



Germany Philatelic Society, Inc.

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

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP BULLETIN
Vol. XII, No. 4 (Whole No. 49) - 1978

Director: Myron Fox, P.O. Box 283, Needham Heights, MA 02194
Co-Director: James E. Duffy, P.O. Box 65, Highwood, IL 60040
Sec./Treas.: Robert J. Houston, 11 Yorktown Dr., Clark, NJ 07066

Staff:

Auction Manager: Fred Stengel, 1248 Magnolia Pl., Union, NJ 07083
Data Projects: Fred A. Willshaw, 207 Oak Lane, Cranford, NJ 07016
Bulletin Editor: Robert J. Houston
Associate Editor: James E. Lewis, 111 Montross Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070
Adlets: Dr. C.R. Rowland, 220 7th St. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414
G&CPS Liaison: Geo. Lewis, 268 Canterbury Rd., Westfield, NJ 07090

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STUDY GROUP NOTES

Here is the last issue of another year - a year in which the TRSG experienced continued growth and accomplished much on both old and new projects. I would like to take this opportunity to roundly thank our hard-working staff and the several other members that contributed in one way or another to the Group's efforts.

A renewal form for 1979 membership is included with this Bulletin and you will note that we have finally been forced to give in to the increased costs of production and postage in order to make the Bulletin at least a "break even" operation.

STUDY GROUP NOTES (Cont.)

Please note also that 3rd class mailings have been eliminated and that all Bulletin mailings will go via 1st class. Members wishing to renew for more than just one year are encouraged to do so, since it eliminates paper work on "both ends". Your cooperation in prompt renewal will be greatly appreciated, since additional "reminder" notices (we had to make 66 of these last year) are both time-consuming and expensive.

The following members are ALREADY PAID through 1979 and can therefore disregard this renewal request:

Roy Cox	Gustav Pohlig
Werner Gruenebaum	Gus Snels
Norbert Kannapin	Fred Willshaw
Marcel Lamoureux	John Ziegelhofer
C. Angus Parker	

CONGRATULATIONS to Fred Willshaw on winning the GPS Gold Medal at "Balpex '78" with his fine Feldpost exhibit dealing with "The Siege of Leningrad". Several other members of our Study Group won awards at this show for exhibits of areas other than the 3rd Reich.

A most sincere WELCOME to the following new members:

MILLER, Gayle A. - 31 Parklane Cir., Bettendorf, Iowa 52722
(General)

KELLY, Michael J. - P.O. Box 3681, North Las Vegas, Nev. 89030
(General)

VARY, Robert E. - 8 Georgian Blvd., Jackson, NJ 08527
(General)

SERILLA, Stephen D. - 1805 N. 71st Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85035
(Occupations)

SOMMER, Sigfried B. - 1228 Strand St., Norfolk, VA 23513
(Feldpost)

HACKMAN, Edward M. - Calle A-12, Jardines De Ponce, Ponce, PR 00731
(Africa Corps)

CIACIUCH, Robert S. - 1052 W. 32nd St., Chicago, IL 60608
(General)

KORTELING, Gerhard J. -
(Postal history, postal stationery)

SIPOS, Stephen I., M.D. - 2705 Ganster Rd., Waukegan, IL 60085
(Wagner set - booklet panes, covers)

LAING, Bruce - 67 Roosevelt Blvd., Florham Park, NJ 07932
(Combinations)

TAYLOR, Hugh Page - 17 Rannoch Rd.; London W69SS, England
(Fp. Nos., original documents, especially SS)

SKWEIR, Michael J. - 7-380A I St., Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506
(Ukraine - Dienstpost and local issues)

LAMOUREUX, Marcel - 36 Diamond St., Providence, RI 02907
(General)

NEW MEMBERS (Cont.)

CLARK, Geoffrey - 12, Ninesprings Way, Hitchin, Herts, England SG4 9NQ
(All aspects, especially Occupations)

DeBOER, Gerard J. - 1108 Eureka Ave., Davis, CA 95616
(Feldpost, Censored mail, Postal stationery)

PROJEKT HIMMELBLAU - SECTION 2

As originally scheduled, Section 2 of "Himmelblau" is now available. Please note that this can be conveniently ordered along with your membership renewal on the yellow form provided with this Bulletin. Response to Section 1 of this project (systematic identification of Feldpost numbers) exceeded our expectations and the available supply is rapidly dwindling. Also note that sections can be ordered in advance and we note that several members have already subscribed for as many as six sections.

This project was originally proposed in Bulletins 44 and 45, with first section availability announced in Bulletin 47. New members desiring further information and a sample page of "Himmelblau" can obtain same from the Sec./Treas. (SASE please).

Fred Willshaw and Jim Lewis are working up an interesting background article on the "Himmelblau" project, describing it's conception and the many facets of it's development and production, which will certainly make the magnitude of this project and it's bargain price readily apparent.

ACHTUNG !!

A copy of Michel 908 (1945 Volkssturm issue) on a Bedarfsbrief is urgently needed by the Post-war Study Group for an illustration in a slide presentation. Anyone having such an item for sale (or even a LOAN would be appreciated), please contact Myron Fox.

FREE ADLETS

Each TRSG member is entitled to one free adlet each year. The adlet should not exceed three lines and should be submitted to:
Dr. Clayton R. Rowland, 220 7th St. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414.

WANTED: Third Reich Postal Stationery, particularly privately printed items; mint or used; commercial or special cancels; Will buy or exchange. Roger J. Szymanski, Box 1690, Milwaukee, WI 53201

WANTED: Registered Feldpost Kenn: #s 350, 644 and 719 - June, 1941 to January, 1944. Send description and price. Fred Willshaw, 207 Oak Lane, Cranford, NJ 07016.

REMEMBERING NOVEMBER 9th 1923
by Jim Lewis

Of the many special days on the calender of the Third Reich, the one with greatest significance for the "alte Kampfer" (old fighters) of the NSDAP was November 9th, the anniversary of the ill-fated "Putsch" (take over) in Munich.

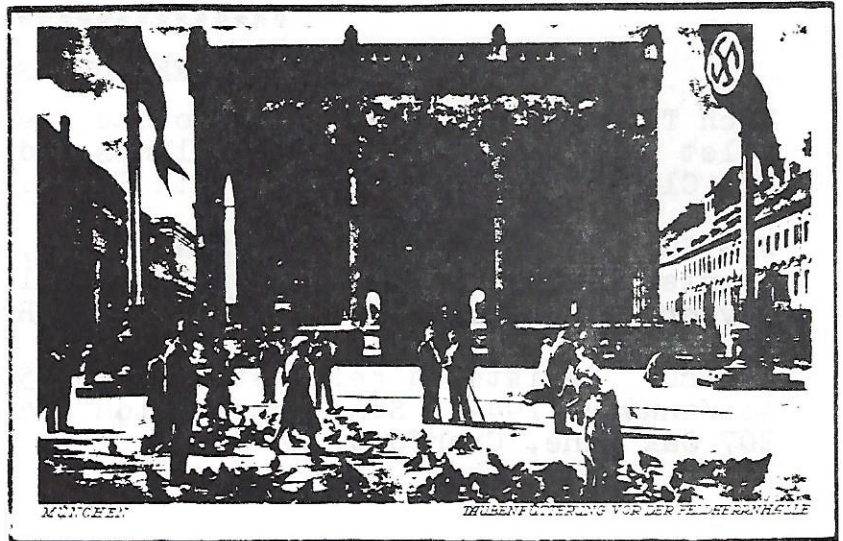
Like other political leaders in the 20th century, Hitler had been forced by the pressure of events to launch a premature uprising. Mussolini, in a daring stroke in October of the preceding year, had gathered together his militant followers and had succeeded in so bluffing the royal Italian government that he became Prime Minister. The analogies between the Fascist movement and Hitler's was clear to all in 1923. Thus the mythic-al march on Rome became a hopeful model for the Nazi and paramilitary legionaries.

During a major political meeting held in the Bürgerbräukeller on the evening of November 8, Hitler had the SA, under Göring, surround the hall. In the midst of the meeting, Hitler announced that the Bavarian and Reich governments had been disposed, that the "November criminals" of 1918 would be brought to justice and a new national government and army had been formed with Ludendorff as head of the army and Hitler as head of the government. By a combination of threat and pleading, the Bavarian officials at the meeting were pressured into lending their support to the "Putsch".

On the next day, Ludendorff, Hitler, Göring and other Nazi leaders were at the head of a column of Brownshirts marching towards the Odeonplatz in order to seize the Bavarian headquarters of the Reichswehr. During the preceeding morning, a squad of SA led by Ernst Röhm had occupied Army headquarters but were now surrounded by police. Von Seeckt, a leader of the Reichswehr had earier made it clear that if the Bavarian contingents of the Reichswehr did not put down the attempted "Putsch", Berlin would do it directly.

This proved unnecessary, for as the Nazi marchers turned onto Weinstrasse, a narrow street leading into the Odeonplatz, they saw green-uniformed Bavarian State Police forming a blocking position at the end of the street. The Feldherrnhalle (Fig. 1), a great war memorial in the Odeonplatz was adjacent to the place where the marchers slowly advanced to the police lines. It is unclear who fired first, but a shot rang out and the police poured a volley of rifle fire into the Nazis at point blank range. After a brief exchange of gunfire, additional police arrived and the marchers broke and scattered, leaving 14 dead and many wounded. Four of the police had also been killed.

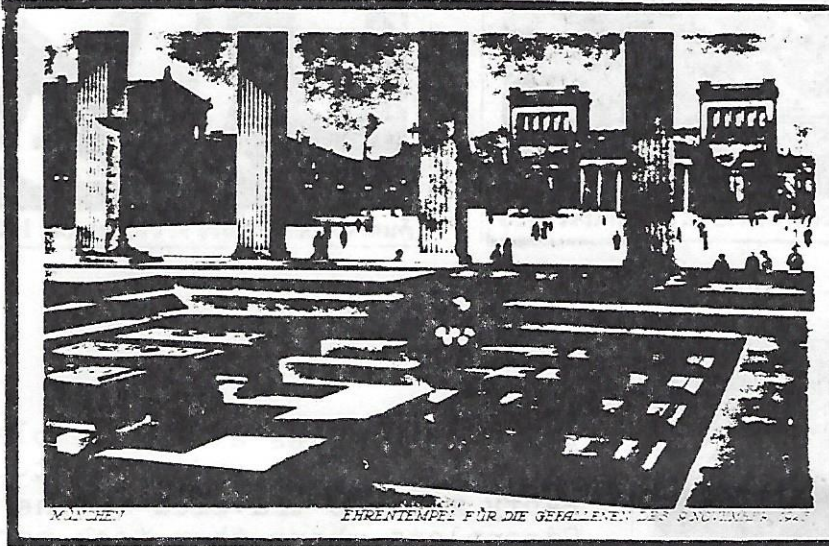
(Fig. 1) Photocard of the Odeonplatz in Munich with the Feldherrnhalle in the background.



Shortly thereafter, the SA squad at Army headquarters surrendered after two of their members had been killed in a shoot-out with police. As Ernst Röhm led his squad into police custody, he was accompanied by the standard bearer, a young man named Heinrich Himmler.

While the events of November 9, 1923 seemed an unqualified disaster for the NSDAP, they had acquired martyrs, a legend, the romantic aura of persecuted loyalty and an understanding that their struggle for power would succeed only if based on the constitution.

After coming to power in 1933, Hitler commissioned an "Ehrentempel" to serve as final resting place for the 16 martyrs. This Temple of Honor was located in Munich's Königlicherplatz and featured an eternal flame as well as an honor guard provided by the SS Standarten "Deutschland".



(Figs. 2 & 3) Photocards showing views of the "Ehrentempel" (Temple of Honor).

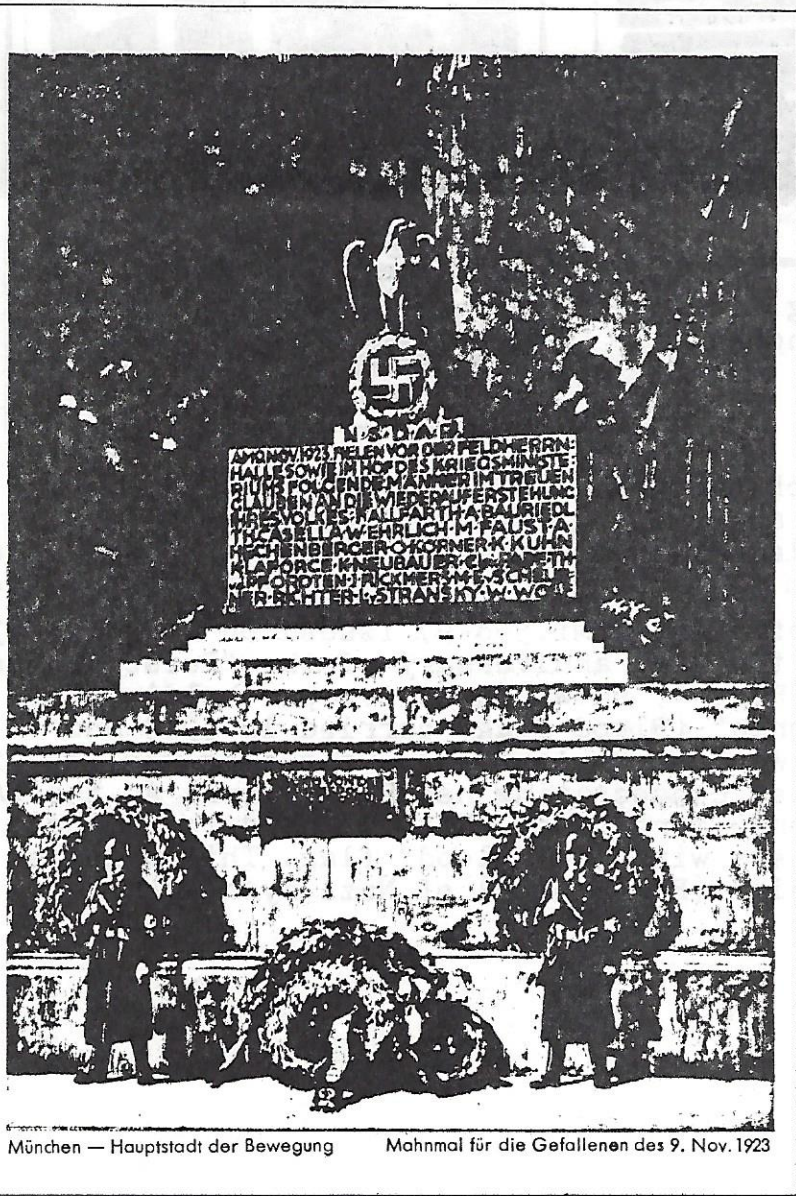
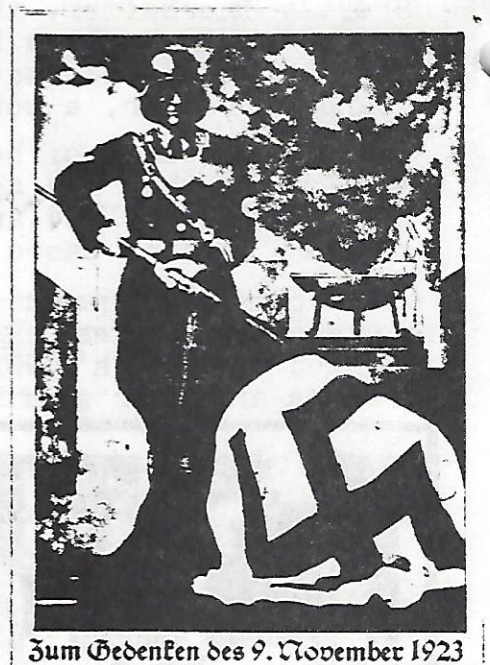
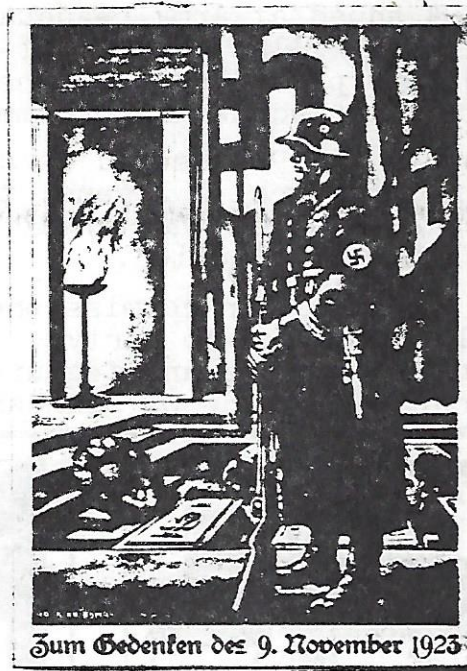
On the anniversary of the "Putsch", Hitler would travel to Munich for a reunion with the "alte Kämpfer" at the Bürgerbräukeller. During the next day, Hitler conducted a wreath-laying ceremony at the Temple of Honor and summoned the martyrs to rise from their bronze caskets for a last reveille.



A pair of stamps (Mi. 598-9) issued on Nov. 5, 1935 to mark the 12th anniversary of the "Putsch". The design (Fig. 4) shows an SA trooper holding the "Blutfahnen" (Blood flag) carried in 1923 and stained with martyr's blood. This flag was used in ceremonies consecrating new SA banners. As the SA contingents marched by, Hitler would touch their new banners with the "Blood" flag. This was the "Fahneneid" (Blood oath) of Nazi mythology.

Fig. 4

(Figs. 5 & 6) The SS Honor Guard at the Temple of Honor are depicted on these colored postcards sold during the Nov. ceremonies in Munich.



After ceremonies at the Temple of Honor, Hitler and other top Party members traveled to the Odeonplatz where they took part in a solemn re-enactment of the fateful march to the Feldherrnhalle. A monument had been placed at the approximate point where the shooting had occurred (Fig.7) and from this spot Hitler gave the major speech of the ceremony.

The speech detailed the many dark days which had beset the Party during their 15 year struggle to power. Each of these difficult periods had been a test of their loyalty and fanaticism. After citing a particular instance, he would pause and exclaim "und ihr habt doch gesiegt!" (and yet you have triumphed).

Fig. 7 Colored postcard depicting the monument of the martyrs with the Feldherrnhalle in background. Note the names of the 16 martyrs in the upper tablet. The small brass tablet on the base contains the names of the four policemen killed during the march.



Fig 8. - Another color postcard depicts an SA trooper with the "Blood" flag. The banner is superimposed by a tablet with the names of the 16 martyrs:

- Felix Allfarth
- Andreas Bauriedel
- Theodor Casella
- Wilhelm Ehrlich
- Martin Faust
- Anton Hechenberger
- Oskar Korner
- Karl Kuhn
- Karl Laforce
- Kurt Neubauer
- Claus v. Pape
- Theo. v.d. Pfordten
- Johann Rickmers
- M.E. Scheubner-Richter
- Lorenz v. Stransky
- Wilhelm Wolf

For trivia buffs, the fallen policemen:

- Rudolf Schraut
- Fredrich Fink
- Nikol Hollweg
- Max Schobern

A single semi-postal stamp (Mi. 863) was issued November 5, 1943 to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the 1923 march. The design is a standard bearer and a rather tiny view of the Temple of Honor which appears above the "CH" in "DEUTSCHES"(Fig. 8).

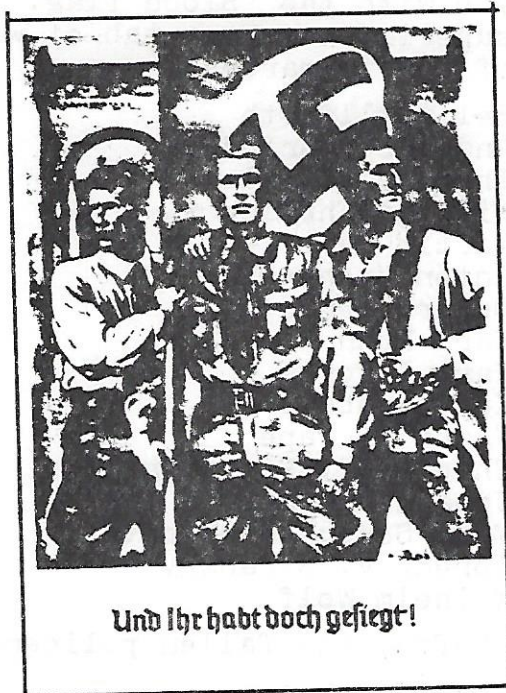
For those interested in propaganda forgeries, the British used this stamp design for a parody stamp produced in 1944. This stamp depicts Field Marshal Erwin von Witzleben, one of the leaders in the July 20, 1944 attempt on Hitler's life. The text at the top of this stamp reads: "Gehängt am 8. Aug. 1944" (Hanged on August 8th 1944).



Fig. 8 The 20th Anniversary semi-postal issue.



Fig. 9 The British "Witzleben" parody stamp.



Figs. 10 & 11 Post cards inscribed "Und Ihr habt doch gesiegt."

Another semi-postal stamp commemorating the "Putsch" (Mi. 906) was issued on November 9, 1944. The design shows an eagle locked in combat with a three-headed snake and text: "Gedenke des 9. Nov. 1923" (Remember November 9th 1923). This stamp (Fig. 12) was also used for a parody stamp depicting a prisoner (no doubt representing the German nation) being manacled by a stooping figure, which is recognizable as Himmler. The text on the parody reads: "Gedenke des 30 Januar 1933" which, of course, refers to the day Hitler came to power (Fig. 13).

The only special cancels I have seen relating to this topic are those used in Munich on the anniversaries. These are frameless with the inscription "Hauptstat der Bewegung" (Capitol city of the Movement) and the familiar Hitler quotation as an inner circle. The center of the cancel depicts the Feldherrnhalle (Fig. 14).



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

"Remaining Effects" Feldpost Parcels (Nachlassachen)

By R.J. Houston

Another "sub-specialty" in the wide field of Feldpost is the assembly of a collection of "Dienstpaketskarten" (receipts for official parcels) used on official military business for the return of remaining personal effects of casualties to their respective families.

While the subject might be considered as having somewhat "morbid" aspects, it nevertheless involves a considerable degree of postal history and original research possibilities, both in dealing with the regulations governing this function and in identifying the sending unit/FpA - since these cards carry not only the unit Fp number, but the FpA's Kenn number as well. Since the majority of the "Remaining Effects Sendings" are from front line units, further interest is therefore generated for those with leanings toward the military history aspects.

Parcel cards in this category are immediately recognized by entries in the large, rectangular box with imprint "Besondere Vermerke des Absenders" (special remarks of the sender), which will contain an appropriate comment as indicated in (f) below.

Dec. 1943: Parcel receipt card from Fp #32805 (6. Battr./Werfer Rgt. 1) via FPA 473 (Kenn #158) with the 4th Panzer Army.

"Remarks" entry reads: "Nachlassachen Gefallener - Zollfrei - Wert RM 500,--" (remaining effects of a casualty - Duty free - Value 500 Reichsmarks). Note also the signature of the Company Commander, an Oberleutnant, and indication in lower left corner of the parcel's weight (1 Kg.). The Kenn number (158) of the field postoffice is entered in both the field cancellation and in the Feldpost parcel registry label.

Authorization for the sending of these parcels was originally established in Feldpost Directive No. 17/1939, page 9 - dated October 4, 1939. The parcel card was required to bear the following information:

- a) Seal of the military unit;
- b) Cancellation of the sending P.O. (Fp cancel with Kenn number in the case of a field unit);
- c) Parcel registry label (Paketnummernzettel) of the dispatching postoffice;
- d) Signature of the unit commander;
- e) Inscription "Zollfrei" (duty free);

- f) An appropriate remark such as "Nachlassachen" (remaining matter) or "Eigensachen" (property) of a:
 Gefallener (the fallen)
 Gestorbener (dead)
 Vermißter (missing)
 Verwundeter (wounded)
 Erkrankter (sick)
- g) Name and address of the recipient;
 h) Weight (in kilograms) of the parcel;

The parcel was thus sent free of postal and customs duty charges. The card also had a small stub which was retained by the sender, with the remaining large portion being mailed separately as registered mail to the receiving postoffice which would subsequently "match-up" the card and the parcel and deliver same. The card was then signed (in a space provided on the reverse side) by the recipient and this acknowledgement returned to the delivering postoffice by the carrier. The parcel registry label divided into two parts - the larger being affixed to the parcel itself and the smaller section being glued to the receipt card.

It was actually possible to send three different parcels, all covered by a single receipt card. The encounter of such "triple use" would not be expected on the "Nachlassachen" sendings, but are occasionally found on other official parcels:

799 800 801 Feldpost <i>1182</i>	
Absender: Dienststelle	
Feldpost-Nr. 03161	
Besondere Anmerkungen des Absenders (s. Rückseite):	
An Den Fürsorgeoffizier	
der Waffen-SS	
Freigegebühr (Wp)	
Postgewicht (kg)	<i>7.1</i> <i>8.60</i> <i>4.20</i>
Arbei 3 Paket	in G r a z
In jedes Paket obenauf ein Doppel der Aufschrift legen	Leechgasse 34
	(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebietscode, Staat) (S. 42)
	C 20 Dia A6

Card for three official parcels sent by Fp #03161 (SS Fürsorge Führer Kroatien) via FpA 114zw (Kenn #182) - branch P.O. of the 114th Jager Division in Croatia. (Note use of 3 overlapping labels, item numbered 799, 800 and 801).

Regulations applying to procedures to be observed by the sending unit appear in various German army records, a few of which were drawn upon for this article as follows:

National Archives, Captured Records Division, Microfilm Series T313 (Roll 440, frames 8734247-8-9) -

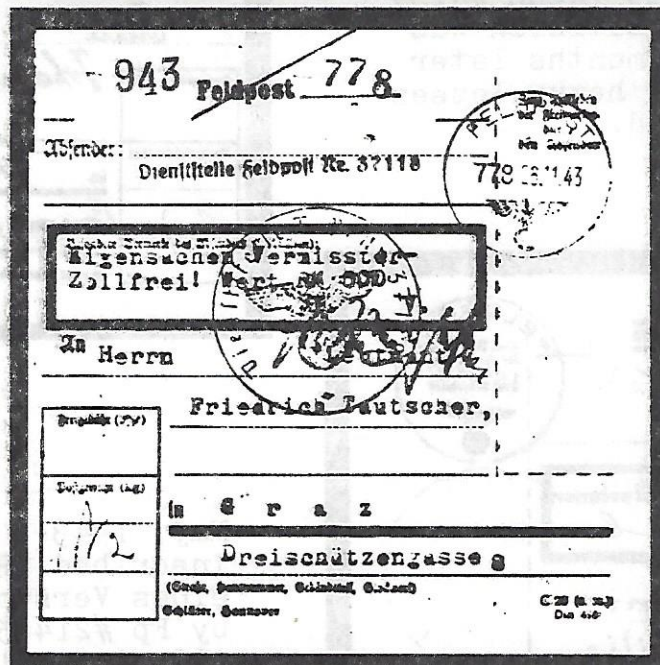
A report of the Oberquartiermeister Panzer Armee Afrika, dated October 9, 1942, indicating maximum weight as 20 Kg and outlining the "remarks" required as in (f) above.

Same source, frames 8734167-8 -

A special directive by the O.Qu. Panzer Armee Afrika, dated April 6, 1942, indicating that many such packages had recently been lost or damaged due to insecure packaging and failure of the sending unit to additionally indicate the address of the recipient on the inside of the package as well as marking it clearly on the outside. Valuables, such as rings and watches were found to be lying loose rather than packed tightly. Army Directive No. 900 (part C) of Nov. 6, 1941 is referred to as a guide for proper procedures.

National Archives Series T312 (Roll 1034, frame 9232851) -

A directive by the Armeefeldpostmeister Nord to the 20th Mountain Army (AOK 20), dated October 9, 1942, indicating the requirements for the special remarks as in (f) above and a weight limit increase from 10 Kg to 15 Kg. It would thus appear that the weight limits actually varied somewhat according to the particular war theatre, even though A. Clement indicates a "universal" weight limit of 20 Kg in his "Kleines Handbuch der deutschen Feldpost 1937-1945".



Nov. 1943: Card inscribed "Eigensachen Vermisster - Zollfrei". Sent by Fp # 37118 (Co. 8, Btl. II, Pz. Gren. Rgt. 13 of the 5th Panzer Division) via division's field P.O. 85 (Kenn #778) on the central sector of the eastern front.

606 Feldpost 375 *a*

Zum Aufkleben der Freimarken durch den Absender

Abseher:

F. P. -Nr. 01137

Beigebene Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite):
Nachlasssachen eines Gestorbenen. Wert 500.-

An Oberleutnant.
Frau
Lotte Herdogen
An Graz.
Tegetthofplatz 4 II
(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stadtteil)

Postgewicht (kg)

April, 1943:
Inscribed "Nachlasssachen eines Gestorbenen" - sent by Fp #01137 (Kdo. 125 Inf. Div.) via Div. P.O. 125 (Kenn #375) in the bitterly contested Kuban Bridgehead in South Russia.

Aug. 1943:
Inscribed "Eigengepäck eines erkrankten Soldaten" - sent by Fp #48023A (Kdtr. Nachsch. Tr. 355 of the 355th Inf. Div.) via Div. P.O. 355 (Kenn #415) in So. Russia. Division was disbanded a few months later after sustaining heavy losses at the Dnepr Bend.

053 Feldpost K 415

Zum Aufkleben der Freimarken durch den Absender

Abseher: Major Hans Kimm
Feldpost Nr. 48023

Beigebene Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite):
Eigengepäck eines erkrankten Soldaten

An Frau
Johanna Kimm
Postgewicht (kg)

in Graz
Conrad v. Hözendorfstr. 21
(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stadtteil)

17

9. 42. 1000000. Freiermark C 20 Dia A 6

May, 1943:
Inscribed "Rücklassgepäck eines Verstorbenen" - sent by Fp #21465 (Pz. Jag. Abt. 100 of the 100th Jager Div.) via Div. P.O. 100 (Kenn #116) in Yugoslavia, where the Division had just been reformed after the 100th Inf. Div. had been destroyed at Stalingrad.

020 Feldpost 116

Zum Aufkleben der Freimarken durch den Absender

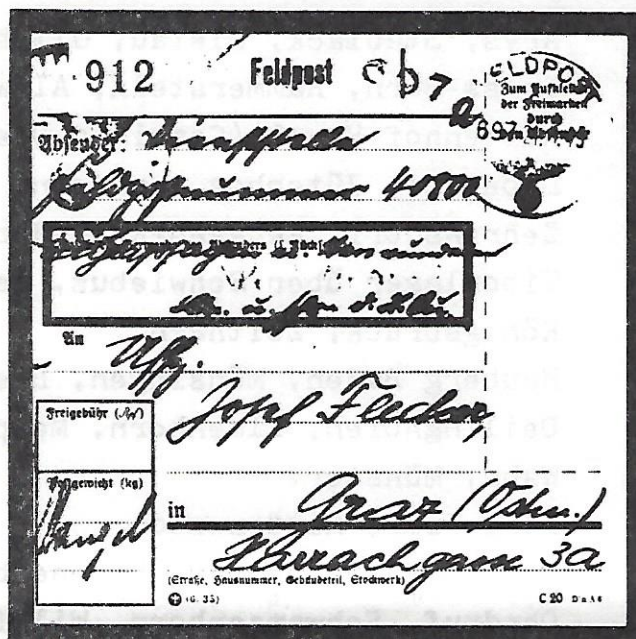
Abseher: Dienststelle P.V.
21465

Beigebene Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite):
Rücklassgepäck eines Verstorbenen

An Familie
Bergmann
Bergmann
in Graz-Steiermark
Zeilergasse 65/4
(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stadtteil)

Postgewicht (kg) 12.500

Feldpost Directive No. 107/1944 (dated Oct. 10, 1944) eliminated the use of the parcel receipt cards. From that time on, both portions of the parcel-registry label were affixed to the parcel itself, along with the notation "Ohne Paketkarte !" (without parcel card) - with consideration for the accounting of lost or damaged parcels being foregone.



March, 1943:
 Inscribed "Nachlassachen ei.
 Verwundeter" - sent by Feldpost
 #40800, which was assigned to
 "Befehlshaber, Afrika Korps"
 (Commander in Chief's Hdqtrs.),
 via field P.O. 33 of the 15th
 Panzer Division (Kenn #697) in
 Tunisia.

Note: Illustrations in this article have been reduced to 77% of full sized cards.

Other references:

- "Die deutsche Feldpost im Zweiten Weltkrieg" - B. Gericke;
- "Die deutsche Päckchenfeldpost Teil der deutschen Feldpost 1939-1945" - Hans Wimmer;

GERMAN TRAINING CAMP LOCATIONS
by Jim Lewis

Having followed with great interest the continuing reports on these camp cancels, I thought a listing of training camps might be of value in locating additional items for Dick Imus' cancel list. The following camps are grouped in accordance with the "Wehrkreis" (Military District) in which they were located.

Wehrkreis H.Q.

I	Königsberg	Arys, Stablack, Mielau, Gilge (Engineer Trng.).
II	Stettin	Gross-Born, Hammerstein, Altwarp, Wüstrow, Rattenhof-Havel (Combined Operations Trng.).
III	Berlin	Döberitz, Jüterbog, Wandern, Zossen, Grundlach-Zehrendorf, Rehagen-Klausdorf (Eng. Trng.), Tiborlager über Schwiebus, Berlin-Spandau.
IV	Dresden	Königsbrück, Zeithain.
V	Stuttgart	Heuberg Baden, Münsingen, Breisach, Sennheim.
VI	Münster	Deilinghofen, Elsenborn, Meppen, Sennelager, Wahn, Münster.
VII	Munich	Hohenfels, Mittenwald.
VIII	Breslau	Lamsdorf, Neuhammer, Hoheneibe.
IX	Kassel	Ohrdruf, Schwarzenborn, Wildflecken.
X	Hamburg	Munsterlager, Putlos, Hamburg-Rahlstedt (Garrison Trng. Area), Nienburg ("Landwehr" Trng. Area).
XI	Hanover	Altengrabow, Bergen, Hillersleben, Salchau, Raubkammer, Fallingbostel, Dessau-Rosslau, Wolterdingen ("Landwehr" Trng. Area).
XII	Wiesbaden	Baumholder, Bitsch.
XIII	Nuremberg	Grafenwöhr, Hammelburg.
XVII	Vienna	Bruck a.d. Leitha, Döllersheim.
XVIII	Salzburg	Dachstein, Seethaler Alpe, Strass i. Steirmark, Wattener Lizum.
XX	Danzig	Thorn (Torun), Gruppe, Grossendorf.
XXI	Posen	Siedadsch (Sieratz), Warthelager.
Gen. Govt.	Cracow	Süd (South-H.Q. Demba), Mitte (Center-H.Q. Radom), Biedruska, Galizien (Galacia-H.Q. Janow), Pustkow, Jablonna-Legionowo.
Böh.-Mähr.	Prague	Wischau, Milowitz, Kammwald (formerly Brdy-Wald).

SOURCE: U.S. Army, Order of Battle of the German Army.

Microfilm Roll 60- 15.

LUFTWAFFE CODE DESIGNATIONS

An interesting list of code names used for Luftwaffe airbases in 1934 (when the German Airforce was being quietly reborn) was uncovered some time ago by Myron Fox in a publication entitled "The Birth of the Luftwaffe" by Hanfried Schliephake and published by the Henry Regnery Company, Chicago, Illinois. Permission to republish this list was duly obtained by Myron from Contemporary Books, Inc. of Chicago and is presented herewith:

<u>Airfield</u>	<u>Code Designation</u>
Brandenburg	Reparaturwerkstatt und Ersatzteillager der Reichsbahn (Frachtflugstrecken)
Braunschweig	Deutsche Verkehrsfliegerschule (DVS)
Bug	Nautische Vermessungsabteilung
Cassel	Luftbildlandesvermessung Westdeutschland
Celle	Erprobungsstelle der deutschen Versuchsanstalt für Luftfahrt (DVL)
Cottbus	DVL
Döberitz	Reklamestaffel Mitteldeutschland
Erfurt	Depot der Luftverkehrs AG Niedersachsen
Fassberg	Hanseatische Fliegerschule
Fürth	Reklamestaffel Süddeutschland
Gersthofen	Süddeutsche Lufthansa GmbH (Gebirgsschule)
Göppingen	Luftbildvermessung
Gotha	Reklame-Abteilungsschule
Hildesheim	Deutsche Luftfahrt GmbH
Holtenau	Luftdienst eV
	Luftverkehr Schleswig-Holstein GmbH
Ingolstadt	Lager der Süddeutschen Lufthansa A-G
Jüterbog	Technische Schule
	Ersatzteillager der DVS GmbH
Kitzingen	DVL
Königsberg	Lager der Luftverkehr Ostpreußen GmbH
Lechfeld	Höhenflugzentrale des Deutschen Flugwetterdienstes
Liegnitz	Depot der Schlesischen Luftverkehrs AG
List	DVS
Magdeburg	Reichsbahnfrachtflugzentrale
Münster	Flugwetterdienst Westdeutschland
Neu-Brandenburg	Lager der Luftverkehr Pommern GmbH
Neuhausen	Reklamestaffel Ostdeutschland
Neuruppin	DVS
Norderney	Luftdienst eV
Pattensen	Depot der Luftverkehrs AG Niedersachsen
Prenzlau	Forst- und landwirtschaftliches Flugversuchs-Institut
Querfurt	Lufttransportzentrale der Reichsautobahn
Quedlinburg	Fliegerlager des Freiwilligen Arbeitsdienstes
Schleissheim	DVS
Seligenstadt	DVL
Stendal	Depot der Luftverkehrsgesellschaft Brandenburg
Stralsund	Küstenwetterdienstzentrale Ostsee
Tutow	Funkpeilversuchsinstitut des Reichsstandes der Industrie
Ulm	Lager der Süddeutschen Lufthansa A-G
Warnemünde	DVS
Wilhelmshaven	Küstenwetterdienstzentrale Nordsee
Würzburg	Deutsche Luftfahrt GmbH
Wustrow	Truppenübungsplatz

BOX 506 UPDATE

by Jim Lewis

The article which appeared in Bulletin No. 47 has produced the following additions to our study of this unique postal arrangement:

Eric Gilbert received photocopies of 4 new items from a collector in Holland - 2 from Holland and 1 each from France & Belgium. The latter item never made it out of the country but was marked "Zuruck" by the German censors and returned with the "Beanstandungzettle" (reason for rejection slip) reproduced below:

Jeder Nachrichtenverkehr mit dem feindlichen Ausland ist strafbar. Auch derjenige, der einen Brief an einen Bekannten oder Briefvermittler (Postbox etc.) schickt mit der Absicht, ihn in feindliche Staaten weiterzuleiten, macht sich strafbar.
Eine Nachrichtennübermittlung an Angehörige im feindlichen Ausland darf nur durch Vermittlung des Deutschen Roten Kreuzes, Berlin SW 61, Blücherplatz 2 erfolgen.

Translation: "Every news-communication with an enemy country is punishable. Also punishable is the sending of a letter to an acquaintance or letter intermediary (Postbox etc.) with the intention to forward to an enemy country. Communications to persons in enemy countries can only be done by intervention of the German Red Cross..."

The post date on this cover is May 27, 1942 which is the latest ever recorded on a "Box 506" cover from Belgium. This would seem to indicate that the Germans were taking steps to halt this practice and puts a dent in the theory "...they knew of the scheme but allowed it to continue."

A collector in England saw our article and sent Eric a cover (Fig. 1) posted in Breslau April 24, 1940 and addressed to P.O. Box 601 in Amsterdam!! The first reported cover from the early Cook forwarding facility.

The following Box 506 items were reported by TRSG members:

Myron Fox - a cover posted at Copenhagen in Dec. '40. This is an over-labelled cover w/Cook Type 2 handstamp.

Frank Prosser - another over-labelled cover posted at Berlin in Oct. '40. This is an exceptionally clean cover w/distinct markings including a Cook Type 3 hand stamp (Fig. 2).

Henry Schwab - two "ambulance" carried covers, one from Nimes, France posted June '41 and another from Mähr. Ostrau, Moravia posted Jan. '41.

Bob Dunn - found a cover from Zagreb, Croatia after reading the article. This is only the second item from that country and differs from the first in that it was routed through Italian censors rather than German. These two items are shown for comparative purposes (Figs. 3 & 4).

Many thanks to these members for sending photocopies along with the descriptions. All info has been passed to Eric Gilbert for inclusion in his "master" file.

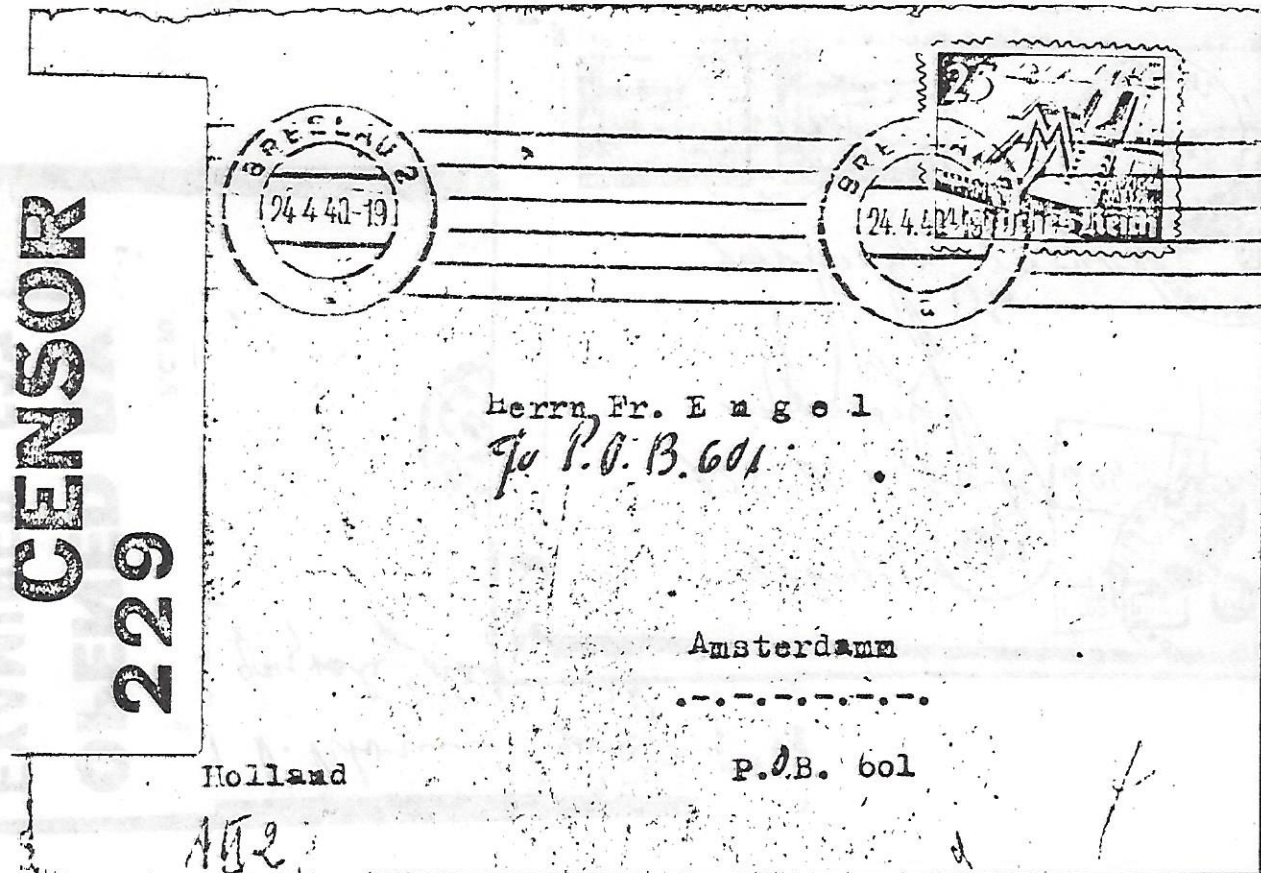
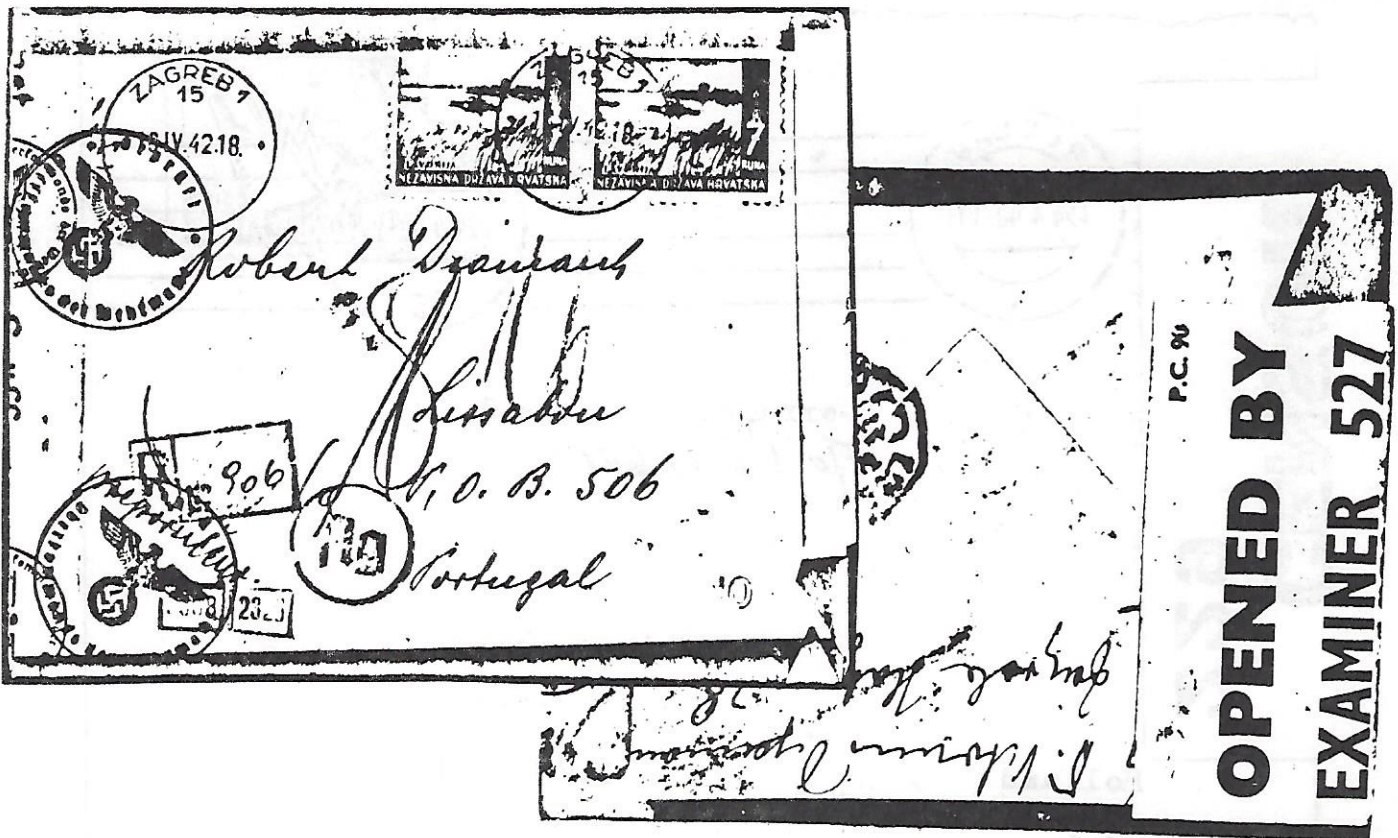


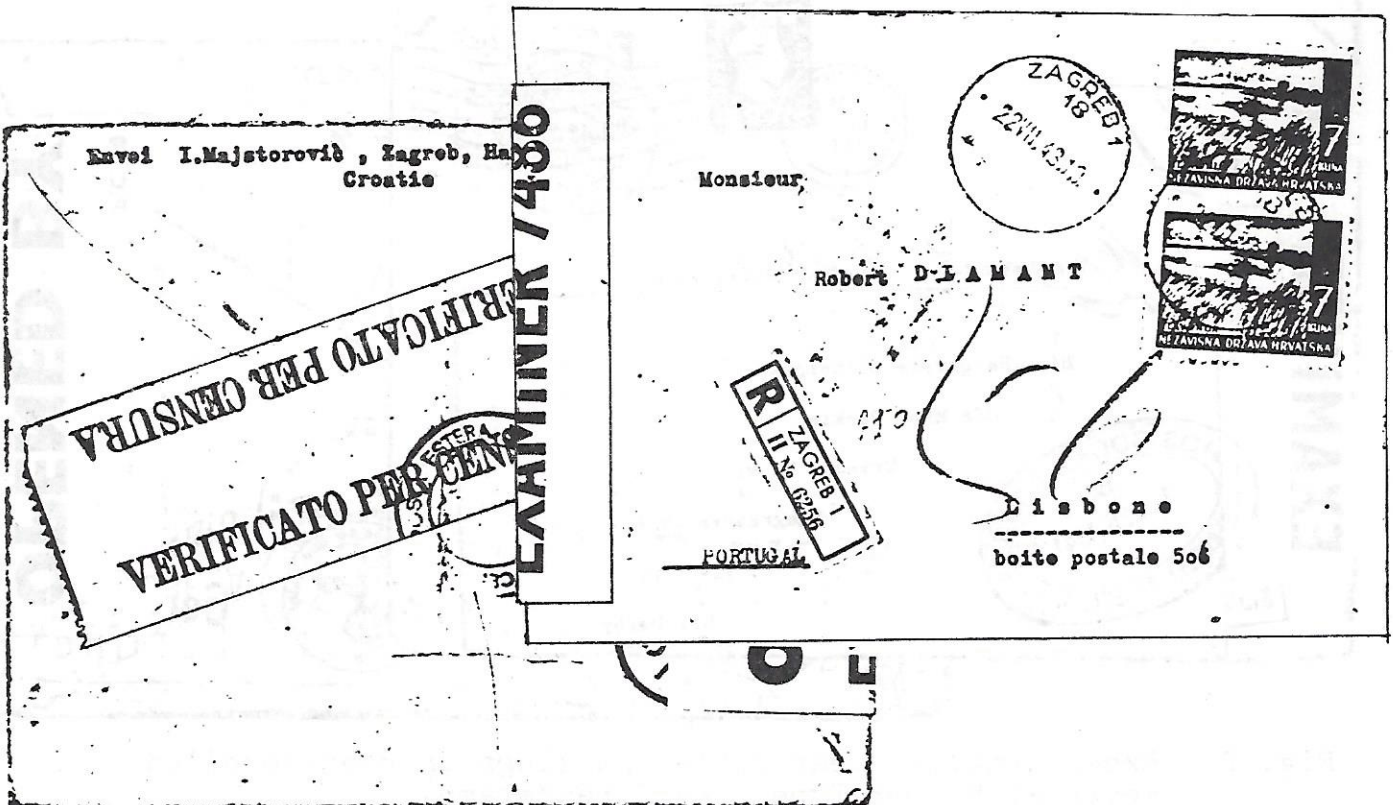
Fig. 1 - The first recorded cover routed to England via Box 601, the early Cook & Son post office box in Amsterdam.



Fig. 2 - Exceptionally clear postal markings on over-labelled cover with Cook Type 3 oval handstamp.



Covers from Zagreb, Croatia to same recipient via Box 506. Fig. 3 (top) posted May '42 has German censor markings while Fig. 4, posted July '43 has been routed through Italian censors.



My Experiences as a Third Reich Collector in Germany
by Randall Greunznner

My interest in 3rd Reich postal history began early in 1973 during my first tour of duty in Germany. My brother Norman, also a TRSG member, was an avid collector of German feldpost and his enthusiasm sparked my interest in this area.

At that time I was stationed in Würzburg and attended my first stamp bourse in that town. I met a German collector of postal stationery who was kind enough to take me to his home nearby and look at his collection. This gentleman was obviously pleased to find an American soldier interested in this material because, as we parted, he presented me 20 pieces of postal stationery. During my remaining months in Würzburg I visited a number of stamp stores in the area. By the time I returned to the States in the Spring of 1974, I had acquired a modest collection of 3rd Reich cards & covers.

My next duty station was Ft. Bragg, North Carolina and for the eight months my opportunities to acquire new material were limited, to say the least. However, in January 1975 I was back in Germany, this time near Augsburg. On my first trip to town I managed to pick up over a hundred pieces of 3rd Reich material. On subsequent visits I became acquainted with several Stamp Store owners. This led to the presentation of a group of feldpost covers from the Organisation Todt by one of these Stamp Store owners. His father's business had been absorbed by the O.T. during 1941. I learned a great deal about the identities of the various Feldpost numbers which appeared on the covers as they had been identified by his father.

Several months after this I was transferred to Neu Ulm where the U.S. Army had opened a new Finance Office. After getting settled into my new quarters, I began to explore the town of Ulm across the Danube River. I spotted a Stamp Store and asked to see the 3rd Reich covers. The owner was not too receptive but, when I indicated no interest in other areas, he went to the back of the store and returned with two large wooden boxes. These proved to be filled with several thousand feldpost covers so you can imagine my delight. One of the first items I examined contained a letter with "Nord Afrika 1942" written above the message. This turned out to be from a member of Pz.-Jäg. Abt. 39 of the 21st Panzer Division. Over the next several months I selected about 800 covers and set out to identify the feldpost numbers. With the generous help of TRSG Editor Bob Houston I de-coded the majority of these covers and found many interesting units, including over 150 different Landeschutzen Battalions.

I learned of a bourse held in Sonthofen in southern Bavaria where I found a dealer with many feldpost cards with military pictures - tanks, planes etc. Seeing my interest in "Nazi material" (as the Germans call it) he went home at noon and returned with a group of feldpost covers. He refused any payment but was curious to learn what interest such items might hold for an American soldier. My reply was "Whatever happened 30 years ago is a matter of history. While it is true that many terrible things took place at that time, there was also a unique period of postal history and that is the aspect I find interesting".

A monthly Stamp Show in Stuttgart included a postal history exhibition but I saw mostly displays of Old States, Inflation and early Berlin. The only 3rd Reich material were a few covers included in a Zeppelin exhibit. In another exhibit I saw a collection of feldpost cancels w/Kenn numbers but they were cut squares. There was also an exhibit of concentration mail but I saw no Postal Stationery with any obviously "Nazi" theme.

My Experiences in Germany (Cont.)

During my stay in Neu Ulm I became known in many areas of southern Germany and was almost always certain to pick up new material as I made my visits to the shops and bourses. During this time I met several German collectors of feldpost, including the late Gunther Fuchs, who was both a fine gentleman and a leading expert in this field. My fondest memories of my last tour are the many comrades I would meet at the bourses.

In reflecting on the nearly two years of my second tour, I observed a marked increase in the popularity of 3rd Reich material by German collectors. While many factors can account for this, I believe that the most significant thing is a loss of guilt about the Hitler era. A new generation has taken an interest in this period of their history and is seeking the type of material shunned by the older collectors.

The passing away of many of those who lived during the Hitler period has provided a steady flow of 3rd Reich material to the Stamp Stores and flea markets as attics and basements of cleaned out. Formerly this material went to the USA or England because there was a strong market for such items. Lately the demand has become strong in Germany and much material is flowing back. A recent letter from a friend in Germany indicates that the prices of 3rd Reich material have increased quite a bit.

According to a Dept. of the Army order, this soldier will be returning to Germany early in 1979. So, if you happen to be in Germany next Spring, be sure and look for a crazy American soldier buying up all the feldpost in sight.

BOOK REVIEW by Jim Lewis

The War That Hitler Won. by Robert E. Herzstein (G.P.Putnam's Sons, 1978; 438 pages; illustrations; bibliography; index; \$15.00)

This is a study of the organizations and techniques used in disseminating Nazi war-time propaganda. Of particular interest is reference to a plan, in the summer of 1943, to issue a set of commemorative stamps with pictures of cultural monuments destroyed by British terror bombing. These stamps were intended to counteract the famous American "Captive Nations" set. The plan was dropped due to concern that a picture of a destroyed cathedral would not lift German morale.

FRENCH VOLUNTEER FORCES ON THE EASTERN FRONT
by Jim Lewis

The following is a brief postal history of the French volunteer units which served with German forces on the Eastern front.

Part I - The L.V.F.

On July 7, 1941 a committee of the leaders of various collaborationist groups met at the Hotel Majestic in Paris and jointly launched the "Legion des Volontaires Francais contre le Bolschevisme". Marshal Petain authorized this committee to raise and equipt a private "legion" to fight in what was now heralded as a crusade against the Bolshevik menace.

Hitler was suspicious of this enterprize and stipulated that the number of troops not exceed 15,000. In addition, the LVF would be armed only with German weapons and would wear standard field-grey. The only distinguishing feature would be a tri-color shield with the word "FRANCE" to be worn on the right sleeve.

The first of these volunteers arrived at Bognis-Desbornes barracks near Versailles in late August. These were mostly members of collaborationist groups or ex-soldiers, including many ex-Foreign Legionnaires. Command was given to Col. Roger Labonne, a sixty-year old "desk soldier" with no combat experience.

During Fall, 1941 these first groups of volunteers were sent to the German Army training camp at Demba, near Radom in the General Government. They were formed into two battalions with 181 officers, 2,271 other ranks and a German liaison staff of 35. During this time, mail from the L.V.F. had the fieldpost privilege and carried an open unit identification. An additional 1400 volunteers arrived at Demba in mid-December and formed the basis for a third battalion. Re-designated as the "638. Verstärkt Franzöis Infanterie Regiment", the units were assigned fieldpost numbers.



Fig. 1 L.V.F. Recruiting Card.

<u>638. verst. Franz. Inf. Rgt. (1941-42)</u>	
	<u>Feldpost No.</u>
Rgt. Stab u. Stabskp.	00100
Btl. I. (1-4 Kp.)	03865 (A-D)
Btl. II. (5-8 Kp.)	04385 (A-D)
Btl. III. (9-12 Kp.)	05492 (A-D)
Kp. 13	01196
Kp. 14	02732
Kp. 15	47702
Art. Abt. d. 368. Inf. Rgt.	06376
Kolonne	03279
Reserve Kdo.	46795

Battalions I & II were dispatched to the Central front in late October, proceeding by rail to Smolensk and then by truck and on foot where they joined the German 7th Infantry Division in early December in the battle area near Golokovo. During the bitter winter campaign of '41-'42, the L.V.F. was heavily engaged in the battles in front of Moscow. In Feb. '42 the II Battalion was over-run during a Russian attack near Djunovo and virtually annihilated. Reduced to half it's effective strength, the badly mauled L.V.F. was pulled out of the line in March. Colonel Labonne was recalled to Paris and relieved of command.

In the Spring of '42, Battalion III arrived at Potchinck, southwest of Smolensk and was employed in anti-partisan and occupation duties. Due to a lack of L.V.F. replacements, the 638th Regiment was reorganized into two dissociated battalions (the II Battalion having been destroyed) with these feldpost number changes:

	<u>Feldpost No.</u>
Btl. I/Gren. Rgt. 638:	
Stab u. Kp. 1-4	03865 (A-E)
Abschnitt "Radom"	39630
15 Kp.	47702
Btl. III/Gren. Rgt. 638:	
Stab u. Kp. 1-3	05492 (A-D)
Stabseinheit "Demba"	19440
Art. Abt. u. Battr. 1-3	06376
Reserve Kdo.	46795

There was no overall French field commander at this time. The L.V.F. was out of the front line for the rest of '42 and all of '43. During June '42, Battalion III took part in anti-partisan operations near Volost and suffered heavy casualties. The I Battalion was deployed in anti-partisan activities in the Smolensk area as part of the German 186th "Sicherheit" (Security) Division.

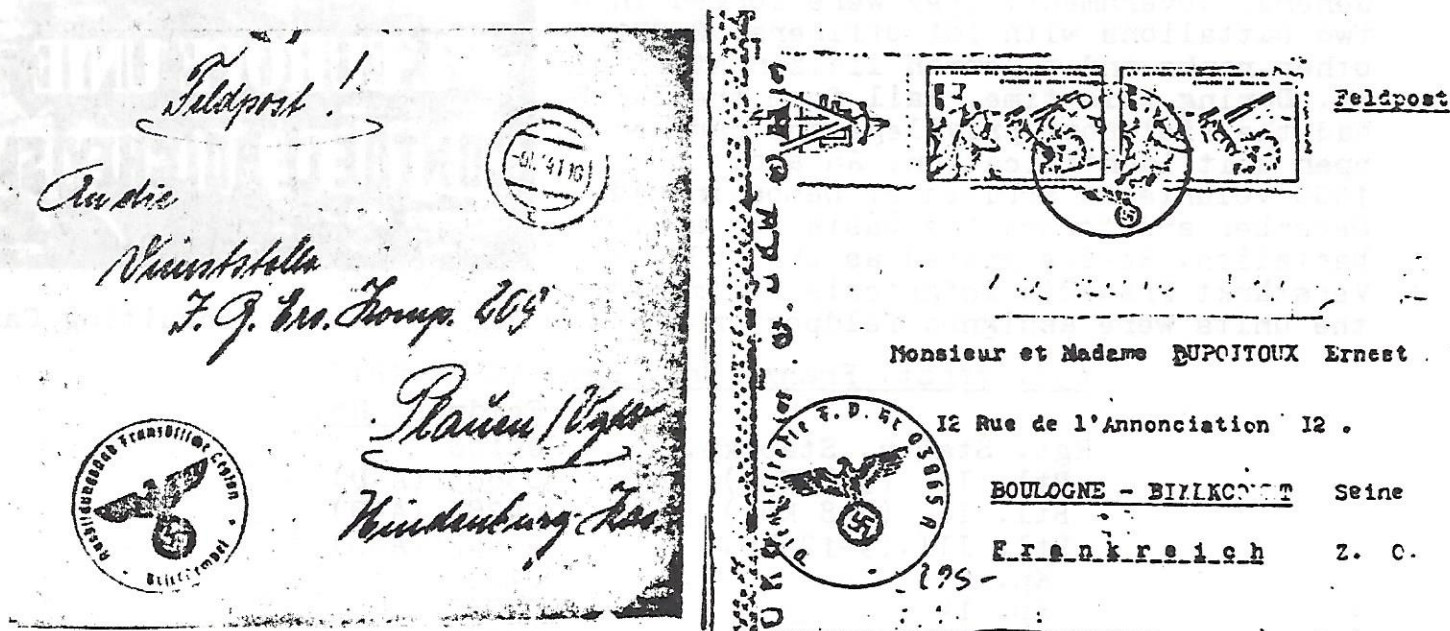


Fig. 2 - Feldpost from the L.V.F. Cover at left posted at Demba in November '41 has unit stamp "Ausbildungsstab Französische Legion" and Polish-type "stumme" cancel. Cover at right has Fp. no. 03865A. Note pair of charity labels, sold in Paris to raise funds for L.V.F. but with no postal validity. This cover was posted in Feb. '44 and has been examined by the German censor office in Frankfurt.

On June 28, 1942 the Vichy government announced that the L.V.F. was to be transformed into an officially authorized force designated as the "Legion Tricolore". This force would wear French uniforms and would be available for employment on any front where French interest was at stake. The "Legion Tricolore" was ceremonially inaugurated at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Paris on August 27th (the anniversary of the first enlistment in the L.V.F.). In October the French Post Ministry issued a "Legion Tricolore" stamp depicting a column of Napoleonic grenadiers sweeping forward into battle.



Fig.3 "Legion Tricolore" stamp.

The "Legion Tricolore" was still in training when the Anglo-American force landed in French North Africa, triggering 'Operation Anton'-the German occupation of metropolitan France which commenced on November 11, 1942. Shortly thereafter, the OKW decided that a French-controlled force was intolerable and, on December 28th, the Tricolor Legion was disbanded. It's personnel were allowed to transfer to the L.V.F. These transfers, plus active recruiting within the "Vichy" areas, resulted in a reorganization of the L.V.F. in December 1943. Now designated the 638th French Grenadier Regiment, the I & III Battalions were brought together with a reconstituted II Battalion under the 186th "Sicherung" Div. The new commander was Colonel Edgar Puaud, an ex-Foreign Legion officer who transferred from the Tricolor Legion.

In January 1944 the L.V.F. was in action as a unified force for the first time, taking part in a major anti-partisan sweep (code-named 'Operation Morocco' in honor of Col. Puaud) in the forests of Somry. With a fourth battalion added in April 1944, these fieldpost numbers reflect the revised order of battle:

Franz. Gren. Rgt. 638 (1944)

	<u>Feldpost No.</u>
Rgts. Stab	02951
Btl. I (1-4 Kp.)	03865 (A-D)
Btl. II (5-8 Kp.)	34206 (A-D)
Btl. III (9-12 Kp.)	05492 (A-D)
Btl. IV (13-16 Kp.)	03295 (A-D)
Aus. Stab (Btl. II)	56381
Aus. Stab (Btl. IV)	20919
Kolonne	03279
Reserve Kdo	46795

The Artillery Detachment was disbanded in October 1943, being unsuited for the anti-partisan type of operations.

To stem the Soviet offensive launched in June 1944, Battalion I of the L.V.F. and various scratch German units were formed into a "Kampfgruppe" which fought a successful delaying action during Ninth Army's struggle to break out of the Russian encirclement of Bobruysk.

By late July the L.V.F. was engaged in rear area duties in the vicinity of Stettin. There, on September 1, 1944, the 638th Regiment was disbanded and it's members transferred to the French Waffen-SS.

Part II - Waffen-SS Units

On July 22, 1943 it was announced that Frenchmen would now be admitted into the once-exclusively 'nordic' Waffen-SS. A recruiting office was opened at 24 avenue du Recteur Poincare in Paris. By August the initial contingent of 800 volunteers were sent to Sennheim in Alsace, the main Waffen-SS basic training center for non-Germans. With the exception of candidates for officer & NCO schools, the volunteers were transferred to Waffen-SS advanced training centers in Bohemia in November.

On July 18, 1944 the 'French SS Volunteer Assault Brigade' (Französische SS Freiwilligen Sturmbrigade) was pronounced combat-ready and dispatched to the Carpathian front. The following fieldpost numbers were assigned:

Franz. SS Frei. Sturmbrigade (1943-44)

	<u>Feldpost No.</u>
Brigade Stab	47335
Btl. I (1-4 Kp.)	41592 (A-D)
Btl. II (5-8 Kp.)	35411 (A-D)

By August 10th the Assault Brigade was in action at Mielec in the bend of the Vistula under command of the 18th SS Division "Horst Wessel". In less than a week the 1688-man brigade sustained 137 killed and 669 wounded. The badly mauled Frenchmen were pulled out of action in late August and sent to regroup at Schwarnegast near Danzig.

In September it was announced that the Assault Brigade and L.V.F. were to be amalgamated as the "Waffen-Grenadier Brigade der SS 'Charlemagne'". It was further decided to utilize the thousands of French collaborators who had been arriving in Germany as a result of the Allied breakout in France. By November the SS had transferred 7,340 Frenchmen to what was now called the "33. Waffen-Grenadier Division der SS 'Charlemagne'". The members of this "division", which was actually only a brigade in strength, came from these organizations:

Former Assault Brigade	1,000
Former L.V.F.	1,200
Former NSKK, O.T. etc.	2,000
Former "Milice"	2,500
Former Naval volunteers	640

Command of the Division was given to a German, SS-Brigadeführer Krukenberg while the former L.V.F.'s Col. Puaud was promoted to Oberführer and appointed second-in-command. The Division moved to their new depot at Wildflecken in the Rhön Mountains (about 25 miles north-west of Schweinfurt). Those selected for special training were dispatched to courses in various quarters of the Reich. The remainder spent a miserable winter at Wildflecken, being short on fuel and food. Their equipment was mostly German and Italian 'left-overs'. There were not even enough steel helmets for soldiers who had recently taken a shortened version of the SS oath.

By the middle of February the Division was ordered to join Army Group Vistula which was attempting to stem the Soviet advance into Pomerania. With this transfer to the field came the assignment of fieldpost numbers:

33.Waffen-Grenadier Division der SS 'Charlemagne' (Franz. Nr.1) 1944-45.

	<u>Fp.No.</u>		<u>Fp.No.</u>
Stab Deutsches General Kdo	47335	SS-Pz. Jag. Abt. 57	66885
57.SS-Rgt. Stab	66641	SS-Pionier Kp.	64680
Btl. I. (Stab u. Kp.1-4)	41592	SS-Nachr. Kp.	14309
Btl. II.(Stab u. Kp.5-8)	35411	Sanitäts Kp.	66453
58.SS-Rgt. Stab	02951	Veterinar Kp.	64921
Btl. I. (Stab u. Kp.1-4)	03895	Feld-Gend. Tr.	06953
Btl. II.(Stab u. Kp.5-8)	05492	Werkstattzug	13630
SS-Artillerie Abt. 57	00290	Feldpostamt	11498
Inspektion d. Franz. Einheit	55448	Feld-Ersatz Kp.	65920

The Division Post Office (FpA SS-33) used Kenn No. 565 from February through May 1945.

The Division saw heavy fighting in the Hammerstein-Neustettin sector. The force of a Soviet assault on Feb. 25th split the Division into three. Of these, one group attempted to withdraw under cover of a fog but was caught in a murderous artillery barrage and virtually annihilated. Oberfuhrer Puaud was among the missing. A second group, mainly former "miliciens" (irregulars similar to the 'Black & Tans' in Ireland) attempted a withdrawal westward but by mid-March all had been killed or captured.

The third group, mostly L.V.F. veterans, fell back toward Danzig. During this withdrawal occurred one of the great ironies of the war when the remnants of the 'Charlemagne' Division engaged units of the "Seydlitz" Division, comprised of 'turn-coat' German POWs now fighting on the side of the Soviets. The group was evacuated by sea to Denmark and worked their way back to the advanced depot at Neustrelitz, 60 miles north of Berlin. Of the 7,000 who had set out from Wildflecken the previous month, only 800 remained.

On March 27th Krukenberg paraded his men and absolved those who no longer wished to fight from the obligation to do so. One officer and 300 other ranks elected to call it quits, those remaining took an oath of loyalty to Hitler.

In the early hours of April 24th, this dedicated band of Frenchmen were rushed south to defend Berlin and entered the city just before the jaws of the Soviet pinchers closed. The French were attached to the Danish-Norwegian "11. SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer Grenadier Division 'Nordland'", by then reduced to a few hundred. All these volunteers fought with undeniable heroism and terrible loss. Within a week the 'Charlemagne' Regiment was reduced in effective strength to 120 men. Among the ruins of Berlin a handful of Frenchmen, Norwegians, Danes, Belgians and Spaniards fought desperately in a lost cause which had become their own.

PRICES REALIZED - TRSG AUCTION NUMBER 8

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Price</u>
1	12.50	51	4.50	101	24.00
2	9.00	52	6.00	102	-
3	11.25	53	6.00	103	-
4	10.00	54	4.00	104	-
5	12.50	55	2.50	105	-
6	11.00	56	3.50	106	9.50
7	10.00	57	9.75	107	7.75
8	10.00	58	10.25	108	7.25
9	10.50	59	14.50	109	-
10	30.00	60	5.00	110	-
11	40.00	61	-	111	27.00
12	30.00	62	3.25	112	19.50
13	14.00	63	2.50	113	6.25
14	14.00	64	14.25	114	10.00
15	12.00	65	9.25	115	2.50
16	12.50	66	7.00	116	2.50
17	12.75	67	3.00	117	2.75
18	13.00	68	-	118	2.50
19	11.00	69	-	119	2.75
20	14.00	70	-	120	-
21	9.00	71	8.00	121	2.50
22	9.50	72	-	122	2.75
23	10.50	73	-	123	5.00
24	12.25	74	-	124	2.50
25	-	75	4.00	125	-
26	7.50	76	4.25	126	-
27	4.00	77	10.00	127	3.75
28	5.25	78	11.00	128	3.75
29	3.75	79	5.00	129	2.75
30	4.25	80	-	130	-
31	5.75	81	-	131	-
32	2.50	82	2.50	132	5.00
33	4.00	83	9.50	133	3.50
34	4.25	84	-	134	2.50
35	7.00	85	3.25	135	2.50
36	4.75	86	10.00	136	4.50
37	7.00	87	3.50	137	3.75
38	3.00	88	-	138	-
39	3.00	89	4.00	139	3.50
40	11.00	90	5.50	140	5.50
41	11.00	91	10.50	141	-
42	78.00	92	3.00	142	2.75
43	-	93	7.00	143	2.50
44	2.50	94	5.50	144	2.50
45	6.50	95	-	145	2.75
46	-	96	9.50	146	6.00
47	5.50	97	6.25	147	2.75
48	3.50	98	-	148	3.25
49	9.00	99	7.00	149	5.25
50	10.00	100	-	150	4.25