

Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

July 2021, Volume LVI, Number 3, (#220)

Inside:

- *Soldbuch* by Carlos Rios
- A Praha Cancellation by Walter Deem
- A New Discovery by J Richard Fleet
- The Wisdom of Benjamin Beede
- Incredible Post-war History with Michael Samuels
- The Channel Islands Society Auction, and so much more!!

Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

July 2021, Volume LVI, Number 3, (#220)

Our best issue ever!

Post-war covers: Dr. Michael Samuels wows us again with some truly great post-war covers of some infamous prisoners. You have to see to believe!

The Channel Islands Society: They had an incredible auction- and you should see what they had!

A New Discovery: J Richard Fleet shows us an independently verified unique fraudulent Hitler Head, inspired by one of our articles

Soldbuch: Carlos Rios gives us a great image of a Soldbuch, with expert commentary by our group

A Praha cancellation: Walter Deem has questions about a very unusual cancellation, and my, do our readers have the answers. So much to learn here.

Benjamin Beede: He gives us more of his wisdom of years of collecting.

Plus: Danzig, Stamps of the Third Reich, AuctionWatch, and of course, Trivia. What an issue!

The Great American Stamp Show is upon us, and the Third Reich Study Group will be there. I will be traveling to Chicago from August 12-15 to represent our fine group at the American Philatelic Society's annual show. I hope to bring pamphlets, sample journals, and other goodies to show the philatelic world the fascination of collecting stamps from this turbulent era. If you want to participate, or just have ideas on how to make the show more of a success, email me at ctkolker@mail.com

PS. The revised study guide will be up in the Fall. It will be better than ever, I promise!

Articles!!! You have them, I need them. Send any information to: ctkolker@mail.com and see your wisdom, collection, or just your stuff in print!!!

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To Our Esteemed Readers:

The theme for this letter is gratitude. As you might be able to tell from the table of contents, this issue of the *TRSG Bulletin* is chock full of articles, scans, and input from you the reader. Never have we had more information coming in to the *Bulletin*, and that is what makes this group and our publication so great. A hearty thank you to everyone.

And we hope to make this group even stronger. I will be attending the Great American Stamp Show in Chicago in a few weeks, where I hope to find more like-minded collectors that ultimately will make our group even better with new and different perspectives and insights.

If all of this isn't enough, I will be making some improvements to the website, www.trsg-usa.com. The carousel will be better, with more and different material, and ultimately, the study guide will be even better with more information for everyone.

In the meantime, enjoy our latest issue. It's a good one, with something for everyone. As always, I welcome your opinion and input on any of these articles, and always welcome your scans and write-ups of the most pivotal era in human history.

Thanks again, and keep collecting!!!

Your Humble Editor,

Chris Kolker

A New Discovery

J Richard Fleet

(From an e-mail I received in April [Editor]):

Hi Chris

On looking over April's bulletin and the Hitler heads I was reminded of an item I acquired recently.

I had an opportunity in purchasing a few items from a German Third Reich collection and this one particular item caught my eye.

It is a 5 pfg Hitler head supposedly treated with Bismuth Sulfide for the intention of mail sorting.

The dealer was Fred Eaton, who was a well-known Vancouver dealer and although I never met him, over the years I have heard lots of stories about him; but never this one.

I have attached the page from my album showing the mounted stamp, my write-up, and the certificate that accompanied it as well as the provenance that also accompanied the stamp.

DEUTSCHES REICH
September 1981
Mi. 784 x/P
A NEW DISCOVERY

(A Fraudulent Claim of treating the stamps with a secret chemical)



The stamp (Mi.784) is said to have been coated with chemicals, such as Bismuth Sulfide, which would be detectable under artificial light, and is assumed to show that the German Post Office was conducting experiments which would have led to the introduction of automatic letter sorting.

The stamp was listed in Michel's catalogue as 784x/P but was soon removed because of its questionable legitimacy. The stamp was tested in 2014 by x-ray spectroscopy and the findings were that it contains no measurable amount of Bismuth (III) sulphide.

Mi. 784 x/P offered in Fred Eaton Auction (1981)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

We certify that the Germany 1941 5pf Hitler stamp herewith illustrated is Michel #784x/P as per attached certificate with accompanying translation is genuine in all respects and such has our unconditional guarantee.

F. E. Eaton & Sons Ltd., European Philatelics
6174 E. Boulevard, PO Box 988,
Vancouver, BC, Canada. Tucson, AZ, 85702, USA.



An embossed (F. E. EATON & Associates 81 AMP AUCTIONS) certificate reads:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We certify that the Germany 1941 5ph Hitler stamp herewith illustrated is Michel #784x/P as per attached certificate with accompanying translation is genuine in all respect and as such has our unconditional guarantee.

F.E. Eaton & Sons, Ltd.,
6174 E. Boulevard,
Vancouver, BC, Canada.

European Philatelics
PO Box 988,
Tucson, AZ, 85702 USA.

A copy of the certificate accompanied the stamp signed by a Emil Ludin (Bundesprüfer) stating the stamp was a genuine essay. "Ludin BPP"

PUBLISHED IN GERMANY SEPT./OCT. 1981.



Die Geschichte der Philatelie ist voll von legendären und sensationellen Entdeckungen wie die der berühmten British Guinea 1856, 1 Magneta, die von einem Schuljungen in einer dunklen Mansarde gefunden wurde. Jetzt kann ein neues Kapitel der Entdeckungen geschrieben werden.



Zuerst waren es Gerüchte. Sie erzählten von deutschen Versuchsmarken, die als Kriegsbeute von einem amerikanischen Offizier aus Deutschland geschmuggelt wurden. Die Gerüchte fanden ihre Bestätigung, als es zwei Händlern in den USA nach langen Verhandlungen gelang, diese Kriegsbeute zu erwerben und prüfen zu lassen. Das Ergebnis liegt jetzt vor.

Die 5-Pfg.-Hitler-Ausgabe

Michel-Nr. 784x/P9
Bereits zu Beginn des 2. Weltkriegs liefen bei der Deutschen Reichspost Automatisierungsversuche mit dem Ziel, Postbedienstete für den Wehrdienst freizustellen. Besondere Stempelmaschinen und die entsprechenden, sonderbehandelten Marken sollten hergestellt werden.

Am 8. Januar 1942 wurde eine Anzahl von Bogen zu je 100 Marken der 5-Pfg.-Hitler-Ausgabe in einem chemischen Prozeß behandelt. Eine eisenhaltige Zusammensetzung, die in den anderen Werten des Satzes nicht

vorkommt, wurde dem Papier beige-mengt. Sie sollte dazu dienen, bei den Abstempelungsmaschinen eine magnetische Reaktion auszulösen, die es ermöglichte, die Briefe automatisch zu »lesen« und zu bearbeiten.

Der Krieg ging vorüber, die Versuche gerieten in Vergessenheit, bis die 5-Pfg.-Marke aus der Versenkung auftauchte.

Deutschland-Sammler in aller Welt werden diese Marke besitzen wollen, die als eine frühe Vorläuferausgabe des automatischen Postsortierungssystems bezeichnet werden kann.

Sie erhalten jede Marke mit einem Attest des Bundesprüfers Ludin.

Der Wert wird im nächsten Michel Deutschland Spezialkatalog unter der Nummer 784x/P9 aufgenommen.

European Philatelics

P.O. Box 988
Tucson, AZ 85702
(602) 881-5159

Discovered in gloomy attic

By Keith Spencer

The famous British Guiana 1856 1½ magneta was discovered in a gloomy attic by a stamp collector-school boy.

The tiny stamp sold recently in New York for over 100 million times its original value and the Guiana story and the dream of a "find" has spurred on collectors ever since.

Now Vancouver dealers Diet Palme (European Philatelics), and Fred Eaton have added another chapter to the story of fabulous finds, and the saga is replete with mystery and intrigue.

Early in the course of World War II, the German Riech wrestled with the problem of automated mail service, hoping to free postal employees for military service. Orders were given that special cancellation machines be constructed and that a quantity of experimental stamps be printed.

On January 8, 1942, a

number of sheets of 100 stamps of the 5p Hitler head issue was treated with a secret chemical process. A ferrous compound - unknown in other values of the set, was added to the paper so as to create a magnetic reaction within the cancelling machine which would then "read" and process the letters.

The war raged on and German attention was diverted away from the cancelling machines which were never completed. The special printing of stamps disappeared and their existence remained unknown to collectors.

Years later, in the 1960's, Britain introduced graphite treated stamps and claimed credit for the first automated mail service. Then several years ago, rumors surfaced concerning the existence of a quantity of special German "experimental stamps" which had been smuggled out of the country as war booty by

American officers.

Our Vancouver friends were quickly on the trail and after a great deal of digging and negotiating were able to obtain the complete holding. The results to follow were slow unfolding but rather spectacular. German stamp expert Emil Ludin studied the stamps closely. Something he had never seen before.

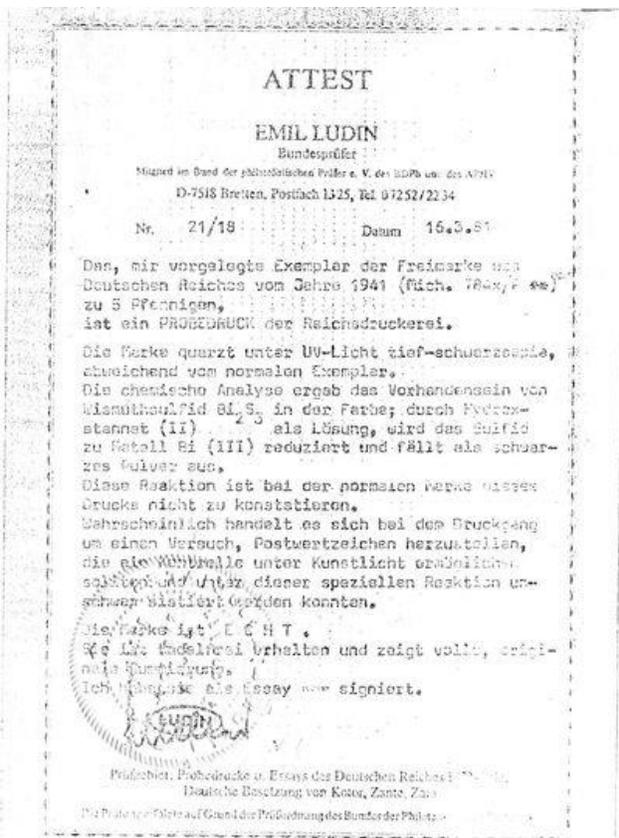
A sifting of war documents, chemical analysis... And a verdict. A new stamp discovery - and the earliest forerunner of the automatic mail sorting systems we know today.

The Michel German catalogue has already assigned a new catalogue number for this fabulous find (Michel #784x/P), and the catalogue value is to be set in the vicinity of 200 marks. Not bad for a stamp which in its normal state sells for a few cents.

The mad chase is on: collectors are rushing to compare their stamps with the new discovery.

European Philatelics

P.O. Box 988
Tucson, AZ 85702
(602) 681-5159



Certified True Translation.

Certificate

By

Emil Ludin (Bundesprüfer)

Number 21/18

Dated 16 Mar 1981

That the definitive stamp from Deutsches Reich for the year 1941 (Michel #784x/P**) value 5pf, which was presented to me.

Is a "Probedruck" from the Reichsdruckerei.

This stamp shows a quartz content under ultra violet light and the colour is deep sepia, which is different from normal examples.

The chemical analysis shows the presence of Bismuth Sulfide (Bi_2S_3) in the colour, through Hydroxylamine (II) as solution, the Sulfide is reduced to Metal Bi(III) and goes into Black Powder.

This reaction is not known to the normal stamp of this printing.

Most likely we are dealing in this case with a Printing Process of a trial nature in the production of postage stamps, which were to make it easy to be controlled under artificial light in this specific instance.

The stamp is genuine.

I have signed the same as an essay "Ludin BPP"

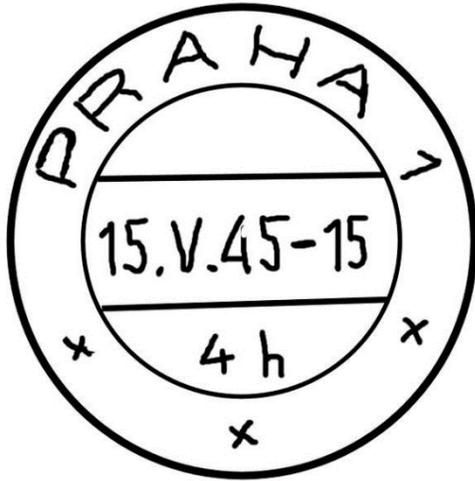
Note*.

Herr Emil Ludin is the Accredited Expert for the following areas of German Philately. i.e. Probedrucke & Essays for the German Reich period 1872 to 1945/German Occupation of Rotor & Zara.

Ludin's accredited certificates are issued in accordance with the strict rules of The Association of the Philatelic Expertising Committee of Germany

I hope you find this as interesting as I did.

Editor's Note: We did! Thank you so much for sharing this piece of history with us!



A Question and Some Answers

Calvin Deem wrote:

Obtained this cover and am looking for info on it or the overprinted city. The stamp on the upper right has an inverted overprint. Any info appreciated.

We did receive several replies:



Chris –

I think the cancel may have been applied with a cork rather than a rubber stamper because the cork would carry blobs of ink but the rubber probably would not as easily. In addition, it could have been made of metal, which would also cause blotchy ink if not done properly. It looks like they inked the stamper and then made multiple strikes rather than re-ink the stamper. That's typical of these types of covers, so it doesn't signify authentic or forged. I'm assuming the jpg. of just the cancel was hand drawn by someone, so it's just for informational purposes. The Engel catalog doesn't give a date for this particular cancellation, unfortunately.

Like I said, I'm not an expert at all. I can think of several members who would know absolutely whether this is an authentic piece or a forgery. -*Greg Coffman*

I cannot offer an opinion on the overprinted satzbrief (sp.) however, as a B&M collector, I'd note that Hitler-head stamps, and other then--current commems. were valid to and including 5-15-45, without overprint, I have some on commercial mail, used with red cds or machine slogan cancels. – *Dan Rethmeier*

Greetings Cal,

As always - you have an interesting item. If I recall correctly, the **Society for Czechoslovak Philately** (SCP) has studied these and many other similar overprints. I'm not sure - I'd have to dig out the material. The GPS has a reciprocal agreement re our respective journals --- but our library is not functioning at the moment. I can also check what we have at the Northern Philatelic Library here in the cities. I'll do my normal volunteer stint there tomorrow and see what I can find.

Second piece of info: When I was at the National Archives (in DC) about 6 years ago looking at OMGUS documents - I recall seeing a file that pertains to the activities of GI's during their short time in Czechoslovakia at the end of the war. There was concern about American military folks working with locals to

create all sorts of overprints. And, of course, a request from the top that such activity cease!

It's been a while since I've worked on this - so I'm not sure of the current status of the stamps, their use - mostly philatelic, I suspect - but there is literature on this topic -- the SCP would be a place to start.

Cheers – Rudi (*Editor's Note: Rudi Anders is the GPS President*)

Another Perspective:

Aloha Chris,

How many other members beat me to sending this?

[Svobodné Heřmanice](#) (help info) ([German](#): *Frei-Hermersdorf*) is a village and municipality in [Bruntál District](#) in the [Moravian-Silesian Region](#) of the [Czech Republic](#).

Could this be the answer? *John Berger*

More Information:

From Walter Kurth:

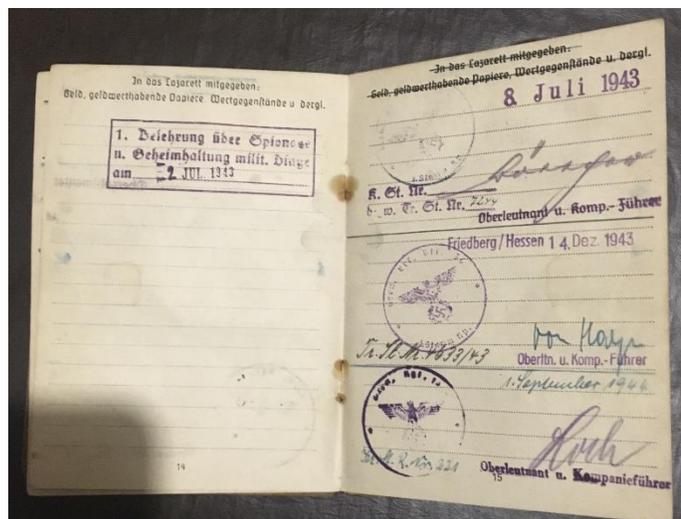
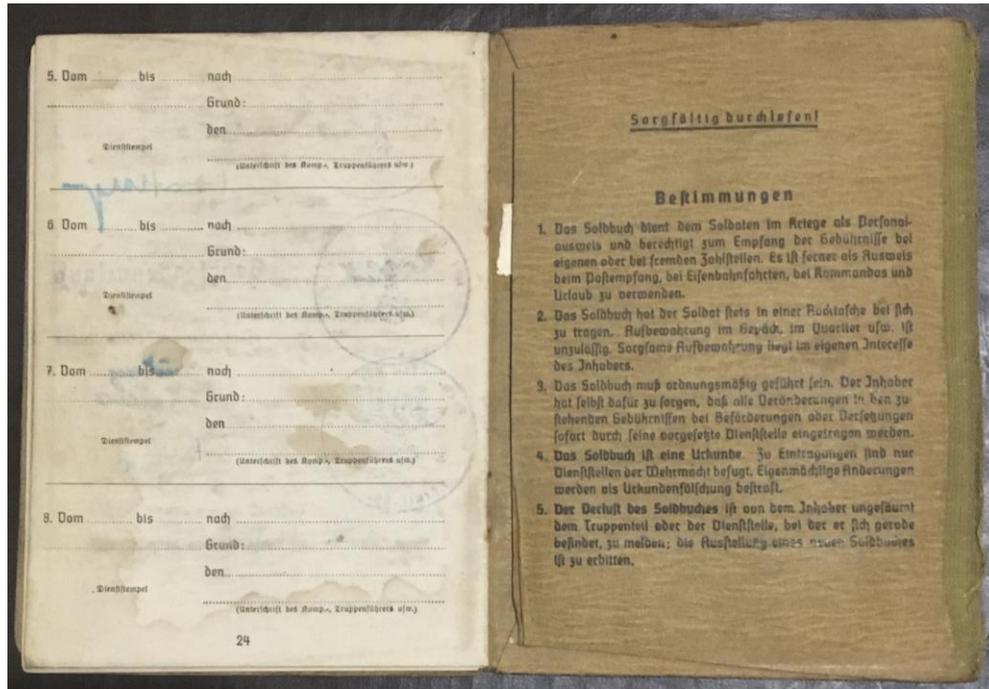
Go to:

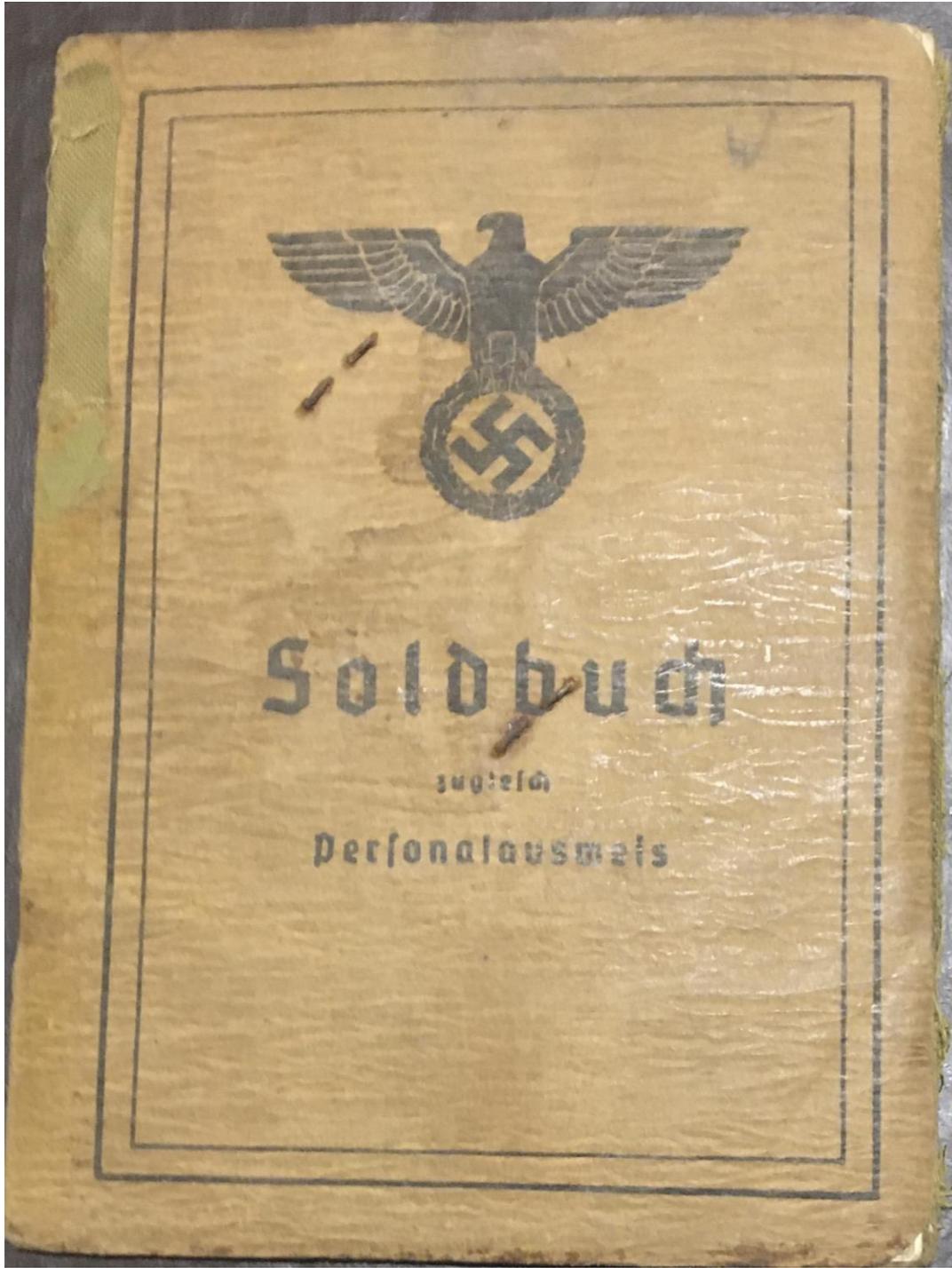
<https://www.ebay.com/itm/203333570264?hash=item2f57a00ed8:g:BKkAAOSwwpZqZ3p5>

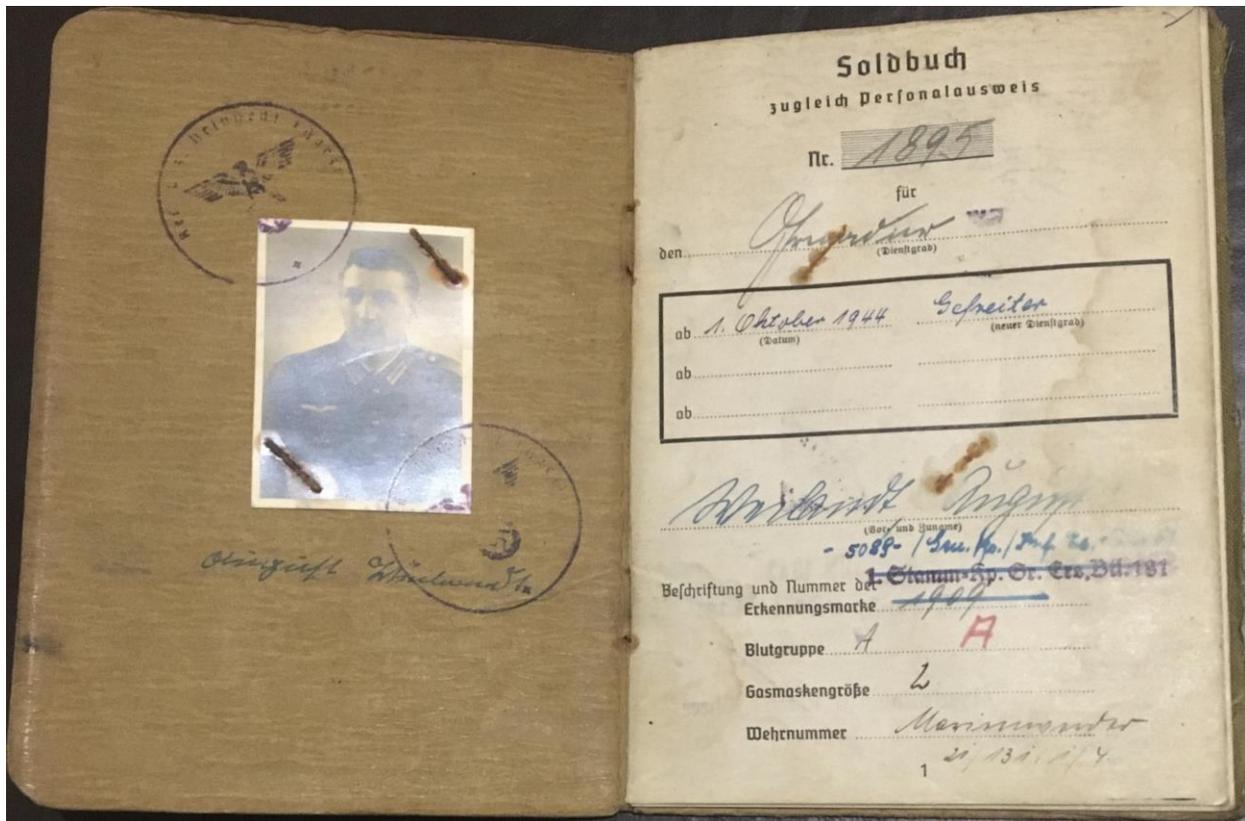
You will find all sorts of Czech stamps with various overprint. At the end of WW2, there was a shortage of postage stamps. Czech postmasters had existing stock of Czech stamps overprinted by a local printer and were used for a very short period of time (weeks). There is a catalog for this material. I collected this stuff for a while. Gave up when the overprints started showing on complete sets, reg. covers, etc, etc.

A Wonderful Bit of History: Soldbuch

From Carlos Rios







Ben Beede writes:

It seems to be genuine.

I recommend a book called "Papers Please" to those interested in Third Reich Identification. Check Worldcat, if you want your local library to request a loan, or Abe books, if you want to buy a copy. I think the volume is out of print, but checking Books in Print might be worthwhile.

Kenneth Neal writes:

You might also check with German eBay, Alibris, or Abe Books. I do know that it was published by Bender Publications originally. Another option is just doing a google search.

John Berger writes:

Aloha All,

Papers Please is available on Amazon. A used copy is currently listed on eBay but new copies are available for less on Amazon.

A Marine Officer's Letter Home

by Lawrence R. Mead

The cover shown below is a Feldpost letter which is addressed to "Fraulein Gertrud Peters, Grasdorf/Hannover Wasserwerk", that is, to Miss Gertrud Peters in Grasdorf near/in Hannover Waterworks. Presumably, either a girlfriend of the author or perhaps a co-worker in civilian life as it is addressed to the Grasdorf waterworks.



Markings on the cover are the eagle in a circle typical of Feldpost mailings. The double circle marking is dated Aug. 7, 1944 which, as we will see below is actually the arrival marking (date) in Hannover. To the left side of the envelope in

pen is the sender's name: Abs. Matr. & Sig. W. Strauch, M. N. O. Helgoland, presumably "Sender, Sailor (Matrose) & Signalman W(illi) Strauch, Marine Nachrichten Offizier on Helgoland", that is, marine signal officer on Helgoland. We learn that Willi Strauch is stationed on Helgoland instead of in Italy in the content of the letter inside which he sent on Aug. 6

Helgoland den 6. 8. 44

Liebe Gertrud!

Heute möchte ich dir von mir auch einmal wieder ein Lebenszeichen geben. Die du siehst bin ich statt in Italien auf der Insel Helgoland gelandet! Unsere Italien Kommandos sind nämlich wieder abgeblasen worden, "leider!" Hier auf der Insel ist es jetzt erst mal ein wenig ganz Interessant, wenn man über die Insel kommt und es schon langweilig. Es ist hier ein bisschen.

auf der Fahrt nach hier haben wir noch 3 herrliche Tage ^{im Cuxhaven} verlebt. Wir haben bis Mittwoch geschlafen und den Nachmittag dann am Strand verlebt.

Wie geht es dir denn? und wie sieht es jetzt in Grasdorf aus? Hast du immer noch viel Alarme? Wir kommen eben auch gerade aus dem Bunker. Heute am Samstag nachmittag geht es natürlich an den Strand zum Baden!

Für heute viele Grüße Willi

ganz liebe Grüße Eltern und Gisela Becker von mir!

Letter (front)

Letter (back)

Dated Helgoland, Aug. 6, 1944, the letter reads (my translation):

"Dear Gertrud, Today I want to give you a sign that I am still alive. As you see, instead of in Italy I ended up on the island of Helgoland. Our Italy Commando (raid) was called off 'unfortunately'. Here on the island, it is becoming more boring. One can stand it here. On the trip here we spent three wonderful days in Cuxhaven [port on the Elbe River, LRM]. We slept till noon and spent afternoons on the beach. How are you? Do you still have a lot of alarms? We are just now returning from the bunker. Today, Saturday afternoon, we'll of course go to the beach to swim! For today, many greetings, Willi.

PS. Please convey my greetings to your parents and to Gisela Becker.

I wish I could find out any information on Willi and Gertrud, but I could find nothing. I would like to think that they survived the war and perhaps were married. A tiny look into one man's life in the war for Germany.

War Criminal/POW Covers

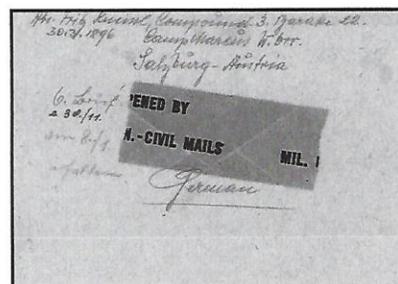
Dr. Michael Samuels has really outdone himself this time. He sends us the next three covers along with a wonderful explanation. These are great covers, showing us a pivotal time in human history. Thank you, Dr. Samuels!

Civil Internee Cover from the U.S. Army's Internment Camp— Camp Marcus W. Orr— in Salzburg, Austria

Initially established by the U.S. Army in the Fall of 1945, Camp Marcus W. Orr (aka Camp Glasenbach— named for the city across the Salzach River) was named for the last soldier of the 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division to be wounded during the war. Located south of Salzburg, the camp was first used to screen and release Wehrmacht POWs. The camp also applied "Automatic Arrest Provisions" to detain members of the SS, war criminals, NSDAP members and other Nazi sympathizers— both military and civilian. The camp was physically divided into seven compounds— I (war criminals), II & III (general internees), IV (punitive), V (celebrity), VI (women) and VII (SS members). The entire camp could accommodate 4-6000 people.

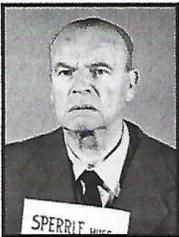
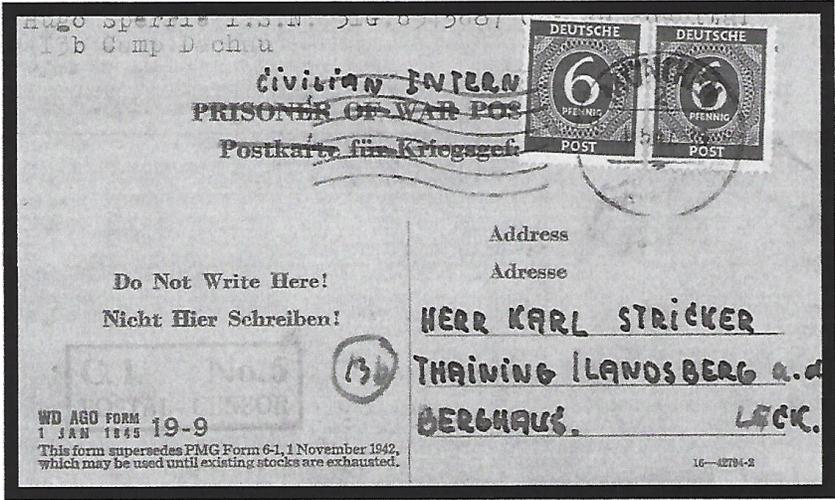


The envelope and paper was probably provided by the Red Cross, who stamped the envelope "Gebührenfrei" in anticipation of providing it to a POW. Civilian internees, war criminals and members of criminal organizations (SS, SD, Gestapo) were not eligible for free postage. Therefore, the sender applied the proper postage, which was stamped with a censor mark. The reverse bears a strip of censor tape. The return address indicates that the 50-year-old internee was in Compound III, which indicates that Fritz Kneissl was a general civilian internee who was probably a suspected Nazi Party member or sympathizer.



Postcard from Civil Internee *Generalfeldmarschall* Hugo Sperrle While Awaiting, in Dachau, High Command War Crimes Trial

Generalfeldmarschall Hugo Sperrle (7.II.1885 - 2.IV.1953) began his military career in World War I. When the Nazi Party rose to power, he was promoted to General Major and later given command of the Condor Legion in the Spanish Civil War. During the Anschluss and Czech Crisis, he was used as an airpower threat against other governments. He directed Luftwaffe forces in the Battle of France, and in the Battle of Britain he directed the operation of the Blitz. With the attrition of his Luftwaffe personnel and equipment, by mid-1944, Sperrle was relieved of his command and put in the *Führerreserve*. Sperrle was captured by the British on 1.V.1945, detained in the former Dachau Concentration Camp and subsequently indicted of War Crimes and tried in the last Nuremberg trial—the High Command Trial or General’s Trial.



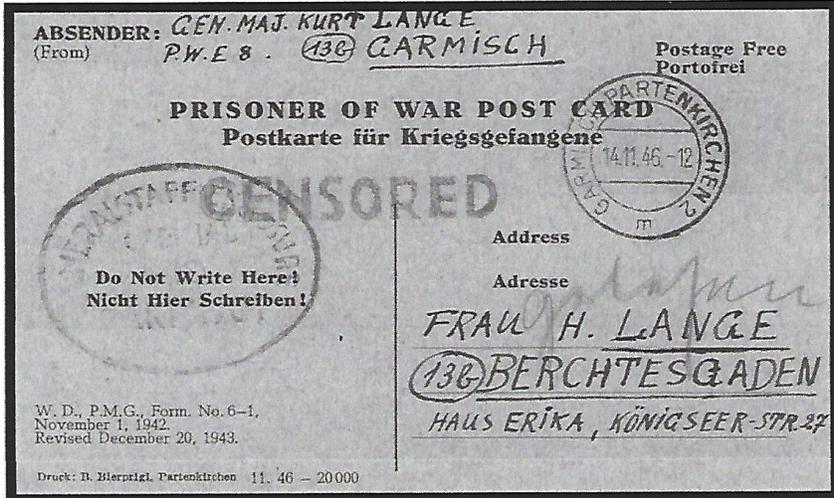
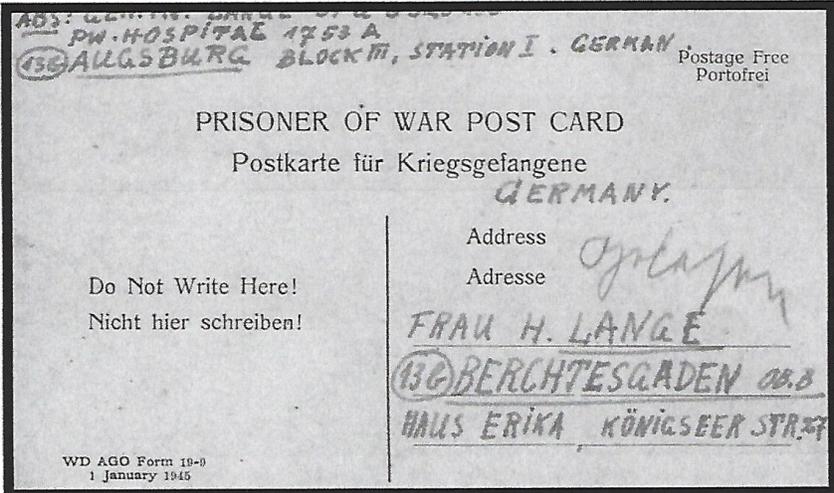
Fourteen Generals were charged with four criminal counts— crimes against 1) peace, 2) POWs, 3) humanity; and 4) conspiracy to commit those crimes. Subsequently, one General committed suicide, and Sperrle and one other were acquitted of all charges. One large factor was that Sperrle had never even been a member of the Nazi Party. Despite a range of sentences of three year to life, all the defendants were out of prison by 1953.

This card, written prior to the trial, while Sperrle was detained in the Dachau Camp, indicates that Sperrle is a ‘Civilian Internee’ as accused War Criminals were not afforded the rights of military POWs; which included free postage. The card was designed for POWs, but printed references to POWs are crossed out on this card. The two six-pfennig stamps bear a München cancellation, and the card is marked with a red “C.I. No. 13 <over> POSTAL CENSOR” in a red box.



Prisoner-of-War Postcards from Wehrmacht Major General Kurt Lange

Major General Kurt Lange was Kommandant of Karlsruhe from June to September of 1941, and of Salzburg from September 1941 until May of 1945. As a POW he was hospitalized first in Augsburg and later in Garmisch military hospitals. The first card (17.IV.46) bears no censor or cancellation marks, but, like the second card, is marked "Gebührenfrei" in orange pencil; as was the privilege of military POWs. The second card bears two censor stamps in red.



CHANNEL ISLANDS SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY

Founded 1950

Date: June 18, 2021

Press Contact: Steve Wells Press & Advertising Officer

Auction NS15

The Channel Islands Specialists' Society has made available the results of its Spring auction, NS 15, which closed on April 24.

Auctioneer Nick Stuart commented: "This 750-lot general auction included Occupation postal history, stamps, Red Cross messages, *Feldpost*, Internee and P.o.W. Mail. Reserves were from £2 to £260. There were over 80 bidders. It was the best-selling auction for the past seven years".

"Occupation material always attracts many bidders. A February 1945 Guernsey postcard with a 2d bisect and 1d Arms (bisects were invalidated in 1941) delivered with no surcharge (NS15086) raised £55. The star lot among Occupation stamps was a complete sheet of the Guernsey 2½d Arms from the 4th printing (NS15103) which sold for £325. Given the shortages of paper and envelopes many envelopes were re-used during the German Military Occupation: a cover to a Mr. Torode used six times between April-December 1944 (NS15111) fetched £26".

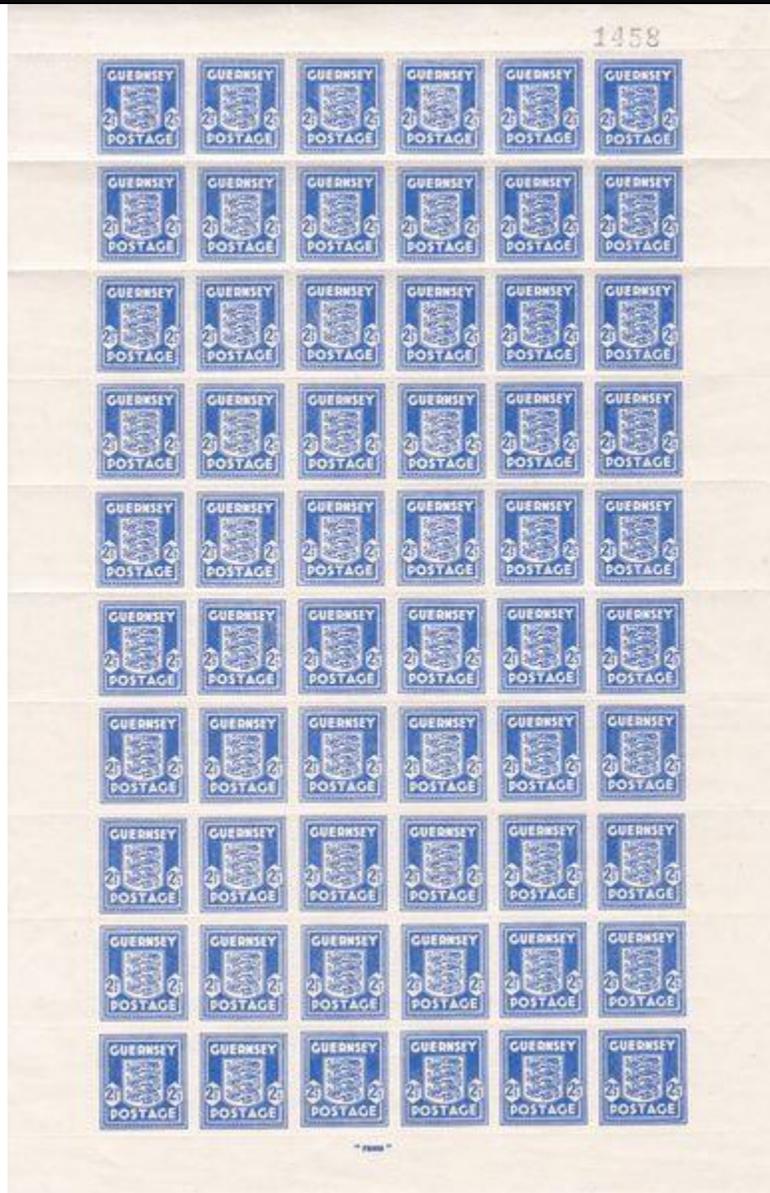
"Some unusual *Feldpost* covers were on offer: a military cover from Alderney to Vienna sold for £150 (NS15181); an uncensored civilian cover sent from France to Jersey went for £70 (NS15186); a hotly contested 1944 *Feldpost* cover sent from Jersey to Clifford Queree (a prisoner in Frankfurt) sold for £220 (NS15195)".

"A rare German P.o.W. February 1946 cover (NS15251) sent by a soldier in Guernsey to Germany bearing a single circle Camp 801 cachet sold for £200".

Further information about the C.I.S.S. may be obtained from the website:

<https://www.ciss.uk/>

PRESS RELEASE



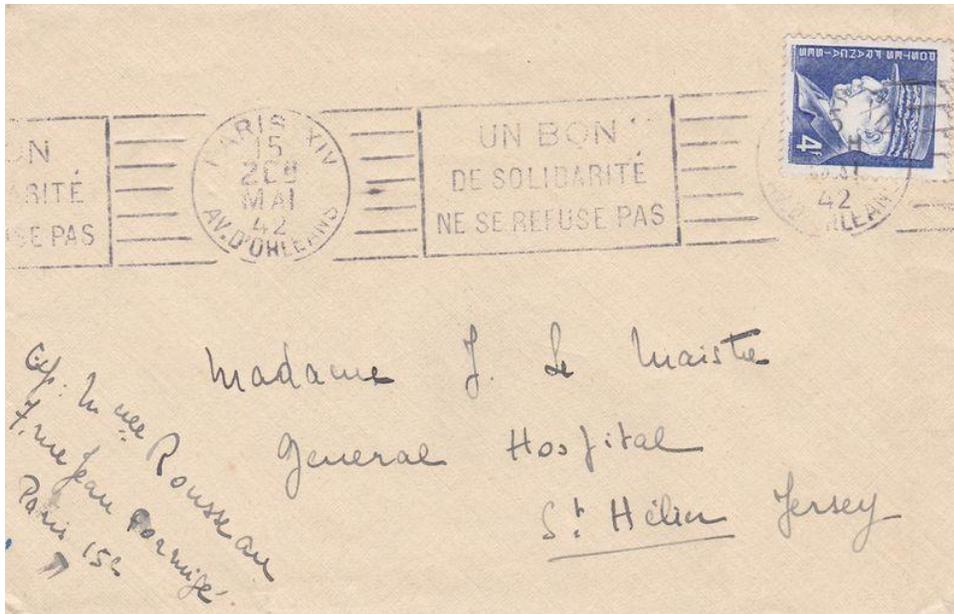
A complete sheet of the Guernsey 2½d Arms from the 4th printing (NS15103) which sold for £325



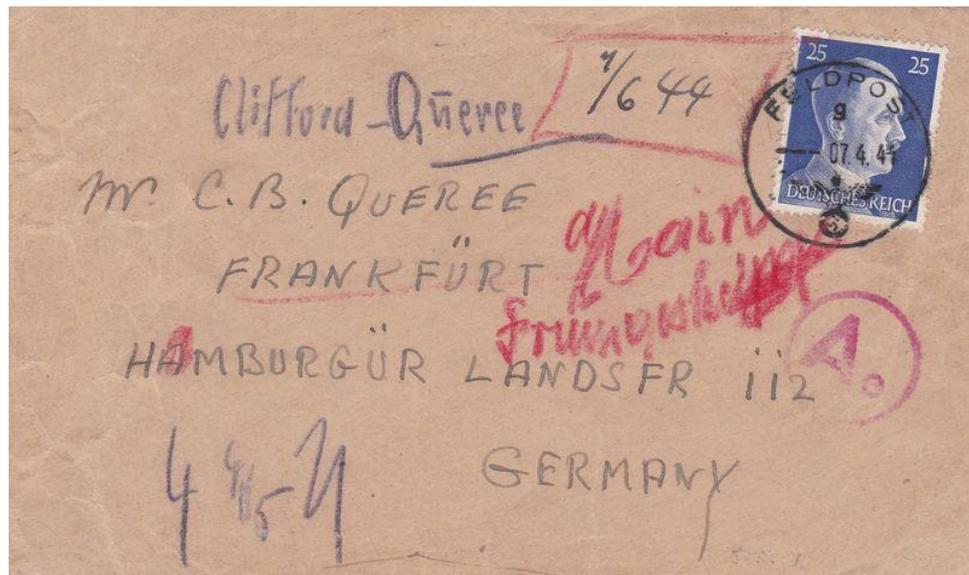
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A military cover from Alderney to Vienna sold for £150 (NS15181)



An uncensored civilian cover sent from France to Jersey went for £70 (NS15186)



A hotly contested 1944 Feldpost cover sent from Jersey to Clifford Queree (a prisoner in Frankfurt) sold for £220 (NS15195)

Army Form No. W3494
(Revised)

PRISONER OF WAR POST
KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST

ADRESSE

P.O.W. CAMP 801 GREAT BRITAIN

Absender P.P.
Vor und Zuname
JAN.FELDW. RICHARD MUELLER

Gefangenennummer B 167611

Lager-Bezeichnung
No. 801 P.O.W. Camp GUERNEY
Great Britain CHANNEL ISLANDS

An HERRN AUGUST MUELLER

Empfangsort MALTERDINGEN (BADEN)

Strasse 17a ÜBER EMMENDINGEN

Land DEUTSCHLAND
FRANZÖSISCHE ZONE

1250 M. J/483. 5/45. 24 HDPSS. PO 809.

A rare German P.O.W. February 1946 cover sent by a soldier in Guernsey to Germany bearing a single circle Camp 801 cachet sold for £200

Late Wartime Civilian Use of the Feldpost System in Germany

Benjamin R. Beede

As Allied forces moved into Germany in 1944-1945 German civilians with no connection with the German armed forces or the Waffen-SS were sometimes allowed to send and receive mail through military postal facilities when the Reichspost was no longer operating in areas close to the front. The admission and handling of such mail varied. Apparently, there was no effort made to standardize procedures.

In some cases, postage had to be paid by the sender, and postage stamps were applied to letters and postcards. In other cases, German refugees at least were allowed to send mail free of charge. Some people could send mail through the Feldpost, but they could not receive mail addressed to them. In other instances, certain civilians near the front could receive mail through the Feldpost that was free franked.

Occasionally, one can even find business mail that was sent through the Feldpost, although the firm seemingly had no connection with the military. Such business service had nothing to do with the "Durch Deutsche Feldpost" procedures established in some occupied situations.

Building a collection of mail in this category would take some time and careful searching of catalogs issued by auction firms in Germany.

I had only a few covers, despite my having watched for them.

Mail to and from Foreign Volunteers in the German Armed Forces and the Waffen-SS During World War II Continues to Merit Attention

Benjamin R. Beede

In 1968-1969, the *German Postal Specialist* included a series of articles about the subject noted above that three other philatelists and I wrote. That series is still worth reading, but the subject has many ramifications, and, therefore, it is worth examining further. Foreigners served in many branches of the armed forces and in various components of the Waffen-SS. Gathering information from historical accounts provides postal historians with the bases for studying and describing their covers more fully in articles or exhibits or both.

There is a considerable amount of historical material available about those foreigners and ethnic Germans who left their homelands for service with the Germans. Those interested in studying the subject must be warned that the more foreign languages that one can read, the better.

Even in the purely philatelic sphere, there are important books in Italian and French, and likely other languages, in addition to those in German, of course.

A complicating factor in understanding the foreign volunteers and conscripts and their mail is that some of them served in military organizations that were largely German. Thus, having the contents of covers can be useful, in order to provide reasonable proof that the sender or recipient was a foreigner. The situation with ethnic Germans is still more involved. There are books, though, that discuss the ethnic composition of German military organizations. If a cover

was sent from a force that had a significant number of ethnic Germans from a foreign country, such as Hungary, and the cover was addressed to Hungary and the message was written in German, one can reasonably consider the cover is an example of foreign military or Waffen-SS mail.

There is more such mail available for sale to philatelists than once was the case. This is especially true for mail to and from countries that came under Soviet influence after World War II. In 1965 or 1966, I recall being delighted to buy a cover sent by a Latvian volunteer. Such mail was hardly known at that time. Today, there are many such covers to and from the Baltic states, although they are still interesting.

A closely related postal history area is mail to and from personnel in Axis military forces that served with the German forces and that had their mail processed by the *Feldpost* rather than their national military postal systems. Some Slovak railway repair troops were probably highly mobile, and, therefore, they could not depend on the Slovak military postal system. One remarkable item in my collection was a postcard sent through the *Feldpost* by a Jew in a Hungarian labor service battalion operating with the Germans in 1944. The printed postcard clearly indicated the status of the sender, by the way.



Stamps of the Third Reich



Emil Von Behring – 50th Anniversary of The Discovery of Anti-Diphtheria Serum

Michel 760-1 / Scott B186-7 November 22, 1940, valid until December 31, 1941

6+4 Pfennig, green and a 25+10 Pfennig, ultramarine.

The official announcement:

Amtsblatt No. 113 November 22nd 1940

No 652/1940 New Postage Stamps

In memory of Emil Behring, the famous anti-diphtheria pioneer who published his discovery in Marburg just 50 years ago, the German Reichspost will issue special, photogravure printed 6+4Pfg and 25+10 Pfg postage stamps, 27.5X32.8mm in size and featuring a portrait of the research scientist. Each sheet will contain 50 postage stamps. The design was prepared at the artwork studios of the State Printing Works, Vienna, where the stamps will also be printed. The surcharges of 4 Pfg and 10 Pfg will go towards the Führer's Culture Fund.

An illustration of the 6 Pfg stamps will be published in the Amtsblatt in the near future.

The stamps will be on sale at the Post Offices in Leverkusen J.G. Werk and Marburg (Lahn) from the 26th November 1940 until the end of January 1941, and at some later date they will be available from head Post Offices of the Reichspost Directorates – in Berlin C2, N1, NW7, W8, W9, SW11, O17, Berlin-Charlottenburg 2, Berlin-Schöneberg 1, Berlin-Spandau 1; thereafter the stamps may be purchased from the stamp collectors' Philatelic Agency at 97 Zimmerstrasse, Berlin SW68. Accounts are to be processed in accordance with regulations specified in Amtsblatt No. 600/1940, S681.



Emil Behring

Two special postmarks were made, of identical design – one each for the first two post offices where the stamp could be bought. One was the Marburg office, and the other was the Leverkusen J.G. Werk post office.

His Life:

Upbringing and Education

Emil Behring (1854-1917) was born on March 15, 1854 in Hansdorf, West Prussia, as August and Auguste Behring's first child. His father was a village school teacher, who during his first marriage had four children and after the birth of Emil another eight children.

As a talented student, Behring's village minister assisted him, making it possible for Behring to attend the Gymnasium (High School) in the village Hohenstein. His desire to study theology changed after a friend who was a military doctor arranged for him to start his medical studies at the University of Berlin. He obtained a scholarship and from 1874 through 1878 and studied at the Academy for Military Doctors at the Royal Medical-Surgical Friedrich-Wilhelm-Institute, earning his medical degree. Subsequently, he had to perform as a military doctor

and worked as a troop doctor in various garrisons. Afterwards, Behring was given a position at the Hygiene Institute of Berlin in 1888 as an assistant to Robert Koch (1843-1910), one of the pioneers of bacteriology. During this time, Behring's wrote his first authoritative publication on diphtheria and tetanus serum therapy.

The Behring Family

During his early years as a military doctor, Behring's did not make enough money to start a family. Only in 1896, when he had a regular salary, did he marry the 20-year-old Else Spinola.



1896 Wedding photo of the Behrings

In 1898, after having become professor at the University in Marburg (then part of Prussia), Behring moved with his family into a house in Wilhelm-Roser-Strasse in Marburg, where his six sons were born. Behring was a family man. In the circle of his family, he felt content, although his scientific work presumably did not leave him much time for his wife and children.

The Development of the Diphtheria-Therapeutic-Serum

Behring, who in the early 1890s became an assistant at the Institute for Infectious Diseases headed by Robert Koch, started his studies with experiments on the development of a therapeutic serum. In 1890 Behring, together with his university friend Erich Wernicke, had managed to develop the first effective therapeutic serum against diphtheria. At the same time, together with Shibasaburo Kitasato, he developed an effective therapeutic serum against tetanus.

The researchers immunized rats, guinea pigs, and rabbits with attenuated forms of the infectious agents causing diphtheria and tetanus. The sera produced by these animals were injected into non-immunized animals previously infected with the fully virulent



Shibasaburo Kitasato

bacteria. The ill animals could be cured through the administration of the serum. With the blood serum therapy, Behring and Kitasato became the first to use passive immunization method in the fight against infectious diseases. The particularly poisonous substances from bacteria – the toxins – could be rendered harmless by the serum of animals immunized with attenuated forms of the infectious agent through antidotes or antitoxins.

The Introduction of Serum Therapy

The first successful therapeutic serum treatment of a child suffering from diphtheria occurred in 1891. Until then, more than 50,000 children in Germany died yearly of diphtheria. During the first few years, there was no successful breakthrough occurred, as the antitoxins given were not sufficiently concentrated. Not until the development of enrichment by the bacteriologist Paul Ehrlich (1854-1915) along with a precise quantification and standardization protocol, was an exact determination of quality of the antitoxins presented and successfully developed. Behring subsequently decided to draw up a contract with Ehrlich as the foundation of their future collaboration. They organized a laboratory under a railroad circle (Stadtbahnbogen) in Berlin, where they could then obtain the serum in large amounts by using large animals – first sheep and later horses.

In 1892, Behring and the Hoechst Chemical and Pharmaceutical Company at Frankfurt/Main started working together, as both recognized the diphtheria antitoxin's potential. Production and marketing of the therapeutic serum began at Hoechst in 1894. While some in the field criticized the production, the serum's success ultimately silenced the critics and ensured continued future production.

Active Protective Vaccination against Diphtheria

The therapeutic serum developed by Behring prevented diphtheria for only a short period of time. Consequently, in 1901 Behring first developed and used a diphtheria inoculation of bacteria with reduced virulence. With this active immunization he hoped to help the body produce its own antitoxins. As a supporter of the humoral theory of immune response, Behring believed in the long-term protective action of these natural serum antitoxins. Behring has now been vindicated, as it is well-established knowledge that active vaccination stimulates antitoxin (antibody) producing cells to provide long-lasting immunity.

The development of an active vaccine took several years. In 1913, Behring went public with his diphtheria protective agent, T.A. (Toxin-Antitoxin). It contained a mixture of diphtheria toxin and therapeutic serum antitoxin. The toxin was meant to cause a light general response of the body but not harm the vaccinated person. In addition, it was designed to provide long-term protection. Various clinics tested the vaccine, finding it to be safe and effective.

Tetanus Therapeutic Serum during World War I

In 1891, tetanus serum was introduced considerably more quickly in clinical practices than the diphtheria serum. The Agricultural Ministry supported research efforts to develop a therapeutic agent against tetanus to protect agriculturally valuable animals.

However, the Ministry did only a small amount of clinical testing on humans, and so the German Military Administration accepted it only on a small scale at World War I's start.

During the first months of World War I, this restraint led to massive losses of human lives. Even worse, the first of distribution of the tetanus antitoxins in the military hospitals proved futile, due to insufficient concentrations. At the end of 1914, as a result of Behring's constructive assistance, sera injection was established as a method of preventing disease. Starting in April 1915, the Germans overcame mistakes in dosage and the shortage of supplies, and the numbers of sick fell dramatically. Behring was declared "Savior of the German Soldiers" and awarded the Prussian Iron Cross medal.

Acknowledgements and Honors

In 1903, Emil von Behring was given the title of "Wirklicher Geheimer Rat mit dem Prädikat



His Nobel Prize in Medicine of Physiology of 1901

Excellenz” by the German emperor Wilhelm II. The diploma says: “This is in order that Behring should remain in unbroken loyalty to Myself and the Royal Family and to fulfill his official responsibility with continuous eagerness, whereby he who has the right connected to his present character, will receive the highest protection by Myself”. A splendid uniform was provided along with the title.

In 1901, when the Nobel Prizes were awarded for the first time, Behring received the Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Behring’s Health

Behring lived entirely for his idea of revolutionizing medicine through serum therapy. This idea hung above him and motivated him, in his own words, “like a demon.” His enormous concentration on his work often drove him to physical illnesses and deep depressions, forcing him to take time off work for a sanatorium stay from 1907 through 1910.

On March 31, 1917, Behring died of pneumonia and was entombed in a mausoleum at the Marburg Elsenhöhe. After Behring’s death, Else von Behring served as chairwoman of the Women’s National Organization in Marburg, Germany. She died in 1936 of a heart attack at the age of only 59.

The 1940 Behring Jubilee

On December 4, 1940, Philipps University, Marburg, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the original publication of Emil von Behring’s decisive discovery of serum therapy. Top leaders of the National Socialist Party (Nazis), the rectors of numerous German universities, representatives of the Behringwerke, and many scientists and friends of Emil von Behring from abroad attended. The celebration, which continued over a few days, began with lectures and addresses by officials, both of the state and party. Finally, a foundation certificate for a new Institute for Experimental Therapy was handed over. The professors then moved from the university auditorium (*Aula*) to unveil a new Behring Memorial close to St. Elisabeth Church. The celebration was followed by a two-day scientific meeting,

presenting the state of the art of immunology and the fight against infectious diseases.

Not all of the Jubilee was jubilant. In the view of the National Socialists, Else von Behring was regarded as a “half-Jew”, as her mother came from a Jewish family. With the help of a number of friends, she was able to get her sons accepted by Hitler as “Aryans” and not stigmatized as “half-breeds”. After the death of Else von Behring in 1936, no obstacles were left for the Nazi party to use Emil von Behring as a glorified representative of national socialist “Germanic” science.

During the ceremony there were some signs of tension. Although one of Behring’s sons participated in the ceremony, he was not greeted by any of the official speakers. Only the Danish researcher, Thorvald Madsen from Copenhagen, who had previously been chairman of the Health Organization of the League of Nations, dared to mention Behring’s friendly connection with researchers from enemy countries, such as those at the Institut Pasteur in Paris. Courageously, he also recalled the great bacteriologist Paul Ehrlich, despised by the Nazis due to his Jewish origin, who had played a significant role in Behring’s successes.

Behring’s Legacy

Despite the obvious use of Behring’s persona by the Nazis for their own political gain with the stamp and the Jubilee, Behring remains one of the unsung heroes of the 20th century. Tortured by his work, opposed by many around him, and working through difficult political times, he did what few in history can say: He saved countless lives through his work, and made his world a better place for it. Behring’s work lives on in the vaccinations that are so common even today. Much of the control of deadly diseases of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, and mumps can be traced directly or indirectly through Behring’s work.

British Poster from the 1950s urging citizens to get their diphtheria immunization



More Stamps:



Germany, Scott 2275, 2004, celebrating the 150th birthday of both Ehrlich and von Behring



Scott 722, West Germany 1954, commemorating the 100th birthday of both Ehrlich and von Behring

AuctionWatch

From the House of Zion Auction House:



PHOTO POSTCARDS, Palestine Brigade, Prisoners in Stalag VIIB German POW camp, group picture with file hole, bent corners; Photo of E. Margolin, in uniform, signed. Photo. Estimated Value. \$125



POW POSTCARDS TO PALESTINE, 14 total, 1941-1944, all from Palestine Brigade prisoners in German camp, Stalag VIII B. Mixed condition, great study lot, as hard to find lot of this size. Photo. Estimated Value \$1000



NEW ZEALAND FORCES in Palestine (6 exhibit pages) all from the Fred Blau collection. Includes 6 covers. Photo. Estimated Value \$350



U.S. FORCES in Palestine, (3 exhibit pages plus extra covers) from the Fred Blau collection. 6 Covers including units #1221 and #1227, plus scarce incoming mail at "Privileged Air Mail rate for Military Personnel". Photo. Estimated Value \$500

From Paradise Valley Stamp Company:

GERMANY, 1934, SEMI-POSTAL WORKERS SET USED, #B59-B67, fresh and very fine, cat. \$129.30 – Available for \$60



From C.G.
Auktionen:

1943, Heydrich
block in the
original
dimensions 101:
146 mm, number
660, unused
without gum, with
bend at the
bottom.



660



1938, postage due 5 crowns from the lower left corner of the sheet with plate mark "38" and red hand stamp overprint "Karlsbad | 1.X.1938", edition according to Dr. Hear only 75 copies, with plate number only two other copies from the right corner of the sheet are known so far. Certificate with photograph Brunel VP.500 Euros

VP VERBAND PHILATELISTISCHER PRÜFER E. V. EXPERTISE CERTIFICATE СЕРТИФИКАТ 鑑定書

ROBERT BRUNEL Nr.: 2020-1550 Datum: 6.12.2020

020072 020072

Sudetenland 1938 – Karlsbad

**Tschechische 5 Kronen Portomärke (Mi.Nr. 64)
mit Handstempelaufdruck „Karlsbad 1.X.1938“
- Mi.Nr. 39 ** -**

Die Marke aus der linken unteren Bogenecke mit Plattenzeichen „38“ auf den Bogenrand hat echten dunkelrosa Handstempelaufdruck und postfrische Originalgummierung mit Falzspur nur auf dem linken Bogenrand.

Die Erhaltung ist einwandfrei.

Die Auflage betrug laut Dr. Hörr 75 Exemplare. Mit Plattennummer sind bislang nur zwei weitere Exemplare (diese aus der rechten Bogenecke) bekannt geworden.

Die Marke ist signiert „Dr.Dub“.

Abbildung siehe unten.



1938, 20 Kc - postage with full postmark KARLSBAD 1 4d 4.X.38 on very attractive luxury letter piece, among other things signed Osper as well as photo certificate Kleymann: "... perfect ..." total edition only 20 copies.
2500 Euros





1941, British Propaganda Forgeries World War II - British forgeries for Italy, an ally of Germany. Special stamp Mi. 626 - 50 C. (2 peoples at war) based on the pattern "Italian German Armed Forces Brotherhood", with change in the brand image, different perforation, without watermark and changed color - black-green instead of purple, the test piece is an original and unused + without Gumming photo certificate Pieles. 350 Euros



1933 Wagner Welfare
20pf perf 14 x 13 f.u.
[US1] (Start Price =
£92.80)

From Universal Auctions:

1933 Chicago Flight
2m (wavy line cancel)
and 4m f.u. [US1]
(Start Price =
£199.20)



From Viennafil Auctions:



1938, legionnaire's stamp 50 H. with dark blue-violet overprint (Doss Alto) on piece used, checked Krischke, Mi. 56 Zfw / 550, - Starting bid at 180 Euros



1944, postal stationery map of Italy over 75 c. with overprint "Deutsche Militär-Verwaltung Kotor Lit. 2.-", unused, canceled, Mi. P2

A Correction

We had a lot of interest in the article *Censored 1945 Austrian Mail*, January 2021, #218. After numerous commentaries on the historic cover, it appears a clarification is in order. As one of our readers, Jason Yang, wrote:

The "bridge" cancel, or "Kreisstegstempel mit bogen oben und unten" as classified by *Michel Feldpost Special*, uses Roman numerals for months. An example is in the attached scan of an illustrated feldpost faltbrief used in civilian mailstream: the Altersee CDS shows a date of 24.X.44., i.e., 1944-10-24.



Thus, it could be deduced that this cover is dated 1945-02-22, not in November 1945. This makes a big difference in terms of "post-war" as the war ended on May 8th, 1945.

That being said, that cover is still a rare piece given the time period close to war's end (Spaete Post), especially international mail pieces. Austria, before the war ended, was still a part of greater Germany and used German postal rates. The cover is franked with a total of 55pfg, equaling to 25pfg int'l letter 20g rate plus 30pfg registration fee. Late war mail traffic had frequent disruptions and some mail routes were cut off as the Germans lost control of territory.

Danzig

Report No. 106



• The SOUTH AMERICAN FLIGHTS
BY JIM GRAUE

• The 1-Zloty Port Gdansk Stamp
BY HANS VOGELS

• AUCTION #4 - Due Date: ~~March 31~~ 4/17

• e-mail addresses

Editor: John H. Bloecher 1743 Little Creek Drive Baltimore MD 21207-5230 U.S.A.

Jan • Feb • Mar
2000

W H W

The Winter Relief Campaign comes to Danzig



Figure 1 — Examples of Michel #264 (at left) and 264 Type I, from Ephraim "Duke" Day's collection. Type I has an obvious hole in the 1-o'clock position on the zero in numeral 10. Additional subtle anomalies appear, some perhaps caused by the heavier application of ink, which is of a darker value of brown. For example, the "p" inside loop of the "5" falls into that description. Note, in the lower-right corner of the Type I illustration, that six short vertical lines are seen above the quay's timbers, two more than in the #264 example at left.

In this Report --- Auction No. 4-DR-106



Quarterly publication of the DANZIG STUDY GROUP of the Germany Philatelic Society

Editor: John H. Bloecher, Baltimore MD
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Report 106

Subscription Rates: \$10.00 per year, U.S. and Canada; \$15.00 overseas

In this Report

WHW Winter Relief Campaign --- Its Origins and the Danzig Campaign.....Page 1, 3-21
The South American Catapult Flights, by Jim Graue.....22-
e-mail Addresses.....[Exact pagination not known at time of printing]
Auction #4-DR-106.....

As Things Are

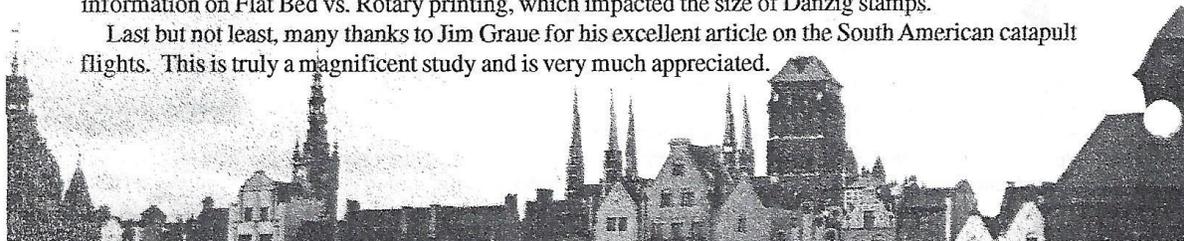
Tired of hearing about the new Millennium, Y2K and all that junk? Of course, so let's enjoy our hobby for a while. We have been fortunate to have a couple of collectors who are willing to share their knowledge again, starting with Rex A. Dixon. You will recall that Rex sent us a batch of HP-1 Ganssachen cards in DR-101, augmented by some of Ronny's fine cards. While at IBRA last April, the attendees at the GPS-BDPh joint banquet were given copies of the May, 1999, issue of STAMP Magazine. We do know that this is a mighty fine publication, but there were two articles that stood out for a person who collects Danzig: (1) "Winter Relief", by Rex A. Dixon, and (2) "Sheets Galore", by John Rawlings. In this Report, we've traced the story of *Winterhilfswerk* from its beginning in Germany, through all of the stamps used for the purpose in Danzig, and much in between. Rex mailed some original cards and sheets to be published, for which we thank him very much.

John Rawlings' article finds us in a similar situation. Although neither one is a "Danzig" story, they both trace the origin of a subject that cuts deeply across Danzig lines. "Danzig Blocks" is tentatively scheduled for DR-108, containing a "Blockbuster" found on e-bay by Duke Day. Questions such as, "why did the blocks disappear like the dinosaurs?" will finally be answered. More fun ahead.

At the same time, we are sorry to postpone Hans Vogels' "Story of the 1-Zloty Port Gdansk Stamp" until next Report. Hopefully, we will be able to paste up the *Luftschutzbund* story that was scraped off the walls of an attic in Zoppot (newsprint does insulate, y'know) and include it with DR-107.

With 20 pages of WHW in the computer, we're stopping it there and will add more information in a future Report. This will give you time to check on your collection and mail in copies of whatever you have that's unusual on Stutthof, WHW, Nothilfe, Luftschutzbund, etc. Needed also is technical information on Flat Bed vs. Rotary printing, which impacted the size of Danzig stamps.

Last but not least, many thanks to Jim Graue for his excellent article on the South American catapult flights. This is truly a magnificent study and is very much appreciated.



W H W

Winterhilfswerk

It Originated in Germany in 1933...



Figure 1 - WHW or *Winterhilfswerk* wasn't printed on the first stamps designated for the charity but was adjacent to the stamp in this combination of A 12/512/A12, which is Mi.# S168 (4.12.33).

was adopted by Danzig postal authorities in 1934.



Figure 2 -The first *Winterhilfswerk* charity stamps were issued on 15 January, 1934, requiring black overprints on existing Danzig definitives. They were Michel 237, 238 and 239, printed over #193xD (red-orange shades), #194xD (green to dark green), #214x (orange-red to red).

The world had just been plunged into a devastating economic Depression prior to the establishment of Adolf Hitler's "Third Reich". Possibly Germany's darkest hours were in the winter of 1933-34, which gave the Nazi regime an opportunity to appear charitable while indoctrinating the people in the direction of National Socialism. After all, 6,000,000 people, almost all of them men, became unemployed. The situation presented the new regime with an opportunity. Hitler's aim was to display his government as a benevolent guardian of the public. On one Sunday every year, members of all the Nazi organizations were required to join with a massive street collection of money. They were joined by popular stars of the stage and screen, who accepted change in metal containers and gave out lapel pins in return. Extra pressure was put upon most Jewish store owners for a disproportional contribution. The Nazi party's newspaper, *Völkischer Beobachter* (The Racial Observer), tabulated returns and reported them in their weekly editions' headlines.

Conditions in Nazi Germany during the 1930s

While the United States and other of its allies struggled with recovery, the Nazi government seemed to accomplish the impossible, and this was the main reason that Hitler could control the loyalty of the masses, at least until 1939. (See the roads, bridges and buildings issue of 1936, Mi.#634-642).

Outwardly, the vast public works projects that were illustrated on these stamps, appeared to



Figure 3 - Else Schröder's Reichsarbeitsdienst pass book dated 29 September 1940, with her 1942 rail pass on top of the right-hand page. Note that the RAD pass has been de-Nazified by scratching the swastikas off the Hoheitszeichen and that the open edge has been trimmed off. This pass was issued by the Young Women's Section of the RAD to 19-year-old Else Schröder of Blomberg, upon completion of her obligatory RAD service as an Arbeitsmaid. She was given a "sehr gut" for her leadership ability, but she got only three dashes (no opinion) in the blank in which her Eignung (aptitude) should have been described. By itself, this pass paints a bleak picture for Else's future, being 20 years old without any aptitude. She overcame this by securing a job in either France or Belgium, according to her rail card, with ID of 3013, dated 1942, from a line that ran from Paris via Lille to Tourcoing, Belgium. The card gave her free transportation on the railway, so she worked either for the railway company or for the occupation forces. The back of the rail card is written in both French and German and explains the use of the card (no dogs on the train, etc.).

Arbeit Adelt
Labor makes you noble - motto of the RAD

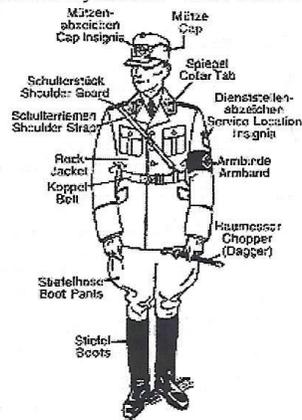


Figure 4 - The uniform of an RAD Mann.

Principle insignia was a dark shield surrounding a light-colored spade, with the number of the unit printed in red. For officers, the spade was woven of gold or silver metallic thread.



< Insignia of the Reichsarbeitsdienst

provide high-wage jobs and total unemployment. But, William L. Shirer, in "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" presents a somewhat different view of conditions for the workers. Wages were always lower when compared with those in the United States, and were even lower under the Nazis. The Reich Statistical Office shows a decline of from 20.4 cents an hour in 1932, at the height of the Depression, to 19.5 cents in the middle of 1936. At the Nürnberg Rally of 1936, Dr. Ley stated that the average earnings of full-time workers in the Labor Front amounted to \$6.95 per week. The average for all German workers was put at \$6.29, according to the Reich Statistical Office.

The reason for stating these statistics here is to provide a background for both the wealth and the generosity of the average German, whose take-home pay shrank from 1932 through 1938, which was a boom year, due to public works projects and war preparations. While the "defense" industries saw their income increase exponentially, Hitler and the rest of his propagandists ranted against bourgeois and capitalists and proclaimed their solidarity with the worker. Statistics proved otherwise.

Deductions included stiff income taxes, compulsory contributions to sickness, unemployment and disability insurance, not to mention Labor Front dues. Everyone was under constant pressure to make increasingly larger gifts to charities that were sponsored by the government. Philatelists are familiar with *Nothilfe*, the emergency relief that was called into operation during disasters, but the largest program came under *Winterhilfswerk*. Shirer states that many workers lost their jobs failing to contribute to *Winterhilfe*, or because his contribution was deemed too small. A labor court would oust the employee for "conduct hostile to the community of the people... to be most strongly condemned."

It was estimated that, in the mid-1930s, taxes and contributions took up to 35% out of the average \$6.95 per week, leaving little for necessities. Perhaps some consolation was provided by allowing the shovel-bearing workers to march in review at the Nürnberg Rallies. Pride in being part of the State had to provide a substitution for a large percentage of lost income. Insult was added to injury when the workers were forced to recite a pledge to support *der Führer*. These conditions also show how important Dr. Ley's *Kraft durch Freude* (Strength through Joy) programs were to the workers' morale.

Restrictions on Locations of Employment

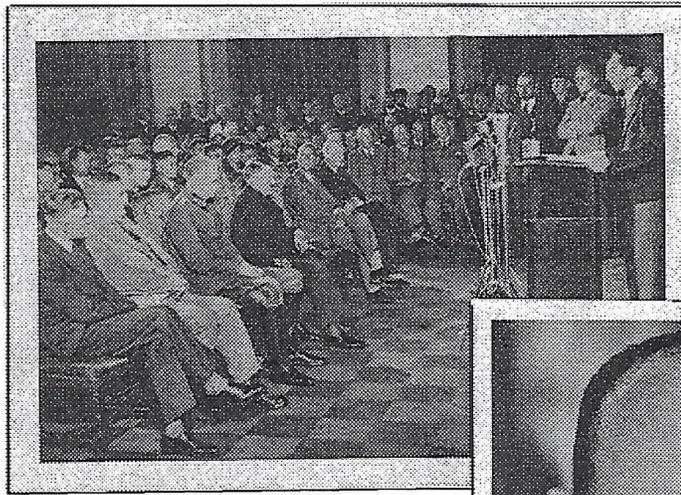
Movement of workers from job to job was carefully monitored. Farm workers were forbidden to leave the land for work in the city. This law, however, did not work in practice, because 1,300,00 farm workers migrated to industrial jobs between 1933 and 1939. Attempts to solve this problem were eventually made by the state employment offices who decided where workers were to be hired.

Reichsarbeitsdienst (RAD) formed on 26 June 1935

A "workbook" was introduced and, eventually, no worker could be hired unless he possessed one. Ray and Josephine Cowdery, in their excellent book, "*Papers Please!*", illustrate a typical State Labor Service Pass Book (Figure 3). They state that *Arbeitsdienst* (labor service) was honor service to the German people and that it was the mission of the *Reichsarbeitsdienst* to educate German youth in the spirit of National Socialism.

It was compulsory for all young Aryan Germans to serve for a period of up to a year in the RAD at some time between the end of their 18th through 25th years. They usually served before beginning their university or military career.

The *Reichsarbeitsdienst* was a unit of the State Ministry of the Interior. The *Reichsarbeitsführer* was Konstantin Hierl, who was also Secretary of State. The RAD's *Reichsleitung* (State Leadership) was an *Oberste Reichsbehörde* (Supreme State Authority), divided into a number of offices. Uniforms were distributed (Figure 4) and the RAD was run as a military organization. (There are many parallels with the American CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps] of our own Depression years.) Work consisted of leveling and clearing land to digging drainage ditches. When the war began, tasks took on a more military flavor, and the entrance age was lowered, with the service time reduced to 3 months, in order to enable young men to enter the armed services at an earlier age.



**Organization
of the WHW**

Figure 5 - WHW Lottery postcards containing photo of Propaganda Minister Goebbels delivering his winter relief speech. This was one of 500 different cards included with the sale of a lottery ticket for the 1933/34 WHW. Each lottery envelope contained a strip of 3.

Figure 6 - Erich Hilgenfeldt, Reichsführer des WHW.



Figure 7 - Leaders of WHW: Hilgenfeldt; Janowsky (Reichsrevisor der NSDAP); Lemme (Reichsorganisationsleiter des WHW)



Cards were printed in sepia ink on medium-weight tan card stock.

Individual card size: 90 x 130 mm
Cards are not trimmed accurately.

Collection of Rex A. Dixon

Rex Dixon's collecting specialty is WHW material from Germany. Here's what he wrote concerning the initial meeting announcing plans for the Winterhilfswerk:

On September 13, 1933, Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi Minister for Propaganda, announced plans for winter relief action "unparalleled" in the history of mankind.

"This coming winter, the government is not prepared to abandon the remaining millions of unemployed to their own misery and the dangers of the economic crisis. It has formulated a plan to stand by the citizens in an overwhelming relief work never before seen, in order to prevent undue suffering this winter." Thus was launched the massive program and organization called the *Winterhilfswerk des Deutschen Volkes...* Its slogan was "*Kampf mit gegen Hunger und Kälte*". (Winter Relief Fund of the German Nation... Fight against Hunger and Cold.)

First Issue of German WHW Stamps

Stamps with the WHW charity surcharge were issued during the five winters from 1936/37 to 1940/41. Except for the first Danzig set, which was overprinted, all sets were line-engraved, resulting in attractive designs with much fine detail. The set below consists of Mi. #634 thru #642, issued from 21 September to 2 November, 1934. The subjects were road-building for the initial printing and modern buildings in the next. The set was valid until 30th of June, 1937.



Autobahn from Munich to the border

Ministry of Aviation, Berlin

Nürnberg Memorial



Bridge over the Saale, Saxony

Deutschland Halle Berlin

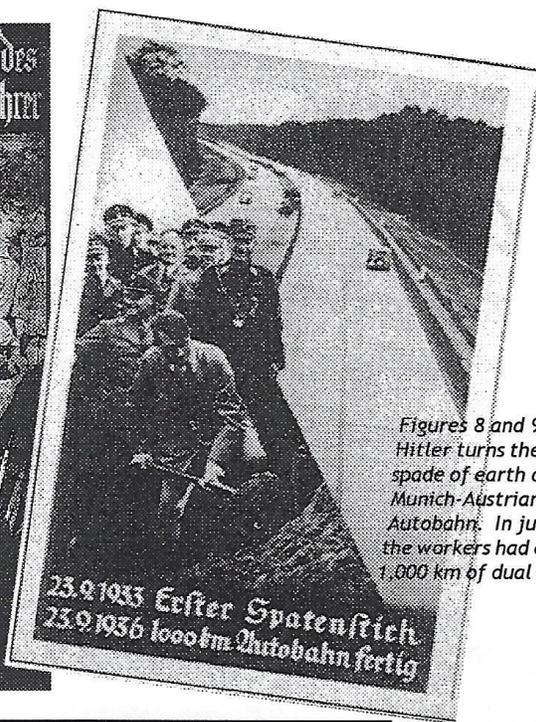
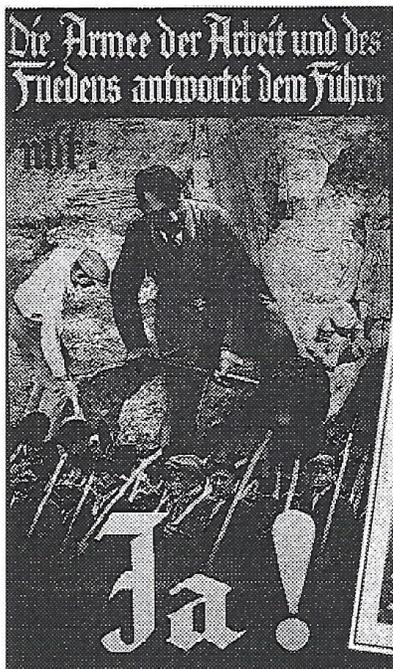
Alpine Autobahn on the Mauthäusl



Führerhaus, Munich

Mangfall bridge

Museum of German Art, Munich



Figures 8 and 9 - Hitler turns the first spade of earth on the Munich-Austrian border Autobahn. In just 3 years, the workers had completed 1,000 km of dual highways.



- 3+2pf. Rescue boat "Bremen"
- 4+3pf. Lightship "Elbe 1"
- 6+4pf. "Wilhelm Gustloff" (Wrong funnel - should be white instead of black.)
- 5+3pf. Fishing boats.
- 8+4pf. 4-master bark "Padua"
- 12+6pf. Eastprussian steamer "Tannenberg"
- 10pf. Sea train "Schwerin" of Line Warnemünde-Giedser
- 25+15pf. Steamer "Hamburg" of the Hapag Line
- 40+35pf. Steamer "Europa" of North German Lloyd

Second Edition of German WHW Stamps - 4 Nov. 1937
Mi.#651 thru #659 Valid until 30.6.1938

Third Edition of German WHW Stamps - 18 November 1938

Mi.#675 - #683 made up the third complete set of *Winterhilfswerk* stamps printed in Germany. The purpose of the propaganda issue was to show that Austria was an integral part of the Reich, illustrating scenes from each of Austria's nine provinces, including a flower that represents each province.

For public relations purposes, this type of propaganda was necessary to counteract the pressures that both the Austrian and German Nazis had put upon the government in Vienna. First, the illegal Austrian Nazis attempted to carry out a coup by murdering Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss on 25 July, 1934. Secondly, Hitler invited Chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg to Berchtesgaden in February, 1938, to demand concessions for the Austrian Nazis. Strong pressure was applied also by Hermann Göring, resulting in Schuschnigg's resignation in favor of Artur Seyss-Inquart, leader of the Austrian Nazis.

Hitler decided that additional action should be taken, so Göring forced Seyss-Inquart to telegraph Hitler, requesting invasion "to restore order". Hitler was finally satisfied that *Anschluss* (union with Germany) had finally been achieved.



Burg Forchtenstein



Flexenstrasse in Vorarlberg



Zell am See, Salzburg



Grossglockner



Ruins of Aggstein



Prince Eugen Monument



Erzberg



Hall in Tyrol



Braunau

Valid until 30.6.39

Figure 10 - Original size of souvenir sheet: 103 mm Square



Elbogen Castle



Drachenfels on the Rhine



Kaiserpfalz at Goslar



Clocktower at Graz



Town Hall, Frankfurt a. M.



Guild Haus, Klagenfurt



Ruins of Schreckenstein Castle



Fortress Salzburg



Castle of Hohentwiel

Figure 10 illustrates another method of extracting WHW contributions from stamp collectors. A souvenir sheet consisting of four stamps affixed to a gray watermarked (non-philatelic) paper, printed with caption "Life and Work of the Führer" exhibition in Hamburg's House of Work, was cancelled with 20 April, 1937, not only one of the days of the exhibit, but also on Hitler's birthday. This example is a booklet pane showing Mi.#634 and #639, from the 1936/37 *Winterhilfswerk* issue.

(The D.S.G. designation in the center of the cancel may stand for Danzig Study Group, but we suspect that there is a more viable explanation for these initials. Can you help?)

The symbol at the right represents the *N.S. Volkswohlfahrt*, which was the umbrella organization established in 1933 by the Nazis, covering *Winterhilfswerk* and *Mutter und Kind* charities, among others. The N.S.V. originally worked closely with the Central Committee of the Evangelical Church for Internal Missions, the Catholic Charitable League, the German Red Cross, the State Midwives Association, the Association of German Nurses and the National Socialist Nursing Sisterhood.



Starting from a few hundred workers on 3 May, 1933, the N.S.V. grew to a combined force of paid and volunteer workers numbering over 16,000,000 by 1942. They were involved in collecting and distributing surplus material of all kinds, such as coal, wood and peat. Additionally, the workers monitored sixty categories of distribution, such as food, fuel, and the accumulation of cash.

Housewives were required to buy 500 grams of some food each month and donate it to WHW. All families were required to skip a traditional Sunday meal and serve a one-course meal, with the difference in cost being donated to the WHW.

Figure 11 - The card below shows membership in the N.S.V. by an engineer who lived in Munich and was active in the organization.



N. S. Volkswohlfahrt
Reichsführung

Gau: München-Oberbayern Ortsgr.: Siegestor

Mitgliedskarte Nr. 2 575 375 **Eintritt** -1. OKT. 1934

für Dr. Ing. Waldmann, Karl, Fuchser a. F.

Wohnung: München Kaulbachstr. 69

Geb. am 26. Aug. 1877 zu Nürnberg

NSDAP-Mitgl. Nr.: 3209078 NSDAP-Eintritt:

Berlin, den 26. FEB. 1935

Erich Hilgenfeldt
Gau-Kammler

Figure 12 - A poster advertising the Mutter und Kind organization that was part of the N.S.V. and W.H.W.

(In the card at the left, Dr. Eng. Waldmann lived in an exclusive part of Munich, near the Englischer Garten. From his age (51 in 1935), the Cowderys conclude that he might have been a well-regarded University Professor. The membership card is signed by Hauptamtsleiter Erich Hilgenfeldt.)

The final German set of *Winterhilfswerk* stamps, Mi.#751- #759, for the 1940/1941 winter campaign. The issue was finely engraved and illustrates historic buildings throughout the Reich. The 3+2 Pfg Artus stamp is enlarged here to show detail.



Artushof in Danzig



Rathaus in Thurn



Castle at Kaub



City Theatre in Poznan



Castle at Heidelberg



Porta Nigra, Trier



New German Theatre, Prague



Rathaus, Bremen



Rathaus, Munster

Issued 5 Nov. 1940
Valid until 30.6.41

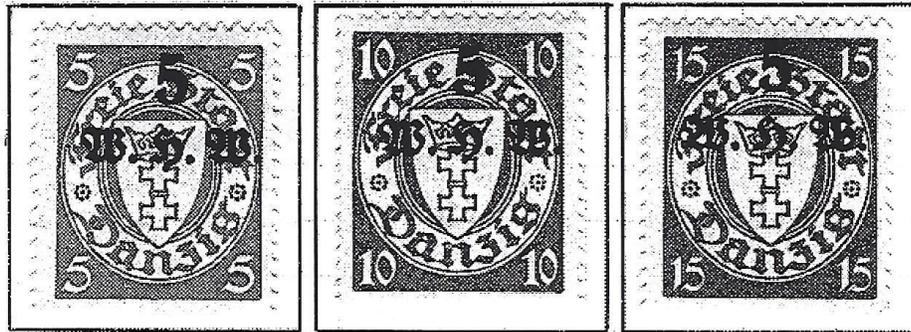
Figure 13 - Machine postmark of 28 November, 1933 showing the "Kampf mit gegen Hunger und Kalte" cancel introduced 4 Nov. 1933, used in 67 towns for six winters. >



Figure 14 - Meter mark of 9 April, 1934: the banking house of "C.G.Trinkhaus supports the Winterhilfswerk".

Danzig and the whw

Winterhilfswerk was introduced into Danzig soon after Goebbels announced the charity to the main *Heimat*. Below is a list of stamps issued in Danzig with the WHW surcharge:



The FIRST set of Winterhilfswerk stamps in Danzig were overprinted definitives, as shown on Page 3. They were valid until 15 May, 1935.



Stockturm

Leeges Tor

St. Georges Hall

SECOND set of WHW stamps, Mi. #256, 257, 258, issued on 16 December 1935. Valid until 31.5.36.



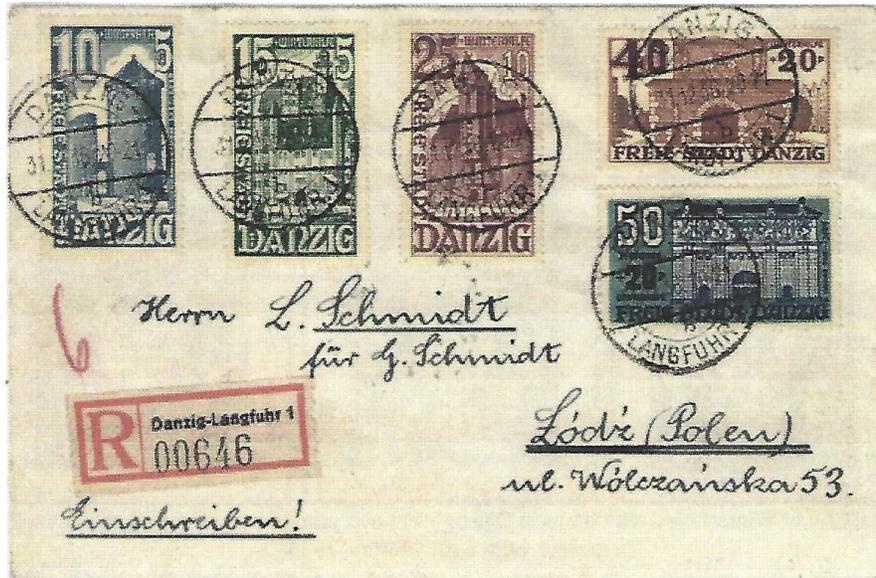
Figure 15

Danzig Winterhilfswerk cancel, 1938-1939.
Diameter: 34.5 mm
Used from 28.11.38 until 30.6.39



Figure 16

Danzig Winterhilfswerk cancel, 1938-39, 4.12.-10.12.38. "Ausstellung die Briefmarke im Dienste des WHW". Diameter: 35 mm.



THIRD Set of Danzig WHW stamps on cover to Lodz, Poland, from Langfuhr, 31.12.36. Illustrated on the stamps, Mi.#262-266 are: 10+5 Pfg. *Milchkannenturm* (1517-1519); 15+5 Pfg. *Frauentor* (1482); 25+10 Pfg. *Krantor* (1443); 40+20 Pfg. *Langgartertor* (1628); and blue 50+20 Pfg. *Hohes Tor* (1588).



FOURTH Set of Danzig WHW stamps, Mi.#270-280. Illustrated are: 5+5 Pfg. *Madonna* (Artushof); 10+5 Pfg. *Merkur* (Artushof); 15+5 Pfg. *Der Goldene Kerl* (Rathausturm); 25+10 Pfg. *Neptunsbrunnen*; 40+25 Pfg. *St. Georg*.



Figure 17

Danzig Winterhilfswerk
cancel, 1939. 34.5mm.
Used from 7.1.39 - 14.1.39.
"Tag der Briefmarke".



Figure 18

Danzig Winterhilfswerk
cancel, 1938-39. 34.5mm
Used from 4.3.39 - 5.3.39.
"Beamte und Handwerker
Sammeln".



FIFTH and Final Set of Danzig WHW stamps, Mi.#284-288. (For detailed illustrations and descriptions, see DR-88.) They were issued on 28 November 1938 and were valid until 30.6.39. The occasion for this souvenir sheet is the recognition of the people who turned out the handwork that was sold for raising WHW funds. The special cancel (Fig.18) also explains the importance of the makers (and the collectors) of these small items. At the right is a lucky find by Fred Behrendt at a flea market. It is a cloth-covered metal shield with a safety catch that certainly must have been a "collectible" from one of the WHW Danzig campaigns. A very nice piece of workmanship!



Figure 19 - Example of the sort of trinkets that the home-workers turned out for the WHW cause. >

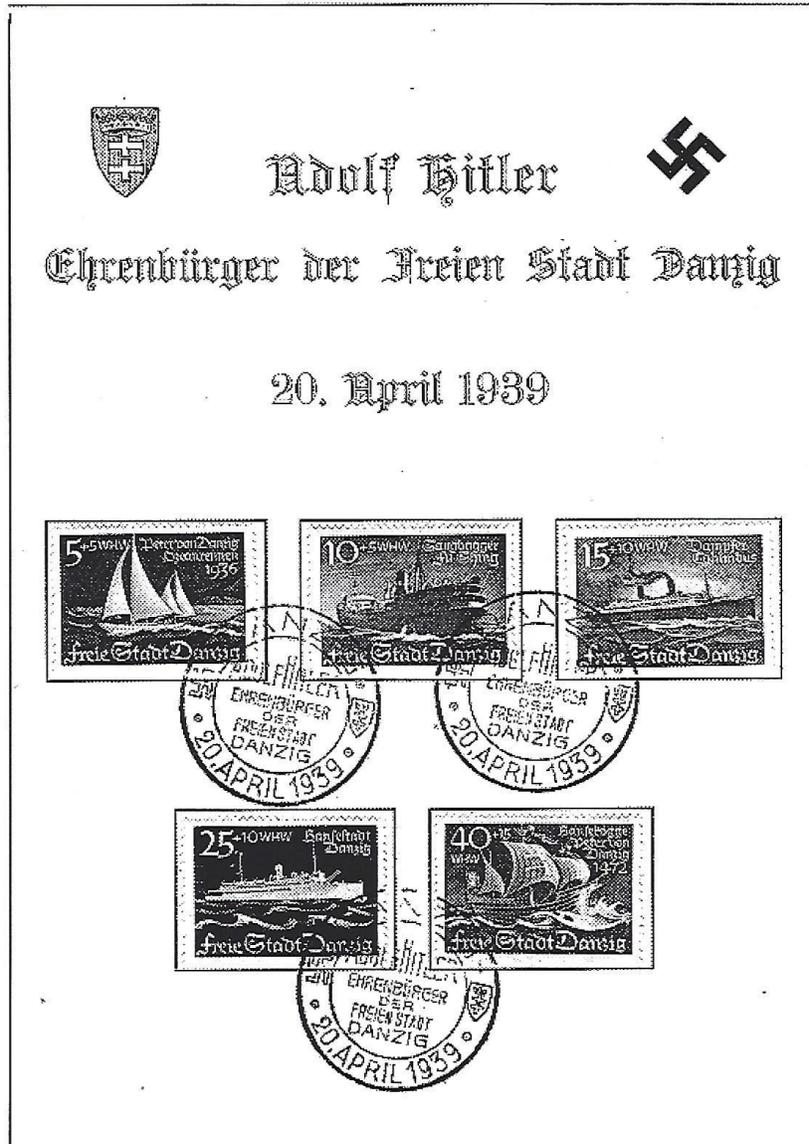


<Figure 20 - Complete set of ship stamps on cover to New York in January, 1939, with the special cancel as shown in figure 15.



Winter-Hilfswerk Freie Stadt Danzig 1938/39





Two examples of the use of the Fifth Series of WHW stamps in the Freie Stadt Danzig in 1938-1939. At the left is a souvenir sheet containing all of the stamps, along with a special cancel (Figure 16), proclaiming a stamp exhibition honoring stamps in service of the Winterhilfswerk.

Above is another souvenir sheet using the WHW stamps, but with another theme. On Hitler's birthday in 1939, he was made an honorary citizen of Danzig, requiring a special cancel to commemorate the occasion.

From the Horse's Mouth -

In order to better understand the implications of Winterhilfswerk, listen to the organizer's words.

Resume of the Speech made by Herr Hilgenfeldt, the Chief Organiser on the occasion of a reception in the Foreign Political Office, Berlin.



Erich Hilgenfeldt

In 1933 we received orders to organise the German Relief scheme. We were at once confronted with the task of coming to the assistance of approximately 17 million people. Naturally, these were not wholly dependent upon our support except in a supplementary sense.

We were obliged to approach and obtain the support of the various leaders of finance, of industry and the responsible people in the potato and flour trades. Our instructions from the Führer were: "See to it that no one shall go hungry or cold this Winter."

The organisation necessary to carry out this command had to be built up and supported by the general public.

Various sections of the National Socialist Party organisation actively cooperate with us today in this work; and they are supported by the independent charitable groups, such as Church Missions, the German Red Cross, the Technical Emergency Corps (an organisation that offers its services voluntarily in order to keep the essential services going during strike periods),—and even that small band of workers known as the "Adventists".

During the first year of our work we came to the assistance of 17 million people. It must be remembered that these people were not actually destitute, but rather that they were in such circumstances as called for auxiliary help. In the Winter of 1934/35 the number of people whom we helped represented 3.5 million families and amounted to 14 millions. The report made by the auditors showed that the working expenses did not reach even 1 per cent of the total monies expended. The low figure for expenditure is accounted for by the fact that the large majority of voluntary helpers acted in an honorary capacity.

The chief feature of our Winter Relief work is the supply and distribution of potatoes. We stated quite openly at the time that it was impossible to forecast what sums of money would be available. But if those in need could be supplied with sufficient potatoes, then supplementary rations of other commodities would suffice to tide over the Winter. In this connection I should like to add that all the unemployed receive a certain sum monthly from State Insurance societies. Hence, in regard to these it is only necessary to supply a supplementary issue of rations so that a certain standard of living is assured to all. During last Winter we distributed approximately 60,000 railway wagons of potatoes. This approximated to 14.4 millions of hundredweights. This quantity was distributed in about a fortnight. In Berlin alone we delivered within about 700 and 800 trucks daily. Cities like Breslau received 100 to 120 trucks each day. The total quantity supplied averaged about 30 pounds per head each month, on the basis of the total German population, young and old, including infants. Hence the actual figures for adults is considerably higher.

There was a variation in the supply of potatoes for various parts of the Reich. For example the Eastern districts received greater supplies; because the inhabitants here consume a much larger quantity of potatoes than are consumed elsewhere.

The smallest supplies were sent to Bavaria, where the people consume a relatively small quantity of potatoes. Bavaria is a self-supporting territory in this respect, so also is Silesia. This means that the potatoes grown in these districts are sufficient for the local consumption. But the towns and districts in need of supplementary supplies are Berlin, Essen, Saxony, Central Germany, the Rhenish Westphalian industrial areas, Baden, and parts of Württemberg. For example the district of Essen purchased a supplementary quantity of 145 million pounds. In Saxony they purchased a quantity amounting to 92 million pounds. The difficulty of striking a necessary balance of supplies of potatoes for the Reich has been overcome by an accurate table of statistics.

The question of the particular brand of potatoes drawn from the self-supporting territories and supplied to poverty-stricken areas is also of importance. In this respect the Germans are accustomed to consuming various brands. The population of the Rhenish Westphalian districts, for instance, is accustomed to eating the yellow coloured variety. Hence they could not be supplied with the white or red sorts. These, therefore, were passed on to Baden. On the other hand, Hamburg and Essen received supplies of the yellow kind.

In Bavaria and South Germany in general only small supplies of potatoes are consumed. Here the population prefers farinaceous foods. Hence the population in these districts had to be supplied principally with consignments of flour.

One of the most difficult problems of the Winter Relief was the supply of coal. These requirements average about 16 per cent of the total German household supply. 170,000 coal trucks were necessary to transport the required quantities of coal. To illustrate what this work meant, such a coal trade would stretch from Berlin to the borders of Spain.

The German Winter Relief includes 21,600 local working committees throughout the country. Matters have been so arranged that each local centre fixes a price for coal with its own coal merchants. The distribution was so arranged that those in need receive a ticket for one cwt. of coal each. With this ticket they go to the local coal dealer. Those unable to do so get their coal delivered free. As soon as the coal merchant has sufficient tickets on hand he delivers them to the local coal distributing centre, from whom he obtains a payment voucher which in turn is passed on as payment to his own wholesaler. The latter returns the voucher to the coal syndicate who receive payment in cash from us.

Let us now touch upon the peculiarities that relate to the coal consumption in various districts. A quantity amounting to approximately nine hundred pounds of coal is an average consumption of a family with two children. In the coal mining areas the poor receive approximately 2,200 pounds; for here they have been accustomed to burning large quantities of coal in former and more prosperous times. Indeed, in these districts the use of coal corresponds to a former extravagance which now-a-days means that their supplies must be increased to well over the average for other parts of the country.

Generally speaking, the quantity of coal supplied suffices to keep at least one room heated throughout the whole winter. The quantities supplied are increased in proportion to the number of children in the household. A family of three or four children cannot all remain in one room. Hence they must have sufficient coal to keep at least two rooms warm. The magnitude of the coal supply can best be illustrated by stating that the supplies required for our Winter Relief would keep the whole of the employees in the vast coal fields of the Saar region fully occupied for three months.

The Winter Relief functions also in other spheres. For instance, last year the supply of boots and shoes would have sufficed for the whole population of Baden and part of Württemberg. The supply of warm clothing has also reached large figures. The cloth lengths necessary for making clothes for the Winter Relief would alone have stretched over a distance of approximately 5,000 miles.

Another activity of lesser financial importance but nevertheless of great significance from a relief point of view is the placing of orders for street collection badges. Such orders are placed in industrial areas where unemployment and distress are most acute. (It should be noted by our overseas friends that on certain days during the winter months all those in employment readily purchase badges of different designs for 20 Pfennigs each, approx. 4d. This they do to show their willingness to assist those in less fortunate circumstances. The Publishers.) The Home-Workers are thus kept busy during the most depressed period and thus able to make ends meet. Last Winter, the value of such badge orders placed was approx. 4 Million Marks. This has been increased to nearly 5 million Marks during the present winter. Orders were placed in the forest and border districts of Germany such as the Bavarian Forest, Saxony, etc. The handsome Xmas-badges were made in Saxony. Other orders for attractive badges were placed in the Rhon district as well as in Baden. Eastern Prussia also had its share by supplying badges cut out of pure amber for which this district is noted but where trade in amber has been particularly hard hit. The total figure of 5 million Marks for such badge work is small in comparison with the sum total expended for the whole of the Winter Relief work. Nevertheless, it means a great deal to those who thus receive part-time work in this manner.

Last Winter, cash contributions amounted to approx. 212,945,000 Marks. To this must be added contributions in kind and purchases at reduced prices, etc.—totalling approx. 154,480,000 Marks.

Summarizing, therefore, we have a total contribution for last Winter amounting to 367,425,000 Marks.

The cash figure includes receipts of monies from public functions to the extent of 5 million Marks. Collection lists totalled 4.2 million Marks. The business community contributed 18 million Marks. The monthly Sunday dinner "Stew" contributions totalled 29 million Marks. Voluntary contributions from salaries and wages brought in 77.7 million Marks. Great credit is due to the German workman, commercial employees and officials for the manner in which they contributed voluntarily towards this fund. Their sacrifice formed the nucleus of our ready cash fund. I must also mention the money received from the Winter Relief Lottery, which brought in 7.5 million Marks. All these various contributions are directly

absorbed by German industrial circles and from there are redistributed in the form of goods.

A typical example of the way in which an economic stimulus can be given in this manner is the way in which the supply of fish can be handled. Formerly it was impossible for Germany to market and consume her own catches, as the average German is not a great consumer of fish. London's fish consumption alone equalled that of the whole of Germany. We promptly took measures to remedy this state of affairs. Today the general demand for fish is such that we can only keep 10 per cent of the total catch for the Winter Relief.

The German Winter Relief Organisation assists those in need regardless of creed and confession or political feelings. I should like to reply to various mistaken foreign press reports by stating that

29,108 Jews of whom 13,818 live in Berlin, were looked after by our organisation.

No exception is made in the case of other foreigners. In Berlin alone, 8,054 foreigners were given relief as per details below:—

Belgians 10, Bulgarians 19, Danes 50, English 61, Estonians 22, French 32, Dutch 78, Italians 171, Jugo-Slavians 45, Lithuanians 43, from Lettland 65, Austria 1132, Poland 2228, from Rumania 76, Russia 412, Sweden 53, Switzerland 144, Czechoslovakia 1031, Turkey 90, Hungary 318, U.S.A. 18, Finland 2, Australia 3, Norway 3, Persia 15, Portugal 4, Greece 31, Morocco 4, Spain 1, Argentine 2 and "Staatenlos" 1146 (people without a particular nationality).

The forces which have been active in this work must not flag or falter. From our hearts we ought to continue to give. And we shall so give that the result will be, not the extension and maintenance of human weakness, but rather the increase of its strength; so that our generosity will have the effect of training and developing the powers of our people. Therefore, the work of relief must also be a phase of human improvement, not merely an alleviation of distress.

We want sacrifices from our people. We require helpers who will be active in doing the Leader's work, day-in, day-out. Those who lack certain of life's necessities must not be embarrassed or sensitive about coming forward to declare their wants, as if something were to be given them merely out of sympathy. No, they must receive their gifts as an act of acknowledgment of their membership in the community of the nation.

Taking advantage of Winter Relief and turning it into a major propaganda treatise, the NSDAP has Hilgenfeldt do Goebbels' work for him. (In the text, "last winter" refers to 1934 to 1935.) The Nazis assumed that such references to these charitable works would improve their image.



Free copies of this leaflet and others may be obtained by writing to the
"Fichte Association (Fichte-Bund)", union for world veracity,
30 Jungfernstieg, Hamburg 36.

Please distribute the pamphlets among your friends!

Figure 21 - Reverse sides of mint card and a used card with Kriegs WHW and Nazi eagle symbol. Vertical credit line: Zentralvorlag der NSDAP., Frz. Eber Nachf., G.m.b.H., München. Mi.# P287 with obverse (Fig.22) in bright magenta and gold eagle. Card stock is white. The imprinted stamp (dark brown) is 6 + 4 Rf. (Note that Rex Dixon's HP-1 article in DR-101 showed that these cards were designed for WHW usage. HP=Halbamtliche Postkarte= Semi-official).



Figure 21

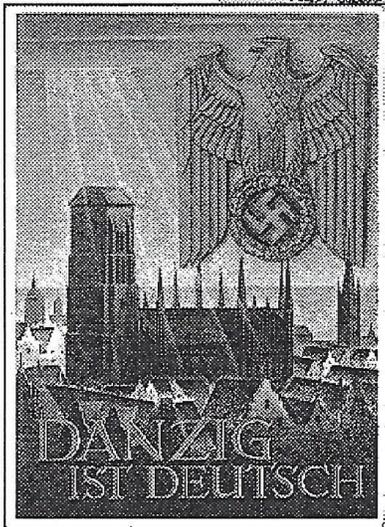


Figure 22

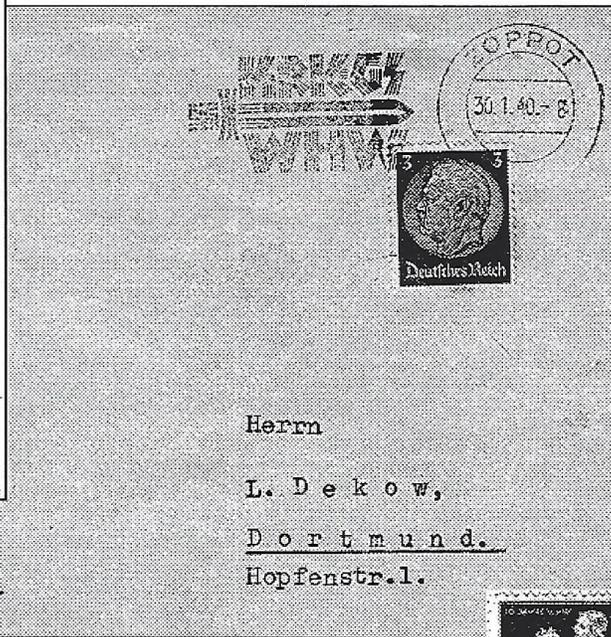


Figure 23 - KRIEGS WHW cancel on cover from Zoppot to Dortmund, Jan., 1940.

Just about every phase of postal services included a reference to WHW. In Germany, the final stamp in the annual series depicted a mother and child. The stamp was released on 1st Sept., 1943, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the start of *Winterhilfswerk*, and the tariff was 12 + 38 Pfg.



Figure 24

Acknowledgements and Bibliography

Rex A. Dixon --- for his years of research and his generosity in sharing WHW with other philatelists.
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Michel: *Deutschland-Spezial 1999 Catalog*

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Rundschreiben of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Danzig.

Additional information on WHW will follow in a future Report.



Book Review 1

"POLAND REVENUES" by John Barefoot (England), building on the pioneering research by John Norton and Martin Erler, with major assistance from Ed Neumann (Canada) and, on the Danzig section, from Dr. John D. Neefus (U.S.A.) and Giles du Boulay (England).

Copies available from J. Barefoot Ltd., P.O.Box 8, York, YO24 4AR, England
 e-mail: BarefootL@aol.com The price is £15 (U.S. \$23 surface, \$30 airmail)

Those of us who are Danzig enthusiasts have a collateral interest in Poland. In my growth toward a philatelist, I continue to build my library at every opportunity and delve into those subjects near the mainstream of stamp collecting, such as postal history, perfins, cancellations and revenues. The purchase of "Poland Revenues" was such a purchase, and, to my pleasant surprise, there were sections on Danzig (Free State), Memel, and Upper Silesia, which were directly related to my interests. There are revenues cited for the Pre-World War I Poland, WWI Occupation, WWII Generalgouvernement, provincial and regional issues, along with Polish National issues to recent times.

The book is in A4 format with 3 columns. The font appears to be Times Roman and is easy to read.

A fast count of listed Danzig revenue stamps put the count just over 1,000 in 18 categories.

- Dr. John D. Neefus

Book Review 2

"GREAT MYTHS of WORLD WAR II" by Karl Roebing, 1985. Paragon Press/Dynapress

Christmas has come and gone, depositing the usual Third Reich research material on the Frau, including this book that was recommended by author-friend Blaine Taylor. It lives up to its hype, aided by a smooth writing style by the author, who says: "My book assembles the entire mass of new information for the first time, adds some inescapable conclusions of my own from the data, presents a total and completely new picture, and calls for the dissolution of the old, wall-to-wall, popular but incorrect mythological view of WWII." In spite of this rhetoric, it's recommended reading! -JB

Trivia

It's that time again. And we do have a good one. Hard, but fair, one that challenges you, but is not impossible. See how you do. Most people reading this journal get about 5 out of 10 correct. Maybe you can do better.....

1. What was a Sonderkommando?

- An elite paratrooper unit in the German Airforce (similar to the SAS soldier).
- A squad of Jews that had to do special tasks in the extermination camps.
- A mobile extermination unit that followed the attacking ground troops into occupied countries and killed the local Jews and other "undesirables".
- The original name of the Waffen-SS, until it was changed by Himmler.

2. What was "Kolberg"?

- A movie made by Goebbels to rival 'Gone with the Wind'.
- Hitler's private residence in Austria.
- An anti-Semitic newspaper created by Himmler.
- The location of the Gestapo Headquarters in Berlin.

3. The Golden Party Badge was worn by the first 100,000 members of the Nazi party.

What happened to Adolf Hitler's Golden Party Badge?

- He placed it in the coffin with the body of his niece, Geli Raubal.
- It was never found.

- He gave it to Magda Goebbels prior to his suicide.
- He never actually had one.

4. The Nazis celebrated a number of important events and allocated these into holidays.

In a normal calendar year, which of these events was celebrated FIRST?

- National Day of Mourning.
- Hitler's birthday.
- The Day of the Seizure of Power.
- National Labour Day.

5. Erich Hartmann, Erich Gerhard Barkhorn, Gunther Rall, Otto Kittel and Walther Nowotny all had what in common?

- They were all tank commanders that destroyed more than 200 enemy tanks.
- They were all in the Fuhrer Bunker when Hitler committed suicide.
- They were all injured in the July 20 plot on Hitlers' life in the Wolf's Lair.
- They were all Luftwaffe aces with more than 250 "kills".

6. The Iron Front, or Eiserne Front, was a paramilitary group during 1919 that Hitler and Ernst Rohm were members of.

- True
- False

7. In what year was the magazine, "Das Dritte Reich" ("The Third Reich"), created?

- 1964
- 1934
- 1974
- 1944

8. From 1933 to 1945, how many films did the German film industry produce?

- 2000 plus
- 100-500
- 1000-1500
- 500-1000

9. Who were the "Werewolves"?

- A group of German guerrilla soldiers set up in the final days of WWII.
- A group of German generals that plotted against Hitler.
- The name given to those that opposed Hitler.
- Members of an anti-Nazi group in Austria (Similar to the White Rose group).

10. English born Unity Mitford, an avid (and obsessive) fan of Hitler, was conceived in a Canadian town called Swastika.

- True
- False

Answers

1. What was a Sonderkommando?

The correct answer: **A squad of Jews that had to do special tasks in the extermination camps.**

The Sonderkommandos were small squads of Jews that were selected to do the dirty work within the extermination camps in return for better living conditions. Their duties included leading fellow Jews to the gas chambers, removing the bodies from the gas chambers, removing the valuables from the bodies and then disposing of the bodies into the crematoriums.

Their lives however, were generally short, as they themselves would become victims of the killings. After about four months the Nazis would usually execute them because they didn't want any witnesses to the crimes being committed. A new group of male Jews would then be selected to fill the vacant positions. However, at Auschwitz some of the men in the Sonderkommando were kept on because of their expertise and survived till liberation. One of the best known Sonderkommando survivors is Filip Müller, whose memoirs appeared in 1979.

The term Sonderkommando also referred (to a lesser extent) to special units of the SS that took part in political and policing roles within the occupied eastern countries.

The mobile extermination units were called Einsatzgruppen.

2. What was "Kolberg"?

The correct answer: **A movie made by Goebbels to rival 'Gone with the Wind'.**

"Kolberg" was a film made in 1944 by order of Goebbels.

It was the last film to be made in Nazi Germany, and it was the most expensive film made by the Nazis.

The story line centered on the Napoleonic Wars, and the gallant Prussians defending against the attacking French army. (Kolberg, Pomerania withstood a French siege from March-July, 1807. The burghers fought alongside the Prussian army while Ferdinand von Schill's Freikorps harassed the besieging French forces).

Entire army units were withdrawn from service to act as extras in the production and ammunition factories were ordered to create blank ammo. The premiere was scheduled for 30 January, 1945.

3. The Golden Party Badge was worn by the first 100,000 members of the Nazi party.

What happened to Adolf Hitler's Golden Party Badge?

The correct answer: **He gave it to Magda Goebbels prior to his suicide.**

The Golden Party Badge was a circular badge with a gold wreath around the outside. In the center of the badge was the black swastika symbol surrounded by a red circle that contained the words: "National-Sozialistische-D.A.P." in gold writing. It came in two sizes, 25mm and 30mm. Non-party members could receive the badge at the discretion of Hitler. They were stamped with "AH" on the reverse.

Hitler's badge was endorsed with number '1' on the reverse.

When Hitler handed Magda Goebbels his badge, she claimed that it was, "The greatest honor any German could receive". She was handed the badge in recognition of being the "Greatest Mother in the Reich".

4. The Nazis celebrated a number of important events and allocated these into holidays.

In a normal calendar year, which of these events was celebrated FIRST?

The correct answer: **The Day of the Seizure of Power.**

The Day of the Seizure of Power was celebrated on January 30.

Hitler's birthday was April 20.

The National Labour Day was celebrated on May 1.

The National Day of Mourning was held on March 16. After 1933 it was renamed to 'Heroes' Remembrance Day'.

Other important events/holidays were: Foundation Day of the NSDAP, Mothering Sunday (Mothers' day), Day of the Summer Solstice, the Nuremberg Rallies and the Anniversary of the Beer Hall Putsch.

5. Erich Hartmann, Erich Gerhard Barkhorn, Gunther Rall, Otto Kittel and Walther Nowotny all had what in common?

The correct answer: **They were all Luftwaffe aces with more than 250 "kills".**

Erich Hartmann was the highest scorer, with 352 kills. His last victory was on 8 May 1945.

6. The Iron Front, or Eiserne Front, was a paramilitary group during 1919 that Hitler and Ernst Rohm were members of.

The correct answer: **False**

The Iron Front was an anti-Nazi group, made up of a selection of political parties opposed to the Nazis. It was created in 1932, but it did not develop into an effective political force.

Hitler and Ernst Rohm were members of Mailed Fist, or Eiserne Faust, a paramilitary organization. Hitler made associations and acquaintances with fellow members of Eiserne Faust who were also involved with the German Workers Party.

7. In what year was the magazine, "Das Dritte Reich" ("The Third Reich"), created?

The correct answer: **1974**

The magazine was released bi-monthly and caused controversy. The German Federal Government was worried that the magazine would create interest in neo-Nazi activities. Those that opposed the magazine claimed that the contents glorified the Nazi era, instead of condemning that period of time. The forty-eight-page magazine sold for \$1.10 a copy.

Das Dritte Reich was also the name of a book written in 1923 by Arthur Moeller van den Bruck.

After the failure of the Munich Beer Hall Putsch, Moeller van den Bruck wrote the following quote about Hitler, "There are many things that can be said against Hitler, and I have sometimes said them. But one thing you have to give him credit for: he is a fanatic for Germany. But he is wrecked by his proletarian primitive ways. He does not know how to give an intellectual basis to his Nazi party. Hitler is all passion, but lacks sense or proportion. A heroic tenor, not a hero."

8. From 1933 to 1945, how many films did the German film industry produce?

The correct answer: **1000-1500**

The film industry managed to create 1,363 feature films. All films and news reels had to be sanctioned by the Propaganda Ministry prior to public viewing.

9. Who were the "Werewolves"?

The correct answer: **A group of German guerrilla soldiers set up in the final days of WWII.**

The Werewolves (also known as Werwolves) were led by SS-Obergruppenführer Hans Prützmann. Their role was to operate behind the enemy lines, similar to the special forces of today's armies, to create diversions and mayhem.

When Karl Doenitz took over the role of Führer of Germany, he disbanded the Werewolves.

10. English born Unity Mitford, an avid (and obsessive) fan of Hitler, was conceived in a Canadian town called Swastika.

The correct answer: **True**

A weird coincidence perhaps, but a true fact. Her father had gold mines in the little town that was located in Ontario, Canada.

During World War II the Canadian Government attempted to change the name of the town to Winston, but the townsfolk resisted the change.

(from funtrivia.com)

For Sale

We do have a few items for sale. They have recently been rebounded and redone. They look great and are definitely worth the price:

Mail Surveillance under the Third Reich by R.J. Houston. 35 pages. \$15.

German Feldpost Operations in the West 1940-1944 by John Painter. 2004. 60 total pages. \$20.

The War of the Springing Tiger by Jeffrey Markem, about Azad Hind stamps and the fight for India's Independence. \$10.

Composition Listing of Organic German Military Units, 1980. \$15.

Each of these are expertly written, filled with details that obviously took scores of hours to research. All proceeds go only to Third Reich Study Group. It is first come /first come serve, and if we get down to one copy, I will get more printed (but that could delay shipping by a week or so if it happens).

E-mail me at ctkolker@mail.com or write to: Christopher Kolker, 25 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360, for orders or questions.

Thanks!!!!