

1939 Postcard verified by the Königsberg censor office

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Already before the outbreak of the war, the German government had made plans about the organization of the civil censor service. Initially, the idea was to centralize this service in just one office in Berlin, for all the mail coming into the German Empire as well as all mail sent abroad. There was to be an exception for the mail from and to Eastern Prussia that would be censored in a secondary office in Königsberg. A few days after the start of the war on September 1, 1939, both offices were functioning.

Very rapidly, it became clear that the Berlin office could not handle the huge amount of mail on its own. It was decided to create decentralized censor offices, each of them in charge of a particular geographical zone. The task of censoring the mail exchanged between Hungary and its outland was attributed, amongst others, to the Vienna censor office. This office opened December 1, 1939.

Thus, Hungarian mail has been censored in the Königsberg censor office only during the first three months of the war and only when it was sent to Eastern Prussia.

This typewritten folded business postcard was cancelled in the Budapest 12 post office on August 28, 1939. Sent to Königsberg, it reached its destination after the outbreak of the war and was one of the first items to be handled by the newly installed censor office, before being delivered. All the censor markings on the card are typically those used during the first month of its functioning.

The circular handstamp with the denomination 'Auslandsnachrichtenprüfstelle/Königsberg (Pr)' (foreign mail verification office) has been in use until February, 1940. But in the color blue it has been used in September, 1939 only.

A small strip of paper with the text 'Auslandsbriefüberwachungsstelle' (foreign letter surveillance office) was stuck vertically along the left side of the card. This kind of label is only known on mail censored in the first days of functioning of the office. The reason for the application of this second denomination is not clear and apparently its use was considered superfluous since it was abandoned very rapidly.

The one-line handstamp 'Von der Wehrmacht zugelassen' is also part of the equipment used in the first months only.

