

PNEUMATIC POST FACILITIES IN WIEN 25

By Andy Taylor

There has long been debate between Austrian philatelists about whether the post office in the War Ministry building (the Kriegsministerium) at the time of the First World War offered pneumatic-post facilities. Technical and official evidence seemed to suggest that this was the case, but tangible proof of an item of mail sent pneumatically to Wien 25 has been lacking.

Until now. The author recently acquired the illustrated card, addressed in 1916 to the Kriegsministerium, and with a blue crayon '25' in the top-left corner, consistent with the pneumatic-post practice of so marking the destination office.



So, is this the missing link? Let's first look at the card in detail, and then review the evidence that pneumatic station 25 was located in the War Ministry building from 1913 to 1922.

What is this item?

It's a pneumatic-post letter-card, with a 35 heller Jubilee-design imprinted stamp, the outside is rose and the inside grey-green (so it's 12y in the Schneiderbauer catalogue). The franking is correct (and the card was issued) for the special pneumatic-post letter-card rate of 35 heller valid between 16.1.1907 and 30.9.1916.

Where's it addressed to?

The front carries the address: **Hochgeehrter / Herr Oberintendant / Pietrek / 13. Abteilung / der Kriegsministerien Wien I / Stubenring.** [It should be "des Kriegsministeriums", not plural as written: Dual Monarchy, but single War Ministry!]. An Oberintendant was a senior civil servant; Abteilung means Department or Section.

Any other markings on the front?

The imprint is cancelled with a doubled strike of the bridge cancel 8 WIEN 64 / 16.III.16.VIII.■ / * 7b * (where ■ is a Balk, ie the slug is upside down). To the left of this is a reversed offset of the same - also doubled, and perhaps caused when the card was folded (the creases are visible on the illustration). There is no arrival or delivery cancel. On the front at top left is **25** in blue crayon.

What's on the back?



There is no arrival or delivery cancel here either, nor any indication of who sent it. The quite different handwriting on the back is perhaps that of the addressee. It says “Löwinger & Glas, Wien”, a transaction or file reference number, a date of 17/3 1916, and a price of (or note of an order for) 10,000 prisoners’ uniforms at 18 K each, or 180,000 K.

And what's inside?

The message inside (see next page) is in the same hand as the address, and is dated Wien 15/3/1916. The writer has meticulously put an arc above each letter ‘u’ to distinguish it from an ‘n’, and almost all is readable. The lack of introductory pleasantries and of a return address suggests they know each other. It says:

Hochgeehrter Herr Oberintendant

Weil ich weiss, wie Sie in Anspruch genommen sind, so gestatte ich mir, auf diesem Weg wegen der Zuweisung der Lieferung von 30,000 Monturen für Gefangene an die Fa Löwinger & Glas freundlich zu ersuchen. Sie haben ihre Preise ermässigt, um nur die Arbeiter beschäftigen zu können, und warten mit Sehnsucht auf die Annahme des Offertes, da der Lieferant ??????????

Mit besonderer Hochachtung,

Wien 15/3 1916 D. Scheiner

Höchster Herr Oberintendant,
 Weil ich weiß, wie Sie in Angelegenheiten
 so geschäftig sind, habe ich die Freiheit
 zu nehmen, die Lieferung von 30.000 Mänteln
 für Gefangene, an die Sie Löwinger & Glas
 freundlich zu empfehlen. Sie haben ihre
 Sache empfohlen, um mich die Arbeit
 beschleunigen zu können & werden mich sehr
 sehr auf d. Ansehen der Offiziere, da die
 Lieferung der Rohmaterialien nun bis
 morgen im Werk steht u. in 10 Tagen
 laufen könnte.
 Mit bestem Respekt
 Wien 15/3 1916

Many people in several countries have tried to read the words after “Lieferant”, and a measure of interpretation has been necessary (“if A is X then B could be Y and cannot be Z”). The collective wisdom is:

der Lieferant des	Rohmaterials Rohbekleidung **	nur bis morgen im	Werk Wort	steht u.
sie sonst sofort	nicht liefern könnte.			

[** “Rohbekleidung” received less ‘votes’ but is grammatically more consistent!]

So the message says:

Dear Mr. Oberintendant

Because I know how busy you are, I have taken the liberty of hereby kindly requesting allocation of delivery of 30,000 uniforms for prisoners from the firm Löwinger & Glas. They

have reduced their prices, simply to keep their workers occupied, and are now waiting very anxiously for acceptance of the quotation, since the supplier ?????

With particular regards,

Vienna 15/3 1916 D. Scheiner

Depending on the reading of the last portion, it may mean “the supplier of the raw material [or, specifically, “raw material for clothing” ie cloth] can only deliver [*to the workshop?*] until tomorrow” or “the supplier of the raw material has stated in writing that he cannot deliver otherwise” – or something similar. It is however pretty clear that the matter has an urgency, justifying the use of pneumatic mail!

“Monturen” is either uniforms in general or greatcoats in particular. The “Gefangene” are most probably normal POWs; although these would have been captured in uniform, the 1915-16 winter was bitterly cold (troops dying in tens of thousands) and additional clothing would have been justified if only to prevent the Red Cross complaining. Wilder speculations are possible but unjustified.

What did “Abteilung 13” do?

Oskar Schilling and the Newsletter 78 of Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost (September 2004) tell me that Abteilung 13’s responsibilities were: “Wirtschaftsgruppe (Monturverwaltungsanstalten, Bergstellen, Nagelschmieden und Skiwerkstätte, Bekleidungswerkstätte in Brunn a.G.); Bestellgruppen und Helmreferat (gesamte Erfordernisse an Montur)”. This means “Administrative group for uniforms management and establishments, salvaged-material depots, boot-nail forging and skiing equipment, also the clothing workshop in Brunn am Gebirge; groups for sending out purchase orders and testing helmets, covering the total requirements for uniforms”

There are records of firms called “Löwinger & Glas” working in the textile industry at Králové nad Labem (Koniginhof an der Elbe) in 1872 and at Katharinberg/Katerinky in 1929; both these are in Bohemia.

Where is the Kriegsministerium?

Construction of a new Reichskriegsministerium (=Imperial War Ministry) began in 1909 on Stubenring to replace the one on the corner of Am Hof; it was opened in 1913. The map in the 1911 English Baedeker (which was probably drawn for the German edition of 1908) shows the new building on the Stubenring as an outline, marked “im Bau”. Nowadays the large building is well-known as the “Regierungsgebäude”, residence of some ministries. A gigantic double-headed Imperial Austrian eagle still broods over the main entrance.

Anything in Abteilung 13’s archives?

You’ll recall that on the back of the W25 letter card is a note in, I guessed, the handwriting of the recipient. It includes a number, amended to read 13-21220/22819 /16 which I surmised could be a file reference for Abt 13 for the year 1916. So I went to the State Archives, looked up the do-it-yourself index for the Kriegsarchiv, and found there were two sets of relevant Protokollnummer indexes. I ordered both, and returned the prescribed time later to be presented with two large (2 x 2½ feet) leather-bound ledgers, which turned out to be the register of outgoing correspondence. It lists every item by serial number; addressee and subject and date; unexplained codes; and comments. Not all entries had all fields complete. The entries are not in date order. The author is not listed. The first book was

irrelevant; it was “Abt. TuLG” and the correspondence was all about leather and calf-skins in Bosnia. However in the second I found these:

21220 Loewinger & Glas •/• Anbot auf Monturen fuer K.G. “mit 22809”

The •/• is written in the date field. Item 22809 is irrelevant, but recall that on the original it has been manually changed to 22819...

22818 BEERs Loew Wwe u. Sohn Holleschau 5/3 Anbot auf Blusen

22819 Idem 7/3 Anbot auf Monturen “mit 22033”

22033 RENNER v.BAND, J.V.MAUTNER 7/3 Anbot auf Mäntel

These seem to be around 5-7 March, while our letter is the 15th. I had no time to try to order the documents themselves - even if they are still there - and return to view them. Maybe they are enquiries, not the actual orders?

Evidently Loewinger & Glas are regulars: 22811 was written to them concerning “Anbot auf Uebermaentel 4/3” and 22812 “Idem Anbot auf Blusen 6/3”.

So, we can reasonably conclude that the letter-card is indeed connected with an order on Loewinger & Glas for uniforms, and was sent urgently to the relevant civil servant.

How did this item travel?

The imprint is cancelled with a pneumatic-type bridge cancel 8 WIEN 64 / 16.III.16. VIII.■ / * 7b * which is type R0033f in Stohl [*“Postalische Abstempelungen im derzeitigen österreichischen Staatsgebiet von 1900 - heute”*]. Wien 64 is now Wien 1082 in Josephstadt, Bez 8, and was a pneumatic station for the entire life of the system. The cancel time is 8am, which is when the system started up for the day. The blue 25 at the top left front is precisely what would be expected for a standard Instradirungschiffre, the number of the destination pneumatic office, which by 1916 was the same as the Post Office number.

So where was pneumatic office WIEN 25?

First, look in Stohl. He lists Wien 25 as A2488 on pp 966 and 2822 with these details:

E –1892: TELEGRAPHENSTATION WIEN / HOTEL NATIONAL (STO Taborstraße 18),
U 10.1.1892: 2/1 WIEN 25, A 31.12.1909, E 1.9.1913: 1/1 WIEN 25 (STO K.u.K. Kriegsministerium), A 8.4.1922

(= Opened in 1892 as the telegraph station “Hotel National, Wien” at Taborstraße 18; upgraded into post office 2/1 Wien 25 on 10.1.1892; closed 31.12.1909; opened on 1.9.1913 as 1/1 Wien 25 at K.u.K. Kriegsministerium; closed 8.4.1922.)

Stohl gives the following Wien 25 cancels:

Stohl ref	Format	Stohl type	Date; type
A2488a	1/1 WIEN 25 * a *	6l20	1913-1918; bridge
A2488b	1/1 WIEN 25 * b *	6l20	1913-1922; bridge
A2488c	1/1 WIEN 25 * c *	6l20	1913-1915; bridge
A2488d	1/1 WIEN 25 * d *	6l20	1913-1922; bridge

In 1963, Erhard Görig of Vienna transcribed and arranged into order-of-office the records of cancellers (for places in today's Austria) created or repaired by Joseph Schatz of Vienna 17 (an Official Cancellation Repairer) between 1908 and 1938. There are four listed for 1/1 Wien 25 * # * on page 89 (# = a, b, c, or d); all were made on 28.VII.1913. This confirms Stohl's data (unless it's the source!).

There are no WIEN 25 in any Stohl category other than A; in particular there are none in 'R' which is where he lists specifically pneumatic-post cancels. The supplement merely adds the diameter and closing date to the 'c' cancel, and clarifies that the reopening was in the new War Ministry building. All this is consistent with it being a 'normal' post office.

In an article in Wiener Ganzsachen Frei- und Poststempelsammlerverein issue 1/2004 page 7, Stohl says that he has examples of counter letters a and b, which are illustrated, and knows of c and d. He says that he *"has never seen a Rohrpost cancel from 25; nor have Anton Lessig** or the Dutch pneumatic mail specialist van Duijsen."* He concludes *"According to my conjecture, we are looking at a perfectly normal post office, for which the two examples shown"* (in his article) *"give evidence."* These are an envelope from Oct 1918 from the War Ministry, and one from 1921 with normal civilian use in the Regierungsgebäude.

** Lessig wrote a series of articles in Die Briefmarke (appearing between 1963 and 1966) under the general heading "Die Poststempel von Österreich 1883-1918" covering the cancellations of Vienna districts I to VIII. This should include any office at Stubenring; but Wien 25 isn't mentioned at all.

On page 29 of Rundbrief 77 (June 2004) of the ArGe Feld- und Zensurpost is a picture of a late-WWI registered-and-express cover from Wien 25 to Olmütz. The bridge cancel is Stohl's type A2488b. There is no sign of pneumatic post, but since it was registered it wouldn't have been sent pneumatically anyway until 1925.

Given dates of 1913-1922, we'd expect bridge cancels for pneumatic service, with text such as **1/1 WIEN 25 * P. *** or perhaps **T.A. 1 WIEN 25 * R/a *** However, while cancels and mail are known from WIEN 25, none are pneumatic in type nor on pneumatic mail. And this letter-card has no WIEN 25 arrival or delivery cancel - but then it wasn't being taken out to anywhere else, just delivered within the building.

OK, so the office is in Stohl, but nobody's seen a pneumatic cancellation from it. Any other evidence that Wien 25 handled pneumatic mail?

Yes. First the official references:

"Wien 25" was originally the number assigned to a telegraph office at the (Grand-) Hotel National in Taborstrasse 18, Leopoldstadt, Wien 2 in the 1890s. It closed on 31.12.1909. The 1898 Postverordnungsblatt has office 25 as the Hotel National, providing telegram service only. However, the number "25" was reused...

The opening and closing of Wien 25 as a pneumatic office are recorded in the Post Office Decrees (translated summaries below; copies reproduced in appendices 1 & 2).

Opening: Official News-sheet of the k.k. Post & Telegraph Directorate for Austria below the Enn, nr 23, Vienna 1st Dec 1913, appendix 1. / The Post & Telegraph office Wien 25, which has been opened in the kuk Kriegsministerium building at I Stubenring 1, was connected to the Vienna pneumatic postal network from 26th November of this year.

Closing: Official News-sheet of the Post Directorate for Vienna and Lower Austria, nr 6, Vienna 1st April 1922, §II nr 4. / Post Office Wien 25, a branch of Wien 1 located at Stubenring 1 in the building of the Federal ministry for military affairs, will be closed ... facilities will cease ... deliveries previously made from that office will be undertaken by Wien 1 ... items to be collected from Wien 25 will now be collectable from Wien 1.

Services provided: The second edition of the “Wiener Postbuch” (which contained indexes for streets and for civil service offices and staff) was published by the k.k. Post- and Telegraph Direktion in Vienna in April 1914. Part of this book tabulates the services provided, and the opening hours, at each office. See appendix 4. At the bottom of page 54 is “Wien 25 (Kriegsministerium, I Stubenring 1)” listed as offering “PT” “B” and “R” services (*ie acceptance and delivery of postal, telegraph, and pneumatic items*). “Annahme von Rohrpostsendungen” (= *acceptance of pneumatic post*) is available from “VII-8:00” (=7am to 8pm) on “W” days (=work-days, most probably including Saturdays) and “VII-XII” (7am to noon) on “F” (=Feiertag *ie public holiday*) and “S” (=Sunday). A Remarks column gives for each office the restrictions applicable; for Wien 25 it says “**Nur für das Kriegsministerium und die Marinesektion**” = *use restricted to the War Ministry and the Naval Section*.

And second the technical details:

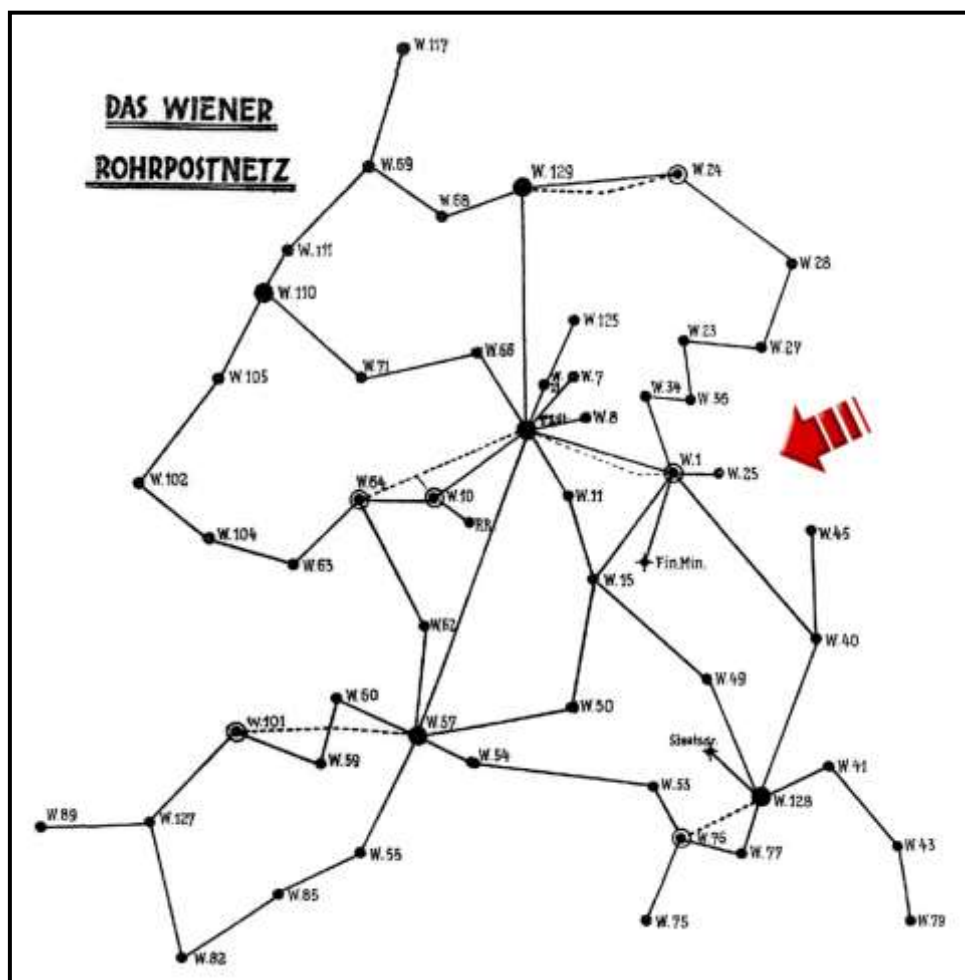
Dr Hans Hajek (*“Geschichte der Wiener Rohrpost” Wien 1933; in typescript; Postal Archive Ref PV306/1*) states that Wien 25 was the number of the pneumatic station in the new Reichskriegsministerium, commissioned in 1913 and shutting in 1922. Station W25 is shown only on Hajek’s 1913 map; it does not appear on earlier (1907) or later (1924) maps. His text on page 37 (para 2) is “*Schliesslich ist noch die Errichtung der Rohrpoststellen bei den ... Wien 25 (i.J.1913)...*”. His appendix 1 is the system map of 1913, on which W25 is shown as linked to Fleischmarkt. Although these maps are schematic, the position is reasonable for the known location of the building. His second appendix on page 78 has “1913 – Wien 25 (Kriegsministerium)” under the heading “*Errichtung neuer Rohrpoststellen*” (= opening of new pneumatic offices); by page 79 the heading has become “*Veränderungen im Stande der Rohrpoststellen*” (= changes in status of pneumatic offices) and the entry is “1922 – Wien 25 aufgelassen” (= closed). Office 25 is treated in Hajek in the same way as all the other offices. **E. Görig** also collated an Index of Offices, which on page 155 has “WIEN 25 Bis 31.12.1891 TST Hotel National, A 31.12.1909, Wiedereröffnet 1.9.1913, A 8.4.1922”.

Does there have to be a pipe?

No. The German text in the Amtsblatt decrees referred to above does not unequivocally state that pneumatic service was provided by a pipe, only that it was provided somehow, and later was withdrawn; those who had been collecting their mail from the Wien 25 office had now to go to Wien 1 for it.

The geography of Vienna means that a physical connection from the existing pneumatics in Fleischmarkt to the Kriegsministerium required either a complicated routing through streets broad and narrow or a tunnel under Postgasse and the Postsparkasse, before digging up the newly-built Ring. So it would have been much easier to have employed a messenger. But why would Hajek, writing in 1933, then show a pipe?

The special red letter-boxes for pneumatic post were in service at this time, and specially-assigned staff were employed to collect mail from them. They could have shuttled between Fleischmarkt and the Kriegsministerium: it’s about 10 minutes walk. [And there is another example of a pneumatic office with no pipe. According to Hajek, office Wien 53 was closed (pneumatically at least) from 1914 to 1921, yet examples exist of mail sent to it, with the appropriate direction markings, franking, and pneumatic-style cancellations, and dated 1917. It seems likely that the Wien 53 service was physically provided by messengers from Wien 76, the pneumatic office at nearby Südbahnhof.]



So in summary, Wien 25 may have had a pipe, or may have used messengers: and we shall probably never know which.

Is there any more information in the Archives?

The evidence above shows that Wien 25 was located in the Kriegsministerium in Stubenring; was possibly connected physically to the pneumatic network; and was officially listed as providing pneumatic services to the Kriegsministerium and the Marine-section from 26 Nov 1913 till 8 April 1922. The author has pursued the following lines of enquiry, personally in Vienna and elsewhere by email.

Q1: Did the Postal Archives have any Instradierungsbehelfe or similar for the period 1913-20, which might mention W25 or the Kriegsministerium? [*The Instradierungsbehelfe were the lists of streets and pneumatic stations which the postal clerks used to decide which pneumatic station to send an item to.*]

A1: No, they did not; and what's more their staff are pretty sure that these lists were not even published during those years, there being other more urgent matters to attend to plus a general shortage of materials and manpower.

Q2: Did the War Archive contain any items sent to or from the War Ministry with evidence of pneumatic transport – specifically, these would be letters or cards with a large blue number in crayon at the top left corner (*mock-up specimens of pneumatic mail accompanied the query*)?

A2: The duty Archivist, having made enquiries, replied that neither he nor any of his colleagues (who spend all day working with the files) had any recollection of ever seeing any such item. [*One cannot*

search these archives in person, only by submitting a well-focussed question to the staff. And of course the archive's indexes are by subject, not by document format!]

Q3: Did the “Staatserweiterungsarchiv”, the record of the construction of the buildings around the Ring, contain the plans for the War Ministry?

A3: Yes, it did: see appendix 3. However these plans are basically wall-layouts, and contained no information about the contents of each room except for a few function-names. The Post- and Telegraph-office was located in the Tief-parterre (= lower ground floor) just to the left of the main entrance as seen from the street, with 3 rooms, one having a counter. [There was a basement below this, and under that a sub-basement containing stocks of coal, wine and beer.]

Q4: Is there any mention of the War Ministry in the index to the Vienna Technical Museum Library?

A4: No, there isn't.

Q5: Any mention of D Scheiner or Oberintendant Pietrek in Abteilung 13's archives?

A5: No; the indexes seem to be of files not persons. The “Niederösterreichische Amtskalender” contains a list of senior staff, and the Berlin State Library have kindly sent me copies of the Kriegsministerium section from the 1915 edition. Herr Oberintendant Pietrek is not listed, in Abteilung 13 or elsewhere; however the list seems to be exclusively military personnel and he, being addressed as “Herr”, is presumably a civilian.

Conclusion

- ❖ **Wien 25 functioned as a pneumatic station, restricted to military use, from 26 Nov 1913 to 8 April 1922.**
- ❖ **The letter-card was posted at Wien 8 and sent via the pneumatic system (the final step perhaps by messenger) to Wien 25 for delivery within the War Ministry.**

Acknowledgements

I thank an even-more-than-usually international collaboration: Frau Sinnmayer (Österreichische Post AG) & Herr Sinnmayer; the Austrian State Archive; the Technical Museum in Vienna; Henry Pollak; Chuck Colomb; Keith Brandon; Oskar Schilling; Hubert Jungwirth; and the denizens of alt.usage.german!

Appended:

- ◆ 1913 Amtsblatt (Post Office Decree concerning the opening of Wien 25: excerpts, typescript, with transcription & translation)
- ◆ 1922 Amtsblatt (Post Office Decree about the closing of Wien 25: partial pages, with transcription)
- ◆ Kriegsministerium (War Ministry, Ringstrasse, Vienna) plan showing Post Office location
- ◆ 1914 Wiener Postbuch (cover & p54 with table of facilities at each post office)

Post Office Decree concerning the opening of Wien 25

A M T S B L A T T

der

k.k. Post- u. Telegraphen-Direktion für Österreich unter
der Enns.

No. 23. Wien, am 1. Dezember 1913. Jahrgang 1913.

Inhalt: Empfangsbestätigungen in den Postaufgabebü-
chern und Gesamtaufgabebescheinigen. - Anzeige über das
nachträgliche Einlangen der als fehlend gemeldeten Pa-
kete und Begleitadressen an die Anmeldestelle. - Vorla-
ge der Abfuhrquittungen. - Anhang.

“Amtsblatt der k.k. Post- u. Telegraphen-Direktion für Österreich unter der Enns / No 23 Wien am
1. Dezember 1913 Jahrgang 1913”

(= Official News-sheet of the k.k. post & telegraph directorate for Austria below the Enn, nr 23,
Vienna 1st Dec 1913, 1913 series.)

[several pages not shown]

A n h a n g.

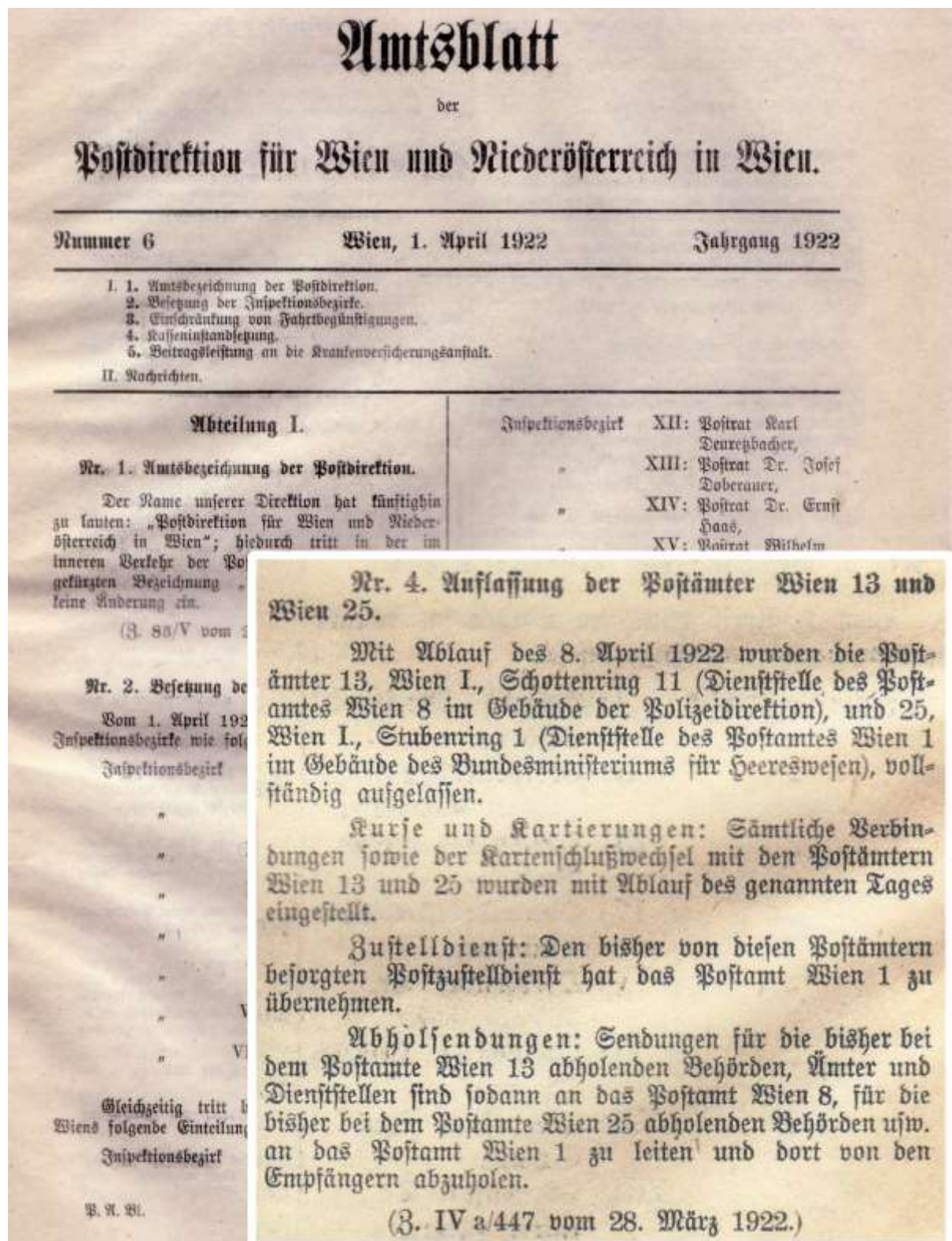
I.

Einbeziehung des Postamtes Wien 25 in das Wie-
ner Rohrpostnetz. Das im Gebäude des k.u.k. Kriegsmini-
steriums I. Stubenring 1 untergebrachte k.k. Post- und
Telegraphenamt Wien 25 wurde mit 26. November l.J. in
das Wiener Rohrpostnetz einbezogen. Z.VIa/5514/13.

Einbeziehung des Postamtes Wien 25 in das Wiener Rohrpostnetz. Das im Gebäude des k.u.k. Kriegsministeriums I Stubenring 1 untergebrachte k.k. Post- und Telegraphenamt Wien 25 wurde mit 26. November l.J. in das Wiener Rohrpostnetz einbezogen. Z.VIa/5514/13

(Appendix 1. / Connection of Post Office Wien 25 to the Vienna pneumatic postal network. / The Post & Telegraph office Wien 25, which has been opened in the kuk Kriegsministerium building at I Stubenring 1, was connected to the Vienna pneumatic postal network from 26th November of this year.)
[The Z.VIa/5514/13 is the Postal ministry's document reference]

Post Office Decree about the closing of Wien 25



The original of this document is on variously-coloured paper, wrinkled in places and tightly bound into a book. The relevant part is on page 2 and is inset above. It says as follows; a summary translation is in the main text.

Nr 4. Auflösung der Postämter Wien 13 und Wien 25.

Mit Ablauf des 8. April 1922 wurden die Postämter 13, Wien I, Schottenring 11 (Dienststelle des Postamtes Wien 8 im Gebäude der Polizeidirektion), und 25, Wien I, Stubenring 1 (Dienststelle des Postamtes Wien 1 im Gebäude des Bundesministeriums für Heereswesen) vollständig aufgelassen.

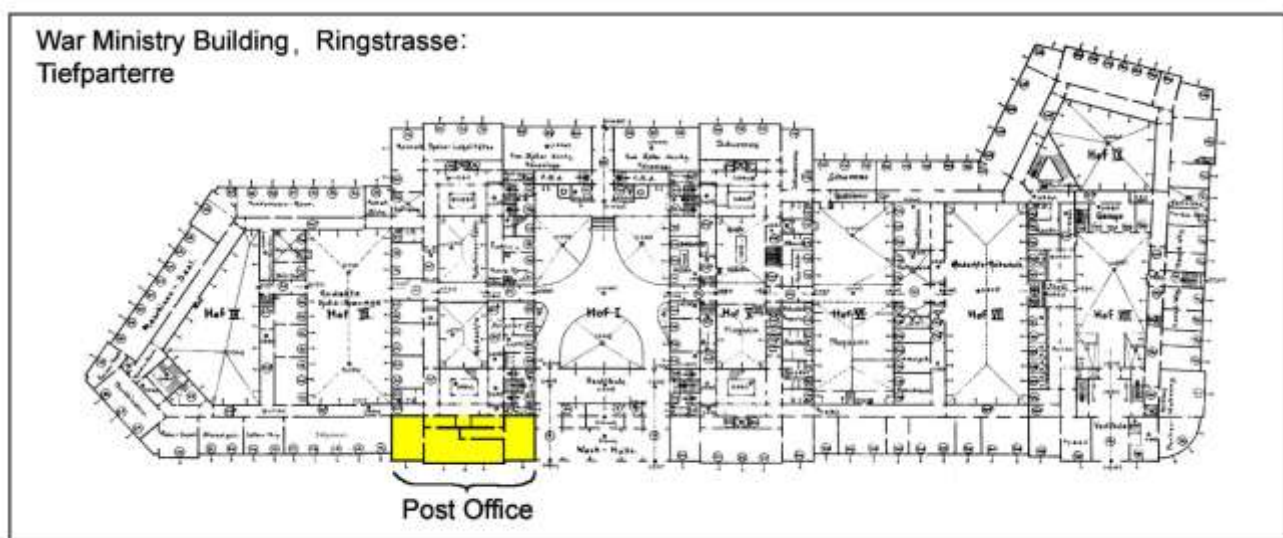
Kurse und Kartierungen: Sämtliche Verbindungen sowie der Kartenschlußwechsel mit den Postämtern Wien 13 und 25 wurden mit Ablauf des genannten Tages eingestellt.

Zustelldienst: Den bisher von diesen Postämtern besorgten Postzustelldienst hat das Postamt Wien 1 zu übernehmen.

Abholsendungen: Sendung für die bisher bei dem Postamt Wien 13 abholenden Behörden, Ämter und Dienststellen sind sodann an das Postamt Wien 8, für die bisher bei dem Postamt Wien 25 abholenden Behörden usw. an das Postamt Wien 1 zu leiten und dort von den Empfängern abzuholen.

(Z. IV a/447 vom 28. März 1922)

Location of Post Office within War Ministry



The Wiener Postbuch for 1914

89 89

1980-03-05

WIENER POSTBUCH

MIT EINEM VERZEICHNISSE
DER STRASSEN, GASSEN, PLÄTZE,
BEHÖRDEN, ÄMTER UND ÖFFENT-
LICHEN ANSTALTEN WIENS

ZWEITE AUFLAGE

(ABGESCHLOSSEN MIT ENDE APRIL 1914)

HERAUSGEGEBEN
VON DER K. K. POST- UND
TELEGRAPHENDIREKTION
IN WIEN

BIBLIOTHEK und ARCHIVE
DE POST- UND
TELEGRAPHENVERWALTUNG



Amtsbucherei
der
Post- und Telegraphendirektion Wien
1. Dörfle 8



Inventarnummer: 41062

WIEN 1914

K. K. HOF- UND STAATSDRUCKEREI

A m t Bezeichnung und Standort	Dienst- zweige	Briefpost- annahme			Annahme von Paketen u. von Briefen mit Wertangabe			Annahme von Post- anweisungen			Postparassen Ein- und Rück- zahlungen			Telegramm- annahme			Annahme von Rohrpost- sendungen			Telephondienst			Anmerkung
		W	F	S	W	P	S	W	F	S	W	F	S	W	P	S	W	F	S	W	F	S	
19 Wien I (Gottweihergasse 1, Spiegelgasse 11)	(Tr) (TA)	VI-30-7-00	VI-30-06-VA	VI-30-IX-30										II-X-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	*) Sommer. †) Winter.
21 Wien I (Museumstraße 12)	(P) (TA) (A)	VI-30-06-00	VI-30-06-VA	VI-30-IX-30	Keine gew. Fakto	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-IX-30				II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	Nur für Hausparteien.
22 Wien I (Heidenschuß 3)	(Tr) (TA)	VI-30-7-00	VI-30-06-VA	VI-30-IX-30										II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	*) Sommer. †) Winter.
Hofburg, Wien I (mit den Dienststellen Schönbrunn und Villa Hermes)	(PT) (TA) (B)	VI-30-8-00	VI-30-06-VA	VI-30-IX-30		00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-IX-30	X	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	Nur für den Allerhöchsten Hof und die Hofämter.
Reichsrat Wien I (Franzens- ring 1, Dr. Karl Luegerplatz 6)	(PT) (TA) (B) (S)	VI-30-7-00	VI-30-06-VA	VI-30-IX-30		00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	Nur für Besucher des Hauses.
23 Wien II/1 (Taborstraße 44, Blumauergasse 1)	(PT) (TA) (B) (S)	VI-30-8-00	VI-30-06-VA	VI-30-IX-30		00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	
26 Wien I (Kriegsministerium, 1., Stubenring 1)	(PT) (B) (R)	00-8-00-VA	VI-30-06-VA	VI-30-IX-30		00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	00-6-40-IX-30	00-6-40-00-VA	II-X-40-06-VA	II-X-40-IX-30	Nur für das Kriegsmini- sterium und die Marine- sektion.

The relevant section is enlarged here

A m t Bezeichnung und Standort			Dienst- zweige			Briefpost- annahme			Annahme von Paketen u. von Briefen mit Wertangabe			Annahme von Post- anweisungen		
						W	F	S	W	F	S	W	F	S
25 Wien I (Kriegsministerium, I., Stubenring 1)			(PT) (B) (R)			VII-8-00	VII-XII	VII-XII	VII-6-00	VII-XII	VII-XII	VII-6-00	VII-XII	VII-XII

Postsparkassa Ein- und Rück- zahlungen			Telegramm- annahme			Annahme von Rohrpost- sendungen			Telephondienst			Anmerkung		
W	F	S	W	F	S	W	F	S	W	F	S			
			VII-8-00	VII-XII	VII-XII	VII-8-00	VII-XII	VII-XII				Nur für das Kriegsministe- rium und die Marine- sektion.		

The encircled letters mean:

	<i>Stated text</i>	<i>Effective meaning</i>
P	Postamt mit Telegramm- und Rohrpostannahme.	Post office also accepting telegrams and pneumatic post
PT	Postamt mit Telegraphenstation und Rohrpostannahme.	Post office which is also a telegraph station accepting & receiving telegrams and which accepts pneumatic post
T	Telegraphenamt.	Telegraph office
Tr	Telegraphenamt mit Rekommandationsannahme.	Telegraph office also accepting registered items
R	Rohrpoststelle.	Pneumatic post place
TF	Telephonsprechstelle.	Public Telephone
TA	Telephonautomat (nur für den Lokalverkehr).	Automatic telephone apparatus (only for local calls)
B	Postamt mit Auf- und Abgabedienst.	Post office with mailing and delivery service
A	Postamt nur mit Aufgabedienst.	Post office with mailing service only (no deliveries)
S	Entwertungsstelle für Stempelmarken auf Wechseln und kaufmännischen Anweisung	Office which applied (fiscal) cancellations to revenue adhesives on financial and commercial papers

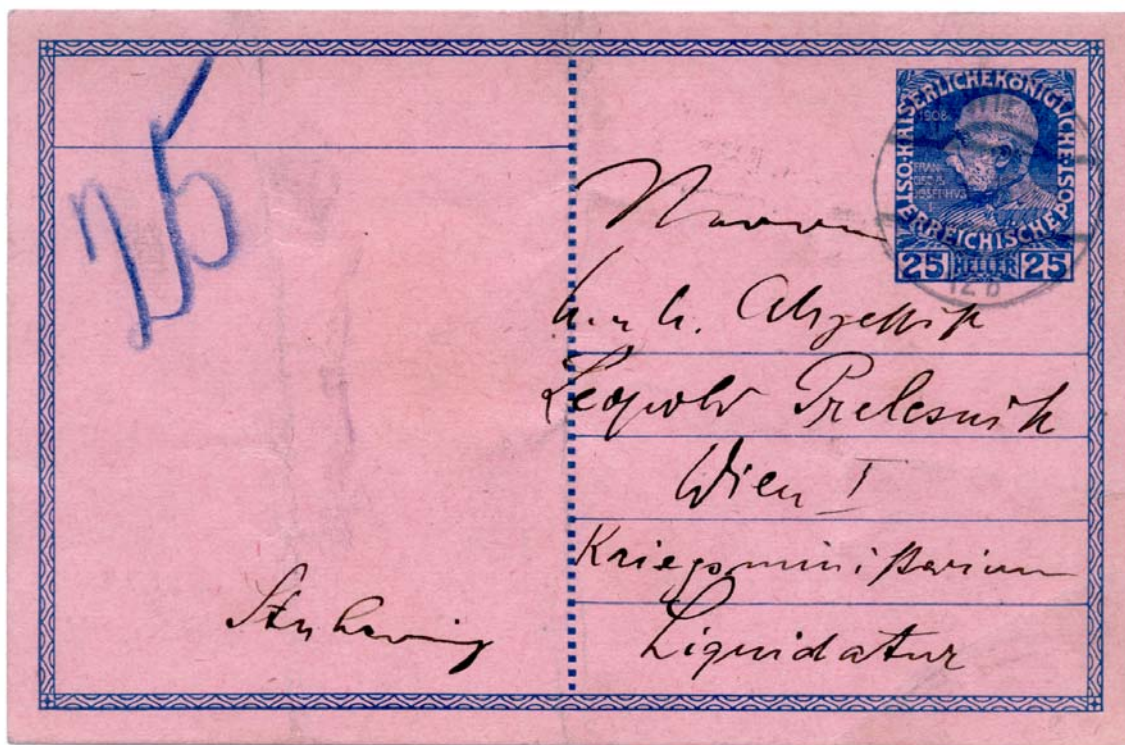
Also stated is that W = Werktage; F = Feiertage; S = Sonntage; and that Roman numbers mean times from 1am to noon, Arabic from 1pm till midnight.

"STOP PRESS"

Page 154 below says “*So in summary, Wien 25 may have had a pipe, or may have used messengers: and we shall probably never know which.*” Philatelic research is never complete...

Just as this book was going to press, a colleague participating in the annual APS trip to Vienna found a second W25 example! The office-of-posting cancel is readable (just) as **1/1 WIEN 1**, confirmed by searching Stohl in which no other office in Austria in the relevant period had a Schalterbuchstabe of ‘12b’: so it’s his ‘A2527ie’, of type ‘6t20’ which is a bridge with hours & minutes.

There is a clear ‘25’ in blue crayon at the top left corner and the delivery address is Wien I / Kriegsministerium / Liquidatur. The message is handwritten in German and of a private nature, not official business.



The card has the standard three creases, so that the item can fit in the pneumatic BÜchse; they appear contemporary not modern. The map on page 154 below shows that office W25 was directly connected to office W1. The cancel 1/1 WIEN 1 would only have been applied to items posted at that office, or posted in a red pneumatic-letter-box whose contents were taken to that office (¹). The creasing was done by the BÜchse-fillers (who sometimes chose to roll items) not the cancelling clerks. Hence if this item did go through a pneumatic pipe, it can only be a pipe from Wien 1 to Wien 25.

This item is further confirmation that a service was routinely provided to office Wien 25, and strongly suggests that the provision was by means of a pneumatic pipe, not a foot messenger.

If anybody discovers further examples to or from Wien 25,
the author would be delighted to hear from them

¹ For details of the red box system see vol 1 page 6 of “The Pneumatic Post in Vienna”, ISBN 0-900118-04-0 published by the APS