

## Denmark and the First World War Display at Ypres – July 2014

Background: Denmark was badly bruised from the loss of Norway at the Treaty of Kiel in 1814 and at the loss of both Schleswig and Holstein at the Treaty of Vienna in 1864. She declared neutrality in the First World War and enlisted 50,000 men to maintain her neutrality.

Her geographical position forced her to accommodate German wishes during this period, but there were many speakers of Danish south of the border in Imperial Germany as a consequence of the war of 1864. On 31<sup>st</sup> July 1914, Germany prepared to declare war on Russia and all able-bodied men aged 18-44 were told to report to the barracks by 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

About 35,000 men living in what is now Denmark were drafted into the German Army, where they fought on all fronts. Perhaps 26,000 of these were "Danish". 5,270 died and a conservative 4,000 were war invalids.

Denmark was sympathetic to the plight of the "Danish" soldiers in German service and organisations were set up to support them when taken prisoner of war. Many of these soldiers received special treatment in Danish speaking prisoner of war camps.

Some Danes volunteered for the allied combatants, as did Danish immigrants in their new countries.

In 1916 the Danish Red Cross set up the Moskauer Hilfskomitee in Copenhagen to deal with information about prisoners of war on the German-Russian front and continued its activities until 1<sup>st</sup> April 1919. Danish Doctors and nurses volunteered to help with medical services and served on both sides of the conflict.

As a neutral country Denmark interned service men from combatant countries that arrived on Danish soil. By the end of the war this included British, German, Austrian and Russian soldiers. Then in late 1918 returning prisoners of war from Germany were housed in barracks en route home from the war.

While not a direct participant, Denmark was inevitably involved, and the following pages show examples of this through postal history.



The German border before 1920 with North Schleswig, home to a large Danish speaking minority, shown in pink.

### Pages

- 2-6: The beginning; internal censorship in North Schleswig
- 7-16: In German Service
- 17-28: Prisoners of War from North Schleswig in France, Portugal and Great Britain
- 29-32: Danes in Allied Service
- 33-39: Internment camps in Denmark
- 40: Prisoners of War from North Schleswig in India and Japan
- 41-43: The Danish Red Cross
- 44: Danish volunteer nurses
- 45-48: Aftermath of war; Prisoners of war returning and lost; the Spanish Influenza

*Auftragsgemäss gestattet sich das k. u. k. österreichisch-  
ungarische Generalkonsulat mitzuteilen, dass Freitag  
den 3. Juli, 11 Uhr Vormittags, ein feierlicher Trauer-  
gottesdienst für weiland kais. und königl. Hoheit,  
Erzherzog Franz Ferdinand  
in der hies. katholischen St. Ansgars Kirche, Bred-  
gade 64, stattfinden wird.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> July 1914** - Invitation to a memorial service for the Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

*According to decree it is permitted to announce from the Imperial and Royal Austro-  
Hungarian Consulate General, that on Friday  
July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11 clock in the morning, a solemn  
remembrance service for the late Imperial and Royal Highness  
Archduke Franz Ferdinand  
will take place in Saint Ansgar's Catholic Cathedral, Bred-  
gade 64, Copenhagen.*

On 28<sup>th</sup> June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, were shot dead in Sarajevo, by Gavrilo Princip, one of a group of six Bosnian Serb assassins coordinated by Danilo Ilić (a member of Млада Босна, Young Bosnia, a pan Slavonic revolutionary movement.)

The political objective of the assassination was to break off Austria-Hungary's south-Slav provinces so they could be combined into a Greater Serbia or a Yugoslavia. The ultimate consequence was mobilisation of the Triple Entente (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy) and the Triple Alliance (Great Britain, France, Russia), leading to the First World War on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1914.

Denmark was neutral in this conflict, but had to balance proximity to Germany with the maintenance of international trade serviced by its large merchant fleet.

**Denmark and the First World War**  
Danish language forbidden

North Schleswig - Sønderjylland in German service  
Mail held by German authorities



**5<sup>th</sup> August 1914** - Postcard written in Danish from Hvidding, in Germany, to Ribe in Denmark.

Foreign languages were not permitted on overseas mail, the card was held back by the German military authorities, and a label attached stating, „Nach Aufhebung des Militärischen Verbots der Anwendung Fremder Sprache abgesandt“. Marked *Absender unbekannt 19/8 Jürgensen.*, sender unknown.

The prohibition against the use of Danish language was not lifted until September 1914, when the card was sent and marked *Ankommen hertil c. 8/10 14.*

One of two such labels known.

Denmark and the First World War  
Internal Censorship in Schleswig

Ü. K. / HADERSLEBEN  
Militärischerseits unter / Kriegsrecht geöffnet / Flensburg



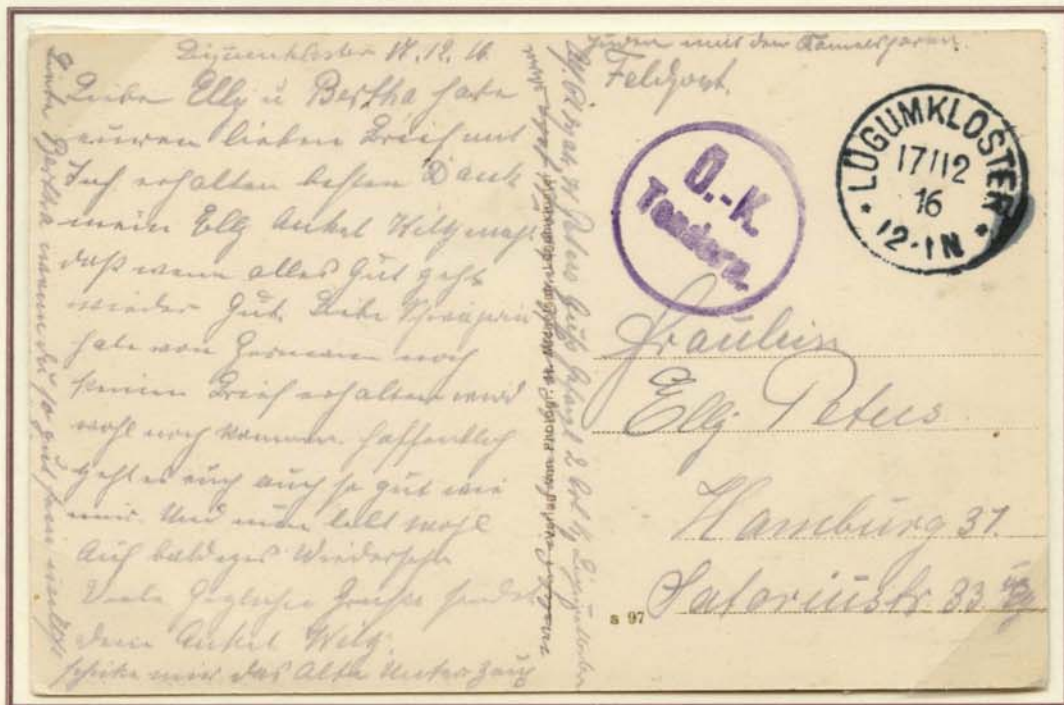
6<sup>th</sup> August 1917 - Printed matter postcard sent from Hadersleben to the **Landesversicherungsanstalt** (insurance company) in Kiel, 3 Pf. correct printed matter rate, with censorship **Ü. K. / HADERSLEBEN**. All printing in German.



23<sup>rd</sup> August 1917 - Cover sent from Denmark to Branderup in Slesvig, 10 øre correct foreign letter rate, censored and sealed with labels **Kaiserliches Postamt / Flensburg** and hand stamp **Militärischerseits unter / Kriegsrecht geöffnet / Flensburg. 24. AUG. 1917 / B / Überwachungs-offizier** (Opened under military war privilege).



21<sup>st</sup> September 1916 - Picture postcard sent from Ekernsund, 5 Pf. correct inland postcard rate, to Dyneved on the island of Als, with censorship Ü.K. / Apenrade. Written in Danish.  
Printer: Verlag: Fr. Biehl, Landel-Augustenborg.



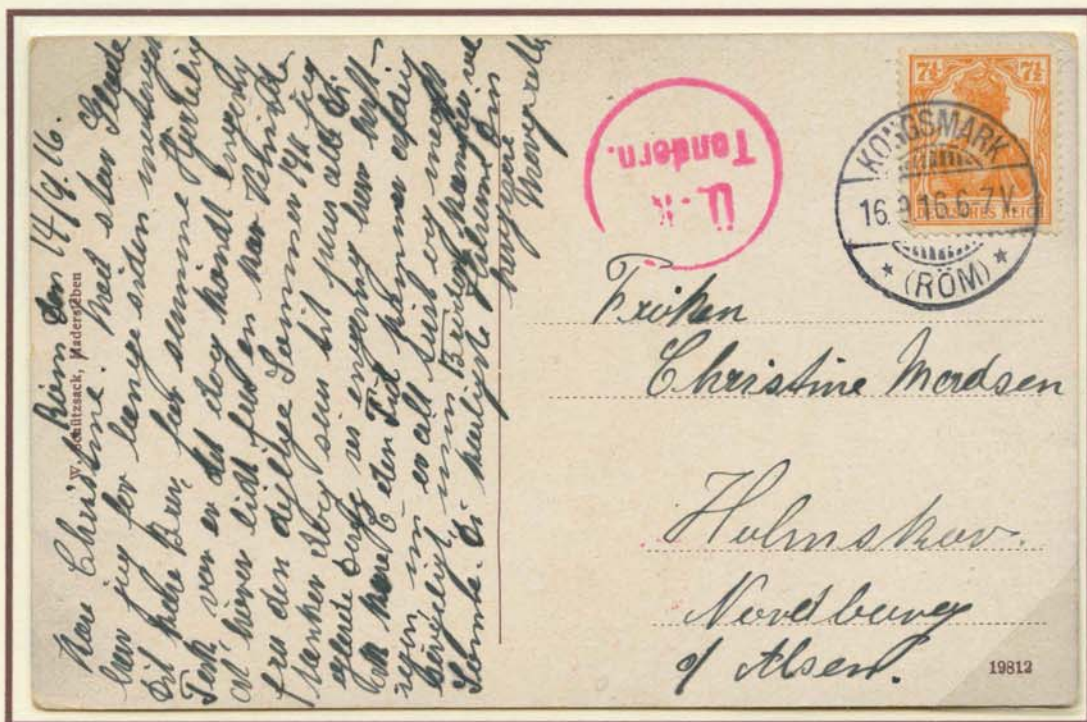
17<sup>th</sup> December 1916 - Picture postcard sent from Lügumkloster, marked **Feldpost** and carried free of charge, to Hamburg, with censorship Ü.K. / Tondern. Written in German.  
Printer: Verlag von Photog. Michelsen, Lügumkloster.



21<sup>st</sup> August 1916 - Picture postcard sent from Bredebro to Studsgaard in Denmark, 10 Pf. correct foreign postcard rate, but returned, **Auf Befehl der Militär- / behörde zurück** (Return on the order of the military authorities) and **Zurück**, as well as **unzulässig** (not permitted).

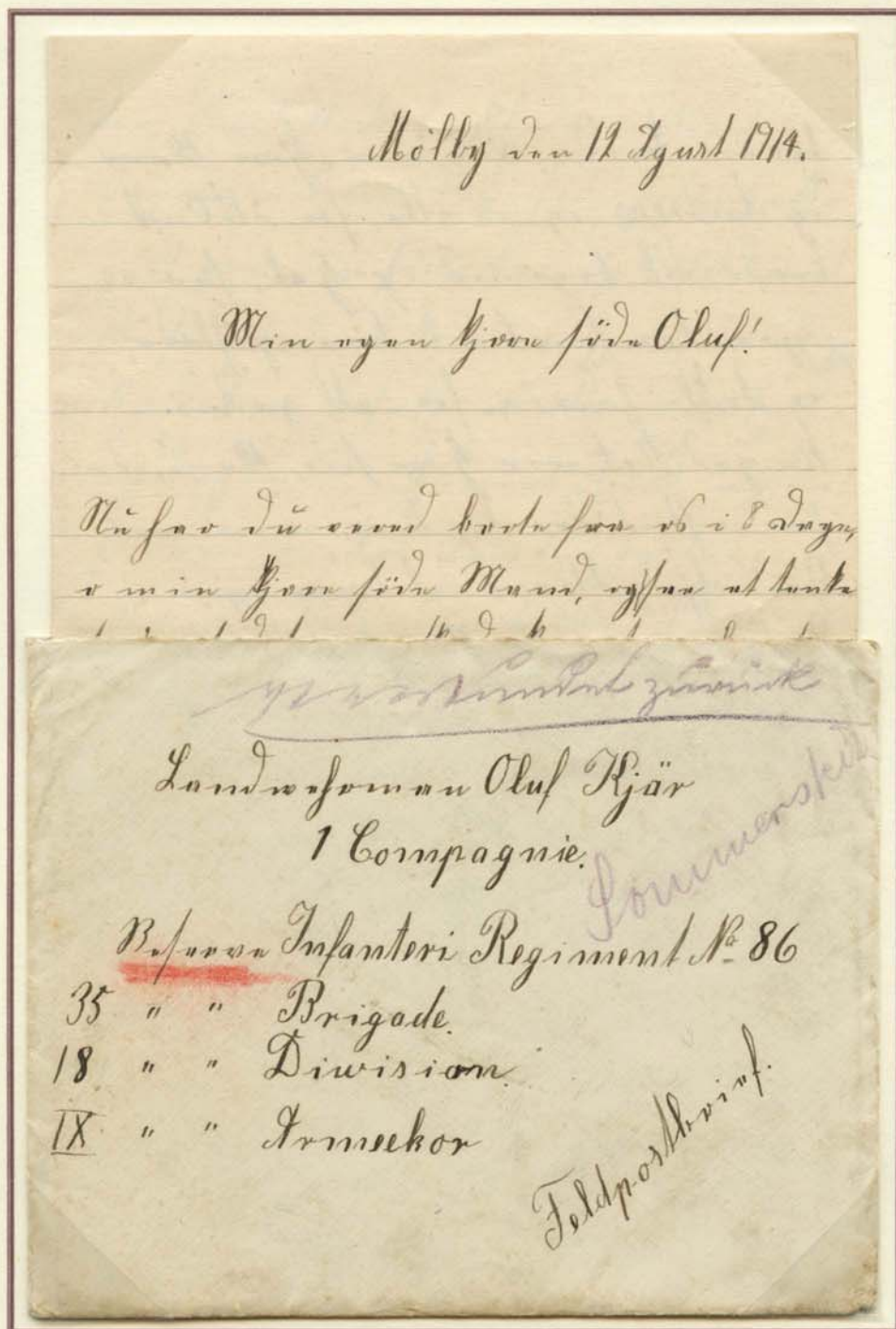
Written in Danish from a daughter to her parents and siblings.

Printer: Th. Möller, Fotograf, Lygumkloster.



16<sup>th</sup> September 1916 - Picture postcard sent from Kongsmark on the island of Röm, 5 Pf. inland postcard rate, to Nordborg with censorship **Ü.K. / Tondern**. Written in Danish.

Printer: W. Schützack, Hadersleben.



**12<sup>th</sup> August 1914** - Entire letter written in Danish from Mølby pr Sommerstedt, without postal markings, inscribed *Feldpostbrief*, sent by a wife to her husband. Marked whereabouts unknown *Züruck*.

War was declared on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1914 and the Sønderjyder, the Danish population of north Germany were quickly conscripted.

**Denmark and the First World War  
Correspondence with Schleswig**

From Aizy near Laon in Picardy  
From Essey et Maizerais in Lorraine

**19<sup>th</sup> September 1914** - Postcard sent from Aizy near Laon in the department of Aisne in the Picardy region of northern France, to Hadersleben, now Haderslev in Denmark.

No obvious censorship; written in German.

Aizy, bei Laon (Picardie)  
den 19. Sept. 1914  
Liebe Eltern!  
Besten Dank für eure letzte  
Post. Strümpfe, Schokolade,  
Briefe und Karten.  
Mir geht es gut; Euch  
hoffentlich auch. Schickt  
bitte Zigarren, Tabak, Ziga-  
retten und Schokolade  
sowie Strümpfe wie früher  
besonders grobe Zigarren  
per Post (nicht Paket)  
Letztes Mal erhielt ich die  
Postkarte gerade aus dem Moment,  
als ich nach 'Lehrstuhl für...' kam.

**4<sup>th</sup> May 1915** - Postcard sent from Essey in the Département Meurthe-et-Moselle, now Essey et Maizerais following the destruction of Maizerais in the First World War. Addressed to Klanxbüll, in Danish Klangsøl, a few kilometres south of the present Danish border. With brigade post mark **Königl. Preuss. Brigade-Ersatz-Bataillon Nr. 6**

Alf. Winkler St. Petersen III  
Garde Ersatz Division  
Levin Ersatz Bataillon Nr. 6  
8. 11. 14  
Ammunition Abteilung  
Liebe Mutter!  
Liebe dir mit Kopf ist mir  
nun immer gut geht es  
ist hier immer so ruhig  
Heute ich habe heute ein  
Paket mitgebracht. Gehe  
Lies dir das Buch von Amman.  
Schildkröte  
Königl. Preuss. Brigade-Ersatz-  
Bataillon Nr. 6  
Essey  
-4.5.15.3-4  
Garde Ersatz Div.  
Peter Petersen  
Westerdeich, Rodenäs  
Klanxbüll, Kreis Sønderborg  
Preuss. Hilfs-König. Infanterie





11<sup>th</sup> May 1915 - Postcard sent from Lassigny in the department of l'Oise in the Picardy region of northern France, to Augustenburg, now Augustenborg on the Island of Als in Denmark. Marked I.B.R.J.R.86. The Schleswigsches Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 86 was raised in Flensburg in early August 1914. After serving as a border guard against invasion from Denmark, between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August the regiment was transported to Belgium. The regiment was involved in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battles of Ypres.



9<sup>th</sup> June 1915 - Postcard sent from Rinkenæs, now Rinkenæs on the Danish border with Germany, to Saarbrücken. Written in German-Danish dialect and addressed to 4. Bornh. 9 Borcherschaft Infanterie-Regiments Nr. 70 II Ersatz Bataillon. The manuscript markings reflect difficulty in locating the addressee.



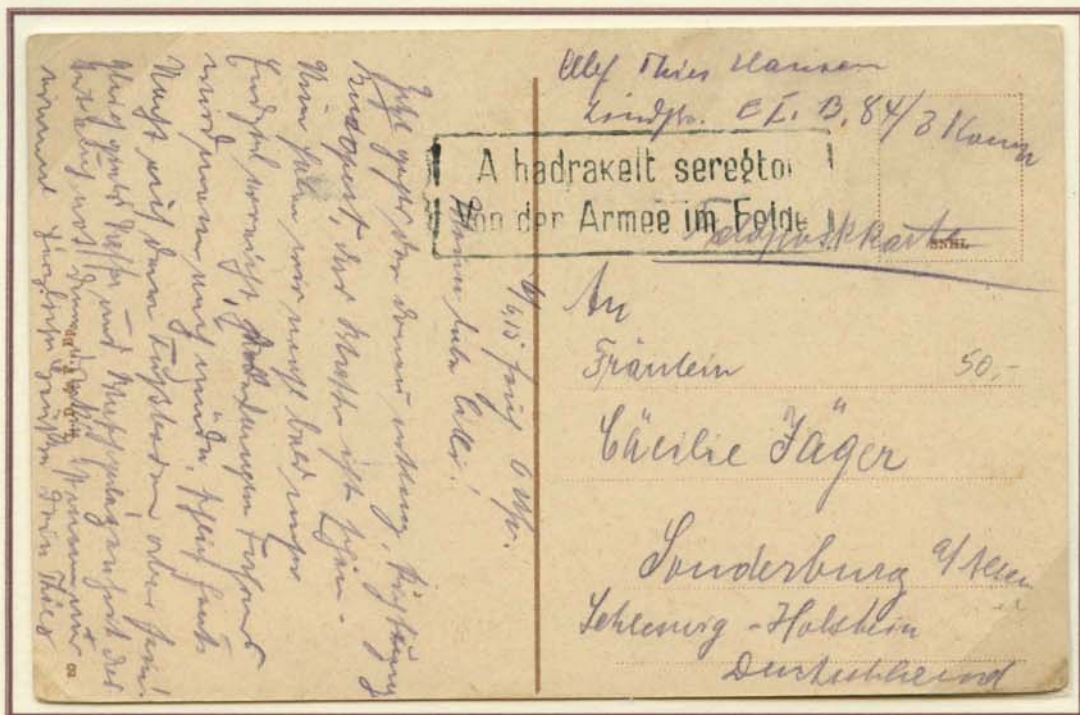
8<sup>th</sup> March 1915 - Picture fieldpostcard sent from Blerancourt to Apenrade with hand stamp K.D.FELD-POSTEXPED. / 18. / IN. DIV. The writer is with the infantry staff and congratulates his girlfriend on her confirmation, writing in Danish. The 'Greetings from the field' shows the Kaiserlich Deutsche Feldpost carriage loading mail from the field post.



3<sup>rd</sup> April 1916 - Feldpostbrief sent from Tondern to Modlin in Poland, cancelled with bridge type TONDERN \* a. The wife writes to her husband that everybody at home is very worried at the rumours that the English will attack from the Danish town of Esbjerg and orders have been received about local mobilisation.



10<sup>th</sup> August 1915 - Feldpostcard sent from Flanders with the **KGL. PREUSS. KRIEGS-LAZ.-APT.**  
No 123 / Briefstempel and hand stamp **K.D.FELDPOSTSTATION No 2.** to Lysabbel on the island of Alsen,  
written in Danish. The photograph shows recovering soldiers (Sønderjyder) with two of their nurses.



6<sup>th</sup> June 1915 - Picture postcard sent from Budapest to Sonderburg with handwritten Feldpostkarte and hand stamp in Hungarian and German - **From the Army in the Field**, written in German.



Photographic postcard, unused, depicting Morten Møller, standing, and a friend.

Such posed photographs were very popular to send to family and friends.

23<sup>rd</sup> March 1916 - Picture postcard sent from Mitau in Russia to Christiansfeld with handwritten *Feldpostkarte* and hand stamp **Kais.Deutsche / Feldpoststation / Nr 214.**, written in German.

Morten Møller writes that the town is nice, and he has just had a meal with some comrades, a small portion of meat and with frozen potatoes.



Mrs. Lundt M. Møller  
Ev. Batt. IX 33 -  
Min kære lille Fen!  
Hva nogle Kammerater  
her i byen der har spind  
vi lidt Offensivt. Kalve  
steg og Kartoffel med  
En meget lille Portion! M.  
Lindbygaard er Kartoffel  
prom. Ellen er all godt  
eftre Omstændigheder  
Her er jo meget nyt at se  
Hvornår her er mest af træ.  
Der er en hel god sø. Under  
de Høder. Der er en Kage  
d. 23. 3. 16. Hver skal Morten

Original-Aufnahme vom Gefreiten W. Sander, Ostl. Kriegsschulplatz

Kais. Deutsche  
Nr 214-25. 3. 16  
Feldpoststation

Feldpost  
Frau Margarete Møller  
Linderbygaard  
for Christiansfeld  
Hans Høderiksen



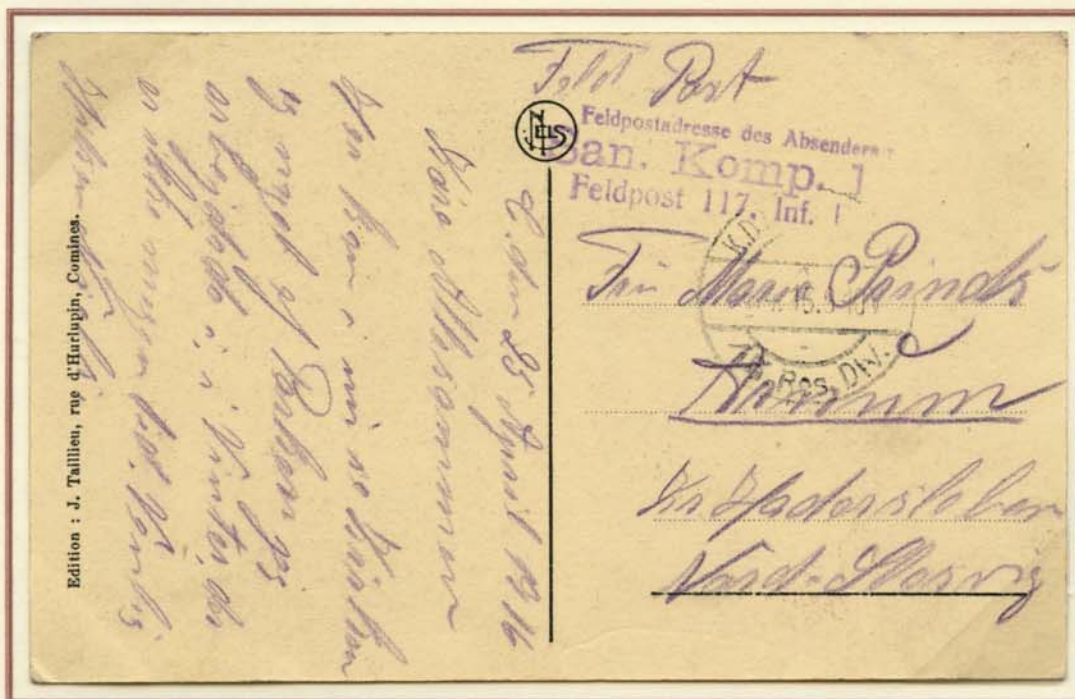
12<sup>th</sup> March 1917 - Picture postcard with handwritten *Feldpost!* from Morten Møller to his wife in Christiansfeld with hand stamp **K.D.Feldpost / c** and troop stamp **S.B. / 16. Kompagnie / L.J.R.84**, written in Danish.

The photographic illustration shows the 'Waldwohnungen'. Printer: **IMBERG & LEFSON G.M.B.H., Berlin S.W.48**

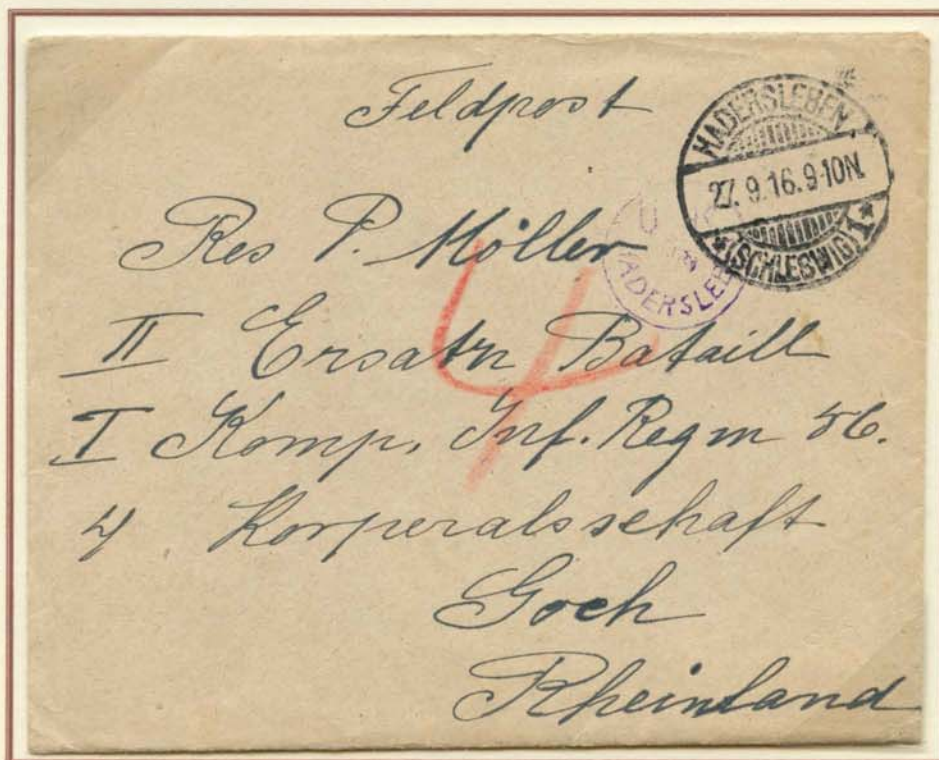
**Military Passport** for August Rasmussen, 40 years old, when he was called up on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1915.

He was with the Landsturm-Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 9, 10 Kompagnie and was awarded the Iron Cross II Class. He was demobilised 10<sup>th</sup> January 1919 having participated in the campaign against Russia.





25<sup>th</sup> April 1916 - Postcard from Comines on the Franco-Belgian border, sent to Hadersleben, now Haderslev in Denmark. Sent through the field post office of the Sanitäts-Kompanie 117. Infanterie Division.



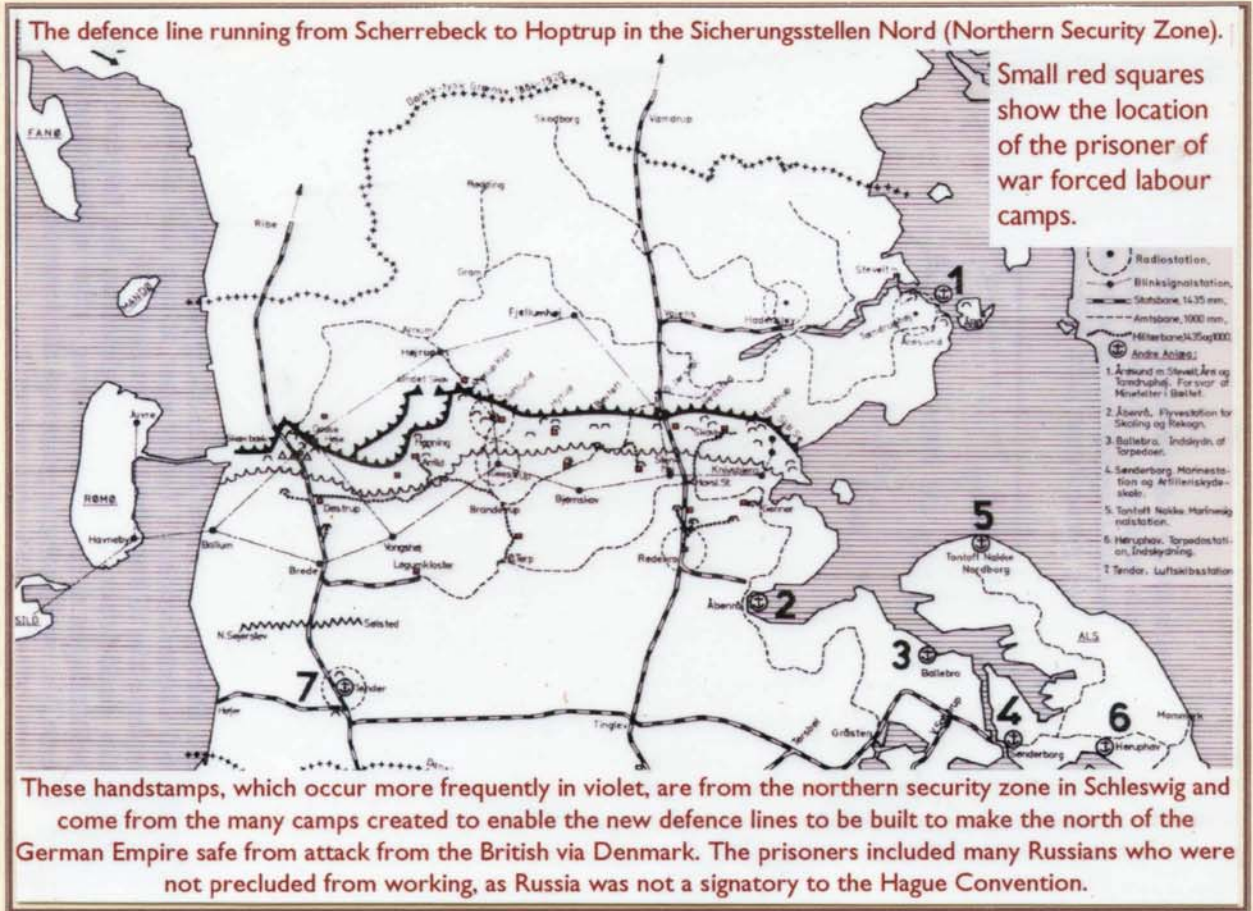
27<sup>th</sup> September 1916 - Envelope with contents written in Danish sent from Hadersleben, and censored there, addressed to II Ersatz-Bataillon Inf.-Rgm. Nr. 56 in Goch on the Germany-Netherlands border.

Jenny Sørensen, writing to her husband-to-be Peter Møller, says "Min egen kære Peter, I dag fik jeg ingen post fra dig ...". My own dear Peter, today I received no letter from you.

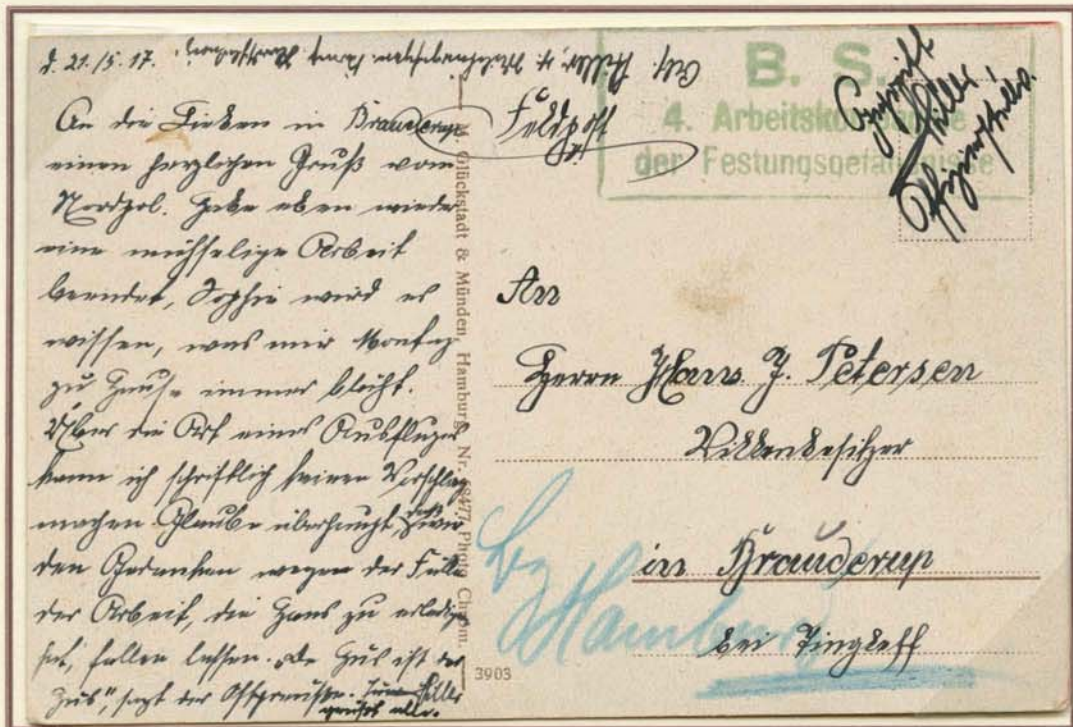
She has received documentation for Danish residence.

**Denmark and the First World War**  
**Militarisation of the border region**

**North Schleswig - Sønderjylland - North Defence Line**  
**Labour POW camps for building defences**



The defence line running from Scherrebeck to Hoptrup in the Sicherungsstellen Nord (Northern Security Zone).



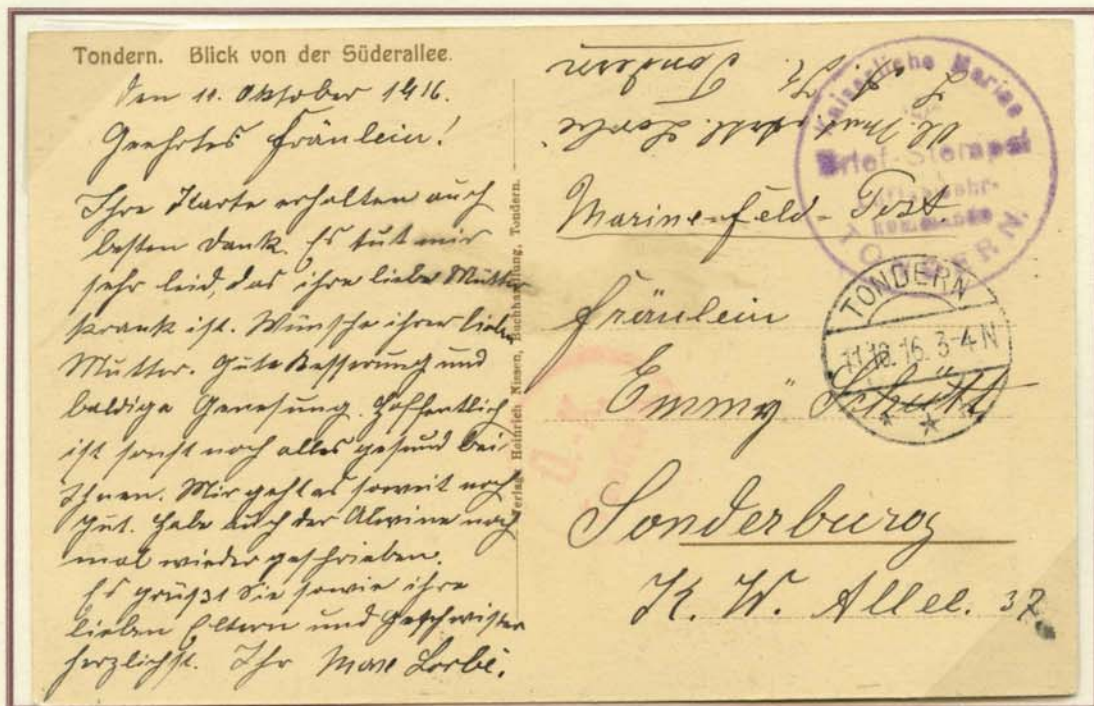
21<sup>st</sup> May 1915 - Field postcard sent to Branderup via Hamburg, Geprüft Hiller, Offizierstelle, with B. S. 4. Arbeitskompanie der Festungsgefängnisse, (Fortifications Prison Work Camp Company).

**Denmark and the First World War**  
**Sønderjylland Zeppelin Base**

Zeppelin base at Tondern to Fuhlsbüttel  
 Zeppelin base at Tondern to Sonderburg



27<sup>th</sup> December 1915 - Field postcard sent from the Zeppelin base at Tondern to Fuhlsbüttel airbase with Bro I-x **TONDERN**. Censored **Geprüft Mar.-Luftschiff-Det.**



11<sup>th</sup> October 1916 - Postcard sent from the Zeppelin base at Tondern to Sonderburg cancelled with Bro IIIb **TONDERN**, also with circular censor stamp **Ü.-K. Tondern** and with circular **Brief - Stempel Kaiserliche Marine Luftabwehr kommando TONDERN** (Imperial Naval Air Defence Command).



## Denmark and the First World War 'Danish' Prisoners of War

Professor Paul Verrier  
H N Rasmussen

**Professor Paul Verrier** (1860-1938) had close ties with Scandinavia through his language and cultural studies, which had led to his interest in Schleswig.

From the outbreak of the war he worked tirelessly to ensure that German prisoners of war with Danish heritage from Sønderjylland would be given similar special treatment as those from Alsace-Lorraine, e.g. permission to write in Danish and work outside the camp. From **May 1915** these prisoners were gathered in the camp at **Aurillac**, where they worked on the local farms. By the autumn of 1918 more than 500 'Danes' were in Aurillac.

Illustration from [www.graenseforeningen.dk](http://www.graenseforeningen.dk) with permission from *Sprogforeningen Folkehjem*.



**21<sup>st</sup> December 1914** - Cover sent from N H Rasmussen Gymnastikhus (gymnastics institute) in Copenhagen **POST FREE / P.C. / PRISONERS OF WAR** to the prisoner of war camp at **Frith Hill** in Surrey. **H N Rasmussen** (1854-1924) organised charity work for Sønderjydske prisoners of war in France and Britain, arranging an extensive network of women to undertake regular letter writing with the prisoners.

**Denmark and the First World War**  
**'Danish' Prisoners of War**

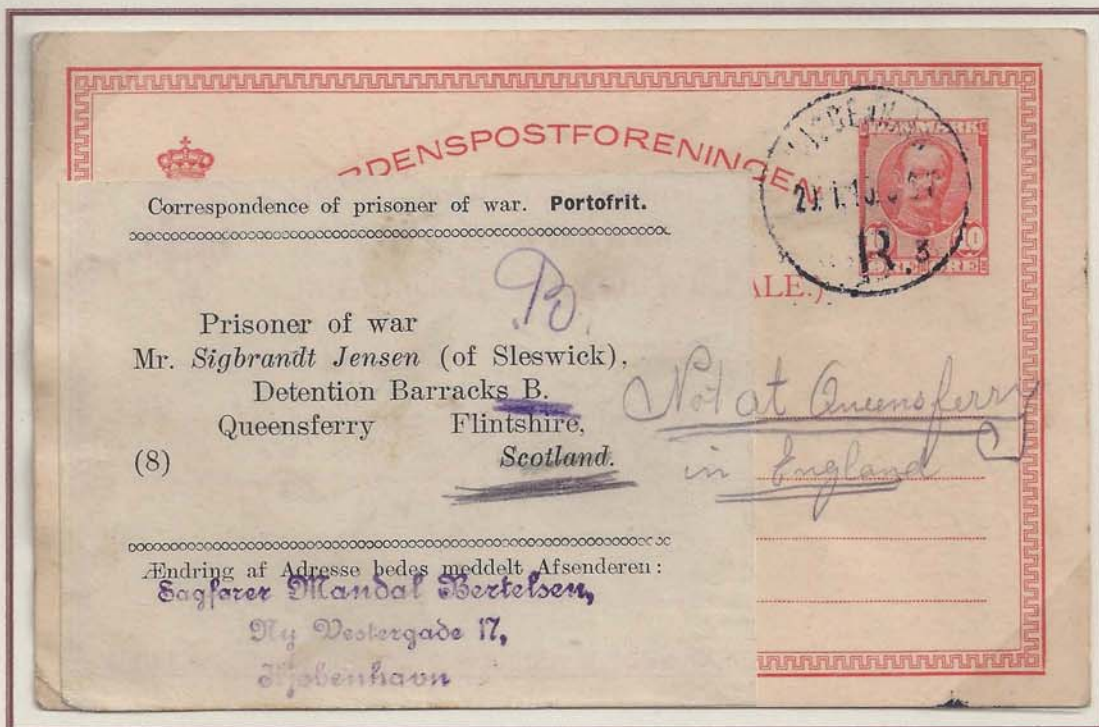
North Schleswig - Sønderjylland - Special POW Camps  
 The special camp at Aurillac in France



**21<sup>st</sup> August 1915** - Envelope sent from København post free to a Danish speaking prisoner of war in France, censored by the Postes et Télégraphes.

Sent 'in the good care of' Professor Paul Verrier who was instrumental in setting up the prisoner of war camps for Danish speakers.

Pre-printed labels addressed 'Prisonnier de guerre (du Slesvig)' were produced in Denmark for supportive correspondence to the prisoners of war.



**20<sup>th</sup> January 1915** – Postcard written in Danish to “Detention Barracjs B, Queensferry, Flintshire, Scotland” without censorship, redirected via Queensferry, England.

Pre-printed label addressed 'Prisonner of War (of Sleswick)' and Portofrit (postage free) although the postal stationery card is correctly prepaid at 10 øre. The writer asks if the recipient would like to receive books in Danish.

**Denmark and the First World War**  
**'Danish' Prisoners of War**

Bressuire Deux Sevres to Hockerup near Apenrade  
 From Copenhagen to Aurillac



**7<sup>th</sup> April 1915** - Postcard sent from Bressuire Deux Sevres in the mid-west of France with illustrated French hand stamp **COMMANDANT DU DEPOT DES PRISONNIERS DE BRESSUIRE \*** to Hockerup near Apenrade, written in German. It also has German hand stamp **NUR PER POSTKARTEN \* CORRESPONDIEREN \* Zwanzig Zeilen Höchstens** (only postcard correspondence / twenty lines at the most). The son is congratulating his widowed mother on her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. He is well and hopes the same for her.



**5<sup>th</sup> November 1917** - Picture postcard sent from Copenhagen to a prisoner of war at École Albert in Aurillac, with French hand stamps **P.G. VISÉ / 13° Region** and **OUVERT / 12 / Par l'AUTORITE MILITAIRE**. The writer is working in the Danish Women's Defence Association preparing Christmas parcels.

**Denmark and the First World War**  
**'Danish' Prisoners of War**

From Odense to Aurillac  
 From Aurillac to Sonderburg



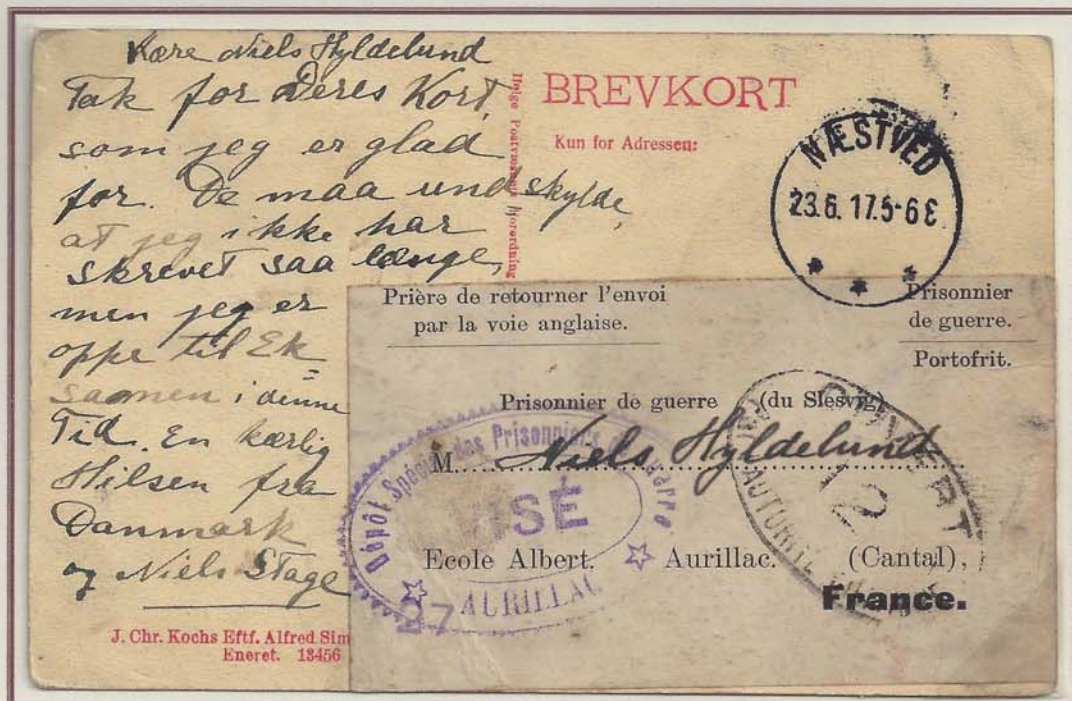
28<sup>th</sup> January 1916 - Picture postcard sent from Odense, posted at the post office at the railway station, ODENSE / JB.P.E., via Paris, PARIS R.P. / 5.II 1916 / ETRANGER, to Aurillac, where it received the hand stamp, **Dépôt Spécial des Prisonniers de Guerre / \* AURILLAC \* / VISÉ**. Also with **T** for tax despite being PoW mail.



30<sup>th</sup> December 1917 - Pre-printed Prisoners of War Correspondence card sent from Aurillac to Sonderburg, with censorship **P. G. VISÉ / 13° REGION** and **Gepprüft. / Überwachungsstelle**. Written in Danish.



Postcard (copy) showing the **École Albert** in 1918, where the Danish Sønderjyder were interned as Prisoners of War.  
 The building still stands today, immediately recognisable,



23<sup>rd</sup> June 1917 - Picture postcard sent from Næstved in Denmark to a Prisonnier de guerre (du Slesvig) at École Albert in Aurillac with **Dépôt Spécial des Prisonniers de Guerre / \* AURILLAC \* / VISÉ** hand stamp and censorship **OUVERT / 12 / Par l'AUTORITE MILITAIRE**.

**Denmark and the First World War**  
**'Danish' Prisoners of War**

From Aurillac to Hoptrup near Hadersleben



Undated picture postcard sent from Aurillac to Hoptrup near Hadersleben with censorship P.G. VISÉ / 13° Région and Geprüft. / Überwachungsstelle, illustrating the farming landscape, where the 'Danes' worked. Written in Danish. Danish PoWs, **Christian Huusmann**, left, and **Jes Lodberg**, right, in front of the staircase at École Albert.





26<sup>th</sup> November 1918 - Patriotic picture postcard sent from Charlottenlund near Copenhagen to Aurillac. Only French censorship P.G. VISÉ / 13<sup>o</sup> Région as the Armistice had come into effect on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918.

*'What we have been longing for has happened and we are all happy and thank God for the final peace, which had to come. Maybe it will soon be Sønderjylland.'*



19<sup>th</sup> January 1919 - Pre-printed Prisoner of War Correspondence card sent from Aurillac to Skovby near Sønderborg, written in Danish. Only French censorship P.G. VISÉ / 13<sup>o</sup> Région due to the Armistice. The son hopes to be home with his family by Easter.

**Denmark and the First World War**  
**"Danish" Prisoners of War**

PoW Azores  
 PoW Toulouse



**6<sup>th</sup> February 1917** - Censored envelope sent from P. Lund, a prisoner of war on the island of Terceira in the Azores to Flensburg, now the most northerly town in Germany close to the Danish border.

Routed via the Red Cross in Geneva and handstamped **DEPÓSITO DE CONCENTRADOS ALEMÃES NA ILHA TERCEIRA**. Portugal entered the war on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1916 and interned in the Azores German and Austrian seamen and residents of the country and its colonies.



**12<sup>th</sup> July 1917** - Pre-printed Prisoner of War postcard, in French, sent from Toulouse to Schaalby in Schleswig, with French and German censorship **DEPOT D'OFFICIERS PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE / Contrôlé / TOULOUSE \*** and **Geprüft. / Überwachungsstelle**, written in German. 'The French government has now lifted the ban on food parcels, so please send food and tobacco.'



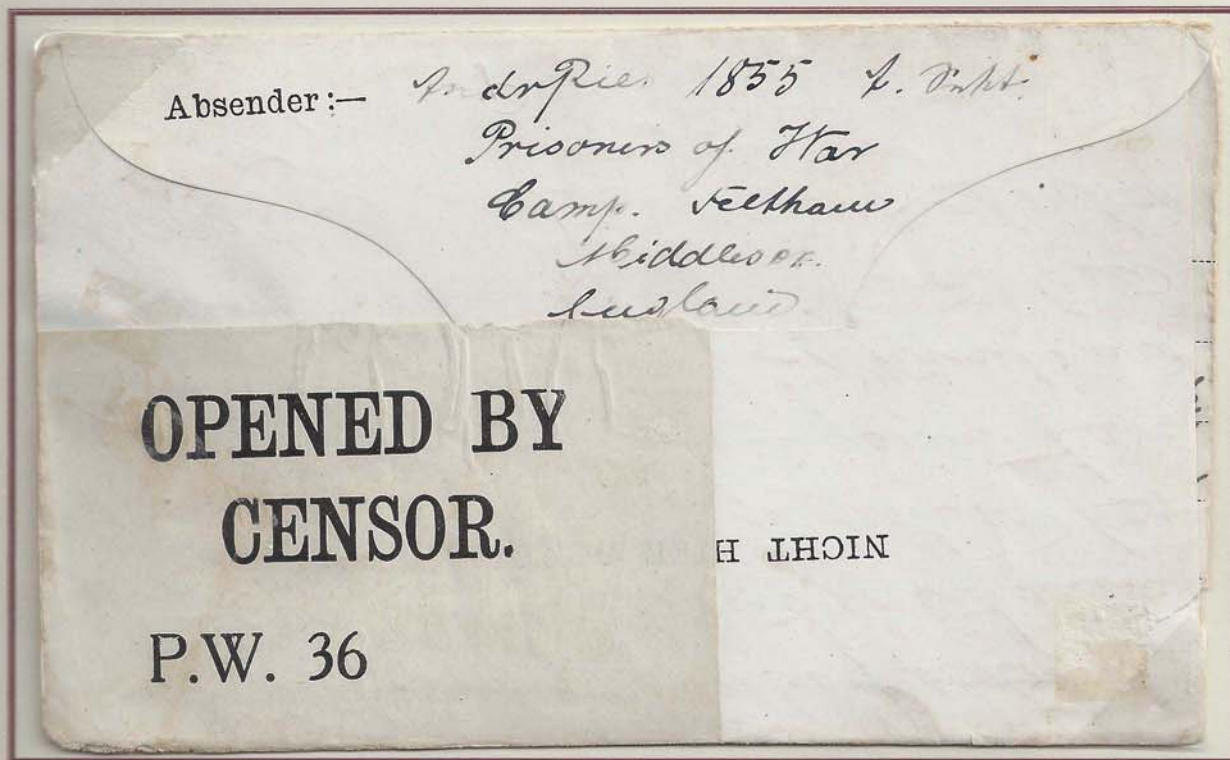


15<sup>th</sup> December 1914 - Cover, marked Kriegsgefangene, sent from Gabel near Hadersleben to the Prisoner of War camp at Templemore in Ireland, with German post office hand stamp GABEL and British censorship POST FREE / P.C. / \* PRISONERS OF WAR \*.



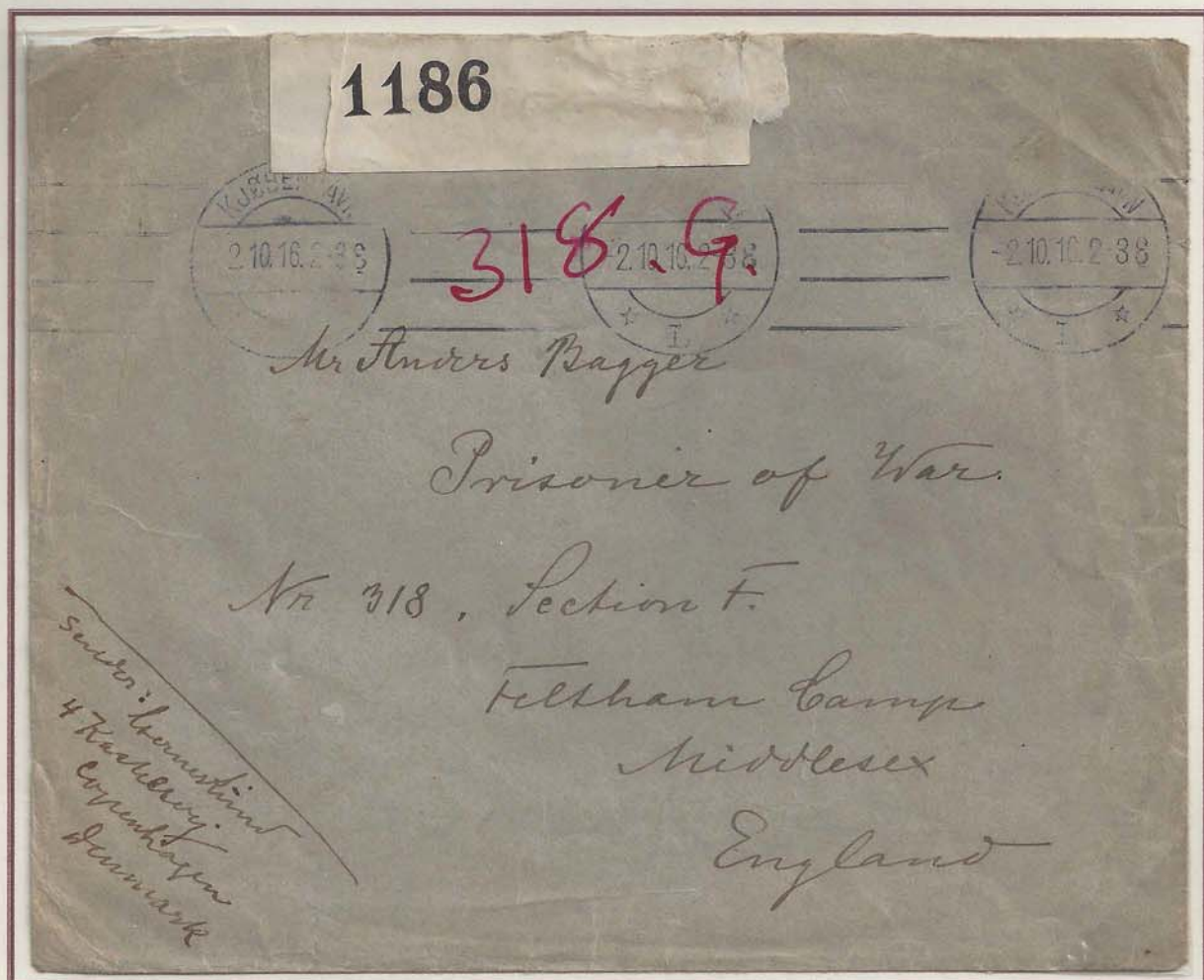
5<sup>th</sup> November 1914 - Cover sent from Ribe to 'Krigsfange' at the camp at Templemore in Ireland at the correct foreign postage rate and Danish cancel. The letter could have been sent free of charge - see above. Also with British censorship P.C. Marked 25 November, so the letter was 20 days under way.

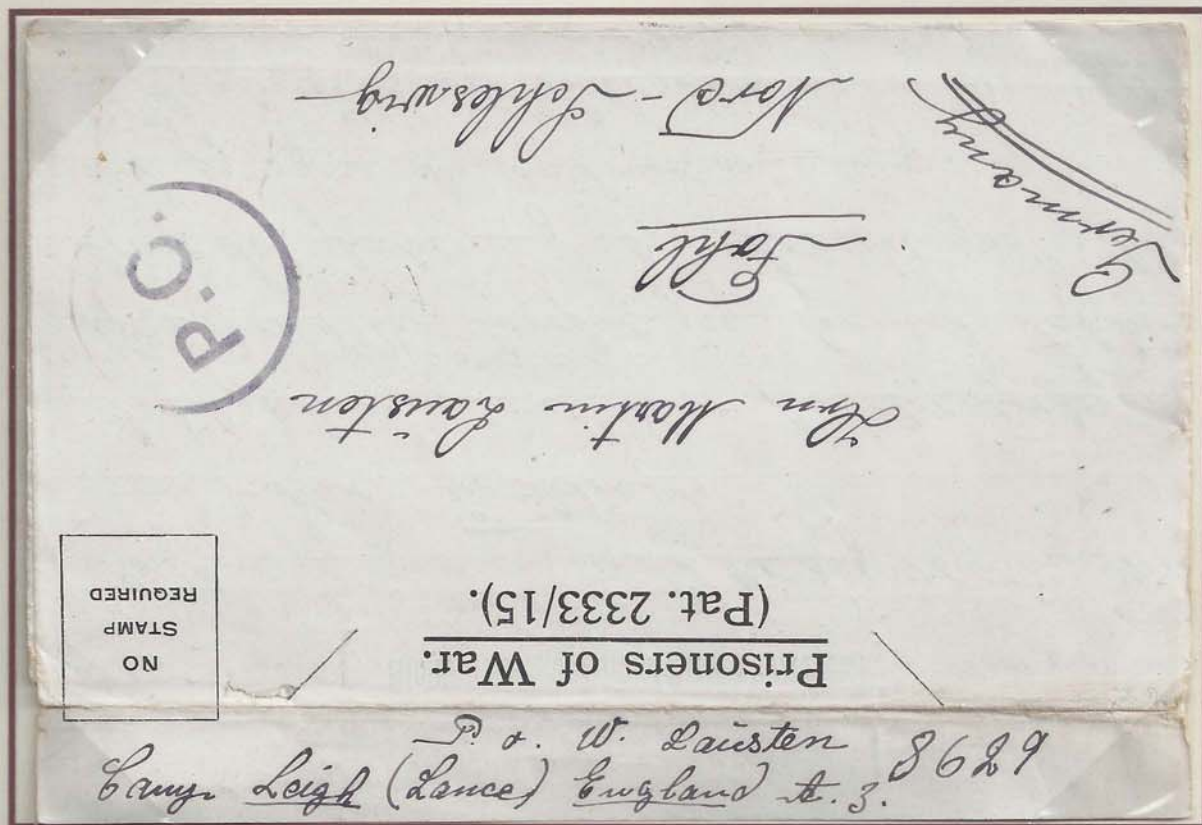




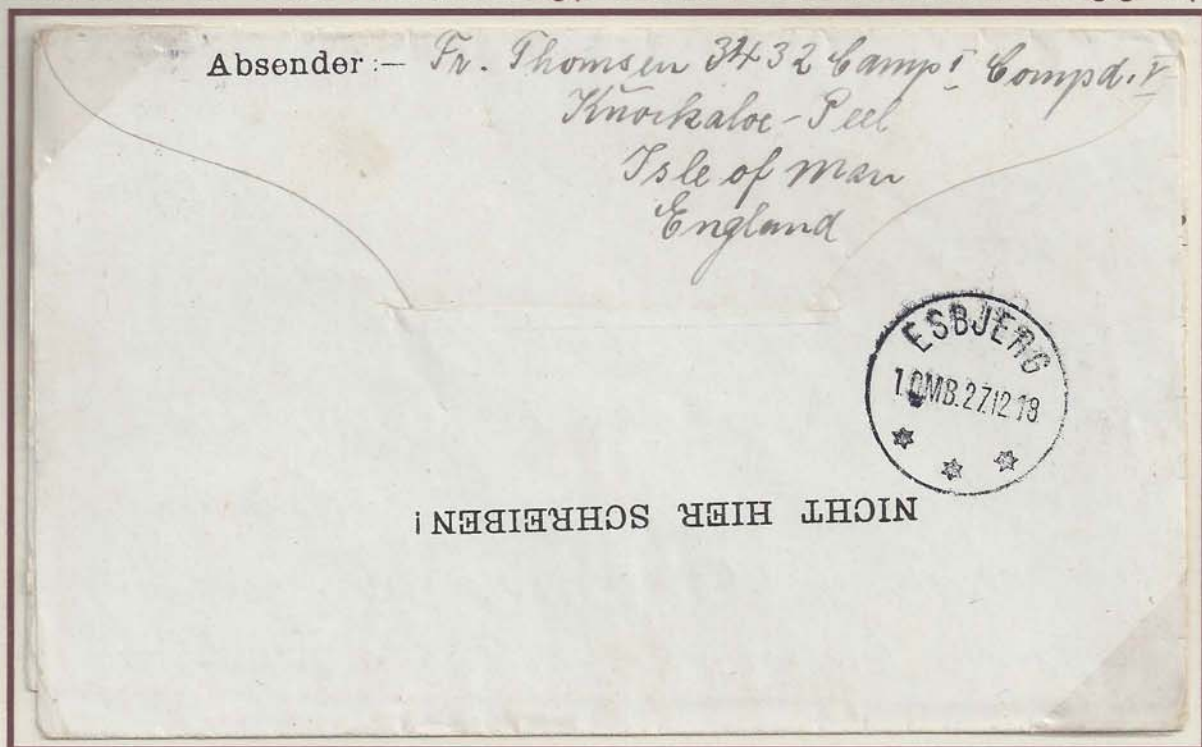
Undated, formal letter, written in Danish on Boxing Day, sent from the Prisoner of War camp at Feltham to Toftlund near Hadersleben with British censorship  
**OPENED BY / CENSOR. / P.W. 36.**

2<sup>nd</sup> October  
1916 - Cover sent from Copenhagen to a Prisoner of War at the Feltham camp, with hand stamp **Kjøbenhavn \* K \*** and British censorship  
**OPENED BY / CENSOR. / 1186.**





16<sup>th</sup> December 1918 - Prisoner of War formula letter (Pat. 2333/15) sent from Camp Leigh in Lancashire, written in Danish, with British P.C. censorship. The son writes to his parents that he did not catch Spanish 'flu. Like Professor Verrier, the Danish seaman's pastor **L A Troensegaard-Hansen** in Newcastle had negotiated special conditions for the 'Danish' POWs, including permission to write in Danish and to engage in paid work



4<sup>th</sup> December 1918 - Pre-printed Prisoner of War formula letter, written in Danish, sent from the camp at Peel on the Isle of Man to a charity organisation in Esbjerg. The writer is German, but a North Schleswiger.

**Denmark and the First World War**  
**Danes in Allied Service**

French Foreign Legion  
 Mogens Birck (1895-1918)  
 Kai Kiær-Andersen (1886-1984)



Grave of Mogens Birck  
 Ambleny Military Cemetery  
 Ambleny, Departement de  
 l'Aisne, Picardie, France

**23<sup>rd</sup> December 1915** - Letter card sent to Copenhagen by Mogens Birck (1895-1918) born in Bredholt, Denmark, a volunteer with the French Foreign Legion, 1ère Cie de mitrailleuses. Killed in action 12<sup>th</sup> July 1918 in the 'Secteur Dommiers - Chaudun'. Censored with handstamp **ÉTAT-MAJOR DE L'ARMÉE-2 BUREAU VISÉ**



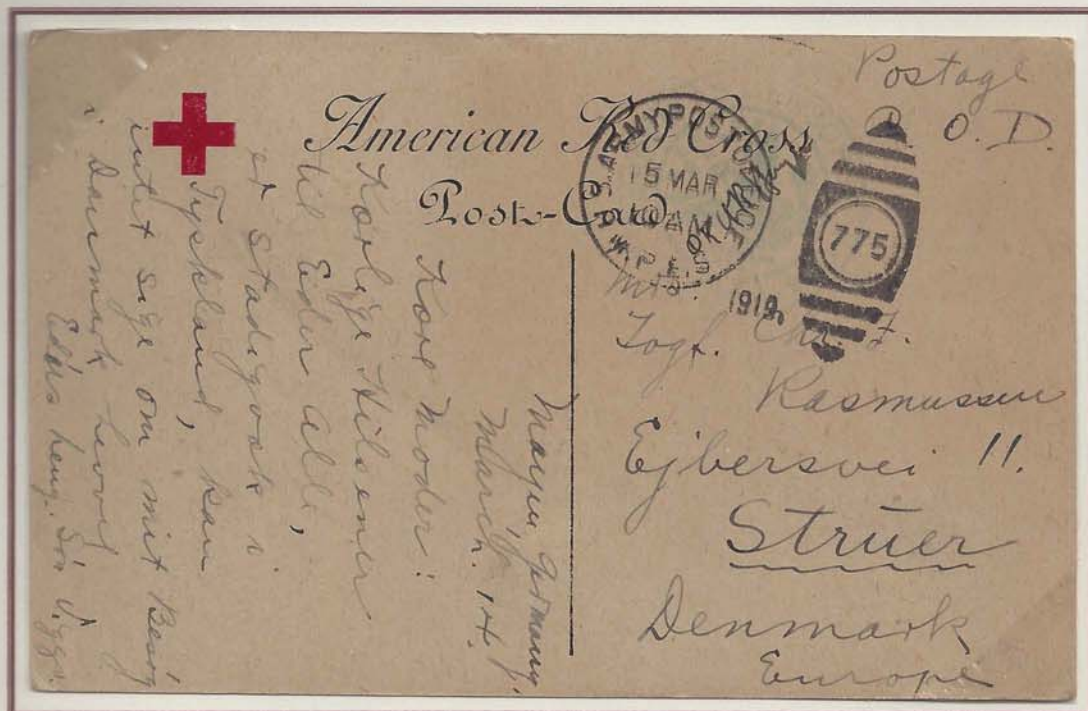
**30<sup>th</sup> August 1917** - Picture Postcard from Aix-les-Bains to Capitaine Kai Andersen (A Dane and an officer in the Foreign Legion 1911-1920 (Algeria, Morocco) and 1914-1918 in the French Army. Handstamped **LÉGION ÉTRANGÈRE SERVICE POSTAL**.

**Denmark and the First World War**  
**Danes in Allied Service**

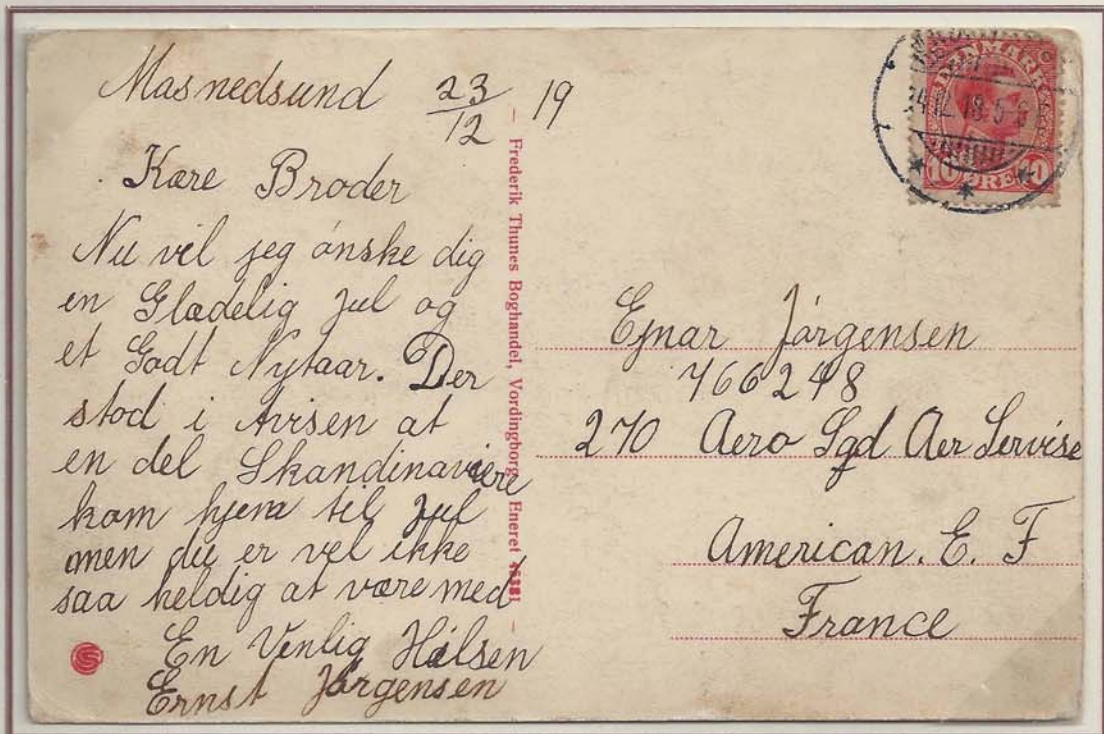
644 Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces  
 American Troops in Parade – PARIS – 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1918



28<sup>th</sup> March 1918 - Envelope sent from J.P.J. Rasmussen, a Danish serviceman with parents in Denmark serving with 644 Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), at Brissoudun airfield in central France. Censored **POSTAL CENSOR WAR OFFICE**, and with American and British resealing tape.



15<sup>th</sup> March 1919  
 American Red Cross Postcard sent from Mayen in Germany to Denmark by the same writer, with indistinct censorship markings dated stamped Army Post Office, M.P.E.S. 775 Type A2101. Image on reverse showing American Troops in Parade – PARIS – 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1918, with manuscript "Amerikansk Tropper i Parade", Amerikas Frihedsdag.



23<sup>rd</sup> December 1918 - Postcard sent to Einar Jørgensen serving with 270 Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), at Colombey-les-Belles airfield in northern France. His brother sends Christmas and New Year greetings. No censorship marks.



3<sup>rd</sup> January 1915 - Envelope sent from Egypt to Copenhagen with two 5 Mils stamps, marked "fra Carl og Ernek Janssen i Lejren i Ægypten" and datestamped 1<sup>ST</sup> AUST. INF. BDE. FIELD P.O. Carl died on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1915 and Ernek on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1915, both brothers were in the same boat on 25<sup>th</sup> April in the first landings at Gallipoli, where Carl was fatally injured by shrapnel on the beach.

**Denmark and the First World War  
Danes in Allied Service**

ANZAC Forces  
Danish immigrant to New Zealand  
Died at the Somme



**7<sup>th</sup> February 1916** - Postcard written in Danish sent from Carlottenlund in Denmark to Waitara in the Taranaki Region of New Zealand, redirected to Wellington.

Marked **DECEASED** and returned to Denmark marked **Chlund** for Charlottenlund.

Kaj Topp was born on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1891, died on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1916 at the Somme, and was buried at Cité Bonjean Military Cemetery at Armentières. Aged 20 he arrived in Australia on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1911. Moving to New Zealand he joined the Wellington Infantry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion leaving New Zealand on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916.

The contemporary card below shows the original grave.



Grave of Kaj Topp  
at Cité Bonjean  
Military Cemetery at  
Armentières







In the autumn of 1916 the International Red Cross in Geneva asked the Danish Red Cross to set up two repatriation camps, where severely wounded Germans and Austro-Hungarians held in Siberia, and similar Russians held in Germany and Austria-Hungary, could be interned and medically cared for until they were well enough to return to their respective homelands. Russians at this time included Latvians and Ukrainians as well as nationalities from other parts of the Russian Empire.

Special printed stationery was also provided for the internees. Krigsfangelejr No. 1, for Russian internees, was built at Horserød, a small village 8 kilometres west of Helsingør in the northern part of the island of Sjælland (Zealand). The prisoners travelled by ship from Stettin in north Germany to Helsingør, where they were taken care of by the Danish Red Cross and brought to the camp.

On 1<sup>st</sup> May, the first 150 Russian prisoners of war arrived on the German hospital ship *Imperator* at Helsingør, from the German town of Sassnitz. They were transported to Horserød by car. From May 1917 until the summer of 1918, a total of around 2,300 Russians were interned in Horserød. Of these, 58 died and are buried in Hornbæk Cemetery, where a monument was erected in 1918.

The camps were given postal cancellers, 'No. 1' at Horserød in Zealand for Russian prisoners and 'No. 2' at Hald near Viborg in Jutland for German prisoners.

**20<sup>th</sup> May 1917** - Official Red Cross envelope sent to København marked for the Lithuanian Department. On the reverse Horserød. данія (Denmark), and on the front Почта Военнопленный (Prisoner of war mail). Dated stamped KRIGSFANGELEJR No. 1 DANMARK, a very early usage.



6<sup>th</sup> July 1917 - Envelope sent from Hald Camp to Hungary.  
Date stamped KRIGSFANGELEJR No. 2 DANMARK, with manuscript *Ungarn* and *Krigsfangeforsendelse*. Prisoner of War Mail. Marked **Bibliotek der öst. Ung. Offiziergruppe. Lazaretlejren. Hald.** (Library of the Austro-Hungarian Officers Group, Hospital Camp. Hald.)



20<sup>th</sup> February 1918 - Picture postcard sent from Hald Camp to Hungary.  
Date stamped KRIGSFANGELEJR No. 2 DANMARK, with manuscript *Ungarn* and *Krigsfangeforsendelse*. Prisoner of War Mail.



**31<sup>st</sup> December 1917** - Envelope sent from Odense to Ringe Station with 10 øre Christian X. Censored *Censureret F* used in Odense from November 1915 until April 1918. Manuscript on reverse: *Afs. Overmatros Kuhmann, Odense interniert.*

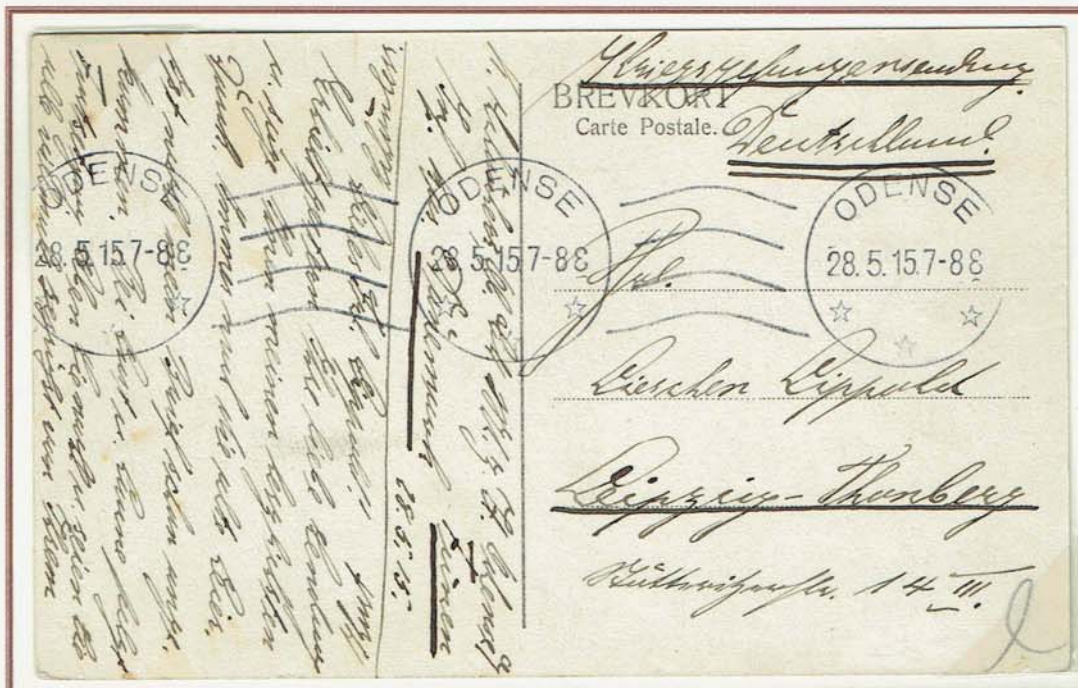
On 1<sup>st</sup> September four small German ships, *Admiral von Schröder*, *Rintelen*, *Heinrich Bruns* and *Crefeld* were stranded on the west Jutland coast at Gamle Bjerregård near Ringkøbing after an attack by eight British destroyers. About 100 crewmen survived and were interned at Odense. Neither of the senders of these two items are listed on the airship rosters, and must be presumed to be sailors from the grounding on the Danish West Coast.



**11<sup>th</sup> September 1918** - Picture postcard (German troops in Finland) sent from Odense to Odder in eastern Jutland. Censored with oval *DANSK MILITÆRCENSUR KOMMANDANTEN IN ODENSE*. Manuscript *Afs. Matros Wilh. Ribke Tysk Marine Interniert: Odense.*

**Denmark and the First World War**  
**The Zeppelin Airbase at Tondern**

German Internee in Odense, Denmark  
 Zeppelin Crash at Fanø beach, Denmark, 17<sup>th</sup> February 1915



**28<sup>th</sup> May 1915** - Postcard written in German sent from Kurt Schönherr interned in Odense, Denmark to Leipzig-Thonberg in Germany. Marked *Kriegsgefangensendung Deutschland*. He was the steersman on Zeppelin L3 which made a forced landing on the Island of Fanø on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1915. Zeppelin L3 was the German Imperial Navy's third airship. When the First World War began, it was the only airship in the navy. L3 carried out the first German raid on England, including bombing Great Yarmouth on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1915.



**Zeppelin L3 on the beach at Fanø, Denmark on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1915.**

Despite a hard landing the crew escaped uninjured. The Captain, Hans Fritz, first burned the ships' papers and then set his airship on fire with a signal gun. The crew were detained in Odense for the rest of the war.



**17<sup>th</sup> November 1915** - Envelope sent from New York to Odense in Denmark with 5 cent George Washington adhesive cancelled **HAMILTON GRANGE** and date stamped **NEW YORK, N.Y. STA NOV 17 1030 AM 1915**.

Censored *Censureret* used in Odense from November 1915 until April 1918 and found usually in red. Endorsed *pr S.S. United States* which departed New York on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1915.

On reverse København arrival cds for 1<sup>st</sup> December 1915.

17<sup>th</sup> February 1915 the German Imperial Navy's third airship, L3, was forced down by strong headwinds and the failure of two engines on the Danish Island of Fanø. The vessel was destroyed by its commander with a signal gun, and the crew of sixteen were interned at Odense for the duration of the war from February 1915 until 14<sup>th</sup> November 1918.

The addressee, Conrad Schoenwälder was one of those interned. He married a Danish girl and remained in Denmark after the war.

A second airship, the L4, was forced by weather to land at the same time at Blåvands Huk.

The Scandinavian-America Line was formed in 1898 as the Skandinavien-Amerika Linien, when the Union Steam Ship Company took over the Thingvalla Line together with four of their ships. The Union Steam Ship Company had run services on the North Sea, Baltic and Mediterranean and in 1895 had started a cargo service between Denmark and the US Gulf of Mexico. They began passenger sailings to New York in 1898 and continued until 1935 when the passenger trade declined due to the depression.

Cargo services and North Sea passenger services continued under the name DFDS Seaways.

**Denmark and the First World War**  
Internment camps

The crew of the submarine E13  
København, Roskilde, Aarhus



**10<sup>th</sup> May 1916** - Envelope from Buncrana, sent via Londonderry, to Lt. Paul L. Eddis RN Admiralty London, readdressed *Interned in Denmark c/o GPO* and censored **POST FREE P.C. PRISONER OF WAR**.

Buncrana is on Lough Swilly, now in Eire, and was a submarine base for the Royal Navy in WWI. Lt. Eddis was a member of the crew of the submarine E13 stranded on Saltholm on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He later escaped from Aarhus in a tallow barrel, and returned home via Sweden.

Received in København K and marked on reverse with machine canceller **KJØBENHAVN 50 OMB27.5.16** and manuscript *Orlogsvæftet C*, added and struck out. Readdressed again from **KJØBENHAVN C 28th May 1916** to *Aarhus, Engelsk Krigsfangelejr 1916*.

Manuscript pencil mark *10/6-16*, being the date of arrival or reply.



After being interned in the naval dockyard at København, the crew were transferred briefly to Roskilde, and then to Aarhus on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1916. Most of them remained there until the armistice in November 1918 together with three Sopwith Camel pilots, who landed in Denmark in 1918 after a raid on the Zeppelin air base in Tønder.



c.20<sup>th</sup> June 1917 - Envelope sent to the Danish Red Cross from Horserød internment camp in Denmark with **ЛАГЕРНЫЙ HORSERØD КОМИТЕТЪ** (Horserød Camp Committee) cachet.

Russian prisoners of war working on the 'Sicherungsstellen Nord' (Northern Security Line) and the occasional German soldier crossed the border into Denmark, where they were interned either in Horserød or Hald.



25<sup>th</sup> August 1917 - German internee postcard sent from Hald to Bergen on the island of Rügen, with **KRIEGSFANGEFORSENDELSE** (Prisoner of War Correspondence) and cachet Internierungslager „Hald“ bei Viborg auf Jütland Dänemark.

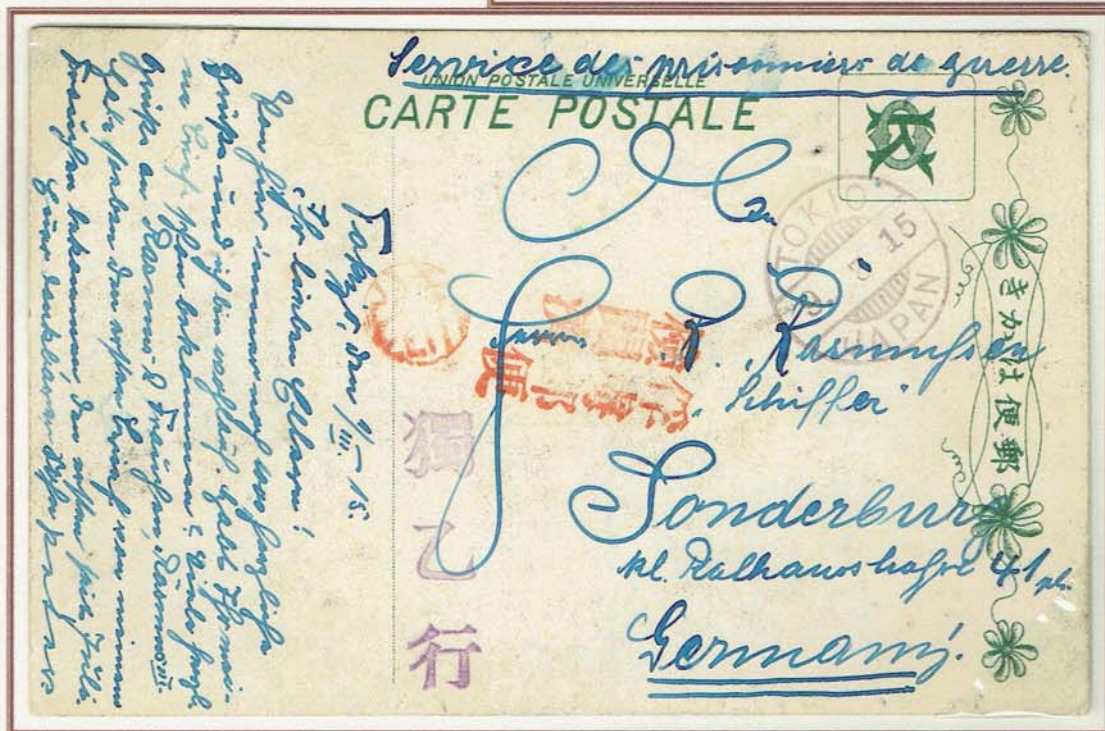
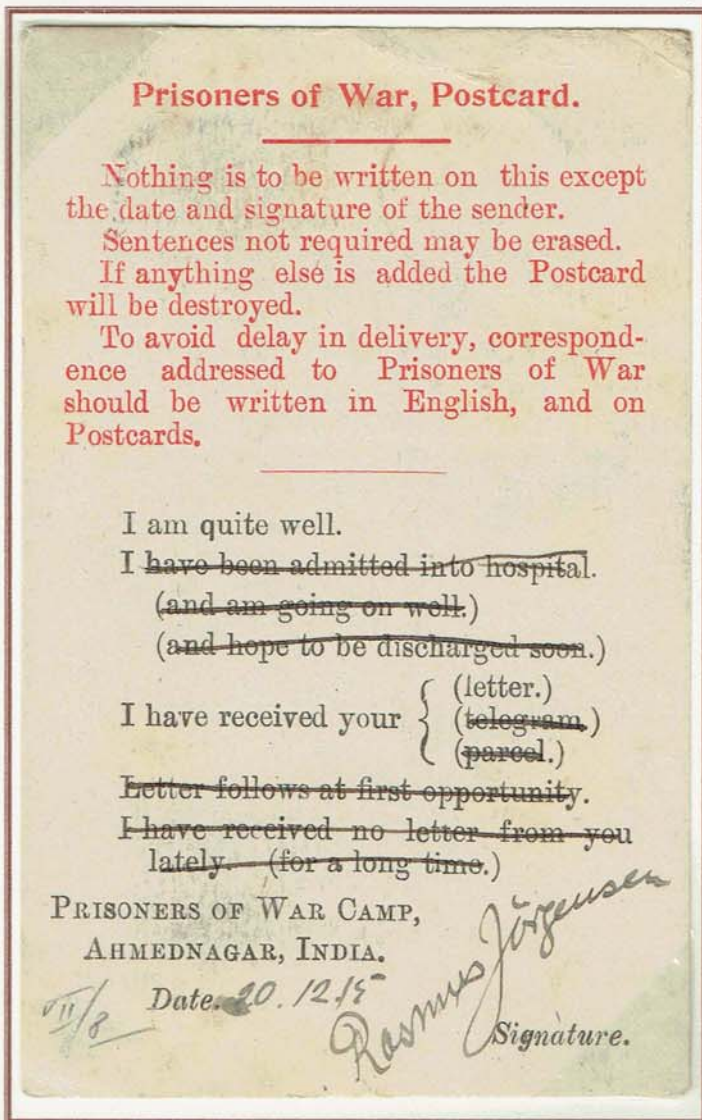
**Denmark and the First World War  
'Danish' Prisoners of War**

Ahmednagar in India  
PoW Camp, Japan

20<sup>th</sup> December 1915 - Pre-printed Prisoner of War postcard sent from the Camp at Ahmednagar in India to Breklum in North Friesland in Schleswig, with British censorship **POST FREE / PRISONERS OF WAR / \* P.C. \*** and 20 DEC. 1915.

9<sup>th</sup> March 1915. - Picture postcard, the Shrine at Kameido in Tokyo, sent by a prisoner of war to his parents in Sonderburg, with Japanese censorship markings in red and hand stamp **TOKYO / 9.3.15 / JAPAN**. The vertical Japanese characters in violet read Germany.

The card is marked *Service des prisonniers de guerre* and thus was free of charge.





**Denmark and the First World War**  
The Danish Red Cross

Red Cross Parcel from Bützow via Hamburg  
Red Cross Parcel from Münchhof via Hamburg

28<sup>th</sup> June 1915  
Duty Free Parcel  
Card sent to the  
Danish Red  
Cross

**Abchnitt. Coupon.**  
Kann vom Empfänger abgetrennt werden.  
Peut être détaché par le destinataire.

**BÜTZOW**  
15. 10. 11 V  
C

Deutsch **958** **Bützow** | 439

Anbei **1 Paket**  
Ci-joint **1 Linné**

Wertangabe  
Valeur assurée

An **das Dänische Rote Kreuz**  
À **Copenhague.**  
(Bestimmungsort) in **(Danmark)**  
(Lieu de destination) à  
Wohnung **(Danmark)**  
(Straße und Hausnummer)

Postgewicht **5** kg  
Poids

Zollgebühren.\*  
Droits de douane.

Postvermerk:  
Acheminement:

**HAMBURG**

**Toldfrit**

**487**

**HAMBURG**

\*) Von der Grenz-Eingang-Postanstalt des Bestimmungslandes auszufüllen.  
(\*) Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrée du pays de destination.

29<sup>th</sup> June 1915  
Duty Free Parcel  
Card sent to the  
Danish Red  
Cross in  
Copenhagen  
marked **Züruch**  
(Returned) and  
struck out.

**Abchnitt. Coupon.**  
Kann vom Empfänger abgetrennt werden.  
Peut être détaché par le destinataire.

**MÜNCHHOF**  
29.6.15.2-3N  
(HARZ)

82 \* **Münchhof**  
(Harz) | 1268

Anbei **1 Paket**  
Ci-joint

Wertangabe  
Valeur assurée

Nachnahme  
Remboursement

An **Le Rote Kreuz danoise**  
Agence des prisonniers de guerre  
**Copenhague.**  
(Bestimmungsort) in **(Danmark)**  
(Lieu de destination) à  
Wohnung  
(Straße und Hausnummer)

Postgewicht **1 kg 300g**  
Poids

Zollgebühren.\*  
Droits de douane.\*

Postvermerk:  
Acheminement:

**HAMBURG**

**Toldfrit**

**HAMBURG**

\*) Von der Grenz-Eingang-Postanstalt des Bestimmungslandes auszufüllen.  
(\*) Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrée du pays de destination.

**ZÜRUCH**

**HAMBURG**

**Denmark and the First World War**  
**The Danish Red Cross**

Red Cross Letter from Shugan in Russia  
 Red Cross Letter from Riga, then in Russia

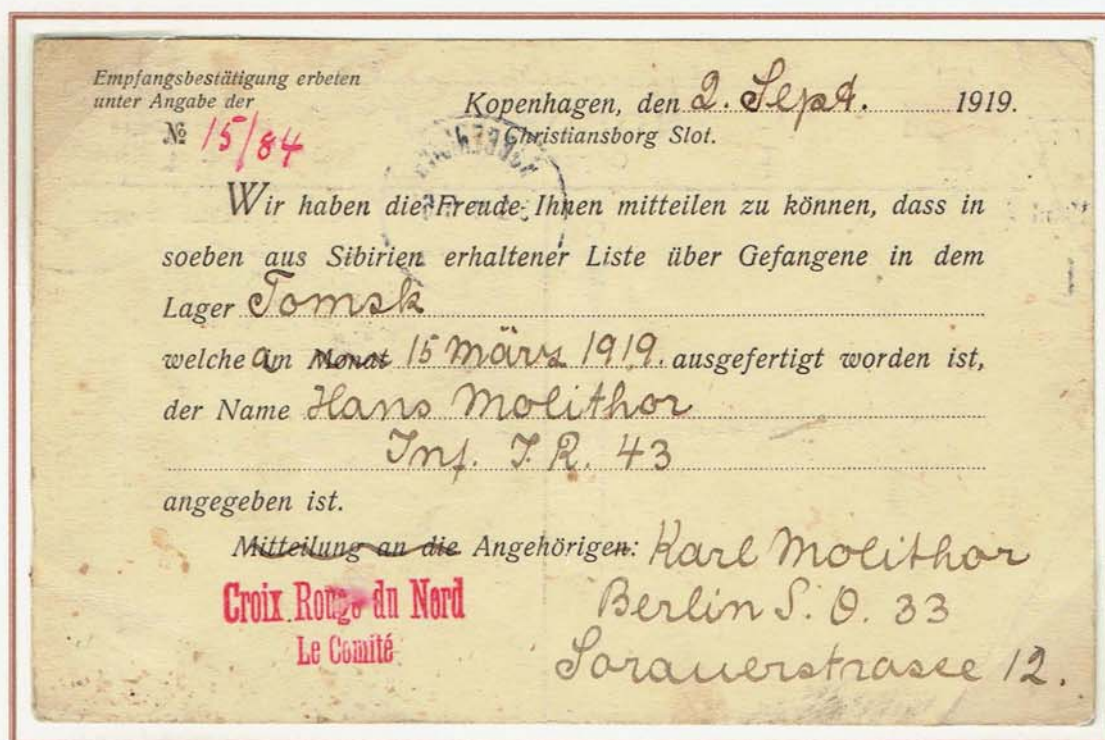
12<sup>th</sup> October  
 1917 - Envelope  
 sent to the Danish  
 Red Cross from  
 ШУГАН (Shugan)  
 censored in  
 Петроградская  
 (Petrograd).



26<sup>th</sup> May 1916  
 Envelope sent  
 the Danish Red  
 Cross from  
 Рига (Riga)  
 censored in  
 Петроградск  
 (Petrograd)

Denmark and the First World War  
The Danish Red Cross

Prisoners of War in Siberia  
Croix Rouge Danoise à Paris



3<sup>rd</sup> September  
1919 - Preprinted  
postcard for the  
Société de la Croix  
Rouge du Nord.  
Handstamped, Brief  
und Postkarten an  
Kriegsgefg. in  
Sibirien werden  
taxfrei über  
Nordkors  
weiterbefördert.  
This is a notice via  
the Red Cross in  
Copenhagen that  
Hans Molithor is  
alive and in a camp  
in Tomsk.



24<sup>th</sup> November 1919 - Double weight envelope headed Croix Rouge Danoise à Paris  
sent to General Johan Frederik Hegerman-Lindencrone.

**Denmark and the First World War**  
**Volunteer Nurses**

Danish Volunteer Nurses in France and Belgium

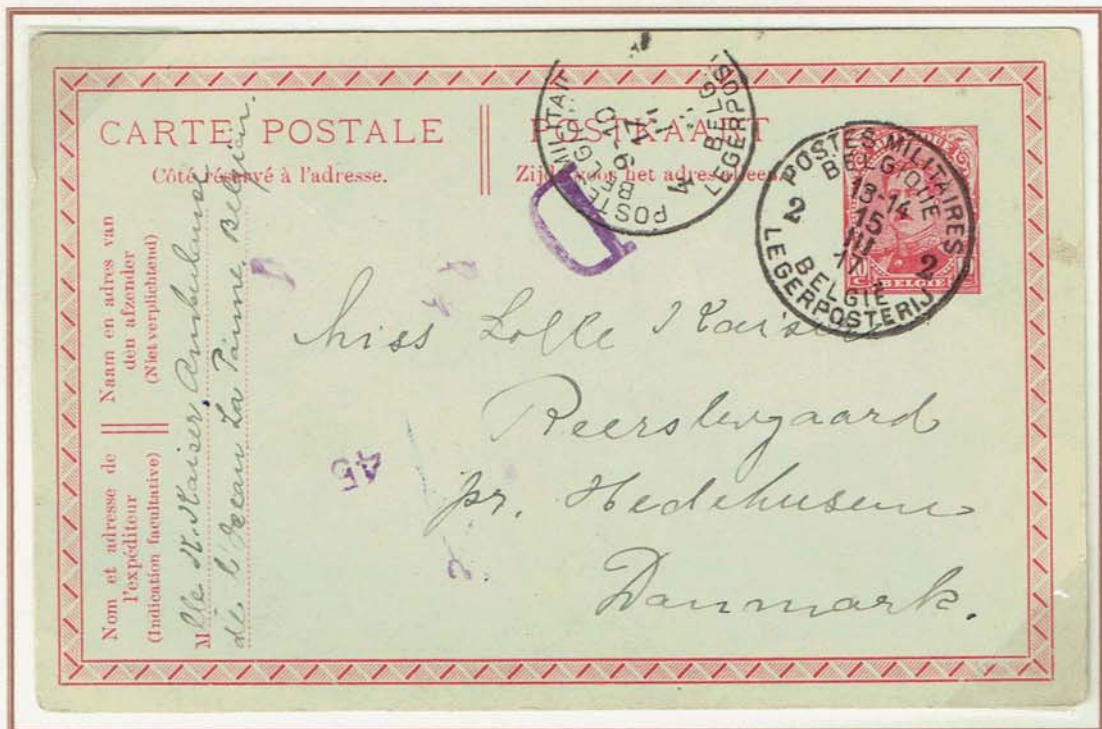


Denmark provided a significant number of volunteer doctors and nurses, who worked in hospitals and ambulance units, mainly behind the lines on the Allied side.

The Red Cross Hospital in De Panne L'Ocean (below) was set up in December 1914 and closed on October 15th 1919, remaining open to treat victims of the Spanish 'flu epidemic.

It treated more than 24,000 wounded soldiers and was staffed by nurses from Great Britain, Canada, the United States and Denmark.

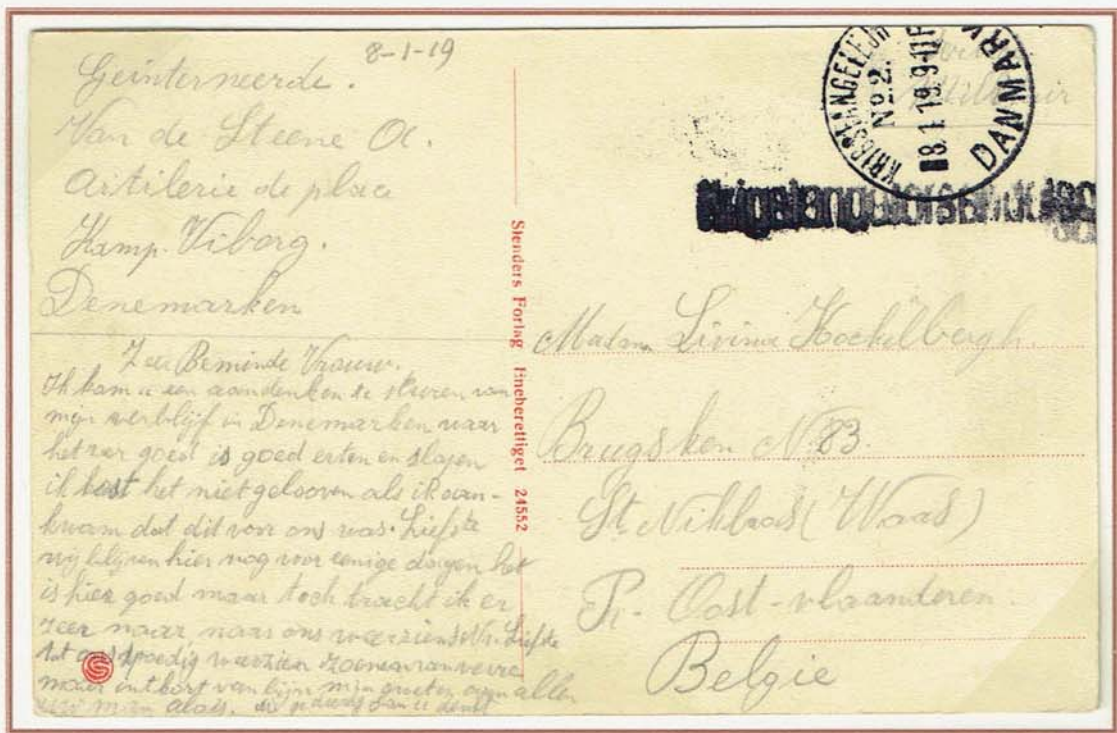
**31<sup>st</sup> August 1916** - Envelope sent from Kolding to Paris.  
 Censored by the French military authorities. Addressed: *Sygeplejerske Mademoiselle F Ramsing, Mission Danoise*



**15<sup>th</sup> March 1917** - Postal stationery card sent from Belgium to Denmark.  
 Marked **D** for Danish. Return address: *Ambulance de L'Ocean La Panne, Belgium.*

**Denmark and the First World War  
Correspondence with Belgium and France**

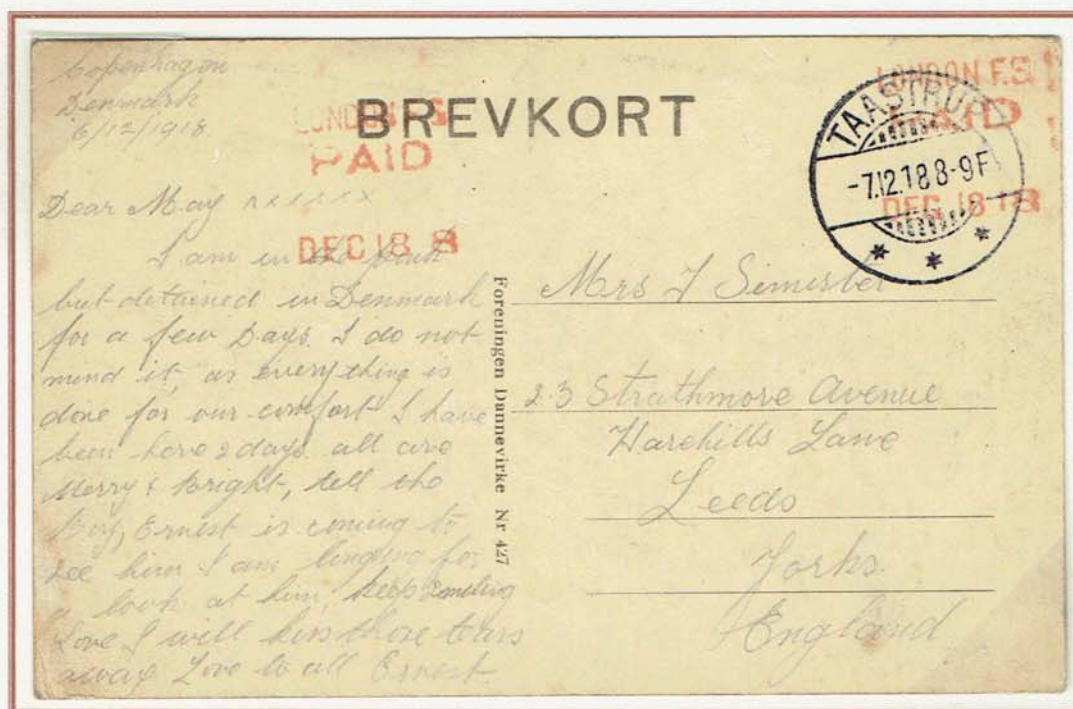
Viborg in Denmark to Sint-Niklaas in Oost-Vlaanderen  
Honfleur to Capitaine Harrel in Denmark



8<sup>th</sup> January 1919 - Postcard sent from Viborg in Denmark to Sint-Niklaas in Oost-Vlaanderen. Marked KRIGSFANGERFORSENDELSE and datestamped KRIGSFANGELEJR No. 2 from the Hald camp, where returning prisoners of war transitted Denmark from the east of Germany.

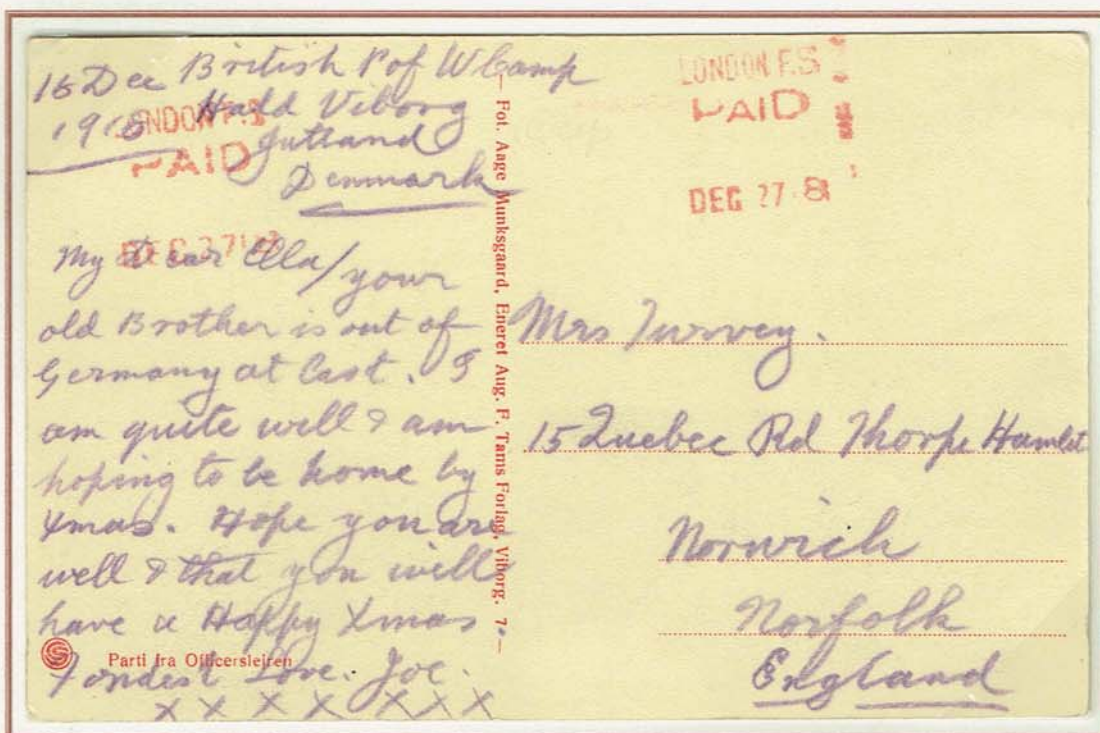


15<sup>th</sup> January 1919 - Postcard sent from Honfleur to Capitaine Harrel, (Viggo Oscar Harrel 1882-1884) Camp de Horserød, par Helsingør, Danemark: *Meilleur souvenir à nos excellents amis du Danmark.* Lieutenant Fremont, the writer, is presumed to have transitted Horserød during his return to France.



7<sup>th</sup> December 1918 - Picture postcard (Greve military camp) sent from Taastrup to Leeds.  
Machine postmarked LONDON F.S. PAID. Manuscript: Copenhagen Denmark 6/12/1918.

In the winter of 1918-19, after the end of World War I, 100,000 French, Italian, German, British and Russian soldiers transited through Denmark en route home from camps in Russia and the Eastern Front.



18<sup>th</sup> December 1918 - Picture postcard (Hald military camp) sent from Viborg to Norwich.  
Machine postmarked LONDON F.S. PAID.  
Manuscript: British P. of W Camp Hald Viborg Jutland Denmark 18 December 1918.

**Denmark and the First World War**  
**The French**

French soldiers who died of Spanish Influenza  
 To Patrimonio in the north of Corsica



Undated postcard showing the memorial to the French soldiers who died of Spanish Influenza at Helsingør on their way home from captivity in Germany in 1919. The monument bears the words "Here lie 40 French soldiers who died in this friendly land during their return from captivity during 1918 to 1919, without reaching their victorious homeland - this monument is erected by Danish friends". A Danish doctor, Erik Uttenreitter, died on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1919, having caught the disease while treating his patients.



**13<sup>th</sup> January 1919** - Postcard sent from Greve camp in Sjælland, Denmark, to Patrimonio in the north of Corsica. Jean Calvelle writes to his sister while returning to France via Denmark after being a Prisoner of War in Germany: "I find myself crossing Denmark, we arrive at the camp very well fed and hosted by the Danish."

**Denmark and the First World War**  
The aftermath of war

Is it yet possible to see my industrious and brave son Hans Toth alive?"

Ank. København  
1919  
Wien 26 Juni 1919.  
Mein Lieber Hans!  
Heute wird der Friede mit  
Deutschland unterzeichnet. Jetzt  
müß es endlich bald Ruhe werden.  
15 Monate haben wir keine Erf.  
nicht von Dir. Ich verstehe den  
Haß dieser Menschen nicht.  
Ihr armen Gefangenen seht ihr  
müßten Folgen in den Krieg zu  
ziehen gegen die Andern sonst  
wäre! Ihr erlitten worden so

**26<sup>th</sup> June 1919** - Letter sent from Vienna to Hans Toth, missing in Russia, from his father. "Through your goodness and conciliation is it yet possible to see my industrious and brave son Hans Toth alive?"

"It is his 5<sup>th</sup> year in Russian captivity, the last card from him was dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 1918 He is 32 years old."

Ank. København  
1. JUL. 1919  
Wien 26 Juni 1919  
Liebl. hochgeehrte Gesellschaft  
des rothen Kreuzes, in Kopenha.  
Der ergebenst Befähigte bittet im Zeichen dieses  
ehrenvollen Kreuzes zu gestatten, als die letzte  
Hoffnung eines alten Wiener Vaters eine  
Bitte unterbreiten zu dürfen:  
Ist es möglich durch Ihre vielbewährte Güte  
und Vermittlung meinem fleissigen und braven  
Sohn Hans Toth im Leben noch zu sehen?  
Er ist gelernter tüchtiger Galvanische Metall-  
waaren-Exzezierer. Ist Das 5<sup>te</sup> Jahr in russ. Gefan-  
genschaft, zuletzt in Tschuppa, Sela Kereth a.d.

400-12  
Antrag  
Vollbart!

1919  
61422 M1



Wien 26<sup>th</sup> June 1919 "Today the peace with Germany is signed. Now, finally, it must soon be calm. We have had no news of you for 15 months; I do not understand the hatred of these people... Your brother Josef's been here too long and he's no substitute for you. He seems to me to be spiritually inferior, stupid and unqualified - everything I can not write now. He married a wife who is his equal ... The World War has (with few exceptions) also ruined the morals of the female sex ... Your cousin Helma Koffler had no luck with her art. Your friend Rudolf's brother has returned incurably blind in both eyes from the front. Franz's young wife has died. Matouschek is at home with TB, his wife Mina has been in Hungary for a few years already, so this is the way it is in Vienna." From Hans, the father, to the Red Cross in Copenhagen.