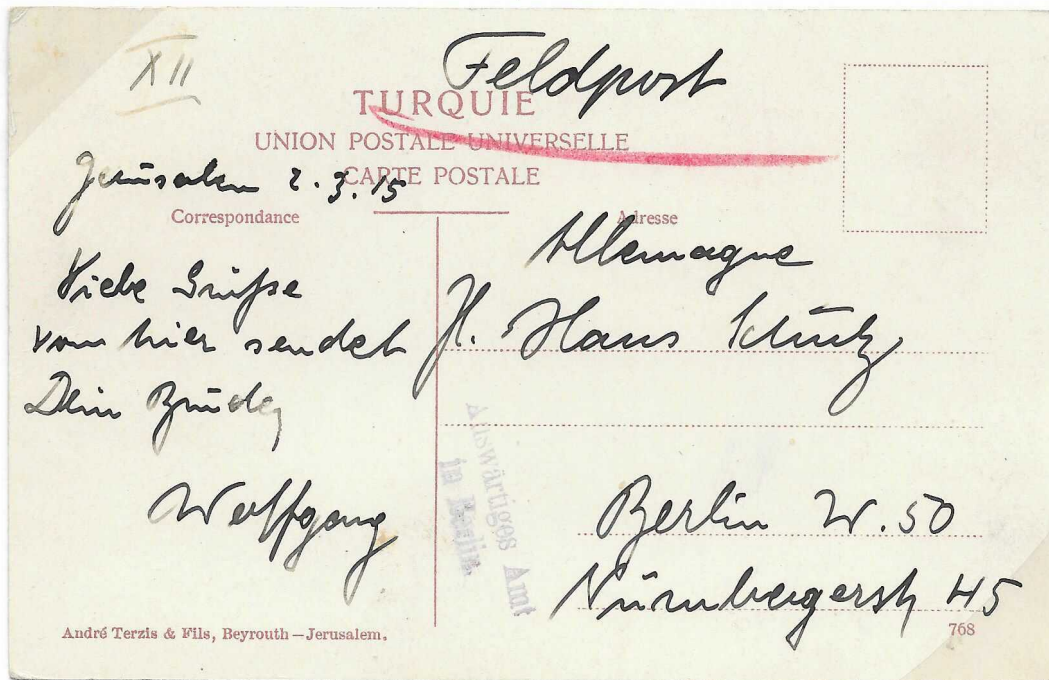


# PALESTINE

The first German effort in Palestine took place in early 1915, when Count von Hochberg led an expedition seeking to encourage Moslems in the Middle East to rise up against the British. Later, troops arrived to help in the invasion of the Sinai Peninsula and the attack on the Suez Canal. When these proved unsustainable, the Germans aided the Turks in the defense of Palestine against the attacks of the EEF. However, the Allied forces captured Jerusalem on 9 December 1917.

Jerusalem



Mail from the early efforts in Palestine was sent by diplomatic pouch through the Foreign Office in Berlin. The quantity of such material is very limited. Examples shown here are datelined Jerusalem in March and May 1915.



PALESTINE

Fourth Army Headquarters

Liquidierender Rechnungsführer der  
k. u. k. Gebirgshaubitzdivision Karno  
L.R.No.118 von 1917.

**R** Militär-Mission  
Feldpost 4. Armee  
№ 523

An



die Kriegsrechnungsabteilung des k.und k. Kriegsministeriums

*Eingeschrieben*  
*27.4.1917*

Feldpost

An den

Feinschen Hilfsverein

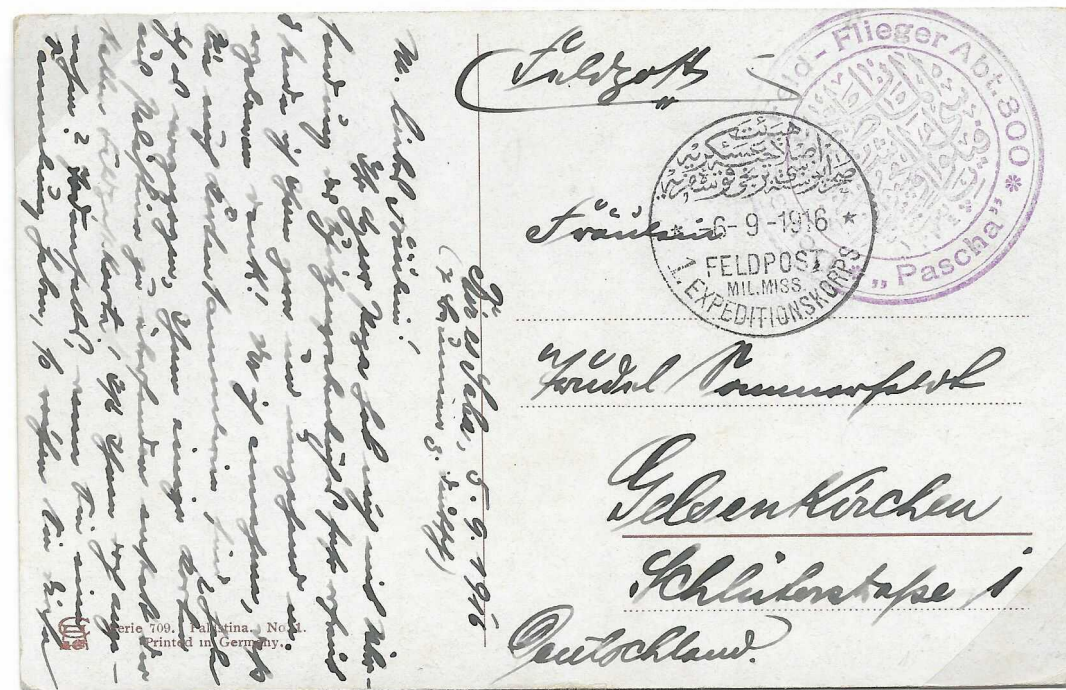
Stockholm &

Schweden



The first Military Mission postmark used in Palestine was that of A.O.K.4. It operated in Beersheba from 20 to 30 May 1916 and then in Jerusalem from 1 June 1916 to 10 July 1917. Lower cover addressed to Stockholm required franking in Turkish stamps. A very elusive usage from Palestine.





The second Military Mission postmark used in Palestine was that of the 1st Expeditionary Corps under Baron von Kressenstein. This unit was located at Beersheba and its cds is recorded as used from 21 June to 2 October 1916. Note unit cachets with designation of "Pascha," which was the code name for the Palestine Group. Cachet on lower card indicates origin from "Feld-Flieger Abteilung (air service)."



PALESTINE

Bir-es-Seba



Hinschreiben!

Militärkanzlei  
Hohheit des Großherzogs von

Oldenburg

Oldenburg

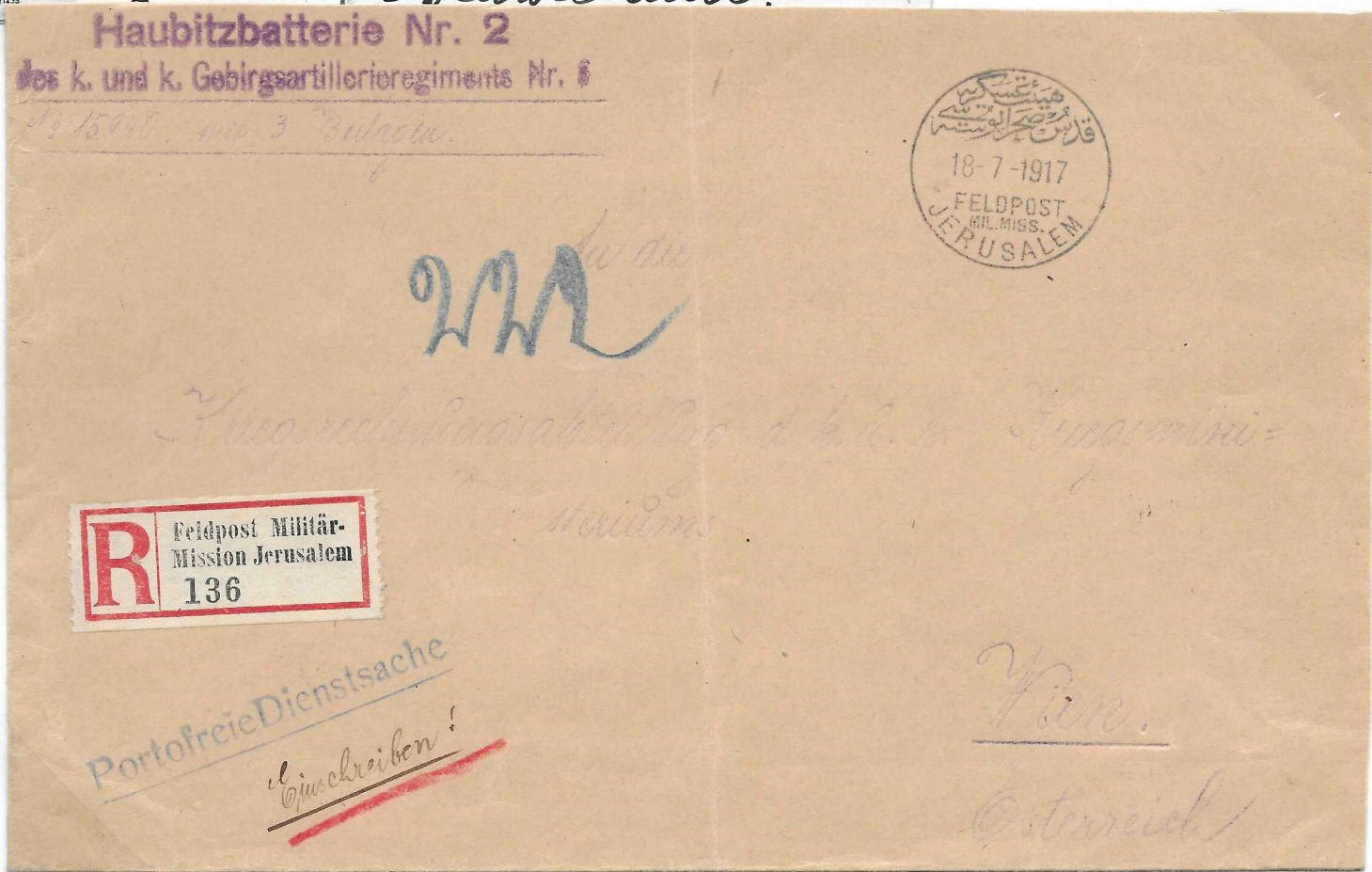
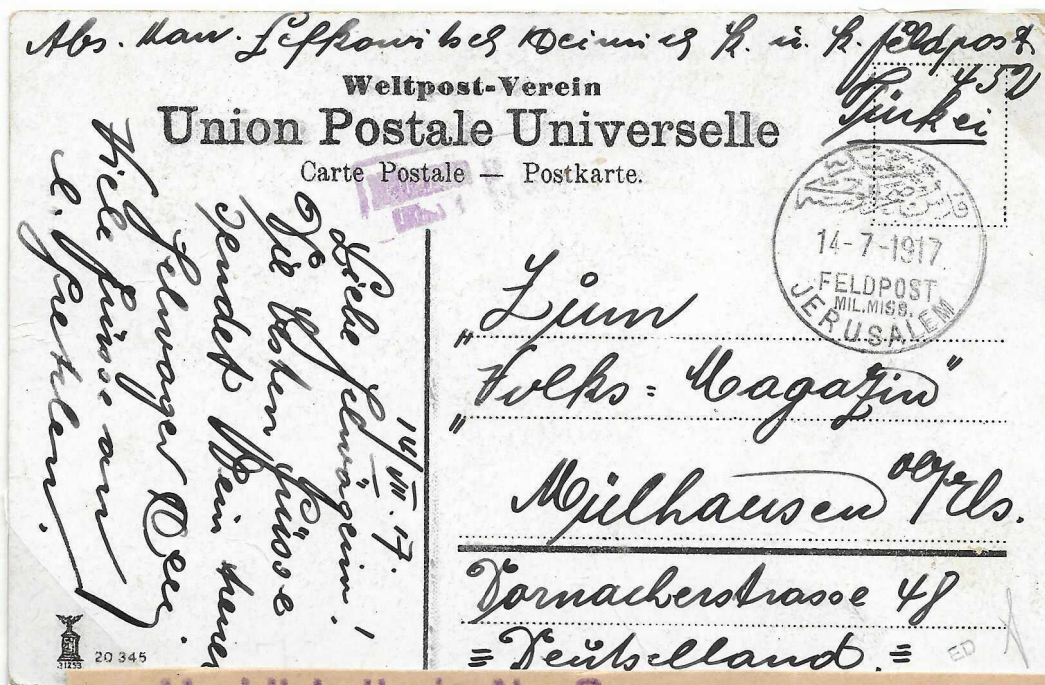
Official registered mail sent from the General Headquarters of the I. Expeditionary Corps in Beersheba. Addressed to the Military Chancellery of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, this large portion of a cover is one of four examples showing use of the special registry label of the Corps.





The first Military Mission postmark with identified location in Palestine was that of Beersheba. It is recorded as used from 6 October 1916 to 1 November 1917. Unit cachets are from the HQ of the 601-608 Machine Gun Companies and Field Hospital 213.





The only other Military Mission postmark with identified location in Palestine was that of Jerusalem, which is recorded as used from 12 July to 31 October 1917. Above examples were used by Austrian soldiers operating with the German mission.





Covers with unit markings designating specific origination in Jerusalem are scarce and sought after by Holy Land collectors. Examples above are from the "German District Surgeon" and "District Hospital." Both have the A.O.K. 4 postmark.







PALESTINE

Bethlehem  
Haifa

*Feldpost*

An

den badischen Landesverein

vom roten Kreuz.  
Geschäftsstelle,

Nationaler Frauentdienst,



*Feldpost*



An

das Königl. Preuss. Kriegsbüro

Zentral-Kaufmanns-Lager

*Berlin N.W. 7.*

*Lorothenstr. 48*

Unit markings designating origination from Palestinian towns other than Jerusalem are even more elusive than those from the Holy City itself. Examples above are from the "German Sanitarium Bethlehem" and "German Local Commandant Haifa."



PALESTINE

FPO 663

In the latter stages of the war, FPO 663 was the most important military post office serving the German troops in Palestine. From 9 December 1917 to 20 September 1918 it was located at Nazareth.



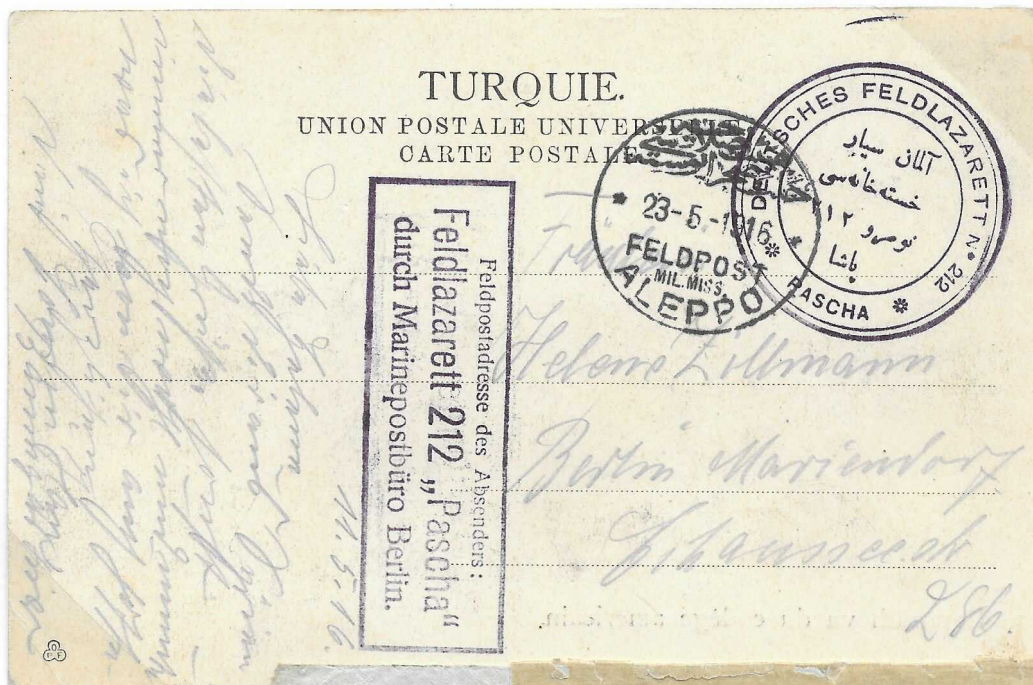
Official registered mail sent from the Royal Prussian Survey Unit to the Headquarters of the Turkish 8th Army. The home-made envelope was created out of a military map (of South Palestine) and mailed through FPO 663 using the elusive special registry label of that office.



# SYRIA

The Turkish Province of Syria encompassed not only present-day Syria but also Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan. Although the two main cities of Aleppo and Damascus were important as logistical centers for the troops operating in the Sinai and Palestine, they were not directly threatened by the Allied advance until very late in the war. In fact, the Allies captured Damascus on 1 October 1918 and Aleppo on the 26th.

Aleppo  
Damaskus

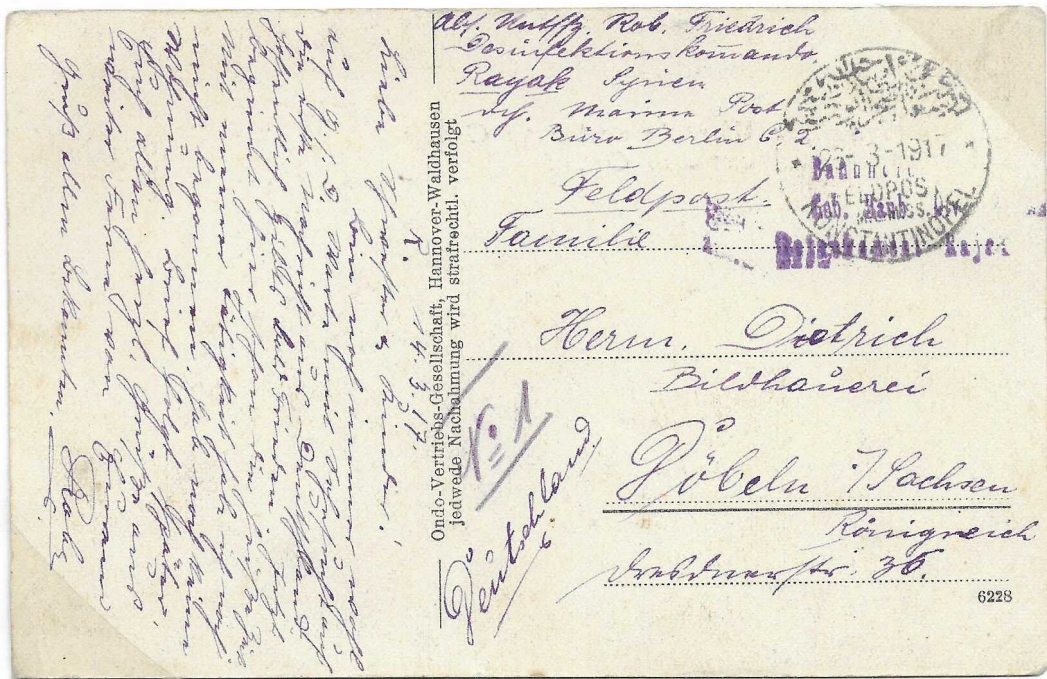
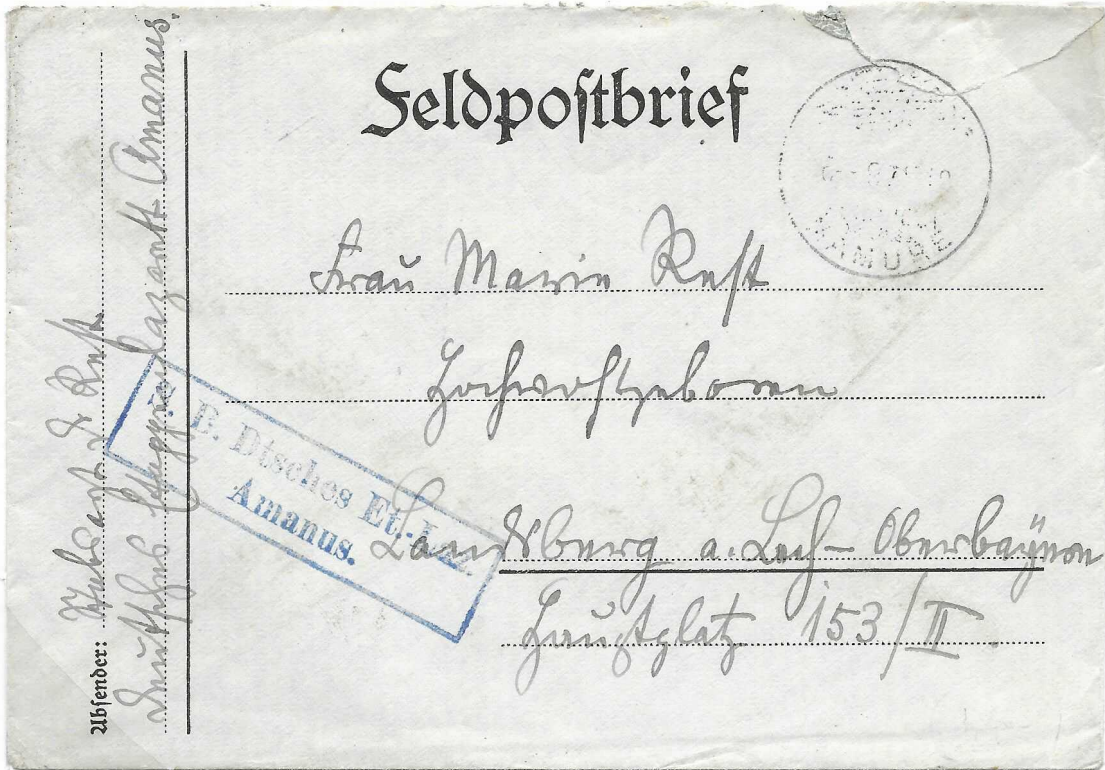


There were two Military Mission postal stations operating in Syria. The cds of Aleppo is recorded as used from 13 April 1916 to 26 October 1918. The Damascus postmark is known from 7 February to 29 October 1917.



SYRIA

Amanus  
Rayak



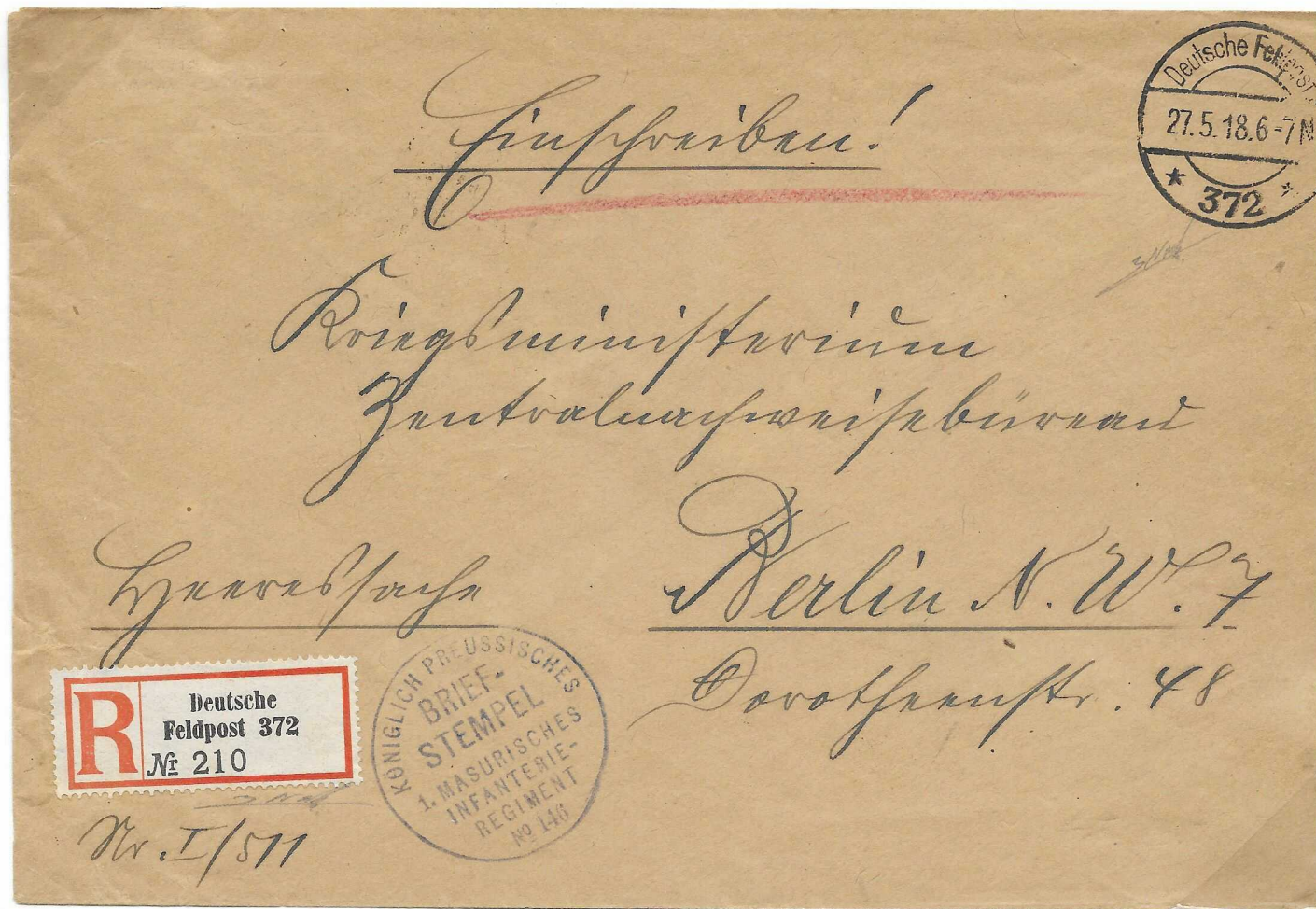
A few cachets were known used by small units located in towns in Syria that did not have their own fieldpost offices. Two such examples are shown above from a field hospital in Amanus and a disinfection center in Rayak.



# TRANSJORDAN

As the Egyptian Expeditionary Force advanced, the Turks with their German and Austrian allies gradually retreated into what would later be designated as northern Palestine and Transjordan. Only a handful of the troops were stationed in the latter area.

Amman



This cover was sent through FPO 372, then located in Amman. It is the only recorded example of registered mail from the German forces in Transjordan.



TRANSJORDAN

FPO (511)  
18 November 1917

FPO (663)  
18 May 1918

**Seldpostkarte**

**18.11.17** (Circular Postmark)

**Abfender:** { Dienstgrad *Wff. Raiming* } Name

(Nachstehende Spalten genau nach der vom Truppenchef gegebenen Anweisung ausfüllen.)

Sonstige Formationen:  
(Kolonnen, Stieger, Sanier usw.)  
*durch Postbüro  
Mann. Postbüro  
Jerich. L. 2.*

*Obst. Raiming* Lt. Nr. *1734*

*der. Kaiserlich* Bataillon

*Wannichen* Abteilung

*W. W. W. W.* Kompagnie

*W. W. W. W.* Batterie

*W. W. W. W.* Eskadron

Seldpostnummer darf bei Stäben von Armeekorps, Divisionen und Brigaden und bei Formationen, die einem Regimentsverband angeschlossen, nicht angegeben werden.

Deutsche Seldpost Nr. \_\_\_\_\_

*Herbolzheim*

Wohnung *im Breisgau*  
(Straße und Hausnummer) *Baden*

F 36 (1. 17)

**Seldpostkarte**

**18.5.18** (Circular Postmark)

**Abfender:** { Dienstgrad *Leutnant* } Name *Wannichen*

(Nachstehende Spalten genau nach der vom Truppenchef gegebenen Anweisung ausfüllen.)

Sonstige Formationen:  
(Kolonnen, Stieger, Sanier usw.)

Regt. Nr. \_\_\_\_\_

*Wannichen* Bataillon

*1734* Abteilung

*186* Kompagnie

*1734* Batterie

*1734* Eskadron

Seldpostnummer darf bei Stäben von Armeekorps, Divisionen und Brigaden und bei Formationen, in deren Befehlsmannschaft die Abgabe eines Regiments vorkommt, nicht angegeben werden.

Deutsche Seldpost Nr. *663*

*Herbolzheim*

Wohnung *Marburg Lahn*  
(Straße und Hausnummer) *Wehrtweg Weg 9*

F 36 (1. 17)

Mail that can be identified as being sent from Transjordan is very elusive and sought after by specialists. The above fieldpost cards have cancels without FPO numbers and are believed to have originated from a German liaison officer with the Turkish 8th Army in Dera'a and from a radioman in Amman.



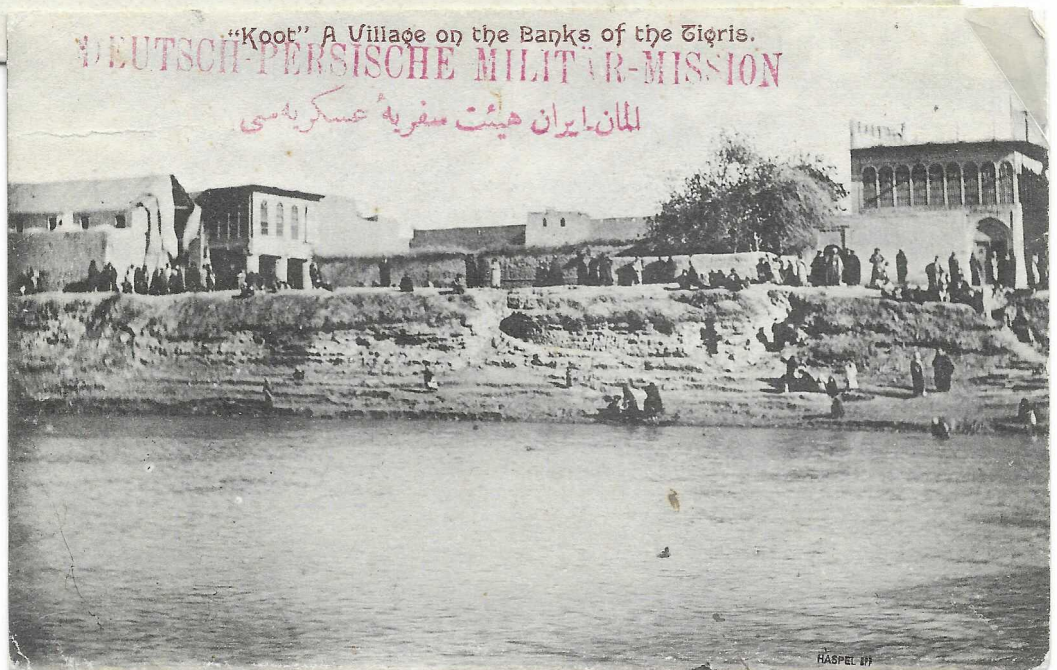
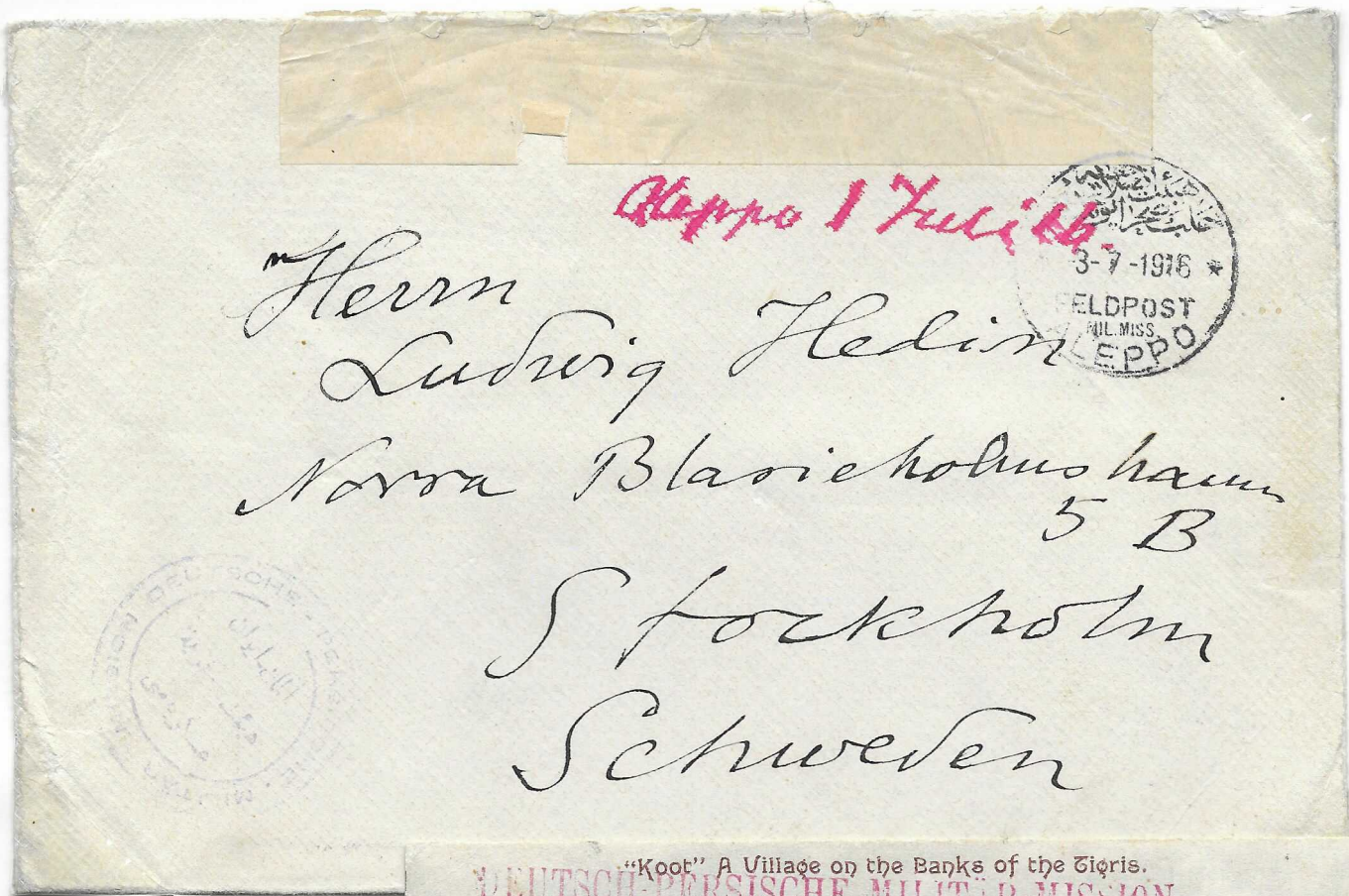
# PERSIA

The Turkish General Staff and its German advisors conceived the idea of a thrust into Persia toward India as likely to cause the Allies to divert manpower from other fronts. In October 1915, Field Marshal von der Goltz was appointed to head a German-Persian Military Mission headquartered in Baghdad, Iraq. By August 1916, Turkish forces crossed the frontier and soon occupied several cities, including Hamadan and Kermanshah. However, in March 1917 the expedition was terminated due to concerns that the Turkish forces would be cut off by Russian and British troops advancing from the north and south, respectively.



The mission did not have an attached fieldpost station but used three different cachets reading "Staff (of) von der Goltz/Special Mission P (for Persia)" to apply to mail which was forwarded to an FPO for processing. The above examples most likely did not originate in Persia but were posted by rear echelon members of the military mission.





The cachets for this unit were bilingual, inscribed "German-Persian Military Mission" in both German and Arabic. Mail from this campaign is so elusive that only three examples have ever been recorded -- two of a circular type and one a straight-line marking (shown above). Thus, covers and postcards with such markings are often considered the most highly-prized usage by German forces in World War I.



# ATTEST

ROLF HASPEL

Verbandsprüfer

des Bundes der philatelistischen Prüfer e.V. im BDPH und APHV  
D-O-4401 Thalheim-Bitterfeld, Wolfener Str. 1

Nr. 06/2000

Datum 10.1.2000

Dt.Militär-Mission in der Türkei

Ansichtskarte eines Angehörigen der Deutsch-Persischen Militär-Mission durch die türkische Landespost mit Aufgabestempel von Bagdad vom 6.2.?. nach Berlin.Schreibort und -datum sind nicht angegeben.

Sie trägt einen türkischen Zensurstempel von Istanbul und den handschriftlichen Vermerk zur verwendeten Sprache (deutsch).

Auf der Bildseite ist der 2-Zeilenstempel "DEUTSCH-PERSISCHE MILITAR-MISSION/türkisch" in rot abgeschlagen.Belege der Dt.-Persischen Militär-Mission sind recht selten.

Die Karte ist sehr gut erhalten.  
Sie ist echt und trägt bereits mein Signum.

*Rolf Haspel*