



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP

Devoted to the Study
of the Postal History
of Germany 1933-1945

VOL. XLVIII No. 4 (Whole No. 193) 2014

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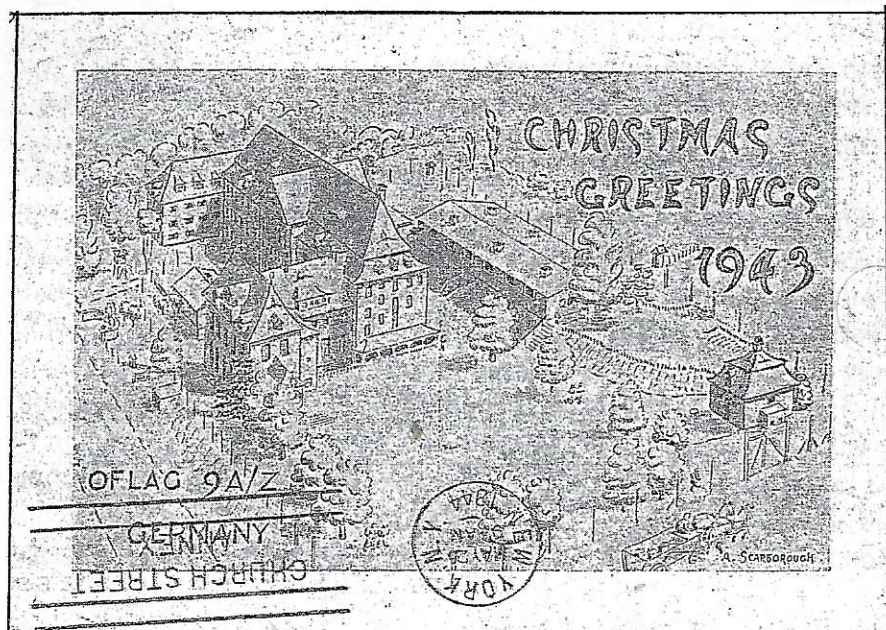
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STUDY GROUP NOTES

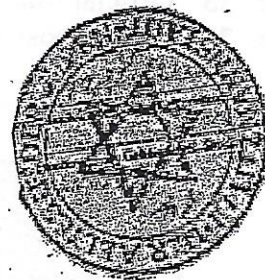
Dues are due - with this fourth Bulletin for 2014, dues are now due and a renewal form is included for those members not yet paid for 2015. It has been necessary to raise our annual dues to \$21, mostly because of postal and production cost increases. It is also hoped that this increase will allow us to begin a "slush fund" which will allow us to publish a new TRSG special publication. We haven't offered a new publication since John W. Painter's "*German Feldpost Operations in the West 1940-1944*" in 2004. Any member whose dues are not received by December 30, 2014 will be considered to have resigned. Should such individuals elect to rejoin at a later time, they **will be required to pay the new member fee of \$10 in addition to their dues**. Please send your dues payment to: Jim Lewis, 867 Monmouth Road, Cream Ridge, NJ 08514

Suggestions from the Membership - while we try to make our bulletin as diverse as possible, there are collecting areas that we've either overlooked or not fully explored. For example, a new member has requested information on POW camps in Germany. This is certainly an interesting area that we've overlooked but which will be addressed in future bulletins for 2015. So, if you have any suggestions for future articles, please note them on your renewal form, it will be much appreciated by your staff.

Book Recommendation : *A European Anabasis: Western European Volunteers in the German Army and SS, 1940-45* by Kenneth Estes. This new history should be of interest to those members who collect "Legion" postal material. While neither a postal history nor compilation of uniforms and insignia, this thoughtful and well researched book details who these volunteers were, why they decided to fight, etc.

Third Reich Postage Stamps - many new TRSG members ask us to recommend English language books about the stamps and cancels of the Third Reich era. One of the earliest was *The Stamps of Germany Third Reich* by A. Harper and W. Scheck first published as a soft cover book in 1966. Album Publishing Company in Raleigh, North Carolina released an expanded, hard cover edition of Harper's book in the 1990s but we're unaware of the availability of either version. *The Philately of Third Reich Germany 1933-1945* by Robert W. Jones, published in 2011, expands and updates the Harper book. If your German is good, *Die Briefmarken des Dritten Reich* by Horst Schallert is available in two volumes, Band I covers the stamps of 1933-43 while Band II covers those of 1944-45.

Ghetto Fugazi - TRSG Director Myron Fox sent information on fraudulent Litzmannstadt ghetto post cards reported by an Italian collector. All of these cards have this round cachet in violet/black/blue with star of David in center and text 'Der Aelteste der Juden . Litzmannstadt .'. All cards seen thus far have the same sender and intended address.



Cover Illustration: This Christmas Greetings card was sent by an American Major in POW camp Oflag 9 A/Z. The message side has a mute town cancel dated December 1, 1943. Addressed c/o the Prince George Hotel in Hamilton, Bermuda, the card was forwarded to the Everest Hotel in New York City as per a May 26, 1944 NYC post office receiving postmark. Printed black on beige colored cardstock, this officers camp certainly isn't your typical barbed wire POW enclosure but appears to be a private estate converted for the housing of higher ranking officers. We assume the name A. Scarborough in the lower right corner was the artist. While we've checked several listings of POW Camps in Greater Germany, we haven't found the location of nor information about Oflag 9 A/Z. We're requesting our membership to check their sources and inform us about any info they may learn about this particular camp. Many thanks to TRSGer Ron Morgan for sending us a photocopy of this card from his collection

Unshaded Visor Error on Mi. 850

by Kelly Stefanacci

On June 26, 1943 the Reichspost issued a set of four semi-postal stamps to commemorate the 8th anniversary of the **Reichs Arbeits Dienst** (German Labor Corps). All four stamps were designed by K. Müller-Rabe and were recess printed on unwater- marked paper in sheets of fifty. Each of the four printing plates had a different engraver. The 3 + 7 Pfg. printing plate that was engraved by R. Zenziger, portrays an R.A.D. youth in parade uniform presenting his spade in a salute.

As can be seen in the enlargement below (Fig. 1), quite a bit of cross-hatching had to be engraved on this printing plate to bring out of details of the uniform. This included crosshatching the underside of the cap visor to darken it. On the right side stamp, the visor's underside is correctly darkened while on the left side, the stamp was not cross hatched and the underside is considerably lighter.

The full sheet shown on the following page (Fig. 2) reveals that this error happened only twice and both times in the top row. Those stamps appearing under 2,00 and 4,50 have the unshaded visor.





0,50 1,00 1,50 2,00 2,50 3,00 3,50 4,00 4,50 5,00

German POWs in North America: Camps in New Mexico

by Jim Lewis

In 1942 the *Braceros* Program, which brought contract laborers from Mexico, filled most of the agricultural help needed, but some farmers still had to plow under unharvested crops the following spring. In 1943 the government began allowing prisoners from the Roswell (Code 29) and Lordsburg (Code 3) POW Camps to work on neighboring farms at the prevailing minimum wage. The program worked so well that over the next three years, branch camps were established throughout southern New Mexico and a few in the north. These were usually located in former Civilian Conservation Corps camps, but also in school buildings, warehouses, armories, and any other facilities that could be found. They ranged in size from 15 POWs at Mayhill to 600 at Las Cruces. Some German POWs were also sent to Albuquerque, where they helped construct some of the buildings at the State Fairgrounds.

In the summer of 1944, Italian POWs at Camp Lordsburg were sent to other camps. In October, German uncooperative non-com POWs began arriving until finally nearly 5,500 were crowded into Lordsburg, a camp built to hold 3,000. The Lordsburg camp became a dumping ground for all the incorrigibles from other POW camps in the Eighth Service Command. Most of these POWs sat around or lay in their bunks most of the time, but about 700 of them were cooperative enough to work outside the camp. One farmer remembers that after a group of them had worked on his farm, not only were the weeds gone, but the vegetables too. The POWs had eaten them right out of the ground! This particular group of German POWs was very difficult to manage as it was nearly impossible to control the "Nazi" element in the compounds. Their uncooperative nature and boredom contributed to escape attempts, some of which were successful. The camp commander, Colonel Napoleon Rainbolt, came under criticism when he allowed the Germans to celebrate Heroes Commemoration Day. The POWs were enthusiastic in their celebration, bringing out swastika flags, banners and flaming pillars in Nazi fashion. Their stay was a tense time for the surrounding residents because there were more German POWs in the camp than the entire population of Hidalgo county.

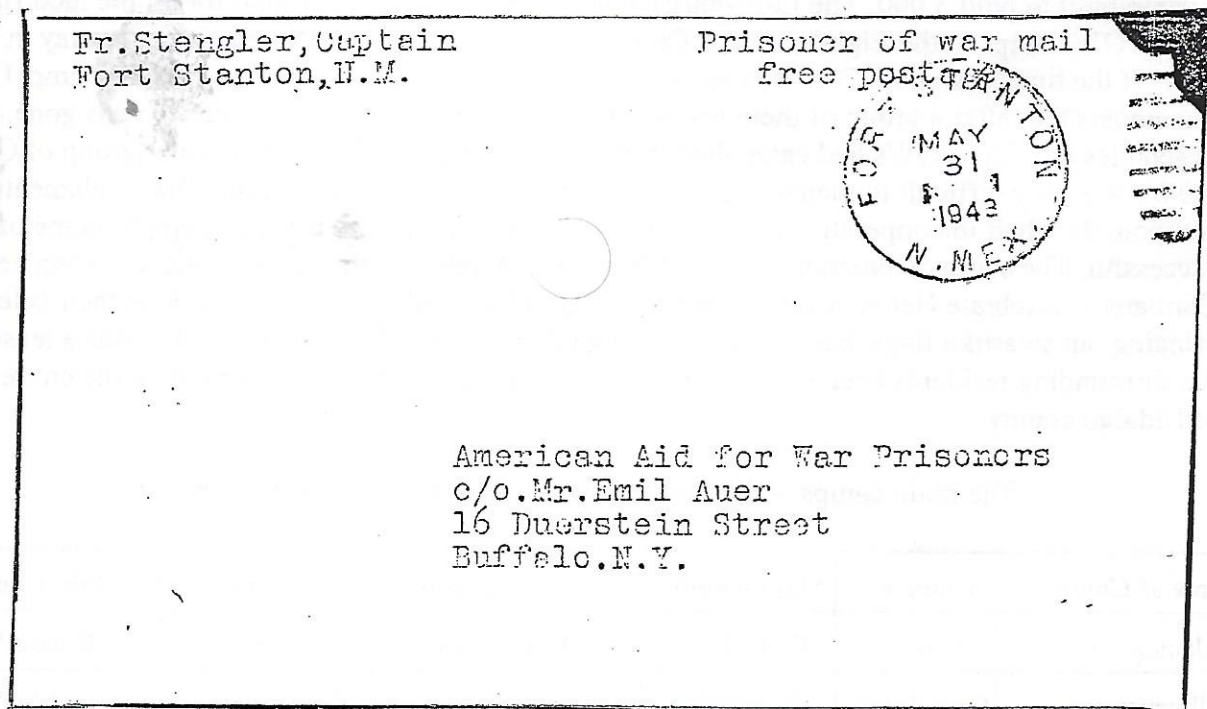
The main camps and branch camps in New Mexico are listed below

Name of Camp	County	Main Camp	Name of Camp	County	Main Camp
Alamogordo	Otero	Fort Bliss	Hal Bogel Ranch	Chaves	Roswell
Albuquerque	Bernalillo	Roswell	Hatch	Dona Ana	Lordsburg
Anthony	Dona Ana	Lordsburg	Kirkland Field	Bernalilo	Roswell
Artesia	Eddy	Roswell	Las Cruces	Dona Ana	Fort Bliss
Bayard, Fort	Grant	Lordsburg	Lordsburg	Hidaglo	-----
Carlsbad	Eddy	Roswell	May Hill	Otero	Roswell
Clayton	Union	Roswell	Portales	Roosevelt	Roswell
Cloris Air Field	Curry	Roswell	Roswell, Camp	Chaves	-----
Deming	Lune	Lordsburg	Sumner, Fort	De Baca	Roswell

Note: POWs were treated at Halloran Bruns General Hospital (Sante Fe). In 1946 the POW cemeteries at Camp Roswell and Lordsburg were transferred to Fort Bliss National Cemetery in Texas.

In addition to the German POW Camps listed above, a camp to hold German and Japanese internees was built at the site of Fort Stanton, an old U.S. Army post from the wild west days. The first German internees were nearly 400 crew members of the *SS Columbus*, a luxury liner that was sunk by her own crew off the coast of Virginia on December 19, 1939. When the first of these internees arrived at Fort Stanton in January 1940, the camp was still under construction, so they were used to build four barracks, a kitchen, a mess hall, a laundry room, lavatories and wash rooms, an officer's quarters and a medical dispensary. There were gardens for fresh produce, a recreation hall and a swimming pool. The guards were members of the U.S. Border Patrol, rather than the army. At first the camp resembled more of a small town than a prison and the German sailors were allowed a lot of freedom such as hiking in the nearby mountains. All of that changed on December 9, 1941 after Hitler's declaration of war on the U.S.A. Permission to leave the camp was no longer obtainable for these German sailors who had already waited two years to go home. They were no longer being held as "distressed seamen" but rather as enemy aliens that could only be released when the war was over.

Shown below is a cover sent in May, 1943 from a German Captain in Fort Stanton to an individual in Buffalo, NY who was involved with American Aid for War Prisoners.



Another interesting story is that of POW Georg Gärtner. Born in Schweidnitz, Lower Silesia, he served in the Afrika Korps and was captured by U.S. forces in Tunis in 1943. He was brought to America and assigned to Camp Deming, New Mexico. Because he had studied English, he became the camp translator. At the end of the war, Gärtner learned that under the border changes promulgated under terms of the Potsdam Agreement, Silesia would become part of Poland and all the German residents expelled. Considering this glum future, Gärtner escaped from Camp Deming on September 21, 1945 by crawling under fences and wire. He hopped into an open boxcar of the Southern Pacific R.R. Arriving on the west coast, his language skill allowed him to initially find work as a dishwasher and lumberjack. He obtained a Social Security card under the name Dennis Whiles and met Jean Clark at a YMCA dance in Palo Alto. They were married in 1964 and he adopted her two children from a previous marriage. They settled in Boulder, Colorado where he worked as a ski instructor. Though never apprehended, Gärtner decided to surrender to authorities in San Pedro, California on September 11, 1985, becoming after 40 years, the last WW II German prisoner of war in America. He was issued a residency permit and became a U.S. citizen in 2009.

The Hultschin District Returns to Germany

by Jim Lewis

Historical Background: The Hultschiner area was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which included Austria, Hungary, Bohemia, Styria, Carinthia, Carinola and the Tirol. Upon the death of Charles IV in 1740, the new Hapsburg ruler was his 23 year old daughter Maria-Theresa. In this same year, 28 year old Frederick II became King of Prussia. As Prussia had territorial claims in Silesia on the former principalities of Jagerdorf, Liegnitz and Wohlau, all of which had been taken by Austria, Frederick II sent 30,000 troops across the Silesian border on December 23, 1740. This action initiated the War of Austrian Succession (1740-48), which ended with Prussia ceded almost all of Silesia. A portion of Silesia was reclaimed by Austria after the Seven Years War (1756-63) but Prussia retained the Hultschiner area as part of the Oppeln administrative district.

While this area remained under German rule, the vast majority of the population in the Hultschiner area spoke Czech. A census in 1913 revealed that only 13% of the area residents claimed German as their mother language. These statistics became the grounds for an ethnic settlement in 1919 when the Versailles Congress began the task of untangling the racial minorities under Austrian or German domination. They decided that Silesia should be divided between Germany and Poland on the basis of a plebiscite. One small area, the southwestern part of Kreis Ratibor, which lay north of the junction of the Oppa (Opawa) and Oder (Odra) rivers, was predominately Czech in population. It was therefore decided to cede this area to the new nation of Czechoslovakia without a vote. The precise northern boundary of this area was to be determined by the Plebiscite Commission.

Postally, the transfer of the area to Czechoslovakia on February 3, 1920 included the renaming of the four post offices formerly part of the postal system in Kreis Ratibor: Bolatiz to Bolatice; Hultschin to Hlučín; Deutsch Krawarn to Krawaře) and Ludgerstal to Ludgeřovice.

There were also ten postal agencies renamed as follows: Beneshau to Benesov u. Hlučína; Buslawitz to Buslavice; Hoschialkowitz to Hoštákovice; Gross Hosschutz to Velké Hoštice; Kuchelna to Chuchelná; Köberwitz to Kobeřice; Odersch to Oldřice; Zauditz to Sudice; Schillersdorf to Šilheřovice and Schczepankowitz to Štěpánkovice.

Czechoslovakian postal authorities permitted German stamps to be used through February 4, 1920. After this date only Czech stamps and postal stationery were allowed.

The Plebiscite Commission eventually determined that the town of Sandau and village of Haatsch should also be ceded to Czechoslovakia. This did not take place, however, until after the Commission had been withdrawn from the area in July 1922. The Germans resisted these changes but on March 16, 1923, postoffice Haatsch became Hař, postal agency Sandau became Pišť and both were incorporated into the Czech postal system.

The loss of German territories through the plebiscites was bitterly resented by a majority of the German public. Several of the new right wing political groups, including the fledgling NSDAP, seized upon this resentment and fashioned a powerful weapon of propaganda. In speeches delivered in beer halls throughout Germany, Hitler declared that the return of the stolen German districts was a fundamental demand required to erase the "shame of Versailles".

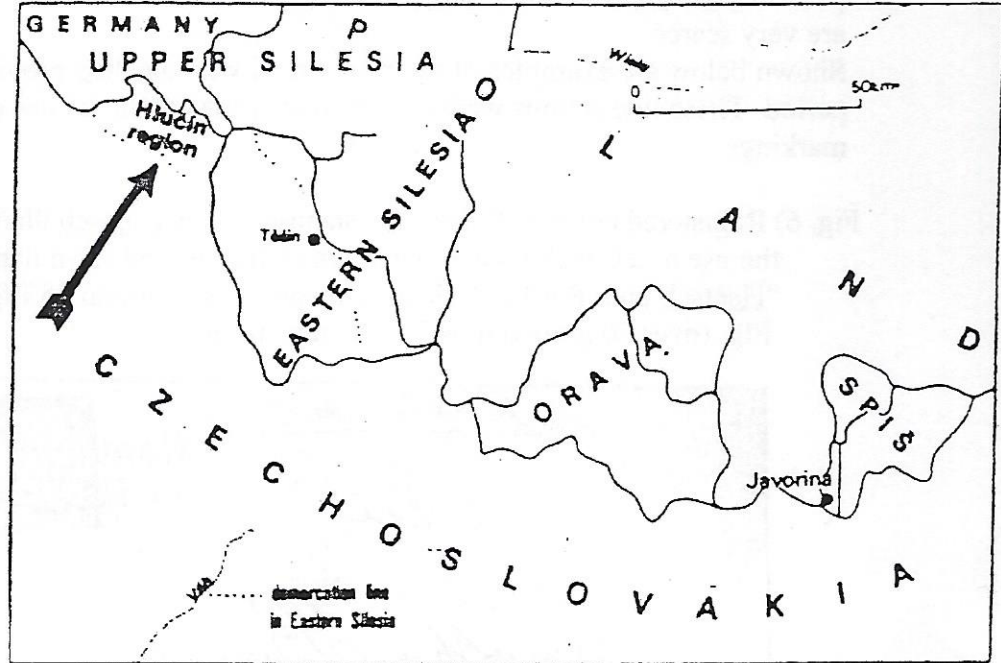
The "Hultschiner Landchen" (little district of Hultschin) was one of the subjects in a set of 19 "mourning" labels produced in 1924 by Friedrich Peter, a Würzburg stamp dealer. Shown below (Fig. 1) at 76% actual size is the multi-color sheet sold in conjunction with the labels. Top center text reads: "**Never Forget! Commemorative stamps to mourn for the 19 stolen districts of Germany**". The boxed text at lower right reads: "**Versailles! Without asking the people, without the hallowed promise of self-determination - the German territories were broken up and are under foreign domination - dishonored. Paragraph 1 of the Peace Treaty stating that Germany alone is responsible is a lie. For all Germans, Versailles is a warning of lies and comedy and an appeal to the conscience of the world!**"



Label below (Fig. 2) is in the upper right corner of sheet shown as Fig. 1.

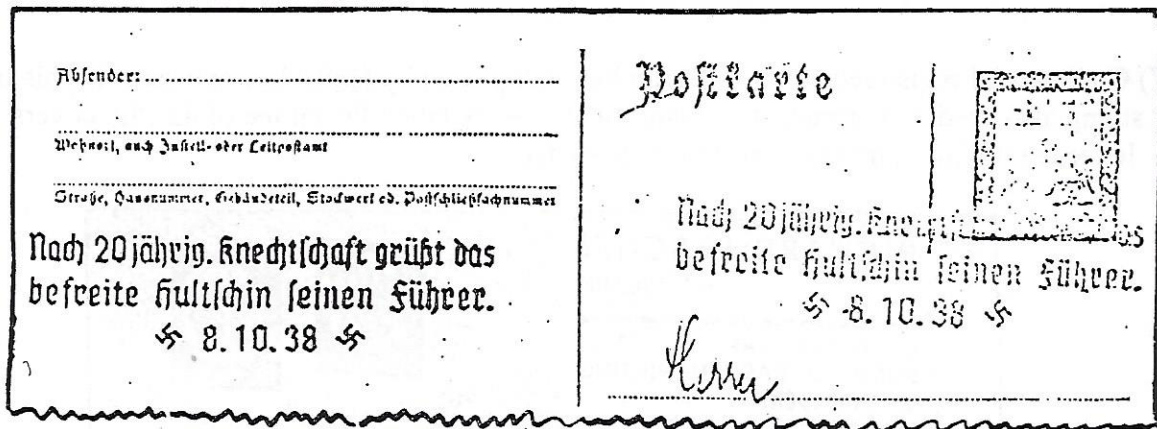


Fig. 3) Location of Hultschin region on map below. Note Czech spelling "Hlučín".



The Hultschin district was part of the Sudetenland ceded to Germany by the Munich Agreement of September 29, 1938. Occupied by German troops on October 8, 1938. German postage stamps were supplied to post offices in the district but the Reichspost permitted Czech stamps to be used until the end of October.

As in many other towns in the Sudetenland, provisional "liberation" hand stamps were used to commemorate the German occupation. Fig. 4 below is a portion of a Czech postal card with provisional slogan cancel "After 20 years of slavery, liberated Hultschin greets its Führer 8.10.38".



Below (Fig. 5) are some of the hand stamps used by post offices and agencies in the district until new cancelling dies became available from the Reichspost.

Deutsch Krawarn

Haatsch
über Ratibor

Postagentur
Gros - Hozhütz

Hultschin

Hoschialkowitz
über Ratibor

Schillersdorf
über Ratibor

Hultschin

Examples of mail franked with Czech stamps after October 1938 are known, usually from smaller postal agencies. Mixed frankings with Czech and German stamps have also been reported but these are very scarce.

Shown below are examples of registered mail with dateless provisional cancels from the early period. These line stamps were preferred over the continued use of conventional Czech postal markings.

Fig. 6) Registered cover with German stamps tied by Haatsch über Ratibor provisional cancel. Note the use of a Czech registry label which has printed town name "Hat" crossed out and "Haatsch über Ratibor" added in manuscript. German 55 Pfg. postage includes letter fee of 24 Pfg. (over 20 grams) plus 30 Pfg. registry fee.

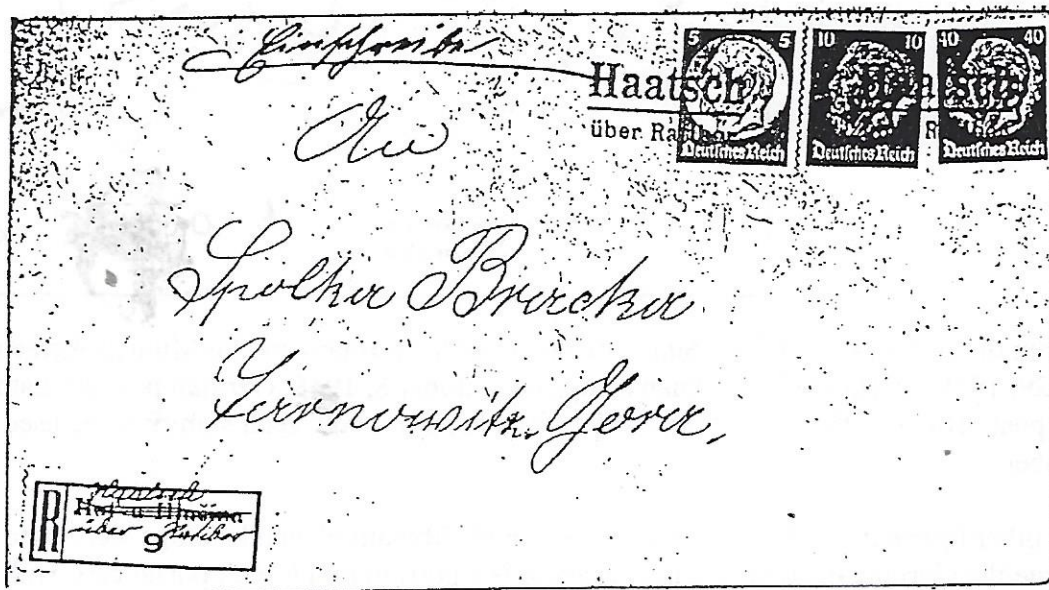


Fig. 7) Commercial registered cover to Berlin has stamps tied by Hultschin line cancel. This line stamp also used on German style blank field registry label. Postal fee of 42 Pfg. covers 12 Pfg. letter fee (to 20 grams) plus 30 Pfg. registry fee .



Fig. 8) Registered cover has boxed 2-line Bolatitz über Ratibor cancel. Note that registry label has "Kreis Ratibor" added in manuscript below printed Bolatitz.

Post offices and agencies in the Hultschin district eventually got new cancelling devices. Below (Fig. 9) are ring/date-bridge cancels for the towns of Hultschin, Küberwitz and Ludgerstal.

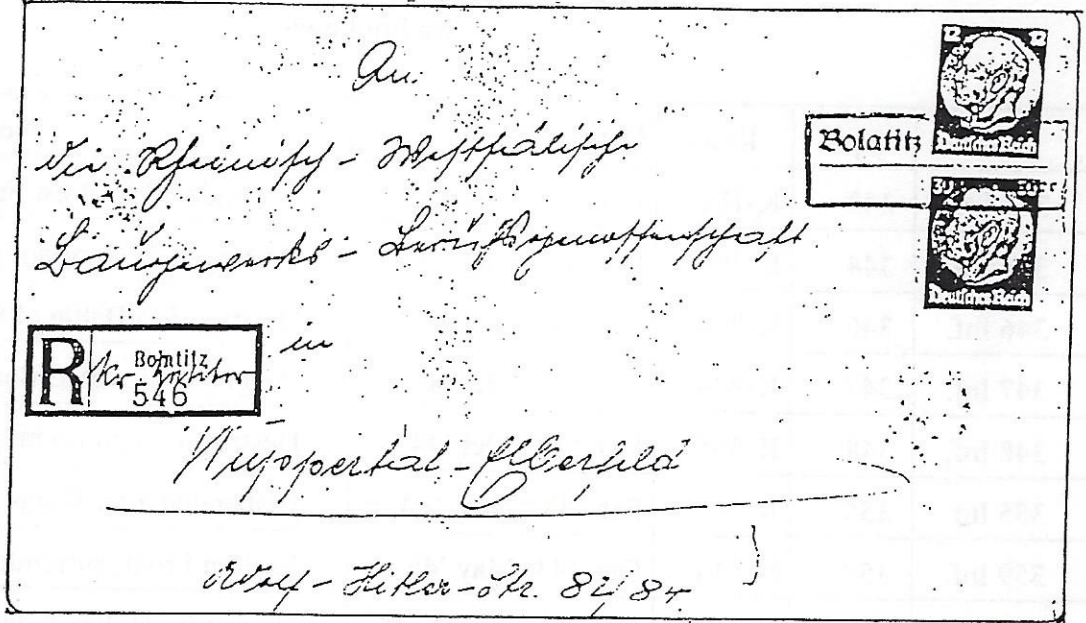
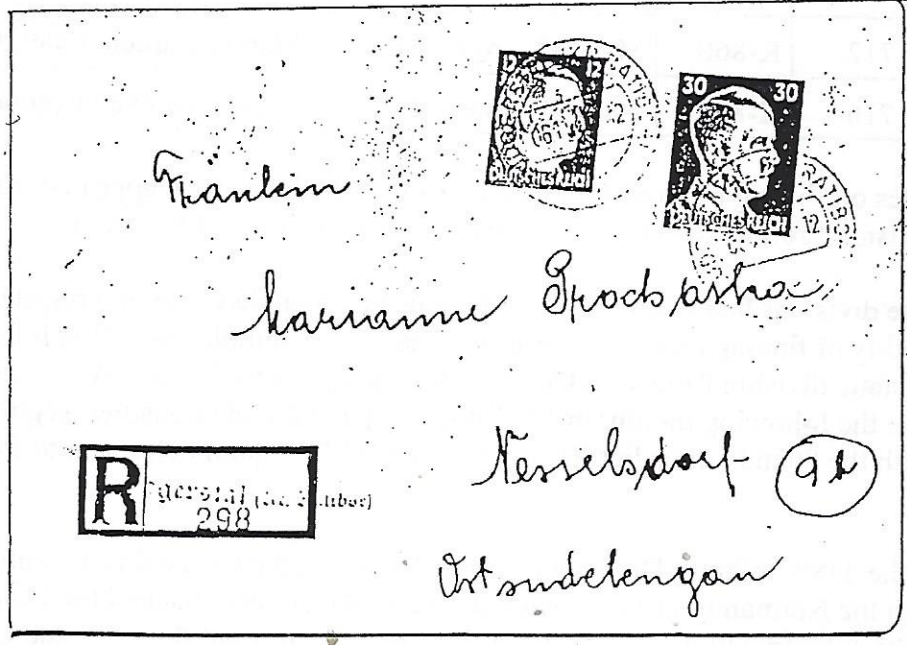


Fig. 10) Registered cover posted on June 13, 1942 has Hitler head definitives tied by Ludgerstal (Kr Ratibor) cancel shown in Fig. 9. The German style blank field registry label is hand stamped "Ludgerstal (Kr Ratibor)".



ED. Note: A longer version of this article originally appeared in TRSG Bulletin 88 in 1988.

“Missing” Combat Division Covers - Part 3

by Jim Lewis

Name	FpA	Kenn	Dates of Usage	Notes
343 Inf.	343	K-181	Oct.'42 - Sept. '44	Surrendered in Brest Sept. 19, 1944
344 V.G.	344	K-798	Oct.'43 - Aug. '44	Destroyed in Normandy
346 Inf.	346	K-858	Nov. '42 - July '44	Destroyed in Battle of Caen
347 Inf.	347	K-830	Oct. '42 - Oct.'44	Fought in Siegfried Line battles.
348 Inf.	348	K-355	Oct. '42 - Oct.'44	Destroyed in Normandy
355 Inf.	355	K-415	Feb.'43 - Nov. '44	Disbanded after Kursk battles
359 Inf.	359	K-514	Oct. '43 -May '45	Eastern Front, surrendered Czechoslovakia.
363 Inf.	363	K-673	Nov. '43 - April '45	Nijmegen, Holland, destroyed Ruhr
367 Inf.	367	K-863	Nov. '43 - March '45	Destroyed in battle of Königsberg
369 Inf.	369	K-965	Feb. '43 - March '45	Croatians, operated in Balkans
370 Inf.	370	K-841	May '42 - Aug. '44	Destroyed at Kishinev, Rumania
371 Inf.	371	K-707	May '42 - Jan. '43	Destroyed Stalingrad, reformed May '43
392 Inf.	392	K-701	Late '43 - March '45	Croatians, anti-partisan in Yugoslavia
462 V.G.	462	K- 920	Nov.'42 - Nov. '44	Destroyed at Metz
712 Inf.	712	K-860	May '42 - April. '45	Market Garden. Later destroyed Berlin
716 Inf.	716	K-827	April '41 - Jan. '45	Caen, destroyed Colmar bridgehead.

This completes our listing of those German divisions which have not appeared in our long-running “Combat Division Profile” feature because we lacked an R- cover illustration.

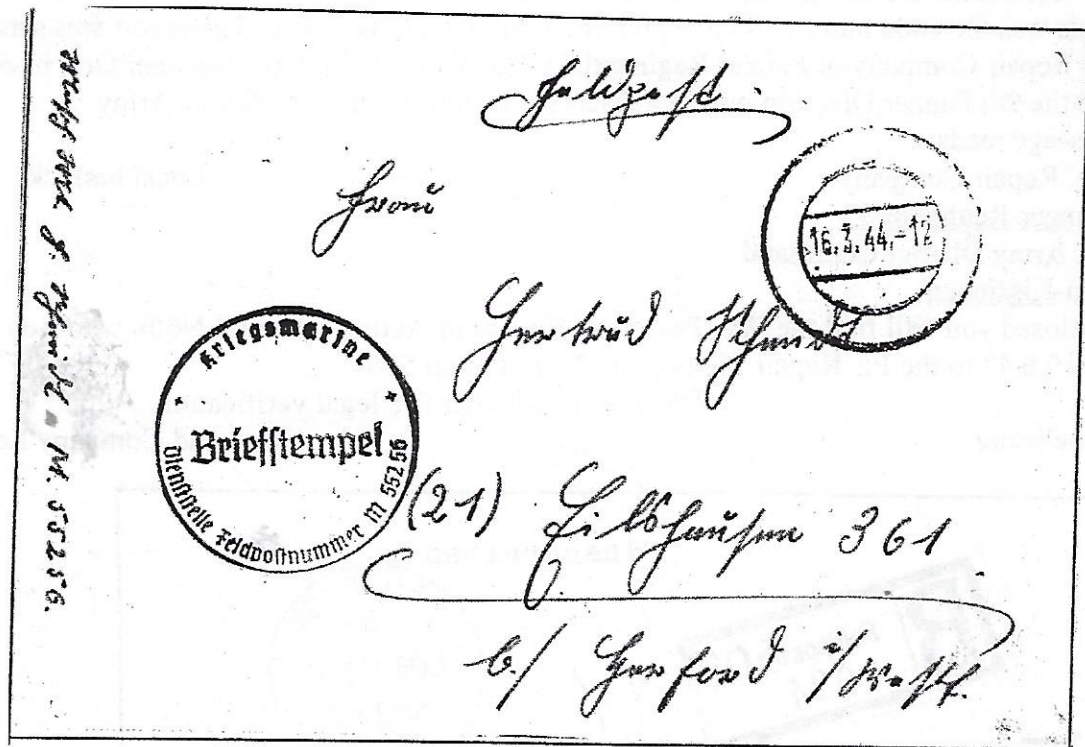
Many of these divisions had relatively short periods in which they required registered Feldpost service, so the possibility of finding an R-cover is quite small. For example, the 348th Infantry Division listed above was a static division formed in October 1942, assigned to the 15th Army and sent to the Dieppe area of France the following month. In 1943 it gave up the 865th Grenadier Regiment, which was combined with the 862nd Grenadier Regiment of the 347th Infantry Division to form the 274th Infantry Division.

Meanwhile, the 348th Infantry Division continued to guard the Channel coast until the Allied armies broke through the Normandy Front, crossed the Seine River, and attacked the German 15th Army in the rear. The 348th Infantry Division suffered such heavy casualties in the subsequent retreat that it had to be disbanded in October 1944.

NAVY LOG

by Phil Miller

U-Boat 1165 - Feldpost # 55256



U-boat Type VIIC/41 was built by Danziger Werft AG (Danzig) and launched July 20, 1943.

Displacement: 769/871 *tons

Dimensions: 220.25 x 20.25 x 15.75 feet.

Speed: 17/7.5* knots

Armaments: one 3.5 in., one 37mm A.A., two 20mm A.A. guns. Five 21 in (4 bow, 1 stern) torpedo tubes, 14 torpedoes or 39 mines.

Crew: 44

(*) Surface/submerged

History: Four war patrols for total 88 days at sea. Sunk one enemy warship.

Fate: Surrendered at Narvik, Norway on May 9, 1945. Transferred to Scotland on May 19, later scuttled in Operation Deadlight on December 30, 1945.

Feldpost cover sent March 16, 1944 to Eilshausen b/Herford from crew member has both line stamp and 'Kriegsmarine' Briefstempel with Feldpost # M 55256. Mute date cancel probably applied at civil P.O. in Libau, Latvia while ship was in U-Bootstützpunkt (shipyard).

Registered Feldpost Cover with Contents

by Gianluigi Soldati

While ordinary Feldpost covers are frequently found with contents, registered official military mail covers with their original message are quite scarce. The cover shown below is only example known to me or to our counterparts of the 'Arbeits Gemeinschaft Deutsche Feldpost' in Germany. Addressed to the Army District Command in Bad-Kissingen, the cover bears a Feldpost cancel dated June 17, 1943 with Kenn Nr. 608. This was the code number for FpA 60 of the 9th Panzer Division. The report was sent by Fp.# 26540 (Panzer Repair Company of Panzer Regiment 33). On this date FpA 60 was near Orel in central Russia because the 9th Panzer Division was in a reserve position for the 2nd Panzer Army.

The message reads:

Pz. Repair Company
Panzer-Regiment 33

Local barracks 16. 6. 43

"To: Army District Command
Bad-Kissingen

Enclosed you will find the War Personnel Record of Acting Corporal Nöth, who was transferred on 10.6.43 to the Pz. Repair Platoon of Pz. Battalion 506.

This registered letter is a legal verification.

-1-enclosure

Lieutenant and Company Leader"



Einschreiben

R Feldpost 608
084

FELDPOST
c
608 17.6.43

Dem

Wehrbezirkskommando

BAD KISSINGEN
25.6.43-23
P

Bad K i

Pz. Werkstattkompanie
Panzer - Regiment 33

O.U., dem 16.6.43

Dem
Wehrbezirkskommando

Bad K i s s i n g e n.

Back side

In der Anlage wird das Kriegsstammrollenblatt des am 10.6.43 zum Pz. Werkstattzug, Pz.Abt.506 versetzten Obgfr. N ö t h übersandt.

Einschreiben gilt als Empfangsbescheinigung.

-1- Anlage.

Leutnant u.Kp.-Fhr.

Story Behind the Cancel:
1937 Berlin Colonial Stamp Exhibition

by Kelly Stefanacci

The treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I, stripped Germany of certain territories in Europe and all of her overseas possessions. The loss of her African colonies was especially hard felt because they had been acquired by legitimate means and a great deal of money had been expended for their development. They had only begun to show a profit in 1914 and now had been taken away as part of the repatriation scheme. This loss was bitterly resented by most Germans and the Nazi Party seized upon this resentment to fashion a powerful weapon of propaganda.

After the Nazis came to power, a "Deutsche Kolonialgesellschaft" (German Colonies Association) sponsored a number of Colonies Exhibits during the late 1930s which displayed photographs and memorabilia from the period of German rule. The displays included postage stamps and postal history from the colonial period.

A Colonial Stamp Exhibition ran from January 9-10, 1937 in Berlin-Pankow. The 6 Pfg. postal card shown below (Fig. 1) depicting a team of oxen pulling a wagon is one of two different card designs sold at the show. A other is a 5 Pfg. card depicting a German steamer as seen from the shoreline.

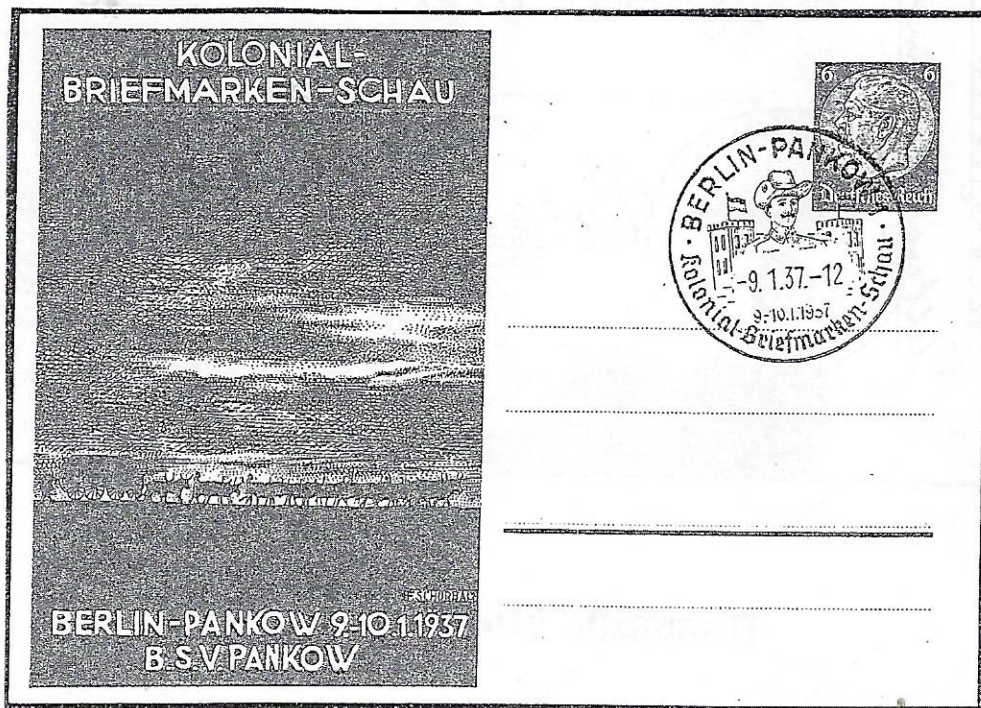
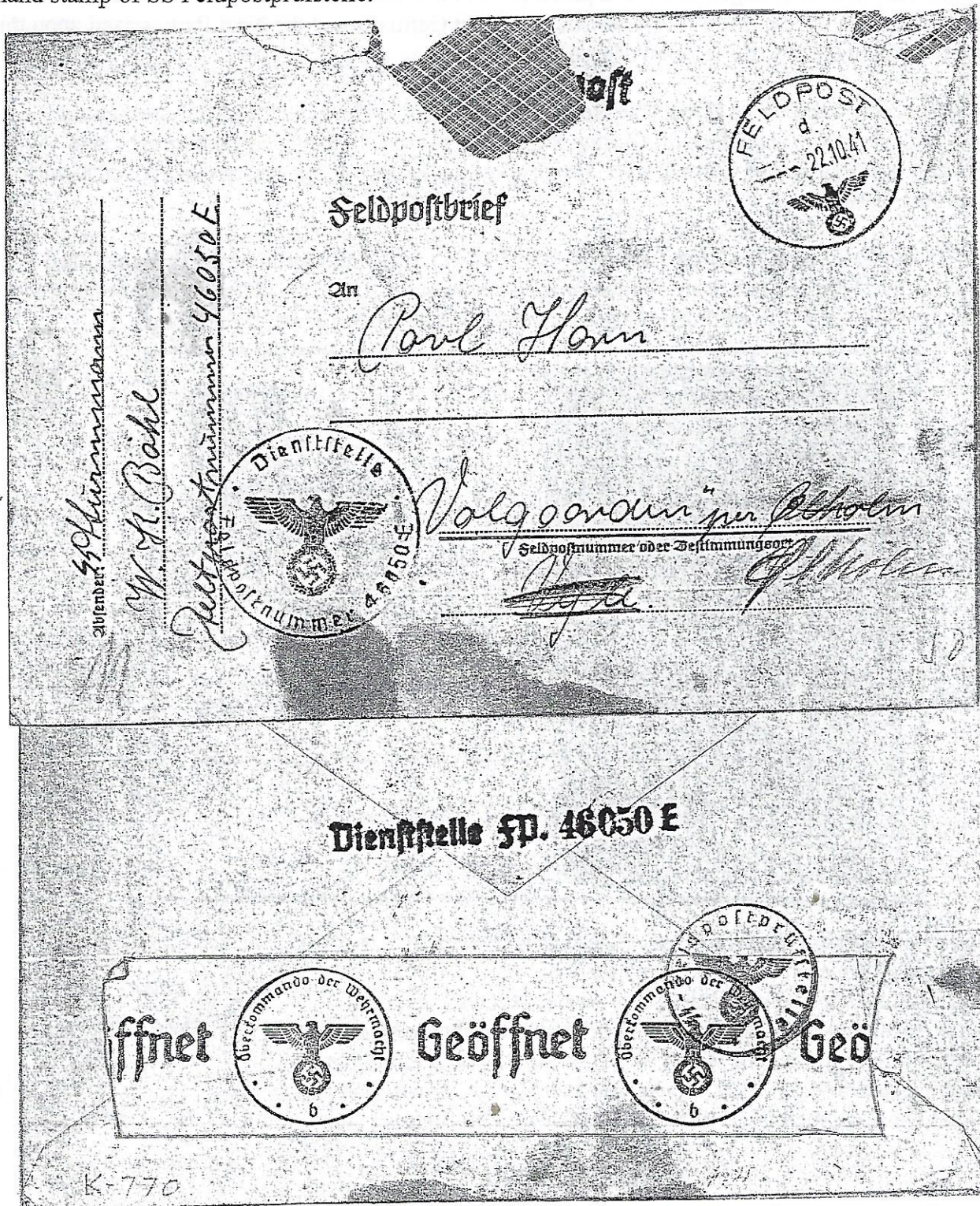


Fig. 2) This special Berlin- Pankow 1 cancel depicts a German officer in front of an African fort. While many German officers wore bush hats and sported mustaches, it is widely believed that this figure is Colonel Paul von Lettow -Vorbeck, the only undefeated German military leader of WW I. For four years, with a force that never exceeded 14,000 (3,000 Germans and 11,000 Africans) he held in check a much larger force of 300,000 British, Belgian and Portuguese troops.



The Lost Legions: Danish SS Free Corps by John Painter

Cover posted on October 22, 1941 from SS Stürmann W. K. Bahl, a Danish SS Freikorps volunteer serving with Co. 4 of the Brigade Staff of Freiwillige Verband Dänemark (Fp# 46050E). Reverse side has sealing tape from OKW Censor office in Berlin with right hand side of tape superimposed by red hand stamp of SS Feldpostprüfstelle.



Special Railway Cancels

by Bob Ferguson

The following special cancels pertaining to German Railways are listed in Julius Bochmann's **Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel.**

Braunschweig # 26	100 Jahre Staatsbahn Ausstellung 19.8 - 4.9 1938	
Hamburg # 74	Kameradschafts - Tagung ehemalige Eisenbahn-Pioniere	12-14 June 1937
Iglau # 26	50 Jahre Iglauer Berghauer-Zug	23-25 June 1940
Nurnberg # 36	100 Jahre Deutsche Eisenbahn Reichsbahn - Ausstellung 1935	14. July - 12. October 1935
Prerau # 74	1841-1941 (view of locomotive)	Aug. 31 - Sept. 30, 1941.

Braunschweig # 26



Hamburg # 74



Nurnberg # 36



Correlation Table of Administrative Districts

by Jim Lewis

The purpose of this table is to correlate three different administrative areas: **A)** The Nazi **Gaue** were Nazi Party districts of the respective German States and Prussian provinces shaped in the aftermath of World War I. **B)** The state and administrative regions (**Länder** and Prussian provinces) of Weimar Germany continued to exist after the Enabling Act of 1933. The plan to abolish the Länder was given up because Hitler feared that this structural change would alienate local leaders. Instead, the **Gleichschaltung** (Unification) process reduced Länder and Prussian provinces to rudimentary bodies attached to the respective Nazi Gauen. Germany consisted of 32 Gauen in 1934, and 42 Gauen at war's end in 1945.

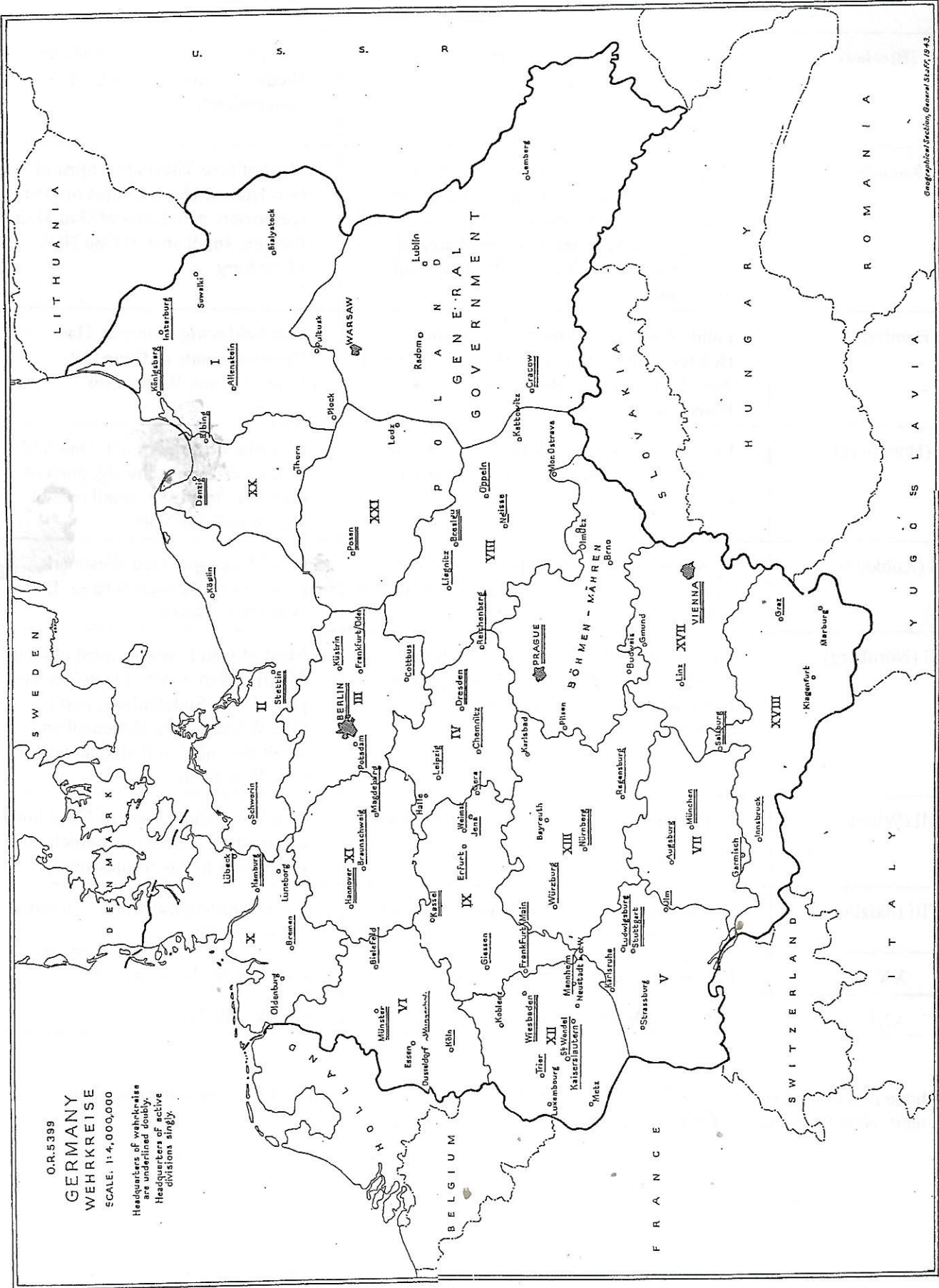
C) The third administrative areas were the **Wehrkreis** (Military Districts). At the outbreak of war there were only fifteen of these districts, numbered I-XIII, XVII, XVIII. Two were added, XX & XXI, after the Polish campaign, to include the Polish territory that had been part of Germany prior to World War I. In peace time, these districts contained the H.Q. and subordinate formations of the active Infantry Corps carrying the same Roman numeral (*e.g.* II Infantry Corps had in peace time its H.Q. in Stettin, in Military District II). The map on Page 21 has the boundaries of these **Wehrkreis** (Military Districts).

The table below shows the **Wehrkreis** at left and the equivalent areas of the **State Administrative Regions** at center and **Party Gaue** at right:

Wehrkreise	State Administrative Regions	Party Gaue
I (Königsberg)	Provinz Ostpreussen	Gau Ostpreussen
II (Stettin)	Provinz Pommern, Land Mecklenburg, small area of Brandenburg	Gau Pommern, Gau Mecklenburg and small area of Mark Brandenburg.
III (Berlin)	Reichshauptstadt Berlin, most of Mark Brandenburg	Gau Berlin and most of Gau Mark Brandenburg
IV (Dresden)	Land Sachsen, most of Provinz Halle-Merseburg. Part of Reichsgau Sudetenland, small area of Provinz Niederschlesien, small area of Land Thüringen.	Gau Sachsen and parts of Gaue Sudetenland, Niederschlesien, Thüringen and Halle-Merseburg.
V (Stuttgart)	Regierungsbezirk Sigmaringen-Hohenzollern, most of Land Württemberg, most of Land Baden	Most of Gau Württemberg-Hohenzollern and of Gau Baden.
VI (Münster)	Land Lippe, most of Provinz Westfalen, about half of Rheinprovinz, and a small area of Aurich-Osnabrück.	Gau Essen, Düsseldorf, Köln-Aachen, most of Gaue Westfalen-Nord and Westfalen-Süd, half of Gau Weser-Ems./
VII (München)	Part of Land Bayern	Gau München-Oberbayern, most of Gau Schwaben and part of Gau Bayreuth.

VIII (Breslau)	Provinz Oberschlesien, most of Provinz Niederschlesien and parts of Reichsgau Sudetenland.	Gau Oberschlesien, most of Gau Niederschlesien and parts of Gau Sudetenland.
IX (Kassel)	Regierungsbezirk Erfurt, most of Land Hessen, most of Provinz Kurhessen, most of Provinz Nassau, most of Thüringen, small area of Provinz Westfalen, small area of Land Bayern, small area of Provinz Halle-Merseburg.	Most of Gau Thüringen, most of Gau Hessen-Nassau, most of Gau Kurhessen, small area of Gau Mainfranken, small area of Gau Halle-Merseburg.
X (Hamburg)	Land Oldenburg, Provinz Schleswig-Holstein, parts of Provinz Hannover, parts of Aurich-Osnabrück, Hansestadt Hamburg, Hansestadt Bremen.	Gau Schleswig-Holstein, Gau Hamburg, parts of Gaue Ost-Hannover and Weser-Ems.
XI (Hannover)	Provinz Magdeburg, Land Braunschweig, Land Schaumburg-Lippe, part of Provinz Hannover.	Gau Magdeburg-Anhalt, Gau Süd-Hannover-Braunschweig, parts of Gau Ost-Hannover, small area of Gau Westfalen-Nord.
XII (Koblenz)	Westmark, part of Rheinprovinz, part of Provinz Nassau, part of Land Hessen, part of Land Baden, part of Land Bayern.	Gau Moselland, Gau Westmark, parts of Gau Hessen-Nassau, Baden, Gau Mainfranken.
XIII (Nürnberg)	Part of Land Bayern, part of Reichsgau Sudetenland, part of Land Baden, part of Land Württemberg, small area of Land Thüringen.	Most of Gau Franken, most of Gau Mainfranken, most of Gau Bayreuth, part of Gau Sudetenland, part of Gau Württemberg-Hohenzollen, small area of Gau Baden and of Gau Thüringen.
XVII (Wien)	Reichsgaue Wien, Oberdonau, Niederdonau.	Gau Wien, those parts of Gaue Oberdonau and Niederdonau which do not belong to the "Protektorat".
XVIII (Salzburg)	Reichsgaue Kärnten, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol-Volarlberg.	Gaue Kärnten, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol-Volarlberg.
XX	Reichsgau Danzig-Westpreussen.	Gau Danzig-Westpreussen
XXI	Reichsgau Wartheland	Gau Wartheland

It is our hope that the information contained in this article will prove useful to our members in writing up their Official mail, Nazi Party mail or Feldpost mail from Wehrkreise Districts.



O.R. 5399
GERMANY
WEHRKREISE
 SCALE: 1:4,000,000

Headquarters of Wehrkreise
 are underlined doubly.
 Headquarters of active
 divisions singly.

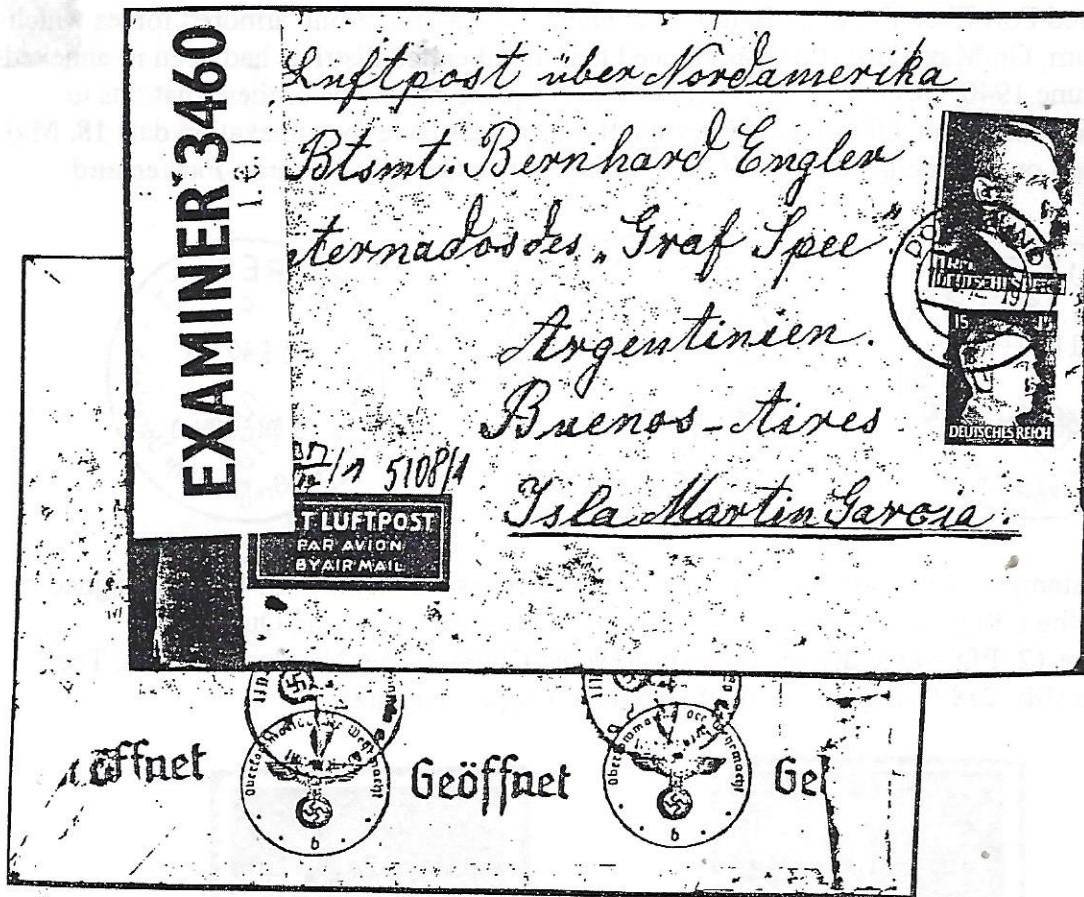
Geographical Section, General Staff, 1943.

One of my Favorite Covers:
Interned Crewman of the Pocket Battleship 'Graf Spee'
 by Jim Lewis

On December 14, 1939, British warships drove the German Armored Ship (i.e. pocket battleship) 'Graf Spee' into Montevideo harbor in Uruguay after battering it during a running battle in the Atlantic. After 'Graf Spee' Captain Hans Langsdorff requested sufficient time to make repairs to his ship, the Uruguayan government told him that he had 72 hours to effect repairs and leave. While members of the world press descended on Montevideo to report this dramatic story, the whole world waited to see what would happen.

On December 17, the 'Graf Spee' hoisted anchor and headed out of the harbor toward the waiting British warships. At 7:56 P.M. the ship blew up and sank, scuttled on the order of Captain Langsdorff. After seeing that his crew had been safely interned in Argentina, Langsdorff committed suicide

This airmail cover posted in Dortmund, Germany on October 5, 1942 is addressed to a crew member of the 'Graf Spee' interned on the island of Martin Garcia in Argentina.



ED Note: This article, in slightly different form, originally appeared in TRSG Bulletin No. 58 in 1981.

The German Re-Annexation of Eupen and Malmedy

by Jim Lewis

In 1815, the victorious coalition which had defeated Napoleon gathered in Vienna to reorder the political structure of Europe. As part of the settlement, a German Confederation was formed. Prussia, the strongest of the thirty-nine German states, gained the districts of Eupen and Malmedy which lay on her western border. In addition, the small district of Moresnet was declared a neutral territory under the joint suzerainty of Prussia and Belgium.

At the conclusion of World War I, Belgium gained the districts of Eupen, Malmedy and Moresnet as part of the territorial gains resulting from the Treaty of Versailles. These districts were incorporated into the Belgian district of Liege.

As the population of these districts were predominately German-speaking, the loss of this territory was regarded by many Germans as one more example of the **Diktat** (dictated peace) and was a root cause for the emergence of the radical right-wing political parties in the 1920s. As noted in other articles in this bulletin, one of the cornerstones of the Nazi Party was the restoration of Germany's "lost lands".

On May 10, 1940, Germany launched her western offensive. By the second day, German assault troops had captured Fort Eben Emael in Belgium, opening the way for strong armored forces which swept into Belgium. On May 18th, Hitler announced that the liberated districts had been re-annexed to the Reich. In June 1940, special cancels were used in the principle towns of these districts to commemorate the annexation. Of a standard design, these cancels have the annexation date **18. Mai 1940** superimposed on a swastika and text **Homecoming to the Greater German Fatherland**.



Two semi-postal stamps commemorating the annexation were issued on July 25, 1940. Designed by E. R. Vogenauer, the 6 Pfg. value depicts the Church of Saints Peter, Paul and Quirinus in Malmedy while the 12 Pfg. value depicts the twin-towered Church of St. Nicolas in Eupen. The text on the stamps (Mi. 748-9) reads **Eupen-Malmedy wieder deutsch**.



Official Mail Corner:
Delivery Receipt Required
by Kelly Stefanacci

Official letter # 7142 sent on September 14, 1934 to a woman in Siegersbrunn (located south-east of Munich) from the Bavarian Court in Munich by the Felony Division of that Institution.

The fee of 54 Pfg. was due to the requirement for a delivery receipt. Note text "Mit Zustellungsurkunde" (with Proof of Delivery) for this legal document.

