

# WORLD WAR I

Following the assassination of the heir apparent to the Austro-Hungarian throne by a Serbian nationalist in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914, Austria declared war on Serbia a month later. Enmeshed by the complicated system of alliances that had been constructed in the previous decades, all of the major European powers and were drawn into the conflict, which lasted for more than four years.



Obrenovac  
21 September 1914

Skopje  
6 October 1914

Belgrade  
27 October 1914

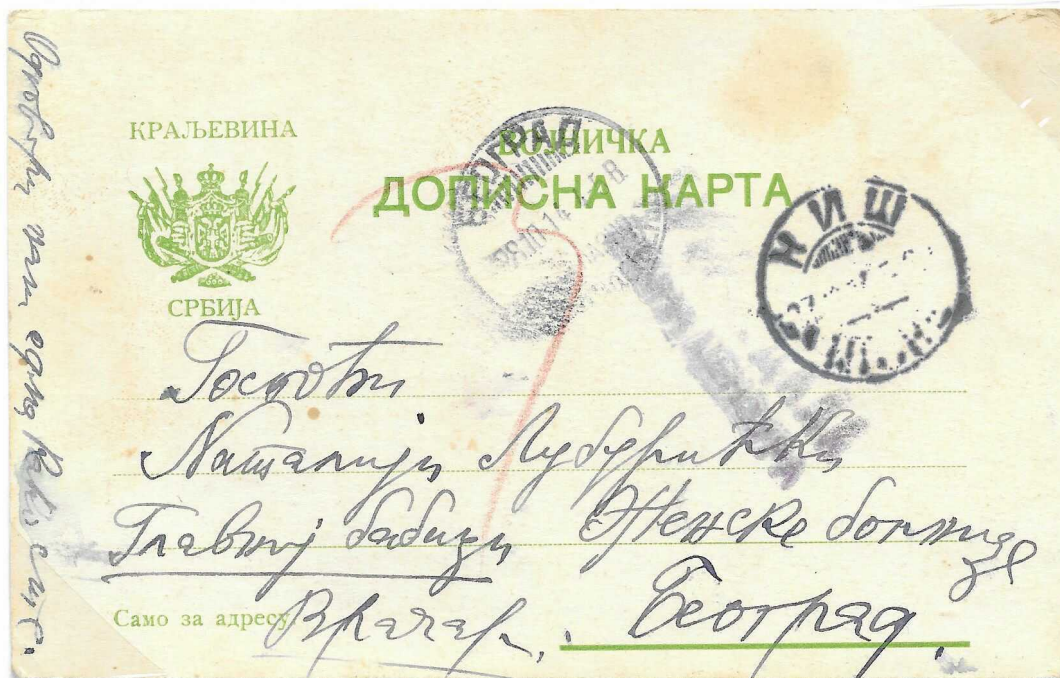


After the Austrian attack, the Serbs reinstated the field post service that they had used in the Balkan Wars, including the use of special imprinted military postal cards.

WORLD WAR I  
Military Mail

Nish  
27 October 1914

Belgrade  
16 September 1915



Special free fieldpost cards were widely used by the soldiers, generally mailed at the nearest civilian post office.

**WORLD WAR I**  
**Military Mail**

Military Posts/Combined Division  
 12 August 1914

Military Posts/Defense HQ/Belgrade  
 27 December 1914  
 6 February 1915



When war broke out, the Serbian postal service prepared a number of new postmarks for use on soldiers' mail. In some cases, the names of army units were inscribed in the cds, generally those of divisions, but occasionally down to brigades.

**WORLD WAR I  
Military Mail**

Military Posts/Branic. Odreda  
21 September 1914

Military Posts/Uzice Army  
14 October 1915

Military Posts/Timok. Division  
22 December 1914



**КУПОН**  
Износ упутнице у цифрама  
Динара..... пара.....  
Пошиљуће надлештво

**СРБИЈА**  
**ЗВАНИЧНА ПОШТАНСКА УПУТНИЦА**  
На суму од 11 дин. 90 пара у сребру  
И СЛОВИМА:  
Једанадесет динара и 90/100 и у  
ДА СЕ ПЛАТИ  
Четовински првогласни суд  
Упутнички жиг

Жиг пошт код које је упутница уплаћена

Дат. касе № 175 важи Једанадесет дин. 90 пара у 9  
Потпис званичника  
Јос. П. Јешић  
(П.Н. 36-6.)

„Хајдук Војска“  
Бр. 3025  
дан .....

2212142-3J

Additional examples of military postmarks with the names of army units inscribed in the cds. Most of these are scarce, some exceedingly so.

**WORLD WAR I  
Military Mail**

Military Posts/Morav. Division  
12 December 1914  
26 April 1915

Danube Division  
24 April 1915



Postmarks of Morava and Danube Divisions, examples of which are quite elusive, particularly the latter, which is a provisional marking.

*КУПОН*  
*Дривска дивизија, П. пошта XII-914*  
**СРБИЈА**

Износ упутнице у цифрама  
Динара *4* пара *50*

Пошиљуће надлештво  
*П. пошта у Београду*  
*П. пошта у Крагујевцу*  
*Родне Војске*

Број *2960*  
дан *22 октобра 1914*  
*на болничку*

**ЗВАНИЧНА ПОШТАНСКА УПУТНИЦА**  
На суму од *4* дин. *50* пара у *сребру*  
И СЛОВИМА:  
*дванадесет дин. и петдесет пара сребру*

ДА СЕ ПЛАТИ  
*Удара Гусковот Грушева Цр-вентота Крски*  
у *Нишу*

Датум *29* важи *двадесет* дин. *50* пара у *сребру*  
Место предаје  
Потпис званичника  
*Милановић*

Жиг поште код које је упутница уплаћена

СРБСКА КРАЈ. ПОШТА ПАР  
25  
П. ПОШТА  
21.11.15  
П. ПОШТА  
21.11.15

Отвара се сечењем између ових линија

(П.Н. 36-6.)

Postmark of Drina Division used on money order envelope in November 1915. This is a very late usage as all of Serbia was evacuated by the end of November when the country was occupied by Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria.

КУПОН

Износ упутнице у цифрама

Динара 18 пара 40

Пошиљуће надлештво

IV пешад. пук.

II позива

Народне војске

Број 10209

дан 7-IV-1915

у @Туберевцу



Жиг пошти код које је упутница уплаћена



СРБИЈА

ЗВАНИЧНА ПОШТАНСКА УПУТНИЦА

На суму од 18 дин. 40 пара у Зребцу

И СЛОВИМА:

Осамнаест и 40/100 динара у Зребцу

ДА СЕ ПЛАТИ

Крушевачком поштом оделењу

Крушевац



Упутнички жиг

Дн. касе № 96 важи Осамнаест дин. 40 пара у Зребцу

Датум

Место предаје

Потпис званичника

*[Handwritten signature]*

(П.Н. 36-6.)

Службена означења

Отвара се сечењем између свих линија

Postmark of Timok Division used on money order envelope by a soldier sending 18.40 dinars to Krusevac.

WORLD WAR I  
Military Mail

Military Posts/Limska Brigade  
June 1915

Military Posts/Uzice Brigade  
1 September 1915



Бр. *А* **ПОТВРЂЕЊЕ ПРИЈЕМА** ПБр. *1*

Данас сам исправно примио пошљку *у мушкетеру* Бр. *1*  
шешку *1* к. пр. вреди *200* динара, и словима *у две стотине*  
~~не утврђено~~ динара; дојлаша ~~динара~~ динара, под  
знаком *Катарини Главовићеве*  
*Всмантска Зенаца* на адресу *Ниси*

**ТАКСА:**

За пошљку	дин.	пр.
За дојлашу	дин.	пр.
За упушницу	дин.	пр.
За телеграм	дин.	пр.
За прейоруку	дин.	пр.
За повр. рецепис	дин.	пр.
Свега	дин.	пр.

у *Дубу*  
*1* од *Септембра 1915*

Поштом: *Рајса Јакович*

Examples of Lim Brigade postmark used on cover to Nish and Uzice Brigade cds on money order receipt for remittance of 200 dinars.



WORLD WAR I  
Military Mail

Kraljevo  
13 May 1915

Novi Pazar  
12 May 1915



The Serbs had a brief respite in early 1915 as the Austrians prepared their forces for a second assault. This delay didn't do much good for Serbia as the Allies were unable to provide assistance in men or munitions in the interim. Above examples show military mail posted through the nearest civil post office,

WORLD WAR I  
Red Cross Mail

Palanka  
18 March 1915

СРПСКО ДРУШТВО  
ЦРВЕНОГА КРСТА  
У БЕОГРАДУ



SOCIÉTÉ SERBE  
de la  
CROIX ROUGE  
à BELGRADE

№ ПЛАНАЧКИ КИСЕЉИ  
СРП. ДРУШТВА „ ЦРВЕНОГ КРСТА

Поштарина је бесплатна

*Agence internationale*



*de renseignements pour les prisonniers de guerre  
et les internés,*

*Geneve, Suisse*

Mail from the Serbian Red Cross Society during World War I was free of postage. Contents of this cover related to POW matters being sent to the International Red Cross in Geneva, where it was received on 9 April.

**WORLD WAR I  
Russian Red Cross Mail**

Chuprija  
3 April 1915

Vrnjci  
14 July 1915



This card with Imperial Russian cachet was censored in Nish (as indicated by three-line purple handstamp) and forwarded to addressee in Reval, Estonia.



Card with Russian Red Cross cachet sent within Serbia, initially to Nish (backstamped 15 July) and then forwarded to Oreovica.

Although it was unable to send military aid to Serbia directly, the Russians provided humanitarian assistance to their Slavic brothers through Red Cross missions. (More importantly, Russia invaded Austrian Galicia, thus forcing the latter to divert troops to that front and saving the Serbians temporarily.) Examples of Russian Red Cross mail from this period are extremely elusive.



During the abortive Austro-Hungarian invasion in 1914, some 320 officers and 42,000 enlisted men were taken prisoner and held until they were liberated in the successful invasion the following year. Cards from the POWs to their families back home was handled free of charge, but apparently not vice-versa. To designate this mail, a large cachet reading "Prisoners Headquarters/Censored/Officers Department" was used in lieu of a postmark. Above examples show outbound and inbound POW cards.

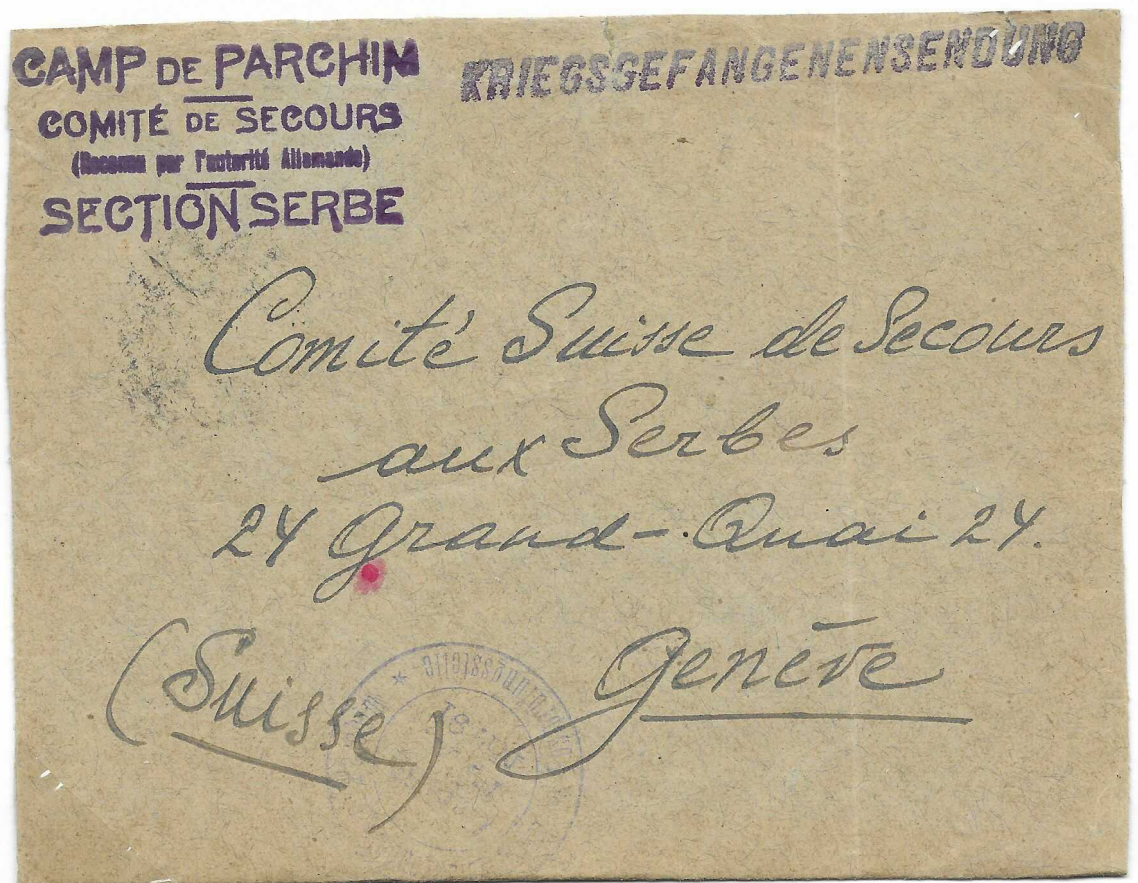


Although the first Austrian invasion of Serbia was aborted after large numbers of Austro-Hungarian troops had to be diverted to Galicia to counter the Russian invasion in that province, Belgrade was occupied between 2 and 15 December 1914. As a result, some Serbian soldiers were captured and became POWs. Above cards sent by relatives in Serbia to men in the prison camps in Austria and Hungary, respectively.

WORLD WAR I  
Serbian Prisoner of War Mail

Vel. Plana  
26 August 1918

Parchim  
August 1918



Many Serbian soldiers became prisoners of the Austro-Hungarians and a small number fell into the hands of the Germans. The above examples are an inbound card to a Serb POW in Hungary and an outbound cover from a Serb prisoner in Germany to the Swiss Committee for Serbian Aid in Geneva, received there on 19 August 1918.



**WORLD WAR I  
Occupation of Albania**

Tirana  
September 1915

Elbasan  
25 September 1915



ПРЕПЛАТА  
ВОЈНА ЦЕНЗУРА  
БУКУС



RECOMMANDÉ  
BOJNA CENZURA  
ПРЕПЛАТА

120  
100  
monieur Ph. Fresca  
Nauçren G. J. S. Skoplje

The first Serbian postal markings to be used in Albania were temporary handstamps with just the name of the towns, which were used to cancel Serbian stamps in September 1915. The Tirana cover has an unrecorded censor marking of Qukes (Tchoukouss) and a receiving postmark of Debar. The Elbasan cover has a local censor mark; it was sent to Skoplje but could not be delivered and was returned to Elbasan on 3 October.