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# Castellum

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June 2000

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## President's Message

by Gary Little

It's going to be a busy summer in the Grand Duchy this year. As usual, it begins with Luxembourg National Day celebrations on June 23, but then preparations begin for a rather rare event — the crowning of a new Grand Duke on September 28. After a reign of almost 36 years, Grand Duke Jean, age 79, is abdicating in favor of his son, Crown Prince Henri, age 45. This will be only the third coronation in the Grand Duchy since the end of World War I over 80 years ago.

On the philatelic front, I note that our good friend Guy Rausch was named head of the Luxembourg P&T *Office des Timbres* earlier this year. Guy, who has been with the philatelic division for over 25 years, was responsible for mailing information about the LCC to his subscribers in North America when the LCC was first formed three years ago this month. Congratulations, Guy!

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## The Pre-War Tourism Postmarks of Luxembourg

by Gary Little

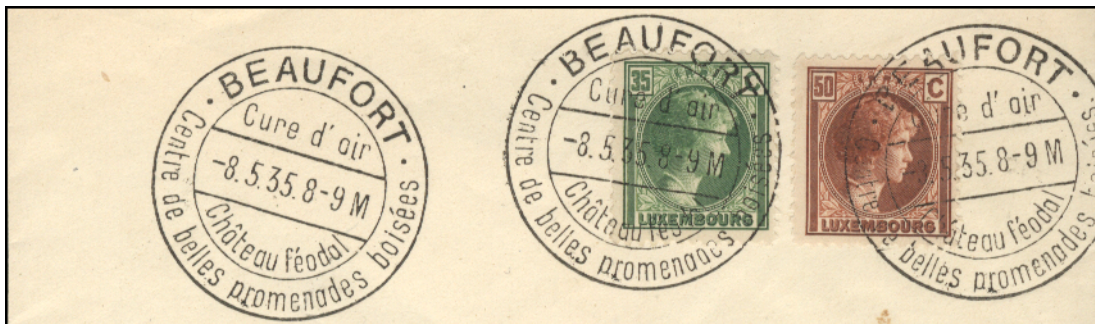
Around 1920, the Luxembourg post office began using special postmarks to promote tourism in various small communities around the Grand Duchy. By the time of the Nazi occupation in May 1940, twelve different tourism postmarks were in use, highlighting attractions and activities in the following towns:

Beaufort	Esch-sur-Alzette
Berdorf	Grevenmacher
Clervaux	Mondorf-les-Bains
Consdorf	Remich
Diekirch	Vianden
Echternach	Wiltz

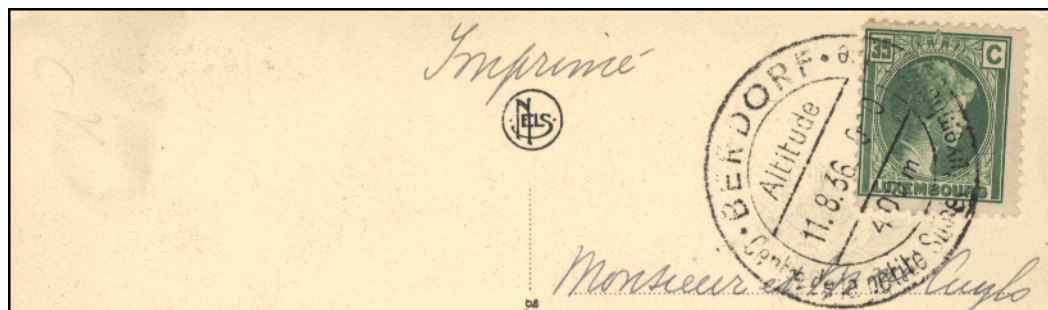
These postmarks were all retired from use by the end of 1940 when the occupiers switched to German-style cancellation devices and banned the use of the French language.

These postmarks are not particularly rare, but they're not common either, particularly in North America. I've assembled a collection of ten of them, which I will share with you here. With any luck I'll soon be able to track down the remaining two.

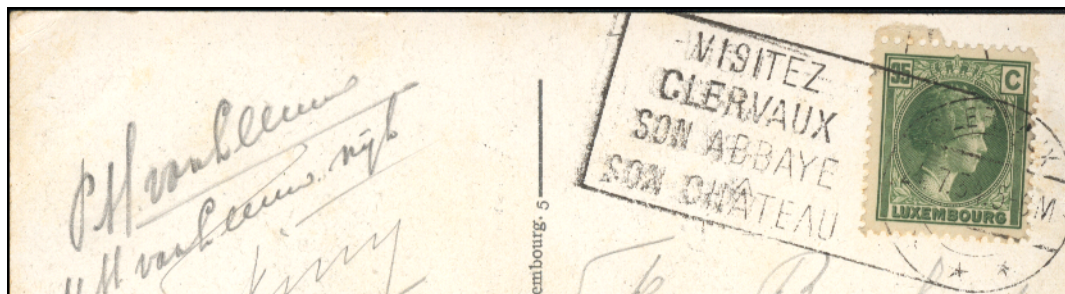
For more information about all the tourism postmarks of Luxembourg, not just the pre-war ones, I recommend you obtain a copy of *Catalogue des Cachets de Tourisme Luxembourgeois Employés par les P&T* (2<sup>e</sup> édition, 1999). It is published by the FSPL, 38 rue du Curé, L-1368 Luxembourg-Ville.



**Beaufort.** Located in Luxembourg's Petite Suisse (Little Switzerland) region, a popular recreational area known for its massive rock formations and steep, narrow valleys, Beaufort is best known for the ruins of a 12th century castle which was refortified in the 16th century. The circular Beaufort tourism postmark reads: *Beaufort / Cure d'air / Château féodal / Centre de belles promenades boisées* (Beaufort / Healthy air / Feudal castle / Center of beautiful wooded walks).

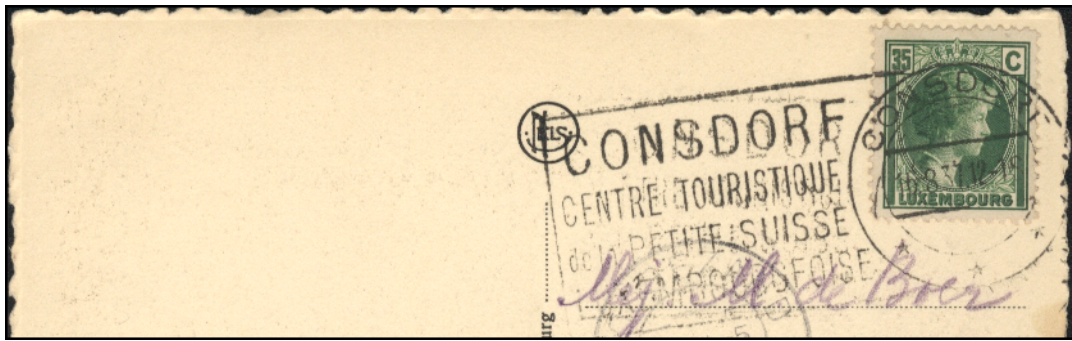


**Berdorf.** Also located in Petite Suisse, Berdorf is a hiker's paradise with easy access to fine views from the heights of nearby rock formations such as *Roitzbachheide* and *Michelsheide*. The postmark reads: *Berdorf / Altitude / 400 m / Centre de la petite Suisse luxembourgeoise* (Berdorf / Altitude / 400 m / Center of Luxembourg's Little Switzerland).

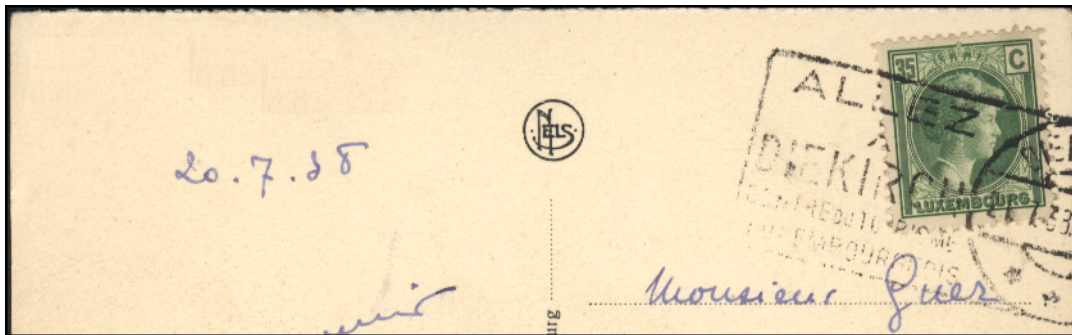


**Clervaux.** This historic town is located in the north of Luxembourg in the Oesling region. The two key attractions are the restored medieval castle, parts of which date back to the 12th century, and the Benedictine Abbey of St. Maurice. The Abbey was originally completed in 1910, but was destroyed in World War II and subsequently rebuilt. The postmark reads: *Visitez / Clervaux / Son Abbaye / Son Château* (Visit / Clervaux / Its Abbey / Its Castle).

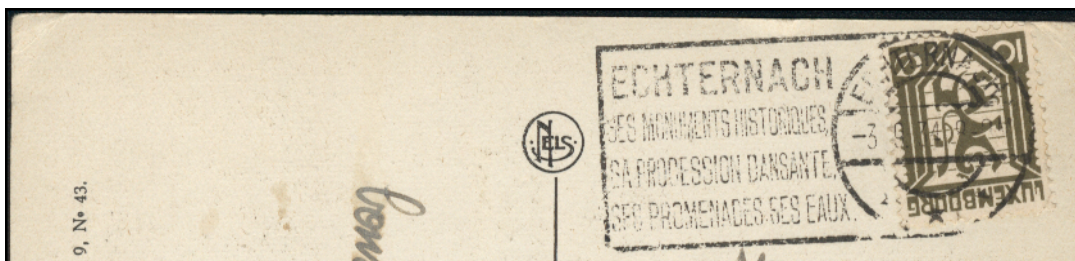




**Consdorf.** Consdorf is a popular recreational area at the approach to Petite Suisse. It is a convenient base camp for exploring the many rock formations and footpaths in the area. The postmark reads: *Consdorf / Centre Touristique / de la Petite Suisse / Luxembourgeoise* (Consdorf / Tourism Center of Little Switzerland / Luxembourg).

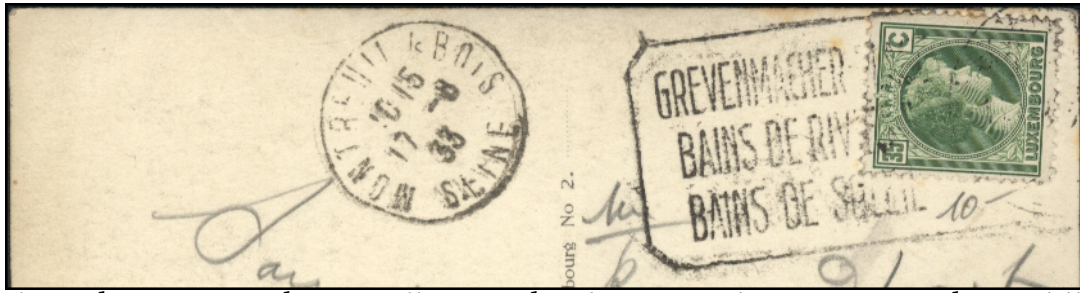


**Diekirch.** Located in the center of the Grand Duchy, Diekirch has a number of attractions, including the ancient mosaics from the Roman occupation, St. Laurent church, and the *Deiwelselter* (Devil's altar), an unusual stone monument of unknown origin. The postmark reads: *Allez / À / Diekirch / Centre du Tourisme / Luxembourgeois* (Come / to / Diekirch / Tourism Center / Luxembourg).



**Echternach.** Echternach is the country's oldest settlement, home to the abbey founded by English missionary St. Willibrord in the 7th century. The abbey, and the adjacent 11th century basilica, were destroyed by retreating German forces during the Battle of the Bulge in early 1945, but have since been faithfully restored. Echternach is also noted for an unusual dancing procession which involves participants hopping through the streets every year on Whit Tuesday. The postmark reads: *Echternach / Ses Monuments Historiques, / Sa Procession Dansante, / Ses Promenades, Ses Eaux.* (Echternach / Its Historic Monuments / Its Dancing Procession / Its Walks, Its Waters).

**Esch-sur-Alzette.** Located in the mining basin in the south, Esch is the second largest town of the Grand Duchy. It became an important mining center in the mid-19th century with the discovery of nearby iron ore deposits. Although mining operations ceased in the 1970s, it now hosts modern steel production facilities and light industrial activities. The postmark reads: *Esch-sur-Alzette / Visitez Esch-sur-Alzette / la métropole industrielle et commerciale* (Esch-sur-Alzette / Visit Esch-sur-Alzette / commercial and industrial metropolis).

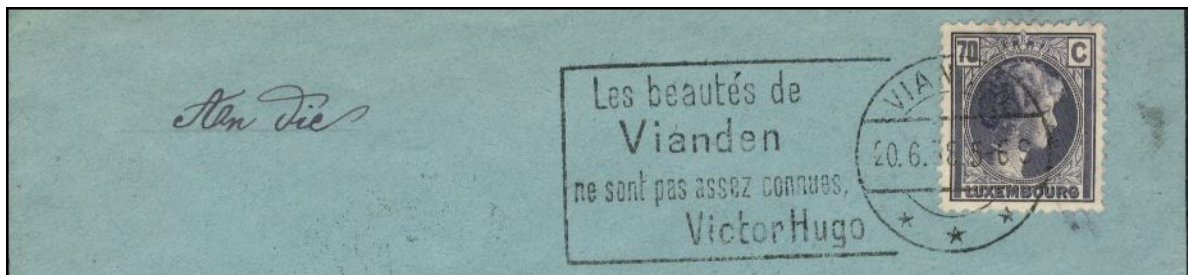


**Grevenmacher.** This town on the Moselle River has been a trade center since the Middle Ages and is now popular for camping, swimming, fishing, and boating. The postmark reads: *Grevenmacher-Plage / Bains de Rivière / Bains de Soleil* (Grevenmacher Beach / River Bathing / Sun Bathing).

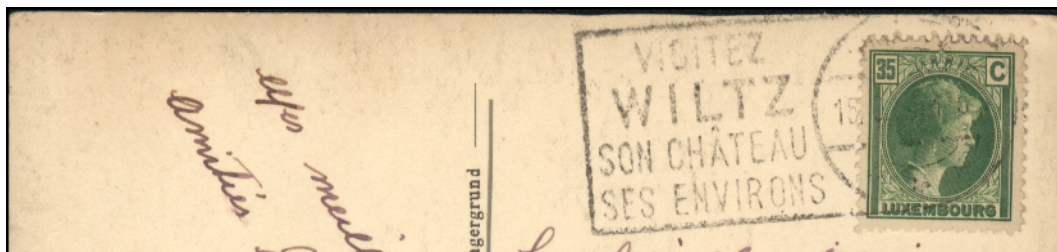


**Mondorf-les-Bains.** A mineral water source was discovered in Mondorf in 1846 and a spa opened the following year to treat patients with a variety of ailments. The postmark reads: *Mondorf-Etat - / Ses Eaux - Ses Bains* (Mondorf-State / Its Water – Its Baths).

**Remich.** Remich is a tourist resort on the Moselle River in wine country and an administrative center for the wine industry. It features a beautiful promenade along the river. The postmark reads: *Visitez / Remich- / -Plage* (Visit Remich Beach).



**Vianden.** This small town is dominated by a huge, completely restored feudal castle. It was well-liked by French writer Victor Hugo who resided here briefly in 1871; the house where he stayed is now the Victor Hugo museum. The postmark reads: *Les beautés de / Vianden / ne sont pas assez connues. / Victor Hugo* (The beauties of / Vianden / are not well enough known. / Victor Hugo).



**Wiltz.** Wiltz is the economic center of the northern part of the Grand Duchy. Its major attractions are the 12th century castle, the open-air theatre adjacent to the castle, and the Broom Festival which takes place every year on Whit Monday. The postmark reads: *Visitez / Wiltz / Son Château / Ses Environs* (Visit / Wiltz / Its Castle / Its Surroundings).

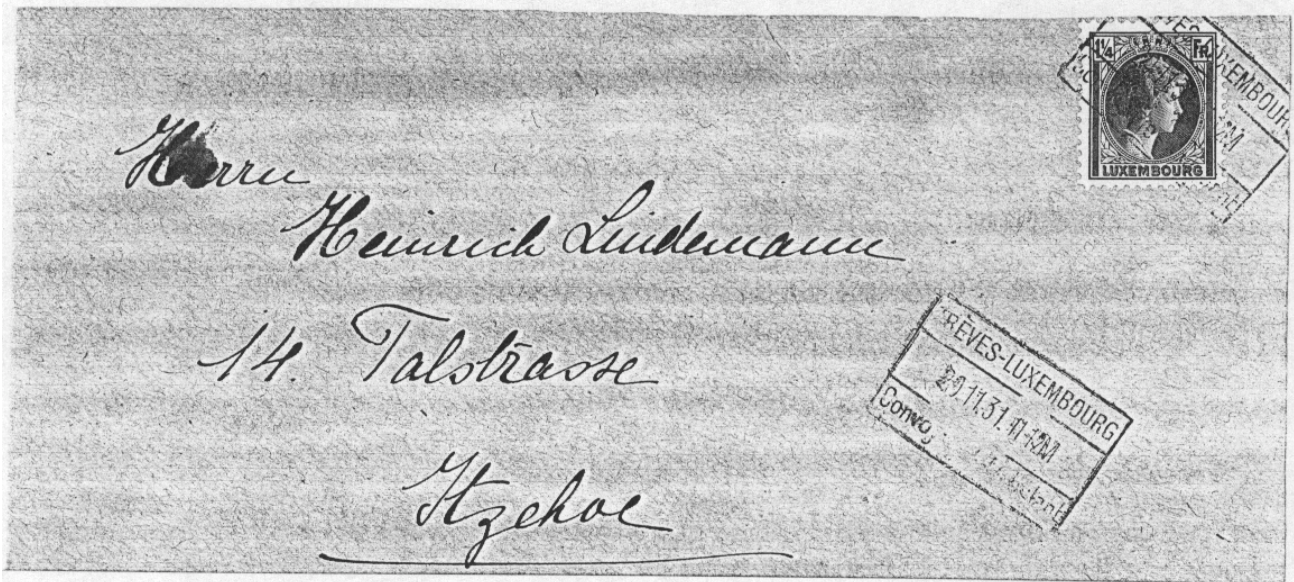


## Railway Postmarks of Luxembourg, Part 3

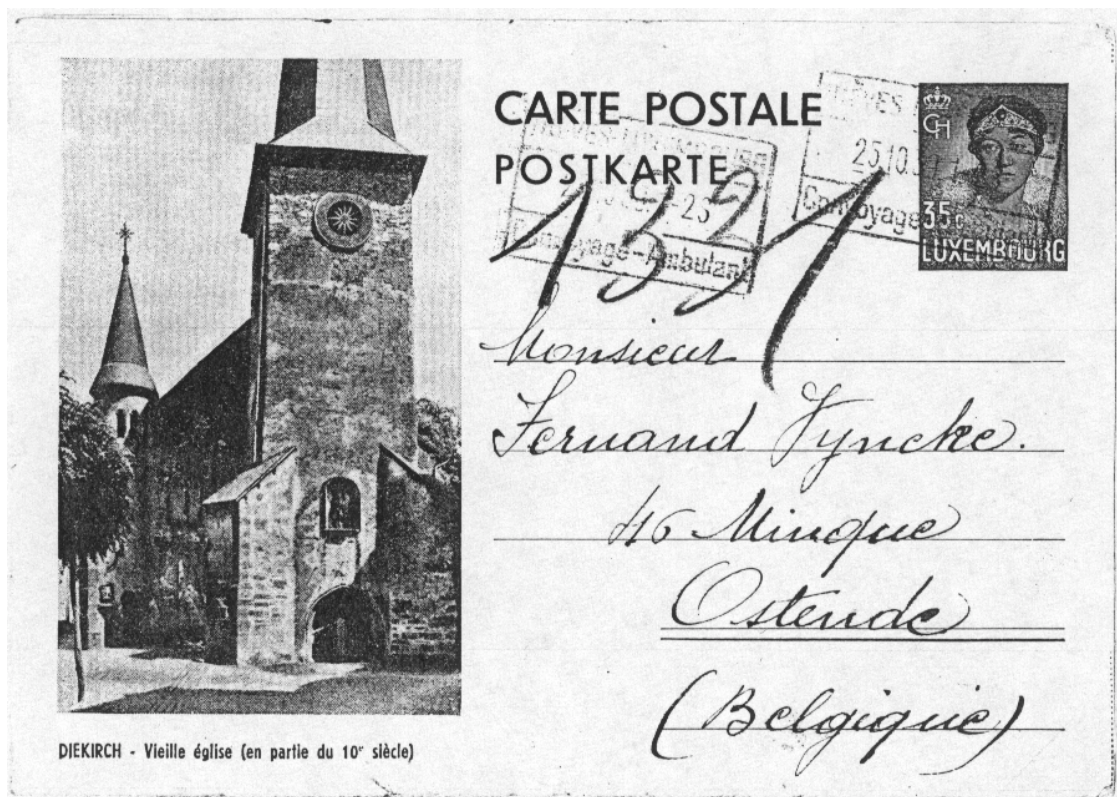
by Thomas Post

[continued from the March 2000 issue of *Castellum*]

TYPE 4A: Same as Type 4 except with 1 line in top rectangle for town names.



TREVES-LUXEMBOURG 20.11.31.11-12M Convoyage-Ambulant

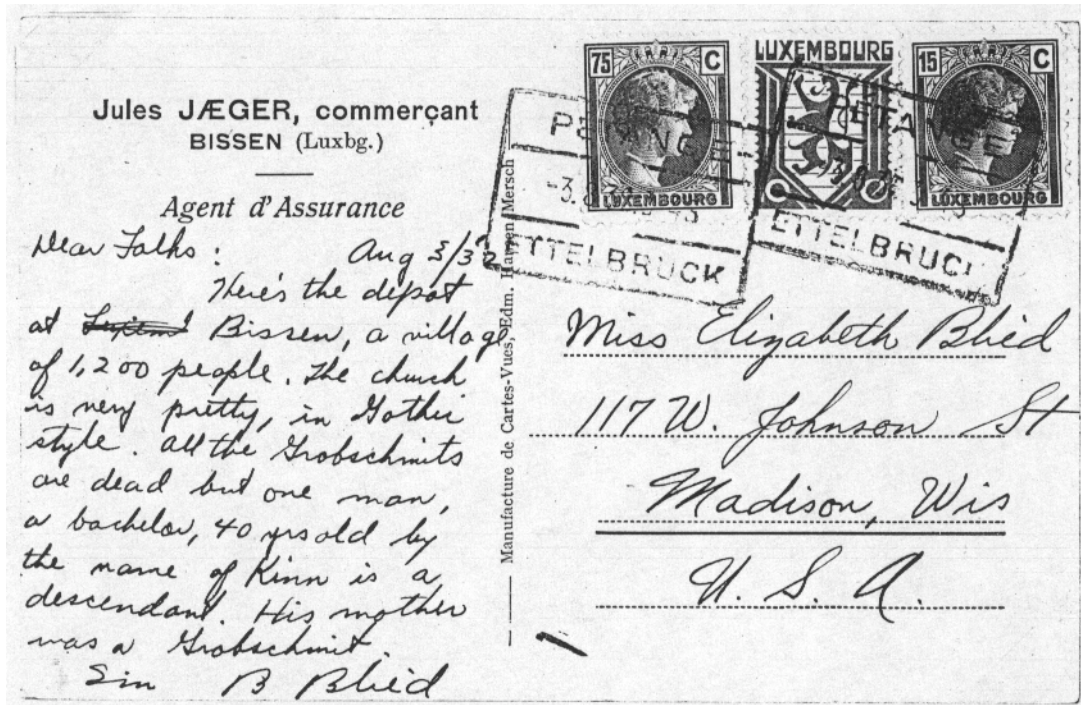


TREVES-LUXEMBOURG 25.10.39.1-2S Convoyage-Ambulant

Convoyage-Ambulant service was a level about Facteur-Convoyeur and surely approaching T.P.O. service levels on this international route between Luxembourg Ville and Trèves (Trier), Germany.



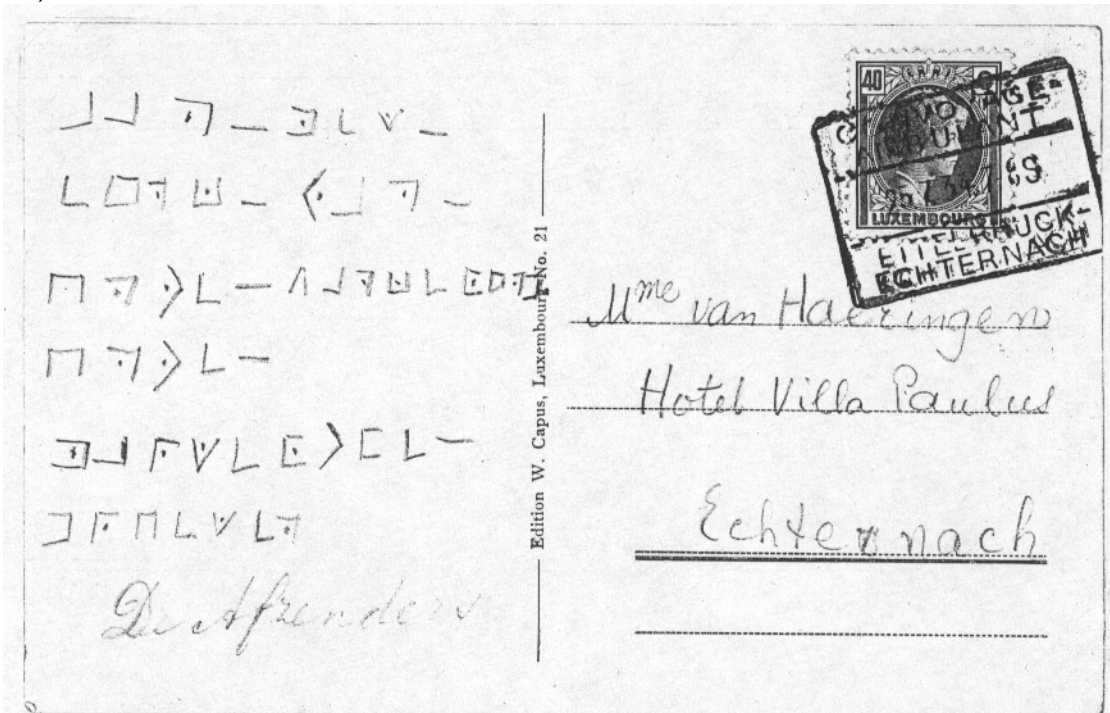
**TYPE 5:** Three rectangles in large rectangle, top and bottom for town names, middle for date and time.



PÉTANGE- -3.8.32.3-4S ETTTELBRUCK

This type only used on this Facteur-Convoyeur service route. Type 5 device used from early-1920s to 1940.

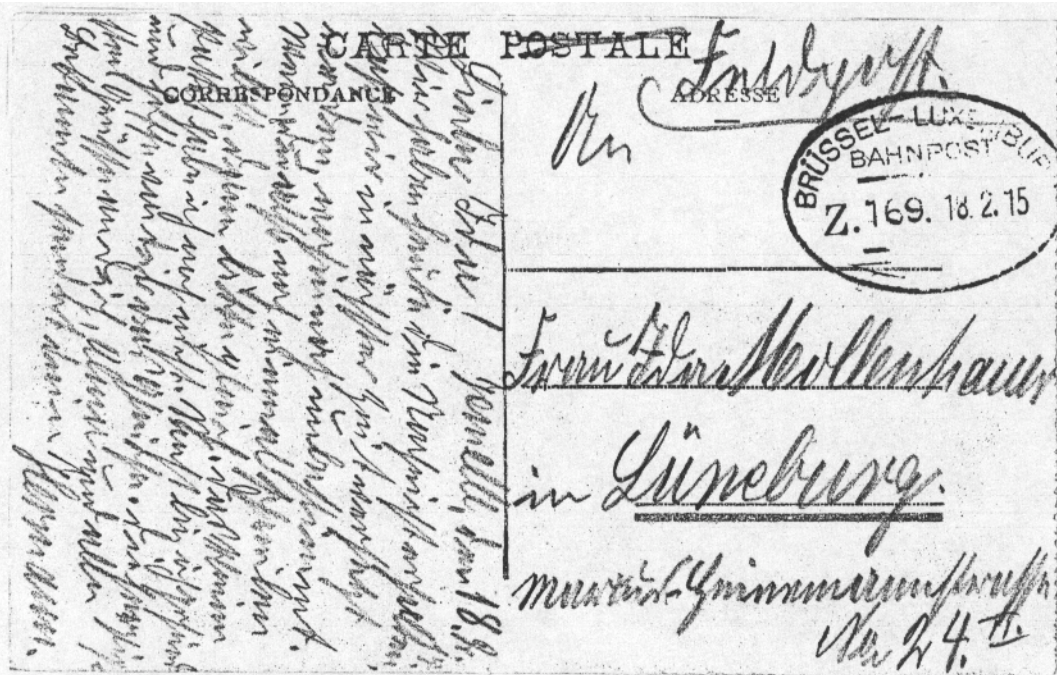
**TYPE 6:** Three rectangles in large rectangle, top with two lines for service, middle for date and time, bottom with 2 lines for town names.



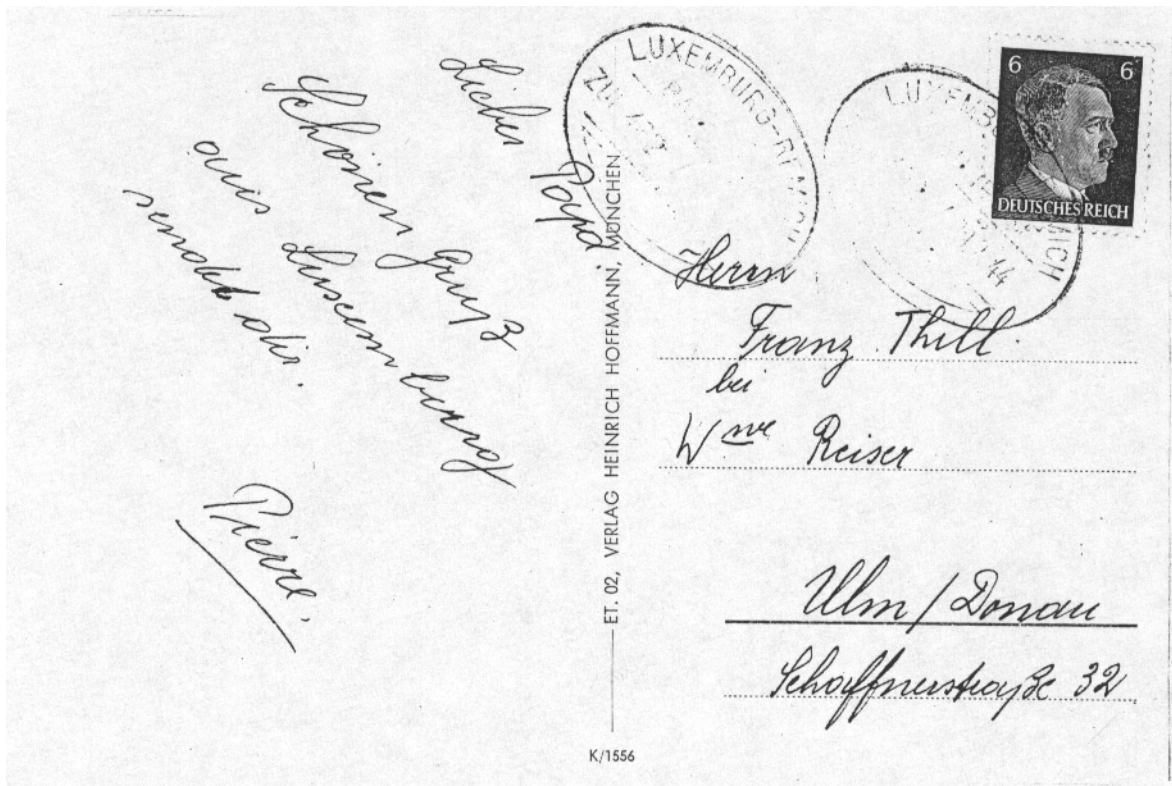
CONVOYAGE-AMBULANT 25.7.34.7-8S ETTTELBRUCK-ECHTERNACH



TYPE 7: German oval-type used during occupation with 3 lines, 1 for town name, 1 for service, 1 for train number and date.



BRÜSEL-LUXEMBURG BAHNPOST Z.169. 18.2.15

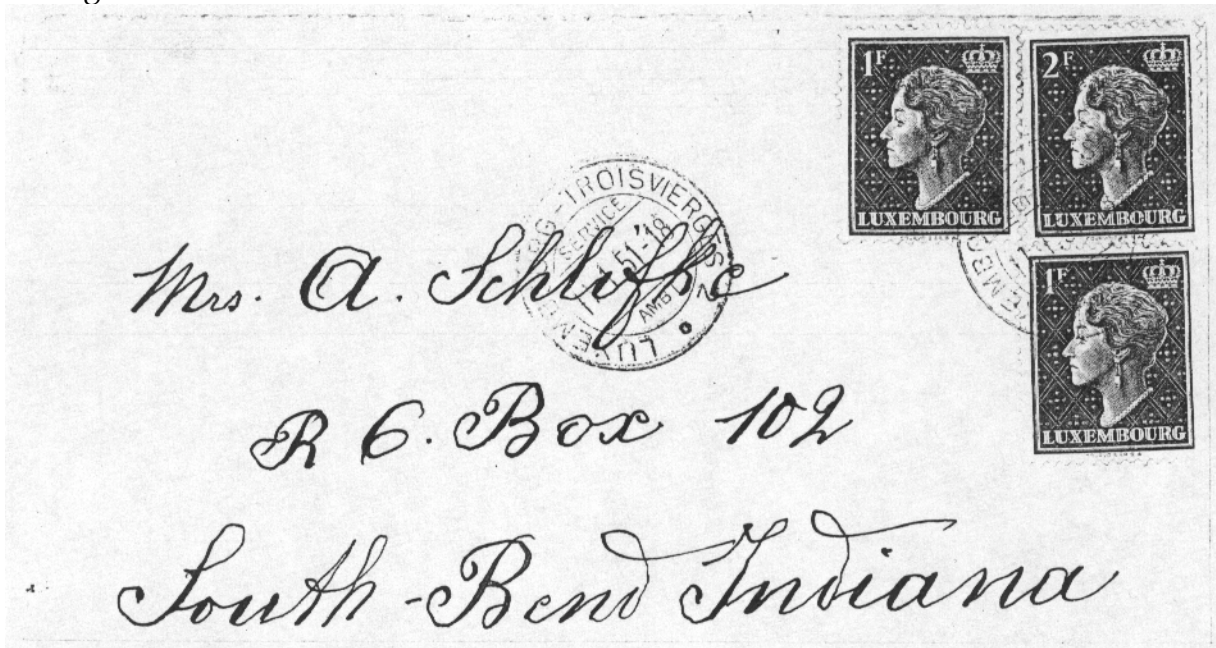


LUXEMBURG-REMICH ZUG 492 / 29.2.44

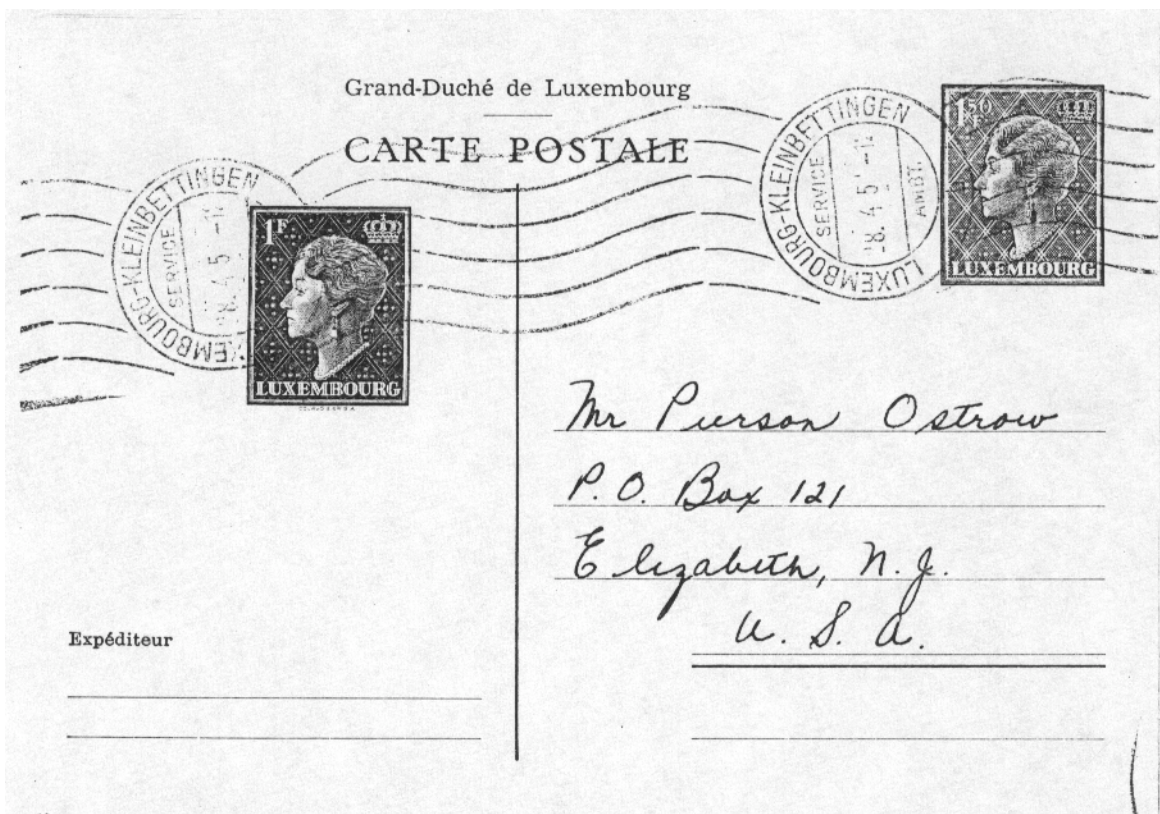
Brüssel-Luxemburg route operated on the mainline via Troisvierges during World War I.  
Luxemburg-Remich route operated on the narrow gauge line during World War II.



**TYPE 8:** Circular with bridge, town names in circle, date and time in bridge, "Service" above bridge and "Ambt." below.



LUXEMBOURG-TROISVIERGES 11.1 51-18



LUXEMBOURG-KLEINBETTINGEN 28.4 51-12

Circular devices were acquired to replace the German ovals on all routes after the German occupation of World War II. Circular only and roller type with six killer lines were used until cessation of T.P.O. service in the 1960s.

[Conclusion of Series]