



# Austrian-Hungarian POWs in Russia

## Committee of the International Red Cross

### POW Correspondence Cards

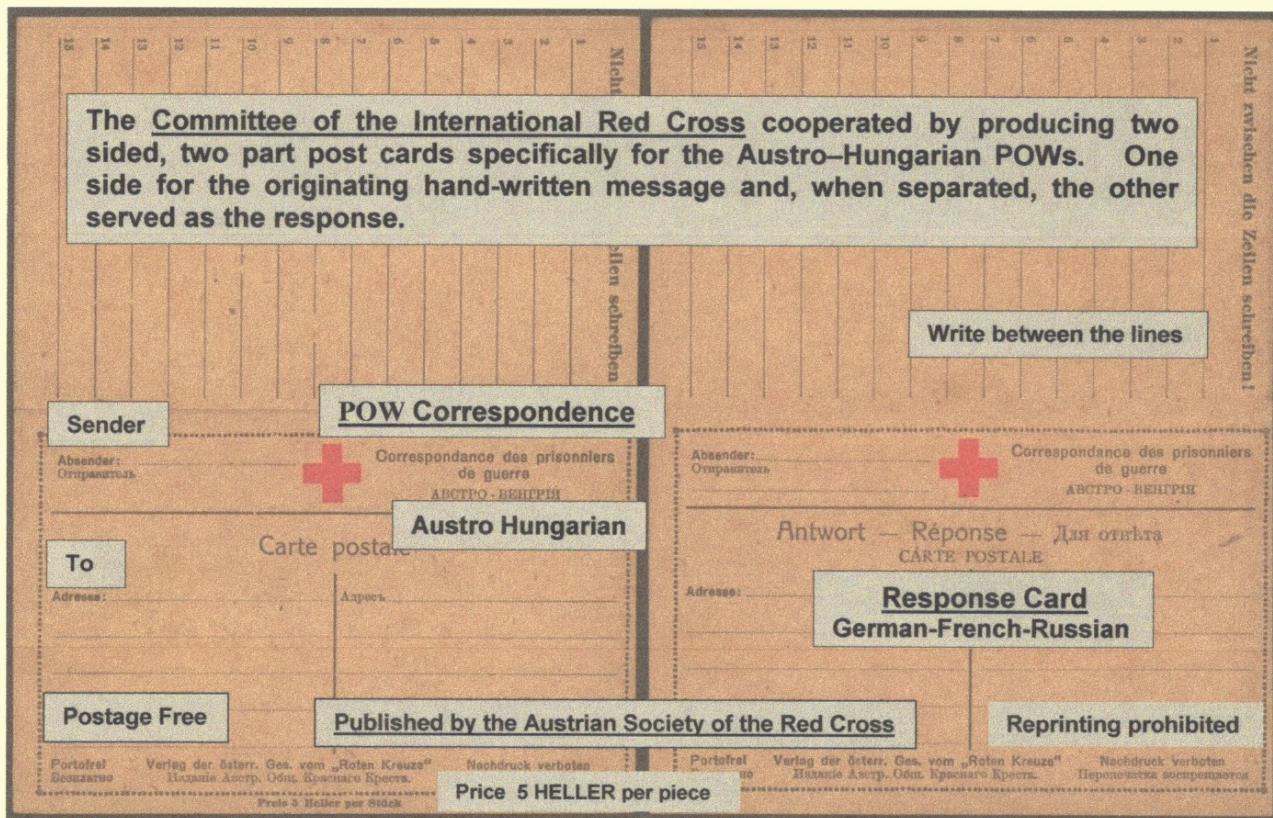


Map showing the Austrian-Hungarian Empire pitted against Imperial Russia at the beginning of WWI

An estimated 2,100,000 Austro-Hungarian soldiers were captured (over 20% of their army) mainly because they were greatly outnumbered by the better equipped Russian forces on the eastern front.

- Military alliances in 1914
- Triple Alliance
  - Triple Entente
  - Slavic allies of Russia
  - minority groups in Austria-Hungary

Due to the poor Russian postal organization, POW mail in the beginning of the war was written on anything that was handy and would fit in an envelope (i.e. letters, cards and / or paper torn out of magazines or books). In 1915, the overwhelmed Russian post office began producing postcards for the POWs. In order to make the censors' job easier, it was provided that messages shall be written only in the Russian, French, or German languages.



The Committee of the International Red Cross cooperated by producing two sided, two part post cards specifically for the Austro-Hungarian POWs. One side for the originating hand-written message and, when separated, the other served as the response.

Write between the lines

Sender

**POW Correspondence**

Absender: Отправитель

Correspondance des prisonniers de guerre  
АВСТРО-ВЕНГРИИ

Absender: Отправитель

Correspondance des prisonniers de guerre  
АВСТРО-ВЕНГРИИ

To

Carte postale

**Austro Hungarian**

Antwort - Réponse - Для ответа  
CARTE POSTALE

Adresse:

Adresse:

**Response Card  
German-French-Russian**

Postage Free

Published by the Austrian Society of the Red Cross

Reprinting prohibited

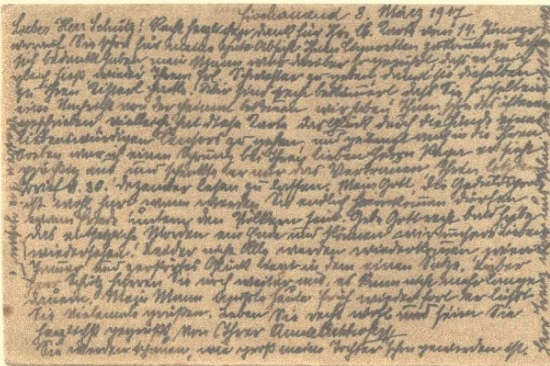
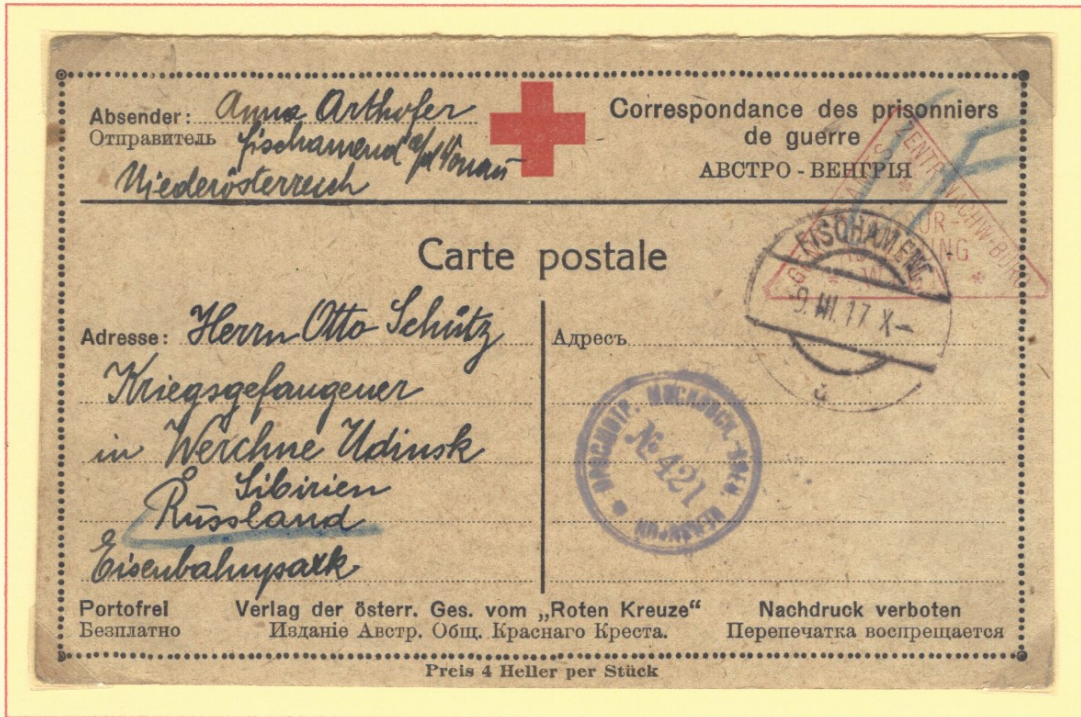
Portofrei Verlag der österr. Ges. vom „Roten Kreuze“ Nachdruck verboten Price 5 HELLER per piece





WWI

Austrian-Hungarian POWs in Russia  
Committee of the International Red Cross  
POW Correspondence Cards



Reverse side of card

Red Cross POW Post Card from an Austrian family initiating contact with their soldier held captive at the Railroad Depot in

**Verkhne – Udinsk**  
Verkhneudinsk District  
Province of Zabaikal  
Siberia, Imperial Russia

Postmark: **9 March 1917**  
**Fischamend, Lower Austria**  
**on the Danube River**

Circular Russian censor mark - Examined by **MOSCOW** Military Censorship / Censor No. 421

Faint Red Triangle Censor Mark  Censorship Section / **WIEN** (Vienna)  
Joint (Austro-Hungarian War Ministry) Central Information Bureau



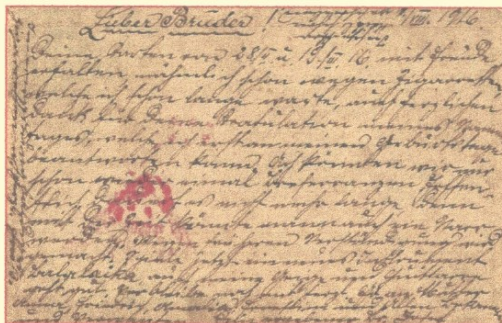
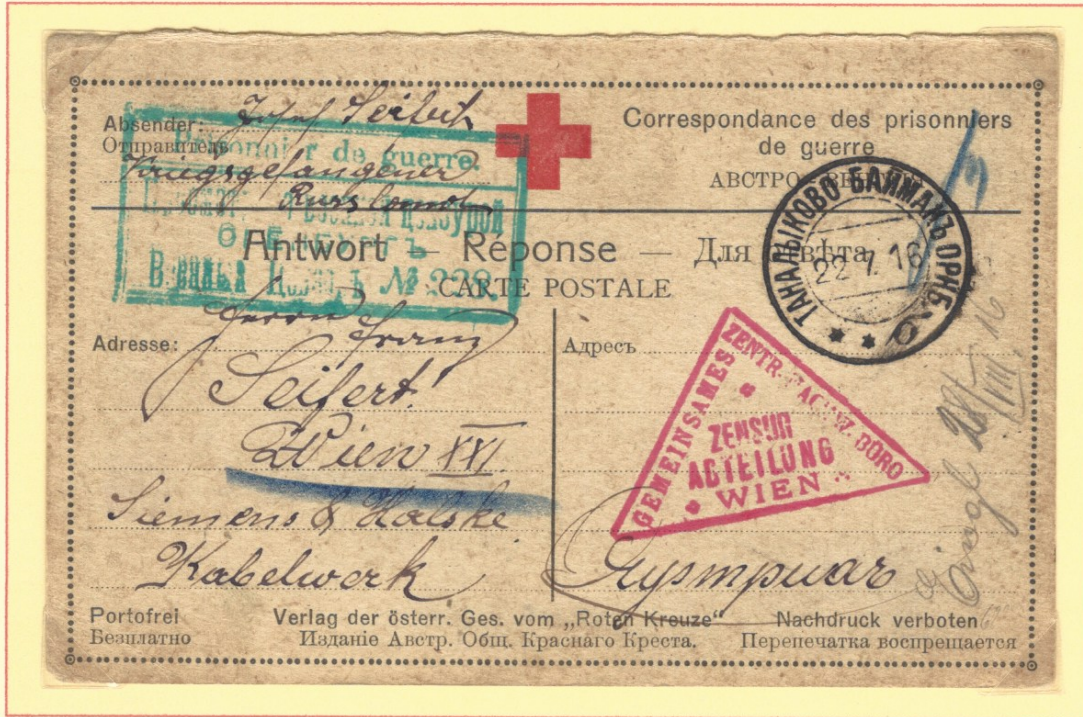
Today this location is known as  
**Ulan-Ude, Republic of Buryatia, Russia**





WWI

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Red Cross POW Response Card from an Austrian soldier addressed to his brother c/o Siemens & Halske Cableworks in Vienna.

**Postmark: 22 July 1916 (Julian Calendar)**  
**Tanalykovo-Baymak**  
**Orenburg Province, Russia**  
**Postal Branch 6**

Reverse side of card

Note – handwritten response is dated 1 August (Gregorian Calendar)

Red Triangle Censor Mark  Censorship Section / **WIEN** (Vienna)  
Joint (Austro-Hungarian War Ministry) Central Information Bureau

Green Box - Russian Censor Mark  POW / Examined by Military Censorship  
**ORENBURG** Military Censor No.228



Today this location is known as  
Baymak, Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia