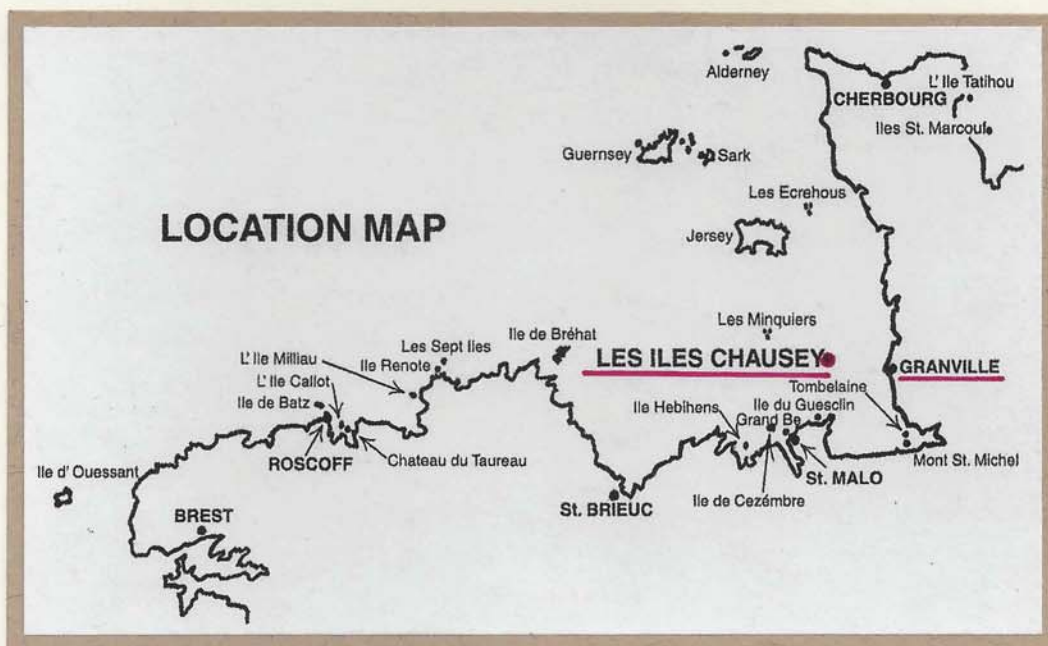


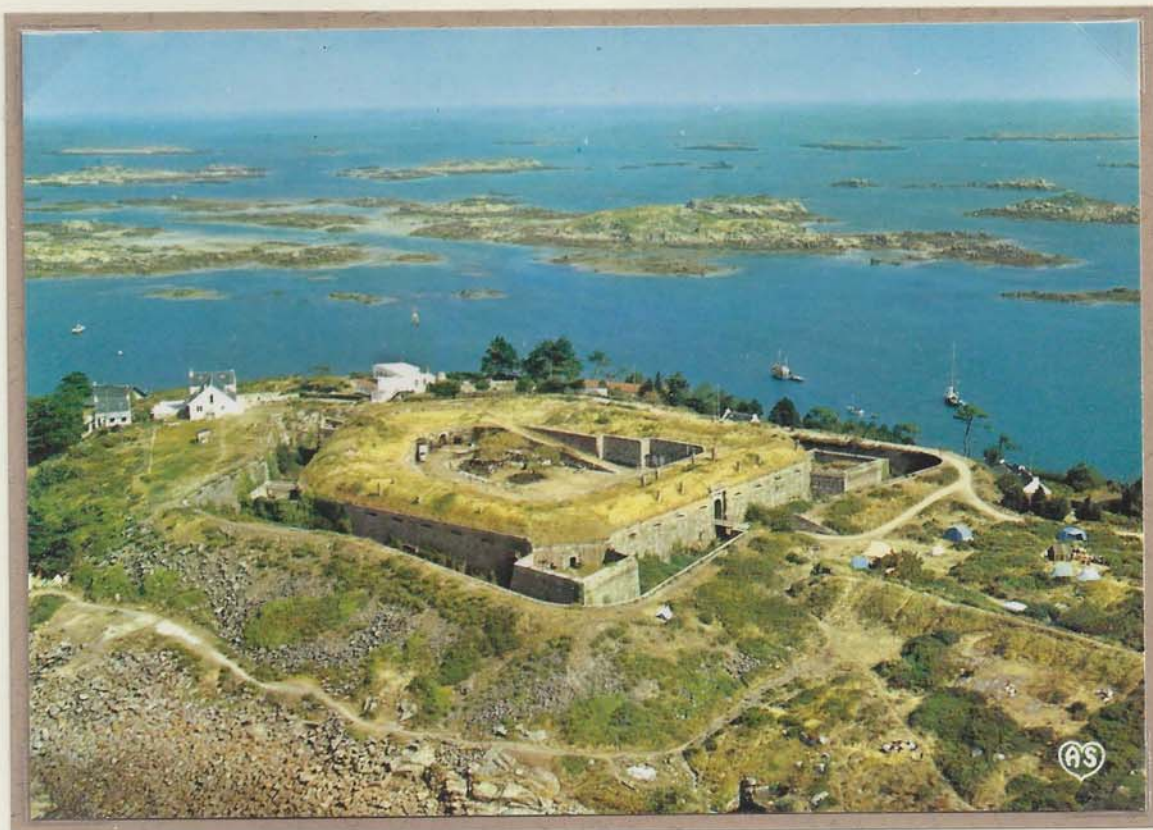
THE AUSTRO-GERMAN CIVILIAN INTERNEE CAMP ON LES ILES CHAUSEY (North-west France) DURING WORLD WAR 1



In the first months of the First World War a Civil Internment Camp for German and Austrian civilian prisoners was set up on the mainland of northwest France at Granville and on Grande Ile in the nearby islands of Causey. There were a number of such camps on the French coast with islands occasionally being chosen for the isolation and added security they offered. L'Ile Tatihou and Ile de Cézembre were two others in the same vicinity. On Causey the camp was housed in a vast and foreboding, pentagonal fort that had been built in 1866 but had never seen a shot fired in anger. It was 550 metres around its perimeter and had a 14 metre deep dry moat hewn out of solid rock, which was then used to build the fort. During World War 1 it accommodated 300 male internees.

The Causey and Granville camps were operated as a single entity and shared many similar aspects to their postal history. This display concentrates mainly on mail to or from Causey, which is much scarcer than the Granville equivalents, and in several cases there is only one recorded example. As the postal markings are sometimes the same for both camps, Causey mail can usually only be identified by sender or recipient addresses and the contents of the messages. A number of cachets are however unique to mail from the island. Some Granville Camp covers have been included where it enhances the picture. The fort on Causey also housed an internment camp in the Second World War but that is another story.

THE CIVIL INTERNMENT CAMP AT THE FORT ON ILES CHAUSEY



The fort on Iles Chausey that was used as a Civil Internment Camp to house three hundred Austro-German prisoners during the First World War



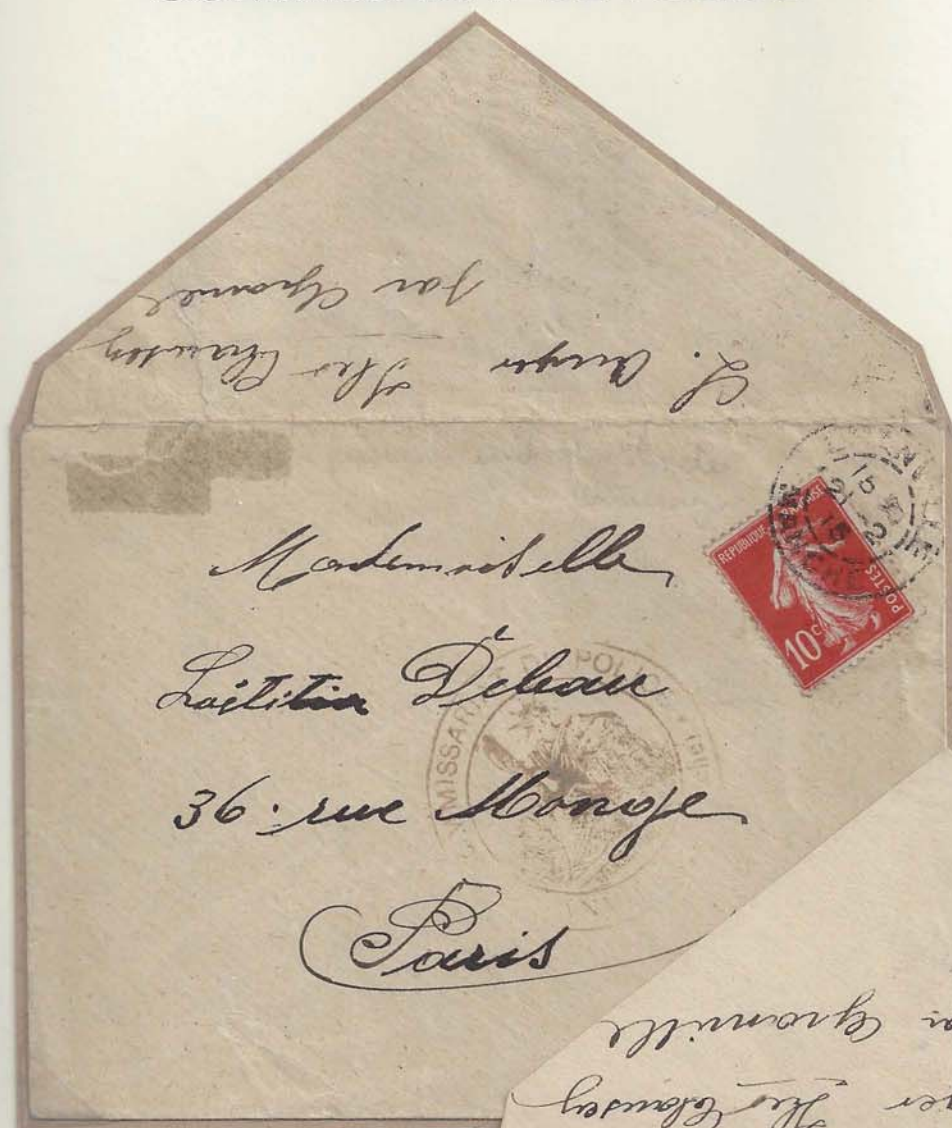
An example of the paper money printed by the Ministry of the Interior for use in the Civil Internment Camps at Granville and on Ile Chausey during the First World War. The back has a 'Prefecture de la Manche / Cabinet du Prefet' (C14) cachet in blue.

A 5c note on green paper is also known and other values are possible.

COMMISSARIAT DE POLICE



For a few months at the start of the First World War some internee outward mail from Chausey received the cachet of the Commissariat de Police based in Granville, as initially that office was responsible for checking and censoring mail. These covers have the earliest and latest recorded dates of use, 21st January 1915 and 21st February 1915.



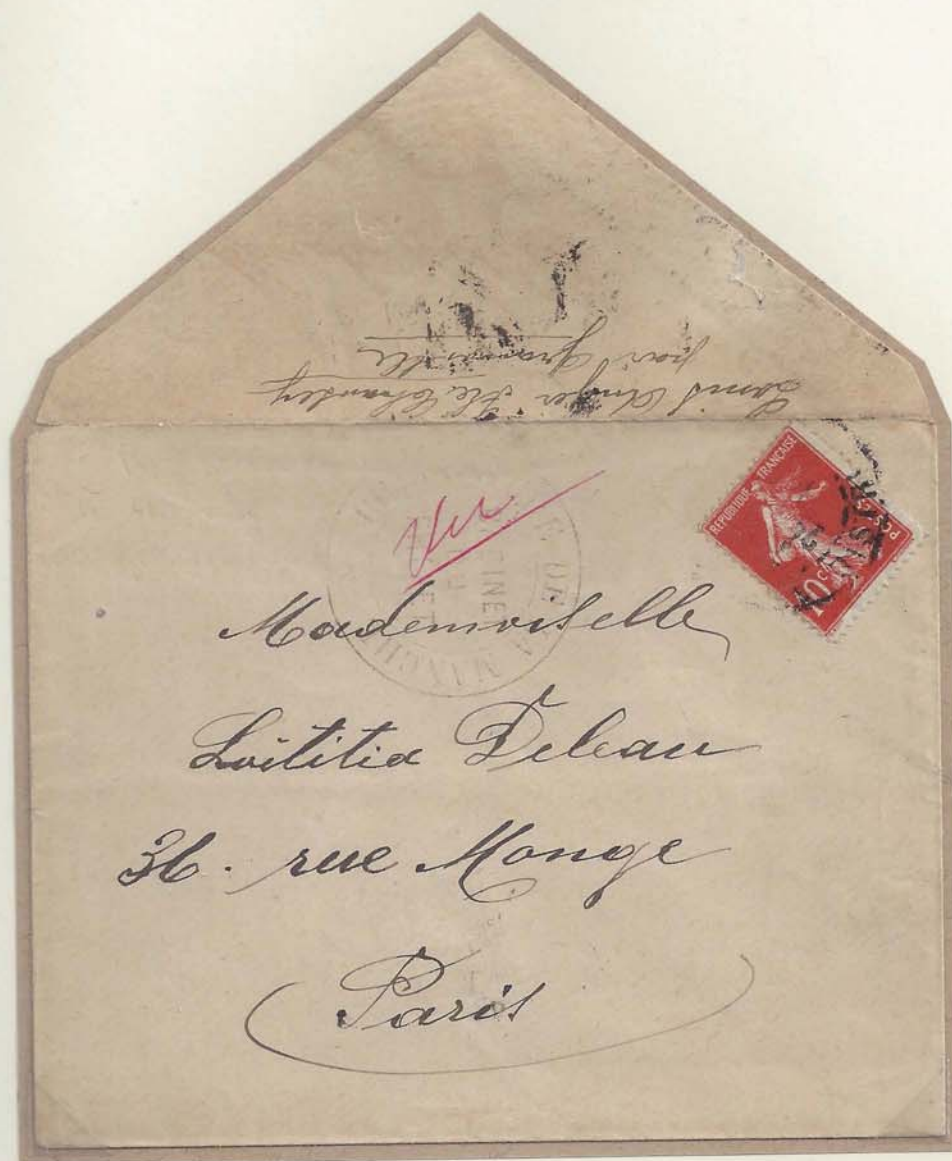
Similar cachets were used throughout France and this Granville version was also used on censored mail from the mainland. Its use on mail from Iles Chausey is however particularly scarce. These covers can be seen to be from Chausey by the addresses on the back flaps. The inkpad used at Granville produced strikes that are particularly prone to fading so no clear impressions survive.

COMMISSARIAT DE POLICE

Two further examples of the 'Commissariat de Police' cachet (C13) in the usual highly faded state. The top card states it is written on Chausey on 12th February 1915 and is cancelled the same day. It is likely to be from an internee or a guard. The postcard at the bottom shows a view of Iles Chausey but appears to be posted in Granville on 1st February 1915, confirming this cachet was not only used on mail from the islands.



PREFECTURE DE LA MANCHE CABINET DU PREFET



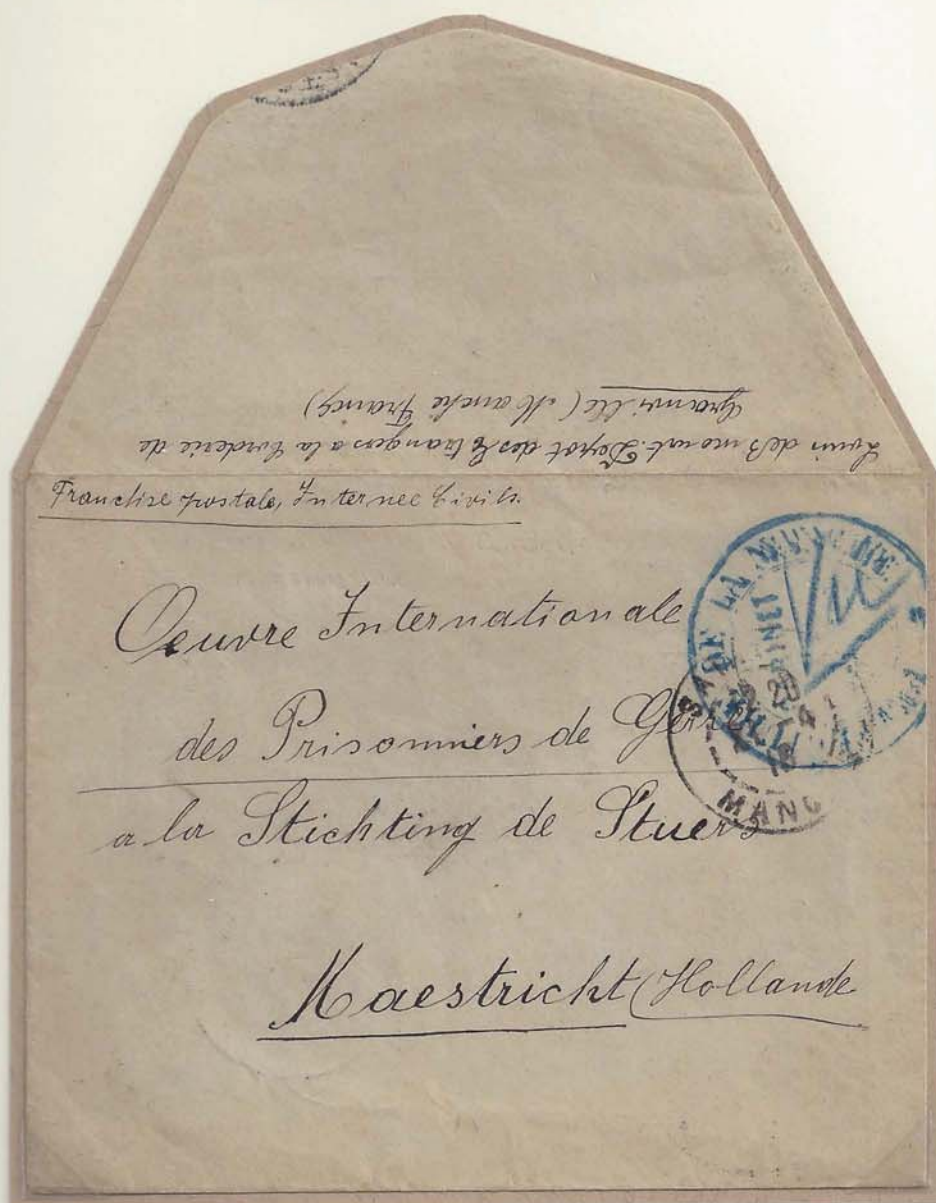
The 'Prefecture de la Manche/Cabinet du Prefet' (C14) cachet was applied to censored mail from the Civil Internment Camps on Ile Chausey and Granville.

It is also found on mail from other camps in the area, such as that on Ile Tatihou. Once the mail was examined a manuscript endorsement 'Vu' (seen) was applied in red or blue over the cachet.

This cover is from the Chausey Camp as indicated on the back flap. It was cancelled in Granville on 24th December 1914 and received a Paris arrival mark of the same day on the back. This is the only recorded example with the cachet struck in violet/brown.

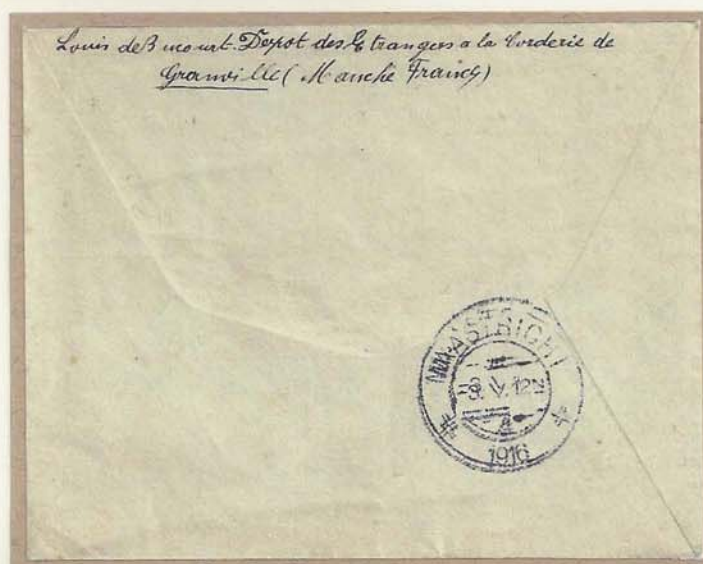


PREFECTURE DE LA MANCHE CABINET DU PREFET



This cover is from the Civil Internment Camp at Granville, confirmed by the endorsement on the back flap "Dépot des Étrangers a la Corderie de Granville". The front also has a manuscript endorsement 'Franchise postale, Internee Civils' that would indicate it did not require a stamp.

The 'Prefecture de la Manche/Cabinet du Prefet' (C14) cachet was applied in blue, which appears to be the colour used from 1915 onwards, and a manuscript endorsement 'Vu' (seen) was written in blue over the cachet. It was cancelled at Saint Pair on 21st April 1916 and is addressed to Holland, receiving a Maastricht arrival mark back stamp on 3rd May 1916.



PREFECTURE DE LA MANCHE
CABINET DU PREFET



*Alfred Sandhüter, interné civil.
Dépôt des Étrangers,
Iles Chausey, par Granville
(Manche)*

*Auf einer Postkarte oder einem
kurzen Brief antworten*

aux bons soins du Comité International de la

Croix Rouge à Genève



Monsieur Carl Hampe

am Hohentor 2^e

Braunschweig

Allemagne

A cover from the Civil Internment Camp on Iles Chausey, indicated by the manuscript endorsement on the back flap reading 'interné civil. Dépôt des Étrangers, Iles Chausey'. It is addressed to Germany and was routed via the Red Cross in Geneva, having been postmarked at Saint-Lo on 20th August 1915. The 'Prefecture de la Manche/Cabinet du Prefet' (C14) cachet was struck in blue at Granville where it was inspected or censored, after which 'Vu' (seen) was added in red. I believe the back cachet in German, which translates as 'Reply on a postcard or short letter', was also struck at the censor office in Granville.

PREFECTURE DE LA MANCHE
CABINET DU PREFET



Iles Chaussy le 31/5. 16.
 Wertes Herr Herbers. Ihre L. Postkarte erhalten dafür besten
 Dank. Leider erhielt ich von Ihnen auf meine Schreiben
 noch keine Nachricht. Frau Wilh. Neumann Hedwigstr.
 war so freundlich mir auch ein Paket zu senden, und bitte
 ich Sie in meinem Auftrage meinen Dank auszusprechen.
 Lieber Herr Herbers bitte Sie, wenn es Ihnen möglich ist, mir
 Pfeifen tabak, Zigaretten tabak, Zigaretten bei meinem Freund
 F. W. Uff, Poststr. 34 zu schicken, und auf mein Porto schreiben.
 Herzlichen Dank im Voraus. Ihre ergebene Z. L. f. f. f.
 H. H. Henningsen.

Par la croix-rouge - Suisse Suisse
 FRANCHISE POSTALE -- INTERNÉS CIVILS

CARTE POSTALE

Monsieur Herbers
Tharion
Bräuerstr. 22
Suisburg. V.Rh.

Expédié par : *Heinr. Henningsen* *an Fort des Iles Chaussy*
par Granville (mandat)

*Seien erhalte Mandate, Heine
 Henningsen, Poststr. 34, Postverwalt. die Warte.*

SAINT-LO 9-6-16 MANCHE

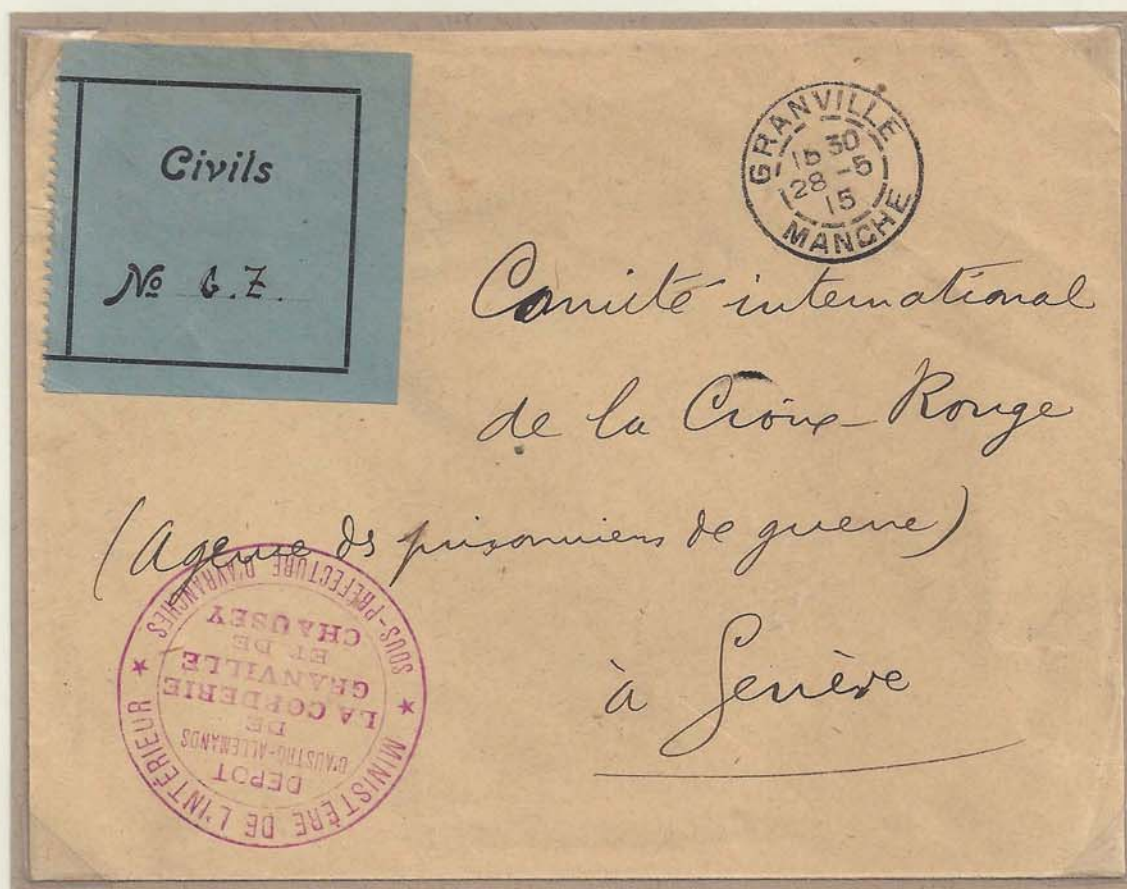
A Civil Internment pre-printed post card specifically for use by civil internees. The writer gives his location as 'Fort des Iles Chaussy' at the bottom front, whilst on the back he repeats 'Iles Chaussy' and dates it 31st May 1916. It is endorsed to give a routing of via Granville and through the Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland. The Saint-Lo cancellation is dated 9th June 1916, ten days after it was written. The delay probably being a result of spasmodic mailboats or censoring. The 'Prefecture de la Manche/Cabinet du Prefet, (C14) censor cachet is applied in blue and endorsed 'Vu' (seen) in red.

DEPOT D'AUSTRO-ALLEMANDS DE LA CORDERIE GRANVILLE ET DE CHAUSEY



A cover from the Administrator on Iles Chausey to the Commandant at the Bureau de Recrutement in Rennes. This was the Administrator at the Fort on Chausey that housed the Civil Internment Camp and can be seen to be from him by the endorsement in the bottom-left corner. The large red (C15) cachet reading 'Ministère de L'Intérieur / Depot D'Austro-Allemands de la Corderie Granville et de Chausey / Sous-Prêfecture D'Avranches' does not in itself indicate censorship and indeed this official mail would not have required censoring. It shows the office through which this mail was handled. There is an Avranches transit mark dated 21st February 1916 and it is back stamped on the same date.

DEPOT D'AUSTRO-ALLEMANDS DE LA CORDERIE GRANVILLE ET DE CHAUSEY



A comparison of this cover and its handwriting to the one on the previous sheet shows that it is also from the Administrator of the Civil Internment Camp on Iles Chausey. It is addressed to the Agency for Prisoners of War at the Red Cross in Geneva, so was probably related to official business. The large red 'Depot D'Austro-Allemands de la Corderie Granville et de Chausey' (C15) cachet shows the office through which this mail was handled. There is an Granville dispatch mark dated 28th May 1915 and it is back stamped with a Geneva arrival mark three days later on 1st June 1915.

The exact purpose of the blue 'Civils' label is not known.

DEPOT D'AUSTRO-ALLEMANDS DE LA CORDERIE GRANVILLE ET DE CHAUSEY



This outward cover to Paris can be seen to be from the Civil Internment Camp on Iles Chausey by the endorsements at the top and on the back flap. The large red 'Depot D'Austro-Allemands de la Corderie Granville et de Chausey' (C15) cachet is again present as is a Granville dispatch mark of 2nd May 1915.

A circular black and white stamp. The outer ring contains the text "MINISTÈRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR" at the top and "SOUS-PREFECTURE D'AVRANCHES" at the bottom, separated by two five-pointed stars on the left and right. The center of the stamp contains the text "DEPOT D'AUSTRO-ALLEMANDS DE LA CORDERIE GRANVILLE ET DE CHAUSEY" in a bold, sans-serif font, arranged in six lines.

FRANCHISE POSTALE -- INTERNÉS

MINISTÈRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR
DEPOT
D'AUSTRO-ALLEMANS
LA GOUTTIERE
GRANVILLE
E. DE
CH. USEY

GRANVILLE
16
MANCHE

CARTE POSTALE

Librarie étrangère
M. Bayveau & Chevillet
22, Rue de la Banque
à Paris

Expédié par : *Lavich* *des chaussy manche*

An outward Civil Internment pre-printed post card sent by an internee from the camp on Iles Chausey to Paris. It is endorsed at the bottom-front and top-back showing Chausey as the place of origin. There is again a red 'Depot D'Austro-Allemands de la Corderie Granville et de Chausey' (C15) cachet for the office that processed the mail and Granville dispatch mark of 20th May 1916.

DEPOT D'AUSTRO-ALLEMANDS DE LA CORDERIE GRANVILLE ET DE CHAUSEY



An inward cover from Germany to the Civil Internment Camp on Les Iles Causey.

Although it is only addressed to the island, the presence of the red 'Depot D'Austro-Allemands de la Corderie Granville et de Causey' (C15) cachet confirms it was for the camp. The top of the cover has 'Kriegsgefangenen' in manuscript to show it was prisoner of war mail that should be carried without charge. It was posted from Mutzig and received a 1st July 1915 dispatch mark. The violet boxed 'Kriegsgefangenen-sendung Kommandantur Strassburg 1. E.' cachet translates as 'Prisoner of war mail / Commandant Strasbourg and Alsace. Approved'.

Max Bild. Breslau. Albrechtstr. 34.

CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE



DEPOT
D'AUSTRO-
ALLEMANDS
DE LA
CORDERIE
GRANVILLE
ET DE
CHAUSEY

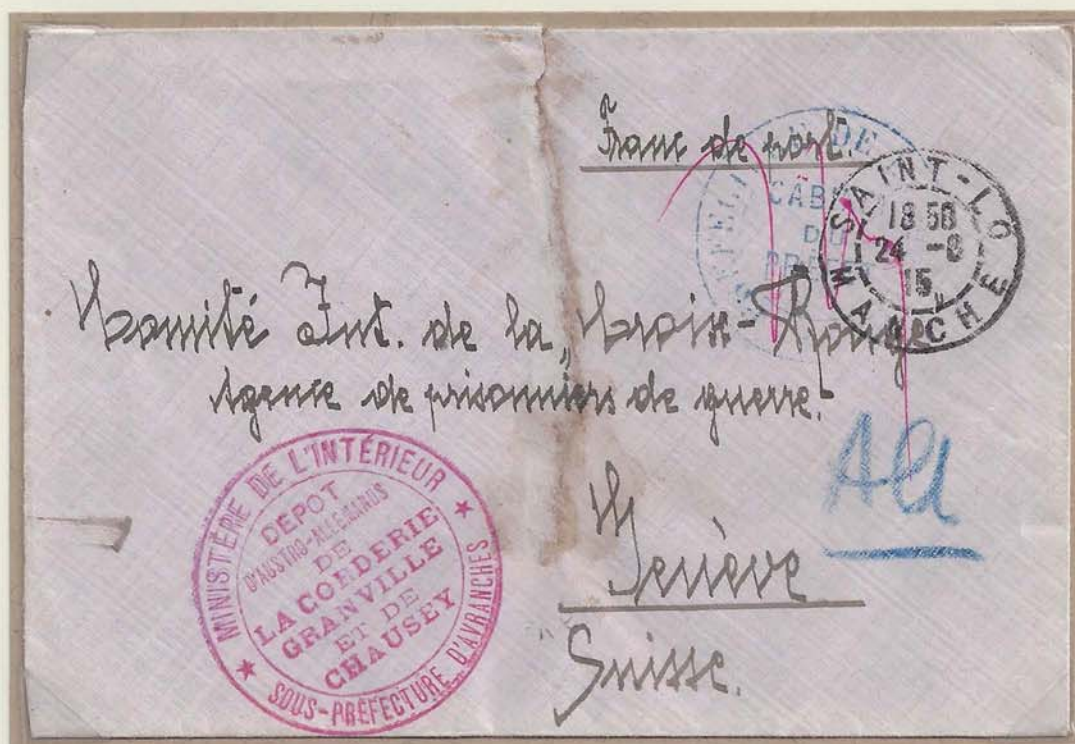
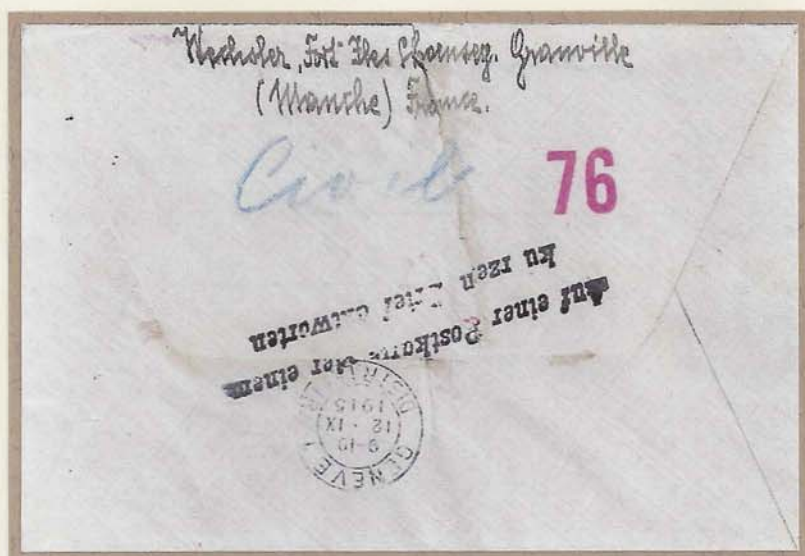
Schriftliche Mitteilungen
geprüft.
Breslau 1, Briefannahme.



Handwritten text on the cover includes "Granville", "Breslau", "40 marks", "50 frs.", and "Corderie Granville et de Chausey". There are also several red and violet stamps and seals.

An inward cover from Germany to the Civil Internment Camp at Granville containing 40 marks, also referred to as 50 francs. It is from Breslau, Germany and has the five wax seals of a 'value letter'. There are two strikes of the red 'Depot D'Austro-Allemands de la Corderie Granville et de Chausey' (C15) cachet applied by the inward handling office. The three-line violet cachet in German translates as 'Written communication approved at Breslau 1 sub military office'. The 'Military Postal Control' tape is tied by a violet oval 'Open under military authority' cachet and the black oval cachet showing an eagle reads 'Imperial German Post Office Breslau 1'.

PREFECTURE DE LA MANCHE & DEPOT D'AUSTRO-ALLEMANDS



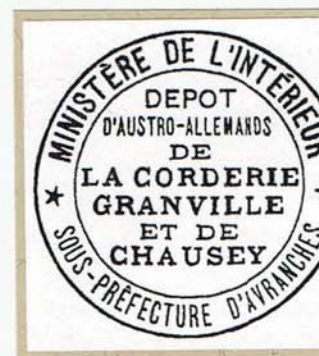
An outward cover from the Civil Internment Camp at the Fort on Iles Causey, shown by the sender's address on the back flap. It is addressed to the Agency for Prisoners of War at the Red Cross in Geneva. There is a strike of the red 'Depot D'Austro-Allemands de la Corderie Granville et de Causey' (C15) cachet for the office that processed the mail and a 'Prefecture de la Manche / Cabinet du prefet' (C14) censor cachet in blue, endorsed 'Vu' (seen) in red. The front has a Saint-Lo dispatch mark of 24th August 1915 whilst the back has a Geneva arrival mark of 12th September 1915. The back also shows a black German cachet translated as 'Reply on a postcard or short letter', it is endorsed 'Civil' and has a red '76' batch number.

PREFECTURE DE LA MANCHE & DEPOT D'AUSTRO-ALLEMANDS



An outward cover that is probably from the Civil Internment Camp at Granville, as Chausey is not mentioned. It is addressed to Germany via Switzerland and is endorsed 'Franchise postale – Internés civil' so that a stamp was not required. There is a strike of the red 'Depot D'Austro-Allemands de la Corderie Granville et de Chausey' (C15) cachet for the office that processed the mail and a 'Prefecture de la Manche / Cabinet du prefet' (C14) censor cachet in blue, endorsed 'Vu' (seen) in red. It has a Saint-Lo dispatch mark of 27th April 1915, which makes this the earliest recorded use of those two cachets. Three cachets in German were applied. The black two-line cachet translates as 'Reply on a postcard or short letter' and is believed to have been applied in Granville. Of the two in red, the rectangular cachet reads 'Prisoner of war mail'

PREFECTURE DE LA MANCHE & DEPOT D'AUSTRO-ALLEMANDS



An outward cover to the Red Cross in Geneva from the camp dentist of the Civil Internment Camp at Granville, as indicated on the back flap. It is endorsed 'Franchise postale – Intern civil' so that a stamp was not required. It has a Saint-Lo dispatch mark of 13th February 1919 which is the latest recorded use of the two cachets, the red 'Depot D'Austro-Allemands de la Corderie Granville et de Chausey' (C15) cachet for the office that processed the mail and 'Prefecture de la Manche / Cabinet du prefet' (C14) censor cachet in blue, endorsed 'Vu' (seen) in blue. The back has 'Civil' in manuscript and a Geneva receiving mark of 6th March 1919.

Elektrotechnischer Anzeiger

Berlin SW 11, Schöneberger Straße 9-10.

Feldpost

Herrn Paul Fürster

*Prisonniers de guerre
de Chausey Manche (Frankreich)*

*Par la Croix Rouge
internationale
Suisse La Suisse*

50 000, IV. 14.

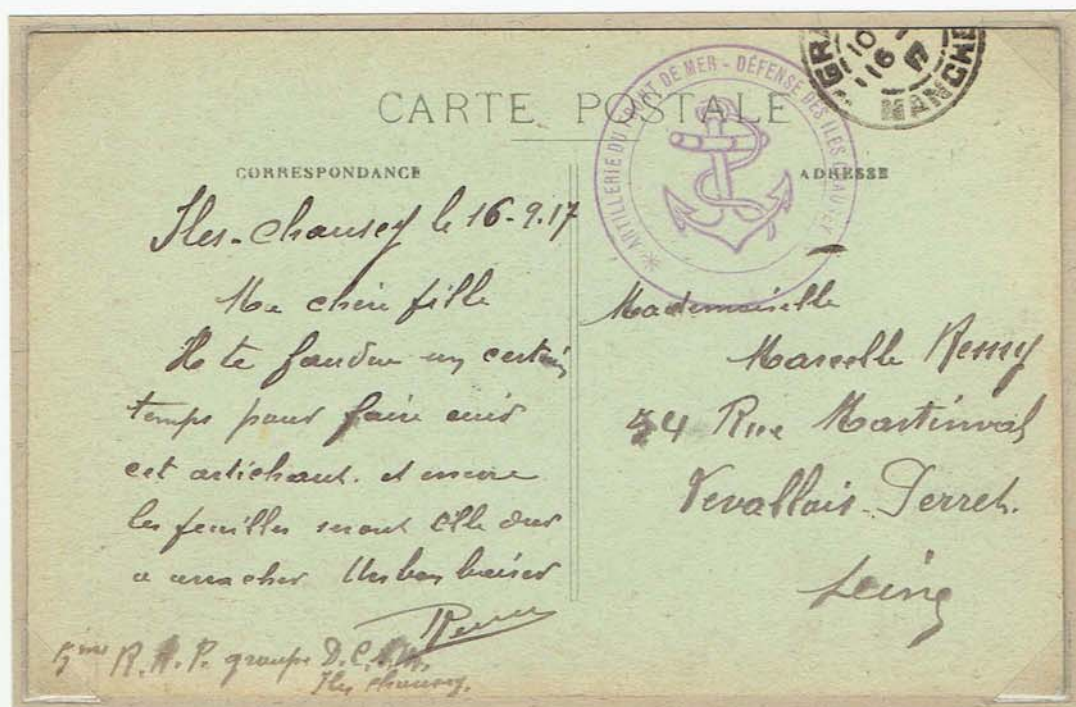


SECTION DE
CONTROLE
& DÉPÔT
D'ÉTRANGERS



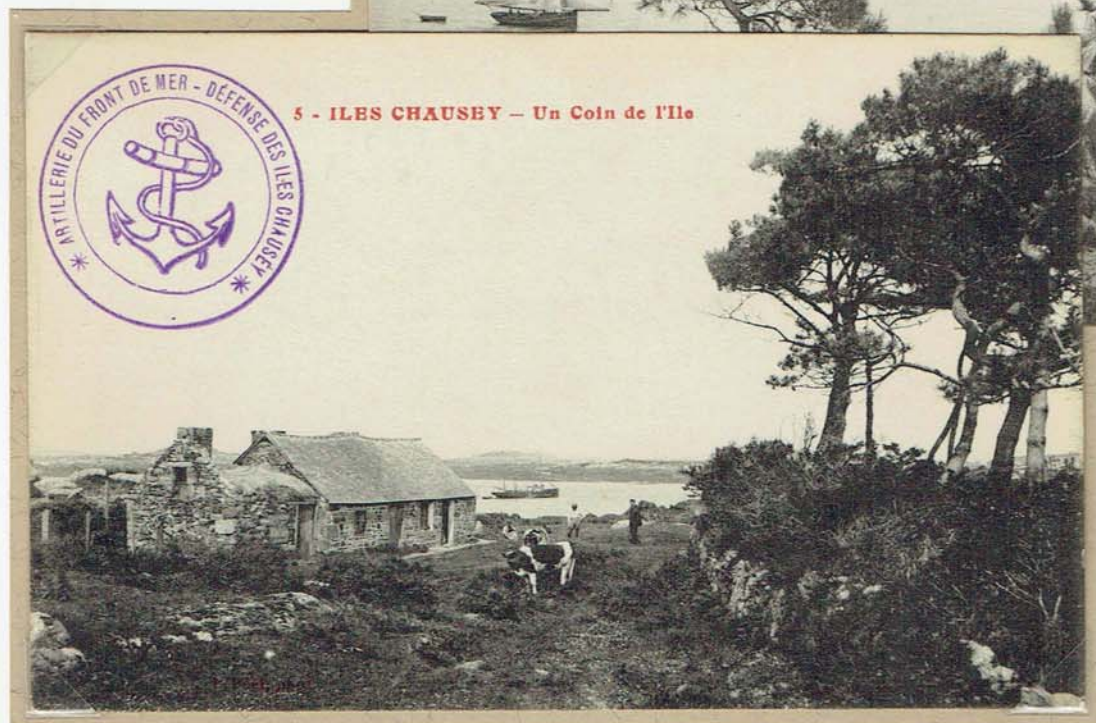
A letter to a civil prisoner of war held at the civil internment camp on Iles Chausey, sent from Berlin on 6th July 1915 via the Red Cross in Geneva. It received two fine strikes in violet of the 'Ministère de la Guerre / Cabinet du Ministre / Section de Controle' cachet for the mail handling and censoring office. Upon arrival in Granville, a strike in red of the 'Dépôt des Étrangers / Granville / Direction la Corderie' cachet was added before onward transmission to the camp on Chausey.

ARTILLERIE DU FRONT DE MER- DÉFENSE DES ILES CHAUSEY



An outward post card from Chausey, dated 16th September 1917 and postmarked at Granville the same day. It has a violet strike of the 'Artillerie du Front de Mer - Défense des Iles Chausey' cachet, which replaced the need to write 'Correspondance Militaire' so that troops could have free postage. It is endorsed '5th R.A.P. Groupe D.C.S.M. Chausey', which was the unit of the Artillerie du Front de Mer that was in charge of the defence of the islands at that time. This is the earliest recorded use of this cachet on mail from Chausey. The Newport and Whitney catalogue states that only five examples of this cachet exist but I suspect the true number is greater.

ARTILLERIE DU FRONT DE MER- DÉFENSE DES ILES CHAUSEY



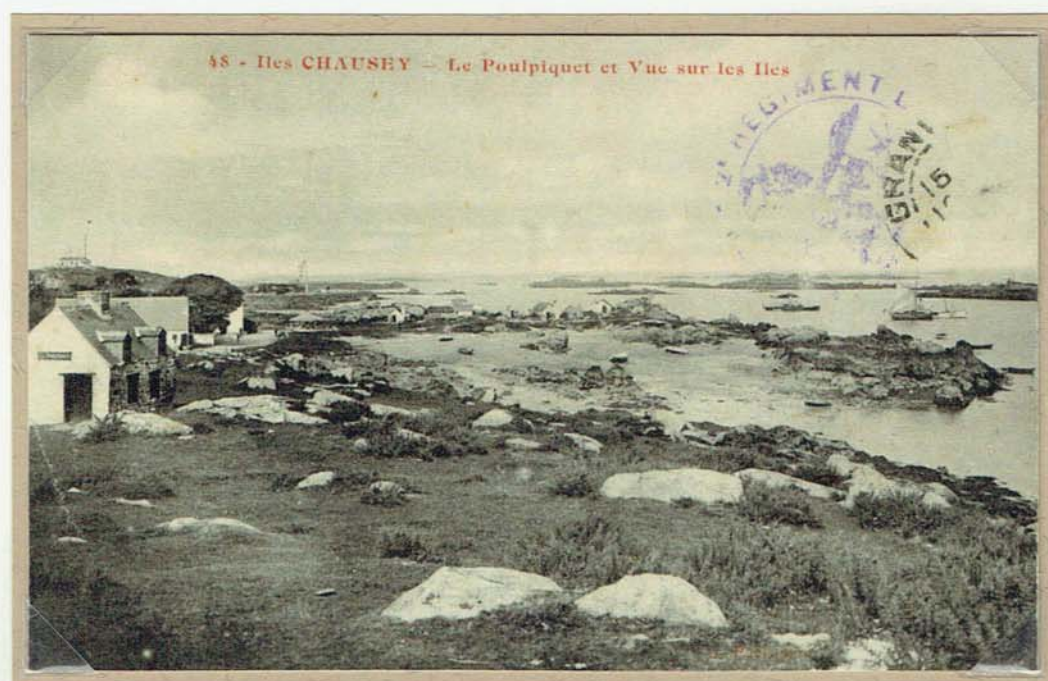
Three unused examples of Chausey postcards with violet strikes of the 'Artillerie du Front de Mer - Défense des Iles Chausey' (C17) cachet. As these replaced the need to write 'Correspondance Militaire', so that troops could have free postage, they must have come from a batch that had cachets applied in advance, exclusively for sale to the military.

2e REGIMENT D'INFANTERIE LE MAJOR



A postcard to Rennes headed 'Correspondance Militaire' so it did not require a stamp.
It has a strike of a '2e Regiment D'Infanterie' (C18) cachet in violet,
used by the Major of a regiment based on Chausey during the First World War.
This is the only recorded example of this cachet on Chausey mail.
Part of a Granville datestamp is visible but the date has not printed.

2e REGIMENT D'INFANTERIE RECONSTRUCTED CACHET

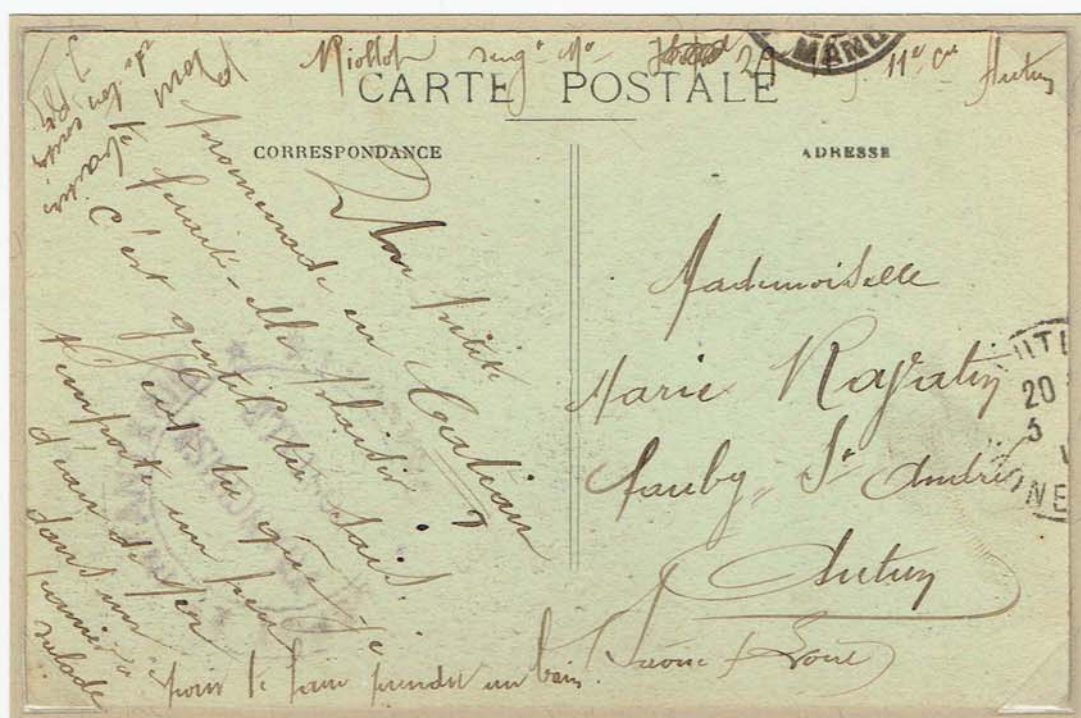


Little is known about this '2e Regiment D'Infanterie' (C19) cachet in violet.

It has been reconstructed from the only two recorded partial examples. It may actually have additional wording at the base and 'De Ligue' has been suggested.

This is the only dated example and the writing on the back appears to show it was sent from Chaussy on 13th January 1915 from 'un exilé'.

DÉPOT 2^{me} INFANTERIE FRANCHISE POSTALE - GRANVILLE



A faint strike of a 'Dépot 2^{me} Infanterie * Franchise Postale * Granville' (C20) cachet in viol. The wording at the top indicates this card was from 'N Lioblot, Sergeant Major, 29th Regime 11th Company'. A date cannot be seen on the two part datestamps but it is believed to have been used during the First World War. This cachet was probably based at the main Granville camp or postal office handling the mail for several regiments. It was used instead of endorsing the card 'Correspondance Militaire', so that the card could be carried without payment. This example is on a Chausey card that also has a Chausey souvenir cachet on the picture side. This increases the likelihood that the card emanates from Chausey and if so it is the only strike recorded on Chausey mail.

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE CONTRÔLÉ & PRISONNIER DE GUERRE

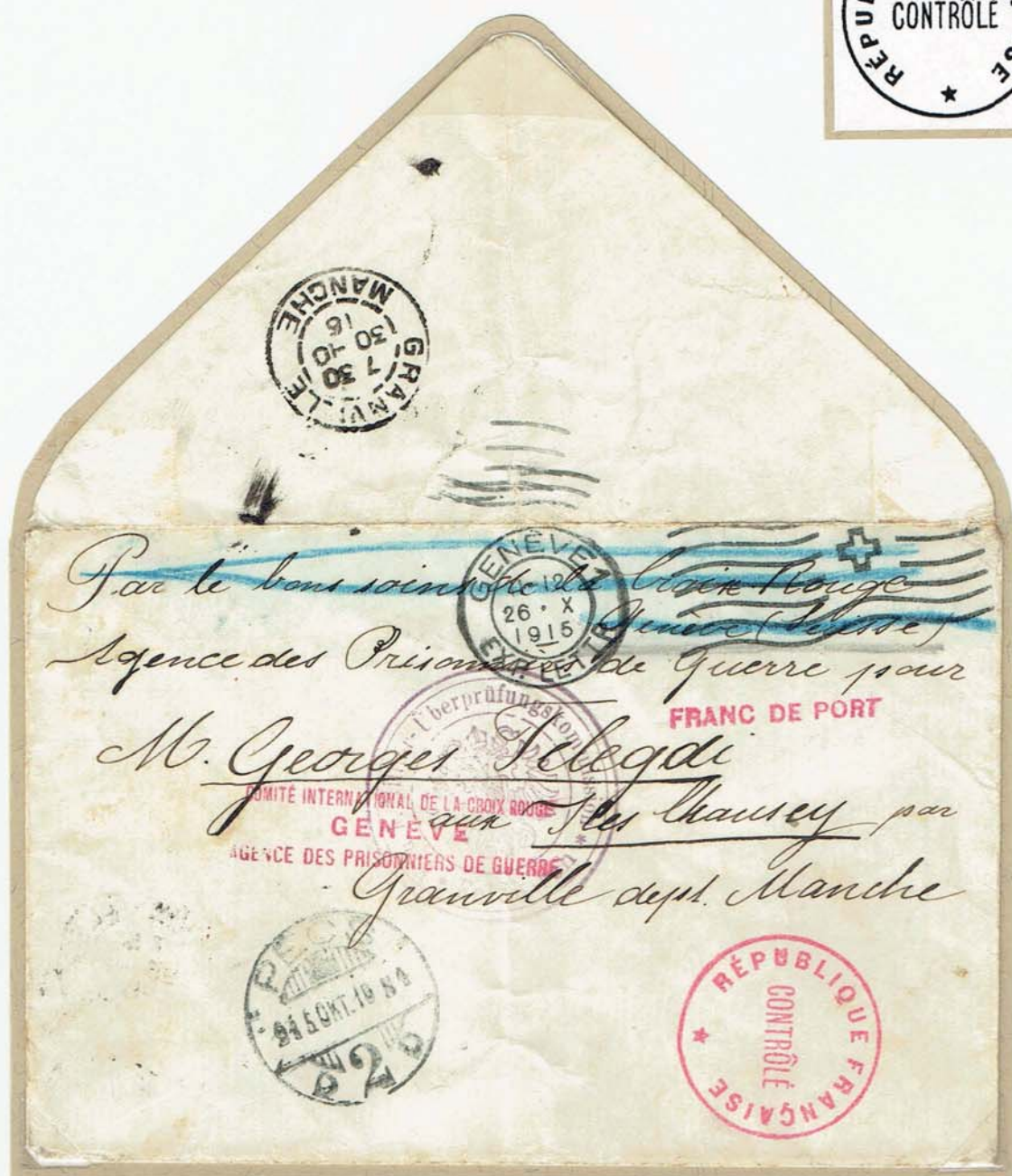


Prisonnier de guerre



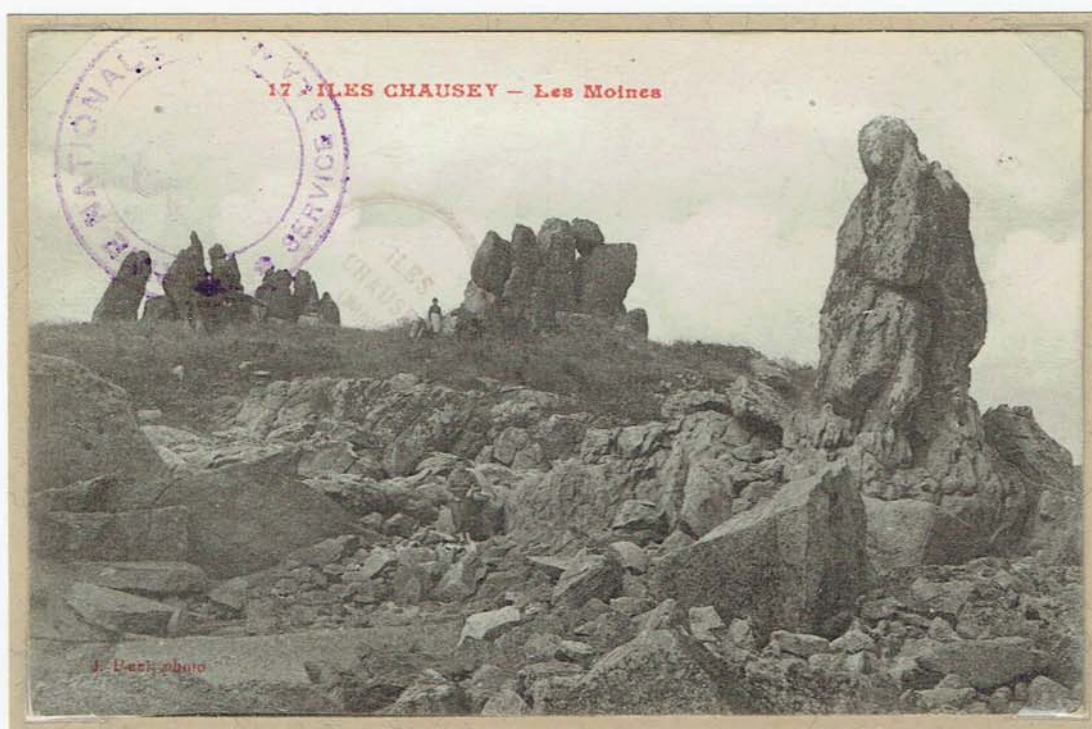
An inwards cover from Austria to a civil prisoner of war held at the Civil Internment Camp in Fort on Iles Chausey. It has been sent via the Red Cross and the red cachet at the top right translates as 'Society for the Red Cross Austria and Hungary / Sender'. There is a Granville stamp on the back of 23rd June 1915 marking the cover's arrival and another for 8th July 1915 when it was forwarded to the island. Between those dates the red 'République Française Contrôlé' (C22) and cerise 'Prisonnier de guerre' (C21) cachets were applied by the mail handling and censorship unit. This is the earliest recorded use of both of these cachets on Chausey mail.

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE CONTRÔLÉ



An inward cover to a civil prisoner of war held at the Civil Internment Camp on Iles Chausey. A violet 'Überprüfungskommission' cachet was applied upon dispatch and there is a Pecs Hungary, transit mark dated 16th October 1915. It was sent via the Red Cross in Geneva where it received the three-line cachet in red. When the cover reached Geneva it was back-stamped 25th October 1915, then a Geneva Red Cross machine cancel was applied for onward transmission the following day. Upon arrival in France the red 'Franc de Port' cachet was added along with a 30th October 1915 Granville date stamp. The red 'République Française Contrôlé' (C22) cachet was applied by the mail handling and censorship unit in Granville before its onward journey to Iles Chausey. This is the latest recorded use of this cachet on Chausey mail.

MARINE NATIONALE - SERVICE À LA MER & ILES CHAUSEY (MANCHE)



This card has the only recorded strike of a 'Marine Nationale / Service à la Mer' (C24) cachet on a Chausey postcard. The strike in violet is not complete but enough of the centre ornament can be seen for it to be identified as an anchor. It could therefore be reconstructed from similar cachets used elsewhere. The faint 'Iles Chausey (Manche)' (C109) cachet alongside was from the Hotel Vve Moulin on Chausey. Originally the hotel name appeared around the inside of the circle but was cut away when its name was changed to Hotel Quinette. That cachet in this reduced state is first recorded used on 21st July 1914, prior to the war. It seems likely that the Marine National cachet was applied to stocks of postcards for personnel serving in that unit, to allow them free postage.

INWARD MAIL, NOT SENT VIA THE RED CROSS



An inward cover addressed to an internee at the Civil Internment Camp in the Fort on Ile Chaussy. It was sent from Bad Reichenhall, Bayern, Germany, receiving a violet cachet and cancellations on 31st July 1915. It is unusual in that there is no indication that it was sent via the Red Cross in Geneva, nor does it appear to have gone through the normal postal controls and censorship on arrival at Granville. This may be because the sender chose to pay postage when it could have been sent free of charge.

CORRESPONDANCE DE PRISONNIER DE GUERRE

A postcard sent to Germany from the Civil Internment Camp on Iles Chausey, which is indicated with an arrow, via the Red Cross in Geneva on 19th January 1915. It is headed 'Correspondence des prisonnier de Guerre' (mis-spelt) so was carried without charge.

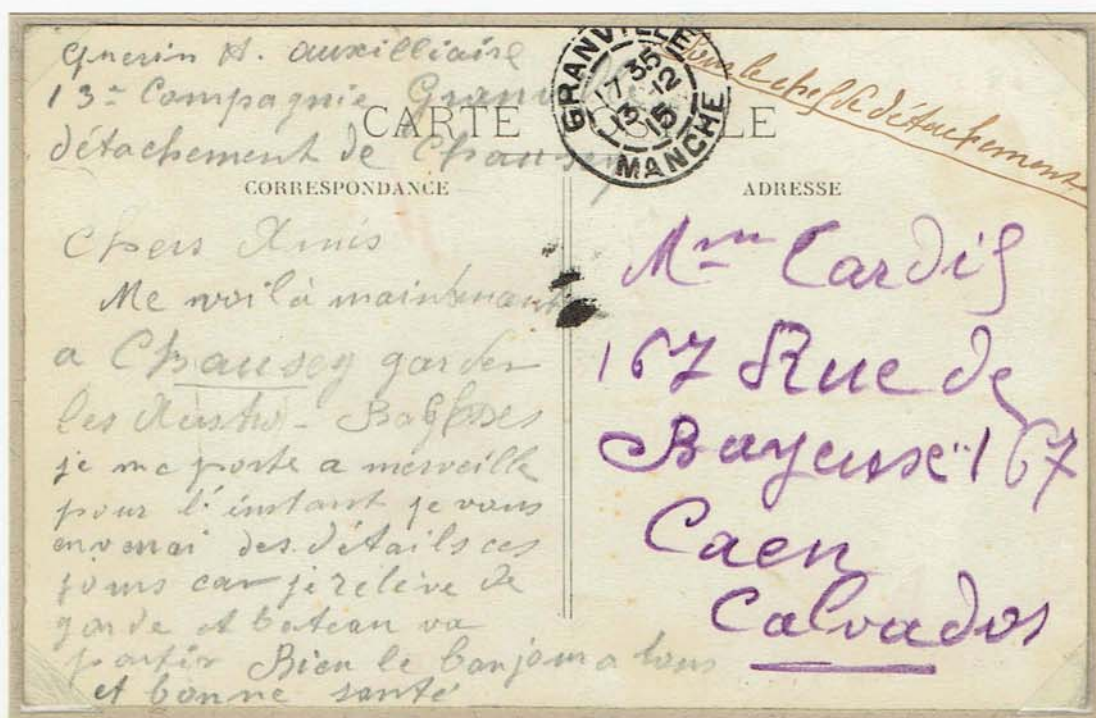


The message on the card tells of the hardships suffered by prisoners. '19.1.15. My Dearest Parents and Sisters. This is now my fourth card that I have sent to you from my prison since I heard from you. I think they must have got lost. I am now on stroh bread and eat two potatoes every day. You can imagine what we have to suffer. We are kept from the Todds, no newspapers, nothing. Please keep some for me. We have been here since 26.9.14. There are 300 men here. I will tell you all about it when I see all of you. Please write back soon, the post takes so long'...

[illegible]

FOR THE CHIEF OF THE DETACHMENT

A postcard from Ile Chausey to Caen, date stamped Granville on 13th December 1915. It is endorsed 'For the chief of the detachment' rather than 'Correspondance Militaire', but appears to have been equally acceptable to be carried free of charge.



It is from a serving soldier who is a guard at the Civil Internment Camp on Ile Chausey. The message reads 'Guerin H. Auxiliary 13e Company, Granville, detached to Chausey. Dear Friends, Now I am in Chausey. Warden to the Austro German [prisoners]. I'm very well. I'll send you some news in a few days. I'm going on guard duty. The boat is going to leave very soon. Good day and good health.'

CORRESPONDANCE MILITAIRE



Two picture postcards of Chausey written by military personnel. They were carried free as they endorsed 'Correspondance Militaire'. The writer of the top card was on Ile Chausey, as pointed out by the arrow. It is addressed to Paris and has a Granville transit postmark of 26th November 1914. The bottom card has a Granville dispatch mark of 26th June 1916 and an Avranches arrival mark of the same day. There is nothing to indicate that the writer was on the island other than the postcard.

TROUVÉ À LA BOITE, TAXE MARK & HOTEL CACHET

Trouvé à la Boite



Rare use of the Granville-based 'Trouvé à la Boite' (C04) cachet alongside a postage due tax mark (C03) and hotel cachet (C109), on an outward Chausey postcard with a Granville arrival postmark of 8th September 1915. It is the only recorded use of the 'Trouvé à la boîte' cachet on Chausey mail.



The card is headed '79 Genis Chausey' (79th Regiment, Chausey). This was a unit not unlike the Second World War Organisation Todt that would have been employed in improving fortifications and work to the prison fort on the island. The card was entitled to be carried free but the sender did not endorse it 'Correspondance Militaire', and probably placed it in the French Post Office postbox on the island, rather than sending it through the military post channels. As a result it received the 'Trouvé à la boîte' (Found in a [post] box) and triangular tax cachets. The 20c postage due stamp and cancel was applied as it left Granville, prior to delivery, on 9th September 1915. The 'Iles Chausey (Manche)' violet cachet is struck on both sides of the card. This was a hotel souvenir cachet that was probably applied to a batch of postcards before the War.