

# RUSSIA VIA VARDØ

## THE STEAMSHIPROUTE ARCHANGEL - VARDØ 1876 - 1920

This one-frame exhibit show the postal history between Northern Russia and Norway. All mail in this periode went through VARDØ, which also was called the capitol of Pomors. Although the steamship postmarks are the most known - is there a lot of mail from this route which isn't cancels on board the steamships. The mail are cancelled when handed to the postoffices on land and sent with the steamship - and then cancelled and retransited in VARDØ.

The first steamshiproute between ARCHANGEL and VARDØ was established in 1871, but the company went bankrupt in 1874. The Archangel Murman Steamship Company was established in 1875 and started several steamshiplines; among them the **Murman Line**. This steamshipline started to carry mail in 1876. This line still carried mail in the 1920'ies - through the revolution, civil war, the allied intervention and the first years of RSFSR. In fact VARDØ was the only channel for mail abroad from RSFSR in 1920.

The exhibit shows the following aspects:

- \* Mail from/to Russia via Vardø
- \* Steamshiproutes
- \* Different steamship in the routes
- \* Use of the postmarks

### Det Murmanske Dampskibsselskabs

skib «Sergei Witte» ankommer hver Onsdag Aften og afgaar hver Fredag Middag.

Vardø 1ste april 1902.

Oscar Hansen.

was steamshiproutes between Vardø and the Murman Coast the whole year.

The **Murman Line** was organized in three different routes depending on the time of the year:

The **Summer route** between ARCHANGEL and VARDØ from June until October. From the start in 1875 there was a trip every fortnighth. From 1896 there was a weekly trip with two steamships.

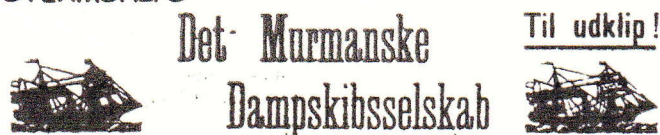
The **Spring route** went, from the start in 1875, between VARDØ and LITSA on the Murman Coast once a week in the periode from April to May.

The **Winter route** was established in 1904, and went between VARDØ and ALEKSANDROVSK once a month in the periode from November to March.

RUSSIA via VARDØ

The Varangerfjord Line was established in 1896 with a smaller steamship and went as a localroute between Aleksandrovsk and Elvenes by the Norwegian border visiting all the small villages along the coastline - while the coastal steamers could go directly to Vardø.

### STEAMSHIPS



Dampskib «Olga» ankommer fra Murmankysten hver lørdag kl. 6 efterm. og afgaar hver mandag kl. 12 middag.  
Vardø, 2. april 1904.

Oscar Hansen.

The following steamships was used on the Murman Line between VARDØ and RUSSIA: SS "Archangelsk", "Lomonosov", "Imperator Nikolai II", "Olga", "Xenia", "Sergei Witte", "Feodor Tshishoff" og "Vladimir". In addition the SS "St. Trifan" serviced the Varangerfjord Line.



### POSTMARKS.

In total I have registered 13 different postmarks used onboard the steamships - one are still undocumented! 12 of these postmarks are documented and I now show 11 of these in this exhibit. There are three different types of postmarks; three line, crossdate and two-ring. Each steamships had two postmarks for use; one for inland mail and one for mail abroad.

### SOURCES.

I mainly use own research where I have used following resources: John Erik Tegler: Posthistorie og poststemplet fra Finnmark.

Circulaires from Norwegian Post.

Several newspapers:

- Vardøposten (Vardø)
- Finmarken (Vardø)
- Finmarksposten (Hammerfest)
- Archangelsk (Archangelsk)

Victor Bryzgalov: ПАРХОДНОЕ СООБЩЕНИЕ АРХАНГЕЛЬСК - НОРВЕГИЯ

Kiryushkin and Robinson: Russian Postmarks

Articles

### OWN ARTICLES.

Budstikka 4/2004: RUSSLAND via VARDØ

NFT 3/2010: Aleksandrovsk - Russia's first icefree port in north.

Facts in grey texboxes

Rare items marked with red



# ESTABLISHING THE POSTAL SERVICE 1876

In 1870 the **WHITE SEA - MURMAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY** was established. The steamshipcompany started a steamshiproute from **ARCHANGEL** to **VARDØ**, planning 12 trips every season. However, both the companys steamships was wreked on the Murman Coast and in the Wite Sea - and the company went bankrupt in 1874.



Postcard cancelled **MOSKVA 20. july 1881** and sent to merchant Anton Holmboe in **VARDØ**. The postcard was probably sent to Archangelsk from Vardø with **SS ARCHANGELSK** which serviced the summer route.

Postage for postcards abroad was 3 kopek in the periode 20/3 1879 to 8/3 1889

In 1875 was a new company established; the **ARCHANGEL - MURMAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY**. In 1875 the company started several routes; among them the **MURMAN LINE** from **ARCHANGEL** to **VARDØ**. In 1876 this steamshiproute started to carry mail.

## Hammerfest Postexpedition.

Med det russiske Dampskib „**Archangelsk**“, der gaar i Rute mellem Vardø og Vadsø og den murmanske Kyst samt -- fra den Tid at Farten paa det Hvide Hav aabnes -- tillige Archangel, kan sendes almindelige, (indtil videre ikke rekommanderede) **forudbetalte Breve og Korsbaandsforsendelser etc.** -- Frankoen udgjør for Breve 6 Skilling pr. 15 Gram og for Korsbaandsforsendelser etc. 2 Skilling pr. 50 Gram.

Dampskibet afgaar fra Vardø: 1ste og 27de Juli, 22de August, 17de September og fra Vadsø: 14de Juli, 9de August, 4de September.

Indtil videre anløbes følgende Steder: Worjoma, Waide Gubs, Sipp navolock, Eritki, Kola, Teriberki, Ostrov Gavrilavi og Sem ostrova.

Hammerfest 29de Juni 1876.

The newspaper Finmarksposten 1/7 1876: Advertisement announcing the postal route serviced by **SS ARCHANGELSK** - with the total of 7 trips this season. **SS ARCHANGELSK** was wreked i 1886.

## STEAMSHIP ROUTES

### MURMAN LINE:

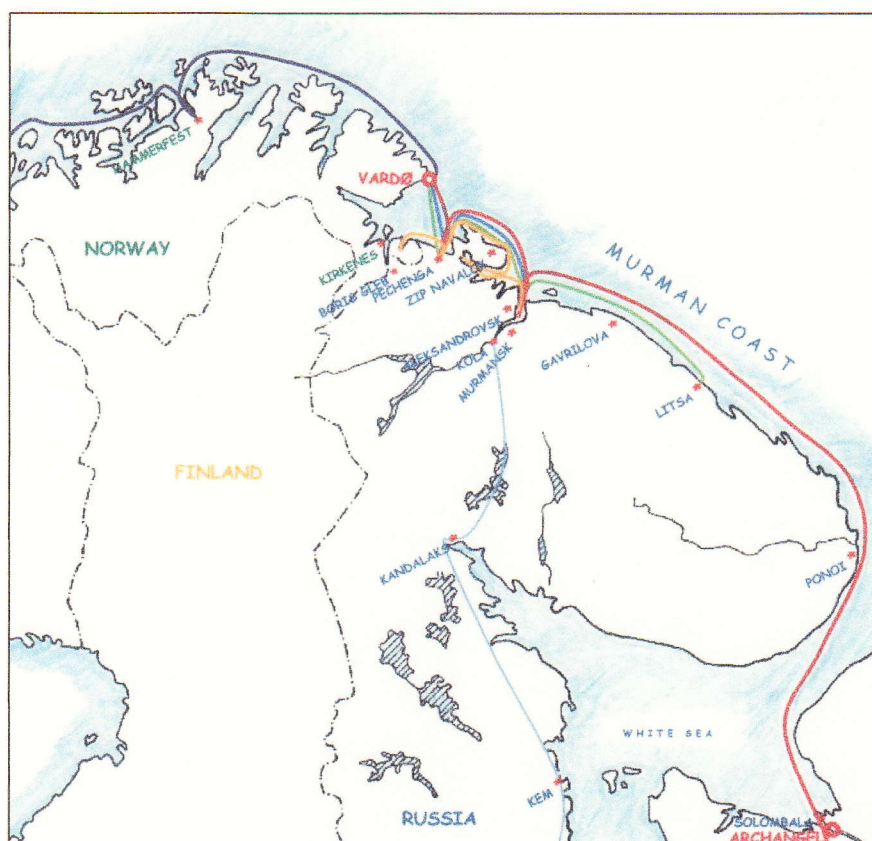
**SUMMER ROUTE** once a week - June to Oktober from **VARDØ** to **ARCHANGEL**.

**SPRING ROUTE** once a week - March to May from **VARDØ** to **LITSA**.

**WINTER ROUTE** once a month - November - February from **VARDØ** to **ALEKSANDROVSK**.

**VARANGERFJORD LINE** serviced by a local steamship from **PASREKA** by the Norwegian border to **ALEKSANDROVSK**.

**THE COASTAL STEAMER** - Hurtigruten from **VARDØ** to the south of Norway.





# ARCHANGEL - MURMAN STEAMSHIP TPO



ARCHANGEL - MURMAN  
STEAMSHIP TPO

POSTMARK No 2 - 23 mm



Cover from ALEKSANDROVSK via VARDØ to KIRKENES. The cover was cancelled ALEKSANDROVSK 23 4 1901 when handed in to the postoffice and again cancelled ALEKSANDROVSK 24 4 1901 when handed over to the steamship. When handed in at the steamship it was cancelled ARCHANGEL-MURMAN STEAMSHIP 24 4 1901. By arriving in VARDØ it was again cancelled ARCHANGEL-MURMAN STEAMSHIP 25 4 1901 before it at last was cancelled in VARDØ 8 5 1901. From ALEKSANDROVSK to VARDØ the letter was sent with SS OLGA which sailed once a week in the spring route between Vardø and the Murman coast in 1901. From VARDØ the letter was sent to KIRKENES with the local steamer SS VARANGER across the Varangerfjord.

One of two known covers with this postmark.



**Det Murmanske  
Dampskibsselskab**

**Til udklip!**



Dampskib „Olga“ ankommer fra Murmankysten hver lørdag  
kl. 6 efterm. og afgaar hver mandag kl. 12 middag.  
Vardø, 2. april 1904.

**Oscar Hansen.**



## ARCHANGEL - MURMAN STEAMSHIP TPO

Postcard written on board SS VLADIMIR 17. september 1890 while the steamship was docking in VARDØ. The postcard was cancelled ARCHANGEL - MURMAN STEAMSHIP 5. september 1890 by departure from VARDØ and again cancelled ARCHANGEL - MURMAN STEAMSHIP 9. september 1890 by arrival to ARCHANGEL.

The postcard was handed in to the postoffice in ARCHANGEL and cancelled 9. september 1890 and again cancelled 10. september 1890 on departure of the mail to ST. PETERSBURG where the postcard was retransited 16. september before it was sent to KRISTIANIA in Norway.

Postage for postcards abroad was 4 kopek in the periode 8/3 1889 - 1/9 1917.



ARCHANGEL - MURMAN  
STEAMSHIP TPO

POSTMARK No. 3 - 25 mm



2 g. i v.p.s

### Post.

Postsager til Murmanskysten  
Archangel kan indleveres ind-  
til hver torsdag 8 am.  
Vardø postkontor den 4/6 03.  
**Bugge,**  
kat.

Postcard from SOLOMBALA to HÖGNÄS in SWEDEN. The postcard was cancelled SOLOMBALA 31 5 1903 and sent with SS LOMONOSOV where it was cancelled on board ARCHANGEL-MURMAN STEAMSHIP 6 june 1903 by departure from Archangelsk - the postcard was again cancelled ARCHANGEL-MURMAN STEAMSHIP 10 june 1903 by arrival to VARDØ. The postcard was retransited VARDØ 24 VI 03 and sent with the coastal steamer to Trondheim. From Trondheim it was sent by train to Sweden over STORLIEN - ØSTERSUND and cancelled PLK 303 30 6 1903 onboard the train and cancelled by arrival in HÖGNÄS 2 7 1903.

Postage for postcards abroad was 4 kopek in the periode 8/3 1889 - 1/9 1917.



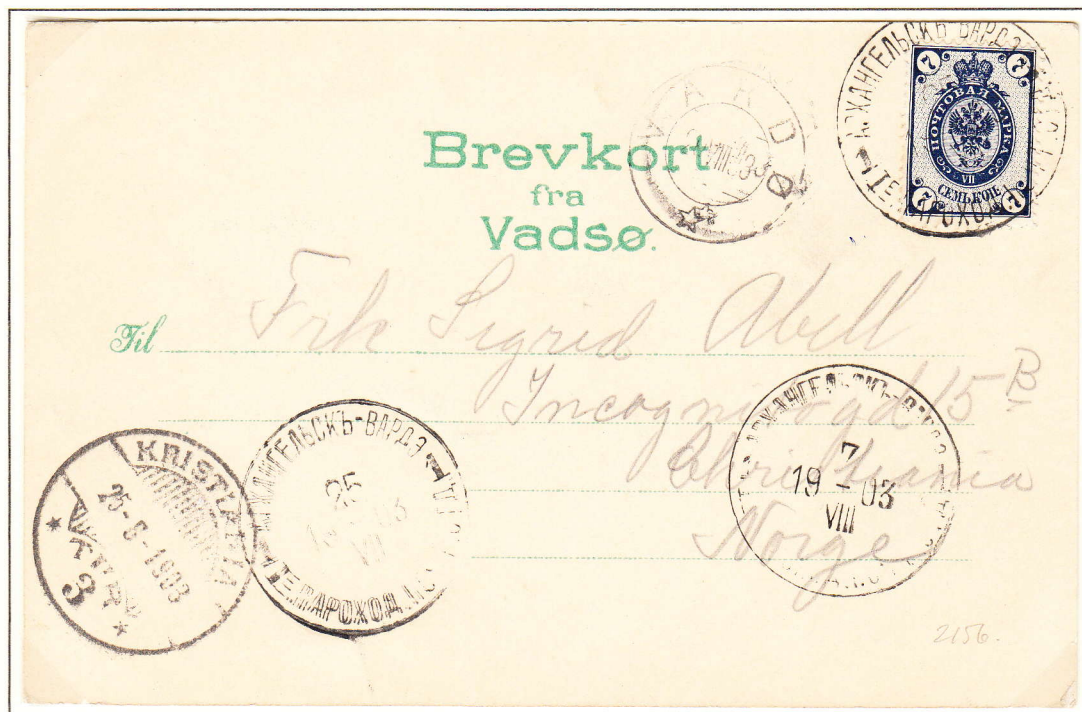
# ARCHANGEL - VARDØ 1. STEAMSHIP TPO



ARCHANGEL - VARDØ  
1 STEAMSHIP TPO

POSTMARK NO. 4

Postcard from Vadsø  
The postcard wasn't printed with UPU and thereby not accepted as a postcard - it was treated as a letter; with 7 kopeks in postage.



Postcard from Vadsø dated **BORIS GLEB 23/7 1903** and sent on the Varangerfjord Line with **SS TRIFAN** to **ALEKSANDROVSK** where the post was exchanged with **SS LOMONOSOV** which came from **VARDØ** and cancelled **ARCHANGEL - VARDØ 1. STEAMSHIP 25 VII 03**. The postcard travelled to **ARCHANGEL** before it was returned with **SS LOMONOSOV** back to **VARDØ** on the next trip. The postcard was cancelled **ARCHANGEL - VARDØ 1. STEAMSHIP 7 VIII 03** by arrival to **VARDØ** and also retransited **VARDØ 20 VIII 03**.



Postcard dated **ARCHANGEL 24/7** and cancelled **SOLOMBALA 13 VII 03** and sent with **SS LOMONOSOV** in summer route. It was cancelled **ARCHANGEL - VARDØ 1. STEAMSHIP 18 VIII 03** by departure from **ARCHANGEL** and **23 VIII 03** by arrival to **VARDØ**. There the postcard was retransited **VARDØ 5 VIII 03** before it was sent with the coastal steamer to **Trondheim**. From **Trondheim** the card was sent with train to **Sweden** over **STORLIEN - ØSTERSUND** where it was cancelled **PLK 303A** and finally cancelled by arrival in **VEXIÖ 15 8 03**.

Postage for postcards abroad was 4 kopek.



## ARCHANGEL - VARDØ 2. STEAMSHIP TPO



ARCHANGEL - VARDØ  
2 STEAMSHIP TPO

POSTMARK No. 5

### ALEKSANDROVSK.

Russia was in need for an icefree port in the north. KOLA had for a long time been the center of administration on the Murman Coast but the ships could not reach KOLA in the winter because of the ice. JEKATARINA HARBOUR was chosen because the harbour was icefree the whole year. A new city, ALEKSANDROVSK, was built and opened in 1899, and became the new center of administration of the Murman Coast.



Postcard cancelled JEKATARINA HARBOUR 26 VI 1899 when handed in to the postoffice and again cancelled JEKATARINA HARBOUR 29 VI 1899 when exchanging post to SS LOMONOSOV. The postcard was cancelled ARCHANGEL - VARDØ 2. STEAMSHIP 30 VI 1899 by departure from Archangel and ARCHANGEL - VARDØ 2. STEAMSHIP 1 VII 1899 by arrival according to timetable to VARDØ where it was retransited 13 VII 99 and sent with the coastal steamer southwards. The postcard was finally cancelled by arrival FREDRIKSVÆRN 19 VII 99.

The card was written on board the Norwegian cruiser TORDENSKJOLD who took part in the opening ceremony



Postcard dated BORIS GLEB 21/8 1904. The postcard was sent with SS TRIFAN in the Varangerfjord Line to PECHENGA where it was cancelled 17 VIII 1904 and delivered to SS IMPERATOR NIKOLAI II and cancelled on board ARCHANGEL - VARDØ 2. STEAMSHIP 17 VIII 1904 and cancelled by arrival in VARDØ 31 VII 04 (wrong date; should be 31 VIII 04). The postcard was sent south with the coastal steamer and was cancelled EIDSVOLD 6 IX 04 by arrival.

Postage for postcards abroad was 4 kopek in the periode 8/3 1889 - 1/9 1917.



# ARCHANGEL - VARDØ and VARDØ - ARCHANGEL STEAMSHIP I



ARCHANGEL - VARDØ  
STEAMSHIP I

POSTMARK No. 6



Открыт

Место для корреспонденции

*Samlst med glæde  
Vender og Vender  
i Petschinga Kloster  
sendes dig i Hustru  
høftelig Hilsen  
14/1908*

*Sen Apotheker  
Hilmer  
Bergen*

Фототипия Шереръ, Набооль и Ко., Москва. 1908. OK Phototype Scherer, Nabholz & Co., Moscow.

Postcard cancelled PECHENGA 10 2 1908 on the Murman Coast to BERGEN. The postcard was sent with SS VLADIMIR which went in winter route between Vardø and the Murman Coast and cancelled ARCHANGEL-VARDØ STEAMSHIP I 10 2 1908. Retransited the same day in VARDØ 23/2 1908 and sent southwards with the coastal steamer to BERGEN.

Postage for postcards abroad was 4 kopek.

Postcard from  
ALEKSANDROVSK on the  
Murman Coast and cancelled  
ARCHANGEL-VARDØ  
STEAMSHIP I 20 3 1916 on  
board SS FEODOR TSHISHOV  
which went in spring route  
between Vardø and the Murman  
Coast. The postcard was sent  
with the Winterpost over land via  
KOLA to RIGA where it was  
cancelled by arrival 30 5 1916.

Postage for postcards domestic  
was 3 kopek.



VARDØ - ARCHANGEL  
STEAMSHIP I

POSTMARK No. 7



Cut with norwegian stamps cancelled VARDØ-ARCHANGEL STEAMSHIP I 1 8 1914. The letter was sent with SS IMPERATOR NIKOLAI II which departed from VARDØ 13 august 1914. The letter was handed in on board and cancelled the day after departure (1/8 + 13 days = 14/8)

Postage for letters abroad was 20 øre in the periode 1/7 1891 to 1/2 1921.



Advertisement from the  
newspaper Archangelsk re SS  
IMPERATOR NIKOLAI II



# VARDØ - ARCHANGEL STEAMSHIP II



VARDØ - ARCHANGEL  
STEAMSHIP II

POSTMARK No. 9

Circular No. 9 - 3 february 1903 introduced the two-ring postmarks. The old postmarks should be replaced when they was worn out. Travelling Post Offices got oval two-ring postmarks.

The oval postmarks with STEAMSHIP I & II was used to destinations abroad. The postmark should show the start and the end of the postal route. Here; ARCHANGEL and VARDØ



Russian postcard dated **BORIS GLEB 11/9 1908** to Norway, and sent with **SS TRIFAN** in the **VARANGERFJORDLINE** to **ALEKSANDROVSK** where the card was handed over to **SS LOMONOSOV** which went from **VARDØ 17/9 1908** on trip 31 til **ARCHANGEL**. The postcard was cancelled on board **VARDØ-ARCHANGEL STEAMSHIP I 5/9 1908**.

In **ARCHANGEL** the postcard was returned to Norway via **VARDØ** with **SS IMPERATOR NIKOLAI II** arriving **VARDØ** on trip 32 at 26. september 1908 - and cancelled **VARDØ-ARCHANGEL STEAMSHIP II 15/9 1908**.

Postage for postcards abroad was 4 kopek in the periode 8/3 1889 - 1/9 1917.

One of two known postcards cancelled **VARDØ-ARCHANGEL STEAMSHIP II**.



Postcard cancelled **ARCHANGEL 25 8 06** and retransited in **VARDØ 12 IX 06**. The postcard was sent with **SS IMPERATOR NIKOLAI II** to **VARDØ** before it was sent by costal steamer to **KRISTIANIA** where it was cancelled by arrival **18 IX 06**.

Postage for postcards abroad was 4 kopek in the periode 8/3 1889 - 1/9 1917.



1. and 2. MURMAN STEAMSHIP

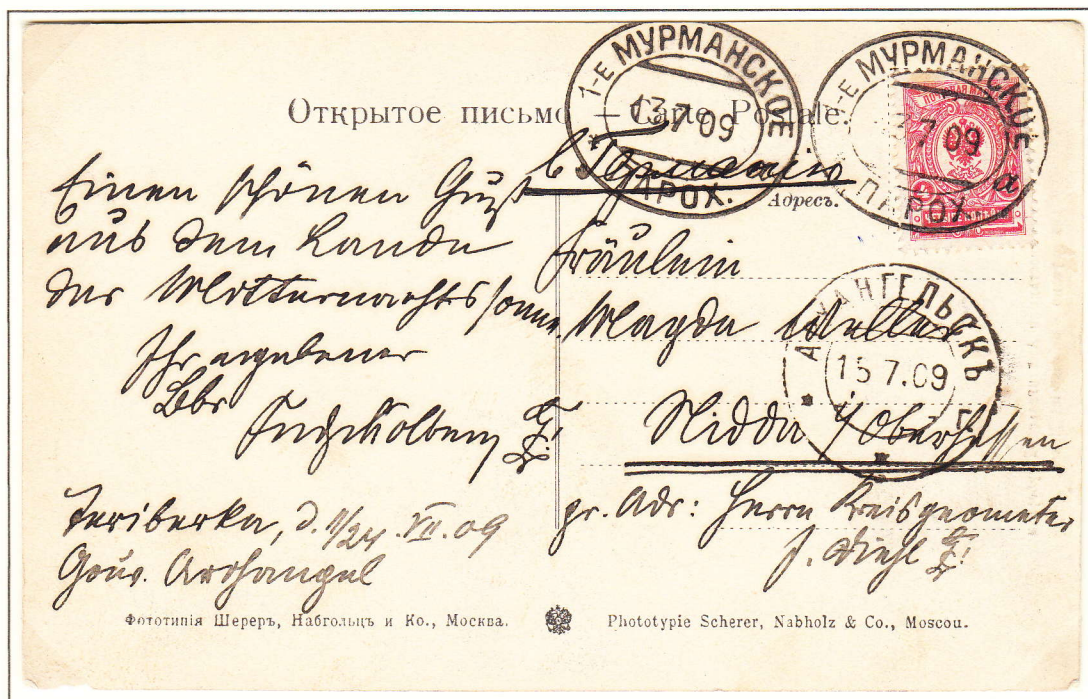


1-F MURMANS STEAMSHIP

POSTMARK No. 10

Circular No. 9 - 3 February 1903 introduced the two-ring postmarks. The old postmarks should be replaced when they was worn out. Travelling Post Offices got oval two-ring postmarks.

1. og 2. MURMAN STEAMSHIP was use on domestic mail between ARCHANGEL and the Murman Coast. 3. MURMAN STEAMSHIP was used on the på VARANGELJORDLINE



Postcard to GERMANY dated TERIBERKA 11/24 VII 09 (double-date) and sent with SS IMPERATOR NIKOLAI II which sailed from VARDØ 22 July 1909 in summer route to Archangel. The postcard was cancelled 1-E MURMAN STEAMSHIP 13 7 09 on board and retransited ARCHANGEL 15/7 09 before it was sent to Germany via Moskva.

Postage for postcards abroad was 4 kopek in the periode 8/3 1889 - 1/9 1917.



2-E MURMAN STEAMSHIP

POSTMARK No. 11



2-E MURMAN STEAMSHIP

31/7 1916

25 kopek



Postcard written onboard **SS LOMONOSOV** on the first trip in summer route which arrived VARDØ 31. May 1911. The postcard was cancelled 2-E **MURMAN STEAMSHIP 13 5 11** and sent to KOLA where it was cancelled **KOLA 15 5 11** by arrival.

Postage for postcards domestic was 3 kopek in the periode 8/3 1889 - 1/9 1917.



### 3. MURMAN STEAMSHIP - THE VARANGERFJORD LINE



3-E MURMAN STEAMSHIP

POSTMARK No. 12



Postcard dated **BORIS GLEB** 27/6 1912 and sent to DENMARK. The postcard was sent with **SS TRIFAN** and cancelled **3-E MURMAN STEAMSHIP 15 6 1912** on board. The steamship serviced the Varangerfjord Line to **ALEKSANDROVSK** where the post was handed over to **SS IMPERATOR NIKOLAI II** which arrived in **VARDØ** 3 July according to the timetable. Postage 4 kopek for postcards abroad.



Postcard dated **BORIS GLEB** 8/8 1912. The postcard was sent with **SS TRIFAN** and cancelled **3-E MURMAN STEAMSHIP 3 8 1912**. The steamship serviced the Varangerfjord Line to **ALEKSANDROVSK** where the post was handed over to **SS LOMONOSOV** and sent to **VARDØ** where it was cancelled by arrival **VARDØ 21 VIII 12** before it was sent with the coastal steamer. Postage 4 kopek for postcards abroad.



3 E MURMAN STEAMSHIP  
(E are underscored!)

POSTMARK No. 13

Postcard dated **BORIS GLEB** 13/9 1915 and sent with **SS TRIFAN** and cancelled **3 E MURMAN STEAMSHIP 7 9 1915** before it went to **ALEKSANDROVSK** where the post was handed over to **SS IMPERATOR NIKOLAI II** and sent to **VARDØ** where it was cancelled by arrival **VARDØ 2 X 15** and sent south with the coastal steamer.



Eneberettiget Kirkenes Bok & Papirhandel  
Indeh. Mangor Nilsen

C. S-d. 222



## PORTS OF CALL: VARDØ



Postcard dated 27/6 1916 (Russian calendar) and cancelled VARDØ 10 7 1916 and sent to PETROGRAD where it was cancelled by arrival 23 7 1916. The postcard was censored by the army in Petrograd. The postcard was sent with SS IMPERATOR NIKOLAI II from VARDØ 13 July to Archangel. Postage was 10 øre for postcards to Russia.

Postcard cancelled VARDØ 9 4 1913 to ZIP NAVALOK on the Murman Coast. The postcard was sent with SS SERGEI WITTE which went from VARDØ 9 April 1913 in spring route to the Murman Coast.

Postage was 10 øre for postcards to Russia.



Postcard cancelled ARCHANGEL 5 10 1911 and sent to VARDØ. The postcard was sent with SS FEODOR TSHISHOV which went to Vardø to start the first trip in the winter route from Vardø 3 November 1911. Postage was 4 kopek for postcards to Norway.



## PORTS OF CALL: GAVRILOVO and PECHENGA

The Norwegian merchant Whist was established in GAVRILOVA on the Murman Coast

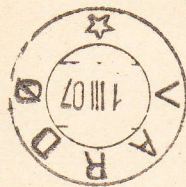
O. WHIST, Gavrilova  
Murmanstysten  
Telegramadresse: Whist, Gavrilova

Gavrilova den 15/05 1907

Scan of reverse

Brevkort

(Carte postale)



Herrens Tidende  
Hemnes  
Hjelpland  
Norwege

Postcard from GAVRILOVO on the Murman Coast and sent to HEMNES. The postcard was cancelled GAVRILOVO 13 2 1907 and sent with SS FEODOR TSHISHOV on trip no. 5 in the winter route to VARDØ where it was retransited VARDØ 1 3 1907 and sent south with the coastal steamer. Postage was 4 kopek for postcards to Norway.



Postcard dated BORIS GLEB 23/7 1905 and sent to SLITU in Norway. The postcard was cancelled PECHENGA 15 7 1905 when handed in to the postoffice and PECHENGA 20 7 1905 by handing over the post to SS LOMONOSOV which arrived in VARDØ the same day. The postcard was cancelled VARDØ 2 8 1905 before it was sent with the coastal steamer. Postage was 4 kopek for postcards to Norway.



# REVOLUTION 1917

## REVOLUTION.

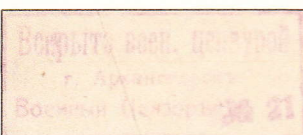
In 1917 there was two revolutions in Russia; both in February and October.

## POSTAGE.

Postage for letters abroad are 10 kopek until 1. September 1917 and 20 kopek after.

Postage for postcards are respectively 4 kopek and 8 kopek in the same periode.

Registrationsfee are respectively 10 and 20 kopek in the same periode.



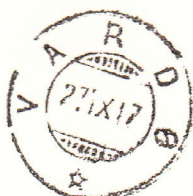
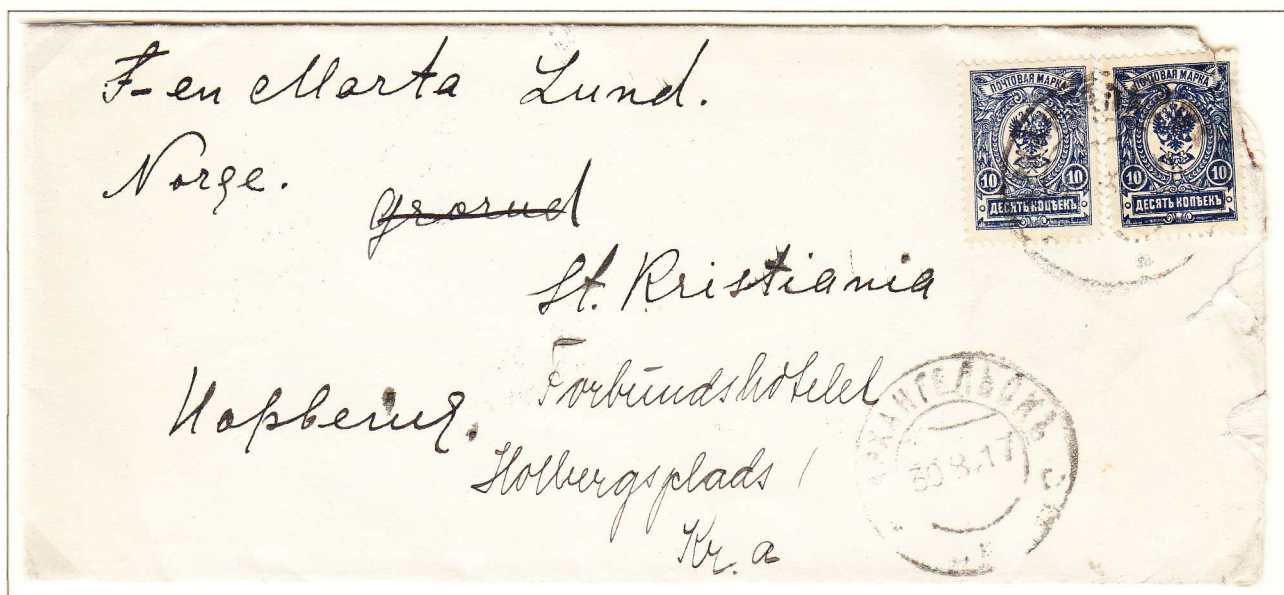
Censormark from the back:

Opened by Army censor  
Archangel  
Army Censor No. 21



Registered letter from ARCHANGEL 15 8 1917 to KRISTIANIA. The letter was retransited in VARDØ 10 9 1917 (on the back). The letter was sent with SS "LOMONOSOV" in the summer route. According to the timetable should the steamship arrive in VARDØ 5. September 1917 - but there was probably a delay. Cancelled by arrival KRISTIANIA 17 9 1917 (on the back).

Postage for the registered letter was 35 kopek. Postage for singelweighted letter was 10 kopek and the registration fee was 10 kopek - this mean that the letter must have been double- or trippelweighted.

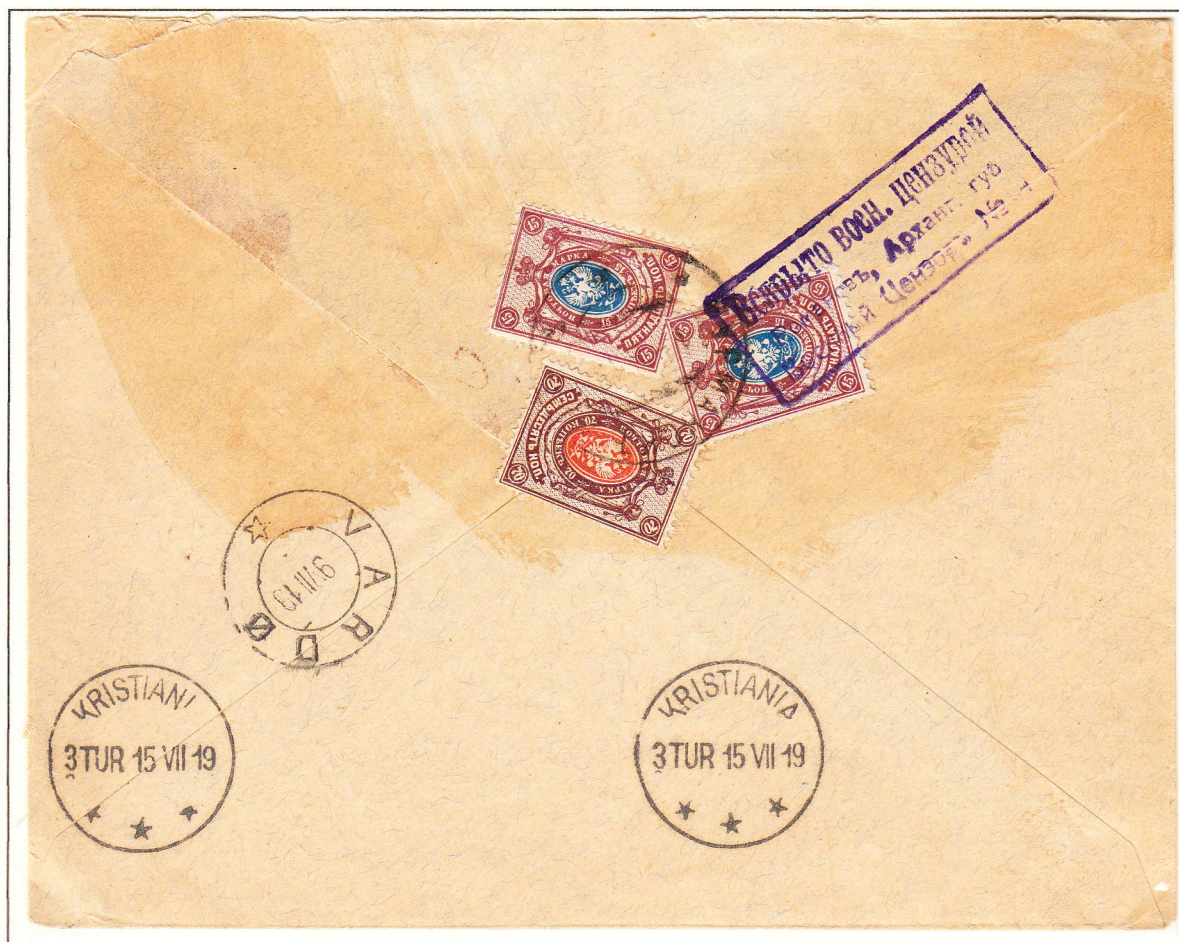


Letter cancelled ARCHANGEL 30 8 1917 to KRISTIANIA. The letter was retransited and cancelled in VARDØ 27 9 1917 (on revers side). The letter was sent with SS IMPERATOR NIKOLAI II in the summer route which arrived in VARDØ 26 September 1917 according to timetable.

Postage for letters to abroad was 20 kopek in the periode 1. September 1917 to 10. March 1918.



## CIVIL WAR 1918 - 1920



### CIVIL WAR

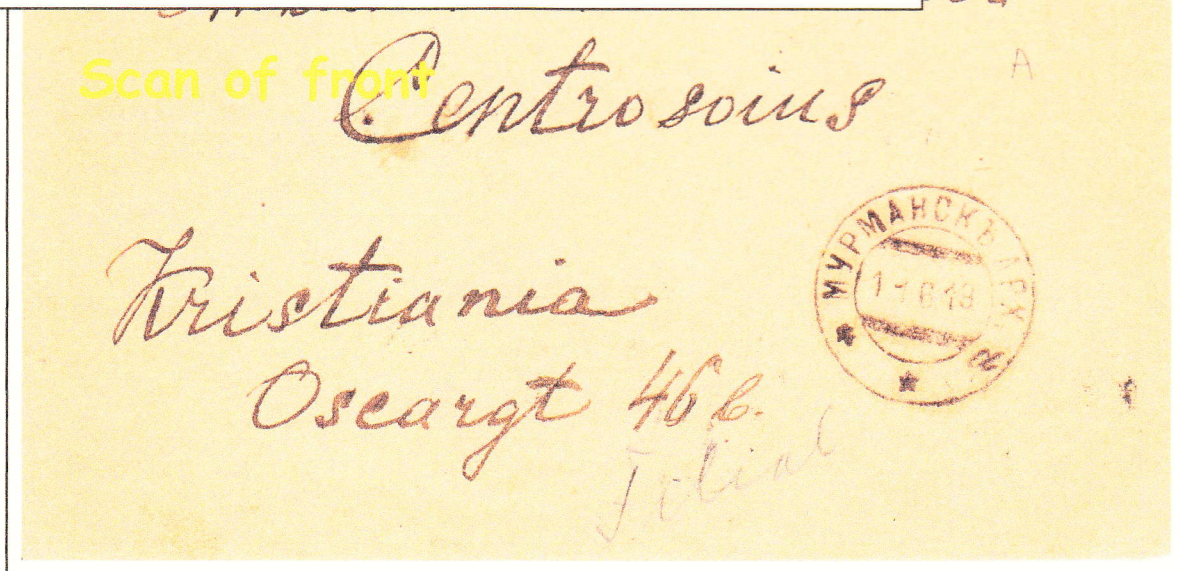
After the revolution of October 1917 a civil war broke loose in Russia between the red and the white. The white established their own government in Archangel and was supported by the allied. But the white army, with general Miller, lost the war and had to flee from Archangel and Murmansk in February and escaped via VARDØ.

### MURMANSK.

The city was founded on the 21. September 1916 and was given the name ROMANOV-NA-MURMAN after the Tsar family Romanov. The city was founded during WWI to secure the transportation of equipment and supplies

At the same time the building of the Murmanrailroad has started in 1915 and was opened in November 1916. With this railroad the equipment and supplies could reach whole Russia.

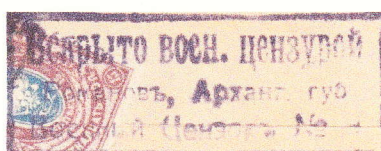
The city changes name to MURMANSK after the revolution - nothing should remind the people of the Tsar



Registered letter to KRISTIANIA cancelled MURMANSK 11 6 19. The letter was retransited in VARDØ 9 VII 19 and cancelled by arrival KRISTIANIA 15 VII 19.

Postage 100 kopek - probably a doubleweighed letter.

During the civil war it is uncertain what the postage in the Archangel-region was.



Opened by Military Censorship  
Romanov, Archangel Gub  
Military Censor No. 1



# ALLIED INTERVENTION 1918 - 1919



Registered letter cancelled ARCHANGEL 25/7 1919 addressed to DENMARK. The letter was opened and censored on the APO in ARCHANGEL (PB2). The letter is closed with resealing tape with OPENED BY BASE CENSOR No 13. The letter was sent with steamship to VARDØ where it was retransited VARDØ 8/8 1919. Postage for registered letter abroad was 1 rubel (50 kopek for the letter and 50 kopek registration fee)

Registered letter cancelled ARCHANGEL 25/11 1918 addressed to DENMARK. The letter was censored on the APO in ARCHANGEL (PB2) and marked with the five-line textual stamp: INTELLIGENCE G.H.Q. Northern Russia Exp. Forces Passed by Censor -

The letter was sent with icebreaker, in fourthnightly route, from ARCHANGEL to MURMANSK. From MURMANSK there went a steamship every week to VARDØ in the wintertime.

Postage for registered letter abroad was 90 kopek - 45 kopek for the letter and 45 kopek in registration fee.



## ALLIED INTERVENTION

The red government ended Russia's participation in WWI with the Brest-Litovsk Treaty with Germany in March 1918. The treaty granted Germany access to material and ports within Russia. This could not be tolerated and resulted in the Allied Intervention in Russia.

The North Russia Expeditionary Force (NREF) established a postal service with an Army Post Office in MURMANSK and ARCHANGEL. Those APO's served several small Field Post Offices.

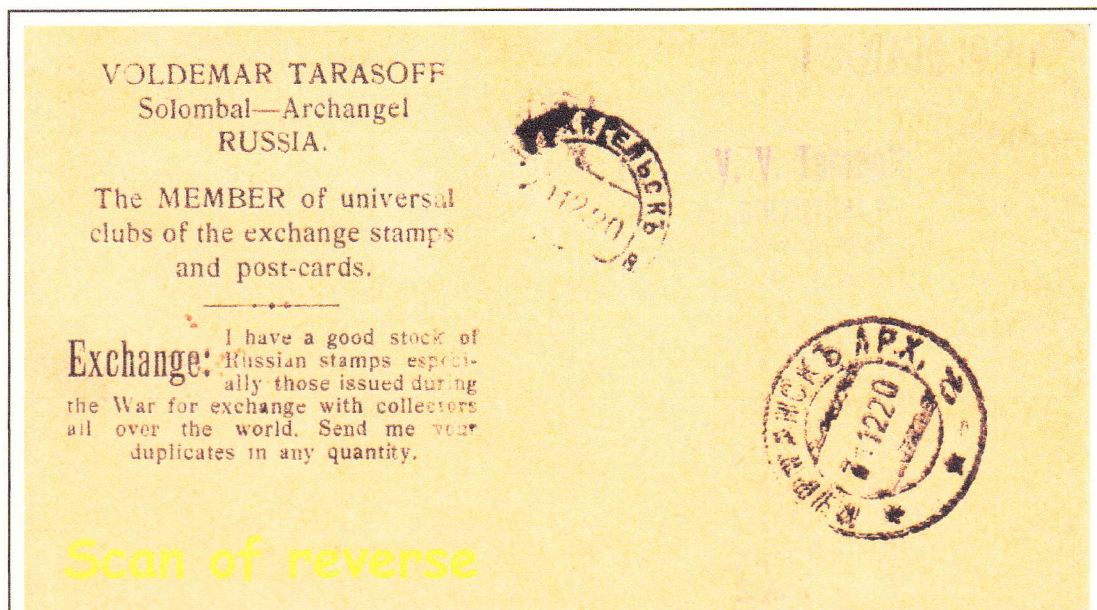
The APO in ARCHANGEL also censored civilian mail from Russia to abroad. Much of this censored mail was sent with steamer via VARDØ.



## RSFSR 1920 - 1922

After the civil war the red established RSFSR (Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic) They closed the borders and there was no postal relation abroad. The white, with general Miller in charge, fled from ARCHANGEL 21. February 1920. After this date there was no postal connction abroad.

20. June 1920 it was established a postal route abroad and only via VARDØ. All mail abroad from RSFSR in 1920 and the first half of 1921 went via VARDØ in this periode.



Postage abroad from 20. September 1920 to 24. August 1921:

Postcard	2 rubel
Printed matter	1 rubel
Registration fee	5 rubel

According to shortage of paper, kopekstamps was sold for 100 times its value, and was used as rubelstamps



Registered postcard cancelled SOLOMBALA 19 12 1920 and sent to BOLE in SWITZERLAND. The postcard was cancelled in ARCHANGEL 20 12 1920 and sent by an icebreaker to MURMANSK where it was cancelled 31 12 1920. From MURMANSK the postcard was sent with SS TRIFAN to VARDØ.

The postcard was sold as «blank» - without value. Postage for postcard abroad from RSFSR was 2 rubel and the registration fee was 5 rubel - total 7 rubel.

The postcard was franked with stamps with kopek value - this stamps was sold and used as 100 times the value. (1 kopek = 1 rubel)

One of two known postcard/cover from RSFSR via VARDØ in 1920.