

Persia's Development in the Shadow of the Great Game

How Persia – shown in a semi-philatelic setting - transformed to a “modern” state in spite of because of the Great Powers meddling, with its two rival armies as the “backbone” under five Shahs between late 1860s–1925. Emphasized is “The roles” in this process of both the Swedish-led Government Gendarmerie. The G.G. and its rival Russian/Persian Cossack Brigade before emerging to a single modern army in 1923

Scope & Statement: Persia squeezed between three Super Powers since centuries; Ottoman Empire, Russia and Great Britain. In wars w Russia, 1808 and 1828, Persia's Caucasus territories were lost. Russia wanted a warm-water port in the Persian Gulf. But GB in the south of Persia always watching out for threats to British India, the “Crown”-Jewel was a hindrance. The Sha decided to visit European powers to learn new ideas, not least modern military technique. Telegraph lines London to India via Teheran existed since the 1860s. From the visits in 1873, 1878 & 1889 little came out of it except for a modern postal service 1875. The Shah sold out his country to foot his luxurious life. Caused troubles. The country boiled! Late 1800s new ideas enter such as “democracy” and socialism. Resulted in a parliament, Majlis, in 1906. The new Shah, Ahmed, supported by the Russian Tsar and the Cossacks. Bombarded it. Revolution! The Cossacks were beaten. The Shah was deposed. Majlis reopened in 1911. Caravan routes unsafe. Hijackings, killings and robbing goods coming from India. GB & Russia gave ultimatum. Gov. has three months to organize a Gendarmerie. Sweden was offered and accepted.

The two army rivals: the G.G. and the Cossack Brigade. They were fighting separately and didn't cross each other until late 1915. By then only a small group of “germanised” Swedes remained and were fighting the Russians together with the Persian officers in the G.G. To counter the pro-German forces more Cossacks were sent to Persia under general Baratoff to link with the British expeditionary forces there. Then the October Revolution led to most Russian military returned home. Were replaced by Persian officers and soldiers financed by the British! Turkish military infiltration in the NW of Persia after WWI to reach Baku's oil fields. GB lacking sufficient military support needed Persian troops. In 1918 the new commander for the Cossack Brigade Reza Khan organised a Coup d'Etat in Feb 1921. Two Swedish important officers, Glerup and Westdahl supporte!. Reza Khan became War - and later Prime Minister. In 1922 the two rival armies emerged to become Persia's first “modern” army. In Dec 1925 he elevated himself the new Shah under the name of Reza Shah Pahlavi.

- A. The relative non-productive modernization period. Late 1860s through the revolutionary period, ab 1900 to 1911
 - B. The creation of “Le Gendarmerie Gouvernemental”, (Jandarmiri-ye Daulati), Le G.G. also called the “Swedish” Gendarmerie. 1911-15 (official period). But the G.G. continued after the Swedes had left.
 - C. The “Germanisation” ca 10 Swedes and its implication reg. the G.G.s “neutrality” in 1915-early 1916
 - D. The Swedish police instructors 1913-18 (official period). Some remained privately until 1923/4 holding high posit.
 - E. The story of the Russian/Persian Cossacks. (1879-1922). (See also later); Russian troops occupied areas. Censors. The Coup 21 Feb 1921 and its consequences. High positioned Swedes involved. Reza Khan, became War Minister. The two armies emerged in 1923. Prime Minister 1924. Dismissed ALL foreigners working for the government. Reza Khan elevates himself to the new Shah, Reza Shah Pahlavi. The deposed Shah sent off to Monte Carlo!
 - F. Cossack Brigade reinforced; G. South Persia Rifle (the GBs answer to the G.G. going German!
 - H. The zenith of Le G.G. in 1921. I. Of philatelic importance; J. Important Gendarme revolts against new regime.
- Special section:** A tribute to two gendarmes who after their participation in Persia joined the Swedish Brigade.
- a): Harald Hjalmarson. Joined the Swedish Brigade in Finland in early 1918 and received the degree Major General in the Finnish Army in June 1919. Died same year of malaria
 - b): Eric Carlberg. He also joined the Swedish Brigade. Appointed Swedish General Consul in Persia 1930. 1935-58 he was General Consul for Finland in Persia. Received “Kommendörstecknet I Klassen av Finlands Lejons Orden” by President Paasikivi 1949. Participated in the Olympics 1906, 1908, 1912 and 1924.

Treatment: The exhibitor's goal is to present - in a certain chronological manner - as balanced, relevant, complete with originality as possible with the very limited material openly available on the market primarily to be found in Sweden, Russia and Iran.

Personal investigation, research and rarity factor. 40 years of research including visits to the Indian National Archives in New Delhi/Bombay where British-Indian official documentation related to Persia incl Russia and Ottoman Empire in Persia is located. My contributions, apart from my own publications, are stated or quoted in articles and books. The overall Persian PH is most significant. Its PH-material is often scarce to rare except internal merchant mail. Re: mail related to the Gendarmerie and Cossack troops is no doubt very scarce. The official “**Swedish**” Gendarmerie period existed about 5 years. Private mail to and from Sweden limited in both official and private archives. Of mail seen by the exhibitor, the official internal is not franked. Often envelopes or stamps missing. Internal private mail is most rare to find. **Cossack**-related mail is even more rare as the Russian officers/soldiers always used their own military mail arrangements via the Russian consulates or during WWI, Russian Field Post. Official Cossack-related mail less than 15-20 covers are known in a span from 1879 to 1923, although thousands of Russian soldiers served in Persia. But mail should be available in Russian archives but still not traced! Swedish officers incl police organisers and family members about 60 between 1911-15, the remaining about 8 to 1918 and 4 to 6 up to 1923.

Postal rates after 1900: unless stated otherwise, during the period shown.

- **Sweden:** Inland letter rate 10 öre (1.1.1885-31.5.1918); foreign letter rate 20 öre (1.7.1875-30.6.1920); registration fee 10 öre (1.7.1905- 1.7.1920). **Persia after 1900; Inland rates:** up till 1904 for cards and 1st class letters were 2 and 5 ch respectively, then 2 and 6ch. In 1921 /for two months only) 5 ch and 10ch. Then returned to 2 and 6ch; **Foreign rates:** 1895-1905 was 5 and 12 rerspectively. 1905 to 4 Dec 1913 for cards or 1st class letters 6 and 13 ch respectively. Thereafter lowered to 5ch and 12ch respectively. Registration were also 13 ch until 4 Dec 1913, then 5ch and 12ch until 1921. 1921-25 was 12 and 1K.

Main mail routes: via Sassnitz to Berlin. From there, exchanged closed bag system, by train via Warschau, Brest-Litovsk to Baku at the Caspian Sea. Then by steamer to Enzeli, the Persian main port. Areas under Ottoman occupation, the Centralist route via Konstantinople would be chosen. Swedish mail could go via Bagdad, Constatinpel, Budapest, Germany to Sweden. Local routes explained when occur.

References. See Synopsis

Calendar. Th Julian (Russian) calender was 12 days behind the Gregorian up to 1900. Thereafter 13 days

(11 mars 2023)

الملايكة العظماء

الملايكة العظماء

No 1294

RECEPTION BY

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

of His Majesty The

Shah of Persia

NASSER EDDIN SHAH KADJAR.



IN THE YEAR OF 1290 OF H I D J I R .

AT THE GUILDHALL, ON FRIDAY, THE 20TH JUNE, 1873.

The Right Honourable Sir Sidney Hedley Waterston LORD MAYOR.

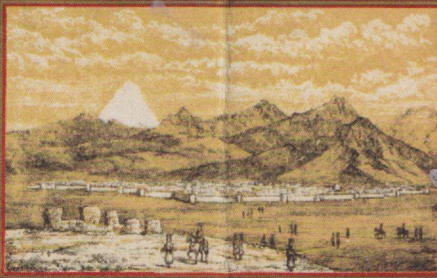
THOMAS WHITE, ESQ^{RE} ALDERMAN SHERIFFS.
FREDERICK PERKINS, ESQ^{RE}

ADMIT

Sir Thomas Henry

M. G. George
Chairman

NOT TRANSFERABLE.



Persian Maps of its provinces and of the 3 Zones Division 1907

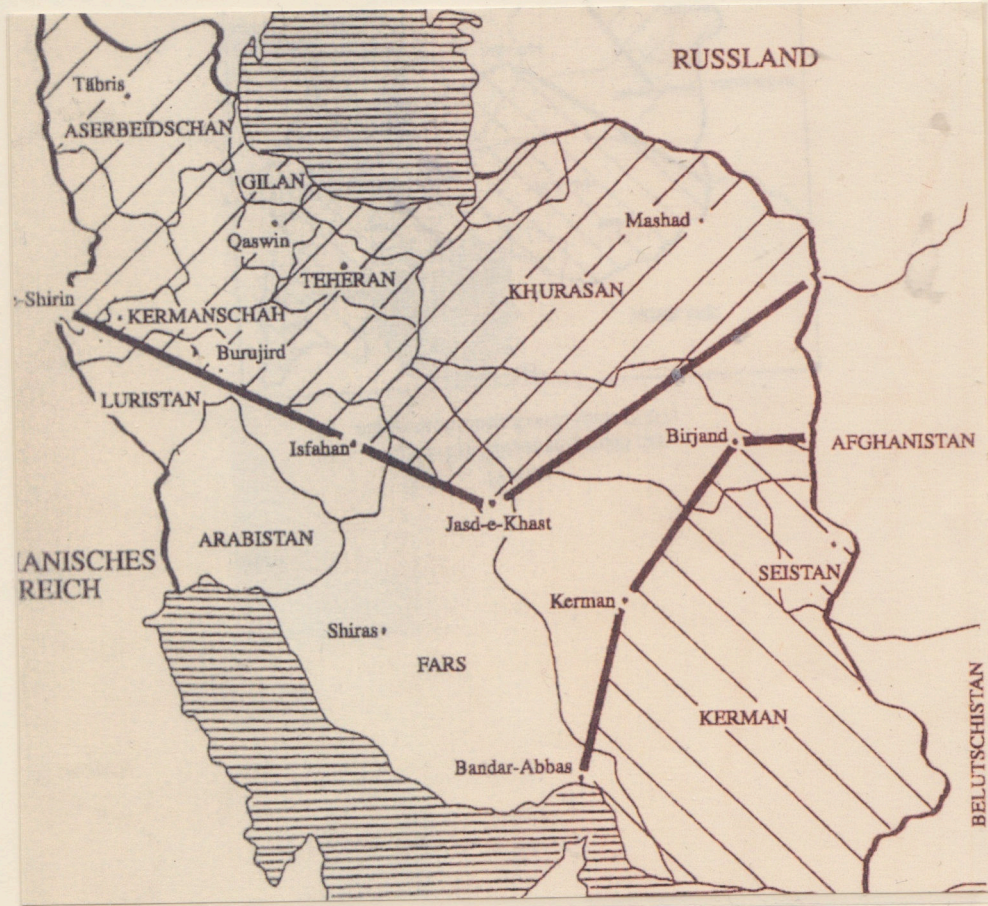
A General Map of its Provinces 1904

Shown on a ppc



The Great Game is over.

The **Great Game** occurred from the 2nd half of the 19th century until 1907— between the **British Empire** and the **Russian Empire**. Russia's military expansion into Central Asia a threat for GB in their wish to protect India. GBs presence in Persia hindered Russia from invading it to reach a warm-water port at the Indian Ocean! In any case GB and Russia signed a Convention to stop their quarrels and be friends in 1907



The Entente came to play a most important role for the future politics of Persia. F.ex. The invitation to Sweden in 1910 to organize a Gendarmerie would not have been possible. And the two Powers were part of the entente fighting against the Central Powers during WWI.

Naser ed-Din Shah completes his first European visit 1873

Prime result. A Modernised Postal Service with Austrian support

.. Von Riederar arrived 1875 and opened the first postal service in August

The first stamp of the famous Lion issue was printed and a canceller was introduced
A part parcel document, barnameh, with among the highest known frankings used in 1879

18 Kran 10 ch is the highest known franking w the Lion-issue
Used in 1879

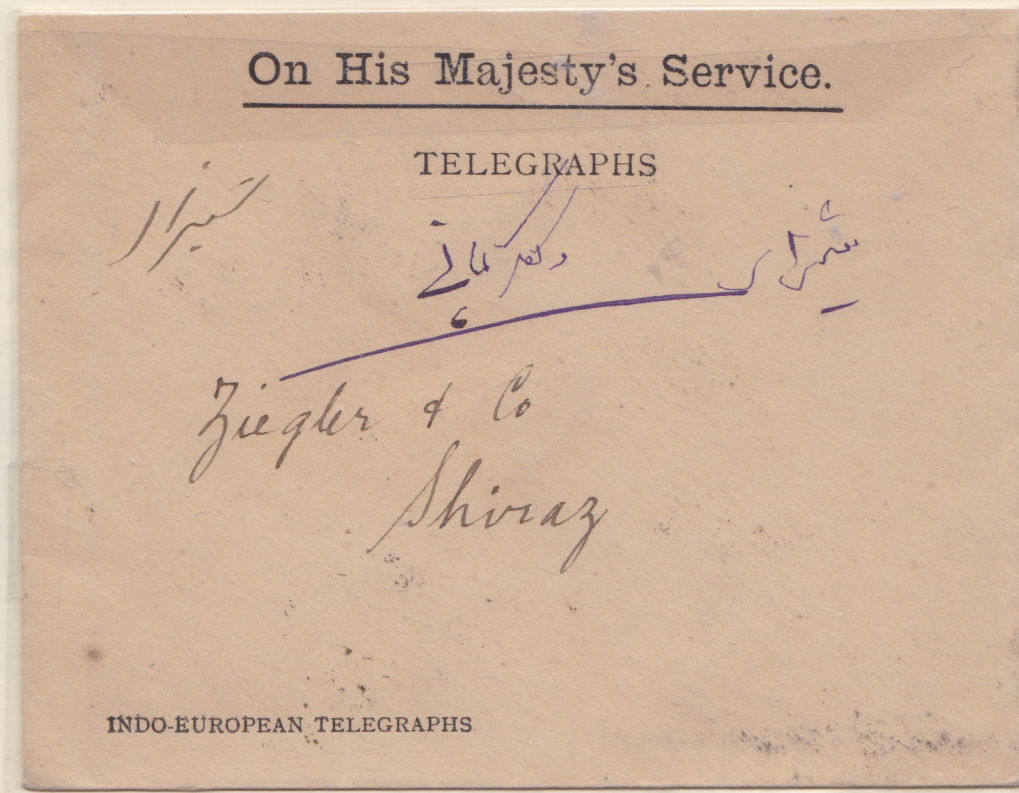


Sent from Yezd 12 May 1877

Indo European Telegraph Co (IETC) & Indo European Telegraph Department (IETD)

The Persian Government granted IETC a concession 1868 for a telegraph to Siemens co. Later a British Indian Government and the native Persian system (IETD) operated a linea line reaching India

An IETD cover sent internal about 1903



IETD
Preprinted
Seal
on the
back

On His Majesty's Service.

TELEGRAPHS

شیراز
دکتر مانی
شیراز
Ziegler & Co
Shiraz

INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPHS

Rate: 9 chahi 2nd weight class; Adhesive 1903 issue

Route: Schimran 27/7 via Teheran 27/7 addressed to Shiraz. No year date canc.

The extraordinary story of Baron de Reuter

Cover from the Persia Bank Mining Rights Corporation Ltd, P.B.M.R.C.Ltd set up by Baron de Reuter

Sent by the P.B.M.R.C.Ltd mining industry from a small place Rahrambad on 9 January 1893 as per m/s and by private arrangement to Rafsanjan from where the letter was forwarded via Teheran. A transiting mark applied. Arrived Linz in Austria in February 1893. "Via Russia" per m/s. Rates: 25 chahi. Registration fee: 14 chahi



A complete sell-out of a country!

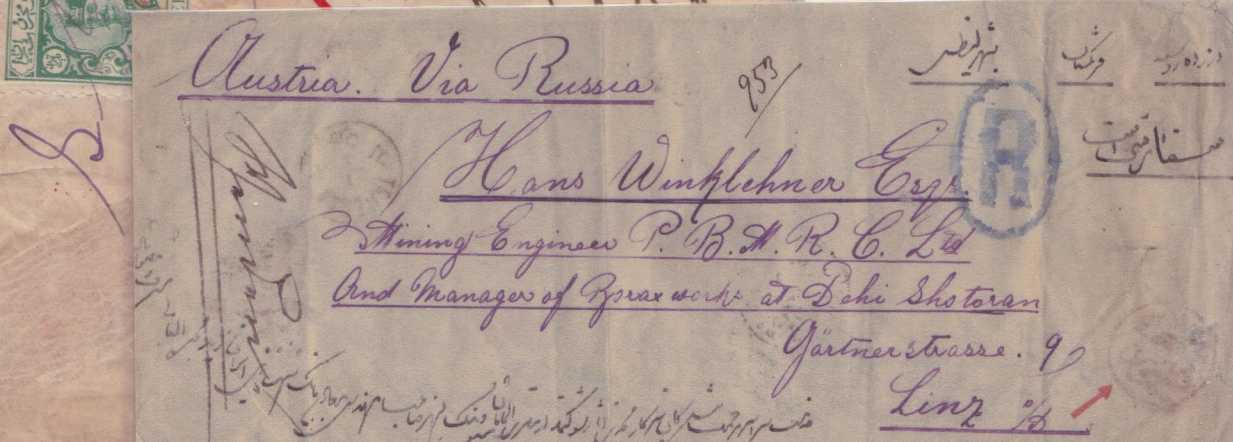
One of the most extraordinary business concessions anywhere took place in Persia in July 1872. Baron Julius de Reuter went to Persia and got a mining concession.

And what a concession! It is recognised as probably the largest sell out of a country at any time in history.

The Mullahs and Russia complained and the concession was soon abolished.

The rate 25 chahi cannot be explained with known rate tables. It is quite possible that the cover contained commercial business documents which may have had special concessionary rates.

Rafsanjan native postmark elusive



Mismanagement. Persia boiling. The Shah assassinated 1896

Many reasons for grievances with the Shah's regime. Country in dept. Economy in disarray, taxes high. Economic concessions to foreigners whose products or monopoly the local merchants could not match, such as **the 1890 Tobacco Concession**. Insignificant benefits with the West and as a feudal Muslim society, it was against democratic, socialist ideas, emancipation, etc. It was also against the Russian interests!! The revolt was led by the clerics who protested in solidarity with the merchants.

Grand Ayatollah Mirza Hassan Shirazi issued a FATWA in 1891!

Died 1895 while leading the revolt against the regime

Ppc
Ayatolla Shirazi

Fatwa

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Forgiving. Today the use of Tanbaku and tobacco in any form is reckoned as war against the Imam of the Age (may God hasten his glad Advent)"

To Paris 1908 (in m/s). From Teheran

Rate: 6 ch (3+3ch)

Note: Ppc produced at least 10 years later



M, Haaji, Mirza Hassan Shirazi
Chef spirituel qui defendit l'usage
Du Tabac Au moment Du regi

مرحوم حاجی میرزا حسن شیرازی که استعمال
تباکو را موقتاً منع فرمودند در زمان انحصار
15/12/1891



Mirza-réza, l'assassin de S. M. J. Nasse-réd-din Chah,
le roi de Perse.

Ppc
Depicting
Mirza Reza Kirmani
The assassin of
Naser Ed-Din Shah
1895

Sent to
Belgium
via Recht
24 Jan 1910
arriving
Gant
9 Feb 1910
Stamp missing

Note: Ppc produced at least 10 years later

Muzzaffar ed-Din, Son of Nasser ed-Din Shah, reigned 1896-1907

The New Constitution signed 1 Jan 1907. Shah Died

Very difficult times waited around the corner. Revolution



The Shah

Muzzaffar ed-Din

Weak figure.

Formed

Consultative Parliament

This caused negative reactions. He passed away in Jan 1907. His son

Muhammed

took over

As a traditionalist he showed no interest in sharing power
Supported

By the Tsar, also a traditionalist

The Shah, supported by both the Tsar and GB let the

Cossack Brigade bombard the Majlis in 1909

which caused a revolution

Naked women on ppc "TABU!" Not by UPU

In 1903, sincere protests by Mullahs wanting a total ban ANY kind of ppcs due to nudity. But agreed that ppcs could be sold "censored" by the Postal HQ in Teheran. Special fee, 2ch, had to be paid by any owner of ppcs brought to the HQ for approval. Special "censor" cancellations were used. Later, such cards were allowed to be "censored" also in other towns. Different types of marks exist up to 1906. Used in Tabriz "CONFORME" is very rare. Sent to Suisse arr 21 1 16

Rate: 6 ch+2 ch fee. Overpaid 2ch

Children of Royal and Nobel Families got sought after "European" Education

Though a la vogue, strong reaction against "Westernisation" prevailed



Les Princes et les Fils des Ministres etc. etc. dans l'école de Téhéran. 10.12.10.
Besten Dank für Brief + pers. Glückwünsche zum Jahreswechsel + Glückwünsche ebenfalls auf besten Wünsche Gedächtnis

Rate: 6 chahis. (foreign rate for ppc)

Route: From Hamadan 12 Dec 1910 via Enzeli 17 XII 10 to Switzerland

How the Constitutional Revolution 1905 was ignited by a X-mas insensitive party-photo

Foreigners occupying important Government posts ignoring the sensitiveness of the Muslims



Joseph Naus
A Belgian expert
Director of Customs
and the Post in
1902.
Two very high
positions in Persia

In a society like the Iranian where there are no secrets the photo was spread very quickly. In the already very agitated political atmosphere in Persia It is said that this awkward incident on top of all other negative factors for a longer period was the final straw for the ignition of the revolution!

A Kachani
issued ppc

The ppc has got a Pahlavi postage stamp and canceled to order which was quite common practice in Iran

A Revolution and the, on the Tsar, enforced DUMA (Parliament) in Russia encouraged the Persians. Finally The Shah agrees to a PARLIAMENT, a MAJLIS

The Assembly reform

Warned by the experience of other Muslim countries, such as Egypt and Tunis, of the danger of being indebted to any of the great Powers and to the extravagance of the Shah and his Court

The following programme was laid out

- (1) To preventing any fresh loans from Russia or England;
- (2) To fixing the Shah's Civil List, and vigorously limiting him to that amount;
- (3) To the establishment of a National Bank;
- (4) To the abolition of irregular and illegal profits, especially in the collection of the revenues;
- (5) To getting rid of the Belgians and other foreigners whose power had latterly become too excessive



Les membres du premier parlement persan

Members
First parliament

Speaker
Morteza Qoli
Khan Şani'-al-
Dawla

shown in the center

Assassinated in 1911 in Teheran by two Georgian nationalists

NOT ALLOWED TO VOTE!

Women
 foreigners
 criminals
 and
 military

And of course
PHILATELISTS!

Russian meddling in the Persian revolution as from 1907

Russia sent troops and organised a special Imperial Mission attached to its Embassy

Mission letter from Teheran Mission to Lifland. Courier to Baku



The letter went into the Russian Postal service in Baku 1 6 09 arriving Valk in Lifland 7 6 09 (both Julian)

Rate: 10 kopek

Rossiskaia IMPERATORSKAIA Missia in Persia

The **only recorded** envelope with seal in Russian from the Mission in Teheran

Front reduced

Front reduced

Dr. Casey wrote about the cover in *Post Rider* p 32, 1982. The famous Russian editor Andrew Cronin adds in that article that the cover was a discovery back in the 1950s. Closed bag: Teheran to Baku

Russian General Consulate in Isfahan. Letter to Russia

Registered letter from Isfahan 24 11 08 to Varonish 40 km south of Moscow

Arr date not clear

Foreign rate: 13 chahi
Reg fee: 13ch

This Consulate was a most important and dominant post for Russian political and economical hegemony in both the south as ingeneral in Persia

The **only recorded** cover of the Russian consulate in Isfahan in private hands



The Enemy and the Famous Revolutionist. A POST CARD PRINTER!

When the Persian Cossack Brigade was formed in 1879 the officers were all Russians provided by the Tsar! The soldiers, though Persians, were chosen from so called **mohajers** i.e. immigrants, all Muslims from Caucasian territories and came long ago.



Garde, Artillerie et Cosaques du Schah de Perse dans son palais de Téhéran.

Persian Cossacks
in front of
their caserne
in Teheran.
Mint

Sayed Abdor-Rahim Kachani. Famous Constitutionalist/revolutionist Famous printer of revolutionary PPCs as well as Postage Stamp & dealer

Most of the revolutionary/constitutional ppcs are printed by him



کیده از آقایان تحصیل یافت عثمانی در تاریخ ۱۳۲۶
بر استر و طبیت ایران

Anjoman-e Fatemiyeh
Pro-Islamistic Society
Led by
Sayed Abdor-Rahim Kashani
Sitting behind a child in the middle

استعان المذنب
(۲) اباسید عبد الرهم کاشانی
Une partie de réfugiés à la Légation de la Turquie pour réclamer et rétablir la constitution de Perse à Téhéran
Séyéd Abdor Rahim Kachani etc.

Shah Muhammed Ali Mirza's Reign 1907-09. Bombarded Majlis. Hanged Opponents. Disposed



Muhammed Ali Mirza Shah
Nasser-ed-Dins son

The ruler of **Tabriz** at the time became the Shah after his father's death

He was **antidemocrat** and with support of the Russian Tsar he ordered the Persian Cossacks led by Colonel Liakhoff to bombard the Majlis.

The Shah Muhammed was disposed in 1909 and his young son Ahmed replaced him. Got a caretaker.

The ex-Shah left for Russia only to return with Russia's help in 1911 in a misguided mission.

A Number of persons hanged
Ismaeli Khan
Liberal

The Parliament Bombarded 1907

By

Colonel Liakhoff

leader of the Persian Cossack Brigade.

With support by Russian Tsar and GB



Parlement de Perse. Dans un jour après le bombardement par ordre de Mohamed Ali Mirza les méchants et voleurs qui étaient partisans de Mohamed Ali Mirza, ont pillagé toutes les choses qui se trouvaient dans le parlement.



Jsmaeil Khan, un bon libéral, qui a été assassiné par ordre de Mohamed Ali Mirza à Téhéran.

Pan-Muslim "Refugees" preferred the Turkish Legation

Pan-Islamism was propagated by Ottoman Empire for political reasons
To make Turkey stronger

Pan-Islamism
Turkeys
Legation
Consulates
propagated

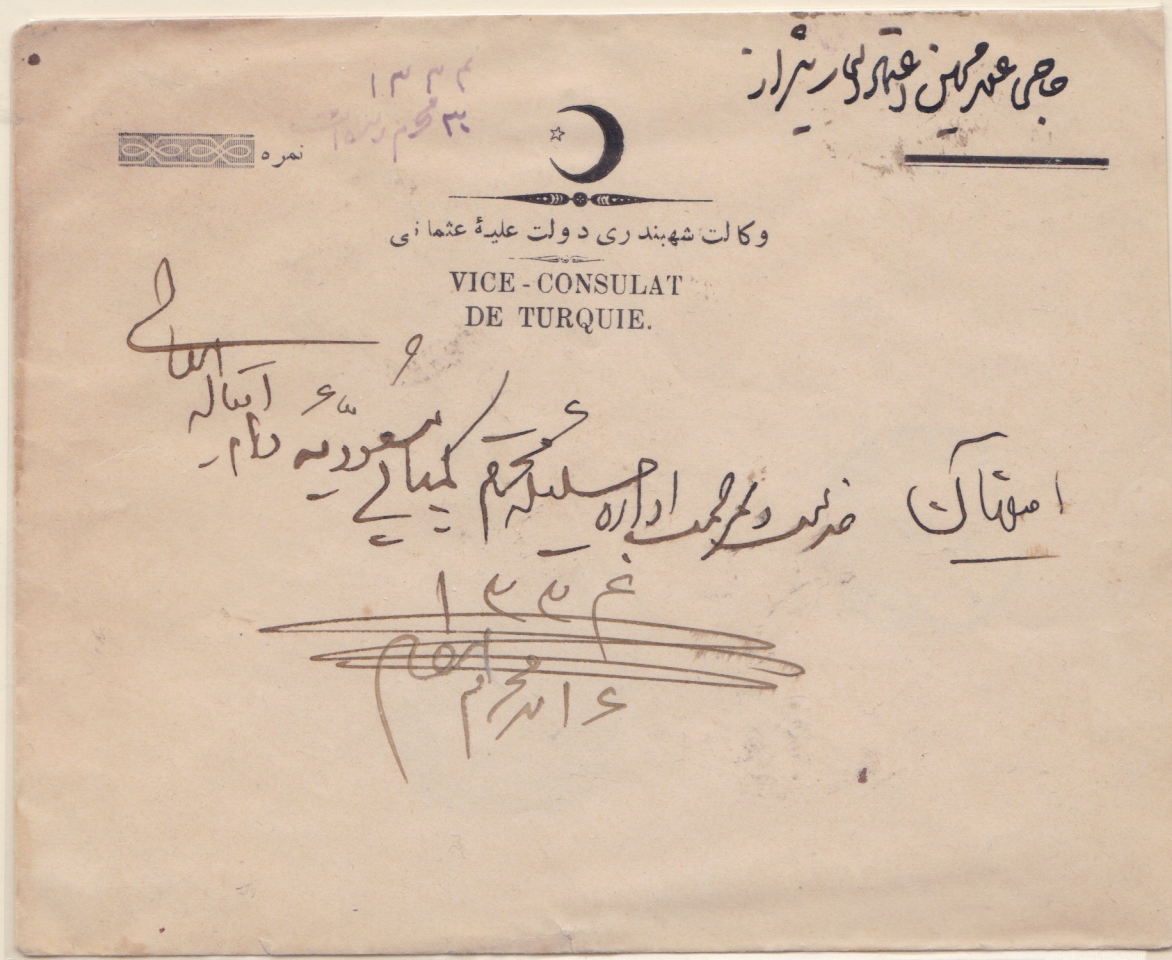
This letter
from Vice-
Consulat
in Shiraz



Private
citizen is
appointed
Vice-
Consular

Letter sent
from
Shiraz
21 11 15
to Isfahan
8 XII 15
1915

Rate
6 ch
Inland
rate



Itihad Islam. Islam Unite!
Slogans: Constitution; Dignity; Justice



Rate: 2 chahis; Only address and no of society membership

Ppc from Teheran m/s 17 Oct 1917 to Amsterdam via reverse Petrograd ? 10 17, and two faint, not clear postmarks and a rectangular censor probably from Petrograd, not clear

The British Legation did not refuse Constitutional Refugees against official British, Whitehall, policy and the Tsar. 50 were soon 13000!!

Persian Constitutionalist groups turned to the British for advice and assistance in 1906. In deviance to the Whitehall, that had no interest in working against a European power, Russia, the British in charge in Teheran allowed "refugees" into the Legation's huge garden. This infuriated the Tsar who ordered the Cossacks at the Shah's disposal to assist him in destroying the Majlis as well as the constitutionalist movement!

PPc to Zanzibar, forwarded to UK 1907

The "Nude Women" censor fee of 2ch still applied (see earlier)



Teheran
Légation
d'Angleterre

All good
wishes for
Xmas &
New Year
"pa"
14/11/07

Ppc sent from
Djulfa-Isfahan
30 11 07 via
Bouchir
8 12 07
and Bombay
14 DEC.07
arr Zanzibar
JA 4/08,
readdressed
to UK
but no
further
markings
Rate 6 chahis
Censor fee
2 chahi

13 000 "supporters" or "Bastis" for the cause! Many also at Turkish Legation



عکس سادات علماء مستخدمین فئات کلین ارجی شریعت

Les curés et les moines réfugiés à la légation d'Angleterre pour exiger la constitution

Semi official support

Many "Bastis", about 13000, supporting the **Constitutional** cause went to the British Legation asking for official British support

Some more religious Bast-groups preferred the support the cause of the **Turkish/Ottoman Legation** since Turkey was propagating for **Pan-Islamism**. Its policy was to have a **united Muslim movement** to stop the expansion of European colonial powers Turkey was the only power that still could stand against the expansionist policy of the Great Powers incl. **Russia** that wished to reach the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf to **get hold of warm water harbours!!**

Revolution to protect the Constitution after the Bombardment

Revolutionary troops battled the Russian-led Persian Cossacks B

The bombardment of the Majlis led to its closure, a number of opponents jailed and some hanged! It was in Tabriz the resistance started under its leader Sattar Khan an Armenian, who became a national hero. Together with Bakhtiyari tribal soldiers from Isfahan they attacked the Cossacks in Teheran from all directions. The Cossack units lost and the Shah was disposed!

Leader of the Revolution
Sattar Khan. 1868 -1914



Sattar Khan chez lui

Cancelled to order. Not used postally

The Bakhtiaris
 from Isfahan during the 1908 Revolution Sent from Tabriz ?? 1912 to Germany Faint strike on the back



4. Les Bakhtiari pendant la Révolution de Perse 1909

1911-1915
Official period

Part I. The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Gendarmerie de
iGouvernement.
Also called The G.G.

The Contract

Was signed end of December 1911 at the Persian Embassy in Paris by the Embassadors of Sweden and Persia. At that time the king of Persia was the under-aged Sultan-Ahmed-Shah.

The Shah of Persia Sultan Ahmed

Ppc sent
12 12 08
cancelled
Isphahan
(shield type
11.1904-22)
to Switzerland
Rate 6 chahi



Nasser el-Molk

The care-taker for the under-aged
king until he was crowned

He is shown here on a ppc sent to
Paris on 5 II 14

B

1907 - 16

An Anglo-Russian creation

"Swedish" Highway

way Gendarmerie

Highway anti-robbery police

The Swedes eventually became a Official officer's golden

pain in the neck for the Russians badge used in the hat



Iran was in chaos. Due to highway robbery in gave the Persian Government ultimatum vided, to develop the highway Eventually it was allowed to do northern "zone". But as a number of German cause, the Russians were 1915. However, a number of the contracts with the Persian The Swedes disliked the colonial attitude towards between Germans supported with the Turks and Russian of the remain- ing Swedish Mesopotamia and were engaged Russians in Persia. As the armed the remains of the Germany soon lost and were pushed

in the south Great Britain and the Russians "STOP IT OR WE DO IT". Sweden was in- gendarmerie but only in British zone. certain operations in the Russian the Swedish officers sided with the against a renewal of the contract in Swedes remained under private government. Russians and in particular their Persia. By March 1916 fightings local Gendarmerie troops together troops had become frequent. Some officers now joined the Germans in in heavy fightings against the Russians were much more heavily "Democratic" troops supported by out of Persia into Mesopotamia.

A special department at the Ministry of Interior was created for the Gendarmerie called Bureau de l'Organisation de la Gendarmerie Gouvernementale

Official letter from the Gendarmerie HQ at the Ministry of Interior to Sweden in June 1914



Postal rate: 12ch. Routes: Tedriche 7 VII 14 via Teheran 8 VII 14 and Enzeli-Baku EPOs to Sweden 10/7/14 Note: Stamps also at the back

The Swedish Gendarmerie

Swedish official passport for Lieutenant E F Thorell

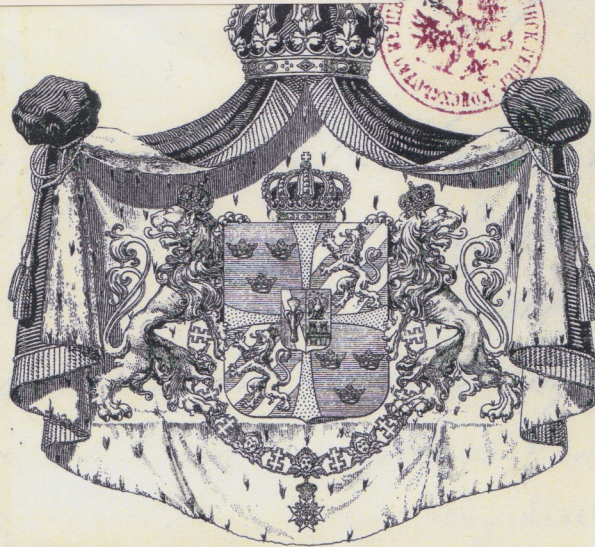
Issued by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 17th of July 1912

On top right is the visa for entering into Russia issued by the Imperial Russian General Consulate in Stockholm.

Similar traveling documents were issued to all the Swedes going to Persia

№ 27001 Пошл. 4 крон. 35 рр.
 Явленъ въ ИМПЕРАТОРСКОМЪ Россійскомъ
 Генеральномъ Консульствѣ въ Стокгольмѣ на провѣдъ
 въ Россію *Ernesto Fritzius* подданнаго
Ernesto Fritzius
 Стокгольмъ, 5 июля 1912 г.
 за Генеральн. Консула *И. И. И.*

Nº 341.



Kungl. Maj:ts
 till Sverige &c. &c. &c. Minister för Utrikes. trendena
 anmodar alla vederbörande att låta svenske undersåten, Löjtnanten vid
 Kungl. Göta Artilleriregemente **Ernesto Fritzius**
Thorell, hvilken afser till Persien genom Ryssland
 för att såsom Gendarmeciinstruktör inträda i persiska regeringens
 tjänst,
 fritt och obehindradt passera samt lämna honom skydd och bistånd
 i händelse af behof

Stockholm den 17 juli 1912.

Ed. Ministerens vägnar:

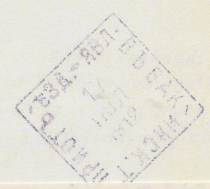


J. Ramel

Kabinettsekreterare

Innehafvarens namnteckning:

E. F. Thorell.



Swedish Gendarmerie Passport

The transit journey
to Persia via Russia
and the Caspian Sea
to Enzeli in Persia

The back

Varous stamps and
fiscals. Fee to be paid
for leaving Russia
Put on in Baku
12 and 16 July 1912
(Julian)

The front

Bottom

Persian visa

Enzeli

Entering fee
to Persia
1 Toman 3 Kran



Къ выводу Загранику со старейшей
штатской полиціи прилжтема
нотъ € 16 > *Грочъ*

Полковникъ
Н. Д. Стожковъ

Н. Д. Стожковъ



1912
1912
1912
1912

14
1912
1912
1912



VI
1912
1912

1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Treasury-General
Dismissed!

Treasury trained force taken over by the newly created G.G. as backbone

The American Morgan Shuster, Treasurer-General of Persia, May-Dec 1911, appointed to assist manage P. financial problems. Many important Persians resided in the "Russian" zone some of which had received Russian passport. When a member of the Shah's family was ordered to pay taxes Russia decided NO MORE! and requested the Gov. to dismiss Shuster w/o result. Then Russia "pressured" the Gov. by sending Russian troops to Enzeli port to be used unless Shuster was dismissed!

Ppc depicting M. Shuster. Treasurer-General



189 Monsieur Schuster, trésorier de tous de Perse à l'année 1912 qui a été un bon trésorier pour la Perse (on regret qu'il est parti).
Морицъ Шустеръ, бывший государственный казначей Персін.

A.M. Shuster's ca 1000 strong berid den police force was taken over by the G.G. Shuster became an adviser like another American in his, team Col. J. N. Merrill to the Gendarmerie

Merrill later became an advisor to the **South Persia Rifles** a British military organisation replacing the G.G. in the south as from 1915.
See below

Col. J.N. Merrill Advisor to the G.G.

Registered letter from him to USA 1914 Rumours would have that he was an intrigue maker, even trying to become the leader for the G.G. after the Swedes left.

Rate: 24 ch
(2nd cl)

Reg. fee: 12 ch

Sent from Shiraz 4- 1. 14
via

Bouchir Port (Bombay) via

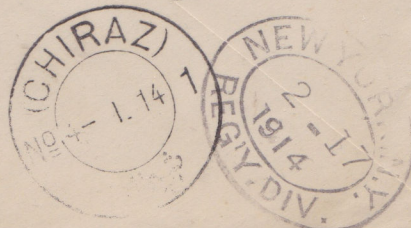
Suez arriving
New York

2 - 17/1914

&

arriving Washington
by train
same date

*From
Col. J. N. Merrill
Shiraz Persia*



1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Gendarmerie de
Gouvernement
Shortened **the G.G.**

THE ORGANISATION

The Gendarmerie consisted of 7 regiments. Two in Teheran and five in Shiraz, Kerman, Qazvin, Isfahan and Borujerd. In Oct 1911, an officers' school was established followed. A proper Gendarmerie School, Feb 1912. Later another school in Shiraz for officers and for gendarmes due to disturbances along the caravan routes in southern Persia. Tribes demanded toll. In addition a lot of robbers and thieves

Map of the Regiments and routes



Regiments	Location
I.	Teheran Youssefabad 1'700 soldiers
II.	" " Bagh-e Shah 1'800 "
III.	Shiras 1'800 "
IV.	Kerman 200 "
V.	Qawin/Kazvin 900 "
VI.	Isfahan 700 "
VII.	Boroujerd 500. "

Altogether the G.G. covered about 1'700 kilometer in early 1914

The HQ was situated within the Russian influence zone. However, the main activities of the G.G. were within the British influence zone in the south of Persia

The Swedish representative Mr Lecomte. General Hjalmarson on the right



I.D 1911-1915

Gendarmerie de Governement called **The G.G.**

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

1911-15 under Swedish officers officially

Organization

The revolutionary atmosphere and breakdown of law and order made the highways unsafe. Plunders of goods and robbery were commonplace in particular in the south. The British Indian traders in Persia and other trading houses made economic losses as also they had to pay rode tolls to the tribes. The British with Russian support forced upon the Shah Government to establish a gendarmerie. The Majlis decided in 1910 to do that. Sweden, being a small insignificant country pleased both England and Russia was approached and agreed to undertake such adventure.

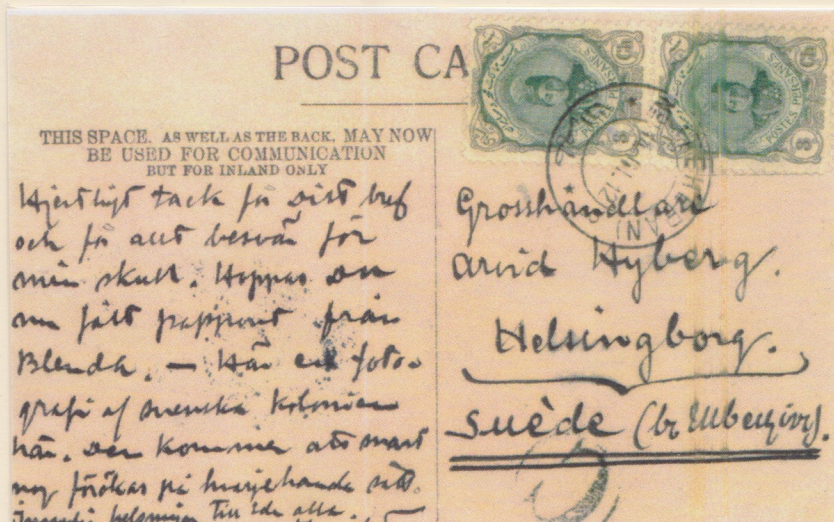
The Gendarmerie General, the G.G. or later the "Swedish" police was set up in 1911. Initially only three officers, were made available. The project escalated soon and finally about 45 Swedish officers and non-commissioned officers (plus a few wives) were on contract under the Persian government. At the most 7 regiments and about 8000 soldiers in total were employed in the G.G. It became the very first national kind of army under the Persian government.

The Chief of the Swedish Military Commission was the Captain of "Skånska Artilleriregementet", I. 25, Harald O Hjalmarson, appointed General. *His son, Jarl, became later the leader of the political right-wing party in Sweden.

Privately made picture post card showing the whole Swedish colony, as endorsed, including wives. March 1912



The persons are from the 1st row: Mrs Petersen, Countess Lewenhaupt, Mrs Folke, Mrs Lundkvist, Mrs Lindgren
2nd row: the officers Skjöldebrand, Glimstedt, de Mare, Nicolin, Siefert, Frick, Hjalmarson, Folke, Count Lewenhaupt, Nyström
Borell and Noren-Brandel. 3d row: non/commissioned officers Nilsson, Harvidson



Scanned reverse 8+% in size

Sent by Hjalmarson from Teheran in March 1912 to Sweden. Has "C" mark. Probably a postal control

Rate 6 ch. Marking: Teheran no 8. (PN 1911-28)

The "C" is probably a Teheran controle/censor applied in black in 1912

1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

HQ. Regiment No 1. Teheran

Official stationary used for a Registered letter sent to a regiment in Sweden

Official stationary
allowed but had to
be franked abroad



GENDARMERIE GOUVERNEMENTALE

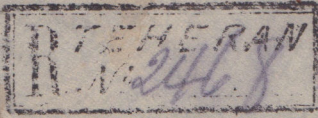
1er RÈGIMENT

ژاندارمری دولتی

رژیمان اول

Recommandée

*Monsieur
de Capitaine Lundegren*



Göta lifgarde

Stockholm

Modèle N° 50

Rate: 12 ch
(1st cl)

Reg fee: 12 ch
From Teheran
20 11 13 sent to
Stockholm. No
further markings.
Addressed to an
officer at
Göta
Lifgarde
(a regiment)

Registered from
Hamadan 2 X 13
via Recht Depart 9
X 13 to Göteborg,
Sweden 18 10 13
delivered 19 10 13

Rate: 13 ch
Reg fee: 13 ch

Rate increased in
1913 for both the
rate and reg. fee

The only
known
stationary of
this Batalion
Here used
privetly

The 1st regiment, II Batalion, had moved to Hamadan in 1913



GENDARMERIE GOUVERNEMENTALE

DE PERSE

1er RÈGIMENT

II. Bataillon

*Persiska
Frimarken*

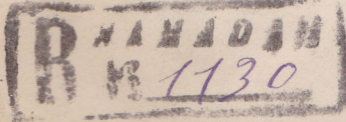
ژاندارمری دولتی ایران
رژیمان اول
باتالیون دوم

Recommandée

Mad. Brev fr. E.T.

M^e Blenda Iboull

Linnég. 41.



Suède

Göteborg

N° 31

Modèle N° 61

1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Gendarmerie de
Gouvernement.
Also called **The G.G.**

Regiment No 2, Bah-e Shah, Teheran

Defending routes: Teheran – Koum – Passangan, Koum – Sultanabad and Teheran – Veramin – Caspian Sea

Mail from Major Oscar Skjöldebrand, Commander of the Regiment No 2, Teheran



Privately produced post card by the Gendarmerie depicting the fourage inside the casernes of Regiment No 2 in Teheran.

Sent by Oscar Skjöldebrand, Chief of the Fourage from Teheran 3, on 10 X 1912 to a colleague at the Kungliga Lifgarde, Stockholm

Rate 6 chahi



A photograph depicting a fourage



1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Official stationary
allowed but had to
be franked abroad

Regiment No 3. Kazeroun

Official stationary used registered to Sweden by Captain Lundberg to his parents



Rate: 48 ch
 (4th cl) 12 ch
Reg. Fee
 12ch
Route:
 Kazeroun
 16 V 14
 via Bouchir
 11 V 14
 Bombay
 'Suez
 Sweden
 No markings

A very high
 rate seldom
 seen

Note
Top letter
 The different
 pattern
 Here the
 name of the
 regiment is
 printed in
 order:
 Persian and
 then French

Official stationary used Registered to Sweden from Regiment no 4. Kerman



Below
 The head is
 in French
 first, then in
 Persian

Rate: 12 ch
Reg. Fee:
 12ch
Route:
 Kirman
 24 V 14
 via Teheran
 15 VI 14
 via Baku to
 Stockholm/
 PKXP 63
 25 6 14

Written by
Colonel
Glimstedt
 to a
 Captain
 Landgren
 At Göta
 Garde
 (regiment)

1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Regiment No 4. Kerman. Route: Kerman - Bandar Abbas

Gendarmerie de
Gouvernement, G.G.

Consisted of only 200 gendarmes

Dr Fritz Rönne was assigned from May 1914. Died of tyfus after only three months!
Body could not be transported home due to climate. Body burnt the Indian manner quite openly

Registered letter sent the month of May 1914 just after his arrival



In total
5 Swedes died
in service
of which
4 in battles

Major Erik Axel Lewenhaupt
1877-1914

Major Johan Oscar Ohlson
1877-1914

Major Philip Fredrik Hierta
1886-1915

Instructor Karl Oscar
Karlson 1888-1915

Rate: 25 öre
Reg. fee: 10 öre

Route: From Hälsingborg 1, 11 May 1914, arrived Kerman 15 June, via Teheran 8, 22 V.14
to Kerman, arriving 15 VI.14

Internal ship mail: Bandar-Abbas to Bushire but sent abroad via Muscat

Bandar-Abbas 14/27 Two postage due of horseshoe-type, Muscat and Busdhire in combination



Probably the sender was an Iranian Gendarm officer sending a message to Major Brandel (-Norén), in French, who was assigned to Bushire to fetch weapons from Sweden

Postal story
Persian 6-ch p st card handed over to the ship or ship agent. Thus postage due (ought to be an UN-PAID) of Muscat and a postage-due also in Bushire

Major Erik Brandel-Norén 1911-1914

Very scarce routing used for speeding up delivery.
A combination of two postage-due markings

1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

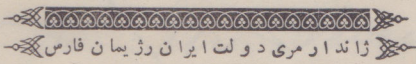
Gendarmerie de
Gouvernement.
Also called **The G.G.**

Shiraz Regiment No 3. Fars province. Shiraz – Bouchir route

In April 1913 a regiment in Shiraz in southern Persia was established. First two military expeditions were organized from Teheran that involved about 1000 trained gendarmes. The G.G. had already a rather hard and brutal discipline among the gendarms. The punishments handed out by Swedish officers for even minor faults could be harsh. In one of the expeditions the German Military Attaché Freiherr von Friesen-Miltitz, invited to accompany the G.G. to Shiraz, could confirm. It was also noticed with a high eyebrow in Teheran among the Diplomatic Corps that the neutral G.G. had invited a German diplomat.

Official letter sent from Shiraz on 7 January 1914 by Harald Lundgren to Major Tang Norén-Brandel in Teheran

The letter was registered
The stamps torn off
With full content
Although the content
is strictly private the
Gendarmes mostly used
sheets and envelopes with
the Official emblem



GENDARMERIE GOUVERNEMENTALE
DE PERSE
RÉGIMENT DE FARSE

N^o []

Forsärlige Broder.

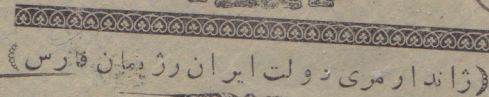
*Uuru ren inang manbar
kunnit utlopa, sedan du tammade*

denna

Recommandee



tade mis



vain en

GENDARMERIE GOUVERNEMENTALE
DE PESE
RÉGIMENT DE FARSE

chins h

۵۷۹
نمبرک
۱-۱۲

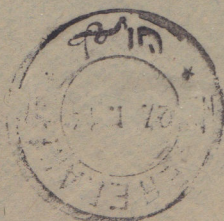
modraun

میر بند

er ung

Monsieur le Major Tang Norén Brandel

B. ora



Teheran

1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Gendarmerie de
Gouvernement.
Also called The G.G.

Assault on Major Boris Möller. Regiment No 5 in Kazvin

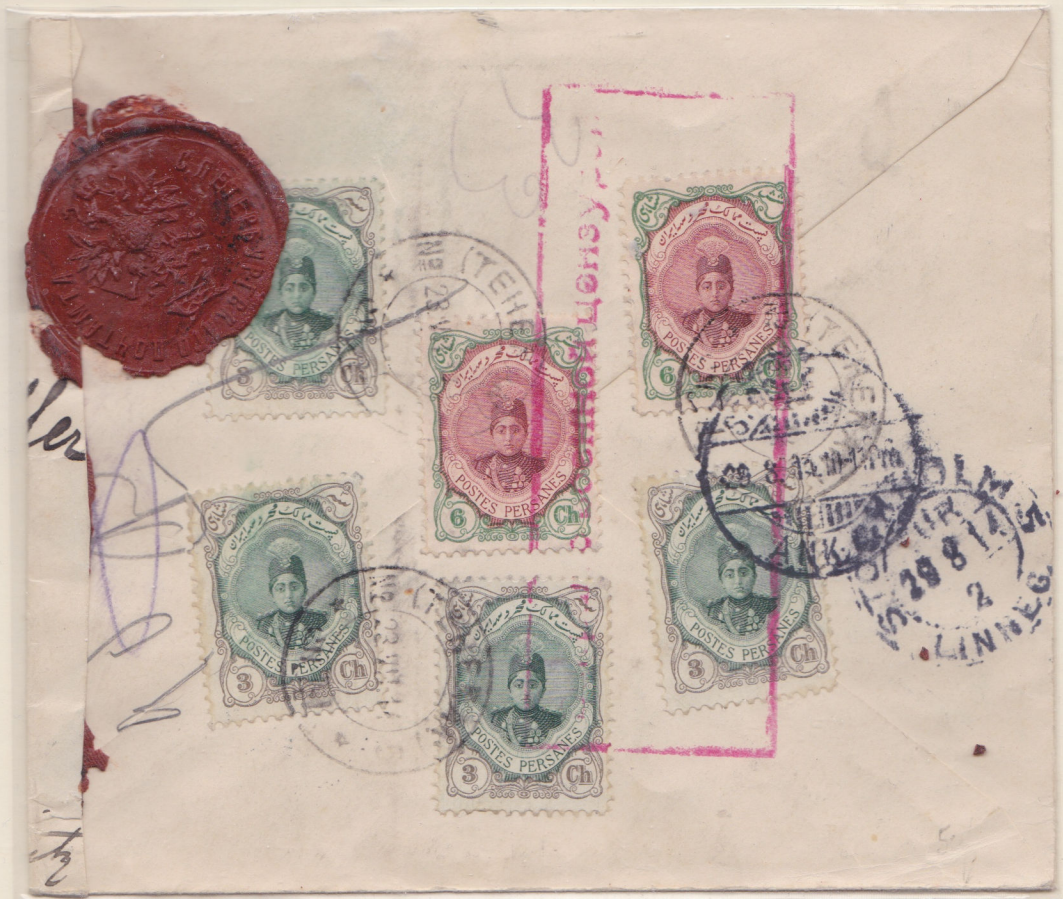
On early March 1914 Möller was participating in a expedition along the route Kazvin – Hamadan. While sitting in an open vehicle reading a newspaper he was attacked by a band of brigands. A bullet passed through the newspaper and hit and killed his Persian adjutant. While defending himself Möller was hit in his thigh. Möller was able to shoot a brigand and wound others. Reward: Gold medal for bravery!

Photograph
of the open
vehicle taken
after the
assault on
Möller



Probably
by Möller
Registered
letter sent
from
Teheran 5
(PN 1912-50)
23 VII 1914
to a relative
in Stockholm
arrival
cancellation
(ANK-type
not clear)
on 29 8 14
same day to
a local post
office at
Linnegatan as
per postman
cancellation
type (N 58 a.6)

Route:
via Russia. Petrograd
censors #1 and #44
(A. Speckaert,
Russische Postcensuur
1914-1918)).
Rate 12ch. Reg fee 12ch



1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Gendarmerie de
Gouvernement, G.G.

Regiment No 5. II. Bataillon. Hamadan. Its Commander Major M. T. Pesyan

Official military letter addressed to

Major Mohammed Taghi Pesyan is a famous high-ranking officer and later also political person. After the Swedes had left in late 1915, he eventually became the Commander of the Gendarmerie

Several members of his family, incl. his father, were also involved with the Gendarmerie (P. appointed Military Commander of the Khorasan province in 1921 by Reza Khan (see later)

Very few official G.G. documents/letters are known in private hands

Official letter

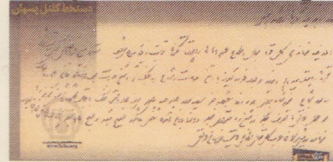
of 27 Sep 1914 is addressed to his Commander Agha Hadji. Group of Gendarmes questioned the rights of grazing in a certain place

The handwriting is confirmed to belong to Peysan. As per box at bottom. That text was written by him to his mother

Official
Handstamp. Back

TO NEGOTIATION
OFFICE OF THE GENDARMERIE

Pesyan's hand writing



Hamadan, le 27 Septembre 1914



GENDARMERIE GOUVERNEMENTALE
DE PERSE
RÉGIMENT N° 5
II. Bataillon

ژاندارمری دولتی

رژیمان پنجم

باطالیون دوم

Bureau du II^{ème} Bataillon
Du Régiment No. 5
Sortie le 27 septembre 1914

No. 371

371

حضرت آرزو ... حاجی برنگ

ایستاد محترم من در خصوص حق آبی که متعلق به شما در زمینهای
دائمه در کازینو می باشد در حدود ۱۰۰ گونیا زمین در
حدود ۱۰۰ گونیا زمین می شود که فرودگاه را می کشد و زمین هم
در زمینهای شما زمینها را می کشد و زمینها را می کشد
این امر را می کشد و زمینها را می کشد و زمینها را می کشد



GENDARMERIE GOUVERNEMENTALE
DE PERSE
RÉGIMENT N° 5
IIème BATAILLON

ژاندارمری دولتی ایران

رژیمان پنجم
باطالیون دوم

حضرت آرزو ... حاجی برنگ

CHIEF DU II^{ème} BATAILLON
DU RÉGIMENT N° 5

371

1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Gendarmerie de
Gouvernement.
Also called The G.G.

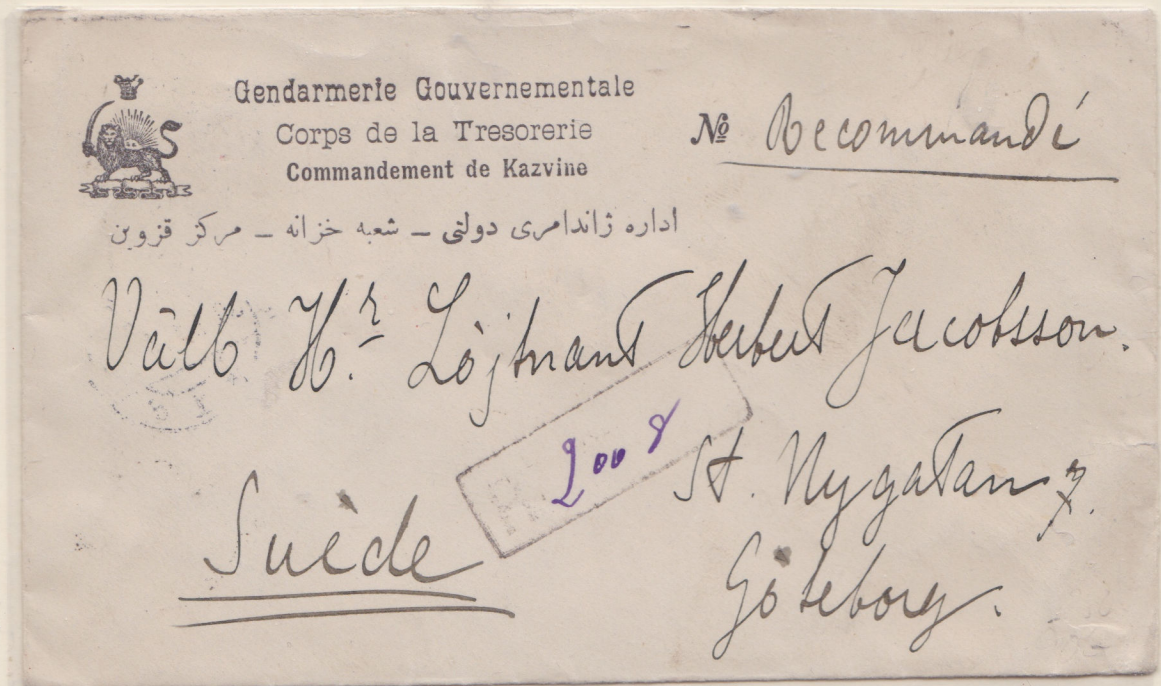
Kazvin. The Independent Battalion No 5. Later Regiment No 5

Led by Commander Major Eric Carlberg. Advanced to colonel in 1915

Photograph similar to the one in Eric Carlberg's book shows General Hjalmarsson, Major Eric Carlberg and Captain E Frick having lunch at the Officers mess in Kazvin 1914. Served by their black servant Abbas, a reminiscent from the slave trade



Official envelope used by the Treasury Corps, Kazvin Regiment



Letter sent registered 12 1 13 cancelled Kazvin Depart (PN 1910-24), Recht (ARRIVE) /23/JAN/13 (P 1905-13). Reached Göteborg, Sweden, (N 45) on 30 1 13. Rate 13 chahi. Registration fee 13 chahi

1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Gendarmerie de
Gouvernement.
Also called **The G.G.**

Regiment No 7, Boroujerd. Lurestan

This regiment was set up in about May 1914 due to sincere troubles with the Lurs in Lurestan. Major Skjöldebrand then led a force of 1200 soldiers and over 600 horses, equipped with machine guns, and field guns. Boroujerd was captured and fortified. Next year, 1915, the Gendarmerie lost against the Lurs in a battle. De Maré was in charge. Captain Sonesson also participated

Sonesson writes to Sweden soon after the defeat against the Lurs

An A.R. letter to Sweden censured in Petrograd and possibly one more place. The red seal is censur no 47. The other not clear



Gendarm i en skyttegrav vid Boroujerd i västra Persien. Foto från 1914.
© Grønna Museum

Special large value envelope used to Sweden. Sent from Boroujerd on 19 IV 15, (PN 1910-1932), transiting Hamadan, both arr and dep (PN 1911-1924) on 21 IV 15, Recht arrival & depart marks (PN 1913-1923) 25 IV 15, then via Caspian Sea to Baku and train across Russia Received a Stockholm arrival mark (N 46 a 1) on 11 5 15 and forwarded to final destination Karlskrona (N 14) arriving 12/5/1915
Double rate 24 chahi. Registration fee 12 chahi. A.R. fee 12 chahi

1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Gendarmerie de
Gouvernement.
Also called **The G.G.**

Regiment No 6, Isfahan. Route Passangan - Jasde-Khast

The Chief of the Regiment was Ivan Folke (1879 – 1975). He had 500 soldiers and 250 horses

Registered Official letter from Folke to Sweden sent from Teheran 5, (1912-50), on 5 II 1914 via Caspian Sea, Baku to Europe, etc. Addressed to Stockholm
Received Stockholm arrival mark 15 2 14 (N 58 a.3)
STOCKHOLM/STAD 15 2 + 17 2 (Both s 101, a 5)
STOCKHOLM 14+RIDDAREG. 17 2 14 (N 58 sid 88)

RIGHT

Photograph of Folke taken in Persia signed by him. Obtained in Isfahan from a chain-smoking and obstinate "dealer and wheeler" in all sorts of documents in 2004.



The "Swedish" Gendarmerie Goes German

The G.G. take side for Central powers

German Emperor turns "Muslim"! Propaganda gimmick

Appoints Field Marshall Count von der Goltz in command of SONDERMISSION P ("P" for Persia)

In 1915, WWI, though Persia was neutral it became a war theater. The Central powers i.e. Ottoman with troops & Germany w infiltrators supported anti-Shah Nationalist groups which were promised weapons, gold and political freedom! The Gendarmerie - as a Persian state organisation - should be neutral but many of its Persian (and Swedish officers but for different reasons) sided w these nationalist political anti-Shah group(s). Von der Goltz was based in Bagdad. From there he organised underground German groups infiltrating Persia. One group managed to reach Afghanistan in spite of all odds! It handed over a personal letter to the ruler from the German Emperor requesting the Ruler to stir up the Muslims of India with propaganda methods. For money! **The offer was declined!**

The German Minister Prince Heinrich XXXI of Reuss made overtures towards the Swedish officers and offered them a contract for fighting on the German side. A **secret agreement** w the German Mission was made



A real Germanophil! Eye-witness of the massacre of the Armenians

Major Hjalmar Pravitz, Chief of Command of the Shiraz III-Regiment left Shiraz 12 May 1915. He was an outspoken pro-German officer. As such he was dismissed. Left for Sweden only to return in September 1915 again to Persia via Turkey and Bagdad. Introduced to von der Goltz by help of S Hedin.



The interpreter Baghe wrote to his his former "boss" Major Pravitz now living in Karlskrona at the south of Sweden. An important naval port.

Rate: 5 ch

Route: Teheran
21 VII 19 most probably via Konstantinople to Sweden

1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Gendarmerie de
Gouvernement.
Also called **The G.G.**

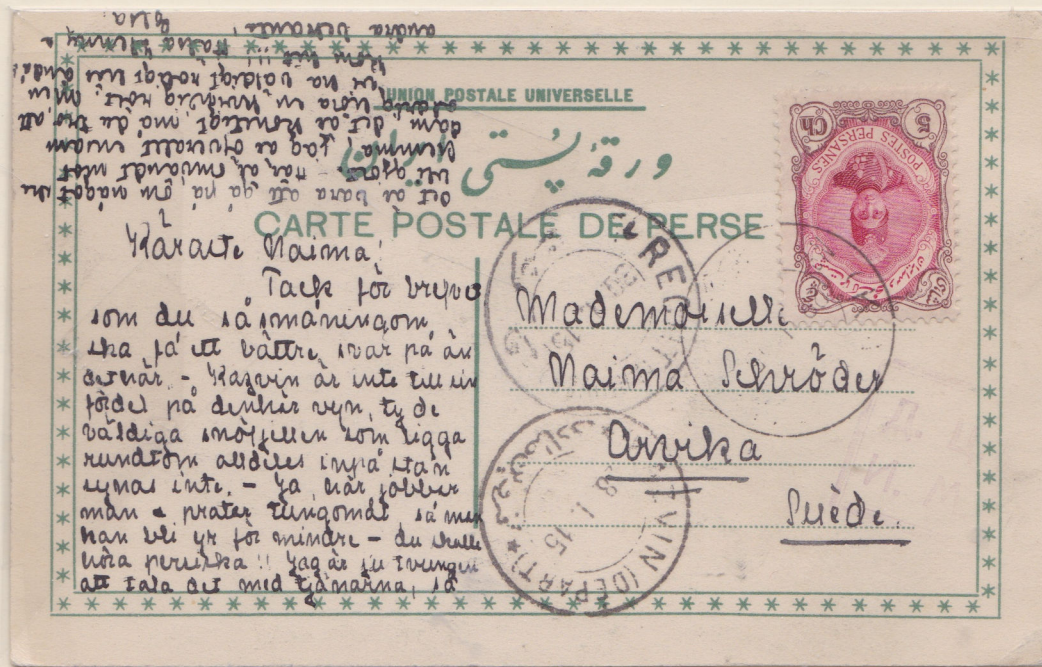
H. G. Källström. Commandant of the Kazvin Regiment. From January 1915

Källström with wife Elsa arrived at Kazvin in April 1914. In the beginning of 1915 he took over from Carlberg who's contract had ended. Källström's wife Elsa wrote a number of very vivid accounts of the life in Persia for the Swedish press. Among others how nice relationships there were with the Russian- and the Cossack officers in Kazvin which was the Russian Forces HQ. Parties that went on till five in the morning were quite frequent and very wet! Later things went sour!

Both Källström and his wife were Germanophiles and ended up in the group of Swedish officers who in 1915 took the side of the Central Powers. After Colonel Edwall who had taken over the Gendarmerie after Hjalmarsen on 21st February 1915 and had had an active role in the November 1915 failed Coup d'Etat the Shah dismissed the whole group. They were **Edwall, de Maré, Ångman, Sonesson, Källström and Prawitz.**

In the meantime Källström had joined local Gendarmerie forces in Hamadan, an anti-government stronghold supported by German agents, that were fighting against Russian troops under Baratof. The Russians lost and some of the Russian officers who had to hand over their weapons in a "ceremony" were old friends from Kazvin!

Madame Elsa Källström at Kazvin writes a picture post card depicting Kazvin to a friend in Sweden shortly after her husband has been assigned as the Commandant



Pps depicting Kazvin sent from Kazvin (depart) 18 1 1915, via Recht 30 1 15, Enzeli, Baku route to Sweden
Rate 5 chahi

**A "real" Gendarm. Going w. Germany & the Central Powers
Anti-Russian. Still enjoying Vodka & Caviar parties with them!**

Drinking orgies with the Cossacks today. Fighting against them tomorrow

Helge Gunnar KÄLLSTRÖM 1885-1916



His wife Elsa's diary and Swedish press articles. She accompanied him to Persia

1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Gendarmerie de
Gouvernement.
Also called **The G.G.**

"Germanized" Swedes fought against Entente troops (Russian)

He ended up in 1915 in the group of Swedes who took the side of the Central Powers i e Germany and went to fight with them and the Turks in Hamadan against the Russians

Major A. Edvard Erikson and his wife Kicki send Easter greetings to relatives in Stockholm in 1914

5-chahi
postal
stationery
card of
1903 with
photos
overprinted
5 chahi in
1913 when
the rate
decreased
from 6 ch
Cancelled
Teheran 8
24 14
(PN 1911-28)



Martin Ekström (1887 – 1954)

Non-commissioned officer. Served in Persia till autumn 1914
German-Persian forces and fought against Russian troops in Hamadan

Private photograph of Ekström from the 1940s in civilian clothes



During 1915
About 6 months

The "Swedish" Gendarmerie goes German

Gendarmerie de
Gouvernement

The Secret List

The Swedish officers who signed up with the
German Military Mission in Persia or elsewhere
The German Mission organised in Teheran 1915

The Greatest Love story ever heard!

Swedish officer Gustav Edwall merry
Turkish Chaldean lady, daughter to a
Ottoman doctor from Tripolis

Deutsche Militär-Mission in der Türkei – Feldpost schwedischer Offiziere

Von Werner Ahrens, Poststempelgilde „Rhein-Donau“ e. V.

Ein bisher kaum beachtetes Gebiet sind die Feldpostbelege schwedischer Offiziere der persischen Gendarmerie über die Feldpost der Deutschen Militär-Mission. Solche sind außerordentlich selten und mir bisher nur vier Exemplare bekannt. Es erscheint durchaus möglich, daß sich in schwedischen Sammlungen solche befinden, aber bisher wurde mir nichts gemeldet. Wie kam es nun dazu, daß sich schwedische Offiziere der Feldpost der Deutschen Militär-Mission bedienten?

Im Jahre 1911 war eine Schwedische Militär-Mission nach Persien abgeordnet worden, um die persische Gendarmerie, etwa 12 000 Mann stark, die einzige militärische Einrichtung in Persien, zu reorganisieren. Bei Kriegsbeginn 1914 sah sich die schwedische Regierung mit Rücksicht auf ihre Neutralität veranlaßt, diese Militär-Mission zurückzurufen. Daraufhin verließ eine Anzahl der Offiziere das Land, aber die meisten blieben, da sie sich dem Dienst für Persien verschworen hatten und auf die Unabhängigkeit des Landes von den Russen und Engländern hinarbeiteten. Der deutsche Geschäftsträger in Teheran, v. Kardorff, schloß im Auftrag der deutschen Regierung mit 21 schwedischen Offizieren einen Vertrag, durch den sie als aktive Offiziere in deutsche Dienste traten. Dieser Vertrag wurde vor der Öffentlichkeit geheim gehalten, um alle diplomatischen Unannehmlichkeiten zu vermeiden. Als im Mai 1916 die Türken sich aus Persien zurückzogen und auf Chanikin absetzten, kamen die meisten schwedischen Gendarmerie-Offiziere nach Bagdad. Damals lag die Führung der Gendarmerie und der persischen Stämme an der Front in Westpersien in Händen des deutschen Majors Tzschirner, bis zum Fall von Kut el Amara (29. 4. 1916).

In Teheran lagen zwei Gendarmerie-Regimenter, das dritte in Schiras, das 5. in Kaswin, das 7. in Broudjerd, ferner lagen Regimenter, deren Nummern ich nicht feststellen konnte, in Hamadan, Kermanschah und Isfahan.

Edwalls mor får en hälning från sin svärdotter Gazala i Persien. Skickat från Teheran 26 IV 16 till Stockholm Anlänt den 25 6 16.

Rate: 5 chahis; Route: via Russia

Russen und Engländer herrschten, ordnete er an, daß als

Anordnung Major Nystroems in Schiras mit dem einzigen dort noch lebenden Deutschen, dem Kaufmann Roever, auf der

6. ober 1989

dödsfall

Isobel Ghasal-Öhman död

Debuterade på Operan mot Martin Öhman

Operasångerskan och sångpedagogen Isobel Ghasal-Öhman, Stockholm, har avlidit 92 år gammal. Närmast anhöriga är sonen Nils H Edwall, f d hovrättsråd, sekreterare i Sveriges Advokatsamfund, barnbarn samt syskonbarn med familjer.



Isobel Ghasal-Öhman var i ordets verkliga mening kosmopolit. Född i Tripolis, klosteskola i Konstantinopel, uppvuxen i Teheran, under 1920- och 1930-talet bosatt i Berlin och därefter i Stockholm. Hon kände stark glädje och tacksamhet över att vara svensk medborgare och var alltid ytterst lojal mot sitt sista fosterland.

hade 1912 trätt i persisk tjänst och blev, med överstes grad, chef för gendarmeriet. Den politiska utvecklingen medförde att Gustaf Edwall tvangs lämna landet och hans hustru återsåg aldrig Teheran. Paret gick mot slutet av första världskriget i tysk tjänst, han som officer och hon som tolk. Gustaf Edwall knöts senare till svenska legationen och därefter till Electrolux i Berlin.

Under 1920-talet skilde sig makarna och Isobel Ghasal började studera sång för Hertha Dehmelow i Berlin. 1927 gifte hon sig med den svenske operasångaren, sedermera

The obituary tells her story. Married first to G. Edwall and then remarried w Martin Öhman, a well-known opera-singer in 1927. She was also an opera singer, first in Germany and later in Sweden. Died in 1989, 92 years old



1915 - 1916
Anti-Shah gvmnt

The National Party flirting with Germany and vice versa!

Democratic in-
fluence

A short period, end of 1915 until Feb 1916 the National anti-Shah Party based in Kermanschah and Sultanabad tried to resist Russian pressure. The party had been promised military assistance by Germany but very little of it was delivered

It had not gone well for some of the Gendarmerie units. Losses against Russian cossacks. Major Källström as well as Pousette and de Maré who both had led National forces withdraw to Kermanschah, under full military control by the G.G. under its leader Colonel Muhammad Passian Feb 1916

Kermanschah censor Dec 1915 - Jan 1916

Kermanschah
National
censur

22 x 18 1/2 mm



Black or blue
4 known

Registered
single

Rate: 6 ch

Reg. fee: 16ch

From

Kermanschah

19 12 16

via Teheran

to

Meched

arriving

12 1 16



Sultanabad-Arak National Censur Jan 1916

Sultanabad-Arak
National censur
30 x 25 mm

Violet

8 known

on top of
white for open
label

Registered single

Rate: 6 ch

Reg. fee: 16ch

From

Sultanabad-Arak

? 1 16

to Teheran

arriving

15 1 16



II. 1914 - 18

WWI. Entente against Central Powers

Swedish pro-German officers in Iraq

Persian Gendarmerie and some Swedish officers pro-Central

The reknowned explorer Sven Hedin, pro-German propaganda activist

The famous Swedish explorer Sven Hedin, a pro-German activist, during a visit to the Middle East in April 1916 visited the German Military base at Deir-Al-Zor in the desert and met there Major Erikson who had previously been a Gendarm in Persia. Mr Hedins was there informed about the death of von der Goltz, the leader of the German-Persian "Sonder-Mission".

Turkish postcard written by Hedin in German (for censor purpose) to his parents. The postcard is addressed to the Swedish Embassy In Konstantinople although his parents were living in Sweden.

To avoid censor or detention of mail if sent from **Entente-territories**, via an Ally-country certain priviledged Swedish persons were allowed to use the courier mail of Swedish Legations in Entente countries

Rate: 30 paras for cards to abroad

A Turkish rectangular censor applied



Liebe Eltern 23/IV 1916
Gestern feierte ich Almas
Geburts tag in einem Kreis
von liebenswürdigen Deutschen
Offizieren und Frau Major
Erikson aus Persien. Heute
fahre ich weiter flussabwärts
Bekam hier die traurige Nachricht
über Goltz' Tod. Herzog Adolf
Friedrich ist in Bagdad. Ich befinde
mich immer Kolosse wahl.
Herzliche Grüsse. Sven



History: During the period end 1911 till 1915 Swedish Officers on request from the Persian Government and supported by the British created the Persian Gendamerie. Many Iranian officers had German military background, thus supported both Germany and the anti-Government "democratic" parties in Persia. Many Swedish officers in Persia were often pro-German. Due to the outbreak of WWI and Swedish neutrality the Swedish Government cancelled the contract with the Persian Government. Officers in the reserv could remain.

In the meantime the German Ambassador to Persia, von Kardorff, had made a secret agreement with about 20 Swedish officers to enroll in the German army and Major Erikson joined the German army in Irak.

It was an extra ordinary situation in Persia during WWI in which German infiltration and political activities from Mesopotamia undermined the Persian "neutral" Government (and the Allies). Certain Swedish Gendarmerie officers actively supported Germany. Therefore, this item, though Turkish, belong to this exhibit.

II. 1914 - 18

WWI. Entente against Central Powers

The Gendarmerie goes German

A Government Gendarmerie unit joins the opposition

Involved in fighting the Russians under Baratoff

Nationalistic & pro-Democratic movements gain support from the Gendarmerie

The censor reads "Was censored under the provision of the Government Gendarmerie" in Persian. It was applied during December 1915 when under Colonel Pesiyani. Three recorded of this mark



Sent from Hamadan on 11 Dec 1915 and via Teheran 19 Dec arrived Meched 30 Dec 1915
Single Rate 6 chahis

History: Colonel Mohammed Pesiyani had joined an opposition group the "Democrats" in late 1915 which "forces" were assisted by the entente powers i e Turkey and Germany in the fight against Russian and British forces in Hamadan and Kermanschah

Special note: when the Swedish officers officially left their assignments to return home due to WWI outbreak there were already a number of trained Persian officers who took over and continued to run the Gendarmerie. One of the leading figures was Colonel Mohammed Taghi Khan Pesiyani, who later, in 1921, revolted in Khurasan, Meched, against the Government with War Minister Reza Khan (later to be Reza Shah). As a result Reza Khan dissolved the gendarmerie. The Colonel was executed, of course!

1913 - 1924

Russia agrees to Swedish police trainers

A Modern Police Force

There was a keen need for a regular police force

Swedes in demand

Only a year after Swedish officers highway robberies had gone down pleased and so was the Persian contract was given to Sweden to assist force. The work started in 1913 as a Ministry of Interior. Soon another four assignments were Teheran, Recht, Super intendent J C G Westdahl, was the with a year brake, and P Leopold Bjurling Police. Westdahl introduced a new police force of some 1,000 men and set up a widespread corruption and bribery within the corps The training got assistance from the Swedish Gendarmerie that organized a "military" training for three months. When Westdahl was temporarily dismissed in 1919 for political reasons, Bjurling was temporarily taken over his position.



and command!

established the Gendarmerie the number of considerably. The British were most Government. As a result of this a in the creation of a regular civil police project with three officers under the policemen joined. Places for their Karvin and Meched. Chief of the Persian Police until 1924, ended his career as Chief of the Teheran organization, new detective training, a new wage reform which would counteract the

Original photo. Colonel J Westdahl, Chief of the Police in the middle of the first three Swedish police who arrived in Persia in 1913. W. remained as Chief of Police till 1923 when most foreigners were asked to resign



From left K A R Erfass, J C G Westdahl and Sven J J Bergdahl. There were further: P Leopold Bjurling, Prison Director E Stålberg, N P Sjöberg and A E Eriksson. All seven assigned 1913 for two years. Westdahl and Bjurling remained after 1915 under private contracts and stayed till 1924

Major E Stålberg writing to Colonel Westdahl on leave to Sweden. August 1916

5-ch postal stationery card

Rate: 5 chahi

Route: Recht
25 VII 16
Enzeli- Baku
Petrograd
22 8 16
(Julian)
to Stockholm
redirected to
Lund (m/s)

Markings:
Three Russian censors

- 1) Baku #41
- 2) Petrograd #547
- 3) 3) Petrograd #35



1913 - 1924
Official assignment
ended 1915

Creation of a modernized Police Force

Westdahl Chief of
Police till 1924 Re-
placed by Iranian

Official letter to Prime Minister Sepah-dar Azam in 1916

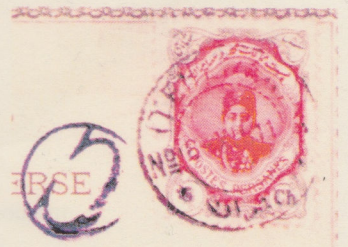
Letter sent by courir mail by the "Prefecture de Police de Teheran. No content



Ppc depicting police force before the Swedish police officers arrived



The "C" stands probably for Controle
It was used on mail abroad and from
abroad for a few years ab Dec 1910-12



1913 - 1915

Official assignment period

Creation of regular Police Force

Special department under the Ministry of Interior

Westdahl correspondence

Writes to his sister-in-law, Betty Westdahl, at Bredåkra in southern Sweden

A 5-chahi postal card overprinted with 5 chahi used for the message. Sent from Teheran 3 (PN 1910=35) on 4 11 14

Foreign rate 5 ch. No transit or receiving marks



WWI. Different mail route to Sweden via Istamboul

Registered letter sent from Tedriche (PN 1914-30) on 6 Sep 1914, suburb of Teheran. Used as a summer residential area. Normal postal route via Russia to Germany cut-off. Mail instead sent via Stamboul 12 Sept and with London registration mark of 26 SP 14, arrived Bredåkra (N 14) on 3/10/1914. Postal rate 12 ch. Reg fee 12 ch. Slight variation of the printed text in the emblem



1913 - 1917
Official assignment
period

Creation of regular Police Force

Special department
under the Ministry
of Interior

The Regent Nasr el-Molk pays a visit to Police Department
Inspection of the Teheran Police by the Regent



In the picture you have from left
The Regent, Erickson, Bjurling, Westdahl, Ståhlberg and Begdahl (in civilian dress)
In addition there are Persian dignitaries, police officers and translator

1913 - 1915

Official assignment
period

Creation of regular Police Force

Special departmen
under the Ministry
of Interior

Leopold Bjurling. Chief of Police of Teheran

Bjurling had an outstanding career in Persia. He came out together with Westdahl in 1913. When the two-year contract ended in 1915 Bjurling decided to continue his career in Persia and signed a new contract. B. was first stationed in Teheran until end of May 1914. He then was transferred to Kazvin for the purpose of organizing the police there. As from May 1915 he was again back in Teheran to run the Police Schools. He was asked to act as acting Chief of the Police twice when for political reasons in the of 1918 a new and very nationalistic government preferred Bjurling to Westdahl whom was seen as too pro-British. After a year another Government took over and with Bjurling's agreement Westdahl could now be reinstalled as the Chief of Police. Again at the end of 1919/early 1920 Bjurling was assigned to Tabriz. However, Tabriz was a political hotspot and Bjurling ran into difficulties and was asked to return to Teheran after a few months.

The last incident Bjurling was involved in was the 21 February 1921 Coup d'Etat. Indirectly organized by the British with the purpose of installing a pro-British government, Reza Khan now Chief of the Persian Cossack Brigades, "attacked" Teheran. Westdahl, the Chief of Police and Glerup, Chief of the Gendarmerie, were "informed" not to intervene but not so Bjurling. His 13 different police districts in Teheran thus defended if attacked. Many were killed. If this story is true it means that Westdahl and Glerup had decided to play the British violin and not defend the Government, their employer! **Treachery!!**

Official envelopes and letter heads of the Teheran Police

Bjurling had during his early years in Persia a correspondence with a lady, Anna Hultgren

Text in the emblem

Reads in Persian
The Central
Department
of the Police

Registered from
Teheran 5
(PN 1912-50)
on 11 Xli 13
to Stockholm
No transit or
arrival marks

No content

Double rate 24 ch
Reg fee 12 ch



1913 - 1915
Official assignment
period

Creation of regular Police Force

Special department
under the Ministry
of Interior

Westdahl correspondence

The Police organization came under the Ministry of Interior. A special department was set up under the Swedish leadership and Johan Westdahl

Specially designed official envelopes were made with the emblem of the Ministry and reads

MINISTERE DE L'INTERIEUR
Bureau de l'Organisation de la Police
DE PERSE

+
the same in Persian

Handwritten Persian calligraphy



MINISTERE DE L'INTERIEUR
Bureau de l'Organisation de la Police
DE PERSE

وزارت داخله
اداره تشکيلات نظيه ايران

*Mr le Lieutenant Johan Kohrtz
Rosensberg
Kungälvsta
Luleå*

4932

Handwritten mark

Modèle N° 23

Suède *پست ايران*

CARTE POSTALE DE PERSE

*Opérateur et commandant en chef
H. Herr Ernst Westdahl
Petersen
Bjersjöskolan Lysekil
Stadewiken*

درين صفحه عنوان نوشته شود

5

Registered

Content

1913 - 1915
Official assignment
period

Creation of regular Police Force

Special department
under the Ministry
of Interior

Westdahl correspondence

The Police organization came under the Ministry of Interior. A special department was set up under the Swedish leadership and Johan Westdahl

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MINISTÈRE DE L'INTERIEUR
Bureau de l'Organisation de la Police
DE PERSE

+
the same in Persian



Registered letter sent in from Teheran 5 (PN 1912-50) on 11 ? 1913 by Westdahl to Kingelsta, Sweden. No content
Franked with 24 chahi 1911 issue stamp. Postal rate 12 chahi. Registration fee 12 chahi.

Seize of envelope 128 x 195 mm

1913-1922

The Boss and his Swedish Administrator

Police HQ
in Teheran

Amazingly, a Swedish female got employed

Colonel Westdahl returned to Sweden in 1919 for vacation and returned with his relative Iris Gad, a very young lady. She served as his personal secretary and administrator

Colonel Westdahl
in full regalia
Original Photo
by
Antoine
Levruguin



The ppc was
Iris Gad
the secretary
Sent from 20
XI 19 to
Stockholm
arriving
25 2 20
Informing that
she had safely
arrived

Rate: 5 chahis
Route: via
Djulfa & Tiflis
and likely via
Kermanchah
Konstantinople
through
Europe to
Sweden

British Military
Censor No 560

Signed "Iris" ↑



1924 Foreign military & police officers to be replaced

New Era. Persia towards modernization

Westdahl Chief of Police till 1924.
Replaced by Iranian

"Iranisation". A natural step to become truly independent

Reza Khan wished to have an "Iranisation" of the administration, i.e. that Iranians should hold the responsible positions Westdahl's contract was running out. Regardless of that the "Iranisation" i.e. the replacement of foreign "experts" in higher positions with Iranians was necessary for the future of the country

Below a few Iranians that Reza Khan, soon to become Reza Shah Pahlavi, trusted

Both ppcs are printed and issued by Kachani who also was an ardent freedom fighter

Ppc depicting Colonel Mohammed Khan Dargahi, Chef de Police, who replaced Westdahl



Four high positioned Iranians. Close collaborators to Reza Khan

In order from left:

Sartipe Morteza Khan,
Kommandant for the troops in
Teheran

Dabir Aezam, Head of Cabinet

Col. Mohammad Khan Dargahi,
Chef of the Persian Police

Colonel Karim Agha Khan, Chef
of the Beladyeh, Teheraan



Sartipe Morteza Khan
Kommandant der Truppen in
Teheran, Monsieur Dabir
aezâm Kabinetchef von chah
Pahlavi, Colonel Mohammad
khan, Chef der persischen
Polizei, Colonel Karim agha
Khan Chef von beladyeh
Teheran.

Сартип Мортеза Хан, командующий войсками в Тегеране, господин Дабир азам, председатель кабинета шаха (Шахляеи), полковник Магомет Хан, начальник полиции Персии, полковник Карим ага Хан, начальник тегеранского округа.

Imperial Cossack Brigade of His Majesty the Shah

Russian "political Coup"! Early Grip of the Power

The Russian Bear proves it Might!

Nasser ed-Din Shah, the first Shah to visit Europe included Russia in 1873 and 1878. The Shah got most impressed by the Cossack units that accompanied him across the Caucasus. The Shah made a point of that when asking the Tsar if he could provide him with such a unit. The Tsar realised the high political value of offering such a non-digital SPYWARE right into the Shah's inner power circle. Thus, Russia could keep an eye on every move of the Shah! A clever offer not to be missed! So the Tsar agreed to help. And the Russians political antagonist, **the British**, were not happy!

A proper training school for the Persian soldiers was set up in 1879
The only recorded item by the Shah's Cossack Brigade before WWI

A Persian 5ch ovpt a 5-ch p stat card sent from Teheran
on 19 XI 13 and TEHERAN (DEPART) 20 XI 13 to Germany in 1913

The Majesty the King's
Blessed Cossack School
 On the back



Outer circle 38 mm
 Inner circle 28 mm



Part of the back side

Colonel Liakhov, the Commander of the Cossacks that bombarded the Parliament
1908 shown here on a ppc sent from Mechedisser June 1913 to Brussel

During the Constitutional crises the new conservative Shah, Muhammad-Ali (1324-27/1907-09) was supported by the Russian Emperor who was against the "democratic" parliament installed in 1903. The brigade commander, Colonel Liakhov assisted Moḥammad-Ali Shah, who appointed Liakhov also military governor of Tehran. In that capacity Liakhov attacked the Parliament. 400 people killed.

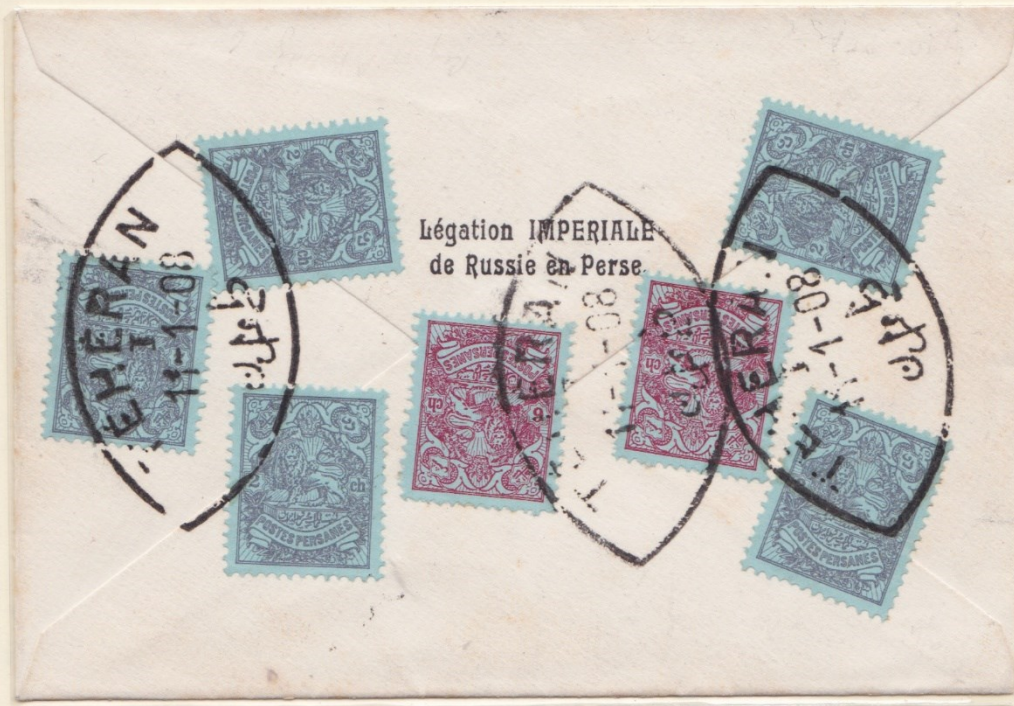


Russia meddling in the Persian Revolution & Affairs

The Tsar against the 1906 Constitution. Uprising/Civil war. Shah disposed!

The Russian bombardment of the Majlis (parliament) in June 1908, led to its closure and executions of revolutionary leaders led to a national uprising by Sattar Khan, an Armenian. He wanted the 1906 Constitution reinstated. His forces from Azarbadjan and the Bakhtiaris from Isfahan liberated Teheran. The Shah was disposed! Large parts of the country was in a revolutionary mood.

Registered letter sent by the Russian Legation in Teheran to its Agent Consulate in Ahwaz



With the exception of the Russian Consular P O in Tabriz 1913/14 very small amount of mail is recorded from any of the Russian Embassy & Consulates and the Special Mission in Tehean set up in connection with the 1908 Constitutional crisis.

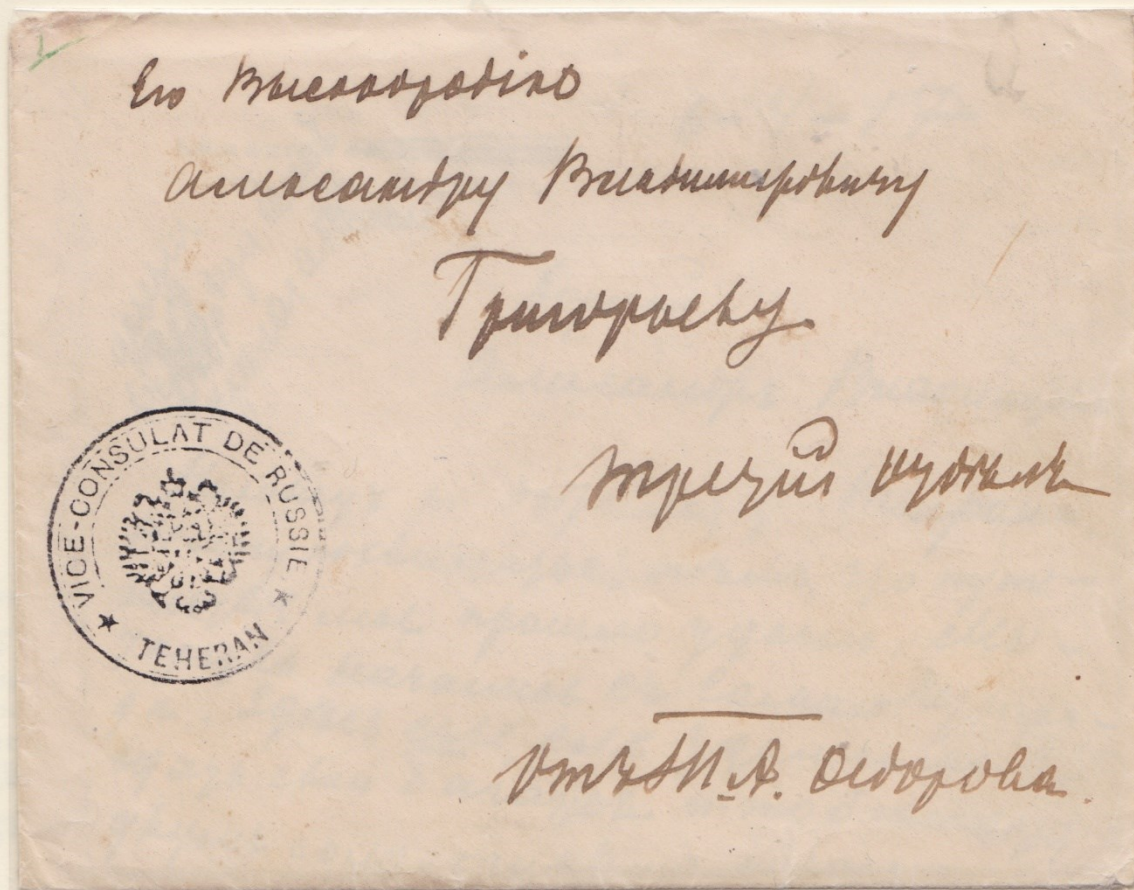
Légation IMPERIALE
de Russie en Perse

*Monsieur P. P. Ser Mentan
Agent Consulaire de Russie*

Rates: Class II; 9 ch. **Reg. fee:** 13 ch

Routes: From Teheran 11-1-1908 to Ahwaz in southern Persia via Bushire (in manuscript)

A non-franked cover from the VICE-CONSULAT DE RUSSIE/TEHERAN sent by courier within Persia



1909-15

Russia and the Cossack Brigade dislike Shuster

Official letter from His Royal Highness (Persian) Cossack Cavalry Brigade

Under Russian and British diplomatic pressure – but against the will of the Majlis – the vice-regent of Persia expelled Shuster from office in December 1911. He was an American financial adviser in charge of the country's financial situation. The Shah family was in heavy debt to Russia and GB. After a short while Russia did not agree that he acted against favoured Persians including the Shah's brother and demanded that Shuster should be expelled and put pressure by landing troops at Enzeli port!

In print: **The Cossack Cavalry Brigade of His Royal Highness, be our souls a sacrifice for him**

Addressed to: **To His Blessed Presence -----Mostofi Mamalek War Minister**

Sent by Courier

His
Royal Highness
Cossack Cavalry
Brigade



32 mm

Addressed
To Minister
Mostofi oi-
Mamalek
War Minister

بریکاد سواره قزاق اعلی حضرت اقدس هیونی ارواحنا له الفداء

بسم الله الرحمن الرحیم
بیت حضرت آیت الله العظمی
امام خمینی مد ظله العالی
در محضر عالی

Mostofi oi-Mamalek



10th Prime Minister of Iran
In office
25 July 1910 – 12 March 1911

The date 1329 = 1910/11. Also mentioned the name of "Shuster" in m/s



Prime Minister
6 times
He was also
War Minister

In 1910
he approved
of the
"Swedish"
Gendarmerie to
avoid Indian
troops to protect
the roads

The back side

Russian troops invade Azarbadjan, North western Persia

Russian invasion and occupation of Persia (1911-14). Russia invaded and occupied north western Persia, mainly Azarbadjan, on the pretext of restoring order and to protect Russian financial and economic interests

This is an accompanying document to the list of officers and classified officials of the 74th Shirvan Infantry Regiment who were promoted to the rank or excluded as passed away.

Листъ 6 ОТД. 14 / 913 16 203
16

НАЧАЛЬНИКЪ
ВОЙСКЪ

ВЪ ГЛАВНЫЙ ШТАБЪ.

ГЛАВНЫЙ ШТАБЪ

СЪВЕРО-ЗАПАДНАГО

14 ЯНВ. 1913

АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНА

4205

РА ПОДР. Т. Б.

4 Января 1913 года

№ 16.

Гор. Хой /Персія/.

Всего 36.

При семъ представляю послужныя списки на г.г. офицеровъ и классныхъ чиновниковъ 84 пѣхотнаго Ширванскаго ЕГО ВЕЛИЧЕСТВА полка вновь произведеннымъ и исключеннымъ изъ списковъ полка умершими.

ОСНОВАНИЕ: ст. 5 положенія о срочныхъ и внѣсрочныхъ донесеніяхъ въ войскахъ по Инспекторской и строевой частямъ.

ПРИЛОЖЕНІЕ: 9 послужныхъ списковъ.

Генераль-М а і о р *Курочкинъ*

Начальникъ Штаба,
Генеральнаго Штаба

П о л к о в н и к *Маврицъ*
6

1.D 1907 - 14
1907 Constitution
A prolonged crisis

The Kurdistan Rebellion

Rebellion hand
stamp across
regular stamps

Russia supports the ex-Shah's return and rebellion

Russia supported the 1909 deposed ex-Shah's, Mohammed Ali, trial to recapture the throne with help of his brother Salar ed-Dowleh. While the ex-Shah landed with troops in northern Persia in April 1912, his brother rose a **rebellion in Kurdistan** and proclaimed his brother, the ex-Shah, again Shah!

Letter to
Russia.
Only three
Recorded
to abroad

Ahmed Shah
1911 postage
stamps with
hand stamp
**El Sultan
Mohammed
Ali Shah
Qajar** in
Persian
Used in
Senneh.

Mail returned
to Senneh
from Hamadan
the provincial
capital by the
post master
carrying
a message
See below.

Addressed
to Russia
(via Baku) in
April 1912.

Foreign rate
13 chahi



A ppc depicting the ex-Shah taken upon his return to Persia to lead a rebellion



All mail had to go via Hamadan, the provincial capital, and its postal HQ. There the Postal Director refused to forward the mail. He sent off a telegram to the GPO in Teheran and based on their answer the Director wrote its return message on each envelope by anilin pen.

"As per telegraphic Instruction no 6277 dated 1st Sour issued by the Director General of the Post Office this envelope which is surcharged by the stamp of "Muhammed Ali Shah" is not accepted. We are returning it to its original point. 2nd Sour. Signed "Hamadan Post Office"

Thus all mail was returned to Senneh. **Not a single letter transited beyond Hamadan** is recorded. However, there are other letters that were used locally and did not pass by Hamadan and they are without the hand stamped overprint

The Russian-owned "Enzeli Port - Teheran Highway"

For Russia important to be able send troops quickly to northern Persia. Russian-owned Enzeli was the most important entry point for visitors to Iran. The postal authorities decided – on an experimental and shortlived period in 1911/12 – to offer to the owners of the horse-relais stages between Recht and Kazvin a 10% discount on postage stamps which were overprinted "RELAIS" in French and Persian to avoid a resale to other merchants. A special wavy-type cancelation was used for each stage

Only 3 items recorded using special arrangement during official period

ROUDBAR
via Recht, cancelled 12 May 1912, Enzeli, Baku going to Leipzig in Germany.

Rate: 3 cl = 24 ch. Here is 2ch

Franked w 28 chahis 26ch for 2nd cl. = 2ch overrated
Probably the stage owner had run out of lower denominations.



Letter from the Enzeli-Teheran Road Company. Kazvin Office to the Accounting and Loan Bank of Persia in Teheran

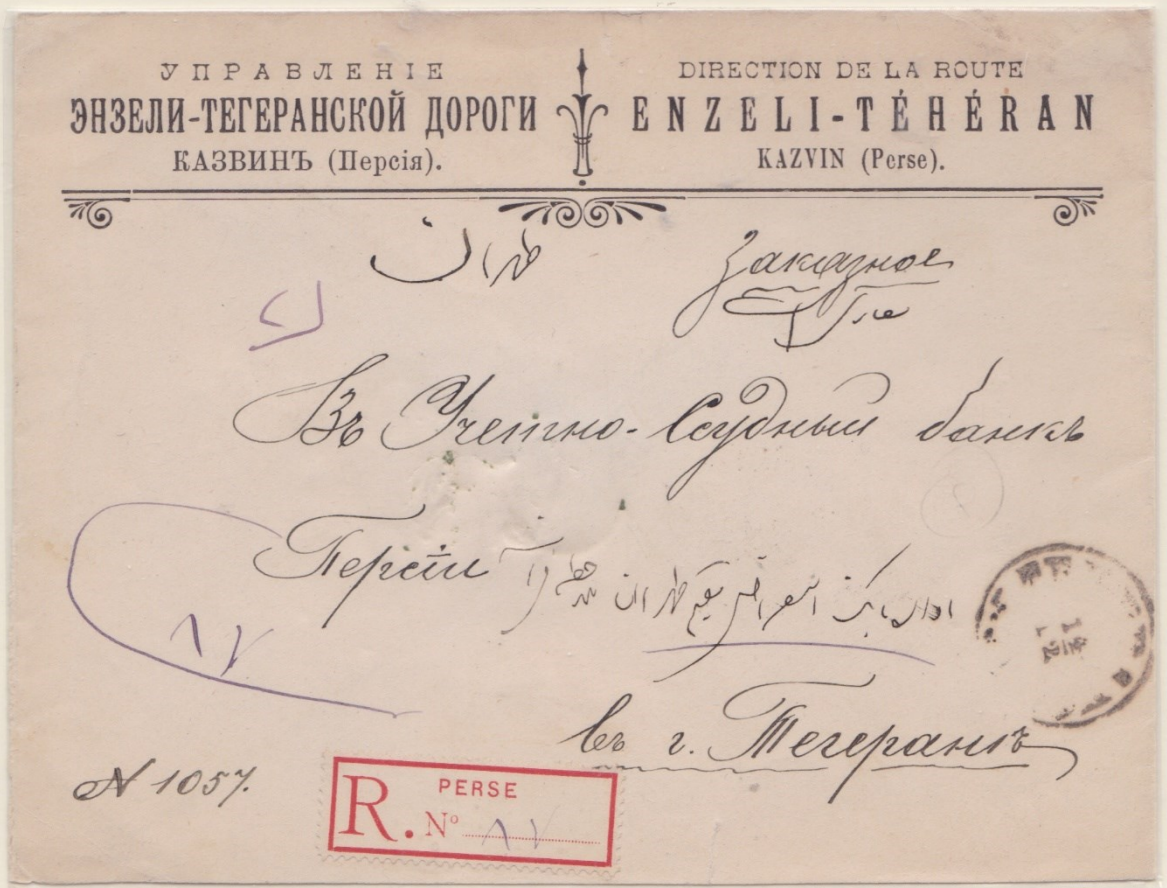
Registered letter from Kazvin to Teheran.

About 1904-6
Postmarks not clear.

Rate: 9ch 2nd cl. (1904-20)

Reg. fee: 12 ch (1904-25)

Both Kazvin and Teheran cancelations have no year date.



I.a 1907-14
Pre-WWI period
Internal problems

The "Relais" postal experiment

"Relais" overprint
Wave type post-
marks

Relais horse station Sefid-Kiele. Route Recht-Kazvin

A shortlived experiment. The Heads of the horse relais stages between Kazvin and Recht were supplied with 10% discounted postage stamps, overprinted "RELAIS" to prevent resale to other merchants. The Heads were not satisfied after a while. Only normal stamps were now resupplied. **Only two letters with overprint "Relais" and another two items without "Relais" duly posted at relais stations but properly cancelled with "wawe" type postmarks are recorded.** (All four are shown here).

Sent after the discontinuation of Relais" overprinted stamps. Now normal stamps were used at least up till 1917



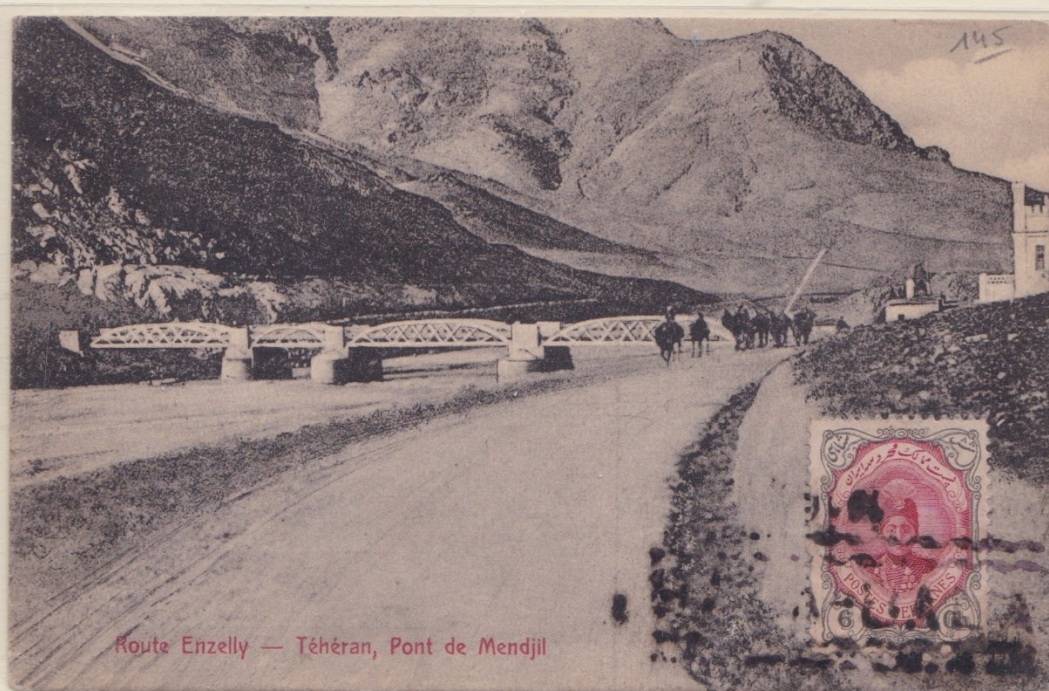
Rates: 6 chahis

Routes: Sefid-Kiele - Kazvin - Teheran arriving 23 X 1917

Ban-Bala "wawe" type postmark

Routes:

Ban-Bala
relais
station via
Recht
11 April 13
(backstamped.
transit),
Enzeli/Baku
E Pos to Paris



Route Enzelly — Téhéran, Pont de Mendjil

Diplomacy, Trade & Commerce

Isfahan a Russian power base. Huge Consulate

Local Persian Government & Russian General Consulate, Isfahan, Commercial agreement

In Persian it says that it is approving the trade of tobacco by a certain merchant Hajji Mohamed Kazem to act as a "jobber" i.e. a go-between Commissioner between two parties.

In French it states that the Imperial Russian Consulate taking care of the interests of the Ottoman in this city Etc.

Charges
 Russian Consulate in Isfahan 6 P 66 k
 Persian Commercial Dep in Isfahan 16 Kran



اینجانب نامردم از طرف آقا حاج محمد کاظم به داد و ستد و خرید و فروش تنباکو در شهر اصفهان و اقبالیات

شماره بروج سند شماره ۱۳۵

صفهان
 چهارم
 چهارم

درباره اینجانب از اصفهان به کارهای شرکت کار در بازار فتح آباد به اصفهان

۱۵
 اصفهان

محمد کاظم در ذمات با کافه تجارت و تنباکوی اصفهان به اصفهان
 شماره دفتر کار در بازار چهارم شماره ۱۳۵

کار در بازار و بازارچه بنابر این چهار فرغانه ذی قعدة در روز ۱۶ شهریور ماه ۱۳۱۳

در روز ۱۳ شهریور ماه ۱۳۱۳ به اصفهان به اصفهان

در روز ۱۳ شهریور ماه ۱۳۱۳ به اصفهان به اصفهان

کار در بازار و بازارچه بنابر این چهار فرغانه ذی قعدة در روز ۱۶ شهریور ماه ۱۳۱۳

در روز ۱۳ شهریور ماه ۱۳۱۳ به اصفهان به اصفهان

Vu au Consulat IMPÉ-
 RIAL de Russie à Isfahan,
 chargé des intérêts ottomans
 dans cette ville, le 16/29
 septembre 1913, No 52.-

Mein

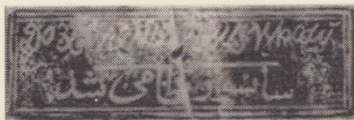


Cossack Brigade Reconstructed. General Baratoff in Command

A reinforcement of the Russian occupation forces with about a 1000 Russian Cossacks was sent to protect Russian interests and fight the Central Powers i.e. against Ottoman troops added with German officers as advisers. Baratoff and his troop's correspondence were mainly w. Russia and thus used the Russian military mail service

Mail emanating from the Cossacks, either to or from Russia or sent internal using the Persian mail service is simply RRR!

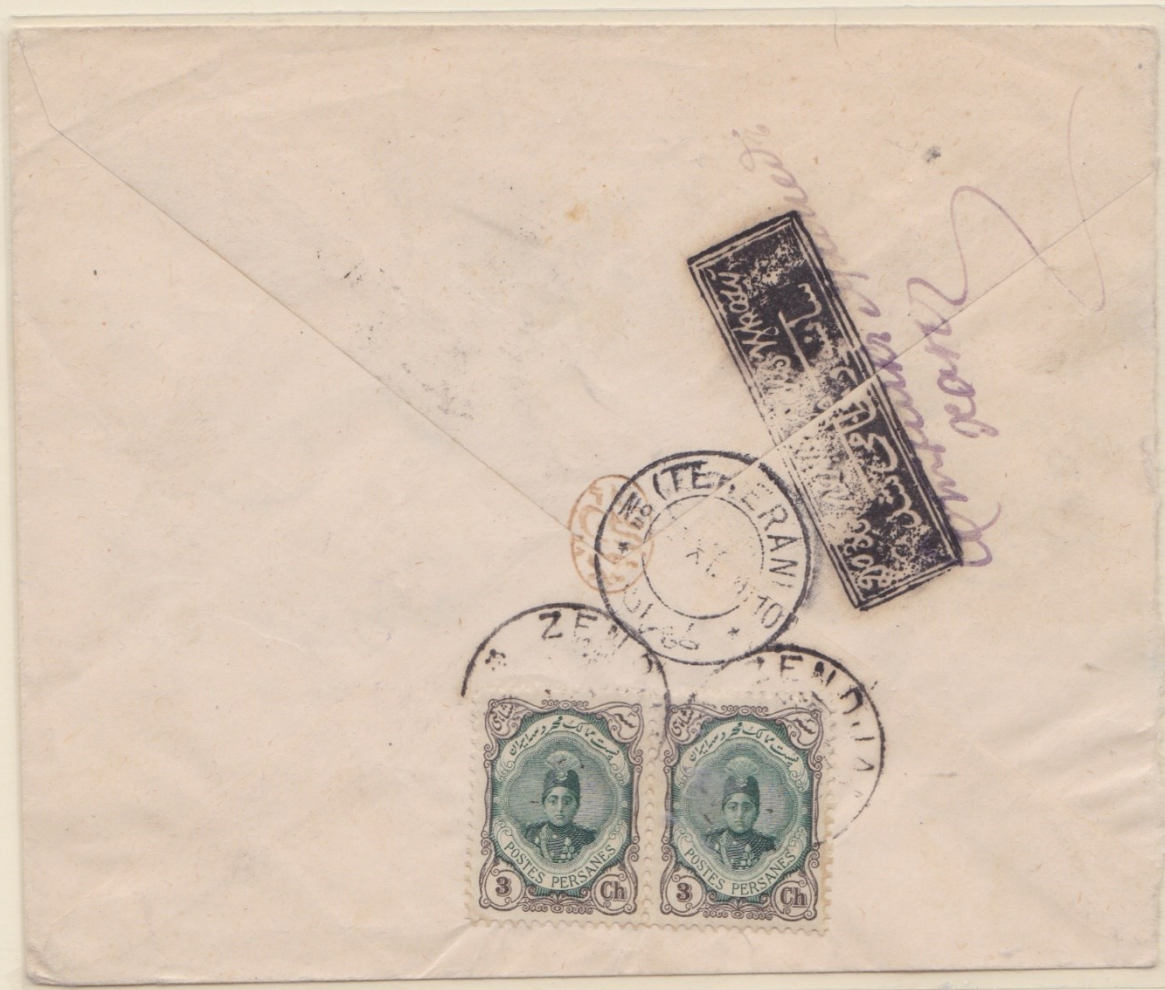
"dozvoleno tsenzuroi" =
passed by censor (Russian)



52 x 16 mm

Only two items recorded

A Petition addressed to His Eminence Mokhber Saltaneh



Rate: 6 ch (1st cl)

Route: Zenjan 27 XI 16 to Teheran arr. ? XII 16

Mehdi Goli Hedayat



Also known as
Mokhber-ol Saltaneh
Minister
1907 Two months
1927 - 33
Holder of various
Minister posts
between 1907
and 1926

General Baratoff

1865 - 1932



General Baratoff meeting w. British officer and Kurdish leader in 1915



II. 1914 - 18

WWI. Entente against Central Powers

Liberated area from Turkey

The censors of the British Consulate at Isfahan very rare

Sir Charles Marling, the British Minister to Persia 1915 - 18

A letter addressed to him in April 1917 from the British consulate in Isfahan, a real hot spot!



Registered Letter from Isfahan 19 IV 1917 to Teheran arriving in May 1917

Double rate 24 chahi
Registration Fee 12 chahi

Marling had Large influence On the British Government policy

New trouble in April 1917. Violet censor applied

Due to German-Turkish advances into the Isfahan areas where German agents recruited soldiers the British consulate censored mail for a short period in April/May 1917. Four censors recorded



The British consulate's violet censor Passed Censor+ BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL ISFAHAN

Sent 3 V 17 to London Arriving 18 June redirected to Italy

II. 1914 - 18

WWI. Entente against Central Powers

Russian occupation of Kurdistan

Turkey occupying parts of north western Persia

First the Turks, then Russian occupation, then Turkish again, finally a re-occupation of Hamadan

Russians occupied Hamadan area **twice** between late 1915 and 1917. During both occupations the military authorities were using a bilingual rectangular military censor mark in **black** (common) or **blue/violet** (5 recorded)

First Occupation: 14 December 1915 until 10th of August 1916

Bi-lingual censor violet (two recorded)

Persian letter from Hamadan 6 April 1916 via Baku transited 25 April (Julian) at reverse and with Baku violet square censor mark, to Manchester in UK.

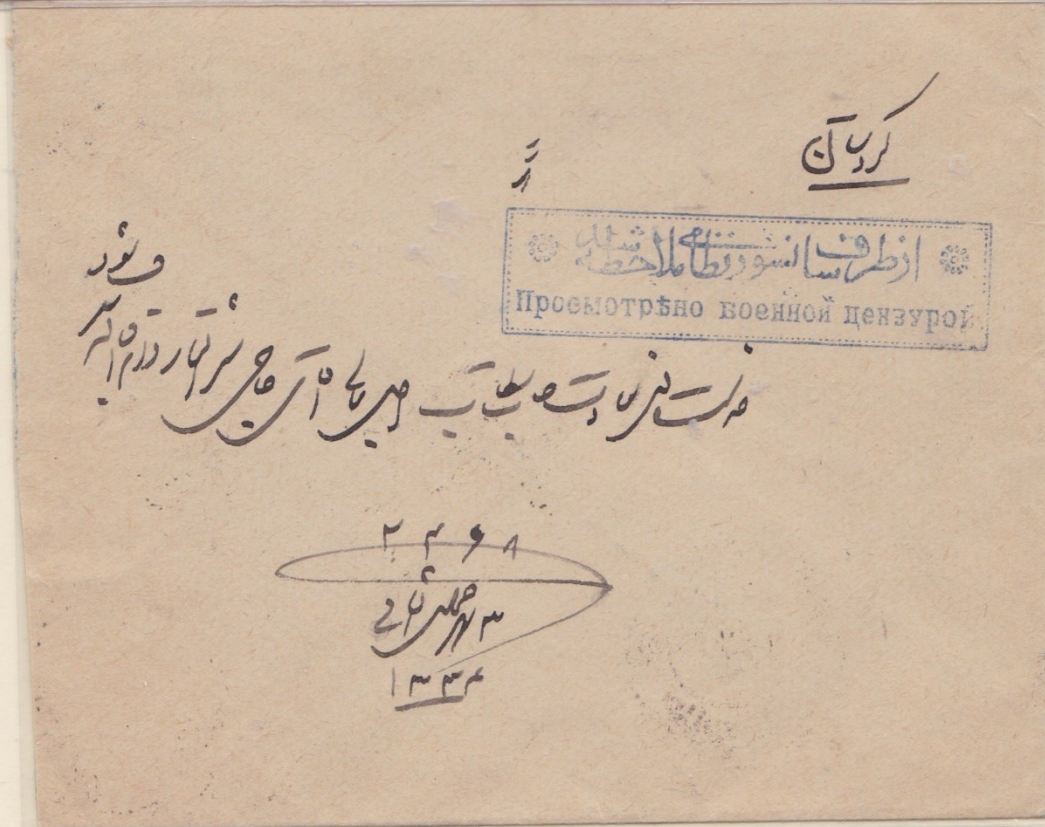
Rate: 12 chahi foreign rate and 12ch for registration fee



Bi-lingual censor blue (a few recorded)

Local Persian letter from Hamadan Bazar 6 IV 16 to via Senneh to Kermanshah arriving 12 IV 1916

Double rate 9 chahi



Special note: The Persian Government was weak and with little power in the provinces where the hatred for the Russians had made the "Democrats" and the "Nationalists", that were in opposition to the Government, and influenced by Wassmuss, to lean over for Germany (and Turkey). Thus the Government needed strong support from the Allies to survive.

Due to the threat by the German supporters Russians troops under General Baratoff in December 1915 left for Hamadan where German supporters were in power and were expected at any time to attack the Allies consulates and the Banks. Thus the Russian troops had to crush the local forces before the Turkish troops were able to join them. The Russians occupied Hamadan 14 December and Qum 20 December 1915.

II. 1914 - 18
Russian and Turkish
troops fighting

Russian occupation of northern Persia

Russian Field Post
Mobile Medical
Units

Yuzbach-chale. Mobile medical unit

The violet free franking cachet is blurred and unreadable. In the text it is written in m/s Yusbach-chale (underlined)

A Russian soldier is writing to his girlfriend that he is sick having high fever in a place called Yuzbach-chale (in north western Persia). He further states that seven soldiers have already died and that **this letter may be his very last**



Free mail
written at
Yusbach-
chale most
likely in
May 1917
(Julian) in
Persian
Azarbijan,
addressed
to Moscow
arriving
19 6 17

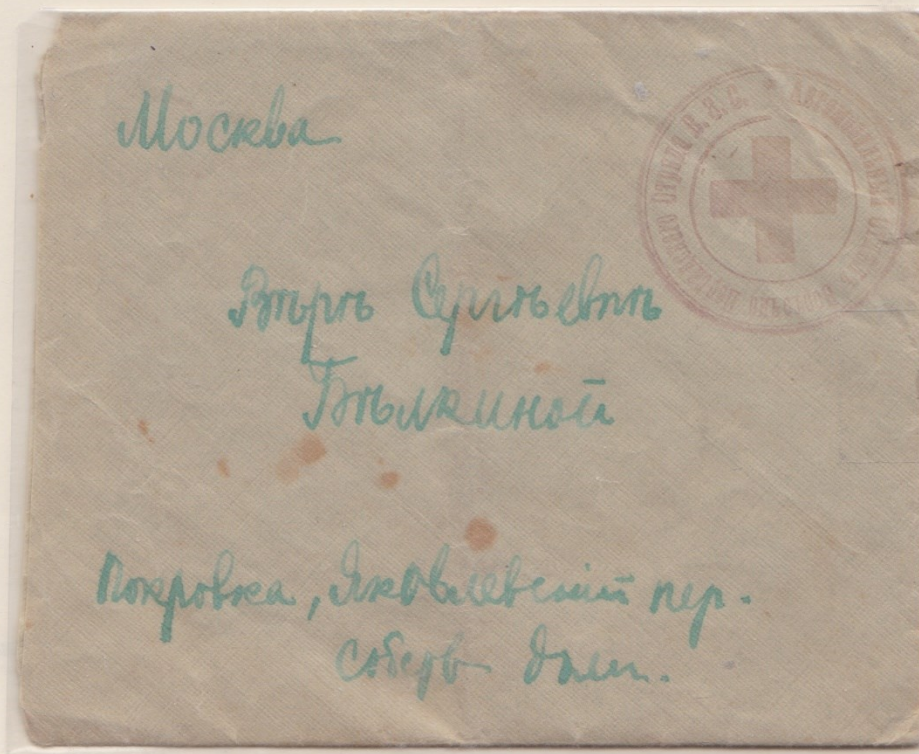
The violet
cachet,
same on
front and
at reverse



Hamadan. Mobile unit of eastern Persian part of B.Z.C.

Medical units were attached to army units.

The cachet with the red cross reads "Mobile unit of Eastern Persian part all Russian Zemskoi Union"



Free mail
written at
Hamada
31 April
1916/17
(Julian) in
m/s, to
Moscow. No
postal
marks.
Content
included

1914-18 Turkey
& Russia fighting

Russian occupation of Northern Persia

Russian hegemony in the north

Kazvin. Mobile unit of eastern Persia. Part of B.Z.C.

Violet cachet's reads: All Russian Zemstvo union. Transcaucasian Commissariat East-Persian Squad
Such cachet status as a Free Franking Cachet

Kazvin to Moscow



The message in the letter states that it takes about 30 days for the letter to reach Petrograd
Route: Kazvin 6 April 1917 (Julian calendar)

Ppc depicting the caserne of the Cossack unit in Shimran. A suburb to Teheran



Rate: 12 ch. Ppc rate to abroad
Route: Dep. place not known. Via Senneh arr 10 IV 23, left Senneh 11 IV 23 via Kermanchah and Bagdad 26 APR 23 addressed to Bern in Switzerland

III. 1918 - 1921

Persia war theater
Also after armistice

A Coup d'Etat is planned!

The Shah's own force.
From 1920 financed by
England. Disbanded 1922

Colonel Reza Khan leader of the Cossack Brigade

In 1920 Kazvin was the HQ. Now supported by the British. Led by Reza Khan a Coup d'Etat was planned
The Shah's Cossacks history in Persia started in 1879. Run by Russian officers. A Russian political "weapon"! In 1917 the Russian officers dispersed. Although it was around for 30 odd years only 6 items have been recorded attributed to it.



Official envelope of the Cossack Brigade's HQ at Kazvin

Addressed to the Prime Minister. The red seal and the head of the envelope suggest that the sender belonged to the highest authority within the Brigade i e probably Reza Khan himself.

Sent 15 Sept 1920

Rate 15ch for 5 miscals
Registration 12ch

On the front a Government Censor #5 is applied.

To the left

Official envelope of the Cossacks

Below

The seal of the Cossack unit



History: When Bolshevism arose many Russian officers left for Russia with the unexpected result that Persian officers got into commanding positions. Eventually Colonel Reza Khan (later Reza Shah) became the commander and staged a Coup d'Etat 21 Feb 1921. He was appointed War Minister in the new cabinet. As such Reza Khan appointed a British Officer to lead the Cossack Brigade.

The Cossack Brigade had normally not been used for military purposes. But when the "Swedish Gendarmerie became stronger in 1914 the Russians decided to increase heavily the Persian Cossack troops to eventually become many thousand of soldiers. Bolsheviks in Russia tried to support Persian revolutionaries in Gilan province and Russian "Red" soldiers were sent there and to Enzeli to clear the area from "White" Russian troops under Denekin. The Cossack troops fought them out.

Reza Khan, Commandant of the Cossacks organized a Coup, 1921

The Chef of the Police of Teheran, General Westdahl, agreed to cooperate by not interfering
The Swede, Colonel Glerup, Commandant of the **Teheran Gendarmerie** also participated

The illegal overprinted issue to commemorate the Coup in June 1921

A limited number of the 1915 "Coronation issue" was ovptd "21. FEV 1921" in June 1921

The Post Master, Molitor, a Belgian, refused to recognize this totally unnecessary ovpt
7 postally used parcel docs and probably less than 20 covers exist, all properly used postally



Registered
letter
from
Teheran
21 VI 1921
to
Tabriz
arriving
? VI 21

Rate: 15 ch
June .21 -
Nov 21
Reg. fee:
1916 - 1921

Noted that the Gendarmerie and the Cossack troops cooperated in the Coup!

Reza Khan (Pahlavi) and Agha Seyed Zia ed-Din, the two masters of the coup
Colonel Glerup, Swedish Gendarm, Commandant of the Teheran Gendarmerie participated in
the Coup and is seen as no 5 from left among the Coup-makers on this unused ppc



Agha seyed ziaeddine Minister und Reza Khan Pahlavi Kriegsminister
Ага сейед зиаедин, выдающийся министр, и Реза Хан Пахлави, командующий во время войны,

Soviet Socialist Republic of Iran. SSRI

Jangali movement
turned socialist

A Jangali cover with 4 different censors plus labels

From Gilan. First opened and closed by the **Jangali**. When the letter reached the "border" it was again opened by the **Government** authorities. The "blackened out" **obliterator** was applied on top of the Jangali censor **BEFORE** the next large label was put on. The small white label was put on **BEFORE** the circled **no "4" Government** censor was applied!

The only Jangali cover recorded with 4 different censors applied

Mirza Kuchek Khan

Started as a Nationalist movement in 1918 in the province of Gilan, north western Persia and ended as a Bolshevik state by the end of 1921 when the movements charismatic leader Mirza Kuchek Khan was defeated by Reza Khan. He died in the mountains. The Jangalis were a pain in the neck also for the British as they were a real threat to the Shah's regime.

No other political move- ment or rebellion in the modern history of Persia had ever been so successful in creating a state within the state. They were not that far from being successful!



Propaganda and censor cachet of the Jangalis Soviet Republic

In all correspondence during that period in 1920 the Jangalis used a cachet. As was a long standing practice in Persia the postal authorities and rebellions exchanged mail bags. So incoming mail from the Jangali State would then receive a black cachet by the Government authorities blackening out the Jangal propaganda cachet. As the Jangalis in the south were surrounded by the Norperforce a British censor no 4 was most often applied as well.

From occupied Recht 27 VI 20 to Julfa- Isfahan arriving 10 VII 20 via Teheran 3 VII 20

Sent from Recht 27 June 1920, transited Teheran 3 July and reached Isfahan 10 July (blue) Single rate 6 chahis. The blue "Djoulfu-Isfahan NO 2" is elusive

The Original Persian Cossack Brigade reinforced

Russia wary of Gendarmerie

Russian Cossack troops under Colonel Baratoff were sent to meet the challenge posed by Ottoman troops supported by German agents invading Persia

Up to about 1914 the Cossack Brigade had lost much importance. But the raise of the Gendarmerie's strength to almost 8000 well trained soldiers was a threat to Russian interests. Swedish officers had "gone over" to the German-Central powers by joining leading Persian officers and political anti-Shah parties, the Nationalist and the Democratic parties which both were hoping for complete independence. In N E Persia, the **East Persia Cordon**, had been organised by Russia and GB to stop the five different groups of German agents trying to cross Persia from Bagdad and enter Afghanistan and meet its Ruler, carrying a proposal from the German Emperor to get the Muslim Ruler to agitate among the Indian Muslims to raise up against the British! The Russian Cossack Cordon force there, was the 1st and 2nd Semirechia Regiments.

P. st. card- 5ch - used to Russia by the Cossacks at the North Persia Cordon 1916

M/s dated 26 Feb. (1916)- possibly from Turbet-i-Heidari - in Persia (Military HQ). Via Gaudan to Ashkabad 9 March and censored with two marks on back. The large circular mark reads **General Kolpakovsky First Semirechinsk Cossack Regiment.**

The "101" mark is a Moscow censor. Addressed to the Moscow suburb **Losino - Ostrovskaya** arr. on 23 March). The card was forwarded to **Novy Simeiz in Crimea** (pmkd in April).

Ashkabad (both)



Ашхабадский Военный Цензор
Подполковник Цветковъ

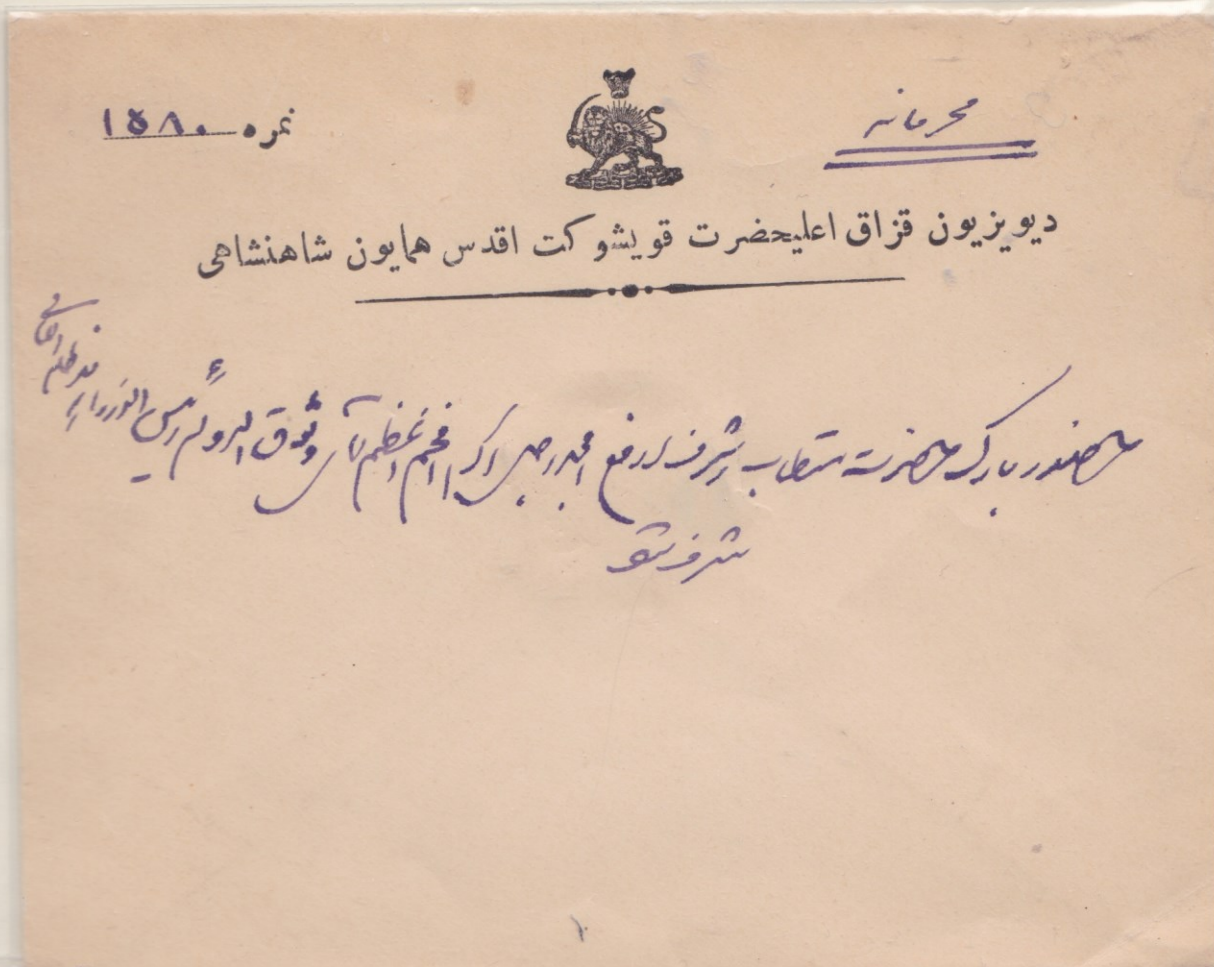
Vossug ed Dowleh
وفاق الدوله



Vossug ed Dowleh by Kamal-ol-molk, painted between 1900 and 1917

16th Prime Minister of Iran
In office
29 August 1916 - 5 June 1917
Founding member of the Majlis 1906

The Royal Cossack Brigade



نمبره ۱۵۸۰



محرمانه

دیویزیون قزاق اعلیحضرت قویشوکت اقدس هایون شاهنشاهی

مخبر بارک حضرت استاد بزرگوار دروغ خبر را که فخر عظیم است و فوق هر اولی است
شرفیو

IV. 1921 - 1924
Russias political
weapon a long time

Soviet Socialist Republic of Iran

The Shah's own force
now w British support
a major military force

The Persian "Russian" Cossack Brigade's cleaning operations

The Cossack Brigade were spread out to fight primarily the SSRI/Gilan/Jangali republic which lasted till the end of 1921. However, units remained in the areas before the Cossack Brigade emerged into the new national army

Recht Cossack
Unit official
Envelope and
with seal

This official
cover
originates
from Recht
at Gilan as
per violet
hand stamp.

Sent from
Recht
8 XII 1921
to Teheran

Single rate
6 chahis



Below

Part of the
front scanned
showing pre-
printed official
Cossack enve-
lope

The Cossack Brigade

Ppc
depicting
the Cossack
Brigade
Sent
19 Feb 1912
(per m/s)
to
Brussel

In the text
the writer
includes
the
mentioning
of the new
Swedish
officers
to Persia
for the
Gendarmerie



Téhéran, La brigade des Cosacques.

IV. 1921 - 1924

Reza Khan raises to power

The Persian Cossack Brigade

The Brigade's units spread out. Official mail very elusive

Boroujerd & Zendjan units seals

The Cossack Brigade's units were spread out to fight primarily the SSRI/Gilan/Jangali republic which lasted till the end of 1921. However, units remained in the areas for some time before the Cossack Brigade was disbanded

Boroujerd seal

Sent 24 XII 1921 to Teheran arriving 6 January 1922

Single rate 6ch

The unit's seal was applied

In total only 5 official Cossack letters are recorded.

All the 5 known are from the time when the Brigade was under British command

Three of them are shown here



Zendjan seal

Sent from Zendjan ? XII 1921 to Teheran arriving 8 Jan 1922



G

South Persia Rifle. GB's answer to the G.G. going German in 1915. Supported by Persian Government & Russia

GB.Gendarme
eri. SPR

The south deteriorated due to the G.G. joined the Central powers. Tribes again fighting each others. The British set up the SPR as their gendarmerie with Indian and local recruits

SOUTH PERSIA RIFLES/KERMAN

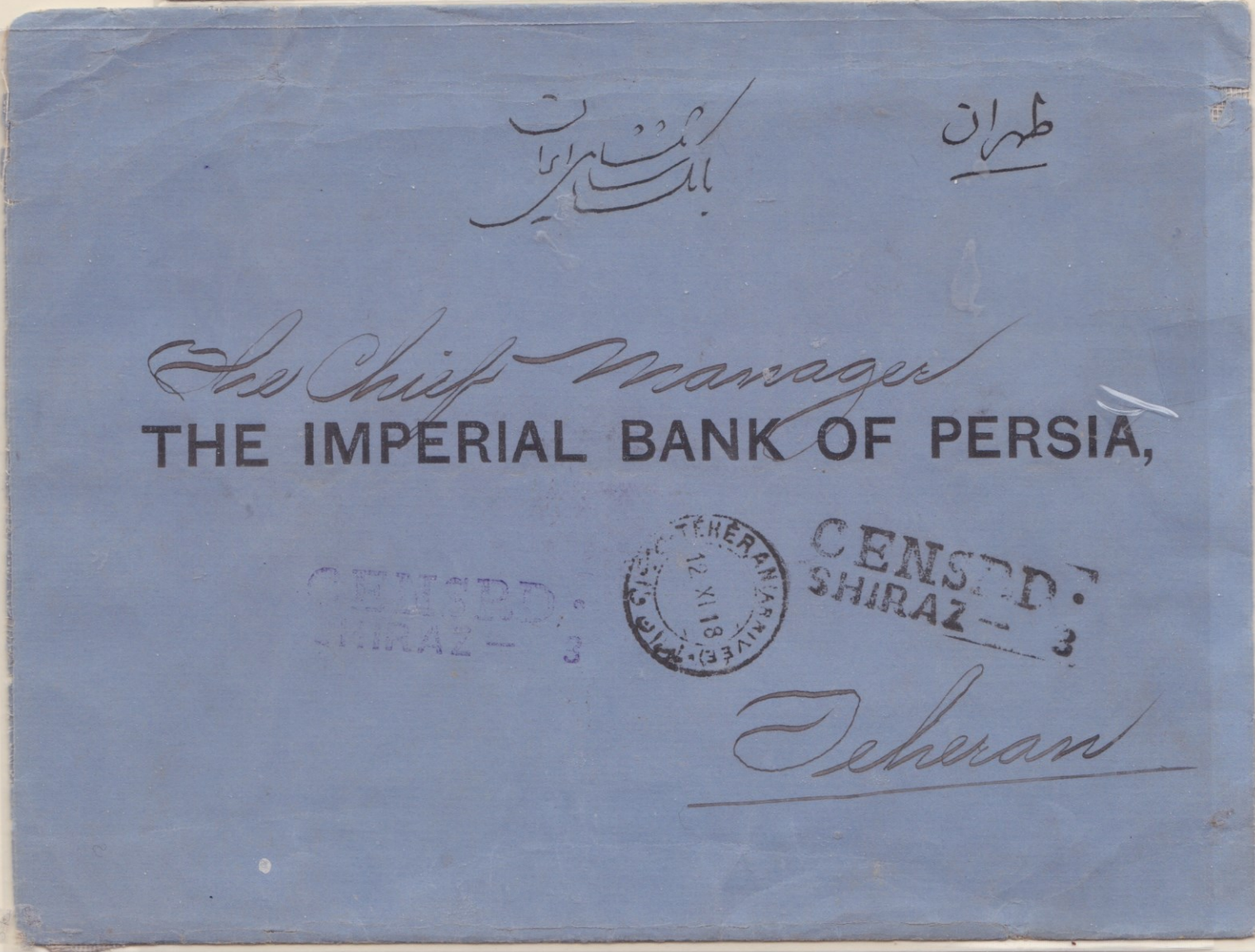
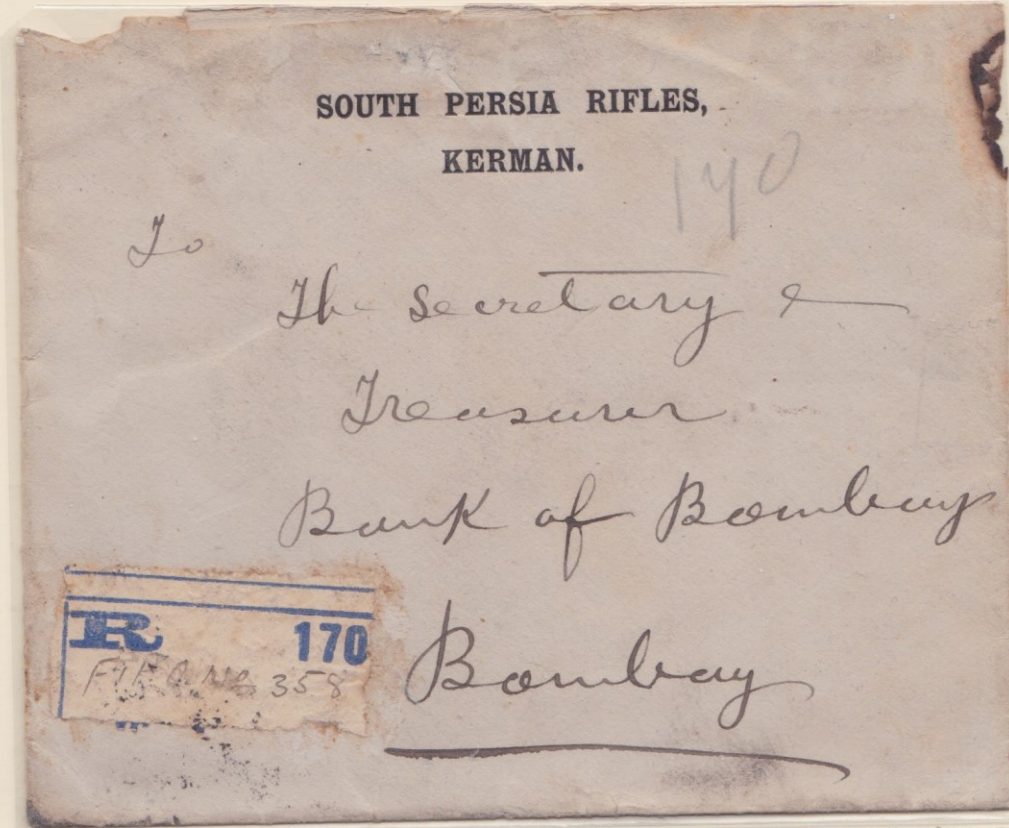
SPR
1916 - 1921
Brig.- Gen.
Percy Sykes

Indian Field Post
Used only for military mail.

Internal mail
used Persian postal adm. & Persian censors could apply both int. and ext. mail

FPO 358
20 FEB 1919
Kerman to Bombay arr
26 MAR 19
Rate: 1/2 as
Reg fee: 2 as

Shiraz 12 X 18
to Teheran
12 XI 18
Shiraz censor
same type applied but different colors
Blue 3/Black 3



Russia censored transiting mail

Persia surrounded by big powers. Persia not "independent"

Mail to deceased Swedish gendarmerie officer

Captain de Hierta belonged to the regiment at Kazvin. When the letter arrived at Kazvin Count Hierta was already dead. He died in a battle on 20 August 1915

The letter was thus returned as per rosa label and a Kazvin dep. strike was used "26 of August" which was tied to both the label and the envelope

Rekommenderas

صاحب کاند مرحوم شدہ انداموت داده شد



Mr. Philip Hierta

Capitaine de la Gendarmerie Gouvernementale

Rekl

Retour à l'envoyeur
فرستنده مسترد شود
Destinataire décédé
گیرنده مرحوم شده است



Järna
N:r 478

Modèle № 275

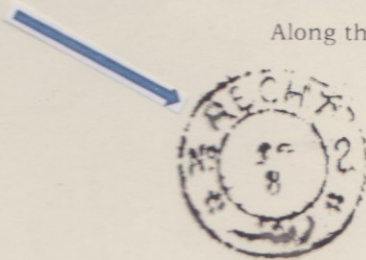
Persien

The rose Persian "Retour à l'envoyeur"/Destinataire décède" label in French and Persian label is very elusive
Only two recorded tied by strike during Qajar period

Tripple rate: 40 öre ; Registration fee: 15 öre

Route: Järna in Sweden 6. 8. 15 via St: Petersburg, train to Baku then ship to the Persian port of Enzeli. From Enzeli to Recht arriving 18/8 to continue to Kazvin arriving 21/8. Returned to sender from Kazvin 26.8 and arrived Stockholm in September, date unclear(back stp)

Along the route the cover received a censor



Recht No 2 is unrecorded



A censor from Moscow

Note: On the front there are some manuscripts suc as "Rekl" = Reklamationskontoret = Office for reclamation
"Försäkringsbok +signatur" in m/s = Insurance book + sign. = are things probably found in the letter when opened
B1766/15 is probably reclamation number at the Office for Reclamation.

Most Gendarm correspondence with the families was 1st or 2nd weight cl. Official inland mail most often not franked if courier service available. But some items have interesting treatment. See Frame 4, "German" sect. S Hedin's, the famous Swedish explorer card from Mesopotamia 1916

Mail on the Caspian Sea Persia - Russia. The Russian Mercury Ship line plying the ports of Baku-Enzeli and Mechedisser in Persia was provided w special oval ship cancellation in 1911. Almost all mail went by mail bag Only mail posted onboard or via ship agent was cancelled. Almost 100% used Russian stamps
In total only 7 items are recorded using Persian stamps cancelled BAKU-ENZELI. R.R.R.



Gendarm mail to Sweden 1913
 Posted onboard



Sent as per m/s 12 Jan 13
 Cancelled 30 12 12 as per Julian calendar

Between 1910 and 1912 in 6 Persian cities a special Controle/Censor mark "C" - in slightly different forms - was used on outgoing and incoming mail "selectivity" it seems No complete explanation has so far been traced to explain this phenomena

Violet "C" 12mm of Teheran. Controle 1911



Double rated & registered cover sent by Norén-Brandel to family member in Sweden.

Rate: 26 ch
 Reg: 3 ch

The Teheran "C"
 Vary in size Circle either 12 or 19 mm (Teheran had several post offices) and colors
Violet, blue and black

1911-1915
Official period

The G.G. The "Swedish" Gendarmerie

Censored mail via
enemy Ottoman postal
services

Unusual routing at any time

Involvement of the Persian, Indian and the enemy Ottoman/Mesopotamian postal services
Kazeroun-Bouchir-Bagdad-Stambul-Sweden

Isphahan where **Regiment #3** was stationed ca 500 km up-country was reached by one of the more important but very steep and narrow caravan routes of Persia that began in Bouchir, the port in the Gulf, and via Shiraz. It was vulnerable life-line for the importation of goods. Caravans often mercilessly attacked

The cover shown here has only the back left. The address and ? is missing. But the info is sufficient to probe its unusual postal route for a letter from southern Persia and was not often used under any circumstance. The Ottoman postal services were mostly avoided as seen as unreliable. Also at this period mail via Bombay was often stopped in Bombay by the British censors which can be a reason why mail was directed via Bagdad using the enemy postal service!

Note that this cover is sent very much the same time as the item at bottom that also went via enemy Ottoman Stamboul and Budapest

Rate: 36ch
triple rate
Reg fee: 12 ch

Kazeroun
2 XI 14
via Bouchir
8 XI 14
via Bagdad #2
Ottoman PO
and Stamboul
Depart
26 1 15
to reach
destination in
Sweden
4/2/ 1916

Total
3 months
delivery

Lundberg
important
position at
Gendarmerie
till 1923



Persia via enemy country Stambul and Censored in Budapest 3

From Persia to Sweden via Stambul and Budapest October 1914

With censor **RELULVIZSGALVA/UBERPRUFT/BUDAPEST 3** in violet

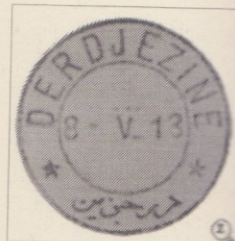
Rate:
5 chahis
Routes:
Teheran
1 X 14 via
Galata
(Stambul)
20 X 14
and Budapest
to Sweden via
Germany

Anders Andén
Officer in
Persia 1914-15

Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur.
(Indication facultative.)



Gendarmerie correspondence narrow downs date of place rename
 The small DERDJEZINE becomes SIRAB - in Kazvin Province - between May- June 1913
 Most probably the official date of change of the name was the 1st of June 1913
 Before this correspondence turned up - three letters - no mail was known this very small village
Derdjezine



Sweden
 21 4 13
 Teheran Depart
 2 V 13
 Kazvin 5 V 13
 Kazvin Depart
 6-VI 13
 Derdjezine
 9 V 13

Rate: 20 öre; **Reg. fee:** 15 öre
Route: Göteborg 24 4 13, via Baku and Teheran 2 V 13 Kazvin 6 V 13, redirected to Sirab/Derdjezine arr. 8 V 13
Sirab



From Sweden
 11/6/3
 Teheran 8
 24 VI 13
 Teheran Dep
 24 VI 13
 Hamadan
 22 VI 13
 Kazvin Arr
 26 VI 13
 Kazvin Dep
 same date
 Sirab 27 VI 13
 Hamadan Arr
 29 VI 13
 Hamadan depart
 AGAIN return to
 Sirab 30 VI 13

Rate: Same; **Route:** Sw- Teheran-Hamadan-Kazvin-Sirab-Hamadan-Sirab

Extract of Postal Document Showing "Sirab (Derdjezin)"

BUREAUX ET AGENCES DES POSTES DE L'EMPIRE
 (SITUATION AU 30 ROUTE PITCHI-II 1290)
 Les bureaux accéptent les envois postaux de toute espèce, les agence postals n'acceptant que les envois de la poste aux lettres.

Provinces	BUREAUX	Agenc
Arabistan	Chuster, Dirfoul, Mohammerah, Nasséri (Ahwaz), Ram - Hormouz	Boury, Hordak, Machour.
Arach	Ebrahimabad, Golpayegan, Khomsin, Michalir,	

Kachan 6 bureaux	Ardistan, Djovecheghan, Kachan, Naragh, Natenz,
Kazvin 6 bureaux	Abhar, Kazvin, Kharaghan, Khorram-Daré, Mendjil, Sirab (Derdjezin);

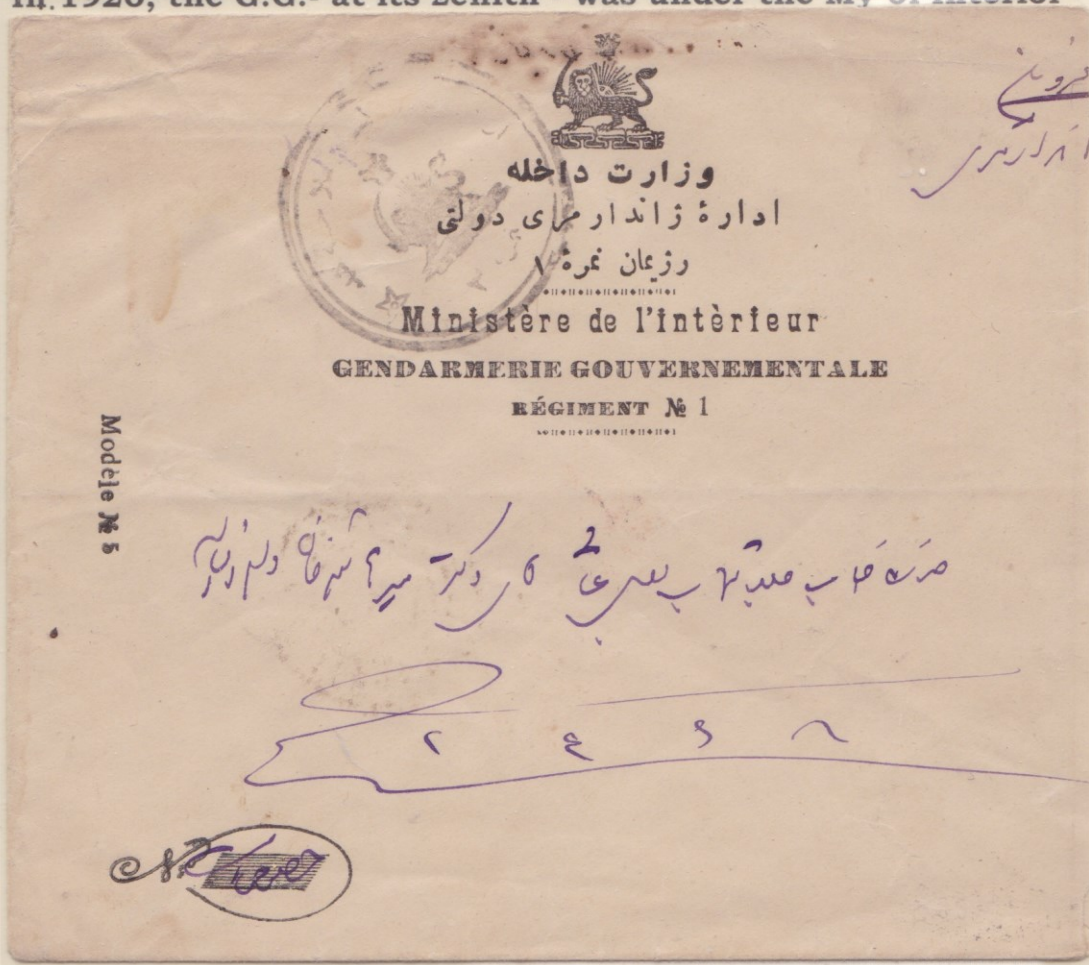
The Zenith of the G.G. and its last breath

Many distinguished Persians joined the Gendarmerie mainly after the "Swedish" period They came from the higher strata of the society while earlier it was only from the lower classes

In 1920, the G.G. - at its zenith - was under the My of Interior

They often had studied abroad and even completed good military schools abroad. The G.G had joined up with opposition parties such as the Nation -alist and/or the Democratic that favoured the Ottoman and German Central powers during WWI as it might lead to complete "independence" from the oak of colonial powers i.e. Russia & GB had they won.

Censured letter from **REGIMENT No 1** **Ministere de la l'intérieur** Teheran 13 XI 21 to Shiraz arr 20 XI 21



By 1921 the G.G. had been successful in different parts of the country and helpful in the Coup d'Etat. Unfortunately thereafter its positioned weakened as Reza Khan, the new War Minister and former commander of the Persian Cossack Brigade favoured his own "army" as regards promotions in the new Government. And also as a consequence of the special problem with Muhammed Paysan in Khorasan.

In 1921, the G.G. came under the My of War. Reza Khan who had been Commander of the Persian Cossacks was now the G.G.s Minister!

Government censor No 3

Rate: 6 ch
Inland rate



From the My of War **Ministere de la Guerre REGIMENT No 6** de la Gendarmerie Gouvernmentale

Sent Isfahan to Teheran

Rate 10 c as fr 1920?? To ???

J

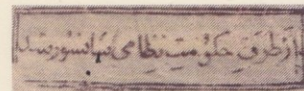
Autonomous Government of Khorasan. 2 April – 6 Oct 1921

M. Paysan, a most respected & charismatic Gendarm Commander & intellectual revolts against Reza Khan's new Government in 1921. Kicked out the Governor Qawam

Planned to strike its own coinage i. e. a beginning for going independent Paysan turned his troops towards Teheran. Government troops blocked at Charoud

Martial Law. Aug-Oct 1921. (Az tarat hokumat nadami sansor shod)

The situation escalates. Martial law declared. Battle with government troops near Quchan on 3d Oct 10 times stronger. Lost and beheaded. Tomb in Meched. Revered



47 x 12½ mm

Martial Law Map of Khorasan



Letter sent from Meched 20 IX 21 to Teheran arr 3 X 21

Rate: 10 ch (1st cl)



Charoud censor



34 x 15 mm

Sent from Charoud 21 IX 21 to Teheran arriving 25 IX 21

Colonel Muhammad Paysan



Colonel Mohammad Taghi Khan, Führer des Militärs in Khorassan während des Staatsstreiches in Persien

Подковник Магомед Таги Хан, командующий войсками Хорассана во время государственного переворота (Персия).

The exhibit is about the progression of Persia since the 1860s to 1925 and based upon the relationship between the two rivals the Gendarmerie Gouvernementale (or the G.G.), also called the "Swedish" Gendarmerie, and the important Russian Cossack Brigade(s). These two forces emerged in 1922 by the Government and its War Minister, Reza Khan, the former Commandant of the Cossack troops up to the Coup d'Etat 1921. He was appointed first War Minister and then Prime Minister to finally proclaim himself the new Shah of the Pahlavi dynasty in December 1925.

The deposed but still quite young Shah, was quietly sent off to Monaco with a fistful of dollar, never to return. (the Western answer to the Russian gulag!)

But Persia became a war theatre. Turkey supported by German agents on the Central Power and Russian troops supported by GB from the Entente were both supported by local political parties. Some Swedish officers took the German side in 1915 causing Russia and GB not to trust the G.G. Some Swedish officers and police choose to remain in Persia privately holding high military positions.

Reza Khan, as War Minister, let the two armies emerge into the first modern national army in 1922. In addition, as we know, Sweden also provided police officers in 1913, to upgrade and modernise the police administration as well as to make judicial reforms.

Since Persia was neutral during WWI the G.G. was supposed to be neutral. Basically it was except for the "German" group in 1915

What can be more opportune than to show the end of the G.G. in the form of the fate of its most glorified hero

Colonel Muhammad Paysan

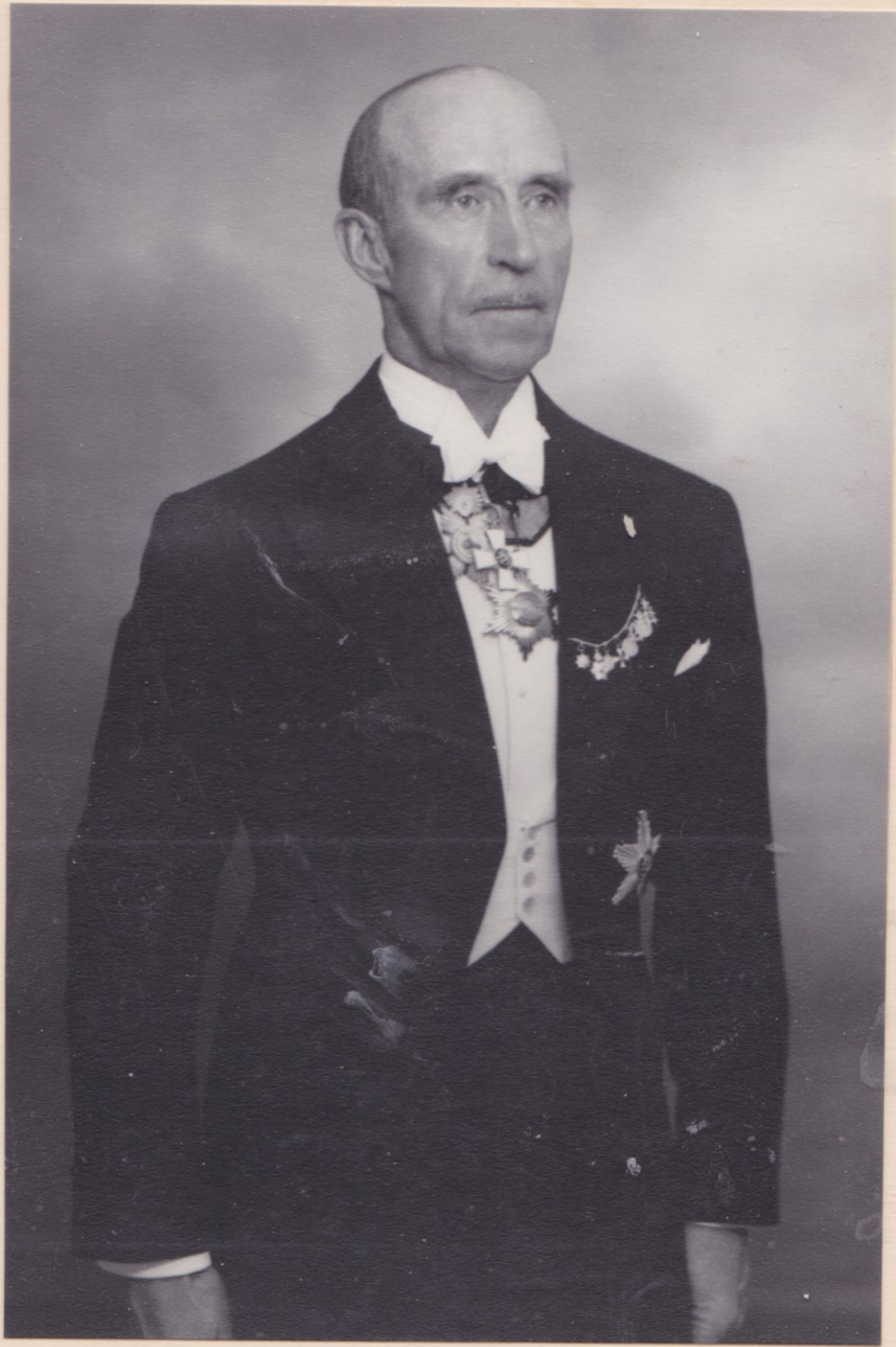
He joined the G.G. during the "Swedish" period. While Commander of the Gendarmerie in Khorasan in 1921 he turned against the new Government. Fighting bravely with a small force against a much stronger one. Was killed and beheaded! Glory to a real fighter. This can be said to characterize the new spirit that arisen within both the Gendarmerie and the Persian Cossacks and which came to represent the "norm" of the new, more enlightened and educated, Persian generation. In 1936, Persia changed its name to Iran.



REZA SHAH PAHLAVI 1925-1941 (died in 1944)
His goal was to regenerate Iran



بنیاد سبب جلوس اعلیحضرت قاجارون شاهنشاهی رضاشاه پهلوی



Hard



Eric Carlberg
70 år 5 april 1950

