

Postcard from the First World War: “2 against 7” (1914)

Abstract

This postcard, printed and sold by the Berlin publisher Wilhelm S. Schröder and drawn by Adolf Hoffmann illustrates a belligerent jingoism as a German and an Austrian soldier, though outnumbered, side by side shoot, throttle, stamp on, and spit upon their enemies.

“Belgium” and “Russia” have been stomped flat already—reflecting German victories at Liège and Tannenberg—while Serbia and Montenegro flee in terror. The spitting upon “Japan” appears to show special contempt—possibly motivated by racist animosity. Japan had declared war on Germany on August 23, 1914, and invaded and captured the city of Tsingtao, Germany's colonial treaty-port on the coast of China in Jiaozhou Bay.

The postcard thus exults in early German victories, while at the same time minimizing the Entente’s numeric, strategic and economic advantages.

Source



“2 against 7, hurray! We’ll get it done anyway.”

Source: Propaganda postcard, drawing by Adolf Hoffmann, 1914. Stadtarchiv Bonn SN 013,507

Stadtarchiv Bonn

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