Heldpost Stempel Berman Armed Horces

To process the mail from active units military post offices were formed which accompanied the troops. As with their civil counterparts incoming mail was given a stamp identifying the letter as part of the military mail and indicating the date it was received into the system. In a large number of cases the postal unit was identified by name. With some the name of the military unit to which it was attached was used. Others used the feldpost numbers issued for security reasons. I have retained the German term "stempel" to refer to these marks to avoid the confusion that results from use of the English "stamp" which also refers to the postal adhesive which is not used on these missives. Letters from serving members of the armed forces were carried free of charge. The unit stempel (again a stamp or seal) authenticated the source of the communication although with the increase in volume accompanying mobilization many items missed the unit stempel and sometimes even the feldpost stempel.

Mail to members of the armed forces was also carried free of charge with simply a city postmark.

With the increase in size of the armed forces many postal units used a generic stempel, their identity derived, if at all, from feldpost number designation placed on the cover by the sender or the military unit.

Schriever, *Die deutschen feldpoststempel*, 1914-1918, identifies and assigns an identification number to the feldpost stempel which identify the military unit with which they are associated by name or number. This 1967 work gives the value for each stempel beginning with 25 pfennigs. Thirty-three years out of date these do not indicate value but do furnish an indicia of rarity. [A dollar in 1967 would be \$4.99 in 1999. However, use of this factor (x5) ignores different rates of inflation in Germany, exchange rates, and changes in philatelic desirability of different items.]

0002 [feldpost nummer 722]

rarity: 1 mark

in use from August 1914 to October 1916.

0002 has 2 mm between D and P. 0001 is 1.5 mm.

0002 D is over 2nd stroke of U. 0001 D over 1st stroke.

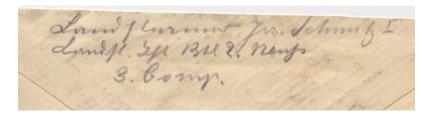


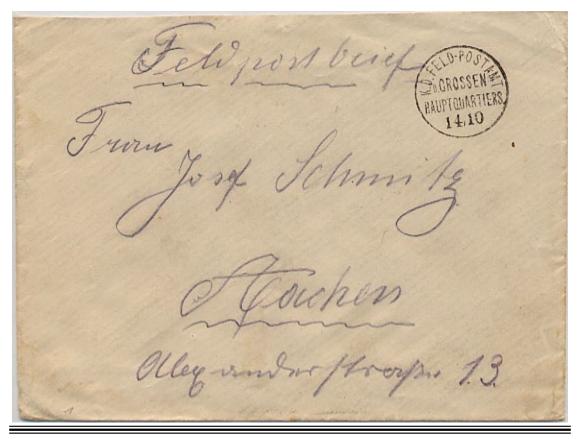
Envelope to/from Joseph Schmitz

Year of use is uncertain.

The distance is uniformly over 1.5 mm and is 2 mm from center of stroke to center of stroke. The positioning of D does not clearly match 0002.

The name and address of the sender is on the reverse of the envelope. Joseph Schmitz is clear but the rank and unit remain to be deciphered.





0003 [feldpost nummer 722]

rarity: 25 pfennig

in use August 1914 through October 1916

Usage:

1914

29 12 14 - not postally used view of monument in cemetery at Vouziers on reverse

1915

27 03 15 - ppc Rethel - german card dateline is [dinnyne-luegug] unit stempel has the name Darmstadt

06 05 15 - ppc Charleville, Place Ducale - french card unit stempel is Köngliohe Hof-Küch_

13 05 15 - reply card FPO stempel on answer (antwort) side sending side has Berlin W stempel

26 6 15 - picture postcard - Charleville shows a church in background and stables of the 40th Artillery Regiment (french)

18 12 15 - ppc - Mézières - shows facade of the church Notre-Dame - (15th century) - french card dateline is Charleville

30 12 15 - picture postcard - Bouillon - french card shows the Liège bridge and the center of the town.

1916

3 1 16 - ppc - patriotic apparently showing mountain troops dateline is Charleville

12 1 16 - ppc - Charleville showing the banks of the Meuse unit stemple is of a Kriegslazarette

26 3 16 - Quartermaster General unit stempel addressed to Wien (Vienna)

5 4 16 - picture postcard - Charleville unit - "Landsturm Komp. III A. K."

23 5 16

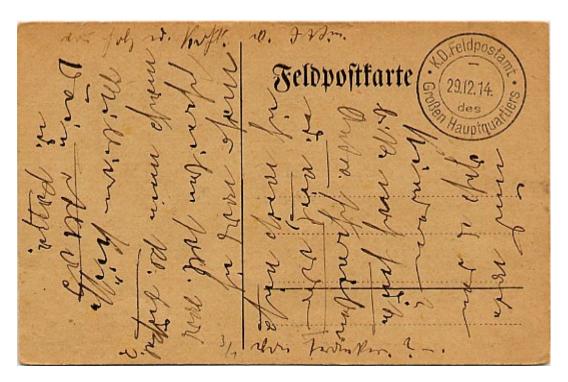
picture postcard - view of Mézieres on August 25, 1914

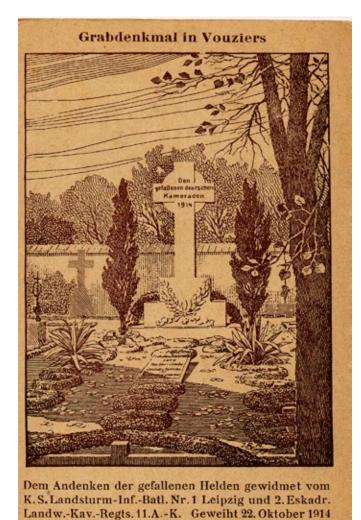
1917

28 1 17 - german ppc -Reims taken from the air unit stempel: 1. Batterie Feldartillerie Stammaltlg. Nr. 3









"Tomb in Vouziers"

[Vouziers, under German occupation, is about 51 kilometers ENE of Reims.]

"Fallen German Comrades 1914"

"Dedicated to the memory of the fallen heroes from K. S. Landsturm-Infantry Battalion No. 1, Leipzig, and 2nd Squadron of the Landwehr Cavalry Regiments, 11th Army Corps. Consecrated 22. Octobers 1914"

Prouvais St.-Loup-Champagne Les Alleux

Quilly Vouziers

Quilly Vouziers

Quilly Vouziers

Quilly Vouziers

A N P A B N E A R D E N N E

Erry Selles St.-Pierre-à-Ames Autry

St.-Léonard Vaudesincourt Rouvay-Ri

Massiges

INSTRUMENTATION OF THE PROUVANT O









Bur genauen Beachtung.

Die angebogene Karte ift für die Antwort bestimmt. Der Absender der Doppelfarte hat auf dem Antwortteil seine Adresse deutlich und genau vorzuschreiben.

Instructions on interior of reply card on facing page. -

"For proper handling.

"The attached card is intended for an answer. The sender of this double card must place his address on the reply half clearly and precisely."

		THE RESERVE TO SHARE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY
\$	Feldpostfarte (Antwort) An	13.5.15. 15. 15. 15. 15. 15. 15. 15. 15. 1
		1
	in	
	Wohnung (Strafe und Ganenumner)	
antworteil	Seldposttarte	-3 3 15 12º0 ft
für die Antwort bestimmt. hat auf dem Antwortzeil n vorzuschen.		-3.3.15.12 ²⁰ ft
Karte iff oppelfarte md genau	Feldpostkarte Un den	-3.3, 15.1220K
Karte iff oppelfarte md genau	Seldpostkarte Un den	etorps Kompagni ivision Estadro
ene Karte ift Doppelfarte lich und genau	Seldpostkarte Un den	ivision Estadro



Note the horses in the foreground.

All armies, but particularly artillery, used trmendous numbers of horses in this war. Indeed, At the beginning of the second World War the horse still supplied much of the motive power of the armies.

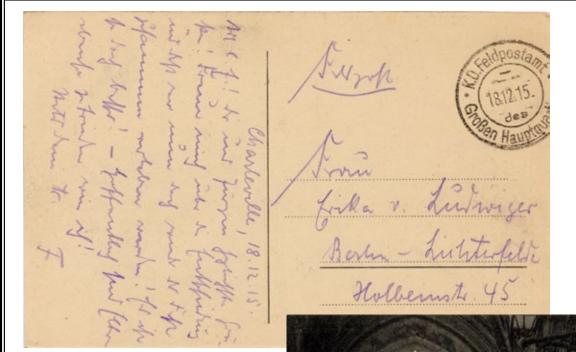
This is evidently a pre-invasion card.





Dame (XV* siècle)

Une insciption rappella que les noces de Charles IX avec Elisabeth d'Autriche y furent célébrées le 27 Novembre 1570, deux ans avant la St-Barticèlemy. On yoût, restée suspendue à la voûte de l'Eglise, à l'entrée de la chapelle de la Vierge noire, une bombe lancée par les Prussiens pendant le siège de cette ville en 1815





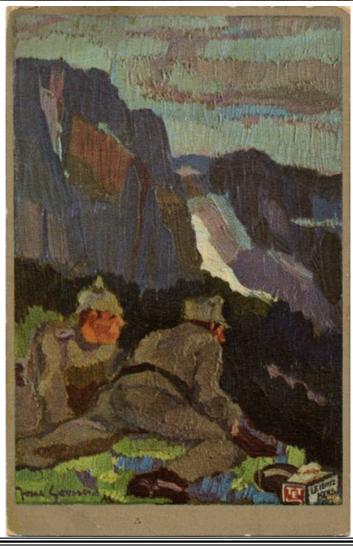
staff use a tourist card showing a 15th century church to write home. At least this shows a local scene (see dateline above). Many soldiers used views, such as of Paris, that were never available to them - almost, but not quite.





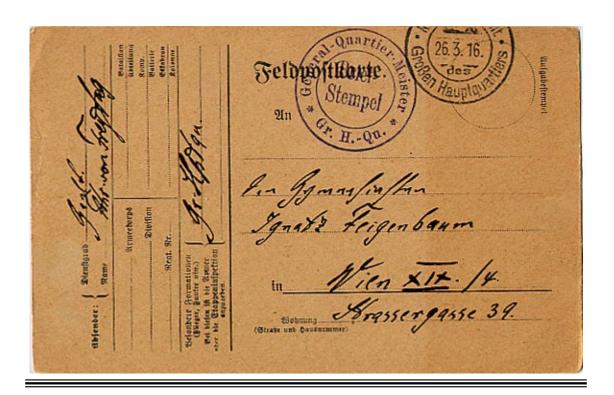














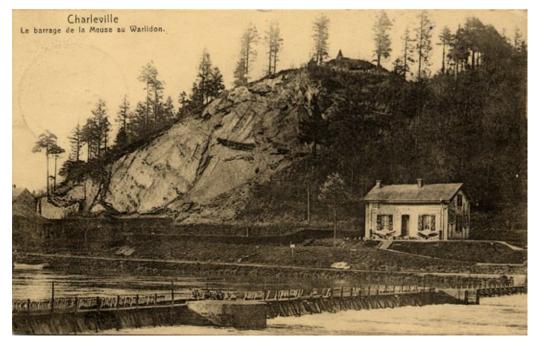
This unit stempel is from the Quartermaster General.

Note the "Brief / Stempel" (letter / stamp) in the center of the card. It is sometimes abreviated "S.B."

Beidrieben,	den	36. m.	1916

Printed date line on the back of the card. "Written on _____191__."





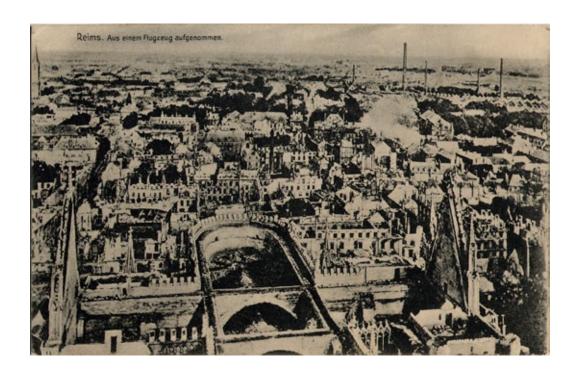
Dam On the Meuse at the Warlidon



Sh. Obest Barring Seligations of Dhory States of the State of the Stat

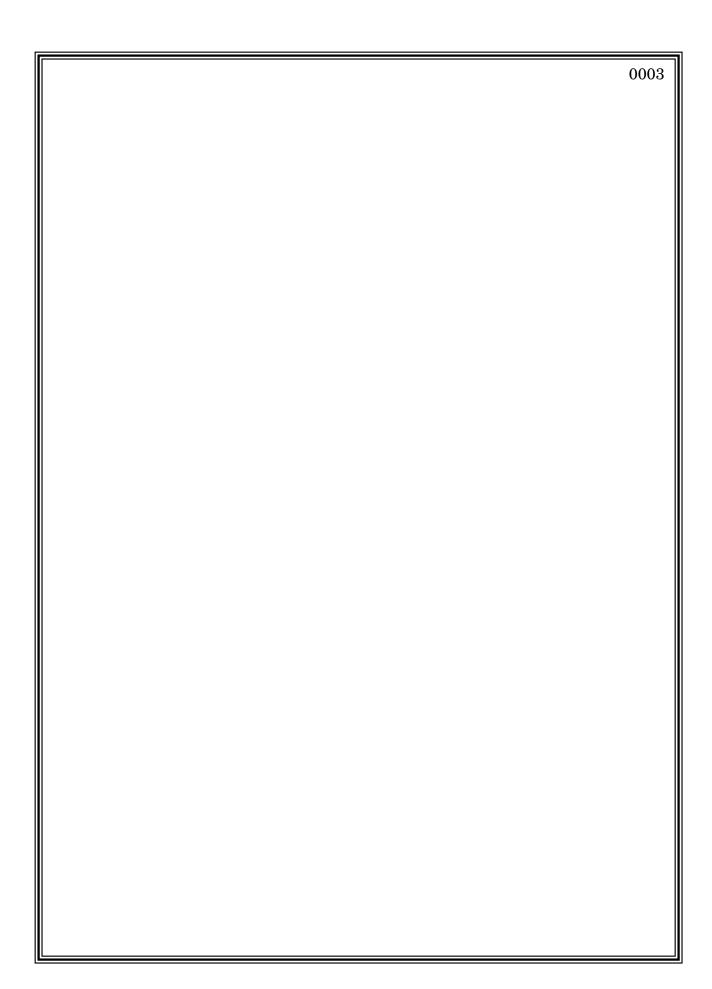












0004 [feldpost nummer 722]

rarity: 10 marks

in use August 1914 through October 1916

with kleinbuchstaben 'a'

Usage:

1 3 16 - mail to Halle with a sentimental french postcard



sentiment probably translates as: one who loves you discreetly; and, the book of love



[feldpost nummer 800]

rarity: 4 marks

in use November 1916 through February 1917

found with and without kleinbuchstaben (a & b) found as "Feldpostamt" and "K.D.Feldpostamt"



Usage:

22 11 16

"feldpostamt" without small letters kriegslazarette unit stempel mostly illegible mailed from Charleville to Nürnberg

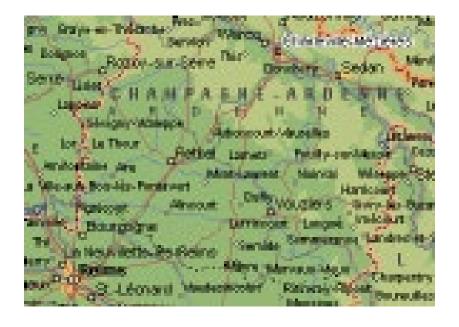


When folded this form envelope has perforations on three sides. A fringe was used to seal the envelope and is toren away to open it.

The letter is from someone at the hospital unit to the head of the service man gift program in Nürenberg.

Charleville is northeast of Reim, near Vouziers.

Charleville don 2	0007
	Un tin fornigt lindsbygrbufssmundftalla
Mojender: Dientegrad Uffy Hastertes Stringslig nemercule Attachers Lazerett Deition Lyceum Court	It finightials systemment fulls in formation wind air toppare must get a gri dummen luffare
Seinber Sernation Congress of the Service of Charleville	for worldon non fronte my haften dent int. Lin un 1.044. Ann Lugarit. Lin un 1.044. ann warfen Wrige in ten glante.
	Aller Hochachtung
	Florsbeiter Miff. Long, Rof. Inf. Brugh. 4/21



0022 (feldpost nummer 753)

rarity: 75 pfennig

in use June 1915 through February 1917

Usage:

11 11 15 - army group staff 2 12 15 - Absender: 22. Res. = ArmeeKorps; 44 Res. - Division; Res. = sanitäts-komp. 44

unteroffizier

dateline is Kragujevac in Serbia





Derekterte gniseje Francis

Vielen baut für Thre rofremederelen Teilen

Teider tommen hir in der niebrlin Teist wolfe

Trick mehr hauf Temerrij de uri übermey

weite nietwists zehen. If weise abes in den

Machthen Tazen meinen beimer huef Temerrij

Schiolen, um die berschiedenen Tazente ab

Zu holen. Imhrdum bielen herreisten berg tis

die fremederte Deragny und die berten frum



2. Lewen	Feldpostkarte Herrn August Essenwein	OTE 16 of TW and opposite the control of the contro
an -	Hofapotheker	Macker
SES SES		
2	- Urmeeforps Division	Bataillon Abreilung Kompagni
der: (Regiment Nr.	Batterie Estadron Rolonne
de de	Bejondere Formationen	A
Abfender: (Rome, Wobnort nd Strafe mit Re.	(Slieger, Sunfer ufw.)	. 2.

Topografian for By affaker!

The snafran for By affaker!

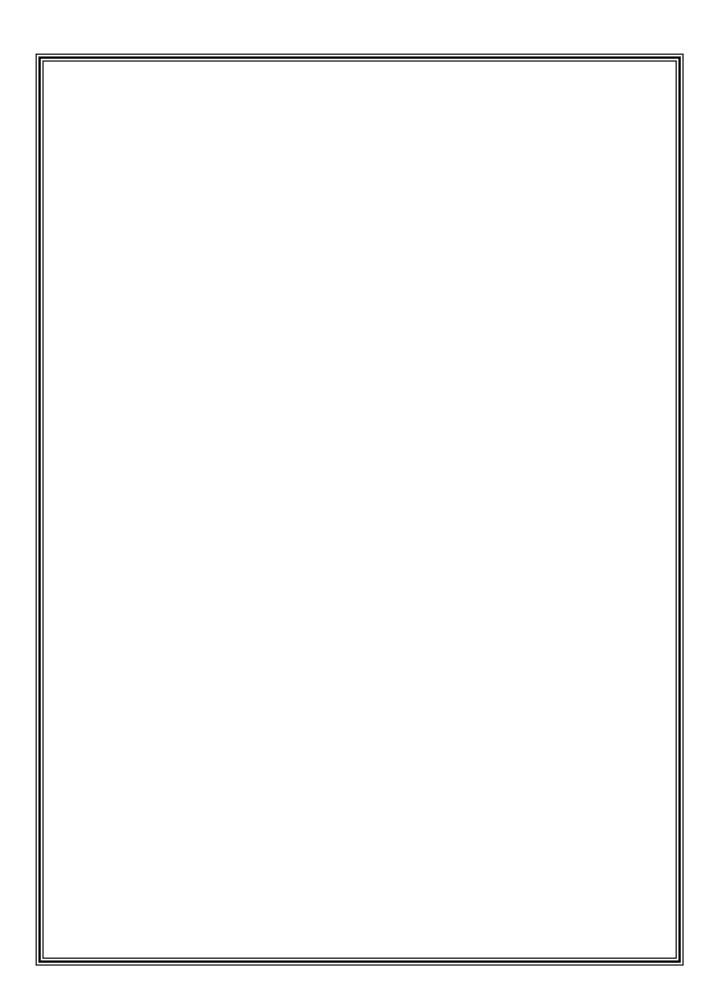
Thereting syllope 220, in the bake anding

and acquirhant if hoffmaking known to

the gropen marry any but:

The special forty

He of Marry Tring



rarity: 5 marks

in use August 1914 through September 1915



Usage:

(14)1214



Germale Hermalder Twintips -instal Hour Janter

From the dates during which the feldpost stempel was in use it is evident that this card is from the first winter of the war. The text on the reverse says "Merry Christmas. Wishing you happy holidays.







0034 (feldpost nummer 666)

rarity: 75 pfennigs

in use August 1914 through February 1917

Number 0034 differs from 0033 by:

period after II. over middle of first E of armee rather than right corner

no period at end of OB COMM OB COMM is 12 mm wide rather than 12.5 mm

Usage:

14 9 14

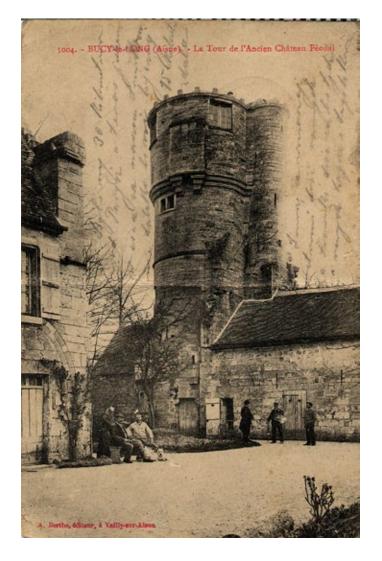
the year is clearly seen on the dateline of the card picture postcard - Bucy-le-Long

160703

while no year appears the picture was done in 1915 use in 1915 is possible but unlikely since use in July 1917 is impossible -- 1916









while no year appears the picture was done in 1915 use in 1915 is possible but unlikely since use in July 1917 is impossible -- 1916



Number 0034 differs from 0033 by:

period after II. over middle of first E of armee rather than right corner

no period at end of OB COMM

OB COMM is 12 mm wide rather than 12.5 mm

Although this marking is over 12 mm wide it is less than 12.5 mm (12.4 mm). Since it is not clearly 12.5 mm and meets the other two criteria it is a safe conclusion that the extra width is due to the vagaries of the inking and wear and tear on the stamp.



The inscription on the face translates as:
"Schellmann.
Hptm. [Captain]
I.R.167 [infantry regiment number 167]
"Former russian machinegun emplacements in Bäumen behind the present german lines."

On the reverse the card states:

"Proceeds are destined for the survivors of noncommissioned officers and rank and file."

"Printed by Julius Kress, purveyor to his majesty, cassel."

[&]quot;Approved 3 XI"

0036 (feldpost nummer 666)

rarity: 25 pfennigs

in use August 1914 through February 1917

Usage:

10 4 16 envelope

Unit stempel -

2. ARMEE, VERMESSUNGSABTEILUNG 12.

(1. SACHSISCHE.)

return address as above and

A.O.K. 2 / 2. ARMEE

from Karl Erte to Josephine Erte (Mutter) in München

11 8 16 envelope

from Biermann to Egerland in Selbitz, Bayern return address A.O.K. 2.

26 10 16

Unit stempel:

ETAPPEN-INSPEKTION 2. ARMEE ETAPPENARZT

addressed to Korpsarzt / XXIII. Res. Korps Heeressache



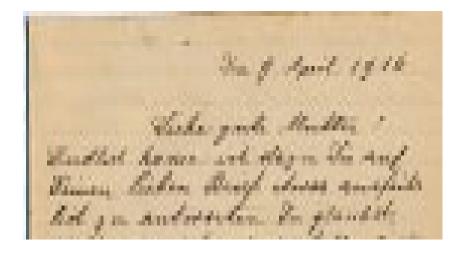






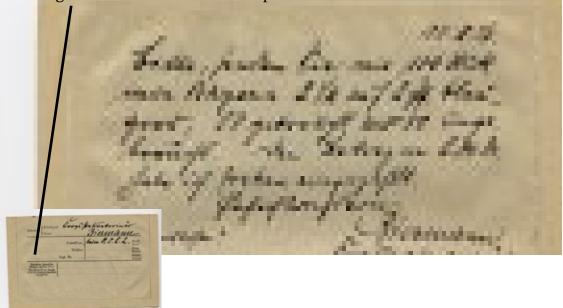
Vermessungsabteilung = survey section

Oberkommandos = headquarters staff abbreviated A.O.K.





Note the manner in which this envelope is formed. It was apparently mailed unsealed. The text of the letter refers to Bayern, helping to choose between two towns of Selbitz. This appears to be a purchase of some kind. The form on the reverse reflects the increased complexity of warfare. It asks that the sender identify other formations to which he belongs such as flier or wireless operator.

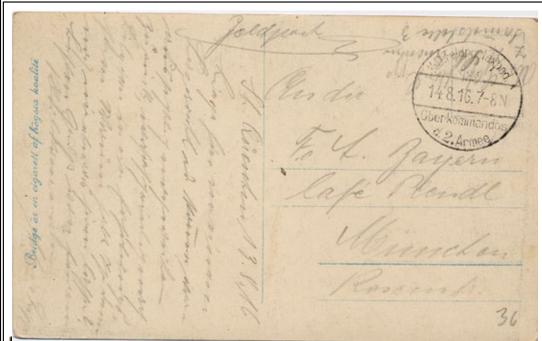




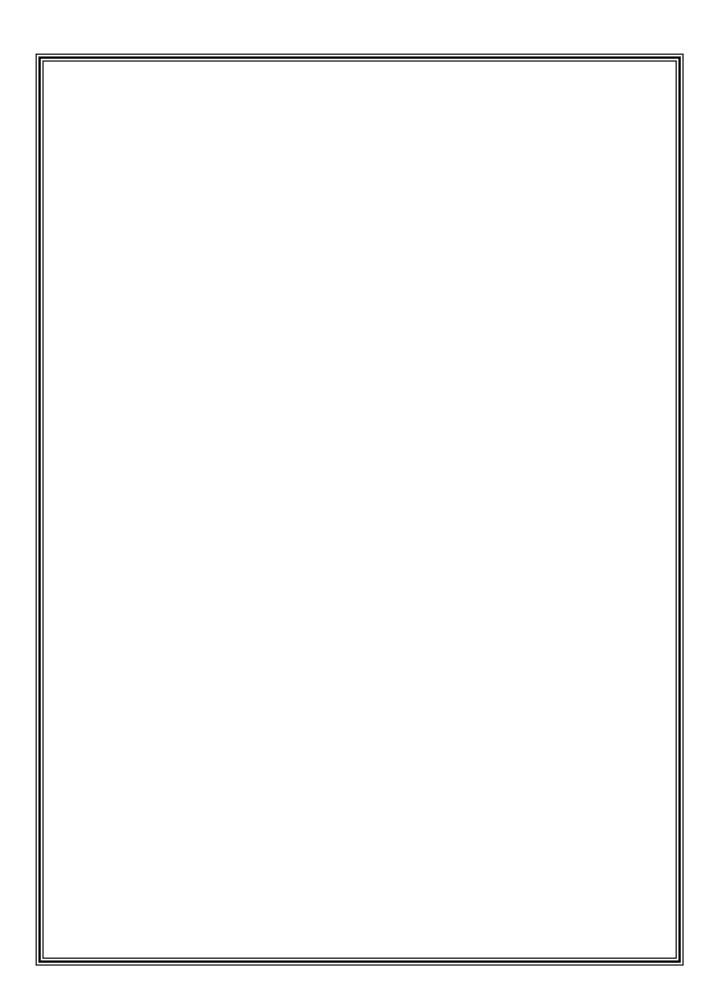
This envelope is sealed on the reverse with a unit stempel for the "Etappenarzt," a Deputy Director for Medical Services. "Etappen" refers to the Lines of Communication. Those areas behind the front controlled by the military and necessary for its support.

The envelope is addressed to a similar official at the Corps level ("Korpsarzt"). The XXIII Reserve Corps.

THe envelope also uses the term "Heeressache" or army matters indicating that the contents were on army business.







 $(feldpost\ nummer\ 672)$ 0037

rarity: 2 marks

in use August 1914 through February 1917 37 and 38 similar. 37 has a large III and the following

period is over the middle of the first E.



Usage:

13 12 15

from Radenmachen to Lohmar in Essen unit stemple

K.PR.KRIEGS-LAZARETT-DIREKTOR VIII ARMEE KORPS



Director Royal Prussian Military Hospital









The uniforms can give an indication of the units involved. The design of the cuff, decorations on the buttons and the insignia on hats are all distinctive indications of unit and rank. The eapulettes usually carred the number of the individuals regiment.

Enlargements are from left to right.







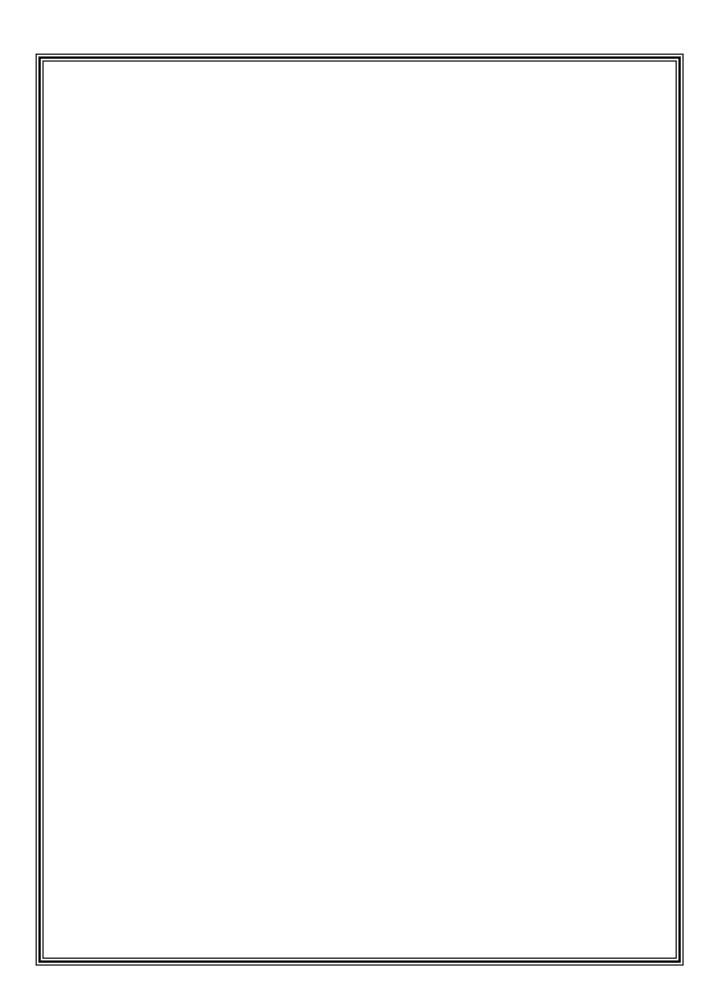






CARTE-POSTALE Trade July State of State





0038 (feldpost nummer 672

rarity: 2 marks

in use October 1914 through February 1917

a small "III" over the middle of the "M" and the period after the roman three is over the right corner of the first "E"



Usage:

22 12 00

favor cancel on unused form feldpost card



0039 (feldpost nummer 672)

rarity: 25 pfennigs

in use August 1914 through February 1917

Usage:

27 4 15

Unit stempel:

9. ARTILL. MUNIT. KOL. / 8. A. K.

Bariheintz

to Bonn a/Rhine

war picture - Crown Prince & Fieldmarshall at monument

1 5 15

Unit stempel:

9. ARTILL. MUNIT. KOL. / 8. A. K.

Bariheintz

to Bonn a/Rhine

war picture - destroyed church in Montfaucon

27 10 15

Unit stempel:

KGL. PR. RES. PION. KOMP. NR. 87

29 12 15

Unit stempel:

S. B. / A. T. A. NO 3.

"A.T.A." - Armee-Telegraphen-Abteilung - abbreviation used for army telegraph detachment and listening set section of power buzzer section. from Körner to Lefmann in 23 I. R. XII Armeekorps

war picture - troops mustering in Vouziers $\,$

















S. K. K. H. Kronprinz Wilhelm v. Preussen
u. S. Exc. General Feldmarschall Graf von Haeseler
am Denkmal des 1. Garde Rgts. z. F. b. St. Privat

works of N. Engel, Diedenhofen & W. Engel, Hayingen which also pro-

duced the war picture on the May 1915 card on the right. "Western theater of war. Church destroyed by the French in Montfaucon." Note troops atop rubble. The picture on this April 1915 card show the Prussian Crown Prince and a General Fieldmarshall at a memorial for the first Garde Regiment at St. Privat. Although based in Berlin the Garde drew manpower from the Imperial territories of Alsace and Loraine.

Photographic print

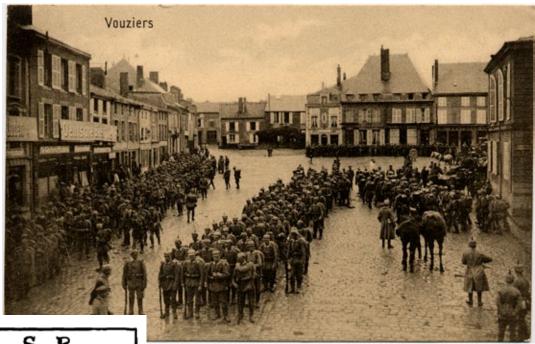


Von den Franzosen zerschossene Kirche in Montfaucon









S. B. A.T. A. Nº 3.

Note the signs in German on the shops (apparently new) particularly the large one on the left. Troops wearing helmet with spike.

0040 (feldpost nummer 672

rarity: 25 pfennig

in use October 1914 through February 1917

distinguished from 0039 by more delicate letters and a narrower "DES" $\,$



Usage:

11 12 14



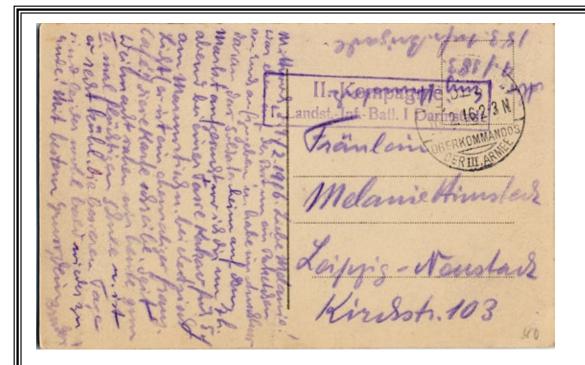


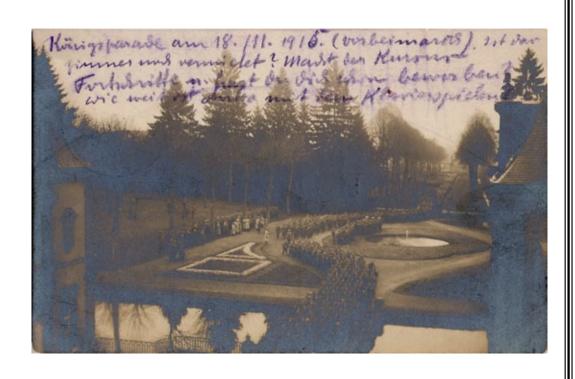


0039









0041 (feldpost nummer 672)

rarity: 25 pfennigs

in use August 1914 through February 1917

Usage:

19 6 16

Unit stempel

ETAPPEN-MAGAZIN D. ETAPPEN-INSPEKTION

3. ARMEE

Berghame

to Essen in the Rühr

21616

Unit stempel

ETAPPEN-MAGAZIN D. ETAPPEN-INSPEKTION

3. ARMEE

Berghame

to Essen in the Rühr

17 1 17

Unit stempel

KRIEGSLAZ. ABT. 1/VIII ETAPPEN INSPEKTION

3. ARMEE

LAZ. HOSPIZ



Kriegslaz. Abt. 1/VIII

Etappen Inspettion 3. Armee Laz. Hospiz

Etappen-Magazin - depot

Etappen-Inspektion - inspectorate

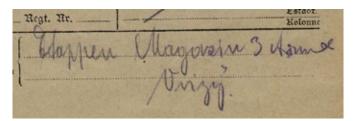
Kriegslazarett abteilung - clearing hospital detachment Lazarett hospiz - probably convalescent hospital (hospiz translates as hostel)



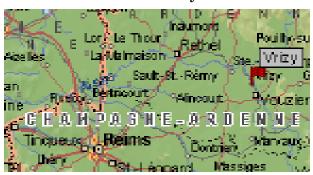


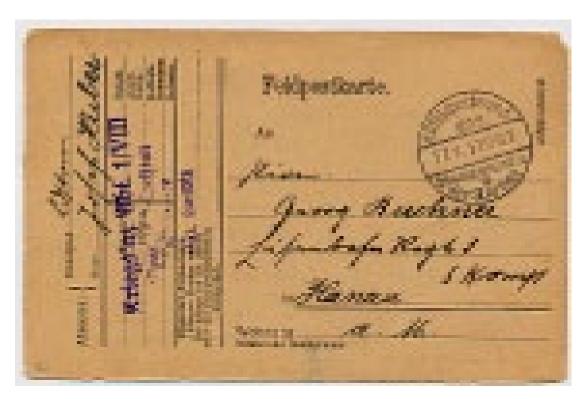






Two preceding envelopes both locate the depot, or at least the location of the sender at the time the letters were mailed, at the town of Vrizy.





0044 (feldpost nummer 650)

rarity: 25 pfennigs

in use August 1914 through February 1917

The distance between "OB. K' is 2mm

The period after IV is exactly over the left corner of the first E





All Jefs CALW

M. J. Kempagnie CARTE POSTALE

Soften Lank for the Jai Tellipost.

Jamining the Last frakmak.

Ling up faffer in Unique mif

amign fait in Unfunt zin komm

« fram ming fafe August. Beit.

Jamin Jait in Unfunt zin komm

« fram ming fafe August. Beit.

Jamin Jait in Unfunt zin komm

faten sing fafe Magnif. Beit.

Jamin Jing Ling in Jamin Jamin Jamin Jamin Jamin Jaisher & Jam.

Jaming M. Jahring min mary. fafety.

Link hong. Sanp. - Jaffan Jampellagun J.

Jahringen af J.

Das finte it hir ift unflunga

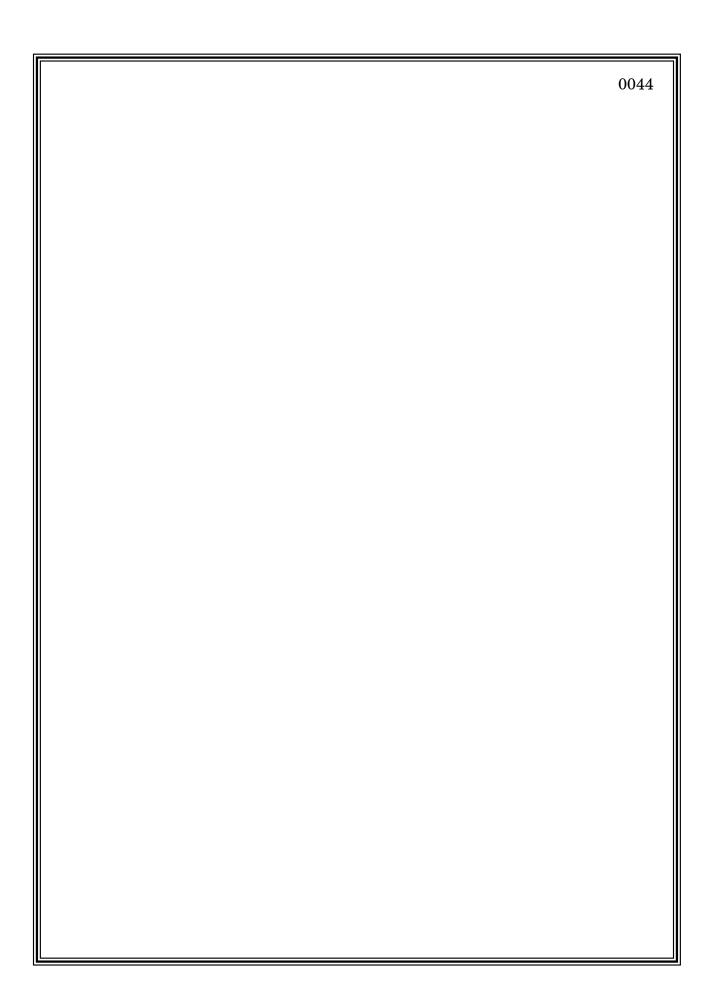
mist in Vint. - In utr. grift

mir imangus, faffant. tog ming

mist in Vint. - In utr. grift

mir imangus, faffant. tog ming





0044 (feldpost nummer 650)

rarity: 25 pfennigs

in use August 1914 through February 1917 The distance between "OB. K' is 1.5mm

The period after IV is almost over the middle of the first E



0048 (feldpost nummer 679)

rarity: 2 marks

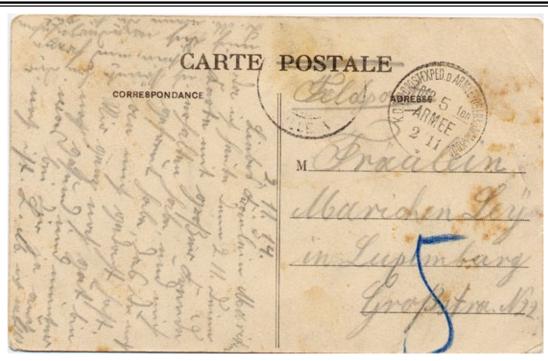
in use August 1914 through February 1917

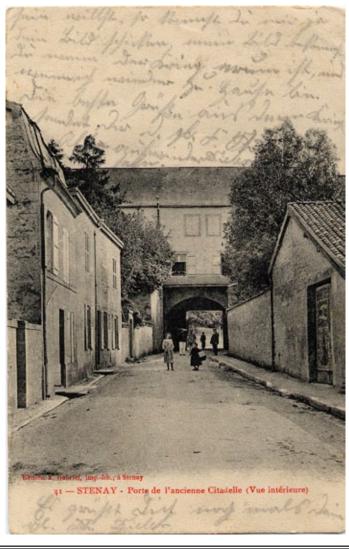
Note: star at bottom of circle; dash under "ten" pointing at the left side of the "M"; and, no year in postal marking.

Usage:

26 12 14 (year from text) unit is 3rd Company, 32nd Landwehr Infantry Regiment.







0054 (feldpost nummer 679)

rarity: 25 pfennig

in use August 1914 through February 1917

Usage:

3 8 15

unit stempel

KORPS-BRÜCKEN-TRAIN / XVI. ARMEE-KORPS

picture of burnt out church

unit? - 3/98

25 3 16

unit stempel

KGL. PREUSS. III. GARDE-PIONIER'/

BATAILLON / 9. KOMPAGNIE

4 garde Pion. Batl. 14. komp.







"Church in Reiningen (Alsace) burned out on 12 August 1914."

On the reverse this is identified as card "Nr. 69." "Art and book publishers Schaar & Dathe, . Komm.-Ges. a. Akt., Trier."

Lies Wearls Onkel of in Feldpostkarte DEPO (Ses Armeros)

Mir geft at golf for starke and the Clarker of the Sold of Starker and the Clarker of the Starker and the Clarker of the Starker of the starker









Algoria Pin Home Hopen ann Fgrova Pinn Lutt 14 Stamp. a. C. S. S. S. arman Antogophypolition Delyton

Note that unit listed by sender and unit stempel are different



0055 (feldpost nummer 687

rarity: 1.50 mark

in use August 1914 through February 1917

the "A" of Armee is under the "OB"

Usage:

31 5 16 - picture postcard - Douai

12 1 16 - picture postcard - Furnes

(bird's eye view)

23 ?? 15 - picture postcard - Valenciennes, city hall year estimated by relation to the next card

(this one "V" and the next marked "VII")

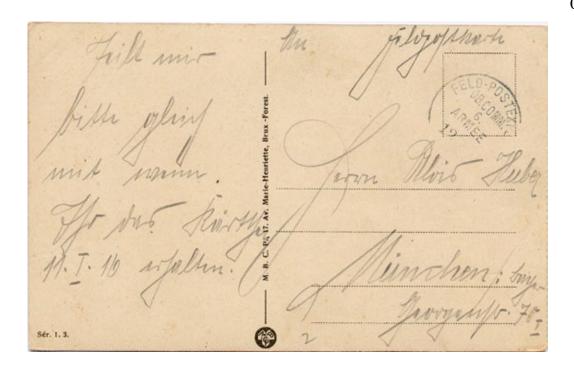
17 10 15 - picture postcard - Valenciennes, train station



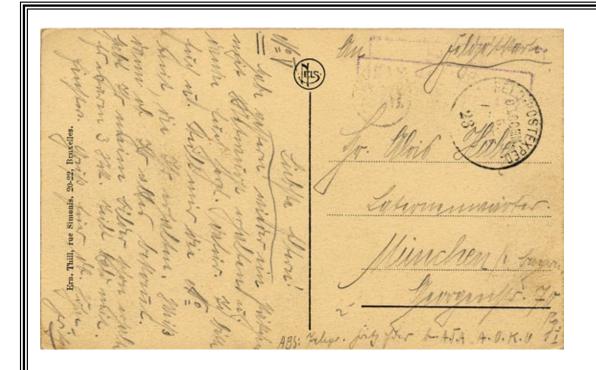








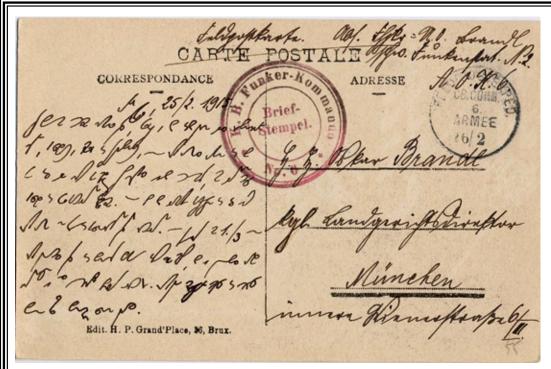
















0056 (feldpost nummer 687)

rarity: 1.50 marks

in use August 1914 through February 1917

"A" of Armee directly beneath "O"



Usage:

6 5 00

unit stempel

FELDPOSTADRESSE DES ABSENDERS: BAYER. ARMEETELEGR. ABT. 6 FELDPOST ARMEE-OBERKMDO 6

> Peldpostatrosso des Absenders: Bayer Armeebelegr: Abv. 6 Feldenst Armee-Oberkmen 6





















0059 (feldpost nummer 688)

rarity: 4 marks

in use August 1914 through February 1917

Usage:

5 1 16

Unit stempel

ARMEE-INTENDANTUR DER 7 TEN ARMEE

to the Royal War Ministry in Berlin

(Königlich Kriegsministariüm)

military war materials section

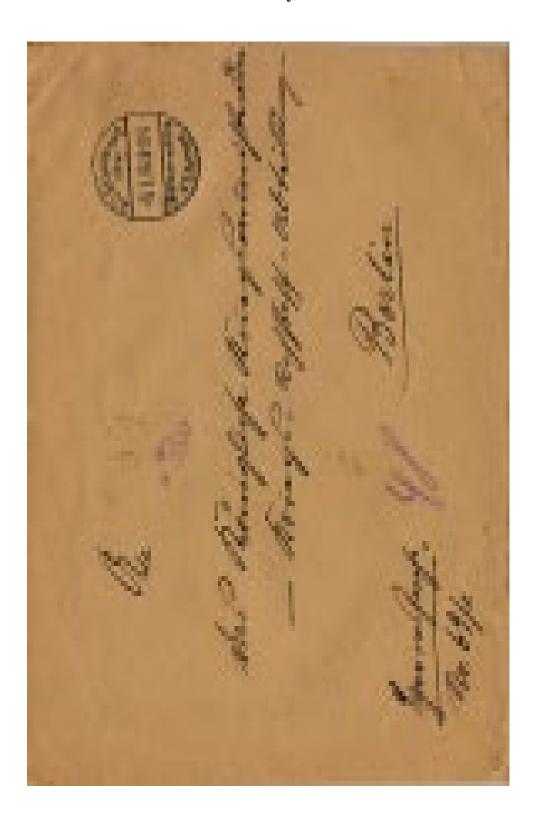
(Kriegs = Rohstoff = Abteilüng)

This would be the Prussian War Ministry in Berlin since royal (Königlich) is used rather than Imperial (Kaiserlich)

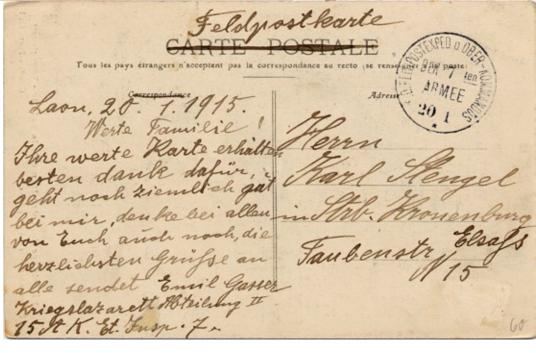




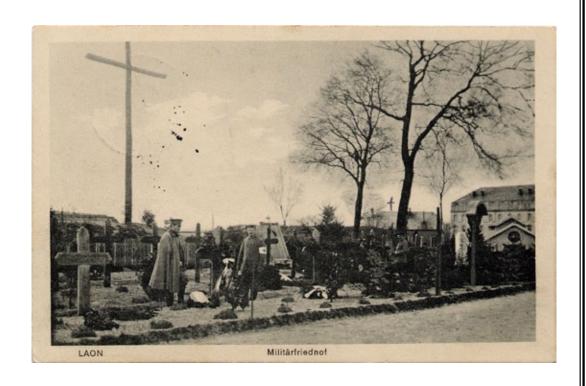
7th Army



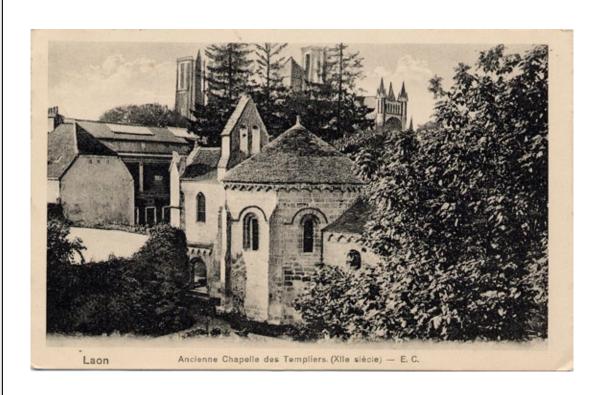


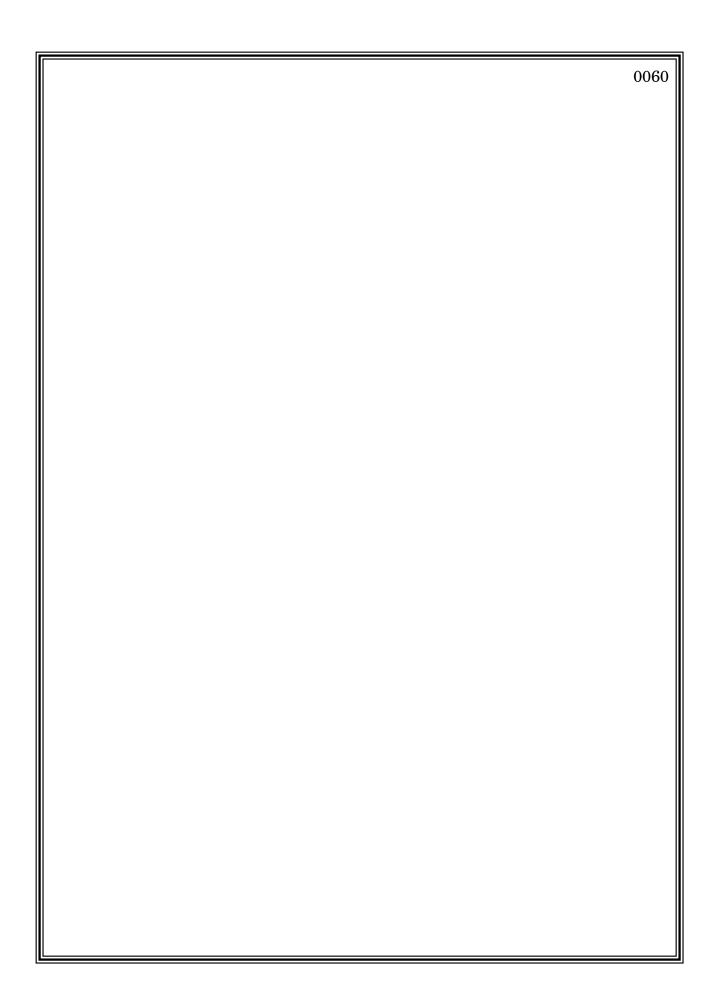












0065 (feldpost nummer 689)

rarity: 75 marks

in use May 1915 through December 1916 and December 1916 through February 1917. May 1915 through December 1916 as the Njemen-Armee.

star at bottom

Usage:

8 2 00

Unit Stempel ETAPPEN-KOMMANDATUR / ?





8th Army



0071 (feldpost nummer 670)

rarity: 25 marks

in use September 1914 through February 1917.

Usage:



0074 (feldpost nummer 671)

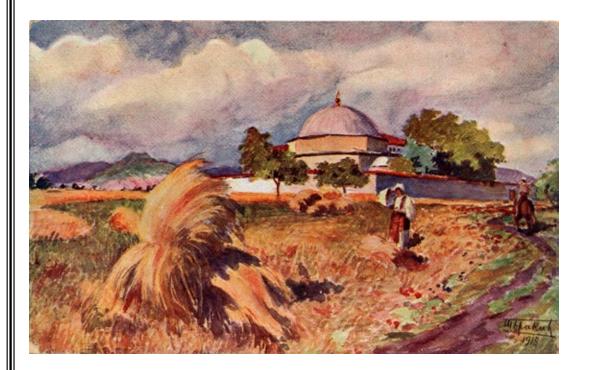
rarity: 25 marks

in use February 1917 through February 1917

Usage:

nangafranorga. 1916 Links huthan ?. List Thurston! frmint dis fiffer fiet, Ap if mind fin fine Maifraghtyaket gefring batanke, fort mints am furt misp map fin noll provenum. all allow if mut your suffering mut in githings. orlyof bing Ti Fran Berte Vellin abj. a. p.J. Willmann Oldenbring [gr.]
Haggin-fulgikhim 10 fimbold for. 5 alent, der Mittags, It's mir Infoft andlinken mar as way Mill, Johl har Kings in allar





 $0079 \hspace{1.5cm} (feldpost \ nummer \ 681)$

rarity: 75 pfennig

in use August 1915 through October 1916

Usage:

2816

Unit stempel

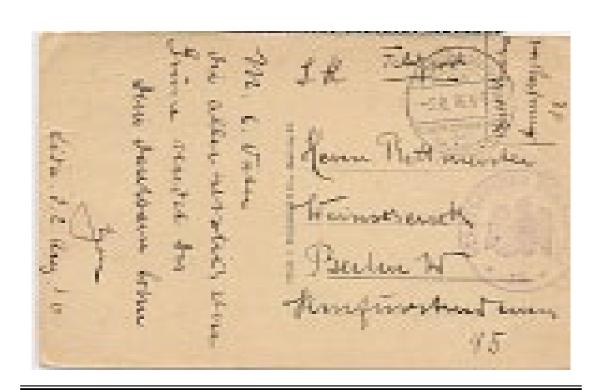
STABSOFFIZIER DER FLIEGER / 12

 $(A viation\ staff\ of ficer)$

picture postcard - Russian peoples









0086 (feldpost nummer 685)
rarity: 3 marks
in use April1916 through February 1917
no star in design



Usage:

4 7 16

Unit stempel
KOMD. D. HAUPTQUART.
A. O. K. ARMEE-ABT. A.



stempel used to seal envelope on reverse note use of "heeressache!" addressed to XII A. K. probably Regiment 101 the 101st (2nd Saxon) Grenadier Regiment is with the XII Army Corps. The regiment was headquartered at Dresden in peacetime.

Armee-Abteilung A.







0090 (feldpost nummer?)

rarity: 75 pfennigs

in use October 1914 through March 1916

Usage:

14 5 15

Unit stempel

K. D. FELDPOSTEXP. DES OBERKOMMANDOS A A FALKENHAUSEN





(see also nos. 1501, 1504, 1507, 1511, 1514)

(feldpost nummer?)

rarity: 75 pfennig

in use October 1914 through March 1916

note code letter B

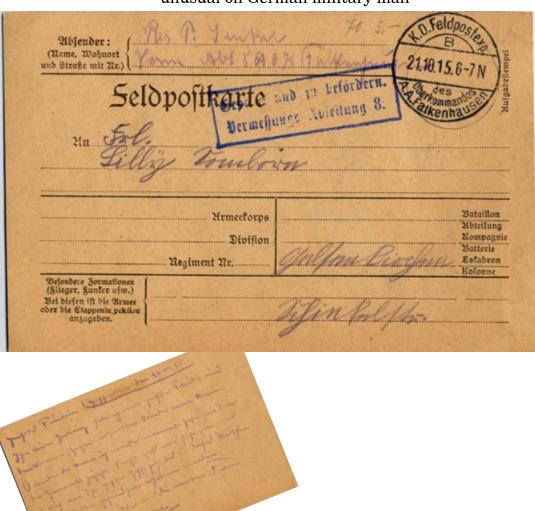


21 10 15

unit stempel: GEPRÜFT UN ZU BEFÖRDERN VERMESSUNGS ABTEILUNG 8.

survey section 8

note the express censorship language in the unit stempel unusual on German military mail



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