In times of conflict or war censorship is the official tool of the authorities not only to control the own people but to prevent that "valuable" information in writing or photography get in the hands of the enemy.

The big German postcard publisher Geh. Metz from Tübingen, with many aerial/panorama views in his pcig programme, experienced censorship from the Nazi authorities a great deal. The officials did not want to have anything in open distribution which could give allied aircrafts information on potential targets, their exact location and actual look. This included of course all military facilities but also power stations, factories and other places of strategic interest etc. Geh. Metz went broke in 1988. Their huge (almost complete) archives and all fittings were auctioned = split up on October 4, 1990. A great pity for postcard research. This postcard company had been around since 1888. I show four censored Metz cards Bromide ("real" photo prints) which were offered to me by a postcard dealer who had bought a truck full of cards and documents at the auction. The three Black Forest region views are quite common, also the panorama of the city of Kempen but with the official marks and rubberstamp imprints on, are of great historical interest; unique.

By the way, I remember that you needed an official permission in Germany every time you wanted to have an aerial view of a city printed on postcards, but especially for use in newspapers. This has been dropped some time in the early 1990's.

Do you have a good head for heights? In case you are not sure, go to Norway and try your luck as six people did. The photo was taken on a cloudy day. The septa bromide photo production (NBC = German company belonging to the Norse Brosanilber Convention) doesn't make this view look more friendlier. Card published by "Johns. Floor" from Staunanger, caption reads: Praekoldeben Lysefjorden. The no. 6054 found on picture side appears to be a printer number. Not p/c: smaller size: 84 x 135 mm cdb.

A Bogor Celebrity, Mary Wheatland, who saved over 60 lives. Published by local company R. Brandt Burgess. Monochrome collotype printed by Valentine's (no. 644/90). Not p/c. pre-1914 I guess. Think this elderly woman (fisherman?) watched a ship in trouble or running ashore near Bogor Regis (west of Worthing, on Channel coast) and organized help. A pity that no date or other information is mentioned. Most likely more cards on this incident were published. This card was discovered by Chris Ratcliffe.

Schluchsee-Ama 8952 metres above sea-level, Black Forest (Baden) with advertising imprint of "Guesthouse Auerbahn" in Ama on address side. Geh. Metz card series no. 225/59 W e. Rubberstamp imprint in blue ink across picture reads: Attention! Before using this photo in any form you need a 'confirmation' first.

Schluchsee - largest lake of the Black Forest – with same rubberstamp imprint as above plus in red ink "Verboten + forbidden" prohibited dated 27. 10. 1938. But also in upper right corner we see a "genehmigt" = permission granted stamp imprint in red ink and dated 27. 10. 1939. Officials seemed to have changed their minds.

Schluchsee-Seebrugg. Censors did not wanted to have the lower portion of the picture with view of dam published. Dated 27. 10. 1938 with forbidden but both notes crossed out again. Confusing. No idea if Metz Bros. used this photo for postcard production anyway. To find out p/c cards with of this view are needed.

Kempen (Allgait) panorama view. Geh. Metz card series 164 card no. 106 W, Beism, granted when the left portion of photo, which was carefully marked, is left out. Dated June 6, (1940). I used a magnifying glass to find out why authorities did not like to have the entire photo published. The only object I found that might had been of interest to the censor is the bridge across the River Iller. By the way the entire photo was retouched, all details, all the timelhouses and every bush went over and the result looks more like a painting and has only very little in common with a photographic view anymore. Meant plenty of work for somebody indeed. Also in this case it would be interesting to find out if Metz Bros. done this card – without the censored portion – into distribution during WW2.

This Christmas card puzzles me a little bit. Typical christmas angel or whatever skating together with a rabbit through a winter landscape. The rabbit with a rucksack on his back. To me this looks like a mixture of christmas and eastern motifs? Perhaps this design is based on a Scandinavian Christmas tradition unkown to me? Fine coloured, chromolitho printed, no. publ. or printer identification. Undivided back. Mailed from the U.S.A. to Scotland in 1908.

Bird's-Eye View of Wonderland, Revere Beach, Mass. – publ. by Robbins Bros. Co. Boston and Germany. card no. 808. "Card America's" means printed in Germany, not automatically a branch. Coloured card, halftone process. Plenty of attractions seen small. "Flames" * "Fire" in the background, airship in the air, own station. Did not know that the Americans started that early with amusement parks. Guess this pre-1900 card (not p/c) is just one view from a bigger series.