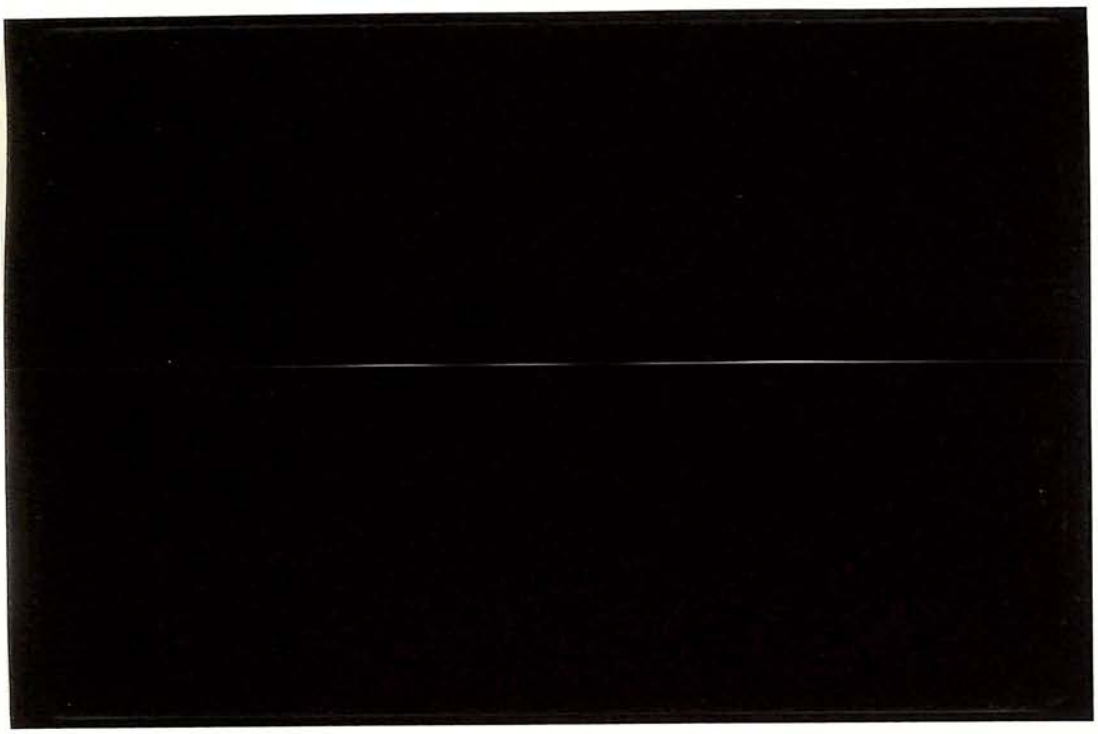
HOLYLAND – FORERUNNERS

Foreign Post Offices in Palestine

Austrian Military Forces

Picture postcard sent from Constantinopel to Wien in 1916. The stamped cachet reads "K.u.K. Festungsartilleribaen Nr. 10 Automob. 24 cm M. B. Nr. 9." (Imperial Fortress Artilley Battalion Nr. 10 Automobile 24 cm Mortar Battery Nr. 9). There is a censor mark "Zensuriert and a W1 arrival mark



PALESTINE
WORLD WAR I
Austrian Military Forces

1917 April 30 - Austro-Hungarian Military Station Command - Constantinople

K.u.K. ost. ung. Militarstationskommando
in Konstantinopel.
Red boxed Cachet: Von der Armee Im Felde
Zensuriert.

Official field postal card to wife from Constantinople. Single line censor marking. Red boxed cachet "From the Army in the Field " was applied in Vienna on arrival. Correspondence on the back gives the date.
The second battle for Gaza occurred April 18th.

PALESTINE
WORLD WAR I
Austrian Military Forces

1917 August 13 - Austro-Hungarian Embassy in Constantinople

Script: Konstpl. 13/VIII/17
Violet Seal of the Embassy
Black Civilian Censor #5 Constantinople
Reverse: 1917 War Surcharge on 20 para 1901 Turkish adhesive
Pera (1) 333 8 14

Card mailed to Vienna with Turkish postcard 20para rate paid by 1917 war surcharged 1901 20 para Turkish adhesive on picture side. Cancelled at Turkish postoffice in Pera and censored. Probably went to Vienna by usual military mail facilities.

PALESTINE
WORLD WAR I
Austrian Military Forces

1917 - Imperial Truck Driver Reserve Depot - Constantinople

K.u.K. Kraftfahrersatzdepot Konstantinopel
(Imperial Truck Driver Reserve Depot Constantinople)
Zensuriert (Censored)

Card from an Austrian truck driver at the reserve army depot in Constantinople to Vienna. Censored on arrival.
This unit carried ammunition, food, and other supplies to the Austro-Hungarian army in Palestine.

PALESTINE
WORLD WAR I
Austrian Military Forces

1916 April 24 - Imperial Mountain Howitzer Battery 1 of 4th Artillery Regiment - Damascus.

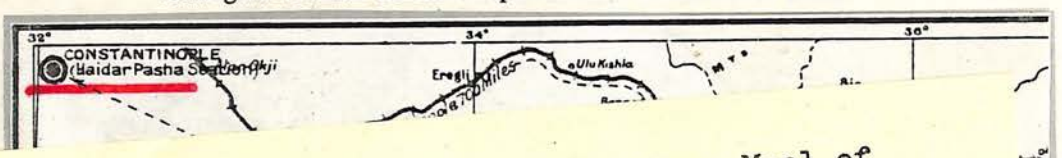
Cachet: K.u.K. Gebirgshaubitzbatterie 1/4 *
(Imperial Mountain Howitzer Battery 1 of the 4th Mountain Artillery Regiment)
Black boxed Constantinople Censor #32
Red boxed Hungarian Censor.

The first Austrian troops arrived before the Austrian military postoffices could be established. This unit reached Damascus from Constantinople on its way to Mount Carmel, Haifa, to join the Fourth Ottoman Army. This unit was the 1st Battery of the 4th Mountain Artillery Regiment. It continued south in early July to join the Turkish Army on its way to El Arish fighting against the British advanced post at Bir Abu Hamra and at Romani.

PALESTINE
WORLDWAR I
Austrian Military Forces

1916 August 1 - Austrian Medical Facilities and Soldiers Hospice - Bosanti

Pre-stamped seal of the Austrian medical facilities for Syria in Jerusalem. German Soldiers Hospice at Bosanti, Taurus, with "soldier's mail" cachet of Bosanti. Black rectangular civilian Constantinople arrival Turkish censor mark .



SENDER: Zugsführer (platoon leader) Hans Macl of the K. u. K. Medical Facilities for Syria in Jerusalem, via the K. u. K. Military Plenipotentiary in Constantinople.

Bosanti, 1 August 1916

MESSAGE:
After an uneventful arrival here and a four days' stay, I am taking the liberty of sending you my most cordial regards before continuing the trip and hope that you are all in good health and the best possible spirits. I am travelling with full confidence in the help of God and the intercession of the holy Mary. I kiss your hand,
Your devoted Hans Macl.

Reference: The SIP Journal, August 1981, p.2591

PALESTINE
WORLD WAR I
Austrian Military Forces

1916 December 13 - Command Imperial Motor Pool & Transport Column - Rayak

Kommando d.k.u.k. Kraftfahrformationen in der Turkei
(Command of Imperial Motor Pool in Turkey)
Zensuriert (Censored)

Picture card from driver of Motorized supply column located at Rayak at this time.
Censored on arrival in Vienna.
This unit traveled between Constantinople -Damascus- Jerusalem. Message explains correspondent suffered a sprained leg , but " only has to travel to Jerusalem instead of Aleppo today." Rayak is small town between Beirut and Damascus.

PALESTINE
WORLD WAR I
Austrian Military Forces

1917 May 5/25 -Gallipoli Peninsula - Mobile 24cm Mortar Battery No. 9

Mobile Mortar Battery No. 9 moved from Roumania in 1915/16 southward to Gallipoli by January, 1917. In September, 1917 the unit was moved south to fight in Palestine.
Two cards to Hungary. Circular cachet of unit. Budapest boxed censor marking. Feldpost 451 datestamp applied in Constantinople before onward transmission to Hungary.

PALESTINE
WORLD WAR I
Austrian Military Forces

1917 May 9 - Mountain Artillery Regiment No. 6 - Beirut - Damascus

Datestamp: Feldpost Mil. Miss. Damaskus * -9-5-1917
Cachet: K.U.K. Gebirgsartillerieregiment Nro 6 * Haubtizbatterie No. 2
(Imperial Mountain Artillery Regiment # 6 * Howitzerbattery # 2)

Picture card of Beirut, not censored, went through German military post office at Damascus three days after written. Soldier may have been returning to Europe from Beersheba and Jerusalem where he was in February and March, or, he may have been involved in the restructuring of his unit after the guns were destroyed by the British in the Negev. Damascus was the staging area for replacement units for this Regiment.

PALESTINE
WORLD WAR I
Austrian Military Forces

1916 March 9 - Imperial 15cm. Howitzer battery No. 36 - Constantinople

K.U.K. 15 cm. Haubitzbatterie No. 36
(Royal & Imperial Howitzer Battery No. 36)
Zensuriert (censor)
W1 (Vienna courier arrival mark)

This censored card was taken by courier to Vienna . Postal facilities were not available to the Austrian troops until June 1917. "W 1" circle marking was applied on arrival in Vienna. Heavy artillery battery No. 36 was being routed to Palestine from Constantinople after fighting in the Gallipoli. Subsequently, this unit arrived in Gaza in early April. It took part in all three battles of Gaza; was heavily damaged and retreated to Bethlehem for repairs.

PALESTINE
WORLD WAR I
Austrian Military Forces

1916 September 16 - Imperial Reserve Command Howitzer Battery No. 36 - Constantinople

K.u.K. Kdo d. Ers. Abt. f.d. ost. ung. Haubitzbatterie No. 36
(Imperial Reserve Command unit of the Howitzer Battery No. 36)
Fel0lvizsgalva/ Zensuriert/Budapest 72/2?
(Examined on arrival in Budapest)

This reserve unit, on its way into Palestine, arrived in time for the third battle of Gaza during the first week of November, 1917. The unit was despatched to bolster the original battery which was taking heavy casualties during the battles for Gaza.

A Jewish Hungarian soldier writes New Year greetings. The card was censored on arrival in Budapest.