

World War I German Submarine Mail

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In regard to the submarine cover I have one additional piece of information. He may already have heard from others about this, but the "Zur U" marking is actually the word "Zuruck", which of course means "Return" (to sender). The full "Zuruck" is hard to read because of the heavy

cancel. The word "zuruck" also appears in the third line of the stamped marking (second word of third line). My understanding of the German language is no better than the editor's (and perhaps worse [Ed. Note – not likely!]), but I think the 3 line stamped marking says something to the effect of "Return (to

sender), because of discontinuation of *** (word not decipherable), (the) postal system (briefverkehr) (referring to letters) (is) return(ing)...” (rest of words not decipherable). In other words, the cover is being returned because the postal system has discontinued this kind of mail service. Presumably submarine mail could no longer be sent/forwarded.

The back of the cover has a return address marking (stamped marking as opposed to a written address?), although this doesn't show up in the image in the Bulletin. Without a return address the cover would obviously never make it back to the sender. What is puzzling is the need for the two censor applications if the cover was being returned to its sender anyway.
