



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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STUDY GROUP NOTES

Welcome - With this first issue of the Bulletin for 2010, we begin another year of study group activities. As always, we hope that those members who have not yet contributed an article or favorite item to share with us will do so this year.

Berlin Cancels - TRSGer Walt Kurth is looking for information on the two cancels shown at right. The top Berlin Bahnpost cancel has a date line reading 25.3.42 *B* with "B" in place of an hour (V or N9-10). The lower Berlin W 62 receiving cancel on a registered cover has date line 27.10.43 I with Roman numeral "I" in place of the hour (V or N 9-10). If any member can explain the meaning of these date line markings, please send info to Ye Olde Editor.



Color Printing?- TRSGer Nathan Gutsu, a new member, wonders why our bulletins couldn't be printed in color. While we have considered this possibility, the major drawback is that almost all the articles we receive are B & W photocopies. This is also the case for those illustrations in our files that are used for future bulletin articles. Therefore, it wouldn't make sense to pay the extra cost for color printing if the greater part of the bulletin would still be B & W. However, if conditions change and we begin to receive most illustrations as color scans, we'll be glad to revisit this subject.

Military Records Office -as many R-Feldpost covers were addressed to Wehrmeldeamt (Military Record Offices) TRSGer Geoff Jamieson wondered what functions were performed by these offices. When mustered into military service, personnel were given a pass book that contained their photo, DOB, service number etc. A specific military records office was also designated in this book. Information on events such as promotions, transfers, disciplinary measures, awards, illness or wounds, participation in major actions, etc. were sent to the designated office and added to the service record. Families seeking information about a serviceman could submit a request to the records office. To date we have noted that the records offices were located in at least thirty different cities in Germany.

War and Philabooks, the publishing firm of TRSGer Erik Lordahl is, together with the Norwegian War and Field Post Society, publishing books about military mail in Norway and in the European theater during WW II. Many of these books are in English or English & Norwegian. A listing including prices can be obtained from Erik via e-mail: erik.lordahl@gmail.com.

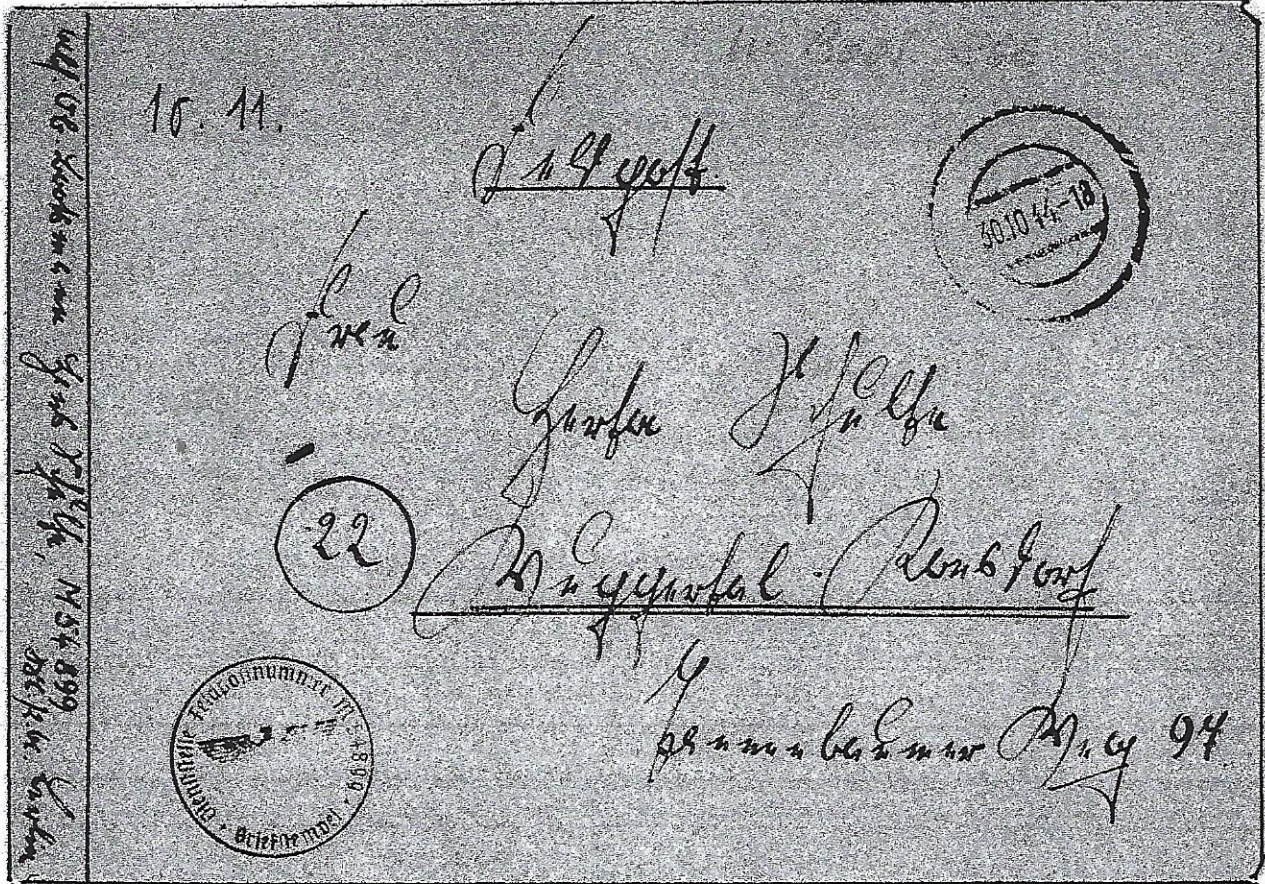
Definitive Issue of 1941 - TRSGer Walter Kurth's very fine exhibit of the Hitler Head issues can be viewed on the Germany Philatelic Society web site www.gps.nu. We've requested Walt to provide some pages from his exhibit for inclusion in future TRSG bulletins.

Cover Illustration: This cover shows two strikes of one of the scarcer Third Reich censor markings. In the spring of 1945 "Festung Lorient" (Lorient Fortress) was one of the fortified coastal cities in France that had been by-passed by the Allies during the break out from the Normandy beach head. Posted in Lorient on April 17, 1945, the cover has a La Baule receiving stamp dated April 30th

NAVY LOG

by Phil Miller

U-Boat 866 - Feldpost # M54899



The Type IX U-boat was designed by Germany as a large, ocean-going submarine capable of sustained operations far from home support facilities. Type IXC boats were briefly used for patrols off the eastern United States, in an attempt to disrupt convoys of troops and supplies bound for Europe. The extended range came at a cost of longer dive times and decreased maneuverability.

This type IXC/40 boat was built by AG Weser (Bremen) and launched on July 29, 1943. Displacement: 1,120/1,247 * tons; Dimensions: 252 x 22.75 x 15.5 ft.; Machinery: 2-shaft diesel/ electric motors, B.H.P. 4,400/1,000; Speed: 18.25/17.25* knots; Armament: one 4 in., one 37mm AA, two 20mm AA (2 x1) guns, six 21 in. Torpedo tubes (4 bow, 2 stern), twenty-two torpedos and forty four mines. Crew: 55
(*) Surface/submerged

Fate: Sunk on March 18, 1945 in the North Atlantic NE of Boston by depth charges from U.S. destroyer escorts *USS Lowe*, *USS Menges*, *USS Pride* and *USS Mosley*.

This Feldpost cover with a "stumme" (mute) cancel was posted by a crew member on October 30, 1944.

Rejected by Censor - Inadmissible Mail

by Kelly Stefanacci

Incorrect Feldpost Number

Shown below is a stampless cover that was sent to a Feldpost address. While the address, Dienstsiegel and date cancel are unreadable, the cover bears two strikes of an "As" hand stamp applied by SS mail examiners. A large label printed "Zurück" (Return) applied by the "Luftgaupostamt" (Air District Post Office) in Munich notifies the sender that because of the Feldpost number (5-digit) it is not possible to forward the letter. A rectangular hand stamp reading "Retour" (Return) dated Nov. 20, 1944 was applied over the label. Can anyone explain why a letter examined by the SS was returned through a Luftwaffe post office?

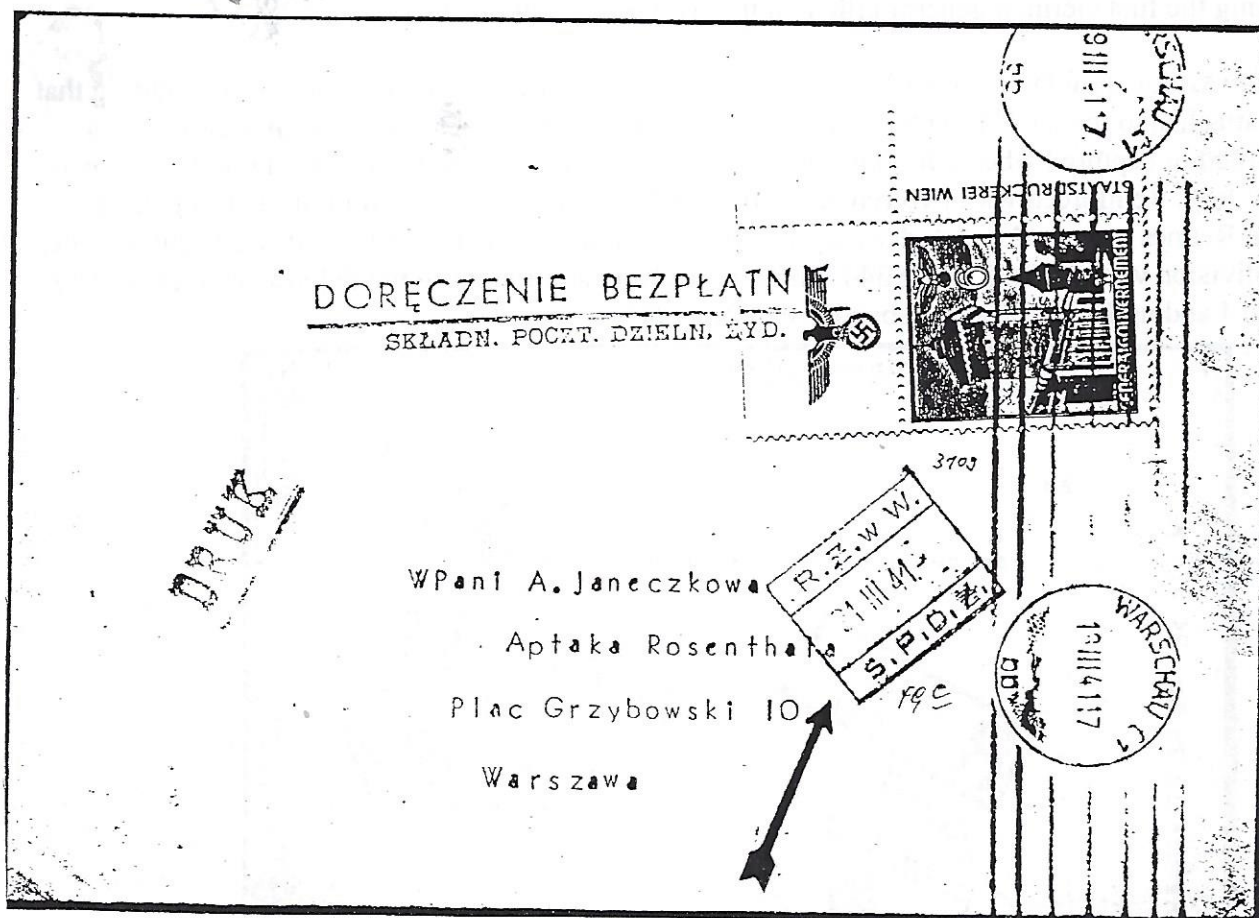


Ghetto Censor Marking

by Kelly Stefanacci

I found the discussion on German and Ghetto censor markings in the past two bulletins to be very interesting. In the hopes of adding to this discussion, I offer a cover posted four months after the Warsaw ghetto was constructed in November, 1940.

This local letter, posted outside the ghetto, has a 6 Gr. Stamp tied by a Warsaw P.O.1 machine cancel dated March 3, 1941. Next to this cancel is a rectangular hand stamp (see arrow) dated March 21, 1941 with the letters "R.Z.w W." (top) and "S.P.D.Z." (bottom). These are initials for the Polish "**Rada Zydowska w Warszawie, Skladnica Pocztowa Dzielnicy Zidowskiej**" which translates as "Judenrat at Warsaw, Postal Agency in the Jewish Quarter". This was the handstamp of the ghetto censor.



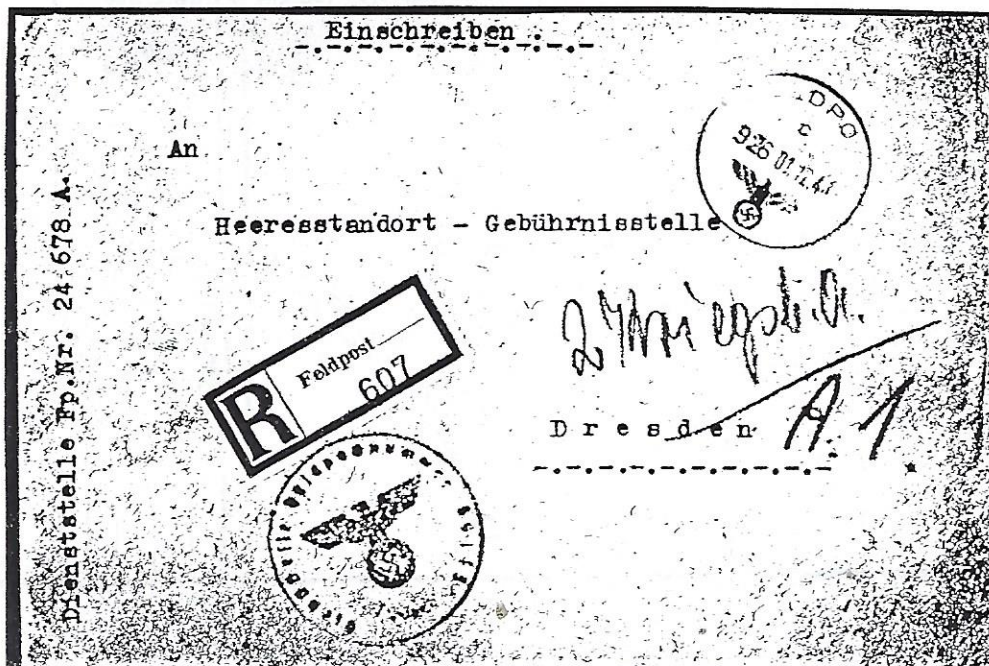
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 91st Infantry (Air Landing) Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
191	926	1057	1058	191	191

Formed (25th wave) at the Baumholder-Bitsch Maneuver Areas in Feb.-March 1944. Personnel were mainly from reinforced infantry regiments (23rd Wave) and from replacement training centers at Idar-Oberstein. The post office was assigned Fp. # 59143 as a mailing address and Kenn 926 as a coded identification. The division was guarding the western coast of the Contentin peninsula against an Allied invasion. When the Allies landed to the east, the 91st Air Landing Division engaged elements of the U.S. 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions from the first day. The division commander, General Wilhelm Falley, was killed by machine gun fire in the pre-dawn hours of June 6th, becoming the first German general killed on the reopened western front.

The 91st Air Landing Division suffered such heavy losses during the first two weeks of fighting that it was attached to the 243rd Infantry Division for operational purposes. The bulk of the survivors were killed or captured when Cherbourg fell, but remnants escaped to the south and were reformed in early July. Reinforced with two replacement battalions and sent to the front, it made a gallant stand at Rennes in early August, denying the city to Patton's 3rd Army for three days. The remainder of the division was attached to the 344th Infantry division and fought in the defense at Aachen. The 91st Air Landing Division was disbanded early in 1945.



Cover sent to Army Garrison Office in Dresden in December 1944 from Fp. # 24687 (Battery 6 of Flak Battalion 704) via Field P.O. 191 (K-926).

German POWs in North America Camps in Georgia

by Jim Lewis

During WWII 11,094,000 German soldiers became prisoners and were held in foreign custody. About 3,800,000 were in American custody and of this number 363,036 were located in America. The situation of prisoners in the United States was substantially different from other countries. The favorable conditions of life were the big difference. They lived in a country without needs and in addition the United States had not been physically damaged by the war. The prisoners who came can be divided into two large groups; the soldiers of Panzer Army Africa captured in Tunisia in 1943 and those captured in Europe after the western front was reopened in June 1944. The camps were almost exclusively established in the southern states because the mild climate reduced the costs and the isolated areas would prevent opportunities for sabotage. Camps had double barbed-wire fences and guard towers with search lights and machine guns. Inside the wire were the prisoners quarters, dining hall, canteen, wash rooms and rooms for leisure time. The administration buildings, clinics and guard quarters were outside the wire.

By 1943 German, Austrian and Italian POWs were held in **Fort Benning** (Code 40), **Camp Gordon** (Code 48), **Camp Stewart** (Code 176) & **Camp Wheeler** (Code 2) in Georgia. These major camps housed 2,000 to 4,000 prisoners and had satellite camps of from 250 to 750 men who supplied workers for labor-poor southern industry. Before the War Department streamlined the camp system, Camp Gordon had satellite camps as far away as North Carolina and Florida. Workers harvested cotton, tomato and peanut crops and worked in the pulpwood and lumber industries



Fig. 1) German POWs in Camp Gordon

By mid-1944 the shirts and trousers emblazoned with large letters "PW" were a common sight in Georgia. Prisoners who refused to work received half rations and activity restrictions. Hard line Nazis in some camps led work stoppages. They maintained power over other German inmates through appeals to patriotism, intimidation, secret kangaroo trials and the murder of those they deemed suspicious. Two murdered Corporal Horst Gunther, age 24, at Camp Gordon on April 6, 1944. Gunther was suspected of anti-Nazi sentiment, partially because he liked jazz music and might have alerted the authorities to a pending work stoppage. He was convicted in absentia by a court of his fellow prisoners, lured from his tent and strangled to death. His body was taken to a telephone pole and hanged to make it appear that he had committed suicide. His two murderers were tried and executed by the U.S. government in 1945.

In late 1944, with the war nearing an end, the War Department began a reeducation program to reorient inmates's thinking. After the war ended in 1945, all POWs, with the exception of those serving sentences in U.S. penal institutions were sent home. Some applied in their home countries to return to Georgia, and a few began to return during the 1950s, both to escape the devastation in Germany and to pursue employment opportunities

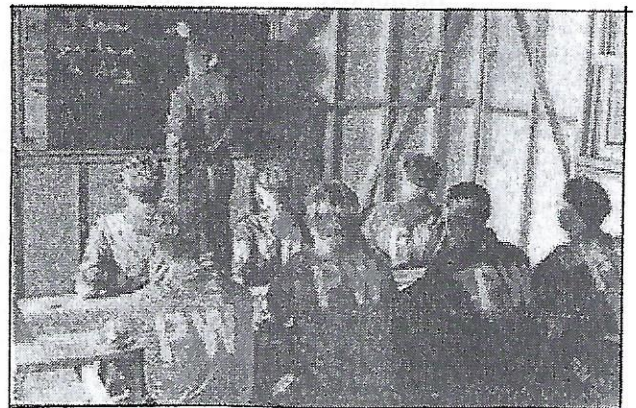


Fig. 2) Prison Education at Camp Stewart

The mail was enormously important for a prisoner because news from Germany provided a piece of spiritual balance. Upon transfer to camps in the United States, prisoners were provided with postal cards so they could inform their families of their new address.

Fig. 3) Shown at right are both sides of a form card sent to Germany in October 1943 from a POW in Camp Gordon, Georgia.

German *ft*

Postage Free
Portofrei

PRISONER OF WAR POST CARD
Postkarte für Kriegsgefangene
Deutschland

Address
Adresse

Fam. Waldemar Uhle
Wittenberge Bez./Pdm.
Wiglowstrasse 10

Do Not Write Here!
Nicht Hier Schreiben!

CENSORSHIP
By *S.P.*

U. S. G. Form No. 6
MAY 10, 1943

16-27543-3

There is a plaque in the cemetery for German soldiers at Fort Gordon that reads: "In this burial ground rest 21 German Soldiers of the Second World War". Headstones in this cemetery contain the name, rank and date of death. These were the causes of death: accident (8), drowning (2), illness/wounds (4), killed (3) and suicide (4). This well-cared for cemetery is visited once a year by an officer of the military attaché of the German ambassador in Washington D.C.

Ich befinde mich in einem amerikanischen Kriegsgefangenenlager.

Mein Gesundheitszustand ist: gut

Geburtsort und -datum: Wittenberge, 11. März 1923

Name: Gerhard Uhle

Kriegsgefangenen-Serien-Nr.: 120866

Bezeichnung des Kriegsgefangenenlagers: Camp Gordon
P.O.W. Camp

Ort des Kriegsgefangenenlagers: Georgia

Datum: 31. Oktober 1943

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943 16-27543-3

Shown below is a listing of POW camps in Georgia.

Name of Camp	County	Main Camp	Name of Camp	County	Main Camp
Americus	Sumter	Benning	Ogelthorpe,	Catloosa	---
Ashburn	Turner	Wheeler	Reidsville	Tattnall	Stewart
Atlanta	Fulton	Benning	Sanderson	Washington	Wheeler
Axon	Atkinson	Benning	Savannah	Chatham	Stewart
Bainbridge	Decatur	Benning	Statesboro	Bulloch	Stewart
Benning, Ft	Columbus	--	Stewart, Ft.	Liberty	---
Blakely	Early	Benning	Swainsboro	Emanuel	Stewart
Brunswick	Glynn	Benning	Sylvania	Screven	Stewart
Dublin	Laurens	Wheeler	Thomasville	Thomas	Benning
Fargo	Clinch	Benning	Tifton	Tift	Benning
Gordon, Fort	Augusta	---	Toccoa	Stephens	Croft, S.C.
Griffin	Spalding	Wheeler	Turner Field	Dougherty	Benning
Hawkinsville	Pulaski	Wheeler	Valdosta	Lowndes	Benning
Hunter Field	Chatham	Stewart	Wadley	Jefferson	Gordon
Jessup	Wayne	Wheeler	Waycross	Ware	Benning
Monticello	Jasper	Wheeler	Waynesboro	Burke	Benning
Valdosta	Lowndes	Benning	Wheeler, Ft.	Bibb	---

Story Behind the Cancel: State Visit of Regent von Horthy

by Bob Ferguson

Miklos von Horthy, born on June 18, 1868, served as an officer in the Austro-Hungarian Navy and was promoted to its Commander in Chief during the last year of WWI. In 1919 Hungarian Socialists and Communists under Béla Kun seized power and proclaimed the Hungarian Soviet Republic. A counter-revolutionary government was formed and asked Horthy to take command of its forces. With the consent of Allied powers, Romanian forces invaded Hungary and overthrew Kun. When Romania evacuated Budapest in 1919, Horthy entered as head of the National Army and in 1920 was declared Regent and Head of State.

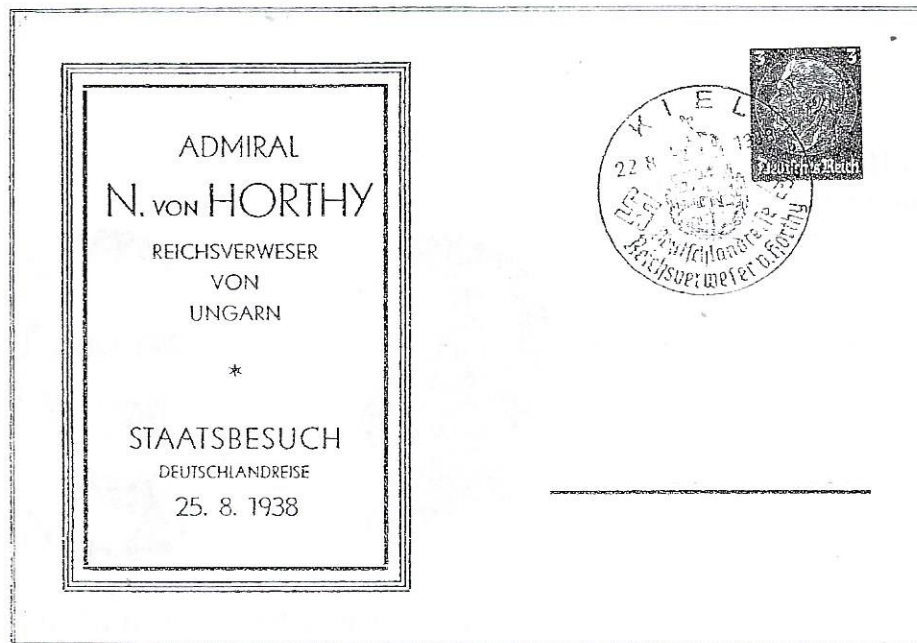
In August 1938 Admiral von Horthy made a state visit to Germany. Three special cancels, one for each of the cities that Horthy toured, marked the visit:

Kiel # 39 - "Deutschlandreise Reichsverweser v. Horthy (used 22 August 1938)

Berlin # 282 - "Deutschlandreise Reichsverweser v. Horthy (used 25-26 August 1938)

Nurnberg # 61 - "Deutschlandreise Reichsverweser v. Horthy (used 27 August 1938)

Fug. 1) Postal card for Kiel visit has special cancel dated August 22, 1938.



In June 1941 Hungary entered WW II as an ally of Germany. In October 1944 Hitler, fearful of a separate peace between Hungary and the Soviet Union, invaded and occupied Hungary. Until that date Hungary had not cooperated in giving up its Jews. In October 1944 von Horthy announced that Hungary would surrender and withdraw from the Axis. He was forced to resign, was placed under arrest and taken to Bavaria. The deportation began for the approximately a quarter million Hungarian Jews to the extermination camps in Poland

Fig. 2) Post card showing von Horthy in full naval uniform was printed in Germany for visit.

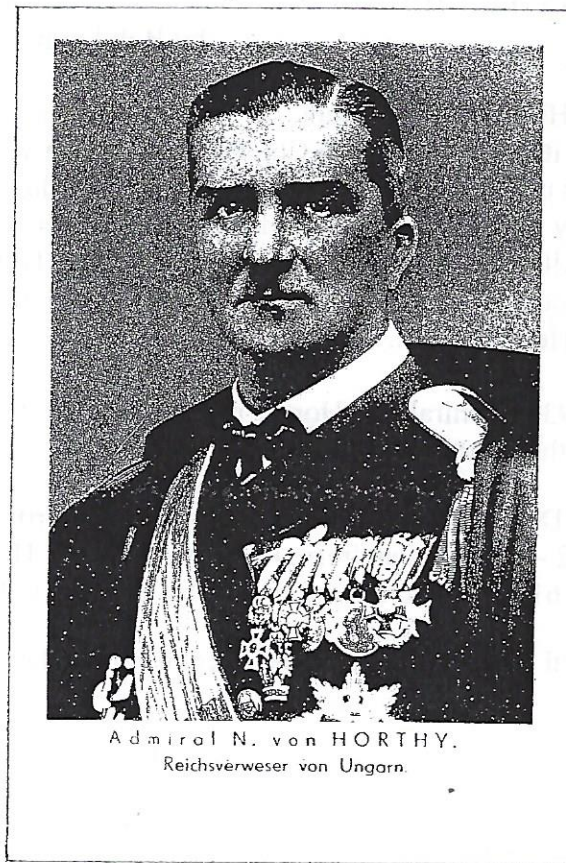
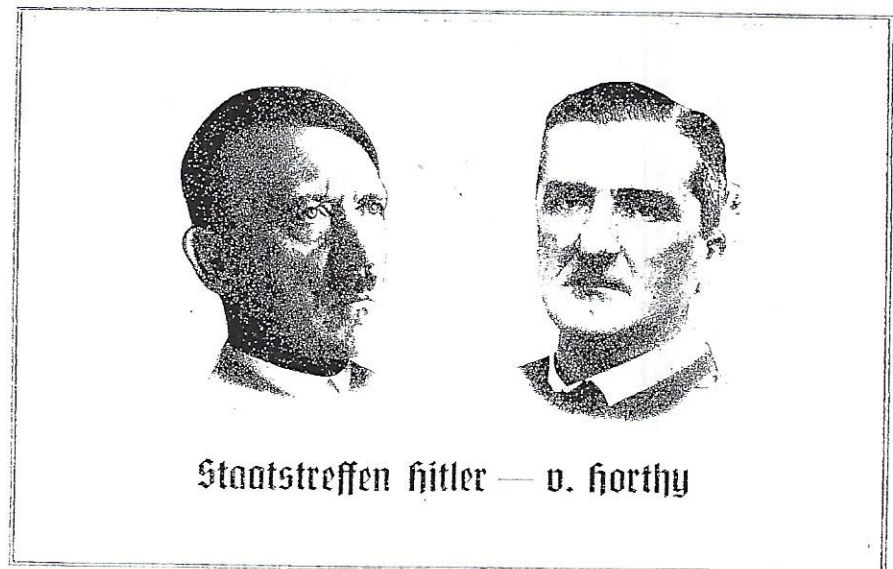


Fig. 3) Post card for Hitler and von Horthy state meeting also printed in Germany.



After von Horthy appeared as a witness at the Nuremberg war-crime trials in 1948, he settled and lived out his remaining years in Portugal. He died on February 9, 1957 at the age of 88. In his will he asked that his remains not be returned to Hungary "until the last Russian soldier has left." In 1993, two years after the Soviet troops left Hungary, von Horthy's remains were returned and buried in his home town of Kenderi.

TRSG Navy Log Summary Correction

by Jim Lewis

The following is a corrected second page of the Navy Log Summary & Index that appeared in TRSG Bulletin 173. I've also added the Navy Log article appearing on page 3 of this bulletin..

Ship Type	Issue	Ship Type	Issue
Destroyer Z-21 'Wilhelm Heidkamp'	117	Minelayer 'Brummer'	142
Destroyer Z-22 'Anton Schmitt'	119	Aux. Minelayer 'Cobra'	156
Destroyer Z-23	133	Aux. Minelayer 'Hansestat Danzig'	163
Destroyer Z-25	135	Aux. Minelayer 'Kaiser'	146
Destroyer Z-27	136	Aux. Minelayer 'Königin Luise'	139
Destroyer Z-29	137	Aux. Minelayer 'Linz'	165
Destroyer Z-37	155	Aux. Minelayer 'Roland'	150
Torpedo Boat (Type 1923) 'Falke'	158	Aux. Minelayer 'Skagerrak'	144
Torpedo Boat (Type 1923) 'Greif'	138	Aux. Netlayer 'Uranus'	166
Torpedo Boat (Type 1923) 'Möwe'	94	Aux. Netlayer 'Genua'	171
Torpedo Boat (Type 1924) 'Jaguar'	107	Aux. Cruiser 'Pinguin'	147
Torpedo Boat (Type 1924) 'Leopard'	154	Merchant Raider 'Atlantis'	67
Torpedo Boat (Type 1924) 'Luchs'	116	Merchant Raider 'Orion'	95
Torpedo Boat (Ex-Norway) 'Löwe'	121	Merchant Raider 'Steir'	92
Torpedo Boat (Type 1935) T-1	105	Merchant Raider 'Widder'	93
Torpedo Boat (Type 1935) T-2	112	U-Boat Tender 'Ammerland'	141
Torpedo Boat (Type 1935) T-5	173	U-Boat Depot Ship 'Erwin Wasser'	172
Torpedo Boat (Type 1935) T-8	149	U-Boat Depot Ship 'Isar'	122
Torpedo Boat (Type 1935) T-10	160	U-Boat Depot Ship 'Kertosono'	168
U-Boat (Type VIIC) 627	68	U-Boat Depot Ship 'Saar'	161
U-Boat (Type IXC) 866	174	U-Boat Depot Ship 'Tanga'	131
Fleet Sloop F-10	152	U-Boat Depot Ship 'Weichsel'	162
Fleet Tender 'Gazelle'	134	U-Boat Repair Ship 'Huascaran'	132
Minesweeper (Type 1916) 'Nautilus'	120	Sail Trainer 'Horst Wessel'	159
Minesweeper (Type 1935) 102	140	Yacht 'Hela'	164
Aux. Minesweeper Sperrbrecher 1	148		

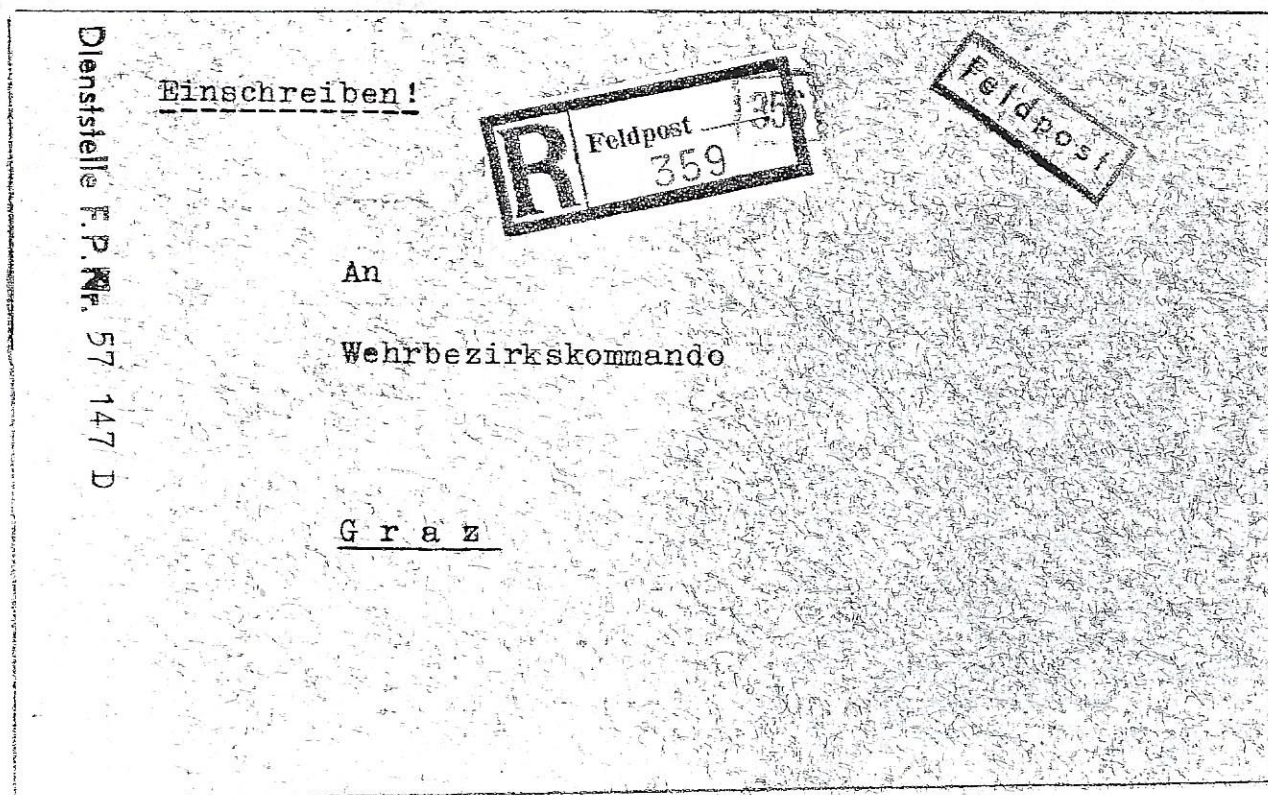
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:**710th Infantry Division**

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT	KENN	GRENADIER		ART BTLN	UNITS
710	356	730	740	710	710

Formed in April 1941(15th Wave) as an undersized static division from Landesschützen (older) personnel. The post office was assigned Fp.# 36454 as a return address and Kenn 356 for use on registered mail in lieu of FpA 710. In June 1942 the 710th Infantry Division was transferred to Oslo, Norway to replace the younger, full strength and better-equipped 163rd Infantry Division. The division later performed occupation duties at Kristiansand, Norway and in Denmark.

In December 1944 it was sent to the Adriatic sector of the Italian Front to free more experienced units for service in the East. The 710th Infantry Division was withdrawn north of Venice in January 1945 and sent to the I SS Panzer Corps of the 6th SS Panzer Army in Hungary, where it fought against the Russians in the battles and retreats through western Hungary and in the Battle of Vienna. It was still resisting in Austria when the war ended and it surrendered to U.S. forces.



Cover sent in October 1943 to Military District Command in Graz from Fp. # 57147 (Battalion I of Panzer Regiment 'Norwegian') via FpA 710 (K-356). Note the provisional boxed "Feldpost" marking used in place of standard Feldpost date cancel. Reverse has Graz date stamp 31 Oct. 1943

The 25 Pfg. Hindenburg Medallion Stamp

by Bob Ferguson

For some time I have wanted to start a specialized collection devoted to covers franked with a single copy of one particular stamp. I chose the 25 Pfg. Hindenburg medallion definitive for several reasons:

- a.) 25 Pfg is the base surface rate to most foreign countries.
- b.) Both the 1932 and 1934 issues were valid for the entire National Socialist period, although they were not much used after 1941.
- c) The following are eleven postal rates covered by 25 Pfg:

1. Letters to most foreign countries with weight 0-20 gm.
2. Local C.O.D. postcards.
3. Second tier weight/20-250 gm/ intercity letters for rate period 15 January 1932-30 November 1933.
4. Airmail postcards in most of Europe-Airmail rate period: 1. August 1938-8. May 1945.
5. Airmail postcards to Czechoslovakia and Hungary-Airmail rate period 1 May 1934-31 July 1938.
6. 20 grams of airmail printed matter in most of Europe-Airmail rate period 23 April 1924-30 April 1934.
7. Most foreign printed matter for weight 250 grams.
8. Foreign business papers of weight less than or equal to 250 grams - minimum rate of 25 Pfg.
9. Postcard - surface mail to New York and airmail from New York to a U.S. city. Europe-Airmail rate period 1 August 1938-15 December 1941
10. Postcard- supplemental flight from Koln to Cherbourg and then surface to the U.S.-Airmail rate period June 1938-October 1939.
11. Frontier rates in 30 November 1933 for letter weight 20-40 gm

The following are four covers from my collection showing some of the above noted rates:

Fig. 1) Airmail postcard sent from Chiemsee über Traunstein to Sweden on March 11, 1942.

Rate period: 1 August 1938-7 May 1945.

Franking (25 Rpf)

10 Rpf (Airmail surcharge for weight 0-20 gm)

15 Pfg (Foreign airmail rate)

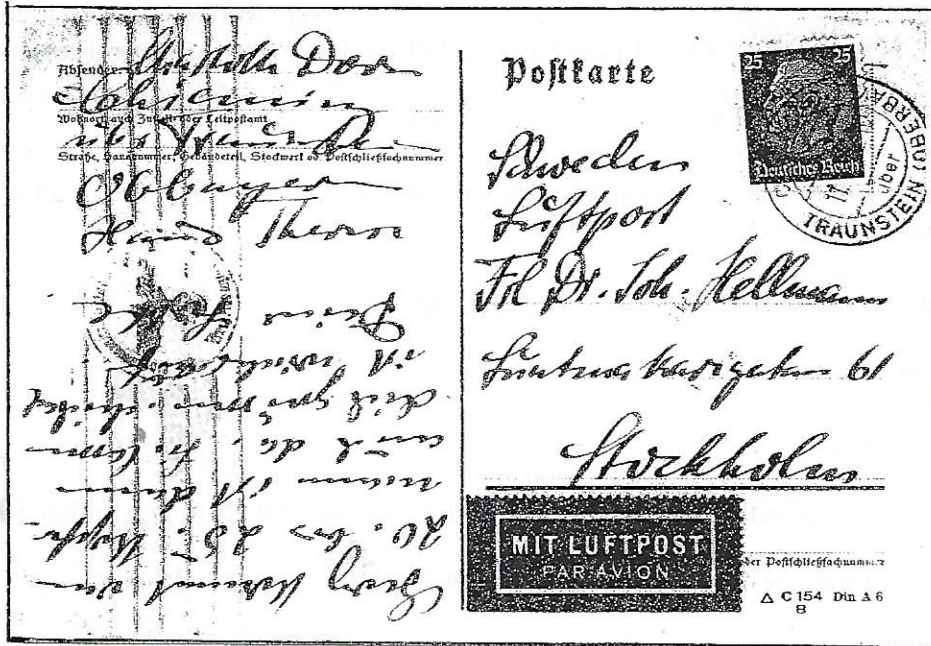


Fig. 2) C.O.D. postcard sent from Berlin-Charlottenburg 2 to Berlin Spandau on May 12, 1939.

C.O.D. Card (Nachnahmekarte) C.O.D. Amount = 3.83 RM

Franking (25 Rpf)

5 Rpf (Local postcard rate)

20 Pfg (C.O.D. fee)

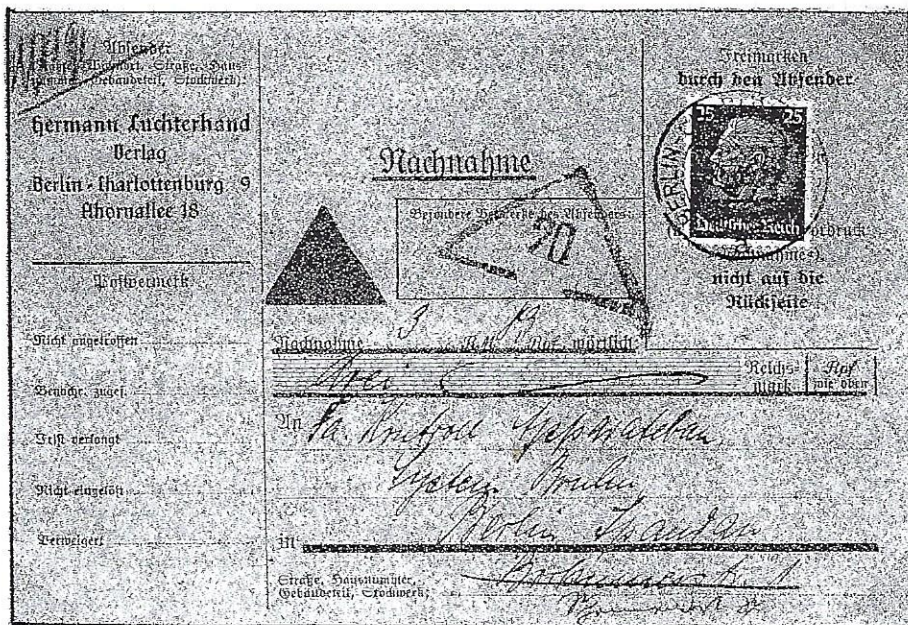
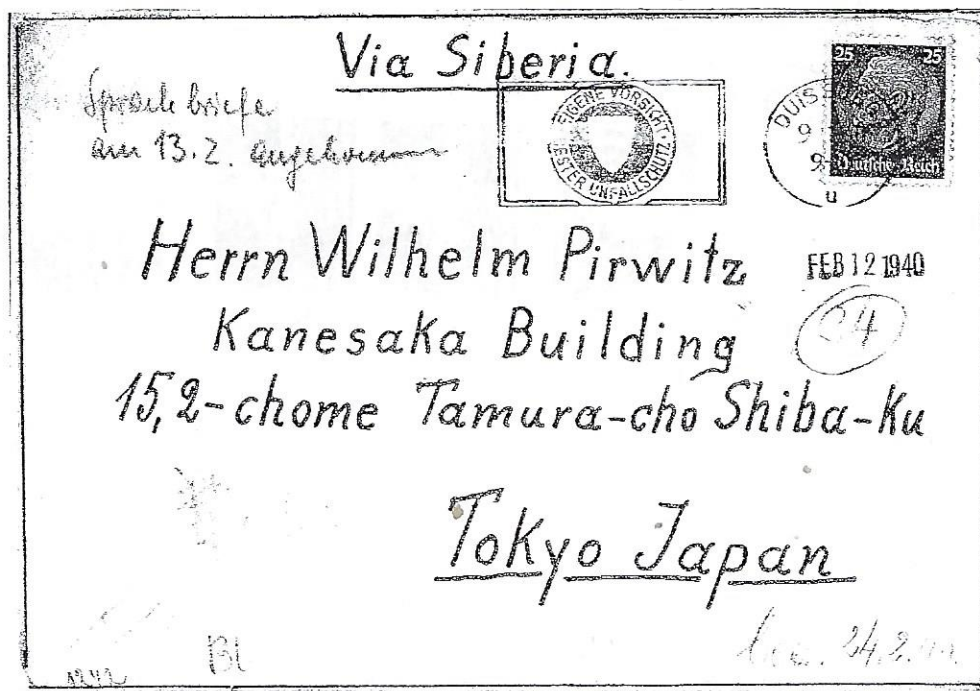


Fig. 3) Intercity letter sent from Salzwedel to Berlin on April 10, 1933.
 Rate period: 15 January 1932-30 November 1933.
 Franking (25 Rpf)
 25 Rpf (Intercity letter rate for weight 20-250 gm)



Fig. 4) Letter sent from Duisburg to Tokyo, Japan via Siberia on January 9, 1940.
 Franking (25 Rpf)
 25 Rpf (Foreign letter rate for weight 0-20 gm)



SS Censor Marking on Croatian Cover

by Henry Laessig

While browsing the dealers at a recent MEGA event in New York City, I came across this intriguing cover from Croatia to Berlin. It was mailed at Slovonski Brod on April 28, 1943 and back stamped at Berlin W9 on May 8, 1943.

The cover, addressed to an SS Obersturmführer, bears 23 Kuna postage. This would pay postal fees in 1943 as follows:

Letter rate to Germany for 0-20 g	4K
Foreign Registration	9K
Foreign Express (Sp/Del)	<u>10K</u>
Total	23K

Two minor problems emerge: 1) there is no express marking anywhere, 2) there is a notation "25g" just above the R-label. Any overweight charge requiring 10K would result in a much larger envelope because the overweight charge was .50K for each additional 20g. It seems reasonable to assume that this item was not over weight and that the express fee was paid, although it isn't known if it received special delivery.

The most interesting marking, however, is the 19mm "As" circular handstamp. Since I couldn't find this marking in Riemer, I consulted Jim Lewis who found the answer in Bob Houston's *Mail Surveillance Under the Third Reich* published by the TRSG in 1979. "As" stands for "Auslandsbriefprüfstelle Schutzstaffel", an SS censor marking. The mark on this cover varies slightly from either of the two illustrations in that handbook.

Another interesting aspect is the cover is addressed to "Berlin W9, Linkstrasse 29". Was this the address of Berlin P.O. W9 or some other building associated with the SS? There is no return address but in Croatia any relationship to the SS was frequently hidden. Perhaps one of our astute TRSG members can send the answer or a good theory to our Bulletin Editor so we can share it.



TRSG Map: Germany's Military Districts

by Kelly Stefanacci

The P.O.W. organization in Germany was controlled by the "Oberkommando der Wehrmacht" (Armed Forces High Command) and administered through the Army Commanders within the "Wehrkreis" (Military Districts).

At the outbreak of war there were only fifteen Military Districts numbered I - XIII, XVII and XVIII. After the Polish campaign in 1939, XX and XXI were added to include the Polish territory that had been German prior to the Versailles Treaty. In peace-time, these districts contained the H.Q. and subordinate formations of the active infantry corps carrying the same Roman numeral i.e. during peace time the II Infantry Corps had it's H.Q. in Stettin in II Military District.

Before the war there had been four Motorized Corps - XIV, XV, XVI and XIX that were staffs to control the training of Panzer and Panzer Grenadier formations. These corps had no corresponding military districts and, hence, no bearing on the POW organization.



Two Scarcer Paid Reply Cards

by Bob Ferguson

Only three foreign paid reply postal cards were issued during the National Socialist era. While P230 is quite common, P223 and P303 are not. Below are three examples of these two scarcer cards. In Fig 1 note that 1941 is a very late date for the use of P223 which had been issued in 1933 and largely replaced by P230 in 1934.

Fig. 1) P223 card sent from Kassel to New York City on July 2, 1941. Note sender is Lina "Sara" Rothschild

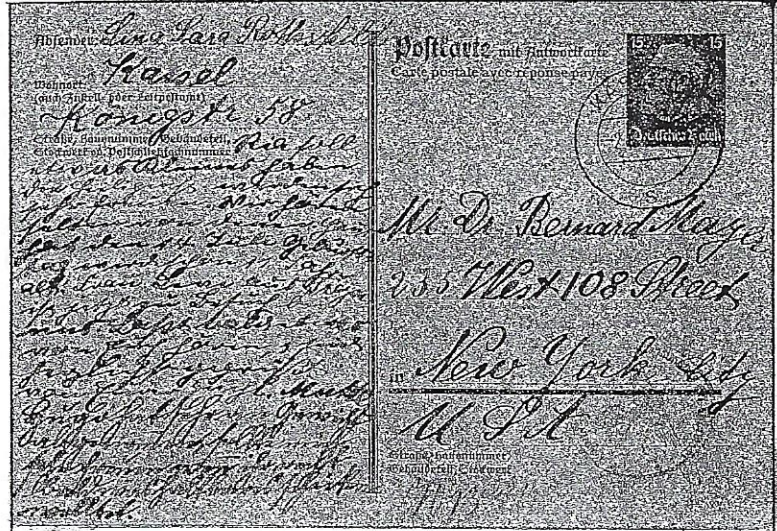


Fig. 2) P303A card sent from Davos Dorf Switzerland to Maikammer/Westmark on September 8, 1944.

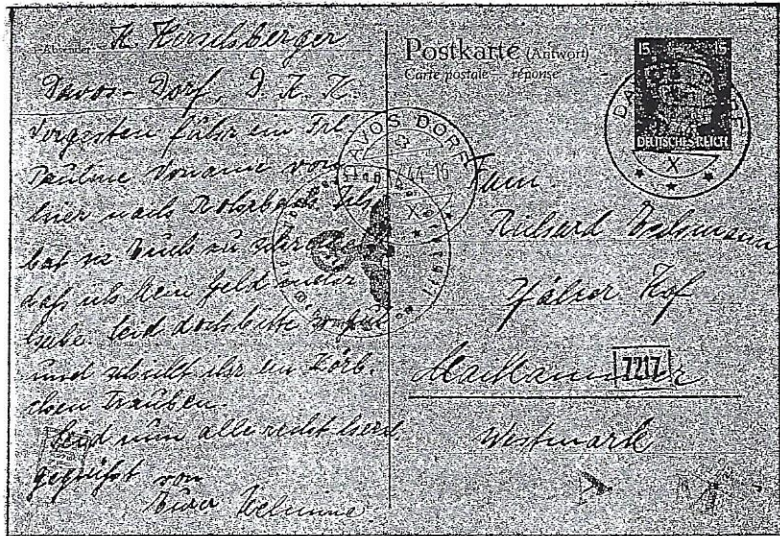
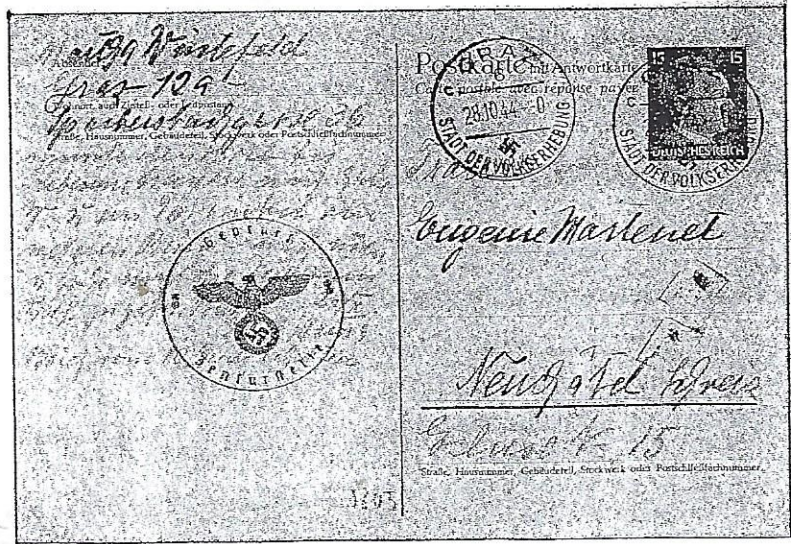


Fig. 3) P303F card sent from Graz to Neuchâtel, Switzerland on October 28, 1944.



COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE

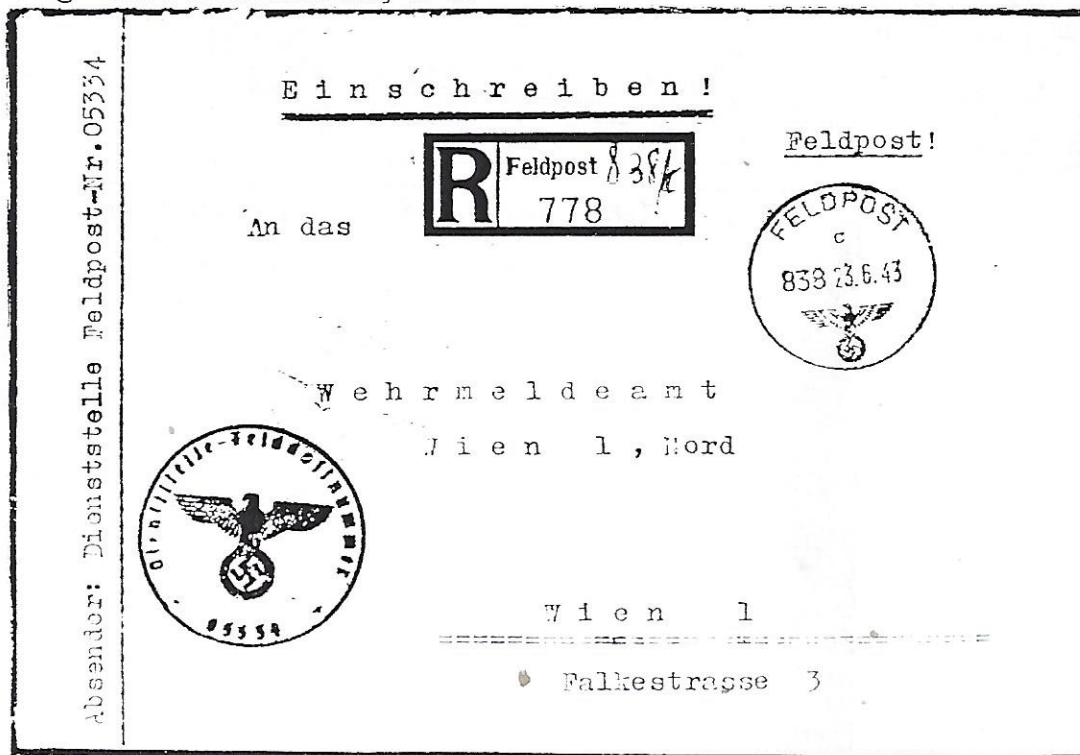
2nd Gebirgs Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	MOUNTAIN		ARTY	UNITS
67	838	136	137	111	67

Consisting primarily of Tyrolean Austrians, this division was part of the peacetime army after the Anschluss of 1938 made Austria part of the Third Reich. The field post office (Feldpostamt or FpA) was assigned Fp.# 20523 as a unit return address and code (Kenn) # 838 for use on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 67. Fought in Poland in late 1939, the 2nd Mountain Division was transferred northwest for the invasion of Norway . It marched north from May 5 to June 13 and rescued the 3rd Mountain Division that was under siege by a British Corps at Narvik.

In June 1941 advanced on Murmansk with Mountain Corps Norway but was stopped by the Soviet counterattack. In 1942 in Lapland with XIX Mountain Corps and continued to fight in the Arctic sector of the Eastern front until Finland surrendered to the Soviet Union late in 1944. Suffered heavy losses in retreat back to Norway and during the Soviet winter offensive of 1944-45. Returned to European mainland where regiments were rebuilt with non-combat personnel. Joined LXXXII Corps of 1st Army Group C on western front in February 1945. Joined Army Group G on Eastern Front in February 1945 and fought in Battle of Saar-Moselle Triangle and during Soviet winter offensive of 1944-45. Remnants surrendered to western Allies near Württemberg when war ended in May 1945.

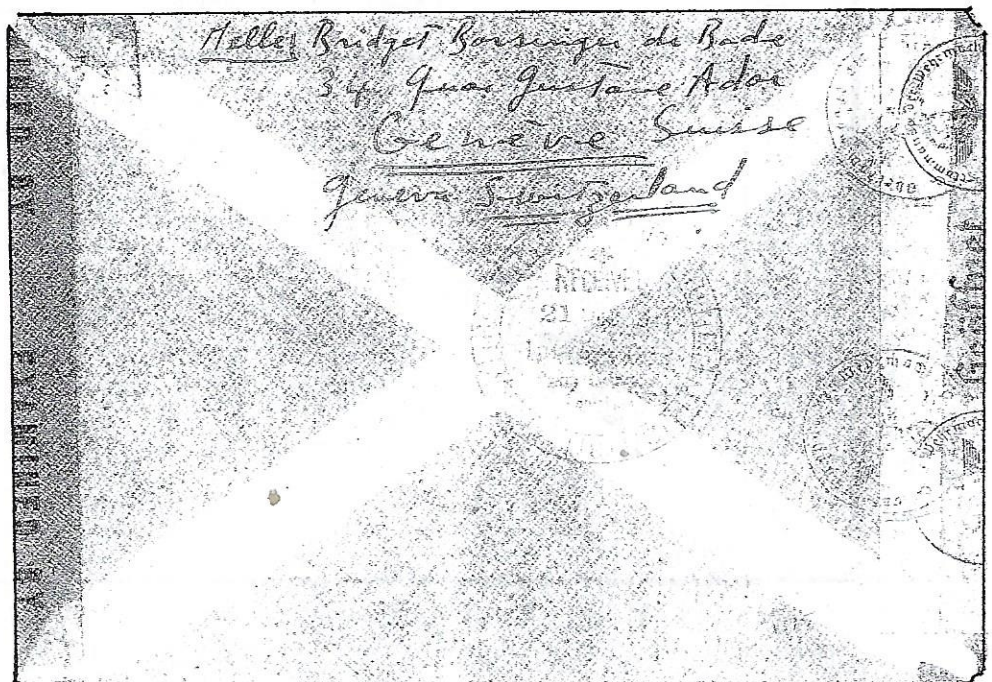
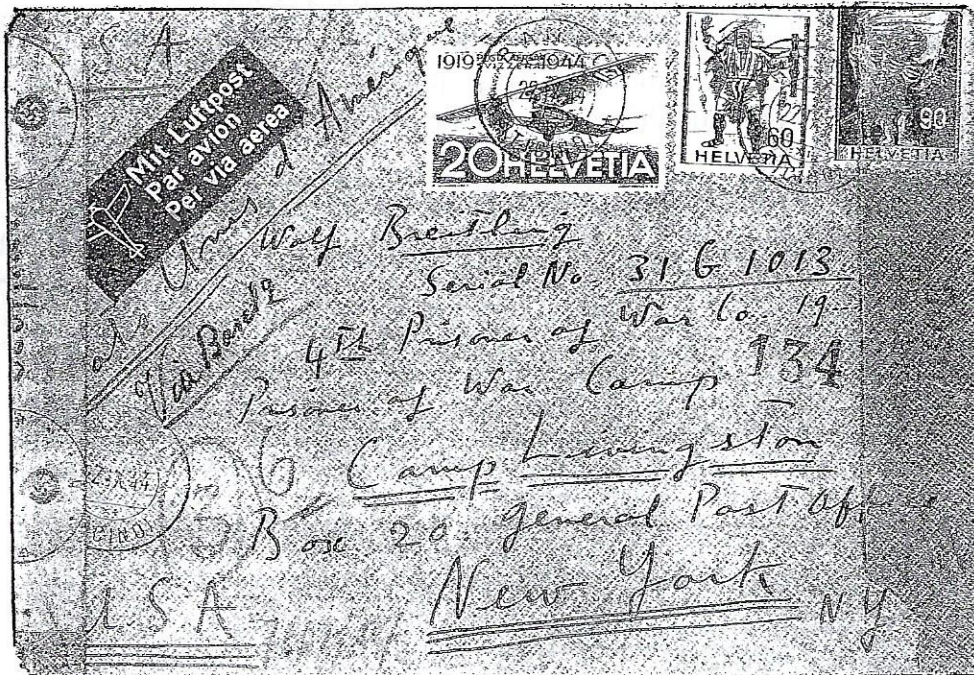


Cover sent to Military Records Office in Vienna in June 1943 from Fp. # 05334 (Battery 9 of Mountain Artillery Regiment 111) via P.O. 67 (K-838).

Airmail from Switzerland to German POW in Louisiana

by Charles LaBlonde

I enjoyed the article "POW Camps in Louisiana" in Bulletin 173 and want to share with the membership this fine airmail cover. It was sent on September 22, 1944 from Geneva, Switzerland to a German POW in Camp Livingston, Louisiana. On the front side, the paper sealing tape at left was applied by German censors in Berlin while the transparent tape at right was added by the U.S. censor. Below the return address on the reverse side is a large red receiving stamp of Camp Livingston dated December 21, 1944.



COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE

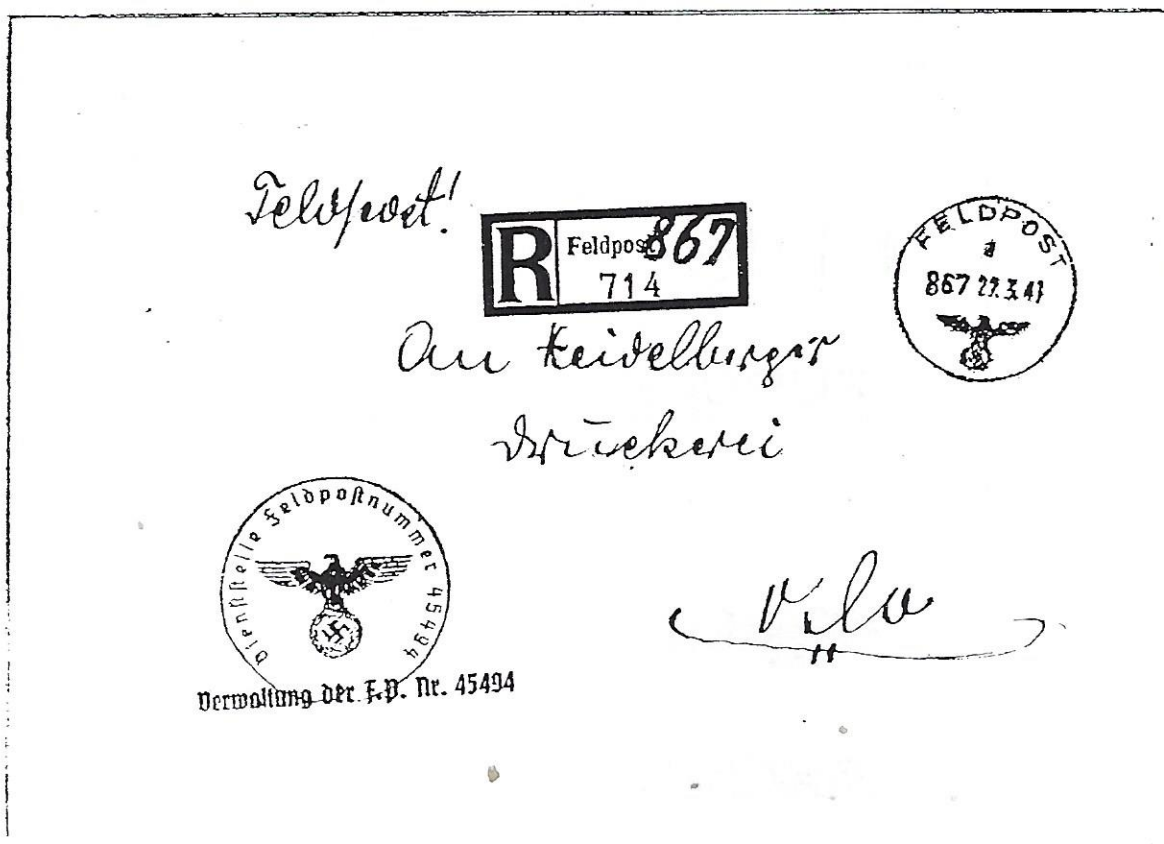
6th Gebirgs Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	MOUNTAIN		ARTY	UNITS
91	867	141	143	118	91

Formed in the winter of 1939-40. The field post office (Feldpostamt or FpA) was assigned Fp.# 33819 as a unit return address and code (Kenn) # 867 for use on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 91. After occupation duty in Poland in late 1940, the 6th Mountain Division was transferred south for the Balkan campaign and took part in the drive on Salonika. Captured Athens alongside the 2nd Panzer Division.

Transferred to Norway in October 1941 where it formed the northern wing of Mountain Corps Norway in the drive toward Murmansk. Following the failure to capture Murmansk, the 6th Mountain Division remained in the Arctic sector of the Eastern Front. After Finland made a separate peace with the Soviet Union late in 1944, the division retreated with the other units of the German 20th Mountain Army. After crossing Lapland, the 6th Mountain Division remained in Norway until the war ended in May 1945.



Cover sent to Publishing Company in Oslo, Norway in March 1941 from Fp. # 45494 (Company 1 of Medical Detachment 91) via P.O. 91 (K-867).

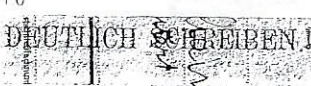





More on Jewish Self-Censorship Markings

by Larry Nelson

With all due respect to Phil Miller, his belief that the various "rejected" markings shown in TRSG Bulletins 172 and 173 were applied by German censors is incorrect. I say this for the following reasons:

- 1.) His citation of Trunk's book 'Judenrat' in no way supports the argument that German censors applied the rejection handstamps.
- 2.) None of the standard reference books on German censorship (Wolter, Reimer or Landsmann) list these "rejection" markings..
- 3.) The definitive reference work on the postal history of the Litzmannstadt ghetto, '*Unsere Arbeit-unsere Hoffnung Das Getto in Lodz 1940-1945*' by Manfred Schulz & Stefan Petriuker, includes pages 140-143 illustrating the Jewish self-censorship markings. (see below Ed.)



It is clear to me that notwithstanding what the dealer told Phil when he sold these items to him, the "rejection" marks are Jewish self-censorship not German censorship.

STEMPEL	MASSE/FARBE von - bis	ANMERKUNGEN	WERT
1 0 	65 x 5 violett 30. 11. 41 18. 12. 41	Auch als Mehrfachzensur bekannt	4
2 0 	54 x 10 violett 26. 10. 41 14. 12. 41	ZURÜCK, unterstrichen „eckige“ Punkte über dem „U“	1
2 1 	52 x 7 violett 16. 11. 41 14. 12. 41	ZURÜCK, ohne Strich „eckige“ Punkte über dem „U“	6
2 2 	33 x 8? violett 9. 12. 41	eventuell mit Rahmen Nur 1 Stück bekannt! Große und kleine Buchstaben	LP
2 3 	49 x 8 violett 6. 12. 41 18. 12. 41	andere Buchstabentypen „runde“ Punkte über dem „U“	3
2 4 	43 x 15 violett blau 21. 12. 41 30. 12. 41	Zierschrift	7

Besondere Zensorenvermerke oder Kombinationen ergeben Zuschläge!

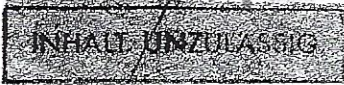

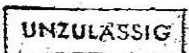

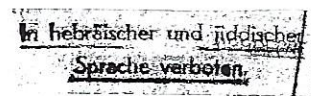

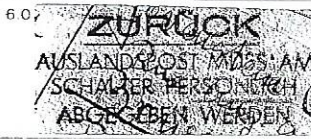
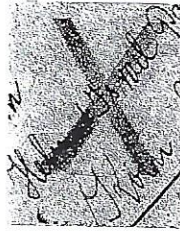
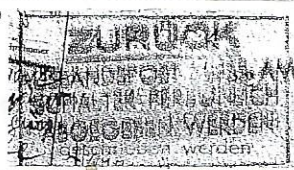
Bb

JÜDISCHE SELBSTZENSUR

STEMPEL	MASSE/FARBE von - bis	ANMERKUNGEN	WERT
2 5 	46 x 6 violett 22 12 41 31. 12. 41	„eckige“ Punkte neben „U“. Immer mit dem Stempel „Postabteilung-Getto“ 4 A 2 0	8
2 6 	27 x 10 violett 29 12. 41 3 1. 42	immer mit dem Stempel „Postabteilung-Getto“ 4 A 2 0 in Arbeitslager	10

Bb

JÜDISCHE SELBSTZENSUR

3 0 	66 x 15 violett 5 11 41 29 12. 41		
3 1 	62 x 13 violett 10 11 41 31 12 41		
4 0 			
4 1 	56 x 6 violett 11 12 41 5 1 42		
5 0 	57 x 14 violett 17 11 41 26 12 41	Auch als „Mehrfachzensur“ bekannt.	5
5 1 	61 x 13 violett 12 12 41 30 12 41	Diverse Schreibfehler	8
6 0 	56 x 23 violett 17 11 41 30 11. 41	Auch als „Mehrfachzensur“ bekannt	9
7 0 	32 x 23 violett 10 12 41 5 1 42	Balkenkreuz oder Andreas- kreuz in meist diagonaler Stellung über der Adresse Die Karten haben (oder hatten) „Kleine Ziffern“ und sonst keine Zensurhinweise Hier mit der Andeutung eines anhängenden Kasten- stempels!?	5
8 0  ZURÜCK Post muss und in reinem Deutsch geschrieben werden	54 x 31 violett 30 11 41	Kastensstempel, hier „überdeckt“ vom Stempel 6 0 Unikat Stempel 6 0 und 8 0 Rekonstruktion	10

Besondere Zensorenvermerke oder Kombinationen erg...



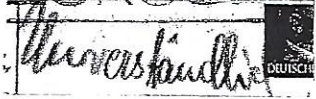

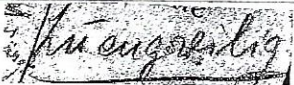




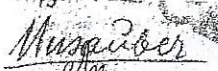
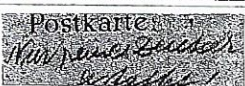
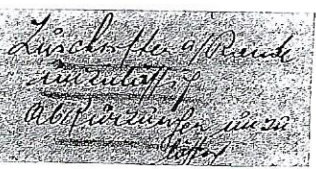

Besondere Zensorenvermerke oder Kombinationen ergeben Zuschläge

Editor's Note: The pages with illustrations provided by Larry Nelson have been reduced to 77% of their original size to conserve space. The title page from the reference book is shown below.
Ye Olde Ed

Bba

JÜDISCHE SELBSTZENSUR

Handschriftliche Vermerke, diese wurden zusätzlich zu den entsprechenden Stempelvermerken angebracht. Oft vorhanden eine handschriftliche „Zensorennummer“, bisher von 2–72 vorhanden. Diverse Streichungen bekannt.

Diverse Beispiele	Lfd. Nr.	Diverse Beispiele	Lfd. Nr.
	1		2
	3		4
	5		6
	7		8
	9		10
	11		12
	13		14
	15		16

In Kombination mit Stempeln – Bb – Zuschlag „1“
 In Kombination mit Stempeln – „Kleine Ziffern“ – Zuschlag „1“
 In Kombination mit Stempeln – „Große Ziffern“ – Zuschlag „3“

143

Manfred Schulze · Stefan Petriuk

Unsere Arbeit – unsere Hoffnung

(Wahlspruch des Ältesten der Juden, Chaim Rumkowski)

Das Getto in Lodz 1940 – 1945