

DESI (QS)



Sr. Hochwohlgeboren

Herrn Generalkonsul EGON FRANKL

Flug Post

WIEN, II/1.

Rueppgasse 9-11.

18/4/1918
LEMBERG TO VIENNA
10/5/17 DEFINITIVE
KAISER KARL I
20/3/18 AIRMAIL
ISSUES ON GREY
18/4/18. WIEN AIR
HANDSTAMP ON
REVERSE.
ROUTE RAN FROM
3/4/18 TO 7/10
NO YEAR ON
CANCELLATION.

Resulting from the Treaty of Brest-Litowsk on 3 March 1918 it was necessary for good communications to be maintained between Wien and that area of Russia transferred to the Central Powers and a Military Air Mail Service, Wien-Lemberg-Krakau was established. At the end of March the Postal Authorities decided to extend this to the carriage of Civilian Mail which, being treated as Express, passed through the Pneumatic System in Wien and acquired the special handstamp on the back of the letter. This process was discontinued in early June. The system also required the Postal Clerks to number the letters in manuscript but this too was discontinued at the same time.

At the end of June the service was extended to Kiev but this was so little used that mail from this leg is very rarely seen.

On 5 July 1918 a service to Budapest was introduced and for accounting purposes was considered to be a further leg of the existing route. It was, however, little used and was discontinued on 24 July.

The normal Postal rate for the letter or card was met by the use of Definitive stamps and the required Air Mail Fee by the use of the overprinted Air Mail stamps.

The number of flights actually flown is still in dispute and will now never be known but was certainly limited and of those a number is known to have forced-landed or crashed and the mail to have been transferred to the railway for onward transmission.

The service ended on 7 October 1918.

The majority of surviving postal items are Philatelic in origin and are almost always over franked with the Air Mail stamps.