



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP
Devoted to the Study
of the Postal History
of Germany 1933-1945

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Welcome to New Members:

- JOHNSON, William L. - 4 Sloane Ave., Amsterdam, NY 12010
Occupations.
- FALKOWSKI, Thomas -
- CHERNS, Larry J. - 6 Arvona Dr., St. Catharines, Ont., Canada L2T 3J4
Covers & Postcards (military & civilian) with contents.
- HUEGEL, Roland C. - 1966 Hilltop Terr., Bethlehem, PA 18018
All areas, especially Feldpost.
- GRIFFITHS, Kenney E. - 5 Jackstraw Path, Westborough, MA 01581
Occupations, Special cancels.
- WELTON, Timothy - P.O. Box 261, Shirley, MA 01464
Dienstpost, Legions, etc.
- MISKEVICH, John S. - 19 Marconi St., Clifton, NJ 07013
Postcards, Occupations, Lost Colonies.
- THOMPSON, Paul M. - 1669 Wakefield Way, Sacramento, CA 95822
All T.R., occupied areas material.
- KAZMIERCZAK, Edward M. - 2009 Roundleaf Green SE, Huntsville AL 35803
WWII Occupations.
- YOUNGBLOOD, Douglas - 340 Houston St., Batavia, IL 60510
General.

Winner's Circle

- BELGICA '82, Brussels, Belgium:
Lester Winick - Vermeil for "Airmails of Iceland" .
- BEPEX '83, Elmwood Park, NJ:
Jim Lewis - Silver for "German Occupation of Poland".
- WESEX '83, Westfield, NJ:
Henry Laessig - Gold & Perry Research Award for "Novi-Pazar".

Study Group Notes

MEMBERSHIP PAID STATUS

Fred Willshaw now has the TRSG membership in computer memory (addresses, collecting interests, TRSG literature purchases, membership years paid, etc.) and our Bulletin mailing labels are now computer-generated. In the upper right corner of your mailing label is a number which indicates your paid status: A "3" indicates that you are paid thru 1983, a "4" indicates payment thru 1984, a "5" is thru 1985, etc.. With this system the age-old problem of keeping track of such things will be simplified and when you receive 1983 Bulletin No. 4, you will know whether "dues are due" from your mailing label.

Muted Postmarks

by Jim Lewis

PART 4 (Conclusion)

X.) Bridge

The "Steg" cancels were produced by grinding down all of the cancel device surface except the date line. Clement lists a single size 28:9 mm with usage in Reichenbach/Eule; East Prussia and Suwalki in the General Gouvernement.

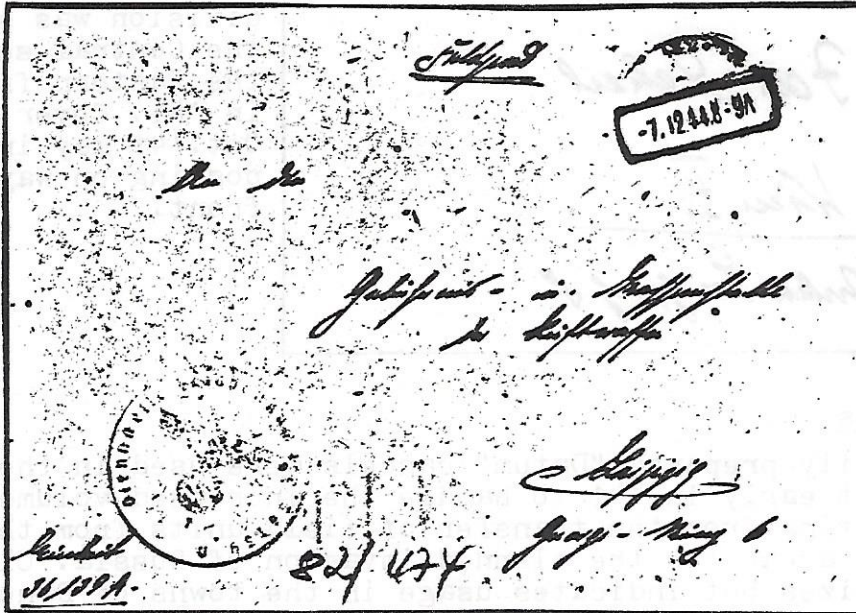
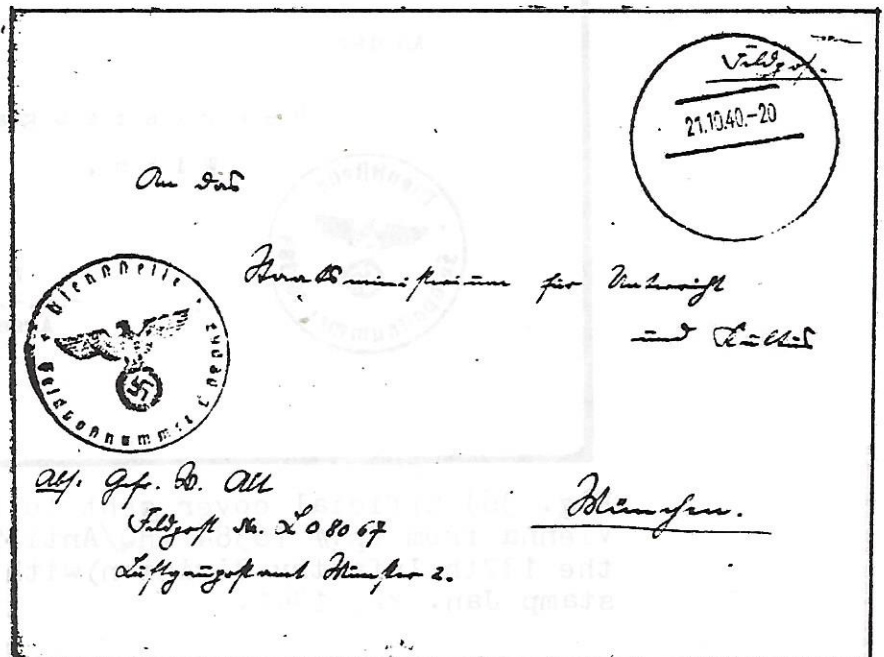


Fig. 33) Official cover from member Fp.#36139A (HQ/Art. Abt. 18) with "Steg" cancel dated Dec, '44.

XI.) Remainder, ring/bridge

Two "Restform von Ringsteg" cancels, produced by altering large commemorative cancels by removing all details except the outer ring and date bridge, are listed by Clements. A 25/0/9mm cancel was used in Wirballen and Shitomir/Ukraine. A 30/0/10mm cancel is listed but the place(s) of usage are unknown.

Fig. 34) Cover sent to Munich in Oct. '40 from Fp.#L 08067 (3. Batt./le. Res. Flak Abt. 746) with 30/0/10mm cancel.



XII.) Box Cancel

Clement lists one "Kasten" cancel size 33:20mm with usage known in Austria.

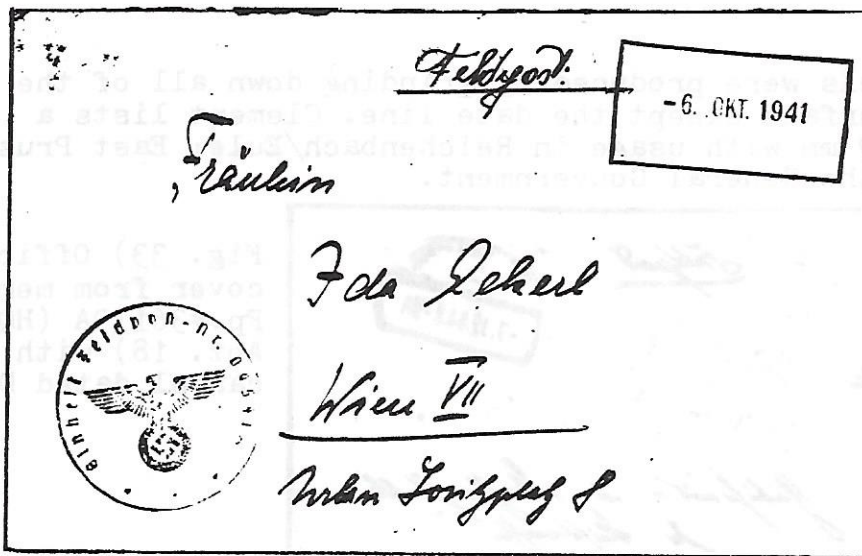


Fig. 35) Private cover addressed to Vienna has unit seal of Fp.#09541 (III/Inf. Rgt. 330 of the 183rd Inf. Div.). Formed in Jan.'40, this division was sent to the Central sector of the Eastern front late in '41. Cover date of Oct.'41 may indicate posting on way to the front.

XIII.) Date Stamps

These hastily prepared "Datum" cancels were used in the General Gouvernement early in '41 to handle the increased volume of Feldpost resulting from the transfer of field units from the West to staging areas for the planned invasion of Russia. Clement lists no sizes but indicates usage in the towns of Dynow and Jaroslau.

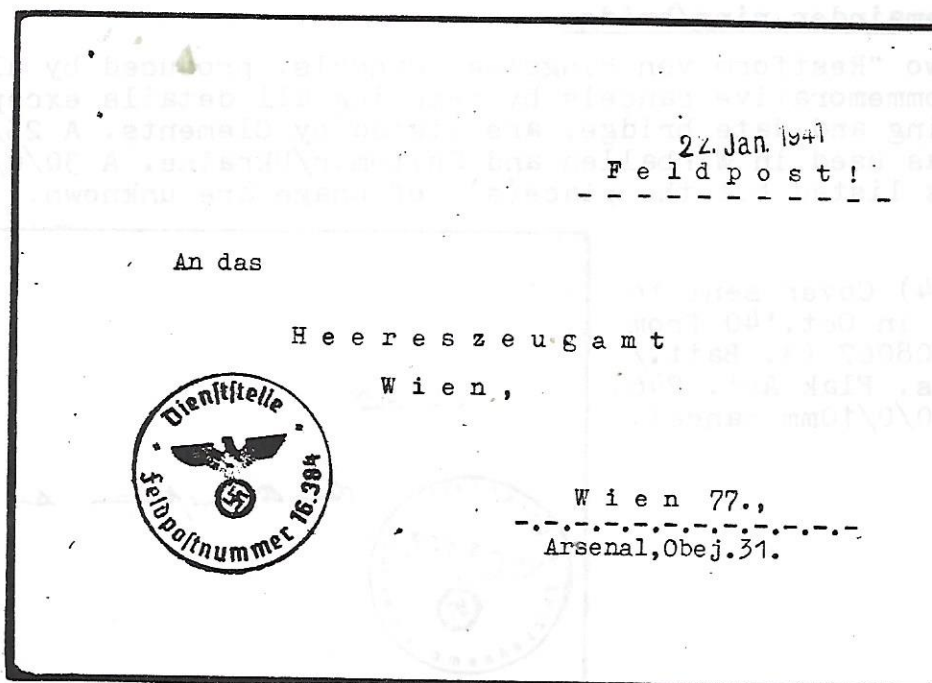


Fig. 36) Official cover sent to Army Ordnance HQ in Vienna from Fp.# 16384 (HQ/Anti-Tank Section 137 of the 137th Infantry Division) with straight line date stamp Jan. 22, 1941.

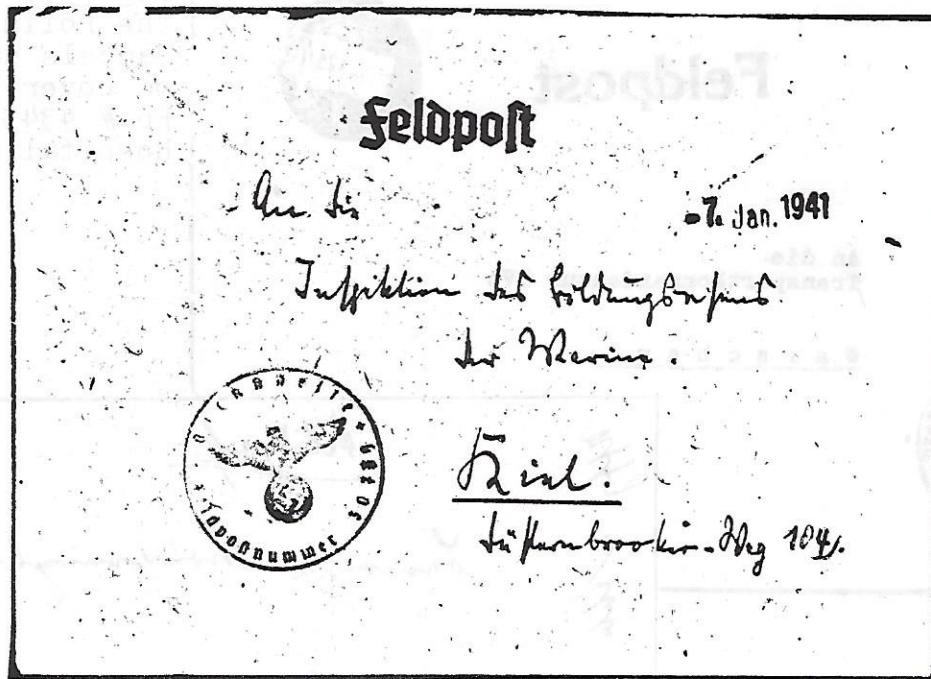


Fig. 37.) Note irregular arrangement of letter & number sizes on this official cover from Fp.# 30736 (Signals Btl. 258 of 258th Infantry Div.) posted in early Jan.'41. This division was transferred from France several weeks earlier and was an element of Army Group Center during the invasion of Russia.

XIV.) Black-out

As opposed to the practice of altering city cancels by removing identification, the "Stempel ausgegossen" were produced by adding solder to obliterate unwanted details. Clement lists two sizes, 24/0/9 and 26/0/10, noting usage in the General Government.

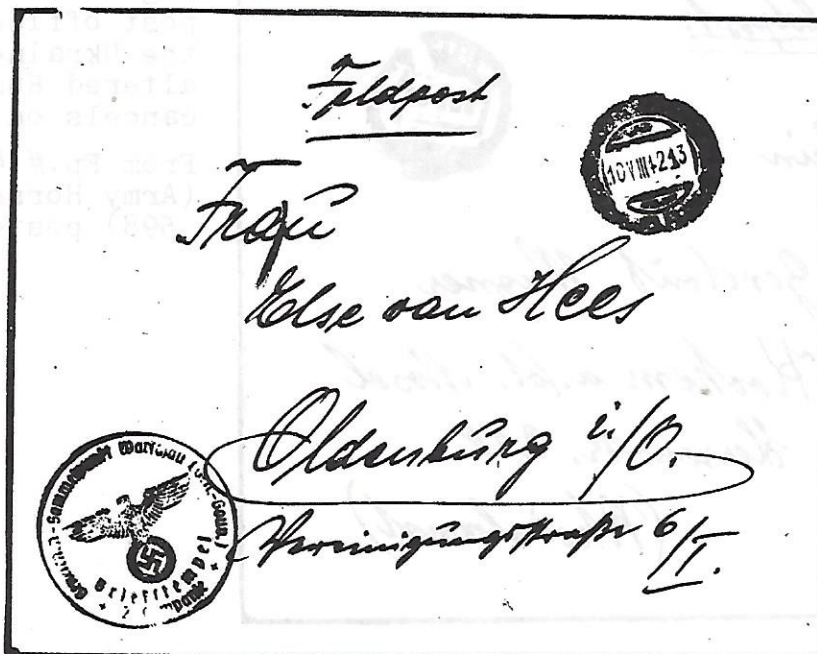


Fig. 38) Feldpost cover with open-identity unit seal of a Convalescent Collection Point in Warsaw has Polish city cancel w/black-out.

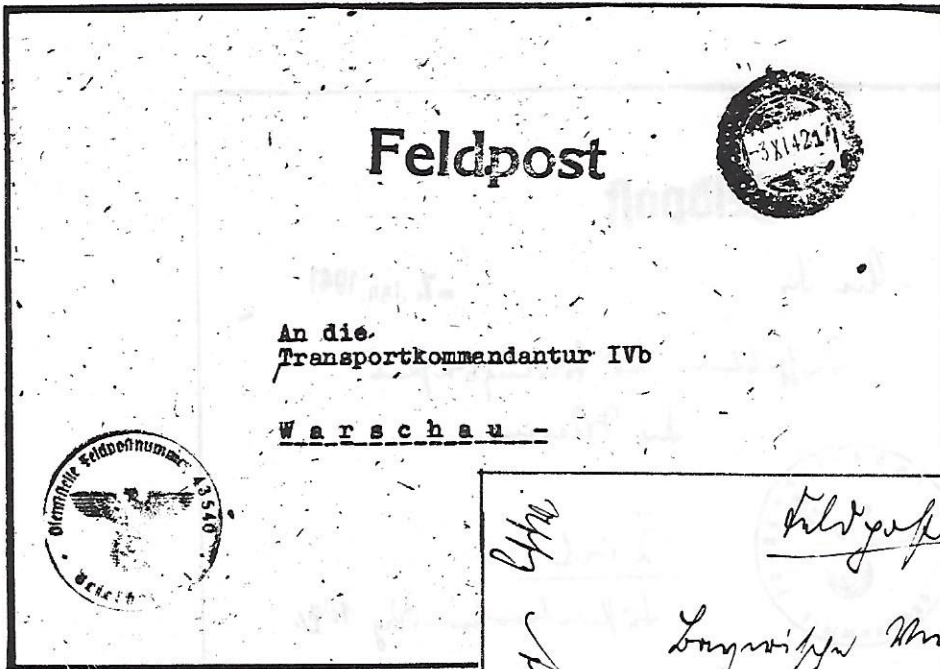


Fig. 39) Another of the Polish black-out cancels dated Nov. '42 on cover from member of Fp.# 43450 (Composite Hospital Section 719)

Fig. 40) Black-out is more complete on this cover sent Nov. '41 from Fp.# 37481 (Art. Rgt. 268 of the 268th Infantry Division.

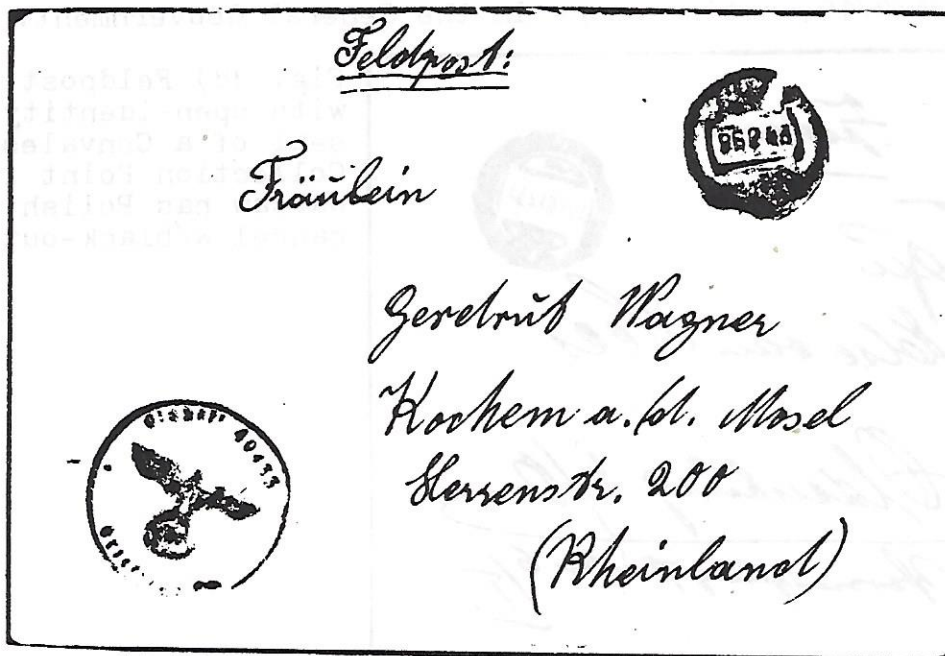
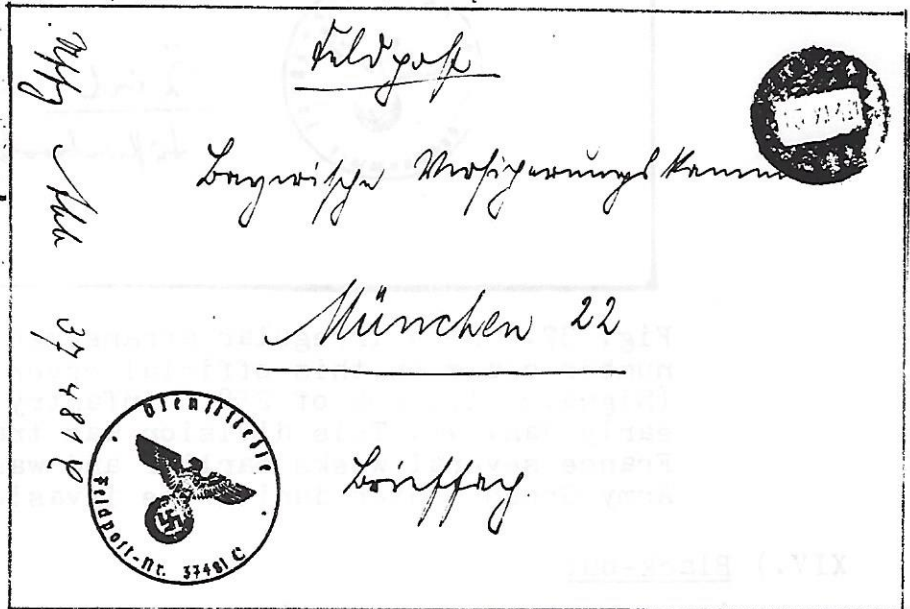


Fig. 41) Dienstpost offices in the Ukraine used altered Russian cancels on Feldpost. From Fp.# 40433 (Army Horse Hospital 598) posted Feb. '43.

The following are black-out cancel types not listed in Clement.

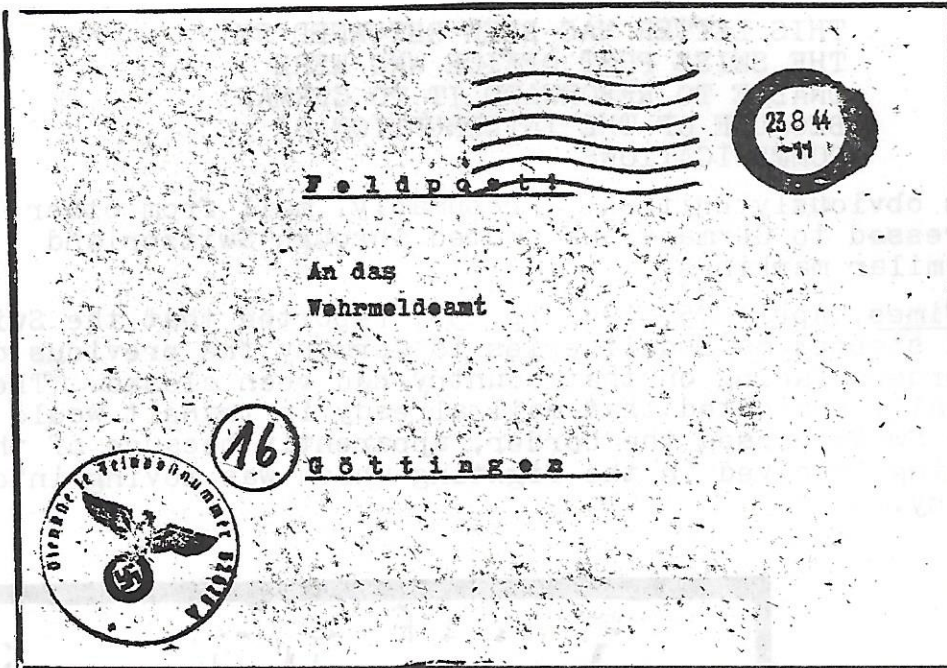
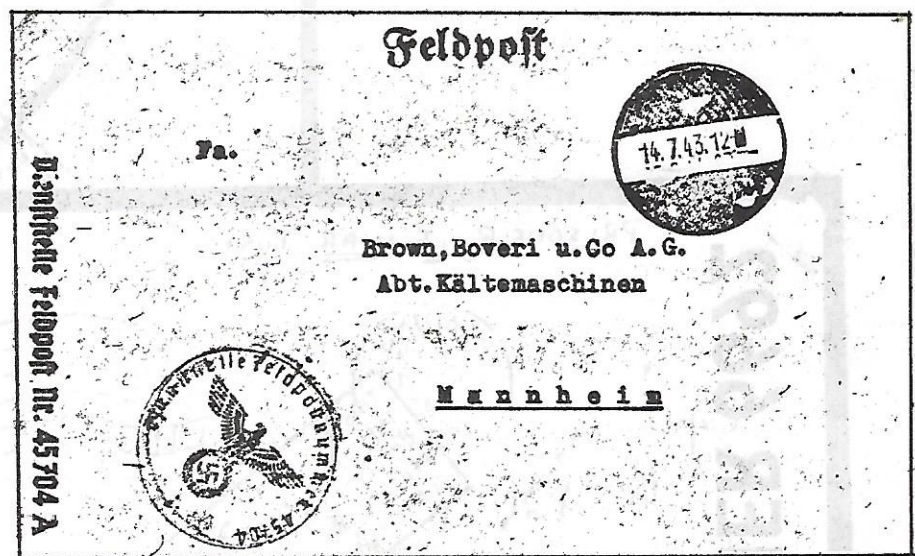


Fig. 42) Circular 22mm blacked-out machine cancel w/ six wavy lines has Fp.# 32626 (I/Art. Rgt. 332 of 332nd Infantry Division. In Aug.'44 this division merged with 278th Inf. Div. after suffering heavy losses during the Korsun encirclement in Russia.

Fig. 43) Large size commemorative cancel with black-out on cover from Fp.# 45704 (Battr. 1/Art. Abt. (E) 672 sent July'43.



Thus concludes this overview of "stumme" feldpost cancels. I hope the article has stirred interest in an area which provides much room for further research. Acknowledgment must be given to the late Alfred Clement, whose "Kleines Handbuch" published way back in 1952 is still the most comprehensive work on Feldpost and was the source of my interest in "stumme" cancels.

SWITZERLAND BREAKS POSTAL RELATIONS WITH GERMANY, 1945

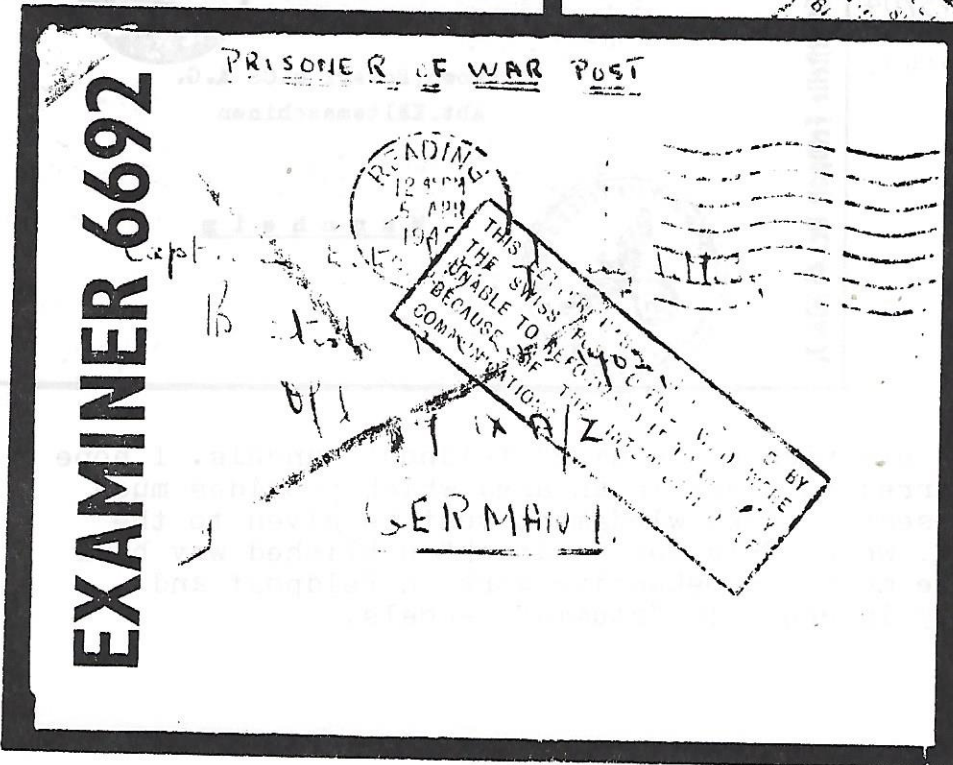
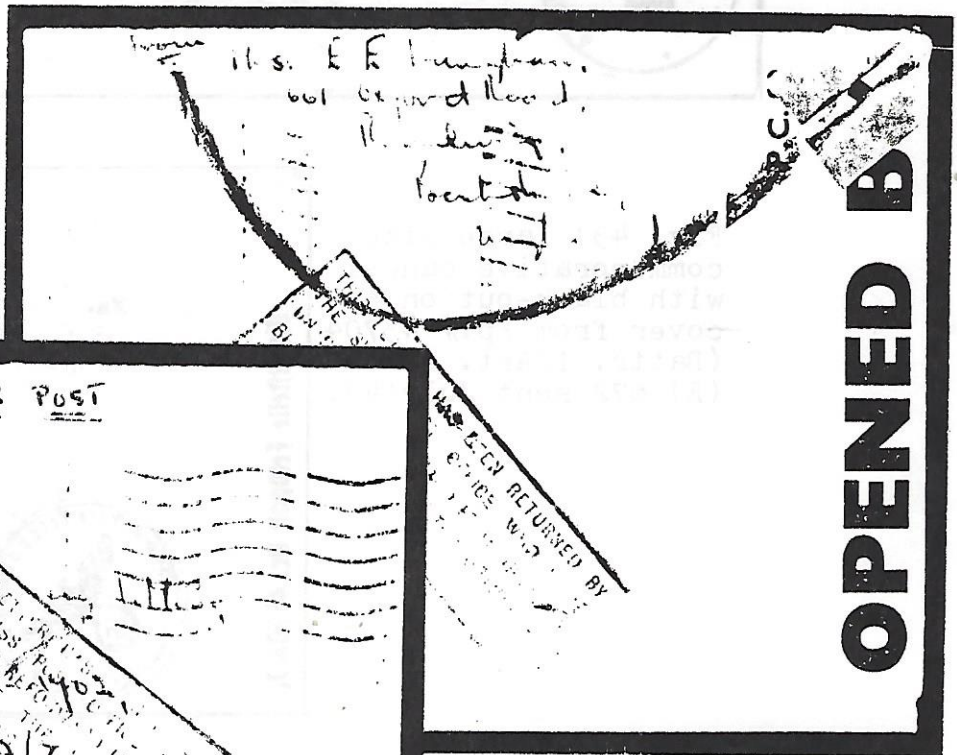
by Benjamin R. Beede

The stampless, prisoner of war cover illustrated is stamped back and front with a purple marking which reads:

THIS LETTER HAS BEEN RETURNED BY
THE SWISS POST OFFICE WHO WERE
UNABLE TO REFORWARD IT TO GERMANY
BECAUSE OF THE INTERRUPTION OF
COMMUNICATIONS

The marking is obviously British. Presumably, mail from other countries addressed to Germany and routed through Switzerland exists with similar markings.

The New York Times, April 25, 1945 (p. 5), reported that the Swiss government had stopped mail deliveries to Germany the previous day, because the borders facing on that country had been closed. The story specifically indicated that mail already in transit would be returned. The Swiss closed the border, apparently because of their fears of becoming involved in the fighting which was moving into southern Germany.



OPENED B

12. Juli

252/28



Fig. 2

lieber Paulus!

ja, ich bin ein richtiges Scheusal
und es tut mir so leid, dass ich

dir nicht

erst

Mindest

pass

ich habe

nach

dort

glaubt

ich nicht

wie er

sonst

in der

dem

wir sind

zu

was



Feld post

Retour



Herrn Oberleutnant

Paul Dreher

Feld post nummer:



Büch. Empfänger verweigert

Geoffr.

brann ganz neu wertet ein
Durchlass-Schein nach hier-

THE GERMAN "EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE" OF WWII

by Lt.Col. R. C. Ayers OBE, RA

In 1943 the German Post Office set up a special service to give people residing in areas subject to heavy air raids a means of quickly informing friends and relatives that they were still alive. In addition, the service handled inquiries from outside such areas, by means of which addresses were checked and information on the residents returned to the inquirer.

This "Express News Service" ("Eilnachrichtendienst") was free and was particularly aimed at reassuring members of the armed forces that their relatives at home were safe. The special postal stationery consisted of:

- a.) An Express News Card (Eilnachrichtkarte) for use to civilian addresses, printed in red.
- b.) An Express News Card for use to Feldpost addresses, printed in green.
- c.) An Express Inquiry Card (Eilauftragkarte) for use by both civilians and members of the armed forces, printed in violet.

All the cards have a thick colored border in the same color as the text and are printed on thin buff cardstock.

The service was set up under the authority of the Ministry of Posts Instruction No. 601a of 1943, and the part to be played by the Feldpost service was laid down in Feldpost Instruction No. 25 dated Dec. 10, '43.

The Express News Service operated as follows:

- a.) The Express News Service was available for a period of 4 days after the Defense Forces had declared a particular town or city as having suffered a "heavy air attack".
- b.) Stocks of cards were held in areas likely to be subject to such attacks and the cards were available from post offices within a 30 to 50 Km. radius of the affected town during this 4 day period. In addition, cards were also available at evacuee centers and street catering stations which dealt with the bombed-out population.
- c.) Completed cards, which could carry a 10 word message, had to be handed in at the same offices and centers, and were not accepted from letter boxes.
- d.) Once handed in, the cards were to be handled by the quickest possible postal means. This included the use of any existing air mail links and the use of the telephones where the home telephone number or a contact telephone number was given for civilian address addresses. I do not know if such a telephone call was followed by delivery of the card.
- e.) The green printed Feldpost Express News Service cards were treated separately from civil mail and were handed over to the nearest Feldpost collection point ("Feldpostsammelstelle"). Luftwaffe and Naval mail was sent from there to the nearest respective office.

f.) Despite the use of a separate Feldpost card for this service, some cards to Feldpost addresses had to be segregated and dealt with as civil mail. These were Feldpost cards to open addresses (i.e. no Feldpost number) or cards with "Sch" before the Feldpost number. The significance of "Sch" escapes me, unless it stood for "Schule" (school). (Ed. Note: "Sch" stood for "Schützen", see TRSG Bulletin 62, p. 9.)

g.) To speed up the passage of cards, the instructions were that they were not to be date-stamped. This obviously proved too much for many dyed-in-the-wool postal officials as a large proportion of the examples I have seen have been date stamped.

h.) The Express News cards had a space for "mark of proof or creditability". Presumably intended to validate the information when the news was bad, this was for use when the card was addressed to a member of the armed forces to prevent such cards from being used to create "alarm and despondency". The official stamp of a police station or some public service such as a fire brigade is the usual mark found in this space.

The Express Inquiry service worked in reverse:

a.) Cards were available in all post offices and Feldpost offices. They could be sent to localities declared as suffering "heavy air attack" during a period of from 4 to 10 days after such declaration. Lists of towns so declared were displayed in post offices and Feldpost offices.

b.) In areas subject to heavy air raids it was the practice of the German post office to set up offices for dealing with the mail of the bombed-out population. These forwarding, delivering and information stations were also responsible for checking the address to which an Express Inquiry card was directed, officially completing the card and returning it to the sender.

c.) The information supplied was restricted to confirming that the address was still valid or otherwise and, where necessary and possible, giving the new address at which the addressee could be reached.

d.) The completed cards were stamped "Zürück" (Return) and then handled in the same way as the Express News cards.

Such cards are not too difficult to find, particularly unused. Care must be taken when buying cards without date stamps (although they were expressly authorized in the instructions) as used cards with interesting addresses are only too easily fabricated from unused cards. The closing paragraph of the instruction setting up this service is of interest: "With the introduction of the Express News Service, the Deutsche Reichspost takes on a heavy and responsible task. However, the consciousness of being able to lighten a particular worry of our whole people, that is, the worry felt by the individual for the fate of his nearest and dearest after massed enemy air attack, will spur on every member of the postal service to devote every imaginable care and support to this latest news medium".

Editor's Note: this article originally appeared in the Spring 1982 news letter of the Forces Postal History Society (British) and is re-printed with their permission.

Fig. 4) Front (below) and back sides of bi-lingual (German/Czec) News Express Card used in Bohemia-Moravia.

**Deutlich schreiben!
Píšte zřetelně!**

**Lebenszeichen von
Jsem na živu** (Zůstatek - jméno) (Vornáme - příjmení)

aus

(Ortsangabe - místo pobytu) (Straße - ulice)

Datum: (Inhalt zugelassen höchstens 10 Worte Klartext-
Sdělení dovoleno nejvýše 10 slovy v jasné řeči)

**Deutlich schreiben!
Píšte zřetelně!**

Eilmeldung - Spěšná zpráva

An
Adresa

Raum für Prüf- oder Beklauba inasvermerk
Místo pro záznam o ořezkousci, ne o ořezci

in
v
(Strasse und Hausnummer - ulice a číslo doma)

Fernsprecher Nr.
telefon čís. (Rufnummer - číslo)

oder über
Fernsprecher Nr.
nebo prostřednictvím
telefonu čís. (Rufnummer - číslo)

Fig. 5) Front (below) and back sides of the News Inquiry Card.

Auskunft nur nach den Unterlagen der Postdienststellen

Ist folgende Postanschrift richtig?
(Deutlich schreiben)

Antwort: Ja! Eine Änderung ist dem
Postamt nicht bekannt.

Nein, sie muß lauten:

Nein, andere kann
aber nicht ange-
geben werden

Aufhe-
stempel

Tagesstempel

Deutlich schreiben!

Absender:

(Name)

(Wohnort, auch Zusatz- oder Leitpostamt)

(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudezahl, Stadtort
oder Postabteilungsnummer)

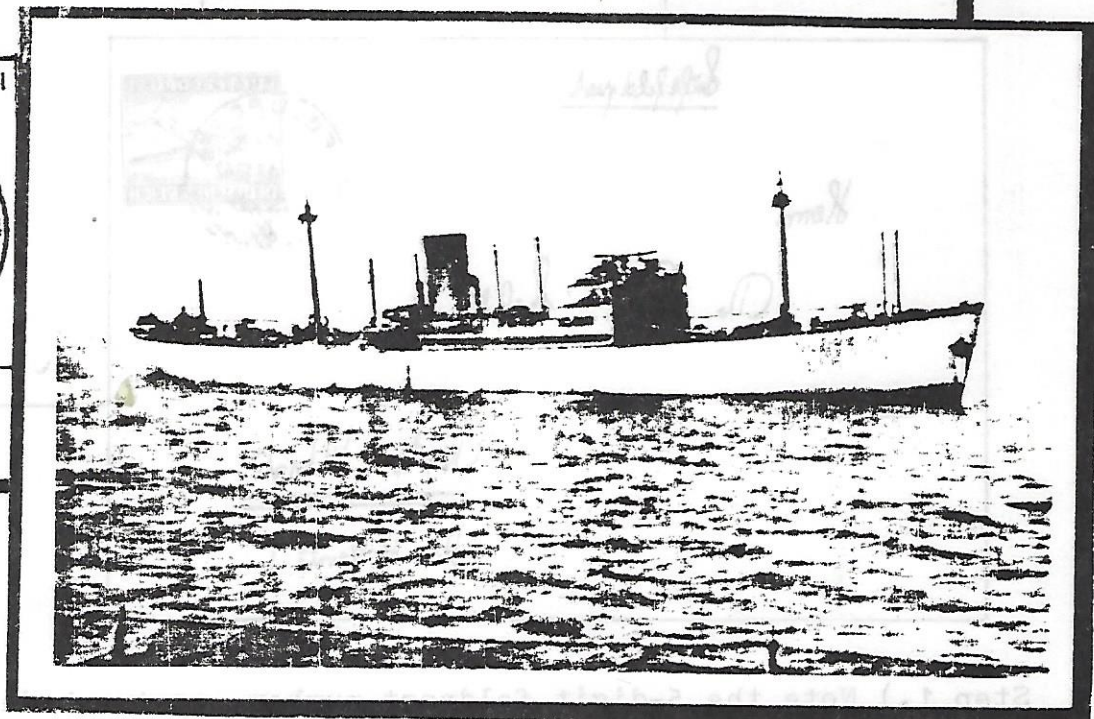
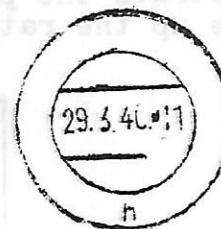
(Fernsprecheinrichtung über das Amt
angegabene werden kann)

**Eilauftrag
zur Prüfung einer
Postanschrift**

An
das Postamt
(Auskunfts- und Ausgabestelle für
Postsendungen)

Navy Log

Dienststelle
Feldpost-Nr. M. 15037
Schiffstaffe
B.-Nr. _____



Feldpost # M-15037
 Merchant Raider "Atlantis"

Ex- "Goldenfels", built 1937. Commissioned as a raider (HSK 2) in December, 1939. Sank 22 ships (total of 145,697 tons) in 622 day voyage under Capt. B. Rogge in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans. Sunk November 1941 by British cruiser "Devonshire".
 Displacement: 7862 tons; Crew: 350;
 Speed: 16 Knots;
 Armament: Six 5.9" and one 3" guns;
 Four 21" torpedo tubes;
 92 mines;
 2 aircraft;

(RJH)

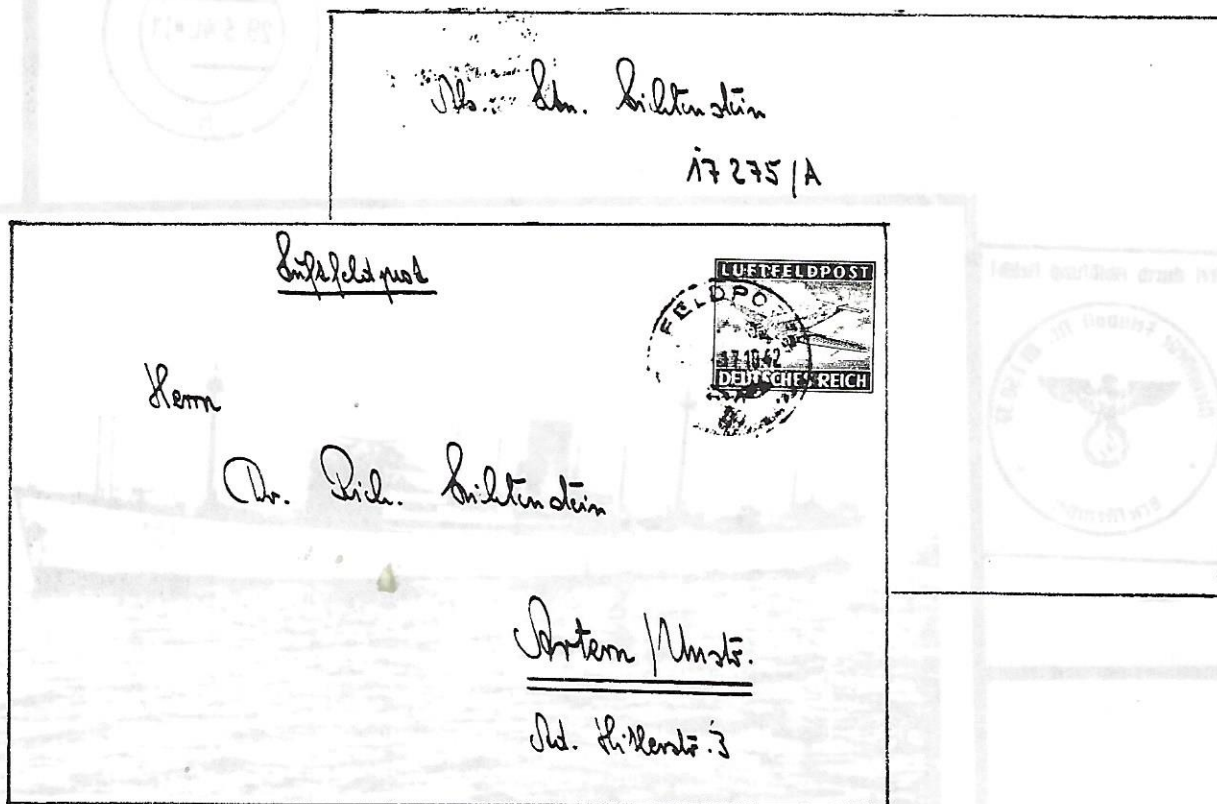
A PROCEDURE FOR IDENTIFYING FELDPOST COVERS

by Jim Lewis

The TRSG staff receives frequent inquiries from newer members regarding the references and procedure required to identify units and obtain historical data so that they might write up their feldpost covers.

The difficulty in obtaining historical data is often dependent upon the type of military unit in question. There is little information on most of the independent units such as anti-aircraft batteries or units which were attached at Army or Corps levels. Conversely, if the unit in question was an element of an Army or Waffen-SS division, it is fairly easy to obtain a considerable amount of information.

To illustrate the procedure, let us "walk" through the steps required to write up the rather ordinary feldpost cover shown below.



- Step 1.) Note the 5-digit feldpost number, postmark date and any other details. Though lacking a unit seal, the sender of this cover wrote his his feldpost no. 17275 A on the rear flap. The date in the feldpost cancel is Oct. 17, 1942. The blue air service label reveals that this cover came from the Russian front.
- Step 2.) Identify the unit - we look up the Fp.# in "Himmelblau" and find that in '42 this number was assigned to the 3rd Battalion of Infantry Regiment 268 (listed "III/Inf. Rgt. 268").
- Step 3.) Identify the parent organization - we now turn to our TRSG "Composition Listings" handbook and learn that Inf. Rgt. 268 was an element of the 113th Infantry Division.
- Step 4.) Obtain order of battle information - to learn the structure of this division, we now turn to one of the order of battle publications listed at the end of this article. We find that

Infantry Div. 113 was comprised of Inf. Rgts. 260, 261 and 268 plus Artillery Rgt. 87 and various service units. Formed in Military District XIII in Oct. '40, Inf. Div. 113 was sent to the Balkans following training and performed occupation duties in Nov.- Dec. '41. In the Spring of 1942 the 113th Infantry Div. was transferred to the southern sector of the Russian front where it was destroyed at Stalingrad.

Step 5.) Obtain detailed history - as our cover is dated Oct. 17, '42, it seems highly likely that the sender was in Stalingrad on this date. To obtain additional detail we turn to a history of the Stalingrad battle. "Enemy at the Gates" by William Craig reveals that Inf. Div. 113 was an element of the 6th Army at Stalingrad and, along with the 16th Panzer and 60th Motorized divisions, held the northern sector of the "Kessel" (Cauldron) containing the encircled German forces. On Jan. 10, 1943, the Soviet Twenty-fourth Army punched a hole between the German 113th and 76th Infantry Divisions. Assaulted both in front and on their flank, the 113th Infantry Division had been virtually destroyed by January 13th.

On a personal note, I know the sister of the soldier who wrote this letter. Wounded at Stalingrad, he was evacuated in one of the last planes to leave the "Kessel". He is alive and well, living in west Germany.

REFERENCES:

"Projekt Himmelblau" - 12 section listing of German Fieldpost Number assignments. Published by TRSG 1978-80. Available @ \$ 10/section.

"Composite Listings of Organic German Military Units" - Published by TRSG, September 1980. (Out-of-print).

"German Army Order of Battle" by John W. Painter, private publication April 1979. For info on availability, write author directly at: 210 Valley Forge Rd., Cinnaminson, NJ 08077.

"German Order of Battle 1944", published by Hippocrene Books, Inc., 171 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

"Enemy at the Gates, the battle for Stalingrad" by W. Craig, published 1973 by E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc. New York.

A final note, all of the works referenced above are in English. For the most complete history of German military units, Georg Tessin's "Verbände und Truppen der deutschen Wehrmacht und Waffen SS in Zweiten Weltkrieg 1939-45" (in German) is recommended. This is a multi-volume work and is quite expensive. Write TRSG Director Myron Fox for details if you're both ambitious and well-heeled.

UNITS OF AOK6 AT STALINGRAD

A recent bulletin of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutsche Feldpost 1939-1945 e.V. presented a handy chart of units in the battle for Stalingrad, including the Kenn number and Fp number of each FpA (field post office) as of December 1, 1942. This list is reproduced here-with:

Einheiten der 6. Armee, die in Stalingrad untergegangen sind

Mit der nachfolgenden Aufstellung - Stand: 01.12.42 - möchten wir unseren Mitgliedern ein Hilfsmittel zur Ermittlung und Lokalisierung feldpostalischer Belege aus diesem Einsatzraum an die Hand geben.

Korps bzw. Division	Takt. Nr. des Feld- postamtes	Kenn- Nr.	FpNr.
<u>XIV. AK</u>	414	542	15 709
3. I.D.	3	784	15 202
376. I.D.	376	606	41 000
<u>VIII. AK</u>	408	573	19 730
44. I.D.	44	242	09 195
76. I.D.	176	457	19 445
113. I.D.	113	522	46 900
<u>LI. AK</u>	451	607/121	47 512
389. I.D.	389	872	47 944
305. I.D.	305	866	43 340
79. I.D.	179	796	14 017
100. I.D.	100	116	01 230
295. I.D.	295	358	38 388
71. I.D.	171	333	23 116
<u>XI. AK</u>	411	604	14 907
60. I.D.	160	391	27 954
16. Pz.D.	16	445	25 537
24. Pz.D.	40	128	12 654
94. I.D.	194	684	02 233
<u>IV. AK</u>	404	748	26 873
371. I.D.	371	707	43 100
297. I.D.	297	312	37 437
29. I.D.	29	933	06 391
zur Verfügung			
14. Pz.D.	4	828	10 262
384. I.D.	384	581	01 357

While this appears to be a nicely updated version of the list put forth in Gericke's "Die deutsche Feldpost im Zweiten Weltkrieg" (1971), I must still question two of the Kenn numbers as given:

FpA 100 of the 100th Infantry Division - Records indicate that Kenn #468 was used at this time and that Kenn #116 was not assigned until the reorganization of the division in April 1943.

FpA 451 of LI Korps - While Kenn #607 is correct, the reference to Kenn number 121 is questionable. According to N. Kannapin's "Die deutsche Feldpost Organisation und Lokalisation 1939-1945", K#121 was seen used by a branch of FpA 451 in 1944 (the reconstituted Korps was then serving in Italy) however there seems to be no substantiation for the reference to K#121 in late 1942.

(See next page for cover illustrations)

Einschreiben

Feldpost

R Feldpost *607*
823



An das

Wehrmeldeamt



Dienststelle
Feldpost Nr. 08480

Einschreiben

Feldpost

An das



Wehrbezirkskommando Wien III



R Feldpost
303

Wien VIII

Registered cover cancelled 13.2.42 by Kenn 607 (FpA 451), sent from Fp #08480 (2. Kp., Korps Nachrichten Abt. 451).

Registered cover cancelled 11.8.42 by Kenn 468 (FpA 100), sent from Fp #43417 (Bäckerei Kp. 100).

(RJH)

"H.J. FELDPOST"

Abs.: Hitler-Junge
J. Hanschild
 im Wehrmachtsdienst
 Feldpostnr.: **01981 F/II**

Feldpost FELDPOST
 d. 15.11.44

An *Jam.*
Hanno Hanschild

① **Berlin-Wannsee**
Schurcharthof 5

*der Nachricht, dass ich zum
 nächsten im Gefangenensystem
 sein werde. Hier sind es
 die "Wunder" der Menschheit
 geworden.*

*Herrl. Grüße
 Euer Jungs*

Die Empfänger u. Absender
 Es sind nur Postkarten sendungen zugelassen. Brief-
 sendungen gehen als unzustellbar zurück.

.... d. 10.11.44

Liebe Eltern!
 Post von Euch ist leider noch nicht da. Hier wird
 es schon winterlich. Auf den Bergen in der Gegend
 liegt heute früh schon Schnee. Habt ihr
 schon die Kartoffeln rausgewaschen? Geht mein Radio
 noch? Ihr könnt die Auberginen mit einem Strich
 wickeln, damit sie nicht so leicht reift. Das Essen
 ist immer noch gut. Hier es gibt sehr viel Weintrauben
 In den letzten Tagen war hier viel Alarm. - Eben
 traf Euer 1. Brief (vom 3.11.) an meine Feld-
 postnummer ein, außerdem der 2. B. vom 3.11. mit
 Hitler-Junge wahre Deine Ehre und sprich die Wahrheit!

According to Rundbrief 28 of the Arge-Fp. Group in Germany, examples of an interesting correspondence have surfaced in the form of cards sent by a member of the Hitler Youth in military service and with a Feldpost number assigned. Note the imprinted motto "Hitler Youths value their honor and speak the truth!". The #01981 was assigned to "SS Fürsorge Führer Slowakei, SS Postst. Pressburg u. Ers. Kdo Südost d. Wa. SS Nebenst. Pressburg." Have any of our members come across any such items?

(RJH)

THE STORY OF THE FRENCH "SPY" STAMPS



GENUINE



FORGERY



Most philatelists know the part that stamps have played in making and re-making — the history of the world. They have started wars and celebrated peace; they have inflamed slumbering animosities into bloody outbreaks, ridiculed political leaders, and they have played a most important part in the waging of war.

In recent times, stamps perhaps played no more important role than they did in helping the French underground, the famed Maquis, in their life and death struggle with the Nazis during World War II. Being a spy in war-time is a hazardous enough profession; being one against the Nazis was a particularly dangerous occupation, calling for much more than patriotism and bravery.

Communication between spies is of course necessary, this being the weakest link in espionage, since it is often difficult for a spy to know if his associate is friend or foe. The counter-espionage system of the Germans was excellent, and hundreds of underground patriots were murdered as they were discovered. Not only were these brave men and women of the French nationality, but many were British and Allied spies, dropped into France at night by parachute, with instructions to dynamite bridges, help Allied fliers to escape, and obtain important military information.

The Germans did not have great difficulty in trapping the enemy spies. If one were under suspicion, it was a simple task to send him a message, reading perhaps "Be under the Rhone Bridge Tuesday for dynamiting." A Frenchman sympathetic to the Germans might ignore the message, or turn it over to the German authorities. An Allied partisan could easily walk into and ambush, and be caught.

After losses mounted to staggering proportions, the British Intelligence took up

the matter, hoping to find a solution to the problem. Some operator thought of postage stamps, perhaps recalling that during World War I the British had skillfully reproduced the then current German postage stamps, to mail anti-German propaganda within Germany. At that time, the counterfeited stamps were used since any large purchase of stamps from a German Post Office would have led suspicion to point at the British operatives.

Why not counterfeit the then current French postage stamps? If it were kept a closely guarded secret, the French and British underground could correspond with each other and have the French Post Office even deliver the letters, right under the noses of the Germans. Each stamp would differ in some tiny detail from the original; otherwise, it would be identical to the casual glance. A letter received by one of the Maquis franked by one of the British made stamps could be regarded as official instructions; with the regular French stamp on it, it would be apparent as a German trap.

Of the many secrets kept through the years of War, this story was one of the most jealously guarded. Few indeed in Britain knew that the stamps being dropped by parachute along with weapons, supplies and information were different from the regular French stamps. The recipients, in France, kept the secret well, knowing that to reveal it would be the equivalent of sacrificing their lives.

Methodical and thorough though the Germans were, they never penetrated the ingenious scheme. They must have wondered why suddenly their snares and traps did not produce any victims; they must have fretted and fumed, wondering how the Maquis were communicating with each other — not knowing that their own Post Office officials were carrying the messages,

and that their own censors were opening the very letters themselves.

Examples of these in used condition, particularly on cover are extremely rare, as naturally each spy would destroy by burning any message that he received with these stamps, since he would never know when the Germans might perhaps become aware of the scheme. That the Germans never suspected, inveterate stamp collectors that many were, is surprising; perhaps the answer is that the solution would have been too obvious for a mind as cunning as that of the Nazi.

The differences that the underground soldiers soon found to be the difference between life and death are apparent in the photographs shown. It would indeed be difficult for the uninformed to tell the genuine French-made stamps from the British counterparts.

There were other values in the set that were similarly reproduced by the British Intelligence. The two franc is definitely known to have been so treated, and perhaps more. French philatelic students have been studying these stamps seeking others.

It was mere chance that the stamps mounted on this page have been saved for philately. When the war ended, supplies of course remained; they should have been destroyed, but they weren't, and they found their way into philatelic hands. They are an unusual chapter in stamp collecting's checkered history, printings of another country's stamps made not to defraud the Post Office, not to cheat stamp collectors, but to help fight the battle for freedom against Nazi-ism. That France survived may well be due to the very stamps that are presented herewith.

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Shrub Oak, N. Y. All rights reserved.

Editor's note: The above article was forwarded to us by Bruce J. Fisher and is reprinted with the permission of Herman Herst. While it is difficult to discern the difference between the genuine and forged items from the illustrations above, Mr. Fisher advises that he has copies of both and that the forgery is recognizable by a break in the lines of the engraving on the cheek.

WILLRICH POST CARDS
A New Study Group Project

Your TRSG Bulletin Staff has received numerous requests for new Study Group projects in the field of propaganda cards. One suggestion has been the development of a listing of cards reproduced from the paintings of Wolfgang Willrich.

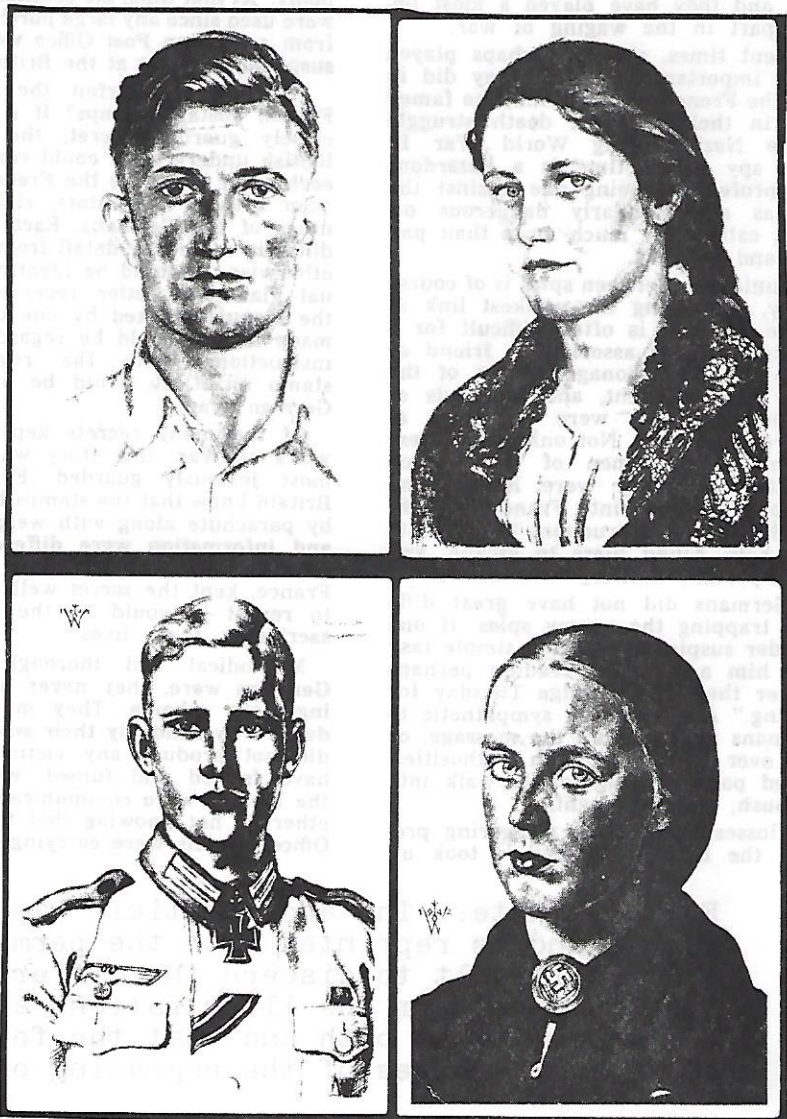
Born in Göttengen in 1897, Wolfgang Willrich studied art at the Akademie Dresden. During World War I, Willrich served as a rifleman and squad leader with the 251st Inf. Rgt. Captured by the French, Willrich was held in captivity for a period of two years after the war had ended.

After his release in 1920, Willrich returned to Germany and resumed his work, which was primarily portrait painting. In 1927, his portrait of General Erich von Ludendorff received wide acclaim. Thereafter, his reputation as a portrait painter quickly ascended.

Soon after Goebbles established the "Reichskammer der bildenden Künste" (Reich Chamber for the Visual Arts), Willrich joined the organization and received membership # 3741. A critic of all forms of expressionist art, Willrich authored a book entitled "Säuberung des Kunsttempels" (The Cleansing of the Temple of Art).

During this period, Willrich received frequent commissions from a variety of public and private organizations. Best known to post card collectors is a series commissioned by the Association for German Nationals in Foreign Countries "Volksbund für das Deutschtum in Ausland" or "V.D.A.". In 1939, many of Willrich's works were reproduced as post cards and proved to be very popular, earning him a tidy fortune.

Shown at right are four of the many Willrich post cards. If the TRSG membership will send photocopies of the front & reverse of any Willrich cards to Jim Lewis, we will see if we can compile a complete listing. Progress reports will be forthcoming if and when we get sufficient input from YOU. Pull out those shoe boxes, gang, and keep them cards a'comin'.



Propaganda Card Corner

This pre-1933 N.S.D.A.P. charity card sold for 10 Pfennig to raise funds for the assistance of W.W. I veterans and their dependents.



The illustration depicts an S.A. Mann helping a wounded German soldier across a battle torn landscape. Printed black and grey with text: "Der Dank des Vaterlandes" in black.

Submitted by member Carmello Cosentino, this card has a slogan cancel of Berlin-Charlottenburg 2 dated May 28, 1932.

Address side includes a message in the upper left corner to all District & Local Party leaders. Note Hitler's signature printed under the message.

The Düsseldorf address of the charity and their postal checking account number are printed at bottom left.

Allen Gau- u. Ortsgruppenführern für Versammlungen empfohlen.

Das deutsche Volk soll sich die Helben des großen Weltkriegs immer wieder vor Augen führen, die im klaren Bewußtsein sich für uns alle geopfert haben. Sie müssen den Wankelmütigen werben und den Schwachen immer wieder zur Erfüllung seiner Pflicht zurückrufen, zu einer Pflicht, der sie selbst im besten Glauben und bis zur letzten Konsequenz genügen.

Adolf Hitler

Verkaufspreis 10 Pf.

Sie beziehen von:
Der Post bei Vaterlandes e. Gen. m. B. Düsseldorf
Steinberr. 25 Pöfischentonia Köln 110 230.

POSTKARTE
BEFÖRDERUNG
STREIFEN, ZEITUNGEN, BÜCHER

BRUNNEN
1932-15
U

Frank

Dr. Laurin

Glückw. nach H. / Holst.

fr. Hamburg

U. R. S. G. Auction No. 25

- | Lot # | Description |
|-------|--|
| 1. | 1937 Cover fm German Embassy in Belgrade - carried in diplomatic pouch & then posted fm Foreign Office P.O. Berlin w/spec. canc. "Give me 4 more years". VF RES \$8. |
| | <u>ZENSURPOST:</u> |
| 2. | POW Cvr fm Augsburg to NY w/U.S. & German censors (G-29 "Zensurstelle") dated Dec. 1944. VF RES \$20. |
| 3. | POW Cvr fm camp in Madill, Oklahoma to Germany. Nice US cens markings & Riemer type 32 cens. of Berlin. VF RES \$15. |
| 4. | POW card, airmail to Canada fm Germany. "Taxe percue 40 Rfg" & nice boxed camp cens. "Marlag u. Milag Nord - Geprüft" (camp for Naval Personnel). VF RES \$22. |
| 5. | POW card fm Luft-Lager 3 to London, readdr. to Scotland, with German camp censor & British cens. RES \$12. |
| 6. | "Ueberroller" cover: Posted Kärnten (Austria) April 24, 1945 w/12Pf Hitler head. British cens stamp "Britische Prüfstellung Oesterreich - 0923" & "Geoeffnet" tape. VF RES \$30. |
| 7. | XMAS card fm Finland to New York 10.12.42. Nice Finnish charity seal & Berlin cens. h/s type 7. VF RES \$12. |
| | <u>LUFTFELDPOST:</u> |
| 8. | Flded Lttrsht fm 41586 (97. Jager Div), single stamp, Fp canc. 1.7.42. VF |
| 9. | Cover fm 19196 (8th Jager Div), single stamp, Fp canc of 31.5.42. F |
| 10. | Color card "An der Wjasma" sent fm #39861, single stamp. Fp canc. 21.6.44 VF RES \$10. |
| 11. | Cover fm #38462, single stamp, Fp canc 30.5.43 (next to last day of single stamp period). VF |
| 12. | Folded Lttrsht (1 stamp) canc. 14.10.43 fm Fp #32050. Nice example of 1 stamp req't on ltrshht during 2 stamp period. VF |
| | <u>1937 WEHRMACHTMANOEVER Cards: (See TRSG Vol. XIII)</u> |
| 13. | Fm Fp #0539, Canc FpA 023, 25.9.37 VF RES \$22. |
| 14. | Fm Fp #0798, Canc FpA 023, 20.9.37 VF RES \$22. |
| 15. | Fm Fp #0469, Canc FpA 621, 22.9.37 VF RES \$22. |
| | <u>KRIEGSMARINE:</u> |
| 16. | "Sch" prefix in Dienstsiegel Fp # Sch15613 (1. Battr/MFA 256) w/stumme canc. AV RES \$12. |
| 17. | Cvr fm Fp# 01923 (Destroyer "Theodor Riedel"), canc. 15.1.40 at Wilhelmshvn. Included is striking photocard of ship VF RES \$22. |
| 18. | Cvr fm Fp# 02954 (Cruiser "Emden") w/Fp Canc 24.4.40, includes nice photocard of the vessel. VF RES \$30. |
| 19. | Cvr fm Fp# 05521 (Destroyer "Diether von Roeder") Canc. at Kiel 27.11.39, includes nice photocard of the vessel. VF RES \$22. |
| 20. | Cvr fm Fp# 00105 (Battlecruiser "Gneisenau"), Canc. Kiel 7.12.39, includes photocard (See TRSG No.66, page 23). RES \$32. |
| | <u>FELDPOST:</u> |
| 21. | Cens. Cover canc. Leeuwarden, DDP Niederlande 23.9.41 to a Dutch volunteer at Fp 04736. VF RES \$20. |
| 22. | Nice "Durch Kurier!" h/s on Courier-carried CVR to Lemberg fm 10. Flakdivision (mot.). VF RES \$20. |
| 23. | Large "Durch Kurier" h/s on CVR to Uman fm Ost-Minenräum Kp. 554. VF RES \$20. |

- | <u>Lot #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------|--|
| 24. | AFRIKA KORPS - Regis. Fp Cvr canc. by Kenn 420 (FpA 639 at Derna) 27.3.42, fm Fp# 05214 during Cyrenaica Offensive. VF RES \$45. |
| | <u>REGIS. FELDPOST - UNITS IN THE BALKANS:</u> |
| 25. | K# 947, 28.11.41 fm Fp# 46680 VF |
| 26. | K# 847, 28.5.44, fm L53712 (3 Pt. K#) VF |
| 27. | K# 947, 14.3.44, fm #19311 VF |
| 28. | K# 363, 10.3.44, fm #59226 (4 Pt K# !!) VF |
| 29. | K# 724, 15.8.42, fm #42143 (117 Jag. Div.) VF |
| 30. | K# 620, 4.6.43, fm #34708 (104 Jag. Div.) VF |
| | <u>SOUVENIER SHEETS (All with no gum):</u> |
| 31. | Two sheets, Mi. Block 4 each w/diff. cancels. RES \$3. |
| 32. | Two sheets, Mi. Block 7 - 1 canc. & 1 unused (NGum).
One sheet, Mi. Block 8 (unused, no gum).
Two sheets, Mi. Block 9 (1 canc., 1 unsd) no gum.
One sheet, Mi. Block 11, unused, no gum. RES \$7. |
| 33. | Two sheets, Mi. Block 5 (1 canc., 1 unused) no gum.
Two sheets, Mi. Block 6 (1 canc., 1 unused) no gum. RES \$7. |
| 34. | Two sheets, Mi. Block 5 & 6 - both w/commem. canc's. RES \$4. |
| 35. | Two sheets, Mi. Block 10, canc., no gum. RES \$7. |
| | <u>MISCELLANEOUS:</u> |
| 36. | Souv. card w/Mi. 686-688, Commem. canc. 17.2.39 RES \$7. |
| 37. | Four 1936 Olympic Cards (1 mint, 3 w/spec. cancels & unaddr.) - all diff: VF RES \$3. |
| 38. | Cover: Mi.814 w/spec canc Hamburg 28.6.42. RES \$11. |
| 39. | Cover: Gen. Gouv. Mi.1-13, canc. Krakau 9.1.40 RES \$12. |
| 40. | Cover: Flemish Legion Mi. I-IV, Cat. Val. DM 350 as used. RES \$65. |
| 41. | Mi. 688 on adv. card w/Berlin FD canc. 17/2/39. SB \$3. |
| 42. | Cover w/mixed Austrian-German franking, Wien Commem canc. and Card (unaddr.) w/Austrian stamp & Nazi canc. SB \$7. |
| 43. | Regis. Cover Wien to New York w/mixed frank'g June '38 SB \$4.50 |
| 44. | Regis. Cover Klagenfurt to Ljubljana w/mixed franking '38 SB \$4.50 |
| 45. | Austrian cover, March 15, 1938 w/"Der Führer in Wien" suppl. canc. & normal Wien canc. SB \$4.50 |
| 46. | Mi. 522 on cover to USA 20.10.38 SB \$3. |
| 47. | Mi. 854 w/canc. 2 days before 1st Day on plain, unaddr. card Date 25.7.1943. SB \$5. |
| 48. | Mi. 529,534,535 on Cover w/Berlin Commem canc 29.9.37 SB \$6.50 |
| 49. | Mi. 862 on unaddr. Cvr w/commem FDC 24.10.43 SB \$3. |
| 50. | Unaddr. Hitler photocard - Czech stamp w/Brno canc. & Nazi h/s "Der Führer in Brünn". SB \$5. |
| 51. | Gen. Gouv. - Unaddr. Cvr w/Mi.17-23, 34, commem canc Zakopane April 1941. SB \$10. |
| 52. | Censored Cvr Norway to NYC w/Norwegian stamps, cate unclear SB \$3. |
| 53. | " " Germany to Holland w/chem. testing. SB \$5. |
| 54. | " " Prag to USA 1.X.41 SB \$3.50 |
| 55. | " " Norway to USA 3.3.41 via F'furt Cens. SB \$5. |
| 56. | Mi. 771 on Cvr fm Radio Austria to NYC, via Berlin cens 19.4.41 SB \$3.50 |
| 57. | POW card to USA fm Stalag Luft 1 w/4OPf luftpost |
| 58. | POW card to USA fm M.Stammlager Luft 3 w/4OPf Taxe percue marking. |

TRSG AUCTION NO. 25 -

SEND ALL BIDS TO: Fred Stengel
1248 Magnolia Place
Union, NJ 07083

CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 25 IS: JUNE 9, 1983

Prices Realized

TRSG AUCTION NO. 24

Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price
1	15.00	16	12.00	48	28.50	73	5.50
2	15.00	19	7.50	49	18.50	74	5.50
3	13.00	25	6.50	51	19.50	75	5.00
4	15.00	28	7.00	53	36.50	76	8.00
5	16.00	30	17.00	54	40.00	77	12.00
6	13.50	33	17.50	57	12.50	78	16.00
7	16.50	35	22.00	58	9.50	79	16.00
8	14.50	37	16.00	59	13.50	80	9.00
9	13.00	39	50.00	60	15.00	81	5.50
10	21.00	40	55.00	61	11.00	82	5.50
11	10.00	42	37.50	62	57.50	83	14.00
12	14.50	43	52.50	69	13.00	84	7.50
14	9.50	44	40.50	71	5.50	85	11.00
15	12.50	46	46.50	72	7.50	86	15.50

SELLERS PLEASE NOTE

Our Auction rules require the seller to accurately describe and price his material (see rules 6 & 12). The Auction Manager has been receiving consignments consisting of undescribed (or improperly described) material along with requests that he price the lots for the seller. We regret to advise that we cannot bear the added burden of originating the descriptions nor the responsibility of establishing prices on the material of others.

ESSAY FOR 1935 HITLER ISSUE:



Member Bruce Fisher advises that he has a couple of these available. Contact him directly for details.