



A final set of provisionals was issued for Dedeagatch in September 1913. (Above covers are backstamped for arrival in Piraeus on the 24th.) This issue was in use only briefly as Dedeagatch as the city was returned to Bulgarian authority on 1 October 1913 under the terms of the Treaty of Bucharest.

GREECE
Balkan Wars

Kavala
16 July 1913
20 July 1913

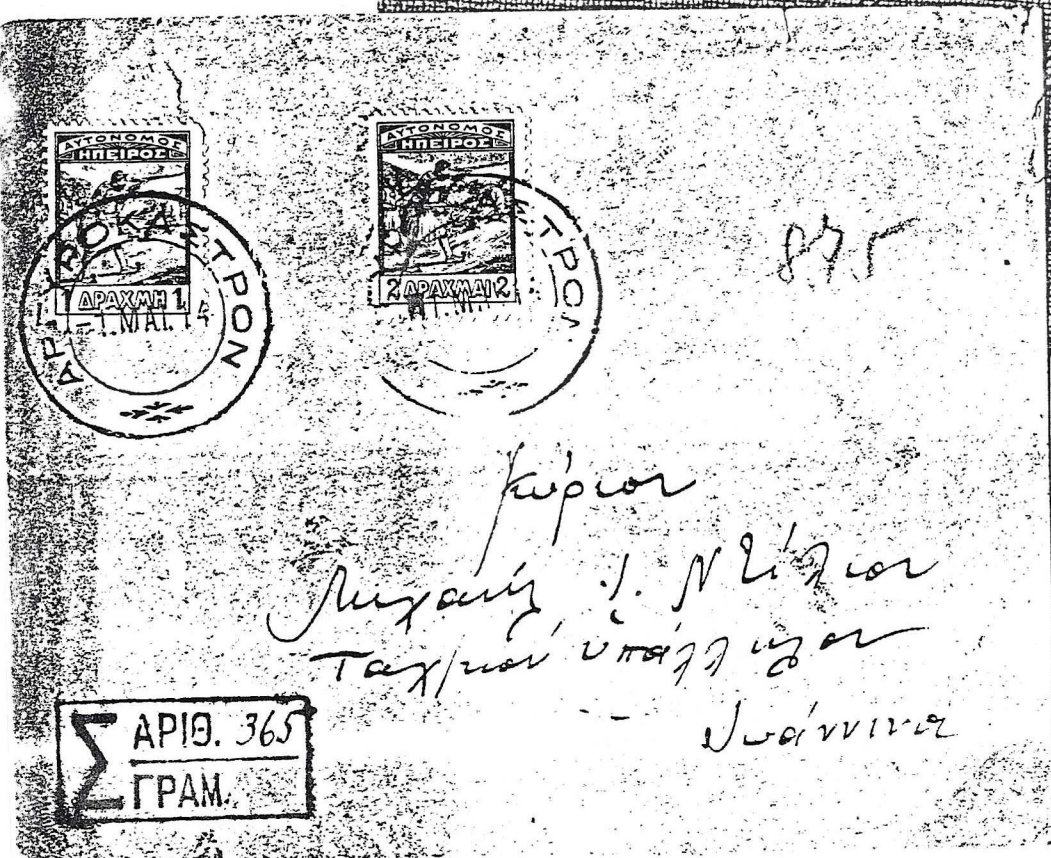


A new type of postmark was introduced in Kavala after the capture of the city from the Bulgarians. The stamp overprinted "Greek Administration/25 lepta" is mentioned in the Michel catalogue as an "illegal" issue but in the confusion of the times, it was accepted -- in this case on a cover backstamped in Piraeus on 11 August.

EPIRUS
Autonomous Republic

Agios Saranta
18 March 1914

Argyrokastro
1 May 1914

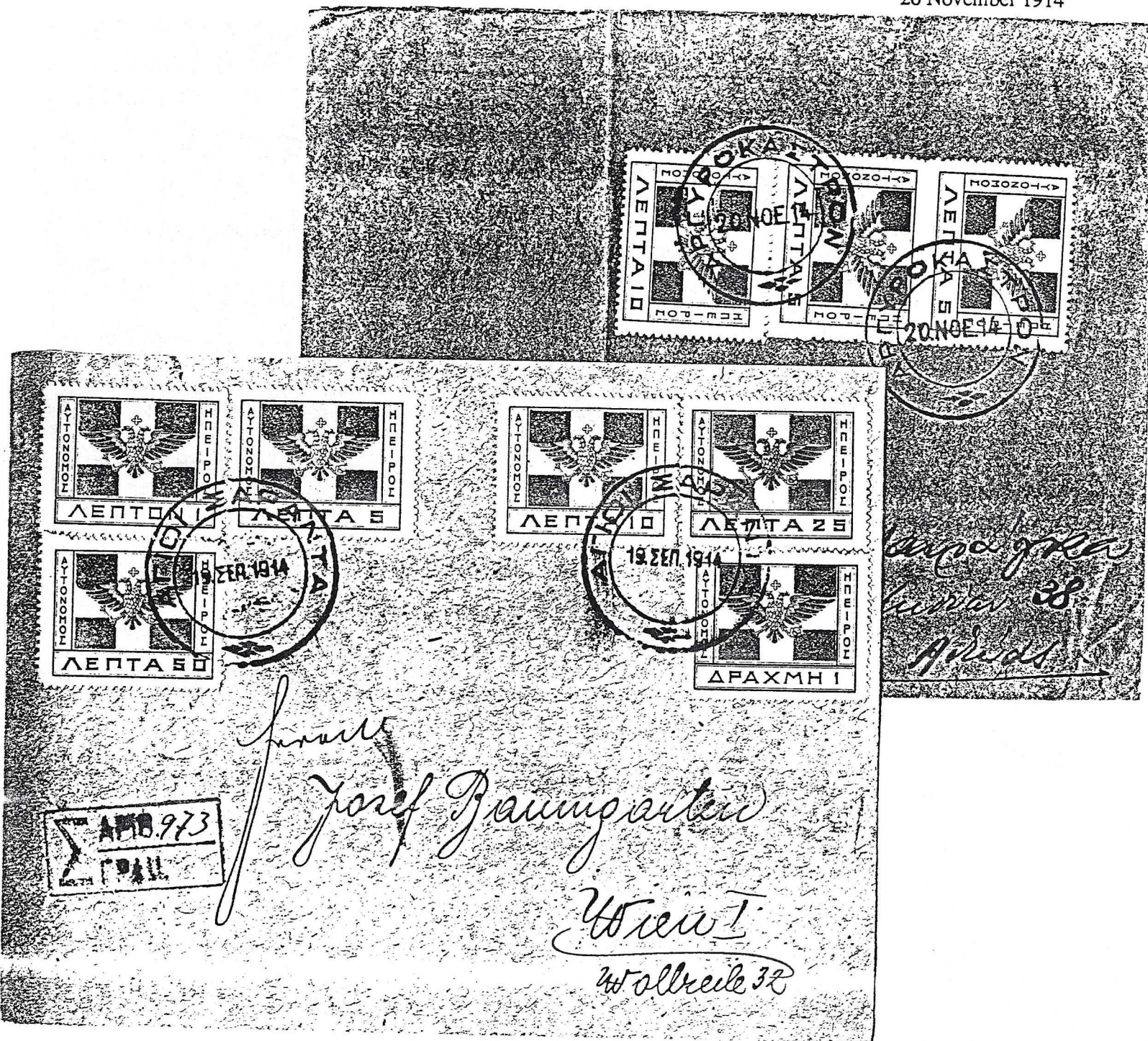


Although the European Powers forced the withdrawal of the Greek army from northern Epirus in December 1913, the ethnic Greek inhabitants did not wish to become a part of Albania. As a result, on 17 February 1914 the Autonomous Republic of Epirus was proclaimed. On 5 March, the first two stamps, inscribed "Epirus," were placed on sale, augmented by six additional denominations inscribed "Autonomous Epirus" three weeks later.

EPIRUS
Autonomous Republic

Agios Saranta
19 September 1914

Argyrokastro
20 November 1914



A second official issue, depicting the flag of the Autonomous Republic, was placed on sale on 28 August 1914. This set had a short life because World War I had broken out and the Allies were fearful of an advance southward by the Central Powers. Thus, they invited the Greek army to return to southern Albania in December 1914. This change led to the replacement of the Republic's stamps by an overprinted Greek issue.

EPIRUS
Autonomous Republic

Koritza
1914

Argyrokastro
6 March 1914

TAXYΔΡΟΜΕΙΟΝ
ΚΟΡΥΤΣΑΣ



Messieurs F. & J. HEIGENLER

18 - Rue du Poignon

BRUXELLES

Belgique

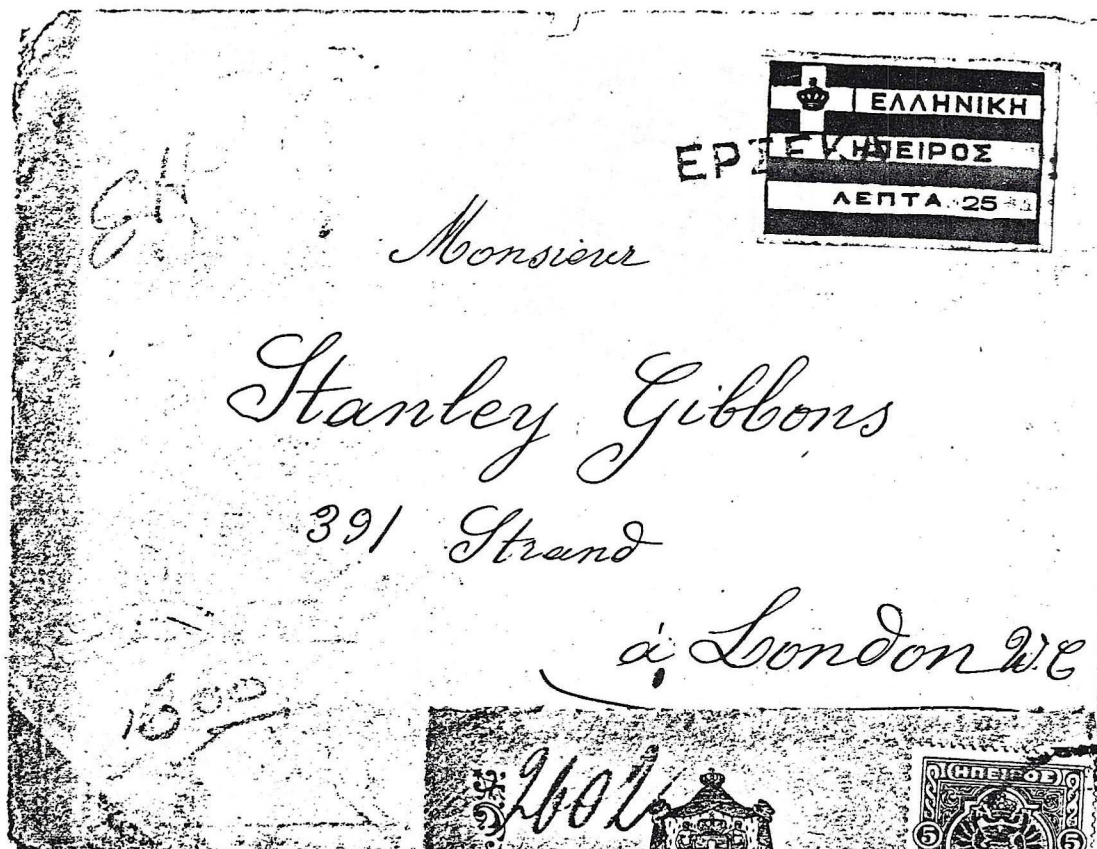


In addition to the official issues of the Autonomous Republic, local issues were prepared in several towns -- with varying claims to legitimacy. Among these issues were Albanian stamps overprinted at Koritza and Greek stamps overprinted at Argyrokastro, both of which read "Autonomous Epirus" and have new values in lepta.

EPIRUS
Autonomous Republic

Erseka
November 1914

Moschopolis
November 1914

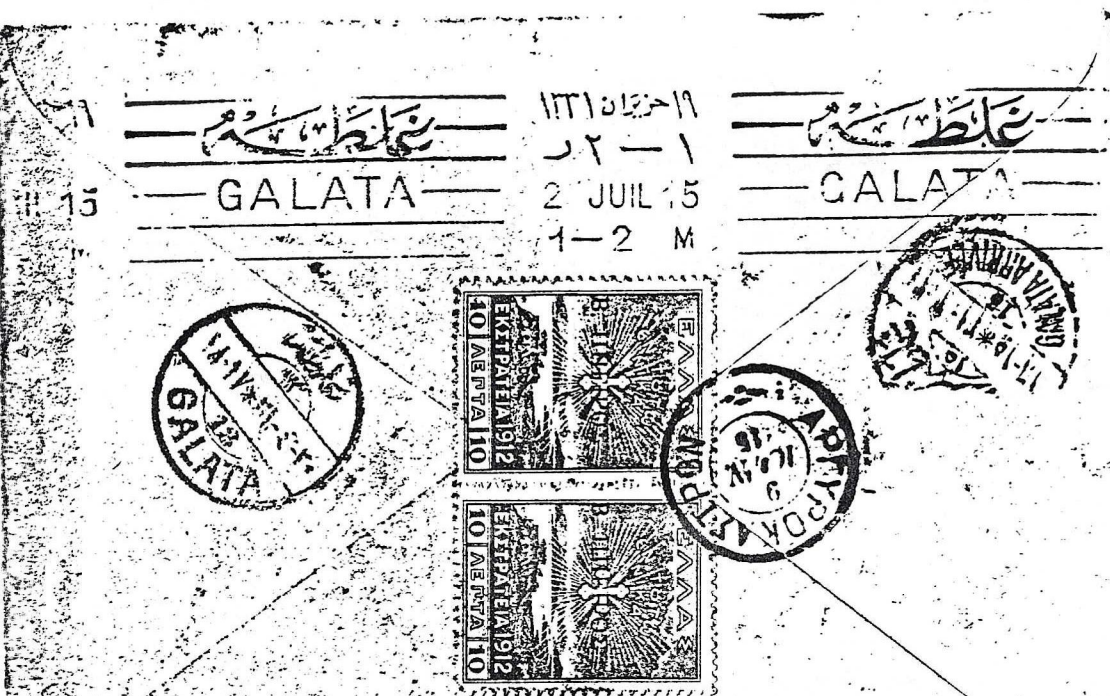


Just prior to the second Greek occupation, several other sets were issued by local authorities. Two of these that are listed in the Vlastos catalogue are from Erseka and Moschopolis. The above covers, both sent to prominent stamp dealers, have a transit mark of Athens dated 17 November and receiving mark of Braunschweig on 27 November, respectively.

EPIRUS
World War I

Argyrokastron
20 November 1914

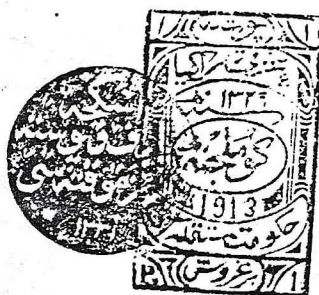
Delvinon
8 March 1916



The second Greek occupation lasted from late 1914 into the fall of 1916, when the Greek troops were replaced with French and Italian forces. Overprints for "Northern Epirus" on the New Greece definitives were introduced on 8 December 1914 in the main towns.

THRACE
Provisional Government

Dede-Agatche
Gumurdjina
Soufli
Xanthi
October 1913

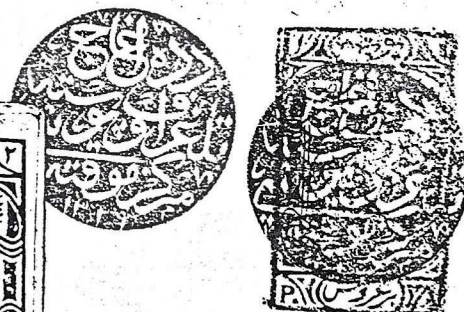
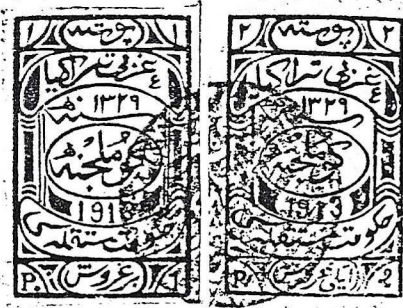


درمادنده
فون فیدره ۱۷
دکانده فون اوبه

Thrace.

Jacques & S. D. GARASSO
GUMULDJINA

M^r
Leon Prouso



16/1/13. Tot. Bank of Salonica



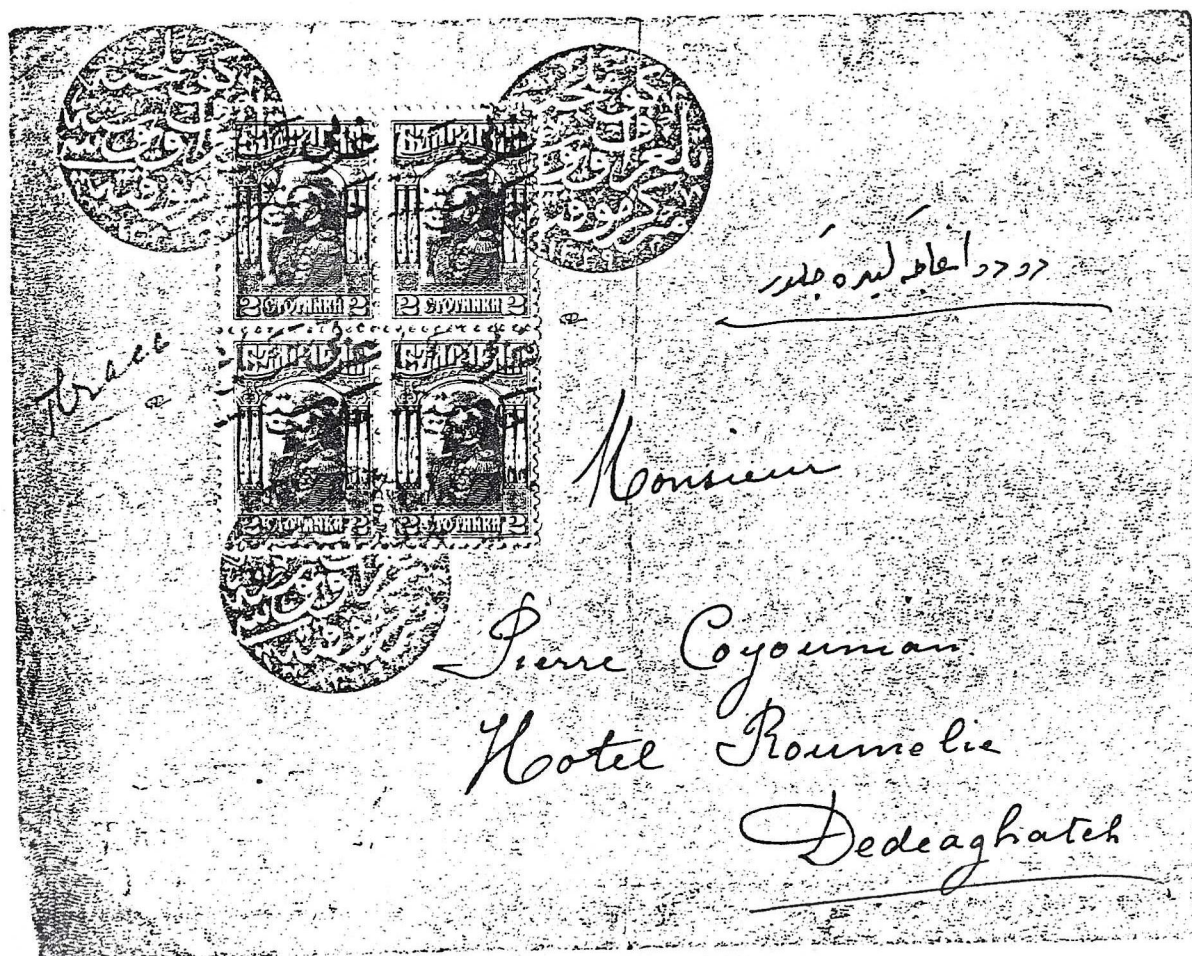
Salonica
Greece

Italienne

Smyrne

With the withdrawal of the Bulgarian forces from western Thrace following their defeat in the Second Balkan War, the Moslem inhabitants declared an autonomous regime on 10 October 1913. Provisional stamps were used briefly in four of the towns. However, in due course the territory was divided between Bulgaria and Greece.

Imprinted envelopes are backstamped for receipt in Galata (Turkey) and the Italian post office abroad in Smyrna. The Thracian stamps on cover to Salonica were not recognized by the Greeks, so postage due was assessed.



In addition to the imprinted stamps, the local authorities also overprinted such supplies of Bulgarian and Greek stamps which were found in the post offices with appropriate inscriptions of the provisional regime and new values in Turkish currency (paras and piastres).

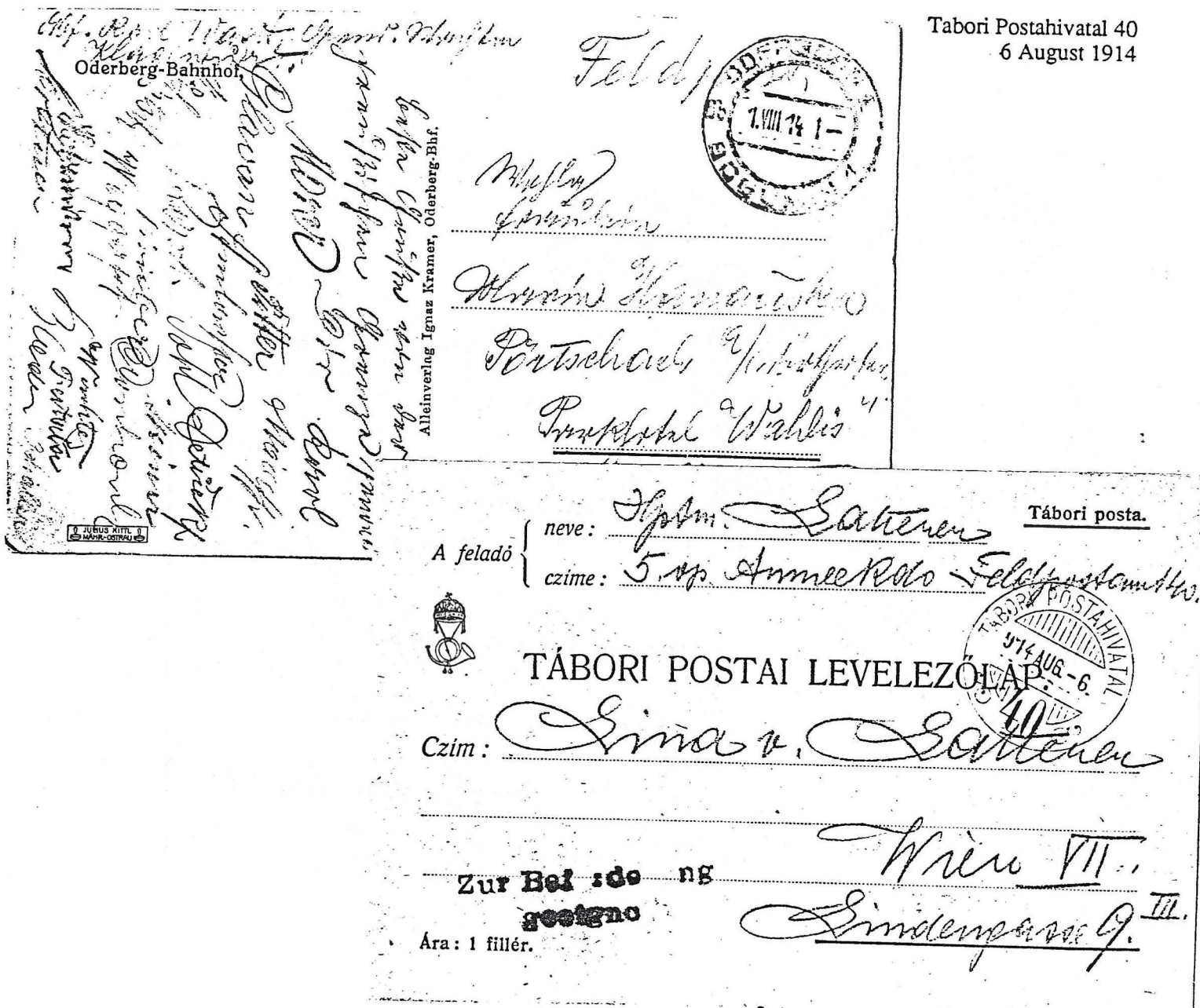
Note that upper right stamp in the block used on this cover did not receive the "20 para" surcharge.

SERBIA

Austro-Hungarian Invasion

Oderberg
1 August 1914

Tabori Postahivatal 40
6 August 1914



The area had barely calmed down following the Balkan Wars when World War I began. It was triggered by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne, by a Serbian gunman in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914. In retribution, Austria-Hungary made a number of political demands on Serbia which, when they were not met, led to the declaration of war on 28 July 1914.

Based on long-standing mobilization planning, the field post service was to be activated in four days. Thus, the card dated 1 August represents the first day of free mail for the military forces (two days before the ERD in the Clement handbook). Initially, military cards and letters were put into the mail stream at the nearest civil post office. Field post cancellations were introduced in the ensuing weeks; lower card is the earliest example of an FPO marking -- in this case a Hungarian version -- (dated twelve days before the ERD in Clement).

SERBIA
Austro-Hungarian Invasion

Tabori Postahivatal 40
13 August 1914

Feldpostamt Nr. 306
29 October 1914

Tabori Postahivatal 151
16 November 1914

A feladó { neve: *Hptm. Satterer*
czime: *5. op. Armeekommando, Feldpost 40.*

Tábori posta.

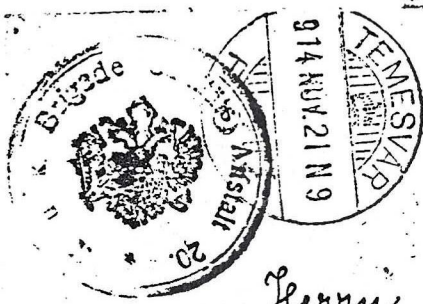
TÁBORI POSTAI LEVELEZŐLAP.

Czím: *Mme Simon Satterer*

Zur Beförderung
geeignet
5. O. A. K.
Ara: 1 fillér.

Feldpost-
Correspondenz-
Zur Beförderung geeignet
An }
Gosp. }

Na Gorodora Gornja
Jerkovica Gelo gornja surva
Z. P. Bos. Krupa
Zelm brzi odgor
ces



Herrn

Paul Alexandrovits.

Imperial

Ungarn



From their bases in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Austro-Hungarian forces invaded Serbian territory on 12 August 1914. Upper card from FPO 40 is a very early example of mail from the southern front, showing censor mark of the 5th Army high command. Bosnian postal card was privately overprinted for field post usage and mailed from FPO 306 at Rogatica, Bosnia. Use of old Serbian stamp on military cover created an attractive souvenir.

SERBIA

Austro-Hungarian Invasion

Ljesnica

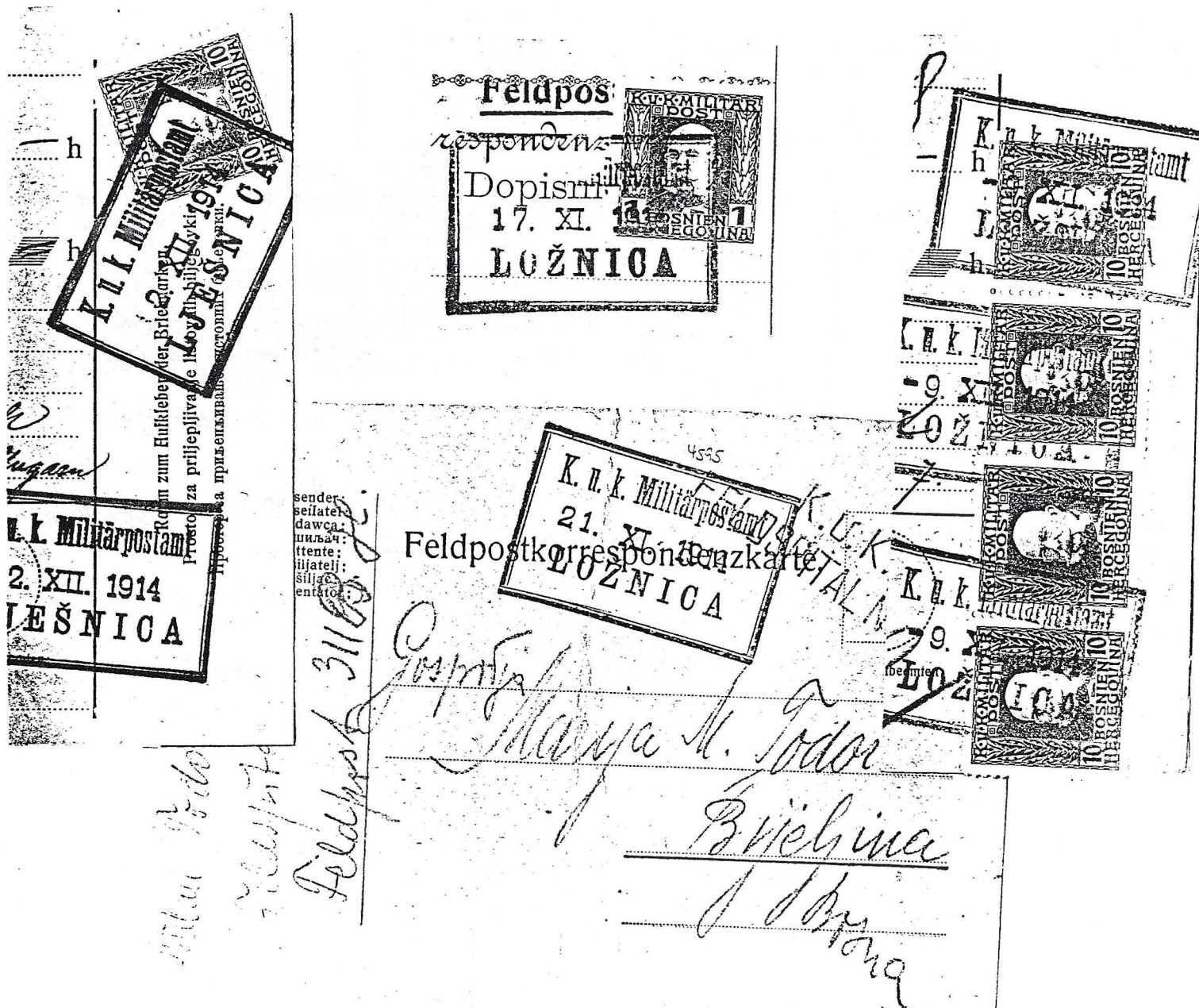
2 December 1914

Loznica

17 November 1914

21 November 1914

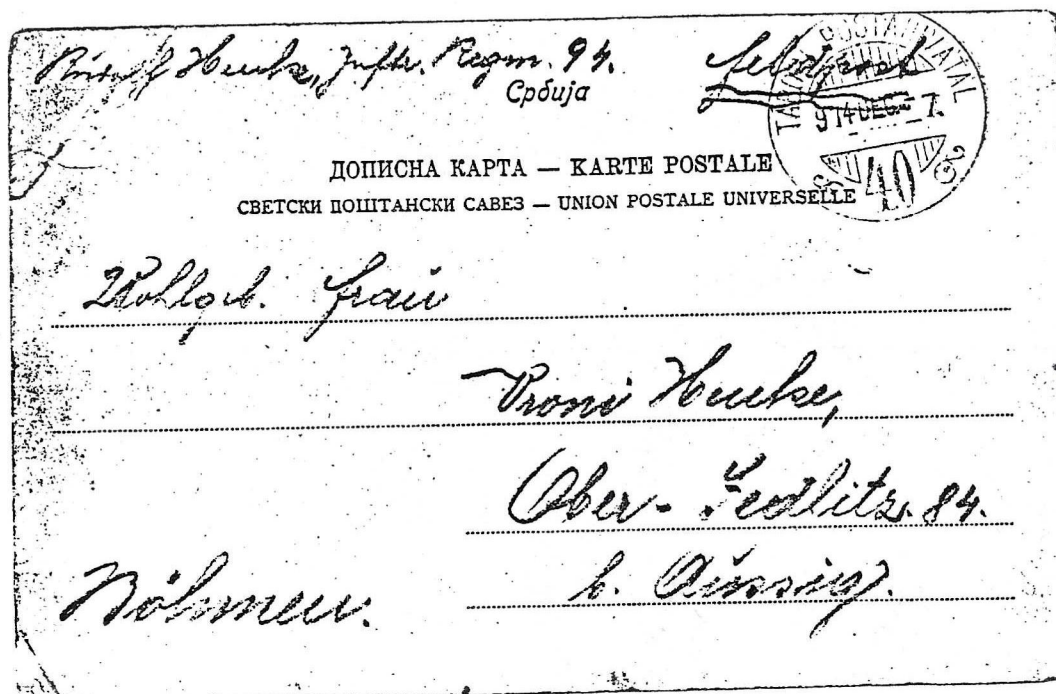
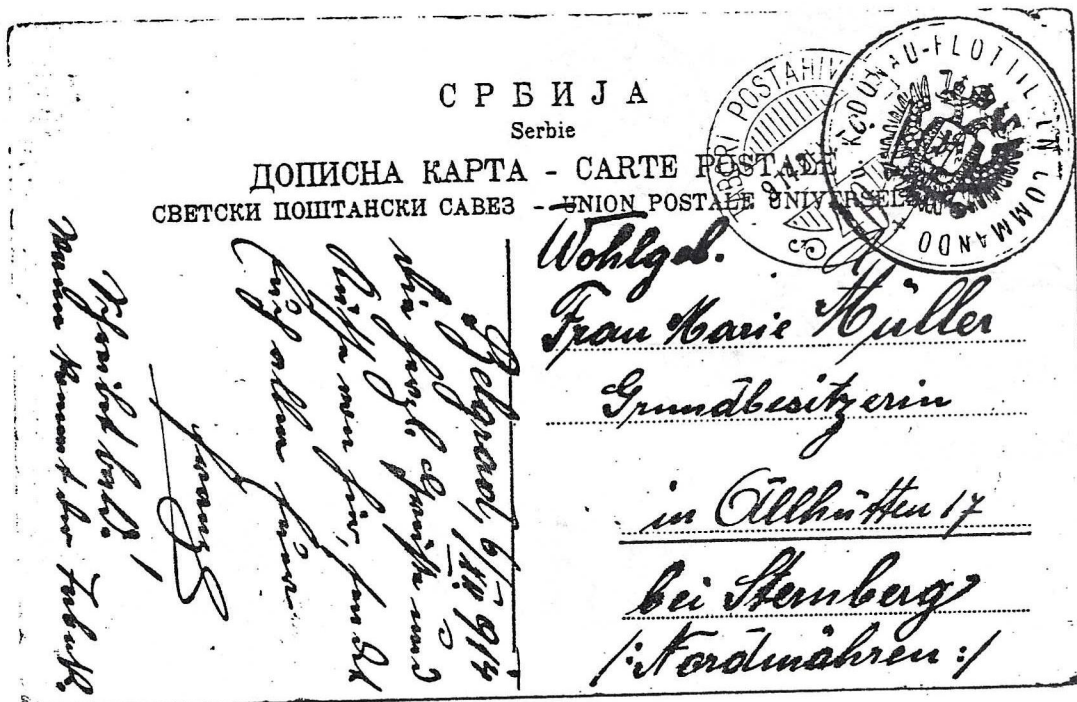
9 December 1914



Although the first Austrian invasion turned out to be unsuccessful, two of the occupied towns across the Drina River did receive provisional cancels and used Bosnian stamps. Loznica was located at road junction seven km. inside Serbia; Clement states that its postmark was used for three weeks. Shown above are the earliest and latest dates recorded. Ljesnica is located 16 km. further along the highway to Belgrade; its postmark is stated by Clement to have been used for "only a few days."

SERBIA
Austro-Hungarian Invasion

Tabori Postahivatal 40
6 December 1914
7 December 1914



The Austrians also attacked across the Danube and captured Belgrade on 2 December 1914. However, the first occupation lasted only thirteen days. Faced with Serbian counterattacks, the onset of winter and the lack of reinforcements as all available troops had been sent north to deal with the Russian invasion of Galicia, a decision was made to withdraw from Serbia for the time being.

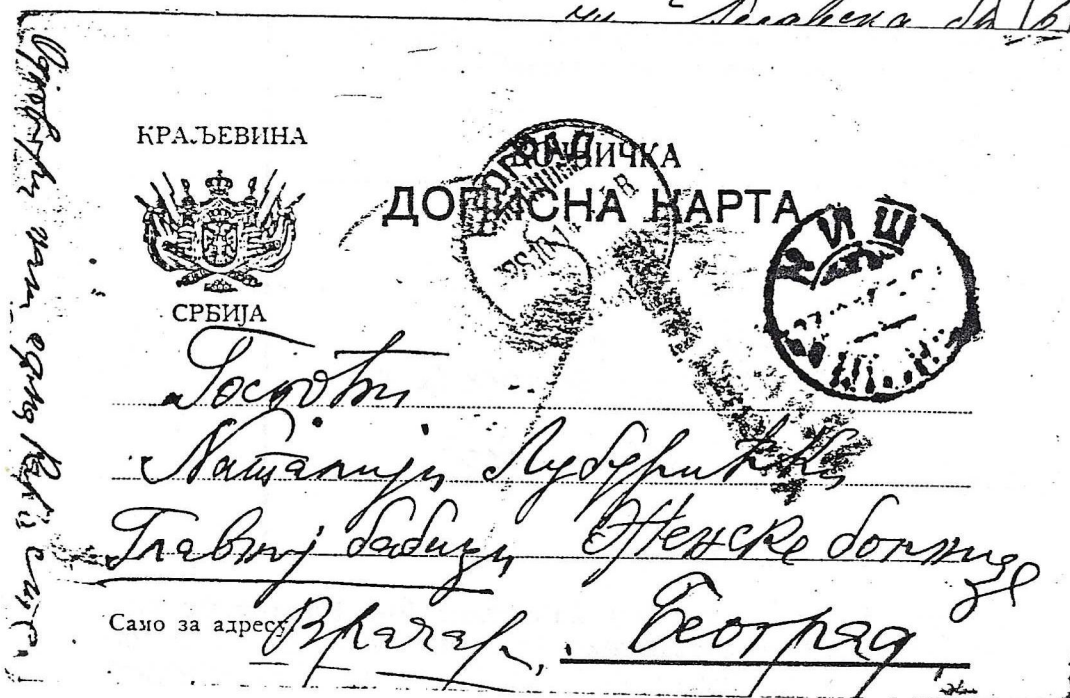
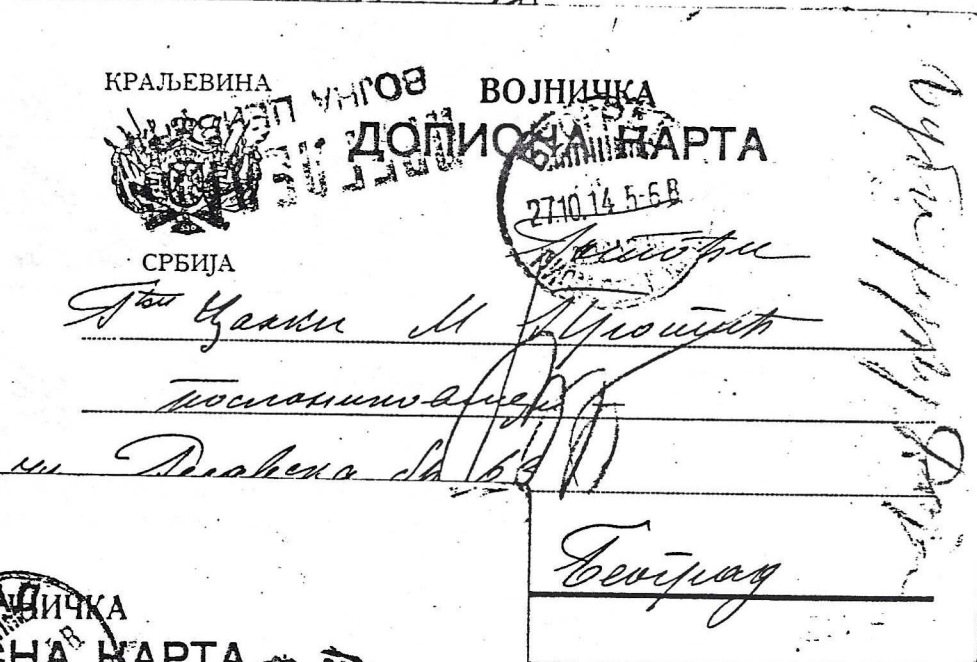
Mail sent by the troops in Belgrade during the first occupation is very elusive, with only a few examples known.

SERBIA
World War I

Skoplje
6 October 1914

Belgrade
27 October 1914

Nish
27 October 1914



After the Austrian attack, the Serbians reinstituted the field post service which they had used in the Balkan Wars, including the use of special imprinted military postal cards.

SERBIA
World War I

Novi Pazar
25 October 1915

Vojna Posta/Timok Div.
9 April 1915

ДОПИСНА КАРТА
СРПСКИХ РАТНИКА

КРАЉЕВИНА



СРБИЈА

Госпођи
Мари Јанковић
Замаштиска Улица
90 Касарне
"Београд"
Београд
Замаштиска, улица до

КУПОН

Износ упутнице у цифрама

Динара 18 пара 40

Поштом на надлежство

И. Меша, пуш

И. Меша

Варошке војске

Број 10209

дан 7-IV-1915

у Београду



Жиг поште која је упутница уплаћена

СРБИЈА



ЗВАНИЧНА ПОШТАНСКА УПУТНИЦА

На суму од 18 дин. 40 пара у Београду

И СЛОВИМА:

Осамнаест и 40 динара у Београду

ДА СЕ ПЛАТИ

Крушевачком гареском Одељењу

у Крушевцу



Дн. касе № 96 важи 08.10.1915 дин. 40 пара у Београду

Датум

Место предаје

Потпис званичника

(ПМ 36-6.)

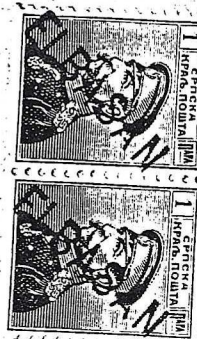
Отвара се сечењем изнад свих линија

The Serbs enjoyed a brief respite in early 1915 as the Austrians prepared their forces for a second assault. Use of money order envelope by soldier to send 18.40 dinars to addressee in Krouchevatz is unusual; postmark "Military Post/Timok Division" is very unusual.

SERBIA
World War I

Tirana
September 1915

Elbassan
25 September 1915



RECOMMANDE
BOJNA CENZURA
PREPLEDALA
monieur Ph. Fresca
Najprvi Elbassan Skoplje

When the Serbian army was defeated by the combined effort of Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian and German forces in the 1915 campaign, it retreated to the Adriatic Coast in Albania. Initially, mail was handled using Serbian stamps and temporary postmarks showing only the name of the town. Tirana cover has previously unrecorded censor marking of Qukes and receiving postmark of Debar. Elbassan cover has local censor mark; it was sent to Skoplje but could not be delivered there and was returned to Elbassan on 3 October.