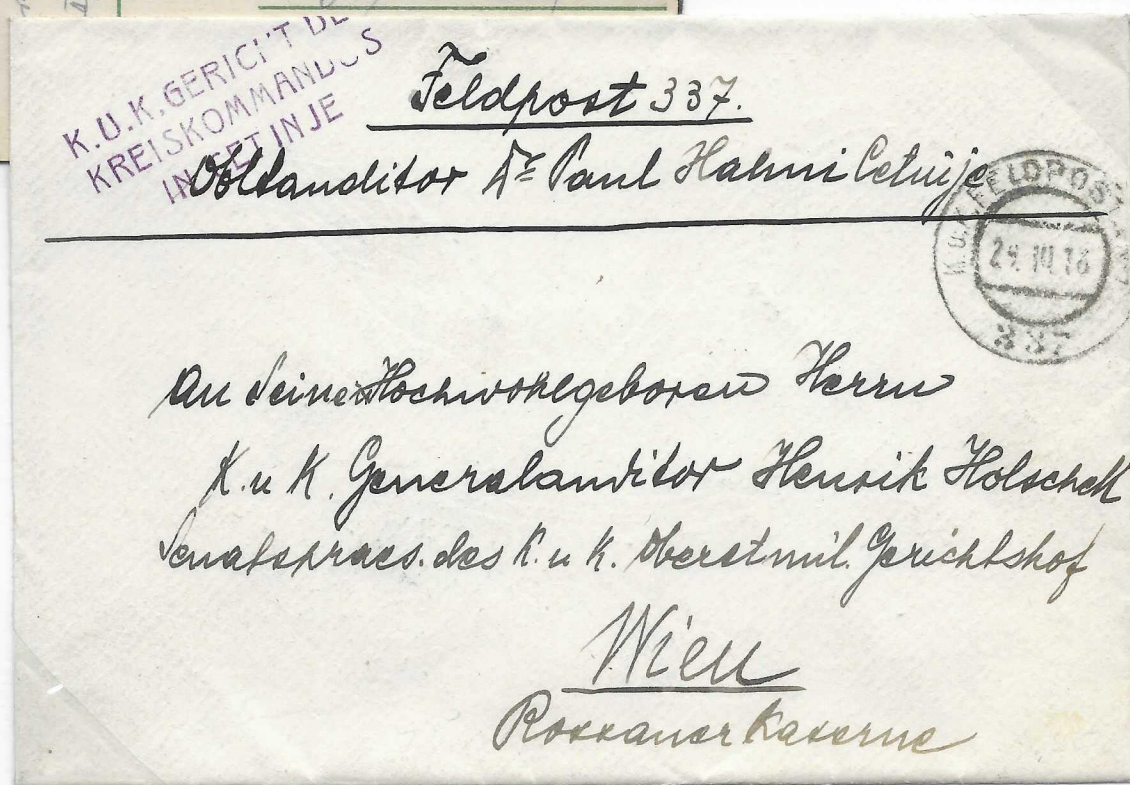


## WORLD WAR I - AUSTRIAN OCCUPATION

On 10 January 1916, Austro-Hungarian forces stormed Mt. Lovcen, which dominated southwestern Montenegro. Then on the 13th Cetinje was occupied, and by the 15th the entire country was in the hands of the Central Powers. All hostilities ceased on 17 January. Austrian military mail was handled through its Feldpostamt (field post office) system of numbered post offices, which were mobile and moved with the unit to which each was assigned. In due course, an Etappenpostamt (base post office) system with stable operations in established locations was created to handle official and civilian mail. On 11 May 1916, the first Etappenpost offices were opened at Cetinje and six other towns in Montenegro. By the end of the war, this network had expanded to a total of 18 post offices.

K.u.K. Feldpostamt 308  
10 February 1916

K.u.K. Feldpostamt 337  
29 March 1916



Examples of mail sent by the occupation troops in Montenegro are shown above. Postcards and letters were free of postage, but special services, such as registration, special delivery and parcel post, needed payment of postage.



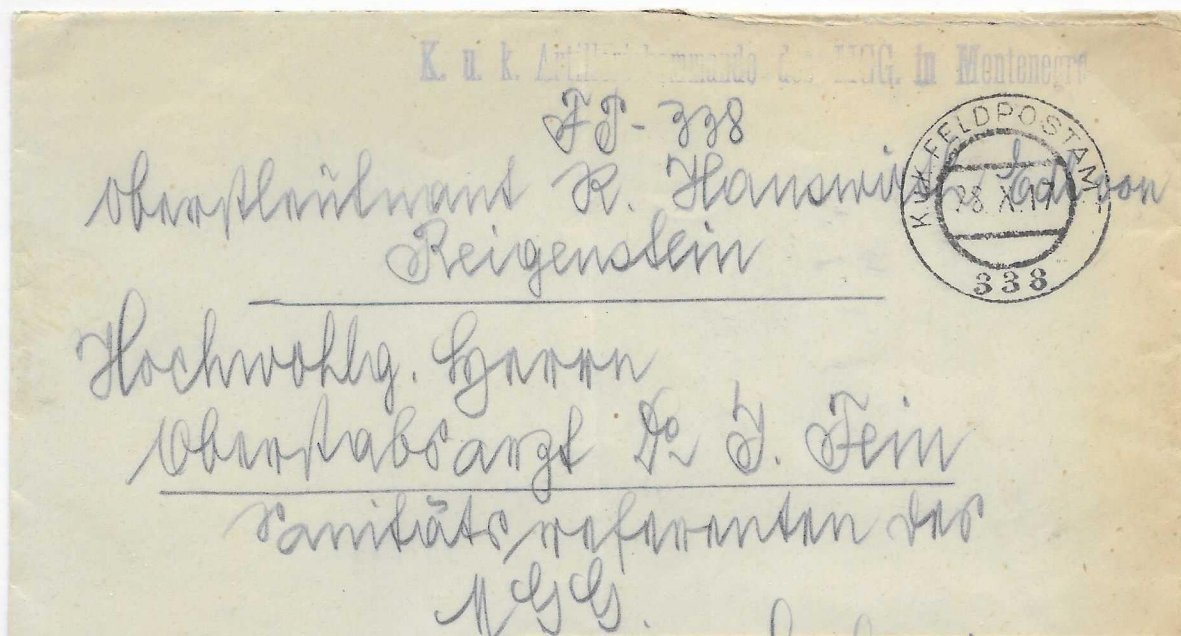
## WORLD WAR I

### Austrian Occupation

Note that the "K.u.K." that appears in the occupation postmarks is an abbreviation for the German words that mean "Imperial and Royal." This, in turn, relates to the fact that in the dual monarchy, the Emperor of Austria was also the King of Hungary.

K.u.K. Feldpostamt 338  
28 October 1917

K.u.K. Feldpostamt 343  
22 March 1916



Additional examples of Austrian military mail from Montenegro. Note that the addressee of the lower card could not be located ("unbekannt") and it was directed back to the sender at FPA 343.

## WORLD WAR I Austrian Occupation

Only two special postage stamps were issued for occupied Montenegro, which were the 10 and 15 heller Austrian fieldpost stamps overprinted "Imperial & Royal Military Administration/Montenegro." They were placed on sale on 1 March 1917 to commemorate the first anniversary of the new occupation authority and were valid for postage on just that one day.

Kolasin  
1 March 1917



The above registered first day cover from Kolasin is very unusual. In fact, usage of the special stamps from any location outside the capital is noteworthy.



# **WORLD WAR I** **Austrian Occupation**

1918

The two overprints previously shown were the only stamps actually issued by the military government in Montenegro, and they were only valid for a single day. Thus, postal requirements were met by the normal Austrian issues inscribed "K.u.K. Feldpost." However, the authorities in Vienna did prepare issues with a one-line horizontal overprint "Montenegro" on the regular fieldpost stamps, newspaper stamps and a postage due, but these were never issued.



The Fleck handbook states that 450 sets of the 10 and 15 heller denominations were printed, but only 40 sets with the values shown above. (Only a handful of examples exist of the 1, 2 and 35 heller values and the kronen high values, which are considerable rarities and seldom come on the philatelic market.)



## WORLD WAR I Austrian Occupation

In addition to the two overprinted stamps, it was planned to overprint the 8 heller Austrian fieldpost cards with "Montenegro." In fact, a small quantity was run off as a trial printing before the decision was made not to issue them. A few examples came into philatelic hands, and at least one was actually used on the only day that the stamps were valid for postage.

Cetinje  
1 March 1917

### Trial Overprint on Postal Card



This example of the postal card overprinted "Montenegro" in blue was used to Zagreb with a copy of the 10 heller overprinted occupation stamp. Fewer than five examples of this card have been recorded, of which the exhibitor believes that this is the only one that was used.



**WORLD WAR I**  
**Austrian Occupation**

Andrijevice  
27 July 1917

Berane  
14 September 1917

Cevo  
23 July 1918



Covers from the Etappenpost offices are shown on the ensuing pages in alphabetical order. Some of their postmarks are very elusive, including Cevo.



WORLD WAR I  
Austrian Occupation

Cetinje  
1 March 1917  
30 June 1916

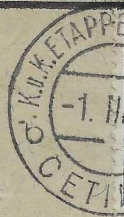
 u. k. Militär-Generalgouvernement in Montenegro.  
Кр. Цр. Поштанско-Телеграфска Станица

Број *Nr.*

Hochw. Herren

D. Mirko Kosutić

Vicepres., d. kgl. Gerichtshofes



Mittwoch  $\frac{5}{14}$ . früh Feldpost  
916.

Baronin Frieder Sternbach



Innsbruck & Tirol  
Margaretenplatz 7.

The Austro-Hungarian military government for Montenegro was established on 1 March 1916. A wide variety of administrative functions were served from the capital, Cetinje.



**WORLD WAR I**  
**Austrian Occupation**

Danilovgrad  
13 February 1917

Djakova  
25 May 1918

Dulcigno (Ulcinj)  
2 January 1918

**K. u. k. Stationskommando Danilovgrad**

Absender:  
Odesitel:  
Nadawca:  
Посылающий:  
Mittente:  
Pošiljatelj:  
Pošiljač:  
Presenter:

Feldpostkorrespondenzkarte.

In der Redaktion des  
**B. Pester Volksblatt**  
**Budapest**

*Ignacz  
Wenczel  
Zgof.  
Danilovgrad  
Montenegro*

*Djakova, 25. 5. 18.*

*Thala na Harti: "Golpu"  
no i sa kalvaluicijom  
slacem sa Trojans pomu  
dom, sauno, kod ku mi lter  
slati. Nagr. Targblatt, ulip  
pimio samo jedan broj.  
Ja ku Ti, po mognuati  
slati ransichts Karte, Kopie  
10 alionai*

**Bericht des k. u. k. Kreiskommandos in PEJA**  
**Expositur in Djakova**  
*Dr. H. Lipnjak olt.*

**2163 K. u. k. Marine-Telegraph Station "Dulcigno"**

*Wann ich persönlich  
im 3. Bureau der Zentralstelle  
ein glückliches Aufgebot habe  
Jede das liebe Gott möge mich  
bald dem sepius sepius finden  
pfandbar. Danken Ihnen herzlich  
für den schönen Hinweis auf das  
und sepius sepius sepius  
32. sepius sepius sepius sepius  
und sepius sepius sepius sepius  
mit der dem sepius sepius  
fabrikation und sepius sepius  
man man sepius sepius sepius  
man man sepius sepius sepius  
und sepius sepius sepius sepius  
und sepius sepius sepius sepius  
K. F. W. 8. 371*

**Lobliche**  
**Zentralstelle für**  
**Soldatenlektüre**  
**IX/4. Cambrinusgasse 16**  
**Wien**

**Dulcigno**  
**-2.1.18**  
**DULCIGNO ULGINO**

**Gospodin**  
**Frau Staric Olt.**

**Bahnkommando**  
**Beograd**

Note that the card from Dulcigno is from the Naval Telegraph Station located there. An unusual usage.



**WORLD WAR I  
Austrian Occupation**

Ipek (Peja)  
20 June 1918

Kolasin  
9 September 1916



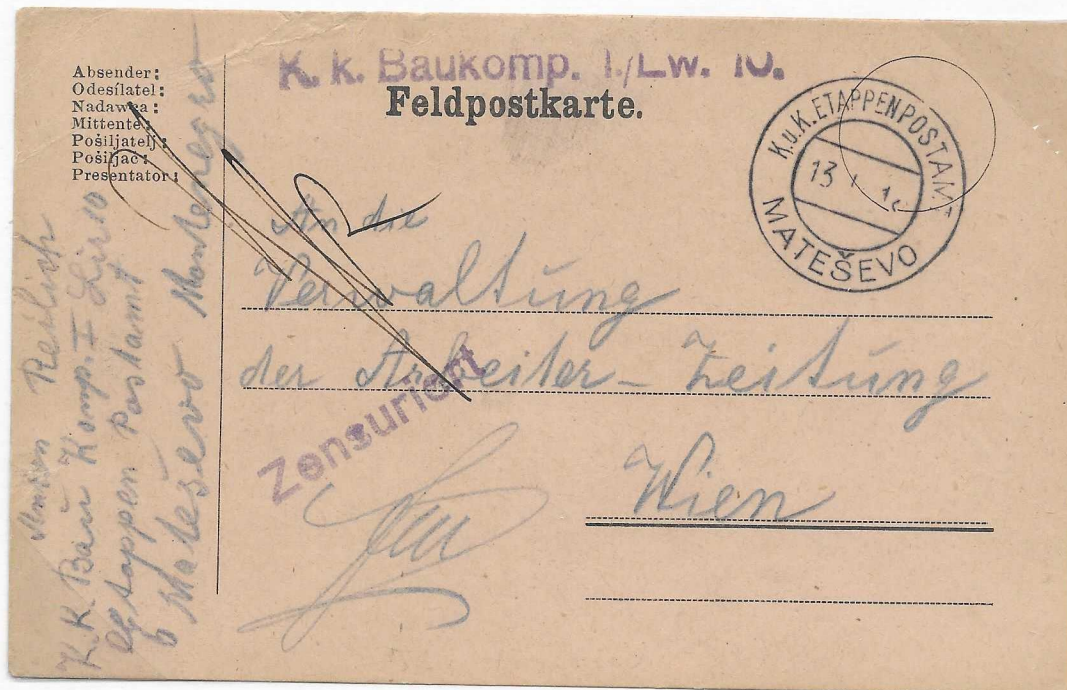
Additional smaller offices were added to the Etappenpost system throughout 1916 and 1917.



**WORLD WAR I  
Austrian Occupation**

Matsevo  
13 February 1918

Niksic  
19 May 1917



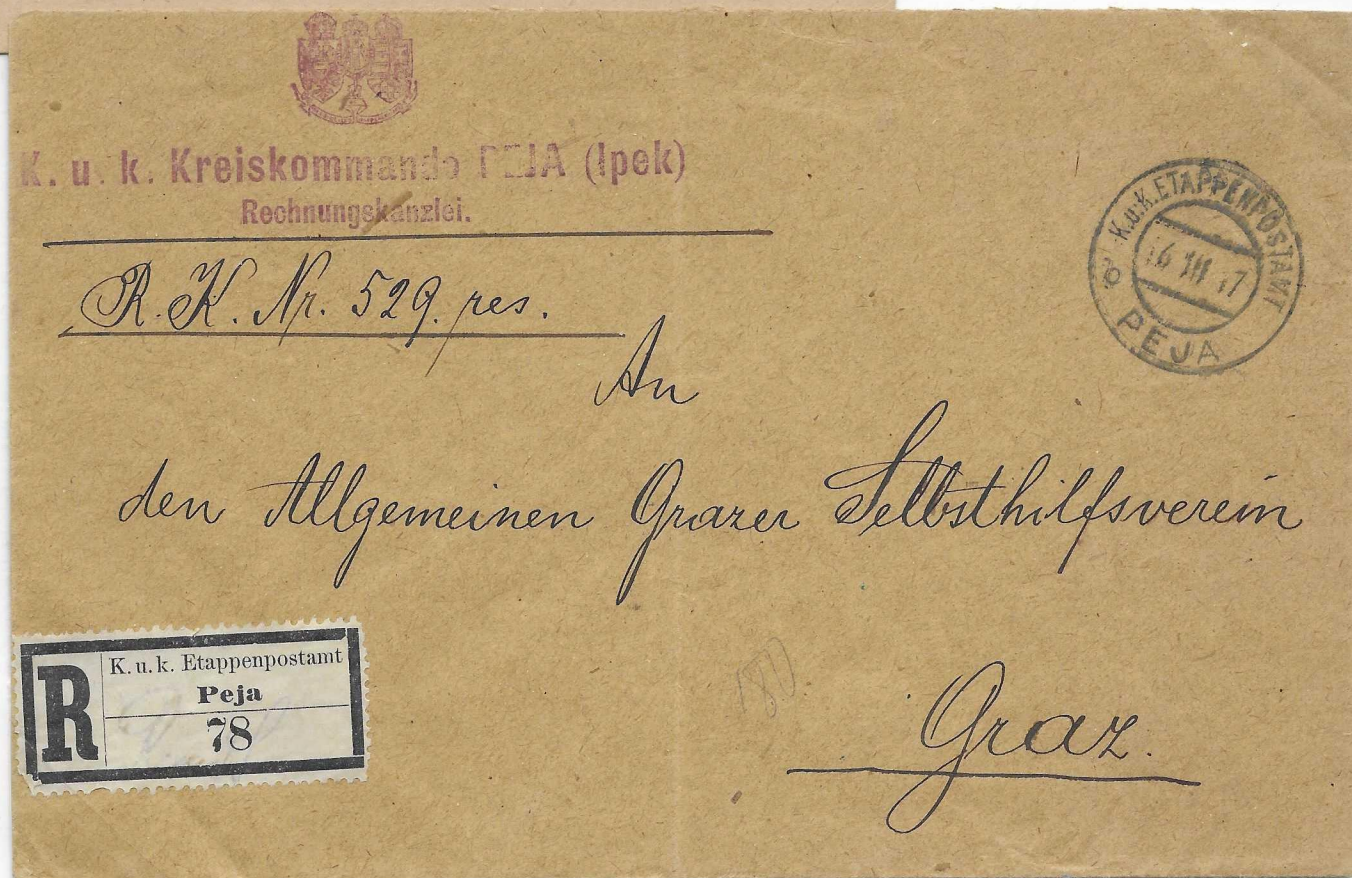
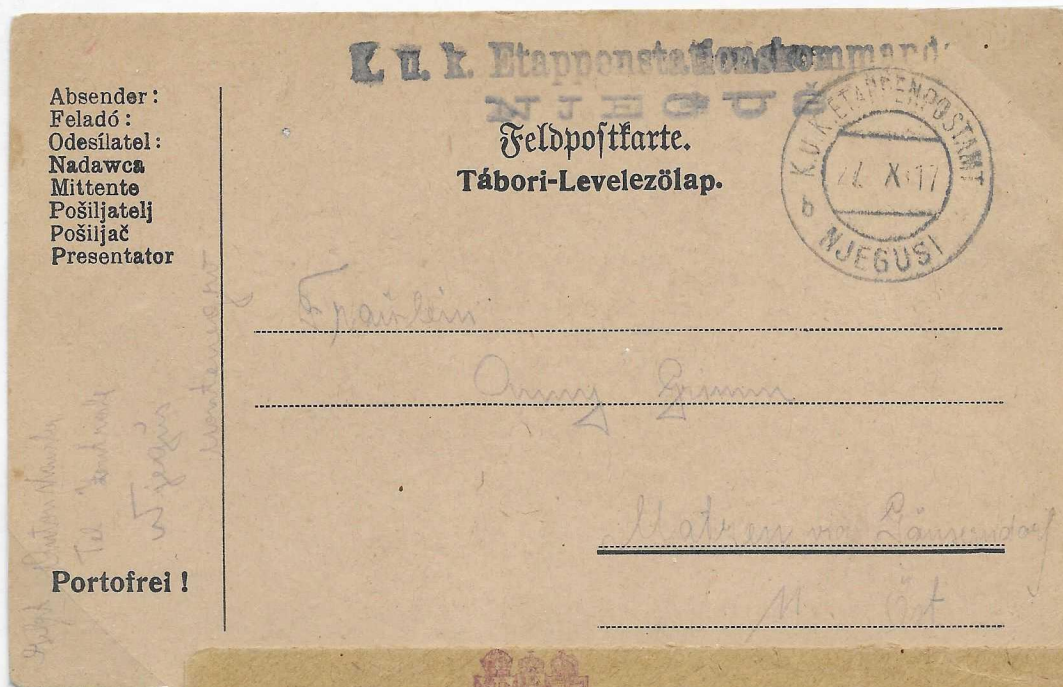
On 11 February 1918, Matsevo was the last Etappenpost office to open in Montenegro. Examples of its postmark are exceedingly elusive and sought after by specialists.



**WORLD WAR I**  
Austrian Occupation

Njegusi  
27 October 1917

Peja  
16 March 1917



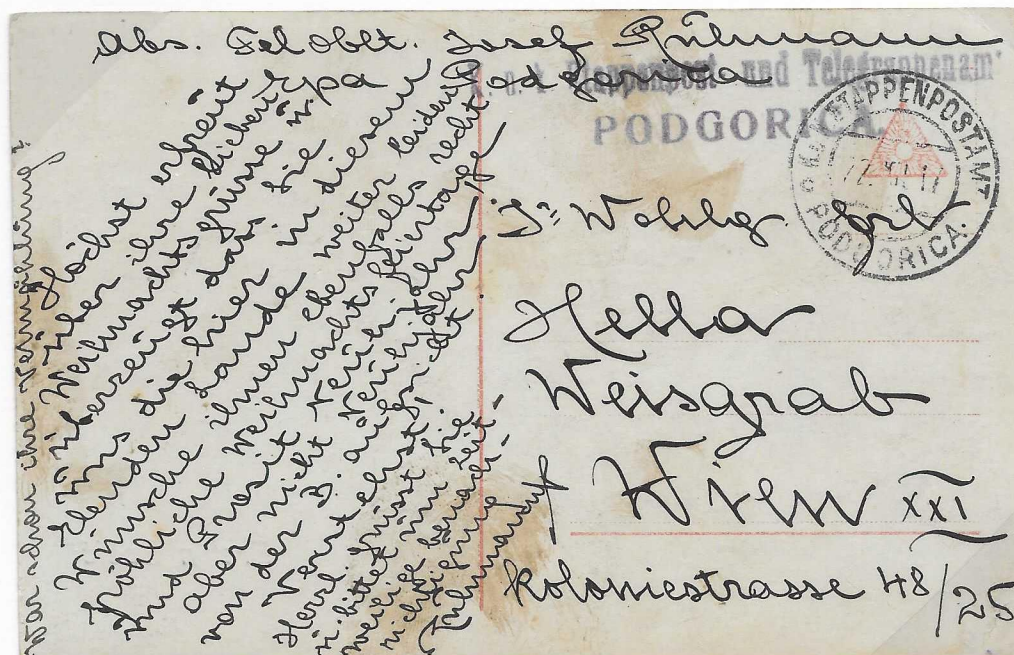
In October 1916, the name of the Etappenpost office in Ipek was changed to Peja (also known as Pec locally). Its postmark in this latter form is very elusive.



**WORLD WAR I**  
**Austrian Occupation**

Plevlje  
27 May 1916

Podgorica  
22 December 1917



Podgorica (renamed Titograd at the end of World War II) is now the capital of Montenegro.



WORLD WAR I  
Austrian Occupation

Rijeka  
20 June 1918

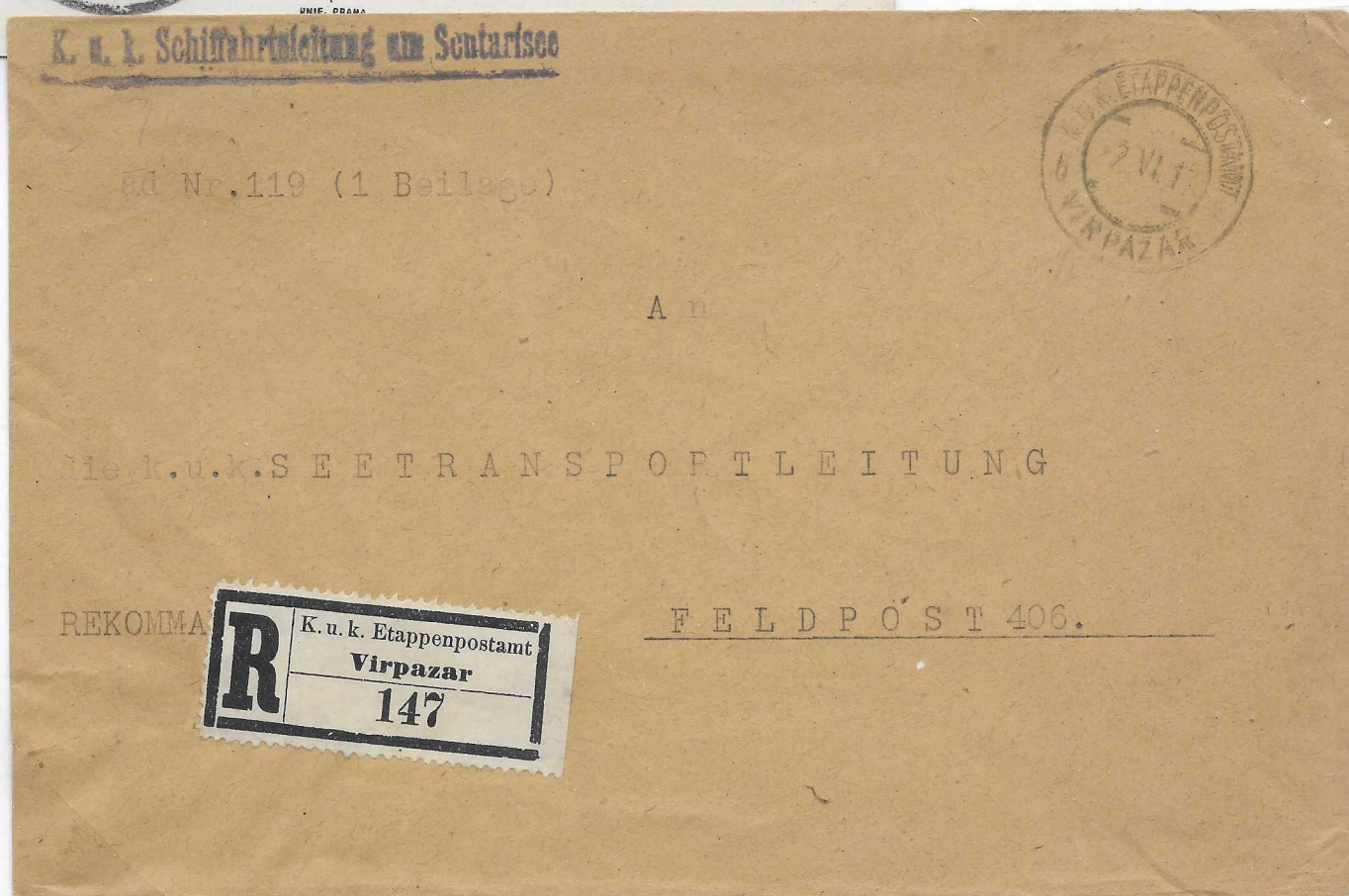
Stari Bar  
1 March 1917



As noted previously, the use of the "Montenegro" overprinted stamps from any of the post offices other than Cetinje is highly unusual.



Virpazar  
2 June 1917



The Ulcinj P.O. was opened in November 1916. However, a few months later the name was changed to Dulcigno. The registered cover from Virpazar originated from the Ship Navigation Administration for Lake Scutari, on the border between Montenegro and Albania.