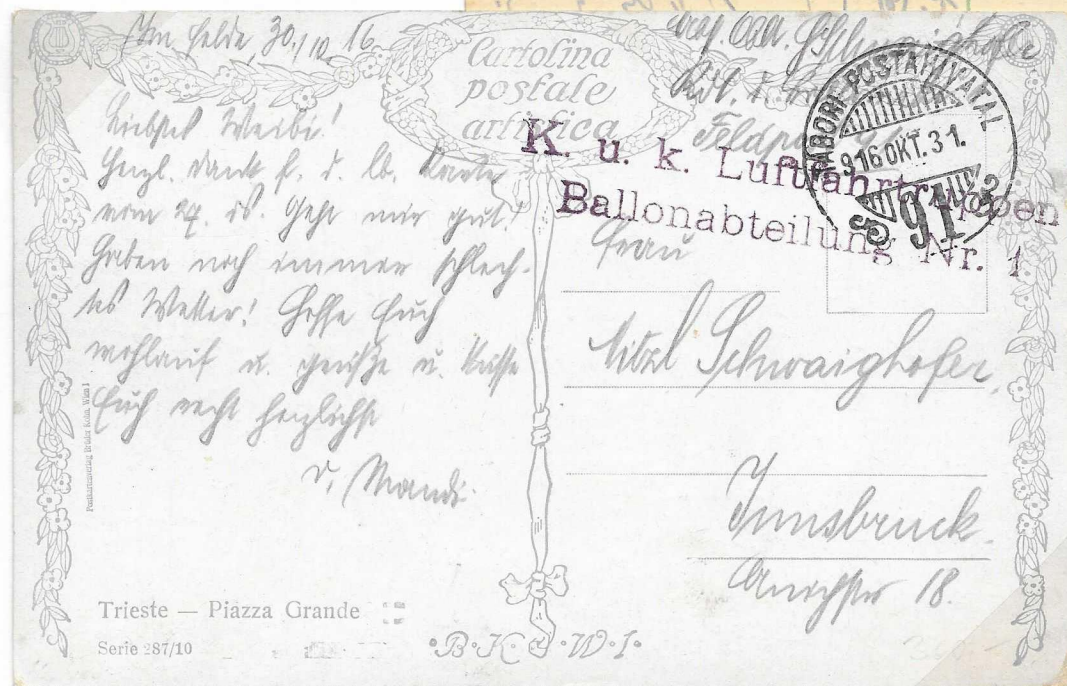
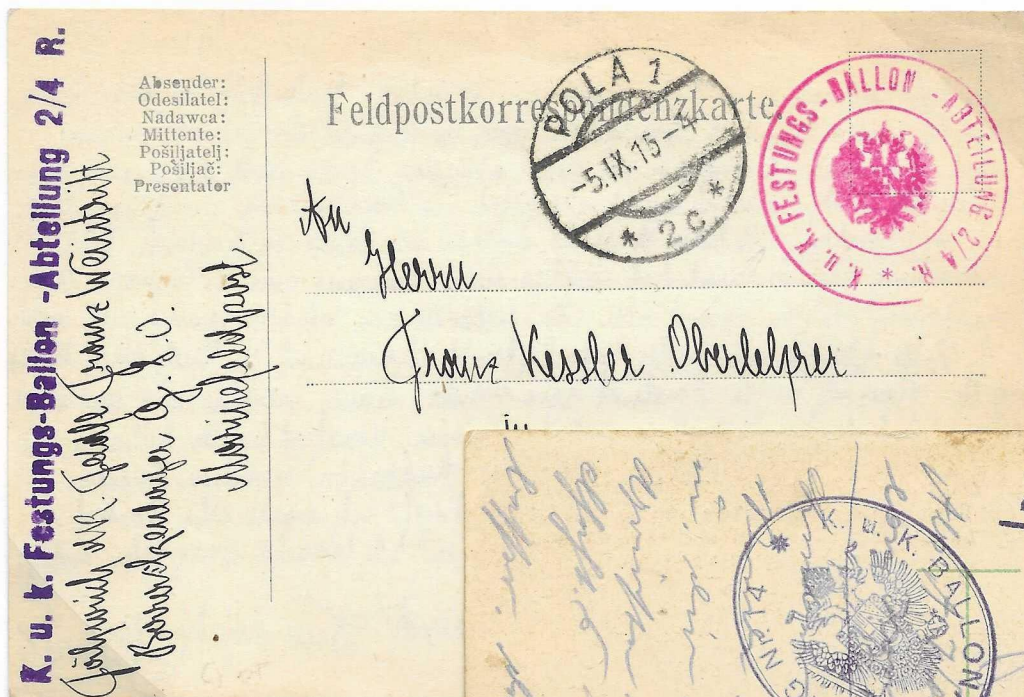


AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
Balloon Units

Pola
5 September 1915

K.u.K. Feldpostamt 173
29 October 1915

Tabori Postahivatal 91
31 October 1916



In addition to engine-powered aircraft, the Air Service also operated observation balloons, generally in connection with artillery operations. Card from Pola originated with a Fortress Balloon unit guarding the naval base there.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

Przemysl Siege

K.u.K. Feldpostamt 101
25 November 1914

Fliegerkompagnie Nr. 11
20 December 1914

Fliegerpost Przemyśl
10 January 1915

Wiedehiden

und k. Garnisonsspital Nr 3. in Przemyśl

K. u. k. Fliegerkompagnie Nr 1

FELDPOSTKORRESPONDENZKARTE

Leipzig

Frei für

Freischeiden

Abender
Odesilatel
Nadawca
Посылающий
Mittente
Pošiljatelj
Pošiljač
Presena or

104

Absender:
Odesilatel:
Nadawca
Посилающий:
Mittente:
Poštijatelj:
Pošiljač:
Presenterat:

Zur Beförderung geeignet.
Infanterie-Verpflegungsbataillon Nr. 23.
Feldpost-Korrespondenzkarte.
Fliegerkompanie Nr. 11.
Gutgelesen. Aus
nassau. Kriegerzeitung.

11.2.15
Absender
Odesilatel
Nadawca
Посилающий
Mittente
Poštijatelj
Pošiljač
Presenterat

Fliegerpost Przemyśl
JÄNNER 1915.
FELDPST-KORRESPONDENZKARTE.
ZENSURIERT.
A. Post. Kriegerzeitung

1124

Absender
Odeslatel
Nadawca
Посилающий
Mittente
Pošilatelj
Pošiljac
Presentator

Fliegerpost Przemyśl
JÄNNER 1915.
FELDRÜSTUNGSPONDENZKARTE.

ZENSURIERT.

IX.
54.

A. Pesti Lipap

Fek. Szerkesztőségnek

Budapest

V. Weiss Kövület

hartinck-timer gesevch.

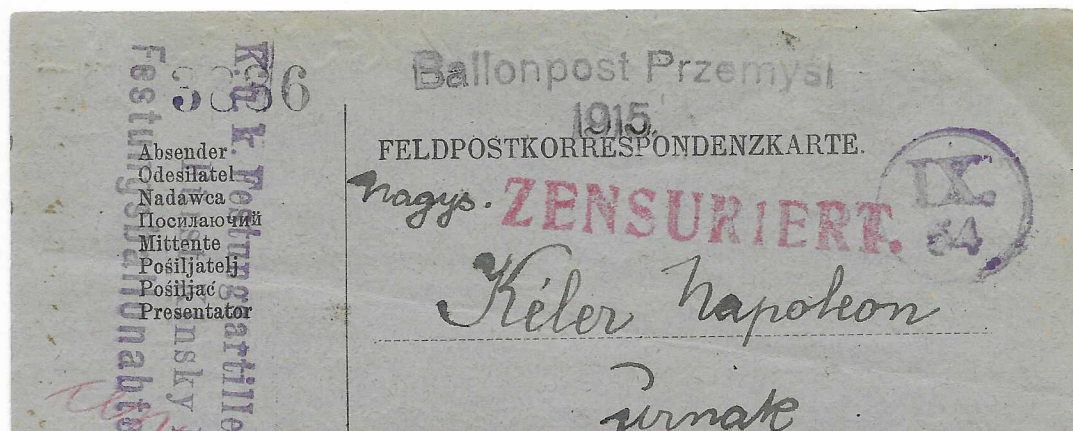
One of the most dramatic operations of the air service was the handling of mail to and from besieged Przemyśl on the San River during the Russian invasion of Galicia. The period of these flights was from 23 November 1914 to 22 March 1915. Normal fieldpost cards flown out in 1914 are considered "forerunners." The two shown above were carried on outbound flights #3 and 4 on 9 December and 26 December, respectively. In January 1915, a new system began, using special numbered light-weight cards and an initial cachet showing both month and year.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
Przemysl Siege

Ballonpost Przemysl
15 January 1915

Fliegerpost Przemysl
22 February 1915

Fliegerpost Przemysl
3 March 1915



Beginning on 20 January, some mail was flown out by balloon and received a special cachet. Above example also includes unit marking of the "Fortress Balloon Unit Nr. 1." For mail flown out by aircraft during February, a version of the cachet with the word "January" removed was utilized. For the March flights, a new cachet with smaller letters and the "1915" centered, was used. On 22 March, the Przemysl garrison was forced to surrender.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
Military Air Courier Service

Wien
20 April 1918

Kiew
21 March 1918



In order to speed the delivery of mail between Austria and the occupied Ukraine, a military airmail courier line (Fliegerkourierlinie) was established between Vienna and Kiev in March 1918, with intervening stops at Krakow and Lemberg. Scheduled service was inaugurated on 31 March, and three overprinted stamps were issued to pay the airmail surcharge for different flight lengths.

Eastbound example shown above flown from Vienna to Krakow. Westbound postcard is from the first scheduled flight from Kiev. (The postmark is dated 21 March 1918, but Ukraine at that time was still using the Julian calendar as compared to the Gregorian calendar used in Western countries -- for which the equivalent date was 3 April 1918.) This is the only recorded card from Kiev franked with an Austrian airmail stamp.

GERMANY

The alliance between Austria-Hungary and Germany was very close, and there were numerous instances of the troops of one country serving on the territory of the other.

Austro-Hungarian Forces

K. D. Feldpoststation Nr. 133

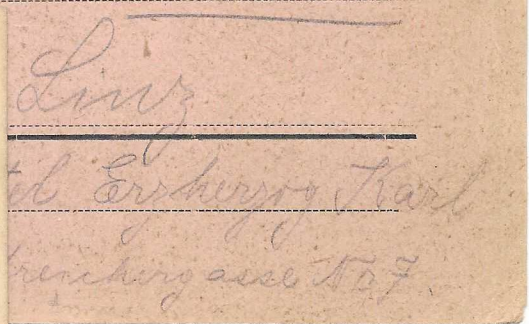
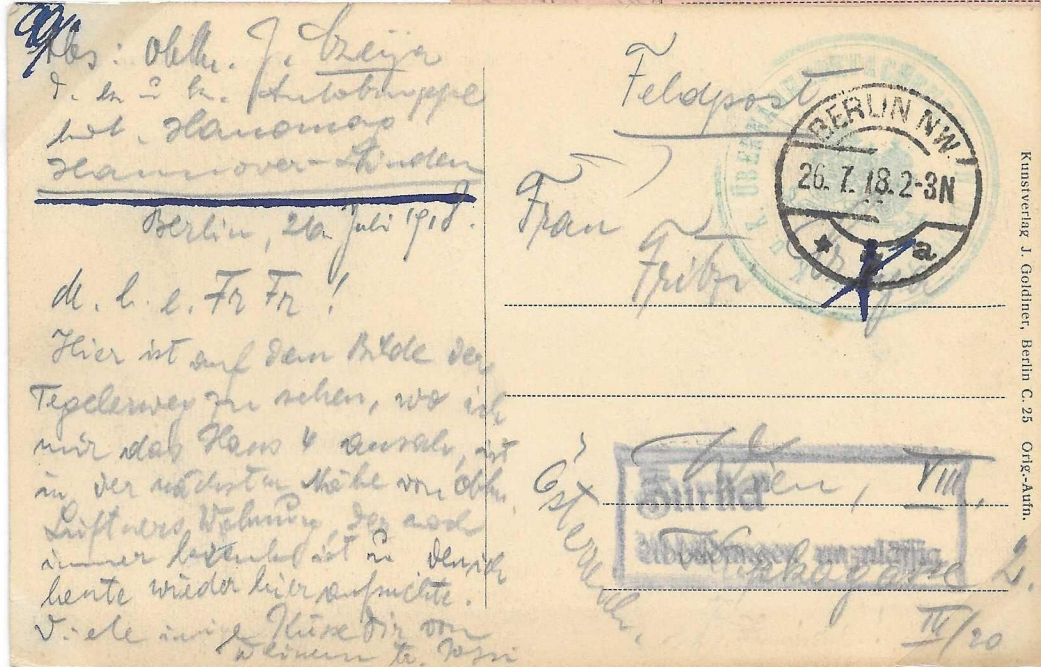
16 January 1917

Feldpost 203

31 July 1915

Berlin

26 July 1918



Examples shown above are from the Austrian Delegate to German Supreme Headquarters, Austrian Engineering Staff Group with the German 11th Army, and Austrian Motorized Troop in Berlin.

GERMANY
Austro-Hungarian Forces

Koschentin
10 November 1914

Kattowitz
8 December 1914

Marienburg
17 March 1915



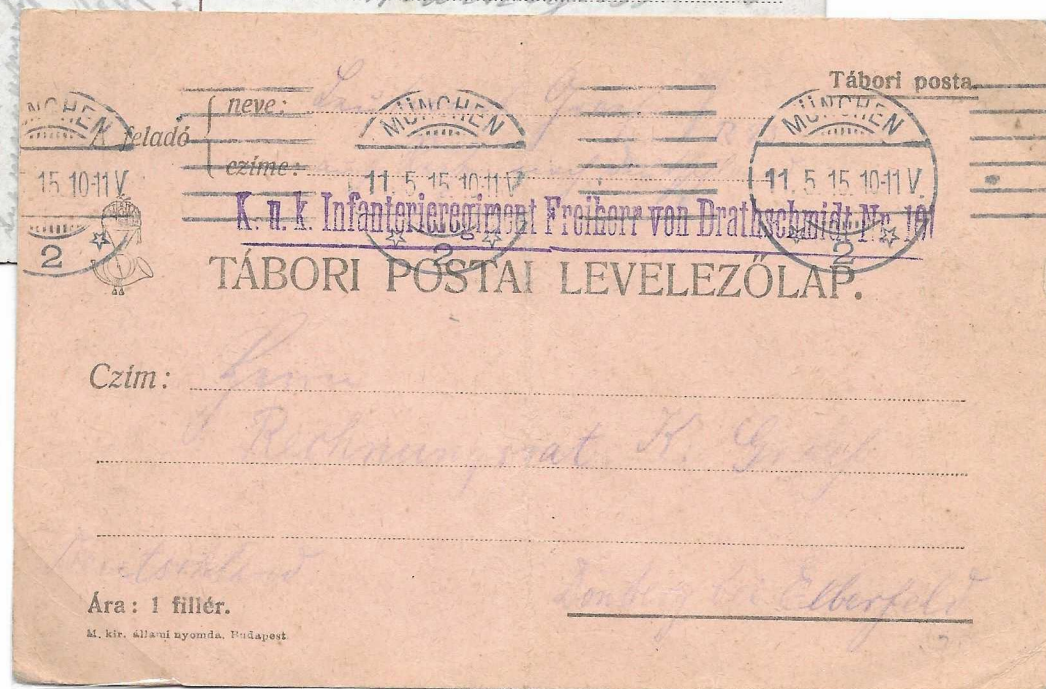
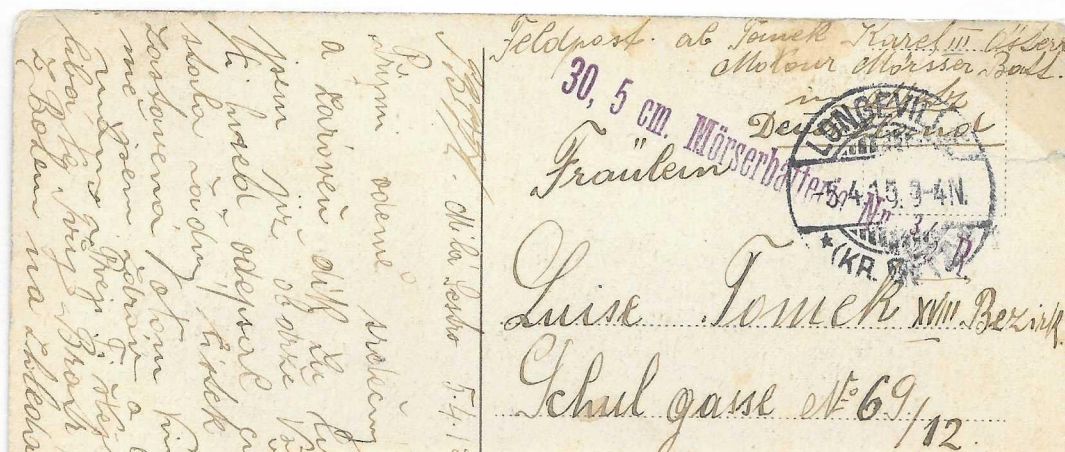
Examples from Austrians in East Germany -- Posen, Upper Silesia and West Prussia -- with mail being handled through the civil postal system without charge. Cachets indicate use by hospital train, infantry and artillery units.

GERMANY
Austro-Hungarian Forces

Longeville/Kr. Metz
5 April 1915

Düsseldorf
10 April 1915

München
11 May 1915



Examples from Austrians in Western and Southern Germany -- Lorraine, the Rhineland and Bavaria. Cachets indicate use by heavy artillery, steam laundry and infantry units. (It is interesting to speculate that the upper card could have been sent by a crew member serving one of the large howitzers being moved to the siege of Verdun.)

TURKEY

In early 1914, Turkey joined the Central Powers. Subsequently, Allied warships attempted to force the Dardanelles, and British Imperial ground forces landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 25 April 1915. Austria-Hungary sent mortar and howitzer batteries to provide artillery support for the Turkish defenders. Finding their position untenable, the Allies withdrew on 9 January 1916, which allowed the Austrian units to be redeployed to defend the Gulf of Smyrna and later to Syria and Palestine.

Austro-Hungarian Military Mission

Mörserbatterie No. 9
13 October 1916

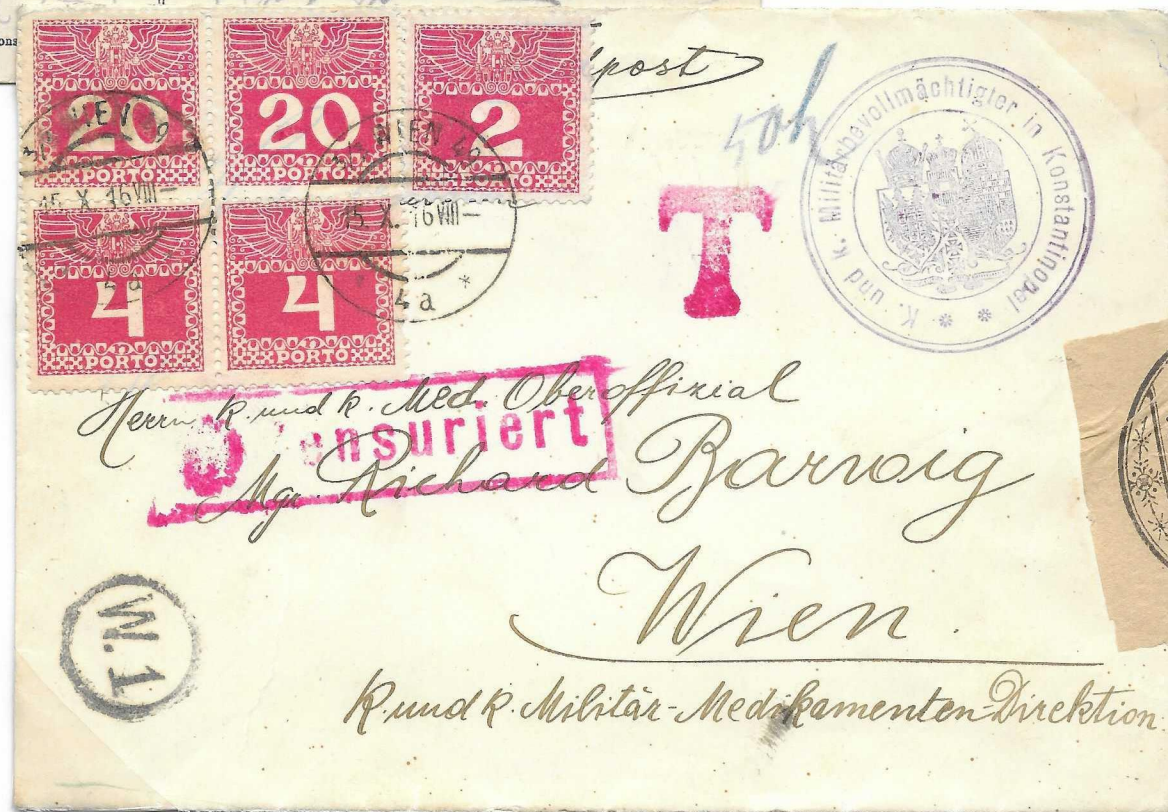
Haubitzbatterie No. 36



During 1916, Austrian mail was not postmarked in the field but delivered by military pouch directly to Vienna for onward transmission. Above postcards show cachets of the first two artillery units sent to Turkey.

TURKEY
Austro-Hungarian Military Mission

Konstantinopel
6 June 1916
October 1916

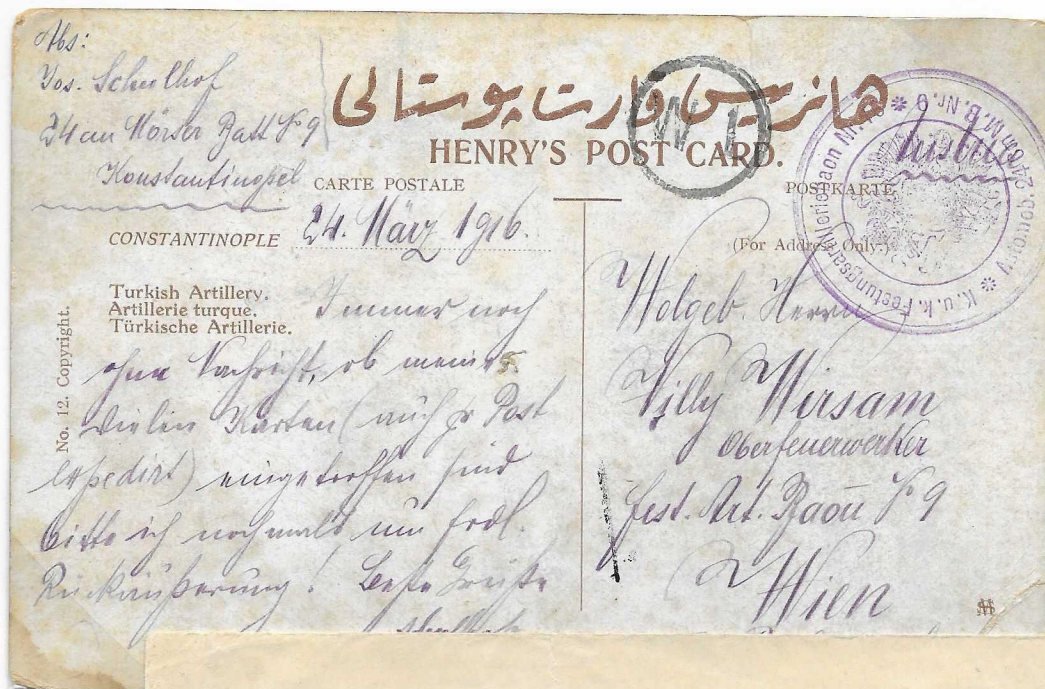


The headquarters for the Austro-Hungarian military activities was located in the Turkish capital. Above examples show two cachets of the "Imperial & Royal Military Representative in Constantinople." Interestingly, the cover was assessed postage due of 50 heller (double deficiency UPU rate) in spite of manuscript "Feldpost" and unit cachet -- did the censor think this marking should only be used to designate official, not private, correspondence? In the event, the "T" seems to have been applied in the same ink as the censor mark.

TURKEY
Austro-Hungarian Military Mission

Konstantinopel
24 March 1916

Pera
15 July 1917

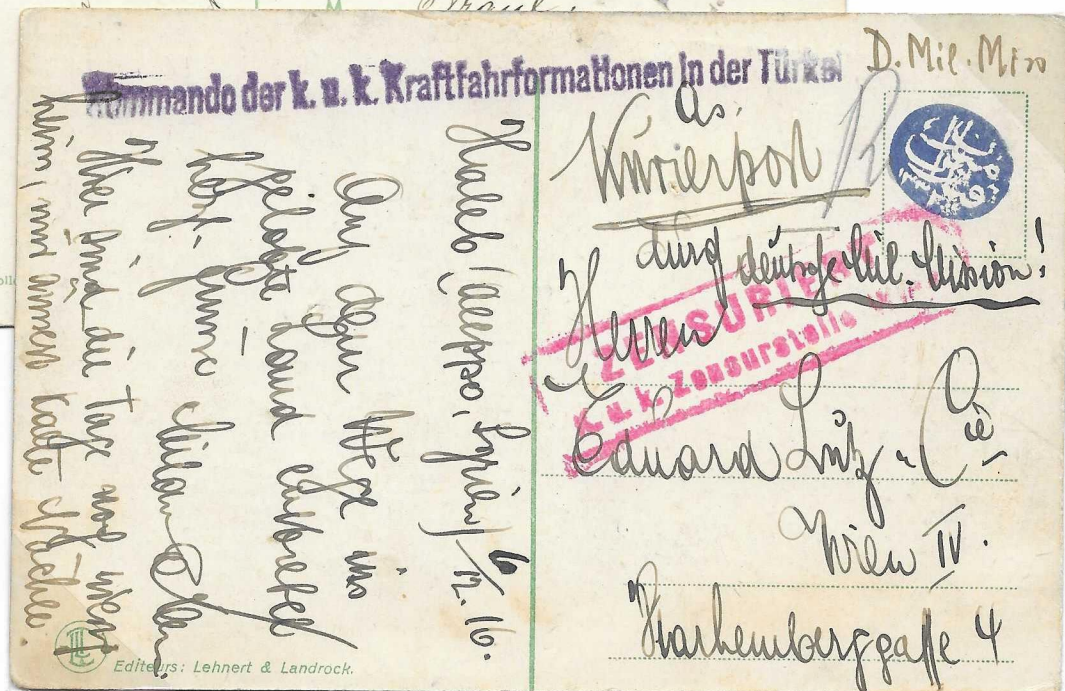


The primary combat forces in the Austro-Hungarian military mission were the artillery units. Above are two different cachets of the motorized 24 cm. Mortar Battery No. 9. Postcard has mute transit marking "W1" of Vienna. Registered letter originating from Pera (a district of the capital city) is unusual.

TURKEY
Austro-Hungarian Military Mission

Konstantinopel
12 December 1916
1916

Aleppo
6 December 1916



Aside from the artillery units, the majority of the Austro-Hungarian military mission was engaged in logistical support and training of the Turkish forces. Above items are from senders related to truck transport, i.e. Motor Vehicle Column Headquarters, Motor Vehicle Reserve Depot, Motor Vehicle Formation. The latter is of special interest in that it originated in Aleppo, Syria and is inscribed "Courier Post via German Military Mission."

TURKEY
Austro-Hungarian Military Mission

Gleisspitz Bagdadbahn
14 January 1918

Bosanti
26 March 1917
21 November 1917



Meinster Freund! 24. III. 17
Vielen Dank für V. l. Brief!
Wie Sie mir schon geschrieben!
Ich war in Coşto 5 Tagen krank.
Ich bin zu Hause. Ich bin
ich bin in der Lage zu schreiben.
Bitte Sie, mich zu schreiben.
Ich bin in der Lage zu schreiben.
Ich bin in der Lage zu schreiben.

Unter. Güter
S. 2. 1917
FELDPOST
MIL. MISS.
BOSANTI
A. Rippel, 27. in
in Genesungsgang.
Morda in
Coşto.

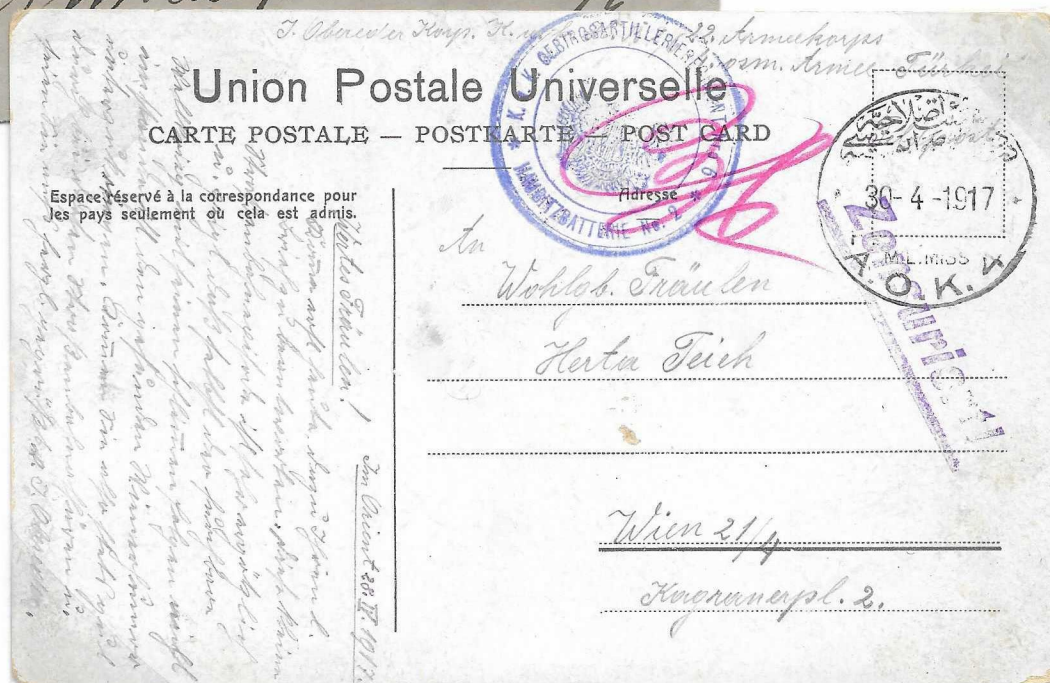


The Austrians worked closely with the Germans in Turkey and often used the field post service of the German Military Mission, which had special bilingual German-Turkish postmarks. Above items originated in Anatolia. The cover is from the Austrian base at the construction railhead of the Baghdad Railway (near Konia). Post cards have cachets of Base Commander in Taurus-Amanus and Branch Gasoline Depot in Bosanti.

TURKEY
Austro-Hungarian Military Mission

Bir-es-Siba
5 October 1916

A. O. K. 4
30 April 1917

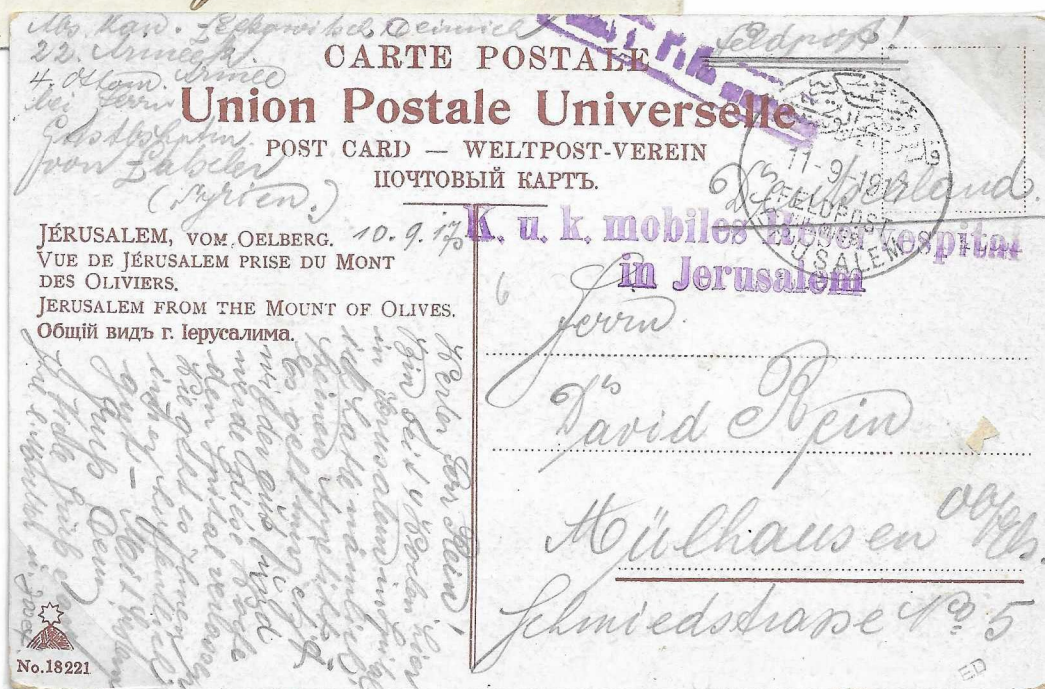


With the increasing threat of an Allied thrust from the Sinai Peninsula into Palestine, German and Austrian support units were sent to the southern front. The German Military Mission had its own field post service, with above examples of mail from Beersheba and Jerusalem. The postmark inscription "A. O. K. 4," represents the High Command of the 4th Turkish Army.

TURKEY
Austro-Hungarian Military Mission

Aleppo
17 June 1916

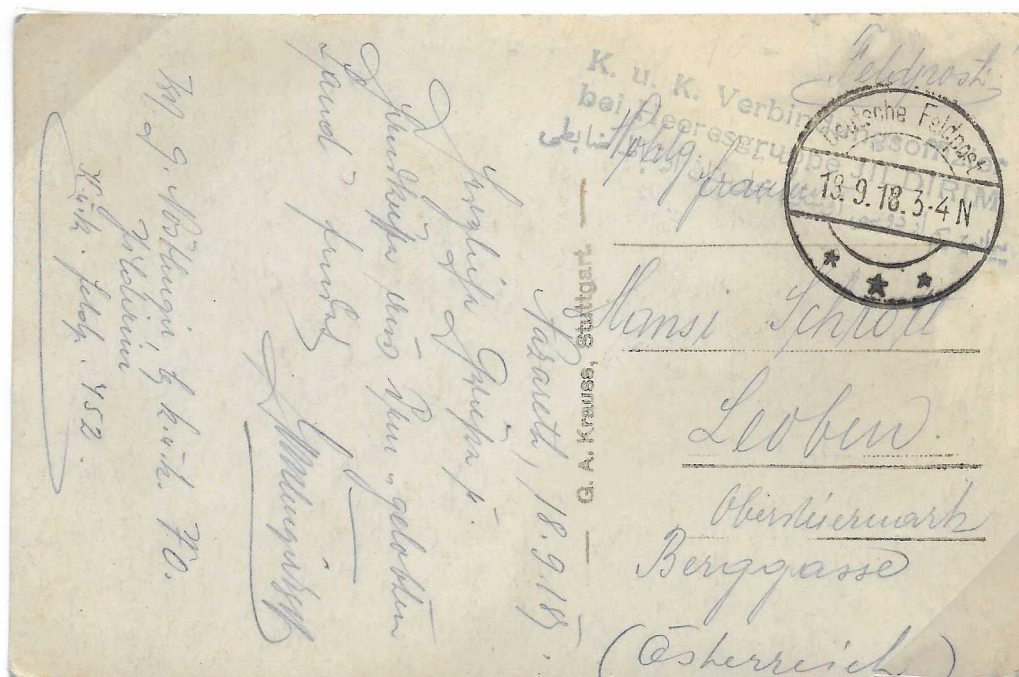
Jerusalem
11 September 1917



Above items originated in Palestine. Cachets of origin from the Representative to the 1st Expeditionary Corps for the German and Austro-Hungarian Troops and the Austrian Mobile Reserve Hospital, both located in Jerusalem.

TURKEY
Austro-Hungarian Military Mission

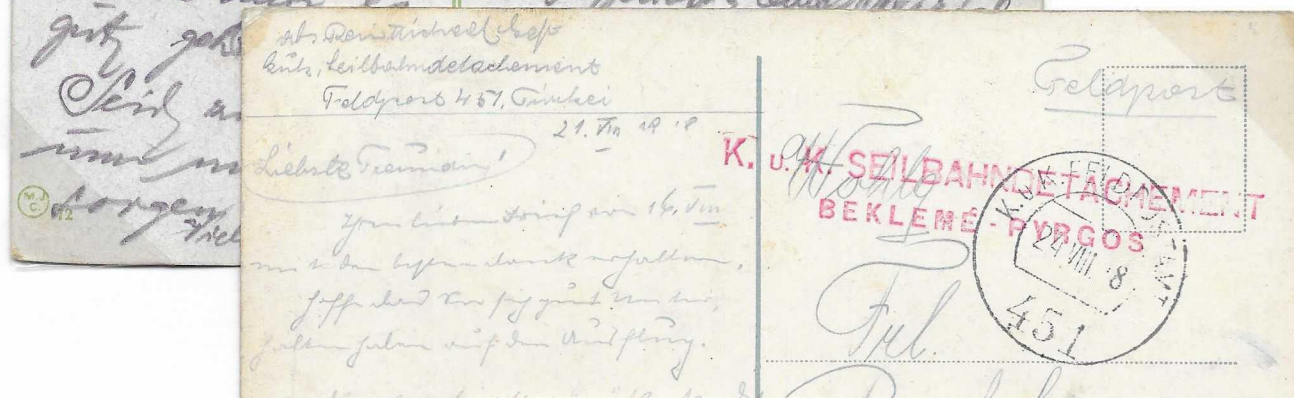
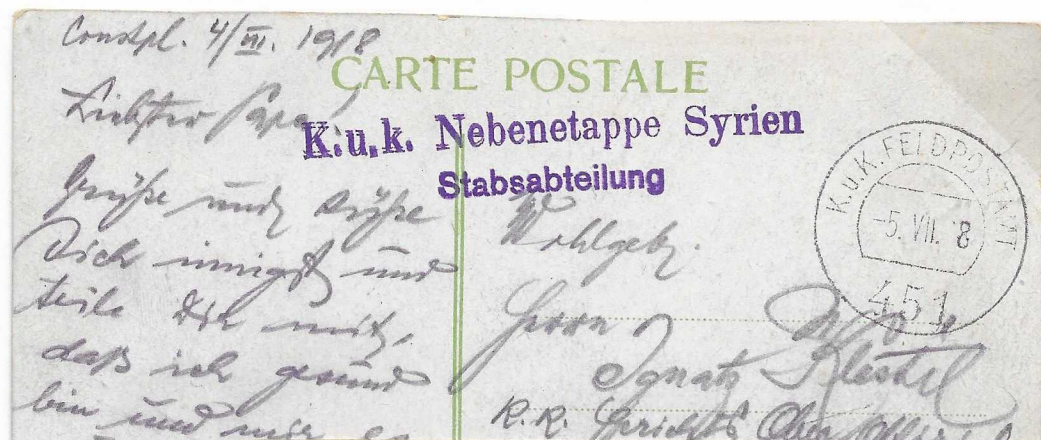
Deutsche Feldpost
 16 June 1918
 19 September 1918



Later, the Germans used postmarks showing neither numbers nor locations. Above examples of Austrian mail out of Palestine transmitted through the German Field Post. Note unit designation of Austrian Liaison Officer with the Army Group Jilderim (Lightning), datelined Nazareth.

TURKEY
Austro-Hungarian Military Mission

K.u.K. Feldpostamt 451
 5 July 1918
 24 August 1918
 17 September 1918



The Dual Monarchy was noted for the bureaucratic superstructure in its government, a feature which carried over to the military. This may account for the fact that each individual unit -- even the smallest ones -- had its own functionaries and cachets. One of the more unusual is the marking of the detachment operating the Bekleme-Pyrgos cable car system shown above.