German Patriotic Postcards ~ 1914 - 1918

With the outbreak of the First World War Germany produced a series of patriotic/romantic postcards depicting images of German soldiers and their sweethearts and families.
These postcards met with enormous success and are today the most collected.
Previous to this period, the majority of postcards were printed in Germany whose printing methods were regarded as the best in the world. However the trying years of this period, the worlds rising import tariffs and the threats of war, caused a swift decline in the cards exported.
The advent of WWI caused the supply of postcards from Germany to end. Poorer quality postcards came from English and U.S. publishers.

The propaganda postcards showing the National Flag and emblems, such as the Imperial Eagle, were intended to stir the public's feelings of patriotism and pride.

These postcards are very often to or from soldiers on the War Front and have their Unit, Regiment, and Division, together with Army Unit handstamps which, together with the actual messages written to or from home, offer quite an insight to very personal thoughts, anguish and the hardships of the period.



Field Postcard

Addressed to: Fraulein Gertrud Eberhardt
Löbau

(Löbau is a city in the east of Saxony)

Posted from Paul Rahm, probably in France on 29 March 1915.
Infantry Division No. 23



For the Easter Festival
Luck and blessings

Field Postcard

Addressed to: Infantier Anton Luchauer
3 Armoured Corps, 5 Infantry Division
7 Inf. Regt. 2nd Battallion, 6 Company

Posted from Donndorf on 29 March 1915.

(Donndorf is a municipality in the district Kyffhäuserkreis, in Thuringia, Germany)



German and Austrian soldiers

"creates unity in holy dispute
quietude for time and eternity"

Printed by Albert Oesterreicher, Leipzig

Field Postcard

Addressed to: Elena Feltann(m)
Szaszvaros, Hungary

Cancellation handstamp 16 April, 1915

From C. Feltann(m), Sergeant
Handstamped - Imperial & Kings Infantry Regiment,
'Ritter von Auffenerg' No. 64



German War flag

Approved by General Command Altona

Postcard

Addressed to: Fraulein Maria Kobloth
Thannweiler/Elsass

Posted from a soldier, T. Dolle,
22nd Reserve Division (in the field)

K.D. Feldpostexpedition 22 Reserve Division Circular cancellation 18.4.1915 Fieldpost



Youth is beautiful

Roses are blooming carnations are blooming
Roses bloom, they wither,
So I say again, Beautiful is the youth,
Beautiful is the youth,
she doesn't come anymore

Field Postcard

Addressed to: Ersatz reservist Adolf Hoffmann,
Ersatz battalion Landwehr Infantry Regiment 24,
3. Kompanie
Replacement Batallion Infantry regiment 24,
stationed in Angermünde Uckermark

Sent from a friend. (name unclear)
Red Cross Postcard

Circular cancellation Berlin SW 21. 7. 1915



You are assured of the people's gratitude

Postcard

Addressed to: Fraulein Doraliese Dorn
Elberfeld in Rheinland (today a part of the city of Wuppertal)
Am Exerzierplatz 23.

Posted from her Father, conscript Dorn,
1st Ers. Battalion, Infantry Regiment 13, 5 Company,
stationed in Munster, Westfalen.

Circular cancellation 27.9.1915 Fieldpost



Fräulein Feldgrau!

Is a 1914 German silent comedy film directed by Carl Wilhelm

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Field Postcard

Addressed to: Fraulein Alma Dräger,
Hamburg, Ritterstrasse 122a

Posted from fiance Hans,
Division2; Jäger Battalion 2, in Berlin

Berlin circular cancellation 1. 12. 15. (1915)



When two love each other

Field Postcard

Addressed to: Wehrmann Wilhelm Winter
Eisenbahn Betriebs Kompagnie 11,
Militär-Eisenbahn Direktion 6 in Russia.
(Military Railway Directorate 6)

Sent by his wife Elise Winter,
living in Neunkirchen Saarland,
Blumenthalstrasse 4.

Neunkirchen, Saar circular cancellation 17. 12. 15 (1915)



Merry Christmas Greetings

Field Postcard

addressed to: Fraulein Anna Nemann,
c/o Mr Emil Eckardt,
Spitzkunnersdorf, Wiesental.

From her friend: Elser

5 Pfennig Germania stamp cancelled Spitzcunnersdorf 31. 12. 1915



Much Luck in the New Year

Postcard

Addressed to: Mr. G. Amend,
Bei Rheindahlen
Kreis Moenchengladbach

From: Karl & wife Beyvers
(all family related)

Posted from Aachen
circular date stamp: Aachen 1st January 1916



German Eagle & flag

Heartfelt Good Wishes
for the New Year

Marine Postcard

Matrose G. Lyttko
on S.M.S. Deutschland warship

to Fraulein Toni Heinichen,
Berlin C. 54
Alte Schonhauserstr. 57

By Marine ship post
dated 3 February 1916



Another kiss, and then goodbye

Postcard

FIELDPOST

Addressed to: soldier Richard Eckel,
Konigliches Bkl. Amt XIX,
9 Company. 2 Korporalschaft
Leipzig-Gohlis

circular date stamp: Chemnitz 7th February 1916



Edelweiss of the Alps

Forget me not

Postcard

Addressed to: Fraulein Rosa .....

Posted from Ulris Klamp, Field Post Service, K.B.S. Reserve Division
Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regt. No. 17, 1st Battalion

Circular cancellation 22. 2. 1916



What love gave me,

all Beatitude and Delight,
Which I enjoyed,
Is firmly grounded in the
What love gave me.

Field Postcard

Addressed to: Family Hiroi(z)jmi
Hattersheim am Main
(Hattersheim borders the city of Frankfurt a. Main)

Cancellation handstamp Lindenholzhausen
Dated 21 April 1916.

From Otto's Family

(Lindenholzhausen lies 3 km from Limburg an der Lahn,district Limburg-Weilburg)



German lady and flag

"German Greetings and wishes for Easter festival"

Field Postcard

Addressed to: Musketeer Josef Harborn
5 Active Armycorps, 9 Infantry Division
19 Inf. Regt. 3rd Battallion, 12 Company
France.

Posted from Wattenscheid on 9 May, 1916

(Wattenscheid was once a separate town in the North Rhine-Westphalia. In 1975 it became part of Bochum)



The two flags

Inscription in a dialect ending "and we are good"

Field Postcard

Addressed to: Fraulein Petronella Prinz,

From: Joh. ?,

2 Circular postmarks: Stages Magazine, 5th Army
Fieldpoststation Nr. 100
dated: 1. 6. 1916



Oh were you with me

There were once in lovely hour
two hearts in fidelity
When can I kiss your mouth
probably again now again

Field Postcard

Addressed to: Landsturm Gustav Bremer
1. Landsturm Infanterie Bataillon XVI 18,
2. Kompanie St. Avold.

Feldpost Station 222, into the field in the East.

Sent by a woman named Christine

Circular cancellation Losheim 2. 6. 1916



If you're on post in enemy territory,
So lonely on the distant watch,
Then, think that a good angel,
Faithfully surrounds you in the dark night.

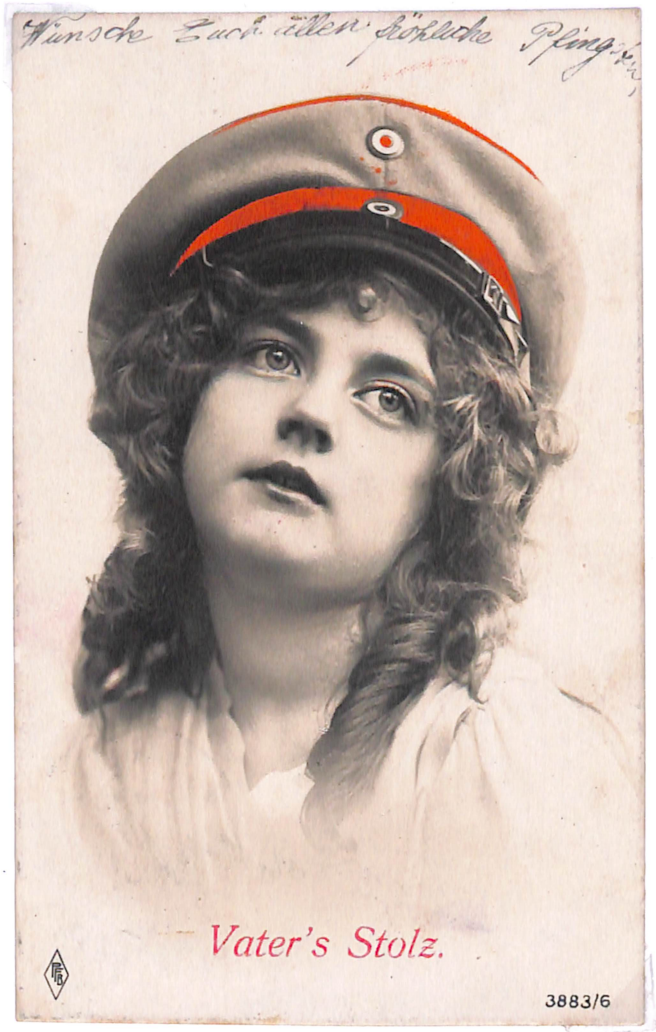
Field Postcard

Addressed to: Berta Schmid, Sackingen

from her friend: Theresia

2 circular cancellations: xxx Army HQ (passed)
5 Pfennig Germania stamp cancelled Sackingen 10. 6. 1916

Message on front: Wish you a happy Pentecost



Father's Pride

Field Postcard

To Heinrich Plegmann,
Osnabruck

From: I. Treckman,
3 Guards Infantry Division

Posted in France through Fieldpost 1 Battallion Inf.Regt.

Circular postmark: 15. 6. 1916



Majesty's youngest recruit

Field Postcard

Addressed to: Landsturmmann Ernst Frenzt
3 Königlich Sächsisches Armierungs-Bataillon
5 Armee. 5 Kompanie. 2 Koporalschaft
Field Post Station 253
(3rd Royal Saxon Armoured Battalion
5th Army, 5th Company, 2nd Corporal)

Sent by a friend on home leave in Gengenbach, Baden-Württemberg

Circular Gengenbach cancellation 19. 7. 1916



The fatherland needs every man,
So' what the sister says,
sign up voluntarily,
And do your duty.

Postcard

Addressed to: Musketeer Reinhardt Paul,
Reserve Infantry Regiment 53, 12th Company, 14th Reserve Division,
3rd Battalion in the West

from his sister-in-law, Mrs. S. Paul.

Posted from Haagen, Baden

Circular cancellation 7. 9. 1916



God be with us

My blessings accompany you

Field Postcard

Addressed to probably his brother
in 4th Bavarian Infantry Regiment

From Karl, 9th Company, 4 Bav. Inf. Regt
through 14 Bavarian Infantry Division

Circular handstamp Fieldpost as above

dated: 10. 12. 1916



a sacred Bunch
has cutting so grade gnua
has an sabel and a Book
And he never needs five

Postcard

Addressed to: Family Carl Uhlmann,
Berlin Pankow, Florastraße 78

submarine seaman V. Uhlmann,

on U-Boat SM UC-72 stationed at Kiel.

2 Kiel Circular cancellations dated 9.2.1917



German Youth.

SM UC-72 was a German U-boat during World War 1. The U-boat was ordered on 12 January 1916 and was launched on 12 August 1916 & commissioned into the German Imperial Navy on 5 December 1916 as SM UC-72. UC-72 disappeared after 21 August 1917 & lost all crew.

The wreck of UC-72 was identified by marine archaeologist Innes McCartney off Dover in 2013. The wreck seems to have fallen victim to a mine while inbound from patrol

Field Postcard

Addressed to: Reinhold Domnick,
Pflugstrasse 17, Berlin, N4

Sent from his brother Oskar Domnick,
in France (Field Post)

Circular cancellation K.D. Feldpost 1. 8. 1917

also circular receipt stamp Field Recruit Depot 220,
Infantry Division in Berlin



Good News!

(handwritten on Newspaper "Oskar doing good!)

Postcard

Addressed to: Fraulein Minna Schellor
Gottingen, Kurze Str., 40

(Göttingen is a university town in Lower Saxony)

Posted from Euren. Handstamped Trier, 21 August, 1917



"Only those who know the longing,
knows what I suffer"

"If I desire the woe
It enters by mild pain,
I feel you are always close
You're with me in spirit"

Printed by Joh. Luneburg, Frankfurt a. M.

Field Postcard

Addressed to: Fraulein M. Meiyer
Behrensen, a village 11 km east of Hameln

Cancellation handstamp Elbing
Dated 27 August, 1917.

Also handstamp of Prussian Royal Reserve Hospital, Elbing

(Elbing was in East Prussia, now in Northern Poland)



German soldier saying Goodbye to his family

"We paint ourselves for the future
Be welcome in our own house"

Postcard

Addressed to: Fraulein Maria Rohrbach
Lommel Fabrik, Prov. Limburg

Posted from Richard Lindner,
4th Company, 1 Ldst. Infantry Battalion Gera

Stamp Germania 7½ Pfg. Overprinted Belgien 8 cent.
Circular cancellation 4.9.1917
Handstamped by Post Sensor Charleroi



Happy Birthday wishes

"sent by Richard"

Postcard

FIELDPOST

Addressed to: Maria Grote (his sister)
c/o Rudolf Ostendorf,
Wilhelmhaven

From: landsturm Josef Grote,
Infantry Regiment 184,
1st Battalion, 2nd Company

Military circular date stamp: 19 November 1917



Well, they've already fallen for it

Field Postcard

**Addressed to: Mrs Trude Genanck,
Dresden-6**

**From her husband: Arthur Genanck,
23 Infantry Division**

Circular postmark: German Fieldpost

dated: 7 February 1918



Postcard

Not addressed

Reverse written in French to a brother saying that he found this in an Abbey, and with 3 other postcards which he is also sending for his collection



German woman in uniform holding National flag

German crowned Eagle
With 'Germany' in english

Field Postcard

Not Addressed

(S. D. D. No. 797)



From Heart to Heart