

POLISH CORPS IN RUSSIA (2)

March 1918: Stamps of Russia with Modified Overprint.

Overprint in black as follows:

No watermark.

Perf. $14\frac{1}{2}$ x $14\frac{3}{4}$, but also

Imperforate.



Pol. Korp /
Polish White Eagle /
Value. (100 kopecks = 1 R)

(a) Perforated:



10k on 3k
carmine-red



35k on 1k
orange



50k on 2k
green



1R on 3k
carmine-red

Colour Variation:



35k on 1k
orange-yellow

(b) Imperforate:



10k on 3k
carmine-red



35k on 1k
orange



50k on 2k
green



1R on 3k
carmine-red

Colour Variations:



35k on 1k
orange-yellow



STANLEY GIBSON PUBLICATIONS LTD. LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM
MADE AND PRINTED IN ENGLAND

POLISH CORPS IN RUSSIA: RECRUITING LABELS.

1916: Recruiting Labels "For the Polish Legionaries" ("LEGIONISTOM POLSKIM"). Printed in Vienna, these labels had no postal value, but served as propaganda labels which could be bought and stuck on letters - often on the backs of covers where they served as sealing labels. The proceeds served the recruitment of Poles for the military organisation which was supported by the Austrians, and which fought on their side against the Russians in World War I.

There appear to be at least two types, and three colour variations (for the 20 h(alerzy = Heller) even four. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$; imperf. also exist.

Type 1: Larger Figures.

Clean Perforation:



2h slightly red-dish bright brown



3h deep green



10h vermilion



20h black-violet

Type 2: Smaller figures,

Small-pin Perforations:



2h deep brown



3h olive-green



10h carmine-red



20h deep violet



"POLISH MILITARY MAIL"
IN UKRAINE

So far undetected in the literature. Appears to be a private fantasy production. Polish Eagle with 2, 5, and 10gr overprints on Ukrainian stamps. Cancelled "BEKAHALOSK / 6.9.19 / POL KORP", with "rp" in lower case instead of capital case. "Bekahalosk" is a town which appears not to exist. A complete fraud.

The whole set of the Ukrainian Issue of July, 1918, overprinted 2gr in black:



2gr on 10shahiv, on 20 shahiv, on 30 shahiv, on 40 shahiv, on 50 shahiv.

Ditto, 5 gr in black:



Ditto, 10 gr in red:



The 30 sh. Ukrainian stamp was printed in a) prussian blue and b) ultramarine (see above). The whole set is obtainable for very little money. The forger obviously found this a good target for making some fraudulent gain at the expense of gullible collectors!

"POLISH MILITARY MAIL"
IN UKRAINE

Fraudulent Polish Corps stamps on "Letterpiece".

As before:



2gr on 10 shahiv.



10 gr on 10 sh



10 gr on 20 sh



10 gr on 30 sh



10 gr on 40sh



10 gr on 50 sh

KWIDZYN

At 75km S.S.E. of Gdańsk, Kwidzyn (called Marienwerder in German) was a small town of 13,000 in 1920, when it, following intensive German intimidation, was allocated to Germany after the plebiscite held under the terms of the Versailles Treaty, together with its surrounding country. In spite of a century and a half of unrelenting Germanisation, this was still largely Polish. After the flight of most of the German population at the end of World War II, it was returned to Poland in 1945. In 1990 the town's (again totally Polish) population stood at 37,000, and the population of the countryside (equally Polish) had also doubled.

13 March, 1920: First Issue printed in Milan, Italy, showing a symbolic female figure with flags and the inscription "Populi voluntas" at her feet, and "Commission interalliée" on top, with "Marienwerder" at the bottom. Its proper Polish name "Kwidzyn" was nowhere to be found. Litho print. Perf. 11½.



5Pf green.



10Pf red.



15Pf slate



20Pf brown-red



25Pf blue



30Pf orange



40Pf brown



50Pf violet



60Pf red-brown



75Pf chocolate



1Mk green/brown



2Mk deep lilac



3Mk vermilion



5Mk blue/red

The Allied Plebiscite Commission was fair-minded and sympathetic enough to the Polish cause, but had not had sufficient time to get properly organised. This not only damaged to results of the plebiscite, but inefficiency and theft of stamps in transit from Italy resulted in shortages, so that German stamps were also used.

April-May, 1920: Stop-Gap Emergency Issue of the Allied Plebiscite Commission, Contd.

Variations:



20 Pf pale blue
é heavy (authentic-
ticated)
(used)



20 Pf Prussian blue
é regular.
(mint)



75 Pf green/black
C heavy & a little
more closed.
é leaning over
backwards.
(mint)



75 Pf deep green/
black: C light
and open.
(used)



30 Pf orange (normal), and 5 Pf green
(with overprint inverted).
(used)

KWIDZYN, Contd.

25 Apr. - 11 May, 1920: The 27
Mar. - 8 May Overprinted German
"Germania" Issue with further
Mark value surcharges, e.g.:

1 Mark 1
Commission
Interallée
Marienwerder

Four Pfennige values surcharged with
four new Mark values, as shown
below.



1 Mk on 2 Pf
light grey.



2 Mk on 2½ Pf
grey.



3 Mk on 3 Pf
brown.



5 Mk on 7½ Pf
orange.

Overprints of the original issue, and the present value surcharges were typographed by Wendt Groll's Printing Works at Kwidzyn.

Quantities: 1 Mk 25,000; 2 Mk 40,000; 3 Mk 30,000; 5 Mk 36,000.

Variations:

There exists an abundance of printing mistakes and flaws in this issue.
Examples:

1 Mk on 2 Pf
light grey:



left figure 1
has left part
of foot
incomplete.



"Mark" higher than
the figures "1".
(authenticated)



1 Mk on 2Pf
light grey
Left leg of "M"
not vertical.

Contd. next page.

Variations, Contd.

3 Mk on 3 Pf. browns:



M in Marienwerder
C in Commission
in Mark
Authentic. Gdr.



M in Marienwerder
C in Commission
in Mark
Authent. Dr. OERTEL (red), also
O.K. (black)



M in Marienwerder
C in Commission
in Mark
Authent. AP. (black);
also (illegible, green).



Damaged M in Marienwerder
C in Commission
M in Mark
Authent. Dr. OERTEL (red); also O.K. (black).



M in Marienwerder
C in Commission
M in Mark
é in Interalliee
(diagonal bar in é,
smallish).
Authenticated Dr. Hindrichs;
also



M in Marienwerder
C in Commission
M in Mark
é in Interalliee



M in Marienwerder
C in Commission
M in Mark
Large é in Interalliee



M in Marienwerder
C in Commission
M in Mark
é in Interalliee.
(Diagonal bar in é,
small).
Authenticated
Dr. Hindrichs

Authent.
Dr. OERTEL

Overprint Inverted:



Large open M in Marienwerder
C in Commission
M in Mark
Horizontal bar in é of Interalliee,
(as in final e)