

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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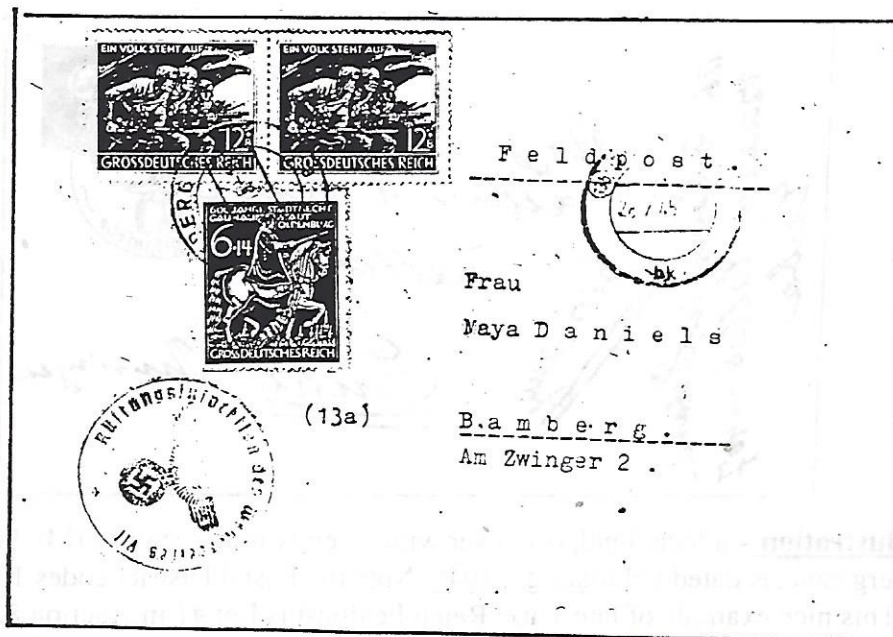
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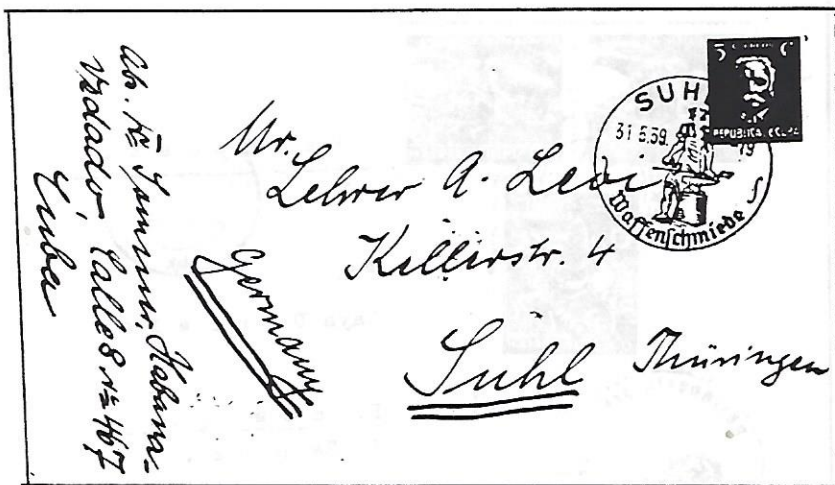


STUDY GROUP NOTES

Membership Renewal – this issue completes another year of TRSG activities and, as dues are now due, a renewal form is included in this mailing. **Please take a moment to complete the renewal form and send it with your payment to Secretary-Treasurer Bob Dunn.** While we have not increased dues for next year, any member whose dues are not received by January 1, 2001 will be considered as having resigned. Should this individual wish to renew their membership after January 1, 2001, they will be required to pay the \$10.00 new member fee in addition to the annual dues.

German Concentration Camps 1933-1945 – Norwegian TRSGer Erik Lordahl has written a three volume set in English that covers the history of 70 camps and the wide range of inmate mail in 40 of them. Volume One is a narrative of the history of the camps. It consists of 140 pages and includes an alphabetical listing of the KZ camps and 1200 of their related sub-camps, a list of KZ Commandants by name, time and place of duty, a detailed calendar of events from 1933 to 1945 and a listing of the various camp opening and closing dates. Volume Two A consists of 280 pages and it covers alphabetically from A to K. It includes approximately 500 examples of postcards, letters, cachets, stampings and postal cancellations. Volume Two B contains the list of camps from L to Z along with approximately 500 more illustrations of correspondence variations. Each variation is assigned a catalog number that may become standard for collectors of KZ postal history. In addition, each variation is assigned a rarity ranking that helps collectors determine the relative value of various examples. The period of usage is provided as well as the size. Should any member be interested in purchasing this book, the price including Priority World Parcel is \$105. Personal checks are not accepted. You may pay by international money order to: **War and Philabooks Ltd AS, Gydas v. 52, N-1413 Tarnasen, Norway,** account no. **5005.06.89767** in **Den norske Bank (Norway).** Bank Address: **DnB ASA, N-0021 Oslo, Norway**

Cuban Stamp – TRSGer A. Kettler is requesting an explanation for this letter sent from Havana, Cuba to Thuringia which has a Cuban stamp tied by a German special postmark dated March 31, 1938. Please send any info to Ye Olde Ed.



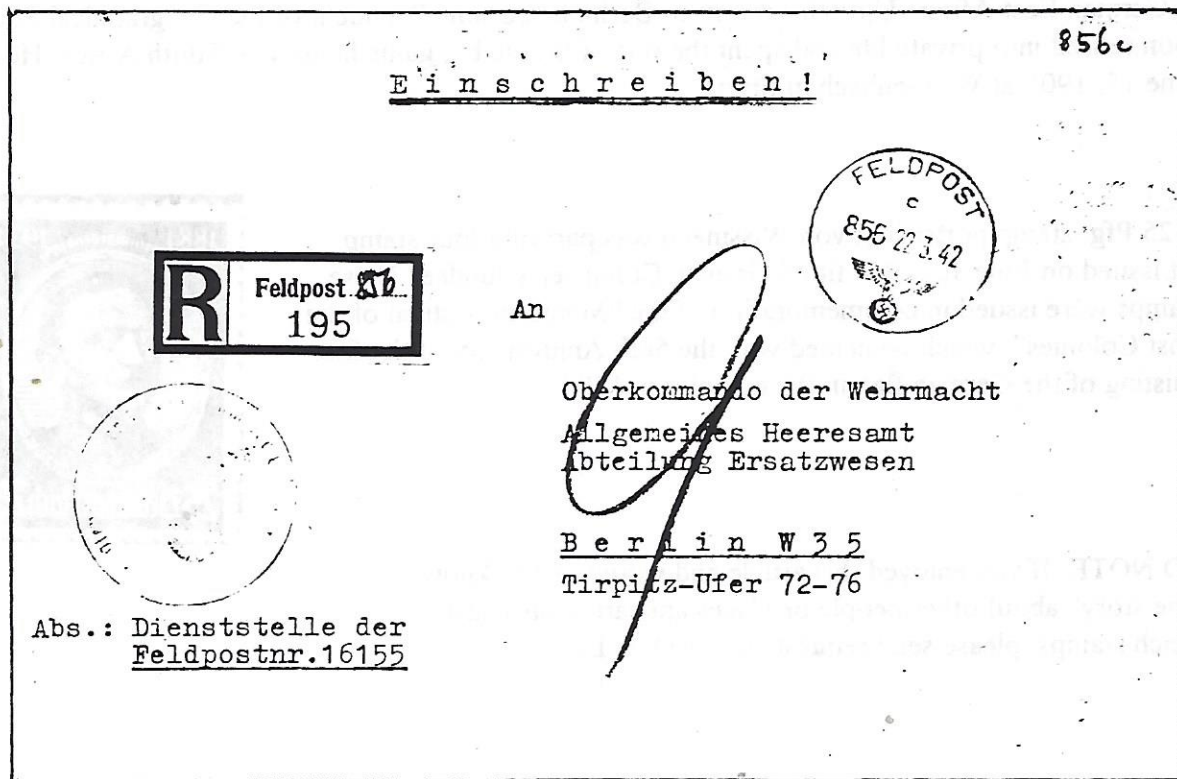
Cover Illustration – a local Feldpost cover with recently issues stamps (Mi. 907 & pair Mi. 908) tied by Bamberg cancels dated February 27, 1945. Note the Postal District codes 13a on cover and 13b in cancels. This nice example of late Third Reich Feldpost is Lot #1 in Auction 82 in this issue.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 17th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	MOTORIZED INFANTRY		ARTY	UNITS	
17	856	21	55	95	17	17

Formed in 1935 (1st wave) with Bavarian personnel by expansion of the 21st Infantry Regiment at Nuremberg, the 17th Infantry Division fought with distinction in southern Poland and France. It was part of Army Group Center during the invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941. It was in the forefront of the Army Group Center's thrust toward Moscow. The 17th Infantry Division took heavy casualties during the Soviet counter-offensive in the winter of 1941-42. Completely exhausted, the division was sent to France in the summer of 1942 to rest and rebuild.

It was returned to the southern sector of the Eastern Front in February 1943 after the fall of Stalingrad brought this sector to the brink of collapse. In the spring of 1943 it took part in the battles around Kiev. After the German defeat at Kursk in July 1943, 17th Infantry Division fought on the lower Denieper and in southern Ukraine where it again sustained heavy losses. Briefly taken out of the lines to re-fit, it was defending southern Poland late in 1944. The remnants of this veteran division were surrounded in Czechoslovakia in April 1945 and surrendered to the Red Army.



Cover sent to Replacement Section of Armed Forces High Command in Berlin in March 1942 from Fp. # 16155 (Co. 14/Gren. Rgt. 21) via Field Post Office 17 (K-856).

Story Behind the Stamp: Herman von Wissmann

by Kelly Stefanacci

Herman von Wissmann was born September 4, 1853 at Frankfurt an den Oder, the son of Friedrich Wissmann, an officer in the Prussian Army. As a boy he received a military education and was commissioned as a lieutenant in a Mecklenburg Infantry Regiment in 1870. In 1880 Herman Wissmann joined the German Africa Company and made his first trip to West Africa with Paul Pogge. They traveled to Kassai then turned eastwards through Balubaland, over Malange and Kimbuno, arriving at Nyangwe in the Upper Congo on April 17, 1882. While Pogge then returned to the station he had founded at Mukenge, Herman Wissmann set out in June towards the east, reaching Lake Tanganyika in July and finally arriving at Saadani on the East Coast on November 14th. He then returned to Germany where Leopold II of Belgium commissioned him to lead a party of seven European explorers to investigate the southern basin of the Congo River. This party left Hamburg for Loanda in November 1883 and by 1884 had founded a station on the Lulua River. From there, on May 28, 1885, the party set out by boat to Leopoldville, which they reached on July 17th and then went on up the unexplored reaches of the river until they were able to connect with the route Herman Wissmann had used to Tanganyika previously and were able to reach Mozambique by August 1887.

In 1888 he was appointed as Imperial Commissioner with the rank of captain and directed to suppress the Arab revolt that had broken out in German East Africa. By 1890, having completely pacified the region between Masailand and Tanganyika, he returned to Germany. Upon his arrival, he was promoted to the rank of major and ennobled. In 1891 he founded a station at Moschi in Zanzibar and then visited India in 1893. He returned to Germany in the spring of 1894 and married Maria Langen, who bore him a son in September 1895. From August 1895 to June 1896, Herman von Wissmann acted as Governor of German East Africa. Upon his return to Berlin he became President of the Geographical Society but soon retired into private life and spent the rest of his life big game hunting in South Africa. He died on June 15, 1905 at Weissenbach in Styria...

A 25 Pfg. stamp portraying von Wissmann was part of a four stamp set issued on June 30, 1934 titled German Colonizer's Jubilee. These stamps were issued in commemoration of the "Memorial festival of the Lost Colonies", which coincided with the 50th Anniversary of the first hoisting of the German flag in the colonies in 1884.



ED NOTE: If you enjoyed this article and would like to know "the story" about other people or places appearing on Third Reich stamps, please send requests to Ye Olde Ed.

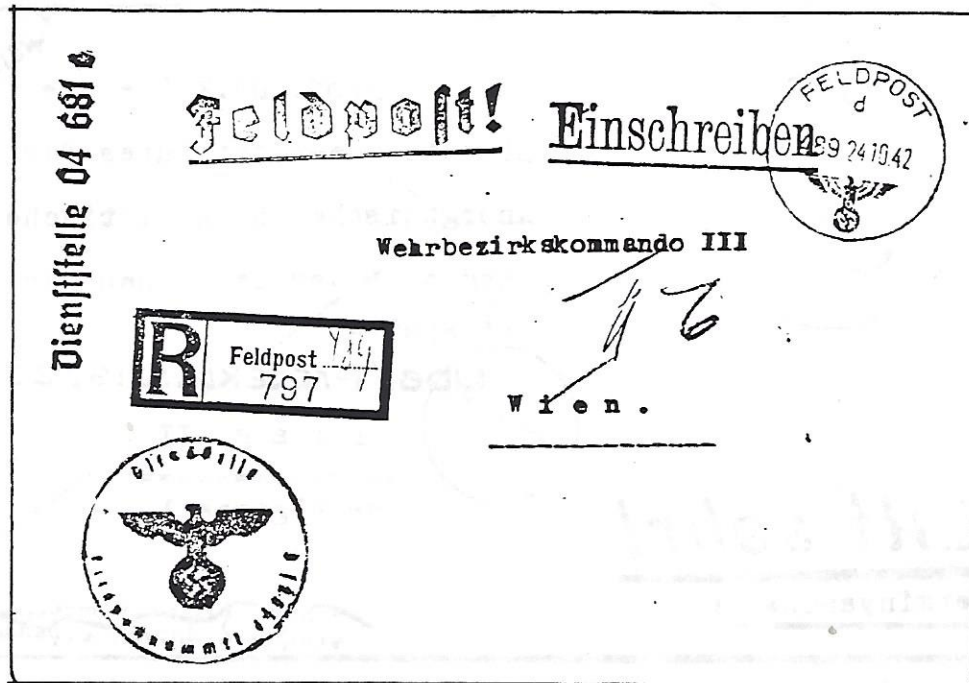
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 20th Panzer-Grenadier Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	MOTORIZED INF		PZ BTL	ARTY	UNITS
20	489	76	90	120	20	20

Formed in 1935-36 (1st Wave) with reservists in Hamburg area, the 20th Infantry Division initially included the 69th, 76th & 90th Infantry Regiments. In 1937-38, it was converted to a "motorized infantry division", giving up the 69th Regiment to the 10th Panzer Division. Scheduled to attack Prague in 1938, it did not see combat because of the Munich Agreement. On September 1, 1939 it attacked into the Danzig Corridor in Poland and later saw limited action in France. It invaded the Soviet Union under Army Group Center in June 1941 and fought at Smolensk, the Dnieper crossings and at Minsk. It was transferred to the northern sector where it forced a crossing of the Dina River and spearheaded 16th Army's capture of Oreshek on the road to Leningrad.

Re-designated the 20th Panzer-Grenadier Division in the fall of 1942, it remained on the northern sector until the spring of 1943, when it was sent to Army Group Center. Suffering heavy casualties resisting the Russian winter offensive of 1941-42, it was then sent to Army Group Center, where it fought in the defensive Battle of Velikie Luki. Transferred south that autumn, the 20th sustained heavy losses in the Battle of Kiev and the subsequent retreat in November 1943. Never brought up to full strength, it again suffered heavy casualties during the Soviet summer offensive of 1944. Later engaged in southern Poland, the 20th Panzer-Grenadier Division was ordered to Berlin in March 1945, where they defended Seelow Heights outside Berlin and were destroyed there.



Cover sent to Military District Command at Vienna in October 1942 from Fp. # 04681 (Battalion III/Panzer-Grenadier Regiment 76) via Field Post Office 20 (K-489).

More on Postal District Numbers

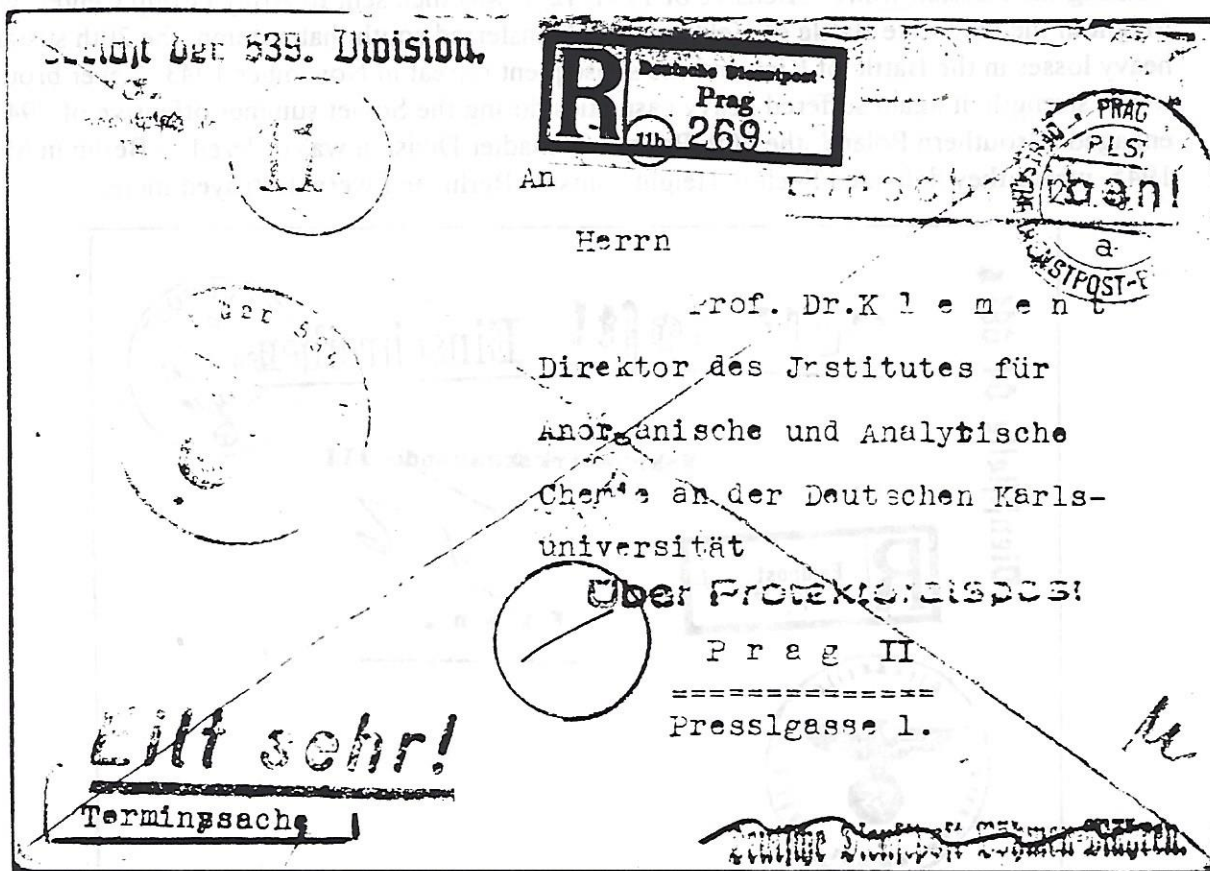
by Rex Dixon

This is follow up to articles on "Postleitzahlen" numbers by Bob Ferguson (Bulletin #132) and Ben Beede (Bulletin #133). As Ben noted, the slogan cancel detailed in Bob's article that urged postal customers to include these new numbers on their mail was not used outside Germany. The article therefore omitted PLZs 5c, 7a, 11b and 17b that were used in the occupied territories as follows:

PLZ Nr.	RPD (Central P.O.)	Postleitgebiete (Postal Zone)
5c	Riga	Ostland
7a	Krakau	Generalgouvernement
7b	Rowno	Ukraine
11b	Prag	Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren
17b	Karlsruhe*	Elsass

* The RPD for Elsass is Karlsruhe even though that town also served PLZ 17a.

Admittedly these are areas from which postmarks and R-labels incorporating the PLZ are very scarce, or, with a 7a and 7b, are completely unknown. With 11b the only known item is an R-label of the Deutsche Dienstpost Prag, which is shown on the cover illustrated below.



Concentration Camp Parcel Cards

by Bob Ferguson


Collecting concentration camp postal history is both difficult and expensive because relatively few covers survived. An admittedly less satisfactory but considerably easier tangential approach is made possible by parcel post packet cards. This is because the Reichspost retained the more interesting part of the packet card. My own collection is due to an American GI who "liberated" a large quantity of used packet cards from the post office at Weiden (Oberpfalz) which processed mail from Flossenburg concentration camp. The following cards were from packages sent directly to Flossenburg and from packages forwarded to Flossenburg from other camps.

- 1.) Posted: Radom, 14 May 1943 to K.L. Flossenburg
 Addressee: Johann Cuszydlo, Nr. 37419 Block 20
 Backstamped: Flossenburg über Floss, 18 May 1943

Priority Parcel Post

Franking (3.50Z): 1.20 Zloty (Weight: 3.5Kg to Zones 3,4 or 5)
 0.30 Zloty (Delivery fee)
 2.00 Zloty (Priority fee)
 (Note: 1.90 Zloty postage on backside)

Zollinhaltserklärung (Customs Declaration) attached:
 1 food packet sent by Hildegard Cuszydlo/Radom, Eisenstrasse 14

091 Radom 6			
Aufgabenort: Generalgouvernement Pays d'origine: Pays d'origine: Kraj nadania: Gouvernement général — Generalne gubernatorstwo.		Zi <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr <input type="checkbox"/>	
Wertangabe valeur déclarée Wartość		(in arabischen Ziffern) Gold- (in chiffres arabes) franken (tyrach arabskich) fr.	
Dringend			
Paketkarte — Bulletin d'expédition — adres Pomocniczy			
Zahl der Nombre de Ilość	Pakete colis Zollinhaltserklärung déclaration en douane — Deklaracje celne Bescheinigungen oder Rechnungen certificats ou factures — Zaświadczenia lub rachunki	Art der Verpackung Nature de l'emballage Rodzaj opakowania	
An <u>Hohann C u s z y d l o</u> A-Do <u>K.L.Floßenbürg b.Weiden Opf.</u>			
<u>Nr. 37419 Block 20. post Floßenbürg Opf.</u>			
(Bestimmungsort) (Lieu de destination) — (Miejsce przznaczenia)		(Bestimmungsland) (Pays de destination) — (Kraj przznaczenia)	
(Straße und Hausnummer) (Rue et numéro) — (ul. i nr domu) <u>Floßenbürg Opf.</u>			
Gewicht — Poids / Waga <u>3</u> kg <u>12</u> g		Leitvermerk: — Acheminement: — Kierunek: Weg — Voie — Droga	
Zollgebühren *) Droits de douane — Oplaty celne		Auswechslungs-Postanstalt Bureau d'échange — Pocztowy Urząd Wymiany *) Auszufüllen von der Eingangs-Postanstalt oder der Zollverwaltung des Bestimmungslandes Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'entrée ou par le service de la douane du pays de destination Wypełnia Pocztowy Urząd nadejścia lub Urząd Celny Kraju przznaczenia	
DPO 43 (3.41)			

2.) Posted: Warschau, 3 May 1943 to K.L. Auschwitz
Addressee: Zbigniew Wroblewski (born 21 May 1919), gef Nr. 66817 Block 15
Forwarded: 11 May 1943 to K.L. Flossenburg
Backstamped: Flossenburg über Floss, 19 May 1943
Acknowledgement of Receipt: 19 May 1943

Parcel Post

Franking (1.50 Zloty): 1.20 Zloty (Weight: 2Kg to Zones 3,4 or 5)
0.30 Zloty (Delivery fee)

(Note: 90 Groschen postage on backside)

Postage Due (Forwarding fee): 60 Pfg. --- Weight: 2Kg 6g to Zones 3,4 or 5

082 Warschau 3.5.43

Ausgangsort: Generalgouvernement
Pays d'origine: Gouvernement général
Kraj pochodzenia: Generalne gubernator

ZI

Grund der Rücksendung: Verweigert Unbekannt

Einzuziehende Gebühren:

a) für Lagern (vom bis
(unter Berücksichtigung des Höchstmaßes) RM 60

b) Alte Lagergebühren " " "

c) Neue Rücksendenden " " "

d) Alte Beförderungsgebühren " " "

zusammen RM 60

Neuer Bestimmungsort: Flossenburg

Wohnung: in Bayern

Strasse, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Spindwert (RM) B/0338

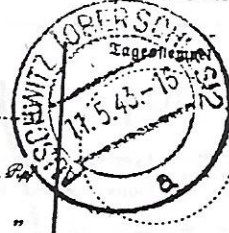

C 26 zu 16 Din A 3
V, 2 § 126 n. 133

Gewicht

Auswechslungs-Postanstalt
Bureau d'échange - Poczty Urząd Wymiany

3) Auszufüllen von der Ertrags-Postanstalt oder der Zollverwaltung des Bestimmungslandes
Cadré à remplir par le bureau d'entrée ou par le service de la douane du pays de destination
Wypełnić Poczty Urząd nadzoru lub Urząd Celný Kraju przeznaczenia

DPO 43 (G.4)

3.) Posted: Ober Birken (Horní Brıza), 3 June 1944 to K.L. Buchenwald
Addressee: Schutzhaftling Jarome Meister Nr. 48359 Block 28
Backstamped: Weimar- Buchenwald, 7 June 1944
Forwarded: 8 June 1944 to K.L. Flossenburg
Backstamped: Flossenburg über Floss, 14 June 1944

Insured Priority Parcel Post
Declared Value = 100RM

Franking (22.50 K): 10.00 K (Weight: 6.5 Kg to Zone 3)
1.50 K (Delivery fee)
1.00 K (Insurance fee)
10.00 K (Priority fee)

Postage Due (Forwarding fee): 60 Pfg. --- Weight: 6.5Kg to Zones 2



- 4.) Posted: Oberdorf über Laak a.d. Zaier (Kärnten), 7 April 1944 to K.L. Dachau
 Addressee: Karl Lasar (born 18 October 1906), Nr. 59765 Block 23/3
 Forwarded: 17 April 1944 to K.L. Flossenburg
 Backstamped: Flossenburg über Floss, 21 April 1944
 Tape on back: K.L. Flossenburg b. Weiden (O.pfalz)

Parcel Post

Franking (1.35 RM): 1.20 RM (Weight: 7.2Kg to Zone 3)
 0.15 RM (Delivery fee)

(Note: 5 Pfg postage on backside)

Postage Due (Forwarding fee): 1.20 RM --- Weight: 7.2Kg to Zones 3

879		Oberdorf über Laak (Kärnten)		4877	
Grund der Rücksendung:	Verweigert	Tagesstempel			
	Unbekannt				
Einzuziehende Gebühren:					
a) für Lagern (vom _____ bis _____)					
(unter Berücksichtigung des Höchstsatzes)					
b) Alte Lagergebühren		RM	Pfg		
c) Nach- und Rücksenden	1	20			
d) Alte Beförderungsgebühren					
zusammen		1	20		
Bestimmungsort:		Flossenburg b. Weiden			
Wohnung:		R. Lager (Opfah)			
(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk)					

5.) Posted: Brostowitza-Wielka über Sokolka (Bz. Bialystok), April 1944
to K.L. Gross-Rosen über Striegau-Schlesian

Addressee: Emilian Chiluta Nr. 29426
Backstamped: Striegau, 4 July 1944

Forwarded: 7 July 1944 to K.L. Flossenburg

Parcel Post

Franking (0.75 RM): 0.60 RM (Weight: 4Kg to Zones 3, 4 or 5)
0.15 RM (Delivery fee)

Postage Due (Forwarding fee): 0.60 RM --- Weight: 4 Kg to Zones 3, 4 or 5

Zum Aufkleben
der Festschrift

755 Brostowitza-Wielka
über Sokolka (Bz. Bialystok)

Grund der Rücksendung: Unbekannt

Einzuziehende Gebühren:

a) für Lagern (vom bis)
(unter Berücksichtigung des Höchstmaßes) RM

b) Alte Lagergebühren " "

c) Nachsenden " "

d) Alte Beförderungsgebühren " "

zusammen RM

Neuer Bestimmungsort: Konzentrationslager Flossenburg
Bez. Amt Weiden (Bayern)

Wohnung (Straße, Hausnummer) 103

über Striegau-Schlesien
Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk; bei Untermietern auch Name des Vermieters

Prakt. Kbg. 1. 44 3 000 000 C. 20 D12

STRIEGAU
1944

ABSENDER
Name, Wohnort, Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk; bei Untermietern auch Name des Vermieters
Chiluta Maria
In Lesniewicze 56
Post W-Brostowitza
über Sokolka

Anbei Paket
In jedes Paket überhaupt ein Doppel der Aufschrift legen

6.) Posted: Esch (Alzig), 11 March 1944 to Frauenkonz. Lager Ravensbruck
Furstenberg in Mecklenburg

Addressee: Maria Backes Nr. 19.7.11 Block 20
Zustellvermerk: 18 March 1944

Forwarded: 23 March 1944 to K. L. Flossenburg

Priority Parcel Post

Franking (2.05 RM): 0.90 RM (Weight: 5.5Kg to Zones 4)
0.15 RM (Delivery fee)
1.00 RM (Priority fee)

Postage Due (Forwarding fee): 0.90 RM --- Weight: 5.5 Kg to Zone 4



7.) Posted: Assling (Wurzener Save), 22 March 1944 to K.L. Flossenburg
Arbeitslager Schlesian (Note: Satellite Labor Camp in Desden)

Addressee: Anton Reschek, Nr. 550

Forwarded: 1 April 1944 to K.L. Flossenburg

Backstamped: Flossenburg über Floss, 5 April 1944

Parcel Post

Franking (3.00 RM): 2.85 RM (Weight: 12.8Kg to Zones 4)
0.15 RM (Delivery fee)

Postage Due (Forwarding fee): 2.20 RM --- Weight: 12.8 Kg to Zones 3

033 Assling (Sawe, Kärnten) 1 4719

Absender: *Reschek Anton*

Grund der Rücksendung: *Wartende*

Einzuziehende Gebühren:

a) für Lagern (vom _____ bis _____) (unter Berücksichtigung des Höchstsatzes)	_____ R.M. _____ Rpf
b) Alte Lagergebühren	_____ " _____ "
c) Nach- Rück senden	2,20 " _____ "
d) Alte Beförderungsgebühren	_____ " _____ "
zusammen	2 R.M. 20 Rpf

Neuer Bestimmungsort: *Flossenburg*

Wohnung: *über Floss*
(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk) *Kamp. Lager*

Stamp: DRESDEN -1.4.44.5:6N ALT ST. N

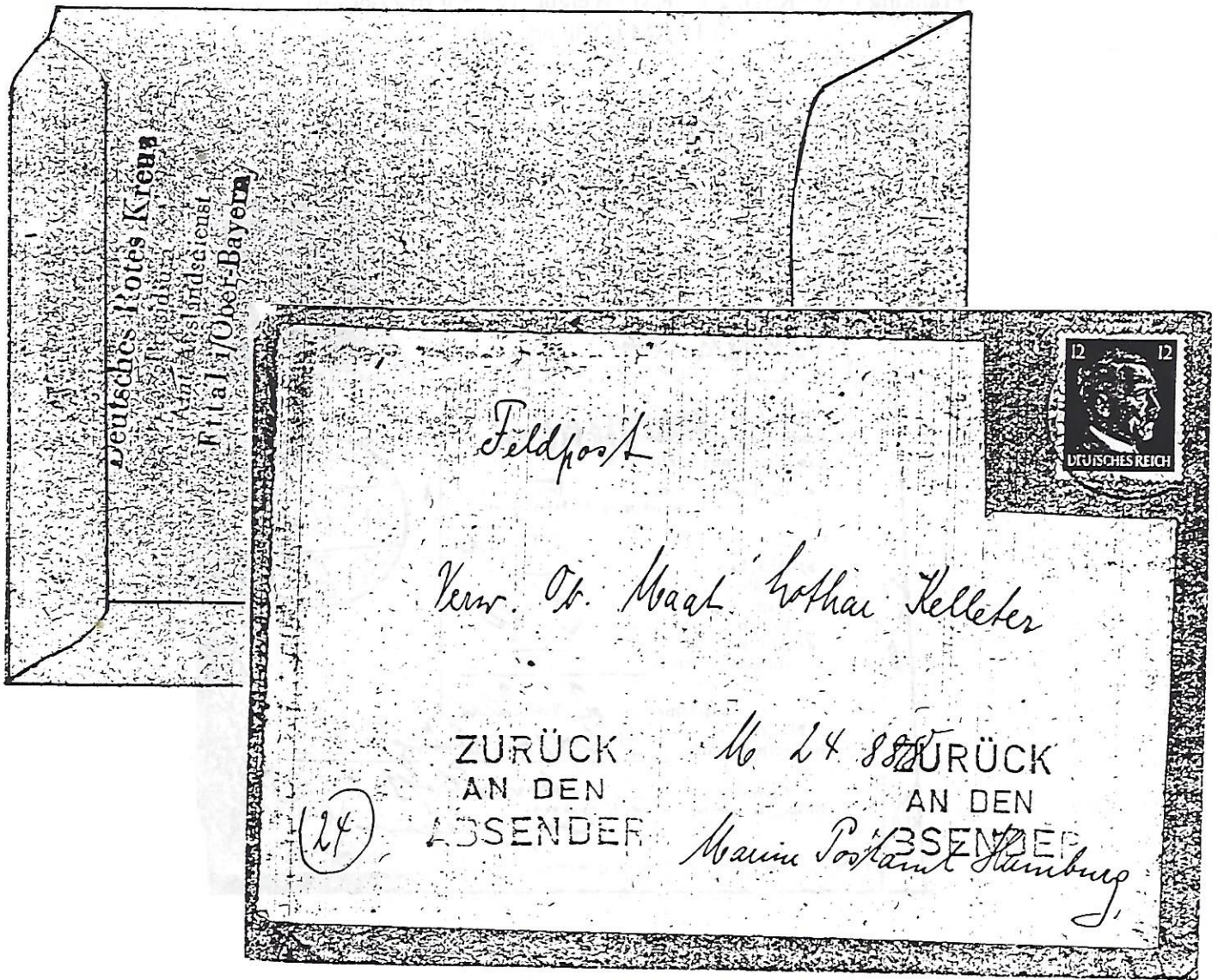
Rejected by Censor - Inadmissible Mail

by Larry Nelson

Re-used Envelopes

Part II, Sec. 2A, Para. 7: "Also prohibited are cards or envelopes produced by sticking together two pieces of paper with whole surface pasted on another, etc."

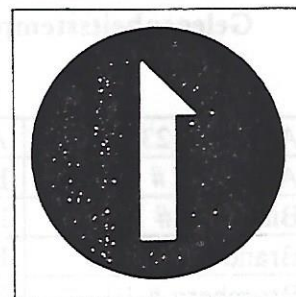
This cover was sent from the "Amt Auslandsdienst" of German Red Cross office in Bavaria to a Feldpost address (Fp. #24888) at the Marine Postamt Hamburg on April 20, 1945. Obviously a re-used envelope, a sheet of paper was pasted over the old address and the new address hand written. The Munich censor office noted their rejection, probably for the reason given above, with hand stamps "ZURÜCK AN DEN ABSENDER". Note: Reimer lists this marking as D-84.



COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 81st Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

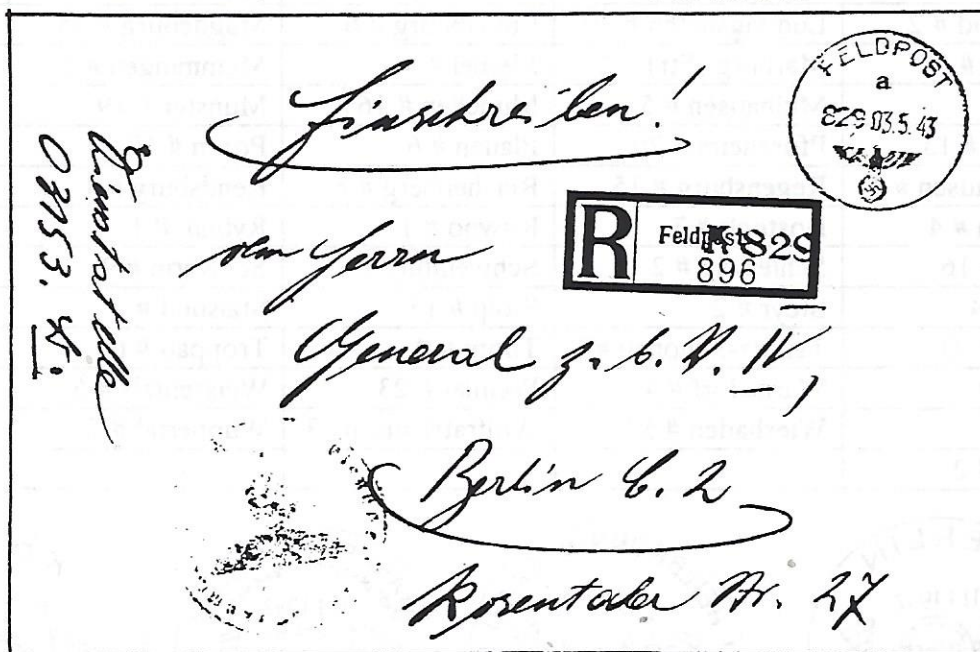
POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
181	829	161	174	189	181

Formed with reserve personnel from Silesia in the general mobilization of 1939 (5th Wave), the 81st Infantry Division Feldpost office was assigned Fp. # 39050 as a return address and K-829 as a coded identity in lieu of the tactical # 181. As a divisional emblem it adopted a reverse numeral '1' inside a red spot. The division saw combat in France in 1940, when it was lightly engaged. It remained in France on garrison duty for over a year until it was hurriedly sent to the Eastern Front in December 1941 to help stem the Soviet winter offensive.



Thrown into action on the northern wing of Army Group North as soon as it arrived, the 81st was involved in heavy defensive fighting from the outset. In January 1942 it was outflanked and encircled at Tripaleva but held out against repeated Soviet attacks and was eventually rescued. Under X Army Corps it fought in the battles around the Demyansk corridor from November 1942 through February 1943. It was credited with knocking out 170 Soviet tanks during the last two months of 1942. In June 1943 it was placed under command of XXVI Army Corps in the northern sector.

In February 1944 the 81st was rushed north after the Soviets broke the 18th Army's Siege of Leningrad. After distinguished service during the retreat through the Baltic States, the 81st Infantry Division was trapped in the Courland Pocket, where it remained until the end of the war.



Cover sent to Army General Command in Berlin in May 1943 from Fp. # 03153 (Battalion III/ grenadier Regiment 161) via division Field P.O. 181 (K-829).

Special Cancels – Tag der Briefmarke 1942

by Bob Ferguson

The first “**Tag der Briefmarke**” was held on 7 January 1936 and was commemorated by two special cancels. The last (National Socialist) was in 1944 and was marked by a modesty similar to the first, a single stamp (Mi. 904) but no special cancel. For the entire nine-year period, “**Tag der Briefmarke**” was commemorated with 494 special cancels.

The cancel numbering scheme is in Julius Bochmann’s work “**Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel**”.

Uniform Design - Tag der Briefmarke/10-11 January 1942

Aachen # 23	Altenburg # 7	Aschaffenburg# 12	Aschersleben # 5	Aue # 8
Augsburg # 12	Baden-Baden # 31	Bautzen # 4	Berlin # 370	Beuthen # 4
Bialystok # 1	Bielefeld # 5	Bitterfeld # 21	Bochum # 11	Bonn # 5
Brandenburg # 8	Braunschweig # 35	Bremen # 35	Breslau # 59	Brieg # 3
Bromberg # 10	Buckeburg # 3	Chemnitz # 38	Crimmitschau # 4	Danzig # 17
Dessau # 5	Diedenhofen # 1	Dorpat # 1	Dortmund # 11	Dresden # 101
Druisburg # 8	Dusseldorf # 57	Eberswalde # 2	Eger # 8	Elbing # 8
Erfurt 3 30	Essen # 39	Eupen # 3	Frankfurt/M # 105	Frankfurt/O # 16
Friedburg # 13	Furth (Bay) # 5	Gera # 10	Gleiwitz # 8	Graudenz # 4
Graz # 18	Hagen # 10	Halberstadt # 4	Halle # 26	Hamburg # 68
Heidelberg # 24	Heilbronn # 12	Hildesheim # 9	Hirschberg # 6	Jena # 6
Innsbruck # 15	Iserlohn # 2	Karlsruhe # 38	Kassel # 42	Kattowitz # 6
Kauen # 1	Kiel # 47	Koblenz # 21	Kolberg # 3	Koln # 52
Konigsberg # 37	Konstanz # 7	Leipzig # 183	Leitmeritz # 1	Leoben # 1
Liegnitz # 18	Linz (Donau) # 13	Litzmannstad # 6	Lorrach # 3	Lubeck # 9
Ludenscheid # 2	Ludwigshafen # 20	Luxemburg # 6	Magdeburg # 35	Mainz # 26
Mannheim # 58	Marburg (Str) # 2	Memel # 5	Memmingen # 2	Meschede # 1
Metz # 6	Mulhausen # 5	Munchen # 169	Munster # 19	Nurnberg # 75
Offenbach # 13	Pforzheim # 20	Plauen # 6	Posen # 12	Potsdam # 14
Recklinghausen # 1	Regensburg # 15	Reichenberg # 8	Rendsburg # 1	Riga # 1
Rosenheim # 4	Rostock # 7	Rowno # 1	Rybnik # 1	Saarbrucken # 18
Salzburg # 16	Schleswig # 2	Schweinfurt # 6	Schwerin # 9	Soest # 5
Stettin # 34	Steyr # 2	Stolp # 15	Stalsund # 7	Strassburg # 15
Stuttgart # 93	Teplitz-Schonau # 5	Thorn # 4	Troppau # 6	Veldes # 2
Villach # 9	Warnsdorf # 4	Weimar # 23	Weissenfels # 5	Wesermunde # 6
Wien # 92	Wiesbaden # 53	Wolfratshausen # 3	Wuppertal # 7	Wurzburg # 19
Zichenau # 2				



Fundamentals of Feldpost Collecting

Part 5. Feldpost Dispatched by Civilian Post Offices

by Jim Lewis

One of the most satisfying experiences for a Feldpost collector is to “decode” a particular item of mail so as to identify not only the unit of the sender but also the dispatching post office. In the case of military post offices using standard 28mm FELDPOST canceling devices, the post office identification is usually only possible if the item is official registered mail and the cancel includes the office’s 3 digit “Kenn” (Code) number.

However, a considerable portion of Feldpost was also dispatched by civil post offices in the homeland as well as Dienstpost offices in the occupied territories. These offices used many different cancel types and these types, combined with the occasional errors made by postal clerks, often provide the clues which enable the astute Feldpost collector to identify many of these offices.

To understand how such errors occurred, one must understand that all military mail was not subject to the same regulations. For example, training, depot and administrative units located within each “Wehrkreis” (military district) of Greater Germany could show unit designations on their mail. Such mail could be deposited in mailboxes or delivered to any civilian post office, where a standard town cancel would be applied. (Fig. 1). If units of this type were stationed in occupied territories under civilian control, the town was still identified in the standard Dienstpost cancels (Fig. 2).

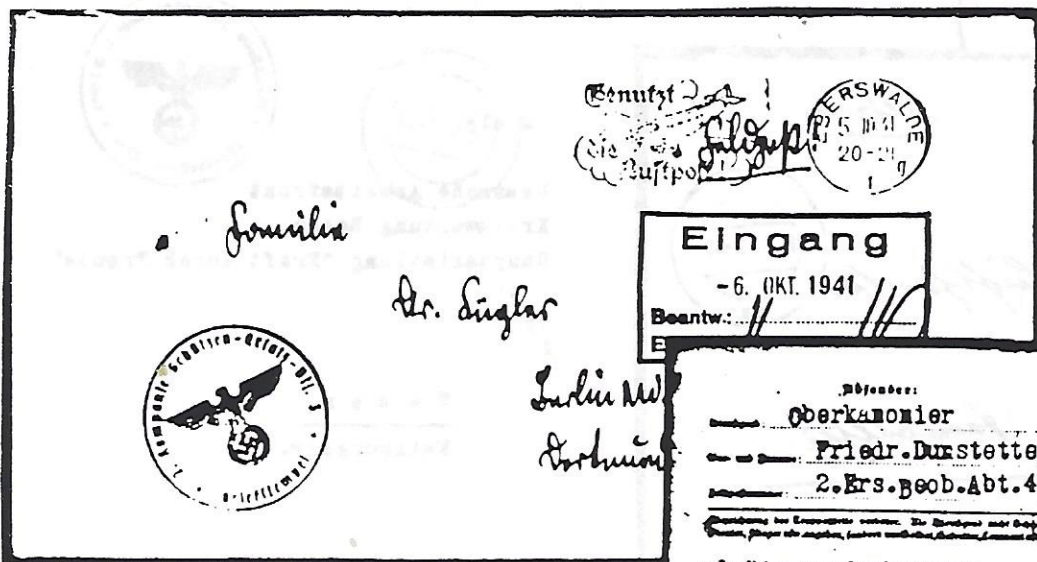


Fig. 1 - top) Cover with open unit seal of Rifle Replacement Battalion 3 has Eberswalde slogan cancel.

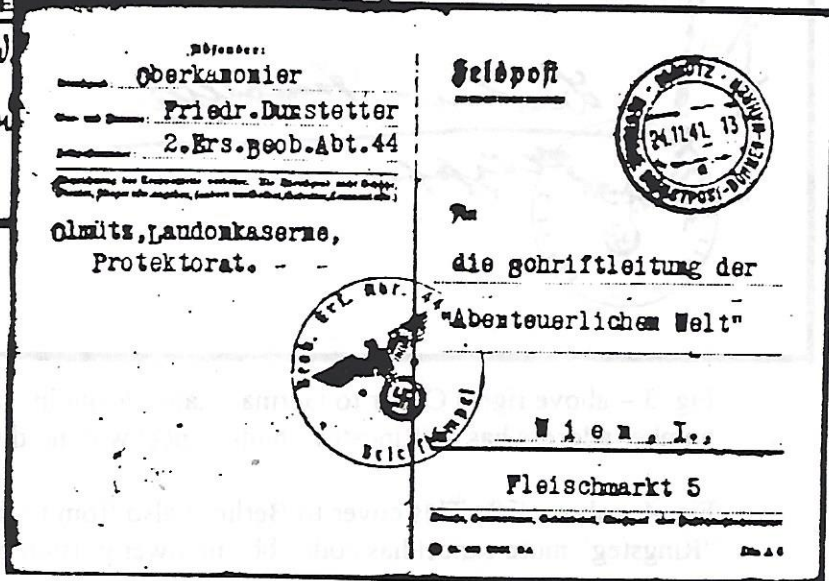


Fig. 2 - right) Postcard with open unit Seal of Observation Replacement Battalion 44 has Deutsch Dienstpost cancel of Olmütz, Moravia office.

Units that were under operational commands, however, were required to use 5-digit Feldpost numbers on their mail and this imposed the need for security precautions. The "Reichspostministerium" (National Postal Ministry) issued a number of "Postnachrichtenblätter" (postal directives) which detailed the handling of mail from field units at civil post offices. Such mail had to be delivered at the postal counter because the use of mailboxes was prohibited. To avoid compromising the security gained through the use of Feldpost numbers, civil post offices were told that such mail could not display a normal town cancel. Incorrectly marked mail was to be rejected & returned with the notation "Ortsgabe unzulässig" (town name inadmissible). Note: one well known exception to these security requirements was the case of certain land-based naval units which openly displayed a town name along with their 5-digit Feldpost number (see Clement #510c).

To comply with security regulations, special canceling devices without town identification known as "Stummstempel" (mute cancel) were provided to civil post offices in the homeland as well as to Dienstpost offices in Holland and northern Italy. These mute cancels conformed to the two most common types of German designs. These were "Ringsteg" (double ring/date bridge) with dimensions of 24/16/8mm [Petersen type 33m] and "Kreisbrücke" (ring/bridge/segment) with dimensions of 26/15/9mm [Petersen type 33c]. For reasons I do not know, some mute cancels have no distinguishing feature (Fig. 3), while others have one or more letters in the lower portion of the ring (Fig. 4). In terms of post office identification, the first type present an almost insurmountable problem. Conversely, many of the letter coded cancels are identified in Clement's "Kleines Handbuch der Deutschen Feldpost 1937-1945" and the majority of these seem to have been used by post offices in Austria and Holland.

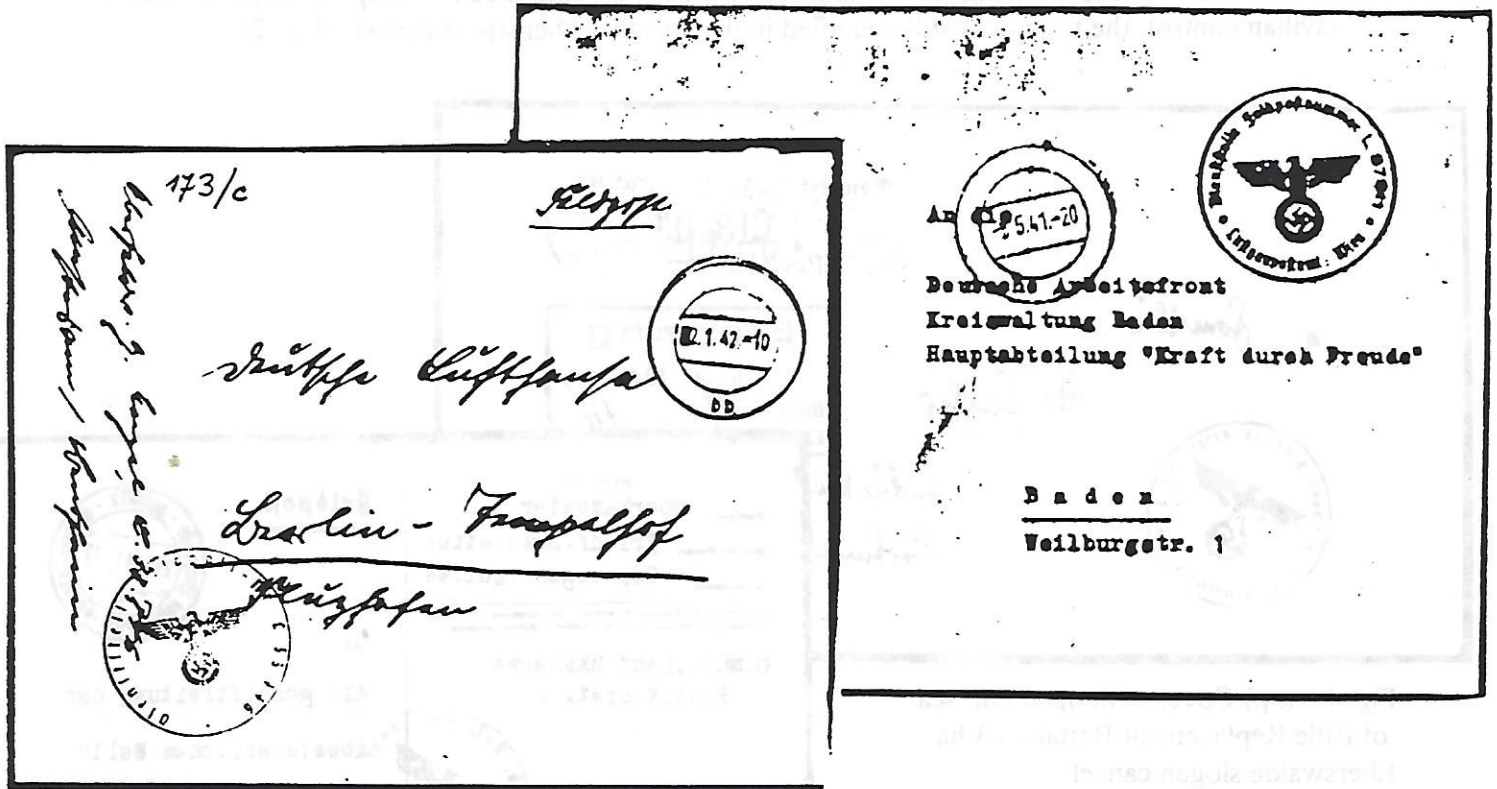
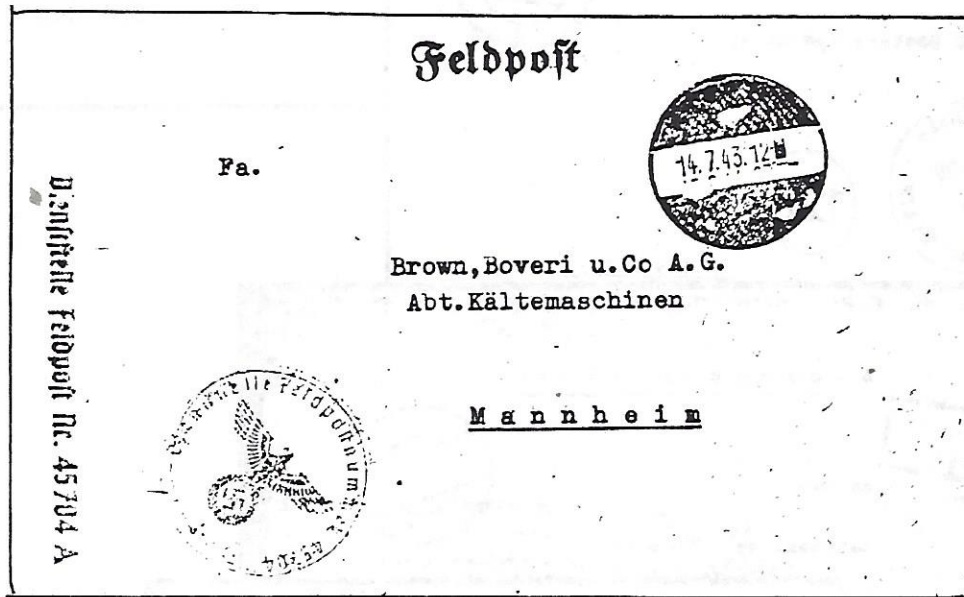


Fig. 3 – above right) Cover to German Labor Front in Baden from a Luftwaffe unit using Feldpost number address has a "Ringsteg" mute cancel with no distinguishing features.

Fig. 4 – above left) This cover to Berlin is also from Luftwaffe unit using Feldpost number address but "Ringsteg" mute cancel has code "bb" in lower portion of ring.

As noted earlier, the "Deutsch Dienstpost" (German Official Mail Service) in the eastern occupied territories handled Feldpost when Feldpost offices were not available. The same regulations applied and Dienstpost offices also used mute cancels. However, these were usually produced by altering canceling devices left behind by the previous Polish or Soviet occupants. These alterations were accomplished by several methods: 1) grinding down all of the die except the date bridge, 2) removing only the town name or 3) filling in the recessed areas with solder. These altered foreign canceling devices often retain basic design details such as stars, asterisks, alphanumeric codes, etc. Retention of such features was not a conscious effort to "code" the cancels, but rather the result of only removing the prohibited town name. These altered designs are generally considered to be the most interesting of the mute cancels as they offer a wide variety of shapes, sizes and details. Clement has identified quite a few and others identifications can be found in the eight volumes of Schultz's "Deutsche Dienstpost, 1939-1945".

The cover below (Fig. 5) has a 5-digit Feldpost number unit seal and a foreign "black out" cancel in which all details of the original device except the date bar were obliterated with solder.



As noted at the beginning, errors by civilian postal clerks handling Feldpost often lead to fairly positive identifications of post offices. The five illustrations shown top to bottom on the following page provide these examples of such errors:

Fig. 6) Card with 5-digit Feldpost number posted at rural postal agency in Zeitlarn, Germany has "Landespost" routing stamp for forwarding to the main post office in Regensburg. Though security was compromised, the Regensburg office duly applied a mute cancel.

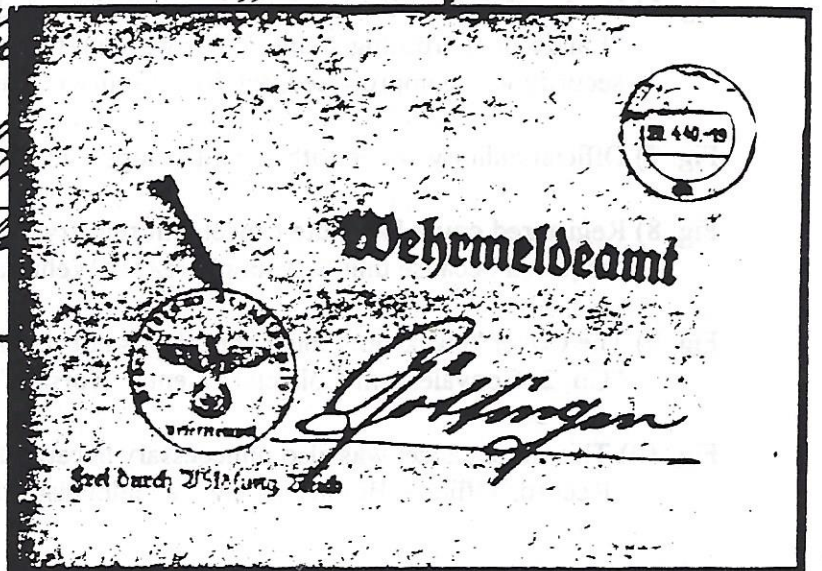
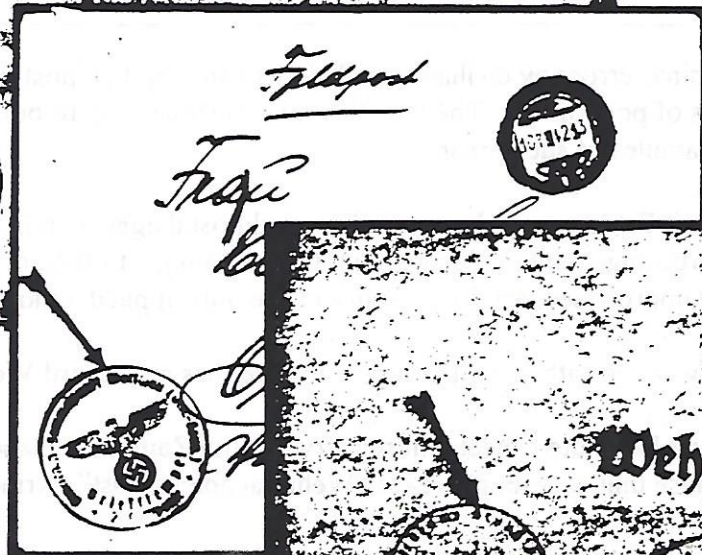
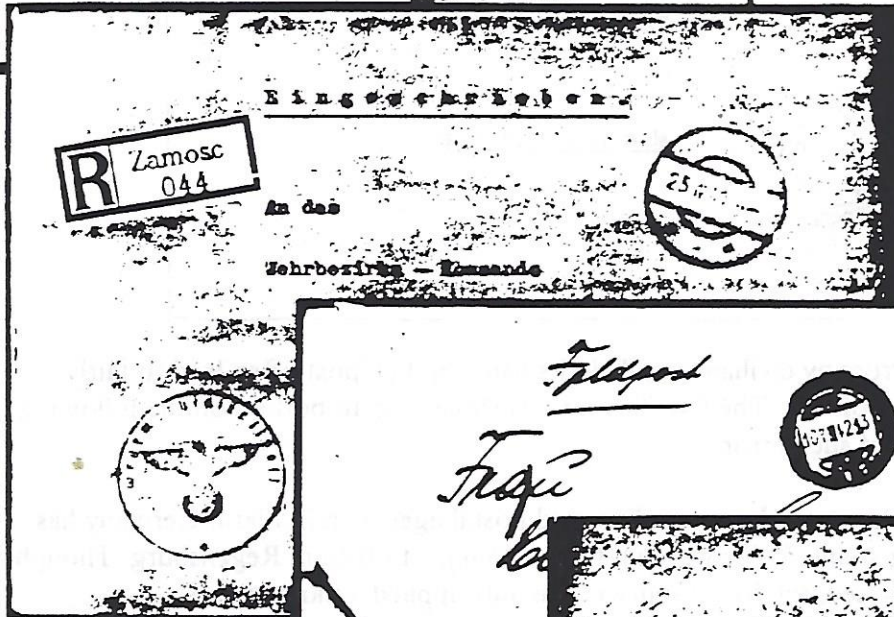
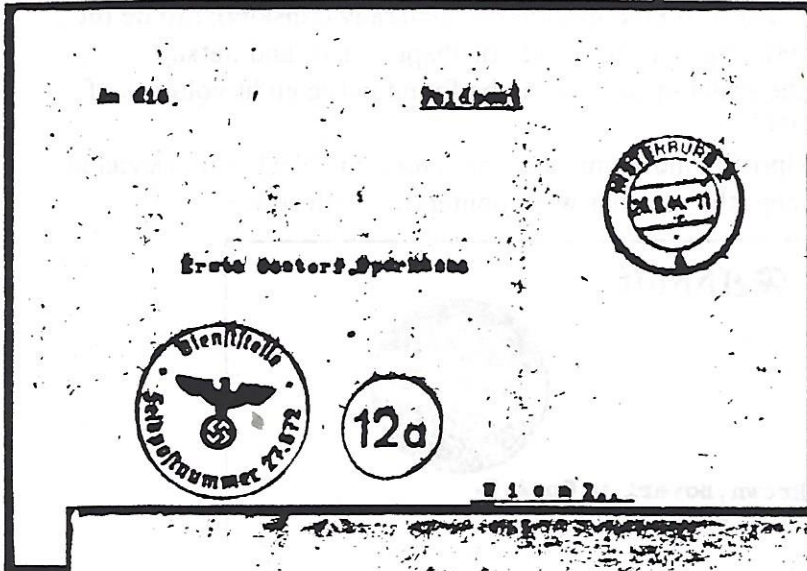
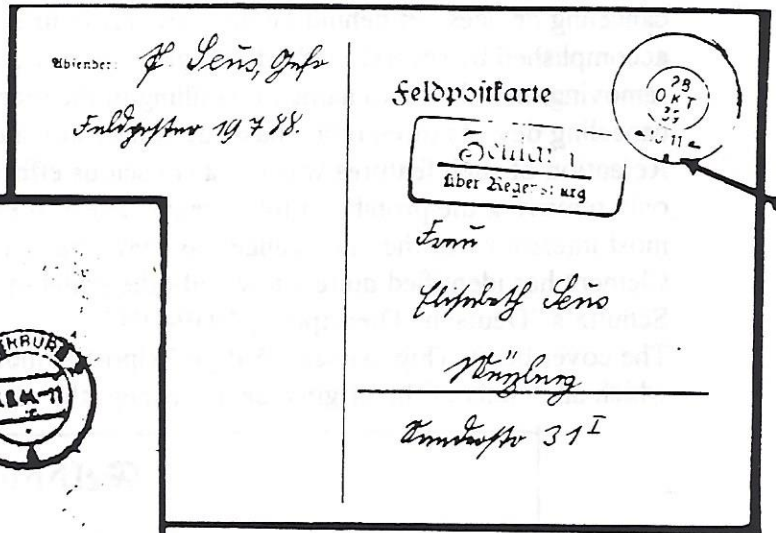
Fig. 7) Official military cover with 5-digit Feldpost number has a standard Westerburg town cancel.

Fig. 8) Registered cover has mute cancel but registry label of Zamosc, Poland. The mute cancel was not required because unit seal simply reads "Wehrmachdienstpost" (Armed Forces Official Mail).

Fig. 9) The Cover "black-out" mute cancel was not required on this cover from a unit with open address "Co. 2, Convalescent Collection Center Warsaw".

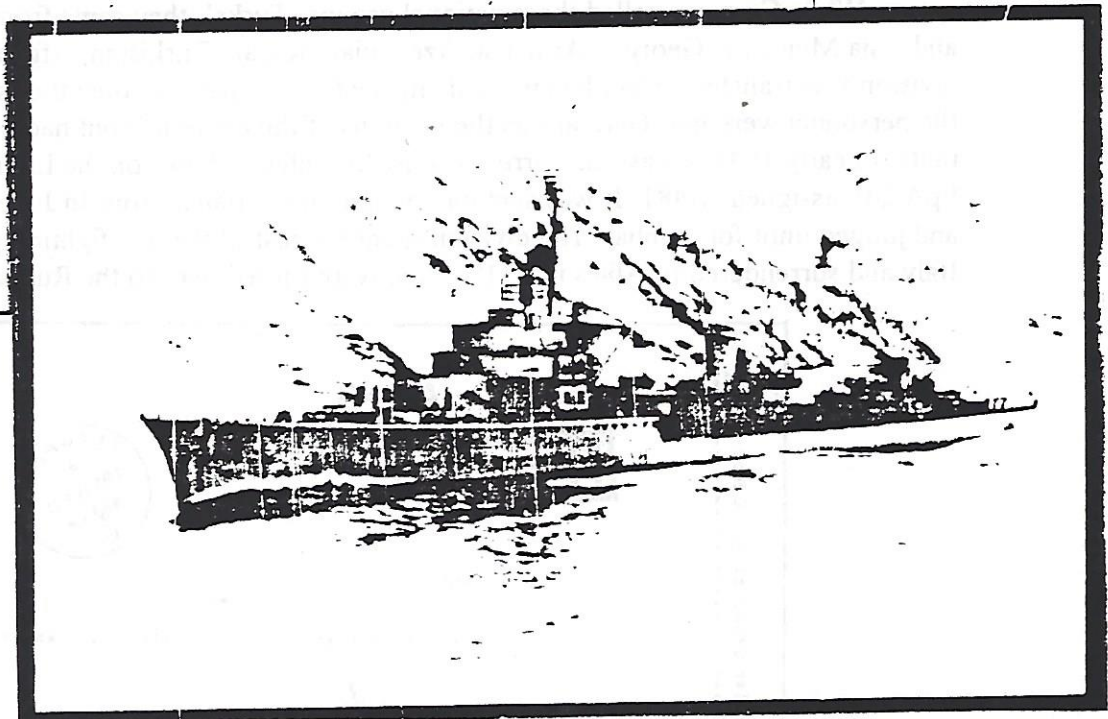
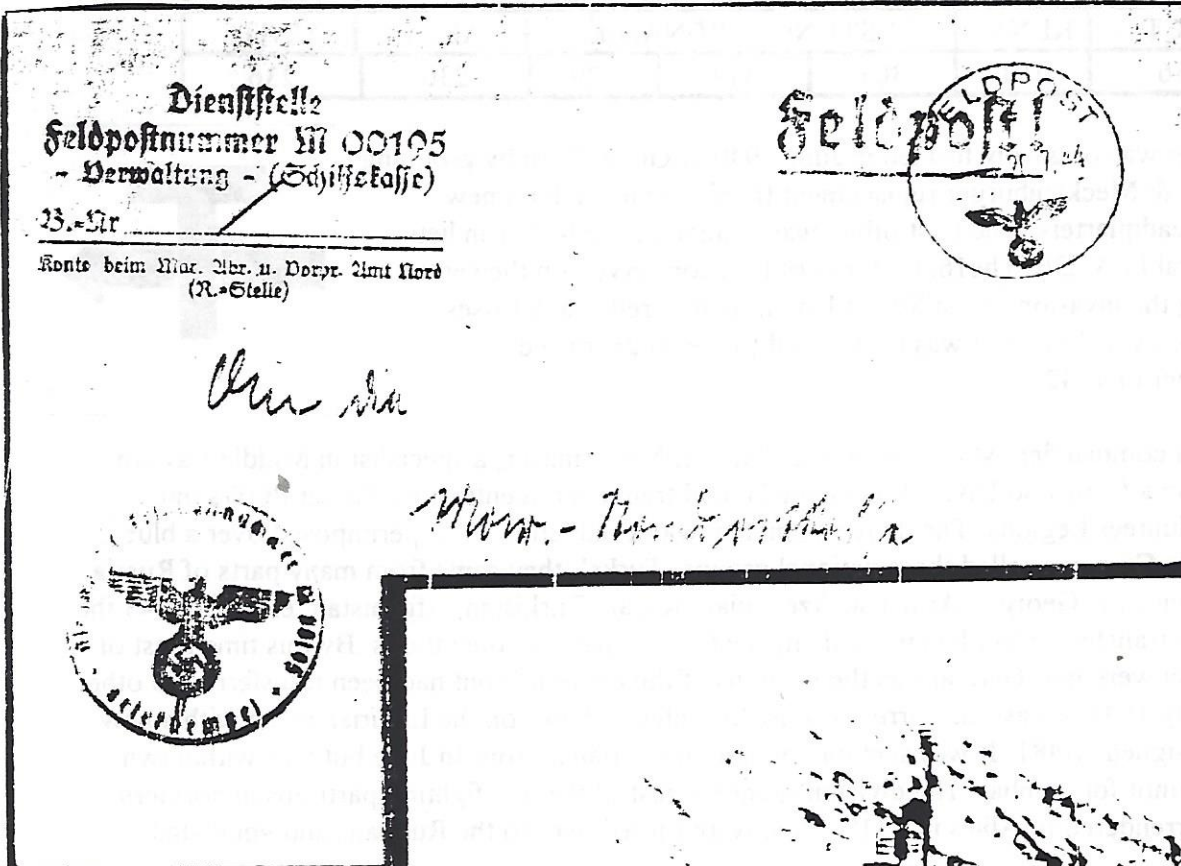
Fig. 10) This mute cancel was also unnecessary because the open unit seal on this cover reads "Military Records Office - Braunschweig", an administrative unit in Germany

Figs. 6 through 10 are shown below running top to bottom. Note: This article originally appeared in TRSG Bulletin # 46 and is presented here in slightly altered form.



NAVY LOG

Destroyer Z-29 - Feldpost # 00195



The seventh of 12 unnamed destroyers (Z-23-34). Built by AG Weser (Bremen) and launched October 15, 1940. Displacement: 2600 tons; speed: 38 knots; main armament: five 5.9" guns, eight 21" torpedo tubes; crew: 321.

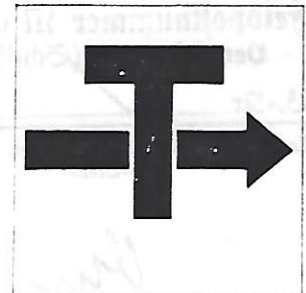
This "Zerstörer" (Destroyer) was taken over by U.S. Navy in 1945 and scuttled in the Skaggerak on December 16, 1946. Cover above to Finance HQ, Wilhelmshaven has double- ring/fence 'mute' cancel dated April 5, 1940.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 162nd Infantry Division

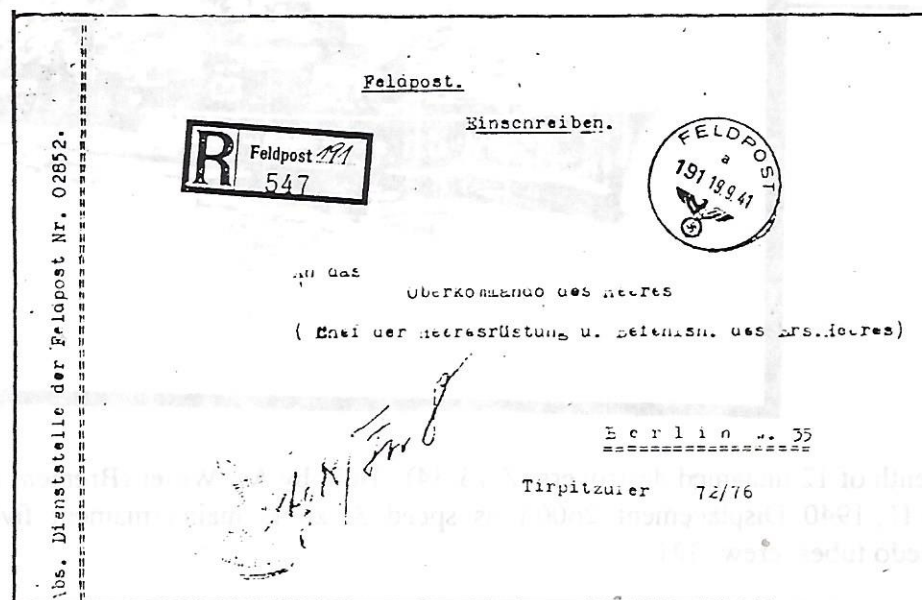
by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	FESTUNG- GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
236	191	303	314	329	236	236

This division was originally formed in June 1940 at Gross-Born by grouping Pomeranian & Mecklenburger replacement training units under a new divisional headquarters. The post office was assigned code K-191 in lieu of the tactical FpA 236. The 162nd Infantry Division served on the central front during the invasion of the Soviet Union. It suffered heavy losses before Moscow in 1941 and was transferred to the southern sector in the summer of 1942.



The division commander, Major General Oskar von Niedermayer, a specialist in Middle Eastern affairs, set up a facility so Division personnel could train contingents of ex-Soviet POWs into Foreign Volunteer Legions. The division emblem was a red letter 'T' superimposed over a blue arrow. While Germans called these national groups 'Turks', they came from many parts of Russia and Asia Minor i.e. Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazak, Turkistan, Afganistan, etc. In 1943 the division was transferred to Slovenia and engaged in anti-partisan operations. By this time most of the personnel were non-Germans as the veterans of the Eastern Front had been transferred to other units. In early 1944 it was transferred to Italy for defense duties on the Ligurian coast with a new FpA 236 assigned K-481. It was sent into action on the Italian front in June but was withdrawn and judged unfit for combat. The division spent the rest of the war fighting partisans in northern Italy and surrendered to Allies in 1945. Most were turned over to the Russians and liquidated.



Cover sent to Army High Command in Berlin in September 1941 from Fp. # 02852 (Bakery Company 591) via division Field P.O. 236 (K-191).

TRSG AUCTION NO. 82

Lot	Description					Min. Bid.
1.	Bedarfs Feldpost cvr from Luftwaffe posted in February 1945 See cover Next 7 lots are 5 R-Feldpost & 2 non-R cvrs. Most Luftwaffe. Condition VF unless noted otherwise					\$25.00
	Kenn #	FpA	Date	Fp #	Description	
2.	K-107	529	3.'44	L38156	E-Hafen Ausr. Kol. Beneschau (3/VIII)	8.00
3.	K-200	797	10.'43	58900	1-8 KP. 22 Schuffsstam Abtl. (ZbV office in Frankreich)	8.00
4.	K-356	710	10.'43	L51692	14 Luftwaffe Feld Div. In Norway (See illustraion below)	8.00
5.	K-661	516	2.'44	L54400	9 Squadron IV Gruppe Breslau	8.00
6.	K-849	731	3.'44	L55076	Luftwaffe Local Defense Munich	8.00
7.	----	----	7.'43	L35209	Petersen 33c Fp cancel	8.00
8.	----	----	7.'43	L33943	Hamburg to Vienna	7.00

Next 14 lots are books (which should be of particular interest to Feldpost collectors). To hold down costs, books will be mailed Book Rate unless bidder requests otherwise. Note: HB= Hard Cover & PB= Paper Back.

9.	Signal: Years of Retreat 1943-4. Nazi Wartime Picture Magazine, S. L. Mayer (HB) 1979 Large Format	16.00
10.	Waffen-SS: Hitler's Elite Guard at War . G. Stein (HB) 304 pages detail 1972. VF	20.00
11.	Nazi Culture , G. Mosse. Intellectual, Cultural & Social Life in the TR (HB) 383 pages 1966 VF	16.00
12.	Doenitz at Nuremberg: A Reappraisal. edited by H.K. Thompson (PB) 200 pages detail 1983.	20.00
13.	Hitler's Spanish Legion Klenfeld & Tamp (HB) History of the 'Blue' Division 1979 VF	35.00
14.	Hitler's Last Offensive. P. Elslob (HB) 391 pages. Ardennes Campaign 1971. VF	16.00
15.	Anatomy of the SS State , E. Wiskermann. (HB) Details all aspects of SS. 600 pages 1972 VF	18.00
16.	Hitler's Elite Guard: Waffen-SS, Parachutist & U-Boats. W. Madwej. (HB) 1985 Maps, graphs etc	17.00
17.	Aerial Propaganda Leaflets: A Collector's Handbook (HB) Axis & Allies 1954 VF (Very Scarce!!)	25.00
18.	In the East . M. Johnson (HB) 173 pages. 1994 Feldpost from German troops on Eastern Front. VF	18.00
19.	A Century of War Dates 1859-1959 T. Van Dam Postal Covers (PB) 1996 206 pages VF Chron / Maps	17.00
20.	Beyond War Dates & More 1911-1950 T. Van Dam Postal Covers (PB) 1996 84 pages VF	12.00
21.	The Face of Battle J. Keegan (PB) 1976 355 pages VF	10.00
22.	Six Armies in Normandy J. Keegan (HB) 1996 84 pages VF	12.00



<u>Lot</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Min. Bid</u>
	Next 20 lots are postal stationery, the identification numbers () shown are are per BOREK Ganzachen Spezial- Katalog Deutschland ab 1933. Condition F-VF unless noted otherwise.	
23.	Two mint 1936 Olympic Games Sailing Cards (243 & 244)	\$15.00
24.	Same (243 & 244) but Bedarfs w/Olympic Stadium Special Cancels	\$25.00
25.	1937 Harvest Festival Card (250) w/added Mi. 646 stamp tied by Karl May special cancel	\$10.00
26.	1937 Bedarfs Fishermen WHW Card (251) w/29.11.37 Berlin cancel	\$ 8.00
27.	Mint 1938 Anschluss card (253) with Hitler Head superimposed on map of Austria	\$ 7.00
28.	Mint 1938 two part KdF sender/reply card (255) showing cruise ship Wilhelm Gustoff	\$10.00
29.	Mint 5 Pfg. Saxony at Work Celebration card (256)	\$ 8.00
30.	Two 1938 Storm Trooper Sports Meet cards (258), Mint and Bedarfs usage	\$10.00
31.	Mint 1938 Nuremburg Rally card (259)	\$ 7.00
32.	Bedarfs 1938 WHW 'November' card (262/2) to Switzerland w/added postage	\$10.00
33.	Bedarfs 1938 WHW 'December' card (262/3) w/Berlin cancel	\$ 8.00
34.	Same but two cards, Mint & Used w/Mannheim 8.1.39 Special cancel	\$12.00
35.	Mint 1938 Day of Thanks card (260) with woman in costume	\$ 7.00
36.	Bedarfs 1939 Ostmess showing Horse head (270) w/Iron Cross slogan cancel	\$10.00
37.	Mint 1939 WHW card showing 'Heinrich I' (275/1)	\$ 7.00
38.	Mint 1940 KdF semi-official card for 70 th year Post card	\$ 8.00
39.	Three different cards from RDP (285, 105/C28 & 105/C76) with special cancels	\$10.00
40.	Mint 1942 Vienna Postal Congress (305)	\$ 8.00
41.	Bedarfs 1937 Tag der Breifmark (105/C20) with Berlin special cancel	\$10.00
42.	Alsace overprint Day of the Stamp card (4/7) with Strassburg special cancel	\$ 7.00
	Next 7 lots are POW cards & cvrs from camps in Germany, each VF on exhibit sheets with nice write-ups	
43.	OFLAG IIA – card to Poland sent. 12.. '39 frm Polish officer, nice oval censor mark (See R below)	\$ 15.00
44.	OFLAG IID – card to Gen. Govt. sent 10.'44 via DDP Osten w/diamond cens. mark VF but fold	\$ 10.00
45.	OFLAG IVA – card to USA sent 5.'40 w/dble circle cens. mark & mute cancel VF but fold (See L below)	\$ 15.00
46.	OFLAG IXB – card to camp frm Radom sent 3.'40 (soon replaced by form cards) violet cens. marking	\$ 14.00
47.	STALAG XVIII (Stalag 306) – airmail ltrsh to New Zealand sent 10'41 w/ "Chamois" cens. marking	\$ 16.00
48.	STALAG LUFT 3– airmail card to USA frm American flier sent 12.'44 w/violet cens. mark Taxe percue	\$ 20.00
49.	MARLAG/MILAG NORD – card to England sent 3.'42, camp for naval POWs, scarce (See C below)	\$ 30.00



PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 82 is December 15, 2000
SEND ALL BIDS TO: JIM LEWIS, 111 MONTROSS AVE., RUTHERFORD, NJ 07070