



# Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

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

**VOL. XXXIII No. 4 (Whole No. 133) 1999**

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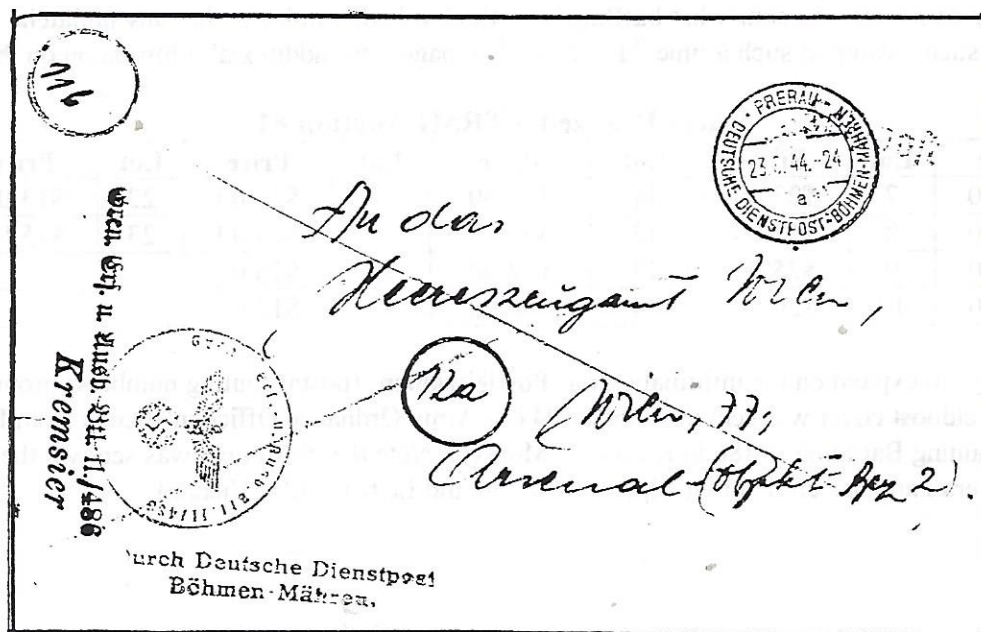
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# STUDY GROUP NOTES

**Membership Renewal** –this issue completes yet another year of TRSG activities and, as dues are now due, a renewal form is included in this mailing. **Please take a moment to complete this form and send it with your payment to Secretary-Treasurer Bob Dunn.** While we have not increased dues for next year, any member whose dues are not received by January 1, 2000 will be considered as having resigned. Should this individual wish to renew membership after January 1, 2000, they will be required to pay the \$10.00 new member fee in addition to the annual dues.

**TRSG Distribution Manager** – Kelly Stefanacci asked to be relieved of her duties as Back Issues Manager but will continue to provide articles and the popular “Story Behind the Stamp” features. Effective January 1, 2000, Secretary-Treasurer Bob Dunn will also serve as Back Issues Mgr. This arrangement makes sense because we find that most back issue requests are from new members and are for recent issues. Bob has extra copies after the printing and distribution of each quarterly bulletin, so he can quickly fill requests for most back issues.

**Fundamentals of Feldpost Collecting** – page 18 in this issue contains the second installment of this new series which came about after we received letters asking if there are any books available in English which explain the intricacies of Feldpost. As we couldn't think of one, we decided to publish a series of articles detailing various aspects of Feldpost. Members are urged to submit suggestions for future parts or, hopefully, articles for the series.

**TRSG Meeting at NOJEX** – as noted in the last bulletin, there was an informal TRSG meeting held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 29, 1999 attended by a small handful of stalwarts. I mentioned that we have been offered the opportunity to host an entire section of Third Reich postal history exhibits for NOJEX 2000 and urged all to please try to contribute an exhibit.

**Camp Wartha Cancel** – John Rawling's response to J. Hahn's request for information on page 20 in Bulletin 132: “The camp cachet on Joseph Hahn's Paraguayan postcard comes from the Resettlement Camp set up at Wartha in Silesia on August 31, 1943. It was one of at least 22 such camps set up in various regions of greater Germany to house those recalcitrant citizens of Luxembourg who had resisted Gauleiter Simon's attempt to conscript the youth of the area into the German armed forces. Those deported were those whose youngsters evaded the call up and those who were simply regarded as anti-German. This particular camp opened on the date indicated above and functioned until the German surrender on May 8, 1945. Mail from inmates is usually addressed to Luxembourg and bears the normal date stamp of the local post office and a variation of the camp cachet shown on Mr. Hahn's card. A genuine commercial card in my collection bears a slightly different 4 –line cachet from Camp 90. The presence of this camp cachet on a Paraguayan postcard is somewhat baffling but I think it highly unlikely that any philatelic event would have been staged in such a camp at such a time.” ED Note: See page 5 for additional information on these camps.

## Prices Realized – TRSG Auction 81

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
2	\$22.00	7	\$23.00	11	\$30.00	15	\$13.00	22	\$13.00
3	\$52.00	8	\$52.00	12	\$35.00	17	\$14.00	23	\$15.00
4	\$35.00	9	\$35.00	13	\$22.00	18	\$16.00		
6	\$38.00	10	\$20.00	14	\$30.00	21	\$15.00		

**Cover Illustration** – to expand on the information on ‘Postleitzahlen’ (postal routing numbers) provided in TRSG Bulletin 132, this Feldpost cover was sent in August 1944 to Army Ordnance Office in Vienna from Infantry Replacement & Training Battalion II/486 in Kremsier, Moravia. Note that this cover was sent via the Dienstpost Office in nearby Prerau and has circled Leitzahl 11b (Prerau) and Leitzahl 12a (Vienna).

## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

### 217th Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
217	755	311	346	389	217

The 217th Infantry Division was mobilized in June 1938 from Landwehr personnel (35 to 45 year old reservists) in East Prussia. The post office unit (Feldpostamt or FpA) was assigned Feldpost # 22241 as a return address and Kenn 755 as a coded address for registered mail in lieu of its tactical FpA 217. It fought in Poland (1939), France (1940) and took part in the invasion of Russia. It was mainly involved in coastal defense duties for Army Group North until mid-1942, when it received enough younger replacements so its status became normal. It was then transferred to the southern sector of the Eastern Front in the fall of 1943, where it suffered such heavy losses in the battles around Kiev that it was disbanded. The remaining members of the division were sent west for re-building.

The former 217th Infantry Division post office, including Fp.#22241 and Kenn 755, was transferred to the 349th Infantry Division (which had been formed in France late in 1943) when it arrived at the Eastern Front in April 1944. Under XIII Corps of Army Group Center, the 349th Infantry Division was encircled near Zloczow and virtually annihilated during the massive Soviet offensive against Army Group Center in mid-June 1944. The remnants of both the 217th and 349th Infantry Divisions were eventually reformed as Volksgrenadier divisions late in the war but with different post offices.



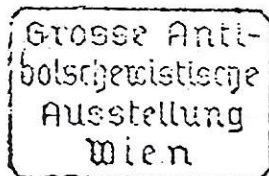
Cover sent to Censor Office of Army High Command in Berlin in July 1943 from Fp. # 10386 (Signals Battalion 217) via Field P.O. 217 (K-755).

## Anti-Soviet Special Cancels

by Bob Ferguson

From 1937 until 1942 special cancels were used to commemorate Anti-Soviet Exhibitions. The cancel numbering scheme is in Julius Bochmann's work "Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel".

Berlin #246	Gross Antibolschewistische Ausstellung "Bolschewismus Ohne Maske"	6. Nov. -19 Dec. 1937
Berlin #251	Gross Antibolschewistische Ausstellung "Bolschewismus Ohne Maske"	6. Nov. -9 Jan. 1938
Berlin #369	Europas Einheitsfront Gegen den Bolschewismus	25-26 November 1941
Berlin #375	Ausstellung das Sowjet Paradies/Berlin im Lustgarten	9 May-21 June 1942
Berlin #376	Ausstellung das Sowjet Paradies/Berlin im Lustgarten	9 May-21 June 1942
Dortmund #12	Ausstellung das Sowjet Paradies/Westfalenhalle	30 Jan.-7 March 1943
Essen #40	Ausstellung das Sowjet Paradies/Ausstellungshallen bei der Gruga	26 sept.-31 Oct. 1942
Hamburg #78	Gross Antibolschewistische Ausstellung "Bolschewismus Ohne Maske"	12 March-18 April 1938
Hamburg #117	"Kampf dem Bolschewismus" postwertzeichen Ausstellung Deutsches Reich/Sowjet Russland/Landesverband Norddeutschland	18-25 January 1942
Hamburg #118	Ausstellung das Sowjet Paradies/Ausst. Gelande Pflanzen un Blumen	25 July - 30 August 1942
Konigsberg #39	Ausstellung das Sowjet Paradies/Messehallen	14 Nov.-13 Dec. 1942
Konigsberg #40	Ausstellung das Sowjet Paradies/Messehallen	14 Nov.-13 Dec. 1942
Trebnitz #1	Grundung Herzog Heinrich I/Beginn der Schlesischen Ostdiedlung	Used 1943, 44 & 45
Wien #21	Gross Antibolschewistische Ausstellung	10 Dec. '38 - 28 Feb. '39
Wien #91	Ausstellung "Das Sowjet Paradies"	13 Dec. '41 - 1 Feb. '42
Wilhelmshaven #3	Ausstellung der Bolschewismus	22 april-14 May 1939



## More on the German Resettlement Camp in Wartha

by John Berger

To answer part of Joseph Hahn's question [Hahn, Joseph D., "Ethnic German Resettlement Camp in Wartha?" in Third Reich Study Group Bulletin Volume XXXIII No. 3 (Whole No. 132) July 1999, page 20] the Reichskommissar was Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler.

I didn't have time to pull up a proper bibliography and so will keep this brief:

From 1919 through 1939 Germans had been "encouraged" in several ways by the Polish government to leave those areas of pre-1919 Germany that were given to Poland at Versailles. Following the defeat of Poland in 1939 the RKFVD ("Reichskommissariat für der Festigung Deutschen Volkstums" or Reich Inspectorate for the Strengthening of Germanism) was created by Himmler to resettle ethnic Germans from lands in the Soviet sphere of influence (the Baltic States and eastern Poland), remove "racially valuable" individuals from Polish and other stock.

Combing through the Polish population for "racially valuable" individuals, expelling others, sorting through the appropriated properties, and combing through the foreign-born German "settlers" to weed out "racially undesirable elements" took years. Many of the intended beneficiaries of the program spent much of the war in camps.

Himmler intended to fill the Warthgau with a 100% Germanic population and create "facts on the ground" (to use the modern term for such policies). What happened at the end of the war was that the Allied powers authorized the expulsion of all Germans from Poland and Germany east of the Oder river while the Poles were forced to cede 70,000 square miles of eastern Poland to their Soviet "allies".

Postwar "resettlement" programs – expulsion of indigenous peoples or government-directed immigration of outsiders – have occurred in Israel, Chinese-occupied Tibet (and other non-Chinese areas within the Peoples Republic of China empire), in Indonesian-occupied Timor, in the Baltic states and elsewhere during the Stalinist epoch in the Soviet Union, and most recently in the Balkans.

# THIRD REICH POSTAL RATES

## Intercity Document Delivery Rate

by Bob Ferguson

The document delivery rate ('Zustellungsurkunde für Brief') was used for legal documents which required addressee's attention and then were to be returned to the sender.

30 January 1933 – 31 May 1943

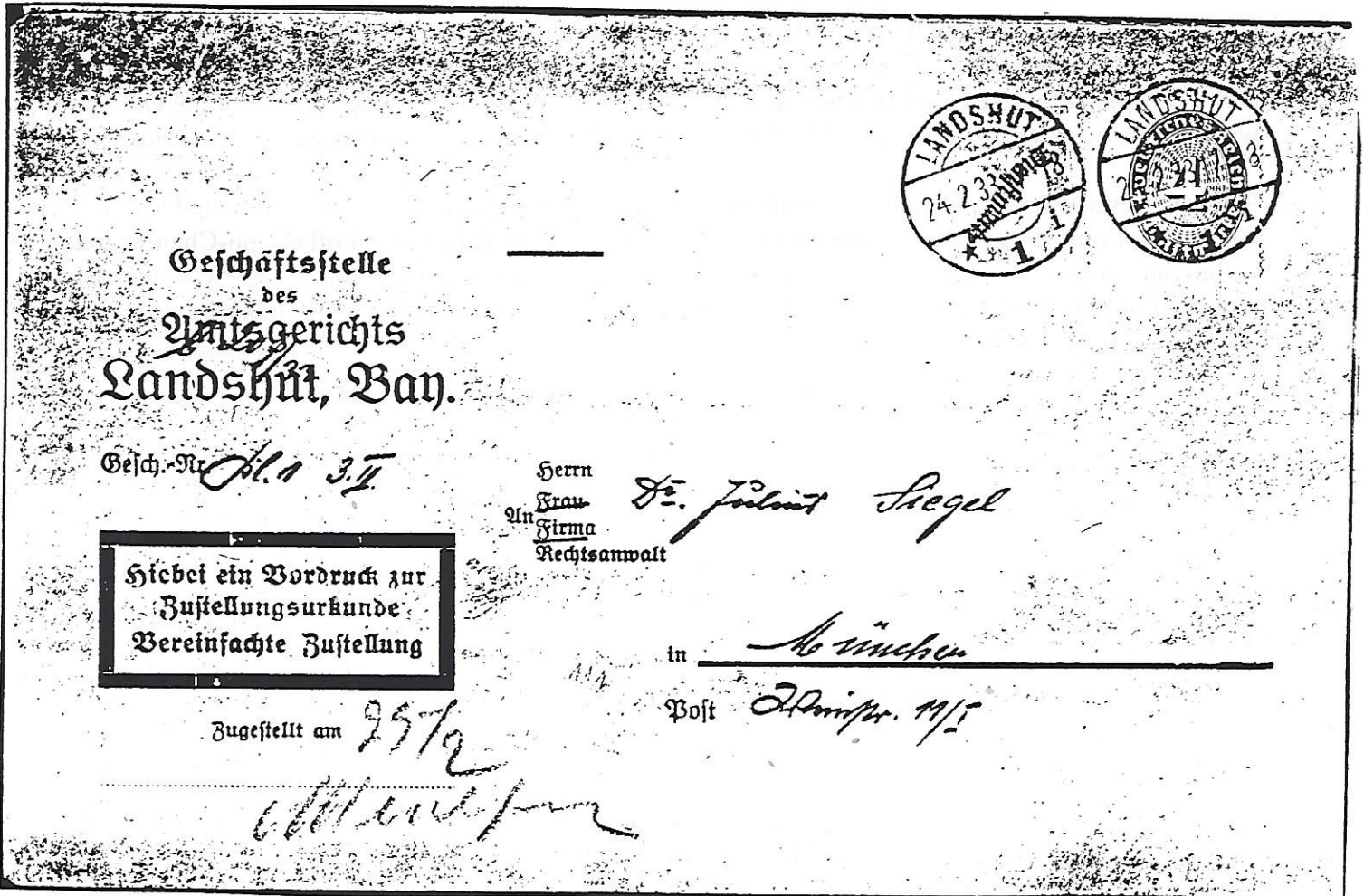
Rate: Basic letter rate  
+ Delivery fee (30 Pf.)  
+ letter rate for return to sender

### Civil Official Mail

Sender: district Court Office, Landshut  
Posted: Landshut, February 24, 1933 to Munich

### Intercity Document Delivery Rate

Franking (54 Pf.): 12 Pf. (Intercity letter rate for weight : 0-20 grams  
30 Pf. (Delivery fee)  
12 Pf (Intercity letter rate for return of document to sender.



## Story Behind the Stamp: King Frederick II

by Kelly Stefanacci

Frederick II was born January 24, 1712 in Berlin. He was the eldest surviving son of Frederick Wilhelm I, King of Prussia, and his wife Sophia Dorothea, a daughter of George I of Great Britain. The boy was educated with great severity on the orders of his father, who wanted to toughen him for a military career. He reacted strongly against this treatment and devoted himself to languages, literature and music. In 1725 he was made a major in the Potsdam Life Guards but had to submit to such humiliation by his father that he attempted to escape to England in 1730. When his plot was discovered, he was deprived of his rank and imprisoned in the fortress of Custrin, where he acted as a clerk in the audit office. He regained his father's favor, was restored to his military rank in November 1731 and soon was promoted to colonel of the regiment at Neuruppin.

On June 12, 1733 he married Elizabeth Christine of Braunschweig-Lüneberg-Bevern but the marriage was childless. They lived at the castle at Rheinsberg near Ruppin until his father died on May 31, 1740 when he ascended to the throne of Prussia. When the Emperor Karl IV died soon after, Frederick II demanded the three Silesian duchies from Maria Theresia of Austria as his price for supporting the Pragmatic Sanction. Upon her refusal of this offer he invaded Silesia, won the battles of Mollwitz and Chotusitz and obtained the Peace of Breslau on June 11, 1742. Two years later he invaded Bohemia and the in 1745 won the series of battles which led to the Peace of Dresden on December 25, 1745 which gave him Silesia. The next eleven years were spent re-organizing the Prussian State but, from 1756 to 1763, he had to fight the Seven Years War against Austria which was intent upon recovering Silesia. However, his military skills won the day and by the Peace of Hubertushof of February 15, 1763, his possession of this territory was confirmed.

In 1770 he took part in the First Partition of Poland. He invaded Bohemia in July 1788 during the War of the Bavarian Succession and the subsequent Treaty of Teschen gave him the Franconian principalities. He introduced a new legal code into Prussia as well as an unpopular method of taxation based on a French system. Frederick II died at Sanssouci near Potsdam on August 17, 1786.

A pair of stamps showing a painting of Frederick II by von Menzel were issued on April 12, 1933 to commemorate the Opening Session of the New Reichstag in Potsdam.

There was a special postmark used for one day only "Reichstag Opening 21 March 1933. Potsdam"



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.

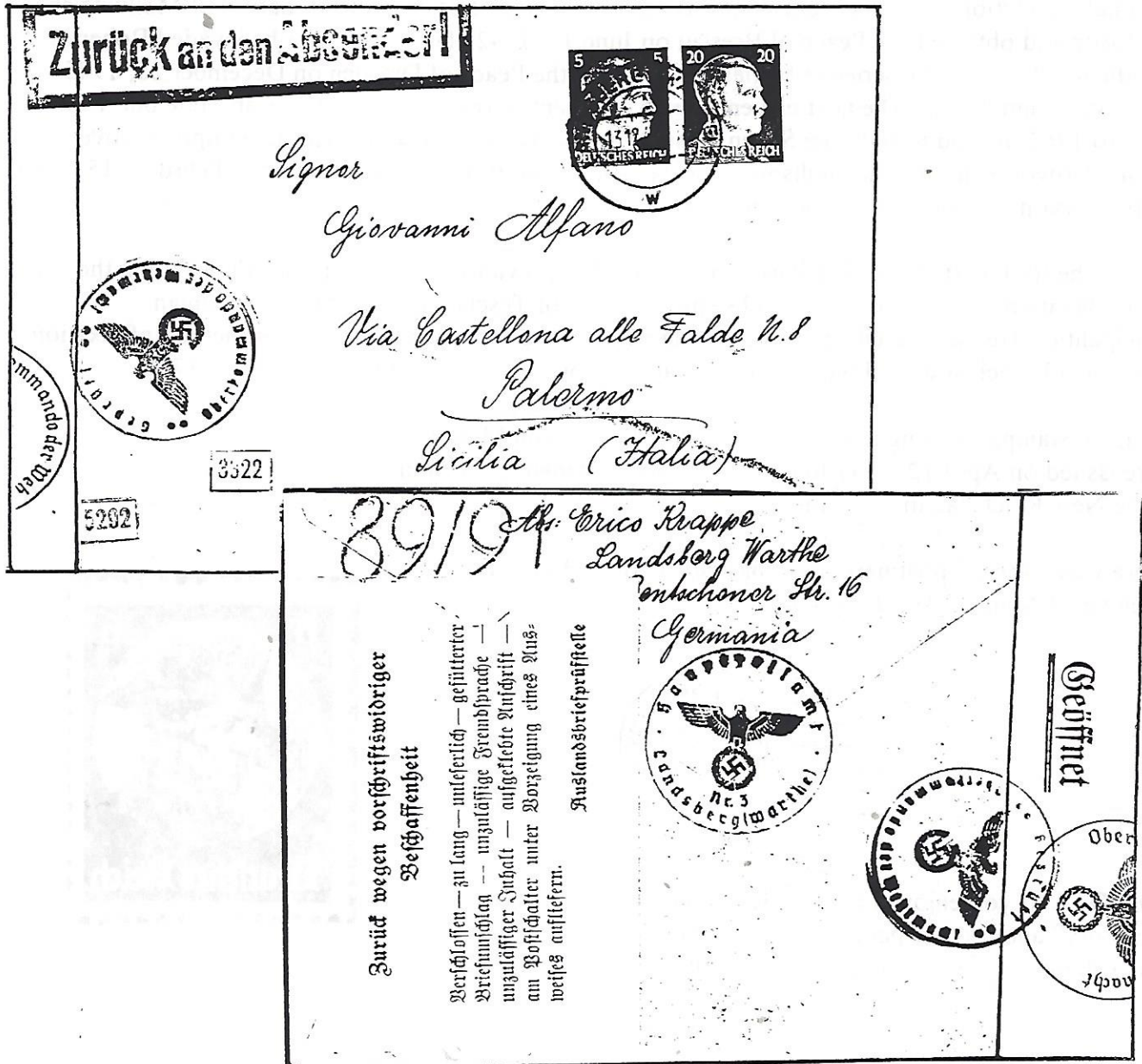
# Rejected by Censor - Inadmissible Mail

by Jim Lewis

## Unlawful Contents

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 Italy in December 1941 rejected by Munich censor office per the boxed handstamp "Zurück an den Absender!" (Return to sender!). The back side has a 90mm x 60mm objection label indicating various possible reasons for rejection. The reason was probably the trade of postage stamps, which were not permitted in foreign postal traffic.





# Official Wartime Emergency Postcard

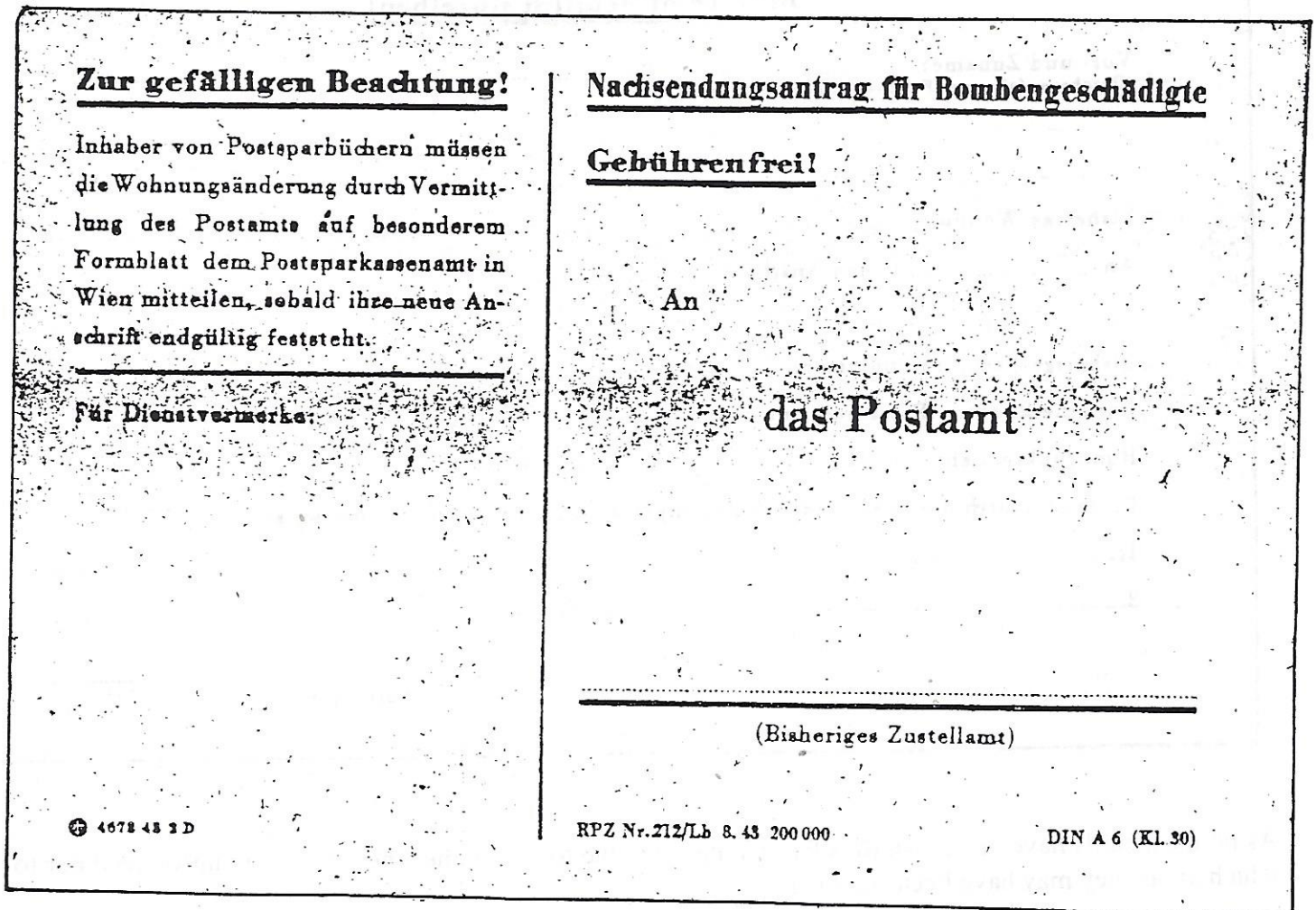
by Rainer Lütgens

In the chaotic conditions prevailing in war torn Germany from about the middle of 1943, up to date registers of local residents maintained at each post office enabled them to act as clearing stations for personal information. They also served as channels for official advice and assistance to those driven from their homes by the bombing. The function of the 'Eilnachrichten' (Emergency Information) cards is well known but there was another type of official emergency postcard which provided advice and assistance for the bombed out.

The card is entitled 'Nachsendungsantrag für Bombengeschädigte' (Forwarding Application for the Bombed Out) and on its left side is instructions titled 'Zur gefälligen Beachtung!' (Please Note). The paragraph below this heading, loosely translated, advises all holders of Post Office Savings Books to send details of their new addresses, using the appropriate post office form, to the Post Office Savings Office in Vienna. Below this is a space titled 'Für Dienstvermerke' (For Official Use).

The card, which was printed in Berlin in 1943, is addressed to 'An das Postamt' (To the Post Office) and has a space below in which the sender can insert the address of his 'Bisheriges Zustellamt' (Former post office) to which it can then be sent 'Gebührenfrei!' (Free of charge).

Fig. 1) Address side of emergency forwarding card @ 120% actual size.



The printed format on the message side of this card requests personal information that will allow items to be forwarded to the sender's new address. It is titled '**Antrag auf gebührenfrei Nachsendung von Sendungen aller Art**' (Application for free forwarding of all types of mail) and underlines the instruction to '**Bitte recht deutlich schreiben**' (Please write clearly). The first section asks for the sender's Christian name and surname (**Vor- und Zuname**) and the names of others who may be staying with the family (**Familienmitglieder**).

The next three sections request the sender's former address (**Bisherige Wohnung**); the date of his move and new address (**Neue Anschrift**) and former telephone number (**Bisherige Fernsprechnummer**).

The sender is then requested to identify the office handling his post office savings account (**Postcheckamt**) and the account number. He is then asked if he has a wireless license (**Rundfunkteilnehmer**). The sender is then asked to request up to four newspapers which will be sent to his new address post free and to sign the card.

Fig. 2) Message side of emergency forwarding card @ 120% actual size.

**Antrag auf gebührenfreie Nachsendung von Sendungen aller Art**  
**Bitte recht deutlich schreiben!**

Vor- und Zuname: .....  
(Gegebenenfalls auch Familienmitglieder aufführen) .....

Bisherige Wohnung: .....

Ab ..... neue Anschrift: .....

Bisherige Fernsprechnummer: .....

Postcheckkonto: Postcheckamt ..... Nummer .....

Rundfunkteilnehmer? Ja — Nein (Nichtzutreffendes streichen)

Folgende durch die Post bezogene Zeitungen sind gebührenfrei zu überweisen:

1. .... 2. ....  
3. .... 4. ....

(Unterschrift) 80  
20

As no used cards have been seen thus far, it is not possible to determine when they were introduced nor to which areas they may have been supplied.

However, this Emergency Forwarding Card issued free of charge during the last two years of the war may have been an adaptation of a similar card issued by the German Post Office in connection with one of its normal services to the public. The purpose of the original card seems to have been to enable people leaving home for short periods of time (on business, for vacation or moving to a new home) to provide instructions for forwarding their mail, packages, telegrams, newspapers, etc. with their local post office.

The date of introduction of this service and the associated postcard is not known but the example shown here carries the printing date July 1942 (See bottom right corner in Fig. 3). This indicates that it remained available until the emergency conditions of late 1943 required the introduction of the Emergency Card.

The front of the card is addressed to the sender's local post office (**Bisheriges zustellamt**) and carries the title 'Nachsendungstrag' (Forwarding application). If the customer relocates within the local area (**Im Ortsdienst**), the card can be sent free. However, for any outside area the customer must add postage for the applicable postcard rate card (**Postkarten gebühr**). In Section 5 in upper left corner, the customer may specify up to three newspapers to be forwarded at a fee (**Überweisungs gebühr**) of 0.40 RM each. Section 6 in lower left reminds holders of radio licenses and Post Office Savings books that they must notify the Post Office of any change of address. The second paragraph stipulates that telephone bills cannot be forwarded but must be paid before leaving.

Fig. 3) Address side of postal forwarding card @ 120% actual size.

**5. Zeitungen**  
(Bitte die Anmerkungen beachten!)

Folgende durch die Post bezogene Zeitungen sind zu überweisen:

1. ....

2. ....

3. ....

**Überweisungsgebühr beigelegt.**

**Zur gefälligen Beachtung!**

Die Überweisung von Zeitungen ist gebührenpflichtig. Die umseitig angegebene Frist gilt nicht ohne weiteres für die Dauer der Zeitungsüberweisung. Die Rücküberweisung muß bei dem Postamt, das die Zeitung zuletzt ausgehändigt hat, mindestens 2 Tage vor der Rückreise stets besonders beantragt werden; sie ist gebührenfrei.

Zugelassen ist auch die Überweisung über die laufende Bezugszeit hinaus oder nach einem 2., 3. usw. Reiseziel. Hierüber sowie über Nachsendungen jeder Art nach dem Ausland erteilen die Postämter Auskunft.

6. Rundfunk- und Postscheckteilnehmer sowie Inhaber von Postsparbüchern müssen dauernde Wohnsitzveränderungen ihrem Postamt mitteilen, Inhaber von Postsparbüchern unter Vorlegung von Postsparbuch und Ausweiskarte.

Die Begleichung der Fernsprechnung ist möglichst noch vor der Abreise sicherzustellen, da die Fernsprechnung im allgemeinen nicht nachgesandt wird.

**Nachsendungsantrag!**

Postkarten-  
gebühr.

Im Ortsdienst  
gebührenfrei.

An

**das Postamt**

in

---

(Bisheriges Zustellamt)

EBj: M 7.42 390 000      × C 120 Din A 6, (Kl. 30)  
V. 1 j 46

The back of the card with its reminder to complete the details clearly (**Bitte recht deutlich schreiben**) requests the customer's name, their old (**Bisher Wohnung**) and new address (**Anschrift**) and the time period for which forwarding is requested. This can either be a specified period (**vom.....bis einschl.....**) for a short absence or for a full year (**vom..... an auf ein Jahr**) in the case of a long absence or change to a new home.

One then had a list of five categories of items for forwarding to choose or delete. Item 1 refers to all letters and parcels (**Samtliche Briefsendungen auch Päckchen**). Item 2 refers to money orders, letters containing money or valuables (**Wertbrief**) and letters sent C.O.D. (**Nachnahme Briefsendungen**). Item 3 refers to small packets and items specially insured through the 'Postgut' service. Item 4 refers to telegrams (for which the fee has to be paid) and item 5 to newspapers as already listed on the front side of the card (**Umseitig**). The completed card was then sent to the customer's former post office, which would arrange to follow the forwarding instructions for a period of up to one year at no extra fee.

Fig. 4) Message side of postal forwarding card @ 120% actual size.

Bitte recht deutlich schreiben!

**Für die Reise wird die Benutzung von Postansweiskarten und Postreiseschecks dringend empfohlen**

Vor- und Zuname .....  
(Soll der Antrag auch für Familienglieder gelten, so sind auch diese zu nennen)

Bisherige Wohnung .....

Neue Anschrift .....

**Für Dienstvermerke:**

Der Antrag soll gelten vom ..... bis einschl. ....  
 vom ..... an auf ein Jahr wegen  $\frac{\text{Um}}{\text{Weg}}$  zugs.

1. **Sämtliche Briefsendungen, auch Päckchen (ausschl. Wertbriefsendungen und Nachnahmen), sind nachzusenden.**
2. **Post- und Zahlungsanweisungen, Wertbrief- und Nachnahmebriefsendungen werden nicht erwartet — sind nachzusenden\*).**
3. **Pakete und Postgüter werden nicht erwartet — sind nachzusenden\*).**
4. **Telegramme werden nicht erwartet - sind telegraphisch nachzusenden\*†).**
5. **Zeitungen (s. umseitig).**

(Unterschrift) .....

Zur gefälligen Beachtung! Nachsendungsanträge müssen vor Ablauf eines Jahres erneuert werden, wenn sie länger gelten sollen. Anträge auf Nachsendung postlagernder Sendungen erlöschen für die Nachsendung im Inland nach 14 Tagen, für die Nachsendung nach dem Ausland nach 1 Monat und sind, wenn nötig, vorher zu erneuern.

\*) Nichts betreffendes bitte streichen. Ist unter 2 und 3 nichts gestrichen, so werden die Sendungen nicht nachgesandt. Ist unter 4 nichts gestrichen, so werden die Telegramme innerhalb Deutschlands gebührenfrei brieflich nachgesandt.

†) Die telegraphische Nachsendung ist gebührenpflichtig.

Rud 187

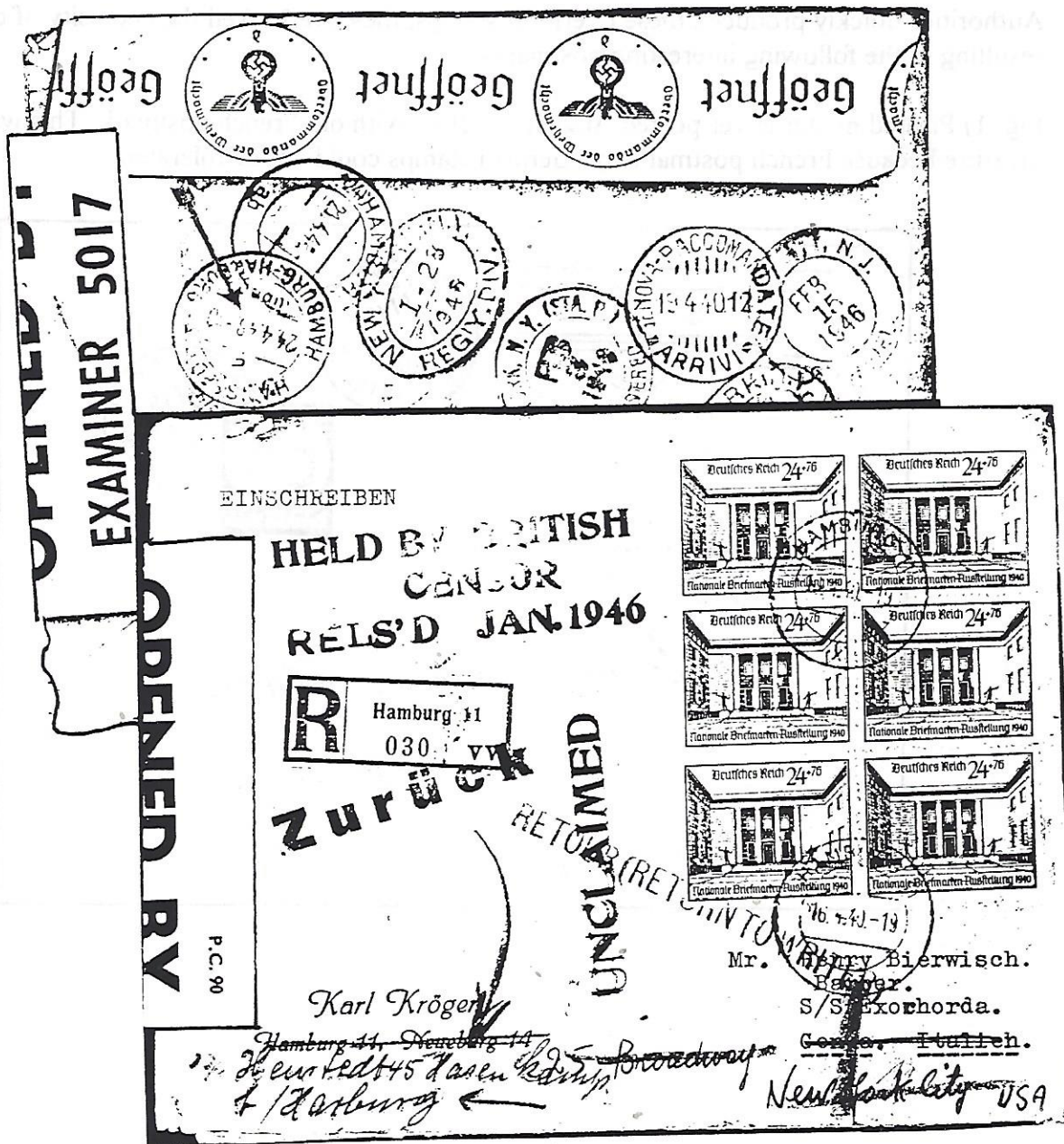
This article first appeared in the News Sheet of the T.R.S.G. (U.K.) and is reprinted with their kind permission. If any member is fortunate enough to have a used example of this rare emergency card, please send a photocopy to Ye Olde Ed so we may share your discovery with our fellow TRSG members across the pond.

# British Confiscated German Mail Circa 1941

by Jim Lewis

During the period between September 3, 1939 (British & French declarations of war on Germany) and December 11, 1941 (German declaration of war on the U.S.A.), mail travelling between Germany and the U.S.A. was subject to confiscation by the British. This registered letter posted in Hamburg on April 16, 1940 is addressed to a barber on the S/S Exochorda in Genoa, Italy. After examination at the Munich censor office, the letter reached Genoa and was back stamped on April 19th. Apparently the letter literally "missed the boat" and was forwarded from Genoa to an address in New York City. At some point thereafter the fell into British hands where it remained until released per the hand stamp "HELD BY BRITISH CENSOR RELS'D JAN. 1946".

Routed to New York City, the cover was back stamped on Jan. 28, 1946 by the Registry Division. By March 30th, after accumulating several additional markings in Jersey City, N. J., the cover was marked "Unclaimed" and "Return to Writer". The return trip took some time as the next back stamp was applied by the Hamburg P.O. on April 21, 1948. The marking "Zurück" (Return) was added to the front with an arrow pointing to the sender's new address in Hansted. The final postmark is a Hansted back stamp dated April 24, 1948. A little over eight years after the original posting, the letter had come full circle.



## German Occupation of Alsace-Lorraine

by Kelly Stefanacci

The French province of Alsace-Lorraine was taken over by Germany after the war of 1870-1. It was returned back to France by the Treaty of Versailles in 1918 and then re-occupied by Germany on May 14, 1940. Special civil administrations (**Zivilverwaltungen**) were established for both Alsace and Lorraine within the framework of the neighboring German Reich Districts (**Reichsgaue**) into which they were incorporated. Thus, Lorraine was incorporated into Westmark and Alsace into Moselland. The policies of the Chief of Civil administration was to promote the complete assimilation of Alsace and Lorraine with the other parts of the German districts, so that in the future a special administration for this region would not be necessary.

As part of this effort, two sets of the current definitive stamps of Germany were overprinted, one surprinted "Elsass" for Alsace and the other "Lothringen" for Lorraine. They were issued in August 1940 and withdrawn in December 1941 – a life of sixteen months. Although the German Postal Authorities quickly produced these overprint stamps, they overlooked the necessity of canceling them, resulting in the following interesting postmarks.

Fig. 1) Printed matter cover posted August 15, 1940 with old French postmark. This was a temporary measure because French postmarks on German stamps could not be tolerated.

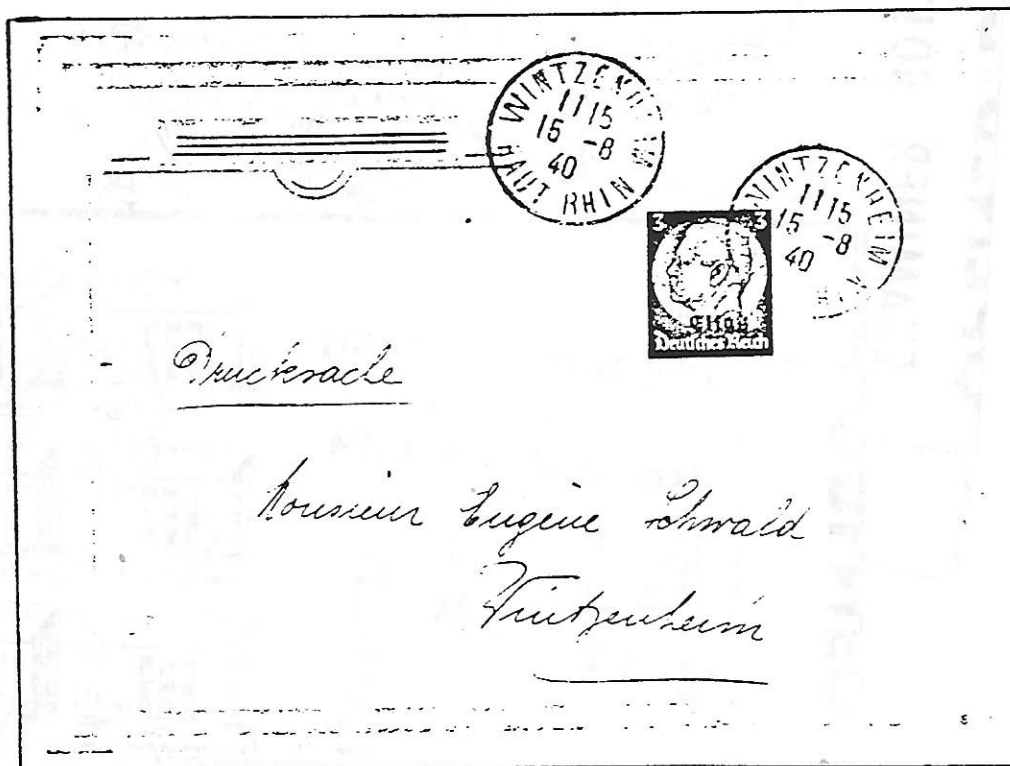


Fig. 2) Provisional hand cancels were quickly brought into use by the German P.O. but they required a date stamp. This local letter posted on August 18, 1940 still has the old French postmark used alongside to provide a date stamp.

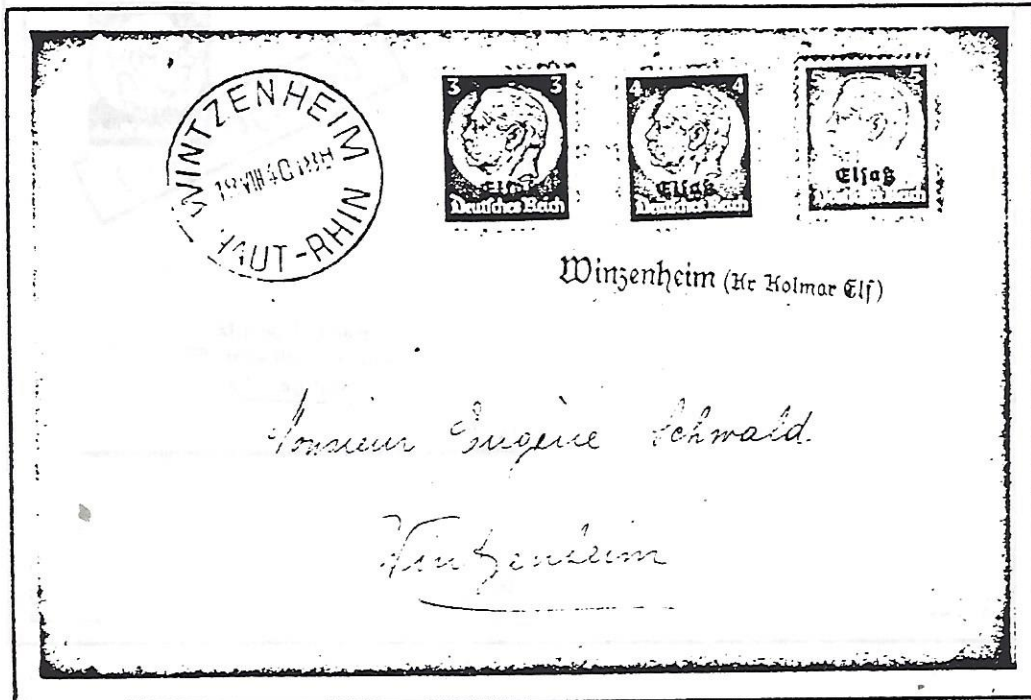


Fig. 3) By late August 1940 the German administration authorities would no longer tolerate the use of French postmarks. Therefore, this printed matter cover has only provisional hand cancels, the only postal marking allowed until new date stamps were available.

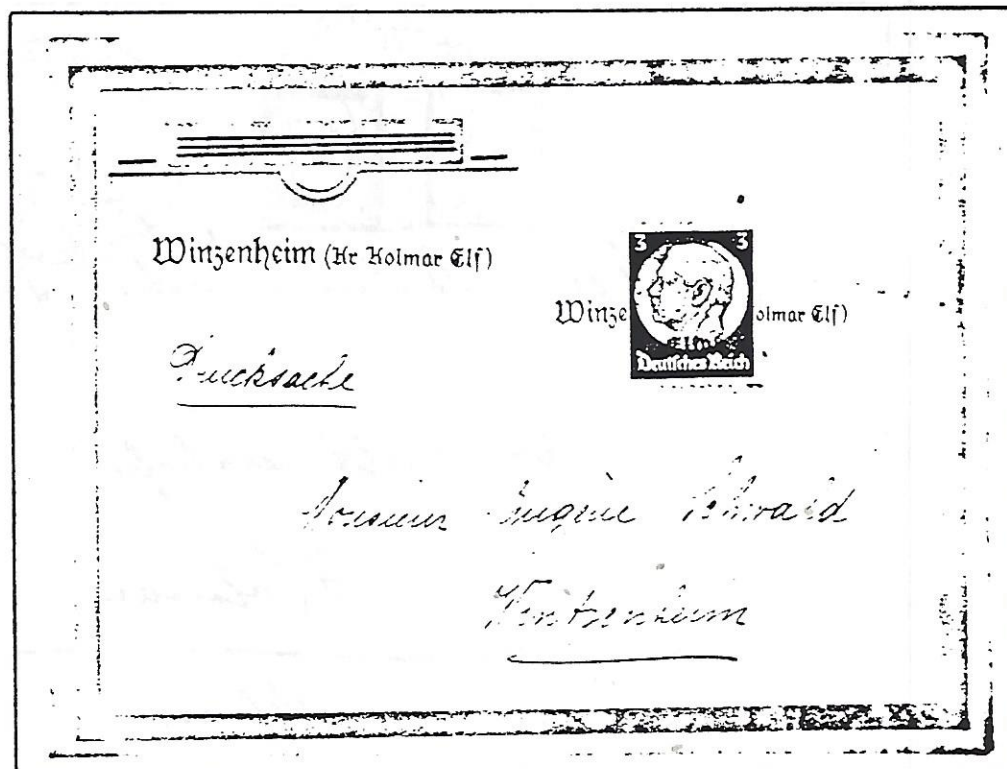


Fig. 4) By October 1940 date stamps have been obtained, although they are a separate handstamp from the town provisional cancel.

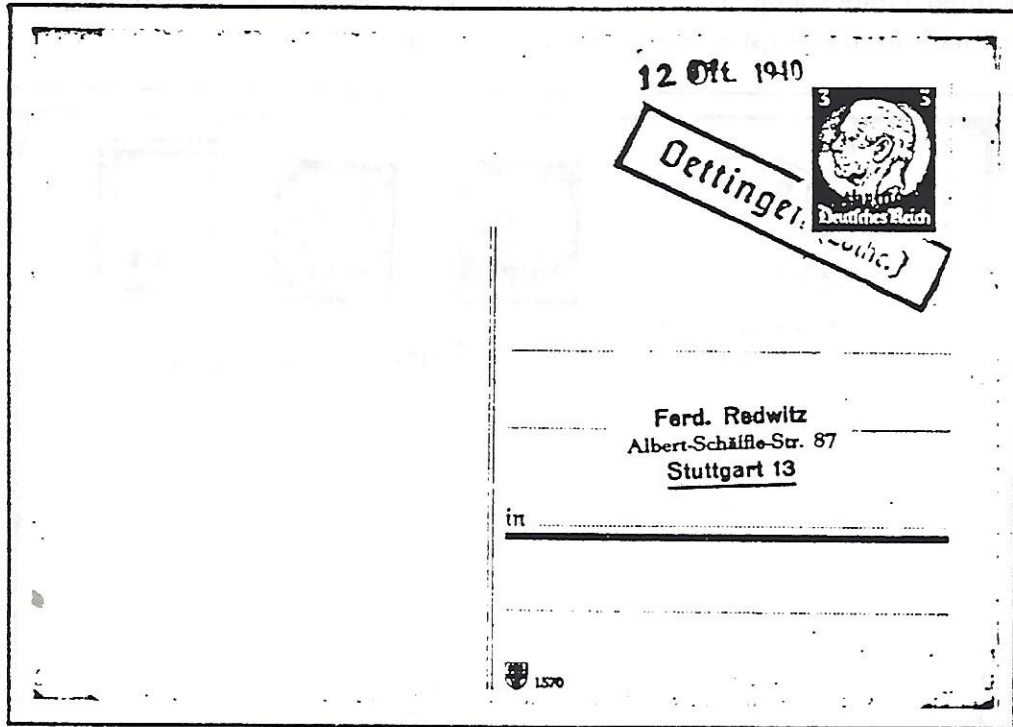
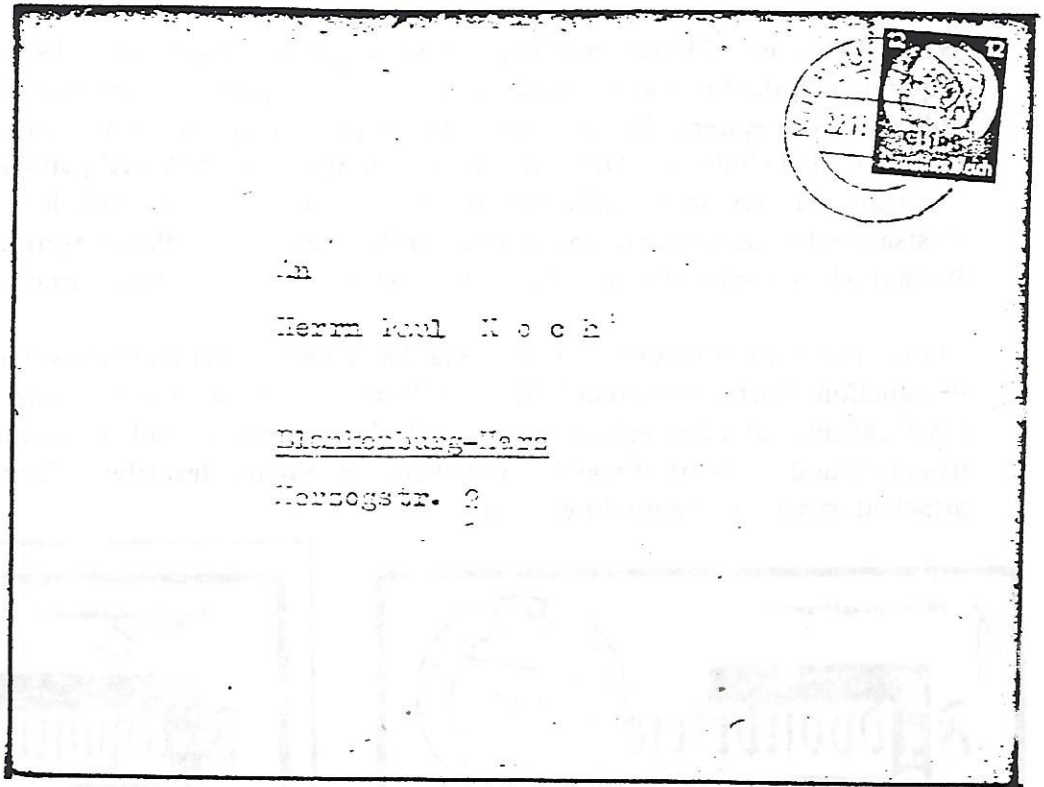


Fig. 5) By 1941 the main towns in the province had been provided with German type illustrated postmarks. As can be seen by the prominent Swastika, these were a mild form of propaganda to proclaim Alsace-Lorraine as German territory. The overprint stamps are nearing their withdrawal and standard German stamps are now allowed. Note the mixed franking.



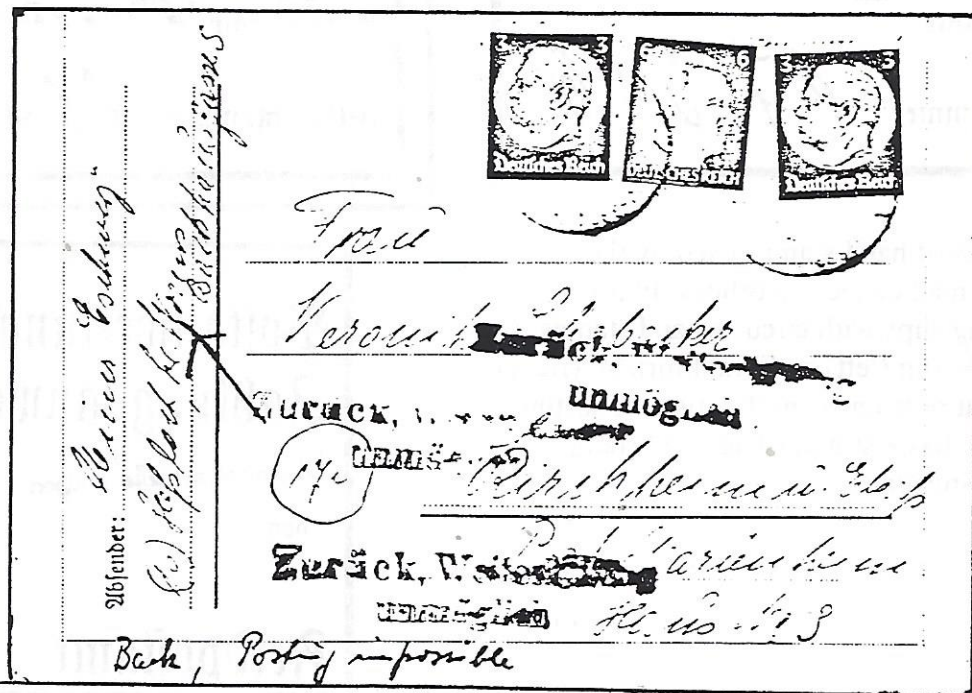


Fig. 6) By November 1941 standard style German postmarks were in general use. The overprint stamps are near their last days of use. Henceforth only German stamps will be used. Postally Alsace-Lorraine has been absorbed into Third Reich Germany. Later even the names of many towns were to be "Germanized" and the only tie remaining is the "(Els)" after the town name.



Herrn Paul K e c h  
Blonzenburg-Mars  
 Herzogstr. 3

Fig. 7) Letter to Kircheim in Elsass from Germany posted November 19, 1944 has violet cachet "Returned, delivery impossible". At this date the Allied advance was up to Brussels, Antwerp and the borders of France, and probably by this date Alsace and Lorraine would have been in Allied hands.



*Abfender: Zürich, Schweiz*  
*(c) Kopied. K. H. ...*  
 1944  
 Zürich, Wasser...  
 Kircheim in Elsass  
 Zurück, Lieferung unmöglich  
 Balk, Postf. impossible

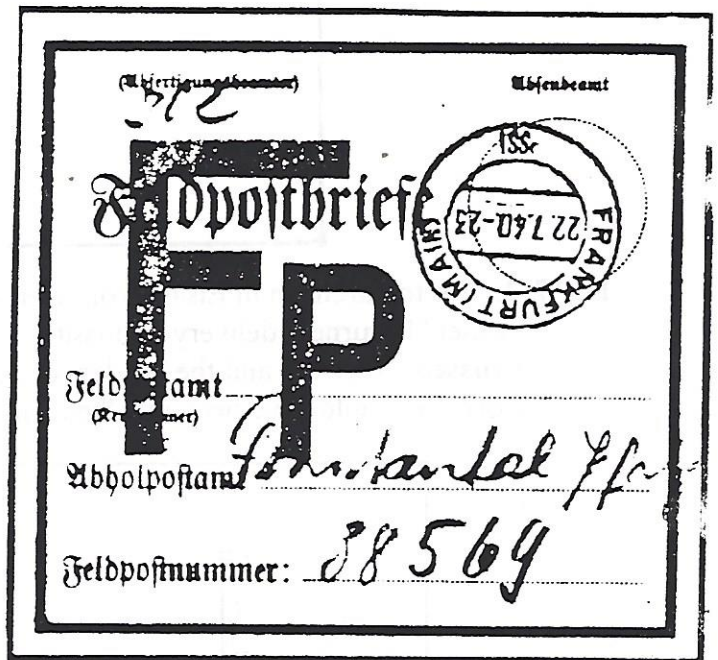
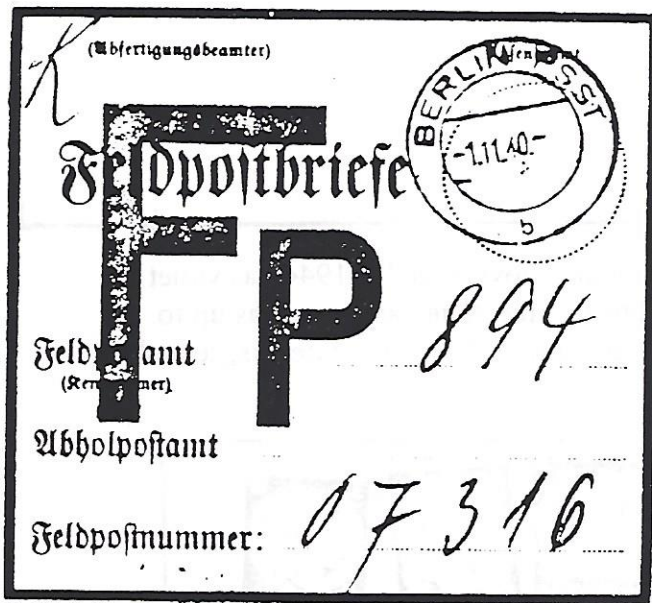
## Fundamentals of Feldpost Collecting

### Part 2. Postmarks of Military Mail Collection Offices

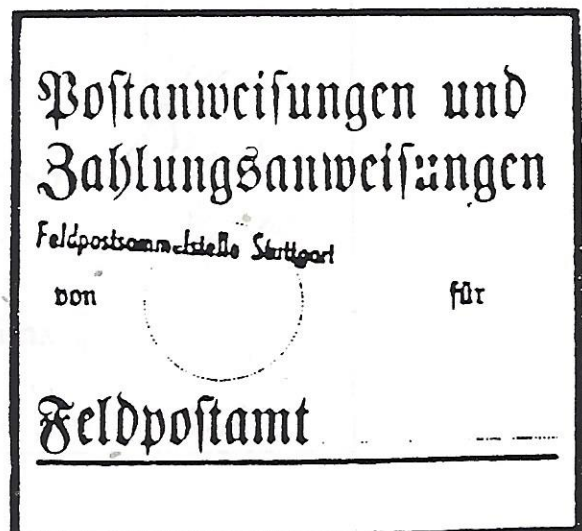
by Jim Lewis

When 'Feldpost' (Military mail) operations began on September 3, 1939, the Reichspost required a method to transfer mail addressed to Feldpost numbers from the civilian to the military postal system. This was accomplished by establishment of 'Postsammelstellen' (Military Mail Collection Offices) within each of the 'Wehrkreis' (Military Districts) of Germany. All civilian post offices within these districts forwarded Feldpost to the Postsammelstelle, where it was sorted and then sent to the 'Postleitpunkt' (Mail Routing Points) which formed the interface between the civil and military postal systems.

These collection offices employed special hand stamps that included some variation of the designation 'Postsammelstelle'. Most of these hand stamps were circular designs similar to town cancels but a few offices used straight-line stamps instead. These markings are not usually found on items of mail but rather on the 'Vorbindezettles' (Facing slips) which were attached to stacks of sorted Feldpost.



Examples of hand stamps used by the Military mail collection offices. In top row are facing slips with circular hand stamps used in Berlin (left) and Frankfurt/M. (right). Shown at bottom is another type of sorting label that has a straight-line hand stamp used in Stuttgart.



In addition to the 'Wehrkreis' offices, certain towns in the occupied territories were later designated as routing offices for military mail, adding still more special post marks designation 'PSST', 'Fpsst' or 'PLST' to denote their purpose.

In the article "Die Feldpostsammelstellen der Deutschen Reichspost 1939-1945", the late Günter Fuchs identified 23 different circular & line stamps used by these offices which are shown below:

01 (Ort) PSST -T- groß ohne Punkte	02 PSST (Ort) -T- groß ohne Punkte	03 PSST (Ort) -T- groß mit Punkten	04 PSSt (Ort) -t- klein ohne Punkte	05 (Ort) / SSSt assymetrisch
06 (Ort) / PSSt assymetrisch	07 (Ort) / FpSSt	08 (Ort) / PSST	09 Postsammel- stelle (Ort)	10 (Ort) / Post- sammelstelle
11 Postsammel- stelle / (Ort)	12 (Ort) / Post- sammelstelle (Rollstempel)	13 (PLZ) FPSST (Ort) (Rollstempel)	14 P.S.ST. (Ort)	15 P.S.ST. (Ort)
16 (Ort) P S St	17 (Ort) / P S St	18 (Ort) PSST (Rollstempel)	19 (Ort) / PLST	20 PSST / X / Datum / HK
21 Postsammelstelle/ (Ort) / ... / (Tag) Postsammelstelle Nürnberg (Pr)	22 a <del>Postsammelstelle Stuttgart</del>	22 b <del>Feldpostsammelstelle Kassel</del>		
	23 a <del>Postsammelstelle Stuttgart</del>	23 b <del>Feldpostsammelstelle Breslau</del>		

On the following page is a listing of collection officers indicating the type(s) of circular date stamps and line stamps they employed. The 'Wehrkreis' collection offices are denoted by the Roman numeral and location of the military headquarters for each district.

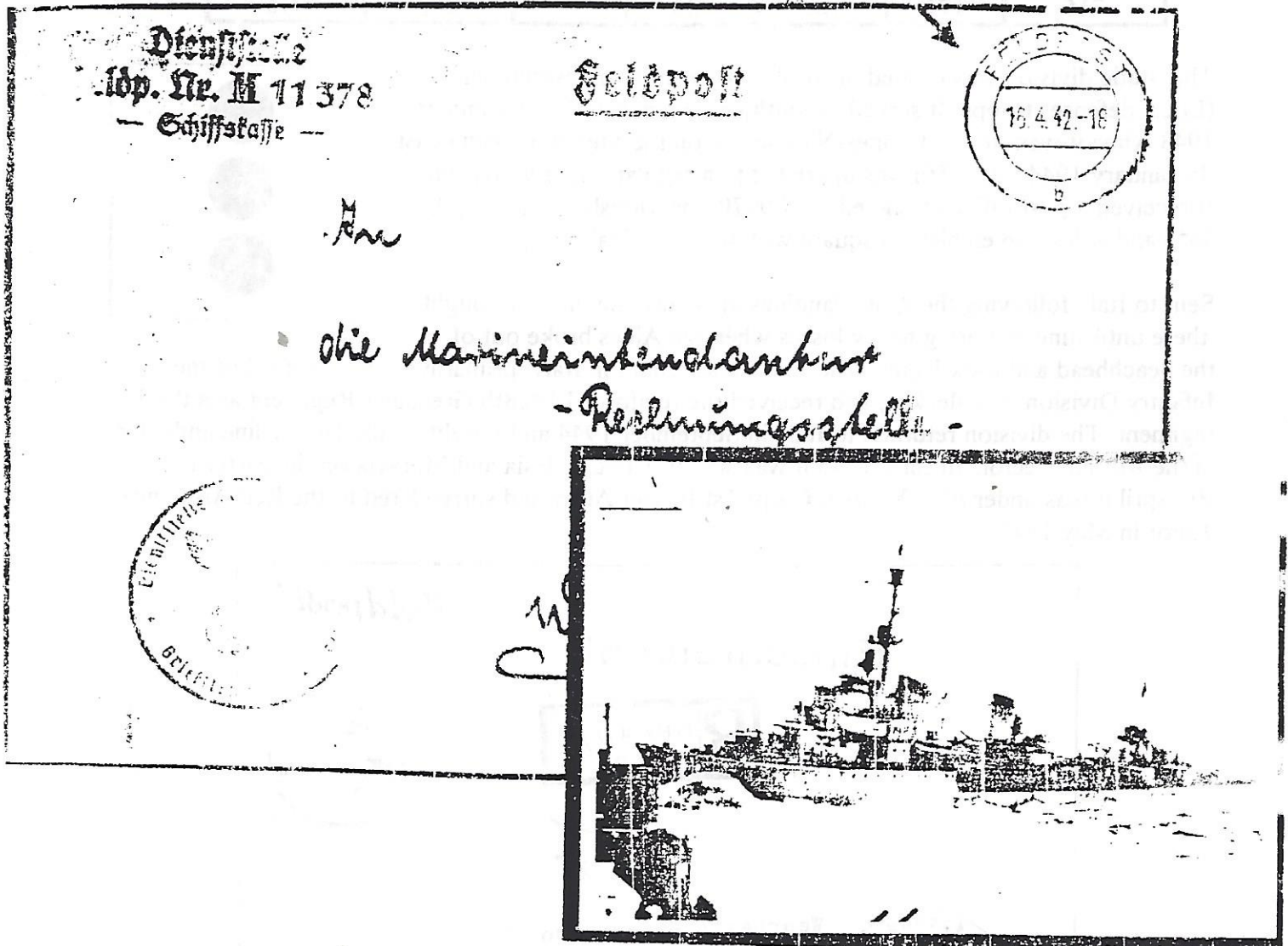
Collection Center	Wehrkreis & HQ	Date Stamp	Letter Codes	Line Stamp
Berlin	III Berlin	01	a thru i, k	22a
Breslau	VIII Breslau	02	d	23a
" "		04	b,c	23b
Deventer	(Holland)	--	--	23a
Dortmund	VI Münster	01	a,b,c,d	---
Dresden	IV Dresden	04	b,d	23a
" "		13	a	
Düsseldorf	---	02	b,c,e	--
Frankfurt/M	XII Wiesbaden	04	a	
" "		05,06	--	
" "		10	a,b,d	
Hamburg	X Hamburg	08	ab	--
" "		16	ab	
Hannover	XI Hannover	01	a,b,c	--
Kassel	IX Kassel	08	a,b,d,e	22a,22b,23a
Königsberg	I Königsberg	01	a,b,c	23b
Lemberg	2.'42-4.'45	12	d	---
München	VII München	17	C	---
Nürnberg	XIII Nürnberg	19	a,b,c,d	23a
Prag	Böhmen-Mähren	19	a thru f, p	---
Salzburg	XVIII Salzburg	03	d	---
" "		14	a,b,c	
Stettin	II Stettin	02	a,b,c	23a
Stuttgart	V Stuttgart	08	a	22a,22b,23c
" "		18	a	
Warschau	1.'42-8.'44	09	b	---
Wien	XVII Wien	03	d	---
" "		09	g,h	
" "		11	a,c,e	
" "		15	a	
" "		20	x	

## Notes:

- 1.) All 'Wehrkreis' collection offices began using special hand stamps on Sept. 29, 1939.
- 2.) Herr Fuchs indicates that 'Leitstelle' offices were also located in Erfurt, Frankfurt/O., Heidelberg, Krakau, Mülhausen/Els and Oppeln at various times. However, as he has not recorded any particular hand stamps for these offices, they were not included in the listing above to conserve space. JEL.

## NAVY LOG

Destroyer Z-23 - Feldpost # 11378



The first of 12 unnamed destroyers (Z-23-34). Built by AG Weser (Bremen) and launched December 15, 1939. Displacement: 2600 tons; speed: 38 knots; main armament: five 5.9" guns, Eight 21" torpedo tubes; crew: 321.

This "Zerstörer" (Destroyer) was scuttled near La Pallice on August 21, 1944 after being bombed by RAF aircraft.

Cover above has double-circle/date bridge FELDPOST cancel dated April 16, 1942.

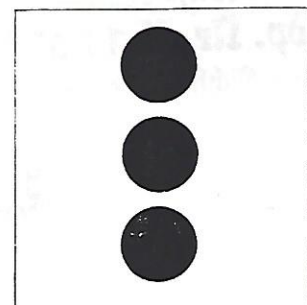
**COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:****715th Infantry Division**

by Jim Lewis

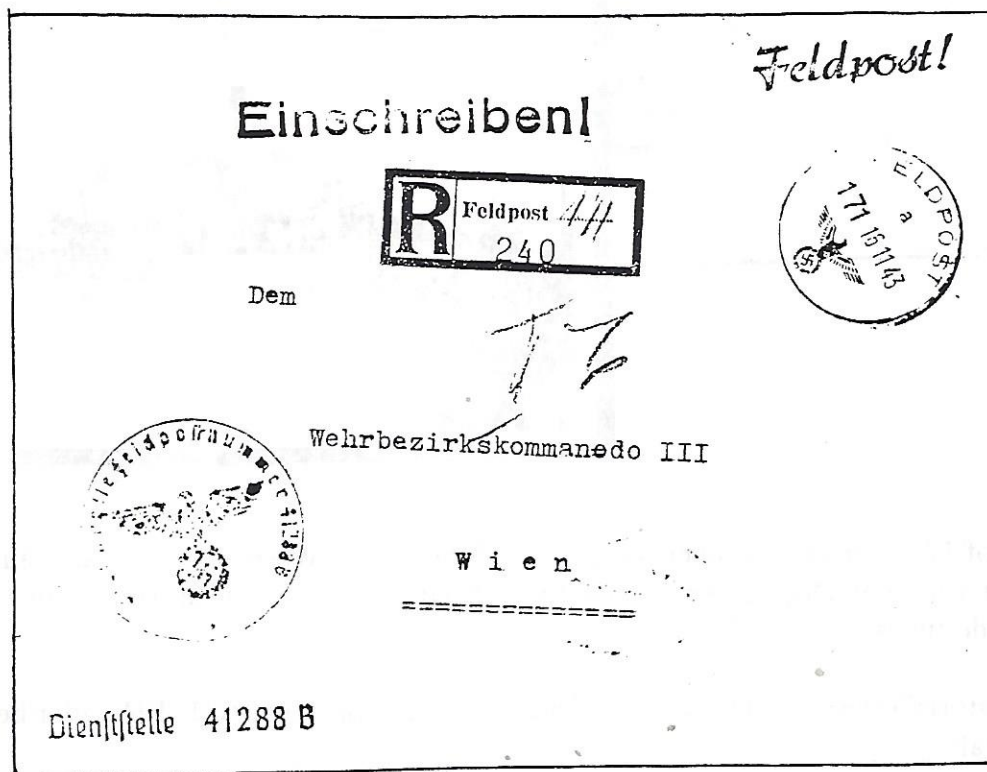
POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	FESTUNG- GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
715	171	725	735	671	715

This static division was formed in April 1941 from 'Landeschützen' (Local defense) troops. It served in southwest France until late summer 1943 when it went to the Cannes-Nice sector on the Mediterranean coast.

In January 1944 the 715th was upgraded to a regular infantry division. It received a post office (assigned Fp.# 00707 previously used by FpA 345) and a division emblem, a square with three vertical red spots.



Sent to Italy following the Allied landings at Anzio, the division fought there until June, suffering heavy losses when the Allies broke out of the beachhead and took Rome. The 715th was rebuilt in Italy, primarily with personnel of the Infantry Division Wildflecken, and received the reinforced 1028th Grenadier Regiment as a third regiment. The division returned to Italy in September 1944 and fought on the Gothic line and later in the Adriatic sector. In early 1945 it was sent to Upper Silesia and Moravia on the eastern front. By April it was under of LIX Army Corps 1st Panzer Army and surrendered to the Red Army near Tabor in May 1945.



Cover sent to Military District Command in Vienna in November 1943 from Fp. # 41288 (Battalion II of Festung-Grenadier Regiment 725) via division P.O. 715 (K-171).

## More on Postleitzahlen Numbers

By Ben Beede

The purpose of this article is to add detail to the information on these postal code numbers in Bob Ferguson's article on page 6 in Bulletin 132. Shown below is announcement on this service with a map on following page that details all of the postal districts, including those in occupied territories. As cities in occupied areas didn't use German stamps, they didn't employ the slogan cancel (Bochmann #416).

# Aufruf!

## Wie trage ich zur schnellen Beförderung meiner Post bei?

### Die „Postleitzahl“

Der totale Krieg hat den Reichspostminister veranlaßt, die Beförderung der Postsendungen nach Postleitgebieten, die im allgemeinen der Gaueinteilung entsprechen, zielmäßig auszurichten.

Jeder Versender kann dazu beitragen, daß seine Postsendungen den Bestimmungsort schnell erreichen, indem er in der Anschrift der Postsendung — bei Paketen auch auf der Paketkarte — die Nummer des Postleitgebiets, die „Postleitzahl“, angibt. Welche Postleitzahl jedes Gebiet hat, ist aus der nachstehenden Karte ersichtlich.

Die Postleitzahl ist auch bei den Postämtern zu erfahren.

Die Postleitzahl soll in der Anschrift in einer kreisförmigen Umrandung — etwa in Größe eines Fünzig- oder Zehnpfennigstücks — links neben dem Bestimmungsort niedergeschrieben werden.

Außer dieser Postleitzahl sind alle zusätzlichen Angaben, die den Ort näher bezeichnen oder von anderen gleich- oder ähnlich lautenden unterscheiden, wie bisher erforderlich; so bei Orten, die von Landkraftposten versorgt werden, die Bezeichnung „über“, also z. B. Nöda  
über Erfurt.

Die Postleitzahlen können sich nur einbürgern, wenn jeder Absender von Postsendungen auch bei der Absenderangabe sowie im Kopf seiner Briefe usw. die Postleitzahl seines Postleitgebiets angibt.

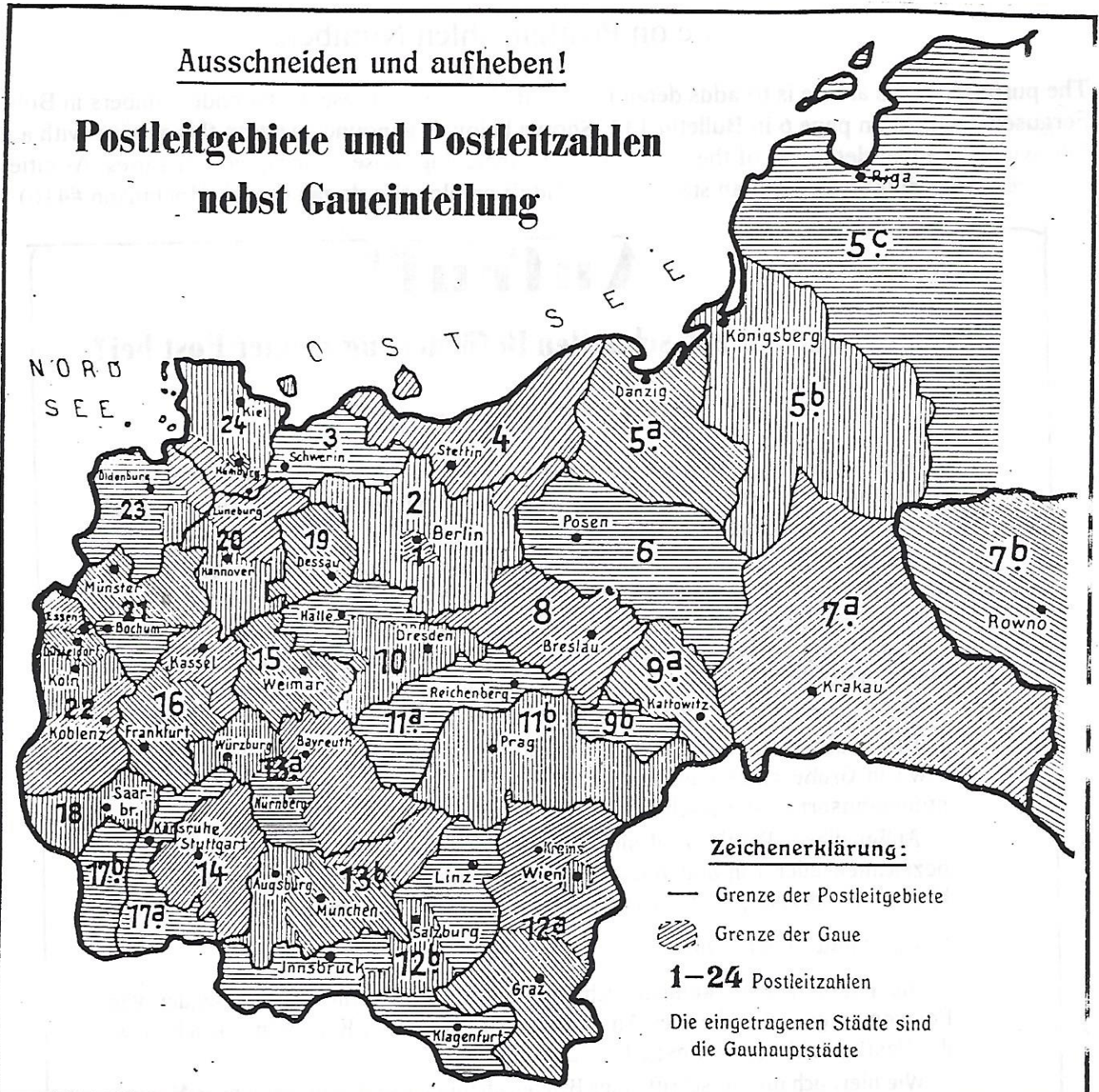
Wie hiernach die Aufschrift eines Briefes abzufassen ist, zeigt folgendes Muster:

Abs.: E. Bergmann ② Rathenow, Schillerstr. 18/1	<p><i>An Herrn</i></p> <p><i>Karl Leineweber</i></p> <p><b>10</b> <i>Halle (Saale)</i></p> <p><i>Hauptstr. 2<sup>1</sup> rechts</i></p> <p><i>bei P. Keller</i></p>
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**Also! Jeder Postbenutzer helfe mit an der schnellen Postbeförderung durch genaue Angabe des Bestimmungsorts unter Zufügung der Postleitzahl!**

Ausschneiden und aufheben!

# Postleitgebiete und Postleitzahlen nebst Gaueinteilung



**Zeichenerklärung:**

- Grenze der Postleitgebiete
- ▨ Grenze der Gaue
- 1-24 Postleitzahlen
- Die eingetragenen Städte sind die Gauhauptstädte

## Übersicht der Postleitgebiete

Postleitgebiet		Postleitgebiet		Postleitgebiet	
Post-leitzahl	umfaßt	Post-leitzahl	umfaßt	Post-leitzahl	umfaßt
1	Gau Berlin	11a	Gau Sudetenland (West)	18	Gau Westmark
2	Gau Mark Brandenburg und v. Gau Pommern den Stadtkreis Schneidemühl und die Landkreise Arnswalde, Friedeberg (Neum) und Netzekreis	11b	Protectorat Böhmen und Mähren	19	Gau Magdeburg-Anhalt
3	Gau Mecklenburg	12a	Gau Wien, Gau Niederdonau, Gau Steiermark	20	Gau Ost-Hannover, Gau Süd-Hannover-Braunschweig
4	Gau Pommern	12b	Gau Kärnten, Gau Oberdonau, Gau Salzburg, Gau Tirol-Vorarlberg	21	Gau Westfalen-Nord, Gau Westfalen-Süd
5a	Gau Danzig-Westpreußen	13a	Gau Bayreuth, Gau Franken, Gau Mainfranken	22	Gau Düsseldorf, Gau Essen, Gau Köln-Aachen, Gau Moselland
5b	Gau Ostpreußen	13b	Gau München-Oberbayern, Gau Schwaben und v. Gau Bayreuth den Bezirk Niederbayern	23	Gau Weser-Ems und v. Gau Ost-Hannover die Landkreise Bremervörde, Wesermünde, Verden (Aller), Rotenburg (Hannover) und Osterholz-Scharmbeck sowie v. Gau Süd-Hannover-Braunschweig die Landkreise Grafschaft Hoya und Diepholz
5c	Reichskommissariat Ostland	14	Gau Württemberg-Hohenzollern	24	Gau Hamburg, Gau Schleswig-Holstein und v. Gau Ost-Hannover die Landkreise Land Hadeln, Stade, Lüneburg u. Harburg sowie Stadt Cuxhaven
6	Gau Wartheland	15	Gau Thüringen		
7a	Generalgouvernement	16	Gau Hessen-Nassau, Gau Kurhessen		
7b	Reichskommissariat Ukraine	17a	Gau Baden		
8	Gau Niederschlesien und v. Gau Sudetenland (Ost) den Landkreis Grulich	17b	Teil v. Gau Baden: Elsaß		
9a	Gau Oberschlesien				
9b	Gau Sudetenland (Ost)				
10	Gau Sachsen, Gau Halle-Merseburg und v. Gau Thüringen den Kreis Altenburg				