

Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

October 2025, Volume LX, Number 4, (#238)

Inside:

- How to read German-censored covers
- Funknachrichtenkarten (Radio Message Cards)
- Our new book: It's on Amazon!!
- The Stamps and Art of Albrecht Dürer
- The most interesting Trivia you will ever read
- The Auction Houses Heat up!
- A Twist on "Is it Real or is it Fake?"
- And so much more!

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October 2025, Volume LX, Number 4, (#237)

This may be the best issue ever. Just look at what is in store for you:

- If you ever wanted to know what all those numbers and letters on German-censored covers are, feature article is music to your ears. We show you step-by-step what all those markings mean. This will take your collection to a whole new level
- I have a new book: Collecting Third Reich Material: A Systematic Review. In this article, I give you a preview of some of the great pics inside!
- Funknachrichtenkarten (radio message cards)- Phil Miller has some great cards, and Bill Hatfield provides some great commentary on this neglected part of German WWII history.
- And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Sit back and enjoy a great read!

Help! I strive to keep this website and journal free and accessible for everyone. I do not want to begin charging dues or putting up passwords and firewalls on this website. Philately should be for everyone! However, I could use a few dollars to cover expenses. You can support us by donating through PayPal on our website or by sending a check made out to Chris Kolker to 25 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360. Thank you for your continued support. You are what makes our study group great!

We invite submissions of all article types, including long and short pieces, as well as introductory material and expert contributions. We need them all! Please email your articles, scans, or ideas to kolkermd@att.net.

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January 9, 1936, issue of the commemorative stamp of the 10th anniversary of Lufthansa. Remember that the never-hinged versions are worth 10 times as much as the previously hinged!

The Editor's Letter

To our Esteemed Readers:

We are thrilled to present the 237th issue of the *Third Reich Study Group Bulletin*, a truly exceptional edition that stands out as one of our finest. We're confident you'll find it engaging and valuable—don't miss out on this must-read issue!

To begin, we focus on German-censored covers and all the markings associated with them. Going step by step, we provide a clear understanding of the numbers and symbols that can be confusing and bewildering at first glance.

Next, we invite you to discover a captivating correspondence among our readers about Funknachrichtenkarten (radio message cards). This often-overlooked subject holds surprising insights, and Phil Miller presents some exceptional examples that illuminate its significance. Bill Hatfield's insightful commentary further enriches the discussion. Don't miss out—delve into this intriguing topic now!

Discover our latest must-read: *Collecting Third Reich Material: A Systematic Review*. This insightful book, authored by your editor, offers invaluable guidance and a comprehensive overview for enthusiasts and collectors alike. It's easily accessible on Amazon—simply type "Christopher Kolker" or the book's title into the search bar. Plus, in our *Bulletin*, you'll find exclusive sample pages to preview the content. Don't miss out—purchase the book today to support this passionate author and deepen your knowledge of Third Reich memorabilia!

I've dedicated a significant amount of time to crafting this trivia, focusing on the influential personalities of the Nazi era and their connections to the Nuremberg trials. I believe it offers a challenging but fair test of knowledge, and I truly invite you to see how you measure up. As the auction houses are bustling this fall, I've also included detailed insights into some of the major auction houses that handle Third Reich memorabilia. I highly encourage you to take a close look—this is a rare opportunity to deepen your understanding of this complex historical period.

In our regular feature of *Stamps of the Third Reich*, we also take a brief look at the stamps and art of Albrecht Dürer. His Renaissance etchings and paintings represent the best of German culture, and we have some of his greatest works in this piece.

If you've enjoyed what you've read, please consider supporting us. Creating quality content takes time and resources, and your support makes it possible. You can write an article, or

simply click on our PayPal buttons to donate. Your contribution directly supports this publication and helps us keep delivering valuable content. Thank you for your support!

And while you're exploring, don't miss out on visiting the website. I've just uploaded several new videos on a dedicated page about Third Reich Philatelic material, along with a couple of insightful videos highlighting the history of the Second World War. Check them out and enjoy a deeper dive into these fascinating topics!

As I like to say, keep calm and keep collecting. We'll see you in the new year!

Your Editor,



Lublin Concentration Camp: 1944, preprinted card "Concentration Camp Waffen SS Lublin" with General Government Hitler 12 Groszy with stamp "LUBLIN 9.1.44" to Bielsk. Front with Red Cross stamp and L5 "Postal Receipt...KL Lublin" and back with L1 "Postal Inspector 1"



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin, Oct. 2025

What is all of that on this envelope?

A simple guide to understand German-censored covers from WWII Christopher Kolker MD

It's 1939, and if you're a German postal bureaucrat, these are trying times. Even if they supported the onset of the Second World War, which was likely during the war's early days, they must have felt a great deal of stress. After all, the postal censorship system had to

change all at once.

It doesn't mean that there wasn't any structure available with the onset of the Blitzkrieg of Poland. For the last several years, censors have been looking for currency in the mail. The Germans felt that currency

fluctuations



The back of a censored cover, complete with OKW seal and censor strip, May 1941, originating from Warsaw

could be devastating to their economy, just as it was right after World War I, only a few years prior. Fearing that any incoming foreign currency might destabilize the German economy, the money would be immediately confiscated if found in the mail.

However, with the onset of a global war, postal officials were faced with the constant need to censor all incoming mail. That is very different than simply looking for money and passing on the rest of the contents unexamined.

The Germans had censored mail in World War I with mixed results. One hundred and thirty offices across Germany have filtered the outgoing and incoming mail for years. Officials thought that to be a mixed success at best. Some offices were hyper-vigilant, censoring a lot of mail that didn't really need such careful examination. Other offices were barely functioning and served no real purpose in helping the German cause.

But the Germans knew that they must censor the mail, both to prevent valuable information from leaving the country and subversive information from entering.

Censorship Challenges

Still, they had so many different challenges:

- **Organization**. The German censorship system had to become much more comprehensive and much more complex immediately
- **Geography.** Germany would expand into a vast geographic area, one that would soon surpass Germany's geographic expansion in World War I
- **Time**. This had to be done as soon as possible. Higher Nazi officials would not tolerate a gradual ramp-up of censorship.
- **Manpower**. Who would do all the work of censorship? Since men would be needed to fight, women would be called upon to do most of the work,
- Languages. Numerous languages were written in this area. How could the Nazis censor all

these
languages?
Foreign
workers
were
brought in,
but any item
in a
language
not
understood
by censors
would



This letter was sent from Troy, NY, on December 1, 1941. It was delayed and ultimately returned on July 26, 1942. The examination tape on the right is American. This is a classic example of how censorship rules changed as events continuously unfolded.

- simply be tossed. Esperanto (thought to be too international), Hebrew, Yiddish, and Braille (readers could not be found) were the only ones explicitly outlawed.
- **Rules and regulations**. What will be looked at, and what won't? Are there going to be exceptions? Will anything be innately forbidden?

The Rules

Quickly, the Reichspost created a plethora of rules. Below is a list that attempts to summarize the rules into understandable language:

- The sender or representative of the sender had to present the piece to the post office with the full name and address on the outside of the envelope.
- Stamps would be affixed at the post office counter, not at home or the office.



This cover, for the chief of police in Berlin, is addressed to Ms. Elene Celsner. Her name has the "Sara" for a middle name by rule of the Nazi authorities. Tragically, she had passed away in the Theresienstadt camp at the hand of the Nazis. From the Holocaust Project

- No lined envelopes.
- Letters can only be four pages or fewer.

- No private printed matter like wedding announcements. However, certain advertisements for businesses would be tolerated.
- Picture postcards and private postcards, like Christmas cards, were forbidden. The
 Nazis were allowed to print and mail these, but no private entity could. This rule
 enabled the infamous German propaganda card to become the primary subject and
 source of art in Germany for several years.
- Business mail had to be printed or typed.
- Newspapers and journals had to come directly from the publisher, not from a thirdparty distributor.
- Shorthand and invisible ink were prohibited.
- Puzzles, crosswords, and chess by correspondence are also prohibited. It was simply too easy to put hidden messages in such mailings.

If all of this wasn't heinous enough, Jews had to identify themselves as being Jewish on any piece of mail by using the name "Sara" for females or "Israel" for males. Most complied by using these names as their middle name.

The offices

All foreign mail, with a few exceptions that will be subsequently discussed, had to go to one of 7 ABPs, which stands **Auslandbreifprufstelle**, (foreign letter censorship offices):

- a. Königsberg: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania (from June 1941, Ostland)
- b. Berlin: Sweden, Finland, and occupied Ukraine; Before June 1941, the Soviet Union, the Far East, and the Americas if via Siberia; and Iran and Afghanistan (until September 1941); Denmark and Norway airmail only.
- c. Koln (Cologne): Belgium, Holland, and parts of Northern and eastern France, and the Channel Islands; mail from occupied France to Germany
- d. Munchen: Italy, Portugal, Spain, and (from April 1943) Switzerland
- e. Frankfurt: France, North and South America (until December 1941), and (until March 1943) Switzerland
- f. Hamburg: Denmark and Norway (if surface mail)
- g. Wien (Vienna): Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey

Added during the war:

- k. Kopenhagen: between Denmark and the rest of Scandinavia
- l. Lyon: between France and Switzerland
- n. Nancy: Between France and other countries after Paris and Bordeaux closed.
- o. Oslo: between Norway and Denmark, Sweden
- t. Trondheim: Between central/northern Norway and Sweden, Finland
- x. Paris: Between unoccupied and occupied zones of France; from late 1943, transit mail between enemy countries and Switzerland, and between France and Spain, Belgium, and Holland
 - y. Bordeaux: inter-zone French mail; between Spain and occupied France; some mail between enemy countries and Switzerland.
 - h. Hof: inside Germany, in late 1944, and when borders were rapidly contracting, served a variety of geographic locations

The letters beside the city are critical. The letter that appears on the cachet corresponds to its censorship office.



A classic German cachet, taken from a letter from Sweden to Norway in November 1942. The "t" is for Trondheim, which took care of censoring incoming and outgoing mail to and from most of Norway, part of Sweden and Finland.

The exceptions

Does that mean every letter that should have been censored was censored? No. There existed an exemption called the **Auslandsleitstellen** (foreign control centers), which were foreign mail routing offices outside the censorship apparatus. They tended to be at railway stations and other transportation hubs around major metropolitan areas. Mail saved from censorship by the Auslandsleitstellen included mail to and from:

- Government Ministries
- Political Officials
- Nazi Party offices
- Reichspost and Reichsbahn officials

A cachet with a capital "L" and usually the letter code for the censorship city in a smaller letter next to it, which told the censorship office to pass that piece of mail unexamined.



Taken from Ruid Anders' presentation in 2020. This cover clearly shows the Gothic "L" in question, with the lower set "b" meaning it came from Berlin. The "4a" represents a particular office of the Auslandsleitstellen in Berlin.

Transit Mail

Another question was mail that simply passed through Germany, going from one foreign country on its way to another. Termed transit mail, this included thousands of pieces a day. Censorship officials came up with three general guidelines.

- 1. For **Nictfeindlich** or non-hostile countries. Mail between these two was not censored, just like the **inland** or domestic mail of Germany. If the piece were considered otherwise low risk and went from one part of Germany or from one non-hostile country to another, it probably would not be looked at.
- Von deutschen Truppen besetzt (with German troops occupying). Those that were occupied by German troops would be censored.
- 3. **Feindlander** (enemy lands). These included enemy countries and occupied France. If mail were either to or from these, it would be censored or very likely thrown out.

Mail was usually censored by the censorship office based on the destination. For example, if a letter was sent from Lithuania to Italy and both regions were non-hostile at the time, it should have been censored by the country it was going to. In this case, it should have been censored in Munich, since they covered Italy and not Königsberg. Although this was not always strictly followed, it was generally the rule.



This cover, front and back, is from Feldpost #07764 in northern Norway to Vorarlberg, Austria. It has Christmas seal stamps, but no real postage. It was not censored as it was between two non-combatants (and was Feldpost).

The markings

To understand what the markings on the envelopes represent, one must understand how the Germans censored mail. In fact, once the German organization is grasped, understanding the markings becomes remarkably easy.

The process

The censorship procedure explains the cover. When a piece of mail arrived at the censorship office, it was typically routed to the appropriate office based on its destination, if it was being sent to a foreign country. If it were coming from a foreign country to Germany, it would be sent to the office corresponding to that country.

Next, on the envelope, the number of sheets would be marked on the cover, which, for private letters, might explain the number one to four, either stamped or handwritten on the envelope. (Remember, private letters could only be up to four pages.) Then the cover would receive an identifying number stamped on the front of the envelope called a

Paginierstempel. Window envelopes would have the destination address copied onto them. Details of the contents would be noted on a printed sheet. All of this would be sent

to the appropriate

Prüfabteiliung

(censorship department) and distributed to the **Prüfgruppen** (censor groups).

The structure of the censor offices was three-tiered: on top, departments contained several supervisors who assigned mail to individual censors. Each level that touched the envelope would stamp or write its number on the cover, usually on the front, but not always.



The green number is the Paginierstempel on this cover bound for Italy and censored in Munich. It is thought to represent a senior supervisor getting involved. Taken from Townshend.

Therefore, many covers might have three different numbers or letters denoting this hierarchy.

Then, the piece would be examined. The offices never partially censored anything. The piece was either acceptable or not. If they had issues with a piece, it would be thrown out.

If the piece was deemed appropriate, the opened letter would be resealed with a sealing tape, one that was often particular to the office it came from. Finally, a cachet would be

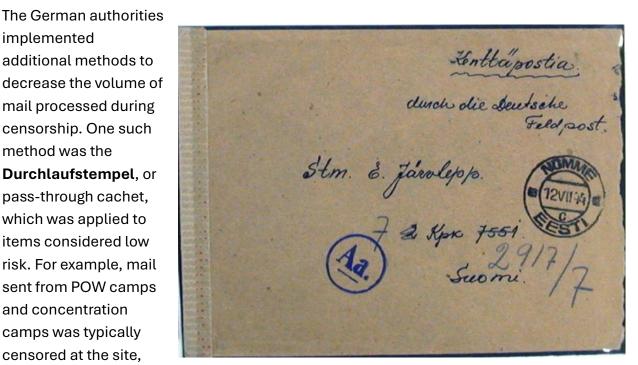
applied, half on the tape, half on the envelope, further demonstrating that it had been examined.

Although it appears straightforward, this process was seldom followed exactly as described. Inked paginierstempels were used only in Munich and Vienna, and windowed envelopes rarely had their address copied. Slips describing the contents of a particular piece of mail are rare.

Why was the protocol so rarely followed? Simply, censors were chronically overwhelmed with mail, and doing such formalities took too much time.

Durchlaufstempel- the pass-through cachet

implemented additional methods to decrease the volume of mail processed during censorship. One such method was the **Durchlaufstempel**, or pass-through cachet, which was applied to items considered low risk. For example, mail sent from POW camps and concentration camps was typically censored at the site, leading censorship offices to determine that further review was unnecessary. These



This cover, sent from Estonia via the German Feldpost to an Officer in the Finnish Army, ultimately got the Aa stamp of the Durchlaufstempel of Konigsberg.

offices would then apply a cachet marked with a large "A" to indicate it was a pass-through item. Similar to the Auslandsleitstellen, the cachet also displayed a letter associated with the specific censorship office next to the larger letter.

The OKW cachet

When a letter was brought in, it would usually have the cancellation of the stamp first, but then each piece would be overstamped with the cachet of the individual city censorship

office at some point, with the letter of the alphabet corresponding to that city. Usually, the cachet was the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht (OKW), the Supreme Command to which the censorship office reported.

ando der do

A good look at a classic OKW cachet, this one from Berlin, as the small "b" at the bottom of the cachet tells us.

The numbers

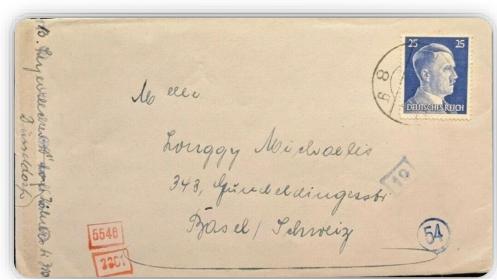
Perhaps the most common question collectors ask is, "What are all of these numbers on the envelopes?" However, knowing the three-tiered structure of the office, the numbers make sense. Each office had approximately two thousand workers working around the clock. Since they were divided into departments, the

smallest number stamped on the envelope would mean the department number.

Then the letter inside the department would be passed on to a supervisor. The supervisor had a two- or three-digit number assigned to them, which was also stamped on the envelope. Subsequently, the piece would go to the individual censors, and in each office, that would be a four or five-digit number. If a censor was unsure of what she saw, they would simply pass it on to one of their colleagues with a different number. Therefore, it's not too unusual for one envelope to have two or three censorship 4-digit numbers on it. In fact, it is not terribly unusual to see it go from supervisor to supervisor, and therefore, the two-digit numbers might be there twice as well.

Keep in mind that in some offices, these numbers were always stamped on, but in other offices, they might be put in pencil in the bottom right or bottom left-hand corner of the envelope.

Many
collectors
have had
these
pieces for
years,
thinking the
numbers
were the
markings of
a previous



A typical censored cover, filled with stamped numbers.

stamp dealer. In reality, they were part of the Nazi censorship system.

Once assigned to the individual censor, the piece had to be opened, and at times, a number 1,2,3, or 4 would be penciled or occasionally even stamped on the envelope. Therefore, the numbers 1 through 4 most likely represent the number of pages the envelope held.



Now this cover makes sense! The 4 and 5 were most likely department numbers, the 28 was most likely a supervisor, and the censor was 2417. The preprinted tape is on the left, overstamped with two additional OKW cachets to emphasize that it was censored. What was the "S"? Readers, I am unsure – it may be a department. Do you know?

After examination, if censors deemed the piece harmless, the contents had to be put back in the envelope and resealed. Resealing tape was applied where it had been opened. Some offices apparently had policies to open envelopes from the back, while some offices

opened them from the top, and several offices opened them from the side, usually the left side away from the stamps.

The resealing tape was applied, followed by another cachet, half on the tape and half off, applied to the envelope to indicate that the censorship office had resealed it.

The censorship offices
utilized at least 12 different
resealing types, some of
which were preprinted with
the Oberkommando der
Wehrmacht, while others had ribs
or were perforated. However, as



Some of the tapes used by the censorship offices. Many had cachets printed over them. These became rarer as the war progressed unfavorably for the Nazis.

the war progressed, printing resealing tape became increasingly less of a priority for the Nazis during their losing war effort, and by the end of the war, every office was simply using plain tape to seal the envelopes.

Censorship cachets that were placed after the letter was resealed were called **Prüfstempels**. Censorship offices used various types of prüfstempels, but most had either the word "Geöffnet" (opened) or "Geprüft" (examined) on them.

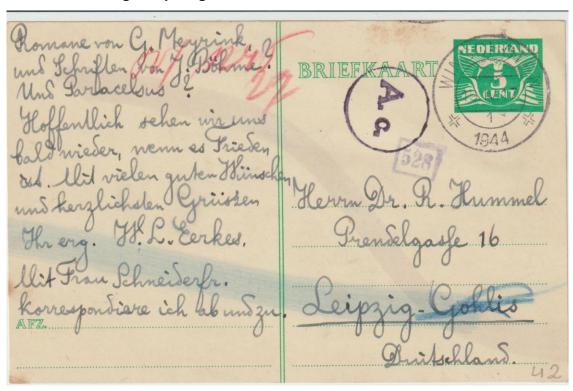
Many different kinds of Prüfstempels are out there, with most of them having the Geöffnet or Geprüft wording on them.



The streaks

If that wasn't enough, the Nazis were searching for invisible ink. They used two different solutions to detect it: one was phenothalene, which is the blue strip often seen on covers, while the other was castor oil, which appeared as a brown streak.

Unfortunately, it's not known if they ever caught anyone using invisible ink in this manner. Examining the streaks applied, it's clear that this process was not a systematic examination of all parts of the envelope, but rather a quick application of a stripe of the solution to see if it caught anything.



This postcard, mailed from the Netherlands to Germany in April 1944, shows obvious evidence of chemical testing. The blue testing is most likely phenolphthalein, and the brown is castor oil. It is not believed that such examinations ever caught anything.

Notice that it subsequently got the Durchlaufstempel cachet from Cologne – but it seems only after extensive examination!

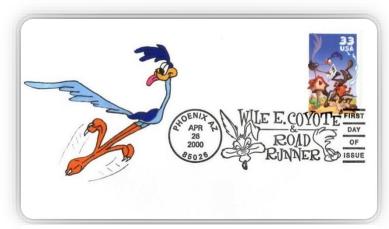
Our three examples: Pepe LePew, the Road Runner, and Wiley E. Coyote

Let's look at three covers:

The first cover features Pepe Le Pew and his girlfriend. While she may not want anything to do with him, he is always around. Therefore, any mail he generates will be classified as **inland** or domestic mail. Material sent from one area in Germany to another or from a non-hostile



This would be inland mail, so not censored. After all, he is always right there with his poor, unfortunate love.



Even the Nazis wouldn't censor the beloved Roadrunner, would they?

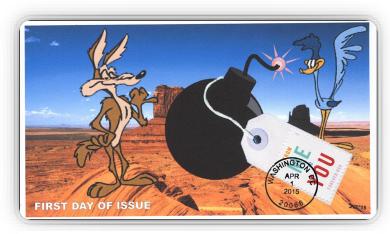
country to Germany probably won't be examined unless there are extenuating circumstances. Pep's letters won't be censored at all, and there won't be any marks on the envelope.

Next is the Roadrunner.

Everyone loves the
Roadrunner. And because of
his popularity, his cover is
likely to remain unexamined
as well. The equivalent would be

a high-profile Nazi official (except that love may be coerced). His letter might receive an "L" stamp, the **Auslandsleitstellen** cachet, before it even reached the censorship office, and that would indicate that he is not to be censored. That cachet will have a small letter next to it indicating which censorship office. However, the Munich and Vienna offices never had this system, as they simply retrieved these materials directly from the censorship office itself.

On the other extreme, if the Roadrunner is not an official and just a low-risk citizen mailing a personal letter, it might receive the capital "A" cachet with a small letter next to it, the Durchlaufstempel cachet, indicating that the piece was of low risk.



Yes, this is going to be censored!!!

But for Wiley E. Coyote, who has a bomb on your postcard, his mailing is certainly going to be censored.

The censorship office used depended on the piece's origin and destination. If a letter is from Germany to an outside country, the destination determines the office used. If it is from an outside country to Germany, it

will be sent to the appropriate censorship office, depending on the letter's origin. If the letter is transit mail, it usually, but not always, is routed to the censorship office of the letter's destination.

Once Wiley's letter goes to the appropriate censorship office, it will be assigned to a particular department. That department put their number on that envelope, whether as a cacheted number or in pencil, with each office having its own protocol. That is usually a one or low two-digit number.

Subsequently, the letter will be assigned to a supervisor, who may then affix a two-digit cacheted number to acknowledge receipt. That supervisor will assign it to a particular censor, who will usually apply a cachet of three or four digits.

Keep in mind that individual censors often sent items to each other for second looks and opinions. Therefore, it is not unusual for a cover to have two or four-digit numbers on the letter, and sometimes even supervisors would send it to each other for a second opinion.

Once it was determined that this letter could move on, it would be put back into the envelope, resealed with the particular sealing tape for that office. Remember, there were at least 12 types of resealing tapes. Some had overprints, and some had ribbing. However, by the end of the war, plain tape was the norm.

After resealing the letter, a cachet confirming that the letter was opened or examined was applied, with half the cachet on the strip and half on the envelope itself. Usually, two cachets were required.

Those that didn't make the cut were usually thrown away. Censors did not try to censor individual letters line by line. The item was either acceptable or it was discarded.

In our next issue, we'll discuss the many exceptions to these rules. We will see the human side of censorship, including prisoner of war and concentration camp mail, and we'll also briefly look at the story of an individual censor. She brings a very human touch to the censorship process. See you then.





The above represents a 1944 letter from Voltri, Italy, to Linz Donau concentration Camp inside Germany. It has markings from both censorship departments in Italy and Germany. However, one can see that the take has the characteristic Geoffnet, with the prüfstempels applied that says Geprüft. One can see that it was sent to Munich by the very small "d" on the OKW cachet preprinted on the tape. The "D" most likely represents a department, and the "54" a supervisor. One can see the "5402" and "2176" of individual censors. This letter was certainly of interest to both governments.





This is a true transit piece. It starts from neutral Spain and goes to occupied Prague but still gets censored. The OKW cachet is not present, but what is there are the markings of supervisors and of the censor, as well as the tape with the OKW overprint. This one goes to show that the exception is the rule. Most would have had the OKW cachet, but a lot of these from neutral Spain to Prague would not necessarily have been censored at all.



I will leave you with a more classic piece. This cover has a pair of tete-beche gutter pair stamps from Switzerland, dated Oct 18, 1943. It has the classic OKW on the tape, the Prüfstempel half on and half off the tape, two censor numbers, and a probable department number "13".



Is it Real or Is it Fake?

In this issue, this article should really be titled 'What Is This?' The marking in question is taken from a censored cover during World War II. On this Brazilian preprinted envelope, featuring the usual stamps, cancellation, and a German cachet known as a Durlachstempel, there is an overstamp marked "Y" (see the purple arrow).

My question to you is straightforward: what exactly is this? Could it be just a department within the censorship office, or does it perhaps refer to a specific geographic location? Maybe it's even the mark of an individual censor who had their own unique overstamp made. Look at the cover below, consider the possibilities carefully, and decide for yourself—what do you think? Your insight could shed new light on this mysterious mark.



Taken from Townshend, German Censorship of International Mail During World War II

The Answer: Nobody knows! This overstamp has been found on a variety of letters at different times. Therefore, it cannot be said to be a particular office or department. It certainly cannot represent one particular censor or government official. Additionally, on this cover, it features a pass-through (Durchlaufstempel) (the Ad) cachet, signifying that it was not censored and had passed through Munich, further mystifying investigators.

It's been seen on:

- Both censored and passed-through mail
- Covers from 1941 to 1944
- Air and surface mail
- Mail in transit between neutral countries and mail to Germany
- Mail from Brazil, Portugal, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland
- Mail written in German and in other languages
- Mail to the German towns of Dresden, Mannheim, Munich, Nuremberg, and Paderborn
- Mail bearing 1, 2, or 4 censor handstamps
- Covers with a pencil number or a red circled Latin "V" hand stamp on the back
- Covers resealed with plain, overprinted, or ribbed strips of tape

List also taken from Townshend, German Censorship of International Mail During World War II

If you have any additional information, please email me at kolkermd@att.net. I would love to know!

A Correspondence about Funknachrichtenkaren cards Phil Miller

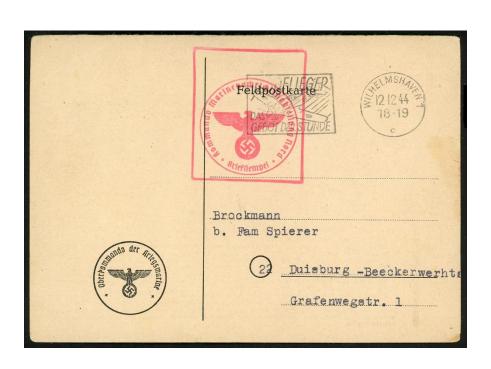
Hello Chris,

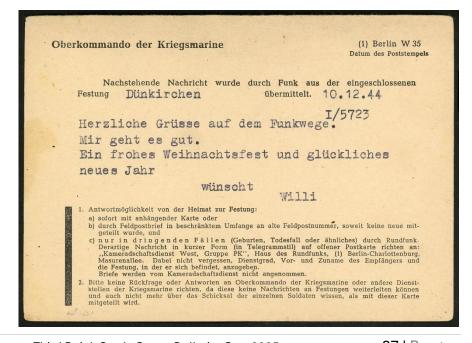
I picked up some nice lots from a recent auction. Six Funknachrichtenkarten from German pockets in France, that were cut off by the Allies.

I'm curious about these Funknachrichtenkarte. Radio message cards, but these appear to have been sent physically via the German Feldpost system. Could you tell me more about these Funknachrichtenkarte? How were they used and what was their purpose?

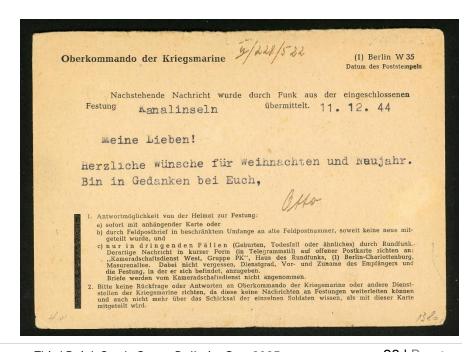
Perhaps some TRSG members might know about this. Attached are images of three Funknachrichtenkarten that I've obtained.

- Wilhelmshaven / Dünkirchen. Postmarked at Wilhelmshaven, but apparently sent from Festung Dünkirchen. Cancelled 12 December 1944.
- Kanalinseln. Aus der eingeschlossenen Festung Kanalinseln. 13 December 1944.
- Festung St. Nazaire. Cancelled 22 December 1944.

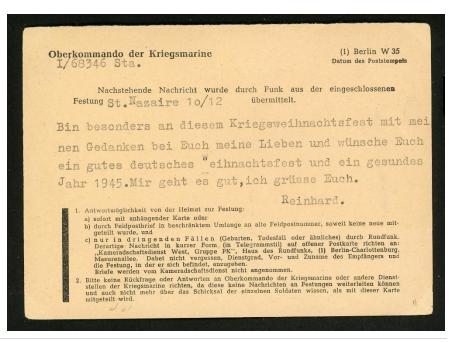












A reply from Bill Hatfield:

Hello All.

Just a quick review on what is available on line, all of it in German, leads me to these observations:

A radio message was sent from a soldier / sailor via official communications channels. They were received at Wilhelmshaven, the Marine HQ, which probably typed the message verbatim on the card and dropped it in the mail. I'm not sure where they got the mailing address, if it was one on file or it was a part of the message.

All appear to be from individuals that are in locations, that at that stage of the war, are surrounded or have their lines of communication disrupted by the allies, making normal mail impossible.

Basically a proof of life.

In 1983 Karl Heimann wrote a 31 page pamphlet, "Funknachrichtenkarten der eingeschlossenen Besatzungen der Ägäis-Inseln und von Breslau 1944-1945."

Translated into: "Radio message cards of the enclosed crews of the Aegean Islands and Breslau 1944-1945." The pamphlet details the use of the cards and various printing versions. Copies, in German, are for sale on line.

Obviously there were other areas as the cards Phil Miller has demonstrates: Festung Kanalinseln (Channel Islands), Festung Dünkirchen, (Fortress Dunkirk) and Festung St. Nazaire (Fortress St. Nazaire).

I also noted in past online auctions some from Rhodes and another that was mailed from Berlin.

Hope this helps a little.

Editor's Note: Thank you, Phil and Bill. It is input from great folks like you that makes this group a pleasure!

The Book:

Collecting Third Reich Philatelic Material- A Systematic Review

By Christopher Kolker MD

While I don't want to toot my own horn, I do want to bring to your attention the fact that I have written a book about Third Reich philatelic material. In this book, I explore its major categories, using the Michel catalog as a general guideline to showcase interesting pieces from Third Reich material. I purposely made this book a very bright and colorful one filled with pictures and descriptions. I make a great effort to explain the pictures so that the reader understands what collectors look for. Philately is a visual hobby, and therefore, highlighting and emphasizing what we see in Third Reich philatelic material is crucial.

I wrote this book to engage as many diverse readers and collectors as possible. I hope that beginners can understand what I've written and use it as a base to jumpstart their collection. The intermediate collector should find both the structure and the details to be educational, further enhancing their enjoyment in the field of World War II philatelic material. Even experts will find a wealth of new information, as I sought to uncover the unusual and rare to keep even the most advanced readers engaged.

I do this because I believe we are at a crossroads in philately. At times, we struggle to find new collectors and younger philatelists. By engaging these stamp collectors, who are accustomed to the visual stimulation that technology provides, I felt that writing a highly detailed and technical book focusing on near-trivial details would serve no purpose. Instead, this book aims to be bright, informative, and concise, much like the material we see on our cell phones today.

Still, I hope it provides you with both a great deal of education and pleasure.

It's available on Amazon, both by title and author. I humbly ask that you purchase a copy to show your support for the work I have poured into this and to support fellow philatelists in their endeavors.

The following three pages are just some sample pages of what you can find in the book. Enjoy!



Taken from
Germanstamps.net,
the forgeries on bottom
are easy to spot due to
the different paper and
color (and size).
Dropped over Germany
and Austria during
Operation Cornflakes
by the Allies in 1944,
these stamps and their
letters contained
subversive material
designed to destabilize
the Nazi regime.

Operation Cornflakes went a step further to let people know that the Nazi postal system had been infiltrated. This grotesque Hitler caricature portrayed Hitler synonymous with death.





Germany printed the above commemorative sheet in 1937 for Hitler's 48th birthday. The below, printed by the American OSS (precursor to today's CIA), characterizes Hitler as death.

The caption listed below translate loosely as "Whoever wants to save a people can only think heroically"



The complete set of 8 special cancellations made for Hitler's 50th birthday is considered to be technically the finest made during this era.

The Berlin cancellation on Hitler's birthday stamp



Stamps of the Third Reich

The Albrecht Dürer Stamp

The Amtsblatt #65

July 4th, 1939

No. 293/1939 Commemorative stamp



Michel 700- Portrait of a Venetian Woman by Albrecht Dürer

For the Day of German Art, celebrated in July for the first time in Greater Germany, the German Reichspost will issue a special stamp printed by the photogravure process, with the face value of 6 + 19 Pfg, green in color and measuring 27.5 X 32.8 mm. The stamp will be printed by the Reich Printing Works and shows a portrait of a Venetian Woman, painted by Albrecht Dürer in 1505.

The stamp will be available for sale from 12th July, but only from post offices in Munich. Written orders will be accepted only by the stamp collectors' Philatelic Agency in Berlin W30, in accordance with normal requirements.

Postmarks: Two special Postmarks exist. One depicts a standing Pallas Athena, or Minerva, Goddess of wisdom, war, and the liberal arts, complete with a helmet and a spear. And her side is a sitting eagle, symbolic of a resting Germany or Germany at leisure. The inscription reads, "Day of German Art 1939, Munich, town of the Movement."

The second postmark is a slogan postmark that says, "Day of German Art 14 to 16th July 1939 at Munich."

The day of German art was first commemorated from July 16 to 18, 1937, in an exhibition at the then newly built House of Art in Munich. This is shown in Mitchell #642. Hitler personally opened this exhibition, inaugurating the Day of German Art on July 16th, 1937. A similar exhibition titled *The Day of German Art*, was held on July 8-10, 1938. The 1939 Day of German Art was commemorated on July 14-16,



German stamp Michel depicting Munich's House of Art

1939, and was intended to be the last, as Germany was subsequently occupied by its war effort.

The subject is Albrecht Dürer's *Young Venetian Woman*. The northern Renaissance painter completed the work on wood in 1505. It is rather small, measuring 35 by 26 centimeters. This seminal piece now hangs at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna.



Michel 397, Albrecht Dürer, November 1926

The Artist:

Albrecht Dürer was born in Nuremberg on May 21, 1471. His father, a talented goldsmith, taught him the basics of drawing and metalworking, including the skill of engraving. The boy's aptitude led to his being apprenticed from 1486 to 1489 to Nuremberg's leading painter, Michael Wolgemut.

In addition to being a painter, Wolgemut was a prolific designer of woodcut prints, primarily

used for book illustrations. His principal client was Anton Koberger, one of the leading publishers in Europe, as well as Dürer's godfather.

Following his apprenticeship, Dürer set out as a journeyman, traveling to great art centers in Germany and the Netherlands. His tour lasted four years. He had hoped to go to Colmar to meet Martin Schongauer, a famous painter and the leading engraver in Germany, but by the time Dürer arrived in Colmar, Schongauer had died. Fortunately, Schongauer's brothers gave Dürer access to the prints and drawings in his studio. Dürer went on to work with another of the brothers, a goldsmith in Basel.

Martin Schongauer, German, about 1450-91, *Saint Sebastian*, c. 1480-90, engraving (The Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Dürer returned to Nuremberg in 1494. Within six months, he had married and set off again, this time for Italy. During a sojourn of several months, he came into direct contact with the art and artists of the burgeoning Italian Renaissance. His studies of the works of Antonio Pollaiuolo, Andrea Mantegna, and Giovanni Bellini, among others, brought about changes in his own art. He began to combine the structure and corporeality of Italian art with



St. Sebastian etching by Dürer

the profuse detail and emotive narration of northern European art.

During the late 1490s, his most remarkable project was an illustrated edition of *The Apocalypse of Saint John*, the Bible's *Book of Revelations*. The book, with its visionary, full-page woodcut prints, made Dürer one of the most famous men in Europe.

At the same time, Dürer perfected his skills in other disciplines, including both oil and watercolor painting, drawing, and above all, engraving. By his 30th

birthday, Dürer was an engraver without peer, and remains so today. His studies of nature, proportion, and perspective, reaching their apogee in his studies of human anatomy, laid the foundation for brilliant engravings such as *Adam and Eve*, his self-conscious masterpiece of 1504.

Dürer traveled to Italy again from 1505 to 1507, possibly in an attempt to shut down copyists who were stealing his ideas. His renewed contact with Italian artists deepened his fascination with art theory, and he soon began intensive studies that would lead to the publication of detailed treatises on human



The Apocalypse of Saint John

proportion, applied geometry, and military fortification. Though the geometry treatise would not appear until 1525, he was working on it in the early 1510s, while also studying nature and preparing *Melencolia I*. I bring to mind his famous watercolor of a bird's wing (below), which he drew in 1512. *Melencolia I* is sometimes called Dürer's "summa" because it brings together so many of his interests and ideas.

Dürer's patrons included the uppermost reaches of society, including Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I, who awarded Dürer's annual pension. Yet Dürer avoided becoming an exclusively court artist, preferring entrepreneurship. He continued to paint, but he clearly realized that the printing press was a more



Melencolia I by Albrecht Dürer

reliable source of income. As early as 1508, he wrote to a patron, "I shall stick to my engraving, and if I had done so before, I should today be a richer man by 1,000 florins." Dürer employed agents, including his wife, Agnes, to sell his prints, thus freeing him to work on time-consuming projects.

In July 1520, not long after the emperor's death, Dürer departed on a year-long trip to the Netherlands. He hoped to persuade the new Emperor Charles V to renew his pension.

Along the way, he basked in the great celebrity accorded him in city after city. He met other great artists, royals, and intellectuals. His diary from this trip reveals that he often gave prints, occasionally including *Melancolj* (as he called it) as gifts.

After his return to Nuremberg, Dürer complained of his failing eyesight and stiffening hands. In later years, his productivity as an engraver slowed, but he continued to publish his prints. His earlier engravings have been found printed on papers from the 1520s. He died in 1528, leaving Agnes an estate of 6,874

florins, more than ten times the annual salary of the mayor of Nuremberg. The reprinting of Dürer's engraved plates and woodblocks continued for centuries.



Albrecht Dürer's painting on stamps, Rwanda, 1971



Portrait of a Young Man, by Dürer, now in the Dresden Gallery on a 1955 East German stamp, Michel 504

1928 Germany
Poster Stamp- The
Dürer Year –
Commemorating
the 400th
Anniversary of
Albrecht Dürer's
death with his
distinctive initials
used on all his
artwork.



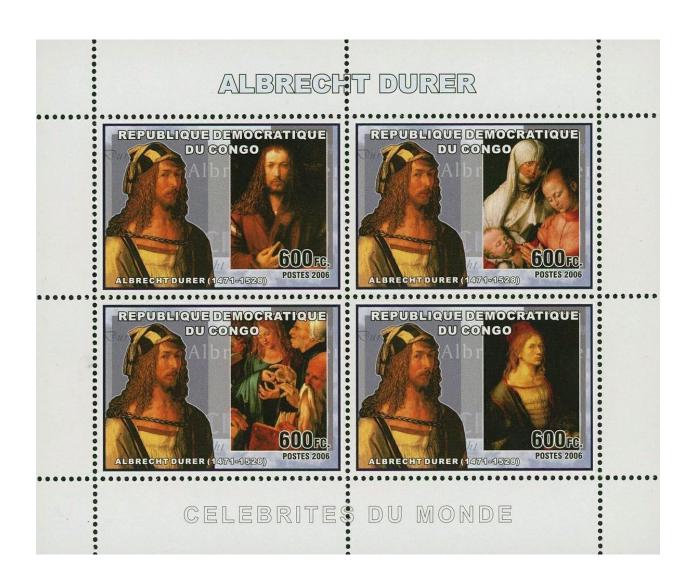


Michel 2531

Three drawings of Albrecht Durer- East Germany 1971: Self-portrait on the left, Three Farmers in Conversation, and Philipp Melanchthon



And two commemorative sheets, just because they are pretty!:



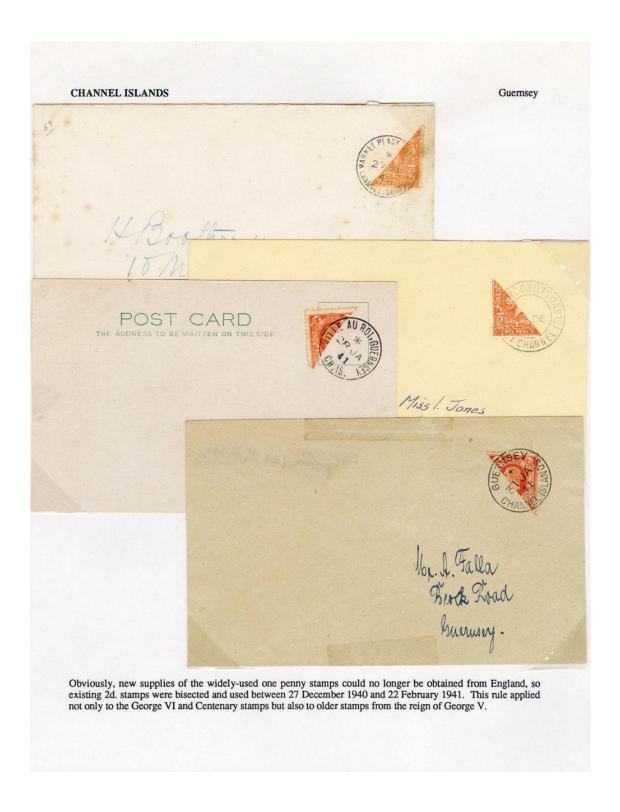


AuctionWatch!

It's fall, the leaves are changing, but the great stamp deals aren't. It's a wonderful time to be alive: we have the changing seasons, the anticipation of the holidays, and all kinds of great stamps. Just take a look at some of what we've found at the major auction houses.

Cherrystone:





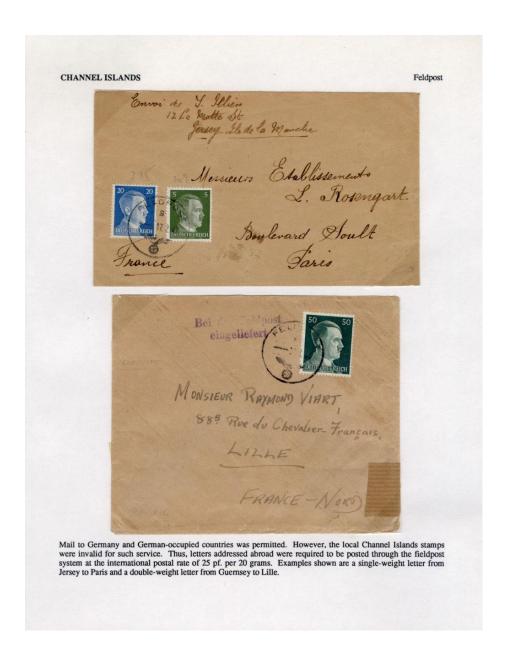
Guernsey CHANNEL ISLANDS The Manager Movie Ineps 3 Cornel Street Guernsey. REGISTERED LETTER. No 0813 CAPTAIN HANS BRA ''BELMONTE'' TRINITY, Covers can be found showing the payment of various rates with different types of bisects, i.e. upper right, lower left, etc. Above is a first day of use of a bisect paying the 1d. printed matter rate. The lower cover has ten bisects and one regular stamp paying the 2 1/2d. letter postage plus 3d. registration fee and 6d. special delivery fee. CHANNEL ISLANDS Guernsey



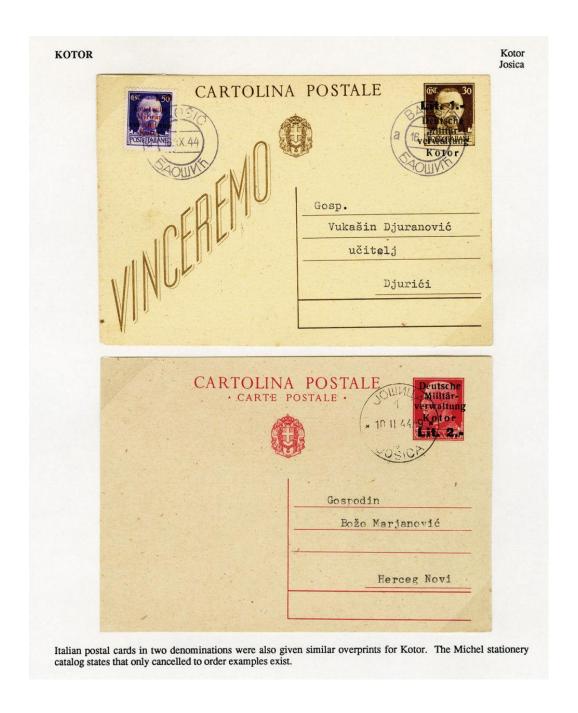


The first postage stamp printed locally for Guernsey was a 1d. value showing the coat of arms that was issued on 18 February 1941. This was followed by a 1/2d. value on 7 April 1941. (A second printing of these same stamps on bluish paper was made in 1942.) The final stamp was a 2 1/2d. issued on 12 April 1944.





1940-41 collection of 15 covers or cards, Guernsey, used locally, franked with unoverprinted British adhesives, bisected George V 2p orange, diagonal halves of 2d Centenary stamps, issued Coat of Arms stamps, Jersey Landscapes on registered covers, German Feldpost covers to France, those with German franking, violet "Bei der Feldpost Eingeliefert" handstamp, etc SOLD for \$450.00



Postal Stationery. 1944 Italian stationery cards 30c and 75c, overprinted and surcharged for Kotor, canceled "Baosic" and "Josica", v.f. (Michel unpriced used) (Cat No. Mi.P1-2) SOLD for \$260.00



1941 20k on 10k stationery card, additionally franked with 60k on 20k, 60k on 30k, tied by Pskov (27.9.41) pmks, Registered and addressed locally, v.f. (Cat No. Mi.7,8 SOLD for \$375.00



1941 (1 May) cover used locally in Pancevo, franked with six Yugoslavia adhesives (1.50d King Peter II and five Postage Dues), each handstamped "Post Pantschowa" with swastika in violet, tied by bilingual "Panchevo/Pancevo" cds, v.f., signed Jbar, also Mirko Verner, with his 1974 certificate ("these handstamps were prepared in anticipation of the occupation by the German minority in Pancevo. Only 6 such covers have been recorded") SOLD for \$475.00



Postal Stationery. 1943 30c Ionian Islands stationery card with "ELLAS" handstamp in black, two unused cards, fine-v.f., one signed Ludin, etc SOLD for \$230.00



1943 two covers franked with a total of 12 different stamps, various types, one with "Besetzuag" error, with a Registry label, both covers used locally, finev.f., with Majdoub certificates SOLD for \$350.00

Kelleher Auctions



1945, German stamps surcharged with Kurland and new values complete (Scott 1N20-1N24), complete set of singles, o.g., never hinged, Fine to Very Fine.
Scott \$200

Suggested Bid \$150



1942, Pleskau. 60k+40k brown, imperf., corner margin single, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.

Michel 16B

Dr. Reinhard Fischer Auktions Sale - 201



BREMEN 14.9.33, catapult flight to New York, letter from Berlin 8.9.33 with 2 x airmail X plus 20 Pfg in the block of four as well Fridericus se-tenant from MH, flight stamp on face, addressed to Hollis, NY (K167) SOLD for €100.00

The Holy Grail:

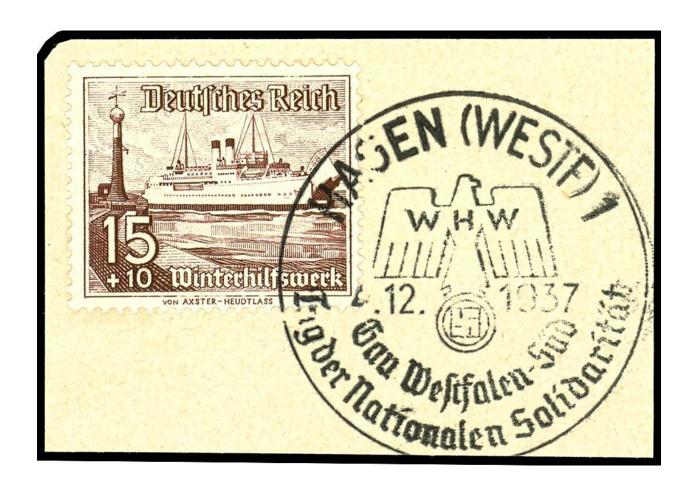


Souvenir sheet issue "3. Race about the "brown volume" in Munich Riem", variety "imperforated, mint never hinged in the original size, photo expertize Peschl BPP and photo expertize Dr. Oechsner BPP (2013) "genuine and mint never hinged with original gum. The item submitted for inspection is in perfect quality. Small on face gum traces and a bright spot at the bottom are manufactured. " one from only 3 known imperforated souvenir sheets of this issue - a Honor for each large collection German Reich, but also in the best way suited for a thematic collection "horses"! Only all jubilance years on an auction in supply! (BI.4U) Start Bid €8000

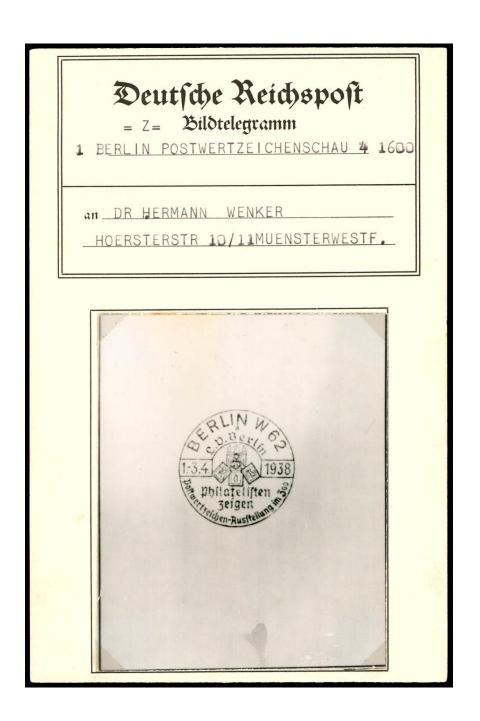
59 | Page



25 pfennigs winter help work "modern buildings", vertical gum rippling, used "ESSEN 4. German pharmacist's day", very fine, photo expertize Hans Dieter Schlegel BPP "the quality is perfect. ", Michel 850.- - rare stamp! Start Bid €250



15 pfennigs winter help work "ships", plate flaw I "lighthouse vane with dipstick" (field 11), used "Hagen (Westf) 1, district Westfalia south, day the National solidarity, 4.12.37" on piece, very fine, unsigned, photo expertize Hans Dieter Schlegel BPP (2024) "the quality is perfect. ", Michel 550.-Start Bid €120



Picture telegram, rare original posting part of the to shipped picture, mailed at the stamps show in BERLIN 3.4.38 with photo of the special cancellation, consignee in Münster

Start Bid €400



12 pfennigs Nazi Party Congress 1935 in colorful mixed postage on delivery note for the Bremen's slingshot flight, red confirmation stamp, stamps cancelled "WOLTERSDORF 27-9.35", transport traces SOLD for €50.00

DANZIG



STUDY and RESEARCH GROUP

Vol. 1 No. 3 May 1975 "Good evening, everyone...Boake Carter...speaking."

I E W S

Amos 'n' Andy, Edwin C. Hill and Boake Carter were a ritual observed by our grandfather behind closed doors, not to be disturbed by us kids. Now museum pieces known as Old Time Radio, their words were familiar and ominous in 1939. Our May feature article deals with the 1.9.39 period, with excerpts and thanks to The Stamps of Germany - Third Reich by A. Harper and W. Scheck (1966, publisher unknown but once available thru GPS), Michel Specialized Catalog of Germany 1974, and Wm. L. Shirer's The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich. Please add your thoughts to this interesting time.

Our article on the Luftpost labels and their importance in dating covers is not complete and should be ready for June. Future studies will include Danzig Zeppelin flights and... (IF someone would volunteer to translate 6 or less pages) "Geschichte der Danziger Post u. Poststempel" from an early Ruberg catalog. If you can spare the time to translate this interesting story, please write the Editor A.S.A.P. Thanks!

Jim Bowman of Santa Susana, Cal., reminds me that the one test for "favor" cancellations is the one shown on the left. The postmark "DANZIG 1 Z" illustrated is from a series of articles that appeared in The American Philatelist from February to Decemver 1959. This excellent series, entitled "The Pleasures of Danzig Stamps", was written by Harold W. Fox, and is also available from HJMR. Jim also reports on good source material for writing up exhibits in the October and November 1939 issues of National Geographic. They are titled, "Historic Danzig: Last of the City-States" and "War Clouds over Danzig and Poland's Port". Thanks to Jim for reminding us of the postmark omission.

Pete Rickenback's <u>German Philatelic Review</u> lasted for 23 issues until economics caught up in the mid-1950's, but all who read his editorials cannot help but enjoy or suffer his caustic comments and wit. For instance, in March 1954: "Writing in the arctic freeze which we are experiencing in London, and hoping that the weather gods will have mercy on us by the time this magazine reaches you, I have really very little to say for a change." In May 1955: "The sun is shining, and I had better put it on record for, who knows, it might bethe only summer's day we are getting this year, and it would be a pity to miss it. So take notice, my noble reader, that I am sacrificing this glorious London summer to write to you all, and even those who are too proud to submit humble sums for magazine subscriptions."





Example, enlarged, of a favor cancellation.



#130 Imperf. See Page 8

2 1.9.39

Looking at Danzig from the standpoint of the Third Reich, the first German stamps to mention the city are Mi. #714 and 715. Issued on 18 September 1939, designer unknown, they were printed by photogravure on coated paper, watermarked swastikas. Valid until 31 Dec. 1940, the 6 Pfg dark green depicted St. Mary's Church (Marienkirche), while the 12 Pfg brownish-red showed the familiar Crane Gate (Krantor). Shadings exist from light to dark coloring in both values, but other varieties are unknown. Perforations are 14. The 2 stamps are in the center top of FIGURE 1.



FIGURE 1

POSTMARKS: There is a special postmark for these stamps depicting a silhoutte of Danzig: "Triumphant greetings to our Führer and Liberator, Adolf Hitler." used on 19.9.39. There is another one: "Our Führer has liberated us" used on 1.9.39, the date Hitler invaded Poland, so the postmark is rather presumptuous. FIGURE 1 contains the special 19 Sept. postmark, as does FIGURE 2. However, the 2nd cover also has the Neuteich postmark with the "Freie Stadt" slogan removed, since the Free City was now "liberated" by the Nazis. An interesting point is that the Danzig orange 5 Pfg Mi. #290 was to become the German Mi. #718 by virtue of the "Deutsches Reich Rpf" overprint on 1 October 1939, just eleven days later.

FIGURE 2: Invasion cover w/ Neuteich modified P/Mk.





FIGURE 3: Hitler watches invasion of Poland; picture card w/ overprinted 50 Pfg stamp and special postmark.



MIT LUFTPOS

FIGURE 3 shows the business end of a picture post card as well as the reverse side depicting "Schoene Adolf" watching the apparent invasion of Poland. The German caption reads "Over an emergency bridge they move against the foe". The chronology of the card is worth giving a second thought: How did a stamp issued on 1 October (Mi. #727) get a postmark that was supposed to be used 1 September? Was the cancellation valid for a longer time? Perhaps it was and the card was sent after 1 October, but this information is unknown to us at this time. Can you shed some light on this mystery? This may be another example of how a little study can illuminate an album weed better than Scott's +2.

PROPAGANDA MAIL: While we are discussing the 1.9.39 era, a look at FIGURE 4 will show a ludicrous example of Nazi propaganda supposedly directed to the U.S. by a resident fanatic. As we now know, the "Polish"attack on the German radio station at Gleiwitz, near the border, was actually carried out by some condemned concentration camp prisoners dressed in Polish uniforms and using Polish weapons stolen by the Nazis. The cooked-up "incident" had the code name "Operation Himmler" and was arranged by the SS-Gestapo. The orders for this move came from Hitler himself, and early in August, Admiral Wilhelm Canaris (Chief of Intelligence, High Command of the Armed Forces - OKW) reluctantly turned 150 uniforms over to Himmler and Reinhard Heydrich (head of the SS Security Service - SD) who was, in turn, to appoint a roughneck named Alfred Naujocks to carry out the operation. Naujocks related the weird story at Nuremburg in 1945, testifying that a dozen condemned criminals were given fatal injections to prove to the world press that these "Poles" were killed while attacking innocent Germans. Gunshot wounds were inflicted to make the bizarre incident more believable, and the code name to which the unfortunate prisoners were identified was "Canned Goods".

Raus mit den Juden

1-9-39

FIGURE 4

Tieber amerikanische Freund, Today, "der Schoene Adolf" sent our Deutsche soldaten to punish the evil Poles for killing Deutsche citizens in the city of Gleiwitz in our gloryus Keich. Heil Hitler, Ansere Kuehrer! POSTAL STATIONERY: Two plain postcards of Danzig with the 5 Pfg orange and the 6 Pfg green imprinted stamps of Danzig had their imprinted stamps overprinted in black "Rpf/Deutsches Reich/Rpf". These cards were valid only in Danzig from 1st. to 30th Sept., 1939, and then valid throughout the rest of Germany until 31.12.40.

PHILATELIC HISTORY: As far as postal and telegraphic communications were concerned, practically no damage or interruptions occurred during the occupation of Poland. The whole Polish postal system was taken over by the German postal authorities and functioned without a break. There was no need for the "Postschutz" to see action. Officials of the Reichspost replaced their Polish counterparts, and there was no need to establish a "Dienspost" as in other occupied countries. Regarding Danzig, even their former postmarks were still used, only the words "Freie Stadt" (Free City) were removed, as in FIGURE 2.

Danzig itself became "OPD Danzig" (Head Postal Directorate)

Danzig itself became "OPD Danzig" (Head Postal Directorate) of the newly created district of Danzig-West Prussia. This district comprised the former Free City of Danzig and the former German regions surrounding it. For the remaining part of Poland which had formerly been German, and parts of "Old Poland", the "OPD Posen" was created, administering the "Reichsgau Posen", later to be renamed "Wartheland". The remainder of Poland was annexed to several different OPD's such as Gumbinnen, Königsberg, Breslau, Oppeln, etc.

For the occupation of Poland, the Supreme Commander East appointed a "General Postmaster" who was responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a "Dienstpost". His seat was at Lodz. Responsible to him were all postal personnel of the armed forces, and the appointed officials of the new OPD's.

In the northerly part of Westpreussen, with Thorn, Dirschau and Bromberg, the Danzig OPD established a new directorate on the same lines as its own, the new district being known as "Reichsgau Danzig Westpreussen".

These five postal administrations lasted only until the 26th October 1939, and they were taken over by the new administration of the Reich.

FELDPOST: From the occupation of Danzig, we have a unique Feldpost mark (FIGURE 5). It was used in the autumn of 1939 in Danzig only. Danzig was actually incorporated into the postmark by the abbreviation "dzg", thus indicating the theatre of war from which it originated. This is the only time this occurred on a German feldpost mark of WW II. Five of these postmarks were used with the Roman numersls from I to V. At some later date the letters "dzg" were removed and these postmarks were used for the remainder of the war.



FIGURE 5

HISTORY OF THE DANZIG CAMPAIGN:
Czechoslovakia had just been conquered. On 26.10.38, a request was made to Poland that the Free City be reverted back to Germany. Poland answered that any such request for Danzig could be translated as a threat by Germany to Poland. On the 24th August 1939, Germany and Russia signed a none-aggression pact. 1.9.39 German troops crossed the Polish frontier, and on 17.9.39, Russia invaded the other frontier. Poland was conquered, the German and Russian forces meeting at Brest-Litovsk on 17.9.39.

On the 19th, Hitler made his triumphant entry into Danzig, and by the 28th September, Poland was totally conquered. Hitler made a speech on the 20th in the historic "Artushof" of Danzig: "I stand for the first time on ground which German settlers acquired 500 years before the first white man settled in the present State of New York. For a further 500 years this ground was and remained German. It will, let everyone be assured, always remain German."

On the completion of the occupation of Poland, Danzig received special treatment with regard to occupation forces as Danzig was considered a part of Germany, and was

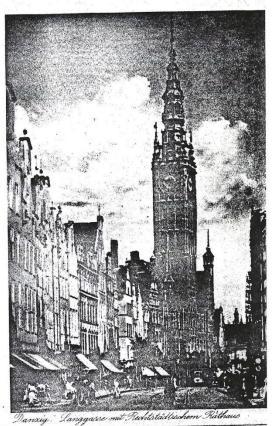


FIGURE 6 Danzig City Hall

occupation forces as Danzig was considered a part of Germany, and was thus made into a Garrison City where various military administrations were established. When Germany declared war on Russia, the garrison duties of Danzig were taken over by armed police and armed R.A.D.(Labor Corps). Large camps of these R.A.D. had sprung up all over Poland, But their main supplies and head-quarters were situated at Danzig-Oliva.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH: Built at the time of the Teutonic Knights. The largest Protestant church in existence, with an area as large as Notre Dame of Paris. It contains many art treasures and numerous finely carved altars, with a fine collection of church raiment. A Gothic building of towering proportions.

CRANE GATE: "Krantor", Danzig's oldest water gates, built 1444. The circular towers actually constitute the gate and the center

Trivia

The Nuremberg Trials

It is now 1947, and things don't look good for the defeated Nazis. The Nuremberg trials have begun, and those still alive and in custody are on trial. They must do the impossible: come up with a plausible defense or face execution. Given the obvious and systematic atrocities that the Nazis documented in full, they seem to have little hope of making a defense. However, many of them did give it a try.

Can you match the defense that they gave with the individual in question? In many ways, this may be the hardest trivia we've had, but if you know these individuals, you'll realize it's quite simple. Care to test your luck below?

1. This Secretary of State for the Air Ministry said that the Luftwaffe was built for defensive purposes only. Furthermore, he stated that all foreign workers in Germany were volunteers, despite recorded statements and documents indicating that perhaps 200,000 out of five million were volunteers. After being presented with this information, he left the witness stand at Nuremberg confused and dazed. Who is he?

A. Albert Kesserling C. Bernd von Brauchitsch

B. Ehrhard Milch D. Joachim von Ribbentrop

2. This field Marshal definitely left a more lasting impression. He actually wore his Luftwaffe uniform during testimony. He was confronted with evidence that he ordered bombings of civilian areas in Rotterdam. Who was this ill-advised witness?

A. Albert Kesserling C. General von Luttwitz

B. Baldur von Schirach D. Wilhelm Keitel

3. This German leader had to be weaned off a codeine addiction to testify coherently. After having been disclosed that he loved painting his nails, putting on makeup, and enjoyed colorful uniforms, he stated that the concentration camps were there mainly for protective custody. He furthermore said that all bombings were intended to simply end the war as quickly as possible. Who was this very delusional human being?

A. Albert Speer

B. Franz von Papen

C. Ernst Kaltenbrunner

D. Hermann Goering

4. This man saw himself as a Prussian officer. He was described as the lackey of the Nazi organization, a toy donkey with a constantly nodding head, approving everything that Hitler had to say. During the trial, he said that he simply carried out orders, and everything was Hitler's fault because Hitler abused his authority. He said there was no opportunity to question an order. He described himself as "the pupil and not the master." Who was this "weak general in a powerful position"?

A. Wilhelm Keitel.

B. Alfred Jodl

C. Arthur Seyss-Inquart

D. Thomas Mann

5. This man, who was the commandant of Auschwitz, took pride in his efficiency. He had openly bragged that Auschwitz was more efficient than Treblinka, and that his gas chambers could kill 2000 at a time, while at Treblinka, it was only 200. From his chilling affidavit:

It took from three to 15 minutes to kill the people in the death chamber, depending upon climatic conditions. We knew when the people were dead because their screaming stopped. We usually waited about half an hour before we opened the doors and removed the bodies. The bodies were removed, our special commandos took off the rings and extracted the gold from the teeth of the corpses.

During a trial in Warsaw, he was accused of murdering 3.5 million people. He replied, "No, only $2\frac{1}{2}$ million, the rest died from disease and starvation." He was found guilty and hanged. Who was this monster?

A. Rudolf Hess

B. Fritz Saukel

C. Rudolf Hoess

D. Heinrich Himmler

6. He had been the founder of the anti-Semitic Der Sturmer newspaper, which advocated and promulgated the Holocaust. However, he had killed no one and fallen from Nazi favor in 1938. By 1940, he was stripped of his office and retired to private life. Still on the stand against the advice of his own counsel, he went on a rant against Jews. Who was this man ensconced in hatred?

A. Reinhard Heidrich

B. Otto Pannenburg

C. Julius Streicher

D. Hermann Graebe

7. This Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1938 to 1945 at first said he was too sick to attend Nuremberg, that he wanted to avoid war, that he treated with respect captured enemy pilots, and that he simply tried to lessen the atrocities Hitler wanted. However, every step of the way, witnesses refuted each of these statements, and he was sentenced to die. Who was this man?

A. Joachim von Ribbentrop B. Erich Raeder

C. Reinhard Heidrich

D. Josef Goebbels

8. This man was known as the butcher of Krakow. He would do such atrocities as randomly shooting Jewish concentration camp victims, killing them with his dogs, and ordering 50 random victims to be killed on Yom Kippur 1943 in defiance of the Jewish holiday. His atrocities became so bad that even his fellow Germans had declared him mentally ill in 1944 for depriving his inmates of basic food. He was subsequently confined to an asylum, but tried by the Polish authorities after World War II and hanged just a few miles from that same camp. Who was he?

A. Josef Goebbels

B. Hans Frank

C. Alfred Jodl

D. Amon Goeth

9. As head of the General Government during World War II, he wrote 42 volumes of diaries. Especially later in the war, it appeared that many of his diary entries were written in an attempt to exonerate himself of atrocities. But they also implicated him because it showed that he had direct knowledge of such atrocities and did nothing to stop them. At his trial, he did admit to agreeing to the statement, "Did you ever participate in the annihilation of Jews?" Who was this man?

A. Joachim von Ribbentrop B. Dr. Alfred Siedl

C. Hans Frank D. Hansjurgen Koehler

10. At the conclusion of the Nuremberg trials, only one man remained absolutely defiant, offering no excuses, giving no secondary reasons, and shifting no blame onto others in any way. Despite this, he was given life imprisonment and was not executed. Who was this man?

A. Rudolf Hess B. Heinrich Himmler

C. Josef Goebbels D. Wilhelm Keitel

Trivia: The Answers

1. This Secretary of State for the Air Ministry said that the Luftwaffe was built for defensive purposes only. Furthermore, he stated that all foreign workers in Germany were volunteers, despite recorded statements and documents indicating that perhaps 200,000 out of five million were volunteers. After being presented with this information, he left the witness stand at Nuremberg confused and dazed. Who is he?

A. Albert Kesserling C. Bernd von Brauchitsch

B. Ehrhard Milch D. Joachim von Ribbentrop

The Answer is B. Ehrhard Milch.

During his trial, he was forced to admit that he knew the Air Force would be used for the Blitzkrieg and, therefore, not just for defensive purposes. Furthermore, he was confronted with minutes from a meeting in which Albert Speer had told him to send inefficient workers to the concentration camps. Additionally, he had attended a planning meeting in March 1939 that was specifically designed to plan for an aggressive war. He was also shown his correspondence with Himmler about experimenting on prisoners in concentration camps.

When he left the stand, the New York Times said he was "a confused and wilted witness who had contributed as much to the prosecution case as he tried to detract from it."

He was sentenced to life in prison but was ultimately paroled in 1954 and lived until 1972 in Germany.

2. This field Marshal definitely left a more lasting impression. He actually wore his Luftwaffe uniform during testimony. He was confronted with evidence that he ordered bombings of civilian areas in Rotterdam. Who was this ill-advised witness?

A. Albert Kesserling

C. Baldur von Schirach

B. General von Luttwitz

D. Wilhelm Keitel

The answer is A. Albert Kesserling

During the prosecution, they read to him an order in which he commanded that all males in a particular village would be arrested if there was any unrest. Those people would be executed if any further issues continued, even though, since they were in custody at the time, they were not part of the problem.

Prosecutor Maxwell read a United Nations report:

"Two German soldiers were killed, and a third was wounded in a fight with partisans in the village of Civitella. Fearing reprisals, the inhabitants evacuated the village, but when the Germans discovered this, punitive action was postponed.

On June 29, when the local inhabitants were returning and were feeling secure once more, the Germans carried out a well-organized reprisal in the neighborhood. Innocent inhabitants were often shot on sight. That day, 212 men, women, and children in the immediate district were killed. Of the dead women were found completely naked, ages of the dead range from one year to 84 years. Approximately 100 houses were destroyed by fire. Victims were burnt alive in their homes."

Confronted with this, he had no answer. He was ultimately sentenced to death, but his sentence was commuted, and he was released in 1954.

3. This German leader had to be weaned off a codeine addiction to testify coherently. After having been disclosed that he loved painting his nails, putting on makeup, and enjoyed colorful uniforms, he stated that the concentration camps were there mainly for protective custody. He furthermore said that all bombings were intended to simply end the war as quickly as possible. Who was this very delusional human being?

A. Albert Speer

B. Franz von Papen

C. Ernst Kaltenbrunner

D. Hermann Goering

The answer is **D. Hermann Goering**

As the developer of the Luftwaffe, Goering played a fundamental role in establishing the Hitler War Machine. While he fundamentally disagreed with Hitler's reliance on bombers instead of fighter planes, Geering was still blamed for the loss of the Battle of Britain. Still, he was always one of Hitler's favorites and had an inside track to Hitler during most of the war.

Because of his addiction to codeine and his inability to handle the stress of war, he semi-retired and often overindulged in food as a comfort, as well as his coding.

Still, he was in most of the major meetings during World War II. On the stand, he claimed that Hitler knew nothing of the Jewish exterminations, but he had read documents that clearly stated that Hitler had been advised, even at times by him, that tens of thousands of Jews had been exterminated.

After his evasive, shifting testimony, he left a "wilted man", knowing that his testimony had been ineffective for his own defense. He was sentenced to hang in 1946, and he committed suicide by a cyanide pill that he had snuck in.

4. This man saw himself as a Prussian officer. He was described as the lackey of the Nazi organization, a toy donkey with a constantly nodding head, approving everything that Hitler had to say. During the trial, he said that he simply carried out orders, and everything was Hitler's fault because Hitler abused his authority. He said there was no opportunity to question an order. He described himself as "the pupil and not the master. Who was this "weak general in a powerful position"?

A. Wilhelm Keitel

B. Alfred Jodl

C. Arthur Seyss-Inquart

D. Thomas Mann

The answer is A. Wilhelm Keitel

As a Field Marshal and Chief of Staff of all German forces, Wilhelm Keitel was intimately involved in many aspects of German operations. He was absolutely subservient to Hitler every step of the way, never questioning orders or raising doubts or concerns.

His defense: he said How in heaven's name can they accuse me of conspiring to wage aggressive war when I was nothing but the mouthpiece to carry out the Führer's wishes? As chief of staff, I had no authority whatsoever - no command function - nothing.

Still, he had signed the following:

- The **Jurisdiction Order** removing the threat of prosecution for German crimes committed against Nazi soldiers in the East
- The **Guidelines for the Troops** demanding "ruthless" action against Jews
- The **Commissar Order** requiring the immediate execution of all Soviet political officers upon capture.

He was found guilty of all charges and hanged in October 1946. To the very end, he thought of himself as an old-school military officer, simply doing his duty and therefore should not have been on any kind of trial.

5. This man, who was the commandant of Auschwitz, took pride in his efficiency. He had openly bragged that Auschwitz was more efficient than Treblinka, and that his gas chambers could kill 2000 at a time, while at Treblinka, it was only 200. From his chilling affidavit:

It took from three to 15 minutes to kill the people in the death chamber, depending upon climatic conditions. We knew when the people were dead because their screaming stopped. We usually waited about half an hour before we opened the doors and removed the bodies. The bodies were removed, our special commandos took off the rings and extracted the gold from the teeth of the corpses.

During a trial in Warsaw, he was accused of murdering 3.5 million people. He replied, "No, only 2½ million, the rest died from disease and starvation." He was found guilty and hanged. Who was this monster?

A. Rudolf Hess

B. Fritz Saukel

C. Rudolf Hoess

D. Heinrich Himmler

The answer is **C. Rudolf Hoess**

Hoess had performed some of the greatest and most horrific crimes against humanity. As the head of Auschwitz, the extermination camp in Galicia, Poland, he had been responsible for at least 2.5 to 3.5 million people being exterminated. He proudly boasted that he could 'get rid of 10,000 people in 24 hours.'

He made sure that the children were killed first. He oversaw systematic torture and was always looking for new ways to kill people more efficiently.

A psychiatric evaluation done before his death in 1947 by hanging revealed that he was raised in a strictly pious and Catholic family. The evaluation concluded that he simply changed one religion for another, with Nazism completely replacing his Christian ideals. He considered the greatest mortal sin to question any kind of order. He carried out his duties to the best of his abilities whenever asked, no matter how atrocious.

Incredibly, he lived at the camp with his wife and five children, who had an idyllic upbringing while living at the site of such atrocities.

6. He had been the founder of the anti-Semitic *Der Sturmer* newspaper, which advocated and promulgated the Holocaust. However, he had killed no one and fallen from Nazi favor in 1938. By 1940, he was stripped of his office and retired to private life. Still on the stand against the advice of his own counsel, he went on a rant against Jews. Who was this man ensconced in hatred?

A. Reinhard Heidrich

B. Otto Pannenburg

C. Julius Streicher

D. Hermann Graebe

The answer is **C. Julius Streicher.**

Even though prosecutors thought the case against Stryker was weak since he did not physically kill people, Streicher proved to be his own worst enemy. When questioned by the prosecution during his trial, he made horribly racist, anti-Semitic statements repeatedly, ranting about how the Jews had seized power in Germany in 1918, and that they were somehow responsible for their own murders. To make matters worse, he said that his own lawyer had been intimidated by a communist, that he himself was being tortured in his cell, and that he was forced to drink from a latrine, which of course could not be substantiated.

Because of his continued bizarre arguments during his trial, he was found guilty and hanged in October 1946.

7. This Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1938 to 1945 at first said he was too sick to attend Nuremberg, that he wanted to avoid war, that he treated with respect captured enemy pilots, and that he simply tried to lessen the atrocities Hitler wanted. However, every step of the way, witnesses refuted each of these statements, and he was sentenced to die. Who was this man?

A. Joachim von Ribbentrop

B. Erich Raeder

C. Reinhard Heidrich

D. Josef Goebbels

The answer is A. Joachim von Ribbentrop.

As the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Von Ribbentrop denied having a closer relationship with Hitler, but during testimony, it became apparent that he was an admirer of Hitler. It was also detailed that he was intimately involved in the annexation of Austria, the Anschluss, and knew about and helped plan the final solution of the Jews, giving instructions to diplomats to avoid any discussion about such plans with any foreign government.

Von Ribbentrop often claimed that he was too ill to attend and was frequently escorted to his own trial. Psychiatrists considered him highly neurotic, and he seemed to grasp the seriousness of the horrific acts committed by the Nazis.

During his trial, he was often very nervous and appeared quite ill. He was convicted and hanged in October 1946. His last words were "God protect Germany. God have mercy on my soul. My final wish is that Germany should recover her unity and that, for the sake of peace, there should be understanding between East and West. I wish peace to the world."

8. This man was known as the butcher of Krakow. He would do such atrocities as randomly shooting Jewish concentration camp victims, killing them with his dogs, and ordering 50 random victims to be killed on Yom Kippur 1943 in defiance of the Jewish holiday. His atrocities became so bad that even his fellow Germans had declared him mentally ill in 1944 for depriving his inmates of basic food. He was subsequently confined to an asylum, but tried by the Polish authorities after World War II and hanged just a few miles from that same camp. Who was he?

A. Josef Goebbels

B. Hans Frank

C. Alfred Jodl

D. Amon Goeth

The answer is **D. Amon Goeth.**

Even the Nazis came to realize that Goeth was a psychopath. In 1942, he was given responsibility for rounding up and transporting Jews to the extermination camps in Treblinka, Belzec, and so Bieber. For his efficiency and dedication, he was appointed commander of the newly built Krakow-Plaszów labor camp in the spring of 1943, which held survivors of the Kraków ghetto. His own staff turned against him both because of his brutality and because he hoarded money and valuables for himself without regard for the rest of his staff. Due to his sadistic and seemingly random killings, he was removed from office in 1944 and sent to an insane asylum. The Allies found him there and tried him for crimes against humanity.

9. As head of the General Government during World War II, he wrote 42 volumes of diaries. Especially later in the war, it appeared that many of his diary entries were written in an attempt to exonerate himself of atrocities. But they also implicated him because it showed that he had direct knowledge of such atrocities and did nothing to stop them. At his trial, he did admit to agreeing to the statement, "Did you ever participate in the annihilation of Jews?" Who was this man?

A. Joachim von Ribbentrop

B. Dr. Alfred Siedl

C. Hans Frank

D. Hansjurgen Koehler

The answer is C. Hans Frank.

Frank had been a long-time supporter of Hitler. During the late 1920s and early 1930s, he served as Hitler's personal attorney and close advisor. In 1942, he was appointed Governor General of Poland but was stripped of other posts to prevent him from consolidating too much power there. He was found guilty of ordering the execution of hundreds of thousands of Jews, confiscating their property, and organizing Jewish ghettos in larger Polish cities.

During his trial, he pointed to diaries he kept, explaining to himself and future readers that he was acting only under Hitler's orders and was trying to do as little as possible. However, witnesses and the facts of the Holocaust told a very different story to the Nuremberg Tribunal, and it became clear that Frank had written his diaries to try to save his own life once he was captured. He was also found guilty and was hanged in October 1946.

10. At the conclusion of the Nuremberg trials, only one man remained absolutely defiant, offering no excuses, giving no secondary reasons, and shifting no blame onto others in any way. Despite this, he was given life imprisonment and was not executed. Who was this man?

A. Rudolf Hess

B. Heinrich Himmler

C. Josef Goebbels

D. Wilhelm Keitel

The answer is A. Rudolf Hess.

Hess's trial was complicated. In May 1941, he took it upon himself to secretly travel to Britain, where he had hoped to come up with some kind of diplomatic solution that would favor the Nazis and even lead to the Nazi occupation of Britain. In that regard, he remained subservient and loyal to Hitler. He had done this because he could see that he was falling out of favor with the Nazi regime and felt that he had to do something dramatic to regain Hitler's good graces.

However, the British simply treated him as a prisoner of war, and he spent the entire war there. Therefore, it could be said that he simply had no responsibility for things like the Jewish extermination being held captive during the time of the worst atrocities. However, his testimony during his trial was absolutely infuriating, especially to the Soviet judge. Because of Hess's inflammatory pro-Nazi rhetoric, the judge wanted him executed, but because of his circumstances, he was sentenced to life imprisonment at the Dachau prison.

After other Nazi-era prisoners had died, Hess became the only prisoner from 1966 until he died in 1987. After his death, his grave became a kind of shrine and pilgrimage site for Neo- Nazis throughout Europe. In response, the German government exhumed him in 2011, cremated him, and distributed his ashes in an unknown river, all to avoid becoming a shrine to the European Neo-Nazis.

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 is about Azad Hind stamps and the fight for India's Independence. \$10.

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

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

