



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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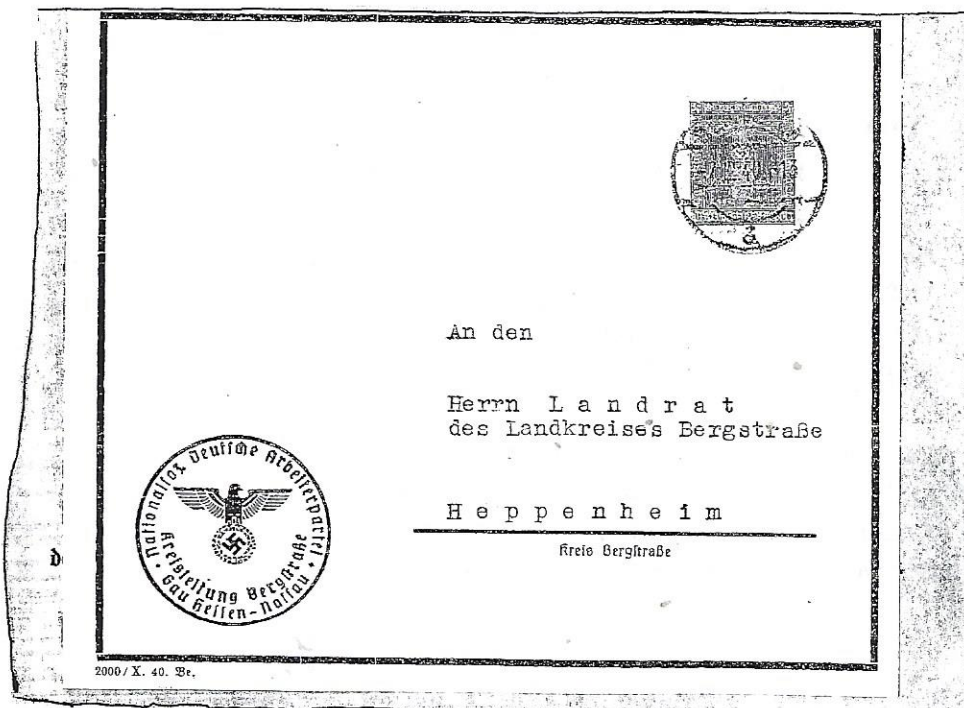
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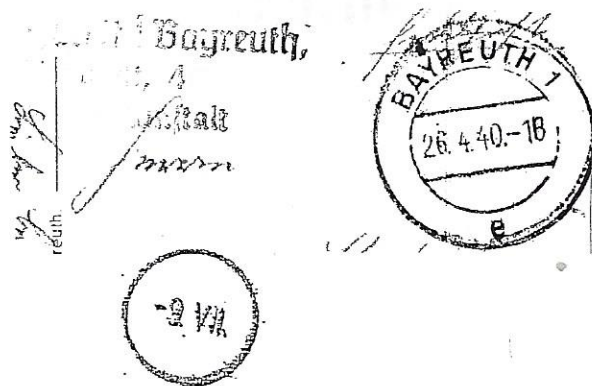
STUDY GROUP NOTES

Membership Renewal – this completes yet 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 this form and send it with payment to Secretary-Treasurer Bob Dunn.** While we did not increase dues for next year, any member whose dues are not received by January 1, 2008 will be considered as having resigned. Should they wish to renew membership thereafter, they must pay the \$10.00 new member fee in addition to the annual dues.

Rally Label – Al Kugel requested info on labels found on two postcards mailed during the 1933 Nurnberg Rally. John Rawlings, Leader of the British TRSG, informs us that Martin Erier’s book on Nazi Party labels states that the initials stand for “Reichsbund Deutscher Papier und Schreibwarenhändler”(League of German Paper and Stationery Sellers) but quoted no source for this identification. They are found on mail from the 1933 and 1934 Rallies (mainly 1933) but were certainly not intended for postal use and probably appear on mail because the buyer couldn’t think what else to do with them. Any other thoughts on these labels?



Bayreuth postmark - Ed Leshar sent a Feldpost card with this unusual slogan cancel reading “Reserve Lazarett Bayreuth, / Tiellazarett 4/Taubstummenanstalt” (Reserve Hospital Bayreuth-Section 4 - Institute for the Deaf and Dumb.) dated April 26, 1940.



“Poste restante” marking – the circled “-9.VII” postmark on the cover shown as Fig. 5 on page 18 in Bulletin 164 has been identified by Ron Morgan as a date stamp “9. July” indicating the date when the letter was to be returned as “not collected”. This is confirmed by the manuscript “Poste restante” as the bottom line of the address.

Police Rgt. 23 - Arik Komets has a cover with Fp.# 56345 (Stab I u.1-3 Kp/Polizei Rgt. 23.) and is looking for any information on this unit. Send info to Ye Olde Ed and we’ll forward it on to Airk.

Prices Realized – Auction #107

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	\$ 71.00	16	\$14.00	29	\$42.00	40	\$22.00	47	\$26.00
2	44.00	19	15.00	30	22.00	41	11.00	48	11.00
5	45.00	22	26.00	33	38.00	42	15.00	49	27.00
6	36.00	25	18.00	36	11.00	44	26.00	51	26.00
7	31.00	26	51.00	37	14.00	45	10.00	53	12.00
8	31.00	27	32.00	38	12.00	46	10.00	54	10.00
9	16.00	28	15.00						

Cover Illustration: To conserve paper, some NSDAP offices had overlayers preprinted with their Dienstsiegel. This cover was sent in Dec. 1940 from Bergstrasse in Gau Hessen-Nassau to the Landrat (Administrative officer) for District Bergstrasse in Heppenheim. Note the 24 Pfg. Party stamp (Mi. 152) to pay the 24 Pfg. fee for an intercity letter weighing between 20-250 grams. This item is lot 6 in Auction 108. Good hunting!

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

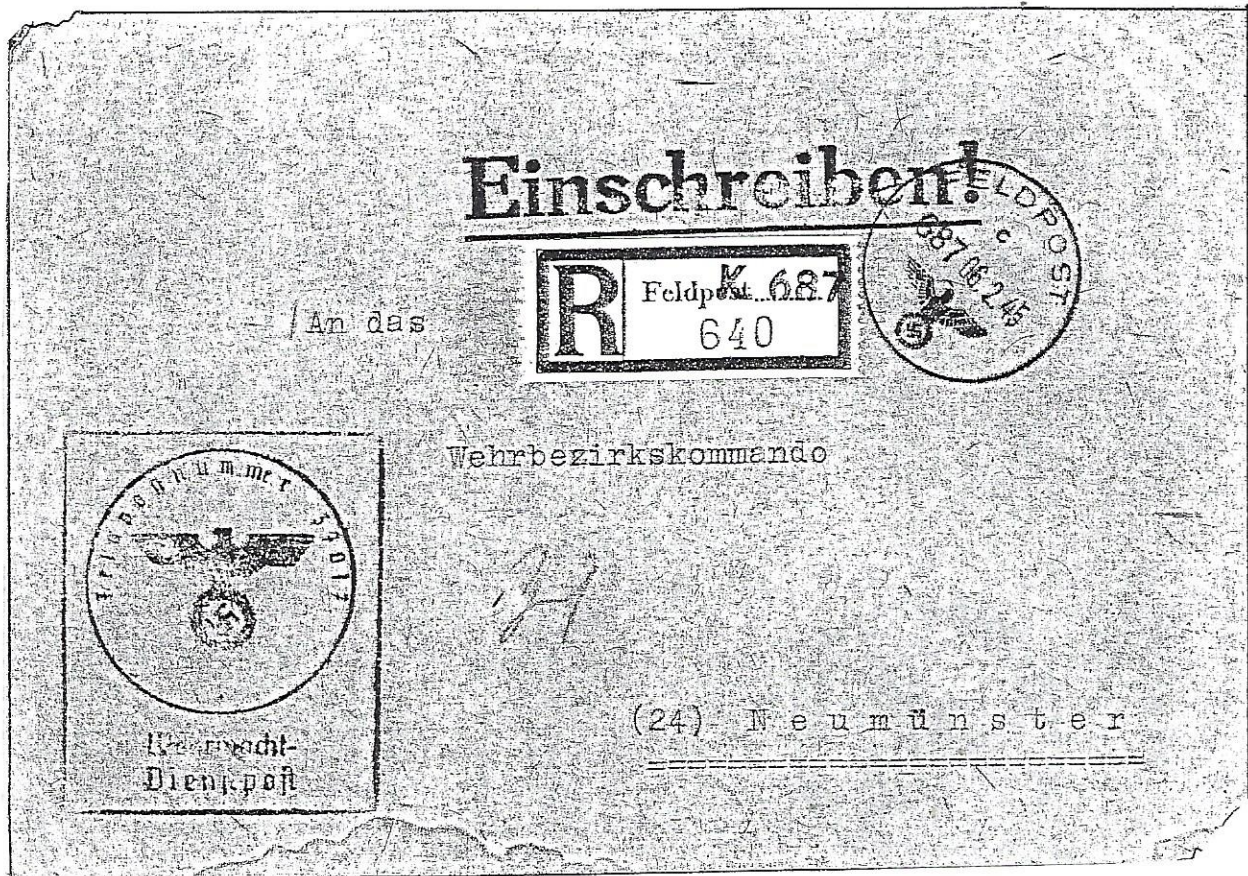
19th Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL	
TACT	KENN	INFANTRY			ARTY	UNITS
119	687	59	73	74	119	119

Originally formed as the 19th Infantry Division in the military expansion of 1934-36. Post office 19 was assigned Fp.# 11324 and Kenn 489. It fought in Poland and in Belgium against the British Expeditionary Force in 1940. In the fall of 1940 it was reorganized as the 19th Panzer Division.

A second 19th Infantry Division was formed in August 1944 (27th Wave) at Okshol, Denmark by conversion of the Division 'Jutland' and remainder of the 19th Luftwaffe Feld Division that had been disbanded after being smashed on the Western Front in July. The former FpA 919 was re-designated FpA 119 but the Fp. # 48893 and K-687 were retained. In September 1944 this new division was with Army Group 'B' in France and by November was conducting a fighting withdrawal across the Moselle. At that time it had strength of 8,500 men. In late 1944 it absorbed the remnants of the disbanded 77th Infantry Division and was designated as Volksgrenadier Division. The division fought in the Battle of the Saar and in the withdrawal across southwest Germany, where it surrendered at the end of the war.



Cover sent to Military District Command in Neumünster in February 1945 from Fp. # 37017 (Company 5 of Railroad Engineer Regiment 4) via Post Office-119 (K-687).

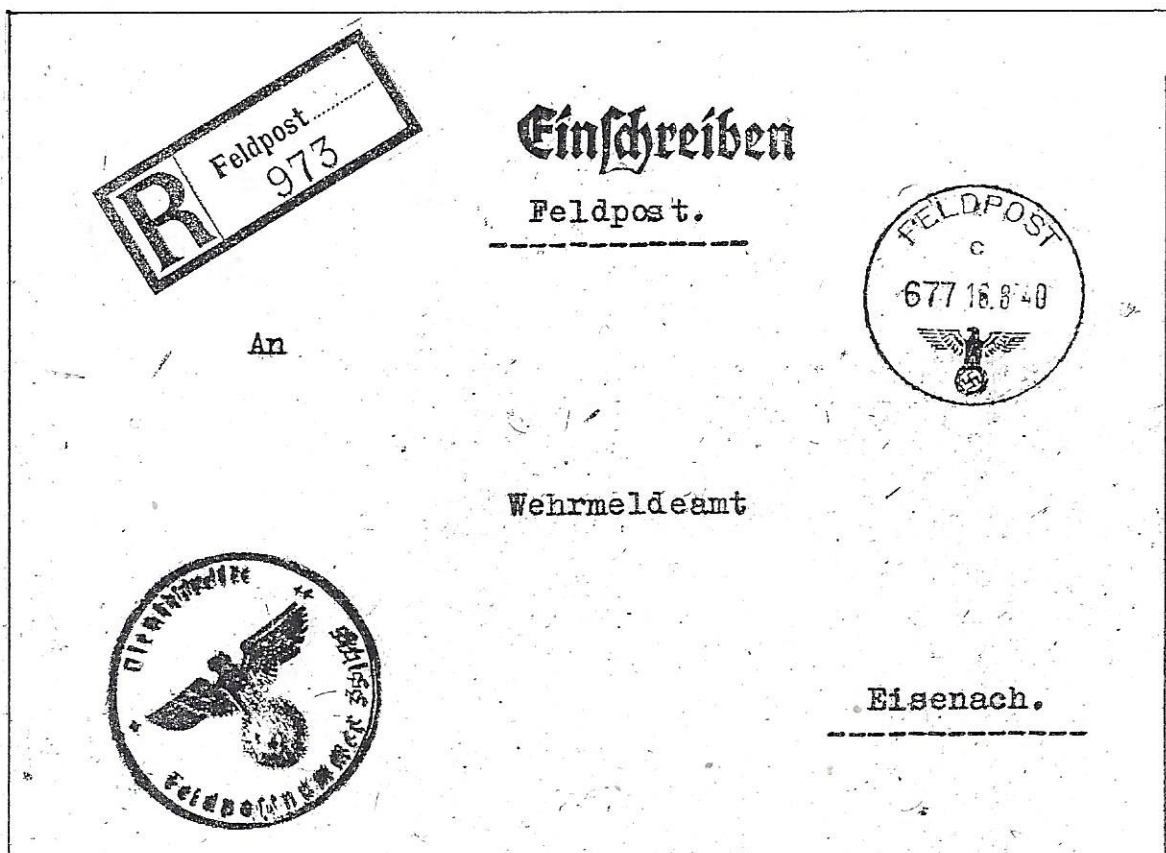
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 169th Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL	
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
230	677	378	379	392	230	230

This division was created in January 1940 (7th Wave) from existing replacement training (Ersatz) units. The division post office unit (Feldpostamt or FpA) was assigned Feldpost # 30695 to be used as a return address. In addition, this post office was assigned Kenn 677 for registered mail in lieu of its tactical designation FpA 230. After seeing action during the French campaign in 1940, the 169th Infantry Division was sent to Finland via Norway in 1941 and was an element of XXXVI Army Corps during the initial drive on Murmansk. After being repulsed, the 169th Infantry Division remained in the Kandalaska area of Lapland for more than two years and took part in many actions against the Russians, although the strategic port of Murmansk was never captured.

After Finland made a separate peace with the Soviets, the 169th Infantry Division took part in the retreat to Norway and was functioning as a field training division in March 1945. It was still in Norway when Germany surrendered.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Eisenach in August 1940 from Fp. # 35176 (Company 2, Infantry Signals Battalion 230) via division FpA 230 (K-677).

Postal Rate Corrections

by Rex A. Dixon

The following are comments/corrections to Bob Ferguson's 3-part article in Bulletins 162-164

Internal Rates

- 1.) Omitted is the 250-500 gm local letter rate for the first period which is the same as for second period.
- 7.) The Braille rates are incorrect. The Brail rate was 3 Pf for up to 5 Kg.
- 8.) I.) The two lines "to 20 gm...8 Pf" and "20-250 gm...15 Pf." are spurious and should be deleted.
- 24.) "375 Kg" should read "375 Km" (twice).
- 26.) Omitted is requirement that until 14 July 1938 pneumatic mail required the express delivery fee to be paid as well as the Rohrpost fee.
- 32.) Until 11 Sept. 1941, the fees quoted include 15 Pf normal delivery fee. After that date, the 15 pf normal fee was still payable so the reductions in fees quoted are more apparent than real. Also, express delivery fees for letter post were omitted. They are:

30 January 1933 - 12 August 1944

Local delivery - 40 Pf.

Non-local delivery - 80 Pf.

- 37.) An *Einlieferungschein* is a Dispatch Receipt (certificate of posting) not a Delivery Receipt.

Foreign Rates

- 3.) & 5.) The end date for these rates to Hungary should be 30 June 1942, not 20 June.
- 7 - omission.) Inland rates for printed matter applied to Hungary throughout period stated up to the internal weight limit of 500gm.
- 14.) Internal rates to the General Gouvernement applied from 1 March 1940 not 1 April.
- 15.) Dates for mail service should read "1 April 1939"; "17 July 1939" and "1 October 1940"
- 16.) Reduction to Luxembourg (correct English spelling) from 10 May 1940 is misleading. Inland rates applied for the whole period under consideration, from before 30 January 1933 - see below.
The use of German internal rates to the listed countries, excluding Luxembourg, for the listed dates applied, at most, to basic rates for dispatch. It did not apply to ancillary fees such as express delivery, COD, insurance, etc. The exception is the airmail fee from 1 April 1943
- 18 - omission.) This statement re use of German internal rates to pre-Anschluss Austria also applied to the Saar (until 28 Feb. 1935), to Lithuania including Memel (until 31 Jan. 1936), to Danzig & Luxembourg.

From Ye Olde Ed. Many thanks to TRSG member Rex Dixon for providing these corrections and comments to Bob Ferguson's very fine article on postal rates. While we did not retain Bob's original manuscript, I'm quite certain that some of the errors are due to typos or faulty transcribing by the editorial staff. The only important thing is to provide our membership with the most accurate information possible

The Stalingrad Madonna

by Kelly Stefanacci



Several members have seen postcards with this image and asked for details on the 'Stalingrad Madonna'. It was created in 1942 in the ruins of Stalingrad in the days before Christmas. The bunker used by the Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Kurt Reuber, was divided into two compartments by a hanging blanket. On one side of this blanket the doctor tended the wounded and dying. On the other side were his tiny living and sleeping quarters in which he drew a picture for those poor men's celebration of Christmas, the last Christmas most of them would ever see. He knew that words no longer meant much to them, but that their eyes could still see. And in silence this picture of the Mother, with her child swathed in a white mantle seemed to reveal an inner light and entered into his comrade's souls. What the doctor and his comrades underwent is described in his last letter:

"Christmas week has come and gone. It has been a week of watching and waiting, of deliberate resignation and confidence. The days were filled with the noise of battle and there were many wounded to be attended to. I wondered for a long while what I should draw, and in the end I decided on a Madonna, or mother and child. I have turned my hole in the frozen mud into a studio. The space is too small for me to be able to see the picture properly, so I climb upon a stool and look down at it from above, to get the perspective right. Everything is repeatedly knocked over, and my pencils vanish into the mud. There is no easel for hold my big picture so I used a sloping, homemade table that I can just manage to squeeze by. There are no proper materials so I have used the back of a Russian map for paper. But I wish I could tell you how absorbed I have been drawing my Madonna, and how much it means to me."

"The picture looks like this: the mother's head and the child's lean toward each other with a large cloak enfolding them both and symbolizing 'security' and 'mother love.' I remembered the words of St. John: light, life, and love and added them on the border. When we opened our 'Christmas Door', as we used to do on other Christmases (only now it was the wooden door of our dug-out), my comrades stood spellbound and reverent, silent before the picture that hung on the clay wall. A lamp was burning on a board stuck into the clay beneath the picture. Our celebrations in the shelter were dominated by this picture, and it was with full hearts that my comrades read the words: light, life and love."

The Madonna drawing was rescued before the fall of Stalingrad and is now displayed in a chapel of the Kaiser-Wilhelm Church in the Charlottenburg District of Berlin.

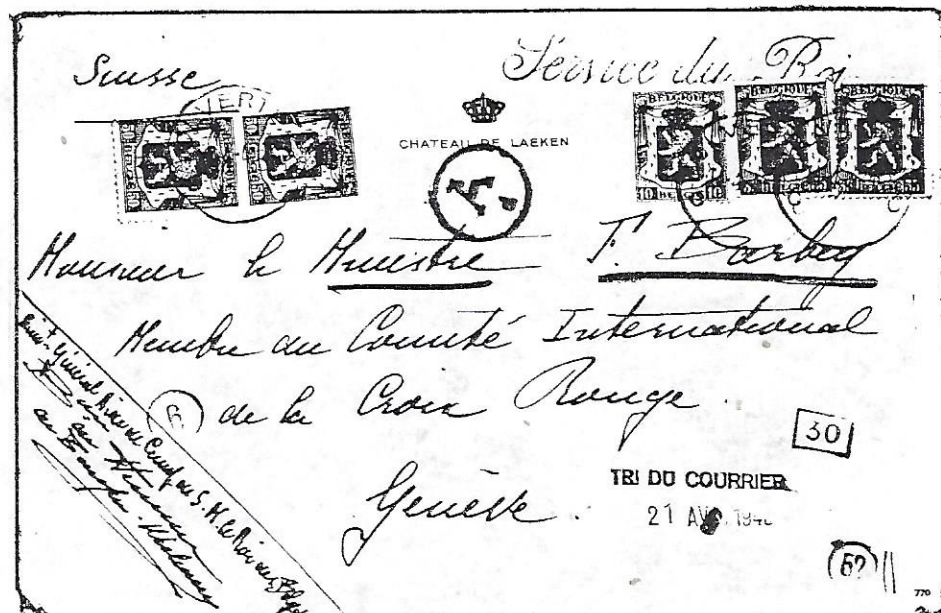
King Leopold III - Royal POW Mail

by Kelly Stefanacci

Prince Leopold of Belgium was born in Brussels on November 3, 1901. Although just a teenager, Crown Prince Leopold fought as a private during World War I with the 12th Belgian Regiment. At the end of the war he was enrolled at St. Anthony Seminary in Santa Barbara, California. On November 4, 1926 he married Princess Astrid, the youngest daughter of Prince Charles of Sweden, who bore him three children, Joséphine-Charlotte, Baudouin and Albert. Crown Prince Leopold succeeded to the throne of Belgium as Leopold III on February 23, 1934 after the death of his father, King Albert I and his wife became Queen Astrid of the Belgians. King Leopold III was a sports car enthusiast and liked to drive fast on the narrow roads near their villa at Küsnacht on the shores of Lake Lucerne in Switzerland. While driving along these winding roads on August 29, 1935, Leopold lost control of the vehicle and the car plunged down into the lake, killing Astrid.

Favoring an independent foreign policy, but not strict neutrality, King Leopold III withdrew Belgium from its defensive alliance with France and from the Pact of Locarno – a peace agreement among Germany, France, Belgium, Italy and Great Britain – after German occupation of the Rhineland in 1936. Determined to resist aggression, he sponsored construction of a fortified defense line facing Germany from Antwerp to Namur. With the outbreak of World War II, Leopold assumed supreme command of the Belgian Army, hoping that Fort Eban Emael, a breastwork of concrete and steel, would hold until Allied and Belgian reinforcements arrived. The Germans took the fort on May 10, 1940, the first day of the attack, landing glider troops on the roof, destroying gun ports with explosives and capturing 1200 defenders. On May 28 Leopold surrendered his army to the Germans against the advice of his cabinet and without informing the French and British forces in his country. His cabinet fled first to Bordeaux and then to London, forming a government-in-exile and urging Leopold to abdicate. Leopold refused to flee Belgium, fearing that it would give Hitler a pretext for dividing his country into separate states for Dutch speaking Flemings in the North and French speaking Walloons in the South. As Hitler considered him to be Nazi-friendly, he was allowed to return to Chateau de Laken, the royal residence near Brussels.

Fig. 1) Addressed to the International Red Cross in Geneva and posted in Wolvert, Belgium on April 14, 1943, envelope is imprinted “(crown)/CHATEAU DE LAEKEN” and has violet hand stamp “Service du Roi” (Royal Service). Munich censors added the “Ad” transit stamp and boxed inspector numbers. Letter was delivered via courier on April 21, 1943.



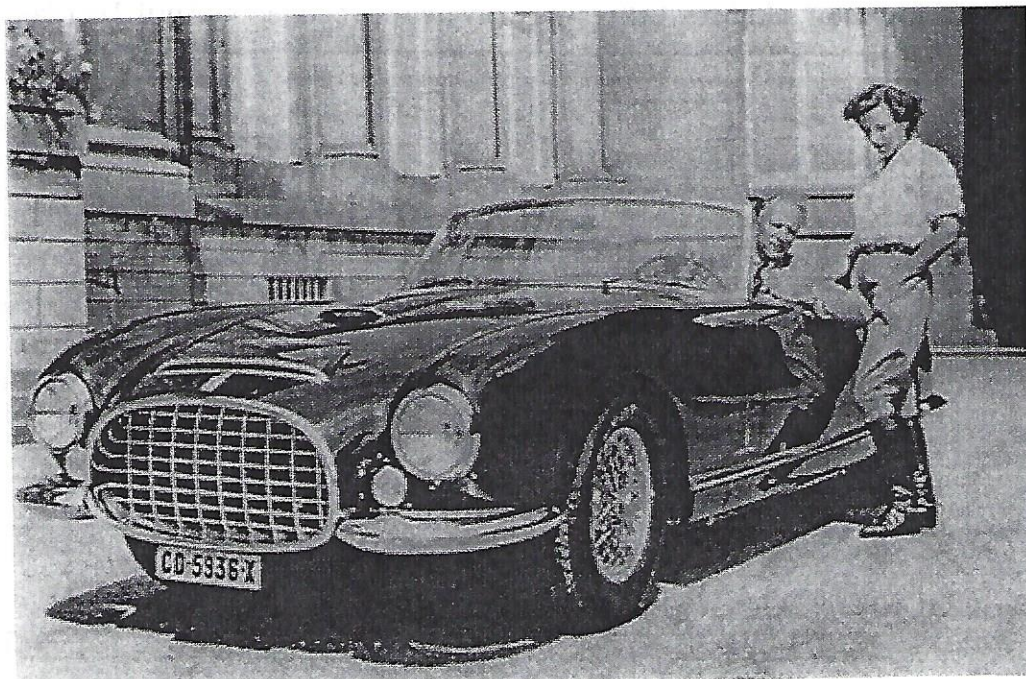
Leopold's freedom was only marginally restricted, although his entourage told the Belgian people that he was living in captivity at Laken as a POW. However, when he went to see Hitler in Berchtesgarden in November 1940, he failed to obtain from Hitler a guarantee that Belgium would not be split, and fell into a deep depression. In January 1941 Leopold's mother Elizabeth, sent her chauffeur to Biarritz to fetch Liliane Baels. She was the daughter of Hendrik Baels, who Leopold had appointed Governor of the province of West Flanders in 1933. Elizabeth judged the beautiful 24-year old to be the perfect medicine for her son's despondency. Lilian was but demanded his "exclusive" attention by becoming his wife. The King realized that his advisors would object but married her in secret on September 11, 1941. She soon became pregnant so there was a civil marriage on December 8, which became public knowledge. The political effect was devastating because Leopold's advisors had promoted an image of the King as a poor widower and prisoner of war, to mitigate the hardship of the Belgian people in the deprivations of the war years. Because of public indignation to the marriage, Leopold didn't dare grant the title of Queen to his new wife. She was only granted the title of Princess de Réthy, after a domain owned by the royal family.

When the Allies landed in France in 1944, Himmler ordered King Leopold deported to Germany while Princess Liliane followed with the royal children in another car. They were held in custody in a fort at Hirschstein in Saxony through the winter of 1944-45, and then at Strobl, near Salzburg, before being liberated by the U.S. Army in May 1945.

After the war Leopold and his family went into exile in Switzerland. Political problems prevented Leopold from returning to Belgium until July 1950 and, although he was endorsed by a referendum, he was met with strikes and other protests. King Leopold III abdicated on July 16, 1951 in favor of his 20-year-old son Baudoin. Leopold and Liliane continued to live at Laken until 1960 when Baudoin married the Spanish Princess Fabiola. Apparently the pious Fabiola and the worldly Liliane did not get on well. They then moved permanently to Argenteuil, near Waterloo with the three children from their marriage.

King Leopold died on September 25, 1983 at Woluwe-Saint-Lambert and is interred with his wives in the royal vault at the Church of Our Lady in Laken. Liliane died June 7, 2002 in Argenteuil.

Fig. 2) Leopold's love of sporty cars continued during his long retirement. Here he is shown in 1953 at the wheel of a Ferrari 342 America Cabriolet while his wife Liliane admires the paint job.



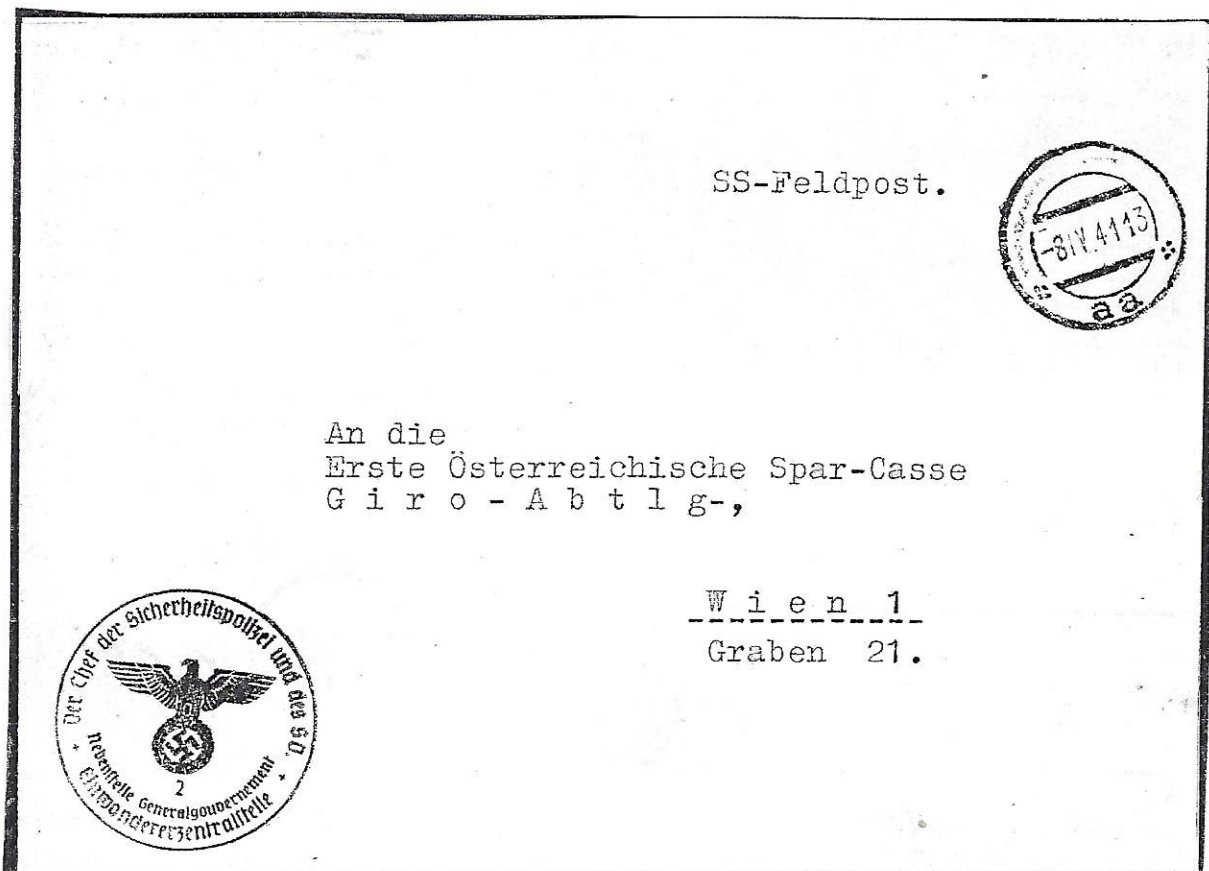
SS Feldpost

SS Central Immigration Office

by John R. Painter

One of the many functions assigned to Himmler's SS was that of controlling the expulsion of native populations. This was considered a police activity so the task fell upon Heydrich's Main Office for National Security (RSHA). Under the RSHA was the **Einwandererzentralstelle** (Immigration Central Office) that was used to keep track of the many transients in occupied Poland as well as to assist those Polish families who had been expelled from the annexed provinces to make room for the German resettlers. They were also responsible for arresting those who objected to being moved.

This cover was sent in April 1941 to a Savings Bank in Austria from SS Ustut. Franz Pfaffener, Post Office Box 189, Warsaw C 1. The clear strike of the Dienstsiegel shows the sender's unit as the Nebenstelle (branch office) of the Einwandererzentralstelle in the Generalgouvernement. Note the stumme (mute) cancel used on Feldpost by the German postal service in Warsaw.

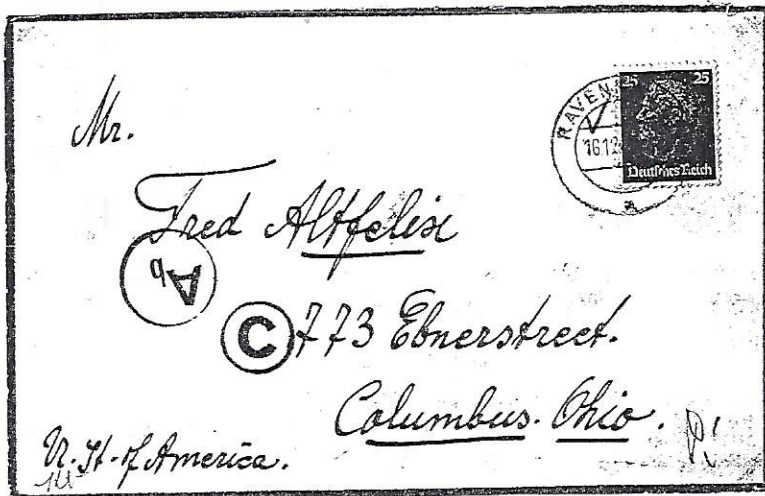
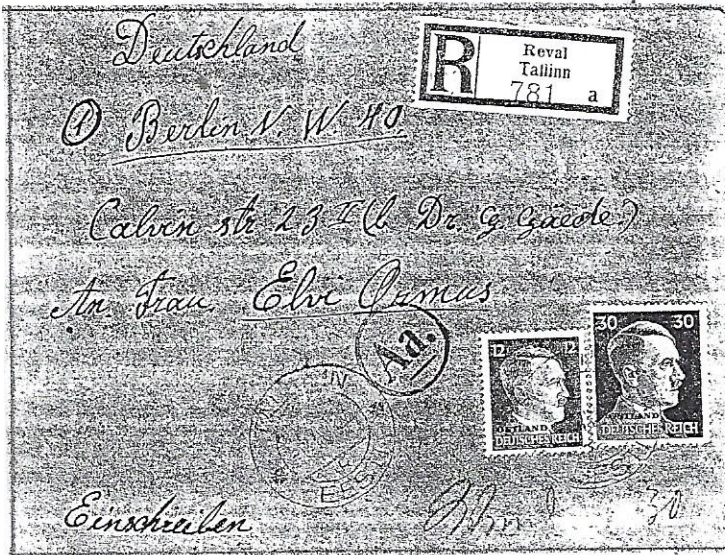
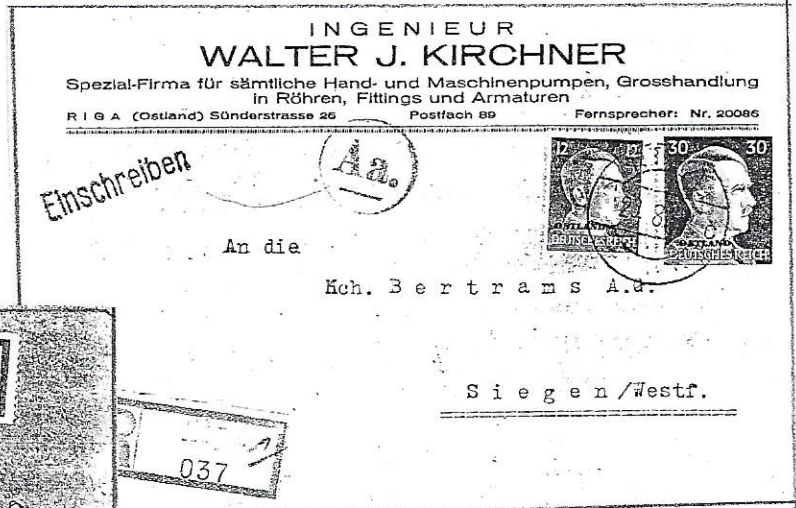


German Censorship: Transit Stamps

by Jim Lewis

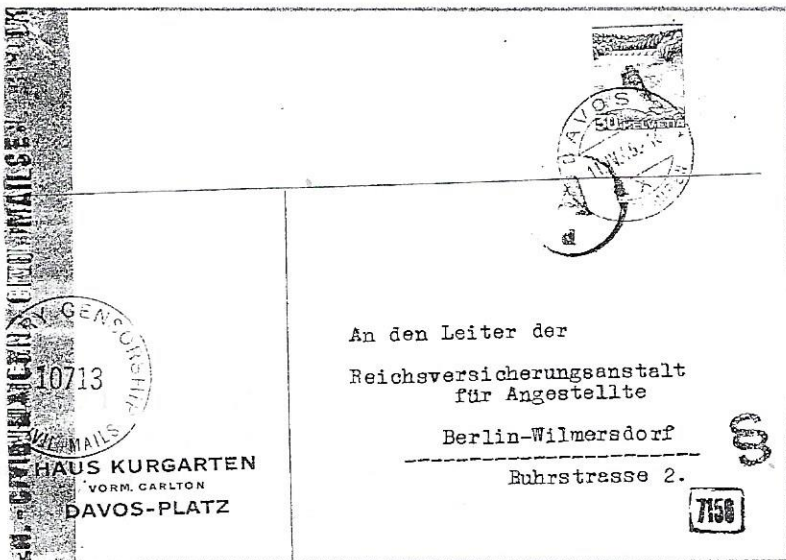
A specialized collection could be formed from covers passed unopened by German censor offices that bear a **Durchgangsstempel** (transit stamp). These transit stamps are circular and contain both an upper case "A" for **Auslandbriefprüfstelle** (Foreign mail examining office) and lower case letter indicating the office. The following covers from Myron Fox's award winning exhibit show the some of the interesting usages and variations to be found.

- 1) Königsburg (Code a) - Transit stamp with a hook on the bottom of the "a" on upper cover was used from March 1940 to early 1944. The "a" on lower cover with no hook and smaller 6mm underline was used in April 1944.



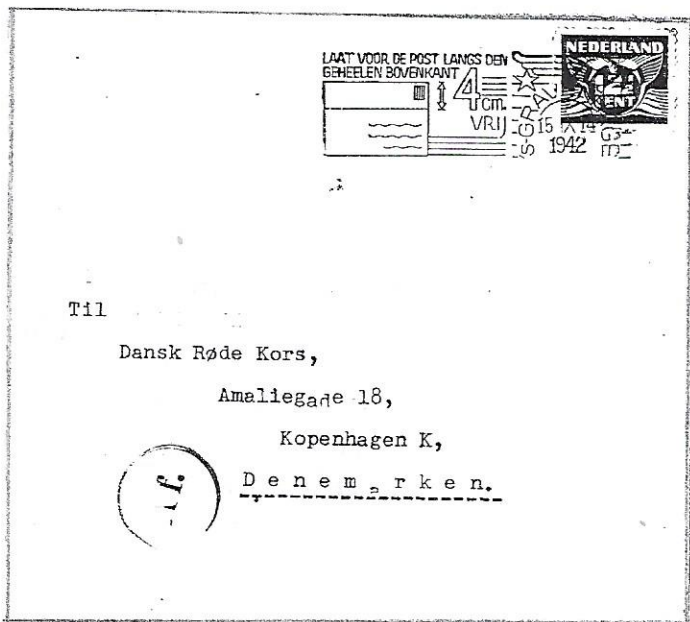
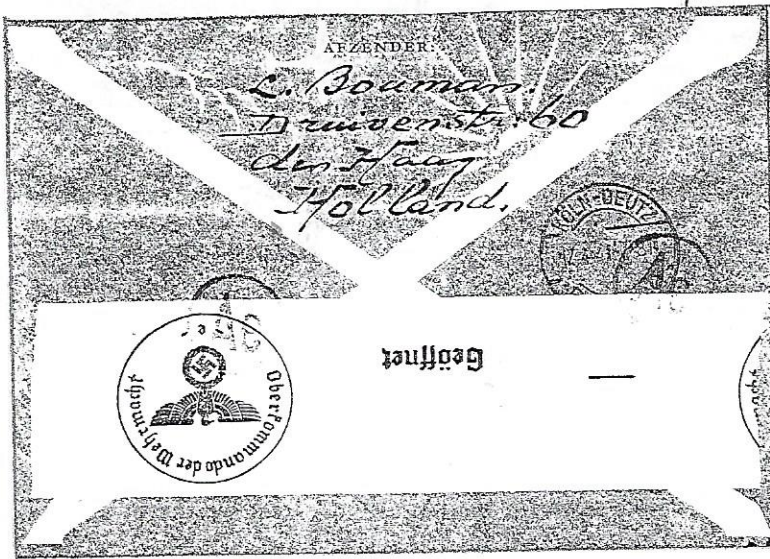
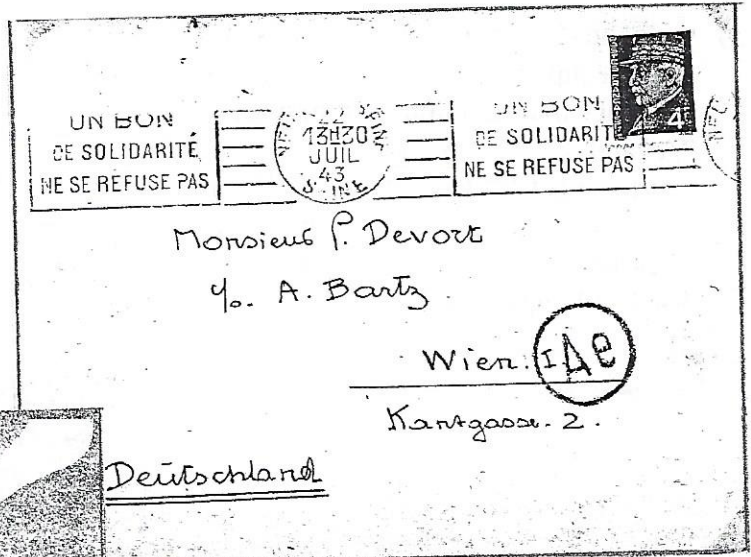
- 2) Berlin (Code-b) - Large 34mm diameter transit stamp on upper cover was used from August 1940 to August 1941. Smaller stamp on lower cover used after August 1941. The circle "C" mark appears on some Berlin office covers from August 1940 to January 1941 but its purpose is unknown.

- 3) Cologne (Code c) - Upper cover sent from occupied Holland to Germany in 1941 has transit stamp with periods after "A" and "c", the common variety used from August 1940 to January 1943. The lower cover has a variety with no periods after letters in circle used from August 1944 to January 1945.



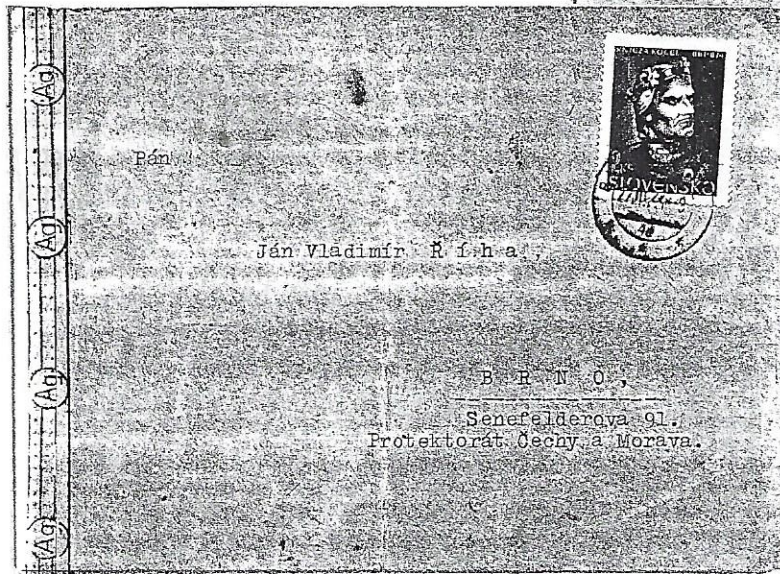
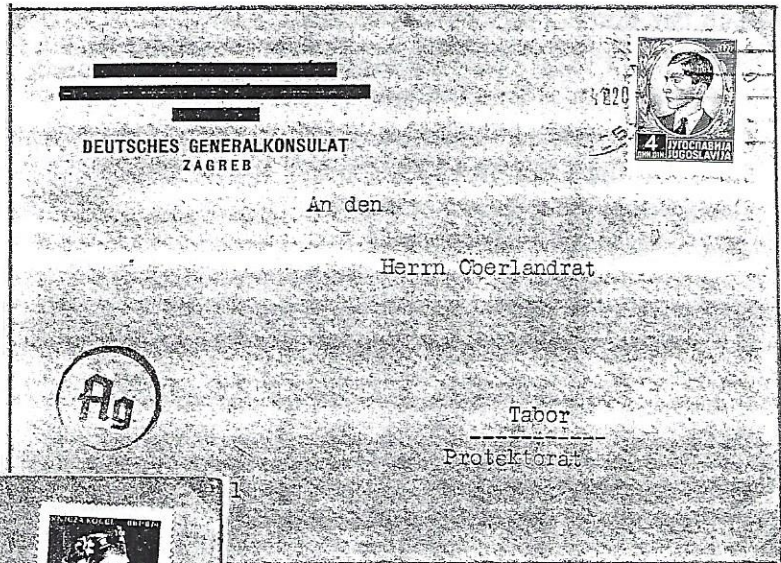
- 4) Munich (Code d) – Cover from Switzerland sent April 1945 has normal Munich transit hand stamp. Seized by advancing U.S. Army at close of war and bearing U.S. Military censorship hand stamp and seal. This is a so-called Überroller or overrun cover.

5) Frankfurt A/M (Code e) - Cover at top sent from occupied France to Vienna in 1943 has normal transit stamp that usually print blue or black. Cover at bottom has a normal transit hand stamp used as a temporary examining stamp on an opened and resealed letter.

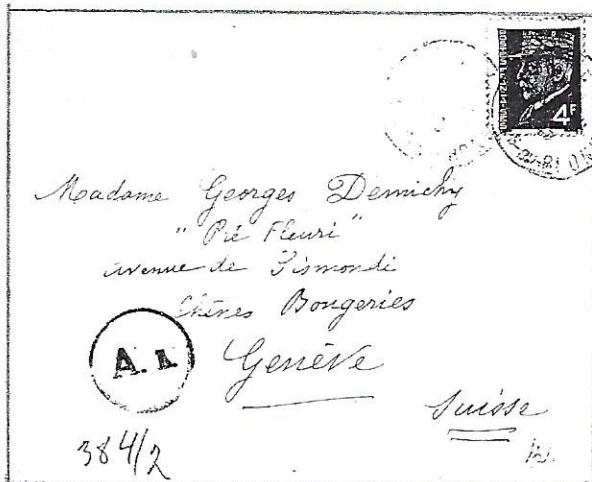


6) Frankfurt (Code f) – Cover from Holland to Denmark sent September 1942 has transit hand stamp used from December 1940 to June 1943.

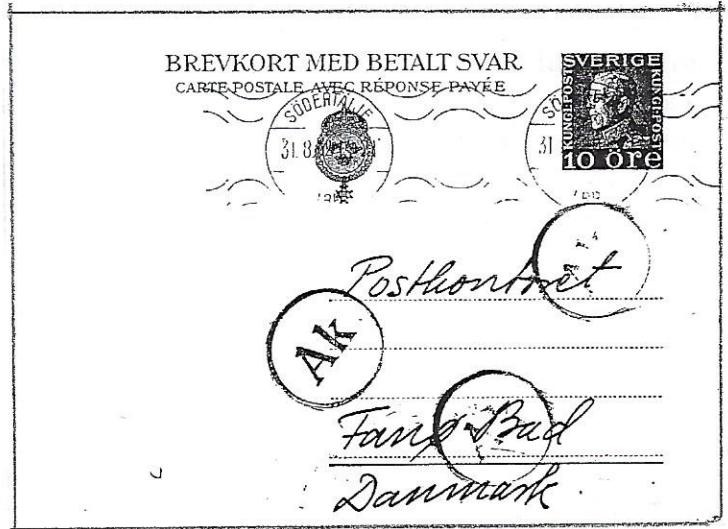
7) Vienna (Code g) - Upper cover is official mail from German Consul in Zagreb, Yugoslavia with normal transit hand stamp used August 1941 to December 1943. Left side of the lower cover sent from Slovenia to Moravia has a transit machine stamp used from February to July 1944.



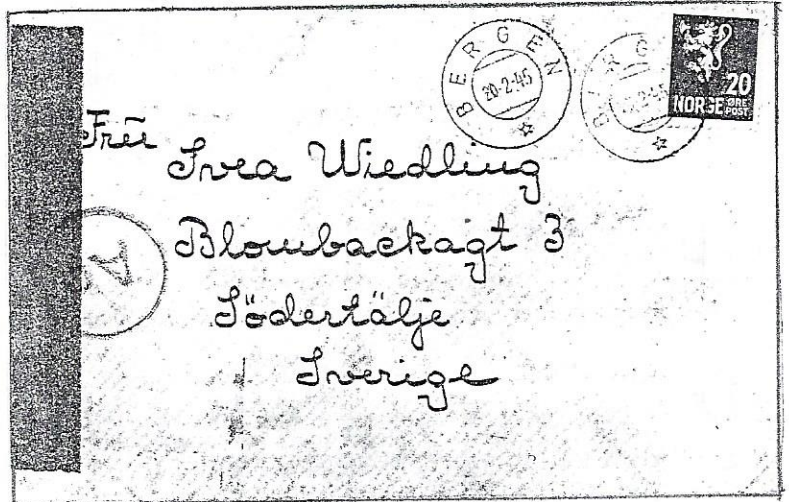
8) Lyon (Code l) – Cover from France to Switzerland has transit hand stamp used in Lyon, France from August 1943 to the beginning of 1944.



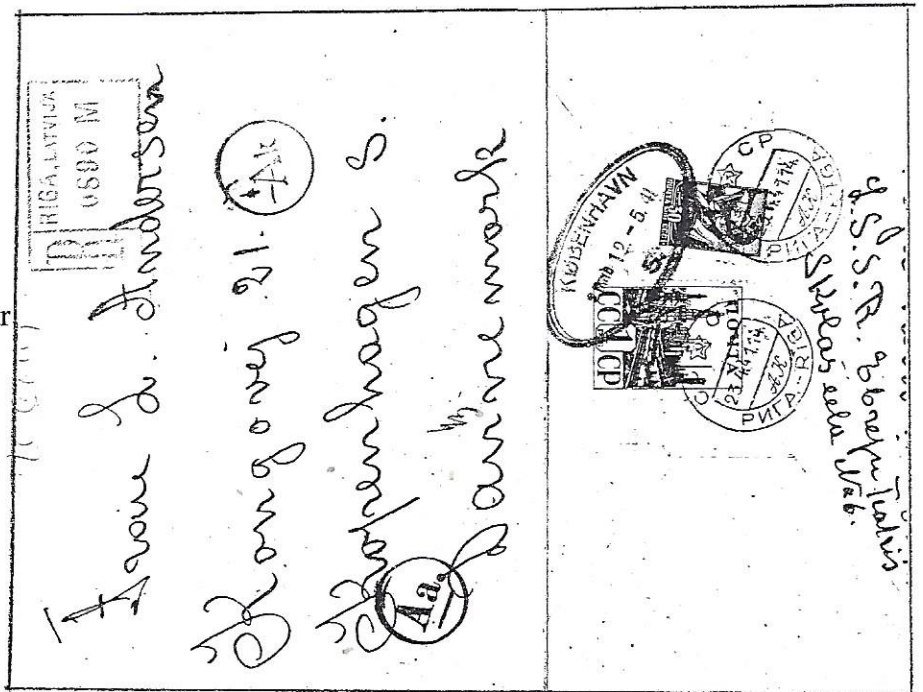
- 9) Copenhagen (Code k) – Postal card sent from Sweden to Denmark in 1943 has normal transit stamp used from January 1943 to March 1945. Note that the examiner tried three times before he succeeded to get a clear strike.



- 10) Oslo (Code o) – Letter sent from Norway to Sweden in 1945 with normal Oslo transit stamp used from August 1944 to April 1945 that was apparently used as a hand stamp on opened mail closed with provisional blank sealing tape.



- 11) Two transit stamps) – Registered letter sent from Riga, Latvia (then part of USSR) to Denmark in May 1941 was passed unopened by two censor offices. Opened for display, this cover has "Aa" stamp of Königsberg office and 20mm circular "Ak" transit stamp used by the Copenhagen office from May to September 1941.



Mystery Markings on Munich Censored Covers

by Jim Lewis

TRSGer Ed Fraser brought to my attention an unusual postal marking found on a cover sent from Lisbon, Portugal to Denmark on Nov. 30, 1943. Examined by the German censors in Munich, the cover has no return address and a postage stamp was removed. Shown below (bottom), the cover has censor tape plus hand stamps 5562, 6016, 74, 31, numeral "1" and an "Edelweiss" above the "74".

Ed found a comment on page 77 of Riemer's censor handbook [Ref.] following his detailing of all known proofer stamps including size, shape and colors. Riemer notes that one finds other kinds of handstamps on censored mail and gives examples such as 11mm diameter circle stamps with Roman numerals I to VI, etc. He says that these markings were applied by postal employees and officials but not by censors. He then notes that in addition to letters and numbers, symbols such as a "helix" (illustrated) and a symbol resembling an "Edelweiss" (not illustrated) are also found but the meaning of these markings is so far unknown. Shown below (top), a "helix" symbol appears under (Schweiz) on this Munich censored cover sent to Switzerland in February 1945 from the Italian Red Cross in Berlin.

Ed was told that some WWII collectors in England believe that the Edelweiss symbol "was used on covers with special interest to censors". If any of our members have information and/or theories about the purpose of these markings, please send to Ye Olde Ed for a Study Group Notes follow up.



Ref] Karl-Heinz Riemer: Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch Deutsche Dienststellen, (Poststempelgilde "Rhein-Donau"), Heft 88, 1979, p.77

The Rhineland Referendum of 1936

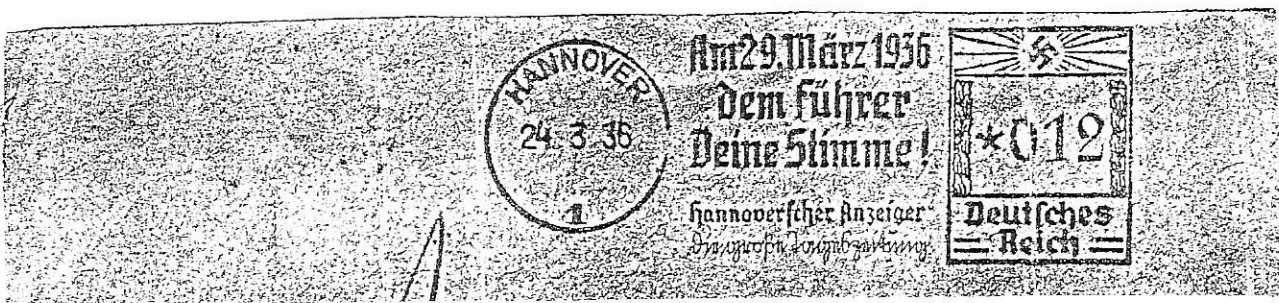
by John Rawlings

Hitler took the greatest gamble of his career on March 7, 1936 when four brigades of the German army marched across the Rhine bridges to symbolically reoccupy the demilitarized zone. His pretext for this challenge to the post-war balance of power in Europe was the signing on February 27th of the Franco-Soviet Alliance but "Operation Schulung" had been in preparation since May 2, 1935 when General von Blomberg issued his first secret directive for planning to begin.

The news of the entry of German troops into the Rhineland was first revealed to a startled world by the Fuhrer himself in a speech to a meeting of the Reichstag in the Kroll Opera House just hours after the event. His casual announcement that "...in the Reich's western provinces German troops are at this time marching into their future peacetime garrisons.." brought the entire house to its feet but made his generals distinctly nervous. It was, Hitler later confessed, the most nerve-racking moment of his life since he was fully aware that German units would have been obliged to beat a hasty and undignified retreat if the French had responded with force. However, Hitler's shrewd assessment of the mood of the Western powers proved correct. The British government ignored French warnings and, when the blow fell, neither nation had the political will to face their treaty obligations and the risk of war.

Having made his move, Hitler immediately and instinctively set about securing democratic support for a national referendum on his action to be held three weeks later on March 29th. The Nazi propaganda machine made full use of the radio and the press in the run up to the vote and at least one provincial newspaper sought to emphasize its political credentials by using the pro-Nazi slogan shown in Fig. 1 below in the automatic canceling machine in its Hannover office.

Fig. 1) Meter postmark used in late March 1936 states "Vote for the Leader on March 29th 1936 – Hannover Anzeiger, the great daily paper".



On March 26th the Reichspost introduced a similar slogan (Fig. 2) in canceling machines used by post offices in 134 towns and cities throughout the nation. The simple message, "Your Vote for the Leader" is normally found as a single slogan to the left of the date stamp.

(Fig. 2) The standard Reichspost propaganda cancellation



The Mannheim 2 post office used a roller cancellation with the same slogan in a larger format (Fig. 3)

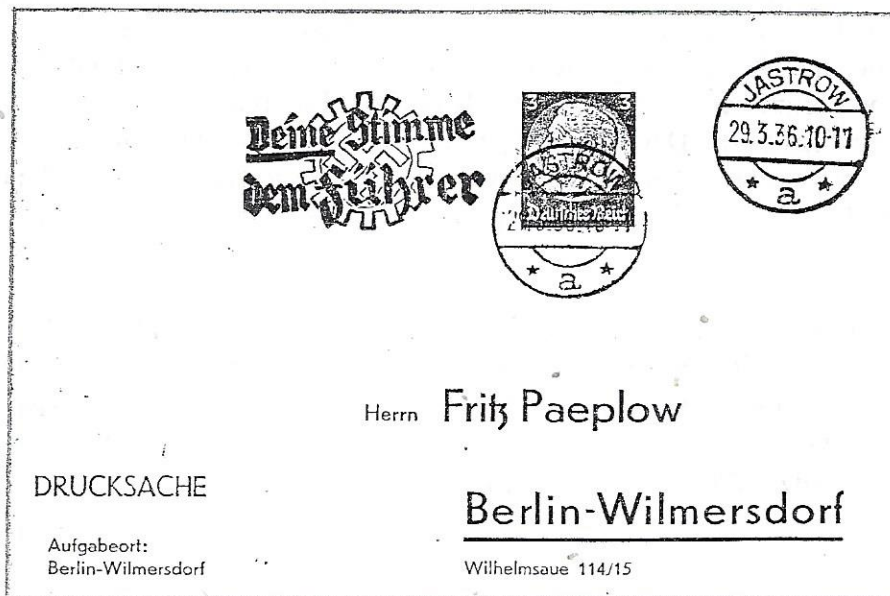
(Fig. 3)



These slogans were used on mail during the period March 21-31, 1936.

A number of similar slogans were also produced privately and used as cachets in at least fifteen German towns and cities during the same ten-day period. As shown in Fig. 4, their design features the standard exhortation to vote for the Führer superimposed on a swastika within a cogwheel. The fact that this symbol was the emblem of the German Labor Front (D. A. F.) seems to suggest that local branches of that organization may have prepared these cachets. The example illustrated below (Fig. 4) was posted in Jastrow on behalf of a Berlin dealer. The Bochmann catalog lists these slogans under 'Privatstempel' (Heft 26-Lieferung 18) and names the following fourteen towns as having used them: Berlin, Braunschweig, Breslau, Eberswalde, Frankfurt/Main, Furstenwalde, Hanau, Leer, Marburg (Lahn), Melsungen, Neumarkt (Oberpfalz), Oestrich, Schwarzenberg and Stuttgart. The town of Jastrow is not included and it is therefore likely that the list is incomplete.

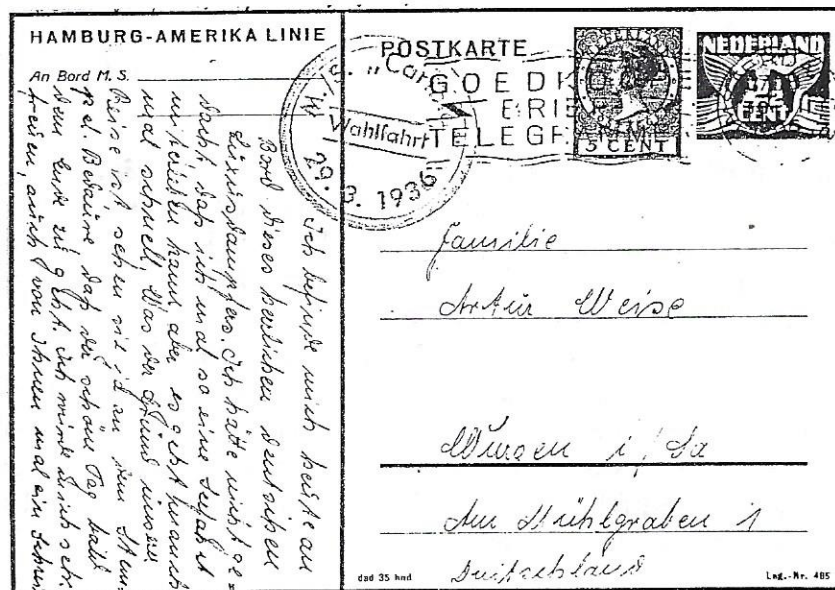
Fig. 4) Philatelic cover has privately produced cachet urging support for Hitler in the referendum.



With the previous practice during the first plebiscite for the return of the Saarland in 1934 as an example, the election officials in 1936 would have been equally anxious to secure the votes of those who would be away from home or abroad on polling day. Registration cards for postal voting, similar to those issued in August 1934 probably exist and efforts were certainly made to allow German nationals abroad to cast their votes. German ships in foreign ports held polls on board on the appointed day, though it is not clear whether efforts were made to attract all Germans living within the local area or whether voting was restricted to eligible passengers. In such cases the poll would take place just outside the territorial waters of the country concerned. Little information is available about these foreign polls and, as far as I am aware, only one shipboard cachet recording the event is known from this referendum.

On March 28, 1936 the Hamburg-America liner 'Caribia' left Hamburg en route to South and Central America and the West Indies. The following day was polling day and polling took place on board while the ship was in Amsterdam. This event commemorated with the special circular cachet shown in Fig. 5

Fig. 5) Postcard written by one of the passengers and posted in Amsterdam on March 30, 1936 has a violet "Wahlfahrt" (Voting Voyage) cachet used on the 'Caribia' on March 29.



The result of the poll was, of course, never in doubt. Most Germans were thoroughly delighted with what Hitler had just achieved and registered their approval with a 98.8% "Yes" vote. The official figures claimed a 99% turn out of the 45,453,691 registered voters and only 540,211 "No" votes were recorded. Another interesting aspect of the Rhineland Referendum was the involvement of the two operational airships of the Deutsche Zeppelin Reederei, "Graf Zeppelin" and the new LZ 129. The German people were exhorted by every avenue of propaganda available to the regime to vote "Ja", and the prospect of having two huge Zeppelins flying around helping with the campaign was too good to resist.

The Deutschlandfahrt began on March 26, 1936 when the "Graf Zeppelin" left Fredrichshafen and the LZ 129 took off from her new base at Lowenthal. In the face of bitter opposition from Hugo Eckener, a convinced anti-Nazi but now largely without power in the DZR, the new Zeppelin took off on a very gusty morning that made handling difficult. As a result the rear lower fin was damaged in the undocking maneuver and hasty repairs were necessary before departure.

Eckener not only resented the huge red-white-black swastika banners emblazoned on the fins of both ships, but considered it demeaning that his beloved Zeppelins should be employed for what he regarded as a cheap political circus flight.

On a 74-hour 6676 kilometer flight, accompanied largely by the "Graf Zeppelin", millions of pro-government leaflets were dropped by LZ 129 urging a "Yes" vote. The "Graf's" flight lasted 10 hours longer and covered an extra 600 kilometers. Loudspeakers on the as yet unnamed LZ 129 blared patriotic messages and music to the ground, and perhaps contributed to the 99% vote in favor of the Rhineland re-occupation. Certainly all the 104 people on board voted "Yes" to a man. The leaflets dropped from both ships all bore a design showing both airships (Fig. 6) and appeared in eight different colors: buff, blue, violet, yellow, pink, light green, dark green and dark orange.

Fig. 6) Design on leaflets



Both ships had post offices on board and "Graf Zeppelin" mail comprised 'On Board' mail only with the Bordpost canceller for the 26-29 March inclusive being used. For the soon-to-be-named "Hindenburg", mail from the Friedrichshafen post office was taken aboard, cancelled on March 26 only and marked with a small oval cachet in red, the last time it was employed. Bordpost also exists from LZ 129 and the card illustrated as Fig. 7 is an example. This postcard was produced by the Zeppelin Company and bears the same cogwheel cachet shown in Fig. 4. The "Luftschiff LZ 129" Bordpost cancel was only used on two occasions, this being the second.



In retrospect, March 7, 1936 was a day of tragic and catastrophic significance for the entire world for, as William Shirer states in his definitive study of Hitler's Germany, "the two western democracies were (then) given their last chance to halt, without the risk of a serious war, the rise of a militarized, aggressive, totalitarian Germany and, in fact, as we have seen Hitler admitting-bring the Nazi dictator and his regime tumbling down. They let the chance slip by".

Sources: The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich by W. Shirer.

The Bochmann Postmark Catalog.

ED NOTE: This combines two articles originally appearing in News Sheets 79 and 82 of the British Third Reich Study Group and reprinted here with their permission.

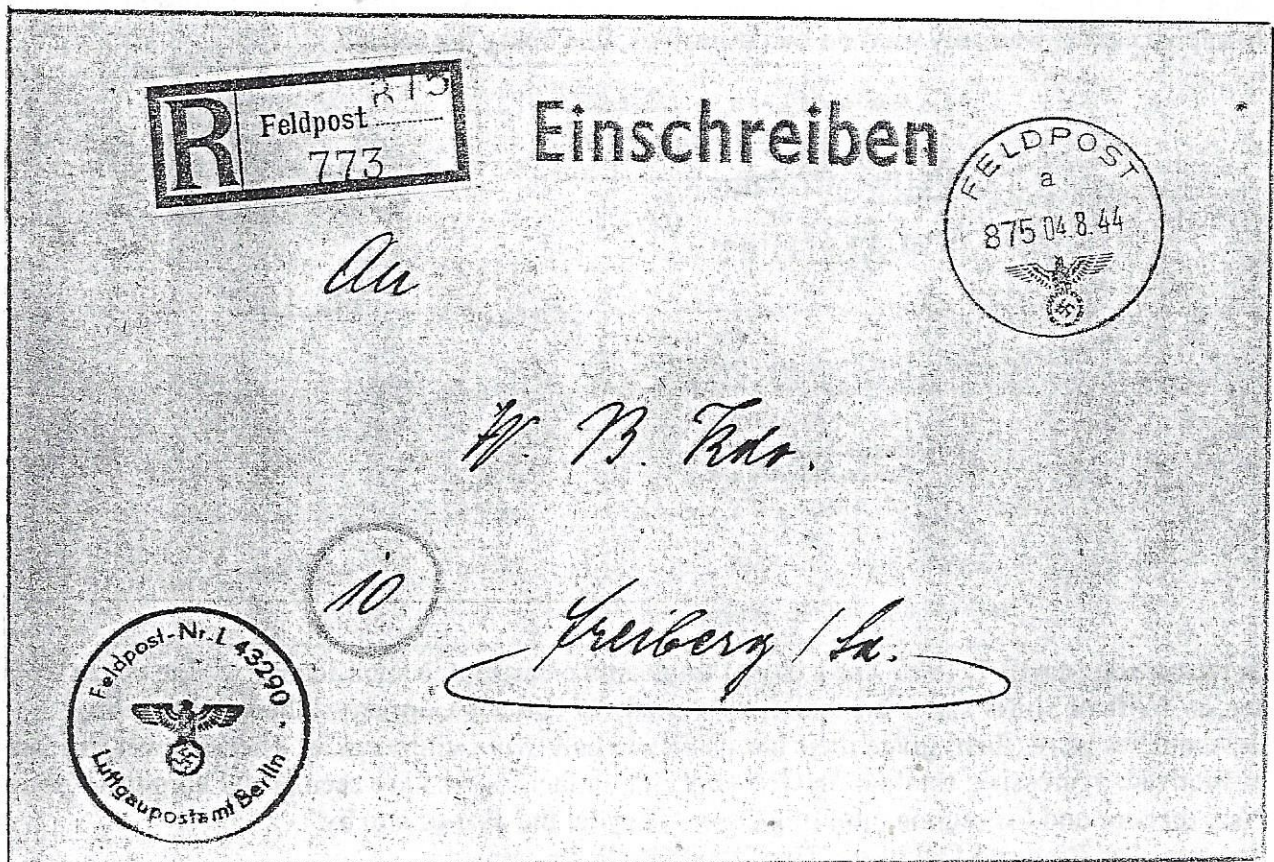
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:**274th Infantry Division**

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
274	875	862	865	274	275

The 274th Infantry Division was formed in Norway during the summer of 1943. This static division lacked motor transport and was organized around Grenadier Regiment 862 from the 347th Infantry Division and Grenadier Regiment 865 from the 348th Infantry Division. The post office was assigned Fp.# 57010 as a mailing address and Kenn 875 for registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 274.

This division spent its entire existence guarding the coast of Norway in the vicinity of Drammen (August '43 to July '44) and Stavanger (July '44 to May '45). Some small elements of the division were sent to the Western Front in June 1944.

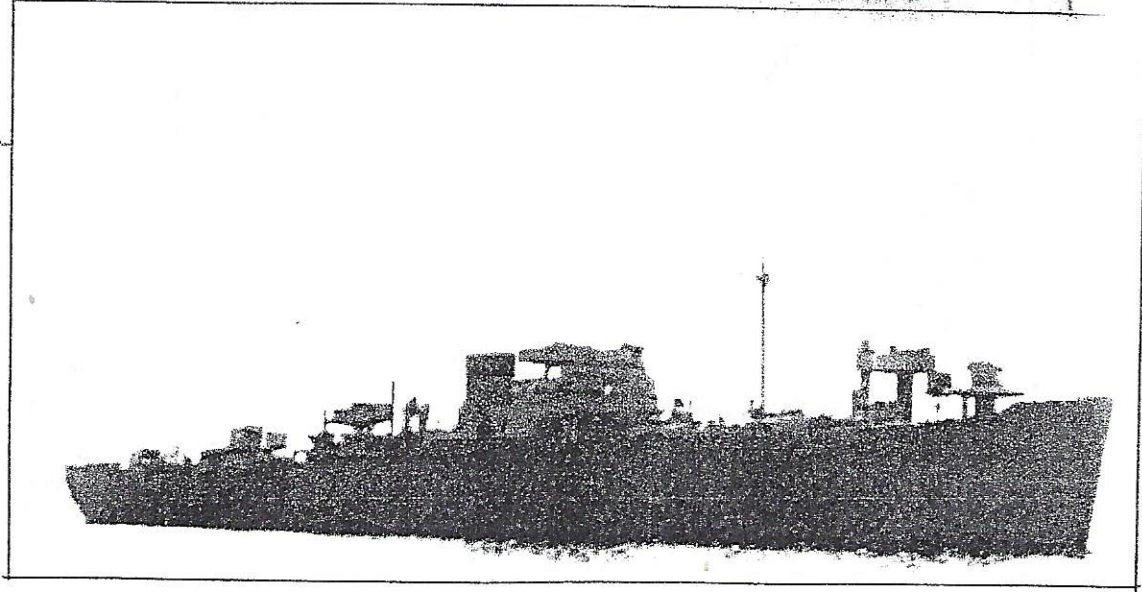
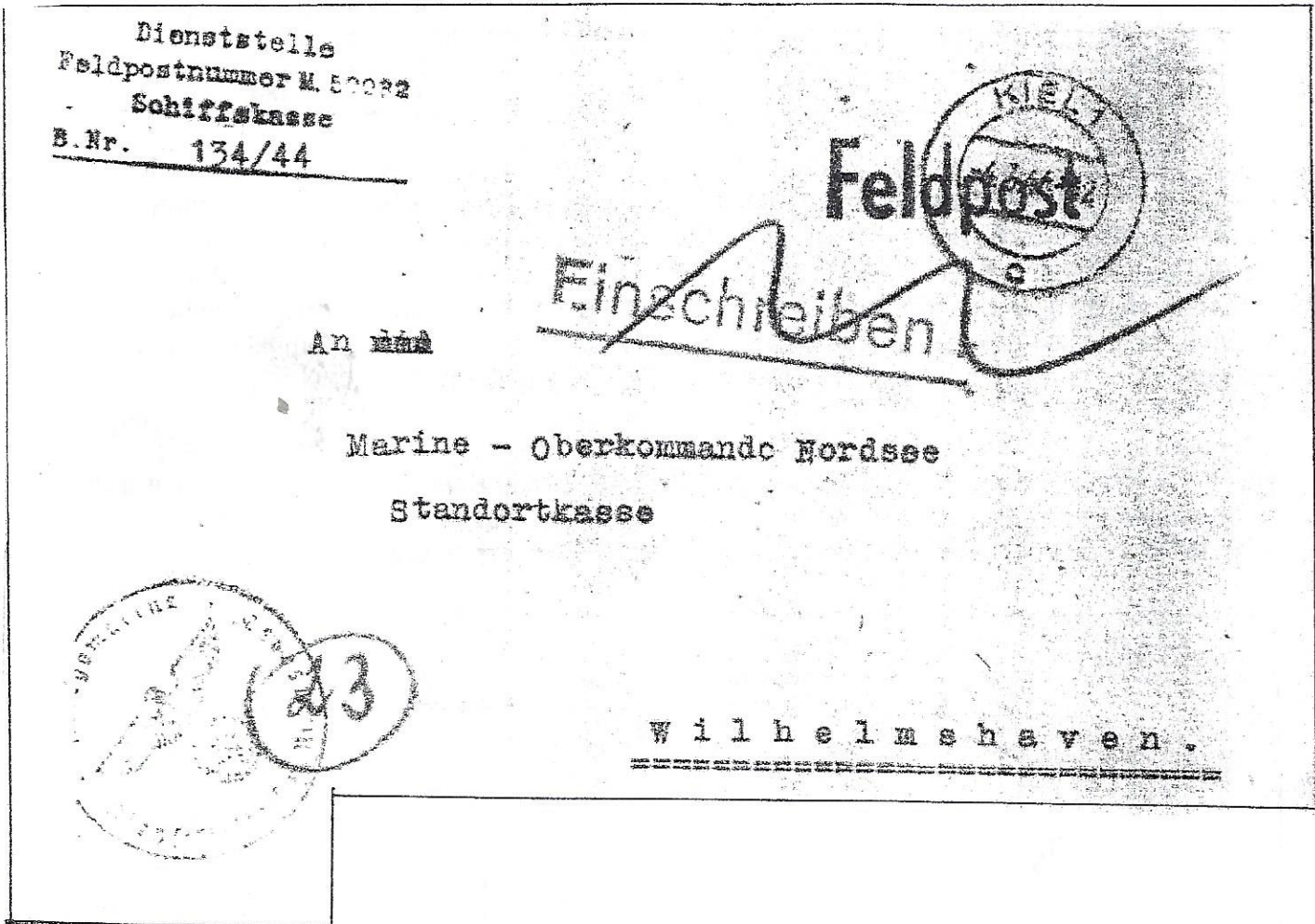


Cover sent to Military District Command in Freiberg in August 1944 from Fp. # L43290 (Kdo Norway Flughafen Bereich 22/III Stavanger) via P.O. 247 (K-875).

NAVY LOG

by Bob Dunn

Auxiliary Minelayer 'Cobra' - Feldpost # 50932



This ex-merchantman was built in 1940. Displacement: 3,374 tons, Armament: two 4.1" AA, two 37mm AA, fourteen 20mm AA and 240 mines.

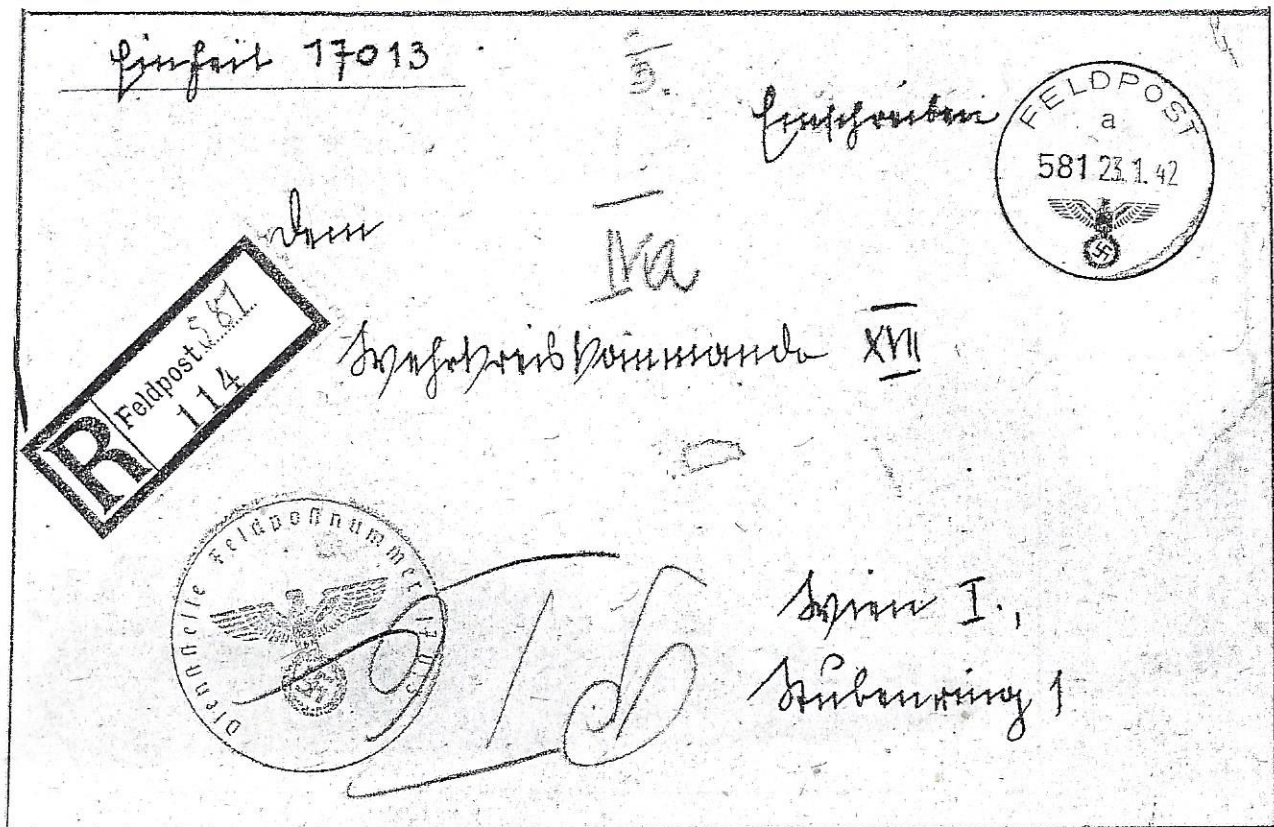
This ship survived the war, was renamed *Empire Wansbeck* and reverted to a merchantman.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 384th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	INFANTRY			ARTY	UNITS
384	581	534	535	536	384	384

The 384th Infantry Division was formed in the winter of 1941-42 (17th Wave). The post office was assigned Fp.# 01357 as a return address and Kenn 581 as a coded identity. Upon completion of training in May 1942 the division was sent to Army Group South on the Eastern Front. It fought in the Battle of Kharkov under III Panzer Corps of the 1st Panzer Army and then took part in the drive to Stalingrad. While it's combat units were surrounded by the Soviet offensive of November 1942, the division HQ was west of the Soviet thrust and escaped encirclement. The combat units and Feldpost office in Stalingrad were destroyed when German forces capitulated.

After the fall of Stalingrad the division HQ was sent to northern France to form a new 384th Infantry Division. A new FpA 384 was assigned Fp.# 40922 and Kenn 523. The division returned to the southern sector late in 1943 and fought in the Dneiper Bend battle. The division was encircled and destroyed near Kishinev, west of the lower Dnester, in August 1944.

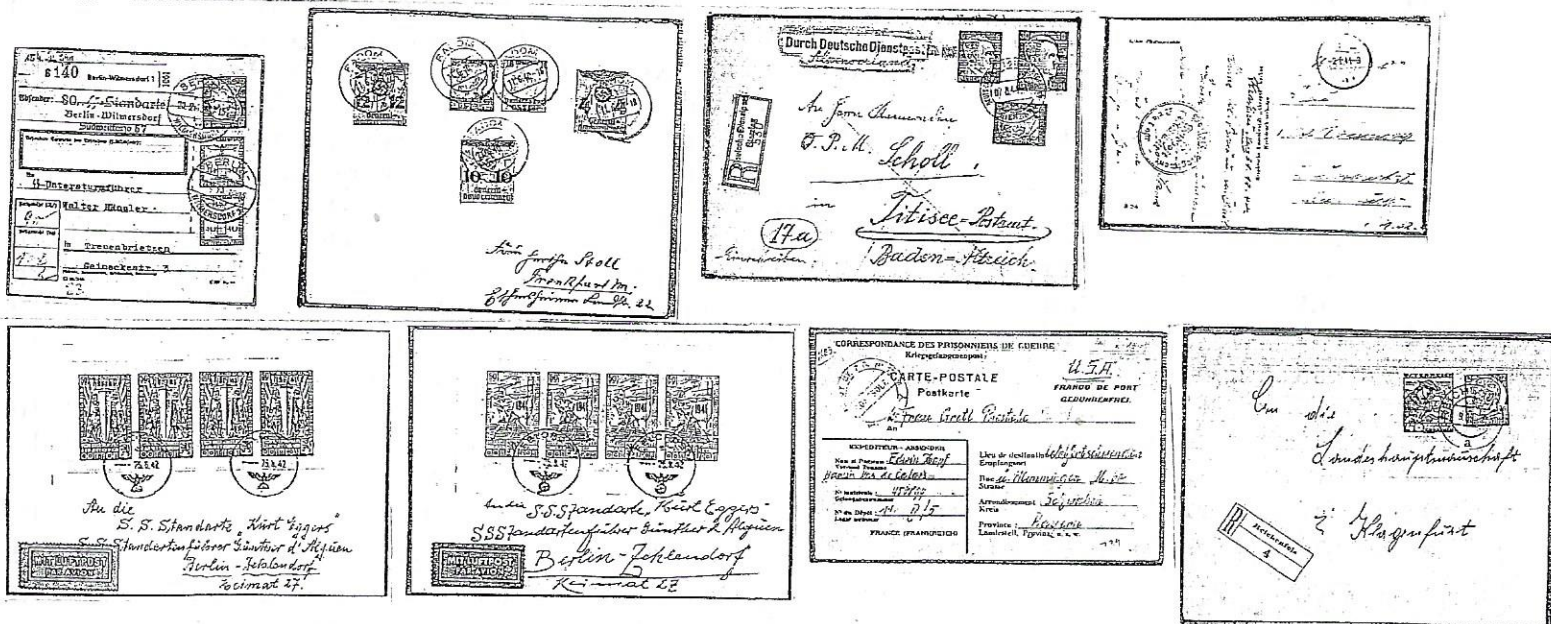


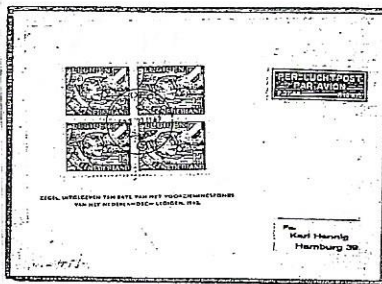
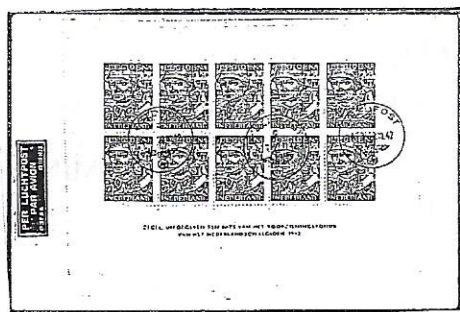
Cover sent to Military District Command in Vienna in January 1942 from Fp. # 17013 (HQ of Infantry Regiment 536) via Feldpost Office 384 (K-581).

TRSG Auction No. 108

Illustrated lots by position i.e. TL=Top Left, TLC=Top Left Center etc. All lots VF unless noted o'wise.

LOT	DESCRIPTION	MIN.
First 8 lots are Nazi Party covers w/NSDAP Franchise stamps as noted.		
1.	From S.A. Marine Brigade Kiel to Gauleiter Lubeck 6.'39 w/Mi.155 & 156	\$15
2.	Local Hitler Youth to Principle of Limburg School 6.'44 w/Mi. 160	13
3.	R-cvr frm Ludwigsburg Party to Leiter Ottmarsheim 8.'38 w/Mi.156 (2) & 161 (3)	12
4.	Printed matter from S.A. Darmstadt to Medical Officer 11.'38 w/Mi. 145	14
5.	Hitler Youth Osterode to Berlin Publisher 9.'44 w/Mi. 159 (2)	15
6.	Reused cvr w/printed label NSDAP Gau Hessen-Nassau 12.'42 [See Cover & Page 2]	19
7.	Local cvr frm Welfare Office Siegen to a firm in same town 10.'43 w/Mi.160	12
8.	Parcel card for pkg sent by 80 th SS Standarte in Berlin 2.'43 w/Mi. 165 (2) [TL]	22
9.	Mint NH set of 1938 Party Franchise stamps w/swastika watermark Mi. 144-156	10
Next 10 lots are SS Feldpost covers w/clear D'siegels		
10.	Cvr sent 8.'43 frm Fp# 18924 (SS-Pferdelager Kuusano) of 6 th SS-Div.'Nord" in Finland	17
11.	New Years p'cd sent 1.'41 frm member SS Polizei Btl'n 314 in Krakau [TCR]	15
12.	Cvr sent 6.'40 frm member 9 Kp/8th SS Totenkopfstandarten in Radom [TR]	17
13.	Cvr sent 8.'42 frm Fp#12200 (Stab/Gen. Kdo SS Panzer Korps) in Russia	18
14.	Fp cvr sent 10.'44 frm Fp# 38855 (Stab/XIII SS Korps) via K-795 in Saar.	19
15.	Cvr sent 7.'41 frm SS u. Polizei Führer in Bialystok to Pol. HQ Wesermünde	18
16.	Airmail cvr w/sheet Flemish Legion (Mi. I) sent 8.'42 to SS Stand.'Kurt Eggers' [ML]	32
17.	Same but Flemish Legion (Mi. II) [MCL]	32
18.	Airmail cvr w/Dutch Legion 7-1/2 + 21 sheet sent 11.'42 via K-411 (FpA Minsk) [BL]	35
19.	Same but Dutch Legion 12-1/2 + 87-1/2 sheet [BCL]	35
20.	Alpenvorland R-cvr sent 8.'44 frm DDP Sterzing to Germany [TCR]	25
21.	Pkg. cd for 3 Kg parcel sent to Polish laborer 8.'42 frm Konskie has customs h/s	20
22.	Austrian R-cvr w/mixed Austrian & German stamps sent Reichenfels 9.7.'38 [MR]	19
23.	Postwar POW cd sent 7.'47 frm German POW in Pas de Calais area in France [MCR]	22
24.	Pkg. cd for 5 Kg food parcel sent to Polish inmate in Arbtslager Drutte 5.'44 [BR]	13
25.	Heydrich stamp can. 4.4.'43 on small card (No. 174) for attendees memorial service [BCR]	36





Lot	Description	Min
	The Next 16 lots are mint postal cards (Borek Cat. Nos.) & Propaganda cds	
26.	Borek 220 - Richard Wagner card 1. Nov.1933	\$5.00
27.	Borek 221 -Commemorating Nazi Takeover 30. Jan. 1933	5.00
28	Borek 238 - Celebrating BDM (Hitler Youth Girls) 1. Oct.1935 .	5.00
29.	Borek 256 - S.A. (Storm Trooper) Berlin Encampment 15-17 July1938	5.00
30.	Borek 260 - Harvest Festival1938	5.00
31.	Borek 262-5 - Winter Relief Drive February 1939	5.00
32.	Borek 271 - Nurnberg Rally 2-11. September 1939	5.00
33.	Borek 277 - Danzig ist Deutsch - WHW 27. October.1939	10.00
34.	Borek 302 - German Goldsmith League 8 October.1942	5.00
35.	Borek 305 - European Postal Congress 12-14 October.1942	5.00
36.	Borek 311 - German Goldsmith League 1 October.1943	5.00
37.	Borek 314 - German Goldsmith League 1 October.1945	5.00
38.	Borek 37-99-1-B92 - 'Lernt Deutschland Kennen!'-100 Yrs Nedda	8.00
39.	Manner der Zeit (Men of our Times) No. 91 w/photo Hitler SPC Bayruth 7.41	10.00
40.	Same No. 126 w/photo Hitler & Mussolini SPC Bayruth 30.7.41]	14.00

The next 20 lots are Registered Feldpost covers. Condition is very FV unless indicated o'wise

Kenn	FpA	Date	Fp. Nr.	Description	Min	
41.	124	208	6.'41	27458	I/Gren. Rgt.309 via 208 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
42.	189	374	7.'43	15784	Kdo/Sich. Div. 207 via 374 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
43.	193	26	10.'40	10932	I /Art. Rgt. 26 via 26 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
44.	416	187	11.'42	19741	Stab/Gren. Rgt. 187 via. 87 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
45.	441	172	1.'44	19287	II /Gren. Rgt. 105 via 72 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
46.	450	238	11.'43	12145	II/Gren. Rgt. 339 via 167 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
47.	451	723	1.'42	10479	Feld Kdtr 520 via FpA Antwerp, Belgium	12
48.	527	195	2.'43	12347	III/Art Rgt 195 via 95 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
49.	544	132	5.'42	12104	II/Gren. Rgt. 437 via 132 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
50.	569	260	4.'42	22305	II/Gren.Rgt.480 via 260 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
51.	649	335	4.'42	03717	I/Gren Rgt 682 via 335 Infantry. Div. P.O.	10
52.	653	333	7.'42	22181	II/ Gren. Rgt 681 via 333 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
53.	665	15	9.'40	21743	III/Gren Rgt 88 via 15 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
54.	677	230	11.'40	27155	II/Gren Rgt 392 via 169 Infantry Div. P.O.	12
55.	688	463	9.'41	23338	Stab/Ns. Kol Abt 463 via FpA Oslo, Norway	10
56.	713	188	7.'42	25218	3 Kp/Pi. Btl 188 via 88 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
57.	722	14	5.'43	33608	Vet Kp 14 via 14 Infantry. Div. P.O.	16
58.	750	8	10.'42	17012	Nachs. Kp 8 via 8 Jaeger Division P.O.	10
59.	815	122	3.'43	18759	Stab/Beob. Abt. 4 via 122 Infantry Division P.O.	16
60.	823	24	3.'43	24679	III/Gren. Rgt.31 via 24 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
61.	832	219	6.'42	09541	I/Gren Rgt 343 via 183 Infantry .Division P.O.	10
62.	863	330	12.'42	15188	I/Gren Rgt 556 via 306 Infantry .Division P.O.	10

PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO.108 IS NOVEMBER 17, 2007
 SEND ALL BIDS TO: Jim Lewis, 111F Montross Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070