

TORN CITY PRZEMYŚL

POSTAL HISTORY IN THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 1939 – JUNE 22, 1941

INTRODUCTION

PRZEMYŚL - one of the oldest Polish cities recorded in the 10th century chronicles, divided by the River San, being a communication gate between the central and eastern territories of Poland, with an important railway line Krakow-Przemyśl-Lviv - today it lies on the border with Ukraine.

As a result of the Nazi German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939 and the start of World War II, and then after the treacherous aggression of the Soviet Union from the east on September 17, the city was occupied by both aggressors with a dividing line on the River San.

Poland, threatened with war by Nazi Germany, introduced the mobilization of the army as early as in the summer of 1939, and from 31 VIII military censorship of correspondence was ordered throughout the country. On 9 IX the Polish post office in Przemyśl ceased to function.

After the fighting of Nazi troops against the Polish Army ceased, the aggressors agreed on the division line of the city. On 28 VIII 1939, the Third German Reich established an occupation zone on the left bank of the River San. The Soviet Union, by annexing the eastern territories of the Republic of Poland without declaring war, incorporated the right-bank part of the city of Przemyśl into the newly created Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) on 27 X 39. The postal service of the occupied parts of the city was taken over by Deutsche Post Osten and the Post Office of the Ukrainian SSR, respectively.

In May 1940, the Germans from northern Przemyśl established the DEUTSCH PRZEMYSL City. After the Nazi troops attacked the Soviet Union on 22 VI 1941, after a week of fighting, the Germans occupied the whole of Przemyśl and incorporated it into the General Government (GG).

This special period in the history of Przemyśl at the beginning of WW II, torn apart by German and Soviet aggressors, is reflected in the postal documentation.

EXHIBIT PLAN

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Polish Post | 31.08 – 08.09.1939 |
| 2. Soviet Post | 28.09.1939 – 22.06.1941 |
| 3. German Post | |
| Deutsche Dienstpost Osten | 09 – 10.1939 |
| Deutsche Post Osten | 21.11.1939 – 22.06.1941 |



Outline of Poland's borders from 1939 with the division into the occupation zone (GG) and annexed zone (USSR) in 1939-1941.

Bibliography:

1. P. Drzewiecki – Polskie poczty polowe i polska cenzura korespondencji w 1939 r.,
2. J. Kołodziej – Poczta przemyska od czasów najdawniejszych do współczesnych,
3. B. Albrecht – Generalgouvernement 1939-1945. Dokumentation über die Postaufgabestempel

Own studies and research:

The author published the results of his own research in professional magazines (Filatelista, Przegląd Filatelistyczny, HBBF).



In the Command of Corps District No. X in Przemyśl, Military Censorship Bureaus were organized:
 BC 101 Kielce,
 BC 102 Przemyśl,
 BC 103 Drohobycz,
 BC 104 Krynica i Sanok,
 BC 105 Jarosław,
 NC 106 Rzeszów,
 BC 107 Rozwadów,
 BC 108 Ostrowiec [1].

A postcard sent from Przemyśl to Stanisławów on **September 4, 1939**.

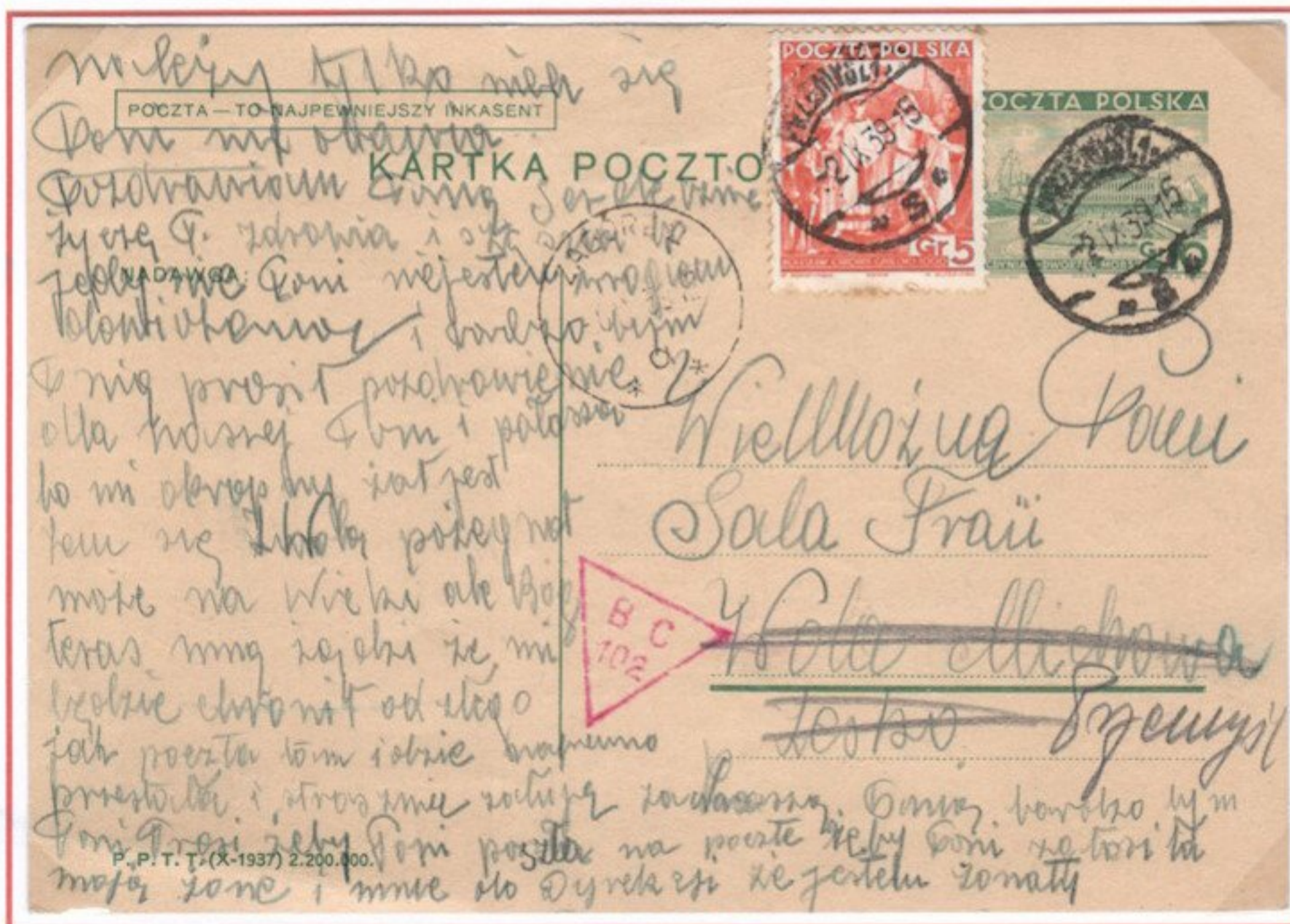
Fee of 15 gr. for a non-local card, censored at the Censorship Bureau 102 in Przemyśl.

Only a dozen or so of these cards are known.

Stamp BC 102 type I [1]

1. Polish Post 31.08.1939 – 08.09.1939

The Military Censorship Bureaus operated in Przemyśl from August 31 - September 8, 1939.
The evacuation of the Post Office PRZEMYSŁ 1 took place on 9 IX 1939. [2].



A postcard sent from Przemyśl to Lesko on September 2, 1939.

As a result of hostilities, it did not reach its addressee, but only to Zagórz.

Fee of 15 gr. for a non-local card, censored at the Censorship Bureau 102 in Przemyśl.

Only a dozen or so of these cards are known.

Stamp BC 102 type I [1].



Letter sent on August 31, 1939 from Stanisławów to Przemyśl.

Fee 15 gr. with Polish postage stamps on the reverse of the envelope according to the long distance tariff.

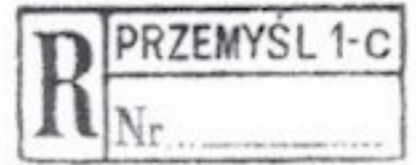
Censored at the Censorship Bureau 102 in Przemyśl.

Only a few such letters are known.

Stamp BC 102 type I [1].

2. Soviet Post 28.09.1939 – 22.06.1941

The Soviet post office was launched on the right-bank of Przemyśl at the beginning of **October 1939** and until the end of that year it used Polish pre-war postage props - CDS and registration cachet. The fees for the letters were charged according to the Polish pre-war postal tariff.



39 x 15,5 mm



Registered letter sent on **October 17, 1939** from Przemyśl to Lesko.

Soviet stamps canceled with Polish CDS **PRZEMYSŁ 1 / * 2b *** with a diameter of 28 mm and the Polish registration cachet **PRZEMYSŁ 1-c** was nailed down.

Fee of 55 kopecks according to the Polish tariff 55 gr.



Polish postcard sent on **November 2, 1939** from Przemyśl to Lviv.

Soviet stamps canceled with Polish CDS **PRZEMYSŁ 1 / * 2c *** with a diameter of 28 mm.

Fee of 15 kopecks according to the Polish tariff 15 gr.

2. Soviet Post 28.09.1939 – 22.06.1941

On **October 27, 1939**, the right-bank of Przemyśl was incorporated into the Lviv Oblast of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. However, Ukrainian postal items appeared only in January 1940.

The Soviet tariff of charges of February 6, 1939 in the ratio of 1 rubel = 1 zloty was in force.



Ukrainian CDS with a diameter of 25 mm



Ukrainian CDS with wrong soft stamp



Soviet stamp canceled with Ukrainian CDS
ПЕРЕМІШЛЬ / в / Льв. Обл. / -2.40



A soviet stamp on the cutout canceled with an incorrect CDS
ПЕРЕМІШЛЬ / б / Льв. Обл. / -7.-2.40



Postcard sent on **April 22, 1940** from Targowiste in Romania, via Odessa to Przemyśl.

Ukrainian CDS used as receiving.

The card was left - 5.-5.40 returned to the sender.

2. Soviet Post 28.09.1939 – 22.06.1941

On **December 4, 1939**, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR modified the oblasts of Western Ukraine and separated a new Drohobycz District, which included Przemyśl. New bilingual CDS with a diameter of 29 mm have been introduced (Russian - Ukrainian), which actually appeared only in the spring of 1940. There was a Soviet tariff of fees.



Postcard sent as registered foreign January 13, 1940 from Przemyśl to Milwaukee in the US.

A Soviet card and Soviet stamps canceled with a new bilingual CDS and Polish cachet PRZEMYŚL 1-c

It is not known who peeled off postage stamps - maybe censorship?



Polish postcard sent as registered on July 20, 1940 from Przemyśl to Lviv.

Soviet stamps have been canceled with a new bilingual CDS and a new Ukrainian cachet 3 / ПЕРЕМІШЛЬ

Soviet tariff fee 60 kopecks.

2. Soviet Post 28.09.1939 – 22.06.1941

The Soviet post office in Przemyśl treated parcels to the German zone as foreign. There was a foreign tariff of fees and additional numbering of the foreign order.



Registered letter sent on July 11, 1940 from the Soviet Przemyśl to Pruchnik in the General Government.

A Polish stamp was imprinted on the obverse PRZEMYŚL 1-c and the Soviet foreign command number and a bilingual CDS.



A copy of the reverse of the letter.

Postage stamps on the reverse were canceled with a bilingual CDS.

Soviet tariff fee of 1.30 rubles.

German censorship cap.

The Soviet post also provided telegraph services to the public - initially Polish pre-war telegram forms were used. The document shows that the telegrams were sent both ways - from and to Przemyśl.

1607

Teleg ram

Przewód nr
Uwagi służbowe:

Nr 20

Przyjęto dn. 19/6 1939
godz. 16 min. 08
z 162 900

Podpis: [Signature]

Urząd: [Signature]

nr 7 dn. 12 godz. 8 min.

z [Signature] [Signature] [Signature]

P. P. T. T. nr 1010/teleg. (IX 1937). 5.000.000 w bl. 4 100.
Blankiet do telegramów nadeszłych.

Pakstwowo przedsiębiorstwo „P. P. T. T. I. T.” nie przy-
mnie odpowiedzialności za straty wynikłe z zagubienia,
zniekształcenia lub opóźnienia tele. ramu.

Drukarnia Państwowa nr 93229.

Message sent by telegraph on June 10, 1940 from Fiedorowka (Kazakhstan) to Przemyśl.

The text of the telegram was typed out in Przemyśl on the Polish pre-war form (model 1937).

A hole was cut in place of the Polish eagle in diameter 17 mm !!!

So far, there is only one known such telegram.

UNIQUE

2. Soviet Post 28.09.1939 – 22.06.1941

The correspondence was returned to the sender due to the addressee's absence. The international stamp was used RETOUR. PARTI.



Letter form sent on November 23, 1940 from Stalag IIA Neubrandenburg. In Przemysł on January 16, 1941 a letter was returned to the sender to the Stalag because the addressee had left.

The parcel was imprinted with a "silent" CDS, German censorship cachet and bilingual CDS Przemysł.

3. German Post - Deutsche Dienstpost Osten 09 - 10.1939

In **September and October 1939**, military correspondence, German institutions and officials and Field Post in Zasanie in Przemyśl were handled by the "German Postal Service East" - Deutsche Dienstpost Osten (DDPO). The civilian population was not served.

Standard field postage CDS with a diameter of 28 mm and makeshift rubber stamps PRZEMYSL with dimensions of 23 x 4 mm were used. There were no fees. The date was entered manually.



Polish postcard sent **October 7, 1939** from Field Post from Przemyśl to Linz.



Standard Field Post CDS **FELDPOST / c** and triangular censorship mark.



Polish postcard used as Field Post, sent on **October 31, 1939** from Field Post no. 23853 from Przemyśl to Hamburg.

PRZEMYSL

Makeshift transmitting stamp - date entered manually.

3. German Post - Deutsche Post Osten 21.11.1939 – 22.06.1941

On **November 21, 1939**, the German East Post Office - Deutsche Post Osten (DPO) began operating in the German part of Przemysł. Initially, it used two types of makeshift rubber stamps. Until **December 31, 1939**, German stamps were used. The tariff of fees was divided into two groups of customers: I - German offices and officials, Reich citizens; II - other residents of the General Government.



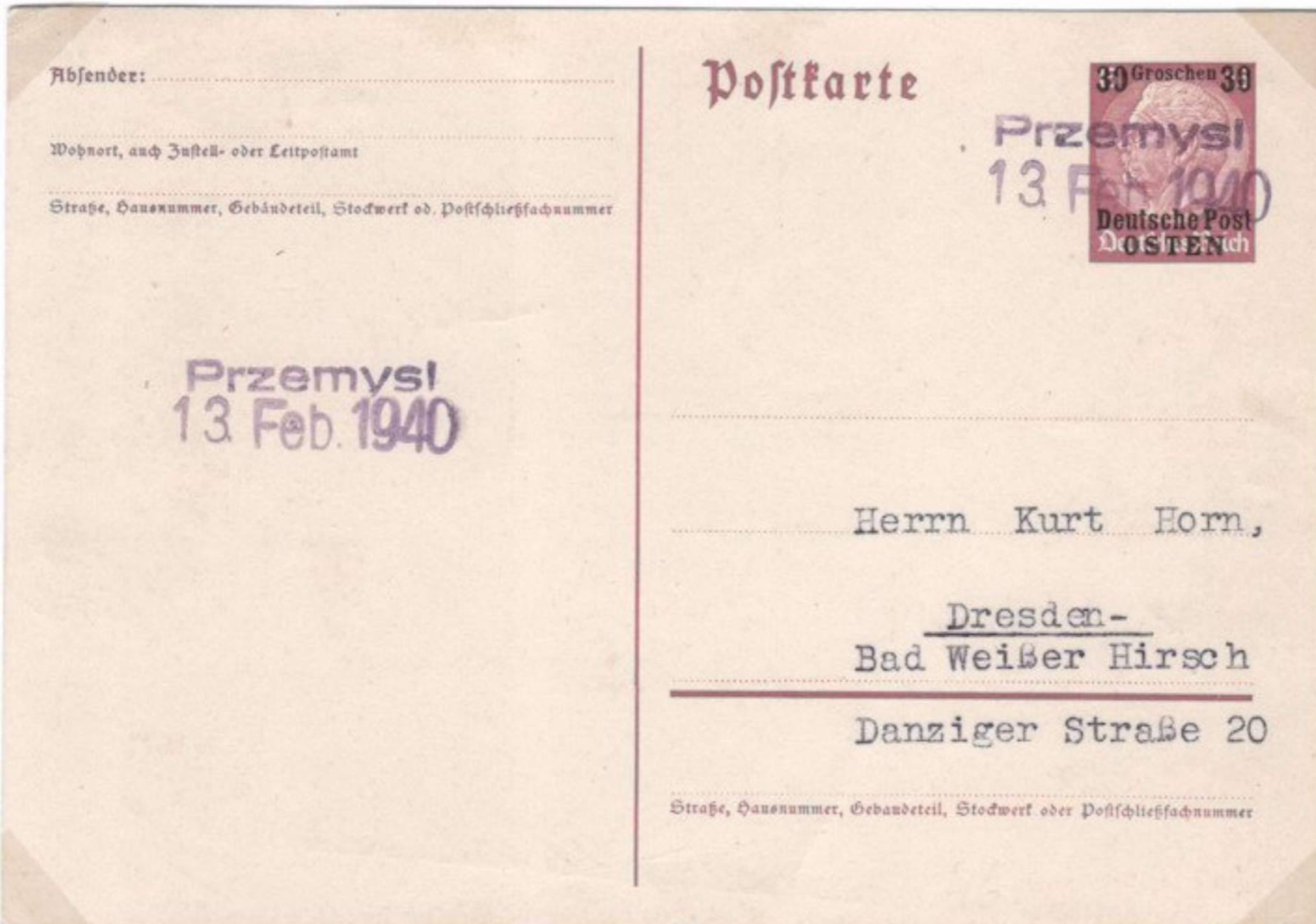
PRZEMYSŁ

Makeshift transmitting stamp type 1.

A postcard written on **December 7, 1939** and sent via DPO from Przemysł to Berlin.

The German stamp has been canceled with a type 1 stamp.

Fee 6 fen = 12 gr according to the national tariff of the Reich for citizens of the Reich.



Przemysl

Makeshift transmitting stamp type 2.

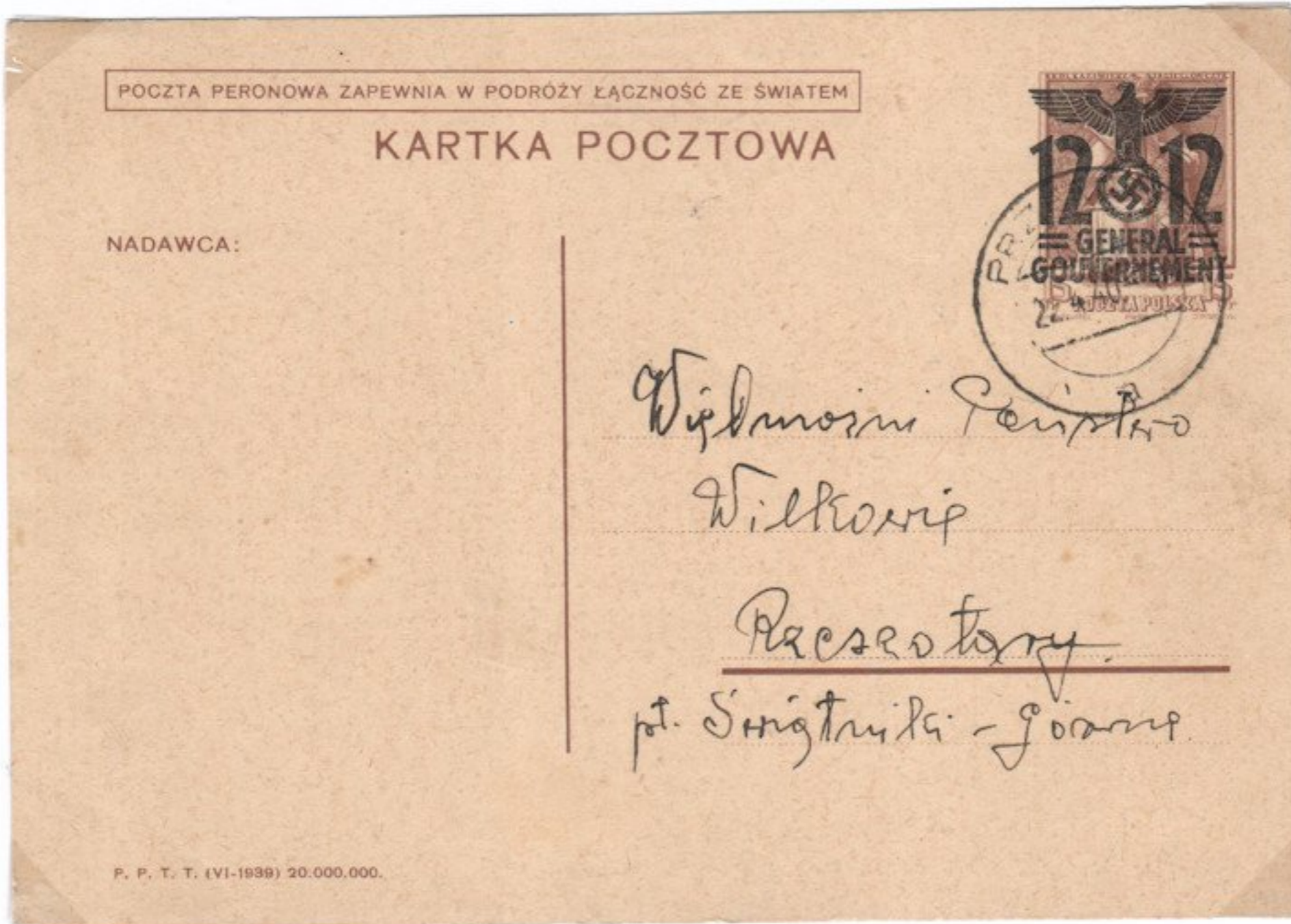
Postcard sent **February 13, 1940** through the DPO from Przemysł to Dresden.

The DPO postcard was canceled with a type 2 stamp.

Fee 30 gr according to the foreign tariff of the Reich for other residents of the General Government.

3. German Post - Deutsche Post Osten 21.11.1939 – 22.06.1941

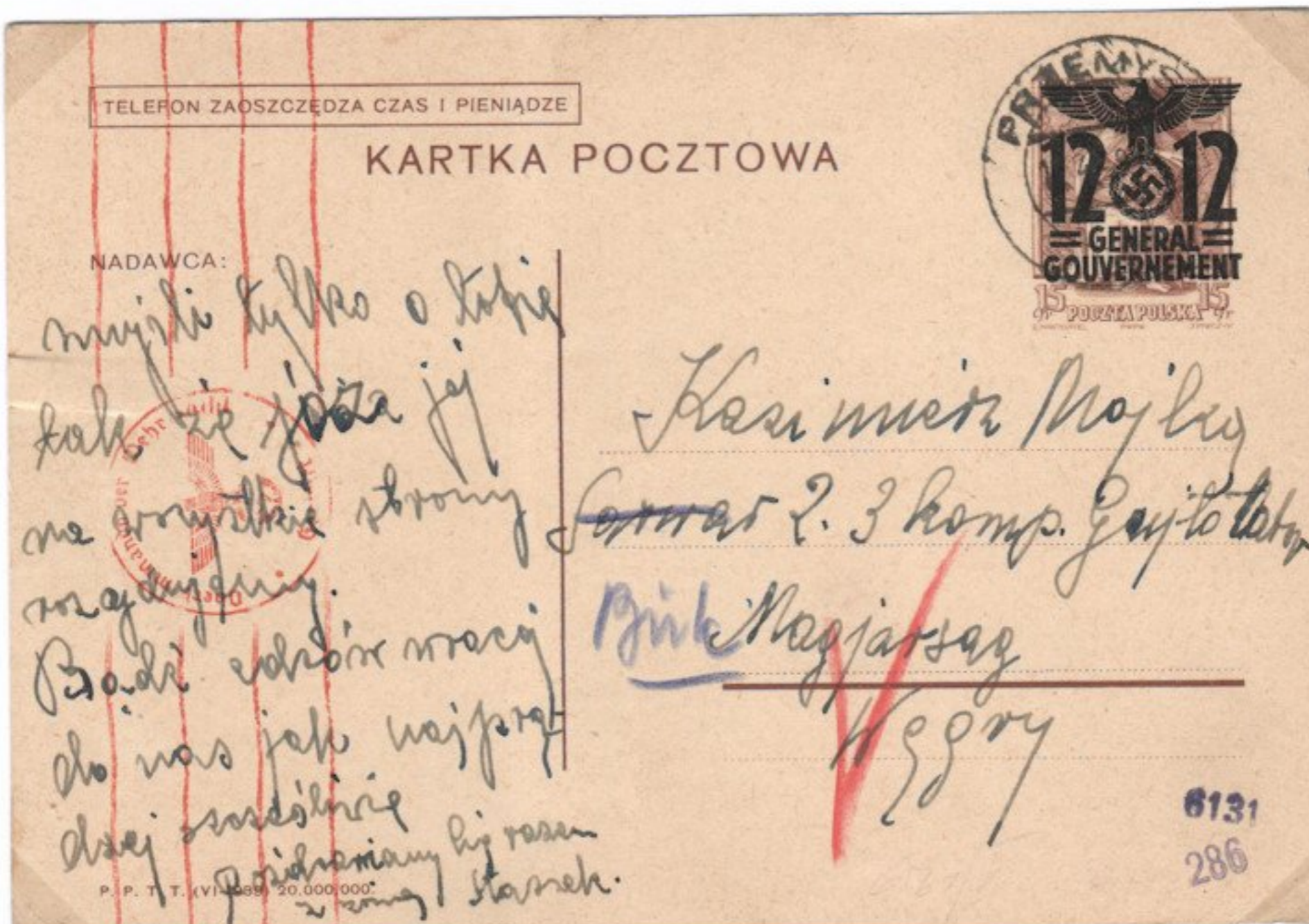
In the spring of 1940, a standardized date display was introduced 29 mm in diameter. From **February 1, 1940**, all postal clients were made equal in the tariff. Stamps and postcards were sold at a rate of 1 German mark = 2 zlotys.



Postcard sent April 22, 1940 from Przemyśl to Rzeszotary near Krakow.

GG postcard was canceled with standard CDS DPO.

Fee 12 gr. according to the national tariff of the Reich.



Postcard sent from Przemyśl to Hungary April 11, 1940

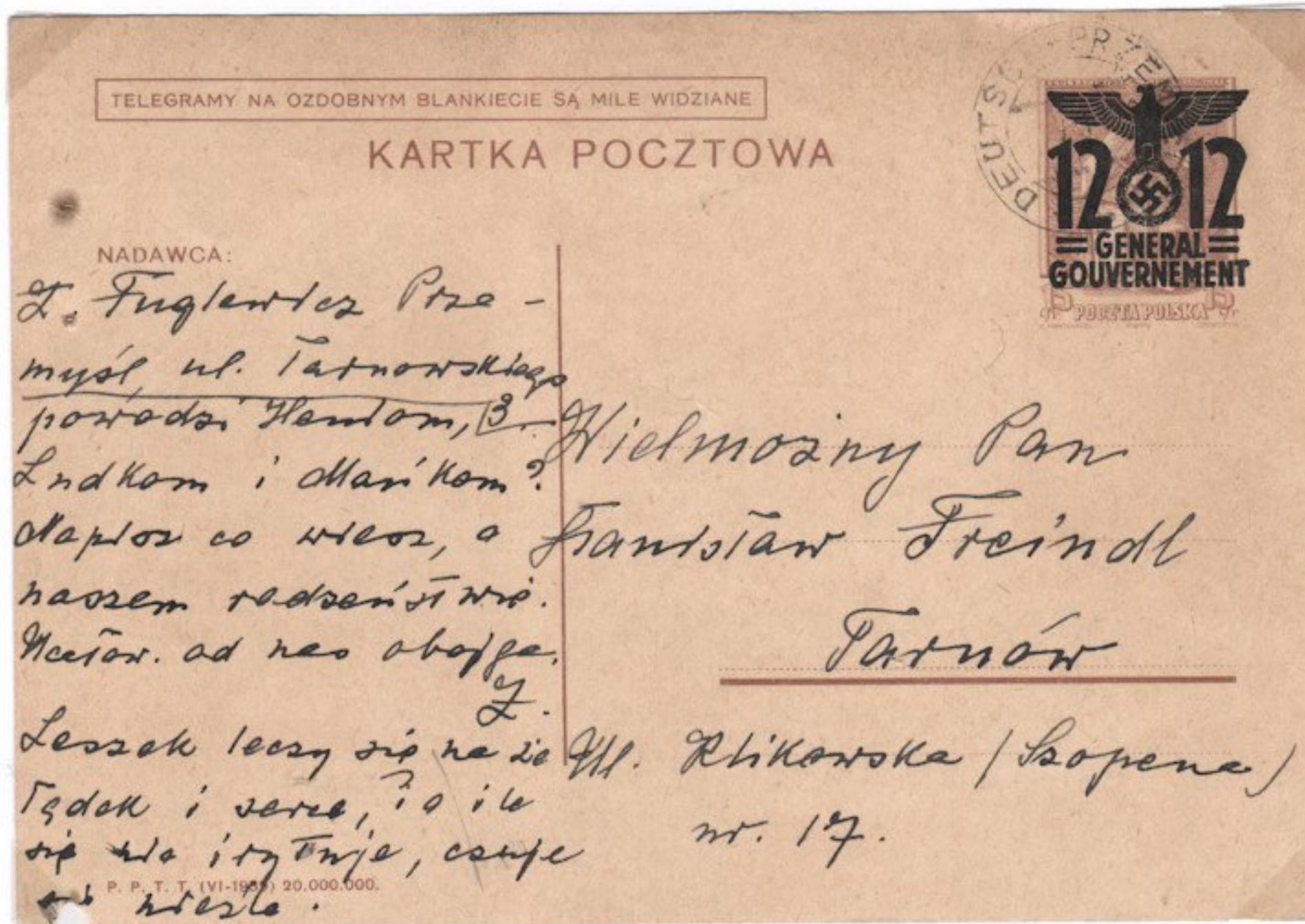
GG postcard was canceled with standard CDS DPO.

The correspondence was subject to military censorship.

Fee 12 gr. according to the national tariff of the Reich.

3. German Post - Deutsche Post Osten 21.11.1939 – 22.06.1941

On April 1, 1940, a new postal tariff was introduced in the General Government. In May, the administrative boundaries of the city were changed, and in June, the City Starosty Deutsch Przemyśl was established. CDS "Deutsch - Przemyśl" with a diameter of 24 mm were already in use in March 1940.



Type D2 - b [3]

GG postcard sent on May 4, 1940 from Przemyśl to Tarnow.

Fee for a card of 12 gr. according to the new national tariff of the Reich.



Registered letter sent from the German town of Zasanie on July 23, 1940. and delivered to the Soviet Przemyśl on August 11, 1940.

Recommend numbers: German PRZEMYSŁ 998 and Soviet 829435 on the reverse side of the stamp of German military censorship.

The stamp "Eingeliefert am Schalter" means that the foreign letter has been delivered to the post office in an open envelope.

Fee 50 gr. for a standard letter up to 20 g. and 60 gr. recommendation to the foreign tariff of the Reich.

3. German Post - Deutsche Post Osten 21.11.1939 – 22.06.1941

From the spring of 1940, postal agencies (Postagentur) operated within the DPO structure, which used rubber stamps without the right to delete stamps.

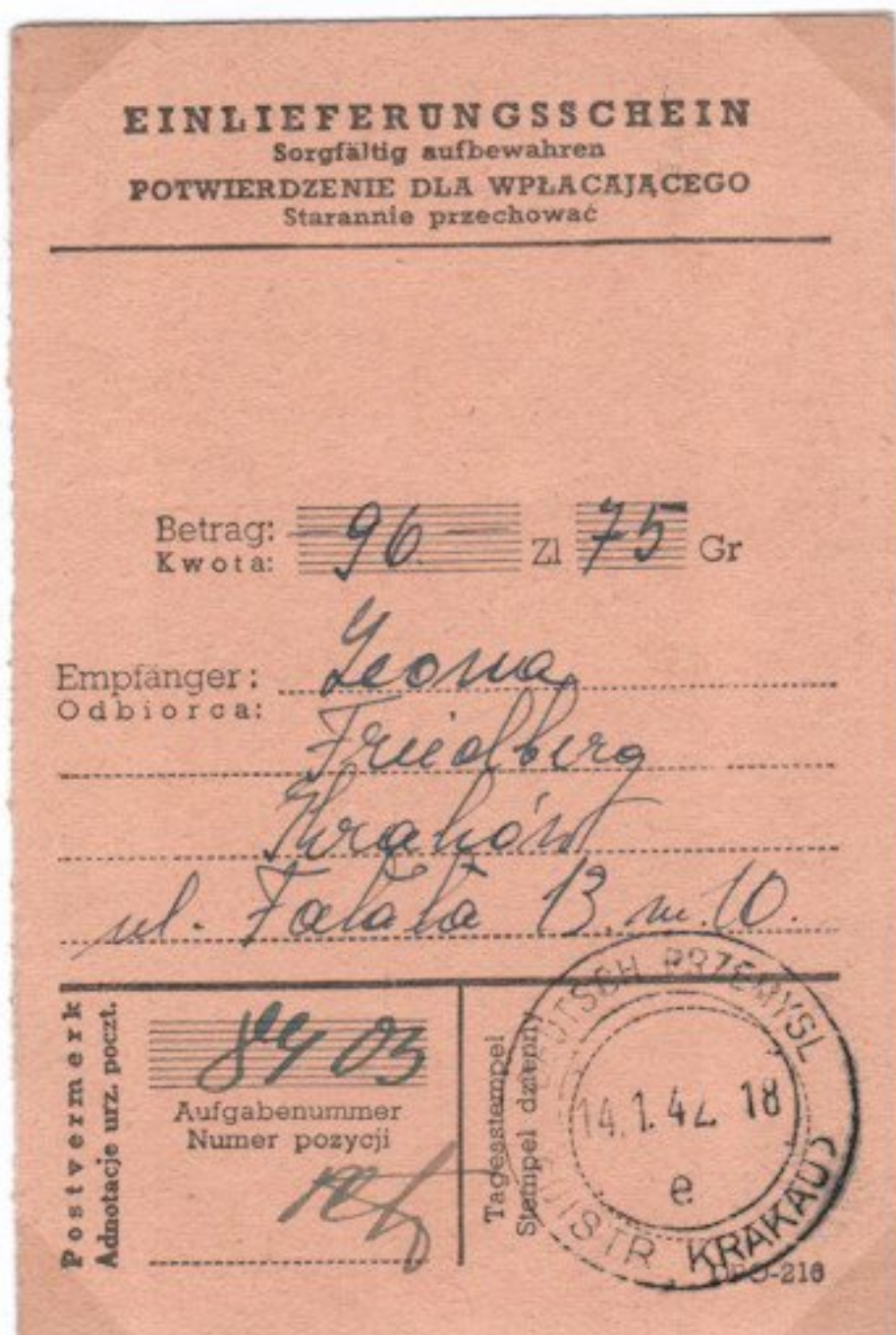
In the fall of 1940, a new type of CDS "Deutsch - Przemysl", with a diameter of 29 mm, was introduced.



Letter sent from a Postal Agency in Żurawica via the Post Office Deutsch Przemysl to Hannover.

Zurawica

Fee of 24 gr. for a standard letter according to the new national tariff of the Reich



New standardized CDS with a diameter of 29 mm Type A3 - e [3]

Confirmation from the money transfer sent from Przemysl to Krakow.

The money order was stamped with a new type of standard CDS (it was still used in 1944 [3]).

3. German Post - Deutsche Post Osten 21.11.1939 – 22.06.1941

At that time, postal railway ambulances ran between Kraków and Deutsch Przemyśl in trains No. 501, 510, 513, 540.



CDS of a railway postal ambulance
 KRAKAU – DEUTSCH PRZEMYSL / * ZUG 510 * /
 Bp / -3 VI 40 / a (type E2 [3])
 on piece with the GG stamp

The ambulance ran from April 17, 1940
 to July 28, 1941 [3]



GG postcard transported on February 8, 1940 by ambulance from Przemyśl to Kraków.
 Fee for a card of 12 gr. according to the new national tariff of the Reich.

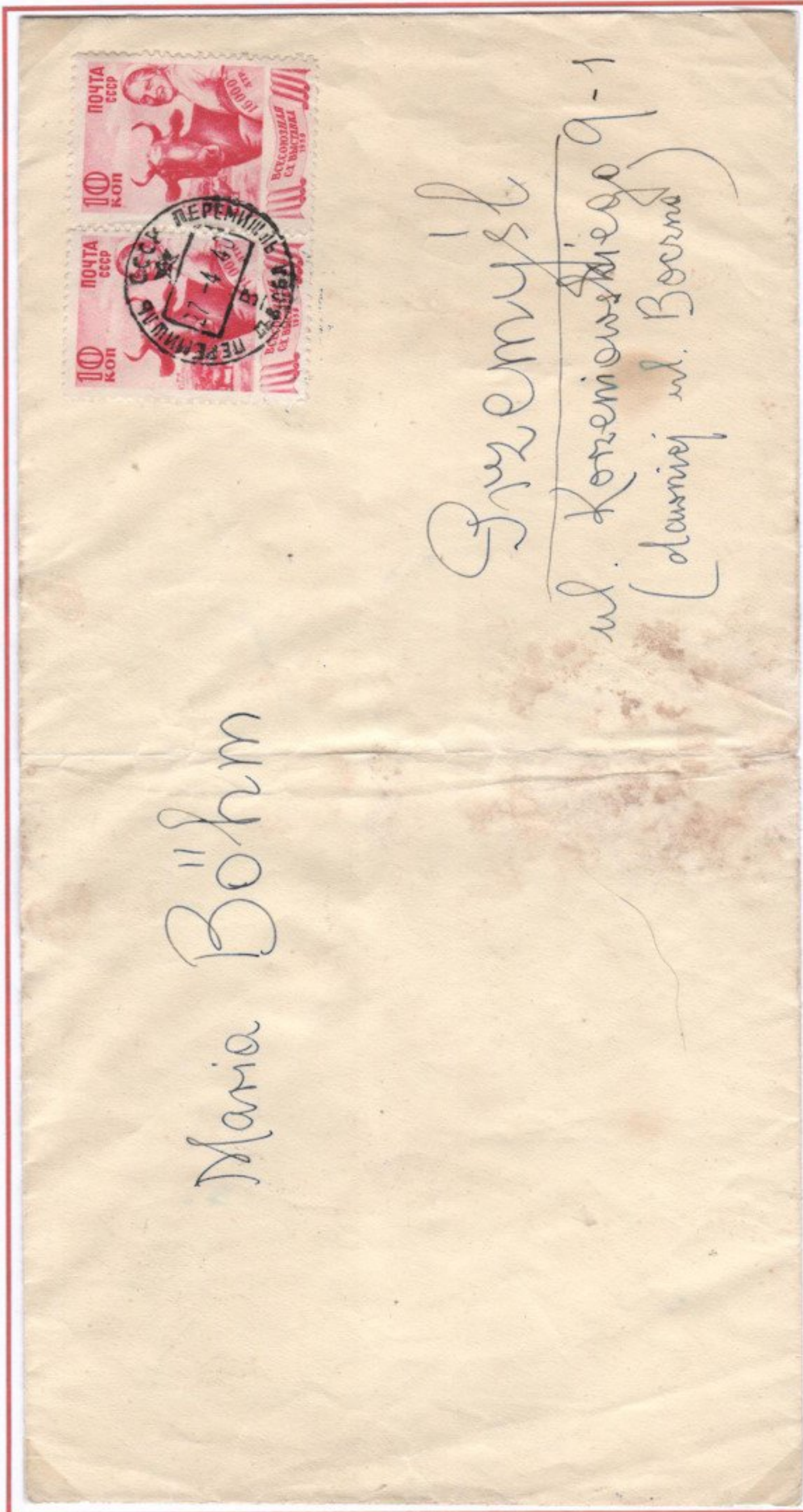
Bp Przemyśl - Krakau

zug _____

The stamp was canceled with a provisional ambulance stamp *BP Przemyśl - Krakau / zug* - type A1 [3]
 used in the period 04.01.- 10.03.1940 [3].

3. German Post - Deutsche Post Osten 21.11.1939 – 22.06.1941

During the renovation of the railway bridge over the River San in 1940, there was a secret, unofficial route for transmitting correspondence from German Przemyśl Zasanie to Soviet Przemyśl, which was organized by Eng. Wohanka. Letters were carried in tool boxes.



The envelope of the unofficial letter transferred from the Zasanie by workers renovating a railway bridge. On the Soviet side, Soviet postage stamps were affixed and the letter was thrown into the postbox.

Soviet stamps were canceled in Ukrainian CDS Przemyśl with the date April 27, 1940.

On the reverse of the envelope there is a German stamp "Der Deutsche Ortsbevollmächtigte" (German local authorities).

The grease stains on the envelope come from the toolbox.

Fee 20 kop. for an ordinary local letter up to 20 g. according to the Soviet tariff.

Only one such letter is known so far.