

Badly spelt postcard from Hitler discovered in new archive trawl

The online history archive Europeana has travelled Europe collecting personal stories of the First World War.



The precious leather-bound book that saved a man's life in 1917

By Telegraph staff

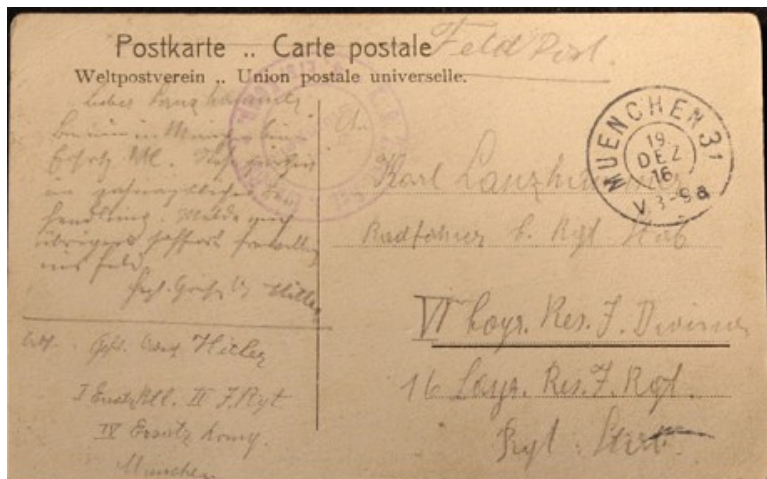
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[40 Comments \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/culturenews/9239076/Badly-spelt-postcard-from-Hitler-discovered-in-new-archive-trawl.html#disqus_thread\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/culturenews/9239076/Badly-spelt-postcard-from-Hitler-discovered-in-new-archive-trawl.html#disqus_thread)

The postcard, sent from a 27-year-old soldier named Adolf Hitler, suggests that the future dictator had problems with his teeth and with his spelling.

In the badly-spelt - and curiously mundane - letter, dating to December 1916, he tells a fellow officer Karl Lanzhammer that he is in Munich and has just been to the dentist. But, he says, he will "report voluntarily for the field immediately".



The postcard turned up in a hunt for "the personal war stories" of people from all over Europe. Two thousand people of all ages from attended a series of roadshows in Germany, England, Ireland, Luxembourg, Slovenia and Denmark.

As a result 45,000 photos of objects, scanned letters and diaries have been uploaded onto the website to date. Most of these are previously unpublished and have never been seen or studied outside the families.

[Jeremy Hunt was the prey on this week's radio \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/9237116/How-Jeremy-Hunt-became-the-prey-on-this-weeks-radio.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/9237116/How-Jeremy-Hunt-became-the-prey-on-this-weeks-radio.html)

[Heroes of Arctic Convoy in World War 2 could finally receive medals \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/9236568/Heroes-of-Arctic-Convoy-in-World-War-2-could-finally-receive-medals-as-Daivd-Cameron-calls-for-review.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/9236568/Heroes-of-Arctic-Convoy-in-World-War-2-could-finally-receive-medals-as-Daivd-Cameron-calls-for-review.html)

One of the Oxford University experts helping with the project Dr Stuart Lee said that the postcard was one of the most exciting finds: "I felt a shudder run through me. I found it hard to believe that at a local event to record ordinary people's stories, I was seeing a previously unknown document in Hitler's own hand.

"Europeana's project is remarkable in that it can bring in the most meaningful story in a person's whole existence."

Also handed in was a Bible with a lump of shrapnel in it, which is said to have saved the life of a devout Christian German officer while he was sleeping in a trench in North-East Germany - even though the same grenade killed many of his comrades.

The Dublin roadshow was the best attended in Europe so far, with more than 600 turning up. The participation of Irishmen in the First World War was politically sensitive and as a result many of their stories have never been told.

To hunt the archive, go to: <http://www.europeana.eu/portal/> (<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>)