

# Swiss Postal Involvement in 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War

## Introduction to Postal History Exhibit

The Franco-Prussian War and its German occupation of French territory forced neutral Switzerland to take both voluntary and involuntary official and private actions. The war blocked a normal international postal route for Swiss mail, delayed delivery of Swiss mail to besieged Paris, created a commercial need to forward international mail through Switzerland, and led to free Swiss mail delivery for Swiss troops, the Red Cross and interned French troops. This exhibit contains covers that reflect the impact of these wartime disruptions on Swiss postal services.

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## Temporary Swiss Wartime Postage Rate



50c/15gr letter to Great Britain via direct exchange over Paris to French port of Calais during **temporary rate increase officially in effect Aug.1-18, 1870**. This replaced 30c/15gr rate via direct exchange over interrupted German-Belgium route. From Lausanne Aug.4; via Pontarlier, France, Aug.6; London arrival also Aug.6 (backstamp). Envelope tear repairs.