

Greco Dan-Simion

**CIVILIAN POSTAL CENSORSHIP
IN ROMANIAN HISTORY
1914-1928**

Deva, 2025

**„Postal history is not the history of the Post,
but the history of items passed through the
mail,
studied in terms of the means used
by the Post to deliver those items
to the addressee"
Nicolae Tripcovici**



Grecu Dan-Simion (born 2 May 1962 in Hunedoara, Romania) holds degrees in medicine (Timișoara 1987, currently a psychiatrist) and history (Sibiu 2007). He is a specialized collector of postal history related to the Romanian historical territories during the military-political turmoil of the 20th century, including the Second Balkan War, World Wars I and II, and the post-war period up to 1964. He has published over 270 articles on postal history in specialized magazines in Romania, the USA, Germany, Great Britain, and Austria, and has been a member of collectors' associations in these countries, as well as in Italy.

The vast majority of illustrations are reproductions of items from the author's collection. In all other cases, a clear mention is provided at the end of the explanatory text of the illustrations, in the form (*source*:), with the origin of these images typically being online auctions (*eBay*, *delcampe*, etc.), and to a lesser extent, personal collections.

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This is the first volume of **B Series** (B/1)

Of the

Monographs on postal history

"ROMANIA AND THE CONFLAGRATIONS OF THE XXTH CENTURY"

Civilian postal censorship of Romanians, Austro-Hungarians, Germans, Bulgarians, Ottomans, Russians, Serbs and French, in the current and former Romanian territories
1914...1928

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 - Transylvania, Banat & Bukovina, Bessarabia
- ❖ **Chapter II. Romanian Postal Censorship, 1916...1928**
 - Old Kingdom, Newly United Territories, Temporary Occupied Territories in Hungary
- ❖ **Chapter III. Central Powers' Censorship In Occupied Romania, 1917-1918**
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FOREWORD

At all times, the free exchange of ideas and information has been the main vector of progress, and implicitly, of democratic manifestations. Therefore, the control and restriction of their flow has been defined as one of the pillars of authoritarian or dictatorial regimes. On the other hand, it is true that these actions could also be seen as a "necessary evil" accepted by society, but only in strictly circumscribed moments (e.g., during internal or international conflict). Exact data about the emergence of this control in history cannot be known, but it is entirely probable that it appeared with humanity's ability to record and preserve information, ideas, concepts, opinions — therefore, with the advent of writing. The comprehensive term for this is **censorship**, which, from the perspective of its object of action, can be *informational* (applied to communications, news transmitted through private messages or mass-media) and *cultural* (applied to ideas, opinions, attitudes, and artistic creations, especially in the cultural environment). Based on this brief and simplified definition, the areas of action of censorship can be outlined in a somewhat didactic manner:

A) Censorship of Mass Media, Cultural, and Artistic Products:

1) **Press censorship** (as the main vector of information) refers mainly to newspapers, publications, and other printed materials intended for wide dissemination. From the point of view of the mode of action, an important distinction can be made between *preventive* censorship of the (national) press during the editing phase — carried out by checking the content of articles in proof form and eliminating those not allowed (either by replacing them with "reserve" articles, or, in extreme cases, by leaving blank spaces where censored articles were removed) — and *restrictive* censorship (of external or internal printed matter already published), executed by prohibiting the entry into the country or the dissemination to consumers of certain publications. The latter also has (in the context of this chapter) a postal component — in cases where censorship of postal items (parcels, wrappers) containing publications was applied.

A subcategory of press censorship can be considered the *censorship of illustrated postcards*, which aimed to prevent the dissemination of unauthorized military information, unfavorable propaganda images, and similar content through postcard illustrations. This censorship could also be either restrictive or preventive. (In Romania, starting with 1943, sets of regulations required postcard publishers to send samples for approval to various local or central institutions, with the authority in charge undergoing several changes until the '50s, after which postcard publishing became a state monopoly, making censorship useless.)

2) **Censorship of other cultural products** (which are also primary vectors of ideas) includes editorial censorship (of books before or after publication), as well as censorship of theatre performances, cinema productions, and other artistic forms.

B) Communications Censorship (PTT censorship), which primarily involves vectors of information and only secondarily of ideas:

1) **Postal censorship** (of written correspondence), which, depending on the nature of the censored items, may involve the censorship of *civilian correspondence* (private correspondence of ordinary citizens) or the censorship of *military correspondence* (letters sent by soldiers in garrisons or at the front). For simplicity, these two categories can be referred to as **civilian** censorship and **military** censorship, respectively, although this terminology is somewhat incorrect and confusing, since most of the censorship bodies were military in nature, organized and supported by military structures (with rare exceptions).

2) **Telegraph censorship**, which, based on the same criteria, can be "civilian" or "military";

3) **Telephone censorship**;

Not in all countries or in all periods was the censorship of *communications* handled by bodies distinct from those overseeing *cultural products*. Especially around World War I, all these operations were often coordinated by the same military institutions (for example, in Austria-Hungary, the sole control body was the *Küa*, which had specialized sections for each censorship activity). Similarly, in Romania until the second decade, the situation was similar. It was only in 1933 that a separate body for *censorship of the press, theaters and cinema* was established ("Military Censorship", attached to the Prefectures), which during World War II also operated autonomously from *postal censorship*.

Turning now to postal censorship, it should be noted that this volume will not focus on the *censorship of military correspondence* (the subject of volumes from A and D series), which was likely the first form to benefit from an independent organization. The first officially certified censored military correspondence (bearing censorship stamps) is known from the American Civil War (1861-1865), originating from the federal POW camps, and later being from the Franco-German War of 1870-1871.

Only the **Censorship of Civil Correspondence** will be the subject of this volume, though it too has a considerable history. Some authors claim that the Romans already sought to uncover secrets by intercepting written messages, breaking seals, reading them, and then restoring them to their original form. However, the formal practice of certifying censorship by affixing censorship handstamps to verified correspondence is a relatively new approach, introduced only with the 20th century: during the Boer War (1899-1902), several types of censorship handstamps and envelope-sealing labels were used on civilian correspondence (alongside military correspondence). Censorship (and the use of censorship handstamps) was also used by both sides during the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), and by the time of the brief Balkan Wars (the first in 1912, the second in 1913), censorship regulations are even known to have existed.

General information about mail censorship

One of the indisputable rights of citizens in peacetime in modern times is the **inviolability of correspondence**. All Romanian constitutions recorded this:

- **Constitution of 1923:** *Art. 27. The secrecy of letters, telegrams and telephone conversations is inviolable. A special law shall determine the cases in which the judiciary, in the interests of criminal investigation, may make an exception to the present provision. The same law will determine the responsibility of State agents and individuals for violation of the secrecy of letters, telegrams and telephone conversations;*
- **King Carol II Constitution of 1938:** *Art. 23. The secrecy of letters, telegrams and telephone conversations is inviolable. Except in cases where justice is obliged to inform itself according to the law.*
- A formal guarantee also existed in the first Communist **Constitution of 13 April 1948:** *Art. 33. - The secrecy of correspondence is guaranteed. Only in case of criminal investigation, under a state of siege, or in case of mobilization, can correspondence be checked.*
- And only a protection in the **Popular Republic Constitution of 1952:** *Art. 88. - the inviolability of citizens' homes and the secrecy of correspondence shall be protected by law.*

The inviolability of correspondence was also stated in Art. 176 of the **PTT Exploitation Law** (sanctioned by Royal Decree No. 2350 of 9 June 1892, subsequently amended in 1895 and 1926, and reprinted as a supplement to *PTT Bulletin* No. 16/1930), as well as in Articles 140, 141, 142 and 156 of the 1921 *Penal Code*.

The conditions of siege and war invariably led to the restriction of citizens' rights, including the regulation of postal-telegraphic censorship, which affected the correspondence of ordinary citizens. In theory, postal censorship had both a *restrictive* and a *repressive* role (by detecting illegal correspondences, capitalizing or destroying them, punishing the offenders, etc.), but in practice, its main role was **preventive**: it induced a form of self-control in senders, limiting from the start the information they were willing to include, that their communications were subject to verification and potential retaliation. Studying statistics and reports of cases investigated by the authorities reveals that the small quantity and often insignificant quality of information extracted from censored texts would not, by themselves, have justified the considerable effort and high expenses invested in censorship operations.

From a strictly technical point of view, postal censorship exhibits similar aspects regardless of geographical area and period. It concerns postal correspondence (simple or registered letters, postcards, printed matter, samples of goods, etc.) and, in a somewhat similar fashion, telegrams and postal parcels. In general, postal money orders were not subject to censorship, precisely because most postal administrations prohibited correspondence on money order form (although in Romania this was allowed). The censorship of postcards and telegrams was simple and fast. In the case of envelopes and packages, it was necessary to inspect the contents by censors, which involved additional operations. Precisely for this reason, envelopes were usually handed over open at the post office to facilitate the censorship operation, after which they were sealed by the censors and forwarded to the recipient. When envelopes arrived for censorship already sealed (which happened less often in internal correspondence and exclusively in international correspondence), they had to be opened (by cutting the envelopes, usually along the edge) and resealed after inspection, typically using a special label applied over the opening. Also to further simplify operations, limitations on the number of pages per letter were sometimes imposed.

Censors were both military and civilian employees who knew foreign languages (teachers, lawyers, other intellectuals), grouped into *censorship offices* or *bureaus*. However, their competence and number is objectively limited, which is why, in all cases, lists of permitted languages (for which censors were available) and forbidden languages (either due to the lack of censors or, especially, for political or propaganda reasons — for example languages of enemy countries, and so on) were established. When no censor at a censorship office had no knowledge of a permitted language, the correspondence could be forwarded, according to predetermined protocols, to other competent censorship centres.

Unpermitted words or texts were rendered illegible (usually by ink deletion). In serious cases, or when all correspondence was suspicious, the matter was referred to the competent bodies for investigations, or the correspondence was destroyed (usually by burning) in the presence of a commission.

Once the censorship operation was completed, it had to be certified — a necessity both for tracking which items had been censored and for identifying the place and person responsible for the censorship. The attestation was carried out either (rarely) by manuscript signs, or (most frequently) by applying censorship handstamps to the correspondence (sometimes accompanied by closing labels, where appropriate). These handstamps varied widely in appearance, but generally included the name of the locality where the censorship was made and, possibly, a matriculation / order / number of the censor — which would allow his identification on the basis of the lists of employees of the censorship office if deficiencies were to be discovered in the way of censoring correspondence. Where handstamps did not include serial numbers, the censor was (at least theoretically) required to sign next to the stamp (also for the purpose of identification). However, there were cases where no identification element was present, sometimes not even indicating the locality.

Postal censorship in Romanian territory.

Although we will not detail the phases of military correspondence censorship, they must be briefly mentioned, as they represent the first official manifestations of censorship within our area of interest. The Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878 marked the first implementation of censorship of military correspondence in the Romanian Army, most likely by copying or imposing the Russian model. Later, Romania's participation in the Balkan War of 1913 led to occasional censorship of correspondence of soldiers operating in Bulgaria.

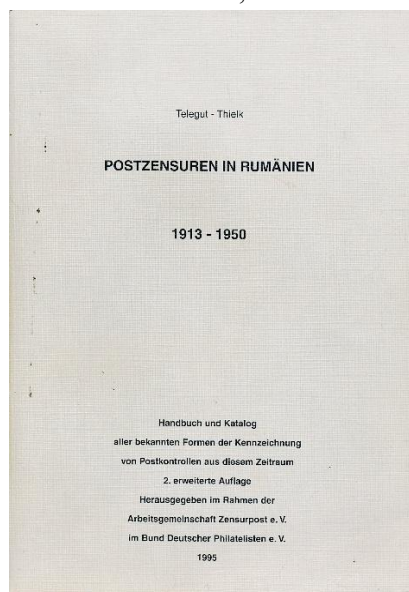
The third phase began in 1915, when Romanian units were mobilized in the "coverage area" along the border with Austria-Hungary; this mobilization was accompanied by the censorship of military communications. The entry into the war in August 1916 generalized military censorship across the entire army, which remained in effect until the demobilization of 1921.

Instead, censorship of civil correspondence emerged later, first appearing with the outbreak of the Great War in July 1914. Due to the nature of wartime involvement, censorship was established from the first day of the war in the great neighboring empires (Austria-Hungary and Russia), and it was only two years later that it was introduced in the Romanian Kingdom.

The study of Romanian censorship — especially during World War II — was, before 1989, itself a victim of another kind of censorship: the communist censorship of information and historical truth. This internal prohibition also resulted in a lack of international interest and knowledge about Romanian censorship, proven by the superficial and totally deficient treatment of the subject in the only catalogue existing at that time: Karl Kurt Wolter's 1966 work [*B00.1*], that was nevertheless the 'Bible' of Western censorship collectors for a long time.

The pioneers of this field in Romania were **Silviu Dragomir** from Bucharest — who sent images to be published in 1984 by the *Romanian Philatelic Studies* in USA — and mainly **Mircea Teleguț** from Timișoara, who was the first to collect images of stamps for a projected censorship catalog. The project, completed in 1985, was rejected for publication, so the author confined himself to circulating the manufactured "model" of his catalog amongst a small circle of acquaintances. This version was typed, with the images reproduced photographically pasted on the page in the appropriate place.

Later, he made contact with several collectors abroad, notably **Horst Thielk** from Germany. This collaboration led to the creation of the first proper catalogue of Romanian censorship, published abroad, in Germany in 1987 [[B00.2](#)]. A second, significantly expanded edition — thanks to the contribution of several collectors from Germany (especially **Horst Scherrer**) and Romania — was published in 1995 [[B00.3](#)], after Mircea Teleguț's death. Out of respect, his name was generously maintained by Horst Thielk as co-author, and the work became — and remains — known as the '*Teleguț-Thielk catalogue*'.



Cover of the 2nd edition of Teleguț-Thielk catalogue (1995)

For many years, this meritorious work — despite its limitations due to the lack of access to primary documentary sources — remained the "main book" for collectors of Romanian censorship. After 1990, valuable articles gradually began to appear, based more and more on the study of archival documents. This trend culminated in 2000 and 2004 with the publication by Mr. Călin Marinescu of the first collections of archival documents, primarily extracted from the military archives in Pitești [[B00.5](#)]. These volumes, rich in new data — especially for the period 1939-1945 — are important, as they contain many documents not found in the present monograph. Here, I have selected only information that contributes to understanding and evaluating censored mail from the perspective of postal history. All this refers to Romanian censorship.

Regarding foreign censorship in the Romanian historical territories, other researchers have already synthesized their work in published catalogs. For Austro-Hungarian censorship, we have already mentioned **Horst Thielk**'s studies, continued by the Swiss **Oskar Schilling**. Russian censorship was investigated by **Peter Michalove**, **David Skipton** and **Antoine Speeckaert** (as well as by **Horst Taitl** in his volumes on prisoners of war). Bulgarian censorship has been covered by **Vasilev, Kozarov and Grincharov**, while Serbian censorship has been addressed by **Hermann Dietz** and **Helmut Kobelbauer** — alongside many other authors whose contributions can be found in shorter journal articles.

On this volume

There are **symbols** in the catalog that help collectors simply and quickly designate any handstamp or correspondence, common for the entire series of handbooks:

- **Handstamps** are marked with the sign ☉, followed by the chapter number (B02...B16) / catalogue number (with variants, if any). For example: ☉**B02/03.1**, which is the first handstamp (**1**) used by the Austro-Hungarian (**B02**) office in Berzáska (**03**).
- Entire **letters and postcards** are encoded with the sign ☒, followed by the chapter and catalogue number. This sign can be found in this volume only in chapter **B01**, to designate correspondence *locally* or *remotely censored* in a *local*, *county* or *regional* censorship office. Those censored only *in county or local offices* have been assigned this symbol before the codification of the censorship handstamp they carry.
- ☒: bibliographical reference.

Illustrations. This volume is intended primarily as a handbook-monograph that synthesizes all existing knowledge found in the current bibliography, corroborated with the information extracted from over 11.000 images in my personal database and hundreds of items from my own collection. Secondly, it aims to serve as a practical tool for the expertise of censorship handstamps. For this reason, I have chosen to scan them at 300 dpi and reproduce them at enlarged sizes in all their forms — whether new or degraded — exactly as they appear on correspondence at various times, without any graphic intervention. Degraded handstamps are not worthless; on the contrary, they hold equal value in *postal history* when correctly identified, as they can offer additional insight into the postal route of the item. In the case of handstamps rarely found in perfect condition — generally the Romanian ones from Transylvania, or the Bulgarian examples —, I have reproduced several images, sometimes three, sometimes up to six or more, to ensure that all graphic details are visible in at least one of the reproductions.

Usage Dates. I noticed that many usage dates reported in the existing bibliography are inaccurate — either due to misinterpretation of a less visible handstamp or due to incorrectly dated postal cancellations, which are not uncommon. As a result, I started from scratch, without relying on any prior bibliographic references. Every usage data included in this volume is based on my direct observation and was validated one by one. Where usage periods from reliable sources seem plausible, I have included them in *italics*. Please note that these usage data — estimated as accurately as possible to "day level" — are NOT definitive and remain subject to future revision as new material is discovered. Nevertheless, they are significant, being the result of the study of over 11,000 censored postal items.

Dimensions. All handstamps have been measured uniformly — on the outer edges of the texts but also on the outer edges of the frames — which differs from the German custom of measuring the frames on their center line. That is why the dimensions of framed handstamps may appear 1-2 mm larger than those found in the German bibliography.

Color. The ink colour of the stamps is noted as accurately as possible, although I do not consider it a rarity criterion; it simply depends on the ink available in the censorship office's inkwell on the day it was applied.

Valuations. As I have already established in previous books, items of postal history cannot be valued as easily as postage stamps. It is the *combinations* of postal elements and the *conditions* under which the item circulated that determine its ultimate value. I know of many catalogs that assign values in currency or in "points", which are often ignored by the actual market, and frequently prove outdated or even incorrect. A specialist collector will always develop his own system for judging the interest and value of a piece. Moreover, it is in no one's interest to enable speculative pricing based on inherently subjective valuations.

Even a monograph on censorship can exist without a value quotation – since the information provided (such as circulation period, size and importance of the censorship office, and number of known handstamps, which can be assessed indirectly) enables collectors to establish their own value criteria. For example, collectors can easily differentiate between common handstamps, rare ones, and those known from only one or two examples — or even those still unknown.

However, in order to make this volume more accessible to those who are not specialized in Romanian historical censorship, I plan to compile a list of value estimates by the end of the year or by 2026. This list will be available to those interested, and will be sent by email (see my electronic contact address on page 2). The long delay in finalizing this volume does not allow me to include the list in the current text, and the list will likely be modified periodically in time. In the meantime, the handstamps presented in certain chapters may be assessed with reference to existing sources — e.g. the Austro-Hungarian censorship can be evaluated according to the quotations in the Oskar Schilling catalog.

Handstamps codification:

- .01-29: Censor handstamps
- .30-39: Free to forward handstamps
- .40-49: Retour handstamps
- .50-59: Forbidden (returned or not)
- .60-69: Packages censorship
- .70-79: Bank censorship
- .80-89: Forwarding handstamps (to another censor office)
- .90-99: Closing labels

Names of old Hungarian counties and Romanian equivalents.

For almost four years (1919-1923), the Romanians retained the old Hungarian administrative divisions in the newly annexed territories (Transylvania, Crişana/Partium, and Banat), with only a few exceptions. These exceptions refer to remnants of counties which, after the establishment of the border, could no longer function as autonomous territorial units and were therefore attached to neighboring counties. These are:

- The south of Ugocsa county (with Halmi / Halmeu), attached to Szatmár / Satu-Mare;
- The east of Csanád county, attached to Arad;
- The east of Torontál county, attached to Temes / Timiş (forming the new Timiş-Torontal county).

The remaining counties, preserved in their entirety after the union, were:

1. Alsó-Fehér – Alba de Jos (with capital at Nagyenyed / Aiud)
2. Beszterce-Naszód – Bistrița-Năsăud (capital Besztercze / Bistrița)
3. Brassó - Braşov (capital Brassó / Braşov)
4. Csik – Ciuc (capital Csikszereda / Miercurea Ciuc)
5. Fogaras – Făgăraş (capital Fogaras / Făgăraş)
6. Háromszék – Trei Scaune (capital Sepsiszentgyörgy / Sfântu Gheorghe)
7. Hunyad – Hunedoara (capital Déva / Deva)
8. Kisküküllő – Târnava Mică (capital Dicsőszentmárton / Diciosânmartin / Târnăveni)
9. Kolozs – Cojocna (capital Kolozsvár / Cluj)
10. Maros-Torda – Mureş-Turda (capital Marosvásárhely / Târgu Mureş)
11. Nagy-Küküllő – Târnava Mare (capital Segesvár / Sighişoara)
12. Szeben - Sibiu (capital Nagyszeben / Sibiu)
13. Szolnok-Doboka – Solnoc-Dăbâca (capital Dés / Dej)
14. Torda-Aranyos – Turda-Arieş (capital Torda / Turda)
15. UdVárhely – Odorhei (capital Székelyudvarhely / Odorheiu Secuiesc)

Assignment of Transylvania and Banat counties to Austro-Hungarian and Romanian postal censor offices (1914 – 1921)

Censorship generally had a territorial character. In other words, correspondence from an administrative unit — such as a county (in the case of Romania or Austria-Hungary), a gubernia (in Russia) etc. — was almost entirely censored in one or more predetermined offices. This territorial allocation was respected with mathematical precision in **Austria-Hungary** where censorship was not generalized but limited to areas in contact with the front line. As a result, special situations arose: there were counties (*vármegyék*) where mail was censored only from certain administrative sub-units (*járások* or *Bezirke*), while neighboring areas were not subject to censorship at all. This situation, for instance, occurred in several western counties of Transylvania beginning on 11 March 1917.

In the case of Austro-Hungarian censorship, I have introduced a new way of analyzing items — one that will help a lot the **local history** of different counties. Rather than simply *collecting censorship handstamps*, I propose focusing on *censored correspondence from a county*. Chronologically, mail from such a county may have passed through several predetermined centers. This approach is both more interesting and valuable than simply *collecting handstamps*.

Let's take an example: for about 11 months, most of the mail from Transylvania subject to censorship was checked in the **Kolozsvár** (Cluj) censorship center. Which makes the Kolozsvár censorship handstamp one of the most common in the Austro-Hungarian chapter. However, after 11 March 1917, only a small area in the east of Kolozs County remained within the censorship zone (the city of Kolozsvár itself was NO longer subject to censorship). Therefore, mail from those eastern *bezirks* censored between March and May 1917 at the Kolozsvár office is a true rarity for collectors of local postal history. This is why I propose a whole new perspective on collecting Austro-Hungarian censorship: not only *through the lense of handstamps*, but also *by examining the origin of the mail*.

Furthermore, I decided to trace the evolution of censorship in these counties further on, during the *Romanian occupation*, — where, except for the first months of 1919, the distribution of counties to censorship offices was quite well delimited —, as well as during the *Serbian occupation* in Banat. Therefore, this chapter is primarily valuable for the local postal history of the counties of Transylvania and Banat.

Of course, censorship handstamps can be collected simply, similar to postage stamps, "according to the catalog". However, the true value of censored items emerges only when they are analyzed in relation to both postal and non-postal aspects of the correspondence — and always in the context of the broader historical context.

B01/01. – Alsó-Fehér county (Mil. Kdo. XII)
Alba-Inferioară county (Transylvania)
 (today divided between Alba, Sibiu and Mureș counties / Transylvania)

A) The Austro-Hungarian period.

Censorship was introduced in the county following Romania's entry into the war (**27 August 1916**), when an internal *war zone* was established (effective from 13 September 1916). The inclusion of the **entire county** in the *war zone* was confirmed by Regulation no. 29.300 of 22 September 1916. However, no permanent censorship offices were established in the county, except for a form of currency / banking censorship in Gyulafehérvár, carried out by the City Hall. Therefore, **all mail** was sent for censorship to the regional office in **Kolozsvár**, which was responsible for overseeing censorship in all restricted areas of Transylvania. Finally, by Regulation no. 16.989 of **11 March 1917**, the entire county was removed from the *restricted postal area*, thus **suspending** all forms of mail censorship.

Assignment of Alsó-Fehér county to Hungarian censorship offices:
 (Theoretical period of censorship: 28 August 1916 – 11 March 1917)

Remote censorship

✉ **B01/01. 1st Period:** to **Kolozsvár regional** office, at least between **4 September 1916 – 14 January 1917**, out of which the refugee handstamps from **Brassó** were applied **(a)** between 4 September – 27 December 1916, see Fig. B01.01 and Fig. B01.02, and its own **Kolozsvár** handstamp was used **(b)** between 8 – 14 January (March) 1917.

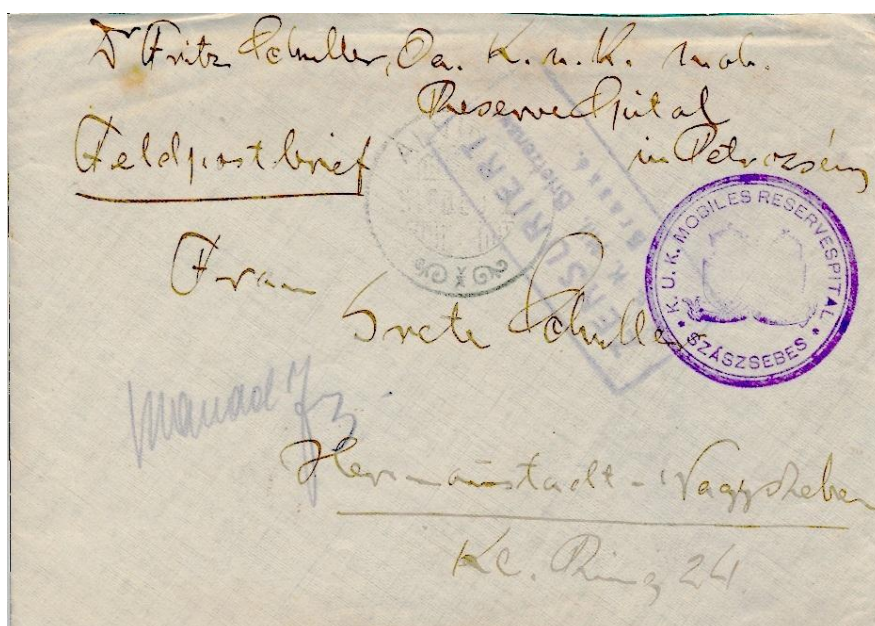
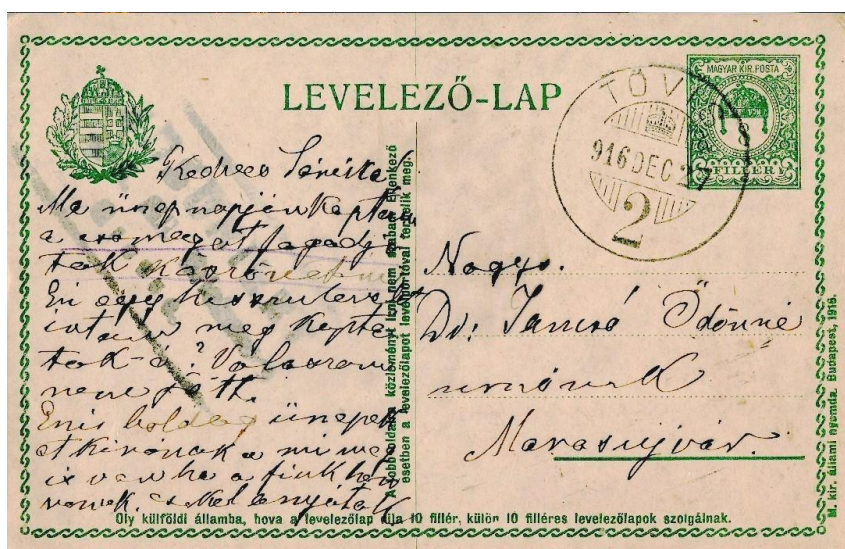


Fig. B01.01.
 Mail from Hunyad county, posted in Alsó-Fehér county, censored in Kolozsvár with a Brassó refugee handstamp (1st Period, ✉B01/01a)

Fieldpost envelope sent by Dr. Fritz Schuller from K.u.K. **MOBILE RESERVEHOSPITAL * SZÁSZSEBES** (see the round handstamp), deployed on the Romanian front in **Petrozsény** (Hunyad county). But the cover was sent by courier and posted in **ALVINCZ** (Alsó-Fehér county) in **1 December 1916**, and sent to **Kolozsvár** for censorship, with a "Brassó" handstamp ©B02/06.7A*a. Arrival in Nagyszseben.

Fig. B01.02.
 Mail from Alsó-Fehér county, censored in Kolozsvár with a Brassó refugee worn handstamp (1st Period, ✉B01/01a)

Stationery postcard postmarked **TÓVIS** (now Teiuș, in Alba county) on **27 December 1916** and addressed to Marosújvár (now Ocna Mureș, 40 kilometers to the north). The mandatory censorship was accomplished by diverting the mail to **Kolozsvár**, where it was censored with ©B02/06.7A*b.



B) Romanian period.

The Romanian takeover of the county administration took place on **11 January 1919**. The county was the only exception to the order of 15 July 1919, as the *county censorship office* was established in **Blaj**, rather than in Aiud (the county seat).

Assignment of Alba-Inferioară county to Romanian censorship offices:

(General period of censorship: January 1919 – July 1920)

County censorship

☒B06/12, **Blaj county** office, at least for the period 10 February 1919 – 16 July 1920.

Local censorship

☒B06/01, **Abrud local** office, probably only for mail sent from the city area in **April 1919**.

☒B06/02, **Aiud local** office, only for mail sent from the city area between **4 March –... 29 June 1919**.

☒B06/03, **Alba-Iulia local** office, only for mail sent from the city area between **1 January – 25 March 1919**.

☒B06/54, **Maros-Uioara local** office, probably only for mail sent from the city area in ... **1919**.

☒B06/84, **Sebeșul-Săsesc local** office, only for mail sent from the city area between **15 February – 17 March 1919**.

☒B06/95, **Teiuș local** office, only for mail sent from the city area in **1 July 1920**.

☒B06/100, **Vințul de Jos local** office, only for mail sent from the city area between **3 – 21 May 1919**.

B01/02. – Arad county (Mil. Kdo. VII)

Arad county (Partium)

(today Arad county / Crișana)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

Censorship was introduced in the county after Romania's entry into the war (**27 August 1916**), when an internal *war zone* was established (effective as of 13 September 1916). Regulation no. 29.300 of **22 September 1916** limited the *war zone* to the **eastern parts** of the districts Nagyhalomány, Borossebes and Radna — practically the territory east of the road passing via Halmágygóros, Csucs, Honcztó, Maros-Szlatina, Marosborsa / Maroskaproncza. This entire border section was guarded by a police station in Soborsin. All mail *sent from, addressed to, or transiting* this limited *war zone* area (including the Maros valley at Soborsin, see Fig. B01.03) was subject to censorship. For this purpose, a permanent censorship office was established in **Arad**, and all mail *sent from, addressed to, or transiting the city of Arad* was subject to censorship. Regulation no. 5497 of **20 February 1917** removed the entire Arad county from the *restricted postal area*, thus suspending all forms of mail censorship.

Assignment of Arad county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: 28 August 1916 – 20 February 1917)

County censorship

☒B02/02, **1st Period**: **Arad county** office, where local terminal and transit correspondence was censored at least between **31 August – 23 November 1916**, see Fig. B01.03.



Fig. B01.03: A rather rare example of censorship in the war zone in Arad county (1st Period, ☒B02/02) Illustrated postcard postmarked ÓPÁLOS (in the free-of-censorship area) on **28 September 1916** and addressed to **Soborsin**. Due to the receiving address in the *war zone* (Soborsin), the correspondence was diverted westwards to **Arad** for censorship with handstamp ☒B02/02.1, and only then delivered.

B) French Occupation period.

The French censorship was limited exclusively to the **city of Arad**, where it functioned between 30 December 1918 – 18 July 1919; see *Chapter #B15*.

C) Romanian period.

The county was occupied by Romanian forces following their offensive of **16 April 1919**. Between at least 1 June and 2 August 1920, the censorship posts in the county were subordinated to the 1st Rifle Division.

Assignment of Arad county to Romanian censorship offices:

(General period of censorship: April 1919 – April 1921)

County censorship

☒ **B06/05**, **Arad county** office, at least for the period **26 May 1919 – 28 April 1920** and then again in the military area, at least between **13 March – 11 April 1921**.

Local Censorship

☒ **B06/66**, **Pâncota local & satellite** office: in 1919 it censored mail as a *local censoring office* for the eastern parts of Arad county, in an area formed between the localities Pâncota, Ineu, Nadăș, Tăuț, Drauț, Mocrea, Bocsig, Sebiș, Târnova etc.; between **13 December 1919 – 15 April 1920**, it occasionally performed *satellite office* functions to relieve the congestion of the Arad censorship office.

☒ **B06/25**, **Curtici railway local** office, probably only for mail sent from the city area in ... **1919**.

☒ **B06/52**, **Mariaradna local** office, only for mail sent from the city area between **30 April 1919 – 19 March 1920**.

☒ **B06/65**, **Otlaca railway local** office, not seen yet.

☒ **B06/67**, **Pecica local** office, only for mail sent from the city area on **22 January 1921**.

☒ **B06/83**, **Sântana local** office: for mail from the eastern parts of Arad county, between **14 January – 9 April 1920**

☒ **B06/104**, **Zerindul Mare local** office, not seen yet.

B01/03. – Besztercze-Naszód county (Mil. Kdo. XII)

Bistrița-Năsăud county (Transylvania)

(today Bistrița-Năsăud county / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

Most likely, internal censorship was introduced in the county shortly after its official establishment in **April 1915**, due to its proximity to the Bukovinian front. The first *local censoring offices* were established in **Naszód** and **Borgóprund**, but were replaced in the autumn of 1915 by the **Besztercze** office, which then took over jurisdiction for the *entire county*.



Fig. B01.04: Mail censored in Besztercze with the refugee handstamp from Kolomea (2nd Period, ☒ **B02/04)**
Illustrated postcard, postmarked **BESZTERCZE 26 July 1916**, addressed to Prague. It bears the handstamp of the censoring refugee office Kolomea, ☒ **B02/04.5**, used in Besztercze.

In July 1916, the county was declared an internal war zone, and travel was permitted only with a military-issued permit. At the end of the month, the county was visited by Count Tisza. Regulations issued in September 1916 and March 1917 *maintained* the entire county within the Transylvanian operational *war zone*, which was also designated a *closed postal area* with mandatory censorship. Censorship activities continued in Besztercze even after the closure of the KüA in August 1917 (late known date: 2 November). The Besztercze office itself closed in November 1917.

Due to the ongoing military situation, censorship was continued under the new leadership of the War Ministry, with mail being redirected to the newly established **Marosvásárhely** office (earliest known date: 20 November). As a result, this was one of the few Transylvanian counties that did not send its correspondence to Kolozsvár — except for at least one exception involving mail from Szászlekencze (see Fig. B01.06) — as it had its own local offices. The latest censorship mark from this county is dated **February 1918**, though further uses may yet be discovered.

Assignment of Besztercze-Naszód county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: April 1915 – February 1918...)

Local & County censorship

☒**B01/03A**, **1st Period**: The Naszód *local* office censored mail *sent from or arriving* in the two northern districts, at least between **14 May and 21 August 1915 (a)**. ☒**B02/05**, The Borgóprund *local* office censored mail *sent* from the two southern districts, at least between **13 June and 5 July 1915 (b)**.

☒**B02/04**, **2nd Period**: The Besztercze *county* office censored mail from all the county, at least between **20 November 1915 and 2 November 1917**. During this time, it used its own handstamps between 20 November 1915 and June 1916, and again from 5 August 1916 to November 1917 **(a)** Between 23 July and 3 August 1916, it temporarily used the *Kolomea* refugee handstamp **(b)**; see Fig. B01.04. ☒**B01/03B**, One interesting exception is the mail from the southern office of *Szászlekencze*, which was remotely censored in **Kolozsvár** as of 20 September 1916 **(c)**; see Fig. B01.05.

Remote censorship

☒**B01/03C**, **3rd Period**: The Marosvásárhely *multi-county* office, where mail from all the county was directed after the Besztercze office was closed, at least between **20 November 1917 and 20 February 1918**; see Fig. B01.06



Fig. B01.05: Mail from Besztercze-Naszód county, but censored in Kolozsvár! (2nd Period, ☒B01/03B)
Illustrated postcard, postmarked SZÁSZLEKENCZE on 19 September 1916, addressed to northern Hungary and censored in Kolozsvár, instead of Besztercze, using a refugee handstamp ☒B02/06.7*Ba. So far, it is a unique item.

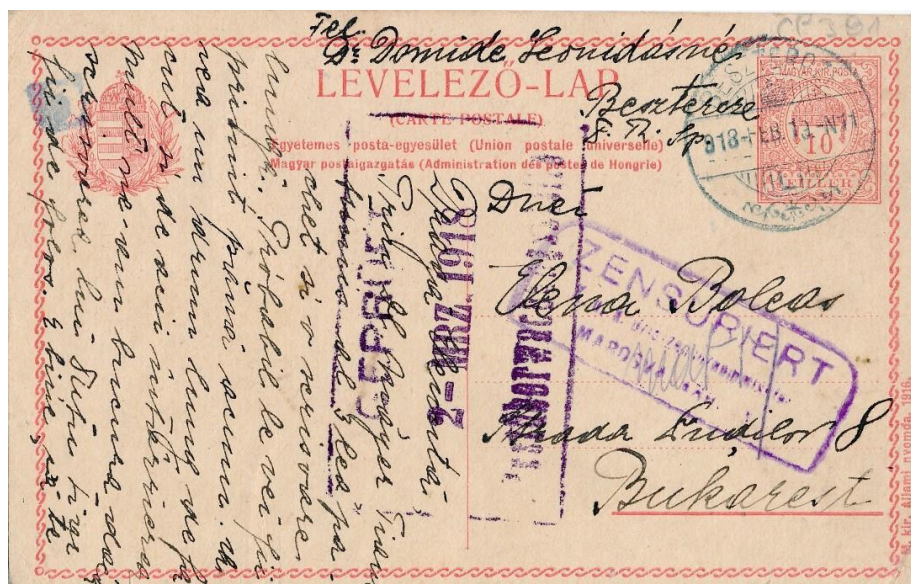


Fig. B01.06:
A late mail from Besztercze-Naszód county censored in Marosvásárhely (3rd Period, ☒B01/03C).

A postcard written by a Romanian doctor, postmarked **BESZTERCZE** on **19 February 1918**, addressed to Bukarest, in occupied Romania. Censored according to requirements in **Marosvásárhely** with the handstamp ☒B02/11.1, and re-censored on arrival on 2 March 1918, by occupying Germans in Bucharest with ☒B11/01.5.

B) Romanian period.**Assignment of Bistrița-Năsăud county to Romanian censorship offices:**

(General period of censorship: January 1919 – July 1920)

County censorship☒ **B06/11**, Bistrița county office, at least for the period between 7 January 1919 and 28 July 1920.**Local censorship**☒ **B06/59**, Năsăud local office, not seen yet.**B01/04. – Bihar county (Mil. Kdo. VII)****Bihor county (Partium)**

(today divided between Bihor county / Crișana region and Hungary)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

The county was **not** part of the operational or restricted areas in 1915. It was only after the Romanian offensive that the boundary of the operational area was established by Order no. 29300 of **22 September 1916**, including small eastern portions of the Élesd, Belényes and Vaskoh districts (east of the Király hago – Belényes – Vaskoh – Biharkristyor line). Probably as a result, a local censorship office was established in **Nagyvárad** — although the city itself was, at least theoretically, located in the censorship-free area! As of **18 December 1916**, the entire county was declared free of censorship: "Censorship was abolished, as it is written in Nagyvárad, in the whole of Bihar County. Letters and parcels can be sent resealed"¹.

Assignment of Bihar county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: ...October 1916 – 20 February 1917)

Remote censorship☒ **B01/04, 1st Period**: mail sent from or to the eastern districts of Bihar is yet unknown. It was probably censored in Nagyvárad or Kolozsvár.**Local censorship**☒ **B02/13**, The local office in **Nagyvárad**, where apparently only terminal and transit mail sent from/or through the area of the city was censored, at least between **30 October and 23 November 1916**; see Fig. B01.07.

Fig. B01.07:
A rare transit censorship performed by the Nagyvárad local office.

A postcard written on **4 November 1916** and postmarked GESZT (Bihar county, now Békés county Hungary, near the Romanian frontier), addressed to Naszód. As the postal route passed through **Nagyvárad**, the postcard was censored here with the handstamp **☒ B02/13.1**. Arrival postmark NASZÓD on 11 November 1916.

B) Romanian period.

At the beginning of May 1919, Dr. Aurel Lazăr took over both the leadership of the county and the city on behalf of the *Consiliul Dirigent*, and had appointed Dr. Coriolan Pop (director of the *Bihoreana Institute*) as

¹ *Ellenzék* (Kolozsvár), no. 291 from 19 December 1916.

prefect, and Aloisiu Nistor as subprefect. All existing Hungarian city officials in Oradea were sworn in². As of 1 June 1920, the Oradea censorship office became subordinated to the Rifle Corps, while the other offices in the county were subordinated to the 2nd Rifle Division.

Assignment of Bihor county to Romanian censorship offices:

(General period of censorship: April 1919 – July 1921)

County censorship

☒B06/62, Oradea Mare county office, at least for the period 28 April 1919 and 4 June 1920, and then handled all mail passing through the military area between 1 October 1920 and 15 July 1921.

Local censorship

☒B06/31, Episcopia Bihorului railway local office, not seen yet.

☒B06/75, Salonta Mare local office, only for mail sent from the city area between 20 July and April 1921.

☒B06/77, Sechehid local office, only for mail sent from the city area in December 1919.

☒B06/99, Valea lui Mihai local office, only for mail sent from the city area between 1 September 1920 – April 1921.

B01/05. – Brassó county (Mil. Kdo. XII)

Braşov county (Transylvania)

(today Braşov county / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

Most likely, internal censorship was introduced in Brassó county shortly after the Romanian partial mobilisation along the frontier in the **autumn of 1915**. It was carried out by the local institution in **Brassó**, which had already been operating as an external censorship office since September 1914. The Romanian occupation of the city on 29 August 1916 led to the transfer of responsibility from the *local* office to the *regional* one in **Kolozsvár**.

Regulations issued in September 1916 and March 1917 placed the *entire county* within the Transylvanian operational war zone (a *closed postal area* with mandatory censorship). However, censorship appears to have ceased with the closure of the KüA in **August 1917**.

A *regional office* in **Brassó** was re-established in **October 1917** under the new leadership of the War Ministry. Yet it resumed censoring mail from *the entire county* only beginning in February 1918, continuing until the final days of the Monarchy (October 1918). Thus, it appears that between October 1917 and February 1918, the regional Brassó censoring office was active — but did not censor mail from its own county!



Fig. B01.08

This paradoxical situation is also proven by the item in Fig. B01.08: a postcard written and mailed from BRASSÓ on 24 November 1917, which was not censored locally because the county was not yet considered in the *restricted postal area* — even though the Brassó censorship office had already been operating for a month. As a result, the mail was censored at **arrival** in Feldkirch (Vorarlberg, Austria

— another *restricted area*) with a handstamp type Thielk#28.18. This is only an example of how censored items must be interpreted from a postal history perspective.

² Details in newspaper *Tribuna Bihorului* (Oradea-Mare) no. 14 from 11 May 1919.

Assignment of Brassó county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: November 1915 – August 1917, February – October 1918)

County / Foreign censorship

☒ **B02/06, 1st Period:** The **Brassó county** office, which censored mail *sent from or arriving* in the entire county, at least between **17 November 1915** and **28 August 1916**; see *Fig. B01.09*.

Remote censorship

☒ **B01/05, 2nd Period:** The **Kolozsvár regional** office, which censored mail from the entire county, at least during the period from **18 December 1916** to **7 August 1917**. During this time, refugee handstamps from **Brassó** were used between 18 and 21 December 1916 **(a)**, while the office's own **Kolozsvár** handstamp was used between 5 March and 7 August 1917 **(b)**.

County censorship

☒ **B02/06, 3rd Period:** The **Brassó regional** office, which censored mail from the entire county, at least for the period between **1 February** and **12 October 1918**.

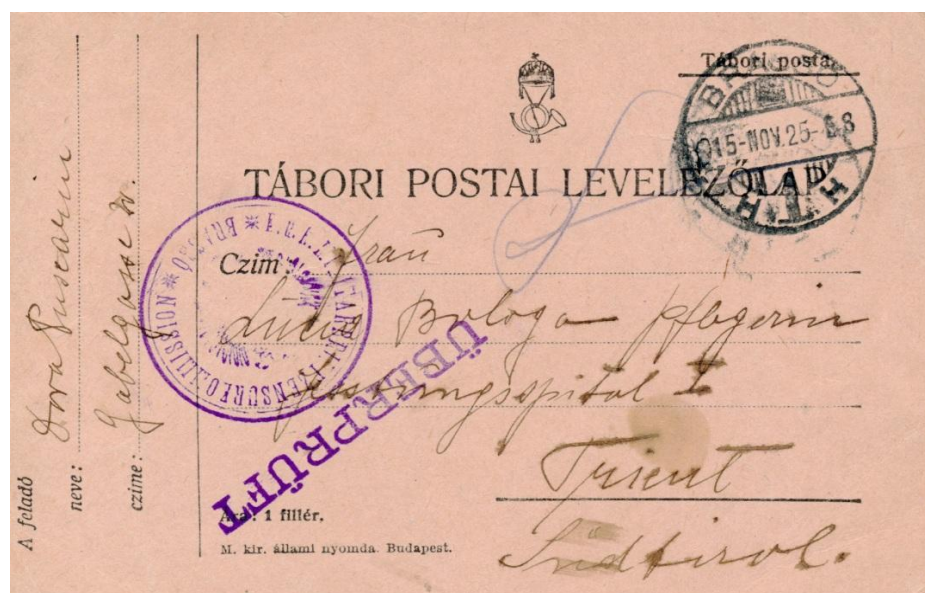


Fig. B01.09:
An early example of
terminal censorship in
Brassó
(1st Period, ☒ **B02/06**).

A postcard written by *Dora Pușcariu*, cancelled **BRASSÓ** on **25 November 1915**, censored locally with the handstamps ☒ **B02/06.4** and **02/06.5**. Received by *Lucia Bologa*, an elite Romanian woman, who was working as a volunteer nurse at the *Trient Fortification Hospital*, so she could be close to her son on frontlines, Lt. *Valeriu Bologa*.

B) Romanian period.

The occupation of Bârsa Country was under the responsibility of the 6th Rifle Regiment, alongside two battalions of the 5th Rifle Regiment. In September 1919, the 8th Gendarmerie Regiment Brașov was founded.

Assignment of Brașov county to Romanian censorship offices:

(General period of censorship: January 1919 – July 1920)

County censorship

☒ **B06.14, Brașov county** office, at least for the period between **7 January 1919** and **28 July 1920**.

B01/06. – Csik county (Mil. Kdo. XII)**Ciuc county (Transylvania)**

(today Harghita county / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

Censorship was probably introduced in this border county after Romania's entry into the war on **27 August 1916**, when an internal *war zone* was established (effective from 13 September 1916). The inclusion of the entire territory of the county in the *war zone* was confirmed by Regulation no. 29.300 of 22 September. The regulation of 11 March 1917 maintained the county's status within the Transylvanian operational *war zone* (a *closed postal area* with mandatory censorship). Censorship appears not to have ceased with the closure of the KüA in August 1917, but only later, towards the end of **November 1917** (or beginning of 1918?).

No permanent censorship offices were established in the county — except for an isolated gendarmerie censorship in late 1914 — so *all mail* was censored by the regional office **Kolozsvár** (which was responsible for all restricted areas of Transylvania), then by **Marosvásárhely**, and finally by **Brassó**.

Assignment of Csik county to Hungarian censorship offices:
(Theoretical period of censorship: 28 August 1916 – November 1917...)

Remote censorship

✉ **B01/06A, 1st Period:** The **Kolozsvár regional** office, active at least between **December 1916** and **28 July 1917**; refugee handstamps from **Brassó** were applied in December 1916 (a), and its own **Kolozsvár** handstamps were used between 13 January and 28 July 1917 (b).

✉ **B01/06B, 2nd Period:** The **Marosvásárhely regional** office, active at least between **7 and 16 September 1917**; see Fig. B01.10.

✉ **B01/06C, 3rd Period:** The **Brassó regional** office, active at least on **21 November 1917**.



Fig. B01.10:
An example of mail sent from Csik county and censored in Marosvásárhely (2nd period, ✉B01/06B)

A fieldpostcard written by a Romanian military and postmarked in GYERGYÓSZENTMIKLÓS on **9 September 1917**, censored by the regional office in Marosvásárhely with ✉B02/11.1; it was addressed to Skutari, in Austrian-occupied Albania.

B) Romanian period.

Assignment of Ciuc county to Romanian censorship offices:
(General period of censorship: December 1918 – July 1920)

County censorship

✉ **B06/23, Miercurea Ciuc county** office, at least for the period **March 1919**, then **3 October 1919 – 7 July 1920**.

Local censorship

✉ **B06/29, Ditrău local** office, not seen yet.

✉ **B06/35, Ghimeş local** office, not seen yet.

✉ **B06/81, Sânmiclăuş local** office, only for mail sent from the city area between **7 December 1918 12 May 1919**.

✉ **B06/87, Siculeni local** office, not seen yet (?).

B01/07. – Fogaras county (Mil. Kdo. XII)

Făgăraş county (Transylvania)

(today divided between Braşov and Sibiu counties / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

Censorship was likely introduced in the county after Romania's entry into the war on **27 August 1916**, when an internal *war zone* was decreed, effective from 13 September 1916. The inclusion of the entire county within the *war zone* was confirmed by Regulations no. 29.300 of 22 September and 16.989 of 11 March 1917. However, no permanent censorship offices were established in the county; therefore, *all mail* was sent to the regional office in **Kolozsvár**, which was responsible for censoring mail from all restricted areas of

Transylvania. Censorship in the county was lifted in connection with the dissolution of KüA in **August 1917**.

Assignment of Fogaras county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: 28 August 1916 – August 1917)

Remote censorship

☒ **B01/07, 1st Period:** The **Kolozsvár regional** office, active at least for the period between **27 December 1916** and **5 June 1917**. The refugee handstamps from **Brassó** was applied on 27 December 1916 (a); see Fig. B01.11. While its own **Kolozsvár** handstamp was used between 22 April and 5 June 1917 (b); see Fig. B01.12.

Fig. B01.11.
Mail from Fogaras county,
censored in Kolozsvár
with a worn out Brassó
refugee handstamp
(1st Period, ☒B01/07a)

Postcard postmarked
ALSÓSZOMBATFALVA
(now Sâmbăta de Jos, in
Braşov county) on **27
December 1916** and
addressed to Csák (now
Ciacova, Timiş county). For
censorship, the mail took a
200-km detour to
Kolozsvár, where the
refugee handstamp
☉B02/06.7A*b was applied.

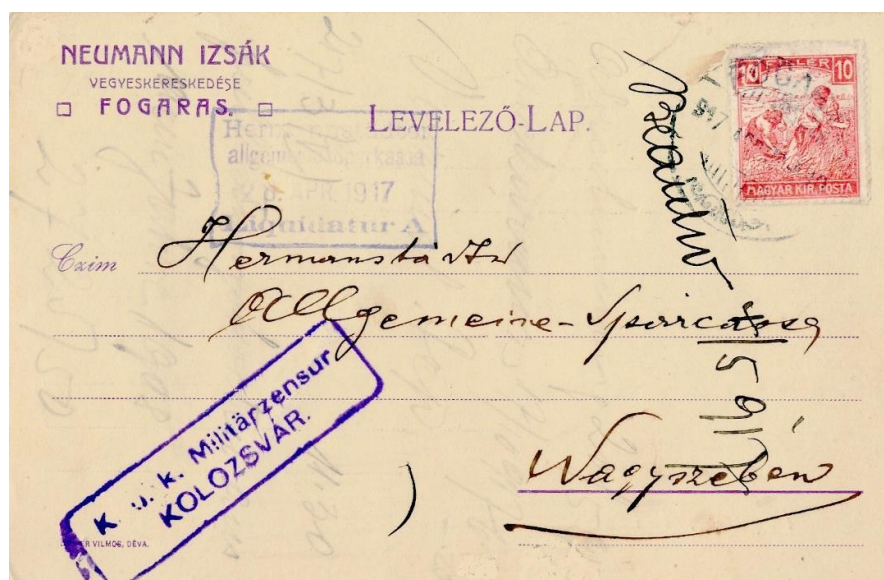


Fig. B01.12.
Mail from Fogaras
county, censored in
Kolozsvár office with its
own censor handstamp
(1st Period, ☒B01/07b)

Postcard postmarked
FOGARAS on **23 April
1917** and addressed to
Nagyszeben / Sibiu. For
mandatory censorship,
this mail also took a 200-
km detour to **Kolozsvár**,
where the handstamp
☉B02/08.2 was applied.

B) Romanian period.

On **12 December 1918**, the entire administration of the county was taken over by the Romanian National Council. Matei Matei became responsible for the post and telegraph office³.

Assignment of Făgăraş county to Romanian censorship offices:

(General period of censorship: January 1919, July 1919 – July 1920)

County censorship

☒ **B06/32, Făgăraş county** office, active at least during the period **29 July 1919 – 9 July 1920**.

³ Glasul Ardealului (Braşov) no. 32 from 6/19 December 1918.

B01/08. – Háromszék county (Mil. Kdo. XII)
Trei Scaune county (Transylvania)
 (today divided between Covasna and Braşov counties / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

Censorship was likely introduced in the county after Romania's entry into the war on **27 August 1916**, when the internal *war zone* was established, effective from 13 September 1916. The inclusion of the entire county within the *war zone* was also confirmed by Regulations no. 29.300 of 22 September and no. 16.989 of 11 March 1917. However, no censorship offices were established in the county, therefore *all mail* was sent to the regional office **Kolozsvár**, which was responsible for censoring mail from all restricted areas of Transylvania. After this commission was disbanded, mail was sent for censorship to the inter-county office in **Brassó** (possibly also to Marosvásárhely). Censorship in the county was likely lifted in connection with the Peace talks with Romania in **March 1918**?

Assignment of Háromszék county to Hungarian censorship offices:
 (Theoretical period of censorship: 28 August 1916 – February 1918...)

Remote censorship

☒ **B01/08A, 1st Period:** The **Kolozsvár regional** office, active at least between **21 December 1916** and **3 August 1917**. The refugee handstamps from **Brassó** were applied between 21 – 29 December 1916... (a), and its own **Kolozsvár** handstamp was used between ...22 March – 3 August 1917 (b).

☒ **B01/08B, 3rd Period:** The **Brassó regional** office, active at least between **8 October 1917** and **19 January 1918**; see Fig. B01.13.



Fig. B01.13: Mail from Háromszék county, censored in Brassó with a rare handstamp (3rd Period, ☉B01/08A).
 Illustrated postcard from **Sepsiszentgyörgy (Kossuth Lajos street)** written by a militaryman from **K.u.k. Bh. Etappenbaon No. 1**, and addressed to **Zagreb**, in Croatia. Postmarked **SZEPSISZENTGYÖRGY** on 29 October 1917, censored in Brassó with the handstamp ☉B02/06.9.

B) Romanian period.

Assignment of Trei-Scaune county to Romanian censorship offices:
 (General period of censorship: December 1918 – July 1920)

County censorship

☒ **B06/85, Sfântu Gheorghe county** office, active at least in **April 1919**, and **29 August 1919 – 14 August 1920**.

Local censorship

☒ **B06/48, Kézdivásárhely (Târgu Secuiesc) local** office, only for mail sent from the city area on **26 June 1919**.

B01/09. – Hunyad county (Mil. Kdo. XII)
Hunedoara county (Transylvania)
 (today Hunedoara, with parts in Alba and Caraş-Severin counties / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

Censorship was likely introduced in the county after Romania's entry into the war on **27 August 1916**, when the internal *war zone* was established, effective as of 13 September 1916. The inclusion of the entire county within the *war zone* was also confirmed by Regulation no. 29.300 of 22 September 1916. However, the

postal exclusion zone was maintained by Regulation no. 16989 of **11 March 1917** only in the southern district of **Petrozsény** (now *Petroșani*), an area adjacent to the former Romanian border. No permanent censorship offices were established in the county; therefore, **all mail** was sent for censoring to the regional office **Kolozsvár**, which was responsible for censoring mail from all restricted areas of Transylvania. Censorship in Petrozsény district was also lifted in connection with the dissolution of KüA in **August 1917**.



Fig. B01.14: Mail from Hunyad county, censored in Kolozsvár with a Brassó refugee modified handstamp (1st Period, ☒B01/09a)

Registered envelope postmarked GURASZÁDA on **28 December 1916**, censored by the **Kolozsvár** commission with a Brassó refugee modified handstamp ☉B02/06.7***C**, affixed on a standard closing label. Arrived at the Hungarian Red Cross, postmark BUDAPEST on 31 December 1916.

Fig. B01.15.
Mail from Hunyad county, censored in Kolozsvár with a Brassó refugee worn handstamp (1st Period, ☒B01/09a)

Postcard postmarked DEVA (now Deva, in Hunedoara county) on **22 December 1916** and addressed to Máramarossziget. The mandatory censorship was performed by the commission in **Kolozsvár**, during the transit, where the handstamp ☉B02/06.6***c** was applied.



Assignment of Hunyad county to Hungarian censorship offices: (Theoretical period of censorship: 28 August 1916 – March –... partial August 1917)

Remote censorship

☒B01/09, **1st Period:** The **Kolozsvár** regional office, active at least during the period **5 September 1916 – 9 January 1917**, and ...**19 July 1917** (for Petrozsény). The refugee handstamps from **Brassó** were applied between 5 September – 26 December 1916 (a); see Fig. B01.14 and B01.15. And its own **Kolozsvár** handstamps were used during 3 – 9 January 1917...19 July 1917, (b).

B) Romanian period.

On the western border of the county, the demarcation line was established between **22 January and 16 April 1919**, running along the Apuseni Mountains, from Zam to Baia de Criș. There were also outbreaks of unrest and rebellion in the Jiu Valley key— reasons why many censorship posts were initially established in the county, most of which were abolished during the second or third period.

Assignment of Hunedoara county to Romanian censorship offices:

(General period of censorship: December 1918 – March 1919, then August 1919 – July 1920+)

County censorship

☒B06/27, Deva county office, active at least during December 1918 and March 1919, then between 2 August 1919 and 2 July 1920, as well as in October 1920.

Local censorship

- ☒B06/13, Brad local office, not seen yet.
- ☒B06/36, Grădiştea border office, not seen yet.
- ☒B06/39, Haţeg local office, between 14 February – 16 March 1919.
- ☒B06/42, Hunedoara local office, July 1919.
- ☒B06/45, Ilia local office, July 1920.
- ☒B06/51, Lupeni local office, not seen yet.
- ☒B06/63, Orăştie local office, not seen yet.
- ☒B06/69, Petroşani local office, not seen yet.
- ☒B06/71, Simeria Gară local office, February 1919.
- ☒B06/91, Subcetate local office, not seen yet.
- ☒B06/101, Vulcan local office, not seen yet.
- ☒B06/103, Zam border office, not seen yet.

B01/10. – Kis Küküllő county (Mil. Kdo. XII)**Târnava Mică county (Transylvania)**

(today divided between Alba, Mureş and Sibiu counties / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

Censorship was likely introduced in the county after Romania's entry into the war on 27 August 1916, when the internal war zone was established, sometimes before 13 September 1916. The inclusion of the entire county in the war zone was also confirmed by Regulations no. 29.300 of 22 September and 16.989 of 11 March 1917. However, no permanent censorship offices were established in the county; therefore *all mail* was sent to the regional office **Kolozsvár**, which was responsible for censoring mail from all restricted areas of Transylvania. Censoring in the county was lifted in relation to the dissolution of KüA in August 1917.

Assignment of Kis Kukullo county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: September 1916 – August 1917)

Remote censorship

☒B01/10, 1st Period: The **Kolozsvár regional** office, active at least between 2 December 1916 and 18 July 1917. The refugee handstamps from **Brassó** were applied on 2 December 1916 (a), and their own **Kolozsvár** handstamps were used between 10 April – 18 July 1917 (b); see Fig. B01.16.



Fig. B01.16: Mail from Kis-Küküllő county, censored in Kolozsvár (1st Period, ☒B01/10b)
Cover postmarked DICSŐSZENTMÁRTON (Târnăveni, today in Mureş county) on 21 April 1917, addressed to Oltszakadat (Săcădate, Sibiu county), sent for censorship to **Kolozsvár** (with a 170-km detour), where its own handstamp ☒B02/08.3 was applied.

B) Romanian period.**Assignment of Târnava-Mică county to Romanian censorship offices:**

(General period of censorship: February... August 1919 – July 1920)

County censorship☒ **B06/28**, Dicio-San-Martin *county* office, active in February 1919, then during 9 August 1919 – 9 July 1920.**Local censorship**☒ **B06/08**, Bălăușeri *local* office, not seen yet.☒ **B06/43**, Ibașfalău *local* office, not seen yet.**B01/11. – Kolozs county (Mil. Kdo. XII)****Cluj county (Transylvania)**

(today divided between Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Mureș and Sălaj counties / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

The county was included in the *wider area* of the South-East War Theatre following Romania's entry into the war on **27 August 1916**, and it remained within the operational area after 23 September 1916⁴ (Regulation no. 29300/1916). However, the postal exclusion zone was maintained by Regulation no. 16989 of **11 March 1917** only in the eastern districts of **Teké** (now *Teaca*, Bistrița-Năsăud county), **Mezőörményes** (now *Urmeniș*, Bistrița-Năsăud county) and **Nagysármás** (now *Sărmașu*, Mureș county, see Fig. B01.18). As a result, censorship for mail from the western districts of the county (in present-day Cluj county, including the main town of Cluj itself) was suspended as of 11 March 1917. Interestingly, the postmarks of the Kolozsvár office can still be found on mail from other parts of Transylvania⁵. Censorship in the three eastern districts was probably suspended in August 1917. Only one censorship office operated in this county — located in **Kolozsvár**.

Assignment of Kolozs county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: 28 August 1916 – 9 July 1917...)

County censorship

☒ **B02/08**, **1st Period**: The **Kolozsvár regional** office (functioning as a *county* office in this case), active at least between **8 September 1916 – 9 July 1917**. Between 8 September and 28 December 1916, refugee handstamps from **Brassó** were applied (a), (see Fig. B01.17), and between 14 January and 9 July 1917, the office used its own **Kolozsvár** handstamps (b) (see Fig. B01.18).



Fig. B01.16: Mail from Kolozsvár, censored locally with a Brassó refugee handstamp (1st Period, ☒B02/08a)
Illustrated postcard postmarked KOLOZSVÁR on 22 September 1916, mailed from a soldier of the **5/2B Fortification Lighting Train** (see the round violet handstamp). It was censored locally but bears the Brassó refugee handstamp ☒B02/06.6*a — a common occurrence that can cause confusion.

⁴ In fact, already on **13 September 1916**, the county of Cluj was decreed as an *internal war zone*, travel being allowed only with a permit from the military command.

⁵ In fact, censorship handstamps with the city's name (Kolozsvár) are much rarer on mail originating from within Cluj county, than compared with other Transylvanian county...

Fig. B01.18. Example of late mail censoring from the eastern districts of Kolozs county (March-August 1917) ☒B02/08b

Postcard mailed from NAGY-SARMAS (from the district of the same name) on **8 July 1917** and addressed to Kolozsvár. The local postal clerk made a handwritten indication in blue pencil: "Cenzurálás végett Kolozsvár 1" (☒B02/PG6). Thus, it was censored in Kolozsvár, with ☒B02/08.4, having arrived in KOLOZSVÁR on 10 July 1917.



B) Romanian period.

Assignment of Cluj county to Romanian censorship offices:

(General period of censorship: December 1918 – July 1920)

County censorship

☒B06/20, Cluj county office, active at least during the period 30 December 1918 – 31 July 1920.

Local censorship

☒B06/04, Apahida local office, not seen yet.

☒B06/41, Huedin local office, not seen yet.

☒B06/78, Sărmașu Mare local office, not seen yet.

B01/12. – Krassó-Szörény county (Mil. Kdo. VII)

Caraș-Severin county (Banat)

(today divided between Caraș-Severin county / Banat and Mehedinți county)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.



Fig. B01.19. Civilian mail circulated in Krassó-Szörény county, censored in Pancsevo (1st Period)

Postcard written in **14 January 1915** by a military from 8th Militia Regiment, 11th Company, located in **Dunaszentilona** (today Sfânta Elena), addressed to Karánsebes (same county), cancelled with the „mute” postmark **413** (Ómoldova?), and censored in **Pancsevo** with the round handstamp with the text **BIZOTTSAG KATONAI ELLENORZO**.

The county was included in the *wider area* of the South-East War Theatre from **autumn 1914**, but no censorship offices were initially opened. As a result, mail had to be sent for censorship to the *regional office* **Pancsova**, Torontál county (October 1914 – January 1915), and later to the *regional office* in **Temesvár**, Temes county (at least between April 1915 and June 1916). After this period, connections with Temesvár

were suspended, but censorship of mail originating from this county continued locally with the establishment of three offices — in **Lugos**, **Karánsebes** and **Orsova** — in August 1916.

Following the Romanian invasion, the entire county was declared an *operational area*. On **13 September 1916**, it was officially decreed as an *internal war zone*, with travel permitted only by military-issued permits, and it remained within the operational area after 23 September 1916 (Regulation no. 29300/1916), which meant the continuation of censorship.

However, the censorship zone was later reduced. Postal restrictions were maintained by Regulation no. 16989 of **11 March 1917** only in the southern districts of **Újmoldova** (*Moldova Nouă*, along the Danube, facing Serbian territory) and **Orsova** (along the former Romanian frontier; see Fig. B01.19)⁶. Censorship in the rest of the county was suspended as of that date. By then, the three mentioned local offices had been closed, and mail was once again sent to the regional office in **Temesvár**, which — under the new regulations — was responsible for handling *mail from all Banat*. Later, based on regulations yet unknown, additional local censoring offices were established during 1917-1918 in three mining workers' centers located in the "free zone": **Rescizabánya**, **Anina** and **Oraviczabánya**.



Fig. B01.20: Photo postcard mailed from HERKULESFÜRDŐ on 5 June 1917. Although it was addressed to Lugoj (100 km to the north, outside the area of censorship), the correspondence was guided first — according to the regulations — to Temesvár, where it was censored with [B02/18.6A](#)

Example of censored mail sent from Orsova district, after the lifting of censorship in the north of the Krassó-Szörény county (2nd Period, [B01/12B](#)).

Assignment of Krassó-Szörény county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: October 1914 – ... – June 1918)

Remote & County censorship

[B01/12A](#), **1st Period:** The Pancsova *regional* office, active at least during **October 1914** and **14 January 1915**...; see Fig. B01.18.

[B01/12B](#), **Temesvár regional** office, active at least during **5 April 1915** and **June 1916** (for mail *sent from* but also that *arrived in* the county from all over Hungary, as well as for mail *locally* circulated inside the county). With places of expedition mainly to Herkulesfürdő and Orsova, much less to Lugos and Karánsebes.

[B01/12C](#), **Versecz** office (Temes county), at least between **3 – 13 August 1915**, apparently only for mail from/to Oraviczabánya.

[B01/12D](#), **2nd Period:** **Temesvár regional** office, active at least between **21 March** and **16 August 1917**: with places of expedition only from the two districts mentioned by Regulations no. 16989 (i.e. Herkulesfürdő and Orsova).

Local censorship

[B02/07](#), **Karánsebes local** office, active at least between **12 August** and **12 November 1916**.

⁶ The main places in these districts were: Bazias, Ómoldova, Újmoldova, respectively Orsova, Mehadia, Herkulesfürdő (Fig. B01.19).

- ☒B02/09, Lugoj *local* office, active at least between **22 August 1916** and **9 October 1916**. Places of expedition: Lugos, Nadrag.
- ☒B02/16, Orsova *local* office, active between 21 – 24 August 1916, then moved to ☒B02/03, Berzászka on 6 December 1916, and back to Orsova between **12 December 1916** and **15 February 1917**.
- ☒B02/17, Resiczabánya *local* censor office, for mail *sent to or that arrived* in the town only, was active between **17 September 1917** and **5 June 1918**.
- ☒B02/01, Anina *local* censor office, for mail that *arrived* in the town only, was active between **17 September** and **2 November 1917**.
- ☒B02/12, Oraviczabánya *local* censor office, for mail that *arrived* in the area only, was active between **14 February** and **19 June 1918**.

B) Serbian occupation period.

Assignment of Krassó-Szörény county to Serbian censorship offices:

(General period of Serbian censorship: December 1918 – May 1919)

Remote censorship

- ☒B01/12E, Versecz *remote* censor office (Temes county), for mail sent from or arrived in the county, active between **7 January** and **1 April 1919**.
- ☒B01/12F, Temesvár *regional* censor office (Temes county), for mail circulated in the county, active between **26 April** and **12 May 1919**;

Local censorship

- ☒B14/02, Oraviczabánya *local* censor office, for mail *sent* from this city only, active in **1919**;



Fig. B01.21. Postcard circulated internally in Krassó-Szörény county, but censored by the Temesvár office (☒B01/12F)

10 filler postcard written in Prigor and postmarked BÉLAJABLÁNCZ (today lablanița) on **26 April 1919**, addressed to agronomist engineer Pavel Grecu (my paternal grandfather) in Karánsebes, having thus circulated internally in the Krassó-Szörény county. However, the censorship was executed by the Serbian office in Temesvár, with the handstamp ☒B14/04.1B.

C) Romanian period.

Assignment of Caraș-Severin county to Romanian censorship offices:

(General period of censorship: May 1919 – November 1920...)

County censorship

- ☒B06/50, Lugoj *county* office, active at least during the period **16 June 1919** – **28 July 1920**; see Fig. B01.21.

Local censorship

- ☒B06/16, Caransebeș *local* office, not seen yet.
- ☒B06/57, Mehadia Gară *local* office, active at least in **November 1920**.
- ☒B06/64, Orșova *local* office, active during **13 – 19 July 1920**.
- ☒B06/74, Reșița *local* office, not seen yet.

Fig. B01.22. Postcard illustrating the early takeover of the censorship in BE by Romanians

Postcard sent from BUZIASFÜRDŐ (now Băile Buziaș) on **1 July 1919** and addressed to Temesvár. The initial censorship was done in the newly established Romanian **Lugoj** office (see handstamp [B02/01.1](#)). Being addressed to **Temesvár**, the correspondence was reviewed by the Serbs in this office, with [B14/04.1B](#)



B01/13. – Máramaros county (Mil. Kdo. VI)

Maramureș county (Transylvania)

(today divided between Maramureș county / Transylvania and Ukraine)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

Most likely internal censorship in Máramaros county was introduced following the official establishment in **April 1915**, due to its proximity to the Bukovinian front, and was discontinued as of **21 September 1917**.

Assignment of Máramaros county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: April 1915 – 21 September 1917)

County censorship

[B02/10](#), **1st Period**: The **Máramarossziget county** office censored mail sent from the entire county, at least during **10 April 1915 – 19 August 1917**. Its own handstamps of **Máramarossziget** were used between 23 July and 25 December 1915 ([a](#)), after which the refugee handstamps from **Czernowitz** has been used between 3 July – 30 October 1916 [z](#) ([b](#)); see *Fig. B01.23*. Finally, its own handstamps of **Máramarossziget** were used again between 4 November and 24 December 1916 ([c](#)). During the last period between February and 19 August 1917, the commission used deteriorated and provisional neutral emergency handstamps; see *Fig. B01.24*.

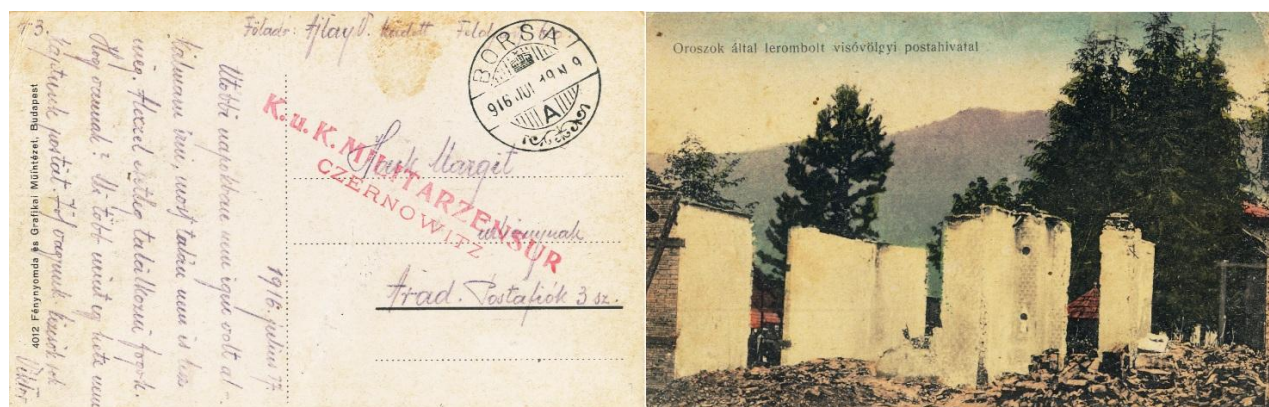


Fig. B01.23: Mail from Máramaros county censored with the Bukovinian refugee handstamp ([B02/10b](#))

Illustrated postcard (*ruins of the Post Office in Visóvölgy after the Russian Offensive*), postmarked BORSA on **19 July 1916**, censored in Máramarossziget with the refugee Czernowitz handstamp [B02/30.8*B](#), addressed to Arad.

Please send any corrections, additions, comments to:
damirro@yahoo.com



Fig. B01.24: Mail from Máramarossziget locally censored with a reused handstamp (☒B02/10c)
Illustrated postcard postmarked MÁRAMAROSSZIGET on 24 February 1917, locally censored with the provisionally reused handstamp ☒B02/10.5C, addressed to Berlin, Germany.

B) Romanian period.

Although the county was partially occupied by the Romanian army as early as January 1919⁷, it came under full Romanian administration and was officially incorporated into Romania only after the April 1919 offensive. Thus, only on **28 April 1919**, Prefect Vasile Chiroiu — who replaced Commissar Zombory — was installed. "After this, our tricolor flag was placed on the edifice of the county house, which means taking possession, and all the Romanian gentlemen and peasants present gathered in the council room, where Mr. Dr. V. Kindriș (*president of the local National Council, who had ensured the Romanian presence in the county until that moment*) opens the assembly." On 30 April 1919, county and city officials were summoned to take the oath of allegiance. The Hungarian officials and five Romanians refused to take the oath⁸.

Assignment of Maramureș county to Romanian censorship offices:

(General period of censorship: January 1919 – July 1920)

County censorship

☒B06/88, Sighetul Marmăției county office, active at least for the period **25 January 1919 – 27 July 1920**.

Local censorship

☒B06/B10, Dragomirești, Huszt and Trebușa local offices, not seen yet (the last two are today in Ukraine).

B01/14. – Maros Torda county (Mil. Kdo. XII)
Mureș-Turda county (Transylvania)
(today Mureș county / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

The county was included in the *wider area* of the South-East War Theatre following Romania's entering the war on **27 August 1916**, and was maintained in the operational area after 23 September 1916⁹ (Regulation no. 29300/1916) as well as in the postal exclusion zone as of 11 March 1917 (Regulation no. 16989/1917). Censorship in the county was lifted together with KüA in **August 1917**, but then reinstalled sometime during winter of 1917/1918. There was only one censorship office in the county — in **Marosvásárhely**.

Assignment of Maros Torda to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: 28 August 1916 – August 1917, ...January – October 1918)

Remote censorship

☒B01/14, **1st Period**: The **Kolozsvár regional** office, which censored mail from all restricted areas of Transylvania, was active at least during **17 September 1916 – 11 August 1917**. Between 17 and 30 September 1916, the refugee

⁷ The village of Săpânța and the western part of the county remained beyond the demarcation line, being occupied only in April 1919.

⁸ *Sfatul* (Sighet) no. 17 from 2 May 1919.

⁹ In fact, already on **13 September 1916**, the county of Mureș-Turda was decreed as an *internal war zone*, travel being allowed only with a military-issued document.

handstamps from **Brassó** were applied (a); see Fig. B01.25). After which, their own **Kolozsvár** handstamps were used between 7 January and 11 August 1917 (b).

☒B02/11, **3rd Period**: The **Marosvásárhely regional** office, had the role of *county* office in this situation, and was active at least between **29 January and 6 October 1918**

Fig. B01.25.
Mail from Maros-Torda county, censored in Kolozsvár with a Brassó refugee handstamp (1st Period, ☒B01/14a)

Postcard postmarked MAROSVÁSÁRHELY on **17 September 1916** and addressed to Radnót (now Iernut, Mureș county, some 34 kilometers to the west). For mandatory censorship, the mail was routed r 80 kilometers away to **Kolozsvár**, where a Brassó refugee handstamp ☒B02/06.6*b was applied.



B) Romanian period.

Assignment of Mureș-Turda county to Romanian censorship offices:
(General period of censorship: December 1918 – July 1920)

County censorship

☒B06/94, **Târgu Mureș county** office, active at least during **10 December 1918 and 10 July 1920**.

Local censorship

☒B06/73, **Reghinul Săsesc local** office, active between **30 December 1919 and January 1920**.

☒B06/97, **Toplița Română local** office, not seen yet.

B01/15. – Nagy Küküllő county (Mil. Kdo. XII)

Târnava Mare county (Transylvania)

(today divided between Brașov, Sibiu and Mureș counties / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

Censorship was likely introduced in the county after Romania's entry to the war on **27 August 1916**, when the internal *war zone* was established (in effect as of 13 September 1916). The inclusion of the entire county in the *war zone* is confirmed by Regulations no. 29.300 of 22 September and 16.989 of 11 March 1917. However, no censorship offices were established within the county itself; therefore, *all mail* was sent to the *regional office* **Kolozsvár**, which was responsible for censoring correspondence from all restricted areas of Transylvania. Censoring in the county was likely lifted in connection with the dissolution of KüA in **August 1917**.

Assignment of Nagy Küküllő county to Hungarian censorship offices:
(Theoretical period of censorship: 28 August 1916 – August 1917)

Remote censorship

☒B01/15, **1st Period**: The **Kolozsvár regional** office, active at least during **7 September 1916 – 1 August 1917**; the refugee handstamps from **Brassó** were applied between 7 September – 1 January 1917 (a) (see Fig. B01.26), while their own **Kolozsvár** handstamps were used between (January) 15 March – 1 August 1917 (b).



Fig. B01.26: Mail from Nagy-Küküllő county, censored in Kolozsvár with a Brassó refugee handstamp (1st Period, ☒B01/15a). Illustrated postcard from Medgyes (Great Square) addressed to the front, postmarked MEDGYES on 7 September 1916, censored in Kolozsvár with the Brassó refugee handstamp ☉B02/06.7*B.

B) Romanian period.

Assignment of Târnava-Mare county to Romanian censorship offices:
(General period of censorship: January – February..., July 1919 – July 1920)

County censorship

☒B06/89, Sighișoara county office, active at least during January – February 1919, then between 27 July 1919 – and 2 July 1920. During the time it did not function, correspondence was censored in the neighboring counties; for example in the office in Sibiu (at least between 2 May and 9 July 1919; see Fig. B06.49) or in the office in Brașov (18 April 1919).

Local censorship

☒B06/21, Copșa Mică local office, in 1919
☒B06/56, Mediaș local office, in 1919.

B01/16. – Szatmár county (Mil. Kdo. VI)

Sătmár county (Transylvania)

(today divided between Satu Mare county / Transylvania and Hungary)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

This county was never included in any operational areas; therefore, its mail was not subject to internal censorship.

B) Romanian period.

The Romanian army entered the county on 20 April 1919.

Assignment of Satu Mare county to Romanian censorship offices:
(General period of censorship: April 1919 – April 1921)

County censorship

☒B06/76, Satu Mare county office, active at least during 20 April 1919 – 21 April 1921.

Local censorship

☒B06/06, Baia Capnic local office, not seen yet.
☒B06/07, Baia Mare local office, active between 27 April – 30 May 1920.
☒B06/17, Careii Mari local office, active between 21 July 1919 – 20 May 1921.
☒B06/37, Halmeu local office for military area, not seen yet.
☒B06/93, Șomcuta Mare local office, not seen yet.
☒B10/01, Craia local office (ex-Ugocsa county), not seen yet, today in Ukraine.


B01/17. – Szeben county (Mil. Kdo. XII)

Sibiu county (Transylvania)

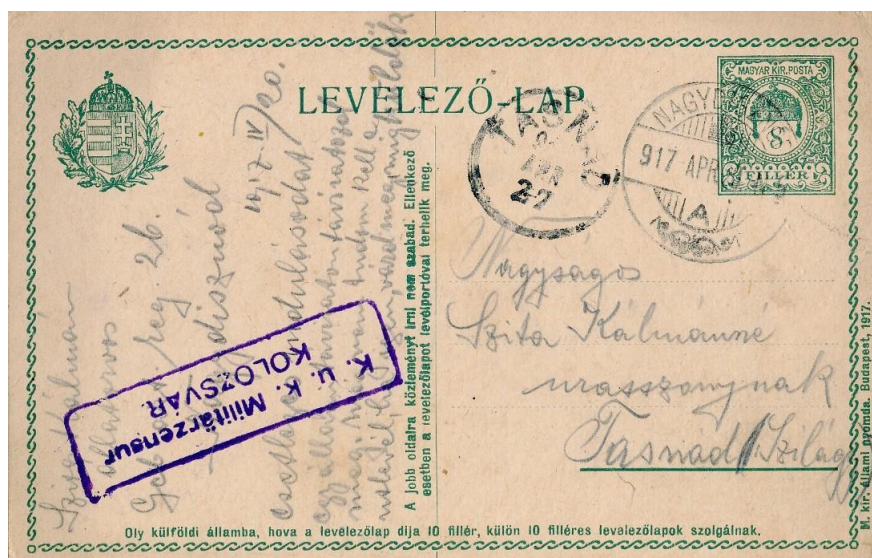
(today divided between Sibiu and Alba counties / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

The county was included in the *wider area* of the South-East War Theatre following Romania's entry into the war on **27 August 1916**, and it remained in the operational area after 23 September 1916¹⁰ (Regulation no. 29300/1916). However, the postal exclusion zone was maintained by Regulation no. 16989 of **11 March 1917 only** in the southern district of **Nagydisznód** / Cîsnădie, which bordered the former Romanian frontier — see *Fig. B01.27*. Mail censorship in the other districts of the county was suspended as of 11 March 1917.

Fig. B01.27.
Late censored mail from
Nagydisznod district,
verified in Kolozsvár (1st
Period.  B01/17b)

Postcard postmarked
NAGYDISZNÓD
(Cisnădie, in Sibiu county)
on **20 April 1917** and
addressed to Tasnad
(now Tășnad, Satu Mare
county). For mandatory
censorship, this item was
retained in **Kolozsvár**
during transit, where a
handstamp **©B2/08.2**
was applied.



Assignment of Szeben county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: 28 August 1916 – March –... partially August 1917)

Remote censorship

☒ **B01/17, 1st Period:** The **Kolozsvár regional** office, which censored mail from all restricted areas of Transylvania, was active at least during **30 September 1916 – 21 April 1917**; between 30 September – 19 December 1916, the refugee handstamps from **Brassó** were applied (a), after which their own **Kolozsvár** handstamps were used between 8 January – 21 April 1917 (b); see *Fig. B01.27*

B) Romanian period.

Assignment of Sibiu county to Romanian censorship offices:

(General period of censorship: December 1918 – July 1920)

County censorship

✉ **B06/86**, Sibiu *county* office, active at least during **February 1919 – 30 July 1920**.

B01/18. – Szilágyszék county (Mil. Kdo. XII)

Sălaj county (Transylvania)

(today divided between Maramureș, Satu Mare and Sălaj counties / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

This county was never included in any operational areas; so, its mail was not subject to internal censorship.

B) Romanian period.

On 6 February 1919, the Romanian army occupied additional parts of Sălaj county — beyond the localities already under Romanian control — namely the communes of Bicăz, Poienița (12 km south of Crasna), and Lele (3 km south of Șimleu).

¹⁰ In fact, already on **13 September 1916**, the county of Sibiu was decreed as *internal war zone*.

Assignment of Sălaj county to Romanian censorship offices:

(General period of censorship: May 1919 – July 1920)

County censorship☒B06/102, *Zalău county* office, active at least for the period 15 July 1919 – 15 July 1920.**Local censorship**☒B06/19, *Cehu Silvaniei local* office, not seen yet.☒B06/40, *Hida local* office, not seen yet☒B06/47, *Jibou local* office, not seen yet☒B06/79, *Sărmășag local* office, not seen yet☒B06/92, *Șimleul Silvaniei local* office, active at least between 22 May – July 1919.**B01/19. – Szolnok-Doboka county (Mil. Kdo. XII)****Solnoc-Dobâca county (Transylvania)**

(today divided between Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Maramureș and Sălaj counties / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

Censorship was likely introduced in the county after Romania's entry into the war on 27 August 1916, when the internal *war zone* was established (in effect as of 13 September 1916). The inclusion of the entire county in the *war zone* was also confirmed by Regulations no. 29.300 of 22 September and 16.989 of 11 March 1917. However, no censorship offices were established within the county; therefore, *all mail* was sent to the regional office **Kolozsvár**, which was responsible for censorship in all restricted areas of Transylvania. Censoring in this county was likely discontinued in connection with the dissolution of KūA in August 1917.

Assignment of Szolnok-Doboka county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: 28 August 1916 – August 1917)

Remote censorship

☒B01/19, **1st Period**: The **Kolozsvár regional** office, which censored mail from all restricted areas of Transylvania, was active at least during 8 September 1916 – 12 July 1917; the refugee handstamps from **Brassó** were applied between 8 September – 16 October (December) 1916 (a), and their own **Kolozsvár** handstamps were used between 18 January – 12 July 1917 (b); see Fig. B01.28.



Fig. B01.28: Mail from Szolnok-Doboka county, censored in Kolozsvár (1st Period, ☒B01/19b)
Illustrated postcard from **Dées (Secondary School)** written by a militarymen from **K.U.K. BAHNHOFKOMMANDO**, and addressed to Budapest. Postmarked DES on 6 April 1917, censored in Kolozsvár with the handstamp ☒B02/08.3

B) Romanian period.**Assignment of Solnoc-Dobâca county to Romanian censorship offices:**

(General period of censorship: January 1919 – July 1920)

County censorship☒B06/26, *Dej county* office, active at least for the period 17 January 1919 – July 1920.**Local censorship**☒B06/09, *Beclean local* office, not seen yet.☒B06/34, *Gherla local* office, 1919.

B01/20. – Temes county (Mil. Kdo. VII)
Timiș county (Banat)
 (today divided between Timiș county / Banat and Serbia)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

Bordering Serbia, Temes county was subject to censorship shortly after its establishment in **April 1915**, which continued until the end of 1916. Interestingly, between August and October 1916, correspondence from Temesvár appears to have been censored in **Arad**. According to the Regulation of **11 March 1917**, censorship was maintained (or possibly re-established?) only in the southern districts of **Kevevára** and **Fehértemplom** (now in Serbia), and was lifted from these areas in **August 1917**.

Assignment of Temes county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: April 1915 – November 1916 ; March – August 1917)

County censorship

✉ **B02/18**, the **Temesvár county office**, active at least between **16 April 1915** and **8 July 1916** (the entire county; see Fig. B01.29) and **22 March – 31 August 1917** (only southern districts); see Fig. B01.30.

Remote censorship

✉ **B01/20**, The **Arad remote office**, active at least during **20 August – 26 October 1916**; see Fig. B02.03.

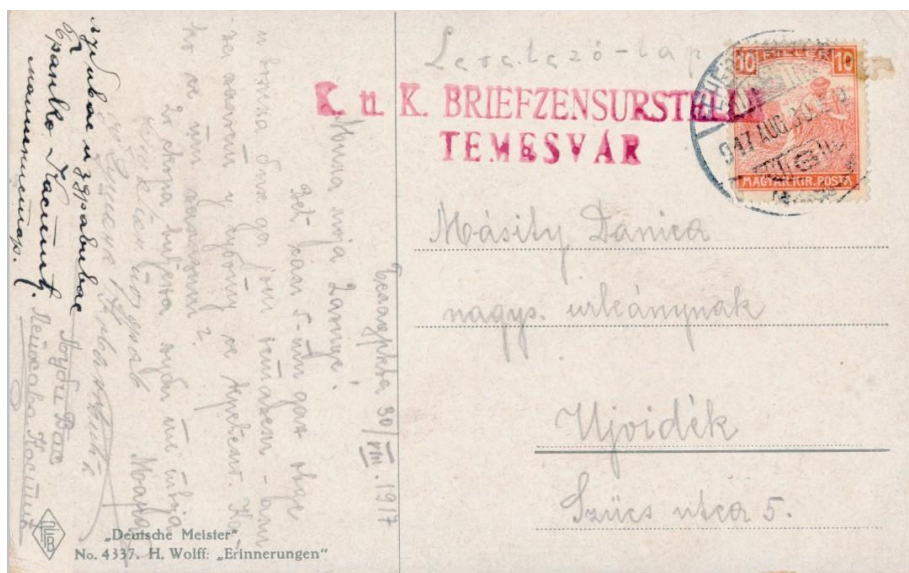


Fig. B01.29: correspondence with the departure and arrival places located today outside of Romania, but censored in Temesvár (1st Period, ✉ B02/18). Postcard illustrated with an image from Hatvan (Heves county), but sorted in MISKOLCZ (Borsod county) on **11 June 1916**, both places having been free of censorship; however, being addressed to Vajdalak (Temes county, today Vojvodinci in Serbia), the correspondence was directed to Timisoara, where it was censored the next day with ✉ B02/18.3. Arrival VAJDALAK on 17 June 1916.

Fig. B01.30.
Late censored mail from Fehértemplom district, verified in Temesvár
 (✉ B02/18)

Postcard postmarked FEHÉRTEMLOM, Temes county (today Bela Crkva, Serbia) on **30 April 1917** and addressed to Újvidek, Bodrog county (now Novi Sad, Serbia).

For mandatory censorship, the mail was retained in **Temesvár** during transit, and a handstamp ✉ B02/18.7 was applied.



B) Serbian occupation period.

Assignment of Temes county to Serbian censorship offices:
(Theoretical period of Serbian censorship: December 1918 – July 1919)

County censorship

☒B14/04, *Temesvár regional* censor office, for terminal mail circulated to or from the county, active at least between 21 December 1918 and 12 July 1919; see Chapter #B14.

Local censorship

☒B14/05, *Újrad local* censor office, for mail *sent* from this city only, between 17 February and 20 March 1919

C) Romanian period.

In August 1919, there were 38 censors assigned for the entire *Timiș* county, and by September, their number had increased to 47.

Assignment of *Timiș* county to Romanian censorship offices:
(General period of Romanian censorship: August 1919 – July 1920)

County censorship

☒B06/96, *Timișoara county* office, active at least during 20 August 1919 and 31 July 1920.

Local censorship

☒B06/15, *Buziaș-Băi local* office, only for mail sent to or from the city area, active between 13 November 1919 – 8 June 1920.

☒B06/18, *Cărpiniș local* office for the military area, not seen yet.

☒B06/33, *Gătaia local* office for the military area, not seen yet.

☒B06/46, *Jebel local* office for the military area, not seen yet.

☒B06/80, *Sânandrei local* office, only for mail sent to or from the town, active between January – 5 February 1920.

**B01/21. – Torda-Aranyos county (Mil. Kdo. XII)
Turda-Arieș county (Transylvania)
(today divided between Alba, Cluj and Mureș counties / Transylvania)**

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

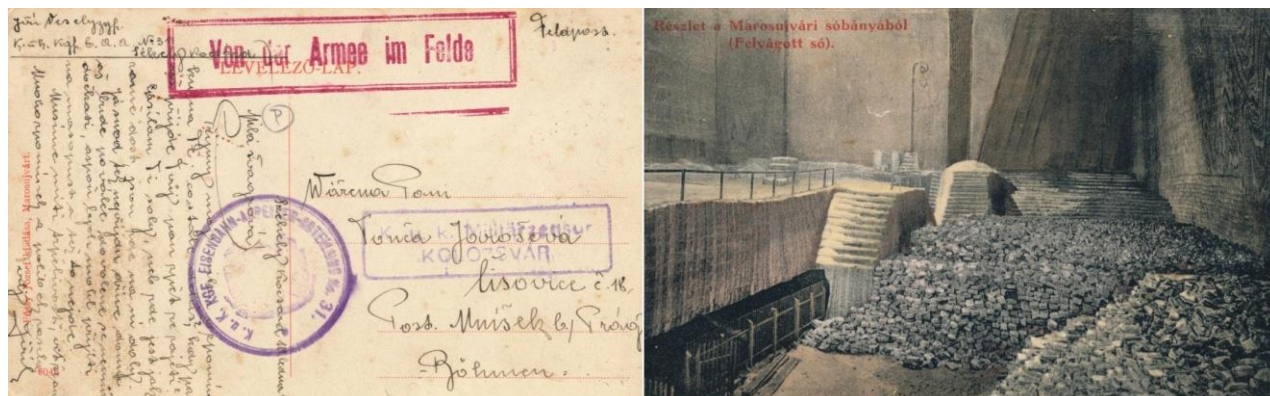


Fig. B01.31: Kolozsvár's own handstamp on a correspondence from Torda-Aranyos county (1st Period, ☒B01/21b). Illustrated postcard (image from the salt mine at *Marosújvár*, Alsó-Fehér county, today Ocna Mureș), but written on 10 January 1917 in Székelykocsárd railway station (Torda-Aranyos county, today Războieni railway station) by a Czech military man from **K.u.K. KGF. EISENBAHN-ARBEITER-ABTEILUNG No. 31** (= *Railway prisoner workers section No. 34*). Marked with the *von der Armee im Felde* handstamp (applied on mails from units behind the front), the postcard was censored in the **Kolozsvár** regional office with ☒B02/08.2. Addressed to Čisovice, central Bohemia.

Initially, the county had only two districts — **Luduș** and **Vințul de Jos** — included in the *wider area* of the South-East War Theatre. However, after **23 September 1916**, it was fully integrated into the operational area under Regulation no. 29300/1916, which imposed compulsory censorship. As there was no local censoring office, all mail had to be sent to the regional office in **Kolozsvár**, which was responsible for censorship in all restricted areas of Transylvania.

Assignment of Torda-Aranyos county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(General period of censorship: September 1916 – February 1917)

Remote censorship

☒ **B01/21, 1st Period:** The **Kolozsvár regional** office, active at least for the period **16 September 1916 – 10 January 1917**; the refugee handstamps from **Brassó** were applied between 16 September – 26 November 1916 (**a**), and their own **Kolozsvár** handstamps were used on 10 January 1917 (**b**). Due to the short period of censorship in 1917, this last situation could be a rare occasion; see *Fig. B01.31*.

B) Romanian period.**Assignment of Turda-Arieș county to Romanian censorship offices:**

(General period of censorship: December 1918 – July 1920)

County censorship

☒ **B06/98, Turda county** office, active at least in **January 1919**, then during **15 July 1919 – 17 July 1920**.

Local censorship

☒ **B06/24, Cucerdea local** office, not seen yet.

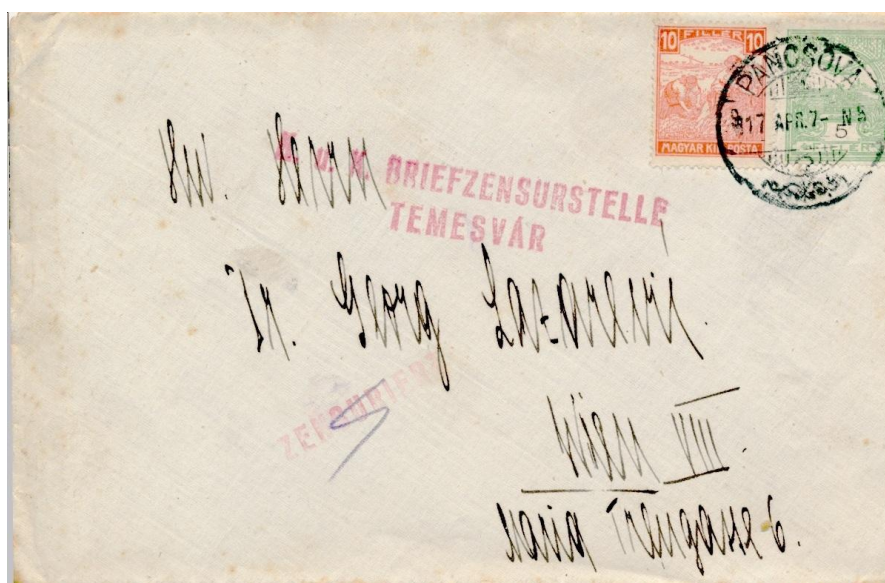
☒ **B06/53, Luduș local** office, only for mail sent from the city area, active on **3 August 1920**.

B01/22. – Torontál county (Mil. Kdo. VII)**(Timiș)-Torontal county (Banat)**

(today divided between Timiș county / Banat and Serbia)

Fig. B01.32.
Censored mail from
Pancsova district, verified
in Temesvár (☒B01/22A)

Stamped cover postmarked
PANCSOVA on **7 April**
1917 and addressed to
Wien, Austria. Mandatory
censorship in the
Temesvár regional office,
where a handstamp
☒B02/18 (A+C) was
applied.



The county was subject to censorship shortly after the beginning of the war, in **September 1914**, at the **Pancsova county office**. However, of interest here is only the mail from the areas located in present-day Romania — specifically the northeastern part of the county, including the districts of Nagyszentmiklós, Perjamos, Csenei, and eastern parts of Párdány, Modos and Bánlak. Regulation no. 16989 of **11 March 1917** stipulated that only the southern districts — Antalfalva, Nagybecskerek and Pancsova (all now in Serbia) — were to send correspondence for censorship to the **Temesvár** regional office. Censorship in these three districts was likely lifted in **August 1917**.

A) Austro-Hungarian period.**Assignment of Torontál county to Hungarian censorship offices:**

(Theoretical period of censorship: Septembrie 1914 –... August 1917)

County censorship

☒ **Pancsova county office**, active between **September 1914 – ... 1915**, but for our purpose, only the mail sent from or received in the territory of today's Romania — that is, from the eastern part of Torontál County — are of interest.

Remote censorship

✉B01/22A, **Temesvár** regional office for the whole Banat, between **November 1915 – June 1916 ... April – August 1917**; see Fig. B01.32. from March 1917 onwards it was active only for correspondence sent from the south of the county (today in Serbia).

B) Serbian occupation period.**Assignment of Torontál county to Serbian censorship offices:**

(General period of Serbian censorship: December 1918 – July 1919)

Remote censorship

✉B01/22B, The **Temesvár** regional censor office, for mail circulated within the county, active around **3 January 1919** (see Fig. A68.10 and A68.11 in *Volume A/2*); see also Fig. B01.33

Local censorship

✉B14/01, **Nagyszentmiklós** local censor office, for mail *sent* from this city only, active between **18 December 1918 – 28 February 1919**; see Fig. B14.02, B14.03.

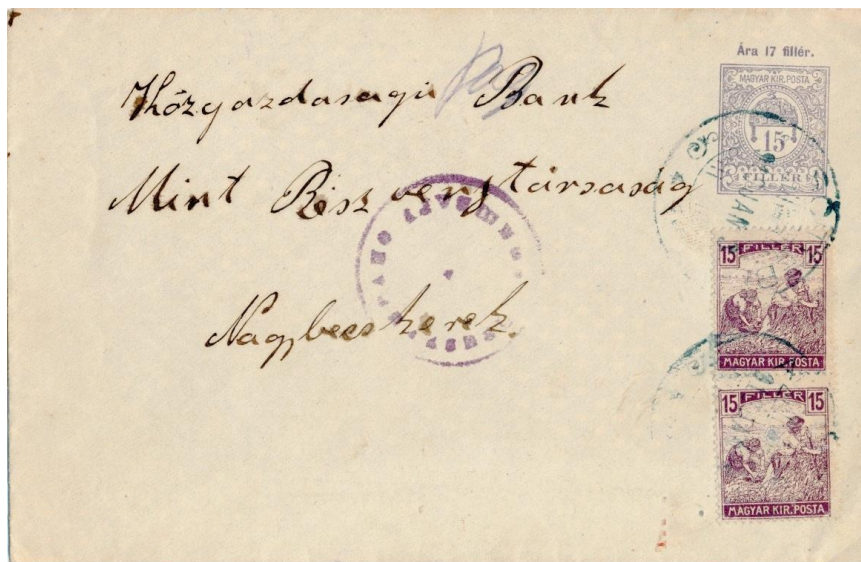


Fig. B01.33. Cover circulated internally in Torontál county, but censored by Serbians in Temesvár (✉B01/22B)

Envelope 15 filler (uprated with 30 filler), postmarked **ALSÓITTEBE** (today Novi Itebej, Serbia) on **3 January 1919**, addressed to **Nagybecskerek** (today Zrenjanin, Serbia). Although both localities are in Torontál county, the censorship was executed by the Serbian office in Temesvár, with the handstamp ✉B14/4.1B.

C) Romanian period.

Following the Serbian-Romanian border regulations, the territory of „Romanian” Torontál was attached to the county of Timiș, resulting the new **Timiș-Torontal** county.

Assignment of Torontal county to Romanian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of Romanian censorship: August 1919 – 1920)

County censorship

✉B06/96, **Timișoara** county censor office.

Local censorship

✉B06/48, **Lovrin** local censor office, for mail sent from the town, was active on **25 December 1919**

✉B06/58, **Modoș** local censor office, for mail sent to or from the town, active between **2 December 1919 – 24 April 1920**.

✉B06/82, **Sânmiclăușul Mare** local censor office, for mail sent to / from the town, around **5 November 1919...1920**.

B01/23. –Udvárhely county (Mil. Kdo. XII)**Odorhei county (Transylvania)**

(today Harghita county / Transylvania)

A) Austro-Hungarian period.

The county was included in the *wider area* of the South-East War Theatre following Romania's entry into the war on **27 August 1916**. It remained within the operational area after 23 September 23 (Regulation no. 29300/1916) and continued to be part of the postal exclusion zone as of 11 March 1917 (Regulation no.

16989/1917). Since there were no censorship offices in this county, mail was censored consecutively by the regional offices in **Kolozsvár** and **Marosvásárhely**.

Assignment of Udvárhely county to Hungarian censorship offices:

(Theoretical period of censorship: 28 August 1916 – August 1917, June – September 1918)

Remote censorship

✉**B01/23A**, **1st Period**: The **Kolozsvár regional** office, which censored mail from all restricted areas of Transylvania, was active at least for the period **26 November 1916 – 8 May 1917**; in 26 November 1916, the refugee handstamps from **Brassó** were applied (**a**), and their own **Kolozsvár** handstamps were used between 2 January – 8 May 1917 (**b**); see Fig. B01.34.

✉**B01/23B**, **3rd Period**: The **Marosvásárhely regional** office, active at least during **8 June – 11 September 1918**; see Fig. B01.35.



Fig. B01.34. Cover from Székelyudvarhely, censored in Kolozsvár (1st Period, ✉B01/23Ab).

Registered cover mailed from the **Reserve Supply Section**, postmarked SZÉKELYUDVARHELY on 13 January 1917 and addressed to Waidhofen a.d. Thaya, Austria. In order to submit to the mandatory regional censorship, the postcard was censored by the office in Kolozsvár with its handstamp, ✉B02/08.3.



Fig. B01.35. Postcard from Székelyudvarhely, censored in Marosvásárhely (3rd Period, ✉B01/23B).

Illustrated postcard mailed from the **Repatriation Camp 104**, postmarked SZÉKELYUDVARHELY on 8 June 1918, addressed to Lupeny (Hunyad county). In order to submit to the mandatory regional censorship, the postcard was diverted 100 km to the north-west and was censored in Marosvásárhely, with ✉B02/11.1.

B) Romanian period.

Assignment of Odorhei county to Romanian censorship offices:

(General period of censorship: March 1919... – September 1920)

County censorship

✉**B06/61**, **Odorheiu Secuiesc county** office, active at least in **March 1919**, then between **4 June 1919** and **September 1920**.

Local censorship

✉**B06/22**, **Cristuru Secuiesc local** office, active between **26 February 1920**.

Chapter I. POSTAL CENSORSHIP IN THE FORMER TERRITORIES OF AUSTRIA-HUNGARY AND RUSSIA, 1914-1918

The European conflagration triggered by the gunfire in Sarajevo came as no surprise to any of the great European powers, as all were already logistically prepared from the very first day of the war. The handling of communications was no exception: the outbreak of hostilities immediately led to the imposition of curfews across all the belligerent countries, which also introduced censorship at the same time. The censorship apparatus had long been prepared, requiring only the activation of existing regulations that had been in place for many years. This allowed censorship to begin practically from the very first days of the war. *Military correspondence* was subject to total censorship, while civilian correspondence was treated differently depending on the country, generally being censored in conflict areas.

Romania remained neutral at this initial stage and did not introduce censorship — except for the military personnel in border guard units, which fall outside the scope of our study. Instead, the territories that would later unite with Romania in 1918 — then part of two great powers on opposing sides of the conflict — were subjected to censorship measures from the very first day of hostilities. We can thus state without mistake that the first instances of postal censorship on *historical Romanian territory* occurred as early as August 1914.

#B02. AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN POSTAL CENSORSHIP IN BANAT, TRANSYLVANIA AND BUKOVINA, 1914-1918¹¹

The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy was one of the powers where postal surveillance was established early on, probably under the influence of events happening in the Balkan, an area where its interests were consistent. Thus, *Dienstbuch J-25A* (or Act LXIII, Paragraph 8, as in Hungary) published "Provisional guidelines on exceptional provisions in the event of war for the kingdoms and countries represented in the State Council of the Empire (*Orientierungsbehelf über Ausnahmeverfügungen im Kriegsfall für die im Reichsrat vertretenen Königreiche und Länder*)". These appeared as early as 1912, the first lines having been drawn regarding the possibility of introducing censorship if a state of emergency was introduced.

Following the general regulations of 1912, the Hungarian M. E. **Decree no. 5478** was issued only on **23 July 1914**, and allowed the application of postal censorship to military bodies. The post office was obliged to provide the military authorities — at their request — information on the postal items of any person, and they had to be able to consult the exterior or the contents of unsealed mail. Article 2 required post and telegraph offices to be obliged to hand over postcards and press products (i.e. unsealed items) to the local military authorities for inspection, and also provide the authorisation to open postal parcels of specific addresses or senders.

On **25 July 1914** the Austrian **Order No. 162** of the "Ministries of Trade and the Interior on the handling of postal items" (*Verordnung der Ministerien des Handels und des Inneren über die Behandlung der Postsendungen*) was issued. With this, Article 10 of the Constitution on citizens' rights was declared abolished, and a censorship of *foreign postal correspondence* was regulated for the first time ever and empowered state security institutions, like the Police (*Polizeidienststellen*), or District authorities (*Bezirkshauptmannschaften*) — where there was no police — with postal control. Thus, the early censoring measures, executed by the safety bodies (*Sicherheitsbehörde*), can be found as early as the end of July 1914, using "Staatspolizeilich eröffnet" handstamps (according to the order) or handstamps of the District authority.

On the same day of 25 July 1914, **Order No. 167** "on the limitation and surveillance of telegraph and telephone communications" (*Verordnung des Gesamtministeriums über die Einschränkung und Überwachung des Telegraphen- und Telephonverkehrs*) was issued, which will repeal Paragraph 4 of the

¹¹ For details see the reference work on Austro-Hungarian censorship (basically a catalogue for collectors), **Horst Thielk** - *Zivilpost-Zensur in Österreich-Ungarn 1914-1918*, 2nd Edition, 2000, Kiel, Germany (474 pages), updated by Oskar Schilling in 2008.

Order of the Ministry of Commerce of 18 April 1905, the one concerning telegraphic correspondence. It effectively established telegraphic and telephone censorship, and subsequently had established Telegram Censorship Commissions (*Telegrammzensurkommissionen*, **TZK**) in 12 major cities of the Empire. None were in the Romanian territories, the Commission of Lemberg (Lwow) having supervised the telegraphic traffic in relation with Bukovina, while the one in Budapest was for both Transylvania and Banat.

On **27 July 1914**, the *War Control Bureau* (*Kriegsüberwachungsamt*, **KüA**) was established at the mezzanine of the building that hosted the Vienna War Ministry. Field Marshal Leopold Edler von Schleyer was appointed president of the KüA. In Hungary, a corresponding organization, called the *War Surveillance Commission* (*Hadfelügyeleti Bizottság* or *Kriegsüberwachungskommission*)¹² was created, and was based in Budapest. An officer of the Hungarian Ministry of Defense was appointed as a "liaison officer" to promote cooperation between the two institutions, and coordinate measures and regulations in the two halves of the empire. The KüA was to take action in particular against espionage and activities against state power and the military, its area of responsibility including "the entire territory of the kingdoms and countries represented in the Reichsrat, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina". The KüA's five activity groups also included a censorship group¹³, which in turn was subdivided into press censorship (political and military press), censorship of letters, and censorship of telegrams and telephones.

The implementation of these instructions had become effective only with the declaration of war against Serbia, on **28 July 1914**.

Soon, the external postal censorship carried out by the police proved to be underperforming. With the establishment of the KüA, there were premises for this activity to pass into the hands of the military, a passage that would take place on **5 October 1914**. This was enacted by **Order no. 269** of the Ministry of Commerce "on the manipulation of postal items to abroad"¹⁴ (*Verordnung des Handelsministeriums im Einvernehmen mit dem Kriegsministerium über die Behandlung der Postsendungen nach dem Auslande*), which will also be applied in the Kingdom of Hungary starting 11 October 1914 which was based on **Decree no. 1919/B** (KM) from **10 October 1914**), thus having abolished the Order No. 162. As a first organizational measure, *verification commissions* for postal items (*Überprüfungskommissionen für Briefsendungen*, **ÜK**) were established in 21 cities of the Empire, including Brassó and Temesvár, so that — besides Budapest — they would also censor external correspondence from, through or to Transylvania and Bukovina. All simple postal items abroad had to be handed over opened in order to be subject to military control ("*militärische überprüfung*")¹⁵. According to an order from 24 October 1914, "the censorship of mails is primarily intended to prevent communications with enemy countries".

It seems that these measures were taken more quickly in Hungary, where the Ministry of Trade issued **Regulation No. 1919** of **10 September 1914** on "the opening of letters to the rest of the world", which already referred to "Military Control Commissions" (*Katonai ellenőrző bizottság*):

In order to protect military interests, all mail going abroad is subject to military control. Result:

1. All ordinary and recommended letters for foreign countries must henceforth be mailed unsealed or thrown into the mail collection boxes (*levélgyjűjtőszekrény*) ... forms, samples of goods and business papers should be checked with great care by the recording offices, so that they do not contain a written notice.
2. Can still be posted closed:
 - (a) solo consignments to Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina;
 - (b) official mail dispatched by the authorities and agencies, and official bodies of Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Hungarian royal, the Croatian-Slavonian-Dalmatian, K.u.k. common, Austrian Imperial);
 - (c) official consignments from diplomatic missions and consular offices abroad;

¹² Also known as **Hadi Felügyeleti Hivatal**. However it was not comparable with the KüA as it had no authority to give directives; it was only a distributor that sent letters from the KüA or Hungarian institutions to the respective ministries.

¹³ Which was "leading authority for the handling of political and military press censorship, issuing instructions and decisions on controversial issues, monitoring and directing the censorship service in foreign letter and mail parcel traffic, evaluation of the censorship material obtained, decision on all questions of telegram censorship".

¹⁴ Police censorship did not disappear with the passage of competences over the army, but it was restricted especially to the supervision of the correspondence of the internees, suspects, those with mandatory domicile, but also for other special situations; see below.

¹⁵ The postal dispatches to the German ally, initially verified only by sampling, will benefit from the total exemption from censorship from 8 November 1916, and they can thus be sent closed.

(d) dispatches from monarchs and members of the ruling houses.

3. It is forbidden to place written notices in letters of value (money letters), boxes and packages/parcels for foreign countries (with the exception of Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina), as well as notices on slips on delivery notes and other small documents, as well as on coupons of postal orders.

4. Compliance with this prohibition on money items (value, money letter, value box) is the responsibility of the pick-up post offices. For this purpose, the sender is obliged to bring his money/value letters and his value box open to the post office and, after inspection, to seal them with his own seal in the presence of the recording officer at the post office.

The inspection of post offices for value letters (money letters) and value boxes is limited to determining whether there is no written notice in it, but it does not extend to determining whether the declared content is actually there, and the post office assumes no responsibility in this regard.

5. For postal packages/parcels, article 3 shall apply, the control of the prohibition is carried out by the existing exchange postal offices.

6. Letters of value (money letters), value boxes for abroad, as well as those listed in Article 2 shall be forwarded by the exchange offices to their place of destination without further verification.

7. On the other hand, ordinary and registered letters sent abroad which are unsealed or sealed in spite of the prohibition contained in this Regulation, as well as postcards and printed matters for the rest of the world, samples of goods and business papers, as well as correspondence items originating from abroad and returned there as undeliverable, shall be presented to the Military Control Commission. These operate alongside the following post offices: Budapest 72, Brassó 2, Temesvár 2.

8. The provisions of this Regulation shall take effect immediately and shall apply in the field of operations only to the extent that they do not conflict with the measures taken by the highest military command.

This Regulation has been amended or supplemented several times, one example being Postal Regulation 2368/B (30 November 1914), which provides that, in fact, not all consignments from abroad are subject to censorship; if they come from a friendly or neutral country, they can be delivered even if not censored. Decree 836/B (27 April 1915) listed not only shipments from the Monarchy to Germany, but also shipments from Germany to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy as not to be censored. Also shipments from the USA were only to be censored if they were suspicious.

The censorship of foreign newspapers and prints was done through the care of a "press censorship group" established at the external censorship offices. The entry of newspapers from enemy countries was not allowed, while those coming from neutral countries had to go through censorship. Newspapers from/to Romania (neutral until August 1916) passed by the censorship in Vienna. The *censorship of parcels* from abroad was executed in Hungary in Brassó, Zemun and Orsova.

Soon, military developments lead to the need of installing internal postal censorship in certain areas of the Monarchy. The first measures consisted in the forwarding of unsealed private and business correspondence, by the post office of origin to the main post offices at the headquarters of the Postal-Telegraphic Directorates. Here, military censors (especially good officers who knew the languages spoken in the Empire) were hired to verify correspondence, an operation attested by them by applying simple handstamps, with texts such as *Überprüft*, *Gepprüft* or *Zensuriert* (translated as *Verified* and *Censored* respectively).

The censorship establishments can be divided into two types:

- permanent (regular) censorship offices;
- auxiliary or local military censorship offices that (also) censored civil correspondence belonging to their districts; typically they used handstamps in German, like "K. u. k. Etappenstationskommando", or "Militärstations Commando" etc., and a separate handstamp with the words "Überprüft" or "Zensuriert".

The real organization of internal censorship had taken place only at the beginning of 1915, based on the KüA Instruction of **27 February 1915**, which established, especially in the territories of the Army of Operations (*Armee in Felde*) by the military commands stationed in the military areas, numerous Military Censorship Commissions (*Militär Zensur Kommissionen*, **MZK**). Initially, they were founded in the *North-East War Theatre* (with Russia), which stretched from Northern Bohemia to Northern Hungary and Bukovina, but quickly extended to the other territories as well. The military commands in charge of setting up the MZK in the territories that interest us, were located in Kassa/Kosice (VI Command), Temesvár (VII),

Nagy-Szeben/Sibiu (XII) and Lemberg/Lwow (XI). The MZK's competence extended to internal correspondence, trying to extract from it impressions on the general mood of the population, on the economic and political situation, to prevent the sending of any military information, to prevent possible acts of sabotage. The preventive purpose of censorship was as follows: "1) That information and communications should in any way be harmful to the military interests of the Monarchy and the allied German Reich, e.g.: troop locations, troop strength, troop movements and deployments, etc.; such postal items must be seized. 2) When intrigues dangerous for the state or for the tranquility and order of the State or of the German Reich ally are discovered on the occasion of censorship of letters, such postal items must also be confiscated. 3) The military censorship commissions must also communicate other findings extracted from correspondences, which may harm the military interests (e.g. evasions from recruitment, bribery attempts, etc.)".

It's a good moment to mention that in time of war (practically beginning with the summer of 1915, when the AOK — *Armee Oberkommando* — army's high command¹⁶ **took authority over the KüA**), the territory of the Monarchy comprised three theatres of war (*Kriegsschauplätze*), namely, of (North) North-East (then East), South-East and South-West. Each of these included, starting from the frontier with the enemy states, a "restricted military zone" (*engere Kriegsgebiet*), which continued inwards by an "enlarged military zone" (*weitere Kriegsgebiet*). Both were characterized, among other things, by a surveillance of the local population or of those in transit — essentially, censorship. Beyond the military areas, there was the "inner zone" (*Hinterland*), where censorship was not foreseen (see also *Map B02*). Here was the distribution of the Romanian territories to these areas, as of **September 1915**¹⁷:

o **The North-East War Theatre:**

- o The Enlarged Area, with the counties Háromszék / Trei Scaune, Csik / Ciuc, UdVárhely / Odorhei, Maros-Torda / Mureș-Turda (with the city Marosvásárhely / Târgu Mureș), Besztercze-Naszód / Bistrița-Năsăud, Máramaros / Maramureș, Ugocsa / Ugocea, and others to the West; between 2 Novembre 1917 – 4 February 1918 the bukovinean district of Wiznita / Vijnița was added to the list.
- o The Restricted Area of North-East, with the whole of Bukovina¹⁸. By Order no. 432 of 2 November 1917, the districts Viznitsa and Waschkoutz am Czeremosh / Vășcăuți pe Ceremuș were moved to the enlarged area. Law nr. 44 of 4 February 1918 renamed the restricted Eastern area, only with the districts of Zastavna, Coțman, Cernăuți, Storojineț, Siret, Rădăuți, Câmpulung, Gura Humorului, Suceava and Stănești (from the political district Vășcăuți on Ceremuș). By Order no. 174 of **17 May 1918** the *restricted Eastern area* was abolished by 20 May 1918, following the peace with Russia and Romania.

o **The South-East War Theatre:**

- o The Enlarged Area, with counties Brassó / Brașov, Fogaras / Făgăraș, Nagy Küküllő / Târnava Mare, Kis Küküllő / Târnava Mică, Also Fehér / Alba Inferioară, Szeben / Sibiu, Hunyad / Hunedoara, Krassó-Szörény / Caraș-Severin (with now serbian Versecz), Temes / Timiș (with capital Temesvár / Timișoara), Torontál, and from the county of Torda-Aranyos / Torda-Aranyos, only the districts of Marosludas / Luduș and Also-Vincz / Vințul de Jos;
- o The Restricted Area did not include Romanian historical territories¹⁹.

Order no. 29.300 of the Hungarian Ministry of Interior of **22 September 1916** modified the situation of the military areas (established by Regulation 32.000/1915), in such a way, that the area of internal operations in Transylvania was widened according to new situations resulting from the Romanian military offensive:

The guard line established for the control of the border of the inner Transylvanian operational area begins from north to south at the village of Hidalmás (*Hida, then Kolozs, now Sălaj county*) as a continuation of the western boundary line of Maramureș and Szolnok-Doboka counties, and runs in a straight line along the road through Egregypósa (*Păușa, Sălaj county*), Vármező (*Buciumi, Sălaj county*) and Csúcsa (*Ciucea, Cluj county*) to the Királyhágó (*Bucea, then Bihor, now Cluj county*), from Királyhágó along the Fekete-Körös (*Crișul Negru river*) to Belényes (*Beiuș, Bihor county*), from Belényes along the railway line to Vaskóh (*Vășcău, Bihor county*), from Vaskóh via Biharkristyór

¹⁶ Commanded by the chief of general staff, Franz Conrad von Hötzendorf (1852–1925).

¹⁷ The territories in Hungary are confirmed by Regulation No. 32.000 of the Ministry of the Interior of **10 September 1915** (supplemented by Regulation No. 40.500 of 13 December 1915).

¹⁸ Already included by Order no. 244 of 21 August 1915, confirmed by Order no. 368 of November 30, 1915, Order no. 27 of February 4, 1916, Order no. 179 of June 14, 1916, Order no. 365 of 29 August 1917.

¹⁹ See details in the brochure issued by AOK – *Bestimmungen für Reisen in der Kriegsgebiete, etc.*, March 1916.

(*Criștioru de Jos, Bihor county*), along the national road to Marosborsa (*Bârzava, Arad county*), and from there along the Mureș to Soborsin (*Săvârșin, Arad county*), from Soborsin along the road to Facsád (*Făget, then Krassó-Szörény, now Timiș county*), from here along the Béga (*Bega river*) to Bálintz (*Balinț, then Krassó-Szörény, now Timiș county*), from Bálintz along the road to Lugos (*Lugoj, then Krassó-Szörény, now Timiș county*), then along the railway to Gáttája (*Gătaia, Timiș county*), thence to Zsidovin (*Berzovia, Caraș-Severin county*) and leaving Fehértemplom (*Bela Crkva, Serbia*) to Báziás (*Baziaș, Caraș-Severin county*), from Báziás on the left bank of the Danube to Óasszonyrét (*Ogradena Veche, submerged by Danube*).

This guard line is divided into a total of four sections under the control of the border police stations of Brașov, Sibiu, Timișoara and Orșova. These sections from north to south are as follows:

- (a) The first section: from the municipality of Biharkristyór through Csúcsa to Bányika (*Baica, then Kolozs, now Sălaj county*); its seat is Csúcsa.
- (b) The second section: from Gyalumáre hill (*Dealul Mare*) through the villages of Maroskaproncz (*Căpruța, Arad county*) and Honcztó (*Gurahonț, Arad county*), to the municipality of Halmágygőros (*Groși, Arad county*) on the border of Bihar and Arad counties; its seat is Soborsin.
- (c) The third section: from Buziás baths (*Băile Buziaș, Timiș county*) to Báziás; its seat is Gáttája (*Gătaia, Timiș county*).
- (d) The fourth section: from Orsova to Báziás, and from Szinérszeg (*Sinérșeg, Timiș county*) through Lugos to Facsád; its seat at Lugos and Szinicz (*Svința, then in Krassó-Szörény, now in Mehedinți county*).

Thus, to the previous situation were practically added the counties of Kolozs, Torda-Aranyos, Alsó-Fehér as well as small eastern strips of other counties: Szilágy (a very small border area with Kolozs county), Bihar (the eastern parts of Beiuș and Vașcău districts) and Arad (the eastern parts of Hălmașiu, Ineu and Radna districts).

Starting with **1 October 1916**, all MZK were called Bureaus of Censure (*Zensurstellen, ZS*).

Order no. 379 of the Ministry of Trade from **7 November 1916** amended Order no. 269 / 1914, eliminating Germany from the countries whose correspondence was subjected to censorship, the letters could thus be handed over closed. Then, starting with **15 November 1916**, all external dispatches (with the exception of Germany) were to go through military censorship only in the centers of **Wien, Budapest and Feldkirch** (and in the case of parcels, through Wien, Bodenbach and Feldkirch). External correspondence from / to Hungary (Transylvania and Banat, therefore) was thus censored only in the Budapest office, and the one regarding Bukovina passed through the Wien office.

As of **8 November 1916**, internal censorship was suspended; however, in the territory of *Armee in Felde*, as well as in the areas where tightening of the censorship norms were ordered (industrial areas, restless centers), many censorship offices remained in operation even in 1917.

On **20 February 1917**, the Ministry of Commerce in Budapest issues **Regulation no. 5,497**, in which the new areas of *postal, telegraphic and telephone* censorship were exactly established (the latter two do not interest us for the time being):

I. In agreement with the Government of War, I have re-established the restrictive rules which are uniformly applicable to all the designated prohibition areas (Annex 1), to all battlefields, and to mail-telegraph-telephony-traffic in general. These rules are as follows:

A) For mail traffic.

1. Private mail (letters, postcards, prints, samples of goods) sent to places in closed areas (*subject to censorship*) shall be subjected to censorship by existing military censorship committees, or which may be set up by the Army Command. Therefore, mail can only be sent open.

2. Written notices may not be placed in postal parcels, or notices may be written on the shipping letters (slips) of the parcels or on their accompanying documents, or on the coupons of postal orders.

Post offices are authorized to open parcels, or those that they suspect as containing a written notice, with the sender for inspection at the time of dispatch. Suspicious packages are handed over by post offices to military censorship stations for censorship.

The respective censorship committee shall be established and notified by the post-telegraph administrations in agreement with the competent military command.

3. Material received for delivery from a closed area shall not be subjected to censorship (*as it was already censored*).

In regards to the censorship of foreign mail going to or originating elsewhere except Germany, the existing regulations shall apply: 81.168/1916.M. (P.T.R.T. Vol. 1916, No. 154) and 85.736/1916.M. (P.T.R.T. Vol. 1916, pag. 159)

On **11 March 1917**, the same ministry issued **Regulation No. 16.989** ("establishing areas prohibited for the traffic of post, telegraphs and telephone in the eastern and south-eastern parts of the country"), which made clarifications and amendments to the previous one²⁰:

Among the forbidden areas, the counties of Torda-Aranyos and Also Fehér were taken out, as well as some districts of Kolozs, Torontál, Timiş, Krassó-Szörény, Hunyad and Szeben counties, while from a telegraphic point of view, some districts of Temes and Torontál counties were again included in the closed area.

Restrictions on mail, telegraph and telephone traffic in the vacated areas should be lifted immediately. For the remaining prohibition areas in the eastern and south-eastern parts of the country, the following reliefs and amendments shall be in force:

(A) For postal traffic:

(a) Letter mail items that remain within the same county or, if only one or more districts of the county are prohibited, or remain within this or that district, are not subject to censorship and may therefore be closed again.

(b) The letters of value are not among the items to be censored either here or in the forbidden territories in the rest of the country, and therefore from my decree No. 5.497/1917 dated 20 February, these words "and letters of value" shall be deleted in both places.

(c) Until further notice, censorship shipments originating from the forbidden areas of Temes, Torontál and Krassó-Szörény counties shall be brought before the military censorship committee in **Temesvár**, those originating in the Transylvanian parts forming the forbidden area shall be brought to **Kolozsvár** and those from Maramureş County shall be brought to **Máramarosziget**, and the measures shall be taken in such a way that the censored material is processed and, if possible, further processed on the same day. It goes without saying that correspondence that is sent in the forbidden area by travelling post offices, *kalauz* mail or other mail-carrying missions should be brought before censorship.

(d) The **army headquarters of Archduke Joseph** may also carry out censorship at certain post offices in the military area under its jurisdiction by means of censorship committees moving through occasional and trial investigations. The identity and trusteeship of the members of the moving censorship committee, or of a military agent appearing in that capacity, shall be verified by means of a photographic ID. The censors should only be provided with the material requested for review. Examination or research in other materials and office premises shall be permitted only with the assistance of a board of directors.

The frontline command may refer mail sent or received by individuals or bodies that appear to be unreliable from a military point of view to a military censorship committee for review on a permanent or temporary basis throughout the broader operational area.

Moreover, the said command also takes measures to prevent correspondence transmitted by passengers to the underlying parts of the country by avoiding censorship.

Here is the situation of the areas subject to postal censorship, as of **11 March 1917** (only those considered "historical" Romanian are indicated):

Table of the prohibitions on mail, telegraph and telephone traffic. The exclusion areas (*where censorship is compulsory*) are:

A) For mail traffic.

1. On the territory of the countries of the **Hungarian** Holy crown:

a) Máramaros, Fogaras, Brassó, Haromszék, Nagy-Küküllő, Kis-Küküllő, Udvarhely, Csík, Maros-Torda, Szolnok-Doboka and Besztercze-Naszód counties, as well as

- o Districts of Tekéi, Mezőörményi and Nagysármás from Kolozs county;
- o Districts of Antalfalvas, Nagybecskerek and Pancsova from Torontál county (today in Serbia);
- o Districts of Kevevár and Fehértemplom from Temes county (today in Serbia);
- o Districts of Orsova and Újmoldova of Krassó-Szörény county;
- o District of Petrozsény from Hunyad county;
- o District of Nagydisznód from Szeben county.
- o (...)

2. In **Austria**: Bukovina (...)

Beginning in mid-1917, the censorship offices began to be gradually disbanded, so that only a few postal censorship offices continued to operate until the end of the war, up to November 1918 — especially those in

²⁰ Summarised also in the Romanian newspaper *Gazeta Transilvaniei*, Braşov, no. 31 from 18/31 March 1917, page. 2

the southern areas of *Armee in Felde*, in Poland and in Bukovina (Czernowitz and Dorna-Watra). From Hungary, only two offices, from Brassó and Marosvásárhely, were in this situation.

Following criticism in Parliament and the press, the **KüA** — until then exempted from parliamentary oversight — was disbanded in **August 1917**, and its responsibilities were transferred on **9 September 1917** to a Ministerial Commission in the War Ministry (*Ministerialkommission im Kriegsministerium*). The most important change was the abandonment of AOK's authority, the commission having been equally led by a military official, as well as a civilian. With the end of the war approaching, the dissolution of the Ministerial Commission was announced just one year later; on **23 October 1918**, Chief of General Staff Arthur Freiherr Arz von Straußenburg addressed the Ministerial Commission in regard to the planned lifting of censorship, with the discontinuation of its activity following on **31 October 1918**.

Stages of Internal Austro-Hungary Censorship in Banat and Transylvania (Kingdom of Hungary)

There was initially no **internal censorship** in *Transylvania* and *Banat*, but the concentration of troops along the country's borders, and the military operations nearby, made it necessary to have postal surveillance in certain areas.

The first areas in northern Transylvania and Banat were subjected to censorship in 1915.

Thus, the first censorship offices were established in the spring of 1915, by the Kassa Military Command in the "enlarged military zone of the North East theatre of war", in connection with the advance of the Russian troops in Galicia and Máramaros, two counties that were in direct contact with the front area: *Máramaros* (*Máramarosziget* office) and *Beszterce-Naszód* (*Borgóprund* and *Naszód* offices, subsequently disbanded and replaced by *Besztercze*).

The campaign of the German and Austro-Hungarian armies in Serbia led to the establishment of the *state of siege* in parts of Banat and, in **April 1915**, to the opening of the first censorship offices in *Temes* county. The *Temesvár* office also had jurisdiction over the northern part of *Krassó-Szörény* county, in addition to the area covered by the Versecz office (now in Serbia). These counties were included in the "enlarged military zone of the South-East War Theatre", which stretched from the Steyria border, through Varazdin, to Szeged and Arad, and as far as the Székely region.

The aforementioned offices — *Máramarossziget*, *Beszterce* and *Temesvár* — were the only ones operating in the present-day Romanian territories, to which the *Brassó* office was added by November 1915, likely as a result of the mobilization of the Romanian *cover units* along the Carpathian border. These offices remained operational until the major turning point in the region's postal history: Romania's entry into the war on **27 August 1916**. Besides these, censorship of correspondence existed only in the counties of *Máramaros*, *Beszterce-Naszód*, *Temes* and *Krassó-Szörény* (from April 1915), respectively *Brassó* (from November 1915). The territorialization was quite clear, each county having censored its own mail which left or was received in its county office. An exception was *Temesvár*, which also censored correspondence from neighboring counties. In all the other Hungarian counties, which are part of present-day Romania, there was no postal censorship until August 1916.

Starting August 1916, most of Transylvania's territory had become an area of postal censorship.

Everything would change with the Romanian declaration of war, which began its military operations on **14/27 August 1916**. Of course, the final preparations for war did not go unnoticed, which led to the establishment of a chain of censorship offices by 21 August in Banat: *Lugos*, *Orsova* and *Karánsebes* (*Krassó-Szörény* county), followed by others after the operations were launched: *Arad* (Arad county), *Nagyvárad* (Bihar county), *Nagyszeben* (not sure, Szeben county). A major event was the evacuation of the Brassó commission after 29 August 1916 and its establishment in *Kolozsvár*, where it continued its work using the old insignia (handstamps) until December 1916 (from January 1917 benefiting from the new specific handstamps). Beginning with **7 September 1916** new regulations were established at the Kolozsvár Post Office: "From today, postal items may be sent only under the following conditions: Simple and registered letters must be sent open. Money letters and parcels should be sent to the post office in such a way

that the respective receiving officer can easily ascertain that they do not contain a written notice. Written announcements cannot be written on coupons for vouchers and delivery notes."²¹ But the most important aspect derived from the Hungarian Order no. 29.300 of **22 September 1916**, which introduced censorship practically in the entire territory of Transylvania, respectively in the counties: *Alsó-Fehér*, eastern *Arad*, eastern *Bihar*, *Csik*, *Kolozs*, *Fogaras*, *Háromszék*, *Hunyad*, *Kis-Küküllő*, *Maros-Torda*, *Nagy-Küküllő*, *Szeben*, *Szolnok-Doboka*, eastern *Szilágy*, *Torda-Aranyos*, *UdVárhely* — which were in addition to the five counties already subjected to censorship starting from 1915. But no new censorship offices were set up against those already mentioned, so at least 12 counties had to send mail for remote censorship to another county. And this led to the use of the **Temesvár** and **Kolozsvár** censorship offices as regional ones, which censored the entire correspondence in Banat (three counties, plus partially Torontál) and Transylvania respectively (15-16 counties). **Kolozsvár** became a few days later **the most busy and important** censorship office of this part of the Empire, an importance unknown / unrecognised for the time being by the collectors — who consider it a kind of small auxiliary office — due to the simple fact that in the most consistent and rich period of activity (September – December 1916) it used handstamps inscribed with another city name (Brassó)!

The suspension of censorship in most of Transylvania's territory (December 1916 – March 1917).

As things on the Romanian front calmed down — albeit to the detriment of the Romanians, who were continuously pushed back towards Moldavia, until the front stabilized along the Siret river in January 1917 — most of the Transylvanian counties ceased to be subject to censorship. Until December 1916, censorship in *Arad* was lifted (with the office already closed in *Arad*), *Bihar* (with the *Nagyvárad* office closed), *Torda-Aranyos*; later, Regulation no. 16.989 of March 1917, lifted censorship also in *Alsó-Fehér*, *Kolozs* (with the exception of three eastern districts), *Krassó-Szörény* (except for two districts in contact with the former border, but the offices of *Lugos* and *Orsova* were closed), *Hunyad* (except for Petrozsény border district), *Szeben* (except for the southern district), *Szilágy*, *Temes* (except for some districts in present-day Serbia), *Torontál* (except for some districts in present-day Serbia). It is ironic that Kolozsvár and Temesvár offices continued to censor large quantities of correspondence, although they were located in areas exempt from censorship!

Suspension of censorship in the rest of Transylvania (August 1917).

With the dissolution of KüA, the rest of the counties came out of the spectrum of postal censorship: *Beszterce-Naszód* (not sure, with the dissolution of the *Beszterce* office), *Brassó*, *Csik*, *Fogaras*, *Háromszék*, *Kis-Küküllő*, *Nagy-Küküllő*, *Máramaros* (with the closure of the *Máramarossziget* office), *Maros-Torda*, *Szolnok-Doboka*, *UdVárhely*, as well as the respective districts of *Kolozs*, *Krassó-Szörény*, *Szeben*, *Hunyad*, *Temes* și *Torontál*. Practically, in August 1917, censorship was lifted throughout Transylvania and Banat, and the large regional censorship centers **Temesvár** and **Kolozsvár** were closed as well.

Resumption of postal censorship in the Carpathians bend, under the direction of the Ministry of War (September 1917 – October 1918).

The great military operations in Mărășești, Mărăști and Oituz likely convinced the War Ministry (which had taken over responsibility for censorship from the KüA) that the situation in that part of the Carpathians was far from settled. As a result, it decided to reinstate — or possibly continue — censorship in several counties relatively close to the reactivated front: *Beszterce-Naszód*, *Maros-Torda*, *Csik*, *UdVárhely*, *Brassó*, *Háromszék*. It remains unclear whether censorship had actually been lifted during the brief lull in fighting. For censorship in these counties, the **Brassó** office was re-opened (for the counties of Brassó, Csik and Háromszék) and an office was also re-open in **Marosvásárhely** (for the counties of Beszterce-Naszód, Csik, Maros-Torda and UdVárhely). Both offices had therefore inter-county competence and operated until the dissolution of the Monarchy. Occasionally, local offices with limited competence, and a short life, were also established in working mining areas of Banat²² (*Anina*, *Oravicza*, *Resiczabánya*).

²¹ *Ellenzék* (Kolozsvár), no. 204 from 7 September 1916.

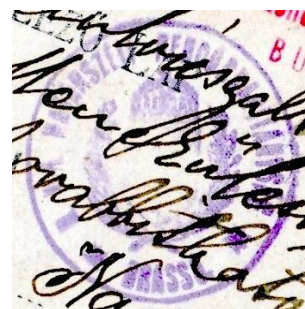
²² The industrial centers in the south have experienced workers protest movements, which would have led to the establishment of a severe postal censorship in the Jiu Valley (according to the telegram of the Ministry of Commerce to the KüA dated 25 May 1917 - however, there are no censorship offices that would have officially functioned here, but instead in Banat!)

September 1916: Military mail of the guard units of the Transylvanian postal restriction territory (= Censorship Area)

Following Order no. 29300 of **22 September 1916** (which certainly certifies an already existing operational situation), the area of internal operations in Transylvania was widened, its border reaching areas where there was no previous postal censorship (see details above). This border along the Apuseni (Western) Mountains was to be guarded by police or gendarmerie units from Transylvania and Banat; their mail is very rare and forms a welcome addition to any collection of Transylvanian censorship, even if they did not perform local censorship operations of the out- or incoming mail in their operational border area. As we already know, there were 4 security sectors, presented below after the name of their headquarters:

B02A. – Section 1 Csucsá (today Ciucea, Cluj county)

The first section was from Biharkristyór through Csúcsa to Bányika. It must have been guarded by police / gendarmerie units from **Brassó** / Braşov, which perfectly match the item illustrated in Fig. B02.01. As the border gendarmes who arrived in the small village of Ciucea came from the city of Braşov, they brought with them the respective military handstamps, which they used for the dispatched correspondence. However it is not known if the gendarmes were involved in censoring local civilian correspondence. Probably not, as a letter mailed from Csucsá of 11 September 1916 was censored by the regional office in Kolozsvár (see Fig. B02.18).



ⓄB02A.1: round handstamp with a diameter of 27 mm, with the inner text around the coat of arms: **HATÁRSZÉTT RENDŐRKAPITÁNYSÁG * BRASSÓ** (= *Border Police Station Brassó*), affixed in purple ink on **21 October 1916**.



Fig. B02.01
Censored military
correspondence from the
border police in the Security
Station Csucsá

Postcard written by Székács Emil, hadnagy, Határrendőrség, Csucsá (= Lieutenant, Border Police), censored with the handstamp ⓄB02A/1, accompanied by the manuscript notation in black ink, allowing dispatch after censorship, postmark CSUCSA on 21 October 1916, addressed to Szászváros (Orăştie), Hunedoara county.

B02B. – Section 2 Soborsin (today Săvârşin, Arad county)

The second section was from Gyalumáre hill (Dealul Mare), through the villages of Maroskaproncza (Căpruța) and Honcztő to Halmágygöros. It must have been guarded by police units from **Nagyszeben** / Sibiu.

B02C. – Section 3 Gátalja (today Gătaia, Timiș county)

The third section was from Buziás Bath (Băile Buziaș) to Básiás (Baziaș). It had to have been guarded by police units from **Temesvár** / Timișoara.

B02D. – Section 4a Lugos
(today Lugoj, Timiș county)

This section was from Sinérszeg, through Lugos, to Facsád (Făget). It had to have been guarded by police units from **Orsova**.

B02E. – Section 4b Szvinita
(today Svinița, Mehedinți county)

This section was from Orsova (Orșova) to Báziás (Baziaș); It had to have been guarded by police units from **Orsova**.

**List of censorship commissions in Transylvania and Banat
and the handstamps used**

Each handstamp, or label, shall be numbered in the proper style of these monographs. For easier orientation, for comparison or to mark the work of predecessors, in each case I have written in parentheses, the catalogue number from other works, for the handstamps that are already known. In the present chapter, **references** are made to the 2nd edition of the *Thielk catalogue* of 2000 [[B02.2](#)], coded below **T00**, and *Oskar Schilling's third edition* of 2008 [[B02.21](#)], with supplements of 2015 and 2021), coded below **OS**, followed by the respective catalogue numbers. Further references from other chapters will be made to 2nd edition of *Telegut-Thielk catalogue* of 1995 [[B00.3](#)], coded **TT95** and to *Călin Marinescu book of 2004* [[B00.5](#)], coded **CM**.

All the known handstamps used by the censorship commissions in Transylvania and Banat will be catalogued within this list. In addition to handstamps, commissions had also used standardized adhesive labels for closing envelopes that were cut open for inspection (centrally distributed), of which three models are known — see below. For now, we have no proof that all commissions have used these labels (although that would be logical), so the list explicitly mentions those confirmed.

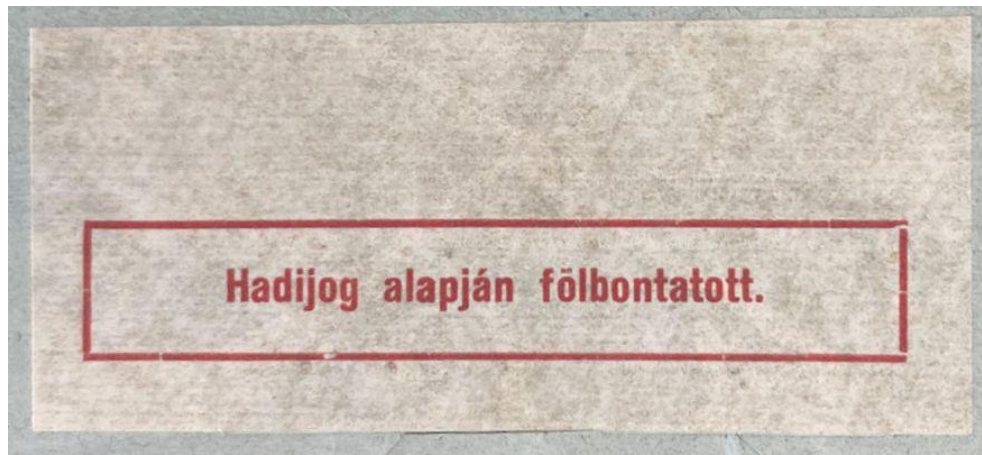
Sealing labels (General types)

[OE1](#): neutral, non-specific sealing label, of the general model of the postal service.

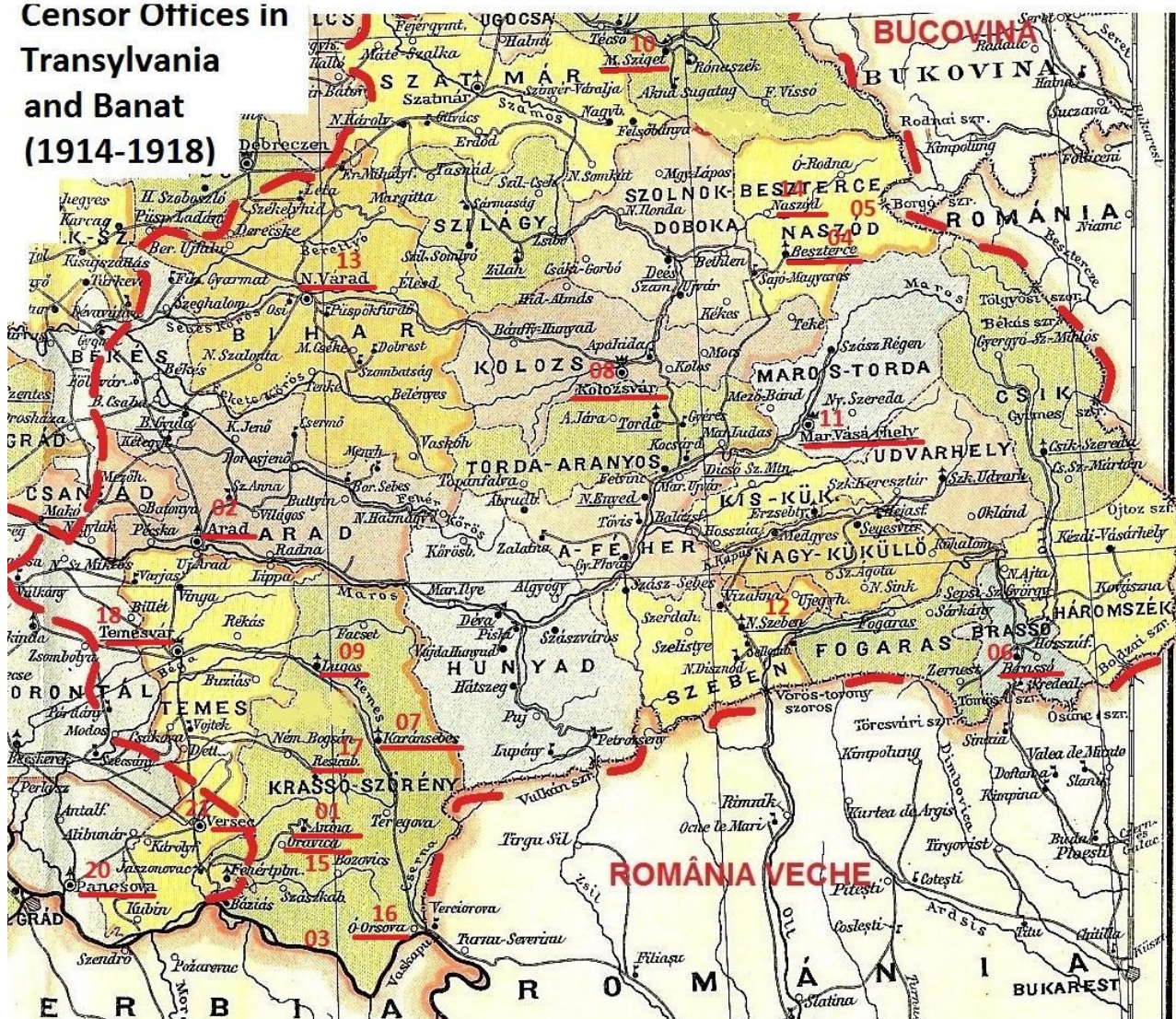
[OE2](#): Specific envelope closure label, with the text printed in red, in rectangular frame: **Hadijog alapján fölbontatott** (= *Open on the basis of martial law*). Characteristic is the use of *serif* fonts. Period of general use: **November 1914 – August 1918**.



[OE3](#): Specific envelope closure label, with the text printed in red, in rectangular frame: **Hadijog alapján fölbontatott**. Characteristic is the use of the *sans-serif* fonts. Period of general use: **27 August 1916 – November 1918**.



The Austro-Hungarian Censor Offices in Transylvania and Banat (1914-1918)



Map B02. The following numbers correspond to those in the catalog:

- 01 – Anina, 02 – Arad, 03 – Berzászka, 04 – Besztercze, 05 – Borgóprund, 06 – Brassó,
- 07 – Karánsebes, 08 – Kolozsvár, 09 – Lugos, 10 – Máramarossziget, 11 – Maros Vasarhely, 12 –
- Nagyszeben, 13 – Nagyvárad, 14 – Naszód, 15 – Oravicabánya, 16 – Orsova,
- 17 – Resiczabánya, 18 – Temesvár, 20 – Pancsova, 21 – Versecz.

The discontinued red line is the limit of Romanian pretensions in 1919, which were finally adjusted in the west and north up to the actual frontier.

B02/01. – ANINA

(Krassó-Szörény county, today Anina, Caraș-Severin county)

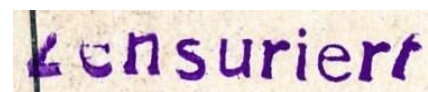
A mining workers' center where a temporary local MZK was established, which apparently censored only the terminal correspondence — that is, mail *arriving* in Anina.

[ⓐB02/01.1](#) (T00#205.1, OS#001): bi-linear handstamp of good quality, without known deformations, with the text: **K. u. K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE / ANINA**, size 65 x 11 mm, applied in red (frequent) or purple ink (rare, November 1917) between **11 September – 3 November 1917**.

[ⓐB02/01.2](#) (T00#205.10, OS#010): the censorship handstamp itself, which most often accompanies the previous type, linear with the text: **Zensuriert**, size 30 x 5 mm, applied in same colours and period.



There are more *uncirculated* postcards with the cachet of the Anina Catholic Parish (*Oficium Parochiale Rom. Cath.*) and a **Zensuriert** smaller handstamp (30 x 3 mm), all in purple ink, the meaning of which is not yet known.

**B02/02. – ARAD**

(today Arad, Arad county then and now)

Area of competence:

- Most of the censored mail was sent **from**, or **transited the city** of Arad, coming from the neighboring southern areas (for example Újarad or Kisszentmiklós, south of Maros, located at that time in Temes county!) or coming along the Mureș valley (from Mariaradna, Lippa, or more distant places from other counties, such as Puj – see *Fig. B02.02*, Nagyszeben, etc.). The mails transiting Arad were addressed to the west (in localities in Hungary, Austria or Germany), but also to the north of Partium (Oradea).
- A minority is represented by the censored mail **according to the regulations**, respectively the correspondence which arrived or left from the **war zone** (the eastern parts of Arad county), without their route having otherwise pass through Arad: for example, Feltót – Soborsin, Ópálos – Soborsin (see *Fig. B02.02*), Soborsin – Honcótó.
- Occasionally the Arad office censored correspondences circulated inside Banat, from remote areas without any postal link to Arad (example Temesvár to Modos, Torontál county; see *Fig. B02.03*). For now, there are no explanations for this situation.

[ⓐB02/02.Fake](#): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. K. BRIEFZENS / ARAD**, size 65 x 11 mm, applied in violet ink on mail dated between 11 December 1914 - 15 August 1915... 30 May 1918 (!). This has to be a bogus handstamp, made by the same artist who created the fake OSIJEK one (using the same letter characters).



[ⓐB02/02.1](#) (T00#206.2, OS#002): bi-linear handstamp of good quality, with the text: **K. u. K. BRIEFZENSUR / ARAD**, size 54,5 x 12,5 mm, applied in red (cvasi-totality) or violet ink (very rarely) between **31 August – 23 November 1916**. The first "A" in Arad corresponds to the space between the letters "K." and "B" in the first row, the "u" in K.u.K. is lowercase, and the height of the letters is higher; see *Fig. B02.02* and *B01.03*.



/02.1: 19 September 1916



6 October 1916

©B02/02.2 (T00#206.1, OS#001): bi-linear handstamp of good quality, with the text: **K. U. K. BRIEFZENSUR / ARAD**, size 56 x 11,5 mm, applied in red-lilac, purple and blue ink between 2 September – 13 November 1916. The first "A" in Arad roughly corresponds to the "B" above, the "U" in K.U.K. is capitalized, and the height of the letters is lower.



/02.2: November 1916



12 October 1916



Fig. B02.02.
An example of transit
censorship, carried out in
Arad.

Express registered envelope, stamped 1 Korona, sent by *Dr. F. Schuller* from the *Szászváros Reserve Hospital* (located at that time close to the southern front with Romania, in Puj, Hunyad county), to his wife, a refugee in Szentcs. Postmarked PUJ on **9 November 1916**, forwarded through Piski and along the Maros valley to **Arad**, where it was censored with **©B02/02.1**.



Fig. B02.03: The unusual Arad censoring of a letter circulated inside Banat.

Envelope sent by the family from Timișoara to the father in Modos, postmarked TEMESVÁR on **12 October 1916**, probably censored the next day in **Arad** with the stamp **B02/02.2**, arriving at MODOS on 14 October 1916 and then forwarded to Lugo. The 60 km detour through Arad of a correspondence that could reach directly along the 50 km route from Timișoara to Modos has no explanation yet.

©B02/02.90 (OS#PZ005): closing labels, type E3, were used around **13 October 1916**; see *Fig. B02.03*.

For the **Police** handstamps used in Arad; see #B02/61. The handstamps used by the **Internment Camp Arad** will be covered in *Volume C/2*, as they belong to the mail of POWs & Internees.

B02/03. – BERZÁSZKA

(Krassó-Szörény county, today Berzasca, Caraş Severin county)

A mining workers' village in the Danube Gorge, where a temporary local censoring office was established, apparently through the transfer on **1 September 1916** of MZK Orsova (located 72 km to the east) during the Romanian occupation.

OB02/03.1 (T00#207.1, OS#001): bi-linear handstamp of good quality, without known deformations, with the text: **K. u. K. BRIEFZENSUR / BERZÁSKA**, size 56 x 12 mm, applied in red or violet ink on **6 December 1916**; see Fig. B02.04.

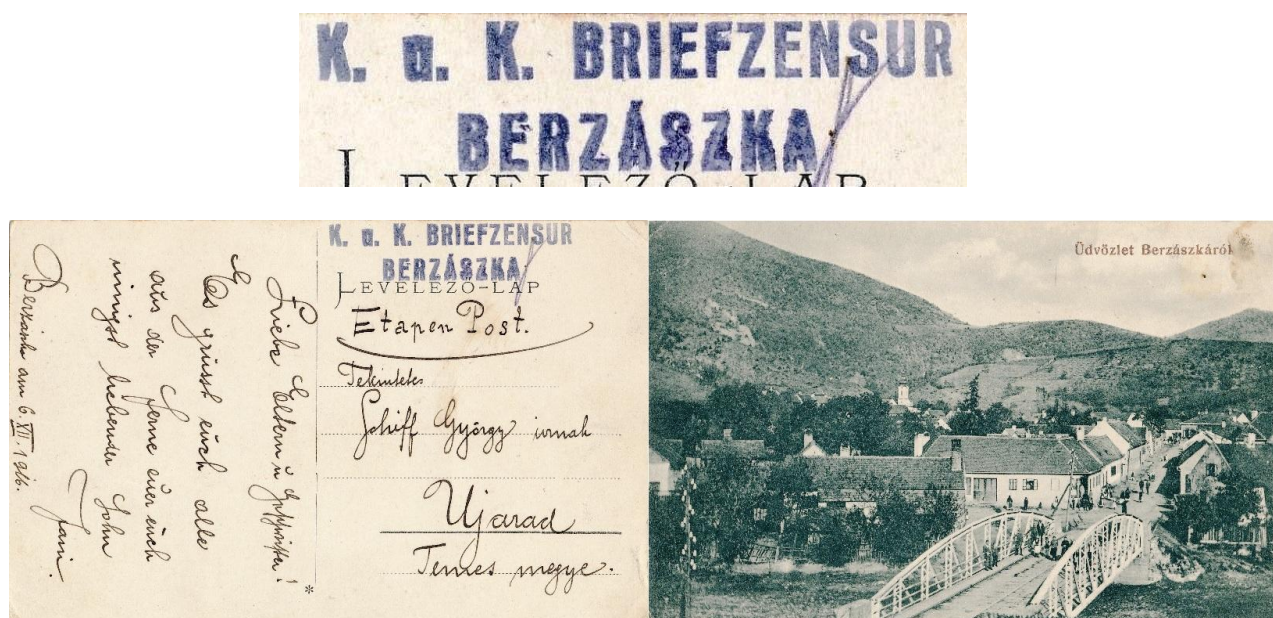


Fig. B02.04: Illustrated postcard (showing a view of Berzasca) sent on **6 December 1916** as staging military post, without post office cancellation, only with the local censorship handstamp **OB02/03.1**. Addressed to Aradul Nou.

B02/04. – BESZTERCZE

(Besztercze-Naszód county, today Bistrița, Bistrița Năsăud county)

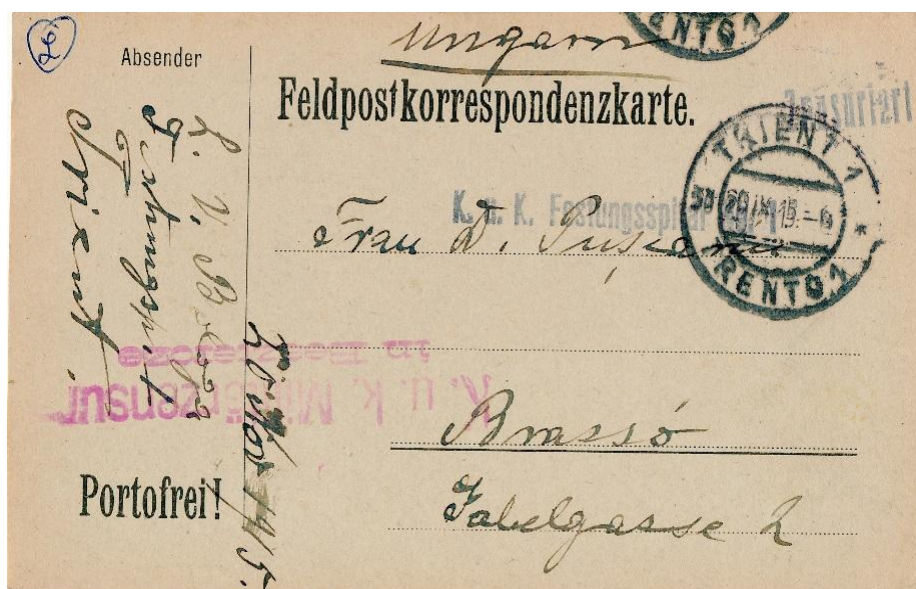


Fig. B02.05:
An exceptional situation in the activity of the Besztercze commission.

Postcard sent by Lucia Bologa (volunteer on the Italian front along with her husband) to her concitadine Dora Puşcariu in Brassó. The military censorship of the unit (**K.u.K. Festungsspital No. 1** and **Zensuriert**), TRIENT * TRENTO postmark on 20 November 1915, censorship in Besztercze with **OB02/04.1**, showing a serious deviation from the normal route, which should have passed through Arad...

The county censorship commission was established during the fall of 1915, replacing the *local commissions*

Naszód and Borgóprund. It functioned, apparently uninterrupted, between **November 1915** and **November 1917**, censoring only the *terminal* correspondence, almost all *sent from* the post offices from Beszterce-Naszód county, to the rest of the Monarchy or to the front. Exceptions are rare; see Fig. B02.05

A. First period: use of Besztercze own handstamps

(...November 1915 – June 1916)

[ⓄB02/04.1](#) (T00#208.6, OS#006): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. K. Militärzensur / in Besztercze**, size 66 x 13 mm, applied in violet, red and red/lilac ink, between *October – 8 November 1915* – **12 January 1916**; see Fig. B02.05.



/04.1: 8 November 1915



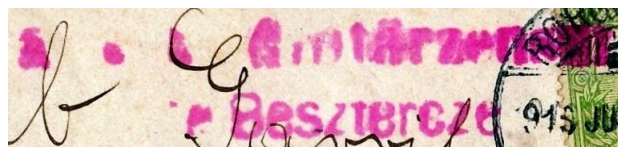
4 June 1916

[ⓄB02/04.2](#) (T00#208.7, OS#007): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. K. Militärzensur / in Besztercze**, size 66 x 13 mm, applied in red and violet ink between **19 March – 4 June 1916**.

**K. u. k. Militärzensur
in Besztercze.**



/04.2: 12 April 1916



4 June 1916

[ⓄB02/04.3](#) (T00#208.1, OS#001): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **Zensuriert / K. u. K. Militärzensur Besztercze**, size 70 x 14 mm, applied in red/lilac ink between *June – 21 August 1916*.

**Zensuriert
K. u. k. Militärzensur Besztercze**

[ⓄB02/04.4](#): circular handstamp with the text: **K. u. K. MILITÄRZENSUR / in Besztercze**, diameter 31/29 mm, applied in red/lilac ink between **26 May – 15 June 1916**.



/04.4: 26 May 1916



15 June 1916

B. Second period: use of the refugee handstamps of Kolomea

(23 July – 3 August 1916)

The Russian Brussilov offensive would lead to the occupation of much of Bukovina and eastern Polish Galicia. The city of **Kolomea** (today Коломия, Ivano-Frankivsk oblast, Ukraine), located near the Bukovinian border, it was occupied by the Russians after the battles of **29 June 1916**, and would be regained by the Austro-Hungarians only on **27 July 1917**! Alongside the Bukovinian institutions (the Orthodox Metropolitan of Czernowitz, for example), the local censorship commission Kolomea was evacuated to the Hungarian city of **Besztercze**, continuing to function there for at least a few days in July 1916. Since Besztercze already had censorship activity (unlike the situation of Brassó / Kolozsvár; see #B02/08A) it is not yet clear why it was chosen to temporarily use the handstamps of the Galician refugee commission, instead of those of the local commission.



Fig. B02.06: Illustrated postcard (with an image of *Besztercze* city park), postmarked **BESZTERCZE 26 July 1916**, addressed to Prague. It bears the handstamp of the censoring refugee office **Kolomea**, [B02/04.5](#), used in *Besztercze*.

[B02/04.5](#) (T00#56.52): tri-linear handstamp of Kolomea censorship (actually a free passage handstamp), used in refuge in *Besztercze*, with the text: **K. u. K. MILLITÄR-ZENSUR / KOLOMEA / WEITERLEITEN**, size 55 x 14 mm, applied in red-lilac or purple ink between **23 July – 3 August 1916**, on terminal mail (sent from *Besztercze*); see *Fig. B02.06* and *B01.05*.

C. Third period: return to *Besztercze*'s own handstamps

(5 August 1916 – November 1917)

[B02/04.6](#) (T00#208.50, OS#050): group of rectangular (free passage) handstamps with the inner text: **K. u. K. Militär-Zensur / Besztercze Nr ... / Weiterleiten!**, size 63,5/60 x 27/24 mm, applied in red ink between **6 August – 8 September 1916 – October 1916**. Numbers known so far: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; see *Fig. B02.07*.

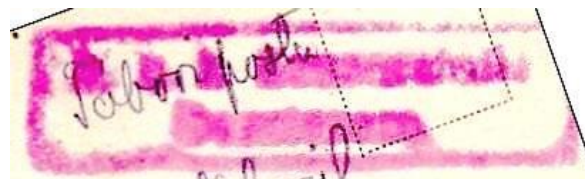


Fig. B02.07: Illustrated postcard (showing three views from *Besztercze*), postmarked **BESZTERCZE 17 August 1916**, addressed to *Wien*, censored by the local office with the handstamp [B02/04.6\(7\)](#) (bearing censor number 7).

ⓄB02/04.7 (T00#208.2, OS#002): rectangular handstamp, with the inner bi-linear text: **K. u. K. Zensurstelle / Besztercze**, size 63 x 16 mm, applied in red, lilac-red ink between *August – 11 September 1916 – 5 July 1917*; in June-July it was degraded, being hardly legible. It is possible that one sample "lost" its frame in *February 1917* (seen by Schilling as a different type, OS#008).

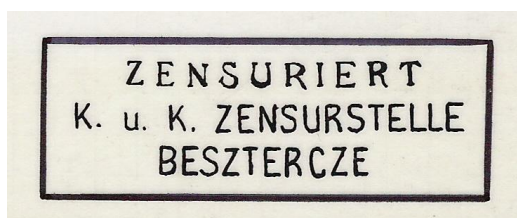


/04.7: 29 December 1916



5 July 1917

ⓄB02/04.8 (T00#208.4, OS#004): rectangular handstamp with tri-linear inner text: **ZENSURIERT / K. u. K. ZENSURSTELLE / BESZTERCZE**, size 55 x 19 mm, applied in red and violet ink between *October – 27 December 1916 – May 1917*.



/04.8: Reconstruction

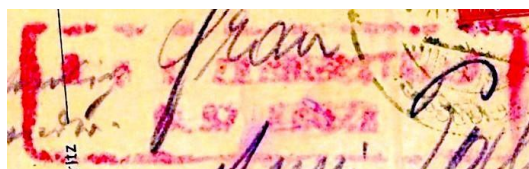


27 December 1916

ⓄB02/04.9 (T00#208.3, OS#003): rectangular handstamp, with bi-linear inner text: **K. u. K. ZENSURSTELLE / BESZTERCZE**, size 55 x 15 mm, applied in red ink between *29 November 1916 – 5 August 1917*. One of the samples is already hardly readable in August, due to tear and wear.

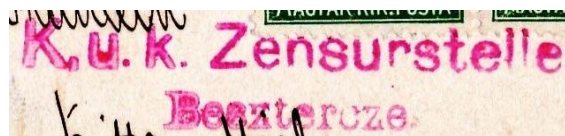


/04.9: 29 November 1916



5 August 1917

ⓄB02/04.10 (T00#208.5, OS#005): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. K. Zensurstelle / Besztercze**, size 50 x 10 mm, applied in red or lila ink between *July – 8 August – 3 November 1917*.



ⓄB02/04.20 (T00#208.51, OS#051): *Free of censorship* rectangular handstamp, with two-line inner text: **Zensurfrei! / K. u. K. Militär-Zensur Besztercze**, size 63/60 x 21/18 mm, applied in red ink in *August 1917*. Not seen by the author, (illustration Thielk).



ⓄB02/04.30 (T00#208.60, OS#060): *Retour* rectangular handstamp, with two-line inner text: **Unzulässig retour! / K. u. K. Militär-Zensur Besztercze**, size 64/61 x 21/18 mm, seen only on official documents on *27 August 1916*. Not seen by the author, (illustration Thielk).



ⓄB02/04.40 (T00#208.65, OS#065): *Seizure* handstamp, with inner text: **Inhibiert**, size 61 x 15 mm, seen only on official documents on *16 September 1916*. Not seen by the author, (illustration Thielk).



[ⓄB02/04.90](#) (T00#208.90, OS#090): **Closing label** of a special, specific type, with the black printed text: **K. u. K. Militärzensur!** on bright yellow paper, smoothly cut, used between *September 1915 – August 1916*. Not seen by the author, (illustration Thielk).



B02/05. – BORGÓPRUND

(Besztercze-Naszód county, today Prundul Bârgăului, Bistrița Năsăud county)

The **local** censorship commission was established in spring of 1915, probably due to the threat of the Russian advance in the neighboring Máramaros. But also due to the military importance of the villages in the area, as here is where the military gasoline-electric railway to the bukovinian Vatra Dornei begins.

Area of competence:

- o Correspondence **sent** from the southern districts of **Beszterce-Naszód county**; examples of post offices involved:
 - o **Jád** district: Borgóprund, Alsóborgó.
 - o **Bessenýő** district: not seen to date (main post offices: Szászszentgyörgy, Szászlekencze, Nagysajó).

[ⓄB02/05.1](#) (T00#210.1, OS#001): bi-linear handstamp, with the text: **K. u. K. Militärzensur / in Borgóprund**, size 62 x 12 mm, applied in violet, black, blue or gray-violet ink between *June – 22 – 28 July 1915*.



[ⓄB02/05.90](#) (OS#090): closing label of the type **E2**, used between *July – August 1915*.

B02/06. – BRASSÓ

(Brassó county, today Braşov, Braşov county)

Area of competence:

- o **The External Censorship Office** was intended for international mail *in transit*: The vast majority of the mail was represented by letters to or from **Romania**, transiting Brassó between **6 September 1914 – 28 August 1916**. Romania declared war on 27 August, and occupied Brassó on 29 August, so the last day of foreign censorship is 28 August. Mail with Romania was immediately suspended and the other tasks of the office were probably taken over by Budapest. The foreign censorship office in Brassó never reopened. Starting with **15 November 1916**, all external dispatches were censored by the offices of **Budapest** and **Wien**.
- o **The Internal Censorship Office** was intended for mail from *the entire Brassó county*. It may seem that it was active only from **November 1915**, possibly in connection with the partial mobilization of Romanians along the borders. The Romanian occupation of **29 August 1916** ended the office's work for about a year. The staff and materials were evacuated to Kolozsvár, where the censorship would continue at a higher level.

A. External Censoring Office (1914...) and Local Censoring Office (1915...)

(... 6 September 1914 – 27 August 1916)

[ⓄB02/06.1](#) (T00#211.12, OS#012): handstamp of the local military command, double-circle of a good quality execution, with the inner text, around the imperial coat of arms: **K. u. K. MILITÄRSTATIONSKOMMANDO * BRASSÓ (Kronstadt)**, diameter 33,5/31 mm, applied in purple ink (shades) or blue during the **6 September 1914 – 1 May 1915** (replaced then by [ⓄB02/06.4](#)), Fig. B02.08. Thielk describes at #211.13 (OS#013) a similar handstamp, but without "Kronstadt" dated 4 November 1915. However, this was not seen on mail, only on archive documents.



The earliest censorship of the Brassó commission, on international transit mail from Bulgaria to Austria

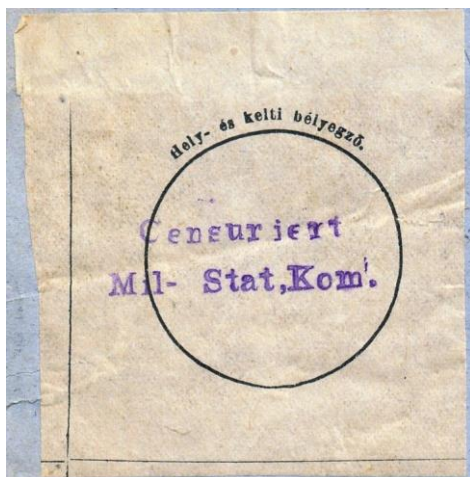


Fig. B02.08: Bulgarian envelope stamped 35 stotinka, postmarked with bilingual SOPHIA on **5 September 1914**, addressed to Vienna. Transited through neutral Romania, passing customs to Predeal – Brassó, where the Austro-Hungarian censor handstamp [B02/06.1](#) was applied twice on a neutral closing (service) label, along with the slightly legible handstamp **Cenzuriert / Station...** ([B02/06.2A](#))

Along with this seal of the military command, usually one can find proper censure handstamps, primitively executed:

[B02/06.2A](#): bi-linear handstamp, with a hard-to-read text: **Cenzuriert / Station.. (?)**, applied with violet ink around **6 September 1914**; see *Fig. B02.08*.

[B02/06.2B](#): bi-linear handstamp clearly reading: **Censuriert / Mil- Stat.Kom.**, applied in violet ink between ca. **27 September – 11 October 1914**. Label width 53 mm, text size 36 x 10 mm (with dot included)



[B02/06.3](#) (OS#014): two-lines handstamp with the text **ÜBERPRÜFT / Überwachungsoffizier**, size 53 x 21 mm, applied in red-lila, purple or blue ink between **November – 14 December 1914**. It can rarely be seen on normal mail (ca. 2 December 1916 from Romania, in red-lila), usually being affixed on value letters (see *Fig. B02.09*). Then, the name of the officer in charge of censorship was added between the lines with an autopen; we know so far of two officers, Lt. Tandler and Lt. Quittnerg.





Fig. B02.09: Ottoman value letter stamped 4 Piastres, postmarked with bilingual CONSTANTINOPLE * DEPART on 25 November 1914 with wax seal of the Ottoman Central Post (**POSTE IMP. OTOM. * BUREAU CENTRAL**), addressed to Schio, Italy. Transit through Bulgaria (bilingual postmark PYCE * ROUSTCHOUK on 29 November 1914), then Romania (postmark BUCURESTI * GARA DE NORD), passing customs at Predeal – Brassó (postmark PREDEAL on 30 November 1914 and Austro-Hungarian censorship in Brassó with [B02/06.3](#)), transit postmark GÖRZ (Gorizia, on the border with Italy) on 4 December 1914 and transit postmark VICENZA on 5 December 1914.

[B02/06.4](#) (T00#211.1, OS#001): linear censor handstamp with only the text: **ÜBERPRÜFT**, similar to the first line of [/06.3](#), but shorter, measuring only 48 x 5 mm (so it is a different sample), affixed in purple ink (shades) blue or red (this latest rare), during the period **17 December 1914 – 3 August 1916**. It replaced the provisional [B02/06.2A](#), and usually accompanies the handstamps (seals) [B02/06.1](#) or [B02/06.5](#). There are many situations in which it appears alone, without being able to establish any rule or explanation. Wear and tear over time is especially limited to the loss of points on the U (the *Umlaut*), as seen in the images below.



[/06.4](#): 1915



2 August 1916

[B02/06.5](#) (T00#211.2, OS#002): handstamp of the local censorship commission, double-circle of very good quality (probably metallic with wear resistance until the end of use), with the inner text around the imperial coat of arms: **K. u. K. MILITÄRBRIEFZENSURKOMMISSION * BRASSÓ**, diameter 33/31 mm, applied in purple ink (shades) between **18 May 1915 – 3 August 1916**, thus being used after [B02/06.1](#). It was usually accompanied by the handstamp [B02/06.5](#), which is one of the most frequently encountered censor handstamps from the Transylvanian area. But there are situations in which it appears on its own, without being able to establish any rule or explanation.



[/06.1](#): 30 April 1915



[/06.5](#): 10 June 1915

ⓐB02/06.6 (T00#211.3, OS#003): rectangular handstamp with the inner text on two lines: **K. u. k. Mil. Briefzensur / Brassó.**, size 53 × 14 mm, applied in purple or black ink during the general period of **14 August – 22 December 1916**. This stamp was initially used in **Brassó**, then, after taking refuge with the commission, at **Kolozsvár**.



- ❖ used in **Brassó**, between **14 – 27 August 1916**, in purple ink, either for terminal censorship (Brassó city and county) or for international transit censorship (especially from Romania to Austria-Hungary).
- ❖ For later uses in **Kolozsvár** **/06.6*** and **/06.6****; see the Chapter **#B02/08A**.

ⓐB02/06.7 (T00#211.4): rectangular handstamp with the inner text on three lines: **ZENSURIERT / K. u. k. Mil. Briefzensur / Brassó.**, size 52 × 23 mm, applied in purple ink during the period **2 August – December 1916 – January 1917**. This handstamp was initially used in **Brassó** as well, then, after the commission's refuge, in **Kolozsvár**. There were two types, depending on the second "K" in K.u.K.:



/06.7A:



/06.7B

- ❖ **.../06.7A** (OS#004a): the feature is the capital letter "K" in **K.u.K.**, used in Brassó, then Kolozsvár:
 - used in **Brassó**, between **5 – 24 August 1916**, in purple ink, either for terminal censorship (Brassó city and county) or international transit censorship (especially from Romania to Austria-Hungary; see Fig.B02.10).
 - For later uses in **Kolozsvár** **/06.7A*** and **/06.7A****; see the Chapter **#B02/08A**.



Fig. B02.10: External transit censorship: Romanian illustrated postcard (with a view from Iași), sent by the Austro-Hungarian vice-consul — see in the upper left the round handstamp of the Consulate in Iași. Postmarked IASI on **19 August 1916**, addressed to Austria (Bohemia). It crossed the border to Predeal and was censored by the Brassó commission with **ⓐB02/06.7A**.

- ❖ **.../06.7B** (OS#004b): the feature is the lowercase letter "k" in **K.u.k.**, used in Brassó, then Kolozsvár:
 - used in **Brassó**, between **2 – 28 August 1916**, in purple ink, either for terminal censorship (Brassó city and county) or international transit censorship (especially from Romania to Austria-Hungary).
 - For later uses in **Kolozsvár** **/06.7B*** and **/06.7B****; see the Chapter **#B02/08A**.

B. – Suspension of activity; Forwarding handstamps to the Kolozsvár commission (... March – May 1917 ...)

The city of Brassó was occupied by the Romanian Army on **16/29 August 1916**, and was reoccupied by the Austro-Hungarians on **8/21 October 1916**. Therefore, the censorship commission in Brassó was evacuated at the end of August 1916 to Kolozsvár, which then became a **regional** censoring office with authority over

all counties in **Transylvania** subject to postal restriction. The Brassó Commission remained inactive for almost a year, during which several handstamps were used at the Main Post Office in Brassó to forward correspondence to the regional censorship commission in Kolozsvár — these were applied by the post office and not by the Censorship Commission; see #B02/PG.

C. – 2nd Period (Regional office)

(September 1917 – October 1918)

After the dissolution of KüA and the transfer of civil censorship under the subordination of the Ministry of War (September 1917), the Brassó censorship office was re-established. It now had the tasks of an *inter-county* office as well, which censored correspondence from **Csik** (this one initially assigned to the Marovasarhely office), **Háromszék** and finally **Brassó** counties. These are the counties in the bend of the Carpathians, neighboring the stable Romanian front along the Carpathians and Siret. This new office would operate until the dissolution of the Empire, in October 1918.

[©B02/06.8](#): rectangular handstamp with an incomplete text: **ZENSURIERT / K. u. ...** (missing in original) **nsur / IN BRASSÓ.**, size 53 x 22 mm, applied in violet ink between **27 September – 9 October 1917**. Copies with full text have not yet been encountered.



[/06.8](#): reconstruction (János Dan)



[/06.8](#): real imprint, as of October 1917

[©B02/06.9](#) (T00#211.10, OS#010): handstamp with bi-linear text: **zens. / K. u. k. MILITÄR-ZENSUR BRASSÓ**, size 62 x 12 mm, applied in blue and blue-violet ink between **23 – 29 October 1917**; see Fig. B01.12.



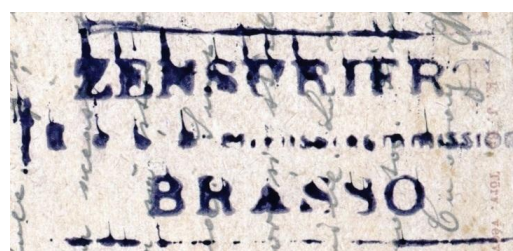
[©B02/06.10](#) (T00#211.6, OS#006): rectangular handstamp, with the inner three-lines text: **ZENSURIERT / K. u. k. Briefzensurkommission / BRASSÓ**, size 63 x 16 mm, applied in violet and black ink between **10 November 1917 – 17 May 1918**.



[©B02/06.11](#) (T00#211.5, OS#005): rectangular handstamp, with the inner three-lines text: **ZENSURIERT / K. u. k. Briefzensurkommission / BRASSÓ**, size 62,5 x 25 mm, applied in violet and black ink between **9 November 1917 – 16 April 1918**.



[/06.11](#):



14 April 1918

ⓐB02/06.12 (T00#211.7, OS#007): rectangular handstamp, with the inner three-lines text: **ZENSURIERT / K. u. k. Briefzensurkommission / Brassó**, size 61 x 14 mm, applied in violet or black ink between **21 April – 4 July 1918 – August**.

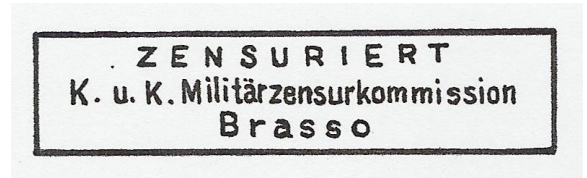


/06.12: 28 April 1918



3 July 1918

ⓐB02/06.13 (T00#211.9, OS#009): rectangular handstamp, with the inner three-line text: **ZENSURIERT / K. u. k. Militärzensurkommission / Brassó**, size 61 x 14 mm, applied in violet or black ink between *May – September 1918*. Not seen by the author, (illustration Thielk)



ⓐB02/06.14 (T00#211.11, OS#011): rectangular handstamp, with the inner three-lines text: **ZENSURIERT / K. u. k. ZENSURSTELLE / BRASSÓ**, size 52 x 17 mm, applied with violet or black ink between **5 April - 1 June – 20 October 1918**. Hungarian authors describe a variant, with a long "O" (without accent) and a pause after the word BRASSÓ, not yet confirmed by the author.



ⓐB02/06.20: *free to forward* rectangular handstamp, with the inner three-lines text: **WEITERLEITEN / K. u. k. Briefzensurkommission / Brassó**, size ca. 61 x 14 mm, applied in violet ink on **24 April 1918**



ⓐB02/06.21 (T00#211.50, OS#050): *free to forward* rectangular handstamp, with the inner three-lines text: **WEITERLEITEN / K. u. k. ZENSURSTELLE / BRASSÓ**, size 53,5 x 17,5 mm, applied in violet ink between **14 June – 22 October 1918 – November**.



ⓐB02/06.30 (T00#211.61, OS#061): *retour* rectangular handstamp, with the inner three-lines text: **Zurück / weil geschlossen aufgegeben / (R.G.Bl.No. 269)**, size 57 x 20 mm, seen applied in violet ink only on official documents on **4 November 1915**. Not seen by the author, (illustration Thielk)



ⓐB02/06.31 (OS#062): *retour* bi-linear handstamp with the text: **Nemküldhető / vissza** (= *Cannot be sent / Returned*), size 69 x 20 mm, applied in violet ink around ca. **30 November 1915**; see Fig. B02.12, together with the censor handstamp **ⓐB02/06.5**.





Fig. B02.12: Commercial Royal Hungarian Museum Correspondent headed registered cover addressed to Austrian Feldpost 350 on the frontlines, postmarked bilingual BEYROUT on **22 November 1915**, transit via Bulgaria and Romania to Brassó where it was censored with [B02/06.5](#) and returned for unknown reasons, with the handstamp [B02/06.31](#). On reverse star & crescent type Beyrut censor cachet, GALATA transit postmark on 21 December 1915 and BEYROUT arrival postmark on 5 January 1916.

[B02/06.40](#) (T00#211.60, OS#060): *prohibition* and *return* handstamp, with the text: **Unzulässig – zurück**, size 42 x 4,5 mm, affixed in purple ink approximately between **1 – 18 July 1916**. According to Thielk 2000, it could have also been used in *October 1916*, which means that this handstamp could have been taken into refuge at Kolozsvár. Usually it is affixed near a round [B02/06.5](#) handstamp; see also Fig. B02.13.

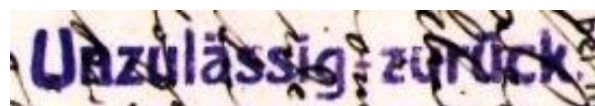


Fig. B02.13: Swiss illustrated postcard (a view of Bex resort), written in Romanian and addressed to a friend from Iași, Romania. Cancelled BEX on **28 June 1916**, but arrived at the Brassó censorship commission, the delivery to Romania being forbidden, having applied the handstamps [B02/06.5](#) and [B02/06.40](#) (the latter is partial). As a result, the mail was returned and arrived at BEX on 3 August 1916. The reason for returning is not clear.

[B02/06.50](#) (OS#020): handstamp of the parcel censorship commission, however, used to censor an ordinary envelope. It is a double-circle type of a very good quality (metallic) execution, with the inner text,

around the imperial coat of arms: **K. u. K. MILITÄR PAKET ÜBERPRÜFUNGS COMMISSION * BRASSÓ**, diameter 33/31 mm, applied in purple ink on **25 March 1916**, accompanied by the handstamp [B02/06.4](#). First reported by the present author in 1997 ([B00.15](#)).



[ⓄB02/06.90](#) (OS#004) probably a locally-manufactured closing label, with the black text **Hadijog alapján felbontatott!**, in sans-serif letters on white paper (label ca. 91 x 36 mm, text size 71 x 7 mm), seen on ca. **8 November 1914**, on a cover mailed from IAȘI to Karlsbad, without any other censor markings!.



[ⓄB02/06.91](#) (T00#00.1, OS#001): enigmatic closing label with the black text **Hadijog alapján felbontatott!**, in serif letters on white paper (label ca. 84 x 40 mm, text size 66 x 6 mm), seen between **12 July – 27 August 1915**: the first was mentioned by Dan-Traian Demeter in 1997 ([ⓄB06.19](#)), and both were seen on covers mailed from BRASSÓ to NAGYDISZNOD, in a period when the inland censorship was not active in Brassó. Without any other censor marking!



[ⓄB02/06.92](#) (T00#00.2, OS#002): similar closing label with the black text **Hadijog alapján felbontatott!** on white-gray paper (label ca. 95 x 38 mm), reported in *June 1916*. Not seen by the author, *Thielk reproduction*.



[ⓄB02/06.93](#): closing label of the type **E2**, on which are affixed the handstamps [ⓄB02/06.2A](#) and [ⓄB02/06.2B](#), then [ⓄB02/06.6A](#) (in August 1916) used at least between **15 May 1915 – 1 August 1916**.

[ⓄB02/06.94](#): closing label of the type **E3**, bearing the handstamp [ⓄB02/06.6A](#), used at least between **27 – 28 August 1916**.

B02/07. – KARÁNSEBES

(Krássó-Szörény county, today Caransebeș, Caraș-Severin county)

A city where a temporary local MZK was established on **21 August 1916**, probably as a measure against Romania's war preparations.

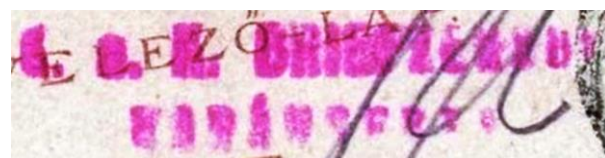
[ⓄB02/07.1](#) (T00#218.1, OS#001): rubber bi-linear handstamp, with the text: **K. U. K. BRIEFZENSUR / KARÁNSEBES**, size 53 x 10 mm, applied with red-lila or violet ink between **12 August – 12 November 1916**. In November it is already deformed; see below. Characteristic: capital "U" and the name of the city in *serife* letters; see *Fig. B02.15*.



Fig. B02.15: Illustrated postcard (with *Maria Theresa Square* in Karánsebes), written in Italian on **1 October 1916**, cancelled KARÁNSEBES on 2 October, censored by the local commission with [ⓄB02/07.1](#), addressed to Trieste.



©B02/07.2 (T00#218.2, OS#002): rubber bi-linear handstamp, with the text: **K. U. K. BRIEFZENSUR / KARÁNSEBES**, size 53 x 11,5 mm, applied in red-violet ink in **29 - 30 November 1916** (already worn out at that date). Characteristic: small "u".

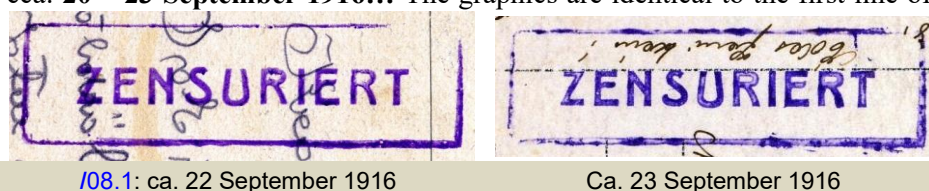


B02/08. – KOLOZSVÁR

(Kolozs county, today Cluj-Napoca, Cluj county)

The city of Brassó was occupied by the Romanian Army on 16/29 August 1916, and was reoccupied by the Austro-Hungarians on 8 October 1916. As a result, the censorship commission in Brassó was evacuated to Kolozsvár at the end of August 1916. Kolozsvár then became a **regional** censoring office with competence over all counties with postal restriction in **Transylvania** — except for the counties of Máramaros and Besztercze-Naszód, which had their own censorship offices. The counties under its jurisdiction included **Alsó-Fehér, Brassó, Csik, Kolozs, Fogaras, Háromszék, Hunyad, Kis-Küküllő, Maros-Torda, Nagy-Küküllő, Szeben, Szolnok-Doboka, Torda-Aranyos, Udvarhely**. So it soon became the most active and busy office in Transylvania, something that could easily be less visible due to mostly using the handstamps bearing the name "Brassó".

©B02/08.1 (T00#00.121): rectangular handstamp with the inner text: **ZENSURIERT**, size 53 x 15 mm, applied in violet ink between cca. **20 – 23 September 1916**... The graphics are identical to the first line of the Brassó ©B02/06.7, but it was used only after the refuge in Kolozsvár; see Fig. B02 16. It was probably intended for temporary use until



Kolozsvár's own handstamps could be produced. However, this type saw very little in September 1916, with preference given instead to the refugee Brassó handstamps — an action that caused considerable confusion.



Fig. B02.16. Closed lettercard written and postmarked in NAGYATÁD (today Hungary) on **5 September 1916**, addressed to **Szászrégen / Reghin** (Maros-Torda county). As the addressee left the town, the card was forwarded to **Medgyes / Mediaș**, and censored in **Kolozsvár** (sometimes around **20 September**) with the provisional Brassó-inspired handstamp ©B02/08.1. Finally the mail returned to Nagyatád (having arrived here on **9 October 1916**)

B02/08A – Handstamps of the Brassó office used "in refuge" in Kolozsvár (September 1916 – January 1917)

ⓄB02/06.6*: rectangular refugee handstamp with inner bi-linear text: **K. u. k. Mil. Briefzensur / Brassó.**, size 53 x 14 mm, used initially in Brassó, now used in **Kolozsvár** at least between **6 September 1916 – 6 January 1917**. Several stages can be observed in its use:

- ❖ .../06.6*a: handstamp applied in purple ink in Kolozsvár, with good printings between **6 September – 3 December 1916** (thus having the same characters as the short use in Brassó); see Fig. B02.17, B02.18, B01.16 and B01.23. One of the samples shows a progressive wear during November 1916.
- ❖ .../06.6*b: the purple ink is used again around **1 - 2 January 1917**, this time the prints are hardly visible / unreadable.



Fig. B02.17: Illustrated postcard (with the view of the theater in Kolozsvár), sent by a military man behind the front (see **Von der Armee in Felde** handstamp), cancelled **KOLOZSVÁR** on **12 September 1916**, addressed to Posen, Germany, censored by the **Kolozsvár** commission with the refugee Brassó handstamp ⓄB02/06.6*a, then returned due to the prohibition to send illustrated postcards abroad (see the handstamp **Vissza! / külföldre látképes lapot nem / továbbíthatnak**, probably applied in Budapest /Thielk #212.64/, if we assume that the territorial censorship commissions did not have such handstamps).



Fig. B02.18: Illustrated postcard (showing an image from Ciucea), cancelled **CSUCSA** on **11 September 1916**, addressed to Ocna Dejului, censored in Kolozsvár with a Brassó refugee handstamp ⓄB02/06.6*a.

Then, at least between **5 December 1916 – 6 January 1917**, a specific feature is the application with **black ink**, along with a pronounced degradation of the handstamps. The use of a black ink — quite unusual for censorship operations in Transylvania — along with the circulation routes, raises the question of whether these handstamps were used in auxiliary and/or temporary offices, such as **Nagyszeben** (which, for the time being, *remains speculative*). An analysis lead to the conclusion that there were two copies used simultaneously, which had a different degree of wear and tear:

- ❖ [.../06.6*c](#): handstamp with moderate wear, but finally repaired by 2x wire binding to the left (6 January), applied in black ink between **3 December 1916 – 6 January 1917**; see *Fig. B01.14*. See the [blue Note](#) at the end of chapter!
- ❖ [.../06.6*d](#): handstamp with accentuated wear, practically unreadable, prematurely repaired by 4x wire binding to the left (20 December), applied in black ink between **17 – 22 December 1916**.
- ❖ [.../06.6*e](#): handstamp with accentuated wear, practically unreadable, but repaired by wire binding in its medium section, ca. **26 December 1916**.



[©B02/06.7*](#): rectangular refugee handstamp with inner bi-linear text: **ZENSURIERT / K. u. k. Mil. Briefzensur / Brassó.**, size 52 x 23 mm, applied in violet or black ink between **August 1916 – 3 January 1917**. This handstamp was used initially in **Brassó**, then, after the commission's refuge, in **Kolozsvár**. As we already saw, there were two types, differentiated by the second "K" in KuK:

- ❖ [.../06.7*A](#): feature being the capital letter "K" in **K.u.K.**:
 - [.../06.7*Aa](#): with a certified use in **Kolozsvár**, between **5 September – 1 December 1916**, when applied in violet ink; see *Fig. B02.19*, and *B01.01*.
 - [.../06.7*Ab](#): with a possible use in **Nagyszeben** (for the moment, this is only a *speculation*), between **24 – 28 December 1916**, when applied in **black ink** and with continued degradation (see *Fig. B01.02* and *B01.10*).
 - [.../06.7*Ac](#): applied again in violet ink around **29 December 1916 – 3 January 1917**, but with an advanced deterioration, practically unreadable. It was used for only a couple of days, as the new Kolozsvár handstamps were introduced soon after. See the [blue Note](#) at the end of chapter!



/06.7*Aa: 12 September 1916



1 December 1916



/06.7*Ab: 27 December 1916



/06.7*Ac: ca. 30 December 1916



3 January 1917



Fig. B02.19:
Registered cover
cancelled
KOLOZSVÁR (on
backside) on **1
December 1916** and
addressed to Wiener
Neustadt in Austria.
Censored locally with
the Brassó refugee
handstamp
©B02.06/7*Aa, arrival
postmark Wr.
NEUSTADT on 4
December 1916.

- ❖ **.../06.7*B:** characteristic is the lowercase letter "k" in **K.u.k.**, with an use in **Koložsvár** between **5 September – 13 October 1916**, applied in violet ink; see Fig. B01.24. Two variants can be described, differentiated by the shape of the penultimate letter R in **ZENSURIERT**.

- **.../06.7*Ba:** short R;
- **.../06.7*Bb:** long R;

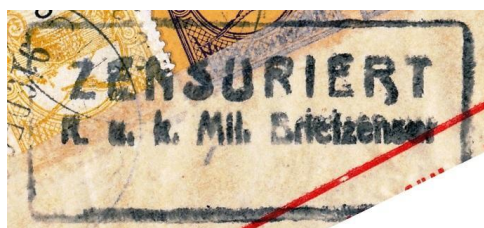


/06.7Ba*: 8 September 1916, short R.



/06.7Bb*: ca. 8 September 1916, long R.

- ❖ [.../06.7*C](#) this type came from the modified type 6B, by removing the name Brassó from the text, and was applied in violet or black ink, between **29 December 1916** – **6 January 1917**; see *Fig. B01.13*. See the [blue Note](#) at the end of chapter!



/06.7C*: 29 December 1916



6 January 1917

Note: Kolozsvár's own new handstamps appeared as early as **1 January 1917**, so it is worth questioning why the Brassó degraded stamps 06.5*c (last date: 6 January), 06.6A*c (last date: 3 January), 06.6C* and 06.7C* (last date: 6 January) continued to be used in parallel. One explanation is that these were used in another location, such as Nagyszeben. However, the theory that Brassó *black ink* & *degraded* censorship handstamps were employed outside Kolozsvár remains speculative. Until further evidence, one may consider that the refugee Brassó handstamps were used exclusively in Kolozsvár.

B02/08B – The use of the Brassó`s own Kolozsvár handstamps (January – August 1917)

[©B02/08.2](#) (T00#221.1, OS#001): round handstamp with the inner bi-linear text around the Austro-Hungarian coat of arms: **K. u. K MILITÄRBRIEFZENSURKOMMISSION**, diameter ca. 36/33 mm, applied in violet ink (occasionally black) on **2 January 1917**

[©B02/08.2A](#) (T00#221.1 Zus.Stpl, OS#001a): additional censorship linear handstamp, with the text: **ZENSURIERT**, size 57 x 10 mm, applied in the same violet ink, at the same date as the round handstamp.



This could be the handstamp of the chief censor of the office, because its use is curious in a period when the refugee handstamps from Braşov were still used, and those from Cluj were in their first days of use. The use of this type is therefore very rare, if not unique (see at *Ehfrank* [[B02.25](#)] the complete image of a Kolozsvár - Budapest express registered envelope, censored three times with the round handstamp and once with the linear one).

[©B02/08.3](#) (T00#221.2, OS#002): rectangular handstamp, with the inner bi-linear text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur / KOLOZSVÁR**, size 52 x 14 mm, applied in violet and blue ink (occasionally black) between **1 January** – **8 August 1917**; see *Fig. B01.11*, *B01.25* and *B01.29*. Only during the first weeks did it have a straight appearance, with sharp corners; later, the handstamp's lines became curved and the corners rounded. During July – August, many of the imprints were faulty due to the wear and gear.



/08.2: 1 January 1917



16 May 1917



24 May 1917



7 August 1917

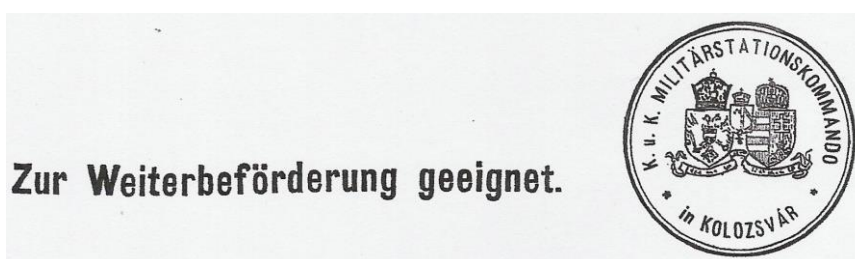
©B02/08.4 (T00 #221.3): rectangular handstamp with the inner three-linear text: **ZENSURIERT / K. u. k. Militärzensur / KOLOZSVÁR**, size 53 x 21 mm, applied in violet ink between 9 January - 11 August 1917; see Fig. B01.15, B01.26 and B01.32.



©B02/08.20 (OS#049): *free to forward* bi-linear handstamp, with the text: **Überprüft ! Zur Weiterbeförderung / zulässig**, size 70 x 8,5 mm, applied in violet ink in December 1916 (reproduction Schilling).

Überprüft ! Zur Weiterbeförderung
zulässig

©B02/08.21 (T00#221.50, OS#050): *free to forward* linear handstamp, with the text: **Zur Weiterbeförderung geeignet**, size 85 x 4,5 mm, applied in red ink in January 1917, together with the cachet of the local Military Station Command (K. u. K. MILITÄRSTATIONS KOMMANDO * in KOLOZSVÁR, round of 37,5-35,5 mm in diameter). Not seen by the author, reproduction Thielk.



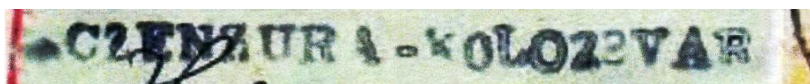
©B02/08.90: closing label of the type E3 seen on covers between 12 October 1916 ... 21 April – 31 July 1917.

B02/08C – Forwarding postal handstamps & notations "To be censored in Kolozsvár".

As soon as the censorship office in Cluj was established — probably in January 1917 —, several *post offices* within the Transylvanian censorship area began using temporary handstamps or handwritten markings to route their correspondence to the new office, at least between **March and July 1917**. It is important to note that these are *postal guidance markings* and not censorship markings per se!

©B02/PG1: **BETHLEN** (Szolnok-Doboka county): linear handstamp with the text: -

CZENZURA – KOLOZSVÁR, size 86 x 5 mm, applied on 12 April 1917 in black ink on a registered cover to Wien (Shilling Supplement no.1 / 2015, page 36, OS#Kolozsvár 054).

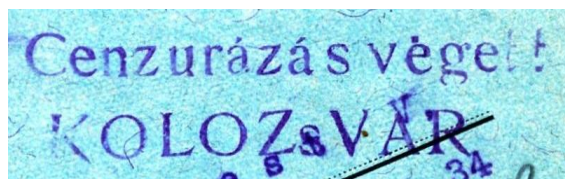


©B02/PG2: **BRASSÓ** (Brassó county): we already know of 2-3 handstamps.

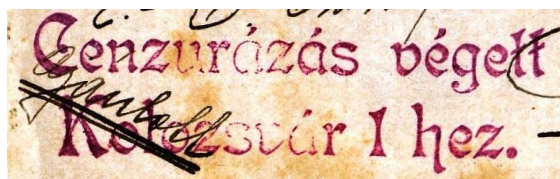
❖ **.../PG2A** (OS#051): primitive forwarding handstamp to the Post Office Kolozsvár 1, bilinear with the text **Cenzurázás végett / Kolozsvár 1 hez.** (= *For censorship / to Kolozsvár*), size 62 x 10 mm, seen on March 1917. Not seen by the author, reproduction Schilling; however its location in Brassó is not certain.

Cenzurázás végett
Kolozsvár 1 hez

- ❖ **.../PG2B** (T00#221.52, OS#052): forwarding handstamp to the Post Office Kolozsvár, bilinear with the text **Cenzurázás végett / KOLOZSVÁR**. (= *For censorship / to Kolozsvár*), size 62 x 16 mm, applied with purple ink on registered mail sent from Brassó between **5 – 16 March 1917**.
- ❖ **.../PG2C** (T00#221.51, OS#053): forwarding handstamp to the Post Office Kolozsvár 1, bilinear with the text **Cenzurázás végett / Kolozsvár 1 hez.**, size 60 x 17 mm, applied with purple ink on a registered mail sent from din Braşov on **15 May 1917**; see Fig. B02.11.



/PG2B: 5 March 1917



/PG2C: 15 May 1917



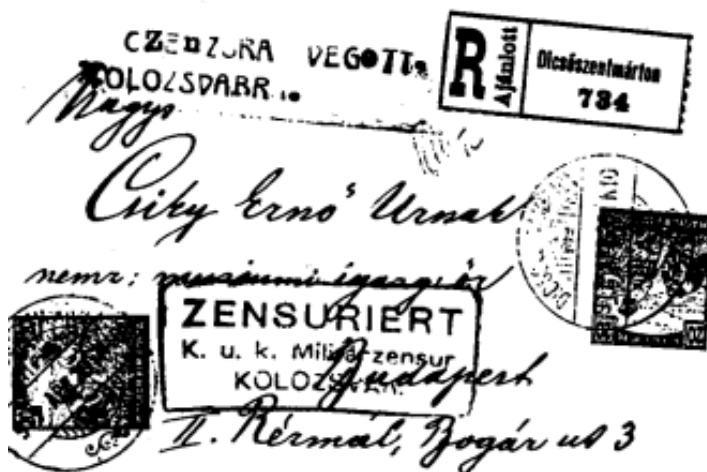
Fig. B02.11: Registered cover cancelled BRASSÓ 2 (Railway Station) on **25 May 1917** and addressed to Piliscsaba in Hungary.

Forwarded to the censorship commission in Kolozsvár via the handstamp **ⓄB02/PG2C**, and consecutively censored there using its own handstamp, **ⓄB02/08.3**. Transit BUDAPEST 41 on 27 May and arrival PILISCSABA on 28 May 1917

ⓄB02/PG3: DARLACZ (Kis-Küküllő county), where a manuscript notation "*Cenzura Kolozsvár I*", was seen in May 1917, first reported by Thielk (Shilling OS#008), on a registered cover to Sweden, and wrongly regarded there as censorship notation.

Cenzura Kolozsvár I

ⓄB02/PG4: DICSŐSZENTMÁRTON (Kis-Küküllő county): here, an item published by Gábor Visznyovski in the Hungarian Philatelica magazine no. 2/90-1/91 at page 54 is reproduced: a registered envelope mailed from Dicsőszentmárton to Budapest on **April 1917**, which bears a primitive handstamp with the text: **CZENZURA VEGOTT- / KOLOZSVÁRR...** which would mean "*To be censored in Cluj*".



ⓄB02/PG5: SEPSISZENTGYÖRGY (Háromszék county): handwritten marking in blue pencil "*Cenzur Kolozsvár I*", on **12 April 1917**, on a cover addressed to Budapest.



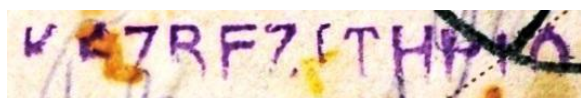
[ⓄB02/PG6](#): NAGYSÁRMÁS (*Kolozs county*): handwritten marking in blue pencil "Cenzurálás végett Kolozvár I", seen on **8 July 1917**, on a postcard addressed to Kolozsvár; see *Fig. B01.20*.

Of course, many additional handwritten notations — and occasionally, though rarely, handstamps — remain to be discovered from various Transylvanian post offices.

B02/09. – LUGOS

(Krassó-Szörény county, today Lugoj, Timiș county)

[ⓄB02/09.1](#): (*OS#064*): the first (police?) censor handstamp apparently used only on mail that arrived in Lugos; linear with the Hungarian text **KÉZBEZITHELŐ** (= *Deliverable*), size 43 x 4 mm, applied in violet ink during a few days between **September – October 1914**.

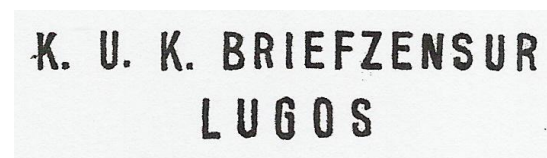


Until autumn of 1916, mail from Lugoj was censored by the regional offices in Pancsova, Temesvár and Versecz (see *#B01.12*), then, in **August 1916**, a local censorship commission was set up in connection with Romania's preparations for war. As of **11 March 1917**, censorship for mail originating in Lugos district was suspended, but the local office seems to have ceased operation before that — probably in December 1916.

[ⓄB02/09.2](#) (*T00 #223.1, OS#001*): handstamp with bi-linear text: **K. U. K. BRIEFZENSUR / LUGOS**, size 56 x 11 mm, applied in red ink between **20 August – 16 November 1916**. The feature is the name of the city in *serif* letters.



[ⓄB02/09.3](#) (*T00 #223.2, OS#002*): handstamp with bi-linear text: **K. U. K. BRIEFZENSUR / LUGOS**, size 56 x 12 mm, applied in red ink between *October – 13 November – December 1916*. The feature is the name of the city in *sans-serif* letters (*illustration Thielk*).



[ⓄB02/09.90](#): closing label of the type **E3** seen on covers in **October 1916**.

B02/10. – MÁRAMAROSSZIGET

(Máramaros county, today Sighetul Marmăției, Maramureș county)

The town was occupied by the Russians on **8 October 1914**, and their nearby presence in northern Hungary — even after the Austro-Hungarian re-occupation — could have been the reason for setting up a local censoring office in spring 1915. It exclusively censored correspondence from Máramaros county (Berezna, Borsa, Felsővisó, Havasmező, Irhóc, Szigetkamara, Visóvölgy being some of the known post offices), including the area which now is in Ukraine. Apparently, it experienced two periods of inactivity (of disbandment?): from January to June 1916 (when it resumed operations using the stamps of the Czernowitz refugee office), and again from May to June 1917 (though this is uncertain). Finally, it was permanently disbanded on **21 September 1917**.

B02/10A: Period I: The use of own handstamps (*November 1914... April – December 1915*)

[ⓄB02/10.1](#) (*T00#00.100*): neutral provisional handstamp with the text: **CENSURIERT**, size of 40 x 4 mm, seen between **10 – 28 April 1915**, the earliest applied in violet ink on a postcard sent from Berezna (today Бєрєзoвo, Ukraine) to Temesvár. The closest censoring office to this place of dispatch was Huszt, but it did not operate in April 1915. The Thielk catalogue records this stamp between *November 1914 – April 1915*.





Fig. B02.20: A rare example of double censorship at the same office, with two different handstamps.

Postcard written on **30 July 1915** by an Austrian lieutenant from a Budapest hospital to a nurse in *Barackenspital Máramarosziget*. Without departure postmarks from Budapest, the postcard is censored upon arrival in Sziget. Being then redirected to Dresden, Germany, it is again censored; interestingly, that two subtypes of the stamp [B02.10/2 \(2A\)](#) and [2B](#) were used consecutively.

[B02/10.2](#) (T00#224.1): handstamp with bi-linear text: **K. u. K. MILITÄRZENSUR / SITZ DER KOMMISSION: M. SZIGET**, existing in three variants, general period of use **23 July – 25 December 1915**, respectively **4 November – 25 December 1916** (reuse after the Czernowitz commission left the city).

- ❖ [.../10.2A](#) (OS#001b): size 65 x 10 mm, *the two rows aligned to the left*, applied in purple ink between **23 July – 25 December 1915** and reused in autumn/winter 1916 ([10.2A*](#)).



[/10.2A](#): 31 August 1915



2 September 1915

- ❖ [.../10.2B](#) (OS#001a): size 65 x 10 mm, *the second row overcomes the first row by a few millimeters to the left*, applied in purple ink between **30 July – 18 November 1915** and reused in autumn/winter 1916 ([10.2B*](#)). Faulty imprints can be seen, with missing city name; see below (August 1915).



[/10.2B](#): 10 September 1915



August 1915

- ❖ [.../10.2C](#) (OS#001c): size 62,5 x 9 mm, *rows aligned to the right* but with smaller letters and a dash between M. and SZIGET (M.-SZIGET), applied in purple ink on **14 December 1915**, and reused in autumn/winter 1916 ([10.2C*](#)).



[/10.2C](#): 14 December 1915

B02/10B: Period IIA: The use of the Czernowitz refugee handstamps (June – October 1916)

Local censorship was probably discontinued as of 1 January 1916. However, in **July 1916**, Máramaros County was declared an *internal war zone* (in connection with the Russian Brusilov offensive), and travel was permitted only with a permit from the military command. The censoring office was re-established using personnel evacuated from Czernowitz. At the end of the month, the county was visited by Count Tisza.

©B02/30.7*: refugee handstamp with bi-linear text: **K. und. k. Militärzensur / Czernowitz**, size 52 x 11 mm, used only for a short time in refuge at Sziget around 7 – 8 July 1916 ... August 1916.



Fig. B02.21: Early censoring in Máramarossziget with the first refugee handstamp.

Fieldpostcard written on **20 June 1916** by a Hungarian soldier, but sorted in MÁRAMAROSSZIGET only in **7 July 1916** (two weeks later, sign of a malfunction in the postal system), censored locally with the refugee handstamp ©B02/30.7*, arrival in JÁSZFÉNYSZARU on 15 July 1916.

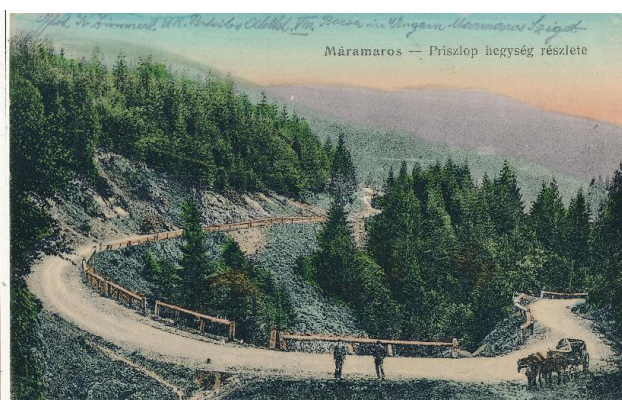
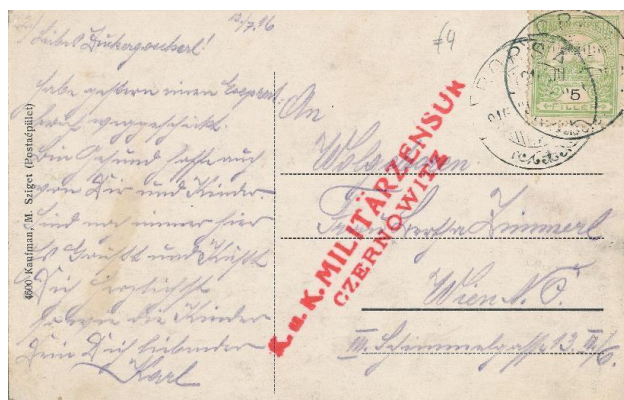


Fig. B02.22: Illustrated postcard (view of Prislop Pass), written by an Austrian soldier from Betriebs Abteilung VIII Borsa, postmarked BORSA on 13 July 1916, censored in Máramarossziget with the refugee Czernowitz stamp ©B02/30.8A*, addressed to Wien.



Fig. B02.23: Illustrated postcard (view of Szalavan), postmarked MÁRAMAROSSZIGET on 24 July 1916, locally censored with the refugee Czernowitz stamp ©B02/30.8B*, addressed to Pilsen.

©B02/30.8*: refugee handstamp with bi-linear text: **K. u. K. MILITÄRZENSUR / CZERNOWITZ**, applied in red ink between **24 June – 30 October 1916**, in two variants:

- ❖ **.../30.8*A** with the two points on A of MILITÄR (Umlaut), applied in red ink between **24 June – 29 July 1916 ... 9 – 16 August 1916**; see Fig. B02.22.

- ❖ [.../30.8*B](#) without the points on A (MILITAR), applied in red ink between **12 July – 30 October 1916**; see Fig. B02.23 and B01.21.



/30.8*A:



30.8*B:

B02/10C: Period IIB: the reuse of old Máramarossziget handstamps
(November 1916 – June 1917)

⊙B02/10.2*: Starting with the last months of 1916, the use of Czernowitz handstamps was disrupted, probably because the Bukovinian commission had left Sziget. As such, the old local handstamps from 1915 were reused out of necessity, for at least two months, between **4 November** and **25 December 1916**. Here are some variants identified so far:

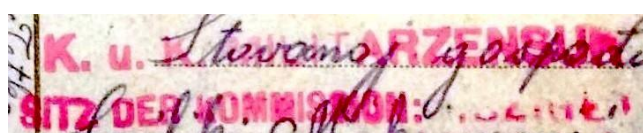
- ❖ [.../10.2*A](#): reused handstamp, no wear or modifications, applied in purple ink on **25 December 1916**.



/10.2*A: 25 December 1916

...

- ❖ [.../10.2*B](#): the reused handstamp showed early signs of wear/damage between **15 November – 18 December 1916**. By **24 December 1916**, the name of the city had been deleted, with evident signs of advanced wear and tear ([.../10.2*Ba](#)).



/10.2*B: 18 December 1916



/10.2*Ba: 24 December 1916 (without name of the city)

- ❖ [.../10.2*C](#): reused handstamp, applied in red ink between **1 – 7 November 1916**, without signs of wear and tear (!).



/10.2*C: 4 November 1916



7 November 1916

⊙B02/10.3 (T00#224.2, OS#002): the handstamp of the censorship office, with linear text: **K. u. K. Zensurstelle in M.-Sziget**, used between **16 November 1916 – 16 July 1917**, known in two dimensional variants:

- ❖ [.../10.3A](#): size 84 x 5 mm, applied in red or violet ink around 16 November 1916.
- ❖ [.../10.3B](#): size 82 x 4,5 mm, applied in violet ink on 16 July 1917.



/10.3A: 16 November 1916

/10.3A:

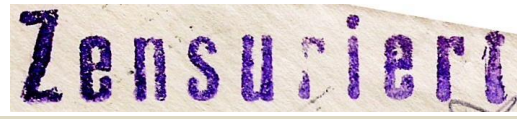
/10.3B: 16 July 1917

ⓄB02/10.4A: accompanying censure handstamp with linear text: **ZENSURIERT**, applied in red ink on **16 November 1916**, near the **/10.3A** type; see Fig. B02.24.

ⓄB02/10.4B (T00 #224.3, OS#003): accompanying censure handstamp with linear text: **Zensuriert**, size 57 x 10 mm, applied in violet ink between **23 January – March 1917**. The German authors claim that it was reused in Czernowitz between June – October 1198, but the situation has not been confirmed by the author.



/10.4A: 16 November 1916



/10.4B:



Fig. B02.24:

Registered stationery uprated cover, postmarked **MÁRAMAROSSZIGET** on **16 November 1916** and addressed to Leipzig in Germany, censored locally with the rare pair of handstamps **ⓄB02/10.3A** and **ⓄB02/10.4A** (source: Web, 2023).

ⓄB02/10.5: at least five old censorship handstamps are grouped under this catalog number. They were previously used in northern Hungary, adapted by deleting the locality and reused by necessity in Sziget. The texts were reduced to: **K. u. K. MILITÄRZENSUR / SITZ DER KOMMISSION**., used between **6 January – 25 June 1917**, strongly degraded starting with March 1917:

- ❖ **.../10.5A** with the two rows left aligned, applied in red ink on **1 March 1917**; possible source - the handstamp of **Ungvár** (Thielk #240.1c.)
- ❖ **.../10.5B** with the two rows approximately aligned to the left (the lower one slightly shifted to the right), applied in red ink on **8 – 18 March 1917**; possible source - the handstamp of **Igló** (Thielk #217.1).

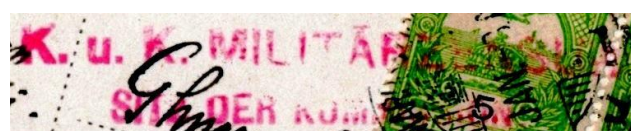


/10.5A: 1 March 1917

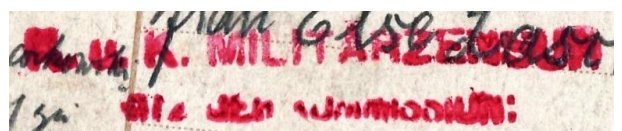


/10.5B: 8 March 1917,

- ❖ **.../10.5C** with the lower row visibly shifted to the right versus the upper one, with the group of letters **DER** under **MIL**, applied in red and violet ink between **6 January** (clear imprint) – **9 April 1917** (damaged); possible source - the handstamp of **Sátoraljaújhely** (Thielk #236.3).



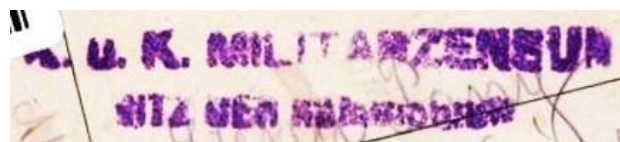
/10.5C: 6 January 1917



24 February 1917

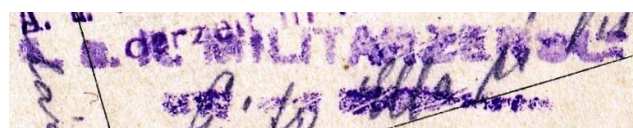


25 March 1917



9 April 1917

- ❖ [.../10.5D](#) with the lower row apparently shifted far to the right versus the upper one, with the group of letters **DER** under **ILI**, applied in violet ink on **8 April 1917**;

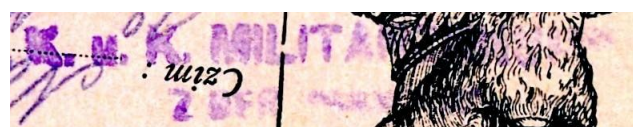


/10.5D: 8 April 1917

- ❖ [.../10.5E](#) the first three letters of the second row are not visible (a modified **5C** type?), and the rest of the stamp is degraded; one can read with difficulty **K. u. K. MILITARZENSUR / Z DER KOMMISSION**, size of ca. 63 x 10 mm, applied in violet ink between **19 – 25 June 1917**.



/10.5E: 19 June 1917



25 June 1917.

B02/10D: Period III: The mystery of the Bukovinian handstamps used in M.-Sziget (July – August 1917)

[©B02/10.6](#) (OS#036): linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur**, size ca. 64 x 4 mm, applied in violet ink between **10 – 31 July 1917**; see Fig. B02.25. Note that during this period the handstamp [©B02/10.3B](#) was also in use (as of 16 July).



Military censor Bukovina, August 1915



Máramarossziget, 31 July 1917

This is a former military mail censor handstamp used in Bukovina in August 1915, but it could also represent the first row of a type of stamps used for civil correspondence in Dorna Watra (*Thielk* #44.11). The personal view is that this is a provisional handstamp, adopted when the Sziget office resumed (or continued) operations in July 1917, considering that the previous handstamps were completely worn out. There was likely no time to produce new ones, so one of the two aforementioned handstamps was adapted for use.

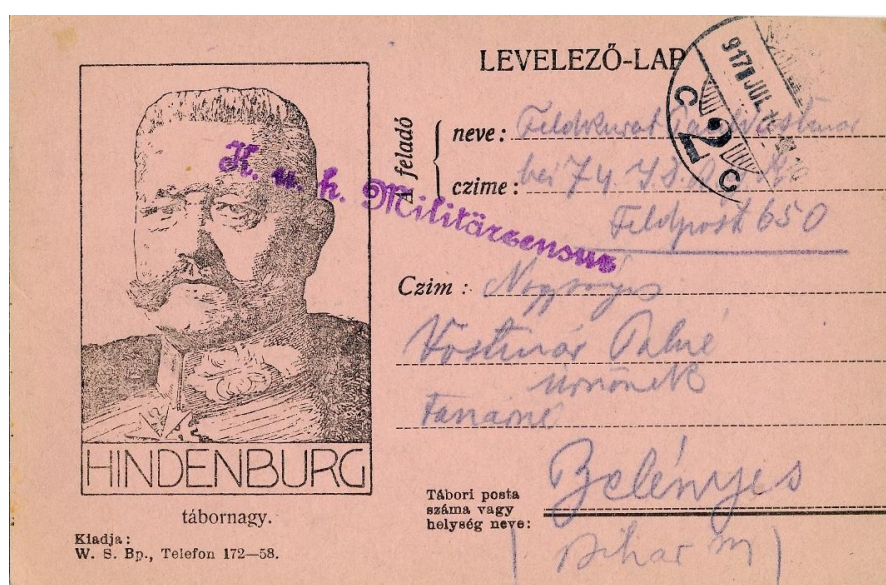


Fig. B02.25:

Austro-Hungarian fieldpostcard written by a Romanian-ethnic priest of 74 Infantry Division (Feldpost 650), but mailed via the civilian post, therefore postmarked MÁRAMAROSSZIGET on **10 July 1917**, censored in Sziget with the handstamp [©B02/10.6](#), addressed to Beiuș.

[©B02/10.7](#) (T00#00.33, OS#033): linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. K. ZENSURSTELLE**, size ca. 64 x 4 mm, applied in violet ink between **15 July – 19 August 1917**.



The Thielk catalogue records this stamp with a use in July-August 1917, on mails from the Máramarossziget area but also from Czernowitz, saying: "Probably used by the ZS Czernowitz while hosted in Máramarossziget, and taken with on return". Moreover, there is no evidence that the Czernowitz commission remained in Sighet until the summer of 1917 — it was likely disbanded in 1916. Additionally, the capital of Bukovina was liberated from Russian occupation only after 3 August 1917, and the latest known use of the stamp is dated 19 August (Fig. B20.26), on a postcard sent from Sziget. So far I have not recorded its use in the Czernowitz area, where the first signs of censorship only appeared in October 1917.



Fig. B02.26: Illustrated postcard (Main Square of Sziget), written by a Hungarian soldier from **K.u.k. Bade- und Entlausungsanstalt der 7. Armee** (=The bath and delousing installation of the 7th Army), postmarked MÁRAMAROSSZIGET on **19 August 1917**, censored here with the provisional stamp **0B02/10.7**, addressed to Karjad, Bács-Bodrog county.

0B02/10.20 (T00#224.50, OS#050): *free of censorship* handstamp, with the text: **ZENSURFREI**, size 49 x 5 mm, applied in violet ink in February 1917. Not seen by the author, Thielk reproduction.

ZENSURFREI

0B02/10.40 (T00#220.65, OS#065): *prohibition* handstamp, linear with the text: **INHIBIRT**, applied in black-violet ink between **19 November – 10 December 1915**, the first on a *Máramarossziget* Jewish School letter to *Leveles* (today Лопушне), so with a circulation *within* Máramaros county (see full images at *Ehfrank* [B02.25]). This handstamp — or an identical one — was considered so far to belong to *Kassa*, in Abauj-Torna county (so with no relation to Máramaros county), but its use in Sziget is certain.

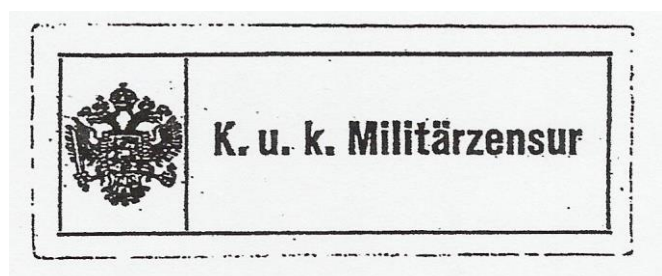


/10.40: 19 November 1915



10 december 1915

0B02/10.90: Austrian general use closing label, dimension 73 x 10 mm, printed black on red-orange paper, dated from archives documents 2 November 1916, not seen by the author (*reproduction Thielk*). Probably a Czernowitz refugee label.



B02/11. – MAROSVÁSÁRHELY

(Maros-Torda county, today Târgu Mureș, Mureș county)

ⓄB02/11.1 (T00#225.1, OS#001): rectangular handstamp (with rounded upper corners), with the inner text on three rows: **ZENSURIERT** / **K. u. k. Briefzensurkommission** / **MAROSVÁSÁRHELY**, size 51 x 20 mm, applied in violet ink between 7 September 1917 – 14 September 1918. One variant (**.../11.1a**) shows the two lines of the frame no longer individualized, they seem to be joined into a single line (...February – September 1918); see *Fig. B01.04, B01.09 and B01.33*.



/11.1: 7 September 1917



10 September 1917



/11.1a: 18 April 1918

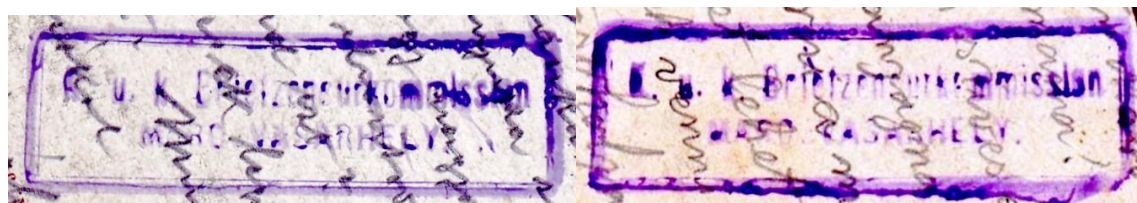


7 September 1918

HERCZ
85

Occasionally a small bi-linear stamp appears on certain correspondences (22 December 1917, 22 March 1918, 31 August 1918), in the same ink as the censorship handstamp, with the text **HERCZ / 85**. It could be the seal of one of the censors or a collector stamp, however its validity and meaning are not yet clear.

ⓄB02/11.2 (T00#225.2, OS#002): rectangular handstamp with inner text: **K. u. k. Briefzensurkommission** / **MAROSVÁSÁRHELY.**, size 54 x 15 mm, applied in violet ink between September – 9 October 1918. First reported (at least in Romania) by Cristian Scăiceanu in 1997 (*B00.15*).



ⓄB02/11.90: closing label of the type **E3**.

B02/12. – NAGYSZEBEN

(Szeben county, today Sibiu, Sibiu county)

It appears that a local commission of the Military Command operated periodically in the city, inspecting *outgoing* civilian mail (not to be confused with the numerous censorship markings used for military mail by units and institutions based in Nagyszeben). However, there remains a slight possibility that this handstamp was also intended for military use.

ⓄB02/12.1 (T00#246.1, OS#001): censorship handstamp with the three lines text: **Überprüft!** / **K. u. k. Generalstabsabteilung-** / **des Militärkommandos Nagyszeben**, size 42 x 11 mm, applied in purple ink in August 1915. Not seen by the author, *Thielk reproduction*

Überprüft!
K. u. k. Generalstabsabteilung-
des Militärkommandos Nagyszeben

©B02/12.2: censorship handstamp with the three lines text: **Zensuriert!** / **K. u. k. Generalstabsabteilung** / **des Militärkommandos Nagyszeben** (accompanied by the signature of the censor, in autopen), size 42,5 x 11 mm, applied in purple ink between **25 – 27 August 1916**.



Fig. B02.27: Illustrated postcard (with *Cisnădiei Street* in Sibiu), sent by an Austrian serviceman via civilian mail, censored by the commission of the local Military Command with **©B02/12.2**, postmarked **NAGYSZEBEN** on **27 August 1916**, addressed in Vienna

B02/13. – NAGYVÁRAD

(Bihar county, today Oradea, Bihor county)

Area of competence

- o For now, only mail sent *from Nagyvárad* or (rarely) *transiting* the city are known (see *Fig. B01.17*), with various destinations in the Empire. This situation is very much similar to the Arad office.
- o Theoretically, it would also have to censor the correspondences sent / arrived in the aforementioned *area of postal restrictions* in the east of the county (between September – December 1916), but such situations have not yet been encountered.
- o Starting **18 December 1916**, the county of Bihar was free of censorship.

©B02/13.1 (*T00#229.1, OS#001*): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. K. BRIEFZENSUR** / **NAGYVÁRAD**, size 61 × 11 mm, applied in red ink between **24 October – 23 November 1916**; see *Fig. B01.06*. It only had a good print quality during the first days in use, already being deformed in early November, later on becoming hardly legible. There were at least two copies of this type, since the degradation has chronological differences.



/13.1: 24 October 1916



1 November 1916



9 November 1916



23 November 1916

©B02/13.90: closing label of the type **E3**.

B02/14. – NASZÓD

(Besztercze-Naszód county, today Năsăud, Bistrița Năsăud county)

The *local* censorship commission was probably established in **April 1915**, due to the threat of the Russian presence in neighboring Máramaros county and Galitia. It was disbanded in **September 1915**, having its duties taken over by the Besztercze office.

Area of competence:

- o Correspondence *sent* or *arrived* from/in the northern districts, examples of post offices involved:
 - o **Naszód** district: Nagyrebra, Naszód, Szálva, Telcs;
 - o **Óradna** district: Major, Oláhszentgyörgy, Óradna.

©B02/14.1: provisional censor handstamps, with the text: **K. u. K. ETAPPENSTATIONSKOMMANDO**, diameter 37/34 mm, and supplementary **Überprüft**, size 30 x 7 mm, both applied in black-violet ink on **13 May 1915**; see Fig. B02.28.

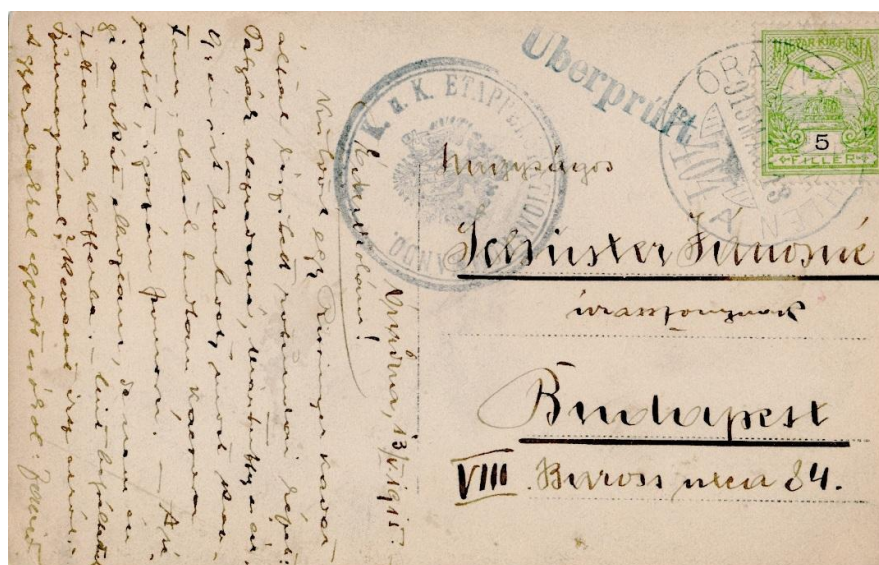


Fig. B02.28:
A rare example of early military censorship (provided by the local Etappenstation).

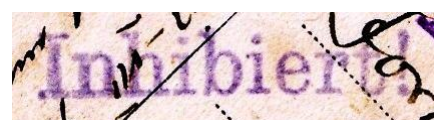
A photo-postcard mailed on **13 May 1915** from Óradna via the travelling post office ORADNA – BETHLEN * 404. The mail was then disembarked from the train at **Naszód** and censored there with the provisional handstamps of the Etappenstations **©B02/14.1**.

©B02/14.2 (T00#230.1, OS#001): bi-linear handstamp, with the text: **K. u. K. Militärzensur / Naszód**, size 65 x 11 mm, applied in red-lilac, purple or black ink between **9 June – 4 September 1915**; see Fig. B02.29.



Fig. B02.29: Illustrated postcard (with two images from Naszód), postmarked by the Railway station Agency FÖLDRA P.U. on **11 June 1915**, censored by the local commission Naszód with handstamp **©B02/14.2**, addressed to Leoben.

©B02/14.40: *prohibition* linear handstamp with the text: **Inhibiert!**, size 30,5 x 5 mm, applied in violet ink between **8 – 18 July 1915**.



This handstamp has so far been observed on four items (see one in Fig. B02.30), either arriving from or sent to the Naszód area. One possible explanation is the one proposed in a personal article from 2002 (B02.14, B02.15):

This apparent lack of reasons, coupled with the use of the handstamp in a range so limited in time, would perhaps mean that in those days there was a special situation in the area of Năsăud, which suddenly caused the stopping and holding of several correspondences, either arriving from or sent. It was only by chance that I discovered this possible cause, while examining another postcard sent on 1 August 1915 from Maieru to Bistrița, censored with [B02/14.40](#). Here's its text: "*Maieru, at 1-VIII-915. Dear Rosi! We intended to come to Bistrița tomorrow, Monday, but **cholera broke out** in our area and so we won't be able to come. [...] We are waiting for the doctor to bless us.*" It is enough to lead us to some conclusions about a new and spectacular situation in which *inhibiert* handstamps were applied on mail:

- in this case, the handstamp was used to mark correspondence that arrived in or departed from the Năsăud area, but was held back in a spontaneous and ultimately futile attempt to prevent the spread of cholera through mail items;
- due to the obvious ineffectiveness of the method, this practice lasted only a short period, at least from 8 to 18 July 1915. As we have seen, by 1 August 1915, mail was once again delivered again to its destination, as evidenced by the censorship handstamp.

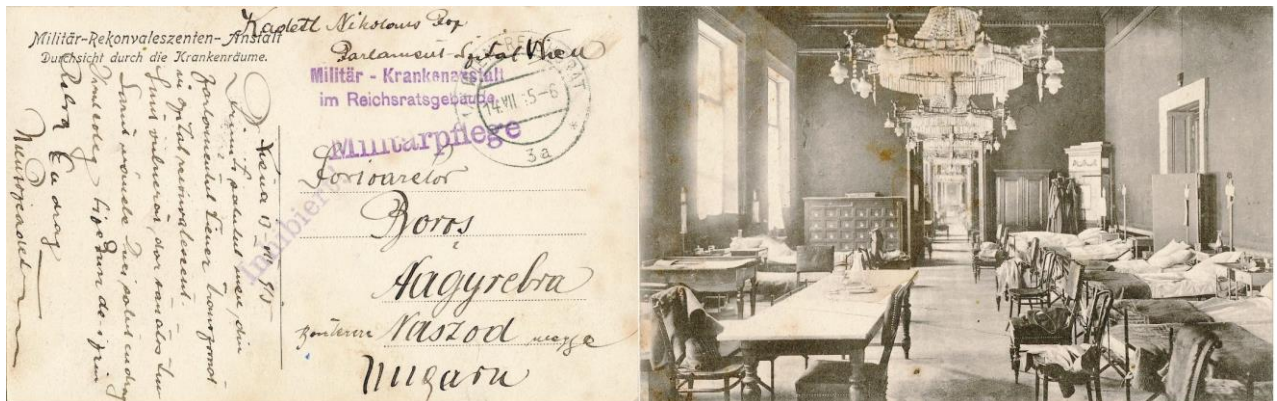


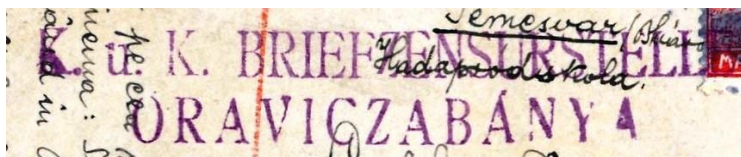
Fig. B02.30: Illustrated postcard (with an image & handstamp of **Militär-Krankenanstalt / im Reichsratsgebäude**, sanitary installations in Vienna Parliament), written by a Romanian military inpatient, addressed to Nagyrebra. Postmarked WIEN REICHSRAT on **14 July 1915**, arrived to its destination area where the *Inhibiert* handstamp [B02/14.40](#), was applied. Here is the text in Romanian: "*Vienna, 13 VII 915. Please receive my wishes from the Vienna Parliament transformed in convalescent hospital. I'm wounded, however very healthy*".

B02/15. – ORAVICZABÁNYA

(Krassó-Szörény county, today Oravița, Caraș-Severin county)

A workers' mining center where a temporary local MZK was established. Mention: Oravița **is not** in the Jiu Valley (german : Schilltal), but in Banat !

[B02/15.1](#) (T00#249.1, OS#001): handstamp with a bi-linear text: **K. u. K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE / ORAVICZABÁNYA**, size 69 x 11 mm, applied in violet ink between **15 February – 19 June 1918**, along with the proper censorship handstamp **Zensuriert** ([B02/15.1A](#)) size 29 x 4 mm.



B02/16. – ORSOVA

(Krassó-Szörény county, today Orșova, Mehedinți county)

Important river port on the Danube, where a censorship center for packages was established (as long as transit from Turkey to Central Europe via Bulgarian occupied Serbia was possible), replaced then by a censure commission for correspondence.

B02/16A. Period I: Parcels censorship.

(...December 1915 – May 1916...)

[B02/16.50](#) (T00#231.31, OS#031): circular, double-circle handstamp with the text: **Cs. És Kir. katonai csomagellenőrző bizottság / Orsova 2** (= *Military Parcels Control Committee*) diameter 37,5/33,5 mm, applied in violet ink between **27 December 1915 – 1 April 1916**, especially on money-letters.



Fig. B02.31 Registered money-letter sent from Constantinople, postmarked GALATA on **20 February 1916**, addressed to Wien, Austria. Local Ottoman rectangular censor handstamp. Transit via LOM (Bulgarian occupied Serbia) on 24 February, Orsova (Hungary) where it was censored with handstamp [OB02/16.50](#), arrival in WIEN on 28 February 1916.



Fig. B02.32 Registered money-letter sent from Constantinople, postmarked GALATA on **18 March 1916**, addressed to Berlin, Germany. Local ottoman rectangular censor handstamp. Transit via LOM (Bulgarian occupied Serbia) on 9? March, Orsova (Hungary) where it was censored with handstamp [OB02/16.50](#), arrival in BERLIN on 28 March 1916.

[OB02/16.51](#) (T00#231.100, OS#100): round wax seal for opened letters, with the text around the Hungarian coat of arms: **MAG. KIR. POSTA ES TAVIRDAHIVATAL / 2/ ORSOVA / III**, diameter ca. 34 mm, used in *May 1916*, not seen by the author. Not illustrated.

B02/16B. Period II: Mail Censorship
(August 1916 ... November 1916 – March 1917)

ⓄB02/16.1 (T00#231.2, OS#002): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. K. BRIEFZENSUR / ORSOVA**, size 56 x 10 mm, applied mainly in red and rarely blue ink (only in the last day of use) between **21 – 28 August 1916**. The feature is capital letter "U" in K.U.K. and the name of the city in *serif* letters.

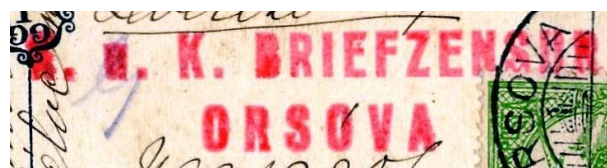


Orsova was occupied by the Romanian army from **1 September 1916** until the night of **12/13 November 1916**. Shortly after the reoccupation, the censorship committee resumed operations, but using a different type of handstamp.

ⓄB02/16.2 (T00#231.1, OS#001): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. K. BRIEFZENSUR / ORSOVA**, size 58 x 11,5 mm, applied in red ink between **12 December 1916 – 4 March 1917**. The feature is lowercase letter "u" in K.u.K. and the city name in *sans-serif* letters.



/16.2: 12 December 1916



15 January 1917

The Orsova Office was closed following the Regulations no. 16989 of **11 March 1917**. Paradoxically the obligation of mail censorship remained valid in the Orsova district, only that it was done again (similar to 1915) by the **Temesvár** regional office (see #B01.12). Apparently, in **September 1917**, censorship was also suspended for mail sent from the district of Orsova.

B02/17. – RESICZABÁNYA

(Krássó-Szörény county, today Reșița, Caraș-Severin county)

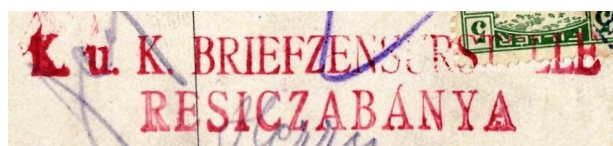
Resiczabánya was an important mining workers' center where a temporary local MZK was established for terminal censorship — almost all being correspondence arriving to the city.



Fig. B02.33: Illustrated postcard (showing the German House of Cilli, today **Celje**, Slovenia), mailed by a Banatian service man from **K.u.k. Staffel 501**, postmarked **FRANZ * VRANJSKO** (today Vransko, 30 km west of Celje) on 28 September 1917, locally censored (**ZENSURIERT / k. u. k. Zensurstelle / CILLI**, Thielk #14.4) and **re-censored** upon arrival in Resiczabánya, with **ⓄB02/17.1**, with 2 x 10 filler Postage Due stamps applied.

ⓄB02/17.1 (T00#234.1, SO#001, 002): bi-linear commission handstamp, with the text: **K. u. K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE / RESICZABÁNYA**, applied in red-lila or violet ink between **17 September 1917 – 5 June 1918**, sometimes next to the proper censor handstamp (**1A**), text **Zensuriert**, size 29 x 5 mm.





/17.1: 17 September 1917



5 June 1918

B02/18. – TEMESVÁR

(Temes county, today Timișoara, Timiș county)

**Fig. B02.34: An example of censorship due to the destination area**

A kitsch postcard written by a soldier from Military Hospital Temesvár to his family in Resiczabánya. Postmarked TEMESVÁR on **28 February 1916** (the imprinted date is erroneous), censored in the local office with [B02/18.5](#). The important thing is that it was censored because it was **addressed to Resiczabánya** (Krassó-Szörény county) and **not** because it was mailed from Temesvár (which was free of censoring)!!



Fig. B02.35: Illustrated postcard (showing an image of Gyopárosfürdő, Hungary), postmarked OROSHAZA on **18 July 1915**. As addressed to Boksanbánya (Krassó-Szörény county), the item had to be censored at arrival (20 July 1915) in the regional censoring office Temesvár, with [B02/18.3](#).

Area of competence:

- o **The External Censorship Office, for international mail in transit:** The vast majority of the mail was represented by letters from or to Romania, Bulgaria or Turkey, transiting Temesvár to/from Germany or Austria-Hungary, between at least **29 August 1914 – 10 June 1916**. After Romania's entry into the war on 27 August 1916, traffic with it was suspended. As a result, starting **15 November 1916**, all external dispatches were censored by the offices in **Budapest and Vienna**.
- o **The Office of Internal Censorship** was likely active after the declaration of the state of siege in **January 1915**. From the very beginning, it functioned as a *regional censorship office*, with all processed mail related to the three counties in Banat. On **11 March 1917**, it was officially tasked with censoring mail from across Banat (although this was limited to seven districts in the three counties, along the former border with Romania and Serbia; see below). The office ceased its activity with the dissolution of KüA in the first days of **September 1917**. Below are the areas from which the mail censored by the office originated (notably, most of it comes from the Orsova district of Krassó-Szörény or from areas located today in Serbia):
 1. Mail from **Krassó-Szörény county between January 1915 – August 1917:**
 - a. Most of the mail came from Orsova district (**Orsova:** April 1915 – August 1917, *Herkulesfürdő* : May 1915 – June 1917; see Fig. B01.18, *Mehadia* June 1915, *Csernaheviz*: May 1917, etc)

- b. Occasionally mail from other parts of the county, but limited to years 1915-1916 (**Lugos**: February – June 1916, **Karánsebes**: June 1915), **Resiczabánya**: June 1915 – June 1916, **Varbogsan** & **Bogsanbánya**: May 1915 – February 1916)
 2. Mail from **Torontál** county between **September 1915 – August 1917**, but related only to the three districts along the Danube; seen so far:
 - a. **Pancsova**, in the district with the same name, June 1916 – June 1917,
 - b. **Nagybecskerek**, in the district with the same name, September 1915 – August 1917.
 3. To a small extent it censored mails from **Temes** county between **August 1915 – August 1917**, apparently exclusively from the two southern districts along the former border of the Danube with Serbia (the mail sent from the town of Temesvár was not censored!); seen so far:
 - a. **Fehértemplom**, in the district with the same name,
 - b. **Kevevara**, in the district with the same name, and **Homokbálványos**; see Fig. B02.37.



Fig. B02.36: An item that apparently contradicts the theory of territorialization: sent (according to the manuscript notation) from Temesvár on **21 April 1917** to Arad (both cities exempted from censorship on that date) and yet censored with the handstamps [B02/18.6A](#) and [/18.6C](#). Probably the real place of expedition was different from the one recorded, or another reason aroused the suspicion of the censors, who peeled off the stamps and applied the censor handstamps under and over these re-pasted stamps.

B02/18A: Period I: Only external censorship? (29 August – December 1914)

[B02/18.1](#) (T00#00.23, OS#009): the censorship handstamp of the Military Command Temesvár, rectangular with the interior text on three lines: **Zensurbehörde MK. T. / Zensuriert – am...../..... 1914 / kann weiter gehen.**, applied in red lilac ink between **29 August – 20 November 1914 – January 1915**; see Fig. B02.37.



Fig. B02.37: one of the earliest censored correspondences in our area of interest: an illustrated Austrian postcard (with the buildings of the Pioneers and the New Post Office in Theresienstadt, today Terezin, Czech Republic), postmarked **THERESIENSTADT** on **24 August 1914**, censored in transit by the commission of the Temesvár Military Command with [B02/18.1](#), arrival in Bulgaria, postmark **GOREHOVITZA** (Gorna Oriahovița) on **4 September 1914**.

B02/18B: Period II: Internal & External Censorship
(January 1915 – 7 July 1916)

At the end of January 1915 a state of siege was declared in Temes county and the city of Temesvár.

©B02/18.2 (T00#238.2, OS#002): circular handstamp, with the three-lines internal text on either side of the mobile date: **Cs. és kir. ellenőrző / TEMESVÁR / BIZOTTSÁG**, diameter 43/41 mm, applied in red ink between **27 January – 25 April 1915**, seen so far only on internal mail.



©B02/18.3 (T00#238.3, OS#003): circular handstamp, with the three-lines internal text on either side of the mobile date: **CS. ÉS KIR. ELLENŐRZŐ / TEMESVÁR / BIZOTTSÁG**, diameter 43/41 mm, applied in red ink between **7 May 1915 – 23 February 1916**; see Fig. B02.38 and B01.27, seen so far in large majority only on internal mail. Frame with double-line (**.../18.3a**) and with single line – or the two lines reunited (**.../18.3b**, from November 1915).



/18.3a



Transition 3a to 3b



/18.3b



Fig. B02.38: Unusual mail, censored TWICE with two different handstamp of the same office.

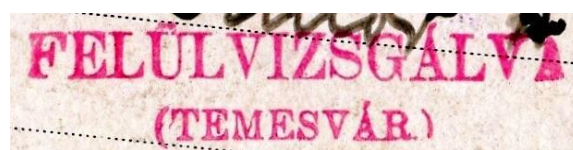
Illustrated postcard (a view of *Herkulesfürdő* spa), sent from the Military Bath Facilities to Bucharest, Romania, written and locally censored TWICE with **©B02/18.3** (in 3 August) and **©B02/18.4A**, postmarked **HERKULESFÜRDŐ** on 8 August 1915, mechanical postmark **BUCUREȘTI** at arrival.

©B02/18.4 (T00 #238.4, OS#004): handstamp with bi-linear text: **FELÜLVIZSGÁLVA / (TEMESVÁR)**, size 49 x 10 mm, applied in red ink between **11 May 1915 – 26 February 1916**, in several variants:

- ❖ **.../18.4A** with dot after TEMESVÁR, seen between **19 May – 2 October 1915**; see Fig. B02.38.
- ❖ **.../18.4B** without dot after TEMESVÁR, seen between **28 October 1915 – 24 February 1916**.
- ❖ **.../18.4C** (OS#004F) erroneous text **TEMESVR**, without dot, used between **22 January – 26 February 1916**.



/18.4A: 22 January 1916



24 February 1916



/18.4B: 6 December 1915



24 February 1916



/18.4C: 22 January 1916



24 February 1916

©B02/18.5 (T00#238.5, OS#005): rectangular handstamp, with the bilinear inner text: **ÜBERPRÜFT / Felülvizsgálva / TEMESVÁR**, size 53 x 21 mm, applied in red or violet ink between **4 March – 1 July 1916**.



Paradoxically, during Romania's first military campaign (August 1916 - January 1917) there was no mail censorship in Temesvár. It was re-established only by the Order of March 1917, with the character of *regional censorship* (for the respective closed areas of Banat).

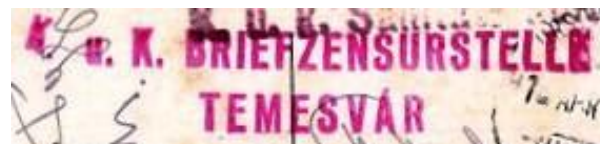
B12/08C. Period III: Only internal censorship
(22 March – 30 August 1917)

©B02/18.6 (T00#238.6): the handstamp of the censure commission with the text on two lines: **K. u. K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE / TEMESVÁR**, existing in two dimensional variants:

- ❖ [.../18.6A](#) (OS#006a): size 67 x 12 mm, the last "K" from KuK is a capital letter, "T" from TEMESVÁR under BR" from first row, applied in red or blue ink between **22 March – 28 August 1917**; see Fig. B02.39 and B01.18.



/18.6A: 8 April 1917



- ❖ [.../18.6B](#) (OS#006b): size 71 x 11 mm, the last "k" from Kuk is a lowercase letter, "T" from TEMESVÁR under "RI" from the first row, applied in red ink between **8 – 28 August 1917**.



/18.6B: 7 August 1917



28 August 1917

[©B02/18.6C](#) (T00#238.8, OS#008): the actual censorship handstamp, linear with text: **ZENSURIERT**, size 32 x 5 mm, rarely applied beside [©B02/18.6A](#) in red ink, between **17 March – 20 June 1917**; see Fig. B01.30.

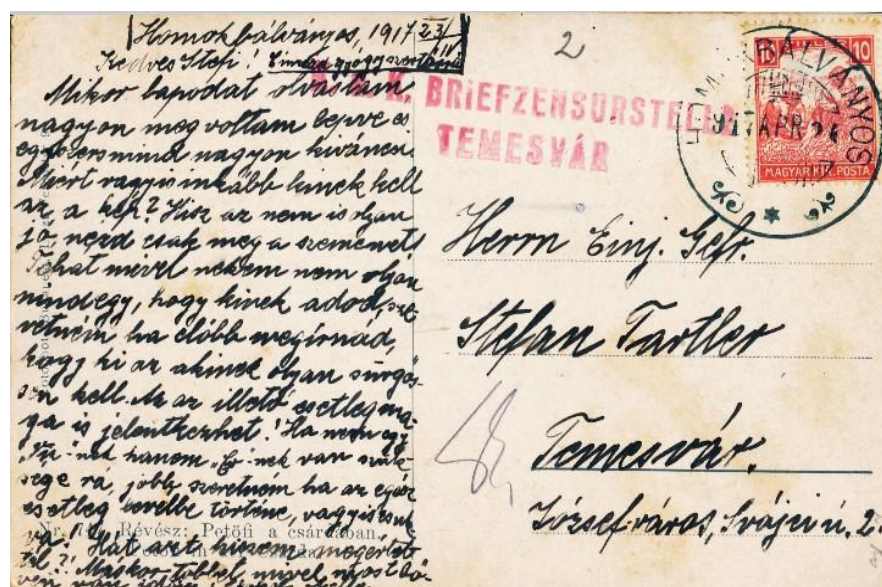


Fig. B02.39: An example of censorship due to the shipping area

A postcard cancelled in HOMOKBÁLVÁNYOS (then Temes county, today Bavanište in Serbia) on **24 April 1917**, addressed to Temesvár, where censored at arrival with [©B02/18.6A](#). **It is important to note** that it was censored there because received from **the Kevevéra district** of Temes county (which was subject to censorship) and **not** because arrived in Temesvár (which was free from censorship!!)

[©B02/18.7](#) (T00 #238.7, OS#007): bi-linear handstamp with the text from serif letters: **K. u. K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE / TEMESVÁR**, size 67 x 12 mm, applied in red ink between **23 August – 1 September 1917**; see Fig. B01.28.



[©B02/18.40](#) (OS#060): Forbidden handstamp with bi-linear text: **Nest pas permis / retour**, size 54,5 x 13 mm, applied with red ink in October 1915 on archival material. Not seen on mail so far.

[©B02/18.41](#) (OS#061): Forbidden handstamp with linear text: **inhibiert**, size 33 x 4,5 mm, applied with violett ink in October 1915 on archival material. Not seen on mail so far. Reproductions Schilling.

*N' est pas permis
retour*

/18.40

inhibiert

/18.41

[ⓐB02/18.90](#) (OS#090) neutral closing label of white or light-brown colour (type E1), used between September 1914 (white paper) ... 11 May 1916 (light-brown paper).

[ⓐB02/18.91](#) (OS#091): special closing label of type E2, used between 1 March – 1 May 1916.

[ⓐB02/18.92](#): special closing label of type E3, used around 20 June 1918.

Remote Censorship Offices

Occasionally, there have been situations in which correspondences sent to or arrived from the current territory of Romania (so far only from/to Krassó-Szörény county) were censored in what are now neighboring countries — specifically by offices located in Temes or Torontál counties, which are part of present-day Serbia.

B02/20. – PANC SOVA

(Torontál county, today Pancevo, Serbia)

An office that occasionally censored correspondence from Krassó-Szörény county — at least between October 1914 – January 1915; see Fig. B01.17.

B02/21. – VERSECZ

(Temes county, today Vršac, Serbia)

An office that occasionally censored correspondence from the county of Krassó-Szörény — at least between, 8 June – 12 August 1915, and apparently only from/to Oraviczabánya area; see Fig. B02.40.



Fig. B02.40: A mail circulated inside Krassó-Szörény county, but censored in Versecz (Temes county). Illustrated postcard (a triple view of Oravicza), postmarked ORAVICZABÁNYA on 4 August 1915, addressed to Nagyzsuppany (Jupalnic, a village flooded in 1968 by the Iron Gate I dam), but diverted westwards to Versecz, to be censored with the handstamp [Thielk#242.1a](#).

Please send any corrections, additions, comments to:
damirro@yahoo.com

The Austro-Hungarian Censorship in Bukovina (Austrian Duchy)

The censorship in **Bukovina** — a territory located exclusively in the "*restricted military zone*" was strongly affected by the situation on the front. Censorship was probably established on **20 August 1914**: "Important regulations concerning postal traffic. From the higher military command, the following orders in regards to postal traffic in Bukovina and Galicia were issued: 1) From 20 August (1914,) starting at noon, private individuals may send only unsealed letters (simple and registered letters as well as money letters) throughout the country. Money letters may be posted outside Czernowitz only at the offices of the district administration (*Amtssitzes der Bezirkshauptmannschaft*) and in Itzkany. The sender may close and seal money letters at the post office after the shipments have been inspected by the bodies responsible for censorship. 2) The use of uncontrollable writing or language, secret or stenography is prohibited for all postal items. 3) Communications about military conditions of any kind are prohibited. 4) The postal authorities will treat items that violate the above provisions as suspicious items."²³

The first Censorship Commissions were established in Vatra Dornei / Dorna Watra (August 1914) and Suceava / Suczawa, Rădăuți / Radautz (probably September 1914), so that starting on **27 February 1915**, their establishment was to be entrusted by KüA to the Nagyszeben Military Command. The commissions from Cernăuți / Czernowitz, Gura Humorului / Gurahumora, Câmpulung Moldovenesc / Kimpolung, Ițcani / Itzkany, Siret / Sereth, Storojineț / Storozynetz, Vășcăuți / Waschkoutz and Vijnița / Wiznitz were established or reorganized. Soon after, in **July 1915**, control of this area were taken over by the Austro-Hungarian 7th Army Command (*7. Armee Kdo*), which operated in Galicia and Bukovina. On this occasion, the regulations were reiterated: "For the purpose of a speedy dispatch of letters, cards and other items subject to military censorship, the following advice is given by the Military Censorship Commission, by the observance of which censorship can be facilitated, the onward transport of the correspondence material can be considerably accelerated and possible confiscation can be avoided: 1) To use postcards as much as possible, and to make use of the brevity, conciseness and objectivity of the messages, especially in letters, and especially those which could be injurious to the military interests of the monarchy and the allied empire, e.g., to refrain discussions upon deploying troops, troop strength, troop movements, shifts, etc.; 2) not to use any unknown language or script, such as Turkish, Japanese, Jewish, Hebrew, Esperanto, stenographic signs, otherwise the correspondence would have to be subjected to prolonged storage or confiscated; 3) Postage stamps firmly glued on and only one to be used; 4) Remove coloured insert sheet of paper, because it will be torn out anyway; 5) Post the letters unsealed, as closed ones are deferred as inadmissible, and make the sender visible on the back; 6) Do not use lettercards because of the difficulty of opening them, and 7) Do not use illustrated postcards with places, bridges and railways important for the conduct of the war, as these are excluded from onward transport and would have to be confiscated under certain circumstances."²⁴

In **May 1916**, new regulations were published: "1) It is prohibited to send by post messages that are detrimental to the state interest. 2) Letters must be posted open. 3) Money letters (value letters, value boxes) must be posted open and must not contain written notices. The sender must present the envelope (the box) and the contents. 4) No written notices can be attached to postal parcels delivered. 5) On the section of postal orders and accompanying addresses, no private messages other than the address of the sender may be affixed. In the case of payments to state offices, the affixing of information enabling the corresponding distribution of the amounts paid in is permitted. 6) The name and address of the sender must be indicated on all postal items posted. 7) Addresses may only be written in Latin, Gothic or Cyrillic script and only the languages customary in the country may be used. 8) In letters and postcards, the use of ciphers, Hebrew characters, stenography and non-European languages is prohibited."²⁵

During the Russian occupation of 1916, the Czernowitz office was evacuated to Máramarossziget, where it continued its activity until October 1916; it later returned to Bukovina in October 1917, after the reoccupation of the province by Austrians. It is important to note that the only censorship office that was never occupied by the Russians was Dorna-Watra. On **20 May 1918**, the state of war in Bukovina was

²³ *Czernowitzer Tagblatt* no. 3528 / 22 August 1914, pag. 6.

²⁴ *Czernowitzer Tagblatt* no. 3582 / 22 August 1915, pag. 4.

²⁵ *Czernowitzer Tagblatt* no. 3849 / 6 May 1916, pag. 4.

abrogated, following the signing of the Peace with Russia and Romania, however censorship continued until October 1918.

Periodization of Austro-Hungarian administration and censorship in Bukovina:

- ❖ **1st Period:** up to September 1914 (in the north) or November 1914 (in the south), while being occupied by Russians (exception: Dorna-Watra)
- ❖ **2nd Period:** from February 1915 up to June 1916, while being occupied again by the Brussilov Russian offensive (exception: Dorna-Watra)
- ❖ **3rd Period:** from August 1917 up to the end of the Monarchy.

Table : Periods of occupation in Bukovina

	9-12 1914	1-12 1915				1-12 1916				1-12 1917				1-10 1918			
DW																	
CZ									18.6		3.8						
GH														7.3			
IT																	
KL									24.6		2.8						
RD																	
SR									20.6					23.8	7.3		
ST											3.8						
SV									20.6					23.8	7.3		
WS																	
WZ									25.6		31.7						

Gray – periods of Austro-Hungarian administration & censorship, **Green** – periods of Austro-Hungarian administration, without known censorship, **Blue** – periods of Russian (dark blue) and Romanian (light blue) administration.

B02/30. – CZERNOWITZ

(today Чернівці, Chernivtsi oblast, Ukraine)

The capital of historical Bukovina was occupied by the **Russian Army** three times:

- Between **2 September – 21 October 1914**.
- Between **27 November 1914 – 17 February 1915**.
- Between **18 June 1916 – 3 August 1917**.

2nd Period (February 1915 – June 1915)

ⓄB02/30.1: linear handstamp with the text: **Militärisch Geprüft**, size 44 x 3 mm, applied in red ink around 2 March 1915.



ⓄB02/30.2 (T00#43.20, OS#020): rectangular handstamp with inner text: **militärisch geprüft**, size 66 x 14 mm, applied in black ink at least between 11 March – 1 April 1915.



ⓄB02/30.3: censor linear handstamp reading: **Militärisch geprüft**, size 54 x 4 mm, applied in violet ink between 19 April – 21 July 1915, usually accompanied by a supplementary round handstamp:

- ❖ **.../30.3A:** that of the Czernowitz Military Command, round with the inner text around the coat of arms: **K.u.K. MILITÄRSTATIONSKOMMANDO * CZERNOWITZ**, diameter 35 mm (19 April 1915); see Fig. B02.41
- ❖ **.../30.3B:** that of the Czernowitz Town Command, round with the inner text around the coat of arms: **K.u.K. STADTKOMMANDO * CZERNOWITZ**, diameter 35/34 mm, in blue ink (after 21 July 1915); see Fig. B02.42





Fig. B02.41:

A Hungarian fieldpostcard written in Czernowitz on **19 April 1915** by a military of the **M.KIR 3 NEPFELKELŐ HUSZÁR OSZTÁLY = 3rd Hungarian Huszar Militia Division (Papp Brigade)**, most probably censored locally with [B02/30.3](#) and [B02/30.3A](#), addressed to Budapest, where it arrived on **8 May 1915**.

Suspension of Censorship in June 1915 ?

An illustrated postcard mailed from Czernowitz to Wien on 10 June 1915 was censored in **Dorna-Watra** ([B02/31.1B](#)), which could have been an error of the local commission, but could also mean a short period of non-functioning. As we will see, mail censorship was re-established up to 26 July 1915, so the second version may be true.

26 July 1915 – (Re)-Establishment of Mail Censorship

On **26 July 1915**, the 7th Army Corps, under the signature of the Police director **Konstantin Tarangul, Edler von Valeautsei** (of Romanian origin), communicated the immediate institution (in fact *resumption* and *takeover*) of censorship²⁶:

The Austro-Hungarian 7th Army Commando has decreed the following:

1. Letters may only be handed over unsealed for forwarding by mail.
2. The name and address of the sender must be indicated on all postal items.
3. Addresses may only be written in Latin or Gothic script and only the local languages may be used.
4. Packages must not be accompanied by written notices.

These orders are effective immediately. At the request of the 7 AK, this is hereby made available for general information. The Austrian Government Councillor and Police Director *Tarangul*.

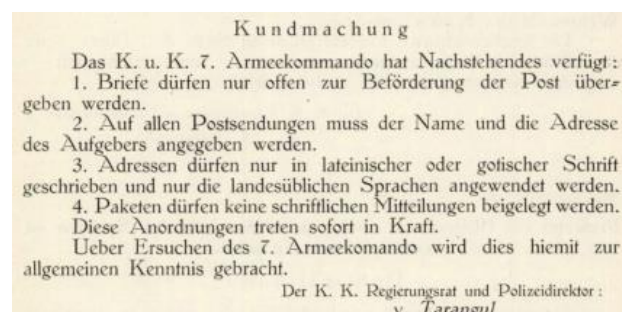


Fig. B02.42: A complex censored postcard, following the resumption of censorship and its takeover by 7.A.K.

A picture postcard with an image from Dorna-Watra, but postmarked **CZERNOWITZ** after **21 July 1915**. Censored locally (possibly in the first day of censorship reestablishment) with [B02/30.3](#) and [B02/30.3B](#), then allowed to be forwarded to the destination in Szekesfehervár by a handstamp [B02/30.30](#).

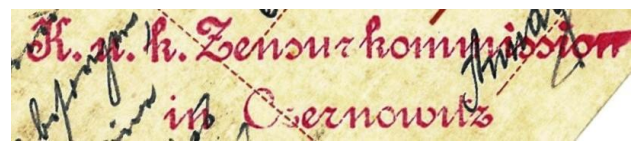
²⁶ Codrîi Cosminului, 1929-1930 – *Bucovina în Războiul Mondial*, pag. 123

⊙B02/30.4: bi-linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. k. Zensurkommission / in Czernowitz**, which can be found in two dimensional variants:

- ❖ [.../30.4A](#) (T00#43.1, OS#001, 001b): size 70-71 x 13 mm, applied in red and red-lila ink, also rarely in dark violet, between **26 July – 22 December 1915**; feature: the letter "C" of Czernowitz is below the first foot of the letter "n" of the first line.



/30.4A: 26 July 1915 (First Day of Censorship?)



28 July 1915

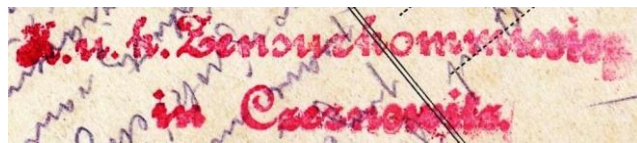


12 August 1915

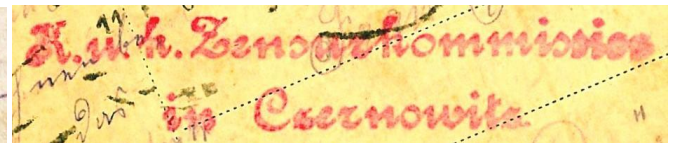


22 December 1915

- ❖ [.../30.4B](#) (T00#43.2, OS#002): size 77 x 13,5 mm, applied red-lila and dark violet between **4 December 1915 – 13 January 1916 – February 1916**; feature: the letter "C" of Czernowitz is entirely below the letter "n" of the first line.



/30.4B: 9 January 1916



12 January 1916

⊙B02/30.5 (T00#43.3, OS#003): the handstamp of the censorship commission, round double-circle, with the inner text around the imperial coat of arms: **K. u. K. ZENSURKOMMISSION / CZERNOWITZ**, applied in red-lila ink between **11 August 1915 – 10 March 1916 – May 1916**. Two dimensional subtypes can be described:

- ❖ [.../30.5A](#): diameter of 34-35/32,5 mm, two lines visible, clear imprint, seen between **11 August – 6 October 1915**.
- ❖ [.../30.5B](#): diameter of 39-40 mm, a single wide line visible, faulty imprint, probably a second low-quality handstamp was manufactured, the first being lost or destroyed, seen between **28 October 1915 – 10 March 1916**. From November 1915 it gradually degraded, slowly becoming difficult to read.



/30.5A: 11 August 1915



/30.5A: 12 August 1915



/30.5B: 3 December 1915

⊙B02/30.6: handstamp with the bi-linear text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur / Czernowitz**, general period of use **22 October 1915 – 3 February 1916 – March 1916**, applied in red-violet ink, which exists in two variants:

- ❖ [.../30.6A](#) (T00#43.4, OS#004) size 66 x 15 mm;
- ❖ [.../30.6B](#) (T00#43.5, OS#005) size 61 x 13 mm.



©B02/30.7 (T00#43.6, OS#006): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **K. und. k. Militärzensur / Czernowitz**, size 52 x 11 mm, applied in red-lila ink between **17 December 1915 – 10 June 1916**; see Fig. B02.43. There were at least two manufactured specimens, one of which (b) had a much faster degradation than the second (a), showing signs of wear by December 1915. Subsequently, a few days later, the variant 7* was used in refuge at Máramarossziget (**25 June – 7 July 1916 ... August 1916**)



Fig. B02.43: Double censorship on an international circulation Austria - Romania

Illustrated postcard (a view from Krakow), postmarked KRAKAU * KRAKOW on 27 January 1916, addressed to Romania. Censored locally with the handstamp K.u.k. Militärzensur / Krakau, arrived via Lemberg to the international censoring office in Czernowitz where it was re-censored with ©B02.30/7a. Transit mechanical cancellation BUCURESTI * EXPED. SCRISORI on 5 February 1916.

©B02/30.8 (T00#43.7, OS#007): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. K. MILITÄRZENSUR / CZERNOWITZ**, size 74 x 9,5 mm, applied in red ink between **21 May – 30 October 1916**, in two variants:

- ❖ **.../30.8A** with the two dots (Umlaut) on "A" from MILITÄR, applied in red ink between **21 May – 8 June 1916**; starting 24 June 1916, this handstamp was used in refuge in Sziget (see Chapter #B02/10B). Consequently, its use in Czernowitz is rare — likely limited to



a two-week period (see Fig. B02.44) — and it is known almost exclusively from censored correspondence sent from Sziget.



Fig. B02.44: Austrian illustrated postcard (showing the *Episcopal Residence* of Cernăuți), written and postmarked CZERNOWITZ on 7 June 1916 (10 days before the Russian occupation), locally censored with [B02/30.8A](#), arrival in Vienna.

- ❖ [.../30.8B](#) without the two dots on "A" (MILITAR), which apparently was used *only* in the refuge in Máramarosziget until 30 October 1916; see there;
- ❖ [.../30.8C](#) late re-use of a damaged type 8B specimen, applied in black and purple ink between 31 March – 5 April 1918,



[/30.8C](#): 31 March 1918



5 April 1918

The Russian Occupation: 18 June 1916 – 3 August 1917

During that time, the Czernowitz Censorship Office continued its activity in refuge in Máramarosziget, at least between 3 July – 30 October 1916 (see Chapter #B02/10B).

3rd Period: Resume of Censorship Activity in Czernowitz: August/September 1917 – October 1918

Soon after the reoccupation by the Austrians, censorship was resumed under the command of the 7th Army intelligence bureau.

[B02/30.9](#) (OS#050): round modified handstamp of the Intelligence Officer of the 7th Army Command, with the text around the coat of arms: **K.u.k 7 Armeekommando * Nachrichtenoffizier in** (this space is blank, likely because a place name was removed or was meant to be filled in by hand); size 37/36 mm, applied in violet ink between 31 August – 15 September 1917.



[/30.9](#): 31 August 1917



8 September 1917



15 September 1917 (O. Schilling)

©B02/30.10 (T00#43.8, OS#008): linear handstamp with the text in *serif* letters and capital first "K" in **K.u.k.**: **Zensuriert: K.u.k. Zensurstelle Czernowitz**, size 70-71 x 4 mm, applied in violet and red ink, between 10 October 1917 – 7 May 1918.



/30.10:

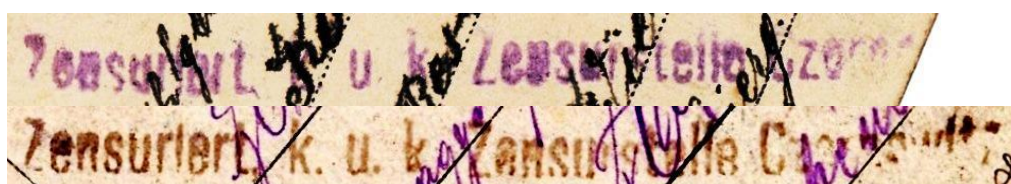
10 October 1917

26 December 1917

6 February 1918

©B02/30.11 (T00#43.9, OS#009): linear handstamp with the text in *sans-serif* letters and lowercase letter "k" in **k.u.k.**: **Zensuriert: k. u. k. Zensurstelle Czernowitz**, size 80-81 x 4 mm, applied in red, black and violet ink between November – 12 December 1917 – 28 July 1918. Two variants can be described:

- ❖ **.../30.11A** with higher letters (most visible at **k.u.k.**) and straight handstamp, seen between 12 December 1917 – 3 May 1918.



/30.11A:

12 December 1917

3 May 1918

- ❖ **.../30.11B** with shorter letters (most visible at **k.u.k.**), was observed between 3 January - 28 March 1918. On 8 February, one example shows fractured text — likely due to the rubber partially detaching from its wooden support — while another example appears to be damaged beyond recognition.

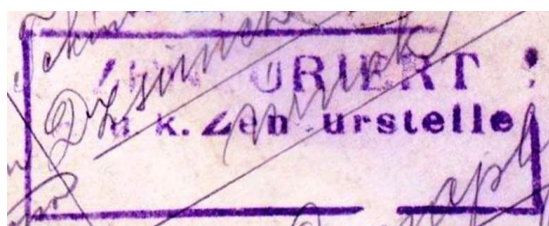


/30.11B:

8 February 1918

9 February 1918

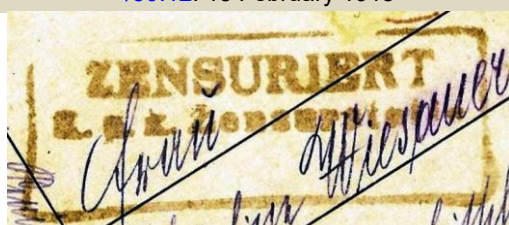
©B02/30.12 (T00#43.12, OS#012): rectangular provisional handstamp with the inner text on two lines: **ZENSURIERT / K.u.k. Zensurstelle** (handstamp adapted from that of Dorna Watra, **©.../31.7**), size 63 x 23 mm, applied in violet or black ink between 15 February – 29 March 1918.



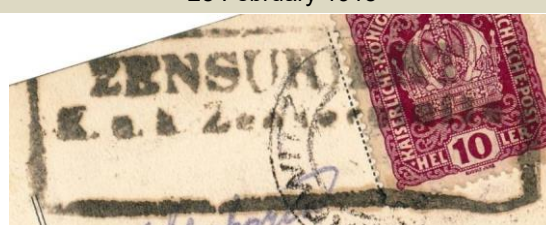
/30.12: 15 February 1918



28 February 1918



12 March 1918



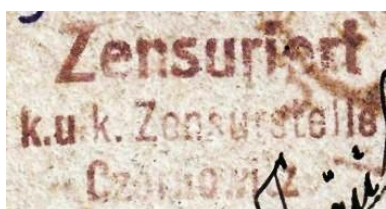
24 March 1918

Important: starting around May 1918, Cernăuți likely remained the only active censorship office in Bukovina. From that point on, mostly provisional stamps were used — some primitively made, fragile, and frequently replaced due to their poor durability. These stamps were often poorly printed, making the Czernowitz office the one with the most diverse range of censorship handstamps, some of which remain unknown or difficult to decipher.

Note that handstamp type [©B02/30.8C](#) was also reused during **March – April 1918**.

[©B02/30.13](#) (*T00#43.11, OS#011*): three-linear handstamp with the text: **Zensuriert / k. u. k. Zensurstelle / Czernowitz**, size 27-28 x 13 mm, applied with red, black and violet-black ink between **21 February – 2 August 1918 – October**. Two variants can be described:

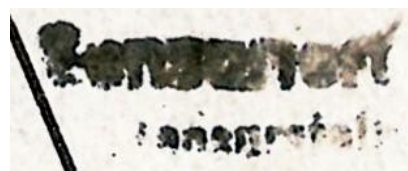
- ❖ [.../30.13A](#) applied in violet-black and black ink between **21 February – 27 March 1918**; the second "k" (from k.u.k.) is situated under the group "Ze" from the first row. Most prints are fragmentary, often missing the third line and sometimes the second as well, indicating rapid deterioration.



[/30.13A](#): 12 February 1918



10 March 1918



27 March 1918

- ❖ [.../30.13B](#) applied in violet ink on **2 August 1918**, the second "k" (from k.u.k.) is situated under the letter "e" from the first row.



[/30.13B](#):



2 August 1918 (Ehfrank)

[©B02/30.14](#) (*T00#43.17, OS#017*): linear handstamp with the text: **K.u.k. Zensurstelle**, size 38 x 4,8 mm, applied in violet ink between **21 March – 30 August 1918**; towards the end of the period only one of the two manufactured handstamps is deformed.



[/30.14](#): 21 March 1918



30 May 1918



7 June 1918



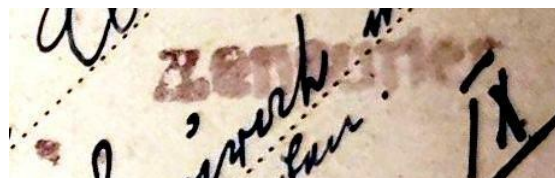
8 August 1918

[©B02/30.15](#) (*T00#43.10, OS#010*): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **Zensuriert / K. u. k. Zensurstelle Czernowitz**, size 48 x 11 mm, applied with violet and black ink between **6 July – 21 August 1918**. Two variants are known:

- ❖ [.../30.15A](#) lowercase letter "z" in zensuriert



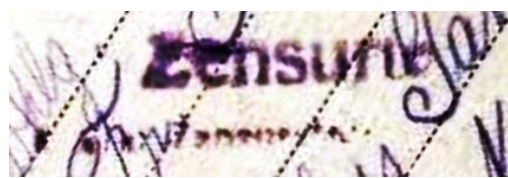
[/30.15A](#): 10 July 1918



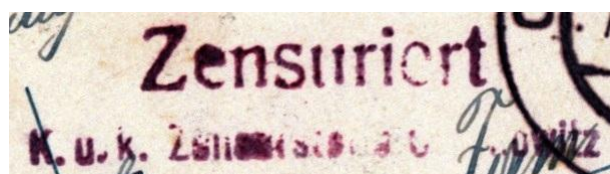
15 July 1918



21 July 1918



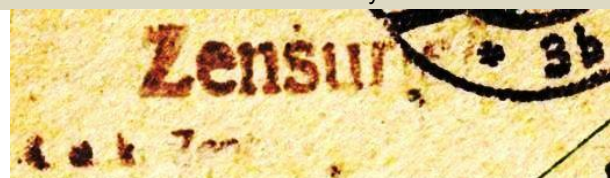
21 August 1918

❖ [.../30.15B](#) capital letter "Z" in Zensuriert

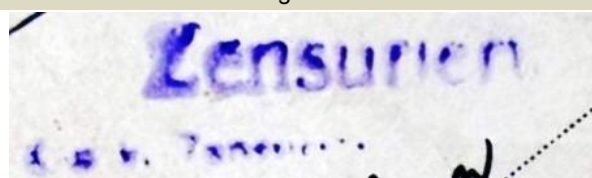
/30.15B: ca. 7 July 1918



9 August 1918



16 August 1918

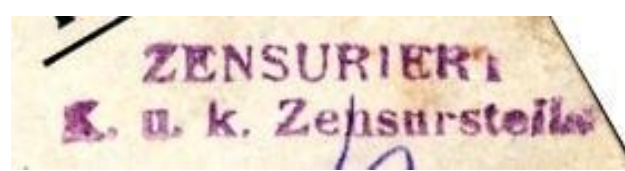


18 August 1918

[©B02/30.16](#) (T00#43.16, OS#016): bi-linear handstamp with the text: ZENSURIERT / K. u. k. Zensurstelle, size 52 x 9 mm, applied with red, violet and violet-black ink, between 24 July – 23 September 1918. Probably manufactured in two copies, with different degrees of wear.

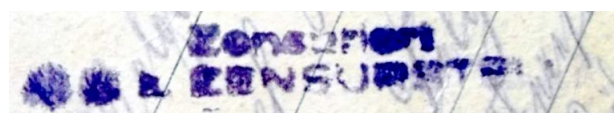


/30.16: 24 July 1918



23 September 1918

[©B02/30.17](#) (T00#44.10, OS#010): bi-linear handstamp with the text: Zensuriert / K. u. k. ZENSURSTELLE, size 63 x 9 mm, applied with violet and violet-black ink, between May – June 1918. It is erroneously considered by Thielk to have belonged to the Dorna Watra office.



/30.17: ca. 27 May 1918

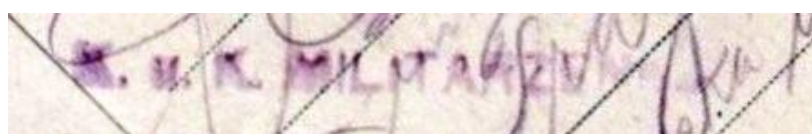


June 1918

[©B02/30.18](#) (T00#43.13, OS#013): round bi-circle handstamp (the outer & inner circles are not visible on used specimens) with inner text: K. u. K. ZENSURSTELLE, size ca. 33/31 mm, applied in red-violet or violet ink between 9 June – 17 August 1918.

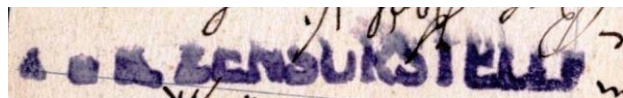


[©B02/30.19](#): handstamp with the linear text: K. u. K. MILITARZENSUR ..., applied in violet ink on 2 October 1917 (most probably an error, as it has to be 1918).



©B02/30.20: linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. K. ZENSURSTELLE**, used between **15 May ... – 28 October 1918**, manufactured in at least two variants:

- ❖ **.../30.20A** (*T00#43.14, OS#014*) size 70 x 4,5 mm, applied with red and violet ink, reported between **15 May – July 1918**.
- ❖ **...30.20B** (*T00#43.1, OS#015*) size 76 x 6 mm, applied with violet ink between **16 June – 28 October 1918**. At least two samples existed of this type (probably adapted from a Kolomeea *T00#56.3* handstamp), one of them (**20Bb**) shows a premature degradation.



/30.20Bb: 16 June 1918



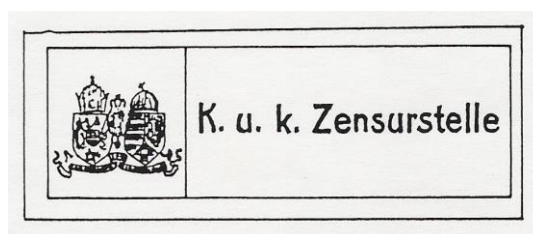
/30.20Ba: 28 October 1918

©B02/30.30: "free for forwarding" linear handstamp with the text: **Zur Weiterbeförderung geeignet**, (= *Suitable for onward transport*), size 61 x 4,5 mm, applied with violet ink around **21 July 1915**; see also *Fig. B02.42*.



©B02/30.90 (*T00#43.90, OS#092, 090*): **Closing label** of a special, specific type, with the black printed text: **K. u. K. Militärzensur / Czernowitz / Briefzensur** on rose paper (*November 1915*) or dark orange paper (*October 1916*). Not seen by the author (*illustration Thielk*).

©B02/30.91 (*T00#43.91, OS#091*): Also an *Austrian general type label* (with the text: **K.u.k. Zensurstelle**) was reported for this office in *June-July 1918* (*not seen by the author, illustration Thielk*)



B02/31. – DORNA WATRA (today Vatra Dornei, Suceava county)

The only Bukovinian censorship office that has never been occupied by Russians, thus operating continuously.

©B02/31.1: bi-linear handstamp with the text: **MILITÄRISCH / GEPRÜFT**, and can be found in several variants:

- ❖ **.../31.1A** characteristic is the position of the letter "G" (from bottom row) below the letter "I" of **MIL**, and "T" below "S", with the general period of use **30 August 1914 – 23 January 1915**.
 - **/31.1Aa** (*T00#44.1, OS#001*) with a fresh look and smaller size (probably 56 x 13 mm, as by Thielk), applied in blue ink between **30 August – 28 September 1914**.
 - **/31.1Ab** (*T00#44.2b*) with a worn-out appearance, size 62 x 15 mm, applied in blue ink (nuances) between **14 December 1914 – 23 January 1915**; see *Fig. B02.45*.



/31.1Aa: 30 August 1914 (O. Schilling)





/31.1Ab: 13 January 1915



16 January 1915



Fig. B02.45. Austrian illustrated postcard (with a view of Vatra Dornei), written by a Czech militaryman from 18th Landsturm March Battalion, postmarked DORNA-WATRA on 16 January 1915, locally censored with the handstamp [©B02/31.1Ab](#).

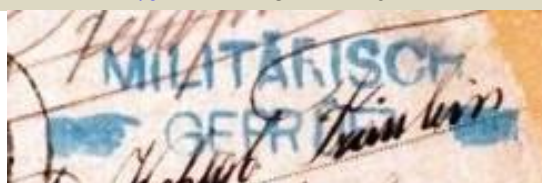
- ❖ [.../31.1B](#) characteristic is the position of the letter "G" (from bottom row) below the letter "L" of MIL and "T" below "SC", with the general period of use **21 October 1914 – 22 June 1915**.
 - [/31.1Ba](#) with a new look and probably smaller size, applied in blue ink between **21 October – 10 November 1914**.
 - [/31.1Bb](#) (T00#44.2a) with a worn-out appearance, size 62 x 15 mm, applied in blue ink on **18 December 1914**, and with black ink between **16 March – 22 June 1915**.



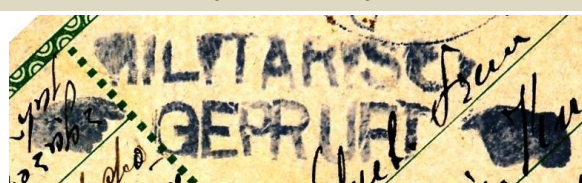
/31.1Ba: 21 October 1914



10 November 1914



/31.1Bb: 18 December 1914



18 mai 1915

[©B02/31.2](#) (T00#44.3, OS#003): handstamp with two-lines text: **KuK Militärzensur / in Dorna Watra**, size 67 x 15 mm, applied in violet ink between **July – 31 August – 4 November 1915**.



/31.2: 1 September 1915



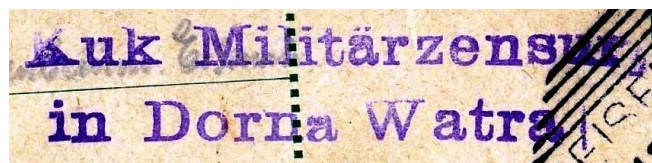
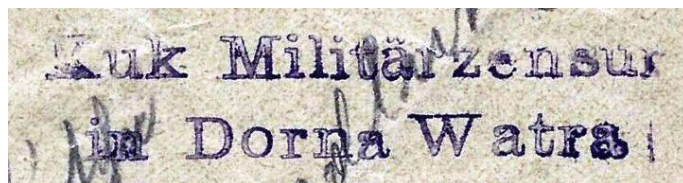
1915

[©B02/31.3](#) (T00#44.11, OS#011): handstamp with two-lines text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur / in Dorna Watra**, size 63 x 13 mm, applied in violet ink between **February – 25 June 1916**. Similar to the previous type, however **K.u.k.** with points between letters.



OB02/31.4 (OS#004): handstamp with two-lines text: **KuK Militärzensur / in Dorna Watra**, size 66 x 13 mm, applied in violet ink, in two variants:

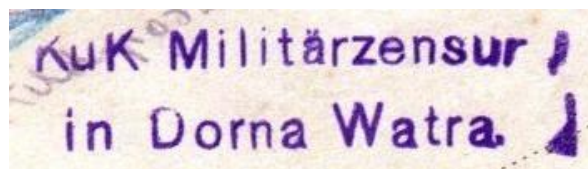
- ❖ **.../31.4A** (T00#44.4a): used between **18 November 1915 – 2 February 1916**, characteristic being the last "a" in the Watra under the "su" group in zensur.
- ❖ **.../31.4B** (T00#44.4b): used between **9 February – 18 June 1916 – July**, characteristic being the last "a" in the Watra under the letter "s" in zensur.



OB02/31.5 (T00#44.5, OS#005): handstamp with two-lines text: **KuK Militärzensur / in Dorna Watra** (sans serif letters), size 49 x 12 mm, applied in violet ink between **10 November 1915 ... 7 March – 15 August 1916**.



/31.5: 11 August 1916

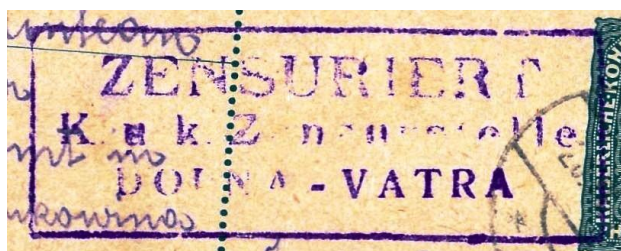


15 August 1916

OB02/31.6 (T00#44.6, OS#006): handstamp with two-lines text: **K. u. K. ZENSURSTELLE / in DORNAWATRA**, size 62 x 11 mm, applied in violet ink between **5 – 15 September 1917**.



OB02/31.7 (T00#44.7, OS#007): rectangular handstamp, with the inner text on three rows: **ZENSURIERT / K. u. k. Zensurstelle / DORNA-WATRA**, size 63 x 23 mm, applied in violet ink between **20 September – 10 October 1917**; see Fig. B02.46.



/31.7: 20 September 1917



6 October 1917

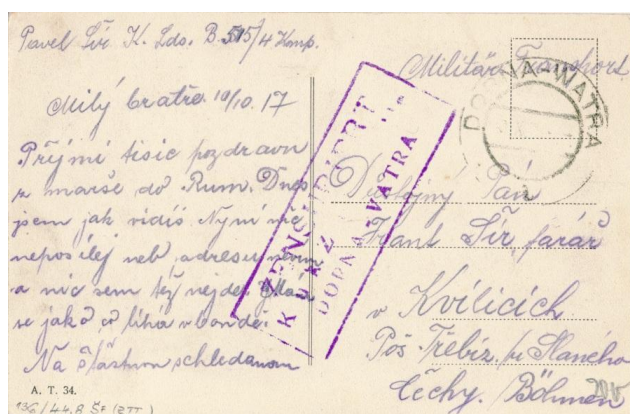


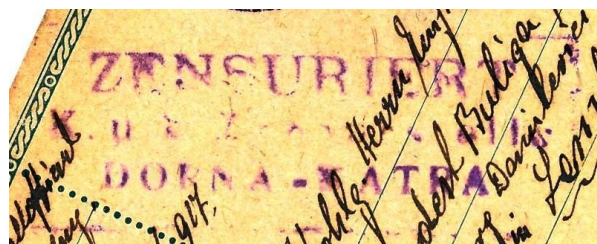
Fig. B02.46: Austrian illustrated postcard (with a general view of Vatra Dornei), written by a Czech militaryman from 515 Landsturm Battalion, postmarked DORNA-WATRA on 10 October 1917, locally censored with the handstamp

OB02/31.7.

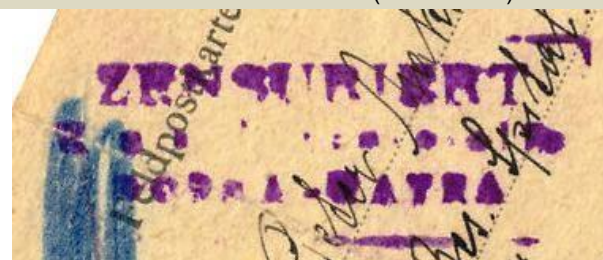
©B02/31.8 (T00#44.8, OS#008): rectangular handstamp, the previous type with the inner repaired text on three rows: **ZENSURIERT / K. u. k. Zensurstelle / DORNA-WATRA**, size 64 x 23 mm (from which the text is 56 x 15 mm), applied in violet ink between **October 1917 – 27 April 1918 – May**. The outer frame of this handstamp gradually degraded, being finally eliminated, which resulted in a new type (*Thielk #44.9, Schilling #009*): In October – November 1917 the frame is intact, in December 1917 – January 1918 there are still traces, but in April - May the frame disappeared completely.



/31.8: 4 November 1917 (frame intact)



23 December 1917 (frame fragments)

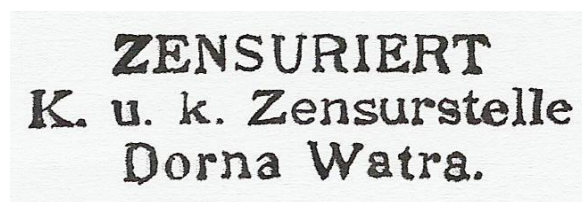


19 January 1918 (frame fragments)

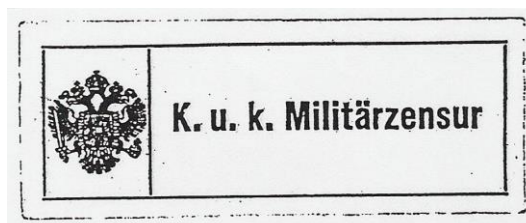


23 April 1918 (no frame)

©B02/31.9 (OS#012): handstamp with the text on three rows: **ZENSURIERT / K. u. k. Zensurstelle / Dorna Watra**, size 51 x 14 mm, applied in violet ink between *October 1917 – April 1918 (not seen by the author, illustration Schilling)*.



©B02/31.90 (T00#44.90): *general type label* (with the text: **K.u.k. Zensurstelle**) was reported for this office between *April 1916 – June 1918*, size 80 x 29 mm, printed in black on lila-red or orange paper (*not seen by the author, illustration Thielk*)



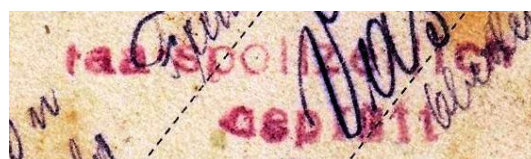
B02/32. – GURAHUMORA (today Gura Humorului, Suceava county)

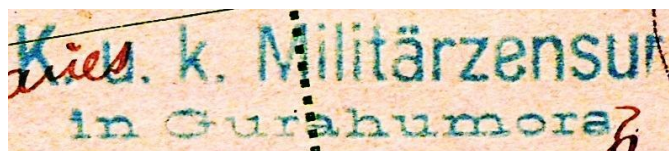
The town was occupied by the Russian Army twice:

- Between **4 January – 8 February 1915**.
- Between **23 June 1916 – 7 March 1918** (Romanians last 3 weeks).

2nd Period (February 1915 – June 1916)

©B02/32.1 (T00#PZ13.1, OS#PZ001): late stamp of police censorship with the text on two lines: **Staatspolizeilisch / geprüft**, size 43 x 10 mm, applied in red-violet or black ink around **1 June 1915**.





/32.2: 1 August 1915 (O. Schilling)

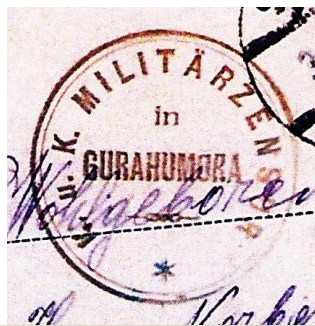


Ca. 18 September 1915

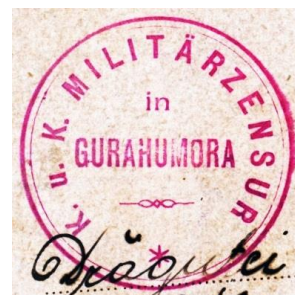
[ⓄB02/32.2](#) (T00#45.1, OS#001): handstamp with two-rows text reading: **K. u. k. Militärzensur / in Gurahumora**, size 66 x 12 mm, applied in red-violet and blue ink between **17 July – 18 September 1915**. In October 1915 at least one of the samples was without the place name (OS#001b).

[ⓄB02/32.3](#) (T00#45.2, OS#002): round double-circle handstamp with inner text: **K. u. K. MILITÄRZENSUR / in GURAHUMORA / ornament**, diameter 31/29 mm, applied in violet and green ink between *July ... 4 – 10 September 1915*.

The town of Gurahumora was re-occupied by Austrians on **8 March 1918**.



/32.3: 4 September 1915



9 September 1915

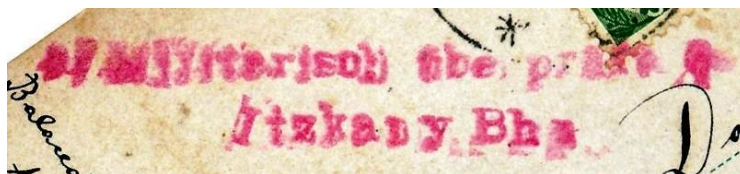
B02/33. – ITZKANY (today Ițcani, Suceava county)

The town was occupied by the Russian Army twice:

- Between **26 November 1914 – 10 February 1915**.
- Between **20 June 1916 – March 1918**.

2nd Period (February 1915 – June 1916)

[ⓄB02/33.1](#) (T00#46.1, OS#001): rudimentary censorship handstamp used in Itzkany railway station, with the bilinear text: **Militärisch überprüft / Itzkany Bhf**, size 55 x 9 mm, applied in red ink between **29 March – 22 May 1915**.



[ⓄB02/33.2](#) (T00#46.2, OS#002): handstamp with bi-linear text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur / in Itzkany**, size 60 x 14 mm, applied in red ink around **19 June 1915 – August 1915**.



[ⓄB02/33.3](#) (OS#003): handstamp with bi-linear text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur / ITZKANY** (the name of the locality with *sans-serif* letters), size 52,5 x 11,5 mm, applied in red and violet ink between **13 December 1915 – 19 April 1916**, in two almost identical variants:

- ❖ [.../33.3a](#) Thicker letters, applied with purple and purple-black ink in the period **10 – 28 February 1916**.



/33.3a: 10-17 February 1916



28 February 1916

- ❖ [.../33.3b](#) (T00#46.3): Finer letters in the name of the city, applied with purple ink (December 1915 – February 1916) or lilac-red (later) in the period **22 December 1915 – 19 April 1916**.



/33.3b: 13 December 1915



2-3 March 1916

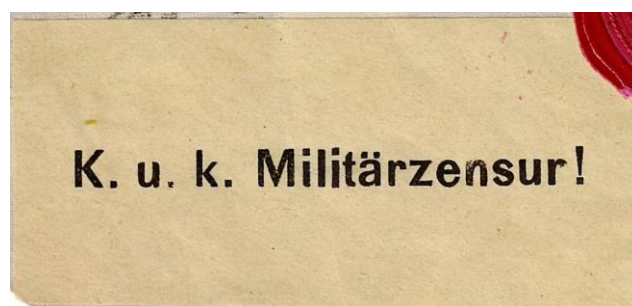
[B02/33.4](#) (T00#46.4, OS#004): handstamp with two-lines text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur** / **ITZKANY** (name of the locality in *serif* letters), size 53 x 10 mm, applied in red ink between 5 May – 2 June 1916.



[B02/33.5](#): handstamp with two-lines text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur** / **ITZKANY** (name of the locality in *serif* letters), size 62 x 11 mm, applied in red ink on 5 June 1916.



[B02/33.90](#): closing label on beige paper with black text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur!**, seen on ca. 12 March 1916 on a cover from Radautz to Niederösterreich, censored with [B02/33.3](#) (source: Oskar Schilling).



B02/34. – KIMPOLUNG

(today Câmpulung Moldovenesc, Suceava county)

The town was occupied by the Russian Army twice:

- Between 6 January – 7 February 1915.
- Between 23 June 1916 – 3 August 1917.



Fig. B02.47: Cover mailed by priest Jos. Schmid of Czernowitz, posted however in SUCZAWA on 17 September 1914 and addressed to Pozoritta, transiting KIMPOLUNG on 18 September, after being censored by the local commission with the handstamp [B02/34.1](#).

1st Period (August 1914)

[ⓄB02/34.1](#) (OS#PZ001): oval handstamp with the inner text: **K. K. BEZIRKSHAUPTMANNSCHAFT * KIMPOLUNG**, size 43/40 x 34/31 mm, applied in black ink around **18 September 1914**; see Fig. B02.47.

2nd Period (February 1915 – June 1916)

On **24 July 1915**, the 7th Army Corps, under the signature of Dr. Kapuscinski (k.k. Landesregierungsrat), communicated the immediate institution (?) of censorship; see the text by Czernowitz. In reality, this was about the issue of censorship being taken over by the military bodies, through the 7th Army Command.

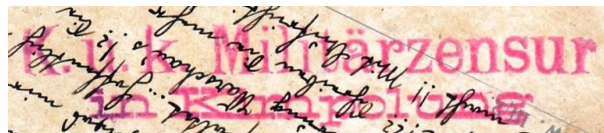
[ⓄB02/34.2](#) (T00#47.2, OS#002): round handstamp with the inner text: **TELEGRAMMZENSURKOMMISSION * KIMPOLUNG / DES K. u. K. 7. A. K.**, diameter 43/39 mm, applied in red ink on letters (unknown on telegrams) on **25 May 1915**, accompanied by the linear handstamp reading **Zensuriert**, size 58 x 10,5 mm (image source: Oskar Schilling)



[ⓄB02/34.3](#) (T00#47.1, OS#001): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur / in Kimpolung**, size 62 x 10 mm, applied in lilac-red ink between **June – 9 July – 13 August 1915 – September**.

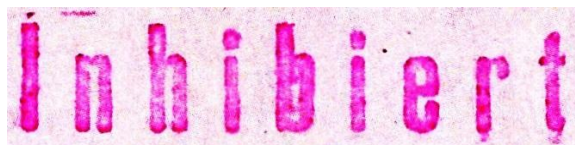


/34.3: 9 July 1915



13 August 1915

[ⓄB02/34.40](#): *prohibition* handstamp, with the text: **Inhibiert**, seen in **January 1916**, on a Romanian newspaper FULGERUL from Iași, aside handwritten marking in red pencil with the same text, *Inhibiert* (full image at Ehfrank [ⓄB02.25]).



B02/35. – RADAUTZ
(today Rădăuți, Suceava county)

The town was occupied by the Russian Army twice:

- Between **31 December 1914 – 10 February 1915**.
- Between **21 June 1916 – 19 July 1917** (November 1917?).

In 1918, the positions previously held by the Russians along the Satu Mare – Dornești line, from which they shelled the city, were taken over by Romanian forces, who, following the Peace of Buftea on 7 May 1918, also withdrew from Bukovina.

1st Period (1914)

[ⓄB02/35.1](#) (T00#347.1, OS#001): linear handstamp with the text: **Staatspolizeilich geöffnet**, size ca. 69 x 6 mm, applied in red or black ink at least between **28 August – 19 October 1914**. Differences may be seen — i.e. the distance between the last two words and the dimension of letters — as two samples were probably manufactured.



/35.1a: 28 August 1914

/35.1b: 28 September 1914

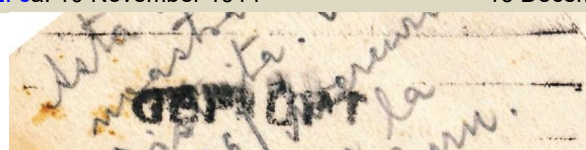
[©B02/35.2](#) (T00#347.2, OS#002): linear handstamp with the text: **GEPRÜFT**, size 28,5 x 4 mm, applied in violet or black ink between **30 October – 18 December 1914**. It may be accompanied by three horizontal lines (left by the wooden base to which the rubber was affixed)), measuring approximately 68 x 13 mm.



/35.2: ca. 10 November 1914

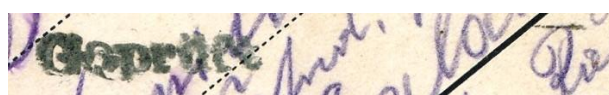


16 December 1914



18 December 1914 (the residual lines included)

[©B02/35.3](#) (T00#00.82): linear handstamp with the text: **Geprüft**, size 22 x 4 mm, applied in black ink between **11 – 14 December 1914**.



/35.3: 11 December 1914 (with superior sideline)



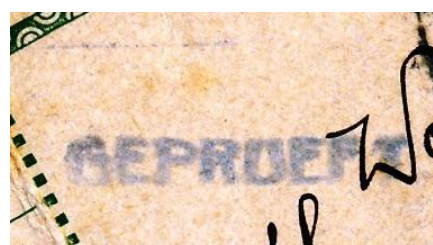
14 December 1914

2nd Period (February 1915 – June 1916)

[©B02/35.4](#) (T00#347.3, OS#003): linear handstamp with the text: **GEPRUEFT**, size 27 x 3,5 mm, applied in blue-violet or black ink, between **28 February – 12 March 1915 – May**. On some imprints, a parallel line can be seen approximately 7 mm above the text, likely marking the upper edge of the rubber handstamp.

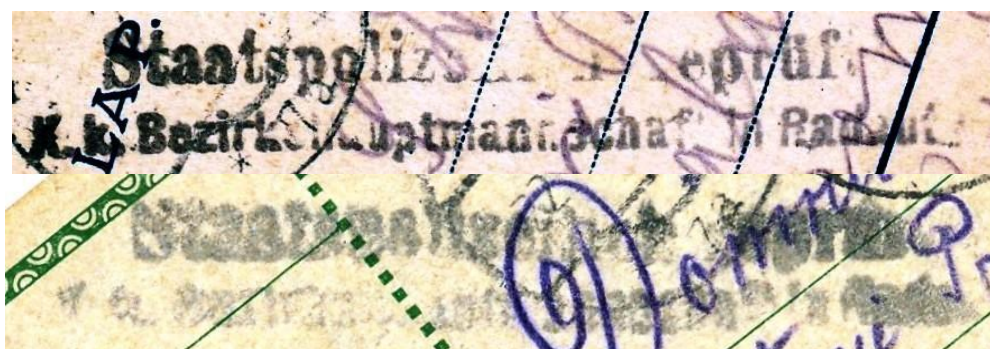


/35.4: ca. 8 March 1915



Ca. 2 March 1915

[©B02/35.5](#) (T00#347.10, OS#010): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **Staatspolizeilich geprüft! / K.k. Bezirkshauptmannschaft in Radautz**, size 69-70 x 9-10 mm, applied in violet and black ink, between **23 March – 26 May 1915** (damaged in May)

/35.5:
23 March 1915

20 May 1915

[©B02/35.6](#) (OS#005): linear handstamp with the text: **Militärisch geprüft**, size 64 x 5 mm, applied in black ink in *June 1915* (not seen by the author, reproduction Schilling).

Militärisch geprüft

[ⓐB02/35.7](#) (T00#347.4, OS#004): linear handstamp with the text: **Militärisch geprüft**, size 49-50 x 5 mm, applied in red-violet ink on **14 June 1915** (reported between *14 April* – *19 October 1915*).



These handstamps were first reported by Octavian Tăbăcaru in 1999 [[ⓐB02.9](#)]. Starting in January 1916, the correspondence of Radautz was censored by the **Itzkany** office, then in Czernowitz. The re-establishment of the Austrian post in Radautz occurred on **19 December 1917**.

B02/36. – SERETH (today Siret, Suceava county)

The town was occupied by the Russian Army twice:

- Between **November 1914** – **11 February 1915**.
- Between **20 June 1916** – **March 1918**.

2nd Period (February 1915 – June 1916)

[ⓐB02/36.1](#) (T00#48.2, OS#002): rudimentary censorship handstamp, with the text: **Militärisch überprüft Sereth**, size 77 x 3,5 mm, applied in red ink in 1915, not seen by the author (*Thielk reproduction*)

Militärisch überprüft Sereth

M i l i t ä r z e n s u r
* S E R E T H *

[ⓐB02/36.2](#) (T00#48.3, OS#003): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **Militärzensur / * SERETH ***, size 67 x 10 mm, applied in violet ink around *May 1915*, not seen by the author (*Thielk reproduction*).

[ⓐB02/36.3](#) (T00#48.2, OS#001): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur / in Sereth**, size 62 x 10 mm, applied in red ink between **3 July** – **6 September 1915**.



[/34.3](#): ca. 14 August 1915



6 September 1915 (O. Schilling)

[ⓐB02/36.4](#) (T00#48.4, OS#004): round handstamp with the inner text: **K. u. K. MILITÄRZENSUR / in SERETH**, diameter 30/28,5 mm, applied in red ink in *August 1915*; similar to Gurahumora, not seen by the author (*Thielk reproduction*).

The re-establishment of the Austrian post in Sereth occurred on **29 March 1918**.



B02/37. – STOROZYNETZ

(today Сторожинець, Chernivtsi Oblast, Ukraine)

The town was occupied by the Russian Army three times:

- Between **15 September** – **21 October 1914**.
- Between **26 November 1914** (1 January 1915?) – **10 February 1915**.
- Between *18 June 1916* – ca. **3 August 1917**.

1st Period (1914)

[ⓐB02/37.1](#) (T00#52.2, OS#002): primitive two-lines handstamp with the text: **Militärisch überprüft / STOROZYNETZ**, size 58 x 11 mm, applied in violet ink on *November 1914*; not seen by the author (*Thielk reproduction*)

Militärisch überprüft
STOROZYNETZ

2nd Period (February 1915 – June 1916)

[ⓄB02/37.2](#) (T00#52.1, OS#001): two-lines handstamp with the text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur / in Storozynetz**, size 65 x 12 mm, applied in red and lila ink between **14 June – 7 August 1915 – October**.



/34.3: 14 June 1915



7 August 1915 (O. Schilling)

On **25 July 1915**, the 7th Army Corps, under the signature of Dr. Kuczynski (*Leiter der k.k. Bezirkshauptmannschaft*), communicated the immediate institution (?) of censorship; see the text at Czernowitz. This was rather a question of taking over the problem of censorship by the military bodies, through the Command of the 7th Army. On 17 October 1915, another communiqué allowed the use of the Cyrillic alphabet in writing addresses.

B02/38. – SU CZAWA
(today Suceava, jud. Suceava)

The town was occupied by the Russian Army twice:

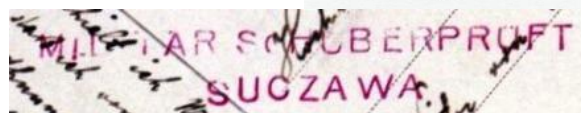
- Between **2 January – 8 February 1915**.
- Between **20 June 1916 – 7 March 1918** (last 3 weeks occupied by the Romanian Army)

1st Period (August 1914)

[ⓄB02/38.1](#) (T00#PZ55.1, OS#PZ001): round double-circle handstamp with the inner text around the Imperial arms: **K. K. BEZIRKSHAUPTMANNSCHAFT * in SU CZAWA**, diameter 32/30/19 mm, applied in **September 1914**. Not seen by the author (*Thielk reproduction*).



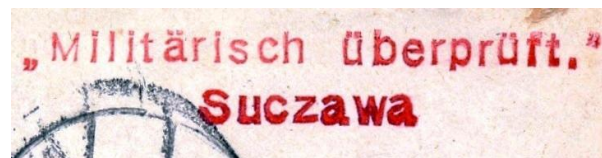
[ⓄB02/38.2](#) (T00#49.2, OS#002): bilinear handstamp with the text: **MILITÄRISCH ÜBERPRÜFT / SU CZAWA**, size 61,5 x 9 mm, applied in violet ink between **20 October – November 1914**.



[ⓄB02/38.3](#) (OS#004): primitive handstamp with the two-lines text: **MILITÄRISCH GEPRÜFT / Suczawa**, size ca. 60 x 15 mm, applied in red ink on **7 December 1914**.



[ⓄB02/38.4](#) (OS#003): primitive handstamp with the two-lines text: **"Militärisch überprüft." / Suczawa**, size 60 x 10 mm, applied in violet-lila ink between **9 December 1914 – February 1915**.

**2nd Period (February 1915 – June 1916)**

[ⓄB02/38.5](#) (T00#49.1, OS#001): two-lines handstamp with the text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur / in Suczawa**, size 61 x 10 mm, applied in red ink between **June – 2 September – 10 November 1915**.



3rd Period ? (April – November 1918)

Suceava (along with Gura Humorului and Siret) likely returned to Austria-Hungary only after the signing of the Armistice with Russia on 5 December 1917. Although the town was re-occupied by Austrian forces on 8 March 1918, it was only on **13 April 1918** that the public was informed that the post offices in **Suczawa**, Illischesie, Hadikfalva and Hatna had resumed postal operations²⁷. Given the city's special situation — located on the border with Romania — it is possible that, exceptionally, a low-activity censorship commission operated there for a short period

[ⓄB02/38.6](#): linear primitive handstamp with the text: **K.K ZENSUR**, size 61 x 10 mm, applied in black ink around **20 July 1918**. The localisation of this handstamp is NOT certain!



B02/39. – WASCHKOUTZ
(today Вашківці, Chernivtsi Oblast, Ukraine)

The town was occupied by the Russian Army three times:

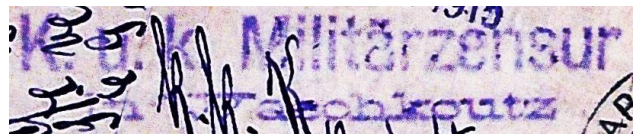
- Between *2 September – 21 October 1914*.
- Between **November 1914 – 10 February 1915**.
- Between **ca. 20 June 1916 – ca. 3 August 1917**.

2nd Period (February 1915 – June 1916)

[ⓄB02/39.1](#) (T00#51.1, OS#001): two-lines handstamp with the text: **K. u. k. Militärzensur / in Washkoutz**, size 65 x 11 mm, applied in violet ink between *July – 23 August 1915*.



[/39.1](#): Thielk Reconstruction



23 August 1915 (Ehfrank)

B02/40. – WIZNITZ
(today Вижниця, Chernivtsi Oblast, Ukraine)

The town was occupied by the Russian Army three times:

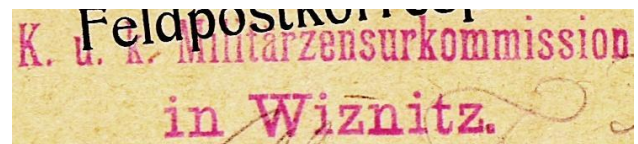
- Between *2 September – 21 October 1914*.
- Between **November 1914 – 13 February 1915**.
- Between **25 June 1916 – ca. 31 July 1917**.

2nd Period (February 1915 – June 1916)

[ⓄB02/40.1](#) (T00#50.1, OS#001): two-lines handstamp with the text: **K. u. k. Militärzensurkommission / in Wiznitz**, size 61 x 12 mm, applied in red-lila ink between **August - 29 September 1915**.



[/34.3](#): 2 September 1915



29 September 1915 (O. Schilling)

Please send any corrections, additions, comments to:
damirro@yahoo.com

²⁷ Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung, no. 200 / 13 April 1918, pag. 3

Unidentified handstamps, possibly belonging to Bukovina



©B02/50.1: certainly, this is the FIRST sign of censorship in Bukovina: three lines Retour handstamp with the text: **Zur Beförderung / mit der Feldpost / ungeeignet.**, applied in violet ink on a label glued on a postcard written in Russian, mailed from Lipoveni, Mitoka Dragomirna to Moscow, Russia. Postmarked **13 August 1914**, it was returned because postal service with (now enemy) Russia

was suspended. Originally a fieldpost handstamp, it was adapted to civilian use by removing the word **Feld**. Possible location: **Dorna Watra** or **Suczawa**.

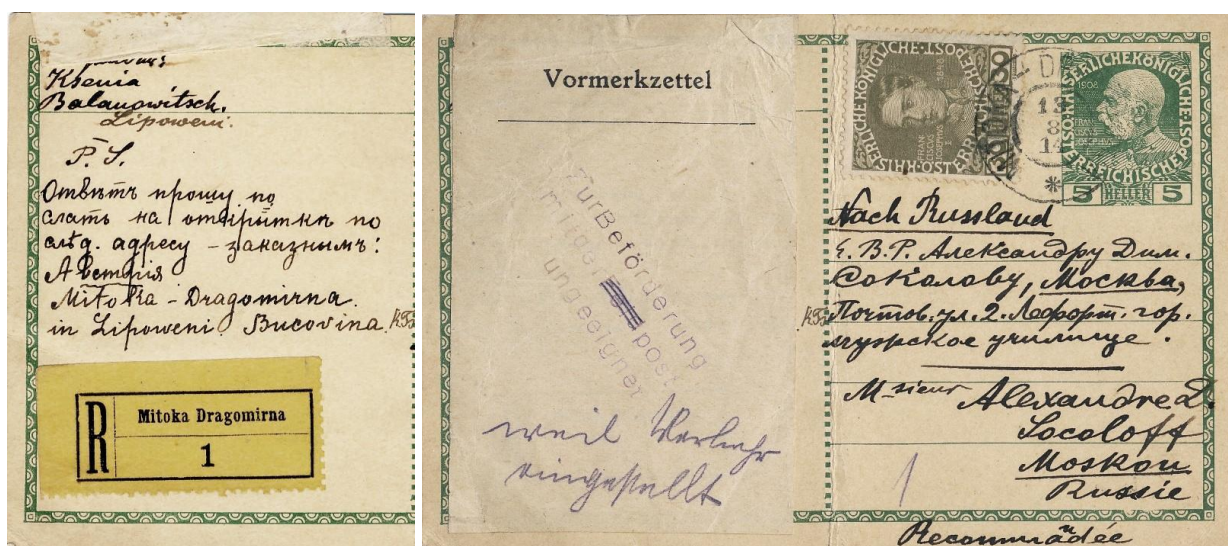
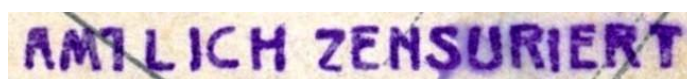


Fig. B02.48: Early returned cover due to the suspension of postal relations with Russia, with ©B02/50.1

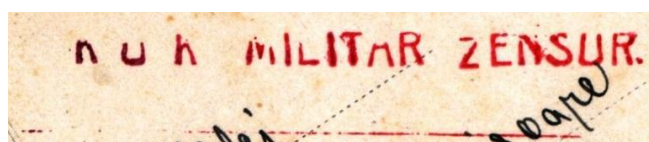
©B02/50.2: linear handstamp with the text: **MILITÄRISCH GEPRÜFT**, applied in violet ink on a fieldpostcard mailed from the *3rd Hungarian Huszar Militia Division (Papp Brigade, Fieldpost 40)* to Dorozsma, postmarked **CZERNOWITZ (30 March 1915)**. Possible location: **Czernowitz**.



©B02/50.3: linear handstamp with the text: **AMTLICH ZENSURIERT**, size 52 x 3,5 mm, applied in violet ink on **3 April 1915** on a postcard mailed from Moldauisch Banilla (Bănila pe Siret, today Банилів-Підгірний in Ukraine) to Wien. Provisional allocation: **Storozynetz** — made *exclusively* on the assignment of Bănila to the Storozynetz district.



©B02/50.4 (OS#0032): linear handstamp with the text: **K u k MILITAR ZENSUR**, size 56,5 x 3 mm (sidelines may appear), applied in red-lila ink on **27 May 1915** on a postcard mailed from Wien to Moldauisch Banilla (Bănila pe Siret, today Банилів-Підгірний in Ukraine). Provisional allocation: **Storozynetz** (made *exclusively* on the assignment of Bănila to the Storozynetz district) or **Czernowitz**. Very similar to Thielk #00.32.



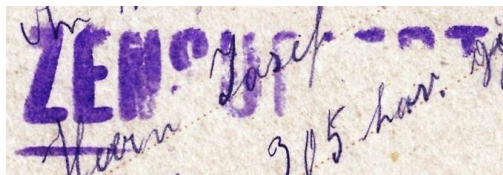
ⓄB02/50.5: linear handstamp with unclear destination and illisible text, applied in violet ink on a civilian postcard mailed from RADAUTZ (10 April 1918?) to Czernowitz.



ⓄB02/50.6: linear handstamp with difficult lisibile text: ... **Militarzensur** (probably comes from a handstamp type **ⓄB02/30.6**), applied in black-violet ink on a fieldpostcard mailed from Fieldpost 642 to Nagyselyk, but postmarked CZERNOWITZ ON 2 May 1918. Possible location: **Czernowitz**.



ⓄB02/50.7: linear handstamp with the text: **ZENSURIERT**, applied in violet ink on a postcard mailed from WAMA (5 August 1918) to Fieldpostoffice 397 (always in Bukovina).



Local censorship in Banat and Transylvania (Hungarian Kingdom): Police, Gendarmerie, Judiciary, Currency, Mobile censorship

This is a chapter that may overlap parts of volume C/2, given that many censorship markings of the police and gendarmerie appear on the correspondence of civilian internees — of those under state surveillance.

B02/60. – Gendarmerie Censorship in ADA-KALEH Island (today submerged in the Danube)

ⓄB02/60.1 (OS#001): round handstamp with a diameter of 36 mm, with the inner text around the coat of arms: **A M. KIR. II. SZ. CSENDŐR KERÜLETI PARANCSNOKSÁG / ADA-KALEHI / KÜLÖNITMÉNYI** (= *Hungarian Royal 2nd Gendarmerie District Command / Ada-Kaleh Detachment*), applied in violet ink on 20 July 1918 (December 1915 – January 1916, according to OS); see Fig. B02.49.



Fig. B02.49. Illustrated postcard (showing the *mosque of Ada-Kaleh* Danubian island), postmarked ORSOVA on 20 July 1918, censored by the local Gendarmerie Detachment with the round violet handstamp, addressed to Budapest.

B02/61. – Police Censorship in ARAD

(today Arad, Arad county)

[B02/61.1](#) (T00#PZ 3.2, OS#PZ 002): *police administrative round handstamp* with a diameter of 32 mm, with the inner text around the coat of arms: **ARAD SZ. KIR. VAROS KAPITANYI HIVATALA** (= *Office of the Captain of the Free Royal City of Arad*), applied in red-lila ink in **September 1916**.

[B02/61.2](#) (T00#PZ 3.1, OS#PZ 001): *censor* bi-linear handstamp of size 62 x 16 mm, with the text: **FELÜLVIZSGÁLVA TOVÁBBITÁSA MEGENGEDVE** (= *Verified, Forwarding Allowed*), applied in the same ink as the above administrative handstamp.



The handstamps illustrated by *Thielk 2000* under #PZ 3.3 and #PZ 3.4 and by *Schilling 2008* under #003, 004, #PZ 003 and PZ 004 are those used by the Military Prison in the Arad Fortress, where thousands of Balkan inhabitants (Serbs, Bosniaks) were detained, and these will be described in *Volume C/2*.

B02/62. – Judiciary Censorship in DÉVA

(today Deva, Hunedoara county / Transylvania)



A clear sign of censorship is known in a correspondence written in Hungarian in Deva on **24 October 1916** (see *Fig. B02.52*), for which there are currently no indications that it is related to any interned or confined civilian.

Fig. B20.50

Postmarked DEVA on 25 October 1916, it has the districtual magistrate purple handstamp [B02/62.1](#) with the text:

HUNYAD VARMEGYE DÉVAI JÁRAS FŐSZOLGABIRÁJA (= *Chief Magistrate of Deva District from Hunyad County*) and handwritten: *Felülvizsgáltam, továbbítható* (= *Verified, it can be forwarded*), followed by the signature. Being already censored, it was longer considered necessary to send it to Kolozsvár, and was sent to its destination in Sopron county, in western Hungary. Being transported along the Mureș valley, the correspondence is nevertheless re-censored in Arad with the handstamp [B02/02.1](#). Arrival in ESZTERHAZA at the end of October 1916.

B02/63 – Gendarmerie Censorship in GYÖRGYÓSZENTMIKLÓS

(today Gheorghieni, Harghita county / Transylvania)

[B02/63.1](#) (OS#001): the handstamp of the local gendarmerie station in a provisional localization (Gyergyószentmiklós, or Csikszereda), with the linear text **K K GEND. POST. KOMDO.**, size 63,5 x 3 mm, applied in blue ink on **30 December 1914**; see *Fig. B02.51*. This is an example from the first stage of censorship, when it was done by the Police & Gendarmerie.



Fig. B02.51

Registered envelope sent by a lawyer to the General Court in Csíkszereda. Postmarked GYERGYÓSZENTMIKLÓS on 30 December 1914, arrived in CSÍKSZEREDA on 31 December (on backside) and at the Justice Institution on 1 January 1915. Somewhere – at departure or at arrival – the letter was censored by the local Gendarmery Post with [©B02/63.1](#).

B02/64. – Mayor`s censorship in GYULAFEHÉRVÁR (today Alba Iulia, Alba county / Transylvania)

A currency (?) censorship functioned for a short time in Gyulafehérvár Townhall, with probable jurisdiction over the correspondence of local financial institutions.

[©B02/64.1](#) (OS#001, 002) bi-linear bank censorship handstamp of "Weiterleiten" type, with the text: *Üzleti levele ést tartalmaz / tehát továbbításra alkalmas / Polgármester* (= *Your business letter contains a message / and is therefore suitable for forwarding, / Mayor, with his signature*), size 36/33.5 mm, accompanied by the handstamp of the Mayor: **GYULAFEHÉRVÁR SZAB. KIR. VÁROS POLGÁRMESTERE** (= *Mayor of the Free Royal City of Gyulafehérvár*). Applied in violet ink on a bank letter from 18 september 1916; see Fig. B02.52.

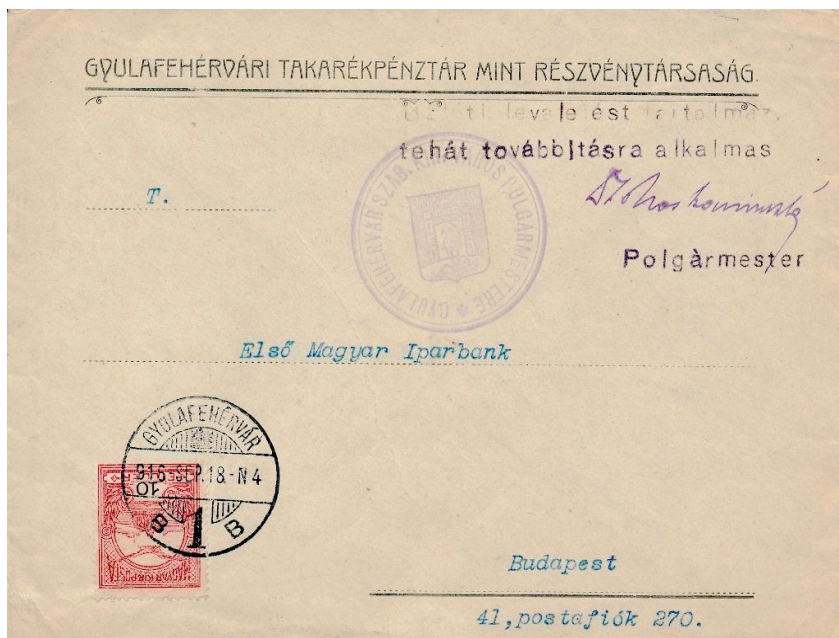
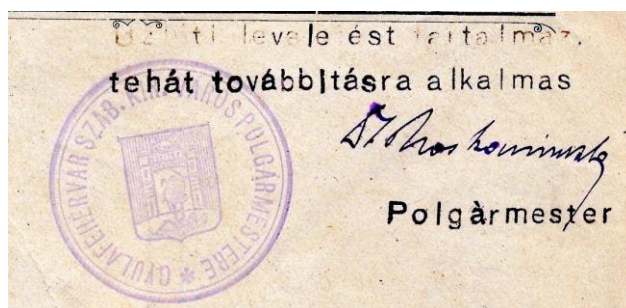
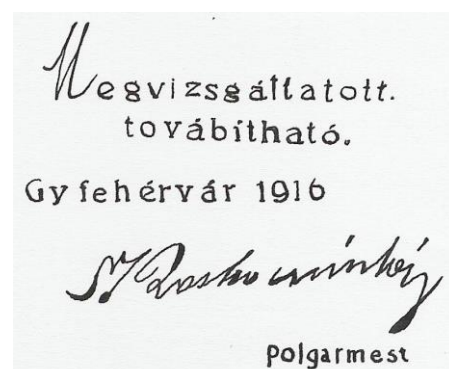


Fig. B02.52
A "Free-to-forward"
handstamp on a bank
envelope from the county
seat

Official envelope sent from *The Gyulafehérvár Savings Bank*, registered GYULAFEHÉRVÁR on 18 September 1916 to a bank in Budapest. It bears the "Free-to-forward" type handstamp [©B02/64.1](#).

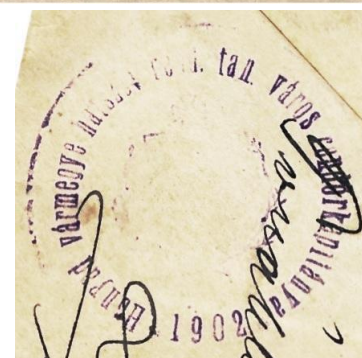
ⓐB02/64.2 (OS#003): tri-linear censorship handstamp with the text: **Megvizsgáltatott / továbbítható / Gyfehérvár 1916 + Polgármester**, with same signature (= *Vizualizad / May be forwarded / Mayor*), size 65 x 47 mm, seen in violet in January 1917. Between the lines, there is a space where the censor's name can be written. Not seen by the author, reproduction *Oskar Schilling*.



B02/65 – Police Censorship HÁTSZEG (today Hațeg, Hunedoara county / Transylvania)



Fig. B02.53. Cover apparently addressed to the local City Police Captain, postmarked HÁTSZEG on **16 October 1916**, but redirected to the City Police Captain in Arad. The handstamp **ⓐB02/65.1** was applied on backside, together with the hand writing **Továbbítható** (=Forwarding) and signature, which confirms that this handstamp was used for censorship. Arrival at ARAD on 21 October 1916, but probably it was sent to Kolozsvár for censorship (where a handstamp **ⓐB02/06A*a** was applied). This may be the explanation why it only returned to Arad on 21 November and was dispatched on 22 November 1916. However, the full significance of this circulation is not clear for now. Maybe this is the mail of a confined person from Hátszeg.



ⓐB02/65.1: round *police administrative handstamp* with a diameter of 36,5 mm, with the inner text around the coat of arms: **Hunyad varmegye Hátszeg rend. tan.varos rendőrkapitánya * 1902** (= *Police Captain of the Council City Hátszeg in Hunyad county*), applied in violet ink around 16 October 1916.

B02/66. – Police censorship LUGOS (today Lugoj, Timiș county / Banat)

ⓐB02/66.1 (OS#PZ001): round *police administrative handstamp* with a diameter of 26 mm, with the inner text around the coat of arms, which is only partially visible: **LUGOS R. T. VÁROS RENDŐRKAPITÁNYA** (= *Police Captain of the City with Council Lugos / Rendezett tanácsú város*).

ⓐB02/66.2: additional rectangular *censor* handstamp of 33 x 10 mm, with the inner text **Kézbesíthető** (= *Can be delivered*).



Both handstamps are affixed together in purple ink between **22 September – 19 December 1916**, on correspondences that do *not seem* to be of an internee or confined civilian — however, the allocation to this chapter is not entirely certain.



Fig. B02.54. Civil mail censored by the Lugoj gendarmerie

Free postcard, written in Pola by a German sailor from Lugoj (see the violet handstamp **K.u.K. MATROSENKORPS * 15. COMPAGNIE**), sorted at the navy military post office **K.u.K. MARINEFELDPOSTAMT * POLA** on 19 September 1916, arrived in **LUGOS** on 22 September, where it is censored by the local gendarmerie with the handstamps [B02/66.1](#) and [B02/56.2](#).

B02/67 – Police Censorship NAGYSZEBEN

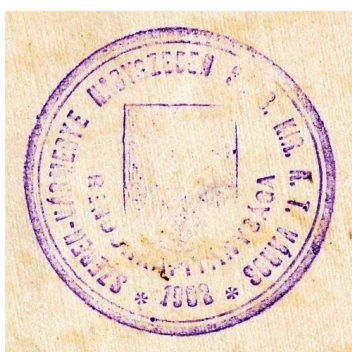
(today Sibiu, Sibiu county / Transylvania)

[B02/67.1](#): round *police administrative handstamp* with the inner text around the coat of arms: **SZEBENVARMEGYE NAGYSZEBEN SZAB. KIR. R. T. VAROS * 1902 / Rendőrkapitányiság (= Police Captain of the Royal Free City Nagyszeben in Szeben county)**, with two variants:

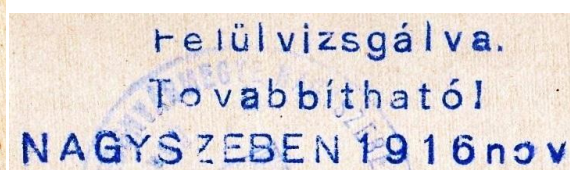
- ❖ [B02/67.1A](#): applied in blue ink between **14 – 23 November 1916**, diameter 36,5 mm.
- ❖ [B02/67.1B](#): applied in blue and violet ink between **25 October– 24 November 1916**, diameter 37/34 mm, also reported by Dan-Traian Demeter in 2002 [[B02.17](#)].



[B02/67.1A](#): 23 November 1916



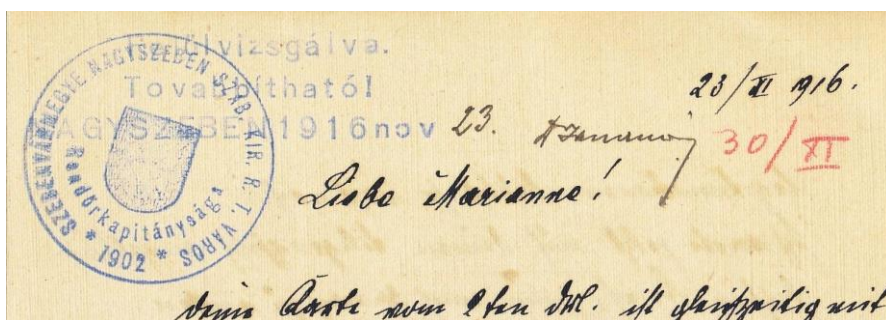
[B02/67.1B](#): 24 November 1916



[B02/67.2](#): 14 November 1916

[B02/67.2](#): additional tri-linear *censor handstamp* of 60 x 15 mm, with the text: **Felülvizsgálva. / Továbbítható! / NAGYSZEBEN 1916 nov.**, applied in blue ink between **14 – 23 November 1916**.

All these handstamps were also applied on the inner letters mailed by captain **Robert Simonis**, chief of Nagyszeben police, to his wife (Adela, b. Larcher), sons (Karl Robert²⁸ and Paul) and daughters (Marianne and Adele). Therefore, their significance is not yet clear.

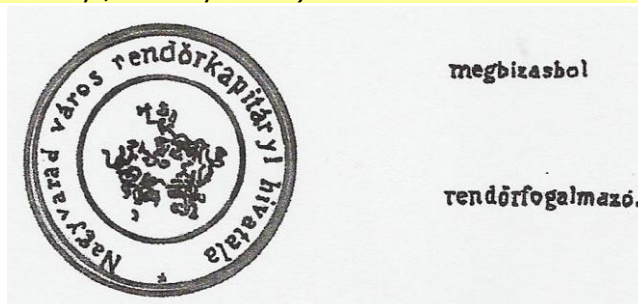


²⁸ Leutnant, deceased on 4 August 1919 in the Russian POW camp Nikolssk-Ussursk by intestinal infection.

B02/68 – Police Censorship NAGYVÁRAD

(today Oradea, Bihor county / Transylvania)

ⓐB02/68.1: round *police administrative handstamp* with a diameter of 35/32/21 mm, with the inner text around the coat of arms: **Nagyvárad város rendőrkapitányi hivatala** (= *Office of the Police Captain of the City Nagyvarád*). Applied in violet ink in **June 1916**.

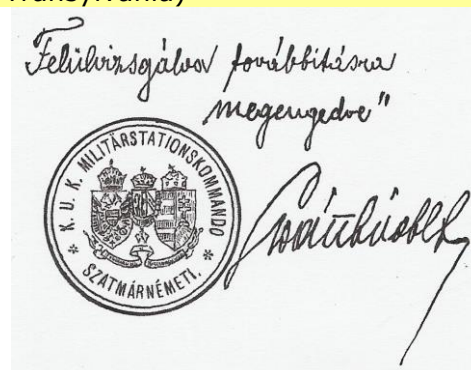


ⓐB02/68.2: additional bi-linear handstamp of 24 x 18 mm, with the text: **megbízásból / rendőrfogalmazó** (= *commissioned / trainee police officer*). Not seen by the author.

B02/69 – Local (Police?) Censorship SZATMÁRNÉMETI

(today Satu-Mare, Satu Mare county / Transylvania)

ⓐB02/69.1: round *military administrative handstamp* with a diameter of 36/34 mm, with the inner text around the coat of arms: **K. U. K. MILITARSTATIONSKOMMANDO * SZATMÁRNÉMETI**, together with the handwritten notation: **Felülvizsgálva továbbítása megengedve** (= *Verified, Forwarding Allowed*). Applied in violet ink in *September 1916*. Not seen by the author (*reproduction Schilling*).

**B02/70 – The Mobile Censorship Commissions of the Joseph Front of Armies**

(known so far for Brassó and Fogaras - today Făgăraș, Brașov county)

As we have already learned from the introductory part, the *army headquarters of Archduke Joseph* could also carry out censorship at certain post offices in the military area under its jurisdiction by means of censorship committees moving through occasional and trial investigations. Two such rare examples can be seen in Fig. B02.55, B02.56, which may suggest that these commissions censored suspected mail of unloyal citizens, confinees, etc:

ⓐB02/70.3: **Commission 3 (Fogaras?)**: bi-linear handstamp with the text: **...mdo der Heeresfront G. O. Erz. Joseph / Mobile Abwehrstelle Nr. 3** (so, two more commissions should exist), size 73 x 9,5 mm, applied in violet ink on **May 1917**.

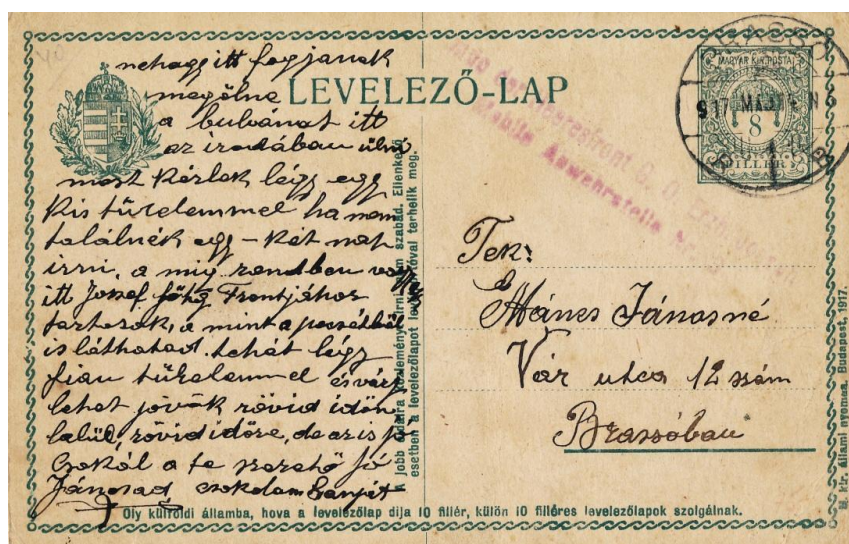
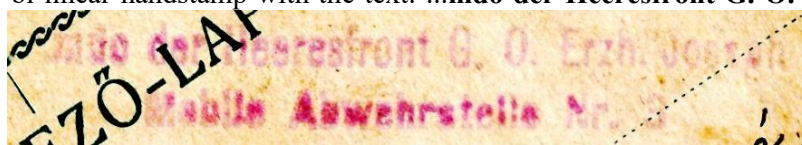


Fig. B02.55. Civil mail censored by one of the Joseph Front's Mobile Commissions in Fogaras.

Postcard written in Hungarian in Fogaras on **30 April 1917**. It was probably taken by the censorship commission from Fogaras post office (as the item was not postmarked), verified and then released with the handstamp ⓐB02/70.1. Arrived in **BRASSÓ** on **14 May 1917**, so the entire operation took two weeks to be completed.

ⓄB02/70.4: Commission 4 (Brassó?): round handstamp with the text: **Mobile Abwehrstelle Nr. 4 des Heeresfrontkdos / G. O. Erz. Joseph**, applied in violet ink on **10 April 1917**.



Fig. B02.56. Civil mail censored by the 4th Joseph Front's Mobile Commission (Brassó?)

Postcard written in German in Brassó by Dora Pușcariu, a Romanian elite lady which was under state surveillance (she will be deported to Pecs in the summer). Postmarked BRASSÓ on **10 April 1917**, addressed to the volunteer nurse Lucia Bologa in Trient, censored in transit in Kolozsvár with **ⓄB02/08.4**. The commission handstamp **ⓄB02/70.4** may be applied in Brassó, as suspect mail censorship.

Austro-Hungarian Censorship in Occupied Romania

B02.80. – BUKAREST

(București, capital of Romania)

The presence of an Austro-Hungarian censorship office in Bucharest is confirmed by *Evidenzblatt no. 22410* of the AOK of 12 December 1917: "in Bucharest there is a German censor office, where Austro-Hungarian clerks also work". This office censored correspondence from Austro-Hungarian military units and addressed to *civilians* in occupied Romania — especially Bucharest, but also Turnu Severin, Brăila, etc.

ⓄB02/80.1: trilinear handstamp with the text: **ZENSURIERT / K.u.K. ZENSURSTELLE / BUKAREST**, size 45 x 14 mm, applied in violet ink between (November 1917) **31 January – 8 October 1918**.



/80.1: ca. 1 August 1918

Ca. 8 October 1918

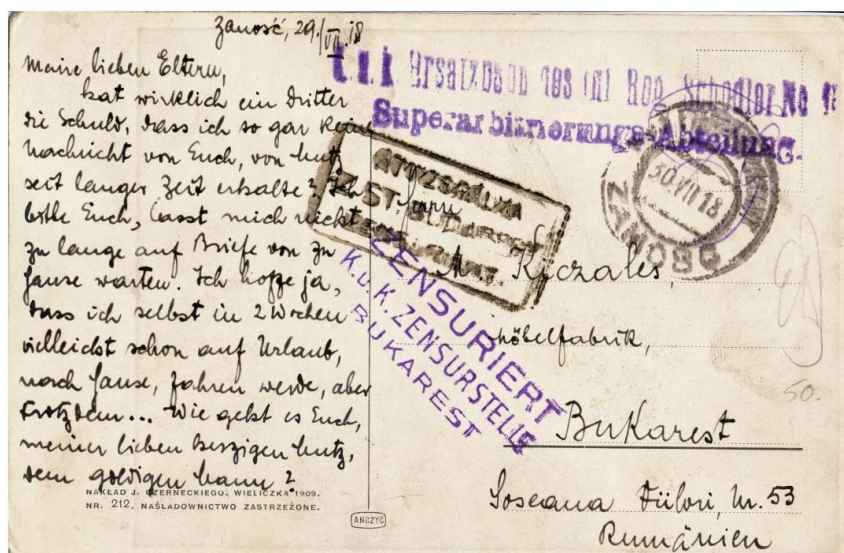


Fig. B02.57.

Postcard mailed by a militarymen from ZAMOSC on 30 July 1918, to a civilian address in Bucharest. Bilinear unit handstamp (*Ersatzbaon des Inf. Reg. Schodler No.*), transit by Budapest where censored with the black reectangular handsta,p, arrived in Bucharest where censored again by Austro-Hungarians with **ⓄB02/80.1**.

Note: The censor handstamp of the Austro-Hungarian Plenipotentiary in Romania (*Thielk#255.2*) belongs to the military post and not to civil censorship!

B03. RUSSIAN CENSORSHIP IN BESSARABIA AND OCCUPIED BUKOVINA 1914-1918

Until the beginning of the First World War, the only official censorship in Russia – introduced starting with 1799 in several large centers, such as St. Petersburg, Moscow, Odessa, Warsaw and others –, was that of printed matters arriving from abroad. Subsequently, very likely such offices of censorship of foreign prints were established in all the capitals of the provinces, which explains the fact that a Romanian newspaper arrived from Bucharest in Bessarabia via Odessa, was censored in 1909 in Kishinev/Chişinău, and not in Odessa, with an oval handstamp of 30 x 21 mm, reading Д.Ц. / КИШИНЕВЪ, applied in black ink [B03.5, collection Dumitru Dumitru]. This press censorship was still active on 26 June 1914!: “The buyers of the [Romanian] paper in Russia have long complained that the articles of the paper relating to Russia are simply cut out by the censors; but it is now the first time that the censorship [in Kishinev] completely prevents the entry of Romanian newspapers into Russia²⁹.” Even if officially the censorship of correspondence did not exist in Russia, concerns and projects in this regard appeared several years before 1914, based on the experience of the Russo-Japanese War of 1905. But this was mostly limited to censorship of military correspondence sent by Russian troops from military theaters.

The Great War began for Russia with the German Declaration of War of **1 August 1914**. The next day, 2 August (new style), the Government submitted the *Provisional Ordinance on Military Censorship* to the interested military bodies and post offices. Through this it established the military censorship of postal and telegraphic correspondence, fulfilled by the Ministry of War, in union with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Navy. This applied to all except for the diplomatic post and for that of the Imperial Family, which, in principle at least, was exempt from censorship. The main censorship office was established in the capital of the Empire, Sankt Petersburg – which will change its name for patriotic reasons to Petrograd on 1 September 1914. According to Article 2 of the Statute, the competence of censorship extended to the following categories: “1. Texts, illustrations, photographs to be printed. 2. Correspondence and telegrams. 3. Texts and content of speeches and reports to be presented in public assemblies”. Art. 6 mentioned that censorship can be applied either totally or partially: total censorship means that all correspondence, internal and external, departing or arriving from Russia, must be subject to censorship. Art. 7 establishes that total censorship was applied in the areas of military theatres of operations and adjacent territories and partial censorship in all other territories (including, however, *all* external correspondence). Postal and telegraphic censorship was the subject of 14 articles of Chapter VI, of which article 50 specified: “the examination of correspondence must be carried out exclusively within the Post-Telegraphic Offices, and the letters may be opened only in the presence of a military censor and two postal officials”.

In the first weeks of the censorship, in Petrograd the entire external correspondence was censored, including that of the prisoners of war. Petrograd was also the place where the *Main Commission for Military Censorship* had its headquarters throughout the war period, directly subordinated to the Russian General Headquarters. The censors were initially recruited exclusively from among the active service officers, with good linguistic knowledge. However, they were soon overtaken by the huge amount of foreign correspondence that already abundantly existed between Russia and the West, being quickly doubled by that of the prisoners of war. As a result, since April 1916, they employed as censors also reserve officers, civilian employees, teachers, etc., with the same condition of knowing at least one foreign language. Starting with November 1914, only the mail of the prisoners of war arriving in or sent from Germany was censored in Petrograd, the one arriving in or sent from Austro-Hungary being circulated through Ungheni (Bessarabia), and censored to Odessa. Since February 1915, the network of censorship offices has grown exponentially, so that the censorship of external correspondence was decentralized, taking place at the level of the local censorship office, being directed to Petrograd only in cases of exceeding the competence³⁰.

Bessarabia belonged to the Odessa Military District, a district where *total censorship* was in force. This may seem unusual and is generally explained by the proximity of the district to the area of military operations with Turkey, with which Russia was at war. The explanation is satisfactory regarding the

²⁹ Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung no. 3482 / 28 June 1914

³⁰ For details see the catalogues of the Russian postal censorship, edited for collectors' use: Peter Michalove, David Skipton - *Postal Censorship in Imperial Russia...1714-1917*, 2 volumes, 1989, or bilingual work: Antoine Speeckaert - *Russische Postzensur / Russian Postal Censorship 1914-1918*, St. Niklaas, Belgium 1990 (with a supplement that appeared on Vilvoorde, Belgium, in 1997)

southern and Crimean area of the district, but the decision to install total censorship in Bessarabia must have been the military situation in the theater of war with Austria-Hungary, with which it bordered in the Bukovina area. Just starting with January 1915, the Bukovinian front activated considerably, when the Russians conquered Suceava and Câmpulung, the Russian 30th Corps (acting on a territory too extensive in Bukovina and Galicia) being soon forced to withdraw under the pressure of the newly established 7th Austro-Hungarian Army. The Brussilov offensive, which started on **4 June 1916**, will throw the Austro-Hungarians and Germans over the old border, by occupying Bukovina (except the Dorna-Watra area) and removing until July 1917, the presence of the Central Powers from the area of Bukovina / Bessarabia. Coincidentally or not, the known periods of appearance of postal censorship handstamps in Bessarabia are included precisely between January 1915 and June 1916 (earlier usages are not yet confirmed, see *Fig. B03.01*), when the Bessarabian territory had all the reasons to be declared proximate to some areas of military operations and to bear the total censorship. The removal of the German-Austro-Hungarian danger, but especially the entry of Romania into the war in August 1916, determined very likely the revision of the status of the Bessarabian territory from this point of view and it can be stated with enough chance of truth that, starting with August 1916 (maybe even earlier), there was no more total censorship in Bessarabia, being replaced by partial censorship.

Fig. B03.01. Could this be an early Bessarabian censor handstamp?

Romanian postcard stamped 4 kop., written in Russian and postmarked **ПЕНИ БЕСС** on **2 November 1914**, censored with a round lilá handstamp **Д.Ц.**, arrival ODESSA on 3 November 1914. This censor type was not described for Odessa, so it may be an early Bessarabian censor, before the introduction of the standardised handstamps (source: Delcampe 2022)



However, material evidence of postal censorship in Bessarabia is very scarce, the correspondences with censorship notations being among the rarest (except for Kishinev). The reasons lie primarily in the poor literacy of the population, meaning a low volume of correspondence. This was also due to the poor representation of the Russian military units with only one garrison in Bessarabia and, especially the lack, or insignificant presence, of the prisoners of war of the Central Powers in Bessarabia – whose correspondence with the countries of origin, in impressive quantities compared to an equally impressive number of prisoners, is the main bearer of notations and handstamps of Russian postal censorship in the period 1914-1918, in the other territories of the Tsarist Empire. Horst Taitl mentioned, however, some small POW camps in Bessarabia, most of which were erroneously located, only three of them being actually Bessarabian (**Hotin**, Găncești – possibly **Hâncești** and **Kishinev**), the rest being from the current Ukraine, which we record here for a correct information: *Balta, Hmelnik, Haisin, Husiatin, Kazatin, Leticev, Mahnovka, Myropol, Molomolints, Odessa, Proskurov, Vinnitsa, Zinkov and Smerinka*.

The Bessarabian censorship offices with certified activity so far were: Akkerman (Cetatea Albă), Bender (Tighina), Bolgrad, Kishinev, Ismail, Nemțeni (new found!), Orhei, Tatar Bunar (Tătăraști), Ungheni. If the assertion that there was a censure office in the capital of each county is true, then one can assume the existence of such an office also in Hotin and Soroca – but there is still no clear information about them. As you can see, in addition to the offices located in the county capitals, there are also two additional censorship offices: **Bolgrad** (Ismail county) and **Tatar Bunar** (Akkerman county), and at least two frontier-offices on the Prut river: **Ungheni** and **Nemțeni**. In addition, we added the **Tiraspol** office, the city being today nominally part of the Republic of Moldova (but belonging *de facto* to the separatist Transnistria).

In whatever form it was carried out, the censorship in the Bessarabian area ceased with the entry of the Romanian Army into the province, on January 1918. On what followed after this date, see [Chapter #5.1](#).

Generalities on Censorship in the Military District Odessa – O.B.O.

Due to the fact that Bessarabia did not have autonomy within the Russian censorship system, it will first be necessary to analyze the elements of censorship in the Odessa Military District (**Одесса Военный Округ**, abbreviated O.B.O.)³¹. This district existed, as a first formation, between **24 December 1862 – 1 January 1918**, and included the *territories* of Kherson and Yekaterinoslav, and the *provinces* of Taurida (Simferopol) and Bessarabia, having in 1914, the following military garrisons:

- 7. Army Corps
- 8. Army Corps Odessa
 - 14. Infantry Division Kishinev
 - 1. Brigade Kishinev (53. Volin and 54. Minsk Regiments – both from Kishinev)
 - 2. Brigade Bender (55. Podolsk Regiment in Bender, 56. Zhytomyr Regiment in Tiraspol)
 - 15. Infantry Division Odessa (57. Herson, 58. Nikolaev, 59. and 60. Odessa Regiments)
 - 4. Rifle Division (13., 14., 15. and 16. Odessa Regiments)
 - 8. Cavalry Division Kishinev
 - 1. Brigade Tiraspol (8. Regiment Dragons Tiraspol, 8. Regiment Lanciers Bălți)
 - 2. Brigade 2 Odessa (8. Regiment Hussars Kishinev, 8. Regiment Kossacks Don)
 - 8 Howitzer Division Tiraspol
 - 11. Pioneers Regiment and the Maritime Battalion
 - The Ochakov Citadel
- The Sevastopol Fortress.



Fig. B03.02. Example of mail sent from Bessarabia and censored in Odessa

Russian postcard 4 kop., written in Romanian in the Bessarabian village of Tomai and addressed to the brother in Vaslui, Romania, postmarked in Leova with **ЛЕОВО БЕС.** on 19 November 1915 (**1 December 1915** in new style). Although Kishinev's censorship office appears to be active at the time, censorship took place at distance in Odessa with a handstamp of type **OR1(237)**, also affixed on the reverse side.

Russian censorship had to be studied separately on each Military District as it seems that each district had its own norms regarding the shape of the handstamps – described below: type P, OR and OD are specific only to the Odessa District (plus Poltava and Podolia Governorates, from Kiev Military District!!). Moreover, Speckaert observed at one point that the handstamps that indicated only a number and the acronyms of the Military Districts – thus without the name of the locality – have also been used in places other than the district capital. This has happened probably in mobile units – as the author cautiously stated –, exemplifying, in the case of the **O.B.O.**, the Kerch office, where the handstamp with the number 7 could be positively allocated in 1916-1917. Unfortunately, he did not continue his reasoning with more courage. I personally believe that in each Military District a numerical list of censors was established starting with 1, allocated sequentially and chronologically to the various censorship offices. According to the theory, in the case of Bessarabia, the first censors had the no. 2, 3, 4 and 5 (in Kishinev), 6 (in Bender), 10 (in Orhei), 12 (in Ungheni and then, when it became necessary to hire a new censor, he received the number reached at that time, respectively 254), 19 (in Bolgrad), 20 (in Nemțeni), 25 (Hotin?), 51 (in Tiraspol), etc. This is not about *mobile units*, but about stable **censorship offices in the territory**. According to the same principle, the

³¹ Mironova Irina Sergueevna - *Военная цензура почтовой корреспонденции одесского почтово-телеграфного округа в период первой мировой войны* (Wartime censorship monitoring of the mail correspondence at the Odessa district's post and telegraph Office during the first world war), Исторические науки, этнология и археология Moscova, No. 1(23)/2014, pag. 54-57.

numerical handstamps without a locality from other Military Groups should be interpreted similarly. In the case of these Military Groups, there are two situations regarding censorship: for those from Dvinsk, Kiev, Minsk, Petrograd and the Caucasus, there applied a total censorship applied, while for those from Moscow, Don territory, Kazan, Turkestan, Omsk, Irkutsk and Priamur, there was only partial censorship.

The censorship offices of the **O.B.O.** known so far, were the following –in parentheses is the known censor numbers that support, for the time being, the theory stated above:

- **Bessarabia Governorate:** Akkerman (7), Bender (6), Bolgrad (19), Hotin (25?), Ismail, Kishinev (2, 3, 4, 5), Nemțeni (20), Orhei (10), Tatarbunar, Ungheni (12, 254).
- **Kherson Governorate:** Elisavetgrad, Golovanevsk (1), Kherson (17), Tiraspol (51), Odessa (see more numbers below), etc.
- **Yekaterinoslav Governorate:** Debaltsevo, Ekaterinoslav (151, 153, 154), Iuzovka, Lozovaia, Mariupol, Nikopol (170), Pavlograd, Sinelnikovo, etc
- **Taurida Governorate:** Alushta, Evpatoria (133, 134), Kerchi (7, reassigned from Akkerman?), Sevastopol (23, 105, 108), Simferopol (71),
- **Podolia Governorate** (from Kiev Military District!): Zhmerinka.
- **Poltava Governorate** (from Kiev Military District!): Kremenciuk (220), Poltava.

Types of censor handstamps used in the O.B.O.:

- Provisional **Type P**, with two sub-types:
 - **P1** – bi-linear, with the text **а) ВСКРЫТО ВОЕННОЙ ЦЕНЗУРОЙ / Одесса Военный Цензоръ** (= *OPEN BY MILITARY CENSORSHIP / Military Censor*), seen between March 1915 – March 1916 (this type is common to many censorship offices in the Odessa District, namely: Alushta, Bender, Kishinev, Ekaterinoslav, Elisabetgrad, Evpatoria, Ismail, Kremenchug, Pavlograd, Simferopol, Sinelnikovo, etc), or **б) ОДЕССА ВСКРЫТО / ВОЕННОЙ ЦЕНЗУРОЙ** (July 1915 – August 1916).
 - **P2** – bi-linear, with the text **а) ВСКРЫТО / Военной Цензурой** (November 1914 – February 1915), or **б) Вскрыто военной Цензурой / Цензоръ** (November 1914 – November 1915), so without mentioning the locality.
- **Type OR1**, which followed the standard that had been used throughout the Empire – that of neutral handstamps with the text **Д.Ц.** (abbreviation of **ДОЗВОЛЕНО ЦЕНЗУРОЙ** = *Passed by censorship*). We need to highlight the fact that within the Odessa District the design was unitary, in the form of a rectangle with wavy edges – some of the first handstamps and those from series 300 have a straight border. Inside, on the first row, was the aforementioned abbreviation, and on the second row, the censor's number; for example: 45*, 99*, 119*, 128, 144, 145, 200, 237*, 240, 241, 243, 250*, 251*, 252*, 256*, 257*, 261, 262, 263*, 265*, 268*, 269*, 287*, 290*, 295, 318*, 340, 341, and so on. The numbers with an asterisk * are accompanied by the Odessa postmark, so their location is confirmed, certainly belonging to this office. The period of use observed for the time being is **18 June 1915 – January 1917**. An essential thing, ignored until now, is that the stamps were distributed *to all the censorship offices* in the **O.B.O.**, with the most frequent and most common, obviously, being those from the city of Odessa. It seems that *most* of the smallest numbers (1...25) were allocated to Bessarabia.



Type **OR1**: straight border

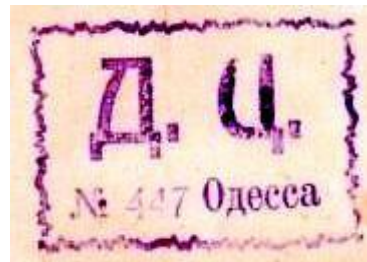


Type **OR1**: No. 252 and 257 (Odessa), wavy border



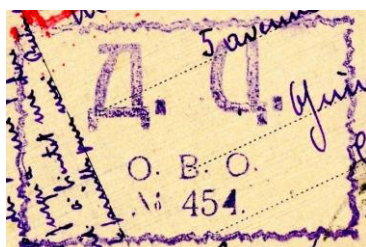
- **Type OR2**, which was trying to solve the problem of mentioning the place of censorship by adding the name of the office, which could be done:
 - **Subtype OR2a:** by applying an additional handstamp with the name of the censorship office. For the time being, only the additional stamp **Одесса** is known. Some examples: 163, 230, 241, 245, 257, 302, 357, 367, 389, etc. The period of use was at least between **June 1916 – January 1917**.

- **Subtype OR2b**: the newly hired censors received newly-made handstamps with the name of the city *included*, see for example 403, 446, 447. Starting with **December 1916**, the name **Одесса** is the only one that can be encountered.

Type **OR2a**: No. 245 and 257, **Одесса** with separate handstampType **OR2b**: No. 447, **Одесса** included in the design

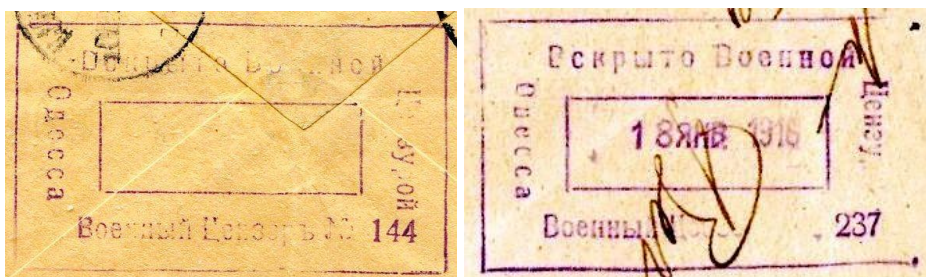
- **Type OR3**, which preserves the original concept, but adds to the text of the handstamps the abbreviation **O.B.O.**, probably to differentiate them from other Д.Ц. stamps in the Empire, without revealing the exact place of censorship. These are as follows:
 - **Subtype OR3a**: the abbreviation was added horizontally, between the group Д.Ц. and the number. Examples: 432*, 440, 454*, etc.
 - **Subtype OR3b**: the abbreviation was added vertically, to fill the existing spaces in the older stamps of type OR1 (the space between Д and Ц, or the space to the left or right of the group Д.Ц.). Examples: 105, 145, 256, 268*, 287*, 295, 297*, 333, 346, 372, 378, 381*, 390, etc.
 - **Subtype OR3c**: the abbreviation was added horizontally to the right of the number, replacing the name of the city in the OR2b stamps. Examples from the series 400: 440, 441, 443*, 445, 446*, 447*, 448*, 462, etc;

Obviously, again, most of the handstamps are expected to come from Odessa. The period of general use is at least between **November 1916 – January 1918**.

Type **OR3a**: No. 454 (Odessa)Type **OR3b**: No. 346Type **OR3c**: No. 443 and 446 (Odessa)

- **Type OD1**, of a new layout and *specific to the Odessa Military District* (plus two governorates from Kiev Military District) with a double rectangular frame with the inner text: **Вскрыто Военной * Цензурой / Военный Цензорь No.** (= *Open by Military * Censorship / Military Censor No.*). The name of the office is on the left and the number of the censor at the appropriate place. In the small rectangle, a different handstamp with a mobile date was usually applied. Such handstamps are known with the name **Одесса** (written in lowercase or capital letters, with the censor numbers: 144, 237, 245, 257, 326), and were issued at least between **June 1915 – October 1916**. They were issued from other censorship offices as well: Bender (Fig. B03.04, 03.05), Bolgrad, Ismail (Fig. B03.06), Kishinev (Fig.

B03.08, 03.09), Yekaterinoslav, Kremenciug, Nemtzeni (Fig. B03.10), Nikopol, Orhei, Ungheni, Tiraspol, Imerinka, etc.



- **Type OD2**, results from the previous type, to which the name of the city was removed from the left, and then:
 - **Subtype OD2a**, the abbreviation O.B.O. was added on the same place, integrated in the text of the stamp (it may be written in both directions). Examples: 145*, 241*, 256*, 323, 373*, etc. Period of use at least **January – July 1917**;
 - **Subtype OD2b**, the abbreviation O.B.O. was added as handwritten, see Kishinev (**November 1917**).
 - **Subtype OD2c**, the place of the city remained empty, a situation encountered in Bessarabia in February 1918, after the dissolution of the Odessa Military District and the transformation into the Romanian Soviet Front (see Fig. B03.13).



Type OD2: No. 145, O.B.O downwards



Type OD2: No. 373, O.B.O upwards

B03A. Handstamps of the Russian censorship in Bessarabia and P.M.R.

B03/01. – AKKERMANN

(today 67701 Білгород-Дністровський, Odessa Oblast, Ukraine)



Fig. B03.03

Postcard postmarked **АККЕРМАНЪ БЕС.** on 24 July / 6 August 1915 and addressed to Russian prisoner Petra Karionof Wusatenn in the german POW Camp Deutsch-Gabel. Censored in Akkerman with the handstamp B03/01.1, transit by Wien, arrival in the german camp, where it was re-censored with a bi-linear handstamp (Kriegsgefangenenlager kommando / Deutsch-Gabel).

ⓄB03/01.1: rectangular handstamps of type **OR1**, with the text Д.Ц. / No. 7), size of 38-39 x 30 mm. Applied in black-violet ink around 6 August 1915, see Fig. B03.03.

Most probably the number 7 was later re-assigned to **Kerch** censor office (Taurida, today Crimea) at least during November 1916 – October 1917 (see the Speekaert catalog), an office which used atypical censor handstamps.



B03/02. – BENDER

(today Bender / Tighina, Republic of Moldova)

As of 1914 the command of the 2nd Brigade of the 14. Infantry Division and the 55. Regiment Podolsk were quartered in the city. The Bender Fortress was also part of the O.B.O.

In the Office of Censorship, at least **censor no. 6** was active.

ⓄB03/02.1: provisional bilinear handstamp of type **Pl a**, with the text **ВСКРЫТО ВОЕННОЙ ЦЕНЗУРОЙ** / Бендеры Военный Цензорь, affixed in red ink in April 1915, accompanied by a signature in pencil. Not seen by the author (illustration Skipton & Michalove).

ВСКРЫТО ВОЕННОЙ ЦЕНЗУРОЙ
Бендеры Военный Цензорь

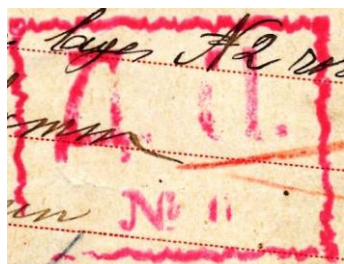


Fig. B03.04

Postcard postmarked **МАНЗЫЛР БЕСС** (Manzylr, today Liscne in Ukraine) on 13/26 October 1915 and addressed to Russian prisoner Gavril Fomin in the German POW Camp Altdamm. Censored in Bender with the handstamp ⓄB03/02.2, arrival in the German camp, where it was re-censored (*Geprüft*).

ⓄB03/02.2: rectangular handstamps of type **OR1**, with the text Д.Ц. / No. 6), size of 39-40 x 30 mm. Applied in red ink around 14 October 1915, see Fig. B03.04.

ⓄB03/02.3: rectangular handstamp of Type **OD1**, size 60 x 34 mm, with the text **Бендеры * Вскрыто Военной * Цензурой** / Военный Цензорь No. 6 (Bender * Opened by the Military * Censorship / Military Censor No. 19), applied in red or violet ink between 31 December 1915 – 12 October 1916, see Figs. B03.05 and B03.06.



/02.2: 14 October 1915



/02.3: 12 October 1916



Fig. B03.05: Mail to Denmark, censored in the Russian office Bender.

Registered cover sent from Bender to the *Danish Red Cross, Copenhagen Prisoners of War Agency* (dealing with the issue of Russian prisoners in Allied countries), postmarked **БЕНДЕРЫ БЕСС** on 27 September 1916 (**10 October 1916**, new style), with censorship in the local office two days later (29 September) with the stamp **ЦБ03/02.3**, arrival **KOPENHAVEN** on 24 November 1916.

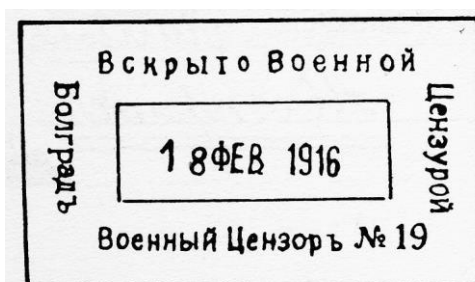


Fig. B03.06: Postcard sent from Cimislia to Lieutenant Nissar Popescu, prisoner in the German camp Neisse, postmarked ЧИМИШЛИЯ БЕСС. On 24/6 February 1916, linear handstamp Correspondence of prisoners of war (in Russian), postmarked in transit БЕНДЕРЫ БЕСС on 5/18 February 1916, local censorship with the handstamp ЦБ03/02.3, but with the central date missing, censorship on arrival in the camp Geprüft – Dolmetscher (Verified / Translator)

B03/03. – BOLGRAD

(today 68700 Болград, Odessa Oblast, Ukraine)

ЦБ03/3.1: rectangular handstamp of type **OD1**, probable size ca. 60 x 34 mm, with the text **Болград * Вскрыто Военной * Цензурой / Военный Цензорь No. 19** (Bolgrad * Opened by the Military * Censorship / Military Censor No. 19), applied in red ink in **3 March 1916**. Not seen by the author (illustration Thielk).



B03/04. – IZMAIL

(today 68600 Измайл, Odessa Oblast, Ukraine)

ЦБ03/04.1: bi-linear handstamp of type **P1**, with the text **ВСКРЫТО ВОЕННОЙ ЦЕНЗУРОЙ / Измаиль Военный Цензорь**; without other informations³². Not seen by the author (illustration Thielek).

³² Reported only by H.M.T. Richter – *Beiträge zur russischen Feldpost*, Germania Berichten 1915-1918.

©B03/04.2: rectangular handstamp of type **OD1**, size 60 x 35 mm, with the text **Измаиль * Вскрыто Военной * Цензурой / Военный Цензорь No.** (*Izmail * Opened by the Military * Censorship / Military Censor No.*), applied in violet ink on **21 February 1916** (number not visible, probably not printed).

ВСКРЫТО ВОЕННОЙ ЦЕНЗУРОЙ
Измаиль Военный Цензорь



/04.1:

/04.2: 21 February 1916



Fig. B03.07.

Upated postcard 3+1 kop., written in Russian in *Izmail* on **8/21 February 1916**, cancelled on same day with the postmark **ИЗМАИЛЬ БЕСС** and censored by the local censoring office with the handstamp **©B03/04.2**. Addressed to Brăila, in Romania

B03/05. – KHOTYN

(today 60000 Хотин, Cernăuți Oblast, Ukraine)

Theoretically, there should have been a censorship office in **Hotin**, as it was a county capital. On a postcard stamped here on **1 October 1914**, there is a censor handstamp of **OR1** type (small type) with the number **25**. Usually, this type is associated exclusively with Odessa; however, could this be the very first censorship handstamp in Khotyn? It is possible if we consider that the region was in the immediate vicinity of the Austro-Hungarian front in Bessarabia. Confirmation required.



B03/06. – KISHINEV

(today Chișinău, capital of Republic of Moldova)

In 1914, the following units were deployed in the city: the command of the 14th Infantry Division and the 1st Brigade, the 53rd Volin and 54th Minsk Regiments, the command of the 8th Cavalry Division and the 8th Hussars Regiment. This is the censor office with the longest known activity in Bessarabia, at least between **11 June 1915** –... **13 December 1916** (with a possible interruption in autumn 1915 and/or winter 1915/1916). This is where at least censors No. **2, 3, 4** and **5** operated.

©B03/06.1: bilinear handstamp of type **P1**, with the text **ВСКРЫТО ВОЕННОЙ ЦЕНЗУРОЙ / Кишинев Военный Цензорь**, accompanied by a circular handstamp with the inner abbreviation **Д.Ц.** (**©B03/06.2**), most probably used at the same office, on a correspondence addressed to the Danish Red Cross, with arrival at KOPENHAGA on **11 June 1915** (*image source: web 2014*).

©B03/06.3: rectangular handstamps of type ORI, with the text Д.Ц. / No. (numbers known so far: 3, 4, 5), in addition to which a mobile date handstamp was generally applied. Period of use: at least between 1 January ... – 13 May 1916.

- (3): 4 March – 1 May 1916.
- (4): 1 January 1916 ... 16 March – 9 April 1916.
- (5): 15 – 30 March 1916



.../06.1 + /06.2



.../06.3: March 1916



9 April 1916



15 March 1916



Fig. B03.08: Mail censored in the Russian Kishinev office

Russian postcard 4 Kop., cancelled with a neutral grid XX postmark in Kishinev, censored locally with the postmark ©B03/06.3(4) on 18 March 1916 (= 31 March 1916), addressed to Iași, in Romania.



Fig. B03.09: Mail censored in the Russian Kishinev office

Envelope sent by an ethnic Polish from the Russian army to the Polish Committee in Stockholm, Sweden, postage stamps cancelled with a neutral stamp XX (used at Kishinev post office), censored in the local office on 28 June (11 July 1916, new style) with the handstamp ©B03/06.4(2), arrival STOCKHOLM 1 * ANK * AVD on 4 October 1916.

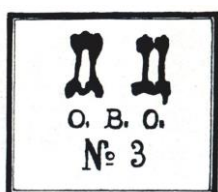
ⓄB03/6.4: rectangular handstamp type **OD1**, with the text **Кишинев * Вскрыто Военной * Цензурой / Военный Цензорь No.** (*Kishinev * Opened by the Military * Censorship / Military Censor No...* ; numbers known so far: 2, 4 and 5), applied in violet ink between **1 January – 11 July 1916**.

- **(2):** 11 July 1916.
- **(4):** 24 May 1916.
- **(5):** ...



Since the autumn of 1916 apparently all mail that *arrived* in Kishinev was censored by the Odessa office.

ⓄB03/06.5: rectangular stamp equivalent of the type **OD2b**, with the text **Вскрыто Военной * Цензурой / Военный Цензорь No.** (without the name of the city), in which the acronym **O.B.O.**, and the censor number **2** were completed by hand, on 30 November 1916 (**13 December 1916**, new style).



ⓄB03/06.6?: a handstamp of type **OR3a** is illustrated by Speckaert as belonging to the Odessa office; probably it is a censor number re-assigned to other place (similar to No. 7 Akkermann/Kerch), at a date when Kishinev was out of service. Dimensions 45 x 39 mm, applied in purple ink in **April 1917**.



Fig. B03.10: International mail censored by the Russian Kishinev office

Registered cover sent from Kishinev/Chişinău to Romania, postmarked **КИШИНЕВЪ** on 29 November 1916 (**12 December 1916**, new style), local censor with the adapted handstamp **ⓄB03/06.5(2)** on 30 November / 13 December (with the censor number / 2 / added by hand), Romanian censorship in Iaşi on 29 December 1916 (two red handstamps type **ⓄB04/01.01da** and **ⓄB04/01.6**, affixed to a closing label **ⓄB04/01.92**), arrival postmark **IAŞI** on **30 December 1916**.

B03/02. – NEMTZENI

(today Nemţeni, Hânceni district, Republic of Moldova)

This is an absolute new discovery, the name of this office having been unknown until now. **Nemţeni** was (and still is) but a small village, so the establishment of a censorship office can only be justified by its position on the Prut river, therefore on the border with Romania. Very probably at that time there was a local bridge over the Prut river (destroyed in 1941-1944 and totally removed in 1945). Thus, we are dealing with a new category of offices — those serving as border censorship offices — such as Ungheni likely was and perhaps others still unknown.

ⓄB03/07.1: rectangular handstamp of type **OD1**, size 60 x 35 mm, with the text **Ньмцены * Вскрыто Военной ***



Цензурой / Военный Цензорь No. 20 (*Nemtzeni * Opened by the Military * Censorship / Military Censor No.20*), applied in violet ink on 7 March 1916.



Fig. B03.11

Uprated postcard 3+1 kop., written in Romanian in *Nemtzeni* on 17/2 March 1916, cancelled on 20/5 March 1916 with the postmark **НЪМЦЕНЫ БЕСС** and censored by the local censoring office in **20/7 March 1916** with the handstamp **ⓄB03/07.1**. Addressed to Gorban, Falcu county, in Romania

B03/08. – ORGEEV

(today Orhei, Republic of Moldova)

ⓄB03/8.1: rectangular handstamp of type **OD1**, with the text **Оргъевъ * Вскрыто Военной * Цензурой / Военный Цензорь No. 10** (*Orhei * Opened by the Military * Censorship / Military Censor No. 10*), applied in green ink in April 1916. Not seen by the author (*illustration Skipton & Michalove*).



B03/09. – TATARBUNARY

(today 68100/4 Татарбунары, Odessa Oblast, Ukraine)



Fig. B03.12.

Postcard sent by the family to the prisoner of war *Socnan Kopilnikov*, from an Austrian labor unit assigned to the Military Post 501 (= *Stage Command of the 1st Army*, Poland), linear stamp with the text **Correspondence of prisoners of war** (in Russian), censored by the Russian office Tatarbunary with handstamps **ⓄB03/9a** and **ⓄB03/9b**, postmarked by the railway ambulance **АККЕРМАНЬ 335 ЛЕЙПЦИГСКАЯ** (Akkerman – Leipzig) on 7/20 June 1916. Triangular censorship of the Vienna prisoners' office.

Two atypical and specific handstamps (found only together) were used here, applied in purple ink between **20 June – 10 July 1916**³³.

³³ Another example in the exhibit of David M. Skipton - *Military Censorship in Imperial Russia 1904-1917*, file 141, posted on the address http://www.exponet.info/exhibit.php?exhibit_ID=758&lng=EN

ⓄB03/9.1A: linear handstamp of ca. 65 x 2,5 mm, with the text **Татарбунарской п.-т. конторь** (*Tatarbunary Post & Telegraph Office*).

ⓄB03/9.1B: rectangular handstamp of 35,5 x 29,5 mm, with the text **Д. Ц.,**

B03/10. – TIRASPOL

(today Tiraspol / Тирасполь, Republic of Moldova / PMR Transnistria)

As of 1914, the garrison was formed by the 56th Zhytomyr Regiment, the headquarters of the 1st Brigade from 8th Cavalry Division, the 8th Dragoons Regiment, and the 8th Howitzer Division. This office was unknown to Speckaert, where at least censor no. 51 was active.

ⓄB03/10.1: rectangular handstamp of type **OD1**, with the text **Тирасполь * Вскрыто Военной * Цензурой / Военный Цензорь No. 51** (*Tiraspol * Opened by the Military * Censorship / Military Censor No. 51*), applied in violet ink at 12/25 November 1915³⁴



B03/11. – UNGHENI

(today Ungheni, Republic of Moldova)

This office was unknown to Skipton, where at least censors no. 12 and 254 were active. According to Russian archives, from November 1914 to February 1915 (August 1916, according to other sources), mail from POWs in Russian camps addressed to Austria-Hungary and Turkey had to be sent to Ungheni (transiting Romania) instead of Petrograd. However, this mail was usually censored in Odessa, not in Ungheni.

ⓄB03/11.1: rectangular handstamp of type **OR1**, with the text **Д.Ц. / No. 12**, without mobile date handstamp, dimensions 39 x 30 mm, applied in purple ink between **11 October – 3 November 1915**, on terminal mail as well as on transit mail (for example from Bershad - Podolia to *Csót bei Papa* POW camp in Hungary, via Romania).



ⓄB03/11.2: rectangular handstamp of type **OD1**, dimensions 60 x 35 mm, with the text **Унгени * Вскрыто Военной * Цензурой / Военный Цензорь No. 254** (*Ungheni * Opened by the Military * Censorship / Military Censor No. 254*), applied in violet ink between **December 1915 – 8 February 1916** [**B03.4**].



Fig. B03.13

Postcard written in Russian by a soldier of the 409th Infantry Regiment, postmarked on 25 September 1915 by the reserve military post office no. 108 (**ЗАПАСН. ПОЛЕВ * КОМТ N. 108**, assigned to the 32nd Army Corps), Censored on arrival in Ungheni with the handstamp **ⓄB03/11.1**, postmarked **УНГЕНИ * БЕСС** on 29 September 1915 (**12 October 1915**, new style).

³⁴ The image was taken from Mr. David M. Skipton exhibit - *Military Censorship in Imperial Russia 1904-1917*, file 142.

B03.20. – The Russian Censorship after January 1918

The postcard in *Fig. B03.13* is as rare as it is unexpected. Essentially, this concerns Russian mail censorship in Bessarabia during the Romanian military occupation of the region! It was circulated from Bolgrad (1/14 February 1918, a city occupied by Romanian forces on 25 January 1918) to Kishinev, where it arrived on 6/19 April 1918 — which was occupied by the Romanians on 26 January. This means it covered a distance of 175 kilometers in two months, reaching its destination ten days after the proclamation of the Union of Bessarabia with Romania.

Although postal service in the province resumed on 3 March 1918 with the *old Russian offices* and their postal employees — since the Romanian takeover of the post offices in Bessarabia occurred only on 1 July 1918 — postal censorship was under the authority of the Romanian military, not the Russian postal administration. Such situations were likely possible only in the first days of the reinstated Russian postal service and only for internal correspondence within Bessarabia. Mail sent to Romania, which was mostly military-related, was initially censored in Iași.



Fig. B03.14. Late Russian censorship during the Romanian occupation of Bessarabia

Romanian postcard (Villa of former ruler Cuza-Vodă in Galati), written in Russian and addressed to Chisinau, postmarked БОЛГРАД on 1/14 February 1918, censored with a neutral handstamp B03/20.1 in a undisclosed location (probably Kishinev), arrival КИШИНЕВЬ on 6/19 April 1918.

--oo0oo--

As we have seen, these types of censorship handstamps were also used outside the Odessa Military District, namely in two governorates of the Kiev Military District, *Podolsk* and *Poltava* (in the rest of the Kiev District a totally different type of handstamp was used). Here is a postcard sent from the Podolsk Governorate (cancelled **Volochysk** Railway Station), with transit with both *military postmark* and *censor handstamp* type **OD1** from **Zhmerynka** on 12 June 1916. I illustrate it here as a supplement, because the



city of Zhmerynka would later be part of **Transnistria** (a territory stretching over the former governorates Kharkov and Podolsk), which may be an area of potential interest for some Romanian collectors due to the short period of Romanian military occupation from 1941-1944. From **Transnistria**, therefore, handstamps are known to date only in **Zhmerynka** (first reported here) and **Tiraspol** (B03/10.1).

B03B. The Russian censorship in occupied Bukovina.

During the Russian occupation of Austro-Hungarian Bukovina, there were no special censorship offices for civil correspondence; this was occasionally executed by the military censorship offices of the major occupational units. At first glance, we could say that the correspondence from or to occupied Bukovina was censored in at least two situations:

B03B/1 – Russian Censorship in transit on mail from or to Bukovina

This is probably the most frequent situation. In *Fig. B03.15*, *03.17* and *03.18*, examples can be seen where censorship took place in the main center of Odessa, while in *Fig. B03.16*, an example is shown where censorship in transit occurred in Kiev.



Fig. B03.15: International mail from Bukovina censored by Russians in Odessa

Private civilian cover mailed by Jacob Fleischer of Korlata, Post Dragojestie, cancelled ЭТАПНОЕ ПОЧТ. ТЕЛЕГР. ОТДѢЛ. No. 212 by the closest Russian military unit in the area, the 1st Terek Cossaks Division in Suczawa, on 5/18 July 1917 (as civilian post offices were not working during the Russian occupation of Bukovina), addressed to the Polish Committee in Stockholm, Sweden, censored in transit by an Odessa handstamp type OD2 (censor no. 145) on 13/26 July 1917. Arrival STOCKHOLM on 8 September 1917.



Fig. B03.16. International mail to Bukovina censored by Russians in Kiev.

Postcard written on 29 November 1916 by a Romanian Bukovinian prisoner from the Italian POW camp in Avezzano, sent to his family in Arbore village, passed through the Red Cross censorship for prisoners in Rome and Vienna (where a form for missing persons was also filled on 30 January 1917, according to the linear administrative handstamp on 5 rows).

As most of Bukovina (including Arbore) was under Russian occupation at that time, the third censorship was the Russian one in transit through Kiev (the large rectangular handstamp of censor no. 37).

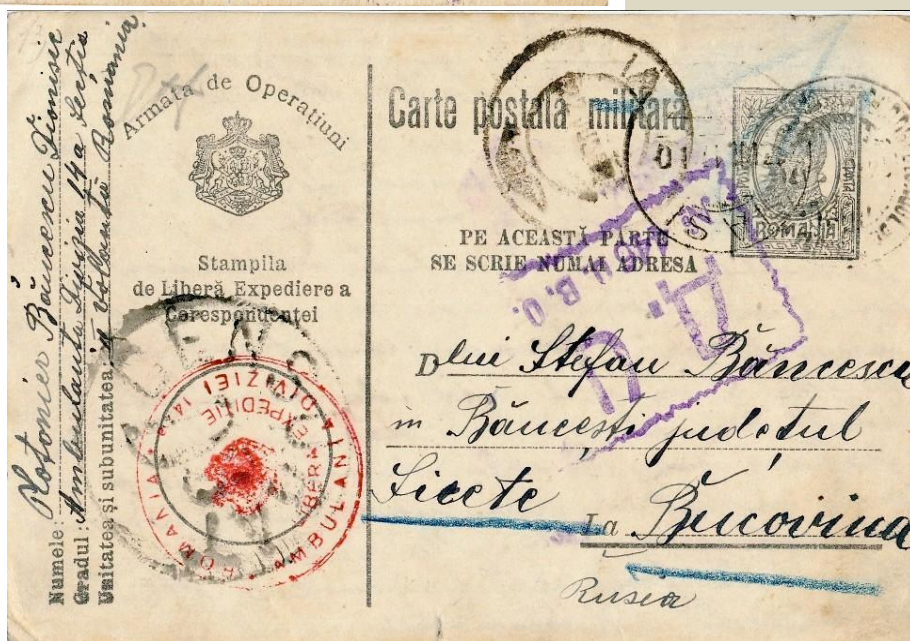


Fig. B03.17. Romanian mail to occupied Bukovina, censored by Russians in Odessa.

Romanian field postcard postmarked IAȘI on 4 July 1917, censored and forwarded from IAȘI with [B04/01.1](#) and [B04/02.10A\(H\)](#) on 5 July, re-censored by the Russian office in Odessa with a [OR3c](#) type (censor 446), addressed to a Romanian militarymen in the Russian Hospital Tavriski Cernăuți, occupied Bukovina.

Fig. B03.18. Romanian mail to occupied Bukovina, censored by Russians in Odessa.

Romanian field postcard written by a member of the 14. Infantry Division (red handstamp in lower-left area) postmarked IAȘI on 13 July 1917, censored with [B04/01.1](#) and [B04/02.8\(D3\)](#) and forwarded from IAȘI on 22 July, re-censored by the Russian office in Odessa with a [OR3c](#) type (censor 446), addressed to a civilian in occupied Bukovina.



B03B/2 – Local Bukovinian Russian Censorship Handstamps

Local censorship is confirmed by extremely rare special cancellations, which is why the subject was practically unknown until recently.

[B03/30](#): The first cancellation was published in the Russian censorship catalogue from 1990 by Speeckaert [B03.3], based solely on an incomplete illustration dating from 1932! The author assigned this handstamp to the *Western Russian Army Commandment*, but the text directly refers to the *Russian-occupied area of Austro-Hungarian territories* (practically, this was limited to Bukovina and a part of Galicia):

The text is: **Вскрыто военной цензурой Воин-/наго Генераль-Губернаторства об-/ластей Австро-Венгрии, занятых по / праву войны / Военный цензорь No. 14** (= *Open by Military Censorship / of the Military General Governorship / of the Austro-Hungarian Regions / occupied by right of war / Military*



Censor No. ...), dimensions 52 x 36,5 mm, applied

in violet ink on **5 July 1917**, with censor numbers known so far: **1** (see Fig. B03.20), **14** (see Fig. B03.19) and **72**. The location of this cachet cannot be established precisely; it is possible that it was used in Chernivtsi/Czernowitz, but it could also have been used in one of the larger Galician cities, such as Kolomea.



Fig. B03.19: International mail from Bukovina, locally censored by Russians

Private civilian cover mailed by Maria Czmilak, Storozynec, Bukowina, addressed to the Polish Committee in Stockholm, Sweden. Without departure postmark, however censored by the Russians in Bukovina or Galitia with **OB03/30** on 22/5 July 1917. Arrival STOCKHOLM on 26 July 1917.

Fig. B03.20: Russian field post mail from the Romanian Front to Kiev, locally censored

Russian Field Postcard cancelled **ЭТАПНОЕ ПОЧТ. ТЕЛЕГР. ОТДЪЛ. No. 213** (= the Zaamurskaya Division, on the Moldavian Front with the 9th Army) on 24 March / **6 April 1917**, censored in Bukovina or Galitia with the handstamp **OB03/30** (censor No. 1). Arrival KIEV on 26 March / 8 April 1917 (source: Facebook 2020)



OB03/31: A second cancellation is unique and is in fact the only Russian military censorship handstamp positively located in Bukovina (see Fig. B03.21); its text is: **Вскрыто военной цензурой / Военный Цензоръ No. 11 / Штабъ VIII Арміи** (= Opened by Military Censorship / Military Censor no. 11 / Headquarters of 8th Army), size 56 x 23 mm, applied in blue ink on **5/18 June 1917** at the Russian 8. Army's HQ in Chernivtsi/Czernowitz.



We further deduce that there were at least another ten individual censor cancellations of this type.

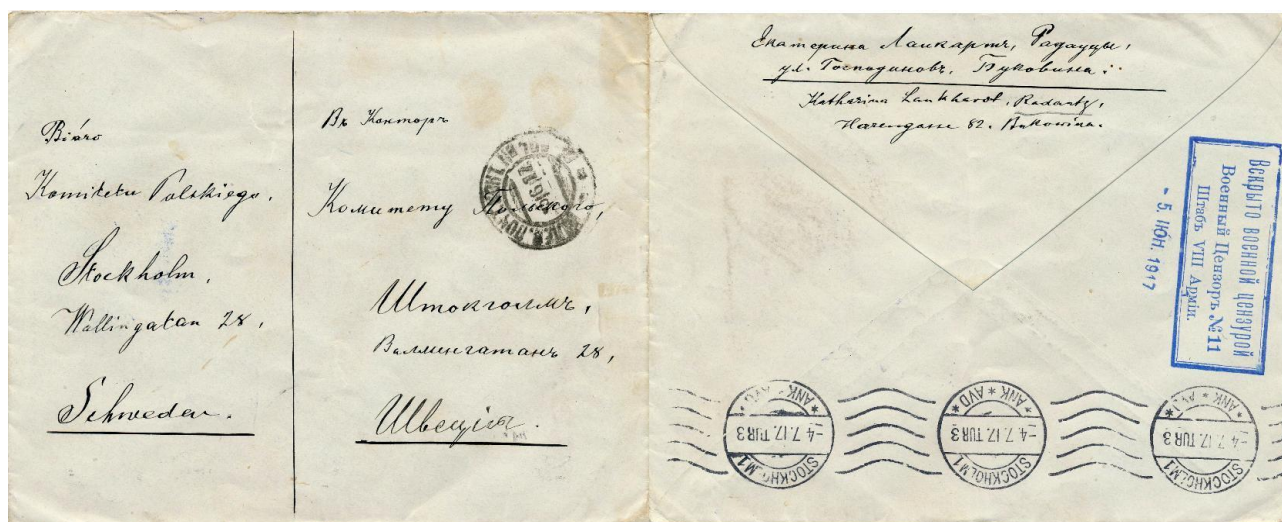


Fig. B03.21: International mail from Bukovina, locally censored by Russians in Chernivtsi/Cernăuți
Private civilian cover mailed by *Katherina Lankhart, Radautz, Bukowina*, addressed to the *Polish Committee in Stockholm, Sweden*. Postmarked and censored by the Russian 8. Army HQs in **Czernowitz** (postmark ПОЛЕВ. ПОЧТ. KOHT. No. 106 and censor handstamp **OB03/31** both on 5/18 June 1917. Arrival STOCKHOLM on 4 July 1917.

The Russians also used similar cachets in smaller commands, such as Army Corps, Divisions or even Regiments, so theoretically, we could encounter other military censorship cancellations applied to civil correspondences from or to Bukovina.

The Bessarabia Governorate in 1883,

bordered the *Podolia Governorate* to the north, the *Kherson Governorate* to the east, the *Black Sea* to the south, the *Romanian Kingdom* to the west, and the *Austrian Duchy of Bukovina* to the northwest.

(source: Wikipedia,

<http://www.bessarabia.ru/1883.jpg>)



B04. THE ROMANIAN CENSORSHIP IN OLD KINGDOM 1916-1919

As of August 1916, the Kingdom of Romania (also known as "The Old Kingdom") included the former principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia (united in 1859), Northern Dobruja (annexed in 1878), and Southern Dobruja — also known as "The Quadrilateral" — which became part of Romania in 1913, following the Second Balkan War. Prior to its entry into the First World War, the Kingdom of Romania did not practice postal censorship of civilian mail. However, Romania was not unfamiliar with postal censorship; it had previously been applied to military correspondence within the war zone, as we will see in [one future volume](#).

The outbreak of the Great War prompted the Romanian military authorities to establish a postal censorship service, almost certainly inspired by the example of other belligerent powers that had already implemented such measures within their national territories. Thus, on 9 May, by the Instructions of **5 January 1915**, the *News Surveillance Service* (= *Serviciul Supravegherii Știrilor*, SSS) was established. It was located in the Palace of the Central Post — today the National Museum of Romanian History. It was organized into two sections: the *Postal & Telegraphic Section* (with three components: the postal service with abroad, the telegraphic correspondence with abroad and the telephone correspondence), and the *Press Section* (divided into two compartments). The SSS service had amongst its tasks:

1. to intercept and promptly destroy any news about the Romanian operational Army that might reach the enemy;
2. to intercept the news concerning potential enemies that could be of interest to the Romanian authorities from a political and military point of view;
3. to inform public opinion with what it deems necessary, provided that it does not disclose any military secrets.

Immediately after the establishment of the SSS, the *Instructions relating to the control of private correspondence from the area of the army of operations and stages to the interior of the country and of private correspondence and messengers from within the country to the army, during the campaign*³⁵ entered into force. These do not concern us at the moment, as they refer to the censorship of military correspondence within the military structures. Instead, on **3 October 1915**, the first *Instructions regarding the organization and functioning of the military censorship offices* for civilian mails — intended to be established upon mobilization³⁶ — were approved. This fundamental document includes several sections of particular interest to collectors, excerpts of which are presented below:

- 1) The military censorship offices operate in the county seats, and their staff consists of three or six members, appointed by the Ministry of War, according to the importance of the capital in which they operate. In case of need, the Ministry of War will establish branches of these offices in the larger cities of the counties... The censorship offices will operate within the respective post offices, in the rooms made available for this purpose by the Postal Service.
- 2) Military censorship will be exercised on the following postal and telegraphic dispatches:
 - a) Private correspondence, money-orders, parcels and telegrams from within the country to the army;
 - b) Open internal correspondence — in cases of suspicion by postal or police personnel reported to censorship officers.
 - c) Private, simple (non-registered) internal correspondence in a closed envelope.
 - d) Private, registered internal correspondence.
 - e) Communiqués on the coupons of postal mandates.
 - f) Domestic private parcels and money shipments.
- 3) Control and censorship will be executed according to the following norms:

The control of correspondence and postal or telegraphic items from within the country to the army shall be carried out in accordance with the instructions in question. When these items contain *only a few forbidden data* — such as a date, a name of locality or army unit, etc. — they will not be destroyed but rather censored: by deleting these words with blue or black ink in the case of postcards, or by cutting them out with scissors in the case of letters enclosed in sealed (simple or registered) envelopes. Forbidden correspondences will be destroyed by the censorship offices, exclusively by burning, and immediately.

Open internal private correspondences will be controlled only in cases when postal staff suspect problematic content³⁷ or when police personnel have suspicions about the sender or recipient of these correspondences, reporting these suspicions to the censorship office.

³⁵ Published in excerpt in Bucharest, *Tipografia Curții Regale – F. Göbl și fii* in 1915, 15 pages.

³⁶ See the full text at Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...1914-1940*, pag. 11-13.

³⁷ Hence the fact that post clerks regularly read open mail.

Private correspondences in sealed envelopes, including registered letters, will be opened by cutting one edge of the envelope with scissors. Those found not to have prohibited information will be resealed with the special censure label and will be forwarded to their destination. Those that do contain too much forbidden information, and cannot be censored by cutting out of them, will be destroyed by burning (...)

All internal private telegrams are subject to military censorship at county capitals. Their content will be reviewed, the people who send them and those who receive them will be identified, as well as the frequency of the exchange of telegrams between certain persons will be assessed. In cases of suspicion, the telegrams will be forwarded, with annotation regarding the concern, by post to the Central Bureau of Military Censorship (...)

The inspection of private postal parcels addressed to the army will be carried out in accordance with the relevant instructions. Internal private parcels will be examined by censorship offices only with respect to written and printed materials. As far as content of a different nature is concerned, inspection falls under the responsibility of the postal staff (...) The control of money orders coupons and parcels will take place immediately upon presentation, at designated hours.

- 4) The delivery of correspondences addressed to the army, suspected open internal correspondences, and sealed internal correspondences for censorship will be carried out daily at 9 A.M. by the head of the postal office, accompanied by a Md.A. bulletin (*Model "A"*)

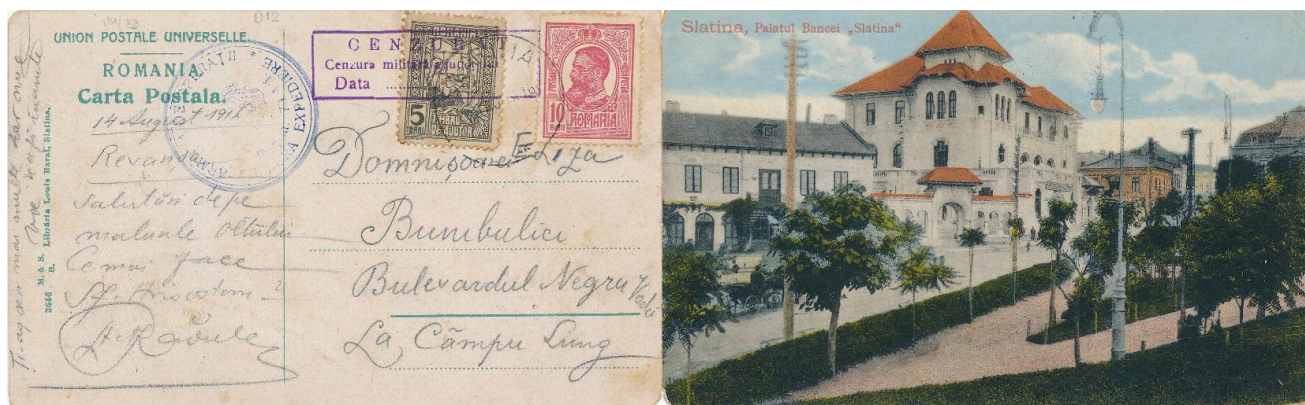
The return of this correspondence, after inspection and censorship, will take place daily at 8 A.M., and a return Md.B. bulletin (*Model "B"*) will be issued by the office of censorship to the head of the post office.

The delivery for inspection of registered internal correspondences, as well as their return to the offices, will be made through Md.C and D bulletins (*Model "C" and "D"*). The bulletins and slips/registers will be kept (...).

- 5) The period within which the censorship offices will have to inspect the correspondences (...) may not exceed 23 hours, i.e. from 9 A.M. from the day of their receipt, until the next day at 8 A.M., when they will return.
- 6) The working hours of the military censorship offices are set from 8 A.M. to 12 P.M. and from 2 to 6 P.M. If necessary, the number of working hours may be increased.

27 August 1916: The establishment of internal and external postal censorship.

Following the Crown Council meeting in Sinaia on 21 July / **3 August 1914**, it was decided that Romania would adopt a position of **neutrality**. Only on **14/27 August 1916** did Romania mobilize and declare war on Austria-Hungary. On the same day, the General Staff issued Decree no. 2798³⁸, proclaiming a **state of siege**, which also implied the establishment of postal and telegraphic censorship, in accordance with the specific instructions issued on 3 October 1915. The decree explicitly granted the military authority the right to "censor the press and any publications (...) to control any correspondence, whether incoming or outgoing, and to prevent from reaching their destination those deemed unfit".



28 August 1916: The FIRST DAY of operation of the Romanian Censorship.

Fig. B04.01. Illustrated postcard (a view from Slatina, Olt county), franked 10+5 bani, written and shipped from the *70th Infantry Regiment* (12th Infantry Division) on the very first day of mobilization on **14 August 1916** (old style) — as we can see from the manuscript's date. The word below the date ("**Revanșa**", i.e. *Retaliation*) says a lot about the mood of those days, and just as interesting is the rest of the text: "Greetings from the banks of the Olt River", and vertically: "I would write you more, but it's not permitted from today on", which confirms the institution of censorship. Postmark SLATINA on **28 August 1916** and subsequent censorship in the newly established local office, which applied the first type of censorship handstamp, a rectangular one with the text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a județului.... / Data...** (©B04/28.2)

Censorship was personally prepared and organized by I. G. Duca, Minister of Public Instruction and Religious Affairs. From the morning of 14/27 August 1916 — prior even to the official decree of

³⁸ Published in *Monitorul Oficial* no. 107, of 14 August 1916.

mobilization — postal, telegraph, telephone, and press communications were subject to censorship. The official announcement was made by Duca himself at 17.00 at the Central Post Office, in the presence of both Romanian and foreign journalists. Minister Duca personally assumed responsibility for press censorship as well, while the head of mail censorship was appointed as Lt. Schina.

Thus, the first operational day of military censorship was **15/28 August 1916**. On that date, censorship offices in the county capitals began their activity, overseeing all correspondence sent from or addressed to their respective counties. Simultaneously, the range of postal effects permitted was greatly limited. Initially, only newspapers approved by the censor and light internal correspondence were accepted: postal mandates, postcards, and letters in open (but not registered) envelopes.

The announcement published in the press³⁹ on **17/30 August 1916**, made the following references to censorship:

Correspondence – both domestic and international – is admissible only if unsealed (postcards and letters in unglued envelopes), written in clear language, and in Romanian or French. Simple registered items or cash on delivery mailings are not allowed until further notice. The public is informed that, during the first 10-15 days after mobilization, no correspondence intended for the military should not be deposited, — either in mailboxes or at post offices — as this interval is absolutely necessary for the organization of the military mail service.

Domestic or foreign parcels, postal packages, and value letters are not accepted from the public until further notice. ...



Fig. B04.02.
Early censored mail

The mobilization meant that trains were mainly used for transporting troops, which had a negative impact on civilian life, including the postal service. This fact is proven by the adjacent piece, postmarked PIATRA NEAMȚ on **27 August 1916** (the first day of mobilization), censored in the local office with [B04/21.2](#), but arrived at its destination in TÂRGU NEAMȚ (only 40 km to the north) only on **9 September 1916** — so 13 days later (collection [Mark London](#))

11 September 1916: Correspondence allowed for soldiers on the front

The General Directorate of Posts issued the following order through Circular No. 57900/916: "Starting on 29 August 1916 (**11 September 1916**), mail and postal orders addressed to military personnel are permitted. Correspondence addressed to military personnel of any rank is accepted only in the form of open postcards, and written in Romanian language, in clear language (...) Correspondence that is not allowed for the military: 'Post Restante' items, sealed postcards, newspapers, brochures and any other printed matter, business papers, and merchandise samples; only official army publications are allowed. Telegraphic money orders are not permitted for military personnel."

12 September 1916: Registered letters are finally allowed

Starting Tuesday, 30 August 1916 (**12 September 1916**), internal and external registered mail was permitted under the following conditions: registered correspondence had to be simple (i.e. without refund or receipt certificate), either open or in sealed envelopes, and written in Romanian or French, in clear language.

³⁹ *Evenimentul*, Iași, 18 August 1916.

18 September 1916: Extension of censorship to postal parcels⁴⁰

According to Circular No. 59420 issued by the Post General Directorate on 15 September 1916, the dispatch of domestic postal parcels was once again permitted, starting from **5/18 September 1916**. According to the 1915 Instructions for the Military Post, postal parcels were subject to dual verification:

- the inspection of documents and printed materials (censorship) was the responsibility of the county military censorship office;
- the inspection of other types of contents (the control) was the responsibility of the post office located in the county capital.

In reality, it seems that these operations were often carried out simultaneously, either by a mixed team of postal officials and military censorship personnel, or entirely by the censorship bodies. Art. 19, letter "f" of the instructions stipulated that packages meeting the established rules were to be marked with a handstamp reading: **PACHET CONTROLAT /** (name of the county post office); see *Fig. B04.03*.

November 1916: a rare example of use of the special censorship handstamps for postal parcels (in Turnu Severin)

Fig. B04.03: complete, not broken postal consignment sheet (thus associated with a parcel not delivered to the recipient), postmarked TURNU SEVERIN on **6 November 1916**, and then censored using the parcels censorship handstamp **ⓄB04/28.60**. On the reverse side of the coupon, there is a long correspondence (which would have required the censorship of the text) and the BACLEȘ arrival stamp on 8 November 1916, shortly before the evacuation of the area that was facing the enemy's advance.

The course of the war in its first year was unfavorable for Romania. Consequently, the whole of Wallachia and most of Dobruja (except for the Danube Delta) were occupied by the troops of the Central Powers from September/December 1916 until the beginning of November 1918. As a result, military operations led to different periods of activity for the censorship offices; those in Dobruja operated the shortest: Silistra and Durostor⁴¹ functioned for only a few days, Constanța until October, and Tulcea until December⁴². Starting in November 1916, censorship offices in Oltenia and Muntenia were gradually closed, as the Central Powers advanced after crossing the Carpathians. These included offices in Turnu Severin, Târgu Jiu, Craiova, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Caracal, Slatina, Pitești, Turnu Măgurele, Câmpulung Muscel, Târgoviște, Ploiești.

Shortly before the occupation of Bucharest, the Government decided to relocate all official institutions to **Iași**, the capital of Moldavia. Thus, on **12/25 November 1916** at 21.30, the Bucharest Censorship Office was evacuated by special train, transporting most of its materials and personnel to Iași (arriving on the evening of

⁴⁰ For details, see the author's article: Greu Dan-Simion – *Un domeniu necunoscut de colecționare: Controlul coletelor poștale 1916-1918 / A lesser-known collecting domain: Control of postal parcels, 1916-1918*, philatelica.ro nr. 24, pag. 12-17.

⁴¹ The county capitals were occupied as follows: Bazargic – 4 September 1916; Silistra – 10 September; Constanța – 22 October; Târgu-Jiu – 17 November; Craiova – 21 November; Turnu Severin – 22 November; Caracal – 23 November; Râmnicu Vâlcea – 25 November; Turnu Măgurele, Slatina și Giurgiu – 27 November; Pitești and Câmpulung – 28 November; Târgoviște – 3 December; București and Ploiești – 6 December; Buzău – 13 December; Tulcea – 23 December; Râmnicu Sărat – 28 December; Brăila – 4 January 1917; Focșani – 7 January.

⁴² In the summer of 1918, a censorship office called the 'Danube Delta' was opened (most probably in Chilia Veche) in the only territory of Dobruja that remained unoccupied after the campaign of 1916/1917 (located between the arms of the Danube - Sfântu Gheorghe and Chilia).

26 November 1916), where it continued operating until November 1918. It used its original censorship handstamps without changing the locality name — the so-called usage *'in refuge'* similar to the case of the Austro-Hungarian offices Brassó, Orsova, Czernowitz, and Kolomeea during the same period.

The defeat at the Argeş River and the declaration of Bucharest as an open city led to the German-Austro-Hungarian advance toward the Siret River, resulting in the closure of the Romanian censorship offices in December at Călăraşi, Slobozia (an additional office established to censor correspondence from foreign internment camps in Ialomiţa County), Buzău, Râmnicu-Sărat, Focşani, and Brăila. All of these would only reopen in November - December 1918, marking the restoration of Romanian authority after the evacuation of the territory by Mackensen's troops.

In contrast, all the censorship offices in Moldavia, north of the demarcation line, continued to operate without interruption until censorship was lifted in the Old Kingdom on **21 November 1919**. These offices included Bacău, Bârlad, Botoşani, Dorohoi, Fălticeni, Galaţi, Huşi, Iaşi (which, since 1917, also used the Bucharest 'refugee' censorship materials), Piatra Neamţ, Roman, Tecuci, and Vaslui.

Excurs: The case of Colonel Verzea – postal-telegraphic espionage in favor of the Central Powers⁴³

Born in Săcele, the son of the village priest, the Transylvanian **Victor Verzea** studied at the "Andrei Şaguna" High School in Braşov. He later crossed the border into the Romanian Kingdom illegally, where he was received warmly, as were many Transylvanian Romanians. He was admitted to the Military School of Artillery Officers, from which he graduated with the rank of second lieutenant.

Verzea married the daughter of General Tamara, and through his father-in-law's connections, he received various positions at the Arsenal, the Pyrotechnics Division, and the War Ministry. He was eventually dismissed from the army for leaking military secrets to the Germanophile politician Alexandru Marghiloman. In 1911, Verzea was appointed as General Director of the Post and Telegraphs on political grounds. During his service, he built a network of loyal staff within the P.T.T., who would later aid him in his various adventures.

At the end of 1912, with a change in government, Cosăcescu⁴⁴ was appointed as the new General Director. However, Verzea, with the help of his former subordinates, actively sabotaged Cosăcescu's administration. In January 1914, Cosăcescu lost political backing, and the vacant post was filled by deputy director Mihalcea. Nevertheless, Mihalcea failed to assert authority, allowing Verzea to continue influencing the P.T.T. Directorate through intermediaries.

After the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, Verzea was appointed **Head of the Telegraph-Postal Service for both field operations and the interior**, in case of mobilization. This appointment was made with the support of his friend General Iliescu. At the time, Romania remained neutral, allowing officials to hold either pro-Entente or pro-Central Powers sympathies — Verzea being among the latter, a known Germanophile. This position granted him unrestricted access to all levels of Romanian military communication. In this capacity, he coordinated the publication of several instructions regarding the Military Post, which also held partial importance for postal censorship:

- *Regulation on military telegraph-postal correspondence service* (25 July 1914)⁴⁵
- *Instructions on the Organization and Functioning of the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Service* (end of 1914)⁴⁶
- *Instructions relating to the control of private correspondence in the area of the army of operations and stages towards the interior of the country and of private correspondence and messengers from within the country to the army during the campaign* (1915)⁴⁷.
- *Instructions on the execution of the Telegraph-Postal Service in the campaign* (1915)⁴⁸
- Verzea also oversaw the establishment of the **News Surveillance Service (Serviciul Supravegherii Ştirilor – SSS)**, which was responsible for intercepting postal correspondence, including encrypted telegrams sent by enemy military attachés. Through this Service, all postal, telegraphic, and telephone communications in Romania came under surveillance, to which Verzea had direct access.

On **1 June 1916**, Verzea was once again appointed General Director of the P.T.T. After Romania entered the war on **27 August 1916**, Colonel Verzea — who remained at his post in Bucharest — began transmitting military information to

⁴³ *Ordonanţa definitivă în afacerea colonel Victor Verzea, N. Flechtenmacher, Eug. Craioveanu, C. Minescu şi Carol Vidic (= Final sentence in the affair of Colonel Victor Verzea, etc)* – Evenimentul, Iaşi, no. 142/27 July 1917, pag. 2, No. 143/28 July 1917, pag. 1, No. 144/29 July 1917, pag. 1-2, No. 146/1 August 1917, pag. 1, No. 147/2 August 1917, pag. 2.

⁴⁴ Nicolae Cosăcescu (1856, Pogoanele Buzău - ?) was a teacher, publicist and journalist, licensed in mathematics and physical sciences, as well as an engineer.

⁴⁵ Partial text in Călin Marinescu – *Poşta Militară Română...*, Bucureşti 1998, pag. 72-83.

⁴⁶ Partial text in Călin Marinescu – *Istoricul Poştei Militare Române 1859-2000*, Bucureşti 2001, from pag. 40.

⁴⁷ Idem, pag. 46-51.

⁴⁸ Idem, pag. 54-77

the Austro-Hungarian and German intelligence services. This included data from the General Headquarters, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Romanian intelligence services, to which he had access due to the nature of his position. He also passed on encrypted messages these institutions exchanged, as well as the cipher systems they used.

Taking advantage of his central role, Verzea instructed all postal-telegraph offices attached to the military commands across the country to report all military deployments and movements directly to him. This allowed him to supply the Germans valuable information. At the same time, he was involved in censoring correspondence and intercepting the telephone conversations of leading political and military leaders. As a result, the German command was kept informed of the Romanian General Headquarter's most important plans and actions.

When Romanian military authorities evacuated Bucharest during the night of 3/4 **December 1916**, Verzea deliberately delayed the withdrawal. He misled subordinates, reportedly telling one soldier "We have orders to stay until the last moment, and it is possible that we will remain prisoners". As a result, on 6 December, the entire postal service — including its equipment, a large sum of money and 1,260 postal officials — was left behind and fell into German hands. Only 311 civil servants managed to escape to Moldova, many acting on personal initiative and in contradiction to Verzea's orders. Additionally, all recent operative maps and telegrams were left behind.

As a reward for his collaboration, Verzea was appointed mayor of Bucharest by the German occupiers, serving from 11 December 1916 to 1 November 1917. In July 1917, he was sentenced to death *in absentia* in Iași for treason, although he only faced justice after the war. In 1919, he was stripped of his rank at Cotroceni and sentenced to life imprisonment in the Văcărești Penitentiary. However, he was amnestied in 1925 and ultimately committed suicide in 1927.

Verzea and censorship. Even before the war, Verzea took steps to weaken military censorship. According to the *Instructions of 1915*, he exempted both internal and external open correspondence, as well as parcels for abroad, from censorship — effectively enabling foreign agents to transmit their messages unhindered. He reportedly told post office staff that "censorship is a real nuisance meant only to make things difficult".

Nevertheless, military censorship was placed under the authority of Lt. Schina, president of the Bucharest Court of Appeal, who took his responsibility seriously. For this reason, the two would become implacable enemies. Schina noticed that some of the censorship handstamps — of which two copies were made — were widely accessible to postal officials, even though they should have been exclusively controlled by censorship officers. When Schina attempted to replace the compromised stamps with new ones, he faced strong resistance from Verzea and his ally Flechtenmacher, the head of the Bucharest post office.

Verzea insisted that open letters, both domestic and international, as well as postal orders, be sent to their destination without censorship. According to Schina's 1917 testimony, some postal officers used the duplicate censorship handstamps — which were to be held only by military censors — to falsely mark uncensored mail as inspected. Furthermore, Article 44 of the Instructions prohibited sending packages abroad. Verzea ignored this directive and ordered that such packages be shipped without going through any censorship process.

In conclusion, only the censorship handstamps used by the **Censorship office** under Lt. Schina were evacuated to Iași. The handstamps abusively appropriated and illegally used by Verzea's **Central Post Office** remained in Bucharest. It would be of interest to identify these illicit handstamps and trace the foreign correspondence that bypassed censorship but was fraudulently marked as inspected by Verzea's loyal postal officials..

25 November or 4 December 1916?: Refuge of the Bucharest Censorship Office to Iași, in Moldavia.

From November 1916 to November 1918, the city of **Iași** became the capital of unoccupied Romania and the main center of the country's censorship operations. During this period, it also served as the transit point for all foreign correspondence arriving in or departing Moldavia, as the external censorship office functioned also there. Foreign mail, particularly correspondence with neutral countries and the Western Allies, followed a complex postal route via Petrograd and Scandinavia.

On **12/25 November 1916**, the evacuation of the capital Bucharest was officially decided, and government institutions were relocated to Iași, the "historical capital" of Moldavia. On this occasion, the entire Bucharest military censorship office was evacuated and transferred to Iași. A notable aspect of the relocation was that the old labels and stamps bearing the inscriptions *Ilfov*, respectively *București* were not removed from use, but brought along and continued in use at the new location. These "refugee" censorship items included:



Fig. B04.04.
A postal proof of the evacuation of the Bucharest censorship office to Iași.

10 Bani postcard written on **14 November 1916** by an Italian volunteer doctor from the *National Bank Red Cross Hospital no. 113* (see the violet 5 lines handstamp **CRUCEA ROȘIE / SPITALUL No. 113 / al Băncii Naționale a României / ȘI / Societății Ortodoxe a Femeilor**), postmarked **BUCUREȘTI** on **16 November 1916**; for unknown reasons, it was delayed and not forwarded to Bern, Switzerland before the evacuation of 25 November.

As a result, the postcard was taken into refuge in Moldavia (together with the censorship office) and reintroduced into postal circulation only in December. It was censored with the red refugee handstamp **OB04/01.6***, departed from the IAȘI office on **17 December 1916**, and arrived in PETROGRAD on **14/27 December 1916**. Here the postcard was censored by the Russians with the violet rectangular handstamp of censor no. 215 and the triangular number "1". Finally, it left Petrograd on **19/4 March 1917**, en route to the Italian Legation in Bern.

- Closing Label inscribed "Ilfov";
- Handstamps type A: "**București-Scrisori**"
- Handstamps type B: "**București Mesagerii**" and "**Ilfov**"
- Handstamps type C: "**București Poșta Centrală**"

It is important to note that these *refugee labels and handstamps* were used alongside the Iași censorship handstamps, sometimes resulting in covers bearing markings from two different geographical locations. This overlap (see Fig. B04.05) can be confusing without knowledge of the historical context explaining their concurrent use in the same city.



Fig. B04.05: An example of using the BUCUREȘTI and IAȘI censorship handstamps together.

Registered cover postmarked IAȘI on 21 February 1917, transported in the same day to the local *inland censoring office*, which used its IAȘI handstamp (**OB04/02.1b**), but finally censored by the *external office* which used the refugee handstamps **BUCUREȘTI-SCRISORI** (**OB04/01.1*** and **OB04/01.6***) on **23 February 1917**. Forwarded via Ungheni – Russia, with arrival in ODESSA on 20/5 March 1917. It was censored there with the rectangular handstamp type **OD2** on **23/8 March 1917**, and departed ODESSA on 26/11 March 1917). Final arrival in SCHLEITHEIM, Switzerland, on **20 April 1917**.

Once in Iași, censorship was reorganized by the same I. G. Duca, who assumed responsibility for the censorship of political telegrams, while the censorship of private correspondence was entrusted to Lt. Schina (in collaboration with M.C.G.). However, a relationship of suspicion and competition developed between

them. As a result, Lt. Schina was eventually removed from his position by the M.C.G. and sent by Duca to Kherson, in Russia.

The extension of the state of siege for another two years — and implicitly, the continuation of press and mail censorship under the same conditions established in 1916 — was legislated by Decree no. 1626 of **13 July 1918** (published in the Official Gazette no. 79 bis of 14 July 1918). Following the peace treaties, Decree no. 2388 of 5/18 **September 1918** was issued in Iași (and published by the Official Gazette no. 134 of 19 September 1918). This decree amended and supplemented the previous legislation by transferring responsibility for press censorship from the military to the Council of Ministers, and that of postal censorship to the Postal Service: “the control of postal correspondences, telegraphic correspondences [...] passes to the General Direction of mail, telegraphs and telephones”.

With the remobilization of the army in November 1918, it is very likely that censorship was once again taken over by the military authorities.

The Special Censorship Bureau attached to the Ministry of War.

An aspect clarified⁴⁹ only recently is the existence, during 1916-1918, of a specialized postal censorship office dedicated exclusively to the *correspondence of prisoners of war and civilian internees*. This office operated under the Statistical Directorate of the Ministry of War (abbreviated below as **MRDS** – *Ministerul de Război, Direcția Statistică*). It functioned independently from the Iași military censorship office, external section (abbreviated below as **BCE**). For further details, see chapters #C08.01 and #C08.02 of *Volume C/1*, pp. 73-81; here, only aspects related to the appearance and use of the censorship handstamps are presented.

By ministerial decision nr. 10778 of 16/29 **March 1917**, an *Office of Censorship and Correspondence of Prisoners and Civilian Internees* (*Biroul cenzurii și corespondenței prizonierilor și internaților civili*) was established within MRDS Iași. Initially responsible for the correspondence of prisoners of war, from October 1917 the office also took over the censorship of mail to and from civilian internees. Its purpose could have been primarily *informative* — collecting intelligence on prisoners' conditions, mood, etc. — rather than *restrictive*, i.e., preventing the transmission of prohibited content (which was the traditional role of military postal censorship). It is worth remembering that, in both World Wars, Romanian statistical services functioned effectively as military intelligence units.

This office clearly employed two distinct types of censorship handstamps, used consecutively, with completely different appearance. In the absence of historical information, these markings would be nearly impossible to associate with one another. Detailed descriptions of the two stamps used by this office are provided below, in the chapter on **Iași**.



Fig. B04.06.
February 1919:
Late use of Bucharest
refugee marking in Iași

10 Bani postcard
postmarked IASI in February
1919 and addressed to
Bucharest. Censored in Iași
with handstamp [B04/01.1*](#)
and numeral
[B04/02.7C\(16\)](#), both
applied in February 1919.
These two types of
handstamp never returned
to Bucharest.

⁴⁹ Grecu Dan-Simion: *Cenzura Ministerului de Război pe corespondența prizonierilor de război și internaților civili, Aprilie 1917-1919 / Ministry of War censorship on the correspondences of prisoners of war and civilian inmates, April 1917-1919*. Philatelica.ro no. 27 / July-August 2013, pag. 2-14.

The Return of the Bucharest Censorship Office (November 1918)

The authorities returned to Bucharest on **17 November 1918**, but it seems that most of the "refugee" markings were never returned to the capital. In fact, some of them were still in use in Iași as late as March of 1919 (see *Fig. B04.06*)! Therefore, new provisional handstamps were manufactured and put into use in Bucharest.

The end of postal censorship in the Old Kingdom

Internal censorship in the Old Kingdom officially ceased on **19 November 1919** (effectively from Friday, 21 November 1919), according to Order no. 51404 issued by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and of the Ministry of Interior. However, control of correspondence continued to be carried out on the basis of a survey, according to Circular No. 76822 of 20 November 1919 from the General Directorate of Post Office: "for the strict application of Article 7 of the telegraph-telephone-postal law, an office entitled *The service of control of postal and telegraphic correspondence* will operate alongside each telegraph-postal office, which will have as attributions: verification of all correspondences that according to the article cited above, may be dangerous to the security of the State or will be contrary to the laws of the country, public order and morality. All correspondences that will contravene the provision of article 7, will be stopped, the postal ones from distribution and the telegraphic ones from dispatch and will be submitted to the Ministry of Interior to decide"⁵⁰. Censorship of correspondence from southern Dobruja (the "Quadrilateral", considered a military area), as well as of foreign mail, remains in force. In the Old Kingdom, certain irregular situations occurred in which military censorship date stamps (type "A") were used as postal cancellation marks, leading to potential confusion. The latest known example of such usage is from Slatina, in January 1922.

External censorship in the Old Kingdom ceased on **5 August 1920**, according to Circular No.53682 of the General Directorate of Post and Telegraph. In both cases, censorship continued in the recently united provinces — Transylvania, Banat, Bukovina, and Bessarabia (see sections [#5.1-#5.3](#)).

Romanian censorship was therefore in effect as follows:

- throughout Moldavia from August 1916 to November 1919;
- in Wallachia and the Dobrudja from August 1916 until September / December 1916
- a second period of censorship in Wallachia and the Dobrudja from November/December 1918 until its conclusion in November 1919.

General types of censorship handstamps

The situation of the Censorship Service at the outbreak of the war was atypical compared to the usual Romanian administration delays, representing a quasi-unique case in which everything was *perfectly organized from the very beginning*. Two samples of each type of handstamp (A and B) were manufactured in advance and supplied to every censorship office. Thus, in 1916, no improvisations — such as manuscript censorship or provisional, improvised stamps — are known. The only drawback concerned the type B stamps, which were made out of rubber, a material that generally proved to be of poor quality. In some cases, the rubber handstamps quickly became deformed, necessitating their replacement with more durable versions (Type C).

Group I. These are the *stand-alone handstamps used by censorship offices*, likely applied by the head of the office, in order to certify that the correspondence had been censored. The first three types (A, B, and C) clearly include the name of the locality or county.

Type "A" – round handstamp with date

Type #A. These are the date handstamps used by the censorship offices — an innovative idea at that time! They were intended to indicate the exact date *the verified mail departed from the censor's office to the corresponding post office*. Aesthetically pleasing and made of metal, these handstamps ensured clear prints and long-term durability.

⁵⁰ Gheorghe Cserni - *Cenzura poștală română în Transilvania 1918-1920*, Filatelia, București, no. 10(389)/1988, pag. 5-7.

They featured a double-circle design (measuring 27-28 x 17-19 mm), with the inscription **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ** in the upper half and the name of the county capital city in the lower half. The date, in the format DD MMM YYYY, appeared in the central band. These handstamps were applied in black, red or purple ink during the general period of use from **30 August 1916 to November 1919 ... 1922**.

Each office was typically issued two (sometimes three?) handstamps, which may show graphics differences. If such differences are clearly visible, they are classified below as varieties (**a** or **b**). In long-standing offices, new handstamps were often produced to replace those that were lost or damaged. These replacements were usually made of lower-quality materials, resulting in rougher lettering and quicker, more noticeable wear. These are catalogued as further varieties (**c**, **d**, etc.).



Some censorship offices in occupied Romania resumed use of this type of handstamps from **December 1918** onward, following their liberation (e.g., Bazargic, București, Pitești, Ploiești, Slatina, Slobozia). However, in many other cases, the original stamps were destroyed or lost during the occupation, making it necessary to resort to provisional handstamps. This was the case in Buzău, Câmpulung Muscel, Constanța, Craiova, Focșani, Râmnicu Sărat, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Târgoviște, Tulcea, Turnu Măgurele, and Turnu Severin.

In some cases, the handstamps were even used as daily postmarks (notably in Botoșani and Ploiești), including after the end of the censorship period — for example, in Slatina between 1920 and 1922.

Type "B" – small rectangular handstamp

These were the first proper censorship handstamps: small, rectangular, and lacking a printed date (although a space was provided in the frame for manual entry — an operation that was, in practice, never carried out). Their general dimensions ranged from 48 - 50 x 14 - 15 mm, with some exceptions reaching 52 x 17 mm.



Type #BA. These were the first standardized censorship handstamps, executed precisely according to the model described in Art. 14 of the 1915 Instructions: **CENZURAT** / **Cenzura militară a jud.(ețului)**, followed by the name of the county / **Data**

Most censorship offices adopted this standardized handstamp type from September 1916 onward (although occasional use continued until February 1919). These handstamps were applied in red, purple, blue, or black ink. Some samples bears only the text **CENZURAT** / **Cenzura Militară a jud.** / **Data....**, so apparently without specifying the name of the county. It is not clear if this name was erased or not engraved from the start (in this case, we have a variant, **#BAa**).



Type #BB. This sub-type features a different text within the frame: **CENZURAT** / **Biuroul de Cenzură Militară** / **Data....**, and is currently known only from the office of Slobozia.



The B handstamps were aesthetically harmonious, but apparently they did not excel in terms of durability. Being too delicate, the rubber components deteriorated quite quickly. As a result, some offices produce second (or even third...) copies of the B handstamp, which were of a much lower quality — most evident in the irregular, waving edges.

Type "BK" – small rectangular handstamps for parcels

Type #BK. In a few rare cases, apparently limited to the months of September to November 1916, special handstamps intended specifically for parcels were used on consignments notes. These small rectangular handstamps bore the text **PACHET CONTROLAT** / **Biuroul de cenzură de la** / **Oficiul Poștal** / **Data...** (*CONTROLLED PACKAGE* / *The censorship bureau from* / *The Post Office* / *Date ...*)

Their general appearance closely resembled the B type censorship handstamps used during the same period. Such special markings are known so far from Bucharest (*Mesagerii* office), Fălticeni, Pitești, Turnu Severin and Slatina (the latter featuring a different type)⁵¹. These handstamps were made in accordance with the model specified in Article 19 of the 1915 Instructions!



Type "C" – large rectangular handstamp

Type #C. Due to the reasons mentioned earlier — namely, the low reliability and durability of all B-type stamps — it became necessary as early as the end of September 1916 to introduce a new type of censorship handstamp that was much more visible and durable.

⁵¹ These were first reported by the present author in *philatelica/ro* no. 27 of 2013, so nearly 100 years after their use!

This new handstamp was large and rectangular in shape (measuring approximately 55 - 56 x 23 - 24 mm) and did not include a space for the date (which, in any case, was rarely filled in and considered less relevant due to the simultaneous use of the dated #A handstamps).

The text read **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDEȚULUI** (*CENSORED / MILITARY CENSORSHIP / OF THE COUNTY*), followed by the name of the county. It was made from a more durable material. At some offices, the abbreviation **JUDET.** was used instead (notably in Bacău and Covurlui). The general period of use for this type was from **October 1916 to December 1919**, and it was applied in black, blue (Botoșani), and red (Bucharest) ink.



Type "P" – provisional handstamps

Type #P. After the return of the authorities to Bucharest in November 1918, Romanian censorship was reinstated in the formerly occupied territories of Dobruja and Wallachia. Where possible, previously used A-type or C-type handstamps (from 1916) were brought back into use in 1919 — such cases are marked with an "*" in the lists. However, in most cases, the original censorship stamps had been destroyed or lost, and replacements were necessary. In almost all such cases, provisional handstamps were created.

These had a much simplified design compared to earlier types, bearing the text **CENSURAT** or **CENZURAT**, without any mention of the locality. They appeared either in a rectangular frame (usually measuring 32-33 x 7-8 mm), used in Târgu Jiu, Turnu Severin, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Constanța, Târgoviște, or without a frame, in varying sizes, as seen in Craiova and Focsani. General period of use: **14 February – 14 November 1919**.

Type "E" – closing labels

Type #E. Envelope closure labels are relatively scarce, as censorship procedures required that envelopes be handed in unsealed, eliminating the need to open and then reseal them with such pre-printed adhesive labels. Two types are currently known:

- ❖ .../**E0** – neutral label, with the text **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ A JUDEȚULUI...** /*Data*. Printed in serif letters, this type lacks a specific locality name, which was meant to be filled in manually. These were used by various county offices.
- ❖ .../**E1-E2** – specific label, with the text **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ A JUDEȚULUI ILFOV** /*Data*. Also in serif letters, these labels were used in Bucharest and Iași (while in refuge). A similar one was printed for **Slobozia**. Additional privately manufactured labels may also exist.

Group II. These are the *numerical handstamps of the censors*, used to identify the person who executed the censorship. They may appear alone or in combination with one of the handstamps from Group I.

Type "D" – alphanumeric handstamps

Type #D. These are transitional markings between Group I and Group II, consisting of combined handstamps that include both the town name and the censor's number. The designs are not standardized, as each censor was issued a unique device. The general dimensions are between 28 and 32 mm in diameter. These were used between October 1917 ... June 1918 and are found in black, violet, and red ink. They were

used in all censor offices of **Moldavia**, with the exception of the capitals Iași and Bucharest, where handstamps without the town name were used.



For further classification of handstamps only used in the Moldavian capital, see section [#B04/02 \(Iași\)](#).

Handstamps of the Censorship Offices in Old Romania

Here are some operational principles of censorship in Old Romania:

1. **Total censorship** – applied to all items of correspondence, not by sampling.
2. **Territorial (county-based) censorship** – each censorship office was responsible for verifying exclusively (with possible exceptions) the correspondence originating from its respective county. Each office was established in the county seat, with only one office per county —with a single exception: Slobozia in Ialomița county.

In this chapter and throughout the monograph, we have placed great emphasis on the exact reproduction (via *scanning*) of the handstamps as they were applied — whether new or worn. This volume is not just a monograph; it is also a work intended to *expertise* the authenticity of handstamps, making the highlighting of all graphic details essential.

Since handstamps were often applied with imperfections — or were already damaged and produced blurred impressions — I decided to illustrate each known sample in enlarged form, and, when possible, in chronological series (typically three to six images of the same handstamp on different dates, showing various stages of wear). Thus, every detail, however small, of each imprint is reproduced somewhere in volume, across one or more sequential images. Where insufficient examples exist, reproduction is limited to 1-2 images of whatever quality is available (even if poor). Expanding these examples is a goal for future research.

The list below is organized alphabetically, based on the name of the **county seat** (the office name). In parentheses are the corresponding reference numbers from **Călin Marinescu's** 2004 volume (noted **CM#**) — the first and only work attempting to catalog these handstamps. Unfortunately, that study is purely

descriptively, lacking proper imagery (while the Teleguț-Thielk catalogs address this subject only in broad terms, essentially by handstamps type alone).

As usual, all information regarding periods of use, types, etc., is based *solely on my own observations*. I have not borrowed data from other authors, except for rare cases where a reported usage date exceeding my own findings seemed credible; such dates are indicated in *italics* (e.g., "*January* – **23 March** – **7 June**"), in contrast to my personally verified dates, which are noted in **bold**.

This study in this chapter is based on the examination of 2.700 circulated postal items, either from my personal collection or my database.

B04/01. – BUCUREȘTI (Ilfov county, Wallachia) (today Romanian capital)

The Romanian capital, Bucharest, was occupied by German and Austro-Hungarian troops on **6 December 1916**. Due to the occupation, the censorship office functioned in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (September – 25 November 1916)** and **Period 2 (18 November 1918 - March 1920...)**.

Bucharest served as the main censorship center of the country, divided into at least three sections: a - Bucharest **Poșta Centrală** / Central Post office or "**Scrisori**"; b - Bucharest "**Mesagerii**" and; c- at the "**Telegraf**". In 1916, A-, B-, and C-type stamps were also used in Bucharest, but with slight differences from the rest of the country.

According to Călin Marinescu⁵², in September 1916 the office employed 94 censors — mainly intellectuals, as well as military and postal officials. Among them were several well-known names from Romanian cultural life, including: Eugen Lovinescu, Mihail Sadoveanu, Brătescu-Voinești, Alexandru Mavrodi, C. Locusteanu, C. Antoniadă, Mircea Rădulescu, G. Ranetti, N. Pora, Gala Galaction, I.C. Vissarion, M. Holban, Octavian Goga, Traian Lalescu, Jean Steriade, N. Dărăscu, C. Ressu, etc. The office was headed by Captain Demetrescu. When the office resumed activity in Bucharest upon returning from refuge on 20 November 1918, only 10 censors remained.

IMPORTANT: Below, we will discuss **ALL** handstamps bearing the name **BUCUREȘTI** in one section, regardless of whether they were used in Bucharest or later in Iași, during the period of refuge.

General types handstamps

(used in **Bucharest** between 28 August – 5 December 1916, then in **Iași**)



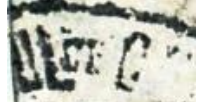





ⓄB04/01.1 (Type A, *CM#I.A*): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENZURĂ MILITARĂ * BUCUREȘTI SCRISORI**, diameter 29/18-19 mm, applied in red (and rarely black) ink. Used in Bucharest between **7 September** and **24 November 1916**, then, it was used in Iași in refuge (.../01.1*) during **27 November 1916** and **16 July 1918 ... 23 January – 26 March 1919**. It was first used in Bucharest at the Central Post (**Poșta Centrală** or **București-Scrisori**). Notably, the handstamps *did*

⁵² *Cenzura poștală...*, 2004, pag. 36-37.

not return to Bucharest in 1919. For simplicity, we begin by classifying the varieties, expanding on the three types initially identified by Constantin Milu in 1984 [[B04.7](#)].

We first analyze the upper section, where the horizontal dividing line intersects the word BIROUL at different levels. Then, we examine the lower section, focusing on how the horizontal line intersects the first letters "BU" in three positions: "*normal B*" (visible B, partially cut), "*high B*" (B cut through by the line) and "*very high B*" (B is not visible, U cut through by the line). We then analyze the size and position of the group "DE" in relation to BIROUL and CENSURA.

/01.1a		Normal DE, aligned at the bottom, with an L-C distance of 4 mm
/01.1b		Normal DE, aligned at the bottom, with an L-C distance of 3 mm
/01.1c		Narrow DE, aligned at middle height, with an L-C distance of ca. 2,5 mm
/01.1d		Large DE, aligned at the bottom, with an L-C distance of ca. 4,5 mm
/01.1e +f		Narrow DE, aligned at the bottom, with an L-C distance of ca. 3 mm
/01.1g		Normal DE, aligned at bottom, with a 4 mm distance between LC, somehow similar to /01.1a , but with a rough appearance and compressed text,

Finally, in the lower section, the interrupted vertical (6th) line is more or less aligned to **T** ([.1b](#), [.1c](#), [.1d](#), [.1da](#), [.1g](#)) or to **I** ([.1a](#), [.1e](#), [.1f](#)) from BUCUREȘ**T****I**.

Here are the main types of handstamps identified so far, observable on clear imprints (others likely exist, but were used only briefly):

- ❖ [.../01.1a](#): (Milu Type I) diameter 29/18 mm, with 11 lines in the upper grid and 12 lines in the lower grid. The preposition "DE" is in the normal position, aligned at the bottom — at the base of letter "L" — with an L-C distance of 4 mm. Applied in red and black ink between **1 October – 24 November 1916** (**București**), and then between **...2 January 1917 – 4 January 1918** (**Iași**, [.../01.1a*](#)). The **I** in BUCUREȘ**T****I** is vertical and aligns perfectly with the interrupted line in the lower grid (specifically the 6th line). Very high B.



/01.1a: 1 October 1916



2 October 1916



13 November 1916

- ❖ [.../01.1b](#): (Milu Type II) diameter 28,5/18 mm, with 12 lines in the upper and lower grids. The preposition "DE" is in the normal position, aligned at the bottom — at the base of letter "L" and to the second space of the upper grid — with a distance L-C of 3 mm. Applied in red-violet ink between **18 January 1917 – 22 March 1918** (**Iași**, [.../01.1b*](#)). The **T** in BUCUREȘ**T****I** is vertical and aligns perfectly with the interrupted line in the lower grid (specifically the 6th line). Normal B.



/01.1b: 22 January 1917



3 February 1917



6 March 1917



May 1917



5 November 1917



18 December 1917



22 December 1917



1 January 1918



4 January 1918

- ❖ **.../01.1c:** (Milu Type III) diameter 29/19 mm, with 11 lines in the upper and lower grids. The small and thin "DE" preposition is aligned high to the middle of the letter "L" and to the first space of the upper grid, with an L-C distance of ca. 2,5 mm. Applied in red and black ink between **9 September – 2 November 1916** (**București**), and between **14 May – 26 September 1917** (**Iași**, **.../01.1c***). The **T** in **BUCUREȘTI** is aligned to the 6th interrupted line in the lower grid, however, small variations are possible. This is a very rare handstamp, with the beginning of wear dated in September 1917. High B.



/01.1c: 2 November 1916



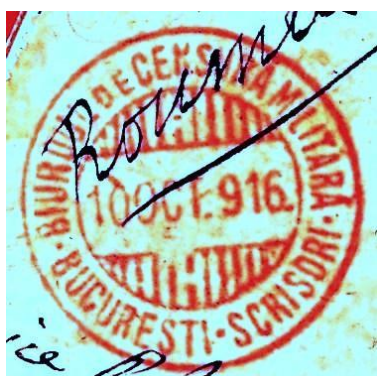
14 May 1917



26 September 1917

In reality, we are dealing with several more variants of the type A handstamp, the majority of them being manufactured after the refuge to Iași.

- ❖ **.../01.1d**: diameter ca. 29/19 mm, with the large DE preposition aligned at the bottom — at the base of letter "L" and to the third space of the upper grid — with a distance L-C of 4,5 mm. Applied in lila-red and black ink between **8 October – 5 November 1916 (București)**, and then between **4 December 1916 – 4 November 1917 (Iași, .../01.1d*)** at least. The **T** in BUCUREȘ**T**I it's slightly leaning to the right and continues perfectly with the interrupted line in the lower grid (the 6th line). Normal B.



/01.1d: 10 October 1916



4 December 1916



6 February 1917



7 February 1917



24 October 1917



??

- ❖ **.../01.1da**: diameter 28,5/19 mm, with a large DE and a L-C distance of 4 mm. Very similar to **.1d**, but with a lower **B** (practically under line), while the **T** in BUCUREȘ**T**I is vertical and continues perfectly the interrupted line in the lower grid (the 6th line). Applied in black ink between **17 – 24 November 1916 (București)**, and in red-lila ink on **11 February 1917 (Iași, .../01.1da*)**. Two variants can be differentiated: one with a dot between BUCUREȘTI and SCRISORI, and the other with a short line.



/01.1da: 17 November 1916 (dot)



24 November 1917 (line)



11 February 1917 (dot)

- ❖ **.../01.1e**: diameter ca. 28/19 mm, with 11 lines in the upper and lower grids, the DE group is narrow — at the base of letter "L" and almost touching it. Applied in red-violet (only in January – February...), and in black ink, with a general period of use between **18 January – 14 December 1917 (Iași, .../01.1e*)**. The **I** in BUCUREȘ**T**I continues approximately with the interrupted line in the lower grid (the 6th line). Very high B.



/01.1e: 18 January 1917



Ca. 2 May 1917 (error)



24 October 1917



24 November 1917



5 December 1917



11 December 1917



14 December 1917

- ❖ **.../01.1f**: similar to **.1e**, with a diameter of 28/19 mm, and 11 lines in the upper and lower grids. The DE group is narrow at the the base of letter "L" and it almost touches it, **but** instead of a dash between BUCUREȘTI and SCRISORI, there is a dot, making the two words close to each other. Applied in red (only August...), and in black ink between **8 August 1917 – 22 March 1918 (Iași, .../01.1f*)**. The **I** in BUCUREȘTI continues approximately with the interrupted line in the lower grid (the 6th line). Very high B. At least one specimen has a thicker and better applied outer circle thicker than the inner one. It was likely manufactured in February 1918, having more angular letters and visible wear in time.



/01.1f: 8 August 1917



13 October 1917



21 November 1917



11 December 1917



12 February 1918



21 February 1918



11 March 1918



20 March 1918



22 March 1918

- ❖ [.../01.1g](#): diameter c. 28,5/18 mm, with a large DE with large space, the distance between LC being 4 mm; with 11 lines in the upper grid and 12 lines in the lower grid. A characteristic feature is the stacking of words BUCURESTI-SCRISORI, with a dot and virtually no space between them. The overall appearance is primitive and rough. Applied in black ink around 28 October 1916 ([Bucharest](#)), and later between 5 June – 23 July 1917 ([Iasi](#), [.../01.1*](#))

[/01.1g](#): 18 October 1916

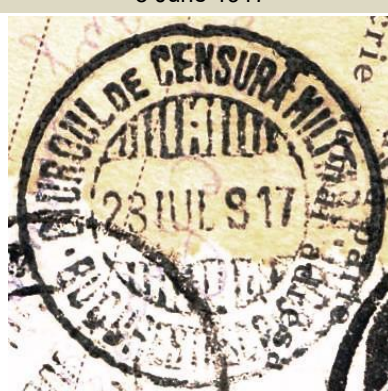
5 June 1917



19 June 1917



26 June 1917



23 July 1917

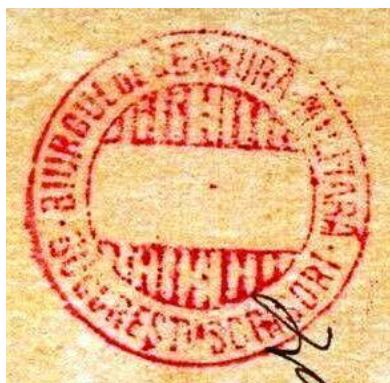


27 June 1918 (?)

Of course, not all handstamps fit neatly into this classification, so it is likely that new variants will be identified over time. Below are two suggestions, used both in **Bucharest** (4 November 1916, normal-low B) and in **Iasi** (2 January 1917, high B)



- ❖ **.../01.1Er**: occasional errors can be observed in the use of the above handstamps — for example, missing date (around 4 May 1917) or inverted date (17 August, 22 August, 11 October 1917, etc.).



Missing date, ca. 4 May 1917



Reversed date, 17 August 1917



Reversed date, 22 August 1917

Finally, it is important to note that one or more samples of the above types (probably **.1c**, **.1f**, **.1g**) progressively deteriorated throughout 1918, especially starting with May 1918). They eventually became practically illegible, as observed on numerous pieces of mail dated between **18 May – 1 September 1918** mainly addressed to Occupied Romania. Below are only three examples.



Post Scriptum. At least during the use in Bucharest, two types of A handstamps were used simultaneously — either by two different censors or in two different offices. Their differentiation was sometimes made by using different ink colors for each handstamp. Below is evidence of this: on the same day, 24 November 1916



(likely the last day of censorship in Bucharest), both handstamps **B04/01.1da** (left, black ink) and **B04/01.1a** (right, red ink) were used in same office, alongside specimens of type **B04/01.6**, applied in the corresponding black and red inks.

From the **Type B**, we have a small rectangular handstamp with a 4-lines inner text, of which four copies with different inscriptions are known, depending on the section of the office.

©B04/01.2 (Type B, *CM#I.B.3a*): with the inner text **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / BUCUREȘTI CENTRAL SCRISORI / Data.....**. Its general period use was between **28 August and 5 October 1916** (used only in Bucharest — thus it was not taken into refuge to Iași — and was subsequently replaced there by C-Type stamps). It is worth wondering whether these were among the stamps fraudulently used by Verzea and the postal staff, and consequently replaced by Lt. Schina with new samples (Type C). More variants of these handstamps are known to date:

- ❖ **.../01.2a**: very good quality, with thin, well printed letters; dimensions 49 x 15 mm; applied in violet or black ink between **28 August – 5 October 1916** (**Bucharest**), on both internal and external mail. Two specimens exist — one showing slight early deformation, up to 50-51 x 16 mm, while the other remained perfectly shaped until the end.



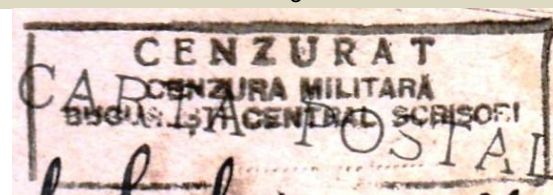
/01.2a: 15 August 1916



Ca. 30 August 1916



13 September 1916



13 September 1916, without Data



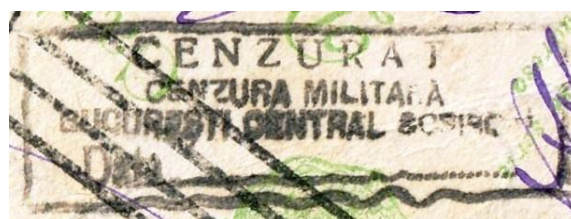
24 September 1916



- ❖ **.../01.2b**: the letters are printed more clearly, thicker, the *lower frame* of the handstamp is wavy and deformed from the very first days of use; dimensions ca. 50 x 17 mm; applied in black ink between **1 – 11 September 1916** (**Bucharest**).



/01.2b: 1 September 1916



Ca. 11 September 1916



/01.2c: 12 September 1916



13 September 1916

- ❖ [.../01.2c](#): the letters are printed more clearly, thicker, *both frames* of the handstamp are deformed from the very first days of use (wavy frames); dimensions ca. 50 x 17 mm; applied in black ink between **1 – 17 September 1916** (**Bucharest**).
- ❖ [.../01.2d](#): the handstamp is strongly deformed from the very first days of use, so it quickly became illegible; dimensions ca. 50 x 17 mm; applied in black ink between **28 August – 12 September 1916** (**Bucharest**).



/01.2d: 28 August 1916 (writing date)

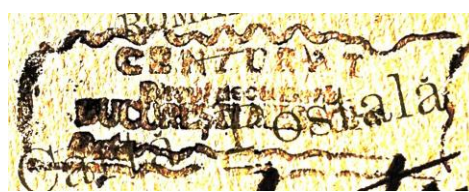


Ca. 12 September 1916

[©B04/01.3](#) (Type B, CM #I.B.3c): with the inner text **CENZURAT / Biuroul de cenzură / BUCUREȘTI MESAGERII / Data....** This type was not seen in 1916, but only on **15 March 1918** (Iași) and then between **15 February** and **13 March 1919** in Bucharest, but it became heavily degraded. It was likely used by the Parcel Censorship Office, but was seen so far only on regular postcards and covers, therefore it was not considered here as a parcel handstamp (.60)



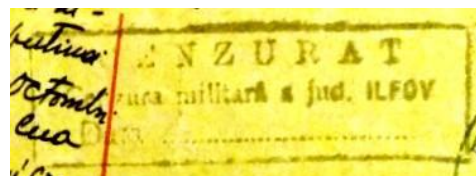
/01.3: 15 March 1918 (Iași)



20 February 1919 (Bucharest)

[©B04/01.4](#) (Type B, CM #I.B.3b): text **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / BUCUREȘTI TELEGRAF CENTRAL / Data..**, reported in *September 1916*; likely used by the Central Telegraph censorship bureau. Not seen by the author.

[©B04/01.5](#) (Type B) (CM #I.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, with the text **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. ILFOV / Data.....**; Seen so far only on **27 September 1918** (Iași).



[©B04/01.6](#) (Type C, CM #I.C.3): large rectangular handstamp, with the text **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / BUCUREȘTI POȘTA C(ENTRA)LĂ**; dimensions 57 x 24 mm It was used at the Central Postoffice (*Poșta Centrală* or *București-Scrisori*) *after the withdrawal from use* of type B, with the following periods of activity:

- ❖ [...01.6](#): Between **25 September – 24 November 1916**, when it was applied in red or black ink on internal and external mail in **Bucharest**;
- ❖ [...01.6*](#): Between **8 December 1916 – 27 April 1917 – March 1918**, when it was applied in red-lila or black ink, during the refuge in **Iași**,
- ❖ [...01.6**](#): Between **1 May – 31 December 1919**, used once again in **Bucharest**, being applied only in black ink, and mainly on external mail.



/01.6: 12 September 1916

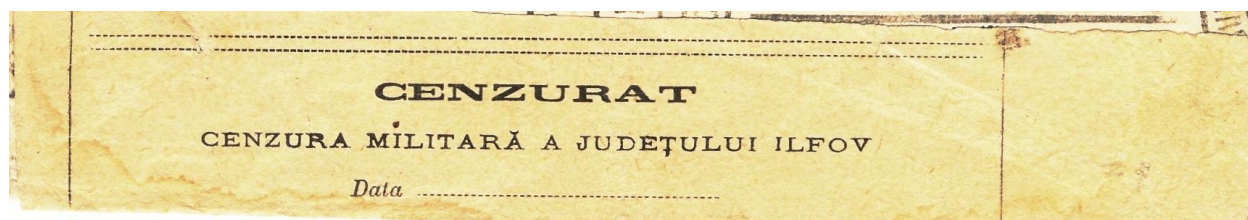


15 October 1916



12 November 1916

©B04/01.90: closing label with the text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ A JUDEȚULUI ILFOV / Data....** (serif letters). Periods of use between **7 September – 8 October 1916** (normal use in **Bucharest**), on external mail, and rarely on early internal sealed mail, during the first days of censorship. It seems that the stock of printed labels was insufficient, making it necessary to replace them with a new print run featuring a different appearance and paper — after only one month of censorship operations.

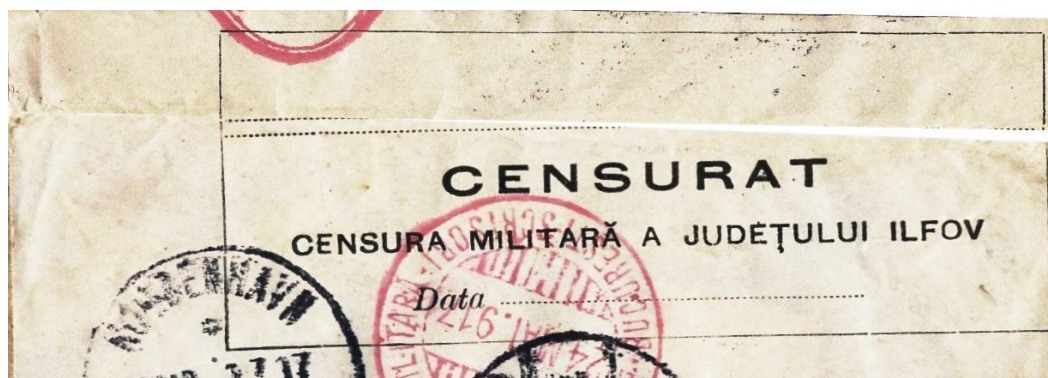


©B04/01.91: closing label with the text: **A SE ÎNAPOIA LA ORIGINĂ / ... ÎNDRUMATE / CENZURA MILITARĂ A JUDEȚULUI ILFOV / Data....** (= To be returned at origin /

... forwarded / Military Censorship of Ilfov county). The first two rows are in sans-serif letters, the next two rows in serif letters. Seen on a letter mailed from Karabanovo (Russia) on 14 September 1916, with the second row cancelled with blue pencil.



/01.92:
29 October 1916
(Bucharest)



/01.92*:
24 May 1917
(Iași)

[ⓐ04/01.92](#): closing label with the text: **CENSURAT / CENSURA MILITARĂ A JUDEȚULUI ILFOV / Data....** (non-serife letters). Periods of use:

- 15 October – 21 November 1916 in **Bucharest**;
- 23 December 1916 – 15 December 1917, during the refuge in **Iași** (.../01.92*)

2nd Period – The New Bucharest specific handstamps (10 November 1918 – 20 July 1920)

It is interesting to note that the Bucharest Censorship Office did not return from its refuge in Iași with all of its original handstamps. Some remained in the Moldovan capital and continued to be used there until at least the end of February 1919. Instead, a new series of censorship handstamps was made. Only a few B-type and C-type handstamps were eventually returned from Iași (or possibly found in Bucharest among those that had not been evacuated!) and were reused in Bucharest starting in May 1919.



[ⓐ04/01.M](#): handwritten notation **Cenz B**, on a postcard mailed from București on **23 December 1918**, to Chișinău, in Bessarabia (1 January 1919)|

Here are the newly manufactured handstamps that were used in Bucharest instead of those which have *not been returned* from the refuge.

[ⓐ04/01.7](#) (Type D, *CM#1.8*): small round alphanumeric handstamps of censorship bureaus, with the inner text: **CENZURAT * București**, completed in the center by a combination of letters (A-D, probably the indications of the censorship branches in Bucharest) and of digits (1-5, probably the matriculation number of the censor); applied in black ink in the period ca. **12 November 1918 – 5 February 1919 ... 23 March – 29 April 1919**. Starting on February, they became degraded, and were practically illegible.

(A1)	10 April 1919
(A2)	29 April 1919
(A3)	
(A4)	16 January – 6 April 1919
(A5)	9 December 1918 – 14 April 1919*
(A6)	15 January – 30 March 1919
(B1)	
(B2)	
(B3)	Ca. November 1918
(B4)	14 December 1918 – 5 January 1919
(B5)	7 December 1918
(B6)	

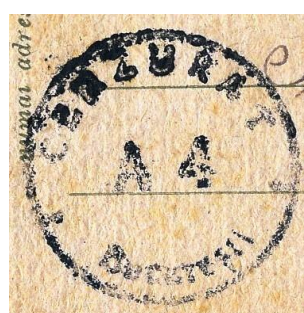
(C1)	
(C2)	25 December 1918 – 14 February 1919
(C3)	1 – 2 January 1919
(C4)	
(C5)	Ca. 12 November – 26 December 1918
(C6)	1 January 1919
(D1)	
(D2)	
(D3)	... – 20 February 1919
(D4)	
(D5)	26 December 1918 – 25 February 1919
(D6)	



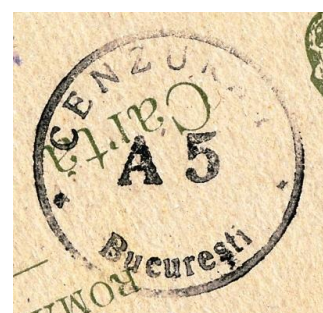
.7(A1): ca. 10 April 1919



/01.7(A2): 29 April 1919



.7(A4):



.7(A5): 9 December 1918



.7(A5): 14 April 1919



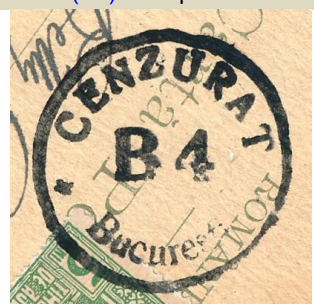
.7(A6): ca. 15 January 1919



.7(A6): 30 March 1919



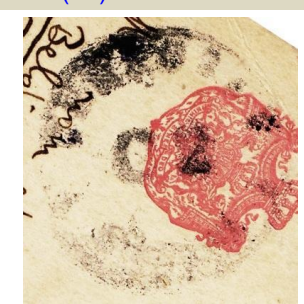
.7(B3): November 1918



.7(B4): 14 December 1918



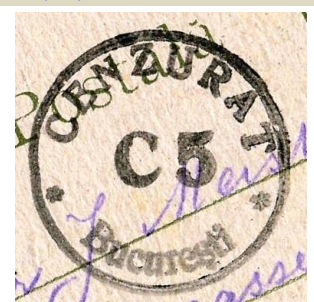
.7(B5): 7 December 1918



.7(C2): 4 February 1919



.7(C3): 2 January 1919



.7(C5): 26 December 1918



.7(C6): 1 January 1919



.7(D3): 29 February 1919



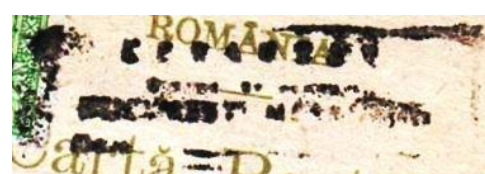
.7(D5): 26 December 1918

Subsequently, two handstamps from Period 1 were reused, as follows:

- ❖ .../01.3* (București-Mesagerii, Type B): applied in black ink between **15 February – 23 April 1919** (one of the samples appears to have been completely degraded starting in March), and was apparently introduced — though for unclear reasons — between the uses of the new alphanumeric stamps.



/01.3a*: 2 March 1919



/01.3b*: 19 April 1919

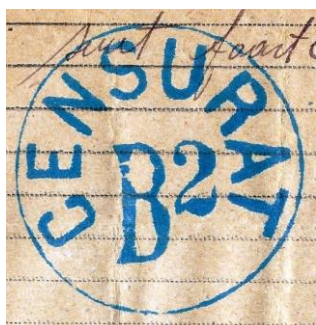
- ❖ .../01.6** (Poșta Centrală, Type C): applied in black ink between **1 May – 31 December 1919**, used mainly on external mail.

ⓄB04/01.8 (CM#1.9): large, round alphanumeric handstamps, originally used between **28 May 1917 – 25 July 1918** (in **Iași**), then reused between at least **1 November – 24 December 1919** (in **Bucharest, .../01.8***). It appears only rarely on internal correspondence (*D4 on 1 November 1919*) and on telegrams (*B2*), mostly found on *external correspondence*. Diameter 41 mm; applied in black ink, rarely in blue.



November 1919: late usage of larger alphanumeric handstamps on external mail.

Fig. B04.07: multifranked registered cover postmarked BUCUREȘTI * RECOMANDATE on 12 November 1919, censored by the Bucharest external office with **ⓄB04/01.8(D3)** and then forwarded to Wien (two months after the postal service with Austria had resumed).



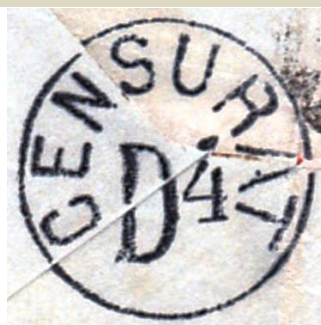
/01.8(B2): on telegram



/01.8(B4): 24 November 1919



.8(D3): 2 December 1919



.8(D4):



.8(E1):

(B2)	29 November 1918?	Bucharest
(D3)	28 May – 15 September 1917	Iași
	12 November – 2 December 1919	Bucharest
(D4)	2 June – 29 September 1917	Iași
	14 January – 24 December 1919	Bucharest
(E1)	31 August – 22 December 1919	Bucharest
(E2)	12 June ... 14 October 1919 ... 31 March 1921	Bucharest

ⓄB04/01.9: small round alphanumeric handstamps of "Iași" type (probably returned from Moldavia and reused?); applied in black ink around **2 August 1919**. A single censor number is known so far: **20**.



ⓄB04/01.10 (CM #I.10): these are the censors personal numeral handstamps, applied in black ink between **28 March 1919 – 20 July 1920**. They are found mostly on external mail, but also internal correspondences until November 1919, typically accompanied by C-type handstamps or E-type censorship labels. In 1920, they were used on their own.

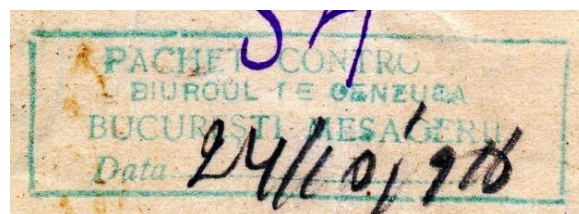
	8 July 1919 – 27 February 1920	109			21 June – 20 July 1919
	3 November – 11 December 1919	110			12 June – 1 August 1919
	29 July – 11 August 1919		8 May – 2 September 1919	120	
	3 June – 22 September 1919		1919	121	
104			20 July – 4 September 1919		25 December 1918 – 18 February 1920
105		114			28 March 1919 – 20 April 1920
	23 July – 5 December 1919		4 June – 1 August 1919		25 April 1919 – 1 March 1920
107			28 August 1919 – 18 June 1920		14 December 1918? 30 July 1919 – 5 July 1920
108		117		126	

127	October 1919	135		143	
128		136		144	
	10 August 1919	137		145	1919
		138			1919
131		139			19 May – 18 October 1919
	16 May – 29 July 1919		8 August – 13 October 1919		5 – 24 May 1919
	2 – 3 July 1919	141			4 – 30 July 1919
134			29 June – 8 July 1919		

[©B04/01.11](#) (CM #1.11): the negative seal of the Bucharest military censorship office, applied only in black ink between 1 February ... **24 April 1919 – 12 January 1920**, mostly (ca. 65%) on external mail. With a diameter of 29-30 mm, the negative inner text reads: **CENSURA MILITARĂ * BUCURESTI**, and in the middle the monogram of the service "CM" (*Cenzura Militară – Military Censorship*) can be seen.



©B04/01.60 *Parcel censorship*, standard PK rectangular handstamp, with the 4-lines inner text: **PACHET CONTROLAT / BIUROUL DE CENZURĂ / BUCUREȘTI MESAGERII / Data...**; size 49 x 15 mm, applied in green ink on **24 October 1916**.



©B04/01.61 *Parcel censorship*, an atypically large rectangular handstamp, with only the upper and lower parts of the frame being visible. The bilinear text reads: **CENZURA / De (?) cenzură BUCUREȘTI MESAGERII**; applied in black ink on **7 November 1916** (source: Museum of Romanian Records).



©B04/01.70: *bank censorship* certified with a rectangular handstamp reading: **BANCA NAȚIONALĂ A ROMÂNIEI / VERIFICAT / BUCUREȘTI**; applied in blue violet ink, followed by the censor's signature. Seen between **9 October and 4 November 1916** on covers sent from the Bucharest National Bank headquarters (see Fig. B04.08).

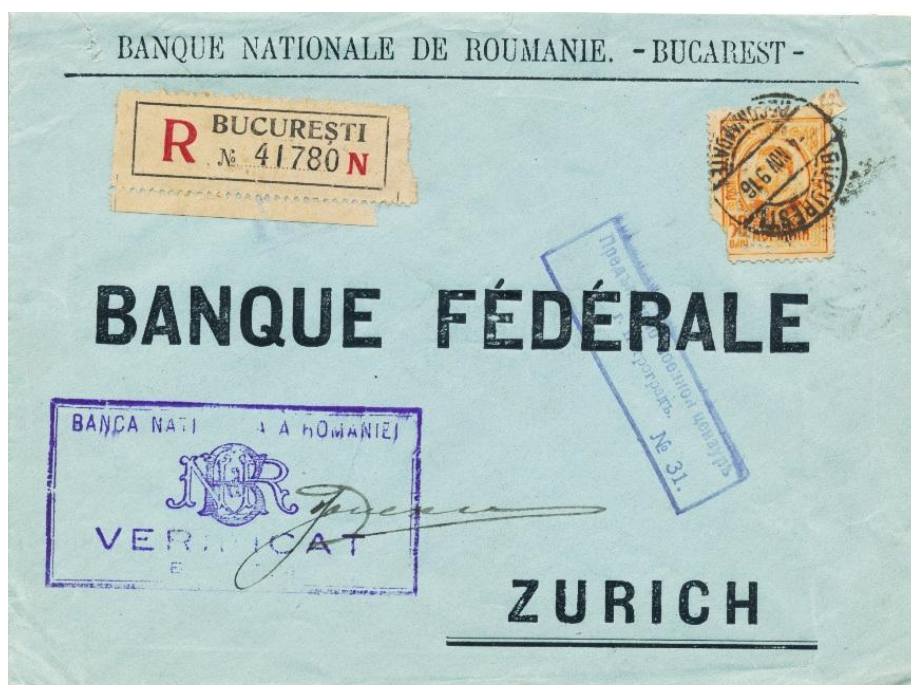


Fig. B04.08.

Registered bank envelope sent from the National Bank headquarters, verified within the institution with **©B04/01.70**, postmarked BUCUREȘTI * RECOMANDATE on **4 November 1916** and addressed to Switzerland. It therefore transited Russia, where it was censored in Petrograd (unusual for official mail) with a rectangular handstamp of censor no. **31**. Arrived in ZURICH on **28 December 1916** (on backside).

©B04/01.92: closing label with the text **CENZURAT** (printed twice on a label), used between **12 June – 14 October 1919... 31 March 1921**, mainly on external mail.



B04/02. – IAȘI (Iași county, Moldavia)

(Free Romanian Capital December 1916 – December 1918; today Iași county)

The office operated continuously between **September 1916 and September 1919**, as the Moldavian county was not affected by foreign occupation. However, activity in 1919 was limited to mail *from / to Bukovina*.

Some information from the local media.

Professor Popea is known as one of those who, on 3 September 1916, took the oath as a member of the censorship commission for Iași, at the central post office⁵³. On 7 September, it was reiterated that the only permitted languages for correspondence were Romanian and French, as "correspondence in Yiddish will be refused"⁵⁴. On 10 September, the censorship commission issued the following notice: "The public is advised to avoid detailed descriptions of intimate life, however interesting they may be. To make their correspondence short, legible and, as far as possible, written on postcards. Letters, if not handed open, will not even be taken into consideration."

On 15/28 September, the appointments of Mr. Poruzan and Mr. Dimitrovici to the commission for the investigation of telegrams and letters were announced. Early October 1916 professors Ioan Paul and Ilie Burghilea were added to the postal censorship team, followed by Ion Constantinescu and Constantin Botez (professors of geography and French at the National High School) on 15/28 October 1916.



According to an *Appeal to the Public of Iași*, published on 1st and 5th November 1916 we learn that "Eight people are constantly working on letter censorship and we are helped by four colleagues from the censorship of telegrams. However, it is impossible for us to be on time with work today, as the population of our city has increased considerably due to the evacuees from Dobrogea, or from everywhere else, the wounded, students of schools moved here as well, new recruits, etc. The cause, however, is not so much the large volume of correspondence, but the fact that many people write too long letters, whose lecturing takes us a long time. We believe that we can ask writing travel impressions, daily diaries, considerations on Iași, spiritual confessions, etc. to stop being done in mileage letters. Therefore, we **ask the public to write as much as possible only on open, short and legible postcards**. At the same time, we make known the following: 1) That we will process postcards first; 2) That closed letters will not be sent; 3) That out of the open letters, only the short business letters will be processed quickly (and we ask that no private letters to be placed in envelopes addressed to banks or commercial firms), leaving that private letters, in which the literary sport is performed, to be censored last, after we have finished with the serious work."

Starting Tuesday, 11/24 January 1917, newspaper censorship was carried out at the National Theatre, in the office of the General Manager.

On the evening of **26 November 1916**, the special train of the *Bucharest censorship office* arrived at Iași Railway Station with the evacuated personnel and materials. But the Bucharest Post Office arrived only partially, due to sabotage by its director, Verzea. Among the evacuees, the names of Lazăr, Locusteanu, A. Mavrodi, Traian Lalescu, Minulescu, and Cincinat Pavelescu are recorded as early as 14 December 1916.

It is not known exactly how the newcomers were assigned. In my opinion, those who had worked in Bucharest on *external censorship* will continued in this role at **BCE-Iași** (using the refugee handstamps BUCUREȘTI-SCRISORI Type A and POȘTA CENTRALĂ Type D, in black or red ink). The others likely reinforced the local censorship team of **BCI-Iași**, where only eight censors were examining mail at the beginning of November 1916, as we can see below. BCI-Iași remained exclusively responsible for *internal correspondence* and, later, possibly for *inter-zonal mail*. Evidence for this differentiation lies in the fact that no external correspondence is known to bear only Iași handstamps (see *Fig. B04.05* and *Fig. B04.09*, where external covers were mistakenly processed by the internal censor office BCI-Iași and were then forwarded to the correct external office, BCE-Iași)

⁵³ *Evenimentul*, Iași, 21 August 1916

⁵⁴ *Evenimentul*, Iași, 25 August 1916.

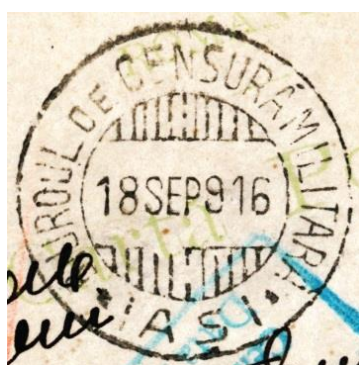


Fig. B04.09. Registered letter cancelled in IASI on **12 February 1917**. On the same day, it arrived at the BCI-Iași, which applied its handstamp [B04/02.1b](#). This office declined jurisdiction and forwarded the item to the BCE-Iași, where the refugee handstamps [B04/01.1*](#) and [B04/01.6*](#) v. The cover was released from censorship on **13 February 1917** (an unusually fast processing), routed via **Petrograd**, Russia (where it was censored with two rectangular handstamps on the closing label and a triangular numeral **12/6**), and arrived in **BERN** on 23 March 1917.

B04/02A. – Internal Censorship Bureau Iași (BCI-Iași): its own handstamps.

[B04/02.1](#) (Type A): date handstamp of the BCI-Iași censorship office, with the text reading: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * IAȘI**; diameter 29/17 mm; applied in black ink between **15 September 1916 – 2 March 1917 ... 29 November 1917 – 19 June 1918**, respectively on **16 May – September 1919** for mail to/from Bukovina. At least two copies were initially manufactured, with a replacement made in 1918:

- ❖ [.../02.1a](#): with a large space between L-C, and a large "DE"; seen between **15 September – 13 November 1916**.



[/02.1a](#): 18 September 1916



21 October 1916



1 November 1916

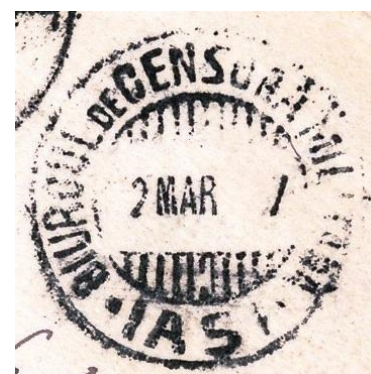
- ❖ [.../02.1b](#): with a small space between L-C, and a narrow "DE"; seen between **21 September 1916 – 2 March 1917**, respectively **16 May 1919**.



[/02.1b](#): 21 September 1916



12 February 1917



2 March 1917

- ❖ [.../02.1c](#): similar to [20.1a](#), it has a large space between L-C, and a large "DE"; primitively manufactured, with cornered letters and poor quality, being difficult to read; seen between **27 May – 19 June 1918**, as they were subject to rapid deterioration.



/02.1c: 27 May 1918



7 June 1918



19 June 1918



Fig. B04.10. A rare and atypical censorship handstamp.

A postcard written locally in Iași on 13/26 October 1916 by a young woman seeking refuge to Moldavia, to her friend. From the text: *I'm traveling with my mother to Botoșani, and they won't even let me get off the train, because we left Bucharest on Tuesday (24 October!) and, as you can see, we've been delayed a lot on the way. I am writing this (postcard) to you while the train is stopped at the station, I bought it from a child. There is no other train to Botoșani*.

Postmarked IASSI * GARA on 27 October, censored in the railway station with [B04/02.6](#), arrival IASI on 28 October 1916.

[B04/02.2](#) (Type A): date handstamp of the BCI-Iași censorship office, with the text reading: **BIUROUL DE CENZURĂ MILITARĂ * POSTA CENTRALĂ**; diameter 29/19 mm; applied on internal mail:

- ❖ [.../02.2A](#): the first used was a handstamp with the erroneous text reading **MILITAR**; applied in black ink between **5 December 1917 – 4 January 1918**.



/02.2A: 5 December 1917



20 December 1917



4 January 1918

This erroneous handstamp was soon replaced with new ones bearing the correct inscription **MILITARĂ**; applied in black ink between **5 December 1917 – 18 July 1918** (and on **8 August 1918**, though barely legible, on a postcard apparently circulated in occupied Romania, from Caracal to Corabia....); diameter of 30/20 mm, and we can identify three distinct variants:

- ❖ **.../02.2Ba:** with a small space between L-C, and showing signs of tear and wear in 1918 (observed between 31 January and 19 July 1918).



/02.2Ba: 31 January 1918 (error 1917)



8 March 1918

- ❖ **.../02.2Bb:** with a large space between L-C, featuring thick and angular letters (rather than rounded), and a primitive appearance; observed between 8 June 1917 and at least 18 July 1918.



/02.2Bb: 29 June 1918



8 June 1918 (error: 1917)



18 July 1918

- ❖ **.../02.2Bc:** with a large space between L-C, but with clear imprints in 1918, featuring thin letters; seen between 29 June and 18 July 1918.



/02.2Bc: 8 May 1918



16 May 1918



6 June 1918

OB04/02.3 (Type A): date handstamp of the Iași censorship office, with the text reading: **CENZURA MILITARĂ POȘTALĂ**; diameter 32/21,5 mm; it was applied mainly on internal mail (and rarely on inter-zonal or foreign mail via occupied Romania) in black ink between **8 June – 29 September 1918**. One of the

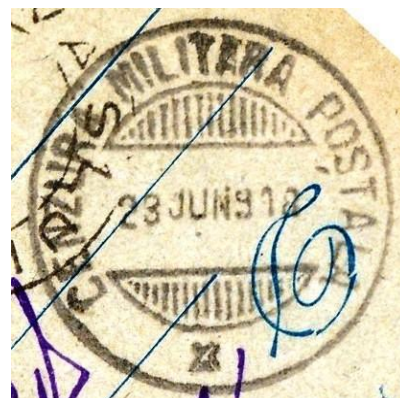
samples shows signs of wear and tear in August – September 1918; the deterioration in time can be clearly observed from the 6 samples in the table below:



/02.3: 14 June 1918



15 June 1918



23 June 1918



17 August 1918



15 September 1918



26 September 1918

⊙B04/02.4 (Type B): small rectangular handstamp, bearing the text **CENZURAT** / **Cenzura militară a jud. IAȘI** / **Data.....**; dimensions 49-50 x 15 mm; applied in blue, violet or black ink between 16 September – 18 November 1916 ... 24 October 1918. At least two samples were manufactured:

- ❖ **.../02.4a**: of 49 x 15 mm, with a large space between "jud." and IAȘI. On some later copies the name of the county does not appear at all. It was applied in blue (September-October) or black ink (November) between 16 September – 24 October – 13? November 1916.



/02.4a: 21 September 1916



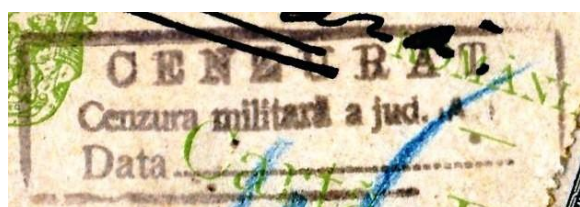
6 October 1916 (without place name)



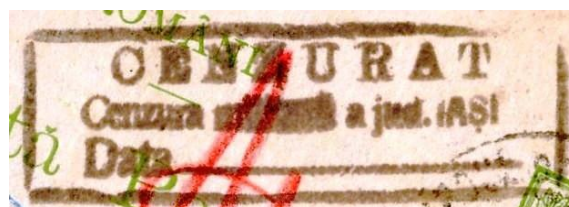
17 November 1916



- ❖ **.../02.4b**: of 50 x 15 mm, with a small space between "jud." and IAȘI; applied in black ink between 5 – 13 November 1916, and reused in a much more deteriorated state, on 24 October 1918 (**02.4b***).



/02.4b: 5 November 1916



13 November 1916



/02.4b*: 24 October 1918

ⓄB04/02.5 (Type C): large rectangular handstamp, with the text reading: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDETULUI IASI**; dimensions 55-56 x 23 mm; applied in black ink in *December 1916*, then between **29 November 1917 – 24 April 1918**. At least two variants can be described, by observing the differences of the letter "S" in IASI.

- ❖ **.../02.5a**: with a narrow "S", seen at least between 29 November 1917 and 19 February 1918.



/02.5a (narrow S): 4 January 1918



8 December 1917

- ❖ **.../02.5b**: with a large "S", seen at least between 15 January and 24 April 1918.

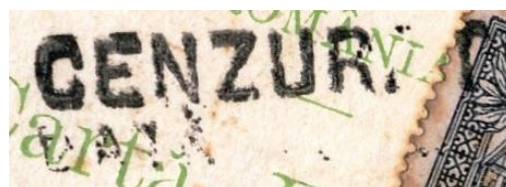


/02.5b (large S): 15 January 1918



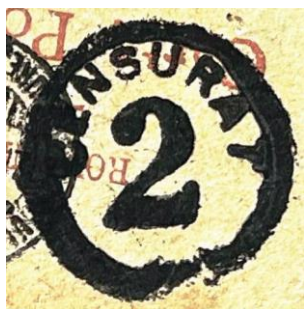
24 April 1918

ⓄB04/02.6 (Type P): bi-linear handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / DATA**; size 35 x 9 mm. It was apparently accompanied by a numeral of 10 x 6 mm in dimensions (so far only **8** are known), possibly being the censor's number. Applied in black ink on a local Iași postcard from **27 October 1916** (used at the Iași Railway Station), see *Fig. B04.10*.



ⓄB04/02.7 (Type D): round, double-circle numeral handstamps used by censors, bearing the text: **CENSURAT** or **CENZURAT** with a censor number in the center. They have diameters of approximately 28-30 mm; applied in black ink, or more rarely, in red or violet ink, between **2 April 1917 and 23 January 1919**. Known numbers so far: 1-41. Occasionally, these numerals were affixed on foreign mail — likely by censors detached from the BCI internal censorship bureau (for example, numbers **(11)**, **(26)**, **(25)** and **(16)**; see below). At least three variants can be identified.

- ❖ **.../02.7A**: **CENSURAT / X**, with simple circle, seen between **2 April 1917 – 29 October 1918**, respectively **4 February 1919** for mail received from Bukovina. The handstamp **.7A(20)** was reused in 1919 in **Bucharest**.



/02.7A(2): 7 June 1917



.7A(5): 2 April 1917



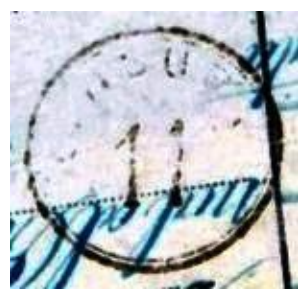
.7A(7): 5 July 1917

CENSURAT
6

.7A(6): 15 July 1918



.7A(8): 9 June 1917



.7A(11): 11 December 1917



.7A(13): 26 September 1917



.7A(15): 15 November 1917



.7A(16): 17 July 1917



.7A(17): 13 June 1918



.7A(18): 15 June 1918



.7A(19): 10 August 1918



.7A(20):



.7A(24): 18 May 1917

- ❖ **.../02.7B: CENSURAT / X, with a double circle, seen between 26 October 1917 – 2 January 1919.**
This type was used to replace damaged or unusable specimens of the previous type when necessary. It is likely that numbers higher than 25 were produced exclusively in this version from the outset.



/02.7B(4): 21 December 1917



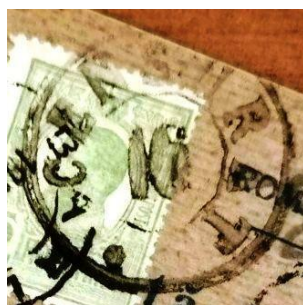
.7B(6): 1918



.7B(10):



.7B(13):



.7Ba(16):



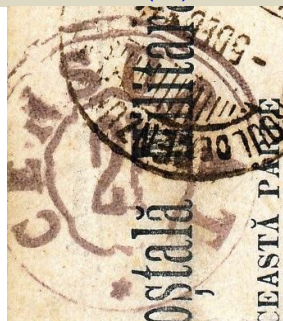
.7Bb(16): 18 July 1918



.7B(19): 21 June 1918



.7B(20): 26 October 1917



.7B(21): 5 December 1917



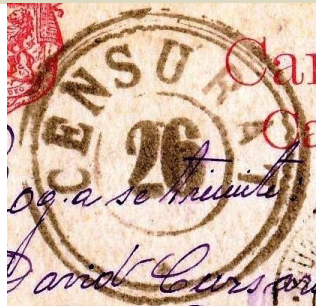
.7B(23): 26 February 1918



.7Bb(23): 5 July 1918



.7B(25): 14 January 1918



.7B(D26): 12 November 1917



.7B(37): 19 March 1918

- ❖ .../02.7C: CENZURAT / X, with a double circle, seen between 5 December 1917 – 25 July 1918, respectively on 26 March 1919 for mail to/from Bukovina; see Fig. B11.25. This type was used, when necessary, to replace damaged or unusable specimens of both previous types.



/02.7C(1): 13 May 1918



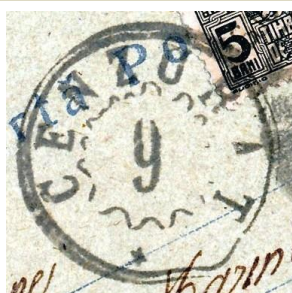
.7C(2): 1 June 1918



.7C(3):



.7C(5): 3 May 1918



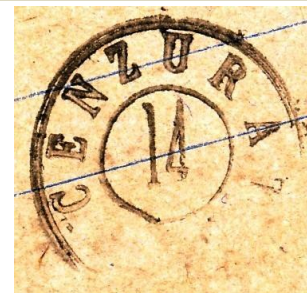
.7C(9): 17 July 1918



.7C(10): 27 April 1918



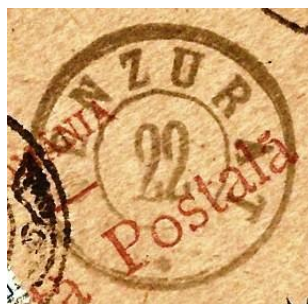
.7C(12): 8 June 1917



.7C(14): 22 March 1918



.7C(21):



.7C(22): 7 May 1918



7C(23): 7 June 1918



.7C(24): 25 June 1918



.7C(26):



.7C(31): 16 May 1918



.7C(34): 1918.



.7C(41): 8 June 1918

(1)	C	13 May 1918
(2)	A	7 June 1917
	C	May – 1 June 1918
(3)	C	11 March – 6 June 1918
(4)	B	21 December 1917
(5)	A	2 April 1917 – 23 August 1918
	C	3 May 1918
(6)	A	15 July 1918
	B	1918 – 20 January 1919
	C	20 May 1918
(7)	A	5 July 1917 – 7 June 1918
(8)	A	9 June 1917 – 10 June 1918
(9)	C	16 – 17 July 1918
(10)	B	?
	C	26 April – 4 July 1918
(11)	A	25 November 1917 – 1 January 1918
(12)	C	8 June 1917
(13)	A	20 – 26 September 1917
	B	11 – 13 October 1917
	C	26 March 1919
(14)	A	24 August – 2 September 1917
	C	20 – 22 March 1918
(15)	A	15 November 1917
(16)	A	17 July 1917
	Ba	9 – 22 October 1917
	Bb	25 December 1917 – 18 July 1918
(17)	A	13 – 18 June 1918
(18)	A	20 September 1917 – 25 June 1918
(19)	A	20 August 1917 – 29 October 1918, 4 February 1919
	B	21 – 29 June 1918

(20)	A	...
	B	26 October 1917
(21)	B	5 December 1917
	C	5 December 1917 – 23 May 1918
(22)	C	7 May – 5 June 1918
	C	7 June 1918
(23)	Ba	26 February 1918
	Bb	5 July – 1 October 1918
(24)	A	11 – 21 May 1917
	C	24 May – 25 June 1918
(25)	B	14 January – 24 May 1918
(26)	B	1 November 1917 – 2 January 1918
	C	22 April – 7 June 1918
(27)		
(28)		
(29)		
(30)		
(31)	C	16 – 30 May 1918
(32)		
(33)		
(34)	C	19 March – 1 August 1918
(35)		
(36)		
(37)	B	19 March – 1 October 1918
	C	1 August 1918 ??
(38)		
(39)		
(40)		
(41)	C	8 – 23 June 1918

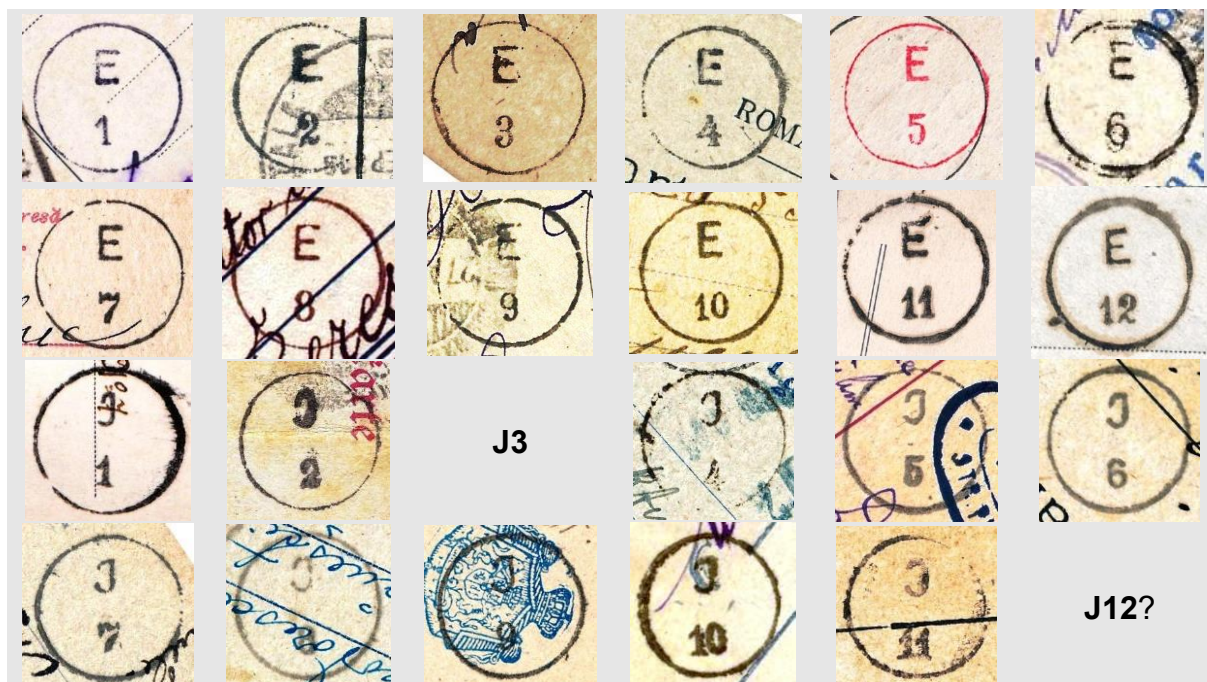
ⓄB04/02.8 (Type D): round large alphanumerical handstamp, with the inner text reading: **CENSURAT / DX**; diameter of 40 mm; seen between **27 May – 12 November 1917**, and on **25 July 1918** on internal military and fieldpost mail. This type of handstamps were used in 1919 in Bucharest (see there).

- ❖ **.../02.8(D3)**: 28 May – 2 October 1917, applied in red-lila (11 September 1917) or black ink.
- ❖ **.../02.8(D4)**: 27 May – 12 November 1917, always applied in black ink.



Fig. B04.11. Romanian field postcard sent from the front lines (12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, as indicated by the violet handstamp in the lower left), postmarked by the 6th Division (**OFICIUL POSTAL MILITAR * DIVIZIA VI**) on 20 June 1917. It was addressed to Iași, where it was censored with **ⓄB04/02.8(D3)**, then released by BCI-Iași with **ⓄB04/01.1*** on **28 June 1917**. The arrival postmark **IAȘI** was applied on 29 June. For unknown reasons, two 10 Bani **Porto** stamps were applied on 30 June 1917 — an entirely totally unusual situation. Delivered by postman No. 10.

ⓄB04/02.9: These are round markings with a diameter of 18 - 19 mm, containing an alphanumeric combination inside — typically the letter "E" or "J" followed by a number between 1 and 12. Currently, known markings include E(1) – E(12) and J(1) – J(11). Early isolated usages are known from **24 to 28 March 1917**, when they were applied in red ink. Between **24 October 1917 – 5 February 1919**, they were always applied in black ink on both domestic and interzonal mail, and were occasionally reused until **26 August 1919** on mail received from Bukovina.



The exact purpose of these handstamps remains unclear. Combinations of E and J postmarks on the same item are known, as well as the use of different numbers from the same series (i.e. E7 + E8 in September 1918). These were generally not applied to registered mail, with only a few exceptions known in 1917.

/02.9:	1917-1918	1919
E(1)	28 March 1917?? 27 July – 4 November 1918	
E(2)	21 August – 3 October 1918	
E(3)	8 May – 15 August 1918	
E(4)	3 November 1917 – ... →	... 19 January 1919
E(5)	24 March 1917 - 17 November 1917... 3 July – 29 December 1918	
E(6)	22 August 1918 – ... →	... 25 January 1919
E(7)	8 July – 31 October 1918	
E(8)	14 January – September 1918	26 – 27 August 1919
E(9)	14 June – 27 August 1918	
E(10)	24 October 1917 – 16 November 1918	10 February 1919
E(11)	8 July – 29 November 1918	9 July 1919
E(12)	17 June – 8 September 1918	
J(1)	3 July – 2 September 1918	
J(2)	8 December 1917 – 15 September 1918	
J(3)	20 December 1917 – 6 July 1918	
J(4)	4 December 1917 – ... →	... 5 February 1919
J(5)	20 March – 25 July 1918	
J(6)	17 August – 26 September 1918	1 April 1919
J(7)	27 July – 19 October 1918	
J(8)	27 May – 14 September 1918	
J(9)	31 January – 15 September 1918	
J(10)	26 June – 26 September 1918	
J(11)	29 November 1917 – 23 September 1918	



Fig. B04.12. The earliest usage of type #9 handstamps on an external mail.

Registered postcard postmarked HUȘI on 21 February 1917. Arrived in IAȘI on 23 February, where it was censored by the local BCE-Iași with handstamps [B04/01.6*](#) and [B04/02.9\(E5\)](#), being released by BCE-Iași on **24 March 1917**, see [B04/01.1*](#). Transit through Petrograd, Russia, where it was re-censored (see numeral **12** and triangular **12/6**), finally arrived in Geneva, Switzerland (source: web 2022).

B04/02C – The External Censorship Bureau Iași, BCE-Iași.

External mail from Moldavia could be sent to neutral or allied countries in 1917 and during the first few months of 1918 with the assistance of the Russian ally. This mail transited through Petrograd, where it was censored by Russian authorities, and for destinations in the USA or Western Europe, it was forwarded via Scandinavia.

Mail from Moldavia to enemy countries (Germany, Austro-Hungary, including occupied Romanian territories) was permitted only after the Preliminary Peace Treaty of Buftea, signed on 20 February / **5 March 1918**. Consequently, between March and November 1918, one can find interesting "interzonal" pieces of mail that passed between Moldavia and occupied Romania, bearing censorship marks from both Iași (Romanian censor) and Bucharest (German censor). More details will be found in *Volume B/2*.

The External Censorship Bureau Iași **BCE-Iași** used some *specific handstamps*:

ⓄB04/02.10: an oval handstamp, bearing the text **CENSURAT**, followed by a letter which could be the code assigned to the censors from the external mail bureau. Two subtypes are known:

- ❖ **.../02.10A**: with bold letters and measuring between 37-41 x 28-31 mm; applied with red-lila, violet or black ink between **30 March 1917 – 8 mai 1918**, having been reused on *internal censorship* on **17 January 1919**. There are handstamps bearing the same letter but with different dimensions, which may indicate that at least two copies were produced from the outset, or that the original handstamp was later lost or destroyed and replaced with a similar, though not identical, version.



- ❖ **.../02.10B**: with thin letters and dimensions of 41 x 23 mm, bearing the text **CENSURAT** followed by a letter, and were applied in black ink between **27 November 1917 and 15 July 1918**. These samples were most likely produced to replace deteriorated or lost handstamps of the previous type. They were used specially on interzonal mail, and occasionally on internal correspondence (see *Fig. B04.13*), as external mail was practically suspended during this period.



Fig. B04.13. Romanian private postcard mailed as a local field postcard (accepted free of charge even without a military cachet), postmarked IASI on **26 November 1917**. It was handed over to BCI-Iasi, where it was censored with the unusual handstamp **ⓄB04/02.10B(Y)** typically used by the foreign censorship office. It was immediately released by BCI-Iasi with **ⓄB04/01.1*** on **27 November 1917**, as "aging" was not practiced for internal mail. The recipient's military unit was also stationed near Iasi, and three IASI postmarks dated 2 November, 1 December and 2 December 1917 prove that it was not easily found.

- ❖ **.../02.10C**: with thin letters and dimensions of 41 x 23 mm, bearing the new text **CENZURAT**; applied in black ink between **21 January 1918 – 15 January 1919**. These samples were produced to replace those deteriorated from the previous types.



CENZURAT V	CENZURAT X	
11 August 1918	11 July 1918	21.1-3.7.1918

(A)	A	16 August 1917
(B)	A	15 October 1917
(C)	A	22 April – 29 December 1917
(D)	A	8 May 1917 – 8 May 1918
(E)	A	13 August 1918... 17 January 1919
(F)	A	14 April – 29 September 1917
	B	21 February – 27 June 1918
	C	8 September 1918
(G)	A	30 March – 1 October 1917
	B	25 June 1918
(H)	A	30 March 1917
	C	16 – 25 September 1918
(I)	C	13 June 1918 – 15 January 1919
(J)	?	
(K)	?	
(L)	C	16 July 1918

(M)	A	15 August – 5 December 1917
(N)	A	10 May – 6 November 1917
	C	11 March – 19 July 1918
(O)	A	1 July 1917 – 13 October 1918
(P)	A	28 July 1917 – 12 May 1918
(R)	A	4 May ... 5 November 1917
(S)	A	12 September 1917 – ...22 February 1918
(T)	A	31 August 1917 – 21 February 1918
(U)	A	2 December 1917 – 18 May 1918
(V)	A	1 May – 6 August 1917
	C	11 August 1918
(X)	B	... 15 – 22 July 1918
	C	11 July 1918
(Y)	B	27 November 1917
	C	21 January – 3 July 1918
(Z)	B	9 June – 12 July 1918

These handstamps were occasionally used on internal or inter-zonal mail as well; see *Fig. B04.14*.

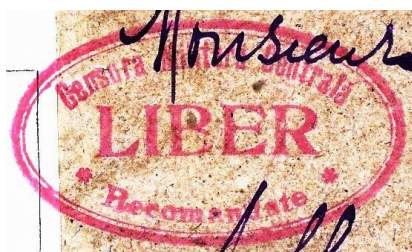


Fig. B04.14. 25 Bani overprinted stamp on a cover postmarked IASI on **13 June 1918**, censored by BCI-Iasi with the unusual handstamp [ⓄB04/02.10C\(I\)](#), usually used by the foreign censorship office, Re-censored by German censor **51** at arrival at Bucharest with [ⓄB11/1.9a](#) on **26 June 1918** (collection [Mark Lendon](#))

[ⓄB04/02.11](#): this is a special oval handstamp used in Iasi to attest the free dispatch of *foreign registered letters*. It was applied in lila-violet or black ink between **9 May 1917** and **25 July 1918**. The inner text reads: **Censura Militară Centrală / LIBER / Recomandate** (= *The Central Censorship / FREE / Registered letters*). It is important to note that these handstamps were never used in conjunction with D-Type numeral censors or Z-Type date numerals, suggesting that they were applied to mail exempted from

censorship. Three variants are known so far. The dates were typically marked using the BCE's A-Type handstamp, implying that the oval stamp was applied on the day the item was release from censorship:

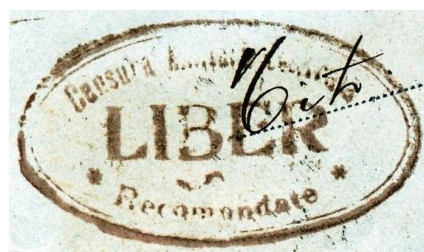
- ❖ **.../02.11A**: a small, oval handstamp, with a double frame and the inner text reading: **Censura Militară Centrală * Recomandate / LIBER**; with a straight "L"; dimensions 45/43 x 26/23 mm; applied in red ink between 9 May – 19 October 1917, or black ink between 28 September – 20 November 1917.



/02.11A: 24 May 1917



13 September 1917

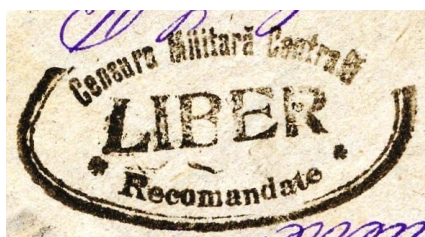


20 November 1917



Fig. B04.15. Registered cover postmarked GALATI on 5 September 1917, arrived in IASI (date unknown) where it was handed over to BCE-Iasi. A LIBER handstamp B04/02.11A was applied here, so the Z-type handstamp and censor numeral are absent. The cover left BCE-Iasi on 8 October 1917 (B04/01.1*), indicating that the "aging" period was followed. It was then censored in Petrograd, as shown by the rectangular handstamp applied on a VOENNAIA ZENSURA P.R.O. closing label. Transit postmarks from Petrograd are missing on all Registered letters, so the transit date cannot be established. Forwarded via Scandinavia to United Kingdom, where it was censored by the French office in London (see the oval handstamp OUVERT * Par l'AUTORITE MILITAIRE / 920 on the closing label marked CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE), again without a transit postmark. The arrival was marked by a GENEVE 1 postmark dated 7 December 1917.

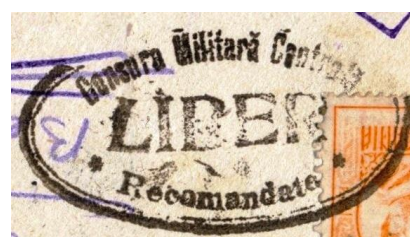
- ❖ **.../02.11B**: a medium, oval handstamp, with a double frame, and the inner text reading: **Censura Militară Centrală * Recomandate / LIBER**; the letter "L" is bent to the right; dimensions 47/45 x 27/25 mm, and was applied in black ink between 29 November 1917 – 9 January 1918, and then again on 22 July 1918.



/02.11B: November 1917



15 December 1917



1 January 1918



Fig. B04.16. Registered cover sent from the 6th Infantry Division telegraph station in Moțoc, Bacău county, transited through the BIUROUL CENTRAL MILITAR DE CARTARE (Iasi) on **25 November 1917**, handed over to BCE-Iasi where a LIBER handstamp [B04/02.11B](#) was applied. The cover left BCE-Iasi on **1 January 1918**, as indicated by [B04/01.1*](#). It transited Russia without markings and was addressed to the International Peace Bureau in Bern, Switzerland, requesting news about family members left in Prahova county, occupied Romania.

- ❖ [.../02.11C](#): a large, oval handstamp, with a double frame and an inner text reading: **Censura Militară Centrală * Recomandate / LIBER**; dimensions ca. 60/57 x 31/26 mm; applied in black ink between **9 November – 24 December 1917...** (undamaged), and **...9 January – 22 July 1918** (damaged).



[/02.11C](#): 26 November 1917



1 December 1917



9 January 1918



Ca. 22 July 1918



Fig. B04.17. Registered cover sent from the 1st March Regiment, 14th Infantry Division, postmarked NICOREȘTI on **6 December 1917**, transited through IASI on 7 December. It was handed over to BCE-Iasi where a LIBER handstamp [B04/02.11C](#) was applied (cancelling the stamp). The cover left BCE-Iasi on **9 January 1918**, as indicated by [B04/01.1*](#). It transited Russia without markings and was addressed to the International Peace Bureau in Bern, Switzerland. Arrived at BERN * BRIEFTRAGER on **8 March 1918**.

©B04/02.12 (Type Z): a group of control numeral stamps, consisting of digits from 1 to 31⁵⁵ indicating the days of the month – **12(1) ... 12(31)**, each measuring 11 mm in height. These were applied only on foreign and internee mail, in black or red ink, at least between **7 September 1917 and 12 January 1918**, and again after the resumption of external postal service with neutral countries and the Great Powers via occupied Romania, between **24 May and 5 August 1918**. For some numbers, multiple variants exist due to the replacement of worn or lost handstamps.



Table of **02.12** handstamps (ink may differ depending on the one used the respective day)

These numerals were first discussed by Gabriel Sassower in 1980 [**B04.1**], who correctly noted that they are not the numeral handstamps of postmen in Iași, as previously assumed by Ladislau Rothman in 1977-1978 and later erroneously maintained by Silviu Dragomir in 1982 (who failed to recognise the differences in appearance between the two types of matriculation marks). The following interpretation was offered by Călin Marinescu in 2004 [**B04.3**, p. 202], who argues that these numerals are not proper censorship stamps and suggests two possible explanations:

- a) *They were used by the post office when handing over the mail to the censorship office, to exonerate postal staff from responsibility for delays in censorship;*
- b) *They were used by the censorship office to mark the day the correspondence was received from the post office.*

In my opinion, the second explanation is closer to the truth. Moreover, I believe that this type of censor handstamps actually indicates the **date on which censorship was performed**. This date typically falls one day after sorting at the IASI post office, and *up to a month* before release from the censorship office, as indicated by the Type-A date handstamps.

Therefore, for the periods of **September-December 1917** and **April-August 1918**, it is possible to determine the exact date of censorship by analyzing these handstamps, provided they— are present. A preliminary synthesis is available in **Table B04.1**. Here some comments on that:

- Postmarks from places in Moldova other than Iași are not relevant for determining censorship dates.
- The dispatch or transit postmark from IASI indicates **the date the mail left the IASI post office** (abbreviated here as **X date**, *as shown in the first column of the Table*) to be handed over to the external censorship office (**BCE-**

⁵⁵ Which should not be confused with the postmen's matriculation handstamps used in Iași, with which they sometimes resemble; see Fig. **B04.11**.

Iași) or to the censorship office for mail from prisoners and deportees, located near the Ministry of War (MRDS). In cases where multiple Iași postmarks exist, *the latest date* must be considered.

- The Z-Type numeric stamp indicates the actual day of censorship (X+1 date, listed in the *second column of the Table*), usually one or two days after arrival at the censorship office. Interestingly, this type was used by both BCE-Iași and MRDS, suggesting the two operated in the same location.
- The *third column of the Table* records the types of censorship handstamps used: [B04/02.10](#) – BCE-Iași censors **S, M, N**, and rarely **G, T, B, C, D, R** and **U**; [B04/02.7A](#) – BCI-Iași censors detached to BCE: **11, 16, 26**, and rarely **25**. This shows that *up to four different censors* could be active at BCE-Iași on a single day.
- The A-Type stamp of the BCE-Iași indicates the date mail was released after the "aging" period (usually X+30 days, though sometimes shorter or longer; see the *fourth column of the Table*). This mail was routed to Russia. For mail censored at MRDS, this information is absent, as items were handed over directly to the Romanian Red Cross.
- The last three columns are reserved for Petrograd arrival and departure postmarks (if present — note that 13 days must be added to these dates), as well as the final destination and arrival date. Most items dispatched from Iași in November-December 1917 (and some in October) were held in Petrograd until **25 March 1918**, when a general release occurred. The last Romanian mail from 1917 left Petrograd on **22 April 1918**.

In the case of **registered letters**, the Z-Type numeric handstamp is missing, so the only available indicator is the A-Type handstamp, marking the date the mail was released from BCE-Iași to Russia. Petrograd transit postmarks are also absent on registered mail, making it impossible to determine the exact date of Russian dispatch.



B04.18. First day of use of Z-Type numeric stamps.

Envelope sent by a civilian internee from the Cismănești center (see the handstamp on the left: **Regiunea I. S. N. Dângeni * Centrul Cismănești**), routed through BCE-Iași and the civil postal system (not via MRDS and the Red Cross). The item was transported by the center's courier to the IAȘI post office, from where it was handed over to the censorship office on **6 September 1917**. Censorship was carried out on **7 September 1917** by censor "N" (see [B04/02.12\(7\)](#) and [B04/02.10A\(N\)](#)). Notably, the identical ink used for both handstamps supports the conclusion that they were applied on the same day in the same location. The item left BCE-Iași on **8 October 1917**, as indicated by [B04/01.1*](#), and was re-censored in Petrograd (numeral 84), before arriving in Zurich, Switzerland. (Source: auction in 2021, overpriced at 356,88 USD)

Table B04.1 – Daily censorship of correspondence during the period 7 September – 12 December 1917

Last IASI Postmark (X-date)	Z-Type Censor numeric (X+1 date)	D-Type censor	A-Type Postmark (release, X+30 date)	Petrograd Arrival Postmark	Petrograd Departure Postmark	Arrival in the West
6.9.1917	7	N	8.10.1917			(see Fig. B04.18)
?	8	N				
?	9					
?	10					
?	11					
11.9.1917	12	S	14.10.1917			Switzerland
12.9.1917	13	S	--	-- Red Cross		Austria / POW
13.9.1917	14	S	15.10.1917			Switzerland
14.9.1917	15	S	15.10.1917			
15.9.1917	16	S	17.10.1917	11.10.1917		

		G	--	-- Red Cross	--	POW
16.9.1917	17	S	17.10.1917			Switzerland
17.9.1917	18	N	? .10.1917			Switzerland
?	19					
?	20					
20.9.1917	21	S	22.10.1917	21.10.1917		Switzerland
21.9.1917	22	S	24.10.1917	26.10.1917		Switzerland
		T	--	-- Red Cross	--	Sweden 19.12.1917
22.9.1917	23	S	24.10.1917			
23.9.1917	24	G	24.10.1917			Switzerland
		T	29.10.1917			
?	25					
?	26					
25.9.1917	27	G	--	-- Red Cross	--	POW
		G	--	-- Red Cross	--	POW
27.9.1917	28	S	29.10.1917	26.10.1917		Switzerland 25.3.18
		G	--	-- Red Cross	--	POW
28.9.1917	29	M	12?.10.1917			France
		S	30.10.1917			
?	30					



Fig. B04.19.
Mail from Iași to Geneva,
with a late transit via Russia.

Postcard with the red handstamp of a military unit, through which the children from Murgeni, Tutova county, sent a message to their parents in Filiiu, Brăila county (in occupied Romania) through CICR Geneva. Cancelled in IASI on **11 November 1917**, it was taken over by BCE-Iasi and censored on 12 November with [B04/02.12\(12\)](#) by censor no. 26, detached from the *internal censorship office* [B04/02.7B\(26\)](#). Note the identical ink used for both handstamps, **D** and **Z**-Type.

After one month of "aging", the postcard was released from censorship on **15 December 1917** (see [B04/01.1*](#)). It eventually found a late opportunity to transit through Russia, arriving in PETROGRAD on 21/3 **January 1918**, where it was censored with the numeral handstamp **81**. It was not released until 25/7 **April 1918**, as part of the large shipment of hundreds of bags of retained mail bound for Switzerland..

29.9.1917	1	S	? .10.1917			Switzerland
1.10?	2	S	3.11.1917	31.10(11?).1917	25.3.1918	
		N	4.11.1917			Switzerland
	3					
3.10.1917	4	S	?5.11.1917			Switzerland, POW
	5					
	6					
	7					
	8					
	9					
9.10.1917	10	16	2?.11.1917			Switzerland
		T	? .11.1917			Switzerland
10.10.1917	11	S	12.11.1917			Switzerland
11.10.1917	12	S	13.11.1917			Switzerland
12.10.1917	13	S	15.11.1917			
	14					
	15					
15.10.1917	16	S	1.11.1917	Odesa		Switzerland
		B	2.11.1917			USA 26.3.1918

16.10.1917	17	S	2.11.1917			Switzerland
17.10.1917	18	S	?			Switzerland
18.10.1917	19	S	22.11.1917	21.12.1917	25.3.1918	Switzerland
19.10.1917	20	S	3.11.1917	8.11.1917	25.3.1918	Switzerland
	21					
20-21.10.1917	22	16	4.11.1917			Switzerland 28.1?.18
		S	24.11.1917			
		M	30?.11.1917	17.11.1917		Switzerland
22.10.1917	23	16	4.11.1917 (24?)	10-11.11.1917		Switzerland
	24					
24.10.1917	25	M	27, 28.11.1917			Switzerland
		S	?.11.1917		?.3.1918	Switzerland
25.10.1917	26	M	1.12.1917	Odesa		Switzerland
		B	12.11.1917			USA
		S	30.11.1917	17.11.1917?		Switzerland
26.10.1917	27	M	31.11.1917		17.4.1918	Switzerland
		S	26, 27.11.1917			Switzerland
27.10.1917	28	S	29/25?.11.1917	14.11.1917		Switzerland
		C	?.11.1917			France 12.1917
		N	29.11.1917			Switzerland
		D	14.11.1917	3.12.1917		USA
28.10.1917	29	M	3.12.1917			Switzerland
		26	3.12.1917			
29.10.1917	30	26	3.12.1917			Switzerland
30.10.1917	31	26	5.12.1917	22.11.1917		Switzerland
28.10.1917?	1	26	3.12.1917			Switzerland
31.10.1917		26	7.12.1917			Switzerland
		M	5.12.1917			Switzerland
		N	3(?)...	14.11 / Odesa		Switzerland
01.11.1917	2	26	5.12.1917			
		M	5.12.1917	22.11.1917		Switzerland
		26	7.12.1917	9.4.1918	22.4.1918	Switzerland
		M	7.12.1917	24.11.1917		Switzerland
		26	10.12.1917			
2.11.1917	3	26	(10?).12.1917			Switzerland 25.3.18
		M	9.12.1917		25.3.1918	Switzerland
		M	11.12.1917	28.11.1917		Switzerland
		11	10.12.1917			Switzerland
3.11.1917	4	11	11.12.1917	28.11.1917	25.3.1918	Switzerland *
		round	?.12.1917		9.4.1918	
4.11.1917	5	S	--	--	--	POW
		R	20.11.1917	2.12.1917		Italy 2.1918
		N	6.12.1917			Switzerland
		26	11.12.1917			Switzerland
5.11.1917	6	26	13.12.1917			Switzerland
		N	7.12.1917			Switzerland
6.11.1917	7	11				Cuba
		26	13.12.1917	2.12.1917	25.3.1918	Switzerland
	8					
7-8.11.1917	9	26	13(?), 14.12.1917	21.12.1917	25.3.1918	
		M	14.12.1917	21.12.1917	25.3.1918	Switzerland
		11	14.12.1917	21.12.1917	25.3.1918	Switzerland, POW
9.11.1917	10	M	14.11.1917?	21.12.1917		Switzerland, POW
		26	14.12.1917			Switzerland
		M	21.12.1917			
10.11.1917	11	26	15.12.1917	7, 21.12.1917	25.3.1918	Switzerland
		11	15.12.1917	21.12.1917	25.3.1918	Switzerland
11.11.1917	12	26	15.12.1917	21.12.1917	25.3.1918	Switzerland
12.11.1917	13	11	15.12.1917	21.12.1917	25.3.1918	Switzerland
		26	15.12.1917		21.3.1918	
	14					
14.11.1917	15	26	20.12.1917	13.12.1917		Switzerland
		11	2?.?.1917	7.12.1917?		
15.11.1917	16	26	20.12.1917	13.12.1917		Switzerland
16.11.1917	17	11	20.12.1917?		25.3.1918	Switzerland
		26	20.12.1917			Switzerland
		S	21.12.1917	27.12.1917	25.3.1918	Switzerland

17.11.1917	18	M	22.12.1917			Switzerland
	19					
19.11.1917	20	26	22.12.1917			
20.11.1917	21	26	24.12.1917	15.1.1918	25.3.1918	Switzerland
		11	24.12.1917			
21.11.1917	22	26	24.12.1917			Switzerland
		C	1(?) .12.1917			France
	23					
23.11.1917	24	11	--	--	--	POW
	25					
24, 25.11.1917	26	26	22.12.1917 (23?)			Switzerland
		26	28.12.1917		25.3.1918	Switzerland
		26	22.12.1917			Switzerland
		11	28.12.1917			Switzerland, POW
		M	28.12.1917			Switzerland
	27					
26, 27.11.1917	28	M	29.12.1917	17.12.1917	25.3.1918	Switzerland, POW
		26	30.12.1917			Switzerland
	29	26	3.12.1917			
29.11.1917	30	11	1.1.1918	9.4.1918	22.4.1918	Switzerland



Fig. B04.20. Example of mail circulated via Russia with all transit postmarks visible.

Romanian lettercard written on 18/31 October 1917 by a family in Focuri, Iași county, addressed to CICR Geneva, with an inner message to be forwarded to their relatives in Drăgășani, Vâlcea county (Occupied Romania). Postmarked **FOCURI * JUD. IAȘI** on **31 October 1917**, it arrived in **IAȘI** on **3 November 1917**, and was handed over to BCE-Iași. It was censored, most probably on **4 November 1917**, by censor 11 (see handstamp [B04/02.7A\(11\)](#) and numeral [B04/02.12\(4\)](#)). It was retained by BCE-Iași for "aging" and released only on **11 December 1917** (see [B04/01.1*](#)) when put in a mailbag to Russia. It arrived in PETROGRAD on 28 November 1917 (= **11 December 1917**), where it was censored with the numeral handstamp **81**, applied twice. The letter was held in PETROGRAD for over four months, and released only, on 25 March 1918 (= **7 April 1918**) – together with hundreds of bags retained there. It finally arrived in Geneva, Switzerland.

30.11.1917	1		3.1.1918			
	2	25	4.1.1918			
1, 2.12.1917	3	U	--	-- Red Cross	--	POW
		26	4.1.1918	2.1.1918		Switzerland
		11	4.1.1918	2.1.1918		Switzerland
3.12.1917	4	U	--	-- Red Cross	--	POW
	5					
	6					
6?.12.1917	7	25	14.1.1918			Switzerland
7.12.1917	8	C	18.12.1917			France

		26	18.1.1918		25.3.1918	Switzerland
	9					
	10					
10.12.1917	11	?	20.12.1917		18.3.1918	USA
		11	--	-- Red Cross	--	POW
11.12.1917	12	25	19.1.1918		25.3.1918	Switzerland
	13					
13.12.1917	14	11	--	-- Red Cross	--	POW
	...					
4.1.1918	5		14.1.1918	15.1.1918		Great Britain
18.1.1918	21	F	21.2.1918			Switzerland

Foreign languages that were known by censors: French (**B, C, F, G, M, N, R, S, T, 11, 26**), English (**D**), German (**G, S**), Italian (**N**), Hungarian (**F**)



Fig. B04.21. A piece of local correspondence circulated within Iași, which became the subject of a military investigation due to irregularities in censorship.

Addressed "Loco" (within the city), it was postmarked IASI on **13 May 1917**, censored by BCI-Iași, and returned on **14 May 1917** (see the black date handstamp [B04/01.1*](#) and censor's numeral handstamp no. 24 [B04/02.7A\(11\)](#)). It was then sorted again by the IASI post office on **16 May 1917**, stamped 10 Bani Postage Due, and cancelled again in IASI on **18 May 1917**. The envelope was delivered to the addressee by postman no. **23** (see the black numeral, not to be confused with the date-handstamps [B04/02.12](#))

Excurs. We meet again, Mr. Lt. Schina (head of Military Censorship until 1917).

The envelope in *Fig. B04.21*, addressed 'Loco' to "Fritz Faising, Sculptor, Eternitate street, member of the German Society", was franked with a 5 bani postage stamp — insufficient to cover the required 10 bani fare. It was postmarked in IASI on **13 May 1917**. From there, it followed the standard route for the period: it was censored using the București-Scrișori "refugee" stamp [B04/01.1*](#) on 14 May 1917 (on the back), and additionally marked with the personal numeral handstamp of censor no. **24**, [B04/01.2\(24\)](#). The envelope was then re-cancelled by the IASI post office on **16 May 1917** and charged "Porto" with an additional 10 bani on the same day. It was delivered to the recipient by postman number **23**. On the back of the envelope, several pencil sketches of funerary monuments can be seen, which confirm the addressee's occupation, as well as the fact that the envelope did indeed reach him.

This is where things become strange. For reasons unknown, the envelope later came into the possession of a state military authority, which made a note in red pencil in the upper left corner ("S.R." — an unclear abbreviation, perhaps "Service...?") and filed it as *corpus delicti* — as suggested by the four punch holes on the left side. I refer to it as *corpus delicti*, because it seems likely that the envelope was recovered from the recipient's home under unpleasant circumstances. We can speculate, connecting the German nationality of the addressee and his membership in the German Society of Iași, with the tense situation of 1917. The imagination quickly fills in the gaps: espionage, betrayal of state or military secrets, and so on.

But now comes the somewhat comical (and authentically Romanian) part. The authorities wanted to know who had censored this "suspicious" letter. In theory, this should have been simple: consult the allocation tables for handstamps used during the relevant period, look up number 24, pay the censor a visit, and ask questions.

But — and here we must read exactly the words written in black ink by the military authority — "It is not possible to find out who stamped and censored this correspondence; in May (1917) there were no officers at the Censorship, and Mr. Locot. Schina (*who, as we already know, had been reassigned to Kherson*) did not leave the handstamp distribution table". Signed: a certain captain.

So, we can draw some conclusions:

1. In May 1917, there were no military officers stationed at the BCI-Iași censorship office (the most important such office in unoccupied Romania); the censors were civilians — likely teachers, and so on — operating under the command of a lieutenant.
2. It appears that these civilian censors sometimes examined correspondence with a less-than-careful eye, seemingly allowing details to pass unnoticed — for which they might later have had to answer to the authorities.
3. We have clear evidence that, at least during the first part of 1917, the allocation tables for censorship handstamp no longer existed — documents that would be a golden dream for any researcher of postal history and censorship in particular. And the reason? Quite simply, "Mr. Locot. Schina" did not leave them behind when he vacated his post...

B04/02B – Internal/External Censorship Bureau Iași: the refugee handstamps from Bucharest

These handstamps were described in Chapter [#B04.01](#) (Bucharest Censorship Office), and for the refugee-related items, we will retain that codification, followed by an asterisk "*". For details on the variants, it is necessary to consult the Bucharest chapter. Below are the handstamps that were taken into refuge in Iași:

[ⓄB04/01.1*](#) (Type A): a date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text reading: **BIUROUL DE CENZURĂ MILITARĂ * BUCUREȘTI SCRISORI**, used in Iași between **27 November 1916 and 16 July 1918 ... 23 January – 26 March 1919**. It was mostly used on internal, inter-zonal and external mail, respectively mail to or from Bukovina, during the summer of 1919.

[ⓄB04/01.3*](#) (Type B): a small rectangular handstamp, with the inner text reading: **CENZURAT / Biuroul de cenzură / BUCUREȘTI MESAGERII / Data....**; rarely used in Iași, with a known usage dated **15 March 1918**.

[ⓄB04/01.5*](#) (Type B) a small rectangular handstamp, with the inner text reading: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. ILFOV / Data.....**; rarely used in Iași, with a known usage dated **27 September 1918**.

[ⓄB04/01.6*](#) (Type C) a large rectangular handstamp, with the inner text reading: **CENZURAT / CENZURĂ MILITARĂ / BUCUREȘTI POȘTA C(ENTRA)LĂ**; frequently used in Iași between **8 December 1916 and 27 April 1917** (with a later isolated use in March 1918), on internal, inter-zonal, and external mail.

[ⓄB04/01.90*](#): the closing label, bearing the text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ A JUDEȚULUI ILFOV / Data....**; used in Iași between **2 January and 9 October 1917**, on external mail.

B04/02D – The POW Censorship Commission attached to the Statistical Directorate, Ministry of War.

For the history of the Censorship Commission attached to the MRDS (Ministry of War, Statistical Directorate), see [Volume C/1](#). This commission operated between April 1917 and April 1919, and used two specific censor handstamps: type MR-1 and type MR-2:

[ⓄB04/02.15](#): the MR-1 handstamp is rectangular, bearing the inner text on two lines: **Comisiunea pentru prizonierii de război / CENZURAT** (=Commission for prisoners of war / CENSORED, clearly referring to the Bagdat Commission); measuring 54 x 12 mm, and applied in purple ink between **April and September 1917**.



This confirms that censorship of POW mail came into effect only after Ministerial Decision no. 10778. This handstamp appears exclusively on correspondence sent to or received *from prisoners of war*, including the following cases (see further details and illustrated examples in [Volume C/1](#)):

- Romanian prisoners in foreign camps: Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Bulgaria.
- Romanian prisoners in German labor camps in Macedonia (Bulgaria), with correspondence addressed to occupied Romania but routed through Moldavia.
- Foreign prisoners held in Romanian camps in Moldavia.
- Correspondence between POW camps within Moldavia.

The MR-1 handstamp indicates only the name of the commission, but does not include a censor number, which would be essential for identifying the individual censor involved. Upon examining the correspondences, it becomes clear that the actual censorship (including for mail leaving Moldavia) was carried out by censors from the **External Censorship Bureau** (BCE-Iași). These censors used oval numeral handstamps, featuring the word CENSURAT and a control letter, from A to X (see above for details).

Until the precise relationship between BCE-Iași and MRDS is fully understood— each having, in theory, distinct responsibilities (military vs. intelligence censorship) — we may assume that some BCE-Iași censors were also assigned to the MRDS, performing a complex form of combined military and intelligence censorship, for which only a *limited number* of BCE censors were properly trained.



Table of BCE-Iași handstamps used by censors detached to MRDS

Censor	Period	(M)	November 917
(F)	April – August 1917	(S)	October 1917 – April 1918
(G)	April – September 1917	(T)	October 1917 – April 1918
(H)	March 1917	(X)	July 1918

©B04/02.16: the MR-2 stamp is oval (inspired by the appearance of BCE Iași handstamps), with inner text on three lines: **CENZURAT * M. R. D. S.** (= **M**(inisterul) **R**(ăzboiului) **D**(irecția) **S**(tatistică)), with a letter in the center representing the censor's identification. It measures 40 x 20 mm and was applied in purple, blue, or black ink between **October 1917 - April 1919**.



This is therefore a mixed handstamp, indicating both the issuing and the censor's registration. Letters from A to V are known so far. These handstamps appear on the following types of correspondence (see full details and images in [Volume C/1](#)):

(a) on the mail of **prisoners of war**:

- Romanian prisoners in foreign camps (AustroHungary, Germany, Bulgaria), with letters addressed to occupied Romania but arriving in Iași.
- Correspondence of foreign prisoners in Romanian camps: from Moldavia (1917-1918) to Austria-Hungary or Germany; from camps located in Bessarabia (1918) and in Romania (1919); examples are detailed in [Volume C/2](#).
- Correspondence of prisoners working in occupied Romania to their families in M.V.I.R., routed through the Tuchel camp and Iași.
- Correspondence exchanged between POW camps within Moldavia.

b) from now on, the correspondences of **civilian internees** from Moldova was added to the area of interest of MRDS censorship:

- Letters sent abroad to neutral countries such as Switzerland, Sweden, France, or to family members in Austria-Hungary or Germany.
- Internal correspondence within Moldavia (typically

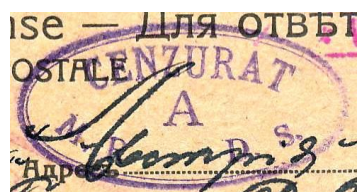
(A)	October 1917 – June 1918	
(B)	December 1917 – February 1918	
(C)	October 1917 – January 1918	January 1919
(D)	November 1917 – January 1918	May 1919
(E)	October 1917 – ...	January - April 1919
(F)	November 1917 – February 1919	
(G)	November 1917 – January 1918	February 1919
(H)	November – December 1917	
(I)	October 1917 – January 1918	
(J)		
(K)		
(L)		
(M)	July 1917 – January 1918	
(N)	November 1917	
(O)	April 1918	
(P)	October 1917 – January 1918	
(R)	November 1917 – April 1918	
(S)	October 1917 – April 1918	
(T)	April 1918	
(U)	December 1917 – January 1918	
(V)	1917	

addressed to internees from acquaintances in the region — a notable peculiarity, where handstamps intended for external censorship appear on internal mail.

It appears that a new group of censors was employed directly by the MRDS, distinct from those at BCE-Iași — although in at least 2-3 known cases, BCE handstamps were used alone during this period, without any accompanying MR-2 handstamps!

The use of MR-2 handstamps begins in October 1917, which supports the idea that they succeeded the MR-1 type, as both types never appear together on the same item and are never found in combination with BCE handstamp. The peak usage period was between October and December 1917, and again in April-May 1918, coinciding with the repatriation of most prisoners — at a time when the volume of prisoner correspondence declined, along with the authorities' interest in its informational value. At that point, direct interrogation of returned prisoners became a more efficient method of intelligence gathering. From June to December 1918, MR-2 handstamps appear to be absent (in surviving examples). They reappear between **January and May 1919**, this time on correspondence from prisoners of the former Mackensen Army (see [Volume C/2](#)).

Foreign languages known by censors: French ([A](#), [E](#)), German ([B](#), [C](#), [E](#), [G](#), [H](#), [P](#), [R](#), [S](#)), Hungarian ([B](#), [H](#)).



[.16\(A\)](#): October 1917



[.16\(B\)](#): December 1917



[.16\(C\)](#): January 1918



[.16\(D\)](#): May 1919



[.16\(E\)](#): October 1917



[.16\(F\)](#): February 1919

CENZURAT
G
M.R. D.S.

[.16\(G\)](#)



[.16\(H\)](#): November 1917

CENZURAT
I
M.R. D.S.

[.16\(I\)](#)



[.16\(M\)](#): December 1917



[.16\(N\)](#): November 1917



[.16\(O\)](#): April 1918



[.16\(P\)](#): October 1917



[.16\(R\)](#): November 1917



[.16\(S\)](#): April 1918



[.16\(T\)](#): April 1918



[.16\(U\)](#): January 1918



[.16\(V\)](#): ? 1917

B04/03. – BACĂU (Bacău county, Moldavia)
(today Bacău county)

The office operated continuously (at least between **September 1916 – September 1919**), as the Moldavian county was not affected by foreign occupation.



Fig. B04.22. Registered cover postmarked BACAU on 12 December 1916, locally censored on **14 December 1916** with the handstamp [B04/03.1b](#), affixed on neutral closing label [B04/01.91](#), transit by Russia with censorship in Petrograd (rectangular handstamp with censor number 1533 and numeral 15/6, all affixed on closing label), arrival ZURICH in Switzerland on 21 January 1917 (collection [Mark Lendon](#)).

[B04/03.1](#) (Type A, CM#3.A): a steel date handstamp of the censorship office, bearing the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * BACĂU**; diameter 27-29/18-19 mm, and it was affixed in black ink between **5 September 1916 – 30 December 1918 ... 11 April – 7 September 1919**; in April 1919 it was used in cancelling the stamps. There are at least three known manufactured specimens, which can be provisionally grouped as follows:

- ❖ [.../03.1a](#): the liaison word "DE" appears in larger letters, and was used between 5 September 1916 and 20 September 1918; it is a smaller handstamps, with a size of ca. 27/18 mm.



[/03.1a](#): 5 September 1916



9 August 1918



17 August 1918



[/03.1b](#): 25 November 1916



14 December 1916



5 June 1918

- ❖ [.../03.1b](#): the liaison word "DE" appears in smaller letters; the larger handstamps measure 28-29/19 mm, and features a wider space between the letter L (from BIUROUL) and "DE". These were used at least between 2 November 1916 and 30 December 1918; see *Fig. B04.22*.
- ❖ [.../03.1c](#): the liaison word "DE" appears in smaller letters, with a diameter of approximately 28/18 mm, and a small space between the L in BIUROUL and "DE" (see *Fig. B11.22*). It was used at least between 30 December 1916 and 17 August 1918, and again between 11 April and 7 September 1919.



/03.1c: 30 December 1916



5 January 1917



19 July 1917

This last type, [/03.1c](#), was (re)used in 1919, showing visible signs of tear and wear; see *Fig. B04.23*.



Fig. B04.23 – Late censorship in Bacău of a mail from Putna county

Picture postcard (with a view from Buzău "Vila Marghiloman"), but written in Bălca on 23/5 September 1919. It was cancelled with the postmark URECHEȘTI * JUD. PUTNA (today Bacău county) on same day, but was censored in Bacău instead of Focșani on 7 September 1919 with the handstamp [B04/03.1b](#). Arrived in CONSTANTA on 11 September 1919.

[B04/03.2](#) (Type B): a small rectangular handstamp, bearing the text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. BACAŢU / Data**; used between 9 September 1916 and 26 May 1917. Two variants are known so far:

- ❖ [.../03.2a](#) (CM#3.B.1): good quality, dimensions 49 x 15 mm, with a lowercase letter "j", applied in violet ink between **9 and 27 September 1916**;
- ❖ [.../03.2b](#): slightly deformed, dimensions 52 x 17 mm, with a capital letter "J", applied in black ink on **26 May 1917**; the material used for this sample was not durable.



/03.2a: 9 September 1916

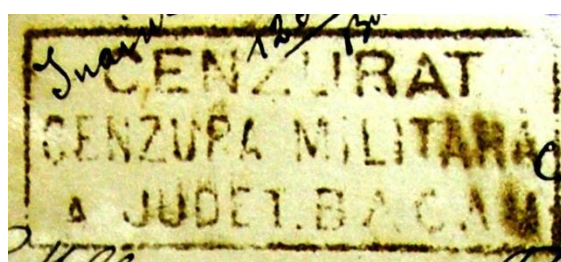


/03.2b: 26 May 1917

⊙B04/03.3 (Type C, CM#3.C.2): large rectangular handstamp, bearing the text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDEȚ. BACĂU**; dimensions ca. 55 x 22,5 mm, applied in black ink between **8 January 1917 and 18 May 1918**.



/03.3: 1 May 1918



12 May 1918

⊙B04/03.4 (Type D): numeral handstamps used by censors, featuring different shapes, applied in black or blue ink between *December 1917* and **17 January – 30 June 1918**, with numbers ranging from 1 to 11.

- ❖ [.../03.4A](#): bearing the text: **Cenzura Militară * Bacău / 2**, and was applied in black ink around **14 April 1918**; numbers known so far: 2;
- ❖ [.../03.4B](#) (CM #3.D.3): diameter 35-32/19-18 mm, bearing the text: **CENZURA MILITARĂ * BACĂU / X**; applied in black ink between *December 1917* and **30 June 1918**; numbers known so far: 5, 6, 7.
- ❖ [.../03.4C](#) (CM#3.D.1): diameter ca. 30/14-15 mm, with the text reading: **CENSURAT * Bacău / 10**, applied in blue ink between *October 1917* and *December 1918*; numbers known so far: 10 and without number.
- ❖ [.../03.4D](#) (CM#3.D.2): diameter 30/14-15 mm (with a wavy inner circle), bearing the text: **CENZURAT * Bacău / 11**, applied in black ink between **17 January** and **17 June 1918**; numbers known so far: 3, 11.



.4B(7): [B00.5], p. 41



/03.4A(2): 14 April 1918?



.4D(3): 23 May 1918



.4B(6): 1 July 1918



.4D(11): 17 June 1918

(1)	?	
(2)	A	14 April 1918 ?
(3)	D	23 May 1918
(4)	?	

(5)	B	
(6)	D	30 June 1918
(7)	B	
(8)	?	

(9)	?	
(10)	C	
(11)	D	17 January – 17 June 1918

[ⓄB04/03.90](#): neutral closing label (without name), seen between **25 November 1916** and **11 January 1917**; see Fig. B04.22 and B04.25.



Fig. B04.25. Registered cover postmarked **BACAU**, locally censored on **7 January 1917**, using a handstamp [ⓄB04/03.1](#), applied on neutral closing label [ⓄB04/03.92](#). It transited through **IASI** on 9 January, then through Russia. It arrived and was censored in **ODESSA** on 8/21 January (rectangular handstamp of censor number **241**). Left Odessa on 14/10 January and arrived in **BERN**, Switzerland, on 18 March 1918, being forwarded to **GENEVE** on the same day, (source: web, May 2014).

B04/04. – BAZARGIC Censor Office (Caliacra county, Dobruja) (today Dobrici / Добрич, Bulgaria)



The town was occupied by the 1st Brigade of the Bulgarian 6th Infantry Division on **4 September 1916**, meaning that the Censor Office theoretically worked for only 8 days! Due to foreign occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (August/September 1916)** and **Period 2 (... May – June 1919...)**.

[ⓄB04/04.1](#) (Type A, CM#5.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text reading: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * BAZARGIC**; diameter 28/18 mm; applied in black ink between **22 May – June 1919**. It has not been yet in 1916 (if found, it would be a great rarity).

[ⓄB04/04.2](#) (Type B): small rectangular censorship handstamp, not yet known from 1916; observed only on **12 May 1919** (not reproduced here).

B04/05. – BÂRLAD Censor Office (Tutova county, Moldavia) (today Vaslui county)

The office operated continuously (at least between **September 1916 – April 1919**), as the Moldavian county was not affected by foreign occupation.

[ⓄB04/05.1](#) (Type A, CM#4.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text reading: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * BÂRLAD**; diameter 28,5/18 mm; applied in black ink between **4 September 1916 – 21 October 1919 ... 29 February 1920**. Two variants of the initial handstamps can be distinguished:

- ❖ [.../05.1a](#): the first line of the upper grid is aligned with the letter "E" in DE; recorded between **11 September – 9 November 1916** and again on **5 August 1917**;
- ❖ [.../05.1b](#): the first line of the upper grid is aligned with the letter "D" in DE; recorded between **4 September 1916 – 1 December 1916** and again between **19 March – 6 April 1919** (occasionally used as a postmark to cancel stamps).



/05.1a: 11 September 1916



/05.1b: 25 September 1916



/05.1b: 19 March 1919

At least two handstamps were subsequently manufactured to replace the earlier type; their inferior quality is immediately noticeable (additional variants may be identified in the future):

- ❖ [.../05.1c](#): with small "DE" and smaller grids; seen on 1 April 1917 (possibly the third of the original sample).
- ❖ [.../05.1d](#): similar to [.1a](#), but with thicker, less refined, cornered letters; seen between 3 June – 26 July 1918.
- ❖ [.../05.1e](#): similar to [.1b](#), but made from low-quality materials, with uneven and angular letters; seen between 29 October 1918 – 21 October 1919 and again on 26 February 1920 (external mail). Occasionally used as a postmark to cancel stamps.



/05.1c: 1 April 1917



/05.1d: 27 June 1918



/05.1d: 26 July 1918

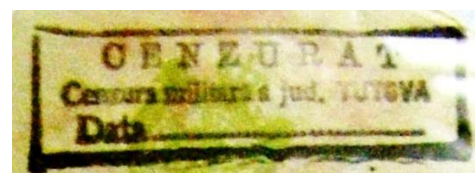


/05.1d: 13 February 1919



/05.1e: 21 October 1919

[OB04/05.2](#) (Type B, *CM#4.B.1*): small rectangular handstamp, with the text reading: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. TUTOVA / Data.....**; dimensions 50 x 14,5 mm; applied in black, blue and violet ink between 4 September – 21 October 1916.



⊙B04/05.3 (Type C, *CM#4.C.1*): large rectangular framed handstamp, with the inner text reading: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ A JUDEȚULUI TUTOVA**; dimensions 55 x 23 mm; applied in black ink between **1 September 1916 – 5 September 1917**.



⊙B04/05.4 (Type D): round double-circle numeral handstamps used by censors, with different diameters, that was applied in blue-black or black ink between *August ... 5 December 1917 – 11 May 1918*. Numbers that are known so far: 1 – 9 (7 in two variants). There are two subtypes, as follows:

- ❖ **.../05.4A** (*CM#4.D.1*): round double circle, measuring 28-29/15-15 mm, with the inner text reading: **CENSURAT * Bârlad / X**; seen between August 1917 – 11 May 1918 (for numbers 1, 4, 5, 7);
- ❖ **.../05.4B** (*CM#4.D.2*): round double circle, diameters ca. 30/17 mm, with the inner text reading: **CENSURAT * Bârlad / X**; seen between *September 1917 – March 1918* for numbers 4 and 9.



/05.4A(1): 22 March 1918



.4A(4): 6 December 1917



.4B(4): 12 March 1918



.4A(5): 13 March 1918

(1)	A	30 January – 22 March 1918
(2)	?	
(3)	?	
(4)	A	5 – 10 December 1917
	B	12 March 1918

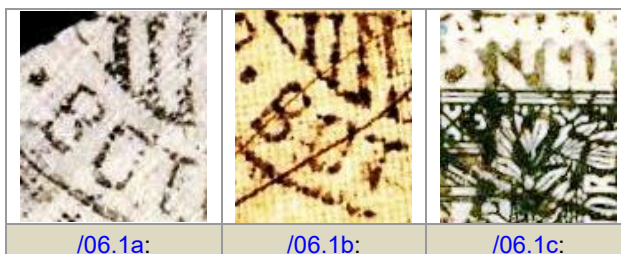
(5)	A	6 March – 11 May 1918
(6)	?	
(7)	A	
(8)	?	
(9)	B	24 February 1918

B04/06. – BOTOȘANI (Botoșani county, Moldavia) (today Botoșani county)

The office operated continuously (at least between **September 1916 – August 1919**), as the Moldavian county was not affected by foreign occupation. A postcard mailed from Botoșani on 17 September 1916 to Caracal remained uncensored! (see *Fig. B04.45*).

⊙B04/06.1 (Type A, *CM#6.A*): date handstamp of the censorship office, bearing the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * BOTOȘANI**; diameter 29/19 mm; applied in black ink (and rarely red) between **21 September 1916 – 26 August 1919**. The three manufactured samples may have the following characteristics:

- ❖ **.../06.1a**: the first line from the lower grid aligned with the space in "BO" in BOTOȘANI and the third line aligned with "T" of same word, seen between 21 September – October 1916;
- ❖ **.../06.1b**: the first line from the lower grid aligned with the letter "B" in BOTOSANI and the fourth line aligned with "T" of same word; seen between 26 April – 9 June 1917.
- ❖ **.../06.1c**: the first line from the lower grid aligned with the space in "BO" in BOTOȘANI and the fourth line aligned with "T" of the same word; seen on 5 May 1918.



/06.1a:

/06.1b:

/06.1c:



/06.1a: 21 September 1916



/06.1b: 26 April 1917



/06.1c: 5 May 1918

- ❖ **.../06.1d**: this is practically a new type, with visibly taller letters and a diameter of 29/17,5 mm, featuring the text **CENZURĂ** instead of **CENSURĂ**; applied in black ink between **22 April – 7 November 1919**. This type has been used in all cases seen so far as a post office postmark (see Fig. B04.26).



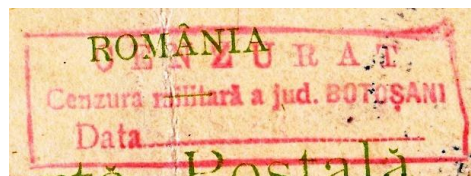
/06.1d

Fig. B04.26. Registered cover postmarked at the Botoșani post office with the local censor handstamp (B04/06.1d) on 22 April 1919, without any sign of further censorship; arrived at BERN on 20 May 1919 (on backside).

B04/06.2 (Type B, CM#6.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, bearing the text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. BOTOȘANI / Data.....**; dimensions 48,5 x 15 mm; applied in red ink between **4 October – 4 December 1916** and later on **24 January 1918**. At least two samples were manufactured, showing varying degrees of wear.



/06.2a: 4 October 1916



/06.2b: 1 November 1916



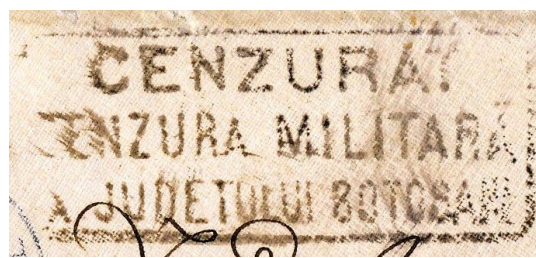
/06.2c: 4 December 1916

B04/06.3 (Type C, CM#6.C.1): large rectangular handstamp, with the text reading: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ A JUDEȚULUI BOTOȘANI**; dimensions 56 x 23 mm; applied in black, blue and red ink between **26 March 1917 – 23 November 1918** and later between **10 June 1919 – October 1919**. Significant differences in the thickness of the letters suggest that at least two copies of this type were manufactured.

- ❖ [.../06.3a](#): with thin letters, seen between 26 April 1917 – ... 10 June 1919, applied in black ink, and rarely in blue (*September 1916* ... May 1917) or red ink (May 1917).



/06.3a: 3 May 1917



26 April 1917

- ❖ [.../06.3b](#): with thick letters, seen between 9 December 1917 – 8 June 1918, applied only in black ink.



/06.3b: 25 December 1917



7 June 1918



Fig. B04.27.

Registered postcard cancelled in BOTOȘANI on 5 May 1918, went through the local censorship on the same day, where both available handstamps, [B04/06.1c](#) and [B04/06.3a](#) have been affixed. Arrived in IASI on 6 May 1918 (and registered three days later by the receiving financial institution with a large blue stamp. (source: web, March 2016)

[B04/06.4](#) (Type D, CM#6.D.1): round, double-circle numeral handstamps used by censors, bearing the text: **CENSURAT * Botoșani / X**, with similar appearance and diameters of approximately 33-34/02 mm. Applied in red-lila, violet-black, or black ink between at least **12 October 1917** – **7 September 1918**. Numbers known so far: 1 – 10, plus one sample without any number.



/06.4(1): 28 June 1918



.4(2): 19 November 1917



.4(3): 11 October 1917



.4(4): 12 October 1917



.4(5): 26 November 1917



.4(6): 12 December 1917



.4(7): 23 May 1917



.4(8): ca. 22 June 1918



.4(10): 3 October 1917



.4(0): 12 February 1918

(1)	16 – 28 June 1918
(2)	19 November 1917
(3)	11 October – 15 November 1917
(4)	11 October – 10 December 1917
(5)	14 October 1917 – 26 July 1918
(6)	12 December 1917

(7)	23 May – 13 November* 1917
(8)	31 October 1917 – 7 September 1918
(9)	
(10)	3 October 1917
(0)	12 February 1918

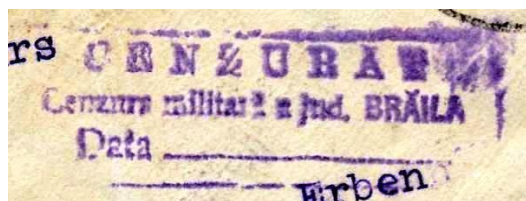
* = used and deformed at that date.

B04/07. – BRĂILA (Brăila county, Moldavia) (today Brăila county)

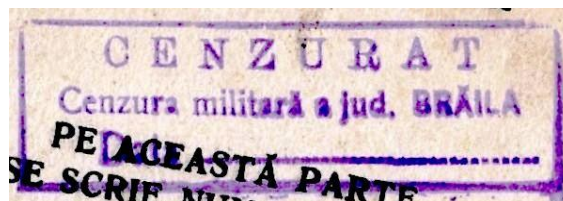
The town was occupied by German (Kosch Group) and Bulgarian troops on **4 January 1917**. Due to foreign occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (September - December 1916)** and **Period 2 (December 1918 - October 1919)**.

©B04/07.1 (Type A): the round date handstamp of the censorship office is yet unknown.

©B04/07.2 (Type B, CM#7.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, bearing the text **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. BRĂILA / Data.....**; dimensions 49 x 14 mm; applied in violet and black ink between ca. **31 August – 29 November 1916**. As usual, at least two samples were manufactured, showing slight differences in the appearance of the letters.



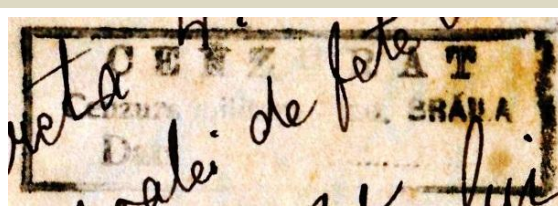
/07.2: 28 October 1916



October 1916



1 November 1916



5 November 1916

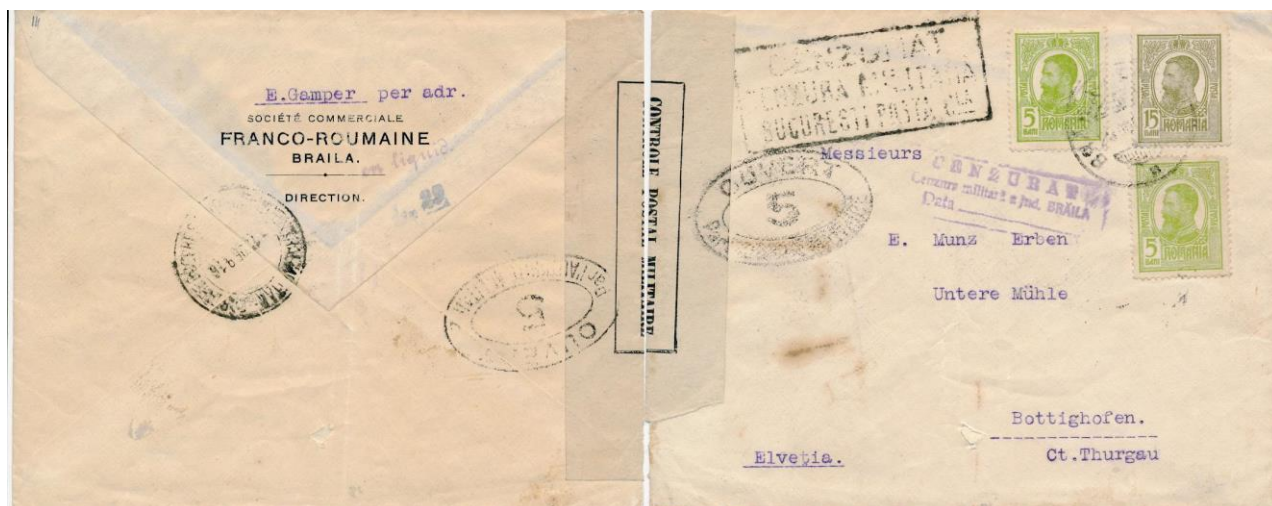
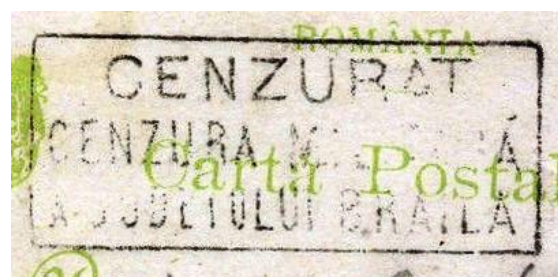


Fig. B04.28. Commercial cover cancelled in BRĂILA on 28 October 1916, passed through the local censorship, which where the handstamp [B04/07.2](#) was affixed. Transited through Bucharest (**BIUROUL CENTRAL MILITAR DE CARTARE BUCURESTI**) on 1 November 1916, where it was re-censored with [B04/01.1*](#), then through Northern Route via Russia – Scandinavia – France. Censored once again in Dieppe with the oval handstamp **OUVERT * Par l'AUTORITE MILITAIRE 5** affixed on a resealing label (**CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE**). Addressed to Bottighofen, in neutral Switzerland.

[B04/07.3](#) (Type C), (*CM #7.C.1*): large rectangular handstamp, with the text reading: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDETULUI BRAILA**; dimensions 56 x 24 mm; used between 16 November – December 1916.



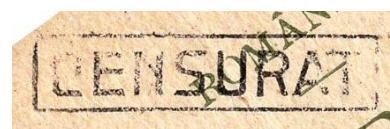
[/07.3](#): ca. 23 November 1916



Ca. 18 November 1916

[B04/07.4](#) (Type P, *CM#7.F*): linear handstamp, bearing the text: **CENZURAT**, measuring 42,5 x 7 mm, and was applied in black ink in *December 1918*. Not seen by the author.

[B04/07.5](#) (Type P, *CM#7.E*): rectangular provisional handstamp, with the text reading: **CENSURAT**, measuring 33 x 7 mm, and was applied in black ink between 7 January – 20 October 1919.



B04/08. – BUZĂU (Buzău county, Wallachia) (today Buzău county)

The town was occupied on **13 December 1916** by German troops. Due to foreign occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (September - December 1916)** and **Period 2 (... March – August 1919...)**.

[B04/08.1](#) (Type A, *CM#8.A*): date handstamp of the censorship office, bearing the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * BUZĂU**, measuring 28/17,5 mm, and was applied in black ink between **5 September – 13 November 1916**. No visible differences have yet been noticed between the manufactured specimens.



/08.1: 5 September 1916



1 October 1916

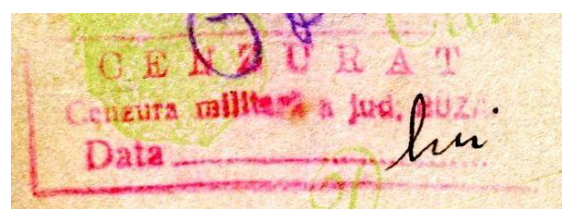


13 November 1916

[/B04/08.2](#) (Type B, CM#8.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, with the text reading **CENZURAT** / **Cenzura militară a jud. BUZĂU** / **Data.....**, measuring ????, and was applied in violet ink between 5 – 9 September 1916.



/08.2: 5 September 1916



Ca. 9 September 1916



Fig. B04.29.

Field postcard written on the Transylvanian front by a sub-lieutenant of the 8th Infantry Regiment "Buzău" ("Receive my distinguished greetings from the desired country. Fir woods, silk fields - are those of poems"). The military violet round handstamp of the company was affixed, and the mail was then carried by courier to the garrison in Buzău, where it was censored on 5 September 1916 with both available handstamps, [/B04/08.1](#) and [/B04/08.2](#). Received in Bucharest.

[/B04/08.M](#) (CM#8.0): handwritten censor marking "**Cenzurat**" and signature, reported by Călin Marinescu in March 1919. Not seen by the author.

[/B04/08.3](#) (Type P, CM#8.E): provisional rectangular handstamp with the text reading: **CENZURAT**, measuring 33 x 7 mm, and applied in black ink between 13 June – 27 August 1919.



B04/09. – CARACAL (Romanți county, Wallachia) (today Olt county)

The town was occupied by German troops on **23 November 1916**. Due to the occupation, the office likely operated in two distinct periods, only with the 1st Period (**September - November 1916**) documented by rare handstamps.

[⊙B04/09.1](#) (Type A): date handstamp of the censorship office, bearing the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * CARACAL**, measuring 27,5 x 17 mm, and applied in black ink between **15 October – 5 November 1916**. No visible differences have yet been noticed between the manufactured specimens.



/09.1: 15 October 1916



5 November 1916

[⊙B04/09.2](#) (Type B): small rectangular handstamp: not yet known.

[⊙B04/09.3](#) (Type C): large rectangular handstamp: not yet known

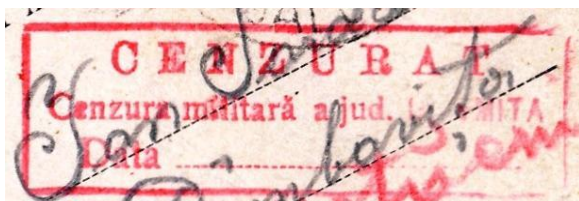
[⊙B04/09.M](#): a handwritten notice in violet ink "*Cenzurat*", is known on three postcards mailed on **9 April 1919** from Caracal to Bacău (2), respectively Corabia (1). Călin Marinescu also noticed a handwritten letter "*C*" in blue pencil from *February 1919*.

B04/10. – CĂLĂRAȘI (Ialomița county, Wallachia) (today Călărași county)

Due to the foreign occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (September – December 1916)** and **Period 2 (August 1919 ...)**. Ialomița was the only district where two censorship offices were established: Călărași (for the county) and Slobozia (for the internment region).

[⊙B04/10.1](#) (Type A): date handstamp of the censorship office, unknown yet.

[⊙B04/10.2](#) (Type B, *CM#9.B.1*): small rectangular handstamp, with the text reading **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. IALOMITA / Data.....**, measuring 49 x 14 mm, and applied in red ink between **31 August ... 21 November – 6 December 1916**.

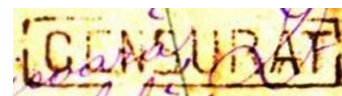


/10.2: 21 November 1916



4 December 1916

[⊙B04/10.3](#) (Type P, *CM#9.E*): provisional rectangular handstamp with the inner text reading: **CENSURAT**, measuring 33,5 x 7 mm, and was applied in black ink between **14 – 23 August 1919 ... November 1919**.



B04/11. – CÂMPULUNG MUSCEL (Câmpulung county, Wallachia) (today Argeș county)

The town was occupied on **28 November 1916**. Due to foreign occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (September - November 1916)** and **Period 2 (... – July 1919...)**.

©B04/11.1 (Type A, CM#10.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text reading: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * CAMPULUNG**, measuring 28,5/18 mm, and applied in blue and black ink between **3 September – 22 November 1916**. No visible differences have yet been noticed between the manufactured specimens.



/11.1: 3 September 1916



5 September 1916



22 November 1916 (late date)



Fig. B04.30

Closed letter written on 15/28 August 1916, postmarked by the local post office LEREȘTI * JUD. MUSCEL on 28 August 1916 (theoretically the first day of censorship), but censored on **3 September 1916** by the county office Câmpulung-Muscel with both handstamps **©B04/11.1** and **©B04/11.2**, affixed on a neutral resealing label **©B04/11.90**. Arrival mechanical marking BUCUREȘTI on 7 Septembrie 1916 on the backside.

©B04/11.2 (Type B): small rectangular handstamp, with two subtypes:

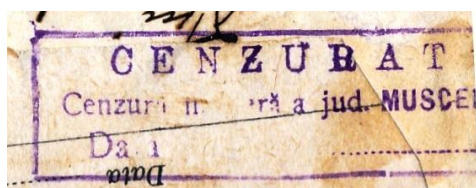
- ❖ **.../11.2A** (Type BP) appears to be an early provisional handstamp, with the text **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud.** (without the county name) / **Data.....**. Dimensions 49 x 14 mm, applied in violet ink on **3 September 1916**. It could also be an application error of **11.2a** (where the word MUSCEL



/11.2A: 3 September 1916

is missing), but this is unlikely due to the clear and consistent impression.

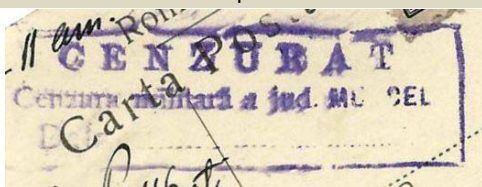
- ❖ [.../11.2](#) (CM #10.B.1) is the definitive handstamp, with the text reading **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. MUSCEL / Data.....**. Dimensions 49-50 x 14-15 mm, applied in violet ink between **5 September – 8 November 1916**. Manufactured in at least two variants: one with a straight line frame ([.../11.2a](#)) and another ([.../11.2b](#)) with a wavy line frame from the beginning.



/11.2a: 5 September 1916



11 October 1916

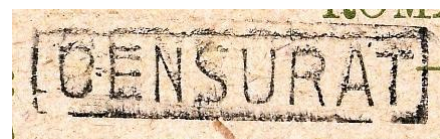


/11.2b: 7 November 1916



7 November 1916

[ⓄB04/11.3](#) (Type P): provisional rectangular handstamp, bearing the text: **CENSURAT**, measuring 33 x 7 mm, and applied in black ink on **19 July – August 1919**.



[ⓄB04/11.90](#): closing label of the general type E0, used between **3 – 5 September 1916**, see Fig. B04.30

B04/12. – CONSTANȚA (Constanța county, Dobruja) (today Constanța county)

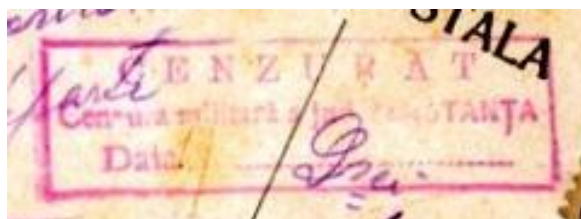
The town was evacuated on **21 October 1916** and was occupied **the next day** by a battalion of the 6th Bulgarian March Regiment. Due to foreign occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1** (September - October 1916) and **Period 2** (March – September 1919).

[ⓄB04/12.1](#) (Type A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * CONSTANȚA**; diameter 28 x 18 mm; applied in black ink on **12 September 1916**. No visible differences have yet been noticed between the manufactured specimens.

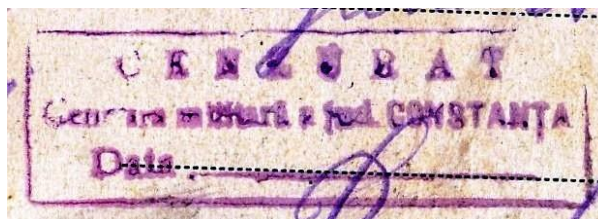


/12.1: 12 September 1916

[ⓄB04/12.2](#) (Type B, CM#12.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. CONSTANȚA / Data.....**; dimensions 49,5 x 15 mm; applied in red-lila and violet ink between ca. **6 September⁵⁶ – 17 October 1916**.



/12.2: ca. 6 September 1916



16 October 1916

⁵⁶ Postcard written and postmarked CONSTANTA on **27 August 1916**, censored with the [ⓄB04/12.2](#) handstamp, arrival MORENI on **9 September 1916**. Even if the mail bears such an early sending date, the postcard was surely retained at the office and the proper censoring occurred only after some days of organisation, must probably sometimes between 6 – 8 September



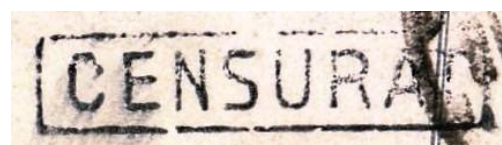
Fig. B04.31: Illustrated postcard (showing the Independence Square of Constanța), postmarked CONSTANTA on 16 October 1916, censored locally with the handstamp [B04/12.2](#) which was applied twice, having arrived in BRAILA on 18 October, where a 10 bani Postage Due stamp was affixed, as the Assistance Stamp was missing.

[B04/12.3](#) (Type P, CM#12.F): provisional linear handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT**; dimensions 36 x 7 mm, and applied in black ink on 6 March 1919.

[B04/12.4](#) (Type P, CM#12.E): provisional rectangular handstamp, with the inner text: **CENSURAT**; dimensions 33 x 7 mm, and applied in black ink between (June) 12 July – 4 September 1919.



[/12.3:](#) 6 March 1919



[/12.4:](#) 18 August 1919

B04/13. – CRAIOVA (Dolj county, Wallachia) (today Dolj county)

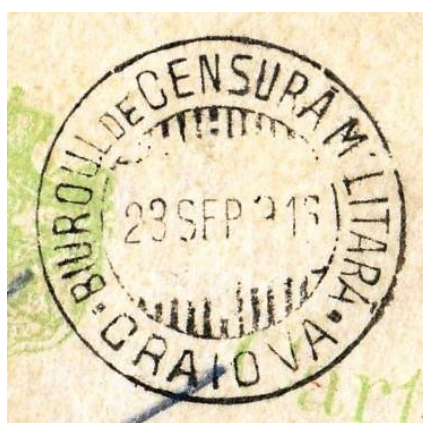
The town was occupied by German troops on 21 November 1916. During the German administration, a censorship office was established here (see [B11/02](#)). German troops evacuated in December 1918. Due to foreign occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1** (August - November 1916) and **Period 2** (February – September 1919).

[B04/13.1](#) (Type A, CM#13.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * CRAIOVA**; diameter 27,5/17,5 mm, and was applied in blue/green or black ink between 30 August – 15 October 1916. Two variants can be described so far:

- ❖ [.../13.1a](#): characterized by the absence of the first letter "I" in the MILITARĂ, of which only a single dot is visible at the top.
- ❖ [.../13.1b](#): with normal text MILITARĂ.



[/13.1a:](#) 30 August 1916



23 September 1916



[/13.1b:](#) 7 October 1916

ⓄB04/13.2 (Type B): small rectangular handstamp, with the 3-lines inner text reading: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. DOLJ / Data.....**,

- ❖ **.../13.2a** (CM#13.B.1): of good quality, applied in blue and black ink between **30 August – September 1916**;
- ❖ **.../13.2b**: slightly deformed, and with wavy frames, applied in black ink on **31 December 1918**.



/13.2a: 30 August 1916

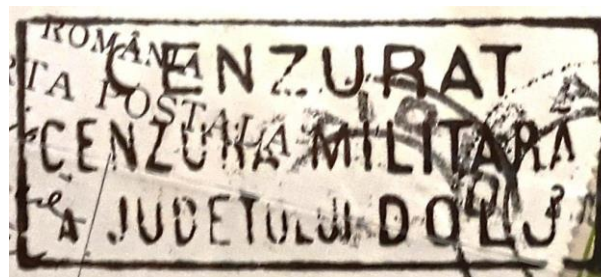


/13.2b: 31 December 1918

ⓄB04/13.3 (Type C, CM#13.C): a large rectangular handstamp, with the text reading: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDETULUI DOLJ**, measuring 57 x 23 mm, and was applied in black ink between **2 – 18 November 1916**.



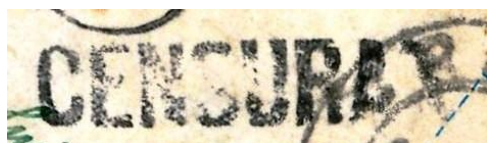
/13.3: 2 November 1916



3 November 1916

ⓄB04/13.4 (Type P, CM#13.F): provisional linear handstamp with the text: **CENSURAT**; dimensions 34 x 6 mm, and applied in black ink between **14 February 1919**.

ⓄB04/13.5 (Type P, CM#13.F): provisional linear handstamp with the text: **CENSURAT**; dimensions 35 x 7 mm, and applied in black ink on **10 April – June 1919**.



/13.4: 14 February 1919



/13.5: 10 April 1919

ⓄB04/13.6 (Type P, CM#13.F): provisional linear handstamp with the text: **CENSURAT**; dimensions 45 x 8 mm; applied in black ink between **15 July – 15 September 1919**.



B04/14. – DELTA DUNĂRII (Tulcea county, Dobruja) (today Tulcea county)

The office was established in the Danube Delta (in **Chilia Veche** in 1917 and in **Sulina** from 8 May 1918 onward), the only territory of Dobruja not occupied by the enemy, to replace the occupied office of Tulcea.

ⓄB04/14.1 (Type A, CM#14.1): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENZURĂ * DELTA DUNĂREI** applied in black ink between **23 November 1917 – December 1918**.



Fig. B04.32.

"Iasi" stationery postcard mailed from aboard the cruiser Elisabeta in **Sulina** (see negative DIVIZIA DE MARE * CRUCIȘĂTORUL ELISABETA), transported to CHILIA-VECHE where it was postmarked on 28 November 1917 and censored by the local office with [B04/14.1](#). It then transited **GALATI**, and was re-censored by censor no. 11 from BCE-Iasi, [B04/02.7A\(11\)](#) on 30 November. Released from BCE-Iasi following the "aging" period, on 1 January 1918 ([B04/01.1*](#)),

then transited through PETROGRAD, Russia, on 9/22 April 1918, where it was censored with numeral **92**, and was finally addressed to Geneva, Switzerland. (source: Museum of Romanian Records Bucharest)

B04/15. – DOROHOI (Dorohoi county, Moldavia) (today Botoșani county)

The office operated continuously between **August 1916 – October 1919**), as the Moldavian county was not affected by foreign occupation.

[B04/15.1](#) (Type A, CM#15.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * DOROHOI**; diameter 27,5/17,5 mm; applied in black ink between **22 October 1916 – 7 October 1917 ... 26 October 1919**. Variants:



/15.1a: 22 October 1916



31 October 1916



24 November 1916



/15.1b: 18 April 1917



/15.1b: 7 October 1917



/15.1c: 26 October 1919

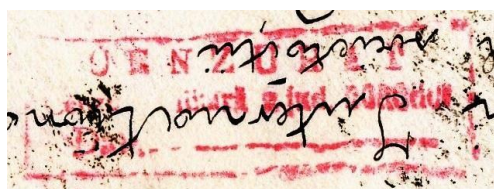
- ❖ [.../15.1a](#): the first line of the upper grid aligned with the space in group "DE", was seen at least between 22 October 1916 and 28 January 1917;
- ❖ [.../15.1b](#): same as the first, but with cornered letters and noticeable rapid deterioration of the handstamp, observed at least between 23 February and 7 October 1917.
- ❖ [.../15.1c](#): the first line of the upper grid aligned with the letter "E" in DE, **26 October 1919**, being most probably a newly manufactured handstamp to replace the used previous type(s).



Fig. B04.33.

Postcard written in French on 4/18 April 1917 by a member of the French Military Mission, postmarked with the local censor handstamp [ⓄB04/15.1b](#) on **18 April 1917**, arrived in IASI on 19 April, and was handed over to BCE-Iasi where it was verified by censor V, [ⓄB04/02.10A\(V\)](#). It was released from BCE-Iasi on **11 May 1917** ([ⓄB04/01.1*](#)) following the "aging" period, finally leaving IASI on 13 May 1917 to travel via the Northern Route (Russia – Scandinavia) to France.

[ⓄB04/15.2](#) (Type B): small rectangular handstamp, with the text **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. DOROHOI / Data.....**; dimensions 49,5 x 15 mm; applied in red-lila between **8 March – 25 May 1917**.



/15.2: 8 March 1917



25 May 1917

[ⓄB04/15.3](#) (Type C): large rectangular handstamp: unknown so far.

[ⓄB04/15.4](#) (Type D, CM#15.D.1): round, double-circle numeral handstamps used by censors, bearing the text: **CENSURAT * Dorohoi / X**, having similar appearance and diameters between 30-32/15-16 mm. Applied in black or red ink between **18 February 1918 – 23 April 1919**. Numbers known so far: 1-8.



/15.4(1): 11 February 1918



.4(2): 13 April 1918



.4(7): 24 May 1918



.4(8): 9 May 1919

(1)	1 – 18 February 1918
(2)	9 March – 13 April 1918
(3)	
(4)	

(5)	
(6)	
(7)	24 May 1918
(8)	23 April – 9 May 1919

B04/16. – FĂLTICENI (Moldavia)
(Suceava county, then and now)

The office operated continuously (at least between **September 1916 – July 1919**), as the Moldavian county was not affected by foreign occupation. After 1919, the county's name was changed to **Baia**, since the former Austrian Bukovinian territory around Suczawa became part of the newly established Suceava county in Romania.

"In Fălticeni, the music teacher from the city's gymnasium, Leon Băncilă, died as a result of the exanthematic typhus he contracted during his work at the censorship of letters from the city's post office.

He is survived by a wife and four children.

The people of the city, touched by the death of this good teacher, intervened to solve the request addressed to the Ministry of Finance (the directorate of the pension house), by which, showing the circumstances in which he died, it is requested to approve his entire pension, as in times of war."

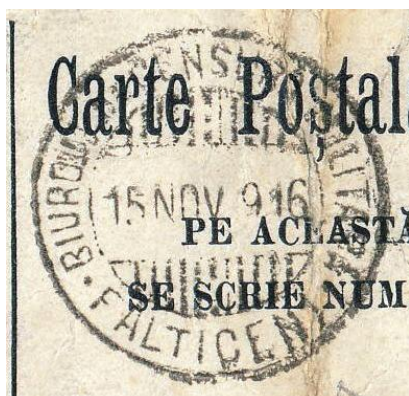
(*Evenimentul Iași*, 12/25 March 1917)

La Fălticeni a înecat din viață profesorul de muzică de la gimnaziul din acel oraș, Leon Băncilă, în urma tifosului exantematic pe care l-a contractat, în timpul când își îndeplinea serviciul la cenzura scrisorilor de la poșta orașului.
In urmași, rămân o soție și patru copii.
Lumea fălticenească, îndoiată de moartea acestui bun profesor și dăcând teolog, a intervenit la cei în drept să dea concurs în jurul cererii ce s'a adresat Ministerului de Finanțe (direcția casei pensiilor), prin care arătându-se împrejurările în care el a murit, se cere ca să i se aproba pensia întreagă, ca în timp de război.

ⓐB04/16.1 (Type A, CM#16.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text reading: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * FĂLTICENI**, measuring 28-29/17-18 mm, and was applied in black ink during **14 September 1916 – 12 September 1918** respectively on **29 July 1919**. So far, no notable differences have been found between the manufactured copies.



/16.1: 18 September 1916



15 November 1916



29 July 1919

ⓐB04/16.2 (Type B): framed small rectangular handstamp, with the inner text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. SUCEAVA / Data.....**; dimensions 49,5 x 15 mm; applied in red-lila and violet ink between **September 1916? – 1 November 1917**.



/16.2: September 1916?



Ca. 1 November 1917

ⓐB04/16.3 (Type C): large rectangular handstamp, unknown yet.

ⓐB04/16.60 (Type BK): framed small rectangular handstamp, with the inner text reading **PACHET CONTROLAT / Biuroul de cenzură de la / Oficiul poștal FĂLTICENI**, measuring 44 x 15 mm, applied in red-lila ink between **11 and 14 October 1916**.





Fig. B04.34. Registered cover mailed from Fălticeni Garrison Pharmacy, censored by the local commission on 29 July 1919 with [B04/16.1](#) (the censor handstamp was used here as a postmark, thus cancelling the stamps), addressed to Paris, France, therefore, re-censored in Bucharest with [B04/01.1*](#) by censor 123, [B04/01.10\(123\)](#).

B04/17. – FOCȘANI (Moldavia)
(Putna county, today Vrancea county)

The town was occupied by German troops on 7 January 1917 and became part of the Operational Area of the 9th Army (A.O.K.9.). Due to the occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (August - December 1916)** and **Period 2 (March – December 1919)**.

[B04/17.1](#) (Type A, CM#17.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text reading: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * FOCȘANI**; diameter 28/17 mm; applied in black ink between 18 September – 28 November 1916 - December, and was manufactured in at least two variants:



Fig. B04.35. Money order postmarked **AGENȚIA SP. NĂRUJA * JUD. PUTNA** on 8 November 1916, censored by the county office in Focșani with [B04/17.1b](#) and [B04/17.3](#) (with only the lower-right corner being visible), addressed to the frontline.

- ❖ [.../17.1a](#): normal, with rounded letters, seen between 21 September – 4 November 1916...;
- ❖ [.../17.1b](#): with cornered, poorly lisible letters, seen so far between 11 – 28 November 1916....



/17.1a: 18 September 1916



21 September 1916



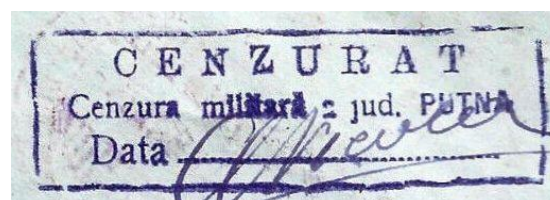
3 November 1916

ⓄB04/17.2 (Type B): small rectangular handstamp, with the text reading: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. PUTNA / Data.....**; dimensions ca. 50 x 15 mm; applied in violet ink between **19 October – 3 December 1916**, with two samples being known so far:

- ❖ **.../17.2a**: with the letter "P" from PUTNA just below the letter "A" from CENZURAT, seen on 19 October 1916;
- ❖ **.../17.2b**: with the letter "P" from PUTNA just below the space between "AT" from CENZURAT; see Fig. B04.36.



/17.2a: 19 October 1916



/17.2b: 3 December 1916



Fig. B04.36. Registered cover postmarked **FOCȘANI** on **3 December 1916**, censored by the local commission with **ⓄB04/17.2b**, then re-censored by **BCE-Iași** with a C-Type refugee handstamp (**ⓄB04/01.1***, applied on a refugee label **ⓄB04/01.92***). It was released only on **2 January 1917**. Forwarded to Russia, where it was censored once again in **Petrograd** with the rectangular handstamp of censor no. **81**, the triangular numeral **10/6**, and with the rectangular handstamp of the office that was applied on a closing label **PETROGRADSKAIA / VOENNAIA TENSURA**. Arrival postmark in **ZURICH** on **11 February 1917** (source: online auction 2022, sold for 330 USD).

ⓄB04/17.3 (Type C, *CM#17.C.1*): large rectangular handstamp, bearing the text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDETULUI PUTNA**, measuring ca. 55 x 23 mm, and applied in black ink on **11 November 1916**, see Fig. B04.35.

ⓄB04/17.4 (Type P, *CM#17.F*): a provisional linear handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT**; dimensions 31 x 3,5 mm, an applied in black ink between **12 March – 3 December 1919**, with at least two variants (small differences).



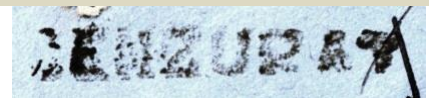
/17.5a: 12 March 1919



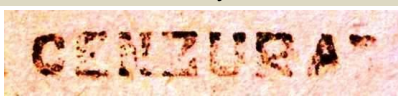
Ca. 1 July 1919



3 September 1919



/17.5b: 19 September 1919



22 September 1919

B04/18. – GALAȚI (Moldavia)
(Covurlui county, today Galați county)

The office operated continuously (at least between **September 1916 – October 1919**), as the Moldavian county was not affected by foreign occupation.

ⓄB04/18.1 (Type A, *CM#18.A*): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARĂ * GALAȚI**; diameter 28-29/17-18 mm; applied in black ink between **6 November 1916 – 12 October 1919**. Additional variants can be described:

- ❖ **.../18.1a**: with the last "I" in GALAȚI aligned to the last bottom of the lower grid and the "G" aligned to the second line in the grid; this variant was seen between **6 November 1916 – 16 April 1918**, and apparently reused on **1 April 1919** on a metal handstamp;



/18.1a: 6 November 1916



19 April 1918

- ❖ **.../18.1b**: with the last "I" in GALAȚI aligned to the bottom line of the lower grid and the "G" aligned to the first space of the grid; this variant was seen between **3 January 1917 – 19 April 1918**, applied finely and clearly using a metal stamp;



/18.1b: 9 September 1917



31 October 1917

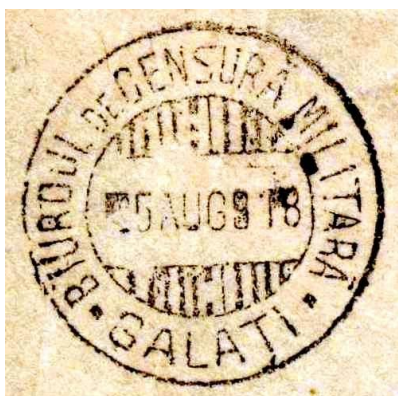


2 December 1917

- ❖ [.../18.1c](#): with the last "I" of GALAȚI aligned to the penultimate line of the lower grid, seen between **12 June 1918 – 25 September 1919**. Probably a newly manufactured handstamp replacing the originals. Still a fine, clear application (metal handstamp)



/18.1c: 12 June 1918



5 August 1918



7 November 1918

- ❖ [.../18.1d](#): featuring a different type of lettering with a primitive appearance, heavy application, and bold lines showing signs of wear over time; this variant was seen between **7 July 1918 – 12 October 1919**. It does not appear to be metallic and was likely produced in a hurry to replace one of the original handstamps.



/18.1d: 15 August 1918



21 September 1919



18 October 1919

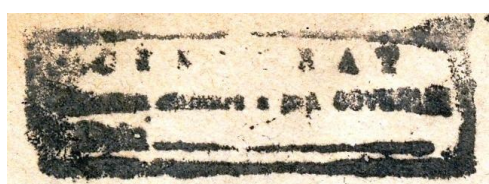
[©B04/18.2](#) (Type B, *CM#18.B.1*): small rectangular handstamp, with the text reading: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. COVURLUI / Data.....**; dimensions 50 x 15 mm; applied in black ink between **October – 27 November 1916 ... 19 January – 17 July 1918** (with one copy strongly deformed in 1918).



/18.2a: 19 January 1918



/18.2b: 27 November 1916



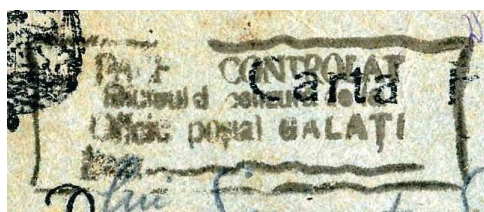
/18.2b: 15 July 1918



17 July 1918

[©B04/18.3](#) (Type BK): small rectangular handstamp, with the text: **PACHET CONTROLAT / Biuroul de cenzură de la / Oficiul poștal GALAȚI**; dimensions ca. 49 x 17 mm; applied in black ink between **30**

March and 28 June 1918. Stamp showing significant deformations over time (see below). Despite its original purpose, it was used to censor correspondence, including postcards.



/18.3: 30 March 1918



28 June 1918

©B04/18.4 (Type C) (*CM #18.C.1...C.2*): large rectangular handstamp, used between **29 October 1916 – 17 March 1919**, with at least three known variants:

- ❖ **.../18.4a**: with thin and fine applied letters, bearing the interior text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDEȚ. COVURLUI**; dimensions 58 x 24 mm; applied in black ink between **29 October – 26 November 1916**.

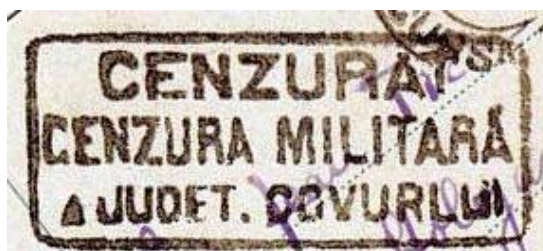


/18.4a: 12 November 1916

- ❖ **.../18.4b**: with the same inner text but with thicker letters, applied with intense black ink between **4 December 1916 and 17 March 1919**.



/18.4b: 22 July 1917



3 September 1918

- ❖ **.../18.4c**: with the inner text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDEȚULUI COVURLUI**, dimensions 56 x 23 mm, with thin lettering, and was finely applied only in black ink, between **26 November and 18 December 1916**, and reused between **16 July and 15 December 1918**



/18.4c: 18 December 1916

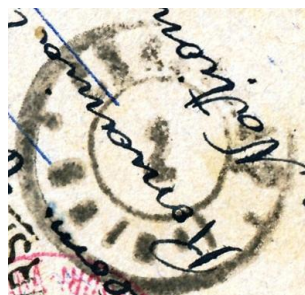


20 June 1918

©B04/18.5 (Type D) (*CM #18.D.1*): round, double-circle numeral handstamps used by censors, with the text: **CENSURAT * Galați / X**, featuring similar appearance and diameters between 29-30/16 mm; applied in red-lila, violet-black, or black ink between **3 January 1917 and 14 May 1918**. Numbers known so far: 1-10.



/18.5(1) : 26 April 1918



.5(2) : 2 September 1917



.5(5) : 25 September 1917



.5(6) : 6 December 1917



.5(7) : 3 January 1917



.5(8) : 3 May 1918



.5(9) : 27 August 1917



.5(10) : 13 May 1918

(1)	30 August 1917 – 1 May 1918
(2)	2 September 1917
(3)	13 September 1917
(4)	
(5)	9 September – 25 November 1917

(6)	27 August – 5 December 1917
(7)	3 January 1917
(8)	3 May 1918
(9)	27 August – 8 October 1917
(10)	11 February – 12 June 1918

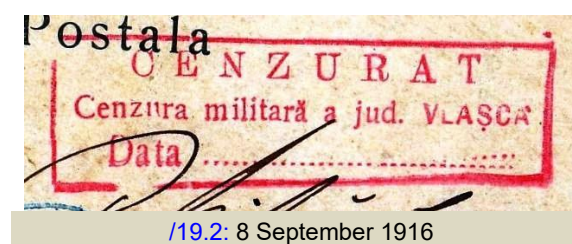
B04/19. – GIURGIU (Vlașca county, Wallachia) (today Giurgiu county)

The town was occupied by the 1st Bulgarian Infantry Division on **27 November 1916**. Due to the occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (September - November 1916)** and probably **Period 2 (??)**.

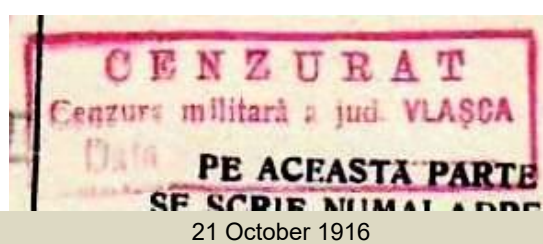
©B04/19.1 (Type A, CM#19.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * GIURGIU**; diameter 28/17 mm, and was applied in red and black ink between **22 September – 5 November 1916**. Due to the limited number of known examples, possible variants of the original type cannot be distinguished at this time.



©B04/19.2 (Type B, CM#19.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. VLAȘCA / Data.....**; dimensions 49 x 14 mm; applied in red or violet ink between **8 September – 5 November 1916**.



/19.2: 8 September 1916



21 October 1916

©B04/19.60M: handwritten parcel censorship, with texts like *Controlat* or *Verificat*, seen on **9 November 1916**; see Fig. B04.37.



Fig. B04.37.

Freight document postmarked **DRĂBĂNEȘTI * VLAȘCA** on **9 November 1916**, with a transit postmark **GHIMPAȚI-VLAȘCA** from 9 November (on backside). Upon arrival in the county seat Giurgiu, the parcel was inspected, and this action was recorded in writing. There are two different [B04/19.60M](#) notations: *Controlat* (= Controlled) and *Verificat* (= Checked), each apparently followed by a signature (possibly *Georgescu*, though the name *Giurgiu* city could also appear). This suggests the parcel was likely verified twice — first at the receiving post office, and second in Giurgiu. Finally, the parcel reached **BUCUREȘTI-MESAGERII** on 11 November and was delivered the following day.

B04/20. – HUȘI (Fălciu county, Moldavia) (today Vaslui county)

The office operated continuously (at least between **November 1916 – September 1919**), as the Moldavian county was not affected by foreign occupation.

[B04/20.1](#) (Type A, *CM#20.A*): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * HUȘI**; diameter 28/18 mm; applied in black or violet (April - May 1918) ink between **9 January 1917 – 28 September 1918 ... 21 September 1919**. No visible differences have yet been observed between the manufactured specimens; however, most prints are defective.



/20.1: 9 January 1917



19 May 1917



10 October 1917



11 May 1918 (Violet ink)



9 June 1918

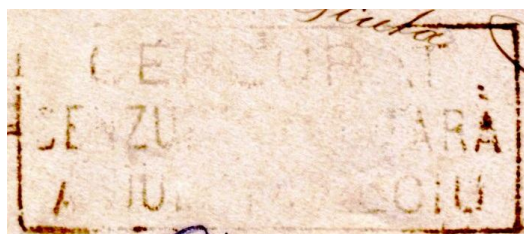


24 July 1918

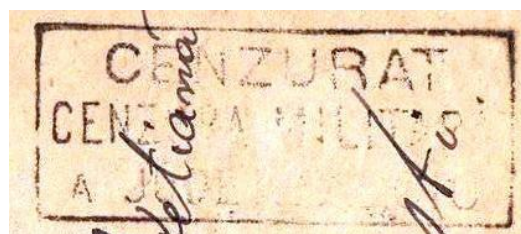
[©B04/20.2](#) (Type B, CM#20.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. FĂLCIU / Data.....**; dimensions 49,5 x 15 mm; applied in black ink in November 1916.



[©B04/20.3](#) (Type C): large rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDEȚULUI FĂLCIU**; dimensions 56,5 x 23 mm; applied in black ink between 18 April and 6 September 1919.



/20.3: 18 April 1919



6 September 1919

[©B04/20.4](#) (Type D, CM#20.D.1): round, double-circle numeral handstamps used by censors, with the text: **CENSURAT * Huși / X**, featuring a similar appearance and diameters of ca. 29-32/13-14 mm, applied in black ink between 2 September and 10 October 1917. Numbers known so far: 1-10.



/20.4.

.4(4): 4 October 1917



.4(6): 10 October 1917



.4(9): 2 September 1917

(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	4 October 1917
(5)	

(6)	10 October 1917
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	2 September 1917
(10)	

ⓄB04/20.5 (Type P): provisional rectangular handstamp with the inner text: **CENZURAT**; dimensions 52,5 x 14 mm; applied in black ink at **Fălciu** (probably) in **February 1918**. This may be a special censorship handstamp also used for mail brought by repatriated prisoners.



B04/21. – PIATRA NEAMȚ (Neamț county, Moldavia)
(today Neamț county)

The office operated continuously (at least between **September 1916 – October 1919**), as the Moldavian county was not affected by foreign occupation.

ⓄB04/21.1 (Type A, *CM#21.A*): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * PIATRA-N.**; diameter 27-28/17-18 mm; applied in black or violet ink between *September – 5 October 1916 – 23 October 1919*. Two variants with minor differences can be described:



/21.1a



/21.1b

- ❖ **.../21.1a**: with the "P" in PIATRA larger and aligned to the *first space* of the lower grid, seen between 5 October 1916 and 5 August 1919;



/21.1a: 11 November 1916



23 October 1918



5 August 1919

- ❖ **.../21.1b**: with the "P" in PIATRA narrower and aligned to the *first line* of the lower grid, seen between 21 March 1917 and 23 October 1919; faulty from June 1919 (heavy imprint, mostly illisible).



/21.1b: 2 September 1918



21 April 1919



23 October 1919

ⓄB04/21.2 (Type B, *CM#21.B.1*): small rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. NEAMȚU / Data.....**; dimensions 49 x 15,5 mm; applied in violet ink between **8 September – 7 October 1916**.



/21.2: Ca. 8 September 1916



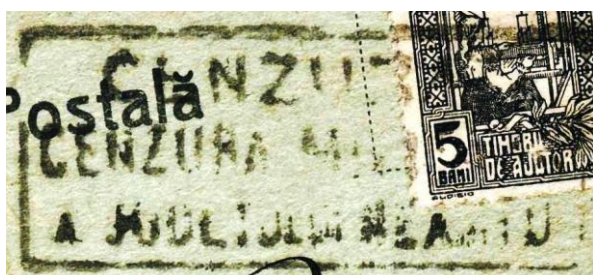
21 October 1916



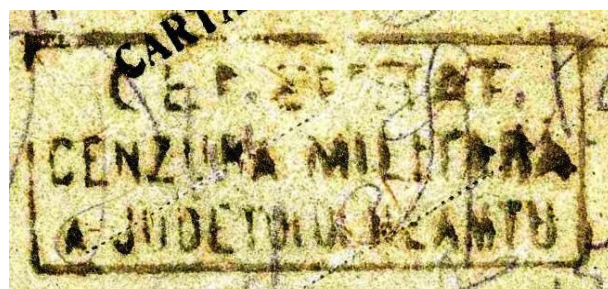
Fig. B04.38.

Postcard mailed from the **Red Cross Hospital Piatra-Neamț No. 228**, therefore marked **POȘTA MILITARA** (Military Post), and was postmarked **PIATRA NEAMȚ** on **21 October 1916** with the local censor handstamp [B04/21.2](#); addressed to the frontline.

[B04/21.3](#) (Type C, CM#21.C.1): framed large rectangular handstamp with the inner text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDEȚULUI NEAMȚU**; dimensions ca. 55 x 23,5 mm; applied in black ink between **20 February – 1 July 1918**. Of the two variants, one had fine and clear printing ([.../21.3a](#)), while the other was defective and rough ([.../21.3b](#)); see Fig. B11.08.



/21.3b: 23 April 1918



.3b: March 1918?

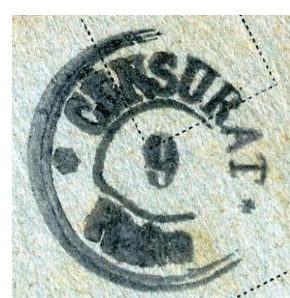
[B04/21.4](#) (Type D, CM#21.D.1): round, double-circle numeral handstamps used by censors, with the text: **CENSURAT * Piatra / X**, featuring similar appearance and diameters ca. 31/15 mm; applied in black ink between **4 October 1917 and 11 January 1918**. Numbers known so far: 1-9.



/21.4(3): 21 December 1917



.4(4): 4 October 1917



.4(9): 24 January 1918

(1)	
(2)	
(3)	21 December 1917
(4)	4 October 1917 – 11 January 1918
(5)	

(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	11 – 24 January 1918

B04/22. – PITEȘTI (Argeș county, Wallachia)
(today Argeș county)

The town was occupied by the German and Austro-Hungarian troops on **28 November 1916**. Due to the occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (September - November 1916)** and **Period 2 (December 1918 – October 1919)**.

⊙B04/22.1 (Type A, *CM#22.A*): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * PITEȘTI**; diameter 28/18 mm; applied in black ink between **1 – 17 November 1916**. Varieties cannot be differentiated due to the small number of existing items.

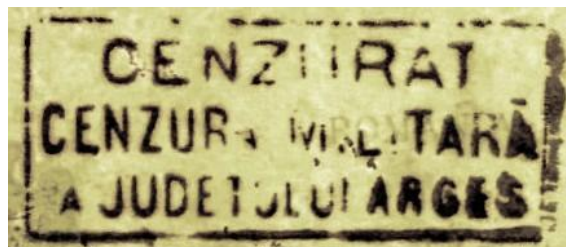


⊙B04/22.2 (Type B): small rectangular handstamp, not seen yet.

⊙B04/22.3 (Type C) (*CM#22.C.1*): large rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDEȚULUI ARGES**; dimensions ca. 55,5 x 23 mm; applied in black or violet ink between **11 December 1918 – 25 October 1919**.

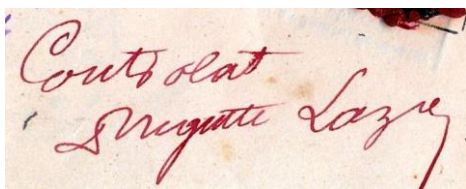


/22.3: 12 December 1918



13 October 1919

⊙B04/22.60 (Type BK): small rectangular handstamp for parcel control, with the text **PACHET CONTROLAT / Biureul de cenzură de la / Oficiul poștal PITEȘTI / Data....**, size 49 x 15 mm, applied in violet ink on **10 November 1916**. Around 7 November, there was only a handwritten marking in red ink, "*Controlat*", followed by a signature.



/22.60: 7 November 1916



10 November 1916

Reminder of the reference codes:

- ❖ **T00#:** *Horst Thielk catalogue*, second edition 2000.
- ❖ **OS#:** *Oskar Schilling`s* third edition of 2008.
- ❖ **TT85#:** *Teleguț-Thielk catalogue*, 2nd edition of 1995.
- ❖ **CM#:** *Călin Marinescu`s book* of 2004.



Fig. B04.39.

Freight document postmarked **PITESTI * MESAGERII** on **10 November 1916**, locally verified on the same day by the parcel censor commission, which affixed the handstamp **OB04/22.60**. Finally, the parcel reached BUCURESTI-MESAGERII on 11 November and was delivered the following day.

B04/23. – PLOIEȘTI (Prahova county, Wallachia)
(today Prahova county)

The town was occupied by German troops on **6 December 1916**. Due to foreign occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (September - November 1916)** and **Period 2 (January – August 1919)**.

OB04/23.1 (Type A, CM#23.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * PLOIEȘTI**; diameter 28/18 mm; applied in black ink during the two periods of operation: between **22 September – 10 November 1916** (1st Period) and between **8 January – 18 August 1919**, (2nd Period), the latter in a much degraded condition (**23.1***). Occasionally, it was used as a day postmark to cancel postage stamps.



/23.1: 21 October 1916



/23.1*: 6 January 1919



/23.1*: 18 August 1919

⊙B04/23.2 (Type B, CM#23.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. PRAHOVA / Data.....**; dimensions 49 x 15 mm; applied in red ink between **6 September – 13 November 1916**. Two variants can be described:

- ❖ **.../23.2a**: a clear imprinted handstamp showing an interruption in the middle of the upper frame (above the "Z" in CENZURAT), seen between 6 September and 13 November 1916



/23.2a: ca. 5 November 1916

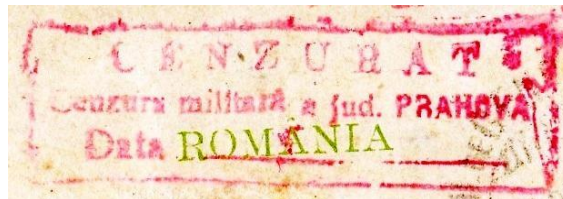


Ca. 13 November 1916

- ❖ **.../23.2b**: the second sample was a faulty handstamp, seen between 16 September and 1 November, showing rapid degradation. Wavy frames become progressively visible from 16 October, followed by an early repair sign — a "nail head" printed above the date line — visible after 21 October 1916.



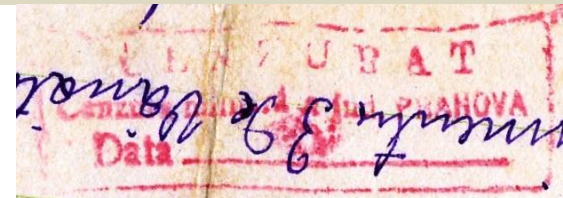
/23.2b: 16 October 1916



21 October 1916



25 October 1916



1 November 1916

⊙B04/23.70: *bank censorship* certified with a round handstamp reading: **BANCA NAȚIONALĂ A ROMÂNIEI * PLOESCI**, was applied in blue ink, along with a handwritten *Verificat* followed by the censor's signature. Seen in 1916 on a cover sent from the Ploiești Agency to the National Bank of Romania.



B04/24. – RÂMNICU SĂRAT (Râmnicu Sărat county, Wallachia) (today Buzău county)

The town was occupied by German troops on **28 December 1916**. Due to foreign occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1** (September - December 1916) and **Period 2** (January – November 1919).

⊙B04/24.1 (Type A, CM#24.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * R. SĂRAT**; diameter ca. 28/18 mm; applied in violet ink on **8 September 1916**. Due to the limited number of known examples, possible variants of the original type cannot be distinguished at this time.



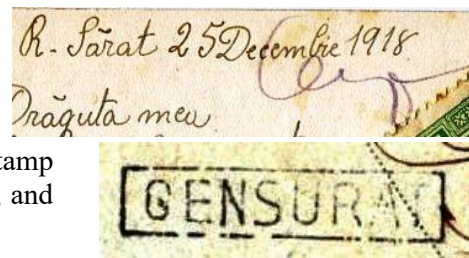
©B04/24.2 (Type B, CM#24.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, with the text reading **CENZURAT** / **Cenzura militară a jud. R. SĂRAT** / **Data.....**, measuring 49-50 x 14 mm, and applied in violet ink between **8 September – 28 November 1916**. At least two samples were manufactured, one with a small break in the lower frame (**.../24.2b**).



Fig. B04.40. Registered cover postmarked **JIDENI * JUD. R. SERAT** (today Podgoria, Buzău county) on **27 October 1916**, transited through R-SARAT on the same day, where it was censored by the local censor office with **©B04/24.2b**. Arrival in **BUCUREȘTI** on 29 October 1916.

©B04/24.M: a pencil handwritten provisional marking, *Cenz*, seen around **9 January 1919**.

©B04/24.3 (Type P, CM#24.E): a provisional rectangular handstamp with the inner text reading: **CENSURAT**, measuring 33,5 x 7 mm, and applied in black ink between **23 August – November 1919**.



B04/25. – RÂMNICU VÂLCEA (Vâlcea county, Wallachia) (today Vâlcea county)

The town was occupied by German troops on **25 November 1916**. Due to foreign occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1** (September - November 1916) and **Period 2** (January – November 1919).

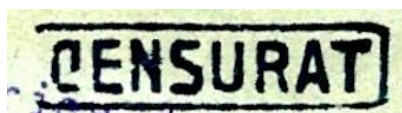
[ⓄB04/25.1](#) (Type A, CM#25.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, bearing the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * R.-VÂLCEA**; diameter 28/17,5 mm; applied in black ink between *September – 10 October – 16 November 1916*. Due to the limited number of known examples, possible variants of the original type cannot be distinguished at this time.



[ⓄB04/25.2](#) (Type B, CM#25.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, with the text **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. R. VÂLCEA / Data.....**, measuring 48 x 14,5 mm, and applied in violet ink in *September 1916*. Not seen by the author.

[ⓄB04/25.3](#) (Type C): large rectangular handstamp, with the text reading: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDET. VALCEA**; dimensions ca. 55,5 x 23 mm; applied in black ink in **November 1916**.

[ⓄB04/25.4](#) (Type P, CM#25.E): provisional rectangular handstamp, with the inner text reading: **CENSURAT**; dimensions 33,5 x 7 mm; applied in black ink between **17 January and 15 November 1919**.



[/25.4](#): 8 August 1919



2 September 1919



14 November 1919

B04/26. – ROMAN (Roman county, Moldavia) (today Neamț county)

The office operated continuously (at least between **September 1916 – September 1919**), as the Moldavian county was not affected by foreign occupation.

[ⓄB04/26.1](#) (Type A, CM#26.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * ROMAN**; diameter around 27/17 mm; applied in violet or black ink between **4 September 1916 – 16 September 1918 – October 1918**. At least three variants are known so far:

- ❖ [.../26.1a](#): with the letter "N" in ROMAN aligned with the last line from of the lower grid, and the letter "C" in CENSURĂ aligned with the space between lines 3 and 4 in the upper grid; applied in violet ink around 4 September 1916.
- ❖ [.../26.1b](#): with the letter "N" in ROMAN aligned with the last line of the lower grid, and the letter "C" in CENSURĂ aligned with the space between lines 1 and 2 in the upper grid; applied in purple between 5 October 1916 and 1 December 1917.
- ❖ [.../26.1c](#): with the letter "N" in ROMAN aligned with the penultimate line of the lower grid, and the letter "C" in CENSURĂ aligned to the second line of the upper grid; applied in black ink between 29 September 1917 and 16 September 1918.



[/26.1a](#): 4 September 1916



[/26.1b](#): 1 November 1916



[.1b](#):



/26.1c: 29 September 1917

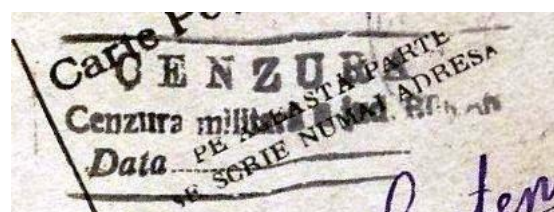


.1c: 28 November 1917

©B04/26.2 (Type B, CM#26.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. ROMAN / Data.....**; dimensions 49 x 14 mm (larger for deformed samples); applied in violet ink between **4 September 1916 – 23 April 1917 – May 1917**.



/26.2: 4 September 1916



23 April 1917

©B04/26.3 (Type C) (CM#26.C.1): large rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDEȚULUI ROMAN**; dimensions 56 x 23,5 mm; applied in black ink between **July 1917 – 27 August – 8 September 1919**.



©B04/26.4 (Type D, CM#26.D.1): round, simple (A) and double-circle (B) numeral handstamps used by censors, with the text: **CENSURAT * Roman / 0**, featuring similar appearance and diameters of ... mm; applied in black ink between **16 November 1917 – 25 June 1918**. Numbers known so far: 1-5.



/26.4(1): 25 June 1918



.4(4): 1 December 1917



.4(5): 24 November 1917

(1)	25 June 1918
(2)	16 November 1917
(3)	

(4)	1 December 1917
(5)	24 November 1917

Please send any corrections, additions, comments to
damirro@yahoo.com

B04/27. – SILISTRA (Durostor county, Dobruja)
(today Силистра, Bulgaria)

The town was occupied by the 1st Bulgarian Cavalry Division on **10 September 1916**. Due to the occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1** (**September 1916**, when censorship was active only for a couple of days!) and **Period 2** (... **March – June 1919** ...).

[ⓄB04/27.1](#) (Type A): date handstamp of the censorship office, unknown yet.

[ⓄB04/27.2](#) (Type B): small rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. DUROSTOR / Data.....**; dimensions 49 x 14 mm; applied in red and violet ink around **31 August – 1 September 1916**.



[ⓄB04/27.M](#) (CM#27.00): handwritten censor marking "**Cenz...**" (reported by Călin Marinescu), or "**Cenzurat**" followed by a signature; seen between **March and June 1919**.



Fragment of an illustrated postcard showing views of Silistra, written here in French on 24 May 1919, handwritten cancellation **Silistra 25/5/1919** and censoring the same day (handwritten "**Cenzurat, C. Saier**"), postmarked CALARASI * CURSA always on 25 May 1919, addressed to Paris, France.

B04/28. – SLATINA (Olt county, Wallachia)
(today Olt county)

The town was occupied by German troops on **27 November 1916**. Due to foreign occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1** (**September – November 1916**) and **Period 2** (... **March – October 1919**).

[ⓄB04/28.1](#) (Type A, CM#28.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * SLATINA**; diameter 28/17-18 mm; applied during both periods:

- ❖ [.../28.1](#): seen on **4 November 1916**, in first Period.
- ❖ [.../28.1*](#): used between **26 August and 23 October 1919** in the second period.
- ❖ [.../28.1**](#): used at least between **7 January 1920 – 3 January 1922** as the day postmark of the Slatina office, cancelling postage stamps.



[ⓄB04/28.2](#) (Type B, CM#28.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, with the text **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a județului OLT / Data.....**; dimensions 48 x 15 mm; applied in violet ink between **28 August – September 1916**. See Fig. B04.01 for a first-day use of this handstamp where, apparently, the county name is missing (or was not printed). It could be a different early type ([.../28.2A?](#)).



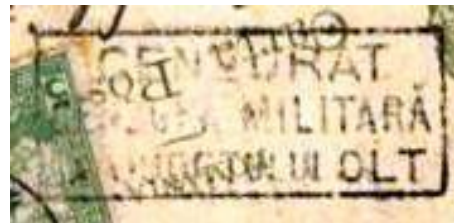
/28.2(A?): ca. 28 August 1916



/28.2: ca. September 1916

⊙B04/28.3 (Type C, CM#28.C.1): large rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDEȚULUI OLT**; dimensions 55 x 23 mm; applied in black ink during both Periods:

- ❖ .../28.3: unknown yet in the 1st Period.
- ❖ .../28.3*: used between **20 February – 3 March 1919**, during the 2nd Period. Therefore, it is very likely that this office did not use provisional handstamps in 1919.



⊙B04/28.60 (Type BK): atypical rectangular handstamp, with the text reading: **PACHET CONTROLAT / Biurul de cenzură de la / Oficiul poștal SLATINA**; dimensions ca. 100 x 33 mm; applied in black ink on **3 November 1916**. It was used for parcel censorship.



B04/29. – SLOBOZIA (Ialomița county, Wallachia) (today Ialomița county)

Supplementary censor office established mainly for mail sent/received from the civilian internees in the Slobozia area, as well as local inhabitants and military units. Due to the occupation, the office operated only briefly during **Period 1 (September – October 1916)**.

⊙B04/29.1 (Type A, CM#29.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text reading: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * SLOBOZIA**; diameter 28/17-18 mm; applied in black ink:

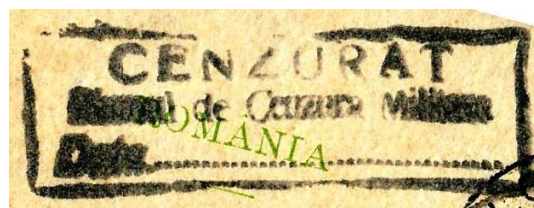
- ❖ .../29.1: used between **27 September – 6 November 1916**, in the 1st Period.
- ❖ .../29.1*: used between **23 October 1918 – 7 January 1920**, in the 2nd Period. Therefore, it is very likely that this office did not use provisional handstamps in 1919.



⊙B04/29.2 (Type B, CM#29.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, with the text **CENZURAT / Biurul de cenzură militară / Data.....**, measuring approximately 49-50 x 15-17 mm, and was applied in black ink between **27 September – 9 November 1916**, and in violet ink in November 1916. More variants were seen:



/29.2a: 24 October 1916



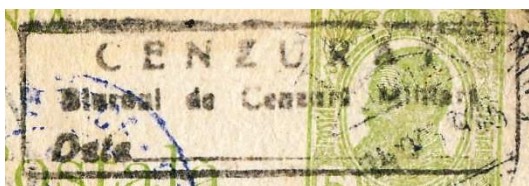
25 October 1916



/29.2b: ca. 1 November 1916



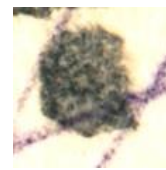
- ❖ [.../29.2a](#): with large letters, deformed frames and poor quality imprint, measuring ca. 50 x 17 mm, seen between 24 and 28 October 1916.
- ❖ [.../29.2b](#): with small letters, right frames, initially with good quality imprint, measuring 49 x 15 mm, seen between 27 September and 9 November 1916. One sample has weak and poor imprints ([/29.2ba](#))
- ❖ [.../29.2c](#): with small letters, very poor quality imprint, text: **CENZURAT...**, measuring ca. 49 x 15 mm, applied in black ink on 27 October 1916.



/29.2ba: ca. 15 October 1916



/29.2c: 27 October 1916



The „S”

[©B04/29.90](#): specific resealing label with black text on light-brown paper: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ A OFICIULUI SLOBOZIA / Data**, used on **27 September 1916**



A cover mailed from the Internees Center Sudiți, bearing the Center handstamp – for details see [#C12.34](#), censored in Slobozia, arrival Bucharest on 30 September 1916⁵⁷

B04/30. – TÂRGOVIȘTE (Dâmbovița county, Wallachia) (today Dâmbovița county)

The town was occupied by German troops on **3 December 1916**. Due to the foreign occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (September – October 1916)** and **Period 2 (.. August 1919 – October 1919)**.

[©B04/30.1](#) (Type A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * TÂRGOVIȘTE**; not seen by the author.

[©B04/30.2](#) (Type B) (CM #30.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, with the text **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. DÂMBOVIȚA / Data.....**, measuring 49-50 x 15-16 mm, and applied in red and black ink between **9 September – 22 October 1916**. At least two samples were manufactured:

- ❖ [.../30.2a](#): a good quality handstamp, with clear imprint, measuring 49 x 15 mm, and applied in red between 9 September – 17 October 1916



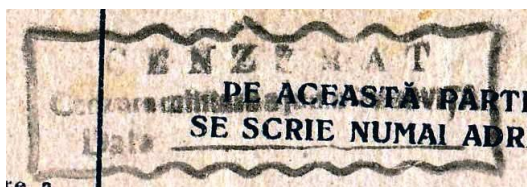
/30.2a: 9 September 1916



17 October 1916

- ❖ [.../30.2b](#): a prematurely used handstamp, with wavy edges, measuring ca. 50 x 15-16 mm, and applied in black ink on 22 October 1916.

⁵⁷ Cristian Scăiceanu – *Rudolf Zoscsak și Serviciul Geografic al Armatei*, Acta Terrae Fogarasiensis, VIII, pag. 288-296.



/30.2b: 22 October 1916



October 1916?

[©B04/30.3](#) (Type P, CM#30.E): provisional rectangular handstamp with the inner text reading: **CENZURAT**; dimensions 33 x 7,5 mm; applied in blue ink between **6 August – 6 October 1919**.



[©B04/30.60M](#): handwritten *parcel* censorship, with texts like *Controlat*, seen on **9 November 1916**.



B04/31. – TÂRGU JIU (Gorj county, Wallachia) (today Gorj county)

The city was occupied by German troops on **17 November 1916**. Due to foreign occupation, the office operated in two periods: **Period 1 (August – November 1916)** and **Period 2 (.. July – September 1919)**.

[©B04/31.1](#) (Type A, CM#31.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ / TG.-JIU**; diameter 28/19 mm; applied in black ink between **31 August and 7 October 1916** (November).



/31.1: 4 September 1916



7 October 1916

[©B04/31.2](#) (Type B): a small rectangular neutral handstamp, with two subtypes:

- ❖ [.../31.2A](#) (Type BP) appears to be an early provisional handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud.** (without the county name) / **Data.....**; dimensions 48,5 x 14,5 mm; applied in blue and violet ink between **31 August and 4 September 1916**. It can also be a [31.2](#) application error (in which the word GORJ is missing), but this is unlikely due to the overall clear impression and printing quality.

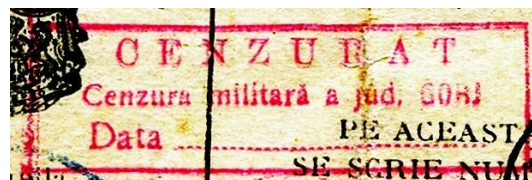


/31.2A: 31 August 1916



4 September 1916

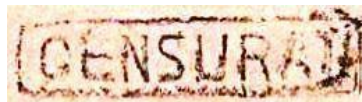
- ❖ [.../31.2](#) (CM #31.B.1) the definitive handstamp, with the text **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. GORJ / Data.....**, measuring $49 \times 14\text{--}15 \text{ mm}$, and applied in red and violet ink between **14 – 18 September 1916**.



[ⓄB04/31.3](#) (Type P, CM#31.E): a provisional rectangular handstamp with the inner text: **CENSURAT**; dimensions $33 \times 7 \text{ mm}$; applied in blue-black ink between **20 July – 19 September 1919**.



[/31.3](#): 20 July 1919



19 September 1919

B04/32. – TECUCI (Tecuci county, Moldavia) (today Galați county)

The office operated continuously (at least between **October 1916 – June 1918...**), as the Moldavian county was not affected by foreign occupation.

[ⓄB04/32.1](#) (Type A, CM #32.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ / TECUCI**, measuring $28/17 \text{ mm}$, and applied in black ink between **31 October 1916 – 24 March 1918... 23 December 1918**. At least three variants are known so far:

- ❖ [.../32.1a](#): with the letter "C" in CENSURA aligned with the 3rd line of the upper grid, and the "B" in BIUROUL is positioned *below* the lower horizontal line; seen between January – July 1917.
- ❖ [.../32.1b](#): with the letter "C" in CENSURA aligned with the 3rd line of the upper grid, but with the "B" in BIUROUL *aligned* with the lower horizontal line; seen around 18 February 1918
- ❖ [.../32.1c](#): with the letter "C" in CENSURA aligned with the 2nd line of the upper grid, and the "B" in BIUROUL positioned *below* the lower horizontal line; seen between 25 November – 27 December 1917.



[/32.1a](#): 25 January 1917



[/32.1b](#): 18 February 1918



[/32.1c](#): 25 November 1917

[ⓄB04/32.2](#) (Type B): small rectangular neutral handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. TECUCI ? / Data.....**, with dimensions ca. $50 \times 15 \text{ mm}$, and applied in black ink in **2 October 1916**.



[ⓄB04/32.3](#) (Type C): large rectangular neutral handstamp, not seen yet.

[ⓄB04/32.4](#) (Type D): round numeral handstamps used by censors, with similar appearance and approximate diameters of $28/15 \text{ mm}$, applied in black ink between **25 August 1917 and 28 June 1918 – July**. Numbers seen so far: 1-12.

- ❖ [.../32.4A](#) (CM#32.D.1): with one or two circles and the inner text reading **CENSURAT * Tecuci**, applied in blue and black ink between August 1917 – June 1918 – *October*. Numbers seen so far: 2, 5, 6, 7, 9
- ❖ [.../32.4B](#) (CM#32.D.2): bi-circular with the inner text reading **CENZURAT * Tecuci**, applied in violet ink between 22 December 1917 – 24 March 1918 (*May*). Numbers: 5, 6, 7, 12.



.32.4A(1): 25 August 1917



.4A(2): 16 September 1917



.4A(4): 22 December 1917



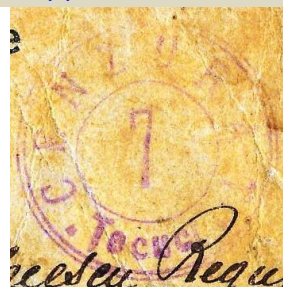
.4B(5): 31 January 1918



.4B(6): 2 March 1918



.4A(6): August 1917



.4B(7): 24 March 1918



.4A(10): 1918

(1)	A	25 August 1917
(2)	A	16 September 1917 – 28 June 1918
(3)	?	August 1917
(4)	A	22 December 1917 – 18 February 1918
(5)	B	31 January – 24 March 1918
(6)	B	2 March 1918
(7)	A	August 1917

(7)	B	24 March 1918
(8)	?	
(9)	A	7 September 1917
(10)	A	1918
(11)		
(12)	B	



Fig. B04.41.

Inter-zonal cover mailed from TECUCI, Moldavia, where it was censored on 25 June 1918 with both handstamps [B04/32.1c](#) and [B04/32.4A\(2\)](#). Addressed to Câmpeni, Romanâți county, in the occupied Romania, therefore censored in transit through Bucharest with [B11/01.11](#) on 3 July 1918.

[ⓄB04/32.70](#): *bank censorship* certified with a rectangular handstamp reading: **BANCA NAȚIONALĂ A ROMÂNIEI / AGENȚIA TECUCI / VERIFICAT**, applied in blue violet ink, followed by the censor's signature. Seen around **4 October 1916** on a cover sent from the Tecuci Agency to the National Bank of Romania, which was also re-censored by BCI-Tecuci; see *Fig. B04.42*.



Fig. B04.42.

Bank cover sent from Tecuci Agency, postmarked TECUCI, verified within the institution with [ⓄB04/32.70](#), later on re-censored cover on **4 October 1916** by the BCI-Tecuci with both handstamps [ⓄB04/32.1c](#) and [ⓄB04/32.2](#). Addressed to the National Bank headquarters in Bucharest, arrival in BUCURESTI on 5 October (on backside).

B04/33. – TULCEA (Tulcea county, Dobruja) (today Tulcea county)

The town was occupied by the Bulgarian 12th Infantry Division on **23 December 1916**. Due to foreign occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (September – October 1916)** and **Period 2 (.. March – October 1919...)**.

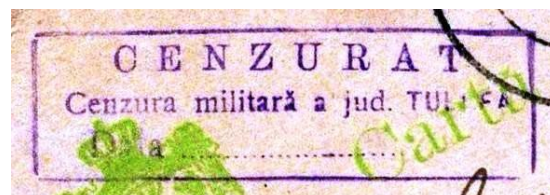
[ⓄB04/33.1](#) (Type A): date handstamp of the censorship office, not seen yet.

[ⓄB04/33.2](#) (Type B, *CM#33.B.1*): small rectangular handstamp, with the text **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. TULCEA / Data.....**, measuring 49 x 14,5 mm, and applied in violet ink between **23 September – 20 October 1916**. At least two variants may be described:

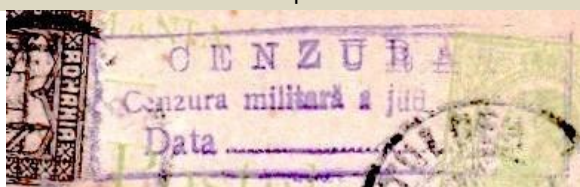
- ❖ [.../33.2a](#): integral rectangular frame; on 23 September, the city name is apparently missing (or it could be a variant [/33.2A](#)).
- ❖ [.../33.2b](#): a specific gap in the upper frame (between the E and N in CENZURAT).



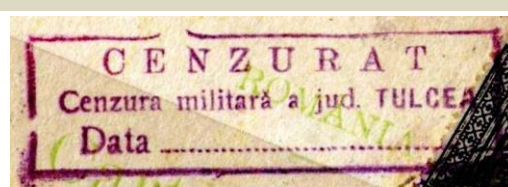
[/33.2a](#): 23 September 1916



[.2a](#): 21 October 1916



[/33.2A?](#): 23 September 1916 (county name missing)



[.2b](#): 1916

[ⓄB04/33.3](#) (Type C, CM#33.C.1): large rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDEȚULUI TULCEA**; dimensions 56 x 23 mm; applied in black ink in March 1919. Not seen by the author.

[ⓄB04/33.4](#) (Type P): provisional rectangular censorship hand stamp (somehow similar to type B), with the inner text on three lines reading: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară / Data....**, measuring ca. 52 x 18 mm, and applied in black ink on **20 August 1919**.

[ⓄB04/33.5](#) (Type P): provisional rectangular censorship handstamp, with the inner text on three lines probably reading: **CENZURAT / TULCEA / DATA....**, measuring ca. 52 x 15 mm, and applied in black ink on **23 October 1919**.



/33.4: 20 August 1919



/33.5: 23 October 1919

B04/34. – TURNU MĂGURELE (Teleorman county, Wallachia) (today Teleorman county)

The city was occupied by German troops on **27 November 1916**. Due to the occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (September – November 1916)** and **Period 2 (.. June – October 1919...)**.

[ⓄB04/34.1](#) (Type A, CM#34.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARĂ * T.-MĂGURELE**; diameter 28-29/18 mm; applied in black ink between **11 September – 11 November 1916**. At least two variants are known:

- ❖ [.../34.1a](#): the name is abbreviated as **T.MAGURELE**, with the letter "C" in CENSURA aligned to the space between lines 2 and 3 of the upper grid; applied in violet ink on 11 September 1916.
- ❖ [.../34.1b](#): the name is abbreviated as **T.-MAGURELE**, with the letter "C" in CENSURA aligned to the 3rd line of the upper grid; applied in black ink between 22 September – 11 November 1916.



/34.1a: 11 September 1916



/34.1b: 22 September 1916



.1b: 27 September 1916

[ⓄB04/34.2](#) (Type B, CM#34.B): small rectangular handstamp, with the text **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. TELEORMAN / Data.....**; dimensions 49-50 x 15-16 mm; applied in violet and black ink between **11 September – 10 November 1916**. At least two samples were manufactured:

- ❖ [.../34.2a](#): good quality handstamp with a clear imprint, dimensions 49 x 15 mm, applied in violet on 11 September 1916. The county name is missing, suggesting this could be a provisional BP type.
- ❖ [.../30.2b](#): prematurely used handstamp with wavy edges, hardly lisible, dimensions ca. 50 x 16 mm, applied in black ink between 22 – 27 September 1916.



/34.2a (2A?): 11 September 1916



.2b: 27 September 1916

ⓄB04/34.3 (Type C, CM#34.C.1): large rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDEȚULUI TELEORMAN**; dimensions 56,5 x 23 mm; applied in black ink between **21 October – 11 November 1916**.



ⓄB04/34.4 (Type P): provisional rectangular handstamp, with the inner text reading: **CENSURAT**; dimensions 34 x 7 mm; applied in blue ink between **20 June – 13 October 1919**.



B04/35. – TURNU SEVERIN (Mehedinți county, Wallachia) (today Mehedinți county)

The town was occupied by German troops on **22 November 1916**. Due to the occupation, the office operated in two distinct periods: **Period 1 (September – November 1916)** and **Period 2 (February – November 1919)**.

**Fig. B04.43.**

Postcard from Turnu Severin to Serbia, cancelled with censorship handstamps **ⓄB04/35.1** and **ⓄB04/35.3** on **11 November 1916**. Stopped due to foreign occupation, the postcard was brought to Iași, where it was postmarked IASI on **5 April 1917** and re-censored with **ⓄB04/02.10A(G)**. It was then forwarded via Russia, where it was re-censored in **Petrograd** with the rectangular violet handstamp and day cancellation PETROGRAD * 6 EKSP on 16/29 April 1917. Addressed to Uskub (today Skopje), in occupied Serbia/Macedonia.



/35.1: 24 October 1916



11 November 1916

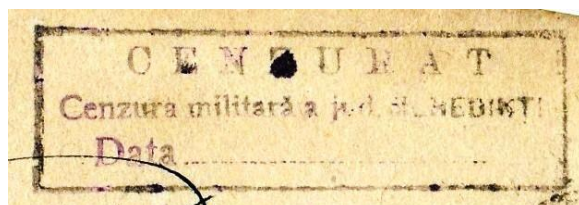


18 November 1916

[ⓐB04/35.1](#) (Type A, (CM#35.A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text reading: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * T-SEVERIN**; diameter of 28/18 mm; applied in black ink between **11 September – 18 November 1916**. So far, no variants can be differentiated.

[ⓐB04/35.2](#) (Type B) (CM #35.B.1): small neutral rectangular handstamp, with the text **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. MEHEDINȚI / Data.....**, measuring 49 x 14,5 mm, and applied in red, black, and blue-violet ink between **13 September – 26 October 1916**.

- ❖ [.../35.2A](#) (Type BP) appears to be an early provisional handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud.** (without the county name) / **Data.....**; applied in black ink on **24 September 1916**. It could also be a [35.2](#) application error (in which the word MEHEDINȚI is missing), but this is unlikely given the clarity of the rest of the impression and printing.



[/35.2](#): 14 September 1916



[/35.2A](#): 24 September 1916

[ⓐB04/35.3](#) (Type C) (CM #35.C): large rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDETULUI MEHEDINȚI**; dimensions 57 x 23 mm; applied in black ink between **28 September 4 October – 18 November 1916**.

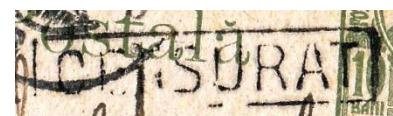


20 October 1916

[ⓐB04/35.4](#) (Type P): linear provisional handstamp bearing the text: **CENSURAT**; dimensions 34 x 7 mm; applied in black ink between **24 February – 18 March 1919**.



[ⓐB04/35.5](#) (Type P, CM#35.E): provisional rectangular handstamp with the inner text reading: **CENSURAT**; dimensions 34 x 7 mm; applied in black ink on **15 July 1919**.



[ⓐB04/35.6](#) (Type P): provisional linear handstamp with the text reading: **CENZURAT**; dimensions ca. 34 x 8 mm; applied in black ink between **4 August – 2 November 1919**, showing rapid and significant deformation, or possibly involving more than one provisional marking manufactured.



[/35.6](#): 4 August 1919



3 September 1919



2 November 1919

[ⓐB04/35.60](#) (Type BK): *parcel censor*, rectangular handstamp with the inner text reading **PACHET CONTROLAT / Biurul de cenzură de la / Oficiul poștal TURNUL-SEVERIN**, measuring 49 x 15 mm, and applied in black ink on **6 November 1916**.



B04/36. – VASLUI (Vaslui county, Moldavia)
(today Vaslui county)

The office operated continuously between 1916-1919, as the Moldavian county was not affected by foreign occupation.

ⓄB04/36.1 (Type A): date handstamp of the censorship office, with the text: **BIUROUL DE CENSURĂ MILITARĂ * VASLUI**; diameter ca. 28/17 mm; applied in black ink between **18 October 1916**



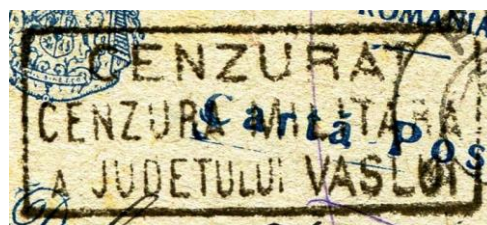
ⓄB04/36.2 (Type B, CM#36.B.1): small rectangular handstamp, with the text reading **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară a jud. VASLUI / Data.....**, measuring 49 x 15 mm, and applied in blue ink between **7 October 1916**.



ⓄB04/36.3 (Type C, CM#36.C.1): large rectangular handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDETULUI VASLUI**; dimensions 56 x 23 mm; applied in black ink between *November 1916 ... 8 January 1917 – 14 December 1918 ... 29 March 1919*.



/36.3: 13 May 1917



23 June 1918

It appears that the type described in CM2000 as #36.C.2, with the text **CENZURAT / CENZURA MILITARĂ / A JUDET. VASLUI**, either does not exist or has not been seen by the author.



Fig. B04.44.

Registered cover mailed from VASLUI on **2 March 1917**, censored here with the rectangular handstamp **ⓄB04/36.3**. Being addressed to France, it transited IAȘI where the refugee postmark **BIUROUL CENTRAL MILITAR DE CARTARE * BUCUREȘTI** was applied on 3 March 1917. From unknown reasons, it passed by BCM-E Iași only sometime in 1918, see the *Free* oval handstamp **ⓄB04/02.11C** (cancelling the stamps), and **ⓄB04/1.1***. Arrived in PARIS only on **5 April 1919**, two years later! (source: eBay 2023, sold for 125.50 USD)

⊙B04/36.4 (Type D): round numeral handstamps used by censors, with diameters of 38-39/15-15 mm, applied in black ink between **9 October 1917 – 8 June 1918**. Numbers known so far: 1-14. Basic variants:

- ❖ **.../36.4A** (CM#36.D.1): double-circle handstamp with the text **CENSURAT * Vaslui**, applied in black ink between **4 October – 23 November 1917... 8 June 1918**. Numbers known so far: 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10.



/36.4A(2): 8 June 1918



.4A (5): 30 September 1918



.4A (6): 23 November 1917



.4A (7): 4 October 1917

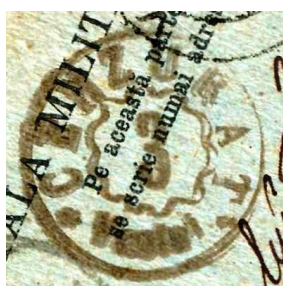


.4A (9): 29 October 1917



.4A (10): 19 October 1917

- ❖ **.../36.4B** (CM#36.D.2): double-circle handstamp with the text **CENZURAT * Vaslui**, applied in black ink between **26 February – 24 April 1918**. Known numbers so far: 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14.

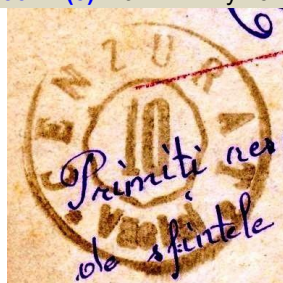


/36.4B(3): 26 February 1918



.4B (6):

(8):



.4B(10): 30 May 1918



.4B(11): 20 March 1918



.4B(14): 10 April 1918

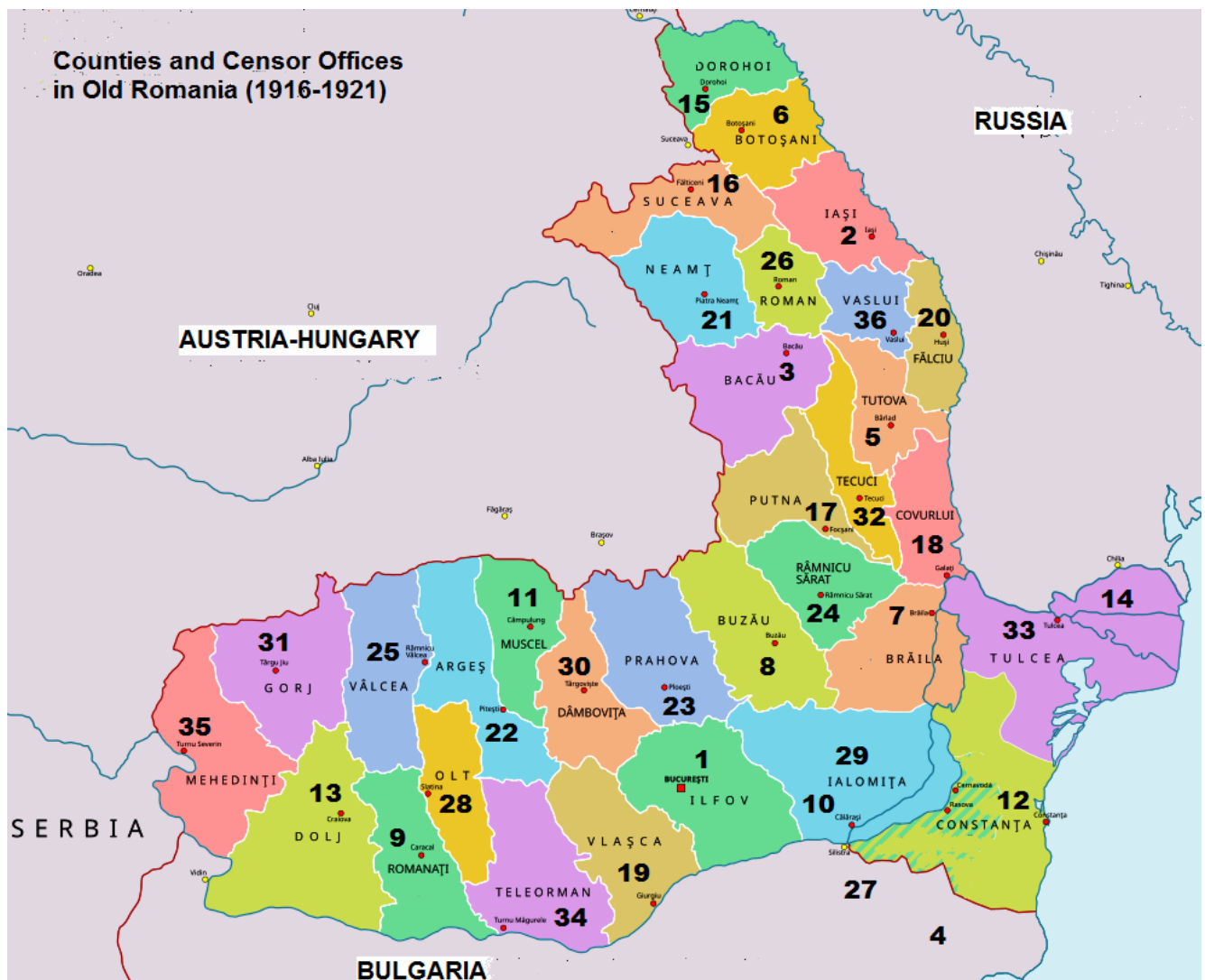
(1)		
(2)	A	22 April – 8 June 1918
(3)	B	26 February 1918
(4)	B	24 May 1918
(5)	A	30 September 1918
(6)	A	11 October – 23 November 1917
(6)	B	
(7)	A	

(8)	B	18 February – 7 May 1918
(9)	A	28 September 1917
(10)	A	9 October – 1 November 1917
(10)	B	30 May 1918
(11)	B	20 March – 28 April 1918
(12)		
(13)	B	
(14)	B	5 April – 11 June 1918



Fig. B04.45.
UNCENSORED mail from
17 September 1916!!

Postcard mailed on 17 September 1916 from BOTOȘANI to CARACAL, where it arrived on 20 September 1916 (after only three days!) WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF CENSORSHIP. This suggests that not all censorship offices were operational by 28 August, making this a rare example. Note also the curious design of the modified Botoșani postmark!



Numbers correspond to those in the catalog.

B05. THE ROMANIAN CENSORSHIP IN BESSARABIA 1918-1919, 1920-1928⁵⁸

Following the dissolution of the Russian Empire, Bessarabia elected its *Sfatul Țării* on October/November 1917, which officially opened on 21 November / 3 December 1917. This assembly proclaimed the **Moldavian Democratic Republic** on **2/15 December 1917**; formed a local government on 8/21 December 1917; declared independence from Russia on 24 January / 6 February 1918; and subsequently voted for union with the Kingdom of Romania on 27 March / **9 April 1918**. This union was accepted by the Central Powers as a form of 'compensation' for the disastrous Peace Treaty recently signed in Bucharest.

Period I of Censorship

The Russian postal service continued operations in the province. Only later, on 18 June / **1 July 1918**, the **Romanian Postal Service was officially organized in Bessarabia**. Shortly thereafter — likely as early as July 1918 — Romanian censorship offices were established in every county capital⁵⁹ (Bălți, Cahul, Cetatea Albă, Chișinău, Hotin, Ismail, Orhei, Soroca, Tighina). *Ordinance no. 5* of the *General Popovici Group* in Chișinău stated: "any correspondence that does not first pass through censorship control is forbidden". This control was exercised by censorship offices within the Prefectures, in cooperation with representatives of the local military garrison.

The censors were recruited from officers detached from nearby military units: the 1st Cavalry Division in Hotin, the 2nd Cavalry Division in Tighina, the 9th Infantry Division in Bălți, the 10th Infantry Division in Cahul and the 15th Infantry Division in Cetatea Albă, Chișinău, Ismail, Orhei and Soroca⁶⁰. Since these officers did not know Russian, they were paired with Bessarabian officers. Internal censorship was abolished on **27 November 1919**, similar to the rest of the country.

Period II of Censorship

The special situation in this province, bordering a latent conflict zone with occasional exacerbations, would lead in **March/April 1920** to the **re-establishment of postal censorship** in Bessarabia, based on Ordinance no. 8 of 19 March 1920 of the *General Popovici Group*. This would become enforceable within 10 days after the publication. Modifications have been made to the text of Ordinance no. 5, and these were as follows: "A censorship shall also be established in every county capital for all private telegraphic and postal correspondence. These offices will operate alongside the post offices in the county capitals and will consist of officers and lower ranks, knowledgeable of Russian, delegated by the respective garrisons, along with staff assigned by the post office managers. Any private correspondence, in any form, telegraphic or postal, entering or leaving Bessarabia shall be subject to censorship"⁶¹. Those who transported or received uncensored mail were to be court-martialed and punished.

On **5 August 1920**, the decision to lift all postal censorship in Romania was published. But in Bessarabia the telegraph-postal censorship continued, restricted only to the "war zone", which was established by Order of **18 August 1920** issued by the Ministry of War as being a strip of 30 km from the Dniester to the interior (except Chișinău). In this area, censorship would be maintained even after the state of siege was lifted in the province on 21 August 1920. This is seconded by another order of the Ministry of War (of 4 September 1920), which stated that censorship "shall apply only to postal and telegraphic correspondence sent from a locality belonging to the war zone or intended for such a locality. It will not apply to mail that is only in transit through the war zone. Thus, correspondence leaving the interior area for abroad will not be subject to censorship"⁶². Based on this order, the *Eastern Troops Command* published, on **8 September 1920**, the regulations concerning the organization of censorship in the military zone. The censorship offices were established (re-established — or rather, continued to operate) at the post offices in the county capitals, being placed "under the direction of the officer who will receive instructions from the Army Corps".

⁵⁸ For details, see also Călin Marinescu - *Cenzura poștală militară română 1914-1940*, București, 2004, pag. 63-78.

⁵⁹ Preventive censorship of the press already existed since March 1918, but is not the subject of this volume.

⁶⁰ Călin Marinescu - *Cenzura...1914-1940*, pag. 65.

⁶¹ Ibidem, pag.69.

⁶² Ibidem, pag.72.

Decree No. 853 of **14 March 1921** re-introduced the state of siege "in an area of 30 km, being able to extend up to 50 km" along the borders. In Bessarabia, this included the area between the Dniester and a line joining the localities Noua Suliță and Divizia, excluding Chișinău, the capital having been included in the siege zone only later, by JCM⁶³ no. 2873 of 20 August 1921. No explicit reference was made to postal censorship, so it remains unclear whether it had been abolished — though this would seem unlikely, given that censorship in the border area had, in practice, been continuous since 1918. Between 1921 and 1928, several ordinances issued by the 3rd Army Corps in Bessarabia addressed the maintenance of the state of siege — and consequently, the continuation of censorship — in the border area with Soviet Russia, due to the special situation on the eastern border of Romania. From August 1921 onward, postal censorship was again explicitly mentioned. If censorship had previously been abolished, this would suggest that censorship bureaus in the siege zone were re-established sometime before **September 1921**. However, the evidence points to a continuity of operations of these offices. In addition, the practical instructions for organizing censorship offices merely repeated the details already known from 1919-1920. So far, the existence of postal censorship offices during this period has been documented in Bălți, Cetatea Albă, Chișinău, Orhei, Soroca and Tighina.

By Decree no. 2849 of **20 November 1928**, the state of siege — except for a 10-15 km strip along the border — and press censorship *were suspended*. On 22 February 1929, the ordinance of the 3rd Army Corps made no mention of postal censorship⁶⁴. This fact, corroborated with marcophilic testimonies (censorship handstamps on mail), supports the assumption that postal censorship in the siege zone was suspended sometime towards the end of 1928, likely shortly after the lifting of press censorship. The latest known censored correspondences dates from July 1928 (Tighina) and November 1928 (Orhei).

In any case, the chronically explosive realities in Bessarabia — a region subject to Soviet interference and provocations — created an exceptional situation compared to the rest of the country. As a result, official censorship of *internal* correspondence was maintained almost continuously from 1918 to 1928, extending another *seven years* after it had been abolished in another sensitive region, the Transylvanian border zone, and *nine years* after its suspension in the 'quiet' territories of the Old Kingdom.

The Censorship Offices in Bessarabia

B05/01. – BĂLȚI (Bălți county) (today Bălți, Republic of Moldova)

In January 1918, the Bolshevik *Frontotdel* committee appointed military leaders in Bălți. To restore order, a detachment of Transylvanian volunteers arrived in the city. Then, the *Frontotdel* declared a state of siege: the city was filled with military patrols, and its entrances and exits were controlled by revolutionary forces. Under these circumstances, the Bessarabian government requested military assistance from Romania. On 8 January 1918, Romanian troops crossed the Prut River, operating in the direction of Bălți with the 1st Cavalry Division. The town was occupied by Romanian forces on 23 January / **5 February 1918**. On 3/16 March 1918, the zemstva of Bălți County voted in favor of the union of Bessarabia with Romania.

ⓄB05/01.1 (CM#1.A): rectangular handstamp with two-lines of inner text: **Cenzurat / Balti**, size of 19 x 14,5 mm, applied in black ink between **6 August – 10 September 1918**. The text is difficult to read due to poor printing and small dimensions. At least two samples were manufactured, with slight differences between the prints.



/01.1: 6 August 1918



Ca. 9 August 1918



12 August 1918



10 September 1918

⁶³ JCM = Jurnalul Consiliului de Miniștri = Journal of the Ministerial Council.

⁶⁴ Ibidem, pag. 339.



Fig. B05.01: Romanian "Iași issue" postcard, written in *Țarigrad*, 24 VII 1918 (= 6 August 1918) by a militaryman of the 80th Infantry Regiment (15th Division) and addressed to Brănești, Ilfov county, in the occupied territory. Cancelled with the surviving Russian postmark **ДРОКИЯ БЕСС.** on 11 August 1918, has transited BĂLTI on 12 August, where it was censored with **ⓅB05/01.1**, had transited IASI on 14 August 1918 where it was re-censored (with the numeral **ⓅB04/02.7A(19)**).

◉ B05/01.2: double circle handstamp with one-line text around the coat of arms of the Kingdom: **ROMÂNIA * Cenzurat Balti**, diameter 35/31/21 mm, applied in black (first period of use) or purple ink (second period of use) between **14 – 31 August 1918**. Specimens can be found where the name of the country is not visible, due to faulty printing, see *Fig. B05.02*.



/01.2: 14 August 1918



ca. 16 August 1918



28 August 1918



31 August 1918

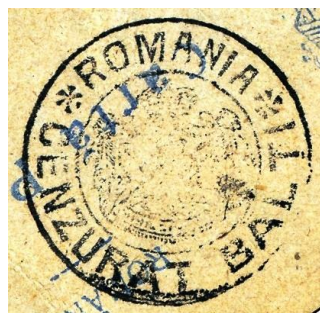
Fig. B05.02: Romanian fieldpostcard, uprated 10 bani, written in *Sculeni* on 30 July 1918 (= 12 August 1918) by a militaryman of the *1st Cavalry Division in Sculeni*, cancelled with the surviving Russian postmark **СКУЛЕНЫ БЕСС.** on 13 August 1918, transit postmark BÄLTI on 14 August 1918 (when it was censored with the handstamp [⊙B05/01.2](#)), transit postmark IASI 17 August, where it was re-censored on 19 August 1918 (with the handstamp [⊙B04/02.3](#) and the alphanumeric **J4** [⊙B04.02.9\(J4\)](#)); addressed to Bucharest.



ⓄB05/01.3: rectangular stamp with two-lines of inner text: **CENZURAT / BALTI**, size of cca. 48 x 16 mm, applied in black ink on **8 September 1918**



ⓄB05/01.4 (CM#1.B.3): double-circle handstamp with one-line text around the Kingdom's coat of arms: **ROMÂNIA * CENZURAT BALTI**, diameter 32/20 mm, applied in red-violet or black ink between **15 September 1918 – 20 August 1919**.



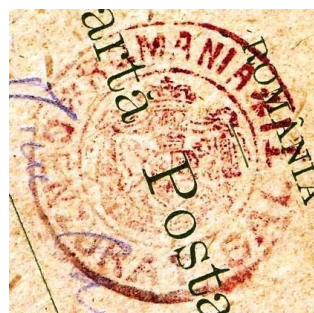
/01.4: 25 September 1918



15 October 1918



16 March 1919



20 August 1919

Fig. B05.03: Romanian "Iasi issue" postcard, written in *Bălți* on **14 September 1918** (= 27 September 1918) and addressed to the occupied territory. Postmarked **BĂLTI** on 29 September 1918, where it was censored with the handstamp **ⓄB05/01.4**, transited through Iasi where it was re-censored with the alpha-numeric **J11** **ⓄB04.02.9(J11)**, with an arrival postmark **MIZIL** (former 9th Army area) on **14 October 1918**. Stamped *Postage Due* with the scarce M.V.i.R 10 bani overprint, with dispatch postmark **MIZIL** on **16 October 1918**.



From the text: *I bring you the saddest news. You should know that our godson Culică is dead, he died in the military hospital 265 Iasi as a result of typhus exanthema, in 1917, March, day 11, at 4 hours. Petrache Cârștea's Minea is also dead.*

B05/02. – CAHUL (Cahul county) (today Cahul, Republic of Moldova)

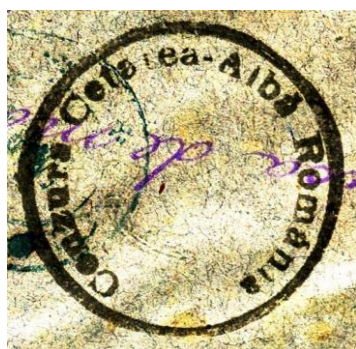
The town was occupied by the Romanian 13th Infantry Division on **11/24 January 1918**.

ⓄB05/02.1 (TT95#9.1, CM#3.C): rectangular handstamp with two-lines of inner text: **CENSURAT / JUD. CAHUL**, size of 50 x 28 mm, applied in black ink in *April 1920*. Not seen by the author and is not reproduced here.

B05/03. – CETATEA ALBĂ (Cetatea Albă county) (today 67701 Білгород-Дністровський – Ukraine)

The town was occupied by the Romanian 13th Infantry Division and 4th Roșiori Brigade (of the 2nd Cavalry Division) on **23 February / 8 March 1918**. Alternative name: Akkerman.

ⓄB05/03.1 (CM#4.B.2): double-circle handstamp with the text around the royal coat of arms: **Cenzura Cetatea-Albă România**, diameter 39 mm, applied in black ink, at least between **3 March – 21 April ... October 1920?** With noticeable degradation over time.



/03.1: 5 April 1920 Benkendorf



21 April 1920



8 October 1920?

[ⓄB05/03.2](#): bi-linear handstamp with the text in *italics*: *Censurat / Cetatea-Alba*, applied in black ink on **25 May 1920**.



[ⓄB05/03.3](#) (CM#4.C): rectangular handstamp with two-lines of inner text: **CENSURAT / JUD. CETATEA-ALBA**, size 49 x 17 mm, applied in black ink between **21 March 1921 – 24 March 1925**.



[ⓄB05/03.90](#): between **February 1923 – March 1925** (at least), improvised closing labels were used that were cut out from newspapers or other sources; see Fig. B05.04.

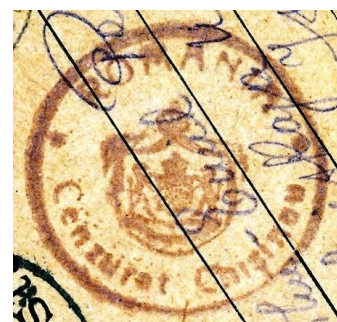


Fig. B05.04: Registered Commercial cover mailed from AGENTIA SPECIALĂ * POSTELNICU (Benkendorf) on 21 March 1925, having transited CETATEA ALBĂ on **24 March 1925**, when it was censored, and a handstamp [ⓄB05/03.2](#) was applied on an improvised closing label (a title cut from the newspaper "The Sunday School Times", Philadelphia, USA). Addressed to Stockholm, Sweden.

B05/04. – CHIȘINĂU (Chișinău county) (today capital of Republic of Moldova)

The town was occupied by the Romanian 11th Infantry Division on **13/26 January 1918**.

[ⓄB05/04.1](#): circular handstamp with the text around the royal coat of arms: **ROMÂNIA * Cenzurat Chișinau**, external diameter ca. 35 mm, applied in black ink between **13 – 17 October 1918**.



ⓄB05/04.1A: double-circular handstamp with the probable text around the royal coat of arms: ...? * **CENZURA CHIȘINĂU**, applied in black ink around **29 October 1918**. One single extremely deteriorated sample seen so far! →



ⓄB05/04.2 (CM#6.1): tri-linear handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT / CHISINAU / N.**, currently known with three censor numbers, encountered during **16/29 November - 19 December 1918**:

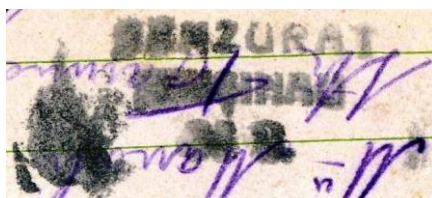


/04.2(2): ?

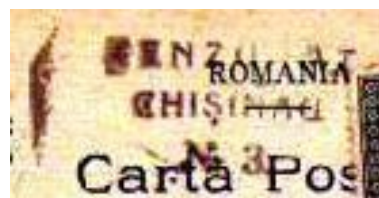
- ❖ **.../04.2(1).** No. 1, applied in black ink.
- ❖ **.../04.2(2).** No. 2, applied in black ink, seen between **29 November – 19 December 1918**, distorted in its late usage; see another good imprint in *RPHB no. 2/1990, pag. 3, Fig. 4*.
- ❖ **.../04.2(3).** No. 3, applied in black ink.



/04.2(2): 12 December 1918

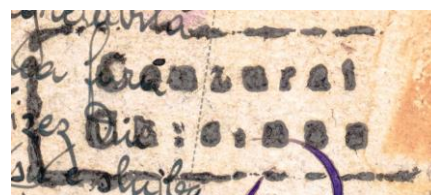


/04.2(2): 19 December 1918



/04.2(3)

ⓄB05/04.3 (TT95#39.3, CM#6.3): rectangular handstamp with two-lines of inner text: **Cenzurat / Chisinau**, size 45 x 18 mm, applied in black ink between **4 April – 27 May 1919 - June**.



ⓄB05/04.4: rectangular handstamp with two-lines of inner text: **CENZURAT / JUD. CHIȘINĂU**, size 51 x 20 mm, applied in black ink between **30 June – 22 July 1919**. The letters in the first row are serif, while the ones in the second row are sans-serif, and "U" from **CHIȘINĂU** is placed under the space between "AT" of **CENZURAT**.



/04.4: 30 June 1919



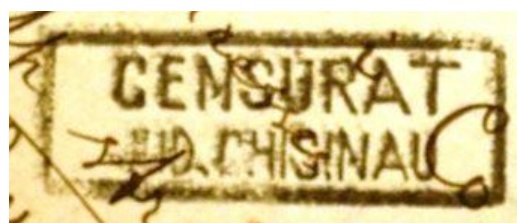
12 July 1919

ⓄB05/04.5: rectangular handstamp with two-lines of inner text: **CENZURAT / JUD. CHIȘINĂU**, size 52 x 20 mm, applied in red-violet ink on **16 March 1919??**. Similar with the previous type, but the letters in the first row are sans-serif, while the ones in the second row are serif, with "U" from **CHIȘINĂU** placed under "A" of **CENZURAT**.

ⓄB05/04.6 (TT95#39.1, CM#6.C, 6.Ca): rectangular handstamp with two-lines of inner text: **CENSURAT / JUD. CHISINAU**, size 50 x 18 mm, applied in black ink between **17 September 1919 – 18 August 1920 ... 21 January 1921**.

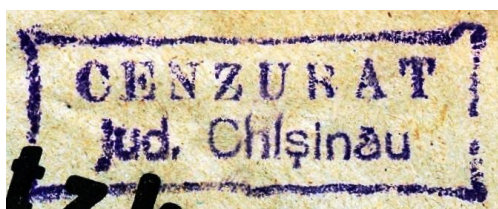


/04.6: 17 September 1919

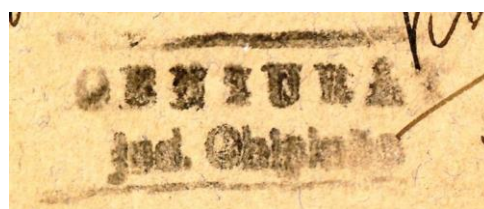


21 January 1921

OB05/04.7 (TT95#39.2): rectangular handstamp with two-lines of inner text: **CENZURAT / jud. Chişinău**, size 50 x 19 mm, applied in violet and black ink between *June 1920 – 21 April – 26 October 1922*.



/04.7: 21 April 1922



c. 26 October 1922

OB05/04.8: probably the handstamp of the censorship commission, occasionally used as a censorship handstamp; circular with the text surrounding the Royal coat of arms: **ROMANIA * Comisiunea de cenzură Chişinău**, diameter 38/36 mm, applied in purple ink on 23 May 1922.



Fig. B05.05:

Printed cover from the *Jewish Emigration Committee* (affiliated with HIAS of America), postmarked CHIŞINĂU on 23 May 1922, censored in the town with **OB05/04.8** (twice, on front + rear), addressed to Berlin, in Germany

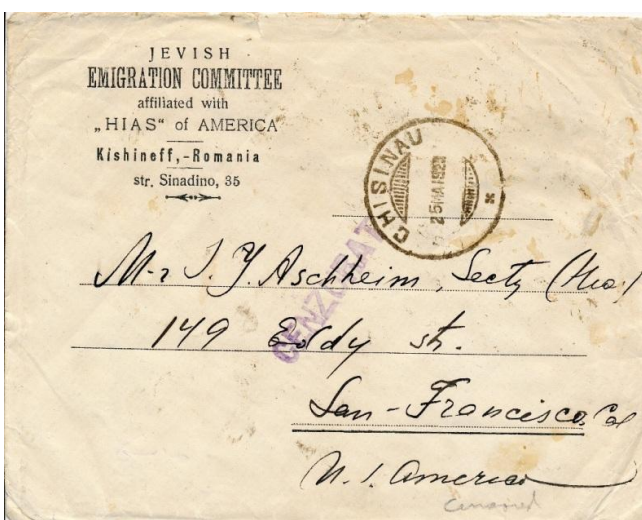
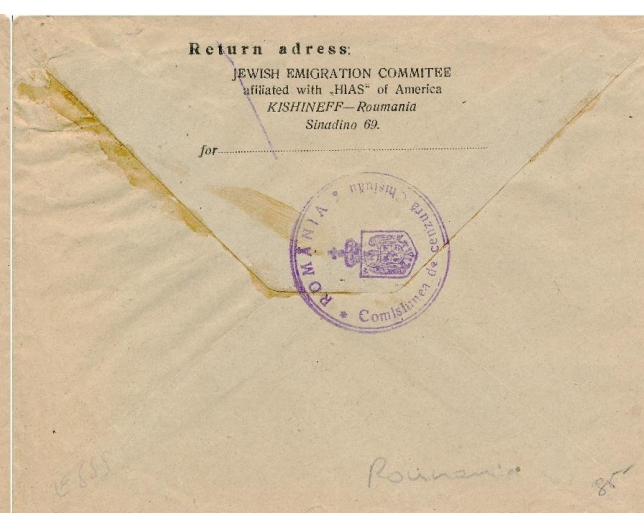
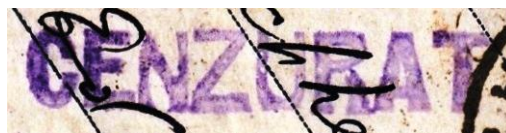


Fig. B05.06: Printed cover from the *Jewish Emigration Committee* (affiliated with HIAS of America), with multiple franking (24 x 25 bani = 6 Lei), postmarked CHIŞINĂU on 25 May 1925, censored in the town with **OB05/04.9**, addressed to San Francisco in United States.

ⓐB05/04.9: linear handstamp with simple text: CENZURAT, size 41 x 7 mm, applied in violet ink on 25 May 1923.



B05/05. – HOTIN (Hotin county)
(today 60000 – Хотин, Ukraine)

Northern Bessarabia, including Hotin, was occupied by Austro-Hungarian troops following the Treaty of Brest on 3 March 1918, and they remained in the area until the end of the year. As a result, the town was occupied by Romanian forces of the 1st Cavalry Division only on **10 November 1918**. Between 7 January and 1 February 1919, it became the center of a Bolshevik and/or Ukrainian uprising and a temporary occupation of the town, which ended with a violent repression carried out by Romanian troops.

ⓐB05/05.1 (TT95#48.1, CM#7.C): rectangular handstamp with two-lines of inner text: CENSURAT / JUD. HOTIN, size 48 x 19,5 mm, applied in black ink between **18 June - 11 September 1919** respectively **20 April 1927**. This type was reused as the first censoring handstamp in July 1941.

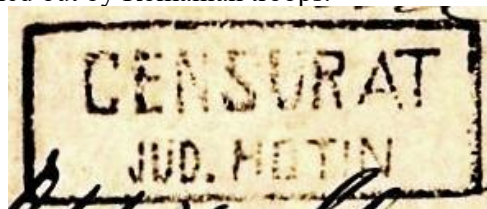


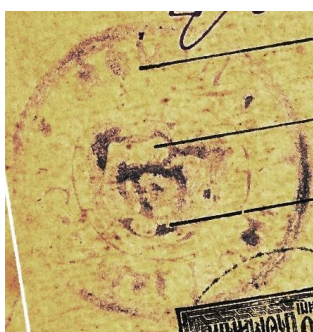
Fig. B05.07: Registered cover with multiple franking (10 x 5 bani = 50 bani) postmarked LIPCANI on 31 August 1919, transited through Hotin, where it was cancelled with the surviving Russian postmark ХОТИНЪ БЕСС. on 11 September 1919⁶⁵, having been censored with the handstamp ⓐB05/05.1, having transited through IASI on 18 September, and arriving at BRUXELLES (Belgium) on 27 September 1919 (source: online auction, sold for 224.50 USD).

B05/06. – ISMAIL (Ismail county)
(today 68600 – Ізмаїл, Ukraine)

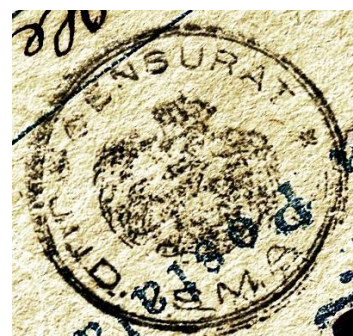
The town was occupied by the Romanian 13th Infantry Division on **3 February 1918**.

ⓐB05/06.1 (CM#8.B.1): a circular handstamp with a diameter of 33.5/31.5 mm, with the text surrounding the Kingdom's coat of arms: ROMANIA / Cenzurat Ismail, applied in purple ink in **23 September 1918**,

ⓐB05/06.2: circular handstamp with the text surrounding the Royal coat of arms:



/06.1: 23 September 1918



/06.2: 12 July 1919

⁶⁵ See the explanation for this late use of a Russian postmark stamp at: Grecu Dan-Simion – *Aspecte privind introducerea ștampilelor poștale românești în Basarabia* (Aspects regarding the introduction of Romanian postmarks in Bessarabia), *Filatelica* no. 459&460 / 1994, pag. 4-5 and Grecu Dan-Simion – *Începuturile Poștei Române în Basarabia* (The beginnings of the Romanian Post in Bessarabia), *Meridian Filatelic*, Chișinău, no. 114/1998, pag. 1, 6 and - (in English) *The Post-Rider*, Canada, no. 45/1999, pag. 62-66.

CENSURAT * JUD. ISMAIL, applied in black ink on 12 July 1919.

[©B05/06.3](#): rectangular handstamp with two-lines of inner text: **CENSURAT / JUD. ISMAIL**, size 48 x 19,5 mm, applied in black ink between 2 – 11 October 1919.

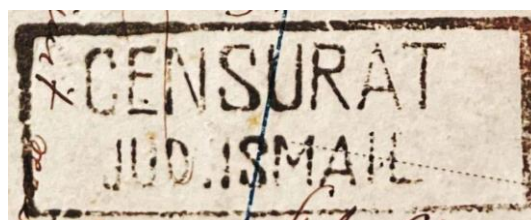


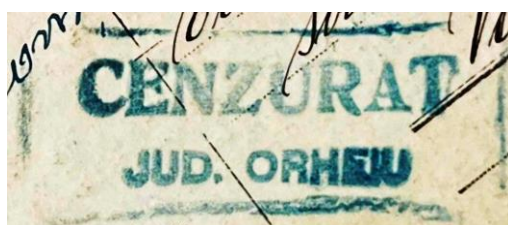
Fig. B05.08:

Romanian "Iași issue" postcard, cancelled BOLGRAD on 12 July 1919, censored during transit through **Ismail** with the handstamp [©B05/06.2](#), arriving at CHISINAU on 19 July 1919, where the item was taxed 10 Bani, because the compulsory 5 Bani Aid stamp was missing; as the "1918" overprint was not valid, it was withdrawn on 14 January 1919 (source: Museum of Romanian Records, București).

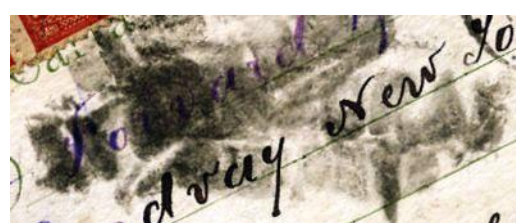
B05/07. – ORHEI (Orhei county) (today Orhei, Republic of Moldova)

On 25 March 1918, the 52 councilors of the Zemstva in Orhei unanimously voted for the Union of Orhei County with Romania.

[©B05/07.1](#) (TT95#44.1, CM#9.C): rectangular handstamp with two-lines of inner text: **CENZURAT / JUD. ORHEIU**, size 55 x 20 mm, applied in blue ink between 1919 – 26 August 1920. One of the samples of this type was likely completely deteriorated beyond recognition by 24 May 1919.



[/07.1](#): 26 August 1920

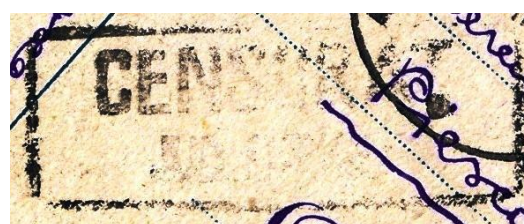


24 May 1919

[©B05/07.2](#): rectangular handstamp with two-lines of inner text: **CENSURAT / JUD. ORHEI** size 49 x 19 mm, applied in black ink between 9 December 1920 – 10 January 1922, respectively 14 April 1923 – 1 July 1924 and 13 August 1928. Other, heavily damaged specimens, are known to date.



[/07.2](#): 18 April 1921



6 May 1923



5 December 1923



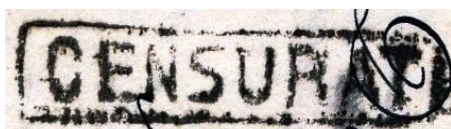
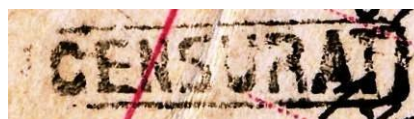
13 August 1928

Fig. B05.09:

One of the two known examples of the circulated 10 bani red "Iasi issue" postcard (longtime considered only a non-issued essay⁶⁶), postmarked ORHEI on 10 January 1922, censored locally with the handstamp [B05/07.2](#), having the arrival postmark CHISINAU * POSTA SOSIRI; date illisible.

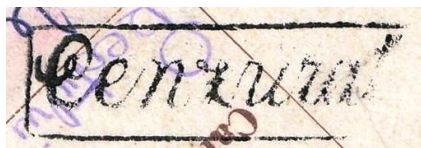


[B05/07.3](#): rectangular handstamp with simple inner text: **CENSURAT**, size 39 x 7 mm, applied in black ink between ca. 20 June 1921 ... 3 mai 1922 – 5 September 1924.

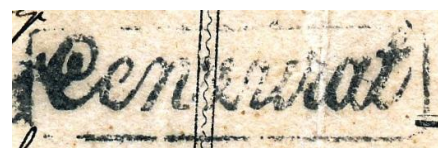
[/07.3](#): 3 May 1922

12 May 1923

[B05/07.4](#): rectangular handstamp with simple inner text: **Cenzurat**, size 40,5 x 11 mm, applied in black ink between 28 September 1926 – 3 December 1927.

[/07.4](#): 28 September 1926

25 May 1927



3 December 1927

[B05/07.5](#): double-circle handstamp with the inner text: **CENZURAT**, diameter 33/20 mm, applied in black ink between 17 July – 23 November 1928.

[B05/07.6](#): linear handstamp with the simple text: **CENZURAT**, dimensions 48 x 9 mm, applied in black ink between September 1927 – 2 December 1928; see its image nearby, excerpted from *Dimineața* newspaper, no. 12 / 1928, pag. 167. Also reported by Ovidiu Reu in 1997 [[B00.17](#)].

Reminder of the references codes:

- ❖ **TT85#**: *Teleguț-Thielk catalogue*, 2nd edition of 1995.
- ❖ **CM#**: *Călin Marinescu's book* of 2004.

⁶⁶ Grecu Dan-Simion – *Din nou despre un întreg poștal necatalogat în România* (= *Again about an uncatalogued stationery postcard in Romania*), *Curierul Filatelice* No. 53 / August 1994, pag. 6.



/07.5: 17 July 1928



23 November 1928



/07.6: 2 December 1928

B05/08. – SOROCA (Soroca county) (today Soroca, Republic of Moldova)

The city was occupied by the Romanian 1st Cavalry Division on 1/14 February 1918. On 13/26 March 1918, an extraordinary assembly in Soroca, composed of representatives of the Zemstva, the city administration, large landowners, peasants, priests, etc., voted for the union with Romania.

©B05/08.1 (TT95#49.1, CM#11.B.1): circular handstamp with text surrounding the Royal coat of arms: **ROMANIA * Cenzurat Soroca**, diameter 34/21 mm, applied in black-violet ink on 3 September 1918.



©B05/08.2: rectangular handstamp with a two-lines inner text: **CENZURAT / JUD. SOROCA**, size 54 x 20 mm, applied in black ink on 19 April 1920.

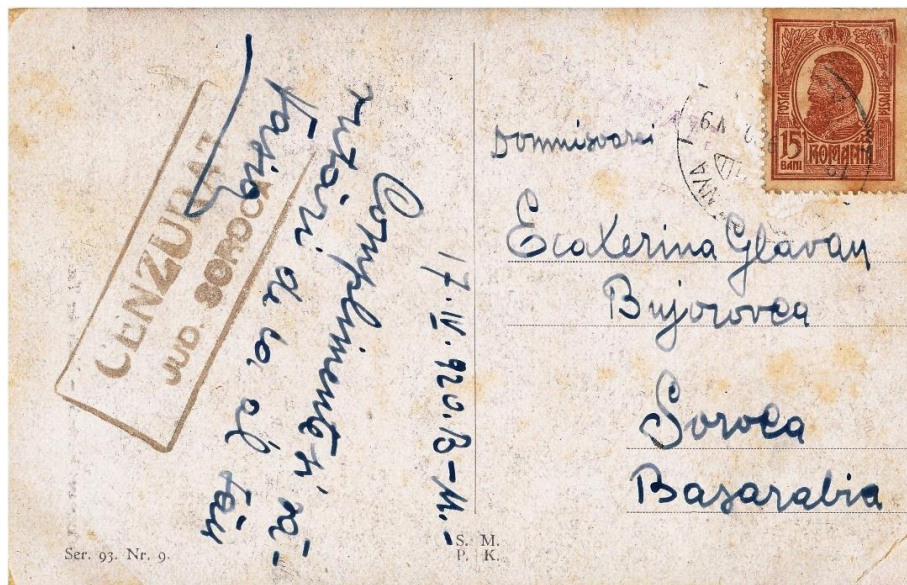
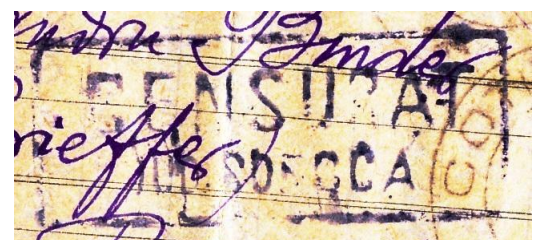
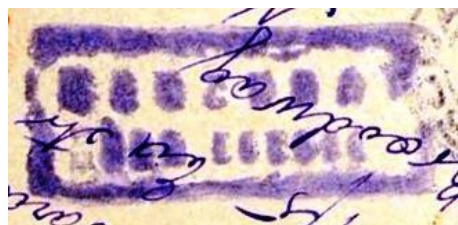


Fig. B05.10: Mixed Transylvanian – Bessarabian censorship

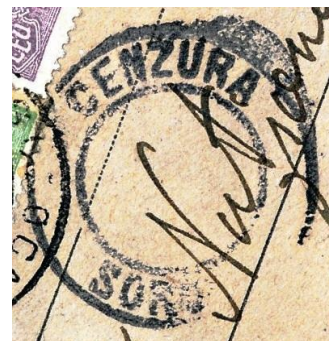
Postcard written on 17 April 1920 in Baia Mare (Transylvania), postmarked NAGYBÁNYA on 19 April 1920, censored locally with the rare (and hardly visible) handstamp **©B06/07.3**, re-censored at arrival in Soroca with the handstamp **©B05/08.2**.

©B05/08.3 (CM#11.C): rectangular handstamp with a two-lines inner text: **CENZURAT / JUD. SOROCA**, size 50 x 19 mm, applied in violet and black ink on September – 16 November 1919, respectively between 5 January – 3 February 1921.





ⓄB05/08.4: rectangular handstamp with a two-lines inner text: **Cenzurat / JUD. SOROCA (?)**, size of ca. 58 x 24 mm, applied in violet ink between **13 November – 23 December 1920**.



ⓄB05/08.5: circular double-circle handstamp with the inner text: **CENZURA * SOROCA**, diameter 30/19 mm, applied in black ink on **13 March 1925**.

B05/09. – TIGHINA (Tighina county)
(today Bender, Republic of Moldova / Separatist PMR)

Romanian troops from the 11th Infantry Division arrived in front of the city on 13/25 January, occupying it on 20 January / **2 February 1918**, alongside the 2nd Roșiori Regiment of the 2nd Cavalry Division. The Ukrainian Bolsheviks launched a surprise counterattack during the night of 22/23 January (4/5 February) 1918, driving the Romanians out of the city. The strong response of the Romanian troops – reinforced with units from the 11th Infantry and 2nd Cavalry Divisions – led to the reoccupation of the city and the expulsion of the Reds across the river on 25 January/7 February. Alternative name: Bender.

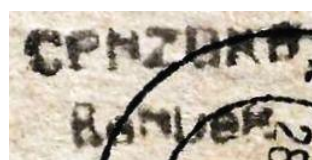


ⓄB05/09.1 (CM#12.B1): circular handstamp with text surrounding the Royal coat of arms: **ROMANIA * Cenzurat Bender**, diameter ca. 34 x 21 mm, applied in black ink between *September* – **19 October 1918**.

ⓄB05/09.2 (TT95#4.1, CM#12.A): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **CENZURA / BeNDeR**, size 24 x 10 mm (only text, more with socket lines), applied in black ink between *November* – **8 – 28 December 1918**.



/09.2: 15 December 1918



28 December 1928

ⓄB05/09.3: rectangular handstamp with a two-lines inner text: **CENZURAT / JUD. TICHINA** (sic), external size 51 x 20 mm, applied in black ink on **15 February 1919**.

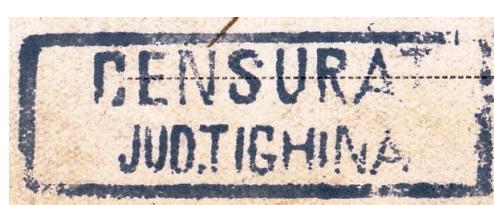


/09.3: 23 November 1928

ⓄB05/09.4 (TT95#50.1, CM#12.C,12.CA): rectangular handstamp with a two-lines inner text: **CENSURAT / JUD. TIGHINA**, size 49-50 x 18-19 mm, applied in black ink between **25 July 1920 – 22 mai 1928**.

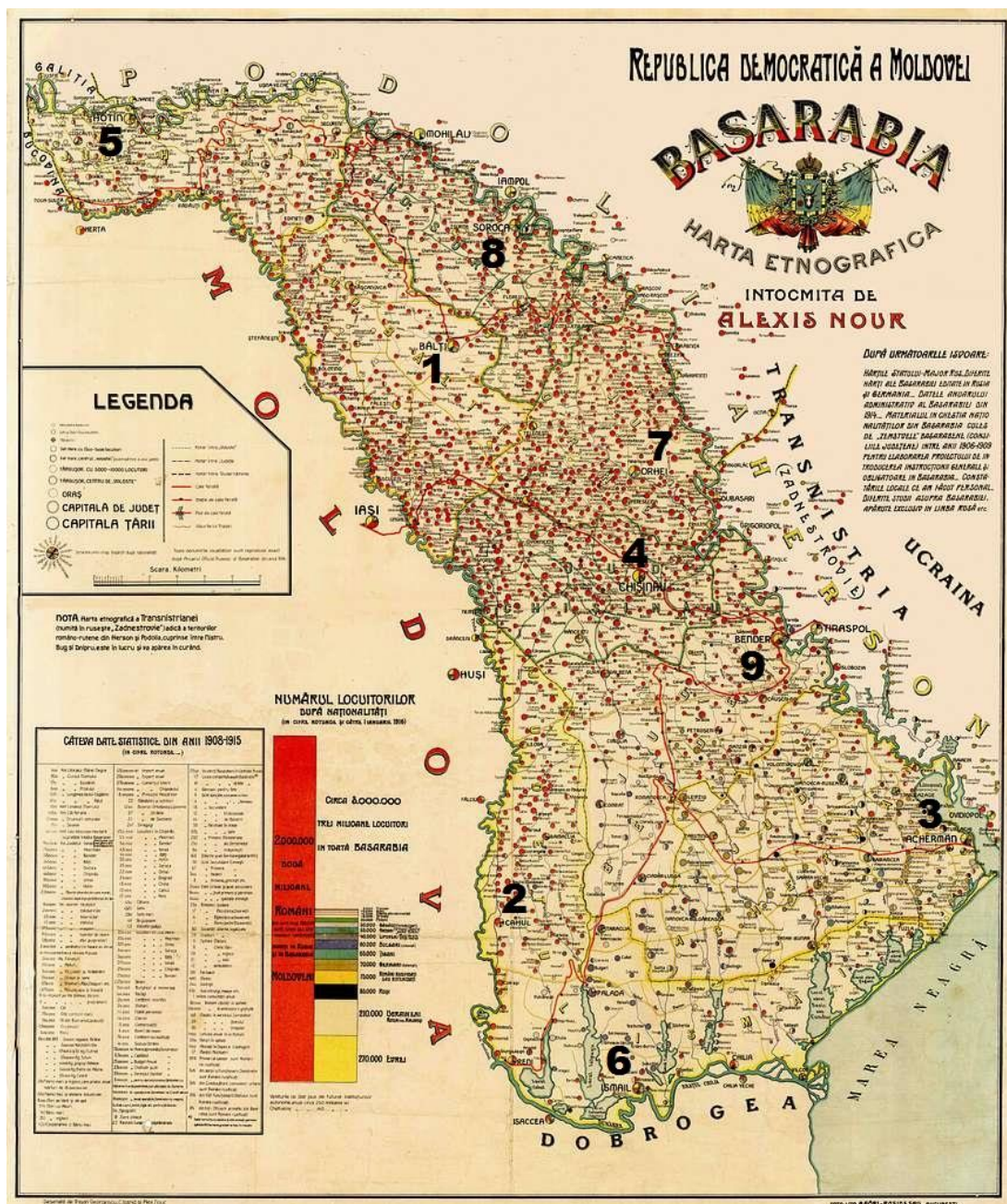


/09.4: 6 May 1924



10 August 1925

Postcard written on 13 February and postmarked with the new Romanian cancel, however still bearing the Russian name of BENDER on 15 February 1919; locally censored with the handstamp **ⓄB05/09.3**, (bearing the Romanian Tighina name), addressed to Râmnicu Vâlcea.



Chapter XXI. ROMANIAN CENSORSHIP IN TRANSYLVANIA, BANAT AND HUNGARY (1918-1921)

With the remobilization of the army on 7/20 November 1918, the Romanian 7th Infantry and 1st Rifle Divisions crossed the border and began their advance into Transylvania, reaching a line at the foot of the Apuseni Mountains by 22 January 1919. On 2 December 1918, a provisional Government of Transylvania, the *Consiliul Dirigent*, was established. It included a special section for 'Communications, Post and Telegraph', which took the first measures to maintain postal circulation in the areas passed under Romanian military administration.

By Decree-Law no. 3632 of 13 January 1919, the *Consiliul Dirigent* was granted authority over all public services in Transylvania, pending the final administrative organization of Romania. On 25 January 1919, the Romanian General Staff ordered the official takeover of Hungarian post offices located in the area administered by Romanian forces at the time (i.e., Transylvania up to the Apuseni Mountains, along the Ciucea - Zam line). This transfer was managed by the General Postal Directorate in Bucharest, through the newly established *Central Postal Directorate* in Sibiu (*Direcția Poștală Sibiu*).

Four days later, on 29 January 1919, the post offices in Transylvania were effectively taken over by the Romanian administration from the Hungarian administration. The Romanian takeover of postal services continued in stages: on 20 April 1919 (for the counties of Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad, following the military offensive launched on 16 April), on 10 July 1919 (for the city of Arad), and on 20 August 1919 (for the Romanian Banat).

The Romanian postal, telegraph, and telephone (P.T.T.) laws were officially introduced two years later, by Decree-Law no. 4383, published in the Official Gazette no. 181 on 12 November 1921 (see details in *Volume A/2*).

B06. THE ROMANIAN CENSORSHIP IN TRANSYLVANIA AND BANAT⁶⁷

1st Period: Censorship under the Governing Council (*Consiliul Dirigent*, December 1918 – March 1919)



Fig. B06.01. First Romanian censorship in Transylvania.

Italian postcard for POWs, written in the Asinara camp (Sardinia) on 21 October 1918 by a Hungarian prisoner from Hunedoara County and sent to his friend in Merisor. It was censored in the camp with the round handstamp **CAMPO DI CONCENTRAMENTO * PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA – ASINARA**, and subsequently passed through the prisoner censorship office in Rome. During its transit, dramatic historical changes unfolded: Austria-Hungary signed an armistice, and in Transylvania, local power was taken over by the Romanian and Hungarian National Guards.

At the destination, the correspondence was censored by the local *Romanian National Council*, which applied the bilinear handstamp **SFATUL NAȚIONAL ROMÂN / MERISOR**. This is the only known example of this particular handstamp to date.

⁶⁷ See also Călin Marinescu - *Cenzura...1914-1940*, pag.90-193.

The establishment of censorship was one of the first quantifiable indicators of authority exerted by the new Romanian administration. The earliest censorship services were organized locally by the **Romanian National Councils** (Consiliile Naționale Române, CNR), even before the official administrative takeover from the Hungarian authorities! For example, in Deva, on 16 December 1918 — just two days after the arrival of the first Romanian army units — a postal censorship service was already operating under the restructured CNR (initially formed on 10 November 1918). This service included a chief and five censors, and it is likely that it had already been functioning informally for some time, with the post office under the guard and control of the *Romanian National Guard* in Deva⁶⁸.



The administrative takeover of Deva and Hunedoara County occurred on 9 January 1919, meaning that the CNR-led censorship was active for only a few weeks. However, postal items censored during this brief period are known to exist. It is reasonable to extrapolate that similar arrangements occurred in other Transylvanian counties; a notable example is known from the village of Merișor, Hunedoara county (see Fig. B06.01 and A74.01.)

In those early days, the primary concern focus was on **press censorship**, as the press remained a powerful tool for shaping public opinion and had not yet come under the control of the Romanian military administration. Several military orders outlined initial censorship measures⁶⁹:

- Order no. 143 of 17 December 1918:
- "1. In cities where Romanian, Hungarian, and German newspapers are published, a censorship commission would be set up, composed as shown in point 2, and which will have the attributions outlined in point 3.
- 2. The censorship commission would be composed: a) In the cities with existing military commands (Division, Brigade, or Regiment) that include intelligence officers (...), the heads of these offices, who would be assisted by two interpreters appointed by the county Prefect from among trusted Romanians in the locality, who know perfectly the Hungarian and German languages. b) In other cities where newspapers are being published, a capable officer from the Romanian army would be appointed as chief, and the additional personnel appointed by the head of the local administration..."
- Order no. 665 of the 7th Infantry Division of 21 December 1918 was sent to the railway stations in Cluj, Dej and Târgu Mureș, and it stated that:
- "1. All newspapers arriving from Budapest are to be stopped by the Military Command of the Guard. Censorship would be carried out at the station by the Censorship of the (7th) Division and only those newspapers which do not make hostile propaganda against the Romanian nation will be put up for sale, and the others will be burned.
- 2. Newspapers published within the (7th) Division area will be initially exempt from censorship; but if found that their conduct is anti-Romanian, they would be suspended and fined."
- Ordinance no. 6 of the C.T.T. from Sibiu also stated that: "All the printed materials, as well as all reproductions of writings and illustrations, including musical ones, made mechanically or chemically to be distributed, are subject to censorship, which is made by the Divisions Command and the Infantry Brigade Command..."

Simultaneously, **military censorship of correspondence** was instituted. On 1 December 1918, the 1st Rifle Division requested approval from the Great Headquarters to censor letters and telegrams. This request was granted, and Order no. 1384 of **28 December 1918** authorised the establishment — or takeover — of existing censorship offices by Romanian divisions stationed in Transylvania. From that point until March 1919, censorship in Romanian-occupied Transylvanian territory (**T1**) was overseen by the major Romanian units and the Governing Council (*Consiliul Dirigent* of Sibiu).

On 4/17 January 1919 it was clarified that: "the Governing Council, in agreement with the Romanian military command, has taken measures to ensure that any control, as well as censorship of newspapers and private correspondence, is carried out as far-sighted as possible in order not to embarrass anyone, regardless the party they belong to⁷⁰."

Order no. 1363 of the C.T.T. of 27 January 1919 required that the newspapers and letters arriving from the occupied territory be censored immediately, and distributed with a mandatory delay of at least 15 days after their receipt at border checkpoints.

⁶⁸ Victor I. Șuiaga - *Consiliul Național Român from Deva, 1918-1919*, Deva 1994, pag.32-33,

⁶⁹ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală....*, 2004, pag. 134-135, *Cenzura poștală....*, 2013, pag. 51

⁷⁰ *Adevărul* (București) no. 10674 from 6/19 January 1919

After the Romanian administration was firmly established, censorship in the occupied territories of Transylvania was, for about two months, under the direct control of the *Governing Council* and the headquarters of three major Romanian military units (1st⁷¹ and 2nd Rifle Divisions, 7th Infantry Division). These units assigned soldiers from their own ranks to staff censorship offices, which were located in the towns where their subunits were stationed.

As of **21 January 1919**, the structure was as follows:

- **Consiliul Dirigent:** Sibiu;
- **7th Infantry Division:** Dej, Târgu Mureș, Reghin Săsesc, Toplița Română, Baia Mare, Zalău;
- **1st Rifle Division:** Blaj, Brașov, Odorhei, Sighișoara, Miercurea Ciuc, Ditrău;
- **2nd Rifle Division:** Zam, Deva, Simeria, Hunedoara, Hațeg, Petroșani, Lupeni, Vulcan, Sebeș, Grădiștea.

By the end of **February 1919**, **61 censorship posts** had been included in the military budget, although some were never ultimately established. Great Headquarters Instructions No. 2755, issued in February 1919, ordered that censorship would be subordinated to the *Transylvanian Troops Command* (C.T.T. – *Comandamentul Trupelor din Transilvania*). The first organizational guidelines were thus issued by the C.T.T., which, on 20 February, submitted to the General Staff (M.St.M) its proposals regarding the establishment and operation of censorship in its area of competence.

In response, on 9 March 1919, the General Staff issued Order no. 2515, stating that: "the censorship service will operate according to the organization proposed by the Transylvanian Troops Command, as approved by the High Command; the C.T.T. will submit to the M.C.G. the names of the individuals to be appointed to the censorship service".

However, implementation was gradual and the process was only completed on **8 April 1919**.

Below is the situation as of **17 March 1919**, when censorship posts were directly subordinated to the intelligence offices of the Romanian military divisions:

- **Comandamentul Trupelor din Transilvania:** Sibiu;
- **6th Infantry Division:** Cluj, Abrud, Huedin;
- **7th Infantry Division:** Jibou, Hida, Cehul Silvaniei, Baia Mare, Sighetul Marmăției, Șomcuta Mare, Baia Capnic, Dej, Zalău, Beclean, Târgu Mureș, Reghinul Săsesc;
- **1st Rifle Division:** Blaj, Bălăușeri, Ibașfalău, Dicio Sânmartin (Târnăveni), Turda, Uioara, Luduș, Cucerdea, Sârmașu Mare, Bistrița, Miercurea Ciuc, Siculeni, Toplița;
- **2nd Rifle Division:** Vințu de Jos, Sebeș Săsesc, Deva, Brad, Hunedoara, Ilia, Hațeg, Subcetate, Petroșani.

2nd Period: Censorship under the Transylvanian Troops Command (C.T.T - Comandamentul Trupelor din Transilvania, April – 14 July 1919)

On **9 March 1919**, Instructions nr. 3755/2 regarding the *organization and functioning of censorship in the territory of Transylvania occupied by Romanian troops* was elaborated and distributed through Order no. 2515. These regulations outlined the new structure of the censorship service in the occupied counties, first up to the limit of the Apuseni Mountains, then to the Tisza River:

In order to ensure that censorship is conducted more efficiently, as required by the needs of the army in relation to the situation in Transylvania, and at the same time as quickly and orderly as possible, as not to embarrass the public interests too much, the censorship service must be organized and operate as shown below.

The foundational principle of the organization that must be taken into account by all the commands is: the censorship personnel must remain permanent and consistent, in order to establish clear responsibilities and ensure continuity of censorship regardless of the movements that troops and commands will have to execute for operational purposes... To avoid changing directives each time troops are redeployed, and to ensure clarity for the public, as well as for post, telegraphs, and railway officials, journalists, and theaters or cinema managers, it is intended that censorship be organized as **regionally** as possible.

Censorship will apply to: a) the press, both that published in occupied and unoccupied territory, as well as all printed matter of any kind; b) on all forms of correspondence; c) telegraph and telephone communications; d) theatrical performances and cinema screenings.

⁷¹ The division had an interesting contribution to the censorship of civil correspondence, see **Greco Dan-Simion - Divizia I Vânători, un caz aparte în studiul cenzurii române** (*The First Rifle Division, a special case in the study of Romanian censorship*), Buletinul ABB no. 2(36), Timișoara, June 2001, pag.1-7.

NEWSPAPERS (PRESS) CENSORSHIP.

1. For newspapers published in the occupied territory: a) censorship will take place locally, carried out by the staff listed in Table No. 1; b) the following Romanian newspapers will not be subject to prior censorship: **Telegraful Român, Patria, Foaia Poporului, Renașterea Română, Gazeta Poporului, Gazeta Oficială** (all from Sibiu), **Gazeta Transilvaniei** (from Brașov), **Unirea** (from Blaj)⁷². These will only be investigated by the local censorship offices after they are printed and distributed. To prevent abuse, however, the editors-in-chief of these newspapers will be summoned and provided with written instructions (...); c) all other Romanian newspapers (...), as well as Hungarian and German newspapers, will continue to be censored **prior to publication**, following existing procedures;
2. The censorship commission will note on the proof copy: "Printing is approved with the omission of the sections marked in red on the page... the lines..." and the censor will sign accordingly.
3. Once approved, newspapers published in the occupied territory will no longer be censored at any point during distribution within the Romanian-occupied areas.
4. For newspapers from unoccupied territories: a) newspapers published in the Old Romanian Kingdom and other territories already occupied by the Romanian army, having been censored prior to publication in their respective cities, will no longer be censored again; b) certain foreign newspapers — **Românul** (from Arad), **Glasul Bihorului, Drapelul** (from Lugoj) — that appear in the Romanian lands not yet occupied will be allowed to circulate uncensored, as they are the bodies of the National Councils and have all the guarantees. c) All other foreign newspapers, particularly those published in Hungary, must be sent immediately to the censorship offices, as follows: all newspapers from Caransebeș, Lugoj, Arad (between the former border and the Găina Mountain) will be sent to censorship in **Sibiu**. All newspapers from the area between Mount Găina and Dealul Mănăstirei (6 km south of Zalău) will be sent to censorship in **Cluj**. All newspapers that are from the area between Dealul Mănăstirii, to the north to the Rotunzilor peak, will be sent to censorship in **Dej**. All newspapers that cross from the Rotunzilor Peak to the north up to the Kolomea-Sighet railway line (inclusively) will be sent to censorship in **Sighet**.
5. All newspapers and **correspondence** arriving at the crossing stations from unoccupied territory (Hungary), must be sealed by the station chief in mailbags or, if unavailable, in specific boxes provided by the military divisions: These containers are to be sealed and sent by the next train, accompanied by an NCO assigned by the divisions, to the censorship posts as specified under point 4.
6. Upon arrival, these bags (i.e. the boxes) with correspondence and newspapers, will be immediately opened at the censorship offices, which will immediately separate the newspapers from letters. The letters will then be immediately passed to the mail censorship offices, which will proceed as shown below (...).
7. Newspapers that contain no prohibited content will be passed to the postal service for distribution, provided that the censorship office has stamped each copy with its official handstamp. For this purpose, all measures will be taken to ensure that after these were passed on from the crossing stations, the address will not be lost in order to know to whom to be sent afterwards. Once stamped, newspapers will be distributed throughout the territory and will not be censored a second time by another post.

LETTERS (MAIL) CENSORSHIP.

1. Letters from the occupied territory always addressed to areas occupied by Romanian troops (i.e. Romania, Bessarabia, Transylvania, and Bukovina) will be censored at the censorship posts by the personnel listed in Table no. 2⁷³.
2. All private and official correspondence sent by post will be subject to censorship, except for: a) correspondence sent by the Governing Council and Romanian county prefects, who in order to avoid delays and to hand over the urgent correspondence on time, will have to proceed as shown below: each resort in the Ministry and each prefect must delegate a person, to be charged with the dispatch of the mail. This person will personally seal the correspondence, sign each envelope, and apply their handstamp on it. This correspondence, along with the dispatch log, will be sent to the censorship office, which will apply the handstamp "Cenzurat Oficial / Officially Censored" on the letters before immediately forwarding them to the post office. To prevent forgery, the persons authorized to dispatch official correspondence must submit a specimen of their signature to the censor and coordinate with the censor office heads to create a conventional sign, for example, crossing out the letter "n" in the word "Consiliul" on the envelope.
3. All other official correspondence — especially that originating from subordinated authorities where clerks remain Hungarian — will be censored first and returned to the post office for dispatch within a maximum of 4 hours of receipt at the censorship office. Meantime, each letter will be handstamped with "Cenzurat", signature by the censor, and dated as proof as shown below.
4. Private correspondence addressed within the occupied territory (Romania, Transylvania, Bessarabia and Bukovina) will be censored within 48 hours of arrival. Letters containing important information will be underlined with colored pencil and immediately forwarded, with a log and the envelope, to the intelligence office of the respective Division. Letters containing prohibited content will be burned, with a duplicate report explaining why the letters

⁷² As we will see, by the end they will be also censored in the editing phase or in the drafts, by designated censors, mentioned in the editorial box.

⁷³ Comprising posts Blaj, Brașov, Cluj, Dej, Sibiu, Sighetul Marmăției and Târgu Mureș.

were destroyed. A copy of this report will be provided to the post office as justification for confiscation. Letters free of forbidden content will be sealed with glue, closed with a label, stamped with the handstamp "Cenzurat postul...", dated, and signed by the censor. This procedure identifies who is responsible if negligence or malicious intent is later discovered in case of a subsequent re-censoring.

5. Censored letters will then be handed over to the post office for dispatch. These letters will not be subject to further censorship, except by a censorship inspector specially appointed by the divisions, who will conduct unannounced inspections of various censorship posts to verify whether present instructions are complied with and applied, and if censorship is being done conscientiously.
6. Correspondence originating from or addressed to the unoccupied territory will be censored in the localities indicated in Table no. 2, following the same procedure. However, such letters — whether incoming or outgoing — will not be forwarded to their destination until at least 10 days after arriving at the censorship office, ensuring that any news that could be communicated through them would always arrive late for those to whom they were addressed to.
7. To facilitate these operations, precise instructions will be given to the offices receiving correspondence to sort mail into three categories: a) Official correspondence; b) Correspondence addressed to the territory occupied by Romanian troops in Transylvania, Old Romania, Bessarabia, and Bukovina; c) Correspondence addressed to the unoccupied territory. Each category shall be placed in separate bags or packages and sent immediately to the appropriate censorship post, as specified in Table No. 2.
8. The censorship post will prioritize censoring official correspondence first (category a), followed simultaneously by categories b and c. Equal attention must be given to all types of correspondence, as they are all equally dangerous; official mail is particularly risky because most officials remain Hungarian, but correspondence addressed within the occupied territory is equally sensitive, since agents and intelligence operatives from unoccupied areas often send written instructions by mail and other means. Correspondence from or to the unoccupied territory, even if held for 10 days, must be censored immediately, since it may contain valuable intelligence that loses utility if delayed.
9. Official railway correspondence will be censored by censors stationed at the telegraph offices of the railway stations listed in Table no. 3 (*50 stations summarized under "Official"*). This includes mail both arriving from unoccupied territory and sent by Hungarian railways from the occupied territory, for the reasons stated under point 8.
10. All letters containing the following will be censored: a) Information about our troops, personnel, units, movements, etc. b) Insults against the royal family, the army, government, or Romanian nation. c) Exhortations to strikes, riots, Bolshevism, communism, etc. d) Tendentious and unfounded complaints or insults.
11. No one is allowed to carry uncensored letters on themselves or to transport them between locations. Newspapers will inform the public that all those who will be found with such letters will be arrested and punished. Letters that must be sent urgently by special couriers (military or civil authorities) will be accompanied by valid identity cards: military couriers will have military IDs as ordered, and civilian couriers will receive identity cards authorised by the military authorities. Additionally, civilian couriers will carry a temporary service order, issued for each transport, specifying the courier, the origin and the destination, and the official number of the correspondence. However, letters containing complaints or military information addressed to the Governing Council or military/civil commands will be allowed even if the courier lacks a service order, as indicated above.

THE TELEGRAM & TELEPHONE CENSORSHIP.

1. Private phones are no longer permitted (...)
2. Telegrams submitted at telegraph offices will be handed over immediately to the censorship office. The censor will review them and remove parts that are not allowed. Telegrams requiring substantial censorship or that have too many parts that should be cut out will be withheld by the censorship office. Any telegrams deemed important for military headquarters will be forwarded in their original to the Command of the respective division. For all withheld telegrams, the censor will issue a certificate to the telegraph office as formal justification for their retention. For telegrams approved by the censors, the word "Cenzurat" will be written on them, along with the censor's signature, and the date and time of censorship; after that, the telegram will be released for transmission.
3. At all times, a censor must be near the transmitting and receiving devices, who will ensure that no Morse device operates without a tape recording and that Hugues apparatus transmissions are simultaneously printed on the sender's tape of the transmitter. The censor will compare this tape with the approved censored original. For this purpose, the transmission tape will be affixed to the back of the original telegram(...)
4. Telegrams transmitted from railway stations shall be censored on-site, by personnel specified in Table No. 4 (*which includes 32 stations, summarized in the Table under "T&T"*)⁷⁴.

These *Instructions* were communicated by the C.T.T to the subordinate troops — the 1st and 2nd Rifle Divisions, and the 6th and 7th Infantry Divisions — on **17 March 1919**. A significant consequence of these directives was the substantial reduction in the number of mail censorship posts between March and April 1919. According to list no. 2 only seven posts remained operational: Blaj, Braşov, Cluj, Dej, Sibiu, Sighetul Marmatiei, and Târgu Mureş.

⁷⁴ See full text at Călin Marinescu, *Cenzura... 1914-1940.*, pag. 93-100.

Subsequent orders further refined the censorship procedures⁷⁵:

- On **28 March 1919**, the Governing Council mandated that newspapers published in Transylvania and sent to the Old Kingdom be subject to censorship. On **30 March 1919** it was decided that all correspondence addressed to the Royal Family and the Royal House, the country's ministers and the established authorities, as well as plenipotentiary ministers and the authorities of allied powers in the country, should not be subject to censorship.
- C.T.T. Order no. 4357 of **1 April 1919** stipulated that: "a) When censoring letters: official letters of value will be censored both upon dispatch and upon arrival by the post office censors (in offices where mail censors are present), or by **telegraph** censors in offices where only such censors exist. In smaller offices where no such censors are available, these letters will be sent uncensored — according to postal regulations — to destination offices that do have censors. If the letters of value are to be sent between two offices that both lack censorship, they must be routed through the nearest postal or telegraph censorship office."
- On **21 April 1919**, a notification was published: "It is known that, starting from the date of publication of this notification, all correspondence — whether from private individuals or civil authorities — must be submitted to the post office with envelopes left unsealed, except for correspondence from the departments of the Governing Council and the Prefectures (which must be submitted to the censorship offices in accordance with instructions no. 3755/2). Letters must be written legibly and on no more than two pages. Envelopes will be sealed only after being reviewed by the censorship staff. Any correspondence, other than the exceptions mentioned above, that is submitted to the post office sealed prior to censorship — or written illegibly or on more than two pages — will be destroyed ex officio."
- This announcement was repeatedly reiterated in the press. Here is an example: "According to order No. 3755/2 of the Transylvanian Troops Command, the public is asked, in its own interest, not to seal the letters sent by mail, not to write more than two pages, and to ensure the writing is legible. In accordance with the aforementioned order, any letters that are sealed, illegibly written, or exceed two pages will be destroyed ex officio"⁷⁶.

— Conform ordinului No 3755-2 al comandamentului trupelor din Transilvania publicul este rugat în propriul său interes, ca scrisorile ce le trimite, prin poștă să nu le lipească, să nu scrie mai mult de două pagini iar scrisul să fie citit. Scrisorile lipite, cu scrisul necitit și scrise mai mult ca două pagini, conform ordinului sus amintit se distrug din oficiu.

3rd Period: Censorship under the Surveillance Zone Command (Zona de Supraveghere, 15 July 1919 – 24 July 1920)



Fig. B06.02:
Philatelic cover censored by
the Surveillance Zone
Command in Cluj.

A commercial cover franked with a 10 Bani "Cluj" overprint, postmarked KOLOZSVÁR on **1 September 1919** and addressed to SARKANY, where a Postage Due 20 Bani stamp was affixed. The cover was apparently censored by the Command of the Surveillance Zone (located in Cluj), using a round postmark reading **COMANDANTUL ZONEI DE SUPRAVEGHERE DIN TRANSILVANIA * CENSURA**. All similar items are CTO, so the validity of this handstamp as a civilian censor device remains uncertain.

A reorganization of the censorship service was introduced through **Instructions no. 6622**⁷⁷ / July 1919 "on the organization and functioning of censorship in the occupied area up to Tisza" — replacing the previous *Instructions* No. 3755/2. These were issued in the context of the Romanian army's westward advance,

⁷⁵ Călin Marinescu — *Cenzura poștală...*, 2013, pag. 51-52

⁷⁶ *Românul* (Arad) no. 37 from 14 June 1919, *Sfatul* (Sighet) no. 18 from 9 May 1919, etc

⁷⁷ *Ordinul C.T.T. no. 8635* from 9 July 1919.

following the occupation of Partium (Crișana) and Hungarian territory up to the Tisza River. The relevant sections are presented below⁷⁸:

Chapter I – Organization.

1. In the counties of Trei Scaune, Brașov, Făgăraș, Sibiu, Hunedoara, Alba, Târnava Mare, Târnava Mică, Odorhei, Ciuc, Mureș-Turda, Turda-Arieș, Cojocna, Solnoc-Dobâca, Bistrița, Năsăud, censorship was organized and will continue to operate under the direct authority of the *Surveillance zone Commands*.
2. In the counties under the authority of the Governor of the military area (i.e. *the Military Zone in occupied Hungary up to the Tisza*), censorship would be organized by the Governor using the means at his disposal.
3. In the region between these two zones (i.e. *Partium / Crișana*), censorship is to be organized and operated under the control of the garrison commanders of the county capitals, and under the higher authority of the respective Group Commands.

In the area administered by the Governing Council, censorship offices would be organized with civilian personnel, according to table no. 1 (for offices in localities) and no. 2 (for offices in railway stations) that are adjacent to each other. All censorship offices established under *Instructions no. 3755/2* that were not listed in the above-mentioned tables, or did not match the prescribed composition are to be closed by 15 July 1919 or downsized accordingly.

Chapter II – Supervision of censorship offices.

1. All censorship offices in a given county would operate under the authority of the Garrison Command in that county's capital. In railway stations with censorship offices and station commanders, censorship will operate under the military station commander, who is in turn subjected to the control of the garrison commander in the county capital (*These are tasked*): (...) f) to ensure that the censorship service does not interfere with the operation of (*postal*) offices, particularly regarding the use of premises — complaints having been received from several sources. Any such issues were to be resolved in coordination with the Head of the Office.
2. The commander of the Surveillance zone, the Governor of the military area, and the Group Commanders, through their delegates, provide operational directives for censorship and carry out its enforcement. These control elements are coordinated by the censorship service within the Intelligence Office (*Biroul Informații*) of the Transylvanian Troops Command.

Chapter III – provisions on the relationship between post offices and censorship offices/posts.

1. The authority of a censorship office listed in Table 1 (*in localities*) extends **over the entire county** to which that censorship post belongs.
2. All postal and telegraphic correspondence **sent** from a county shall be centralized at the telegraph-postal office in the county capital which will forward it to the censorship office/post for inspection. After censorship, the posts will return it to the telegraph-postal office from which it was received within the timeframe prescribed by the instructions (...).
3. All postal and telegraphic correspondence **arriving** for the entire county shall be presented by the telegraph-postal office in the county capital to the censorship station. Here, any **uncensored** correspondence will be examined, then returned within the timeframe set by the instructions to the telegraph-postal office from which it was received. The postal service remains responsible for ensuring the execution of these provisions.
4. All newspapers and printed materials of any kind, published within the county, as well as theatrical or cinematic performances, and public speeches of any nature, must be submitted in the manuscript form to the censorship post in the county capital for prior approval. It is strictly forbidden for any such material to be released or performed without the authorization of the censorship post. In cities where no censorship posts exist, the censorship of theatrical performances, films, speeches, etc., shall be carried out by the garrison commands.
5. The requirements set out in point 4 shall be communicated to the public via newspapers in the respective counties.
6. All postal and telegraphic correspondence, newspapers, printed materials of any kind, and railway correspondence arriving by any means from territories beyond the lines occupied by our troops (such as Banat, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Austria, etc.) must be submitted to the censorship office in **Cluj**. Border (*crossing*) stations shall retain all such correspondence until the following procedures are completed; a) Classification of the correspondence (postal, telegraphic, newspapers, manifestos and printed materials, railway correspondence); b) Sorting of the classified correspondence into categories, packed in sealed bags or containers; c) Dispatch of the correspondence on the first available train, accompanied by a register, to the Cluj censorship station.
7. Attention is drawn to the following issues: a) It has been observed that some crossing stations have destroyed such correspondence. With this, this may prevent the dissemination of ideas contrary to our interests, it also eliminates the opportunity to gather valuable intelligence. It is therefore that this correspondence be forwarded to the Cluj censorship office, enabling Command to remain aware of everything that is thinking and happening beyond the lines occupied by our troops; b) Crossing stations must not withhold any official postal or telegraphic correspondence originating from the French Commands and addressed to our military authorities; c) Crossing stations must allow free passage of correspondence for which a special order has been issued; such would be the

⁷⁸ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, 2004, pag. 100-113.

case for the Romanian newspapers in Banat; in such cases, the censorship posts will receive orders on how to proceed.

Chapter IV – Principles underlying the organization of censorship. (...)

- a) Censorship by counties: to ensure that the entire area occupied by our troops is under the control of a well-established censorship, and simultaneously placed under the authority of the military command;
- b) Censorship staff must be permanent and consistent in order to establish clear responsibilities and maintain the continuity of censorship;
- c) Autonomy from the movement of troops, in order not to change the provisions that might be caused by the changes in the disposition of troops. This stability ensures that both the public and officials in post offices, telegraph services, railways, the press, entrepreneurs of theaters and cinemas know precisely what procedures to follow and whom to contact.

Chapter V – Operation of censorship

- A. The purpose of censorship. Censorship pursues three distinct objectives, and as such, a censorship post must be organised in such a way as to fulfill them, namely: a) to ensure that only ideas in accordance with our interests are transmitted — whether by post, telegraph, telephone, newspapers, cinemas, theatres, books, brochures, agents (either by correspondence or verbally) or by any means; b) to allow us to infer, from the manner of correspondence and daily manifestations, the prevailing moods and ideas; c) to satisfy the public as much as possible, that is, to aim to bring the state of affairs as close as possible to normal, striving to carry out censorship as quickly as possible (within the time prescribed by the instructions) (...)

Chapter VI – Execution of censorship

Censorship will be executed as follows: a) on the press, both that which appears in the occupied territory and that which appears beyond the line occupied by our troops, as well as on prints of any category; b) on correspondence of all kinds; c) on telegraphic and telephone correspondence; d) on theatres and cinemas; e) on correspondence sent by couriers and agents.

A - Censorship of newspapers and prints of any category (...)

B – Censorship of postal correspondence.

1. The censorship of postal correspondence will be carried out by the censorship posts and the staff listed in Table no. 1 (22 posts).

2. Censorship will not permit the sending of correspondence that contain: a) information about our troops (units, movements, negative comments, etc.), b) insults directed at the Royal Family, the army, the government, or the Romanian nation; c) tendentious or unfounded complaints and insults; d) suspicious language, etc.; e) lines spaced irregularly, used to conceal messages or data written in chemical or invisible ink.

3. Private correspondence from the Old Kingdom, Transylvania, Bukovina, and Bessarabia will be censored within a maximum of 48 hours from arrival. Letters containing important information will be underlined in colored pencil and sent, together with their envelopes and accompanying list, to the respective Command. If the prohibited content is of minor importance, the letter will be burned (...). Letters containing only a few impermissible words may have those parts deleted so that the text is illegible, and the letter may then be included in the "approved for dispatch" correspondence.

4. All correspondence "approved for dispatch" will be stamped with "Censurat postul...", followed by the date of censorship and the censor's signature, to identify who is responsible in case of negligence or ill-will.

5. After censorship, the censors will reseal the envelopes, as leaving them open may allow additional, uncensored correspondence to be inserted (...).

6. It will be made known — through newspapers — to the public, administrative authorities, railway personnel, and military troops that all correspondence must be submitted in open envelopes, written clearly, and that private letters must not exceed two 2 pages. These announcements must be widely disseminated, as correspondence that does not comply with these conditions will be automatically destroyed ten days after the announcement's publication.

7. Censored correspondence will be immediately handed over to the post office for dispatch.

8. This correspondence will not be subject to further censorship at other posts, but it may be reviewed by control staff, who will periodically verify whether instructions are being conscientiously followed.

9. Border posts will handle correspondence coming from or addressed to areas beyond the line occupied by our troops, as outlined in Chapter III, item 6, and Chapter VI, item 7 (regarding newspapers). In addition, "approved for dispatch" correspondence will only be sent after ten days from its arrival at the post.

(... the rest similar to previous instructions)

The novelty brought by these instructions is the fact that the censorship of correspondence was to be carried out, as in the Romanian system of the Old Kingdom and the former Austro-Hungarian one, only by the **censorship offices located in county seats**, where all correspondence from the county had to be centralized. All other mail censorship offices were to be closed (with the sole exception of Blaj, which would operate in place of the Alba Iulia post). Thus, a reduction in the number of **censorship posts** was foreseen starting from

15 July 1919, with only 22 being maintained: Aiud (shortly moved to Blaj), Arad, Bistrita, Braşov, Cluj, Dej, Deva, Dicio-Sânmartin, Făgăraş, Gyula, Mezőhegyes (Măru Roşu), Miercurea Ciuc, Odorhei, Oradea Mare, Satu Mare, Sfântu Gheorghe, Sibiu, Sighetu Marmăţiei, Sighişoara, Târgu Mureş, Turda, Zalău. (In addition to these, there were also 32 censorship posts located in *railway stations*).

C.T.T. Order no. 10105 of 11 August 1919 stipulated that all censorship posts previously subordinated to the North and South Groups would now fall under the authority of the Surveillance Zone Command. As a result, on **19 August 1919**, the censorship office of Careii Mari, Săcueni, Zalău, Jibou, Sărmăşag, Cehul Silvaniei, Sighetul Marmăţiei, Baia Mare, Trebusa and four censorship posts in Hungary were subordinated to the 16th Infantry Division⁷⁹.

Order no. 626 of the Surveillance Area Command, dated **19 August 1919**, addressed to the censorship stations, stated: "Since at present there is a large quantity of private and official correspondence delayed from the months of December 1918 and January and February 1919 — a delay caused by the fact that neither the postal service nor the censorship was properly organized at that time — please kindly arrange to separate the official correspondence, which shall have the "Censurat" handstamp applied without further censorship, from the delayed private correspondence, which shall be destroyed. However, no official correspondence shall be released if it originates from beyond the Tisza or from Hungarian military authorities."

On **14 September 1919**, C.T.T. Order no. 11351, addressed to the General Post Directorate in Sibiu outlined the establishment of censorship posts in Banat, recently occupied by the Romanians: "by establishing the censorship service in Banat as well, the provisions of the Censorship Instructions no. 6622 [...] will henceforth apply to this region. As such, please order that all correspondences from the territory of Caraş-Severin and Timiş counties be directed respectively to the central offices in Lugoj and Timişoara, the capitals of these counties"⁸⁰.

The directive would be fully understood once Order no. 6622 was reissued on **1 October 1919**, the only change being the redefinition of areas of responsibility: "1. In the counties of Transylvania, censorship was and will continue to be organized under the direct authority of the command of the surveillance zone (see Fig. B06.02); 2. In the counties under the authority of the military area, censorship would be organized by the Governor of the military area using the means at his disposal [this refers to the Military Occupation Zone in Hungary, based in Debrecen, which administered the occupied territory up to the Tisza River]. 3. In Banat, censorship would be organized and carried out under the control of the garrison commanders of the county capitals, under the high authority of the respective Group Commands'."

On **1 November 1919**, Instructions No. 6622 were again issued (essentially repeating those from July 1919), with modifications only to the organizational part section to reflect the inclusion of Banat within the scope of Romanian censorship. Additionally, **Chapter X** was added, concerning correspondence between the military and families in the country⁸¹:

Transylvanian Troops Command.
General Staff Service
Informations Bureau No. 6622
 Secret Copy

Instructions

On the organization and functioning of censorship in the occupied area up to the Tisza.

Chapter I. - Organization.

1. In the counties of Transylvania, censorship was organized and will continue to function under the direct authority of the command of the **Surveillance zone**.
2. In the counties under the authority of the military area government, censorship will be organized by the **Governor of the military area** using the means at his disposal.

⁷⁹ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poştală...*, 2004, pag. 120

⁸⁰ Ibidem, pag.137.

⁸¹ The *Order 6622* in the author's archive (copy), obtained many years ago by the goodwill of Mr. Martin Tiron from Timişoara

3. In Banat, censorship will be organized and carried out under the control of the **garrison commanders** of the county capitals, under the superior direction of the respective **Group Commands**. The censorship posts organized in Banat can be seen in the table below. All censorship posts not listed in the table below or not having the composition specified therein will be abolished or reduced in accordance with the table.

Chapters II-IX – identical with the *Instrucțiunile* from July 1919.

Capitolul X - Censorship of Private Military Correspondence - Ord. M.C.G. No. 2199 of 16/6 1919.

Note: Part I of this chapter concerns the troops. Part II concerns the censorship offices and the private correspondence addressed to military personnel.

I. Private correspondence from the army to the interior of the country.

A. Postal correspondence.

Art. 1 - It is forbidden for military personnel of any rank to address, in their private correspondence, issues related to the army, troop movements, to indicate the occupied localities, or to give assessments on the situation, etc.

It is forbidden to use encrypted correspondence, coded language, or to write using special or sympathetic inks.

It is forbidden for soldiers belonging to the headquarters, corps, or army services — whether operating or support services — to indicate in their private correspondence the date and place of dispatch, even when the unit is not located on the battlefield.

Art. 2 - Private correspondence of the military will be conducted only on military postcards.

Letters are permitted only in exceptional cases — such as family matters or the sending of business papers and documents; envelopes must remain unsealed.

Art. 3 - Military correspondence to the interior of the country is controlled by a permanent censorship service, which operates within the intelligence office of each command. This service shall be conducted on a continuous basis by a designated officer appointed by the respective commander, instructed to monitor all correspondence as follows:

(a) At each division: the correspondences of personnel from headquarters, from non-divisional corps, and from those provisionally placed under the command of the corps but not assigned to a division;

c) At each army: the correspondences of personnel from headquarters, from corps and services that are either permanently or provisionally subordinated to the Army Command and are not assigned to a corps or division; as well as correspondence from rear-echelon army units.

At the same time, the army command, through its intelligence office, exercises control over how censorship is executed in the commands within its subordinate commands.

Isolated detachments shall send their private correspondence to the nearest command where a censorship service is operating. The censorship service will affix the censorship stamp and free expedition mark on correspondences that complies with art. 1 and 2, and will then forward it to the military post office for dispatch. Correspondences containing prohibited content will be submitted by the censorship service to the intelligence office of the respective command, which will destroy it and, if necessary, take disciplinary measures against the sender (...)

Handling the correspondence.

Art. 4 - At regiments, command adjutantures, and main staging points, correspondence is divided into two categories:

a) That intended for the homeland.

(b) That intended for other units in the area of operations or staging points. This category also includes correspondence coming from the homeland but wrongly distributed to units.

Each category shall be placed in a separate bag, and the bags shall be sent to the post offices of Divisions, Army corps, or Army staging points, as the case may be. At these post offices, the bags are emptied of correspondence going to the homeland and filled with correspondence arriving from the homeland or from other units. At these same post offices, the correspondence is sorted either for county capitals post offices or for large military units, and is transported in the bags of the postal service.

Art. 5 - For transporting mail between regiments and divisional offices, between services, commands, formations, and the post offices through which the connection is made, special bags will be used — having the dimensions, shape, and material of the Postal directorate's bags. Models of these bags are available at all post offices in county capitals.

The bags shall be produced by the units for their own use, as follows:

- for each infantry regiment: 10 bags;
- for each cavalry regiment: 6 bags;
- for each artillery regiment: 6 bags;
- for each independent battalion: 4 bags;
- for each large command: 4 bags;
- for each main stage: 12 bags.

Art. 6 - No private packages or parcels may be sent from the army to the interior of the country.

Art. 7 - It is forbidden for military personnel of any rank to submit private correspondence to the civil post office, to transmit it by other means, or to receive it through intermediaries or by any method other than those described above. Any such attempt will result in prosecution of the sender, the recipient, and the intermediary.

Art. 8 - All decisions resulting from the control of private correspondence are final. Correspondence that cannot be sent shall be burned on the same day.

Art. 9 - The measures in these instructions regarding private correspondence of the military in the army area may, by specific orders of the chief command, also be extended to the correspondence of the civilian population within all or part of the army area. The territorial limits in which these measures are to be observed shall be made public through publications and posters.

Art. 10 - Military personnel may send telegrams only in exceptional cases.

The dispatch of telegrams shall proceed as follows:

The original telegram must be approved by the head of the body or service to which the sender belongs, and then submitted to the censorship service of the respective command.

Telegrams approved by the censorship service shall be sent either through the civilian telegraphic office, or, if one is not available in the locality, through the military telegraphic office. In this case, military telegraph office shall transmit private telegrams only after the official ones, and only when the lines are not [congested].

Under no circumstances shall private telegrams be sent by telephone.

Military personnel sending private telegrams shall pay fees according to the telegraphic tariff.

The place of origin shall not be transmitted; it will be removed from the telegram and not shown to the recipient.

II. Private mail and packages from the interior of the country to the army area of operations and staging points.

Art. 11 - In general, private correspondence from within the country to the army is subject to the same rules as correspondence going from the army to the interior. It must always be written on postcards and must include only the name, rank, unit, and subunit in the address.

Art. 12 - In truly exceptional cases — especially family matters — correspondence in a sealed envelope is also allowed. Such correspondences shall be put in an open envelope addressed to the recipient, along with a note explaining the reason for the required secrecy. Both shall be placed in a sealed envelope addressed to: "Mr. Chief of Military Censorship of (county capital)".

The chief will examine the correspondences, and if it contains genuinely confidential matters and no forbidden information, it will be handed over to the post office to be sent as registered mail. If the correspondence contains impermissible content or non-confidential matters disguised as private, it shall be burned.

Any sealed envelope arriving by a method other than the one described here shall be destroyed, and in suspicious cases, sent to the security service for investigation.

Private correspondence in sealed envelopes received by regiment, adjutanture, or staging points shall be rechecked by their commander.

Any unauthorized opening of such correspondence by persons not entitled to perform censorship shall be prosecuted under art. 156 of the Penal Code.

Art. 13 - Private correspondence addressed to the army shall be centralized at the post offices in county capitals. Here, it will be censored by military personnel appointed by the Ministry of War. Correspondence containing prohibited information will be burned by the control officers, and correspondence that does not contain such data will be marked with the stamp: **Censurat.... censura militară a județ....** (Date).

Art. 14 - Correspondence for the army deposited in railway mailboxes shall not return to county capitals but will be censored at the military censorship offices in Bucharest.

Art. 15 - Censored correspondence will be sorted by the postal staff into special packages by unit or service. These will be sent to the central office in Bucharest, where they will be centralized and redistributed by postal bags to division offices, major commands, or staging points. To facilitate sorting, the central post office in Bucharest will be kept informed by the *central military censorship and information office* regarding the structure of large units and the locations of military post offices.

Art. 16 - If the Chief Command deems it necessary, the above measures may also be extended to the private correspondence of the civilian population throughout the entire country or only a part of it. The territorial scopes of these measures will be made public through announcements and posted notices.

Art. 17 - Telegrams are subject to the same rules as postal correspondence.

Art. 18 - The dispatch of postal packages from within the country to the army is allowed, subject to the following rules:

a) Packages must not exceed 50 centimetres in any dimension and must not weigh more than 5 Kgr.
b) They may only contain essential items: non-perishable food, clothing, laundry, tobacco, cigarettes, dressings, certain medicines, etc.

(c) Raw or prepared meat, milk, and cheeses may only be sent in hermetically sealed boxes, the so-called canned food.

d) Package contents will be inspected at the post offices of county capitals by their staff, who will also oversee packaging.

e) Postal clerks shall not allow any kind of paper, parchment, or documents — whether printed or handwritten — to be included in the package. If the sender wishes to enclose a note, it must be submitted to the censorship office. Only newspapers authorized by the military censorship in Bucharest may be sent.

If any printed matter or suspicious writing is found, it will be immediately forwarded to the censorship office.

f) Packages that comply with the established rules will be stamped: Controlled Package / **Pachet controlat / Oficiul poștal**

g) Packages will be sorted and dispatched in the same manner as private correspondence from the country to the army.

Art. 19 - The sections concerning the general public shall be widely publicized, with notices posted at all prefectures, mayoralties, post offices, and public places across the country⁸².

Command of Transylvanian Troops, General Mărdărescu, Chief of Staff: General Panaitescu.

1 October 1919.

Chronology of some subsequent orders and norms, according to Călin Marinescu's research⁸³:

- As a result of order no. 51404 of **19 November 1919**, which suspended internal censorship in Romania, several notes were sent by the military commands in Transylvania and Banat, raising the question of whether censorship should also cease in these regions. On 13 December 1919, the Great Headquarters responded with order no. 7943 to C.T.T.: "I have the honor to inform you that the Great Headquarters, being of the opinion that the spontaneous suppression of censorship in the disrobed territories would be detrimental to our interests, has intervened with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers to determine whether censorship should also be abolished in the area of operations of our army, as well as in the disrobed lands. Therefore, until further notice, I ask you to note that the censorship service will continue to operate with the complete organization it has had so far."
- By order no. 14413 of 27 November 1919, all the censorship posts in Transylvania and Banat (as listed in the annexes of Order no. 6622) were, as of **1 December 1919**, placed under the subordination of the Tisza Group and the 6th and 7th Army Corps.
- Telegram no. 2304 of 20 December 1919: "(in response to) no. 14137 of 2 December 1919, telegraphic and postal censorship is maintained with the same organization and role as it was organized by the command".
- On 16 February 1920, censorship posts were ordered not to censor any postal or telegraphic correspondence addressed to certain leaders of the Romanian army: General Presan, Chief of General Staff of the Army General Văitoianu; General Mărdărescu, Commander of the Transylvanian Troops; Generals Petala and Boeriu, commanders of the 6th and 7th Army Corps respectively; General Moșoiu, Commander of the Tisza Group; and General Rășcanu, Minister of War.
- By Order of C.T.V. no. 1679 of 23 May 1920, the new subordination of the censorship posts was decided, effective **1 June 1920**: the Rifle Corps (Oradea office), the 2nd Rifle Division (censorship offices in Bihor County excluding Oradea), the 1st Cavalry Division (censorship offices in Satu Mare County), the 1st Rifle Division (censorship offices in Arad County). This structure was still valid as of 2 August 1920.
- By Order no. 756 of 21 June 1920, the following were decided: "1) The re-establishment of military censorship posts in the subarea shall begin immediately upon receipt of this order and must be completed no later than 29 June 1920. 2) The censorship posts to be re-established are listed in the attached table. All other censorship posts not mentioned in this table shall be closed.... Part II 1) Censorship of the press, prints of any kind, and theatrical and cinematographic performances remains the responsibility of the county censorship commissions".
- Unfortunately, the table attached to order no. 756 has not been located, so the exact censorship posts re-established are not known with certainty. A table dated 22 June 1920, which may be the one referred to, include the following censorship offices: Sibiu, Brașov, Sfântu Gheorghe, Odorhei, Praid, Sighișoara, Blaj, Teiuș, Deva, Ilia, and Făgăraș, along with the theoretical staff assigned to them. Based on available information, censorship posts were re-established in: Blaj, Odorhei, Praid, Teiuș, Deva (from the table), Bistrița and Turda.
- On 18 July 1920, it was announced that sanitary postcards (of the Red Cross) were no longer subject to censorship.

Changes in Press censorship and its transfer to the civil authorities – Prefectures (10 May – 15 July 1920)

The approach of parliamentary elections prompted a relaxation of press and theater censorship to allow for some political discussions. The first step was the transfer of press censorship from military authorities to the Prefectures, as happened with the censorship offices in the area of the 18th Division Sibiu starting with 10 May 1920 (a situation confirmed at the Brașov office in June 1920). For the offices where press censorship had not yet been transferred to the County commissions near the Prefectures, instructions were issued to the military censors, requiring them to consult with the Prefecture in cases involving political articles:

- Order C.T.V. no. 1679 of 17 May 1920: "2. Censorship shall be executed with all the strictness required by the instructions in force (no. 6622), with the sole permission to **admit political articles**. 3. In order to maintain perfect harmony between the censorship office and the civil authority, ..., whenever it is necessary to censor political

⁸² Analyzing the description of the handstamps (*Censurat... / Censura militară a județului...*, respectively **Pachet controlat / Oficiul poștal...**, which are specific to the Old Kingdom and not to Transylvania) it is clear that these regulations only copy older instructions, valid for 1916, so they can be used also as a basis of understanding the correspondence censored in the Old Kingdom, see chapter #B04.

⁸³ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, 2004, pag. 120-121

articles, the head of the censorship office shall always consult the Prefect of the respective county, indicating exactly what has been redacted and explaining what harm might result to the army or the state if it were not censored. The Prefect's opinion shall be taken into consideration."

The situation following these decisions was clarified in Order C.T.V. No. 1803/1920 from the Command of the Western Troops, which entered into force on **1 June 1920**: "I have the honor to inform you that the Ministry of War has approved in principle that only the censorship of the press, of any kind of printed matter, as well as of theatrical and cinematographic performances, shall be passed on to the County commissions. All other types of censorship shall remain under military authority. In accordance with this, the Command has drafted a new budget."

According to the same order, official civil and military correspondence was no longer subject to censorship, regardless of the sender, and correspondence addressed to or coming from the Old Kingdom was also exempt⁸⁴. The order specified the posts that were to remain in operational: a) Five censorship offices with all sections, including **Press censorship**: Careii Mari, Satu Mare, Oradea Mare, Arad, Timișoara; b) Thirteen censorship offices, **without Press censorship**: Sfântu Gheorghe, Brașov, Făgăraș, Sibiu, Sighișoara, Miercurea Ciuc, Târgu Mureș, Odorhei, Cluj, Dej, Zalău, Lugoj, and Sighetul Marmăției; c) Ten censorship offices at **railway stations**: Siculeni, Praid, Baia Mare, Ilia, Teiuș, Craia, Episcopia Bihorului, Vatra Aradului, Cărpiniș, and Orșova.

Theoretically, press censorship in the inland area (excluding the border war zones) was suspended on **15 July 1920**. It is known that on 6 July 1920, the lifting of censorship was announced for all Romanian and German (Saxon) newspapers, with the exception of the Hungarian press, which continued to be censored⁸⁵.

4th Period: censorship in the War Zones, under the State of Siege (1 September 1920 – April 1921)

By Royal Decree no. 2939 of **15 July 1920**⁸⁶, the state of siege and internal censorship (including that of the press) was suspended throughout Romanian territory, except for press censorship in military areas bordering the west and east: "Art. I. — The curfew and press censorship are restricted to the military areas in contact with the Hungarian and Russian borders. Art. II — The censorship of letters and telegrams is suspended throughout the kingdom. Art. III — The President of the Council of Ministers is charged with the execution of this decree. (Given in Bucharest on 15 July 1920.)"

Further clarifications were published in the press on 28 July 1920⁸⁷: "By P.T.T Order no. 1015/1920, the censorship of letters was lifted as of **24 July (1920)**. From now on, letters can be delivered once again sealed and will be able to contain more than two pages."

As a result, most of the censorship posts in Transylvania (the territory up to the Apuseni Mountains) were to be immediately closed — practically by the end of July 1920. They were instructed to "hand over the correspondence in arrears to the post offices, and the archive of the censorship post will be transferred to the respective garrison. The censors of the post that are disbanded will be paid until 1 August 1920, with no payment of censors over this date."

On **5 August 1920**, the lifting of censorship was extended to external correspondence (in Old Romania), confirming that no form of correspondence would remain subject to censorship⁸⁸. On **8 September 1920**, the Cluj Unification Commission communicated the suspension of external censorship in Transylvanian territory, with the same exception for the war zones⁸⁹.

The **War zones** were officially defined by order of the Ministry of War no. 09470 of **18 August 1920**: "In the regions that fall under the area of activity of the Western Command, the war zone stretches into the counties of Arad, Bihor and Satu Mare. In Banat only along the border towards Hungary, in a strip of 30 km

⁸⁴ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, 2004, pag. 138

⁸⁵ *Deutsche Tagespost*, Sibiu, no. 145 from 7 July 1920, pag. 2

⁸⁶ *Monitorul Oficial* no. 83 from 16 July 1920

⁸⁷ *Deutsche Tagespost*, Sibiu, no. 162 from 28 July 1920, pag. 2.

⁸⁸ *Circular of the PTT General Directorate* no. 53682.

⁸⁹ *Telegram* no. 1460 from 8 September 1920, with reference to the *Order of the Directorate-General* no. 613/1920.

inwards." The war zone in Banat was bordered in the north by the Mureș River, to the west by the demarcation line, to the east by the demarcation line that passed through Periam, Pesac, Bulgăruș, Lenaheim, all entering the war zone. "The city of Timisoara does not enter this area"⁹⁰. Under the direction of the Western Command, the state of siege in the counties of Arad, Bihor and Satu Mare, is exercised by the Command of the **Rifle Corps**, and in Banat by the Command of the **7th Army Corps** directly, not by the 19th Division. The Army Corps commands will exercise censorship through prefects⁹¹."

Order of the Western Troops no. 4891 of 21 August 1920 further clarifies: "According to High Decree No. 2939 and instructions from the Ministry of War (no. 8707, 9470 and 9474) the government has decided that the state of siege will be maintained only in the war zones. In the rest of the Kingdom, the state of siege is suspended, and all activities associated with it — including press censorship — are to cease entirely, including those by civil authorities (Prefectures, n.n.). The war zone within the Western Troops Command is located in Arad, Bihor, Satu Mare counties, the border with Hungary, and in Banat, on a strip of 30 km along the border."

The Oradea Mare Post Directorate, by Order no. 32564 of 30 August, announced that censorship of telegrams, telephones, and letters, which had ceased on 1 August (1920), would resume on 1 September, but only in the war zones⁹². Decree No. 853 of 14 March 1921 reiterated that the state of siege would apply to a 30 km-wide strip along Romania's borders. In the case of Transylvania and Banat, this meant the area along the Hungarian frontier —effectively confirming the **permanency** of the state of siege in that region.

Here are some detailed orders, capitalized for clarity, based on the research of Călin Marinescu:

- Order C.T.V. no. 4891 of 21 August 1920 confirmed the (re)opening, as of **1 September 1920**, of the following 10 censorship offices in the state of siege area: Satu Mare, Oradea, Arad, Carei, Halmeu, Episcopia Bihorului, Curtici, Cărpiniș, Cheteghian, Valea lui Mihai. (Note: Some of these had already been disbanded in late July 1920.)
- Order no. 3943 of **11 September 1920** ordered the establishment of censorship offices: Valea lui Mihai, Cheteghian and Episcopia Bihorului (possibly also at Iermata Neagră and Otlaca).
- Order of the Ministry of Communications no. 11295 of **26 November 1920** to the Ministry of War requests the (re)establishment of 12 censorship posts at the border points: Halmeu, Peleş Railway Station, Oar, Berveni, Valea lui Mihai, Săcueni, Episcopia Bihorului, Salonta Mare, Iermata Neagră, Otlaca, Curtici, Pecica. (Note: Some were already operational at the time.)
- Order no. 7479/3 January 1921 likely established censorship offices at: Peleş, Oar, Berveni, Săcueni, Salonta Mare*, Iermata Neagră*, Otlaca*, Pecica (* = Also listed in order no. 3943 of 11 September 1920).
- From 3 January 1921, the censorship posts in Satu Mare County (Halmeu, Satu Mare, and Carei) were transferred from the **1st Cavalry Division** to the **17th Infantry Division**.
- On **15 February 1921**, it was announced that: a) the censorship offices established by order no. 7479/3 January 1921 were closed; b) the censorship offices from order no. 3943/11 September 1920 remained active.
- Order C.T.V. no. 8321 of 22 February 1921 to the Rifles Corps officially abolished, "for the time being", the following censorship offices: Peleş, Oar, Berveni, Săcueni, Salonta Mare, Iermata Neagră, Otlaca, and Pecica. The remaining posts in operation were:: Satu Mare, Oradea Mare, Arad, Careii Mari, Halmeu, Episcopia Bihorului, Curtici, Cheteghian, and Valea lui Mihai (However, Cheteghian was no longer operational at the time, as the town had been ceded to Hungary).
- As of **1 April 1921**, 10 censorship posts were still in operation: Arad, Careii Mari, Oradea Mare, Satu Mare, Sighetul Marmăției, Halmeu, Episcopia Bihorului, Curtici, Salonta Mare, and Valea lui Mihai.

Here are the censorship offices that continued to operate in the war zones:

- In Banat, along the Hungarian frontier, only the Arad office remained. The Cărpiniș office had been disbanded on 20 September 1920, and the Timișoara post office was instructed to send mail for censorship to Arad.
- In Crișana and Maramureș, along the Hungarian border.

By Decree No. 897 of 16 March 1921⁹³, it was decided to end the demobilization of the Romanian army as of **31 March 1921**, and that "the state of siege and censorship would be maintained only in the area of operations, defined as a 30 kilometers-deep strip along the border line"⁹⁴. At the end of April 1921, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, responding a request to maintain the censorship posts,

⁹⁰ Instead, in the area facing the border with Serbia, the state of siege and censorship was completely lifted.

⁹¹ Tiron Martin – *Câteva date...*, 1992, Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, 2004, pag. 139

⁹² Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, 2004, pag. 139-140.

⁹³ *Monitorul Oficial* no. 275 from 18 March 1921

⁹⁴ *Românul* (Arad) no. 60 from 22 March 1921.

communicated that "it is no longer possible to approve other expenditures beyond those already established in the budget". Therefore, the abolition of the last remaining censorship posts (for internal correspondence) became irreversible: on **4 May 1921**, all censoring offices attached to the Transylvanian post offices were officially disbanded⁹⁵.

Below are some of the last known dates for *internal correspondence* (external correspondence will be discussed in *Volume B/2*; for now, the last known censored foreign mail dates from **August 1921**) in the military border area with Hungary:

- ARAD office: **13 April 1921** on a registered letter to Ineu⁹⁶.
- SATU MARE office: **27 March 1921**, on a postcard to Șomcuta Mare.
- CAREII MARI office: **10 February 1921**, on a postcard from Cluj to Șimleul Silvaniei (see the image below).
- PECICA office: **12 January 1921** on an overprinted postcard, sent from Pecica to Sibiu.
- ORADEA office: **28 September 1920** on a postcard to Arad⁹⁷.



Postcard franked with a pair of 10 bani Ferdinand I plus Timbrul de ajutor, cancelled with the new romanian postmark **CLUJ 1** on 9 February 1921. On the way to Șimleu it passes through the censorship office of the military area, see the handstamp **CENZURAT / CAREII MARE**.

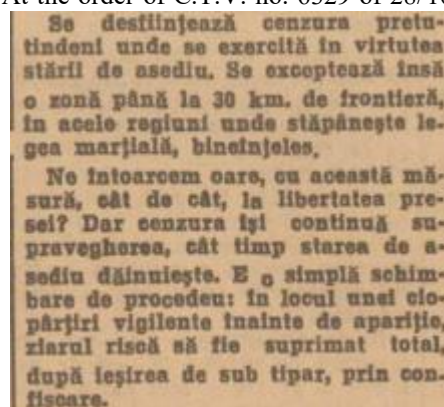
Mail and press censorship at the Prefectures, under the State of Siege (21 October 1920 – 30 January 1922)

The general strike of October 1920 led to the re-establishment of the state of siege in Bucharest and of censorship throughout the country, by Royal decree nr. 4209 of **21 October 1920**, followed by the Order of the Ministry of Interior no. 60152 issued the same day. (Important: special attention must be paid to distinguish the regulations regarding the press censorship — executed by county commissions within the Prefectures — and postal-telegraph censorship — executed by the military through censorship offices. This distinction is demonstrated in several orders extracted from military archives by the indefatigable Călin Marinescu:

- Order no. 6686 of 21 October 1920 and Decree No. 4209 mandated the establishment of press censorship offices for prints of any kind, telegrams, telephones, and postal correspondence at certain major post offices and railways stations (not specifically named, but known examples include Lugoj and Mehadia).
- Order no. 477/22 October 1920 from the 7th Army Corps re-established censorship for press, prints of any kind, telegraph, and telephone in Timișoara, Reșița, Anina, Arad, Petroșani, Lupeni, Vulcan, and Brașov.
- Telegram no. 2287 of 29 October 1920 to the 7th Army Corps stated: "At the order of C.T.V. no. 6329 of 28/10 and in accordance with the Ministry of War order no. 6852 of 26/10, please note that (press!) censorship will be carried out by the county prefectures. Garrison commands are asked to take note of this, and to inform the county prefectures of this order as well, as communicated to the 1st, 18th, 21st Divisions, and 7th Calarasi Brigade, and all garrisons."

Due to the "trivialization of the state of siege" in Romania⁹⁸, press censorship became practically permanent between 1919 and 1928. So-called "preventive press censorship" was reinstated on 28 April 1921 and officially suspended by Royal decree no. 502 of 30 January 1922. Between 1921 and 1928, a series of royal decrees continued to establish or suspend the state of siege, particularly in border regions.

Only in 1928, after the National Peasants' Party came to power, did Royal decree no. 2849 of **20 November 1928** suspended censorship and restricted the state of siege to a border strip defined as a 10–15 km from the



Adevărul, 2 November 1926

⁹⁵ *Evenimentul* (Iași), no. 68 from 13 May 1921

⁹⁶ Cserni – *Aspecte...*, 2003, pag. 13 (Fig. 5)

⁹⁷ Cserni – *Aspecte...*, 2003, pag. 15 (Fig. 8)

⁹⁸ Pintilescu Corneliu - *Dezbateri publice privind decretarea stării de asediu în România (1918–1933)*, Anuarul Institutului de Istorie «George Barițiu» from Cluj-Napoca, tom LVII, 2018, pag. 303–318

frontier, excluding the county capitals within that zone. Only four years remained until the assassination of I.G. Duca and the nationwide reimposition of the state of siege throughout the country in 1933 — but this already belongs to the topic of censorship during the Second World War, covered in *Volume E*.

OFFICES AND CENSORSHIP HANDSTAMPS IN TRANSYLVANIA AND BANAT

The two Orders — no. 3755/2 of March 1919 and no. 6622 of July 1919 (updated in November 1919) — provide fundamental information for understanding the establishment and evolution of censorship offices. The table below centralizes all related statistical data concerning the number of censors assigned to the various sections of the censorship stations: the **Post Office** (mail censorship at the post office), **Official** (censorship of official correspondence at railway stations), **Telegraph** and **Telephone** (censorship of telegraph and telephone communications at post offices), **T&T** (telegraph and telephone censorship at railway stations), **Newspapers** (censorship of press and printed matter), and **Theatres** (censorship of performances, film screenings, and meetings).

In many railway stations across Transylvania, censorship was likely carried out by staff from the *military transport commands*, which had been established since 19 December 1918 at several railway stations in the region (including Braşov, Sibiu, Dej, Târgu Mureş, Mádéfalva, Copşa Mică, Simeria, Vinţul de Jos, and Cucerdea, with others added later further west).

Nominal staffing of the censorship posts in Transylvania, Partium, and Occupied Hungary, according to orders 3755/2 (March 1919) and 6622 (July 1919)
(In practice, these staffing norms were generally not achieved.)

Censorship office (present-day locality name)	Post		Official		Telegr		Teleph		T&T		Newsp		Theat		Total	
	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6
	7	6	7	6	7	6	7	6	7	6	7	6	7	6	7	6
	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2
	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2
Abrud	--	--	+	--	3	--	2	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	7	--
Aiud	--	8	--	1	3	3	2	3	--	3	1	2	--	1	6	22
Alba Iulia	--	--	--	--	6	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	--
Apahida	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Arad	--	15	--	1	--	4	--	4	--	3	--	5	--	1	--	34
Baia Capnic	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Baia Mare	--	--	+	2	3	--	2	--	2	3	--	--	--	--	7	5
Băilăușeri	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Beclean	--	--	+	2	3	--	2	--	2	3	--	--	--	--	7	5
Békéscsaba*	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Bistrița	--	8	--	1	6	3	3	3	--	3	--	2	--	1	9	22
Blaj	29	--	+	2	3	--	2	--	2	3	1	--	--	--	37	5
Brad	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Braşov	11	10	+	1	12	3	4	3	4	3	2	3	--	1	33	25
Carei	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Cehu Silvaniei	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Cluj	16	20	+	1	15	4	4	4	4	3	6	2	--	2	45	43
Copşa Mică	--	--	+	2	--	--	--	--	4	3	--	--	--	--	4	5
Cucerdea	--	--	+	2	--	--	--	--	4	3	--	--	--	--	4	5
Dej	16	8	+	1	9	3	3	3	4	3	9	2	--	1	41	22
Derecske*	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Deva	--	5	--	1	12	3	3	3	--	3	--	2	--	1	15	19
Diciosânmartin	--	8	--	1	3	3	2	3	--	3	--	2	--	1	5	22
Dragomireşti	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Făgăraş	--	5	+	1	3	3	2	3	2	3	--	2	--	1	7	19
Gherla	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Ghimeş	--	--	+	--	3	--	2	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	7	--
Gyula*	--	8	--	1	--	3	--	3	--	3	--	2	--	1	--	22
Haţeg	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Hejefalu	--	--	+	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	--

Censorship office	Post		Official		Telegr		Teleph		T&T		Newsp		Theat		Total	
Hida	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Huedin	--	--	+	--	3	--	2	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	7	--
Hunedoara	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Huszt*	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Ibaşfalău	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Ilia	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Jibou	--	--	+	2	3	--	2	--	4	3	--	--	--	--	9	5
Kétegyháza*	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Kötegyán*	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Luduş	--	--	+	2	3	--	2	--	2	3	--	--	--	--	7	5
Mariaradna	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Mátészalka*	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Mediaş	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	6	--
Mezőhegyes*	--	8	--	1	--	3	--	3	--	3	--	2	--	1	--	22
Miercurea Ciuc	--	8	--	1	3	3	2	3	--	3	1	2	--	1	6	22
Năşăud	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Ocna Mureş	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Odorheiu Secuiesc	--	8	+	1	3	3	2	3	2	3	--	2	--	1	7	22
Oradea	--	20	--	1	--	4	--	4	--	3	--	5	--	1	--	39
Orăştie	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Pâncota	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Petroşani	--	--	+	--	3	--	2	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	7	--
Petrova	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Praid	--	--	+	--	3	--	2	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	7	--
Reghin	--	--	+	2	3	--	2	--	2	3	--	--	--	--	7	5
Salonta	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Satu Mare	--	10	--	1	--	4	--	4	--	3	--	3	--	1	--	27
Săcueni	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Sântana	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Sărmaşu Mare	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Sărmăşag	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Sebeş	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Sfântu Gheorghe	--	5	+	1	3	3	2	3	4	3	1	2	--	1	11	19
Sibiu	16	15	+	1	12	4	4	4	4		16	6	--	1	50	34
Siculeni	--	--	+	2	--	--	--	--	2	3	--	--	--	--	2	5
Şieu Măgheruş	--	--	+	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
Sighetu Marmatei	7	10	+	1	6	4	3	4	2	3	--	3	--	1	18	27
Sighişoara	--	8	+	1	3	3	3	3	4	3	1	2	--	1	11	22
Simeria	--	--	+	2	--	--	--	--	4	3	--	--	--	--	4	5
Şomcuta Mare	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Sovata Băi	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	-
Subcetate	--	--	+	2	--	--	--	--	2	3	--	--	--	--	2	5
Szeghalom*	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Târgu Mureş	11	10	+	1	6	3	3	3	4	3	--	3	--	1	24	22
Târgu Secuiesc	--	--	+	--	3	--	2	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	7	--
Teiuş	--	--	+	2	--	--	--	--	4	3	--	--	--	--	4	5
Topliţa Română	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Trebusa*	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Turda	--	8	--	1	3	3	2	3	--	3	1	21	--	1	7	22
Valea lui Mihai	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Vésztő*	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	5
Vinţu de Jos	--	--	+	2	--	--	--	--	2	3	--	--	--	--	2	5
Zalău	--	8	--	1	6	3	2	3	--	3	--	6	--	1	8	22
Zam	--	--	+	--	--	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	4	--

¹ - this number includes censors for both *official correspondence* and *railway telegraph*, without distinction.

² - this number also includes the head of office in the larger posts.

(*) - Offices subordinated to the Government Council in Sibiu in 1919 (ZCM area), but returned to Hungary in 1920 or to Czechoslovakia in 1921. Now part of Hungary or Ukraine, they will be listed in Chapter #B09, Romanian occupation of Hungary, and Chapter #B10, Subcarpathian Ukraine.

Chronology

The activity and the censorship handstamps are presented chronologically, according to the four periods outlined above:

- **1st Period** (of the Consiliu Dirigent / Governing Council), from December 1918 to March/April 1919, when censorship offices/posts were established based on orders from military units in various localities. The complete list of these offices is not yet fully established.

- **2nd Period** (of C.T.T.), from April to July 1919, during which the number of censorship offices/posts increased significantly, according to the annexes to **Order No. 3755/2 of 9 March 1919**.

- **3rd Period** (of the Surveillance Zones in Transylvania), beginning on **15 July 1919**, during which censorship offices/posts were reorganized — leaving only one post per county, located in the main post office of the county capital (with one exception: the Blaj censorship post). Additionally, sections of mail censorship were re-established at most offices, according to the annexes to Order no. 6622 of July 1919 (re-issued with minor modifications on 1 October 1919). This marks the beginning of the peak period of mail censorship activity, which would continue until August 1920 (for internal censorship).

- **4th Period** (of the Border War Zones), during which the censorship offices/posts in the counties of Arad, Bihor, and Satu-Mare remained active until April 1921 (for internal censorship) and until August 1921 (for external censorship).

The table below presents the censorship posts/offices from Transylvania, Partium, and Banat (excluding present-day Hungary), along with the population structure based on the 1920 census⁹⁹. This information is especially relevant for small offices, which only censored mail sent to or from that locality. It allows for an assessment of the relative rarity of censorship markings in relation to the size and nationality of the local population — taking into account literacy levels, which generally followed the order: Jews, Germans, Hungarians, Serbians / Romanians.

Crt	Censor office	County 1919	County 2025	Population 1920					
				Total	Rom.	Hun.	Ger.	Jews	Oth.
1.	Abrud	Alba Inferioară	Alba	2226	1459	713	44	28	2
2.	Aiud	Alba Inferioară	Alba	8108	1954	5604	103	437	10
3.	Alba Iulia	Alba Inferioară	Alba	9645	5228	2041	536	1770	-
4.	Apahida	Cojocna	Cluj	1503	1345	105	3	50	-
5.	Arad	Arad	Arad	62490	12469	39399	3012	5306	2304
6.	Baia Capnic	Satu Mare	Maramureș	2601	1898	622	-	81	-
7.	Baia Mare	Satu Mare	Maramureș	12780	5005	4652	1232	1792	99
8.	Bălauseri	Târnava Mică	Mureș	881	113	721	-	47	-
9.	Beclean	Solnoc-Dăbâca	Bistrița-Năsăud	3088	1240	993	14	666	176
10.	Berveni	Satu Mare	Satu Mare	2430	16	2400	-	-	14
11.	Bistrița	Bistrița	Bistrița-Năsăud	12364	3716	1302	5163	2018	165
12.	Blaj	Alba Inferioară	Alba	1821	1351	201	68	188	13
13.	Brad	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	3593	2914	464	85	99	31
14.	Brașov	Brașov	Brașov	40335	12183	15137	11293	1505	217
15.	Buziaș-Băi	Timiș-(Torontal)	Timiș	2816	977	479	1271	89	20
16.	Caransebeș	Caraș-Severin	Caraș-Severin	7619	4282	377	2365	460	185
17.	Careii Mari	Satu Mare	Satu Mare	15294	2938	3337	5932	2571	516
18.	Cărpiniș	Timiș	Timiș	2695	8	-	2629	-	58
19.	Cehu Silvaniei	Sălaj	Sălaj	3440	347	2436	18	599	40
20.	Cluj	Cojocna	Cluj	83542	28274	41583	2073	10633	979
21.	Copșa Mică	Târnava Mare	Sibiu	1072	283	753	35	-	1
22.	Cristuru Secuiesc	Odorhei	Harghita	3950	45	3630	87	150	38
23.	Csiksereda	Ciuc	Harghita	2675	268	1957	49	188	213
24.	Cucerdea	Turda-Arieș	Alba	1733	490	1242	-	-	1
25.	Curtici	Arad	Arad	8986	6566	1997	289	91	43
26.	Dej	Solnoc-Dăbâca	Cluj	12500	3460	5601	58	3224	157
27.	Deva	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	8658	4026	3680	135	728	89
28.	Diciosânmartin	Târnava Mică	Mureș	4709	1220	2871	56	490	72
29.	Ditrău	Ciuc	Harghita	7479	500	6714	15	213	37
30.	Dragomirești	Maramureș	Maramureș	2708	1892	17	23	736	20
31.	Episcopia Bihorului	Bihor	Bihor	3732	112	3540	7	49	24
32.	Făgăraș	Făgăraș	Brașov	6352	2900	2500	967	457	23
33.	Gătaia	Timiș-(Torontal)	Timiș	3171	1104	1605	304	35	123
34.	Gherla	Solnoc-Dăbâca	Cluj	6561	2585	2038	48	1041	849
35.	Ghimeș	Ciuc	Bacău	5346	2542	2660	18	123	3

⁹⁹ C. Martinovici, N.Istrati – *Dicționarul Transilvaniei, Banatului și celorlalte ținuturi alipite*, Cluj, 1921.

36.	Grădiştea	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	1000	930	29	9	-	32
37.	Halmeu	Satu Mare	Satu Mare	3366	566	1913	610	270	7
38.	Haşfalău	Târnava Mare	Mureş	1444	705	701	8	30	-
39.	Haţeg	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	4043	2389	720	309	625	-
40.	Hida	Sălaj	Sălaj	1291	609	237	-	357	38
41.	Huedin	Cojocna	Cluj	4890	512	3183	31	250	904
42.	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	4198	1822	1964	194	175	43
43.	Ibaşfalău	Târnava Mică	Sibiu	3926	1464	1831	399	146	86
44.	Iermata Neagră	Ugocea	Satu Mare	2060	2039	--	21	--	--
45.	Ilia	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	1216	744	256	69	135	12
46.	Jebel	Timiş	Timiş-(Torontál)	3862	2896	679	239	8	40
47.	Jibou	Sălaj	Sălaj	2982	532	2077	1	369	3
48.	Kézdivásárhely	Trei Scaune	Covasna	4800	74	4634	22	66	4
49.	Lovrin	Timiş	(Timiş)-Torontál	3913	193	78	3562	-	80
50.	Lugoş	Caraş-Severin	Timiş-(Torontál)	20036	7621	4235	5983	1774	423
51.	Lupeni	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	13752	5461	4969	1323	-	1999
52.	Maria Radna	Arad	Arad	2491	1539	862	52	36	2
53.	Marosludos	Turda-Arieş	Mureş	4732	1451	2525	8	734	14
54.	Maros Uioara	Alba Inferioară	Alba	4891	2134	2252	41	432	32
55.	Măgheruş	Solnoc-Dăbâca	Bistriţa-Năsăud						
56.	Mediaş	Târnava Mare	Sibiu	10124	3219	1631	4691	435	148
57.	Mehadia	Caraş-Severin	Caraş-Severin	2153	2012	10	115	13	3
58.	Modoş	Timiş	Serbia	4524	77	628	1958	86	1775
59.	Năsăud	Bistriţa-Năsăud	Bistriţa-Năsăud	3093	2276	139	86	583	9
60.	Oar	Satu Mare	Satu Mare	1343	376	881	59	27	-
61.	Odorheiul Secuiesc	Odorhei	Harghita	10192	211	9653	154	163	11
62.	Oradea Mare	Bihor	Bihor	68081	8441	40744	598	17880	418
63.	Orăştie	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	7144	4107	1492	1170	311	64
64.	Orşova	Caraş-Severin	Mehedinţi	4558	1614	605	1983	166	190
65.	Otlaca	Arad	Arad	3429	3040	25	342	16	6
66.	Pâncota	Arad	Arad	5296	2324	1750	1043	179	-
67.	Pecica	Arad	Arad	9440	6677	2115	52	-	4
68.	Peleş	Satu Mare	Satu Mare	1008	645	104	153	1503	30
69.	Petroşani	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	14465	6360	5455	1235	998	417
70.	Petrova	Maramureş	Maramureş	4704	1962	38	-	1103	1600
71.	Piski	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	484	420	38	16	-	20
72.	Praid	Odorhei	Harghita	2619	22	2526	1	69	2
73.	Reghinul Săsesc	Mureş-Turda	Mureş	8074	1557	2564	2522	1341	90
74.	Reşiţa	Caraş-Severin	Caraş-Severin	17159	3779	1278	10969	419	714
75.	Salonta Mare	Bihor	Bihor	15448	424	13686	24	792	62
76.	Satu Mare	Satu Mare	Satu Mare	58251	9741	39009	385	8959	157
77.	Săcueni	Bihor	Bihor	5259	34	4755	5	452	13
78.	Sărmaşu Mare	Cojocna	Mureş	2378	821	1457	7	84	9
79.	Sărmăşag	Sălaj	Sălaj	1931	188	1718	1	24	-
80.	Sânandrei	Timiş	Timiş	2691	384	54	2239	5	9
81.	Sânmiclăuş	Ciuc	Harghita	8820	466	7994	90	-	-
82.	Sânmiclăuşul Mare	(Timiş)-Torontál	Timiş	9230	3904	1132	2757	400	1037
83.	Sântana	Arad	Arad	5677	95	405	5129	30	18
84.	Sebeşul Săsesc	Alba Inferioară	Alba	7425	5992	254	1883	95	101
85.	Sfântu Gheorghe	Trei Scaune	Covasna	11189	1337	9345	198	280	29
86.	Sibiu	Sibiu	Sibiu	32748	8553	4291	18218	1310	376
87.	Siculeni	Ciuc	Harghita	1947	43	1893		9	2
88.	Sighetul Marmăţiei	Maramureş	Maramureş	23691	4964	6552	149	11026	1000
89.	Sighişoara	Târnava Mare	Mureş	11561	3428	2253	5620	204	56
90.	Sovata Băi	Mureş-Turda	Mureş	2700	424	2208		68	
91.	Subcetate	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	817	705	94	8	10	
92.	Şimleul Silvaniei	Sălaj	Sălaj	6926	1792	3441	38	1580	75
93.	Şomcuta Mare	Satu Mare	Maramureş	3013	1667	462	21	858	5
94.	Târgu Mureş	Mureş-Turda	Mureş	30988	3947	23178	446	3246	171
95.	Teiuş	Alba Inferioară	Alba	3886	2385	1299	23	146	33
96.	Timişoara	Timiş-(Torontál)	Timiş	82689	16892	26185	29188	8296	3128
97.	Topliţa Română	Mureş-Turda	Harghita	6056	4133	1382	34	420	87
98.	Turda	Turda-Arieş	Cluj	16000	4800	9500	1700	-	-
99.	Valea lui Mihai	Bihor	Bihor	7175	581	5146	6	1430	12
100.	Vintu de Jos	Alba Inferioară	Alba	4058	3565	370	41	78	4
101.	Vulcan	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	10400	4879	4210	620	343	348
102.	Zalău	Sălaj	Sălaj	9369	1306	7320	39	552	152
103.	Zam	Hunedoara	Hunedoara	837	746	38	14	21	10
104.	Zerindul Mare	Arad	Arad	2669	30	2562	-	56	1

The censorship posts are detailed below, ordered alphabetically by county (based on the former Austro-Hungarian administrative division, which remained valid under Romanian administration between 1919-1923). Each entry includes all known and confirmed censorship handstamps to date. The title of each entry contains the following elements: the name of the locality where the censorship post was located, given in both Romanian and Hungarian – then and now; the periods of operation of the station and of the *mail censorship section* (which is of primary interest as it produced nearly all collectible items).

It should be noted that the activity of the *theatre-cinema* and *telephone* censorship sections are not reflected in collectible items (as far as current knowledge goes). From the *telegraph* section, only a few surviving telegrams bear known censorship handstamps or manuscript notations. The *newspaper* censorship section is represented through non-postal elements, such as blanked-out spaces in newspaper texts or the appearance of a censor's name in the editorial box (see examples below).

The censorship handstamps

There is considerable variety among the handstamps, as they were not produced according to a single order or standardized template (unlike those used in the Old Kingdom). In the early months, each local military command commissioned the stamps from local workshops — most often Hungarian ones¹⁰⁰ — frequently under emergency conditions. This resulted in stamps with a primitive appearance, including grammatical errors, improvised lettering, and inconsistent quality.

Only one standardized type of handstamp is known, introduced in the summer of 1919. It typically bore the format: **Locality / Censored / ... 1919 / Sign....**, allowing space for the date of censorship and the censor's signature (as required by regulations). However, this format was rarely completed in practice. Many of the handstamps were deteriorated quickly due to poor quality, resulting in partial, deformed, or hard-to-read impressions. In some cases, replacements had to be made rapidly, leading to a short usage period and the relative rarity of certain stamps — a rarity that each collector must assess based on the information provided in this volume (which is not intended to serve as a price catalog).

Typically, the head of the censorship post used a separate handstamp for administrative documents, usually a round seal-type stamp featuring a coat of arms in the center. If such handstamps appear on correspondence, their use must be carefully evaluated to avoid misinterpretations regarding the activity of the mail censorship section.

B06/01. – ABRUD / Abrudbánya (OM) (Alba-Inferioară county, present-day Alba county)

Local office in the Arieș Valley, relatively isolated, with a poorly literate population. Early presence of Romanian units in the town:

- A platoon of the 2/12th Infantry Company (6th Infantry Division) arrived on **14/27** February 1919.

1st Period

(...17 March 1919...)

As of 21 January 1919, no censorship post was recorded. One was later established by the military subunit stationed in the city, subordinated on 17 March 1919 to the **6th Infantry Division**. It functioned as a local censorship post, responsible only for terminal correspondence dispatched from the Abrud area.

2nd Period

(...1 April – 14 July 1919)

According to *Order no. 3755/2* of **March 1919**, between 26 March and 20 April, there were five censors assigned at the **Post Office** (three for *Telegraph* and two for *Telephone*, but competent for correspondence as well, if necessary, according to the *Instructions*), and two censors at the **Railway Station** (*Official* and

¹⁰⁰ The handstamps for posts subordinated to the 7th Infantry Division (Dej, Baia Mare, Sighetul Marmăției, Șomcuta Mare, Baia Capnic, Jibou, Cehul Silvaniei, Zalău și Hida), round with the text **Cenzurat Oficial....**, were manufactured on 4 April 1919 at the workshop of the engraver Sole Simon, Jókai street no. 2, Cluj, cf. Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală....*, 2004, pag. 154.

Telegraph and Telephone). The office was disbanded by **15 July 1919**, according to *Instructions No. 6622*. Thereafter, correspondence from Abrud was routed through Aiud, then Blaj.

ⓄB06/01.1 (TT95#1.1, CM#1.1): two lines handstamp with the text: **Cenzurat / Abrud.....**, dimensions 42 x 10 mm, applied in purple ink on **20 April 1919**. Initially reproduced in T85, and identically repeated in TT87 and TT95. The date is not confirmed by other sources, so the exact conditions of its use cannot be determined.

B06/02. –AIUD / Nagyenyed (OM)
(Alba-Inferioară county, present-day Alba county)

On Friday, **19 December 1918**, the Romanian Army entered Aiud. Early presence of Romanian units in the town:

- The command of the III/12 Infantry Battalion (6th Infantry Division) on **14/27?** February 1919;
- The HQs of the **1st Rifle Division**, between **18 February – 24 March 1919**.

1st Period

(...22 January – 25 March 1919...)

According to Călin Marinescu, at the end of January 1919 the office had two sections — one at the **Post Office**, another at the Aiud **police** — probably organized by the 1st Rifle Division.



ⓄB06/02.1: during the stay of the 1st Rifle Division command in the city, censorship of civil correspondence was conducted by the unit, which used its military handstamp bearing the text: **Divizia I Vânători / CENSURAT**. It was applied in violet and black ink between **4 and 25 March 1919**. See examples in *Figs. B06.03-B06.04*.



Fig. B06.03-B06.04: Two examples of civilian mail censored by the 1st Rifle Division during its stay in Aiud
A cover postmarked NAGY-ENYED on 20 March 1919 (left) and a postcard postmarked NAGY-ENYED on 25 March 1919 (right), both censored by the HQs of the 1st Rifle Division from Aiud using handstamp **ⓄB06/02.1**. The items are addressed to Sibiu and Cluj, respectively.

2nd Period

(...1 – 24 April 1919...)

Order no. 3755/2 of March 1919 authorized six censors at the **Post Office** for the censorship of newspapers and telegrams-telephone communications (with competence in mail censorship if necessary). However, the situation on the ground was different: on 25 April 1919, there were five censors at the **Railway Station** (for *telephone & telegraph*) and only one assigned to *newspapers*.

3rd Period (...29 June – 27 July 1919)

Order no. 6622 confirms the existence, as of 15 July 1919, of a correspondence section (with 8 employees out of the total of 22), which likely operated from **June 1919** as the *county-level censorship office*. However, a few days later, it was disbanded by an order dated **27 July 1919** — even though Aiud was the county seat. As a result, the county's censorship office was to be established in **Blaj**.

Only one type of handstamp is known for this period (in fact, only one censored piece of correspondence from this post has been published so far):

ⓄB06/02.2: four-lines handstamp with the text: **AIUD / CENZURAT / 1919 / Semn.....**, dimensions 41 x 21 mm, applied in black ink between **10 and 29 June 1919**, used only on terminal mail sent *from* Aiud. This suggests that the mail censorship activity at this office may have lasted only about a month. See Fig. B06.05.

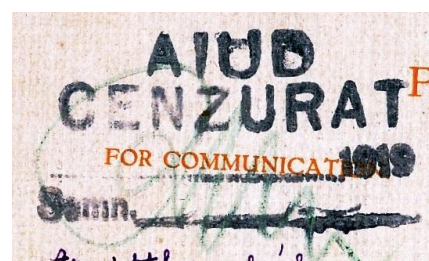


Fig. B06.05:
Local outgoing mail
censored in Aiud.

A postcard written in Hungarian on 26 June 1919 in Aiud, postmarked NAGY-ENYED three days later (29 June 1919), and censored locally by the Aiud office using the handstamp ⓄB06/02.2; addressed to Cluj.

B06/03. – ALBA IULIA / Gyulafehérvár (OM) (Alba-Inferioară county, present-day Alba county)

The city of the great plebiscitary assembly held on 1 December 1918. Following the decision of the *Romanian National Council* (= *Sfatul Național Român*), the city administration was taken over by Romanians on **21 November 1918**. Camil Velican was appointed mayor, and Lt. Ovidiu Gritta became head of police and city hall. Most Hungarian officials were dismissed after refusing to take the oath of allegiance to King Ferdinand. Security on the day of the National Assembly was ensured by the Alba-Iulia Legion (cpt. Florian Medrea). A Romanian battalion from the 5th Rifle Regiment from Craiova (1st Rifle Division), entered the city from Blaj on 19 December 1918 at 05.10¹⁰¹.

Early presence of Romanian units in town:

- On 30 December 1918, the Romanian Gendarmerie was established, commanded by Lt. Ovidiu Gritta. The first company had already been formed on 7 December.
- On 5 January 1919, the 24th Dorobanți Tecuci Regiment (col. Nicolau Andrei)¹⁰² arrived, replacing the 5th Rifle Regiment (col. Vasile Găgiu), who left on the evening of 10 January.

¹⁰¹ *Intrarea trupelor române în Alba Iulia*, in the newspaper **Alba-Iulia** no. 3 from 24 December 1918, pag. 2-4, see also **Unirea** (Blaj), no. 33-34 from 25 December 1918 and no. 35-36 from 27 December 1918.

¹⁰² *Sosirea Regimentului 23 Dorobanți la Alba Iulia*, in the newspaper **Alba-Iulia** no. 2 from 1/14 January 1919, pag. 3-4.

- On 31 January, the 24th Regiment also left the city, and on 20 February 1919, the 5th Rifle Regiment returned, accompanied by general Niculescu, colonel Găgiu, lt.-colonel Jipa.
- On 14/27? February 1919, only the 6th Company and a machine gun platoon from the 2nd Rifle Division were stationed in the city.
- On 15 March 1919, the newly formed Alba-Iulia Regiment (composed of volunteers returned from Siberia) took the oath of service.

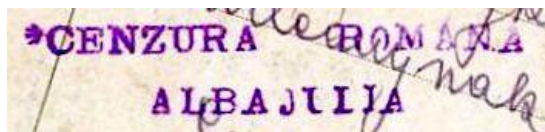
1st Period

(December 1918 – 2 April 1919...)

A *local* terminal censorship office (i.e., for mail sent or received in Alba Iulia) was established immediately after the Romanian takeover and was active by the end of 1918, even though it is not mentioned in the documents dated 21 January or 17 March 1919.

ⓄB06/03.1 (TT95#2.1, CM#3.1): two-lines handstamp with the text **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ / ALBA JULIA**, dimensions 60 x 10 mm (including side ornaments), applied in purple ink between **4 January and 2 April 1919**. In newer samples, ornamental marks are visible before the **C** and after the **Ă**. At least two versions of this handstamp were produced:

- ❖ **.../03.1a**: the first "A" in ALBA appears under the letter "Z" in CENZURA; seen on 3-4 January 1919;
- ❖ **.../03.1b**: the first "A" in ALBA appears under the letter "U" in CENZURA; recorded between 4 March and 1 April 1919.



/03.1a: 4 January 1919



/03.1b: 28 March 1919

2nd Period

(1 April – 15 July 1919)

According to *Order no. 3755/2* of **March 1919**, the office was assigned eight censors at the **Post Office** (six for telegrams and two for telephone). In practice, on 7 June 1919, the office had eight censors at the **Post Office**, including two for correspondence and one for newspapers. The office was disbanded on **15 July 1919** by *Order no. 6622*. No censorship markings from this period are currently known. Subsequently, correspondence from Alba-Iulia was censored in Aiud, than in Blaj.

B06/04. – APAHIDA / Apahida

(Cluj county, then and now)

3rd Period

(15 July – August 1919...)

An office was established on **15 July 1919** in Apahida Railway Station by *Order no. 6622*, with six censors assigned (for *Official* and *Telegraph* and *Telephone* correspondence). However, by August 1919, only three censors were actually present. The office was theoretically authorized to operate until July 1920. No censorship markings are known so far.

B06/05. – ARAD / Arad

(Arad county, then and now)

2nd Period

(...26 May – 14 July 1919)

A censorship post was established immediately after Romanians forces entered the city on **17 May 1919**, with one censor stationed at the Arad 2 *Post office* and one assigned to *telegrams* at Arad 1 (Note: this was likely reversed in practice, as Arad 1 was the main post office and Arad 2 was the railway station post office). The earliest known operational date is around **20 May 1919** (see *Fig. B16.26*, a date of **14 May 1919** from a philatelic postcard cannot be yet confirmed). Primitive censorship stamps were produced

immediately after the Romanian takeover. The entire postal service in the city was taken over by Romanian authorities on **12 July 1919**.

©B06/05.1 (TT95#3.6): primitive bi-linear handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT / ARAD** (serif letters in the first row, sans-serif in the second row), known in two variants:

- ❖ **.../05.1a**: dimensions 32 x 11 mm, applied in black ink between **31 May and 24 June 1919**;
- ❖ **.../05.1b**: dimensions 40 x 15 mm, applied in black ink on **2 July 1919** (from the Mark Lendon collection).



©B06/05.2 (TT95#3.4b, CM#5.4): primitive bi-linear handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT / ARAD** (all in sans-serif), dimensions 46 x 17 mm. In many cases, the impression is misprinted. Applied in black ink during the period between **29 June – 6 August 1919**. Due to wear and tear, the letter C becomes increasingly faint over time. Minor differences in some letters suggest that at least two versions of this handstamp were produced.

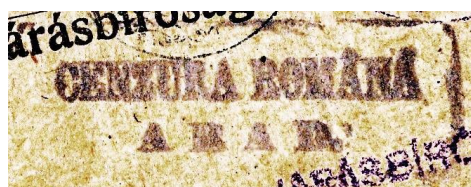


©B06/05.3 (TT95#3.1, CM#5.1): handstamp with a rectangular frame and bi-linear inner text reading: **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ / ARAD**, with two known sub-variants:

- ❖ **.../05.3a**: size 54 x 20 mm, applied in red (initially) and violet ink, between **20 May – 6 June 1919**.



- ❖ **.../05.3b**: similar in type, appearing at first glance to result from severe damage to one of the original handstamps, but it may also be a provisional handstamp, crudely made after the loss or destruction of the first one. Dimensions 55 x 20 mm, applied in black ink between **8 and 15 June 1919**.



/05.3b: ca. 8 June 1919



9 June 1919



13 June 1919



15 June 1919

3rd Period

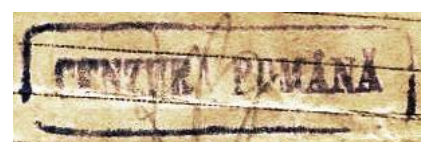
(15 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

Order no. 6622 confirms the continuation of activity as a **county** censorship office and authorizes 34 censors (15 at the **Post Office** for correspondence and 4 at the **Railway Station**). In practice, between August 1919 and June 1920, the office consistently operated 26-30 censors: 10-17 at the **Post Office** (correspondence), 4-7 in the newspapers section, 4 at the **Railway Station**, etc. From **1 June 1920**, all sections — including press and correspondence — were active. The office was likely closed with the suspension of internal censorship in August 1920 (latest known use: **19 July 1920**).

©B06/05.4 (TT95#3.10, CM#5.5): rectangular handstamp with linear inner text reading: **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ**, dimensions 54 x 15 mm, applied in violet ink in **10 August 1919** and possibly **5 September 1919** (on telegrams!). It appears to have been assigned to the *telegraph censor*. A very clear print exists on a CTO philatelic envelope cancelled ARAD 3 on 24 June 1919 (see Fig. B16.19), but due to questionable provenance, this early usage cannot be confirmed.



/05.4: 24 June 1919?, on CTO

10 August 1919 (telegram)
+ censor signature Bogdan5 September 1919? (telegram)
+ censor signature Zalay

©B06/05.5: primitive linear handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT ARAD**, applied in black ink on **7 June 1920** on a telegram! The imprint is very faint; a reconstruction has been made by Mark Lendon based on the only known example from his collection.



©B06/05.6 (TT95#3.2, 3.3, 3.5, CM#5.2, 5.3): one of the most frequently used censorship handstamps of the Period. Bilinear, with the text: **CENZURAT / Arad.....**, applied in purple, red, or black ink between **22 July 1919 – 19 July 1920**, and again during 4th period, between **21 September 1920 – 1 May 1921**. In many cases, the censorship date was manually entered in the designated place, followed by the censor's signature. Identifiable signatures include: *Albu, Măcinic, Mihuță?, Mladin, Simu, Vesa?*, etc. At least three main variants are known:

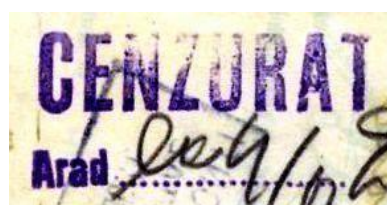
- ❖ **.../05.6A**: the letter **C** of CENZURAT is positioned above the first **A** in Arad, with a faulty **d**. Applied in blue-violet ink on 21 August 1919 (unconfirmed, being on philatelic cover). Features a continuous dotted line; rarely seen.



/05.6A: 21 August 1919 (?)

- ❖ **.../05.6B**: the letter **C** of CENZURAT appears above the **Ar** in Arad. Dimensions: 45-46 x 19-20 mm. This was the most common type used during the period, up to 1921. It includes two sub-variants:

- **Ba**: Continuous dotted line
- **Bb**: Line with dots grouped in sets of three



/05.6Ba: 4 September 1919



30 September 1919



30 August 1920



/05.6Bb: 13 December 1919

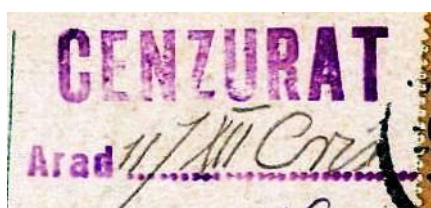


29 December 1919



5 February 1921

- ❖ **.../05.6C**: the letter **C** of CENZURAT is above the **ra** in Arad. Line with dots grouped in sets of three, measuring 50 x 20 mm, and used at least between 22 November 1919 and 28 April 1920.



/05.6C: 11 December 1919



31 January 1920



26 January 1920

4th Period (War Zone) (1 September 1920 – 1 May 1921..)

The office was reactivated (or continued its activity) to censor internal correspondence within the 30 km-wide military zone along the Hungarian border, but with reduced personnel (13 censors as of 1 April 1921, probably most stationed at the **Post Office**, and at least one responsible for newspapers censorship — see below). Most correspondence from this period, both internal and external (currently documented between **21 September 1920** and **1 May 1921**), was either sent from or received to **Arad**, which had entered the siege zone. Mail originating in or destined for the war zone and *transiting* Arad is much rarer. See an example in *Fig. B06.06*.



Fig. F06.06.
Mail from Simeria to Baia Mare, censored in Arad during transit through the War Zone.

Postcard written in Hungarian in Piski (Simeria, Hunedoara county) on **13 March 1921**, and addressed to Baia Mare (Satu Mare county). Sent by train, the card was cancelled only in **ARAD-2** (Railway Station) on 15 March 1921, where it was disembarked and censored with **ⓐB06/05.6Ba**, as the postal route passed through the War Zone (Arad – Oradea – Satu Mare – Baia Mare).

ⓄB06/05.7 (CM#5.6): double circle handstamp with the inner text reading **CENSURA ROMÂNĂ * ARAD / ROMÂNIA**, diameter 34/32 mm. Applied in black ink between 11–19 January 1920 (on philatelic CTO covers, usage uncertain), and between **18 December 1920 – 26 March 1921** (on genuine mail).

Originally described on two local envelopes from the Cserni collection (alongside others from the Szegedi and Lendon collections, all from January 1920, cancelled with a manipulated ARAD 1K stamp — see also *Fig. B06.07*). Though its authenticity was initially questioned, it is now accepted; only the circumstances of its use remain unclear. On an envelope addressed to the USA and actually circulated in December 1920 (despite lacking franking), the handstamp was applied on the reverse, across the back flap. Censorship is primarily attested by a handstamp of type **B06/05.6Ba**. Another similar example is shown in *Fig. B06.08*. It is certainly the official handstamp of the head of office, applied upon request to philatelic / CTO envelopes (such as those mentioned above), and, when necessary, on certain externally bound closed envelopes or postcards, as over-censorship in addition to the usual office handstamp. See also *Fig. B06.09* for a genuinely censored postcard.



Fig. B06.07:
One of at least four philatelic CTO envelopes bearing the handstamp of the head of the Arad censorship office.

Envelope franked with four overprinted stamps of the Oradea Issue (total 15 bani), CTO cancelled on 15 January 1920 with a manipulated Romanian-style ARAD 1K postmark (the date is too early to be authentic). Locally addressed, it bears the round handstamp **ⓄB06/05.7** with the text **CENSURA ROMÂNĂ * ARAD / ROMANIA**. On the reverse the arrival postmark, dated one day later. (source: web)



Fig. B06.08: An unique procedure on international correspondence

Commercial cover mailed from Arad without franking (reason unknown), addressed to Mannheim, Germany. Double censored in Arad with handstamp **ⓄB06/05.6Ba** (signed by censor, probably *Albu*), and again on the back with the head of the office's handstamp **ⓄB06/05.7**. Unusually, the cover was stopped in Podmokly, Czechoslovakia (now part of Děčín, on the Elbe near the German border), where it was franked with 95 haléřů in Czech stamps and postmarked **PODMOKLY * BODENBACH** on 24 December 1920. On reverse, arrival **MANNHEIM** postmark on 25 December 1920 (source: Mark Lendon collection)



Fig. B06.09: Late external mail, over checked by the head of the censorship office.

Illustrated postcard (Andrassy square, Arad) postmarked ARAD on 26 March 1921, written in French. Censored by the local office using handstamp [B06/05.6](#), then re-censored by the head of the censoring office using handstamp [B06/05.7](#) and signed *Cenzurat Stamatiad, 26 Mart. 1921*. Addressed to Tibiran-Jaunac, France, arrival postmark AVENTIGNAN * HTE PYRENEES on 4 April 1921.

Tipografia „CONCORDIA”, ARAD

Cenzurat: Constantin T

The "Românul" newspaper in Arad, number 3 of 4 January 1921 still bears the signs of auto-censorship, during the state of siege.

Arad as External Mail Censorship Office (1 June – July 1920... November 1920 – May 1921)

Occasionally, foreign correspondences were censored in transit through Arad in 1919, particularly when the postal route passed through the city and the mail had NOT been censored in the dispatching county. Notable examples include:

- A cover sent from Sighișoara on 23 August 1919 to Switzerland, censored in transit in **Arad**.
- A certificate of delivery returned from Szeged (French-occupied area) on 8 November 1919 to Hódmezővásárhely, censored in **Arad** on 22 November 1919.
- A philatelic cover from Băile Herculane (assigned to the censor office Lugoj) to Markneukirchen, Germany, censored in **Arad** on 14 December 1919.
- A postcard sent from Cluj on 18 January 1920 to Belgrade, censored in **Pâncota** instead of Arad! (Fig. B06.41).
- A registered postcard from Lugoj to Greiz, Germany, censored in **Arad** on 16 February 1920.



**Fig. B06.10.
Transit foreign mail
censored in Arad.**

Postcard written in German on 10 September 1920, cancelled **WIEN** on 11 September, addressed to Gura Humorului in Bukovina, was diverted and censored in transit in Arad with handstamp [B06/05.6](#).

Order no. 756, dated **1 June 1920**, stipulates that correspondence "arriving from abroad by any means will no longer be sent to the Cluj censorship station, but to the Arad censorship station"¹⁰³. This marked the theoretical transfer of responsibility for external censorship **from Cluj to Arad**. Subsequent General Staff Orders no. 1327 and no. 1366/1920 specified that correspondence to/from Hungary should be censored in Arad at Post Office no. 2 (railway station)¹⁰⁴. However, as of 21 May 1921, only Hungarian external correspondence was consistently censored in Arad.

Most *foreign correspondences* censored in Arad during this period was **terminal mail** (sent or received in Arad; see examples in *Fig. B06.08, B06.09*), making the above order largely irrelevant. Only a few examples of censored external correspondences *in transit* through Arad are known, suggesting partial compliance with the order. Known cases include:

- A postcard sent from WIEN on **11 September 1920** to Gurahumorului, Bukovina, diverted and censored in ARAD (see *Fig. B06.10*, which is probably the best illustration of its role in foreign censorship).
- A registered cover sent from SIBIU on 23 November 1920 to Vyhne, Czechoslovakia, censored in ARAD on 25 November 1920.
- A registered postcard sent from ZAM on 5 December 1920 to the USA, censored in Arad on 7 December 1920.
- A registered cover sent from BRAD on 9 February 1921 to Wien, censored in transit in ARAD on 11 February 1921.
- A postcard sent from BRAD on 1 March 1921 to Basel, Switzerland, censored in transit in Arad.
- An illustrated postcard sent from KOLN on **27 March 1921** to Glimboca, Banat, censored in transit in ARAD around 8 April 1921.

Mail sent from Arad but censored by satellite censorship offices

Upon analyzing correspondences sent from Arad, some items were not censored there but by satellite offices located at a certain distance from the city, such as **Pâncota** and **Sântana** (both in the Arad county), and **Măru Roșu** / Mezöhegyes in the occupied area of Hungary (45 km to the west, with a direct railway connection through Battonya). This suggests a service set up to avoid overcrowding of the Arad office, where correspondence bags were occasionally sent directly to these satellite offices for censorship.

This arrangement explains the apparent erroneous conclusion of Măru Roșu's transfer to the Arad railway station. In reality, correspondence was sent from Arad to Măru Roșu for censoring and then distributed to the addressee, who might have been back in Arad, explaining the existence of *loco* correspondence from Arad censored in Măru Roșu / Mezöhegyes (This was first reported by Mircea Teleguț). Notably, in 1919 (**23 June – 20 December 1919**), the satellite office was Măru Roșu, which was heavily overworked with censoring mail from Arad. In 1920 (**6 January – 10 April 1920**), Măru Roșu was replaced by the offices of **Pâncota** and **Sântana**, though to a lesser extent.

The following correspondences sent from ARAD have been identified in satellite offices:

1919.

- A postcard from Arad to Oradea, postmarked ARAD 1G on **23 June 1919**, censored in **Mărul Roșu**, even if this implied a westward diversion for censorship.
- A postcard from Arad to Târgu Mureș, postmarked ARAD 2 on July 1919, censored in **Mărul Roșu**.
- A postcard from Arad to Slatina-Olt, postmarked ARAD 2 on 28 July 1919, censored in **Mărul Roșu**, with arrival in SLATINA on 26 August 1919.
- A postcard written in Szeged but postmarked ARAD 2 on 10 September 1919, censored after diversion in **Mărul Roșu**, addressed to Salonta.
- A postcard written in Budapest, postmarked ARAD 2S on 2 October 1919, addressed to București, censored in **Mărul Roșu**.
- A postcard written in Arad on 6 October 1919, postmarked ARAD 2S, addressed to Lugoj, censored in **Mărul Roșu**.
- A postcard from Arad to Hodoni, postmarked ARAD 2S on 8 October 1919, censored in **Mărul Roșu**.
- A postcard mailed from Arad to Făget, postmarked ARAD 2S on 18 October 1919, censored in **Mărul Roșu**.
- A postcard from Arad to Sibiu, postmarked ARAD 2S on November 1919, censored in **Mărul Roșu**.
- A postcard from Arad to Tecuci, postmarked ARAD 2 on 7 November 1919, censored in **Mărul Roșu**.
- A postcard from Arad to Galați, probably postmarked ARAD in November 1919, censored in **Mărul Roșu**.

¹⁰³ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, 2004, pag. 204.

¹⁰⁴ Martin Tiron – *Câteva date...*, Buletinul ABB no. 1/1992, pag. 11.

- A postcard from Arad to Timișoara (a direct postal route of 60 kilometers!), postmarked ARAD 3A on **29 November 1919**, with detour for censoring in **Mărul Roșu**; see Fig. B06.11.

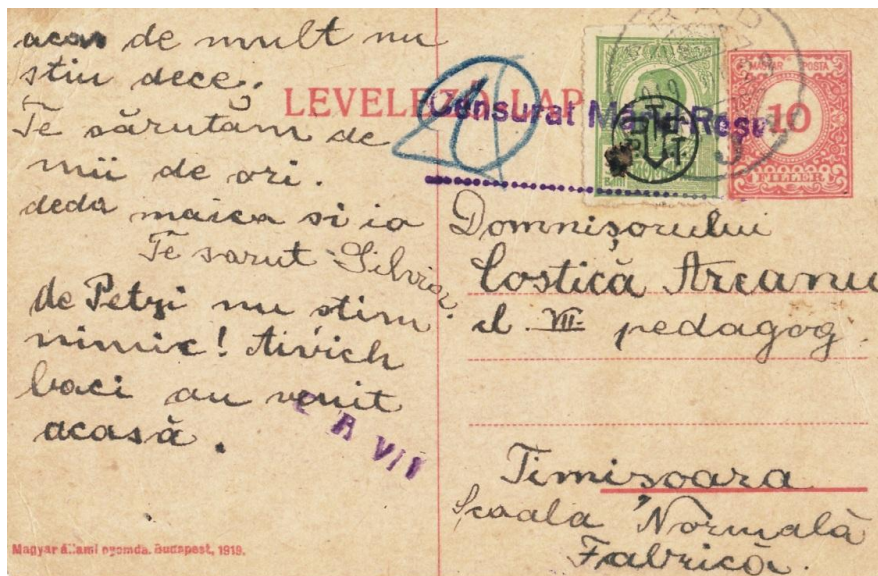


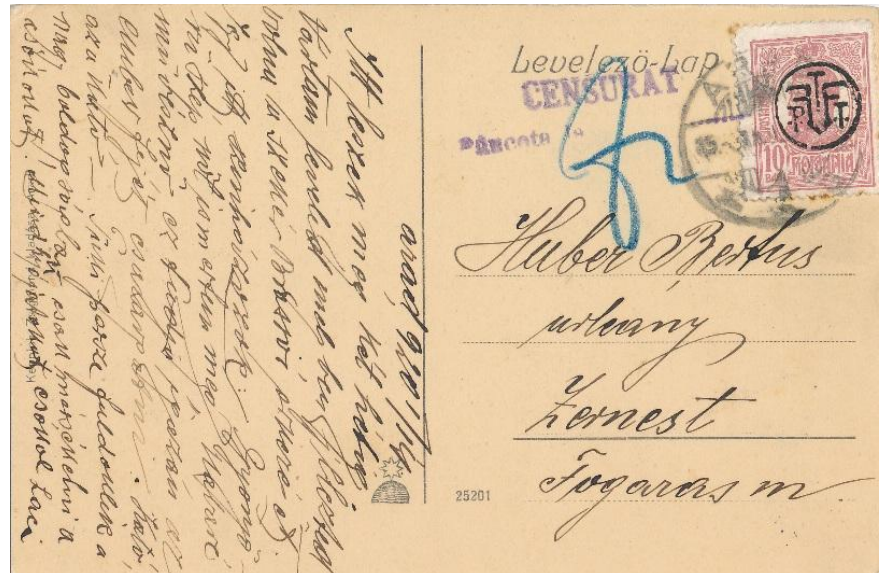
Fig. B06.11.

Hungarian Republican postcard 10 fillér (1918 edition) overfranked with a Romanian PTT-FF postage stamp of 5 bani (total fee 10 bani, mixed franking!!), postmarked ARAD on **29 November 1919**, addressed to Timișoara, only 60 kilometers to the south. Instead of censoring in Arad, the postcard was diverted to the west and remotely censored by the Romanian office in **Mezőhegyes** (with handstamp [©B06/05.6](#)).

- A cover from Curtici to Hetiur, postmarked on 25 November 1919, censored in **Mărul Roșu**, arrived at Sighișoara on 30 November.
- A postcard from Sebiș to Austria, postmarked BOROSSEBES, censored in **Mărul Roșu**, sometime in 1919.
- A postcard from Arad to Hațeg, postmarked ARAD 1G on December 1919, censored in **Mărul Roșu**.
- A postcard postmarked ARAD 1 G on 15 December 1919, addressed to Sibiu, censored in **Mărul Roșu**.
- A postcard from Arad to Mehadia, postmarked ARAD 1G on 20 December 1919, censored in **Mărul Roșu**.
- A postcard from Arad to Zsigmondháza (Mureșel, today a neighborhood in Arad!), postmarked ARAD 1G on 20 December 1919 (from the same postal bag as the previous), censored in **Mărul Roșu**.

Fig. B06.12
Postcard sent from Arad,
censored in Pâncota instead of
Arad

An illustrated postcard (with the image of the Arad City Hall), written in Hungarian on 14 January 1920 in Arad, stamped 10 bani "PTT-FF" Issue, cancelled ARAD 1G on **15 January 1920**, addressed to Zărnești (Făgăraș, today Brașov county). Instead of being censored in Arad, the correspondence was diverted through **Pâncota** Auxiliary Censorship office, where it received the handstamp [©B06/05.6](#).



1920.

- Postcard from Arad to Tinca, postmarked ARAD 2 on **6 January 1920**, censored in transit at **Pâncota**.
- Postcard from Arad to Brașov, postmarked ARAD 2 on 12 January 1920, censored in deviation at **Sântana**.
- Postcard from Arad to Timișoara (direct postal route of 60 kilometers to the south), mailed on 13 January 1920 (without postmark or stamps, charged Porto at destination), censored in **Sântana** (a town 25 km north-east of Arad, completely off the normal postal route), and then forwarded to Timișoara.
- Postcard from Arad to Zărnești, postmarked ARAD 1 on 15 January 1920, censored at **Pâncota**, with a deviation from the normal postal route (see Fig. B06.12).
- Postcard from Arad to București, postmarked ARAD 2 on 1 April 1920, censored in **Sântana**, which is far from the railway line to Bucharest, along the Mureș valley (see Fig. B06.13).

- Postcard addressed in Moneasa, postmarked ARAD 2 on 9 April 1920 (without stamps, but not charged), censored in transit at **Sântana**.
- Postcard from Arad to Hațeg, postmarked ARAD 1 to 10 April 1920, censored in transit, with a route deviation, at **Pâncota**.



Fig. B06.13
Postcard sent from Arad, censored
in Sântana instead of Arad.

Postcard written on 31 March 1920 in Arad by the artist N. Papazoglu who was very impressed by the beauty of the city. Cancellation ARAD 2 on 1 April 1919, with remote censoring in **Sântana** (handstamp [B06/05.6](#)), and arrived back in Bucharest on February 1920 (source: web, 2019).

Besides these, even more interesting are the cases circulated *within Arad county*, which normally should have been censored at the post office in Arad, not in another county (such as Măru Roșu / Mezőhegyes, located in Csongrad county).

- Postcard written in Arad and addressed to Șiria (30 kilometers east), dated 8 September 1919, postmarked ARAD 2S, censored in **Mărul Roșu** (Mezőhegyes) on 11 September 1919 (three days later).
- Postcard written and postmarked BOROSJENŐ (Ineu) on 29 September 1919, addressed to Pâncota, but censored in **Mărul Roșu** (Mezőhegyes).
- Perhaps the most striking example: a postcard mailed from BOROSJENŐ (Ineu) on 12 November 1919 to Buteni (only 30 kilometers east!), censored neither in Arad nor in Pâncota or Sântana (which apparently were not yet functional), but in **Mărul Roșu** (Mezőhegyes), a full 100 kilometers west, in a different county!

B06/06. – BAIA CAPNIC / Kapnikbánya (Satu Mare county, present-day Maramureș county)

1st Period

(...17 March 1919...)

As of 21 January 1919, no censorship post was mentioned here. It was later established by the city's military subunit, subordinated on 17 March 1919 to the **7th Infantry Division**, and functioned as a *local* terminal censorship office/post.

2nd Period

(...30 March – 16 April 1919...)

The post was maintained by *Order no. 3755/2*, with five censors assigned at the **Post Office** (theoretically only for *Telegraph* and *Telephone*). However, in practice, as of 30 March and 16 April 1919, only one censor was active, dealing exclusively with *telegraph* services. The office is no longer mentioned in *Order no. 6622*, indicating it had been disbanded by 14 July 1919.

[B06/06.1](#) (CM#6.1): circular handstamp with central coat of arms and the text **CENZURAT OFICIUL * BAIA-CAPNIC**, diameter 33/31 mm. Manufactured in two copies by the Simon Sole workshop in Cluj and delivered on **5 April 1919**. Not yet seen on correspondence; used on administrative documents in blue ink (see image reproduced from archival documents).



B06/07. – BAIA MARE / Nagybánya
(Satu Mare county, present-day Maramureș county)

The city was occupied on **6 January 1919** by a Romanian detachment of 200 soldiers from Dej (II/15th Infantry Battalion), at the request of the locals terrorized by retreating Hungarian troops from Satu Mare¹⁰⁵. Early presence of Romanian units in town:

- The command of the 14th Infantry Brigade (**7th Infantry Division**), stationed here on 14/27 February 1919.

1st Period

(...21 January – 17 March 1919...)

The office was established by the *local* military subunit for terminal mail censorship. It was subordinated to the 7th Infantry Division, and was active at least between 21 January (when it had seven censors) and 17 March 1919.

2nd Period

(...30 March – 14 July 1919)

Order no. 3755/2 of March 1919 authorized five censors at the **Post Office** (limited to *Telegraph* and *Telephone*) and two at the **Railway Station** (*Official* + *Telegraph* and *Telephone*), implying that mail censorship was the responsibility of the *telegraph* section. Between 30 March and 13 May 1919, the office had 6-10 censors: 4-6 at the **Post Office** (exclusively for *Newspapers* and *Telegraph* and *Telephone*) and 2-4 at the **Railway Station**.

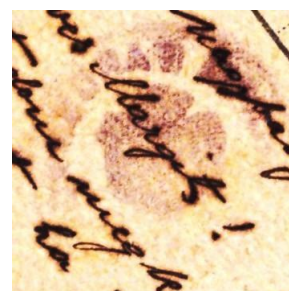
[ⓄB06/07.1](#) (CM#7.1): circular handstamp with central coat of arms and inner text: **CENSURAT OFICIUL** * **BAIA MARE**, diameter 33/31 mm. Manufactured in three copies by the Simon Sole workshop in Cluj, delivered on **5 April 1919**. Seen applied in black and violet ink between **April and 6 June 1919**, but became illegible over time. Ideal impression reproduced from archives by Mr. Călin Marinescu. Reported by Ladislau Szegedi in 1997 [[ⓄB06.18B](#)] and Francisc Király in 2004 [[ⓄB06.25](#)].



[/07.1](#): From archives



April 1919



10 May 1919

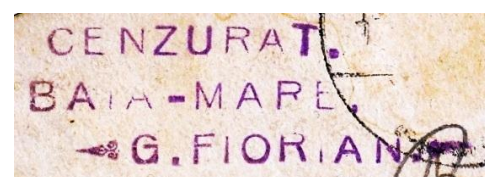
3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 7 August 1920)

By *Order no. 6622*, the office continued operating after **15 July 1919**, with five censors at the **Railway Station** (*Official* + *Telegraph* and *Telephone*, the *telegraph* section being responsible for *local terminal* censorship of mail sent from Baia Mare). From 11 August 1919, it was subordinated to the 16th Infantry Division. It maintained five censors as of 7 September 1919, and four censors as of 1 July 1920.

[ⓄB06/07.2](#): linear handstamp with text: **CENSURAT Baia Mare**, dimensions 63 x 3 mm, applied in violet ink on **15 February 1920**. Reported only by Király Francisc in 2004 [[ⓄB06.25](#), *pag. 16, Fig. 3*]; not seen by the author, without illustration.

[ⓄB06/07.3](#) (CM#7.2): three-lines handstamp, with the text: **CENZURAT. / BAIA – MARE. / → G. FIORIAN. ←**, dimensions 44 x 14 mm, applied in violet ink between **2 March – 16 June 1920**. First reported by Dan Traian Demeter in 1998 [[ⓄB06.21](#)], then Király Francisc in 2004 [[ⓄB06.25](#)].



[/07.3](#): 16 June 1920

¹⁰⁵ *Românul* (Arad) no. 48 from 11 January 1919.

⊙B06/07.4: linear handstamp with two subtypes:

- ❖ .../07.4A: rectangular frame with inner text: "CENSURAT BAIA - MARE", dimensions ca. 63 x 9 mm (text only 51 x 5 mm), applied in black ink between 8 – 30 May 1920. First reported by Francisc Király in 2007 [*B06.27*].
- ❖ .../07.4B: likely the same, but without the frame; reduced to linear text CENSURAT BAIA - MARE, dimensions ca. 52 x 5 mm, applied in black ink on 7 August 1920 — probably just before the office was dissolved. Not reported before.



/07.4A: May 1920



/07.4B: 7 August 1920

B06/08. – BĂLĂUȘERI / Balavásár (Târnava Mică county, present-day Mureș county)

1st Period

(...17 March 1919...)

No censorship office was noted here on 21 January 1919. It was later established by a military subunit in the city, subordinated on 17 March 1919 to the 1st Rifle Division. It functioned as a *local* censorship post for terminal correspondence from the surrounding area.

2nd Period

(...23 March – 1 May 1919...)

Order no. 3755/2 provided for five censors at the **Post Office** (primarily for *Telegraph* and *Telephone*, but also with competence for mail censorship). Between 23 March and 1 May 1919, only two censors remained. The office is not mentioned in *Order no. 6622* and was likely abolished before **14 July 1919**. Subsequent local correspondence was censored by the Dicio-Sân-Martin office.

B06/09. – BECLEAN / Bethlen (Solnoc-Dăbâca county, present-day Bistrița-Năsăud county)

1st Period

(...17 March 1919...)

As of 21 January 1919, no censorship office was mentioned here. It was later established by a military subunit in the city, subordinated on 17 March 1919 to the **7th Infantry Division**, functioning as a *local* censorship post for terminal correspondence dispatched from the area.

2nd Period

(...1 April – 14 July 1919)

The office was maintained under *Order no. 3755/2* after 15 July 1919, which regulated five censors at the **Post Office** (only for *Telegraph* and *Telephone*) and two at the **Railway Station** (*Official* + *Telegraph* and *Telephone*). These assignments were confirmed to be in place between 16 April – 1 May 1919. According to the regulations, the telegraph section was also authorised to handle mail censorship when needed.

3rd Period (Railway Station)

(15 July – August 1919...)

Order no. 6622, effective from 15 July 1919, assigned five censors at the **Railway Station** (*Official* + *Telegraph* and *Telephone*). This staff complement was still in place in August 1919. However, some private mail from Beclean was censored by the Dej county office rather than the local telegraph section, as permitted by regulations.

BÉKÉSCSABA – see #B09/02 (Békés county / ZCD, present-day in Hungary)

B06/10. – BERVENI / Börvely
(Satu Mare county, then and now)

4th Period (War Zone)
(January – February 1921)

Established as a *border censorship post*, following the Minister of Communications' Order no. 11295 of 26 November 1920 and Order no. 7479 of **3 January 1921**. It was abolished around **15 February 1921**, with its dissolution confirmed by C.T.V. Order no. 8321 of 22 February 1921. This office had a very short period of activity and is unlikely to have left any known censorship markings.

B06/11. – BISTRIȚA / Besztercze
(Bistrița-Năsăud county, then and now)

On **2 December 1918**, an assault battalion commanded by Major Dumitru Coroama of the 15th *Piatra Neamț* Infantry Regiment (7th Infantry Division) arrived in the city. According to other sources, the occupation occurred on 6 December by a unit of 500 Romanian soldiers.

Early presence of Romanian units in town:

- ❖ The 10th Company of III/27th Infantry Battalion (7th Infantry Division), as of 14/27 February 1919.

1st Period
(... January 1919...)

As of 21 January 1919, no censorship office was officially mentioned here. However, censored items from a short earlier period are known. Personalized handstamps were in use from the beginning:

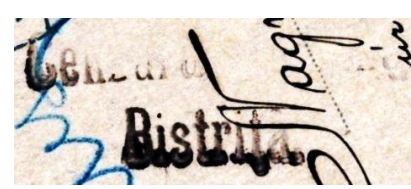
[©B06/11.1](#) (TT95#5.2, CM#11.1): two lines handstamp with the text: **Cenzura Română / Bistrița.**, dimensions 38 x 15 mm, applied in blue-purple ink between **7 – 30 January 1919**. Reused during the 2nd Period in a heavily worn state, practically illegible, and applied in black ink



/11.1: 7 January 1919



18 January 1919

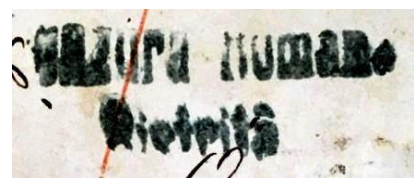


30 January 1919

2nd Period
(... 15 March – 14 July 1919)

It was (re)-established by a military subunit in the city, subordinated as of 17 March 1919 to the 1st Rifle Division, functioning as a *local* terminal censorship office. Order no. 3355/2 of **March 1919** provided for 9 censors at the **Post Office** (primarily for *Telegraph & Telephone*, but authorized for mail censorship if needed). Between 16 April – 1 May, there were 7 censors in place (one for *Newspapers*; the others for *Telegraph, Telephone*, and mail if needed).

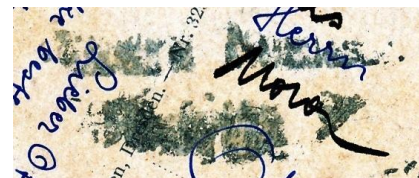
[©B06/11.1*](#): the January handstamp was reused provisionally, possibly for no more than two months, beginning in March. By then, the stamp was significantly degraded, practically illegible; applied in black ink between **15 March – 14 May 1919**.



/11.1*: 15 March 1919



21 April 1919



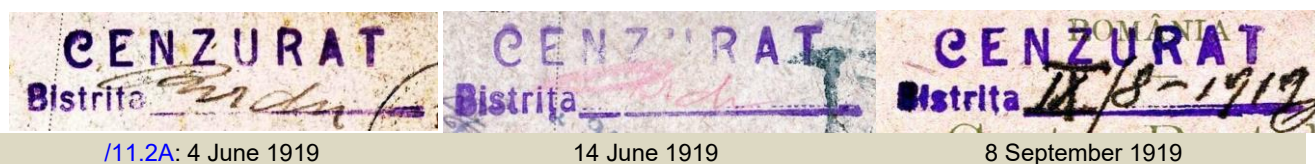
14 May 1919



Fig. B06.14.
Double Romanian
censorship.

Postcard written in Romanian on **20 April 1919**, cancelled **BESZTERCZE** the following day. Censored in the local office with a badly deteriorated [B06/11.1B](#) handstamp (along with with censor name *Bogdan*), and re-censored on 25 April in transit by the **Dej** office using a clear [B02.02/1](#) handstamp (with likely signature *Nagy*). Addressed to **Ilva Mare**, **Bistrița-Năsăud county** (collection [Mark Lendon](#)).

[B06/11.2](#) (TT95#5.3, CM#11.2): two-lines handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT / Bistrița**, dimensions 50 x 11 mm, applied in black-violet and violet ink between: **28 May – 20 December 1919**, overlapping with the **3rd Period**.



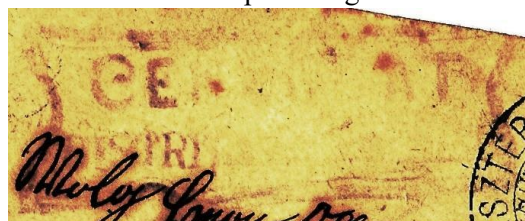
3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

Order no. 6622 extended mail censorship after 15 July 1919, with 8 censors at the **Post Office** (from a total of 18) and 4 at the **Railway Station**. In August 1919, there were 21 censors (7 for *Correspondence*, 2 for *Newspapers*, 7 at the **Railway Station**). By 1 July 1920, only 12 remained. The office was disbanded by August 1920.

[B06/11.3](#) (TT95#5.1, CM#11.3, 11.4): two line rectangular framed handstamp reading: **CENZURAT / BISTRITA**, with several subtypes:

- ❖ [11.3A](#): dimensions ca. 53 x 19 mm, applied in violet ink between: **31 August – 15 September 1919**.
- ❖ [11.3B](#): dimensions 71 x 24 mm, applied in blue-violet ink between: **13 November 1919 – 26 March 1920**. A variant of 75 x 23 mm (likely due to wear or subtype [3C](#)) was noted in January 1920.



[11.3A](#): 15 September 1919



[11.3B](#): 17 December 1919



7 March 1920



24 March 1919

The poor-quality handstamp deteriorated quickly — one sample was reportedly wired for reinforcement as early as December 1919. By February–March 1920, it had become nearly indecipherable.



Fig. B06.15.

Registered stationery postcard uprated with two "Cluj" overprints, postmarked BESZTERCZE on 31 December 1919, censored in January using B06/11.3B. Addressed to Ibaşfalău (today Dumbrăveni) (collection Mark London).

B06/11.4: two-line rectangular-framed handstamp with the text reading: CENZURAT / Bistrița..., dimensions 39 x 18 mm, and applied in blue-violet ink between ...15 – 27 June 1920.



/11.4: before 15 June 1920



18 June 1920



27 June 1920

B06/11.2*: due to the deterioration of the previous types, this stamp (B06/11.2) was reused as a temporary solution. Though already worn in November 1919, it was pressed back into service and applied in violet ink between 19 March – 28 July 1920. By the end of this period, it had become practically illegible.



/11.2*: 12 May 1920



28 July 1920

B06/11.5 (CM#11.5): double-circle handstamp with the text: ROMÂNIA * POSTUL DE CENSURĂ BISTRITA, dimensions 36/23 mm, applied in purple ink between 21 – 24 May 1920. Likely used by the office chief, primarily on official documents and occasionally on mail.



/11.5: ?



21 May 1920



24 May 1920

Known censor names, based on signatures: *Bogdan, Braican?, Hochendar?, Jung?, Mora, Nelu?, Pop, Surdu?*.

B06/12. – BLAJ / Balazsfalva
(Alba-Inferioară county, present-day Alba county)

On Sunday, **15 December 1918**, at 16.00, troops from the 1st Rifle Regiment (led by Lt. Col. Măicănescu) entered the railway station, followed at 20:00 by another train carrying 260 soldiers from the 5th Rifle Regiment (both units part of the 1st Rifle Division). The next day, they disembarked and entered the city. The soldiers from the 5th Regiment departed for their new garrison in Alba Iulia after four days. As of 14/27 February 1919, only the cavalry squadron of the 1st Rifle Division remained stationed here.

Excerpt from the newspaper *Unirea*, no. 169 of 13 August 1919, featuring ordinance C.T.T. no. 6622, designating **Blaj** as the **county** censorship office for all correspondence and printed matter from Alba-Inferioară County

1st Period

(... 21 January – 17 March 1919...)

The censorship service is documented as early as January 1919. Between 21 January and 17 March 1919, a censorship post under the authority of the 1st Rifle Division. It may have used one of that division's censorship stamps, though only manuscript notations have been encountered so far. In January, four censors were stationed at the **Post Office**.

ⓐB06/12.M: handwritten notation in blue pencil reading *Cenz* (from *Cenzurat*), found on **10 February 1919** on a piece of correspondence sent from Blaj to Bethlenszentmiklós (today Sânmiclăuș, Alba county). See the vignette.

de cenzură din Blaj, deoarece fără aprobarea biroului de cenzură în sensul dispozițiilor, nimic nu se poate da publicității. Contravenienții vor fi amen-dați.

În orașele unde nu este birou de cenzură, cenzurarea produc-țiunilor teatrale, filmele cine-matografice, cuvântările publice le va cenzura Comandamentul militar din localitate.

3. Orice corespondență se înaintează oficiilor postale în plic *deschis* și nu poate trece sub nici un *pretext* peste 2 (două) pagini a hârtiei de co-respondență comună.

4. Nimănui nu-i este permis să poarte la sine, ori se ducă dintr'un loc în altul scrisori ne-cenzurate. Asupra cărora se vor afla astfel de corespondențe vor fi închise și amendați.

Dacă însă corespondența este foarte urgentă și e neapărat de lipsă să se încredințeze curie-rilor, pentru curierii militari rămân și pe mai departe în vi-goare ordonanțele de până acum, pentru curierii civili sunt absolut indispensabile: un bilet de identitate vidimat de auto-ritățile militare și un ordin deschis, din care se evidențiază cine-i curierul, cine-l trimite și se fel de corespondență poartă.

Blaj, la 11 August 1919.

Șeful postului de cenzură din Blaj
Augustin Caliani.



2nd Period

(... 1 April – 14 July 1919)

According to *Order no. 3755/2*, the majority of censors were assigned to the **Post Office** (29 for *correspondence*), with only 2 stationed at the **Railway Station** (for *Official + Telegraph and Telephone*). On 16 April, the office had 38 employees (including 28 for mail censorship, 1 for Newspapers, and 1 at the Railway Station). By 1 May, the staff numbered 37 (31 for correspondence, 6 at the Railway Station). During this period, the office also censored *external correspondence* from Hungary (see below)

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

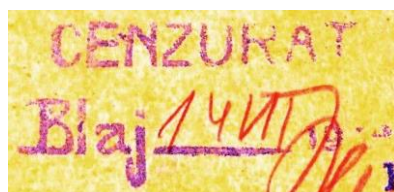
As of **27 July 1919**, Blaj functioned as the main **county censorship office**, replacing Aiud (see the newspaper excerpt above). On 28 August 1919, the office had 28 employees (12 for mail censorship at the **Post Office**, 2 for Newspapers, and 5 at the Railway Station). The office was lead by Augustin Caliani, with newspapers censorship carried out by Augustin Popa. By 14 July 1920, only 12 censors remained. These

figures confirm that the small town of Blaj was one of the largest Romanian censorship centers in Transylvania. The office was disbanded by August 1920.

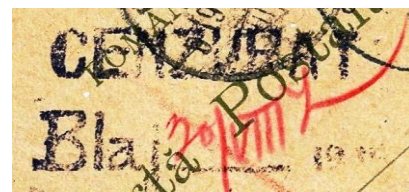
OB06/12.1 (TT95#1.1, CM#12.2): two-line handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT / Blaj..... 1919**, dimensions 45 x 20 mm, applied in purple and black ink between **24 April 1919 - 28 January 1920**. Multiple versions of this type exist, with variations in lettering (visible to the naked eye), used concurrently. Sub-classification is challenging; see reproductions below for more details. A similar handstamp measuring 44 x 22 mm, but lacking the year "1919", is known from May 1919 — possibly the result of a faulty impression ? (see CM#12.1). By the end of its usage, the stamp had become worn and barely legible.



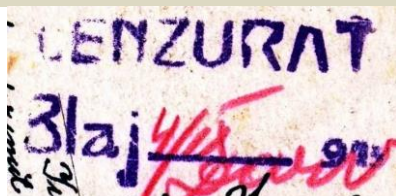
/12.1: 14 June 1919



14 July 1919



30 August 1919



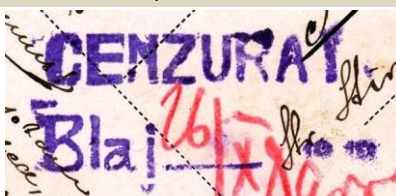
4 September 1919



26 September 1919



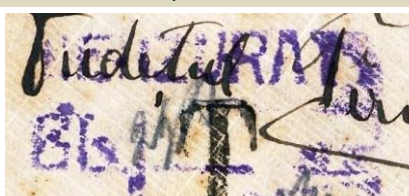
10 September 1919



26 October 1919



31.?.1919



24 January 1920

OB06/12.2: two-lines handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT / BLAJ 19**, dimensions ca. 57 x 17 mm, applied in black ink between **28 August – 4 October 1919**. Rarely seen.



/12.2: 4 September 1919

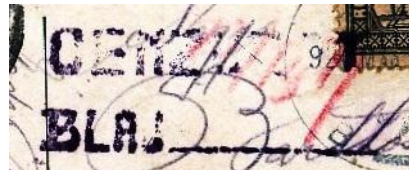


4 October 1919

OB06/12.3 (TT95#6.2, CM#12.4): two-lines handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT / BLAJ.....**, dimensions 45 x 16-17 mm, applied in violet and black ink, between **14 March – 24 July 1920**. Several variations in letter forms can be observed, characteristic of different handstamp samples.



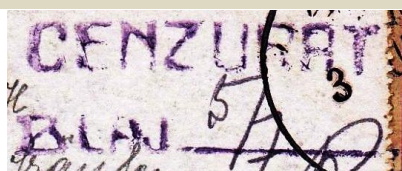
/12.3: 15 March 1920



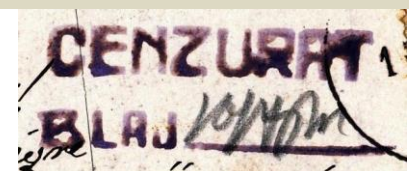
21 March 1920



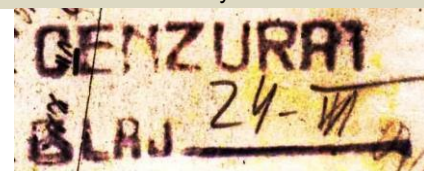
25 May 1920



5 July 1920



16 July 1920



24 July 1920

ⓄB06/12.4 (CM#12.3): On official documents, a double oval administrative handstamp was seen in July 1919, with the text **Postul de cenzură * Blaj ***, and the year **1919** in the center. Dimensions 50 x 30 mm. However, there are no indications that it also served to attest censorship.

Blaj as External Mail Censorship Office

(5 May – 14 July 1919)

The vast majority of the correspondences censored in Blaj were *sent* from places within Alba-Inferioară County or *arrived* there (a rarer situation, applicable mostly to items not censored at origin such as many that came from the Romanian Old Kingdom). Very rarely, one can find correspondence censored in Blaj that has no connection to Alba-Inferioară County. In the absence of official documents, we can only assume that the Blaj office was tasked with censoring external correspondence arriving from beyond the demarcation line — i.e. **from Hungary**. One known source mentions that "in a first stage in 1919, the external correspondence was centralized and censored at Blaj before being directed to the destination localities", covering the period March to 14 July 1919¹⁰⁶. However, the more accurate period for foreign censorship in Blaj should be around **5 May – 14 July 1919**, coinciding with the resumption of postal service between Hungary and Romania. Only the *handwritten date* from the Blaj censoring postmarks should be considered, not the much earlier expedition postmarks from Hungary. Here are the examples known so far:



Fig. B06.16.
External censorship in Blaj.

Postcard written in German and cancelled BUDAPEST on **5 February 1919**, addressed to **Arad**. It was retained as postal relations with Hungary were suspended and resumed only after the Romanian occupation reached the Tisza river (1 May 1919). It was then forwarded to **Blaj** (mandatory transit for Hungary mail), where it was censored with **ⓄB06/12.1** (probably on 31 May 1919) and returned 250 km¹⁰⁷ to its destination in Arad (Postage Due markings)!

- Postcard sent from Szentes (Hungary, 17 februarie 1919) to Bistrița (Bistrița-Năsăud county), retained until Romanian forces reached the Tisza, then censored in **Blaj** on **8 May 1919**; see *Fig. B06.17*.
- Postcard sent from an unidentified location in Hungary (17 January 1919) to Turda (Turda-Arieș county), retained until the frontlines reached the Tisza river, then censored in **Blaj** on **21 May 1919**;
- Postcard sent from Budapest to Arad on 5 February 1919, retained and later censored in **Blaj** on **31 (May?) 1919**; see *Fig. B06.16*.
- Postcard sent from Makó (occupied Hungary, 6 June 1919) to Orșova (in Banat, on the Danube!), with rare triple censorship: French censorship in **Arad** (with **ⓄB15/01.1**), Romanian censorship in **Blaj** (**ⓄB06/12.1**, **16 June 1919**), then returned and re-censored by Romanians via Ilia in **Lugoș** with **ⓄB06/50.2** on its way to the final destination [*ⓄB06.20*, pag. 33]¹⁰⁸.
- Official cover sent from **Hódmezővásárhely** (occupied Hungary) to **Keckemet** (still under Hungarian control, not occupied until late July 1919). Likely first censored in **Oradea** (as was usual for mail from occupied Csongrad county), where it was treated as foreign mail (like being mailed from Romania to Hungary) and rerouted 250 kilometers southeast to **Blaj** for censorship (**16 June 1919**). As postal service with Hungary was again suspended, the cover was returned to the sender, arriving back in Hódmezővásárhely on 24 June 1919; see *Fig. B06.18*, a unique circulation!
- Postcard sent from Sibiu (20 June 1919, Sibiu county) to Hódmezővásárhely (occupied Hungary), censored in **Blaj** on **25 June 1919** (*ex-collection Mark Lendon*).
- Printed matter sent from DICSŐSZENTMÁRTON on 27 January 1919 to Hódmezővásárhely, retained until occupation forces reached the Tisza, then censored in **Blaj** on **14 July 1919**, but only arrived in HÓDMEZŐVÁSÁRHELY in September 1919 (following a second suspension of mail service).

¹⁰⁶ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, 2004, pag. 204.

¹⁰⁷ The direct distance from Budapest to Arad is of ca. 280 km, the censorship in Blaj added 500 km to this route!

¹⁰⁸ The direct distance Makó – Orșova on railways is of ca. 300 km, the censorship in Blaj added more than 600 km to this route !



Fig. B06.17. Compulsory external censorship in Blaj.

Postcard written in Hungarian and cancelled SZENTES on **17 February 1919**, addressed to **Beszterce**. It was retained until postal relations with Hungary resumed after the occupation of the territory up to the Tisza river. Then it was forwarded to **Blaj** (compulsory transit point for mail to/from Hungary), where it was censored with [B06/12.1](#) in **8 May 1919**, and then returned 220 km northwards to its destination in Bistrita! (collection [Mark Lendon](#)).

Fig. B06.18. Official envelope mailed from Hódmezővásárhely Police (occupied Hungary), postmark illegible.

Probably first censored in **Oradea** with [B06/12.1](#) (censor office for the occupied counties up to the Tisza). Then, as the addressee the Police of **Kecskemét** — was in free Hungary, the mail was treated as external and sent for censorship to Blaj, on **16 June 1919** ([B06/12.1](#)). It was returned, as postal service with Hungary was disrupted. Arrival postmark **HÓDMEZŐVÁSÁRHELY** dated 24 June 1919 (on the backside).

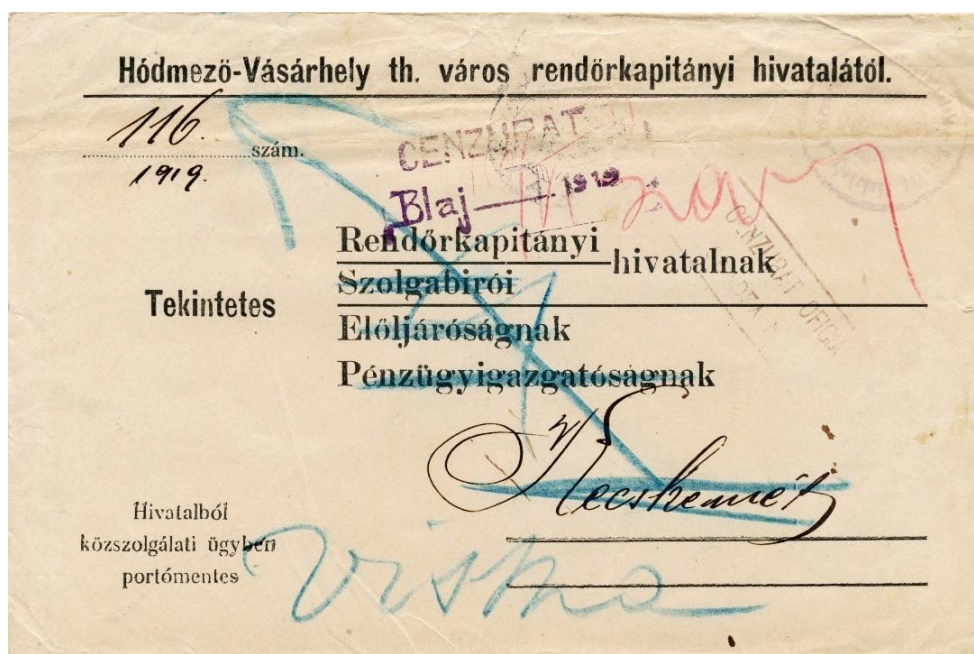


Fig. B06.19. Occasional external censorship in Blaj.

Postcard written in German in Wilhelmsburg on **29 September 1919**, addressed to **Braşov**. Censored in **Bucharest** (the compulsory transit for foreign mail) with [B04/01.6**](#), then diverted and re-censored in **Blaj** on 18 October 1919 (reason unknown) with [B06/12.1](#) and finally returned 200 km southeast to its destination in **Braşov**!¹⁰⁹ (collection [Mark Lendon](#)).

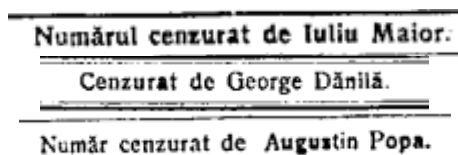


¹⁰⁹ The direct distance Bucureşti – Braşov is only of ca. 180 km, the censorship in Blaj added 400 km to this route!

A late, exceptional case — outside the usual regulations — is shown in *Fig. B06.19*, during a time when all foreign mail was censored in Bucharest.



Augustin Popa was the censor at the Blaj office, also responsible for *self-censorship* at the local newspaper "Unirea" (excerpt from issue no. 169, dated 13 August 1919),



The censors responsible for *self-censorship* at the local newspaper "Unirea Poporului".

B06/13. – BRAD / Brad (Hunedoara county, then and now)

The city was occupied by Romanian troops on **24 December 1918**. Early presence of Romanian units in the town:

- The 7th Company and a machine gun platoon of the 3rd Rifle Division (2nd Rifle Division), on 27 February 1919.

1st Period (... 17 March 1919...)

A censorship office was established by the military subunit stationed in the town and placed under the authority of 2nd Rifle Division as of 17 March 1919.

2nd Period (... 8 April – 14 July 1919)

Order no. 3755/2 authorized five censors at the **Post Office** (limited to *Telegraph* and *Telephone* operations, although they were permitted to censor mail if necessary). These censors were active on-site between 8 – 16 April 1919. The office is no longer mentioned in *Order no. 6622*, indicating it had a very limited period of activity.

B06/14. – BRAȘOV / Brassó (Brașov county, then and now)

The city was occupied on **7 December 1918** by the 6th Rifle Regiment of the 1st Rifle Division (accompanied by two companies from the 5th Rifle Regiment, under the command of Col. Dobre and Mr. Lungu)¹¹⁰. Early presence of Romanian units in the town:

- The command of the 2nd Rifle Brigade, as well as the command of the 6th Rifle Regiment with its First Battalion (all from the 1st Rifle Division), from around 14/27? February 1919.

1st Period (...31 December – 31 March 1919)

On 10 December 1918, the local authorities ordered that *all local newspapers must present daily the first proof of each edition to the press section of the headquarters* (Brașov Detachment) for review¹¹¹. *To control the post office, telegraph and telephone services*, the Commander of the Brașov Detachment — acting in agreement with the Romanian National Council, appointed six Romanian officers on 11 December 1918¹¹².

On 27 December 1918, local newspapers published Ordinance no. 2 of *Bârsei Land Command*, which confirmed the existence of press censorship: "No printing press is allowed to publish any manifesto, brochure, etc., until the manuscript has been verified by the censorship service attached to the Brașov Place

¹¹⁰ For reports on the entry of troops into the city, see *Gazeta Poporului* (Sibiu) no. 51 from 22 December 1918.

¹¹¹ *Glasul Ardealului* (Brașov) no. 27 from 30/13 December 1918, pag. 3.

¹¹² *Glasul Ardealului* (Brașov) no. 26 from 29/12 December 1918, pag. 2.

Command¹¹³. The Censorship office was organized under the command of the **1st Rifle Division**, with three censors operating in January 1919.

OB06/14.1 (TT95#7.7, CM#14.1): the first handstamp, of military origin (*Free Forwarding*), with a double-line text: **LIBERA EXPEDIERE / BRAȘOV**; dimensions 55 x 10 mm; applied in black ink between **31 December 1918 – 9 January 1919**.



OB06/14.2 (TT95#7.3, CM#14.3): the second type had the text **BIROUL CENZUREI / ■ ■ ■ BRAȘOV ■ ■ ■**, with similar appearance and style as the previous, size 53 x 10 mm, applied in purple ink between 11 January – 8 February 1919. It was occasionally reused afterward (i.e.: 2 March 1919, ca. 3 April 1919, 16 May 1919, 5, 13, 29 June 1919, 14, 15, 23 ... 31 July 1919, 6, 12 August 1919, 23 and 29 September 1919, 7 November 1919, 18 March 1920, 17 May 1920, etc.). This may have been the handstamp of the head of the censorship office, used primarily for administrative documents but occasionally on correspondence. General period of use **11 January 1919 – ... 17 May 1920**.



OB06/14.3: the third type was a military handstamp of the 1st Rifle Division, labeled number #3, dimensions 49 x 26 mm, with the text **Divizia I. Vânători / CENSURAT. / No. 3**. Applied in violet ink between **12 February – 31 March 1919**; see also **#A80.19.1 (Volume A/2)** and an example in Fig. B06.20.

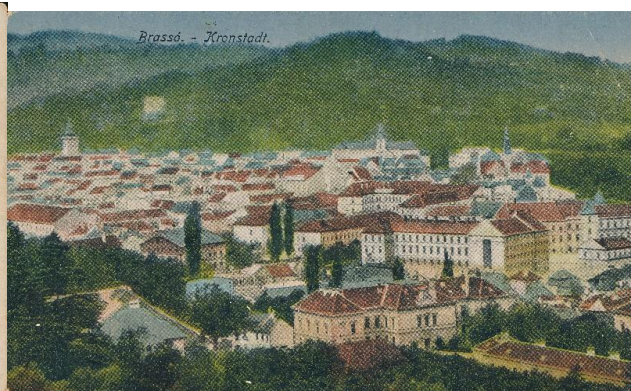


Fig. B06.20: civilian mail censored in Brașov by the local unit of 1st Rifle Division.

Hungarian illustrated postcard (*general view of Brașov*), sent from Brașov to Zeiden / Codlea. Postmarked BRASSÓ on 13 February 1919 and censored in Brașov with **OB06/14.3**.

2nd Period

(1 April – 14 July 1919)

Order no. 3755/2 authorized 33 censors in total, including 11 at the **Post Office** (for correspondence) and 4 at the **Railway Station**. On 1 May 1919, the active staff included 29 personnel: 2 for *Newspapers*, 11 at the **Post Office**, and 4 at the **Railway Station** (for *Official mail + Telegraph and Telephone*).

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

Order no. 6622 reduced the number of censors to 25 censors, including: 10 at the **Post Office** (correspondence) and 4 at the **Railway Station** (*Official mail + Telegraph and Telephone*). In August 1919,

¹¹³ *Glasul Ardealului* (Brașov) no. 38 from 14/27 December 1918.

all 25 were active (2 for the *Newspapers*, 10 for *correspondence*, and 4 at the *Railway Station*). By 14 July 1920¹¹⁴, only 18 censors remained. The office was disbanded by August 1920.

ⓄB06/14.4 (TT95#7.1, 7.6, CM#14.2): after the regiment left the city, new local handstamps were manufactured with the name of the locality, the first. The most common type bore: **BRĂȘOV / CENZURAT /1919 / Semn.**; dimensions 41 x 22 mm; applied in purple or black ink between **19 April 1919 – 23 July 1920** (of which with a single compact presence until 19 August 1919, and later used alternately with other types).



/14.4:



19 April 1919



1 September 1919



8 November 1919



30 January 1920



2 April 1920

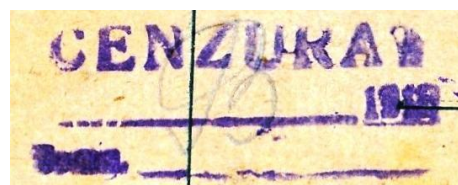
- ❖ **.../14.4A** (TT95#7.4): there may be a variant of this type (see Fig. B06.21) with only the first two lines visible (**BRĂȘOV / CENZURAT**); dimensions 37 x 12-13 mm, applied in violet ink between **11 – 23 April 1919**; first reported by Mircea Braga in 1991 [B06.5].



Fig. B06.21
Double Romanian
censorship.

Postcard mailed from BUCUREȘTI on 23 April 1919, censored with a negative handstamp **ⓄB04/01.11**, re-censored at destination in Brașov with the rare variant **ⓄB06/14.4A** — the only known illustrated example. (collection Mark Lendon).

- ❖ **.../14.4B**: a misprinted or variant three-line handstamp lacking the city name (text only **CENZURAT / 1919 / Semn....**), applied in violet ink on 6 November 1919.



.../14.4B: 6 November 1919

¹¹⁴ In May 1920 the head of censorship was Dr. N. Stinghe.

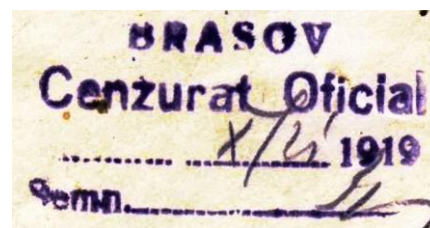
ⓄB06/14.5 (TT95#7.5, CM#14.5): four-lines handstamp with the text: **BRAȘOV / Cenzurat Oficial / 1919 / Semn.**; dimensions 42 x 21 mm; applied in violet ink. Main usage: 5 June – 5 September 1919. Occasional reuse on 21 October, 5 & 28 December 1919, 8 July 1920, etc. A general period of use is, then, between **5 June 1919 – 10 July 1920**.



/14.5: 29 August 1919



26 August 1919



21 October 1919

ⓄB06/14.6 (TT95 #7.2, CM #14.4): four-lines handstamp with the text: **BRAȘOV / CENZURAT / Semn. / Data1919**, with the first line in serif, and the second in sans-serif; dimensions 41 x 22 mm, applied in red and violet ink, with two variants known:

- ❖ **.../14.6A**: as already described, used between **30 August – 24 September 1919**;



/14.6A: 30 August 1919

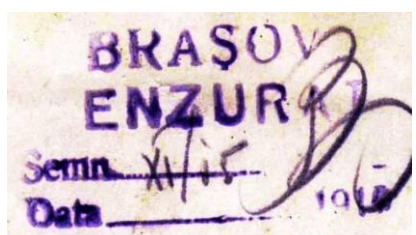


17 September 1919



24 September 1919

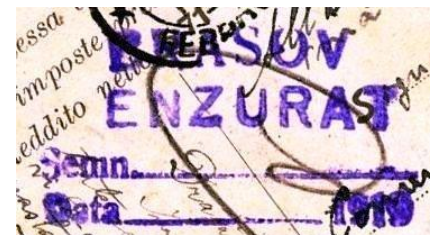
- ❖ **.../14.6B**: an error handstamp missing the initial C of CENZURAT (thus reading **ENZURAT**). Used between **16 October 1919 – 4 July 1920**, with concentrated use until 6 December 1919, with subsequent use in parallel and later used alternately with other types.



/14.6B: 15 November 1919



6 December 1919



Ca. 1 June 1920

Newspapers censorship in Brașov

According to *Order no. 3755/2*, two censors were specifically assigned to newspapers. *Order No. 6622* increased this to three. The head of the newspaper censorship was Mr. Babă, while station censors included Ogneanovici and Ciclován — accused by the socialist press of selling 220 kg socialist newspapers as waste paper to a Brașov company. In June 1920, press censorship was detached from the military censorship post office and transferred under the authority of the Prefecture¹¹⁵. The new head of censorship was N. Baboie.

Reminder of the references codes:

- ❖ **TT85#**: *Teleguț-Thielk catalogue*, 2nd edition of 1995.
- ❖ **CM#**: *Călin Marinescu's book* of 2004.

¹¹⁵ *Gazeta Transilvaniei* (Brașov) no. 131 from 27 June 1920.

B06/15. – BUZIAȘ-BĂI / BuziasFÜRDŐ
(Timiș-Torontal county, present-day Timiș county)

3rd Period

(1 November 1919 – 8 June 1920)

The censorship office was established on **1 November 1919**, according to the *republished Order no. 6622*, for **local** censorship (correspondence arriving in or departing from Buziaș). There were three censors between 10 January – 14 February 1920, and two as of 24 April 1920 (the head of the office was Luchici Alexandru, assisted by one person).

©B06/15.1 (TT95#8.1, CM#1.1): circular handstamp with the inner text **Cenzura Română * Buziaș-Băi** around a central ornament. Diameter 32/30 mm, and applied in violet ink between **14 November 1919 – 15 June 1920**. Towards the end of its usage, the outer frame appears as a single line; the second is faint or not visible at all.



Fig. B06.22: Unique double Romanian censorship on a cover circulated only 40 kilometers!

Mourning envelope franked with 6x5 Fillér (= 15 bani), cancelled GAVOSDIA on 12 November 1919 (Hungarian postmark still in use), Romanian censorship applied in transit at Lugoj (with the rare type **©B06/50.4**) and re-censored on arrival at Buziaș-Băi with **©B06/15.1**. BUZIASFÜRDŐ postmark dated 14 November 1919. (Distance between Găvojdia and Buziaș Băi: only 40 kilometers.)

B06/16. – CARANSEBES / Karánsebes
(Caraș-Severin county, then and now)

3rd Period

(1 November 1919 – 31 May 1920...)

The censorship office was established after 1 November 1919, in accordance with *republished Order no. 6622*. As of 1 April 1920, it had three censors at the **Railway Station**.

B06/17. – CAREII MARI / Nagykároly
(Satu Mare county, then and now)

The city was occupied by Romanian forces on **20 April 1919**.

2nd Period

(...May – 14 July 1919)

The censorship office was established by special order (*Order no. 3755/2* was issued before the city's occupation), with five censors assigned to the **Post Office**, at least between 1 June – 4 July (three of them for correspondence).

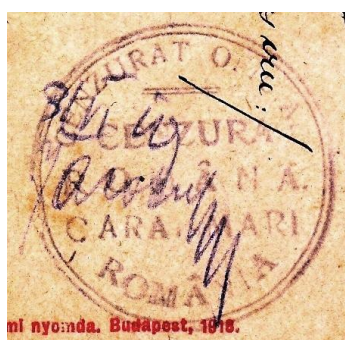
3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

Order no. 6622 of 15 July 1919 authorized five censors assigned to the **Railway Station** (*Official + Telegraph and Telephone*), operational from 7 September. From **1 June 1920**, the office began operating in all sections, including *press and correspondence*. As of 1 July 1920, there were 24 censors: five for *correspondence* (**Post Office**), one for *Newspapers* (head of office), and seven at the **Railway Station** (*Official + Telegraph and Telephone*).

©B06/17.1 (TT95#10.4, 10.3, CM#15.1, 15.2): circular handstamp with inner text: **CENZURAT OFICIAL * ROMÂNIA / CENZURA / ROMÂNĂ / CARAI-MARI**, used around **3 June 1919**. At least two variants are known:

- ❖ **.../17.1A**: good quality print, double circular frame, diameter 34/32 mm; applied in violet and black ink between **3 – 20 June 1919**.
- ❖ **.../17.1B**: crude design, missing outer frame, barely legible; diameter of ca. 35-36 mm, applied in black and violet ink between **21 – 26 July 1919 – February 1920**. Reported by Kiraly Francisc in 1993 [*B06.9, pag. 8*].



/17.1A:



20 June 1919



/17.1B: 25 July 1919

©B06/17.2 (TT95#10.5, CM#15.3): circular handstamp with the text reading: **CENZURA * CAREII-MARI / ROMÂNĂ**; diameter 35-36 mm; applied in black ink between *July 1919 – 25 May 1920*.

©B06/17.3 (TT95#10.2, CM#15.4): linear handstamp with the text reading: **CENSURAT CAREII**; dimensions ca. 66 x 6 mm; applied in black ink on **2 November 1919**.



/17.2: Reconstruction Thielk



25 May 1920



4th Period (War Zone)
(September 1920 – April 1921)

Border censorship office in the military zone, with 18 censors as of 24 September 1920, all apparently at the **Post Office** (including 5 for *Correspondence*, 2 for *Newspapers*). By 1 April 1921, only 10 censors remained. On 3 January 1921, the office was reassigned from the 1st Cavalry to the 17th Infantry Division. Most censored mail was terminal (sent from or arriving in Carei); transit censorship was rare as postal transportation was possible only by railway; see an example in *Fig. B06.24*.



Fig. 06.23
A rarer postal route: from Transylvania to Bukovina in 1919

Postcard written in German, postmarked NAGYKÁROLY on 25 July 1919, addressed to Bukovina. Censored in Carei with [B06/17.1B](#); arrival MIHOWA am SERETH on 8 August 1919 (collection [Mark Lendon](#)).



Fig. 06.24
Rare example of Carei transit censorship (mail in the War Zone)

Postcard written in Hungarian, postmarked CLUJ on 8 February 1921, addressed to [Simleul Silvaniei](#) (Sălaj county). Postal route passed through Oradea and Săcuieni (both in the War Zone), then diverted and censored in Carei with [B06/17.5A](#), before reaching its destination.

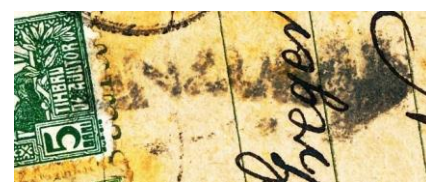
[B06/17.4](#) (CM#15.5): bi-linear handstamp with the text **CENZURAT / CAREII MARI**; dimensions ca. 43-44 x 13 mm; applied in black ink between **19 October – 2 December 1920**. Poorly struck and almost illegible toward the end of the period. First reported by the present author in 1997 [[B06.16A](#)].



[/17.4](#): 21 October 1920



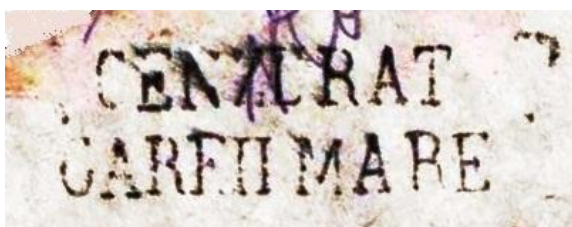
Ca. 1 November 1920



2 December 1920

[B06/17.5](#) (TT95#10.1, CM#15.6): rectangular handstamp with bi-linear text reading: **CENZURAT / CAREII MARE**; dimensions ca. 45-47 x 15-17 mm (only the text); applied in black or violet ink between **15 January - 20 May 1921**. Outer frame visibility varies depending on the quality of the imprint. Three variants can be described:

- ❖ [.../17.5Aa](#): normal text **CAREII**, with the letter T in **CENZURAT** is above the R in **MARE**, though misaligned.



/17.5Aa: 15 January 1921



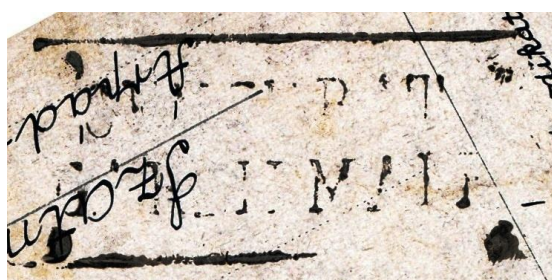
23 March 1921

❖ **.../17.5Ab:** normal text CAREII, with the letter T in CENZURAT approximately above the space AR in MARE.

❖ **.../17.5B:** a misprinted GAREII, as the first letter C appears as a G. Visible fastening nails and stamp edges on later imprints. The verticals of the letters T in CENZURAT, and R in MARE are aligned perfectly. Very poor imprint.



/17.5Ab: 4 February 1921



/17.5B: 15 January 1921



27 January 1921

Carei as External Mail Censorship Office

(1 June 1920 – May 1921)

From **1 June 1920**, external mail was no longer censored in Cluj, but instead in **Sighet, Careii Mari, Oradea Mare, Satu Mare, and Timișoara** — offices also handling censorship during the state of siege.

Most external mail censored here was *terminal* (sent from or to Carei or Satu-Mare county). Transit censorship of unrelated mail was rare. Here are the known cases:

- Registered postcard from Temesvár (Banat), 22 September 1920, to Prague, Czechoslovakia, censored in **Carei** and Uzhhorod (Hungarian *Ungvár*).
- Registered cover from Szödémeter (Sălaj county), 9 November 1920, to New York, censored in **Carei**.
- Postcard from Tășnad (Sălaj county), 11 April 1921, to Sydney, Australia, censored in **Carei**.

B06/18. – CĂRPINIȘ / Gyertyamos

(Timiș-Torontal county, present-day Timiș county)

3rd Period

(1 November 1919 – 20 September 1920)

The censorship office was established after **1 November 1919**, according to *republished Order no. 6622*. On 1 July 1920, it had five censors. Re-established (?) on 1 September 1920, it was shortly afterward disbanded on **20 September 1920**, following the delimitation of the war zone in Banat (up to 30 km from the border). During September 1920, its task was to censor Hungarian mail and all foreign newspapers, but no examples are known so far.

B06/19. – CEHU SILVANIEI / Szilágycseh
(Sălaj county, then and now)

1st Period

(... 17 – 24 March 1919...)

The censorship office was set up by the military unit in the city, with two censors, on 24 March 1919. It was subordinated to the 7th Infantry Division as of 17 March 1919.

2nd Period

(5 April – 14 July 1919)

Order no. 3755/2 appointed five censors at the **Post Office**, all for *Telegraph* (with the right to censor correspondence if necessary) and *Telephone*. In practice, there were four censors on duty as of 16 April 1919. The office does not appear in *Order no. 6622*.

⊙B06/19.1 (CM#16.1): circular handstamp with a central coat of arms and the text: **CENSURAT OFICIUL * CEHUL-SILVANIEI**, diameter 34/32 mm. Manufactured in two copies by the Simon Sole workshop in Cluj and delivered to the office on 5 April 1919. Applied in violet ink on administrative documents (between April 1919 – May 1920), and occasionally on correspondences (**14 July 1919**).



/19.1: From archives



Ca. 14 July 1919

3rd Period

(1920)

It seems that the office was re-established in 1920 by special order.

B06/20. – CLUJ / Kolozsvár
(Cluj county, then and now)

The city was occupied on **24 December 1918** by troops of the 7th Infantry Division (16th Dorobanți Regiment "*Fălticeni*", commanded by Gen. Neculcea). Early presence of Romanian units in the town:

- Various units from the **6th Infantry Division**: Division Command, 11th Infantry Brigade Command, 24th Infantry Regiment (Battalions I, II and III), Artillery Command with 9/11 Artillery Battery, 6th Pioneer Battalion, TFF Station No. 9, divisional ambulance, and II/12th Infantry Battalion, all present as of 14/27? February 1919.

Cluj 20 Decembrie. — ● telegramă a guvernului unguresc dela Budapesta vestește următoarele:
Colonelul francez Vyx a făcut cunoscut Clujului ocuparea sa prin trupele române, fapt pe care guvernul ungar a fost nevoit să-l ia la cunoștință. Îndeamnă deci statul național din Cluj, ca să nu facă nici o împotrivire cu arma. Intrarea trupelor românești în Cluj nu va urma decât numai în zilele viitoare.

1st Period

(...31 December – 21 March 1919...)

The censorship office was established by the military unit in the city, subordinated on 17 March 1919 to the 6th Infantry Division. According to Călin Marinescu, by the end of January 1919, the office had two sections: one at the Cluj **Post office**, and another in the waiting room at Cluj **Railway Station** (for *telegraph and telephone* + *Official*).

⊙B06/20.1 (TT95#12.1, CM#18.1): bi-linear handstamp with the text **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ / CLUJ**; dimensions 59 x 11 mm; applied in red or (rarely) violet ink between **30 December 1918 – 21 March 1919**. Two variants exist, depending on the presence of a dot after "CLUJ":

- ❖ **.../20.1a**: with dot – used between 31 December 1918 – 21 March 1919;
- ❖ **.../20.1b**: without dot – used between 31 January – 3 March 1919.



2nd Period
(...5 April – 14 July 1919)

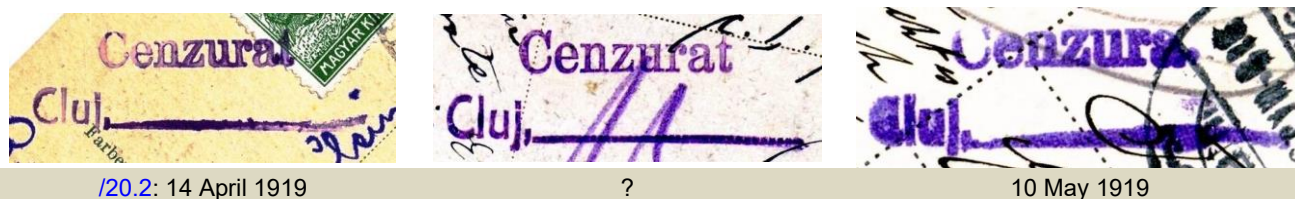
The censorship office was staffed, according to *Order no. 3755/2*, with 45 censors — 16 for *Correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station** (*Official + Telegraph and Telephone*). There were 41-42 censors on duty in April 1919: 11 were for *Correspondence*, 6 for *Newspapers*, and 4 in the Railway station. The area of competence was established as follows¹¹⁶:

- *All official and private correspondence addressed to Romania, Bessarabia, Bukovina, and occupied Transylvania, delivered via the (railway)lines: Cluj – Ciucea – Oradea; Cluj – Apahida – Cucerdea – Teiuș (exclusive); Chiriș – Turda – Abrud; Cucerdea – Ludaș (exclusive); Apahida – Răscruți (inclusive);*
- *All correspondence coming from unoccupied territory (i.e. Hungary) through Oradea.*

3rd Period
(15 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

Order no. 6622 provided a staff of 43 censors, of whom 20 were assigned to *Correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 5 at the **Railway Station**. On 22 July 1919, 53 censors were on duty (18 for *Correspondence*, 7 for *Newspapers*, and 4 at the Railway Station). Beginning in January 1920, the office censored only correspondence related to the 6th Army Corps.

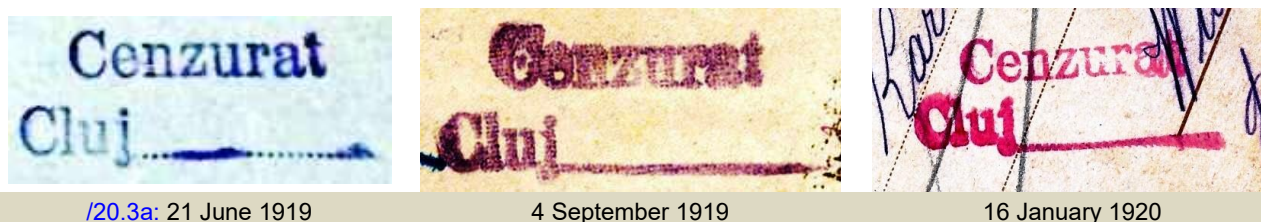
⊙B06/20.2 (TT95#12.12): bi-linear handstamp with the text **Cenzurat / Cluj**; dimensions 41 x 11 mm; applied in violet ink between **5 April – 11 May 1919**. The two rows use different letter styles (serif above, sans-serif below).



⊙B06/20.3 (TT95#12.3, CM#18.3): bi-linear handstamp with the text **Cenzurat / Cluj**; dimensions 33-35 x 12-13 mm; applied in violet or red ink between 21 June – 25 October 1919. These handstamps were later reused occasionally, in parallel with type **B06/20.7** (i.e., 16 January 1920, 1 – 14 April 1920), so the overall usage period is considered to be **21 June 1919 – 14 April 1920**.

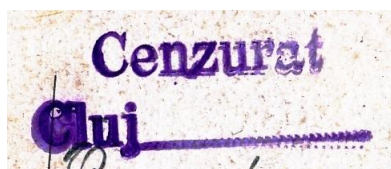
The two rows use the same letter style (serif). At least two variants are known:

- ❖ **.../20.3a**: the letter "j" in *Cluj* is located under the letter "e" in *Cenzurat*;

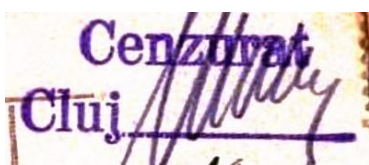


- ❖ **.../20.3b**: the letter "j" in *Cluj* is located under the group "Ce" in *Cenzurat* (the word *Cenzurat* alone measures 24-25 x 5 mm).

¹¹⁶ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală*..., 2004, pag. 131.



/20.3b: 21 June 1919

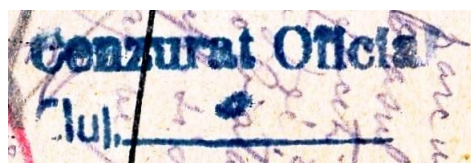


27 June 1919

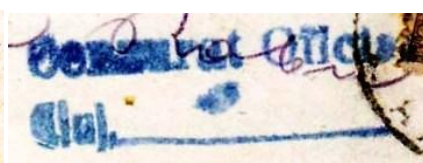


14 April 1920

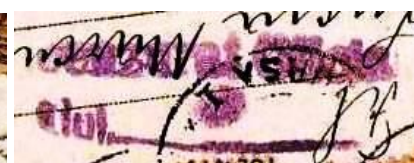
©B06/20.4 (TT95#12.2, CM#18.5): bi-linear handstamp with the text **Cenzurat Oficial / Cluj**; dimensions 43 x 12 mm; applied in violet, blue or black ink. Period of use: **20 October 1919 – 10 January 1920**. The two rows use different letter styles (serif above, sans-serif below). The stamp became defomed towards the end of its use.



/20.4: 29 October 1919

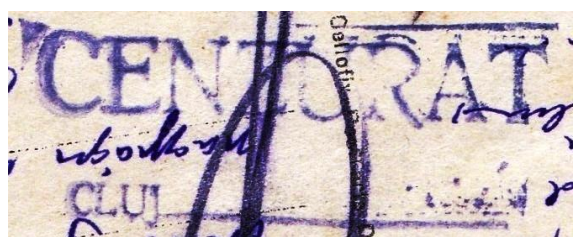


Ca. 30 October 1919



1 January 1920

©B06/20.5 (TT95#12.11, CM#18.7): bi-linear handstamp with the text **CENZURAT / CLUIJ**; dimensions 52 x 18 mm; applied in black or violet ink between: **8 November – 23 December 1919**. At least two specimens were manufactured, one of which produced faulty impressions; see below.



/20.5a: 8 November 1919 – normal, good handstamp



16 December 1919 – normal handstamp, little worn out



3 December 1919 – normal, good handstamp



/20.5b: 3 December 1919 – faulty



20 December 1919 – illisible handstamp

©B06/20.6 (TT95#12.10, CM#18.6): bi-linear handstamp with the text **Cenzurat Oficial / CLUIJ**; probable dimensions 50 x 16 mm; applied in black ink between **5 December 1919 and January 1920**.



ⓄB06/20.7 (TT95#12.4, CM#18.4): bi-linear handstamp with the text **Cenzurat / Cluj**; similar to type **B06/20.3** but larger: 37-38 x 15 mm (*Cenzurat* alone measures 27 x 6 mm). Applied in purple or red ink between **15 January – 7 April 1920**. The two rows use the same letter style (serif). Two main variants:

- ❖ **.../20.7a**: the letter "j" in *Cluj* is located under the letter "e" in *Cenzurat*; dimensions of *Cenzurat* alone: 27 x 6 mm.



/20.7a: ?

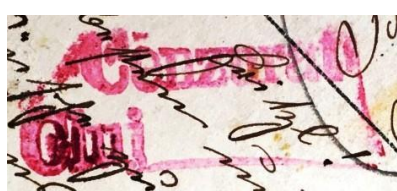


12 February 1920?

- ❖ **.../20.7b**: the letter "j" in *Cluj* is located under the group "Ce" in *Cenzurat*; dimensions of *Cenzurat* alone: 29-30 x 6 mm.



/20.7b: 24 February 1920



22.2 ?

3 March 1920



29 February 1920



1 March 1920



3 March 1920

ⓄB06/20.8 (TT95#12.5, 12.6, CM#18.8): double circle stamp with the text **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ * CLUJ**, and inside: **Sect. II. / number** (seen so far: 1, 2, 7, 11, 12). Dimensions: 30/18 mm (up to 35 mm in cases of deformations due to wear). Applied in purple or black ink between **26 April – 6 July 1920**. *Section II* probably refers to the mail censorship section at the Post Office.



/20.8(1): 14 June 1920



.8(2): 18 May 1920



.8(2): deformed



.8(7): 11 May 1920



.8(11): April – May 1920



.8(12): ? April 1920

(1)	.8	14 June – 10 July 1920
(2)	.8	18 May – 15 June 1920
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)	.8	11 – 20 May 1920
(8)		

(9)		6 July 1920?
(10)		
(11)	.8	16 May – 13 June 1920
(12)	.8	April – 13 June 1920
(13)	.9	1 May 1920
(14)	.9	26 April 1920
(15)	.9	25 April 1920
(16)	.9	

ⓄB06/20.9 (TT95#12.8, 12.9, CM#18.9): double-circle handstamp, with the text **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ * CLUJ**, and inside **S. II / number** (so far, numbers 13, 14, 15 and 16 have been recorded, likely corresponding to the 16 censors initially employed in the *Correspondence* section). Dimensions 30/18 mm. Applied in purple ink between **24 April – 1 May 1920**.



/20.9(13): 1 May 1920



.9(14): 26 April 1920



.9(15): 25 April 1920

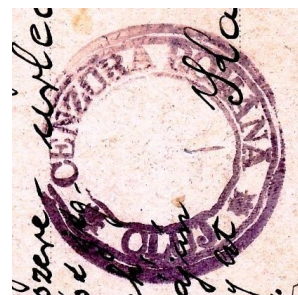


.9(16): 26 April 1920

ⓄB06/20.10 (CM#18.11): double-circle stamp bearing the text **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ * CLUJ**, apparently derived from a previous type (probably S.II/14), with the interior removed — only a trace of the horizontal indent remains. Dimensions 30-27 x 22,5mm?. Applied in purple ink between **10 – 22 May 1920**. It was likely reassigned to a new censor who replaced the former holder (possibly no. 14?).



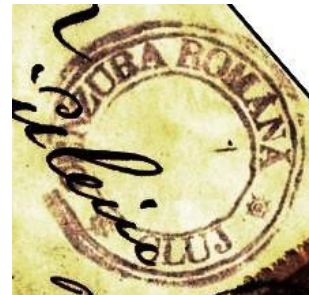
/20.10: 10 May 1920



12 May 1920



14 May 1920



22 May? 1920

ⓄB06/20.11 (CM#18.12): double circle handstamp with the inner text **POSTUL DE CENZURĂ * CLUJ** around the coat of arms. Applied in red ink on official mail around **17 March 1920**. This handstamp most likely belonged to the head of the censorship office. It was used primarily between March 1919 and June 1920 for administrative documents and official correspondence, and only rarely for censorship of personal mail; see an example in Fig. B06.25.



Fig. B06.25.
Registered cover sent by the
head of censorship in Cluj

A stamped envelope with
provisional registration label of
Cluj, sent on 17 March 1920 by
the *Head of Cluj Censorship*,
who also noted on the reverse:

Censored! and signed it.

Addressed to *Simeon
Mehedinti, professor at the
University of Bucharest.*

Postmarked KOLOZSVÁR and
sealed on the back with five
red-ink impressions of the
administrative handstamp

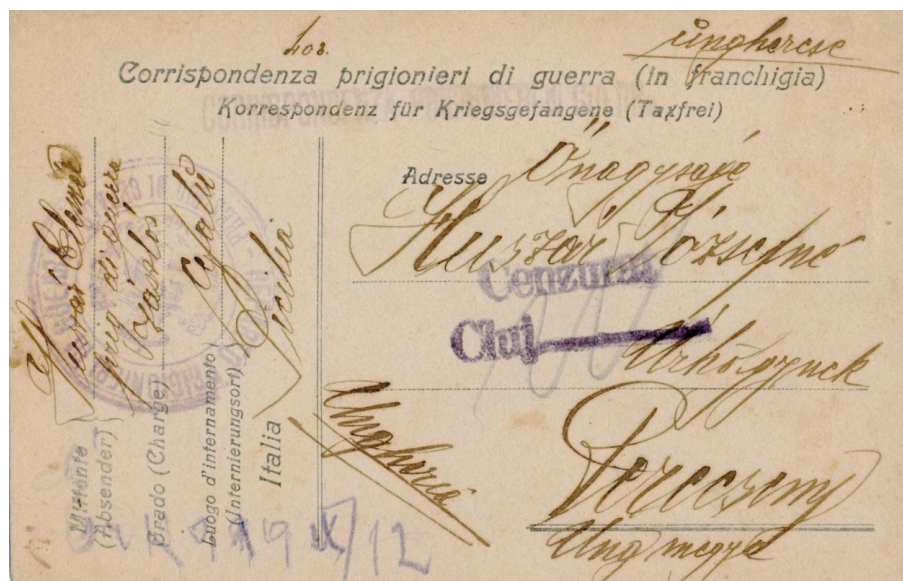
©B06/20.11. Arrival postmark
BUCHAREST, 20 March 1920
(source: *Museum of Romanian
Records*).



Cluj as an External Mail Censorship Office

(15 July 1919 – 31 May 1920)

Cluj was one of the most important centers for external mail censorship due to its geographical position. The city lay on the only railway line connecting northern and central Transylvania with Oradea and Hungary (the other main axis being along the Mureș Valley through Arad towards Szeged). Initially, the office only censored outgoing *terminal* international mail. On **15 July 1919**, it took over the foreign censorship role from Blaj and retained it until **31 May 1920**, when it was transferred to several centers: Sighet, Oradea Mare, Careii Mari, Satu Mare, and Timișoara¹¹⁷. As elsewhere, most of the censored external correspondence was *terminal* (sent from or arriving in Cluj or Cluj County). Censorship of *transit* mail from other regions was rarer (see below). Some items were re-censored in Cluj after initial censorship in Bucharest (see Fig. B06.27). This double censorship appears to have occurred between **6 April – 14 May 1920**. (Note: on 5 August 1920, censorship in Old Romania was officially suspended.)



**Fig. B06.26. A postcard from
Italy to the new
Czechoslovakia, censored in
Cluj**

Italian POW postcard written
by a Hungarian prisoner in
Cefalu Camp, 3 April 1919,
addressed to his family in
Perecsenyi, Ung county (then
under Czechoslovak
occupation). The postal route
from Italy via Serbia to a
northern Allied army passed
through Transylvania, and the
postcard was censored in Cluj
(in August or September 1919)
with ©B06/20.5, before
reaching its destination.

- POW postcard sent from Cefalu (Italy), 3 april 1919, to Perecseny (Ung county, today Перечин Ukraine), arrived on 12 September 1919, censored in transit in **Cluj**; see Fig. B06.26
- Registered cover from Aiud to Wien, Austria, censored in **Cluj** (5 October 1919) and Slovakia.
- Postcard from Wien (13 December 1919) to Sibiu, censored in **Cluj**.
- Postcard from České Budějovice (Czechoslovakia), 9 February 1920, to Buzău (Romania), censored in **Cluj**;

¹¹⁷ However, a postcard sent from Cluj on 6 June 1920 and addressed to Egypt, was still censored in Cluj. Probably terminal outgoing mail continued to be censored here.

- Postcard from New York, 24 March 1920, to Lugoj (Banat), censored in transit in Bucharest and **Cluj**;
- Cover from Erfurt, 24 April 1920, to Braşov, censored in Bucharest and **Cluj**; see Fig. B06.27.
- Two postcards from Heidelberg, 4 May 1920 and 15 May 1920, to Sibiu, censored in Bucharest and **Cluj**;
- Registered cover from the USA to Oradea, censored in **Cluj** (exact dates unknown).

Fig. B06.27. International mail, double censored in Romania (Bucharest + Cluj)

Cover postmarked ERFURT on 24 April 1920, addressed to Braşov. First censored in **Bucharest** (at the main office for foreign censorship) with numeral handstamp **OB04/01.10** (123 is the censor's matriculation number), then re-censored in **Cluj**, the Transylvanian main office for foreign mail, with handstamp **OB06/20.10**. Arrival postmark BRASSÓ on 14 May 1920, but dispatched to the addressee only on 20 May (on reverse).



B06/21. – COPŞA MICĂ / Kiskapus
(Târnava Mare county, present-day Sibiu county)

2nd Period

(...1 May – 15 July 1919)

The censorship office was established by *Order no. 3755/2* with 4 censors assigned to the **Railway Station** (*telegraph and telephone office*). These censors were effectively present between 1 May – 15 July 1919.

3rd Period

(15 July – 21 October 1919 ...)

The office was maintained under *Order no. 6622*, with 5 censors assigned to the **Railway Station** (*telegraph and telephone office*). However, as of 21 October 1919, only 3 were effectively present. The Telegraph censor was authorized to examine correspondence if necessary.

OB06/21.1 (CM#19.1): four-line standard handstamp bearing the text: **Copsa Mica / CENZURAT / 1919 / Semn....**; dimensions 40 x 22 mm; applied in violet, likely in *September 1919*. Not seen by the author.

B06/22. – CRISTURUL SECUIESC / Székelykeresztúr
(Odorhei county, present-day Harghita county)

3rd Period

(... February 1920 ...)

The office was not mentioned in *Orders no. 3755/2* or *no. 6622*, so it was likely established later through a special order.

OB06/22.1 (CM#21.1): primitive handstamp with the text **CRISTUR / CEHSURAT**; dimensions 45 x 18 mm; applied in black ink on **26 February 1920**, on a postcard from Mărtiniş to Bontida. First reported by the present author in 1997 [*B06.16A*].



B06/23. – CSIKSEREDA / Csik Szereda
(Ciuc county, present-day Miercurea Ciuc, Harghita county)

The city was occupied on **23 November 1918** by the vanguard of the 1st Rifle Division (initially the 1st Rifle Regiment was stationed in the city). Early Romanian military presence in the city:

- ❖ Command of the 4 Rifle Regiment (1st Rifle Division) and I/4 Infantry Battalion were present from 23 December 1918 to 27 February 1919, later replaced around 1 March 1919 by the 9th Roșiori Regiment.

1st Period

(...January – 13 March 1919 ...)

The office was quickly organized by the 4th Rifle Regiment (1st Rifle Division), already functioning in January 1919 with only two employees.

[ⓄB06/23.1](#): the first type is the military handstamp of the 1st Rifle Division, numbered 4, with the text: **Divizia I Vânători / CENSURAT / No. 4**, dimensions 50 x 28; applied in black ink on **13 March 1919**. See also [#A80.19.1 \(Volume A/2\)](#).



2nd Period

(...16 April...)

Order no. 3755/2 of March 1919 assigned six censors to the **Post Office**, responsible for *Newspapers* and *Telephone Telegrams*. On 16 April, there were effectively four censors: two for *Newspapers* and two for *telegraph and telephone*. No censorship markings are known from this period, although *Telegraph* censors were authorized to examine correspondence if needed.

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

Order no. 6622 re-establishes the *correspondence* section as of 15 July 1919, assigning a total of 22 censors: 8 for *correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station**. In August 1919, only 6 censors were effectively present (3 for *correspondence*). Since 1 June 1920, the office operated with all sections active, except *press* censorship. It remained operational until the end of internal censorship in July 1920.

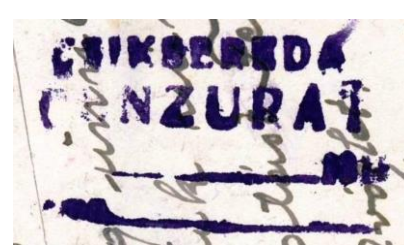
[ⓄB06/23.2](#) (*TT95#21.1, CM#46.1*): a standardised four-line handstamp bearing the text: **CSIKSEREDA / CENZURAT / 1919 / Semn.....**; dimensions 38 x 20 mm; applied in violet or black ink between **19 September 1919 – 8 July 1920**.



[/23.2](#): 3 October 1919



20 October 1919



24 December 1919

B06/24. – CUCERDEA / Székelykocsárd
(Turda-Arieș county, present-day Lunca Mureșului, Alba county)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- ❖ The 9th company of the III/12th Infantry Battalion (6th Infantry Division), awaiting the field bakery (being transported from Cluj), was present on 14/27? February 1919.

1st Period

(...17 March 1919 ...)

The censorship office was established by the military unit stationed in the town (subordinated to the 1st Rifle Division as of 17 March 1919), with a mail censorship section!

2nd Period

(16 April – 14 July 1919)

The censorship post was maintained under *Order nr. 3755/2* with four censors at the **Railway Station** (for official mail, telegraph, and telephone), operating at least between 16 April – 1 May 1919.

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – ...1920)

The censorship office was maintained under *Order no. 6622* with five censors assigned to the **Railway Station** (official mail, telegraph, and telephone), effectively functioning as of 25 September 1919.

B06/25. – CURTICI / Kürtös

(Arad county, then and now)

3rd Period

(13 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

The office is not mentioned in *Order no. 6622*. It was likely established sometime before 13 July 1920 by relocating the censorship office from Vatra Aradului (Lökösháza) to the Curtici **Railway Station**. The office was probably disbanded before **1 August 1920**. However, some sources claim that handstamp /25.1 was first used in August 1920.

4th Period (War Zone)

(1 September 1920 – 16 April 1921...)

The office was reestablished on **1 September 1920** by *Order No. 4891 of the C.T.V.* On 24 October 1920, it had seven employees: two at the **Post Office** for *Correspondence* and three at the **Railway Station** for official mail, telegraph, and telephone. By 1 April 1921, only two censors remained (it is unclear whether they were stationed at the Post Office or the Railway Station).

B06/25.M: manuscript censorship marking written in chemical pencil: *Cenz*, accompanied by the date and censor's signature. Seen on **14 February 1921**; see Fig. B06.28.



Fig. B06.28.
Late border censoring in the War Zone

Hungarian overprinted stationery postcard, written in Hungarian on 11 February 1921, postmarked KÜRTÖS on 14 February 1921 and hand-censored the same day with the marking *Cenz 14/II* plus signature (**B06/24.M**). Addressed to Modos (at that moment in Romania, today Jaša Tomić in Serbia).

B06/25.1 (TT95#13.1, CM#23.1): rectangular handstamp with bi-linear inner text: *Postul de cenzură / Curtici.....*; dimensions 59 x 20 mm; applied in black-violet ink at least between **2 March – 16 April 1921**; see Fig. B06.29.

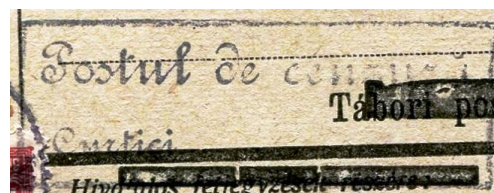


Fig. B06.29.

Overprinted Cluj stationery, uprated to 190 Bani, postmarked MACSA * ARAD VM on 16 April 1921. Censored in Curtici using [B06/25.1](#) handstamp. Addressed to Warsaw, Poland (source: Museum of Romanian Records, Bucharest).



B06/26. – DEJ / Des

(Solnoc-Dobâca county, present-day Cluj county)

Romanian troops entered the city on Saturday, 21 December 1918 (or possibly Monday, 23 December, when they were welcomed by Dr. Teodor Mihali). "On the evening of 4 (17) January, the 7th Division arrived in Dej under the command of General Neculcea. A festive reception could not be organized due to the lack of timely phone communication regarding their arrival. On 7th January, Mr. General Neculcea paid a visit to the national council of Dej, and was received by the council with the most warm kindness. Military service in the city is carried out by a battalion from the 15th Infantry Regiment"¹¹⁸. Early Romanian military presence in town:

- ❖ The command of the 7th Infantry Division was present on 14/27? February 1919 — the day when the 27th Infantry Regiment left the city for Bistrița.

1st Period

(...22 January 1919 ...)

The censorship office was established by the military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the 7th Infantry Division between at least 17 January – 17 March), with four censors employed as of 22 January 1919.

2nd Period

(...16 April – 14 July 1919)

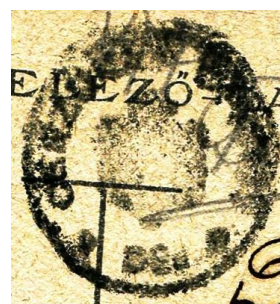
Mail censorship was maintained under *Order no. 3755/2*, which assigned 41 censors: 16 for *correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station** (*Officials, telegraph and telephone*). In practice, there were 16 censors on the ground in April: 8 for *correspondence* at the Post Office, 2 for *newspapers* and 2 for the *telegraph and telephone* at the Railway Station.



/26.1: 21 April 1919



25 April 1919



4 May 1919



5 June 1919

¹¹⁸ *Românul* (Arad) no. 48 from 29 December 1918 / 11 January 1919 and no. 18 from 5 February 1919.

ⓐB06/26.1 (TT95#14.3, CM#24.2): circular handstamp with the text **CENZURAT OFICIUL * DEJ** diameter 29/27 mm. Seen between **15 – 29 April 1919** in violet ink (see Fig. B06.14), and between **4 May – 5 June 1919** in black ink, showing progressive degradation (mild in May, complete in June). Manufactured by the Simon Sole workshop in Cluj and delivered to the office on **5 April 1919**.



From archives

ⓐB06/26.2 (CM#24.3): circular handstamp with the text "**CENZURAT OFICIAL" OFICIUL * DEJ**"; diameter 29/27 mm; not unconfirmed on correspondence — likely used as an official seal on documents.

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

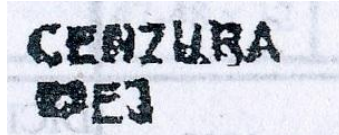
Order no. 6622 established a staff of 22 censors: 8 for *correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station** (for official mail, telegraph, and telephone). In August 1919, there were 15 censors on the ground (7 for *correspondence*), and by July 1920, only 13 remained. As of 1 June 1920, the office continued operations in all sections except press censorship.

ⓐB06/26.3 (CM#24.4): primitive bi-linear handstamp with the text **CENZURAT / DES**; dimensions 25 x 10 mm; applied in violet or black ink between **3 – 8 July 1919**, first reported by Ladislau Szegedi in 1997 [**ⓐB06.18B**]. Likely at least two different versions:

- ❖ **.../26.3A**: the first letter "C" is missing; city name appears as DES;
- ❖ **.../26.3B**: the last "T" is missing or partially printed; city name appears as DEJ (need confirmation).



/26.3A: 3 July 1919



/26.3B: 8 July 1919

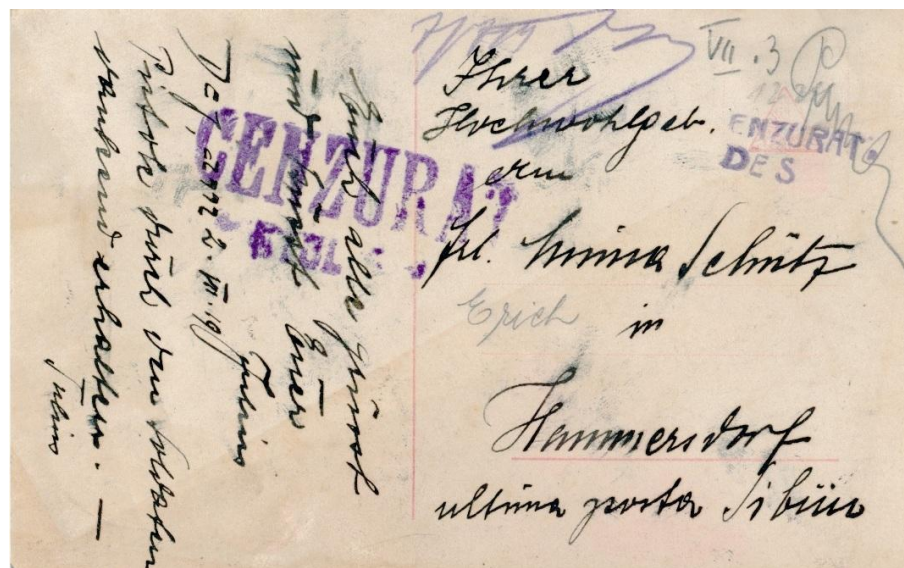
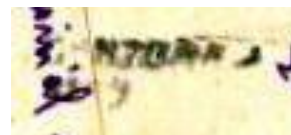


Fig. B06.30. Romanian double censorship in 1919

Artist photocard, written in German in Dej on **2 July 1919**, without sorting postmark. Censored the next day in **Dej** with **ⓐB06/26.3A**, and again upon arrival in **Sibiu** with **ⓐB06/16.5**, on 7 July 1919. Addressed to Hammersdorf / Gușterița.

ⓐB06/26.4 (TT95#14.2, CM#24.5): linear handstamp with the text **CENZURAT. OF. DEJ.**; dimensions 72 x 5 mm; applied in violet or black ink between **21 July 1919 – 8 January 1920 – March 1920**. Usually poorly printed, with partial or missing impressions.



13 August 1919

21 August 1919



Fig. B06.31. A rare transit censoring in Dej

Romanian postcard sent by a soldier from SZÁSZSEBES (Alba inferioară county) on 22 October 1919. Censored locally on 26 October, with an illegible handstamp (certainly not Blaj), then re-censored in transit in **Dej** using [B06/26.4](#). Arrival ALSOFERNEZELY (Satu Mare county) on 8 November 1919 (Mark Lendon collection).

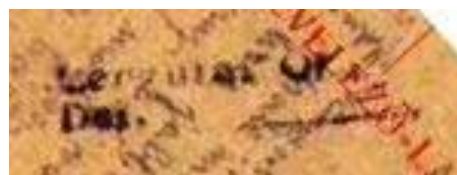
[B06/26.5](#) (CM#24.6): a doubtful handstamp first reported by István Gazda and later published by Ladislau Szegedi in 1997 [[B06.18A](#)], bearing the text "CENZURA / DÉS / ZSIBOI JÁRÁS", used in **September 1919** on a registered letter mailed from Alsószopor / Soporul de Jos to USA, re-censored in Bucharest. This is a puzzling instance of a crudely manufactured handstamp in Hungarian being used at a relatively late date, when type [/26.4](#) was already in use. Must be confirmed.

[B06/26.6](#): bi-linear handstamp with the text "Cenzurat" Of. / Dej., in two variants:

- ❖ [.../26.6A](#) (TT95#14.4, CM#24.8): floral border around the text; dimensions 64 x 28 mm; applied in black ink in **October 1919**; First reported by Király Francisc in 1993 [[B06.9](#)].
- ❖ [.../26.6B](#) (TT95#14.1, CM#24.7): bi-linear text with no frame (either worn or unprinted); dimensions 42 x 12 mm; applied in violet ink in **December 1919 – January 1920**. Catalog reproductions by T85 from Silviu Dragomir's articles contain an error— "OZ" instead of "Of."



[/26.6A](#): reproduction



[/26.6B](#): December 1919

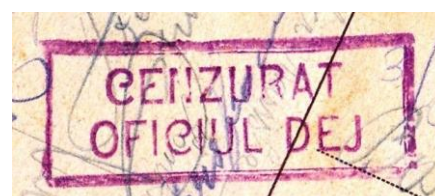
[B06/26.7](#) (CM#24.1): rectangular framed handstamp with bi-linear inner text CENZURAT / OFICIUL DEJ; dimensions 47 x 17 mm; applied in red-violet ink between **9 February – 1 July 1920**.



[/26.7](#): 20 April 1920



2 May 1920



3 May 1920

DERECSKE – see #B09/08
(Bihar county / ZCD, today in Hungary)

Please send any corrections, additions, comments to
damirro@yahoo.com

B06/27. – DEVA / Déva
(Hunedoara county, then and now)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- The 3rd Rifle Brigade and the 2nd Rifle Regiment (with the 11th Company), as well as the command of the 11th Rifle Regiment, were present on 14/27? February 1919.

1st Period

(...February – March 1919)

A censorship office was established immediately after the occupation by a military unit (subordinated to the 2nd Rifle Division), with 5-6 censors at the **Post Office** during February – March 1919.



B06/27.M: the first censorship markings were handwritten and are among the earliest known in the country, the earliest being from **23 December 1918**.

B06/27.1 (TT95#15.3, CM#25.1): primitive bi-linear handstamp with the text **Censura Romana / Déva** (with ornaments borders around the city name); dimensions 45 x 12 mm; applied in violet or black ink between **January – 4 March 1919**. The stamp was made from low-quality materials, resulting in rapid and severe wear.



/27.1: Beginning of January 1919



3 February 1919



3 March 1919

2nd Period

(...April – 14 July 1919)

According to *Order no. 3755/2*, 12+3 censors were assigned to the **Post Office** for *telegraph* (with mail censorship authority if necessary) and *telephone*. On the ground in April 1919, there were 16-23 censors, including one for *newspapers* and 15 for *postal service at the railway station*.

B06/27.2: primitive bi-linear handstamp (uncertain text): **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ / DEVA**; dimensions cca. 57 x 10 mm; applied in blue-violet ink on **28 May 1919** (on a philatelic postcard produced by Nagy Béla, so possibly backdated).



3rd Period

(14 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

Mail censorship was confirmed by *Order no. 6622*, which designated 5 censors out of a total of 19. On 30 July 1919, 19 censors were active; on 14 July 1920, there were 14.

B06/27.3 (TT95#15.2, 15.5, CM#25.3): primitive bi-linear handstamp with the text **Postul de Cenzurat / DEVA**; dimensions 53 x 14 mm; applied in violet, black or blue ink between **22 July – 7 September 1919 – December 1919**. This type combines several reproductions from the TT95 catalog: #15.2 – mistakenly recorded as "*Cenzura*" (missing final "t"), and #15.5 – incorrectly shown as "*Censurat*" (using s instead of z). On a philatelic item by the same Nagy Béla, this handstamp appears with the date 24 June 1919, but likely retrodated by the merchant.



/27.3: 2 August 1919 (CTO)



10 August 1919



[B06/27.4](#) (CM#25.4): circular handstamp with the text **POSTUL DE CENZURĂ * DEVA**, around the coat of arms; dimensions 38/22 mm, applied in black ink between **23 – 28 September 1919**. Very similar to the type used in Dej, it was first reported by Dan-Traian Demeter in 1997 [[B06.19](#)]. Likely an administrative handstamp of the post (possibly that of the head of office), occasionally used for regular mail censorship.

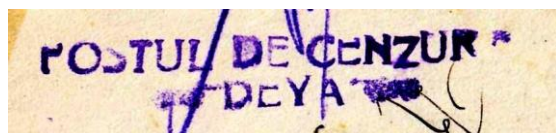


/27.4: Demeter image



September 1919

[B06/27.5](#) (TT95#15.1b, CM#25.2): primitive bi-linear handstamp, with the text **POSTUL DE CENZURA / DEYA** (flanked by side ornaments — two pointing index fingers); dimensions 62 x 10 mm; applied in violet ink between **6 October – 16 December 1919**. Note: type [#15.1](#) in the Teleguț-Thielk TT95 catalog (labeled with city name DEVA) is erroneous due to a misreading.



/27.5: November 1919



3 November 1919



3 December 1919



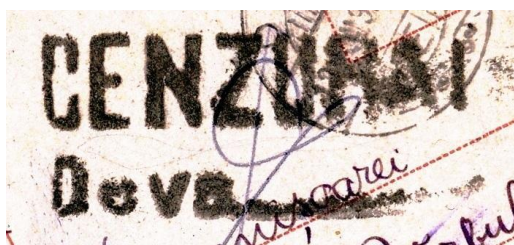
8 December 1919



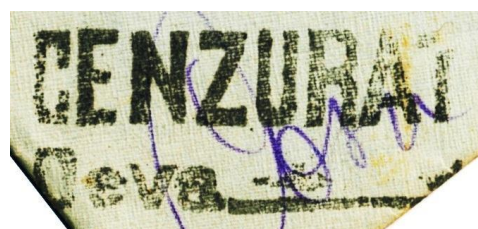
Fig. B06.32.

Registered envelope with the letterhead of the well-known lawyer and political activist Dr. Petru Groza (later prime minister of Romania's first left-wing government on 6 March 1945), franked with two overprinted "Cluj" stamps, postmarked DEVA on 9 December 1919 and censored using [B06/27.5](#). Addressed to Odorheiu Secuiesc ([Mark Lendon](#) collection).

[B06/27.6](#) (TT95#15.4, CM#25.5): bi-lingual handstamp with the text **CENZURAT / DEVA**; dimensions 55 x 22 mm; applied in violet and black ink between **12 January – 28 July 1920**, with a short reuse on **30 October 1920** (.../27.6*, 4th Period). Print quality is usually modest to poor, with variations caused by wear, pressure, or the use of multiple copies. Also used to censor telegrams; see [Fig. B06.33](#).



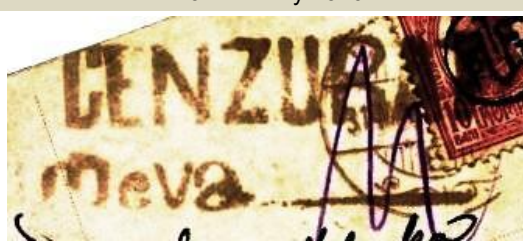
/27.6: 12 January 1920



19 February 1920



24 May 1920



31 May 1920



2 July 1920



17 March 1920

TELEGRAMĂ TĂVIRAT									
N-rul foil: Lapszám:									
N. al. Prului: Vezeték száma:									
Primita de: Felvette:		= robu geni deva							
Orasul hiva- latol	Data ho- nap an	Ora m. ora pauz	Tipul tele- gram	Expediat de Továbbított	Orasul de- stina- re	Data ho- nap an	Ora m. ora pauz	Tipul tele- gram	Observa- ții și semne- turi
Către A. N. N. N. osztály	Oficiul de prezentare felve	Nr. de înreg.	Nr. cuv.	Data	Ora	M.	Tipul tele- gram	Observa- ții și semne- turi	
zens kvar 1.-799 9 23 2/30 n									
= sambata in 27 an prinetia = romuald = "									
23/III/20									

Fig. B06.33:
Telegram censored in Deva.

Telegram received in Deva from Cluj, censored with handstamp [B06/27.6](#) on 23 March 1920. The sender is Dr. Romuald Coțoiu, a Romanian volunteer in Italy, member of the National Guards and doctor until retirement in Zam (Hunedoara county). The recipient is his future wife, Robu Geni, from Baia de Criș (source: online auction 2008, sold for 306 USD)

4th Period (State of siege) (21 – 30 October 1920...)

Following the general strike and under Order of the Minister of the Interior no. 60152 of **21 October 1920**, censorship was re-established in Hunedoara county (similarly to Lugoj, see that entry). The commission was organized by the Prefecture and reused the last available handstamp type from July 1920, applied in black ink on **30 October 1920** (see Fig. B06.34). Censorship likely ceased again by the end of November.





Fig. B06.34: Late censorship in Deva. Illustrated postcard (view from Orăștie), written in Deva on 29 October 1920, postmarked DEVA on **30 October 1920**, and censored by the short-lived Prefecture commission with the old handstamp [©B06/27.6R](#), during the *State of siege*. Addressed to Bucharest.

B06/28. – DICIOSANMARTIN / Dicsőszentmárton (Târnava Mică county, present-day Târnăveni, Mureș county)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

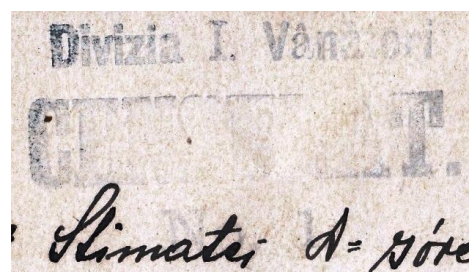
- The II/5th Rifle Battalion (*1st Rifle Division*) was present on 14/27? February 1919. In March 1919, a state of siege was declared in the city following a strike by Hungarian officials¹¹⁹.

1st Period

(...17 February – 17 March 1919...)

The censorship office was established by the military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the *1st Rifle Division* as of 17 March).

[©B06/28.1](#): one of the military handstamps of the 1st Rifle Division, with no#1 and text: **Divizia I. Vânători / CENSURAT / No. 1**; dimensions 50 x 28 mm, applied in black ink in 17 February 1919. See also [#A80.19.1 \(Volume A/2\)](#).



2nd Period

(...April – 14 July 1919)

Order no. 3755/2 authorized only 5 censors at the **Post Office** (for *telegraph and telephone*), who were indeed present on the ground between 23 March – 1 May 1919. Theoretically, the Telegraph censors were allowed to verify correspondence; however, a letter dated 8 April 1919 from the commander of the local gendarmerie company to his girlfriend confirms the absence of mail censorship in town: "All letters go from here first to the censorship in Sibiu, and from there they are sent to their destination. Honey, how unpleasant is the irregular mail — I feel it too. I am desperate. From you, I haven't received anything for ages. Sure, the curiosity of the Ladies from the censure may explain the disappearance of the more interesting letters".

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 15 July 1920)

The mail censorship section was re-established by *Order no. 6622*, which set a staff of 22 censors: 8 for *correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station**. On 28 July, there were 22 censors present (10 for mail at the Post Office, one for official correspondence at the Railway Station), and 9 censors as of 1 July 1920.

¹¹⁹ *România* (București) no. 97 from 27 March 1919.

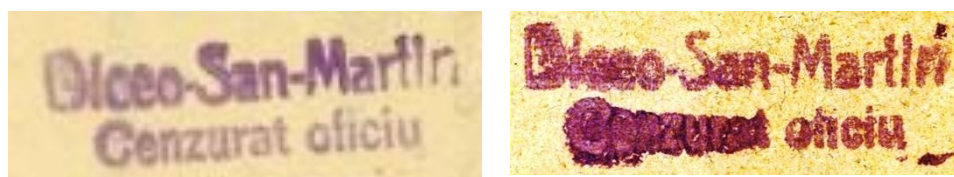
©B06/28.2 (TT95#16.2, CM#26.1): standardised four-lines handstamp bearing the text: **DICIO St. MARTIN / CENZURAT /1919 / Semn.....**; dimensions 42 x 20-21 mm; applied in violet ink between **9 August – 28 September 1919**. The date was always filled in by hand.



©B06/28.3 (TT95#16.1, 16.1b, CM#26.2, 26.3): bi-linear handstamp bearing the text: **Diceo-San-Martin / Cenzurat.....**; dimensions 46-50 x 11-13 mm; applied in violet ink between **7 October 1919 – 9 July 1920**. A similar-looking handstamp listed in the T85 catalog, larger in size (53 × 13 mm, violet ink), appears to be a misreading caused by distortion during stamping. Usually the date was filled in by hand.



©B06/28.4: bi-linear handstamp with the text: **Diceo-San-Martin / Cenzurat oficiu**; applied in violet ink between **11 January – 14 February 1920**.



©B06/28.5: linear handstamp with the text: **Biroul de cenzura Diceo-San-Martin**; dimensions 66 x 5 mm; applied in violet ink between **21 April – 19 June 1920**. This handstamp has so far been found only on external registered mail (to Vienna and Copenhagen), suggesting it was likely used by the head of the censorship office. The date and censor's signature were often filled in by hand.



B06/29. – DITRĂU / Gyergyóditró (Ciuc county, present-day Harghita country)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- The command of the II/4 Rifle Battalion (*1st Rifle Division*) was present on 14/27 February 1919.

1st Period

(...21 January 1919...)

The office was organized by the local military unit (subordinated to the 1st Rifle Division as of 21 January 1919), with 3 censors. The office no longer appears in *Order no. 3755/2*.

B06/30. – DRAGOMIREȘTI / Dragomérfalva

(Maramureș county, then & now)

2nd Period

(...April 1919)

Order no. 3755/2 appointed 5 censors at the **Post Office**: 3 for *Telegraph* (who also had the right to censor correspondence, if necessary) and 2 for *Telephone*. However, the office no longer appears in a list dated 16 April 1919?

B06/31. – EPISCOPIA BIHORULUI / Biharpüspöki

(Bihor county, then and now)

3rd Period

(...March – April 1920...)

The Office is not mentioned in *Order no. 6622*, but appears in other documents with 5 censors between 5-8 March 1920, and 2 censors on 1 April 1920. Nevertheless, bibliographic sources indicate its "establishment" only on 1 June 1920.

4th Period (War Zone)

(...March – April 1921...)

A border censorship office, with four censors recorded as of 1 March 1921. The last known mention is from 1 April 1921.

B06/32. – FĂGĂRAȘ / Fogaras

(Făgăraș county, present-day Brașov county)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- The 1/I Rifle Company (from the *1st Rifle Division*), present on 14/27? February 1919.



Fig. B06.35: Early censorship in Făgăraș. Illustrated postcard (featuring *Franz-Josef Square* in Făgăraș), written in German on 29 March 1919 and addressed to Brașov; postmarked FOGARAS on 30 March 1919 and censored locally with the rare handstamp [B06/32.1](#).

2nd Period

(...30 March – 1 May 1919...)

The office was established by *Order no. 3755/2* with 5 censors at the **Post Office** (only for *telegraph and telephone*, although the telegraph censor was also competent for postal correspondence) and 2 at the **Railway Station**. On the ground, the office had only 4 censors on 24 April 1919 and 7 on 1 May 1919.

ⓐB06/32.1: two-lines handstamp with the text **Cenzura Română / Făgăraș**; dimensions 51 x 12 mm; applied in black-violet ink on **30 March 1919**. Not yet reported.



3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 15 July 1920...)

The mail censorship section was (re)established by *Order no. 6622*, which provided for a total of 19 censors: 5 for *correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 5 at the **Railway Station**. However, the actual number on the ground was only 14 censors between 19 August 1919 – 14 July 1920. As of 1 June 1920, the office operated with all sections, but without press censorship. It was disbanded with the lifting of internal censorship.

ⓐB06/32.2 (TT95#17.1, 17.2 CM#29.1, 29.2): three-lines handstamp with the text **Făgăraș / Censurat / Data.....**; it exists in two dimensional variants:

- ❖ **.../32.2A:** size 53 x 28 mm; applied in red, violet ink between **28 July – 20 October 1919**, usually with handwritten date and censor signature.



/32.2A: 28 July 1919 / Burlea



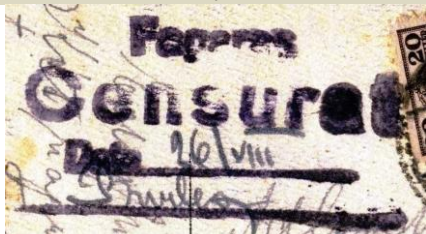
29 July 1919



11 August 1919



15 August 1919 / Burlea



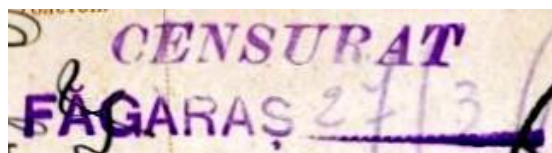
26 August 1919 / Burlea

- ❖ **.../32.2B:** size ca. 57 x 31 mm; applied in violet ink on **17 February 1920**, usually with handwritten date and censor signature. Due to its larger size, impressions are often partial and poorly legible.



ⓐB06/32.3 (CM#29.3): circular handstamp with the text **Postul de cenzură / FĂGĂRAȘ**; dimensions 28/27 mm; applied in black ink on **December 1919**. Likely used by the head of office for administrative documents; used only occasionally on correspondence (Not illustrated here).

ⓐB06/32.4 (TT95#17.3, CM#29.4): bi-linear handstamp with the text **CENSURAT / FĂGĂRAȘ.....**; dimensions 47-48 x 12 mm; applied in violet or black ink between **27 March – 9 July 1920**, usually with handwritten date and censor signature.



/31.3: 27 March 1920



9 July 1920

B06/33. – GĂTAIA / Gattalja
(Timiș-Torontal county, present-day Timiș county)

3rd Period
(...January – 24 April 1920...)

The censorship office was established after 1 November 1919, according to the *republished* Order no. 6622. The head of the station was Superceanu Dimitrie, assisted by 2 staff members (there were indeed 3 censors between 10 January and 24 April 1920).

B06/34. – GHERLA / Szamosújvár
(Solnoc-Dăbâca county, present-day Cluj county)

2nd Period
(1 April – August 1919...)

The office was established in March 1919 by Order no. 3755/2 with 5 censors for *telegraph and telephone* censorship at the **Post Office**, of whom 4 were present between 1 April and 2 June 1919. It is not listed in Order no. 6622, yet it was still operational on 8 August 1919 (with 2 unpaid censors).

[⊙B06/34.1](#) (CM#30.1): circular handstamp with the text **CENZURAT OFICIUL * GHERLA** around the coat of arms; manufactured on 17 April 1919 following the model of the **Dej** handstamp¹²⁰. Used for administrative and official documents, possibly also appearing on correspondence.

B06/35. – GHIMEȘ / Gyimesbükk
(Ciuc county, present-day Bacău county)

The town was occupied on 22 November 1918 by an infantry regiment, a cavalry squadron and a battery. Early Romanian military presence in town:

- ❖ The 5th company of II/6th Rifle Battalion arrived on 24 December 1918;
- ❖ The I/2nd Rifle Battalion arrived on 25 December;
- ❖ A platoon of the I/4th Rifle Battalion (1st Rifle Division) was stationed in Ghimeș-Palanca on 14/27 February 1919.

2nd Period
(1 April – 14 July 1919)

The office was organized in March 1919 by Order no. 3755/2 with 7 censors: 5 at the **Post Office** (only for *telegraph and telephone*) and 2 at the Railway Station. However, only 2 censors were actually present as of **1 May 1919**. The office does not appear in Order no. 6622 (15 July 1919).

B06/36. – GRĂDIȘTEA / Várhely
(Hunedoara county, then and now, today Sarmizegetusa)

As of 14/27 February 1919, no Romanian military units were stationed here.

1st Period
(...21 January – 2 February 1919...)

Censorship office organized by the local military subunit (subordinated to the *2nd Rifle Division* as of 21 January 1919), with a single censor recorded at the **Post Office** and *newspapers* on 2 February. The office was not mentioned later.

GYULA – see #B09/10
(Békés county / ZCD, today in Hungary)

¹²⁰ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, 2004, pag. 167.

B06/37. – HALMEU / Halmi
(Ex-Ugocsa, Satu Mare county, then and now)

4th Period (the War Zone)
(...August 1920 – 1 April 1921...)

The office is documented as functioning on **2 August 1920** (via transfer of the Craia office from Subcarpathian Ukraine). It was later officially re-established as of **1 September 1920** by *C.T.V. Order no. 4891* of 21 August 1920. It was again recorded as functioning under Orders dated 26 November 1920, 22 February 1921, and **1 April 1921** (when it had only two censors). On 3 January 1921, it became subordinate to the 17th Infantry Division, replacing its previous subordination to the 1st Cavalry Division.

B06/38. – HAȚEG / Hátszeg
(Hunedoara county, then and now)

As of 14/27 February 1919, no Romanian military units were stationed here.

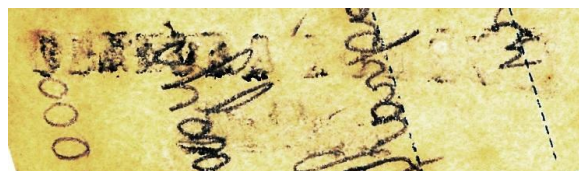
1st Period
(...21 January – 17 March 1919...)

Censorship office organized by the local military subunit (subordinated to the *2nd Rifle Division* on 21 January 1919, and to the *1st Rifle Division* as of 17 March 1919), with a single censor recorded at the **Post Office** and newspapers on 2 February.

[ⓄB06/38.1](#) (*CM#35.1*): bi-linear handstamp with the text **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ / HAȚEG**; dimensions 63 x 12 mm; applied in black ink between **14 February – 16 March 1919**¹²¹. The handstamp is generally poorly applied and often nearly illegible.



[/38.1](#): 14 February 1919



16 March 1919

2nd Period
(...April 1919...)

Order no. 3755/2 provided 5 censors at the **Post Office** (theoretically limited to *telegraph* and *telephone*). However, between 8 – 16 April 1919, 4 censors were active at the Post Office, of whom 3 handled *correspondence*! The office does not appear in *Order no. 6622*.

B06/39. – HAȘFALĂU / Hégjasfalva
(Ciuc county, now Vânători, Mureș country)

The *Order no. 3755/2* established a staff of 2 censors at the **Railway Station** (for *official mail* and *telegraph&telephone*). However, the office no longer appears in a list of 16 April 1919.

1st Period
(...2 January 1919...)

[ⓄB06/39.1](#): bi-linear handstamp with the text **Censura Romana / Hasfalau**, measuring ? x 15 mm, applied in violet ink around **2 January 1919**. Office and handstamp previously unknown!



¹²¹ Initially reported by Dan-Traian Demeter in *ABB Bulletin* no. 2(23)/1998, pag. 25, see also the reproduction of the postcard circulated from Hațeg to Deva on 4 March 1919.

B06/40. – HIDA / Hidalmás
(Sălaj county, then and now)

1st Period

(...17 March 1919...)

The censorship office was established by the local military unit (and subordinated to the *7th Infantry Division* as of 17 March). It had 4 censors on 16 April 1919, all for *telegraph services* at the **Post Office**.

2nd Period

(...April 1919...)

The office was maintained by *Order no. 3755/2*, which allocated 5 censors to the **Post Office**, all for telegraph and telephone services (in reality, 4 were present as of 16 April 1919). The office no longer appears in *Order no. 6622*.

Ⓞ**B06/40.1** (CM#36.1): circular handstamp with central coat of arms and text **CENSURAT OFICIUL * HIDA**, manufactured in two copies in the Simon Sole workshop in Cluj and delivered to the office on **5 April 1919**. Probably used mainly on administrative documents.



B06/41. – HUEDIN / Bánffyhungyad
(Cluj county, then and now)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- The I/10th Infantry Battalion, I/6th Cavalry Squadron, and the 2nd section of the 2nd Howitzer Battery (all from the *6th Infantry Division*) arrived on 14/27 February 1919

1st Period

(...17 March 1919...)

The office was established by the military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the 6th Infantry Division as of 17 March 1919).

2nd Period

(...17 March 1919...)

The office was maintained by *Order no. 3755/2* with 5 censors at the **Post Office** (only for *telegraph and telephone*) and 2 at the **Railway Station** (for *Official* mail). The office no longer appears in *Order no. 6622*. In April 1919, only the 5 **Post Office** censors (for *telegraph and telephone*) were recorded.

B06/42. – HUNEDOARA / Vajdahunyad
(Hunedoara county, then and now)

The 10th Rifle Regiment (under Col. Oprescu) entered the city on **18 December 1918** at 11.00. The troops that remained in the city were under the command of Cpt. D. Mihail. As of 14/27 February 1919, Romanian military units were no longer mentioned.

1st Period

(...21 January – 17 March 1919...)

Censorship office set up by the local military subunit, subordinated to the *2nd Rifle Division* (on 21 January), and later to the *1st Rifle Division* (as of 17 March 1919), with a single censor recorded on 2 February at the local **Post Office**, including newspapers censorship.

2nd Period

(...April 1919...)

Order no. 3755/2 staffed 5 censors at the **Post Office** (for *telegraph and telephone*, with competence to censor mail if necessary). The office is no longer listed in *Order no. 6622*

ⓄB06/42.1 (CM#38.1): circular handstamp with coat of arms and the text **Postul de cenzură Hunedoara**; dimensions 28/25,5 mm; applied in purple ink on official documents in **June 1919**¹²². Likely used by the head of the office on official correspondence.



ⓄB06/42.2 (TT95# 41.1, CM#38.2): bi-linear handstamp with the text **Cenzurat / Hunedoara**; dimensions 32 x 9 mm; reportedly used in **July 1919**¹²³.

Newspapers censorship in Hunedoara

The office had no censors specifically designated for newspapers or other publications. Only one name is known: **Nicula**, who censored the newspaper **Glasul Hunedoarei** between (at least) 4 October and 13 December 1919.

/41.1: From archives

Cenzurat de NICULA.

HUSZT – see #B10/02
(Maramureș county / ZCD, today in Ukraine)

B06/43. – IBAȘFALĂU / Erzsébetváros
(Târnava Mică county, today Dumbrăveni, Sibiu county)

The town was occupied by Romanian troops on **18/31 December 1918**.

1st Period
(...17 March 1919...)

The office was established by the military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the *1st Rifle Division* as of 17 March).

2nd Period
(1 April – July 1919)

Order no.3755/2 staffed only 5 censors at the **Post Office** (exclusively for *telegraph and telephone*), of whom 4 were actually present between 23 March – 1 May 1919. The office is no longer mentioned in *Order no. 6622*.

B06/44. – IERMATA NEAGRĂ / Feketegyarmat
(Arad county, then and now)

4th Period (War Zone)
(...August 1920 – 1 April 1921...)

Recorded as functioning on **2 August 1920** (via the transfer of the Craia office from Subcarpathian Ukraine), and later re-established as of **1 September 1920** by the *C.T.V. Order no. 4891* of 21 August 1920. The office was also mentioned in Orders dated 26 November 1920, 22 February 1921, and **1 April 1921** (when it had only 2 censors). On 3 January 1921, it was subordinated to the 17th Infantry Division instead of the 1st Cavalry Division.

B06/45. – ILIA / Marosillye
(Hunedoara county, then and now)

2nd Period
(8 April 1919....)

The office is documented as operating from **8 April 1919**, exclusively for *telegraph and telephone* censorship at the **Post Office**.

¹²² Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, pag. 144 and 168

¹²³ Illustrated in an old article by Mr. István Gazda and then by Ladislau Szegedi in 1997 [*B06.18A*].

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

Order no. 6622 staffed 5 censors for the **Railway Station** as of March 1919, but only 4-5 employees were present throughout the period (one for *official* correspondence at the Railway station, the rest for *telegraph and telephone*). It operated at the Station until 15 May 1920, then moved to the **Post Office** on 1 June 1920 with the same number of staff (3 for *telegraph and telephone*, 1 for *correspondence*). Due to the small staff, neither official correspondence nor private correspondence to/from the Old Kingdom was censored.

[ⓄB06/45.1](#). Only one censor handstamp is known, referenced in the minutes concluded on 8 August 1920 after the post's closure¹²⁴. This may be the above illustrated bi-linear handstamp bearing the text:



CENZURAT / Postul de cenzură Ilia (place name not entirely certain); applied in violet ink on **16 June 1920** (on a postcard from Ilia to Hațeg).

B06/46. – JEBEL / Széphely
(Timiș-Torontal county, now Timiș county)

3rd Period

(1 November 1919 – 24 April 1920...)

The office was established after 1 November 1919, according to the republished *Order no. 6622*. The head of the office was Popovici Coriolan, assisted by 2 people (there were indeed 3 censors between 10 January and 24 April 1920).

B06/47. – JIBOU / Zsibó
(Sălaj county, then and now)

On 14/27 February 1919, the commands of the 13th Infantry Brigade and the 15th Infantry Regiment, along with the III/27th Infantry Battalion (all from the **7th Infantry Division**), were stationed here.

1st Period

(...17 March 1919...)

The office was established by the military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the **7th Infantry Division** as of 17 March).

2nd Period

(27 March – 14 July 1919)

The office was confirmed by *Order no. 3755/2* of March 1919, which staffed 5 censors at the **Post Office** (all for *telegraph and telephone*) and 4 censors at the **Railway Station** (for *official mail, telegraph, and telephone*). However, only 6-7 censors were present between 27 March – 16 April 1919 (including 3 for *correspondence*!). The office was no longer mentioned in *Order no. 6622*, yet 5 censors were recorded as present on 7 September 1919...?

[ⓄB06/47.1](#) (CM#41.1): circular handstamp with central coat of arms and the text **CENSURAT OFICIUL * JIBĂU**, manufactured in two copies by the Simon Sole workshop in Cluj and delivered to the office on 5 April 1919. So far seen only on administrative documents.



KÉTEGYHÁZA – see #B09/16
(Békés county / ZCD, today in Hungary)

KÖTEGYÁN – see #B09/19
(Békés county / ZCD, today in Hungary)

¹²⁴ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, pag. 168

B06/48. – KÉZDIVÁSÁRHELY / Kézdivásárhely
(Trei Scaune county, present day Târgu Secuiesc, Covasna county)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- ❖ The 7th company and a MG Platoon from the 6th Rifle Regiment, *1st Rifle Division* (14/27 February 1919).
- ❖ The 18th Rifle Regiment (January 1920).

2nd Period

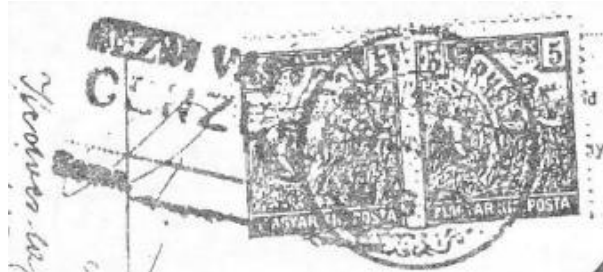
(...1 May – 14 July 1919)

The local office was established by *Order no. 3755/2* of March 1919 with 7 censors (for *telegraph and telephone* and the **Railway station**). On 1 May 1919, there were only 6 censors. Censored mail is known; censorship was probably carried out by telegraph censors. The office is not listed in *Order no. 6622* and was likely disbanded before 15 July 1919.

⊙B06/48.1 (TT95#51.1, CM#76.1): standardised four-lines handstamp, with two variants (or possibly two distinct types):

- ❖ **.../48.1A**: with the text **KÉZDIVÁSÁRHELY / CENZURAT / 1919 / Semn.**; applied in black ink on *March 1919*; see image in [*B06.18B*, pag. 3].
- ❖ **.../48.1B**: with the erroneous text **KÉZDIVÁSÁRHELY / ZENZURAT / 1919 / Semn.**; dimensions 47 x 15 mm; applied in black ink between **26 June – July 1919**.

This unusual reversed chronology (the correct handstamp precedes the incorrect one) remains unexplained. Likely, one was mistakenly manufactured, and both were used in parallel.



/48.1A: March 1919? (Filatelia reproduction)



/48.1B: 26 June 1919

B06/49. – LOVRIN / Lovrin
(Timiș-Torontal county, present-day Timiș county)

3rd Period

(...December 1919 – 24 April 1920...)

The local office was established after 1 November 1919, as per *Order no. 6622 republished*. The head of the post was Miclea Iosif, assisted by 2 people (there were 3 censors between 10 January and 24 April 1920).

⊙B06/49.1. A single copy known so far, from an offer by American dealer Mayo (2003), on a letter sent from Lovrin to Pittsburg, USA. It is similar to the type used in Timișoara and Buziaș-Băi — round, with the inner text **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ * LOVRIN** and a horizontal central ornament; applied in violet ink on **25 December 1919**. No illustration is provided, as the original image was of very low quality.

B06/50. – LUGOJ¹²⁵ / Lugos
(Caraș-Severin county, present-day Timiș county)

The town was initially occupied by the Serbian army (Gen. Salvi) until 19 January 1919, then taken over by the French under general De Tournadre from 27 January 1919. On Friday, **23 May 1919**, at 5 p.m., a group of 550 Romanian gendarmes arrived in Lugoj from Deva¹²⁶, but the administration remained under French

¹²⁵ See also the corresponding part of the article **Dan-Traian Demeter** – *Cenzurarea corespondenței în Lugoj și comitatul Caraș-Severin în perioada 1914-1946*, Buletinul ABB no. 1(5)/1994, pag. 17-20, as well as the note of the same author: *O ștampilă necunoscută de cenzură română Lugoj from perioada 1919-1920*, Buletinul ABB no. 3(7)/1994, pag. 29.

¹²⁶ The event was described by the local newspaper *Drapelul* no. 48 of 11/24 May 1919.

control. On **22 July 1919**, the Romanian army, led by gen. Jitianu (*2nd Infantry Regiment*), fully occupied the town.

2nd Period
(16 June – 14 July 1919)

The Lugoj post office was taken over by the Romanians on **15/28 May 1919** (the head of the office being Nicolae Sedan)¹²⁷. The Censorship office had likely already been established at the **Post Office**, although another opinion — by Călin Marinescu — states that censorship there began only on 15 or 16 June 1919.

[ⓄB06/50.1](#) (TT95#18.5, CM#7.1): Round handstamp used since the French military occupation, with a diameter of 28 mm and the inner text: **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ / LUGOJ**. Applied in violet ink between **3 July – 8 August 1919**. It is by far the neatest and most aesthetically executed handstamp of this censorship post, which was later used on mostly rudimentary, primitively made types.



[/50.1](#): 3 July 1919

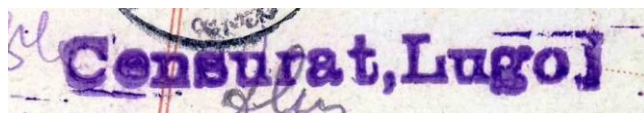
4 July 1919

3rd Period
(15 July 1919 – 28 July 1920)

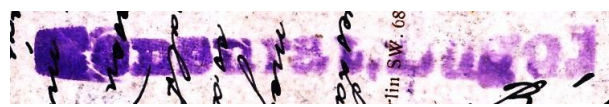
Between August and 15 November 1919, there were a total of 23 censors (9 for *correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station** for *official mail, telegraph and telephone, and newspapers-shows*). On 16 June 1920, there were 21 censors in total. *C.T.T. Order no. 11351* of 14 September 1919 extended the provisions of *Order no. 6622* to Banat, so the office had to handle correspondence for the entire Caraș-Severin County. On 15 December 1919, the office's activity was confirmed in all sections (**postal**: *telegraph-telephone, theater, cinema, speeches, press and prints*; **railway station**: *official mail and telegraph/telephone*).

[ⓄB06/50.2](#) (TT95#18.1, 18.2, CM#7.3, 7.4): linear handstamp with the text **Censurat, Lugoj**; dimensions 59 x 5 mm; applied in black ink on **25 June 1919** and in violet ink between **13 August and 21 October 1919**. This overlaps partially with handstamp [/49.3](#), suggesting they were used together. Over time, the handstamp degraded, becoming legible¹²⁸. At least two versions were produced, distinguishable by the top of the letter "t":

❖ [.../50.2a](#): flattened T



[/50.2a](#): 13 August 1919



16 September 1919



27 September 1919



21 October 1919

❖ [.../50.2b](#): sharp T



¹²⁷ Valeriu Neaga – *Provizoratul...*, 1995, pag. 9.

¹²⁸ It must be clarified whether there is also a *Censura* variant (52 x 5 mm, used in June-August 1919, according to Dan-Traian Demeter), or whether it is the same handstamp on which the final t is not visible.



/50.2b: 25 June 1919

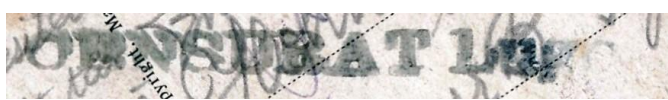


30 September 1919

©B06/50.3 (TT95#18.9, CM#7.5): linear handstamp with the text **CENSURAT Lugoj**; dimensions ca. 69 x 5 mm; applied in violet ink between **25 June 1919 – 30 August 1919** and between **17 November 1919 – 1 January 1920**. This overlaps with /50.2 and was likely used simultaneously. This handstamp degraded rapidly, becoming practically illegible. Notably, the last letters of "Lugoj" disappeared over time, leaving first **Lugo** (65 x 5 mm), then just **Lug** heavily deformed. It was probably used in two distinct periods of time.



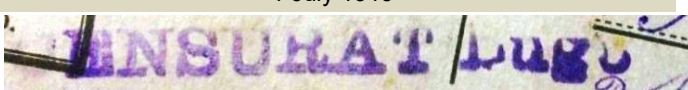
/50.3: 28 June 1919



1 July 1919



19 August 1919



30 August 1919

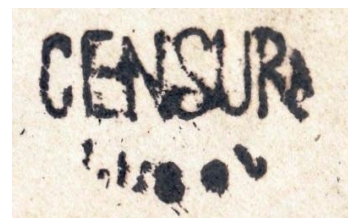


26 December 1919



1 January 1920

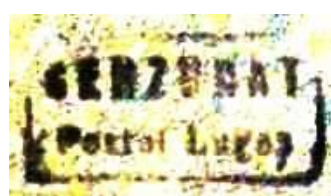
©B06/50.4 (TT95#18.3, CM#7.6): Primitive two-line handstamp reading **CENSURAT / LUGOJ** (notable for the reversed **J**); dimensions 35 x 22 mm; applied in black ink on **13 November 1919**. Known from a single piece of mail; see Fig. B06.22 (ex-Teleguț collection).



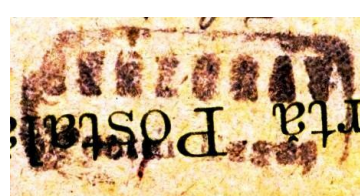
©B06/50.5 (CM#7.7): rectangular handstamp with inner bi-linear text: **CENZURAT / Postul Lugoș**; dimensions 36-37 x 17 mm; applied in black ink between **16 November – 15 December 1919 – 1 January 1920**. This handstamp deteriorated quickly, becoming virtually illegible by the end of its use. First reported by Ladislau Szegedi in 1997 [B06.18A].



/50.5: 15 December 1919



17 December 1919



21 December 1919

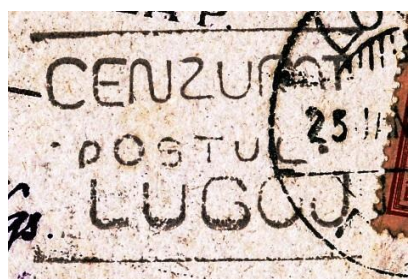


27 December 1919

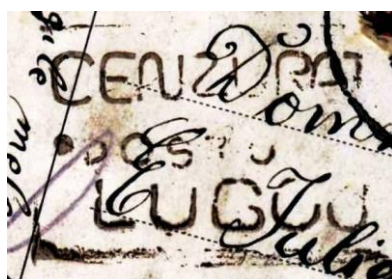


1 January 1920

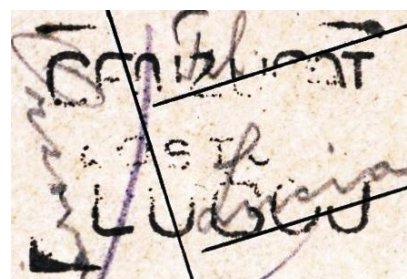
©B06/50.6 (TT95#18.8, CM#7.8): tri-linear handstamp (without rectangular frame; what appears as a frame is likely the edge of the socket), bearing the text: **CENZURAT / POSTUL / LUGOJ**; dimensions 34-35 x 22-24 mm; applied in black ink between **17 January – 17 March 1920**. Very few imprints have all letters fully visible.



/50.6: 25 January 1920



9 March 1920

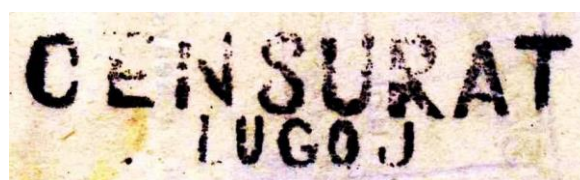


17 March 1920

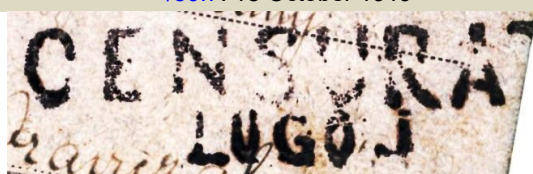
[©B06/50.7](#) (TT95#18.4, 18.7, CM#7.2): bi-linear stamp (what appears as a frame is likely the edge of the socket) with the text **CENSURAT / LUGOJ**; dimensions 56 x 14 mm; applied in black ink between **18 October – 8 November 1919**, then reused between **2 March – 22 June 1920**. Of mediocre quality, this handstamp shows poor lower-line printing in 1920, disappearing almost completely by May-June 1920.



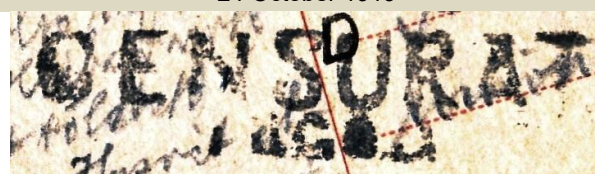
/50.7: 18 October 1919



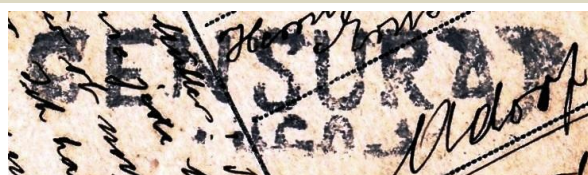
24 October 1919



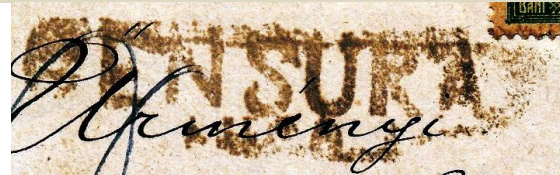
8 November 1919



14 April 1920



27 April 1920



23 May 1920

[©B06/50.8](#) (TT95#18.6, CM#7.9): linear handstamp reading **Postul cenzurei Lugoj**; dimensions 61 x 8 mm; applied in black ink between **7 – 16 June 1920**.



/50.8: 9 June 1920



11 June 1920



12 June 1920



16 June 1920

4th Period (War Zone)

(21 October – 22 November 1920...)

Following the general strike, and based on Order of the Minister of the Interior no. 60152 of 21 October 1920, the Prefecture ordered that "beginning today, censorship of the press, cinema, postal correspondence, telegraphs and telephones be enforced throughout Caraș-Severin Country". The censorship commission was organized by the Prefecture. This censorship was probably suspended toward the end of November.

[©B06/50.9](#): linear "mute" handstamp with the text **CENSURAT**; dimensions 61 x 6 mm; applied in black ink. First seen briefly during the *3rd Period* (**22 July 1920**), then reused during the *4th Period* between **11 – 22 November 1920**. This handstamp was most probably derived from type [/50.7](#), with the locality name removed. Transit external censorship is known from a postcard Râmnicu Vâlcea – Italy, in November 1920.



/50.9: 22 July 1920



11 November 1920

B06/51. – LUPENI / Lupeny
(Hunedoara county, then and now)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- ❖ On 14/27 February 1919, the 10th Rifle Regiment was deployed in the Lupeni – Petrila – Merișor sector, and the Mountain Artillery Battery was stationed in the Petroșani – Lupeni – Vulcan area (present there since 21 January 1919).

1st Period
(...February 1919...)

The office was established by the military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the *2nd Rifle Division*), with a single censor assigned to the **Post Office** and *newspapers* (as of February 1919). The office no longer appears in *Order no. 3755/2*.

B06/52. – MARIARADNA / Mariaradna
(Arad county, then and now; today Radna)

2nd Period
(...30 April – 14 July 1919)

Not mentioned in *Order no. 3755/2*, so it was established after the occupation of the city by Romanian troops in late April 1919, although the city's administration remained French.

3rd Period
(15 July 1919 – 15 July 1920)

Mentioned in *Order no. 6622* as a class IV censorship office, with 5 employees stationed at the **Railway Station** (handling *official mail, telegraph and telephone*). However, between 16 July and at least 1 September, there were 5 censors working on the ground — all at the **Post Office** (2 assigned to *correspondence*)!

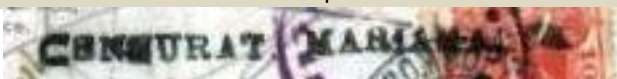
ⓄB06/52.1 (TT95#19.2, CM#57.1): linear handstamp with primitive text: **CENZURAT. MARIARADNA**; dimensions 71 x 3,5 mm; applied in black or violet ink between **30 April – 15 August 1919**. Apparently, there are at least two handstamp types, with slight variations in lettering and signs of wear. Most imprints are hard to read; clear imprints are rare.



/52.1: 30 April 1919



15 August 1919



13 August 1919

Please send any corrections, additions, comments to:
damirro@yahoo.com

[ⓄB06/52.2](#) (TT95#19.1, CM#57.2): circular handstamp with the inner text **POSTUL DE CENZURĂ / Mariaradna**; diameter 35/32 mm; applied in violet and black ink between **11 September 1919 – 20 March 1920**.



[/52.2](#): 11 September 1919



9 December 1919



20 March 1920



Fig. B06.36.
Postal order coupon, censored at Radna

The coupon of a postal mandate for 19 crowns and 53 fillers, dispatched from **MARIARADNA** on **10 December 1919**, censored with the local office stamp [ⓄB06/52.2](#). Censorship refers to the private message written on the back of the coupon.

Fig. B06.37:

Registered cover from Radna, postmarked **MARIARADNA** on **17 December 1919** and locally censored using handstamp [ⓄB06/52.2](#); addressed to Tormac, Timiș county.



B06/53. – MAROSLUDOȘ / Marosludas (today Luduș, Turda-Arieș county, today Mureș county)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- ❖ A platoon of the III/12 Infantry Regiment, **6th Infantry Division** (14/27 February 1919).

1st Period (...17 March 1919...)

The office was established by the military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the *1st Rifle Division* as of 17 March), with a section for *mail censorship*.

2nd Period (...22 March – 1 April 1919...)

Censorship office maintained by Order no. 3755/2, with 5 censors at the **Post Office** (only for *telegraph and telephone*) and 2 at the **Railway Station**. These personnel were also present on the ground between 22 March – 1 April 1919.

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 15 July 1920)

Censorship office maintained by *Order no. 6622*, with 5 censors at the **Railway Station** (*handling official mail, telegraph, and telephone*). These positions were still occupied in September, although 2 censors were then assigned to *correspondence* at the **Post Office**, and 3 remained at the Railway Station for *telegraph and telephone services*.



[ⓄB06/53.1](#): standardised four-lines handstamp, bearing the text: **MAROS LUDOS / CENZURAT / 1919 / Semn.**; applied in black-violet ink on **3 July 1920**, together with handwritten date and censor's signature.

B06/54. – MAROȘ UIOARA / Marosújvár

(Alba-Inferioară county, present-day Ocna Mureș, Alba county)

1st Period

(...February 1919...)

The office was established by a military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the *1st Rifle Division* as of 17 March 1919).

2nd Period

(...April – July 1919...)

According to *Order no. 3755/2*, there were 5 censors at the Post Office (only for *telegrams and telephone censorship*), a situation valid until 1 May 1919. The office was disbanded by *Order no. 6622* of July 1919.

[ⓄB06/54.1](#) (*TT95#42.1, CM#80.1*): standardised four-line handstamp, bearing the text: **MAROS UIOARA / CENZURAT / 1919 / Semn.**; dimensions 42 x 20 mm; applied in violet ink in *January 1919* (?)¹²⁹. The date is doubtful, as this type of handstamp was the standardized model used later in 1919. Requires confirmation.

MÁTÉSZALKA – see #B19/23

(Szatmár county / ZCD, today in Hungary)

B06/55. – MĂGHERUȘ / Sajómagyarós

(Solnoc-Dăbâca county, present-day Șieu-Măgheruș, Bistrița-Năsăud county)

2nd Period

(1 April – 14 July 1919)

The office was established by *Order no. 3755/2* with 2 censors at the **Railway Station** (for *official mail, telegraph, and telephone*). In practice, 4 censors were on the ground on 6 April 1919, and 2 remained at the Railway Station (for *telegraph and telephone*) between 15 April and 1 May 1919. The office no longer appears in *Order no. 6622*.

B06/56. – MEDIAS / Medgyes

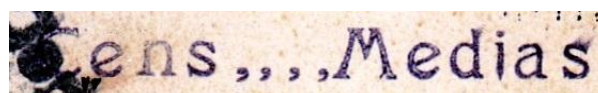
(Târnava Mare county, today Sibiu county)

1st Period

(...February 1919...)

The office was established by a military unit stationed in the city.

[ⓄB06/56.1](#) (*TT95#20.1, CM#45.1*): linear handstamp with the text **Cens ,,, Medias**; dimensions 40 x 5 mm; applied in black-violet ink on **3 March 1919**.



¹²⁹ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, pag. 183

2nd Period

(1 April – 14 July 1919)

Order no. 3755/2 provided for 6 censors at the **Post Office** (for *newspapers, telegrams, and telephone*). These censors were confirmed to be present on 1 May 1919. The office no longer appears in Order no. 6622.

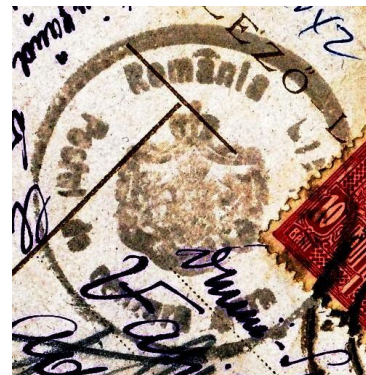
B06/57. – MEHADIA / Mehadia
(Caraş-Severin county, then and now)

4th Period (War Zone)

(1 November 1919 – 20 November 1920...)

The office was established after 1 November 1919, probably by the *republished* Order no. 6622. On 1 April 1920, there were 5 censors at the **Railway Station** (handling *telegraph, telephone, and official mail*). The office censored internal and external correspondence related to railway traffic through Lugoj or Caransebeş (on the route Cluj – Lugoj, Sasca Montană – Lugoj, and Caransebeş – Berlin).

[ⓄB06/57.1](#). Circular handstamp with the inner text **România * Postul de cenzură Gara Mehadia**; diameter 38 mm; applied in black ink between 4 – 20 November 1920. First reported by the present author in 1997 [[B06.16A](#)].



MEZŐHEGYES– see #B09/24
(Csanád county / ZCD, today in Hungary)

B06/58. – MODOŞ / Modos
(Timiş-Torontal county, present-day Jaša Tomić, Serbia)

3rd Period

(1 November 1919 – 24 April 1920...)

The office was established after 1 November 1919, according to *republished* Order no. 6622. The head of the post was Baba Petru, assisted by two others. In practice, there were two censors between 10 January and 14 February 1920, and three 24 April 1920.

[ⓄB06/58.1](#) (TT95#22.1, CM#9.1). circular handstamp with the inner text: **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ * MODOŞ**; diameter 32/29 mm; applied in violet ink between 30 December 1919 – 24 April 1920.



B06/59. – NĂSĂUD / Naszód
Now Bistriţa-Năsăud county

2nd Period

(...1 April – 14 July 1919)

According to Order no. 3755/2 of **March 1919**, there were five censors at the **Post Office** (three for *Telegraph* and two for *Telephone* but also competent for correspondence if necessary, as per *Instructions*). However, the office no longer appears in the list dated 16 April 1919?

B06/60. – OAR / Óvári
(Satu Mare county, then and now)

4th Period (War Zone)

(January – February 1921)

Office established at the border post by Order of the Minister of Communications no. 11295 of 26 November 1920 and Order no. 7479 of **3 January 1921**. Abolished around **15 February 1921**, with dissolution confirmed by C.T.V. Order no. 8321 of 22 February 1921. The actual period of functioning remains uncertain.

B06/61. – ODORHEIUL SECUIESC / Székelyudvarhely
(Odorhei county, present-day Harghita county)

The town was occupied by the 1st Rifle Regiment (of *1st Rifle Division*) around 7 December 1918. Early Romanian military presence in town:

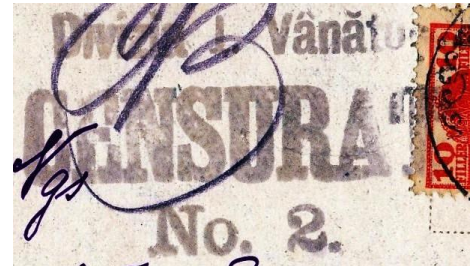
- On 14/27 February 1919, the following units were stationed here: the headquarters of the 1st Rifle Brigade, the 5th Rifle Regiment (with the I/5th Battalion), and the 7/12th Artillery Battery (all from the *1st Rifle Division*).

1st Period

(...21 January – 17 March 1919)

The office was established by a military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the *1st Rifle Division* as of 21 January 1919), initially staffed by only two censors.

ⓄB06/61.1: first type was one of the military handstamps of 1st Rifle Division (specifically no. #2), bearing the text: **DIVIZIA I VÂNĂTORI / CENSURAT / No. 2**; dimensions 50 x 27 mm, applied in violet and black-violet ink between **28 January ... 6 – 17 March 1919**, see also [#A80.19.1 \(Volume A/2\)](#).



2nd Period

(April – 14 July 1919)

Order no. 3755/2 assigned 5 censors at the **Post Office** (exclusively for *telegraph and telephone*) and 2 censors at the **Railway Station**. However, in August 1919 there were actually 11 censors: 3 for *correspondence* and 2 at the Railway Station (*telegraph and telephone*).

ⓄB06/61.2 (TT95#23.3, CM#48.1): standardised four-line handstamp bearing the text: **ODORHEIU / CENZURAT /1919 / Semn.**; dimensions 41 x 22 mm; applied in violet ink between **5 June – 19 August 1919**. The stamp became modified towards the end of its usage (the word *Semn* and sometimes *1919* are illegible).



/61.2: 5 June 1919



21 June 1919

19 August 1919

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

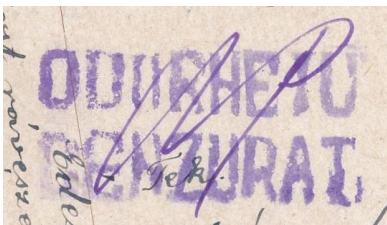
Order no. 6622 authorized 22 censors: 8 for *correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 4 at the Railway Station (*official mail, telegraph, and telephone*). In practice, by 28 June 1920, only 10 censors remained. Since 1 June 1920, the office operated in all sections, excluding press censorship. It was abolished with the suspension of internal censorship.

ⓄB06/61.3 (TT95#23.4, CM#48.3): primitive bi-linear handstamp with the text **ODORHEIU / CENZURAT**; dimensions ca. 40 x 11 mm; applied in black ink in **August 1919**. Likely derived from [type /61.2](#) by removing the bottom two lines.

ⓄB06/61.4 (TT95#23.2, CM#48.4, 48.5): primitive bi-linear handstamp with the text **ODORHEIU / CENZURAT**; dimensions 37 x 18 mm; applied in violet ink between **9 October 1919 – 9 February 1920**.



/61.4: 9 October 1919



9 February 1920

©B06/61.5 (TT95#23.1, CM#48.2): primitive bi-linear handstamp with the text **ODORHEIU / CENZURAT**; dimensions 36-37 x 12 mm; applied in violet and black ink between **9 April – 29 September 1920**.

- ❖ **.../61.5A**: a variant was reported by Ladislau Szedegi in 1997 [**B06.18A**], characters similar to the previous type but enclosed with two lines (top and bottom); dimensions: 32 x 13 mm; applied in violet ink in May 1920. It has to be confirmed.



/61.5: 9 April 1920

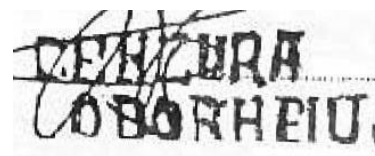


3 July (August?) 1920



29 September 1920

©B06/61.6 (CM#48.6): primitive bi-linear handstamp with the text **CENZURA / ODORHEIU** with the first „O” under the „E” from **CENZURA** ; dimensions ca. 42 x 20 mm; applied in violet ink in **May 1920**. It was reported by Ladislau Szedegi in 1997 [**B06.18A**].



©B06/61.7: neutral "mute" linear handstamp with the text **CENSURAT**; dimensions 52 x 11 mm; applied in black ink around **7 October 1920 (?)**.



B06/62. – ORADEA-MARE / Nagyvárad (Bihar county, then and now)

The town was occupied on **20 April 1919** by General Moşoiu, leading cavalry troops.

2nd Period

(28 April – 14 July 1919)

The office was established immediately after the installation of the Romanian administration, in late April 1919. On 4 May 1919, it had 42 employees stationed at the **Post Office** (12 assigned for *newspapers* and 16 to *correspondence*). The first day of activity is considered to be **28 April 1919**, as evidenced by the earliest known example of Oradea censorship (see Fig. B06.38) affixed to correspondence cancelled **NAGYVÁRAD** on 19 April 1919 and censored on 28 April 1919, according to a handwritten note by the censor (*first seen by the author in the Teleguţ archive on a photocopy of the original held by a collector in Hungary*).

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 15 July 1920)

Order no. 6622 set the requirement for 39 censors: 20 for *correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station** (handling *official mail, telegraph, and telephone*). In practice, this was greatly expanded to 66 censors in August 1919 — all stationed at the **Post Office**, including 15 for *newspapers* and 25 for *correspondence* control. At that time, it became the largest censorship office in the newly acquired territories. Between 1 June and 1 July 1920, the office had 31 employees (5 were for *newspapers*, 9 for *correspondence*, and 4 at the **Railway Station**).

Area of competence:

- correspondence from/to and transiting Bihar County;

- censorship or re-censorship of correspondence from ZMO (occupied Hungary up to the Tisza);
- border office for foreign correspondence (see 4th Period).

Fig. B06.38: Earliest example of Romanian censorship in Oradea.

Postcard written in Hungarian on **18 April 1919**, postmarked NAGYVÁRAD the next day, and censored in the local office on **28 April 1919** with [B06/62.1](#). The date was handwritten near the handstamp by the censor Mihale. Addressed to Szolnok, its transmission was uncertain due to ongoing military operations.
(collection [Mark London](#))

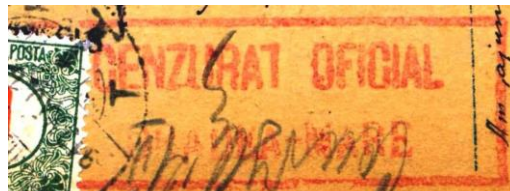


[B06/62.1](#) (TT95#24.1, CM#49.1): rectangular frame with bi-linear inner text: **CENZURAT OFICIAL / ORADEA-MARE**; dimensions 54 x 19-20 mm; applied in blue, violet or (rarely) black ink; Includes censors' signatures and occasionally the date. Period of use: **28 April – 16 September 1919** and **8 January 1920**, in at least two dimensional variants:

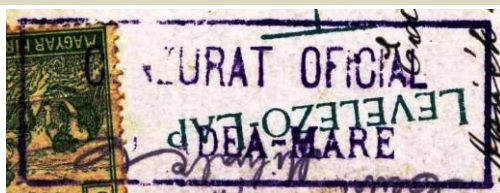
- ❖ [.../62.1a](#): dimensions 54 x 19 mm, clear, high-quality printing; used between 28 April – 11 July 1919, with a rare reuse on 8 January 1920.



[/62.1a](#): 9 August 1919



12 May 1919



28 April 1919

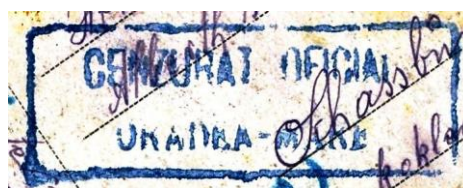


6 June 1919

- ❖ [.../62.1b](#): dimensions 55-57 x 20 mm, less clear, often incomplete printing; used between 12 July – 11 August 1919..., deformed from late September 1919



[/62.1b](#): 11 July 1919



19 July 1919



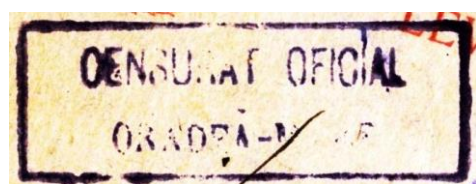
5 September 1919



Ca. 1 october 1919

©B06/62.2 (TT95#24.1b, CM#49.2): handstamp with rectangular frame and bi-linear inner text: **CENSURAT OFICIAL / ORADEA-MARE**; general period of use: **30 July – 7 October 1919**¹³⁰, and can be found in two visibly different dimensional variants:

- ❖ **.../62.2a**: dimensions 56-57 x 19-20 mm; applied in violet and blue ink between 10 – 17 August 1919, along with the censor's signature.



/62.2a:



10 August 1919

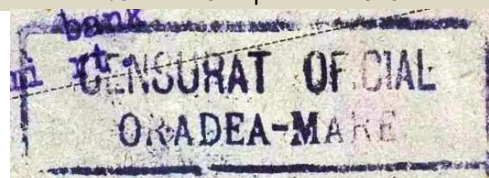
- ❖ **.../62.2b**: dimensions 55 x 16 mm; applied in violet or blue ink between 7 September – 7 October 1919, along with the censor's signature (one is *Badie*).



/62.2b: 13 September 1919



18 September 1919



29 September 1919

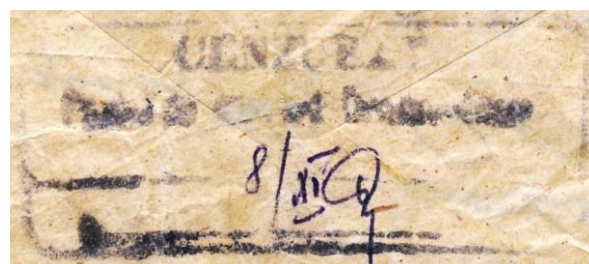


7 October 1919

©B06/62.3 (CM#49.3): three-lines handstamp in rectangular frame, bearing the text: **CENZURAT / Postul de cenzură Oradea-Mare /**; dimensions 73 x 30 mm; applied in black ink between **25 August – 8 November 1919**, generally hard to read. First reported by Dan-Traian Demeter in 1998 [**B06.21**].



/62.3: 3 September 1919

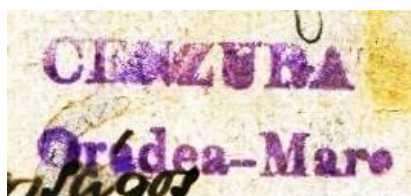


8 November 1919

©B06/62.4 (TT95#24.4, CM#49.5): bi-linear handstamp bearing the text: **CENZURAT / Oradea-Mare**; dimensions 32 x 12 mm; applied in violet ink between **4 October – 29 November 1919**, along with the censor's signature (example: *Cios*) and date. Two subtypes can be described:



/62.4a: ca.15 October 1919



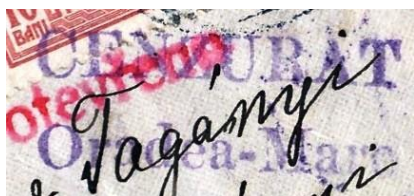
15 October 1919



10 October 1919

¹³⁰ In November 1919 the handstamp presents a defect: the first 'T' is missing from *CENSURA OFICIAL*, and 'ORADEA MARE' is written without the dividing dash, similar in T85, TT95 (type **#24.1b**). However, this type is known only from a single source: a xerox reproduction received by Mircea Teleguț from a Hungarian correspondent. Therefore, it's uncertain whether it's a rare version or a forgery, especially considering the entire item, which is franked with an 'Oradea' stamp of 1 Leu, which is highly questionable.

- ❖ [.../62.4a](#): second line extends slightly to the left.
- ❖ [.../62.4b](#): second line slightly shifted to the right.

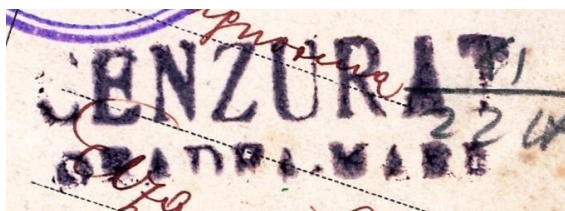


/62.4b:



31 October 1919

[ⓄB06/62.5](#) (TT95#24.5, CM#49.4): bi-linear handstamp bearing the text: **CENZURAT / ORADEA-MARE**; dimensions 49 x 14 mm; applied in black and violet ink between **5 November – 17 December 1919**, together with the censor's signature and occasionally the date. Typically the second row is partially printed.



/62.5: 22 November 1919



29 November 1919



12 November 1919



2 December 1919

[ⓄB06/62.6](#) (TT95#24.3, CM#49.7): a similar handstamp, bi-linear bearing the text: **CENZURAT / ORADEA-MARE**, but the top row is *sans-serif*; dimensions 45 x 15 mm; applied in purple or black ink between *December 1919 – August 1920*. Existence unconfirmed. May be a misidentified or miscopied handstamp).

4th Period (War Zone)

(1 October 1920 – 15 July 1921...)

The office remained active in the military area, with 29-30 censors between 1 October 1920 and 1 March 1921 (4-5 for *newspapers*, 5-8 at the **Post Office** for *correspondence* and 3 at the **Railway station**). By 1 April 1921 (last official record), the staff had decreased to 14.

[ⓄB06/62.7](#) (TT95#24.2, CM#49.6): bi-linear handstamp bearing the text: **CENZURAT / ORADEA-MARE**; dimensions 34-35 x 12-14 mm; applied in black or violet ink between **19 February 1920 – 23 July 1921**. This is the *most commonly used censorship handstamp in Transylvania*, appearing on both internal and external correspondence. Consequently, it is expected that several samples exist, showing varying degrees of wear and tear over time. The table below presents only some of the forms in which this type of handstamp can be found. Two main subtypes can be described:

- ❖ [.../62.7a](#): the vertical line of letter "R" in Oradea aligns perfectly with that of the letter "E" above. Includes two main *thin* and *thick letter* sub variants.



/62.7a: 16 November 1919



19 February 1920



10 March 1920



❖ [.../62.7b](#): the letter "R" from Oradea is slightly right-shifted, compared to the previous subtype.



[©B06/62.8](#) (CM#49.8): double-circle handstamp bearing the text: **POSTUL DE CENSURĂ / ORADEA- / MARE**; dimensions ?; applied in red ink between **9 July 1920 ... 21 May – 1 June 1921**. In 1921 it was applied to small closing labels alongside the regular censorship handstamp. Possibly used by the Head of the Censorship Office, primarily on administrative documents and occasionally on correspondence. First reported in 2001.



Oradea as External Mail Censorship Office (1919..., 31 May 1920 – 31 May 1920)

In September 1919, the Sibiu Post Directorate centralized all mail to/from **Czechoslovakia** in Oradea. On 20 November 1919, the DGPTT ordered all foreign correspondence censorship to be conducted in Oradea, though this applied mostly to **Austria** and **Germany**. On **31 May 1920**, the censorship of **foreign mail** entering Transylvania was shifted from Cluj to multiple centers: Sighet, **Oradea Mare**, Careii Mari, Satu Mare, and Timișoara. As in similar cases, most censored foreign mail was *terminal* (sent to or from Oradea or Bihor County), but *transit* censorship from other regions is also recorded. Please note that censorship in Old Romania was suspended on 5 August 1920.

First period (1919). Examples of foreign mail censored *in transit* in Oradea (excluded the terminal mail):

- ❖ From Karlsbad, Czechoslovakia, on 19 September 1919, censored in Oradea, to Bucharest, 6 October 1919.
- ❖ From Prague, Czechoslovakia, on 15 September 1919, censored in Oradea and then at the destination in Bucharest.
- ❖ From Trebbiano, Italy, on 20 October 1919, to Kézdivásárhely, censored in Oradea on 22 November 1919.
- ❖ From Prague, Czechoslovakia, on 21 October 1919, to Timișoara, censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Wien, Austria, on 7 November 1919, to Sibiu, censored in Oradea (possible on 25 November 1919).

- ❖ From Ersekújvár, Czechoslovakia, 12 November 1919, to Hódmezővásárhely, censored in Oradea (see Fig. B06.39).



Fig. B06.39.

Official free judicial receipt of delivery, posted on 12 November 1919 from **Czechoslovak-occupied ERSEKÚJVÁR** (today Nové Zámky, Slovakia) to **Romanian-occupied Hódmezővásárhely** (310 km south). Although the route normally passed through Budapest, the mail was diverted 400 km east (total 550 km) to go through **Oradea**, where it was censored with [☉B06/62.5](#).

- ❖ From Marosludas 25 November 1919 to Berlin (Germany), censored in Turda and Oradea.
- ❖ From Băile Herculane 26 November 1919 to Wien (Austria), censored in Oradea
- ❖ From Roana, Vicenza (Italy) – censored in Oradea, arrived December 1919 in Gava (Szabolcs)
- ❖ From Sebeș 17 January 1920 to Wien (Austria), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Mediaș 23 January 1920, censored in Oradea, arrival Innsbruck (Austria) on 3 February 1920.
- ❖ From Mediaș 5 March 1920 to Wien (Austria), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Chinez 8 March 1920 to Prague (Czechoslovakia), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Mediaș 12 March 1920 to Danzig (Germany), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Mediaș 22 March 1920 to Berlin (Germany), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Mediaș 6 April 1920 to Wien (Austria), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Chinez 9 April 1920 to Wien (Austria), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Tâlmăciu Mare 7 May 1920 to Schaffhausen (Switzerland), censored in Făgăraș and Oradea.
- ❖ From Bad Kösen (Germany) 1 June 1920 to Sibiu, censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Wien (Austria) 5 June 1920, censored in Oradea, arrival Cluj on 11 June 1920.
- ❖ From Mediaș 7 June 1920 to Wien (Austria), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Băile Herculane 9 June 1920, censored in Oradea, arrival Adorf (Germany) on 19 June 1920.
- ❖ From Timișoara 10 June 1920, censored in Oradea, arrival Chemnitz (Germany) on 19 June 1920.
- ❖ From Paris (France) 13 June 1920 to Ineu, Arad county, censored in Oradea
- ❖ From Brno (Czechoslovakia) 24 June 1920 to Sibiu, censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Mediaș (Târnava Mare county) 1 July 1920 to Kristiania (Norway), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Sighetul Marmăției (Maramureș county) 3 July 1920 to Breslau (Germany), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Čurug (Serbia) 5 July 1920 to Târgu Mureș, censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Jablonec nad Nisou (Czechoslovakia), censored in Oradea, arrival Zombor (S.H.S.) on 19 July 1920.
- ❖ From Baden (Wien, Austria) 8 July 1920, censored in Oradea, arrived to Zombor (S.H.S.) on 17 July 1920.
- ❖ From Kosice (Czechoslovakia) 11 July 1920, censored in Oradea, arrival București on 25 July 1920.
- ❖ From Chinez (Timiș county) 23 July 1920, censored Oradea, arrived to Chemnitz (Germany) on 3 August 1920.
- ❖ From Mediaș (Târnava Mare county) 30 July 1920, censored in Oradea, arrival Chemnitz (Germany) on 6 August 1920.
- ❖ From Mediaș (Târnava Mare county) 4 August 1920, censored in Oradea, arrival Chemnitz (Germany) on 13 October 1920.
- ❖ From Sighișoara 5 August 1920 to Mödling (Austria), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Chinez 5 August 1920 to Chemnitz (Germany), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Sibiu 9 August 1920 to Vihne (Czechoslovakia), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Katona 22 August 1920 to Steyring (Austria), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Prundu Bârgăului 24 August 1920 to Elberfeld (Germania), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Timișoara 31 August 1920 to Wien (Austria), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Timișoara 8 September 1920, censored in Oradea, arrival Chemnitz (Germany) on 15 October 1920.
- ❖ From Mediaș 8 September 1920 to Hambach (Germany), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Karlovy Vary (Czechoslovakia) 17 September 1920 to București, censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Deja 21 October 1920 to Slovenska Lupca (Czechoslovakia), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Villach (Austria) 12 December 1920, censored in Magyarovar and in Oradea, arrival Arad on 1 January 1921.

- ❖ From Sebeş 21 December 1920 to Denmark, censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Timișoara 10? February 1921 to Biel (Switzerland), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Braşov 10 March 1921 to Wien (Austria), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Timișoara 11 March 1921 to Amsterdam (Holland), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Anina (Caraş-Severin county) 24 March 1921, to Nurnberg (Germany), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Ulmeni (Sălaj county) 2 April 1921 to Koblenz (Germany), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Timișoara 4 April 1921 to Wien (Austria), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Erdogarak 13 April 1921 to Budapest (Hungary), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Timișoara 18 April 1921 to Neunkirchen (Germany), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Râu de Mori (Hunedoara county) 27 May 1921 to Udine (Italy), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Timișoara 28 May 1921 to Huddersfield (UK), censored in Oradea.
- ❖ From Aiud (Alba Inferioară county) 18 June 1921 to Munchen (Germany), censored in Oradea.

B06/63. – ORĂȘTIE / Szászváros
(Hunedoara county, then and now)

The National Council of Orăștie was elected by the assembly of 7 November 1918 (located in the *Romanian Casina*, home of *Banca Ardeleana*). In the town, there was also a Saxon council and a Hungarian council, which organised a commission of four to decide on matters of common interest in the city. There was also a Romanian national guard with 300 soldiers (Lt.Col. Titus Cernăuțean)¹³¹. As of 14/27 February 1919, there were no Romanian military units stationed here.

1st Period

(...March - April 1919)

Censorship post established by the city's military unit (with four censors: three for *correspondence* and one for *newspapers*, in March-April 1919).

2nd Period

(April – July 1919)

By *Order no. 3755/2*, only 5 censors were planned at the **Post Office**, but for *telegraph and telephone*. The office no longer appears in *Order 6622*.

Censorship of newspapers in Orăștie.

The censor station had no censors specifically assigned to newspapers and other publications. I found only one name, **Ioan Moța**, director and (self)-censor of the newspaper **Libertatea** between (at least) 14 July – 29 December 1921, a period when Orăștie station was no longer functioning. We assume that in this belated case, censorship was based on other norms (probably the state of siege).

B06/64. – ORȘOVA / Orsova
(Caraş-Severin county, present-day Mehedinți county)

3rd Period

(1 June – 20 July 1920...)

The establishment of this office was approved on 28 March 1920, and it officially began operations on **1 June 1920** as a *censorship post located at the railway station*. Despite this, local terminal mail was also censored here. By 20 July 1920, the office was staffed by only one censor.

ⓐB06/64.1 (CM#10.1). Bi-linear primitive handstamp with the text **CENSURA / ORȘOVA**; dimensions 32 x 9 mm; applied in violet ink between **June – 19 July 1920**. First reported by L. Szegedi in 1997 [**B06.18A**].



¹³¹ *Libertatea* (Orăștie) no. 1 from 14 November 1918.

B06/65. – OTLACA / Otlaka
(Arad county, then and now; today Grăniceri)

4th Period (War Zone)
(January – February 1921)

The Office was not provided for under *Order no. 6622*. It was established as a border post pursuant to the *Order of the Minister of Communications no. 11295* of 26 November 1920 and *Order no. 7479* of **3 January 1921**. On 14 January 1921, it had five employees stationed at the **Railway Station** (handling *official mail, telegraph, and telephone*), with competence over private mail if necessary. The office was dissolved around **15 February 1921**, with the dissolution confirmed by C.T.V. *Order no. 8321* of 22 February 1921.

B06/66. – PÂNCOTA / Pankota
(Arad county, then and now)

3rd Period
(... 18 July 1919 – 20 July 1920...)

The office was established by *Order no. 6622* as a class IV censorship post, with 5 employees stationed at the **Railway Station** (number confirmed as of 18 July 1919). From the end of 1919, it functioned as a *censorship office for local correspondence* in eastern Arad County, serving the localities of Pâncota, Ineu, Nadăș, Tăuț, Drauț, Mocrea, Bocsig, Sebiș, Tarnova etc. In 1920, it occasionally served as a *satellite office* to relieve congestion at the Arad censorship; see page. 278-279 and *Fig. B06.42*.

[ⓄB06/66.1](#) (TT95#25.3, CM#52.2): two-line handstamp bearing the text: **OFICIUL POSTULUI DE CENSURA / PÂNCOTA**; dimensions 64x11 mm; applied in black ink between **13 – 29 December 1919**.



/66.1: 13 December 1919



1919



Fig. B06.40.

Official judiciary certificate of delivery mailed on 10 December 1919 from Nadăș City Hall. It was cancelled with the adapted postmark (Crown of St. Stephen invalidated with a black square) ZARANDNADAS on **13 December 1919** and addressed to Ineu. It was censored in transit with the handstamp [ⓄB06/66.1](#).



/66.2: 6 January 1920



8 January 1920



20 January 1920

ⓐ06/66.2 (TT95#25.2, CM#52.1): three-lines handstamp bearing the text: **CENSURAT / Pâncota la** / **censor**; dimensions ca. 45 x 22 mm; applied in black or violet ink between **6 January – 22 February 1920**.

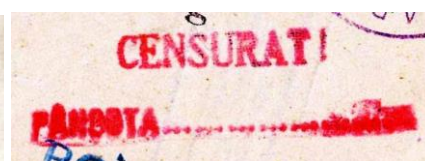
ⓐ06/66.3 (TT95#25.1, CM#52.3): two-line handstamp with the text: **CENSURAT! / PÂNCOTA**; dimensions 50-54 x 14 mm; applied in black, violet or red ink between **1 March – 15 April 1920**.



/66.3: 20 March 1920



26 March 1920



5 April 1920

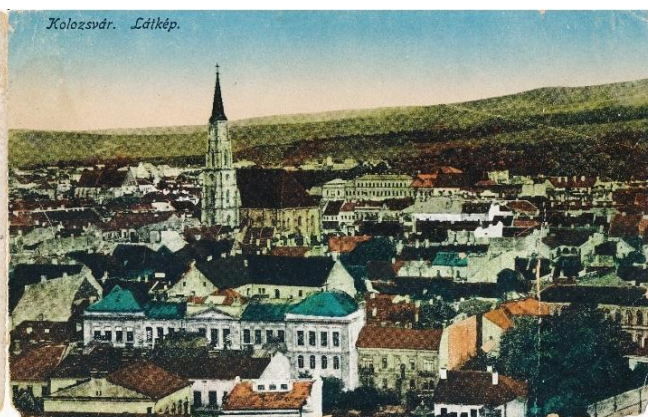


Fig. B06.41. International mail censored in transit at Pâncota instead of Arad

A Hungarian illustrated postcard (depicting *Kolozsvár*), written in Serbo-Croatian in Cluj on **18 January 1920** and addressed to Belgrade, Serbia. Since it was not censored at departure, the mail was retained in Arad for censorship. However, for an unknown reason (possibly due to the absence of Serbo-Croatian-speaking censors in Arad?), it was sent to the auxiliary office in **Pâncota**. There, the stamps were peeled off and the censorship handstamp **ⓐ06/66.2** was applied in their place. Arrival postmark BEOGRAD.

B06/67. – PECICA / Magyarpécska (Arad county, then and now)

4th Period (War Zone) (January – February 1921)

The office was established as a border post by the Order of the Minister of Communications no. 11295 of 26 November 1920 and Order no. 7479 of **3 January 1921**. On 12 January 1921, it had 5 employees stationed at the Railway **station** (handling only *official mail, telegraph, and telephone*), with competence over private mail if necessary. The office was abolished on **15 February 1921**, with its dissolution confirmed by C.T.V. Order no. 8321 of 22 February 1921.

ⓐ06/67.1: double-circle handstamp, likely created from handstamp .../24.5 of Măru Roșu (Mezőhegyes) by deleting the locality name: **CENSURAT ... * ROMANIA**; applied in blue ink on **22 January 1921** on an overprinted postcard sent from Pecica to Sibiu. The handstamp is accompanied by the censor's signature and the date. First seen in 2010.



B06/68. – PELEȘ / Nagypeleske (Satu Mare county, then and now)

4th Period (War Zone) (January – February 1921)

The office was established at the Railway Station by the Order of the Minister of Communications no. 11295 of 26 November 1920 and Order no. 7479 of **3 January 1921**. It was abolished around **15 February 1921**,

with its dissolution confirmed by C.T.V. Order no. 8321 of 22 February 1921. Its actual operation remains uncertain.

B06/69. – PETROȘANI / Petrozsény
(Hunedoara county, then and now)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- As of 14/27 February 1919: the headquarters of the 4th Rifle Brigade and the 10th Rifle Regiment, as well as the 7/24th Artillery Battery (from 2nd Rifle Division). Until late July 1919, the 4th Rifle Regiment (from the 1st Rifle Division) remained in reserve in the Deva - Petroșani area to maintain order in the working-class areas of the Jiu Valley. Possibly, other subunits of the division also remained in the Valley; see Fig. B06.42.
- a Mountain artillery battery was present in the Petroșani – Lupeni – Vulcan area between 21 January – 14 February 1919.

1st Period
(...March - April 1919)

The office was established by the city's military unit (subordinated to the **2nd Rifle Division** on 21 January, and to the **1st Rifle Division** on 17 March 1919), with two employees in February 1919 (**Post Office** and **newspapers**).

2nd Period
(April – July 1919)

Order no. 3755/2 appointed 7 censors: 5 at the **Post Office** (handling *telegraph and telephone*, with authority over correspondence if necessary), and 2 at the **Railway Station**. In practice, between 8-16 April there were 7 censors: 4 at the **Post Office** and 3 at the **Railway Station**. The office no longer appears in Order 6622.



Fig. B06.42. Civilian mail written in Romanian in Sibiu on 6 July 1919 and addressed to a lady in Lupeni, postmarked NAGYSZEBEN and censored there with B06/68. However, upon arrival, the postcard was subjected to additional censorship on **9 July 1919**, when the military handstamp of the **4th Company, 1st Rifle Regiment** (from the 1st Rifle Division) was applied. Could this unit have been responsible for censorship in **Petroșani** or **Lupeni**? In any case, within a few days, it would reunite with the rest of the division on the Hungarian frontline.

4th Period (War Zone)
(October 1920?)

There were plans to reopen the office in October 1920, but no other dates are known.

B06/70. – PETROVA / Petrova
(Maramureș county, then and now)

2nd Period
(...)

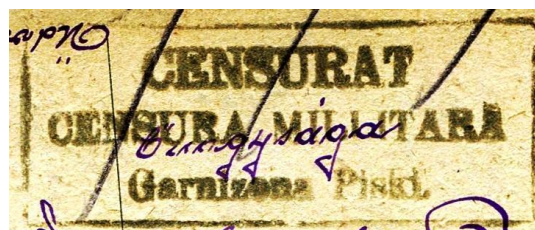
Order no. 3755/2 appointed 5 censors at the **Post Office**: 3 for *Telegraph* (who also had the authority to censor correspondence if necessary) and 2 for *Telephone*. However, the office no longer appears in the list dated 16 April 1919?

B06/71. – PISKI / Piski
(Hunedoara county, then and now, today Simeria)

A small working-class town (railroad workshops), occupied at the end of December 1918 by units of the 10th Rifle Regiment (Mr. Jencioviciu), part of the **2nd Rifle Division**. As of 14/27? February 1919, there were no Romanian military units here (except for the railway station guard).

1st Period
(...February 1919)

The office was established by the local military subunit (subordinated to the **2nd Rifle Division**) with a single censor in February 1919, located at the **Post Office** and responsible for *newspapers*.



ⓐB06/71.1 (CM#71.1): three-line handstamp in rectangular frame, with the text **CENSURAT / CENSURA MILITARA / Garnizona Piski** (= *Military Garrison Piski*); dimensions 58 x 23 mm; applied in black ink around **26 February 1919**.

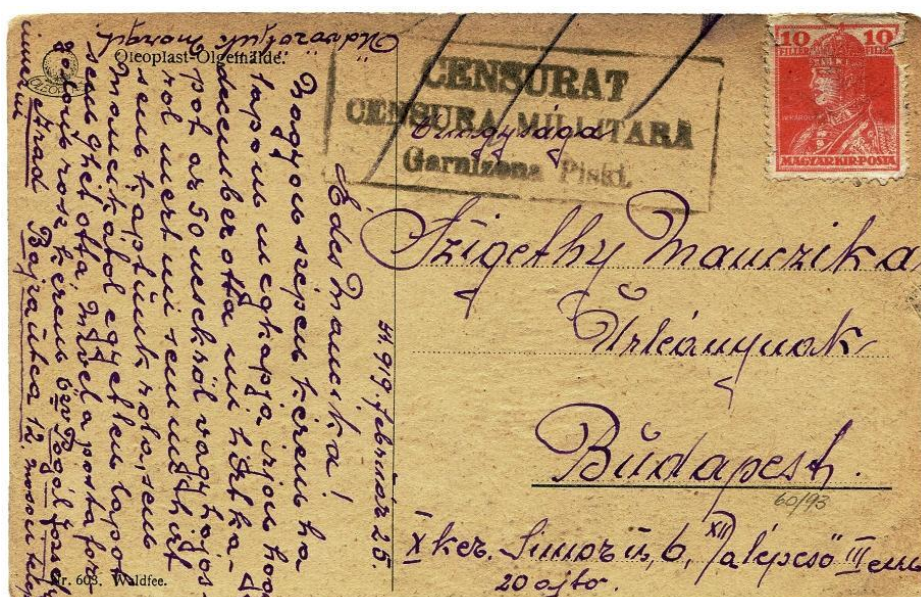


Fig. B06.43.

Art postcard written in Hungarian on 25 February 1919 from an undisclosed location, without postmark but censored in the Simeria office with the handstamp ⓐB06/71.1, addressed to Bucharest (source: *Museum of Romanian Records*, ex-collection Scherrer)

2nd Period
(April – July 1919)

Order no. 3755/2 assigned only 4 censors to the **Railway Station** (for *official mail, telegraph, and telephone* — the latter with competence over mail censorship). The office no longer appears in Order no. 6622.

B06/72. – PRAID / Parajd
(Odorhei county, present-day Harghita country)

2nd Period
(...April 1919...)

Order no. 3755/2 appointed 2 censors at the **Railway Station** (for *official mail, telegraph, and telephone*) and 5 censors at the **Post Office** (3 for *Telegraph* — who also had authority to censor correspondence if necessary — and 2 for *Telephone*). However, the office no longer appears in the list dated 16 April 1919?

3rd Period
(...June 1920...)

It appears that the censorship office was re-established at the **Railway Station** on 22 June 1920.

B06/73. – REGHINUL SĂSESC / Szászrégen
(Mureș-Turda county, present-day Mureș county)

The city was occupied by the vanguard of the *7th Infantry Division* (4/8th Călărași Squadron) on **30 November 1918**.

1st Period

(...21 January – 17 March 1919)

Censorship office organized by the military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the *7th Infantry Division* between 21 January – 17 March), with a single documented censor on 22 January 1919.

2nd Period

(23 March – May 1919)

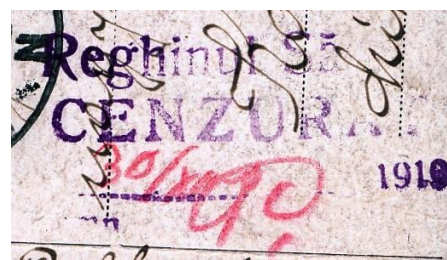
Order no. 3755/2 provided for 5 censors at the **Post Office** (exclusively for *telegraph and telephone*, but also competent in mail censorship if necessary) and 2 censors at the **Railway Station**. In reality, between 23 March and 1 May, only 3 censors were active (handling *telegraph, telephone, and newspapers*).

3rd Period

(... December 1919 – June 1920...)

Order No. 6622 assigned 5 censors exclusively to the **Railway Station** (although in practice only 4 were active for *telegraph and telephone* in September). One of them also handled mail censorship by the end of 1919.

OB06/73.1 (CM#58.1): Four-line handstamp bearing the text: **Reghinul Săsesc / CENZURAT /19 / Semn.**; dimensions 40 x 20 mm; applied in violet ink between **30 December 1919 – 17 April 1920**, together with the date and censor's signature. First reported by Ovidiu Reu in 1997 [*OB06.16B*].



B06/74. – REȘIȚA / Resiczabánya
(Caraș-Severin county, then and now)

3rd Period

(23 February – June 1920...)

The censorship office is not mentioned in *Orders 3755/2* and *6622*; all data are taken from Călin Marinescu¹³². The office was established by a *local military decision* on **23 February 1920** (according to *Order no. 23703* of the *19th Infantry Division*¹³³, dated 21 February 1920) for *censoring theatrical plays, cinematographic films, telegrams, private correspondence, telephone conversations, and speeches*. The censorship was carried out by Slt. Teodor Vascan (who had already been censoring the local press since 1 January 1920), from the Reșița Square Command. On 1 April 1920, the Reșița Garrison announced its intention to establish a censorship post (5 persons) at the **Railway Station**, according to *Order no. 6622*. It was probably never established, and from **15 June 1920** the press censorship was transferred to the Censorship Commission at the **Prefecture**, responsible for *newspapers, theatre, cinema, posters, and all out-of-print materials*.

B06/75. – SALONTA MARE / Nagyszalonta
(Bihar county, then and now; today Salonta)

3rd Period

(...June 1919 – August 1920)

The office appears to have been established by a special order before *Order no. 6622*, as it was already operational on 16 June 1919. *Order no. 6622* later confirmed it as a Class IV censorship office, with 5

¹³² Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, 2004, pag. 133-134.

¹³³ The 19th Division (Timișoara) was responsible for the *Banat Surveillance Zone*, with border guard and defense missions.

censors at the **Railway Station** (at least one of them authorized to *censor mail*). On 15 September 1919, the office had 3 censors. It was likely disbanded just before August 1920.

©B06/75.M: gray pencil handwritten notation *Cenz*, seen on **16 June 1919**.

©B06/75.1: linear handstamp bearing the text: **CENZURA ROMANA**; dimensions 70 x 8 mm; applied in blue and black ink on **20 July 1919**. First reported by Király Francisc in 1993 [**B06.9**] and in 1997 [**B06.18A**], though erroneously attributed to Beiuș.

©B06/75.2: two-line primitive handstamp with the text: **CEIZURA / ROMÂNIA 1**, with at least two versions known:

- ❖ **.../75.2A**: two lines enclosed in a rectangular frame; dimensions *ca. 48 x 24 mm*; applied in black ink on **6 August 1919**. First reported by Király Francisc in 1993 [**B06.9**] and in 1997 [**B06.18A**], but misattributed to Beiuș.
- ❖ **.../75.2B**: two lines only, without an external frame; dimensions 45 x 20 mm; applied in black ink on **26 August 1919**.



/74.M: 16 June 1919

CENZURA ROMANA

/75.1: Reproduction from Szegedi 1997



/75.2A: 6 August 1919



/75.2B: 26 August 1919



Fig. B06.44

Hungarian postcard cancelled NAGYSZALONTA on **5 August 1919**, censored locally using handstamp **©B06/75.2A**, arrival BUCURESTI * SCRISORI (source: Museum of Romanian Records)

4th Period (War Zone, Bihar county)

(20 November 1920 – 14 February 1921; 1 March – 19 April 1921...)

There is no evidence that the office was re-established on 1 September 1920 in the War Zone. The only documented reopening was at the Railway Station on **20 November 1920** as a *border post* (replacing the Kötegyán railway station, ceded to Hungary), following the *Minister of Communications' Order no. 11295* of 26 November 1920 and *Order no. 7479* of 3 January 1921. The office was abolished around 15 February 1921, its dissolution confirmed by *C.T.V. Order no. 8321* of 22 February 1921. Re-established two weeks later, it operated with 5 censors between 1 – 8 March 1921. It was disbanded again in April 1921 along with the end of internal censorship in Transylvania.

ⓄB06/75.3: under this type are grouped two variants derived from the same handstamp, reused a year apart¹³⁴:

- ❖ **.../75.3A** (CM#60.2): handstamp used in the 3rd Period, with two-line text: **CENZURAT / Salonta-Mare**; dimensions 40 x 15 mm. Often partly illegible due to uneven application. Seen in violet or black ink between **1 – 13 July 1920**. The last two letters of **Mare** may be missing on some impressions (possibly from March 1921?), leading to confusion about separate types. First reported by Ladislau Szededi in 1997 [**ⓄB06.18A**]..
- ❖ **.../75.3B** (TT95#26.1, CM#60.3): handstamp used in the 4th Period, with the text clearly visible: **CENZURAT / Salonta-** (with the word **Mare** removed); applied in black ink on **19 April 1921**; First reported by Gheorghe Cserni in 1988 [**ⓄB06.3**, pag. 6].



/75.3A: 13 July 1920



/75.3B: 19 April 1921



Fig. B06.45.

Art postcard written by a Romanian officer, postmarked **NAGYSZALONTA** on **19 April 1921**, censored in Salonta using handstamp **ⓄB06/75.3B**, addressed to Ocna Sibiului. Charged 20 Bani postage due upon arrival, with two Porto stamps affixed (source: Museum of Romanian Records)

B06/76. – SATU MARE / Szatmárnémeti (Satu Mare county, then and now)

The town was occupied by Romanians on **19 April 1919** at 08.00 Hrs, during which occasion 600 Bolsheviks, including 18 officers, were taken prisoner.

2nd Period (20 April – June 1919)

The office was established by special order (since *Order no. 3755/2* predates the occupation of the city) with 9-10 censors, of whom 2-3 were assigned to *correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 1-2 at the **Railway Station** (from 20 April to 25 June 1919). However, mail beginning in July 1919 was censored in Baia Mare!

3rd Period (July 1919 – August 1920?)

The *Order no. 6622* confirms again its existence, assigning it 27 censors (10 for *correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station** for *official mail, telephone & telegraph*). From **1 June 1920**, the office

¹³⁴ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, pag. 174

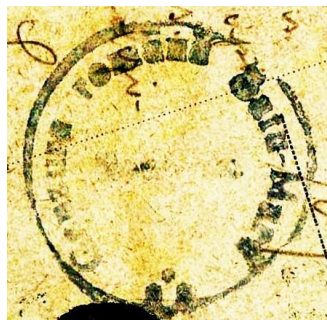
was fully functional in all sections, including *press* and *correspondence*. As of 1 July 1920, 24 censors were present (3 for *correspondence* and 3 for *official mail* at the station).

Since the office functioned continuously from April 1919 to April 1921, the use of handstamps often extends beyond the defined limits of the four periods.

©B06/76.1 (TT95#29.2, CM#64.1): circular handstamp bearing the text: **Cenzura română Satu-Mare / România**; diameter 33-34 mm; applied in black or violet ink between **19 April – 8 October 1919**. At least one sample shows significant degradation towards the end of its usage. Used during Periods 2 and 3.



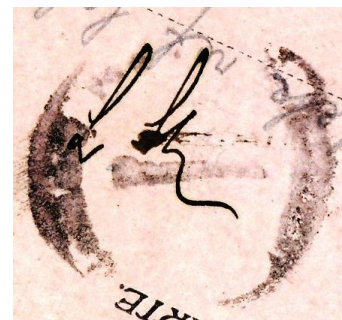
/76.1:



19 April 1919



Ca. 1 July 1919



21 August 1919

©B06/76.2 (TT95#29.1, CM#64.2): bi-linear handstamp in a rectangular frame, with the inner text: **Cenzura română / Satu-Mare**; dimensions 54-55 x 17 mm; applied in black, violet or blue ink between **7 November 1919 – 3 June 1920**. There are slight variations due to wear and tear and at least two versions are known:

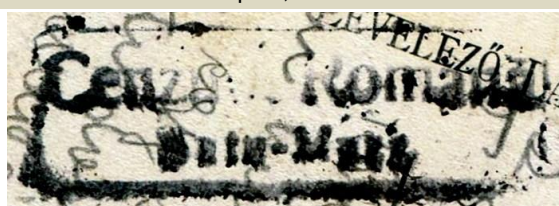
- ❖ **.../76.2a**: high quality, moderate distortion over time.
- ❖ **.../76.2b**: poor quality from the beginning, becomes illegible.



/76.2a: Initial aspect, 29 November 1919



Moderate distortion, 3 June 1920



/76.2b: 12 January 1920



Totally degraded sample, 14 March 1920

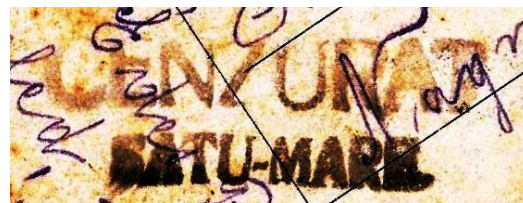
4th Period (War Zone, Sătmar county)

(... October 1920 – 14 February 1921; 1 March – 19 April 1921...)

The office likely continued uninterrupted from the previous period. On 7 October 1920, it had 20 censors (5 on *correspondence*, 2 on *newspapers*, 2 on *official mail* at the station). By 1 April 1921, 10 censors remained. As of 3 January 1921, the office became subordinate to the 17th Infantry Division, replacing the 1st Cavalry Division.



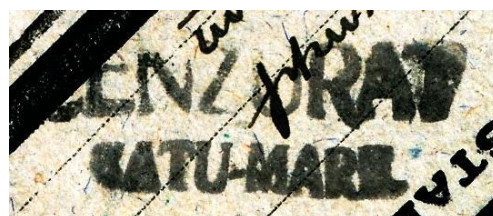
/76.4: 27 July 1920



?



2 February 1921



13 March 1921

ⓄB06/76.3 (TT95#29.4, CM#64.6, 64.7): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT / SATU-MARE**; dimensions 40-42 x 14-15 mm; applied in black ink between **27 July ... – 23 October 1920 ... 2 February – 5 April 1921**. At least two samples were manufactured, including one showing premature wear (July 1920).



Fig. B06.46.

Registered cover with multiple franking (150 bani, underfranked 5 bani), cancelled BAIA MARE on **1 February 1921**, censored in tranzit at Satu Mare using handstamp **ⓄB06/76.3**, arrived in Carei on 3 February 1921
(source: Museum of Romanian Records, Bucharest)

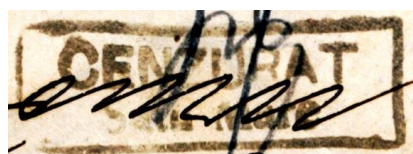
ⓄB06/76.4: bi-linear handstamp in rectangular frame with the inner text: **CENZURAT / Satu-Mare**. The first line is with sans-serif letters. More dimensions were reported:

- ❖ **.../76.4A** (CM#64.4): size 38 x 14 mm, applied in black ink in *November 1920*. Reported by Ladislau Szegedi in 1997 [**ⓄB06.18A**]. Probably this is the type with strong deformation on **4 March 1921**, when the frame fades due to wear, but keeping the stamp's size to 38 x 14 mm.

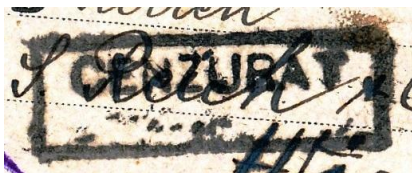
**/76.4A (?)**: Deformed: 4 March 1921

Always 4 March 1921

- ❖ **.../76.4B** (TT95#29.3, CM#64.3): size 45 x 15 mm, applied in black ink in **29 November 1920**.
- ❖ **.../76.4C** (CM#64.5): size 54 x 18 mm, applied in black ink on **22 January 1921** (one similar was reported by Ladislau Szegedi in 1997 [**ⓄB06.18B**], as measuring 55 x 21 mm in *December 1919* ?). Probably a sample of this type will be deformed towards the end of the period, repaired with wires.

**/76.3B**: 29 November 1920**/76.3C**: 22 January 1921**/76.3C**: repaired with wires

ⓄB06/76.5 (CM#64.8): rectangular hadstamp with the inner text: **CENZURAT** (other words erased, one was reused from the earlier type 76.4B); dimensions 38 x 12 mm (.../76.5A) or 43 x 15 mm (.../76.5B); applied in black ink between 4 –... 27 March 1921.



/75.5A: 4 March 1921



/75.5B: 27 March 1921

B06/77. – SĂCUENI / Székelyhíd (Bihar county, then and now)

3rd Period
(July 1919 – August 1920?)

The office was established according to *Order no. 6622* with 5 censors at the **Railway Station** (for *official mail, telegraph, and telephone* — the latter with authority over mail censorship). In reality, only two censors were reported between September 7 – 27 December 1919.

ⓄB06/77.1 (CM#59.1): linear handstamp bearing the text: **Cenzurat. Secheihid**; dimensions 55 x 4 mm; applied in black ink between **Septembrie – December 1919**¹³⁵.



4th Period (War Zone)
(January – February 1921)

The office was re-established as a border post following the Order of the Minister of Communications no. 11295 of 26 November 1920 and Order no. 7479 of **3 January 1921**. It was abolished around **15 February 1921**, with its dissolution confirmed by C.T.V. Order no. 8321 of 22 February 1921.

B06/78. – SĂRMAȘU MARE / Nagysármás (Cluj county, present-day Mureș county)

- On 14/27 February 1919, there were no Romanian military units present here

1st Period
(...17 March 1919)

The censorship office was established by the local military unit (subordinated to the *1st Rifle Division* on 17 March 1919).

2nd Period
(16 April – 1 May 1919)

The post was maintained by *Order no. 3755/2*, with 5 censors stationed at the **Post Office** (only for *telegraph and telephone*, not for correspondence). The office does not appear in *Order no. 6622*. Between 16 April and 1 May 1919, there were 3 censors present (for *telegraph and telephone* at the station?).

B06/79. – SĂRMĂȘAG / Sarmaság (Sălaj county, then and now)

3rd Period
(July – September 1919...)

The office was established according to *Order no. 6622*, with 5 censors assigned at the **Railway Station** (for *official mail, telegraph and telephone*). In practice, only 2 censors were present on 7 September 1919.

¹³⁵ Office and handstamp originally communicated by Ladislau Szegedi in 1997 [*B06.18, pag. 4*], from an item of the V.G. collection, Budapest.

B06/80. – SÂNANDREI / Szentandrás
(Timiș-Torontal county, present-day Timiș county)

3rd Period
(July – September 1919...)

The office was established after 1 November 1919, based on the *republication* of Order no. 6622. The head of the station was Jurma Pavel, assisted by 2 staff members. There were 2 censors between 10 January – 14 February 1920, and 3 censors recorded on 24 April 1920).

©B06/80.1 (CM#12.1). bi-linear handstamp with the text **Cenzura Română / SENTANDRAS**; applied in violet ink on **January 1920**. Not illustrated here (published in an old T. Van Dam auction catalog).

©B06/80.2. circular handstamp with the inner text: **Cenzura Română / Sânt-Andraș**; applied in black violet ink on **6 February 1920**. Features a central ornament, similar to the Timișoara handstamp.



Fig. B06.47.

Hungarian Royal postcard uprated with a Republican stamp (total 30 filler = 15 bani), postmarked SZENTANDRAS on **6 February 1920**, addressed to Wien, Austria, locally censored with the handstamp **©B06/80.2**. (collection **Mark Lendon**)

B06/81. – SÂN MICLĂUȘ / Gyergyószentmiklós
(Ciuc county, now Gheorgheni, Harghita county)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- The 6h company of II/4 Battalion (*1st Rifle Division*, 14/27 February 1919);
- IV-th Escadron of the 4th Regiment (*2nd Rifle Division*, 21/7 March 1919).

1st Period
(...17 March 1919)

The post was immediately organized by a subunit subordinated to the *1st Rifle Division*. It was short-lived, as in March 1919 the office no longer appeared in official documents.

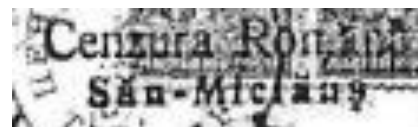
©B06/81.M: the first evidence of censorship is a manuscript, encountered on **7 December 1918**, reading "*Țenzură Română*" (see image below).

2nd Period
(... May 1919)

The post does not appear in Orders 3755/2 of March 1919, and 6622 of July 1919, so it was probably established by special order sometime in **April or May 1919** and abolished before 15 July 1919.



ⓄB06/81.1: bi-linear handstamp with the text **Cenzura Română / Săn-Miclăuș**; dimensions 42 x 10 mm; applied in violet ink on 12 May 1919. Reported by Dan-Traian Demeter in 1998 and confirmed as location in 2002 [[B06.24](#)].



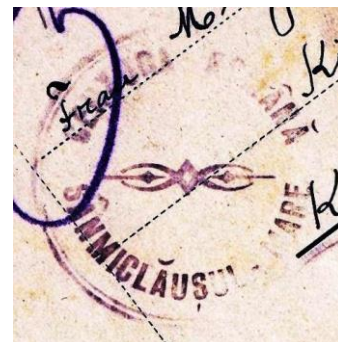
B06/82. – SÂNMICLĂUȘUL MARE / Nagyszentmiklós
(Timiș-Torontal county, now Sânnicolaul Mare, Timiș county)

3rd Period

(1 November 1919 – April 1920...)

The office was established after 1 November 1919, according to the *republished* Order no. 6622. The head of the station was Minișan Antoniu, assisted by a team of 4. There were 5 censors between 10 January and 24 April 1920.

ⓄB06/82.1 (TT95#27.1, CM#13.1). Circular handstamp with inner text **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ * SÂNMICLĂUȘUL-MARE** (featuring a central ornament similar to the Timișoara handstamp); diameter of 35/36 mm; applied in violet or black ink between 5 November 1919 – 5 April 1920.



B06/83. – SÂNTANA / Újszentanna
(Arad county, then and now)

3rd Period

(July 1919 – April 1920...)

Established by Order no. 6622, as a class IV censorship office with 5 employees stationed at the Railway station (for official mail, telegraph, and telephone), confirmed on 17 July 1919. From the end of 1919, the office also censored *local correspondence* between villages from the west of the county (Ineu, Bocsig, etc.), partially overlapping with the area covered by the Pâncota censorship office. Occasionally, it also served as an auxiliary censorship office for Arad (see pag. 278-280).



Fig. B06.48.

Official envelope from the subprefect of Arad county (see header and stamp SUBPREFECTUL JUDEȚULUI . ARAD), postmarked ARAD 1 on 3 January 1920 and addressed to Világos / Șiria, Arad county. Censored locally on 13 January, with the stamp [ⓄB06/05.6](#) (despite being official correspondence). From Șiria, it was returned to the sender with Romanian-Hungarian manuscript mentions: **Return** and **Visa**, correctly Vissza. It was re-censored in transit on 23 January using handstamp [ⓄB06/83.1](#), return arrival ARAD on 24 January 1920 (on backside).

ⓄB06/83.1 (TT95#28.2, CM#61.1): three-line handstamp bearing the text: **CENSURAT / Sântana la** / **censor**; dimensions 44 x 25 mm; applied in black-violet between 31 December 1919 – 23 January 1920.



/83.1: 23 January 1920



23 January 1920



23 January 1920

[©B06/83.2](#) (TT95#28.1, CM#61.2): two-line handstamp bearing the text: **OFICIUL POSTULUI DE CENSURĂ / SÂNTANA**; dimensions 62-65 x 10-11 mm; applied in black or violet ink between 1 – 9 April 1920.



/83.2: 7 April 1920



9 April 1920

B06/84. – SEBEȘUL SĂSESC / Szászsebes
(Alba-Inferioară county, today Sebeș, Alba county)

On **2 January 1919**, a Romanian rifle battalion entered the city, shortly before General Berthelot passed through the station on his way to Sibiu¹³⁶. Early Romanian military presence in town:

- The command of the **2nd Rifle Division**, together with the 1st Company of the 2nd Rifle Regiment, the 3/8th Howitzer Battery, the divisional squadron, and the divisional ENI (ambulance, bakery, wired telegraph section, TFF station, truck section, and carriage convoy) were present as of 14/27 February 1919.

1st Period

(...21 January – 27 March 1919)

The office was established by the military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the **2nd Rifle Division** on 21 January and to the **1st Rifle Division** on 17 March 1919). On 2 February it had two censors, including one for *newspapers* and *correspondence*.

[©B06/84.1](#): military cachet (primitively made) of the **2nd Rifle Division** command, temporarily stationed in the city, bearing the text: **DIVIZIA 2 VÂNĂTORI * ARMATA DE OPERAȚII**; diameter 42 mm; applied in black ink between ca. **15 – 19 February 1919**, to mail sent from Sibiu to Satu Mare and Focșani (not censored at departure from Sibiu). First reported (but not located) by L. Szegedi in 1997 [[B06.18B](#)].

[©B06/84.M](#): after the departure of the 2nd Rifle Division, no other handstamps were used — only manuscript notations in red ink, like **Cenz...**, followed by the censor's signature, as seen on **27 March 1919**.



/84.1:



/84.M: 27 March 1919

¹³⁶ *Foaia Poporului* (Sibiu) no. 1 from 1/14 January 1919.

2nd Period
(... April – July 1919...)

The office maintained by *Order no. 3755/2* for *telegraph and telephone* at the **Post Office** (five censors, also competent for mail censorship). In fact, between 8-16 April 1919, there were only four censors: one for *newspapers* and three for *correspondence* at the **Post Office**. The office was disbanded after *Order no. 6622* in July 1919.

B06/85. – SFÂNTU GHEORGHE / Sepsiszentgyörgy
(Trei Scaune county, today Covasna county)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- The I/6 and II/6 Rifle battalions of *1st Rifle Division* (14/27 February 1919).

2nd Period
(... April 1919...)

The office was established by *Order no. 3755/2* with 10 censors (for *newspapers, telegraph, telephone* and the **Railway station**). However, on 1 May 1919, there were only 7 censors — all assigned to *telegraph and telephone* at either the **Post Office** or the **Railway Station**. Some telegraph censors were also responsible for mail censorship.

3rd Period
(...August 1919 – June 1920...)

Order no. 6622 established a staff of 19 censors, of which 5 were at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station**. In reality, there were 12 censors in August 1919 (4 of them for *mail* at the **Post Office**). From 1 June 1920, the office operated in all sections, though without press censorship.

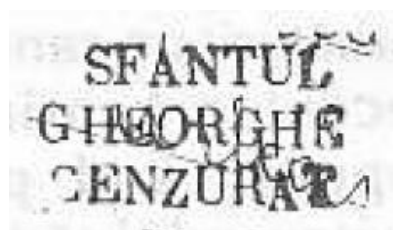
[ⓄB06/85.1](#) (CM#66.2¹³⁷): standardized four-line handstamp bearing the text: **St. GHEORGHE / CENZURAT / 1919 / Semn.**; dimensions 39 x 20 mm; applied in violet or red ink between **27 April – ... 9 August 1919?**¹³⁸.



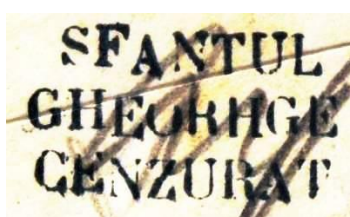
/85.1: 27 April 1919

[ⓄB06/85.2](#) (TT95#33.3, CM#66.3): three-line handstamp bearing the text: **SFANTUL / GHEORGHE / CENZURAT**, encountered in several variants during the period **29 August – 14 September 1919**:

- ❖ [.../85.2A](#): dimensions 23 x 13 mm; applied in black ink. Described by Teleguț-Thielk under number 33.3 and confirmed in Romanian literature (József Álmos in 1995 [[B06.13](#)]), dated **29 August 1919**. It is unclear whether the depiction is original or if the error below was inadvertently corrected.
- ❖ [.../85.2B](#): actual found on a piece in the Mark Lendon collection, showing a slight misalignment between rows 1 and 2 and an error: **GHEORHGE** instead of **GHEORGHE**; applied in black ink in **September 1919**.
- ❖ [.../85.2C](#): found on another piece in the Mark Lendon collection (with the correct spelling **GHEORGHE**), but the last row is shifted left and the first "C" is missing (reading **ENZURAT**); applied in black ink on **14 September 1919**.



/85.2A: 29 August 1919 (Almos)



/85.2B: September 1919 (Lendon)



/85.2C: 14 September 1919 (Lendon)

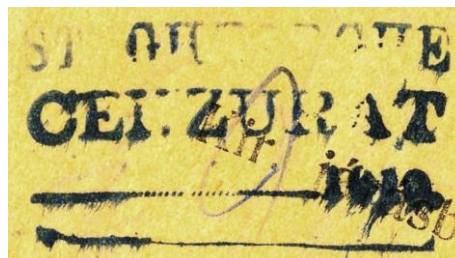
¹³⁷ See also József Álmos, *Buletinul ABB* no. 1(21)/1998, pag. 24-27

¹³⁸ Reported by József Álmos in 1997 (*Buletinul ABB*)

©B06/85.3 (TT95#33.1, CM#66.1): three-line handstamp bearing the text: **ST. GHEORGHE / CENZURAT /** 1919 (without the row with *Semn.*); dimensions 54...59-60 x 24-25 mm; applied in violet or blue ink between *April – 22 July – 20 November 1919 – December*. This type includes all handstamps lacking „*Semn*” on the fourth line; otherwise, they fall under the next type.



/85.3: 22 July 1919, ca. 59 x 25 mm



8 October 1919



19 October 1919, ca. 54 x 24 mm



20 November 1919, ca. 59 x ? mm

©B06/85.4 (TT95#33.2, CM#66.4, 66.5): standardized four-line handstamp bearing the text: **ST. GHEORGHE / CENZURAT /** 1919 / *Semn.*, with a general period of use between **9 September 1919 – 14 August 1920**. Exists in at least two dimensional variants:

- ❖ **.../85.4A:** dimensions 53 x 29 mm, applied in blue ink, period of use **22 September 1919 – November**.



- ❖ **.../85.4B:** dimensions 44 x 25-26 mm; applied in violet, red, blue, or black ink; used between **29 August 1919 (?) ... 7 January – 14 August 1920**. These handstamps are of good quality, without variations.



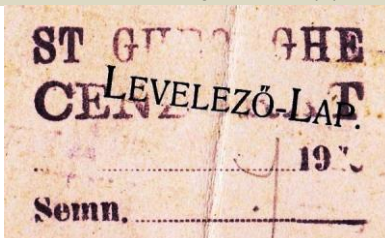
/85.4B: 29 August 1919 (?)



7 January 1920



22 January 1920



23 March 1920



6 May 1920



25 May 1920

B06/86. – SIBIU / Nagyszeben
(Sibiu county, then and now)

The city was occupied on the morning of **6 December 1918**, at 09:00 AM. Early Romanian military presence in town:

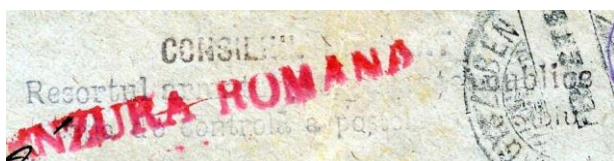
- ❖ The HQs of the 1st Rifle Regiment and the 3/17th Howitzer Battery (*1st Rifle Division*), present here on 14/27 February 1919).

1st Period

(19 December 1918 – 20 February 1919...)

The first censorship was carried out by the military at Sibiu Railway Station, beginning with **19 December 1918**. Shortly afterwards, a post was established by the *Governing Council* (Consiliul Dirigent) with the military from the local unit. By 14 January 1919, the censorship office was located at the *Cadet School*. It served as a **local terminal censorship** station for mail leaving the city of Sibiu, using a special handstamp.

OB06/86.1 (CM#67.1): three-line handstamp belonging to the Governing Council, headquartered in Sibiu, bearing the text **CONSILIUL DIRIGENT / Resortul armatei și siguranței publice / Secția de control a poștelor Sibiu** (= *Governing Council / Army and Public Safety Resort / Post Control Section Sibiu*); size 74 x 13 mm; applied in black ink between **January – 20 February 1919**. First reported by Dan Traian Demeter in 1996 [*B06.14*].



/86.1:



2nd Period

(...2 March – 14 July 1919)

Although censorship posts were generally established around 15 March 1919, in this case the office was not newly established but transferred from the Governing Council to the **C.T.T.**, enabling it to begin operations earlier (a reliable date is 2 March, possibly even as early as 22-26 February 1919). *Order no. 3755/2* regulated a total of 50 censors (under the command of Captain Boiu), of which 16 were assigned to mail at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station** (*for official mail, telegraph, and telephone*). In practice, only 21-27 censors were on duty between 16 April – 24 June 1919: 17-18 for mail at the **Post Office** and 2-13 for *newspapers*. Starting on 9 April 1919, the censorship headquarters operated on the **second floor of the Bruckenthal Palace**, with working hours from 9-12 and 15-18 (*see the attached vignettes*).

Biroul Cenzurei cu începerea din 9 Aprilie n. c. funcționează în Palatul Bruckenthal, tractul de mijloc, etajul II, dela 9—12 ore a. m. și 3—6 p. m. în zilele de lucru. Onoratul public este rugat să dea scrisorile deschise (nelipite) la poștă și acestea să nu fie mai lungi decât cel mult 4 pagini hârtie de epistole scrise legibil. Scrisorile închise se vor nimici din oficiu. Șeful Biroului Cenzurei din Sibiu.

Foia Poporului no. 14 from 13 April 1919

Biroul cenzurei din Sibiu are lipsă de mai mulți cenzozi pentru serviciu la telefon și telegraf. Reflectanții să se prezinte în persoană la biroul susnumit (Piața mare, Muzeul Bruckenthal, tractul II, etaj II) între orele 10—12 a. m. Salar 1000 cor. lunar. Tot pentru acest birou se caută și un servitor de cancelarie. Plata după învoială. Șeful Biroului Cenzurei. Căpitan Boiu.

Gazeta Poporului no. 17 from 27 April 1919

Aviz. Biroul de cenzură face încă odată atenție pe Onoratul public, că va cenzura și promova numai acele epistole, care nu vor fi mai lungi de 2 pagini obicnuite vor fi scrise legibil și se vor pune pe poștă în plic deschis, toate celelalte vor fi nimicite.

Biroul de cenzură Șeful:
Căpitan Boiu.

Anunț. Biroul de cenzură, postul Sibiu, caută cu începere din 1 Iulie mai mulți cenzozi cu pregătiri superioare pentru durată de cel puțin 3 luni. Reflectanții să se adreseze la șeful Biroului (Piața mare, Muzeul Bruckenthal, tractul de mijloc, etajul II) între orele 3—6 p. m.

Biroul de cenzură Șeful:
Căpitan Boiu.

Foia Poporului no. 25 from 29 June 1919



Fig. B06.49:
Inter-county
correspondence, not
censored on dispatch

Postcard postmarked MEDGYES * N. KUKULLO VM. (Medias, Tarnava Mare county) on **29 April 1919** and addressed to Sebes (in Sibiu county at that period). Because the local office in Medias had been closed and the county office in Sighisoara was not yet operational, the mail was not censored at departure but during transit through Sibiu, on **2 May 1919**, with the handstamp [B06/86.2](#).

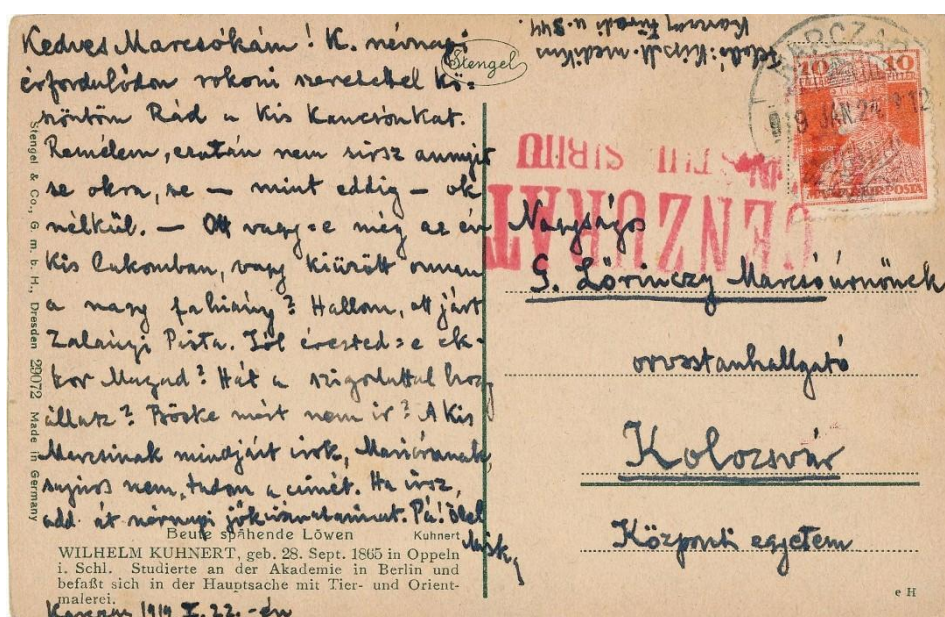


Fig. B06.50: Censorship of
mail arriving from the
unoccupied area
(Hungary).

Postcard written on 22 and postmarked KARCZAG (Hungary) on **24 January 1919**, addressed to Cluj. Although the direct distance is 250 km in a straight line, passing through Oradea, the postcard was diverted an additional 300 km to be censored sometime between February and May 1919 in Sibiu, with handstamp [B06/86.2](#).

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

The *county censorship office* continued to operate from 15 July 1919 for all mail sent from or arriving in the county. Order no. 6622 authorized 34 censors, including 15 for mail at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station**. In practice, there were 25 on 17 July 1919 (17 for mail, 1 for newspapers) and 19 on 14 July 1920. The office was closed once censorship was lifted — effectively on **31 July 1920**.

[B06/86.2](#) (TT95#31.2, CM#67.2): bi-linear handstamp bearing the text: **CENZURAT / POSTUL SIBIU**; dimensions 49 x 19-20 mm; applied in red, violet, blue, green and black ink between **25 February 1919** – **15 July 1920**. Correspondence with early postmarks from January 1919 exists, but most of these were sent from Hungary and likely censored a month or more later (see Fig. B06.50). Since 10 April 1919, this handstamp was typically accompanied by the censor's signature and the censorship date (in manuscript). Over time, the handstamp became visibly worn (many examples show significant distortion), and by the end of its use, impressions were nearly illegible. In the first T85 catalog, a separate type, #31.1, was listed, which is merely the deformed version of this stamp. Starting around 11 February 1920 and 25 May 1920, two or even three of the handstamps were primitively repaired with two parallel wires, visible on the prints). It is unclear why this worn stamp continued to be used throughout the station's operation especially when two other handstamps ([B06/86.3](#) and [B06/86.4](#)) were available.



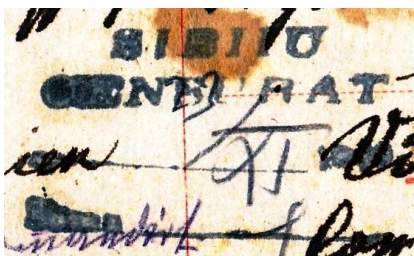
Fig. B06.51: Foreign correspondence to Czechoslovakia, censored in Sibiu

Postcard stamped with 35 bani, cancelled on **23 November 1919** at NAGYSZEBEN (Central Office), and addressed to the county of Bars in the newly formed Czechoslovakia. Local censorship was carried out the same day at the Sibiu county office, using handstamp [B06/86.3](#).

[B06/86.3](#) (CM#67.4): four-lines handstamp bearing the text: *SIBIU / CENZURAT / 1919 / Semn.*; dimensions 41 x 23 mm; applied in black ink between **30 September 1919 – February 1920**. First reported by the present author in 1997 [[B00.17](#)].



/86.3: 15 October 1919

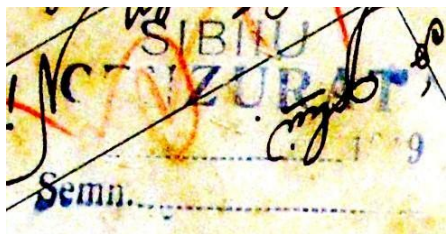


23 November 1919

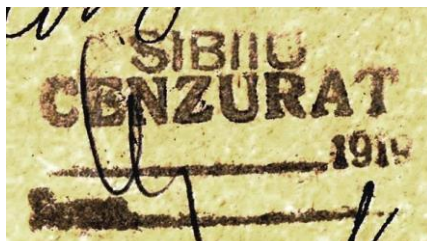


30 December 1919

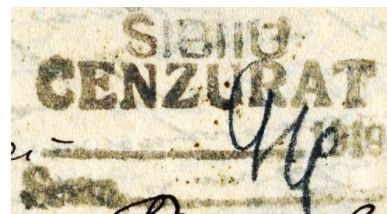
[B06/86.4](#) (TT95#31.3, CM#67.3): four-lines handstamp bearing the text: **SIBIU / CENZURAT / 1919 / Semn.**; dimensions 43 x 20 mm; applied in blue, black, violet and red ink between 17 March – 11 September 1919. By the end of this period, one sample appears deformed and illegible),



/86.4: 17 March 1919



3 July 1919



4 July 1919



19 August 1919



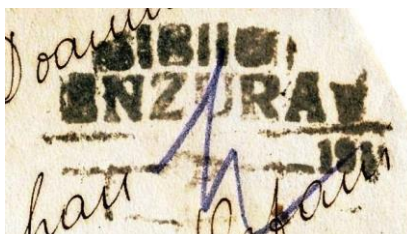
11 September 1919

Fig. B06.52: Double terminal censorship.

Registered cover postmarked SZINERSZEG (Sinersig, today in Timiș county) on 2 July 1919, censored in the local county office at LUGOJ with [B06/56.2](#), addressed to the Directing Council in Sibiu, and re-censored upon arrival with [B06/86.4](#).
(collection [Mark London](#))



/86.4*: 7 April 1920, missing 1919



10 June 1920, missing Semn



11 July 1920 illisible

- ❖ [.../86.4*](#): a second copy of this handstamp was reused between **13 March – 11 July 1920**. Once again, rapid deterioration and deformation are visible, with entire parts of the text (*1919, Semn...*) disappearing.

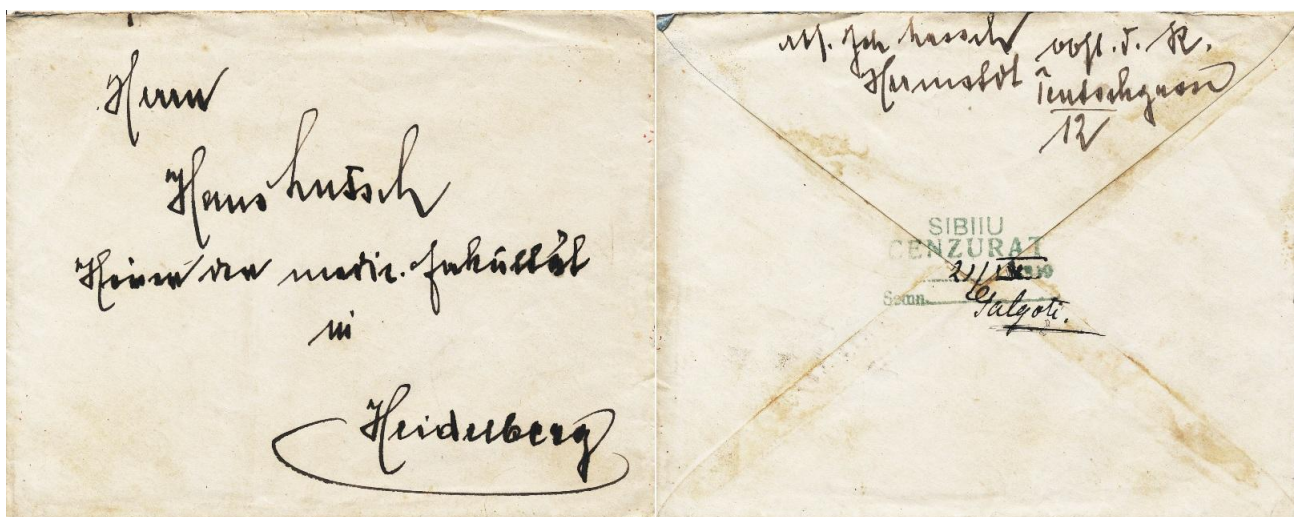


Fig. B06.53: International envelope transported by private courier, with initial censorship at the Sibiu office.

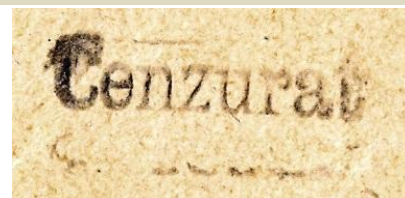
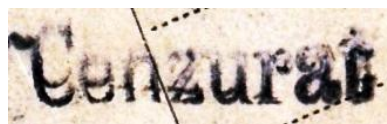
The transport of personal mail by private couriers was not prohibited, provided the text was initially censored by the sending office before sealing. This envelope was sent by a reserve officer from Sibiu to Heidelberg, Germany, through the goodwill of an acquaintance. Censorship in Sibiu was mandatory (attested by the handstamp [B06/86.4](#) on 24 September, before the envelope was sealed), otherwise the bearer could face severe punishment.



Fig. B06.54: Foreign correspondence to the USA, censored in Sibiu

Registered cover postmarked NAGYSZEBEN on **13 March 1920**, addressed to Cincinnati, OH, USA. Censorship carried out locally in Sibiu with handstamp [B06/86.4*](#). Arrival postmark on the reverse: CINCINNATI. OHIO * REGISTERED on 8 April 1920.

[B06/86.5](#): linear handstamp bearing the text: **Cenzurat**; dimensions **mm**; applied in black or black-violet ink between **19 – 30 July 1920**.



[/86.5](#):

[B06/86.6](#): exemption handstamp used for official correspondence, known from a single instance (on a telegram addressed by prefect dr. Cosma of Timișoara to the *Governing Council* in Sibiu). Rectangular frame, bi-linear interior text: **Cenzurat / Official**.

According to *Instructions no. 6622*: "correspondence from the *Governing Council* or prefects is exempt from censorship. For



such correspondence, a designated person will immediately apply the handstamp or write by hand Officially censored before handing it over to the post office for dispatch¹³⁹."

Re-censoring of newspapers arriving from Transylvania by the office in Sibiu.

At least in the case of the newspaper *Unirea* from Blaj, the issue of re-censoring upon arrival in Sibiu was raised — an unnecessary act, contrary to official instructions, since the paper had already been censored during editing at the local censorship station (see the notice below¹⁴⁰). The interesting fact that results from the attached notification is the confirmation that the newspaper wrappers bearing the handstamp of the destination censorship office do exist, at least in Sibiu, as of 30 October 1919.

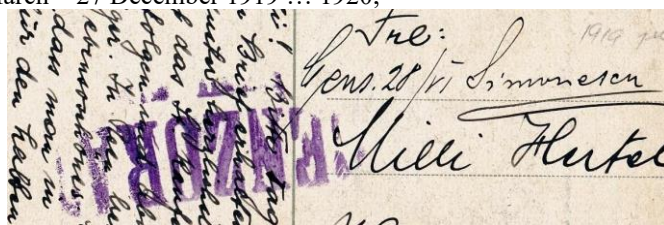
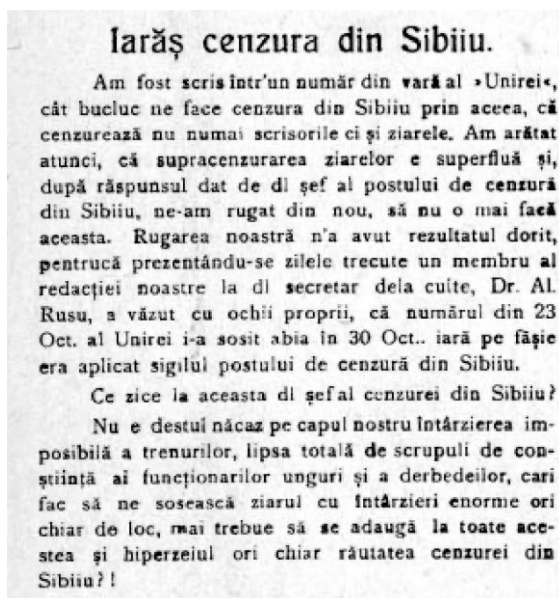
Excurs: Newspapers censorship in Sibiu.

By Order no. 3755/2 (April 1919), Sibiu had 16 press censors.

By Order no. 6622 (15 July 1919), this number was reduced to

6. Here are the names of the identified censors and their known activity periods:

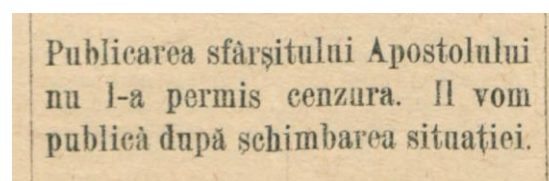
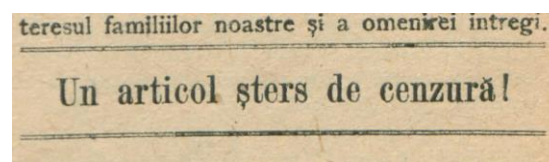
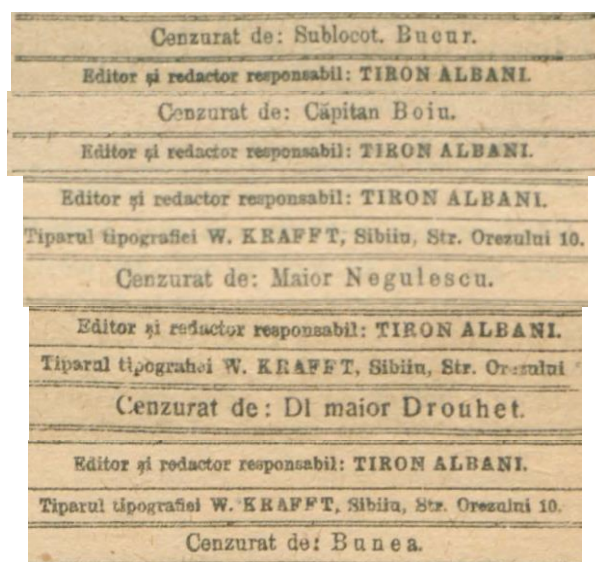
- **Major Eduard Drouhet** (from the C.T.T. Information Bureau, artillery): 29 June 1919;
- **Major Negulescu**: 27 April 1919;
- **Captain Boiu** (chief of Sibiu censor office): 22 March – 27 December 1919 ... 1920;
- **Second Lieutenant Vasile Bucur** (participant at the Alba-Iulia Assembly): 6 April – 19 October 1919;
- **Second Lieutenant Valer Păcală** (also an Alba-Iulia participant):
- **Bunea**: 20 July 1919;
- **D. Axente**: December 1919;
- **Jurca**
- **Simonescu** (also active in mail censorship; signature dated 28 June 1919):



Adevărul. Among the most heavily censored publications, *Adevărul* (Sibiu edition), *Organ of the Social Democratic Party of Transylvania and Banat*, began showing blank spaces or **Cenzurat** marks as early as December 1918. Regular notation of the censor's name in the editorial box began with issue no. 12 (6 April 1919). Here are the names of the noted censors: **Slt. Bucur** (6 April, 11 May, 1, 8, 15, 22 June, 6, 13, 27 July 1919), **Cpt. Boiu** (13, 20 April, 4, 18, 25 May 1919), **Mr. Negulescu** (27 April 1919), **Mr. Drouhet** (29 June 1919), **Bunea** (20 July 1919). By the end of July, the publication was renamed *Tribuna Socialistă* (The Socialist Tribune).

¹³⁹ *Buletinul ABB*, no. 1/1992, pag. 22, no. 1(63)/2007, pag. 34 and no. 2(64)/2007, pag. 39.

¹⁴⁰ *Unirea* (Blaj) no. 242 from 12 November 1919

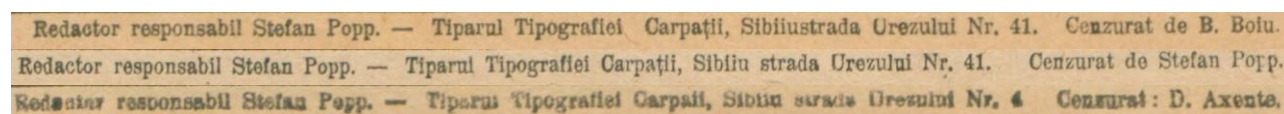


Tribuna Socialistă (ex-Adevărul) Organ of the *Socialist Party* (formerly Social Democrats) in *Transylvania and the Hungarian parts*. Censors :

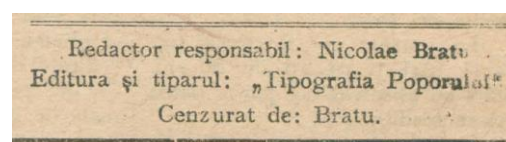
Căp. Boiu (10, 17, 24, 31 August, 4, 7, 11, 25, 28 September, 2, 5, 16, 23 October 1919), **Slt. Bucur** (31 July, 3, 14, 17, 21, 28 August, 14, 18, 21 September, 9, 12, 19 October 1919).



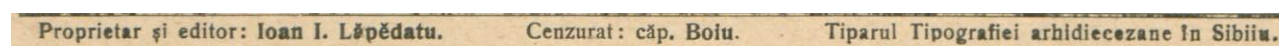
Gazeta Poporului. Founded by dr. N. Bălan, dr. I. Broșu, and dr. Silviu Dragomir. Though censorship was minimal, names were listed in the editorial box starting with issue no. 13 (30 March 1919), as follows: **Cpt. B. Boiu** (30 March 1919), **Ștefan Popp** (also the responsible editor, 6, 13, 27 April, 18, 25 mai, 8, 22 June, 6, 13, 20, 27 July, 3, 10, 24 August, 7, 14, 21, 28 September, 12, 19, 26 October, 30 November, 7 December 1919), **D. Axente** (14, 21, 25 December 1919).



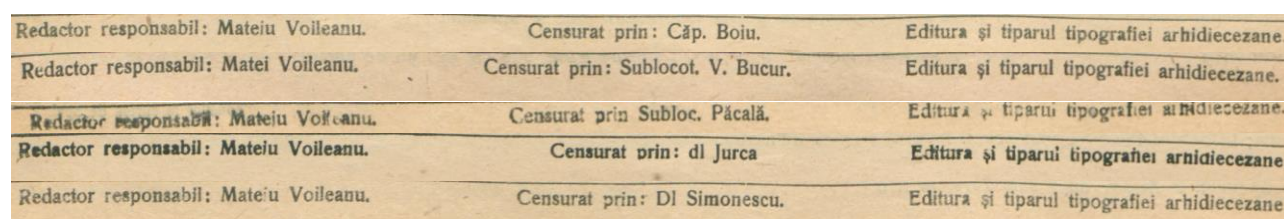
Foaia Poporului, organ of the Romanian National Party, no blank spaces observed, as censorship was handled during editing. Only one (self)-censor was noted in the editorial box starting with issue no. 13 (6 April 1919): **Nicolae Bratu** (also the responsible editor), between 6 April – 28 December 1919, at least.



Revista Economică, Organ of *Solidarity, a federation of Romanian financial institutes*. No white spaces observed, as censorship was done during the editorial phase. There is only one censor mentioned since the issue of 22 March 1919: **Căp. Boiu** (22 March – 27 December 1919).



Telegraful Român, a *national-ecclesiastical organ*, also censored editorially. There are censors mentioned in the editorial box starting with 6 May 1919 until at least 24 December 1920: **Căp. Boiu**, **Slt. V. Bucur**, **Slt. Păcală**, **Dl. Jurca**, **Dl. Simonescu**



B06/87. – SICULENI / Madéfalva
(Ciuc county, today Harghita county)

1st Period
(...17 March 1919...)

The office was established by a military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the *1st Rifle Division* as of 17 March 1919).

2nd Period
(...1 May – 15 July 1919)

The censorship office was created by *Order no. 3755/2*, with 4 censors stationed at the **Railway Station** (handling *telegraph and telephone, and official mail*).

3rd Period
(15 July – 21 October 1919 ...)

The office was maintained by *Order no. 6622*, with 3 censors at the **Railway Station** (limited to *telegraph and telephone*). Probably it continued operating even after 1 June 1920.

B06/88. – SIGHETUL MARMAȚIEI / Máramarossziget
(Maramureș county, then and now)

The city was occupied by the 14th Infantry Regiment on **18 January 1919**. On **5 May 1919**, the Sighet post office was integrated into the Romanian postal system by "Mr. Vasile Dancuș (originally from Sarasău), acting director of the Oradea Mare post office. He will spend a few days in our midst, with the mission to oversee the post office, which will be integrated in the future towards the offices in Oradea Mare and not to that of Kassa."¹⁴¹

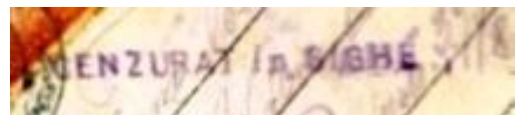
Early Romanian military presence in town:

- The II/14 and III/14 Infantry Battalions, from the *7th Infantry Division* (14/27 February 1919).

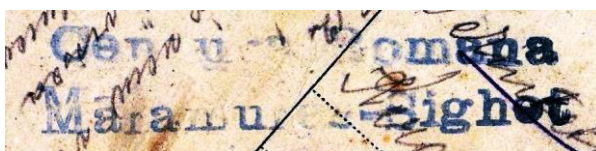
1st Period
(...25 January – March 1919...)

The censorship office was established by the local 14th Infantry Regiment (subordinated to the *7th Infantry Division* as of 17 March 1919), with 12-13 employees: 10 at the **Post Office** (7 for *correspondence*, 3 for *telegraph and telephone*) and 2 at the **Railway Station**. As the main office for Maramureș County, Sighet also censored a significant portion of correspondence from the Maramureș area of Subcarpathian Ukraine; see chapter [#B10](#).

[ⓄB06/88.1](#) (TT95#45.1, CM#69.1): linear, primitive handstamp with the text (sans-serif): **CENZURAT in SIGHET**; dimensions 57 x 3,5 mm; applied in violet between **25 January – February 1919**.



[ⓄB06/88.2](#) (CM#69.2): bi-linear handstamp bearing the text: **Censura Romana / Maramures-Sighet**; dimensions 69 x 13 mm; applied in black or blue ink between **13 – 14 February 1919**. First reported by Ladislau Szegedi [[B06.18B](#)] (from Volonc Gabor collection) and Ionescu Eduard [[B06.16B](#)], both in 1997.



/88.2:



February 1919

¹⁴¹ *Sfatul* (Sighet) no. 18 from 9 May 1919.

2nd Period

(...5 April – 22 September 1919...)

Order no. 3755/2 of **March 1919** regulated 16 censors at the **Post Office** (7 for *correspondence*). In practice, there were 14-16 censors: 6-7 for *correspondence*, 2 for *newspapers*, and 4 for *telegraph and telephones*. On 21 May 1919, the office was not functioning.



/88.3: From archives

17 September 1919

ⓄB06/88.3 (CM#69.3): round handstamp with inner text: **CENZURAT OFICIUL * SIGHETUL MARMAȚIEI**; diameter

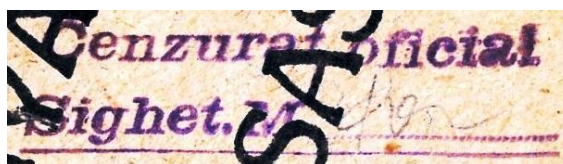
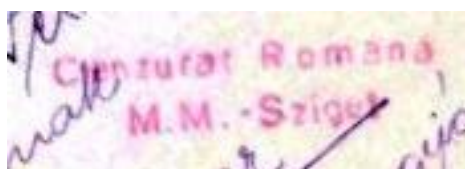
33,5/31 mm; four copies produced by Simon Sole workshop in Cluj, delivered on 5 April 1919, but recorded only between **17 – 29 September 1919**. It was the head of the censorship's handstamp, and was mainly used for documents and official correspondence. First reported by Simándy Geza in 1992.

3rd Period

(... September 1919 – 27 July 1920)

Order No. 6622 regulated 27 censors: 10 at the **Post Office** (for *correspondence*), and 4 at the **Railway Station**. In September, only 17 censors were present. From 1 June 1920, the office processed all categories of mail, including foreign correspondence arrived (mainly from Germany), except press censorship. The office closed at the end of July 1920.

ⓄB06/88.4 (CM #69.4): bi-linear handstamp bearing the text: **Cenzurat Romana / M.M.-Sziget**; used between September – **23 December 1919**¹⁴².



/88.4:

27 January 1920

ⓄB06/88.5 (TT95#45.2, CM#69.5): bi-linear handstamp bearing the text: **Cenzurat Oficial / Sighet. M.....**; dimensions 49 x 12 mm; applied in violet ink between **30 November 1919 – 17 February 1920**.

ⓄB06/88.6 (TT95#45.3, CM#69.6): four-line handstamp bearing the text: **CENZURAT. / Sighet, la.....19 // cenzor**; dimensions 48 x 23-24 mm; applied in violet ink between **11 May – 27 July 1920**. A similar type was reused in 1921.



/88.6: 11 May 1920

8 July 1920

4th Period (War Zone and Foreign Mail)

(...1 April – September 1921)

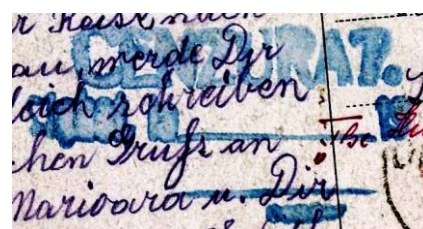
On 22 February 1921, the office was inactive. It was re-established before **1 April 1921** with 10 censors (likely all at the **Post Office**), tasked with censorship in the War zone.

¹⁴² First reported by Simándy Geza in Hungarian *Philatelica*, also translated in *Filatelie* no. 7-8/1992, pag. 5.

- ❖ .../88.6*: the handstamp was reused in red-lila and blue ink between **22 June – ca. 7 September 1921**. This is the *latest censor handstamp recorded from Transylvania*.



/88.6*: 22 June 1921



Ca. 7 September 1921

Fig. B06.56: Latest day of Transylvanian censorship!

German postcard cancelled HEIDELBERG on 31 August 1921, addressed to Câmpina, arrival postmark CAMPINA on 6 September 1921, then redirected to the new address in Săcelul (Maramureș county). Censored in transit at Sighetul Marmatiei with a worn handstamp ⓐB06/88.6*. (collection Cristian Scăiceanu)



B06/89. – SIGHIȘOARA / Segesvár (Târnava Mare county, today Mureș county)

The town was occupied on **15 December 1918** by units of the *1st Rifle Division*. Early Romanian military presence in town:

- ❖ The HQs of *1st Rifle Division*, the artillery command and TFF Post No. 3, along with the divisional subunits (truck section, ambulance, subsistence depot, and field bakery), as of 14/27 February 1919.

1st Period

(... 14 January – 4 February 1919...)

The censorship office was established by the local military unit (*1st Rifle Division HQs*), with 5 censors as of 21 January 1919. It acted as a **local, terminal censorship** authority for outgoing correspondence from Sighișoara, using the military unit's handstamp.

ⓐB06/89.1: provisional type, resulting from the removal of the subunit name from a military censor handstamp; the text **ARMATA DE OPERAȚII / LIBERĂ EXPEDIERE** surrounds the Kingdom's coat of arms. Applied in violet ink on **14 January 1919**; see Fig. A80.54 of *Volume A/2*.

ⓐB06/89.2: military handstamp of the 1st Rifle divisional HQs, circular with the inner text **Divizia I Vânători - Serviciul de stat major** surrounding the coat of arms. Applied in violet ink between **20 January – 5 February 1919**; see Fig. B06.57 and Fig. A80.42, A80.55 of *Volume A/2*.



/89.1: 14 January 1919



/89.2: From document



Fig. B06.57: civilian mail censored near the 1st Rifle Division HQs in SIGHISOARA.

Hungarian illustrated postcard (Sighișoara Square), written in German, sent to Sibiu. Censored locally using two handstamps of the Division's General Staff ([B06/89.2](#)). Postmarked SEGESVÁR on 20 January 1919.

[B06/89.3](#): the new military handstamp of 1st Rifle Division HQs (no number), with the text **Divizia I Vânători / CENSURAT**; size 50 x 19 mm, applied with violet ink between (at least) **10 – 17 February 1919**, see Fig. B06.58 and Figs. A80.43, A80.56 (*Volume A/2*).



The Sighișoara Censorship Office had used its own stamps only starting with July 1919. As such, the three stamps of the Division must be seen as the first censorship markings in Sighișoara.



Fig. B06.58: civilian mail censored near the 1st Rifle Division HQs in SIGHISOARA.

Photocard (fortified church of Apold), written on **12 February 1919**, cancelled with the rectangular APOLD agency postmark, censored in Sighișoara using the new Division's HQs handstamp ([B06/89.3](#)). Addressed to Brașov.

2nd Period (...1 May 1919...)

Order no. 3755/2 of March 1919 established 7 censors at the **Post Office** (handling newspapers, telegrams, telephone) and 4 at the **Railway station**. As of 1 May, there were 9 active censors. Though not specifically assigned to mail censorship, telegraph censors could conduct this function if necessary. However, no censored correspondence from this period is known. Mail from Târnava Mare County was likely censored in other destination offices (e.g. Sibiu for Mediaș, Brașov for Sighișoara), suggesting that *censorship* in Sighișoara *may have ceased* during this period.

3rd Period (15 July 1919 – 31 July 1920)

Mail censorship appears to have resumed around **15 July 1919** by Order no. 6622, establishing a staff of 22 censors, including 8 for correspondence at the **Post Office**, and 4 at the **Railway station**. On 29 August 1919, the actual number was 11 (5 for correspondence, 4 at the Railway station), increasing to 16 by 1 July

1920. From 1 June 1920, *all sections* were active, excluding press censorship. At least one Railway Station censor also handled regular civilian correspondence. The office covered all of Târnava Mare County.

ⓄB06/89.4: with the re-establishment of mail censorship came the use of improvised, primitive handstamps, oftens accompanied by manuscript notations. Here are the known types used between **27 July – 10 October 1919** (new examples could appear at any time), grouped under the same sequence number:

- ❖ **.../89.4A** (CM#70.1): handwritten marking: *Cenzurat, Sighișoară 27 Julie 1919...*, signed by *Iralian Filipescu*, next to a circular Prefecture handstamp: *Prefectul județului Târnava-mare / Sighișoara*; diameter 30,5 mm¹⁴³.



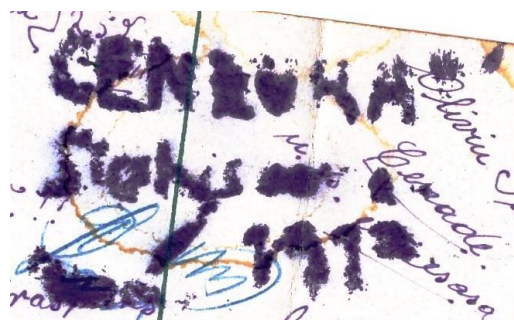
/89.4B: 10 October 1919

- ❖ **.../89.4B** (CM#70.5): linear primitive handstamp with the text **CENZURAT**; dimension ca. 34 x 12,5 mm; applied in black-violet ink, along the handwritten *Sigh, la 10/8 919, Pop cenzor* or *Sigh la 10/X 919, Pop cenzor*, suggesting its use between **10 August – 10 October 1919**. First reported by Silviu Dragomir in 1983 [**B06.1**], but assigned in T85 by error to Sighet.



/89.4C: 16 August 1919

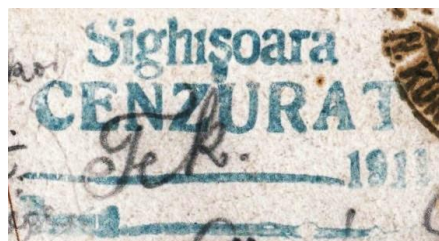
- ❖ **.../89.4C:** linear primitive handstamp with the text **CENZURA**; dimensions 29 x 5 mm; applied in black-violet ink, along the handwritten *Sigh 16/VIII*.



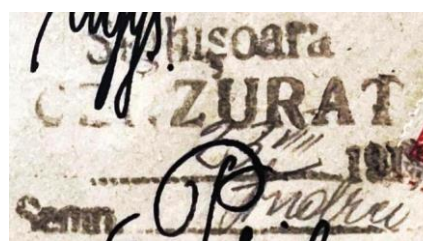
/89.5: 5 August 1919

ⓄB06/89.5 (TT95#32.6, CM#70.2): four-line standardized primitive handstamp bearing the text: **CENSURAT / Sighișoara / 1919 / Semn.**; dimensions ca. 48 x 30 mm; applied in violet or black ink between July – **5 August 1919**; became faint toward the end of its use.

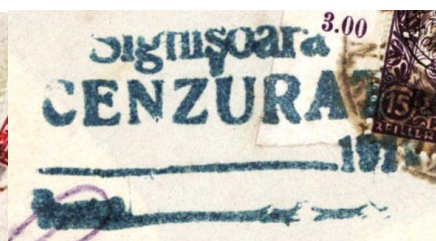
ⓄB06/89.6 (TT95#32.7, CM#70.3): four-line standardized handstamp bearing the text: **Sighișoara / CENZURAT / 1919 / Semn.**; dimensions 44 x 24 mm; applied in violet or blue ink between **21 August – 23 October 1919**. It turns out that multiple specimens were produced; one (**.../89.6a**) degraded quickly.



/89.6: 21 August 1919



23 August 1919



7 September 1919



/88.6a: 10 September 1919



18 September 1919



20 September 1919

¹⁴³ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, pag. 178-179

©B06/89.7 (TT95#32.5, CM#70.6): bi-linear primitive handstamp bearing the text: **Sighișoara / CENZURAT**; dimensions 47 x 18 mm; applied in black ink between **4 – 17 November 1919**; degraded quickly, later impressions show only *Sighișoara* faintly within a rectangle.



/89.7: 4 November 1919



6 November 1919



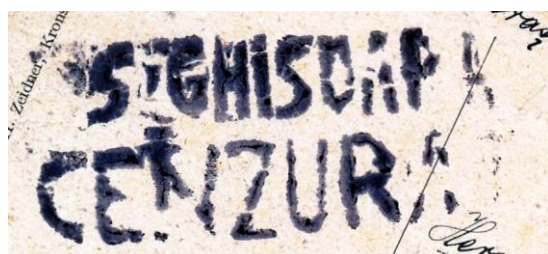
17 November 1919

©B06/89.8 (TT95#32.3, 32.4, CM#70.7, 70.8): Below several dimensional variants of a primitive bi-linear stamp are grouped, all bearing the text: **SIGHISOARA / CENZURAT**; sizes 55 x 25 mm to 64 x 27 mm; applied in black, violet or blue ink between **25 November 1919 – 4 February 1920 ... 6 June 1920**. Classification is difficult and likely useless; two variants can be distinguished at first glance:

- ❖ **.../89.8A**: the letters E and T in CENZURAT straight or bent left..
- ❖ **.../89.8B**: letters E and T in CENZURAT visibly bent to the right.

Several visible subvariants can also be identified, each probably representing a different handstamp:

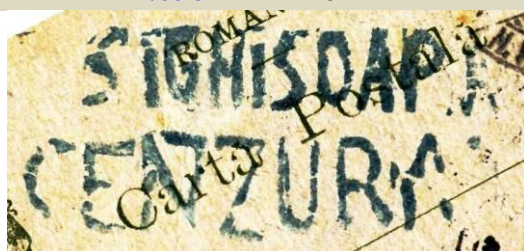
- ❖ **.../89.8a**: the letter N "with Cross".
- ❖ **.../89.8b**: the letter N "with lid".
- ❖ **.../89.8c**: the letters N-Z connected by an upper line.



/89.8Aa: N with Cross



29 January 1920: N with Cross



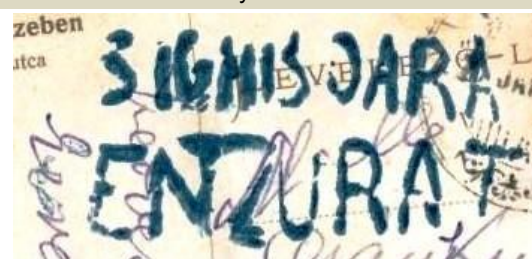
/89.8Ab: 11 January 1920: N with lid



29 January 1920: N with lid



/89.8Bc: 30 December 1919: N-Z united



6 January 1920: N-Z united



/89.8B: 5 December 1919



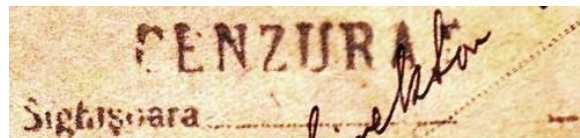
/89.8?: 29 November 1919

[⊙B06/88.9](#) (TT95#32.8, CM#70.10): bi-linear handstamp bearing the text: **CENZURAT / Sighișoara**, size 60 x 11-12 mm; applied in black ink between **5 February – 11 May 1920**. It appears in two slightly different variations, resulting from two different manufactured samples:

- ❖ [.../89.9a](#): light printing, only the text is visible; period of use **7 – 29 April 1920**. This is the sub-type which appears in TT95 catalogue (taken from József Álmos).



/89.9a: 29 April 1920



? 1920

- ❖ [.../89.9b](#): heavy printing, showing multiple lines besides the text, handstamp margin, etc.; dimensions ca. 60 x 11-12 mm; applied in black ink between **5 May – 16 June 1920**. One specimen shows early deterioration ([/89.9ba](#)).



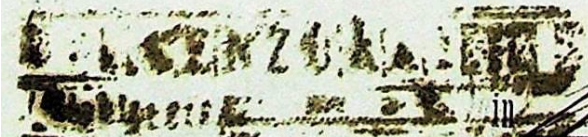
/89.9b: 8 May 1920



12 May 1920



3 June 1920



/89.9ba: 16 June 1920

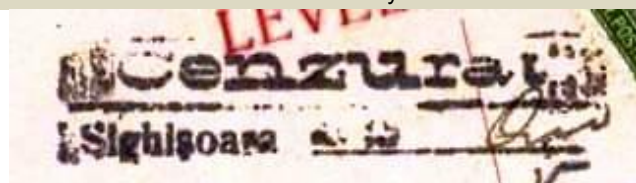
[⊙B06/89.10](#) (TT95#32.1, CM#70.4): bi-linear handstamp bearing the text: **Cenzurat / Sighișoara**; size of 40 x 10 mm; applied in black and violet ink between **21 February – 12 May 1920**. This type is known since the T87 manuscript (1987), preserved in all subsequent publications but drawn in a simplified and unrealistic manner, omitting the lines resulting from rubber application.



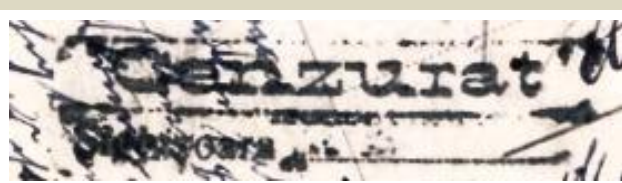
/89.10: 21 February 1920



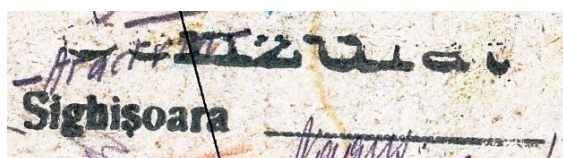
24 March 1920



11 May 1920



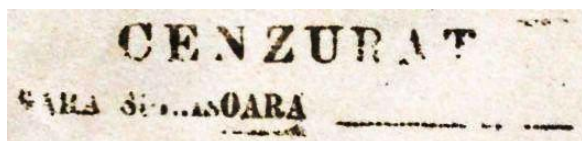
- ❖ [.../89.10a](#): A variant applied between **10 March – 19 April 1920** in black ink; dimensions 49 x 10 mm (with frame line), or 46 x 10 mm (only text). The text and letter shapes are similar to the previous handstamp, but the stamp frame is clean, without parasitic lines. At least two samples were made: one leaving a clean imprint, other showing full lines and pin impressions from the rubber.



19 April 1920

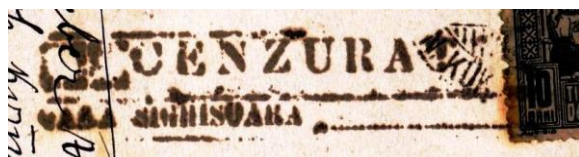
Ⓞ**B06/89.11** (TT95#32.2, CM#70.11, 70.12): bi-linear handstamp bearing the text: **CENZURAT / GARA SIGHISOARA**, size ca. 54 x 12 mm (text only), applied in black or violet ink between **16 June – 3 July 1920**. Two slightly different variations exist, from separate manufactured samples:

- ❖ **.../89.11a**: light printing, only the text is visible; seen on **22 June 1920**.

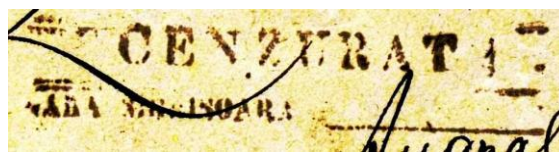


/89.11a: 22 June 1920

- ❖ **.../89.11b**: heavy printing, showing multiple lines beyond the text, handstamp margin, etc.; applied in black ink between **16 June – 3 July 1920**. Size: 52 x 10 mm (text only), 60-61 x 12-13 mm (lines included). This type is listed in TT catalogues and later publications with the CFR particle (= *Căile Ferate Române / Romanian Railways*) added to the left of the stamp. This is a mistaken interpretation: Mircea Teleguț saw the attachment point of the rubber — visible in the upper-left corner — as the „CFR” abbreviation.



/89.11b: 28 June 1920



3 July 1920



Fig. B06.59:

Registered cover franked with 2x25 bani (50 bani) Moldova issue, postmarked BÜRKÖS (Bărgiș) on **16 June 1920**; transit censorship at the Railway station in Sighisoara with handstamp Ⓞ**B06/89.11b**; arrival at UJVERBÁSZ (today Novi Vrbas, Serbia) on 25 June 1920 (on reverse).

Ⓞ**B06/89.12**: bi-linear primitive handstamp with the probable text **SIGHISOARA / CENZURAT**; applied in black ink towards the end of **June 1920** (on a postcard sent 14 June from Iași to Agnita). The execution appears inspired by type **.../85.8**, but differs in the letters thickness. Remnants of this handstamp are visible on an envelope circulated around **18 September 1920** from Năsăud to Sibiu.



/89.12: June 1920



Ca. 18 September 1920

B06/90. – SOVATA BĂI / Szovátafürdő
(Ciuc county, today Harghita country)

2nd Period
(...April 1919 ?)

Order no. 3755/2 appointed 5 censors at the **Post Office**, 3 for *Telegraph* (who also had the right to censor correspondence, if necessary), and 2 for *Telephone*. However, the office no longer appears in a list dated 16 April 1919.

B06/91. – SUBCETATE / Várhely
(Hunedoara county, then and now)

1st Period
(...17 March 1919...)

The office was established by a military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the *2nd Rifle Division* as of 17 March 1919).

2nd Period
(...April 1919...)

Order no. 3755/2 regulated only two censors at the **Railway Station** for *official mail, telegraph and telephone*. In practice, three censors were present in April 1919, all based at the Railway Station. Theoretically, mail censorship could also be performed by a telegraph censor.

3rd Period
(...July 1919 ...)

Order no. 6622 appointed 5 censors at the **Railway Station**.

SZEGHALOM – see #B09/29
(Békés county / ZCD, today in Hungary)

B06/92. – ȘIMLEUL SILVÂNIEI / Szilágysomlyó
(Sălaj county, then and now)

2nd Period
(...May – July 1919)

The office was established by special order (as at the time of *Order no. 3755/2* in March 1919, the town of Șimleu was still under Hungarian administration). The office no longer appears in *Order no. 6622*.

[@B06/92.1](#) (TT95#46.2, CM#72.1): bi-linear handstamp with the text **CENZURA * ROMÂNĂ / Șimleul-Silvanie**; dimensions 50 x 10 mm; applied in blue-gray ink between **16 May – 16 July 1919**.



/92.1: 17 May 1919



23 May 1919

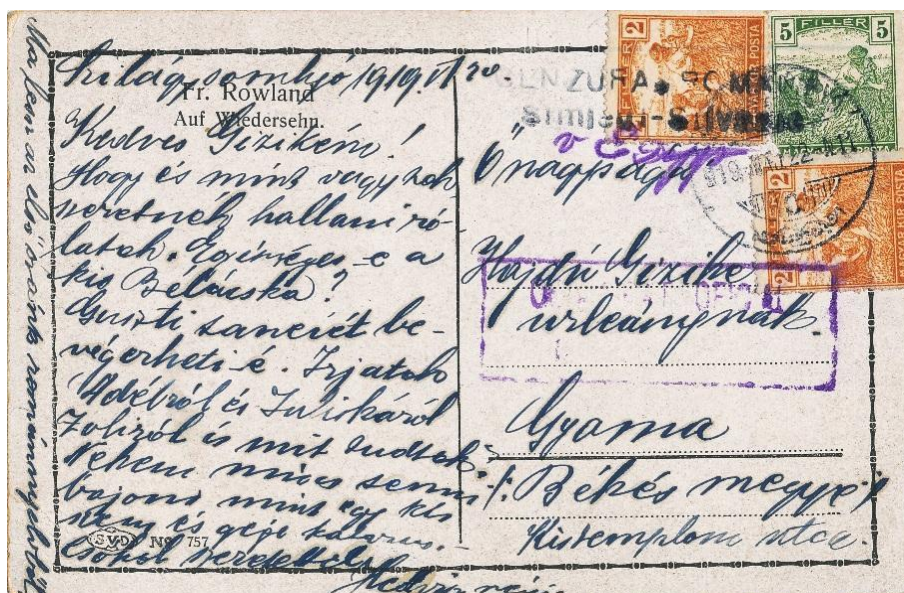


Fig. B06.61:

Postcard cancelled in SZILÁGYSONMLYÓ on 22 May 1919, censored locally with handstamp [B06/92.1](#) (along the censor signature Popp). As it was addressed to Gyoma (Békés county, under Romanian occupation at that time), the postcard was re-censored in transit by Oradea, with the handstamp [B06](#).

[B06/92.2](#) (CM #72.2): bi-linear handstamp with the text **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ / SIMLEUL SILVaniei**; dimensions ca. 52 x 9 mm; applied in black ink in July 1919¹⁴⁴. Must be confirmed.

B06/92A. – Another censorship office in ȘIRIA / Világos?
(Arad county, then and now)

The attached correspondence was originally reported by Mircea Dragoteanu in 2003 (*Curierul Filatelic* no. 126), who believed it bore the rare stamp of an unknown censorship office in the village of Șiria (see Fig. B06.62): a registered cover franked with an overprinted 4 Bani "Cluj" issue, postmarked KOLOZSVÁR in August 1919, censored in that city with [B06/92.2](#), and apparently re-censored upon arrival with a military handstamp reading: **Posta Reg Rom Siria**. Later, the interpretation of the stamp was slightly revised to **Postul Reg Rom Siria**, as if to reinforce the idea of a censorship office. The abbreviation "Reg" (which remains uncertain) may derive from *Regal* (Royal) or *Regiment*. However, there was no regiment with this name, and that Șiria is nowhere documented as a censorship office. Upon analyzing the handstamp at high resolution, the text clearly reads "**Posta Reg Rom Siria**", which could plausibly be interpreted as "*The Royal Romanian Post Office Șiria*" rather than "*The Romanian Șiria Regiment Post*". The word "Posta" is clear. Therefore, it is an atypical provisional postmark used by the Șiria post office — its application being necessary due to the item's registered status. The handstamp was likely made locally, most probably due to the loss of the former Hungarian postmark (it is worth noting that the date canceller was also missing in Pâncota for a period). Thus, this is a unique and rare piece of correspondence, but it has no connection to any form of censorship activity in the village of Șiria



Fig. B06.62 (source: Museum of Romanian Records, Bucharest)



¹⁴⁴ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, pag. 180

B06/93. – ȘOMCUTA MARE / Nagysomkut
(Satu Mare county, today Maramureș county)

2nd Period
(...)

[ⓄB06/93.1](#) (CM#73.1): circular handstamp with central coat of arms and inner text: **CENZURAT OFICIUL * ȘOMCUTA MARE**; dimensions 33/31 mm, probably manufactured by the Simon Sole workshop in Cluj and delivered on **5 April 1919**.



B06/94. – TÂRGU MUREȘ / Marosvásárhely
(Mureș-Turda county, today Mureș county)

The city was vacated by the Szekler troops on 1 December and occupied by the 13th Brigade of the **7th Infantry Division** on **2 December 1918**. Early Romanian military presence in town:

- ❖ One company and one MG platoon of the 27th Infantry Regiment, from the **7th Infantry Division** (as of 14/27? February 1919).

* „Cenzurat“. Azi primim la redacție cea dintâi scrisoare din Târgul-Murașului, eu stampila românească: „cenzurat“. O dăm la „mai nou“.

From the newspaper Unirea (Blaj), no. 23 of 11 December 1918

1st Period

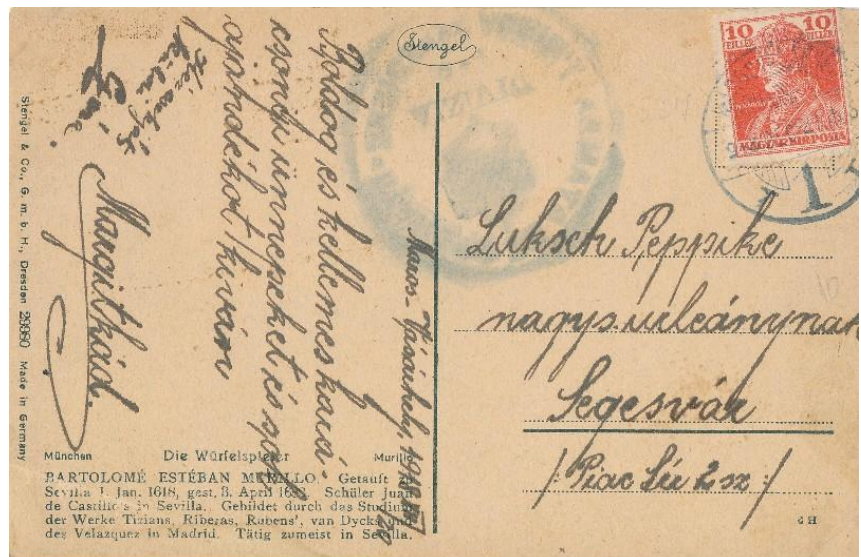
(...20 December 1918 – February 1919 ...)

The office was organized by the military unit stationed in the city, subordinated to the 7th Infantry Division (between 21 January - 17 March 1919), with 3 censors reported on 22 January 1919.

[ⓄB06/94.1](#): first type was the AOLE round military cachet of the 7th Infantry Division Command, with the text **ARMATA DE OPERAȚII * LIBERĂ EXPEDIERE / DIVIZIA 7-a**; diameter of 42/40 mm; applied in blue-violet ink between **20 – 27 December 1918**¹⁴⁵.

Fig. B06.63: Hungarian civilian correspondence censored by the military office of the 7th Division in Târgu Mureș.

Illustrated postcard written in Hungarian on **20 December 1918** in Târgu Mureș, addressed to a friend from Sighișoara. Postmarked MAROSVÁSÁRHELY, locally censored by Romanian military authorities of the 7th Infantry Division, using the handstamp [ⓄB06/94.1](#).



2nd Period

(1 March – July 1919)

Order no. 3755/2 regulates 24 censors: 11 for *correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station** (for *official mail, telegraph, and telephone*). In practice, the staff included 8-13 censors, of which 4 handled *correspondence*.

¹⁴⁵ For 27 December 1918, see the image at: Dan-Traian Demeter, *Buletinul ABB* no. 3(19)/1997, pag. 19 - [[ⓄB06.19](#)]

©B06/94.2 (CM#75.3): negative double-circle stamp with the text **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ / TÂRGUL MUREȘULUI**; diameter ca. 32,5 mm; applied in red-violet ink on **1 March 1919**. This is probably the cachet of the head of the censorship post, intended for official documents and occasionally used for correspondence. Image source: Iulian Cherata, reproduced also by Călin Marinescu in 2004 [**B00.5**, pag. 181].



©B06/94.3 (TT95#35.3, CM#75.2): after the division left, individualized stamps were used. The first had a rectangular double frame with a three-line text inside: **CENZURATA! / BIROUL DE CENZURĂ / ÎN TÂRGUL MUREȘ**; dimensions 79-80 x 34 mm; applied in black or violet ink between **13 March – 19 April 1919**, becoming deformed toward the end of its use.

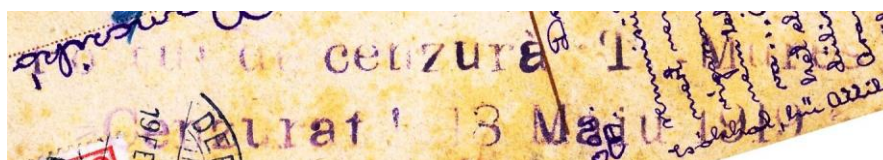


/94.3: 13 March 1919



19 April 1919

©B06/94.4 (TT95#35.4, CM #75.1): two-lines handstamp with the text **Postul de cenzură – T.-Mureș / Cenzurat !**, followed by the date (example **18 Maiu 1919**); dimensions 110 x 18 mm; applied in black and violet ink between **25 April – 18 May 1919**.



3rd Period

(...July 1919 – 14 July 1920 ...)

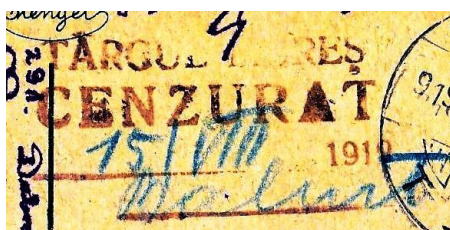
Order no. 6622 regulates 22 censors: 10 for *correspondence* at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station** (for *official mail, telegraph, and telephone*). In practice, there were 25 censors as of 26 September 1919: 10 for *correspondence*, 3 for *newspapers*, one for *official mail* at the Railway Station. From 1 June 1920, the office operated in all sections, except for press censorship. On 1 July 1920, the number of censors was 18.

©B06/94.5 (TT95 #35.1, 35.2, CM #75.4): standardized four-line handstamp with the text **TÂRGUL MUREȘ / CENZURAT /1919 / Semn.**; dimensions 40 x 20 mm: applied in violet, red, black and blue ink between **2 June 1919 – 14 July 1920**. In March 1920, one of the samples showed advanced deterioration, being practically illegible.

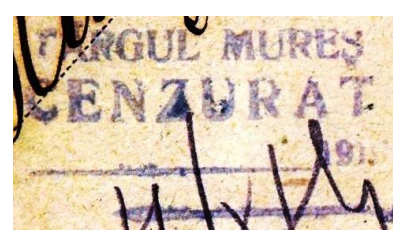
❖ **.../94.5a**: On 15 August and 4 October 1919, a variant without the word 'semn' was observed, otherwise identical (including the lower line).



/94.5: 12 June 1919



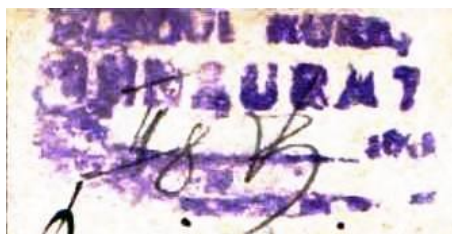
/94.5a: 15 August 1919: without "semn"



/94.5a: 4 October 1919



21 December 1919



8 March 1920: heavy deformed



14 July 1920

B06/95. – TEIUȘ / Tövis
(Alba-Inferioară county, today Alba county)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- Two platoons of the III/12 Infantry Battalion of the *6th Infantry Division* (27? February 1919), awaiting replacement by the 1st Rifle Division.

2nd Period

(...April – 1 May 1919...)

The office was established by *Order 3755/2*, with 4 censors assigned at the Railway **Station** (*for official mail, telegraph, and telephone*), who were still present on 1 May 1919.

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 1 July 1920...)

The office was maintained by *Order 6622* of July 1919, with 5 censors at the Railway **Station** (*for official mail, telegraph, and telephone*). On 1 May 1920, the office actually had 4 censors. From 1 June 1920, it consistently appeared as a censorship post at the Railway Station.

[⊙B06/95.1](#): unconfirmed three-line handstamp with probable text **TEIUȘ / CENZURAT / Censor....**, seen in an advanced state of degradation (illegible) on **1 July 1920**, on a postcard circulated between Teiuș and Odorheiu Secuiesc and re-censored in Blaj (possibly due to the illegibility of the initial handstamp).



B06/96. – TIMIȘOARA / Temesvár
(Timiș-Torontal county, today Timiș county)

The first Romanian troops in the city were the gendarmes from Arad (480) and Lugoj (500), who arrived on the morning of **2 August 1919**, followed the next day at 8:00 a.m. by units of the Romanian army under the command of colonel Virgil Economu.

3rd Period

(24 August 1919 – 19 July 1920)

Romanian military censorship began functioning only after the Romanian takeover of the postal administration on **20 August 1919** (earliest date is 24 August 1919; see *Fig. B06.64*). *C.T.T. Order no. 11351* of 14 September 1919 confirmed the extension of *Order 6622* to Banat, with the censorship office serving Timiș County. On 18 September 1919, the head of the station was D. Voniga. On 24 April 1920, the head was Toth Ștefan, leading a staff of 32 officials: 7 for *press and print* censorship, 21 for *correspondence*, 4 for the *telegraph and telephone*. Between 10 January – 8 April 1920, the office had 41 censors. On 29 March and 1 July 1920, there were 28 censors (including 5 for *newspapers*, 10 for *correspondence*, and 4 at the **Railway Station**).

[⊙B06/96.1](#) (*TT95 #36.1, CM #14.1*). Circular handstamp with inner text **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ * TIMIȘOARA** (with a central ornament); diameter of 32/30 mm; applied in violet, red, blue or black ink between **24 August 1919 – 22 July 1920**. Several variants exist with slight differences:

- ❖ [.../96.1a](#): TIMIȘOARA 21 mm wide, with widely spaced letters (24 August – 8 September 1919);

- ❖ [.../96.1b](#): TIMIȘOARA 20 mm wide, with closely spaced letters;
- ❖ [.../96.1c](#): TIMIȘOARA 20 mm wide, with a single contour line, instead of two.



/96.1a: 3 September 1919



9 September 1919



8 September 1919



/96.1b: September 1919



14 October 1919



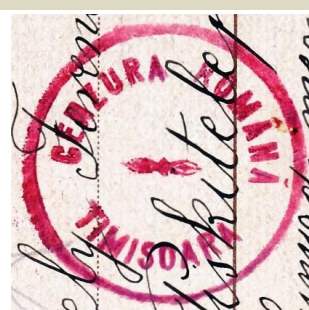
12 March 1920



/96.1c:



21 February 1920



7 March 1920



Fig. B06.64: local stamps Timișoara I used by the Romanian administration. Early known date of Romanian censorship in Timișoara.

Postcard franked with a pair of 10 filler overprint stamps (Timișoara I local issue during Serbian administration), written on 24 August 1919 in Timișoara, cancelled TEMESVÂR 2, with Romanian local censorship handstamp [B06/96.1b](#) (earliest date known so far), addressed to Lugoj.

[B06/96.2](#) (TT95 #36.2, CM #14.2). Circular handstamp with the inner text: **Cenzura Română * Timișoara** (and central ornament); diameter of 32 mm; applied in violet or red ink between 30 December 1919 – 1 January ... 1 March 1920.



/96.2: ca. 30 December 1919



Ca. 1 January 1920

4th Period (War Zone)

(October – November 1920)

On **23 October 1920**, censorship was re-established for *press and publications* at the **1st Infantry Division** Headquarters, and for *mail, telegrams, and telephones* at the **Post Office**. There is no confirmed evidence of correspondence censorship during this period, which possibly lasted only one month, as internal postal censorship was officially suspended on 20 November 1920.

B06/97. – TOPLIȚA ROMÂNĂ / Maroshéviz

(Mureș-Turda county, today Harghita county)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- The 5th Company of II/4 Rifle Battalion, from the **1st Rifle Division** (14/27? February 1919).

1st Period

(...21 January 1919...)

The censorship office was organized by the military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the **7th Infantry Division** on 21 January 1919, when only one censor was present).

2nd Period

(...16 April – 1 May 1919...)

Order 3755/2 established 5 censors at the **Post Office** (for *telegraph and telephone*, with competences for correspondence). However, only 3 were present in the field between 16 April – 1 May 1919. The office no longer appears in *Order 6622*.

TREBUȘA – see #B10/03

(Máramaros county / ZCD, today in Ukraine)

B06/98. – TURDA / Torda

(Turda-Arieș county, today Cluj county)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- I/12 Infantry Battalion, from the **6th Infantry Division** (14/27? February 1919).

1st Period

(...27 January – 17 March 1919...)

A censorship post was established by the military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the **1st Rifle Division** on 17 March 1919), with a section for censoring *correspondence*.

ⓄB06/98.1: linear handstamp bearing the text: **CENSURA ROMÂNĂ TURDA**; applied in black-violet ink between 27-28 January 1919 (*source Web 2008*)

**2nd Period**

(...16 April – 1 May 1919...)

The office was maintained by *Order 3755/2* with 6 censors (for *newspapers, telegraph, and telephone* – the latter also covering correspondence). On the ground, between 16 April – 1 May 1919, there were only 4 censors, one of whom was responsible for newspaper censorship.

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 17 July 1920)

Order 6622 established a staff of 22 censors, including 8 for *correspondence* at the Post Office and 4 at the Railway Station. On 15 July 1919, the actual staff was 19 censors (2 for *newspapers* and 8 for *correspondence* at the Post Office); in July 1920, only 10 censors were present.

[©B06/98.2](#) (TT95#37.2, CM#79.5): standardized four-line handstamp bearing the text: **TURDA / CENZURAT /19 / Semn.**; dimensions 38x20 mm; applied in violet and black ink between **24 July 1919 – 15 September 1919**. Lately the handstamp became totally degraded. Most probably, type TT95#37.3 from November 1919 is a poor imprint of this handstamps (with only the first two rows visibles).



/98.2: 24 July 1919



11 August 1919



15 September 1919

[©B06/98.3](#) (TT95#37.4, CM#79.2): primitive two-lines handstamp bearing the text: **TURDA / CENZURAT**; dimensions 46 x 16 mm; applied in red-violet ink on **5 November 1919**. Most probably, the item illustrated in Fig. B06.65 is the only one known so far for this type.

**Fig. B06.65**

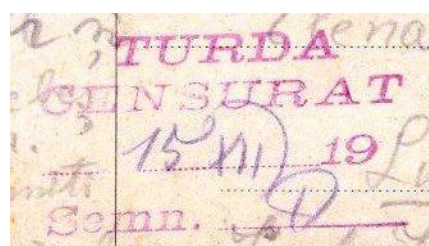
Cover franked with a mixture of PTTF and "Cluj" Overprint issues, cancelled TORDA on **5 November 1919**, censored the same day in the local county office with handstamp [©B06/98.3](#), addressed to Kolozsvár / Cluj (source: Museum of Romanian Records)



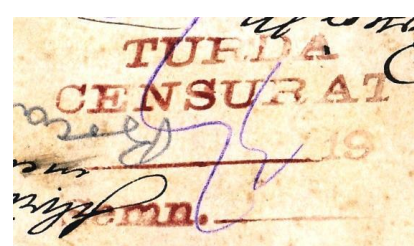
[©B06/98.4](#) (TT95#37.1, CM#79.4): standardized four-line handstamp bearing the text: **TURDA / CENZURAT /19 / Semn.**; dimensions 40-41x22 mm; applied in red or violet ink between **23 November 1919 – 17 July 1920**.

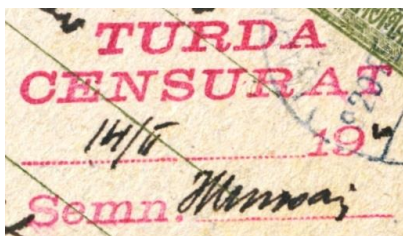


/98.4: 10 December 1919



15 December 1919





14 February 1920



2 July 1920

B06/99. – VALEA LUI MIHAI / Érmihályfalva
(Bihor county, then and now)

3rd Period

(...1 October 1919 – 1 April 1920...)

Class IV censorship post established under *Order 6622* with 5 censors at the **Railway Station** (for official mail, telegraph and telephone). In practice, between 1 October 1919 and 1 April 1920, only two censors were present at the Railway Station.

4th Period (War Zone)

(1 September 1920 – 4 April 1921...)

On 15 July 1920, the re-establishment of the post was initially not approved. It was reactivated only on **1 September 1920** and continued to function in the border area.

ⓄB06/99.1 (CM#81.1): primitive handstamp with the text **CENZ** (with a mirrored letter Z), used alongside a railway administrative stamp cartridge inscribed **MIHAIFALĂU**; applied in black ink on **21 December 1920**.

ⓄB06/99.2 (TT95#43.1, CM#81.2): provisional linear handstamp with the text **CENZURAT**; dimensions 22 x 3 mm; applied in black ink near the same **MIHAIFALAU** railway station postmark on **4 April 1921**. First mentioned by TT95, based on the item in Fig. B06.66, which is likely unique.



Fig. B06.66:
Inter-county
correspondence,
uncensored at dispatch

Postcard postmarked
ÉRMIHÁLYFALVA on **4 April 1921**, locally
censored with the
provisional handstamp
ⓄB06/99.2, addressed to
Székelyhid (Săcueni)
(source: Museum of
Romanian Records,
București)

B06/100. – VINȚUL DE JOS / Alvincz
(Alba-Inferioară county, today Alba county)

1st Period

(...17 March 1919...)

On 17 March 1919, it appeared as a military censorship post subordinated to the *2nd Rifle Division*.

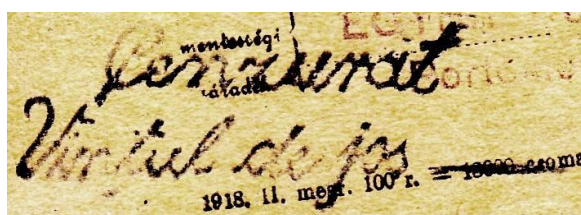
2nd Period

(...8 April – 21 May 1919)

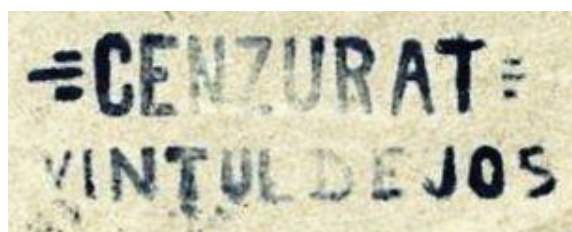
According to *Order 3755/2*, it had only 2 censors at the Railway **Station** (*for official mail, telegraph and telephone* — with the latter also covering *private correspondence*), confirmed on the ground between 8-16 April 1919.

[ⓄB06/100.1](#) (*CM #83.1*): two-line handstamp, text in italic handwriting: **Cenzurat / Vințul de Jos**; dimensions 52 x 25 mm; applied in black ink on **3 May 1919**¹⁴⁶.

[ⓄB06/100.2](#) (*TT95 #47.1, CM #83.2*): two-line handstamp in sans-serif letters: **CENZURAT / VINTUL DE JOS**; dimensions 55 x 18 mm; applied in violet ink on *January – 21 May 1919*, see *Fig. B06.67*.



[/100.1](#): 3 May 1919



[/100.2](#): 21 May 1919



Fig. B06.67.

Mixed Romanian – Serbian censorship.

Cover mailed from ALVINCZ in 21 May 1919, locally censored with [ⓄB06/100.2](#), addressed to Austria, therefore routed by Ilia – Lugos – Temesvár, where the Serbian censor marking [ⓄB14/04.1B](#) was applied (source: web 2015)

3rd Period

(15 July – 7 August 1919...)

Order 6622 of July 1919 reconfirmed it as a censorship post at the **Railway Station** (with 5 employees for telegraph and telephone; 4 confirmed in the field on 7 August 1919).

¹⁴⁶ Reported by Ladislau Szegedi and István Gazda, published by Király Francisc in *Curierul Filatelic* no.53 / August 1994 [[B06.12](#)].

B06/101. – VULCAN / Vulkán
(Hunedoara county, then and now)

Early Romanian military presence in town:

- A Mountain Artillery Battery was deployed in the Petroșani – Lupeni – Vulcan area between 21 January – 14/27 February 1919.

1st Period

(21 January – February 1919...)

A censorship post was established by the military subunit in the city (subordinated to **2nd Rifle Division** on 21 January 1919), with a single censor active in February 1919 at the **Post Office** and for *newspapers*. The office no longer appears in *Order 3755/2*.

B06/102. – ZALĂU / Zilah
(Sălaj county, then and now)

The city was occupied by the II/16th Infantry Battalion (from the 7th Infantry Division) on **14 January 1919** but was re-occupied by Hungarian troops arriving from Aghireș and Crișeni at dawn on **23 February 1919**. The Romanian troops, taken by surprise, retreated towards Ortelec, sending parliamentarians to Zalău to demand the city's immediate evacuation and the unconditional release of prisoners. During the two-day occupation, proclamations were posted urging the civilian population to oppose the Romanian authorities, and weapons were distributed to the Hungarian population. When the Hungarians refused to leave, Romanian troops from the 15th Infantry Regiment Războieni used artillery demonstratively, and the city was retaken on **25 February 1919**.

1st Period

(...21 January – 17 March...)

A censorship office was established by the military unit stationed in the city (subordinated to the **7th Infantry Division** between 21 January – 17 March 1919), with a short interruption during the Hungarian occupation. On 22 January, it had 6 censors, as it was functioning as a border crossing post.

2nd Period

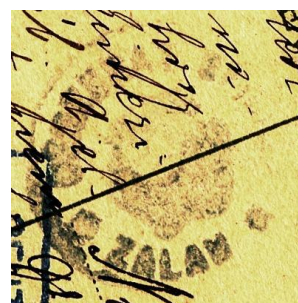
(5 April – 10 July 1919...)

Order 3755/2 established 8 censors at the **Post Office**, exclusively for *telegraph and telephone* (but with authority to censor correspondence, if needed). As of 16 April 1919, the office had 3 censors at the **Post Office** and 3 at the **Railway Station**.

[ⓄB06/102.1](#) (TT95 #38.1, CM #85.1): circular handstamp with central coat of arms and surrounding text: **CENZURAT OFICIUL * ZALĂU**; diameter 29/27 mm. Manufactured in two copies by the Simon Sole workshop in Cluj¹⁴⁷ and delivered to the station on **5 April 1919**. It was used on administrative documents and occasionally for censorship (on **10 July 1919**). First mentioned in catalogue TT87; the only sample known example is illustrated in *Fig. B06.68*.



From archives, CM2004



10 July 1919

¹⁴⁷ First mention in TT87 catalog, details at Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, pag. 184

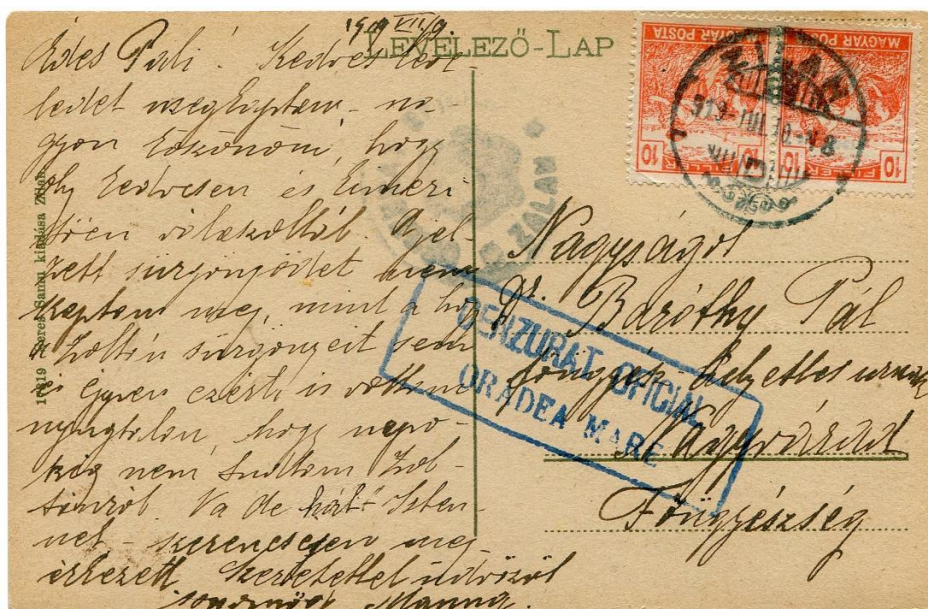


Fig. B06.68:
Romanian double
censorship in
Transylvania

Postcard postmarked ZILAH on 10 July 1919, first censored locally with the circular handstamp [B06/102.1](#), then censored again in Oradea using handstamp [B06/62.1](#). This postcard was illustrated in TT87 and TT95 (source: Museum of Romanian Records, Bucharest)

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 17 July 1920 ... 6 September 1920?)

Order 6622 regulated a staff of 22 censors (8 for correspondence at the **Post Office** and 4 at the **Railway Station**). In practice, the office operated with 8-11 censors between July 1919 and July 1920. From 1 June 1920, the office functioned without a press censorship section.

[B06/102.2](#) (TT95#38.2, CM#85.2): linear handstamp with the text **CEIZURAT ZALAU**; dimensions 89 x 6,5 mm; applied in blue ink on 27 August 1919. First mentioned in TT95 (from Scherrer collection).



Fig. B06.69

Cover franked with a mixture of Royal and Republican Hungarian stamps (totaling 80 filler = 40 bani, the correct domestic registered rate), postmarked ZILAH on 27 August 1919, censored by the local county office with handstamp [B06/102.2](#), arrival in KOLOZSVÁR on 28 August 1919 (source: Museum of Romanian Records Bucharest, ex-collection Scherrer)



[B06/102.3](#) (CM#85.3, 85.4): bi-linear handstamp with the text **ZENSURAT / ZĂLÂU**; dimensions 28 x 7 mm; applied in violet-red ink between 27 March – 17 July 1920. Toward the end of its usage, the first "Z" is not visible, resulting in "ENSURAT / ZĂLÂU", measuring 24 x 7 mm. The omission was likely intentional to remove the non-Romanian aspect of the handstamp. The missing letter was manually replaced with a C rather than a Z. First reported by the present author in 1997 [[B06.16A](#)].



B06/103. – ZAM / Zám
(Hunedoara county, then and now)

The village was situated on the border with Republican/Bolshevik Hungary between 22 January – 16 April 1919. It hosted the command of the 3rd Rifle Regiment and the 6/4th Artillery Battery (27 February 1919). Later, it was the base of the **2nd Guard Company** of the 1st Border Guard Regiment, which was removed from the 2nd Rifle Division's command on 12 July 1919 and tasked with customs and control duties on the Mureș River. From 16 April 1919, during the Romanian offensive along the Mureș Valley toward Arad, Zam lost its strategic role as a land and river customs point.

1st Period

(21 January – 2 February 1919...)

A censorship post was organized by the local military unit (subordinated to the **2nd Rifle Division** on 21 January 1919), with two censors active at the **Post Office** and *newspapers* as of 2 February 1919.

2nd Period

(...)

Order 3755/2 provided for 4 censors at the **Railway Station**, responsible for *official correspondence, telegraph and telephone* (with competence over private correspondence, if needed). The office no longer appears in Order 6622.

B06/104. – ZERINDUL MARE / Nagyzerénd
(Arad county, then and now)

4th Period (War Zone)

(January – February 1921)

The office was established at the border post following the Minister of Communications' Order no. 11295 of 26 November 1920 and Order no. 7479 of **3 January 1921**. Its dissolution, around **15 February 1921**, was confirmed by C.T.V. Order no. 8321 of 22 February 1921.

B06/105. – Location unknown

©**B06/105.1**: linear handstamp bearing the text: **CENZURAT**, measuring 36 x 8 mm, applied in black ink on **31 August 1920** on a Registered cover from Rupea / Kőhalom (Tárnava Mare county) to Germany. This has to be a transit censorship in the border War Zone (Maramureș, Satu-Mare or Bihor counties).



B06/A. THE ROMANIAN DOUBLE CENSORSHIP IN BANAT AND TRANSYLVANIA, 1919-1920

Typically, censorship was carried out in a single office/post, usually in the dispatch area. If correspondence escaped censorship at dispatch, it could be censored at the destination or in transit. It is quite rare for correspondence to be censored twice by the same military authority (Romanian, in this case). In general, re-censorship basically refers to *over-censorship*, meant to verify the accuracy of the initial censorship through a *survey*. Depending on the purpose and context, we can identify several types of re-censorship (mails from/to occupied Hungary are not discussed here, usually they were censored in transit in Oradea):

B06/A.1. – Double censorship due to re-routing of correspondence.

This is the least significant type of re-censorship from a postal history perspective. It occurs when correspondence is redirected to a new address in search of the recipient. Multiple redirections can result in multiple re-censorships. **Examples include:**

1. Official cover from ARAD (3 January 1920) to Şiria, censored in **Arad**, returned to sender and re-censored in **Sântana** (an auxiliary office of Arad) on 23 January; see *Fig. B06.48*.
2. Postcard from SZILÁGYCSEH (16 July 1920) to Cluj, censored in **Zalău**, redirected from Cluj to Timişoara and re-censored in **Cluj**.

B06/A.2. – Terminal double censorship (terminal over-censorship)

This occurs when censorship is applied in both the place of dispatch and the place of destination. The intent is purely one of control through over-censorship. Concrete examples include:

3. Postcard from KOLOZSVÁR (3 January 1919) to Hejjasfalva, censored in **Cluj** and **Hasfalău** (see #B06.39)
4. Cover from NAGYSZEBEN (2 February 1919) to Cluj, censored twice in both **Sibiu** and **Cluj**.
5. Cover from OLÁHLÁPOS (6 February 1919) to Cluj, censored in **Sighetul Marmăţiei** and **Cluj**.
6. Cover from KOLOZSVÁR (30 June 1919) to Bardocz, censored in **Cluj** and **Braşov**.
7. Postcard from DÉS (2 July 1919) to Guşteriţa/Sibiu, censored in **Dej** and **Sibiu** (*Fig. B06.30*)
8. Cover from SZINÉRSZEG (2 July 1919) to Sibiu, censored in **Lugoj** and **Sibiu** (*Fig. B06.52*)
9. Postcard from ZILAH (10 July 1919) to Oradea, censored in **Zalău** and **Oradea-Mare** (see *Fig. B06.68*).
10. Cover from TEMESVÁR (3 September 1919) to Turda, censored in **Timişoara** and **Turda**.



Fig. B06.70:
Romanian double
censorship in
Transylvania/Banat

Commercial cover mailed from TEMESVÁR on **8 September 1919**, first censored locally in Timişoara with [ⓄB06/96.1a](#), then re-censored at arrival in Torda using an illisible handstamp of type [ⓄB06/98.2](#).

11. Mourning cover from GAVOSDIA (12 November 1919) to Lugoj, first censored in **Buziaș-Băi**, then re-censored in **Lugoj** (see Fig. B06.22), an example of excessive zeal, considering the short distance of about 40 km between the two posts.
12. Postcard from NAGYVÁRAD (30 November) to Târgu Mureș, censored in **Oradea Mare** and **Târgu Mureș**.
13. Postcard from BOZOVICS (1 January 1920) to Timișoara, censored in **Lugoj** and **Timișoara**.
14. Postcard from ÉLESD (23 October 1920) to Satu Mare, censored in **Oradea-Mare** and **Satu Mare**.

B06/A.4. – Double censorship in transit

Without a clear reason, some items (inclusively those addressed to or received from Old Romania) underwent re-censorship, with both censorships being applied in Transylvania. These may also represent over-censorship for control purpose. Examples:

15. Postcard from BESZTERCZE (22 January 1919) to Sibiu, censored in **Bistrița** and again in transit in **Cluj**.
16. Postcard from BESZTERCZE (20 April 1919) to Ilva Mică (same county!), censored in **Bistrița** and in transit in **Dej** (Fig. B06.14).
17. Postcard from KOLOZSVÁR (27 June 1919) – Câmpulung Muscel, censored in **Cluj** and re-censored in **Oradea-Mare** (?).
18. Postcard from ALSÓRÁKOS (8 July 1919, Târnava Mare county) to Oradea, censored in transit in **Cluj** and at arrival in **Oradea**, see Fig. B06.71.

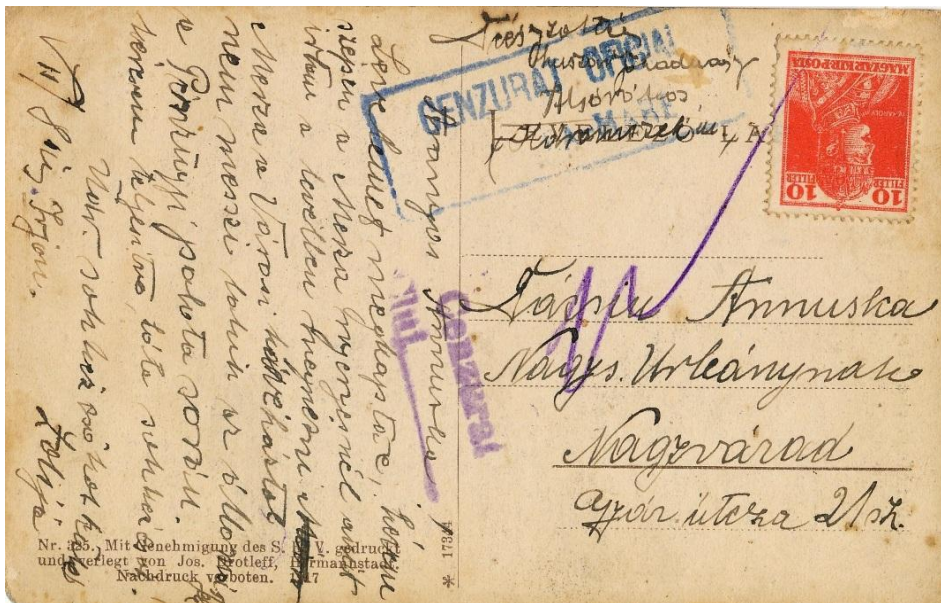


Fig. B06.71:
Romanian double
censorship in
Transylvania

Postcard mailed from
Alsórákos **8 July 1919**, first
censored in transit in Cluj
with [B06/20.3a](#), then re-
censored at arrival in
Oradea using handstamp
[B06/62.1](#).

B06/A.5. – Double censorship in transit (on correspondence with foreign countries)

International correspondence to/from Transylvania, Banat, and Bukovina will be discussed in [volume B/2](#). It is worth noting that such correspondence often underwent re-censorship in Bucharest (a standard procedure, not further discussed here). However, in rarer cases, a *Transylvanian re-censorship* also occurred — especially in larger offices handling foreign mail. Examples include:

19. Postcard to Geneva, Switzerland (1 August 1919), censored in **Maros-Ludoș** and re-censored in **Oradea-Mare**.
20. Postcard from KARÁNSEBES (27 September 1919) to Cottbus, Germany, censored in **Lugoj** and re-censored in **Timișoara**.
21. Cover from FACSÁD (12 February 1920) to Davos, Switzerland, censored in **Lugoj** and re-censored in **Cluj**.
22. Postcard from MAROSLUDAS (13 February 1920) to Czechoslovakia, censored in **Turda** and **Oradea-Mare**.
23. Postcard from HERKULESFÜRDŐ (6 March 1920) to Germany, censored in **Lugoj** and **Timișoara**.
24. Postcard from BRASSÓ (3 July 1920) to Detroit, U.S.A., censored in **Blaj** and re-censored in **Oradea-Mare**.

Please send any corrections, additions, comments to
damirro@yahoo.com

B07. THE ROMANIAN CENSORSHIP IN BUKOVINA 1919-1920, 1923-1924

On 14/27 October 1918, the Constituent Assembly of the Romanians in Bukovina requested the union of the Austrian province with Romania. The history of Romanian Bukovina begins on **8 November 1918**, when the 8th Division of General Zadic enters the province, occupying Cernăuți (Ger: Czernowitz; Ukr: Cernivți) three days later. In an initial phase, the Austrian laws remain valid under the Romanian authority installed on 12 November 1918: "all the decisions and orders of the authorities and bodies of the former Austrian Empire that were competent for Bukovina, dated until 11 November 1918, are valid... All the vows of the civil servants stipulated in the existing norms in Bukovina will be performed in the future to the KING OF ROMANIA".¹⁴⁸ Therefore, the Austrian postal regulations have also remained in force.

On **7/20 November 1918**, the postal and telegraphic connection of Bukovina with Romania was reopened. Letters could be sent from any locality, while telegrams could initially only be sent from Cernăuți — this last restriction having been lifted on 15 March 1919¹⁴⁹. On **15/28 November 1918**, the General Congress of Bukovina proclaimed the Union with Romania, and on **31 December 1918**, the Postal Service of Bukovina was placed under the administration of Bucharest.

On 15/28 November the proclamation of the *state of siege* for northern Bukovina (excluding the city of Cernăuți) and the district of Rădăuți was announced. Later, Ordinance no. 8 of **13 January 1919**, issued by the 8th Division, extended the state of siege to the rest of the territory: "Preparing for Bolshevik movements along the border, to the attempted attack on the nearby territory of Bessarabia, as well as the enemy's efforts to incite disorder inside Bukovina; to prevent any disturbance of public order and state security; starting with the publication of this ordinance, the state of siege will be applied with all the rigor of the laws in the counties of Coțman, Zastavna, Vășcăuți, Vijnița, Storojineț, Siret and Cernăuți with the city of Cernăuți, on the basis of which I order: (...) 5. Introduction of press censorship."¹⁵⁰ The censorship office functioned since 7 October 1919 in the Palace of Bukovinian Administration. But in the same month of January, *mail censorship offices* were also established in each county seat (Câmpulung Bukovina, Cernăuți, Coțmani, Gura Humorului, Rădăuți, Siret, Storojineț, Suceava, Vășcăuți, Vijnița, Zastavna).

Starting from 15 March 1919, "private telegrams are allowed with the former Romanian Kingdom, Dobruja and Bessarabia.... Telegrams inside Bukovina must be written in Romanian, French or German (written in Latin letters), those intended for the Old Kingdom, Dobruja or Bessarabia in Romanian or French"¹⁵¹.

By Decree-Law no. 1481 of 1/14 April 1919 (published in the Official Gazette no. 3 of 17 April 1919), the extensions of the Romanian P.T.T. laws in Bukovina were decided. Starting from **14 April 1919** (new style!), the P.T.T. services came under the direct authority of the Ministry of Interior, through the General P.T.T. Directorate: "The administration, organization and operation of these services will be done according to the norms established by the laws, the regulations and instructions in force in the Kingdom and within the limits of the budgetary provisions to be established (...) The telegraph-postal staff under the former regional administration of Bukovina which, by the legislated oath, will willingly and unconditionally declare submission to the authority of the Romanian post office and obedience to the laws in force in the Kingdom, will be included among the officials of the Romanian telegraph-postal body... All laws, regulations, ordinances and instructions in general, on the basis of which the postal, telegraph and telephone services operated under the administration of the Austrian post office are and remain abolished." From that day on, Romanian postage stamps were introduced, and the offices had to deposit the remaining unsold Austrian postage stamps at the Cernăuți warehouse by 18/31 March 1919. As such, all offices and postal agencies have received official Romanian names.

¹⁴⁸ *Decret-lege nr. 2382 din 16 June 1919*, published in *Monitorul Bucovinei*, Cernăuți, no. 41 from 28 June 1919.

¹⁴⁹ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, pag. 79

¹⁵⁰ *Ordonanța nr. 4 a Comandantului Diviziei VIII-a, general I. Zadic*, published in *Monitorul Bucovinei* (Cernăuți), no. 10 from 28 January 1919.

¹⁵¹ *Ordinul 2579/II-1919 al Direcției Poștelor și Telegrafelor Cernăuți din 10 March 1919*, published in *Monitorul Bucovinei* (Cernăuți), no. 17 from 20 March 1919.

On **25 May 1919**, private telegraphic communication with Transylvania was restored. According to Order no. 6994 of the Greater HQs dated 11 July 1919, the transmission for private telegrams "of less important content" is restricted due to the "heavy use of telegraphic lines for State and military telegrams" — likely in the context of the occupation of Pokutia.

On **7 June 1919**, postal traffic with foreign countries was partially reopened¹⁵²: receiving and sending mail was permitted with Allied and neutral countries (letters, postcards, journals, printed matter, merchandise samples, and business papers — either simple or registered, but without reimbursement). Letters to Germany, Austria-Germany, Hungary (except Transylvania), Bulgaria, Turkey, and Russia remained prohibited. All items had to be handed over unsealed and include the name and address of the sender. From **15 July 1919** onwards, both simple and registered items were permitted throughout the Banat region¹⁵³.

On **15 September 1919**, "the postal traffic of all kinds — simple and registered without reimbursement — between Romania and Austria-Germany and with Czechoslovakia was resumed... Languages admitted": (same)¹⁵⁴. From **25 October 1919** "the exchange of mail with Poland" was also permitted¹⁵⁵ (hereinafter similar to Germany). From **20 November 1919**, "the exchange of postal correspondence with Germany was resumed. All simple and registered categories of light mail were permitted, without refund (...). The items will be open and will bear the name and address of the sender. Besides Romanian, French, English, Italian, German, Polish, Czechoslovak and Serbian are allowed (...)." ¹⁵⁶

On **27 November 1919**, **internal** postal censorship was suspended across Romania, and censorship offices were disbanded — except for **external** censorship, which continued to operate in **Cernăuți**.

Due to similar circumstances as in Bessarabia, internal postal censorship was reintroduced in Bukovina by Ordinance no. 1 of **20 May 1920** of the East Troops Command. It was again abolished by the Order of 30 July 1920 of the Secretary General for the Interior. This last order does not seem to have been applied immediately — censorship reportedly continued in some offices for another month. On 10 August, the state of siege was lifted in the southern counties, Câmpulung, Suceava, Rădăuți and Gura Humorului. It was maintained by the Order of the Ministry of War of 18 August only for the "war zone", a strip 30 km wide along the Bukovina border (excluding the city of Cernăuți). On **31 August 1920**, all internal censorship of letters and telegrams in Bukovina was officially lifted.

CTE Order no. 3693 of **9 September 1920**, covering both Bessarabia and Bukovina, called for the re-establishment of censorship offices within the war zone. By JCM no. 4685 of **21 October 1920** (published in "Monitorul Oficial" no. 159bis), extended censorship to the entire territory of Romania. It was to be implemented in each county capital by "prefects, assisted by joint commissions (press – correspondence)". These joint censure commissions – of the press and mail – were to be set up in Cernăuți, Coțmani, Sorojineț, Vășcăuți, Vijnîța and Zastavna by completing the existing press censorship commissions with a postal component. Their organization encountered difficulties, which is why on 4 December 1920, the 8th Division still requested the creation of a joint commission to handle internal postal censorship in Cernăuți.

Therefore, the re-establishment of internal postal censorship in Bukovina is documented only for a brief period in 1920. The relatively calmer situation at the Polish border — as opposed to the unrest along the Soviet border — likely contributed to the briefer and less intensive censorship regime in Bukovina compared to Bessarabia.

As for the censorship of external correspondence, this continued uninterrupted at the Cernăuți censorship office. In addition, between 1923 and 1924, a special office in Cernăuți was tasked with censoring foreign printed matters entering Bukovina — thus executing a restrictive censorship of the foreign press!

¹⁵² Nota nr. 5274/I-1919 al Direcțiunii P.T.T. din Bucovina from 18 November 1919, published in *Monitorul Bucovinei* (Cernăuți), no. 84 supliment from 27 November 1919.

¹⁵³ Nota nr. 7047/II-1919 a Direcției P.T.T. pentru Bucovina from 14 July 1919, published in *Monitorul Bucovinei* (Cernăuți), no. 46 supliment from 19 July 1919.

¹⁵⁴ Nota nr. 9320/I-1919 a Direcției P.T.T. pentru Bucovina from 15 September 1919, published in *Monitorul Bucovinei* (Cernăuți), no. 66 supliment from 18 September 1919.

¹⁵⁵ Nota nr. 9227/II-1919 a Direcției P.T.T. pentru Bucovina from 24 October 1919, published in *Monitorul Bucovinei* (Cernăuți), no. 78 supliment from 29 October 1919.

¹⁵⁶ Nota nr. 11714/II-1919 a Direcției P.T.T. pentru Bucovina, published in *Monitorul Bucovinei* (Cernăuți), no. 90 from 29 December 1919.

THE POSTAL CENSORSHIP OFFICES IN BUKOVINA

Romanian censorship in Bukovina had special characteristics, different from the ones implemented in Transylvania and Banat. The territory of Bukovina was divided into 11 counties: Câmpulung, Cernăuți, Coțmani, Gura Humorului, Rădăuți, Siret, Storojineț, Suceava, Vășcăuți, Vijnița, Zastavna. Theoretically, censorship offices were supposed to be established in each county seat, but so far, only a few of them have been identified.

As in the case of Transylvania, several periods of censorship activity can be delineated here:

- o **1st Period:** from its establishment (probably January 1919) until 27 November 1919 (suspension of *internal censorship*, but with *external censorship* that continues).
- o **2nd Period:** in the summer of 1920; theoretical period is 20 May – 31 August 1920 (when the *external censorship* at the Cernăuți office also ceases to operate).
- o **3rd Period in the war zone:** during the theoretical period of 23 October 1920 – 1 April 1921.
- o **4th Period:** late external censorship performed by the Cernăuți bureau (1922-1924).

B07/01. – CÂMPULUNG / Kimpolung (Câmpulung county) (today Câmpulung Moldovenesc, Suceava county)

Theoretically, the office functioned between January and November 1919, possibly in the summer of 1920 as well, and yet its functioning is confirmed only from **October 1920** onwards, in the "war zone".

3rd Period, War Zone (October – November 1920...)

[ⓄB07/01.1](#) (CM#1.1): the only known censorship handstamp has a diameter of 39 mm, was applied in black ink between **October – November 1920**. The design of this stamp should be noted and remembered (with the text **ROMÂNIA * CENZURA SCRISORILOR** on the circumference and **Prefectura...** followed by the name of the county), as it will also be found as equipment of other Bukovina censorship offices.



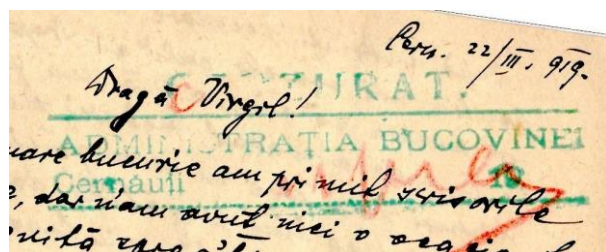
B07/02. – CERNĂUȚI / Czernowitz (Cernăuți county) (today 58000 – Чернівці in Ukraine)

The historical capital of Bukovina, Cernăuți housed the censorship office with the greatest activity in the first years of Romanian administration. It is noteworthy that, in practice, 95% of this activity appears to have focused on external censorship of foreign correspondence (starting on **17 June 1919**), with internal censorship being quite rare.

- Starting from 16 September 1919, correspondence to and from Poland — addressed to or sent from Moldova, Bessarabia and Bukovina (see Fig. B07.06) — was subject to censorship here;
- Starting from 3 November 1919, all foreign correspondence sent from (and intended for ?) Bukovina was censored in every county seat — so not only in Cernăuți, but in other Bucovinian offices as well;
- Starting from 20 November 1919, correspondence between Germany and Bukovina — whether incoming or outgoing — was censored in Cernăuți.

1st Period, Internal & External Censorship (January – November 1919)

[ⓄB07/02.1](#) (TT95#11.3, CM#2.1) The first chronological type is a tri-linear handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT / ADMINISTRAȚIA BUCOVINEI / Cernăuți**, dimensions 78 x 18.5 mm, applied in red-violet and green ink between **22 March – 30 July 1919**. There are at least two examples where the handstamp was affixed directly to the letter (see attached vignette).



/02.1: 22 March 1919 (on letter)



30 July 1919

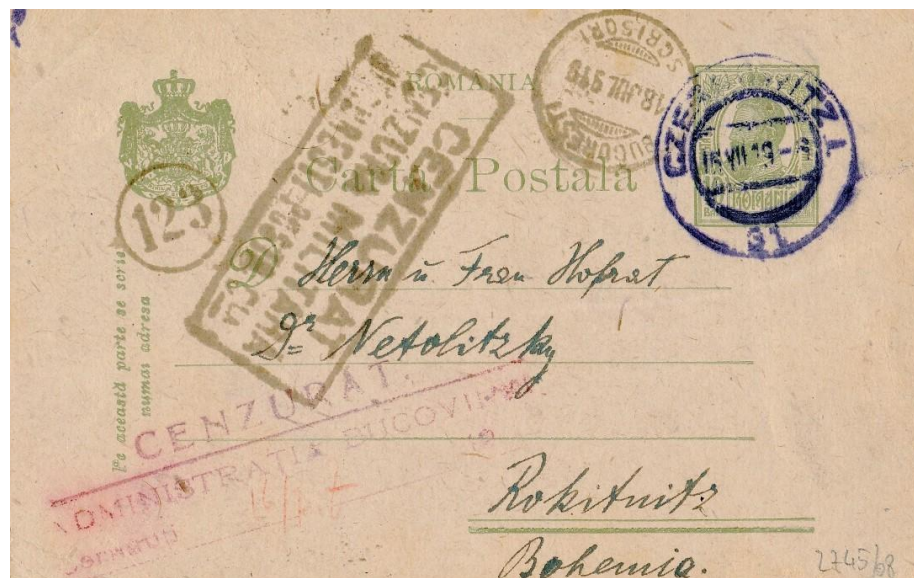


Fig. B07.01.

Postcard written on 15 July 1919 in German in Cernăuți and addressed to Rokinitz in Czechoslovakia, cancelled on the same day CZERNOWITZ, censored on 16 July at the local office with handstamp [B07/02.1](#). As it was foreign correspondence, it transited Bucharest, where it was censored with handstamp [B04/01.6](#) and the numeral [B04/01.10\(123\)](#), sorted by **BIUROUL CENTRAL MILITAR DE CARTARE BUCUREȘTI** (backside) and BUCUREȘTI * SCRISORI on 18 July 1919

2nd Period, Only External Censorship

(November 1919 – August 1920)

[B07/02.2](#). A type which had the longest period of use – a round handstamp, featuring the inner text on three lines between two decorative elements: **România / Cenzura scrisorilor / Cernăuți**, applied in purple ink (shades) between **6 November 1919 – 10 July 1920**. Bibliographic references suggesting its use since November 1918 are clearly erroneous [TT95]. At least three variants were manufactured, possibly consecutively.

- ❖ [.../02.2A](#) (TT95#11.1, CM#2.2): a high quality handstamp apparently made of metal or other hard material, which retained its appearance over time, with a diameter of 29/28 mm. Period of use: **6 November 1919 – 29 July 1920**.



/02.2A: 6 November 1919



29 November 1919



3 December 1919



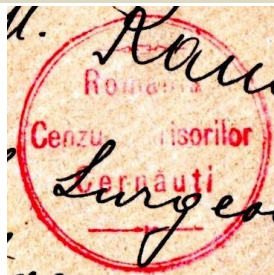
12 December 1919



.2A: 25 December 1919



10 April 1920



22 June 1920



10 July 1920



Fig. B07.02. Polish postcard written and cancelled on 10 January 1920 in WARSZAWA, censored locally with handstamp **Wr.1**, and addressed to Bucharest. Censored during transit by the Cernăuți office with **B07/02.2A**.

- ❖ **B07/02.2B**: poor-quality samples, apparently made of rubber or other soft material (characterized by the apparent lack of space between *Cenzura* and *scrisorilor*), showed progressive deformation by June 1920, resulting in a diameter of 30/29 mm. Period of use: **3 – 20 June 1920 ... 4 August 1920**.



B07/02.2B: 8 June 1920

9 June 1920

15 June 1920



Fig. B07.03. Registered envelope cancelled CZERNOWITZ on 8 June 1920 and censored in local office with three handstamps of type **B07/02.2B**. Addressed to Vienna, Austria.

- ❖ **B07/02.2C** (CM#2.3): a new copy of this type was manufactured in 1920, but with larger dimensions (an outer diameter of 33-34 mm) and of poor quality, the material being clearly rubber. Applied in black-purple ink between **13 June – 7 July 1920**. First reported by R.R. Popescu in 1997 [**B07.01**].



B07/02.2C: 13 June 1920

25 June 1920

5 July 1920

7 July 1920

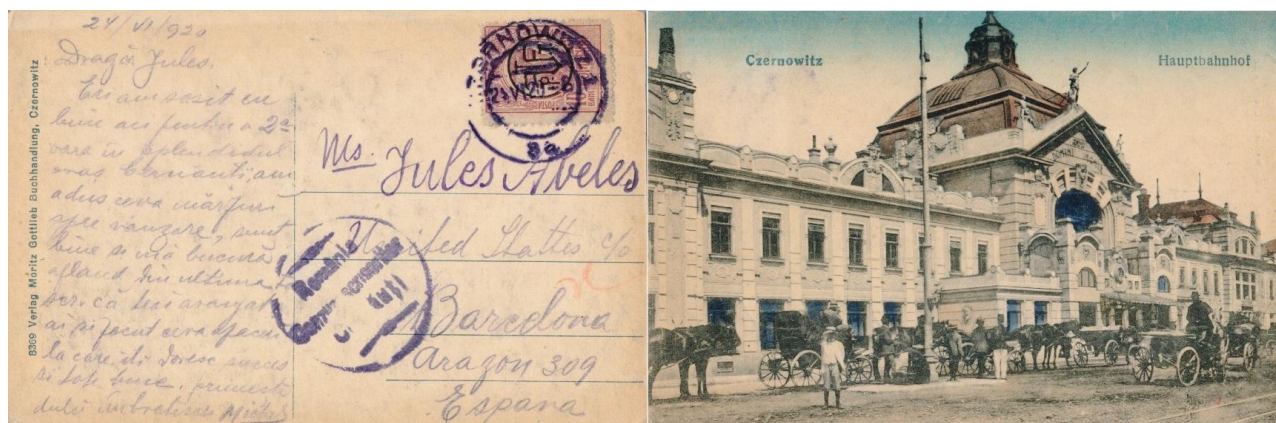
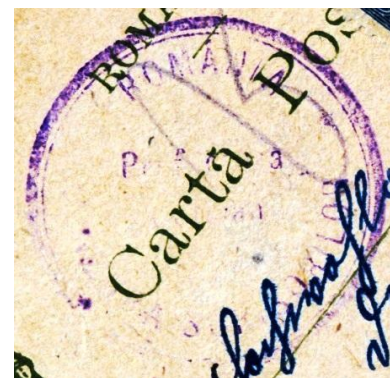


Fig. B07.04. Old Austrian postcard written and cancelled in CZERNOWITZ on 24 June 1920 and censored in local office with a handstamp of type [B07/02.2C](#). Addressed to Barcelona, Spain.

[B07/02.3](#) (CM#2.4) the third handstamp was common to several offices, with the text **ROMÂNIA * CENZURA SCRISORILOR / Prefectura Cernăuți**, being applied in purple ink, between 11 – 27 August 1920, probably being put into use at the end of July, in at least two copies (one in perfect condition, the other/others with deformation, to be modified). It was originally published by Răzvan Radu Popescu in 1997 [[B07.01](#)].



Reproduction Popescu 1997



11 August 1920

[B07/02.4](#) The modification of some deformed handstamps from the previous type resulted in a new type, with only the text **ROMÂNIA * CENZURA SCRISORILOR / Prefectura**, without *Cernăuți*, of which two dimensionally different subtypes are known:

- ❖ [.../02.4A](#) (TT95#11.2, CM#2.5): with a diameter of ca. 39 mm, applied in black or black-violet ink, on 20 July 1920; see Fig. B07.05

Fig. B07.05.

Registered cover sent on 14 July 1920 from Vienna (Austria) to Cernăuți, censored at arrival with handstamp [B07/02.4A](#)



- ❖ [.../02.4B](#) (CM #2.6): with a diameter of ca. 40-41 mm, applied in black ink between **28 July – 18 August 1920**; see Fig. B07.06.



Fig. B07.06.

Postcard sent on 6 August 1920 from Kempen (Polonia) to Lugoj, censored by the Polish in Lwow (**CENZURA WOJSKOWO / LWOW 2**) and by Romanians during its transit by Cernăuți - with handstamp [B07/02.4B](#)



The Cernăuți censorship office ceased its operations at the end of August 1920, so a postcard sent from Halifax was censored at Vizhnitsa with the stamp [B07/10.1](#) before arriving in Cernăuți on 27 August 1920.

3rd Period, War Zone (October 1920 – March 1921 ?)

From the official documents published by Călin Marinescu¹⁵⁷, at least the intention to continue censorship in the capital of Bukovina during the 3rd period can be confirmed. Beginning on 23/24 October 1920, *press censorship* was carried out by the local prosecutor's office. Subsequently, on 7 October 1920, the War Ministry transferred responsibility for the censorship of *press* and *correspondence* in Cernăuți to the city's *Interior Secretariat*. However, as of 4 December 1920, the *postal component* of the joint commission at the Post Palace was still not operational. Therefore, only press censorship was in effect, with no censorship of correspondence. On 17 March 1921, press censorship continued to be carried out by the *Interior Secretariat*, to which an officer from the 8th Infantry Division Command was detached. It remains unclear whether, and to what extent, *correspondence censorship* functioned during this period — most likely, it did not.

4th Period, Only Foreign Press Censorship (December 1922 - 1924)

The Cernăuți censorship office was reactivated between **December 1922 – April 1924**, at the very least. At first glance, it might appear that the censorship focused on foreign correspondence, but a closer analysis reveals a unique aspect within the tradition of Romanian censorship stamps: the *censorship of foreign press*. It is somewhat known that in the '20s and '30s such censorship was used to prevent the entry of banned foreign publications into the country; unfortunately, the relevant regulations have not yet been published. These regulations would clarify, among other things, which offices were responsible for censorship. Besides Cernăuți, whose activity is confirmed through postal effects, there should have been at least one office in Bucharest.

[B07/02.5](#): circular stamp in the classical Bukovina style, with the text **ROMÂNIA * CENZURA SCRISORILOR / CERNĂUȚI** (this time without "Prefectura"), diameter of 37/34 mm, found on external newspaper wrappers (magazines, publications mainly from Germany, some from U.K.) between **17 December 1922 – December 1923**. First reported by Cristian Scăiceanu and Răzvan Radu Popescu in 1997 [[B07.01](#)].

¹⁵⁷ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, 2004, pag. 84-85.



/02.5: December 1922



August 1923



December 1923



Fig. B07.07: newspaper wrapper of the German magazine for philatelists **Die Post**, denoted **Tauschexemplar** (Exchange copy) cancelled KEHL on 26 May 1923, censored on arrival in Cernăuți with the handstamp

©B07/02.5.

©B07/02.6: this is a variant manufactured from a sample of the previous type, to which the name of the city was removed, the inner text remaining **ROMÂNIA * CENZURA SCRISORILOR**. The same diameter of 37/34 mm, applied in purple ink to external newspaper wrappers (parallel with the previous handstamp), between **October 1923 – April 1924**.

Fig. B07.08.
Wrapper for the newspaper **Lassens Transport**, cancelled BERLIN N.W. on 13 April 1924 towards Sibiu, censored by Romanians during transit by Cernăuți with the handstamp ©B07/02.6, arrival SIBIU (on backside) on 24 April 1924.





Fig. B07.09: newspapers wrapper of the German magazine *Der Osten*, cancelled DANZIG on 8 October 1923 (on an inflation franking of 3 million marks), censored at arrival in Cernăuți with the handstamp [B07/02.6](#) on 12 October 1923.



B07/03. – COȚMANI / Cozman (Coțmani county)
(today 59300 – Кіцмань in Ukraine)

Theoretically, the office operated between January – November 1919, May – August 1920 and October 1920 – March 1921. On 30 March 1921, there was a joint mini-commission for censorship, composed of the postmaster and a representative of the Prefecture¹⁵⁸ (the latter for press censorship). No handstamps are known so far.

B07/04. – GURA HUMORULUI / Gurahumora (Gura Humorului county)
(today Gura Humorului, Suceava county)

Theoretically, the office functioned only between January – November 1919, the county not being subsequently included in the war zones. No handstamps are known so far.

B07/05. – RĂDĂUȚI / Radautz (Rădăuți county)
(today Rădăuți, Suceava county)

Theoretically, the office functioned only between January – November 1919, the county not being subsequently included in the war zones. In fact, a postcard mailed from Rădăuți to Bremen, in Germany, on 7 August 1920 was censored in Cernăuți with [B07.02/4B](#).

1st Period

(January – November 1919)

[B07/05.1](#) (CM#4.1): provisional handstamp of a kind used in the Old Kingdom, rectangular with the inner text **CENSURAT**, measuring 33 × 6,5 mm, affixed in black ink on 27 July 1919. First reported by the present author in 1997 [[B06.16A](#)].

¹⁵⁸ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, pag. 85



Fig. B07.10. Illustrated postcard (representing the church in Rădăuți), sent by a National Theatre team on tour in Bukovina, cancelled RADAUTZ on **27 July 1919**, censored in the local office with the provisional stamp [B07/05.1](#), arrival IAȘI on 28 July 1919, where it is distributed to the recipient by the postal factor with matriculation **29**.

B07/06. – SIRET / Sereth (Siret county)
(today Siret, Suceava county)

Theoretically, the office functioned only between January – November 1919, the county not being subsequently included in the war zones. No handstamps are known so far.

B07/07. – STOROJINET / Storozinets (Storajineț county)
(today 59000 – Сторожинець in Ukraine)

Theoretically, the office functioned between January – November 1919, May – August 1920 and October 1920 – March 1921. No handstamps are known so far.

B07/08. – SUCEAVA / Suczawa
(Suceava county, then & now)

Theoretically, the office functioned only between January – November 1919, the county not being subsequently included in the war zones.

[B07/08.1](#) (TT95#34.1, CM#7.1): Only one known type ('Bukovina' type) originally reproduced by Silviu Dragomir in 1983 [[B06.1](#)]. Diameter 37 mm, text: **ROMÂNIA * CENZURA SCRISORILOR / Prefectura / Suceava**, applied in purple ink in **18 November 1919** (according to S. Dragomir) or in **June 1920** (according to the TT95 catalog, probably a confusion). Not seen by the author.



B07/09. – VĂȘCĂUȚI / Waschkoutz (Vășcăuți county)
(today 59210 – Вашківці in Ukraine)

Theoretically, the office functioned between January – November 1919, May – August 1920 and October 1920 – March 1921. No handstamps are known so far.

B07/10. – VIJNIȚA / Wizhnitsa (Vijnița county)
(today 59200 – Віжниця in Ukraine)

Theoretically, the office functioned between January – November 1919, May – August 1920 and October 1920 – March 1921. In reality, based on the analysis of the few known pieces, it appears that the Vijnița office served to censor foreign correspondence, similarly and in parallel to the Cernăuți office, between November 1919 and August 1920!

2nd Period, Only External Censorship ?

(November 1919 – August 1920)

©B07/10.1: Circular handstamp of the Bukovina type with inner text **ROMÂNIA * CENZURA SCRISORILOR / Prefectura / Vijinița**, diameter 36/34 mm, applied in red or violet ink between **November 1919 – 26 August 1920**.

The handstamp was seen on a correspondence from Amsterdam (1 November 1919) to Vijinița, and on one from Halifax (11 July 1920) to Cernăuți.



B07/11. – ZASTAVNA / Zastawna (Zastavna county)
(today 59400 – Заставна in Ukraine)

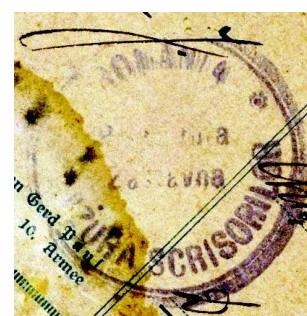
Theoretically, the office functioned between January – November 1919, May – August 1920 and October 1920 – March 1921. On 30 March 1921, there was a joint commission of censure, composed of the prefect and two others.

1st Period

(January – November 1919)

©B07/11.1: Circular handstamp of the Bukovina type with inner text **ROMÂNIA * CENZURA SCRISORILOR / Prefectura / Zastavna**, diameter ca. 36/34 mm, applied in violet ink on **14 July 1919**, on a foreign correspondence.

A correspondence sent on 4 June 1919 from Zastavna to Egypt is censored by the Romanian office in Kolomea (occupied Pokutia!), see *Fig. B08.02*, probably due to the fact that the Bukovinian city was in the area of operations of the Romanian Army in Pokutia.



Assignment of Austrian and Romanian censor office to the Bukovinian counties



Austrian	Romanian
Czernowitz ❖ Czernowitz	Cernăuți ❖ Cernăuți
Gurahumora ❖ Gurahumora	Gura Humorului ❖ Gura Humorului
Kimpolung ❖ Dorna-Watra ❖ Kimpolung	Câmpulung ❖ Câmpulung
Kotzman --	Coțmani ❖ Coțmani
Radautz ❖ Radautz	Rădăuți ❖ Rădăuți
Sereth ❖ Sereth	Siret ❖ Siret
Storozynetz ❖ Storozynetz	Storjineț ❖ Storjineț
Suczawa ❖ Itzkany ❖ Suczawa	Suceava ❖ Suceava
Waschkoutz ❖ Waschkoutz	Vășcăuți ❖ Vășcăuți
Wiznitz ❖ Wiznitz	Vijinița ❖ Vijinița
Zastavna --	Zastavna ❖ Zastavna

B08. THE ROMANIAN CENSORSHIP IN POKUTIA (GALICIA) June – August 1919

Note: This section is an excerpt from the **Chapter XVIII** (*Romanian Military Occupation in Pokutia*) of volume **A/2**. For further references, the codification of censor handstamps remains as shown below.

In the spring of 1919, a new post-war conflict broke out between the self-proclaimed (in January 1919) West Ukrainian People's Republic, and troops of the newly formed Polish Army, which was attempting to reconstitute the Polish territory. The 4th Polish Division started an offensive on 15 May 1919. On 20 May it occupied the town of Stryi and crossed the river with the same name, but insufficient forces could not cope with the Ukrainian attacks. As such, on the same day, the government in Warsaw requested the Romanians to intervene militarily in the territories up to the Tucmaz – Otnia – Sodzawick line (the so-called Pokutia¹⁵⁹) and, “if possible, to occupy Delatyn with a detachment”. The Romanian Government would respond positively, as it was interested in solving two desiderata of its own:

- To establish a direct link between the Romanian troops from Bukovina and those from northern Transylvania, a connection possible only by mastering the railway Cernăuți – Kolomea – Körösmező – Sighetul Marmăției;
- To eliminate the Bolshevik menace from the northern border of Greater Romania – on 21 April 1919, Lenin sent a telegram to Soviet commanders stating that “advancing in the territory of Galicia and Bukovina is necessary, as to connect with Soviet Hungary”¹⁶⁰.

Facing the aggressive attitude of the Ukrainian troops in Pokutia, the Romanian border guard companies were withdrawn to southern Bukovina on 23 April 1919, being replaced on the northern border by the 3rd and 8th Roșiori (Cavalry) Regiments. On 25 April 1919, Romanian General Zadik issued the Ordinance No. 5 regarding “the mobilization on the spot of the personnel of railways, posts, telephones and telegraphs”, **Major Turbatu** being appointed with this occasion as responsible for the P.T.T. On 22 May 1919, the General Headquarters transmitted the Order no. 1195 through which the “8th Romanian Division will cross the border of Bukovina and enter between the Dniester and the mountains up to the line Nadvorna, Otnia, Niezwiska. [At the same time] the Northern Transylvania Group will take over the communication linking Kolomea to Sighetul Marmăției”¹⁶¹. The operations were supposed to start on 23 May but due to the dispersal of units throughout Bukovina and at distances of 20-30 km from the border, they were postponed until the next day. The main goal was to obtain a monopoly on the Horodenca – Kolomea – Sighetul Marmăției railway, to the detriment of the Bolsheviks and Ukrainians. The operation had to be conducted trying as much as possible to avoid direct armed confrontations with the Petlurist Ukrainians – who were warned of the Romanian intentions with the same communiqué mentioned above¹⁶².

The Ukrainian forces disbanded as soon as they were face to face with the Romanian troops that had crossed the border. Some withdrew across the Dniester, others surrendered, being disarmed. Then the local soldiers were sent to their homes, and those who had resisted – 6 officers and 365 soldiers – were arrested and sent to a POW camp in Botoșani. By Order no. 1177 of 23 May, the Ukrainian forces had been invited to withdraw from Pokutia and evacuate Galicia up to the Nezvysko – Otnia – Nadvorna line, so in general, the advance of Romanian troops took place without major incidents, some battles being fought mainly at Kolomea, but also in several other localities, especially against formations and groups of Bolshevik Ukrainians.

The occupied territory was to become a **military zone**, “to be administered and ruled by a military commander in accordance with the Instructions No. 3257 and Ordinance No. 1 and 2”. Colonel Liciu Gheorghe was appointed commander, and he had at his disposal five border guard companies (I Battalion with 1 & 3 Border Guard Companies, and 2nd Machine Gun Company) and the divisional cavalry squadron. On Saturday **24 May 1919**, the Ukrainian forces left Kolomea, and on Monday afternoon, **26 May 1919**, the city was taken over by Romanian occupation troops. Immediately, the **Pokutia Territorial Command** was established in Kolomea under the leadership of Colonel Liciu.

¹⁵⁹ Historical subregion of Galicia, between the rivers Bîstrizia in Galicia (tributary of the Dniester) and Ceremush (tributary of the Prut), with its capital at Kolomea.

¹⁶⁰ **Tărnăveanu Nerva** – *Bucovina, date istorice și ultimele emisiuni de timbre...*, Buletinul ABB nr. 4(42)/2002, pag. 11.

¹⁶¹ This was the operation for conquering the area Körösmező – Jablanica in Subcarpathian Ukraine, see [#A77](#) of [Volume A/2](#).

¹⁶² On 22 May 1919, the Ukrainian commands in Kolomea (8th Division) and Mielnitsa (1st Cavalry Division) were notified about the operations that were about to start, asking them to retreat north of the Stanislau–Nadvorna railway.

On **29 May 1919**, the troops of the 8th Division established the junction with those of the C.T.T. (Transylvanian Command) sent from Sighetul Marmăției, in the area of Tatarov (today Тарарів, see #A77), but also with the Poles beyond the demarcation line. However, it was only on 1 June 1919 that the official Romanian communiqué stated that “our troops in Galicia established contact with the Polish troops”. On 27 May, the Poles occupied Stanislau, then advanced towards the line of Romanian troops. On 29/30 May, General Zadic met in Ottynia with General Kraliczek (commander of the 4th Polish Division), after which the Polish troops stopped the advance, establishing contact with the Romanian troops. The demarcation line was established between the mountains and the Dniester passing by the localities Nadworna – Ottynia – Nezvysko, then along the front of the 8th Romanian Division which stretches the Dniester to Balamutca, where it connects with the 1st Romanian Cavalry Division in Bessarabia.

On **4 June 1919**, the territorial dispute with the Polish troops was resolved, the city of Nadworna was handed over to them and the Romanian-Polish demarcation line was established as follows: Lubiznia, north Lojeva (Лоева), south Maidan (Майдан), Huta, northwest Maidan, south elevation 350, Nendt (exclusively), south Uhorniki (Угорники), Ottynia (Отинія), north Zakszence, south Herton, south Przybitow, north Pujniki (Пужники), north elevation 304, Pesieka, Nezwisko (Незвисько). The Romanian troops had to retreat south of this line.



Fig. B08.01:

Postcard written in French by a Romanian cavalymen, dated 2 July 1919, Colomea and addressed to Hotin. Unfranked (probably prepared for military mail), but with a 5 Bani Assistance Stamp, the mail was censored at the local office with the hand stamp ©B08/03.2 (quite clearly printed, but covered with stamps), without sending postmark. It arrived in Khotyn, where it was taxed (10 bani Porto + 10 bani Assistance stamp) and cancelled six times with the old Russian postmark ХОТИН БЕСС on 22 July 1919¹⁶³.

On **15 July 1919**, the Convention on the evacuation of Pokutia by the Romanian troops was signed, and they were to retreat south of the historical border of Bukovina. The evacuation was supposed to begin on 17 August 1919 under the leadership of Colonel Liciu Gheorghe, who moved from Kolomea (the residence of the Territorial Military Command) to Sniatyn, together with the border guards. By **23 August 1919**, the new border guard unit was to be put into operation on the old border from Babin to Yablanita, here being connected with the troops from Transylvania (who temporarily occupied Subcarpathian Ukraine). The following settlements were handed over to the Poles: Ottynia (19 August), Kolomea (20 August), Sniatyn (24 August), Kossov (25 August), etc.

As far as the Post Office is concerned, the order no. 4718 of Major Turbatu dated **20 August 1919**, stated that “all telegraph, telephone, mail installations remain in place and must be handed over to the Polish delegate on August 20”¹⁶⁴. As a result, it is obvious that starting with **21 August 1919** (even 20 August) the office of **P.T.T. Kolomea became Polish**, and all circulation of overprinted C.M.T. stamps after this date no longer have any connection with the Romanian administration! The town of Kolomea had been handed over on the same day by the border guard company, but the festive and official handover took place on 23 August 1919, when the C.M.T. was disbanded as well.

¹⁶³ The postcard was also described by Dumitru C. Biala in *Curierul Filatelice* no. 3/1992, pag. 12, where he erroneously stated that the Romanian stamps were affixed in Kolomea and not in Khotyn, upon arrival (even the assistance stamp, if initially affixed, was certainly brought in his pocket by the sender who *had just arrived from Tecuci with his squadron*, as written in the text). So, all these were **not** part of the Romanian stamps that would have been found at the Kolomea post office.

¹⁶⁴ Giurcă Ion - *Trei luni în Pocuția. Acțiuni ale Diviziei 8 Infanterie, 23 mai – 24 august 1919*, București 2019, pag. 256-257.

Romanian Postal Censorship in Pokutia

At the entrance of the Romanian troops, there were 12 telegraph-telephone-post offices, 12 telegraph-post offices and 28 post offices, poorly served by Ukrainian personnel, which determined the reappointment of those from the old Austrian administration, who had been removed by the Ukrainians on 1 November 1918. The head of the telegraph-postal service of the 8th Division was Major **Constantin Turbatu**, who reorganized the post office in the occupied territory from the first days: “all offices depended on the military direction established ad hoc at Kolomya, to which he would henceforth obey”¹⁶⁵.

The most important details regarding the functioning of the post offices during the occupation came to us from lawyer Ivan Chernyavskiy¹⁶⁶, head of the Kolomea district court, philatelist and one of the initiators of the issuing of postage stamps during the Ukrainian regime, who was in direct contact with Major Turbatu.

As early as the Instructions of 22 May 1919, it was stated that “the means of transport and transmission of news (railways, mail, telegraph, etc.) will be administered by the occupying army with the possible help of local bodies”. On **26 May 1919**, all private correspondence was suspended, the postal service functioning only for Romanian military institutions, Ordinance no. 1 of 28 May 1919 specified exactly:

Art. 9. The printing of newspapers and their dissemination, as well as of any publication, is temporarily stopped, until further notice, which will regulate press censorship.

Art. 10. Also, correspondence of any kind – except military correspondence – is stopped until censorship of correspondence is established.

Art. 11. Those who contravene the above provisions will be punished with imprisonment from 1 to 5 years, depending on the seriousness of the case.

The Romanian Postal Censorship was established on **27 June 1919**, the date on which Ordinance no. 5 of the C.M.T. “for amending the provisions of Art. 9 and 10 taken by us temporarily, ordered”¹⁶⁷:

Art. 1. An office of censorship, press and correspondence shall be established near each county military command residence, with the purpose of preventing the appearance of any newspaper or publication, or only the appearance of certain news or articles, and of controlling all correspondence, preventing it from reaching such destination as it may deem appropriate.

Art. 2. Any publication must, before publication, be presented in duplicate at the respective censorship office for inspection and only the part that will be mentioned by the censorship will appear. Publications brought from outside Galicia will have to be authorised for dissemination by the same office.

Art. 3. Any correspondence, whether internal or external, except for the official military mail, shall be sent by the telegraph-postal organs to the respective censorship office for the above-mentioned purpose.

Art. 4. It is forbidden for individuals to communicate by correspondence about interests other than private ones.

Art. 5. Those who contravene the provisions of the above-mentioned articles will be punished to imprisonment from 1 to 5 years... Correspondence containing anything other than private interest will be confiscated.

Art. 6. The territorial military command is authorized to change the residence of censorship offices if necessary.

The end of Romanian censorship occurred with the withdrawal of troops from Pokutia, sometime before or during **17-20 August 1919**.

Romanian postal censorship offices in Pokutia

Handstamps of Romanian censorship. It seems that initially C.M.T. ordered the manufacture of a standard handstamp for all censorship offices, with a rectangular framed format of 53-54 x 24 mm, with a tri-linear inner text: **Armata Română de Ocupație în Pocuția / CENZURAT / ...** (= *Romanian Army of Occupation in Pokutia / CENSORED / Name of the office*). However, there are other types of non-standardized handstamps in the short period of operation of the Romanian censorship.

¹⁶⁵ Giurcă Ion - *Trei luni în Pocuția...*, pag. 100-106.

¹⁶⁶ *Filateliea pentru toți*, anul IV, no. 1(37)-2(38)-3(39), January-March 1935

¹⁶⁷ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, pag. 235-237, Giurcă Ion – *Trei luni...*, pag. 346-347.

B08/01. – DELATYN

(Delatyn county, today 78442 – Делятин, Ukraine)

The **2nd Guard Company** of the **3rd Border Guard Regiment** was installed in the city, responsible for organizing the censorship post. The take-over of the city and district of Delatyn by the Poles took place on **18 August 1919**, with the Romanian border guards leaving at 16.00 p.m. for Picingen (probably Peczenitzyn, where they arrived at 24.00). Local censorship handstamps are unknown.

B08/02. – HORODENKA

(Horodenka county, today 78100 – Городенка, Ukraine)

The **1st Guard Company** of the **3rd Border Guard Regiment** was installed in the city, responsible for organizing the censorship post. Two censorship handstamps are known so far:



/02.1: Reproduction Tkachuk



/02.2:

©B08/02.1: oval handstamp, dimensions of 40/36 x 25/22 mm, with the inner text **CENZURAT** * **HORODENKA** and an ornament, reported for **8 July 1919** [B08.02, Fig. 2].

©B08/02.2: the standardised handstamp, dimensions of 54 x 24 mm, with the text **Armata Română de Ocupație în Pocuția / CENZURAT / HORODENCA**, applied in violet ink around **20 July 1919**.

B08/03. – KOLOMEA

(Kolomea county, today 78200 – Коломия, Ukraine)

The capital of the region, a city occupied by Romanian troops on **24 May 1919**, where the **Territorial Military Command (C.M.T.)** and several military units were installed – the 8th Rifle Regiment, a battery from the 17th Howitzer Regiment, the divisional squadron and the machine gun group. The censorship bureau was probably organized by the **3rd Company** of the **3rd Border Guard Regiment**, occasionally censoring mail arriving from *the Bukovinian part of the military area of operations* (Zastawna sector, see Fig. B08.02).



Fig. B08.02:
Mail from Zastavna (Bukovina) to Egypt, censored in Kolomea!

Trilingual Austrian postcard (German-Romanian-Ruthenian), written by the head of Zastavna railway station (in the area of military operations!) to an internee in the British camp **Sidi-Bishr** of Alexandria, Egypt. Postmarked **ZASTAWNA** on **4 June 1919**, Kolomea censorship with handstamp **©B08/03.1**, transit **BUCHAREST** on 9 July 1919, arrival **ALEXANDRIA * POSTE** with triangular British military censorship (source: web).

[ⓄB08/03.1](#): bi-linear handstamp with probable text **Cenzurat / Cenzura Militară Colomea**, applied in black ink on ca. **5 June 1919**, see *Fig. B08.02*.

[ⓄB08/03.2](#): bi-linear handstamp with probable text **CENZURAT / Cenzura militară Kolomea.**, dimensions $50,5 \times 13$ mm, applied in violet ink in *July 1919*; reported by Călin Marinescu, not seen by the author.

CENZURAT
Cenzura militară Kolomea.

Armata Română de Ocupație în Pocuția
CENZURAT
COLOMEA

CENZURAT

[/03.2](#): reproduction Marinescu

[/03.3](#): reproduction

21 July 1919

[ⓄB08/3.3](#): standard rectangular handstamp, dimensions of 53×24 mm, with the text **Armata Română de Ocupație în Pocuția / CENZURAT / COLOMEA**, applied in blue and violet ink at least between **11 July – 2 August 1919**, see *Fig. B08.01* și *B08.03*.



Fig. B08.03: Registered envelope sent from KOLOMEA on **2 August 1919**, franked with local stamps of 120+60 Heller, passed through the Romanian censorship office in the city, which affixes the standardized handstamp [ⓄB08/03.3](#), addressed to Peczenizyn (source: Trevor Pateman)¹⁶⁸.

B08/04. – KOSOW

(Kosow county, today 78600 – Kociv, Ukraine)

The city was occupied at 15:00, on **24 May 1919**. Later on in June, the **5th Guard Company** of the **3rd Border Guard Regiment** was installed, and was responsible for organizing the censorship post. The town of Kosow was handed over to the Poles on **25 August 1919** by the machine gun company. Local censorship handstamps are unknown so far.

B08/05. – PECZENIZYN

(Peczeniczyn county, today 78274 - Печеніжин, Ukraine)

The *divisional squadron* of the **3rd Border Guard Regiment** was installed in the city, also responsible for organizing the censorship post.

[ⓄB08/05.1](#): The circular handstamp of the military command was used for censorship, with the inner text **România * COMANDAMENTUL MILITAR JUD. PECENIZNE** (= *Romania * MILITARY COMMAND JUD. PECENIZNE*), applied in purple ink on **5 July 1919**, accompanied by censor's signature, see *Fig. B08.04*. Another registered cover censored with this handstamp, was re-censored at arrival in Kolomea with [ⓄB08/03.2](#) [*B08.02, Fig.3*].

¹⁶⁸ Trevor Patemans Philately Blog – *More Thoughts on 1919 C.M.T. overprints of Pokutia*, 6 March 2010. Envelope from the former Zelonka collection, signed BULAT BPP, also holder of a recent Cheremuga certificate.

Fig. B08.04:

Unfranked envelope, affirmatively originating from Stanislaw but posted and cancelled with the postmark ПЕЧЕНИЖИИИ on **5 July 1919**, addressed to the ICRC Geneva, Switzerland. Locally censored by the Romanian county military command (see handstamp [B08/05.1](#)), the envelope transited Bucharest (postmark dated 9 July 1919 on backside), like any Romanian foreign correspondence, where it was re-censored with the rectangular stamp [B04/01.1](#) and numeral [B04/01.10\(146\)](#). This is the only known correspondence sent externally during the Romanian occupation of Pokutia (source: *Cherrystone*¹⁶⁹).



B08/06. – SNIATYN

(Sniatyn county, today 78301 – Снятин, Ukraine)

It seems that the command of the **3rd** (then **4th**) **Border Guard Company** was installed in the city, which organized the local censorship post and handed over Sniatyn to the Poles on **24 August 1919**. An atypical censorship handstamp is known:

[B08/06.1](#): rectangular handstamp with the inner three-lines text **Comandamentul Militar al / Județului Sniatin / CENZURAT**, applied in violet ink around **19 June 1919**, see *Fig. B08.05*.



Fig. B08.05: One of the envelopes addressed to the Kolomea District Court and collected by Chernyavszky: SNIATYN expedition and postmark on **19 June 1919**, censorship by the local Romanian office with the handstamp [B08/06.1](#), arrival at Kolomea where it is postmarked by the office of the 8th Division (**OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR * DIVIZIA VIII**) on 5 July 1919 (source: *eBay* 2018)¹⁷⁰

Please send any corrections, additions, comments to:
damirro@yahoo.com

¹⁶⁹ Lot #4373 from Cherrystone 888A Auction of 21 February 2019, sold for 3.000 USD

¹⁷⁰ Sold on eBay with 2.222 USD.

B09. ROMANIAN CENSORSHIP IN OCCUPIED HUNGARY, 1919-1920¹⁷¹.

On **21 March 1919**, Béla Kun proclaimed in Budapest the Hungarian Republic of the (Soviet) Councils, establishing contacts with Lenin with the aim of extending the Bolshevik revolution into Romanian territory. This development led to the cessation of postal relations between Hungary and the territories occupied by the Romanians, French, or Serbs. Soon after, the Romanian-Hungarian military conflict broke out, unfolding in three distinct stages.

In **the first stage**, the Romanian offensive during the night of 16/17 April 1919 resulted in the occupation of the remaining Transylvanian territories and the Partium up to the Tisza River, which was reached on 1 May 1919. The front line along the Tisza was maintained until 20 July 1919.

During the same campaign, on 16 April 1919, Romanian troops also crossed into Ruthenia (Subcarpathian Ukraine), occupying the area adjacent to the Romanian border. On 8 May 1919, Czechoslovakia occupied the remainder of the territory. In this region, two Romanian censorship offices were planned to be established in autumn 1919, at Hust and Trebusa railway stations. However, there is no confirmed evidence of their actual operation; mail from these areas was usually censored in Satu Mare or Oradea.

In the territory occupied up to the Tisza, two areas were delineated, each with distinct postal history characteristics:

- The "Zona Consiliului Dirigent" (ZCD), where censorship was organized according to the existing regulations already in place in Transylvania. No special instructions were issued for this region, which was also considered subordinated to the *Governing Council* of Sibiu (see [Volume A/2](#)).
- The "Zona Militară de Ocupație" (ZMO), characterized by a typical organizational structure for a temporarily occupied military zone.

Initially, the 1st Rifle Division received authorization — based on Order 3755/2 — to establish censorship offices in the occupied territory up to the Tisza using only its own military personnel, without involving civilian employees. On **18 May 1919**, the censorship office in Békéscsaba (where the division's headquarters was located) was set up. At that time, it was ordered that "all correspondence (including official mail) entering or leaving your office [Békéscsaba post office] will be censored by our censorship office. The telegraph and telephone services at your office will also be subject to censorship"¹⁷². In the same month, three additional offices were established: in Debrecen (the most important censorship office in the ZMC, with remained active throughout the occupation), Kétegyháza, and Mezőhegyes (referred to by the Romanians as *Măru Roșu*), both of the latter located in the ZCD. Based on Instructions no. 6622, dated **15 July 1919**, the existing offices were reorganized, and a new censorship post was added in Gyula. Their number subsequently increased significantly, reaching a total of 32 by September 1919, most of them subordinated to the 16th Infantry Division headquartered in Debrecen.

Following the Hungarian offensive launched on 20 July 1919 against the Romanian-Czechoslovak front — which succeeded in pushing back Romanian units in several sectors — the Romanian counteroffensive of 24 July led to the occupation of the territory west of the Tisza, including the capital, Budapest (occupied on 4 August). This marked **the second stage** of the military operations in Hungary.

The **third stage** consisted of the Romanian army's advance west of the Danube, up to 28 August 1919, reaching a line between the cities of Győr and Veszprém, which marked the westernmost limit of the Romanian occupation.

In the territory west of the Tisza, the Romanians established five censorship offices, of which Budapest, Hatvan, and Kalocsa are documented through surviving mail. The Budapest office was by far the largest, comprising four separate sections. These censorship offices west of the Tisza were closed by November 1919, coinciding with the Romanian army's withdrawal from the area. The offices east of the Tisza (up to the current Romanian-Hungarian border) remained operational until the last phase of the Romanian withdrawal from Hungary, which occurred on 30 March 1920.

¹⁷¹ For other details, see also Călin Marinescu - *Cenzura...1914-1940*, pag.210-232.

¹⁷² Ibidem, pag.217.

POSTAL-HISTORY AREAS IN OCCUPIED HUNGARY

The occupied territory of Hungary was treated differently by the Romanians, a distinction that is also reflected in postal history. Thus, several occupation zones can be delineated (for details, see [volume A/2](#), Chapters [#A74](#) and [#A76](#)):

ZCD/ZS – "Zona Consiliului Dirigent" Sibiu, then "Zona de Supraveghere" Cluj (Sibiu Government Area, then Cluj Surveillance Area)

This was the area where the Romanianization of laws and institutions had already begun, as it was considered a future integral part of Romania. While the situation for Transylvania, Banat, and Partium things was relatively clear — Romanian occupation having been approved by the Allies in due time — following the offensive of 16 April 1919, the Romanians sought to extend the area of permanent annexation through a policy of *fait accompli*. They occupied Hungarian territory up to the maximum line established in the 1916 Convention with the Allies, which included:

- From **Szatmár/Satmar** county (SM): the districts of Csenger (SM1), Fehérgyarmat (SM2), and Matészalka (SM3).
- From **Bihar/Bihor** county (BH): the districts of Berettyóújfalu (BH1), Biharkeresztes (BH2), Cséffa-Nagyszalonta (BH3), Derecske (BH4), Sárret (BH5), and Székelyhid (BH6).
- From **Békés/Bichiș** county (BK): the districts of Békés (BK1), Békéscsaba (BK2), Gyula (BK3), and Szeghalom (BK4).
- From **Arad** county (AR): the district of Elek (AR1).
- From **Csanád/Cenad** county (CE): the districts of Battonya (CE1), Mezőkovács (CE2), and Nagylak (CE3).

The post offices in this area were under the jurisdiction of the *Oradea Post Directorate* and held the same status as Romanian post offices in Transylvania!. This included the introduction of Romanian postal tariffs and effects, the Romanianization of some locality names based on a list sent from Sibiu, and the establishment of censorship offices as per Order no. 6622 (which was also applied to Transylvania and Banat). Many items of correspondence circulating *within* the ZCD or ZS were redirected to the Oradea office for censorship (see *Fig. B09.01*), confirming that all the localities were under a single jurisdiction.

However, this territory had to be evacuated by the Romanian army in March 1920, following the final determination of the border — a compromise between various plans debated by the Great Powers in Paris. As a result, we now have an intriguing and lesser-known chapter of postal history: a number of *Hungarian* post offices that were *Romanian* for only a few months:

Below is the list of post offices in **ZCD** (the area of the Sibiu Government, subordinated to the Oradea Post Directorate), located today on the territory of **Hungary**, identified so far.
(**bolded** names indicate towns with censorship offices):

Name on postmark	Cty	Name on postmark	Cty	Name on postmark	Cty
ÁRTÁND	BH2	GESZT	BH3	MEZŐHEGYES	CE1
BAGAMÉR	BH6	GYULA	BK3	MEZŐSAS	BH2
BÁRÁND	BH5	GYULAVÁRI	BK3	MONOSTORPÁLYI	BH6
BATTONYA	CE1	HAJDÚBAGOS	BH4	NAGYBÁNHEGYES	CE2
BÉKÉS	BK1	HOSSZÚPÁLYI	BH6	NAGYECSED	SM3
BÉKÉSCSABA	BK2	KÉTEGYHÁZA	BK3	NAGYKAMARÁS	AR1
BEREK BÖSZÖRMÉNY	BH2	KEVERMES	CE1	NAGYKEREKI	BH4
BERETTYÓSZENTMÁRTON	BH1	KISMARJA	BH4	NAGYLÉTA	BH6
BERETTYÓÚJFALU	BH1	KOMÁDI	BH2	NAGYRÁBÉ	BH5
BIHAR KERESZTES	BH2	KONYÁR	BH4	OKÁNY	BH3
BIHARNAGYBAJOM	BH5	KÖRÖSLADÁNY	BK4	POCSAJ	BH4
BIHARUGRA	BH3	KÖRÖSNAGYHARSÁNY	BH3	SÁP	BH5
BOJT	BH2	KÖRÖSSZEGAPÁTI	BH2	SÁRÁND	BH4
CSANÁDAPÁCZA	CE2	KÖRÖSTARCSA	BK1	SARKAD	BH3
CSANÁDPALOTA	CE3	KÖTEGYÁN	BH3	SARKADKERESZTÚR	BH3
CSENGER	SM1	KUNÁGOTA	CE2	SZATMÁR CSÉKE	SM2
CSÖKMŐ	BH1	LÖKÖSHÁZA		SZEGHALOM	BK4
DARVAS BIHAR	BH1	MAGYARBÁNHEGYES	CE2	SZENTPÉTERSZEG	BH1
DERECSKE BIHAR	BH4	MÁTÉSZALKA	SM3	TÉPE	BH4

DOMBEGYHÁZ	CE1	MEDGYES BODZÁS	AR1	ÚJKÍGYÓS	BK2
ELEK	AR1	MEDGYES EGYHÁZA	AR1	UJLÉTA	BH6
FEHÉRGYARMAT	SM2	MÉHKERÉK	BH3	VÉSZTŐ	BK4
FURTA	BH1	MEZŐBERÉNY	BK1	ZSÁKA	BH1
FÜZESGYARMAT	BK4	MEZŐGYÁN	BH3		

Fig. B09.01: Mixed franking (Romanian stamp on Hungarian stationery), circulated within ZCD (present-day Hungary), and censored in Oradea!

Hungarian stationery of 10 fillér, uprated with a Romanian 5 bani stamp (so total tariff 10 bani), postmarked **KÖRÖSLADÁNY** (ZCD / Békés county) on **7 October 1919**, addressed to Fehérgyarmat (today in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county), but diverted and censored in **Oradea** on 8 October 1919 with the handstamp [B09.02/1](#).



The censorship offices in the ZCD were established similarly to those in Transylvania, according to the same regulations issued by the local government in Sibiu — specifically, **Order no. 6622**, in force since 15 July 1919. These offices were located in: Békéscsaba (Bichișciaba), Derecske, Gyula, Kétegyháza (Domnița Ileana), Kötegyán, Lőkősháza (Vatra Aradului), Mátészalka, Mezőhegyes (Măru Roșu), Szeghalom, and Vésztő.

ZMO – "Zona Militară de Ocupație" Debrecen
(Debrecen Military Occupation Area)

Fig. B09.02: Mixed franking with a Romanian occupation stamp "Debrecen", circulated from the ZMO to Oradea

Hungarian stationery of 10 fillér, uprated with an overprinted **ZONA DE OCUPAȚIE * ROMÂNĂ** stamp, postmarked **HAJDÚDOROG** (ZMO / Hajdú county) on **21 January 1920**, addressed to Oradea (Partium), censored on the same day by the Debrecen office with the stamp [B09.02/1](#); arrived in Oradea on 26 January.



This was the area between the ZCD and the Tisza River, where the occupation took the form of a *Governorate* with its capital in **Debrecen**. It was established as a buffer zone based on the principle that the Romanian army had to "bring the Hungarian army into a state of total incapacity to fight and disarm it, which requires the Romanian forces to occupy the Hungarian territory on the left bank of the Tisza". Being organized as a *temporary military occupation area*, Romanian authorities maintained the existing Hungarian post offices and their personnel. Hungarian postage stamps, service stamps, and service labels

(for registered mail, etc.) continued to be used, without any changes or adaptations. The only interventions in postal activity in this occupied area were:

- The overprinting of Hungarian postage stamps in Debrecen, with circulation valid exclusively within the ZMO, alongside regular Hungarian postage stamps (see *Fig. B09.02*). Romanian postage stamps were NOT distributed to these post offices.
- The introduction of Romanian postal tariffs, likely beginning on 25 May 1919.
- The censorship of civil correspondence, carried out through censorship offices established directly by the military occupation units, independent of the censorship systems in the ZCD (Transylvania, Banat, Partium).

On 16 October 1919 the **Debrecen Postal Directorate**, led by the director Sipos Gyula, was established in the territory of ZMO, now independent of the Directorate in Oradea.

The post offices of the ZMO, all now located in Hungarian territory, were situated between the Tisza River and the western boundary of the ZCD. They belonged, from north to south, to:

- Szabolcs and Hajdú counties (entirely).
- Most of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok and Csongrád counties (only their eastern districts, up to the Tisza).
- Békés and Csanád counties (partially; only the western districts, as the others were part of the ZCD).

The area was evacuated by **30 March 1919**.

The censorship offices in the ZMO were established by the local government in Debrecen and were practically subordinated to the divisions deployed successively along the defensive lines on the Tisza River. The main censoring office was in **Debrecen**, while the smaller ones were staffed directly by military personnel from the covering divisions positioned on the left bank of the Tisza. To better understand the distribution of these offices, it is useful to analyze maps, noting that the defensive zone along the Tisza (essentially the entire ZMO) was divided into two sectors: a **Northern Sector** and a **Southern Sector**. Generally, the demarcation line was considered to be at **Fegyvernek**. Based on this division, the offices — listed from north to south — were as follows:

- **Northern Sector** (from the mouth of the Someş River to Fegyvernek): Kis-Várda, Karád, Nyíregyháza, Újfehértó, Buj, Rakamaz, Büdszentmihály, Tisza-Polgár, Hajdú-Böszörmény, Balmaz-Újváros, Csege, Tisza-Füred, Tisza-Roff;
- **Southern Sector** (from Fegyvernek to the mouth of the Mureş): Kisújszállás, Túrkeve, Törökszentmiklós, Mezőtúr, Kunszentmárton, Szarvas, Szentes, Orosháza, Hódmezővásárhely, Makó.

In some military documents, the boundary between sectors is listed at **Abád-Szálok**, in which case the Tisza-Roff office would fall under the Southern Sector.

Details regarding the position and distribution of major Romanian units can be found in [Volume A/2](#), pag. 220-303. Even though many military units were stationed in or passed through the ZMO, the actual defense of the Tisza line (and, accordingly, the subordination of the censorship offices) fell primarily to the Transylvanian divisions, especially the 16th and 18th Infantry Divisions, and to a lesser extend the 20th and 21st Infantry Divisions. The following graph would help clarify the subordination of the censorship offices at various times, as well as the correspondence with military handstamps used (such as in the case of the Kis-Várda office):

Northern Sector	Southern Sector
2. Cavalry Division (ca. 5 – 18 June 1919)	18. Infantry Division (ca. 10 May – 30 June 1919)
16. Infantry Division (ca. 20 June – 19 July 1919)	18. Infantry Division (ca. 1- 19 July 1919)
16. Infantry Division (ca. 20 July – 12 August 1919)	18. Infantry Division (ca. 31 July – 10 August 1919)
16. Infantry Division (ca. 13 August – 26 October 1919)	
18. Infantry Division (ca. 27 October – 30 November 1919)	
20. Infantry Division (ca. 1 December 1919 – 19 February 1920)	21. Infantry Division (ca. 1 December 1919 – 18 February 1919)

In principle, the deployment of subunits remained consistent within the same period but varied between different timeframes. Where information is available, these deployments will be noted under each office.

The task of these censorship offices was to ensure information protection and capitalization along the Tisza, which served as a natural border between **ZCD** (a territory Romania hoped to annex) + **ZMO** and **ZM2** + **ZM3** (territories considered from the beginning to be only temporary occupation zones, subject to economic exploitation).



ZM2 and ZM3 – Military Operational area (Short-term occupation areas)

These consisted of: **ZM2** – the *military occupation zone* between the Tisza and the Danube Rivers, with headquarters in Budapest – and **ZM3** – the *military occupation zone* west of the Danube. In both areas, the occupation was strictly military, without any administrative intervention. Post offices operated according to the Hungarian laws, and with Hungarian personnel. The only intervention concerned the postal censorship, carried out directly by military units stationed in the garrisons of various localities. Only in Budapest did a dedicated Romanian censorship office function. **ZM3** was evacuated by Romanian forces between 4-10 October 1919, and **ZM2** after 13 November 1919. Censorship activity in these areas was rare, occasional, and limited in duration.

The censorship offices were likely established by the Romanian General Staff and were always subordinated to the field occupation and exploitation divisions. They were located in the following places:

- **ZM2:** Budapest, Hatvan, Kalocsa, Szolnok;
- **ZM3:** Esztergom.

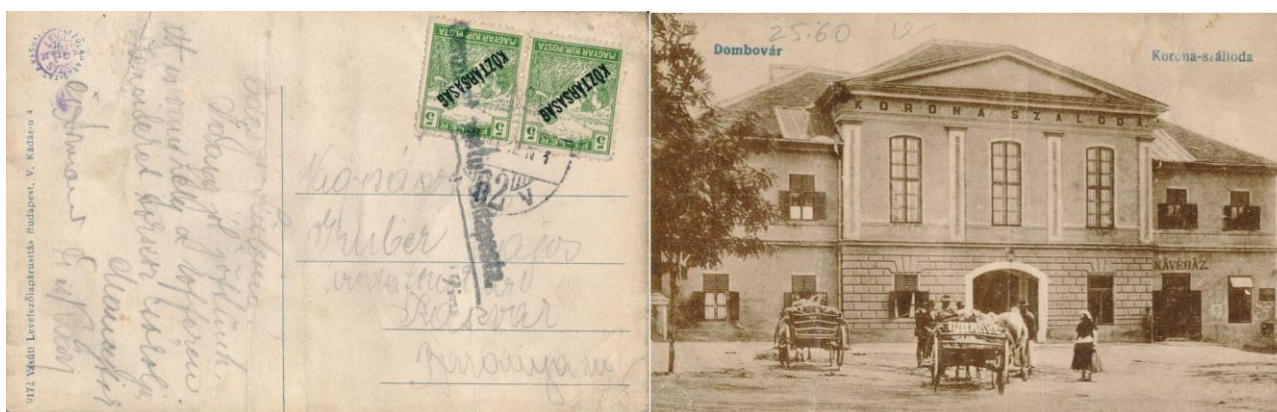


Fig. B09.03: Romanian censorship in MZ2: Budapest office.

Illustrated postcard (depicting the *Korona Hotel* in Dombóvár), postmarked BUDAPEST 62 and addressed to Szászvár, Baranya (then under Serbian occupation). Censored by the Romanian office in Budapest using handstamp **B09.02/1**.

Not all major cities had organized Romanian censorship posts; in some, censorship was lifted early. A documented example is the city of **Miskolc**, occupied by Romanian forces on 4 August 1919. On **5 October 1919**, the local newspaper reported on the strict limitation of postal traffic within the ZM2 military zone and the lifting of Romanian censorship: "Postmaster Géza Serbiák ... stated that even today, the post office does not transmit letters, postcards, or newspapers; parcels and postal orders may be sent at all. Cheque and "kocsi posta" traffic are also suspended, and there is no prospect of improvement at this time. Letters from Miskolcz can only be sent to destinations as far as Budapest along the Tisza line, and to the north as far as Garadna, Boldva, Putnok, and Bánreve (all within a 50 km radius around Miskolc). Postmen also stated that, **as of today, Romanian censorship has been abolished** (although Romanian Press Censorship continues)".

Further details appeared in the 8 October edition of the newspaper ¹⁷³: "parcel traffic ceased in the spring of this year, and value traffic stopped on August 2, prior to the occupation ... As noted previously, **Romanian censorship has been abolished** at the post office — but censorship itself has not. It is now carried out by a Hungarian military committee, guided only by patriotic considerations. The Romanian military command retains the right to supervise the censorship conducted by the Hungarian committee. Censorship does not delay traffic. The committee's censorship consists of reading letters and withholding those with

¹⁷³ *Miskolczi Reggeli Hírlap*, 5 October 1919, page 2 and 8 October 1919, page 5.

objectionable content... The General Post Office Directorate asks the public not to seal mailed letters, as this delays both censorship and forwarding".

Hungarian local censorship continued into late November 1919¹⁷⁴: "The Post Administration continues to advise the public not to seal the mail sent to the post office in its own interest. Due to censorship, all letters are read, and only open, censored letters are delivered".

On **16 November 1919**, the town was handed over by the command of the 10th Roşiori (Hussar) Regiment, under Stancov, and regular mail traffic resumed on **26 November 1919**, under the supervision of the Budapest General Directorate. However, all press and printed materials remained subject to prior Hungarian military censorship, overseen by captain Jenő Rátz of the General Staff.

Romanian censors for newspapers (Press Censorship officers): **Lt. George Şuteu** (Mountain Rifle Regiment, 28 – 30 September, 24 October, 5 – 6 November 1919), **Lt. Pop Gheorghe** (Mountain Rifle Regiment, 5 – 23 October, 26 October – 2 November 1919), **Lt. Pavel** (Mountain Rifle Regiment, 25 October, 4 November 1919), **Lt. Czerkowski** (10th Roşiori Regiment, 7 – 11 November, 15 – 16 November 1919), **Lichtenstein** (13 – 14 November 1919).

ROMANIAN CENSOR OFFICES & HANDSTAMPS IN OCCUPIED HUNGARY

B09/01. - BALMAZ-ÚJVÁROS

(Hajdú county – **ZMO** – today Hajdú-Bihar county)

History: the town was occupied by the 6th Infantry Division on **23 April 1919**, advancing from Hajdúböszörmény. Soon after, the town came under the deployment area of the 16th **Infantry Division**. During the Romanian occupation, 16 persons were interned in Braşov. The town was handed over to the Hungarian authorities on **10 March 1920** by the I/3rd Călăraşi Squadron (from the **1st Cavalry Division**).

Censorship. The office was part of the *Northern Sector* along Tisza River, subordinated to the local territorial divisions. Here is what is known so far:

- 7-14 May 1919: **Company 5/84 Infantry** (*16th Infantry Division*).
- 20 June – 19 July 1919: Headquarters of the **42nd Infantry Brigade**, likely accompanied by the 84th Infantry Regiment and **Section I/32 Howitzers**, as reserve, stationed along the *Balmaz-Újváros Sector* (*16th Infantry Division*). See Fig. A80.28.
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: the office was subordinated to a unit of the *16th Infantry Division*, with only one censor.
- Ca. 28 October – 16 November 1919: unknown units of the *16th Infantry Division* deployed for intensive training.
- 25 February – 1 March 1920: Battalions I, II, and III/100 Infantry (*19th Infantry Division*), and the 3rd Călăraşi Regiment (*1st Cavalry Division*).

B09/02. - BÉKÉSCSABA (Bichişciaba)

(Békés County – **ZCD** – today Békés County)

History: The town was occupied by the *2nd Rifle Division* on **26 April 1919** (where the divisional HQ was based until 13 May 1919). From **14 May to 22 July 1919**, the *1st Rifle Division* HQ was stationed in the town. On 23 May 1919, King Ferdinand of Romania and Queen Marie visited Békéscsaba in an effort to convince the Entente powers to support its annexation to *Greater Romania*. On **13 August 1919**, the 18th Infantry Divisions began deploying here for rehabilitation and training.

Békéscsaba was one of the cities disputed during the Peace Conference and was formally requested by the Romanian delegation. It became part of the territory subordinated to the *Consiliul Dirigent* in Sibiu (ZCD, similar in status to Transylvania). As such, Romanian postal laws were introduced in May 1919. On 13 July 1919, a meeting of Slovaks was recorded in which they "voted for a motion that was signed by all those present requesting the accession of Bichişciaba to Greater Romania (...). The news that it would be possible

¹⁷⁴ *Miskolczi Napló* no. 188, 18 November 1919.

for Bichişciaba to remain in Hungary has caused great unrest among the Slovaks who are asking for it to be annexed to Romania"¹⁷⁵.

Nevertheless, the city was ultimately handed over to Hungarian authorities on **29 March 1920** by the 4th Roşiori Brigade (1st Cavalry Division).

2nd Period
(18 May – 14 July 1919)

Censorship was first organized by the HQs of the **1st Rifle Division**, which was stationed in the city between **14 May and 22 July 1919**. The start of censorship activities is attested by a note from the Divisional General Staff (no. 56.224) to the Head of the Hungarian PTT office in the city: "Benevolent to know that by order of the Transylvanian Troops Command, starting today, 18/V 919, the entire correspondence (including the official one) entering or leaving your office will be censored by our censorship office. Likewise, the telegraph and telephone of your office will be censored"¹⁷⁶

ⓄB09/02.1: The censorship handstamp of the 1st Rifle Division, size 49 x 28 mm, has been seen between **26 May – 4 July 1919** (maximum period 18 May – 22 July 1919).

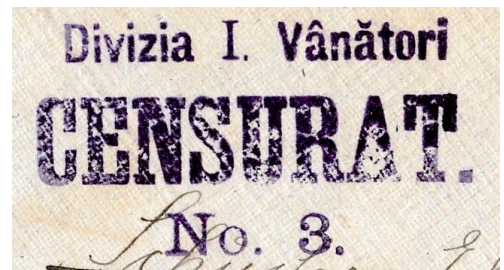


Fig. B09.04: Censorship of the 1st Rifle Division in Békéscsaba on a civil mail from Békés to Simeria (Transylvania)

Civilian photocard written in Hungarian by Misi and Mariska of Békés on **26 May 1919**, franked with a 10-fillér royalist mark, postmarked BÉKÉS on 28 May 1919, and censored at the Romanian post in Békéscsaba with the military handstamp of the 1st Rifle Division (**ⓄB09/02.1**). Arrival: PISKI (Simeria) on 1 June 1919.



Fig. B09.05: Censorship of the 1st Rifle Division of Békéscsaba on a civil mail from Békés to Sibiu. Illustrated postcard (showing Békéscsaba City Hall) written in German by a Transylvanian soldier, franked with a 10-fillér republican stamp (inverted as a sign of political protest), postmarked BÉKÉSCSABA, **June 1919**, censored with **ⓄB09/02.1**, addressed to Sibiu, in Transylvania.

¹⁷⁵ *Românul*, Arad no. 59 from 11 July 1919.

¹⁷⁶ Marinescu – *Cenzura poştală...*, 2004, pag. 217.

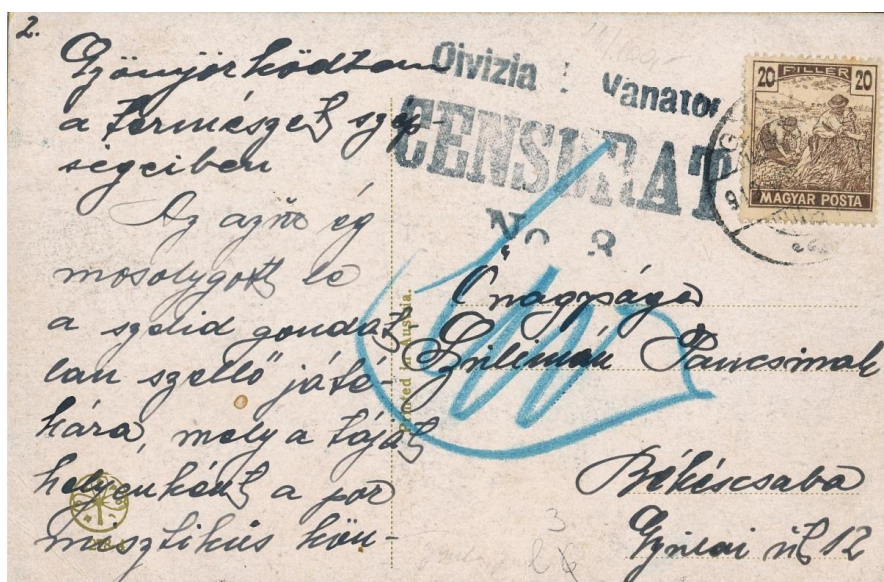


Fig. B09.06. Gyula manuscript censorship, re-censoring in Békéscsaba: double censorship in the Romanian occupation zone.

Civil postcard postmarked GYULA on 3 July 1919, bearing a handwritten censor mark at the Romanian local post (blue pencil, signature [B09/10.M](#)), addressed to Békéscsaba. Both localities were in the Romanian occupation zone. However, the correspondence was re-censored on arrival by the 1st Rifle Division with [B09/02.1](#).

[B09/02.2](#) (CM#2.1): Circular handstamp with the inner text around the coat of arms: **POSTUL DE CENZURĂ * BICHIȘCIABA**; diameter 30/28 mm; applied in purple and black ink. Officially used by the chief censor on various documents and documents and (theoretically) on mail. Not seen by the author.

Fig. B09.07: Romanian handwritten censorship at the Békéscsaba office

Envelope sent from the local cinema to the Timișoara Film Center, franked with 3 x 5 bani Romanian stamps¹⁷⁷, postmarked BÉKÉSCSABA on 18 October 1919, censored two days later at the local Romanian station (subordinated to the 18th Infantry Division), with the manuscript notation *Cenz. 20/X* and the censor's signature: *Pop* (source: eBay, 2019)



3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – 1 April 1920)

Order no. 6622 established that from 15 July 1919, only five censors would operate at the **Railway Station** (two for official correspondence and three for telephone and telegraph, with authority to inspect private email if needed). In practice, the office employed a small team — between one and five censors — and was subordinated to the **18th Infantry Division** (from 13 August to 1 December 1919), later to the **16th Infantry Division**. The office was disbanded on 1 April 1920.

Other censorship offices functioned under divisional HQs located nearby (on both Romanian and Hungarian territory), as shown in the following announcement: "It is brought to the attention of amateurs that the 18th Division requires 20 intellectuals (men or women) for 4 censorship posts in the communes of Nagyszalonta, Vésztő, Szeghalom, and Kötegyán. Those interested may report to the Information Office of the division in Bichiș Ciaba as soon as possible to sign a commitment. Each applicant must present a certificate from the local police proving that they are of Romanian origin, know the Hungarian language, and are known as a

¹⁷⁷ This is proof that in Békéscsaba, as in the ZCD in general, the Romanian postal regulations were in force (Romanian tariff of 15 bani, Romanian stamps used).

peaceful and respectable individual. Monthly salary of 300 lei for censors and 500 lei for the head of censorship".¹⁷⁸

ⓄB09/02.M: after the departure of the 1st Rifle Division, it is likely that the office used only manuscript markings — signatures of the censors in blue, red, or gray pencils; observed between **19 September 1919 – 8 January 1920**; see *Fig. B09.07* and *B09.08*.



Fig. B09.08. Békéscsaba late handwritten Romanian censorship.

Mourning letter postmarked BÉKÉSCSABA on 8 January 1920. Due to the lack of Romanian postage stamps at the office, the postage fee was collected in cash. This is indicated by the application of the local telegraph office's oval stamp (similar to the practice in Arad) and the handwritten mention: *Franko dij fizetve 10 fillér (=10 fillér Franco fee paid)*. Local censorship was applied using a red pencil, marked **ⓄB09/02.M**. Arrived Kondoros, in the same county of Békés (ZCD).

Press censorship officers: **C. Turicu** (Chief of censorship, 4 January – 28 March 1920).

B09/03. – BUDAPEST (**ZM2** – Hungarian capital, then and now)

The Hungarian capital was occupied by Romanian forces on **3 August 1919** and evacuated beginning on **13 November 1919**.

Censorship: was likely organized by the **2nd Rifle Division**. The office (*Román Cenzura Hivatal*) comprised a **Central office** and four sections:

- **Central Office:** located at *Váci utca 62/6, first floor*, with two staff members;
- **Press Section:** responsible for newspapers, theatres, and cinemas; 18 staff members, same address;
- **Mail Section:** 9 staff members, located at the *Eastern Railway Station / Keleti*;
- **Telephone Section:** 16 staff members at the *Josef Central / József Távbeszélő Központ*, Mária Terézia square (now Horváth Mihály tér);
- **Telegraphs Section:** 18 staff members at the *Central Post Office* on *Korona Herceg utca* (occupied since 5 August 1919), now *Petőfi Sándor utca 15/17*¹⁷⁹.

From the known regulations we learn that letters in transit through Budapest were subject to an 8-day delay before dispatch¹⁸⁰. Here is in-extenso Romanian censorship decree from **9 august 1919**¹⁸¹.

The headquarters of the Transylvanian army ordered the censorship of all private and official postal items and telegrams sent to and received in Budapest:

¹⁷⁸ *Românul*, Arad, no. 134 / 14 octombrie 1919.

¹⁷⁹ The Central Post & Telegraph building (Főposta és Telegráf), was inaugurated in 1872, on an Antal Skálniczky project.

¹⁸⁰ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală...*, 2004, pag. 218-219.

¹⁸¹ Dán János – Manuscript of future Hungarian Censorship Catalog.

"In this regard, I warn the public that only open postcards and open letters may be posted. The length of each letter, written on full-size paper, should not exceed two pages. A written notice may not be placed inside a postal package, and no note other than the sender's address may be written on the delivery slip.

Agencies and authorities may send their sealed letters, and there is no limit to the scope of such correspondence, but these letters are also subject to censorship and are sealed after inspection. The suspension of postal money orders and value letters remains in effect. For now, private telegraphic and telephone communication is suspended. Even authorities and agencies may send telegrams only in the most urgent cases.

In the name of the Minister: Hollós, Secretary of State".

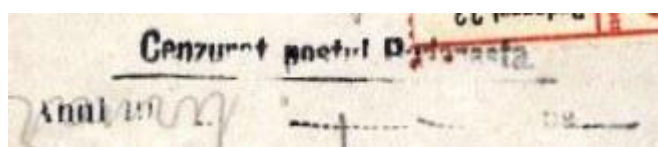
Romanian censorship in Pest was also confirmed by the press¹⁸²: *Only postcards and open letters were permitted. Postal orders and registered letters were suspended. Official correspondence was subject to censorship and opened for inspection.*

4 October 1919: "The leadership of the Royal Romanian Censorship hereby calls on all telephone subscribers to refrain from engaging in private conversations, both locally and in the countryside. If a subscriber is found using the telephone for private conversations — either locally or in the countryside — their telephone will be immediately disconnected.

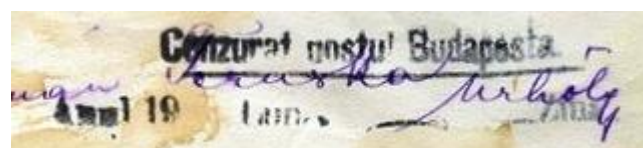
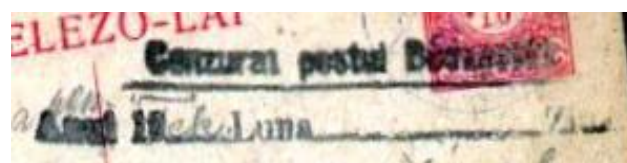
The management of the Telephone Department, Royal Romanian Censorship."

Censorship handstamps

[ⓄB09/03.1](#) (CM#1.1): bi-linear handstamp with the text **Cenzurat postul Budapesta / Anul 19.... Luna.... Ziua....**; dimensions 78 x 12 mm (only text); applied in black ink between **31 August - 19 October 1919**; see Fig. B09.03 and Fig. B09.09. See also details in [ⓄB09.7].



/03.1:



22 September 1919



12 October 1919, deformed 57 x 13 mm (text)

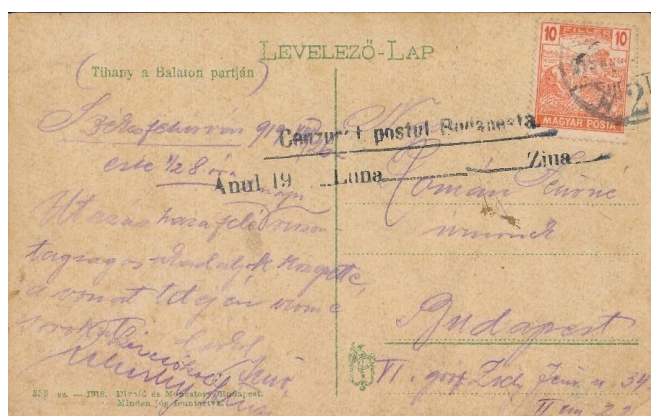


Fig. B09.09: Romanian censorship in Budapest.

Illustrated postcard (showing a view of *Tihany* village on Lake Balaton), written in Szekesfehervár on 26 August 1919 and addressed to Budapest. Censored upon arrival by the Romanian office of Budapest, using [ⓄB09/03.1](#).

¹⁸² *Universul* no. 264 of 18 August 1919, pag. 1.



©B09/03.2 (TT95#4.1, CM#1.2): round double-circle handstamp with the inner text: **CENSURAT POSTUL * BUDAPESTA**¹⁸³; dimensions 34/18 mm; applied in black ink between **September – October 1919** (not seen by the author; information and image source: Călin Marinescu and János Dan).

Press censorship officers (at various publications!): **Dr. E. Lobonțiu** (16 August 1919), **Moldovan** (19 – 27 September 1919), **Nora** (28 September 1919), **Consul** (30 September 1919), **Dr. Ardor** (30 September, 1, 2, 5 October 1919), **Albu** (2, 10, 11, 16, 17, 26 October 1919), **Nuțiu** (3, 11, 14, 23, 30 October, 5, 11, 13 November 1919), **Văleanu** (4 October 1919), **Spida** (7, 11, 19, 28 October, 9, 12 November 1919), **Manciu** (8 October 1919), **L. Miron** (28 September, 12, 21 October, 1, 4, 7, 11 November 1919), **Pavel** (14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 29 October 1919), **Ghimpe** (16 October 1919), **Toma** (18, 19, 23, 25 October 1919), **Rănescu** (9, 22, 29, 30, 31 October, 1, 2, 4, 5 November 1919), **Vasile** (18, 24, 31 October, 6, 7, 8 November 1919), **Victorescu** (10 October, 8 November 1919), **Victor E. B.** (12 November 1919), **Monteoru/Monteoni** (14 November 1919), **Gavrilescu** (18 October, 1, 8 November 1919), **Solomonescu** (21 October 1919), **Lupescu** (25 October 1919), **Boscu** (6 November 1919), **R. Cefan** (3, 5 October, 9 November 1919), **Caian** (1 October 1919), **Gheorghescu** (4 October 1919), **Corodan** (7 October 1919), **Minerva** (12, 15 October 1919) and others.

B09/04. – BÜDSZENTMIHÁLY (today Tiszavasvári) (Szabolcs county – **ZMO** – today Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county)

History: On **27 February 1920**, the Romanians evacuated the village.

Censorship. The office was part of the *Northern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here is what we know so far:

- 7-10 May 1919: **Batalion I/81 Infantry** and **Battery 1/22 Artillery** (*16th Infantry Division*), which defends the *Büdszentmihály Sector*.
- 3 June – 21 July 1919: **Battalion I/83 Infantry**, in divisional reserve (*16th Infantry Division*).
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: the office was subordinated to a unit of the *16th Infantry Division*, with only one censor.
- ...- 13 December 1919: from the **89th Infantry Regiment** (*18th Infantry Division*).
- In December 1919, a postcard sent to Transylvania was censored in transit in Debrecen, indicating that the local censoring office was not active at the time (see Fig. B09.10).



Fig. B09.10: Mail from a Romanian Volksdeutsche, assigned to a Transylvanian unit in Büdszentmihály. Illustrated postcard (showing a view of *Debrecen*), with a 20 fillér overprinted stamps for the ZMO, written in German in Debrecen on 13 December 1919, but postmarked BÜDSZENTMIHÁLY on **15 December 1919** — so surely sent by a German-ethnic soldier from a Romanian Transylvanian division deployed along the Tisza — and addressed to Sighișoara. As the local censorship office was not active, the postcard was censored in transit at the Debrecen office, with the handstamp ©B09/04.3.

B09/05. – BUJ (Szabolcs county – **ZMO** – today Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county)

Censorship. The office was subordinated to the local garrisons of the *Northern Sector* belonging to the coverage divisions. Here is what we know so far:

¹⁸³ Reported by C.M.Trevers – *O piesă (curioasă poate) din perioada războiului pentru întregirea României*, Buletinul ABB no. 2(14)/1996, pag.6.

- 20 June – 19 July 1919: **Battalion 1/82 Infantry, Battery 3/22 Artillery** (16th Infantry Division), which held the *Buj defence sector*.
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: the office was subordinated to a unit of the 16th Infantry Division, with only one censor.

B09/06. – CSEGE (Tiszacsege)
(Hajdú county – ZMO – today Hajdú-Bihar county)

The town was occupied by the Romanian forces on **3 May 1919**. During the Romanian occupation, 15 suspects were interned — first in Debrecen, then in Braşov, and finally in Moldavia. Six months later, they returned in December 1919.

Censorship. The office was subordinated to the local garrisons of the *Northern Sector* belonging to the coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 10 May 1919: **Battalion 1/84 Infantry** (16th Infantry Division).
- 20 June – 19 July 1919: **Battalion 1/84 Infantry** (see Fig. A80.2, 16th Infantry Division), which held the *Tiszacsege defence sector*. The office had only one censor.
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: the office was subordinated to a unit of the 16th Infantry Division, with only one censor.

B09/07. – DEBRECEN (Debreţin)
(Hajdú county – ZMO – today Hajdú-Bihar county)

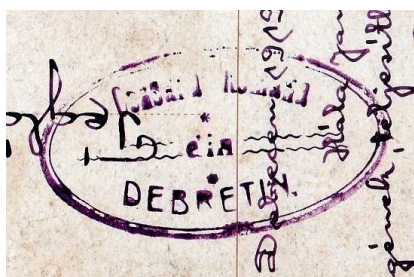
The city was occupied¹⁸⁴ by the 7th Infantry Division on **23 April 1919**. The commander of the garrison was initially Col. Pirici, followed by Lt.-Col. Victor Constantinescu Banciu (of the mountain artillery), and Mr.(rez) Constantin Vlădescu, who was militarily delegated to the Hajdú and Debrecen prefectures. The Governor General was Gen. Mihăilescu. Censorship was instituted immediately. After 9 May 1919, 18 former Hungarian soldiers were interned in Brăila, Sibiu, and Sinaia. Between 16–20 May, the **16th Infantry Division**, led by Gen. Hanzu arrived in town. From 26 May 1919, General Moşoiu was installed as governor of the ZMO - Military Occupation Zone. Rail traffic resumed after 28 May, though not in all directions. On 11 June 1919, the Romanian military administration set up a *Romanian-Hungarian Liaison Office*, which operated from the city hall. On **11 March 1920**, at 11.20 A.M, the Romanian "army evacuated the city of Dobriţin, handing it over to the Hungarian authorities"; this was carried out by the 104th Infantry Regiment, which left the city via Kossuth Street.

Censorship: the Romanians established in Debrecen the most important censorship center among all the occupied territories. It handled terminal mail **sent from, arriving to, or transiting through** Debrecen. On 8 August 1919, the following decree was issued¹⁸⁵: "The Debrecen censorship office requires the public to write letters on only one side of the paper, leaving the other side blank. Otherwise, their letter will be destroyed."

Postmarks used:

ⓄB09/07.M: In his forthcoming catalogue, Dan János notes an early manuscript censorship marking, *Cens* + signature; applied in red ink on **26 April 1919**.

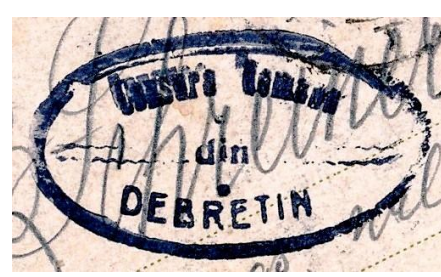
Cens *Mare 26/19*



/07.1: 14 June 1919



27 December 1919



28 January 1920

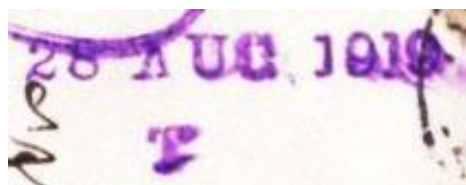
¹⁸⁴ For the Romanian occupation in Hajdú county, see Perczel Olivér – *A Hajdúság román megszállása, 1919–1920*, in *Történeti tanulmányok XXVI*. 2018, pag. 183–211

¹⁸⁵ Dan János – Manuscript of future Hungarian Censorship Catalog.

©B09/07.1 (TT95#2.4, CM#6.4): the most widespread censor marking from occupied Hungary; oval handstamp with the inner text on three lines: **Censura Română / din / DEBREȚIN**; dimensions 39 x 22 mm; applied in purple ink; period of use: **14 June 1919 – 31 January 1920**.

©B09/07.1A These handstamps are often accompanied by linear date stamps. Initially, dates were written in the Romanian style (day-month-year), from **28 August – 24 October 1919**, then in Hungarian style (year-month-day), from **11 November 1919 – 31 January 1920**. These are probably all accompanied underneath by the initial **T.**, from the censor Turdean's name (often not visible). Variants:

- ❖ **.../07.1Aa**: no ornaments, month in capital letters: 28 August 1919.
- ❖ **.../07.1Ab**: stars on left and right: 1 September 1919 (Hungarian abbreviation **szep**).
- ❖ **.../07.1Ac**: star on left, hand and star on right: 28 – 30 September 1919 (Romanian abbreviation **sept**).
- ❖ **.../07.1Ad**: arrow left, star, and arrow right: 9 – 24 October 1919.
- ❖ **.../07.1Ae**: no ornaments: 11 November 1919 – 28 January 1920 (November erroneously abbreviated as **N,ov**).



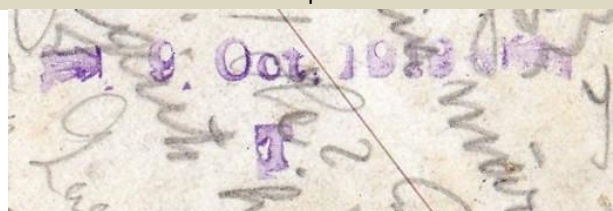
/07.1Aa: 28 August 1919



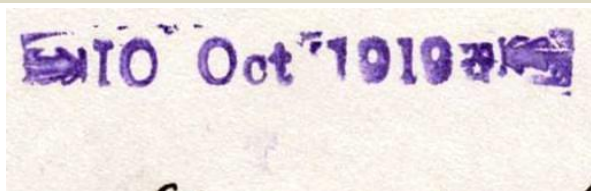
/07.1Ab: 1 September 1919



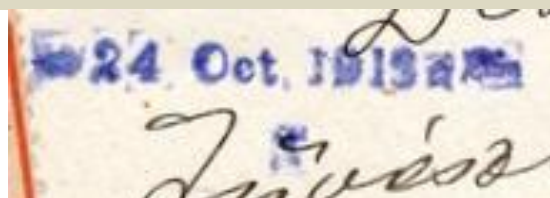
/07.1Ac: 30 September 1919



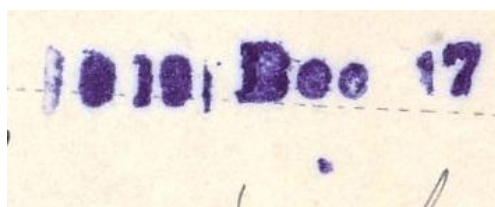
/07.1Ad: 9 October 1919



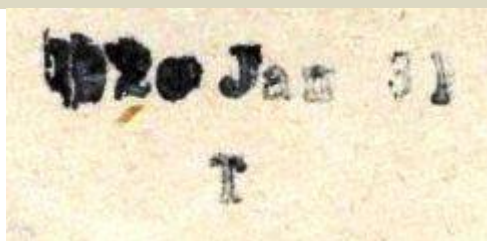
/07.1Ad: 10 October 1919



/07.1:



/07.1Ae: 17 December 1919



/07.1Ae: 31 January 1920

©B09/07.2 (TT95#2.3, CM#6.3): oval handstamp with three-lines inner text: **CENSURA ROMANA / din / DEBREȚIN**; dimensions 40 x 22 mm; applied in blue or violet ink in **16 May 1919**.



[©B09/07.3](#) (CM#6.8):: primitive bi-linear handstamp reading: **CENZURA ROMANA / din DeRRețin**; dimensions 48 x 11 mm; applied in blue ink in **May 1919**.

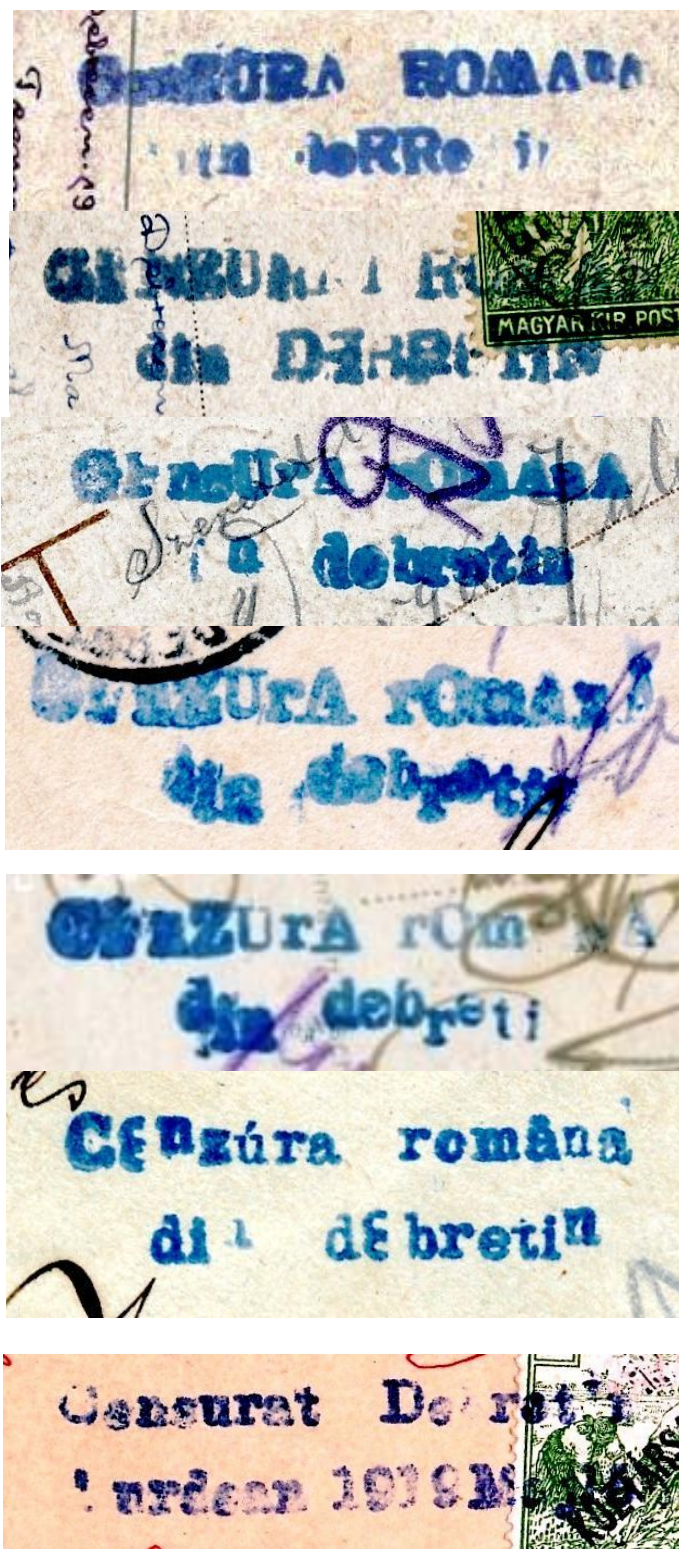
[©B09/07.4](#) (CM#6.1): primitive bi-linear handstamp reading: **CENZURAT ROMANA / din DEBRETIN**; dimensions ca. 47 x 10 mm; applied in blue ink in **28 May 1919**.

[©B09/07.5](#): primitive bi-linear handstamp reading: **CEnSurA rOmAnA / din debretin**; dimensions ca. 39 x 9 mm; applied in blue ink in **1 June 1919**.

[©B09/07.6](#): primitive bi-linear handstamp reading: **CENZUrA rOmÂnĂ / din debretin**; dimensions 40 x 10 mm; applied in blue ink between **7 – 10 June 1919**.

[©B09/07.7](#) (CM#6.5): primitive bi-linear handstamp reading¹⁸⁶: **Cenzúra româna / din debretin**; dimensions 39 x 10 mm; applied in blue ink in **12 June 1919**.

[©B09/07.8](#): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **Censurat Debretin / Turdean 1919 May 15**; dimensions ca. 44 x 10 mm; applied in blue-violet ink, between **13 - 15 mai 1919** (on mail sent 18 April 1919 from Hajdúböszörmény to Tășnad; see Fig. A74.06). The name refers to the censor, Dr. Emil Turdeanu.



NOTE: the handstamp listed in catalogue TT87 as #2.2 (and CM#6.2), bi-linear with the text **Censura ROMANA / din Debretin**; dimensions 40 x 10 mm; applied in violet ink in May 1919, most likely does not exist. It appears to be a speculative reconstruction of one of the above primitive handstamps.

¹⁸⁶ First mentioned by C. M. Trevers – *O comunicare...*, 1995.



Fig. B09.11. Registered censored local cover

Registered cover franked with 70 fillérs (= 35 bani) in royal and republican Hungarian stamps, addressed to the local Harmathy Bookstore. Postmarked DEBRECZEN on 10 June 1919, censored by the local Romanian office using [B09.04/6](#), and returned to sender because the content (probably money) was not allowed and could not be forwarded (see the handwritten note: *Tartalma nem továbbítható*).

Fig. B09.12. Military cover censored in Debrecen

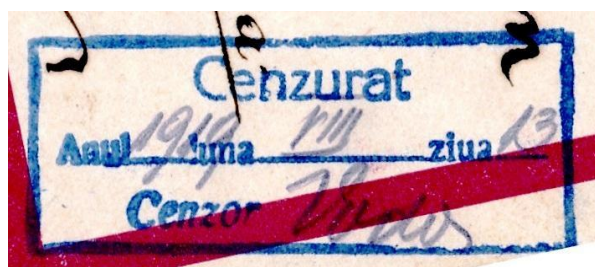
Hungarian 16 fillér stationery uprated with two Romanian stamps totaling 30 bani (tolerated by the post, as their use in the ZMO was not officially sanctioned). Addressed to the Medical Ambulance of the 16th Division. Postmarked DEBRECZEN on 12 August 1919, censored locally on 13 August with the handstamp [B09/07.9A](#). Arrival confirmed by the military handstamp *Ambul. Div. 16-a* / "Liber Expediere"..



[B09/07.9](#): rectangular handstamp with inner tri-linear text reading: *Cenzurat / Anul luna ziua / Cenzor*; dimensions 54-55 x 21-22 mm; applied in blue, black or violet ink between 8 August – 17 December 1919 ... 11 February – March 1920¹⁸⁷. Two variants can be distinguished:

¹⁸⁷ For a late date (12 February 1920), see Norbert Blistyar - *Ștampila de cenzură română folosită la Debrecin în perioada 1919-1920*, *Filatelica* no. 579-580 / July-August 2004, pag. 4, and for the early dates (8-11 August 1919) see Dan-Traian Demeter - *Ștampile de cenzură române folosite în localități din Ungaria în anul 1919*, *Filatelica* no. 578 / June 2004, pag. 7

- ❖ [.../07.9A](#) (CM#6.7): the last line reads **Cenzor** (see bottom-left and Fig. B09.12);
 - ❖ [.../07.9B](#): the last line reads **Cenzur** (see below-right and Fig. B09.13).
- The date and censor's signature were frequently filled in manually.



/07.9A: 13 August 1919



/07.9B: 28 August 1919

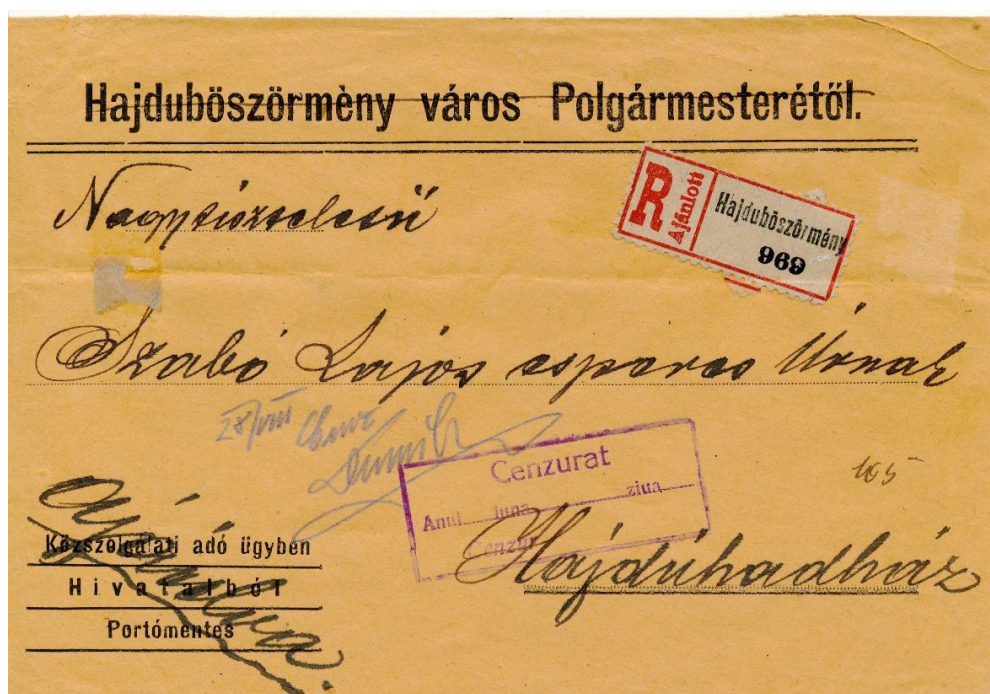


Fig. B09.13.
Registered cover
circulated inside ZMO

Registered cover franked with 80 fillérs (on the reverse) in republican Hungarian stamps. Postmarked HAJDUBÖSZÖRMÉNY on 27 August 1919 and addressed to Hajdúhadház. Transit and censorship were conducted at the Romanian office in Debrecen using [B09.07/9B](#) on 28 August.

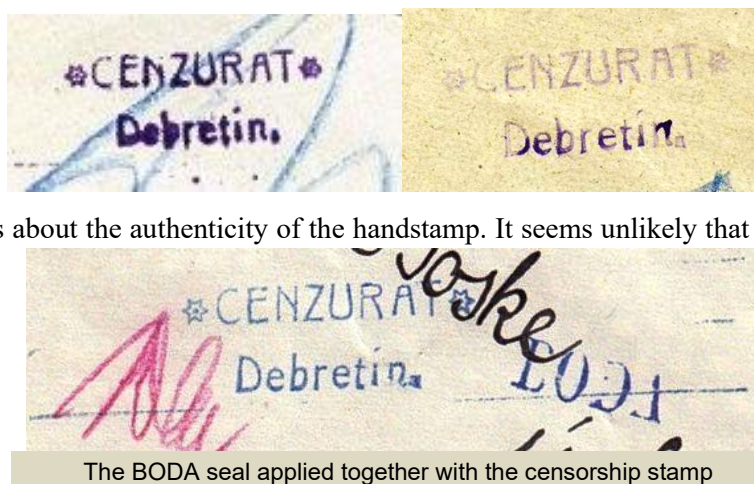
Fig. B09.14. Unusual double-censoring in Debrecen

Postcard franked with a 20-fillér overprinted stamp of the Debrecen I issue. Postmarked on 16 December 1919, censored the following day by the Romanian local office using two different handstamps on the same day: [B09.07/9](#) and [B09.07/9A](#). Addressed to Oradea.



[B09.07.10](#) (TT95#2.1, CM#6.6): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **CENZURAT** / **Debretin.**, dimensions 25 x 10 mm; applied in violet or black ink, between 16 November 1919 – February 1920. Occasionally, this may be accompanied by the handstamp of the censor **BODA**. It should be noted that *ALL* examples reviewed by the author (from 40 philatelic CTO productions — some nearly identical — some

sold for up to 330 USD!) were found on philatelic envelopes, locally addressed out of complacency. Many also bear *Postage Due* markings or addresses to the same individual, Biró Marcel, from Debrecen¹⁸⁸ (see Fig. B09.15). This pattern raises some questions about the authenticity of the handstamp. It seems unlikely that a censor would be intended exclusively to mail for this Biró. Until further evidence is available, I consider this handstamp to be a fanciful creation by the so-called "expert" Biró Marcel (also known as Marcell or Marzell), intended to decorate his own speculative productions.

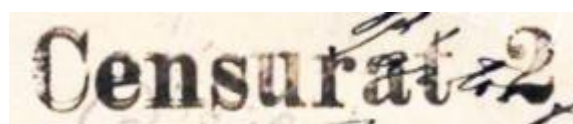
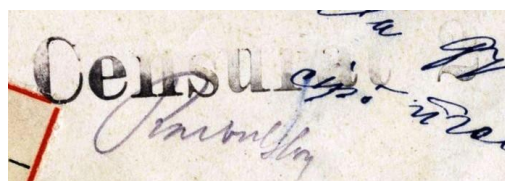


The BODA seal applied together with the censorship stamp



Fig. B09.15:
A rare pair of Debrecen I stamps - with/ without overprint, on a philatelic CTO envelope.

Philatelic envelope produced by Biró Marcell (self-addressed to *Piac-utca 2*, although the reverse bears the name *Markus Miksa*¹⁸⁹), handwritten notice *Printed Matters*, to justify the tariff of only 8 fillér. This was achieved with a pair of Debrecen I stamps (one with and one without overprint!). Postmark DEBRECZEN on 23 November 1919. It bears the dubious censorship handstamp [B09.07/10](#) and the BODA censor mark.



[B09.07.11](#) (CM#6.9): linear handstamp reading **Censurat 2**, which may also be a fanciful production. It has so far been found only on three envelopes, all dated **4 January 1920**, with DEBRECZEN 1N postmarks that appear to be forged.

¹⁸⁸ Biró is known as a philatelic expert of the Debrecen issues, so a person who, in addition to stamps, also expertise his own creations... He published two studies on this stamp issue: *A Debreceni belyegek monografiája*, Debrecen, 1920 and *A debreceni román megszálló parancsnokság által "Zona de ocupatie Romana 1919" felülnyomással ellátott rendes, állami postbelyegek és külön kibocsátású szükségbelyeg-sorozatok monografiája*, Debrecen, pub. Mélousz Kiadó, 1920, 23 pag. (=Monograph of the usual postage stamps with overprint "Zona de ocupatie Română 1919" of the occupation troops in Debrecen...), probably printed also in German under the title *Monographie mit "Zona de Ocupatie Romana 1919"-Aufdruck versehen ungarischen Freimarken und durch die rumänische Okkupationsbehörde ausgaben Notpostmarken*. Debrecin, pub. Verlag der "Meliusz"-Buchhandlung, 1920, 23 pages.

¹⁸⁹ Who receives his mail also at the address in... *Piac utca 2*, according to other philatelic creations of the Biró brand.

B09/08. – DERECSKE(Bihar county – **ZCD** – today Hajdú-Bihar County)**3rd Period**

(15 July 1919 – March 1920)

The censorship office was probably established only by *Order 6622* of July 1919, with a staffing norm of five censors at the **Railway station** (three for *telegraph-telephone*, and two for the *official correspondence*). This was one of the offices located in the occupied territory, administered directly by the Sibiu Governing Council (ZCD), which the Romanians hoped to retain after the conclusion of the Peace Treaty. However, it was returned to Hungary in March 1920.

B09/09. – ESZTERGOM(Esztergom county – **ZM3** – today Komárom-Esztergom county)

History: the city was occupied by Romanian troops on **14 August 1919**. A battalion arrived in Esztergom County, and the city itself was taken by a major, several officers, and a squadron of soldiers from the *2nd Cavalry Division*. On the same day, they occupied the post office as well as the telegraph and telephone central. Romanian troops withdrew on **10 October 1919**, and three days later, the Székely Brigade arrived in the city under the command of Colonel Kratochvill. The Romanian occupation of the city is one of the few considered by Hungarian authors to have been entirely proper, due to the personal qualities of the Romanian major in command.

Censorship: Local newspapers from October 1919 are known to have been censored.

B09/10. – GYULA

(ZCD – Békés County, then and now)

On the evening of **25 April 1919**, Romanian troops entered Gyula via Szent István Street. The leaders of the Soviet Republic who remained in place were immediately arrested, and four of them were executed near the Veszei Bridge between Gyula and Békéscsaba. On **15 May 1919**, the **1st Romanian Rifle Regiment**, under the command of Colonel Basarabescu, entered the city (*also confirmed on 16 July*). The regiment had returned to Gyula from the front line. We also know of two other Romanian military units involved in the occupation, both from the **21st Infantry Division**: the 107th Infantry Regiment (from 17 July 1919) and the 6th Pioneers Battalion (from 6 March 1920). This was one of the towns located in the occupied territory, administered directly by the Sibiu Governing Council (ZCD), which the Romanians hoped to retain after the conclusion of the Peace talks. However, it was returned to Hungary on **30 March 1920**.

2nd Period

(25 May – 14 July 1919)

The office does not appear in *Order 3755*, which is understandable since that was issued in March 1919, before the city's occupation. However, censorship activity is documented from other sources:

- **21 May 1919**¹⁹⁰: "Opening of postal circulation. Since the occupation, postal traffic has been severely restricted, which has greatly hindered the normal course of economic and commercial life. The Romanian head of the Cluj Postal Administration, Dr. Ille Miklós has just returned from Sibiu, where a decision was made to increase current postage rates by 100%, effective **25 May 1919**. Accordingly, 30 fillér must be affixed to letters up to 20 grams, and 10 fillér for each additional 20 grams. For sealed postcards, the fee is the same. 20 fillér for postcards, with additional fillérs for reply postcards. 6 fillér per 50 grams for printed matter and 10 fillér per 50 grams for samples. Telegrams: the fee is 16 fillér per word, but not less than 2 crowns, even for telegrams under 10 words. Telegrams sent from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. are subject to a separate fee surcharge of 2 crowns; From 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., and throughout Sundays and public holidays, only urgent private telegrams may be sent, for which a triple fee is due. Newspaper deliveries and telephone call fees remain unchanged. Old Romania is considered domestic territory for remuneration purposes, and the same fees apply there. In this regard, we warn the public that each letter may contain only two pages, written legibly, must include the sender's name on the back of the envelope, and must be mailed unsealed, as all letters will be subject to censorship. Postal traffic has not yet resumed to the part of the country beyond the Tisza. On the same day, Romanian censorship reminded that: Warning. We inform local and rural residents that we will only forward open letters. The contents of each letter may be up to 2 pages. The Romanian Military Censorship."

¹⁹⁰ Békés no. 14, from 21 May 1919.

- **21 June 1919:** "Where can you write letters from? From Gyula, letters are distributed to the whole area stretching to the Tisza, as well as to Transylvania, Banat, Bačka, and Romania — i.e. to the territories under French, Romanian, and Serbian occupation. However, letters cannot be sent from Gyula to areas beyond the Tisza, between the Tisza and the Danube, or to Transdanubia, including Budapest — although this situation will change soon. Therefore, we cannot send letters or press items to Czech-occupied or communist-controlled areas at all, nor can we receive letters or parcels from people there, as communication across the demarcation lines is not possible."

3rd Period

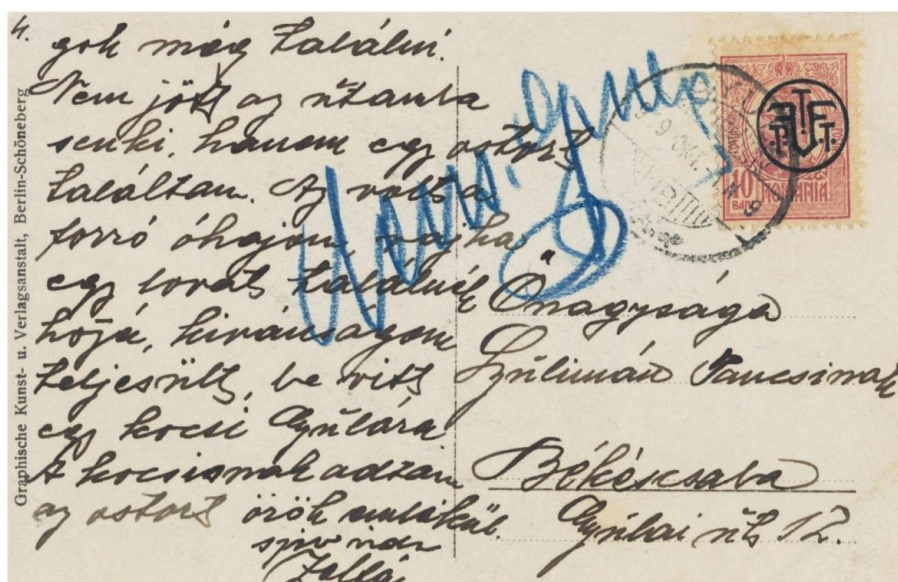
(15 July 1919 – March 1920)

Order 6622 of July 1919 established a staff of 22 censors: 18 at the **Post office** (8 for *correspondence*, 3 for *telegraph*, 3 for *telephone*, 3 for *newspapers*, and 1 for *theater*), and 4 at the **Railway station** (1 for *official mail*, 3 for *telegraph and telephone*). In practice, between 15 July – 27 December 1919, the post actually had 14-17 officials (6 at the *post office*, 3 at the *telegraph*, and 3 at the *railway station*). Between 21 January – 18 March 1920, the number decreased to 9-10 censors (of which 3 were at the *post office*). On 20 August 1919, the post was subordinated to the General Stage Command, and was probably later subordinated to the *18th Infantry Division* until 1 December 1919, after which it came under the *16th Infantry Division*. The office was disbanded on 1 April 1920.

- **23 July 1919**¹⁹¹: "Decree. We recommend to the public that correspondence may only be 2 pages long and should be sent in open covers, even from the offices. If this is not complied with, the letter will be destroyed. Post office censor: Mladin."
- On **24 January 1920**, the telegraph traffic resumed¹⁹²: "The Oradea Post Administration announces that, as international telegraph traffic has resumed, it is currently possible to send telegrams to the following countries: Algiers, Austria, Belgium, England, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Switzerland, France, Germany, Italy, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain and Portugal, Sweden, Tangier, Yugoslavia, Tripolis, Greece. Telegrams are transmitted through Oradea, and may be composed in French, English, Italian, or German. Telegrams are subject to censorship. The average rate for telegrams within Europe is 1 crown per word. Further information is available on notices posted by the post office."

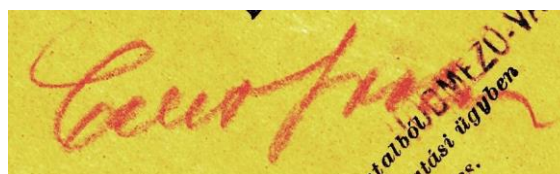
Fig. B09.16
Romanian double
censorship on mail
circulated within the ZCD.

Postcard postmarked GYULA on 1 October 1919, locally censored with a blue pencil [B09/10.M](#), with the probable text *Cenz. Gyula*. Arrived to Békéscsaba (just 18 km west), without recensoring (see the example from Fig. B09.06), as the 1st Rifle Division left the city



Handstamps: these are not yet known. At the beginning of 1920, a circular stamp bearing the text **COMENDUIREA PIETEI * GYULA** may have been used [[B00.5](#), pag. 225].

[B09/10.M](#) (CM#9.0): censorship was typically hand-certified in blue pencil (red is rare) with markings such as: *Cenz*, *Cenz Gyula*, *Cenz Pop* [[B00.5](#), pag. 228], *Cenz Bar(bulescu?)*, recorded at least between **30 June – 10 October 1919... January 1920**. See Fig. B09.16, B09.17 and B16.33.



ca. 5 October 1919

¹⁹¹ Békés no. 32, from 23 July 1919.

¹⁹² Békés, Gyula, no. 8 from 24 January 1920



Fig. B09.17:
Romanian double
censorship on mail
circulated within the ZCD.

Postcard written on 27 July 1919, postmarked GYULA on 29 July, with a local censor mark in blue pencil (reading: *Cenz Gyula*) of type [B09/10.M](#). Addressed to Békéscsaba (just 18 km west), it was nonetheless diverted eastward to Oradea (now in Romania), where it was re-censored with [B06/62.2](#).

Press censorship officers: **Lt. Petica** (18 – 31 May, 14 June – 19 July 1919), **Slt. Ghibuțiu** (4 – 7 June 1919), **Dr. Ștefan Muntean** (23 – 26 July ... 16 – 30 August, 6 – 10 September, 17 September – 8 October, 15 October 1919 – 10 March 1920), **Bărbulescu** (3 September, 13 September, 11 October 1919), **D. Mișcuția** (13 – 27 March 1920). It is highly likely that some of these officers also participated in mail censorship.

B09/11. – HAJDÚ-BÖSZÖRMÉNY (Hajdú county – ZMO – today Hajdú-Bihar county)

History: Upon news of the approaching Romanian army, the local (communist) council fled the city on the morning of 23 April. Romanian forces entered the city on the evening of **26 April 1919**, and civil administration was taken over by the former Local Council. Romanian soldiers were accommodated in 30 classrooms of the Reformed Church schools and over 1400 private homes. The remaining 27 members of the former leadership were transported to Debrecen, and some were interned in Brașov and Moldova.

As the local newspaper *Hajdúböszörmény és Vidéke* published anti-Semitic articles, the Romanian commander censored it on 6 August and subsequently suspended it. The city was evacuated on **10 March 1920**, and was occupied three days later by the Hungarian National Army.



Fig. B09.18:
Mail from the ZMO censored
in transit at Debrecen.

Postcard written on 28 May 1919, postmarked HAJDÚBÖSZÖRMÉNY on 1 June 1919, and addressed to Táshad, Transylvania. As the local censoring office was not yet operational, the postcard was censored in transit by the Romanian post in Debrecen, with [B09/07.3](#).

Censorship. The office was subordinated to the *Northern Sector* of the coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 26 April 1919: HQs of the **82nd Infantry Division** (16th Infantry Division).
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the 16th Infantry Division, with only one censor.
- Ca. 28 October – 16 November: units of the 16th Infantry Division were stationed in the area for training.

B09/12. – HATVAN
(ZM2 – Heves county, then and now)

History: the city was occupied by the *4th Roşiori Regiment (2nd Cavalry Division)* on **7 August 1919**. Beginning 6 September, it hosted the headquarters of *Subsector Colonel Ressel* (same division). Romanian forces withdrew around **12 November 1919**.

ⓄB09/12.1 (TT95#5.1, CM#3.1): a handstamp with rectangular frame and the text **Censurat Hatvan**; dimensions of 48 x 10 mm; applied in grey ink, was mentioned by K.K. Wolter in his 1965 *Die Postzensur* handbook [ⓄB00.1]. This may be the source of inspiration for the doubtful handstamp in Fig. B09.19.

Fig. B09.19.
Hatvan censorship?

Registered cover postmarked HATVAN (illegible date) and addressed to Budapest. Censored twice, first locally with a rectangular postmark reading **Censurat Hatvan**, and then again at arrival in Budapest with a mark *similar* to ⓄB09/03.1. However, the Budapest handstamp differs from the known original, and the ink used in both locations appears identical. Until proven otherwise, both handstamps are considered likely forgeries (source: web, 2002).



B09/13. – HÓDMEZŐVÁSÁRHELY
(ZMO – Csongrád county, then and now)

The city was evacuated by communists on 27 April, and occupied on **29 April 1919** by the *1st Rifle Regiment* under Colonel Nicolae Măicănescu. The Romanians permitted the celebration of 1st of May, but only on 7 May 1919 did they dissolve local proletarian institutions and restore the previous Hungarian legal order. The city was evacuated by the Romanians on 20 July due to the advance of the 2nd Red Division, and reoccupied on 22 (or 23) July 1919. On **2 March 1920**, the city was returned by the 21st Infantry Division¹⁹³ (Romanian troops withdrew on 29 March 1920).

Censorship. The office was subordinated to the *Southern Sector* of the coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 10 May 1919: Battalion **I/90 Infantry** (*18th Infantry Division*).
- 1 – 19 July 1919: **Battalion I/90 Infantry** (*18th Infantry Division*) under *Subsector "D"*; also present was Battalion I/24 Infantry, from the *6th Infantry Division*.
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the **82nd Infantry Regiment** (*16th Infantry Division*), with only one censor.
- Ca. 17 January 1920: Squadron I/1 Călăraşi (*20th Infantry Division*).

On 18 June 1919, the station apparently did not work, as a correspondence Hódmezővásárhely – Oroshaza was censored precisely in Oradea-Mare (see Fig. A76.20). On the other hand, a disputed marking may be listed here, as a first occupation censor handstamp in the city:

ⓄB09/13.1 (TT95#31.5): round handstamp with the inner text reading: **CENZURA MILITARĂ / REG. 90 / INFT. / SIBIU**, diameter 30 mm, applied in violet ink between **26 July – 19 September 1919**.

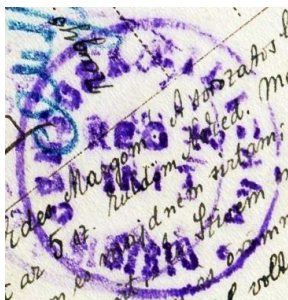
The handstamp was first reported by Ion Opreş in 1986 (in *Transilvania* magazine) on a postcard mailed from Sibiu in 26 June 1919, addressed to Hódmezővásárhely and censored one month later. It was also listed

¹⁹³ Makó Imre - *Vörös offenzíva és román megtorlás, Hódmezővásárhely, 1919. július*, from volume *Csongrád, Csanád és Torontál vármegye az összeomlás éveiben 1918-1920*, of the series *Közép-Európai monográfiák* no. 28, 2021, pag. 81-97.

by Teleguț in 1987 and 1995 (with a doubtful usage in October), however it was considered by all authors as a military handstamp from Sibiu. In fact this is an example of civilian mail censored by military units, being the handstamp of the *90th Infantry Regiment Sibiu*, of the 18th Transylvanian Division, which was deployed between 10 May – 20 July 1919 on the Tisza river, with the first battalion in Hódmezővásárhely area. From August it changed positions, but seemingly the handstamp remained at the civilian censor post.



Reconstruction 1986



July 1919



Ca. 19 September 1919



Fig. B09.20.

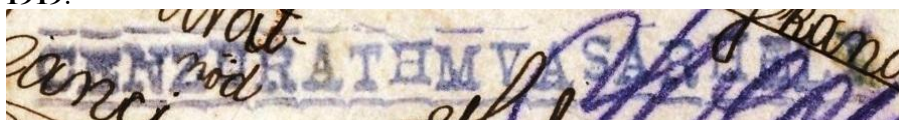
Postcard sent from Sibiu to Hódmezővásárhely, first censored in Blaj in 28 June 1919 with a handstamp [B06/12.1](#), re-censored also in the arrival area with the military handstamp [B09/13.1](#). (source: Museum of Romanian Records)

[B09/13.2](#): primitive linear handstamp with the text: *CENZURAT*; dimensions 35 x 3 mm; applied in violet ink between 29 September – October 1919.

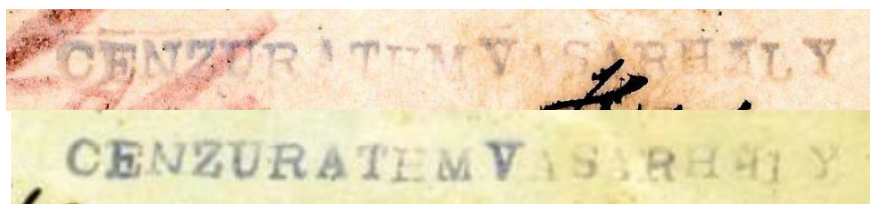


[B09/13.3](#): primitive linear handstamp with the text: CENZURATHMVASARHELY; dimensions 68 x 3 mm; applied in violet-black ink, between 18 November – 25 December 1919. At least three versions were manufactured:

- ❖ [B09/13.3A](#): normal spelling ...VASARHELY, with a frame (at least on upper and lower sides), used on 18 Noiembrie 1919.



- ❖ [B09/13.3B](#) (CM#11.1): normal spelling ...VASARHELY, frameless (possibly due to wear or removal), seen between 22 Noiembrie – 2 Decembrie 1919.



❖ [.../13.3C](#): contains an error — last Y is reversed; seen on **29 November 1919**:

❖



Fig. B09.21.

Postcard written and postmarked in HÓDMEZŐVÁSÁRHELY on **18 November 1919**, locally addressed, censored with [B09/13.3A](#).



Fig. B09.22: 4x multiple franking of the Debrecen I issue

Locally registered envelope franked with 4x *Debrecen I* 20 filléri stamps (total 80 fillér = 40 bani Romanian rate), postmarked HÓDMEZŐVÁSÁRHELY on 13 December 1919. Passed through local Romanian censorship ([B09/13.3B](#)); arrival postmark on 14 December 1919.

B09/14. – KALOCSA

(Pest-Pilis-Solt-Kiskun county – **ZM2** – today Bács-Kiskun county)

History: the town was occupied by Romanian troops of the *6th Infantry Division* on **8 August 1919** (24th Infantry Regiment), followed by units of the *1st Rifle Division* (9 September – 20 October 1919) and the *20th Infantry Division* (22 October – 18 November 1919). The Romanian withdrew from the city on **18 November 1919**.

B09/15. – KARÁD (Tiszakarád)

(Zemplén county – **ZM2?** – today Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county)

History: the village in a Tisza bridgehead was occupied by units of the *2nd Cavalry Division* before **27 April 1919**, then lost and recaptured only on 1 August 1919 by the 16th Division.

Censorship. The office was part of the *Northern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 13 August – 26 October 1919: the office was subordinated to a unit of the 16th *Infantry Division*, with only one censor.

B09/16. – KÉTEGYHÁZA (Domnița Ileana / Chitighaz)
(ZCD – Békés county, then and now)

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – March 1920)

The censorship office is mentioned in *Order no. 6622* of July 1919, stipulating a staff of five censors at the **Railway station** (three for *telegraph-telephone* and two for *official correspondence*). Initially, the post was subordinated to the 18th *Infantry Division* (until 1 December 1919), then to the 16th *Infantry Division*. Following the withdrawal of Romanian forces up to the Tisza, the locality remained under Romanian control, as per Order nr. 7192 of the MCG, which stated that the "drawing the border on land (made in the absence of a government representative) [was made] to include the villages of Csanád and Kétegyháza (Princess Ileana)"¹⁹⁴.

On 24 March it was declared that "the Government wishes, at any cost, to retain from the Hungarians the localities Hungarian Cocad and Domnița Ileana". The Government approved Colonel Dumitrescu "to make proposals to the Hungarian delegate for changes of some of the local Hungarian communes falling on Romanian territory"¹⁹⁵. So, this is one of the offices administered directly by the Sibiu Governing Council (ZCD), in an area the Romanians hoped to retain after the conclusion of the peace negotiations. However, the town was returned to Hungary in March 1920, and the office was disbanded on **1 April 1920**.

B09/17. – KISÚJSZÁLLÁS

(ZMO – Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county, then and now)

The town was briefly re-captured by the Red Army on **23 July 1919**.

Censorship. The office was part of the *Southern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- ... 10 May 1919: **Battalion III/92** Infantry (18th *Infantry Division*).
- ... - 30 June 1919: **Battalion II/91** Infantry (18th *Infantry Division*).
- 1-19 July 1919: **46th Infantry Brigade** HQs (18th *Infantry Division*), **Battalion II/92**, and Section I/36 Howitzers in reserve.
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the **81st Infantry Regiment** (16th *Infantry Division*), with only one censor.
- ... - 1 December 1919: **92nd Infantry Regiment** (18th *Infantry Division*).



Censor markings: the censorship office did not have its own distinctive markings; it used the military handstamps of the units stationed in the locality.

ⓄB09/17.1: round military handstamp of the **81st Infantry Regiment** (16th *Infantry Division*), with text encircling the Romanian coat of arms: **ROMANIA * REGIMENTUL 81 INFANTERIE**. Also bears the signature *Cenz. Mureșan* in blue pencil; applied in red ink around **30 August 1919**¹⁹⁶. Notably, the date aligns perfectly with the historical data listed above.

¹⁹⁴ *Jurnal de operațiuni al Comandamentului Trupelor din Transilvania, 1918-1921, vol. II*, Satu Mare 1998, pag. 85

¹⁹⁵ The Order no. 7637 of the General Staff., in *Jurnal de operațiuni...*, pag. 108. The village of Kakad was handed over to Hungarians on 28 May 1920.

¹⁹⁶ Helmut Kobelbauer – *Cenzura Magyarországhatárain belül és kívül az első világháború után*, pag. 21, Fig. 29.

B09/18. – KIS-VÁRDA(Szabolcs county – **ZMO** – today Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county)

History: On **24 April 1919**, parts of the Székely Division stationed in the Kisvárdá area (I/21 and II/21 Honved Battalions) decided to lay down their weapons at the station. Romanian troops from the *2nd Cavalry Division* entered the city the same day before noon. The city was handed back to the Hungarian authorities on **10 March 1920**.

Censorship. The office was part of the *Northern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 20 June – 19 July 1919: **Battalion II/82 Infantry** (16th Infantry Division), which was responsible for the Kisvárdá defence sector.
- August – October 1919: **Battalion I/83 Infantry** (16th Infantry Division), according to the items shown in Fig. B09.23 and B09.24; the office had two censors.
- October – November 1919: **Battalion II/90 Infantry** (18th Infantry Division), according to the item shown in Fig. B09.25.
- ...16 January 1920: **Battalion I/98 Infantry** (20th Infantry Division).
- 19 January – 1 March 1920: **Battalion I/99 Infantry** (20th Infantry Division).



Fig. B09.23:
Official cover franked with 30 fillér, cancelled KISVARDA on **13 October 1919**, censored with the military handstamp [B09/18.1](#), addressed to Debrecen.



Fig. B09.24:
Cover franked with 30 fillér, cancelled KISVARDA on 10 October 1919, censored locally with the military handstamp [B09/18.1](#), addressed to Debrecen (source: Museum of Romanian Records).



Censor markings: the censorship office did not appear to have its own unique markings; instead, it used the military handstamps of the units stationed in the locality. As expected, these handstamps changed as garrison units rotated (see above).

ⓄB09/18.1: round military handstamp of **I/83 Infantry Battalion** (*16th Infantry Division*), with text encircling the Romanian coat of arms: **ROMÂNIA * REGIMENTUL 83 INFANTERIE / Compania 2-a**; dimensions; applied in violet ink between **10 – 13 October 1919**. See Fig. B09.23 and B09.24.

ⓄB09/18.2: round military handstamp of **II/90 Infantry Battalion** (*18th Infantry Division*), with text encircling the Romanian coat of arms: **Regimentul 90 Infanterie * Compania VII**; dimensions; applied in violet ink in **8 November 1919**. See Fig. B09.25.

Fig. B09.25:

Commercial postcard franked with 20 fillér, cancelled KISVÁRDA on 8 November 1919, censored with the military handstamp **ⓄB09/18.2**, addressed to Budapest (source: web, 2019).



B09/19. – KÖTEGYÁN (Cheteghian) (ZCD – Békés County, then and now)

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – March 1920)

The censorship office appears in *Order no. 6622* of July 1919, with a prescribed staff of five censors at the **Railway station** (three for *telegraph-telephone* and two for *official correspondence*). However, its re-establishment was requested twice more — on 12 May 1920 and 1 September 1920 — and the office still appeared with two censors on 1 April 1921. This was one of the offices located on occupied territory, administered directly by the Sibiu Governing Council (ZCD), which the Romanians hoped to retain after the conclusion of the peace talks. However, the area was returned to Hungary on 23 March 1920, so these later demands seem unfounded — unless we consider that the final delimitation of the border only took place in 1922, and today the boundary runs directly through the commune. After the settlement was transferred to Hungary, the censoring office was moved to Salonta Mare.

B09/20. – KUNSZENTMÁRTON (ZMO – Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County, then and now)

The town was occupied by Romanian troops in the evening of **23 July 1919**.

Censorship. The office was part of the **Southern Sector** along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 7-10 May... 19 July 1919: **89th Infantry Regiment (HQs & II/89 Battalion)** defending the *Orosháza sector* (*18th Infantry Division*).
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the **82nd Infantry Regiment** (*16th Infantry Division*), with only one censor.
- ..25 February 1920: **II/108 Infantry Battalion** (*21st Infantry Division*).

B09/21. – LŐKÖSHÁZA (Vatra Aradului)
(**ZCD** – Békés county, then and now)

3rd Period
(...June 1920...)

The censorship office does not appear in *Order no. 6622*; it was probably established only on 1 June 1920 (?). On 7 June 1920, there were 5 censors stationed here (3 for *telephone-telegraph*, and 1 *for mail* at the **Post Office**). However, the town was soon returned to Hungary, following the border changes of July 1920, and the office was moved to Curtici Railway Station.

B09/22. – MAKÓ (Macău)
(Csanád county – **ZMO** – today Csongrád county)

On Sunday, **27 April 1919**, at around 10 a.m., the train carrying the last Red Army unit departed from the New Town station for Hódmezővásárhely, thus ending the proletarian dictatorship in Makó. In the afternoon, Serbian soldiers (who would withdraw on 29 April) and French colonial troops entered the city. On 3 May, the *Spahis* departed and were replaced by the final occupying forces¹⁹⁷, the *210th French Infantry Regiment*, stationed in the bishop's residence and garden, under the command of Major Maurice Rousseau (subordinate to Colonel Destezet, commander of the troops in Makó and Kiszombor).

On **5 May 1919**, a *squadron of the Romanian 1st Rifle Division* arrived in Makó (led by Major Brătuianu but under French higher command). While the city was occupied by the French, the surrounding Csanád County was under Romanian occupation. On 14 May 1919, a military ceremony took place in the main square of Makó, attended by the French regiment and the Romanian *hussar* company, with General de Lobit present. The local newspaper of 29 May 1919 reported that the Governing Council of Sibiu had appointed a public administrator for the city, signaling the Romanians' intent to extend their authority over Makó — despite its continuing French occupation: "Romanians are fully established. The gendarmerie will be decommissioned throughout the county (Csanád) and the names of the railway stations will be written in Romanian."

During the French occupation, postal traffic was not restricted, but only letters sent to Romania and Allied-occupied territories were accepted, if sent open, provided the sender's name and address appeared on the reverse — according to Romanian regulations.

The French troops withdrew on Sunday, 15 June 1919, and on Tuesday, **17 June 1919**, Romanian forces arrived from Mezőhegyes, led by Major Gheorghe Rambela, marking the beginning of the Romanian occupation and the end of French-Romanian cohabitation (similar to that in Arad). Major Olteanu was appointed military prefect of the city, and lawyer Popovici Gheorghe became civil prefect of Csanád County.

On the morning of Friday, 26 March 1920, the Romanian military prefecture, customs, gendarmerie, and *Siguranța* (secret police) withdrew. That afternoon, the 107th Infantry Regiment stationed in the city was replaced by a squadron of the 9th Roșiori Regiment (from Földeák), led by Captain Cantuniar Christu, tasked with maintaining order until the official transfer. The troops were quartered on Aradi Street. The Romanian cavalry troops withdrew on **29 March 1920** in a ceremonial handover to Captain László Nagy of the Hungarian National Army. On the night of 31 March 1920, Hungarian time was officially restored.¹⁹⁸

Censorship. It is evident that Romanian censorship was implemented by military units only after the full occupation of the city, i.e. after **17 June 1919**. The office was part of the *Southern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the **82nd Infantry Regiment** (*16th Infantry Division*), with only one censor.

¹⁹⁷ See a history of French occupation at Halmágyi Pál - *Makó város Francia megszállása 1919. Április 27-től 1919. Június 17-ig*, A makói múzeum füzetek no. 38, 1984, pag. 299-312.

¹⁹⁸ Halmágyi Pál - *Makó román megszállása, 1919. június 17. – 1920. március 29*, from the volume *Csongrád, Csanád és Torontál vármegye az összeomlás éveiben 1918-1920*, of the Series *Közép-Európai monográfiák* no. 28, 2021, pag. 67-79.

ⓄB09/22.1: rectangular handstamp with two-lines of inner text: **CENZURAT / MAKĀU**; applied in violet ink on **25 June 1919**. First seen in *Dunaphila auction* of December 2018, and re-published in [ⓄB09.11].



B09/23. – MÁTÉSZALKA

(Szatmár county – **ZCD** – today Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county)

From **22 April 1919** until **20 March 1920**, the area of Mátészalka was under Romanian occupation.

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – March 1920)

The censorship office was mentioned in *Order no. 6622*, which prescribed a staff of 5 censors at the **Railway station** (3 for *telegraph-telephone*, and 2 for *official mail*), as of 15 July 1919. This was one of the offices located on occupied territory, administered directly by the Sibiu Governing Council (ZCD), which the Romanians hoped to retain after the conclusion of the peace talks. However, it was returned to Hungary in March 1920.

B09/24. – MEZŐHEGYES (Măru Roșu)

(Csanád county – **ZCD** – today Békés county)

On **26 April 1919**, the Red Army evacuated Mezőhegyes, and on **2 May 1919**, around 6 p.m., Romanian troops of the 1/6 Rifle Company occupied the locality, which was later renamed *Măru Roșu* (Red Apple). On 17 January 1920, after it became clear that Mezőhegyes would not remain part of Romania, the full evacuation began (including the "requisition" of the village's famous stud farm). The Romanian occupation troops left the village on **30 March 1920**.

2nd Period

(...27 May – 14 July 1919)

The office does not appear in *Order 3755*, which is expected, as it was issued in March 1919 — prior to the Romanian occupation. However, a limited local censorship is mentioned from **27 May 1919**¹⁹⁹: "Members of the counter-government formed during the Prime Minister of Gyula Károlyi's tenure were interned by the Romanians in Mezőhegyes. Their mail was censored. Otherwise, they are treated courteously." Specific censorship handstamps are also known from 25 June 1919, used for censoring mail sent from or arriving in Békés and Csongrad counties.

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – March 1920)

Order no. 6622, issued in July 1919, established a staff of 22 censors at Mezőhegyes: 17 at the **Post office** (8 for *correspondence*, 3 for *telegraph*, 3 for *telephone*, 2 for *newspapers*, and 1 for *theater*), and 4 at the **Railway station** (1 for *official mail* and 3 for *telegraph-telephone*). However, between 15 July and September 1919, staff levels fluctuated between 17 and 18 persons (with 7-8 at the **Post office**). From December 1919 to March 1920, the numbers declined to 10-12 persons, with only 5 stationed at the **Post office** (except for a temporary peak of 15 officials on 5 January 1920).

The office was initially subordinated to the *18th Infantry Division* (until 1 December 1919), then to the *16th Infantry Division*. This was one of the towns on occupied territory administered directly by the Sibiu Governing Council (ZCD), which the Romanians hoped to retain after the conclusion of peace. Mezőhegyes was returned to Hungary in March 1920, and the censorship office was disbanded on **1 April 1920**.

The location of this post has been a subject of debate for many years. In 1982, Mircea Teleguș suggested that "Măru Roșu" was a coded name for a censorship office in Arad, possibly located at the railway station [ⓄB09.1, B09.2/3, B09.5]. However, the same Mircea Teleguș later discovered its true location (though he did not publish this finding during his lifetime) after reading about a stop at "Măru Roșu" railway station on 9 May 1919, when the train carrying the Hungarian "Arad Government" was en route to Szeged [ⓄB09.8].

¹⁹⁹ *Dunántúl* no. 108, 28 May 1919.

A later "mixed" theory proposed that the office was initially located in Mezőhegyes and subsequently moved to the Arad Railway Station. In my view, this theory is incorrect: the censorship post operated for the entire period in the Hungarian town of Mezőhegyes. The supposed presence in Arad can be explained by a new theory — regarding satellite censorship stations of Arad (see #B06/05). The unusually large number of censors assigned to a location with otherwise modest postal traffic supports the idea that much of the 1919 activity consisted of censoring mail sent from Arad for this purpose.

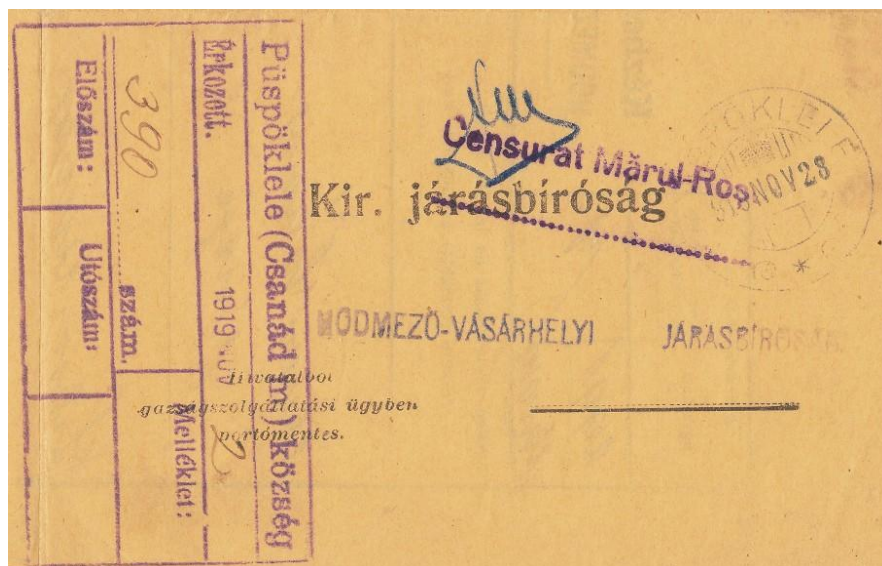


Fig. B09.26.

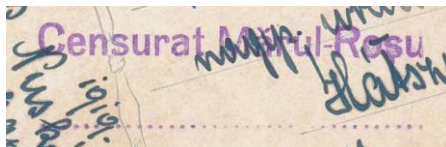
Free official judicial AR printed matter sent on 28 November 1919 from Romanian-occupied PÜSPÖKLELE (now Maroslele, Csanád county) to Hódmezővásárhely (just 20 km between them!). However, it was routed 50 km eastward for censorship in **Mezőhegyes**, where it received the marking [ⓄB09/24.1](#).

Therefore, it is important to distinguish between local correspondence (related to the occupation zone in Hungary — Csanád, Békés, and Csongrad counties —, which *was expected to be censored in Mezőhegyes* and is relatively rare and valuable, versus correspondence sent *to* Mezőhegyes for censorship from other locations like Arad (see a list in #B06.05). Below is a selection of examples demonstrating this distinction:

1. Postcard mailed from Sibiu to **HÓDMEZŐVÁSÁRHELY** (northeast of Szeged), censored on 28 June 1919 by a military unit in Sibiu, with cancellation by TPO no. 19, and re-censoring in transit at Mezőhegyes.
2. Postcard cancelled at **MEDGYES-EGYHÁZA** (south of Békéscsaba) on 18 September 1919, addressed to Buteni, Arad County, and censored in transit at Mezőhegyes.
3. Postcard sent from **FÖLDEÁK** (north of Makó) on 1 November 1919 to an address in Hajdú county, censored in transit at Mezőhegyes.
4. Postcard sent from **MEZŐHEGYES** to Arad, terminal censorship locally in Mărul Roșu on 28 November 1919.
5. Printed matter sent on 28 November 1919 from **PÜSPÖKLELE** to **Hódmezővásárhely**, transit censorship in Mărul Roșu (Fig. B09.26)
6. Postcard sent from **BÉKÉS-CSABA** on 2 December 1919 to Târgu Mureș, censored in transit at Mezőhegyes (it appears that Romanian censorship in Békéscsaba was not active at that time).
7. Postcard cancelled at **MAKÓ** on 2 March 1920 and addressed to Lipova, censored in transit at Mezőhegyes. In fact, several items sent from Makó were censored at Mărul Roșu (e.g., one to Alba-Iulia, one to Budapest on 7 October 1919, one to Arad in 20 December 1919, etc).
8. Several items cancelled in **SZEGED** and addressed to Romanian areas were also censored in Mezőhegyes — for example, two sent from Szeged to Lugoj on 9 and 16 July 1919 respectively, both bearing Romanian censorship from Mezőhegyes and Serbian censorship from Timișoara (Fig. B09.28).

A curious case of international routing is shown in Fig. B09.27.

[ⓄB09/24.1](#) (TT95#1.3, CM#17.2): linear handstamp with the text: **Censurat Mărul-Roșu**, underlined with a dotted line; dimensions 52 x 14 mm; applied in violet ink between **23 June – 20 December 1919**.



/24.1: 28 November 1919

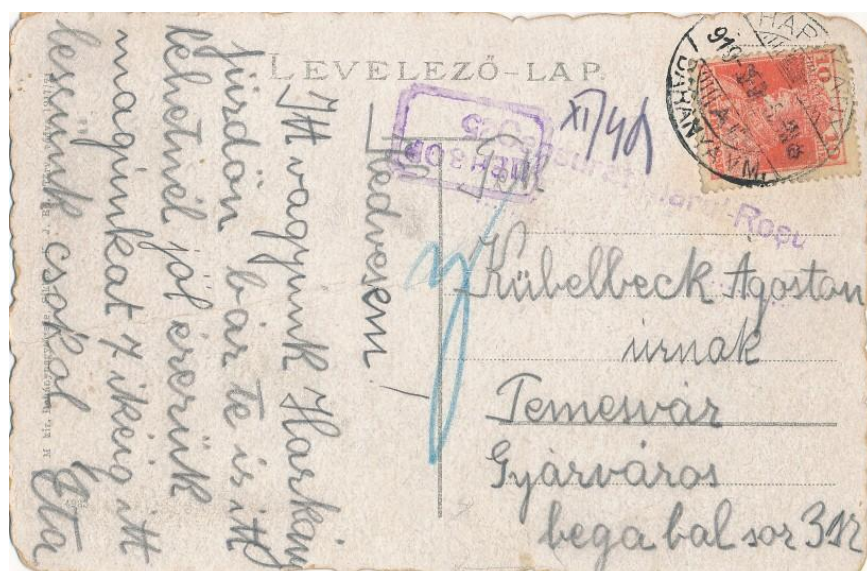


Fig. B09.27:

Hungarian postcard (depicting the Baths in Harkányfürdő), cancelled HARKÁNY * BARANYA VM. On 5 September 1919 — at that time under Serbian occupation (today in Hungary) — and addressed to Timișoara (under Romanian administration). Coming from Serbian-occupied territory, the first censorship was applied in Novi Sad (ЦЕНЗОР / 25). Instead of being forwarded directly to its destination via Jimbolia, the item followed a more complex route: it bypassed Szeged, was censored by Romanians in Mezőhegyes (B09/18.2), then passed through Arad before reaching Timișoara.

[B09/24.2](#) (TT95#1.2, CM#17.3): linear handstamp with the text: **Censurat Măru-Roșu**, underlined with a solid line; dimensions 55 x 14 mm; applied in violet ink on 15 July 1919.



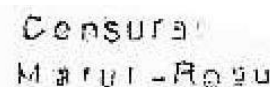
[B09/24.3](#): primitive linear handstamp with the text: **Censurat Măru - Roșu**; dimensions 63 x 3,5 mm (with ornaments); applied in violet ink between 13 – 17 July 1919.



Fig. B09.28. Mixed Censorship R+S (zone MZ to Banat).

Postcard written on 11 July 1919 in Szeged (then under French occupation), postmark SZEGED on 15 July. The first censorship was applied at the nearby Romanian station from Mezőhegyes/ Măru Roșu by censor Mircu Birtaş, using handstamp [B09/24.3](#). It was then re-censored in transit through Timișoara with the Serbian handstamp [B15](#), before arriving in Lugoj (BE, Timiș county).

[B09/24.4](#) (CM#17.-): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **Censurat / Marul – Roșu**; dimensions 31 x 9 mm; applied in violet ink on 2 August 1919 (on a postcard from Battonya to Timișoara), bearing the signature of censor Mircu Birtaş — finally considered highly authentic²⁰⁰.



[B09/24.5](#) (TT95#1.1, CM#17.1): round, double-circle handstamp with inner text: **CENSURAT MĂRUL-ROȘU * ROMÂNIA**; dimensions 34/32 mm; applied in violet ink between 16 December 1919 – 4 March 1920. This modified handstamp was later reused until 1921 at the Pecica censorship post (see [B06/67](#)).

²⁰⁰ Originally referred to by Dan Traian Demeter [[B06.15](#), pag. 18]. Authenticity disputed by Gheorghe Cserni [[B09.9](#)].



/24.5: 21 December 1919



1 March 1920



2 March 1920

OB09/24.6 (CM#17.5): circular handstamp with inner text **POSTUL DE CENZURĂ * ROMÂNIA / Măru-Roșu**; diameter 33/30.5 mm; applied in purple ink. This was the official stamp of the censorship office, typically used by the chief censor on administrative documents (though it is theoretically possible it could have been used on correspondence, no such case is currently known).

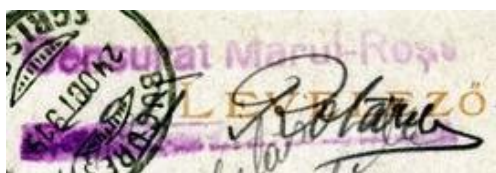
Because censors frequently sign next to the applied handstamp, it is often possible to identify their names — Birtaş, Josan, Rotaru, among others. However, a fortunate discovery brought to light the official payroll tables for Măru Roșu's censorship office from September 1919 and March 1920²⁰¹. These documents allow us to reconstruct the names of 17 censors, including 7 responsible for mail censorship. For the first time, we are able to connect specific signatures with actual censored correspondence

September 1919

Crt.	Name and surname censor	Function	Commitment No. and unit
1.	Iulius Ciortan	Chief of censor office	3 / 1st Rifle Division
2.	Simion Carnea	Theatre and cinema	4 / 1st Rifle Division
3.	Traian I. Iarea	Press	5 / 1st Rifle Division
4.	Mircu Birtaş	Correspondence	6 / 1st Rifle Division
5.	Gheorghe Hurgoiu	"	7 / 1st Rifle Division
6.	Aurel Junean	"	8 / 1st Rifle Division
7.	Remus Rotariu	"	9 / 1st Rifle Division
8.	Alecsandru Gubariu	"	10 / Chief of office
9.	Eugen Stoian	"	11 / Chief of office
10.	Ilie Sasana	"	15 / Chief of office
11.	Sabin Papp	T&T at the Post office	14 / 1st Rifle Division
12.	Aurel Repariu	"	13 / 1st Rifle Division
13.	Dimitrie Dragoș	"	16 / 1st Rifle Division
14.	Hortensia Iarca	"	12 / 1st Rifle Division
15.	Silvius Hedeșan	T&T at the Railway station	20 / 1st Rifle Division
16.	Gheorghe Tamin	"	18 / 1st Rifle Division
17.	Gheorghe Gubariu	"	19 / 1st Rifle Division

Analyzing this table, we find that:

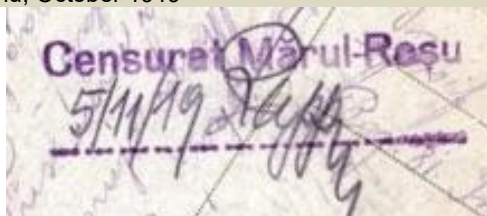
- In September 1919, there were already three officials who had left their posts — likely some of the earliest appointees, specifically those with Commitments No. 1 and 2, and those with Commitment No. 17. One of them must be Josan, whose signature I found dated July 1919.
- If the signature below from November 1919 is indeed that of Sabin Papp (listed in September under T&T censorship), this would confirm that telegraph censors could also be employed for correspondence censorship when necessary.



²⁰¹ Marinescu — *Cenzura poștală...*, 2004, pag. 223-224. The table from March 1920 is difficult to read, the chief was also Iulius Ciortan, Sabin Papp at the telegraph and telephone from the Post office, Aurel Repariu at T&T from the Railway station, and from the 4 correspondence censors, only Gheorghe Hurgoiu's name can be deciphered.

Remus Rotariu, October 1919

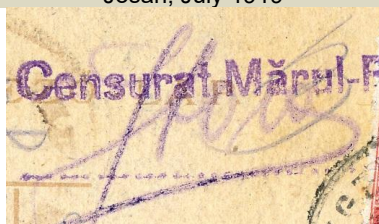
Mircu Birtaş, July 1919



Josan, July 1919

Sabin Papp?, November 1919

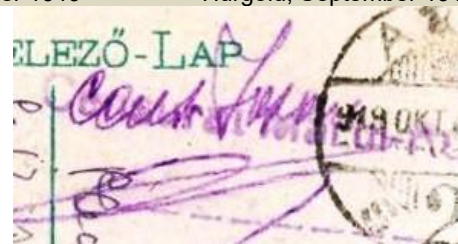
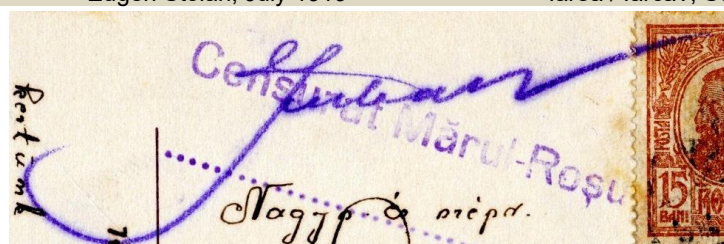
Hurgoiu?, October 1919



Eugen Stoian, July 1919

Iarea / Iarca?, September 1919

Hurgoiu, September 1919



Gubariu, October 1919

Cenzurat Junean?, October 1919

A **forgery of a censorship handstamp** has been observed on several occasions: amateurishly executed, it is circle in shape with the inner text: **CENSURAT MARUL ROSU * ROMÎNIA**. The postmark dates on the items it appears on generally do not correspond with historical postal operations, and the spelling of the country's name (*ROMÎNIA* with "Î") suggests that the stamp was fabricated prior to 1990 [B09.9].



Fig. B09.29:

Postcard written and cancelled in TEMESVÁR on 7 December 1919, addressed to Reghin in Transylvania, via Arad-Teiuș as indicated. Therefore, the first censorship occurred in Timișoara, marked with handstamp B06/96.1b. However, the postcard was most likely then transported from Arad to Mezőhegyes, where it was censored with B09/24.1, and subsequently routed along the Mureș Valley.

B09/25. – MEZŐTÚR

(ZMO – Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county, then and now)

The city was occupied by the 4th Brigade of the 2nd Rifle Division on **29 April 1919**. It was temporarily retaken by the Red Army on the evening of **23 July 1919**. On **2 March 1920**, it was returned to Hungary by the 21st Infantry Division.

Censorship. The office was part of the *Southern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 30 June – 20 July 1919: Battalion II/24 Infantry (*6th Infantry Division*).
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the 16th *Infantry Division*, with only one censor.
- 7 – 13 December 1919: **106th Infantry Regiment** (*21st Infantry Division*).
- 25 February – 2 March 1920: **108th Infantry Regiment** (HQ, and I/108, III/108 Battalions), *21st Infantry Division*.

B09/26. – NYIREGYHÁZA

(Szabolcs county – **ZMO** – today Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county)

The city was occupied by Romanian forces on **27 April 1919** (under the command of Colonel Ioan, of the *2nd Cavalry Division*). On the same day, censorship and the suspension of public gatherings were instituted. On 4 May 1919, a requiem was held by Col. Constantin Dragu (commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade, **16th Infantry Division**).

The officers of the 14th K.u.k. Hussars Regiment living in Nyíregyháza (5 lieutenant colonels, 7 majors, 10 captains, and 12 lieutenants) were interned in Braşov from 19 May until September 1919. The Hungarian gendarmerie was re-established and collaborated with the Romanian forces. On 13 December 1919, the garrison commander, Colonel Mărculescu, was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Frunzescu (military commander of Szabolcs County, while the commander of Nyíregyháza Square was Lieutenant General Mateicu), who was known for his anti-Hungarian sentiments. On 31 December 1919, out of approximately 5000 Red Army soldiers from the local prisoner-of-war camp (located in the barracks, mostly soldiers of the Szekler Division), 35 escaped through tunnels.

In January 1920, Frunzescu was suddenly dismissed and replaced in Nyíregyháza by the more sympathetic Colonel Lazărescu. On 1 March 1920, Romanian troops left the city, except for the 5th Roşiori Regiment and the II/39th Artillery Battalion. On **10 March 1920**, the town was completely handed over to the Hungarian authorities by Division I/5 Roşiori (*1st Cavalry Division*), with Major-General Ákos Nagy taking command of the garrison²⁰².

Censorship. The office was part of the *Northern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the 16th *Infantry Division*, with only one censor.

The first censorship decree was published in the local newspaper Nyírvidék on **8 May 1919** and amended four days later. Thanks to the research of Dán János, we know its contents²⁰³:

All correspondence sent by individuals and civil authorities must be submitted openly, legibly, and in Latin characters to the post office, with a maximum length of two pages. Postcards should be written only on the blank reverse side. Every item must include the name and address of the sender. Envelopes will be sealed by censorship staff after inspection. Items not complying with these rules will be destroyed.

Initially, rail traffic was very limited, so correspondence was restricted to areas east and south of the Tisa line. Later, rail service improved, and mail could also be sent to Romanian-occupied territories and to Romania.

From 2 September 1919, the name of the Romanian censor began to appear in the upper right corner of the front page of Nyírvidék. The censorship post, subordinated to the 42nd Infantry Brigade, had three officials on 14 September 1919 (assigned to the **Post office**, *newspapers*, and *public performances*). By the end of October 1919, postal traffic was again restricted: only postcards could be sent, with the address on one side and the sender's information (10-12 lines) on the other. All other other items required explicit censorship approval.

The garrison priest, Captain Ioan Cizmaş, was head of the local censorship office and issued a second decree on **10 January 1920**: "From the Romanian Royal Office of Censorship. No. 2. During my term, I have observed multiple violations of regulations, which hinder the work of the censorship office and slow down postal operations. To avoid further irregularities and inconveniences, I once again call on the public and all offices to strictly follow the following rules: 1. Private letters must be sent open, in accordance with existing

²⁰² Bene János - *Nyíregyháza román megszállása 1919-20-ban*.

²⁰³ Dán János – Manuscript of future Hungarian Censorship Catalog.

military regulations. 2. The legible name and residence of the sender must be written on the back of the envelope. 3. Anonymous letters are strictly prohibited and punishable by law. 4. Letters must not exceed two pages; letters or telegrams with longer content will not be subject to censorship. 5. All private or public announcements and posters must be printed in both Romanian and Hungarian. 6. All public performances — including cinema, theatre performances, or speeches — require prior censorship approval. 7. Printers are warned not to print forms, invitations, etc. without prior censorship."

ⓐB09/26.1: bi-linear handstamp with the text: **censurat oficial censura / Roman nxiregxhaza**; dimensions ; applied in black ink on 26 August 1919 see Fig. B09.30.

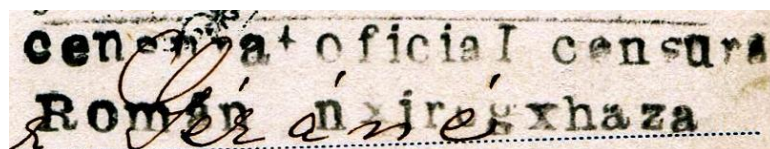


Fig. B09.30:

Commercial postcard stamped with 20 fillér, cancelled DOMBRÁD on 26 August 1919, censored in transit at Nyiregyháza using ⓐB09/26.1; addressed to Debrecen (source: Museum of Romanian Records).



ⓐB09/26.2 (CM#20.1): bi-linear handstamp with the text: **CENZURA ROMANA / DIN NYIREGYHÁZA**; dimensions 62 x 9 mm; applied in violet ink in October 1919²⁰⁴.

CENZURA ROMANA / DIN NYIREGYHÁZA

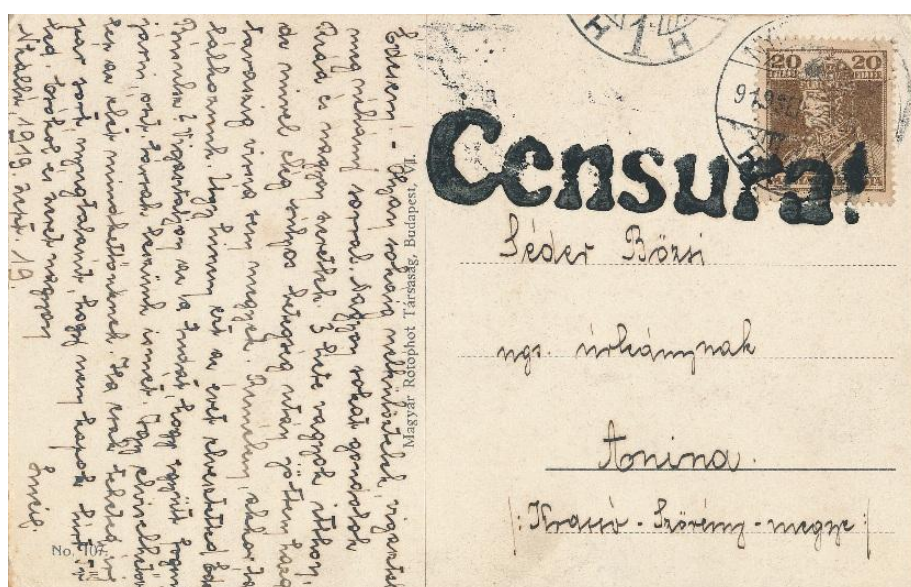


Fig. B09.31.

Postcard written in Hungarian in Nagykálló on 19 September 1919, addressed to Anina in Banat, franked with 20 fillér Karl royalist Hungarian stamp, postmarked at NYIREGYHÁZA (13 km to the northwest) on 25 September 1919, where it was censored with Censurat - ⓐB09/26.3.

²⁰⁴ See the image at Francisc Király – *O nouă ștampilă de cenzură*, Curierul Filatelic no. 118 / Jan.-Feb. 2002, pag. 37.

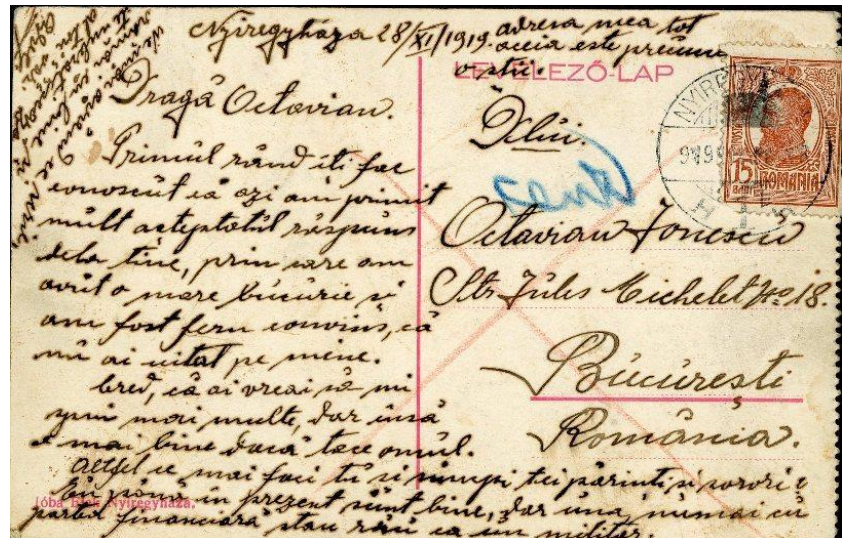
ⓄB09/26.3: simple linear handstamp with the text: **Censurat**; dimensions 69 x 10 mm; applied in black ink between 20 September – 8 October 1919, see Fig.B09.31.



ⓄB09/26.M: It is possible that during a period of lack of censorship stamps, *manuscript notations* of censorship were used in **30 november 1919**, such as shown in Fig. B09.32.

Fig. B09.32: civil correspondence from Nyíregyháza (Z.M.O.), with Romanian franking

Illustrated postcard from Nyíregyháza, written in Romanian by a soldier on 28/XI/1919, franked with a 15 bani Moldova stamp (overstamped 5 bani), processed at NYIREGYHÁZA on 30 November 1919. Manuscript **cen**z (in blue pencil) indicates local censorship. Addressed to Bucharest. This likely represents tolerated use of postage carried in by the sender.
(source: col. Cristian Scăiceanu)



ⓄB09/26.4 (TT95#3.1, CM#20.2): circular handstamp with the inner text: **CENZURA ROMÂNĂ * NYIREGYHÁZA / Censurat**, diameter 34/32 mm; applied in violet ink in **January 1920**, illustrated by Călin Marinescu [B00.5, pag. 229]. Likely this is the administrative handstamp of the office. First mentioned in the TT87 catalogue.

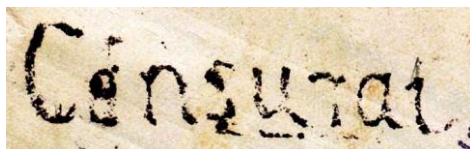


B09/27. – OROSHÁZA (ZMO – Békés county, then and now)

The town was occupied by Romanian troops on **28 April 1919**, lost during the Hungarian offensive on 20 July 1919, and reoccupied on **23 July 1919**. Romanian troops withdrew from the city on **29 March 1920**.

Censorship. The office was part of the *Southern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 7-10 May 1919: **46th Infantry Brigade HQ, 90th Infantry Regiment** (HQ, and II/90, III/90 Brigades), deployed in the *Oroshaza Sector* (18th Infantry Division), later changed with:
- 30 June 1919: **I/89 and II/89 Infantry Battalions** (18th Infantry Brigade).
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the **82nd Infantry Regiment** (16th Infantry Division), with only one censor.
- 17 February – 11 March 1920: **54th Infantry Brigade HQ, 107th Infantry Regiment** (HQ and I/107, II/107 Brigades).



ⓄB09/27.1 (TT95#80): a primitive linear handstamp with the text **Censurat** may have been used by this office; dimensions 52 x 14 mm; applied in black ink between **19 – 27 January 1920**. First mentioned by the TT95 catalogue, based on the item in Fig. B09.33 (formerly in Cserni collection).

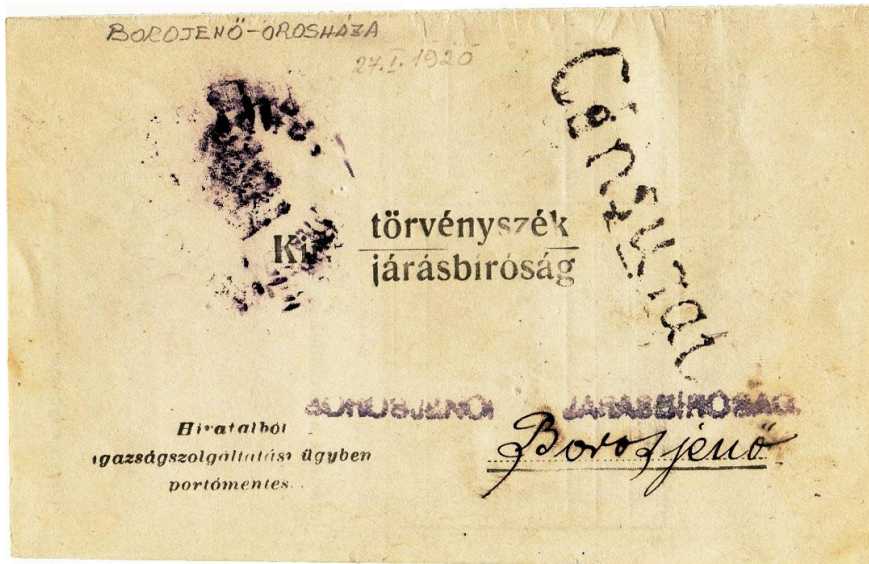


Fig. B09.33.

Free official judicial AR printed matter sent on 19 January 1920 from Romanian-occupied Orosáza (Békés county), possibly censored there (or in another Hungarian location) with the **Censurat** handstamp - [B09/27.1](#). Arrived in BOROSJENŐ on 27 January 1920 (source: Museum of Romanian Records, ex-Cserni).

B09/28. – RAKAMAZ(Szabolcs county – **ZMO** – today Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county)

The town was occupied by units of the 2nd Cavalry Division on **29 April 1919**.

Censorship. The office was part of the *Northern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 10 May 1919 - ...: 81st Infantry Regiment, **I/82 Infantry Battalion**, Batteries 4/2 and 5/2 of the Mounted Artillery (*16th Infantry Division*), deployed in the *Rakamaz defence Subsector*.
- 20 June – 19 July 1919: **II/81 Infantry Battalion**, Batteries 1/22 and 2/22 of the Artillery (*16th Infantry Division*), which held the *Rakamaz defence subsector*.
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the *16th Infantry Division*, with only one censor.

B09/29. – SZEGHALOM

(ZCD – Békés county, then and now)

3rd Period

(15 July 1919 – March 1920)

The censorship office is mentioned in *Order no. 6622* of July 1919, with a staff norm of 5 censors at the **Railway station** (3 on *telegraph-telephone*, 2 on *official correspondence*). As of 6 October 1919, the office was still being organized. This was one of the offices located in occupied territory and administered directly by the Sibiu Governing Council (ZCD), which the Romanians hoped to retain after the conclusion of the peace talks. However, it was returned to Hungary in March 1920.

B09/30. – SZARVAS

(ZMO – Békés county, then and now)

The town was occupied by Romanian troops on **28 April 1919** (to prevent this, Red soldiers retreating from the locality blew up the Körös bridge). On **2 March 1920**, it was returned to Hungarian authorities by the 21st Infantry Division.

Censorship. The office was part of the *Southern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- ...29 June 1919: **III/90 Infantry Battalion** (*18th Infantry Division*).
- 30 June 1919...: **II/89 Infantry Battalion** (*18th Infantry Division*).
- 1-19 July 1919: **III/90 Infantry Battalion** (possibly in reserve), 5/35 Artillery Battery.
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the **82nd Infantry Regiment**, *16th Infantry Division*, with only one censor.
- 26 February – 2 March 1920: **II/108 Battalion** (*21th Infantry Division*).

B09/31. – SZENTES
(ZMO – Csongrád county, then and now)

The town was evacuated by the Red Army on 28 April 1919 and occupied by Romanian troops under the command of Major C. Piscureanu (I/5th Rifle Battalion, 1st Rifle Division) on the morning of **29 April 1919**. To counteract the monetary deficit, the local council temporarily introduced Romanian currency (1 Leu = 100 Bani), setting the value of 1 leu to 2 crowns. Romanians banned travel to Transylvania and introduced censorship of letters (relatives were allowed to write a maximum of two pages; envelopes were opened and checked by Romanian military personnel). On **21 July 1919**, the 2nd Red Division from Csongrad occupied Szentes, but the city was recaptured by the Romanians on **23 July 1919**. The captured Red soldiers and Red Guard leaders from Szentes were taken to Romania and interned in camps. On 29 August 1919, a delegation of Italian, British, and French officers arrived and held talks with the Romanian military command. In early November, the local time was adjusted to Romanian time (one hour ahead). The city was occupied by a battalion of approximately 400 troops. A camp for Red Army prisoners was also located in the area. After the evacuation of Budapest, numerous infantry and cavalry regiments passed through the city and stayed overnight from 17 to 21 November 1919. On 29 February 1920, the population was informed of the Romanian withdrawal, and the occupation ended on **2 March 1920**. As soon as the Romanians left Szentes, Miklós Horthy's National Army entered.

Censorship. The office was part of the *Southern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 10 May 1919: **I/89 Infantry Battalion** (18th Infantry Division), deployed in the Oroshaza sector.
- 30 June – 19 July 1919: **II/90 Infantry Battalion** in reserve (18th Infantry Division).
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the **82nd Infantry Regiment**, 16th Infantry Division, with only one censor.
- 21 November 1919 – **50 Infantry Brigade HQ** (20th Infantry Division).
- ... – 20 February 1919: **104 Infantry Regiment** (20th Infantry Division).

ⓄB09/31.M: in one example (see Fig. B09.34), censorship was hand-certified in blue pencil, with the text *Cenz.*, followed by signature, dated **25 September 1919**.

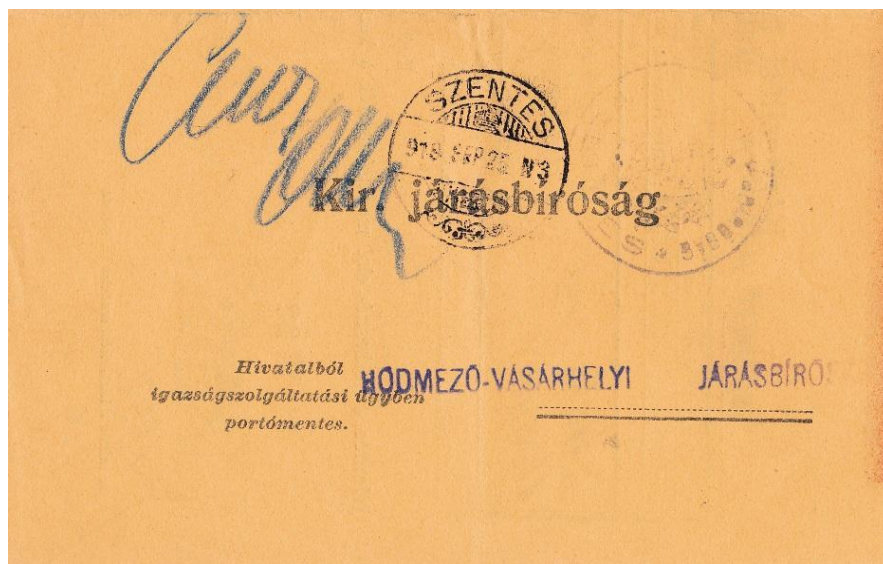


Fig. B09.34.

Free official judicial AR printed matter sent on **25 September 1919** from Romanian-occupied SZENTES, most likely censored there with a handwritten marking in blue pencil *Cenz...* - **ⓄB09/37.M**. Arrival in HÓDMEZŐVÁSÁRHELY on 9 October 1919 (backside).

B09/32. – SZOLNOK
(ZM2 – Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county, then and now)

The town was occupied by Romanian troops on **1 August 1919**.

Censorship. It appears that the 20th Division established a military censorship office in Szolnok, likely operating during **August – October 1919**. A military censorship handstamp of the Division, whose headquarters remained in the city, was used. One example is shown in Fig. B09.35.

ⓄB09/32.1: tri-linear military handstamp with the text: **DIVIZIA 20 / CENZURAT / Liberă Trecere**; dimensions 45 x 18 mm; applied in violet ink at the end of **September 1919**.



Fig. B09.35: mail from a Swiss soldier guarding an aid train for Romania, sent from Budapest and censored by the 20th Division Romanian while in transit through Szolnok

Hungarian illustrated postcard (depicting Andrássy Monument in Budapest), written on 25 September 1919 by P. Weber, a member of the Swiss military guard accompanying an aid train for Romania (likely Train no. 8, which arrived in Bucharest on 10 October). The card bears a bi-linear handstamp applied in purple ink **ESCORTE COMMERCIALE / MILITAIRE SUISSE**), addressed to Visp, Switzerland, cancelled BUDAPEST 72, and was censored by Romanians in transit through Szolnok (on the route via Yugoslavia – Italy – Switzerland) with the military handstamp **DIVIZIA 20 / CENZURAT / Liberă Expediție**, [B09/32.1](#).

B09/33. – TISZA-FÜRED

(Heves – **ZMO** – today Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county)

The city was occupied on **1 May 1919** by the 84th Regiment. Between **10 May – 20 July 1919**, the *TiszaFÜRED Subsector Command* was stationed in the locality, within the coverage area of the 42nd Infantry Brigade (16th Infantry Division), a unit that likely handled censorship duties in the region.




Fig. B09.36. Multi-franked envelope with Debrecen marks mixed with Hungarian issues, censored at the Romanian station in TiszaFÜRED.

Registered express envelope franked with 9 Debrecen overprinted stamps, one republican 10 fillér stamp, and two royalist stamps (5+20 fillér), totaling 200 fillér (1 leu)²⁰⁵. Censored at the local station with bi-circular Romanian stamp [B09/33.1](#), along with censor's signature. Postmarked TISZAFÜRED on 24 February 1920 (source: web, 2019).

Censorship. The office was part of the *Northern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 3 May 1919: **I/84 Infantry Battalion** (16th Infantry Division).
- 20 June – 19 July 1919: **III/84 Infantry Battalion** (18th Infantry Division), deployed to the *TiszaFüred Subsector*.
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the **82nd Infantry Regiment**, 16th Infantry Division, with only one censor.

²⁰⁵ The auction image shows a reverse franked with 24 royalist stamps of 3 fillér (total 72 fillér), but cancelled TISZA-FÜRED on 24 February 1919, which is an inconsistency difficult to explain other than by a dating error of the postmark.

B09/33.1: bi-circular handstamp with the outer text: **ROMÂNIA / Comenduirea Pieții Tisa-FÜRED** (*Romania / Local Military Command Tisa-FÜRED*), and within, surrounding the royal coat of arms of Romania: **Reg. Inf. Comp.** (*Infantry Regiment Company*), applied in black ink on **24 February 1920**. First seen in an auction, published by Călin Marinescu în 2019 [B09.10] .



B09/34. – TISZA-POLGÁR (Polgár)
(Szabolcs – **ZMO** – today Hajdó-Bihar county)

Censorship. The office was part of the *Northern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 7 May 1919: **II/81 Infantry Battalion** (*16th Infantry Division*).
- 20 June – 19 July: one unit from the **84th Infantry Regiment** (*16th Infantry Division*).
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the *16th Infantry Division*, with only one censor.

B09/35. – TISZA-ROFF
(**ZMO** – Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county, then and now)

Censorship. The office was at the border between the *Northern and Southern Sectors* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 1-19 July 1919: the village was part of *Subsector "A"*, subordinated to units of the 46th Infantry Brigade (*18th Infantry Division*).
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the *16th Infantry Division*, with only one censor.

B09/36. – TÖRÖKSZENTMIKLÓS
(**ZMO** – Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county, then and now)

Censorship. The office was part of the *Southern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 10-13 May 1919: 91st Infantry Regiment (*18th Infantry Division*), deployed to *Subsector "B"*.
- ...30 June 1919: **I/91 Infantry Battalion** (*18th Infantry Division*).
- 1-20 July 1919: **I/92 & III/92 Infantry Battalion** in reserve (*18th Infantry Division*).
- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the *16th Infantry Division*, with only one censor.

B09/37. – TÜRKEVE
(**ZMO** – Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county, then and now)

The town was occupied by the 3rd Rifle Brigade on **29 April 1919**.

Censorship. The office was part of the *Southern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the *16th Infantry Division*, with only one censor.

B09/38. – ÚJFEHÉRTÓ
(Szabolcs – **ZMO** – today Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county)

Censorship. The office was part of the *Northern Sector* along the Tisza River and was subordinated to the local coverage divisions. Here's what is known so far:

- 13 August – 26 October 1919: subordinated to a unit of the *16th Infantry Division*, with only one censor.

B09/39. – VÉSZTŐ
(**ZCD** – Békés county, then and now)

3rd Period
(15 July 1919 – March 1920)

The censorship office is mentioned in *Order no. 6622* of July 1919, with specified staff of five censors at the **Railway station** (three for *telegraph-telephone* and two for *official correspondence*). However, as of 6 October 1919, the office was still in the process of being organized. This was one of the offices located on occupied territory, administered directly by the Sibiu Governing Council (**ZCD**), which the Romanians hoped to retain after the conclusion of the peace talks. However, it was returned to Hungary in March 1920.

B10. THE ROMANIAN CENSORSHIP IN SUBCARPATHIAN UKRAINE (Northern Maramureș), April 1919 – 1920

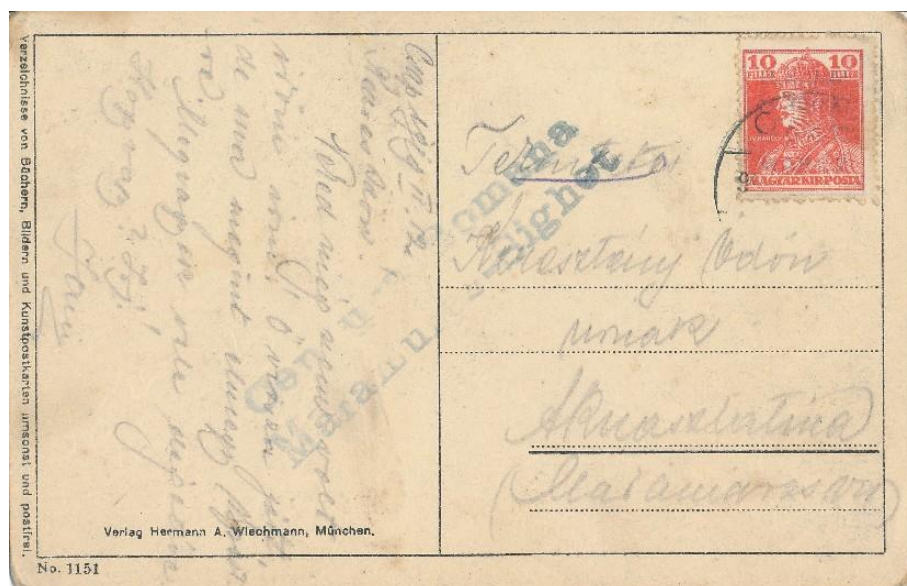
Note: The pages of this section are excerpted from **Chapter XXII (Occupation in Subcarpathian Ukraine)** of volume **A/2**, where you will find full details upon the military operations.

Neither the Diaz Armistice nor the Belgrade Convention of 13 November 1918 fixed Hungary's northern boundaries, respectively the border with the new Czechoslovak Republic. So it began to occupy the territories it claimed ethnically, which led to a Hungarian protest against the Entente. But the Allied response of **2 December 1918** gave full victory to the Czechoslovak claims, the Hungarian government being summoned to withdraw its troops from the *Slovak territories*, without making a clear delimitation of them. On 6 December 1918, the French Mission in Budapest nevertheless managed to establish a provisional border, which delimited the two military forces, Hungarian and Czechoslovakian. But the Czechs (similar to the Romanians in the east) forced the note, cross the provisional line to the west and reach the Danube, occupying Pressburg (Bratislava). Faced with the *fait accompli*, the Congress of Versailles established on **22 December 1918** the new borders of Slovak territory, forcing the Hungarians to retreat south of the demarcation line²⁰⁶.

The National Assembly of the Ruthenians, held on 21 January 1919 in Hust, proclaimed the break with Hungary and the annexation to Ukraine. On **21 February 1919**, an assembly of 100 delegates of the *Ukrainian Republic* decided in Huszt to unite with *Greater Ukraine*, specifying that the territory was occupied by the Ukrainian army, which was determined to defend it *against any aggression*. At the same time, the delegation of the Ukrainian Republic to the Paris Peace Conference presented on 5 March 1919 a note of protest against the project by which the neighboring states (Romania, Poland and Czechoslovakia) would like to appropriate territories in Northern Hungary, populated by Ukrainians²⁰⁷.

The front in Subcarpathian Ukraine was in reality the northern limit of the Romanian-Hungarian front of 1919, not having its own individuality from a strategic point of view. However, due to the special geographical situation of this area (later part of Czechoslovakia, then Ukraine), there is a tradition in postal history that these territories are treated separately, constituting a chapter of postal history rather difficult to illustrate by correspondences, which are rare.

The first stage in the occupation of the area by the Romanian army consisted in the establishment of a **bridgehead north of Sighetul Marmăției**, beyond the Tisza, by the 14th Infantry Regiment (7th Infantry Division), existing between January and April 1919 in the area of the localities of Trebușa, Apșa, Ocna Slatina, Akna-Rahó, etc.



**Fig. B10.01 – February 1919:
Early mail received at Ocna
Slatina, in the area occupied
by Romanian troops.**

Postcard written in Hungarian on 12 February 1919 from Csap (a city under Czechoslovak administration since January). Postmarked CSAP, address to **Aknaszlatina / Slatina**, at that time under Romanian administration, proof being the censorship in transit in the **Sighetul Marmăției** Romanian station, with the handstamp [B06/88.2](#).

²⁰⁶ Jean Bernachot – *Les Armées françaises en Orient après l'Armistice de 1918*, vol. I, Paris 1970, pag. 28-29.

²⁰⁷ *Le Rappel* (Paris), nr. 17.645 from 11 March 1919.

The 2nd stage consisted in the occupation of the entire sub-Carpathian area (in practice, most of the rest of Maramureş County) by the Gen. Olteanu Detachment (with the HQs in Sighetul Marmăţiei), between 16 April – 20 July 1919, therefore in correlation with the offensive on the entire Apuseni front in April 1919. Already until **2 May 1919**, the junction between the Czechoslovak army and the Romanian troops was achieved in Munkács-Csap area. Munkács and Bányú will remain under Romanian occupation for communication reasons, and Csap will remain exclusively under Czechoslovak administration. The barrier between Soviet Hungary and Soviet Russia was thus created, through Galicia.

On 20 May 1919, the Hungarian army went on the offensive on the entire southern front, putting numerical pressure on the Czechoslovak troops at Miskólcz. The commander of the 6th Czechoslovak Division asks for the help of the Romanian troops, otherwise he is forced to leave Miskólcz. By Order no. 1168, the Romanian M.C.G. approves the intervention, but in the evening of the day, the Hungarian Red Army already occupy Miskólcz, forcing the Czechoslovaks to retreat and break off contact with the Romanian troops. The Romanian counteroffensive of **23 May 1919** will lead to the occupation of most of the Maramureş territory up to Jablonica and Körösmező. On the night of **30/31 May 1919**, the Czechoslovaks began the retreat from Csap, but the Carpathian Detachment, commanded by the French general Destremeau, kept, in connection with the Romanians, the frontline from Závadka to Nagykapos/Vel'ké Kapușany. The Czechoslovak troops deprived of ammunition, tried by Bolshevik propaganda, harassed by the rebellious civilian population and displaced by the defection of General Piccioni's Italian troops, are broken in two by the insurgents and the Hungarian army. On 5 June 1919, the Hungarian communists reached Kassa/Košice, entered Eperjes/Prešov and reached the Galician border. General Destremeau can no longer communicate with the western wing of the army except by plane; the connection with Romanians is also broken. Hungary's communist link with Ukraine is about to be realized. But on 7 June the Hungarians were driven out of Kassa, the French general Pellé was appointed generalissimo of the Czechoslovak army and a state of siege was proclaimed in the Republic. On **8 June 1919**, the Romanians occupied the Csap – Munkacs line, and on **24 June 1919**, Hungary was forced to conclude an armistice with Czechoslovakia, freeing the territory that the Czechoslovaks and Poles would occupy.

In June 1919, the demarcation line between the Czechoslovak and Romanian troops was established, and an order of 15 July 1919 provided the withdrawal of the Romanians from the north of Maramureş (as well as from Pocutia) south of the demarcation line, but the implementation was delayed by the Hungarian offensive on the Tisza on **20 July 1919**. The Romanian counteroffensive of 21 July will take the Olteanu Group out of the Maramureş area, where only a few companies and batteries will remain as a guard and control service on the demarcation line with the Czechoslovaks (the front moving away westward towards Budapest, the area of Subcarpathian Ukraine / northern Maramureş, was no longer of operational interest).



Fig. B10.02: civil correspondence during the Romanian occupation in TECSŐ / Teceul Mare

Hungarian illustrated postcard (with the image of the *customs bridge in Teceu*), written in Hungarian at *Teceş*, 919 VI. 13 (therefore a civil correspondence dated **13 June 1919**), franked 20 fillér (= 10 bani, Romanian tariff) and postmarked with the blue TECSŐ / C on the same day. Addressed to Beia (Odorhei county, today Braşov county) it was censored on **23 June 1919** in transit to Sibiu, with the handstamp [B06/86.2](#) (partially printed).

The 3rd stage consisted of restricting the Romanian occupation zone to the demarcation line established in Paris, a retreat that would be completed only in **July 1920**, due to difficult political and military negotiations, until then the Romanians continued the occupation of Maramureş up to the Dolha district. Meanwhile, on **10 September 1919**, the Peace Treaty with Austria of St. Germain en Laye formalized the birth of Czechoslovakia.

As a summary, the Romanians occupied territories in Subcarpathian Ukraine (destined by prior agreements to the Czechoslovak Government) initially only as a measure of protection against the establishment of links between Béla Kun's Hungary and Soviet Russia through Galicia, later at the express request of the Czechoslovak authorities who were overwhelmed by the Hungarian offensive of May 1919. Once the Armistice between Hungary and Czechoslovakia was signed, under the pressure of the Allies, the Hungarians allowed the new Czechoslovak state to occupy the territories to which they were entitled, but the Romanians postponed as much as they could the retreat south of the Tisza, hoping for the annexation of these territories considered to belong to their "historical Maramureș", the withdrawal being completed only in July 1920, with the handover of the post offices concluded only in October 1920.

Romanian postal censorship in Subcarpathian Ukraine

„Subcarpathian Ukraine” was also part of the Sibiu Governing Council Zone, later Cluj Surveillance Zone (ZCD/ZS)!

An important reality for postal history is that the territory of the entire Maramureș county and the east of Ugocea county (therefore also the so-called Subcarpathian Ukraine) was integrated into the Governing Council Area, subordinated to the Provisional Government in Sibiu (later under the Surveillance Zone of Cluj), where *the post offices were taken over by the Romanians* (probably on 20 April 1919 those in Ugocea and on 5 May 1919 those in Maramureș) and the postal history is identical to that of Transylvania and Partium, so that, normally, this section should be integrated into chapter #B06 of the censorship in Transylvania, presenting the same legislative and postal aspects! Only the subsequent division of the Maramureș county with the repartition of its northern part to foreign countries (Czechoslovakia and now Ukraine), led to the habit of studying separately this territory, and to the composition of this short chapter.

All the post offices in Subcarpathian Ukraine actually belonged to Maramureș county (and less to the east of Ugocea county), so naturally most of the correspondence from this area was censored through the county headquarters, in **Sighetul Marmăției**! This is a natural thing, and not a great discovery or rarity. Apart from this, only three local censorship offices have been established, listed below. We can say again that Sighet, as county capital, was the normal main center of mail censorship in Subcarpathian Ukraine (and this section should be discussed at #B06/79), its location south of the Tisza, making this not seem obvious. Therefore certain statements, according to which Sighet was an office set up especially for correspondence from the Subcarpathian area are incorrect, it was simply the county censorship office of Maramureș!

Postal censorship. Very rarely can be found on the mail personalized military handstamps, referring to localities in the Subcarpathian area. A handstamp with the text **ROMANIA * COMMENDUIREA PIETEI** and the coat of arms of the Kingdom in the middle, was affixed to an illustrated postcard from TECSŐ to Debrecen on 17 July 1919 – reported by Helmut Kobelbauer [B10.04]. This handstamp is affixed to a civilian correspondence written in Hungarian, and therefore confirms the fact that we are dealing with a civilian correspondence censored by the *military authority of that locality*, which does not appear among the known censorship offices (see another example in Fig. B10.03 for CRAIA). For the time being, the handstamps of the three offices are not known, the censorship usually took place in Sighet or at the nearest Romanian border office, depending *on the mail transport route*. So, for now we cannot hope to find censored correspondence in Subcarpathian Ukraine, but correspondence from Subcarpathian Ukraine censored by Romanians in other offices along the route.

Depending on the destination and route, border censorship offices may intervene in the route of correspondence from/to Subcarpathian Ukraine, such as **Carei** (see Fig. B10.04). On the other hand, the correspondence sent from Ugocea county no longer transits through Sighet, but through **Satu-Mare** (Fig A78.03) or **Oradea-Mare** (see Fig B10.03, where there is terminal censorship). There is also a known foreign correspondence to the USA that bears the single censorship of Bucharest (the negative stamp of the Military Censorship).

B10/01. – CRAIA / Királyháza Censor Office (Ugocea county)

City occupied by troops from the Col. Olteanu Detachment on **21 April 1919**. The post office was handed over to the Czechoslovaks on **28 July 1920**, probably at the same time as the city.

3rd Period

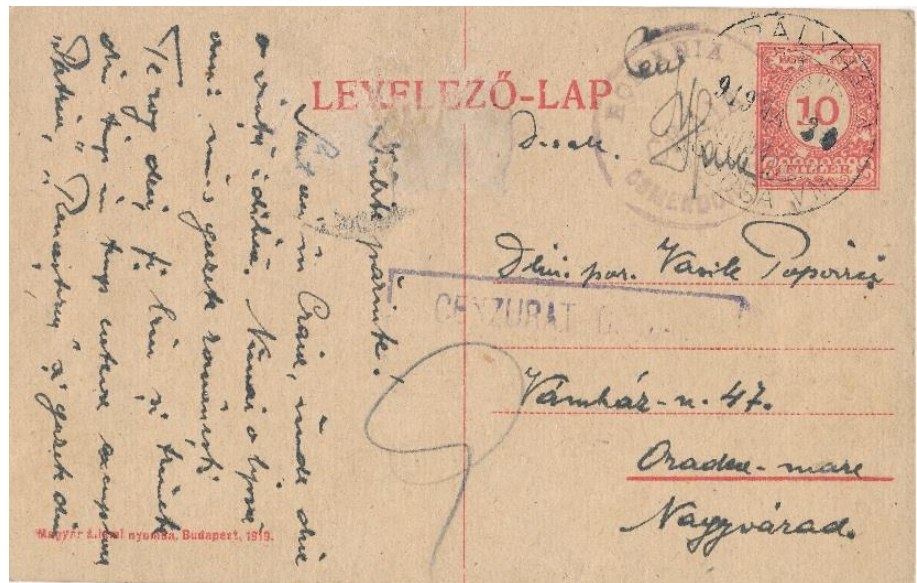
(…June – 28 July 1920)

The Office does not appear in *Order no. 6622*, as it was established later, on **1 June 1920** with 3 censors at the **Railway Station** (one chief and two for telegraph & telephone), respectively 4 censors on 1 July 1920. It operated shortly in the city's train station, until the transfer of the city on **28 July 1920**. According to Călin Marinescu, the censorship post would have been moved to the Halmeu station, but it should be noted that the handover was made to Czechoslovakia and not to Hungary. No censorship handstamps are known. Previous correspondence seems to be censored in Oradea, see *Fig. B10.03*.

Fig. B10.03: correspondence through the Romanian military command of the town KIRÁLYHÁZA / Craia.

Hungarian postcard 10 fillér, written in Romanian by Slt. Valer Bologa, a volunteer from Italy who arrived in Transylvania with the 3rd Battalion of the 2nd Cloșca Regiment (address on the back, at the time of writing being part of the reserve of the General Olteanu Detachment in Ukraine), dated 1 June 1919, Királyháza – Craia, Ugocsa vm., censored at the Romanian Military Command with the stamp **ROMANIA * COMENDUIREA PIETII /**

CRAIA (Craia being the Romanian name of the locality), postmarked with the Hungarian stamp KIRÁLYHÁZA * UGOCSA VM on 30 May 1919, Romanian censorship upon arrival in Oradea, with the handstamp [B06/62.1](#).



B10/02. – HUST / Huszt Censor Office
(Máramaros county)

The city was occupied by the troops of col. Popp, from the Col. Olteanu Detachment on the night of **19/20 April 1919**. The post office was handed over to the Czechoslovaks in March 1920, probably at the same time as the city.

3rd Period

(…August 1919…)



Fig. B10.04: correspondence from the Romanian occupation in HUSZT, censored in transit at Carei

Hungarian stationery of 10 fillér, with additional postage 2x5 fillér (total 20 fillér = 10 bani, Romanian rate), written in Hungarian at Huszt, 1919 *majus 31-én* (so clearly a regular civil correspondence), postmarked HUSZT on 1 June 1919. Addressed to Zalău, it was censored on 3 June 3 in transit to Carei, with the handstamp [B06.02/1](#).

Office established on **15 July 1919** by *Order no. 6622* with 5 censors at the **Railway station** (2 *Official Mail* and 3 *Telegraph and Telephone*).

B10/03. – TREBUȘA / Terebesfejpatak
(Máramaros county)

City occupied by troops from the Col. Olteanu Detachment before **25 April 1919** (since January 1919?). The postoffice was handed over to Czechoslovakia on **4 August 1920**, probably at the same time as the city.

3rd Period

(...August 1919 – January 1920...)

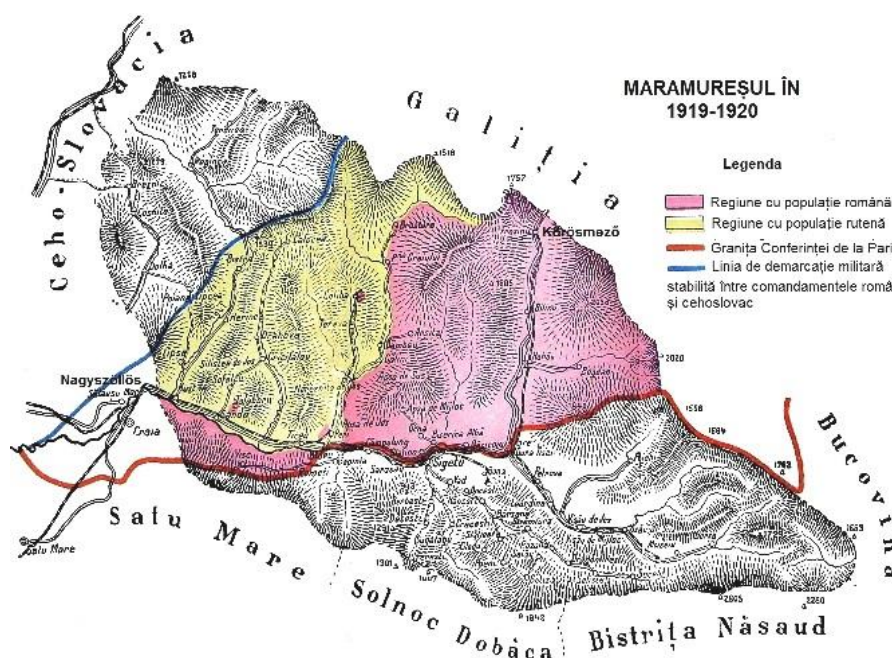
Office established on **15 July 1919** by *Order no. 6622* with 5 censors at the **Railway station** (2 *Official Mail* and 3 *Telegraph and Telephone*), The censorship office functioned between August 1919 and January 1920, with one censor on 7 September and 4 censors on 4 November 1919.



Fig. B10.05 – Mail sent from Raho to Hungary, normally censored in Sighet, but delayed for 15 months due to postal traffic suspension.

Postcard written in German at Raho on 15 February 1920, franked with 4x20 fillér Karl (total of 80 fillér = 40 bani, with an overpayment of 5 bani compared to the Romanian rate for registered postcard). Hungarian registration label, postmarked RAHO with unchanged Hungarian stamp, on same day, Romanian censorship at the county office **Sighetu Marmatei**, with the handstamp **B06/88.5**.

Addressed to a place in ZM2, Hajdú County, the postcard was delayed by more than a month on this short route, this being the only explanation that it was delivered to its destination only in 1921: due to the aforementioned delay, the border between Romania and Hungary closed, soon after the evacuation of the last military units on 31 March 1920, and reopened for postal traffic only on 6 April 1921. After this date, the correspondence was released and re-censored in Debrecen, with the stamp ELLENŐRIZVE DEBRECZEN 1, and was processed at the arrival office HAJDUNÁNÁS on 27 May 1921 (the postmark cancels also the stamps on the lower left corner, which remained uncanceled at dispatch).



Capitol XXI. CENTRAL POWERS' CENSORSHIP IN OCCUPIED ROMANIA

The corruption and weakness of the Romanian military organization, the involvement of the implacable German war machine on the Romanian front, and the Russian ally's disinterest in maintaining a resistance front, other than on the Siret river, were just a few factors that led to the disaster of the autumn of 1916. The entirety of Oltenia, Muntenia (Wallachia), and Dobroudja were subject to a strict military occupation regime, primarily supported and capitalized by the German Reich, with Austria-Hungary (in Wallachia), Bulgaria (in Dobruja), and Turkey (with a symbolic presence in Dobruja and along the Siret river) playing secondary roles. In all four Central Powers, postal censorship had been active for years, and all applied military censorship to the correspondence of their occupation troops in Romania (though this aspect is not of interest to us now).

On the other hand, in the *censorship of civil correspondence* in the occupied areas of Romania, Turkey and Austria-Hungary's involvement remained at a symbolic level, through the operation of censorship offices in the capital, Bucharest, which occasionally examined the mail of their respective servicemen. The Bulgarians established postal censorship in the occupied territory of Dobruja (which they regarded as an indisputable extension of their kingdom) but limited themselves to using the existing regulations from Bulgaria and setting up a few censorship offices.

Germany was the only power to establish its own system of 'occupation postal service & censorship' in Romania (organized by the Military Administration), which differed even from the other German occupation zones (such as in Belgium, for example, where it was organised by the Imperial Post and Telegraph Administration).

We will now examine the occupation censorship systems of the four powers in order of importance.

B11. THE GERMAN CENSORSHIP IN OCCUPIED ROMANIA 1917-1918

The establishment of the Censorship Offices (*Überwachungstellen*) was foreseen in Germany as early as the 'Mobilization Plan for the German Army of 9 October 1913', which entered into force on 1 April 1914. The implementation of these provisions took place on **1 August 1914**, when censorship of external correspondence (with neutral countries) and, partially, internal correspondence established (only in the border areas of east and west, in Alsace-Lorraine, and in several more important ports or fortified cities, with most of the German territory exempt from postal censorship). The 'Postal Commissions' or 'Offices of Postal Control' (*Postkontrollstellen*, abbreviated as **PK**) were immediately established, and in the northern regions, they were called 'Postal Censorship Commissions' (*Post-Überwachungskommissionen*, abbreviated **PÜ**)²⁰⁸.

After occupying Romanian territory in the autumn of 1916, the maximum advance of the German and Austro-Hungarian armies reaches the Siret river on 4 January 1917 (when Brăila was occupied), bordering the Sfântu Gheorghe branch of the Danube river with the Bulgarian 3rd Army in Dobruja. From that point onward, the front stabilized until the end of the war along a demarcation line that followed the course of the Putna river until the mouth of the Siret river, then the Siret line until the mouth of the Danube, and from here along the Sfântu Gheorghe branch to the sea. Within a radius of 15 kilometers from this line, the entire population was evacuated, establishing the *Operational Area* (*Operationsgebiet*). Beyond this, in a larger area, was the *Stage Zone* (*Etappengebiet*), where the population was not evacuated, but the postal service was solely under the German campaign post (Feldpost), which was subordinated from September 1916 to June 1918 to Army Post Directorate No. 15 (*Armeepostdirektor 15*).

The Operational and Stage areas of the *9th Army* and of the German *Danube Army* included the counties of Buzău, Brăila, Râmnicu-Sărat and partially Putna. Here, military administration was taken over by the

²⁰⁸ For details see the most documented work on German postal censorship (primarily a catalogue for collectors): **Karl-Heinz Riemer** - *Die Postüberwachung im Deutschen Reich durch Postüberwachungsstellen 1914-1918*, Düsseldorf, Germany, 1987 (302 pages).

German 9th Army (with the command at Râmnicu-Sărat, *Armee-Ober-Kommando 9* or **A.O.K. 9**). The civilian population did not benefit from a postal service here until the summer of 1918, though it was possible to contact family members through the stage commands, which could send letters via the fieldpost system after censorship.

Towards the end of 1918, the area of the 9th Army was integrated into the territory of the Civil Post (*Landespost*), so that the population would benefit from postal services identical to those in the rest of the occupied territory, but the exact date (likely towards the end of September 1918) remains unknown.

The rest of the territory of occupied Romania (about half of the surface of the Romanian Kingdom!) was organized by the Germans as the *Military Administration of Romania* (*Militärverwaltung in Rumänien*, abbreviated **M.V.i.R.**), subordinated to the Supreme Command Mackensen (*Heeresgruppenkommando Mackensen*, **O.K.M.**). The M.V.i.R. territory was structured by the O.K.M. Order of **21 March 1917** based on the old Romanian counties, comprising 11 counties under German administration and 3 under Austro-Hungarian control. The counties consistently administered by the Germans were Mehedinți, Gorj, Dolj, Argeș, Teleorman, Muscel, Vlașca, Prahova, Ilfov, and Ialomița. The Austro-Hungarians controlled Romanați and Dâmbovița, while Vâlcea and Teleorman alternated between the two powers. The capital, Bucharest (*Kaiserliche Gouvernement Bukarest*), was jointly administered.

Much more time was required for the establishment of the German postal service in the M.V.i.R.²⁰⁹ territory. From the occupation until May 1917, civilians were deprived of postal and telegraphic communication. The only existing postal institutions were German, Austro-Hungarian (and, to a much lesser extent, Bulgarian and Turkish) fieldpost offices that served only military personnel. In exceptional cases, the civilian population could theoretically request permission from the military occupation authorities to send private messages.

The intention to set up a Civil Postal Service (*Landespost*, **LP**) for the inhabitants of M.V.i.R., was first communicated by Order no. 170 of 24 February 1917 from O.K.M. However, the civilian post office was practically opened only on **1 June 1917**²¹⁰. Initially, postal communication was restricted to postcards and letters, which had to be presented open and could not exceed four pages of text. The content was strictly regulated: messages were not allowed to contain '*information on military or political events. Much less could they contain information that is capable of endangering German interests or the interests of the Allied Powers.*'

To enforce these restrictions, postal censorship was introduced on the same date. The aforementioned communiqué confirmed this by requiring that dispatches from the Central Powers' countries to occupied Romania include the mention in the address: '*through the Post Censorship Office no. 24*' (*über Postüberwachungsstelle no. 24*, abbreviated **PüSt 24**).

Censorship in the territory of M.V.i.R. was established based on the '*Basic Principles on Postal and Telegraphic Specific Control*' issued in June 1917 by the *Deputy General Staff of the Army, Section III Counterintelligence*. Under paragraph A.I.5 ('Postal service in the occupied territories') it specifies: '*The entire [postal] movement within this territory [M.V.i.R.] and with Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey will be censored uninterruptedly by PÜ nr. 24 in Bucharest.*' The headquarters of **PüSt 24** was established alongside the Civil Post Directorate, in the Central Post Office building in Bucharest. Initially, correspondence was permitted only in German, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Turkish and Romanian, with French added on 10 July 1917 (despite already being the official language of the Universal Postal Union).



To reduce censorship costs associated with the large volume of correspondence coming from Oltenia — by eliminating the additional transport to PÜ 24 in Bucharest — the establishment of a censorship section (*Postüberwachungsstelle 24b*, or **PÜ 24b**) in the city of Craiova was initiated, most likely in January 1918.

²⁰⁹ A complete study on the German occupation post in Romania was published on 161 pages by **Franz Josef Mutter** - *Die Landespost im besetzten Rumänien 1917-1918. M.V.i.R. - Militärverwaltung in Rumänien*, Soest, Germany, 1999.

²¹⁰ Notice published in *Bukarester Tagesblatt* no. 165 of 31 May 1917.

This office functioned until the abolition of internal censorship on 1 June 1918. Consequently, Bucharest and Craiova housed the only proper censorship offices in the territory of the *Landespost*. Additionally, a special private postal censorship unit operated in the oil industry sector, an area of strategic economic interest for Germany (see below, #B11/4). In the stage zone of the 9th Army, a military censoring post was attached to the A.O.K. 9 (in Râmnicu Sărat), functioning at least between January and March 1918. This unit controlled the rare correspondence that crossed the demarcation line between the occupied territory and Moldavia (see below, #B11/3).

Following the signing of the Peace Agreement in Bucharest in May 1918 (ratified in June 1918 by the parliaments of the Four Central Powers but not by the Romanian Parliament), postal service between the occupied (Wallachia) and free Romania (Moldavia)²¹¹ territories resumed — further details in *Volume B/2*. On **20 May 1918**, M.V.i.R. was disbanded, with administrative offices now directly subordinated to the O.K.M. The auxiliary censorship office of Craiova ceased operations on 31 May, and as of **1 June 1918**, censorship for the *internal correspondence* within the occupied territory was lifted, with censorship remaining in place only for external correspondence:

- With unoccupied Moldavia, including Bessarabia, until the late date of **22 September 1918**. Starting at the end of September 1918, mail from Moldavia-Bessarabia no longer bears any signs of German censorship (noting that the mail *to* Moldavia had *not* been censored from the beginning). However, no known documents confirm the formal suspension of censorship in this correspondence route during the final months of the occupation.
- With foreign countries, mail was censored until at least **28 October 1918**.

On the evening of **7 November 1918**, the last mail was sent from Bucharest through Brăila - Odessa, and from here by fieldpost through Kiew - Wilna, to Germany. This was the end of *Landespost* in Romania, together with the end of the German military administration M.V.i.R.

1-8 June 1917: The First week of *Landespost* activity

I think it is worth analyzing in more detail the correspondences from the first week of the *Landespost* operation. Their rarity is based on several objective elements:

- The mail was severely restricted to open postcards (*10 bani* simple and reply postcards) and unsealed envelopes, all of which were unregistered. For international destinations (exclusively within the Central Powers) only postcards were accepted. All other postal items were strictly prohibited.
- Mail could only be sent directly from the Post Office Palace in Bucharest, during business hours (9-12 and 16-18, closed on Sundays and holidays) or through postmen. Mailboxes in the city could NOT be used.

June							
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
22						1	2
23	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Let's keep in mind that 1 June 1917 was a Friday (so on Sunday, 3 June, the post office was closed and there could be no correspondence) and let's see, in descending chronological order, some items of mail sent from this first week of the *Landespost* operation (the Gregorian calendar was imposed by the Germans in occupied Romania).

June 1917 Calender

We begin with *Fig. B11.01*, a written postcard from **8 June 1917** (Friday, when the sender notes: "I am glad I can write to you today..."), which was postmarked BUKAREST type #T1 (Mutter), and locally censored (all on the same Friday 8 June 1917) with handstamp [OB11/01.2\(Z5\)](#). Afterwards, it was taken over by the Ottoman post office in Bucharest that applied the purple stamp of the *Turkish Military Post Office nr. 1*, with arrival in Constantinople on 14 June 1917.

A day earlier, the postcard in *Fig. B11.02* was postmarked BUKAREST (Thursday, **7 June 1917**) with the same postmark #T1, and was also censored on 8 June 1917 with [OB11/01.2\(Z5\)](#).

²¹¹ Notice published in *Bukarester Tagesblatt* no. 502 of 8 May 1918.

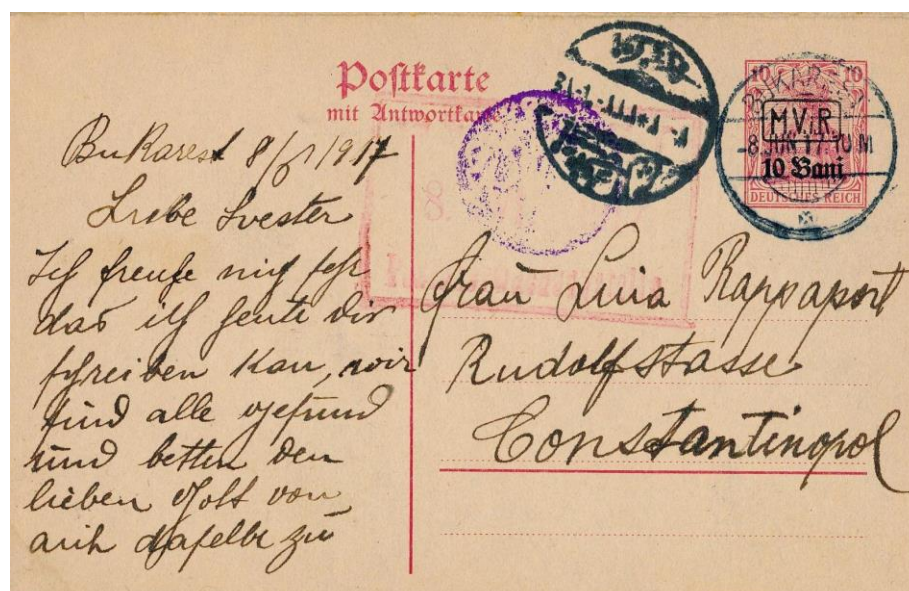


Fig. B11.01

It had a similar route to that in *Fig. B11.01*, being taken over by the *Turkish Military Post Office nr. 1* (negative purple stamp), with arrival in Constantinople on 14 June 1917. Please note here the unnecessary use of the "Weaver" aid stamp, which was not mandatory on external mail!

We subtract another day, seen below in *Fig. B11.06*, where an answer-postcard is illustrated (here's an early date for it!). It was written on Tuesday **5 June 1917**, and was postmarked BUKAREST on Wednesday, **6 June 1917** with the same postmark #T1.

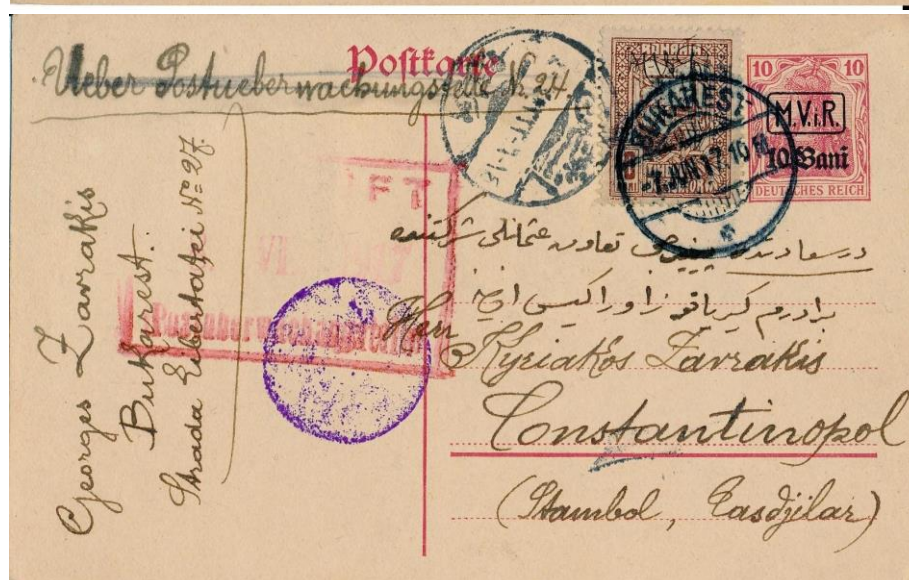


Fig. B11.02

It initially passed through the censorship of the National Bank of Bucharest (handstamped with the text **Freigegeben /**

Bankaufsicht / J.A.),
then through the German
censorship at P.Ü.24
Bucharest on 7 June 1917
with the handstamp
©B11/01.2(Z5).

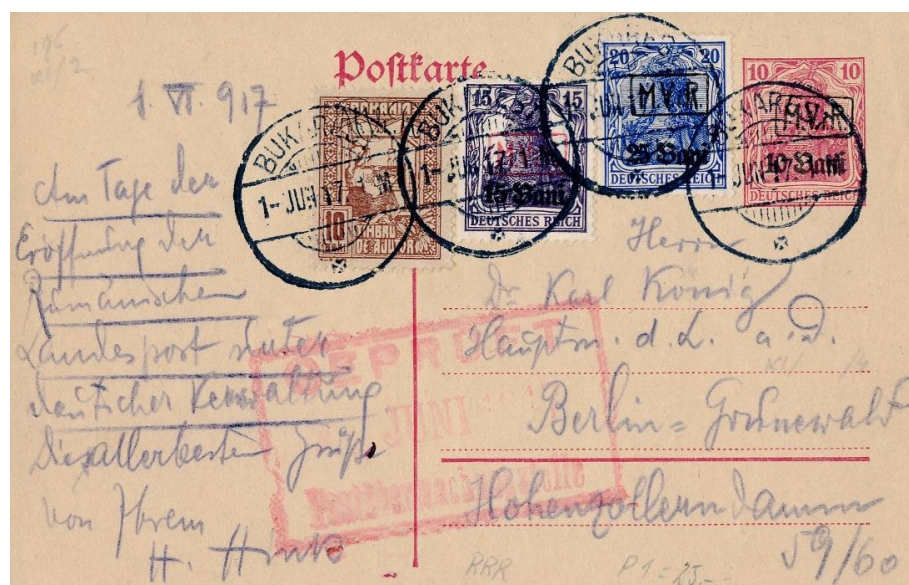


Fig. B11.03

Also sent to the Ottoman Empire, it was handled by their military mail and stamped with the negative seal *Menzil Sahra Postasi 1*

(Turkish Military Post Office Bucharest), arriving in Constantinople on the same 14 June 1917. Thus, all correspondence sent from Bucharest between 6 and 8 June 1917 reached Constantinople in the same postal shipment.

Finally, we can see in *Fig. B11.03* a rarer piece, shipped on the very first day of operation of the *Landespost*! Written in German, the text explicitly announces the event — the opening of the postal service: "On the day of the opening of the Romanian Landespost under German administration (*on the front, underlined*). Dear König, this card is intended for R.A. Schoene. It is addressed to you, because at the moment (at the post office) I do not have the exact address of Schoenes at hand." This was written on the backside, confirming the emergency conditions under which these postcards had to be written in the Main Post Offices Hall in order to "catch" the first day of operation of the *Landespost*. The postmark BUKAREST is of #T1 Type, and the censorship has been done at the German office in Bucharest with handstamp **OB11/01.1(Z1)**, all taking place on the same Friday, **1 June 1917**. It's arrival point was Berlin, Germany.

The items dated 1 June 1917 meets multiple criteria of FIRST DAY:

- The first day of operation of the *Landespost*.
- The first day of use for the stamps of 15 and 25 bani (philatelic usage, as these were not required by the tariff) and of the postcard stationery of 10 bani.
- The first day of use for the Weaver stamp of 10 bani — which was not required for foreign correspondence.
- The first day of use of the BUKAREST cancellation type #T1.
- The first day of operation of the German censorship office in Bucharest, P.Ü.24, and obviously, the first day of using the respective censor handstamp **OB11/01.1(Z1)**.
- The first day of an external correspondence — to Germany.

The rarity of the mail shipped on **1 June 1917** is undeniable when considering the elements outlined at the beginning of the chapter and the sequence of operations: a) the purchase of the postcard – b) it's written on the run, in the Post Office hall – c) personal handing over at the counter early enough to be sorted and then censored *on the same day*, greatly restricts the range of potential correspondences only to those personally handed over at the post office during morning program of Friday, 1 June 1917 — 9 to 12 a.m.!, so only 4 hours. One can wonder how many people were notified about the opening of the civil post office and motivated enough to be present in the lobbies of the post office in the early hours of this first day...

Handstamps of German censorship offices in Romania

To ease orientation, we keep the style of German researchers, which differs from the chronological principle used in the rest of the catalog, ordering the handstamps by design and not by the date of use (in parentheses was noted however the classic German coding). Thus we will have in order:

A. mobile date handstamps with rectangular frame:

- with the first line of text in sans-serif characters and the other two lines in serif characters;
- with all three lines of text in serif characters;

B. mobile date handstamps, without a frame, with the text in three lines;

C. handstamp without date, in the frame, with two lines of text.

Please note the equivalent of the *character style*:

- sans-serif = gothic = Grotesk (Germany)
- serif = roman = Antiqua (Germany)

For mobile date handstamps, the month can be abbreviated in two ways:

- by an abbreviation of three letters (possibly four for June and July), in serif characters (see table below) or sans-serif.
- by Roman numerals.



Table B11.1. Next page: the main censorship types, with the equivalents between the Catalog number and the German traditional classification.

	/01.1	Z1		/01.9B	Z10
	/01.2	Z5		/01.10	ZII
	/01.3	Z2		/01.11	Z8
	/01.4	Z3 + Craiova		/01.12	Z15
	/01.5	Z4		/01.13	Z13
	/01.6	ZI		/01.14	Z16
	/01.7	Z6		/01.15	Z14
	/01.8	Z7		/01.16	Z12
	/01.9A	Z9		/01.17	Z19, Z20, ZIV, ZV
				/01.18	Z21
				/01.19	Z22 + Craiova

#B11/01. – BUKAREST

(București, capital of Romania, 1 June 1917 – 7 November 1918)

The number of the censor was indicated by a small additional framed handstamp (size 7 x 7 to 8 x 8 mm for square two-digit stamp and 11 x 7 mm for rectangular three-digit framed stamp), affixed in the upper left corner, or by handwritten notation. Very often, this number handstamp is missing, even if the mail was actually circulated. Two-digits frameless numbers between 70-80 were also applied, with some later replaced by framed handstamps. In addition to numbers, letters were also used, of which "L" probably designates the head of the office (size 10 x 10 mm, used from March 1918 onwards), and the rest (B, F, H, J...) were apparently used only in October 1918. The general period of use of these numeral handstamps is **4 June 1917 – 2 November 1918**.

Table B11.2. Summary of known number handstamps ("+" = reported but not seen by the author; "-" = not reported so far, "*" = frameless handstamp)

Number	Period	Number	Period	Number	Period	Number / Letter	Period
	16.6.1917-2.11.1918	31	10.7.1918		13.7-7.9.1918		
	20.6.1917-2.6.1918	32	--		31.7-25.9.1918		
	13.7.1917-26.6.1918	33	+		10.8-31.10.1918		
	8.6.1917-26.7.1918		4-24.8.1918		18-25.7.1918		
	4.6.1917-16.7.1918		13.7-9.1918		23.7 – 11.11.1918		
	7.6.1917-14.3.1918	36	+		24.6-23.10.1918		
	5.6.1917-11.7.1918	37	+		23.6-8.1918		
	5.6.1917-12.10.1918	38	--		9.11.1917-3.10.1918		
	14.6.1917-5.2.1918		18.10.1918		30.6-24.8.1918	99	7.1918
	18.6.1917-8.8.1918				23.4.1917		
	13.4.1918	41	4.9.1918		19.6-18.9.1918		
12	30.12.1917	42	--		12.12.1917		31.10.1918
13	+	43	--		25.6-31.10.1918	109	

14	--		20.9- 21.10.1918	72*			10 - 28.10.1918
	27.6.1917	45	--		5.7- 26.10.1918	...	
	13.10.1917- 6.10.1918		11.8- 11.9.1918	73*		153	
	31.8.1917- 4.10.1918	47	27.8.1918		11.6- 23.9.1918		31.10.1918
	13.9.1917- 2.7.1918		1.9- 8.10.1918		6.12.1917- 25.1.1918	196	1-2.1.1918
	12.6 - 29.9.1917	49	+		7.8.1918		
	6.6.1917- 18.7.1918		15.7.1918	75*	12- 29.12.1917	A	
	22.9.1918		16.6- 1.8.7.1918		17.8.1918		8.10.1918
22	+	52	+	76*		C	
	11.6 - 12.7.1917	53	+		27.8- 28.10.1918	D	
24	+		3.8- 9.10.1918	77*		E	
25	--		18.12.1917	77			3.11.1918
26	9.1918		1.7- 25.8.1918		27.11.1917- 1.3.1918	--G	
	12.12.1917- 24.9.1918		12.7- 1.10.1918		2.7- 28.9.1918		5 - 20.10.1918
	1 - 24.8.1918		30.6- 3.8.1918		2 - 18.12.1917	J	10.10.1918
29	--		28.6.1918		28.11.1917	K	
30	+		18.7- 16.9.1918				19.3 - 11.9.1918

* - frameless handstamp

A few mentions:

- Some of the numerical handstamps were probably replaced with wear and tear, for an example the atypical 68 from the table was used in 1917, in 1918 we can find a more traditional sample, see below.
- No. 23 looks degraded, most probably it was not replaced, so we can find *hand markings* instead: 23 in a circle, seen between 31 August 1917 – 3 April 1918, respectively 23 without circle, seen between 17 April – 8 June 1918, mostly on foreign mail.



Fig. B11.04

Inter-zonal mail postmarked in Moldavia on 30 September 1918 (place name illisible). It was not censored by Romanians, which is unusual, but only by Germans at arrival in Bucharest, with [B11/01.16Ba\(Z20\)](#), together with censor handstamp „78” and censor-in-chief insignia „L”. This kind of re-censorship for verification is scarce enough, however here there is something more: around his handstamp „L” the chief noted by hand with pencil „78 W” and „2” which surely are censorship-related. 78 is the first censor number, but the significance of „W” and „2” are to be explained.

As for **measuring the dimensions** of the handstamps, this is done on the *outer edge* of thick frames (so not on the middle of the frame, as some usually do), using the most well-applied and less degraded handstamps. Accordingly, the measurements of the frames may be slightly larger (by a maximum of 1-2 mm) than those indicated by German authors.

Bucharest censor handstamps represents **92,5%** from the total studied items (= more than 1.500 items with German censorship). For each main type I will mention its frequency from this total number, which can be seen as a rough rarity guide. A frequency under 2% is for rare items, under 1% for very rare items. Of course, this are NOT final conclusions!

GROUP A:

Rectangular Frame + 3-lines text: 1. Gothic / 2. Roman / 3. Roman (GRR)

[B11/01.1](#) (= German **Z 1**): rectangular handstamp measuring 55 x 31 mm, with the inner text on three lines: **GEPRÜFT** / *Mobile date* / **Postüberwachungsstelle**:

- the **first** line: with sans-serif / **gothic** letters, measuring 44 x 5 mm;
- the **second** line (mobile date line): with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 6 mm in height. The month is indicated by three or four letters (only for JUNI, JULI), with a dot after day;
- the **third** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 43 x 6.5 mm.



Two samples of [B11/01.1\(Z1\)](#): brand new (left) and damaged (right)

Applied in red ink between **1 – 15 June 1917**. Apparently, it degraded rapidly and was no longer used. See examples in Fig. B11.04 (another **First Day** example!) and B11.05. This handstamp was seen so far only on *really circulated* foreign mail (to Germany, Austria). For the similar handstamp, but with the month indicated in Roman numerals, see Type B11/01.2(Z5). Frequency: 0,3% (very rare).



Fig. B11.05.
1st June 1917:
Another Landespost
FIRST DAY item

German occupation
M.V.i.R. postcard
addressed to Dresden,
Germany, postmarked
BUKAREST on **1 June**
1917, censored during the
same days by Germans in
PüSt.24 with a handstamp
of type [B11/01.1\(Z1\)](#).
The Assistance stamp
affixed was not needed for
foreign mail. Arrived on 6
June 1917.

[B11/01.2](#) (= German **Z 5**): rectangular handstamp measuring 50 x 32 mm, with the inner text on three lines: **GEPRÜFT** / *Mobile date* / **Postüberwachungsstelle**:

- the **first** line: with sans-serif / **gothic** letters, measuring 42 x 4,5 mm;
- the **second** line (*mobile date line*): with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 7 mm in height. Month indicated by roman numerals!!
- the **third** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 41 x 5 mm.



Applied in red ink between **6 June – 21 July 1917**, see Fig. B11.06, but also Fig. B11.01 and B11.02. Similar with the type [B11/01.1](#), but with the month indicated by Roman numerals. This handstamp is rare and was seen so far only on *really* circulated foreign mail (so far only to Turkey). In July, rows 1 and 3 are already showing signs of wear. Frequency: 0,4% (very rare)



Fig. B11.06. M.V.i.R. postcard
addressed to the Hungarian
Bank of Constantinople,
bearing the handstamp of
bank censorship [B11/05.70](#),
postmarked BUKAREST on **6**
June 1917 (the 6th day of
operation of the *Landespost*),
re-censored on **7 June 1917**
by PüSt 24 with
[B11/01.2\(Z5\)](#). The
correspondence is then picked
up by the **Ottoman post**
office in Bucharest, which
applied the negative stamp in
black ink of **Sahra Menzil 1**
(Military Post Office 1). Arrival
in Constantinople on **14 June**
1917.

OB11/01.3 (= German **Z 2**): rectangular handstamp measuring 52 x 28 mm with the inner text on three lines: **GEPRÜFT** / *Mobile date* / **Postüberwachungsstelle**:

- the **first** line: with sans-serif / **gothic** letters, measuring 39 x 4 mm;
- the **second** line (mobile date line): with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 5,5 mm in height. Month indicated by three or four letters (only for JUNI, JULI), with a dot after day;
- the **third** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 40 x 5 mm.

Applied in green and violet ink between **6 June – 18 December 1917**, see Fig. B11.07, exclusively on **foreign mail** (cvasi-totality to Germany, a couple to Austria, Hungary). Few philatelic items were reported so far for this handstamp (around 10%), with foreign addresses or locally addressed in Bucharest, but heavily overfranked. Frequency: 6,2%.



Three samples of **OB11/01.3(Z2)**

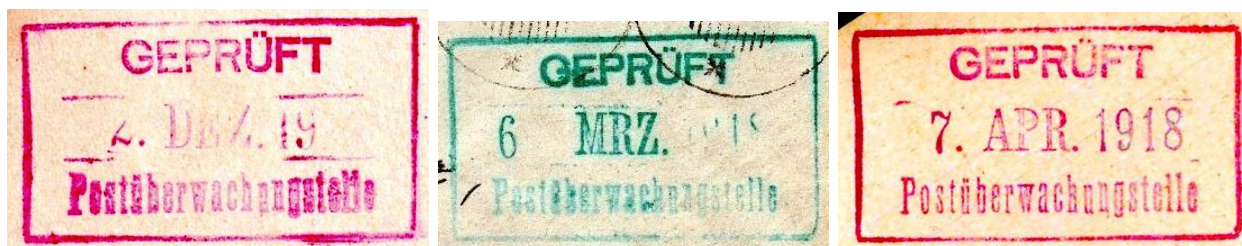


Fig. B11.07. Standard usage of a censor handstamp on occupation mail

German occupation
M.V.i.R. postcard
addressed to Germany,
postmarked BUKAREST
on 6 August 1917,
censored by Germans in
PŪSt.24 next day with a
handstamp of type
OB11/01.3(Z2).

OB11/01.4 (= German **Z 3**): rectangular handstamp measuring 54 x 29 mm with the inner text on three lines: **GEPRÜFT** / *Mobile date* / **Postüberwachungsstelle**:

- the **first** line: with sans-serif / **gothic** letters, measuring 29 x 4,5 mm;
- the **second** line (mobile date line): with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 6 mm in height. Month indicated by three or four letters (only for JUNI, JULI).
- the **third** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 41 x 5 mm.



Three clear samples of **OB11/01.4(Z3)** (applied on philatelic items, the second is /01.4* from Craiova)

❖ **.../01.4***: Period II: when being used in Craiova, at least between **24 January - 2 April 1918**. The imprints are of good quality, similar to Period I, the handstamps are not worn at all. Maybe 75% of the analysed items are really circulated, inland or external (mostly to Germany).

- ❖ **.../01.4****: Period III: when being reused in Bucharest between **7 April – 7 July 1918**, only on international (Germany) and inter-zonal mail (with Free Moldavia, from 28 May), being applied in violet, blue-green and blue ink. In this last period of use the handstamp became very worn, almost illegible, see *Fig. B11.08*. In contrast to Period I, favor philatelic cancellations are now practically non-existent (maximum 15%, only in April-May).



/01.4**(Z3): 28 May 1918



30 May 1918



1 July 1918

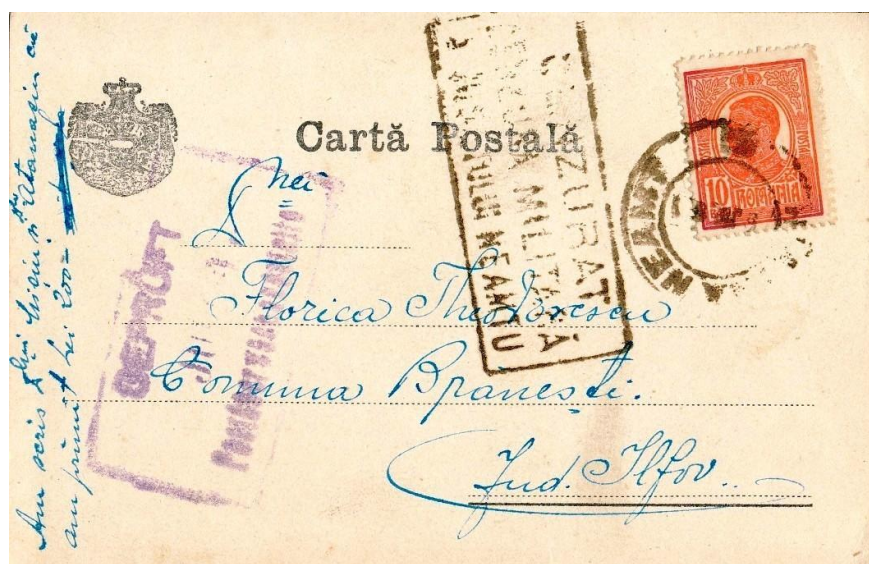


Fig. B11.08. Late usage of the „Z 3” handstamp

Romanian postcard written on **5 July 1918** by a Romanian officer of *80st Infantry Regiment* from free Moldavia and sent to occupied Romania, postmarked PIATRA NEAMT, with local Romanian censor handstamp **OB04/21.3**, re-censored by Germans in Bucharest with an illegible handstamp **OB11/01.4**(Z3)**. Addressed to Ilfov county.

- ❖ **.../01.4E** (= German **Z 3a**): printing errors are known (i.e. incomplete or missing year), the most spectacular being the inverted printing of the entire date row — as of **6 June 1918**, see the image in the *Teleguț-Thielk* catalog, pag. 70. However, this should only be seen as a curiosity, variety, not as a separate type.

OB11/01.5 (= German **Z 4**): rectangular handstamp measuring 62 x 37 mm with the inner text on three lines: **GEPRÜFT** / *Mobile date* / **Postüberwachungsstelle** (two „S”):

- the **first** line: with sans-serif / **gothic** letters, measuring 34 x 5 mm;
- the **second** line (*mobile date line*): with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 5,5 mm in height. Month indicated by three letters (inclusively JUN, JUL). Without dots after day.
- the **third** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 51 x 6,5 mm.

Applied in violet, red (*Fig. B11.09*), green and blue ink — and exceptionally *black ink* on 20 March, see *Fig. B11.10* — between **27 June 1917 – 21 March 1918**. It is found entirely on *external correspondence*, specially with Austria (50%!!), Germany and Hungary (15% each). Favor or philatelic cancellations are rare at this type (under 20%), apparently including all items locally addressed in M.V.i.R. Frequency: 4,6%.

Three samples of **OB11/01.5(Z4)**

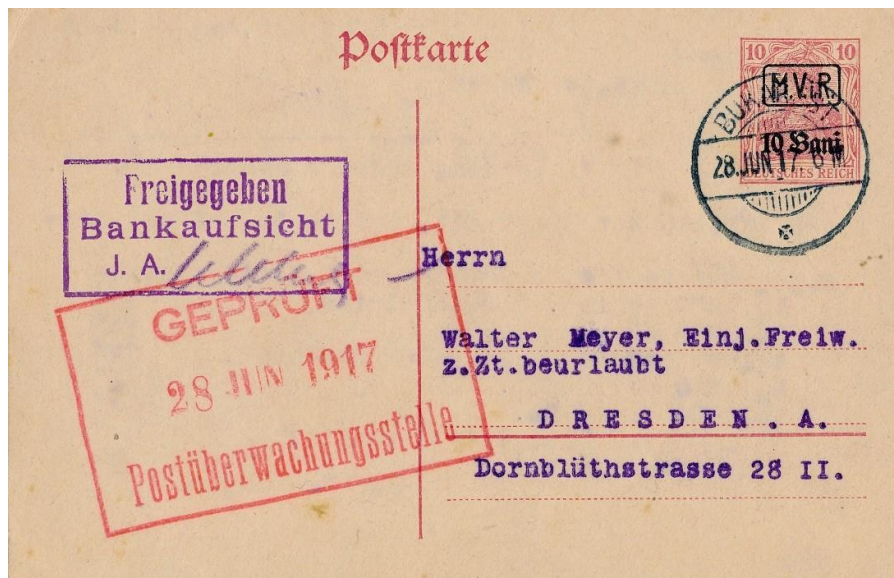


Fig. B11.09. Double censored external mail.

M.V.I.R. postcard sent from *Marmorosch Blank & Co Bank Bucharest* to a client in Dresden, Germany, bearing the violet handstamp of bank censorship [©B11/05.70](#), postmarked BUKAREST on **28 June 1917**, re-censored during the same day at PüSt 24 with [©B11/01.5\(Z4\)](#).

Fig. B11.10. Rare usage of black ink in German censorship

Illustrated postcard (showing an image from *Carol Park, Bucharest*), postmarked BUKAREST on **20 March 1918**, censored during the same day at PüSt 24 with [©B11/01.5\(Z4\)](#) in black ink, re-censored in **Budapest** (violet rectangular handstamp partially visible), as it was addressed to Nyiregyháza, in Hungary.



[©B11/01.6](#) (= German **Z I**), rectangular handstamp measuring 62 x 37 mm, similar to Z5, but with the wrong text in the third row **Überwachungsstelle** (supplementary „A”, also double „S”). It could be found mostly on philatelic envelopes with dates between 7 September 1917 – 17 October 1918, many of which have overprint errors. However it was seen applied in violet and green ink between **17 October 1917 – 9 August 1918** on rare really circulated items as well (see an undoubted example in *Fig. B11.11*, and also *Fig. B11.12*). As such, this **is not** a fake or bogus item, as some authors concluded, but a handstamp with erroneous text, which was very rarely used because of this. Usage on *interzonal mail with Moldavia* was noticed in *July – August 1918*. Frequency: 1,1% (rare)



Two samples of [©B11/01.6\(ZI\)](#)



Fig. B11.11. An undisputed example of really circulated „Z I” handstamp

Multifranked inter-zonal cover sent from Free Moldavia to Bucharest, postmarked IASI on 26 July 1918, censored on 29 July (backside) and numeral E4, OB04/02.9(E4), censored again by Germans in Bucharest with the handstamp OB11/01.6(ZI) and censor numeral 4 (source: web, 2014)



Fig. B11.12. Another real-circulated sample of censormark „Z I”

„Kodak” commercial cover postmarked BUKAREST on 24 december 1918 and censored two days later with the error handstamp OB11/01.6(ZI), at PüSt 24 (source: Mircea Mureşan collection)

GROUP B:

Rectangular Frame + 3-lines text: 1. Roman / 2. Roman / 3. Roman (RRR)

OB11/01.7 (= German Z 6): rectangular handstamp measuring 63 x 47 mm, with the inner text on three lines: GEPRÜFT / Mobile date / Postüberwachungsstelle:

- the **first** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 40 x 6 mm (except the *Umlaut*);
- the **second** line (mobile date line): with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 5,5 mm in height.
- the **third** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 50 x 6,5 mm.

Applied in blue ink between 4 – 15 June 1917²¹². Theoretically easily recognizable due to its size, being the largest German censorship handstamp — and one of the rarest, at the same time. The few items of mail known with this handstamp are all *really circulated*, the majority in M.V.i.R (one arrived from Bulgaria), with only one possible philatelic production. Frequency: 0,6% (very rare)

²¹² With a curious and probably erroneous date of 13 May 1917 (the Museum of Romanian Records).

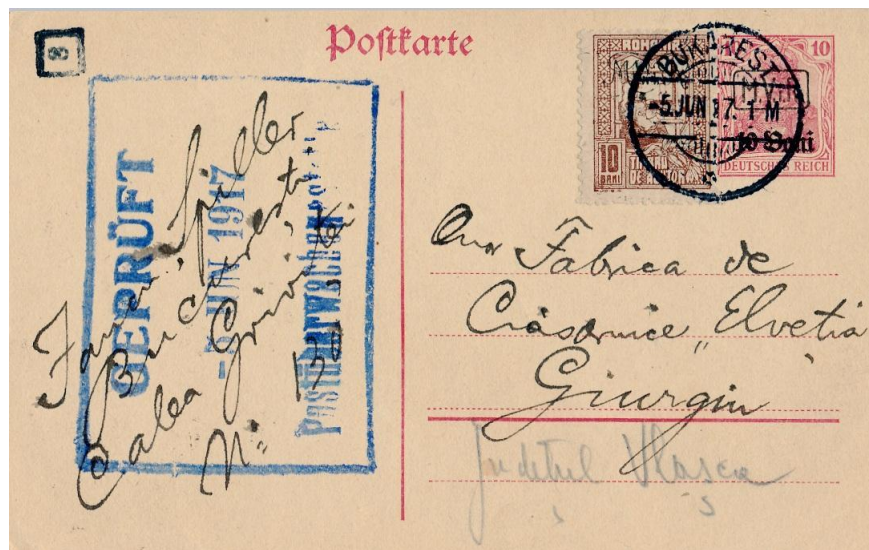
Two samples of [©B11/01.7\(Z6\)](#)

Fig. B11.13.

M.V.i.R postcard written in Bucharest on **5 June 1917** (the 5th day of operation of *Landespost*), postmarked on the same day BUKAREST. Censorship in the local PüSt 24 office with [©B11/01.7\(Z6\)](#) (+ numeral handstamp 8) address to Giurgiu, Vlașca county.

Fig. B11.14.

M.V.i.R postcard written in Bucharest on **11 June 1917**, postmarked on the same day BUKAREST and censored by the local PüSt 24 office with [©B11/01.7\(Z6\)](#) (+ numeral handstamp 8 and over-censor 23) address to Semlin, in the Austro-Hungarian occupation area of Serbia.



[©B11/01.8](#) (= German **Z 7**): rectangular handstamp measuring 63 x 38 mm, with the inner text on three lines: **GEPRÜFT** / *Mobile date* / **Postüberwachungsstelle**, where **all three rows** are in serif / **roman** letters. General period of use, documented on really circulated items, is between **18 June 1917 – 18 March 1918**; it was applied mostly in blue, red-lila, and rarely in black ink. Most of the known items are really circulated (*nearly all inside M.V.i.R.*, only a couple with Germany, Hungary or Austria), philatelic productions are rare for this type (around 10%). Frequency: 6,9%.

- the **first** line: measuring 35 x 5 mm (except the *Umlaut*);

- the **second** line (mobile date line): measuring 6 mm in height (high characters), it overtakes **both** the left and to the right the first row by one digit each (the second row appears to be placed centrally);
- the **third** line: measuring 50 x 6,5 mm.

Characteristic: The **T** in the first row is in line with the **S** from the ST group in the 3rd row. As a diverse fact, in most cases the stamp is poorly printed (specially the third inner row), denoting a lower quality of the material used in manufacturing.



Four samples of subtype B11/01.8(Z7), with progressive signs of wear

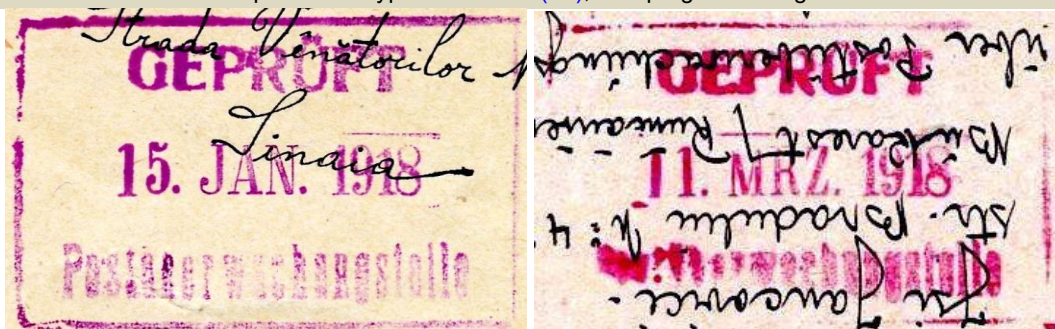


Fig. B11.15

MviR 10+10 bani postcard, written on 21 July 1917 in Covrigi, Mehedinți county and addressed to Bucharest, transported to the capital where cancelled BUKAREST on 28 July 1917, censored during same day in the local PüSt 24 office with B11/01.8(Z7) (+ censor numeral 4), but returned to sender as the addressee was not known, therefore the retour handstamp B11/01.23 was applied.

B11/01.9: rectangular handstamp measuring 63 x 38 mm, with the inner text on three lines: **GEPRÜFT** / Mobile date / **Postüberwachungsstelle**, where **all three rows** are in serif / **roman** letters. Similar to the previous one, but the first row is longer, measuring 39 x 5,5 mm! General period of use, documented on really circulated items is between **21 August 1917 – 30 September 1918**.

This is the most frequently used hanstamp on *internal mail*, and two subtypes may be described (showing small variations in date position, which do not qualify for separate types!):

- ❖ **.../01.9A** (= German **Z 9**):
 - the **first** line: 39 x 5,5 mm;

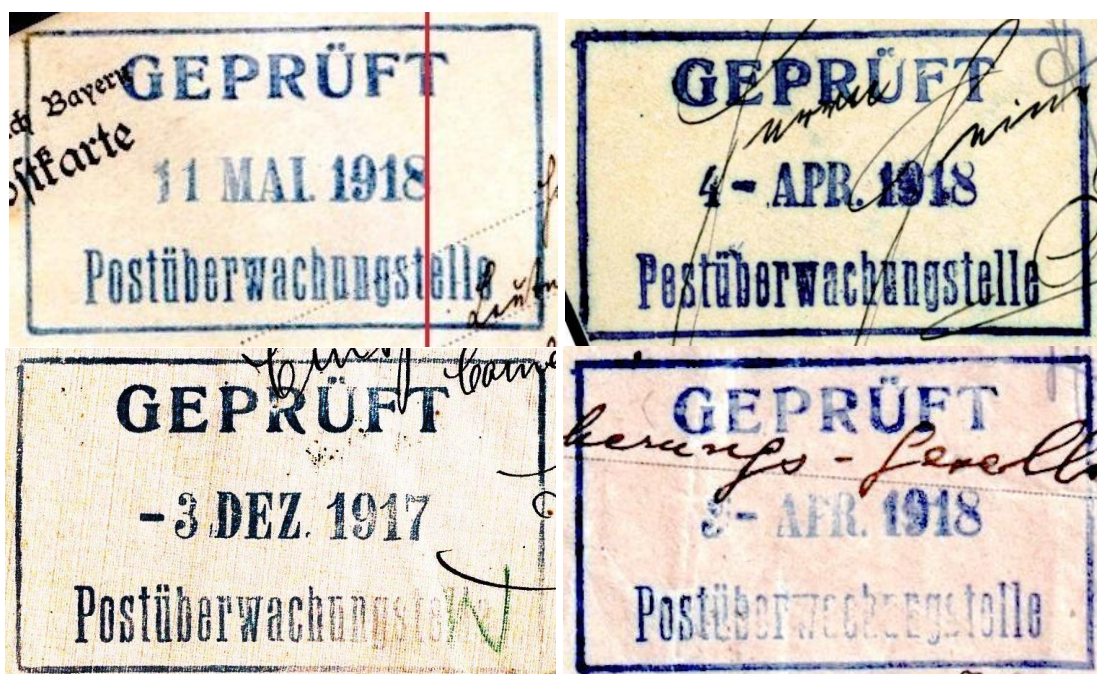
- the height of the second row is 5.5 mm (short characters), not exceeding the first row, being approximately at the same level (and it looks centrally placed). The month is indicated by three letters;
- the **third** line: 49 x 6,5 mm.



Fig. B11.16

Official cover postmarked BUKAREST on 3 April 1918, censored during the same day in the local PüSt 24 office with [B11/01.9A\(Z9\)](#), addressed to Wien, so re-censored here at arrival with the rectangular handstamp ZENSURIERT / K.u.k. Zensurstelle Wien.

Characteristic: The **T** in the first row is aligned with the space of the **TE** group in the 3rd row (possibly touching the left of the letter **E**). Period of use is **26 September 1917 – 25 July 1918**, and was applied in blue, violet, green ink, generally with clear imprints. Philatelic productions are in proportion to ca. 50%! (specially those with M.V.i.R addresses), and from the really circulated items the majority are with Austria (circa 25%) and Moldavia (circa 15%, from 18 May 1918), only a few with Hungary or Germany. This is the type which probably continued to be used on inter-zonal mail with Moldavia in June-July 1918, without the date row, see .../01.9E below. Frequency: 5,1%.





Six samples of subtype **OB11/01.9A(Z9)**, with the deterioration in June-July 1918

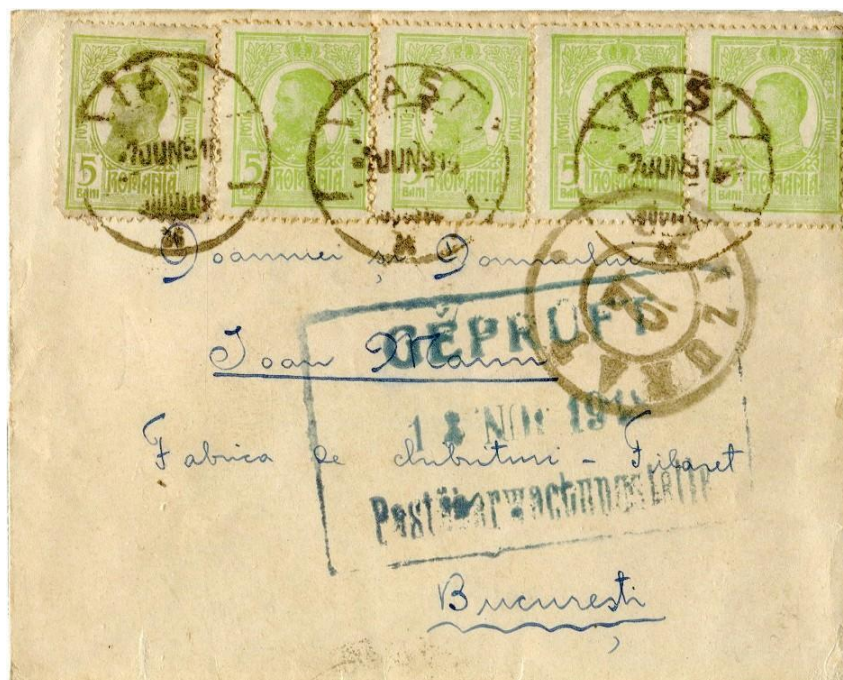


Fig. B11.17
Reversed date in an error
handstamp

Romanian 5 x 5 Bani cover,
mailed from IASI, Moldavia, on
7 June 1918, censored locally
with [B04/02.7C\(12\)](#),
addressed to Bucharest, in
occupied Romania, therefore
re-censored in Bucharest with
an error handstamp of type
[B11/01.9A\(Z9\)](#) (reversed
JUN in date).

- ❖ .../01.9B (= German **Z 10**):
 - the **first** line: 39 x 5,5 mm;
 - the height of the second row is 6 mm (high characters), it overtakes only to the right the first line with one digit, instead it is retracted in the left (so the second row appears to be shifted to the right);
 - the **third** line: 49 x 6,5 mm.

Characteristic: The **T** in the first row is in line with the space in from the **TE** group in the 3rd row (possibly touching the left of the letter **E**). Period of use **21 August 1917 – 25 September 1918**, having been applied in red-lila, blue, green, violet ink (and rarely black). The proportion between really circulated items (internal and external) and philatelic CTO productions seems to be roughly 50-50%. Frequency: 9,6% (very common). At least two samples were manufactured, and were used alternatively:

- **/01.9Ba**: worn handstamp, faulty frame, seen from 21 August 1917 up to 16 September 1918.





/01.9Ba(Z10): the third is a „corrected date”, from 24 March to 24 June.

Fig. B11.18
International inward mail
censored in Bucharest

Danish postcard
postmarked on 14 August
1918 in KJOBENHAVEN
and addressed to
Bucharest; here censored
on **27 August 1918** by the
local PüSt 24 office with
the worn handstamp
©B11/01.9Ba(Z10) (+
numeral handstamp 76
and chief censor L).



- /01.9Bb: good quality handstamp "as new", straight frames, good imprint, seen starting from 1 December 1917 up to 4 August 1918. It appears on internal and foreign mail (Austria, Netherlands, etc.), but also on mail from Moldavia (first on "courier" mail transported across the Siret river between 27 March ... 9 – 31 May 1918; details in *Volume B/2* -, then on mail officially received from Moldavia).



/01.9Bb(Z10):



Fig. B11.19
International inward mail
censored in Bucharest

Bavarian cover
postmarked MÜNCHEN
on **23 March 1918**,
censored in Breslau with
the oval handstamp
reading:
Überwachungsstelle * VI
Armeekorps / Geprüft!
(Riemer #16.7),
addressed to Bucharest
Ueber
Postüberwachungsstelle
No. 24, censored here at
arrival on **2 April 1918**
with [B11/01.9Bb\(Z10\)](#).

- ❖ [.../01.9E](#): one of the above handstamps (most probably [9B](#)), on which the mobile date is no longer printed, meaning that the second row disappeared completely. Period of use ca. **13 June – 10 July 1918**, having been seen only on inter-zonal mail (with Free Moldavia).



Fig. B11.20.

Romanian fieldpostcard
overstamped 10 bani, sent by
a sergeant of the 60th Infantry
Regiment to his family in
Teleorman county; Romanian
censorship in BACĂU
performed the second day, **26**
June 1918 (with handstamp
[B04/03.1c](#)), re-censored by
Germans in Bucharest with the
handstamp [B11/01.9E](#).

[B11/01.10](#) (= German **Z II**):

- the **first** line: 43×5 mm; **GEPRÜFT** visibly more spaced;
- the **second** line (mobile date line): of ca. 5,5 mm in height (short characters), withdrawn to the left in relation to the first row (giving it the appearance of being centrally placed). A slight frame is sketched around the date;
- the **third** line: ... **Postüberwachungsstelle** (two „s”)

Characteristic: The **T** in the first row is in line with the space of the **EL** group in the 3rd row, touching the right side of the E. Apparently, the period of use is between **18 June 1917 – 18 September 1918**, but we must bear in mind that this type was seen so far only on CTO philatelic envelopes (100%!), so with minimum postal-historical value, and this period must be regarded with reserve. As the present author does not keep in collection such CTO / souvenir items, the dimensions have not been verified. Frequency: 1,95% (rare)



Four samples of subtype 0B11/01.10(ZII), all from CTO items

The fastest orientation can be made according to the position of the *right edge of the second row (that of the mobile date) relatively to the first row:*

- The right edge of row 2 is visibly retracted to the left, two „ss” – **10 (Z II)**,
- The right edge of row 2 is approximately at the level of row 1 – **9A (Z 9)**,
- Row 2 exceeds the first row to the right by one digit – **8 (Z 7)** and **9B (Z 10)**, the difference between the two being the alignment of the letter **T** in the first row (aligned with **S** or aligned with **E** in row three).

0B11/01.11 (= German **Z 8**): rectangular handstamp measuring 61-62 x 36-37 mm (higher dimensions on wear items), with a three-lines inner text reading: **GEPRÜFT** / mobile date / **Postüberwachungsstelle**:

- the **first** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 35 x 5 mm;
- the **second** line (mobile date line): with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 6 mm in height. Month indicated by roman digits!!
- the **third** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 50 x 6 mm.

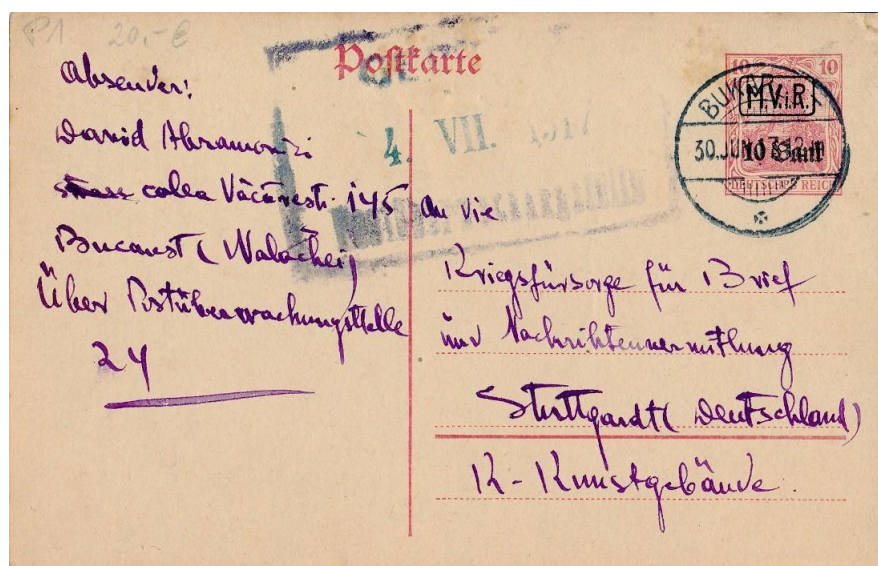


Fig. B11.21.

German M.V.i.R. occupation postcard written by David Abramovici from Bucharest and addressed to the *Stuttgart Postal Service*, postmarked BUKAREST on 30 June 1917, censored in **4 July 1917** by PüSt.24 with an already damaged stamp **0B11/01.11a(Z8)**.

There were at least three manufactured handstamps (frequency: 7,2% (very common):

- ❖ **.../01.11a**: with the date-line clearly applied, but with the first and third rows unclear, degraded from the very beginning. Seen in two different periods:
 - Exclusively on **4 July 1917**, applied in black-violet ink, on several correspondences addressed to Stuttgart assistance agency (see Fig. B11.21). What is intriguing is the state of wear and damage of the material from which it is made, despite its early use.
 - **/...01.11a***: Then, it was occasionally reused until July 1918, on **CTO** covers (9 September, 4 November 1917, 14, 20, 21, 25 December 1917, 25 April 1918, etc) and, applied in blue and black-violet ink, on really circulated items from **Moldavia** (30 May – 20 July 1918, see Figs. B11.22, 11.23)



/01.11a(Z8): CTO postcard



CTO cover



/01.11a*(Z8): from Moldavia



From Moldavia



Fig. B11.22. Inter-zonal Mail, Moldavia to occupied Romania

Envelope with an overprinted 25 bani stamp, postmarked BACĂU on 5 June 1918, censored on the same day by the local station with B04/03.1c. Addressed to Focșani, in the occupied area, the correspondence passes through Pu 24, which applies the handstamp B11/01.11a*(Z8) and the censor numeral 51.



Fig. B11.23. Inter-zonal Mail, occupied Romania to Moldavia

Envelope with a 25 bani M.V.i.R. stamp, postmarked CALARASI on 24 June 1918, censored the next day with the handstamp of the Bucharest office **OB11/01.11a*(Z8)** and the censor numeral **51**. Even if it was addressed in Iași, in the free zone of Moldavia, the correspondence no longer passed through Romanian censorship.

Subsequently new manufactured handstamps were fabricated of this type, this time of good quality. Applied in red, purple or blue ink, with the general period of use being **9 August 1917 – 24 July 1918**, from which:

- on **CTO** and **international mail**, between **9 August 1917 – 22 May 1918**;
- exclusively on **inter-zonal mail**, with **Moldavia**, between **20 May – 24 July 1918**.

Two more variants can be described:

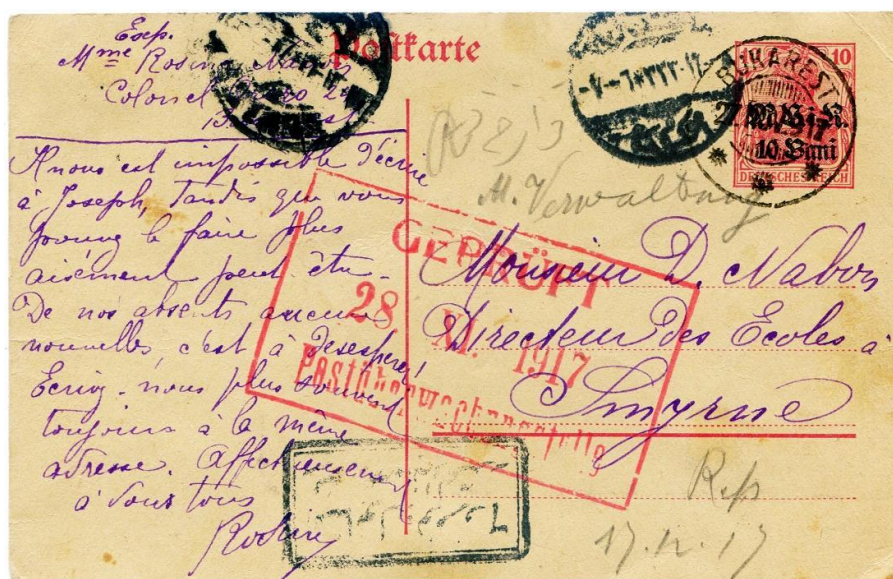
- ❖ **.../01.11b**: with an upper opening in the left quadrant, with straight margins, all of very good quality imprints in red-lila ink, seen between 9 August 1917 – 15 May 1918. A sub-variant (**.11ba**) may be considered the samples with a „broken **b**” in **Postüberwachungsstelle**..., see Fig. B11.24.



/01.11b(Z8): small opening in the upper-left frame, the second sample **.9ba**, with a „broken **b**”.

Fig. B11.24

German M.V.i.R. occupation postcard postmarked BUKAREST on 27 November 1917, censored in **28 November 1917** by PÜSt.24 with the „broken **b**” handstamp **OB11/01.11ba(Z8)**. Taken over by the Ottoman post, arrival in Smyrna, with Turkish censorship at destination (source: Museum of Romanian Records,, Bucharest)



- ❖ [.../01.11c](#): with a similar upper opening in the left quadrant, but with flaps, applied in violet, blue or black ink between 4 November 1917 – 14 May 1918; and with a deformed frame, approximately between 17 May - 20 July 1918.



[/01.11c\(Z8\)](#): small opening in the upper-left frame, but with flaps.



two stages of deformation.

Fig. B11.25

Turkish multifranked cover, postmarked PERA on 31 July 1917, probably censored in Constantinopol with the rectangular black handstamp; transited through Bulgaria where it was re-censored in Sophia (red round handstamp), finally arriving in Bucharest where the third censorship was performed with [01.11b\(Z8\)](#); see also the forwarding handwritten notice "Ueber Postüberwachungsstelle 24" (source: Museum of Romanian Records, Bucharest)



It is interesting to note that apparently all mail was verified by censor No. 7, and later, also by censor no. 51 (from 25 June 1918). All examples of *internal mail* (in M.V.i.R) seen so far are CTO philatelic, mostly without censor number or signature, with a few of them apparently manufactured by censor no. 7 himself, thus bearing his numeral handstamp (i.e. 9 September 1917, 4 November 1917, 14 December 1917, 25 December 1917). In addition to these, there are also many foreign CTO philatelic items (mostly multi-stamped covers). Therefore, I estimate that 60% of the items (mainly covers) with this censor handstamp are CTO / philatelic. However, these philatelic productions are not seen anymore starting June 1918!

Fig. B11.26

Moldavian „Iasi” postcard addressed to Bucharest in occupied Romania, postmarked IASI on 16 July 1918, with Romanian censorship in Iasi performed the following day, 17 July, with two handstamps: **ⓄB04/01.1*** and numeral **ⓄB04/02.7C(9)**; re-censored on **20 July 1918** by Germans in Bucharest with the nearly illegible handstamp **ⓄB11/01.11a*(Z8)** in violet ink.



See other items with this handstamp on mail received from prisoners in Turkey, in Fig. C36.02 and C36.04, (Volume C/1)

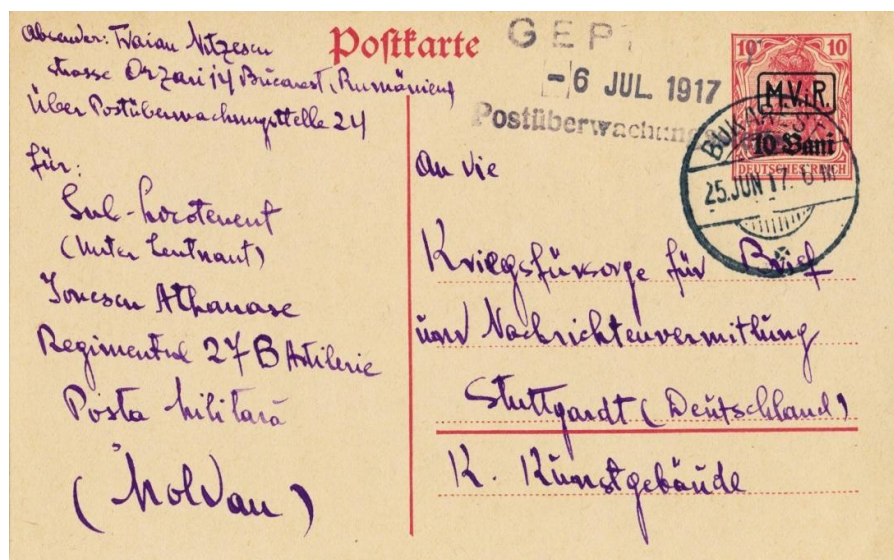
GROUP C:

Frameless 3-lines text: 1. Gothic / 2. Gothic / 3. Roman (GGR).

ⓄB11/01.12 (= German **Z 15**): three-linear handstamp measuring 48 x 17 mm, with the text: **GEPRÜFT / Mobile date / Postüberwachungsstelle** (two „s”):

- the **first** line: with sans-serif / **gothic** letters, measuring 40 x 4 mm;
- the **second** line (mobile date line): with sans-serif / **gothic** letters, measuring 4 mm in height. Month abbreviated to three letters. Without a dot after the day.
- the **third** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 48 x 3 mm.

Characteristic is the position of the letter **G** of the first row above the first **s** from the third row. Applied in purple and blue ink during two different periods of time (Frequency: 2,4%):

**Fig. B11.27**

M.V.I.R. postcard with a written message from the family in occupied Romania (Bucharest) to a serviceman in free Moldavia, through a welfare organisation in Stuttgart. Postmarked BUKAREST on **25 June 1917**, the card was censored with the handstamp **ⓄB11/01.12a(Z15)** only in **6 July 1917**!

- ❖ **.../01.12a**: the **1st Period**, between **6 – 7 July 1917**, is known for the time being to have been applied only on mail (postcards) addressed to the *War welfare for letter and message transmission* in Stuttgart (*Kriegsfürsorge für Brief und Nachrichtenvermittlung Stuttgart*), previously written and postmarked BUKAREST between 25 June – 3 July), see Fig. B11.27.



/01.12a(Z15): from a Stuttgart card)



/01.12b(Z15): from a CTO item

- ❖ **.../01.12b:** the **2nd Period**, between **24 March – 24 July 1918** (a sample has the third row strongly curved between 20 June – 12 July 1918), known on CTO items — ca. 30%, of them bearing the censor No. 7, so probably he was the author of the items, unlike the actually circulated ones, which do NOT have the censor number added! While the rest was on *circulated mail with Moldavia / Bessarabia*, beginning with **4 June 1918**. A single foreign mail is known of this type, from Galați to Austria on **8 June 1918**, applied in green ink. Due to the short period of use, the real circulated items are scarce, see Fig. B11.28.



Fig. B11.28

„lași” postcard stationery postmarked BACĂU in 19 June 1918, censored at the local office during the same day with [ⓄB04/03.1c](#), addressed to Caracal, in occupied Romania, therefore re-censored in Bucharest with the handstamp [ⓄB11/01.12b\(Z15\)](#) on **28 June 1918**.

ⓄB11/01.13 (= German **Z 13**): tri-linear handstamp measuring 46 x 17 mm, with the text: **GEPRÜFT / Mobile date / Postüberwachungsstelle** (one single „s”):

- the **first** line: with sans-serif / **gothic** letters, measuring 27 x 3 mm;
- the **second** line (mobile date line): with sans-serif / **gothic** letters, measuring 3,5 mm in height. Month abbreviated to three letters. With a dot after the day.
- the **third** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 46 x 3,5 mm.

Characteristic is the position of the letter **G** of the first row above the first **ü** from the third row. Applied in purple and green ink between **11 June 1917 – 2 April 1918** and then again between **21 May – 19 June 1918** (now on inter-zonal mail with *Moldavia / Bessarabia*). Due to its length and the material used (rubber), the stamp shows slight deformations, visible over time especially at the last row. This is *the only handstamp* of "civilian" censorship that was also *affixed on German fieldpost* correspondence, but exclusively on that addressed to Elsass-Lothringen between **17 June – 14 November 1917**, most of which were verified by the censors no. 18 & 19; see Fig. B11.29, B11.30. Normal civilian mail that actually circulated with this handstamp is scarce (all foreign – to Germany), and ca. 40% of the total it is represented by philatelic CTO covers, most of them with the en-tete of the *Romanian Red Cross* or of the *Committee for the Monument of Ion. C. Brătianu*. Mail with Moldavia is also rare. Frequency: 3%.



Four examples of the type 0B11/01.13(Z13), with a slight characteristic damage.



Fig. B11.29. Illustrated postcard (Olănești Baths, Vâlcea county) written on 24 September 1917 by a German military from the ward of the local military hospital 58 (see the round purple handstamp **Kriegslazarett * Abteilung 58**), sent as **Fieldpost**, censored on **27 September 1917** by PüSt.24 with the stamp 0B11/01.13(Z13), addressed to Rottelsheim, Alsace, and therefore censored in Strassburg with a blue handstamp: **Straßburg (Els.) / Geprüft u. zu befördern**.



Fig. B11.30. Illustrated postcard (a view of Bucharest) written on 11 September 1917 by a German military from the local military hospital 128B (see the round „Briefstempel” **KRIEGSLAZARETT 128B * OFFIZIERSCHULE**), cancelled at Fieldpost 308 FELDPPOST on 12 September, censored on **13 September 1917** by PüSt.24 with the stamp 0B11/01.13(Z13), addressed to Bischweiler, Alsace; however the postcard was not re-censored in Elsass.

0B11/01.14 (= German **Z 16**): tri-linear handstamp measuring 39 x 19 mm, with the text: **GEPRÜFT / Mobile date / Postüberwachungsstelle**:

- the **first** line: with sans-serif / **gothic** letters, measuring 39 x 4,5 mm;
- the **second** line (mobile date line): with sans-serif / **gothic** letters, measuring 4 mm in height. Month abbreviated by three letters, with / without dot after day, with dot after month;
- the **third** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 37 x 6 mm.

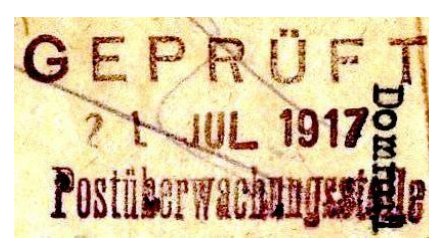
Applied in violet and rarely in blue ink, between **15 July – 22 September 1918** (the date of 21 July 1917 on an envelope postmarked in Galați on 14 July 1918 is obviously an error in adjusting the mobile date handstamp). Some samples have no date, because the second row is missing. This handstamp has been found so far on 80% of the mail to **Moldavia**, and probably 15% on philatelic CTO productions with "German addresses". Frequency: 1,1% (rare)



/01.14(Z16): With dot after day



Without dot after day



Year error !!

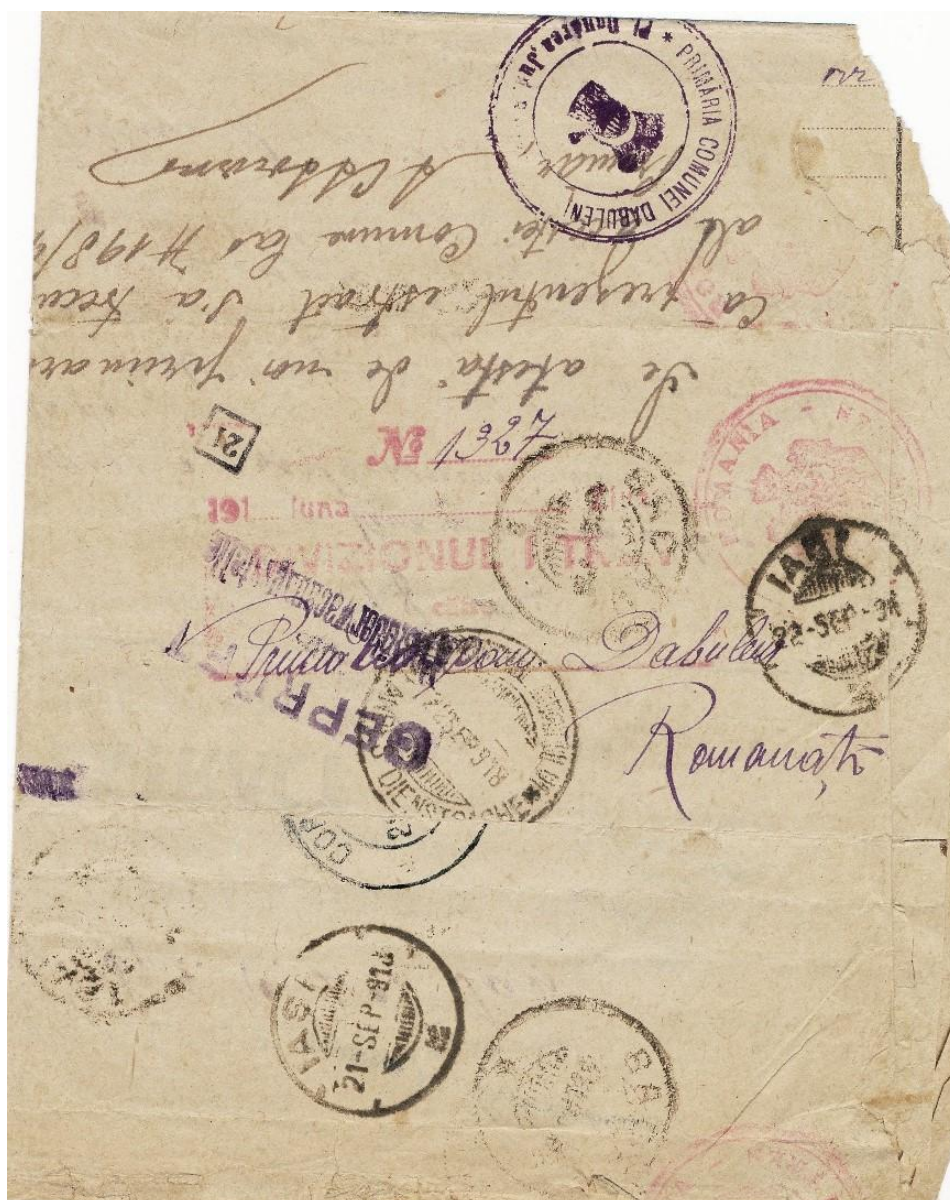


Fig. B11.31.

Death certificate, sent as an official folded letter, by which the Military Hospital "Cultura" 424 Iași (Free Moldavia) informs the Dăbuleni City Hall in Romanat County (occupied Romania) about the death of a soldier from that commune, due to TB, on 17/30 January 1918. The following were applied: the red-purple 4-linear plus round handstamps of the dispatch unit (**DIVIZIONUL I TREN**), the postmark **BACAU** (indecipherable date), **IAȘI** transit postmarks of **21 September 1918** and **22** (but without signs of Romanian censorship, being an official letter), official German postmark * **LANDES DIENSTSACHE** dated **22 September 1918** (therefore a rapid inter-zonal transmission), the handstamp of the German censorship **GEPRÜFT** with the illegible date and the censor's numeral **21**, the arrival postmark of **CORABIA** on **25 September** and the purple seal of the Dăbuleni Town Hall.

Please send any corrections, additions, comments to
damirro@yahoo.com

GROUP D:
Frameless 3-lines text: 1. Gothic / 2. Roman / 3. Roman (GRR).

ⓄB11/01.15 (= German **Z 14**): trilinear handstamp measuring 40 x 23 mm, with the text **GEPRÜFT** / mobile date / **Postüberwachungsstelle**:

- the **first** line: with sans-serif / **gothic** letters, measuring 39 x 4,5 mm;
- the **second** line (mobile date line): with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 6 mm in height. Month abbreviated with three letters, with dot after the day.
- the **third** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 39 x 6 mm.



Signature of the most active censor

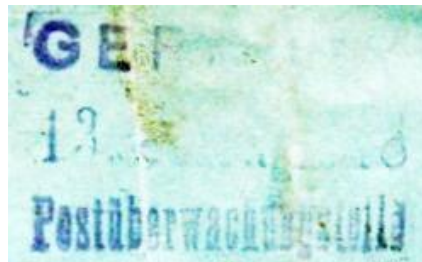
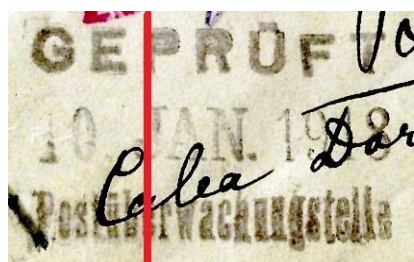
Frequency: 9% (very common). Applied in purple, blue, black and green ink, at least between **10 January – 18 July 1918**. In a few prints one can see the traces of a pseudo-frame on the edges of the socket. Many of the items bear the same censor signature, see above. This was probably the most frequent and common German censor handstamp, which was applied in cvasi-totality (95%) on *foreign mail* with Germany; there were only few items addressed to Transylvania and one /so far/ inland – to Craiova on 20 March 1918. The philatelic CTO productions are difficult to estimate, but are probably under 20%. 5% of mail to or from *Moldavia / Bessarabia* had a different fate:

- ❖ The postcards written in occupied Romania between 2 – 17 April 1918 (while traffic with Moldavia was suspended), were censored on **1 May 1918**, but without the Romanian postal or censor markings at arrival, so probably these were not sent to destination. More on this subject, in *Volume B/2*.
- ❖ The postcards written after the postal service with Moldavia was officially resumed on 8 May 1918, were censored with this handstamp type between **17 May – 18 July 1918**.

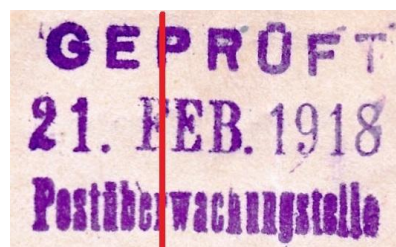
It seems that at least three specimens / subtypes have been manufactured (apparently used consecutively!), with a different position of **GEPRÜFT** gradually moving to the right. The main indicator for a fast classification is the foot of letter **P** (from **GEPRÜFT**), considering a straight vertical line:

- ❖ **.../01.15A**: the line extends into the third row over the letter **e** (from **Postüberwachungsstelle**), seen in black and violet ink only between **10 – 28 January 1918**. A very rare sub-type.
- ❖ **.../01.15B**: the line extends into the third row over the letter **r** (from **Postüberwachungsstelle**), applied in blue or violet ink between **23 January 1918 – 18 May 1918**.
- ❖ **.../01.15C**: the line extends into the third row over the letter **w** (from **Postüberwachungsstelle**), applied in blue or violet ink between **10 May – 18 July 1918**. There are a few postcards with this handstamp dated **1 May 1918**, but this contradicts the dates of the postmarks (*6 June 1917, 3 July 1917, 2 and 17 April 1918*). This creates a doubtful situation, possibly involving a fraudulent retro-cancelling of previous uncanceled reply cards. Therefore, this date cannot be considered as an early date for this subtype. Seen mainly on mail from/to Moldavia or Bessarabia.
- ❖ **.../01.15E**: error, the second line (mobile date) is partially or totally missing, can be seen at both subtypes B and C.

The dimensions can increase due to the wear of the rubber over time, wear which is visible during June – July 1918, with missing day, missing year, and even the complete absence of the entire second row.



/01.15A(Z14)



/01.15B(Z14): perfect imprint



partial imprint of date, 12 March 1918



26 April 1918



/01.15C(Z14), fairly good imprint



/01.15C, partial date, July 1918



/01.15CE, no date, ca. 20 July 1918



Fig. B11.32.

Moldavian „Iasi” postcard addressed to Bucharest in occupied Romania, postmarked IASI on **25 June 1918**, with Romanian censorship in Iasi performed the second day, 26 June, with two handstamps: ©B04/02.2B and numeral ©B04/02.7A(18), re-censored by Germans in Bucharest with the handstamp ©B11.1/15C(Z14) in violet ink, with year missing.

©B11/01.16 (= German **Z 12**): trilinear handstamp measuring 45 x 24 mm, with the text **GEPRÜFT** / *Mobile date* / **Postüberwachungsstelle**:

- the **first** line: with sans-serif / **gothic** letters, measuring 44 x 5 mm;
- the **second** line (*mobile date line*): with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 6 mm in height. Month abbreviated with three letters.
- the **third** line: with serif / **roman** letters, measuring 43 x 7 mm.

Applied in violet ink, between **27 June – 29 September 1918**. Wear causes the dimensions of the rubber stamp to increase. Used only in *inter-zonal* correspondence (to or from *Moldavia / Bessarabia*). This type presents many printing errors, the majority of handstamps lacking the day, year or even total lack of the date, etc. See some examples below, which should only be regarded as curiosities, and not different types or great rarities. Frequency: 1,1% (rare)



©B11/01.15C(Z14)



©B11/01.16E(Z12)

It is important to determine the type without measuring the handstamps. From a first glance, a common feature with [.../1.15C](#) is the vertical line connecting **P** with **w**, but the difference can be seen in the first row (visibly spaced out compared with 1.13C) and the first **G** in first row connected by a vertical line with the **o** and not to the **s** from the third row (so the third row is a little shifted to the right, which is easily visible).

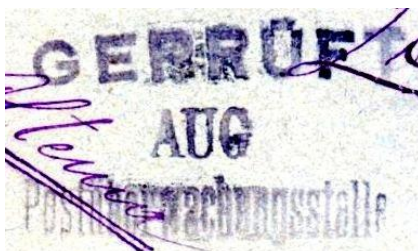
	/01.15C
	/01.16

The first row has a different length (which is *not visible* on reproductions, screens, etc, so without measuring); the only visible difference is the shape of the **G**, see above, which may be a very important feature if the item is not under our hands.

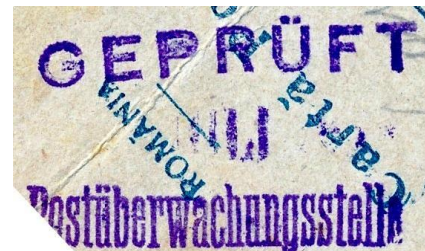
- ❖ [.../01.16E](#): partial or total lack of the second line (mobile date), seen on 12 May 1918, 28 June 1918, 7 August – 5 September 1918, etc.



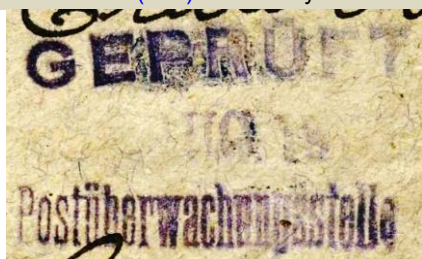
[/01.16E\(Z12\)](#): 5...24 July 1918



August 1918



July 1918



August 1918



Ca. 1 July 1918



Partial imprint of date



Fig. B11.33.

Moldavian „Iasi” postcard addressed to Câmpina in occupied Romania, postmarked IASI * GARA on **23 July 1918**, with Romanian censorship in Iasi in 25 July (with two handstamps: [B04/02.2.](#) and numeral [B04/02.7A\(19\)](#), re-censored by Germans in Bucharest with the handstamp [B11/01.16E\(Z12\)](#) in violet ink. Arrival postmark CAMPINA on **8 August 1918**.

GROUP E:
Rectangular Frame + 2-lines text: 1. Gothic / 2. Gothic, no date (GG).

ⓄB11/01.17 (= German **Z 19**, **Z 20**, **Z IV**, **Z V**): rectangular handstamps measuring 49-50 x 20 mm, with two-lines inner text: **GEPRÜFT** / **POSTÜBERWACHUNGSTELLE**, both with sans-serif / gothic letters. Without date. General dimensions:

- External frame: 49-51 mm x 20-20.5 mm
- First row: 37 – 41 mm (without the *Umlaut*, the points above Ü)
- Second row: ca. 46 – 48 mm

Applied in black, green or blue ink between **22 May – 2 (7?) November 1918**. An early date, **21 February 1918**, was reported on CTO covers, which cannot be considered as evidence. The handstamp was used mainly on *foreign correspondence*, and in a lesser degree on inter-zonal mail (with **Moldavia**). Frequency: 18,5% (the commonest of all).

Dimension of the first row may differentiate the main subtypes, which are:

- ❖ **.../01.17Aa** (= German **Z 19**): frame dimensions 49 x 20 mm, **first row – 39-40 x 6 mm**, second row – 46 x 5,5 mm; the letter **F** in the first row is above the space between the letters **GS** in the second row. This is the most common handstamp, we could call it the basic type, with more variants depending on the letter's shape.

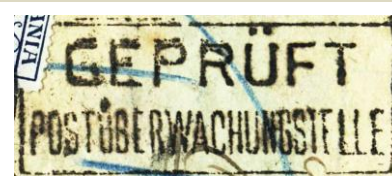
/01.17Aa: Standard subtype (g3r1)



5 August 1918 (g3r1)

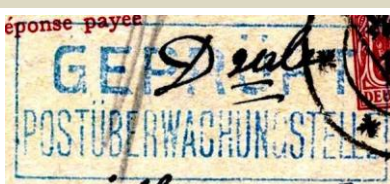


September? (g3r1)



2 November 1918 (g3r1)

/01.17Aa: Variants of this subtype



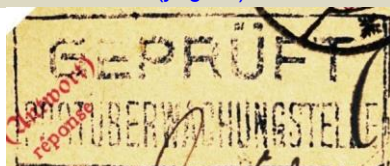
(y2g2r2)



9 June 1918 (x2g2r2)



(g1r3)



/01.17Ab: 6 October 1918 (g1r2)

- ❖ **.../01.17Ab** (= German **Z IV**): frame dimension: 50 x 21 mm, text dimension: first row – 41 x 6 mm, second row – 47 x 5,5 mm; the letter **F** in the first row is just above the letter **G** in the second row.
- ❖ **.../01.17Ac**: frame dimension: 50 x 20 mm, text dimension: first row – 40 x 5,5 mm, second row – 47 x 5,5 mm, the letter **F** in the first row above the letter **S** of the second row, this is a variant seen between 28 September – 14 October 1918.



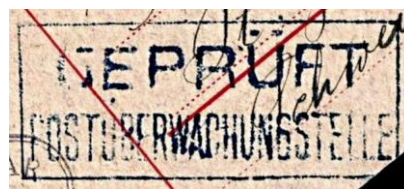
October 1918 (g3?r3)



/01.17Ac: 3 October 1918 (g1r3)



1 October 1918 (g1r3)



9 October 1918 (g1r3)

- ❖ .../01.17Ba (= German **Z 20**): frame dimension: 49 x 20 mm, text dimension: **first row – 37 x 5,5 mm**, second row – 45 x 5,5 mm; the letter **F** in the first row is just above the letter **G** in the second row (normally corresponds to the space between GS), seen between 1 August – 30 September 1918.

/01.17Ba: Standard subtype (g2r2)



(g2r2)



(g2r2)



15 June 1918 (g2r2)

/01.17Ba: Variants of this subtype



8 August 1918 (g3r1)

- ❖ .../01.17Bb (= German **Z V**): frame dimension: 49 x 21 mm, text dimension: first row – 37 x 5,5 mm, second row – 45,5 x 5,5 mm; the letter **F** in the first row is just above the letter **GS** in the second row. Seen between 21 June – 8 July 1918.



/01.17Bb: 21 June 1918 (g3r1)

However there are further variants, probably at least 6-7 metal samples were manufactured in total (at the same time or successively). Here are some more easily noticeable variants; a full classification is not possible yet (and it is probably unnecessary for the collector, as these do not justify different degrees of interest or rarity):

(x) – the thickness of the letters in the rows: **x1**: thin, normal, similar to the second row; **x2**: thicker than the second row; **x3**: both rows thicker than normal.



June 1918: (x1) + (g3r1)



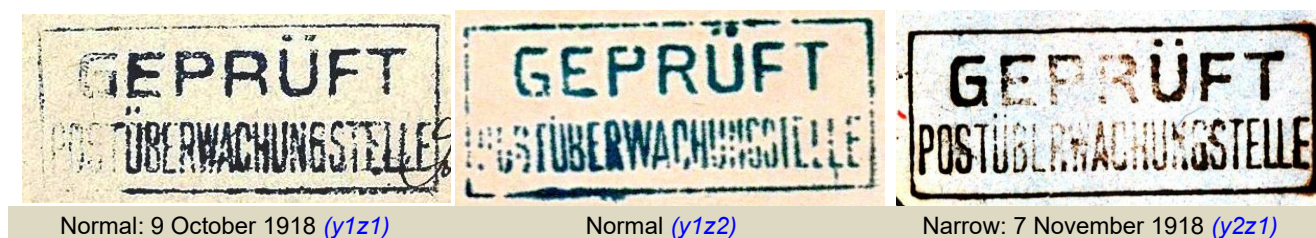
8 June 1918 (x2) + (g2r2)



28 September 1918 (x3) + (g2r2)

(y) – the different width of the interval between the two rows: **y1**: normal interval; **y2**: narrow interval

(z) – the distance between the top frame and the first row: **z1**: visible distance from the frame; **z2**: points on Ü touching the upper frame.



[ⓄB11/01.18](#) (= German **Z 21**): handstamp similar to the previous type, rectangular, size 49 × 20,5 mm, but with a two-lines inner text with sans-serif letters: **GEPRÜFT / POSTPRÜFUNGSTELLE**. Without date. The first row is 40 x 6 mm, the second row is 46 x 5,5 mm. The letter F in the first row is above the space between ST in the second row. Applied in black ink between **28 September – 24 October 1918**.

The office was established starting with 1 October 1918 within the former Magazin Universal (Universal Store), Marconi street no. 3, at ground floor, on the corner with Ilfov street, for censorship of commercial correspondence with abroad. Frequency: 0,25% (very rare).

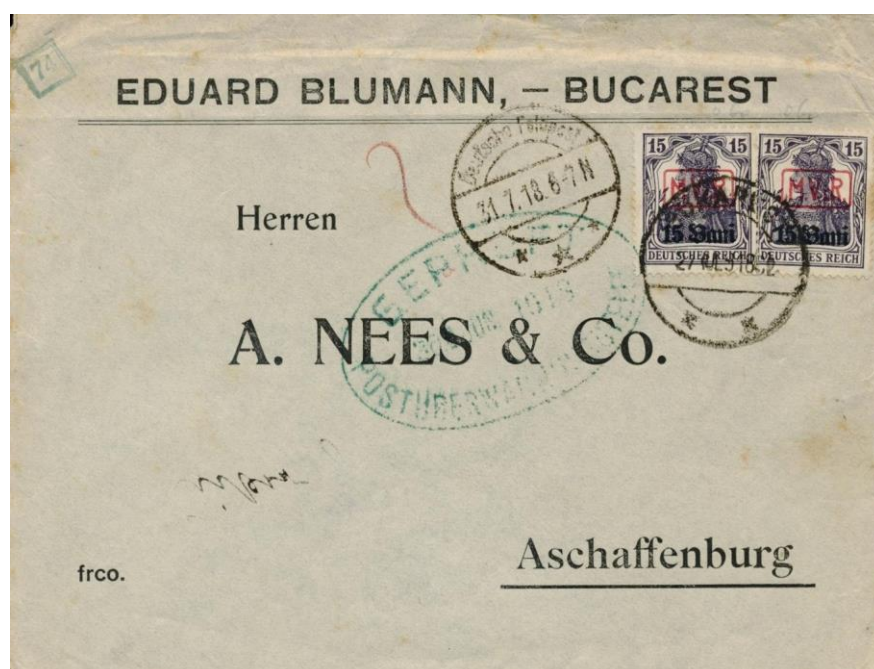


Fig. B11.34.

Commercial cover franked 30 bani, postmarked BUKAREST on 27 July 1918, censored locally on **30 July 1918** by PüSt.24 with the oval handstamp [ⓄB11/01.19\(Z22\)](#) (previously used in Craiova) and censor No. **74**. For an unknown reason, was taken by the German Fieldpost system; see the postmark **Deutsche Feldpost** on 31 July 1918. Addressed to Aschaffenburg, Germany (source: web)

[ⓄB11/01.20](#): a mysterious rectangular handstamp with the text **GEPR.-K.**, size 30 x 9 mm, applied in red ink between **13 August – 29 September 1917**. Seen so far only on more or less philatelic items originating from "Julietta" (photographer of the Royal Court),



with only a couple apparently circulated between *O. Gentsch, Hotel Mackensen* to *Postsekretär Pauli, Deutsche Postamt Bukarest*. If the first word is surely **Geprüft**, the second can only be speculated (*Kommandatur...*, *Kaiser...*, *König...*?), but probably this was a handstamp of the censor(s) assigned to verify the mail of high officials (Royal House, Mackensen Command...). So far, only *Censor no. 3* was seen aside this handstamp. Note that he used a different colour of ink, black-violet, so probably these two cancels were not applied in the same room.



Fig. B11.35.

An example of one card written on 29 September 1917 by "Julieta, Fotograf al Curtii Regale" to a von Heyden in Germany, apparently censored by Censor No. 3 with the office handstamp [B11/01.20](#). One of the cards has the message on the backside „Please, for the collection of Mr. Kleinecke, Julieta". A cover is known to another address, *Amtsrat von Wedel* in Langensalza (same date).

[B11/01.21](#): an unrecorded handstamp, with the bi-linear text **Geprüft / Postüberwachungsstelle**, size 14 x 3,4 mm first line and 36,5 x 3 mm second line, applied in black ink on a philatelic cover dated **11 April 1918** (collection *Mircea Mureșan*). However, this could be a bogus / phantasy handstamp, see the low quality diffusing ink in paper pores.

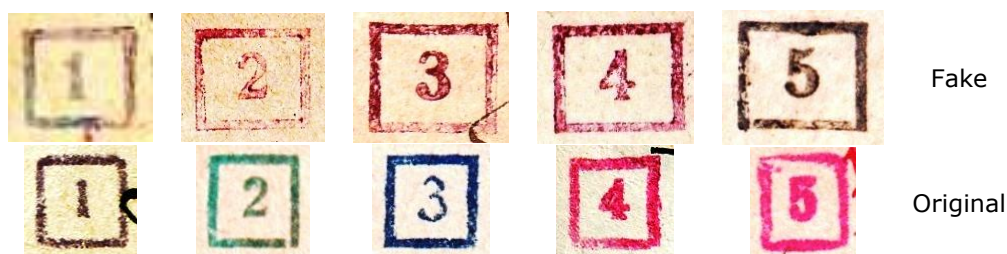


Counterfeit censor handstamps

Fig. B11.36.

It is probably sufficient to present one of the numerous counterfeit pieces (though of „amateur level"). Currently, only one type has been forged. All known envelopes are similar, featuring an incomplete imprint of the rectangular handstamp, with thin, intertwined lines, obviously different from the original. On the other hand, in most cases, some of the BUKAREST postmarks look original (but some don't), and the size of the serial numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) is of 11 x 9 mm, so larger than the original. Therefore, in some cases (all?), we have a total fake – censor handstamp and number + postmark. The dates of these worthless productions vary between 12 November – 21 December 1917, being, for the time being, of an unique origin.



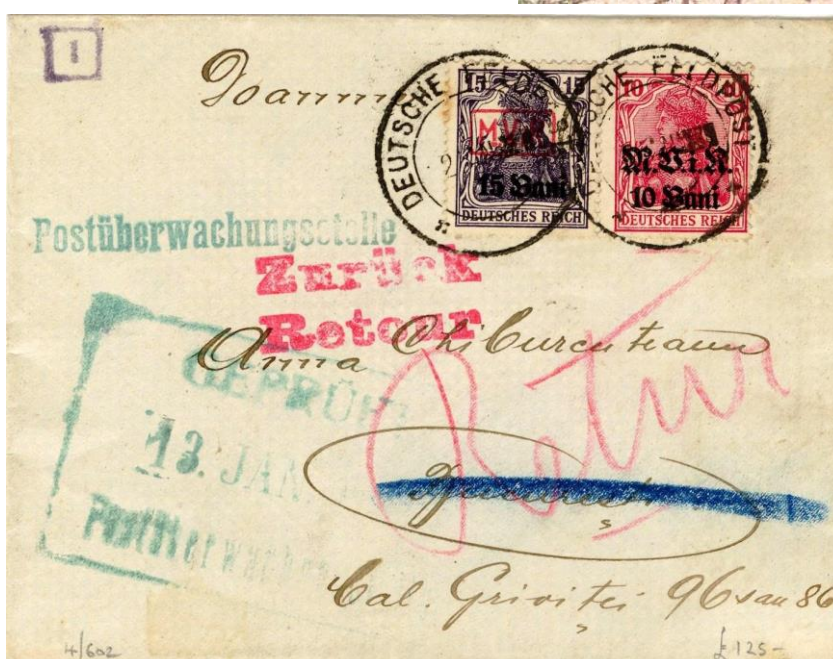


Forbidden & Retour Handstamps

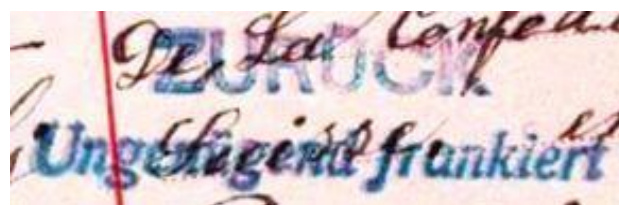
[©B11/01.40](#): handstamp for returned correspondence, with the two-lines text: **Zurück / Retour**, dimensions 32 x 19 mm, applied in red ink between **28 July 1917 – 7 January 1918** at least. See two examples in *Fig. B11.24* and *B11.16*.



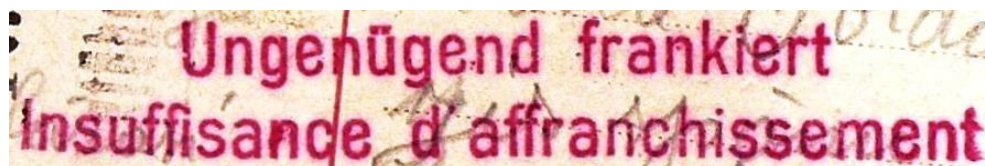
Fig. B11.37
M.V.i.R franked cover, mailed by from Oltenița, but postmarked in Bucharest by the Feldpost with **DEUTSCHE FELDPPOST** on 12 January 1918, addressed to a civilian address, censored by PüSt.24 with the handstamp [©B11/01.8A](#) and censors numeral **1** on 13 January 1918 (plus the rare office handstamp **Postüberwachungsstelle**). As the addressee was unknown, a *Retour* handstamp [©B11/01.40](#) was applied in red-lila ink (source: private collection, 2011)



[©B11/01.42](#): service handstamp stating the reason for the return, that of insufficient franking, with a two-lines text: **ZURÜCK / Ungenügend frankiert**, applied in red and blue ink between 22 June²¹³ – 19 July 1917 ... 4 October 1918.



[©B11/01.41](#): service handstamp stating the reason for the return, that of insufficient franking, with a two-lines text: **Ungenügend frankiert / Insuffisance d'affranchissement**, applied in red ink between 4 September – 17 November 1917.



[©B11/01.43](#): service handstamp stating the reason for the return, that of suspension of postal traffic due to the war, with a three-lines text: **ZURÜCK / DA POSTVERBINDUNG D(URCH) KRIEGSEREIGNISSE / UNTERBROCHEN**, applied in black ink on 22 – 27 December 1917.

²¹³ This date was taken from a BĂILEȘTI postmark, which was an office open only in 1918, so it has to be an error, with the real date **22 June 1918** (Harlos Auktion, November 2014).

ZURÜCK
DAPOSTVERBINDUNG D. KRIEGSEREIGNISSE
UNTERBROCHEN

Reconstruction Mutter

ZURÜCK
DAPOSTVERBINDUNG D. KRIEGSEREIGNISSE
UNTERBROCHEN

22 December 1917

ⓄB11/01.50: handstamp for unadmitted correspondence (in foreign relations with neutral and enemy countries), with the text on two lines: **Nicht zugelassen / Pas admis**, applied in red ink next to the return stamp, on **20 September 1917 – 12 February 1918** (image taken from Mutter, not seen by the author).

Nicht zugelassen
Pas admis

In addition, there are two handstamps *unrelated* to censorship restrictions (postal service handstamps):

- Bilinear handstamp with the text: **Z U R Ü C K / Ungenügende Adresse** (= RETURN / Insufficient Address);
- Bilinear handstamp with the text: **Z U R Ü C K / Ungenügend frankiert** (= RETURN / Insufficient Stamped).

ⓄB11/01.80: probably forwarding linear handstamp with the text **Postüberwachungsstelle**, size 51 x 5 mm, applied on green ink between **13 August 1917 – 13 January 1918**. Seen so far only on two items, both mailed from Oltenița (see Figs. B11.37 and B11.38), and both related to the German Feldpost. The first thought is the use of the handstamp in Oltenița, even the existence of a local censorship office. But I personally believe that this handstamp was used *to direct* the mail (arrived with the Feldpost at the Military Post Office in Bucharest) to the civilian Landespost, with subsequent censorship at PüSt 24 Bucharest.

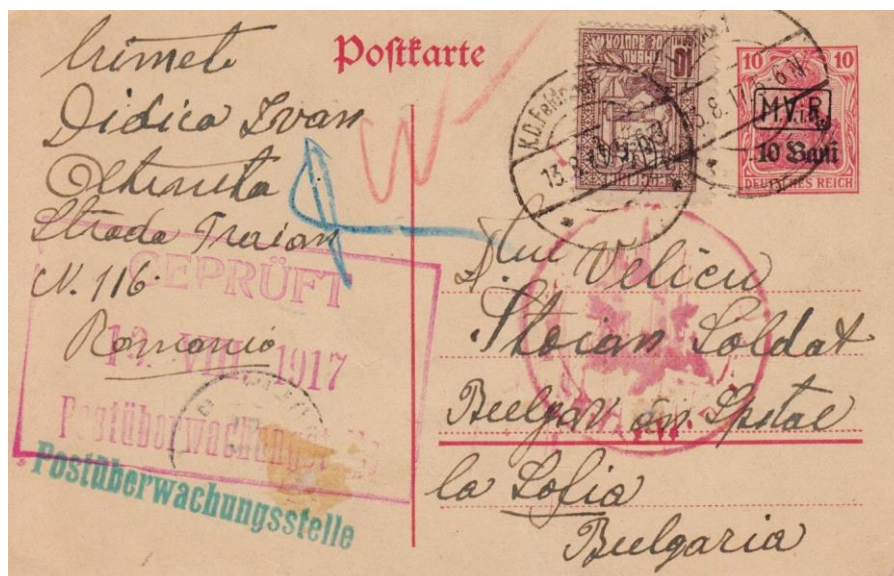


Fig. B11.38.
M.V.i.R postcard mailed from Oltenița, to a Romanian-Bulgarian military ethnic. Transported by *Feldpost*, postmarked **K.D.** **Feldpostamt** on **13 August 1917** (in Bucharest), cancelled with ⓄB11/01.80 and forwarded to the Landespost, therefore censored with ⓄB11/01.11(Z8) on 13 August 1917. Arrived in Sophia, Bulgaria, where re-censored (source: collection Mircea Mureșan).

Postüberwachungsstelle

ⓄB11/01.90: no specific closing labels are known to have been used by the Bukarest censor office no. 24. We can probably consider the official Romanian service label used for repairing the deteriorated covers as a provisional label. It features a double circle of 46/28 mm, with the printed inner text in black on cream paper: **ROMANIA * SERVICIUL POSTAL** (Postal Service), seen so far only on **5 August 1918**.

Fig. B11.39.

Private cover franked 10+15 Pfennig, postmarked BUKAREST on 5 August 1918 and addressed to Germany. Censored by the local office with the handstamp ⓄB11/01.17Bb(ZV). As it was closed with stamps glued on backside falp, it had to be open (cut) and then re-sealed with a provisional old Romanian service label.



B11/02. – CRAIOVA

(Dolj county, February – 1 June 1918)

The desire to rationalize the costs of censoring the large volume of mail coming from Oltenia, by eliminating the additional transport to PÜ 24 in Bucharest, led to the initiative of establishing a censorship section (*Postüberwachungsstelle 24b*, or **PÜ 24b**) in the city of Craiova, probably in late January 1918. This section operated until the abolition of internal censorship on 1 June 1918 (foreign correspondence sent from Craiova after 1 June will be censored in Bucharest). In the short interval between the establishment of the Craiova post office (13 January 1918) and the establishment of the Craiova censorship office, all correspondence from Oltenia was further censored in Bucharest, apparently only with type ⓄB11/01.8? (#Z 7) handstamp and censor 8 (see Fig. B11.40), at least between **15 – 21 January 1918**.



Fig. B11.40. Mail from Craiova, censored in Bucharest, before the opening of the local censor office

Envelope postmarked CRAIOVA on 13 January 1918; although addressed in Turnu Severin, the envelope must have been sent by the postal service to Bucharest (see BUKAREST transit handstamp on 15 January), where it was censored on the same day by the local office with handstamp ⓄB11/01.8(Z7), and censor's numeral 8.

ⓄB11/02.4 (= ex-Z 3): handstamp originally used in Bucharest, were provisionally used in Craiova at least between **24 January - 3 April 1918**, in green or blue ink.



Fig. B11.41-11.42. Two covers postmarked CRAIOVA on 2, respectively 22 March 1918, addressed to Bucharest, but censored by the local office in Craiova, with the handstamp [©B11/2.4\(Z3\)](#), on 3, respectively 23 March 1918.

[©B11/02.18](#) (= Z 22): oval handstamp measuring 54 x 32,5 mm, with a three-lines inner text reading: **GEPRÜFT** / Mobile date / **POSTÜBERWACHUNGSTELLE**, mostly with sans-serif letters (with two exceptions: the day and the year, with the month abbreviated to three letters). Applied in violet, green or black ink in Craiova between **3 April – 31 May 1918**, later reused at the **Bucharest** office. Previous dates (11 February, 11 March, etc.) are, until proven otherwise, retro-dates on philatelic souvenirs, CTOs.



From CTO covers, retro-dated



From genuine covers

Fig. B11.43
Rumänien franked cover, postmarked CRAIOVA on 16 April 1918, addressed to Bucharest and censored locally by PüSt.24a with the handstamp [©B12/02.19\(Z22\)](#) during the same day.



©B11/02.90: Craiova was the only german censor office which used a closing label, made from white paper printed in black, dimensions ca. 50 x 50 mm (diameter of 44 mm), rarely used between February – 9 May 1918, with the inner text:

**MILITÄR-
POSTÜBERWACHUNGSSTELLE /
CRAIOVA.**



16 April 1918



9 May 1918 (CTO)

B11/03. – 9. Armee Censor Bureau (Râmnicu Sărat)

A military office of postal censorship attached to AOK 9 (*Armee Oberkommando 9 = Army High Command 9*) functioned in Râmnicu Sărat after the *Armistice of Focșani*, of **9 December 1917**, at least between December 1917 and April 1918, in the stage area of 9th Army, where the railway connection with the Romanian military bodies was made at Mărășești. It checked only the correspondence sent from Moldavia to occupied Romania, or to the countries of the Central Powers, which was centralized by an yet unidentified service in Iași, then sent (probably by official military courier) to the border point of Mărășești, and handed over to the Germans of the 9th Army at Râmnicu Sărat. Here it was censored by the *Nachrichtenoffizier des Armeekommandos der 9. Armee*, therefore by the Intelligence officer of the 9th Army Command (who used the handstamp described below for censoring), after which the mail was handed to the recipients²¹⁴. The period of existence of this service is not easy to identify, due to the lack of departure or arrival postmarks and manuscript date notations. From what we know so far, the maximum period of functioning resulting from the dates of the senders would be approximately **23 December 1917 – 3 April 1918**, respectively **15 April 1918** (see Fig. B11.43 - the handstamp of German censorship in Bucharest appears only exceptionally on a few correspondences, otherwise characterized only by the singular existence of the AOK 9 handstamp; see Fig. B11.45 for another example of a more special postcard). It is obvious that, after the signing of the Peace Treaty in Bucharest and the opening of postal traffic between the two areas of Romania, this border censorship office lost its significance, being closed no later than **May 1918**.

©B11/03.1: rectangular handstamp measuring 29 x 16 mm, with the two-lines inner text: **GEPRÜFT / N.O.** – **AOK 9.**, applied in violet, red or black ink at least between **23 December 1917 – 15 April 1918**. The abbreviation means: NachrichtenOffizier ArmeeOberKommandos 9. There appear to be at least two manufactured specimens with slight differences at the foot of the letter R.

- ❖ [.../03.1A](#): „long R”
- ❖ [.../03.1B](#): „short R”



3.1.A: long „R”



3.1.B: short „R”



²¹⁴ However, one unique example of mail sent from occupied Romania (9th Armee Area) to Moldavia was sold at Harlos Auktion in 21 November 2015 (Lot #2263)



Fig. B11.44. Double German censorship in Râmnicu Sărat and Bucharest

Romanian military postcard, sent from free Moldavia to Popești, Râmnicu Sărat county. It crossed the Armistice border and was censored by the office of the 9th Army with [B11/03.1](#), after which it was not handed over to the recipient (located in the area) but sent to Bucharest where it was recensored with [B11/01.9B\(Z10\)](#) and chief-censor insignia L (source: web 2013).

This facility will occasionally benefit the prisoners' of war correspondence sent from Moldavia to POW camps in Germany, which at that time could no longer find its way using the usual Red Cross route; see Figs. B11.45 and B11.54, and section #C04.02.4 from [Volume C/I](#) for details.

Fig. B11.45

Postcard written on 15 December 1917 by the family from Cuci, Moldavia to Captain Alexandru Filitti, prisoner in Stralsund camp (Dänholm), censored in Iași with [B04/02.10A\(S\)](#), then taken over by the Romanian Red Cross Iași, which applies the stamps of the *National Red Cross Society of Romania* and *Prisonniers de Guerre*. At that time, the transit through Russia to Sweden was no longer safe, so it was decided to take advantage of the opportunity created by the opening of postal traffic by the 9th Army.



The correspondence passed across the border and was censored in Râmnicu Sărat with the handstamp [B11/03.1](#) **GEPRÜFT / N. O. – AOK 9.**, which is subsequently erased, probably upon arrival at the camp, which is attested by the triangular stamp of censorship **Offz. Gef. Lager Stralsund / Dänholm * Gepr.** and manuscript notation 24/III (1918).

B11/04. – Oil Field Censorship Bureau (today in Prahova county)

A special postal censorship was implemented in the oil industry, a sector of great economic interest to Germany. Here a *commercial postal network* was developed (operating in parallel with the official *Landespost* one) between the headquarters in **Bucharest** and the institutions of the main oil centers in Prahova County, **Ploiești** and **Câmpina**. Postal offices were thus located

- ❖ at the **Bucharest** Mineral Oil Department (Poststelle Mineralöl-Abteilung Bukarest),
 - ❖ at the Mineral Oils Section, **Ploiești** branch (Poststelle Mineralöl-Abteilung, Zweigstelle Ploiesti),
 - ❖ at the KODÖL **Câmpina** Agency (KODÖL-Geschäftsstelle in Campina),
- and the transport between these offices was under the responsibility of the German fieldpost *Feldpost*! Thus, the civilian censorship of PüSt 24 Bukarest was avoided. Each of these three post offices exercised its own censorship of commercial correspondence that circulated through the network. The economic secrets of this

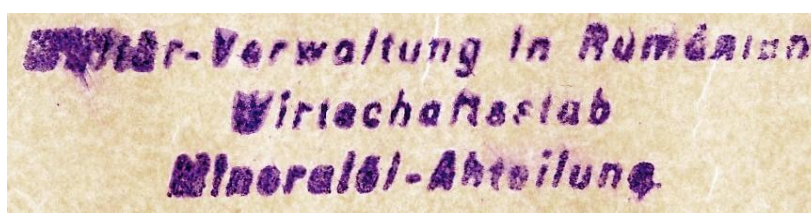
industrial sector, vital to the German war machine, could therefore not reach the hands of the ordinary postal service, which determined the establishment of this special network, directly subordinated to the military.

Already on 3 April 1917 it was stipulated that "letters addressed to the Command of the Romanian Oil Lands - CODOL, since they cannot be delivered directly, shall be delivered in Bucharest, to the oil section of the economic service of the Military Administration (located at National Bank); in the other parts to the stage commands of the respective county, to be forwarded to this section".

B11/04.1. – BUCHAREST Mineral Oil Department

The Departments postal bureau used many handstamps for its own commercial correspondence (ÖL codification after Mutter):

- **ÖL 1:** A postmark of military origin (used in principle for cancelling the stamps), round with the inner text: *Militärverwaltung in Rumänien / Brief-Stempel*, 31 mm in diameter, applied in violet or red ink;
- **ÖL 3:** Address handstamp, to be applied on backside, with three-lines text: *Militär-Verwaltung in Rumänien / Wirtschaftsstab / Mineralöl-Abteilung* (= *Military Administration in Romania / Economic Staff / Petroleum Department*), measuring 71 x 15 mm.



You can see in *Fig. B11.46* an inland mail, and in *Fig. B11.47* a foreign complex piece of mail, sent by courier, showing nearly all handstamps used by the Bucharest bureau.

©B11/04.1 (ÖL 2): linear censor handstamp with the text: *Inhalt geprüft und zur Beförderung zugelassen* (= *Contents checked and approved for forwarding*), measuring 71 x 4 mm, applied in violet and red-lila ink around **10 August 1917**



©B11/04.2: bi-linear handstamps of the censors, first line with the abbreviation: *Z. B. a. B* (*Zivil-Beamten auf Bewährung*, = *Civil servants on probation*), and the second line with the officials titles:

- ❖ **.../04.2A (ÖL 4):** *Beamtenstellvertreter* (= *Deputy civil servant*), measuring 38 x 20 mm.



.2A (ÖL 4)



.2B (ÖL 5)

- ❖ **...04.2B (ÖL 5):** *Feldint. Ass. st.* (= probably *Field Intendent Assistant*), dimensions 28 x 25 mm.

There is enough space between the lines for the signature of the clerk who performed censorship (one can see that the same person signed in both variants). The unique ink colour (blue, red, violet or black) is proof that censorship and postal processing were carried out by the same person at the same time.



Fig. B11.46: large official inland commercial cover sent from the Bucharest Mineral Oil headquarters to Moreni Branch, franked with one *Rumänien* + one M.V.i.R stamps (totalizing 45 bani) cancelled with the round postmark **ÖL 1**, and on the reverse with the three-lines address stamp **ÖL 3**, above the censor handstamp **ÖB11/04.1**, and below **ÖB11/04.2A** (**Z. B. a. B.** and **Beamtenstellvertreter**'s signature). All handstamps were applied in the same violet ink.



Fig. B11.47: official military commercial correspondence (see **Heereassache** handstamp) sent by *Ruma-Kurier* (**Durch Kurier**) from Bucharest Mineral Oil headquarters to Berlin, **Privat-Bureau**. On the reverse it has the round postmark **ÖL 1**, the three-lines address stamp **ÖL 3**, above the censor handstamp **ÖB11/04.1** only partially visible, and below the handstamp **ÖB11/04.2B** (**Z. B. a. B.** and **Feldint. Ass. St.**'s signature), all applied with the same red ink. On the front, the registration numbers of the three documents contained, and the arrival stamp **BERLIN** on **11 August 1917**.

B11/04.2. – PLOIEȘTI Mineral Oil Branch

The Branch in Ploiești used only two handstamps for its own commercial correspondence:

- **ÖL 6:** A postmark of military origin (used in principle for cancelling the stamps), round of 36/35 mm in diameter, with the inner text: *Militärverwaltung in Rumänien / Wirtschaftsstab / Mineralöl-Abteilung Zweigstelle Ploiești / Brief-Stempel* (= Military Administration in Romania / Economic Staff / Petroleum Department Ploiești Branch / Letter Handstamp).

ÖB11/04.3 (**ÖL 7**): linear handstamp with the text: **Inhalt geprüft und zur Beförderung-zugelassen**, measuring 71 x 4 mm, applied in red-lila ink, very similar to that used in Bucharest (but with a line between the last two words), see *Fig. B11.48*.



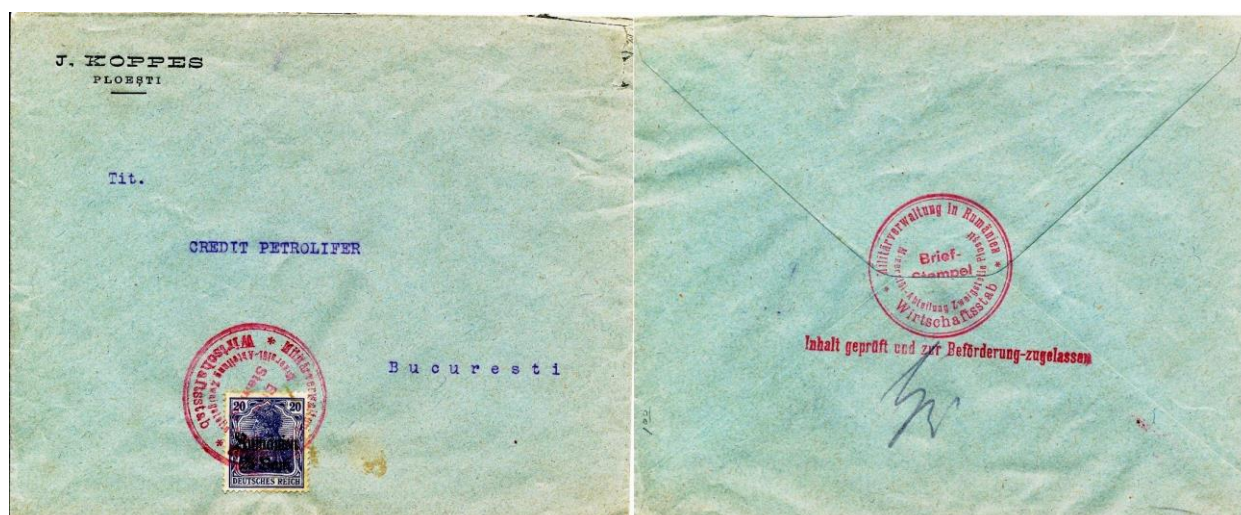


Fig. B11.48: private commercial cover sent by one Koppes of Ploiești through the Mineral Oil Branch in the city, franked M.V.i.R. 25 bani and cancelled with the provisional postmark (originally a military handstamp) **ÖL 6**, censored with same occasion with handstamp **ÖB11/04.3**, addressed to Bucharest.

B11/04.3. – CÂMPINA KODÖL-Agency

The Agency in Câmpina used few handstamps for its own commercial correspondence:

- **ÖL 8:** A postmark of military origin (used in principle for cancelling the stamps), round, 30 mm in diameter, with the text: *Militärverwaltung in Rumänien / Kommando der Ölfelder / Brief-Stempel*;
- A provisional postmark made of cork shaft (*Korkstempel*) with the role of canceling the postage stamps.
- An yet unpublished (?) two-lined routing / forwarding handstamp, applied in red with the text: *An das Kommando der Rumänischen Erdölfelder / zur gefälligen Weiterbeförderung...* (= *To the Command of the Romanian Oil Fields / for forwarding*), measuring cca. 85 x 9 mm.



Fig. B11.49: commercial cover sent from the Câmpina agency, franked with 3 M.V.i.R & Rumänien stamps totalling 55 bani, cancelled with a cross-like cork handstamp, locally censored with handstamp **ÖB11/04.4**, addressed to Bucharest via Kodol Agency Băicoi (see on backside a provisional postmark of the postal bureau in Băicoi, round with the inner text **Kodoel-Zweigstelle * BAICOI** and the date of 10 May 1918 filled by hand).

©B11/04.4 (ÖL 9) bi-linear handstamp with the text: **Zur Beförderung zugelassen / Kommando der rumänischen Erdölfelder**, measuring 69 x 9 mm, applied in violet and green ink, at least between 10 August 1917 – 15 May 1918.

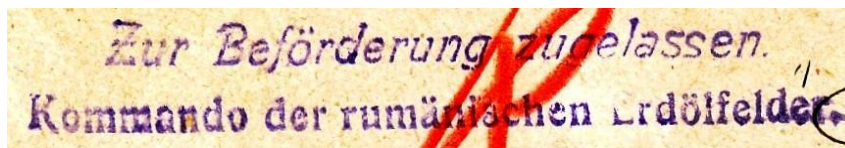


Fig. B11.50. A typical KODÖL mail

Commercial cover sent from *Bucharest Department (HQs)* to a branch in *Moreni*. Franked with three *Rumänien* stamps totalling 45 bani, cancelled with the provisional postmark **ÖL 2**, applied twice. No censorship.

B11/05. – Bank Censor Bureau (Banca Națională)

Bank control in occupied Romania was regulated some time before the official opening of the *Landespost*, so even before bank correspondence was possible. By Ordinance No. 111 / **30 April 1917** a control over banks and similar institutions was instituted, being executed by a newly established body within the M.V.i.R. (Military Administration of Romania): .

For the entire occupied territory of Romania, except for the part of Dobruja that belonged to the Kingdom of Bulgaria until the peace in Bucharest, it is ordered that:

- 1.- All persons and enterprises that are engaged in the trade of money, or shares, with the keeping or fructification of foreign money or shares, which deal with the exchange of money or any other bank business, as well as branches of establishments of this nature, will be placed under the control of a supervisory service (called "**Bankaufsicht**") in compliance with their property and private rights. The bank's supervision will also extend to banks that are subject to seizure administrations.
- 2.- The supervision of banks will be exercised by a control service (office) for banks, attached to the Military Administration in Romania. The banks' control service will also have supervision over those banks covered by this ordinance through the officers who are attached or subordinated to them, or through other personalities (bank controllers) and helpers of commissioners who are in charge of replacing the bank commissioners in the locality.
- 3.- The banks' control service **will control the banks' correspondence**; will supervise the observance of the decisions of this Ordinance, as well as the exact execution of the prescriptions for the control of the banks [...]

B11/05.1. – BUCHAREST Bank Censor Bureau

The control of bank correspondence in Bucharest was carried out at the headquarters of the Central Post Office in Bucharest, and concerned exclusively a specialized, banking control of the content. For this reason, in most cases, correspondence was re-censored at PüSt. 24 Bukarest level. On 23 September 1918, this banking supervision service from the Post Office Palace (**Bankaufsicht**) was dissolved through its merger

with the **Postal Control Office** (established by Ordinance 124 of 19 September 1918 and headed by a director appointed by the Ministry of Finance). It operated from 1 October 1918 at Marconi Street no. 3, in the former „Universal Store”, but the old handstamps continued to be used.

OB11/05.70: rectangular handstamp of 45 x 21 mm, with three-lines inner text: **Freigegeben / Bankaufsicht / J.A.** (followed by the censor's signature), applied in red, purple and blue ink between **7 June 1917 – 24 October 1918**.



Fig. B11.51. Bank envelope from "Maurice Stern & Reismann Bucarest" addressed to a company in Mülhausen, Germany. Postmarked BUKAREST on **14 June 1917**, bank censorship with purple handstamp **OB11/05.70**, with re-censoring at PÜSt.24 București (green handstamp **OB11/01.13(Z13)**). Addressed in Alsace ("unsafe" area occupied by the Germans in 1914, with a substantial French-speaking population), the correspondence was censored for the third time in Mülhausen (with the censor handstamp on the closing label and an explanatory stamp on the reverse, with the text **Militärischerseit unter / Kriegerecht geöffnet / Mülhausen (Elsass) / Der Überwachungsstelle**).

The branches of the National Bank were established as follows: 1 May 1917 (Turnu Severin, Craiova, Târgu-Jiu – la Craiova, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Caracal, Slatina, Turnu-Măgurele, Pitești, Târgoviște, Ploești, Girugiu, Călărași), end of May 1917 (Buzău agency and Brăila branch), 15 July 1917 (Târgu Jiu), end of month September 1917 (Câmpulung agency) and 2/15 October 1917 (Focșani).

B11/05.2. – BRĂILA Bank Censor Bureau



OB11/05.71: bi-linear handstamp with the text: **FREIGEgeben / BANKAUFSICHT BRAILA**, applied in violet ink between **16 October 1917 – 18 March 1918**, sometimes accompanied by the *Bank military cancellation* (**BANKAUFSICHT * BRAILA / BRIEF-STEMPEL**)

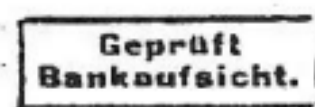


Fig. B11.52. Triple censorship of bank correspondence.

Front of a cover mailed from the General Bank in Brăila, locally verified with handstamp [©B11/05.71](#), transported by courier to Bucharest, where it was re-censored by the National Bank with [©B11/05.70](#), and censored again by the PüSt.24 with the handstamp [©B11/01.8](#).

B11/05.3. – CRAIOVA Bank Censor Bureau

[©B11/05.72](#): rectangular handstamp with two-lines inner text, **Geprüft / Bankaufsicht**. Known for now only from literature²¹⁵. To note that in May 1918, banking correspondence of Craiova was still centralized and censored in Bucharest.



B11/06. – Censorship Offices from Dobruja – D.E.V. (today in Constanța county)

Following the gradual conquest of the Dobrujan territory and the Bulgarians' tendency to assert their dominance within the common administration, an order was issued on 24 October 1916, to establish a German stage in Dobruja. Subsequently, its name will be finalized as the '*German Stage Administration in Dobruja*' (*Deutsche Etappenverwaltung in der Dobrudscha*, abbreviated **D.E.V.**), covering a territory on both sides of the Cernavodă – Constanța railway line. The administrative capital of the stages was in Constanța, under the leadership of one "*Inspector of the German Stage Administration in Dobruja*". The inspector presented himself at his post in the established headquarters at Constanța on **3 November 1916**, and the rest of the personnel (military and economic) gradually arrived until 15 December 1916.

- On 30 October 1916, the **southern limit** of D.E.V. was established, along the line *Mangalia – Hagilar – Derechio – Teche Deresi – Calai – Malka Kajnardza – Almalău*, excluding *Silistra* (so along the former border before 1913); all territory south of this line (former *Quadrilateral*) was re-annexed by Bulgaria.
- On 31 December 1916, at the end of the military campaign, the **northern definitive limit** of D.E.V. was established along the *Doloșman – Jurilovca – Pasha Cășla – Congagea – Russian Slava – Bashpunar – Tatar Topolog – Urumbei – Aigar Amet – Ostrov* alignment, all including, therefore, a total area of 7.700 sq. km.; all Dobruja territory north of this line remained as an area of operations and stages of the 3rd Bulgarian Army (with the main centers Babadag and Tulcea).

A corridor was created between these two limits (centered on the Cernavodă-Constanța railway), which stretched practically from the old border with Bulgaria to a line 20 km north of the railway; here the Germans established the **D.E.V.**, where the only postal institution that existed until the end of the war was the German campaign post (*Deutsche Feldpost*). The population and local institutions could theoretically call on it in case of need.

The **final** administrative division of the territory was made into **six regions** corresponding to as many stage headquarters, numbered between 262 ... 295 as follows:

²¹⁵ Gustav Freyse, *Illustriertes Briefmarken-Journal*, December 1918, pag. 279.

- Constanța – stage No. **262**
- Cara Omer (today Negru Vodă) – stage No. **274**
- Hârșova – stage No. **293**
- Medgidia – stage No. **294**
- Cuzgun (today Ioan Corvin) – stage No. **295**
- Cogealac – stage without number

There is a special attraction among collectors for the subject of D.E.V. censorship, both because of the rarity of the pieces and the sense of mystery they have left for a long time. The censorship of civil correspondence, as much as it was, was done by applying a handstamp with the abbreviation **D.E.V.**, manufactured in two variants (Type 1 – linear and Type 2 – triangular). This stamp had the role of attesting *verification* (censorship), being applied on correspondences *arriving* from Germany, Moldavia or the occupied area of Romania and *addressed* to civilians or prisoners in Dobruja, or vice versa.

Many discussions were provoked by the handstamps affixed on postage stamps, although in this case they were probably only meant to cancel the franchise that had escaped postmarking. Generally, the handstamp is applied outside the postage stamp, on the free space of the cardboard, similar to any censorship handstamp; next to it, a number (262, 293, 295, etc.) was written by pencil. Erroneously, all researchers of the problem considered that the linear stamp (Type 1) was applied only to Constanța, the numbers added underneath with pencil being the records of the censors. If anyone had the curiosity to know the division of D.E.V., they would have easily noticed that the pencil notations represent the *numbers of stage commands*, resulting from this that we have not only two censorship centers (Constanța and Cernavodă), but *six censorship centers*, which used the following stamps:

ⓄB11/06.1: Type 1, linear handstamp reading: **D.E.V.**, size 19 x 5 mm, applied in violet ink between **February – July 1918**, followed by a handwritten number, meaning:

- ❖ **.262:** Constanța censor bureau (...1 – 15 May 1918...)
- ❖ **.274:** Cara Omer (Negru Vodă) censor bureau
- ❖ **.293:** Hârșova censor bureau (...16 May 1918...)
- ❖ **.294:** Medgidia censor bureau
- ❖ **.295:** Cuzgun (Ioan Corvin) censor bureau (...16 April 1918...)



Fig. B11.53: postcard from Moldavia to occupied Dobruja, censored by **D.E.V. 293 Hârșova** bureau

Postcard sent by a soldier from the 9th Division (Vaslui) to his family in Capugi village, Muslubei commune (today Crișan and Horea, east of Hârșova), occupied Dobruja. The correspondence, passed to occupied Romania, where a Postage Due of 20 bani was charged, and censored by the German office in Bucharest on **15 May 1918** with **ⓄB11/01.3**, then re-censored by the censorship office **D.E.V. 293 of Hârșova, ⓄB11/06.1(293)**.

ⓄB11/06.2: Type 2, triangular framed handstamp, with the inner abbreviation **D.E.V.**, size 12 x 15 mm, applied in violet ink between **31 July – October 1918** by the censorship bureau in **Cernavodă**, see Fig. B11.56.





Fig. B11.54: Standard correspondence received from Moldavia to Dobruja, with D.E.V. censorship (Type 1)

Military free postcard dispatched from an unknown Moldavian location probably in early 1918, censored while passing the frontier by A.O.K.9 with the handstamp [OB11/03.1B](#), arrived in Hârșova (Dobruja) where Postage Due was collected and censored by local D.E.V. filiale 293 with the postmark [OB11/06.1](#) and 293 number in pencil (source: web 2022)

Fig. B11.55: A curious usage of the D.E.V. censorship (Type 1)

Moldavian „lași” postcard dispatched from an unknown location probably in late 1918, addressed to Brăila (in the occupied Romania) and censored by a D.E.V. filiale with [OB11/06.1](#), without number added, only signature. One explanation could be that it was shipped from Bessarabia, with transit through Dobrogea, but the item remains an enigma for now.



Fig. B11.56: Postcard received by an Italian prisoner at Cernavodă Naval Command, with D.E.V. censorship (Type 2)

Italian Red Cross postcard, written on 18 August 1918 in Traversara, cancelled BAGNACAVALLLO on the same day, addressed to Morelli Arturo, K.u.k. Schiffstationskommando Cernavoda, Romania. With the stamps of the Italian Red Cross and Military Censorship, transit Vienna (double triangular stamp), arrival in Cernavodă with the rare triangular censor handstamp [OB11/06.2](#).



B12. BULGARIAN CENSORSHIP IN OCCUPIED ROMANIA 1916-1918

Censorship of mail was legalised in **July 1914**, when the "Censorship Law in the State" was adopted by the Bulgarian National Assembly. On 10 September 1915, a general mobilisation was announced, and on **1 October 1915**, Bulgaria entered the European conflict alongside the Central Powers by declaring war on Serbia, followed by a declaration of war against Greece on 17 June 1916. With the proclamation of the mobilisation, censorship was introduced in Bulgaria, and all civilian mail — regardless of its destination (within the country, to the battlefield, or abroad) — had to be examined. According to Order no. 625 of **30 November 1915**, 86 censorship bureaus (commissions) were established in the country²¹⁶, directly subordinated to the Territorial Military Divisions. All mail arriving from abroad had to be censored by a special bureau in the Central Post Office of Sofia.

On 19 August / **1 September 1916**, Bulgaria declared war on Romania and attacked southern Dobruja (the "Quadrilateral") alongside German and later Ottoman troops. The Dobruja campaign ended on 4-8 January 1917, when the last Russian-Romanian troops retreated across the Danube. The only territory left unoccupied was the Danube Delta, up to the Sfântu Gheorghe branch. Details about the campaign, and the Bulgarian occupation, will be provided in *Volume A/1*.

Between 1 September 1916 and November 1918, Bulgaria maintained occupation troops in Romania — especially in Dobruja, except for the territory of the German D.E.V. A number of civil post offices were established by the Bulgarian Post in Dobruja and Wallachia. Thus, the Bulgarian Postal Service in the occupied territories of Southern Dobruja was established on **10 October 1916**, with the opening of the post offices in **Balcic** (Балчикъ / Baltchik²¹⁷), **Silistra** (Силистра / Silistra), **Turtucaia** (Тутраканъ / Toutrakan), followed on **1 November 1916** by the post offices **Bazargic** / **Dobrich** (Добричъ / Dobritch) and **Constanța** (Кюстенджа / Koustendja). Then, the post offices in northern Dobruja were established progressively: **Negru Vodă** (Караомеръ / Kara-Omer), **Cernavodă** (Чернавода / Tchernawoda), **Mangalia** (Мангалия / Mangalia), **Medgidia** (Меджидие / Medjidie), **Hârșova** (Хърсово / Hirsovo), **Babadag** (Бабадагъ / Babadag), **Tulcea** (Тулча / Toulcea), **Isaccea** (Исакча / Isaccea), **Măcin** (Мачинъ / Matchin). Then, the following offices have been opened at an unknown date: **Acadânlar** (Аккаданларъ / Akkadanlar, today Dulovo), **Cavarna** (Кабарна / Kavarna) and **Curtbunar** (Куртбунар / Kurtbunar, today Tervel) in Southern Dobruja.

Bulgarian post offices were also active in the Romanian capital **București** (Букурешъ / Bucarest), but also in the *Landespost* territory (administered by the Germans in Wallachia), along the Danube, in the places initially occupied by Bulgarians: **Giurgiu** (Гюргю / Giurgiu), **Oltenița** (Олтеница / Oltenitza), **Călărași** (Каларашъ / Kalarasche), **Fetești** (Фитешти / Fitehti), or in the towns where the Bulgarians had a contribution to the occupation, such as **Brăila** (Браила / Braila). The importance of the post offices from Dobruja and Wallachia was probably limited to Bulgarian civilians or Bulgarian and German servicemen from local garrisons, or passing by the area.

Following the signing of the Peace of Bucharest in **May 1918**, *southern Dobruja* (the "Quadrilateral") was *annexed* by Bulgaria up to the German D.E.V. zone (south of the Cernavoda – Constanța railway line), while *northern Dobruja* was to be *jointly administered* by the Four Central Powers — except for the Danube Delta, which remained under Romanian control and was never occupied. On **25 September 1918**, the entire region of Dobruja was ceded to Bulgaria, but it was too late: four days later, Bulgaria signed the Thessaloniki Truce and exited the war. On 19 October 1918, the censorship section of the Armys HQs sent telegram no. 4349 to the censorship commissions, asking: "Of all this, all censorship of letter and telegraph correspondence is terminated and all censorship committees in the Kingdom are closed down. Censor soldiers to demobilise in the parts they belong to. Censorship officers are released from the above date".

²¹⁶ The maximum number will be of 134 commissions, from which 91 in Bulgaria (including 5 in Southern Dobruja), 32 in former Yugoslavia, 7 in Greece, 2 in Turkey and 2 (Constanța and Medgidia) in Romania.

²¹⁷ The names in brackets are those as they appear on the bilingual Bulgarian-French postage stamps specially made for the use of occupation Bulgarian post offices.

Assignment of Bulgarian post offices to censorship authorities

Censorship of Bulgarian correspondence from Wallachia

There was no local Bulgarian censorship in Wallachia (as the area was serviced by the German postal system), so mail sent from the few functioning post offices there was censored either *in transit or upon arrival* — *in Russe or Sofia* (for mail from Bucureşti, Brăila, etc.), or *Turtucaia* (for mail sent from Olteniţa).

B12A. - Mail from BRĂILA Post Office

The town of Brăila was occupied on **5 January 1917** by troops of the Danube's Army (Kosch Group) and the 3rd Bulgarian Army.

Censorship. The mail sent from the Brăila post office was censored in transit or at arrival by offices in Bulgaria:

- ❖ in **Sofia**, at least between **17 September 1917 – 16 January 1918 ... 8 – 18 May 1918 ... 3 September 1918**. So, probably Sofia was the normal censor station for mail coming from Brăila. One exception is a letter from 17 May 1918, censored in **Varna**.
- ❖ in **Russe**, at least between **12 April – 31 July 1918**; see *Fig. B12.01*. Apparently, this was done only for military torpedo boat mail, which was probably transported along the Danube.



Fig. B12.01: Mail from the crew of a Bulgarian Torpedoboat from Brăila harbour, censored in transit in Russe. Illustrated postcard (depicting the *St. Mary Boulevard* in Brăila), written by a member of the Letyashti Torpedoboat crew stationed in the local harbour (see the violet military handstamp ЦАРСТВО БЪЛГАРИЯ * ФЛОТЪ - МИНОНОСЕЦЪ "ЛЕТЯЩИ"), sorted the next day, 8 April 1918, with the bilingual postmark БРАИЛА * BRAILA, censored in transit in Russe (see the red round handstamp ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ * РУССЕ).

B12B. - Mail from BUCUREȘTI Post Office

The Romanian capital was occupied on **6 December 1916** by various German troops.

Censorship. The civilian and military mail sent from Bucharest to Bulgaria was apparently censored in three well-defined periods:

- ❖ in **Russe**, first period at least between **7 January – 13 September 1917**; see *Fig. B12.02*.
- ❖ in **Sofia**, second period **27 September 1917²¹⁸ – 24 February 1918**; see *Fig. B12.03*.
- ❖ in **Russe** again, third period between **21 March – 31 August 1918²¹⁹**; see *Fig. B12.04*.

There are many items sent from Bucharest that have not been censored, but a close inspection will lead to the conclusion that the majority are of military origin. Civilian franked items that were not censored are very rare, but they are known and must be properly evaluated — provided they are not CTO or philatelic items.

²¹⁸ There is an early exception, as early as **1 September 1917**, a franked cover postmarked bilingual BUCAREST on 30 August 1917, and addressed to Sofia, censored at arrival with the red handstamp applied on the closing label.

²¹⁹ Exceptions: mails from Bucharest, sent between 1-9 April 1918, which are censored always in Sofia.

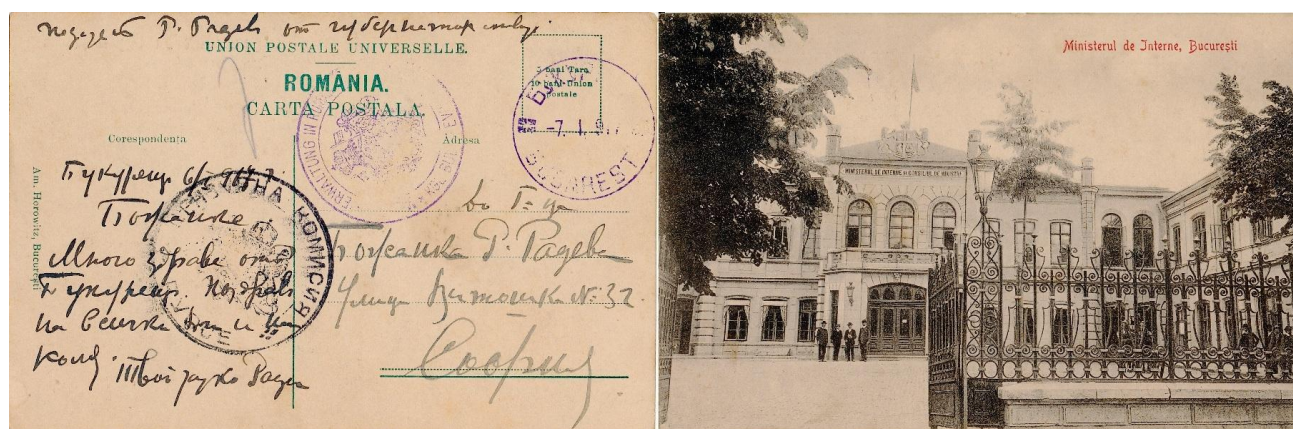


Fig. B12.02: Early mail from Bucharest censored in transit in Russe (1st Period)

Illustrated postcard (showing the *Ministry of Interior*) written in Bucharest on 6 January 1917 by the Bulgarian Plenipotentiary near the German Administration (see the violet handstamp **MILITÄR VERWALTUNG IN RUMÄNIEN * KGL. BULG. BEVOLLMÄCHTIGTER**), postmarked the next day БУКУРЕЩЪ * BUCAREST (Type I). Even if addressed to Sofia, the card was censored in transit by the censor office in Russe, with the black handstamp Type I – large (ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ * РУССЕ)



Fig. B12.03: Civilian mail from București, censored in transit in Sofia (2nd Period).

Illustrated postcard (showing a view to the *Central Post Office*) of non-military origin (therefore with a 5 stotinka regular Bulgarian stamp affixed), written in Bucharest on 3 November 1917, sorted and cancelled the very next day with the bilingual postmark БУКУРЕЩЪ * BUCAREST (Type II), and then censored in transit by the censor office in Sofia, with the red handstamp Type II – small (ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ * СОФИЯ).



Fig. B12.04. Mail from Bucharest censored in Russe (3rd Period).

Civilian illustrated postcard (showing the *Central Post Office*) written in Bucharest on 29 July 1918, postmarked the next day БУКУРЕЩЪ * BUCAREST (Type II). Addressed to Trnovo, the card arrived in transit in RUSE, then it passed the censor office in Russe, with the red handstamp Type II – small (ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ * РУССЕ) on 31 July 1918. Arrival Trnovo on 1 August 1918.

Nikolay Penev considers that, "although there was no authorized censorship commission in Bucharest, a very few pieces of mail were still censored locally", using a PTT Seal reading "**Telegraph-Postal Station – Bucharest**" (with the text surrounding the Bulgarian lion), which served as a censorship handstamp between 1–6 January 1917, at least. However, it is most likely that this handstamp merely indicated the military origin of the mail (from the staff of the Bucharest Post Office), thereby rendering further censorship unnecessary.



B12C. - Mail from CĂLĂRAȘI Post Office

It is not known whether civilian or military mail actually circulated from this post office. One civilian mail is known to have been *addressed* to the city (and censored in the expedition area, Prilep). Censorship occurred probably in **Sofia** or **Ruse**.

B12D. - Mail from FETEȘTI Post Office

It is not known whether civilian mail actually circulated from this post office. Philatelic registered items addressed to Sofia on **12 June 1918** have been censored at arrival in **Sofia**. Genuine military mail is known.

B12E. - Mail from GIURGIU Post Office

The town was occupied by the 1st Bulgarian Infantry Division on **27 November 1916**.

Censorship. Mail from Giurgiu is rare; a postcard is known to have been censored in **Russe** on **10 July 1918** (3rd Period; see Fig. B12.05), which would logically suggest a general rule, as Russe lies on the opposite side of the Danube.



Fig. B12.05. Mail from Giurgiu, censored above the Danube, in Russe

Photo-postcard written in Giurgevo on 8 July 1918, cancelled the next day with the rare bilingual pmk ГИУРГЕВО / GIURGIU, transit and censoring above the Danube, in Russe (ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ * РУССЕ).

B12F. - Mail from OLTENIȚA Post Office

It is not known whether civilian mail actually circulated from this post office. Genuine military mail is known. According to some information [B00.5, pag. 301], censorship occurred in **Turtucaia**.

Censorship of Bulgarian correspondence from Southern Dobruja

Most of the mail from southern Dobruja (the "Quadrilateral", Bulgarian territory occupied by the Romanians in August 1913) was *locally censored* by the county censoring offices; here are the known situations:

B12G. - Mail from ACADÂNLAR Post Office

The town was occupied on **2 September 1916** by the 2nd Brigade of 1st Bulgarian Infantry Division. It was the first place to be occupied during the campaign in Dobruja.

Censorship. Acadânlar had its own censor office, serving the entire area, see *Fig. B12.06*)



Fig. B12.06. Mail from Acadânlar, locally censored

Postcard written on 10 June, cancelled the next day **11 June 1918** with the rare bilingual pmk АККАДАНЛАРЪ / AKKADANLAR, addressed to Razgrad, locally censored with the handstamp [OB12/01.1](#).

B12H. - Mail from BALCIC Post Office

The town was occupied on **4 September 1916** following a maritime landing operation, the first of its kind in the Bulgarian military.

Censorship. All mail was probably censored by the local bureau of **Balcic**, during the period known so far: **12 November 1917 – 2 May 1918**.

B12I. - Mail from CARAOMER Post Office

Genuine mail sent from this post office (either civilian or military) is unknown to date.

B12J. - Mail from CURTBUNAR Post Office

Censorship. All mail from the *district* Curtbunar was probably censored by the local bureau in **Dobrich**, at least as of **19 August 1918**.

B12K. - Mail from DOBRICH Post Office

The town of Dobrich (named **Bazargic** by Romanians between 1913-1916, 1918-1940) was occupied on **4 September 1916** by the 1st Brigade of the Bulgarian 6th Infantry Division and Varna Detachment.

Censorship. All mail was probably censored by the local bureau in **Dobrich**, at least between **31 December 1916 – 1 March 1918**; see *Fig. B12.07*.



Fig. B12.07. Mail from Dobrich, locally censored

Stationery postcard written on **30 June 1917** in Dobrich, cancelled with the bilingual pmk ДОБРИЧЪ / DOBRITCH and locally censored with the handstamp **OB12/05.1**, postmarked at arrival БАБАДАГЪ * BABADAG on 3 July 1917.

B12L. - Mail from KAVARNA Post Office

Censorship. At least some of the mail was censored by the bureau of **Dobritch** on **8 November 1916**, then in **Balcic**, between **2 December 1917 – 11 June 1918**, with or without transit postmarks.

B12M. - Mail from SILISTRA Post Office

Following the Turtucaia disaster, **Silistra** was evacuated by the Romanian on 8 September 1916, the bridgehead being occupied on **10 September 1916** by the Bulgarian 1st Infantry Division, with the Bulgarian postal service starting to operate from 10 October 1916 onwards.

Censorship. All mail from the district of Silistra was probably censored by the local bureau of **Silistra**, at least between **15 September 1917 – 28 April 1918**.

B12N. - Mail from TUTRAKAN Post Office

The town was occupied on **6 September 1916** by troops of the 1st and 4th Bulgarian Infantry Divisions.

Censorship. All mail from the district of Tutrakan was censored by the local bureau of **Tutrakan**, at least between **15 July 1917 – 17 August 1918**; see Fig. B12.08.



Fig. B12.08. Mail from Tutrakan, locally censored

Civilian mail written on 4 July 1918 in Tutrakan, cancelled here the next day with the bilingual pmk ТУТРАКАНЪ / TOUTRAKAN and locally censored in **8 July 1918** with the handstamp **OB12/08.2**, addressed to Lovetch, where it arrived on 19 July 1918 (see bilingual postmark)

Censorship of Bulgarian correspondence from northern Dobruja

B12O. - Mail from BABADAG Post Office

The town was occupied on **18 December 1916** by the 1st Bulgarian Cavalry Division.

Censorship. Most of the mail sent from the Babadag post office was censored by the local *3rd Army section* in **Babadag** (see Fig. B12.09), at least between **1 March 1917 / 4 December 1917 – 20 September 1918**. Exceptions are the postcards *transited*, postmarked and censored in **Medgidia** (examples: 6 May 1918 to Sofia, 31 August 1918; see Fig. B12.10). The later items of mail, circulated from 25 – 28 November 1918, have not been censored any more.



Fig. B12.09.

The curious circuit of a postal mail in time and space: a postcard written on 13 May 1918 in Babadag and mailed two days later (see the bilingual postmark БАБАДАГЪ * BABADAG). The censorship took place at the 3rd Army Censoring Section in Babadag (handstamp [B12/01.1](#)). The addressee was always a Bulgarian military from the 5. "Dunavska" Division in Macedonia. But, as the handwritten in pencil mentions in French, this postcard was "captured" (30 May 1918) by a French military (probably of the 122. Division),

after the great battle of Skra di Legen, as the addressee surely became one of the 1.835 Bulgarian POW's taken by the Greeks and French. Thus, the postcard arrived in France as a "war trophy" together with its new owner, where it remained for 77 years, since it was bought by the author of this book in 1995 and returned to Romania.



Fig. B12.10. One of the few examples of mail sent from Babadag that transited and was censored in Medgidia. Original photocard of Bulgarian soldiers, postmarked БАБАДАГЪ * BABADAG on 31 August 1918, then, from unknown reasons, transited by Medgidia where cancelled with a partially visible МЕДЖИДИЕ * MEDJIDIE postmark and censored locally with the red handstamp [B12/06.1](#).

B12P. - Mail from CERNAVODĂ Post Office

The town was first occupied on 12 October 1916 by the Bulgarian units of the 1st and 4th Infantry Divisions. The post office opened on 15 November 1916, and functioned until the withdrawal of the Bulgarian administration.

Censorship. At least between **4 October 1917** and **15 March 1918**, all mail from Cernavodă *transited* through the post office in **Constanța** (where it received the office postmark) and was censored there (see Fig. B12.11). Towards the end of the Bulgarian administration (**6 October 1918**), it appears that there was no longer any transit via Constanța, and censoring was instead carried out at the **Medgidia** bureau.



Fig. B12.11. One example of mail sent from Cernavodă that transited and was censored in Constanța. Original photocard of Bulgarian military pharmacists, written in Cernavodă on 3 October 1917, from the *1st Reserve Evacuation Hospital* of the town (see the blue double-circle handstamp **ЗАПАСНА ЕВАКУАЦИОН БОЛНИЦА**). Postmarked on same day **ЧЕРНАВОДА * TCHERNAWODA**, then transited through Constanța where cancelled with a **КЮСТЕНДЖА * KOUSTENDJA** postmark, and was censored locally with the blue handstamp **B12/04.1**.

Earl Galitz considers [*B12.2, pag. 20*, taken over by Călin Marinescu in *B00.5, pag. 303*] that the PTT Seal reading "**Telegraph-Postal Station – Czerna-Woda**" (with the text surrounding the Bulgarian lion) could have been used as an unauthorised censorship handstamp on a registered postcard dated **14 July 1917**, mailed from Cernavodă to Sofia (and *censored in Sofia*). This may be true; however, it is most likely that this handstamp indicated only the military origin of the mail - from the Post Office staff (similar to the situation in Bucharest).

B12R. - Mail from CONSTANȚA Post Office

The main Romanian sea port of Constanța was evacuated on **21 October 1916** and was occupied the next day by a battalion of the 6. March Regiment (Bulgarian Mixed Division). The post office was opened on **15 November 1916** and functioned for the entire period of Bulgarian administration, having the most intense activity, similar to Bucharest. It was closed on 11 December 1918.

Censorship. In **10 December 1916** the mail sent from Constanța post office was censored in **Dobrich**, then *exclusively* by the local censoring bureau, at least between **23 May 1917 – 23 September 1918**.

B12S. - Mail from HÂRȘOVA Post Office

The town was occupied on **26 October 1916** by the 1st Bulgarian Cavalry Division. Civilian mail *sent* from Hârșova on 30 June 1918 was postmarked and censored in **Medgidia** on 2 July 1918.

B12T. - Mail from ISACCEA Post Office

It is not known whether civilian mail actually circulated from this post office. Genuine military mail is known, but was not censored.

B12U. - Mail from MĂCIN Post Office

The town was occupied by German-Bulgarian troops on **3 January 1918**.

Censorship. All pieces of mail sent between **26 April 1917 – 22 January 1918**, passed through **Constanța** where the majority was postmarked and all was censored by the local bureau (handstamp type #Ca); see Fig. B12.12 and B12.21.



Fig. B12.12. Mail from Brăila, posted in Măcin and censored in Constanța.

Illustrated postcard with an image of Brăila, written in that city on 25 April 1917, but postmarked only in Măcin on **26 April 1917** (see the bilingual pmk МАЧИНЪ / MATCHIN), having transited and being censored in Constanța with **ⓈB12/04.1**, with arrival in Sofia. Marked "T" Postage Due as sent not franked and without military address.

B12V. - Mail from MANGALIA Post Office

The town was occupied on **14 September 1916**.

Two postcards mailed from Mangalia to Varna (2 July 1917) and Tzaribrod / Dimitrovgrad (? 1917) were postmarked — the first — and censored — the second — in **Constanța**, so this may be a rule. The rarity of correspondences from Mangalia does not allow final conclusions for the time being.

B12X. - Mail from MEDGIDIA Post Office

The town was occupied on **23 October 1916** by units of the 4th Infantry Division.

Censorship. Before the establishment of the local censoring bureau (on **4 March 1918**, according to Earl Galitz, 1991), the censorship of nearly all mail sent from Medgidia was performed by the **Dobrich** censoring bureau (with the known period being from **2 November 1916** to **21 March 1918**), and only occasionally by **Constanța** (on **20 November 1917**) or other offices (such as Russe as terminal censorship in 20 March 1917, etc). From **March/April 1918** onwards, censorship was almost entirely carried out by the newly established local bureau, which used only handstamps of the "small" type 2, as it was opened after the withdrawal of the large handstamp type. Towards the end of Bulgarian administration, mail from **Hârșova** (2 July 1918), **Cernavoda** (6 October 1918), and **Babadag** (31 August 1918) was also censored while transiting Medgidia.



Fig. B12.13. Mail from Medgidia, censored in Dobrich, southern Dobruja

Photo-postcard with an image of Brăila, written in Medgidia on 19 April 1917, cancelled on the same day with the bilingual pmk МЕДЖИДИЕ * MEDJIDIE, with transit and censoring 100 kilometres to the south in Dobrich (with handstamp [OB12/05.1](#)), arrival Preslav.

B12Y. - Mail from TULCEA Post Office

The town was occupied on **24 December 1916** by Bulgarian troops.

Censorship. All civilian and military postal items sent from Tulcea county were censored by the **3rd Army** Section in **Babadag**; this is true at least for the period **17 April 1917 - 29 September 1918**. It seems that previously the mail from Tulcea to Bulgaria transited **Dobrich**, where it was censored; see Fig. B12.14.

Some exceptions are known: a registered letter was censored in **Sofia** on 17 June 1918, another one mailed on 18 May 1917 from Tulcea towards Stara Zagora, was censored in transit in **Varna**; the reason could be the fact that the text was written in French, a language not known by the censors of the 3rd Army [B12.3, pag. 32, Fig. 7].



Fig. B12.14: Civilian mail from Tulcea, censored in transit in Dobrich

A postcard showing the St. George Bulgarian Church from Tulcea, postmarked ТУЛЧА / TOULCEA on 23 February 1917, addressed to Sofia, with transit by Dobrich (postmarked ДОБРИЧЪ / DOBRITCH on 1 March 1917), where censored with B12/05.1



Fig. B12.15: Mail from a unit of 12th Division in Tulcea, censored by the 3rd Army Office in Babadag

A postcard showing the St. Nicholas street in Tulcea, sent by a militarymen from 69th Infantry Regiment (12th Infantry Division), but without any military postal cachet, only that of the censorship in Babadag B12/01.1

Handstamps of the Bulgarian censorship offices in Dobruja

The censoring handstamps. Two different types of handstamps were consecutively used in Bulgaria:

- **Type "Ca"** ("big"): initially, large double-ring handstamps, with the country's coat of arms in the middle, were used;
- **Type "Cb"** ("small"): from 1917, these large markings were replaced by a circular dated type, which was more standardised.

Due to the fact that the handstamps of Bulgarian censorship were usually poorly or partially printed, with some being very rare and lacking clear prints for reproduction, I decided that, in this chapter (unlike the rest of the volume), I would initially reproduce the reconstruction of the handstamp as it appears in the Bulgarian bibliography [B12.1] and then, if available, reproductions of actually circulated samples.



[B12/90](#): a closing label which was common to the entire Bulgarian censorship system, black ink on white paper, with the inner text around the Bulgarian coat of arms: **ВОЕННА ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ**. Theoretically all major censor offices were provided with this label, but we saw it so far only at the 3rd Army (Babadag) and in the Constanța offices.

B12/01. – 3rd Army Censor Office

(located in Dobrich, then Babadag)

There was a censorship office near the Bulgarian **3rd Army HQs**, which followed the HQs movement. It was located in **Dobrich** from September to December 1916 and then in **Babadag** from January 1917 until September 1918. The office censored both military and civilian correspondence sent from these two garrison localities during the respective periods.

[B12/01.1](#): double circle handstamp with the inner text around the Bulgarian coat of arms: **ЦЕНЗУРНА СЕКЦИЯ Ш. 3^{ТА} А.** (=Censorship Section of 3rd Army HQs), diameter 38/27 mm, applied in violet, blue or red ink between **20 September – 25 September 1918 ... 1 October**.



[/01.1](#): 9 December 1916



4 December 1917



5 July 1918



Fig. B12.16: Early mail from Medgidia, censored in transit by the 3rd Army Censor Office in Dobrich
A postcard showing the train in the suburbs of Constanța, but written in Medgidia on **9 December 1916**, which was censored in transit in **Dobrich** (a habit which will be observed until the beginning of March 1918), by the censoring office of 3rd Army HQs, stationed here, with the handstamp [B12/01.1](#).

Until the beginning of 1917, the 3rd Army Censor Office operated as a stationary censoring office in **Dobrich** (September – December 1916), with jurisdiction extending north to Medgidia (see *Fig. B12.16*).

After relocating to **Babadag**, this office was exclusively responsible for the military and civilian mail of the northern counties of Dobruja, as **Babadag** and **Tulcea** did not have their own censoring offices.



Fig. B12.17: Military mail postmarked and censored by the 3rd Army HQs in Babadag

Cover with the 3rd Army HQs postal-telegraph mark (Т. П. СТАНЦИЯ ПРИ III^А АРМИЯ) mailed on 10 July 1918 to Sofia, locally censored by the HQs censor office with two handstamps [©B12/01.1](#) and a closing label of general type [©B12/01.90](#)



Fig. B12.18. Mail from Babadag, censored by the local 3rd Bulgarian Army HQs

Postcard written in Babadag on 9 July 1918, postmarked the next day **БАБАДАГЪ * BABADAG**, addressed to Knjazhevo, locally censored by the 3rd Army office with the handstamp [©B12/01.1](#).

B12/02. – AKKADÂNLAR (today Дулово / Dulovo, Bulgaria)

The local censoring bureau used consecutively two different types of handstamps, #Ca and #Cb. Its competence seems to be locally limited to the Akkadânlar district.

[©B12/02.1](#): double-circle handstamp without date (Type #Ca) with the inner text surrounding the Bulgarian coat of arms: **ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ * АК-КАДЪНЛАРЪ** (= *Censorship Commission Akkadânlar*), applied in violet ink on 9 July 1917.

[©B12/02.2](#): circular handstamp with date (Type #Cb) with probable text, as the place name is not visible: **ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ * АК-КАДЪНЛАРЪ** (= *Censorship Commission Akkadânlar*), diameter 29 mm, applied in violet ink on 11 June 1918; see Fig. B12.06.



[/02.1](#): 9 July 1917



[/02.2](#): 11 June 1918

B12/03. – BALCIC
(today Балчик, Bulgaria)

The local censoring bureau used consecutively three different types of handstamps, two of #Ca and one of #Cb. Its competence seems to have been locally limited to Balcic and Kavarna post offices (both from the same district). The area was postally and administratively integrated in Bulgaria.

OB12/04.31 (CM#2A.2a): double circle handstamp (Type #Ca) with inner text around Bulgarian coat of arms: **ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ * БАЛЧИКЪ** (=Censorship Commission Balchik), diameter ca. 33/22 mm, applied in blue ink in **February 1917**. Not mentioned by the Bulgarian catalog, reported by Călin Marinescu [*B00.5, pag. 303; see its reproduction*], not seen by the author.



OB12/04.32 (CM#2A.2b): double circle handstamp (Type #Ca) with the inner text: **ВОЕННА ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ / БАЛЧИКЪ** (=Military Censorship Commission Balchik), diameter of 39/23 mm, applied in violet ink between **12 June – 2 July 1917 – 1 January 1918**.



/04.32: Reconstruction



12 November 1917



2 December 1917



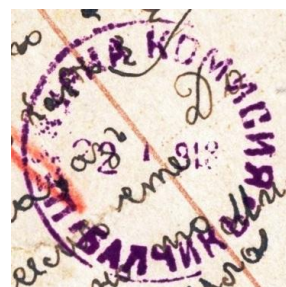
Fig. B12.19. Example of locally censored mail in Balcic

Civilian postcard written and postmarked БАЛЧИКЪ/ BALTCHIK on **22 January 1918**, addressed to Dobrich, locally censored by the Balcic office with the handstamp **OB12/04.33**.

OB12/04.33 (CM#2.B): circular handstamp with date (Type #Cb) with the inner text **ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ БАЛЧИКЪ** (=Military Censorship Commission Balchik), diameter 29 mm, applied in violet ink between **22 January – 21 August 1918**.



/04.33: Reconstruction



22 January 1918



2 May 1918

B12/04. – CONSTANȚA
(today Constanța county, Romania)

There was a local censoring bureau in **Constanța**, which consecutively used the two types of handstamps, #Ca and #Cb, as well as a resealing label of common type.

ⓄB12/04.1 (CM#4.A.4): double-circle handstamp without date (Type #Ca) with the inner text surrounding the Bulgarian coat of arms: **ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ КЮСТЕНЖА** (= *Censorship Commission Kjustenja*, without "Д"), diameter 36-37/25 mm, applied in black and violet ink during the period of **5 January – 2 November 1917**.



ⓄB12/04.2 (CM#4.B): circular handstamp with date (Type #Cb) with the inner text: **ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ КЮСТЕНДЖА** (= *Censorship Commission Kjustendja*), diameter 29 mm, applied in red and violet ink, during the period of **6 November 1917 – 23 September 1918**.



ⓄB12/04.90. A registered circulated cover bears also the standard resealing label with the text **БОЕННА ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ** (= *Military Censorship Commission*) on **15 June 1917**.



Fig. B12.20: Mail from the Bulgarian Command of Constanța, locally censored

Illustrated postcard written from the Bulgarian Command of Constanța on 21 May 1917, using a military cachet reading **ОПРАВЛЕНИЕ КОМЕНДАНДСКО КЮСТЕНДЖА**. Sorted and cancelled with the bilingual postmark **КЮСТЕНДЖА * KOUSTENDJA** on 23 May 1917, censored by the local office with **ⓄB12/04.1**, received in Shoumen.

This office censored all mail sent from **Constanța** (23 May 1917 - 23 September 1918), as well as from **Mangalia** (July 1917), **Cernavodă** (27 November 1917 – 15 March 1918) and **Măcin** (7 August 1917 – 22 January 1918, as *all mail* from Măcin was transited through Constanța). It can be said that mail sent from Constanța was censored *exclusively* by the local censoring bureau.



Fig. B12.21. Example of mail sent from Măcin and censored in Constanța

Postcard written and postmarked МАЧИНЪ / MATCHIN on **23 November 1917**, addressed to Razgrad, with compulsory transit via Constanța where it was postmarked КУСТЕНДЖА * KOUSTENDJA and censored with the handstamp [B12/04.2](#), on 26 November 1917.

B12/05. – DOBRICI

(today Добрич, Bulgaria)

The censoring office used consecutively two different types of handstamps, #Ca and #Cb. One sample of the type #Ca bears a premature usage, so the exterior circle is not visible anymore, a situation which lead to the description of a third (non existent) handstamp type. The office was of great importance for censoring terminal mail — from Dobrich county —, but also *transit mail* — from **Medgidia** between November 1916 – February 1918, from **Constanța** around 9 December 1916 and from **Tulcea** in February/March 1917. The area was postally and administratively integrated in Bulgaria.

[B12/05.1](#) (CM#3.A.3): double-circle handstamp without date (Type #Ca) with the text **ДОБРИЧСКА. ВОЕНА. ЦЕНЗУРНА. КОМИСИЯ** (= *Military Censorship Commission Dobrich*), diameter 35/24 mm, applied in violet and black ink between **9 November 1916 – 18 November 1917**. Note the error in the letters "E" (from Voena and Tzenzura) which are engraved in the stamp in the form of a "C". This, along with their primitive appearance, may suggest that they were manufactured early on at a local stamp workshop, whose craftsman likely did not know Bulgarian.



Fig. B12.22. Mail from Dobrich, locally censored

Postcard stationery cancelled with the bilingual pmk ДОБРИЧЪ/ DOBRITCH on **4 March 1917**, locally censored with the handstamp [B12/05.1](#), addressed to Lovetz, where it arrived on 9 March 1917 (see the bilingual postmark).



/05.1: Reconstruction



10 December 1916



29 January 1917



23 May 1917



26 May 1917



1 June 1917

OB12/05.2 (CM#3.B): circular handstamp with date (Type #Cb) with the text **ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ ДОБРИЧЪ** (= *Censorship Commission Dobrich*), diameter 29 mm, applied in violet ink between **30 November 1917 – 2 March 1918 – 25 May**. Two copies were probably manufactured, one of them (.../05.2A) suffering premature degradation, in which the outer frame is no longer visible (4 May 1918).



/05.2: Reconstruction



/05.2A: Reconstruction



30 November 1917



30 January 1918

B12/06. – MEDGIDIA (today Constanța county, Romania)

According to Earl Galitz [*B12.2, pag. 17*], the censor bureau in Medgidia opened on **4 March 1918**. However mail was still censored in Dobrich between 17 and 21 March 1918. After this date, the censorship of Medgidia mail was carried out almost entirely by the local bureau, which used only handstamps of the "small" #Cb type, as it was established after the withdrawal of the large handstamp type. Towards the end of the Bulgarian administration, mail from **Hârșova** (2 July 1918), **Babadag** (31 August 1918), and **Cernavodă** (6 October 1918) was also censored while transiting through Medgidia.

OB12/06.1 (CM#5.B): circle handstamp with date (Type #Cb) with the inner text: **ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ МЕДЖИДИЕ** (= *Censorship Commission Medjidie*), diameter 29 mm, applied in violet and red ink between **6 April – 18 October 1918**.



/06.1: Reconstruction



6 April 1918



30 June 1918



18 October 1918

B12/07. – SILISTRA (today Силистра, Bulgaria)

The local censoring bureau used two types of handstamps consecutively, #Ca and #Cb. Its jurisdiction may have been limited to the Silistra district. The area was postally and administratively integrated in Bulgaria.

©B12/07.1 (CM#6.A6): double-circle handstamp without date (Type #Ca) with the inner text around the Bulgarian coat of arms: **СИЛИСТРЕНСКА ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ** (= *Silistrean Censorship Commission*), diameter 38,5/28 mm, applied in blue ink between **19 November 1916 – 2 October 1917**.



/07.1: Reconstruction



19 November 1916



15 September 1917

©B12/07.2 (CM#6.B): circular handstamp with date (Type #Cb) with the inner text **ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ СИЛИСТРА** (= *Censorship Commission Silistra*), diameter 29 mm, applied in blue ink between **30 December 1917 – 28 May 1918**.



/07.2: Reconstruction



14 March 1918



28 May 1918

B12/07. – TURTUCAIA (today Тутракан, Bulgaria)

The local censoring bureau used two different types of handstamps consecutively, #Ca and #Cb. Its jurisdiction appears to have been limited to the Turtucaia district, while occasionally censoring mail from Oltenița=. The area was postally and administratively integrated in Bulgaria.

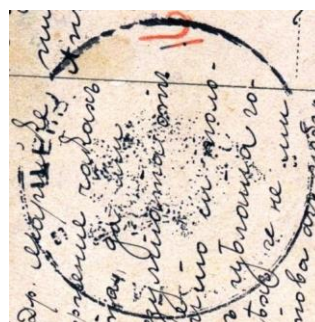
©B12/08.1 (CM#7.A7): double-circle handstamp without date (Type #Ca) with the inner text around the Bulgarian coat of arms: **ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ ТУТРАКАНЪ** (= *Censorship Commission Tutrakan*), diameter 39/28 mm, applied in black ink between **16 January – 30 July 1917 – September**.



/08.1: Reconstruction



1917



15 July 1917

0B12/08.2 (CM#7.B): circular handstamp with date (Type #Cb) with the inner text **ЦЕНЗУРНА КОМИСИЯ * ТУТРАКАНЪ** (= *Censorship Commission Tutrakan*), diameter 29 mm, applied in blue, black, violet and red ink between **1 October 1917 – 18 August 1918**.



/08.2: Reconstruction



26 February 1918



12 April 1918



Fig. B12.23. Mail from a village of Turtucaia district, locally censored

Postcard stationery written in the village of *Sarsânlar* (today *Зафирово / Zafirivo* in Bulgaria), cancelled with the rural postmark *C. ? . V УЧАОТЕХЪ? ** **ТУТРАКАНЪ** on **16 August 1918**, censored in the main city of the district with the handstamp **0B12/08.2**, addressed to *Russe*.

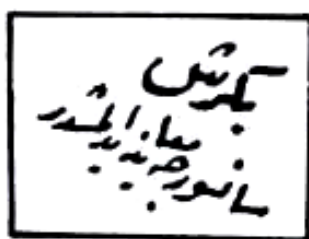
For the Austro-Hungarian censorship in Occupied Romania (one office in Bukarest), see #B02/80.

B13. OTTOMAN TURKISH CENSORSHIP IN OCCUPIED ROMANIA 1917-1918

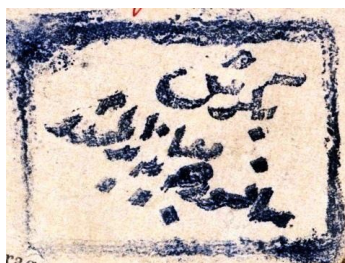
Turkey's participation in the Romanian campaign came as no surprise, as it already had troops in Galicia against Russia. The units were chosen for this campaign even before the mobilization of Romania, being the VI Army Corps (General Hilmi Pasha), with the 15th Division (Lt. Col. Hamdi Bey) and the 25th Division (Col. Şükrü Ali Bey). The first Ottoman regiment arrived on the Romanian front on **4 September 1916**, and 5 days later the troops were ready for action. On 25 November 1916, the 26th Division (Lt. Col. Hamdi Bey) joined VI Corps. The history of Ottoman military mail in Romania (Dobrogea and the Old Kingdom) will be developed in the volumes of series A. After the end of the campaign (January 1917), an Ottoman command was installed in Bucharest, and at least 3 fieldpost offices serving as rear stage offices were established in the capital: Fieldpostoffice no. 1 and 2²⁰, and no. 65. Probably at the same time, a censorship office was set up in Bucharest to check (apparently only by survey, since examples are very rare) the correspondences sent through the two or three local fieldpost offices. The majority of the military correspondence was addressed to Turkey, and was usually censored at one of the destination offices (Constantinople, etc.). However, in the case of censored correspondence in Bucharest, there is no second censorship in Turkey.

B13/01. – BÜKREŞ / BUCUREŞTI - بوخارست (capital of Romania)

©B13/01.1: rectangular handstamp with inner text in Arabic letters: **BÜKREŞ SANSÜRÜNCE MUAYENE OLUNMUŞTUR**²²¹ (= *Examined by the Censor of Bucharest*), dimensions 37 x 27-28 mm, applied in violet, black-violet and black ink, at least between **2 April – 18 July 1917** (1333). See a few examples in Figs. B13.01-B13.04



/01.1: Reconstruction



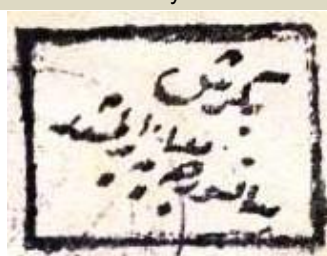
11 May 1917



Ca. 6 May 1917



Ca. 15 May 1917



2 April 1917



Ca. 7 May 1917

²²⁰ The negative postmark, with the text **SAHRA MENZIL POSTASI 2** is known from at least two pieces of mail, but no other information is available on this extremely rare postmark.

²²¹ A variant of the transliteration would be **BÜKREŞ SANSÜRCE MUAYENE OLUNMUŞDUR** or **BÜKREŞ SANSÜR MUAYENE EDİLMİSDİR**, with same meaning in English.



Fig. B13.01: Early Turkish censorship in Bucharest

Franked illustrated postcard (depicting the *Brâncovenesc Square and Hospital* in Bucharest), written in Arabic letters on 11 May 1917, censored by the local ottoman censorship office with the handstamp **OB13/01.1**, postmarked twice with the negative seal reading BÜKREŞ OSMANLI SAHRA POSTASI 1 (= *Bucharest Ottoman Field Post No. 1*), arrival on 20 May 1917 (1333 in Rumi calendar)

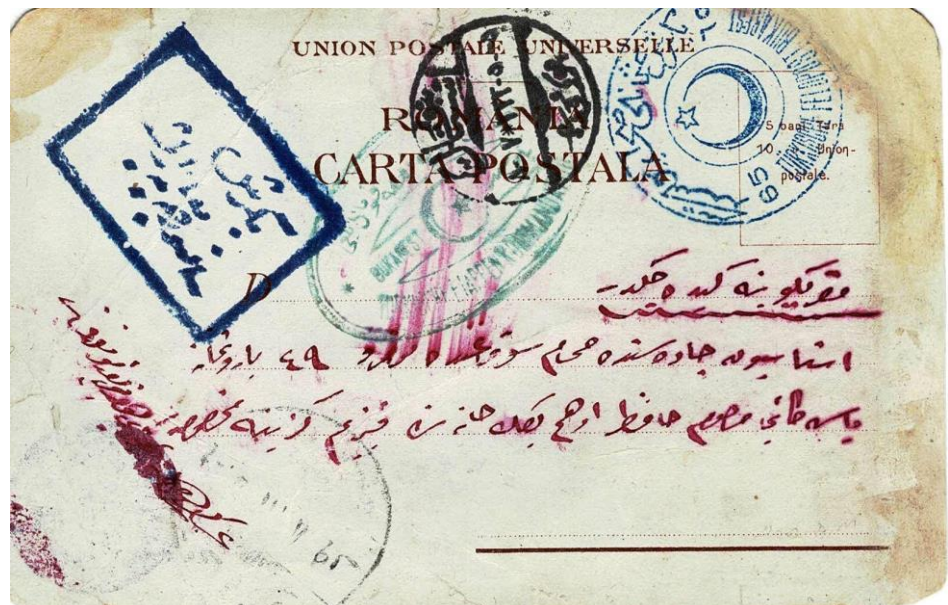


Fig. B13.02.

Turkish franked fieldpostcard, probably mailed by an Austro-Hungarian serviceman in Turkish Army, postmarked twice by Ottoman Fieldpost Office no. 1 (*Bükreş Osmanlı Sahra Postası 1*), censored in Bucharest with the handstamp **OB13/01.1**, arrival postmark BUDAPEST on 16 May 1917 (source: web, 2010)

Fig. B13.03.

Romanian postcard written by a Turkish militarymen (see the oval green handstamp **Bukarest / Türkische Etappenkommandatur**), postmarked by Fieldpost Office no. 65 (*Türkische Feldpost Bukarest*), censored also in Bucharest with the handstamp **OB13/01.1**, received in Constantinople on 5 May 1917. (source: private collection, 2019)



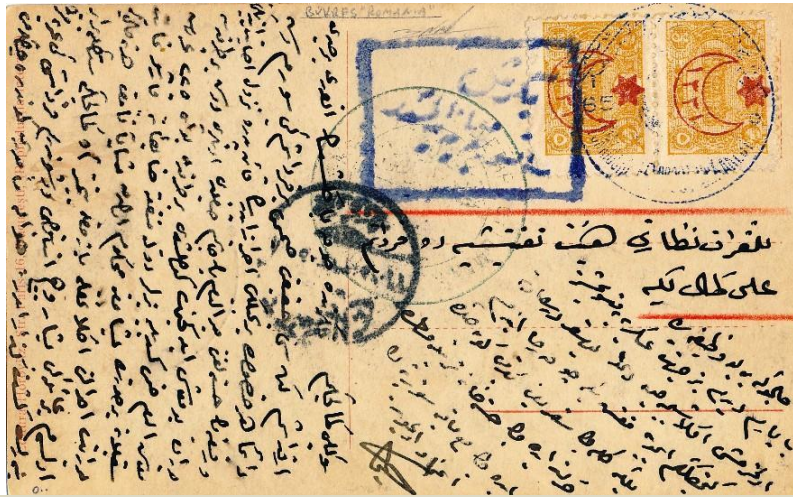


Fig. B13.04: illustrated postcard representing Princess Maria, sent by a soldier from an Ottoman stage command in Bucharest: the military unit applied a blue, bilingual Arab-French, poorly printed stamp (from which only COMANDEMENT DU POINT D'ETAPE OTTOMAN is deduced). The card was franked with a pair of 5 Paras (from 'The Six-Pointed Star' issue), obliterated with the round postmark of Fieldpost Office 65 (also in blue), applied again, somewhat tendentiously, on the obverse of the postcard. Censored by the local Turkish office in Bucharest, with the handstamp [B13/01.1](#). Arrival in Constantinople on **8 May 1917**. Nakri attest.



[B13/01.2](#): a similar handstamp, but without the external frame (which is not the effect or tear and wear, but the frame was deliberately removed, or this was a newly manufactured handstamp), with the Arabic-Turkish text: **BÜKREŞ SANSÜRÜNCE MUAYENE EDİLMİSTİR** (= *Examined by the Censor of Bucharest*), dimensions ca. 31 x 22 mm, applied in black-violet probably in **January 1918** (1334).

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[/01.2](#): Reconstruction

January 1918?



Fig. B13.05: Late Turkish censorship in Bucharest

Fieldpost illustrated postcard, written in Arabic letters and censored by the Ottoman censorship office Bucharest with the handstamp [B13/01.2](#), postmarked with the negative seal of Fieldpost Office no. 1, reading **Bükreş Osmanlı Sahra Postaşı 1** (= *Bucharest Ottoman Field Post No. 1*) and the bi-lingual handstamp of Post Office 65 (on the front, with the text: **Bükreş Osmanlı Sahra Postası 65 / Türkische Feldpost Bukarest 65**), arrival probably in 17 January 1918.

Chapter IV. ALLIED POWERS` CENSORSHIP IN NEW ROMANIA

Censorship of the Allied Powers in Banat, 1919. This is not the place to dwell on the unrest of the crucial years 1918-1919, nor on the military and diplomatic struggle in favor of Greater Romania, leading up to the Peace Conference. The most disputed area, however, was not Transylvania — where, aside from establishing the schedule of the Romanian advance and the drawing of the western border, there were no major concerns in a victorious / defeated context — but the Banat, which was claimed with equally strong strategic and ethno-historical arguments by both Romania and Serbia, each having fought on the side of the victorious Entente.

Here, the military situation was complex. Serbian troops occupied the entire Banat up to the Mureș River by virtue of the rapid and pragmatic method of the *fait accompli*, — a tactic similarly used by the Romanians in eastern Transylvania, partially withdrawing to make room for French 'buffer' troops, whose mission was to prevent direct military contact between Romanians and Serbian forces.

Needless to say, both countries — France continuously, and Serbia after a brief interruption caused by the withdrawal — brought with them the experience of their own postal censorship systems, which they implemented in the respective areas of Banat. These systems were applied not only to the fieldpost of their own troops but also to the civil correspondence circulating in the territory.

B14. SERBIAN POSTAL CENSORSHIP IN BANAT 1918-1919²²²

After the liberation of Belgrade, the Serbian Army crossed the Danube and Sava into Vojvodina (then part of Austria-Hungary), occupying Zemun on 23 October 1918 (old style), Vršac, and Subotica on 30 October. Lugoj followed on 1/14 November. On the morning of 4/17 **November 1918**, the first cavalry brigade of the Moravian Division (part of the Serbian 1st Army) entered Temesvár / Timișoara. By 18 November / 1 December 1918, the Banat region was entirely under Serbian occupation.

The Serbian authorities assumed military control of the territory, although many institutions remained under Hungarian administration, in accordance with the armistice convention with Hungary, which stipulated that the existing administration was to remain in place in all occupied territories. Thus, at the Post Office Directorate in Timisoara, postal services continued to be operated by Hungarian officials due to lack of Serbian personnel, and correspondence circulated according to Hungarian postal regulations.

Internal postal censorship in the Serbian-occupied zone was organized by the Serbian military authorities across the entire territory. In the areas that would later be ceded to Romania, censorship offices were established in **Oravița** (possibly also Anina), Sânnicolaul Mare (then **Nagyszentmiklós**, Бел Сентмиклуш), and **Temesvár** (Темишвар). According to the '*Regulations on military censorship in time of war*', all internal correspondence leaving or transiting through Temesvár was censored in the Banat capital as early as the second half of November 1918. Censors were sworn in before the People's Leadership of Novi Sad, received their salaries from it, but were subject to military discipline under the command of the Serbian 1st Army.

On 14 January 1919, the Commander of the First Army in Vršac emphasized "the urgent need for this service in which he hopes", recommending "that the censors, as soon as they arrive at their designated locations, be introduced to their duties, be granted facilities in every field, and be provided with the conditions necessary for their work and livelihood. Even if they are paid by the People's Leadership, local conditions permitting, their material needs must also be supported."

Similarly, **censorship of external correspondence** was organized in all border localities where trains entered the territory administered by the Serbian 1st Army. In the Romanian Banat, these included Újarad / Aradul

²²² See a mini-monograph on the postal situation at **Slobodan Bajić** - *Mărci editate la Timișoara în perioada conducerii administrației sârbești 1919*, Beograd 1998 ('Filatelista' nr. 215/216), Timișoara 1999 ('Buletinul ABB' Nr.5(30)/Dec.1999).

Nou, Temesvár, and Orsova²²³ — stations along the Arad-Timisoara and Timișoara-Vârciorova railway lines, while the traffic on the Timișoara-Radna and Lugoj-Ilia railway lines was interrupted. The primary goal was to prevent the entry and distribution of hostile newspapers and printed materials from abroad.

At the beginning of January 1919, the commander of the Serbian 1st Army issued an order "to organize a serious inspection of all newspapers and documents arriving by train from Pest, Vienna, and Romania. In addition to newspapers and documents, all personal and administrative correspondence from and to foreign countries must be checked. Travellers will be inspected insofar as they are carrying letters or personal correspondence in general."

On 16/29 January 1919, the Serbs withdrew from Karánsebes, on 19 January / 1 February from Lugos, and from the entire eastern part of Banat (more precisely, from Krassó-Szörény county and eastern Temes county), their place being taken by the French Army. It is worth noting that in Krassó-Szörény / Caraș-Severin county, postal censorship was established on 18/31 December 1918. However, in the area that would later return to Romania, only a local censorship office with limited activity functioned (in Oravița or Anina), while all correspondence (letters and newspapers) related to the county was effectively censored at the office in **Vršac** (Вршац).

Later, toward the end of January, postal censorship for the county was transferred from Vrșac to Aradul Nou, and then (probably from March 1919), censorship was carried out by the main Serbian office in **Temesvár**. This was the case even though there were no longer Serbian troops in the Krassó-Szörény county — the explanation being that the new occupants, the French, were not involved in postal censorship, only in press and publication censorship. Beginning in **May 1919**, postal censorship in Krassó-Szörény / Caraș-Severin was handled by the newly established Romanian office of **Lugos**. From 30 May, with the stable reopening of the Lugoj - Ilia postal line, correspondence to Transylvania was no longer subject to Serbian censorship in Temesvár.

After the withdrawal from eastern Banat, the Serbian administration persisted throughout the period from February to July 1919 in a roughly rectangular area bordered by the Mureș River to the north, a line approximately 10 km east of the Temesvár - Versecz railway to the east, the Tisza River to the west, and the Danube to the south (covering parts of Temes and Torontál counties).

However, there were many shortcomings in the censorship system due to a lack of personnel, particularly the failure to censor certain items and interruptions or delays in the postal service. As a result of these recurring issues, the Command of the Moravian Division in Temesvár issued, on 7 March 1919, a set of "*Indications on the organization of censorship*", from which the following key points can be extracted:

To better organize censorship, the following rules were established:

I. 1. For the sake of easier censorship, private letters must be presented open.

2. Letters and postcards must be as concise and clear as possible; otherwise, they will not be delivered.

3. Letters may only be written using the Cyrillic, Latin, or Gothic alphabet (for example, not in Hebrew characters).

Money may no longer be sent in either ordinary or registered letters.

II. All telephone and telegraph communication across the demarcation line²²⁴ must be stopped. Temesvár will be the last telephone or telegraph station in contact with Novi Sad authorized to receive telegrams and send them across the demarcation line, in order to connect Temesvár and Budapest, and this only for the needs of this division. All other telephone-telegraph lines will be terminated. Within the occupied area, telephone and telegraph traffic remains unrestricted (this measure will come into effect on March 9, as per a communiqué from the Temesvár Post Office Directorate).

III. Newspapers editorial offices are prohibited from sending or receiving journalistic or informative telegrams across the demarcation line until further notice. The management of the Hungarian railways in Temesvár must deliver all parcels containing newspapers to the station commanders for censorship²²⁵.

²²³ Aradul Nou and Orsova were abandoned by the Serbs in February (here the French took their place), so that later only Temesvár served as a Serbian external censorship office for the Romanian Banat.

²²⁴ **The demarcation line** (the Diaz line) was set to the northern limit of the territory of the counties Temes, Krasso-Szoreny (thus through Arad, over the Maros), Torontal, the part of Bacs-Bodrog located south of the Szeged-Szabadka-Baja line (but without Szeged), Baranya and Somogy counties located south of the Baja-Pecs-Barcs line, as well as the island of Murakoz. It should be noted that the postal relations with Transylvania (and the parts occupied by the Romanian troops) ceased previously since the date of the occupation of Banat. One source gives the date of 25 April / **8 May 1919**, when it was announced the reopening of the telegraphic and telephone communication (as well as the postal traffic until 30 May) with Arad and Transylvania

²²⁵ **Slobodan Bajić** – *Mărți editate...*, pag. 29-30.

Further addressing operational issues, an order dated 26 March 1919 from the commander of the First Military Region of Temesvár instructed: "Let the secrecy be carefully maintained, especially with regard to private letters. Their contents must not be discussed in cafes, other public places, or private homes."

The Serbian occupation of what is today the Romanian Banat lasted until **27 July 1919**. Following the Peace Conference agreements regarding the division of Banat based on ethnic lines, the Serbs began withdrawing from Temes and part of Torontál counties. On the same date, Serbian censorship in the area ceased. Beginning 28 July 1919, the Romanian Army entered the region; on 3 August, Temesvár / Timișoara was occupied, and by 20 August, the takeover was complete. After their withdrawal, the Serbs established a new censorship office in **Jimbolia** (now a border town).

On **19 November 1919**, a Serbian government order abolished telegraphic and postal censorship throughout the territory of Yugoslavia. In February 1924, a border adjustment brought the towns of Jimbolia and Beba Veche into Romania in exchange for the Modos (today Jaša Tomič), Pardani, and two other localities. This adjustment gave the Romanian–Yugoslav border its present-day configuration (see [#A70, Volume A/2](#)).

Handstamps of Serbian censorship offices in Banat

B14A. Serbian offices in Romanian Banat

Serbian censorship handstamps in Romanian Banat are quite rare, except for those from Temesvár. Handstamps bearing the name of the locality were used in only two places — Temesvár and Nagyszentmiklós — while in other cases, primitive provisional stamps and manuscript notations were used. During the months of December 1918 and January 1919, several types of manuscript notations indicating censorship can be found, especially the letter TZ²²⁶ (**И**) or the TZEN group (**ИЕН**). The most challenging period to document is December 1918 – January 1919 in Eastern Banat (which the Serbs evacuated in favor of the French). The short duration of Serbian occupation did not allow for the production of definitive stamps, and the rare manuscript markings from that time are difficult to interpret ²²⁷.

The earliest known censorship is from Timișoara, with an early date of 28 November / **11 December 1918**. This office was responsible for checking all correspondences: incoming, outgoing, and in transit through the city.



Fig. B14.01:
21 December 1918 – early correspondence censored by the Serbs in TIMIȘOARA.

Registered postcard written on 20 December 1918, franked with a royalist Zita stamp of 40 fillér (overpaid 5 fillér versus the normal rate of 10+25 fillér), cancelled TEMESVÁR 6 on 21 December. Early Serbian censorship applied with [B14/04.1A](#), frameless handstamp, addressed to Piskitelep / Simeria-colonie (future town of Simeria).

²²⁶ See Fig. 2-6 from the article of Dan Traian Demeter of 1998 [[B06.21](#)], on postcards circulated from Lugoj (31 December 1918) to Sacul, from Bocșa (29 December 1918) to Oravița, from Arad (14 January 1919) to Sanovița, from Arad (22 January 1919) to Lugoj, respectively from Reșița (February 1919) to Timișoara.

²²⁷ See three examples, two manuscript inscriptions like ZEN (TZEN) or Z (TZ) or simple stamps like **И** (TZ), reported by Dan Traian Demeter in 2005 [[B14.5](#)].

B14/01. – NAGYSZENTMIKLÓS
(Torontál county, today Sânnicolaul Mare, Timiș county)

The old Romanian name of the locality was Sânmiclăușul Mare.

OB14/01.1: Double-circle stamp with the inner text: ЦЕНЗУРИСАНО У ВЕЛ. СЕНТМИКЛУШУ / БР 606; dimensions 34/32 mm; applied in black and violet ink between 18 December 1918 – 28 February 1919; see Fig. B14.02, B14.03.



/01.1: Ca. 20 December 1918



23 December 1918



26 February 1919



Fig. B14.02:
Early mail to Transylvania
censored by the Serbs in
Nagyszentmiklós.

Postcard cancelled NAGY SZENT MIKLOS around 31 December 1918, addressed to **Braşov**, Transylvania. The card is first censored by the Serbian office in Sânnicolaul Mare with **OB14/01.1**, then re-censored in transit by the Romanians in **Sibiu** with the early three-line handstamp **OB06/86.1**.



Fig. B14.03: registered postcard
from Nagyszentmiklós to
Hungary, censored by the local
Serbian office.

A New Year postcard (franked with 10+25 fillér, the Hungarian registration fee; the second stamp is on the reverse), postmarked NAGY SZENT MIKLOS on 31 December 1918, locally censored by the Serbian office with **OB14/01.1**, and addressed to Budapest.

Area of competence:

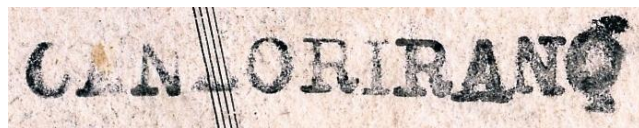
- **Inter-zonal Censorship Office** for terminal direct mail sent from Nagyszentmiklós to:
 - Hungarian zone (mainly Budapest): any time between **December 1918 – March 1919**. After the establishment of the Communist Government in Hungary (20 March 1919), political and postal relations were suspended and never resumed.
 - French occupation zone (Arad and Szeged): theoretically active any time between **December 1918 – July 1919**. In some cases, a second censorship in Temesvár may have occurred in February (see Fig. B14.14).
 - Romanian occupation zone: apparently only between December 1918 – February 1919 (i.e. to Braşov; see Fig. B14.02).

B14/02. – ORAVICZABÁNYA

(Krassó-Szörény county, today Oravița, Caraș-Severin county)

The city was evacuated by Serbian troops in late January or early February 1919, but they returned soon after, when Oravicza was left west of the border of the new French Military Occupation Zone. On **3 August 1919**, the Romanian Army entered the city.

Censorship. This was most likely a local censoring office, handling both transit and terminal mail to/from Oraviczabánya. This is the only Serbian censorship office in Banat known to have used stamps with Latin characters. The location (in Oravița and not in Anina, as previously suggested by some authors) is supported by local correspondences between 22 – 24 December 1919, as well as the fact that Anina was included in the French Military Occupation Zone in Banat from April 1919. There *were two distinct periods of censorship*, corresponding to the two Serbian occupations: the first from December 1918 to January 1919, and the second from May to June 1919 — a unique characteristic among Serbian censorship offices in the region.



/02.1: Ca. 30 December 1918



/02.2:

ⓄB14/02.1: Linear handstamp with the erroneous text: **CENZORIRANO**. Dimensions 54 x 5 mm; applied in black ink between **24 – 30 December 1918**; see Fig. B14.04.

ⓄB14/02.2: Linear handstamp with the corrected text: **CENZURIRANO**. Dimensions 54-55 x 5 mm; applied in black ink on 1 **January 1919** and reused during the second occupation period between **19 May – 6 June 1919**; see Fig. B14.05.

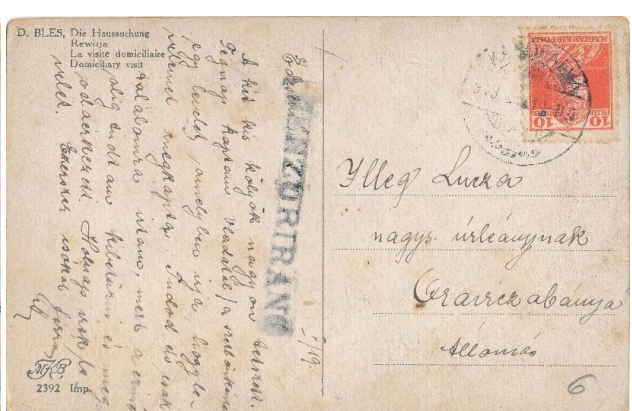
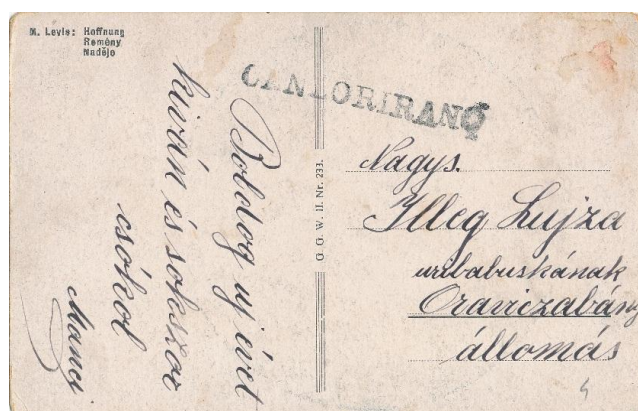


Fig. B14.04-14.05: two items of correspondence censored by the Serbian office in ORAVIȚA.

Left: a local postcard addressed within Oravița in December 1918, censored with **ⓄB14/02.1**.

Right: a postcard cancelled on 19 May 1919 in KAKOFALVA (today Grădinari, Caraș-Severin county), addressed to Oravița, censored on arrival with **ⓄB14/02.2**

It is worth listing the known items bearing these handstamps (aside from the *loco* ones), noting that in some cases the Oravița location may remain uncertain. Unless otherwise indicated, the items are part of the Dan-Traian Demeter collection [B14.4]:

First Serbian occupation (December 1918 – January 1919).

- Postcard mailed from Oravița (27 December 1918) to Arad.
- Postcard cancelled ANINA on 31 December 1918 to Modos, censored with [ⓄB14/02.2](#); thus necessarily transiting through Oravița²²⁸.
- Postcard cancelled ORAVICZABÁNIA on 31 December 1918 to Lugos, censored with [ⓄB14/02.2](#)²²⁹.
- Postcard mailed from Oravița (2 January 1919) to Fehértemplom.
- Postcard postmarked ORAVICZABÁNIA on 5 January 1919, to Temesvár.
- Postcard postmarked ORAVICZABÁNIA on 6 January 1919, to Arad.

Second Serbian occupation (May – July 1919).

- Postcard postmarked KAKOFALVA on 19 May 1919, arriving in Oravița (*Fig. B14.05*).
- Postcard sent from Boksanbánya (6 June 1919) to Karánsebes. Due to Boksanbánya being again included in the Serbian occupation zone (like Oraviczbánya) from April 1919, the item followed a complex postal route: from Boksanbánya – Oraviczbánya (censored) – Vršac – Temesvár (Serbian re-censorship) – Karánsebes.

B14/03. – PÁRDÁNY (Torontál county, today Međa in Serbia)

A locality that was ceded to Romania after the border delimitation of 13 June 1919 and the withdrawal of the Serbian army from Banat. From **August 1919**, it took the Romanian name **Pardani**, but it was returned to the Kingdom of S.H.S. on **5 April 1924**.

Censorship: this was most probably a local censoring office, handling terminal mail to/from the Párdány area, located in Torontál county.

[ⓄB14/03.1](#): Circular handstamp similar to that of Temesvár, with the inner text: ЦЕНЗУРИРАНО У ПАРДАЊУ; applied in purple ink in **24 June 1919** (known from a registered postcard sent from ALSOITTEBE / Novi Itebej to Pecs²³⁰).



B14/04. – TEMESVÁR (Temes county, today Timișoara, Timiș county)

The main town of Romanian Banat was occupied by the Serbian army between 21 November 1918 and 22 July 1919. Then and now, it is the most important populated center of Banat, where the Serbian censorship office operated with the most extensive activity, overseeing both internal and external correspondence.

Area of competence:

- **Intra-zonal Censorship Office: for terminal or transit mail within the Serbian occupation zone** (Torontál, Temes, and parts of Krassó-Szörény counties). This included: 1) mail arriving in or sent from Temesvár to all destinations in the new S.H.S. state, or 2) mail transiting through Temesvár to/from any location within the S.H.S. state. An unusual case involves *local* correspondence from Jimbolia, postmarked 31 December 1918, which was also censored in Temesvár.
- **Inter-zonal Censorship Office, for terminal direct mail with:**
 - Hungarian zone (mainly Budapest), between **December 1918 – March 1919**. After the establishment of the Communist Government in Hungary (20 March 1919), the political and postal relations were suspended.
 - French occupation zone (Arad and Szeged), between **December 1918 – July 1919**.
 - Romanian occupation zone, apparently during two time frames: December 1918 – February 1919 (i.e. from Cluj and Hunedoara counties), and June – July 1919 (i.e. from Sibiu county). At some point in 1919, the direct railway route between Transylvania and Banat (line Ilia – Făget – Lugoj) was suspended, redirecting mail through Arad, where it was subject to French censorship.
- **Censorship Office for International Mail:** for mail sent to or received from abroad in the occupied zone of Banat. Such cases are rare due to the chaotic nature of international communication at the time. Known examples include: **Czechoslovakia** (to Temesvár, January 1919; see *Fig. B14.06*), **Switzerland** (from Gyertyamos, January 1919; see *Fig. A68.10*), **Ukraine** (from Szenthubert, Torontál county, February 1919; see *Fig. A68.11*).

²²⁸ Bajic – Mărci editate..., 1999, pag. 33

²²⁹ See the image in the Dietz-Kobelbauer catalogue, [[B14.9, pag. 183](#)], from I. Gazda collection.

²³⁰ See the image in the Dietz-Kobelbauer catalogue, [[B14.9, pag. 156](#)].

ⓄB14/04.1: round handstamp with the inner text: ЦЕНЗУРИРАНО У ТЕМИШВАРУ (a semi-standardized format for Banat), with three known variants²³¹:

- ❖ .../04.1A: diameter of 27 mm; applied in violet ink between **21 – 31 December 1918**, but lacks the outer frame / circle; see Fig. B14.01 și B14.06.
- ❖ .../04.1B: the most commonly encountered variant, diameter 33-34 mm; applied in red-lila and violet ink between **31 December 1918 – 20 July 1919**. Multiple likely existed, as clear strikes show diameters of either 33 mm or 34 mm. This type is also known to have been forged.
- ❖ .../04.1C: similar in design to the previous variant, diameter 33 mm, but missing the central letter U (Y); period of use **26 January – 9 March 1919**; see Fig. A68.08.



Fig. B14.06:
early international
correspondence censored by
Serbs in Timisoara.

Postcard written in German from Prague, cancelled PRAHA on 30 December 1918, and addressed to "Timișoara, Serbia". Upon arrival, it was censored by the Serbs, who removed the postage stamp to check for possible hidden inscriptions and applied the frameless handstamp ⓄB14/04.1A.

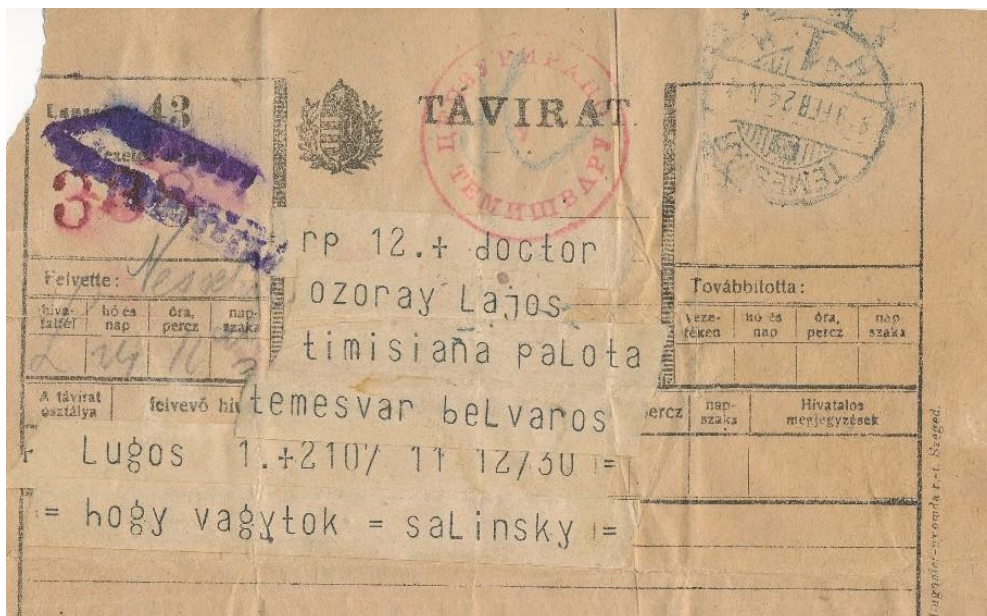


Fig. B14.07:
Telegram arrived from
Lugoj to Timișoara and
censored by the Serbs

Hungarian telegraphic form dated on 24 February 1919, containing a message received in Timișoara from Lugoj. It was censored by the Serbian office in the city using ⓄB14/04.1B. Cancelled TEMESVÁR on 24 February. Censored telegrams are very rare.

One obvious fake was seen on multi-stamped covers dated 27 February 1919 and postmarked TEMESVÁR 20; the Serbian text is wrong (ЦЕНЗУФИРАМО У ТЕМИШВАРУ) and the letters different. The covers are noted *Garantie KFW 54*, it could be a contemporary fake.



²³¹ First described by Grecu Dan Simion in 1993 [ⓄB14.1], and resumed 13 years later by Traian Serendan in 2006 [ⓄB14.8]



/04.1A: 21 December 1918



/04.1B:



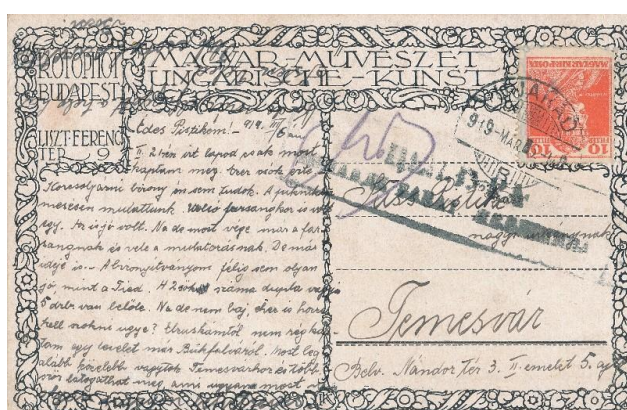
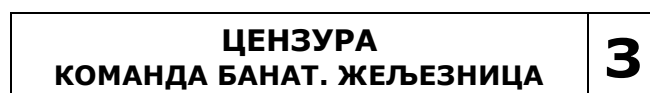
/04.1C: March 1919

B14/05. – ÚJARAD

(Temes county, today Aradul-Nou, Arad county)

The city was occupied on **21 November 1918** by a Serbian detachment of 1200 officers and soldiers, under the command of Lt. Dragomir Popovici, who also conducted inspections at the railway station. Aradul-Nou passed under French authority on **5 April 1919**, coinciding with the establishment of the Banat Neutral Zone (Z.F.O.), which theoretically marked the end of Serbian censorship. The office censored *terminal mail* sent from Újarad to Serbian or Hungarian zones. See further details by Titus Orădean in 2007 [[B14.7](#)].

©B14/05.1: rectangular handstamp of the Serbian military censorship type (likely used by the above-mentioned detachment) with the text **ЦЕНЗУРА / КОМАНДА БАНАТ. ЖЕЉЕЗНИЦА** (*Censorship of the Banat Railway Command*); size 87 x 19 mm; applied in black ink between **18 January**²³² – **20 March 1919**.

**Fig. B14.08-B14.09: two items censored by the Serbian office in ARADUL-NOU.**

Left: official postal form sent on 17 February 1919 from Aradul Nou to Ineu, Arad county (at that time, postal traffic with the Hungarian-occupied area west of the Apuseni Mountains was open, albeit difficult).

Right: Intrazonal Postcard sent on 6 March 1919 from Aradul Nou (cancelled ÚJARAD on the same day) to Timișoara, both within the Serbian occupation zone.

The January examples are quite legible (in purple color), but over time, the quality of the handstamps degraded. The examples above (Fig. B14.08-B14.09, and B14.17) illustrate the typical print quality, with one mixed-quality strike at the end.

²³² Seen also on an inter-zonal mail, sent from Romanian Sibiu on 17 January 1919, to Sănniclaul Mare, under Serbian occupation (sold on eBay in 2003); see the image in the Dietz-Kobelbauer catalog [[B14.9](#), pag. 184].

B14/06. – ZSOMBOLYA (?)
(Torontál county, today Jimbolia, Timiș county)

This censorship office was established after the Romanian – Serbian border was fixed in July 1919 and following the withdrawal of the Serbian army south of it. The city was handed over to Romania during the border adjustment in 1924.

Area of competence:

- **Local Censorship Office**, for terminal mail sent from Zsombolya to destinations in Serbia or Romania.
- **Border censoring office**, for international mail arriving by railway from Yugoslavia or Italy and addressed to Romania.

The office *likely* used the following censorship handstamps, although attribution is not 100% certain! According to Serbian author Višacki ([B14.2] supported by [B14.9]), these markings were used in Veliko-Bechkerek (modern-day **Zrenjanin**, today in Serbia):

OB14/06.M: It seems that in the initial phase, only manuscript inscriptions such as **цен** were used. One example is a postcard from Jimbolia to Șag, dated **18 February 1919**²³³.

OB14/06.1: Primitive censorship handstamp (certainly manufactured in at least two copies) with the text: **ЦЕНЗУРА**. These show defective impressions, with missing or barely legible letters. Dimensions ca. 56 x 10 mm; applied in black ink from **30 July to 15 November 1919** (censorship in Serbia was abolished on 19 November 1919).



Fig. B14.10:
Serbian – Romanian
Censorship on inner Banat
mail

Postcard cancelled ZSOMBOLYA on 5 August 1919 (after the border demarcation, when the town was still part of Serbia - S.H.S), likely censored locally with a clear sample of **OB14/06.1**, then re-censored upon arrival in Timișoara (which had just passed under Romanian administration) using the Romanian censor handstamp **OB14/6.1**.

Another Serbian office censorship was reported in **Ó-Moldova** (today Moldova Veche) according to [B14.2], but no further information is available to support this idea.

²³³ Published by Dan Traian Demeter in 1996 [B06.15, pag. 13].

B14B. "Remote" Censoring

We may refer to it as *remote censorship* — a situation in which correspondence circulated exclusively within Romanian Banat (BE or BW), but was censored by Serbs in centers outside the current territory of Romania, depending on the postal route. Obviously, this is an artificial notion, relevant only from the perspective of today's Romanian collector, because from the contemporary standpoint prior to July 1919, the entire Banat territory occupied by the Serbs was considered a single entity.

B14/07. – VERSEC

(Temes county, today Vršac in Serbia)

Remote censorship of mail from/to Eastern Banat (BE)

Such correspondence is known only from the early period between **7 January – 30 March – 2 May 1919**, when mail from Eastern Banat (especially Krassó-Szörény county) had to be censored at the **Versecz** office. In this regard, the Romanian-language newspaper *Drapelul* of Lugoj reported²³⁴: "At the order of the command of the Royal Serbian Occupying Army of Banat, the censorship of all letters handed to the post office was introduced in our regions starting Tuesday (**31 December 1918**). The place of censure is in Versecz, where the post offices are obliged to send all the letters for censorship. Only after they have passed through the censorship in Versecz may the letters be sent to their destination. Hence the great delay in postal communication."

Cenzură de scrisori. La ordinul comandamentului trupelor regale sârbești de ocupațiune din Bănat, s'a introdus în regiunile noastre cu începere de Marți, cenzurarea tuturor scrisorilor date pe poștă. Locul de cenzură este în Vârșeț, unde sunt datoare oficiile postale a trimite toate scrisorile spre cenzurare. Numai după ce vor fi trecut prin cenzura din Vârșeț vor fi expediate scrisorile la locul destinației. De aici marea întârziere în comunicația postală.

Fig. B14.11: inter-zonal BE→BW mail (from GÁTALJA to Zádorlak), censored in VERSECZ.

Postcard mailed on **19 February 1919** from GÁTALJA (Gătaia, Timiș county) to Zádorlak (Zădăreni, now Arad county). In the absence of a Serbian censorship office in Romanian Eastern Banat, the postcard was censored in Versecz (using the rectangular stamp **СРП. КР. ВОЈНА ЦЕНЗУРА / ВРШАЦ**), which caused an additional 100 km detour.



These provisions even applied to local correspondence or newspapers mailed within Lugos. From February 1919, Versec came under French military administration but continued to censor mail from the southern part of Eastern Banat until the reorganisation in April 1919, when the French *Military Occupation Zone* (ZMO) was created. After May 1919, censorship duties were transferred to the Romanian office in Lugoj.

Other examples of correspondences censored in **Versecz** during February – March 1919 include: Buziaș to Budapest, Reșița to Budapest, Vienna to Reșița, Szeged to Lugoj, Anina to Cluj (Transilvania) – see Fig. B14.12, Oravicza to Arad, Răcășdia to Budapest, etc.

Please send any corrections, additions, comments to
damirro@yahoo.com

²³⁴ *Drapelul*, Lugoj, no. 135 / 20 December 1918 (2 January 1919), pag. 3



Fig. B14.12:
Mixed Serbian – Romanian
Censorship on interzonal
mail BE to Transylvania

Postcard cancelled ANINA on 12 March 1919, addressed to Cluj, in Transylvania. In the absence of a Serbian censorship office in Romanian Eastern Banat, the postcard was censored in Versecz (see the handstamp **SRP. KR. BOJNA CENZURA / BRŠAČ**), then forwarded and re-censored by Romanians in Cluj with **©B06/20.2**.

B14/08. – NAGYKIKINDA

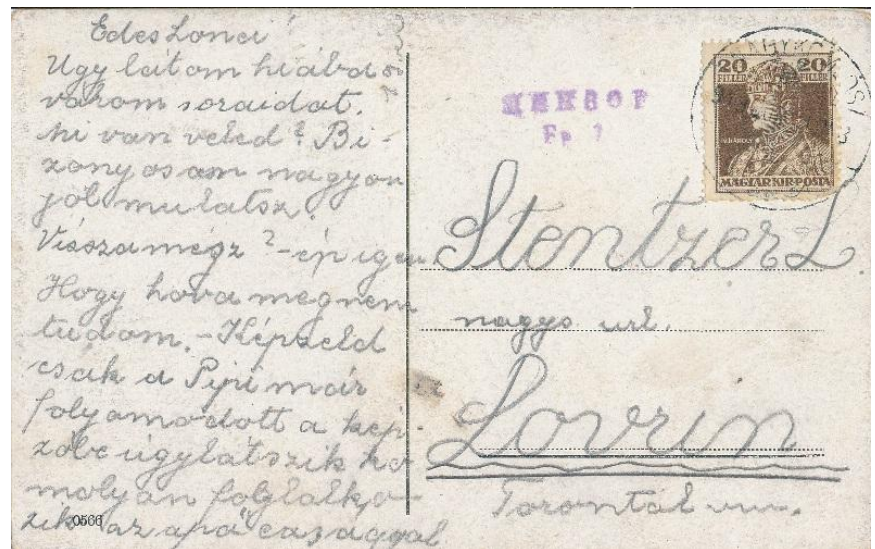
(Torontál county, today Kikinda in Serbia)

Remote censorship of mail from/to Western Banat (BW)

Examples of remote censorship within the BW are recorded between **31 December 1918 – 12 July 1919**, so until the cession of the territory to Romania. These involved mail circulated locally in the Torontál county area, which was sent for censorship to **Nagykikinda** (today Kikinda), see Fig. B14.13.

Fig. B14.13: Intra-zonal postcard from Nagykomlos to Lovrin (BW), censored in KIKINDA.

Art postcard postmarked on **12 July 1919** in NAGY-KOMLOS (today Comloșu Mare, Timiș county) to Lovrin (only 15 km to the northeast, also in Timiș county), but censored by the Serbian office in KIKINDA, using the bi-linear handstamp **ЦЕНЗОР / Бр. 7**.



B14/09. – Double Serbian Censorship

(in „Romanian Banat”)

The regulations of censorship offices in all the belligerent countries included the possibility of reviewing initial censorship by another office under the same administration, to verify its accuracy.

Although the territory occupied by Serbian troops was then a unified entity, from the perspective of later borders and Romanian local postal history, we can make a didactic distinction between two types of Serbian double censorship:

- double Serbian censorship within the territory later attached to Romania ("Romanian Banat", BE or BW);
- double Serbian censorship involving both Romanian Banat and Serbian territory proper, such as Pančevo, Novi Sad, Vršac, etc.

Already known combinations of double censorship are listed below:

B14/9A. – Temesvár (BW) + Nagyszentmiklós (BW)

Double Serbian Censorship

This is the only intra-zonal combination seen so far, between two censorship offices in Western Romanian Banat (BW) See *Fig. B14.14*. It was recorded only between **24 – 26 February 1919**.



Fig. B14.14: Double Serbian censorship inside the "Romanian Banat".

Kitsch postcard dispatched on 26 February 1919 from NAGY SZENT MIKLOS (today Sânnicolaul Mare), censored there by the Serbian office with the blue round handstamp [B14/01.1](#). It then transited through Temesvár, where it was re-censored by Serbian authorities (see purple handstamp [B14/04.1B](#)), and was address to Szeged, in the area occupied by French troops.

B14/9B. – Temesvár (BW) + Oraviczabánya (BE)

Double Serbian Censorship

This is the only inter-zonal combination recorded so far on a piece of mail between Temesvár and Orsova (date illegible), involving one Serbian censorship office in Western Banat and another in Eastern Banat (not illustrated here).

B14/10. – Double Serbian Censorship

(between present-day Romania and Serbia)

B14/10A. – Temesvár (BW) + Pancevo (Vojvodina)

Double Serbian Censorship

This combination was observed between **31 December 1918 – 6 March 1919**; see *Fig. B14.15*, especially on mail received in Temesvár from the Belgrade area.

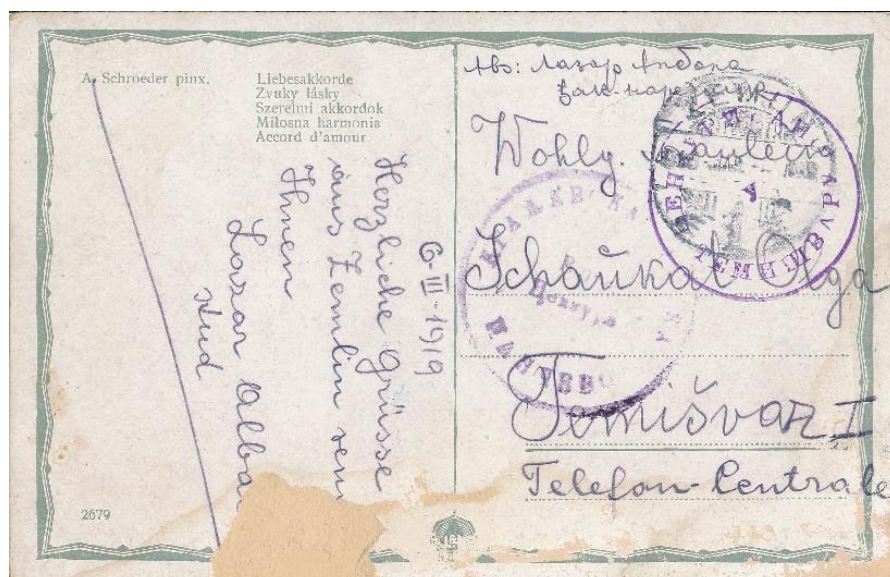


Fig. B14.15: intra-zonal mail, from Zemun to Temesvár, with Serbian double censor.

Art postcard postmarked on **6 March 1919** in ZEMUN (today a suburb of Belgrade, Serbia), censored by the Serbian office in Pancevo with the round handstamp reading **КРАЉЕВСКА СРПСКА * ПАНЧЕВО / Војна Цензура**, then addressed to Temesvár, where it was re-censored with the violet round handstamp [B14/04.1B](#).

B14/10B. – Temesvár (BW) + Nagykikinda (Vojvodina) Double Serbian Censorship

See Fig. B14.16 for an example of this combination.

Fig. B14.16: intra-zonal mail from Csanádpalota to Nagyszentmiklós, with double Serbian censorship.

Kitsch postcard postmarked in 28 ? 1919 in CSANÁDPALOTA (today in Makó county, Hungary) to Nagyszentmiklós. Although the two localities are only 50 km apart (crossing the Makó bridge), the mail was censored twice by the Serbian offices: first in Timișoara (round stamp [B14/04.1B](#)), then in Kikinda (linear stamp with the text: ЦЕНЗОР / Бр. 3), resulting in a detour of over 200 km along the postal route.



B14/10C. – Temesvár (BW) + Sirig (Vojvodina) Double Serbian Censorship

This combination has been observed, though it is not illustrated here. The censor mark read: СРПСКАЈ / БОЈНА ЦЕНЗУРА / СИРИГ.

B14/10D. – Újarad (BW) + Pancsova (Vojvodina) Double Serbian Censorship

This combination has been recorded on 20 March 1919, on terminal mail; see Fig. B14.17.



Fig. B14.17: Intra-zonal mail from Újarad to Pancsova, with double Serbian censorship.

Registered commercial envelope sent by a merchant from Arad, franked with 3x15 fillér (= 45 fillér, the Hungarian rate for registered letter), but postmarked south of the Mureș River, in ÚJARAD, on 20 March 1919. The letter was addressed to Pancsova (also within the Serbian occupation area). First censorship was applied at the origin with a poorly printed handstamp ([B14/05.1](#)), then re-censored at the destination (PANCsoVA on 23 March 1919), with a round stamp reading: КРАЉЕВСКА СРПСКА * ПАНЧЕВО / Војна Цензура

Other further combinations should exist, with one office in present-day Romania and the other in present-day Serbia.

B15. FRENCH CENSORSHIP IN ARAD²³⁵ 1918-1919

As soon as the Armistice was signed, a new army was formed out of the French Army of the East (*Armée de l'Orient*, operating in the Balkans since 1915), namely the **Army of Hungary** (*Armée de Hongrie*, in fact the General Henrys Group), which consisted of the 76th Infantry Division, and the 11th and 17th Colonial Infantry Divisions. As soon as the hostilities with Austria have ended on 4 November 1918, these divisions were moved to Semendria (Smederevo), then to Neusatz (Novi Sad), from where the 11th and 17th Divisions headed to Banat, and the 76th Division to Szeged.

The French Army in eastern Banat. Simultaneously with the withdrawal of the Serbian occupation military units, the Caraș-Severin county was being occupied by the troops of the 11th Colonial Division (which entered Lugoj and Caransebeș on 27 January 1919), forming a French occupation zone in eastern Banat under the leadership of Gen. Leon Farret, the divisional commander. On **21 July 1919**, the French liberated this occupation area in favor of the Romanians. There was no French postal censorship in Eastern Banat, the mail being subject to Serbian censorship in Vrșac, and from May 1919 to the Romanian censorship in Lugoj (see #14/07). In this area there was only a preventive French censorship of the press, executed in Lugoj from 10 March until the evacuation, and a telegraphic censorship (also in Lugoj) between May – June 1919.

The French Army in western Banat. On 20 November / 3 December 1918 French colonial troops, led by Gen. Gambetta, entered Timișoara. But in the Timiș and Torontál counties, the French presence was minimal, as these were Serbian occupation zones. The only censorship instituted here was that of the press, and was present only during the period between the withdrawal of Serbian troops and the advance of the Romanians (27 July – 12 August). In this time the French served in Western Banat as a 'buffer' force between the Romanian and Serbian military forces, which were allied and yet not too friendly to each other, mostly because of the divergences aroused due to the division of Banat at the Peace Conference.

The situation of Arad. Following the incidents between Romanians and Hungarians during the visit of Berthelot in Arad on 16/29 December 1918, the 1st African *Chasseurs* Regiment was sent the next day from Timișoara to Arad, which they then occupied. However, the French limited themselves to the military administration of the city, meaning that the Hungarian civil administration was preserved. From a postal point of view, this resulted in the fact that the post offices of Arad continued to be supplied by Budapest with Hungarian stamps until the end of March 1919, when relations with the new Republic finally ceased.

French Censorship in Arad. On 30 December 1918, a team of 12 French soldiers arrived at the central post office Arad 1 to ensure telegram censorship. On **31 December 1918**, the day after the French troops entered the city, they issued a proclamation establishing the state of siege, which automatically meant instituting the *Press censorship* (a restrictive censorship of already printed publications).

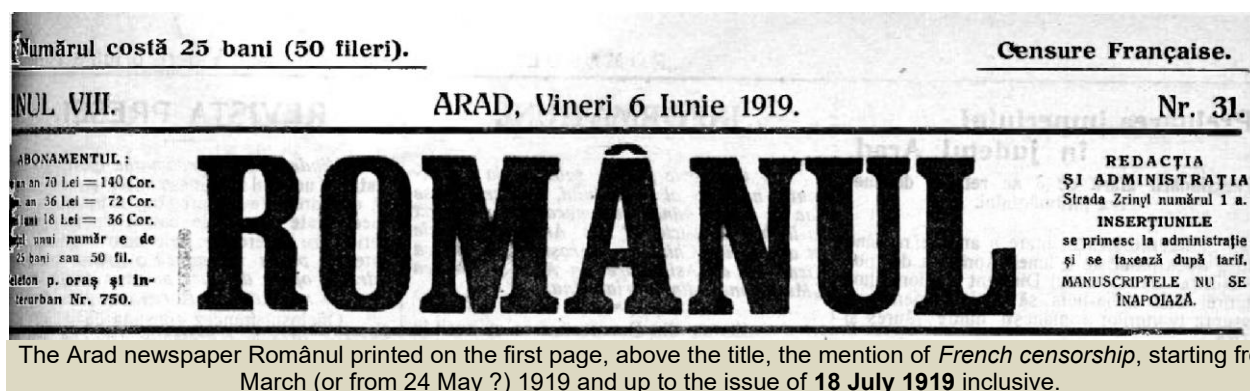
On **1 February 1919** “the Hungarian government commissioner was informed on behalf of the French commander in Arad, that from now on the city is under the rigorous occupation of the French troops. As a result of this occupation, all newspapers, magazines and publications that appear in Arad are subject to **preventive censorship** and starting with today our newspaper (Românul) falls under this measure of public order and safety”²³⁶. This meant that the local publications would be able to appear only if they had the text *Censure française* printed in their header, censorship that was probably carried out in the editorial phase, as there are no white spaces in the publication (see below the mention in the local newspaper Românul).

Alongside the two originally existing sections of the military censorship office (telegraph and press), the censorship section of *postal correspondence* (headed since June 1919 by Slt. Edmond Louveau)²³⁷ was added as well, sometime after **1 February 1919**.

²³⁵ For the chronological history of the French occupation in Arad as well as of the activity of the French Post, see *Volume A/2* of the author, *Chapter #A71*, pag. 117-137.

²³⁶ *Românul* (Arad), no. 18 of 5 February 1919.

²³⁷ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală militară franceză...*, 2003.



The Károlyi government resigned on **21 March 1919**, which led to Béla Kun taking power and constituting a communist cabinet. Facing the far-left slippage of Budapest, the relations between the areas occupied by the Allies (Transylvania, Banat, Arad) and communist Hungary were interrupted. Consequently, postal traffic was suspended (see an example in *Fig. B15.01*), and the post offices in Banat were no longer supplied with Hungarian stamps from Budapest. This has ultimately lead to the provisional solution of local issues, and to the continuation of the operation of Hungarian post offices in Banat and Arad under an autonomous regime²³⁸. On **23 March 1919**, the state of siege was proclaimed, leading to the introduction (or, in fact, to the reaffirmation?) of the censorship of telephones, telegrams and *postal correspondence*.



Fig. B15.01: interruption of postal traffic between Arad (French area) and communist Hungary, in March 1919: Registered-express envelope sent from Arad on 1 April 1919 to Germany (which was therefore supposed to transit Hungary), detained by the French censorship in Arad as "not allowed" due to the suspension of postal traffic, which applies the handstamp [B15/01.1B](#) 'Forgalom szünet / nem továbbított / Censuré', the return was decided on 19 April, as evidenced by another administrative stamp. What is interesting is the presence on the reverse of a Hungarian label closing the envelopes, suggesting that the French censorship in Arad took over and had further used these labels!

On **17 May 1919**, the first Romanian regiment entered into a part of the city, on which occasion the Romanian postal censorship was established at the Arad post office 2 (Railway station), thus functioning in parallel with the French one, and using special handstamps for postal censorship (more details in chapter [#B06.05](#)). The earliest Romanian censorship in Arad is known to be from around **22 May 1919** and there was no subsequent interruption of the Romanian censorship in the city.

On **24 May 1919**, with the delimitation of the French-Romanian areas of competence in the city, the relationship between the two censorship offices was highlighted in a decree of gen. Tournadre (commander

²³⁸ According to **Bernard Sinais** (*Le Service Postal Militaire Français en Orient pendant la PGM*, Paris 1997, p. 110), the French would have taken over militarily the administration of the Post Office in Arad on **22 March 1919**.

of the French Occupation Area), as follows: “all printing products and all reproductions of works and illustrations are subject to censorship, as are theatrical, musical, cinematographic and photographic performances. Correspondences by letters and telegrams will also be subject to censorship. Censorship will be exercised in the following way: 1) All printed newspapers outside Arad will be taken to French censorship [...] 2) All newspapers printed in Arad are subject to French censorship. However, the head of the French Censorship Bureau will submit them to the Head of the Romanian Censorship Bureau and will censor the articles that will be reported to him as dangerous by the Romanian Command. The same will be done with other printing products. 3) Letters and telegrams coming from or destined to the area occupied by the Romanian army (Transylvania, Partium, Hungary up to the Tisza river) shall be subject to the exclusive control of the Romanian censorship. Letters and telegrams coming from or destined to any other areas (Serbian occupied Banat, external, etc.) will be subject to exclusive control of French censorship [...] The provisions of this decree will be applicable from 24 May at 12 noon.” As we will see, there were exceptions to this decree.

The post office in Arad was taken over by the Romanians on **10 July 1919** and the city on 12 July 1919. French censorship was abolished on **18 July 1919**, with the departure of the last French troops.

Handstamps of the French censorship in Arad

#B15/01. – ARAD French Censoring Office

(Press, Telegraph & Mail Censorship)



OB15/01.1: the most commonly used type of handstamps is circular with two lines (which sometimes, due to wear, seem to join), with the text: **CENSURE FRANÇAISE / ARAD**, dimensions 34 x 31 mm, applied in red-lila or violet ink of various shades. There were at least two variants of this type of handstamp, most of them being applied poorly or hardly legible due to wear:

- ❖ **.../01.1A:** with a dot after ARAD (*Fig. B15.02*), was a type also used for stamping most souvenir philatelic envelopes. The problem is that on these souvenirs (CTO) the handstamp is of a mostly good quality, even on advanced dates (June – July 1919) while the handstamps on the correspondence that actually circulated are already worn out. So, either there were several manufactured copies (with at least one of which was almost unused, being used only "on demand" in the production of souvenirs), or there are actual successful forgeries of the original handstamp.
- ❖ **.../01.1B:** without a dot after ARAD (*Fig. B15.03*), it is usually worn out or applied unclearly, being used only exceptionally when creating CTO souvenir envelopes.

Clearly forged handstamps are also known and are easily identifiable by their low-quality graphics and the presence of a single line in the circle (as well as the dating of mail outside the period of French censorship, for example 28 July 1919 ... September 1919). Sometimes these handstamps are accompanied by forged postmarks of Arad post offices.

The theoretical period of censorship is 1 January – 18 July 1919. We note, however, that the known period of use is between **27 March – 11 July 1919** (see in *Fig. B15.05*, a late use of this handstamp). A single correspondence appears to have been censored towards the end of **January 1919** (see *Fig. B15.04*). It is

therefore possible that there were two periods of French censorship, which would justify the announcement of the introduction of censorship of correspondence on 23 March 1919. One instance of a censorship handstamp on mail from Arad on 20 July 1919 was mentioned by Călin Marinescu (2003). However, based on what the author saw, *all* such items dated from 12 July 1919 onwards, are 100% philatelic CTO, so they cannot be taken as reference data.



Fig. B15.02.
Early French censorship, using the
handstamp Type 1 (with dot)

Official postal form from Arad Central Court to Ineu District Court (then in unoccupied Hungary), postmarked ARAD on 1 April 1919 and bearing the French censor handstamp [B15/01.1A](#).



Fig. B15.03.
French censorship using the handstamp
Type 2 (without dot)

Official postal form from the Ineu District Court (area under Romanian administration) to the Arad Central Court, cancelled BOROS JENŐ on 13 June 1919 and bearing the French censor handstamp [B15/01.1B](#), affixed before arrival at destination.



Fig. B15.04. January 1919: correspondence with Serbian – French mixed censorship, mailed from Banat East to Transylvania, but diverted for censorship to Vrșac

Postcard stamped 10 fillér Karl (Hungarian tariff), cancelled on 21 January 1919 at KARÁNSEBES (today Caransebeș, Caraș-Severin county). Although the shortest route would have been through Lugoj – Timișoara, due to the expedition from eastern Banat, the postal route is diverted through Vrșac (where the Serbian censorship handstamp was applied), then through Arad (where it was re-censored by the French with [B15/01.1A](#)), to reach its destination, on the Mureș valley, in Alkenyér (today Șibot, Alba county).



Fig. B15.05
11 July 1919:
Late Date of French
Censorship in Arad

Registered official form, sent from Arad to Budapest, cancelled ARAD on 11 July 1919, censorship in the local French station with [B15/01.1B](#), return due to suspension of postal relations with unoccupied Hungary during the Romanian-Hungarian War. (source: web, ex-Cserni)

[B15/01.2](#): another type of censor handstamp, much rarer, and with a localization still uncertain, is bilinear and features the text:

☞ **CENSURE FRANÇAIS** ☞ / ***Ligeti***,

dimensions 75 x 10 mm applied in violet ink. Most pieces of mail with this handstamp are philatelic, so it is difficult to draw conclusions on the correct period of use, which seems to be **7 May – 22 June 1919**. Note the grammatical error (FRANCAIS instead of FRANÇAISE), which can be attributed to a Hungarian workshop, but it is difficult to understand why it was not corrected by the French. It may possibly indicate a section of the French censorship in the suburbs of Arad, most probably in **Újarad**, following the takeover from the Serbs in April (*Ligeti* means in Hungarian "from the forest / park", but it can also be a personal name). See in *Fig. B15.06* for an apparently not philatelic and correctly circulated item.

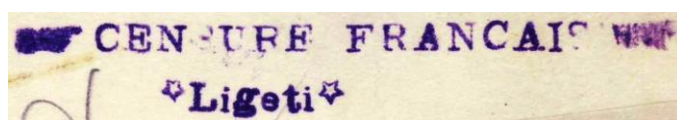


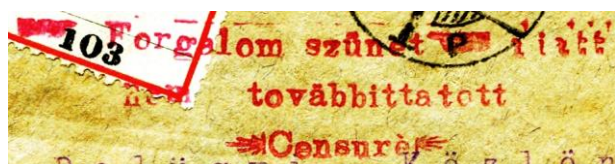
Fig. B15.06: one of the few *Ligeti* censored envelopes that we might consider *real* circulated.

Registered envelope with mixed royalist + republican franking, totalling 80 fillér (= 40 Lei correct Romanian tariff), cancelled MEDGYESEGYHÁZA in occupied Hungary (Z.C.D.), addressed to an institution in Arad, censored en route by the French with the handstamp [B15/01.2](#): **CENSURE FRANCAIS / Ligeti** (source: web)

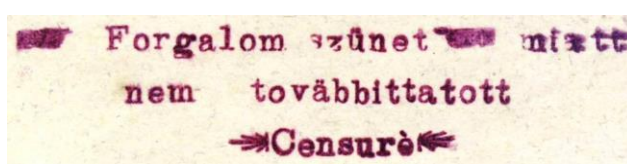


Another example of the actual use of *Ligeti* censorship can be seen in *Fig. A80.62 (Volume A/2)*.

[B15/01.3](#): a return tri-linear handstamp, used by the French office after the interruption of postal relations with Hungary in 20 March 1919, with the bilingual Hungarian/French text: ☞ **Forgalom szünet** ☞ **miatt / nem továbbított** / *** Censuré *** (= *Due to traffic interruption / not forwarded / censored*). Dimensions 77 x 17 mm, applied in violet or red ink between **26 March – 17 May 1919**, see *Fig. B15.01* and *B15.07*.



26 March 1919 (Museum of Romanian Records)



10 April 1919 (Mark Lendon, ex-Cserni)

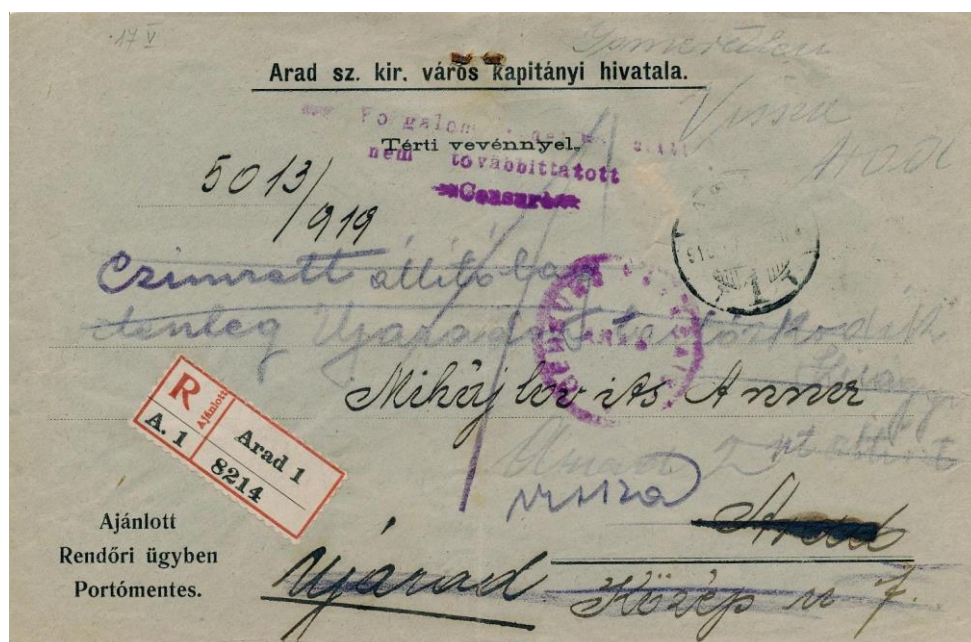


Fig. B15.07. Official envelope from the Arad city police, sent registered to Aradul-Nou (suburb south of Mureș river), postmarked ARAD 1 on May 1919, French censorship [OB15/01.1B](#), but also with the tri-linear return stamp [OB15/01.3](#) (applied for an unclear reason). Despite this, the envelope seems to have arrived at its destination, from where it was returned, the recipient being unknown (*Ismeretlen, Vissza Arad*). On the reverse, ARAD arrival stamps on 17 May 1919.

Area of action.

The French office censored terminal correspondence (**from/to**) or in **transit** through the city of **Arad**. Until **24 May 1919**, all mail arriving in or sent from all directions (including Romanian Transylvania) was subject to censorship. But after the establishment of the Romanian censorship post in Arad, according to the Decree of Gen. Tournadre of 24 May 1919, the French should have censored only correspondence to or from Banat (which was occupied by the Serbs), or foreign correspondence. Or, at least after **17 June 1919**, this separation was no longer followed, the French having also censored the mail arriving in Arad from Romanian areas, such as occupied Hungary, Transylvania, but especially from Oradea. There are also examples of censored correspondence in Arad by both French ([OB15/01.1B](#)) and Romanian offices ([OB06/05.4](#)), on *CTO philatelic items* so far, circulated on 21 June 1919 from Nyiregyháza to Szeged, respectively on 22 June 1919 from Borosjenő to Arad (see *Fig. 16.19*), but also on a postcard that was *actually circulated* from Nyiregyháza to Szeged (see *Fig. B16.12*). For French combinations with Serbian or Romanian censorships, see chapter [B16](#).

#B15/B – French press censorship in Banat

#B15/B1. – LUGOJ Press Censorship

In Lugoj there was a French censorship office dedicated exclusively to press censorship, established at the same time as the French Occupation Zone in Banat (Z.F.O.), which functioned between **10 March – 29 July 1919**²³⁹.



#B15/B2. – TIMIȘOARA Press Censorship

A press censorship office functioned in the city of Timișoara between **27 July – 12 August 1919**, so exactly during the *interregnum period* (see #A69 in *Volume A/2*), after the withdrawal of the Serbian military authorities (who had previously executed the censorship) and before the installation of the Romanian administration²⁴⁰.

²³⁹ Călin Marinescu – *Cenzura poștală militară franceză...*, 2003, pag. 39. The author mentions the existence of a local newspaper, *Romanian Banat*, which on 17 April 1919 had empty columns with the mention in Serbian *Censorazva*, and three days later in Romanian language *Cenzurat*. The explanation comes from the fact that the publication (owner Avram Imbroane) had a mobile, moving editorial office: on 24 January 1919 it was published in Bucharest, from 13 April 1919 in Lugoj and from August it was issued in Timișoara.

²⁴⁰ Ibidem, pag. 40.

B16. MIXED CENSORSHIP OF THE OCCUPATION FORCES IN BANAT, TRANSYLVANIA AND HUNGARY, 1919-1920

Civil correspondence is usually censored in a single office, closest to the place of dispatch. Cases where internal correspondence bears two or three different national censorship markings are uncommon and very interesting. Such situations, involving mixed censorship (from two or three different administrations), are occasionally encountered on mail from Transylvania and Banat after World War I. As will be seen, the vast majority of these cases occurred in 1919, due to the specific postal situation conditions in each of the former Hungarian regions, then undergoing unification with Romania.



Map: outline of **buffer zones** established by the Allies to separate Romanian and Serbian troops. The interrupted **red line** shows the first **neutral zone of the French 11th Colonial Division**, extending up to the western line of Cenadul Sârbesc, Deta, and Vrșac (excluding Timișoara). This demilitarized zone (so, without Serbian army) existed from early **February to April 1919**, when it was restructured and renamed the **French Military Occupation Zone (ZOF)**, shown with a dashed **blue line**. The new zone was smaller in the west, allowing Serbian troops to return to several localities, including Cenad, Șag, Deta, Gătaia and extending to Vrșac, Oravița, and Moldova Nouă inclusive. By the end of July 1919, the entire area had been transferred to the Romanian army
(source: Wikipedia, modified by the author).

Combinations of censorship involving a censorship office and the corresponding place of dispatch or destination located outside Romanian territory (as it existed in 1919), or cases involving foreign

correspondence normally censored in two or more different countries, are not covered in this chapter and will be discussed in *Volume B/2*.

In Transylvania (T1 and TB), the only established censorship offices were **Romanian**. In Banat, censorship was handled by **Serbian** troops (except for the Lugoj center in BE, where censorship was granted to the Romanians as early as 28 May 1919). In Arad, censorship was exclusively **French** until May 1919, when a Romanian censorship office was opened at the city's train station.

Let us recall the codification of military occupation zones (see details in *Volume A/2*, chapter #A67):

- **T** = Transylvania up to the Apuseni Mountains, occupied by Romanian forces until 22 January 1919. Only Romanian censorship offices existed here (a few dozen).
- **P** = Partium, the area between the Apuseni Mountains and the current border, occupied by Romanians after the offensive of 16 April 1919.
- **Ph** = same Partium, but for the period of Hungarian control until 16 April 1919.
- **B** = Banat, subdivided into:
 - **BE** = **Eastern Banat**, under Serbian occupation until **30 January 1919** (BE1, with Serbian censorship in Vršac), then under French military occupation until **22 July 1919** (BE2, with censorship in Vršac²⁴¹ until April, and Romanian censorship in Lugoj starting May 1919), after which it was transferred to Romanian control. In April 1919, the French-occupied zone in Banat was restructured into the ZOF (*French Military Occupation Zone*, see map below). Notably, Eastern Banat was occupied by the French as a buffer zone between Romanian and Serbian troops, but the postal service, including censorship, remained under Serbian administration! The establishment of Romanian censorship in Lugoj in May 1919 (under French protection) marked the first breach in the Serbian postal system in Banat.
 - **BW** = **Western Banat**, remained under Serbian occupation until **27 July 1919**, with main censorship centers in Timișoara and Sânnicolaul Mare. The area came under Romanian control starting **3 August 1919**.
- **AR** = Arad area, under French occupation until **12 July 1919**, with exclusive French censorship until **24 May 1919**, followed by mixed French and Romanian censorship.
- **MZ** = Area of Romanian occupation in Hungary: **MZ1**(ZMO) = area up to the Tisza River; **MZ2** = area between the Tisza and Danube; **MZ3** = area west of the Danube.

B16A – Serbian – French Mixed Censorship (S+F or F+S)

This combination may appear on correspondences circulated between **Banat** (subject to Serbian censorship) and **Arad** (where French censorship was in operation), under the following conditions:

- correspondence departing from or arriving in Eastern Banat was censored by the Serbian censorship office in Vršac or Timișoara (in the latter case, only if the postal route passed through the city).
- correspondence departing from or arriving in Western Banat, regardless of the period, was censored by the Serbs in Timișoara.
- Correspondence between Banat and Arad had to be censored by the French office in Arad, regardless of the period (even if the Romanian censorship office of Arad was active).
- Correspondence in transit through Arad was censored by the French office only if sent from or addressed to Banat.

Taking into account these details, we can distinguish several combinations, depending on the direction of the postal route:

B16/01. – S+F Censorship (Serbian + French) Banat → Arad

This combination appears on mail *sent from the Serbian-controlled area* (**Banat**, mostly from the main censor offices Temesvár – for Western Banat and Versec – for Eastern Banat) *to the north* (so either to French-occupied **Arad**, or further into the area north of the Mureș River—**Partium**). Occasionally,

²⁴¹ From 1 February 1919 the town of Vršac was also occupied by the French, but the Serbian censorship station here would continue to check correspondence from BE (at least from the south of the area) until April 1919.

Transylvania can also be a destination, particularly when mail routed through Arad due to interruptions in traffic along the Lugoj-Ilia railway line. The theoretical period of existence of this combination is **January to 10 July 1919** (approximately six months).

- Mail **leaving BE** was censored by the Serbian censorship office in Vršac (at least for mail from southern BE) or in Timișoara, while mail **from BW** was always censored by the Serbian office in Timișoara. This makes Vršac — a town in SHS territory (modern-day Serbia) — important for Romanian postal history, as Eastern Banat mail was also checked here.
- Destinations included both **Arad** and the area north of the city, beyond the Mures River, in Partium, which was occupied by Hungarian troops until 16 April 1919 (**Ph**), then by Romanian troops (**P**). In both cases, the French censored correspondence after 25 May 1919 (following the Romanian entry into the city), according to the decree described on pag. 530.

Here are some examples of combinations:

Direction BE→T: see Fig. B15.16 (chapter #B15) for a rare example of early circulation between Serb-occupied Eastern Banat (Caransebeș, **BE1**) and the Romanian-occupied zone **T**, east of the Apuseni Mountains (Șibot, Hunedoara County). Normally, this mail would have followed the Lugoj-Ilia line, bypassing Arad) but due to temporary interruptions, it was rerouted through Arad, where it was censored in transit by the French. Because this Vršac + Arad combination was only briefly possible, such correspondence is rare. The theoretical occurrence period is **December 1918 – April 1919**.

Fig. B16.01. March 1919:

**Mixed Censorship
S+F (BE2→Ph/P):**

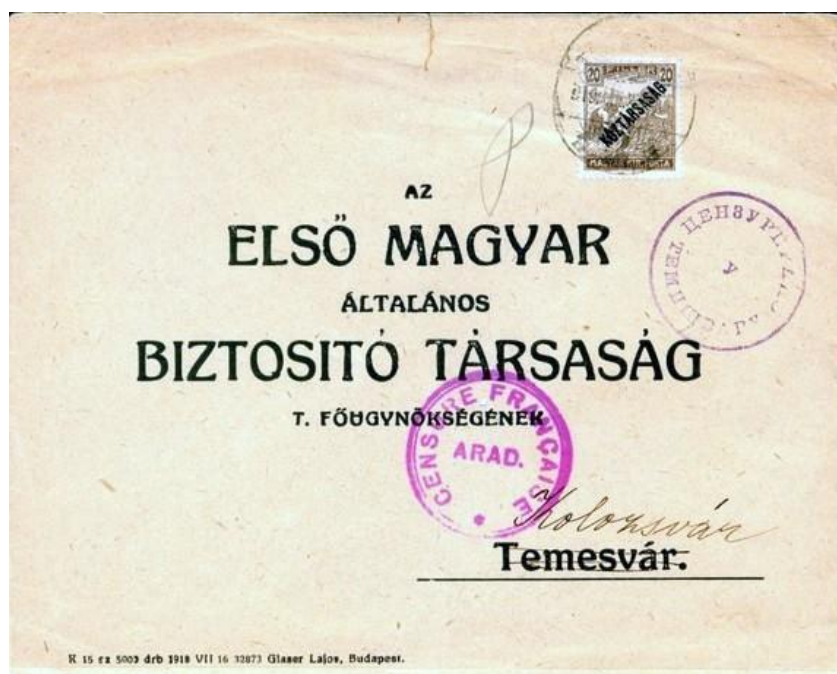
Postcard postmarked on 30 March 1919 in **TEMESSZLATINA (Slatina-Timiș, Caraș-Severin county)**. Although located in Eastern Banat (occupied by French troops), the postal route transited **Timișoara** (where it was censored by the Serbs with [OB14/04.1B](#)), then **Arad** (where it was recensored by the French with [OB15/01.1A](#)), before reaching its destination in **BOROSJENŐ / Ineu, Arad county**, which had come under Romanian control after the 16 April 1919 offensive.



Direction BE→P: see Fig B16.01 for an example of mail between Eastern Banat (Slatina-Timiș, south of Caransebeș²⁴², **BE2**, occupied by the French) and Partium (north of the Mureș River — either under Hungarian **Ph** or Romanian **P** depending on timing..., in this case Ineu, Arad county). The natural postal route passed through Timișoara and Arad. Theoretical period of appearance: **December 1918 – 10 July 1919**.

Direction BE→AR: this combination appears similar to the previous one (Vršac + Arad), with the distinction that censorship in **Arad** served as **terminal censorship** (not transit). Two known correspondences from **Oravița** (dated 27 March 1919 and 13 April 1919, **BE2**) were censored first in Vršac and then upon arrival in Arad by the French. Theoretical period: **December 1918 – 10 July 1919**.

²⁴² A correspondence on the route Caransebeș (9 April 1919) – Arad will also be routed directly through Timișoara (Serbian censorship) – Arad (French censorship)



Koztarsasag), postmarked March 1919 in TEMESVÁR (Timișoara). Censored by the Serbs with [OB14/04.1B](#), then passed through **Arad**, where the French applied their censorship handstamp [OB15/01.1A](#), en route to Kolozsvár / Cluj (T) (source: web)

Direction BW→AR, BW→T/P or **BW→MZ**: this refers to mail sent from Serbian-occupied Eastern Banat (with mandatory Serbian censorship in **Timișoara**) to Arad or Romanian-held regions in Transylvania or Hungary, north of the Mures River. Mail passed through French censorship in **Arad**. These combinations are relatively common. See *Fig. B16.02* for an example on the Timișoara – Arad – Cluj route. Theoretical period: **December 1918 – 10 July 1919**.

Fig. B16.02.
March 1919: Mixed Censorship
S+F (BW-T1)

Franked envelope (20 filler

B16/02. – F + S Censorship (French + Serbian) **Arad → Banat**

This reverse combination appears on mail *sent from the French or Romanian-occupied areas* (AR, T, P) — either directly from French-occupied Arad or from Romanian-controlled regions of Transylvania and Hungary. These correspondences transited through **Arad** en route to Banat. In all cases, the maximum theoretical period of use is **January to 10 July 1919** (six months). For reasons not entirely clear, this type of correspondence appears to be more frequent than the S+F direction.

Direction T→B: is not documented so far. The theoretical period of use would be between **December 1918 and April 1919** (covering the times when railway traffic through Ilia was suspended). Some such circulations are known; however, due to initial Romanian censorship, they fell under the rare *triple censorship category*: **R+F+S**;

Fig. B16.03.
June 1919: Mixed Censorship
F+S (MZ1→BE2):

Photo Postcard franked with 20 filler *Koztarsasag* (= Romanian tariff of 10 bani), postmarked on **4 June 1919** in MAKO (ZM1, now in Hungary), apparently not censored by the Romanians. It was censored in transit by the French in Arad with [OB15/01.1](#), then re-censored by the Serbs in Timișoara ([OB14/04.1](#)). By June 1919 the diversion through Vrșac was no longer used, and the mail arrived directly at its destination Orșova, in **BE2**.



Direction P→B: correspondence sent from Partium, transiting Arad en route to Banat or beyond (e.g., via SHS - Italy to Europe), is also rarely documented. See an example of such foreign mail to the USA in Fig. B16.06. Theoretical period of occurrence is: **December 1918 – 20 March 1919** (direction Ph-B), and **20 April – 10 July 1919** (direction P-B), considering that on 20 March 1919, postal service between Hungary and the Allies was suspended; that Partium was occupied by Romanian troops after their offensive on 16 April 1919; and that the latest known French censorship in Arad occurred on 10 July 1919.

Direction MZ→B: mail circulated from the Romanian-occupied zone in **Hungary** (mostly from MZ1) to **Banat** (either BE or BW). For example Battonya to Temesvár, or see another example in Fig. B16.03. The theoretical period of occurrence is **20 April to 10 July 1919**. When Romanian censorship was also applied at the point of origin, the mail falls again into the very rare **R+F+S** triple censorship category;

Direction AR→B: mail sent from **Arad** city to **Banat** (either BE or BW) is the most common type in this chapter, representing *terminal censorship*. See examples in Figs. B16.04 and B16.05. Mail from **Újarad** (geographically located in Banat) to Banat was also censored by French beginning with 7 May 1919 (and it is very possible that the handstamp „Ligeti” was used in an office located here...).



Fig. B16.04. June 1919: Mixed Censorship F+S (AR→BE2):

Postcard franked with a 10 filler Karl (Hungarian tariff), postmarked 12 June 1919 at **ARAD**, censored here by the French (B15/01.1B), then re-censored by the Serbs in transit at **Timișoara** (B14/04.1B), and finally delivered to Reșița, in **BE** (within the French ZOF).

Fig. B16.05.
June 1919: Mixed Censorship
F+S (AR→BE2):

Photo Postcard franked with three stamps (two Republican and one Reapers), totaling 23 filler (slightly over the Romanian tariff). Postmarked 10 June 1919 at **ARAD**, censored there by the French (B15/01.1B), then re-censored by the Serbs in transit at **Timișoara** (B14/04.1B), before reaching Vermes, in **BE**.



Foreign direction: this refers to international correspondence transiting **Arad** and **Timișoara**. The point of origin could have been in Arad (**AR**), Partium (**P**) or Hungary (**MZ1**), with the destination in a Western country. After 20 March 1919, postal traffic through Hungary was suspended, so the only viable route to the West was via Serbia (SHS) and Italy, requiring southbound routing through **Timișoara**. See examples in Fig. B16.06 (Partium to USA) and B16.07 (Arad to Italy).



Fig. B16.06. Mail from Partium to USA, circulated via Arad – Timișoara with mixed censorship (P-B). Envelope sent from Ineu, Arad County (P, under Romanian administration at that time) to New York, USA, postmarked BOROSEJENO on 28 May 1919. Due to the suspension of routes through Hungary, the mail was rerouted via SHS. It received French censorship in **Arad** [OB15/01.1B](#) and Serbian censorship in **Timișoara** [OB14/04.1B](#) (source: web, 2015).

Fig. B16.07.
July 1919: Mixed
Censorship F+S
(Arad - Italy).

Hungarian field postcard addressed to a POW in Naples, postmarked ARAD on 10 July 1919. Censored by the French ([OB15/01.1B](#)) — possibly on the last day of French censorship in Arad — then re-censored by the Serbs in transit at Timișoara ([OB14/04.1B](#)). Final transit included POW censorship in Rome (CENSURA MILITARE / PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA / RR POSTE), with an arrival stamp BARA * Naples in August 1919.



B16B. – French – Romanian Mixed Censorship (R+F or F+R)

This combination may appear on mail circulated between **Romanian** areas (Transylvania – T, Partium – P, Hungary – ZM) and **Arad** (under French censorship), taking into account the following limitations:

- Until 16 April 1919, the **T+AR** combination is rare due to the difficulty of postal traffic along the Savârșin – Lipova – Arad railway line, which was occupied by Bolshevik troops²⁴³. A singular example is shown in Fig. B16.08.
- Between 16 April and 25 May, the combination is theoretically possible (both **T+AR** and **P+AR**), but no examples have been recorded so far.

²⁴³Românul, Arad, no. 13 from 30 January 1919: *At the order of the Hungarian government, the Hungarian guards took over yesterday (29 January 1919) from the Romanian guards the railway between Arad and Soborșin. The Arad – Borosbeș railway line will also be taken by Hungarian guards. Consequently, all stations on the route were occupied by Hungarian guards, which would result in an increase of the incursions of Hungarian armored trains into Romanian territory along the railway line to Zam - Ilia, getting the farthest to Brănișca.*

- After 25 May, the **AR + T/MZ** combination becomes theoretically impossible again due to the clear delimitation of French censorship competence. See the Decree of 23 May 1919 by Gen. Tournade, which stated: „...letters and telegrams coming from, or destined for, the area occupied by the Romanian army (i.e. **T** or **MZ**) will be subject exclusively to the control of Romanian censorship.” Thus, the French were no longer permitted to censor correspondence originating from or addressed to Romanian territories (**T**, **P** and **MZ**). Yet, such items are encountered between at least **17 June and 19 July 1919**, based on departure postmarks from the Romanian area. This suggests that, for about a month near the end of the French occupation period, the decree was no longer respected — for reasons still unclear. See examples below in Fig. B16.09, 16.10, 16.11 and 16.13.

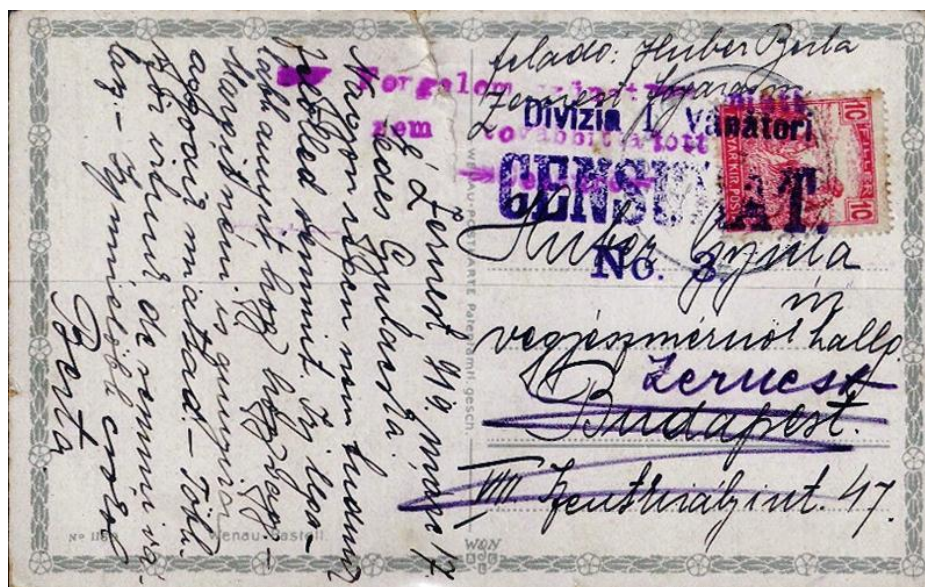


Fig. B16.08.

Postcard written in Zărnești (**T** area) on 17 March 1919 and addressed to Budapest. It was censored by the **1st Rifle Division** in Brașov with **ⓄB06/14.3**, then forwarded via the Făgăraș - Sibiu - Ilia - Arad railway. Upon arrival, it was stopped due to the cessation of postal relations with communist Hungary on 20 March,

and returned by the French censorship office in Arad and stamped with **ⓄB15/01.3**. (source: web, 2019)

Let's analyze again some correspondence, taking into account the direction of postal circulation:

B16/03. – R + F Censorship (Romanian + French) Transylvania/Partium/Occupied Hungary → Arad

Combination that appears on mail sent from **Romanian-occupied zones (Transylvania, Partium, and occupied Hungary)** to **French-occupied cities (Arad and Szeged)** both serving as bridgeheads against Hungarian red troops until July 1919.

Fig. B16.09.
June 1919: Mixed Censorship R+F (zone T to Arad):
Illustrated postcard (Pempflingergasse of Sibiu), franked 10 filler (= 5 Bani, under the Romanian tariff but not taxed), postmarked NAGYSZEBEN (**T** zone) on **26 June 1919** to Arad. Censored by the local office in Sibiu with **ⓄB06/86.2**, then — apparently contrary to regulations — re-censored by the French at its destination (**ⓄB15/01.1B**).



Direction T→AR / Szeged: mail circulated from the Romanian occupation zone in **Transylvania** to **Arad** (see Fig. B16.09) or **Szeged** (see Fig. B16.10). The theoretical period is between **January – 10 July 1919**. Other examples known so far: Sibiu to Szászabánya, Sibiu to Arad, Târgu Mureș to Szeged, Târgu Mureș to Arad, Alba Iulia to Szeged, etc.



Fig. B16.10: June 1919: Mixed Censorship R+F (zone T to Szeged).

Illustrated postcard (*Rakoczi Monument in Târgu Mureș*), franked 20 filler *Karl* (=10 Bani, Romanian tariff), postmarked **MAROSVÁSÁRHELY** on **24 June 1919**. Censored the same day by the Romanian office in Târgu Mureș with [ⓄB06/14.4](#), then transited via Arad where it was re-censored by the French, in apparent violation of order of 23 May (round handstamp [ⓄB15/01.1B](#)), finally arrived in Szeged, the second city occupied by French troops.

Direction P→AR: mail circulated from the Romanian occupation zone in **Partium** to **Arad** (see Fig. B16.11) or **Szeged** — in most cases, to Oradea. The theoretical period of existence is between **20 April and 11 July 1919**. The most common P-AR combinations are those from Oradea to Arad!



Fig. B16.11. July 1919: Mixed Censorship R+F (zone P to AR)

Illustrated postcard (*Darvasi Villa in Bratka, Bihor county*), franked 10 filler *Republic* (= 5 Bani, insufficient Romanian tariff due to devaluation, but not taxed Porto), written in Bratka on **2 July 1919**. It was not postmarked and was censored in **Oradea** ([ⓄB06/62.2a](#)), then re-censored by the French upon arrival in **Arad** ([ⓄB15/01.1B](#)).

Direction MZ→AR: mail circulated from the Romanian occupation zone in **Hungary** (almost all originating from MZ1, censored either by the 1st Rifle Division or in Oradea) to **Arad** or **Szeged**. See examples in Fig. B16.12 (Nyiregyháza to Szeged²⁴⁴, showing a unique case of consecutive censorship in both censorship offices in Arad) in Fig. B16.13 (Gyula to Arad, a classic example of correspondence arriving from the north of MZ1, censored by Romanian authorities in Oradea) and in Fig. B16.14 (Békéscsaba to Arad). Theoretical period of existence: **20 April – 10 July 1919**.

²⁴⁴ Interestingly, another correspondence, also shipped on 21 June 1919 from Nyiregyháza to Szeged, carries the Romanian censorship of **Debrecen** plus the French one in **Arad**.

Fig. B16.12.

June 1919: Mixed Censorship R+F (zone MZ1 to Szeged):

Photo postcard postmarked NYIREGYHÁZA (MZ1) on 21 June 1919, addressed to Szeged (a city occupied by French troops). Censorship was first applied by the Romanians in Arad (B06/05.1), in accordance with regulations, but the item was then re-censored by the French in the same city (B15/01.1B) before being sent to Szeged. A faint additional mark — possibly a Serbian transit censorship — can also be seen.
(source: web)

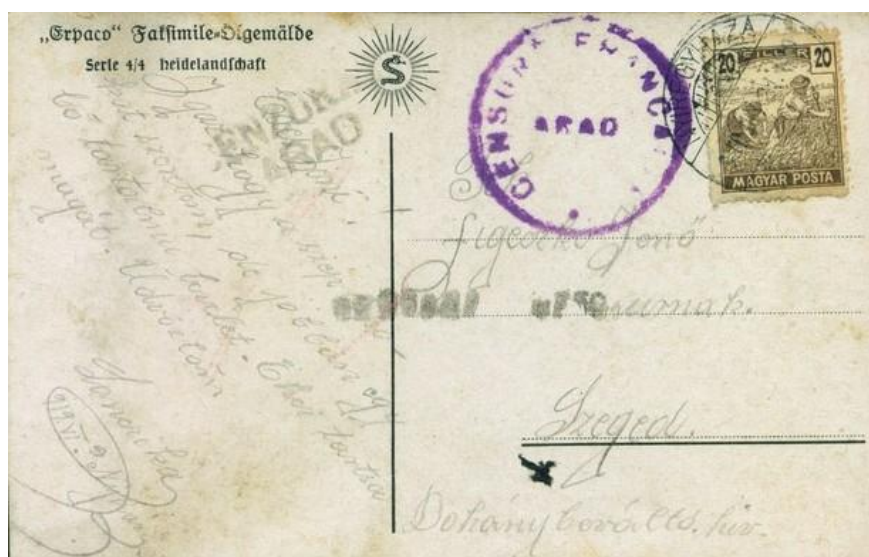


Fig. B16.13.

June 1919: Mixed Censorship R+F (zone MZ1 to AR):

Photo postcard franked 20 filler Republic (= 10 Bani, Romania tariff), postmarked JÓZSEFSZANATORIUM GYULA (MZ1) on 28 June 1919, addressed to Arad. The item was censored by the Romanian office in Oradea (B06/62.1), then — contrary to known regulations — re-censored by the French upon arrival in Arad (B15/01.1B)



Fig. B16.14: June 1919: Mixed Censorship on a cover from Békéscsaba to Arad (zone MZ1 to AR):

Registered envelope, franked 80 fillér (= 40 bani Romanian tariff), postmarked BÉKÉSCSABA (MZ1) on 17 June 1919, addressed to Arad. It bears the Romanian censor handstamp of the 1st Rifle Division in Békéscsaba (B09/02.1) and the French censorship handstamp applied in Arad (lightly applied in purple ink, over the top of the stamps), reading CENSURE FRANÇAIS / Ligeti (B15/01.2)





Fig. B16.15: Mixed Censorship on a postcard from Gyula to Arad (zone MZ1 to AR):

Postcard written on 29 June 1919, postmarked GYULA (MZ1) the next day. Censored in Gyula by the Romanian authorities (blue pencil notation under the stamp, [OB09/10.M](#)), then again by the office of the 1st Rifle Division in Békéscsaba ([OB09/02.1](#)), and a third time by the French censorship office in Arad ([OB15/01.1B](#)). The French mark is partially covered by a 20 filler Porto stamp, as the item was sent unfranked.

Foreign direction: refers to correspondence sent externally from Romanian areas (T, P, MZ), transiting through Arad and Timișoara on their way to the West, via Serbia / SHS – Italy. For reasons still unclear, these were no longer subject to Serbian censorship (otherwise, rare *triple censorings* would be more commonly seen). See examples in *Fig. B16.16* (Sighișoara to Switzerland), *Fig. B16.17* (Teiuș to USA) and *Fig. B16.18* (Bistrița to Austria).



Fig. B16.16. June 1919: Mixed Censorship R+F (zone T to Switzerland).

Illustrated postcard (Sighișoara Square), written on 10 June 1919 by a member of the military escort of the 2nd Swiss commercial train stationed at the city's railway station (see [#A92, Volume A/2](#)), franked 10 filler Reapers (=10 bani, correct Romanian tariff), postmarked SEGESVÁR on 11 June 1919. Censored by the Romanian office in Brașov (why not in Sighișoara?) with handstamp [OB06/14.4](#), and re-censored by the French during transit through Arad ([OB15/01.1B](#)), then routed via Serbia – Italy – France to Basel, Switzerland.

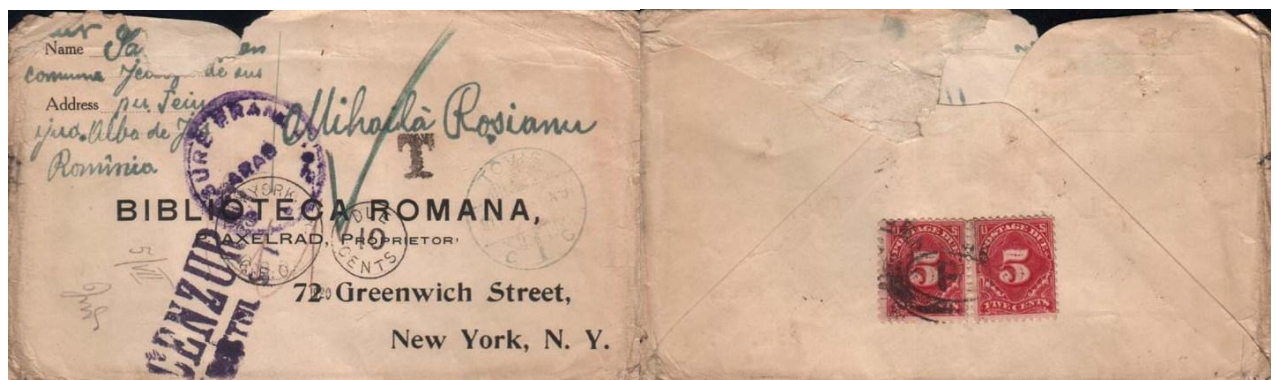


Fig. B16.17. July 1919: Mixed Censorship R+F (zone T to USA).

Cover postmarked TOVIS (Teiuș), censored by Romanians in Sibiu with [OB06/86.2](#) on 5 July 1919, transported by railway via Sebeș - Ilia – Arad, where it was re-censored by the French with [OB15/01.1B](#), and then forwarded via Serbia/SHS – Italy to New York, SUA, seemingly arriving sometime in 1920 (source: web, 2015).



Fig. B16.18. Triple censorship (double Romanian + French)!

Postcard postmarked BESZTERCZE on 27 May 1919. The next day, it was censored in Bistrița with B06/11.2. It then transited through Blaj, where it was re-censored by the Romanians with B06/12.1 on 5 June 1919 — Blaj being, at the time, a mandatory transit point for Transylvanian external mail. The item continued via the Teiuș - Ilia railway and reached Arad, where it was censored again by the French with B15/01.1B. It was then forwarded via SHS – Italia, arriving in WIEN in 19 septembre 1919 (source: collection Mark Lendon).

B16.04. – F + R Censorship (French + Romanian)
Arad → Transylvania/Partium/Occupied Hungary

This censorship combination would be expected on correspondence *sent from the French-controlled area (Arad, possibly Szeged) to the Romanian zone (T, P, MZ)*. For unclear reasons, it has not yet been observed on genuine correspondences. Currently, we must rely on a rather dubious philatelic cover, where it is not clear whether the double censorship applied in Arad is performed "on demand" or resulted from standard routing between the two occupation zones; see Fig. B16.19).



Fig. B16.19.
June 1919: Mixed Censorship F+R (zone AR to T):

Registered philatelic cover bearing three *Occupation francaise* overprinted stamps totaling 45 filler, postmarked ARAD 3 on 24 June 1919. It features local French censorship (B15/01.1B), and was then re-censored by Romanian authorities at the same location, using a questionable rectangular handstamp (B06/05.4). This re-censorship was likely justified by the destination: BOROSJENŐ / Ineu, in the north of Arad county (source: web, 2002).

B16C. – Serbian – Romanian Mixed Censorship (R+S or S+R)

These are among the most frequent multinational combinations, appearing in several instances where correspondence traveled between *Romanian-occupied areas* (Transylvania - T, Partium – P or occupied Hungary – ZM) and *Serbian-occupied areas* (Banat, either BE or BW). Circulation difficulties made such early items rare, especially in January 1919.

B16/05. – R + S Censorship (Romanian + Serbian) Transylvania/Partium/Occupied Hungary → Banat

This combination is found on correspondence *originating in Romanian-occupied areas* (Transylvania, Partium and occupied Hungary) addressed to *the Serbian-occupied area* of Banat. Theoretical period of appearance: **December 1918 – 27 July 1919**, with a known period of appearance to date: 23 February – 19 July 1919 (dates of first censorship).

Direction T→B: correspondences sent from *Romanian-occupied Transylvania* to *Serbian-occupied Banat*, either BE (Fig. B16.20, B16.21) or BW (Fig. B16.22). Other examples: Braşov to Timișoara or Caransebeș, Sibiu to Vârșeț, Vinț to Wien (Austria), etc.



Fig. B16.20. February 1919: Mixed Censorship R+S (zone T to BE)

Illustrated postcard (*Huet Square of Sibiu*), franked 10 fillér (Hungarian tariff), postmarked NAGYSZEBEN on 24 February 1919. For unclear reasons, it was not censored in Sibiu but instead by the 1st Rifle Division's censorship office in **Braşov** (hanstamp [B06/14.3](#)). Addressed to Caransebeș (BE, under French occupation but using the Serbian postal system). Due to probable disruption of the Ilia-Lugoș railway connection, the item was routed via Arad (without French censorship) and continued through **Timișoara**, where it was censored by the Serbian office ([B14/04.1A](#), variant without Y).



Fig. B16.21. July 1919: Mixed Censorship R+S (zone T to BE, before the establishment of the demarcation line). Illustrated postcard (*Ocna Sibiului Spa*), postmarked NAGYSZEBEN on 19 July 1919 and censored the same day by the Romanian office **Sibiu** ([B06/86.2](#)). Addressed to Vrșac (BE, Timiș county), and re-censored in transit by the Serbian censor office in **Timișoara** ([B14/04.1B](#)). Within days, Vrșac would lie beyond the new demarcation line, entering the Kingdom of SHS (future Yugoslavia) and thus exiting the area of Romanian postal administration.

Fig. B16.22.
July 1919: Mixed Censorship
R+S (zone T to BW)

Printed matter franked 20 filler (= 10 bani, Romanian tariff), postmarked BRASSO on 5 July 1919. Censored by the Romanian office in **Braşov** (B06/14.4), then re-censored upon arrival in **Timișoara** by the Serbian office (B14/04.1B).



Direction P→B: the already known correspondence from **Partium** to **Banat** was censored by the **French** in Arad, leading to **R+F** combinations already discussed (**P-AR** and **MZ-AR**). The **R+S** combination on this route is NOT yet documented

Direction MZ→B: several items known from **Szeged** (under French-occupation) to Lugoj, censored by Romanian authorities at **Măru Roșu** (Mezőhegyes) and subsequently by Serbian authorities in **Timișoara**. See examples in Fig. B16.23 and Fig. B09.24. The theoretical period for such combinations is **1 May – 27 July 1919**, and are encountered around 8 – 16 July 1919.



Fig. B16.23. Mixed Censorship R+S (zone MZ to Banat).

Postcard written on 25 June 1919 in Dorozsma, postmark KISKUNDOROZSMA (barely legible, partially obscured by other stamps), with a SZEGED transit postmark dated 19 July 1919. First censored at the nearby Romanian station of Mezőhegyes/ **Măru Roșu** with B09/24.1, then re-censored in transit through **Timișoara** using the Serbian handstamp B14/04.1B. Addressed to Lugoj (BE, Timiș county). The delays on the route were likely caused by the unstable situation at the Tisza front — Szeged was at its southern edge, and on 20 July the major Romanian counteroffensive across the Tisza began, ultimately resulting in the occupation of Budapest.



Fig. B16.24. Mixed Censorship R+S (zone MZ to Banat).

Postcard written on 8 July 1919 in Szeged, postmarked SZEGED on 15 July 1919. First censored at the nearby Romanian station of Mezőhegyes/ **Măru Roșu**, with B09/24.1 and the signature of censor Eugen Stoian. Re-censored during transit through **Timișoara** with a poorly printed Serbian B14/04.1. Addressed to Lugoj (BE, Timiș county).

Direction AR→B: although the city of Arad, after the withdrawal of the French and its transfer to Romanian control on 12 July 1919, should technically be considered part of Partium (P), I advocate keeping it in a separate category. This allows the combination of Serbian censorship in **Banat** and Romanian censorship in **Arad** to be appreciated as a minor rarity. The theoretical period of occurrence is limited to the period between **17 May and 27 July 1919**, but the known usage dates are from 20 May to 15 July 1919.

Fig. B16.25. Mixed Censorship R+S on a 5 kilometers postal route! (zone AR to B)

Official cover postmarked ARAD on 14 July 1919, censored locally by the Romanians with [B06/05.2](#). Addressed to Aradul Nou — only 5 km to the south and today a suburb of Arad — but as it was located south of the Mureş River it fell under the Banat region and Serbian occupation. Consequently, the item was re-censored in **Timișoara** (60 km to the south) using Serbian handstamp [B14/04.1B](#). As the addressee was unknown, the cover was returned to Arad.

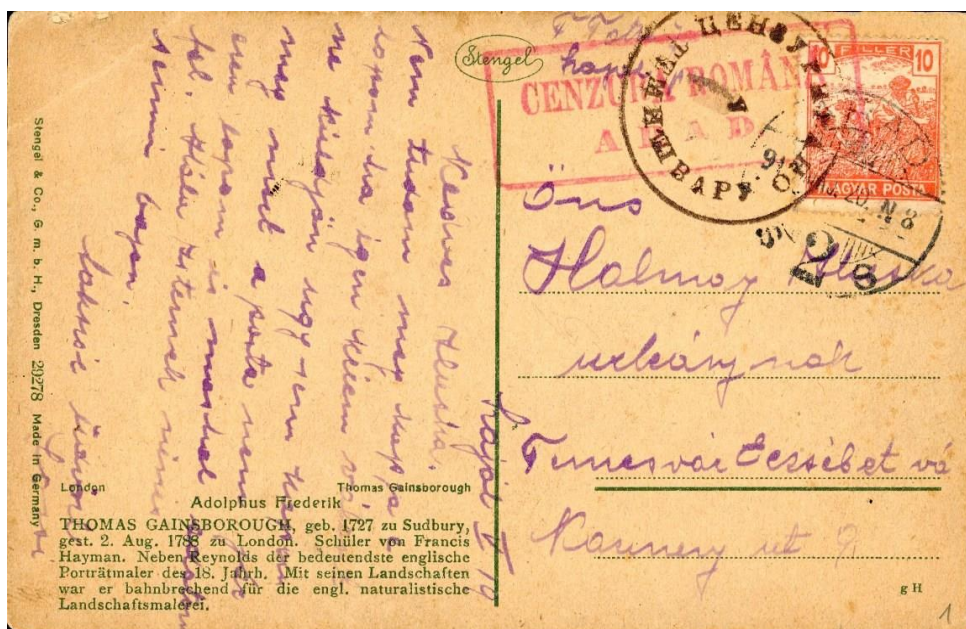


Fig. B16.26. Mixed Censorship R+S (zone AR to BW)

Postcard written on 19 May 1919 in **Szajol** (MZ1 in occupied Hungary), but postmarked ARAD on 20 May 1919. Censored by the newly established Romanian office in **Arad** with handstamp [B06/05.3a](#) — possibly on its very first day of operation —, then addressed to **Timișoara**, where it was re-censored upon arrival by the Serbs with [B14/04.1B](#) (collection [Mark London](#))

B16/05a. – R + S Censorship (Romanian + Serbian) Inside Banat

Direction BE→BW: mixed censorship *within the same region* is a special case, encountered in **Banat** only after the Romanian censorship office was set up in Lugoj (**24 May 1919, BE**). It applied to mail sent from the areas under the Romanian office in **Lugoj** (eastern Banat: Lugoj, Buziaș-Băi, Băile Herculane, Făget, etc.) to the Serbian controlled western Banat (with Serbian censorship in **Timișoara**). See *Fig. B16.27* and *B16.28*. Theoretically valid from **June to 27 July 1919**, with known usage from 2 to 16 July 1919. no **S+R** (Serbian to Romanian) censored items are known yet — that is, from BW (Serbian Timișoara) to BE (Romanian Lugoj).



Fig. B16.27. February 1919:
Mixed Censorship R+S
(zone BE to zone BW).

Postcard franked 10 filler (= Hungarian tariff), postmarked BUZIAS-FÜRDŐ (BE) on 1 July 1919, censored locally by the Romanian office in **Lugoj** (B06/50.3), then re-censored at its destination in **Timișoara** (BW) by the Serbs (B14/04.1B).

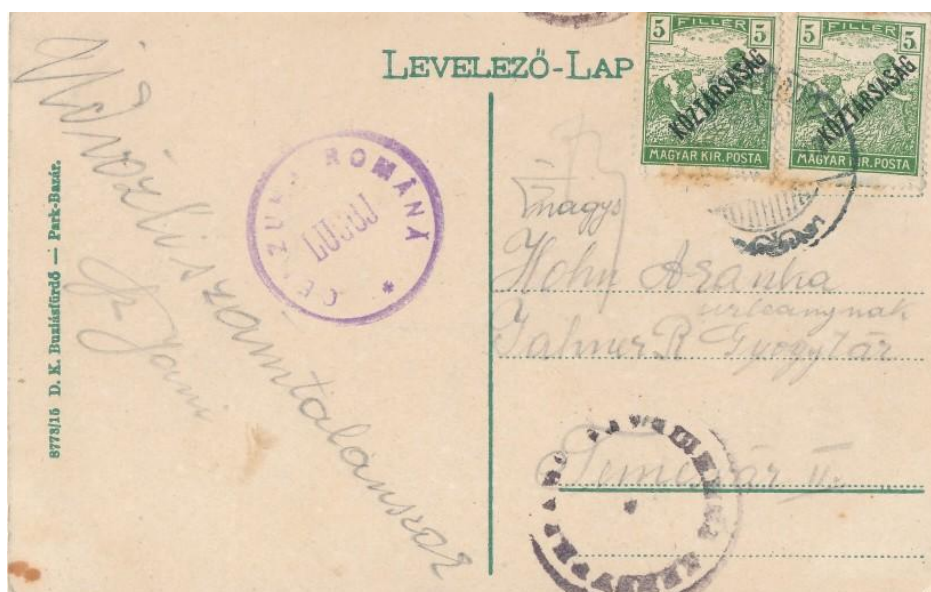


Fig. B16.28. February 1919:
Mixed Censorship R+S
(zone BE to BW).

Illustrated postcard franked 10 filler (= Hungarian tariff), postmarked BUZIAS-FÜRDŐ in July 1919, censored locally by the Romanian office **Lugoj** (B06/50.1), and addressed to Timișoara (BW), where it was re-censored by the Serbs with B14/04.1B.

After 3 August 1919 (Romanian occupation of Timișoara), the only possible S-R combination in today's Romanian Banat involved Romanian censorship in **Timișoara** and Serbian censorship in **Jimbolia**, which was still part of Serbia at the time (transferred to Romania only in 1924; see #02.2.2, Volume A/2). Refer to Fig. B14.16. Combinations of Romanian censorship in Timișoara with Serbian censorship in other parts of present-day Serbia or former Yugoslavia (Subotica, Pancevo, Zrenjanin, etc.) are common but fall outside the scope of this volume, as they are treated as Romanian external mail to SHS/Yugoslavia.

B16/06. – S + R Censorship (Serbian + Romanian) **Banat → Transylvania/Partium/occupied Hungary**

Direction B→T: correspondence from Banat to Transylvania is rare. See Fig. B14.02 for an early example of mail from **Sânnicolaul Mare** (Serbian censorship) to Brașov (with Romanian censorship by the local government in **Sibiu**) in January 1919. The theoretical period of occurrence would be **December 1918 – 27 July 1919**. Another example is shown in Fig. B14.12, where Serbian censorship was applied in Versec.

Direction B→P or B→ZM: one postcard known, mailed from Sztancsafalva (Temes county, today Stanciova) to Békéscsaba, censored by Serbs in Temesvar and Romanians at arrival, by 1st Rifle Division. Mail addressed to Partium is not yet recorded. The theoretical period of occurrence would be **20 April – 27 July 1919**. See also Fig. B16.30 for a delayed circulation from Szeged to ZMO.

Direction B→AR: this is the reverse of the previously discussed route, referring to mail from **Banat** (under Serbian censorship) to **Arad** (under Romanian censorship after 17 May 1919). These are rarely encountered. The theoretical period of occurrence is **24 May – 27 July 1919**. See Fig. B16.30.



**Fig. B16.29. July 1919:
Mixed Censorship S+R
(zone BW to AR).**

Postcard written in Mehala (now a suburb of Timișoara), postmarked TEMESVÁR sometime in July 1919, censored by the local Serbian office in Timișoara with [B14/04.1B](#). Addressed to Orțișoara (Timiș county, 27 km north, toward Arad), it was re-censored by the Romanian office in **Arad** with handstamp [B06/05.2](#).



**Fig. B16.30. Mixed S+R
Censorship on delayed
mail due to front
conditions
(Szeged to MZ).**

Postcard written in Szeged on 30 March 1919 and addressed to Hódmezővásárhely, **only 26 kilometers** to the North-East. But relations between French occupation area and Hungary across Tisza were suspended on 20 March 1919, so the postcard was diverted to Temesvár, where censored by Serbs with [B14/04.1B](#).

The postcard was released only following the Romanian occupation of Hungary to the Tisza (1 May), when it was recensored in Arad with [B06/05.2](#) (sometimes between May and July 1919!) and forwarded to the addressee.

B16D. – Triple Censorship (S-F-R)

Triple censorship can be found in some of the above-discussed cases of *double censorship*, where a third censorship stage occurred — either terminal (**Romanian** for Transylvania, Partium, or occupied Hungary, or **Serbian** for Timisoara) or intermediate (**French** in Arad). These items are valuable historical documents, illustrating the presence of the three Allied powers on former Hungarian territory — Transylvania, Banat, and Partium — prior to the definitive *demarcation lines* established in Paris (**mid-July 1919**). These lines, with minor exceptions in the West and North, became the official state borders.

Soon after this decision by the Peace Conference, French and Serbian troops withdrew from Arad and Banat, transferring control to Romanian forces in **July 1919**. Arad was the first city handed over on **12 July 1919**, followed by Eastern Banat on **22 July 1919**, and Western Banat — including Timișoara — between **27 July and 3 August 1919**. By July-August 1919, nearly the entire territory awarded to Romania was under

Romanian administration. At that point, censorship became exclusively Romanian, effectively ending the era of *mixed*, double, or triple *censorship*.

Due to their rarity, the majority of known combinations of triple censorship will be reviewed.

**B16/10. – R + F + S Censorship (Romanian + French + Serbian)
Transylvania / Partium → Arad → Banat**

This is relatively the most common triple censorship combination, seen on mail sent from Transylvania / Partium (**Romanian** censorship) to Banat (**Serbian** censorship), transiting through the Mureș Valley via the Ilia – Savârșin railway line, where French censorship occurred in **Arad**. The theoretical period of use of these triple censorships is **April – 10 July 1919** (the combination is unlikely before April 1919). The confirmed usage period is currently **25 May – 28 June 1919**. Examples: Sibiu – Arad – Timișoara, Oradea – Arad – Timișoara, plus *Figs. B16.31 and B16.32*.

Fig. B16.31.
Triple Censorship R+F+S
(zone T via AR to BW).
Postcard postmarked
KOLOZSVÁR on 27 May
1919, locally censored in Cluj
(T) by the Romanian office
using [B06/20.2](#). Forwarded
via Teiuș - Ilia – Săvârșin, it
reached **Arad**, where it was
re-censored by the French
with [B15/01.1B](#). It was then
sent to Banat (BW), where it
was censored again by the
Serbian office in **Timișoara**
([B14/04.1B](#)). Arrival
Tamásfalva, Torontál county
(today Hetin / Хетин,
on Serbian border).

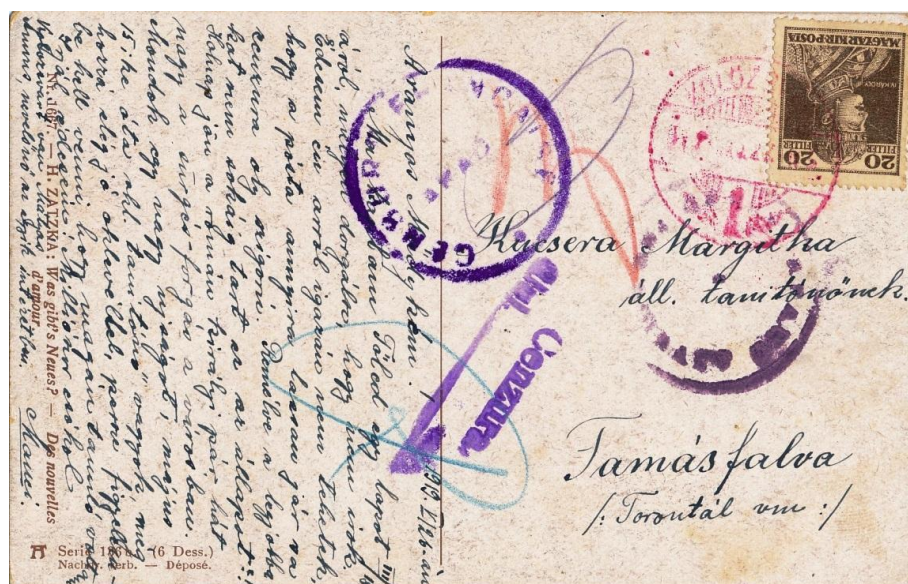


Fig. B16.32. Triple Censorship R+F+S (zone T via AR to BW).

Illustrated postcard (showing a view of Sibiu), written on 28 June 1919, postmarked NAGYSZEBEN the following day. Locally censored by the Romanian office in Sibiu (T) with [B06/86.2](#). Forwarded via the Vinț - Ilia – Săvârșin railway line, it arrived in **Arad**, where it was re-censored by the French with [B15/01.1B](#). It was then sent to its destination in **Timișoara** (BW), where it received a third censorship by the Serbian office, with handstamp [B14/04.1](#) — barely legible, as it was applied over the postage stamp.

Occupied Hungary (MZ1)

An interesting situation is shown in Fig. B16.33, where a correspondence circulated *exclusively* within the territory of **MZ1/ZMO** (occupied Hungary) ends up being censored by the French in **Arad** and by the Serbs in **Timișoara**.

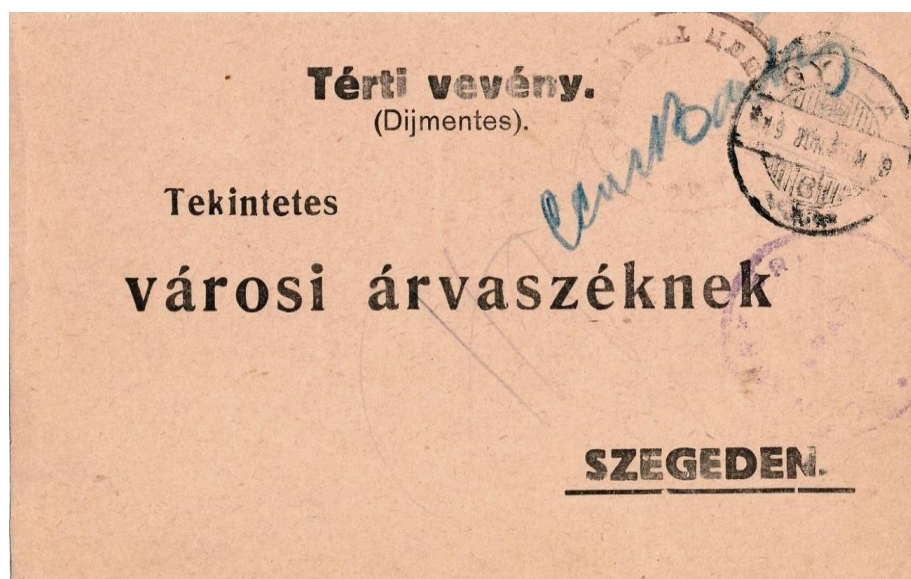


Fig. B16.33.
Triple Censorship R+F+S
(zone **MZ1** Gyula via **AR** to Szeged).

Printed matter, postmarked GYULA (MZ1) in June 1919, with handwritten Romanian censorship in Gyula (MZ1) in blue pencil, [ⓅB09/10.M](#). Addressed to Szeged (a city under French occupation, 110 km to the northeast), it made instead a detour through **Arad** (French censorship with a poorly printed [ⓅB15/01.1](#)) and **Timișoara** (BW) (Serbian censorship with [ⓅB14/04.1B](#)).

Foreign direction: this refers to mail sent externally from **Romanian** areas (**T**, **P**, **MZ**), transiting through the cities of **Arad** (French censorship) and **Timișoara** (Serbian censorship) on its way to the West via Serbia / SHS – Italy. See Fig. B16.34

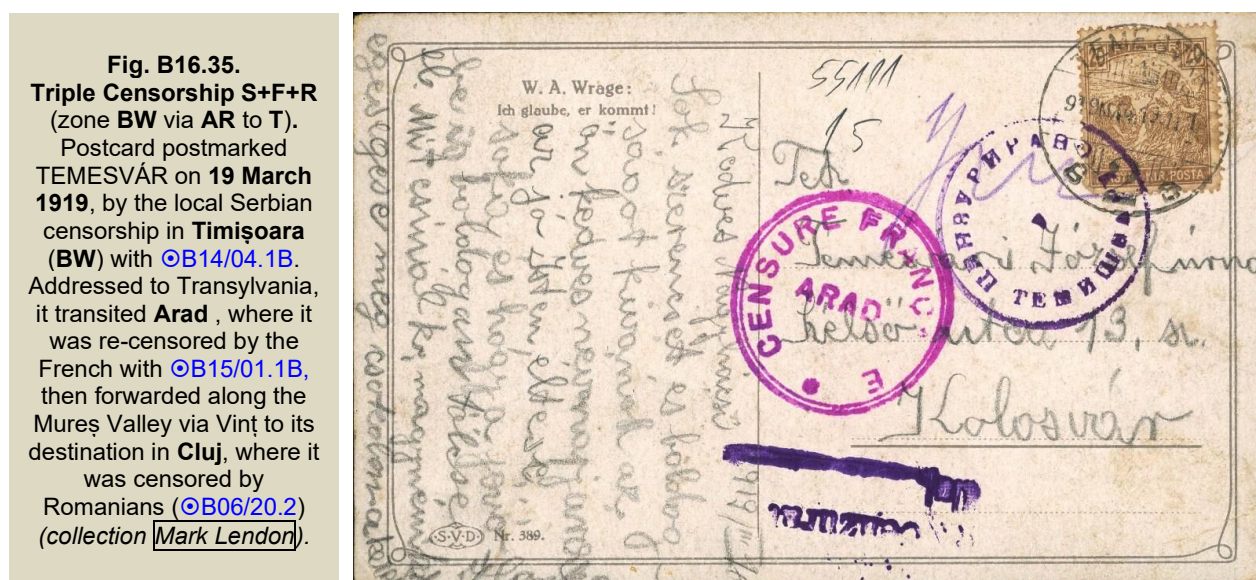


Fig. B16.34. Triple Censorship R+F+S
(zone **T** via **BW** and **AR** to Switzerland)

Cover dated **6 June 1919**, postmarked OTOHAN on 25 June 1919, censored by the Romanian office in nearby **Brașov** (**T**) with [ⓅB06/14.4](#), and addressed to Switzerland. It was forwarded via the Sibiu – Ilia – Săvârșin railway line to **Arad** (where censored by the French with [ⓅB15/01.1B](#)), then to **Timișoara** (**BW**), where it received Serbian censorship with [ⓅB14/04.1B](#), before passing via SHS – Italy to its destination. Arrival 24 July 1919 (source, private collection 2016).

B16/11. – S + F + R Censorship (Serbian + French + Romanian) **Banat → Arad → Transylvania/Partium**

This is the reverse situation of the one described above. It appears on correspondences sent from **Banat** (Serbian censorship) to **Transylvania** (Romanian censorship), transiting through **Arad** (French censorship) and the Mureș Valley via Săvârșin – Ilia – Vinț. See Fig. B16.35.



Another known example follows the stages: Timișoara (Serbian censorship) – Arad (French censorship) – 1st Rifle Division in Transylvania (Romanian censorship).

A similar route, but toward Partium, is known from two postcards:

- ❖ One postmarked TEMESVÁR (illegible date), censored locally by the Serbs, then by the French in Arad, and finally by the Romanians at the destination in Maria-Radna.
- ❖ One postmarked ZSOMBOLYA (Serbian censorship in Temesvar) – Arad (French censorship) – Lipova (Romanian censorship Mariaradna).

B16/12. – R + S + F Censorship (Romanian + Serbian + French) Banat (twice) → Arad

A special situation is encountered after the opening of the Romanian censor office in Lugoj (May 1919), when correspondence sent from Eastern Banat — censored by Romanians in **Lugoj** —, transited through **Timișoara** (with a second Banat-based censorship, this time Serbian), and was finally re-censored by the French at its destination in **Arad**. See Fig. B16.36.



After 22 January 1919, the territory between the Apuseni Mountains and the current border (the so-called "Partium" or "Crișana") remained under Hungarian administration — initially republican (until 20 March 1919), then communist (until the occupation of the region by the Romanian army, between 16-20 April 1919). Occasionally, censorship of correspondence was organized, so far known only from one location.

(Sălaj county, then and now)

201804
SZILAGY SOMLYÓ
Király

201804
SZILAGY SOMLYÓ
Marinescu

applied in black in **February 1919**. Initially reported by Király Francisc in 1993 [B06.9] (though then considered a Romanian censor marking); see also Călin Marinescu [B00.5, pp. 318-319].

During the revolutionary turmoil in Vienna and Prague at the end of 1918, Romanian troops deployed there (around 1400 soldiers) were among the few organized formations maintaining peace and order in the two major cities. They operated under the command of the **Consiliului Național Român** (*The Romanian National Council*), led by Iuliu Maniu, based in the former Kriegsministerium building, Löwelstraße 8, Vienna.

(Austrian capital)

©B019/01.1: rectangular-framed handstamp with the text: **Consiliul Național Român / Viena / Cenzurat / Viena....**; dimensions 83 x 27 mm; applied in red ink on a postcard addressed to Cernăuți, written on 1 July and censored on **4 July 1919**. First reported by Mircea Dragoteanu²⁴⁵ and discussed by Călin Marinescu [*IB00.5*, pp. 240-241], this handstamp was most likely used to mark the censored correspondence forwarded by military couriers between the *Romanian National Council* in Vienna and the *Consiliul Dirigent* in Sibiu, while postal relations were suspended between Austria and Romania.



²⁴⁵ Mircea Dragoteanu - *Ștampilă de cenzură română aplicată în Austria*, Curierul Filatelic No. 128 / Sept.-Oct. 2003.

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- [B11.2] **Gyorgy Kovacs** – *Contribuții cu privire la ștampilele din timpul ocupației germane 1916-1918*, Filatelia No. 230 / June **1975**, p. 6-7.
- [B11.3] **D. Pașșalega** – *Cu privire la ștampilele de cenzură din perioada 1916-1918*, Filatelia No. 231 / July **1975**, p.
- [B11.4] **Gyorgy Kovacs** – *Militärverwaltung in Rumänien 1916/18*, Sammler-dienst Cottbus, no. 1/1976, p. 44-47 (German)
- [B11.5] *** - *(Bankzensur)*, AGZ-Rundbrief no. 30/1980, p. 18, with answer in next issue, no. 31/1981, p. 57 (German)
- [B11.6] **C.M. Trevers** – *WWI German Censoring in Craiova*, The N.S.W. Philatelist, Australia, February **1981**, p. 12-18 (English)
- [B11.7] **Franz Josef Mutter** - *Die Landespost im besetzten Rumänien 1917-1918. M.V.i.R. - Militärverwaltung in Rumänien*, Soest, Germania, **1999** (German)
- [B11.8] **George Morărel** – *Importante descoperiri M.V.i.R. / Important M.V.i.R. Finds*, Studii Filatelice Brașovene no. 1 (14)/2010, p. 9-13, continued with **Part III**, Studii Filatelice Brașovene no. 1 (18)/2011, p. 15-25, **Part IV**, Studii Filatelice Brașovene no. 4 (21)/2011, p. 20-27 and no. 2 (23)/2012, p. 17-20, etc (Romanian/English)
- [B11.9] **Grecu Dan Simion** – *1 iunie 1917: Prima zi de funcționare a poștei civile germane din România ocupată / June 1st, 1917: First day of the German civilian post operation in occupied Romania (Landespost)*, philatelica.ro no. 4(39) / Oct.-Dec. **2015**, p. 2-4 (Romanian/English)
- [B11.10] **Cristian Andrei Scăiceanu** – *Cenzura corespondenței bancare în timpul ocupației germane din PRM / The censorship of banking mail of the German occupation during WWI*, philatelica.ro, no. 38/2015, p. 20-22 (Romanian/English)
- [B11.11] **Cristian Andrei Scăiceanu** – *Date noi despre activitatea poștală la Craiova în timpul ocupației germane 1916-1918 / New data about postal activity in Craiova during the German occupation 1916-1918*, philatelica.ro, no. 46/2017, p. 10-12 (Romanian/English)

- [B11.12] **Günter Büning** – *Die Deutsche-Etappen-Verwaltung (D.E.V.) in der Dobrudscha*, Interessengemeinschaft Deutsche Besetzung im 1. Weltkrieg, *Part I* – No. 3 / October **2020**, pp. 6-10, *Part II* – No. 4 / April 2021, pp. 52-55 (German)
- [B11.13] **Günter Büning** – *Die Zensurstempel der Postüberwachungsstellen Bukarest 24a / Craiova 24b, deren Ergänzungen und Berichtigungen...*, Interessengemeinschaft Deutsche Besetzung im 1. Weltkrieg, *Part I* – No. 6 / 2022, *Part II* – No. 7 / October 2022, pp. 58-65, *Part III* – No. 8 / April **2023**, pp. 56-61 (German)

#12 – Bulgarian Censorship in occupied Romania

- [B12.1] **Милчо Василев, Д. Козаров, Н. Грънчаров** - *Цензуриране на гражданската кореспонденция в България по време на Първата световна война 1915-1918 г.* Sofia, f.a., p. (*Censorship of civil correspondence in Bulgaria during the First World War 1915-1918*)
- [B12.2] **Earl H. Galitz** - *The Bulgarian Occupation Regime in Romania 1916-1918. The Civil Censorship Illustrated*, Romanian Postal History Bulletin, USA, no. 3(6)/ Sept.**1991**, pag.16-20 (English)
- [B12.3] **Andrew Cronin** – *Additional Notes to the Bulgarians in Roumania 1916-1918*, Romanian Postal History Bulletin, USA, no. 7(10)/**1993**, p.25-32 (English)

#13 – Turkish Censorship in occupied Romania

- [B13.1] **Grecu Dan Simion** – *Oficiile poștale militare otomane din București 1917-1918*, Filatelia no. 7-8(615-616)/July-August 2007, p. 6-7, 15.

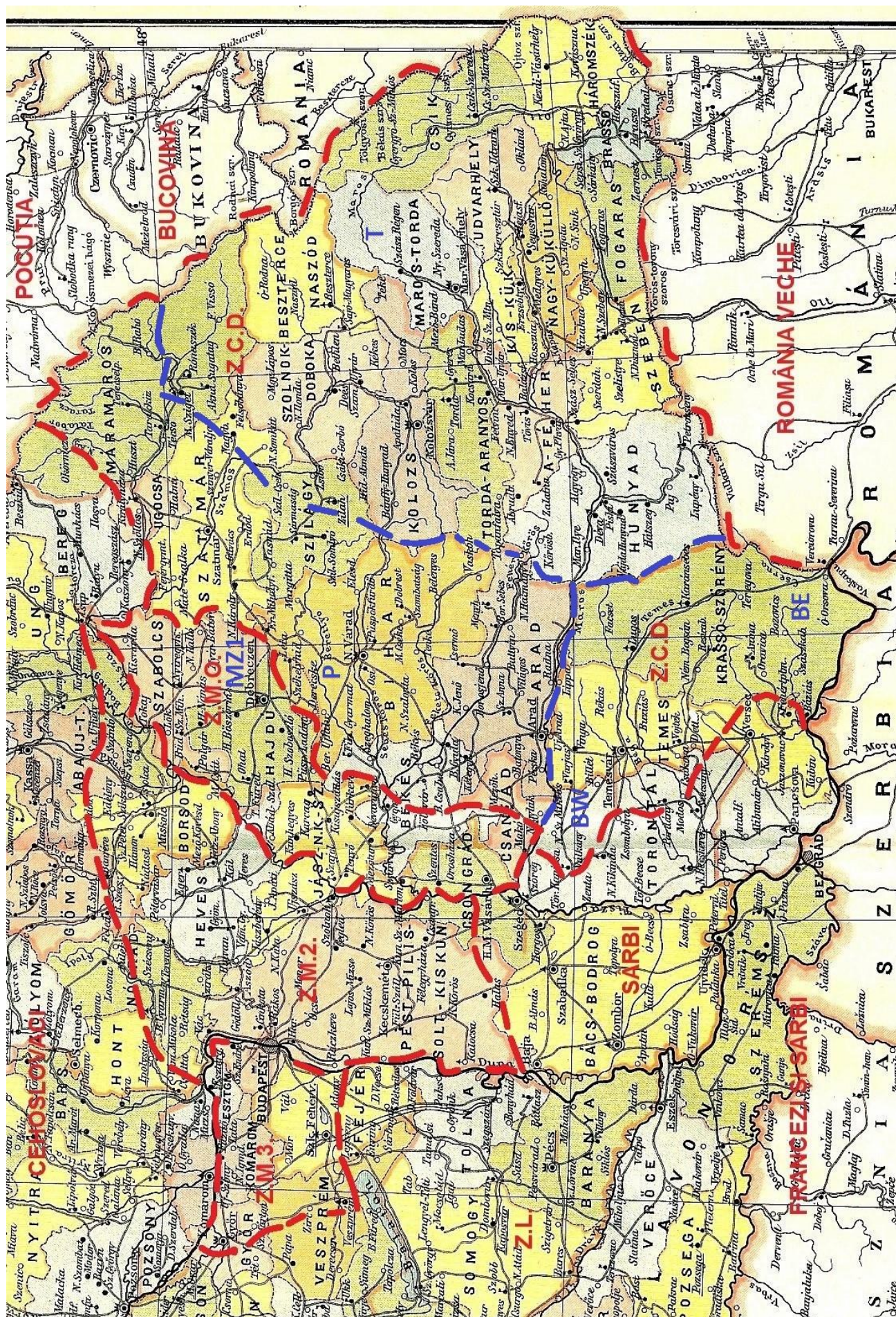
#14 – Serbian Censorship in Banat

- [B14.1] **Grecu Dan Simion** - *Ștampilele cenzurii sârbe la Timișoara*, Buletinul ABB no. 1 (2)/**1993**, p. 20 (Romanian).
- [B14.2] **Војин Вишацки** - *Војне Цензуре 1876. - 1945 (Military Censorship, Part II)*, Filatelista Beograd No. 225/226, January **1996**, pag. 17-42 (Serbian)
- [B14.3] **Slobodan Bajić** - *Mărci editate la Timișoara în perioada conducerii administrației sârbești 1919*, Beograd 1998 ('Filatelista' No. 215/216), Timișoara **1999** ('Buletinul ABB' No.5(30)/Dec.1999)
- [B14.4] **Dan Traian Demeter** – *Din nou despre ocupația sârbă din Banat*, Buletinul ABB no. 32/**2000**, p. 13-17.
- [B14.5] **Dan Traian Demeter** – *Ștampilă mută de cenzură sârbă nesemnălată până în prezent, folosită în Banat în anul 1918*, Buletinul ABB no. 54/**2005**, p. 22-23.
- [B14.6] **Traian Serendan** - *Ștampila de cenzură sârbă din Timișoara 1918-1919*, Filatelia, București, no. 588/**2005**, p. 5-6.
- [B14.7] **Titus Orădean** – *Contribuții la studiul cenzurii sârbe la Aradul Nou*, Buletinul ABB no. 61/**2007**, p. 29-31.
- [B14.8] **Traian Serendan** - *Ștampila de cenzură sârbă „Cenzurat la Timișoara” / The Serbian Censoring Cachet*, Studii Filatelice Brașovene, Brașov, no. 4/**2006**, p. 9 (Romanian/English).
- [B14.9] **Hermann Dietz, Helmut Kobelbauer** – *Die jugoslawische Postzensur, von 1918 bis 1921*, **2012**, 287 pages A4 (German)

#15 – French Censorship in Arad

- [B15.1] **Teleguț Mircea** – *Zensurstempel aus der Zeit der französischen Besetzung in Arad*, AGZ no. 44/**1984** (German).
- [B15.2] **Călin Marinescu** – *Cenzura militară poștală franceză*, 2003
- [B15.3] **Cserni Gyorgy** – *Az aradi francia megszállás helyi bélyegkiadása*, Bélyegvilág Filatéliai Szemle No. 7-8/**2005**, pag. 4-10 (Hungarian)

NOTE: If not otherwise mentioned, the articles are in Romanian.



Postal History Zones in former Hungarian Territories (Transylvania, Partium, Banat) and Occupied Hungary

Blue line: demarcational lines up to April/July 1919: between Transylvania and Partium (existed between 22 January – 16 April 1919), Banat and Transylvania & Partium (existed between December 1918 – July 1919).

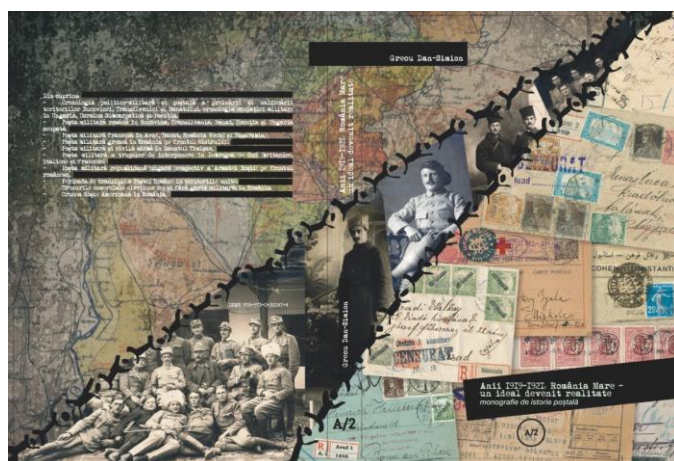
Blue abbreviations: **T** = Transylvania (up to the Apuseni Mountains), **P** = Partium (between Apuseni Mountains and the demarcational line of July 1919), **MZ1** = First area of occupied Hungary, up to the Tisa river (later ZMO), **BE** and **BW** = the eastern and western parts of Banat (under Serbian and French military occupation until July 1919)

Red line: demarcational lines from August 1919 up to November 1919 / March 1920.

Red abbreviations: **ZCD** = **Zona Consiliului Dirigent** (later **Zona de Supraveghere**) the area under the local Governorate of Sibiu (later Cluj), established after the recognition of the new provisional frontiers by the Paris Conference and the withdrawal of Allied armies (French and Serbian) from Arad and Banat, which contained Transylvania (former T), Banat (former BE and BW) and Partium (former P, with some territories to the west and north which finally were not given to Romania, but remained in Hungary or were annexed by Czechoslovakia), **ZMO** = **Zona Militară de Ocupatie** (or MZ1), the occupation area up to Tisza river, with the seat in Debrecen; **ZM2** = the temporary occupation area up to Danube, **ZM3** = the temporary occupation area west of Danube, **Sârbi** = Serbian occupation in Bacska, **ZL** = the Hungarian unoccupied area, **Cehoslovaci** = Czechoslovaks.

Preview for volume B/2: Romanian Postal Routes during World War I





A/2

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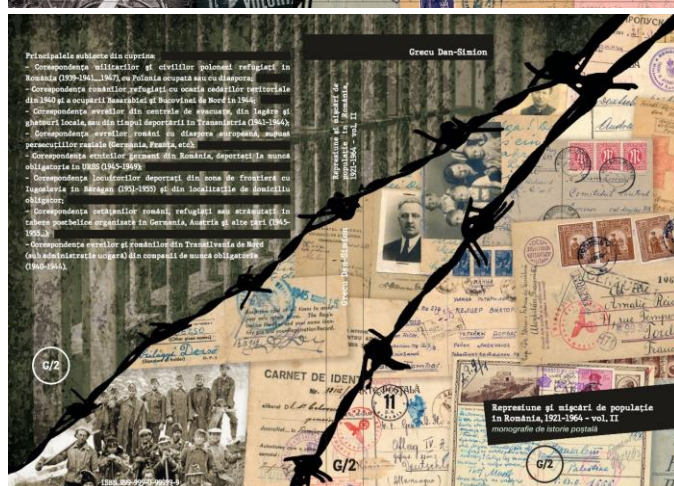
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G/2

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