



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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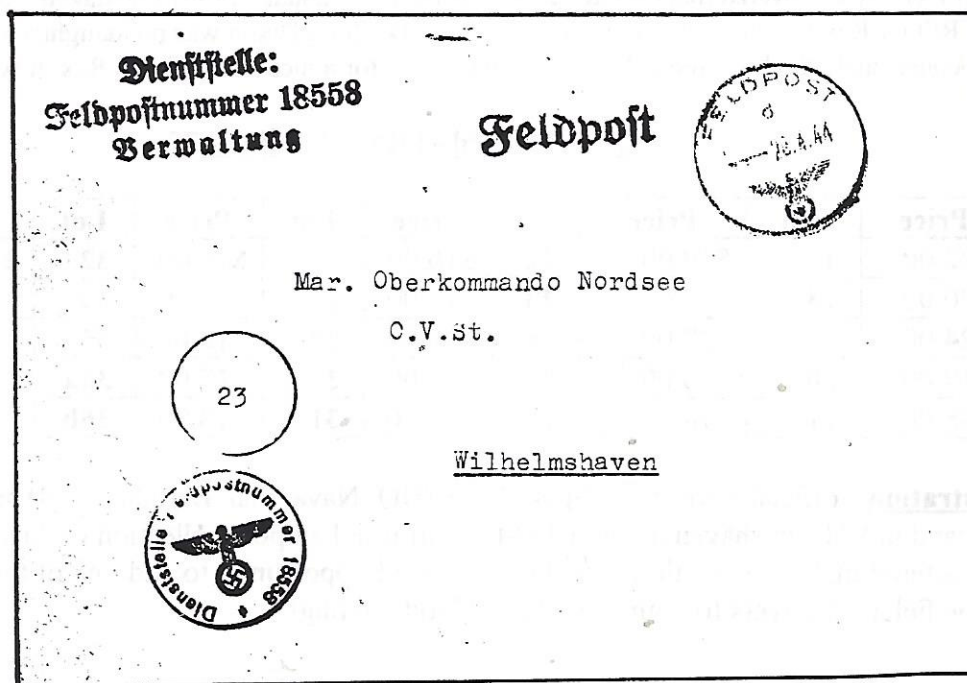
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STAMP GROUP NOTES

Welcome to New Members

KONODI-FLOCH, Kurt, 339 Carey Court, Chicago Heights, IL 60411
 WASHKO, Robert J. Jr., 10 Dinning Street, Pittston, PA 18640-2710

Sec-Treasurer Address Change - TRSG Secretary-Treasurer Fred Willshaw has relocated within North Carolina. Please send all correspondence to his new address: 14613 Waterside Drive, Charlotte, NC 28278.

Report on TRSG Meeting at NOJEX '97 by Director Myron Fox - a meeting was held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 24th at the Meadowlands Hilton. The turnout was disappointing but we learned that many members had to leave early, so we'll try to do better next time. Among the new literature was a very nice book on Holocaust postal history shown by Larry Nelson (ED NOTE: See page 9). We then had a slide presentation on Berlin censor markings. As the meeting notice attracted a few non-members - who were promptly signed up - the get-together was judged a success.

Discussion on Postal Service in Berlin 1945 - doubts about genuine covers with SS & SA stamps (Mi. 909-10) noted in Myron Fox's report (Bulletin 123) prompted this response from Ben Beede:

"This is a complicated matter, and I confess that I have not yet purchased a copy of the new book published on the SA and SS stamps, which is evidently a fine study. Nevertheless, judging from contemporary information, such as diary entries and newspaper accounts, and from the covers offered in German auctions, some of which I have acquired, I believe there was postal service in Berlin in terms of carrying or attempting to carry mail as late as April 20 and 21, 1945. There are registered covers (but not with SA or SS stamps) which were received in Berlin on April 20th. Moreover, postal savings service seems to have lasted even longer, at least through April 23, 1945. I shall generalize further and say that the German auction catalogs coming to me almost always contain one or more SA/SS covers! There are, apparently, a very large number of these covers."

Deutsch Dienstpost Ukraine - after many years of research, the long awaited article on DDP Ukraine is finally taking shape. We are planning to publish the first installment in either the last bulletin for 1997 or the first for 1998. This has proven to be the most difficult area of Dienstpost research we have tackled, both in terms of political and geographic considerations. We would be most appreciative of good quality photocopies of any outstanding postal items of this area from your collections. Please send info to Ye Olde Ed.

Correction - I recently discovered that on Page 2 of Bulletin 114 (January 1995) I mistakenly attributed information provided by TRSGer Rex Dixon to "John Dixon". Actually, Dr. John Dixon was my daughter's orthodontist so I must have been subconsciously thinking about 12 years of payments for a nice smile! Sorry Rex, it won't happen again.

Prices Realized -TRSG Auction #77

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	\$22.00	17	\$19.00	22	\$16.00	27	\$16.00	32	\$54.00	38	\$17.00
7	20.00	18	17.00	23	18.00	28	10.00	33	15.00		
9	24.00	19	22.00	24	20.00	29	18.00	35	15.00		
10	19.00	20	20.00	25	18.00	30	17.00	36a	15.00		
12	48.00	21	18.00	26	9.00	31	18.00	36b	23.00		

Cover Illustration - official cover from Fp.# 18558 (HQ, Naval Flak Battalion 814) sent to North Sea High Command in Wilhelmshaven in April 1944 is part of a Feldpost collection of Artillery, Flak and other Naval units offered in TRSG Auction #78. This is a good opportunity to add one of these relatively scarce Kriegsmarine Feldpost covers to your collection. Good hunting!

Inquiries & Follow Up on Recent Bulletin Articles

Vienna Censored POW Mail to Japan - Ben Beede offers this information on the internment camp card shown on Page 3 of Bulletin 123. "I cannot really help with the query about the routing of this internment mail, but I do think the cover illustrated is very interesting. Agnes Kieth was, I believe, the author of several books on Borneo, including a record of her experiences in an internment camp in Borneo during Word War II titled 'Three Came Home'.

Führerpost Label - Ben Beede notes "Führerpost means official correspondence of Adolf Hitler, judging from a reference in the Allgemeine Dienst Anweisung der Deutschen Reichspost, III, 2, para. 12. The whole of the ADA, III, 2 deals with railway postal service, and a brief note was added in 1941 or 1942 to the basic 1929 volume. It is not too informative, just a passing mention. There is more information about the handling of **Führerpost** in the ADA, V, 2 Anhang (Appendix), item 6 but, unfortunately, I do not have the wartime version of this Anhang."

WHW cancel with multiple flower designs - Rex Dixon & Bob Ferguson sent responses to the WHW cancel inquiry on page 3 of Bulletin 123. The three cancels shown (R to L) on Kelly's card are listed by Bochmann as Berlin #s 63, 64 & 65. These are described as 63 - "Kamillenzweig mit zwei bluten", 64 - "Schollkrautzwieg mit blatt, blute und knospen" and 65 - "Spitzwegerich mit blute und blatt". There was also a fourth WHW cancel design Bochmann lists as Berlin 62 "Hagebuttenzweig mit frucht u- blatt". While 48 cities used one or more version of these WHW cancel designs, only three (Berlin, Stettin and Wien) used all four. Below are illustrations of the fourth "Hagebuttenzweig" design on a Hannover WHW cancel plus a Vienna cancel with the "Schollkrautzwieg" design sent in by Bob.



Prince Eugene of Savoy - as follow up to the Story Behind the Stamp article in Bulletin 123, Rex Dixon sends in this post card canceled on April 20, 1941 to commemorate Hitler's 52nd Birthday and the Vienna philatelic exhibition sponsored by the K.d.F. Collectors Group. The illustration is an Austrian soldier at the siege of Belgrade in 1717. In a frontier war against the Turks, Austrian forces under Prince Eugene of Savoy besieged Belgrade, defeated a relief force in one of his greatest battles, and captured the city. By the Treaty of Passarowitz (1718), Austria gained the Banat, Walachia Minor and northern Serbia including Belgrade.

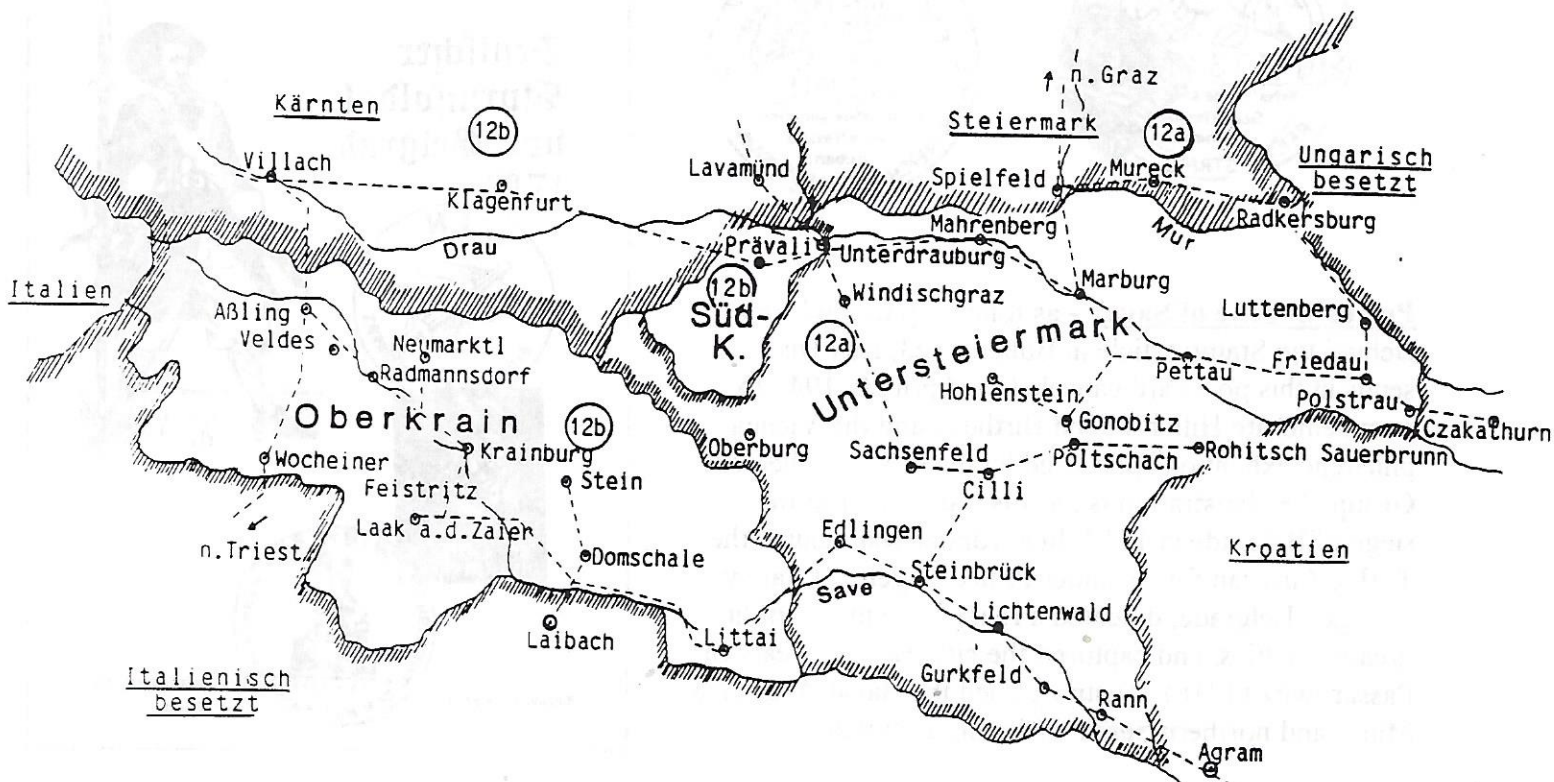
Improved Map of German Annexation of Northern Slovenia

by Rex Dixon

I enjoyed the article on the German Annexation of Northern Slovenia published in Bulletin 123. I'm particularly interested in this area and am trying to collect material from every post office and agency concerned, all 321 of them. In 1987 ArGe Jugoslawien published a list of all known postal markings entitled *Oberkrain - Südkärnten - Untersteiermark: Versuch einer philatelistischen Bestandsaufnahme*, by Dr. Herbert Pogglitsch. An extensive follow-up article for half the area was published by the same author in *Handbuch Kärnten '92* entitled *Abstempelungen Oberkrain/Unterkärnten 1941-1945*.

However, the map reproduced on page 18 in Bulletin 123 is Dr. Schultz's most inaccurate map. Shown below is a map from the ArGe's list which, while not perfect (I think a railway is in the wrong place), does have all the borders in the right places. We would be doing TRSG members a service to publish this improved map to prevent propagation of wrong information. *Fair enough -Ye Olde ED.*

The area shown as Südkärnten (also known as Unterkärnten, southern or lower Carinthia) is the one part of the former imperial crownland of Carinthia that was awarded to Yugoslavia on July 28, 1919. Untersteiermark is the southern part of the former crownland of Steiermark (Styria). The former crownland of Krain (or Carinola) was divided between Germany and Italy, with Oberkrain (Upper Carinola) attached to Gau Kärnten, and the district around Gurkfeld (lying south of the Sava) attached to Gau Steiermark. The Italian area became the province of Lubiana (this was taken over in 1943 as Provinz Laibach).



THE RHINELAND REFERENDUM OF 1936

by John Rawlings

Hitler took the greatest gamble of his career on March 7, 1936 as 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 of the Franco-Soviet Alliance on February 27th. But 'Operation Schulung' had been in preparation since May 2, 1935 when General von Blomberg issued his first secret directive for planning to begin.

News of the entry of German troops into the Rhineland was first revealed to a startled world by the Führer 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 minute marching into their future peacetime garrisons.." brought the entire house to its feet but made his generals distinctly nervous. It was, as Hitler later confessed, the most nerve-racking moment of his life since he was fully aware that, if the French had responded with force, the German units would have been obliged to beat a hasty and undignified retreat. 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 by dissolving the Reichstag that same day and calling 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. At least one provincial newspaper sought to emphasize its political credentials by using a pro-Nazi slogan in the automatic canceling machine in its Hannover office.

Fig. 1) "Vote for the Leader on March 29, 1936 - Hannover Anziger, the great daily paper". This meter mark was used on March 24, 1936.



The Reichspost introduced a similar slogan in canceling machines in post offices in 134 towns and cities throughout the nation on March 21st. The simple message "Your vote for the Leader" is normally found as a single slogan to the left of the date stamp.

Wilhelm Christ & Co.
MAINZ



Fig. 2) "Your vote for the Leader" slogan in Mainz machine cancel dated March 23, 1936.

This message also appears in a continuous strip on a cancel used by a post office in Mannheim.

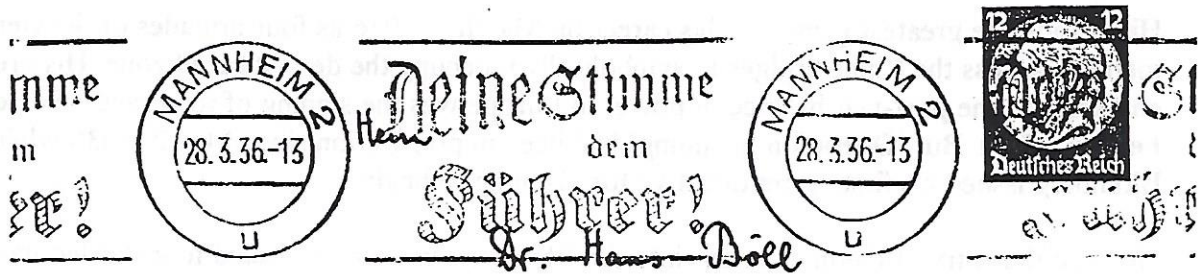


Fig. 3) Same "Your vote for the Leader" message but in a larger format in Mannheim 2 roller machine cancel dated March 28, 1936.

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. This design featured the standard exhortation to vote for the Führer superimposed on a swastika within a cogwheel and the fact that the latter symbol was the emblem of the "Deutsche Arbeits Front" (German Labor Front) seems to suggest that these cachets may have been prepared by local branches of this organization.

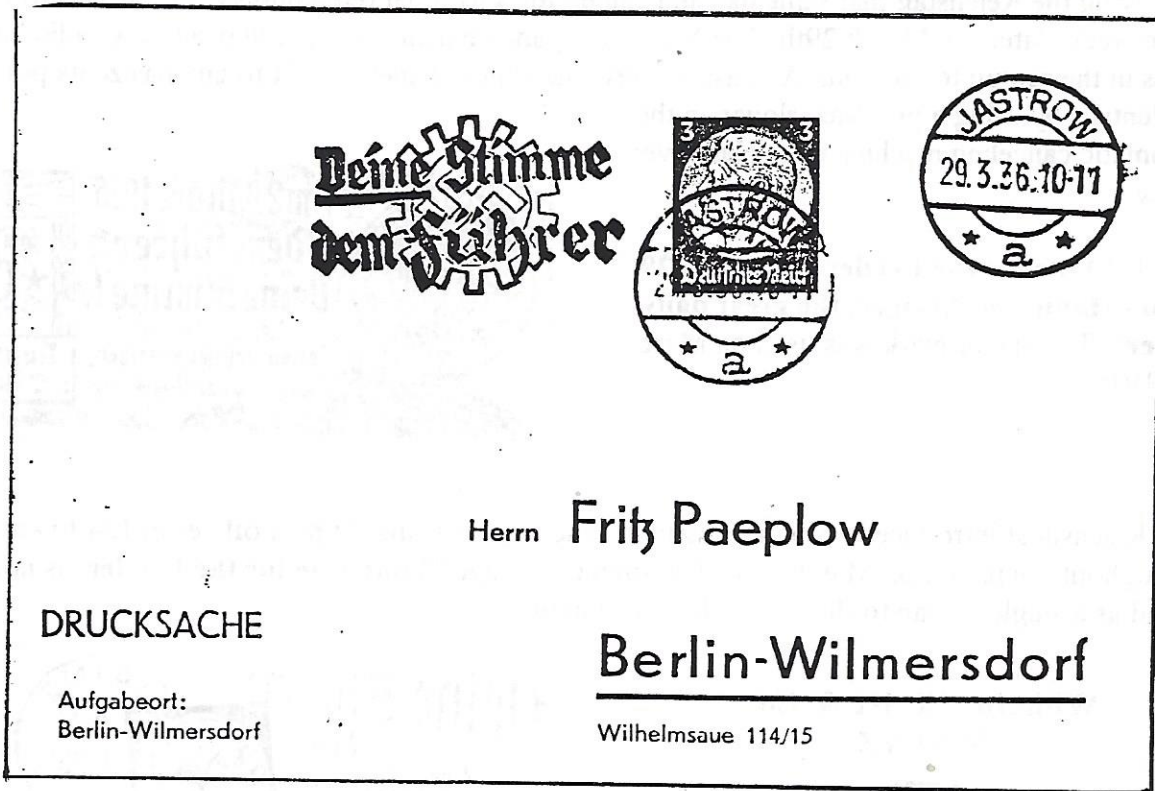


Fig. 4) Philatelic cover bearing a privately produced cachet urging support for Hitler in the Rhenland referendum.

The example shown above was posted in Jastrow on behalf of a Berlin stamp 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, Eberswalde, Frankfurt/Main, Furstenwalde, Hanau, Leer, Marburg (Lahn), Melsungen, Neumarkt (Oberplatz), Oestrich, Schwarzenberg and Stuttgart. The town of Jastrow is not mentioned and it is therefore likely that the list is not complete. I would be interested in hearing from any member able to extend this list further. My own strike is in black but, according to the Bochmann catalog is also known in red, blue and shades of violet.

If previous practice is anything to go by, the election officials of 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. It is not clear whether efforts were made to attract all Germans living within the local area or if 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 ship board cachet recording the event is known from this referendum.

On March 28, 1936 the Hamburg-America liner "Caribia" left Hamburg en route for South and Central America and the West Indies. The following day, polling day, while the ship was in Amsterdam, polling took place on board and the event was commemorated by a special circular cachet shown on the card below.

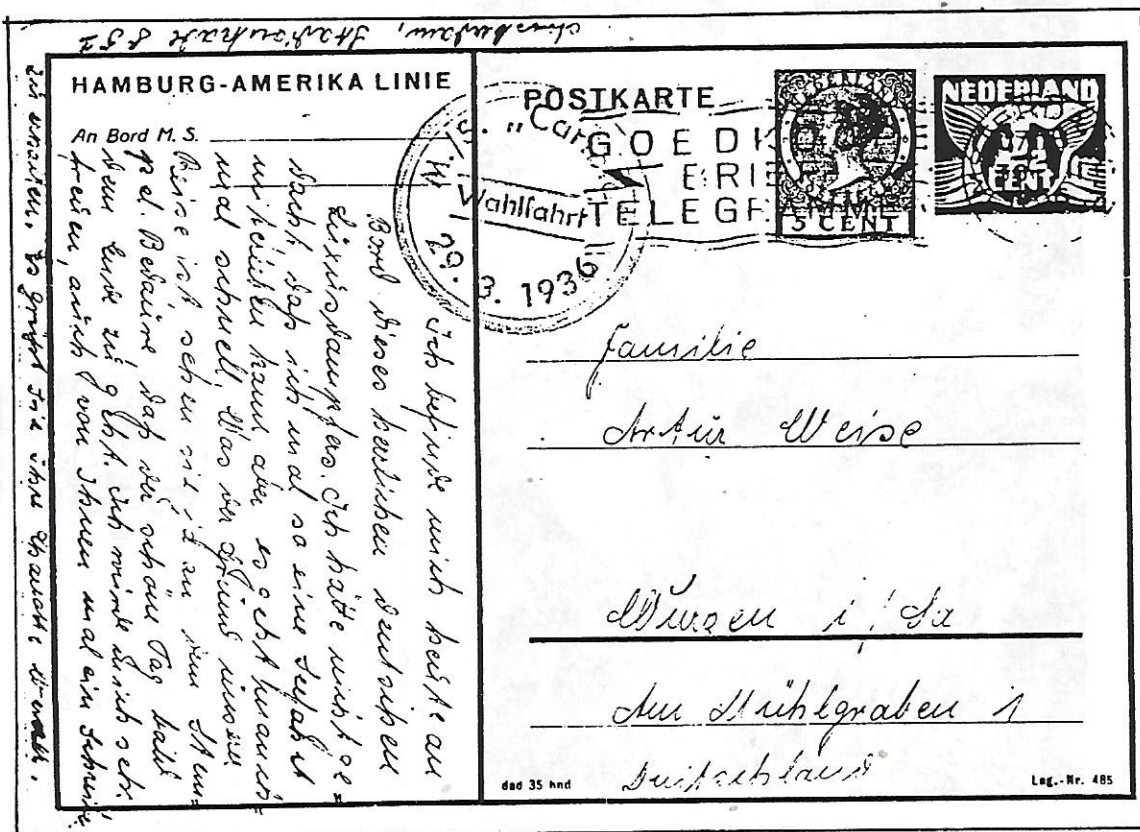


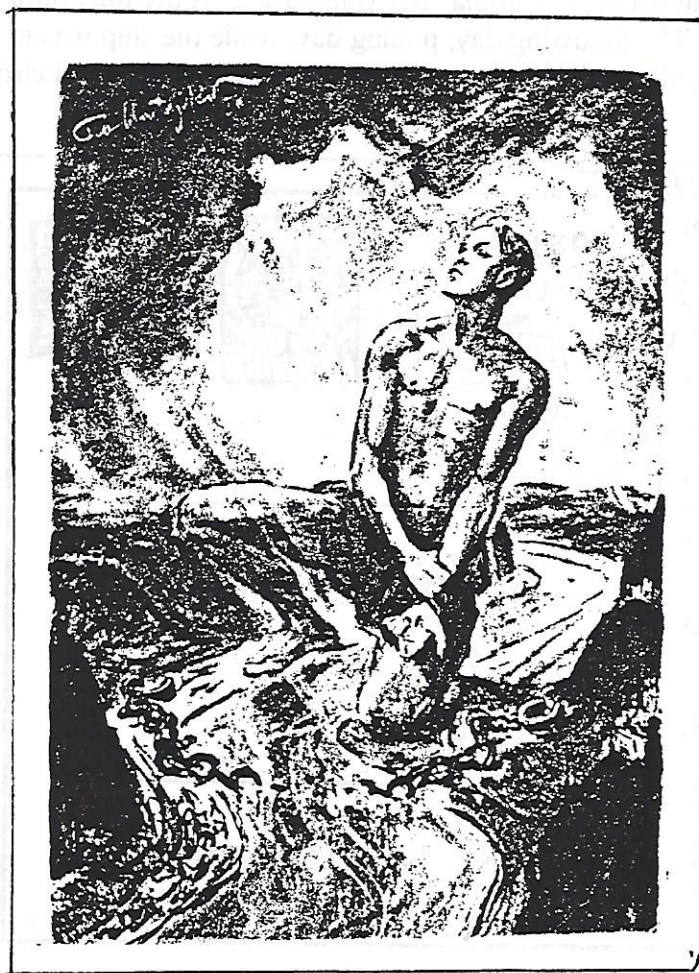
Fig. 5) Card posted in Amsterdam on March 30, 1936 bearing the violet "Wahlfahrt" (Voting Voyage) cachet used on the "Caribia" on March 29th. This rare card was written by one of the passengers.

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. In retrospect, of course, March 7, 1936 was a day of tragic and catastrophic significance for the entire world. In "Rise and Fall of the Third Reich", William Shirer states "The two western democracies were (then) given their last chance to halt, without the risk of a serious war, the rise of a militarized, 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".

This article was originally published by T.R.S.G. (U.K.) and appears here with their permission.

To better understand the popularity of Hitler's reoccupation of the Rheinland in 1936, one must recognize that the continued occupation of this territory by French troops was another aspect of the Versailles Treaty bitterly resented by the majority of Germans.

An example of this resentment is this 1930 color postcard by Webeko of Mainz. The illustration is a painting by Theo Malejko showing a young man representing the Rheinland who has been freed from his chains. *ED. Note: This postcard submitted by Myron Fox.*



Kommen rasch; sende auch diese Karte
Zum Gedenken an die Befreiung des deutschen Rheines.
1930

Entworfen und gezeichnet von Theo Malejko

mit vielen herzlichen Grüßen aus Trier

Geographischer Verlag Webeko Mainz, Gierstr. 2
Nahdruck, Aachen 1

TRIER
- 8.7.50 12-13

Hanni Frau
Willy Kessler
Berlin-Mariendorf
149. Straße no. 7

BOOK REVIEW

“Postal History of the Nazi -anti-Semitism”

Written by G. Ottolenghi and G. Moscati . Editor: Sugareo sri-Via E. Fermi, g = 21040 Carnago (Vorese) - Italy. Text in Italian and English. Available from the editor or G. Ottolenghi, Viale Carducci, 15, 18038 Sanremo, Italy @ \$60 with discounts for purchases of 10 or more books.

As a collector of holocaust postal history, I'm always looking for research material . “Postal History of the Nazi-anti-Semitism” by G. Ottolenghi and G. Moscati is a new book which makes a nice addition to this area. Written in Italian and translated into English, this 189 page book is profusely illustrated with 238 color photographs and 74 black & white photographs of Holocaust postal history items.

The book is divided into three sections. The first one overviews what the Nazis did to the Jews in each country. The second section illustrated anti-Semitic postal materials from before and during World war II. The last 134 pages illustrate, by country, mail to and from the various internment camps, ghettos, work camps and concentration camps. The covers shown in the book are from Mr. Moscati's collection and illustrate representative examples of covers from all areas, with particular strength in Ghetto mail. each cover is described, with items of interest highlighted. The terms used in the text are covered in a glossary at the end of the book.

The organization of the book makes it easy to use as a reference source. I have learned a number of new things about the material in my collection. As I acquire new material I will be checking it against the material shown in the book.

The book can be purchased from the editor or G. Ottolenghi at a cost of \$60. While this is rather expensive, the price is justified by the high quality of construction and color photographs. The book will make a nice addition to the library of any postal history collector, not just Holocaust postal history.

- review by Larry Nelson



Rejected by Censor - Inadmissible Mail

by Myron Fox

Private Printed Matter

Small black edged mourning cover has two strikes of standard boxed return handstamp citing the Directive of April 2, 1940. Reverse has hand stamp "Privatdrucksachen nicht zulässig" (Private printed matter not allowed).

Printed matter mail was only allowed to be sent by commercial firms who were expected to self police their transmittals. This regulation was enacted so as to reduce the workload on the censors.



Thus this private printed death notice was not allowed to be sent to Switzerland by censors at Frankfurt A/M office.

Handstamp on reverse side shown below:

Privatdrucksachen nicht zulässig X

RETURN
INADMISSIBLE PER DIRECTIVE
ON COMMUNICATION SERVICE
OF APRIL 2, 1940
(DECREE I, PAGE 823)

THIRD REICH POSTAL RATES

by Bob Ferguson

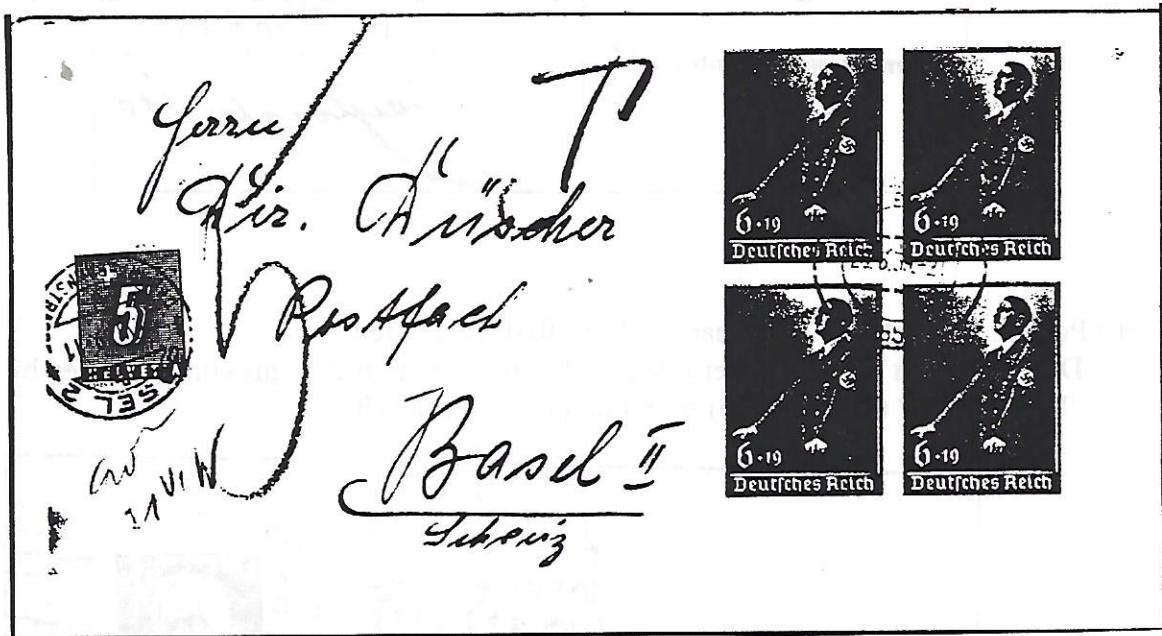
POSTAGE DUE (NACHGEBÜHR)

Postage due can arise from underfranking, as a forwarding fee or in connection with certain official mail. For underfranked internal mail, postage due was the deficit plus a penalty of 50% of the deficit. For forwarded mail, only the deficit (if any) was due. For underfranked mail destined for a foreign country, the letter "T" (Taxe) was applied (usually in blue) to the cover to alert the receiving postal clerk that postage was due. By UPU regulations the amount due was double the deficit. The following are examples of postage due mail

1.) Posted: Essen, 20 June 1939 to Switzerland.

Single weight foreign letter rate (25 Pfg.) underfranked by 1 Pfg.

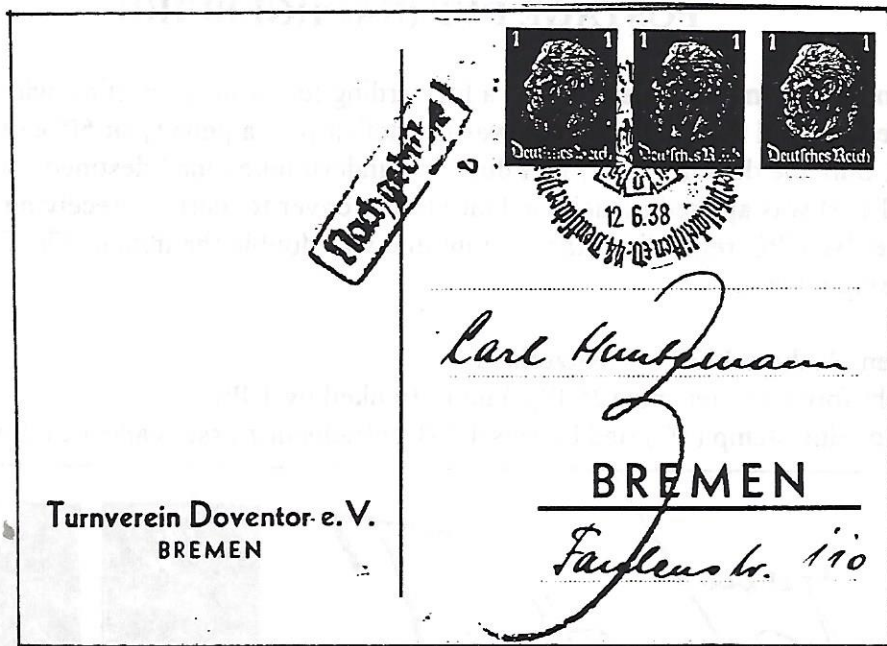
Swiss postage due stamp (5C) tied by Basel 2 (Centralbahnstrasse) cancel 21 June 1939.



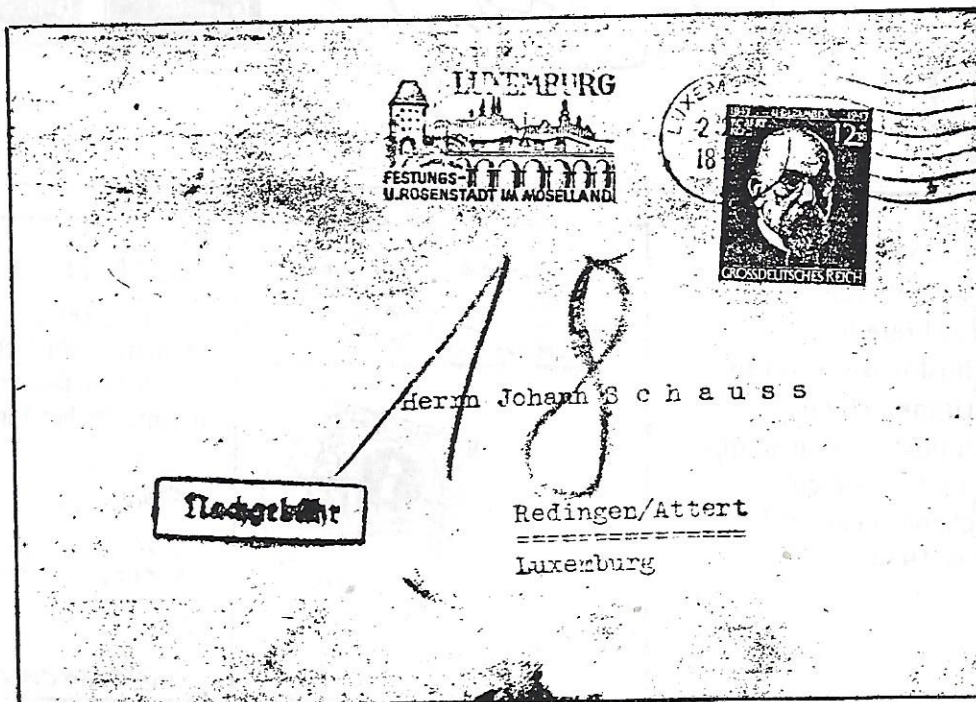
2.) Posted: Tier, 16 August 1934 to Czechoslovakia. Postcard rate to Czechoslovakia (10 Pfg.) underfranked by 4 Pfg. Czech postage due stamp (1K) tied Desenice (Deschenitz) cancel 18 August 1934



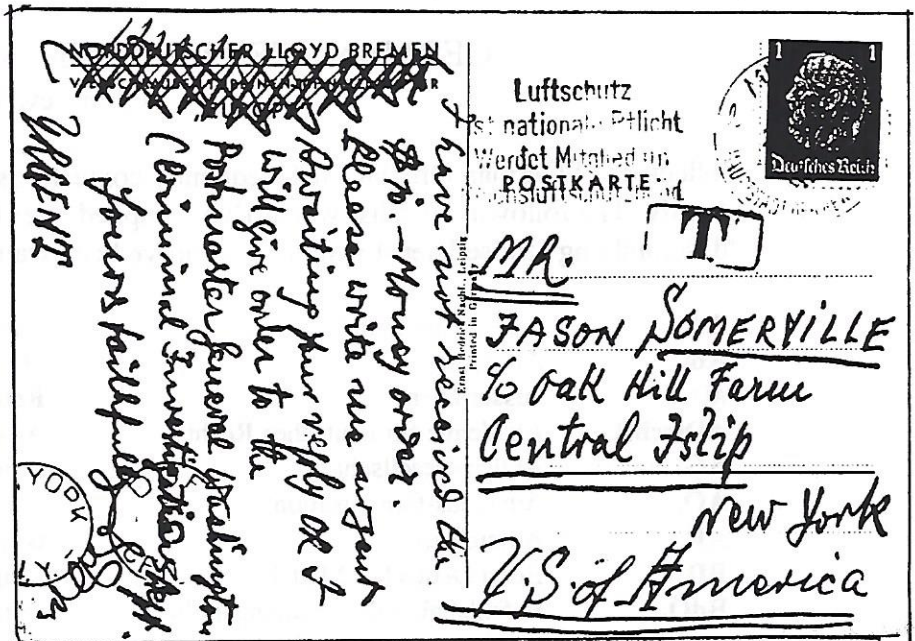
- 3.) Posted: Bremen, 12 June 1938 to Bremen.
Local postcard rate (5 Pfg.) underfranked by 2 Pfg.
"Nachgebühr" (Postage due) = 3 Pfg. (1.5 times deficit).



- 4.) Posted: Luxemburg, 2 February 1944 to Redingen/Attert
Double weight intercity letter rate (24 Pfg for weight 20-250 gm.) underfranked by 12 Pfg.
"Nachgebühr" (Postage due) = 18 Pfg. (1.5 times deficit).



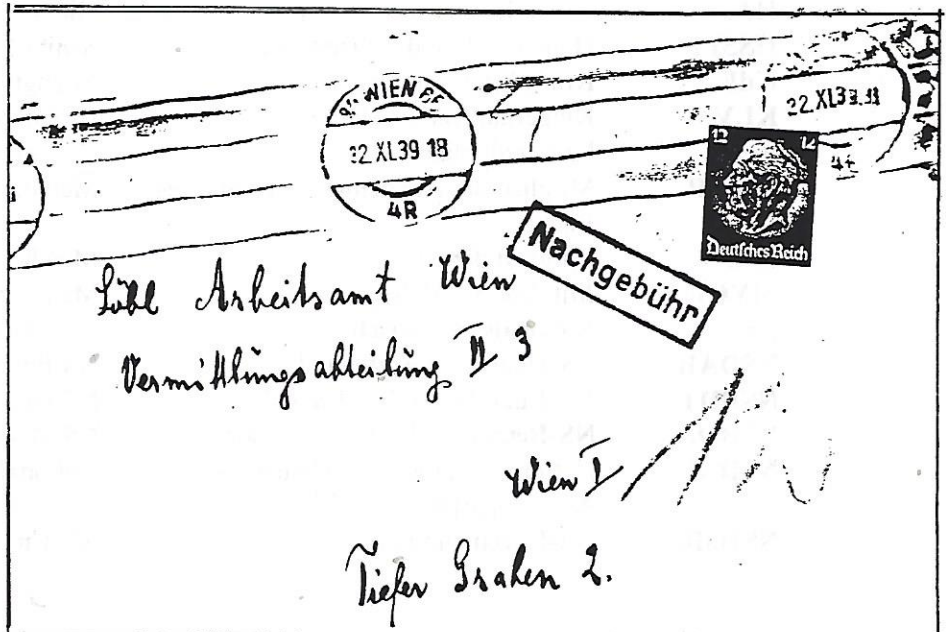
- 5.) Posted: Munchen, 2 August 1936 to U.S.A.
Foreign postcard rate (15 Pfg.) underfranked by 14 Pfg.
U.S. handstamp "Due 6 Cents"



- 6.) Posted: Berlin, 31 January 1938 to Oberhöchstadt
Official Mail
Sender: Prussian Registry Office, Berlin.
Single weight intercity letter rate (12 Pfg)
Postage paid by recipient (12 Pfg. postage due)



- 7.) Posted: Wien, 22 November 1939 to Wien
Triple weight local letter rate (20 Pfg for weight 250-500 gm.) underfranked by 8 Pfg.
"Nachgebühr" (Postage due) = 12 Pfg. (1.5 times deficit).



GERMAN OFFICIAL MAIL: A List of Abbreviations

by Jim Lewis

Collectors of German Official Mail frequently come across abbreviations which they find difficult to identify. The following is a list which I've compiled over the years which may prove helpful in "descrambling" those Dienstpost covers you've been wanting to write up.

AA	Auswärtiges Amt:	Foreign Office
Abt.	Abteilung:	Division
aD	ausser Dienst:	Retired
ADtschR.	Akademie für deutsches Recht:	Academy for German law
AG.	Aktien-Gesellschaft:	Joint Stock Company
AO.	Auslands-Organisation:	Foreign Organization (of the NSDAP)
AR.	Aufsichtsrat:	Board (of a commercial undertaking)
BDM.	Bund Deutscher Mädel:	League of German girls
BdO.	Befehlshaber der Ordnungspolizei:	Commander of Order Police
BdS.	Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei:	Commander of Security Police
DAF.	Deutsche Arbeitsfront:	German Labor Front
DFW.	Deutsches Frauenwerk:	German Woman's Organization (sub-organization of the NSF.)
DGT.	Deutscher Gemeindetag:	Congress of German Municipalities
DHD.	Deutscher Handelsdienst:	German Commercial Service (News Agency)
DNB.	Deutscher Nachrichtenbüro:	German News Agency (owned by Propaganda Ministry)
DPK.	Deutscher Dipolmatisch-politische Korrespondenz:	German Diplomatic and Political Correspondence (News Agency)
DRK.	Deutsches Rotes Kreuz:	German Red Cross.
eh.	ehrenhalber:	honorary.
EK.	Eisernes Kreuz:	Iron Cross
eV.	eingetragener Verein:	Registered Society.
Gen.-Lt.	Generalleutnant	Lieutenant-General
Gen.-Maj.	Generalmajor	Major-General
Gestapo	Geheime Staatspolizei:	Secret State police
GG.	Generalgouvernement:	"General Government."
GmbH.	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Hafung:	Limited Liability Company
HJ.	Hitler-Jugend:	Hitler Youth
HSSPF.	Höherer SS und Polizeiführer:	Senior SS and Police Leader.
KdF.	Kraft durch Freude:	Strength through Joy (sub-organization of DAF)
KL.V.	Kinderlandverschickung:	Evacuation of Children
Kripo	Kriminalpolizei:	Criminal police (Criminal Investigation).
MADR.	Mitglied der Akademie für Deutsches Recht:	Member of Academy for German Law.
MdR.	Mitglied der Reichstag:	Member of Reichstag.
MVGH.	Mitglied der Volksgerichtshofs:	Member of the People's Tribunal.
NS.	Nationalsozialistisch:	National Socialist.
NSDAB	NS-Deutscher Ärztenbund:	NS Physicians' League.
NSBDT.	NS-Bund Deutscher Technik:	NS German Technical League.
NSBO.	NS-Betriebszellen Organisation:	NS Workshops Organization.
NSDAP	Nationalsozialistische Deutscher Arbeiterpartei:	National socialist Workers' Party (Nazi Party).
NSDoB.	NS-Dozentenbund:	NS-University Lectureres' League.

NSDStB.	NS-Deutscher Studentenbund:	NS-German Students' League.
NSF.	NS-Frauenschaft:	NS-Women's League.
NSFK.	NS-Fliegerkorps:	NS-Flying Corps.
NSK.	NS-Korrespondenz:	NS-Correspondence (Official Party News Agency).
NSKK.	NS-Kraftfahrskorps:	NS-Motor Corps.
NSKOV.	NS-Kreisopferversorgung:	NS-War Victims Association.
NSLB.	NS-Lehrerbund	NS-Teachers' League.
NSRB.	NS-Rechtswahrerbund:	NS-Lawyers' League.
NSRL.	NS-Reichbund für Leibesübungen:	NS league for Physical Culture.
NSV.	NS-Volkswohlfahrt:	NS League for Public Welfare.
OA.	Oberabschnitt:	SS Corps Area, (usually coinciding with WK)
OKH.	Oberkommando der Heeres:	Army High Command.
OKL.	Oberkommando der Luftwaffe:	Air Force High Command.
OKM.	Oberkommando der Kriegsmarine	Navy High Command.
OKW.	Oberkommando der Wehrmacht:	High Command of the Armed Forces.
ORPO.	Ordnungspolizei:	Order Police.
OSAF.	Oberste SA-Führung:	Supreme Command of the SA.
OT.	Organisation Todt:	Organization Todt (Front Workers' Corps)
Pg.	Parteigenosse:	Party Member (male).
Pgn.	Parteigenossin:	Party Member (female).
Pst.	Preussischer Staatsrat:	Prussian State Councillor.
RAD.	Reichsarbeitsdienst:	Reich Labor Service.
RADwJ.	Reichsarbeitsdienst weibliche Jugend:	Reich Labor Service for Women.
RDB.	Reichsbund der Deutschen Beamten:	Civil Servants' League.
Reg.-Bez.	Regierungsbezirk:	Administrative District.
RFSS.	Reichsführer SS	Reich Leader of the SS.
RJF.	Reichsjugendführung:	Reich Youth Leadership.
RKK.	Reichskulturkammer:	Reich Chamber of Culture.
RL.	Reichsleitung:	Party Directorate.
RLB.	Reichsluftschutzbund:	German Air Warning League.
RRG.	Reichs Rundfunkgesellschaft:	Reich Broadcasting Corporation.
SA.	Sturmabteilung:	Storm Troops (Brown Shirts).
SD.	Sicherheitsdienst:	Security service (of the SS).
SHD.	Sicherheits-und Hilfsdienst	Security and Emergency Service.
SS.	Schutzstaffel:	Himmler's Black Guards.
Stapo.	= Gestapo.	
TN.	Technische Nothilfe:	Technical Emergency Service.
TO.	Transocean:	Transocean (News Agency).
TP.	Transkontinent Press:	Transcontinent Press (News Agency).
VDA.	Volksbund für das Deutschtum im Ausland:	League for Germanism Abroad.
WHW.	Winterhilfswerk:	Winter Relief Organization.
WK.	Wehrkreis:	Military District.
WSS.	Waffen-SS	Armed SS

Story Behind the Stamp: Saint Elizabeth of Thuringia

by Kelly Stefanacci

Elizabeth was born at Bratislava (Pressburg), Hungary in 1207, the daughter of King Andrew II and his wife, Queen Gertrude. In response to a proposed alliance from Hermann I, Landgrave of Thuringia and Hesse, Elizabeth was promised in marriage to Ludwig, Hermann's eldest son and heir. At the age of four she was brought to the Thuringian court at Warburg castle near Eisenach to be educated with Hermann's daughter Agnes in anticipation of her marriage to Ludwig. From her earliest days Elizabeth showed a sincere love of piety and charity and she was revered throughout Thuringia.

In 1221, 14 year old Elizabeth married 21 year old Ludwig IV, now Landgrave and also Regent of Meissen and the Ostmark. Friends since childhood, Ludwig and Elizabeth had a happy marriage which produced three children. When Ludwig was absent, Elizabeth ruled in his place. During the famine of 1226, she distributed alms on a lavish scale and provided for children, especially orphans. As Warburg castle was built on a steep hill which the infirm were unable to climb, Elizabeth had a hospital built at the base of the hill. Popular legend tells of how when her husband surprised her carrying bread to the poor, he found only roses when she let down her apron.

In June 1227 Ludwig departed for a crusade to the Holy Land under Emperor Frederick II (Barbarosa) but died of the plague three months later in Otrano, Italy. Elizabeth, receiving the news of his death just after giving birth to her second daughter, became distraught almost to the point of insanity. Ludwig's death was the turning point of her life. Before his departure on the crusade, Elizabeth & Ludwig had exchanged promises never to marry again. So, after his body was returned early in 1228 and solemnly buried in the abbey church at Reinhardsbrunn, Elizabeth formally renounced the world at the church at Eisenach.

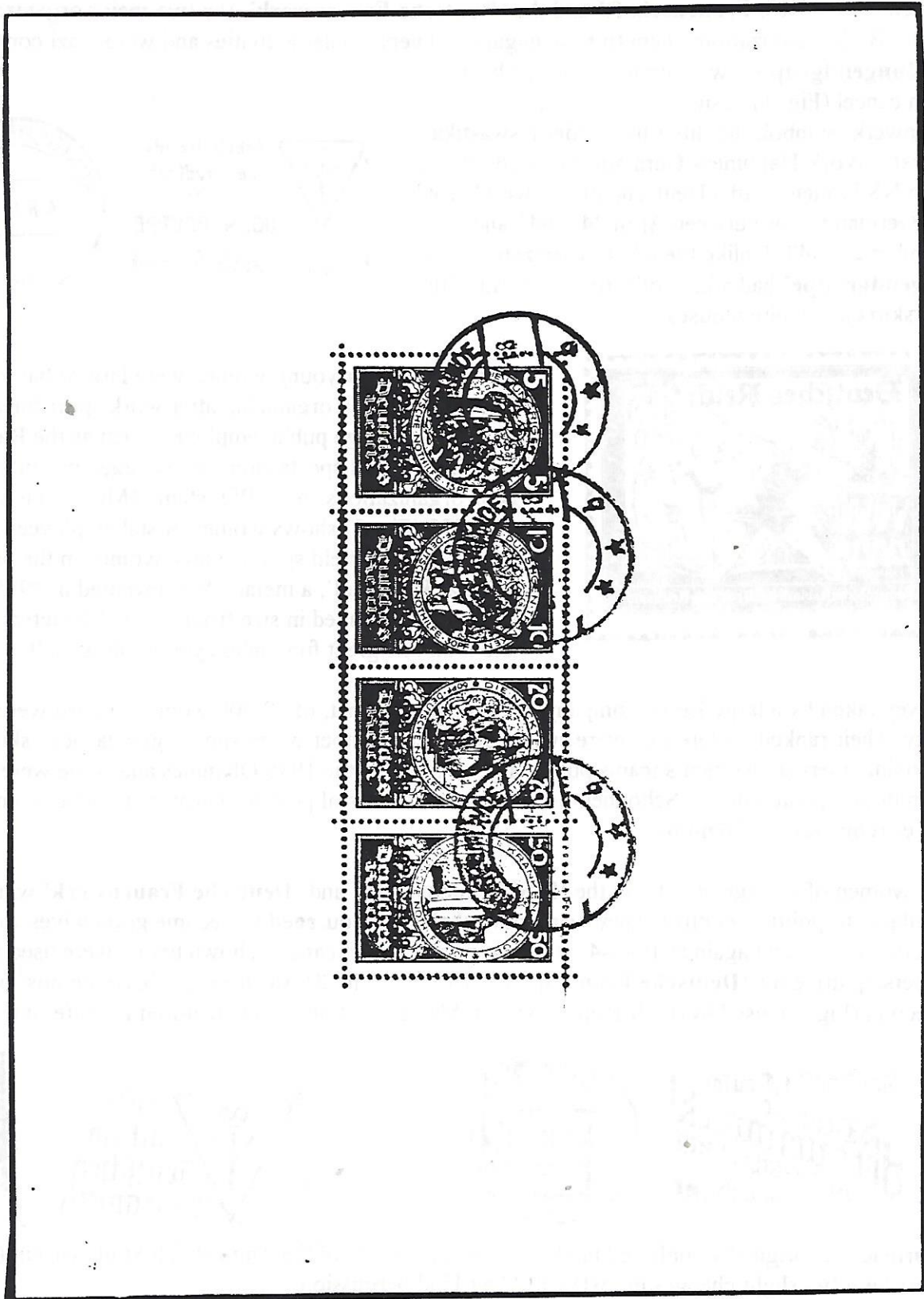
As her children were provided for, she settled in Marburg and joined the Order of St. Francis as a tertiary. She refused an offer to return to Hungary, preferring to dedicate her life to menial tasks like spinning yarn, cleaning the homes of the poor and fishing to help feed them. Her new regime was to last only a short time. When Elizabeth died on November 17, 1231, she was not yet 24 years old. She was canonized in 1235 by Pope Gregory IX. In the following year her relics were buried in the abby of the new church of St. Elizabeth in Marburg in the presence of Emperor Frederick II.

A set of four stamps depicting St. Elizabeth ministering to the poor were originally issued on Feb. 24, 1924 to commemorate the founding of the "Deutsche Nothilfe" charity. A miniature sheet (Michel Block 2) with the same stamp designs overprinted "1923 - 1933" was placed on sale Nov. 29, 1933 at an exhibition commemorating the 10th anniversary of this charity. These sheets were not sold at post office counters and could only be obtained through written application to collectors counters at the Berlin & Munich G.P.O.s and the main Nothilfe Office.



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

As regards the "10th Anniversary of the German Welfare Fund" sheet (Michel Block # 2) noted on the previous page, Bob Ferguson submitted this scarce "used" sheet favor canceled in Tagermunde on January 2, 1934.

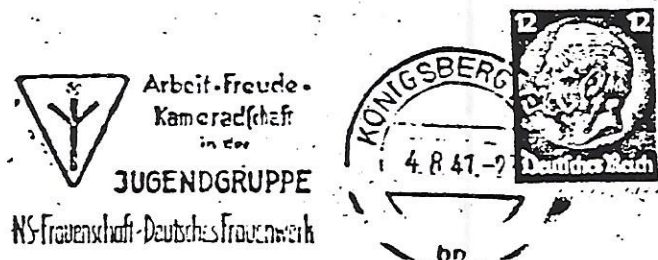


GERMAN WOMEN'S GROUPS

by Richard Hemery

After leaving the B.D.M. at the age of 21, many young women joined the '**Jugendgruppe**' (Youth Section) attached to the '**N.S. Frauenschaft**' and the '**Deutsche Frauenwerk**', the two major organizations for adult women. Both organizations seem to have engaged in very similar activities and were Nazi controlled.

The '**Jugendgruppe**' were commemorated by a slogan cancel (Fig. 1) design with a '**Deutsche Frauenwerk**' symbol, the '**life rune**' under a swastika and text "Work-Happiness-Comradship in the Youth Group NS Frauenschaft - Deutsche Frauenwerk" used in 34 German towns between April 24, 1941 and December 2, 1943. Unlike the adult organizations, the '**Jugendgruppe**' had a kind of formal uniform with black skirts and white blouses.



Other groups for young women were largely based on sports. The K.d.F. began organizing after work sport for women in April 1934 and all large public employers such as the Railways and Post Offices had sports clubs, encouraged by and affiliated to Nazi organizations. A 15 Pfg. stamp (Mi. 709) issued on Sept. 15, 1939 (Fig. 2) shows women postal employees practicing gymnastics and field sports. Three women in the background are using a 'Rhön-rad', a metal wheel invented in 1925 by Adolf Feick. These ranged in size from 1.4 to 2.2 meters in diameter and look like great fun, unless you go downhill!

A survey taken by a large Berlin company in 1934 showed that, of 42,000 women, a third were in the sports society. Their ranked preferences were swimming, cycling, other water sports, gymnastics, skiing, athletics and boxing. German women's teams put up a good show at the 1936 Olympics and some were depicted on contemporary postcards. A 'Schönheit der Gymnastik' series of postcards featured young women gymnasts in poses reminiscent of pin-ups.

Adult women of any age could join the '**N.S. Frauenschaft**' and '**Deutsche Frauenwerk**' which were rather less subject to political control. They were, nevertheless, encouraged to become good wives and diligent mothers. In 1937 and again in 1940-41, the two postal slogan cancels shown below were used in a membership drive for '**Deutsche Frauenwerk**'. The first (Fig. 3) was used by six Berlin post offices while the second (Fig. 4), used by 16 different towns on March 11, 1940, again featured the '**life rune**' symbol.



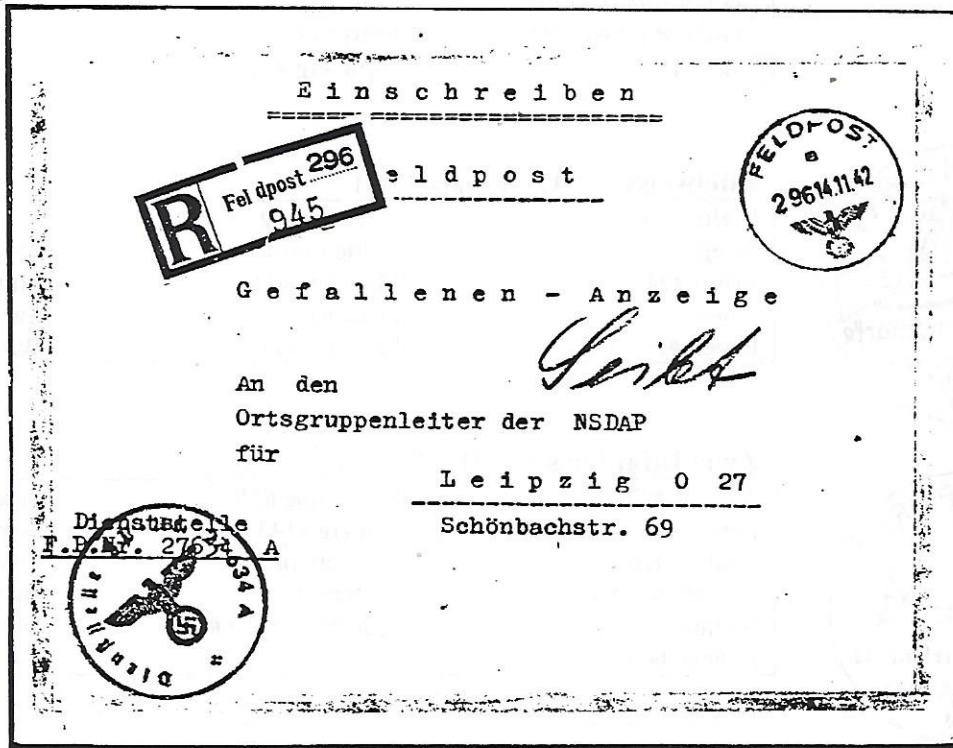
This article was originally published in Group News Sheet 47 of the Third Reich Study Group (U.K.) and appears here (w/ slight changes in text) with their kind permission.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 223rd Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
223	296	344	385	425	223	223

Created from older personnel in 1939, the 223rd Infantry Division fought in France the next year and remained in Southwest France until late 1941. Their post office was assigned Fp.# 08052 as a return address and Kenn 296 for registered mail in lieu of the tactical FpA 223. Sent to Army Group North in December 1941, it fought against the Soviet winter offensive of 1941-42 and later fought in the Battle of Lake Ladoga (August -September 1942).

Transferred to the southern sector in the summer of 1943, the division was heavily engaged from the outset. In late 1943 it was virtually destroyed in the Battle of Kiev. The division was disbanded with most of its survivors incorporated into the 275th Infantry Division which was forming in France. The Feldpost office retained Fp# 08502 and K-296 but was renumbered FpA 875 when transferred to the 275th Infantry Division.



The ultimate reality of war is displayed by this cover sent in November 1942 to Local Nazi Party Leader in Leipzig from Fp. # 27634 (Stab III/ Grenadier Rgt. 344) via P.O. 233 (K-296) contains 'Gefallenen Anzeige', a notice of men killed in action.

Note: The 275th Infantry Division was just completing training in June 1944 when it was thrown into the desperate fighting in the Normandy bridgehead to replace the Panzer Lehr Division. Several weeks later the division was virtually annihilated when 'Operation Cobra', a massive Allied carpet bombing, blasted a breach in the German defenses.

“Tag der Briefmarke” Special Cancels - January 1941

by Bob Ferguson

The following are lists of 1941 “Tag der Briefmarke” specials cancels with military themes. The cancel numbering scheme is that of Julius Bochmann’s work “Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel”.

Panzerkampfwagen (10 -14 January 1941)



Aschaffenburg #9	Greiz #8	Olbernhau #1
Aschersleben #4	Halle #23	Reichenbach #2
Bad Nauheim #8	Hannover # 64	Reutlingen #6
Berlin #348	Jena # 4	Rudolstadt #6
Bielefeld #4	Karlsruhe # 36	Solingen # 6
Brandenburg #7	Kassel #39	Stettin # 26
Breslau # 51	Kolmar # 1	Stuttgart #89
Bromberg #6	Konigsberg # 33	Thorn #3
Coberg #11	Konstanz #6	Troppau #4
Cottbus #5	Leipzig #175	Tubingen #3
Crimmitschau #3	Liegnitz #17	Villach #7
Darmstadt #21	Magdeburg #31	Villengen #3
Erfurt #25	Mainz #25	Weimar #21
Finsterwalder #3	Meiningen #3	Wien #69
Forst (Lausitz) #12	Muhlhausen #2	Wiesbaden #52
Frankfurt (Main) #102	Munchen #155	Wolfrathausen #2
Frankfurt (Oder) #15	Neisse #3	
Graz #15	Nurnberg #72	



Edelweiss (11 -12 January 1941)

Berlin #340	Kitzbuhel #2	Regensburg #14
Brieg #2	Marienwerder #2	Salzburg #9
Erfurt #24	Munchen #152	Strassburg #6
Essen #37	Pirna #1	Swinemund #4
Eupen #2	Potsdam #11	Wien #61



Zwei Infanteristen (11 -12 January 1941)

Aachen #22	Karlsruhe #35	Posen #7
Berlin #341	Leipzig #143	Schwerin #7
Deutsch Krone #3	Magdeburg #30	Teplitz-Schonau #3
Dusseldorf #53	Miltenberg #1	Werdau #1
Hamburg #106	Munster (WSF) #16	Wien #62
Hohenelbe #2		



Unterseeboot (11 -12 January 1941)

Berlin #342	Hamburg #108	Reichenbach #5
Bochum #10	Kiel #45	Stettin #22
Breslau #53	Koln #46	Ulm #10
Danzig # 13	Konigsberg #32	Wien #63
Dresden #96	Ludwigshafen #16	Wiener Neustadt #7
Dusseldorf #54	Luxemburg #1	Wurzburg #17

Pioniere (11 -12 January 1941)

Bautzen #2	Elbing #6	Plauen #5
Berlin #343	Gera #7	Schwerin #8
Bielefeld #3	Greifswald #4	Stettin #23
Braunschweig #30	Kattowitz #3	Stuttgart #87
Darmstadt #97	Kulmbach #3	Wien #64
Dresden #97	Metz #3	



Zwei Kanoniere (11 -12 January 1941)

Aschaffenburg #10	Hamburg #107	Radebeul #3
Berlin #344	Hannover # 63	Stolp #12
Breslau # 52	Kassel #38	Stuttgart #88
Danzig #14	Koln #47	Thorn #2
Frankfurt (Main) #101	Leipzig #174	Warnsdorf #3
Gutersloh #2	Mannheim #56	Wien #65
Breslau #51	Kolmar # 1	Stuttgart #89



Nachrichtensoldat (11 -12 January 1941)

Berlin #345	Hildeheim #5	Schweifurt #5
Chemnitz #33	Konigshutte #2	Stargard #2
Dortmund #10	Mainz #24	Wien #66
Duisburg #7	Memel #4	Witten #9
Frankfurt (Oder) #14	Munchen #153	Zwickau #21
Heidelberg #22	Nurnberg #71	



Bombenflugzeug (11 -14 January 1941)

Attenburg #6	Hann, Munden #5	Reichenberg #6
Berlin #346	Insterburg #6	Stettin #24
Dessau #3	Metz #4	Ulm #11
Eger #7	Neuburg (Don) #2	Waldenburg (SCH) #4
Eisenstadt #2	Neumunster #3	Wien #67
Hagen (West) #8	Prenzlau #3	



Vorpostenboot (11 -14 January 1941)

Anklam #3	Halle #24	Nordenham #1
Berlin #349	Hamburg #109	Oldenburg (Old) #7
Bremen #34	Hirschberg #5	Potsdam #12
Chemnitz #34	Innsbruck #10	Stettin #27
Danzig #12	Kiel #46	Strassburg #7
Dusseldorf #55	Liebenwerdah #4	Wesermunde #4
Elbing #7	Lubeck #8	Wien #70
Glucstadt #1	Meissen #4	Wilhelmshaven #4
Graz #16	Mulhausen #1	Wuppertal #6

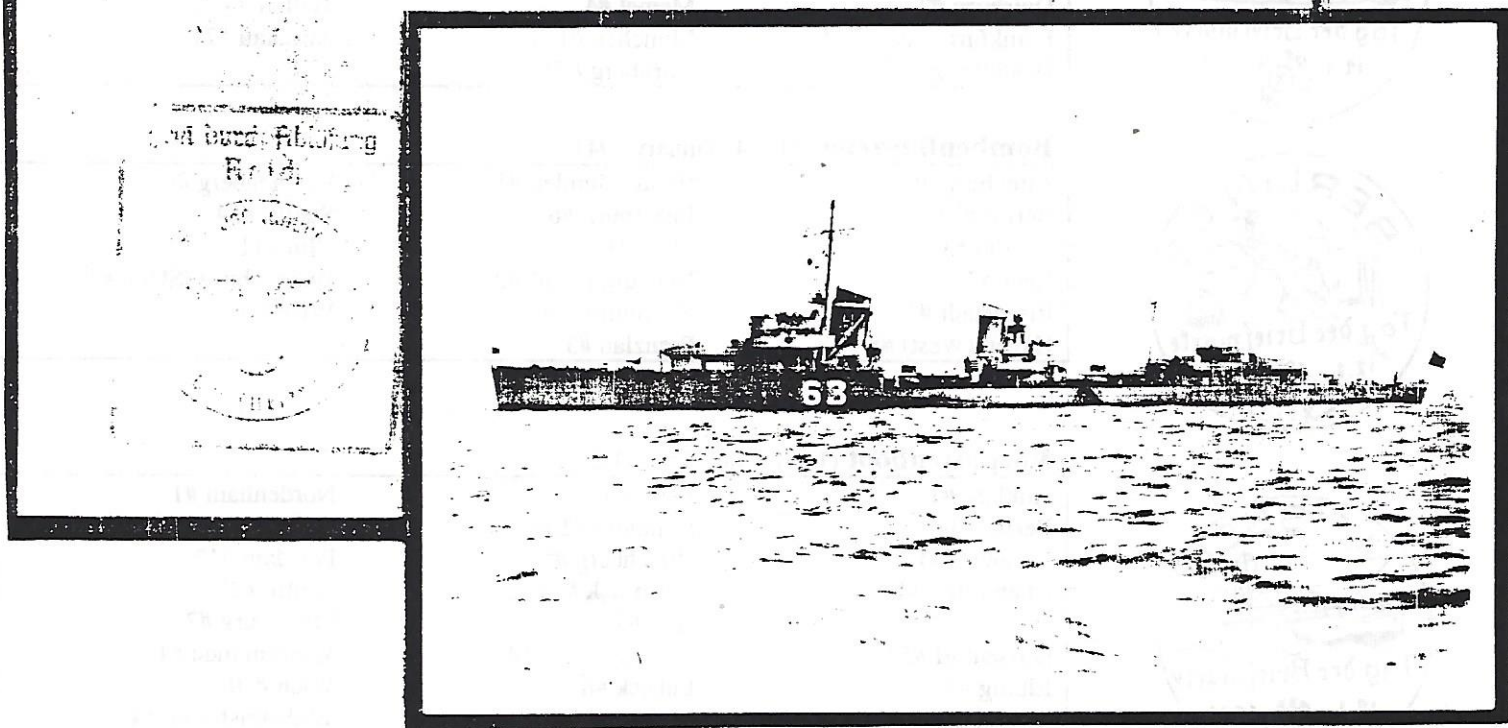
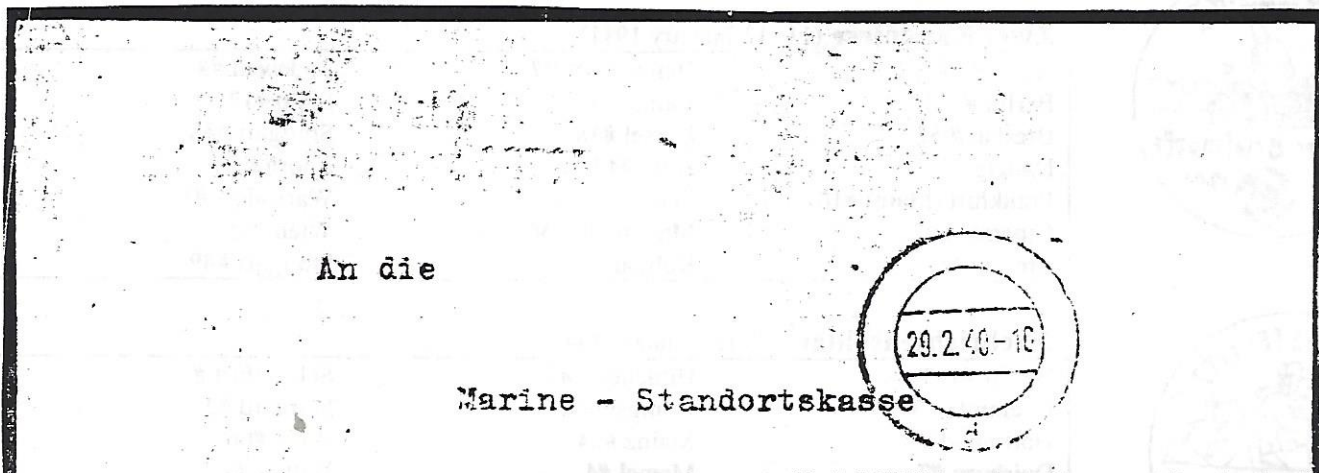


Flugzeug und Funf Geoffnete Fallshirme (11 -12 January 1941)

Arnstadt #1	Gera #8	Luxemburg #2
Augsburg #9	Gmunden #2	Munchen #15
Baden-Baden #29	Hildesheim #6	Stettin #25
Berlin #347	Koln #48	Wien #68
Braunschweig #31	Litzmannstadt #4	

NAVY LOG

Destroyer Z-9 'Wolfgang Zenker'- Feldpost # 08795



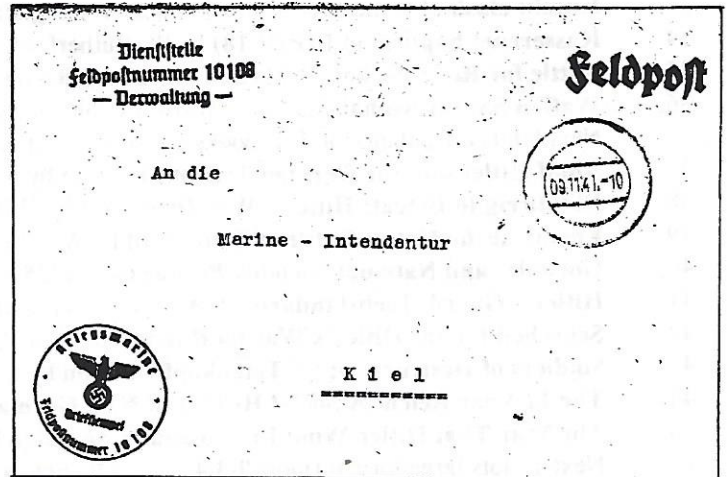
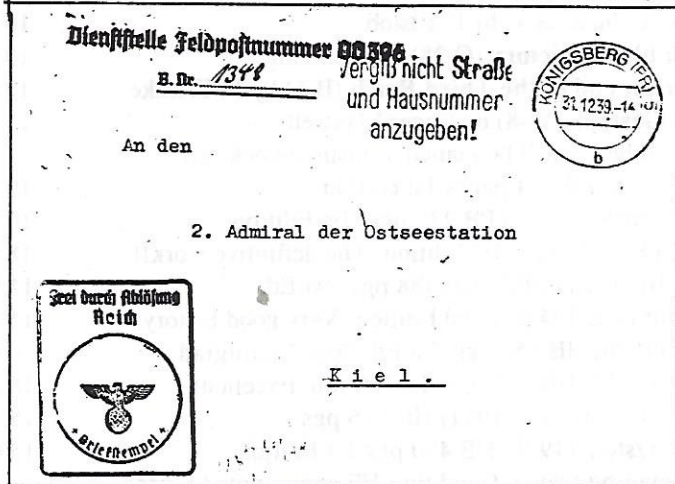
The ninth of sixteen "Leberecht Maass" (Destroyer Type 1935 Z1-16) class ships. Built by Germania Weft (Kiel), launched March 27, 1936. Namesake Leutnant zur See Zenker killed by Communist mutineers aboard SMS 'König' on November 5, 1918.

Served: Poland 1939, North Sea (minelaying/mercantile warfare) 1939-40, Norway 1940. Scuttled in Rombaksfjord on April 13, 1940 after Second Battle of Narvik.

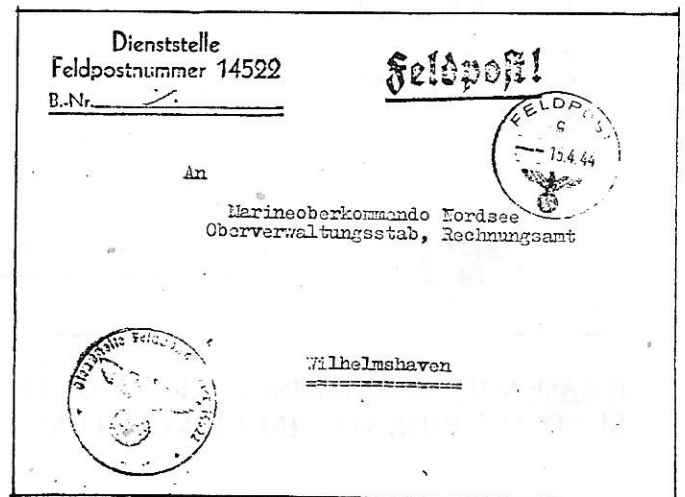
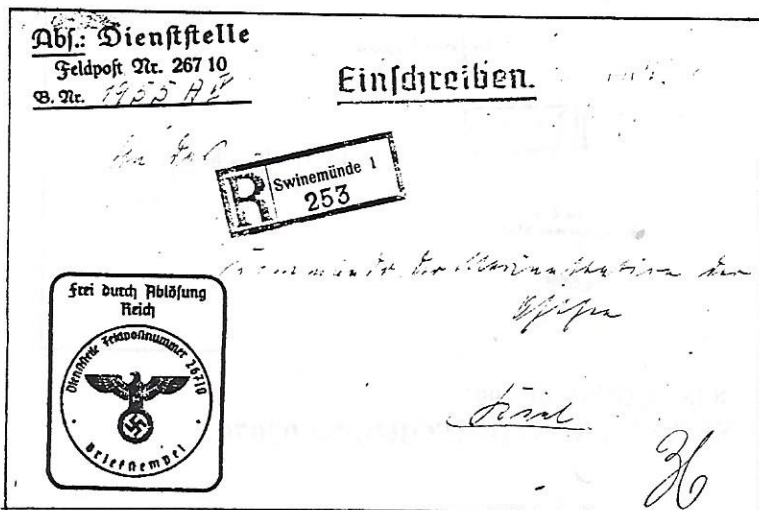
Cover to Naval HQ in Kiel has mute cancel dated February 2, 1940.

TRSG AUCTION NO. 78

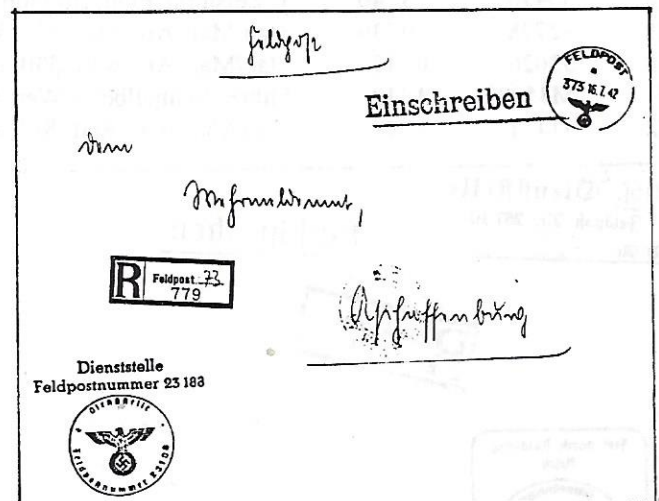
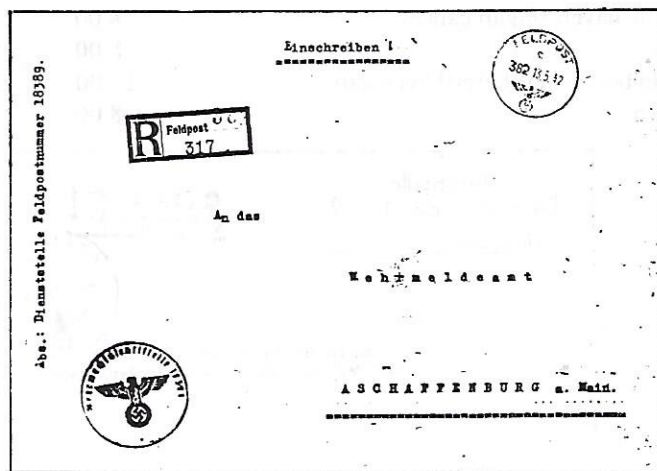
Lot	Description	Min. Bid.	
First 22 lots - scarce Kriegsmarine Feldpost incl. cvrs frm Stab (H.Q.) of M.F.A. (Marine Flak Abtl.) & M.A.A. (Marine Artillery Abtl.) manning coastal defenses. All F-VF unless indicated o'wise. Typical cancel types illustrated.			
Fp. No.	Date	Description	
1.	00396	12.'39 Stab/Mar. Art. Abtl.115 , Königsberg town cancel (illust. below L)	\$ 9.00
2.	00472	3.'42 Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 280, Feldpost can., h/s 'Wehrmachtsdienstpost'	8.00
3.	03574	11.'39 Stab/ Mar. Flak Abl. 213, Wick town cancel. "Frei durch--" exemption h/s	10.00
4.	03629	1.'42 Stab/ Mar. Art. Abtl. 264, Feldpost cancel.	8.00
5.	07853	5.'42 Stab/ Mar. Art. Abtl. 286, Feldpost can. F-VF	8.00
6.	10108	11.'41 Stab/ Mar. Flak Abtl 211, mute can. (illust. below R)	9.00



7.	11070	5.'44	Hafen Kdt. Saint Malo, Feldpost cancel (Harbor Command)	8.00
8.	11313	4.'42	Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 711, mute cancel	8.00
9.	14522	4.'44	Stab/Mar. Art. Abtl. 627, Feldpost cancel (illust. below R)	8.00
10.	16685	7.'44	Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 266, mute cancel	8.00
11.	18258	4.'44	Stab/Mar. Art. Abtl. 509, Feldpost cancel	8.00
12.	18558	4.'44	Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 814, Feldpost cancel (see illust. Bulletin cover)	9.00
13.	M20284	3.'40	2. Raumboots Flot./Kdo, mute cancel (mine sweepers) F-VF	12.00
14.	21607	8.'44	Stab/Mar. Art. Abtl. 214, Fp can. h/s über Marine Postamt Wien	12.00
15.	24466	12.'39	Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 225, Königsberg town cancel	8.00
16.	25732	2.'40	Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 261, Kiel Red Cross slogan mach. can. F-VF	8.00
17.	26710	10.'39	Re-used R-cvr frm Mar. Gruppen Kdo Nord (illust. below L)	12.00
18.	30470	3.'40	1. Zerstörer-Flott. (to Flott. Kdo), Willhelmshaven town cancel	8.00
19.	32778	10.'39	Stab/Mar. Art. Abtl. 272, Willhelmshaven slogan cancel	8.00
20.	33626	6.'42	Stab/Mar. Art. Abtl. 530, mute can.	8.00
21.	M35089	4.'40	Führer/Schnellboots West (torpedo boats) Willhelmshaven can.	12.00
22.	41151	3.'42	Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 811, mute can.	8.00



Lot	Description	Min. Bid				
23.	Photocd Marineschule (Navy School) Flensburg sent Feldpost 6.'42 frm Mar. Art. instructor. D'siegel VF	\$10.00				
24.	Kriegsmarine off cvr sent 8.'44 frm Marinenachrichtenschule (Navy Signals School) in Warren (Moritz) F	8.00				
25.	Off. cvr sent 4.'44 frm Marine-Flak-Schule VI - 1. (Art.-Mech.) Lehrkompanie in Wesel. F	8.00				
Next 11 lots are two books each frm Ballentine Illust. History of WW II publ. late 1960s. Average 160 pg PB profusely illustrated w/ maps. Series codes: B=Battle, C=Campaign, W=Weapon, WL=War Leader. VF						
26.	Hitler (WL-3) by Alan Wikes; Nuremberg Rallies (C-8) by Alan Wikes	10.00				
27.	Luftwaffe (W-10) by Alfred Price; Allied Secret Weapons (uncoded) by Brian J. Ford	10.00				
28.	Battle of the Reichswald (B-19) by P. Elstob; Battle for the Ruhr Pocket (B-21) by C. Whiting	10.00				
29.	Bomber Offensive: devastation of Europe by Nobel Freedland; ME-109 (W-4) by Martin Caidin	10.00				
30.	The Guns 1939-45 (W-11) by Ian V. Hogg; Barbarossa: Invasion of Russia 1941 (C-11) by John Keegan	10.00				
31.	Rotterdam: invasion of Holland (B-29) by W. Steenbeck; France: Summer 1940 (C-6) by J. Williams	10.00				
32.	D-Day: spearhead of invasion (B-1) by R. Thompson; Breakout: Drive to the Seine (C-4) by D. Mason	10.00				
33.	Kursk: clash of armour (B-7) by G. Jukes; Bastogne; the road block (B-4) by P. Elstob	10.00				
34.	Kasserene: baptism of fire (B-18) by W. Rutherford; Palaus: bloody victory (C-28) by Stan Falk	10.00				
35.	Battle for Ruhr Pocket (B-21) by C. Whiting; Battle for Berlin; end of the Third Reich (B-6) by E. Ziemke	10.00				
36.	Waffen SS; the asphalt soldiers (W-16) by John Keegan; SS Gestapo (W-8) by Roger Maxwell	15.00				
Next 9 lots are balance of T. R.books offered in last auction. All books will be mailed at insured book rate.						
37.	Adolf Hitler and the German Trauma 1913-45 by R.E. Herzstein; PB 294 pages 1st edition	10.00				
38.	Blitzkrieg to Defeat: Hitler's War Directives by H.R. Trevor-Roper (1971) PB 230 pgs. 1st Edition	10.00				
39.	Enemy at the Gates: Battle of Stalingrad by W. Craig (1973) HB 457 pgs. 1st Edition. The definitive work!!	18.00				
40.	Goebbels and National Socialist Propaganda 1925-45 by E. Bransted (1965) HB 488 pgs. 1st Ed.	15.00				
41.	Hitler's Guard: Liebstandarte SS AH by J. Weingartner (1968) HB 194 pgs 2nd Edition. Very good history.	15.00				
42.	Scorched Earth: Hitler's War on Russia Vol. 2 by P. Carell (1970) HB 556 pgs. 1st Ed. Post- Stalingrad.	10.00				
43.	Soldiers of Destruction: SS Totenkopf Division by C. Snyder (1977) HB 371 pgs. 1st Edition. Excellent.	18.00				
44.	The 12 Year Reich: A Social History of Nazi Germany by R. Grunberger (1971) HB 536 pgs	15.00				
45.	The War That Hitler Won: Propaganda Campaign by R. Herzstein (1978) HB 490 pgs 1st Edition.	15.00				
Next 10 lots large format (most 9-3/4" x 7") R- Feldpost (for mailing maps), Condition VF unless noted o'wise						
Kenn #	FpA	Date	Fp. #	Description		
46.	130	84	1.'44	47683	Security Btl. 862 via P.O. 4th Pz Div. (12-1/2" x 5-1/4" newspaper mailer)	10.00
47.	193	26	3.'41	29014	Division HQ/ 26th Infantry Division via P.O 26th Inf. Div..	10.00
48.	260	252	5.'42	05116	Stab II/Infantry Rgt. 62 via P.O.252nd Inf. Division.	10.00
49.	343	APM 9	3.'44	21042	Column/Motorcycle Security Btl. 853 via P.O. 9th Army in Central Russia	10.00
50.	373	246	7.'42	23188	Co. I/ Engineer Btl. 246 via P.O.246th Infantry Division (illust. below R)	10.00
51.	382	10	5.'42	18389	Co. I/Signals Btl. 10 via P.O. 10th Infantry Division (illust. below L)	10.00
52.	399	229	7.'42	30235	Squad 2/Engineer Co. 229 (197th I.D.) via P.O. 197th Infantry Division	10.00
53.	454	337	1.'42	26655	5. Motorized Column/Inf. Div. Col. 337 via P.O. 337th Infantry Division	10.00
54.	565	435	5.'42	32635	6. Motorized Column/Inf. Div. Col. 125 via P.O. XXXV Army Corps	10.00
55.	652	7	11.'41	16882	Rations Office 221 via P.O. 7th Infantry Division	10.00



PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 78 IS AUGUST 30, 1997
 SEND ALL BIDS TO: JIM LEWIS, 111 MONTROSS AVE., RUTHERFORD, NJ 07070