army  
22 October 1912

Military Post/II Army  
14 November 1912

Military Post/III Army  
14 November 1912



Following the victory at Kumanovo, the First and Third Armies advanced easily. One moved south into Macedonia, capturing Skoplje (Uskub) and Bitolj (Monastir), while the other crossed Albania to the Adriatic Sea. The Second Army was detached to support the Bulgarians who were bogged down outside Odrin (Adrianople).

The three armies used newly-issued fieldpost markings inscribed "Military Post" and the army number. The Second Army marking on postal card has additional Bulgarian franking in payment of the 10 para international postcard rate. Message on the reverse of this card reads "Greetings from the battlefield of Jadrene."

Royal Serbian Railway Inspectorate



These cards have the cachets of the Railway Inspectors Office, one used from the RR station in Pristina and the other from the Headquarters in Skopje. Such usages are seldom seen.



Late usage of special fieldpost cards. No despatch postal markings applied but shows use of unit cachets to justify free postage for soldiers.