



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP
Devoted to the Study
of the Postal History
of Germany 1933-1945

VOL. XXXVIII No. 1 (Whole No. 150) 2004

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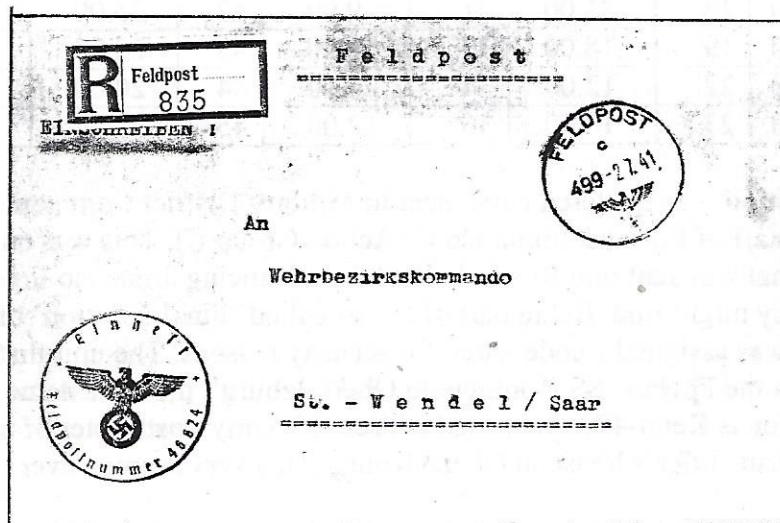
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STUDY GROUP NOTES

Prosit Neujahr! -Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2004 from your TRSG Director and Staff. Do you have any suggestions for TRSG Bulletin improvements?

Late use of Mi. 795A –as follow up to examples in Bulletins 146 and 147, TRSGer John Painter provides this R-cover to Munchen-Gladbach in the Rhineland posted at Dissen on February 24, 1945. It was delivered just days before the Americans captured this town on March 1 1945. This cover is lot 20 in Auction 93



German Feldpost in North Africa – early in 2004, **Cavendish House, 153-157 London Road, Derby, DE1 2SY, England** will auction Walter Bjork's collection of WWII military covers used in Africa including German R-Feldpost in North Africa (ex-Bob Houston). Interested members should write to auction house noted above.

Hungary Rates-TRSGer Rex Dixon writes, "I always look forward to the series of postal rate articles by Bob Ferguson. However, in the article on page 10 in Bulletin #149, Bob is incorrect in stating that printed matter to Hungary attracted full foreign rates. Hungary was the one exception and attracted low rates from as early as August 1, 1927 (Note that printed matter to Czechoslovakia attracted full foreign rates even though it had concessionary rates for letters and postcards). For Hungary, the 15 Pfg. rate covered the 100-250 grams band. This was the case from 1927 right through until the end of the war. Sources: Page 145 of the new Michel Postgebühren-Handbuch Deutschland (2001) and Page 11 of News Sheet 28 of the GCPS TRSG (Sept. 1984).

Prices Realized – Auction # 92

| Lot | Price | Lot | Price | Lot | Price | Lot | Price | Lot | Price |
|-----|---------|-----|----------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|
| 1 | \$25.00 | 11 | \$ 43.00 | 24 | \$16.00 | 37 | \$12.00 | 46 | \$27.00 |
| 2 | 53.00 | 12 | 252.00 | 25 | 16.00 | 38 | 13.00 | 47 | 28.00 |
| 3 | 12.00 | 15 | 27.00 | 28 | 12.00 | 39 | 30.00 | 48 | 34.00 |
| 4 | 18.00 | 16 | 48.00 | 29 | 9.00 | 40 | 11.00 | 49 | 38.00 |
| 6 | 18.00 | 17 | 34.00 | 30 | 37.00 | 41 | 20.00 | 51 | 38.00 |
| 7 | 10.00 | 18 | 21.00 | 31 | 9.00 | 42 | 25.00 | | |
| 8 | 48.00 | 19 | 18.00 | 33 | 12.00 | 43 | 20.00 | | |
| 9 | 44.00 | 22 | 12.00 | 34 | 24.00 | 44 | 20.00 | | |
| 10 | 25.00 | 23 | 10.00 | 36 | 12.00 | 45 | 18.00 | | |

Cover Illustration – a registered cover sent to Military District Command of St. Wedel in July 1941 by the command staff of Einsatzkommando C (Action Group C). This was one of the mobile killing squads of the RHSA that was sent into Russia behind the advancing armies to liquidate all Jews and political commissars they might find. Being part of the so-called 'Final Solution' of the Jewish Question, each Action Group was assigned a code name for security reasons. The unit that sent this cover used Fp.# 46624; listed in the FpU as 'SS Kommando Obersalzburg', the code name for Einsatzkommando C. One obvious clue is Kenn-499, the coded address of Army Postmaster of the 6th Army in southern Russia rather than Hitler's house in Obersalzburg. This very scarce cover is lot 57 in Auction 93.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

333rd Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

| POST OFFICE | | REGIMENTS | | | | AUXIL |
|-------------|------|-----------|-----|-----|------|-------|
| TACT | KENN | INFANTRY | | | ARTY | UNITS |
| 333 | 653 | 679 | 680 | 681 | 333 | 333 |

The 333rd Infantry Division, formed in January 1941 (14th Wave), was made up mostly of Poles. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 45425 as a mailing address and Kenn 653 as a coded identification for registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 333.

Upon completion of training the division was sent to southwestern France in May 1941 and then to Brittany the following year.

In early 1943 the 333rd Infantry Division was transferred to the southern sector of the Eastern Front, where it fought in the Donets battles as part of 1st Panzer Army. The division had suffered so many casualties by December 1943 that it had to be disbanded.

The Feldpost office (FpA 333), including Fp.# 45425 and K-653, was transferred to the new 278th Infantry Division that was forming in Belgium. Re-designated FpA 278, the P.O. was integrated into the new division prior to their departure for Italy in February 1944.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Cottbus in November 1942 from Fp. # 18217 (14. Kompanie of Infanterie Regiment 681) via Field Post Office 333 (K-653).

Story Behind the Stamp: Wagner's "Die Walküre"

by Kelly Stefanacci

In Richard Wagner's four-part opera "Der Ring des Nibelungen", Wotan is the chief god of Northern mythology whose name means "The Leader; the lord of the raging army". His name was Wödan in Germanic, Wuotan in Upper German, Voden in Anglo-Saxon and Odinn in North German. He had two brothers; the elder Honer, who was the ruler of the Vans and the younger Loki, being the usurper ruler of the Vans. He was married to the earth goddesses Frigg and her sister Jord, who were the daughters of Annar (water) and his wife Nat (Night). By Frigg, he was the father of Balder the Beautiful and of Brünhilde the Valkyrie, while by Jord he was the father of Thor, the god of war. Wotan is represented as a stern, wise god who gives victory and, as god of the martial dead, receives the souls of those slain in battle into his great palace of Valhalla.

In the second part of this opera, "Die Walküre" (The Valkyrie), it is Wotan who, along with Loki, steals the Nibelungen gold from the dwarf Alberich in order to pay the dragons Fafner and Fasolt for constructing Valhalla for him. To guard this great palace, his daughter Brünhilde leads the Valkyries to the battlefields of earth and returns with the bravest warriors who then form Wotan's army. It is Wotan who decides to recover the Rhine gold from Fafner and trains his own son Siegmund to perform this task. However, Brünhilde is forbidden to help Siegmund in his fight with the hunter who had captured the fair Siegelind. For disobeying this command, she is condemned by Wotan and is put into a magic trance whereby he removes her helmet. She remains in the trance until years later, when Siegfried, the son of Siegmund and Siegelind, awakes her. Thus commences the saga of the Nibelung, which only ends when the gold is returned to the Rhine, Valhalla is destroyed and the twilight of the gods commences.

It took twenty-five years for Wagner to complete his most ambitious work "The Ring of the Nibelung" series. He started with a sketch in 1848 that became "Götterdämmerung". He then felt it needed a play to precede it, so he wrote "Siegfried" followed by "Die Walküre" and "Rheingold".

Scenes from "The Ring of the Nibelung" appear on three values of a set of nine stamps issued on Nov. 1, 1933 for the Winter Relief Fund (Deutsche Nothilfe). On the 8+4 Pfg. stamp (Mi. 503) for "Die Walküre", Wotan bends over Brünhilde and takes her helmet from her. This is the scene from Act III where he puts Brünhilde into the magic trance.



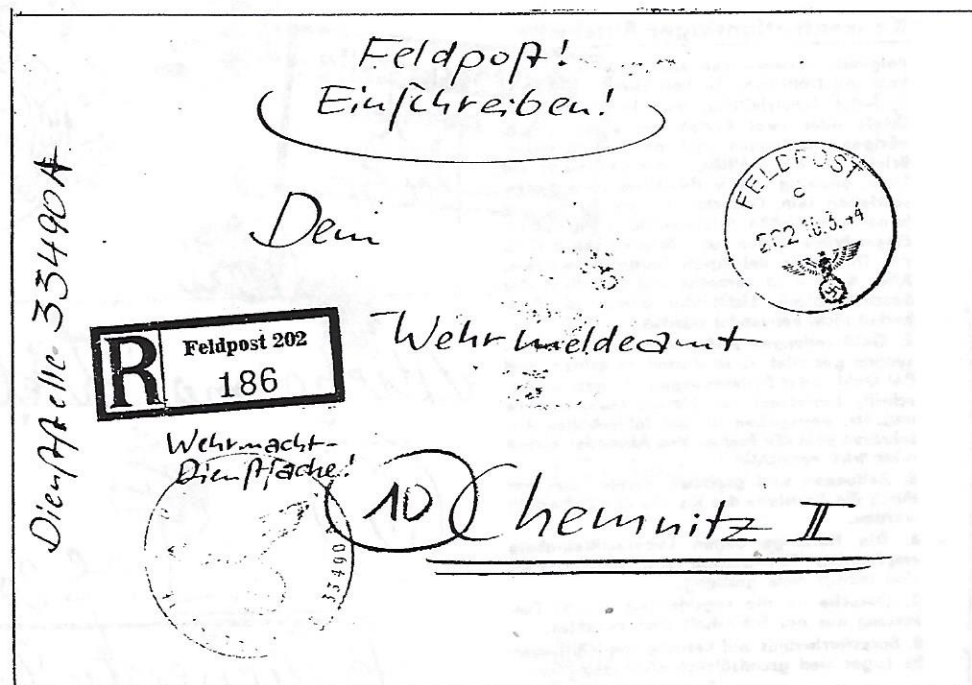
ED NOTE: If you enjoyed this article and would like to know "the story" about other people or places appearing on Third Reich stamps, please send requests to Ye Olde Ed.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 50th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

| POST OFFICE | | REGIMENTS | | | | AUXIL |
|-------------|------|-----------|-----|-----|------|-------|
| TACT. | KENN | GRENADIER | | | ARTY | UNITS |
| 150 | 202 | 121 | 122 | 123 | 150 | 150 |

Originally formed in 1938 as Küstrin Frontier Command, this HQ was upgraded to the 50th Infantry Division in the summer of 1939. The frontier troops were inducted into the active army for the invasion of Poland. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 22212 as a return address and Kenn 351 for use on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA150. Lightly engaged in the Polish campaign, it later fought in France in 1940 and invaded the Soviet Union as part of Army Group South in June 1941. It fought in breaching the Perekop Isthmus in the northern Crimea and in the siege of the Soviet naval base of Sevastopol. The 50th Infantry Division took part in the Caucasus campaign in 1942 and narrowly avoided being cut off in the Kuban bridgehead by marching across the frozen portion of the sea of Azov.

In early 1943 the division P.O. was assigned Kenn 202 when Kenn 351 was transferred to branch offices 763 & 765 of the 4th Army Post Master. After retreating to the lower Dneiper, the division returned to the Crimea where it defended the Perekop Isthmus against Russian attacks. Defeated, it returned to Sevastopol but only 2800 members of the division managed to escape the Crimea by sea. The remnants of the division were returned to Germany in the spring of 1944 for reforming and were sent back into action with Army Group Center, where it suffered very heavy losses during the Soviet offensive of 1944. The 50th Infantry Division ended the war defending a sector of East Prussia.



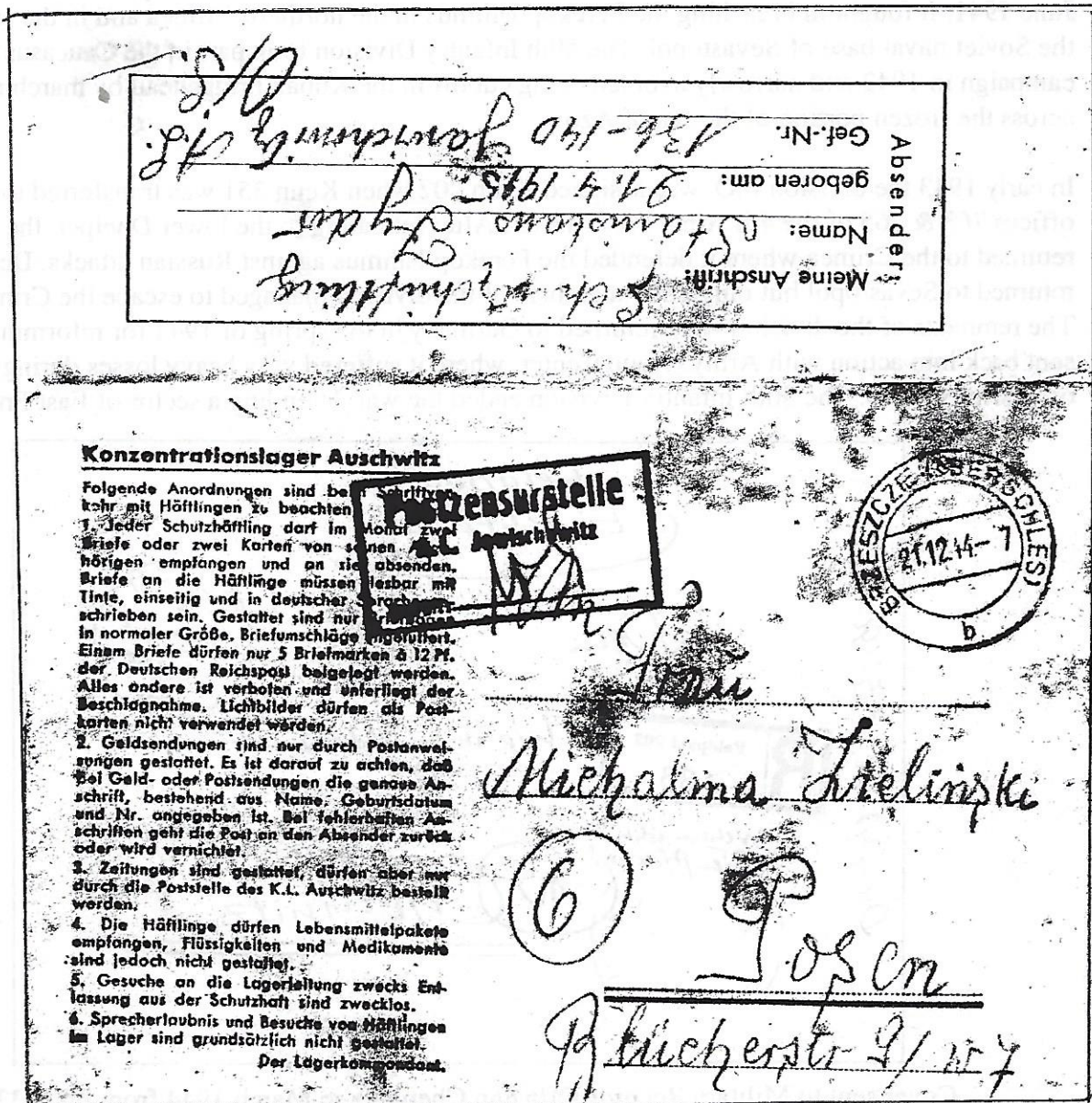
Cover sent to Military Records Office in Chemnitz in March 1944 from Fp. # 33490 (II Battalion/ Artillery Regiment 150) via P.O. 150 (K-202).

Behind the Wire

by Larry Nelson

No Postage On Auschwitz Sub-Camp Cover

When people think of Auschwitz, they think of an extermination camp. However, it also had a large system of labor sub-camps. Toward the end of the war, there were thirty to forty major labor camps and many more minor ones. Shown below is a cover sent to Posen on December 2, 1944 from the Jawischowitz (Jawiszowice) labor sub-camp located near Brzeszcze, Poland. Jawischowitz had approximately two thousand men who worked in the Grube Brzeszcze coal mine owned by the Hermann Göring Reichswerk. Lordahl's book "German Concentration Camps 1933-1945" lists the folded lettersheet as Type F2b with a blue type C10 censor handstamp. What is unusual about this item is that it was mailed without the usual 12 Pfg. postage. I have also seen a form card from Jawischowitz with no postage but, other than these, I've seen no inmate mail from a KLZ without postage. If anyone can explain this lack of postage, please send the info to Ye Olde Ed.



Collecting Satzbriefe

by
Bob Ferguson

While collecting postal history material reflecting the correct postal rates is my prime collecting area, I also collect have a number of "fun" collections. At the other end of the scale from Bedarfsbriefe are Satzbriefe: covers franked with an entire set of stamps. Although Satzbriefe are philatelic, the Michel cover catalog lists prices for them in several cases (Bohemia & Moravia # 1-19, Generalgouvernement # 1-13, Luxemburg # 1-16 and many examples from the Saar). I find Satzbriefe attractive and the following are some from my own collection.

Fig 1) Posted: Frankfurt 22 December 1933 to Argentina.
Backstamped: Srasbourg-Gare-Avion, 22 December 1933.
Backstamped: Buenos Aires, 1 January 1934.
Backstamped: Banfield, 2 January 1934.

Registered Airmail to Argentina via Air France (Overfranked by 8Pfg. (3.7%))

Correct franking = 2.15RM: 1.60RM (Airmail surcharge on Air France for weight 0-5gm)
0.25RM (Foreign letter rate for weight 0-20gm).
0.30RM (Registration fee).

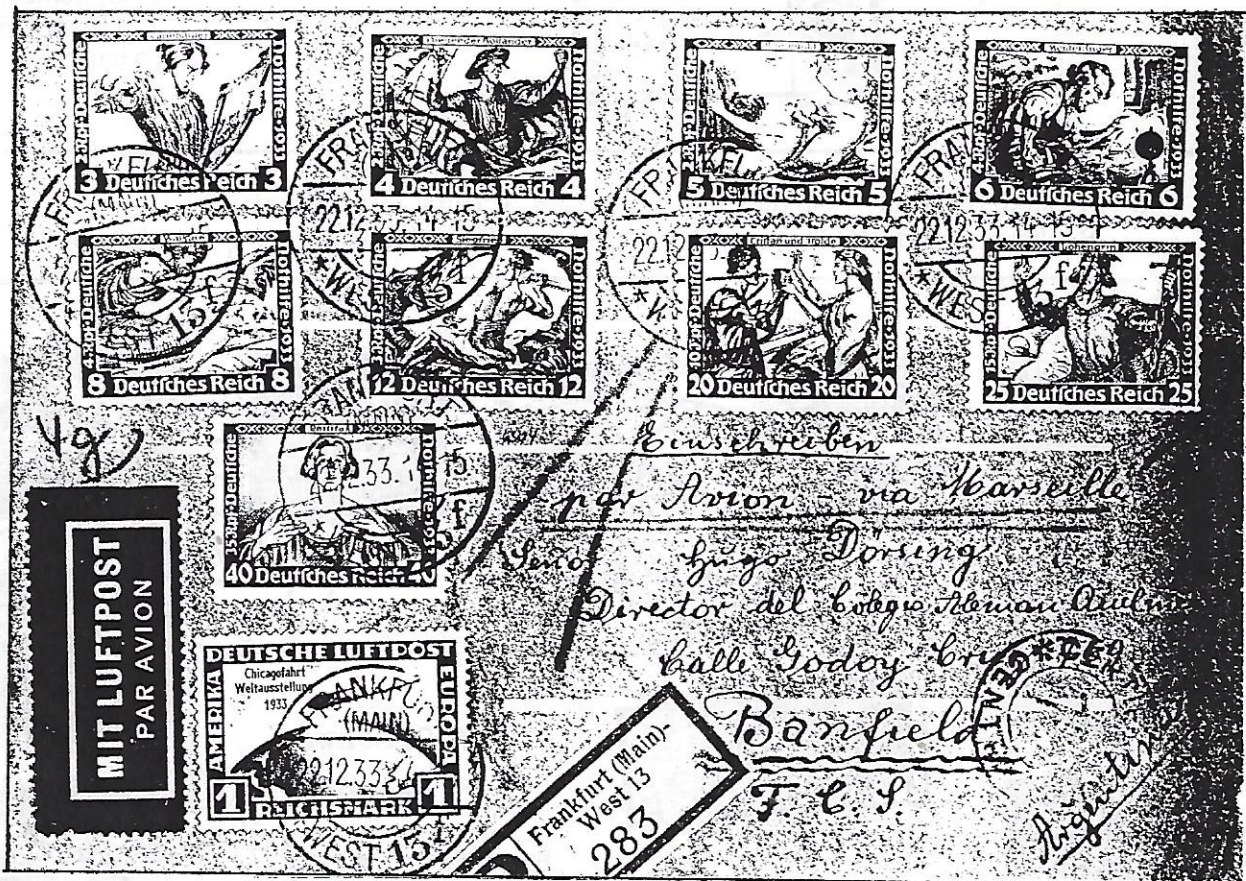


Fig. 2) Cancel (Garmisch-Partenkirchen # 2): Olympische Winterspiele 6 February 1936



Fig. 3) Posted: Munster, 4 November 1937 to U.S.A. (First Day Cancel)

Backstamped: NYC Registry Div., 12 Nov. 1937 & Brevard, N.C., 13 Nov. 1937.

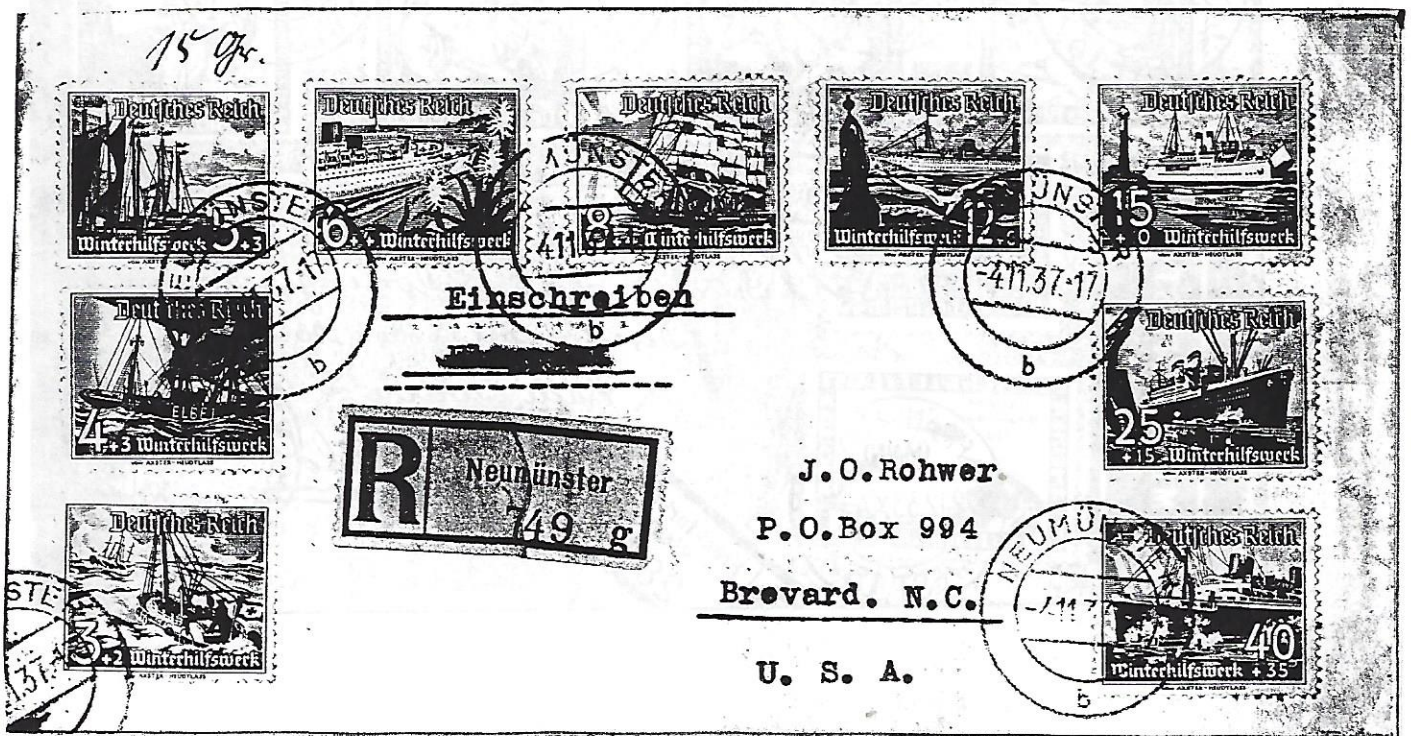


Fig. 4) Posted: Breslau-Schmiedefeld, 15 January 1940. Frontstamped: Riga, 19 January 1940.

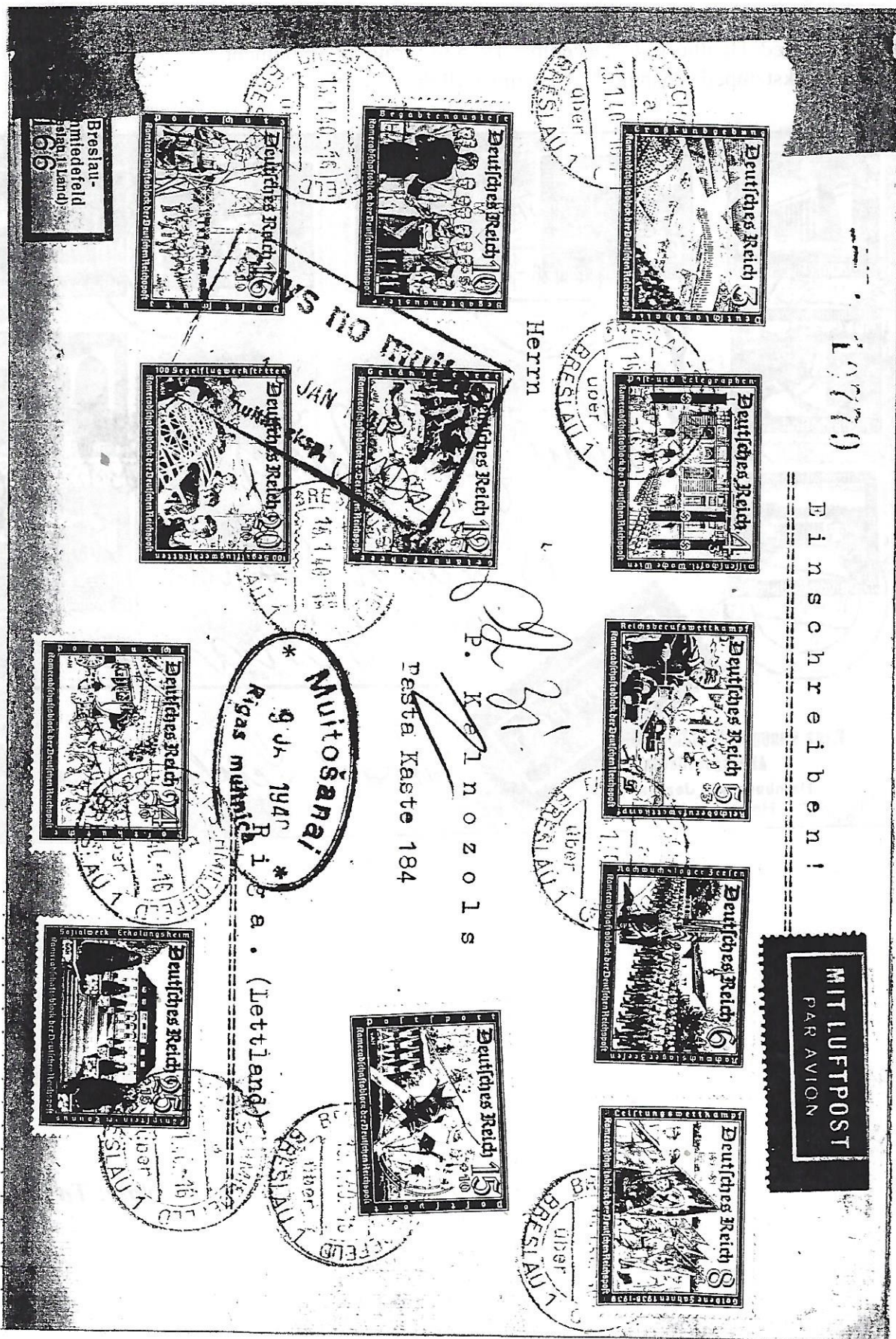
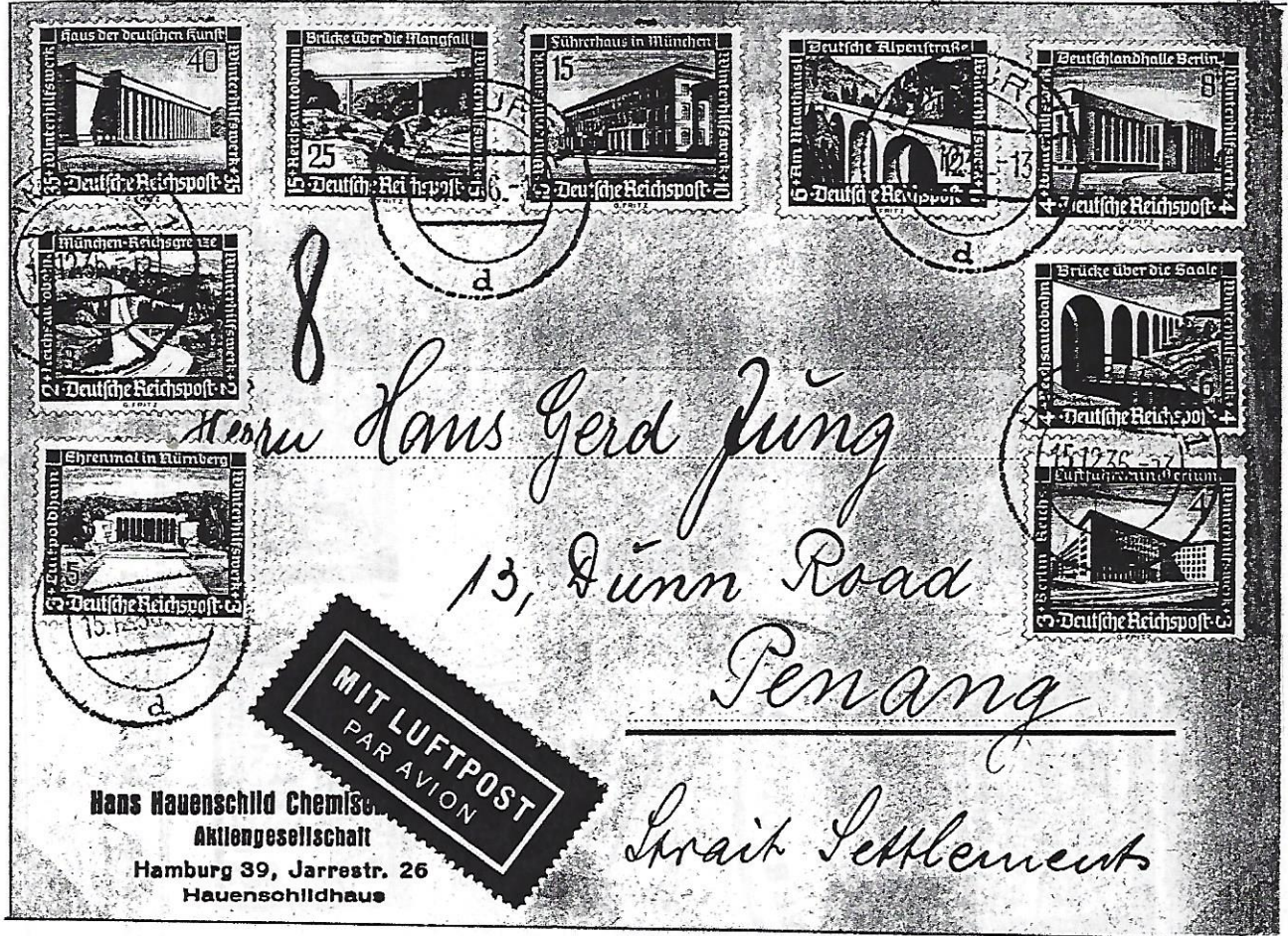


Fig. 5) Posted: Hamburg, 15 December 1936 to Straights Settlement.
Backstamped: Penang, 21 December 1936.



Note: To be continued

Rejected by Censor - Inadmissible Mail

by Larry Nelson

Sending Picture Cards

Section 3. Supplementary order of May 13, 1940: "The sender is expressly advised that the Reichspost has no authority for determining admissibility of mail according to regulations. The intelligence officers of the military districts are responsible for such decisions. Return of fees for returned mail does not occur in any case."

Shown below is a cover sent to Belgium in March 1941 rejected by Cologne censor office per the boxed C-2 hand stamp "zurück/retour" (Return to sender!). The back side has a "Grounds for Rejection" hand stamp indicating various possible reasons for rejection. The reason checked off notes that picture and photo postcards not permitted in foreign postal traffic.

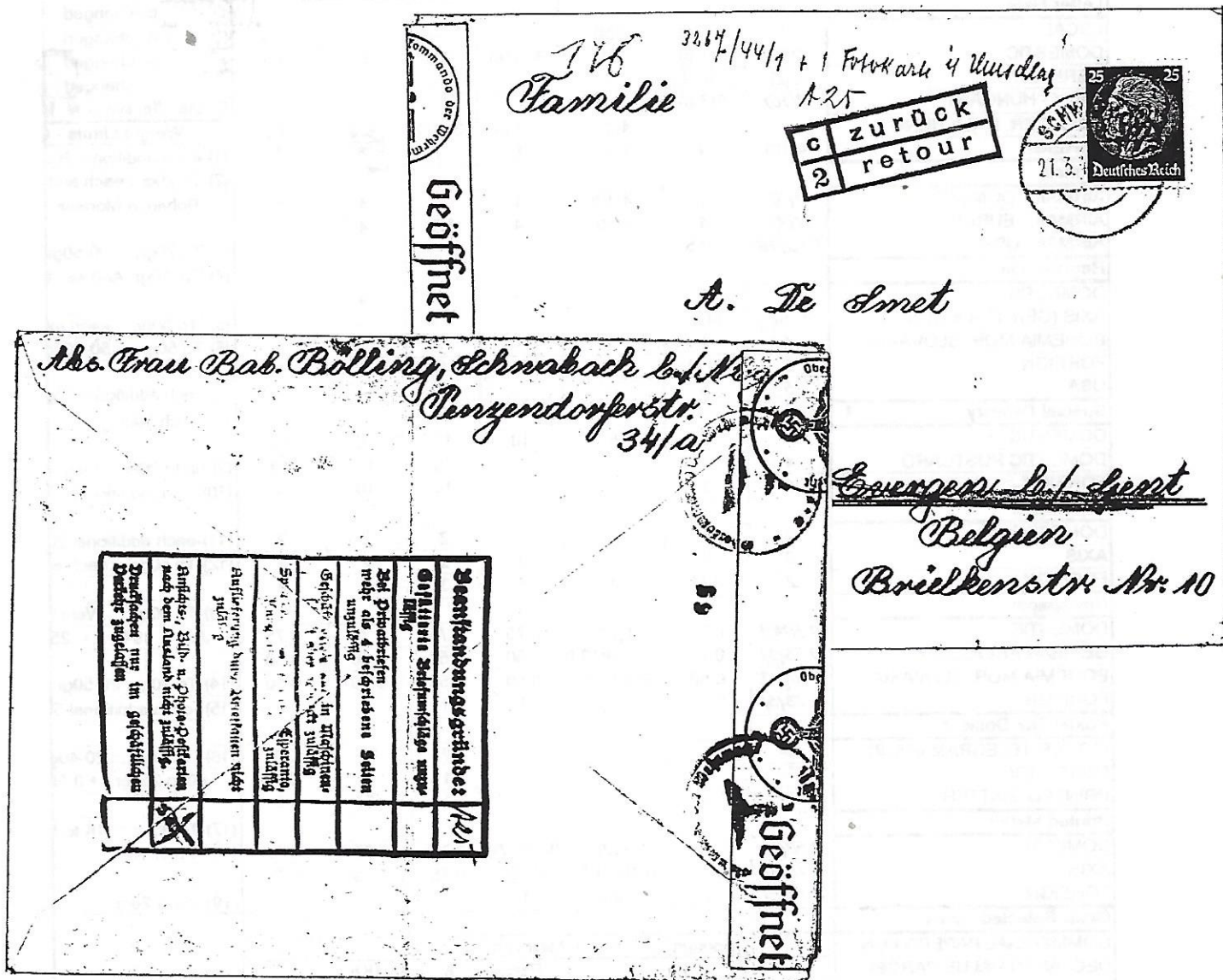


Chart for Croatian Postal Rates

by Henry Laessig

One of my primary interests is to collect and exhibit Croatian postal rates. Anyone who has delved into this area will attest that there are many rate changes which cause problems in attempting to ascertain if the rate shown on a particular item of mail is correct. Although there were many rate changes during the short life of Croatia, not much is available in the form of official postal documents. To compensate for this documentation, I developed the chart shown below as both a way to keep tabs on my exhibit and as a guide in evaluating any potential additions to the exhibit. I hope the chart will prove to be a valuable tool for fellow Croatia postal rate collectors or as an example for developing similar charts for other countries.

| CROATIAN POSTAL RATES - April 1941 to May 1945 | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| RATES | Period 1 | Period 2 | Period 3 | Period 4 | Period 5 | Period 6 | Period 7 | |
| IN KUNAS | 1941 | | 41-'42 | 1943 | | 1944 | 1945 | |
| NOTES>> | A | B | C | | | | | |
| Date Order Within Periods | Apr 6 to | Various | Nov.16'41- | Jan 1 to | Jan 1 to | Jun 15 to | Jan 1 to | |
| | Various | Nov 15- | Dec.31'42 | Dec 31- | Jun 14- | Dec 31- | May | |
| Letter Rate | | | | | | | | |
| LOCAL | 1 | 1.5(a) | 2(9) | --- | --- | --- | --- | |
| DOMESTIC | 2(8) | 2(1-b) | 3(1) | 3.5(16) | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | |
| GERMANY | 3(2) | 2.5(7-b) | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |
| ITALY - HUNGARY | 2(10) | 3(7-b) | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |
| AXIS (GER. ITALY HUNG.) | --- | --- | 4(10) | 4(1-e) | 3.5(1) | 3.5 | 3.5 | |
| FOREIGN | 4(10) | 4 | 5(11) | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | |
| Airmail | | | | | | | | |
| AIRMAIL - DOMESTIC | 1(3) | 1 | 4(19) | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | |
| AIRMAIL - EUROPE | 4(4) | 4 | 4(19) | 4 | 4(8) | 4 | 4 | |
| AIRMAIL - USA | 23.5(18) | 23.5 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |
| Registration | | | | | | | | |
| DOMESTIC | 5 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | |
| AXIS (GER. ITALY HUNG.) | 4-5(d) | 6(c) | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |
| BOHEMIA-MOR.-SLOVAKIA | 4 | 4 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |
| FOREIGN | 5 | 6(c) | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | |
| USA | 5 | 5 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |
| Special Delivery | | | | | | | | |
| DOMESTIC | 5 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | |
| DOMESTIC POSTCARD | 4 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | |
| FOREIGN | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | |
| Post Cards | | | | | | | | |
| DOMESTIC | 1 | 1 | 1.5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| AXIS | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| FOREIGN | 2 | 3(b) | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | |
| Newspaper | | | | | | | | |
| DOMESTIC | 0.50(6) | 0.50 | 1(12) | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | |
| GERMAN AREA ONLY | 0.75(5) | 0.75 | .75-.50(13-f) | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | |
| BOHEMIA-MOR.-SLOVAKIA | 0.50(13) | 0.50 | 0.50(13) | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | |
| FOREIGN | 0.75(5) | 0.75 | 1(8) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Postal Tax-Domestic | | | | | | | | |
| LETTER-TELEGRAM-INSUR. | --- | --- | --- | --- | 2 | 10 | 30 | |
| POST CARD | --- | --- | --- | --- | 1 | 2 | 20 | |
| PRINTED MATTER | --- | --- | --- | --- | 1 | 5 | 10 | |
| Printed Matter | | | | | | | | |
| DOMESTIC | 0.50(6) | 0.50 | 1(12) | 0.75(17) | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | |
| AXIS | 0.75(5) | 0.75 | 0.75(14-f) | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | |
| FOREIGN | 0.75(5) | 0.75 | 1(8) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Other Selected Rates | | | | | | | | |
| COMMERCIAL PAPERS-FGN | | Foreign | 3 | Minimum | | | | |
| DECLARED VALUE PARCEL | | | | Parcel | 8 | To 1Kg. | | |
| OCCUPATION DINARS | | | | | | Letter | 10 Dinars | 2 Kuna = 1 Dinar |

The Era of Catapult Mail

by Alf Harper

“Hans” I asked, “What did it feel like being catapulting into the air from a ship?” “Like being kicked hard in the pants” he said. “Didn’t it hurt?” I asked. “Yes, but it was very comforting” was his reply.

Not ten minutes ago there was a loud noise in the sky, when I popped out to see what the cause of it was, I just managed to catch a glimpse of CONCORD II on yet another test flight. It will cross the Atlantic, skirt the American coast and then return in time for lunch. Truly the wide Atlantic has been shrunk to a pond, yet it was not always so.

In the late ‘twenties aircraft could not remain in the air long enough to cross the Atlantic on a regular schedule, not even with the smallest payload. To utilize the speed of the airplane for speeding up Trans-Atlantic mails it was proposed that aircraft should be carried on ships and released before reaching port, thus saving several hours.

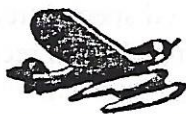
The French were first in this field, on August 23, 1928 a plane loaded with mail was thrown into the air by means of a catapult from the “Ile de France” and landed mail in New York before the ship docked. The surcharged stamps used on this occasion are desirable and rather costly items to own. After only about four or five similar flights the French packed it in as being too costly an operation.

In 1929 the Germans who were able to organize it as a more economic proposition took up the same idea. They used it not only deliver mail to the destination before the ship docked, but also to collect mail after the ship had left its home port. North German Lloyd organized the flights from their liner “BREMEN“, and later from the “EUROPA“, which joined this service in 1930.

A third liner, the “COLUMBUS” handled only “Supplementary Air Mail” (Nachbringerflüge). This meant that mail for the U.S.A. which came in too late to be put on board the ship at Bremerhaven could be flown to Cologne in time to catch the ship when she made her first call there.

Lufthansa, first using Heinkel low-wing, single motor seaplanes, and later Junker W.46 and J.U. 46 types of aircraft handled the flights themselves. The first German catapult launch took place on July 21, 1929 from the “BREMEN“, the distance flown was only 100km – about 65 miles, from ship to the U.S.A. In time, as pilots grew more experienced and motors and fuel improved, the distances flown grew longer and longer, reaching some 700 miles average in the period 1932-35.

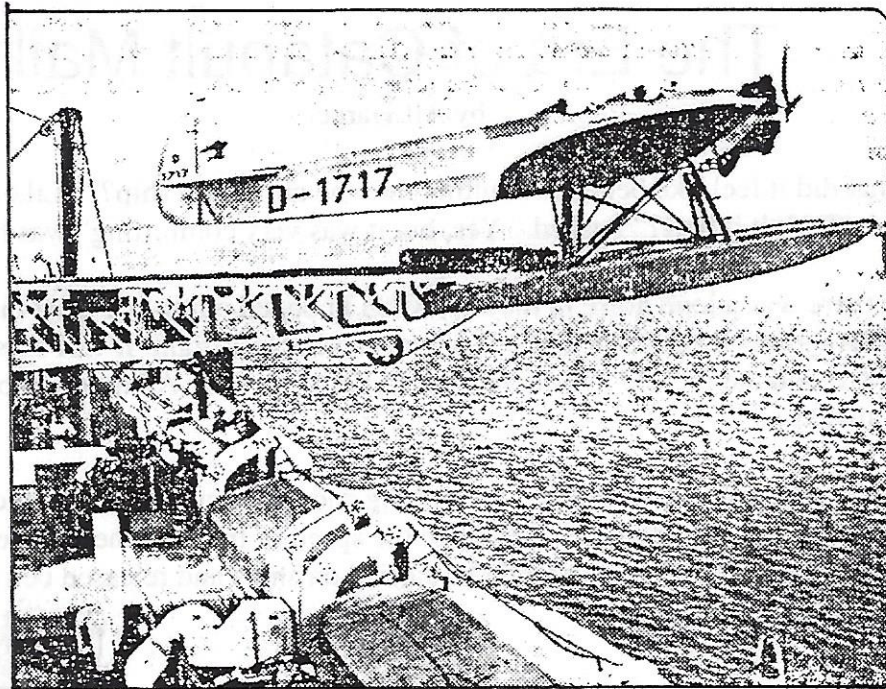
1. Flug vom
Katapultdampfer Westfalen
nach Südamerika



DEUTSCHER SCHLEUDERFLUG
D. »EUROPA« - NEWYORK
★ 2.-3. AUGUST 1932 ★

Mit Vorausflug nach Southampton

SCHLEUDERFLUG
13.9.1932
DEUTSCHER SOUTHAMPTON
D. »EUROPA«



Flights took place only between May and October, none at all during the winter months because of bad weather. During the period 1929-1935 only two trips were called off due to adverse weather. Only one serious mishap occurred, on October 5, 1931 a plane took off from the "BREMEN" shortly before noon, had landed the same day at Sidney NS for refueling, and then taken off again never to land again – it crashed into the Cobequid Bay, killing both crew members and the destruction of its mail load.

During the 1934 and 1935 seasons the ship-to-shore service operated like clockwork, everything went according to plan, and the mail always reached its destination before the arrival of the ship.

202 flights were made during the period 1929-1934, when the mail service ended, i.e.

| | 1929 | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 | Total |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| From SS. BREMEN | 8 | 18 | 14 | 18 | 16 | 18 | 18 | 110 |
| From SS. EUROPA | -- | 4 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 16 | 92 |

The service was discontinued then because the airship "HINDENBURG" was able to take over the north Atlantic airmail service.

PHILATELIC ASPECTS: All mail received special treatment – special cachets were applied by the German postal service, and the mail was back stamped upon receipt on shore. Beside these cachets, the words "Mit Vorausflug nach ..." or "Mit Katapultflug" were either hand written or rubber-stamped on the cover. Mail of the very first flight was numbered by a numbering machine to find if the service would pay, 8,363 pieces were counted on the ship to shore (U.S.A.) trip, while 17,781 pieces were counted on the return trip to Europe. No special stamps were issued for this type of service, regular stamps or airmail stamps being used. Some special envelopes were given to ship passengers for use with catapult mail.

The cachets and cancellations tell the story and are therefore of great interest to collectors, there was a different cachet for every flight. The cachets used in 1934 and 1935 were standardized, only the dates and ships name being different. Besides all these we must watch the postmarks by which we can divide the mail into two groups (1) mail posted on board the ships, and (2) mail posted on shore.

Group (1) in other words, is the Seapost. Both S.S. BREMEN and S.S. EUROPA had post offices aboard which were jointly operated by Germany and the U.S.A. Mail posted on board with German stamps received the cancellation "Deutsche-Amerikanische Seepost", while mail posted on board with American stamps were cancelled "U.S. Ger. Sea Post". These cancels naturally showed the date and name of the ship, and some German cancellers also showed the route – such as "Bremen – New York". German hand stamps and machine cancels, and U.S.A. hand-stamps were used.

Group (2) includes mail posted within the U.S.A., mail posted in Germany, and so-called "Contract Mail" from other countries. Germany had invited other countries to participate in the venture, only nine other European Postal Administrations signed the agreement which called for the supplementary Catapult fee to be remitted to the German Post Office, the dates given below show when each country's first contract mail was taken along:

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Danzig | July 22, 1929 | 5 pieces of mail |
| Luxembourg | July 22, 1929 | |
| Switzerland | September 10, 1929 | |
| Austria | June 6, 1930 | 204 pieces of mail |
| Saar | June 6, 1930 | |
| Liechtenstein | June 25, 1930 | |
| Denmark | June 18, 1931 | 25 pieces of mail |
| Netherlands | June 18, 1931 | |
| Hungary | August 19, 1931 | 14 pieces of mail |

As Luxembourg had no airmail service, it made special arrangements with surrounding countries regarding the payment of airmail fees. The regular postage was affixed in Luxembourg stamps, while the catapult fee had to be paid by using German stamps, thus mixed franking results. As from 1935, other countries made use of the service in spite of the fact that they had not signed the contract with the German Post Office, their mail was accepted as a matter of courtesy as it came from close neighbors such as France, Czechoslovakia, the Baltic countries, etc.

Besides catapult mailing, use could also be made of the existing shore-to-ship or supplementary mail service, this functioned only on the European side. After the ship left Bremerhaven, her next stop was either Cherbourg or Southampton, a special plane would fly the late mail from Cologne to connect with the ship. Such mail received special marking – at first a boxed one-line stamp reading "Mit Luftpost zum Dampfer ... befördert" (Forwarded by airmail to the steamer). Later a four-line stamp was used with the same wording and the picture of a plane added. There was an extra charge for this supplementary connecting service.

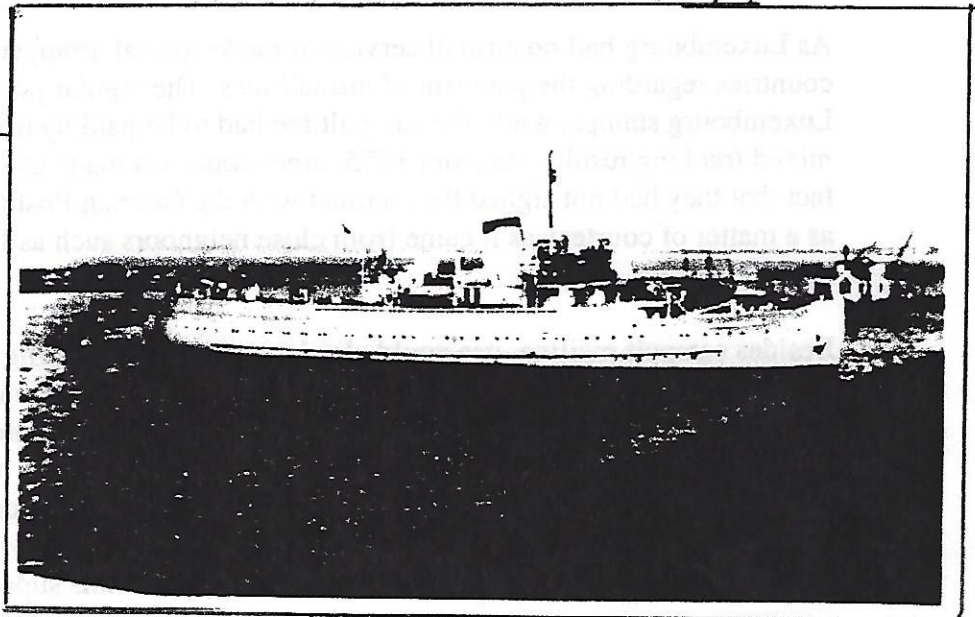
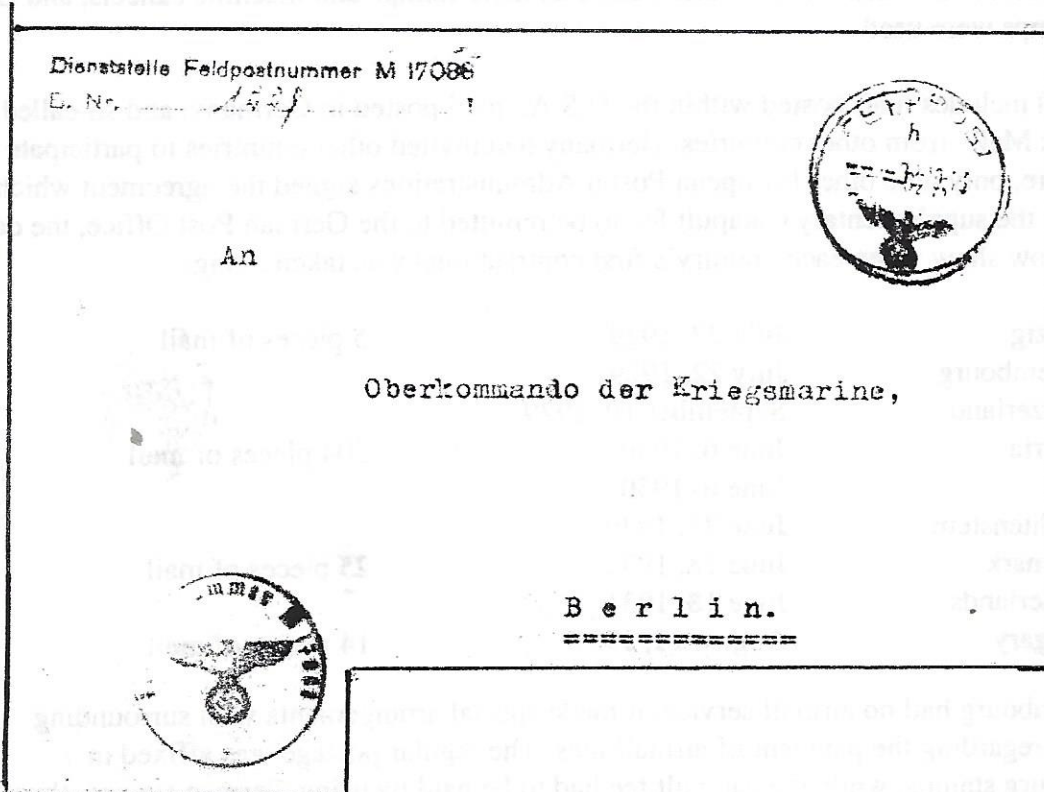
Catapult mail is a closed chapter, it is postal history now. Nowadays transatlantic flights are such a common affair they do not rate a special cancellation any more, but the intrepid pioneers who paved the way for them only 40 years ago will always be remembered as long as a philatelist can turn to his collection – assuming that he is the lucky possessor of covers carried by Catapult mail.

ED. NOTE: This article first appeared in 'The German Collectors Group' Bulletin in 1973.

NAVY LOG

By Robert Dunn

Auxiliary Minelayer 'Roland' - Feldpost # 17088



This ex-merchantman was built in 1927. Displacement: 2,436 tons. Armament: two 3.5" AA, one 37mm AA, two 20mm AA guns and 180 mines. She laid mines along the western coast of Denmark on the 8-9 April 1940. She sank after hitting a mine off the coast of Narva, Estonia on April 21, 1944.

Mixed Franking Meter Stamps from Bohemia-Moravia

by Benjamin R. Beede

This "Antwort" (Reply) cover sent by a German bank to a bank in the newly established Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia on April 18, 1939 is franked as a reply envelope. Germans could send mail to Bohemia-Moravia at domestic rates after April 1, 1939. Evidently the bank in Bohemia-Moravia (ČESKÁ PRUMYSLOVÁ BANKA V PRAZE) sent a more lengthy reply than anticipated and added its own meter stamp to pay the additional fee in Czechoslovak currency, which equaled another 12 Rpf.

This cover is an interesting example of both a German reply envelope used abroad and of a Czech meter stamp (with country inscription still unaltered) as a forerunner to Bohemia-Moravia stamps.

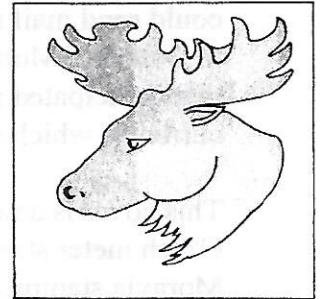


COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 291st Infantry Division

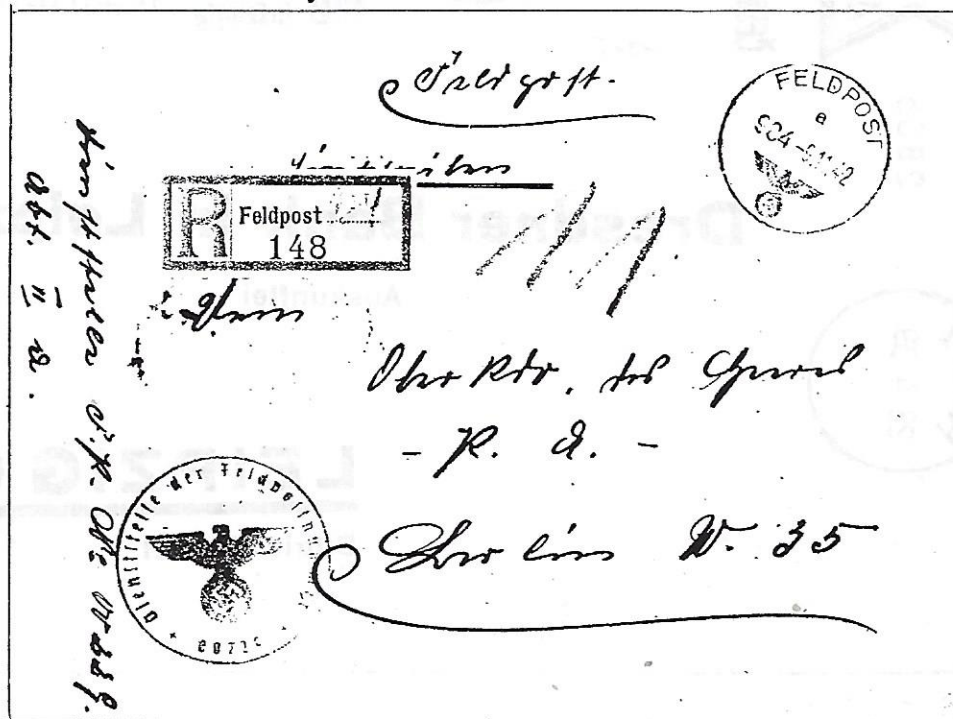
by Jim Lewis

| POST OFFICE | | REGIMENTS | | | | AUXIL |
|-------------|------|-----------|-----|------|-------|-------|
| TACT. | KENN | GRENADIER | | ARTY | UNITS | |
| 291 | 984 | 504 | 505 | 506 | 291 | 291 |

Formed April 1940 (9th Wave) from Prussians living in the Masurian area. The Post Office unit was assigned Fp. # 39252 as a return address and Kenn 984 for use on registered mail. Nicknamed the "Eich" (Elk) division for its emblem, it played a minor role in the French campaign and invaded Russia with Army Group North in June 1941. The division penetrated 44 miles in the first 34 hours, remarkable for an infantry division. It loosely surrounded Riga and repulsed several attempts by the Soviet garrison to break out of the city.



Late in 1941 the 291st Infantry Division took the major Soviet naval base at Liepaja after a bitter struggle. Remaining with Army Group North, it fought in many actions, including the Battle of Volkhov from January to March 1942. It was transferred to the Velikie Luki sector of Army Group South early in 1943. The division sustained heavy casualties in the retreat through the Ukraine and, as part of 1st Panzer Army, was overrun during the Soviet summer offensive of 1944. Although greatly reduced in numbers, it remained in the line and fought in the Vistula campaign in late 1944. The 291st Infantry Division was destroyed early in 1945 when it tried unsuccessfully to block the Soviet advance into Silesia.



Cover sent to Army High Command in Berlin in November 1942 from Fp. # 00229 (HQ of 291st Infantry Division) via P.O. 291 (K-984).

THIRD REICH POSTAL RATES

by Bob Ferguson

SPECIAL CANCEL FEE

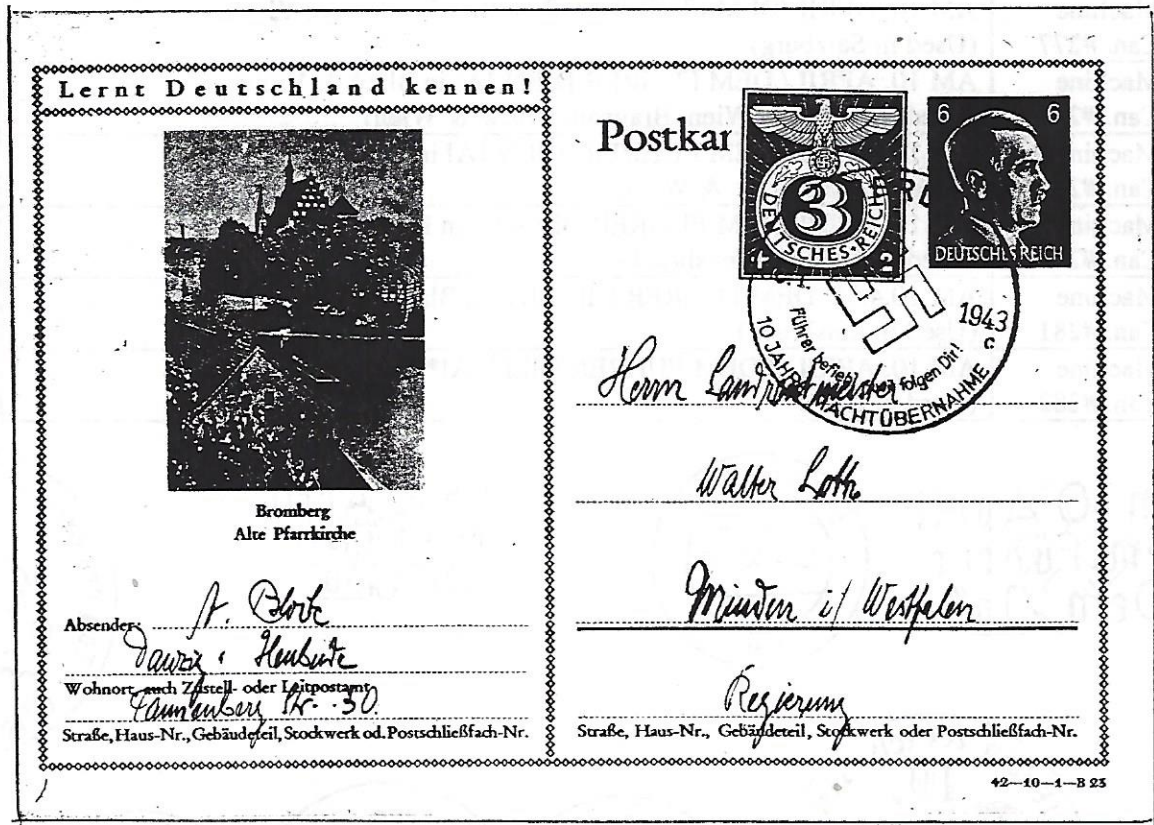
On January 26, 1943 a stamp (Michel # 830) was issued whose primary purpose was to pay the fee (3 Pfg) for application of special cancels . The fee went to the Fuhrer's Kulturfond.

Posted: Berlin 30 January 1943 to Minden

Special Cancel Rate (3 Pfg)

Franking (9 Pfg): 6 Pfg (Intercity postcard rate)
3 Pfg (Special cancel fee)

Cancel (Berlin # 385) : " 10 JAHR MACHTÜBERNAHME"
(TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THIRD REICH)



Special Cancels – The Austrian Anschluss 1938

by Bob Ferguson

The cancel numbering scheme is in Julius Bochmann's work "Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel".

| UNIFORM TEXT | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Breslau # 38 | Dusseldorf # 50 | Magdeburg # 25 | Munchen # 111 | Wien # 8 | "EIN VOLK-EIN REICH-EIN FÜHRER" |
| Graz # 1 | Innsbruck # 1 | Klagenfurt # 1 | Linz # 1 | Salzburg # 1 | "DER FÜHRER SPRICHT" |
| Munchen# 109 | | | Wien # 4 | Wien # 5 | "DER FÜHRER IN WIEN" |
| Hannover # 54 | 1. JAHRSTAG GROSSDEUTSCHES REICHS | | | | 13 March 1939 |
| Wien # 7 | TAG DER GROSSDEUTSCHES REICHS | | | | 9 April 1938 |
| Wien # 31 | EIN JAHR GROSSDEUTSCHLAND | | | | 13 March 1939 |
| Machine Can. #274 | AM 10, APRIL/DEM FÜHRER/DIEN "JA" in Black (Used in 208 towns & cities) | | | | 31 March-10 April 1938 |
| Machine Can. #275 | AM 10, APRIL DEM FUHRER/DIEN =JA! in Black, Blue & Violet (Used in Ems, Kronstorf, Leoding, Linz, Neuhofen, Oberberg, St. Florian, St. Marien, Volcklabruck & Weisskirchen) | | | | 7 -20 April 1938 |
| Machine Can. #276 | AM 10, APRIL DEM FUHRER/DIEN =JA! in Black & Violet (Used in Linz, Steyr & Traun) | | | | 8 -10 April 1938 |
| Machine Can. #277 | AM 10, APRIL/DEM FUHRER DIEN "JA" in Black & Violet (Used in Salzburg) | | | | 8 -10 April 1938 |
| Machine Can. #278 | AM 10, APRIL/ DEM FUHRER DIEN JA! in Black & Violet (Used in Baden b. Wien, Braunau, Bruck & Wien) | | | | 8 -10 April 1938 |
| Machine Can. #279 | AM 10, APRIL/ DEM FUHRER/ DIEN JA! in Black (Used in Klagenfurt & Wien) | | | | 8 -10 April 1938 |
| Machine Can. #280 | AM 10, APRIL/DEM FUHRER DIEN/JA in Black & Green (Used in Fugen & Innsbruck) | | | | 8 -10 April 1938 |
| Machine Can. #281 | AM 10.4.38 DEM FUHRER DIEN JA! in Black (Used in Innsbruck) | | | | 8 -10 April 1938 |
| Machine Can. #282 | AM 10, APRIL/* DEM FUHRER DIEN JA!* in Black & Violet (Used in Graz) | | | | 8 -10 April 1938 |

Am 10. April
dem Führer
Dem "Ja"



Am 10. April
dem Führer
Dem "Ja"



Waffen-SS Feldpost

Replacement Branch Office of the Waffen-SS

by John Painter

This registered letter is from the SS Recruiting Office (Ergänzungsamt der Waffen-SS) in Dresden sent in July 1943 to an SS Volunteer in Löben containing recruiting literature aimed at Hitler Youth reaching the age of 18. The SS was limited in the number of men it could accept into its ranks, regardless of the recruit's wishes.



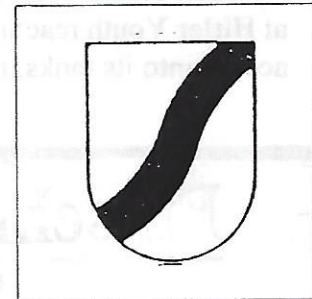
The percentage of recruits was limited to 4 % of each years men coming of age. Himmler got around this restriction by allowing Volksdeutsche (ethnic Germans) from Eastern and Southeastern Europe to join the Waffen-SS. By the end of the war, the SS comprised about 950,000 men. About half of these were not Reichsdeutsche (native Germans) and many were not even Germanic. Many Ukrainians, White Russians and Baltic Peoples joined because of the numerous benefits provided by membership in the Waffen-SS.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 34th Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

| POST OFFICE | | REGIMENTS | | | | AUXIL |
|-------------|------|-----------|-----|-----|------|-------|
| TACT. | KENN | GRENADIER | | | ARTY | UNITS |
| 34 | 801 | 80 | 107 | 253 | 34 | 34 |

This division was formed from Rhinelanders and Hessians in June 1936 (1st Wave). The post office was assigned Fp.# 26367 as a return address and Kenn 801 in lieu of tactical FpA 34. The emblem was a white shield with wavy blue lines representing the Neckar River which flows into Heidelberg. The division remained on the Western Front during the polish campaign but fought in France the following year. Invading Russia as part of Army Group Center in 1941, it was heavily engaged against the Soviet winter attack in Jan.- Feb. 1942, then in defensive battles on the central sector in 1942, the Battle of Kharkov in 1943 and retreat through northern Ukraine in the spring of 1944. After three years of almost continuous action, the division was virtually burned out by the summer of 1944.



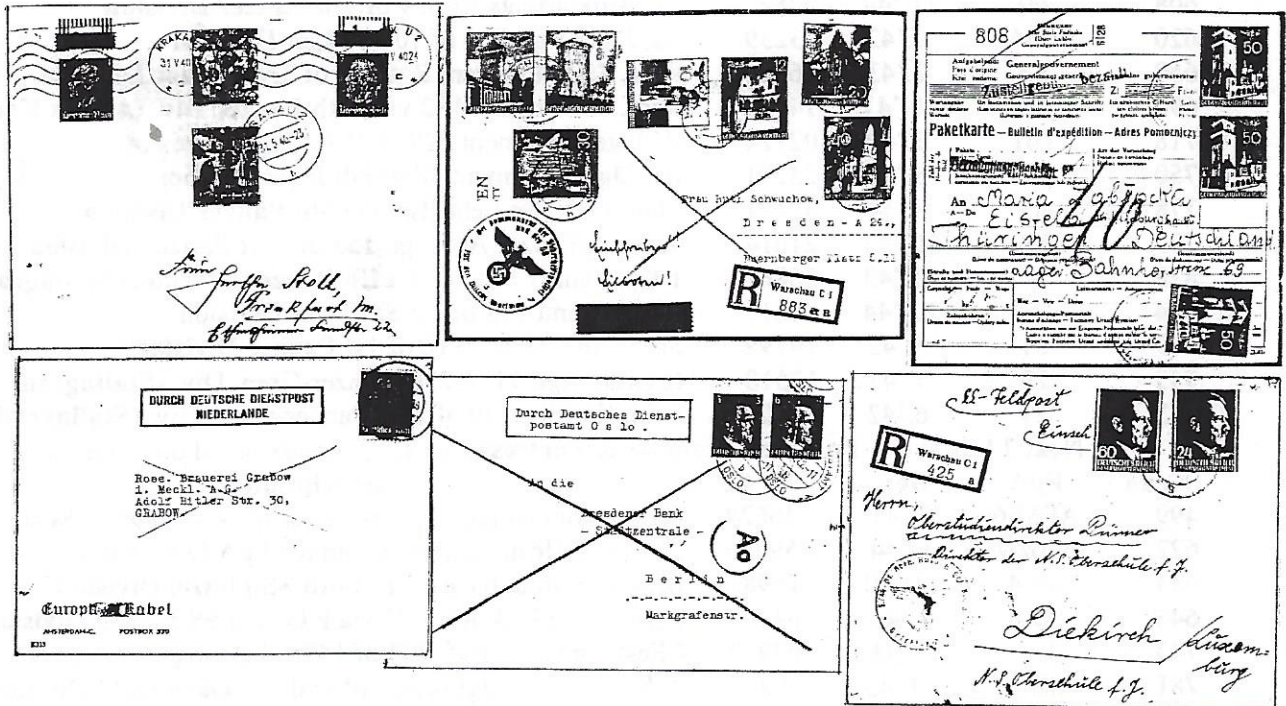
In July 1944 it was transferred to northwest Italy to become part of the rear area Army Detachment Von Zangen (later the Ligurian Army) consisting of Italian units and third rate German units. By October 1944 the 34th Infantry Division was on duty on the French-Italian frontier. It remained with the Ligurian Army for the rest of the war and was still in northern Italy when the war ended.



Cover sent to Military District Command in St. Wendel in May 1943 from Fp. # 19472 (5. Fahrkol. Inf. Div. Kol. 34) via division Field P.O. 34 (K-801).

TRSG Auction No. 93

| Lot | Description | Min. |
|--|---|---------|
| First 7 lots SS mail from Gen. Govt. illus. by Row/Position i.e. Top/Center =TC, etc. VF unless noted otherwise | | |
| 1. | Parcel card sent 5.'43 for 2.6 Kg from Slave Labor Camp Piszczak b. Lublin w/postage due (See TR) | \$30.00 |
| 2. | R-Express cover sent 10.'40 from SS Security Police Warsaw. A Bedarfs beauty! (See TC) | 35.00 |
| 3. | Cover sent 5.'40 to Dresden from member SS-TK Standarte Krakau w/GG overprint stamps. (See TL) | 25.00 |
| 4. | Fp. cover sent 2.'44 from SS Unterscharführer w/Security Police Krakau w/mute cancel. F | 12.00 |
| 5. | Fp. cover sent 11.42 from SS Sturmman in Fp.23622 (Field Hospital 622) w/mute cancel. | 12.00 |
| 6. | R-Fp. pvt cvr w/104 Zlotys sent 2.'44 frm SS TK Pz-Gren. Training unit in Warsaw. (See BR) | 18.00 |
| 7. | Fp. cover sent to Hamburg 11.'42 has very nice D'siegel Chief Security Police & SD in Krakau | 15.00 |
| 8. | Fp. cover sent 10.'39 from SS-VFD in Pilsen via DDP. F | 9.00 |
| 9. | Fp. cover sent 2.'40 from SS-TK 9 in Prag. F | 9.00 |
| 10. | DDP Oslo Bedarfs cover sent 8.'42 frm Reichskommissar w/scarce Ao censor mark (See BC) | 25.00 |
| 11. | DDP Nederlands Firm card sent 9.'41 from Europa-Kabel Amsterdam. Bedarfs! (See BL) | 20.00 |
| 12. | SS Fp.Cvr sent to Bozen in Alpenvorland in 4.'45 frm Police Signals School in Klattau, Bohemia | 30.00 |



Next 5 lots nice Durch Deutsche Feldpost covers - see Page 5 in Bulletin 134.

| | | |
|-----|--|-------|
| 13. | Durch Deutsche Fp window cover w/Mi. 788 & X-30 censor mark sent from Paris firm on 9.'43 | 12.00 |
| 14. | Durch Deutsche Fp Drucksache cover to Leipzig w/Mi.782 & 785 sent from Paris firm on 2.'43 | 14.00 |
| 15. | Durch Deutsche Fp cover to Berlin w/Mi.788 & X-31b censor mark sent from Paris firm on 8.'44 | 12.00 |
| 16. | Durch Deutsche Fp cover to Leipzig w/Mi.788 & X-50 censor tape sent from Paris firm on 4.'43 | 12.00 |
| 17. | Durch Deutsche Fp cover to Leipzig w/Mi.788 sent from Brussels firm on 2.'43 | 13.00 |
| 18. | Ortsbrief facing slips, one from K-664 sent 6.'42 & one from K-761 sent 4.'44. F | 10.00 |
| 19. | SS Fp cvr w/mute cancel sent to Hannover 3.'43 from Fp.# 34798 (III/SS Polizei Grenadier Rgt. 2) | 13.00 |
| 20. | R-cover sent to M. Gladbach from Dissen on 2.24.'45 w/Mi.795A (See illustration on Page 2) | 20.00 |
| 21. | Fp. cvr w/civil cancel sent to Worms in 2.'45 from Panzer-Grenadier Schule. F | 9.00 |
| 22. | Lufpo cover sent 4.'43 from Fp.# 29245 (Stab San. Abtl. 2) of 2nd SS Division 'Das Reich' | 9.00 |
| 23. | Luftpo cover sent 6.'42 from Fp.# 30626 (II/Gren. Rgt. 9) of 5th SS Division 'Wiking' | 9.00 |
| 24. | Luftpo cover sent 3.'43 from Fp.# 31497 (III/Art. Rgt. 6) of 6th SS Division 'Nord' | 9.00 |
| 25. | Luftpo cover sent 5.'42 to Fp.# 29245 (Stab/22nd Air Landing Division). | 9.00 |
| 26. | Luftpo cover sent 10.'44 to Fp.# 26371 (I/Arty. Rgt. 5) of 5th Jäger Division w/ineligible notation. F | 9.00 |
| 27. | Luftpo cover sent 3.'43 to Fp.# 09115 (Ost Btl. 609) w/ineligible notation. F | 9.00 |
| 28. | Lufpo cover sent 5.'42 from Fp.# 39947 (Stab SS Polizei Btl. 63) of 4th SS Division 'Polizei' | 12.00 |

Next 28 lots are R-Fp covers frm Jäger, Panzer or Panzer-Gren. Divisions. VF unless noted otherwise

| | Kenn | FpA | Date | Fp # | Description | Min. |
|-----|------|-----|--------|-------|--|---------|
| 29. | 104 | 19 | 4.'40 | 13882 | Pz. Aufklarungs Abtl. 19 of 19th Panzer Division | \$12.00 |
| 30. | 116 | 100 | 8.'44 | 10676 | Stab/Feldersatz Btl 83 of 100th Jäger Division | 10.00 |
| 31. | 123 | 40 | 6.'42 | 28828 | 4 Kp./PGR 21 of 24th Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 32. | 130 | 84 | 11.'42 | 38080 | Verpflegungs Amt 84 of 4th Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 33. | 135 | 82 | 2.'44 | 12842 | 2. Sanitats Kp. 82 of 2nd Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 34. | 167 | 66 | 2.'42 | 16493 | Nachschub Kol. 66 of 16th Panzer-Grenadier Division | 10.00 |
| 35. | 278 | 93 | 12.'44 | 48138 | Kw. Kol. Bert. St. of 26th Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 36. | 294 | 57 | 7.'42 | 18791 | I/Pz.Gren. Rgt. 114 of 6th Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 37. | 355 | 57 | 10.'40 | 08112 | II/ Pz.Gren. Rgt. 78 of 7th Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 38. | 357 | 140 | 6.'43 | 36184 | Feld Kdtr 516 via 22nd Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 39. | 382 | 10 | 6.'42 | 09516 | Stab/Gren. Rgt. 20 of 10th Panzer-Grenadier Division | 10.00 |
| 40. | 433 | 61 | 4.'43 | 33130 | II/ Pz.Gren. Rgt. 111 of 11th Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 41. | 455 | 4 | 8.'44 | 59277 | Pz. Aufklarungs Abtl. 14 of 14th Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 42. | 489 | 20 | 7.'42 | 30454 | 2. Sanitats Kp. 20 of 20th Panzer-Grenadier Division | 10.00 |
| 43. | 602 | 400 | 8.'43 | 07241 | 2.Kp/Pz. Jäger Abtl. of Pz.-Gren. Div. 'Grossdeutschland' | 15.00 |
| 44. | 608 | 60 | 11.'44 | 27847 | Pz. Aufklarungs Abtl. 9 of 9th Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 45. | 620 | 104 | 9.'42 | 43259 | III/ Jäger Rgt. 734 of 104th Jäger Division | 10.00 |
| 46. | 650 | 83 | 2.'43 | 26306 | Rgts. Stab/ Pz.Gren. Rgt 394 of 3rd Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 47. | 697 | 33 | 10.'41 | 14365 | Krgf. Arbeits Btl. 182 via 15th Panzer Div. (Afrika Korps) | 18.00 |
| 48. | 718 | 101 | 3.'42 | 02124 | II/ Jäger Regiment 229 of 101st Jäger Division | 10.00 |
| 49. | 750 | 8 | 5.'43 | 23291 | III/ Jäger Regiment 38 of 8th Jäger Division | 10.00 |
| 50. | 778 | 85 | 8.'44 | 32171 | Stab II/Werfer Lehr Rgt. via 5th Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 51. | 793 | 200 | 10.'44 | 21614 | 9. Battr./Panzer Art. Rgt. 155 of 21st Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 52. | 828 | 4 | 11.'42 | 36881 | 1 Kp./Panzer Rgt 36 of 14th Panzer Division (Stalingrad) | 16.00 |
| 53. | 884 | 152 | 12.'44 | 04615 | Feldpostamt 152 of 1st Ski Jäger Division | 16.00 |
| 54. | 909 | 81 | 3.'42 | 14799 | Stab/Panzer Abtl. 116 of 1st Panzer Division | 12.00 |
| 55. | 933 | 29 | 5.'41 | 17510 | II/Gren. Rgt. 71 of 29th Panzer-Gren. Div. (Stalingrad) | 13.00 |
| 56. | 933 | 29 | 6.'42 | 02809 | 5. kl. Kw. Kol. 29 of 29th Panzer-Gren. Div. (Stalingrad) | 13.00 |

Next 7 lots are R-Fp covers from SS & Fortress Units. VF unless noted otherwise

| | Kenn | FpA | Date | Fp # | Description | Min. |
|--|---|-------|--------|-------|---|---------|
| 57. | 499 | APM 6 | 7.'41 | 46624 | Einsatzkommando 'C' (See cover illus. & Page 2) Scarce! | \$30.00 |
| 58. | 622 | 506zw | 6.'44 | 59919 | SS Horse Hospital 505 via branch FpA Dubrovnik. F | 10.00 |
| 59. | 644 | SS-4 | 11.'40 | 16982 | II/Polezei Infantry Rgt. 1 of 4th SS Polizei Division | 16.00 |
| 60. | 644 | SS-4 | 5.'43 | 04308 | 2. Battr. Le Flak Abtl. 73 via P.O. 4th SS Polizei Division | 16.00 |
| 61. | 743 | 133 | 7.'44 | 07910 | I/Festung Gren. Rgt. 733 of 133rd Festungs Div. (Crete) | 16.00 |
| 62. | 781 | SS-2 | 10.'43 | 48264 | 7. Kp./Panzer Regiment 2 of 2nd SS 'Das Reich' Division | 16.00 |
| 63. | 833 | SS-12 | 12.'44 | 59195 | Wi. Btl. 12 of 12th SS 'HJ' Div (front only + no R-label!) | 9.00 |
| 64. | Remains of wrap from Feldpost package sent 12.'42 from Fp.# 34964w (8 Kp. Lw. Nachr. Rgt. 2). F | | | | | 10.00 |
| 65. | Sara letter sent 7.'41 from Berlin to USA that took 5 years to deliver. (Note: cover split for display) F | | | | | 10.00 |
| 66. | Fp cvr sent 1.'43 to Fp.# 21354 (II/PGR 7 of SS Polizei Div.) returned w/ manus. note recipient KIA. F | | | | | 12.00 |
| 67. | Set of nine labels for 'Lost Territories' in Europe i.e. Danzig, Posen, Schleswig, etc. labels mint & VF | | | | | 15.00 |
| Last 2 lots censored covers to POW camps in USA with scarce Reimer markings. VF | | | | | | |
| 68. | To Camp Ruston, Louisiana sent 12.'43 w/F-7a censor h/s used 3.'44 -8.'44. 300 Pts. (see below) | | | | | 25.00 |
| 69. | To Camp Brady, Texas sent 3.'44 w/ B-10 censor h/s used 12.'43 -1.'44 500 Pts (see below) | | | | | 30.00 |

Reimer F-7a



Reimer B-10



PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 93 is February 15, 2003.
SEND ALL BIDS TO: Jim Lewis, 111F Montross Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070