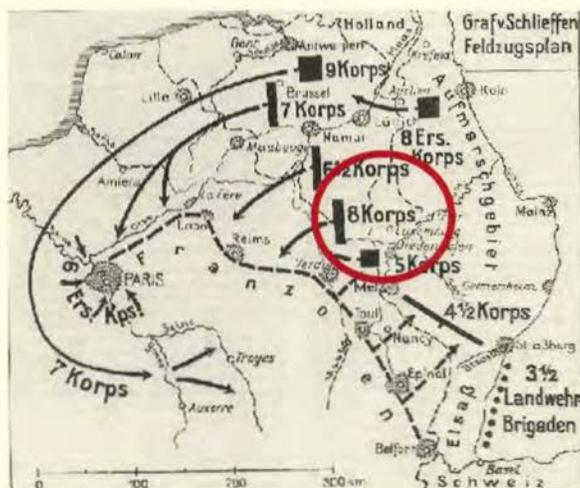


The Great War and its Postal Consequences for Luxembourg 1914 - 1919

The exhibit explains the restrictions imposed on mail to and from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg caused by the Central Powers, neutral countries, and the Allied Forces, starting with the beginning of the war on 2nd Aug 1914 and ending with the termination of US censorship in August 1919. The exception is the mail of allied commission stationed in Luxembourg. The overall situation of Luxembourg during World War I is unique. It remains neutral with an interesting twist: The German occupation starts pre-maturely on 1st Aug 1914, without prior declaration of war. No other country in Europe remains neutral being occupied by a foreign power and keeps its government. The German Empire is using the Grand Duchy to execute the so-called "Schlieffen Plan" and begins to overrun Belgium and France. The political situation of Grand Duchess Marie-Adelaide is precarious as the "Kaiser" insists on her support. The Luxembourg government protests in vain against the German occupation. When the German Empire is defeated, American and French troops occupy Luxembourg on 21st / 22nd Nov 1918.



Schlieffen-Plan: German 8th Army Corps is occupying neutral Luxembourg

What does the German occupation mean for the Luxembourg postal system and the mail? In August 1914, the Luxembourg post offices are occupied by German soldiers and mail is initially stopped. In the first weeks of the occupation, some sort of co-operation between the German military postal system and the Luxembourg post offices begins. Foreign and internal mail gets censored both by German troops and German censorship offices and sometimes in neutral and allied countries. A fixed German field post office is installed near the train station in Luxembourg city. With the armistice on 11th Nov 1918, German forces on the western front retreat and the censorship ends. The French and American field post offices are originally intended for the troops only, but circumstantial evidence shows again the co-operation between the Luxembourg postal system and the American field post offices. The external mail to and from Luxembourg is again censored.

When I started collecting the postal history of Luxembourg during World War I, I found the period not well researched, except for some standard handbooks about censor cancels or military mail. My research led to many new first and last days of usage and new finds of instruction cancels and sealing tapes. This exhibit is the culmination of almost twenty years of research. The exhibit is focused on German, Allied or neutral censor cancels (or their absence), instruction marks and sealing tapes. Cancels and their usages are dominant in the military mail sections. Rates are of lesser importance. Only exception is the treatment of German and Allied military mail with franchise and their treatment by the Luxembourg post. Important covers and cards are shown with a red frame. Rarity statements are based on my research and extensive literature and auction catalogue study. Luxembourg is a small nation and mail to or from exotic destinations is often extremely rare or up to this date at least - nonexistent.

Plan:

A German Occupation 08/1914 – 11/1918

A.I Censorship on International Correspondence

A.I.I Censor Cancels

A.I.2 Sealing Tapes

A.I.3 Instruction Cancels

A.II German Military Mail

A.II.1 Outgoing Military Mail

A.II.2 Incoming Military Mail

A.II.3 Prisoner of War Mail

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919

B.I Allied Military Mail

B.I.1 Outgoing Military Mail

B.I.2 Incoming Military Mail

B.II Censorship on International Correspondence

B.II.1 Censor Cancels

B.II.2 Sealing Tapes

Publications:

Handbuch zur Besetzung von Luxemburg im I. Weltkrieg 1914-1918 und der alliierten Besetzung, Lars Böttger, 2014, self-published

The Postal History of the AEF, 1917-1923, Theo van Dam, published by the World War I AEF Study Group, 1980

Belgian Military Censorship 1914-1918, various authors, 2014, published by Studiekring Wereldoorlog I en II

German Occupation of Belgium and North Eastern France, 1914-1918, Robin Pizer, 2019, published by the Postal History Society

Die Postüberwachung im Deutschen Reich durch Postüberwachungsstellen 1914-1918, Karl-Heinz Riemer, Poststempelgilde

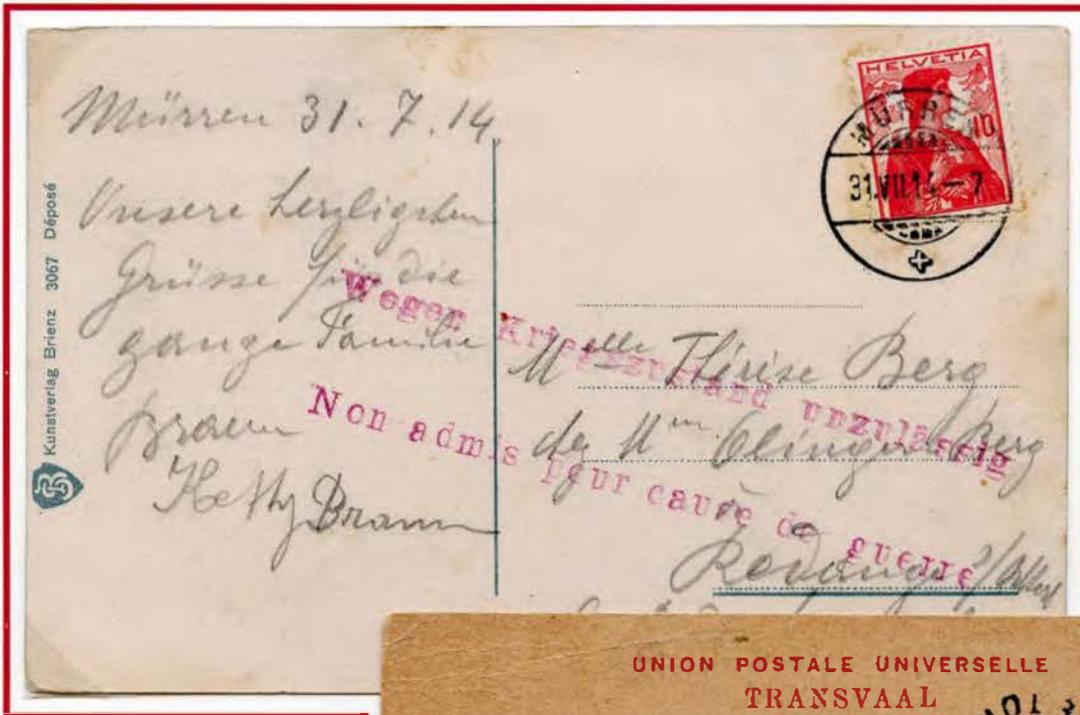
Die Deutschen Feldpoststempel 1914-1918, Karl-Heinz Schriever, 1967, Poststempelgilde „Rhein-Donau“

Amtsblatt Belgien 1914-1918, reprint by the study group ArGe I. Weltkrieg

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.1 Jul / Aug 1914: Military Mail Blockade

At the beginning of the war, foreign mail (incoming and outgoing to Luxembourg as well as internal) is stopped to prevent sensitive information between spies to be leaked.



Improvised cancel:
Wegen Kriegszustand unzulässig
Non admis pour cause de la guerre – first registered usage / unknown in literature

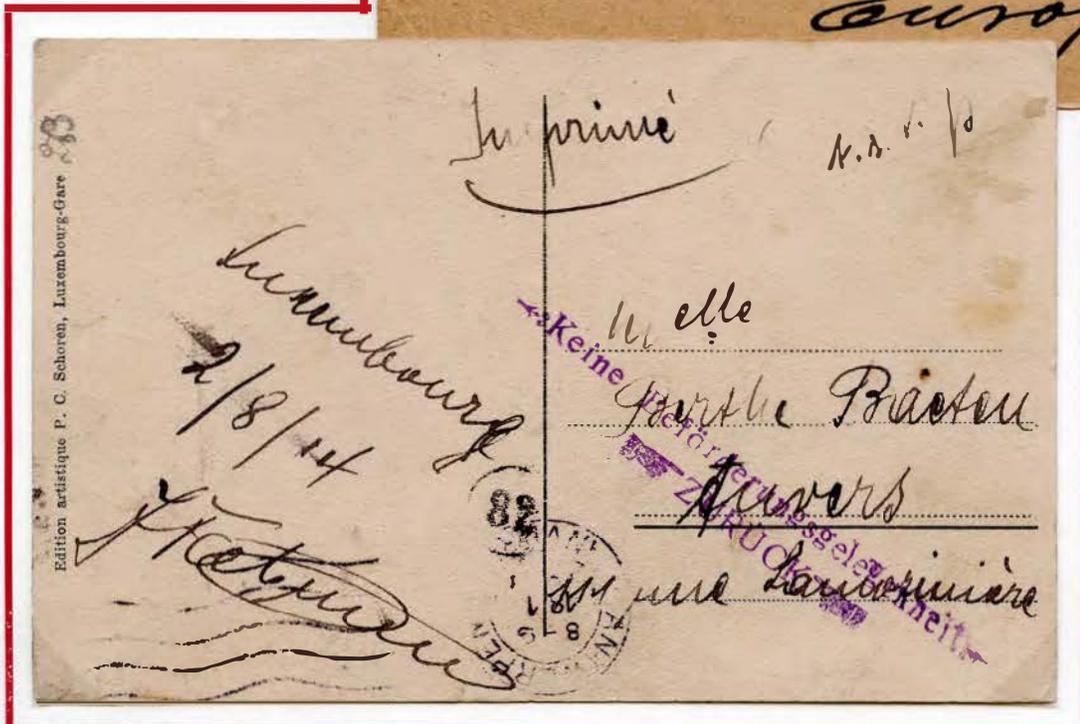
31st Jul 1914, the postcard from Switzerland to Luxembourg is intercepted. The improvised nature of the cancels is shown by the haphazard letters used – **UNIQUE to Luxembourg**

Nylstroom, 23rd Jul 1914, forwarded to Cape Town, the postal stationery while waiting for a steamer connection, is intercepted. It received a CAPE TOWN RETURNED cancellation and instruction cancel UNDELIVERABLE L.P.S. – **UNIQUE to Luxembourg**



Improvised cancel:
Keine Beförderungselegent
- ZURÜCK – first registered usage / unknown in literature

2nd Aug 1914, printed matter (special rate of 2 Centimes with Belgium) from Luxembourg to Belgium is blocked by German troops, occupying the post offices - **UNIQUE**



A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.2 No organized German Censorship
1.2.1 Outgoing Mail from Luxembourg

German troops occupy all the Luxembourg post offices and stop the sending and receiving of mail, parcels, and telegrams. After a few days, the mail blockade is lifted. There is during the first two months no coordinated effort by the German military to censor incoming and outgoing mail.



Rate: UPU postcard rate
 10 Centimes, valid as of
 1st Oct 1907

Luxembourg – post office at the train station, 6th Aug 1914, **first registered mail item** to a foreign country, in this case Basel / Switzerland – **more than 100 items known to go to Switzerland**



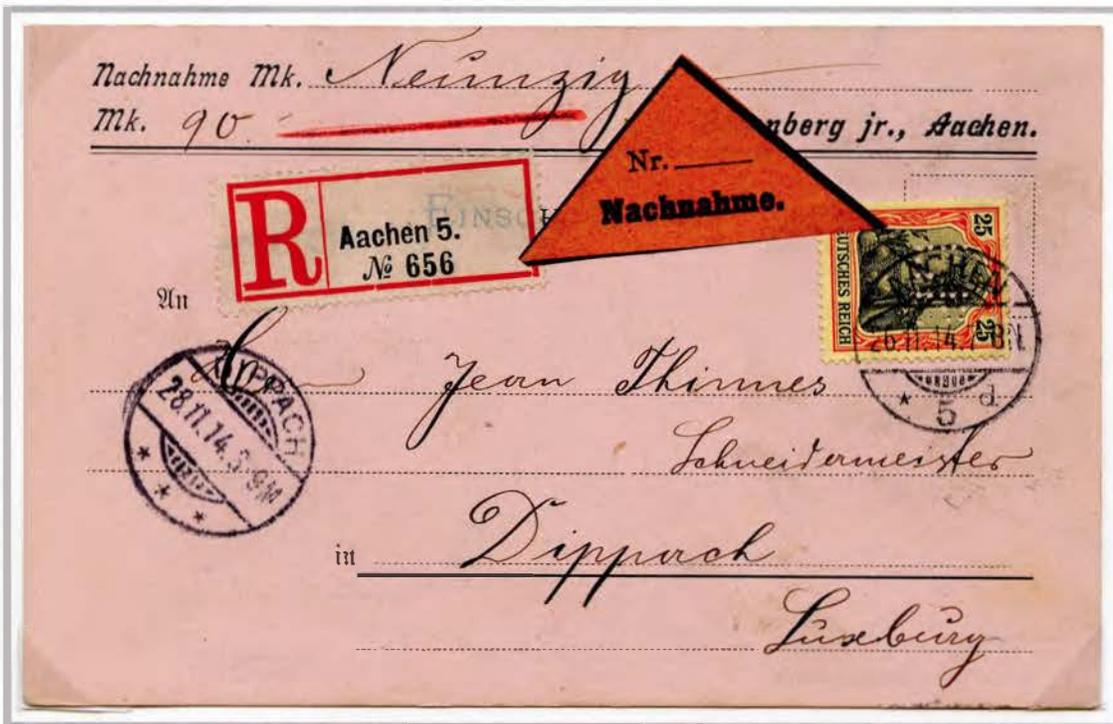
Rate: 25 Centimes. UPU letter rate, 1st weight scale / up to 20 grams). tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907

Posted in Diekirch on 14th Oct 1914, outgoing letter, without German censor cancel – common until the German imperial censorship office in Cologne-Deutz starts to begin censoring the mail to and from Luxembourg on 15th Oct 1914

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.2 No organized German Censorship
1.2.2 Incoming Mail from Luxembourg

After the end of October 1914, civilian and commercial mail without any German censor cancel is rarely encountered. Letters to collectors and international organizations sometimes are spared the censorship.



Rate: Luxembourg and the German Empire had special rates below the standard UPU rates. 5 Pfg. / 5 Centimes for a postcard, 10 Pfg. / 12 1/2 Centimes for a letter in the first weight echelon, rated at 25 Pfg. 5 Pfg special postcard rate (tariff valid 1st Oct 1902). 20 Pfg registration fee. 10 Centimes for transfer have been deducted by Luxembourg carrier

Collect on delivery card without censor cancel, sent on 26th Nov 1914 (stamp with perfin) from Aix-la-Chapelle to the small village of Dippach, arrival 28th Nov 1914 - less than 25 mail items without censorship are registered

*Entwurf und gerichte, die die
 Luftpostkarte,*

Copy – Re-direction order
 '[Falls] Adressat abgereist,
 bitte nachsenden'

Wiesbaden

Registered letter is forwarded to Wiesbaden / Germany

Rate: 30 Pfg. 10 Pfg letter rate (as of 1st Oct 1902). 20 Pfg registration fee



Written in Frankfurt on 26th Aug 1914, re-directed via Luxembourg-City to Wiesbaden

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.3 "Unorganized" German Censorship

In the first weeks of the war, the process of censorship has not been fully established. The kind of improvisation can be seen by the first censor cancels: Some of them have been manufactured by using printer's letters and type.



Copy – Riemer might be in error as this cancel is in use from August 1914

Censor cancel DIEDENHOFEN GEPRÜFT U. ZU BEFÖRDERN P.[OST] K.[ONTROLLE] Noerdange, 10th Aug 1914, forwarded via Diedenhofen to Mergelstetten

G.P.C. Oberstein
 Geprüft und zu befördern

Copy – August 1914 (Riemer Sep 1914 – Feb 1915)

Esch-sur-Alzette, 21st Aug 1914, to Idar-Oberstein, censor cancel G.P.C. Oberstein Geprüft und zu befördern (G[eneral] P[ost] C[ontrol] Oberstein reviewed + to forward)



Stuttgart
Freigegeben u. zu befördern

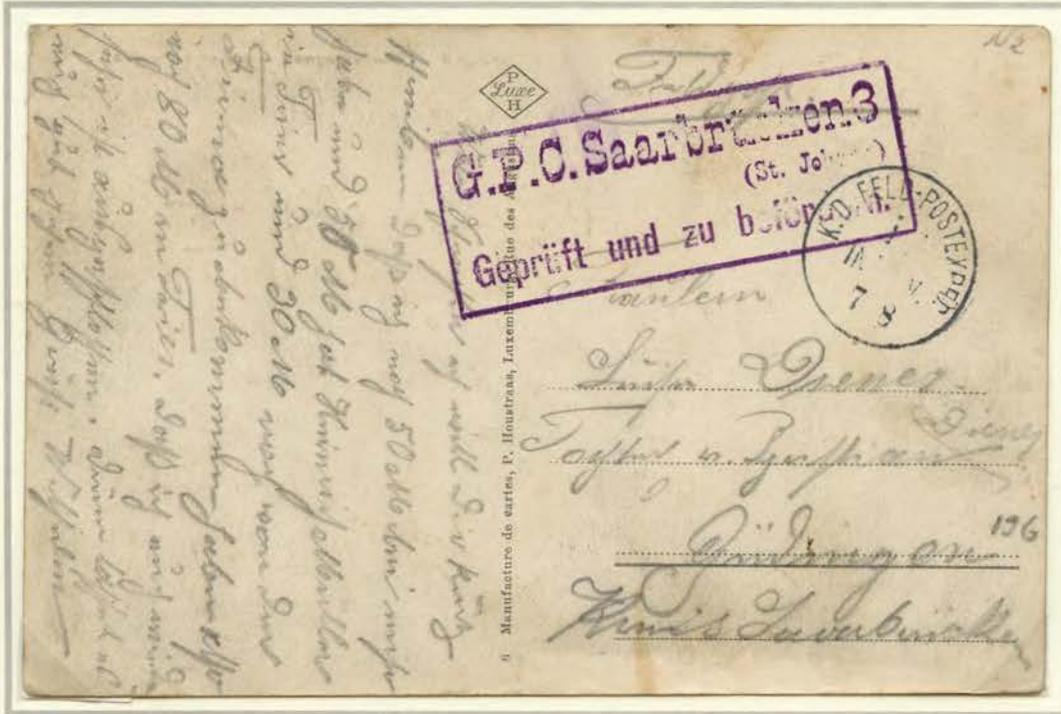
Copy – provisional cancel registered in August 1914; military franchise accepted by Luxembourg post offices

Improvised censors cancel Stuttgart Freigegeben u. zu befördern (Stuttgart released and ready for forwarding) Rumelange, 16th Aug 1914, forwarded via Stuttgart to Mergelstetten

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.4 German Censorship: OPD Saarbrücken

Furthermore, in the area of Trier and Saarbrücken local censorship offices were established in many cities and post offices, as both OPDs are near the front line to France and Belgium. The sole censorship in the OPD Saarbrücken during the first months of the war is exceedingly rare.



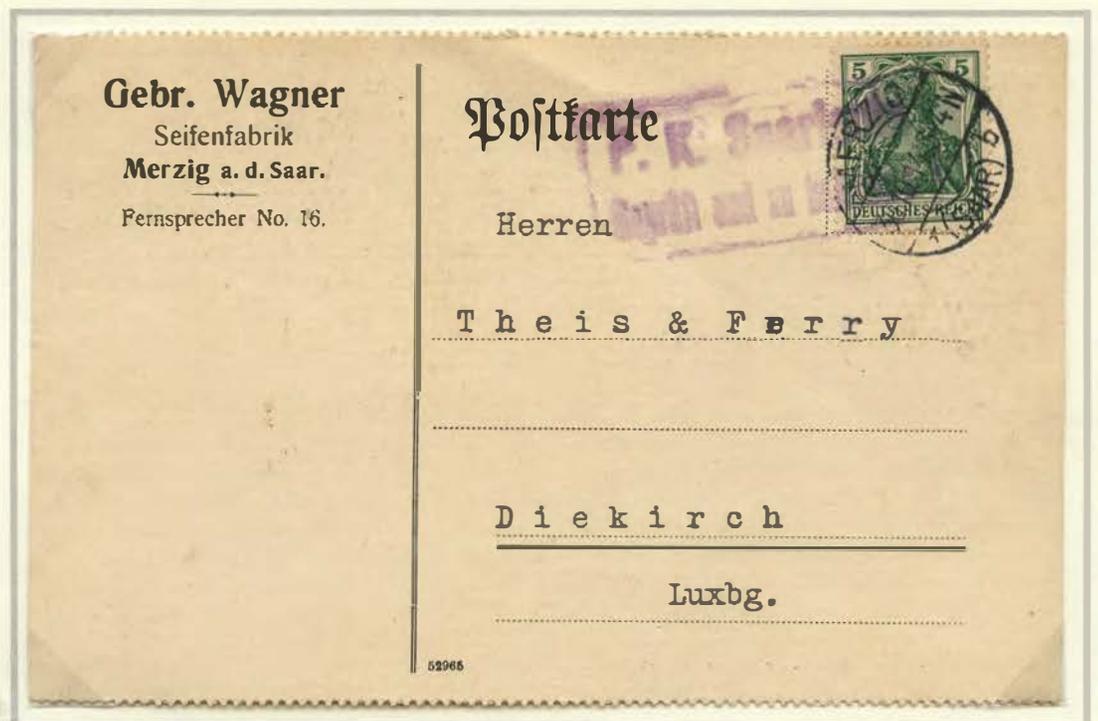
Copy – August 1914 (Riemer Oct – Dec 1914) – with this copy it is proven, that the cancel came into use immediately after the war broke out

German military mail, sent without cost for the soldier, franchise accepted, one of the earliest registered items of a military post office on the soil of Luxembourg

Luxembourg, 7th Aug 1914, to Güdingen near Saarbrücken, censor cancel 'G.P.C. Saarbrücken 3 (St. Johann) Geprüft und zu befördern' (G[eneral] P[ost] C[ontrol] Saarbrücken [Post Office St. Johann] checked and ready to forward)
 – only registered mail item with this cancel



Copy – Rare censor cancel of OPD Saarbrücken, post office Saarlouis – registered as early as August 1914 with Riemer



Rate: 5 Pfg., postcard rate, German – Luxembourg postal convention as of 1st Oct 1902

Merzig, 31th Oct 1914, forwarded via Luxembourg Diekirch, censor cancel 'P[ost] K[ontrolle] Saarlouis Geprüft und zu Befördern' (postal control Saarlouis – checked and ready for sending)
 – only registered mail item with this cancel

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.5 Handling of Letters with Declared Value

As a rule, insured letters had to be closed and had to have several wax seals on the back. This was irreconcilable with the censorship. Several ways had to be found to circumvent the censorship or to avoid opening and re-sealing and re-weighing of the insured letters.



Although mailed via the Luxembourg post office, the sender was an officer with the German army (probably in the 'Große Hauptquartier' (Army Headquarter), the letter received a German army censor cancel



A commanding officer censored the insured letter and left his cancel as confirmation

Rate 65 Cent., 25 Cent. for a letter weighing up to 250 grams, 25 Cent. registration fee, 15 Cent. minimum insurance fee for the three countries involved



Diekirch, 16th Sep 1914, forwarded via Germany to Mährisch-Ostrau in Bohemia / Kingdom of Austria-Hungary, personalized German army censor cancel in red, releasing the letter

- only recorded letter with value during the first period without regularized German censorship in place

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.6 German Censorship Office Cologne-Deutz

Starting with on or around 15th Oct 1914, the censorship of foreign mail from and to Luxembourg is organized at the German censorship office at Cologne-Deutz. By 30th Nov 1914, the censorship is transferred due to the overload of mail to the Foreign Censorship branch at Trier. Trier exclusively censors the mail to and from Luxembourg.



Copy – **Auslandsstelle Cöln-Deutz Freigegeben**
 (Foreign Branch Cöln-Deutz / registered in two colors, red and violet; both colors are equally distributed



Outgoing postcard, mailed on 6th November 1914 in Walferdange, transferred to the foreign branch of the Cologne-Deutz censorship office. **violet** censor cancel, forwarded to Leipzig – of the “Cöln-Deutz” censor cancel - less than fifty items from or to Luxembourg with censorship at Cologne-Deutz are registered.



Letter mailed on 17th Nov 1914 from Düsseldorf to Wiltz, transferred to the Cologne-Deutz censorship office, **red** censor cancellation, arrival at Wiltz on 5th Dec 1914, a rather long time for censorship

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.7 Handling of Letters with Declared Value

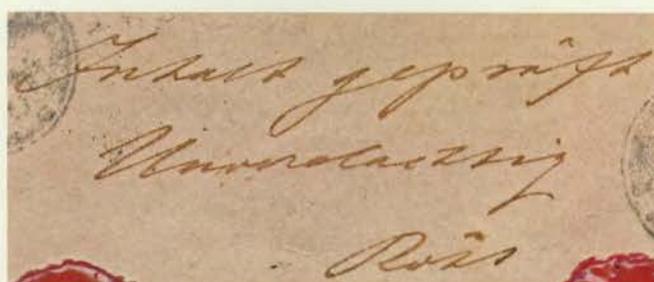
While letters with declared value are not uncommon, the below letter is the only letter with value that is registered during the censorship at Coln-Deutz. The letter with value was inspected by the post office in Dusseldorf and received a post office cancel and a handwritten notice, that the contents are inconspicuous. Two days after the inspection in Dusseldorf, the letter arrives at its destination – a very fast turnaround. The censorship office at Cöln-Deutz waves the letter through and leaves only the “Überwachungsstelle des VIII. Armeekorps Cöln” and the regular censor cancel in violet.



Copy: Negative cancel with crown over a posthorn, **DÜSSELDORF** (on the back)



Letter mailed at the Dusseldorf main post office on 24th Oct 1914, the content of the letter was inspected and sealed at the Dusseldorf post office. To confirm the censorship, the post office seal was applied on the back. The letter was then forwarded to Cologne, received its censorship markings and reaches Luxembourg on 26th Oct 1914, a remarkable short time span for Cologne.



Copy Manuscript note **‘Inhalt geprüft Unverdächtig’**(content checked unsuspecting) on the back

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.8 Censor Cancel Trier:
1.8.1 Censor Cancel No. 1

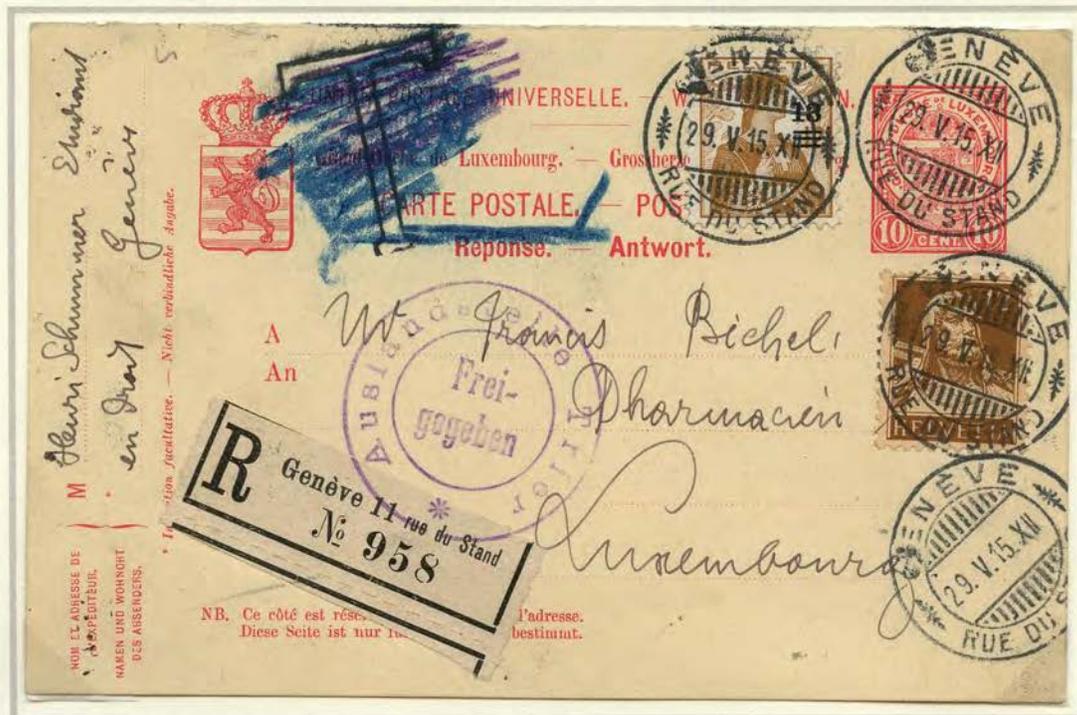
Starting on 30 November 1914, Trier took over the censorship role from Cöln-Deutz until the end of the war.

Number	Usage	Rarity	Number	Usage	Rarity	Number	Usage	Rarity
Trier no. 1	Nov 1914 - Jun 1915	> 100	Trier no. 3	Nov 1916 - Feb 1916	< 50	Trier no. 5II	May 1916 - Apr 1917	> 100
Trier no. 2I	Dec 1914 - Aug 1915	> 100	Trier no. 4	Feb 1916 - Apr 1916	< 25	Trier no. 6I	Nov 1916 - Aug 1917	> 100
Trier no. 2II	Dec 1914 - Dec 1916	< 50	Trier no. 5I	Dec 1915 - Nov 1916	> 100	Trier no. 6II	Aug 1917 - Nov 1918	> 100



Censor cancel no. 1 is registered from 30 Nov 1914 until 18 Jan 1916 (Riemer dates: Dec 1914 – Dec 1915)

Rate: 10 Cent. Reply-Card + 20 Rappen, 10 Cent. UPU postcard rate, 20 Rappen Suisse registration fee – **this correctly used reply cards are real rarities – less than ten pieces registered**



Registered postal stationery, Geneva, 20th May 1915 to Trier and Luxembourg-City, censored at Trier – censor cancel No. 1 is very common; the card was initially rated as underpaid and a Suisse “T” cancel was added, the error was spotted and the T cancel was crossed out with blue crayon



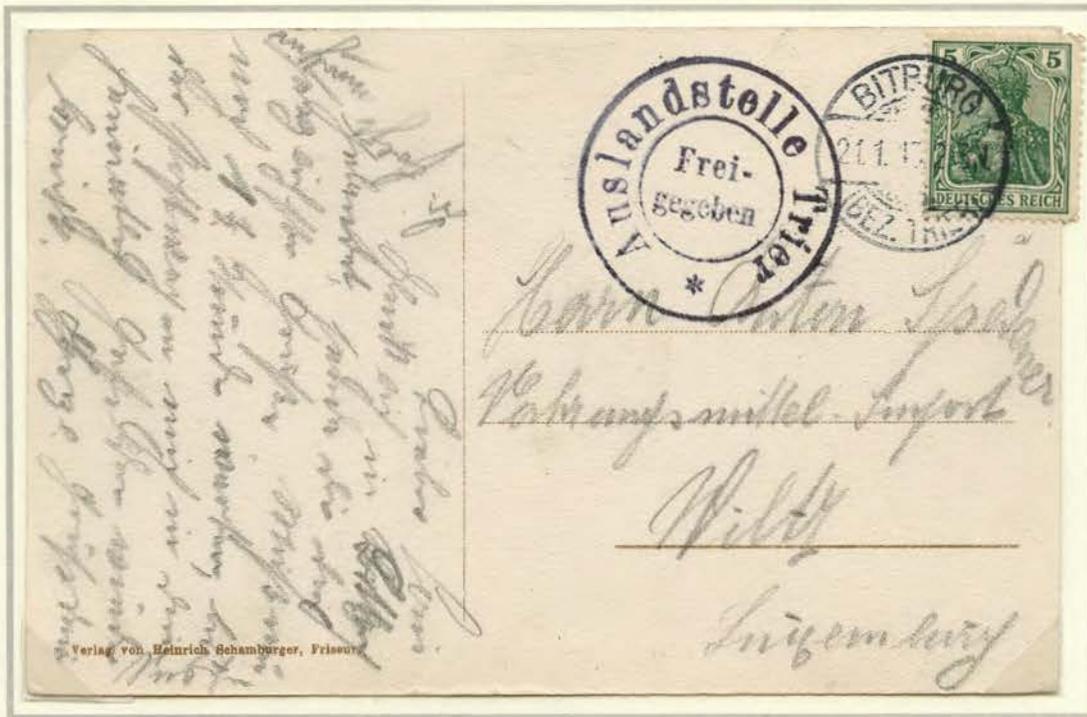
Rate: 20 Cents, 10 Cents UPU letter rate up to 20 grams, 10 Cents registration fee – **only registered letter from the German Post Offices in China to or from Luxembourg**

Shanghai, 22nd Jul 1915, via USA and the Netherlands to Trier and Luxembourg-City, censor cancel No. 1, as the letter was closed at arrival, the letter was subsequently opened, censored and finally closed with sealing tape; to document the opening, an instruction cancel was added telling when the censorship took place and by whom it was conducted

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.8 Censor Cancels Trier
1.8.2 Censor Cancel No. 2 – Six Leaves

Almost parallel to the first type of standard censor cancel, a second censor cancel comes into usage in the Trier censorship office (9th Dec 1914 – 26th Aug 1915) – after eight and a half months, the cancel is used up.



Copy - the colour of this cancel varies from violet to blackish-violet (every other colour than violet is very rare!)

Mailed in Bitburg on 21st Jan 1915, via the censorship office Trier and Luxembourg-City to Wiltz, blackish-violet censor cancellation no. 2 of Trier, six spoke star as ornament at the bottom – **rare blackish-violet color! Only recorded item with this color**

Early in the war, the newspapers wrote that for the sake of rapid handling, postcards are much more efficient than letters, as postcards could be handled at the censorship offices in a faster way. The procedure with opening the letters, retrieving the content, censorship and closing the letter again took sometimes several weeks, as can be seen with the censorship office in Cöln-Deutz.



Mailed in Niederlahnstein on 4th Feb 1915, via the censorship office of Trier to Luxembourg, censor cancel no. 2 of Trier, six spoke star as ornament at the bottom

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 German Censorship Nov 1914 – Nov 1918
1.8 Censor Cancel Trier
1.8.3 Censor Cancel No. 2 – Six-pronged Star

Very similar in appearance (almost same size, some font), there are two different types of this standard censor cancel in the censorship office – the ornamental piece is a six-pronged star (22nd Feb 1915 – 15th Dec 1916).



Copy - the color of the cancel is uniformly violet; the late usage suggest that the rubber cancel was held in reserve.



Ornament: Small six-pronged star



Mailed in Esch-sur-Alzette, 25th Apr 1915, via Trier to Radeberg in Saxony; in Trier the postcard received censor cancel no. 2 in violet ink (small star ornament)



Rates: 5 Centimes, postcard rate (instead of 10 Centimes within UPU) and 4 Centimes for the first weight echelon (instead of 5 Centimes within UPU) for a printed matter, both tariffs valid since 1 Oct 1902; special contract with the German Empire

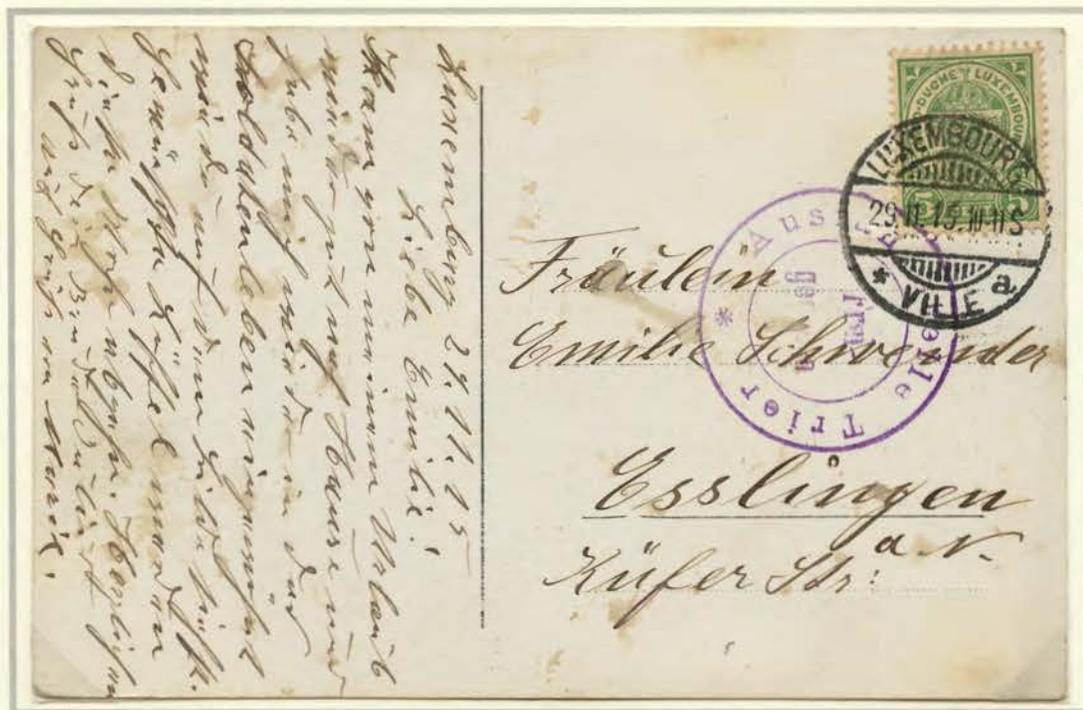
Mailed at Luxembourg-Station, 15th Dec 1916, via Trier to Höckst in Germany, violet censor cancel no. 2 of Trier with ornament small six-pronged star

- last registered usage

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.8 Censor Cancels Trier
1.8.4 Censor Cancel No. 3

The third censor cancel of Trier, like its successor, shows heavy use and has only a currently registered service time of three months (15th Nov 1915 – 25th Feb 1916).



Copy - the colour of this cancel is uniformly violet; the fast degradation can be seen on the letter below – Riemer mistakes the cancel with censor cancel no. 3

Mailed at the post office of Luxembourg-City, 29th Nov 1915, via Trier to Esslingen in Wurttemberg, censor cancel no 3 of Trier (color: violet) – although the censor cancel no. 3 has only a short service span
- there are more than twenty-five mail items registered with the cancel



UPU letter rate of 25 Centimes for the first weight echelon up to 20 grams, tariff valid since 1st Oct 1907 – Switzerland due to its Red Cross organisation, is – apart of the German Empire and the General Government of Belgium - by far the most common destination for mail out of Luxembourg.

Mailed in Luxembourg-City, 25th Feb 1916, via Trier to Lausanne, violet censorship cancellation no 3 of Trier
- last registered day of usage

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.8 Censor Cancels Trier
1.8.5 Censor Cancel No. 4

The fourth censor cancel had an even shorter life – perhaps due to his small size – as it has registered service time of a bit more than two months (21st Feb 1916 – 25th Apr 1916)



Copy - the colour of this cancel is uniformly violet, it degraded very fast



Mailed in Pétange, 21st Feb 1916, via Trier to Grünberg in Silesia, the postal stationery has been uprated by 6 Centimes and is now overpaid by 6 Centimes; violet censor cancellation no. 4 of Trier, less than 25 strikes of this censor cancel have been registered - **earliest recorded usage**



Posted at the post office in Luxembourg-City, 25th Apr 1916, via Trier to Regensburg in Bavaria, violet censor cancellation no. 4 of Trier - **last recorded usage**

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

**1 Censor Cancels
1.8 Censor Cancel Trier
1.8.5 Censor Cancel No. 51 'r' below 's'**

The censor cancellation no. 51 with 'r' below 's' is one of the more common cancels of Trier.



*Rates: 5 Centimes. UPU
printed matter rate up to 50
grams (tariff valid since 1st
Oct 1907)*

Luxembourg-Station, 24th Nov 1915, via Trier and Bale to Fribourg in Switzerland,
violet censor cancellation no. 51 of Trier → late usage
- **more than one hundred pieces of mail registered**



*Rates: 30 Pfg, fee
for a so-called
'Postauftrag'
(postal order)
(tariff valid as of 1
Aug 1916) → **only
postal order
registered to or
from Luxembourg
during the Great
War***

Hanau, 17th Mar
1916, via Trier to
Luxembourg, violet
censor cancellation
no. 51 of Trier,
sealing tape no. 1,
on reverse: Control
cancellation no. 2,
censor cancel
**ÜBER-
WACHUNG-
STELLE des VIII.
Armeekorps**

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**



Copy - censor cancel no. 51 is registered between 26th Nov 1915 until 26th Nov 1916; the color of the cancel is uniformly (red-) violet.

Like the situation of censor cancel no. 2, the censor cancel exists in two types in Trier, which were used simultaneously, the Type I differentiated by the 'r' almost below the 's'

*The printed matter is the **only registered single franking** of a 15 Centimes stamp (UPU printed matter rate, third weight echelon, tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907)*

Mailed in the post office branch Luxembourg-Limpertsberg, 23rd Jun 1916, via Trier to Brussels in Belgium, censor cancel no. 5 / Type II



Société des Naturalistes Luxembourgeois

Ancienne Société G.-D. de Botanique

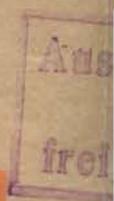
et

Ancienne Fauna fusionnées

LUXEMBOURG (Grand-Duché)



M. de Wildeman Em., Dr., Conservateur au jardin botanique de l'Etat
à Bruxelles, rue des Confédérés, 122.



1 Censor Cancels
1.8 Censor Cancel Trier
1.8.5 Censor Cancel No 51

Hochwürden

Herrn Dr. Jos. Massarette ,
salvo titulo



zu

Auslandstelle
Trier
freigegeben.

L u x e m b u r g .

Auslandstelle
Trier
freigegeben.

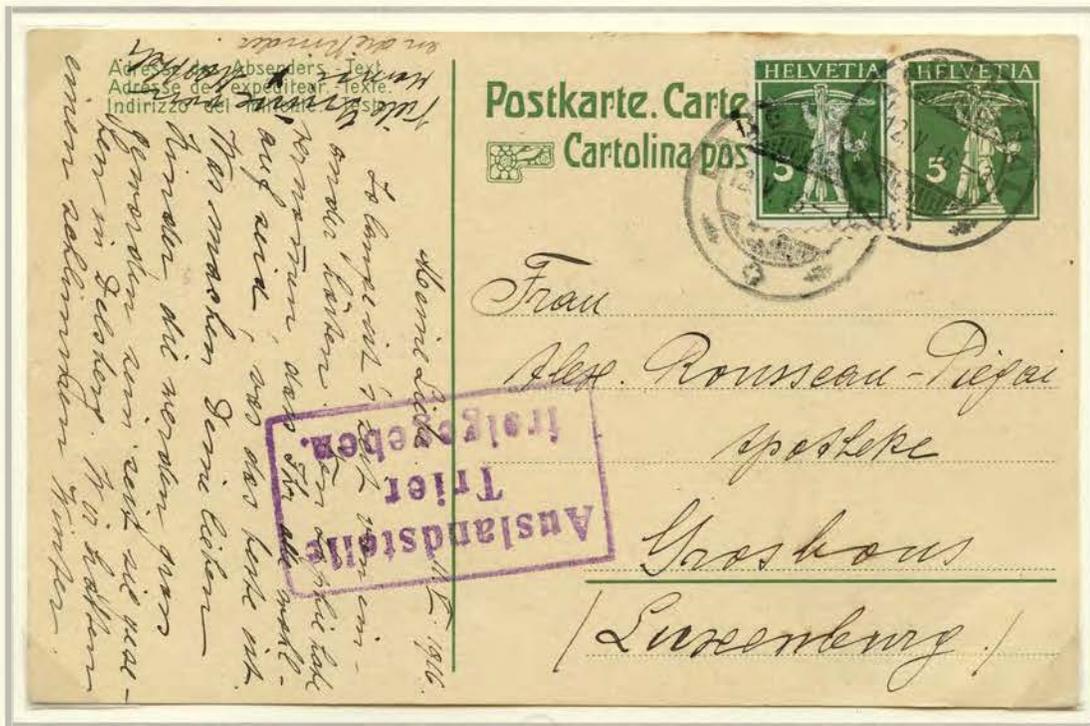
Mailed at Frankfurt, 31st Jul 1916, via Trier to Luxembourg, censor cancel no. 5, Type I,
sealing tape no. 3, on reverse: Control cancel no. 1

*The letter above is rated at 20 Pfg, the correct letter rate over
20 grams up to 250 grams, second weight echelon – last day of validity of tariff;
on 1st Aug 1916, the so-called "Reichsabgabe", an augmentation of 50% on the
standard letter and standard postcard rate is applied*

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.8 Censor Cancel Trier
1.8.6 Censor Cancel No. 5II 'r' between 's' and 't'

Again, this cancel has a usage of roughly a year – “r” between “s” and “t”. Then the strikes become illegible and the last censor cancel (also in two different forms comes into service).



Registration dates between 1st May 1916 and 13th Apr 1917; the color of the cancel is uniformly violet.

Upgraded postal stationery, posted at Langenthal / Switzerland, 12th May 1916, via Trier to Groschous, censor cancellation no. 5II – more than 100 mail items with this censor cancel registered



Posted at Luxembourg-City, 12th Oct 1916, via Trier to Berlin, violet censor cancellation no. 5II, prepaid at 60 ½ Cent., 30 Cent. letter rate over 20 grams, 30 Cent. express fee

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancel
1.8 Censor Cancel Trier
1.8.7 Censor Cancel No. 61

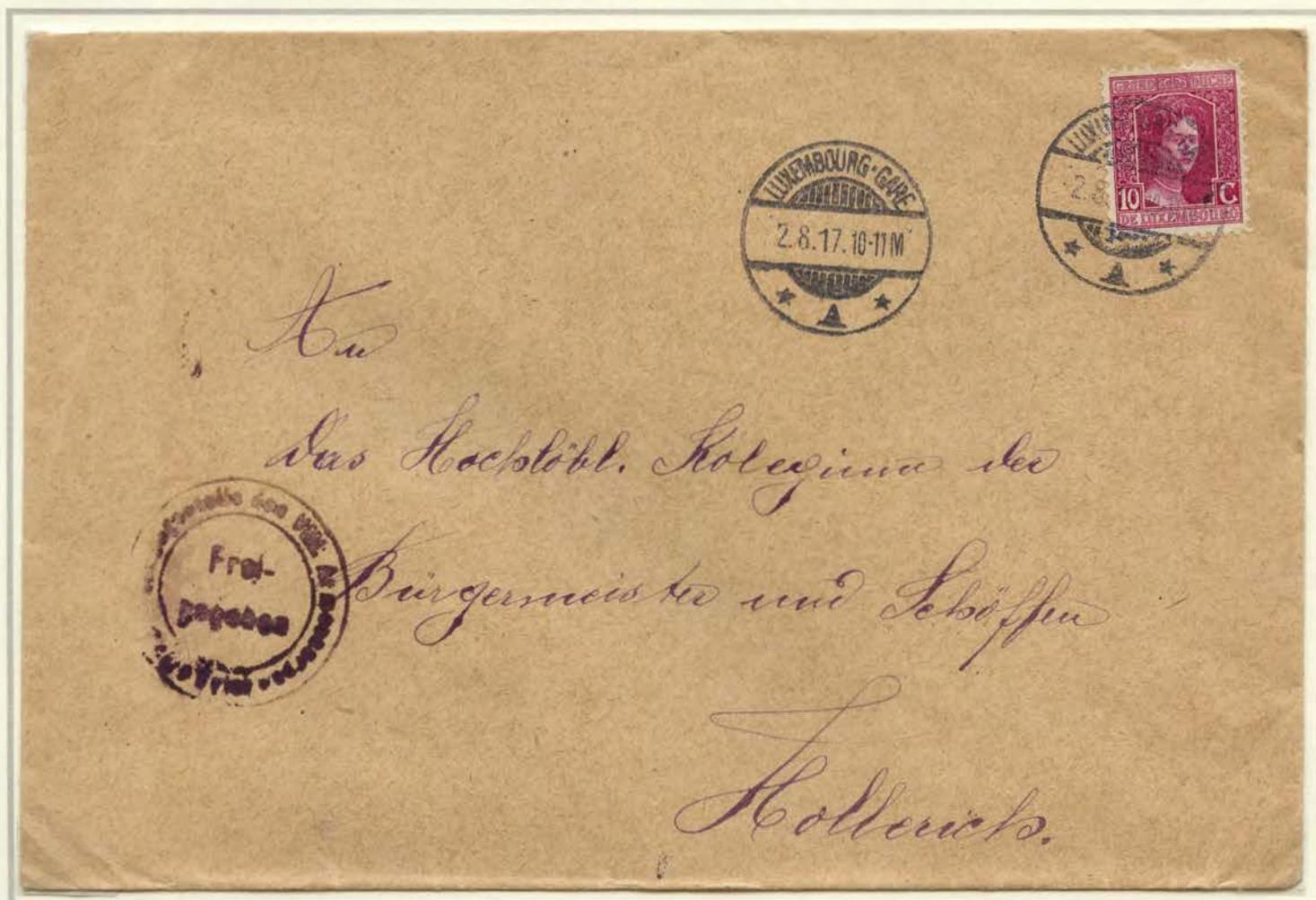
The last censorship cancel of Trier has also in both of it forms a service life of roughly one year. At the end, the censorship Cancel no. 61 is virtually illegibly.



Registration dates between 20th Nov 1916 and 5th Aug 1917; the color of the cancel varies between violet and blackish-violet,

The postcard is with 15 Pfg. franked, double the 7 ½ Pfg. tariff that was necessary since 1st Aug 1916

Aachen, 17th May 1917, via Trier and Luxembourg to Clervaux, erroneously routed via the Aachen inland censorship office 'Aachen-Stadt zu befördern' (City of Aachen – to forward)



Inland letter, posted at Luxembourg-Station, 2nd Aug 1917, **mis-sent to Trier – unique inland mail censored in Trier**, as it was intended for Hollerich in Luxembourg, violet censor cancel no. 6 of Trier

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.8 Censor Cancel Trier
1.8.8 Censor Cancel No. 6II

The last censorship cancel of Trier has also in both of it forms a service life of roughly one year. At the end, the censorship Cancel no. 6II is virtually illegibly.



Registration dates between 7th Aug 1917 and 18th Nov 1918; the color of the cancel varies between violet, blueish violet, blackish-violet, lilac and all shades in between.

Luxembourg, 17th Nov 1918, Trier to Gera, censor cancel no. 6II - last registered usage



Mailed at Clervaux on 4th Aug 1917, via Trier to Crefeld, addressee has moved and letter was returned again via Trier to Luxembourg / Clervaux, two strikes of the violet censor cancel no. 6I and 6II, one very used, one fresh – earliest registered usage of no. 6II

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancel
1.9 Censor Cancel Oberpostdirektion Trier

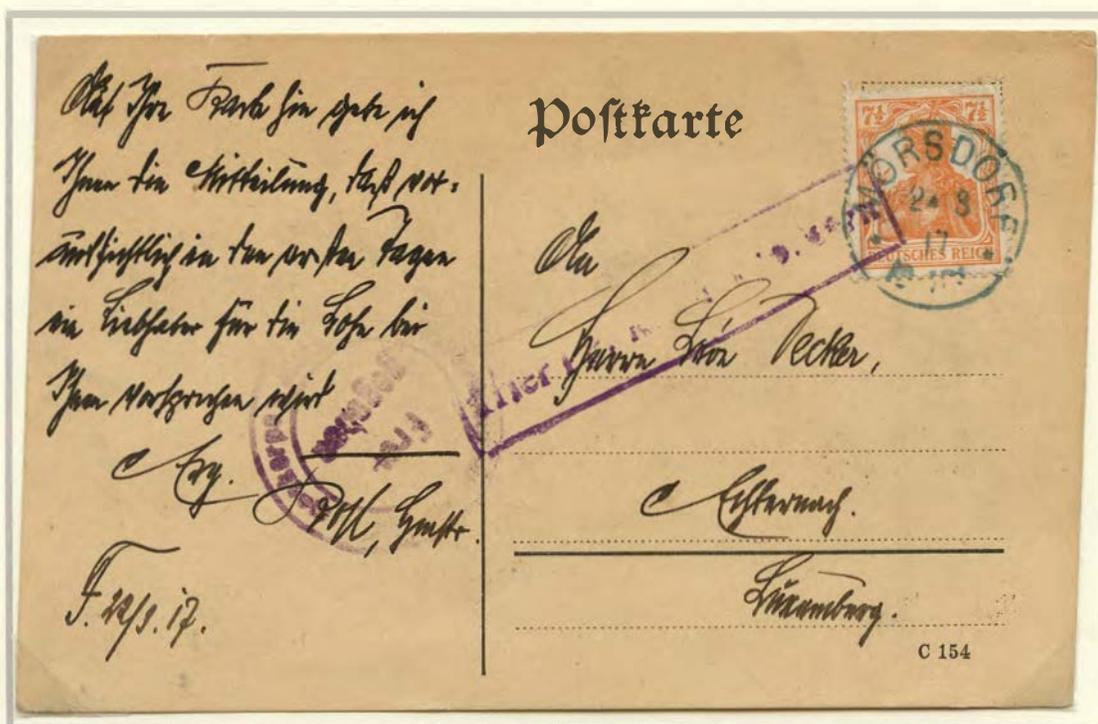
The postal district (OPD) bordering to Luxembourg is the OPD Trier. Usually, the mail directed to Luxembourg is not reviewed by the inland censorship office but directed to the foreign censorship branch.



Copy – inland post control cancellation of OPD Trier. This local censorship of the OPD is quite unusual, these are the only registered copies of mail to or from Luxembourg.



Bleialf, 6th Apr 1916, forwarded to Esch-sur-Sure in Luxembourg via Trier, local post control cancel **TRIER P.K. Geprüft und freigegeben**, censor cancel no. 4 of Trier



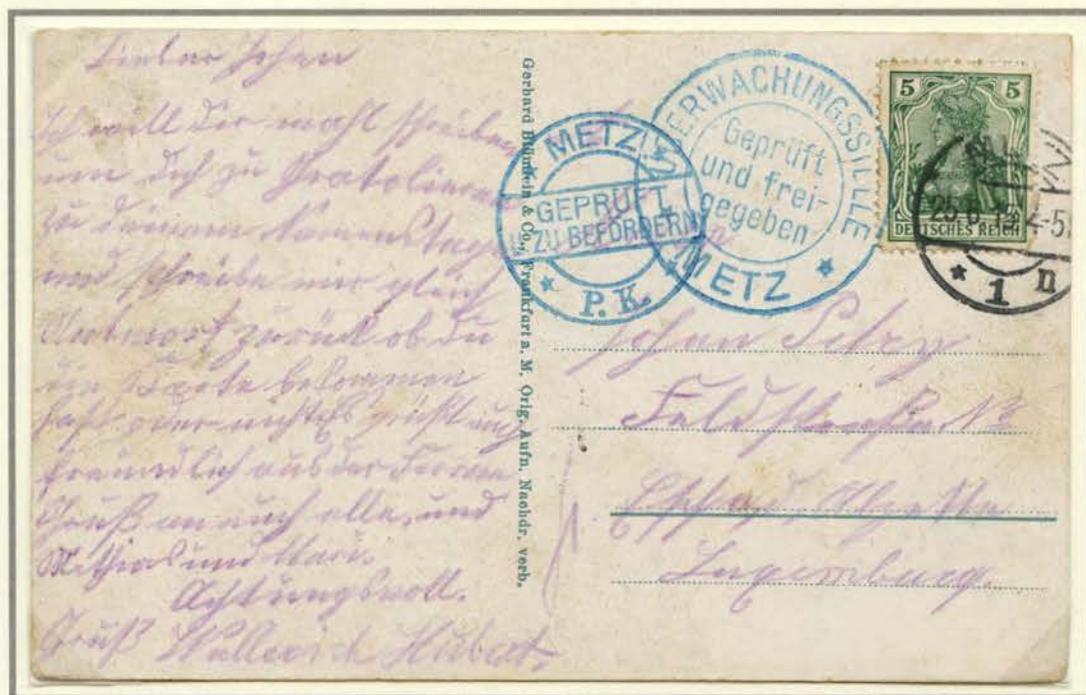
Mörsdorf, 2nd Mar 1917, forwarded to Echternach in Luxembourg via Trier post control cancel **TRIER P.K. Geprüft und freigegeben**, censor cancel no. 61 of Trier – **two registered mail items with additionally OPD censor cancellation**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

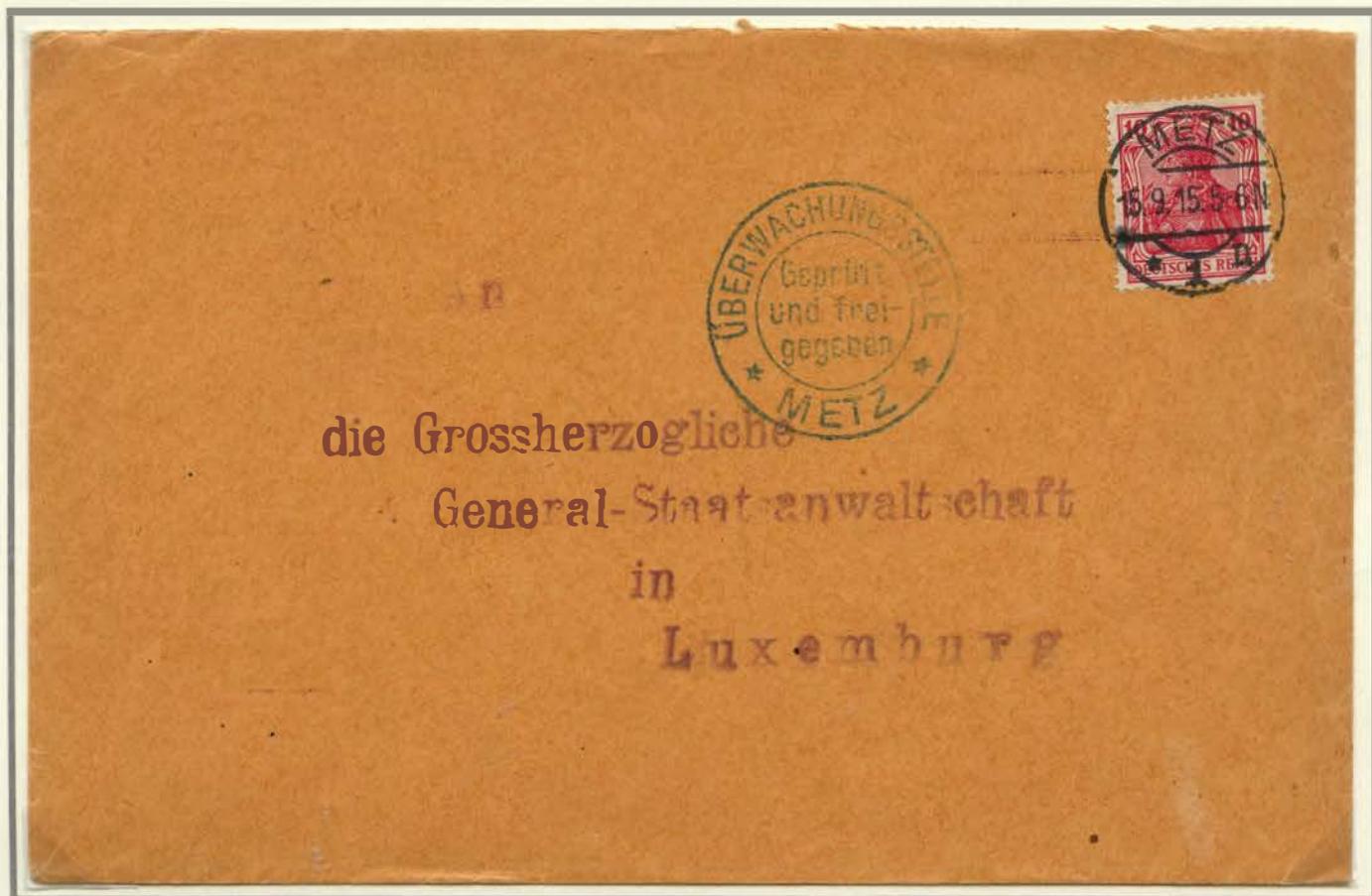
1 Censor Cancels
1.10 Censor Cancels of Alsace-Lorraine
1.10.1 Censor Cancel Postal Control Metz

The neighboring town of Metz is only 50 kilometers away from the town of Luxembourg. As in Alsace-Lorraine a postal control system was already in place, in rare instances the mail was not routed via Trier to Luxembourg.

Copy – Mail to and from Alsace & Lorraine received one censor cancel of Trier and again a censor cancellation of the local inland censorship office (Rierner Aug 1915 – Jul 1918 → earliest recorded usage in Jun 1915)



Metz, 25th Jun 1915, forwarded via Luxembourg to Esch-sur-Alzette, inland censor cancel **METZ P.K. Geprüft und zu befördern** and **ÜBERWACHUNGSSTELLE METZ Geprüft und freigegeben** (postal control Metz - mail checked and released)



Metz, 15th Sep 1915 to Luxembourg, inland censor cancellation **ÜBERWACHUNGSSTELLE METZ Geprüft und freigegeben** (postal control Metz - mail checked and released) – less than 20 mail items to Luxembourg registered

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.10 Censor Cancels of Alsace-Lorraine
1.10.2 Censor Cancel Postal Control Strasbourg

Alsace & Lorraine had been part of the German Empire since 1871. The population was regarded as 'unreliable' as the areas have been conquered in the German-French war of 1870 / 71.



Copy – Mail to and from Alsace & Lorraine received one censor cancel of Trier and again a censor cancellation of the local inland censorship office.

Rate – 50 Centimes., 25 Centimes UPU letter rate (valid as of 1st Oct 1907), 25 Centimes. registration fee.

Consdorf, 10th Jan 1916, via Luxembourg and Trier to Lausanne, censor cancel no. 51 of Trier, local censor cancel of Strassburg 'Geprüft und zu befördern P(ost). K(ontrolle) Strassburg (Els.)' (checked and ready for forwarding postal control Strassburg - Alsace) – **mail to Switzerland with the local postal censorship of Alsace-Lorraine is uncommon (less than five pieces registered)**

Mail to and from Alsace & Lorraine received one censor cancel of Trier and again a censor cancellation of the local inland censorship office.



Rate – 23 Pfg., 3 Pfg. Printed matter rate (valid as of 1st Oct 1902), 20 Pfg. registration fee.

Strassburg, 2nd Jan 1917, forwarded via Trier to Esch-sur-Alzette, censor cancel no. 61 of Trier, local censor cancel of Strassburg 'Geprüft und zu befördern P(ost). K(ontrolle) Strassburg' (checked and ready for forwarding postal control Strassburg) – **mail to or from Alsace-Lorraine is a common occurrence**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.10 Censorship in Alsace-Lorraine
1.10.3 Other Censor Cancels of Alsace-Lorraine

Alsace-Lorraine had a couple of local censorship offices installed, right from the beginning of the war. The censor cancels are found on mail to and from Luxembourg.



Copy – registered in Riemer from Summer 1916 until Summer 1918

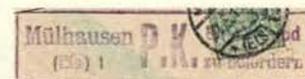


Rate – 7 ½ Pfg postcard rate, tariff valid as of 1st Aug 1916

Mailed in Fixheim, 18th Aug 1917, via Diedenhofen, Trier, Luxembourg-City to Mondorf-les-Bains; violet censor cancel 'POSTÜBERWACHUNGSSTELLE DIEDENHOFEN GEPRÜFT UND FREIGEgeben' (Postal control Diedenhofen – checked and released) of Diedenhofen, **less than 5 strikes of this censor cancel have been registered**, double censorship - censor cancel no. 51 of Trier,



Copy – very early double chemical censorship on both sides in 1915 – two substances used



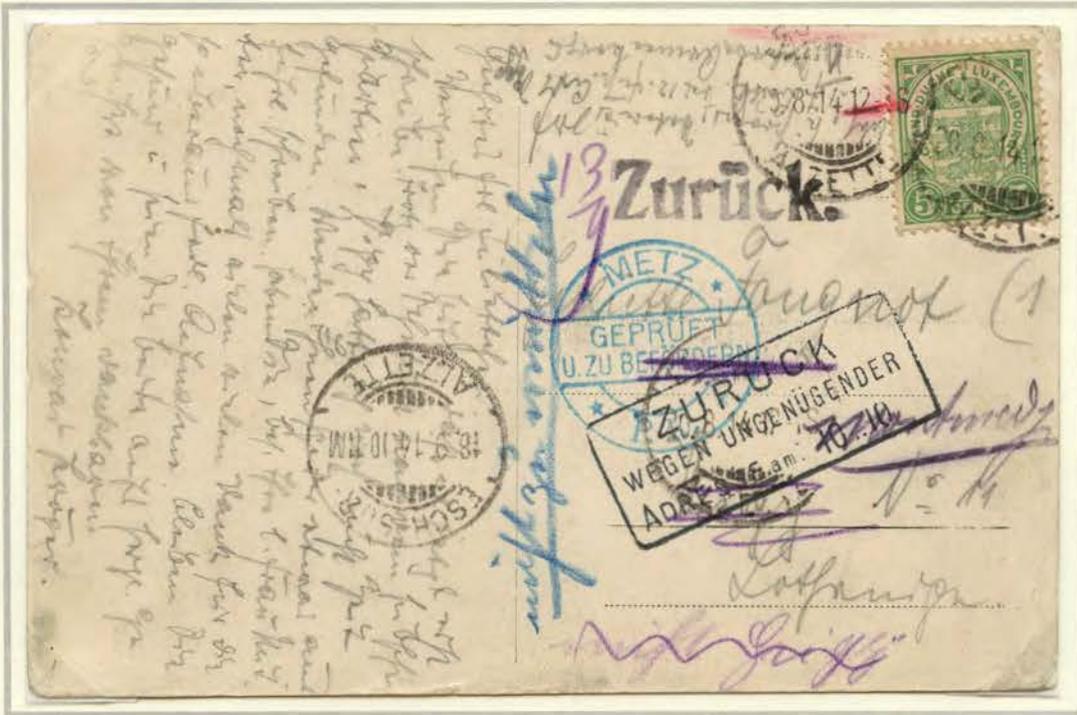
Copy – local post control cancel of Mülhausen – registered between Feb – Aug 1915

Mülhausen (Alsace), 27th May 1915, via Diedenhofen to Luxembourg, violet censor cancel 'Mülhausen (Els.) 1 P[ost] K[ontrolle] Geprüft und zu befördern' (Mülhausen [Alsace] 1 – checked and released) → **only registered item from Alsace-Lorraine without Trier censorship and early chemical treatment by two substances**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

I Censor Cancels
1.10 Censorship in Alsace-Lorraine
1.10.4 Returned Mail to Alsace-Lorraine

Returned mail is always interesting, as it shows that more clearly how censorship was executed at a certain point during the Great War.



Zurück.

Copy – Esch-sur-Alzette used a 'Zurück' cancellation in German (also registered in red colour), all other Luxembourg towns used cancellations in French language

Esch-sur-Alzette, 20th Aug 1914, via Metz to Longwy and back again: inland censor cancel **METZ P.K. Geprüft und zu befördern**, one Luxembourg retour cancel, one German retour cancels, manuscript notation 'nicht zu ermitteln' (not to be found), boxed instruction cancel '**ZURÜCK WEGEN UNGENÜGENDER ADRESSE**' (returned because of insufficient address - **only returned mail from Luxembourg to Metz**)



Rates: 20 Centimes, double the deficiency of 7 ½ Pfg → 18.75 Centimes, rounded to 20 Centimes; as the card was returned without payment of postage due, the sender had to pay the postage

Diedenhofen, 9th Nov 1917, forwarded via Trier and Luxembourg-City to Schengen (post office Remerschen), not accepted because of postage due and returned, inland censor cancel **FREIGELEGEN POSTÜBER-WACHUNGSTELLE DIEDENHOFEN**, two censor cancels no. 611 of Trier - card was twice put through Trier

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.11 Mail to France via Switzerland
1.11.1 Mail without French Censorship

For Luxembourg citizens, the only way to keep in touch with relatives in France is by way of Switzerland. Cover addresses are used and mail is forwarded to France and vice-versa.



Copy – Final address noted at the bottom left of the letter, destination Paris

Rate: 25 Centimes, UPU letter rate up to 20 grams, tariff valid since 1st Oct 1907

Grevenmacher, 28th Feb 1915, via Trier and Basel to Bern, instructions to forwarded to Paris written on the letter, censor cancellation no. 4 of Trier, no confirming arrival postmark of France

– less than ten mail items registered between Luxembourg and France



Copy – The letter was first rated postage due 30 Rappen in Switzerland, but it was cancelled and the letter forwarded to Paris / France



Luxembourg-City, 26th Jul 1915, via Trier to Davos, forwarded to Paris in France

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancel
1.11 Mail to France via Switzerland
1.11.2 French Censor Cancels

Letters from Luxembourg via Switzerland to France are usually censored by the French authorities. The letters receive a French censorship cancellation and are closed via a sealing tape.



Copy – French generic censor cancellation



Copy – French censor cancellation – *discovery copy!*

Rate: 25 Centimes, UPU letter rate up to 20 grams, tariff valid since 1st Oct 1907



Pétange, 12 Oct 1915, via Trier to Geneva, to forwarded to Collonges-sous-Salève, censor cancel no. 2 of Trier, French censor cancellation + numeral, on reverse: French sealing tape, French boxed censor cancellation 'OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE'

– **less than five items registered with double censorship**



Luxembourg, 21st Jul 1917, via Trier to Ouchy near Lausanne, forwarded to Paris, censor cancel no. 6II, French sealing tape, French censor cancel OUVERT CONTROL POSTAL MILITAIRE 418

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

2 Sealing Tapes
2.1 Sealing Tapes Cöln-Deutz

Closed letters to and from Luxembourg are routinely opened in Cöln-Deutz, read and re-sealed with a sealing tape.



Copy – Sealing Tape, formerly used by Travelling Post Office 10 to seal damaged letters, now used to re-seal closed letters

Bettembourg, 3rd Nov 1914, forwarded via Cologne to Forst; letter is opened at Cöln-Deutz, opened under military law – **less than five letters with sealing tape to and from Luxembourg registered**



Luxembourg-Station, 23rd Oct 1914, forwarded via Cologne to Munich, censor cancel Cöln-Deutz, boxed instruction cancels "Surveillance office 8th Army Corps", "Opened under military law", sealing tape **Kaiserliche Bahnpost 10**

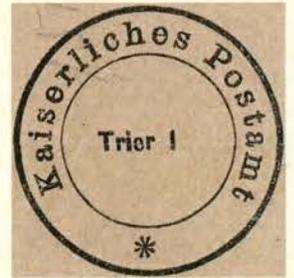
– **less than five letters with sealing tape to and from Luxembourg registered**

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

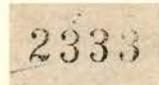
**2 Sealing Tapes
2.2 Sealing Tapes Trier
2.2.1. Sealing Tape No. 1**

Letters (either open or closed) are censored in Trier and are sealed with sealing tape.

Number	Usage	Rarity	Number	Usage	Rarity	Number	Usage	Rarity
Trier no. 1	Dec 1914 - Oct 1918	> 50	Trier no. 3	Jul 1915 - Sep 1916	< 25	Trier no. 5	Oct 1916 - Oct 1918	< 25
Trier no. 2	Jul 1915 - Sep 1915	< 5	Trier no. 4	Oct 1916 - Jan 1918	> 50	Trier no. 6	Sep 1918 - Nov 1918	< 5



Sealing tape no. 1, in use from 15th Dec 1914 – 12th Oct 1918.



Copy – a counter is used to connect letter and letter sheet

Steinfurt, 12th Oct 1918, via Trier to Bale, censor cancel no. 6, counter to ensure letter and cover are reunited after censorship, sealing tape no. 1, cut to save on tape - **last registered usage**



Luxembourg, 31st May 1915, via Trier to Frankfurt, censorship cancel no. 1, sealing tape no. 1

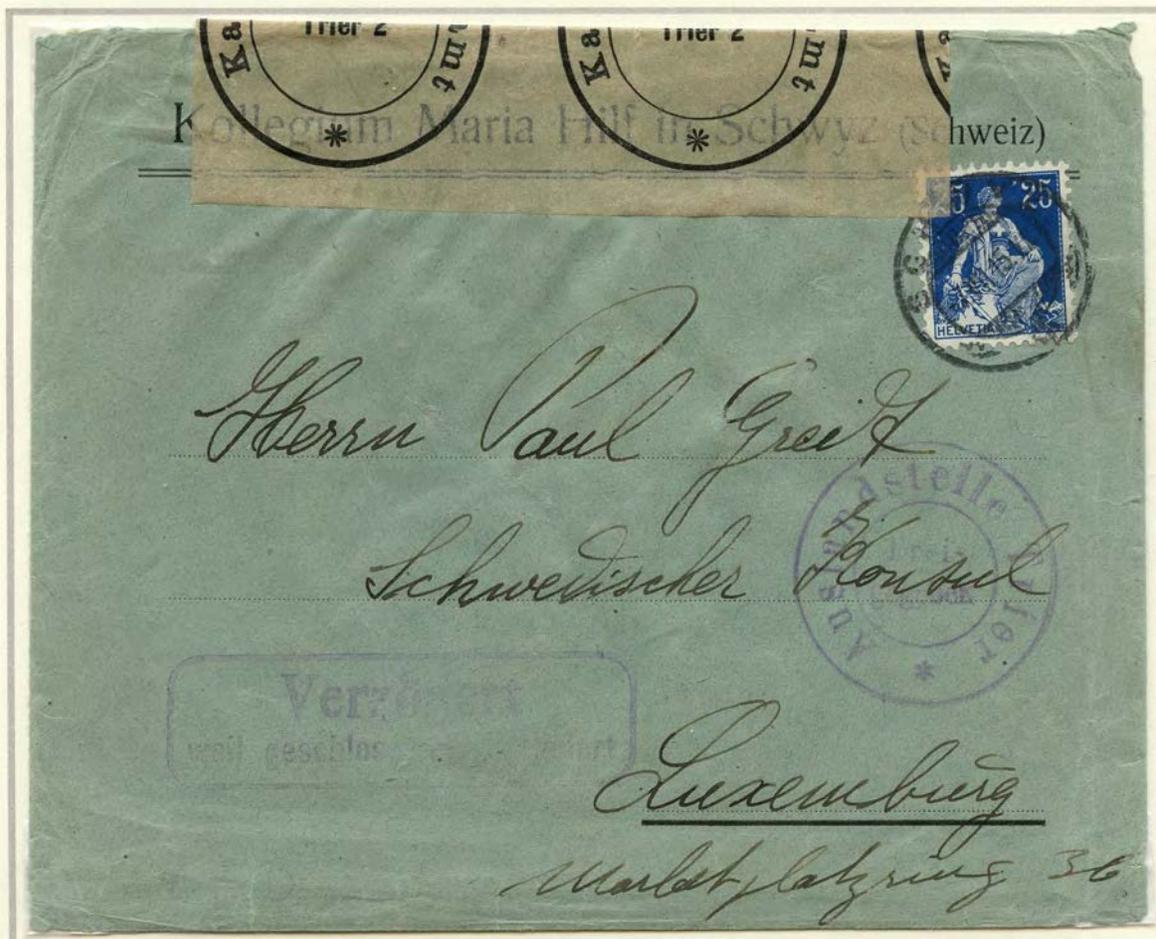
A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

2 Sealing Tapes
2.2 Sealing Tapes of Trier
2.2.2 Sealing Tape No. 2

During the first years, the censorship offices are using the stocks of sealing tapes found in local post offices. Trier 2 is located at the train station of Trier. Without too much stock, it is one of the rarer sealing tapes in use.



Copy – Sealing tape no. 2 is registered from 10 Jul 1915 until 13 Sep 1915. The remaining stock of the post office in Trier was used, as with sealing tape no. 1. Later in the war, the stock is used up and sealing tape is produced for the specific military usage. As during the war, resources become scarcer, the military tape is cut in two.



Schwyz, 10th Jul 1915, via Trier to Luxembourg-City, censor cancel no. 2, instruction cancel **Verzögert weil geschlossen aufgeliefert** (delayed – closed letter), on reverse: control cancellation no. 3, sealing tape no. 2

- first registered usage / less than five pieces known

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

**2 Sealing Tapes
2.2 Sealing Tapes Trier
2.2.3 Sealing Tape No. 3**

This is the first specific sealing tape for the foreign censorship branch that were used in the Foreign Censorship Office in Trier.



Copy – sealing tape no. 3; registered from 14 Jul 1915 until 14 Sep 1916.



Copy – Front of the cover, rated at 50 Centimes, 25 Centimes for a UPU letter up to 20 grams and 25 Centimes for the registration fee



Copy – Mail sent out from banking houses is especially sensitive. Therefore, an inspector was employed to check the banking correspondence



Copy – Private cancel 'Nach erfolgter Prüfung bitte zu schliessen!' (Please close the letter after review)



Luxembourg, 1st Aug 1916, via Trier to Brussels, private instruction cancel **Nach erfolgter Prüfung Bitte zu schliessen!**, censor cancel no. 511, sealing tape no. 3, on reverse: Control cancel no. 1, large cancel of the commissioner for banks in Belgium, less than 25 pieces registered

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

2 Sealing Tapes
2.2 Sealing Tapes Trier
2.2.4 Sealing Tape No. 4

Sealing tape no. 4 is registered between 8 Oct 1916 and 31 Jan 1918. Again, this sealing tape is specifically made for the foreign branch military censorship office in Trier.



Copy – new type of sealing tape stating the military purpose of the censorship office



Copy - 25 Cent., UPU letter rate up to 20 grams (tariff valid since 1 Oct 1907)



Luxembourg, 7th Dec 1916, via Trier to Lausanne, censor cancel no. 61, control cancel no. 1, sealing tape no. 4. one of the more common sealing tapes (more than 50 registered)

– interestingly, there is no control cancel on the back



Perlé, 11 Jul 1917, via Trier to Furth in Bavaria, censor cancel no. 6, control cancel no. 3, sealing tape no.4



Copy - 17 1/2 Cent., letter rate up to 20 grams (tariff valid since 1st Aug 1916)

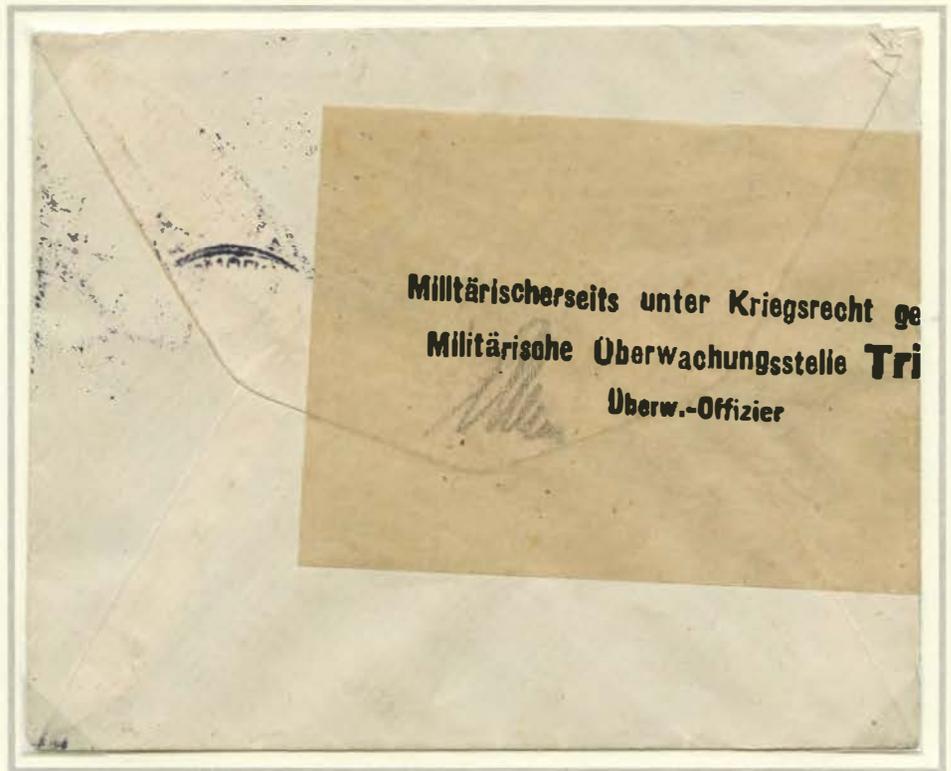
**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

**2 Sealing Tapes
2.2 Sealing Tapes Trier
2.2.5 Sealing Tape No. 5**

Instead of following the standard pattern of almost a quadrat form, the shape of this sealing tape is more rectangular, covering a wider area and including a space where the responsible officer could sign-off.



Copy – again, a new type of sealing tape for the censorship office gets created – trying to replace the control cancels; sealing tape no. 5 is registered between 28th Oct 1917 and Sep 1918; later in the war, the tape was cut up to save the valuable paper



Luxembourg, 28th Oct 1917, via Trier to Derne in Germany, on reverse censor cancel no. 611, sealing tape no. 5 – uncut version; **earliest registered usage**

- less than 25 mail items are registered having that sealing tape



Mondorf-les-Bains, 11th Jul 1917, via Luxembourg and Trier to Delemont in Switzerland, censor cancel no. 6, control cancel no. 3, sealing tape no. 5 – uncut version



Copy – reverse: Rate - prepayment of 50 Centimes, 25 Centimes. UPU letter rate up to 20 grams, 25 Centimes registration fee (tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907)

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

**2 Sealing Tapes
2.2 Sealing Tapes of Trier
2.2.6 Sealing Tape No. 5 – Cut in Half**

To save scarce resources, sealing tape no. 5 has been halved at the end of the First World War.

Geneva, 24th Sept
1918, via Trier
Luxembourg, on
front: Censor
cancel no. 6II, on
reverse: Control
cancel no. 3,
sealing tape no. 5
– cut version.
Registration
dates between
30th Jul to 7th Oct
1918 - less than
10 mail items
are registered



Differdange, 7th
Oct 1918, via
Luxembourg and
Trier to Munich,
on front: Censor
cancel no. 6II,
chemical agents to
test for hidden
messages, on
reverse: Control
cancel no. 3,
sealing tape no. 5
– cut version,
Registration dates
between 30th Jul to
7th Oct 1918

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

2 Sealing Tapes
2.2 Sealing Tapes Trier
2.2.7 Sealing Tape No. 6

The sealing tape no. 6 comes in the last weeks of the first World War, from 4 Sep – 15 Nov 1918. It is an emergency measure as it does not include any reference to the foreign censor office in Trier.



Copy – two mail items are currently registered for Trier with sealing tape No. 6



Copy – letter below shows the acceptance of German military mail just to Luxembourg border. only inland postage of 12 ½ Centimes is due (tariff as of 1st July 1918)



Luxembourg-Limpertsberg, 15th Nov 1918, via Trier to Geneva, censor cancel no. 6II, sealing tape no. 6

- last registered usage of any sealing tape in Trier.



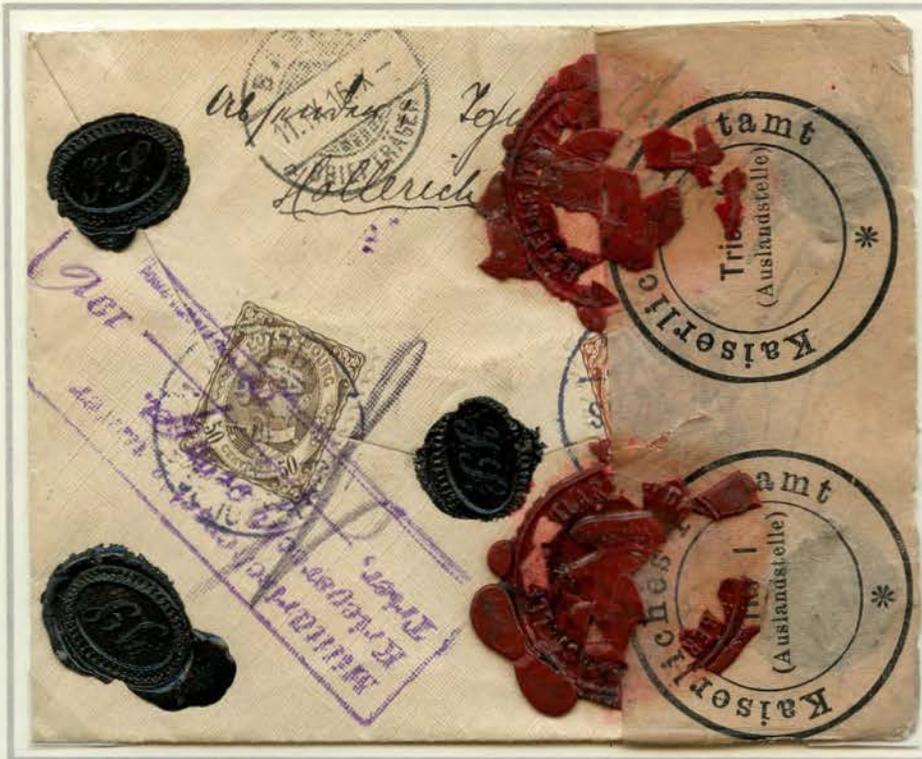
Rate: Free of charge for active soldiers, regimental cancel to confirm concession, 12 ½ Cent. postage due in Luxembourg, inland letter rate up to 20 grams

German Field Post Office, 4th Sep 1918, via Trier to Esch-sur-Alzette, censor cancel no. 6, counter, regimental cancel – **first registered usage of sealing tape no. 6**

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

**2 Sealing Tapes
2.2 Sealing Tapes Trier
2.2.8 Letter with Value – Handling in Trier**

When insured letters arrive without prior censorship at the censorship office in Trier, they got opened, the content was checked and after the checking the letters were re-sealed and re-weighed.



Copy – most letters with value are not opened in Trier, only letters from neutral countries like Luxembourg or Switzerland were opened, checked, re-weighed and resealed.

Rate: Minimum Fee for value below 30 Francs: 25 Centimes, UPU letter rate.

Centimes → Trier noted after the re-sealing 17 grams

*Luxembourg, 3rd Sep 1916 via Trier
Basel, re-weighed and re-closed, cen-
cancel no. 511, sealing tape no. 3, con-
cancel no. 1, resealed at Trier -*



Chaux-de-Fonds, 4th Nov 1918 via Trier to Luxembourg, re-weighed and re-closed, censor cancel no. 611, sealing tape no. 5, control cancel no. 1, resealed at Trier with black wax

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

**2 Sealing Tapes
2.3 German Empire Sealing Tapes out of Trier
2.3.1 Sealing Tapes of Frankfurt**

In some instances, mail from Luxembourg was erroneously sent via another German post office to a foreign destination. While Trier was happy with the content, the other post offices opened the letter (again).

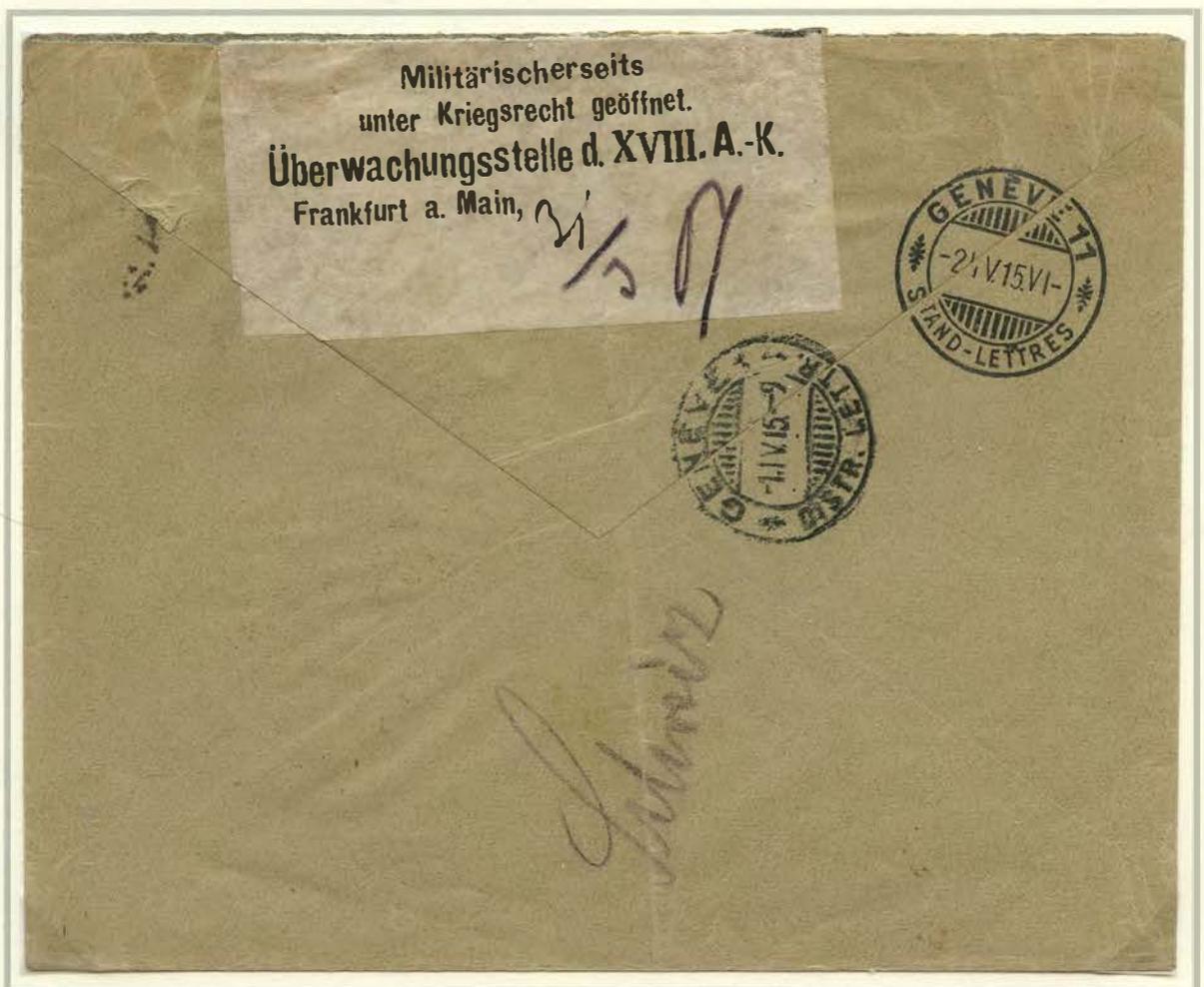


Copy – Sealing tape of the local inland censorship office at Frankfurt – this sealing tape is unregistered with Riemer

Luxembourg, 4th Aug 1915, forwarded via Trier – sent probably by error to Frankfurt, censor cancel no. 2 of Trier, sealing tape of Frankfurt – **less than five letters registered with sealing tape not belonging to Trier**



Copy – sealing tape of the XVIII. Army Corps, in use between 1915 and 1918

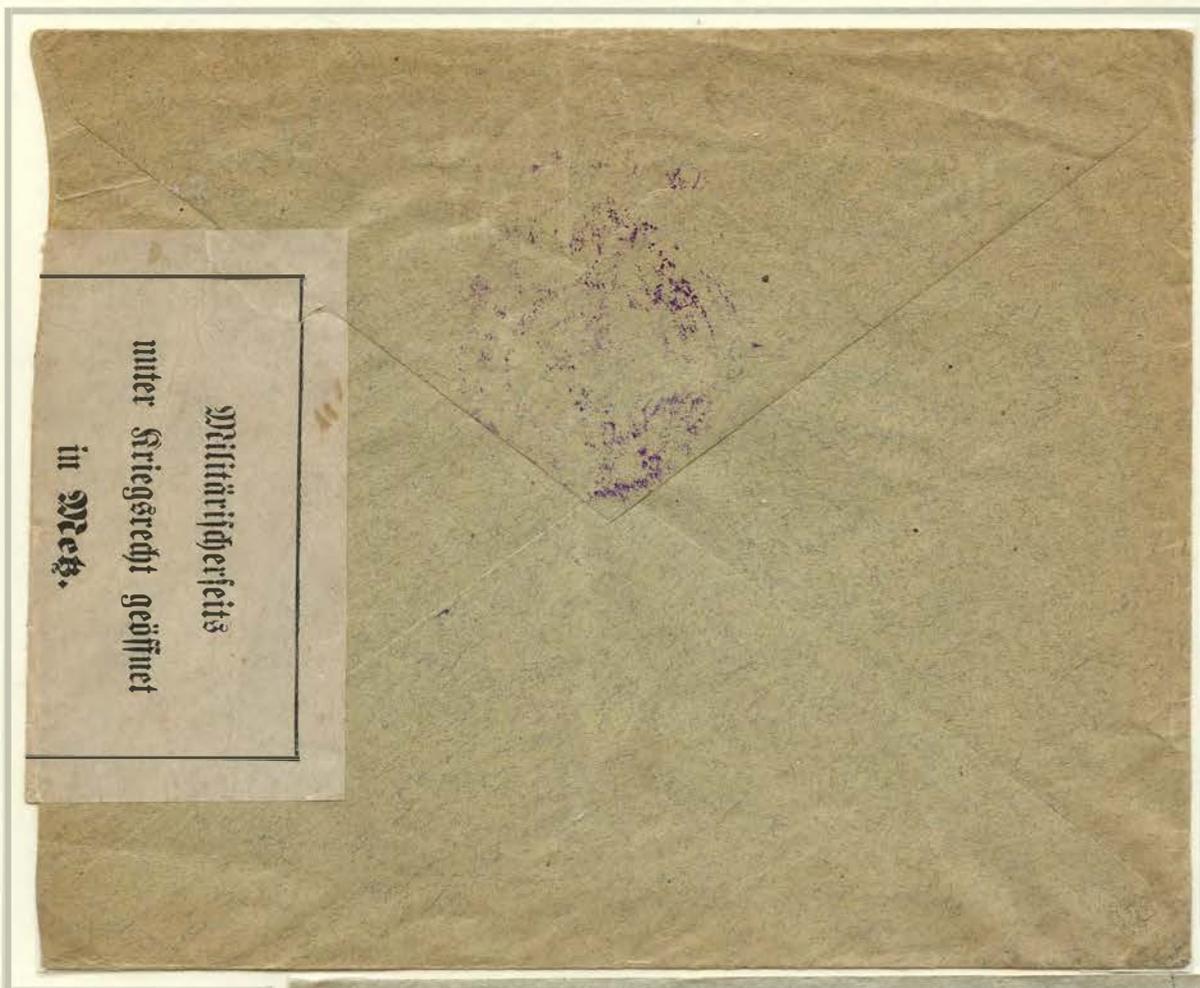


Luxembourg, 29th Mar 1915, forwarded via Trier – sent probably by error to Frankfurt, censor cancel no. 2 of Trier, sealing tape of Frankfurt

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

**2 Sealing Tapes
2.3 German Empire Sealing Tapes out of Trier
2.3.2 Sealing Tapes of Metz**

The mail from Luxembourg to Alsace-Lorraine sometimes is opened, censored and re-sealed.



Copy – Sealing tape of the local military censorship office at Metz – **Riemer registers the sealing tape only in 1917/1918**

Larochette, 4th Dec 1916, forwarded via Trier to Metz, censor cancel no. 3 of Trier, sealing tape of Metz – **only these two letters registered with sealing tape of Metz**

Luxembourg, 3rd Dec 1916, via Trier, Diedenhofen to Metz, cancel no. 4 of Trier, sealing tape of Metz, instruction cancellation 'POST-ÜBERWACHUNGSSTELLE DES GOVERNEMENTS METZ' (postal control of the Metz region)



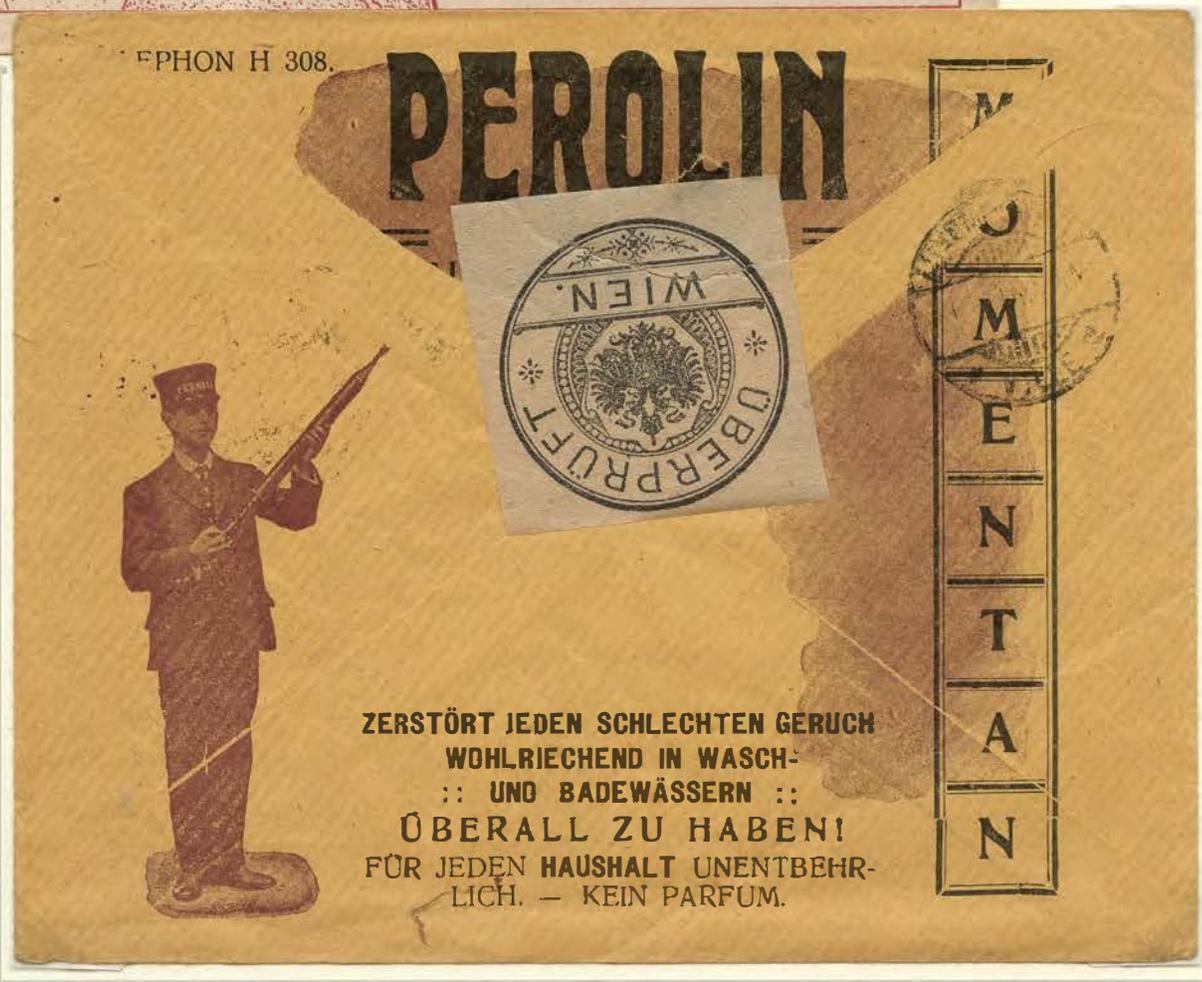
**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

**2 Sealing Tapes
2.4 Foreign Sealing Tapes
2.4.1 Austrian Sealing Tapes**

Letters out of Austria-Hungary sometimes underwent censorship and were closed by sealing tape.



Vienna, 12th
May 1916, via
Trier to
Luxembourg,
censor cancel
no. 511 of
Trier, sealing
tape of the
Vienna
censorship
office - **sealing
tape is
uncommon
(less than five
pieces
registered)**



Vienna, 11th Jun
1916, via Trier to
Luxembourg,
censor cancel no.
511 of Trier,
sealing tape of
the Vienna
censorship office

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

3 Instruction Cancels
3.1 Instruction Cancels Used in Cöln-Deutz

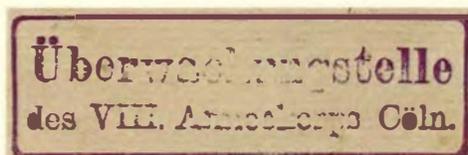
During the six weeks of organized censorship in Cöln-Deutz, only a handful of instruction cancels have been found on mail to and from Luxembourg. The letter shown below is interesting, as it made its way back and forth between Luxembourg and the German Empire before finally getting forwarded to Switzerland.



Boxed **‚Zurück weil geschlossen‘**



Boxed **‚Militärischerseits unter Kriegsrecht geöffnet. Cöln-Deutz: Überwachungsoffizier‘**



Boxed **‚Überwachungsstelle des VII. Armeekorps Cöln-Deutz‘**



All three instruction marks of Cöln-Deutz are extremely rare – **of the Zurück weil geschlossen one example of is registered, of the other two cancel only a handful cancels are known.**

Letter posted at Luxembourg-Station on 26th Oct 1914, forwarded to Cologne, stopped by the censor office as letter was closed (against regulations); letter is returned to Luxembourg and arrives on 29th Oct, but as the sender could not be identified, it was decided to forward the letter again to Germany on 6 Nov including a request to let the letter pass to Switzerland (*‚Prière de faire passer pour la Suisse‘* in black crayon), on 23th Nov the letter reaches Geneva.

Luxemburg instruction cancellation *‚Inconnu à Luxembourg‘* and Red Cross arrival cancel

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

3 Instruction Cancels
3.2 Instruction Cancels Trier
3.2.1 Control Cancel No. 1

In addition to the sealing tapes, there is a strike of a control cancel including signature of censoring officer.

Number	Usage	Rarity	Number	Usage	Rarity	Number	Usage	Rarity
Trier no. 1	Jan 1915 - Oct 1918	> 100	Trier no. 2	May 1915 - Sep 1917	> 100	Trier no. 3	Jan 1915 - Nov 1918	> 100



Copy – slanted types, stop after 'Überwachungs-offizier'. The first type is registered between 15th Jan 1915 and 7th Oct 1918.



Copy – 25 Centimes, up to 20 grams, tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907.



Wormeldange, 22nd Jun 1915, via Trier to Geneva, censor cancel no. 2, control cancel no. 1 – more than 100 items with the cancel are registered, private number cancel '181' of the Red Cross



Coggiola / Italy, 25th Mar 1915, via Switzerland and Trier to Luxembourg, censor cancel no. 2, on reverse: Sealing tape no. 1, control cancel no. 1

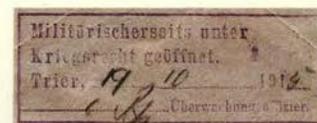
**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

**3 Instruction Cancels
3.2 Instruction Cancels Trier
3.2.2 Control Cancel No. 2**

The three control cancels were in use simultaneously in Trier.



Colmar-Berg, 5th Apr 1917, via Trier to Küsnacht in Switzerland, censor cancel no. 61, sealing tape no. 4, control cancellation no. 2 – more than 50 cancels registered



Copy – straight letters, full stop after 'Überwachungsoffizier'



Copy – the 2 ½ Franc stamp of the Marie-Adelaide definitive series is a rare stamp on cover, less than ten mail items are recorded – although the letter is clearly philatelic, as the postage on a registered letter to the German Empire is only 37 ½ Centimes – 12 ½ Centimes + 25 Centimes registration fee



Rumelange, 29th May 1915, via Trier to Bischweiler in Alsace-Lorraine, censor cancel no. 1, sealing tape no. 1, control cancel no. 2 – against regulations, no Alsace-Lorraine censor cancel was applied

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

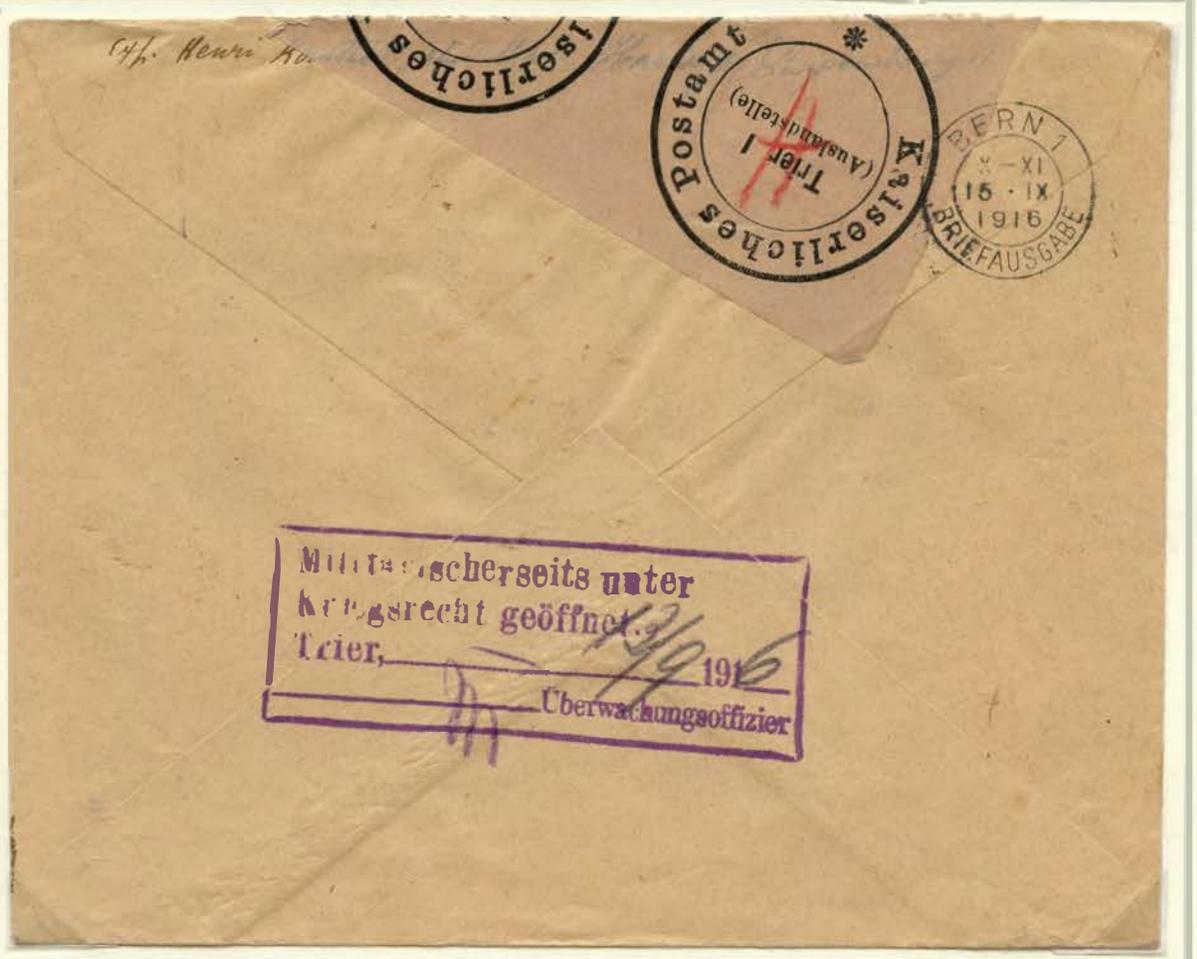
**3 Instruction Cancels
3.2 Instruction Cancels Trier
3.2.3 Control Cancel No. 3**

Third type with straight font and stop after 'Überwachungsoffizier', registered between 17 Jan 1915 - 10 Sep 1918.



Riemer is in error, the control cancels have a much longer life and get used in parallel, they are **NOT** replacing each other (see list at the beginning of the chapter)

Ettelbrück, 16th Sep 1915, via Trier to Leisnig (Saxony), censor cancel no. 211, sealing tape no. 1, control cancel no. 3, more than 100 mail pieces registered – **earliest known usage**



Posted "en route" Echternach-Kautenbach, 13th Sep 1916, via Trier to Bern, censor cancel no. 511, sealing tape no. 3, control cancel no. 3, registration of more than 100 mail pieces.

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

2 Sealing Tapes
2.4 Foreign Sealing Tapes
2.4.2 British Sealing Tapes

Letters from or to Luxembourg via the Netherlands to the USA were up to the entry of the USA in the Great War on 6th April 1917 possible, but they were censored by the British and sometimes held until the war ended.



Copy – Front of the cover; Rate: 5 Cents UPU letter rate USA, tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907

New York, 24th Oct 1916, via the Netherlands and Trier to Luxembourg, censor cancel no. 61 of Trier, British sealing tape and sealing tape no. 4 and control cancel no. 3 of Trier – British sealing tape is uncommon (less than ten pieces registered)



Rate: 50 Centimes, 25 Centimes, UPU letter rate for up to 20 grams, 25 Centimes registration fee, tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907

Luxembourg, 6th Dec 1916, mailed via Trier to Boston via the Netherlands to the USA, censor cancellation no. 61, British sealing tape, boxed British instruction cancel **RELEASED BY THE BRITISH MILITARY AUTHORITY**, counter, on reverse NEW YORK REG^y. DIV., the arrival cancel Boston shows a release of this letter in September 1919 – less than five items registered that were held up by British censorship

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

3 Instruction Cancels
3.2 Instruction Cancels Trier
3.2.4 Instruction Cancel No. 1

The instruction cancellation 'Zurück wegen Kriegszustand' on mail to or from Luxembourg is only very rarely found. Less than five mail items with this cancel are registered.

Number	Usage	Rarity	Number	Usage	Rarity	Number	Usage	Rarity
Trier no. 1	Nov 1914 - Jun 1915	< 5	Trier no. 3	Nov 1916 - Feb 1916	< 5	Trier no. 5	May 1916 - Apr 1917	< 5
Trier no. 2	Dec 1914 - Aug 1915	< 5	Trier no. 4	Feb 1916 - Apr 1916	< 5	Trier no. 6	Nov 1916 - Aug 1917	< 10



Copy – 'Zurück wegen Kriegszustand' (returned due to military operations), the German military forbid the sending of mail to prevent potential sensitive information to leak to the enemy – mail is subsequently returned to the sender



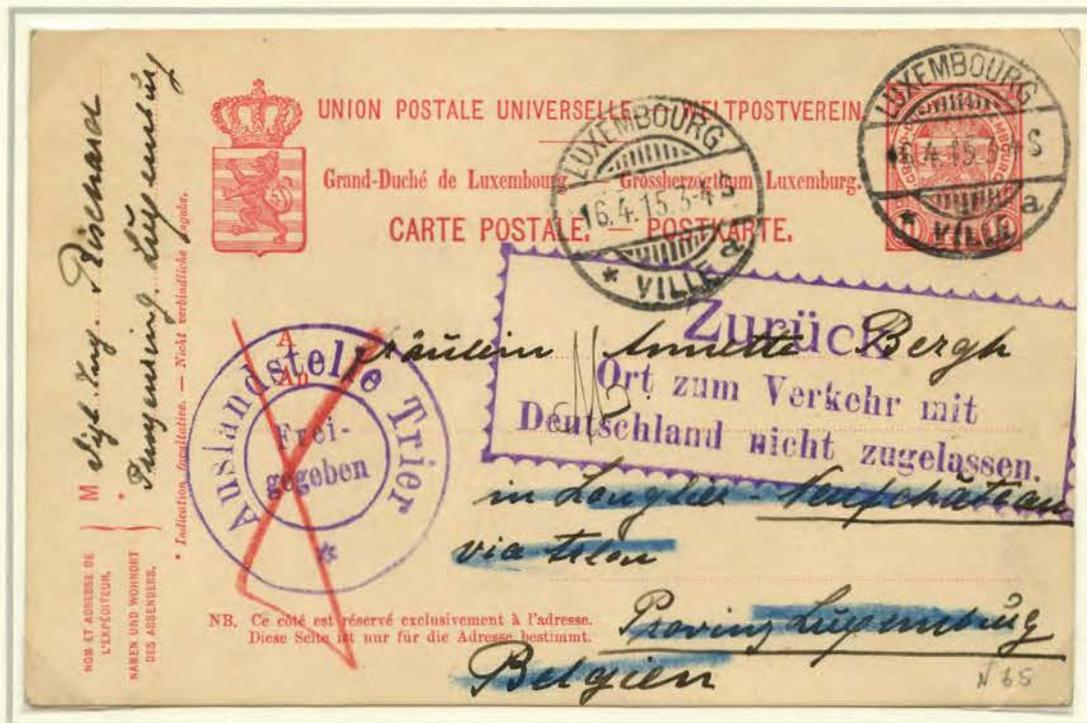
Esch-sur-Alzette, 3rd Dec 1914, forwarded to Trier and intended for Switzerland – returned to sender on 19th Dec 1914 sender as due to current military operations international mail was at first blocked and then returned; boxed instruction cancel 'Zurück wegen Kriegszustand', address crossed out with blue crayon

– less than five instruction cancels registered. Discovery Copy! Unknown in Riemer for Trier

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

**3 Instruction Cancels
3.2 Instruction Cancels Trier
3.2.5 Returned Mail – Not Allowed**

Trier used a number of instruction cancels on mail to or from Luxembourg. Most of the instruction cancels are uncommon, some are only registered with a few pieces.



Copy – 'Zurück Ort zum Verkehr mit Deutschland nicht zugelassen' – due to military operations near the town Neufchateau, the forwarding of mail is temporarily suspended – in Riemer only registered for the censorship office in Cologne-Deutz

Luxembourg-City, 16th Apr 1915, forwarded to Trier, refused by the censor office and sent back, censor cancel no. 2, instruction cancellation 'Returned – Not Allowed'

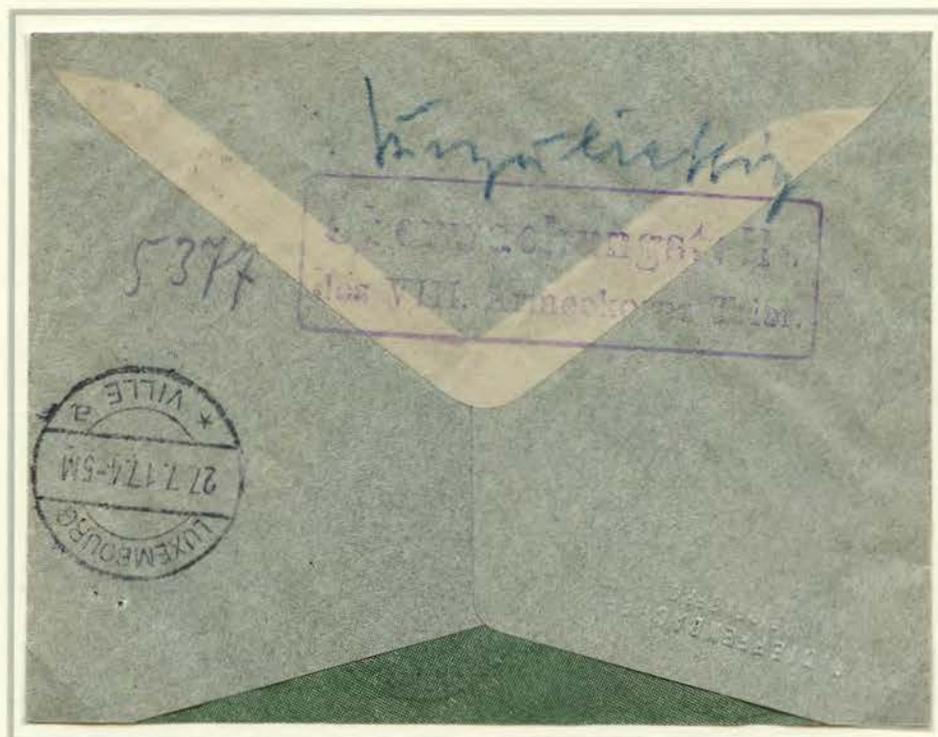
– **Discovery Copy! Unknown in Riemer for Trier**

3.2.6 Instruction Cancels Überwachungsstelle

The following instruction cancel 'Überwachungsstelle des VIII. Armeekorps Trier' is also not common, but the usage is documented between November 1916 until the end of the censorship in Trier in November 1918.



Copy – clearly a philatelic cover, overpayment of the 17 1/2 Centimes for a cover up to 20 grams + 25 Centimes registration fee the 1.05 Francs clearly covers the 32 1/2 Centimes necessary



Luxembourg, 26th Jul 1917, forwarded via Trier and intended for Heidelberg, refused and returned, on reverse: Instruction cancel Überwachungsstelle des VIII. Armeekorps Trier

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

3 Instruction Cancels
3.2 Instruction Cancels Trier
3.2.7 Mail Delay

Discovery copy of boxed instruction cancel 'Verzögert weil geschlossen aufgeliefert' ('delayed – letter closed'), in use in the military censorship office in Trier.



Copy – the instruction cancel comes into use in mid-1915; this instruction cancel is also **not registered in the German standard reference book compiled by Riemer** - registered between 8th Jul 1915 and 20th Sep 1915



Clervaux, 3rd Mar 1915, forwarded via Trier to Liege, censor cancellation no. 2, instruction cancel Verzögert weil geschlossen aufgeliefert - **first registered usage** / less than ten mail pieces registered



Thessaloniki, 20th Sep 1915, sent overland via Romania and the Austrian-Hungarian Empire to La Sauvage in Luxembourg via Trier, censor cancellation no. 2 of Trier, instruction cancel Verzögert weil geschlossen aufgeliefert, sealing tape no. 3 - **last registered usage**



Copy – this is the only registered letter from Greece to Luxembourg during the time of the First World War, overfranked with 30 Lepta for a letter weighing up to 20 grams (tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907)

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

3 Instruction Cancels
3.2 Instruction Cancels Trier
3.2.8 Returned – Letter Closed

The boxed instruction cancel 'Zurück weil geschlossen' (returned – letter closed) is used when closed letters (forbidden according to regulation and often discussed in newspapers) were delivered to the censorship office. Sometimes, the letters were opened despite the instruction marking.



Copy – in use in the military censorship office in Trier, registered between 3rd Mar 1915 and 16th Dec 1917; Luxembourg newspapers warn potential letter writers to switch to postcards, as censorship usually is much faster / again, this instruction cancel is not registered in the German standard reference compiled by Riemer



Esch-sur-Alzette, 3rd Mar 1915, forwarded via Luxembourg and Trier and returned to Esch-sur-Alzette boxed instruction cancel Zurück weil geschlossen - **first registered usage**. on front: Instruction cancel Überwachungsstelle des VIII. Armeekorps – less than ten mail pieces registered



Luxembourg, 16th Dec 1917, hold up in Trier but ultimately forwarded to Derne near Dortmund censor cancel no. 611 of Trier, smaller type of instruction cancellation Zurück weil geschlossen, scaling tape no. 5 – **last registered usage**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

3 Instruction Cancels
3.2 Instruction Cancels Trier
3.2.9 Military Address – Foreign Mail

The Luxembourg correspondence probably never became aware of the use of the following instruction cancel: 'Auslandsbrief' (foreign letter), in use in the military censorship office in Trier on mail to German soldiers.



Copy – the instruction cancel registered between 12 Apr 1917 and 22 Aug 1918, when mail addressed to active German soldiers is sent out of Luxembourg, colour usually violet, later blackish violet/ this instruction cancel is not registered in the German standard reference compiled by Riemer

Franking of 10 Centimes, postcard rate to the German Empire (tariff valid as of 1 Aug 1916)



Luxembourg-City, 12th Apr 1917, forwarded via Trier to a soldier in a field post hospital, censor cancel no. 61, boxed instruction cancellation Auslandsbrief - **first registered usage**

Although the wording 'Feldpostkarte' is used (field postcard), the regular postage had to be paid by the sender, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg was never a participant in the First World War.



Luxembourg-City, 19th Apr 1917, forwarded via Trier to a German inspector for field post hospitals, censor cancel no. 61 of Trier, boxed instruction cancel Auslandsbrief

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

3 Instruction Cancels
3.2 Instruction Cancels Trier
3.2.10 Picture not Allowed

Mail items, especially picture postcards are subject to harsh censorship rules. The Germans feared that spies may use the picture side to hide secret messages. Not totally irrational, but a real pain for the sender who got his postcard returned.



Copy – The instruction cancel 'ZURÜCK weil Abbildung unzulässig' is the discovery copy (not in the Riemer handbook); picture postcard are forbidden for use as the picture side could be used to pass secret messages.

Rates: 10 Centimes, UPU postcard rate (tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907)



Mondorf, 12th Sep 1917, forwarded to Trier and intended for Belgium – returned to sender, boxed instruction cancel 'Zurück weil Abbildung unzulässig' and boxed 'Überwachtungsstelle des VIII. Armee Korps'

3.2.11 Surveillance Office VIII Army Corps Trier



Copy – The instruction cancel 'Überwachtungsstelle des VIII. Armee Korps Trier' is sometimes used in connection with other instruction cancels; it is rarely seen on mail to and from Luxembourg (Riemer Nov 1916 – Nov 1918)

Rates: 10 Centimes, UPU postcard rate (tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907)

Wiltz, 29th Nov 1917, forwarded to Trier and intended for Belgium – returned to sender, various instruction cancels, address crossed out with red crayon, manuscript change of instruction cancel 'Zurück weil Abbildung unzulässig' to 'Zurück weil Verkehr mit Neufchâteau unzulässig'

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

3 Instruction Cancels
3.2 Instruction Cancels Trier
3.2.12 No Connection - Retour

The USA declared war to the Germany Empire and its allies when the German Empire declared unrestricted U-boat warfare in 1917 and the 'Zimmermann-Telegram' became public. Mail to the USA was returned.

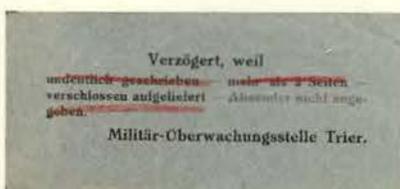


*Zurück
Keine Verbindung*

Copy – 'Zurück Keine Verbindung'; cancel not registered in the German standard reference book compiled by Riemer

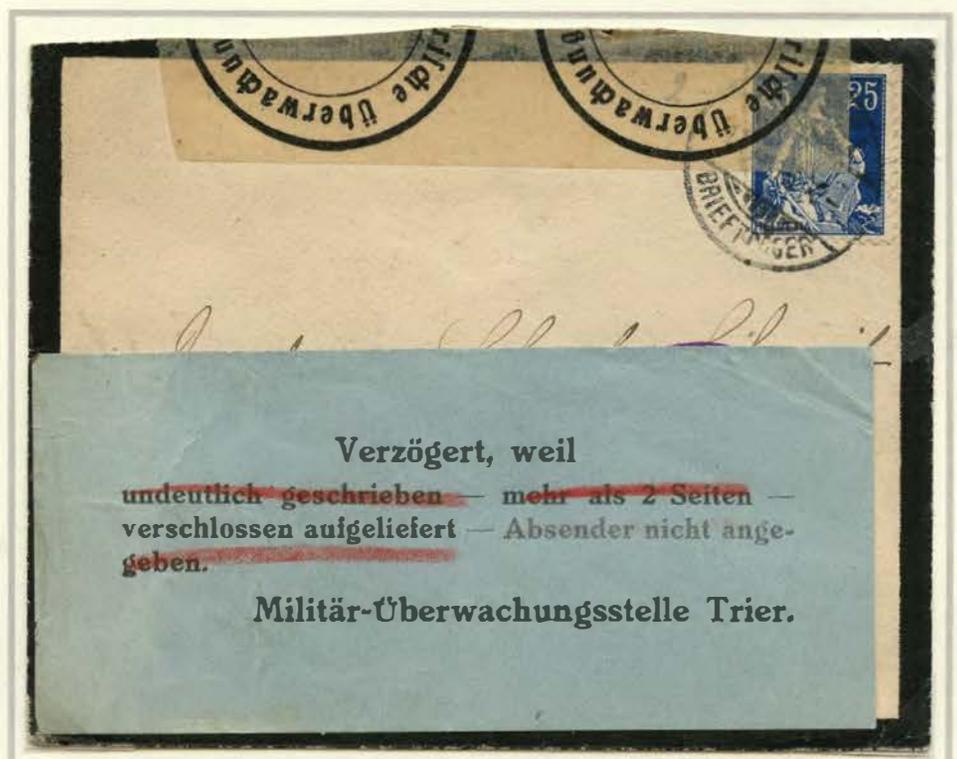
Luxembourg-City, 19th Feb 1917, intended for the USA, returned, as war broke out, censor cancel no. 6 of Trier, instruction cancel 'Zurück Keine Verbindung' - **first registered copy – Unique!**

3.3 Instruction Labels Trier



Copy – 'Verzögert, weil undeutlich geschrieben – mehr als 2 Seiten – verschlossen aufgeliefert – Absender nicht angegeben Militär-Überwachungsstelle Trier.'; paper label not registered in the German standard reference book compiled by Riemer

Switzerland, Nov 1916, via Trier to Diekirch, censor cancel no. 61 of Trier, instruction label 'Verzögert, weil ...' - **first registered copy – Unique!** – on reverse: Sealing label no. 4, control cancel no. 1



A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

3 Instruction Cancels
3.4 No Mailing Possibility Due to War Reasons

Mail from Luxembourg to foreign countries is sometimes completely stopped during war times. Reasons could be a blockade of transportation means due to the German war effort – mail was returned to the sender. Sometimes a delay due to secrecy of troop movements was imposed.



Keine Beförderung bei Liege ZURÜCK

Copy – German instruction cancellation 'Keine Beförderungsgelegenheit – ZURÜCK' – first registration date of 2nd Aug 1914, known in various forms and colors

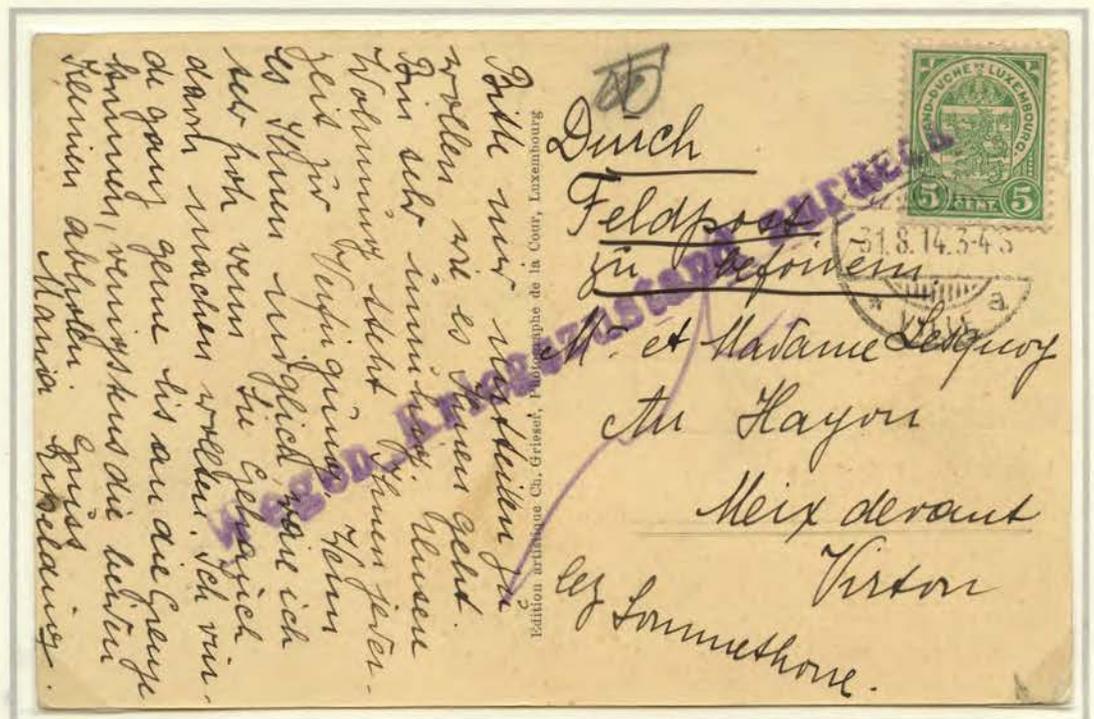
Rate: 10 Centimes. UPU postcard rate; tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907

Mailed at Luxembourg-Limpertsberg on 6th Jun 1915, posted on 7th Jun 1915, intended for the small town of Engis lez Liège is stopped before it could reach the censorship office at Trier and received a strike of the 'Keine Beförderungsgelegenheit – ZURÜCK' instruction cancel, one very used

– less than five mail items with this instruction cancel recorded



Copy – German instruction cancellation 'Wegen Kriegszustand zurück' and initials



Rate: As the card was intended to go via German military mail, the 5 Centimes pre-payment was superfluous

Mailed at Luxembourg-City, 31st Aug 1914, instructed to go via German military mail to Virton in Belgium, card received cancel 'Wegen Kriegszustand zurück' and was returned to the sender – less than five mail items registered

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

3 Instruction Cancels
3.6 Picture Side not Allowed

Usually, mail was returned for military reasons. But there are instances, when mail between two countries was not allowed or censorship intervened and returned an item.



ZURÜCK
 weil Abbildung unzulässig

Copy – The 'ZURÜCK weil Abbildung unzulässig' (picture postcard not admissible) cancellations are different in size, as they were custom-made in various postal control centers

Till-Moyland, 19th May 1915, picture postcard inspected at the Cleve Postal Control and returned to sender, **CLEVE P.K. geprüft und zu befördern + ZURÜCK weil Abbildung unzulässig**

Rosenberg, 14th Oct 1915, intended to go via military mail to Schifflange but stopped, no regimental cancel to confirm military franchise, German instruction cancel **ZURÜCK weil Abbildung unzulässig** (picture postcard not admissible)



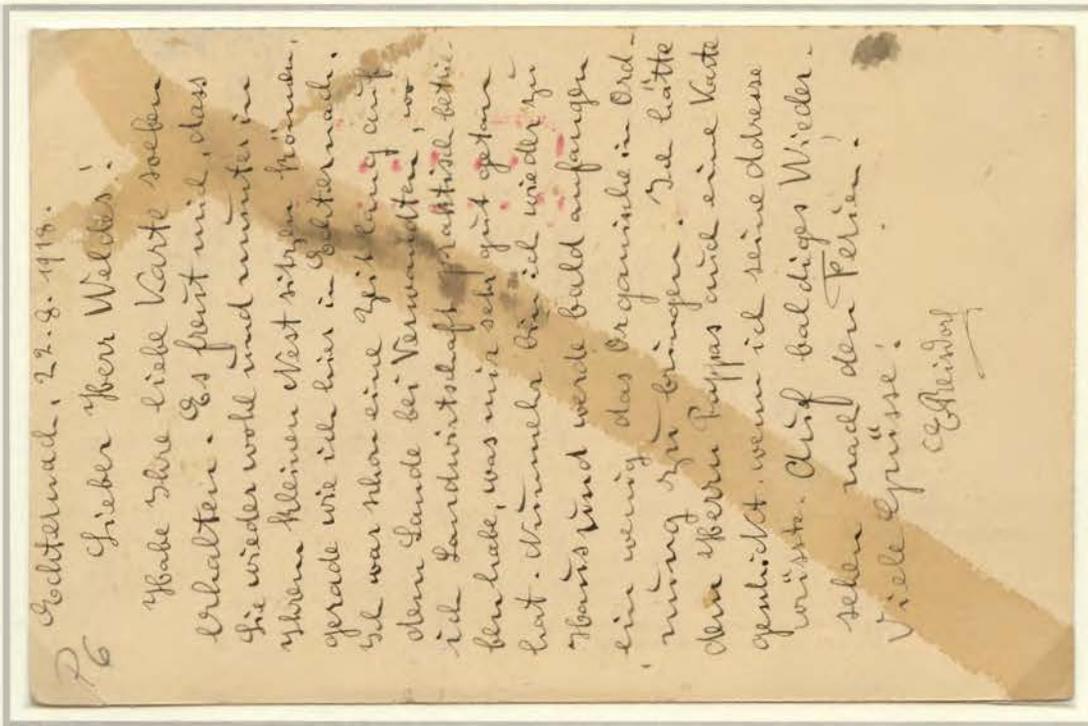
Braunschweig, 14th Oct 1915, intended to go via military mail to Mamer but stopped, no regimental cancel to confirm military franchise, soldier was part of occupation force in Luxembourg, boxed German instruction cancel **ZURÜCK weil Abbildung unzulässig** (picture postcard not admissible)



A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

3 Instruction Cancels
3.7 Chemical Treatment Trier
3.7.1 Chemical Treatment of Postcards

During 1918, mail to and from Luxembourg was routinely tested for secret messages by various chemical substances that have left their traces on the mail. Chemical testing can be found on mail before 1918, but only on very rare occasions.



Copy – The chemicals used were Litmus, bromothymol blue or phenol phthalein (the latter only shows a colour change when an alkaline solution is added). The chemicals showed a reaction, when an “invisible ink” was used to hide sensible information.

Echternach, 26th Aug 1918, forwarded via Trier to Neuhaus in Austria censor cancel no. 611 of Trier, censor cancels of Austria, initials in crayon, chemical censorship in Trier, more than 100 items (mainly postcards or postal stationery) with chemical censorship registered to the German Empire, **only a handful to other destinations**



Rates: 10 Centimes.
 Bilateral Treaty between
 Luxembourg – Germany,
 postcard rate (tariff valid as
 of 1st Aug 1916)

Esch-sur-Alzette, 27th Oct 1918, forwarded via Trier to Bad Kreuznach, censor cancel no. 611 of Trier, chemical censorship by a sweep of a substance to detect secret messages in Trier – **less than 25 mail items with chemical censorship registered**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

3 Instruction Cancels
3.7 Chemical Treatment Trier
3.7.2 Chemical Treatment of Letters

Usually, the main communication medium are postcards. Letters are much more uncommon. To find a letter with content that received chemical treatment and that was re-united with the cover is probably unique.

3831
 3831

Copy – The paginier stamp was used on the letter and the cover to reunite after the chemical treatment and the censorship.

Rate: 12 ½ Cent
 postage due,
 inland letter rate
 (tariff valid
 since 1st Jul
 1918) →
 Luxembourg
 accepted the
 military
 franchise up to
 German border
 on military mail
 and only
 charged the
 inland letter rate
 due (no penalty)



German field post office, in Nov 1918, forwarded via Trier to Esch-sur-Alzette, censor cancel no. 6II of Trier, chemical censorship in Trier, on both the letter and the cover received a so-called “paginier stamp”, a numbered cancel to ensure that the right letter and the right cover are reunited after the censorship –

the combination of the cover and letter are unique!

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

**3. Instructions Cancels
3.10 Foreign Censor Cancels**

Mail to and from foreign countries are likely to get censored, too.

*Rate: 25 Stotinka,
singled rate UPU
letter, tariff valid as
of 1st Oct 1907*

Sophia, 24th Oct
1917, via Austria-
Hungary and Trier
to Luxembourg,
Bulgarian censor
cancel of Sophia,
Trier censor
cancel no. 611
– **only registered
piece of mail
from Bulgaria
during the Great
War**



Posted at the
Noerdange-
Martelange small
gauge train, 5th
Aug 1917, via
Trier and
Emmerich to
Hulst in the
Netherlands,
censor cancel no.
61, Dutch censor
cancel – **less than
five mail items
registered to the
Netherlands**

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

**3. Instructions Cancels
3.11 Censorship on Parcels**

The censorship of civilian parcels to and from Luxembourg must have taken place. But where and when is difficult to say as examples of real parcels are non-existing to my knowledge and parcel cards itself are exceedingly rare. The parcel card below is the only registered civilian card to a foreign country during the timeframe of the First World War.



Copy – no censorship cancellations or instructions marks visible

Rate: 3.07 ½ Francs. 1.90 Francs for parcels weighing between 5 and 10 kg, insurance fee for the value of 250 Francs 0.15 Francs, 50% surcharge for bulky or difficult to handle items 1.02 ½ Francs



Luxembourg-City, 3rd May 1915, via Luxembourg-Station via train to Strasbourg and Bale to Geneva in Switzerland; apart from the green customs cancellations stating that there were not customs on the parcels content, no obvious censor cancellation or censor measure visible
– **only civilian parcel card to a foreign country registered**

The telegram received a censor cancel 'ctr: Lux' (= kontrolliert Luxembourg).

11 MCTR

Copy - weak copy of a lilac 'ctr' cancellation

= hofprediger jacobus Luxemburg =

N^o 336.

TÉLÉGRAMME N^o

Année 191



Trier H.

Reçu de par fil
le 25/11 à 30/11 h. m. du
par

GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
POSTES & TÉLÉGRAPHES.
Bureau de Luxembourg-ville.

Transmis à par fil
le à h. m. du
par

de
Autres indications de service:

+ koenigsteintaunus 784 41/25/11 11 MCTR

wir alle danken ihnen von ganzem herzen fuer ihre warme treue teilnahme
bitten sie auch unseren innigen dank dem konsistorium und der
protestantischen kirche Luxemburg zu uebermitteln ich weisss welch schweren
verlust auch sie alle erlitten = maria anna

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

Sealing tape was used in the censorship office in Trier on letters with declared value that have not undergone a thorough search when posted. The letters were re-opened, searched, and closed with sealing tape. Wax seals were put over the sealing tape and the letters were weighed again, as weight changed due to the wax. The new weight and the place where the notation was applied was regularly noted.



Rate: 65 Rappen, 25 Rappen, letter up to 20 grams ('18' written at the left lower corner), 40 Rappen minimum fee for the value amount of 300 Francs, tariff valid as off 1st Oct 1907 → notation of the new weight of 24 grams at the left

Geneva, 7th Jun 1916, forwarded via Trier to Luxembourg, Trier censor cancellation no. 511 – opened at Trier and re-sealed with sealing tape no. 4, on the back control cancel no. 3, sealing tape received to new wax seals— **less than fifteen value letters registered that were opened at Trier**



Copy: Was seal of the censorship office in Trier

Marienhöhe, 15th Jun 1917, forwarded via Trier to Luxembourg, Trier censor cancellation no. 61 – the value letter opened at Trier, a sealing tape and the control cancel were applied and the letter was closed with black wax again

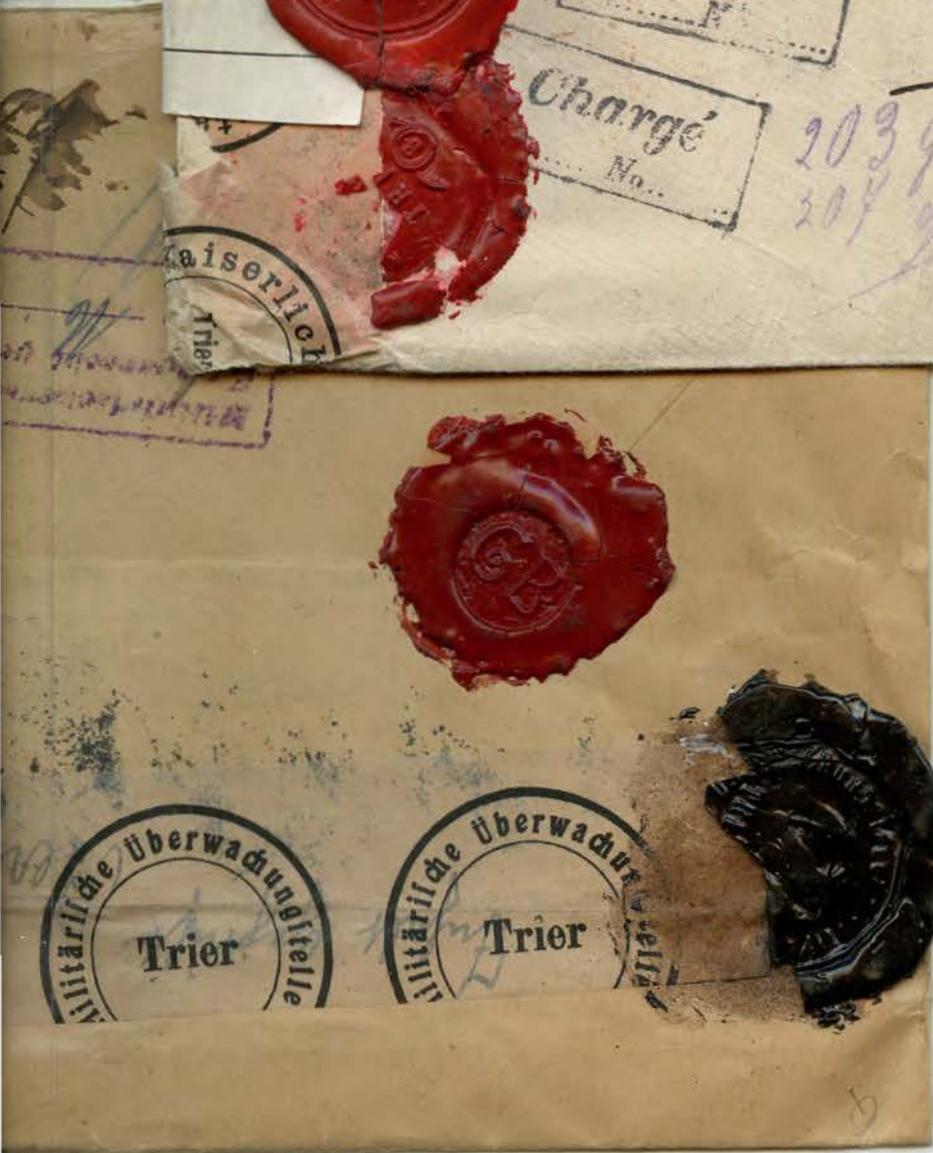


3 Instruction Cancels

3.8 Sealing Tape

3.8.2 Value Letters – Opened at Censorship Office

Luxembourg, 31st May 1915, forwarded via Trier to Dresden, Trier censor cancellation no. 1 – opened at Trier and resealed with sealing tape no. 1, on the back control cancel no. 1, sealing tape received to new wax seals – **sole known use of a solo 62 ½ Centimes usage on a letter with declared value**



Rate: 62 ½ Centimes, 25 Centimes, letter between 20 and up to 250 grams ('Trier 205 ½ gr.' written at the right in black ink), 35 Centimes minimum fee for the value amount of up to 300 Francs; tariff valid as off 1st Oct 1902 → as the letter arrived damaged at the Dresden postal office, it was re-sealed again with sealing tape and wax seals were placed over the damaged area – **sole letter recorded that was twice sealed by German military and postal administration**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence

3 Instructions Cancels
3.13 Retreat and Stop of Censorships

When armistice finally was announced on 11th November 1918, the German troops at the Western front had only fifteen days to retreat behind the river Rhein. Some letters out of Luxembourg a known written by German soldiers on their way home to their loved ones.



Rate: 17 ½ Centimes, with 22 ½ Centimes over franked letter for up to 20 grams (tariff valid since 1st Aug 1916)

Grosbous, 17th Nov 1918, via Trier to Hannover, the censorship office of Trier had already stopped the censorship of mail to or from Luxembourg – less than 25 pieces of mail from German soldiers out of Luxembourg are registered



Grundhof, 20th Nov 1918, via Trier to Hamburg, written and posted by a German soldier on his way to the German Empire and his family at the small train station of Grundhof

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

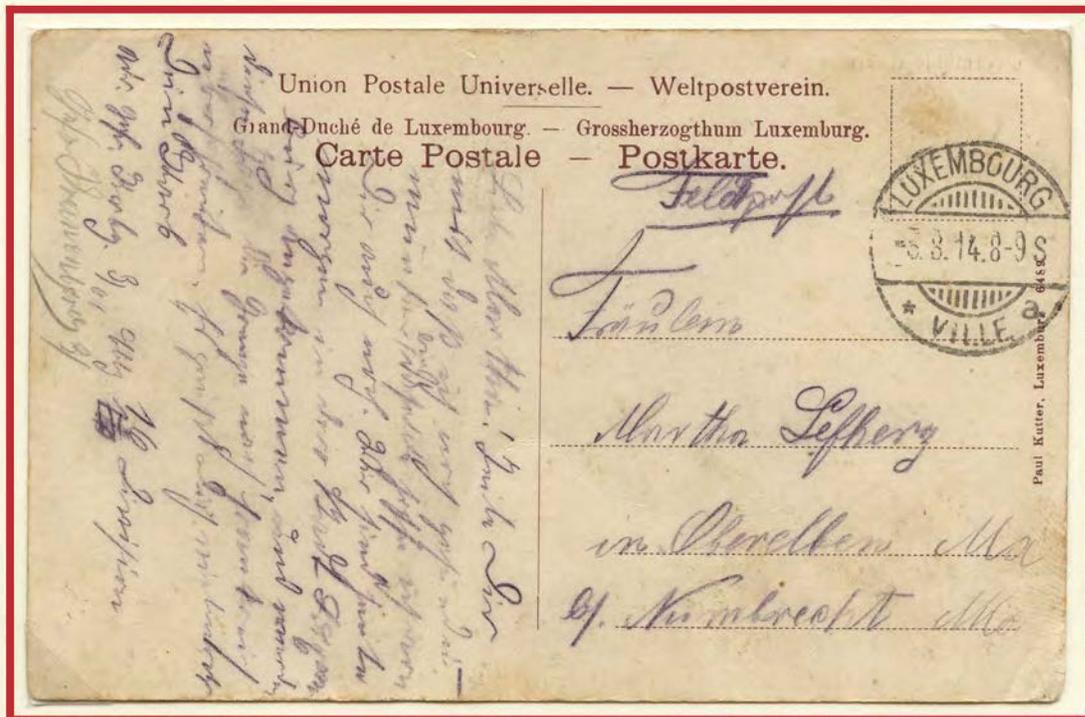
1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.1 Military Mail
1.1.1 Military Mail via Luxembourg Post Offices

When the full-scale invasion of Luxembourg started on 2nd August 1914, the post offices are immediately targeted and occupied to cut this vital line of information. As the German field post offices could not be moved so fast towards the front, the German soldiers used the Luxembourg post offices to mail to their loved ones.



Copy – the date of 3rd August 1914 is the first date registered of mail – either sent by soldiers or civilians - during the German invasion of Luxembourg

Rates: Free of charge for active soldiers, no postal due charge by the Luxembourg post office



Luxembourg, 3rd Aug 1914 – earliest registered mail sent via Luxembourg post office, forwarded by German military mail to Oberellen, no regimental cancellation to confirm the military franchise rate – less than fifteen mail items registered



Luxembourg, 8th Aug 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Frondorf near Siegen, no regimental cancellation to confirm concession – one of the earliest mail items registered from Luxembourg - less than fifteen mail items registered

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

Especially commercial banks were not too happy if somebody opens the insured letter and has a close look at the contents. Usually, they were using the local bank surveillance department, had the content checked and sealed the letter with wax in front of the officer. The bank surveillance department confirmed the procedure with their cancels. The foreign censorship office in Trier is not forced to open the insured letter again.



Rate: 47 ½ Centimes.
12 ½ Centimes, letter
up to 20 grams ('19'
written at the left
upper corner), 35
Centimes minimum
fee for the value
amount of 300
Francs, tariff valid as
off 1st Oct 1902

Luxembourg-City, 1st May 1916, forwarded via Trier to Coblenz, Trier censor cancellation no. 511 – no visible censorship of the content took place, maybe because the sender is a highly reputable Luxembourg bank – **more than ten value letters from Luxembourg registered**



Copy: Censorship cancellation XVIII. Army corps in Frankfurt

Frankfurt, 27th Apr 1918, forwarded via Trier to Luxembourg, Trier censor cancellation no. 611 – the value letter was handed over open to the censor department in the Berlin post office – **highest know franking with 1.20 Mark registered**



3 Instruction Cancels

3.9 Letters with Declared Value

3.9.1 Letters Handed at Sending Postal Office

Rate: 65 Centimes, 40 Centimes, letter above 20 grams, 25 Centimes minimum fee for the value amount of 300 Francs, tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907



Luxembourg-City, 18th Jun 1917, forwarded via Trier and Bale to Zurich, Trier censor cancellation no. 61 – no visible censorship of the content took place – more than ten value letters from Luxembourg registered

Rate: 1,20 Mark – 0,25 Mark letter rate in the 2nd weight echelon between 20 and up to 250 grams (notation '180' in upper left corner, for the value of the letter of 2,000 Marks 0,95 Marks → more than 75 km away

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.1 Military Mail
1.1.3 Usage of Luxembourg Offices in Later Years

Although the Field Post Station No 1 is established at the end of August 1914, German soldiers were still using the Luxembourg post offices in later years although much less frequently. The Luxembourg postal administration seems to have accepted the soldier's franchise, although fully franked mail labelled as "Feldpost" is known.



Copy – Fully franked card – header "Feldpost", addressee in Lachendorf / Germany

Rate: 5 Centimes, postcard rate as of 1st Oct 1902

Luxembourg, 7th Feb 1915, forwarded by German military mail to Lachendorf, no regimental cancellation to confirm concession – as military mail usually was not subject to civilian censorship, there is no Trier censor cancel – **less than ten mail items registered**



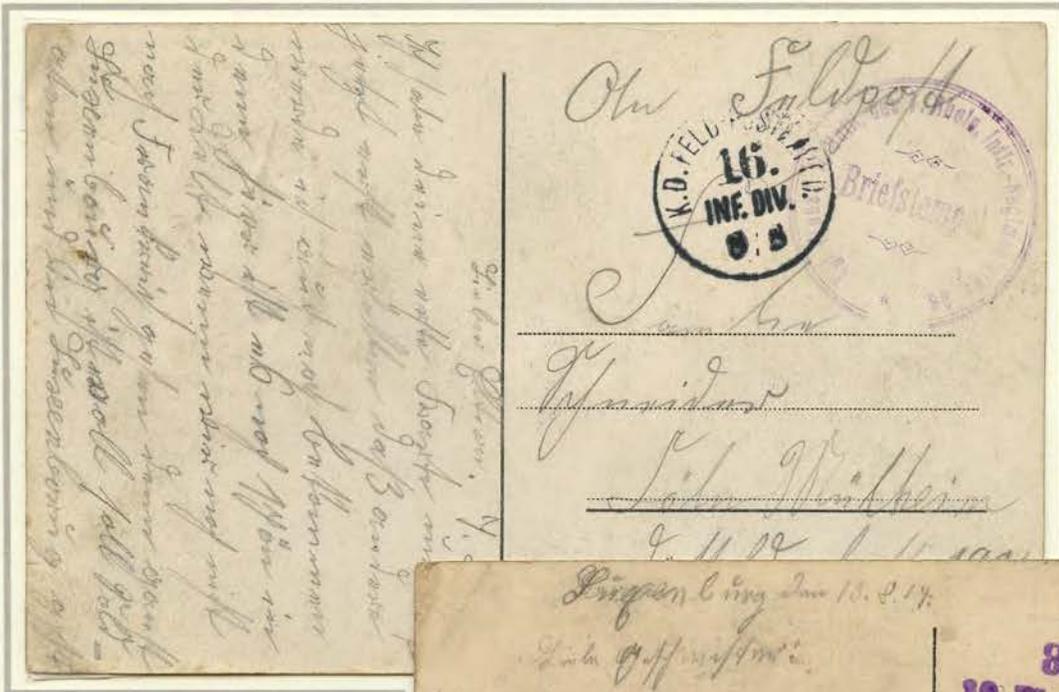
Rate: Military franchise accepted by the Luxembourg post office (no stamp on recto of picture postcard)

Luxembourg, 10th Jan 1917, forwarded to Trier and then by German military mail to Frankfurt / Main, regimental cancel is missing to confirm concession, censor cancel no. 61 of Trier – **less than ten mail items registered**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.2 German Offices in Luxembourg
1.2.1 German Field Post Offices in August 1914

To enable a line of communication with their families at home, mobile field post offices are part of the divisions. A few days after the first German soldiers arrive in Luxembourg, the mobile post offices are established. While mail via Luxembourg post offices has no 'Briefstempel' (regimental or divisional cancellation), military mail via German field post offices usually does have these cancels.



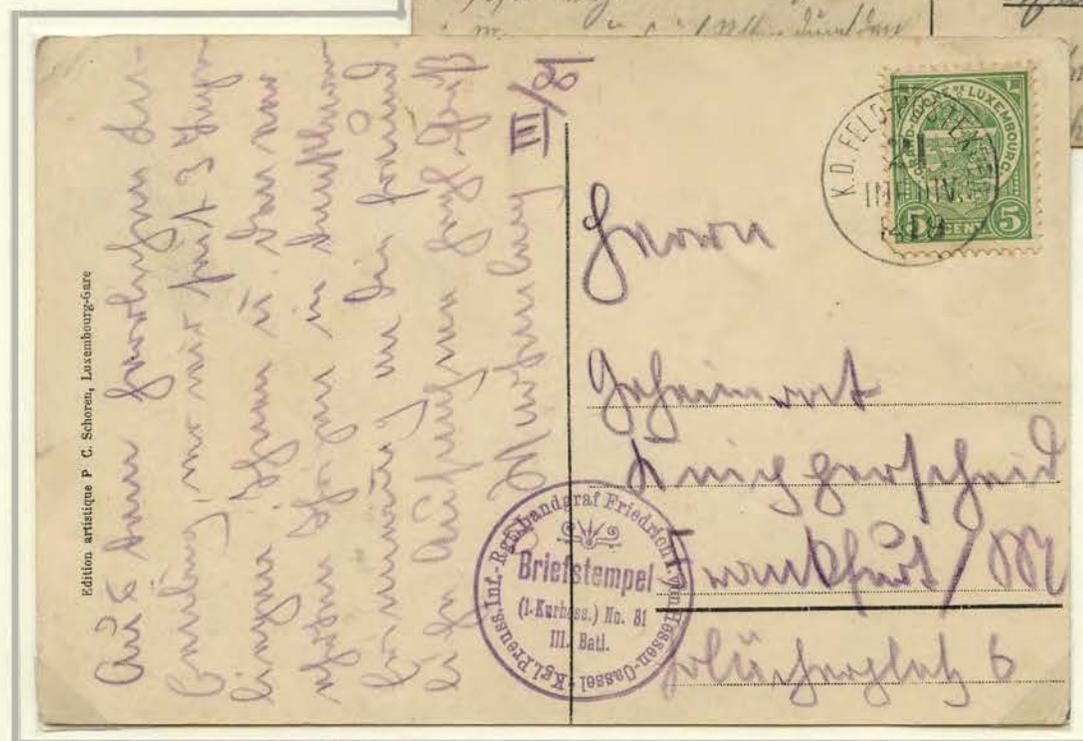
Copy – The first German military post office operating in Luxembourg was the 16th Infantry Division on 6th Aug 1914

Written in Luxembourg on 7th Aug 1914, forwarded by German military mail on 8th Aug 1914 to Köln-Mülheim,

Luxembourg, 13th Aug 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Niesenheim, regimental cancel to confirm military franchise – less than 50 mail items via German military mail installations during the first month of campaign registered



Rate: All postcards shown fall under military franchise – free of charge of active soldiers



Luxembourg, 14th Aug 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Frankfurt / Main, regimental cancel to confirm military franchise

**A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
I Censorship on International Correspondence**

**3 Instruction Cancels
3.8 Bank & Insurance Censorship**

Letters from insurance companies and bank were handed over to special bank mail surveillance offices.



Copy – Bank censorship cancellation in Brussels

Rate: 50 Centimes, UPU letter rate up to 20 grams and 25 Centimes registration fee, tariff valid since 1st Oct 1907

Brussels, 7th Nov 1917, via Trier to Luxembourg-City, forwarded to Hecklingen, censor cancellation no. 611. **Inhalt Geprüft** (content checked) – more than 25 banking letters with censorship registered



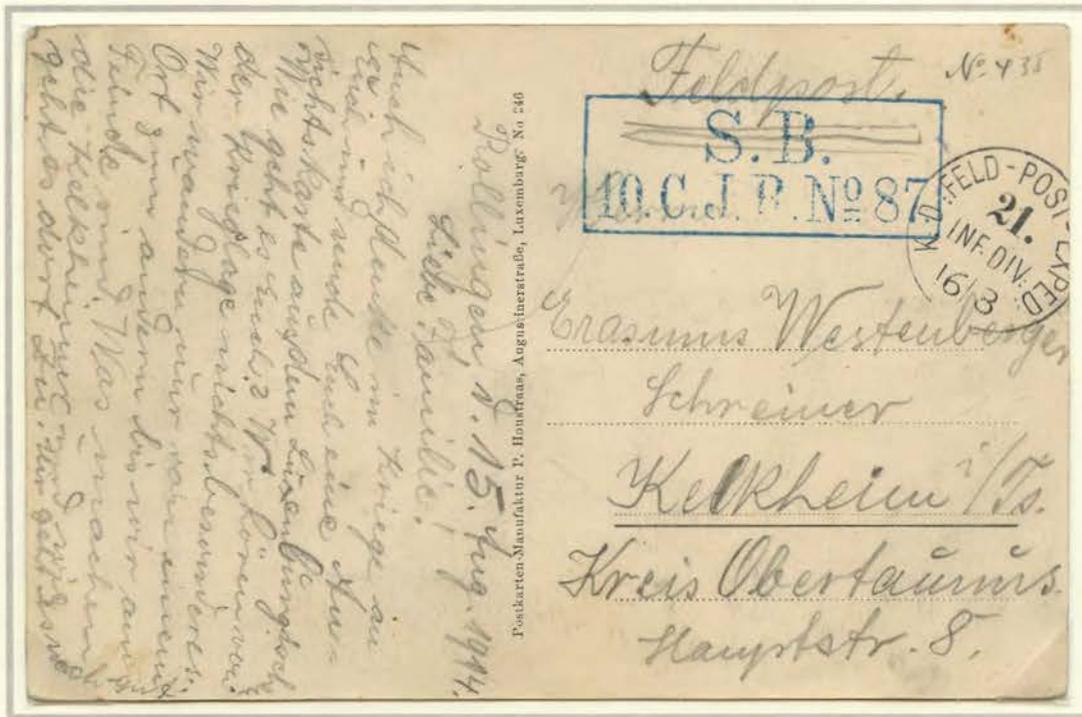
Rate: 35 Pfg, 15 Pfg letter rate for up to 20 grams, 20 Pfg registration fee, tariff valid since, 1st Oct 1907

Stuttgart, 13th Jul 1917, via Trier to Luxembourg-City, **Auslandstelle 13 JUL. 1917 Stuttgart** censor cancel no. 61 of Trier, local censor cancellation **Stuttgart geprüft und freigegeben**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.2 German Offices in Luxembourg
1.2.2 German Field Post in Second Half August 1914

While the first German divisions have left already to occupy Belgium and Northern France, a steady stream of fresh troops entered Luxembourg to follow and reinforce the advancing armies. They bring more mobile field post offices with them while the first military mail offices have already left the country.



Copy – The “S.B.” is the abbreviation of “Soldatenbrief” (soldiers letter), confirming the right of the sender to use the military franchise as active soldier for his letters and postcards

Rate: Military franchise – free of charge of active soldiers, confirmed by regimental cancels

Written in Luxembourg on 15th Aug 1914 and mailed on 16th Aug 1914 to Kelkheim / Taunus, regimental cancel is missing
 – more than fifty military mail items are registered out of Luxembourg by German soldiers

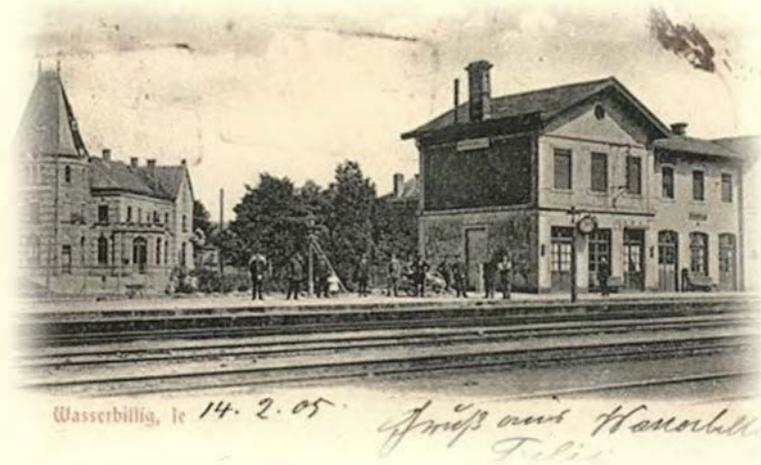


Luxembourg, 26th Aug 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Chemnitz / Saxony, regimental cancel to confirm military franchise
 – more than fifty mail items are registered

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.2 German Offices in Luxembourg
1.2.3 German Field Post Co-operation Luxembourg

This is the discovery copy of mail from Luxembourg during the first month of August 1914 that shows the close co-operation between the neutral Luxembourg post office and German field post installations. Currently only this card is in my registry.



Picture side of the postcard shows the one of the two train stations in Wasserbillig. Wasserbillig is an important train hub and borders to Germany. It was essential that the German Empire took possession of it early in the Great War.



Luxembourg City, written on 8th Aug 1914, handed over to the German field post of the 16th Infantry Division on 9th August 1914 to a field hospital in Cologne, the usual regimental cancel is missing
– **discovery copy of the co-operation between the Luxembourg City post office and a German field post office, until this day unique**

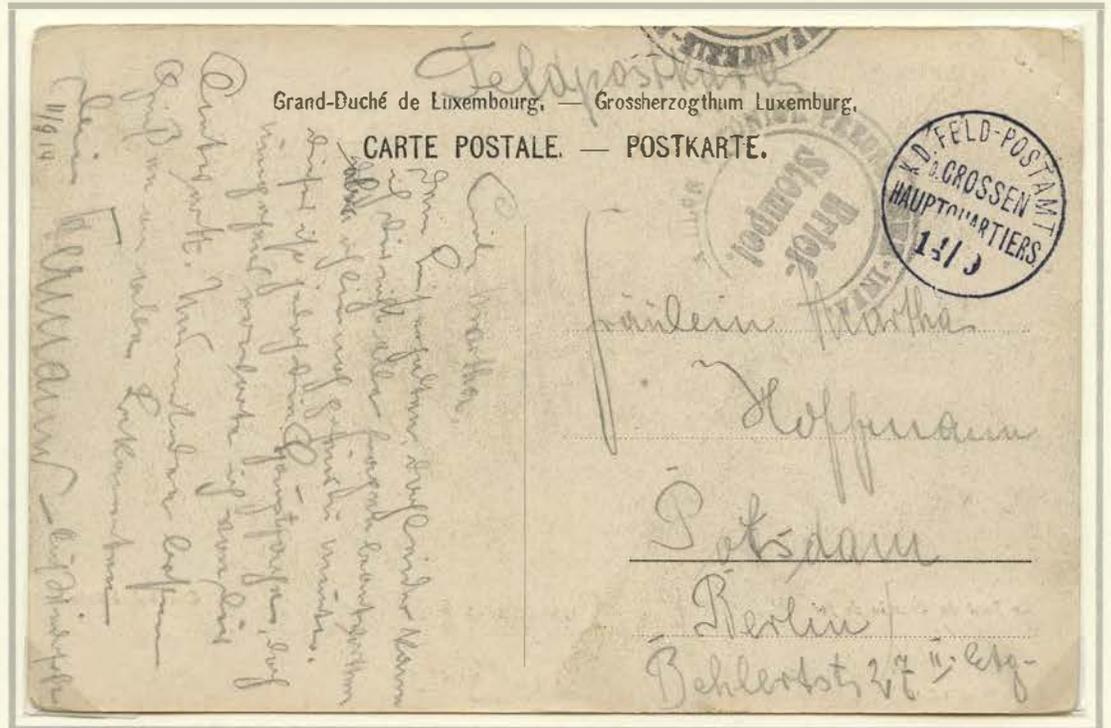
A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.2 German Offices in Luxembourg
1.2.4 German Field Post "Grosses Hauptquartier"

Starting on 30th Aug 1914, the Imperial Headquarter moves to Luxembourg. The German emperor invited Grand-Duchess Marie-Adelaide to at least one dinner. an invitation eyed suspiciously by most of the Luxembourgish population. On 25th Sep 1914, the headquarter is moved to Charleville-Mézières.



Copy – The cancellation
 "K.D. FELD-POSTAMT GROSSEN HAUPTQUARTIER", possible between 30th Aug – 25th Sep 1914



Luxembourg, 14th Sep 1914, sent by military mail to Potsdam, regimental cancel – less than ten mail items registered during the tenure of the Imperial Headquarter in Luxembourg

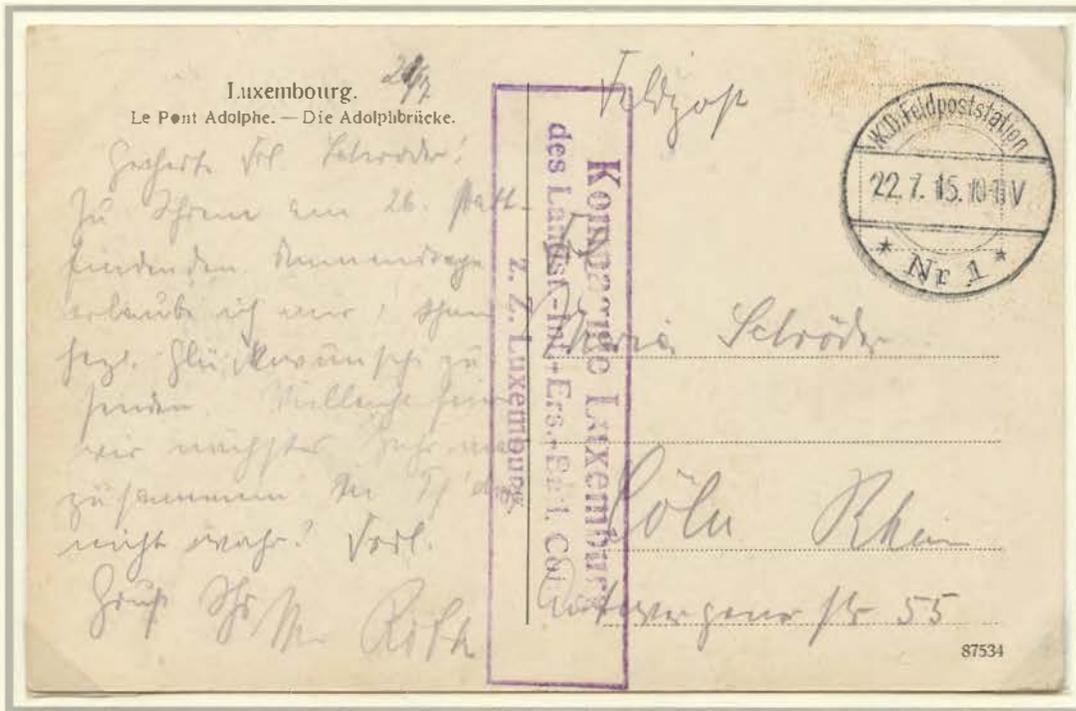


Luxembourg, 23th Sep 1914, sent by military mail to Hamburg, no regimental cancel – less than ten mail items registered during the tenure of the Imperial Headquarter in Luxembourg

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.3 Field Post Office No. 1
1.3.3 Double Ring Cancel with Bridge No. 1 – State I

A more modern type of cancel replaced the single ring cancel that dated back to the 19th century. For almost two years the cancellation saw service, but the replaced cancel remained in reserve and was used for registered mail and parcels.



Copy – The replacement of the old cancellation "K.D. FELD-POSTSTATION Nr 1." is registered between 22nd Jul 1915 – 1st Feb 1917

Rate: Military franchise - no charge to addressee

Luxembourg, 22nd Jul 1915, forwarded by German military mail to Köln, one of the first specific regimental cancels mentioning Luxembourg to confirm the military franchise - less than 50 mail items registered - **earliest registered usage**



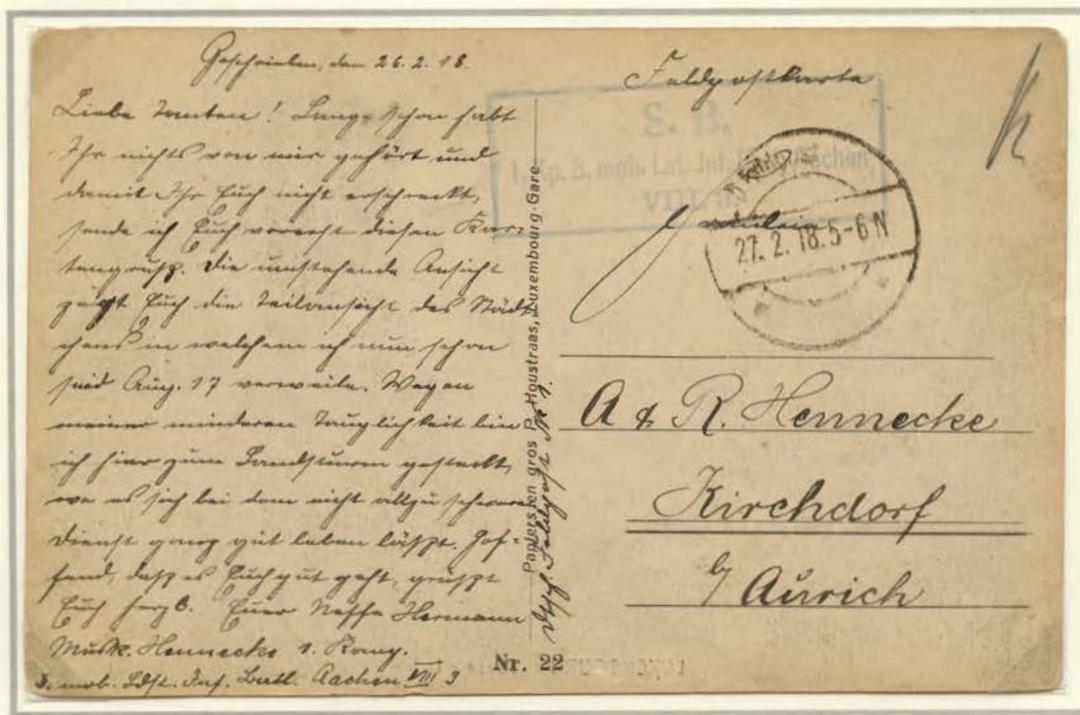
Rate: Military franchise - no charge to addressee

Luxembourg, 22 Jul 1915, forwarded by German military mail to Köln, regimental cancel to confirm the military franchise – less than 50 mail items registered

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.3 Field Post Office No. 1
1.3.4 Double Ring Cancel No. 2 – State II

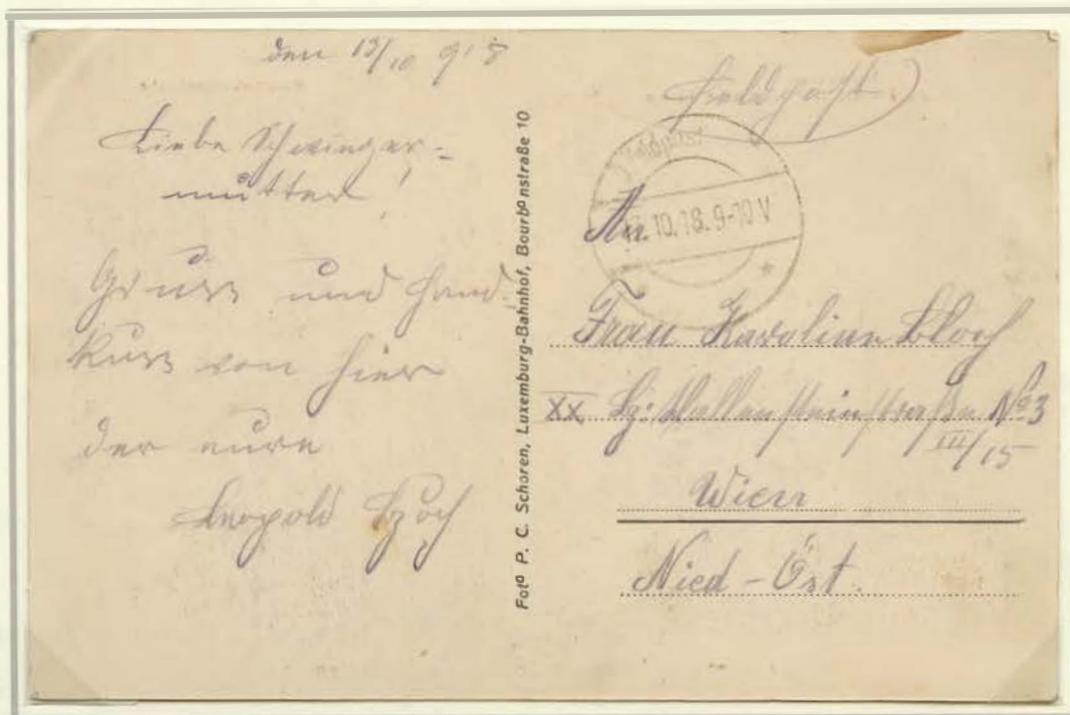
In a bid to hide the identity of the field post office of the armed forces, the identifying no. of the field post office is scraped by a general order, starting on 15th Feb 1917.



Copy – The identifying number of the Field Post Office No. 1 is scraped of, after cancellation registered between 15th Feb 1917 – 1st Nov 1918

Rate: Military franchise - no charge to addressee

Luxembourg, 27th Feb 1918, forwarded by German military mail to Kirchdorf near Aurich, regimental cancel to confirm the military franchise – less than 25 items registered



Rate: Military franchise - no charge to addressee

Posted in Luxembourg on 17th Oct 1918, forwarded by German and Austrian military mail to Vienna / Austria, no regimental cancel – no Austrian and German censorship cancels – only mail item sent by military mail from Luxembourg to Austria

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

Seeing the postal stationery used by the German soldiers as forms to write home, even German and Luxembourgish postal stationery was used. The prepaid postage was not necessary, as the mail ultimately was transferred free of charge for the sender from Luxembourg post offices to German field post.



Remich, 13th Aug 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Dorn-Aspenheim near Friedberg / Hesse, no regimental cancellation to confirm the military franchise – against UPU regulations - **less than fifteen** mail items

Rate: Free of charge for active soldiers, no postal due charge by the Luxembourg postal administration



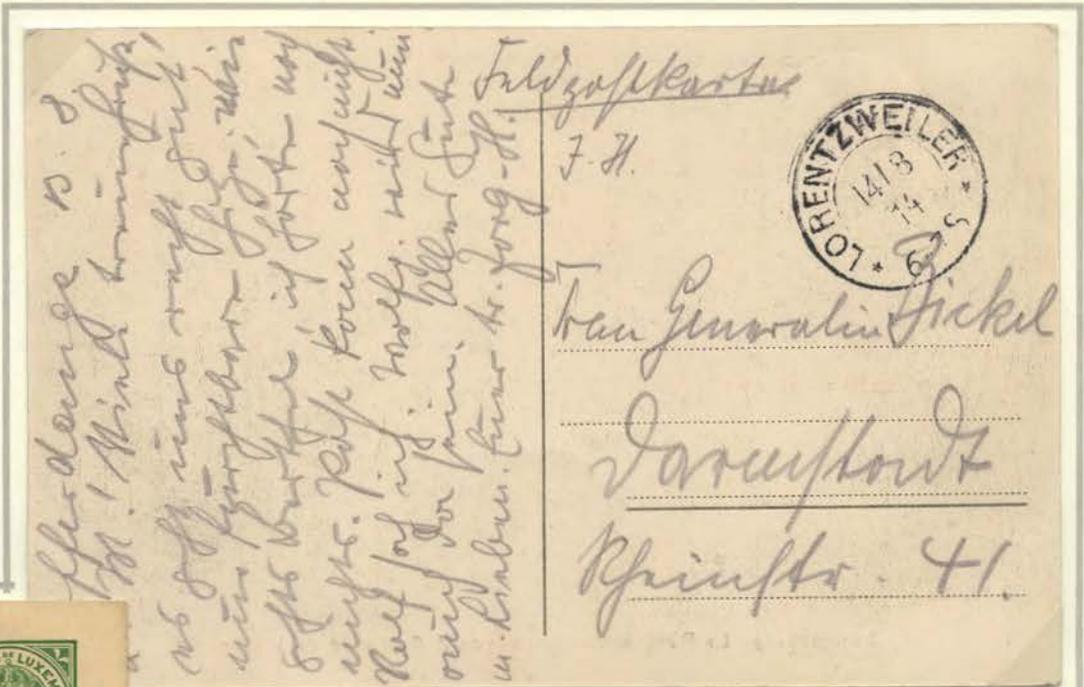
Copy – Luxembourgish postal stationery



Junglinster, 14th Aug 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Mülldorf / Sieglberg, no regimental cancellation to confirm concession – early mail items registered from a Luxembourg post offices – **less than fifteen** mail items registered

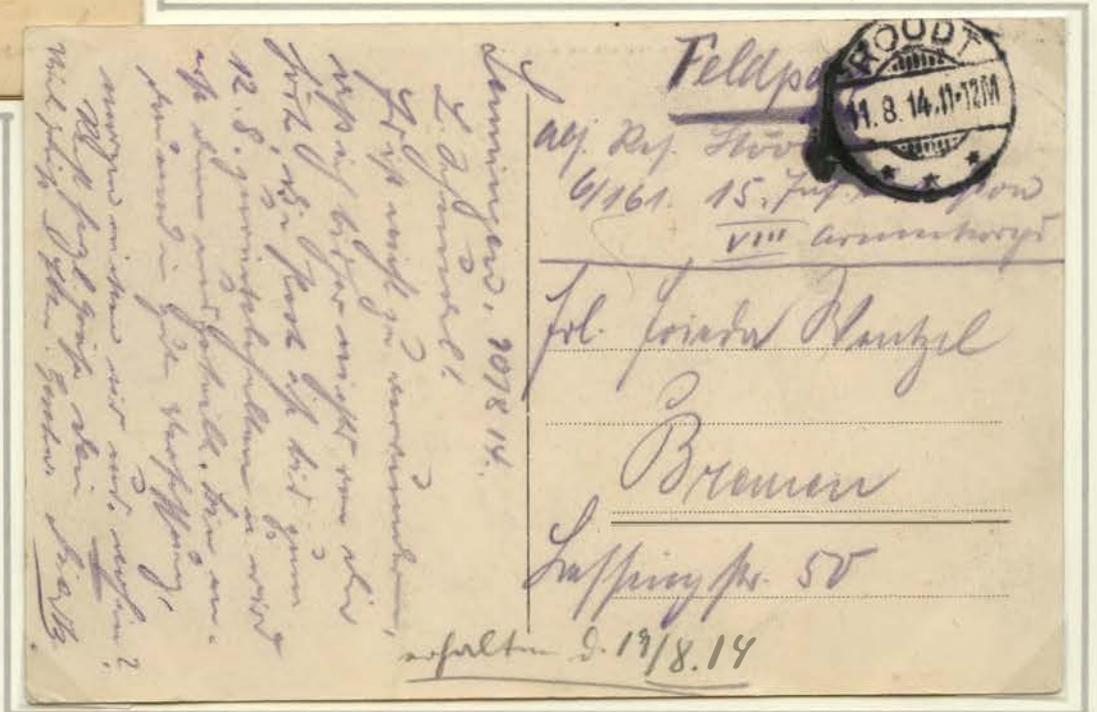
1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.1 Military Mail
1.1.2 Military Mail via Other Luxembourg Offices

Lorentzweiler, 14th Aug 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Darmstadt / Hesse, no regimental cancellation to confirm the military franchise – against UPU regulations - **less than fifteen letters and cards registered via Luxembourg post offices**



Posted at the small hamlet of Wallendorf, 9th Aug 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Cologne, no regimental cancellation to confirm concession – this postal stationery is proof, that German soldiers used all kinds of paper to send a message about their wellbeing to their loved ones

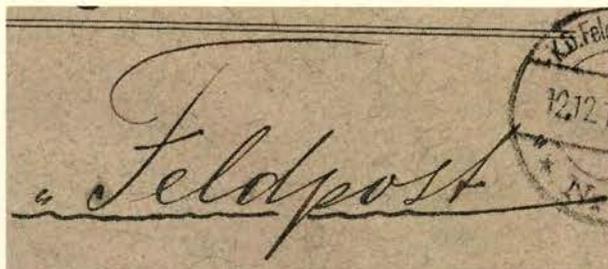
Roodt / Syr, 11th Aug 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Bremen, no regimental cancellation to confirm concession – early mail items registered from a Luxembourg post offices – **less than fifteen mail items registered**



A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.3 Field Post Office No. 1
1.3.5 Private Mail via Field Post Office No. 1

In the south and the south-west of Luxembourg and in the bordering region of Lorraine, where important iron ore mines and steel and iron industry. As these industries have been very important for the German war effort, they proprietors were granted with a franchise privilege concerning the use of German military mail. Private mail via the Field Post Station no. 1 is quite unusual.



Copy – Manuscript writing 'Feldpost' to mark the military franchise and the ensure that the letter got transported free of charge by the military mail – one obvious advantage of this transportation method was the reach; military mail could go to areas normally blocked for civilian mail.



Written in Diedenhofen / Lorraine, then belonging to the German Empire, posted in Luxembourg, 12th Dec 1916, forwarded by German military mail via Trier to Athus in Belgium free of charge military mail to private companies essential to the German war effort, Trier censor cancel no. 61 – **less than five private mail items are registered with the Field Post Office no. 1**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.3 Field Post Office No. 1
1.3.6 Postal Seal

The use of the postal seal of a field post station on actual mail is a real rarity. While less than five strikes of the negative seal, the card below is the only strike on a piece of mail.



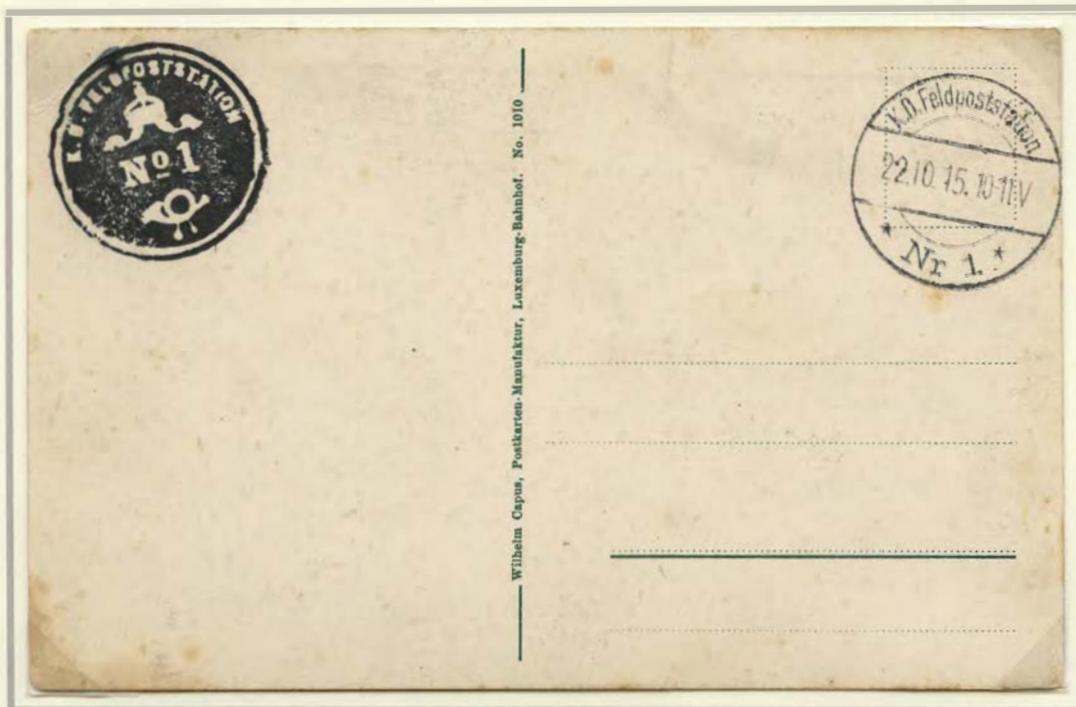
Copy – The postal seal is very rarely encountered on military mail – its significance is not revealed

Rate: Military franchise - no charge to addressee



Luxembourg, 12th Jun 1915, forwarded by German military mail to Sayn near Coblenz, no regimental cancellation to confirm concession. negative postal seal **K.D. FELD POSTSTATION N^o 1**

– only registered postal seal on a piece of mail

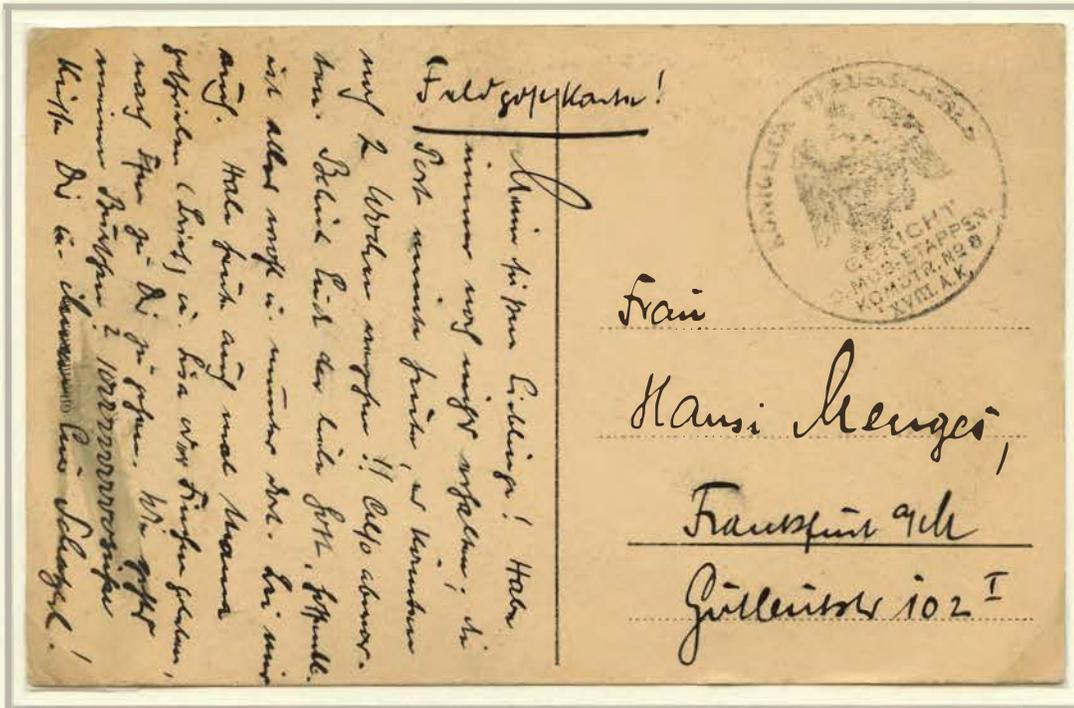


Modern two ring cancel K.D. Feldpoststation * Nr. 1 * replacing the old single ring cancel K.D.FELD POSTSTATION N^o 1 strike of the negative postal seal of Field Post Station No. 1 **K.D. FELD POSTSTATION N^o 1**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.2 German Offices in Luxembourg
1.2.5 German Military Mail - Regimental Cancels

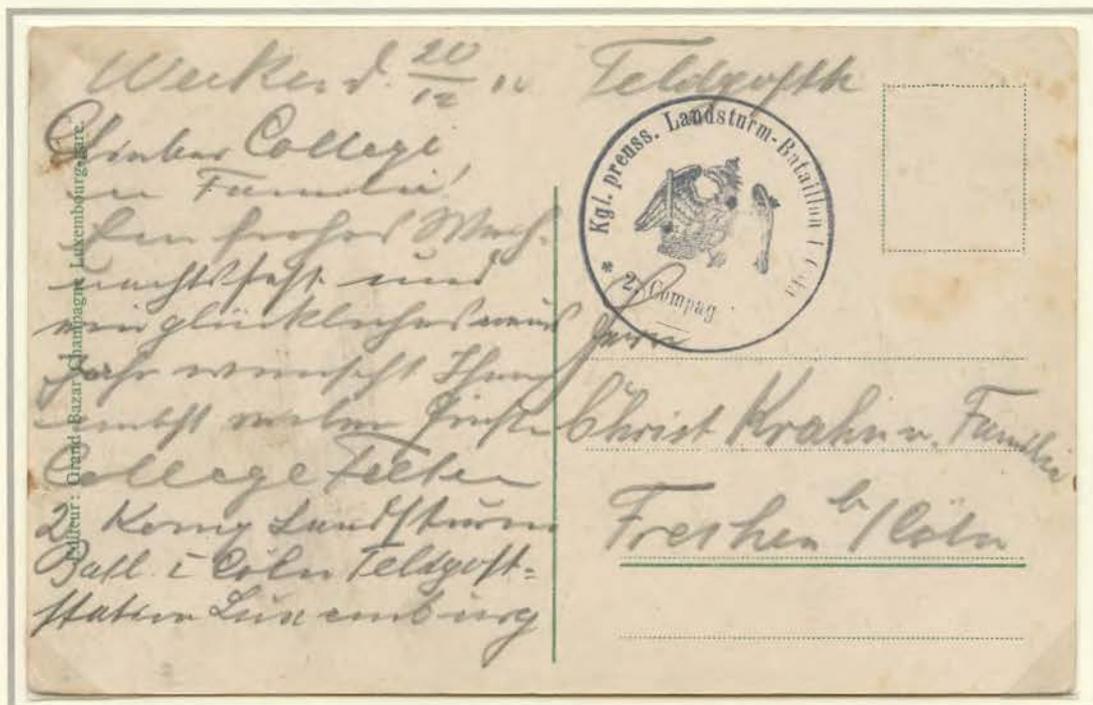
Sometimes military mail was not cancelled by a field post office but handed over directly to the military mail service. This could have several reasons: Usually, there was no direct access to a field post office and mail was simply given to the postal staff or it was forgotten to cancel the mail. To be sure that a piece of mail was written in Luxembourg, the town must be noted.



Copy – The regimental cancellation usually contained the exact type of which kind of troops are meant and the Prussian eagle

Rate: Free of charge for active soldiers, confirmed by regimental cancel

Luxembourg, 24th Aug 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Frankfurt regimental cancel of a field court of the 18th army corps – in this case a mobile court – less than ten mail items with regimental cancels are registered



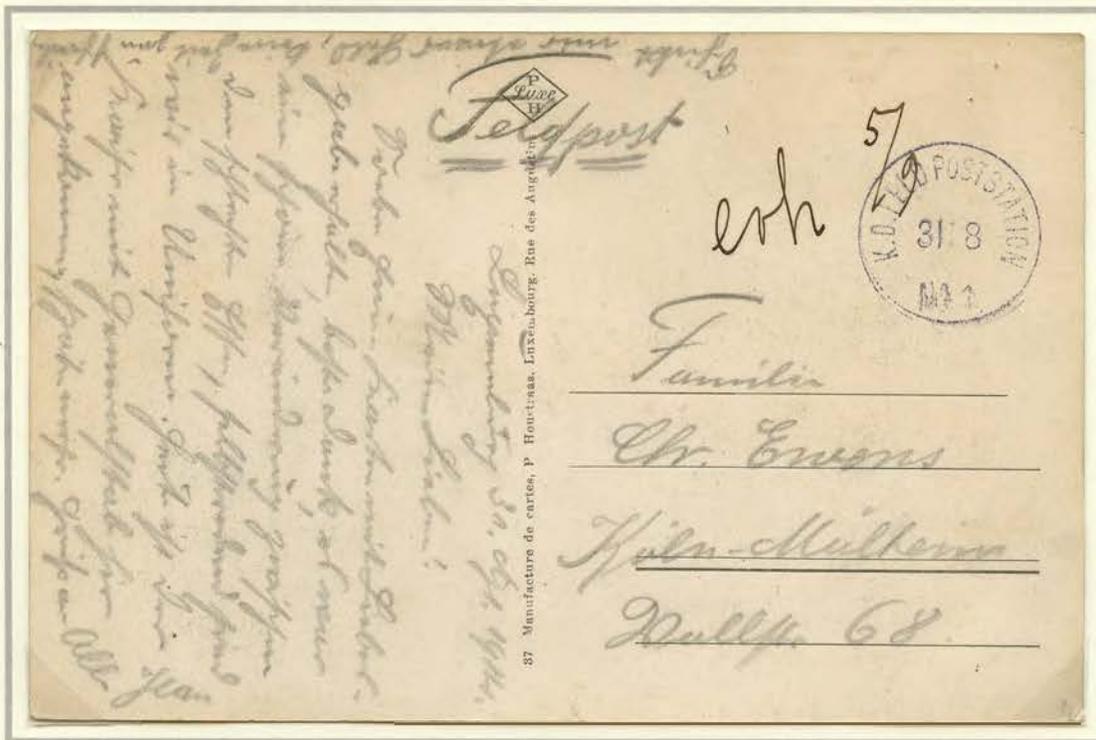
Written in the small town of Wecker on 20th Dec 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Frechen, regimental cancel of a so-called 'Landsturm' regiment, stationed in Luxembourg – these soldiers were deemed too old for active duty at the front lines

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.3 Field Post Office No. 1 . . .
1.3.1 Single Ring Cancel No. 1 – State I

At the end of August 1914, the Imperial Field Post Office No 1 became a permanent establishment at the Luxembourg train station. Two distinct cancel types are used, both underwent changes during their lifetime. The field post station was closed with the end of the war in November 1918.

Number	Usage	Rarity	Number	Usage	Rarity
FPO No. 1I	Aug 1914 - Jul 1915	> 50	FPO No. 1II	Aug 1916 - Jun 1918	< 10
FPO No. 2I	Jul 1915 - Feb 1917	> 50	FPO No. 2II	Feb 1917 - Nov 1918	< 25



Copy – The cancellation “K.D. FELD-POSTSTATION No 1.”, registered between 30th Aug – 3rd Jul 1915 for state I

Luxembourg, 31st Aug 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Köln-Mülheim no regimental cancellation to confirm military franchise, received five days later as per manuscript notation – **more than 50 pieces of mail registered**



Luxembourg, 3rd Jul 1915, forwarded by German military mail to Köln-Ehrenfeld, regimental cancellation to confirm concession rate, instruction cancel **Aus militärischen Gründen verzögert** (delayed due to military reasons) – **last registered usage of K.D. FELD-POSTSTATION No 1** cancel in state I

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

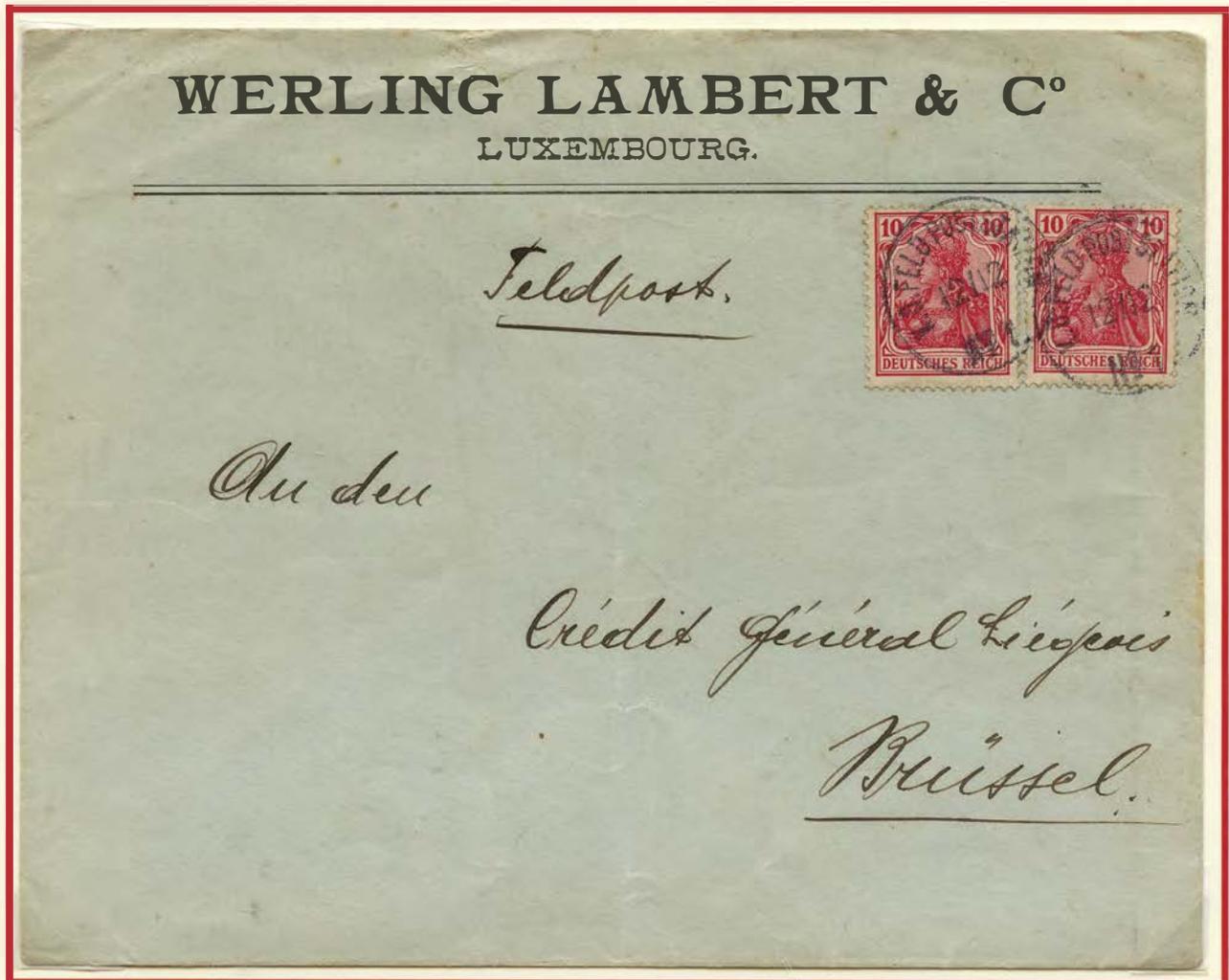
1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.3 Field Post Station No. 1
1.3.9 Mail to Belgium – before Officially Allowed

In rare instances private mail is forwarded by the Field Post Station No. 1 – usually for companies with important business that helps and enables the German war effort. The letter is fully franked with German postal stamps and it shows no signs of censorship. As a postal relation with the cities of Brussels and Verviers was officially opened on 1st January 1915, the military mail was the only option to for a contact with a correspondent in Belgium.



Private Bank Werling Lambert & Co.

Rate: 20 Pfg. – German UPU rate prepaid, tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907

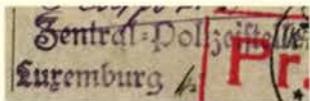


Luxembourg, 12th Dec 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Brussels in Belgium
- only registered fully franked letter by a private person or company!

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

2 Incoming Military Mail
2.1 Military Mail – German Offices
2.1.1 Direct Routing to Field Post Offices No. 1

In rare instances, mail was directly routed via the military mail stream to the German Field Post Office No 1 at the Luxembourg train station.



Copy – The cancel 'Zentral=Polizeistelle Luxemburg' was most probably put on the postcard in Luxembourg and not in Oberhofen

Rate: Free of charge for active soldiers – mail never left the military mail stream



Oberhofen (Alsace), 7th Nov 1917, forwarded by German military mail to Field Post Station no. 1, official business, red Hagenau censor cancel, arrival marking of the German police in Luxembourg
 – **less than five mail items are registered**



Copy – cancellation of the FELDPUSI MIL. MISS. KONSTANTINOPLE

Rate: As of 1st Jul 1918, the inland postcard rate rises to 7 ½ Centimes – as there are no 7 ½ Centimes postage due stamps, the addressee is charged with 10 Centimes

Constantinople, 21st Aug 1918, forwarded via German Field Post Station no. 1, handed over to the Luxembourg postal service for final delivery – **only registered mail from the German Military Mission in Turkey**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

2 Incoming Military Mail
2.1 Military Mail – German Offices
2.1.2 Pre-Paid Field Post Mail

Luxembourg never actively took part in the Great War. As it remained neutral throughout the war, there was no franchise for military mail and it every mail item (in theory at least) had to be fully prepaid to avoid postage due in the Grand Duchy.



Copy – The regimental cancellation "Reserve Lazarett Malmely" (military hospital) + manuscript notation "Feldpost" confirms military nature of the postcard

Rate: Fully pre-paid at the postcard rate, valid as of 1st Oct 1902

Montjoie, 11th Nov 1915, forwarded by German military mail via Trier, handed over to Luxembourg postal administration for final delivery, regimental cancellation, Trier censor cancel no. 2 – less than 20 fully prepaid military mail items are registered



Copy – cancellation of a rare mute Belgium, used in Mechelen, a classic cancel, still in use in 1917

Rate: As of the time of the German occupation, the bilateral agreement between Belgium and Luxembourg has been replaced by the standard UPU rates: 25 Centimes up to 20 grams



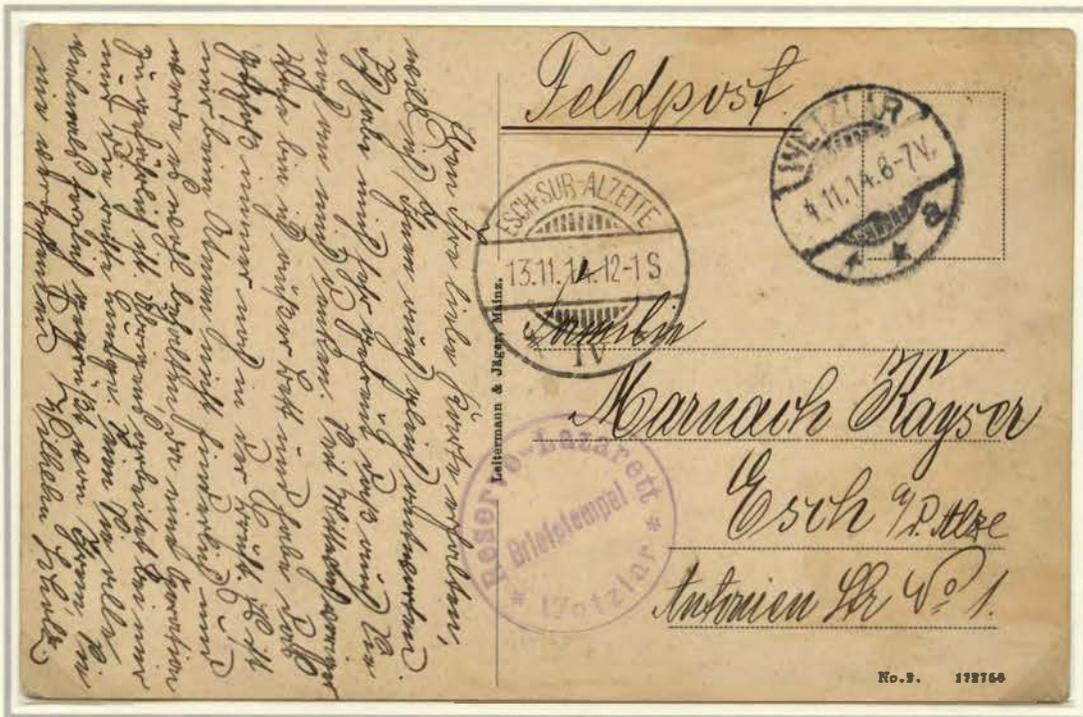
Mechelen / Belgium, Sep 1917, forwarded by German military mail via Trier, handed over to the Luxembourg postal administration, sent to Rumelange, censor cancel no. 61 Trier, scaling tape no. 4

– less than five pre-paid military mail items from Belgium are registered

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

2 Incoming Military Mail
2.1 Military Mail – German Offices
2.1.3 Unpaid Military Mail – No Postage Due

Usually military mail was postage due, at least for the transportation cost in Luxemburg. Some items have escaped the postage due, though. For the time being, I was unable to determine if that was just an oversight or has another reason.



Copy – The Luxembourg mail cancels clearly show that the Luxembourg postal administration handled the postcards, but no postage due was levied

Rate: Military mail franchise for German soldiers, confirmed by regimental cancel, no postage due charge

Wetzlar, 4th Nov 1914, forwarded by military mail, handed over to Luxembourg, regimental cancel of a hospital
 – less than twenty military mail items without postage due in Luxembourg are registered



German military mail, 28th Apr 1915, via Trier and Luxembourg and Wiltz to Nieder-Wiltz, handed over to the Luxembourg postal administration, regimental cancel, censor cancel no. 2 of Trier

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

2 Incoming Military Mail
2.1 Military Mail – German Offices
2.1.4 Unpaid Military Mail – Postage Due

The following cards, although accepted by the German and Austrian military service with the unusual military franchise, Luxembourg accepted the "payment to the border" and only added as postage due the inland postal rate – without doubling the amount due.



ZENSURIERT.
 * u. k. Zensur stelle Wien.

Copy – The card received – apart of the Trier censor cancel – also an Austrian censor cancel; military mail is usually not censored by civilian authorities, but as it went abroad it was subject to Austrian and German censorship

Vienna, 9th Dec 1916, forwarded by military mail via Austria to Germany via Trier, handed over to the Luxembourg postal administration, regimental cancel, Austrian censor cancel, censor cancel no. 61 of Trier
 – more than 100 mail items with Luxembourg postage due registered

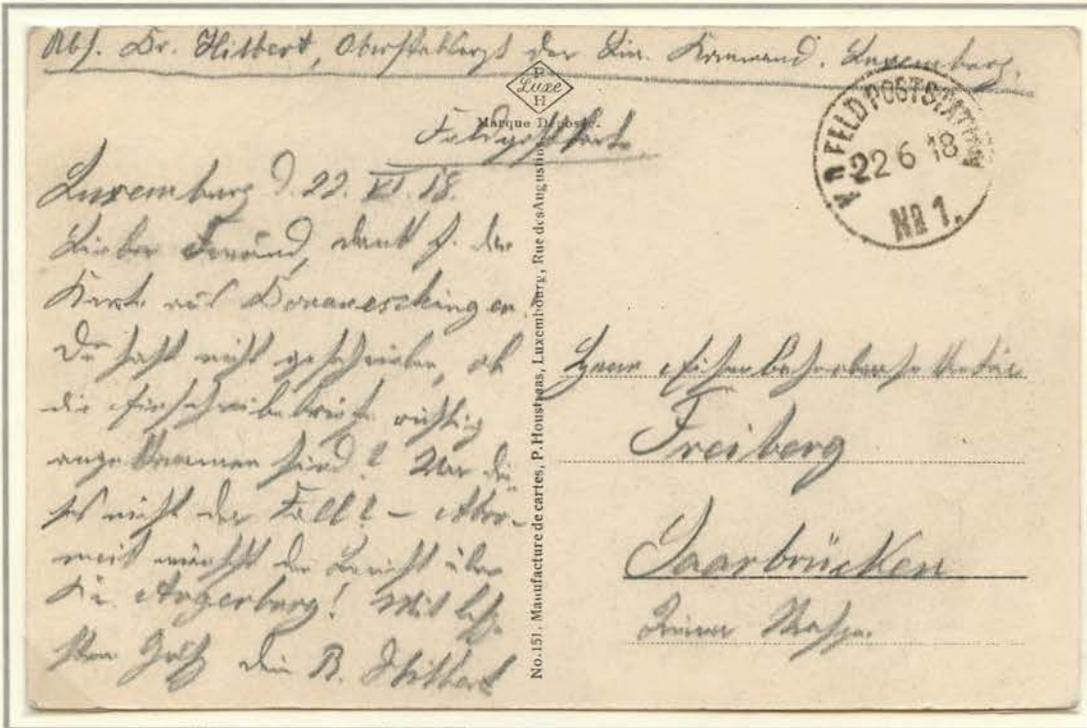


Rate: Military mail franchise for German soldiers, confirmed by regimental cancel, postage due 10 Centimes in Luxembourg, as of 1st July 1918, the postcard rate changed to 7 ½ Centimes

German military mail, 19th Jul 1918, via Trier, handed over to Luxembourg, regimental cancel, censor cancel no. 611 of Trier, initial of censor in black crayon

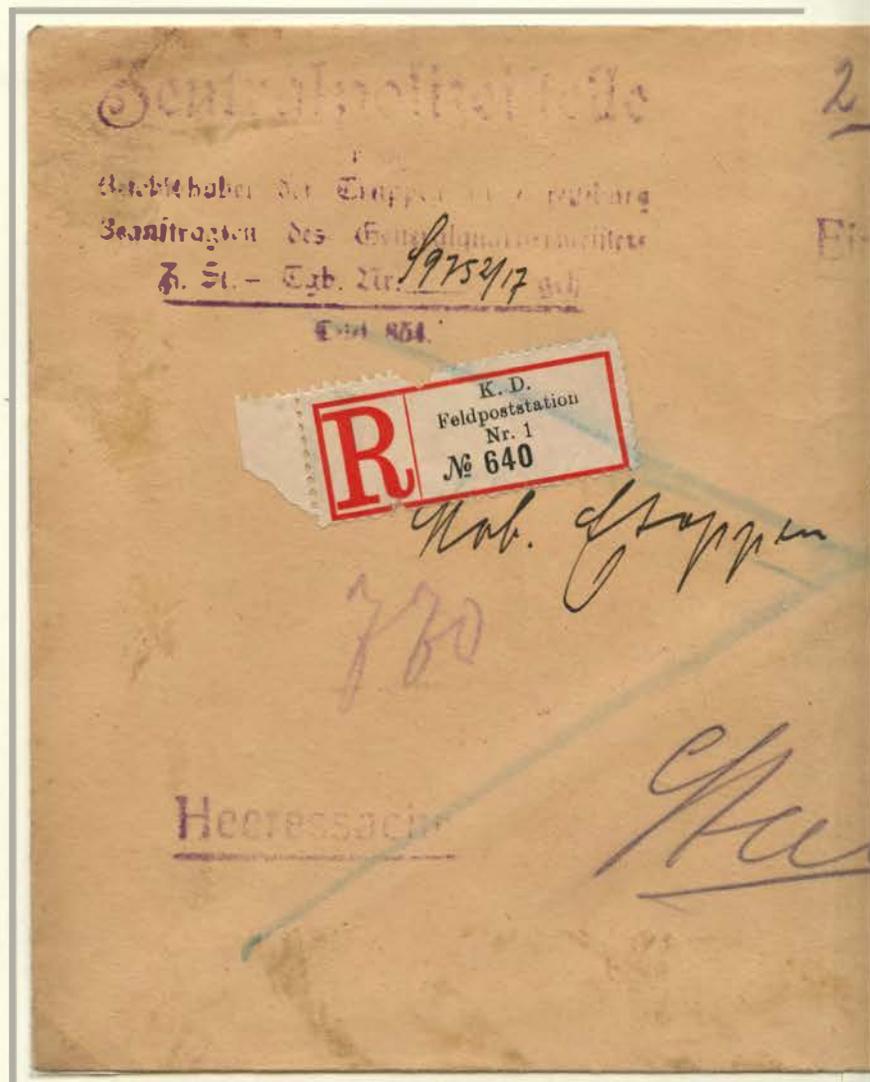
A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

The single ring cancel was after the replacement modified. A year date was entered by cutting into bits of the surrounding letters.



Copy – The single ring cancellation in state II (two letter year date added) "K.D.FELD POSTSTATION № 1", registered between 29th Aug 1916 – 22nd Jun 1918)

Luxembourg, 22th Jun 1918, forwarded by German military mail to Saarbrücken / Sarre, no regimental cancellation to confirm concession rate, **last registered usage, less than ten items registered**

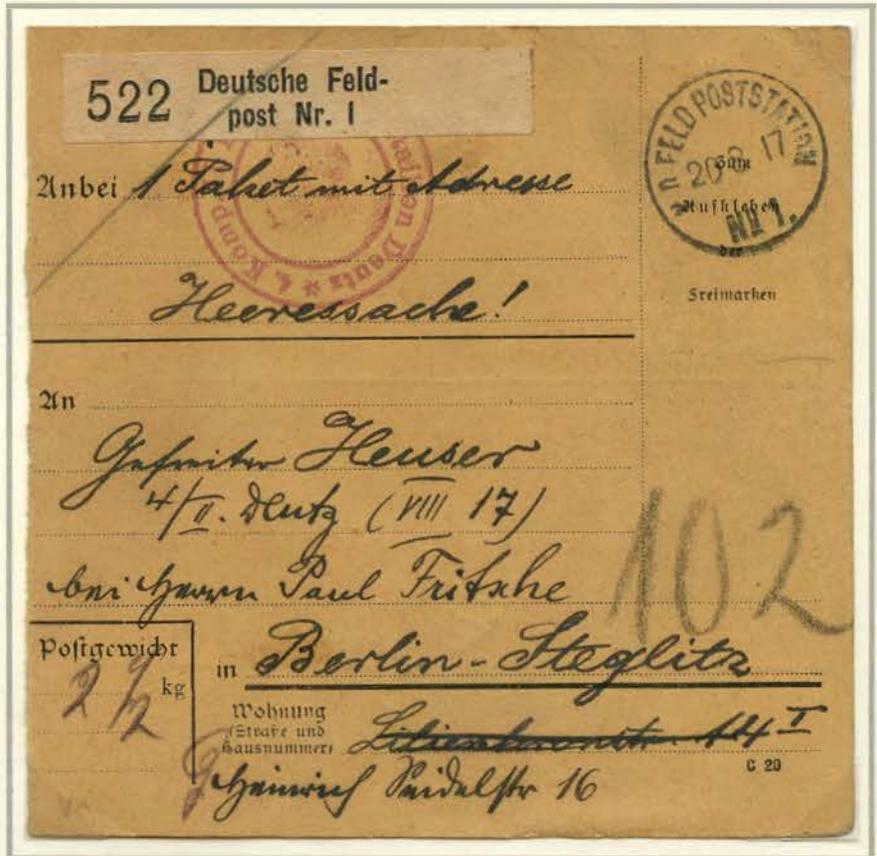


Rate: All items are sent under military franchise, even the parcel and the registered mail letter

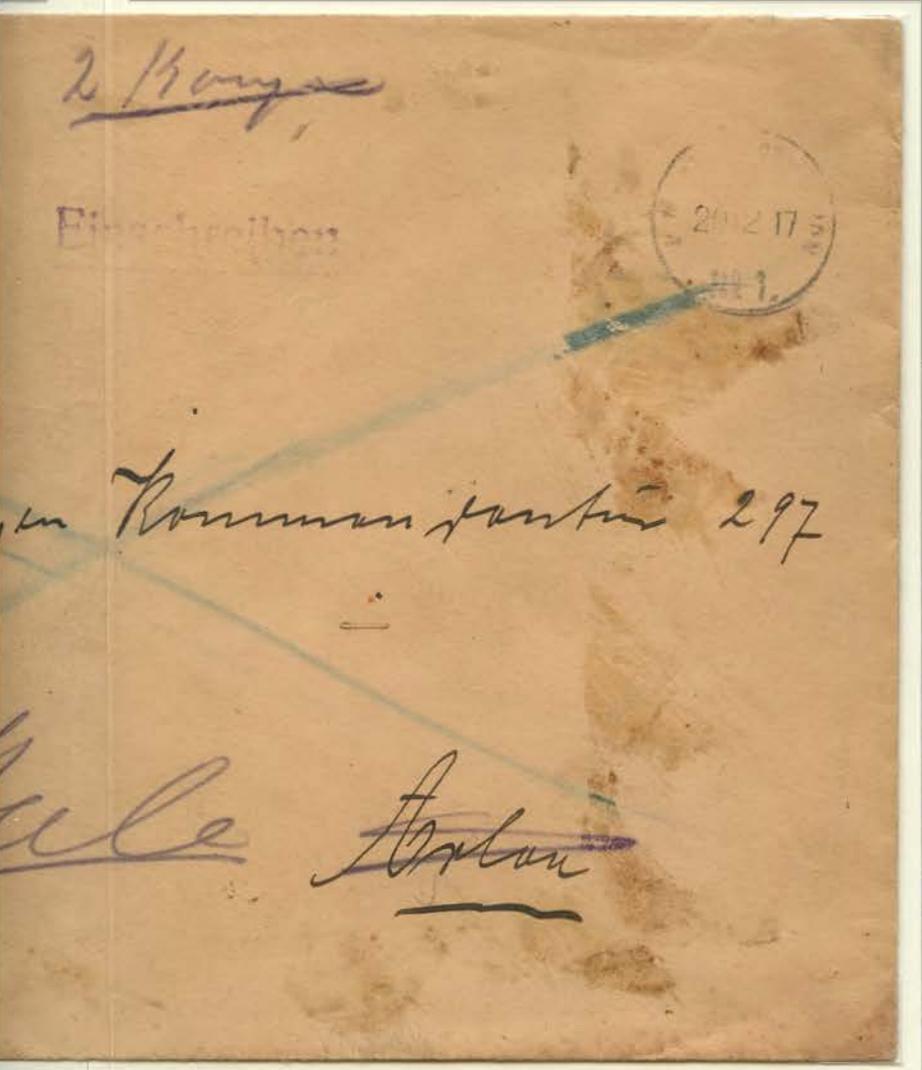
1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.3 Field Post Office No. 1
1.3.2 Single Ring Cancel No. 1 – State II

522 Deutsche Feld-
post Nr. 1

Copy – The packet label shows clearly that more than one packet was sent but to this today, only this parcel card has survived – to the right, the information about the send is detached



Luxembourg, 8th Aug 1917, forwarded by German military mail to Berlin-Steglitz, street address is corrected, regimental cancel to confirm concession rate - **less than ten items with cancel no. 1 in state II registered**



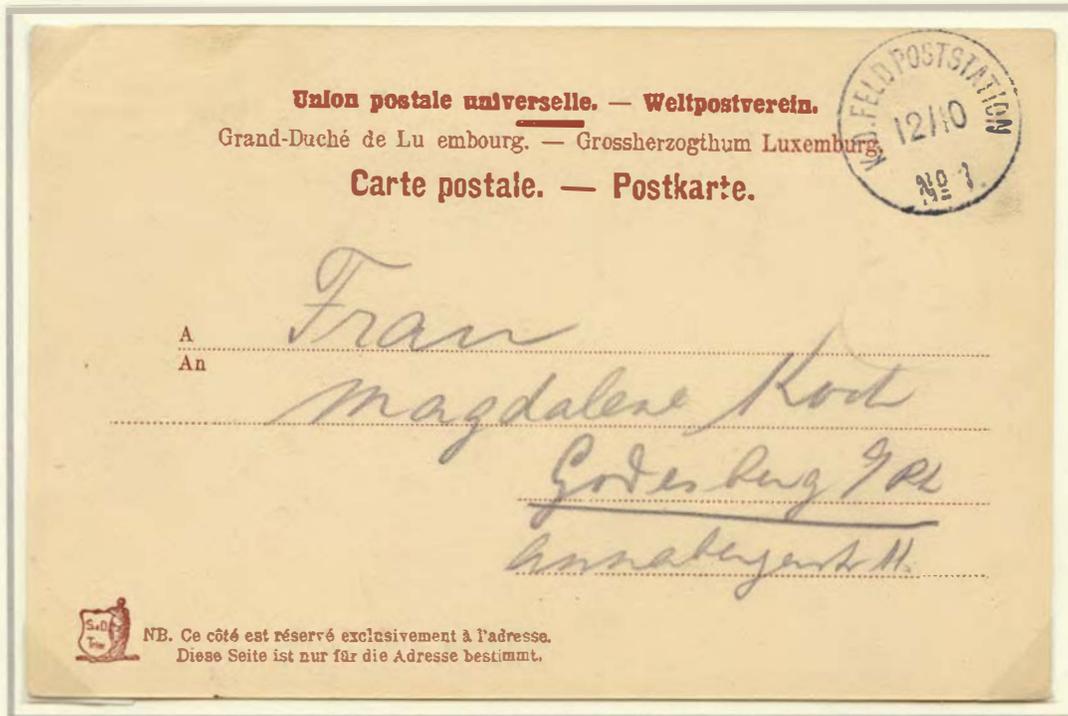
Copy – registration label of Field Post Station no. 1, the use of the cancel no. 1 in state II on registered and parcel mail suggest, that it was kept for "special business"

Luxembourg, 20th Dec 1917, forwarded by German military mail to Arlon, address corrected and letter re-routed to Stale, **less than ten items with cancel no. 1 in state II registered and only (no registered letters are registered coming from Field Post Office no. 1**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

2 Incoming Military Mail
2.2 Censorship
2.2.1 No Censorship

Military mail was usually exempt of censorship, so the mail handled by the field post stations should not show any cancels of inland censorship or foreign mail censorship.



Luxembourg, 10th Oct 1914, forwarded by German military mail to Godtsberg, no regimental cancel, no German censorship
 – more than 100 registered mail items without censorship



Copy – The printed regimental cancel is of the Prussian War Ministry

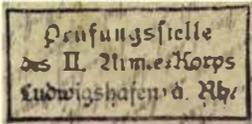
Rate: Military mail franchise for German soldiers, postage due 10 Centimes in Luxembourg, corresponding to the inland postcard rate of 7 ½ Centimes, rounded up to 10 Centimes, tariff valid since 1st Jul 1918

Berlin, 26th Aug 1918, forwarded via military mail, handed over to the Luxembourg postal service for final delivery, printed regimental cancel to confirm the military concession rate – no censorship

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

2 Incoming Military Mail
2.2 Censorship
2.2.2 Army Censorship

Usually, military mail was exempt of censorship, but in some cases the military mail to Luxembourg already was censored by army censorship offices – and, in addition, got censored and reviewed at the foreign mail censorship office of Trier, too.



Copy – The card was first censored at the II. Army Corps censorship office at Ludwigshafen – registered with Riemer for the year 1915



Ludwigshafen, 31st Mar 1915, forwarded by German military mail to Trier, handed over to the Luxembourg postal administration regimental cancel, censor cancel Trier no. 2 – less than twenty military items registered with German army censorship



Rate: Military mail franchise for German soldiers, postage due 10 Centimes in Luxembourg, corresponding to the inland letter rate up to 20 grams, tariff valid since 1st Oct 1907

Aug 1915, via Trier, handed over to the Luxembourg postal service army censor cancellation 'Geprüft Arme-Oberkommando.' (reviewed by army headquarter), censor cancel Trier no. 2

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

2 Incoming Military Mail
2.2 Censorship
2.2.3 Army Censorship – Sensitive Information

It was vital for German censorship office to discover secret messages and to prevent information about army structure to be passed to foreign spies. Picture postcards and sensitive information was blacked out.



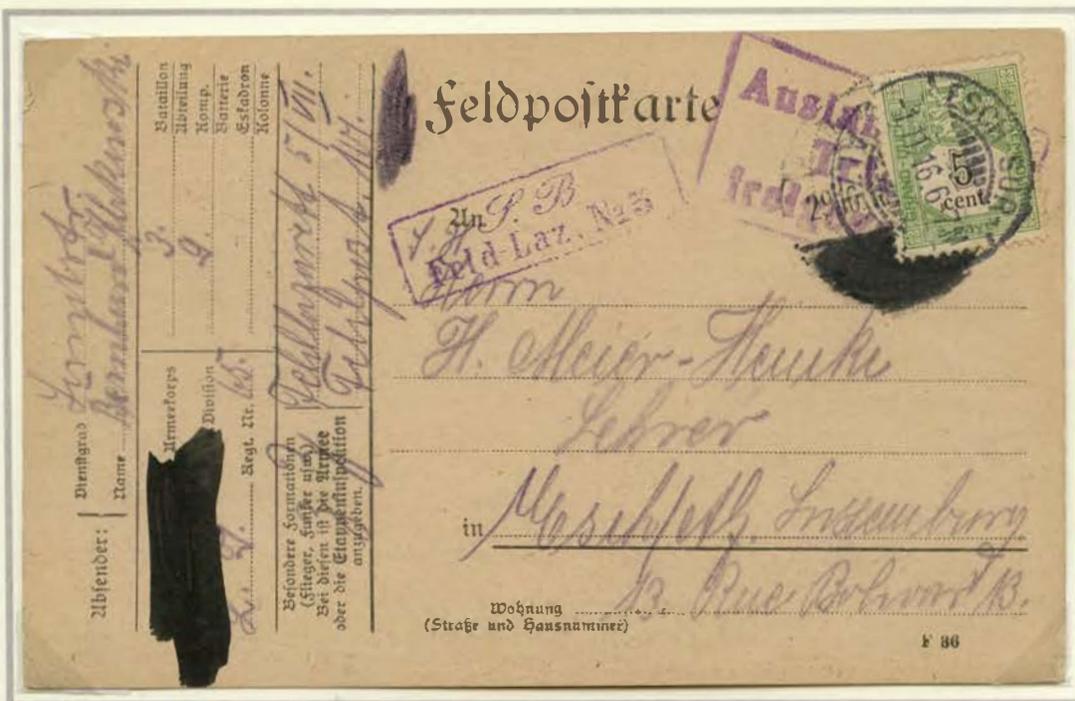
Copy – The front of the picture post card, no tampering with the Field Post Station cancellation visible



Rate: Free of charge military mail, 5 Centimes postage due, tariff valid since 1st Oct 1907

Field Post Station no. 91, 24th Oct 1916, forwarded via Trier to Luxembourg, regimental cancel, censor cancel Trier no. 51 – picture side of the postcard was cancelled out with black color

- less than three pieces known with this kind of treatment



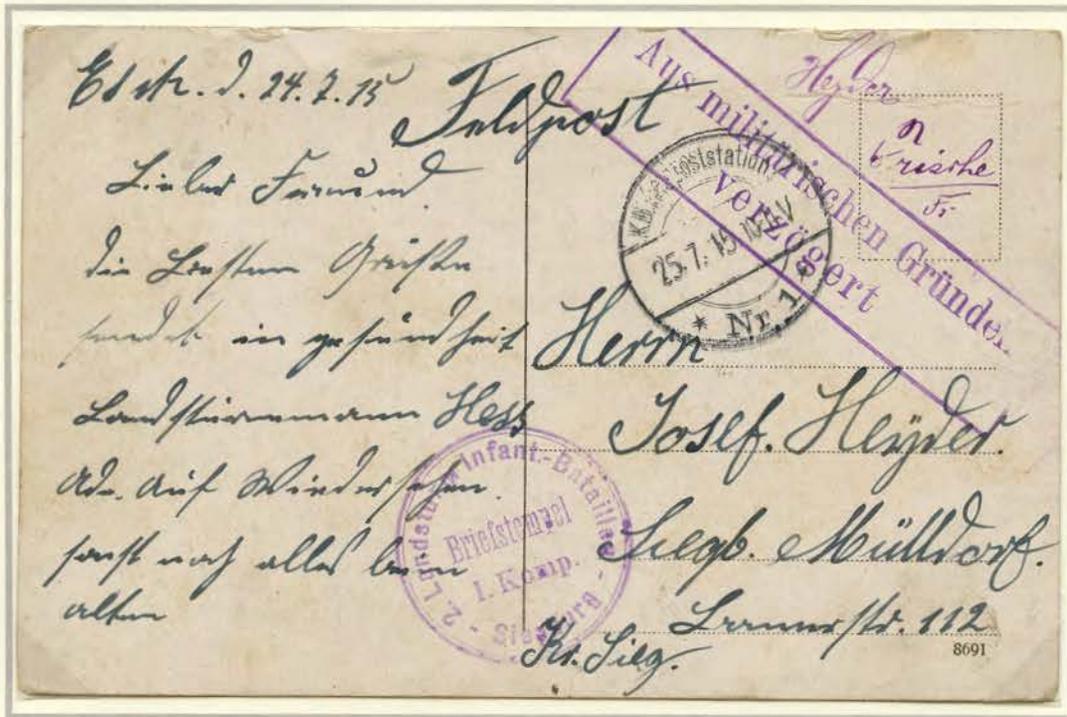
Rate: Free of charge military mail, 5 Centimes postage due, tariff valid since 1st Oct 1907

German Field post office illegible, Oct 1916, German military mail via Trier, handed over to the Luxembourg postal administration; the field post cancel no. as well as the sender's information is partly hidden, regimental cancel, censor cancel Trier no. 51 – less than ten mail items registered

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

2 Incoming Military Mail
2.3 Instruction Cancels
2.3.1 Delayed for Military Reasons

During the preparation of military operations, the delivery of mail and even military mail is less important the movement of troops.



Copy – “Aus militärischen Gründen verzögert” – delayed for military reasons

Rate: Free of charge military mail for German soldiers, as the postcard was sent solely in the German military mail system, no postage due charge was levied

Luxembourg, 25th Jul 1915, forwarded via German military mail to Mülldorf / Siegburg, regimental cancel, violet instruction cancellation in a box – less than ten military mail items with this cancel are known



Rate: Free of charge military mail, 5 Centimes postage due, tariff valid since 1st Oct 1907

Field Post Office no. 46, Aug 1915, German military mail via Trier, handed over to the Luxembourg postal administration, boxed German army censor cancel 'Beförderung zulässig G.F.P.A.O.K. 3.' censor cancel Trier no. 2, instruction cancel 'Aus militärischen Gründen verzögert.'

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

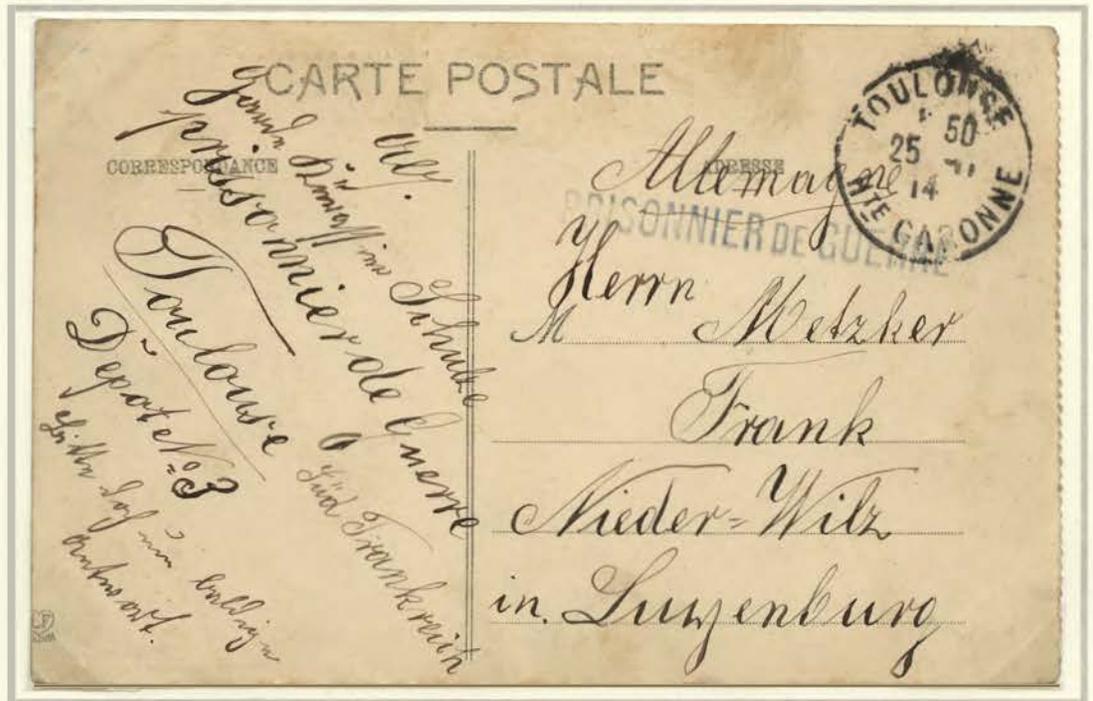
3 Prisoner of War Mail
3.1 PoW Mail Exchange with France
3.1.1 Incoming PoW Mail from France

Many Luxembourg citizens have been pressed into the German army. Some of them are made prisoners in France. Also, many Germans that have passed through Luxembourg and made friends with Luxembourg citizens or have been relatives to Luxembourg citizens are now prisoners of war.

PRISONNIER DE GUERRE

Copy – PRISONNIER DE GUERRE (prisoner of war)

Rate: Free of charge
 prisoner of war mail – no
 postage due in
 Luxembourg



Toulon, 25th Nov 1914, forwarded via Switzerland to Luxembourg, blue instruction cancellation PRISONNIER DE GUERRE
 – less than seven mail items from German prisoners of war in France are registered to Luxembourg



Written in Toulouse, 15th Oct 1915, forwarded via Switzerland and Trier to Luxembourg, censor cancellation no. 2 of Trier, cancellation PRISONNIER DE GUERRE TOULOUSE DEPOT 3

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

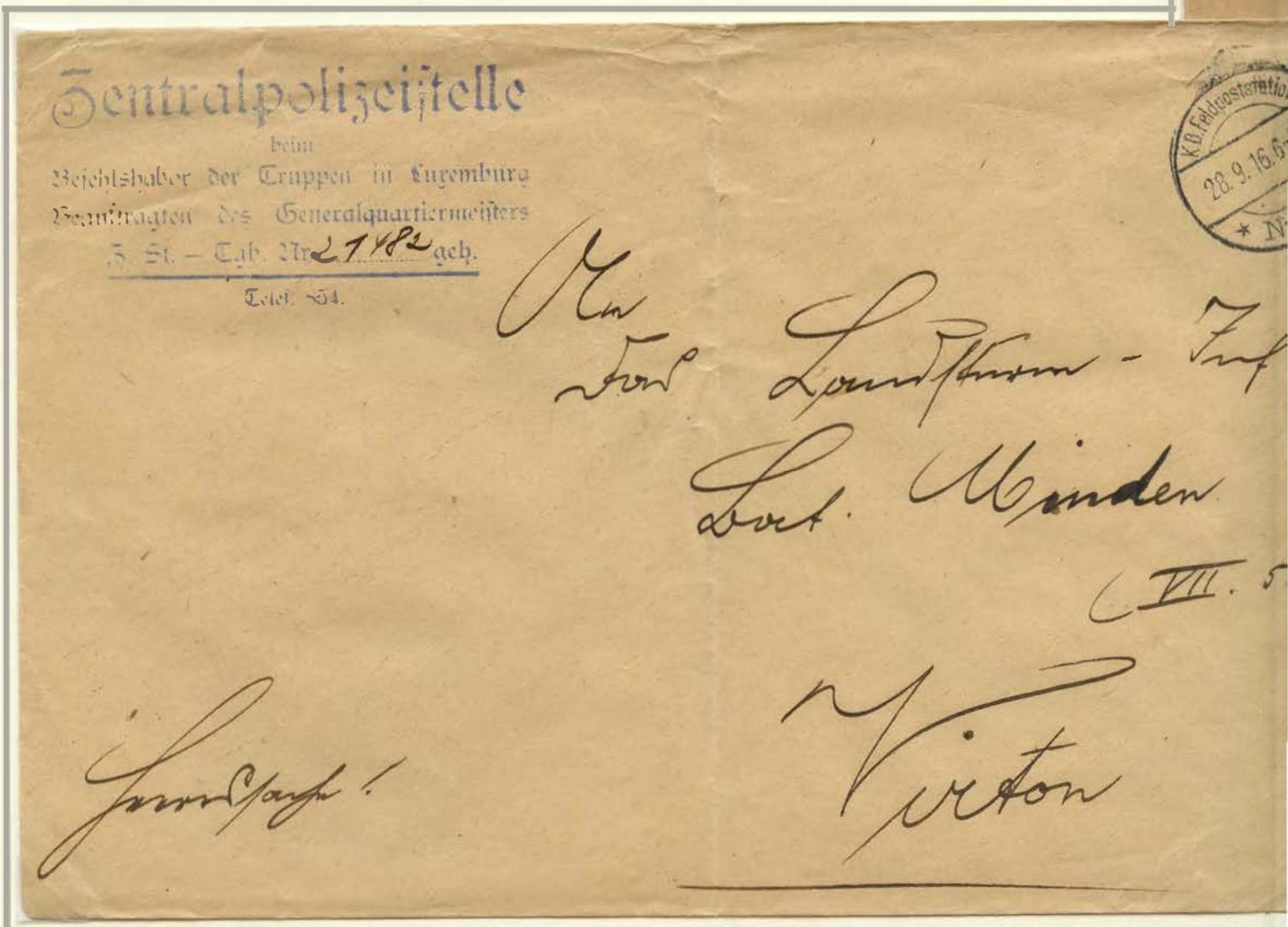
Generally, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg remained neutral and was no officially occupied territory by German troops like Belgium or parts of France or Russian-Poland. But there were official installations of German secondary troops in Luxembourg. And these establishments were permanent, as shown by the address cancels and the rudimentary address information given by the Prussian headquarter:



*Copy – Paper seal saying
 “KÖNIGLICH PREUSSISCHES
 GENERALSTAABSIEGEL”
 (Royal Prussian General Staff
 Seal)*

Berlin, 16th Jun 1916, to Luxembourg, no regimental cancellation but red cancellation “Heeressache” (military matter), no army censorship or censorship of the foreign censorship office of Trier
 – less than twenty mail items to or from German military installations registered

Rate: Military Franchise, also for the registration. as the mail item was not handed over to a civil mail service but remained entirely within the military mail system



1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.3 Field Post Office No. 1
1.3.7 Official Military Mail

Einschreiben.

183

R Berlin 40
370 g



Dem

*Herrn Befehlshaber der Truppen
in Luxemburg z. H.*

Heeressache!

7325 A.

Luxemburg.

Registration
28.9.16 6-7 N
* Nr 1 *
Prof.
L. 581

Zentralpolizeistelle
beim
Befehlshaber der Truppen in Luxemburg
Beauftragten des Generalquartiermeisters
5 St. - Tab. Nr. 2182 ach.
Tele. 54.

Copy - Sender information
„Zentralpolizeistelle beim
Befehlshaber der Truppen in
Luxemburg - Beauftragten des
Generalquartiermeister“
(representative of the
quartermaster of Luxembourg
troops)

Rate: Military Franchise, as the
mail item was not handed over to a
civil mail service but remained
entirely within the military mail
system

Luxembourg-City, 28th Sep 1916, to Virton in occupied Belgium, no regimental cancellation but
manuscript "Heeressache" (military matter), no sign of censorship
- less than twenty mail items to or from German military installations registered

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

3 Prisoner of War Mail
3.1 PoW Mail Exchange with France
3.1.2 Outgoing PoW Mail to French Prisoners

Many captured French and Belgian soldiers have relatives and acquaintances in Luxembourg. Prisoner of War mail is free of charge, but the letters are delayed for several days in the camps. As a sign of the end of the delay, the mail receives a cancel. Often 'F.a.' ('Frist abgelaufen' – frist ended), sometimes numerals.



Copy – **F.a.** in a double circle (*Frist abgelaufen* – deadline expired, mail could be forwarded to recipient)



Rate: Free of charge
 prisoner of war mail

Mailed from Magdeburg, forwarded to Petange, cancellation of the prisoner of war camp Magdeburg, red local censor cancellation and red 'F.a.' cancel in a circle – 'Frist abgelaufen' (mail can be sent out to the recipient)
 – less than ten PoW items from the German Empire registered



Lauban, 22nd May 1917, sent to Differdange, **Kriegsgefangenensendung** (prisoner of war mail), '7.' in a circle, **F.a.**-cancel of the prisoner of war camp

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

3 Prisoner of War Mail
3.2 Outgoing PoW Mail

Even if Luxembourg is not a war party, the prisoner of war mail from Luxembourg needs no franking.



Copy –
Kriegsgefangenensendung
 (prisoner of war mail) and
Prüfungsstelle des
Gefangenenlagers
Darmstadt Geprüft u.
freigegeben (Censorship
 office of the prisoner of
 war camp Darmstadt –
 reviewed and released)

Rate: Free of charge
 prisoner of war mail



Rodange, 11th Jan 1915, forwarded via Trier to Darmstadt. censor cancel no. 2 of Trier, cancel of the prisoner of war camp in Darmstadt, **Kriegsgefangenensendung** (prisoner of war mail), cancel of the Darmstadt censorship office, installed in the camp – less than 10 prisoner of war mail items registered



Copy – Boxed, 'échangé en Suisse' (exchanged in Switzerland)

Rate: Free of charge
 prisoner of war mail

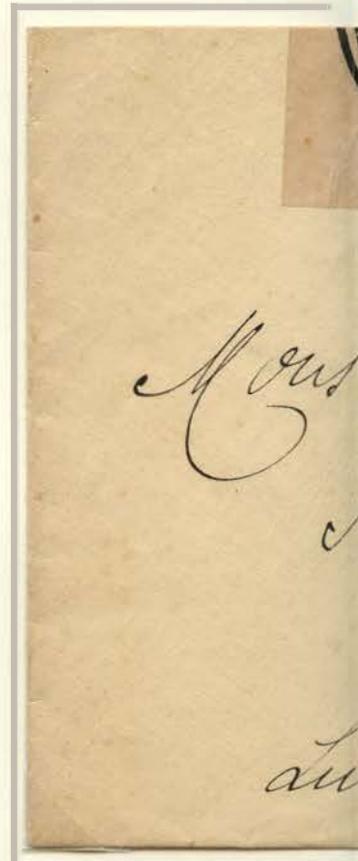
Esch-sur-Alzette, 28th Dec 1915, forwarded via Trier and Switzerland to Chiavari. censor cancellation no. 3 of Trier, instruction cancellation **Geprüft Überwachungsstelle** (checked by censor), **VERFIE** (checked), manuscript **échangé en Suisse** (exchanged in Switzerland)

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

The Field Post Office no. 1 censored apparently internal mail in Luxembourg. At a first glance, this was highly unusual. At a second glance, it becomes understandable. The addresses are living in Rodange and are working for a steel plant – which is situated partly in Luxembourg, Belgium, and France - two enemy nations to Germany.



Copy – Sealing tape of the Field Post Office no. 1
 – *this particular sealing tape is unregistered with Riemer – in use between 20th Nov 1915 – 26th Dec 1915*



Esch-sur-Alzette, 4th Dec 1915, forwarded to the Field Post Station no. 1 at the Luxembourg train station

– **less than five letters registered with inland censorship and this particular cancel and sealing tape**

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.3 Field Post Station No. 1
1.3.8 Inlands Censorship by Field Post Station No. 1



Copy – Front of a letter addressed to a mining engineer at Rodange – the censorship was performed on the spot in Rodange according to the instruction cancel



Luxembourg-City, 25th Dec 1915, via the Field Post Station no. 1 to Rodange
 – **less than five letters registered with the sealing tape, instruction cancel and inland censorship**



Copy – Instruction cancel "Militärischerseits unter Kriegsrecht geöffnet.....1915"

Esch-sur-Alzette, 19th Nov 1915, via the Field Post Station no. 1 to Rodange, sealing tape and instruction cancellation
 – **less than five letters registered with the inland censorship**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

3 Prisoner of War Mail
3.3 PoW Mail with the Russian Empire
3.3.1 PoW Incoming from the Russian Empire

While mail to and from German and French prison camp to and from Luxembourg is scarce, prisoner of war mail to or from the Russian Empire is exceedingly rare.



Copy – Russian censor mark



Rate: Free of charge prisoner of war mail

Written in Strjetensk, Oblast East-Siberia, 6th Feb 1916, forwarded with the help of the Red Cross via Germany / Trier to Luxembourg → 'Germany' was mentioned to facilitate the routing of the card, Russian censor mark and censor cancel no. 1 of Trier
 – **only the two items shown in the exhibit registered**



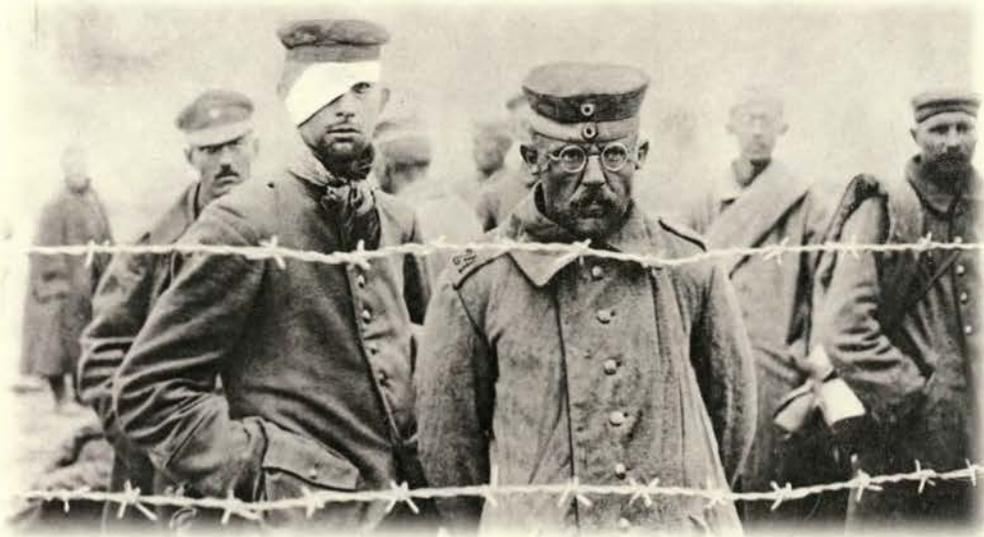
Written in Golobina, Oblast Vladimirskaja, 3rd Dec 1916, forwarded with the help of the Red Cross via Germany / Trier to Luxembourg → 'Germany' was mentioned to facilitate the routing of the card, two Russian censor cancels (one text, one numeral) and censor cancel no. 6 of Trier

– **only two items registered**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

3 Prisoner of War Mail
3.3 PoW Mail with the Russian Empire
3.3.2 PoW Mail to the Russian Empire

Prisoner of war mail from Luxembourg to Russia is exceedingly rare. This is the first card I have had the fortune to register to a Russian prisoner of war camp. The red writing in red proofs that the card has made its way to the Russian Empire.



German prisoners of war in Russian camp

Rate: Free of charge prisoner of war mail



Luxembourg-City, 24th Aug 1917, forwarded via Trier and Switzerland or Denmark to Russia, censor cancel no. 611 of Trier – manuscript marking in Russian, spelling the town 'Rarakoskaja'

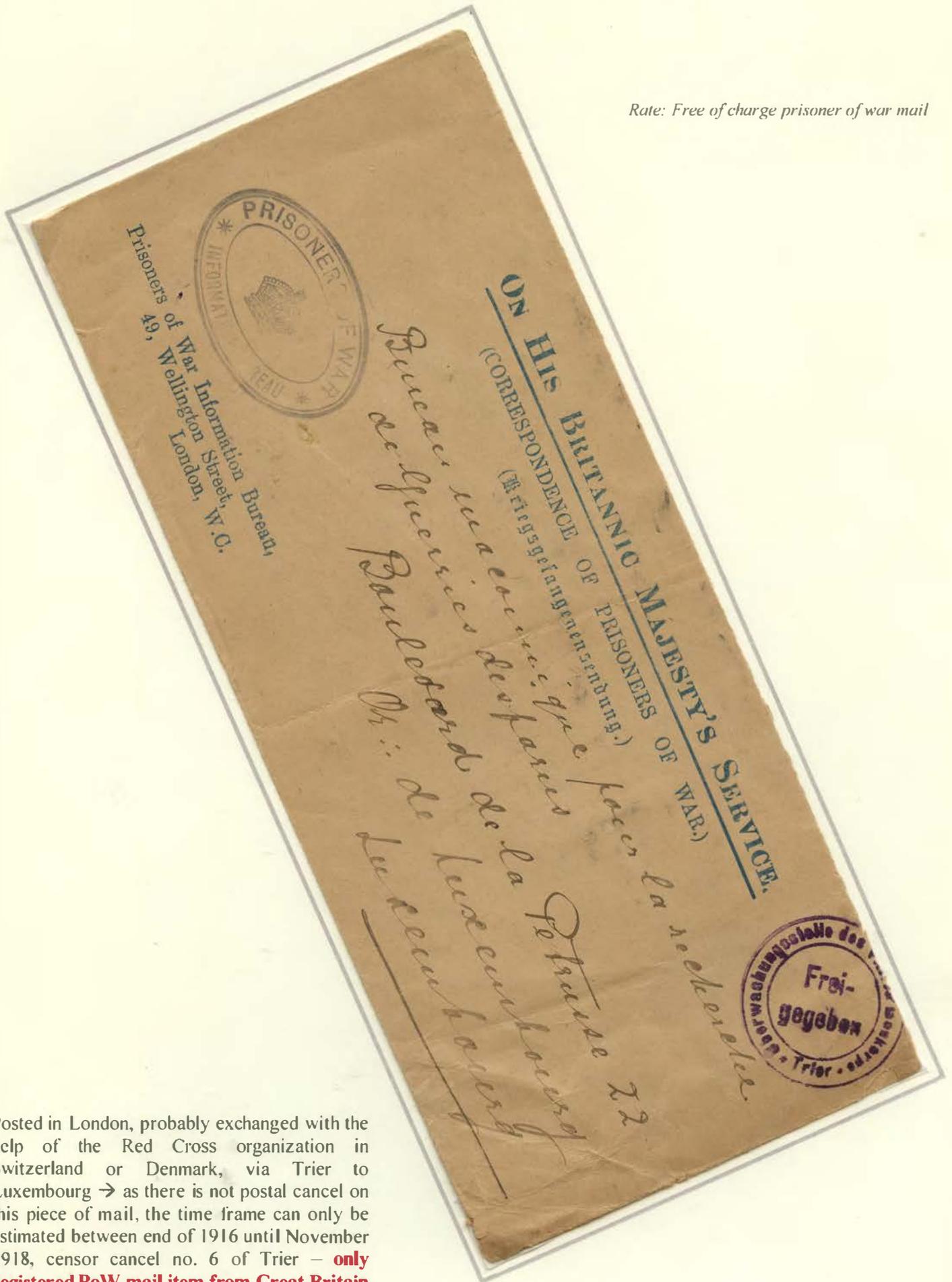
– only recorded mail item from Luxembourg to a prisoner of war in the Russian Empire

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

3 Prisoner of War Mail
3.4 PoW Mail with Great Britain

The masonic office for the search of displaced Prisoner of Wars in Luxembourg is contacted by the British Prisoner of War Information Bureau.

Rate: Free of charge prisoner of war mail



Posted in London, probably exchanged with the help of the Red Cross organization in Switzerland or Denmark, via Trier to Luxembourg → as there is not postal cancel on this piece of mail, the time frame can only be estimated between end of 1916 until November 1918, censor cancel no. 6 of Trier – **only registered PoW mail item from Great Britain**

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

3 Prisoner of War Mail

3.6 PoW Agencies

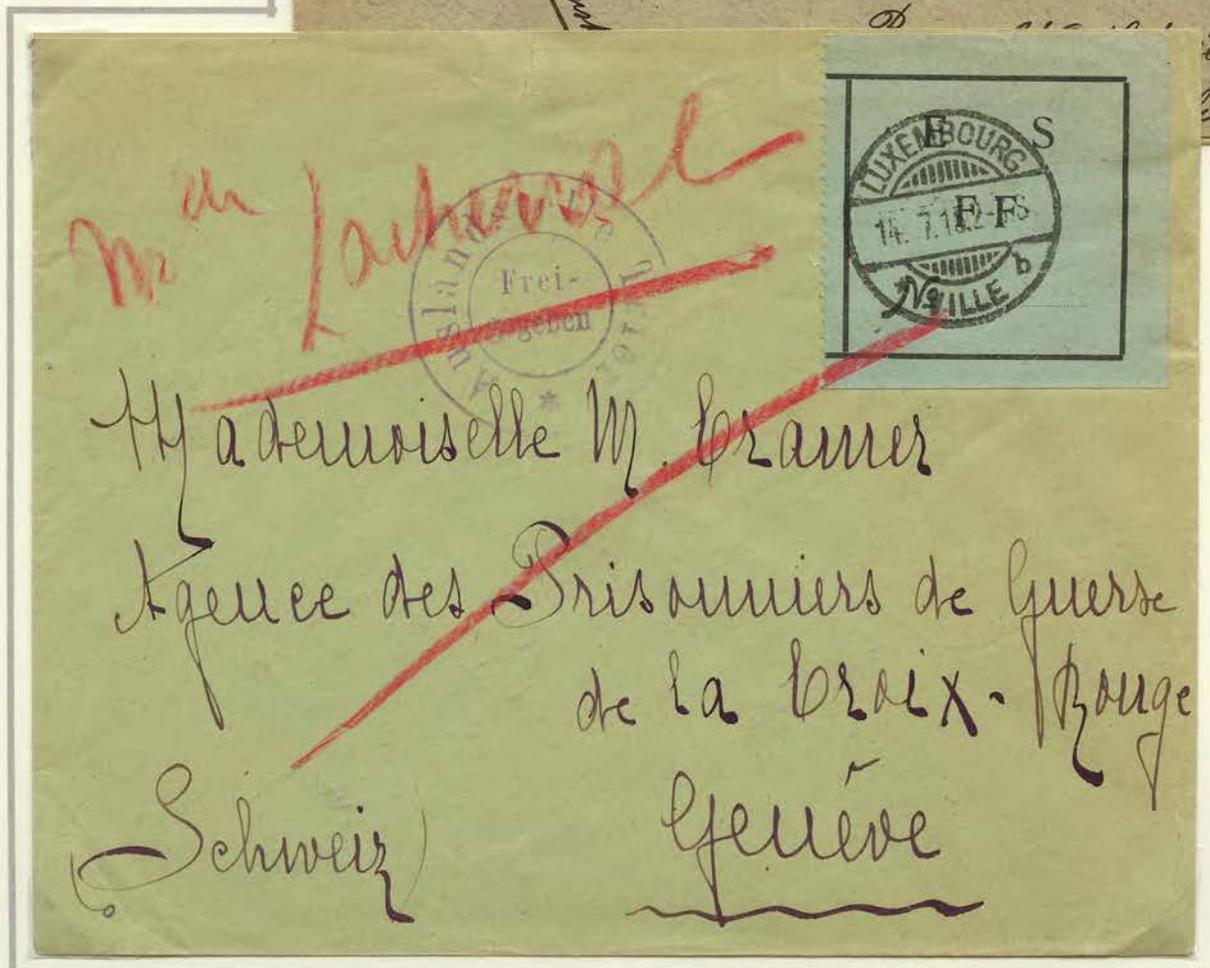
3.6.1 Agence des Prisonniers de Guerre Switzerland

Luxembourg remains neutral throughout the Great War, many Luxembourg citizens fight on both sides. Therefore, the need for enquiry about their fate became very real. The main agency was in Geneva, Switzerland. The 'Agence de Prisonniers de Guerre' of the Red Cross helped in finding a way to war prisoners, to relay mail and parcels. The green label was part of the 'Agence' to keep track of the inquiries that reached its office. While the green label is very unusual, mail to the 'Agence' in general is not.

Differdange, 29th
 Mar 1915,
 forwarded via Trier
 to Geneva, censor
 cancel no. 2 from
 Trier – **more than**
25 letters
registered



Copy – Green sorting
 label of the 'Agence de
 Prisonniers de Guerre'
 – E S F F → 'Enquete
 Special Fichier
 Francais' (Special
 Inquiry French Folder)



Rate: Prisoner of
 War mail – no
 postal charges
 due

Luxembourg,
 14th Jul 1915,
 forwarded via
 Trier and Bale to
 Geneva, censor
 cancel no. 2
 from Trier
 - **only**
registered letter
with the green
label sent from
Luxembourg

A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

3 Prisoner of War Mail
3.6 Prisoner of War Agencies
3.6.2 Missing Persons - Feministic Off. Miss. Civil.

Early into the war, apart from the Red Cross organization in Geneva, also other organizations establish in Switzerland offices which help citizens of the warring countries (and others) to find missed or killed soldiers or soldiers who were made prisoners of war.



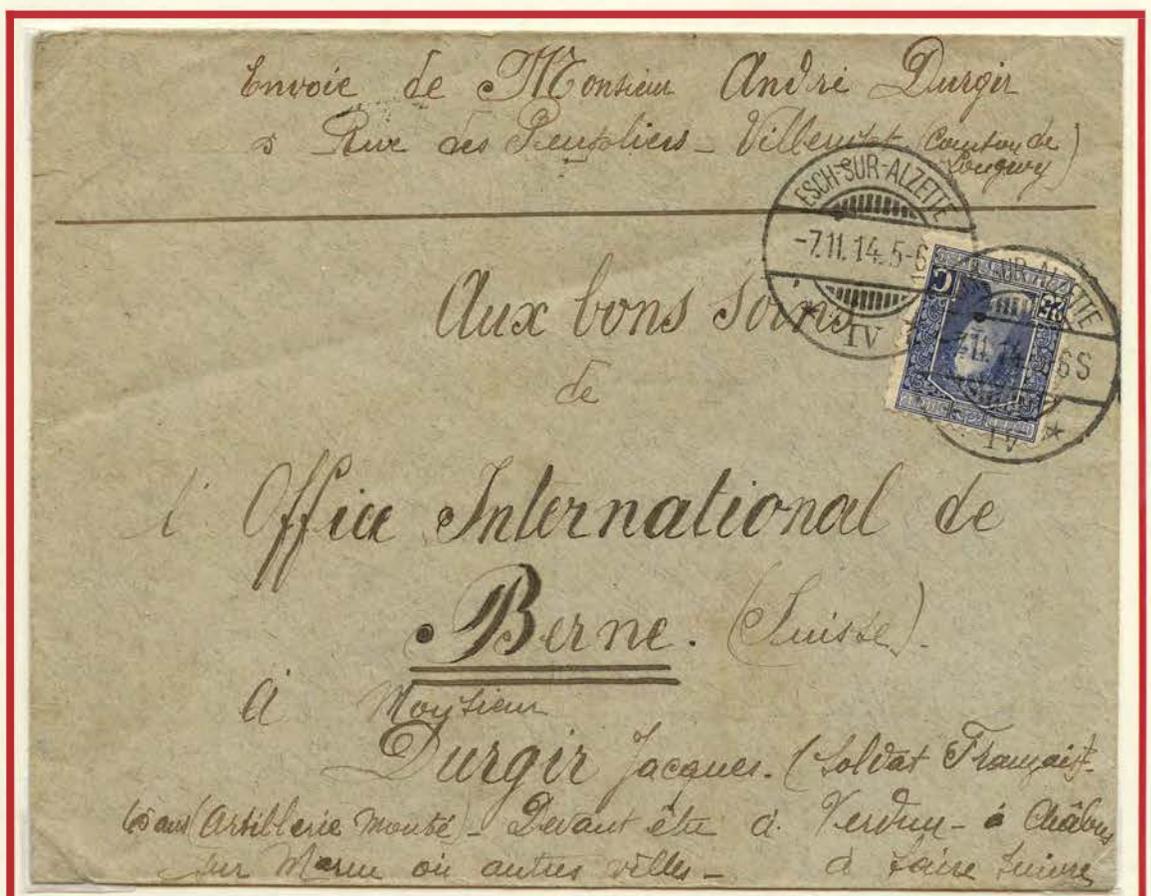
Luxemburg, 6th Oct 1916, forwarded via Trier to Lausanne, arrival 10th Oct registration cancel, censor cancel no. 61 of Trier
 – less than 50 letters registered to international organizations in Switzerland

Rate: 50 Centimes, 25 Centimes
 UPU letter rate up to 20 grams, 25 Cent. registration fee



Copy- "BERN-TRANSIT Kriegsgefangenenpost" (Bern transit PoW mail)

Written in Longwy, posted at Esch-sur-Alzette, 7th Nov 1914, forwarded to Bern, private cancel BERN-TRANSIT Kriegsgefangenenpost (prisoner of war mail) – **mail of the occupied area of Longwy was not allowed, letter privately brought to Luxembourg and mailed – one of two covers known**



A German Occupation Aug 1914 – Nov 1918
II German Military Mail

3 Prisoner of War Mail
3.6 Prisoner of War Agencies
3.6.3 Freemasons Office in Luxembourg

At the beginning of the Great War, Luxembourg newspapers had articles about the difference of censorship of letters or postcards. The preference for postcards throughout the war is easily explained as postcards were much easier to censor as letters. Letters had to be sent open to the censorship offices. After reading, the letters were closed and received censor cancels.

**Bureau Maçonnique
pour la RECHERCHE de DISPARUS
Luxembourg
Boulevard de la Petrusse 22**

Cachet of the Freemasons office in Luxembourg

*Rate: 25 ½ Centimes, slight overpayment of
UPU letter rate up to 20 grams of 25 Centimes*



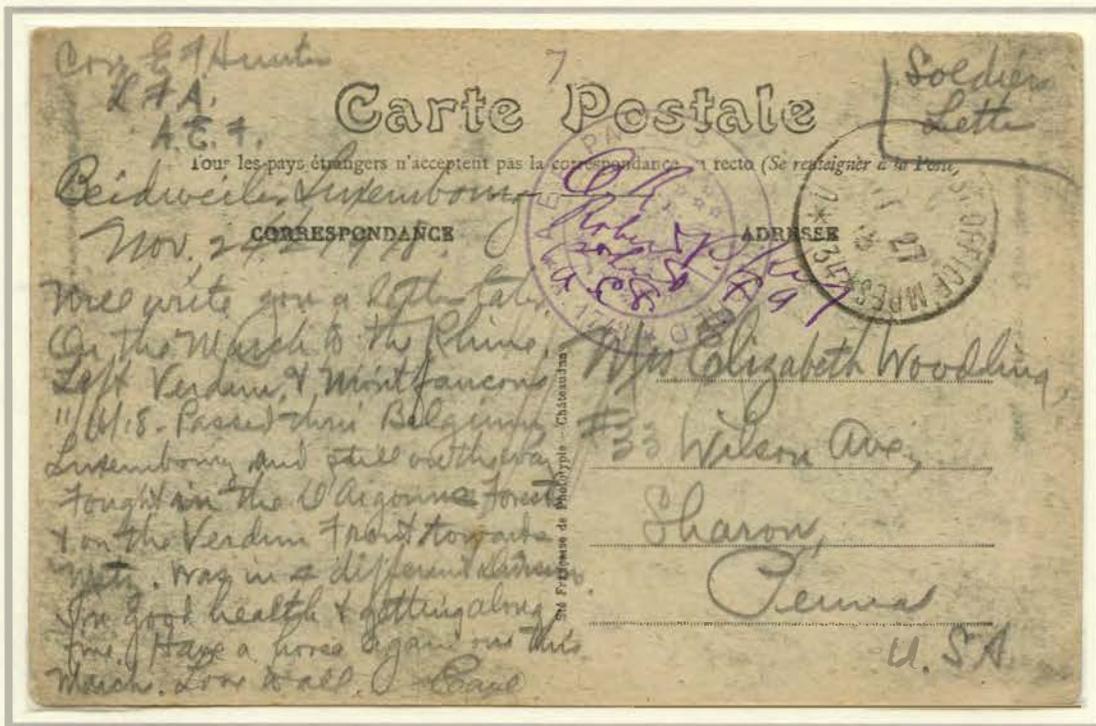
Luxembourg, 23rd Dec 1917, forwarded via Trier to Lausanne (Switzerland), censor cancellation no. 61 of Trier

- less than five letters known to the masonic office in Luxembourg

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
I Allied Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.1 US Military Mail
1.1.1 US Military Mail in November 1918

On 22nd November 1918. American troops entered Luxembourg City, led by General Pershing on their way to the river Rhein in Germany. Perhaps to their surprise, they were enthusiastically greeted by the population of Luxembourg.



Copy – Single ring cancel U.S. MILITARY EXPRESS MAIL #734 (32nd Division)

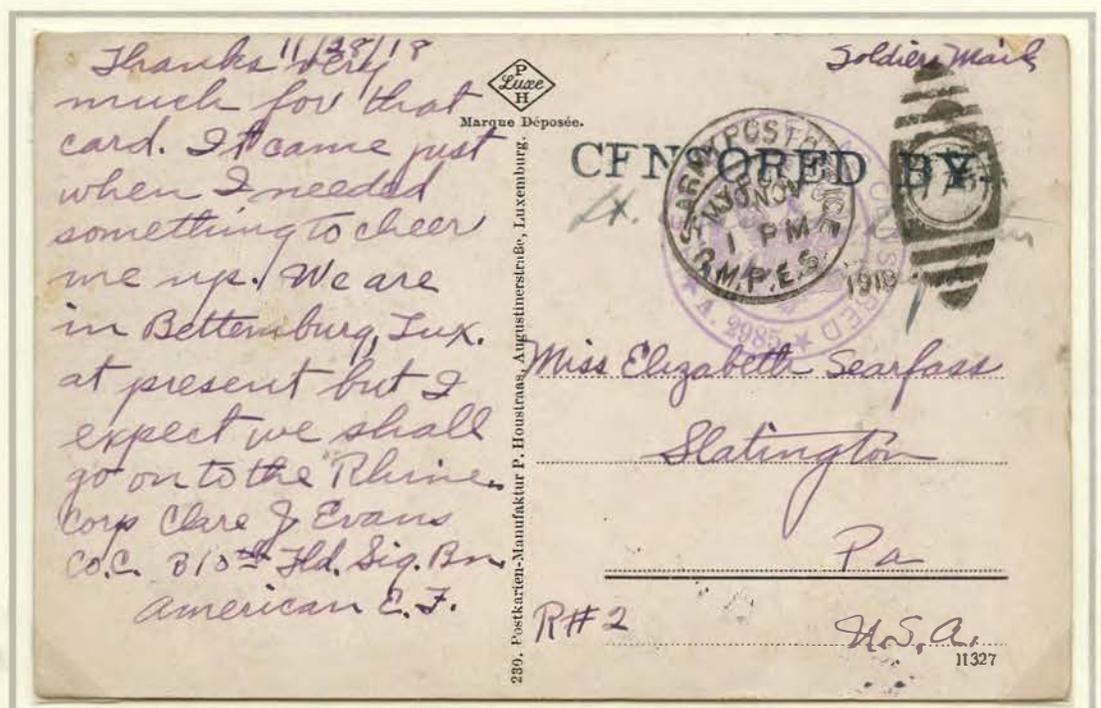
Rate: Free of charge for active soldiers

Beidweiler, written on 24th Nov 1918, forwarded via US Military Mail on 27th Nov 1918 to Sharon / USA, censor cancel **AEF PASSED AS CENSORED A. 1743** – more than fifty mail items sent via Military Express Mail / American Expeditionary Force out of Luxembourg recorded



Copy – AEF PASSED AS CENSORED A. 2985

Rate: Free of charge for active soldiers

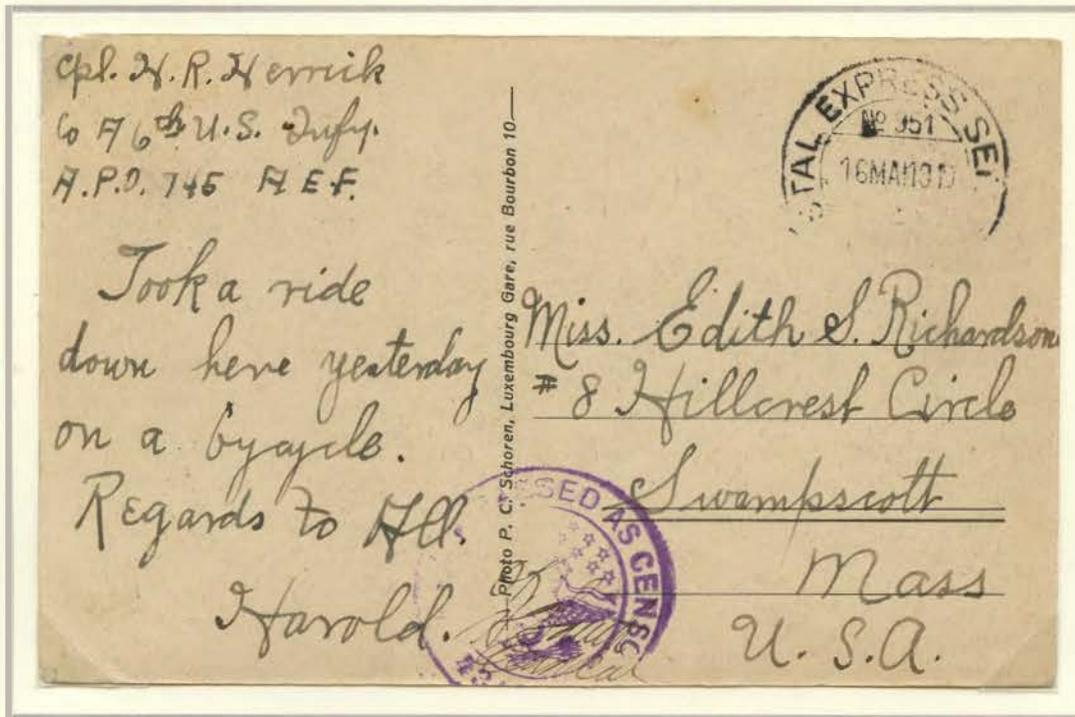


Bettembourg, 28th Nov 1918, forwarded via US Military Mail to Statington / USA, censor cancel **AEF PASSED AS CENSORED A. 2985**

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
I Allied Military Mail

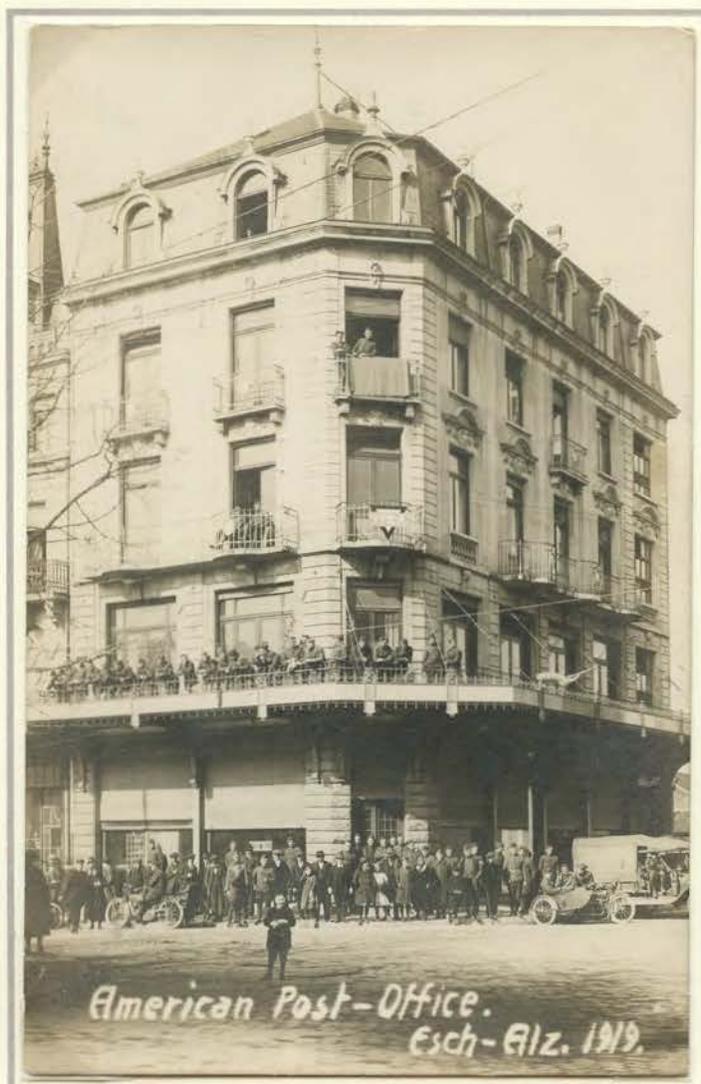
1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.1 US Military Mail
1.1.3 Permanent Establishment APO #951

US Army Post Office (APO) #951 was established in Luxembourg and one of the last post offices opened.



Copy – Double ring
 cancel U.S. MILITARY
 EXPRESS MAIL #951

Luxembourg, 16th May
 1919, forwarded via US
 Military Mail to Swampscott
 / USA, double ring cancel
 U.S. Military Postal Express
 Service #951 – earliest
 registered cancel, censor
 cancel AEF PASSED AS
 CENSORED A. 43[...]



Picture postcard of the American
 Post Office #745 – located in Esch-
 sur-Alzette

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
I Allied Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.1 US Military Mail
1.1.2 Permanent Establishment APO #745

US Army Post Office (APO) #745, in service of the 5th Division is a permanent establishment in Luxembourg, registered from December 1918 until June 1919. The office is located in Esch-sur-Alzette.



Copy – Double ring cancel U.S. MILITARY EXPRESS MAIL #745 (5th Division)

The form used to send the message is a real rare emergency issue of the Luxembourg postal administration and this is the only one known used on American Military Mail.

Luxembourg, 7th Dec 1918, forwarded via US Military Mail to Philadelphia / USA, censor cancel **AEF PASSED AS CENSORED A. 3058** – more than 25 items registered as per APO #745



Copy – AEF PASSED AS CENSORED A. 1007



Rate: Free of charge for active soldiers

Luxembourg, 2nd May 1919, forwarded via US Military Mail to Salm City, re-directed to Attleboro, censor cancel AEF PASSED AS CENSORED A. 1007

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
I Allied Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.1 US Military Mail
1.1.4 Luxembourg Mail via a M.P.E.S.

The letter was probably written by a US soldier on his way to the US occupation zone in the former German Empire. He mentions visiting the small and picturesque town of Larochette to his mother. Normally, such cards were posted with a US field post office and forwarded via the Military Postal Express Serves (M.P.E.S.) to the USA. In this instance, the card was handed over to the Luxembourg post office of Larochette, franked with a Luxembourg stamp (probably by the sender as the postcard is overpaid and was then forwarded to France.

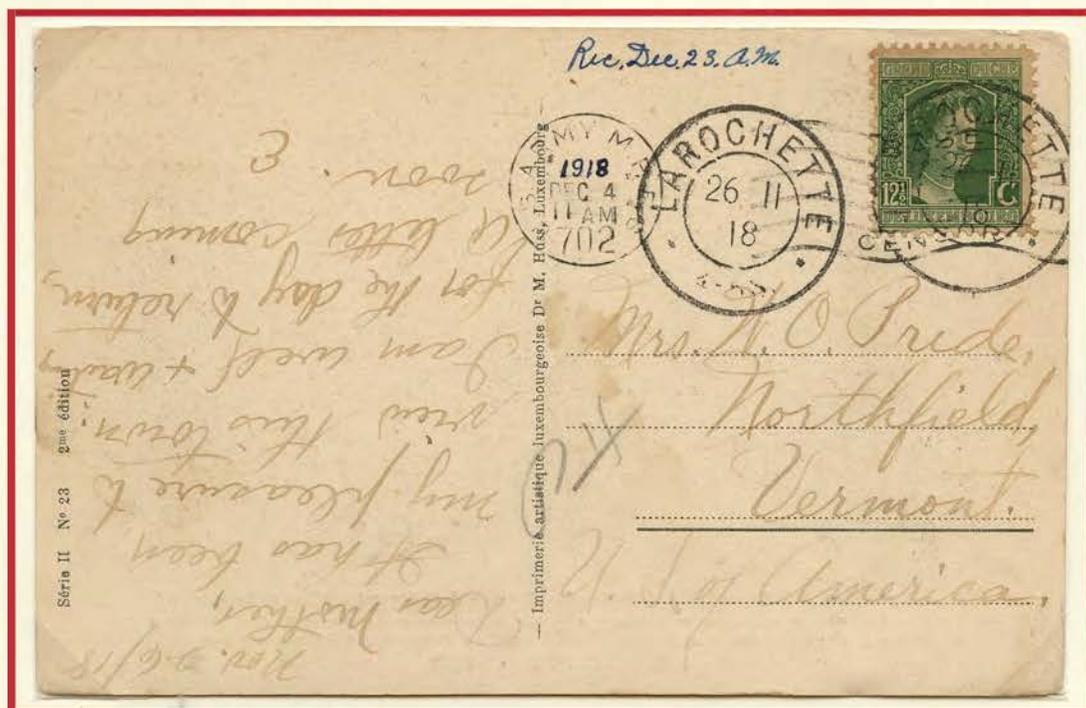
There must have been some sort of cooperation between the Luxembourg postal administration and the US field post service. The picture postcard was forwarded via the central M.P.E.S. station #702 in Paris, eight days after mailing. The manuscript arrival notation 'Rec. Dec 23' confirms that the card reached its destination almost four weeks after mailing.

This is the currently **only registered item with a cooperation between Luxembourg and the M.P.E.S.**



View of the small town of Larochette

Rate: 12 ½ Centimes prepaid, an overpayment by 2 ½ Centimes of the UPU postcard rate



Larochette, 26th November 1918, forwarded via Paris and New York to Northfield in Vermont / USA, the machine cancellation U.S. ARMY M.P.E.S. 702 with slogan BASE CENSOR proofs the co-operation between the Luxembourg postal administration and the US Military Postal Express

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
I Allied Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.2 French Military Mail

Together with the US Army, the French Army occupies the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg arriving on 21st November 1918. French military post offices were used by the arriving troops. The French soldiers soon leave in their majority Luxembourg for their occupation tasks in the Western part of the German Empire.

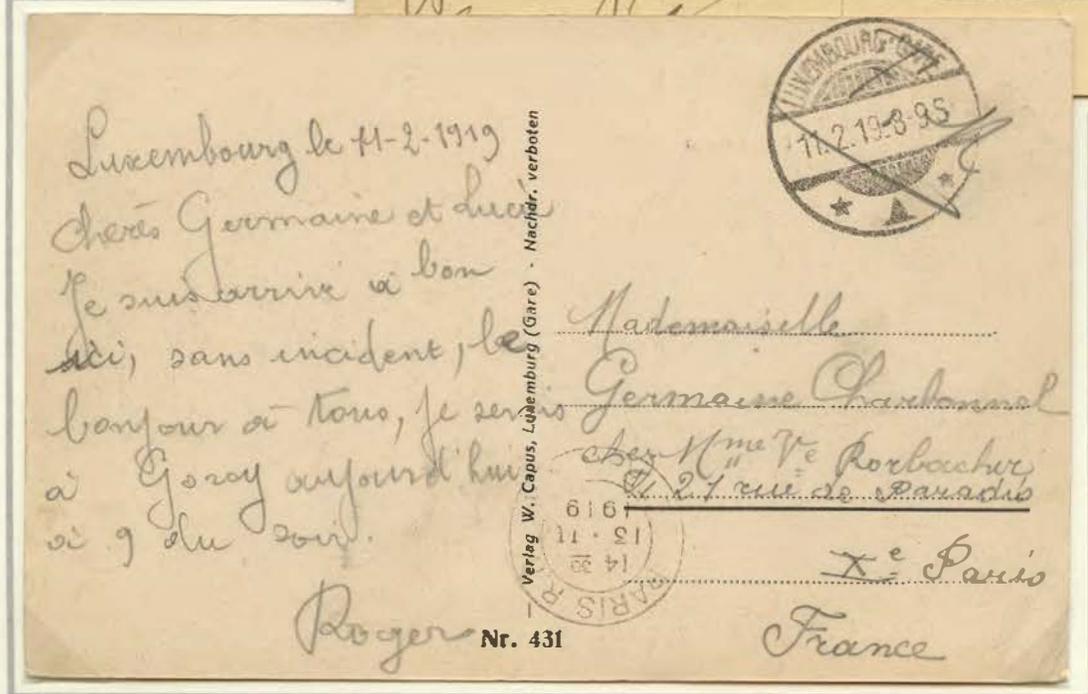


Luxembourg-City, 26th Nov 1918, forwarded to Dijon in France, regimental cancel **BATALLION DE CHAIRS**, the military franchise is indicated by the words "F.M." (franchise militaire → Military Franchise)

Rate. Military franchise rate, confirmed 'vaguemestre' cancel

Eschdorf / Luxembourg, written on 31st Dec 1918 by a French soldier, mailed 1st Jan 1919, forwarded by French Military Mail to Bourg-Saint-Andéol in France

Rate, Military franchise rate, no regimental cancel to confirm the franchise



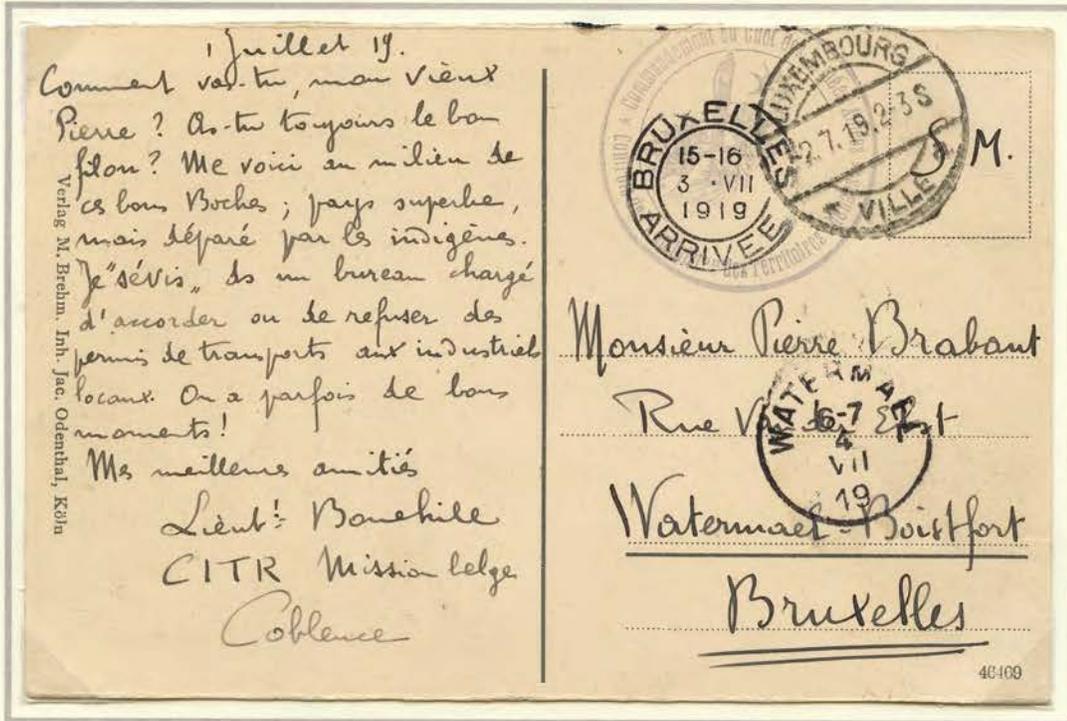
Luxembourg, 11th Feb 1919, forwarded by Luxembourg postal administration to Paris in France

Rate: "F.M." – Military franchise accepted by the Luxembourg postal administration – **only postal item known with military franchise accepted**

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
I Allied Military Mail

1 Outgoing Military Mail
1.3 Belgian Military from Luxembourg

Belgium military installations in Luxembourg did not exist, but as Belgian military personnel was part of various allied commissions situated in Luxembourg, Belgian military mail with accepted military franchise out of the Grand Duchy is registered but exceedingly rare.



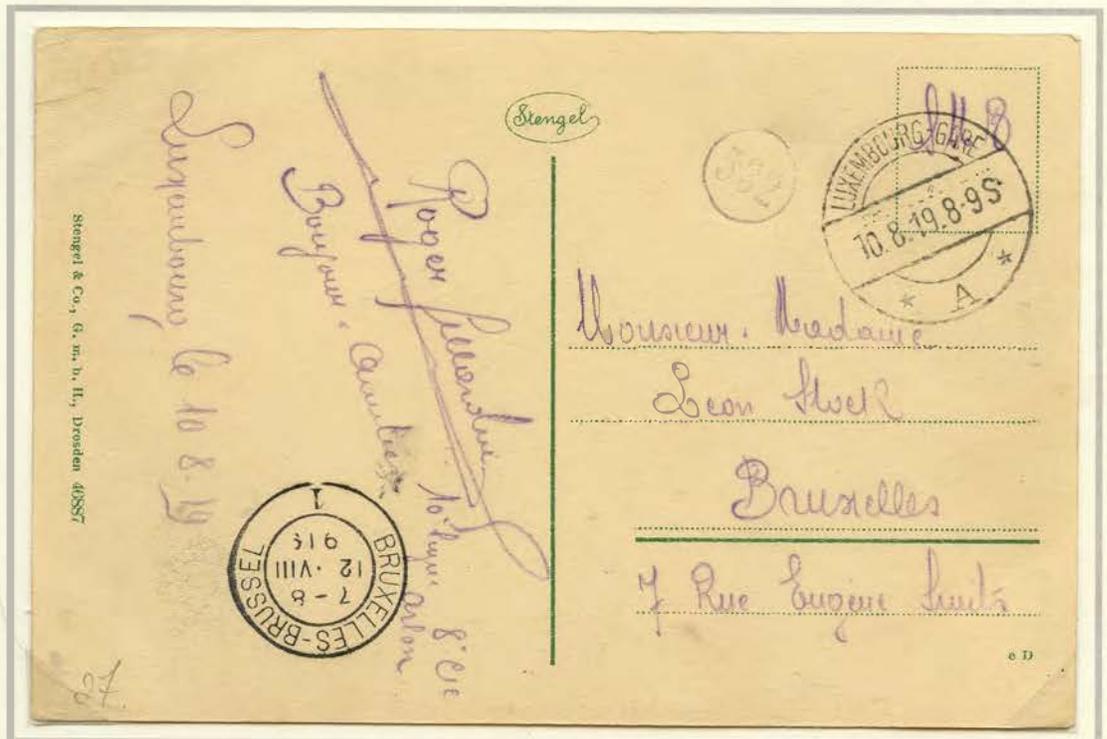
Rate: Free of charge, military franchise (S.M. → Service Militaire) accepted by Luxembourg postal administration

Luxembourg-City, 2nd Jul 1919, forwarded to Watermael, regimental cancel, arrival cancel, no Belgian military censor cancellations
 – less than five mail items from Luxembourg registered



Copy – S.M.B. → Service Militaire Belgique, accepted by Luxembourg postal administration

Rate: Military franchise for active service man accepted by the Luxembourg postal administration



Luxembourg-Station, 10th Aug 1919, forwarded to Brussels – no Belgian military censor cancels

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
I Allied Military Mail

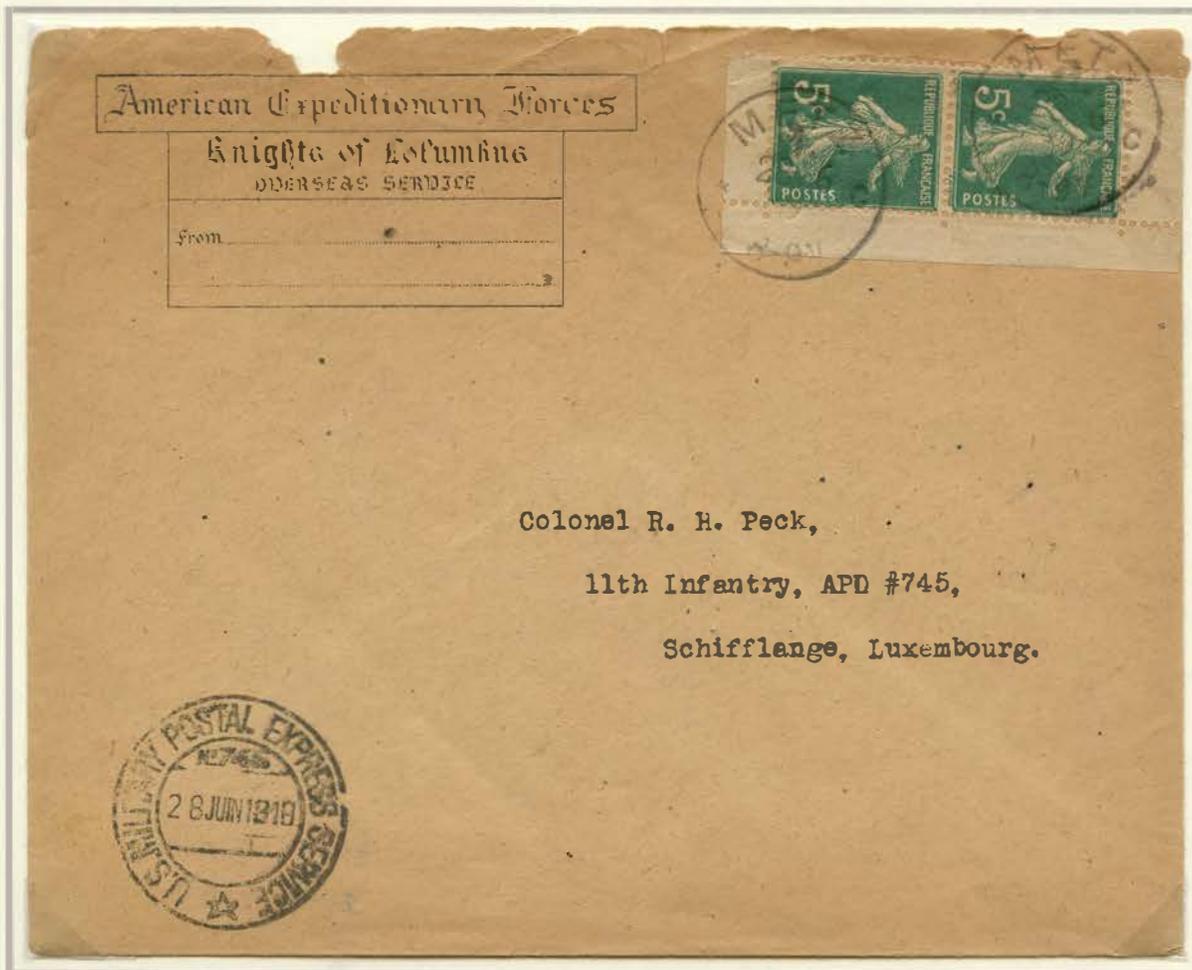
2 Incoming Military Mail
2.1 US Military Mail
2.1.1 US Military Mail to APO #745

In rare cases, mail was intended for the US Army Post Office (APO) #745.



Rate: 3 Cents.
inland war
rate up to 20
grams

New York, 25th Apr 1919, forwarded to APO #745 in Luxembourg to an active soldier
– **less than five pieces of mail registered to the APO #745**



Copy – Double ring
cancel U.S. MILITARY
EXPRESS MAIL #745
(5th Division) – last
registered date

Rate: 10 Centimes
– underpaid letter
to a senior officer
of the 5th Division –
no postage due

Metz, 28th Jun 1919, forwarded to APO #745 in Luxembourg, one ring cancellation METZ * c
(old German type)

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
I Allied Military Mail

2 Outgoing Military Mail
2.1 US Military Mail
2.1.2 Unpaid US Military Mail to Luxembourg

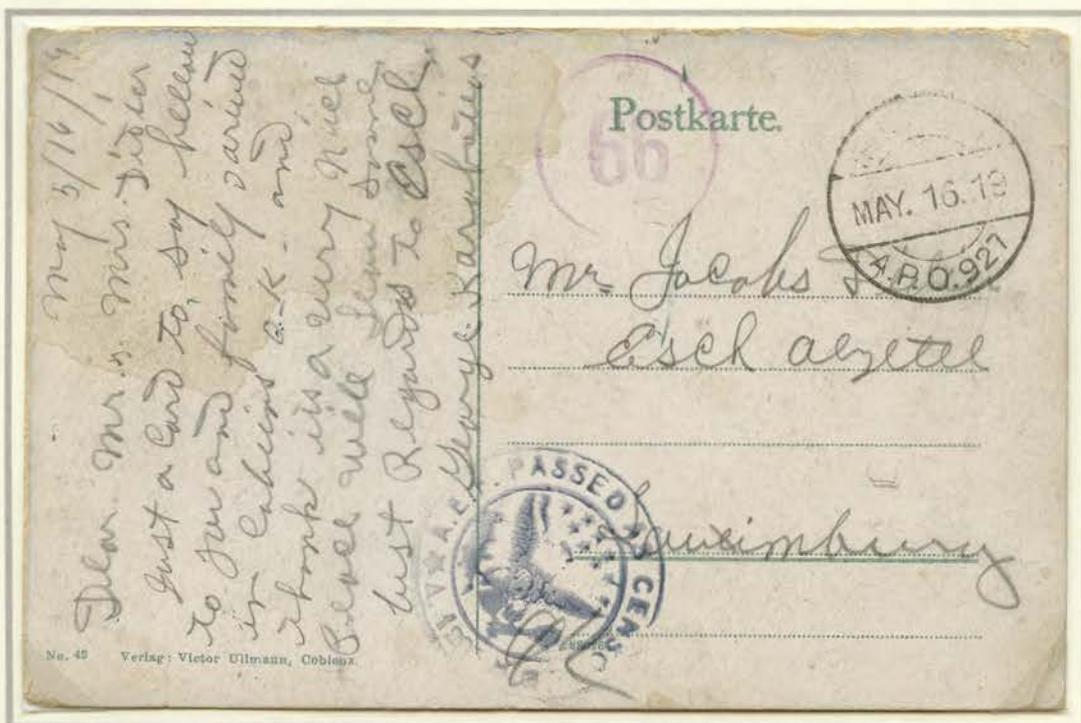
The American 'Dough Boys' have been very popular in Luxembourg, especially with the female part of the population. During their stay many developed lasting relationships, that sometimes led to marriages.



Rate: Free of charge for active soldiers, 10 Cent. postage due was charged – inland postcard rate of 7 ½ Centimes as of 1st Jul 1918

Third Army Head Quarter in Koblenz, 20th Apr 1919, forwarded to Differdange, censor cancellation AEF PASSED AS CENSORED A. I [...], censor cancel PASSED BY BASE CENSOR A.E.F. 13

– less than ten mail items registered from US soldiers to Luxembourg



Copy – Numeric censor cancellation – **only two numbered cancels registered on mail to Luxembourg**

Rate: Military franchise for active service man accepted by the Luxembourg postal administration

Third Army HQ in Koblenz, 16th May 1919, forwarded to Esch-sur-Alzette, censor cancel AEF PASSED AS CENSORED A. I [...], censor cancel numeral 66

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
I Allied Military Mail

2 Incoming Military Mail
2.2 Belgian Military to Luxembourg

Belgium military mail from active Belgian soldiers to Luxembourg is quite uncommon. As with the German military mail, the treatment of the Luxembourg postal administrations is not congruent. On some of the mail a postage due was charged, other items went through without charge to the client.



Copy – Germany introduced a new cancellation type during the occupation, Belgium replaced them with old cancels, often not in good shape and with missing numbers or year dates.

Rate: Free of charge, military franchise (S.M. → Service Militaire) accepted by Luxembourg postal administration



Marche, 1919, forwarded to Strassen, Belgian censor cancels **CENSURE MILITAIRE** and 51
 – less than ten military items from Belgium to Luxembourg registered



Rate: Military franchise for active service man not accepted by the Luxembourg postal administration and 10 Centimes inland charge due by the addressee – tariff of 7 ½ Centimes as of 1st Jul 1918

Field Post Station no. 1, Mar 1919, forwarded to Berdorf, Belgium censor cancellation **CENSURE MILITAIRE**, used in Arlon

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.1 US Censor Cancels
1.1.1 US Boxed Censor Cancel 371

The cancel 'U.S. No 371' saw very limited in use. It can be found on mail to or from Luxembourg, starting in Dec 1918.



Copy – The censor cancellation, used in Coblenz, is registered between 21st Jan 1919 to 30th May 1919



Copy – U.S. censor cancellation, used in Coblenz – **less than five cancellations registered**

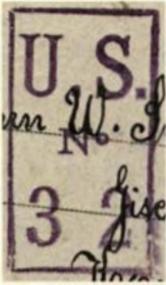


Luxembourg-City, 30 May 1919, forwarded via Tuttingen. censor cancel U.S. No. 371, state II – **less than 5 mail items registered**

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.1 US Censor Cancels
1.1.2 US Boxed Censor Cancel 3[7]2

One of the main censor cancel, it is assumed that the number "7" is missing between "3" and "2".



Copy – The censor cancel with the missing no. 7 is registered from 12th Jun 1919 to 18th Aug 1919

Rate: 10 Centimes.
 postcard rate to Germany.
 1st Oct 1918



Luxembourg-City, 18th Aug 1919, forwarded via Coblenz to Rheinböllenerhütte, boxed censor cancel U.S. No 3 2, last known usage – more than 25 mail items known with this US censor cancel



Luxembourg-City, 12th Jun 1919, forwarded via Coblenz to Trier, censor cancel U.S. No 3 2, first registered usage

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.1 US Censor Cancels
1.1.3 US Regimental Cancels - Outgoing

Apart from the numeral censor cancels, the US censors used the standard regimental cancel between Dec 1918 and June 1919



Copy – Regimental cancels of the "American Expeditionary Force" were used to confirm censorship

Rate: 10 Centimes.
 postcard rate to Germany,
 1st Oct 1918

Differdange. 18th Aug 1919, forwarded to Neunkirchen, regimental censor cancellation – more than fifty mail items registered



Dudlange, 8th Apr 1919, to Trier; Rate: 1,65 Fr., 30 Cent. letter rate, 25 Cent. registration fee, 10 Cent. per 300 Fr. = 1,10 Fr. (3.125 Fr.), regimental censor cancel **A.E.F. PASSED BY CENSOR A. 4188**

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.1 US Censor Cancels
1.1.4 US Regimental Cancels- Incoming

Commercial paper is really scarce – this is the only registered cover of a **registered commercial paper in the timeframe.**



Rate: 35 Pfg. 15 Pfg commercial Paper rate up to 50 grams, 20 Pfg registration fee; tarif valid as of 1st Aug 1916

Brbach / Sarre, 10th Jun 1919, forwarded to Luxembourg, regimental censor cancellation
A.E.F. PASSED BY CENSOR



Copy – Regimental cancels of the "American Expeditionary Force" were used to confirm censorship

Rate: 27 ½ Fen. 7 ½ Fen postcard rate, 20 Fen registration fee



Bendzin / Poland, 2nd Feb 1919, forwarded to Luxembourg, Polish postal censor cancel, regimental censor cancel **A.E.F. PASSED BY CENSOR A. 4220**

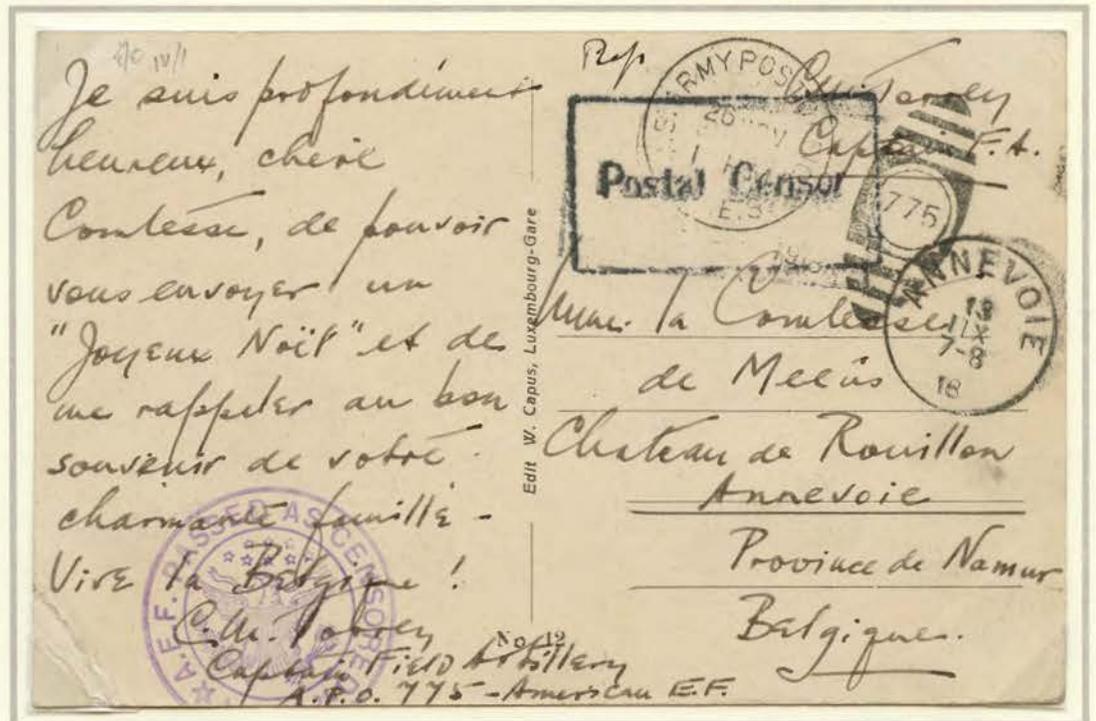
B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.1 US Censor Cancel
1.1.5 'Postal Censor'

Either a private cancel or an official one, the boxed "Postal Censor" cancellation seems to be a bit superfluous.



Copy – Previously unrecorded censor cancel – **discovery copy**



Luxembourg, 26th Nov 1918, forwarded to Annevoie in Belgium, censor cancel Postal Censor, regimental censor cancel **A.E.F. PASSED BY CENSOR** – more than one hundred mail items from Luxembourg via military mail registered, **only one with this cancellation**

1.1.6 August 1919 – End of US Censorship



Copy – U.S. censor cancellation, used in Coblenz – less than five cancellations in August 1918 registered

Eischen, 22nd Aug 1919, forwarded via Coblenz to Frankfurt. censor cancellation **U.S. No 3 2**
 – at the end of August 1919, the US censorship ended

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

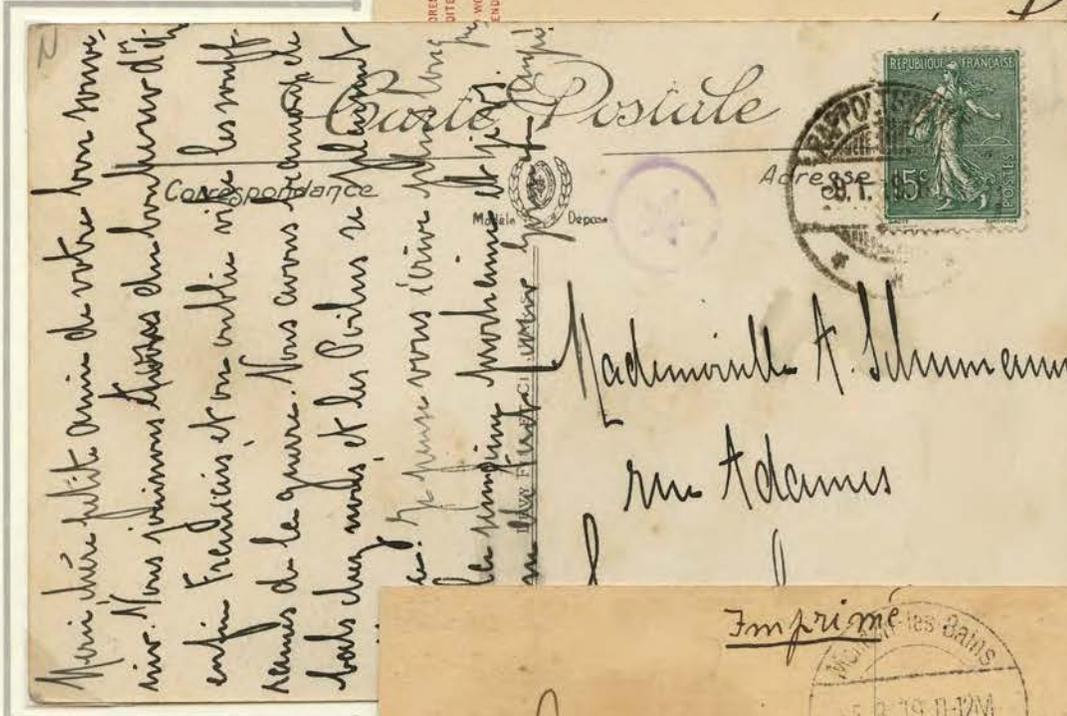
1 Censor Cancels
1.2 French Censor Cancellation
1.2.1 Red and Blue Star

The so-called “Red and Blue Star” cancels are registered as French censor cancellation that were used in Karlsruhe / Baden and which were applied to mail transiting the French occupation sector on its way to Alsace-Lorraine or foreign destinations.



Copy – So-called
 ‘Red Star’
 censor cancellation

Luxembourg-City, 9th May
 1919, forwarded to Waldau
 near Bern in Switzerland,
 French censor cancel **Red
 Star** – less than fifteen mail
 items registered



Rappoltsweiler, 8th Jan
 1919, to Luxembourg,
 French censor cancel
Blue Star – **Discovery
 Copy – cancel
 previously not
 registered on mail to or
 from Luxembourg**

Rate: 10 Centimes.
 UPU postcard rate to
 France (tariff valid as of
 1 Oct 1907)

Mondorf-les-Bains, written
 on 5th Aug 1919,
 forwarded to Hayange /
 Lorraine, French censor
 cancel **Red Star**



B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.2 French Censor Cancellation
1.2.2 Ouvert – Par l’Autorité Militaire

Apart from the ‘Red Star’ cancel, usually the oval censor cancels of the French military censorship operations with their numbering system were applied on mail to and from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg during the period until August 1919.



Copy – The double oval numbered French censor cancellation in use from Nov 1918 until Aug 1919

Rate: 10 Centimes, UPU postcard rate to Luxembourg (tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907)

Brussels, 13th Jan 1919, forwarded to the small hamlet Mühlenbach via Luxembourg and Dommeldange, double oval French censor cancellation OUVERT PAR L’AUTHORITÉ MILITAIRE 708 – more than 25 mail items with French double oval censor cancellation registered



Rate: 10 Centimes, UPU postcard rate to Switzerland (tariff valid as of 1 Oct 1907)

Luxembourg-City, 11th May 1919, forwarded to Yvorne in Switzerland, double oval French censor cancel OUVERT PAR L’AUTHORITÉ MILITAIRE 401

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.3 Belgium Censor Cancellation
1.3.1 Into Luxembourg

Civilian and Military mail from and via Belgium to and from Luxembourg is cancelled at the newly established censor office in Arlon. Previously, Belgian mail was censored in Calais and Folkstone.



Copy – In addition to the 'CENSURE MILITAIRE' cancellation, the individual censor left his number on the mail (Dec 1918 – Aug 1919)

Rate: 10 Centimes,
 UPU postcard rate to
 Luxembourg (tariff valid as
 of 1st Feb 1919)

Antwerp, 15th Apr 1919, forwarded to Esch-sur-Alzette via Arlon and Luxembourg-City,
 Belgium censor cancels **CENSURE MILITAIRE 60**
 – more than 50 mail items with this type of censor cancellation registered



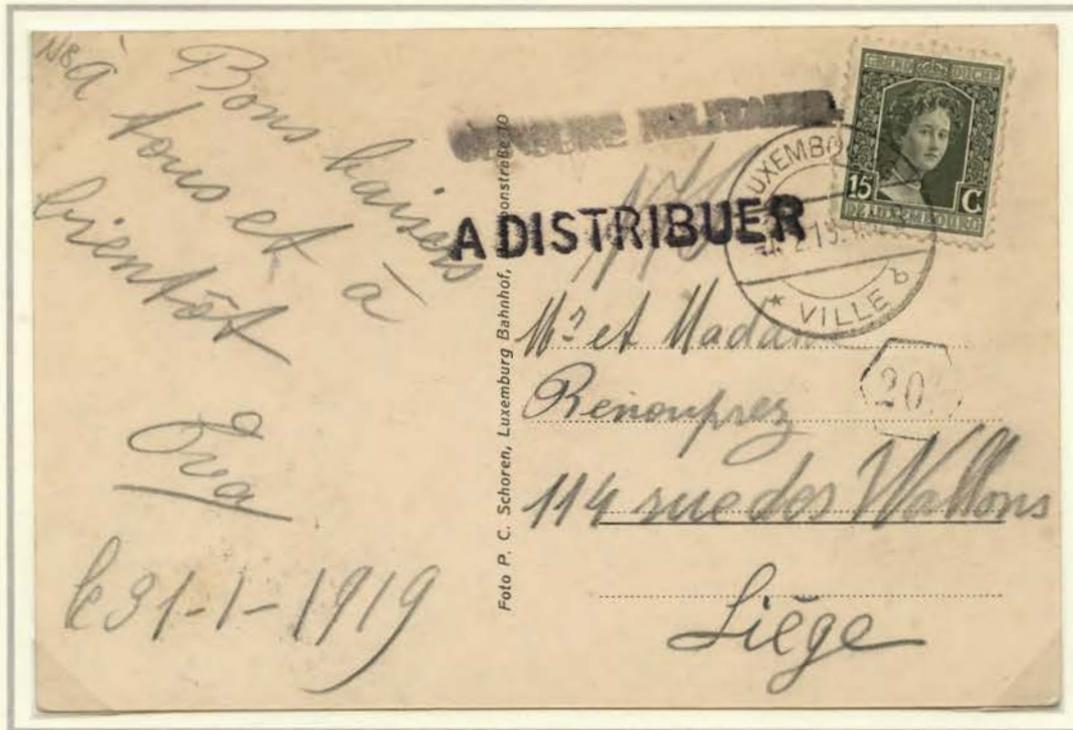
Rate: 10 Centimes,
 UPU postcard rate to
 Luxembourg (tariff valid as
 of 1st Feb 1919)

Ostende, 3rd Mar 1919, forwarded via Arlon and Luxembourg to Hunchrange near
 Bettembourg, Belgium censor cancellation **CENSURE MILITAIRE 65**

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.3 Belgium Censor Cancellation
1.3.2 From Luxembourg

The cancel 'A DISTRIBUER' (mail ready for distribution) is quite scare. It has been registered only on **three copies** on mail to and from Luxembourg.



A DISTRIBUER

Copy – In addition to the 'CENSURE MILITAIRE' cancellation, rarely the censor cancellation 'A DISTRIBUER' is seen on the postcard above

Rate: 10 Centimes, overpayment by 5 Centimes, UPU postcard rate to Luxembourg (tariff valid as of 1st Feb 1919 – first day of validity of the new UPU tariff)

Written in Luxembourg-City on a 31st Jan 1919, 1st Feb 1919, forwarded to Liège, Belgium censor cancellations CENSURE MILITAIRE 60 and A DISTRIBUER – more than 50 outgoing mail items with Belgian censor cancellations registered



Rate: 10 Centimes, UPU postcard rate to Luxembourg (tariff valid as of 1st Feb 1919)

Luxembourg-City, 22nd May 1919, forwarded to Brussels via Arlon. Belgium censor cancellation CENSURE MILITAIRE and 132 as individual censor number

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

1 Censor Cancels
1.4 Allied Censor Cancellations

Censorship was universal. Even remote countries and “exotic” colonies practiced censorship at least into the year 1919. But the Luxembourg citizens had rarely the opportunity, to receive mail with Allied censor cancellations, most of the items seem to have either a military or philatelic background.



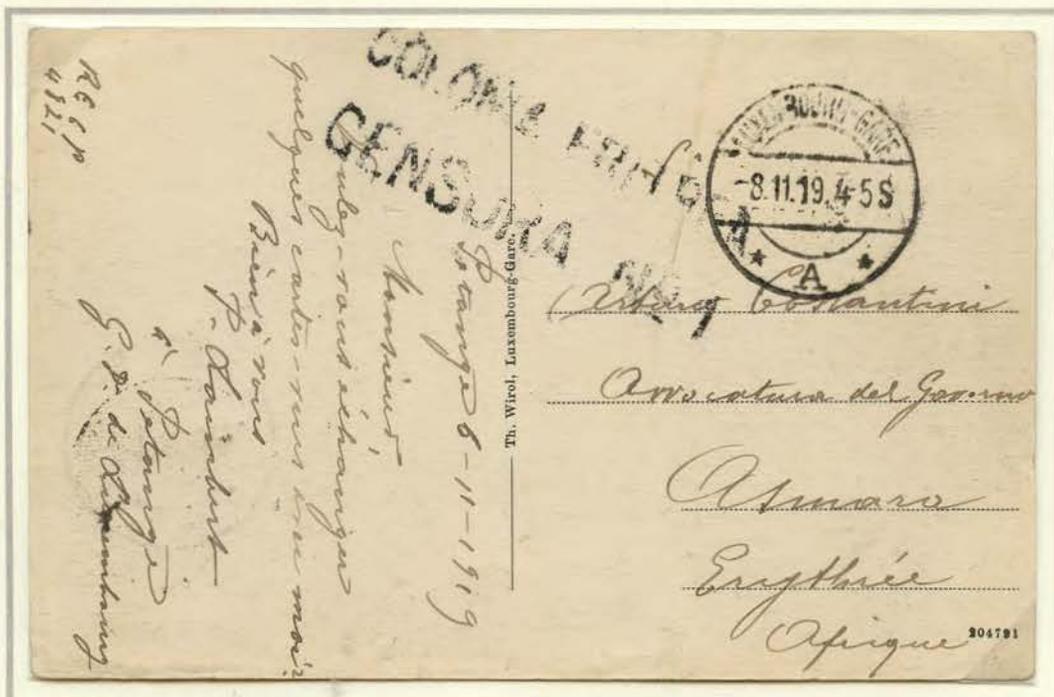
Copy – PASSED CENSOR, rarely seen on mail to Luxembourg



Rate: 1d (stamps on verso and recto), UPU postcard rate to Luxembourg (tariff valid as of 1st Oct 1907)

Durban / South Africa, Jun 1919, forwarded to the small village Lasauvage near Pétange, South African censor cancel PASSED CENSOR 19/99

– less than five mail items registered to or from Luxembourg with Allied censor cancels



Rate: 10 Centimes, UPU postcard rate to Luxembourg (tariff valid as of 1st Feb 1919)

Luxembourg-Train station, 8th Nov 1919, forwarded to Otmara / Italian Eritrea censor cancel COLONIA ERITREA CENSURA 621

– only registered mail item to Italian Eritrea from Luxembourg

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

2 Sealing Tapes
2.1 US Sealing Tapes

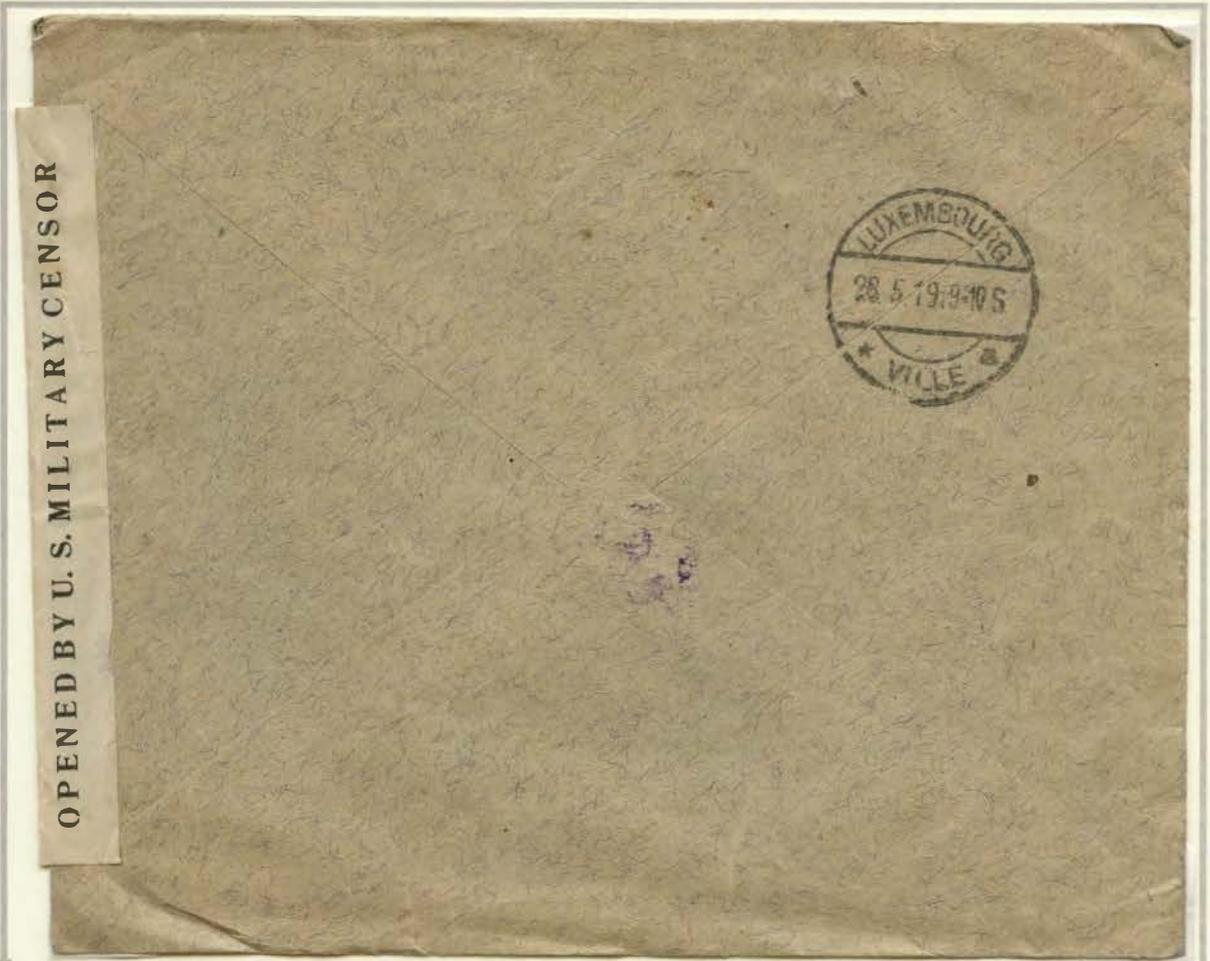
The U.S. Military used infrequently sealing tapes to research letters to or from Luxembourg.



Copy – The US Military Censorship 'OPENED BY U.S. MILITARY CENSOR' in black writing on blue or white paper

Rate: 47 ½ Centimes, special rate with Germany, 1st Jul 1916, express fee 30 Centimes

Luxembourg-City to Berlin boxed censor cancel '371', US sealing tape – **discovery copy of the white sealing tape**



Rate: 65 Centimes, UPU letter rate, 1st Oct 1907, second weight step, registration fee 25 Centimes

Differdange, 20th Mar 1919, forwarded to Helsingfors / Finland, US regimental cancel, on reverse: US sealing tape in blue - **less than five mail items registered / one of the earliest registered letters to Finland**

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

2 Sealing Tapes
2.2 French Sealing Tapes

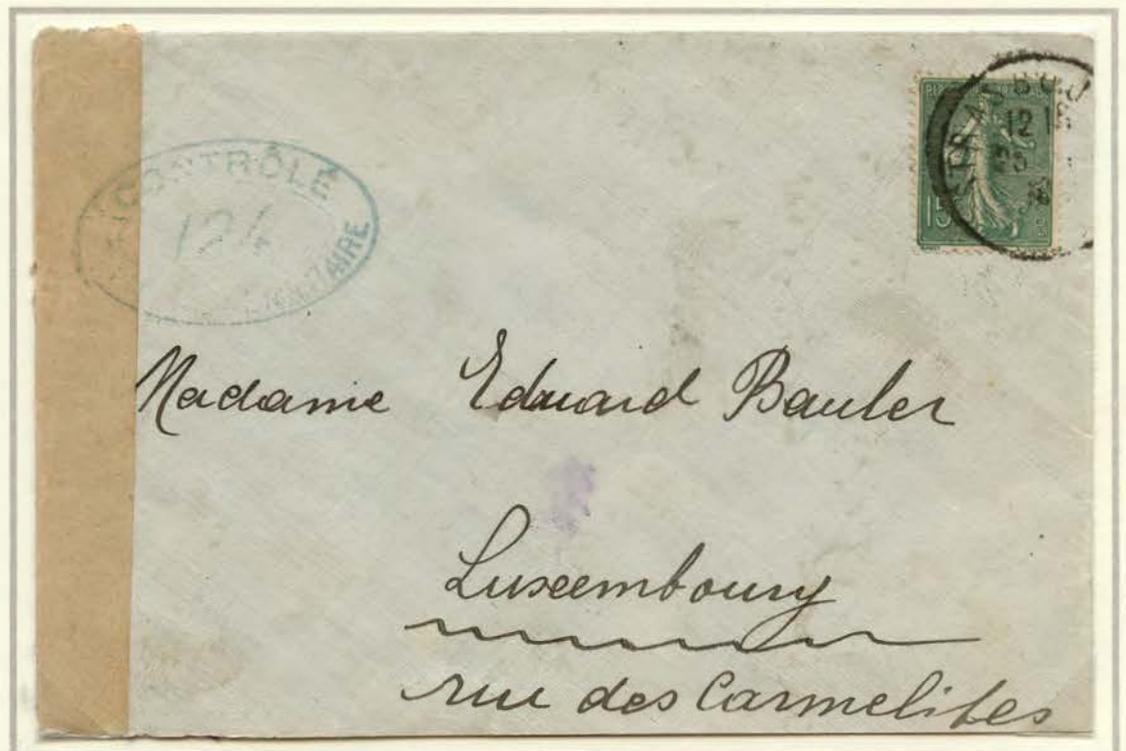
Infrequently, letters to and from Luxembourg get opened by the French authorities and are sealed with sealing tapes



Copy – In addition to the 'OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE' cancellation, from time to time letters are getting opened and re-sealed with a generic French sealing tape (Dec 1918 – Aug 1919)

Rate: Military franchise accepted to the Luxembourg border, only the inland letter rate of 12 ½ Centimes is charged to the addressee (tariff valid as of 1st Jul 1918 / up to 20 grams)

Military mail, 19th Jan 1919, forwarded to Luxembourg-Station, double oval French censor cancellation OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE 2, generic French sealing tape – less than ten mail items registered with French scaling tape to Luxembourg



Rate: 15 Centimes, letter rate up to 20 grams. tariff valid as off 1st Jan 1919

Luxembourg-City, 11th May 1919, forwarded to Yvorne, double oval French censor cancel OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE 401, generic French sealing tape

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

2 Sealing Tapes
2.3 Belgium Sealing Tapes
2.3.1 To Luxembourg

Infrequently, letters to and from Luxembourg get opened by the Belgian authorities and are sealed with sealing tapes



Copy – In addition to the 'CENSURE MILITAIRE' cancellation, from time to time letters are getting opened and re-sealed with a generic French sealing tape (Dec 1918 – Aug 1919)

Ensisval, 30th Apr 1919, forwarded to Luxembourg-City, Belgium censor cancel 65 + initial, Belgium sealing tape – **more than 25 mail items registered**



Rate: UPU letter rate, 12 ½ Cents, up to 20 grams

Amsterdam, 24th Feb 1919, forwarded via Belgium to Esch-sur-Alzette, Belgian sealing tape + censor paraphe

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

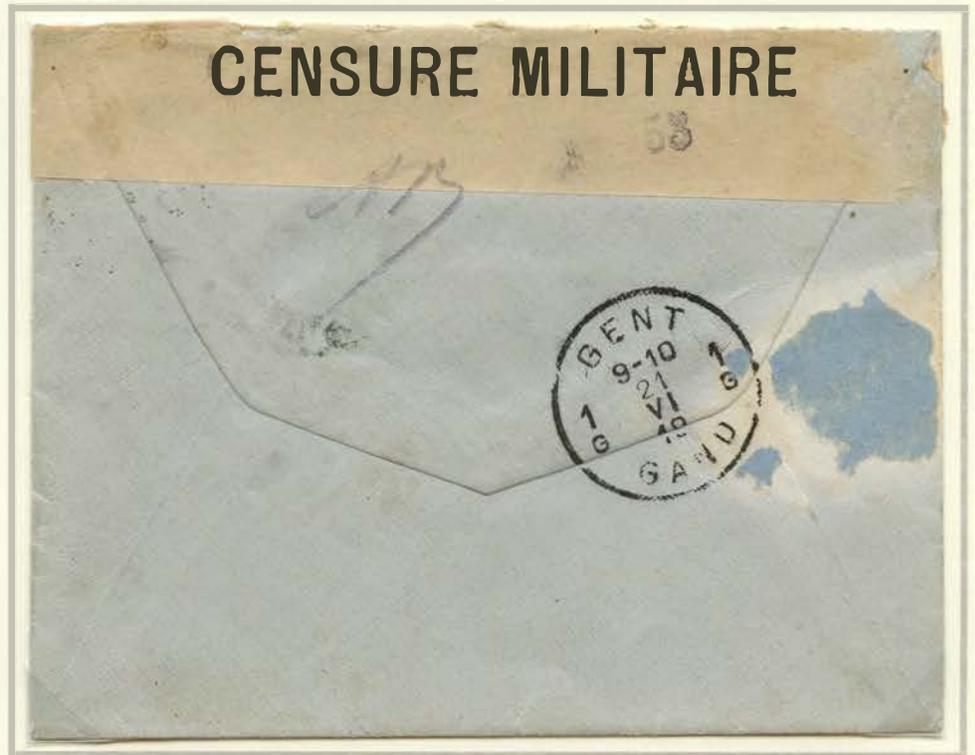
2 Sealing Tapes
2.3 Belgium Sealing Tapes
2.3.2 From Luxembourg

Several kinds of sealing tapes have been used on mail to or from Belgium. The upper cover shows a sealing tape that I have very rarely seen on Luxembourg mail.

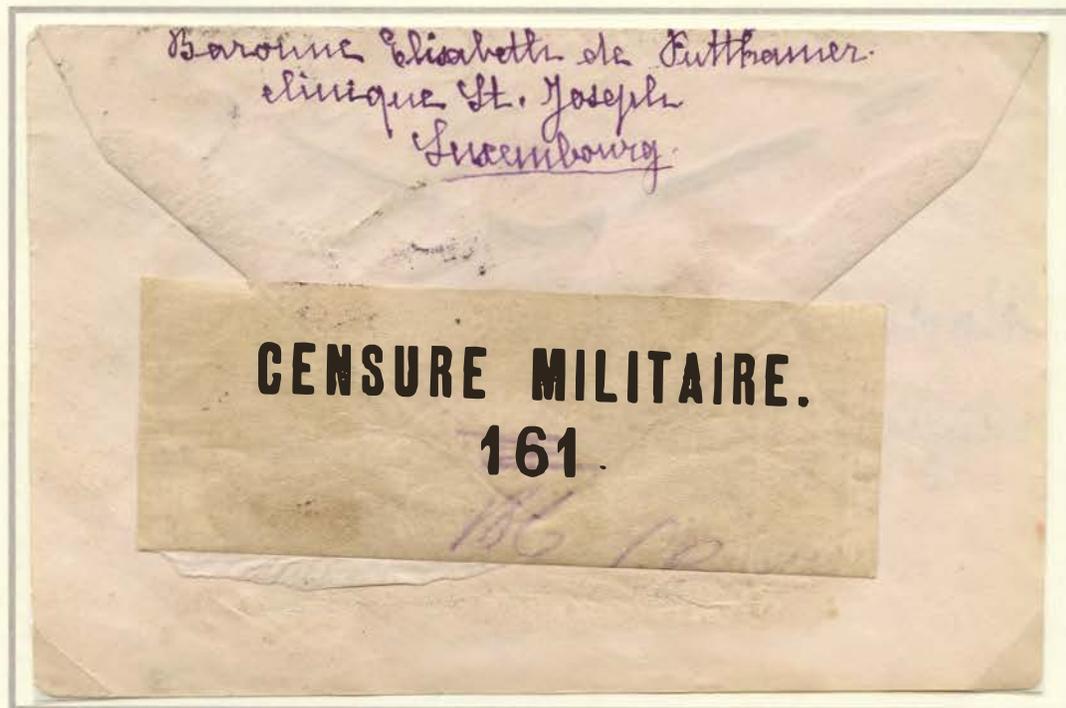


Copy – The two forms of sealing tapes have always 'CENSURE MILITAIRE' mentioned, the first form sometimes with a number for each censor, sometimes with a cancellation of the personalized censor cancel

Rate: 25 Centimes, UPU letter rate up to 20 grams – with 15 Centimes underfranked by 10 Centimes



Luxembourg-City, 19th May 1919, forwarded to Ghent, Belgium censor cancel 53, Belgian sealing tape II + initials
– **less than five registered mail items known with the sealing tape no. II**

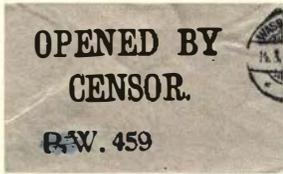


Luxembourg-City, 5th Feb 1919, forwarded to Liège, Belgium censor cancel A DISTRIBUER, on reverse: Belgian sealing tape CENSURE MILITAIRE. 161 and manuscript change of number to 186 and initial

B Allied Occupation 11/1918 – 08/1919
II Censorship on International Correspondence

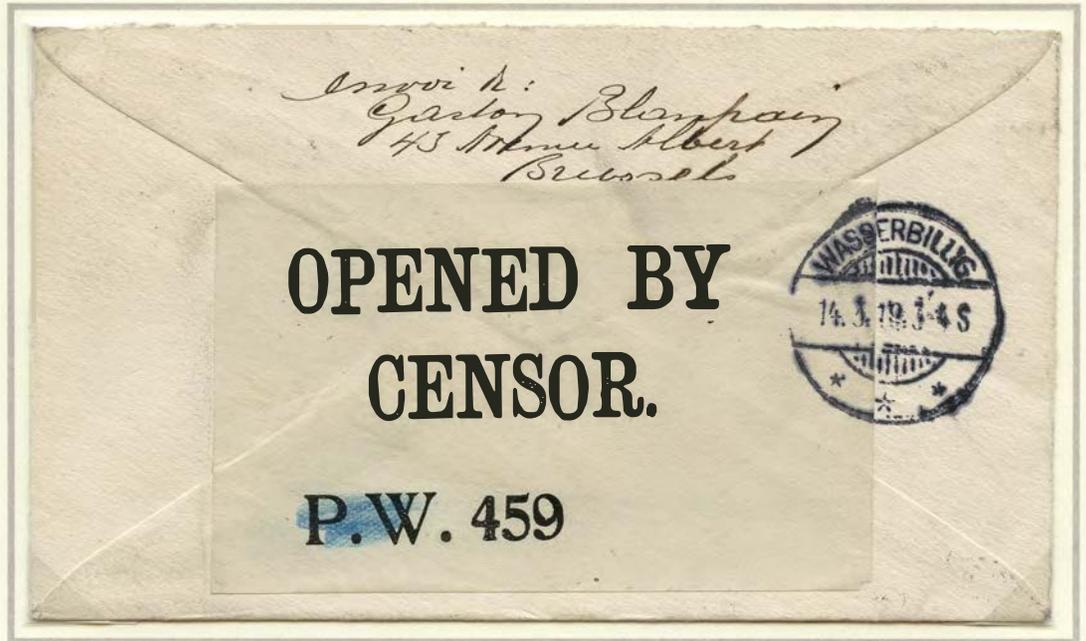
2 Sealing Tapes
2.4 British Sealing Tapes

British soldiers were never occupying Luxembourg. But the British sealing tapes can be found very occasionally on mail to and from Luxembourg after the war.



Copy – British sealing tapes on mail to or from Luxembourg after the Great War is rare, currently only the two items shown are registered

Rate: 2 ½d, UPU letter rate up to 20 grams, tariff valid as of 1st Feb 1919 → letter is with 2d underpaid by ½d



Glasgow, 8th Mar 1919, forwarded via Belgium and Aachen to Wasserbillig, on reverse: British sealing tape OPENED BY CENSOR. PW. 459
– one of two registered letters



Rate: 2 ½ d, UPU letter rate up to 20 grams, tariff valid as of 1st Feb 1919

London, 16th Apr 1919, forwarded to Echternach via Belgium and Aachen; on reverse: British sealing tape OPENED BY CENSOR. 5518