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Perhaps this is why Hitler liked to dictate... he couldn't spell! Postcard from 1916 shows mistake in Adolf's writing

- Postcard surfaced almost a century after he sent it
- Young soldier wrote of his intention to 'report voluntarily for the field immediately' - using as the last word 'soffort' instead of 'sofort'

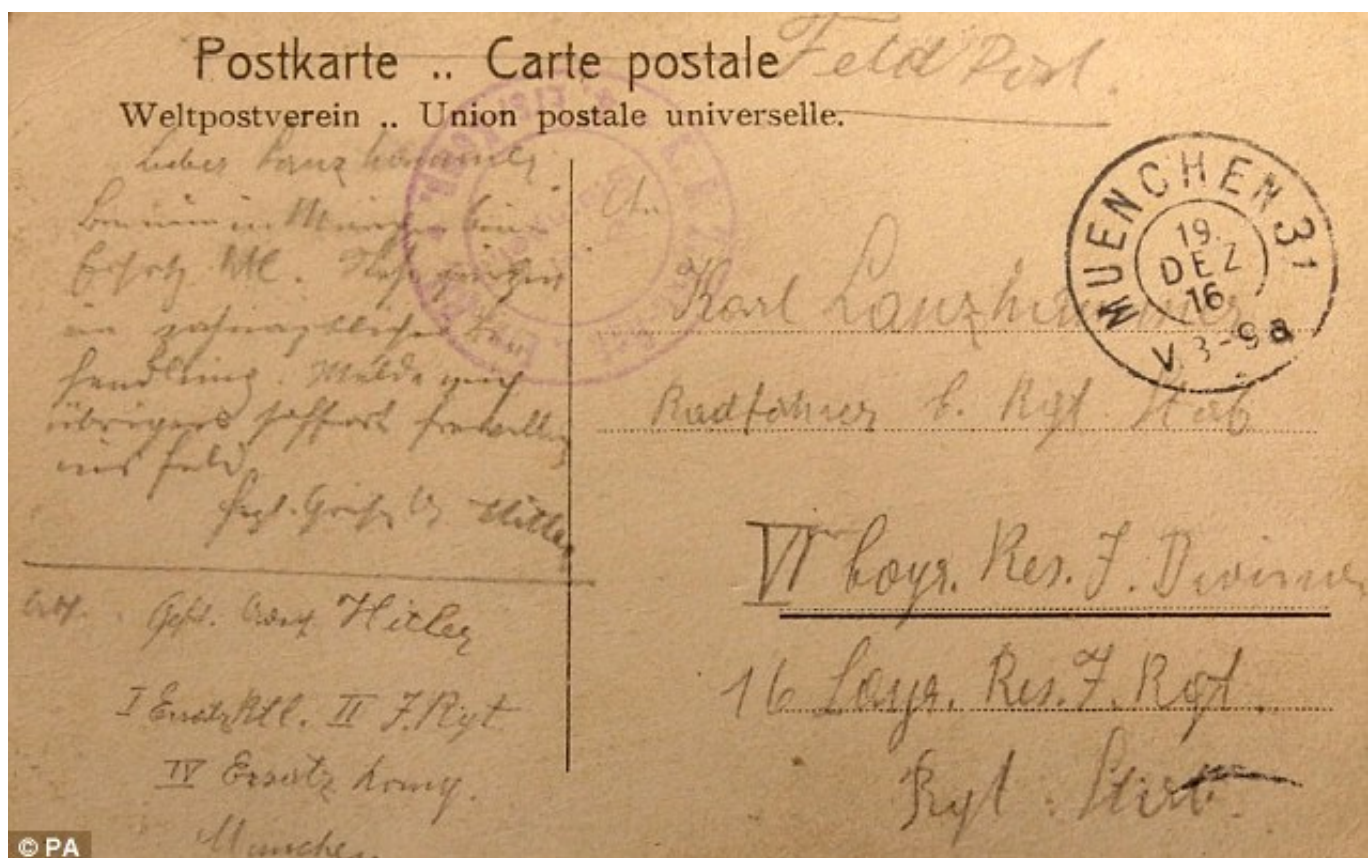
By [Phil Vinter](#)

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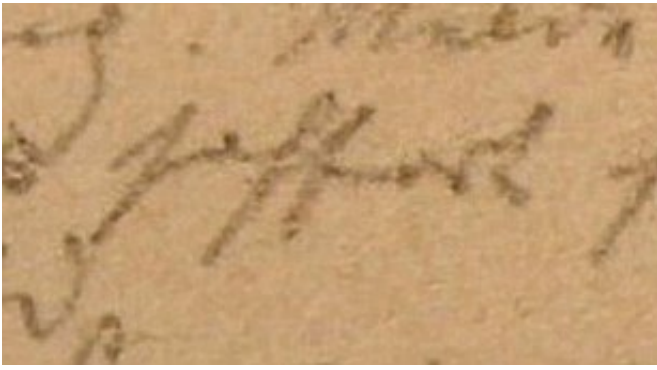
A newly uncovered postcard written by Hitler during World War I suggests that the Nazi dictator wasn't great at spelling.

The postcard was written by the former Fascist leader as he recovered from a war wound in a Munich hospital in December 1916.

In it he makes the mistake of spelling the German word 'sofort', meaning 'immediately', with double 'f' instead of one.



Sick note: From his hospital bed, Hitler writes: 'Dear Lanzhammer, I am now in Munich at the Ersatz Btl (battalion). Currently I am under dental treatment. By the way I will report voluntarily for the field immediately. Kind regards A. Hitler.' But he misspells 'sofort' ('immediately') with double 'f'



Going through a bad spell: The incorrect word

The postcard surfaced at a family history roadshow almost a century after being sent by the future dictator to his comrade Karl Lanzhammer.

It shows that Hitler was surprisingly keen to return to the front line after being injured in the First World War.

From his hospital bed in Munich, nursing a leg wound received in the Battle of the Somme, the then 27-year-old soldier wrote of his intention to 'report voluntarily for the field immediately'.

Historians say this demonstrates his attachment to his new network of army friends as much as his militaristic zeal.

Dr Thomas Weber, an expert on the period from the University of Aberdeen, said: 'What's clear is Hitler desperately wants to return to the front and that's rather unusual, even for soldiers who were generally willing to fight in the war and thought Germany's cause was a just one.'

'By 1916, if they were on home leave, they tried to stay as long as they could, while Hitler desperately wants to get back to the front.'

'We know from other sources he disliked the sentiment on the home front, where the war was being increasingly criticised, and what he wants is to return to his surrogate family on the front line.'



Message to friends: The note on the postcard (left) also suggests that Hitler was

keen to return to the front line after getting injured in the Battle of the Somme. Right, Hitler (centre) as a soldier in 1916

Mr Weber says Hitler's poor spelling was not particularly unusual for the time.

He added: 'We know from other letters he wrote that there were occasional spelling mistakes.

'But that was well in line with other soldiers of his background.'

The addressee of the card was a member of Hitler's regimental headquarters, supporting the idea he had cut his ties with his pre-war acquaintances.



Later life: Hitler's poor spelling was said to be typical of many German soldiers of the time

'It's interesting because it gives further evidence that Hitler was just communicating with fellow members of the support staff at the regiment headquarters with which he was serving in the First World War,' Dr Weber noted.

'Hitler doesn't stay in touch with his family during the war, he doesn't really stay in touch with his pre-war acquaintances.'

The postcard is said to be among a very small number of documents from Hitler during this period.

It reads in full: 'Dear Lanzhammer, I am now in Munich at the Ersatz Btl (battalion). Currently I am under dental treatment. By the way I will report voluntarily for the field immediately.

'Kind regards A. Hitler.'

The missive came to light when its owner, who wants to remain anonymous, took it to a Munich roadshow run by a Europeana, a digital innovation project involving Oxford University and the British Library - after inheriting it from his stamp-collecting father.

Dr Stuart Lee, of Oxford University, one of the digital experts attending the roadshow, recalled feeling 'a shudder run through me' when he was handed the postcard.

'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,' he said.

The postcard is thought to have since been sold.

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