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## Some Examples of Censor Markings From Austrian POW's Interned In Russia During WW I

By Henry Hahn, SCP

Among the subjugated nationals serving in the Austro-Hungarian armed forces on the Russian front were Czechs, most of whom were less than eager to do battle against their Slavic "brothers." P.O.W. camps offered a haven from battle on the side of the unpopular Habsburgs, and later served as a springboard to joining Czech national units formed in Russia—first the "Česká Družina" and eventually the Czech Legion in Siberia. Hence one may think of Czech P.O.W. cards as "forerunners" to the philatelically popular "Legion Mail," and be prompted to devote more attention to their study.

There are essentially three basic areas of study: P.O.W. card types as issued by the governments and/or the Red Cross organizations, censor markings, and local civilian markings which assist in locating P.O.W. camps. This article will be devoted to censor markings applied by Russian and Austrian censors.

Censorship on both sides was carried out by either military or police units. The various markings, which are most frequently in either red or purple, often differ in minor detail. The markings described below do not necessarily originate from a single marking device. Thus far no attempt has been made, to the best of our knowledge, to catalogue these censor markings with regard to the minor details.

The most common Austrian P.O.W. censor marking is the triangular marking illustrated below.



Fig. 1. Triangular Austrian Censor Marking

This marking was applied by the Joint Central Verification Bureau, Censor Division, in Vienna to all incoming P.O.W. mail from Russia and Serbia.

Poor strikes from badly worn rubber stamps and minor variations in detail indicate mass usage of this marking.

The second most frequently encountered marking is the round Austro-Hungarian censor marking, which shows that censorship services have also been provided by the Red Cross. Two such markings are known; a larger one, shown in Fig. 2, and a smaller one, illustrated in Fig. 3 on an Austrian Field Post Card originating from Novo-Nikolajevsk in Siberia, now Novosibirsk.



**Fig. 2. Large Round Austro-Hungarian Red Cross Censor Marking**

The censor marking utilized by the State Police for both Serbian and later Russian P.O.W. mail is illustrated in Fig. 4.

Staatspolizeilich zensuriert

**Fig. 4. Straight line Austrian Police Censor Marking**

Markings applied by Russian authorities are far more numerous and varied. They were applied in several cities, and the various basic types also vary in detail.

Probably the most frequently encountered basic type, shown in fig. 5, reads "Mail of Prisoners of War." With minor variations in size and detail, it was applied in Moscow as well as in Siberia.

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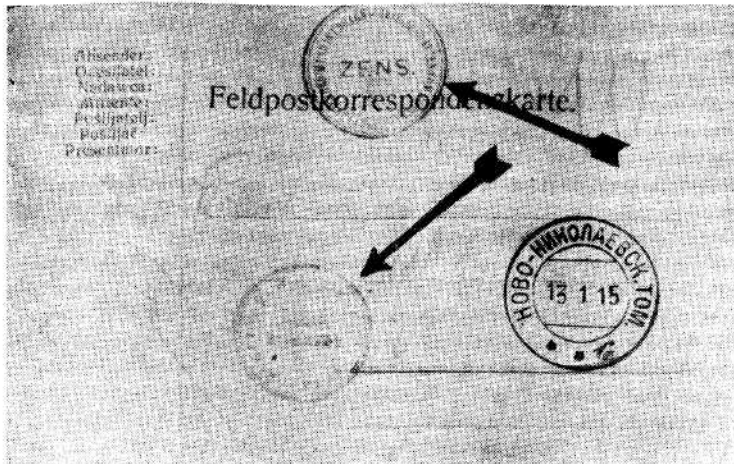


Fig. 3. Small Round Austro-Hungarian Red Cross Marking and Military Censor Marking of Novo-Nikolajevsk, Siberia

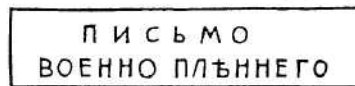


Fig. 5. Russian "Mail of Prisoners of War" Marking

A military censor marking showing an error is shown in Fig. 6. The first line should read IRKUTSK—but obviously has the first K missing. A similar marking by IRKUTSK censor number 26 bears the correct spelling of this Siberian city.

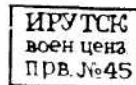


Fig. 6. Military Censor Marking of Irkutsk

A most interesting series of military censor markings originated at Omsk, Siberia. These bear the name of the censor—Nydeashkovsky in the example illustrated in Fig. 7.



Fig. 7. Military Censor Marking of Omsk, Siberia

Other and later censor markings applied at Omsk substituted initials in parentheses for the name as illustrated on a Jan. 27, 1917 card posted at Kainsk and shown in Fig. 8.



Fig. 8. Military Censor Marking of Omsk, Siberia

It is to be noted that this marking is not unique to censor No. 7—indeed the No. 7 probably applies to the censoring office in Omsk, since a somewhat different marking also bears the No. 7 but has different initials. The latter was applied at Omsk on June 25, 1916 and is illustrated in Fig. 9.

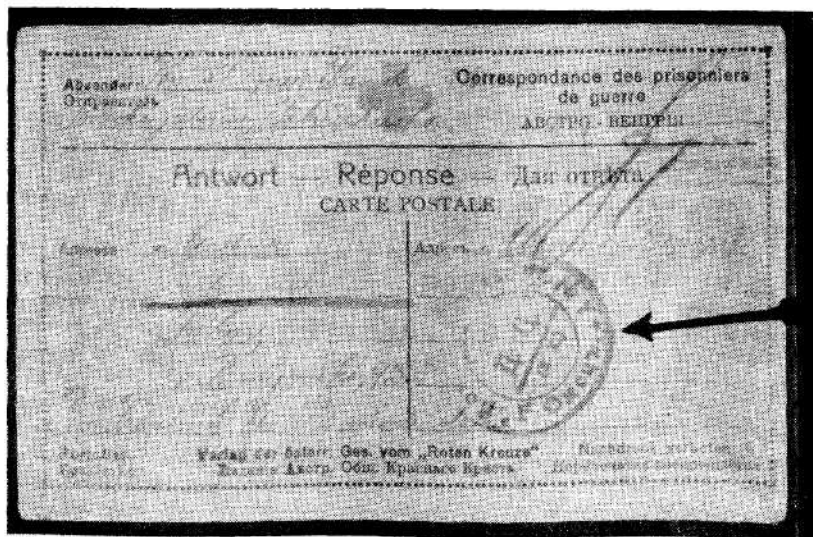


Fig. 9. Military Censor Marking of Omsk, Siberia

A later and somewhat smaller military censor marking, also bearing the No. 7 but with yet different initials is shown in Fig. 10.

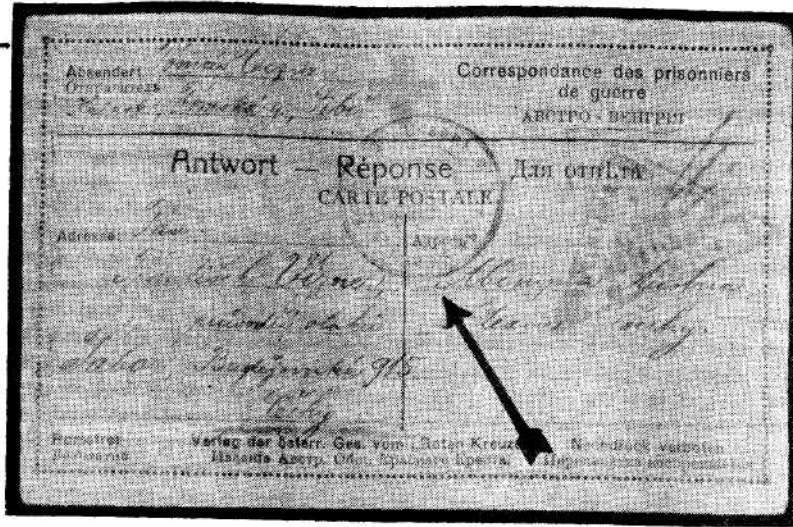


Fig. 10. Smaller Military Censor Marking of Omsk, Siberia

An earlier (1915) Omsk censor marking, with the censor's name, but different somewhat in that both the outer and inner circles are double line is not illustrated.

The simplest and smallest censor marking was applied in Moscow, early in the war. It is shown in Fig. 11 on a card posted in Moscow on Dec. 12, 1914.

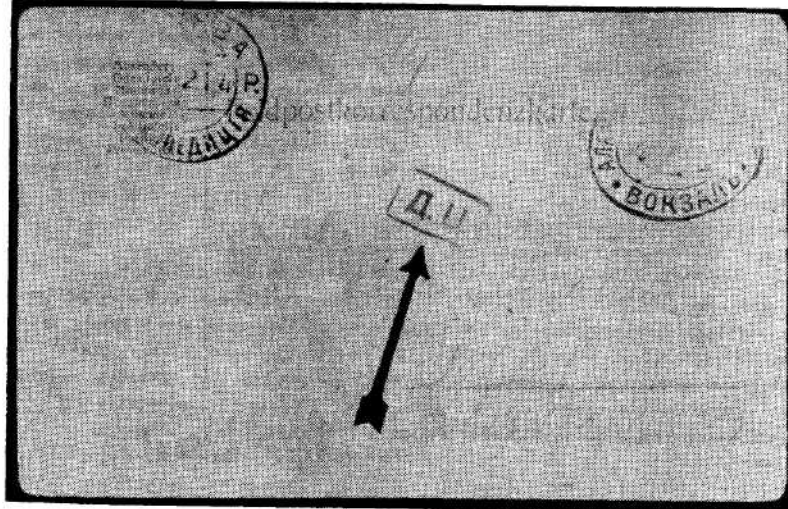


Fig. 11. Early Moscow Military Censor Marking.

Another Moscow military censor marking of somewhat later issue is illustrated in Fig. 12.



Fig. 12. Later Moscow Military Censor Marking.

A military censor marking applied in Tashkent is oval in shape and is illustrated in Fig. 13 on card dated June 5, 1917.

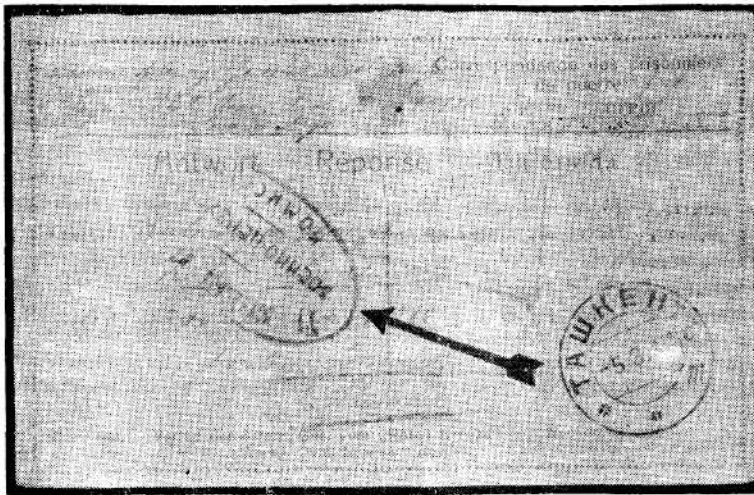


Fig. 13. Military Censor Marking of Tashkent.

The small Military Censor Marking of Novo-Nikolaevsk is illustrated in Fig. 3.

The stories told by the postal and censor markings on P.O.W. cards by Czechs interned in Russia are truly fascinating. A particularly interesting one was a card sent to Soběslav, Bohemia from Vladivostok, Siberia, via the U.S. It bears the civilian Vladivostok post mark, NO Russian censor marking (though it is written on a Russian issue P.O.W. card), a U.S. censor marking (#315 in San Francisco?) a receiving post mark "PRAGUE—CASTLE" and a light marking on the upper left side of the (Czechoslovak) Ministry of National Defense—Legionaire Mail. Was the sender a P.O.W. or a Legionaire? The text of the card gives no clue. The status in Vladivostok on the date of mailing would indicate that the sender would have been a prisoner, away from Vladivostok proper, were he Austrian. But being Czech, and saying mysteriously little in the text of the card (Czechoslovakia's independence was still nearly a month off) one would opt for the probability that the sender had by then joined his fellow Czechs as a Legionaire. But if so, why was his mail not passed through the then operational Czech Legion

field post, and received the Legion postal marking then in use in Vladistock, rather than the civilian post mark? Was the Prague "Legionaire Mail" marking used not only for Legionaire mail but for ALL mail coming from Russia?

Acknowledgement: The author is indebted to Dr. Vostatek and FILATELIE for the pen reproductions of the markings as well as for part of the information presented in this article.

## Notes For The Novice

At the recent meeting of the New Jersey chapter, Joe Lacko and a few other members noted that the articles in the Specialist seemed to be aimed at the advanced collector with specialized interest and that little attention seemed to be paid to the needs of the novice and junior collectors. Therefore, in an attempt to remedy this bias and to encourage new collectors, this column entitled "Notes for the Novice" will address the needs and interests of beginning and intermediate collectors. This column will entertain questions and comments on any philatelic topic and endeavor to broaden the general knowledge of novice philatelists.

This month it seem appropos to begin at the beginning by discussing the hinged vs. the non-hinged controversy that confronts every beginning collector and the choice of albums.

After one buys his or her first stamps of Czechoslovakia, perhaps the Hradcany set or a new issue of Art stamps, one has to decide how to mount these in the new album, stockbook or home-made pages. The least expensive way to save stamps probably is to mount them in a stockbook which usually retails between seven and twelve dollars. It requires no hinges, no mounts—nothing except the stockbook itself which often has acetate pages to protect the stamps. However, this is the least artistic way of saving stamps since there is no printed information about the stamps and the stamps are often not shown to their best advantage. The next best way of collecting is the most convenient, most informative (especially if you use K-line pages) and moderately expensive manner of collecting—namely, the commercially printed stamp album which organizes and illustrates your collection with tastefully designed pages (the cost is about \$20.00 to \$60.00). The last way of collecting is by designing your own pages. Here the collector has a wide selection of choices ranging from looseleaf paper to special art papers of various colors. Here is the greatest challenge! It requires the collector to organize his own collection, to research the information independently and to utilize his or her artistic talents to their fullest. However, this latter choice of special art papers, etc. is more appropriate to the exhibitor and the novice can set more modest aims and work with blank school paper or lined looseleaf paper. If you are a parent trying to involve your child in collecting, it might be fun to encourage the child to illustrate his or her own collection with crayons, colored magic markers, etc.

Now for the hinge, non-hinge controversy. After choosing a commercially made album or designing your own album, one must decide whether to use hinges (little folded pre-glued pieces of paper, one side of which adheres to the back of your stamp and the other side to the album page) which invariably leaves little marks on the gum of the stamp and sometimes pulls part of the gum off when removed. Mounts, on the other hand, whether homemade or manufactured, are designed to maintain the stamp in pristine mint condition

with no disturbance whatsoever to the gum. The pros and cons of both are as follows:

<b>Hinges</b>	<b>Mounts</b>
Much less expensive (59c/1000).	Very expensive (about \$1/50 stamps).
Offer no protection to the face of the stamp.	Protect the face of the stamp.
Leave marks on gum.	No effect to gum.
Stamp sometimes sticks to page (due to moisture, etc.)	Prevents sticking due to moisture, etc.
Not artistic in and of themselves.	Provide neat border if cut properly.
Reduce value of most mint stamps issued after 1945 (10-30%).	Increases value of stamps issued before 1945 (10-100%).

Of course for used stamps hinges have no effect on gum since there is none and therefore do not affect the monetary value of the stamps. On this latter point of whether hinging decreases the value of a mint stamp, it should be noted that in reality, a hinged stamp does not decrease in value—but rather a non-hinged stamp (especially if issued before 1945) commands a significant premium because “connoisseurs” who want a “perfect” stamp pay outrageous premiums to dealers who cater to their “royal” tastes. No doubt, this has also perpetrated and encouraged the production of expensive stamp mounts. However, I am happy to report that this unfortunate development in philately is nearing an end since many unscrupulous people have developed almost undetectable techniques for regumming stamps (i.e. putting new gum on a stamp to conceal hinge marks or damage). Consequently, it seems that the Philatelic Foundation will no longer give an opinion on the gumming of a stamp since the practice of regumming is so prevalent especially on the high price stamps demanded by the “connoisseurs.” So if all your stamps are hinged, rest easily and don’t hesitate to buy hinged stamps for your collection.

A final word of caution: it is not wise to paste stamps in an album or use scotch tape as this will generally ruin the value of a stamp completely. If you make your own mounts do not use regular scotch tape as there is a yellowing process that takes place which often seeps into the mount and ruins the stamp.

P.S. Don’t forget to write your comments or ask questions no matter how elementary. Editor.

## From the Editor

### SCP ANNUAL MEETING AT SOJEX

April 6 to April 8 — Sojex 1979

Write it down on your calendar! SCP All Star Exhibitors dust off your collections! Sojex is near! This year’s annual meeting of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately will be in Atlantic City at Sojex—the South Jersey Associated Stamp Clubs Annual Exhibition and Stamp Show. We will have a Czechoslovakian qualified judge (probably Henry Hahn or Dr. Reiner-Deutsch), 40-80 reserved frames, special Society Awards, our annual board meeting, a philatelic lecture series and lots of fun! All of you who have considered exhibiting—do it now! Whether you have one frame (just 16 album pages) or 10 frames, this is the time to show us your special interest by teaching us something philatelic with your carefully collected stamps and covers. For all information and application forms write to our Sojex ’79 Chairman, Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

But hurry, the deadline is fast approaching. If you need help or guid-



ance in the preparation of your exhibit, write to me, the Editor and I will endeavor to personally help or arrange for an experienced exhibitor to assist you.

For those of you who want to stay at the World International Hotel which is the site of the SOJEX Show, special rates of \$40 per night double occupancy are available. One night's deposit is required for a reservation but a full refund will be made if the reservation is cancelled at least 48 hours in advance. The address for reservations, etc., is: World International Hotel, Pennsylvania Avenue—Beach Block, Box 899, Atlantic City, New Jersey — phone (609) 344-1151.

By the way, for those of you who feel lucky, this hotel is on the same block as the Resorts International Gambling Casino. I suggest that you make reservations as soon as possible.

#### EXPERTISING COMMITTEE

In my last few articles about investing in Czech stamps, I emphasized the importance of getting better stamps expertized since forgeries are abundant in all countries and Czechoslovakia is no exception. And please don't make the mistake of telling yourself that "these stamps came out of an old collection, therefore they can't be forged." On the contrary, these are the stamps that are MOST likely to be forged since many of the first forgeries were made shortly after the stamps were first issued. In particular, the Music Sheets, the early air mails and all semi-postals (even the cheap ones have been forged) should be expertized. You'd be surprised at the number of forgeries which I have spotted in "old time collections." I, myself had to return three sets of the Siberian Legion stamps, bought at major auctions before I acquired my first genuine set from Dr. Fischmeister. Therefore, I urge all collectors to submit their Czech material to the SCP expertizing committee which is headed by Dr. Fischmeister: Dr. Ladislav Fischmeister, Expertizing Chairman, V. A. Hospital, Augusta, Georgia 30904.

By the way, since I happen to be the chairman of the Ukrainian Expertizing Committee, Henry Hahn asked me if I would be willing to offer opinions on the genuineness of the stamps, covers, and cancellations of Carpatho-Ukraine for the SCP. I agreed to do this and therefore would be happy to take a look at any material from the area since, it too, has been recently well-forged.

D. J. R.

#### SALES CIRCUIT Wolfgang Fritzsche

P. O. Box 8, Canandaigua, N. Y. 14424

AN URGENT APPEAL to the members of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately:

**Please make up some sales books for our circuits.**

By the time you get this message there will be only ONE circuit on the road—as a rule we have 10 going at any time. This is the first time that we have reached such a low point.

What is needed are books with Czechoslovakia material, stamps, covers and stationery, the latter do not have to be in books.

I have books on hand, but they have stamps from other countries, such books I use as fillers to bring the circuit to its proper size.

Please help us keep the sales circuits rolling.

If you need blank books, I have them, they are 13c each PLUS postage. Thank you for your cooperation and please let me hear from you.

## MAIL OF THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN NAVY: CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

By Richard Major, SCP

The completion of the article by Jiri Nekvasil on the mail of the Austro-Hungarian Navy in World War I (and the urgings of our editor) have led me to publish my system for classifying the postal markings of the ships and boats of the K.u.K. Kriegsmarine, even though I am aware that it most probably is not complete. The system is based on one devised by Josef Tschupik and published in the magazine DONAUPOST in 1921. In it the basic format of the stamp is designated by a Roman numeral, the test of the stamp is indicated by an Arabic numeral, and such minor points as the appearance of stars and quotation marks are indicated by an appended letter. For example, a single line stamp reading S. M. Schiff "Arpad" would be type I/3q.

I would be very grateful to any collectors of this interesting material for comments on my system, and I would be especially grateful for information on any markings which are not covered by it. The entire system is as follows:

There are 19 basic formats used in the ship markings, which have been designated by Roman numerals as the 18 main stamp types:

- I. — Line stamp
- II. — Boxed stamp
- III. — Single circle stamp
- IV. — Single circle stamp with a bridge
- V. — Single circle stamp with eagle in the center
- VI. — Single circle stamp with arms of the Dual Monarchy in the center
- VII. — Circular stamp with double outer circle and eagle in the center
- VIII. — Circular stamp with double outer circle and arms of the Dual Monarchy in the center
- IX. — Circular stamp with single outer and single inner circle and eagle in the center
- X. — Circular stamp with single outer and single inner circle and arms of the Dual Monarchy in the center
- XI. — Circular stamp with double outer and single inner circle and eagle in the center
- XII. — Circular stamp with double outer and single inner circle and arms of the Dual Monarchy in the center
- XIII. — Horizontal oval stamp with arms of the Dual Monarchy in the center
- XIV. — Circular stamp with name or number of the vessel in the center
- XV. — Circular stamp with triple outer and single inner circle and eagle in the center
- XVI. — Vertical oval stamp with anchor in the center
- XVII. — Vertical oval stamp with eagle in the center
- XVIII. — Horizontal oval with no emblem, text only

There are over 100 different texts, designated by Arabic numbers. The dashes (—) indicate the position of the name or number of the vessel in the text.

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. S. M. S. —         | 6. Seiner Majestät Schiff — |
| 2. S. M. S.<br>—      | 7. S. M. B. —               |
| 3. S. M. Schiff —     | 8. S. M. Boot —             |
| 4. S. M. Schiff<br>—  | 9. S. M. D. —               |
| 5. Sr. M. Schiff<br>— | 10. S. M. Dampfer —         |
|                       | 11. S. M. K. D. —           |
|                       | 12. S. M. K. Dampfer —      |
|                       | 13. S. M. Mietdampfer —     |

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 14. S. M. Trindampfer —                              | 46. K. K. Kriegs-Marine Sr. M.<br>Schiff                |
| 15. S. M. Hulk                                       | —   |
| 16. S. M. Pb. —                                      | 47. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>Boot —                     |
| 17. S. M. Patr. —                                    | 48. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. B. —                 |
| 18. S. M. Patrouillenboot —                          | 49. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine S. M.<br>Boot —               |
| 19. S. M. Spitalschiff —                             | 50. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Boot —               |
| 20. S. M. Tb. —                                      | 51. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M.<br>Boot —            |
| 21. S. M. Tboot —                                    | 52. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. D. —                 |
| 22. S. M. Torpedoboot —                              | 53. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. D.<br>—              |
| 23. S. M. U. —                                       | 54. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Dampfer —            |
| 24. S. M. Uboot —                                    | 55. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>Dampfer —                  |
| 25. S. M. Unterseeboot —                             | 56. K. u. K. Kriegs-Marine<br>Lloydampfer —             |
| 26. S. M. Yacht —                                    | 57. K. und K. Kriegsmarine-<br>Mietdampfer              |
| 27. Lloydampfer —                                    | 58. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Schiff Mietdampfer — |
| 28. Seespitalschiff                                  | 59. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Hulk                 |
| 29. —  | —   |
| 30. S. M. Schiff —<br>K. u. K. Kriegsmarine          | 60. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine S. M.<br>Patrouillenboot —    |
| 31. S. M. Mb. —<br>K. u. K. Kriegsmarine             | 61. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine S. M. Pb.<br>—                |
| 32. S. M. Patrouillenboot —<br>K. u. K. Kriegsmarine | 62. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine S. M. P.<br>B. —              |
| 33. S. M. Spitalschiff —<br>K. u. K. Kriegsmarine    | 63. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Pb. —                |
| 34. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine S. M. S.<br>—              | 64. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Patrouillenboot —    |
| 35. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine                            | 65. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Tb. —                |
| 36. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. S. —              | 66. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M.<br>Tb. —             |
| 37. K. u. K. Kriegs-Marine<br>S. M. S. —             | 67. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Tboot —              |
| 38. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. S.                | 68. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Torpedoboot —        |
| 39. K. und K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. S.               | 69. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. U. —                 |
| 40. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Schiff —          | 70. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Ub. —                |
| 41. K. u. K. Kriegs-Marine<br>S. M. Schiff —         |   |
| 42. K. und K. Kriegs-Marine<br>S. M. Schiff —        |   |
| 43. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine S. M.<br>Schiff            |   |
| 44. K. u. K. Kriegs-Marine Sr. M.<br>Schiff          |   |
| 45. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. S. Boot —         |   |

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|--|--|
| 71. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Uboot —                   | 86. Zensuriert<br>S. M. Boot —   |
| 72. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M.<br>Uboot —                | 87. Zensuriert<br>S. M. Dampfer —  |
| 73. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Unterseeboot —            | 88. Zensuriert<br>S. M. S. —   |
| 74. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>Brief-<br>Stempel<br>S. M. S. — | 89. Zensuriert<br>Marine-Feldpost<br>K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>Feld-<br>S. M. S. — Post |
| 75. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>Feld-<br>S. M. S. — Post        | 90. Zensuriert<br>K. u. K. Arbeiterabteilungs-<br>kommando                             |
| 76. K. u. K. Kriegs-Marine-Torpedo-<br>Depot-Schiff          | Auf S. M. S. —   |
| 77. K. und K. Kriegs-Marine<br>Torpedo-Depot Schiff          | 91. Briefzensur<br>S. M. S. —  |
| 78. K. u. K. Kriegsmarine<br>S. M. Yacht —                   | 92. Briefzensur<br>S. M. Tb. —   |
| 79. S. M. S. —<br>Zensuriert                                 | 93. Zensur<br>S. M. S. —   |
| 80. S. M. Boot —<br>Zensuriert                               | 94. Dampfer —<br>K. u. K. Kriegsmarine   |
| 81. K. u. K. Seepitalschiff —, —<br>Zensuriert               | 95. Dampfer —<br>K. und K. Kriegsmarine  |
| 82. Zensuriert<br>S. M. S. —                                 | 96. Dampfer — der K. u. K.<br>Kriegsmarine   |
| 83. Zensuriert<br>S. M. Schiff —                             | 97. Kommando S. M. S. —  |
| 84. Zensuriert<br>S. M. S.<br>—                              | 98. K. u. K. Kommando<br>S. M. S. —  |
| 85. Zensuriert<br>Auf S. M. S. —                             | 99. Kommando S. M. Schiff —  |
| 102. KMDO des Fstgefrierschiffes<br>—                        | 100. K. u. K. Kommando<br>S. M. Boot —   |
| 103. Kommando des Seespitalschiffes —                        | 101. K. u. K. Kommando<br>S. M. Dampfers —   |
| 104. K. u. K. Kommando des Seespitalschiffes —, —            |  |
| 105. K. u. K. Kommando<br>—<br>Des Seespitalschiffes —       |  |
| 106. K. u. K. Commando S. M. S.<br>—                         |  |
| 107. K. u. K. Kommando S. M. Schiffes —                      |  |
| 108. K. u. K. Spitalschiff No. —                             |  |
| 109. Spitalschiff Der K. u. K. Flotte<br>Dampfer —           |  |
| 110. Verwaltung<br>Des Seespitalschiffes —                   |  |
| 111. Schiffsverwaltung Des Seespitalschiffes —               |  |
| 112. Schiffsverwaltung<br>Des<br>Seespitalschiffes —         |  |
| 113. K. u. K. Trainkommando Auf S. M. S. —                   |  |

- |   |   |
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| 114. K. u. K. Arbeiterabteilungskommando<br>S. M. S. ———  | 121. Commando<br>Piroscavo                              |
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| 118. Post<br>S. M. S. ———   | 125. Commando<br>Des K. K. Finanzdampfers               |
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| 120. Seetransportleitung<br>No. ———<br>Kommando Dampfer   | 127. K. K. Finanzwach-Abteilung<br>Am Finanzdampfer ——— |
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#### CHANGES

- 906 Melamed, Phillip H., 42 Linden Court, Cary, Ill. 60013  
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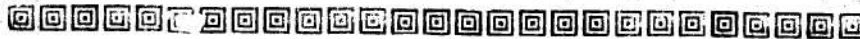
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