MARIENWERDER
British Forces

Field Post Office H.2.
23 March 1920
16 April 1920



Allied administrators arrived in Marienwerder on 17 February 1920 to conduct the plebiscite. The vote, held on 11 July, favored Germany and the officials left soon thereafter. FPO H.2. at Danzig handled mail of the British troops, but a special cachet was applied reading "Allied Administrative Commission/Marienwerder/East Prussia."

MARIENWERDER
French Forces

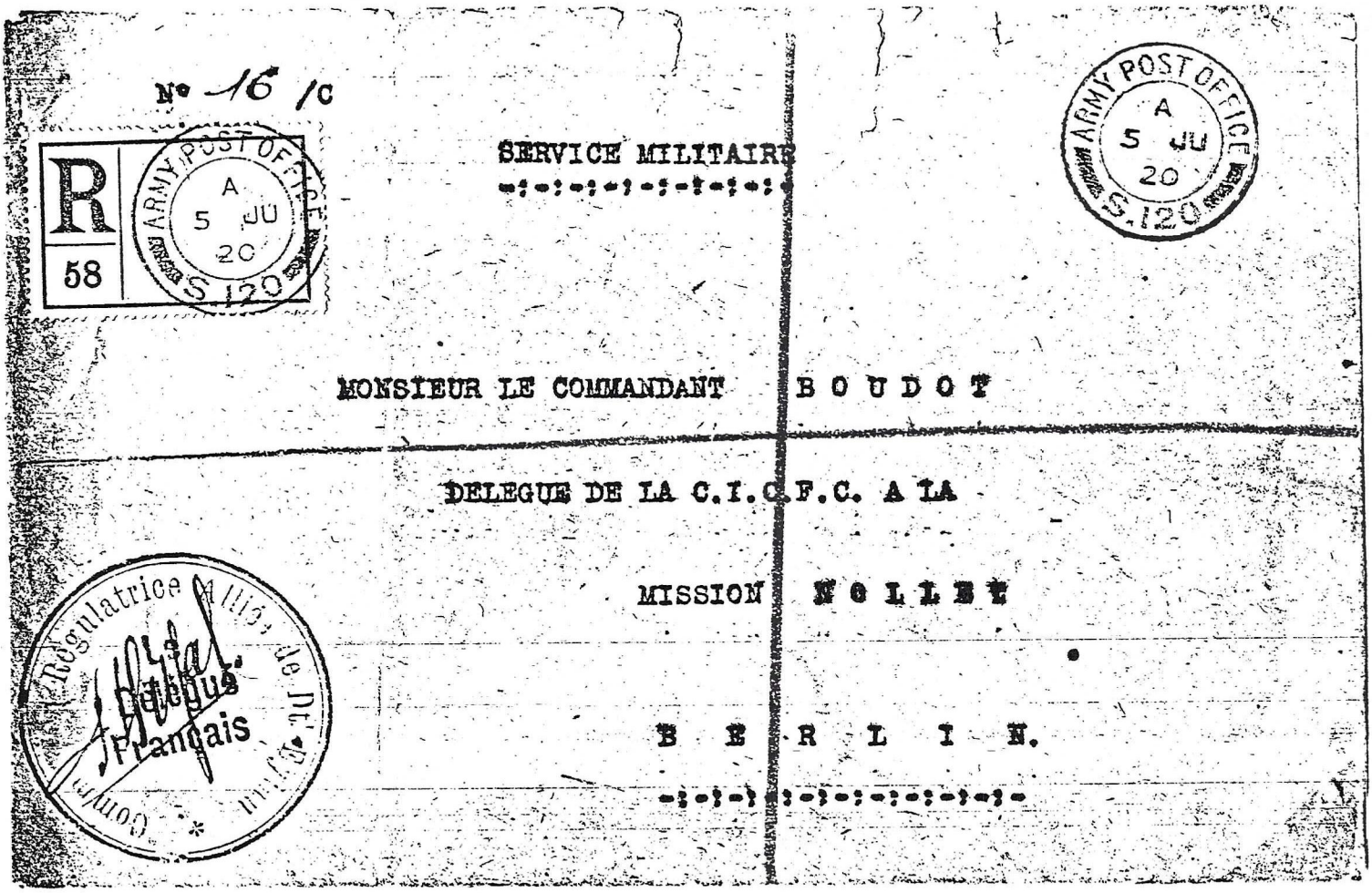
Grosskrebs
14 June 1920



The French presence in Marienwerder was limited to the plebiscite commission staff and guard. Thus, no military postal facilities were necessary. Above cover was used for official business of the Marienwerder Plebiscite Commission and sent free of postage to Danzig.

MARIENWERDER
French Forces

Army Post Office S.120
5 June 1920

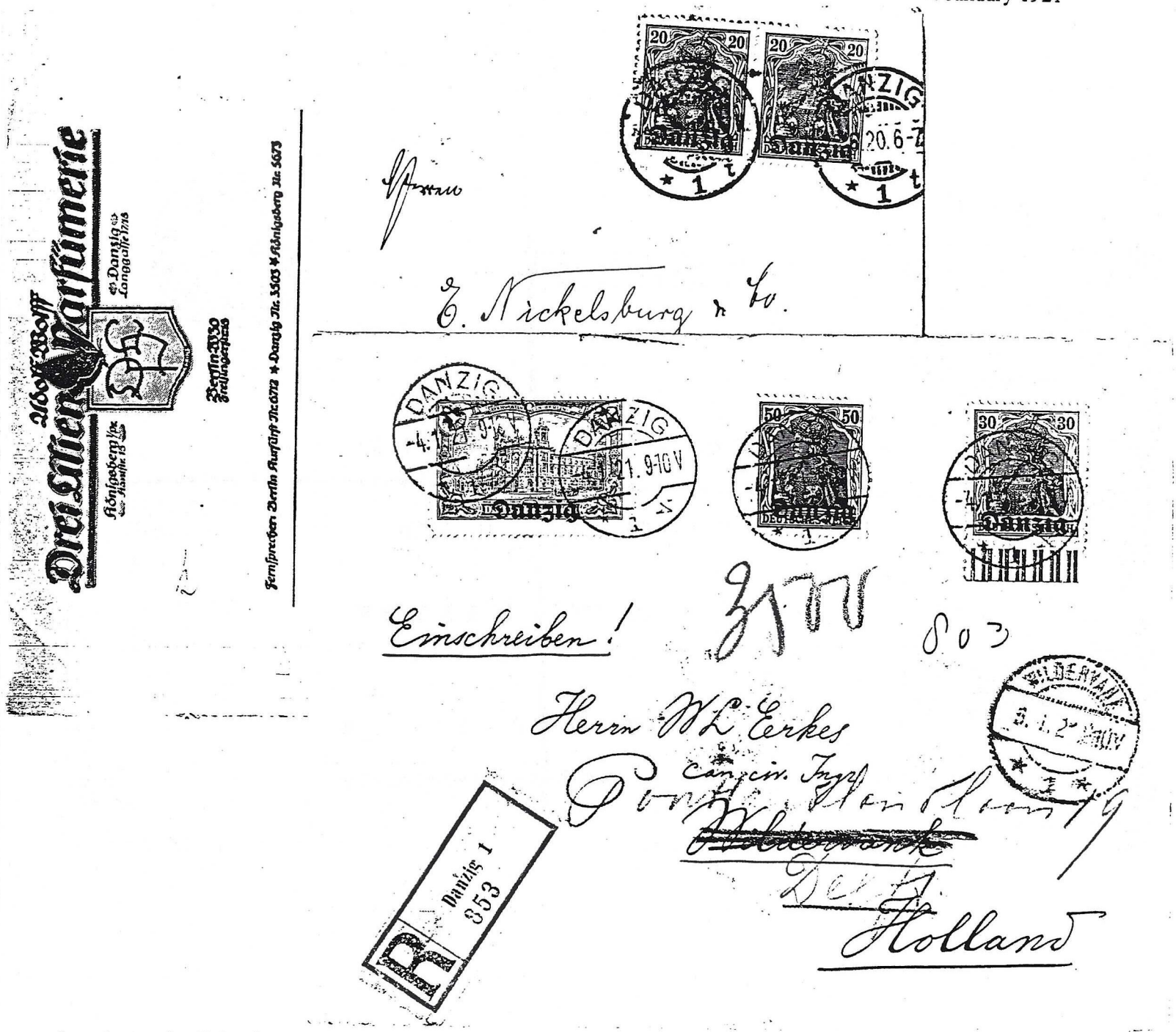


Cover sent by the French Delegate to the Allied Regulatory Commission in Deutsch-Eylau and addressed to the French Delegate on the Inter-Allied Railway Commission in Berlin. Forwarded via the British APO in Marienwerder. Backstamped at FPO W.2. in Danzig on 5 June.

DANZIG

Free City

Danzig
28 June 1920
4 January 1921



In order to give Poland access to a port on the Baltic Sea, the Allies decided to create the Free City of Danzig with the Poles being given certain economic rights. The area was officially detached from Germany on 10 January 1920. The first stamps for Danzig were overprints on the Germania series issued on 14 June.

Commercial cover from a perfumery sent only two weeks after issuance and registered cover to Holland early the following year show use of the overprints.

DANZIG
Free City

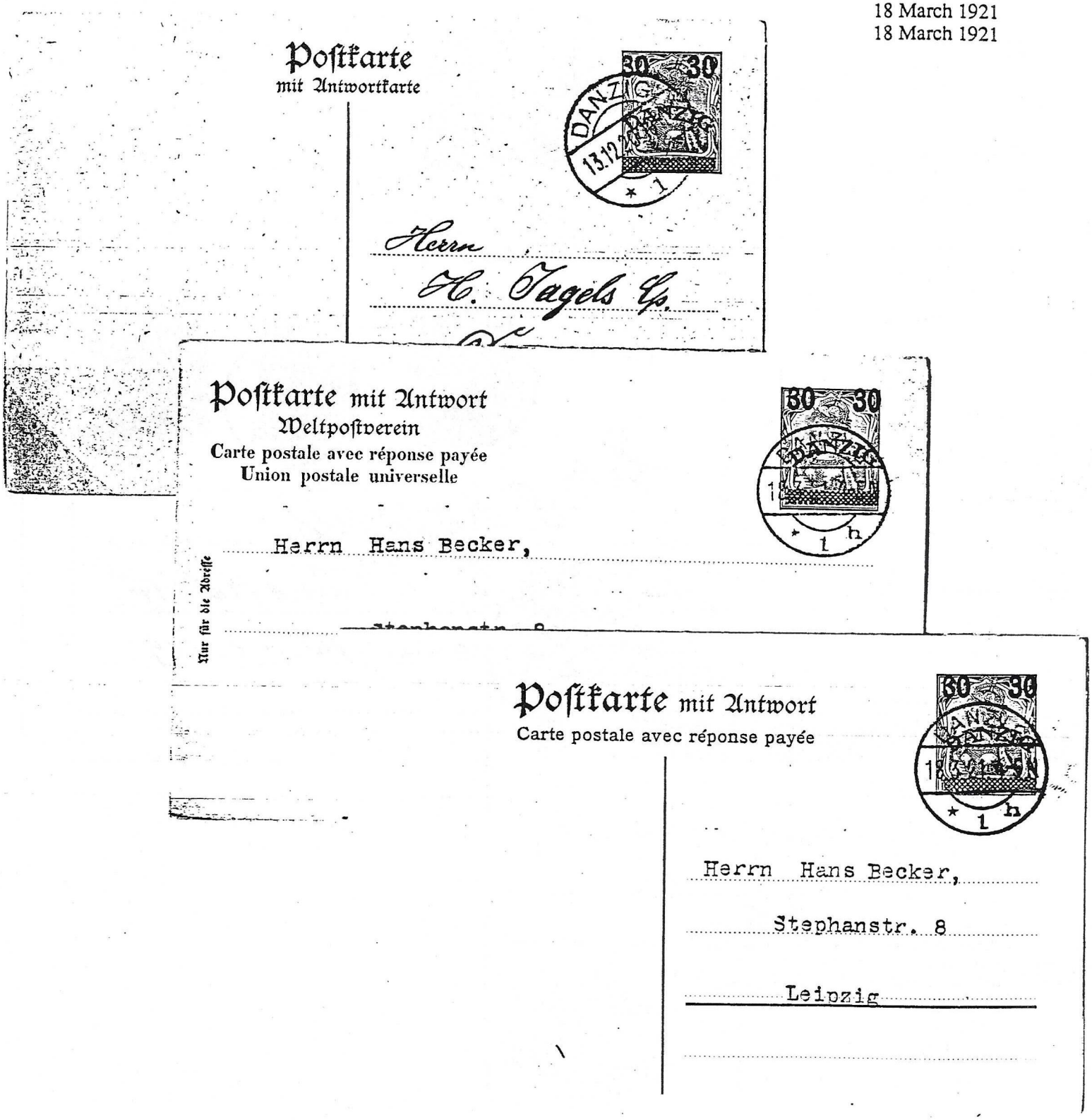
Danzig
21 June 1920
6 July 1920
21 July 1920



Overprints were also applied to Germania postal stationery. Above are examples of a postal card with attached reply, letter card and money order card. The latter is a very elusive item used, and only two examples have been recorded. (Note that missing stamp has been replaced with photocopy).

DANZIG
Free City

Danzig
13 December 1920
18 March 1921
18 March 1921



With all of the overprinting activity, a few German cards left over from earlier printings were overprinted along with the current versions. Shown is the standard 30 pf. card with attached reply as well as two of the obsolete types. **According to Michel, only this single used example of each of the latter cards exists.**

DANZIG
Free City

Danzig-Langfuhr
9 March 1921

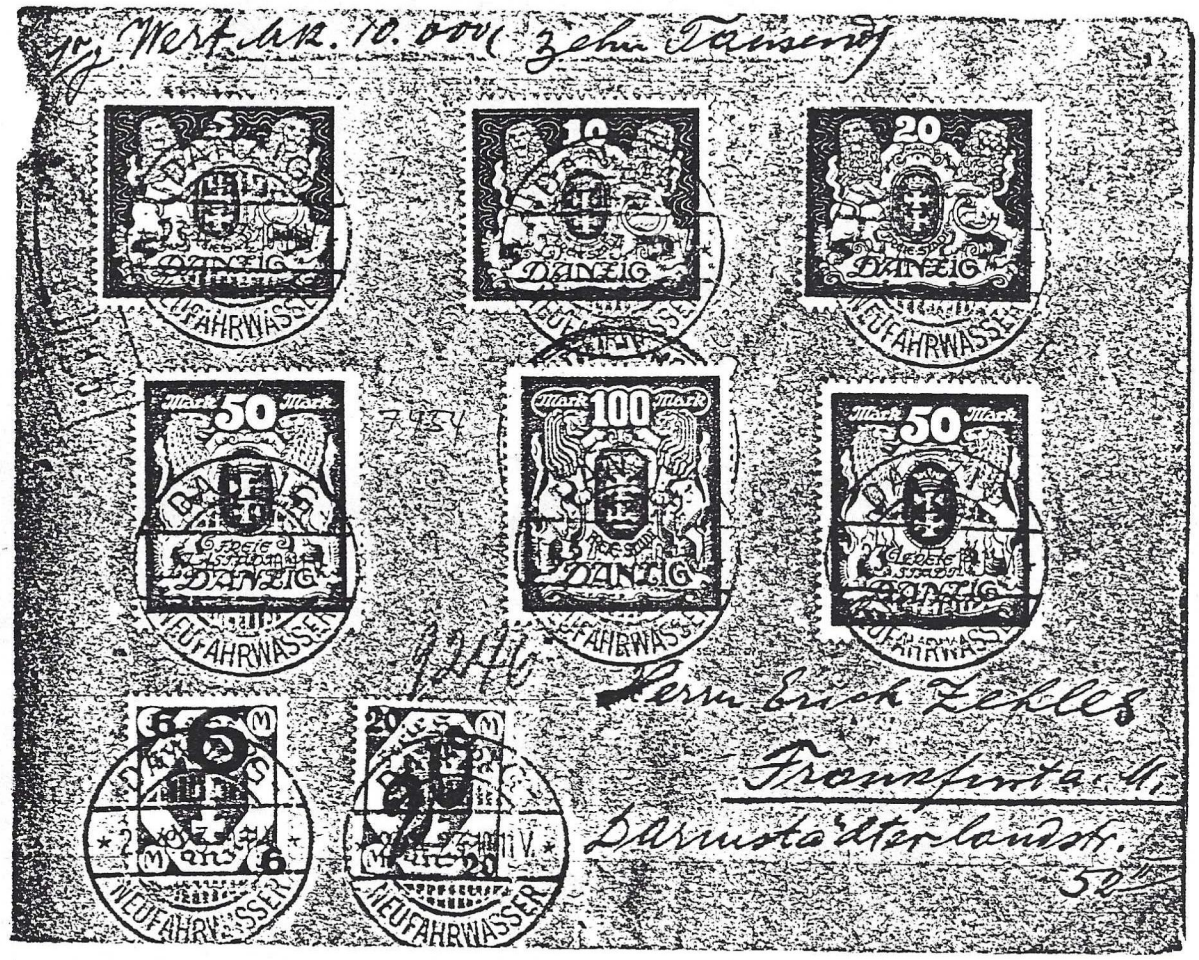
Danzig
18 March 1921



The first definitives for Danzig were a set showing a Kogge (an armed merchant ship from the Middle Ages) issued on 31 January 1921 to commemorate the official proclamation of the Free City.

DANZIG
Free City

Danzig-Neufahrwasser
23 April 1923

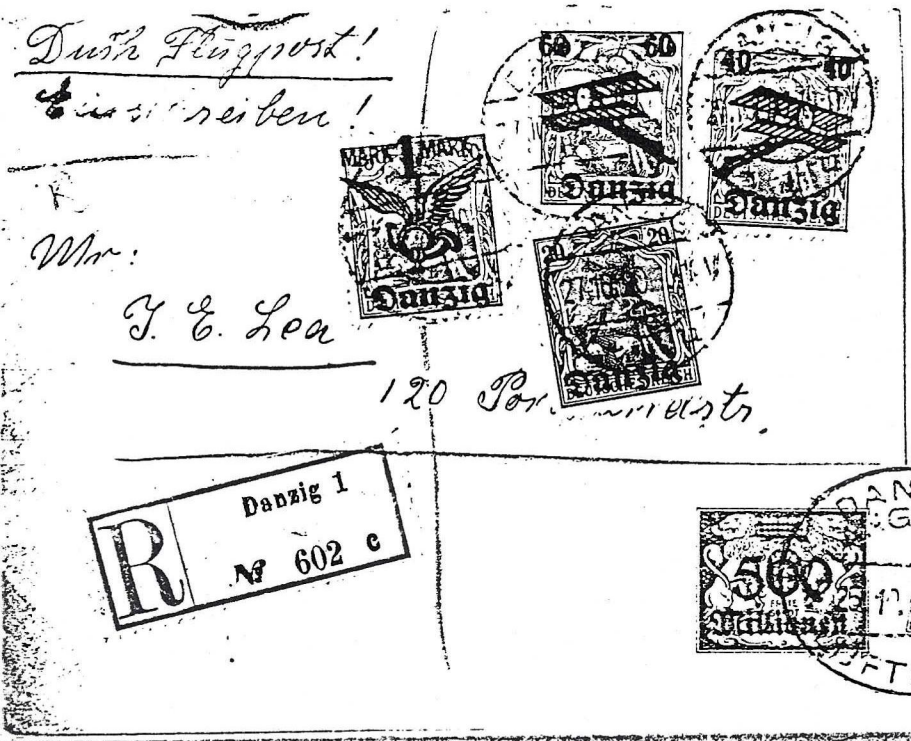


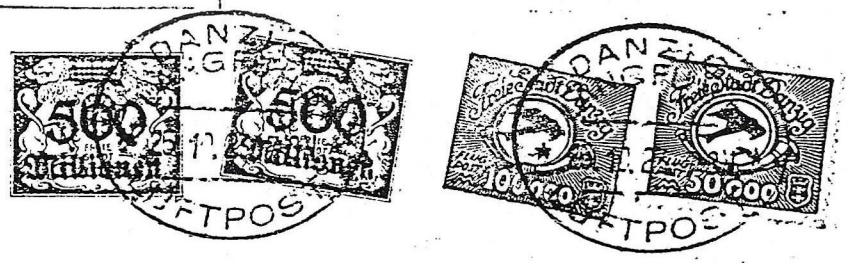
Inflation continued to escalate into 1922, necessitating the issuance of new stamps in ever higher denominations. Perhaps the most striking of these were the 50 and 100 mark values printed in gold-tinted ink and issued in March and October of 1922.

DANZIG
Free City

Danzig
27 October 1920

Danzig-Langfuhr
25 October 1923
28 October 1923







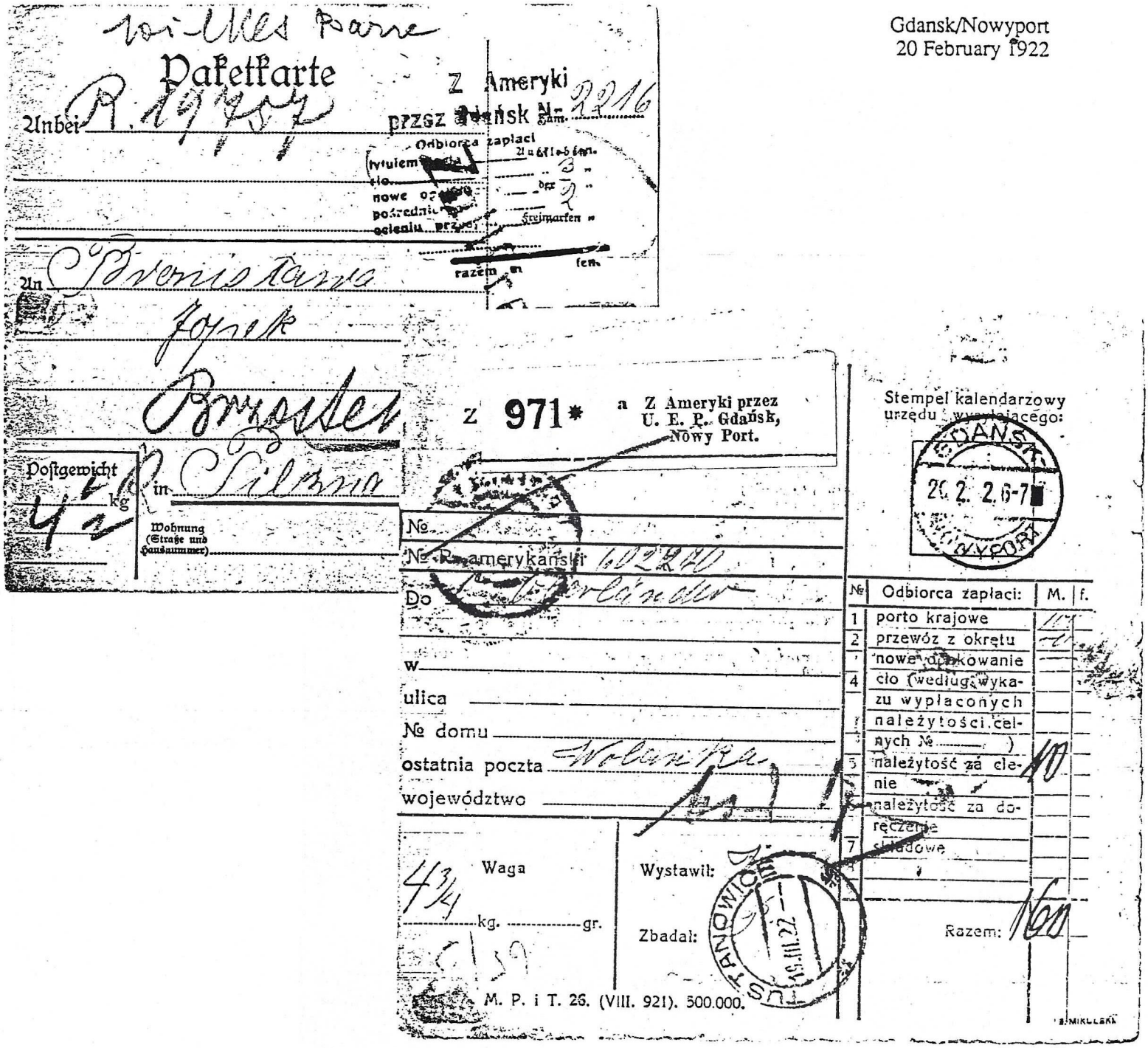
Airmail service to Germany proper and to foreign destinations was in high demand. This led to the issuance to the first set of three airmails, as overprints on Germania stamps, on 29 September 1920.

During the rapid inflation, four high value airmails were issued (shown on the lower cover), two as denominated and two surcharged with higher values because the printed denominations had become worth so little. Interestingly, examples of unsurcharged remainders of the latter were placed on the upper cover as souvenirs.

DANZIG
Polish Port Office

Gdansk
May 1920

Gdansk/Nowyport
20 February 1922



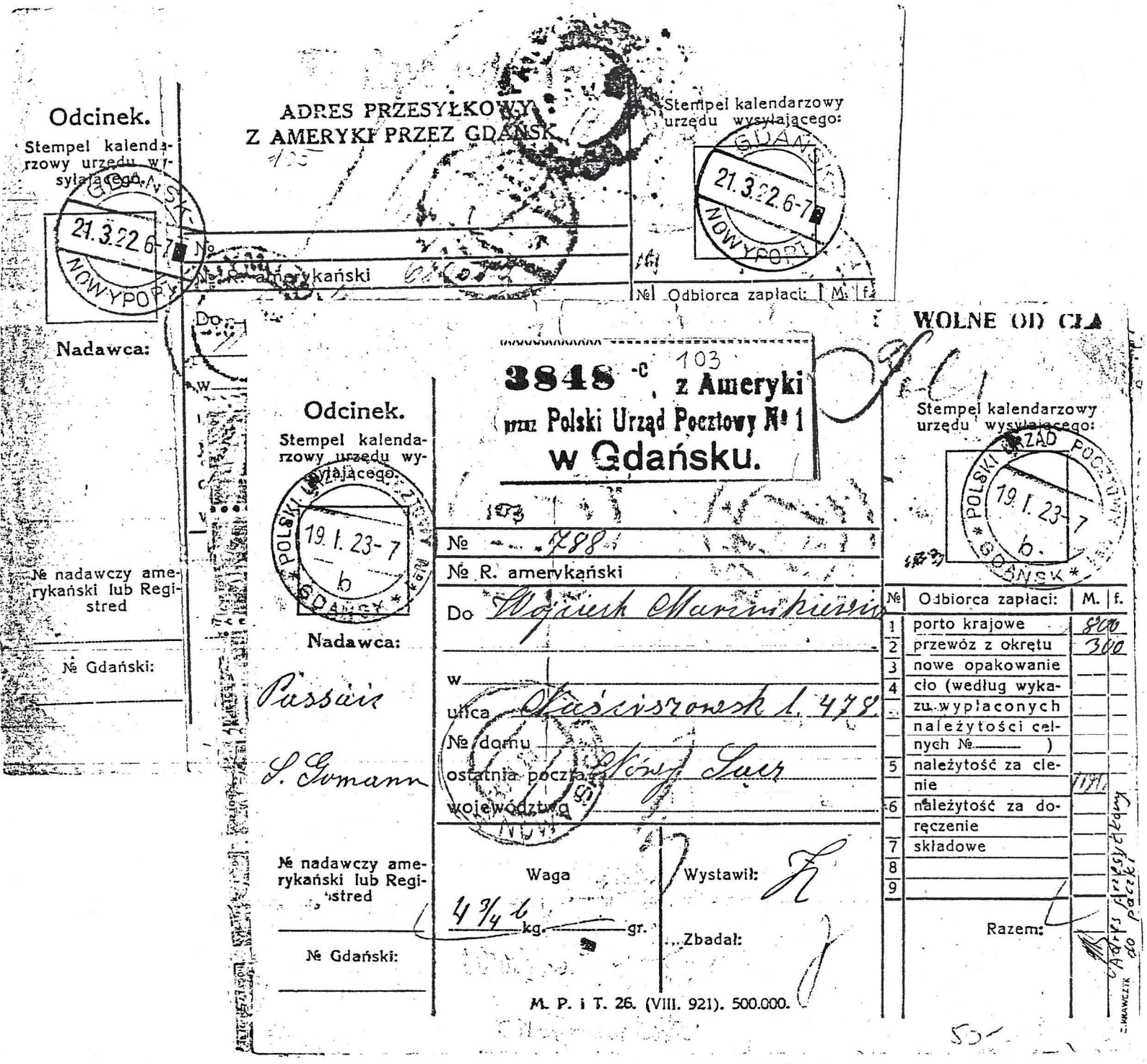
Although the normal Polish post office in Danzig did not open until 1925, a special port facility was permitted by the Allied authorities for the receipt of relief packages from the U.S.

Shown are parcel cards for two such packets. The upper example has no postal markings on the front but a special cachet "from America via Danzig." Polish postage dues stamps covering the postal charges are affixed on reverse. Lower example shows postmark of "Danzig/New Port" and also has postage due stamps on reverse. It utilizes a special parcel post label with the designation of the service "from America via Danzig."

DANZIG
Polish Port Office

Gdansk/Nowyport
21 March 1922

Polski Urzad Pocztowy/Gdansk
19 January 1923

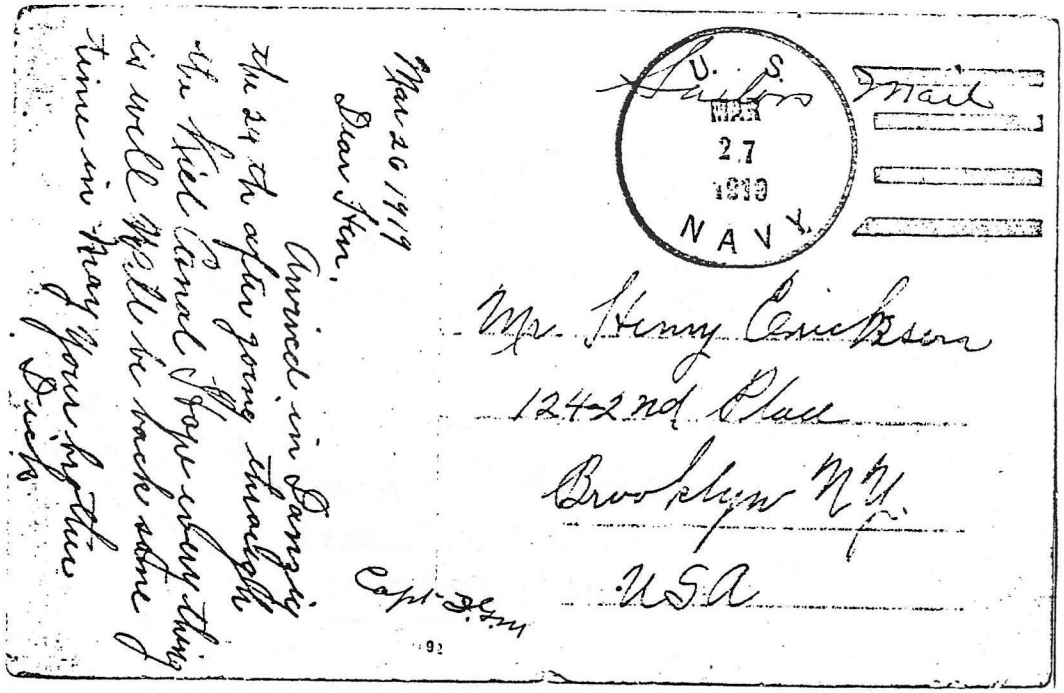


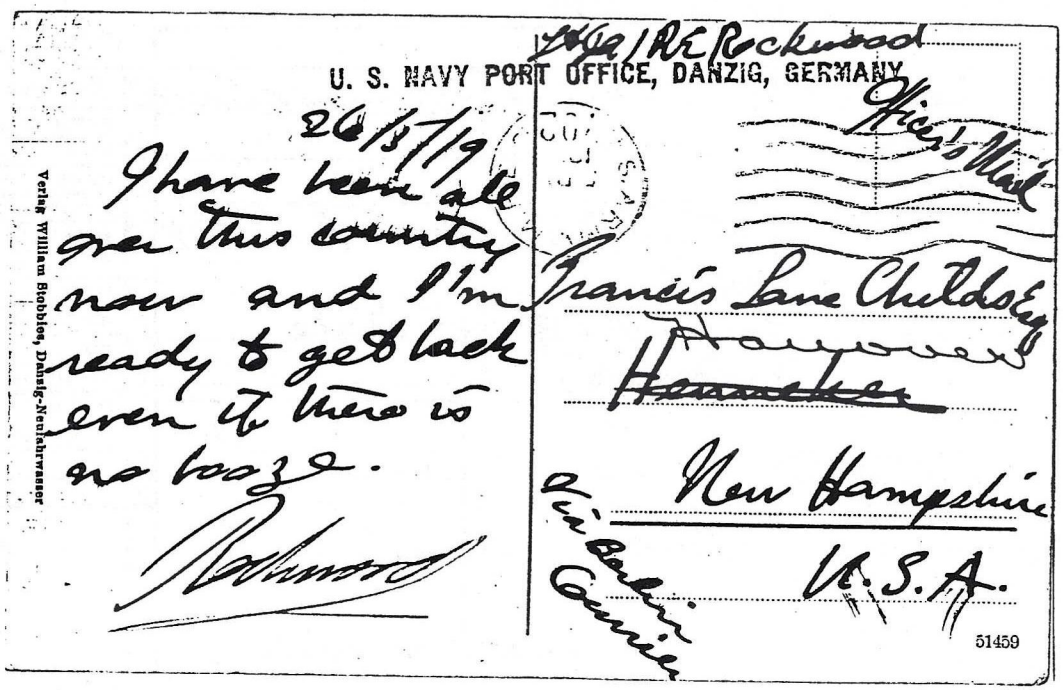
The upper example is a specially imprinted form for the parcel service from the U.S. As before, Polish postage dues stamps are affixed on reverse to pay the postal charges. Lower example shows different type of parcel post label in which the wording conforms to the new postmark -- which would be used when the Polish post office opened two years later. (This is the earliest example of this marking known to exhibitor.)

DANZIG
American Forces

U. S. Navy
27 March 1919

U. S. Navy Port Office,
Danzig, Germany
26 May 1919

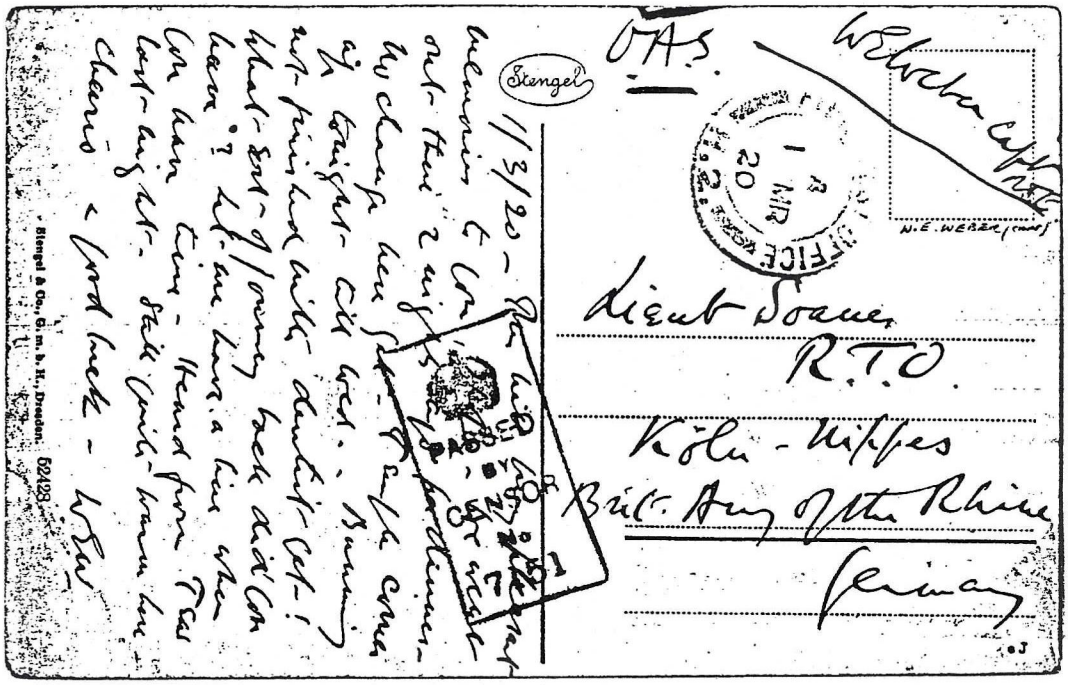


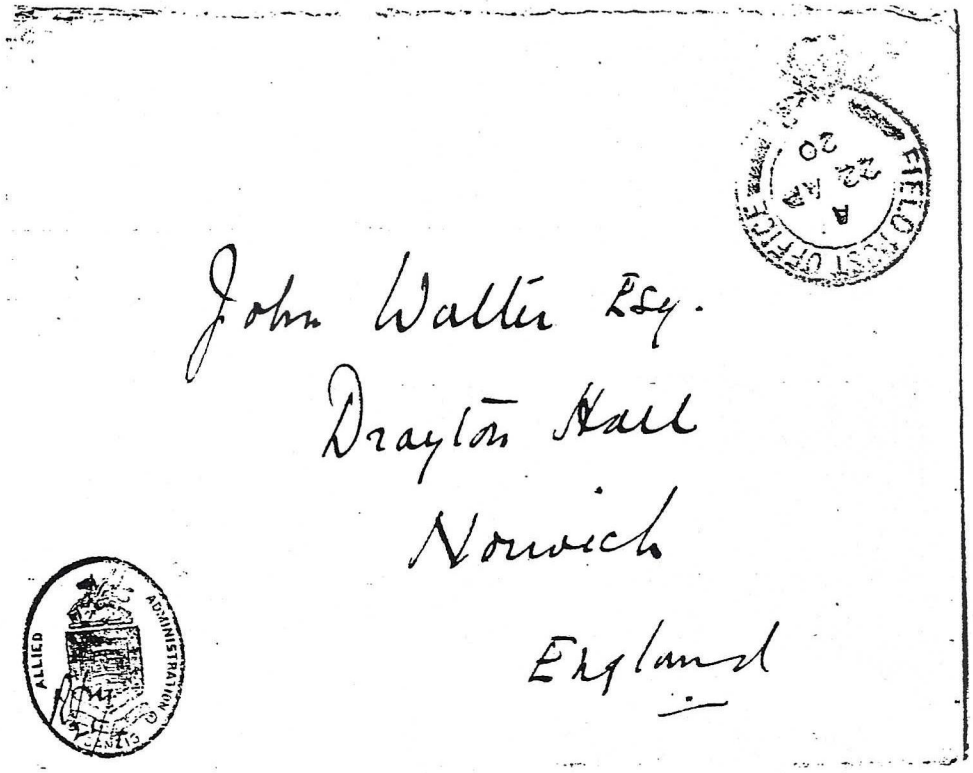


Prior to the establishment of the Free City, U. S. ships used Danzig as one of the ports through which relief supplies were sent to Germany and Poland. Mail from sailors on American ships is scarce and can only be identified by datelining, as on the upper card. A small naval contingent was established in the port area to coordinate these activities. **The example shown of its unit marking is the only one recorded** (Steven & Meyer) and was sent via the Berlin courier to Paris where it entered the mails at APO #702.

DANZIG
British Forces

Field Post Office H.2.
1 March 1920
22 April 1920





To assist in the establishment of the Free City administration and discourage a possible Polish annexation attempt, British forces were sent to Danzig. FPO H.2. was assigned to this unit and its use is recorded from 16 February to 27 November 1920. There are only two recorded examples of the special green cachet "Allied Administration/Danzig" shown above.

DANZIG
British Forces

Field Post Office H.2.
9 March 1920

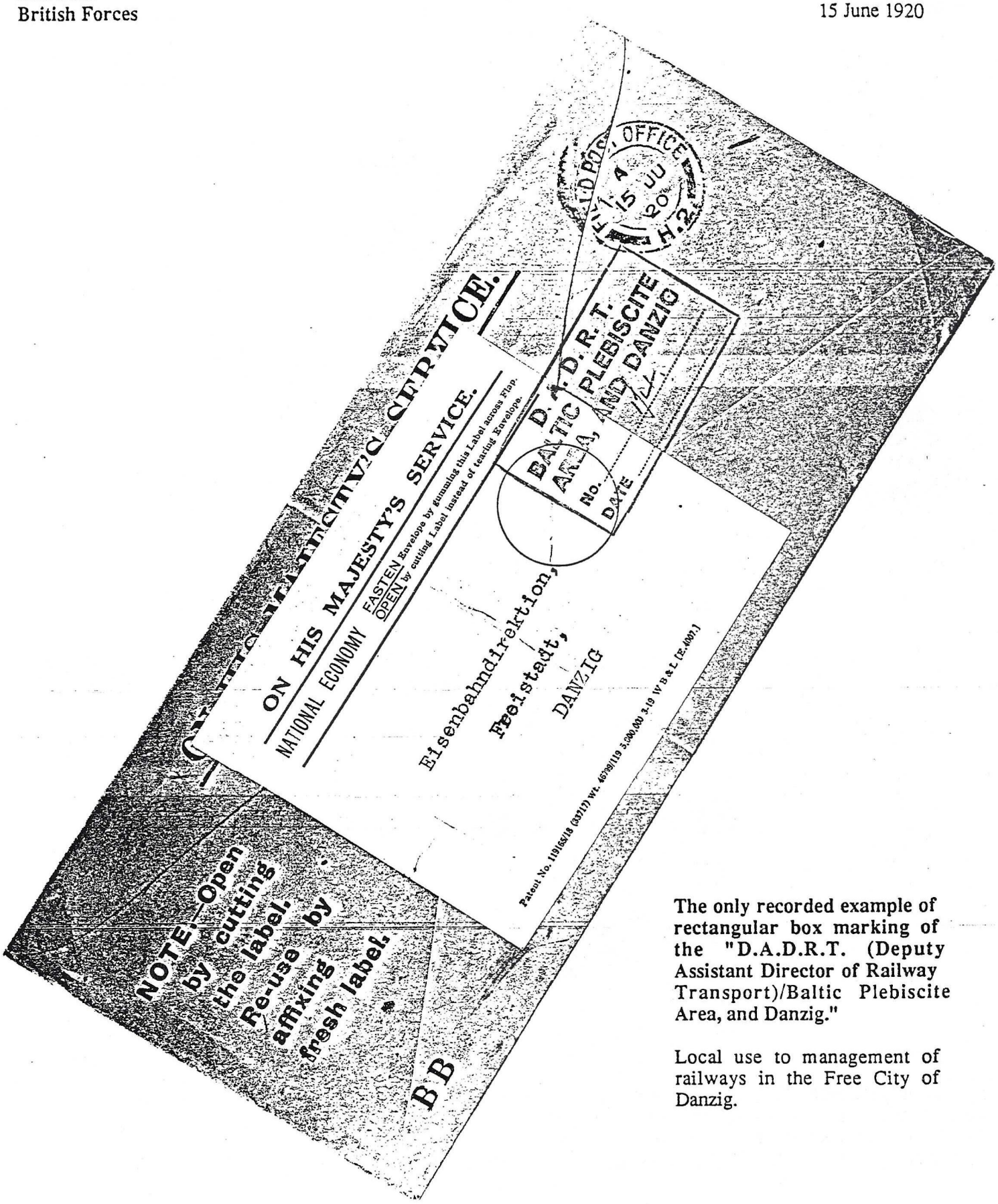


The only recorded example of rectangular box "Camp Commandant/British G.H.Q. Danzig" marking.

Used on cover to officer in charge of records for the 3rd Battalion of Royal Fusiliers in London.

DANZIG
British Forces

Field Post Office H.2.
15 June 1920



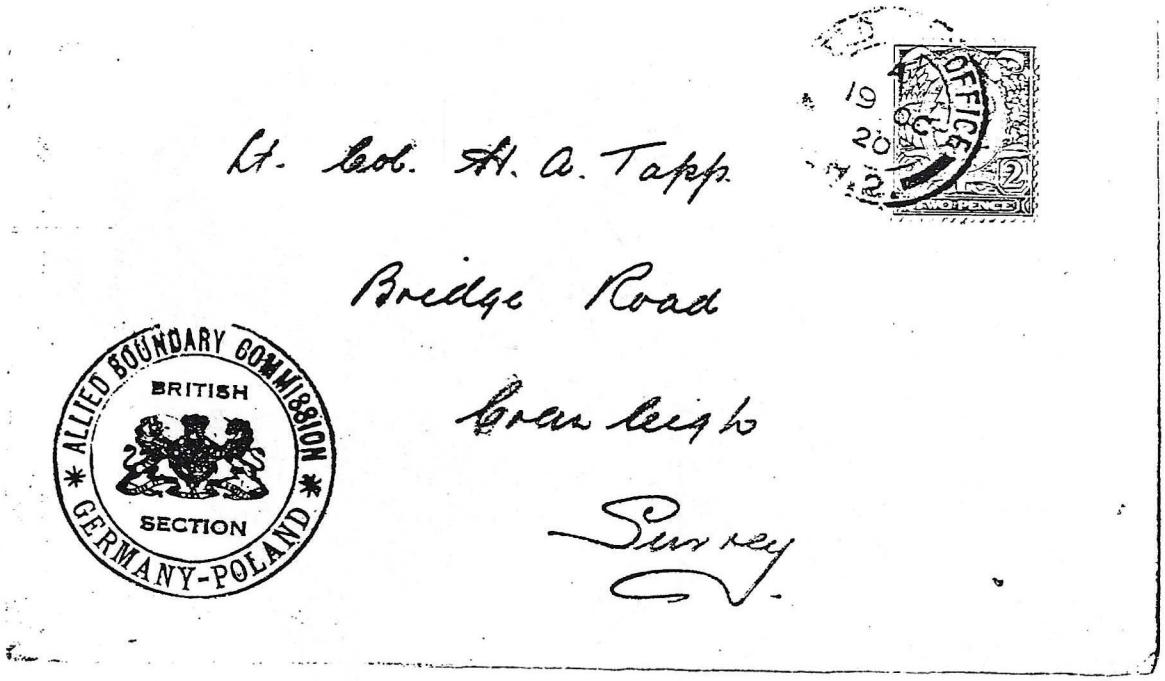
The only recorded example of rectangular box marking of the "D.A.D.R.T. (Deputy Assistant Director of Railway Transport)/Baltic Plebiscite Area, and Danzig."

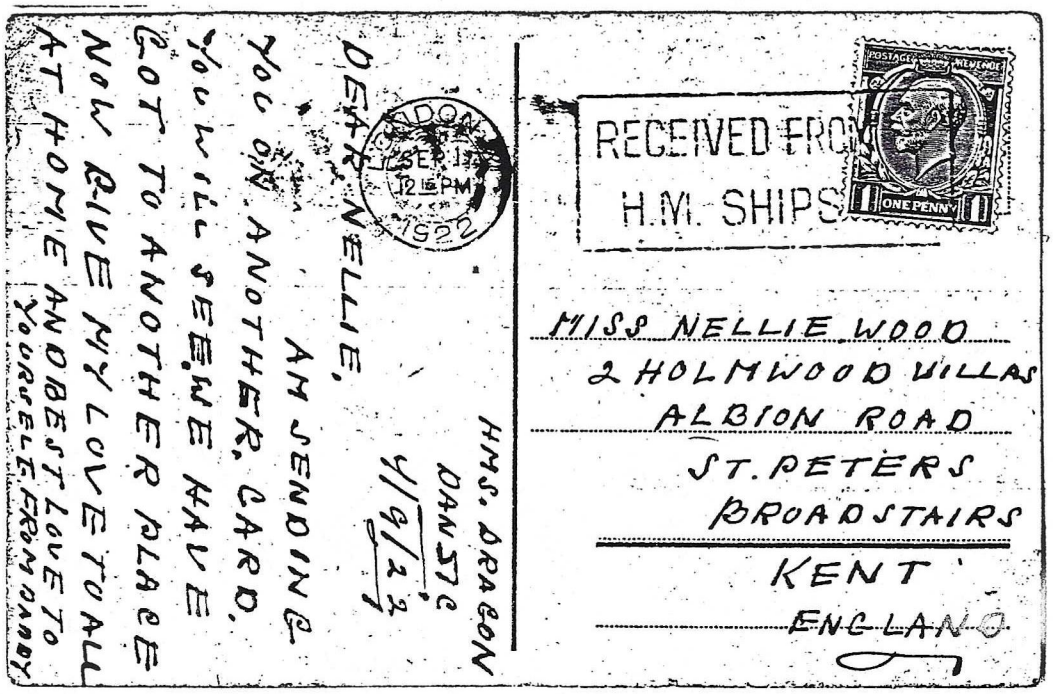
Local use to management of railways in the Free City of Danzig.

DANZIG
British Forces

Field Post Office H.2.
19 October 1920

Danzig
4 September 1922





After 24 August 1920, the British forces no longer enjoyed free franking but were subject to the payment of domestic rates, i.e. 1 penny for postcards and 2 pence for letters. The marking of the "Allied Boundary Commission/ Germany-Poland/British Section" is one of four recorded examples from Danzig. Lower postcard was mailed by a sailor on *H.M.S. Dragon* during a visit to the Free City after the FPO closed 27 November 1920.