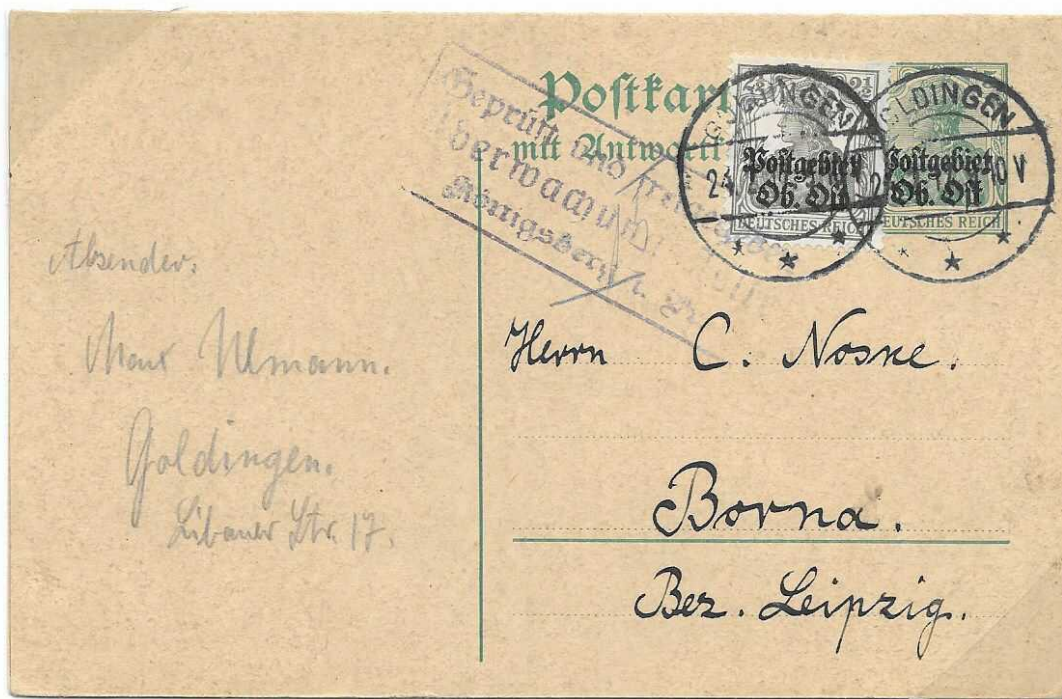




The only example of local delivery service in Lithuania took place in Vilnius (Wilno). There the payment of the 10 pfennig delivery fee was attested by the application of a circular marking inscribed "Paid/10 pf." Such usage is elusive, and the example shown here is on an inbound postal card from Warsaw.



As civil postal service opened in the area, a set of 12 stamps overprinted "Postgebiet/Oberbefehlshaber Ost" (in abbreviated form), meaning Postal District of the Commander in Chief East was issued on 15 January 1916. Although uninspiring, this wording left open the extent of the territories in which the stamps could be used, pending further German penetration into Latvia and Estonia.



The first series of postal stationery involved the 5 pfennig single and double cards overprinted "Postgebiet/Ob. Ost" which were issued on 15 January 1916. These cards had the "Postkarte" to the right of the centerline.

Abf. Jüngmann
Landwehr-Batt. Goldap
1. f. 384

Postkarte
 Feldpost
 Ober-
 Königsberg

Feldpost
 Postgebiet
 Ob. Ost
 DEUTSCHES REICH

F. H. Frau Hindenburg



69/9

Postkarte
 mit Antwortkarte

Österreich
Ulmer Post

Postgebiet
 Ob. Ost
 DEUTSCHES REICH

teure Jahre **Postkarte** *J. H.*
angegebene Sophie
v. Plawack
Die Können russisch
schreiben, ich schreibe
Deutsch als deutsch, dass
die Karten schnell bekom-
men

Herrn Albert
v. Lissg.
Marastia
Str. 39
Schitani, Kreis
Gouvernement Woly-

Postgebiet
 Ob. Ost
 DEUTSCHES REICH

Wien
Centralnachweisbüro
von Roten Kreuz
11 für Kriegsgefangene

Abendseite:
J. v. Plawack,
Sophienstr. 29
Goldap

2005 v. Kraine

Postkarte mit Antwortkarte
 Carte postale avec réponse payée

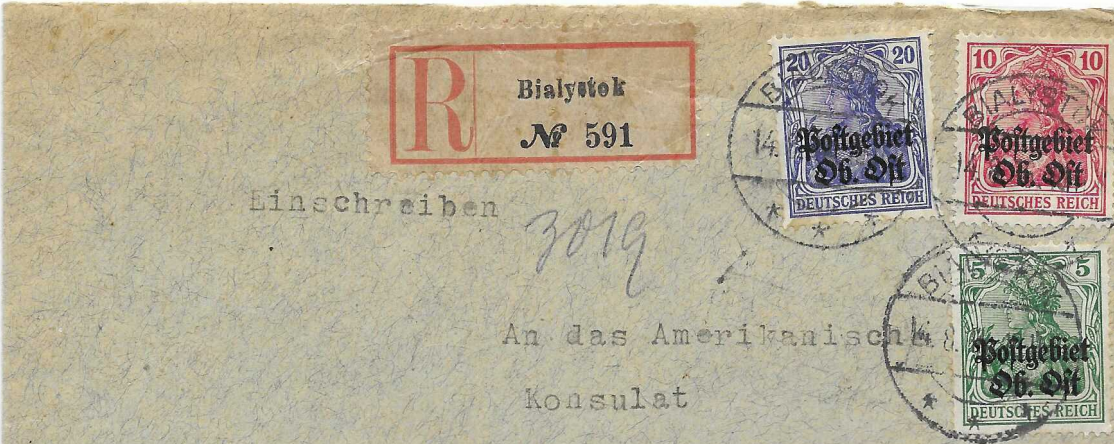
und freigegeben
Überwachungsstelle
Königsberg

Herrn Buchdruckereibes.
C. B. Noske.
Borna
Leipzig.
Postfach 3.

Abf. Frau Dr. Luise Plawack
Goldap
1. f.

Postgebiet
 Ob. Ost
 DEUTSCHES REICH

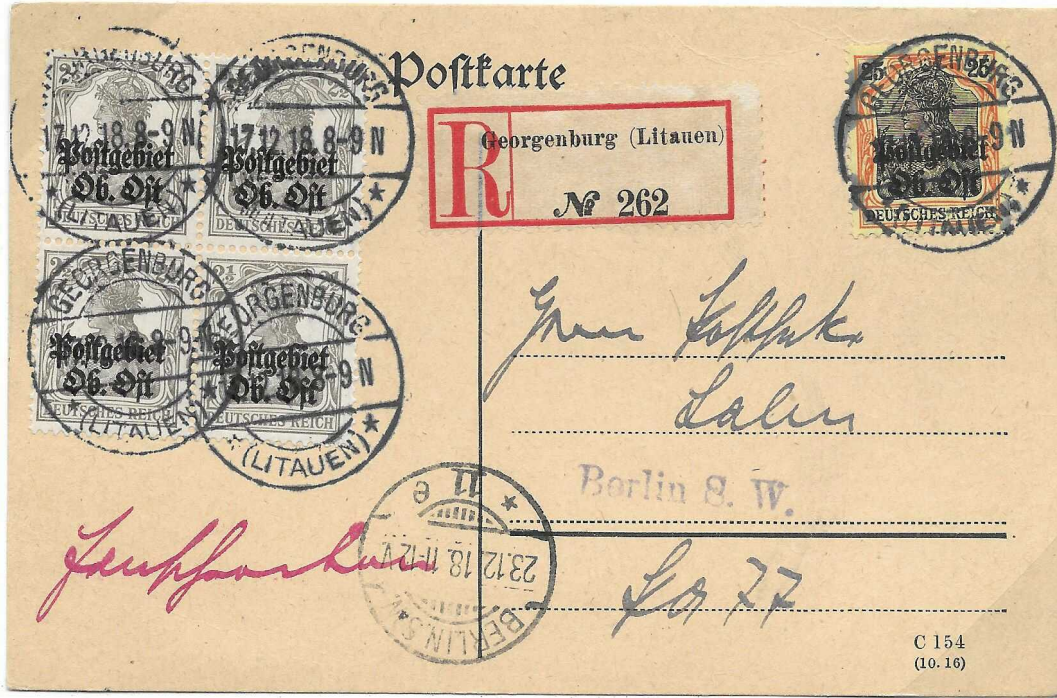
The second series of stationery was overprinted on the cards with "Postkarte" above the centerline.



An anomalous geographic situation developed with respect to the easternmost districts of Russian Poland, including Bialystok, Grodno and Suwalki. For purposes of administration, these were not included in the General Government Warsaw but placed under the Commander in Chief East. Therefore, they have been included in this exhibit under Lithuania even though Bialystok and Suwalki are located in Poland today and Grodno was Polish from 1919 to 1939 (although it is in Belarus today).

LITHUANIA

Late Postmarks with wording "Litauen"



Late in the war, perhaps to give recognition to patriotic feelings among the Lithuanians, the final towns to receive postmarks had the word "Litauen (Lithuania)" added at the bottom of the dial. These are among the rarest of the occupation postmarks for this territory as only one of them (Georgenburg -- Jurbarkas) was actually issued on 10 September 1918 before the Germans signed the Armistice, and those issued for five other towns (including Uzjany -- Utena) were first used on Armistice Day. All of these cancels were replaced by those of independent Lithuania during December, so that their period of use was limited to a few weeks.

LITHUANIA

Bialystok Forwarding Station



Trial Printing of Receipt Stamp, apparently accepted for use by the Forwarding Station.



Receipt stamp for 25 pfennig



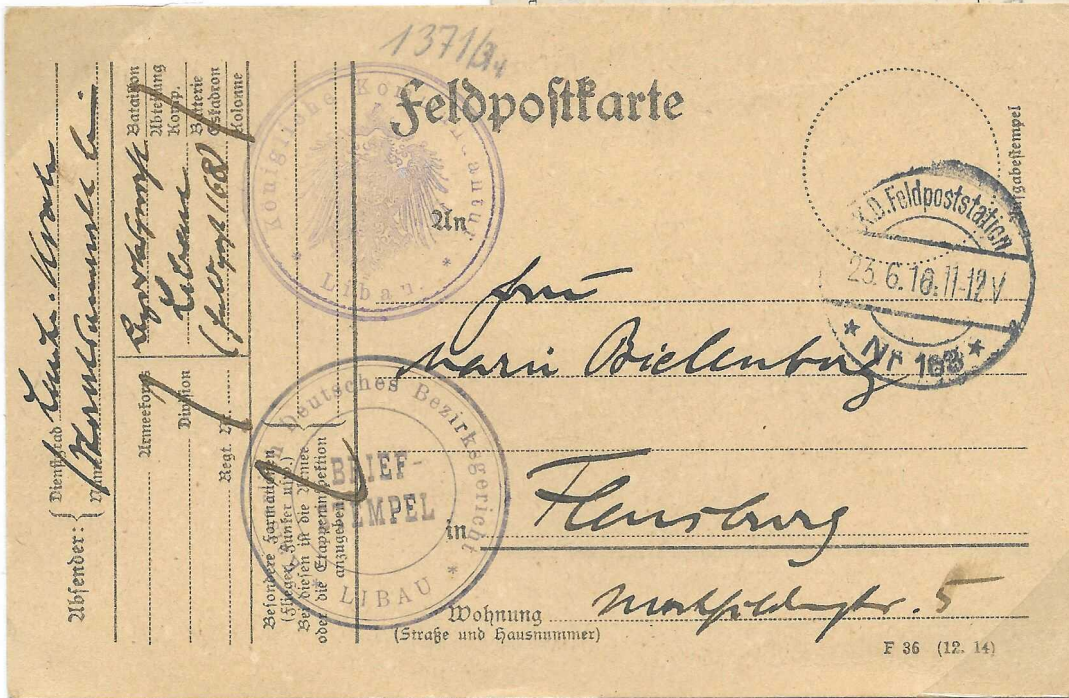
Based on an order of the C-in-C East, a letter forwarding station was established in Bialystok so that inhabitants of the area could provide news to and request news about relatives abroad. Above are examples of such requests to Russia and Sweden. Initially, a receipt stamp of 25 pfennigs was issued on 3 July 1916 but, on 18 October, the fee was raised to 1 mark and the stamps appropriately surcharged. Note that there are two different cancellations: "Stadthauptmann" and "Militarkreisamt."

LATVIA

The late 1915 German offensive up the Baltic Coast resulted in the occupation of southern Kurland. Events were then relatively quiet on this front for two years, until a renewed advance resulted in the capture of Riga, the capital of Latvia, on 3 September 1917. By the Treaty of Brest Litovsk signed in March 1918, the Soviets gave up all claims to the Baltic states, thus permitting the Germans to occupy northern Latvia without resistance.



Libau (Liepaja)
Mitau (Jelgava)
Windau (Ventspils)



Some of the military mail originating in Latvia bears the cachets of administrative units. All of the examples shown are from cities captured in the first offensive.

Hafenkapitan in Windau

B. No

78d

[Handwritten signature]



Ich wünsche Ihnen

*1874
Ich wünsche Ihnen
guten Erfolg bei
Ihren Reisen von
Lithauen nach Moskau
in der besten Gesundheit
zu sein bei fünf Wochen
Zugang für Februar 1. 1915*

Feldpost

*Frau Bertha
Frank
i. Familien
München*



*Mrs. W. Tausch
P.M.A.
Osel
Hrensburg 1911*

ПОЧТОВАЯ КАРТОЧКА = CARTE POSTALE.

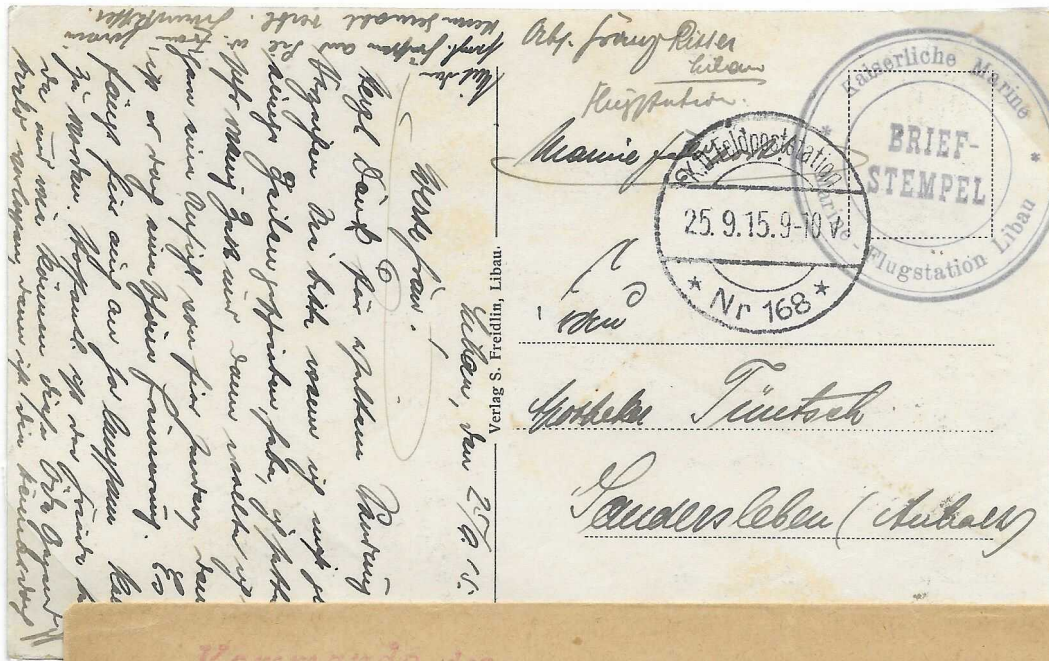
*Nehe Note von meiner
neuen Adresse. Wie lange
ich dort bleibe und was ich
dort machen soll was ich
noch nicht. Ich bin heute
in Riga u. morgen fahre
ich ab. Meine Tasche ist
aufgefallen.
Lass es Dir gut gehen und
frohe Feiertage.
Gruß Julia Dein Miez
in Flak und in allen alle*



*Janine Lempi
Riga
Hauptstr. 52*

Лепиня Лемпи и Рудольф, Рига.

The German Navy was very active in the area and utilized the occupied harbors in Latvia as bases for its Baltic fleet. Examples shown above of naval unit cachets from Libau, Riga and Windau.



Specific naval units are recognized in the cachets shown above, including the seaplane base at Libau. Registered cover is from the Headquarters of the Submarine Flotilla in Kurland and sent through FPO 168 at Libau. U-Boat mail from the Baltic is very scarce and avidly sought after by naval specialists.



The German post offices in Latvia used the standard "Oberbefehlshaber Ost" overprints that were current elsewhere in the Baltic area.

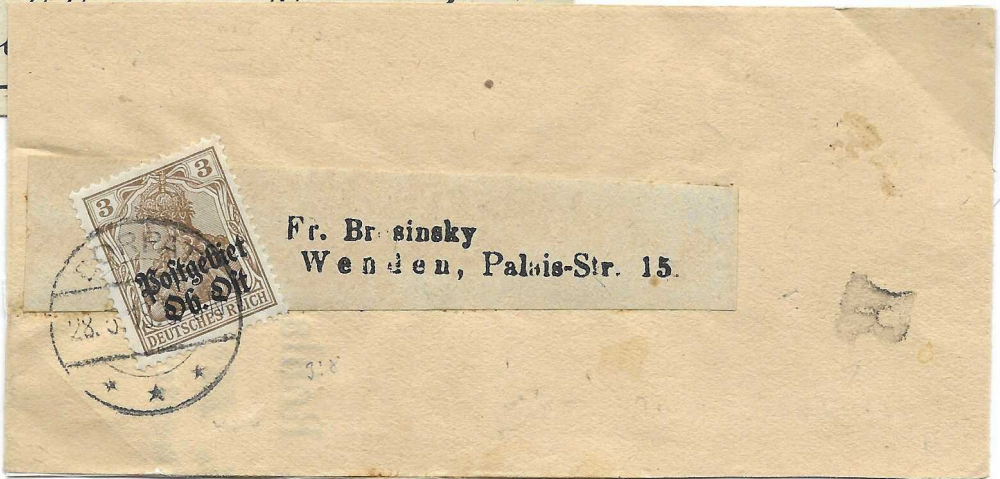
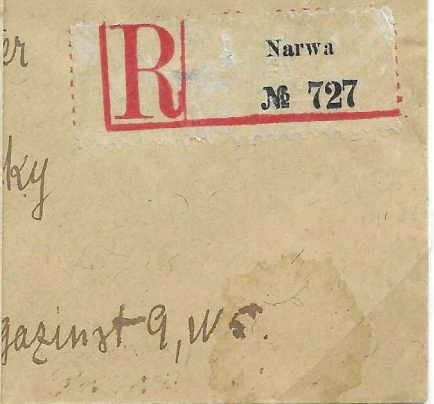
ESTONIA

As the Soviets negotiated to withdraw from the war, the Russian army evacuated the Baltic area. Simultaneously, the German forces moved north from Riga and entered the Estonian capital of Reval on 25 February 1918. The occupation remained there until the Armistice was signed in November 1918.

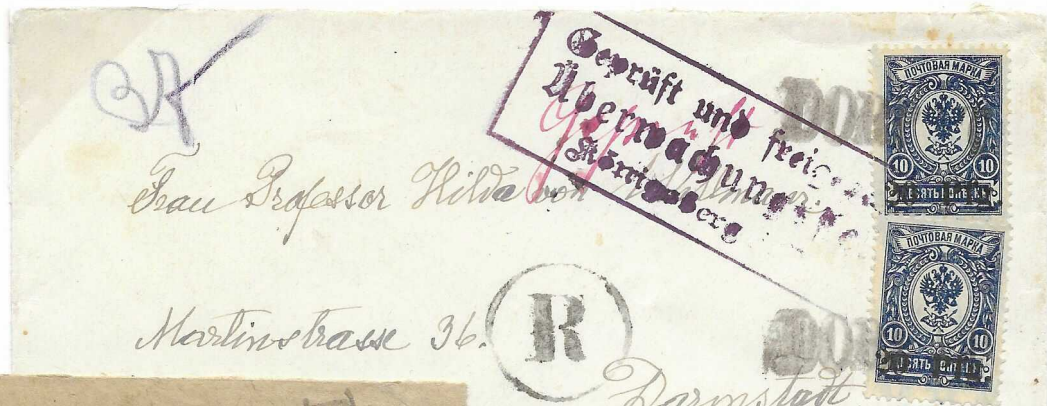
Narva
Reval (Tallinn)



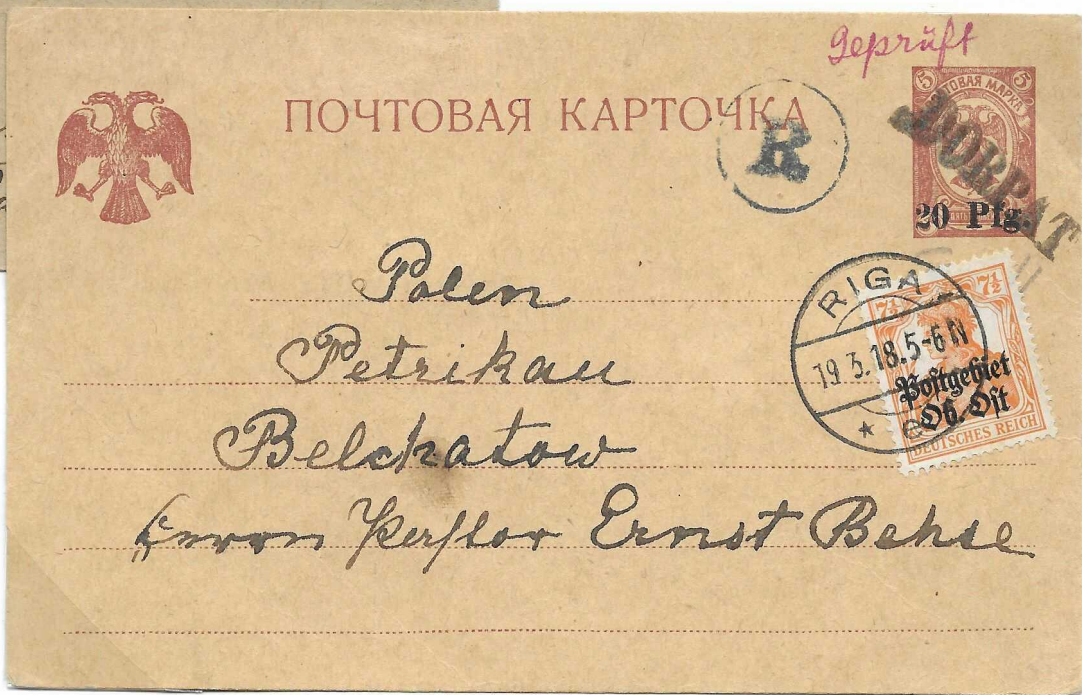
Because the occupation of Estonia came so late in the war and lasted only a relatively short period, military mail with administrative cachets from the cities there is scarce.



As was the case elsewhere in the Baltic, the post offices in Estonia used the standard "Oberbefelshaber Ost" overprints. Examples from Dorpat, Narva and Reval are shown above, including the use of a 3 pfennig (printed matter rate) stamp on a newspaper wrapper.



45
*pa Adresse:
 Professor Leo von
 Absenderin: F. v. A.*



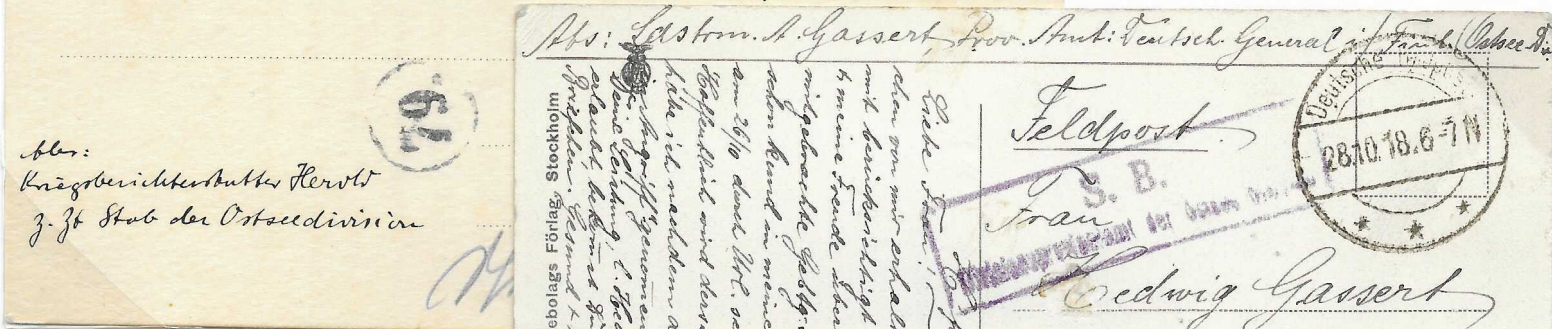
Shortly after the Germans arrived in Dorpat (Tartu), there was a demand for mail service. The local commander authorized the overprinting of Russian stamps and postal cards with a new denomination in German currency, i.e. 20 pfennigs for postcards and 40 pfennigs for letters. The provisional stamps, which were only valid for postage from 5 to 22 March 1918, were cancelled with a straight-line "Dorpat" and censored in manuscript with red ink. Mail was then forwarded to Riga subject to further censorship (note marking of capital "R" in a circle). There, "Ob. Ost" stamps were affixed and postmarked without additional charge.

FINLAND

German troops did not go to Finland as an occupying force but to support the Finns against both the Soviets and the local Red Guards. After the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, the Finnish parliament declared independence on 6 December 1917. In the absence of a Finnish army, a force of White Guards was organized under Baron Mannerheim. This contingent, supported by an expeditionary force of 12,000 Germans which arrived in April 1918, successfully cleared the country of Russian soldiers.



Helsingfors (Helsinki)
Borga (Porvoo)



The German forces in Finland were in organized units and enjoyed regular fieldpost service. (Postage was not required, so the Finnish stamp on the upper card was affixed as a souvenir.) Manuscript return addresses on upper and middle cards from Helsinki read "Staff of the Baltic Division" and "Office of the German General in Finland (Baltic Division)."