

Evlâd-ı Şüheda Tax. (Tax for War Orphans)

by Dr. M. Levent Acar

In Evladi Suheda Tax' which was applied on postal items during 1st. World War has always taken attention of historians. In this article, our main goal is to explain the reader 'Evlad-ı Suheda Tax' with different examples on money order receipts, registration receipts, picture of postcards, stationary postcards and envelopes.

Ahmet Sukru Bey who was both minister of education and Postal, telegraph and Telephone (PTT), did a great contribution to issue a decree about tax money which would be spent for the education of orphans whose parents were martyrs. The budget was constituted from the revenues of minister of PTT with and additional tax on charge of Postal and Telegraph without spending extra Money from the budget of ministry. Due to this decree, which was issued on March 1915, the collected tax money was spent for housing and education of war orphans. The main purposes of this act were to providing a safe future to orphans. In consequence of not collecting enough money with additional taxes which was taken under the name of '**Evlâd-ı Şüheda Tax**' were applied on tobacco and alcoholic beverages too. (1)

10 Para for postcards and letters

20 Para for registered letters,

1 Kuruş for valuable letters,

1 Kuruş for every 5 Kuruş of telegrams Evlâd-ı Şüheda tax stamp has become mandatory.

1915-Since the Evlâd-ı Şüheda Tax Stamps were not yet printed, the 1914 London edition series stamps with values of 2,5 and 10 Paras were used for that Purposes.



1. A Letter From Bursa to Dersaâdet Sirkeci sent on 16 June 1915 was charged 1 Kuruş letter rate and two 5 Para stamps for Evlâd-ı Şüheda Tax. Earliest known use of the fee added to the tariff.



2. A letter From Fatih to Hadımköy sent on 19 June 1915 was charged 1 Kuruş letter rate and five 2 Para stamps for Evlad-ı Şüheda Tax.



3. The Picture postcard adressed to Mrs. İbrahim Paşa from Edirne to Bebek at İstanbul sent on 22 July 1915. 20 Para postcard charge and 10 Para stamp for Evlad-ı Şüheda Tax.

In some documents, seals were used to indicate that a payment other than the tariff was made. We also see these seals later on in the cancellations of the Evlâd-ı Şüheda Tax stamps.

I have identified 6 different examples of these seals.

LA1. It contains the phrase "Twenty Para for war Orphan's Tax"

[illegible]

'Twenty Para Evlad-ı Şüheda tax' sealed for the parcel containing printed material sent from the Okçular to Mosul on September 5, 1915

LA2 Bir Kuruş Evlad-ı Şüheda Vergisi Alınmıştır.'

[illegible]

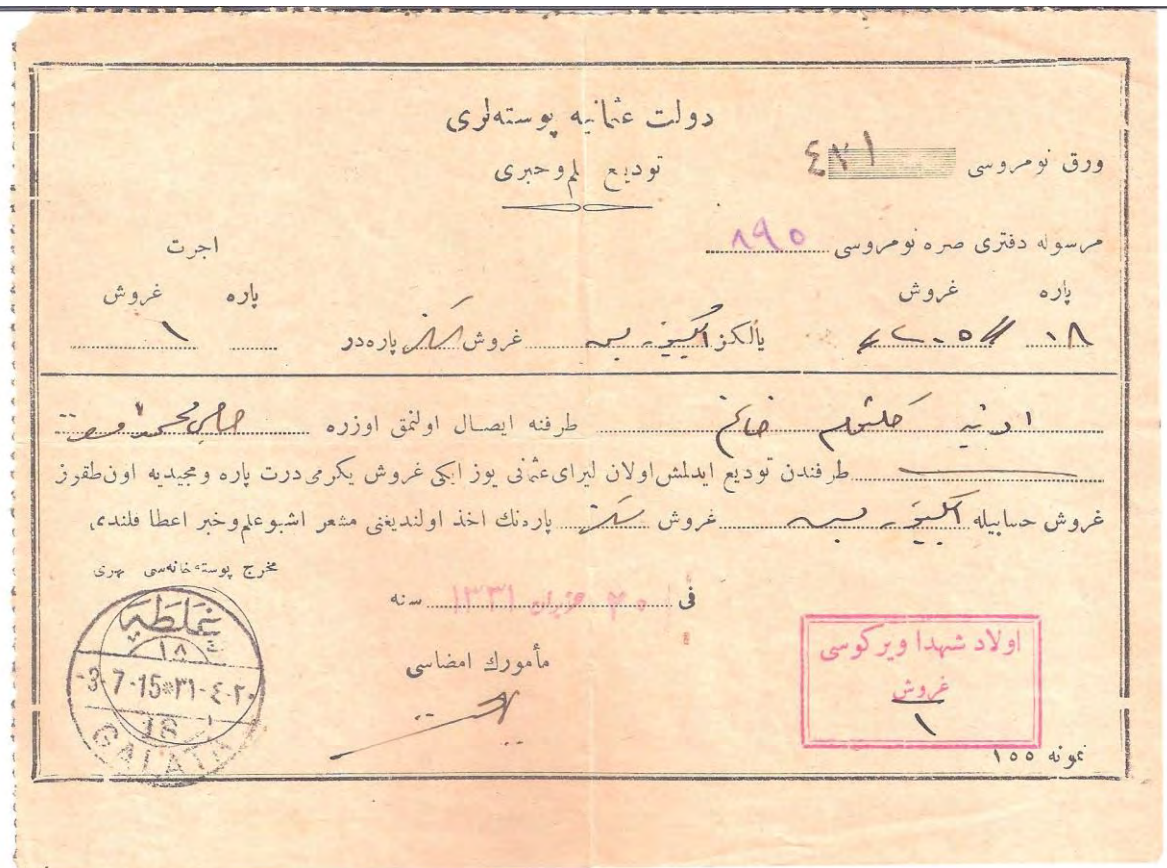
*A Payment receipt from Dersaadet to Uzunköprü.
(Thanks to Mr. Hakan Yılmaz's collection)*

LA3. Evlâd-ı Şüheda ianesi (Grantment) Seal.



'Evlad-ı Şuheda İanesi ' seal on the receipt for a package worth 100 Kuruş sent from Istanbul to Amasya

LA4. On Red Seal Evlâd-ı Şühedâ Tax in a Rectangular Frame....Kuruş (4)



A Payment receipt From Galata to Ünye (Thanks to Mr. Turhan Turgut's collection)

A Payment receipt from Bursa to

Kadıköy

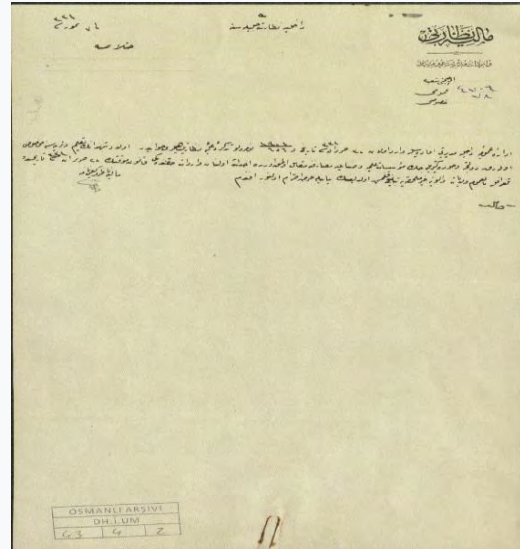
In addition to the seal, there are also documents stating that an extra 'Evlâd-ı Şüheda' fee is charged.

According to this archive document sent from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, it was notified to the annexed province by telegram on July 11, 1915.

Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA) Dahiliye(DH) İdare-i

Umumiye (İ.Um) Kutu(K):43 Gömlek(G):4

Sıra(S):2



The production of the cigarette paper licensed under the name of 'Evlâd-ı Şüheda' was stopped by a court decision on the grounds that there was no right to use this name.



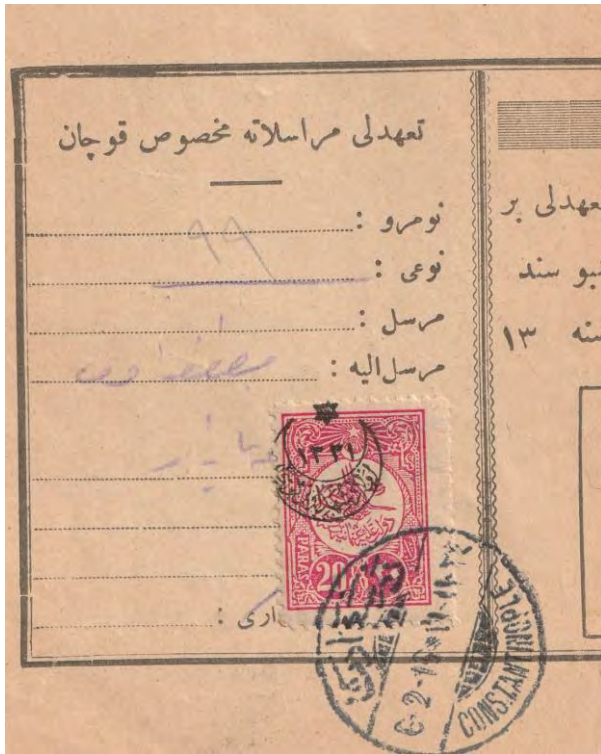
From this example showing the 'Evlad-ı Şüheda tax ' collected on tobacco, it is understood that 10 para Evlad-ı Şüheda tax was collected on a 25 gram tobacco package.

(Thanks to Mr. Mehmet AKAN for sharing his collection)

With this app together with the Ministry of PTT, the phrase "Evlâd-ı Şüheda Tax" in the crescent.

He prepared a surcharge bearing the six-pointed star, bearing the date 1331 in the middle, and by applying this surcharge to some old stamps in the Ministry warehouses.





Registration post receipt from Istanbul



Money transfer Form From Uluborlu to Istanbul

Ottoman empire entered war in late 1914. A postal censorship began in November 1914, postal cards known as 'open correspondence documents' came to be considered more practical than letters. Within a few weeks, the postal administration in İstanbul was deluged with messages from post offices located across the Empire, indicated that their card stocks were depleted and requesting the immediate shipment of news stocks. (2) Due to explosion in the demand for cards, by early 1915 the PTT's card stocks were depleted. A first response was to distribute the demonetized postal cards in its stockrooms to post offices without any alteration, for use as postal formulas (3). As of 14 April 1915, it became legal use postal stationary impressed with a demonetized stamp, provided the applicable rate was paid in full through postally valid adhesives. The Ottoman postal administration's permission to use demonetized postal stationary as formular cards was rescinded in October 1916.



On March 13, 1916 20 para postage and 10 para Evlad-ı Şüheda tax stamp on the 1905 Stationary Postcard sent from Pozantı to Ankara Mihriyar Mahallesi.

1916

When these stamps ran out in 1916, the stamps in the warehouses were put into circulation. By using older stamps, this time the star was Arsacid like the others, provided that it was five-pointed. On February 29, 1916 (February 16, 1331) the phrase 'Evlâd-ı Şüheda Tax' and the 1331 Five-pointed Star surcharge were printed on 22 types of stamps.

In order to meet the need for 10 Para stamps, four of the 'Evlâd-ı Şuheda Tax ' Stamps were printed with a new 10 Para surcharge.





For the Pictured Postcard sent from Paşakapısı to Bebek, two 5-para stamps for intercity tariff and 10 Para 'Evlad-ı Şuheda Vergisi' stamp were used for taxes.

1917

The decree, which was reconsidered in March 1917, was enacted with an article added to the General Balance Law. Accordingly, 1 Kuruş would be charged for every 5 Kuruş and fractions of a telegraph for which a fee of 5 Kuruş or more was required, 10 kuruş for every lira and fraction thereof in addition to the fees charged for internal telegraph transfers, 1 kuruş in addition to the fees charged for internal postal transfers and letters and postal packages for which a value was determined, 20 kuruş for all registered mail, 10 kuruş for all domestic military letters and correspondence reports, the money collected would be deposited directly into the bank and its spending would be subject to the decision of the Council of Ministers.



The British occupied Baghdad in March 1917. The phrase 'Baghdad is under British occupation' was overprinted on Ottoman Postage Stamps to show the changes in government through the Sir Percy Cox processes. A black surcharge was also applied to cover the phrase 'Evlâd-ı Şuheda tax'. This blackout was made to give the impression that the British were supporting the children of those who died against them.

Thanks to Mr. Akthem Al-Manaseer for sharing his collection.



A stamp worth 10 para depicting a soldier saying goodbye to his children and entrusting them to his wife was printed on February 20, 1917. This stamp was used for the Martyrs' Child Tax along with the postal tariff stamps and was also used alone in places where the other stamps were out of stock.



In addition to the 20 para Coast tariff letter fee sent from Okçular to Lapseki, 10 para Evlad-ı Şüheda tax stamp was used.



For the card with a message of less than five words, sent from Bursa to Istanbul on December 3, 1917, a single stamp worth 10 para was used, after a printing tariff of 5 para and a Evlad-ı Şüheda tax of 5 para were collected.



For the 500 kuruş money transfer sent from Alucra to Ankara Koyunpazarı on 22 October 1917, 60 Para transfer fee and 15 Para Evlad-ı Şüheda tax were collected. It was collected with one full and one half Evlad-ı Şüheda stamp.

The stamp depicting a soldier saying goodbye to his children and entrusting them to his wife was printed in red as 20 Para, but before it had a chance to be used, it was stamped as 10 Para and put into circulation on 21 September 1917.



The envelope was sent from Ordu to Trabzon on July 16, 1918, and was purchased with 20 Para for postage and 10 Para for Evlad-ı Şüheda tax, along with 3 surcharged 10 para Evlad-ı Şüheda Stamp



With 10 Para 1917 Evlad-ı Şüheda Stamp, sent from Beirut to Dersaadet Galata on February 2, 1918, the image of the Maiden's Tower, 20 Para on a stationary postcard,



Although the inscription 'Evlad-ı Şüheda' seen on the 25 and 50 Kuruş value stamps of the PTT surcharge series printed in 1917 suggest that it served this purpose , no information has been found to provide evidence on this subject.



The existence of a fee other than tariff for its use in postal services suggests this.
Thanks to Mr. Hakan Yılmaz for sharing his collection

The stamp series printed in Vienna in the last months of 1917 and 1918 met the need during the war. Stamps of the series worth 10 para and 20 para and the Stationary Postcard of 1917 were used in the tariff for the purpose of Evlad-ı Şüheda tax



For the postionary card sent from Istanbul to Inebolu on 14 November 1918, 20 Para were used as card postage and 10 Para stamps of the Vienna edition series were used as for the purpose of Evlad-ı Şüheda Tax.



Besides the 20 Para Vienna edition series stamp for sent from Bursa to Zonguldak Kozlu on September 20, 1918, the 10 Para Maiden's Tower Illustrated 1917 Postal Stationary was used for the purpose of Evlad-ı Şüheda tax.

1919

Evlâd-ı Şüheda Tax was abolished with the “Decree on the Increase of Internal Postal and Telegraph Fees” issued on February 2, 1919. With the law on the increase of postal and telegraph fees passed on February 6, 1919.



We can see that the stamps issued for her Evlâd-ı Şüheda were used as regular postage stamps even in 1924.

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