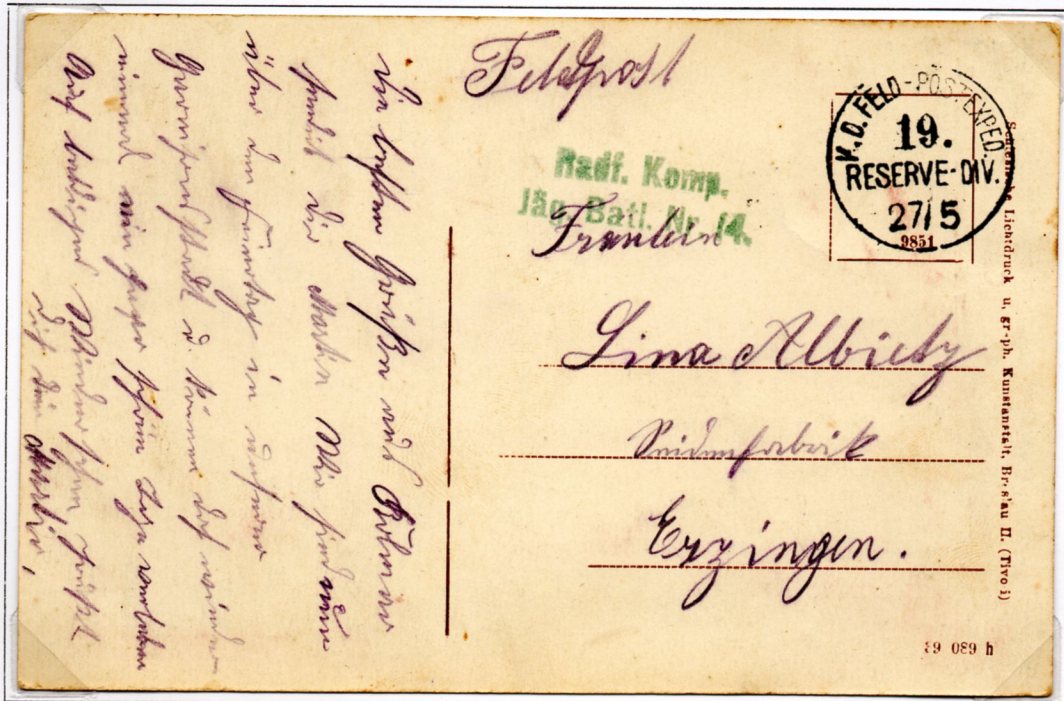


Rheinisches hunter batalion Nr. 8 is from the province of Rhineland, had two bicycle companies and was part of the newly established Prussian hunter's troop in the Rhenish rifle battalion. 26.05.1915 - 30.09.1915 they fought in Hooze at Bellewaerde Ridge east of Ypres in Flanders in Belgium.



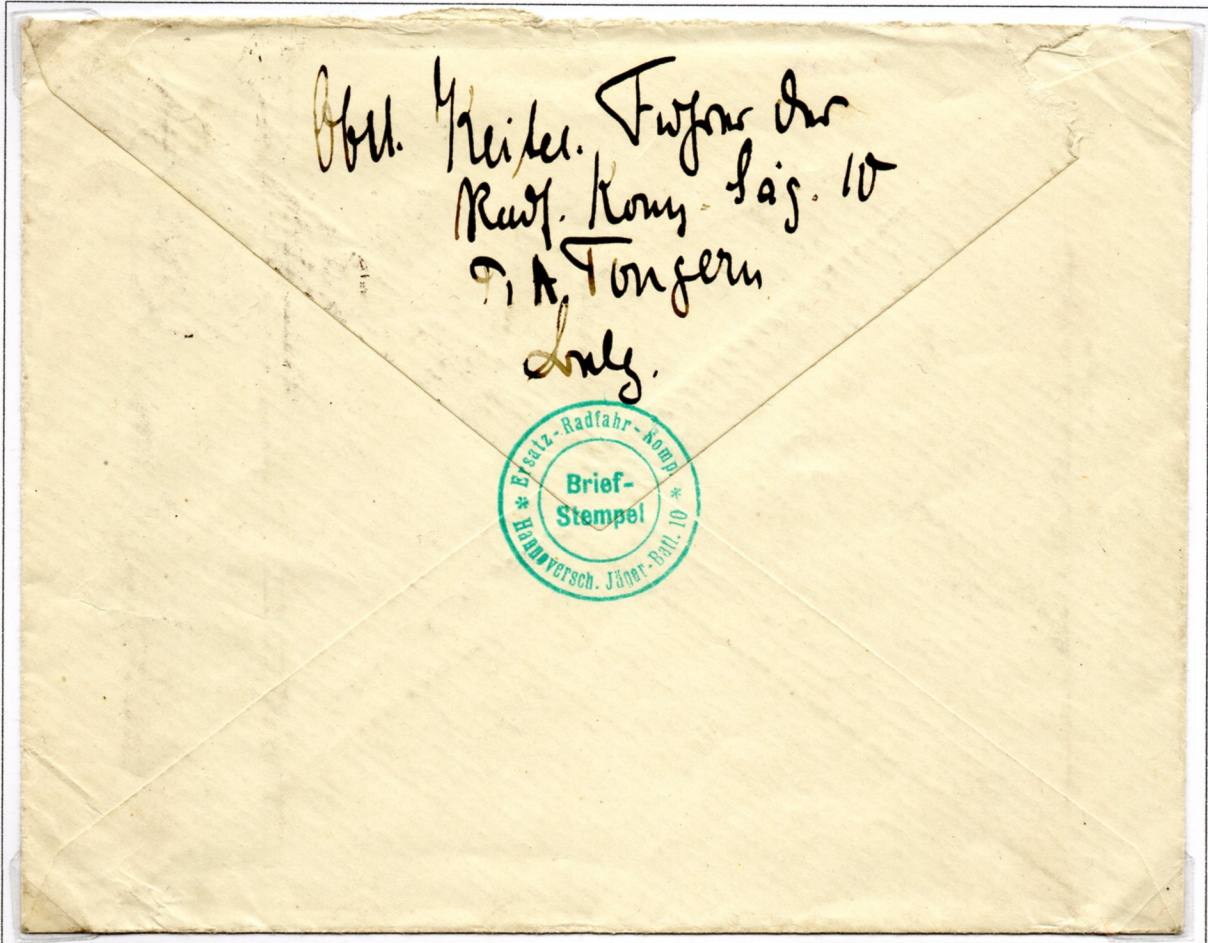
Bicycle company 154 belonged to bicycle battalion 6, which was under hunter battalion 3. The company participated in the fighting in Verdun until the beginning of June.



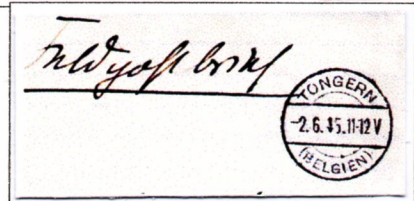
The bicycle company of Jeger battalion 14 was under the 19th reserve division. From May 1915 to March 1916 the division in Upper Alsace fought. It then fought in the Battle of Verdun until July, when it entered the Argonne forest. In October 1916, they participated in the Battle of the Somme. In April 1917, the division fought in the Second Battle of Aisne. In May it was sent to the Eastern Front and fought around Riga until September. They returned to the western front for action in the Battle of Passchendaele. They was in Verdun from October 1917 to April 1918 and August - September 1918, in French and American Oise-Aisne offensive and remained there until the end of the war. Allied intelligence rated the division as first-class



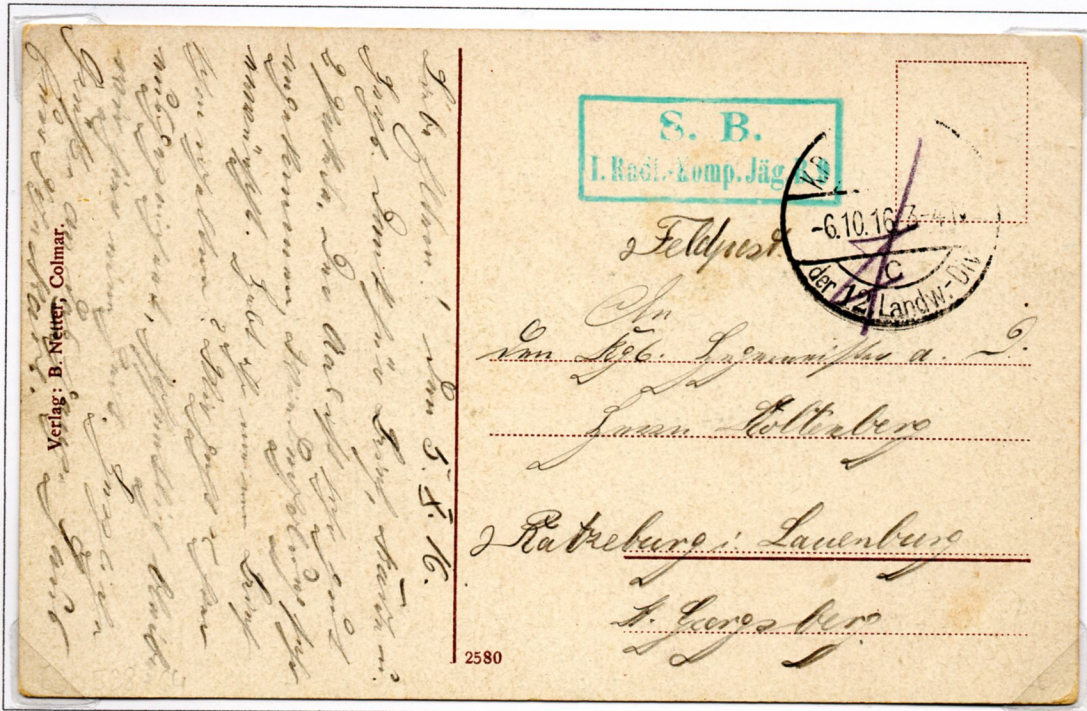
Bicycle battalion 2. 6th company had a presence in Ostend in West Flanders in Belgium. They participated in the third Battle of Ypres. Of these battles, this was the largest, most well-known, and most expensive in human suffering. .



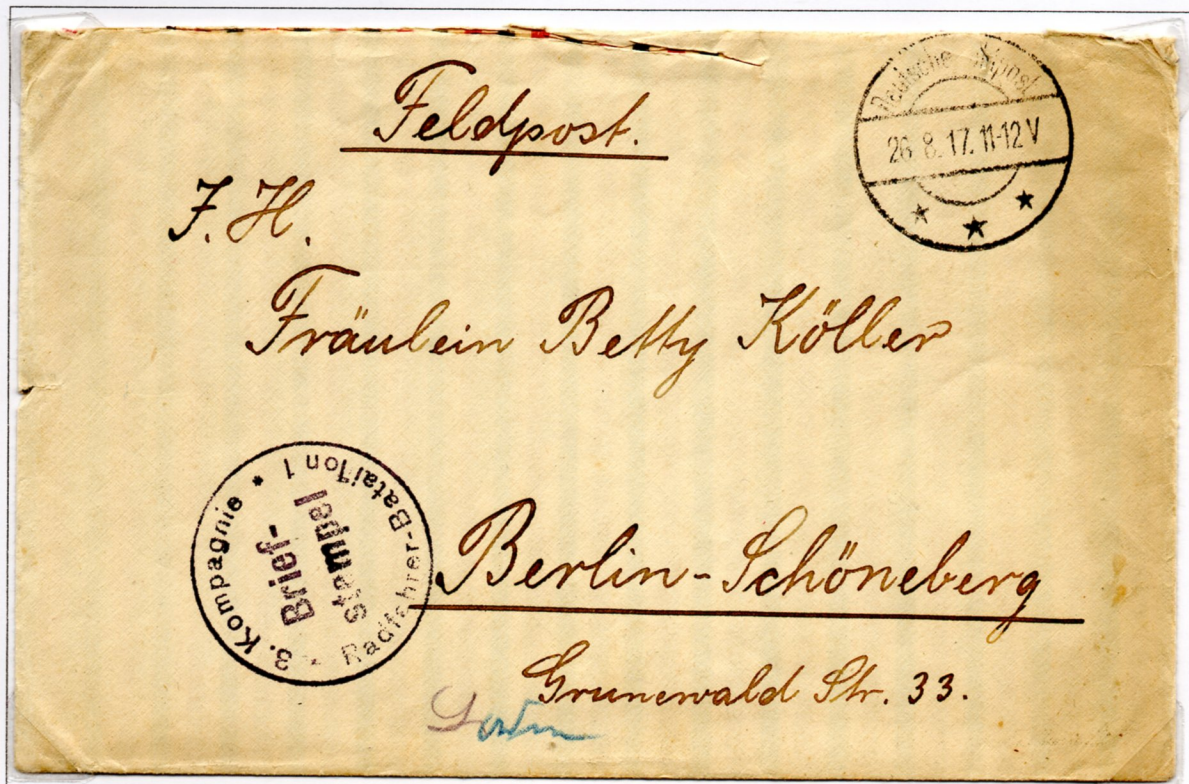
The Hanoverian hunting battalion No. 10 was coated in Tongeren, a municipality in the Belgian province of Limburg. Tongeren is the oldest city in Belgium. It was founded as a Roman military camp, Castrum, about 15 BC.



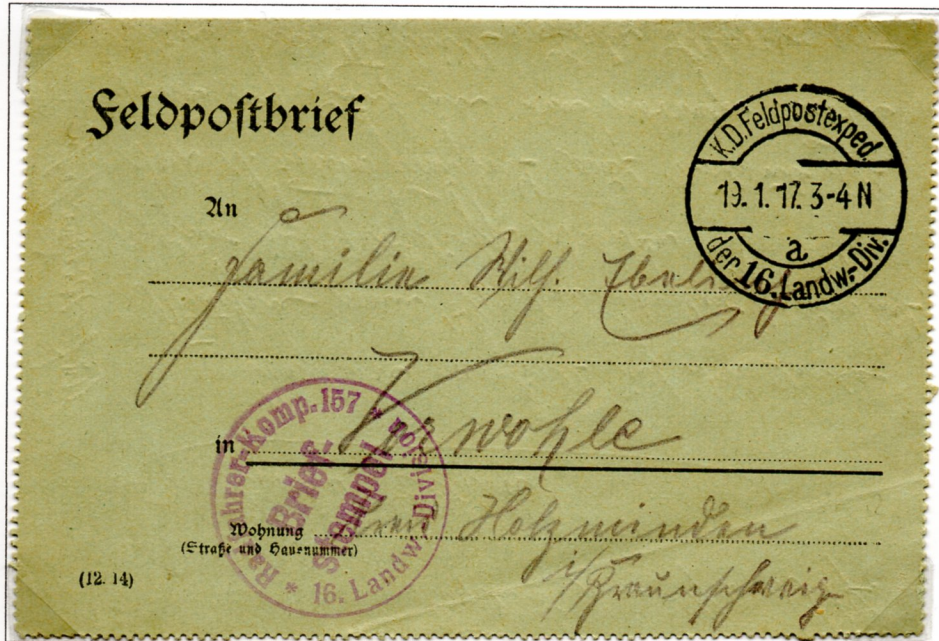
1st Company, bicycle Battalion 2 belonged to the Guard Hunters in 125th Infantry Regiment. In December 1917 they were in the fighting in the Argonne in France.



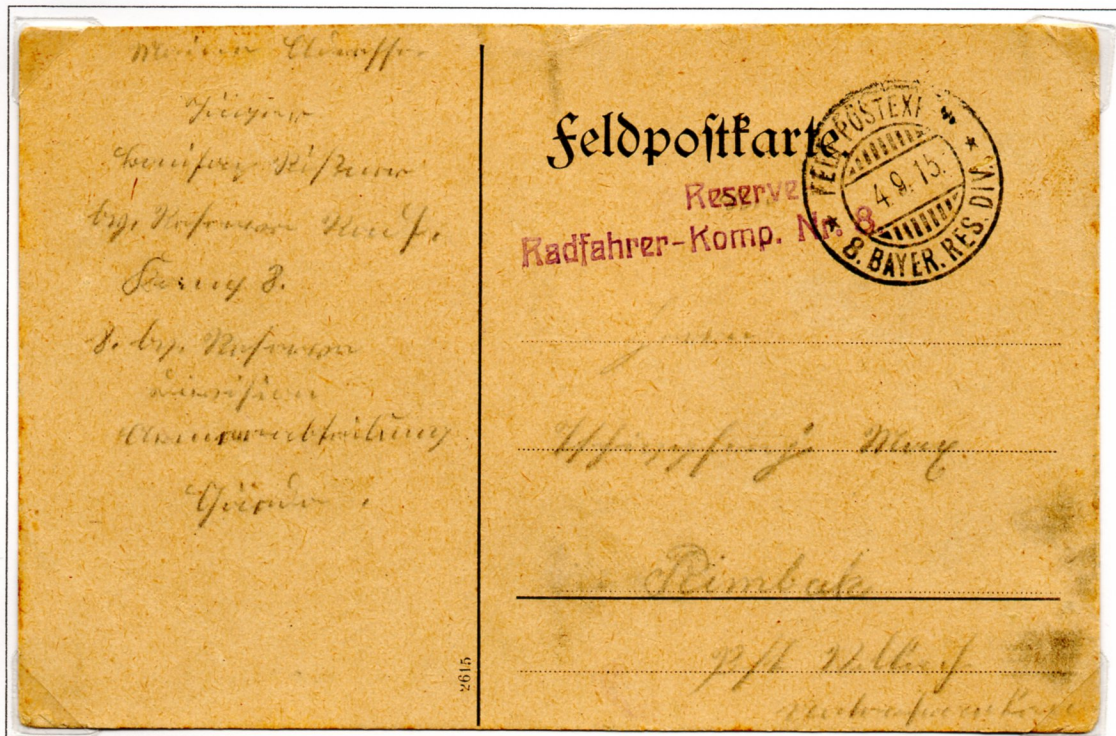
1st bicycle company in hunter battalion 9, was under the land protection division. In May 1915 the process began to collect hunter and reserve hunter battalions in innovative hunter regiments. Through the war, hunters succeeded the battalions largely maintain their elite status. This was achieved not only by the better ones average soldiers, but also by their experience in mountain war where they fought in the Vogesen, the Alps, Carpathians as well as in Romania, Serbia and Macedonia. October 1916 they were in the battle of Somme.



In July 1917, the 3rd company in the bicycle battalion 1 was deployed on the western front. They temporarily relieved the infantry in Flanders and carried out security tasks on the border between Belgium and the Netherlands. Later, in October 1917, they fought in the Baltic region at Oesel island, north of Riga.



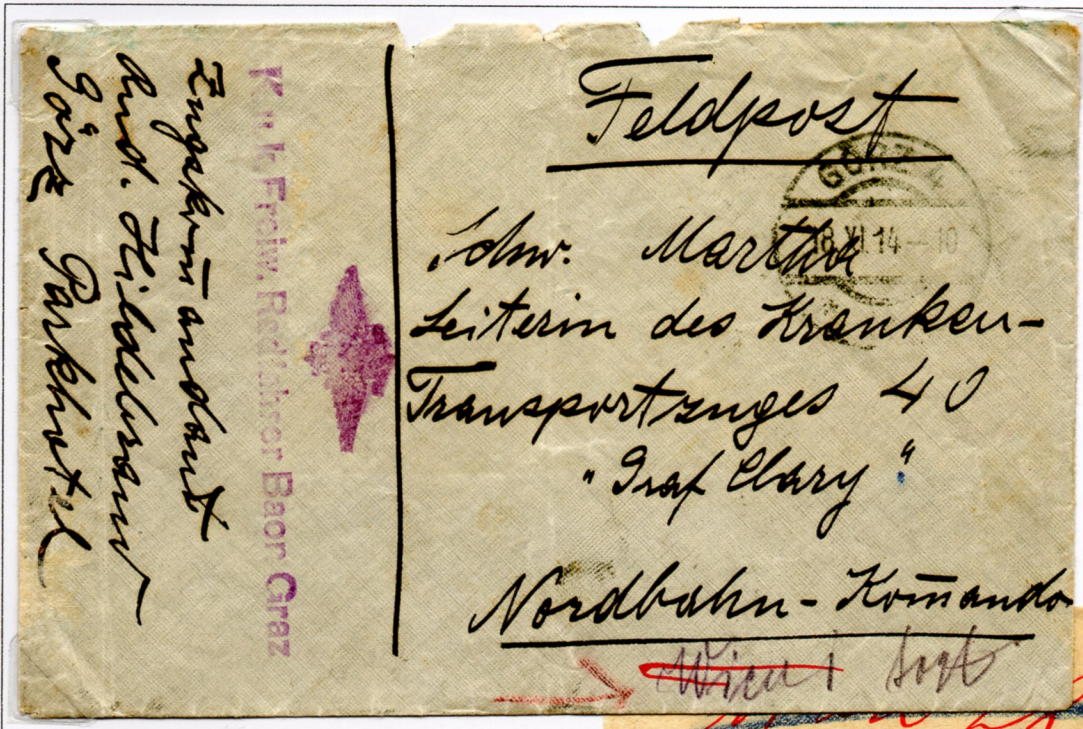
Bicycle company 157 was involved in the trench war between Krewo-Smorgon-Narotschsee-Tweretsch on the Eastern Front until September 17, 1917



Reserve bicycle company no. 8, which belonged to the 8th Bavarian reserve division participated in the Bug offensive 29.6 – 30.9.1915. It was led by troops from Germany and Austria-Hungary against the Russian army in northern Galicia in Austria.



4th Cavalry Division's bicycle company belonged to the division's hunter battalion no. 7. The fighting took place in the period 23.1-3.2.1916 by the river Gauja in Latvia.

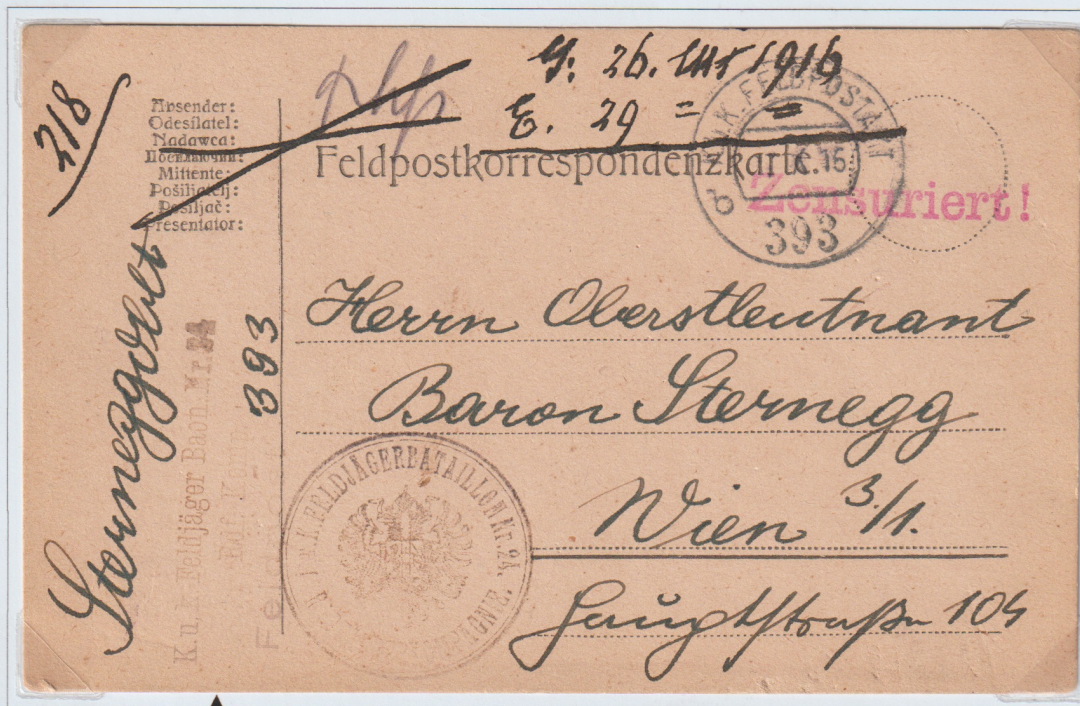


The Royal and Imperial volunteer bicycle battalion Graz was first placed in the Austrian-Hungarian border with Russia at Gorlice. The battalion was converted in 1915. Hunting battalion No. 1, where the unit was moved to the Italian front. The bicycle battalion received a medal for bravery in 1915.

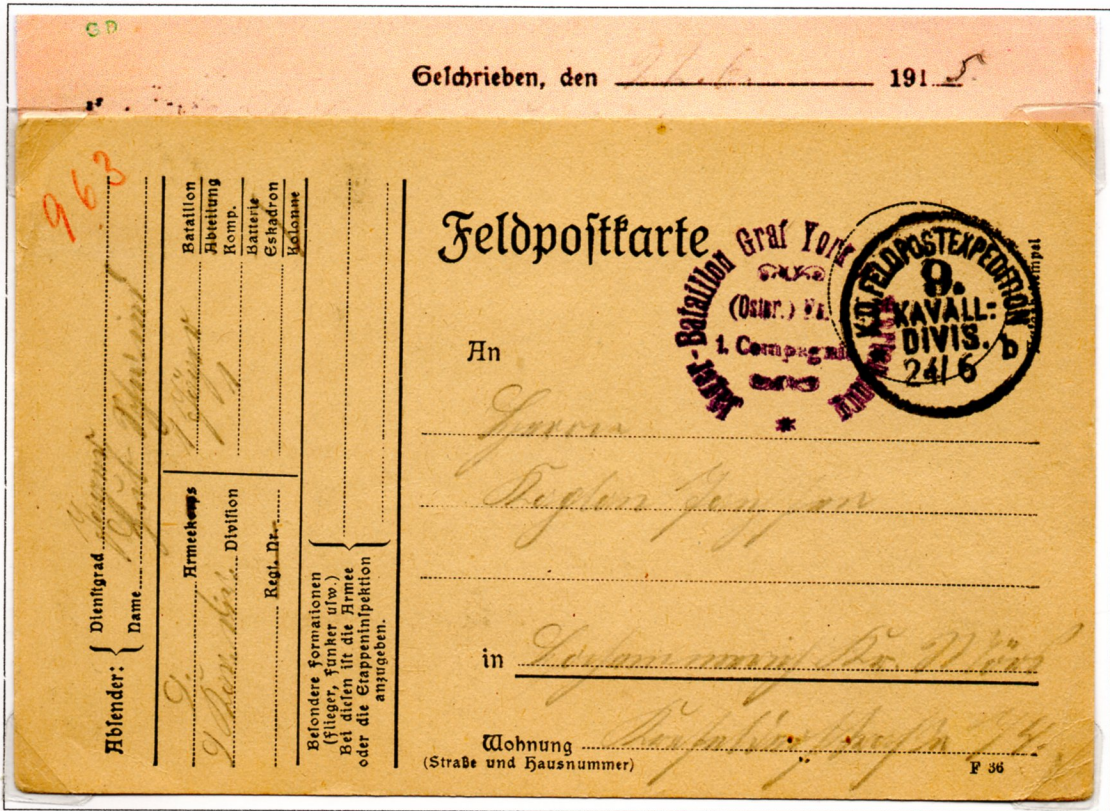


Kerékpáros osztály — Radfahrer Abtheilung

Hungary helped Germany in the joint Austrian-Hungarian army. The Hungarian troops fought mainly on the Eastern front. The reserve corps was called "Beskidenkorps". They were formally on April 1. 1915. Each hunting regiment consisted of one to two bicycle companies.



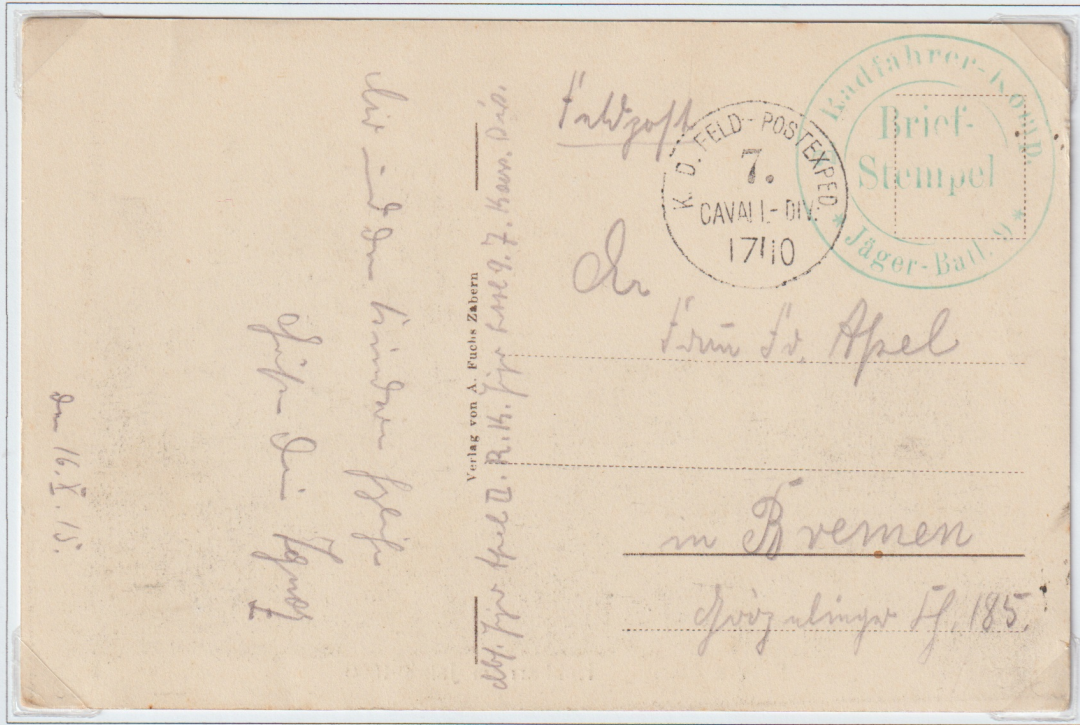
This bicycle company belonged to K.U.K. Field hunter Battalion 24 in the Austrian Hungarian arms. Field hunter Battalion 24 was created 1880 in Rovigno in Croatia. In 1916 they were located in Foča i Bosnia-Herzegovina



Hunter Battalion Graf York had one bicycle company. The hunting battalion is from Wartenburg in East Prussia. Participated in the battle of Rawka-Bzura in Poland from October 1914 to July 16, 1915. The battalion is named after the field marshal Yorck von Wartenburg, who concluded with the Taurogenic Convention with Russia at the beginning of the 1813 Liberation War.



This volunteer bicycle company belonged to hunter battalion 7, which was coated in Romania.



The 7th cavalry division had several bicycle companies and hunter battalions under its command. 2nd bicycle company in hunter battalion 9 was one of them. In the beginning of the war, most had cavalry divisions usually bike companies and motorcycles to give them mobility. Matches in Tyrol, the Carpathians and the Italian Alps gave the incentive to create hunter divisions.



Volunteer Bicycle Company in hunting battalion 7 was in Georgenburg in East Prussia. Field post station Nr. 175 was active from August 1915 to December 1918.



The reserve bicycle company was located under the Royal Prussian guard hunter battalion. In 1916 became Royal Prussian hunter battalion formed by Finnish volunteers. The recruits came mainly from the upper team of the Finnish population. The battalion was secretly sent to Germany and received valuable training before it fought on the German side on the Eastern front during World War I.



Bicycle company 155 belonged to bicycle battalion 7, which was under hunter battalion 2. After being used in the position war against Russia between the river Düna and Kurland, west in Latvia in 1915, they were not in any major fighting in 1916 and 1917.



Reserve bicycle company 78 belonged to 78th reserve division. They fought mainly on the eastern front, including in Lithuania and Kurland. Later in the Gorlice-Tarnów offensive. They remained in position warfare until April 1917 when they were relocated to the western front.



The 3rd bicycle company belonged to the regiment of the 1st hunter battalion. This hunter battalion is from the province of East Prussia.



Italy fought mainly against Austria-Hungary at its own border, both west and east. There was a lot of mountain war where Italy was strong. The 4th battalion command was located in Carlino in the province of Udine in 1915.



The 4th Battalion Bersaglieri Ciclisti fought in the 8th Battle of the Isonzo between the Austro-Hungarian and Italian armies on the 9th-12th. October 1916



In Italy, the 5th Battalion cyclist was in the battle of Karfeit near the town of Kobarid in Slovenia in 1916. The area belonged to Austrian Littoral on the Austrian-Italian front.



10. Battalion Ciclisti participated in the 9th battle of Isonzo. In days 14. to November 17, the Battle stood east of Vertoibizza where they gradually moved north of the road from Opacchiasella to Castagnevizza. The area is located in Slovenia.

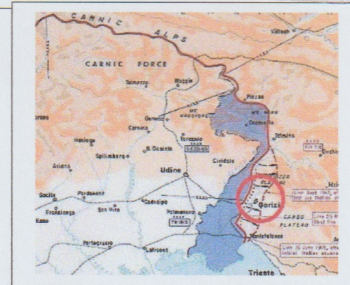




The 4th Battalion bicycle participated in the preparations for the 10th battle of Isonzo at Gorizia in north-eastern Italy.



The 5th Battalion Bersaglieri cyclists were under 24th division. During the fighting on the Italian front, the city of Goriziz was one of them the main goals of the Italian offensive along Isonzo in the battle between Italy and Austria-Hungary.





« La ruota in ogni raggio
 è temprata dal coraggio.
 E sul cerchio, in piedi, splende
 la Fortuna senza bende. »

Ai Bersaglieri ciclisti
 il loro fedele e fiero Serge-
 te firmiamo

Gabriele d'Annunzio
 di Montenevoso.

Previous page shows a greeting to the brave riders from Sergeant Gabriele d'Annunzio with the text:

*"My wheel, every part, is hardened with bravery
and seeking, standing, it shines well without bandages"
For sharpshooters cyclists
Their faithful and proud sergeant from Fiume
Gabriele d'Annunzio from Montenevoso.*

"COLUI CHE LI DIFESE A VISO APERTO"

« A chi...? »

« A voi, miei commilitoni del fortissimo 11° Bersaglieri, dedico queste cronache di guerra. C'è in queste pagine la mia e la vostra vita; la vita monotona ed emozionante, semplice ed intensa che abbiamo insieme trascorso nelle indimenticabili giornate della trincea.

« Serbo di voi tutti il mio profondo ricordo. Ché voi mi avete offerto una consolante certezza laddove non esisteva che una speranza e un atto di fede; sulle aspre cime delle Alpi contese — nella dura e pur tanto eroica guerra d'assedio — avete dimostrato che la vecchia stirpe italiana non è esaurita, ma reca nel suo grembo i tesori di una giovinezza perenne ».

(Da « Il mio diario di guerra »).

« Un volo di penne e un turbine di polvere. Ecco la visione. Passarono per tutti i varchi della morte: a rovina. Gola secca e cuore gonfio. E garretti d'acciaio. Nel vento tutte le canzoni della Patria. A festa. Bivacchi di pace o bivacchi di guerra. Nel turbine tutte le baionette. E tutta l'anima. Furono e rimasero un prodigio. Scolpirono nel bronzo una tradizione. E corsero — simbolo della stirpe — tutte le vie del mondo a significare l'Italia. L'Italia risorta. L'Italia nuovamente romana; nella volontà e nell'audacia; nel valore e nell'impeto.

Bersaglieri! Tutti i bersaglieri furono soldati. Non tutti i soldati furono bersaglieri. Le loro penne hanno gareggiato con quelle dell'alpino. A tutte le altezze. E risalirono con alterna vicenda i monti. Per issarsi ai culmini solatii di ogni vetta.

Battaglioni d'assalto nati prima del loro concepimento: arditi senza selezione, perché selezionati già nel tronco della razza d'ogni regione; valanga di eroismo arrivato agli estremi d'ogni meta; vena di purissimo sangue aperta e squarciata sempre senza risparmio dalla prima all'ultima guerra della indipendenza, essi hanno plasmato tutto l'esercito, avvolgendolo di un brivido di passione leoninamente romantica.

Non v'è palmo di Patria che non abbia sentito la cadenza possente del loro passo. Non v'è borgata che non abbia provata la emozione delle loro fanfare in corsa. Non v'è bimbo e non esiste vecchio che non abbia gettato il grido dell'«viva al trasvolare tumultuario delle loro file fiammeggianti nel bronzo delle facce stupende d'orgoglio, entro la vampa dell'amore e del rischio, in una ebrezza di canti gioiosi di vita e gioiosi di morte.

Da Sebastopoli a Roma, da Sciarra-Sciat a Bengasi e a Psithos; da Cervignano a Monfalcone, dal Piave all'Isonzo la loro storia è materata di leggenda.

Ha il sapore della poesia e la luce del sublime ».

(Popolo d'Italia, 5 agosto 1921).

« Tutte le volte che mi accade di incontrare un reparto di Bersaglieri e sento squillare le trombe

che suonano la nostra caratteristica marcia, nel mio animo si alternano sentimenti di melanconia e di orgoglio. Melanconia, perché ricordo i miei venti anni, di cui due trascorsi a Verona tra le caserme Castelvecchio e Catena, ricordo le bellissime corse al mattino, lungo le rive dell'Adige, corse che allargavano i polmoni e fortificavano i garretti.

Sono poi fieramente orgoglioso di avere appartenuto negli anni lontani della pace e in quelli vicini e non dimenticabili della guerra al Corpo dei Bersaglieri; orgoglioso perché sul Carso, in Carnia, sull'«Javorceck, sul Cukla, sul Rombon, ho visto con i miei propri occhi tutta la vicenda silenziosa ed eroica del Bersagliere italiano.

E per me fonte di viva commozione ritrovarmi in queste sale, in questo museo, in questo tempio così ricco di ricordi. Ognuno di essi parla al nostro spirito, ognuno di essi ci dice che quando si è stati Bersaglieri a vent'anni, si resta Bersaglieri per tutta la vita, vale a dire si porta nella vita quello spirito che chiamerei bersaglieresco di sollecitudine e di dedizione nell'adempimento del proprio dovere.

Sono lieto che il mio caro e grande amico il Duca della Vittoria abbia accolto il mio desiderio di conservare i Bersaglieri. Egli si rese subito conto, nella sua squisita sensibilità di Capo e di soldato, che le tradizioni sono una grandissima forza nella storia dei popoli, e che se voi andate togliendo quelle tradizioni voi togliete una delle basi sulle quali si può edificare la Storia futura, la quale non è che il compimento e il perfezionamento della Storia passata.

La scomparsa dei Bersaglieri sarebbe stata disastrosa ai fini morali. Sarebbe stata interpretata nella maniera più equivoca; sarebbe stata interpretata come una specie di castigo inflitto a un Corpo che pure aveva un secolo di storia gloriosa. Fra il Bersagliere Mussolini e i Bersaglieri di tutta Italia c'è un vincolo di fraternità indistruttibile ».

(Visita al museo storico dei Bersaglieri, il 24 marzo 1924).

« Signori Ufficiali, dite ai vostri Bersaglieri che sono ammirato del loro contegno.

E con emozione sempre sottile, pur rinnovantesi, che io mi trovo fra i Bersaglieri. Tutte le volte che vedo le piume dei figli di La Marmora mi pare di avere venti anni.

Ho l'orgoglio di avere appartenuto al vostro Corpo, durante gli anni di pace e durante gli anni della guerra. E quando, nel dopo guerra, si parlò di ridurre o anche di sopprimere il Corpo dei Bersaglieri io mi sono opposto energicamente a quella che consideravo come una mortificazione dell'orgoglio italiano.

Sono sicuro che domani, in caso di bisogno, i Bersaglieri di La Marmora, i Bersaglieri della quarta Italia, aggiungeranno nuove glorie a quelle che costituiscono il serbo della loro incomparabile storia ».

(Ad un rapporto di ufficiali).

BENITO MUSSOLINI

The back here shows excerpts from another officer's war diary: Benito Mussolini.

"One who openly defended them" Contains poems, prose and own thoughts

"To you my fellow soldiers of the strong 11th Bersagliari (sharpshooters).

I celebrate these war chronicles on this side: my and your life; monotonous and exciting life, simple and intense that we used in the unforgettable days

(Reduced)