Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

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

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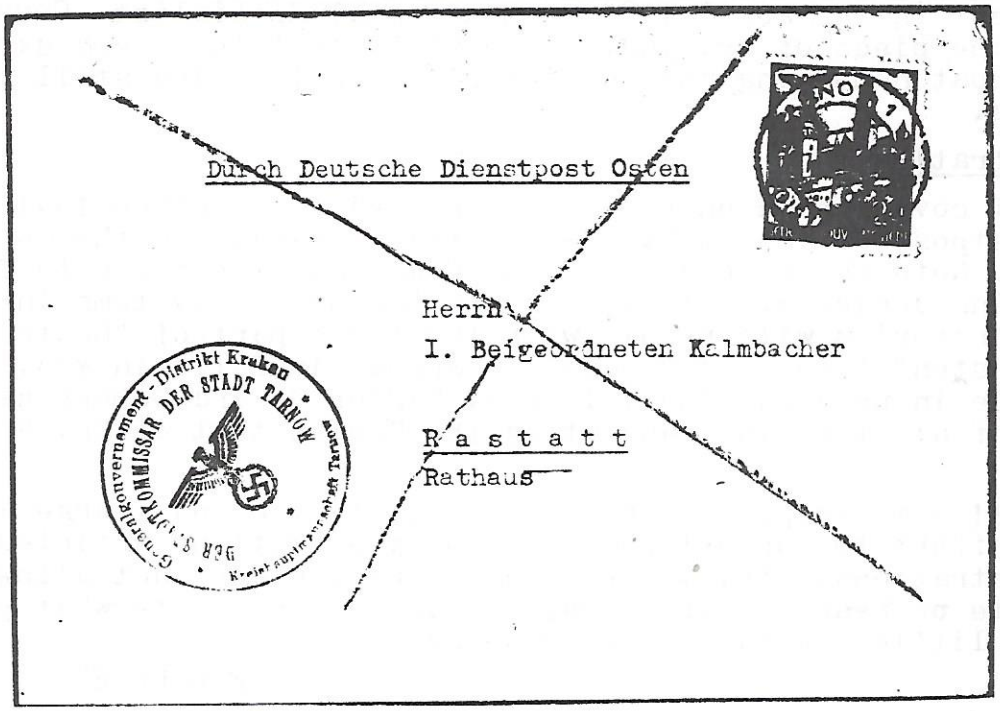

Study Group Notes

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

BELL, Edwin, P.O. Box 2110, Escondido, CA 92025
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The 'Deutsche Dienstpost Oslo' article which appeared in TRSG Bulletin #84 was reprinted in LUREN, the bulletin of the Scandinavian Philatelic Library of So. California. This was a reciprocal arrangement by which we were allowed to republish the Trondheim Censorship article which appeared in TRSG Bulletin #90. If any of you come across articles which would be of interest to the TRSG, please let your Bulletin editor know so that we may request permission for republication.

GPS Chapter #6 has changed its meeting place and time. The New Jersey 'Gau' now meets in the Public Library loc[illegible]on Main Street in Kenilworth, NJ at 7:00 P.M. on the first Wednsday of each month. All TRSGers are most welcome.

Sudetenland Cancel Survey - TRSGer Dave Geary is compiling a listing of all town cancellations used in Sudetenland between Sept. 21, 1938 and March 14, 1939. Of the 1600 known towns, all but 400 have been identified with cancels from the above noted period. A listing of the 'missing' 400 will appear in the Oct. TRSG Bulletin. Sorry, Dave, we just didn't have the room in this issue!

Feldpost Auction Lots - TRSG Auction Manager Fred Stengel reminds all members submitting Feldpost lots to our auctions that it is the responsibility of the owner to properly identify the unit's 5-digit Feldpost number and actual identity. Any lots which simply list the 5-digit number will be refused.

TRSGer Gianluigi Soldati's 'Panzer Feldpost Offices' received a full 25 page treatment in the April 1989 German Postal Specialist. Congratulations on a very fine piece of writing. I'm certain that the lucid explanation of the Feldpost numbering and routing system will bring still more GPSers to our ranks.

Cover Illustration

The official cover shown on Page 1 was posted in November 1941 at the German Dienstpost Office in Tarnow (District Krakau) in the General Gouvernment. Note the nice seal of the Commissar for the City Tarnow. Our continuing series of articles on the Dienstpost systems in various occupied territories will resume with the first part of "Deutsche Dienstpost Osten" (occupied Poland) to appear in Bulletin #93. As has been the case in previous installments, TRSGer Gerard DeBoer has given generously of his time in translating the German text of Dr. Hermann Schultz.

HELP WANTED!! - my supply of articles is quite low and I urge all TRSGers to make an effort to support our efforts by submitting articles, cover & card illustrations, etc. My personal situation does not allow me the time to write or research articles, so please contribute what you can to keep our little journal chugging along.

YE OLDE ED

UPDATES ON RECENT ARTICLES

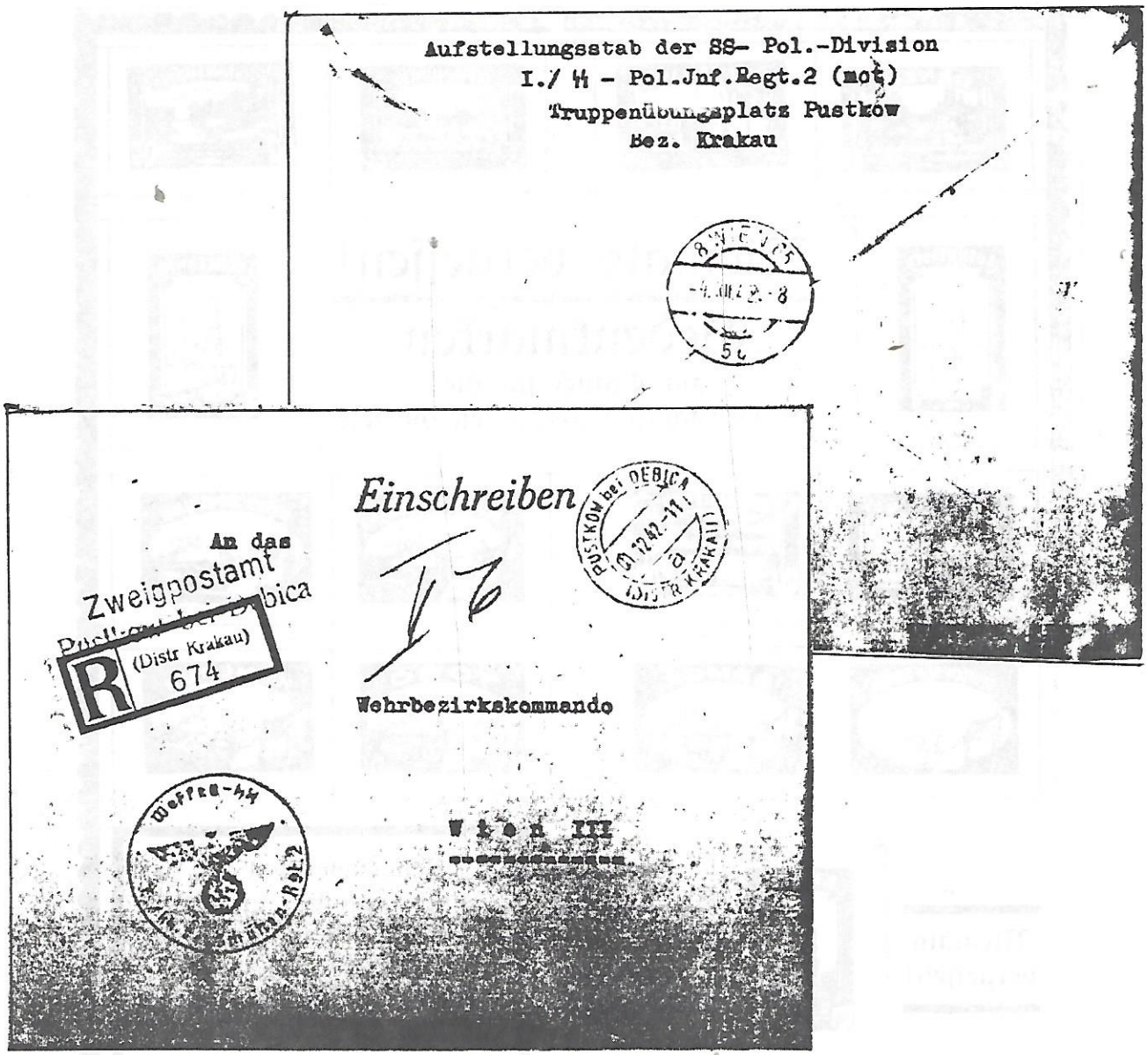
1.) Return of the Hultschein District (Bulletin #88)

Shown below is what appears to be a reprinting of the original "Niemals vergessen!" commemorative sheet produced by Würsburg stamp dealer Friedrich Peter and shown on p.4 in TRSG Bulletin #88. This sheet differs from the original in the following: a) the "eagles" above and below "Niemals vergessen!" bracketing the Elsaß label are missing, b) a quotation from Goethe appears in the box at lower right instead of the "Versailles!" text. The sheet submitted by K. Stupell has been trimmed with pinking shears so the area with the printer's address is missing.

2.) Parcel Card from Waffen-SS Training Grounds (Bulletin #88)

Shown below is a registered Feldpost cover sent to the Area Military Command in Vienna in December 1942. The sender is identified as Btl. I/Polizei Infantry Regiment 2 of the (4th) SS Polizei Division. At this time this division had been withdrawn from the Leningrad front and was reforming as a motorized infantry division.

Note the cancel "Pustkow bei Debica" and blank-field registry label handstamped "Zweigpostamt" (branch P.O.). This very nice item was submitted by TRSGer Paul Johnson.



3.) Advisory Label in Concentration Camp Letter (Bulletin #91)

Another example of a "Heinweiszellel" (advisory slip or label) is submitted by TRSGer Larry Nelson. This label was found in a letter sent from Auschwitz and was no doubt added by the camp censor. The label advises that parcels containing the perishables (vegtables) listed will not be permitted during the summer months.

Beachtung bei Paketsendungen im Sommerhalbjahr!

Leicht verderbliche Lebensmittel wie frisches Obst, Gurken, Tomaten, Birnen, Pflaumen usw. ferner frischgebackenes Brot dürfen **in der warmen Jahreszeit nicht geschickt werden.**

Flüssigkeiten, wie Fruchtsäfte und ähnliches in Gläsern oder Flaschen dürfen ebenfalls nicht geschickt werden, da sie wegen Bruchgefahr den Inhalt des eigenen und fremden Paketes gefährden.

Nur gute Verpackungen verwenden.

Das Übersenden von Einschreibebriefen, Einschreibepäckchen, Wertbriefen, Wertpaketen und Expressgut ist verboten.

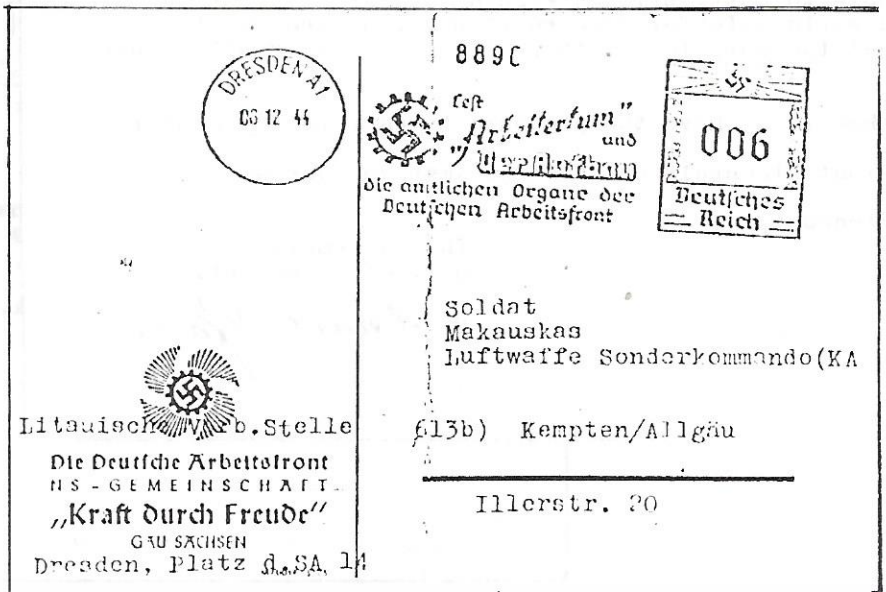
Nur gewöhnliche Briefe und Pakete werden angenommen. Alles andere geht an die Absender zurück.

Postzensurstelle

4.) Lithuanian Troops in German Units (Bulletin #91)

Larry Nelson submitted several examples of correspondence between the "Litauische Verband Stelle" (Lithuanian Formation Office) of the German Labor Front and a Lithuanian Special Detachment KA of the Luftwaffe in Kempten.

Shown below is a card from the Lithuanian office in Dresden sent to a "Soldaten" in Kempten in December 1944.



GERMANY TO USA VIA SIBERIA

by Kieth Stupell

This cover, sent to the U.S.A. in May 1940 from the German Spruce League, has "Via Sibirien" and Hamburg censor (F-1) handstamps. The message notes delays in postal transmission between Germany and the United States due to British confiscation of mail carried on U.S. ships. The sender advises that future letters be sent via Japan and Siberia.

Deutscher FichteBund

Pf/s
~~By Airmail~~ COPY

Jungfernstieg 30, Zimmer 508,
Hamburg, Germany

March 11th, 1940

Mr. Albert H. Einson
4536 - 39th Place
Long Island City, N.Y.
U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

Will you please accept this expression of my gratitude for your very kind and most welcome letter of December 18th, 1939? Your interest in our work is much appreciated, and I shall not fail to have some of the requested material mailed to you at once. Please do not hesitate to let me know whenever you desire to have more or special material. I shall always be glad to be of service to you and to your friends. But if you write again dear sir, please do send your letter either by airmail or via Japan and Siberia.

It took your letter almost three months to get here! But I am sure you do realize that this regrettable delay was not due to any neglect on our side, but that it was caused by the British pirates who have decided to make war(!) against us by stopping and searching American ships, and by confiscating American mail! of all the neutrals who have to endure this British piracy the Americans fare the worst, for the English have no respect and consideration at all for the rights of the neutral United States!

Conditions in Germany are just fine. In spite of the onesided press reports overthere, there is no food shortage in Germany as Russian grain etc. is pouring into Germany day and night in endless streams. The spirit of the people is excellent, and there is no doubt anywhere in Europe that we will win this war. British losses on the sea and in the air continue to be very severe. The German Sea is being termed by the neutrals the graveyard of British shipping and by this you may judge for yourself how terrific the losses of the British have been so far. The French do not seem to be willing to fight and to die for the glory of Great Britain and of its Plutocratic warmongers, although they have collected large amounts of African savages in the West, seemingly for the purpose of being able to carry British-French "culture" to Germany, and to make the world safe for democracy! But I assure you that they all will get the surprise of their lives once we really start this war!

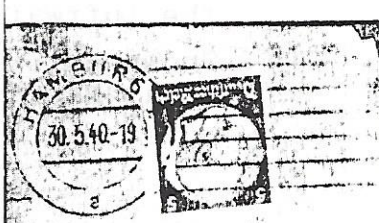
Trusting that I may have the pleasure to hear from you again

I remain yours most sincerely and in true American-German

friendship

Th. Kensemeier
Dir. of Organization

b.o. Oscar C. Hall



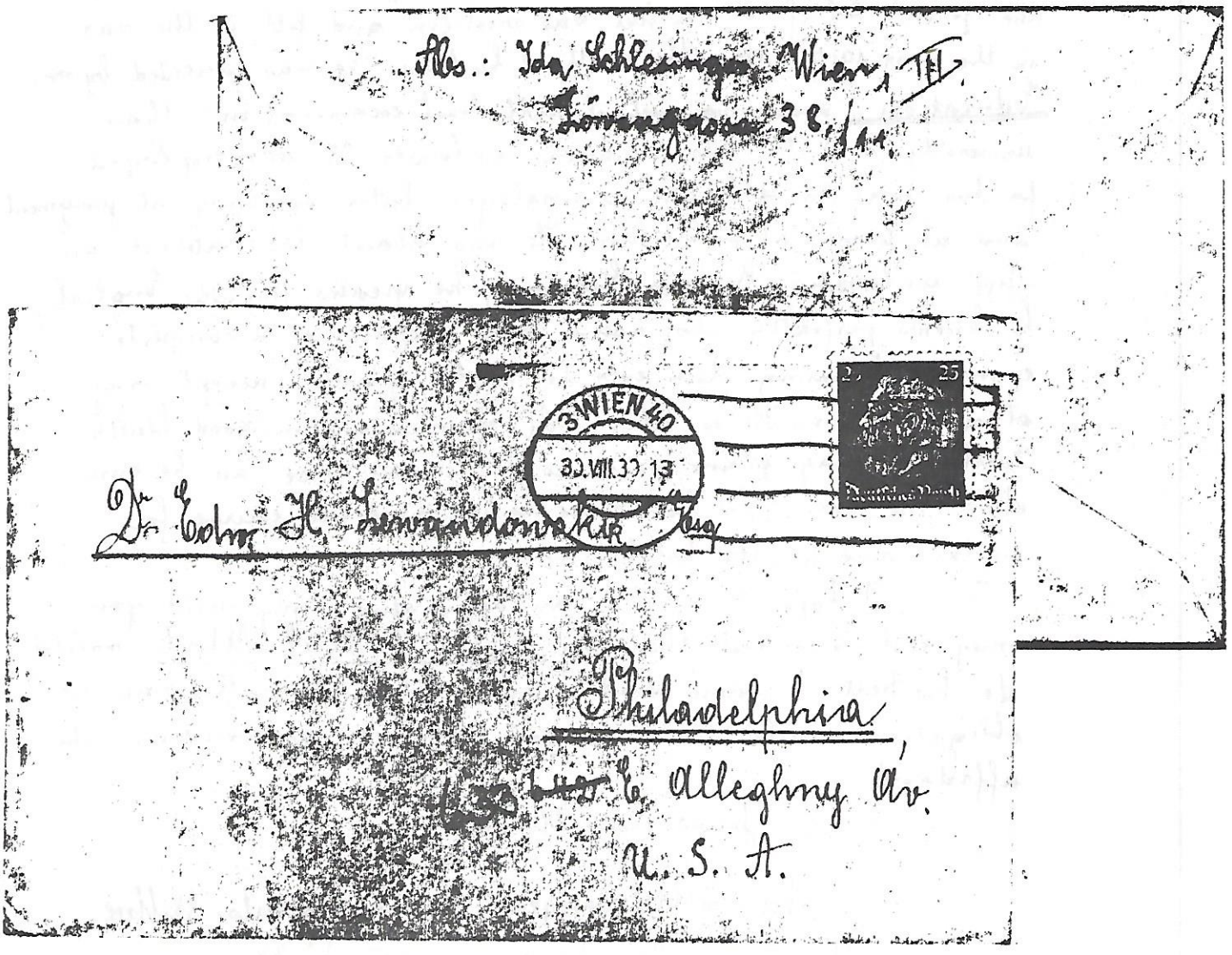
AFFIDAVIT REQUEST FOR JEWISH IMMIGRATION

by Jack Miskevich

In 1939 the U.S. immigration quota from Germany (now including Austria) was 25,957. In March 1938 the Roosevelt administration put into practice a policy of giving special consideration to visa requested from Jewish applicants from Germany. However, after "Crystal Night" (Nov. 9, 1938) it announced an extension of the number of visitors' visas of approximately 15,000 although the immigration quota itself remained inviolate.

One of the requirements for a visitors' visa was that the applicant submit affidavits in his favor. The letter shown below seeks such an affidavit. Note that the sender was not Jewish (not a "Sarah" cover) but her nephew was. The "German subject" refers to a Jewish person because Jews were no longer citizens. See my earlier article on the legal profession in Germany in TRSG Bulletin 76, p. 14. "Absolutely blamless" means that he was forced to give up a career in the law. I wonder if the applicant ever made it to safety in the USA.

Note the date on the letter is August 30, 1939! There is no British censor marking, which indicates that the letter cleared Bermuda before the establishment of British censorship. This item is courtesy of Dr. Sheldon Noren, who discovered it.



Ida Schlesinger, Wien,
III. Löwengasse 38

Vienna, 30. August 1939.

Dear Sir!

Kindly excuse my letter, but only according to the bad situation, I am addressing myself to you in my despair, asking you to help me. The subject of my writing is following:

I should be so grateful, if you could send me an affidavit for my nephew, which is not at home a long time. – He is compelled to lease his native country; all my endeavourings to obtain a permit for entrance in an other country for him, had no success.

I beg in the following to discribe his life shortly and exactly: My nephew Dr. Paul Allert has been born in Vienna on the 13. September 1907 and he is German subject. He was born in the jewish belief. His father was medicin and felt in the war in the year 1917. After the death of his father, he was educated by me. Education: grammar school with final examination, than university and the examination as lawyer. He was employed for two years in a bank as employee, later was busy at judgment and at lawers as substitute. He was about to establish an office as lawer. Besides German, he speaks fluently English, he knows perfektly shorthand and disposes of a complete commerce training, how ever he would gladly accept any other position. He is absolutely blamless and in good health. Further he plays piano, possesses a pleasent voice an he can drive the car. In last time he has made a course for waitors and for the hotel line.

I hope to receive an affirmative reply and you may rest assured, that my nephew Dr. Paul Allert would do his best to earn and to get a job and in this way no obligation would risult for you, when you are sending the affidavit.

Yours respectfully

Ida Schlesinger, Obermagistratsrats-Witwe,
Wien, III. Löwengasse No. 38

The following article is a good example of an exchange of information between two GPS Study Groups which provides insight into a topic of interest to both groups. This information originally appeared in the "Vorläufer" bulletin of the Colonies Study Group. ED

Bob Maddocks originally sent a photocopy of a 1937 Hitler Souvenir sheet (illustrated below) to John Miller, with an inquery about the 'Landesgruppe Kamerun' handstamp thereon. John sent it to our Kamerun expert, Marty Bratzel, who sent it to the TRSG Director Myron Fox, who sent it to TRSG Bulletin editor Jim Lewis, who published it (in TRSG Bulletin #81), drawing a reply from TRSGer Jack Miskevich (whose collecting specialty is the 'lost colonies' propaganda campaigns between the wars):

"The topic of the 'lost colonies' propaganda campaigns between 1918 and 1943 has long fascinated me and has become a specialty. The 'Landesgruppe Kamerun' handstamp is not a 'lost colonies' organization such as the Reichskolonialbund or the Colonies Policy Office of the Nazi Party. The handstamp Bob has is that of the Nationalist Socialist (Nazi) Part 'Auslandsorganisation' (the A.O.). As part of the foreign department of the Party, the A.O. organized 'Volksdeutsche' abroad. Every German citizen who was a Party member living abroad joined the appropriate regional unit of the A.O. Also, the German Foreign Service diplomatic and consular staffs were incorporated into the A.O. The largest subdivision of the A.O. was the 'Landesgruppen' (as was largest subdivision of the Party in a Gau in Germany). So, Bob's cover is from the 'Landesgruppe' for the Cameroons. As a matter of administration, the A.O. 'Gau' capital was Berlin.

While the query was on its international journey, Bob independently continued his research and produced the following article. Jack's explanation neatly confirms Bob's findings, and his efforts are much appreciated. Thanks to all for sharing.

The British Cameroons Prior to WWII: Kamerun Fears and Fervor

by Robert J. Maddocks

In April 1939, a French officer of the Cameroon militia was reported as confiding to a British officer on an inteligence mission from Nigeria that "... until recently, we have considered the British Cameroons to be occupied by a hostile power". He had good reason. The Germans there were a majority of 6 to 1 over the British who had only some 50 nationals, mostly government officials in their mandated territory. Moreover, the Germans owned the greater part of the freehold land, having purchased it at very low prices after WWI. Through the profitable cultivation of bananas, palm oil products, coffee and tea on their plantations around Victoria and on the lower slopes of the Cameroon Mountain, they generated the economic thrust in British Cameroons. Accordingly, they, for their part, felt it was an absurd and inequitable state of affairs which allowed them to run a former German colony in every respect except to govern it.

The French officials in their adjoining mandate of Cameroun were most concerned at the free hand generally given to the Germans both en tering and residing in British Cameroons and were particularly perturbed at the lack of British armed forces there to counter-balance the growing assertiveness of Germany's territorial claims.

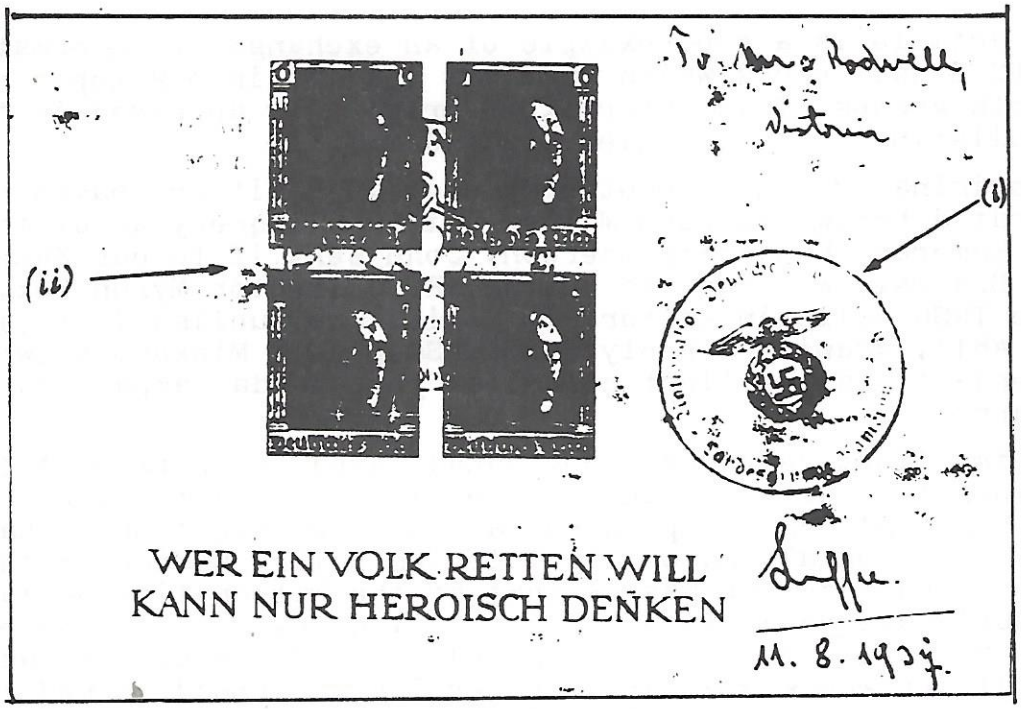


Figure 1

(i) Handstamp of the Landesgruppe Kamerun over Herr Luppe's signature.
(ii) Munich Sonderstempel of 30.07.37 'Hauptstadt der Bewegung, Geburtstag des Führers'.

For the previous two or more years, certain German planters and businessmen had begun to work actively on behalf of the Nazi cause, disseminating propaganda amongst the natives as they openly canvassed the possibility of the territory being transferred back to Germany. In this respect, they were motivated by the Nazi Party in Germany which had formed the Auslandsorganisation (A.O.) with the object of welding together all Germans abroad and all sea-faring members into one fraternal block to further the cause of the fatherland.

Within the organization, regional groups known as Landesgruppen were established in those countries overseas where there were substantial numbers of German nationals. The Landesgruppe Kamerun covered not only both French and British mandated Cameroons, but also the nearby Spanish colonies of Fernando Po and Rio Muni, as well as Calabar Province of neighboring Nigeria. The Landesgruppenleiter was a Herr Gustave Luppe and his deputy was Herr Karl Jacob, manager of the Debundscha Plantation; there was an agent of the Group in each plantation in the Cameroons. Party members were bound by the rules of the A.O. to whose central funds they contributed £ 3 per annum; a further six shillings a year went to the local group.

Herr Bohle, Secretary of State in the German Foreign Ministry and overall head of the A.O. was responsible for the appointment of the Group leaders; this was confirmed by Herr Luppe in a letter of 20 June 1939 to the British Resident. In the same letter, he also stated that during his rece recent stay in Germany, the Authorities there made it quite clear to him (Luppe), that any decision concerning the political future of the Cameroons could only be reached in Europe. He went on to assure the British that no member of the Organisation placed under his command would undertake any open or secret hostile act against their authorities in the mandated territory or in Nigeria or any British subject residing there, whether in war or peace. Herr Luppe thus indicated that the

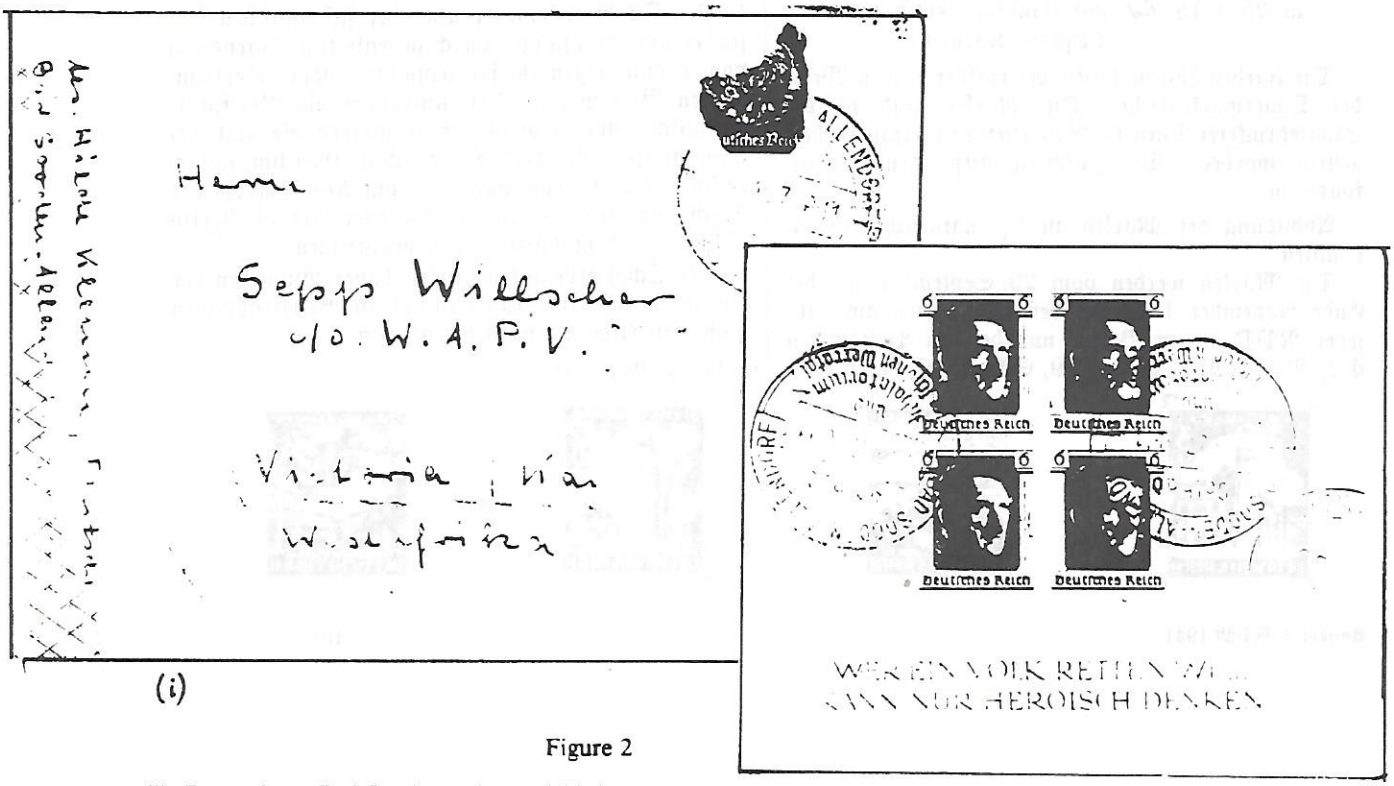
Landesgruppe Kamerun could not and would not take unilateral action within the Cameroons to further the Nazi cause in the event of war.

Such assurances were treated with scepticism by the British, who on 27 August 1939 brought a company of troops of the Nigeria Regiment and proceeded to disarm the Germans before war actually broke out; over 60 Germans immediately left for Fernando Po. At the outbreak soon after, some men who were sick and over military age were repatriated to Germany. Others who were willing were permitted to remain on parole fully employed on essential plantation work, being given a substansial allowance in lieu of wages, though the plantations themselves had been sequestered and placed under the control of the Custodian of Enemy Property.

Herr Luppe was one of those who remained in the territory; however he was shortly to break his parole when he tried to smuggle a letter to the German Consul at Fernando Po. He was consequently taken to the Ibadan internment camp in Nigeria.

This then is the background to this interesting minature sheet of Hitler stamps (Germany Mi. Block 7), bearing an impression of the Landesgruppe Kamerun official handstamp (Fig. 1). Postmarked Munich 20.07.37, the sheetlet has most probably come off a cover sent from Germany to the British Cameroons - in this respect, refer to Fig. 2, which shows a somewhat tattered cover from Bad Sooden-Allendorf to Victoria with a similar minature sheet still in situ on its reverse.

In all probability, the original recipient of the first itemwas Herr Luppe himself, for it is seen that he has written 'To Mr. Rodwell, Victoria' thereon and supplied the Landesgruppe handstamp over his signature and the date 11.08.37. Mr. Rodwell was then the collector of Customs and Excise with the British Administration - he was also a philatelist, as evidenced by other Cameroons items in my collection! It would seem that philatelic pursuits may have temporarily transcended the growing conflict in political ideologies existing in the Cameroons at that time.



(i)

Figure 2

(i) Front, from Bad Sooden-Allendorf 30.04.37

(ii) Reverse, receiving postmark Victoria (Mails) / Cameroons under British Mandate, 1:30pm 20 MY 37.

...from the Amtsblatt des Reichspostministeriums

Issue # 91 - September 23, 1941

Announcement of issuance of set of stamps commemorating the return to the Reich of Carinthia, Styria & Krain. These former Austrian provinces had been ceded to Yugoslavia in 1919 and liberated by Germany's defeat of Yugoslavia in 1941.

These stamps are listed as Mi. 806-09.

Allgemeines

***) Nr. 524/1941. Neue Sondermarken**

Die Deutsche Reichspost gibt zur Erinnerung an die Eingliederung der vom früheren Österreich abstimmungslos abgetrennten Teile der Steiermark, Kärntens und einiger volksdeutscher Teile Krains in das Deutsche Reich vier Sondermarken nach Entwürfen des Künstlers Erich Meerwald, Berlin-Steglitz, heraus, und zwar:

zu 3 + 7 Rpf mit der »Burg« in Marburg (Steiermark),
zu 6 + 9 Rpf mit Landschaftsbild von Veldes (Kärnten),
zu 12 + 13 Rpf mit Stadtturm und Theater in Pettau (Steiermark),
zu 25 + 15 Rpf mit Landschaftsbild mit dem Triglav (Kärnten).

Die Farben ähneln denen der entsprechenden Werte der Dauermarkenreihe. Die Marken sind in der Staatsdruckerei Wien im Rastertiefdruckverfahren hergestellt worden. Der Zuschlag fließt dem Kulturfonds zu.

Abbildung der Marken in $^3/_4$ natürlicher Größe s. unten.

Die Marken werden vom 29. September an bis Ende November 1941 bei den Postämtern am Sitze jeder RPD — in Berlin nur bei den Postämtern C 2, N 4, NW 7, W 8, W 9, SW 11, O 17, Berlin-Charlottenburg 2, Berlin-Schöneberg 1, Berlin-Spandau 1 — und bis auf weiteres bei der Versandstelle für Sammlermarken in Berlin SW 68 unter den üblichen Bedingungen abgegeben. Schriftliche Einzelbestellungen nehmen weder die Versandstelle noch die Postämter entgegen.

Für die rechnerische Behandlung gelten die Bestimmungen der AmtsblVf. Nr. 600/1940 S. 683 entsprechend.

Über die Lieferung haben die RPDn besondere Mitteilung erhalten

Min-Z 2040—1

***) Nr. 525/1941. Briefmarkentausch**

Der Zuadressierungstausch, der sich zwischen Absender und Empfänger durch gegenseitige Zusendung von ordnungsgemäß freigemachten oder überfrankierten Briefen abwickelt, unterliegt als Briefmarkentauschgeschäft (sowohl bei Händlern als auch bei Sammlern) der devisenrechtlichen Genehmigungspflicht. Die Genehmigung ist vom Absender bei der Reichsstelle für Waren verschiedener Art in Berlin SW 68, Hedemannstr. 10, zu beantragen.

Die Schalterbeamten dürfen daher Wünschen der Absender auf Überfrankierung von Briefsendungen nach dem Ausland nicht entsprechen.

Min-Z 2040—0

LUFTFELDPOST ON THE EASTERN FRONT ADDENDUM

by Gianluigi Soldati

The following items expand upon the examination of censored and rejected Military Air Mail which was detailed in TRSG Bulletin #81.

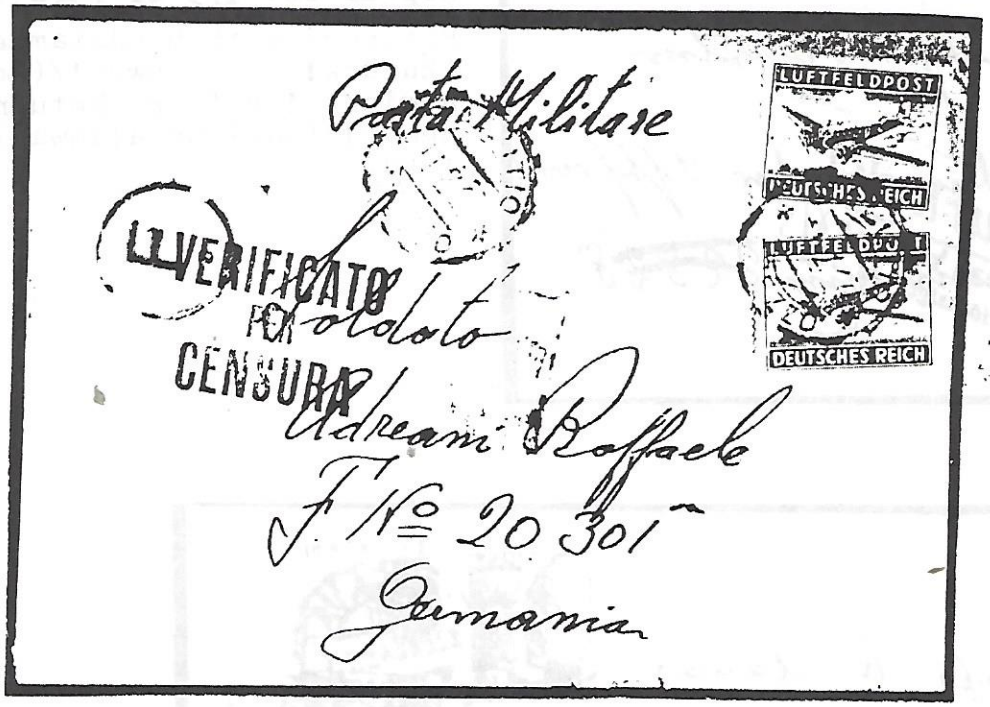


Fig. 1) The Alpenvorland service to and from Italy (See TRSG Bulletin #81, p.10) was available only to German troops stationed in the Northeastern provinces of Bolzano, Merano and Trento-Trieste. The cover shown above was sent from Salutio (Arezzo) on February 11, 1944 to an Italian volunteer serving in the German Army. Feldpost #20301 was address of Battery 1, Flak Regiment 231, an element of II Army in the Voronesh area.

Note that this cover was censored by Italians per the blue "Verificato per Censura". The red circular "F3" is probably a German routing mark.

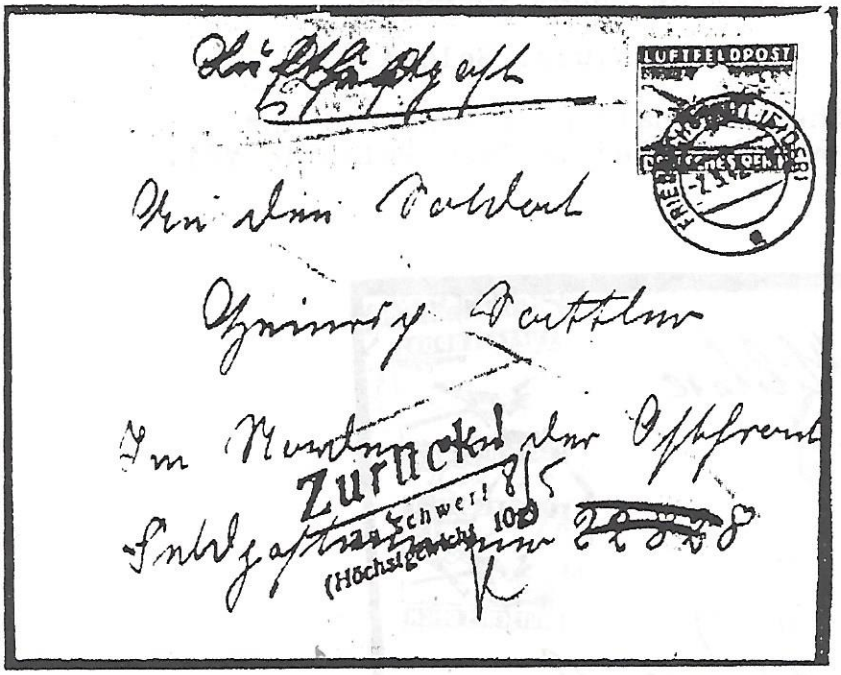


Fig. 2) Military airmail which was returned for non-compliance with the 10 gram maximum weight limitation (Reichspost Directive 215/1942: 1a, (See TRSG Bull.#80, p. 14-15). Sent May 7, 1942 from Friedrichstadt to Fp#22828, Mobile Repair Co. 173 of 73rd Inf. Div.

Returned with handstamped note: "Zurück!/ Zu Schwer!/(Hochst-gewicht 10g)" or "Return!/Too Heavy!/(Maximun allowable weight 10g".

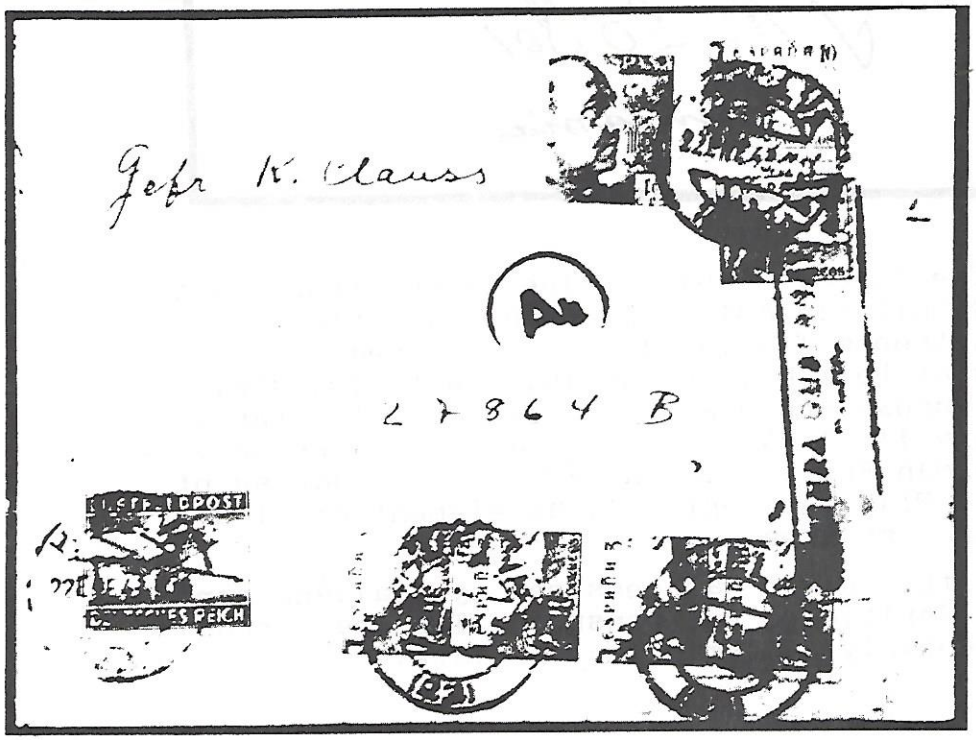


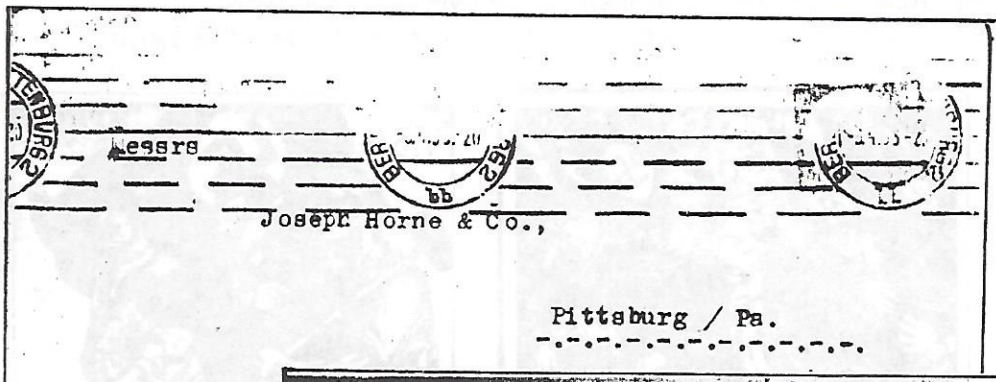
Fig. 3) Censored cover from Huelva, Spain, Jan. 22, 1943 with 65 centimes air mail surcharge from Madrid (Jan. 24, 1943 transit cds on backside) to Berlin Luftfeldpost Distribution Center. Addressed to a soldier at Feldpost #27864B: II Btl./Art. Rgt. 39 of III Armee Korps in Central Russia. Note German "Ab" censor transir stamp and Spanish censor's "Censura Gubernativa/Huelva".

In Defense of the New Order in Germany

by Kieth Stupell

Support for the new government of Adolf Hitler is contained in this letter from the Association of Ceramic Factories in Berlin to an American company in Pittsburg which was posted April 1, 1933.

The last line "The sooner the unwarranted and unheard of propaganda of horrors is stopped, the sooner the measures will be ended, the German national movement was obliged to take."



Messrs

Joseph Horne & Co.,

Pittsburg / Pa.

-.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.

Verband
Keramischer Gewer
in Deutschland E.
Berlin W 30
Luitpoldstr. 25

Verband Keramischer Gewerke in Deutschland E.V.

Berlin W 30, den 1.April 1933
Luitpoldstr.25

To the foreign correspondents of the
German ceramic industry!

Dear Sirs,

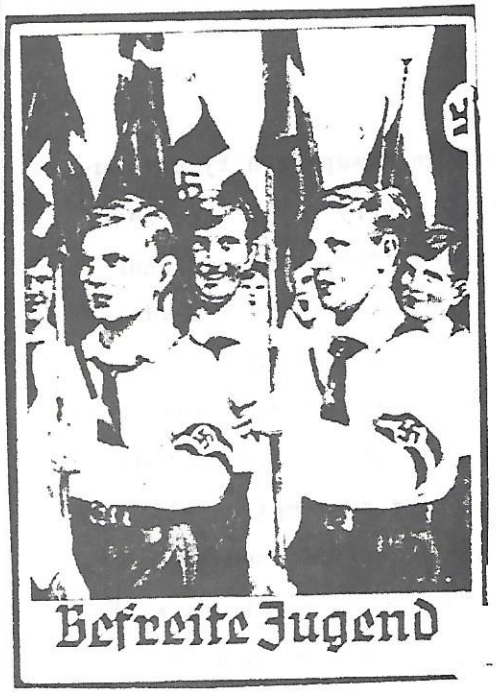
The false news spread in foreign newspapers by unscrupulous instigators, whose effect might be a very fatal one, have excited deep indignation throughout Germany. The great national revolution has been executed with splendid orderliness and admirable discipline. Commercial and private life is going on undisturbed and everybody - notwithstanding his nationality and confession - might travel and do his business without being molested. The mean calumnies ought to awake the disgust and contempt of all honest people. We beg you therefore, to influence your commercial friends accordingly and to maintain your business relations with Germany as before. The sooner the unwarranted and unheard of propaganda of horrors is stopped, the sooner the measures will be ended, the German national movement was obliged to take.

VERBAND KERAMISCHER GEWERKE IN DEUTSCHLAND E.V.

i.V. Dr. Wenke.

Propaganda Card Corner

Among the scarcer sets of Third Reich postcards is a set of nine multi-color cards produced by Leopold Stocker during the period following the reunion of Austria and Germany. Shown below are five cards from this set. Can anyone send in the other four designs?



The Administrative Areas of Germany

by Donald E. Slawson

Even after the Weimar Republic was formed, Germany seemed a confusing hodge-podge of areas to Americans. The historical basis for this is clear. The territory encompassed by "Germany" was the result of the unification of numerous small, medium and (relatively) large kingdoms, duchys, principalities, free cities, and almost every type of royal territory which can be named. After the Franco-Prussian War of the 1870s, these were militarily unified by Prussia into the country we today call Germany. This unification was only gradually implemented at the political and territorial level.

When the Weimar Republic was formed in 1919 it was a federation of 19 Lands (the German equivalent of a state; pural Länder). These Länder, with the exception of Thüringen (Thuringia) had existed prior to the First World War. Politically a Land was an entity; however, territorially several of these Länder were fragmented, being composed not of contiguous territory as are our states, but rather being composed of a main body with one or more enclaves of varying size (some as large as the main body) within neighboring (or sometimes distant) Länder.

Since the Länder were the political units forming the national government, the Länder may be likened to American states. Politically this is reasonably accurate; however, territorially this breaks down when one looks at Land Prussia. In American terms each of the Länder, except Land Prussia, would correspond to a state east of the Mississippi River while Land Prussia would be everything west of the Mississippi. Of course an area this large had to be subdivided for administrative purposes. Unlike the other Länder, Prussia was administratively divided into Provinces, each Province being one or more historically independent entity which had passed to Prussian control. In area these Prussian Provinces were the equivalent of the other Länder.

This makes it convenient for an American to equate both a Land (except Land Prussia) and a Prussian Province to what we know as a state. For those bothered by the fact that this is a territorial rather than a political definition of a state, bear in mind that after the National Socialists (Nazis) came to power all Land diets (governing bodies) were suspended and the soverign power of all Länder transferred to the Reich (national government). After January 30, 1934 there was no unit in Germany which could be politically equated to our concept of a state.

Throughout the life of the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich the rationalization of internal boundaries was a continuing process i.e.:

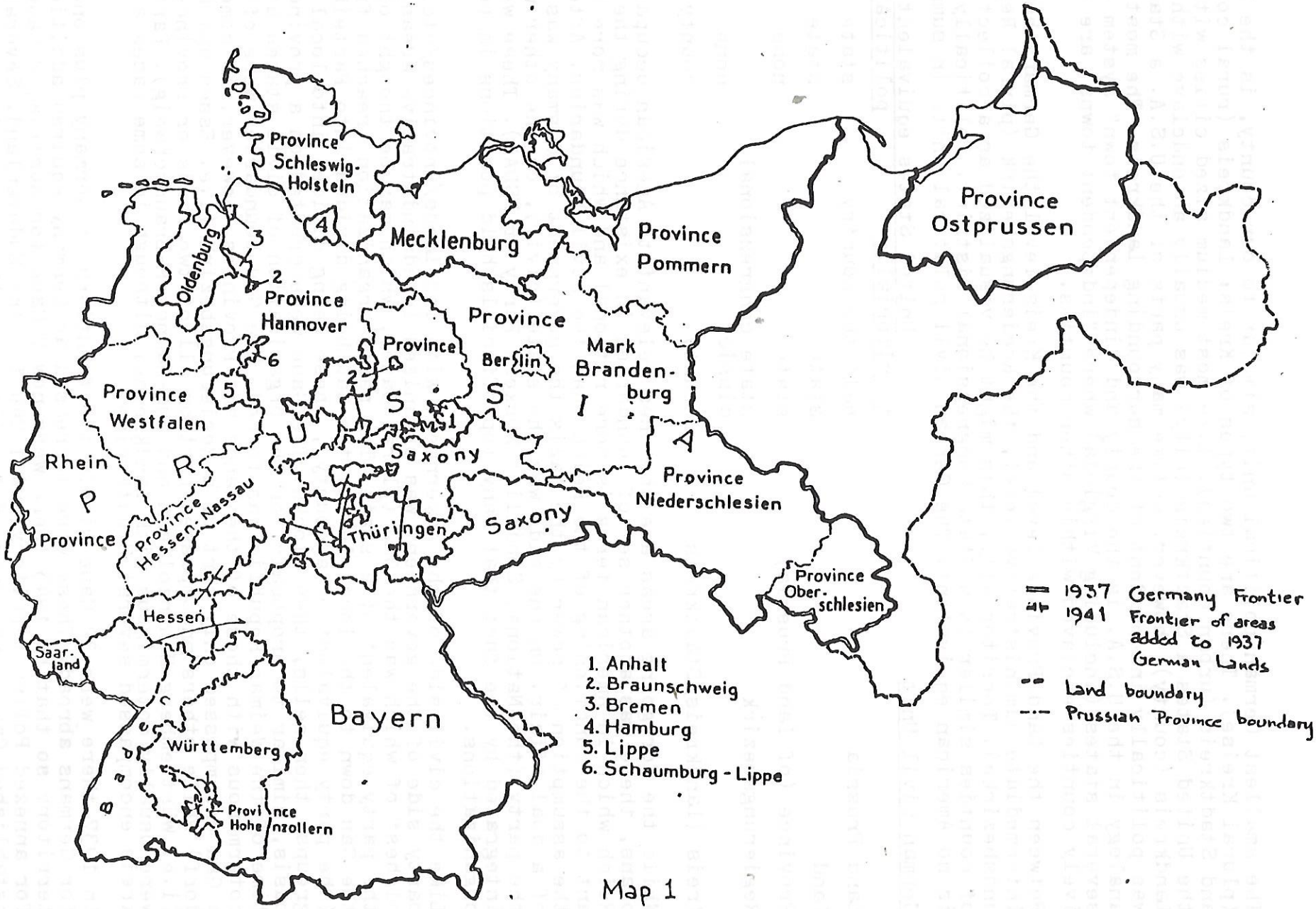
* In the early days of the Weimar Republic, the Land Thüringen - the only new land in the Republic - was formed by combining the Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach; the Duchies of Saxe-Meiningen, Saxe-Altenburg, and Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (less the district of Coburg which opted to join Land Bayern); and the Principalities of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen, Reuss (elder line) and Reuss (younger line) into a single Land. While the creation of this new Land served to greatly simplify the boundaries in the Thüringen area, the result was still not a contiguous area. Land Thüringen had three exclaves - two in Province Saxony and one in Land Bayern - and within Thüringen were numerous Prussian exclaves - one of Province Hessen-Nassau, the others of Province Saxony.

* In 1929 the Land Waldeck-Pyromont was absorbed into Prussia, Waldeck going to Province Hessen-Nassau and Pyromont going to Province Hannover.
* In 1937 the Land Oldenburg exclaves of Birkenfeld and Lübeck-Eutin (which did not include the city of Lübeck, a Land unto itself) went to Prussia, the former to the Rhine Province and the latter to Province Schleswig-Holstein. The city of Wilhelmshaven, which had been brought by Prussia in 1853 was restored to Oldenburg. The Land Lübeck was absorbed into the Prussian Province Schleswig-Holstein.
* In 1941 the boundary of Land Braunschweig (Brunswick) was redrawn to combine two of the three large pieces of Braunschweig into a single territory. To accomplish this the Landkreis and Statkreis (terms which are defined below) Goslar of the Province Hannover were given to Braunschweig. In exchange Braunschweig gave Province Hannover the Landkreis Holmunden. In addition several smaller pieces of Brunswickian and Prussian territory changed hands.

Thus, by 1941, the internal boundaries of Germany, while still perhaps confusing by American standards, were much more rational than they had been only 25 years earlier. Map 1 shows the boundaries of the Länder and Prussian Provinces within the 1937 German frontier as they existed in 1941. Additions made to these Länder by the annexation of territory conquered between 1938 and 1941 are shown.**Not pictured are the boundaries of annexed territory which became new Länder (namely Luxembourg, Elsass-Lothringen (Alsace-Lorraine), and Osterreich (Austria). The frontier of 1937 and internal boundaries of 1941 are chosen for the map because the Allied declaration of occupation areas is based on internal boundaries as they existed in 1941. Thus, while there is a logical reason for depicting the boundaries in 1941, it is merely a snapshot of one instant in a continuing process of boundary modification and does not show boundaries as they existed in 1945. For example, in 1944 the following modifications were decreed:

* On April 1st the Province Hessen-Nassau was split, the southern portion being designated Province Nassau and the northern portion Province Kurhessen. At the same time the Landkreis Schmalkaden (exclaved within Thüringen) was assigned to the Regierungsbezirk (another term defined below) Erfurt of the Prussian Province Saxony.
* The Regierungsbezirk Erfurt of the Prussian province of Saxony was assigned to Thüringen. This served to attach the large portion of the Thüingen enclave of Sonderhausen to the body of Thüringen. In addition all Prussian enclaves within Thüringen (namely: district Schmalkaden--which until three months previously had been part of Hesse-Nassau, districts Schleusingen and Ziegenbruch of Province Saxony, and other small areas belonging to Province Saxony) were given to Thüringen. This served to almost rationalize the boundaries of Thüingen.

(**) The Belgian districts of Eupen and Malmedy in the west and a large amount of Polish territory in the east were annexed into Land Prussia. Eupen and Malmedy went to the Rhine Province; part of the Polish territory went to Ostprussia and two new Provinces, Danzig-Westprussia and Warthenland (not deliniated on the map) were formed. Three Landkreise of former Czec territory were incorporated into Land Bayern (Bavaria).



Map 1

Land Boundaries - 1941

The smallest German political unit, similar to our county, is the Kreis (plural Kreise). There are two types of Kreis: Landkreis (rural counties) and Stadtkreis (urban counties). Like most medium sized cities within the United States a Stadtkreis (city) was usually an endclave within a Landkreis (county), however, unlike many parts of the U.S.A. a Stadtkreis was politically independent of the surrounding Landkreis. The most direct analogy in the U.S.A. is the county and "independent town" system of several states (including Virginia) where "independent towns" are effectively counties enclaved within other counties.

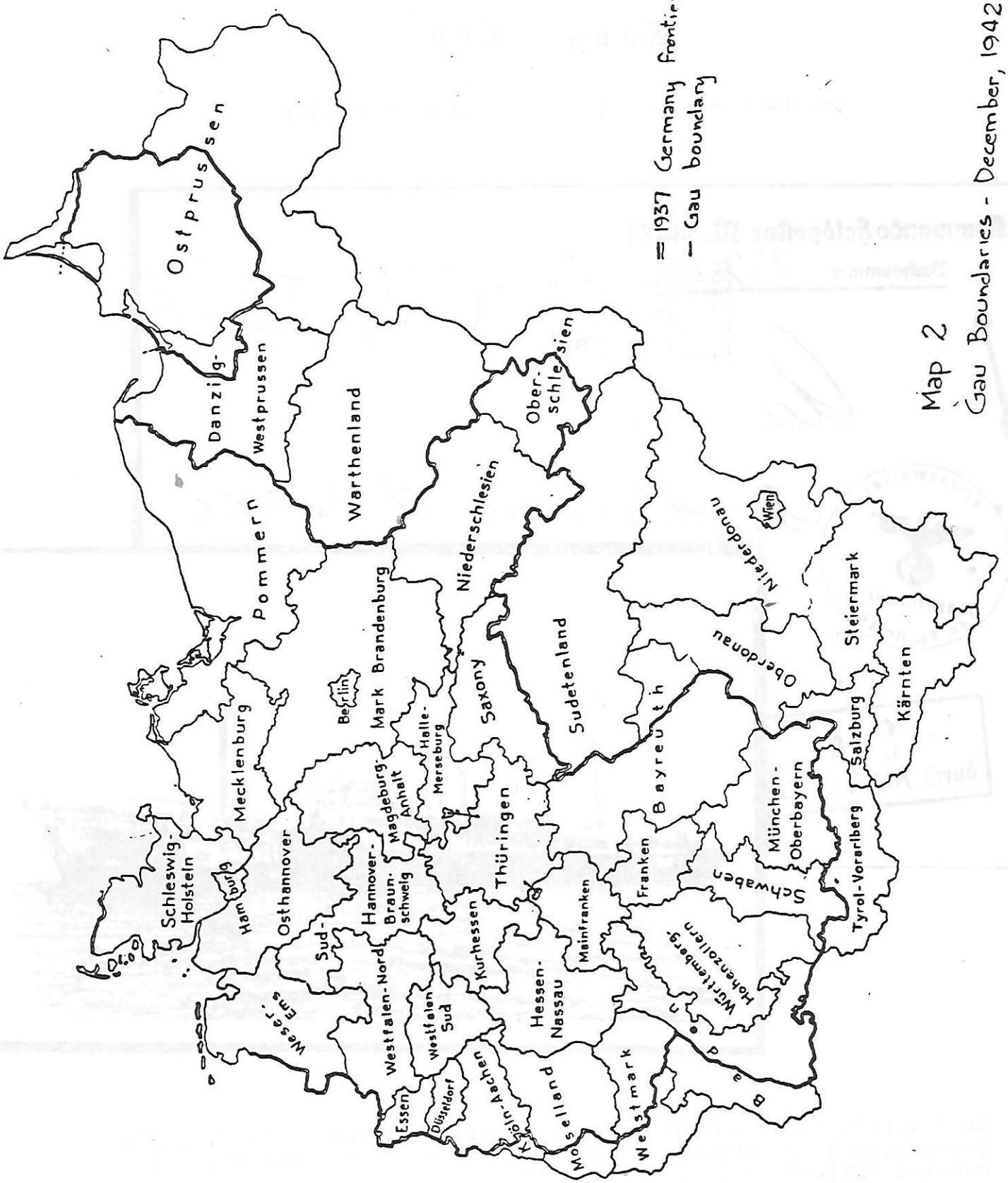
Between the Land/Province level and the Kreis level the Germans had an intermediate administrative level, the Regierungsbezirk (plural Regierundsbezirke). Territorially, this might be visualized as a collection of counties similar to a State Congressional District. Politically, there is no American equivalent. The German civil political units in summary:

German Civil Unit	United States equivalent territorially	politically
Land Prussia	half the country	state
Land	state	state
Province (of Land Prussia)	state	none
Regierungsbezirk	state congressional disrict	none
Kreis (Landkreis/Stadtkreis)	county	county

While the foregoing areas are the ones relevant to American occupational plans, there was another set of boundaries in existance during the Third Reich which in American terms is more rational and which was more important to the functioning of the Reich than the civil boundaries. After the assumption of power by the Nazis the government of Germany was sort of a dual affair. On one side was the state (civil), on the other was the party (the National Socialist Workers Party or NSDAP). These were integrated by the fact that many top officials held positions in both organizations.

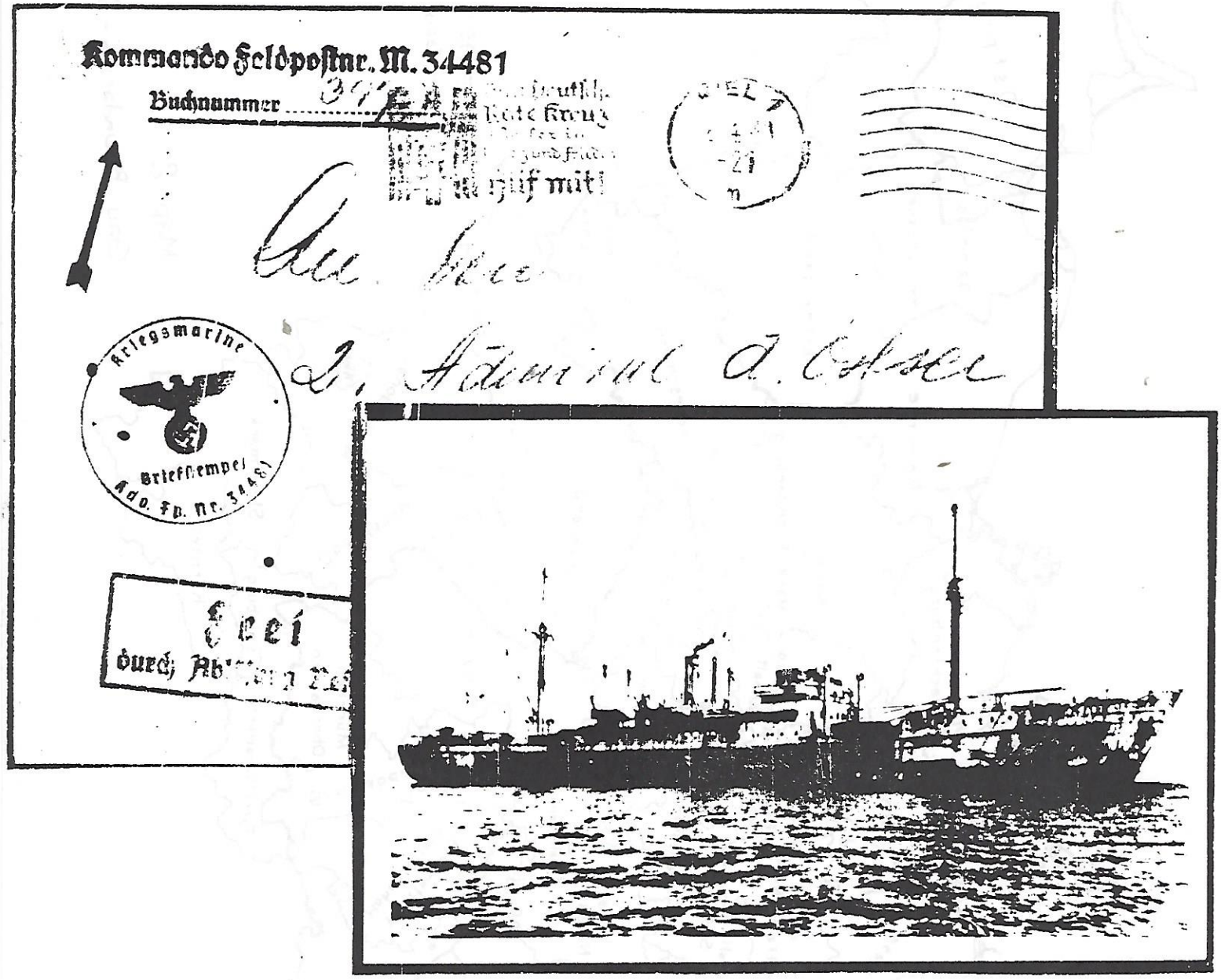
Like the civil side of the government with its Lands/Provinces/etc., the party side of the government was organized in administrative areas, the highest of which was the Gau (plural Gaue), which may be thought of as the party equivalent of a state. The party organization reached from the Gau down to the local level, the Gau being divided into Parteikreise (the party equivalent of a county), these being divided into local groups, then cells, then blocks. The Gaue were created on a provincial basis, similar to proposals for the organization of civil states at the time of the Weimar Republic was formed. The Gau boundaries were often coterminous with those of the Lands and Provinces, however, in some cases a Gau encompassed only part of a Regierungsbezirk (i.e. Essen and Düsseldorf) while others encompassed part or all of two Lands or Provinces (i.e. Württemberg-Hohenzollern and Sud-Hannover-Braunschweig). Partikreise were usually coterminous with Landkreise, although in some cases a Parteikreis encompassed several Stadtkreise.

In 1937 there were 32 Gaue within the frontiers of Germany plus one for Germans abroad. These were increased as Germany aquired additional territory so that by 1943 there were now 7 Gaue for Austria, 2 Gaue for annexed Polish territory and 1 Gau for the Sudetenland. Several established Gaue were expanded to encompass other occupied territory. Map 2 shows the Gaue boundaries effective December 1942.


= 1937 Germany frontier
– Gau boundary
Ostpreussen
Danzig-Westprussen
Pommern
Warthenland
Ober-schlesien
Niederschlesien
Wien
Niederdonau
Oberdonau
Steiermark
Kärnten
Salzburg
Tyrol-Vorarlberg
Sudetenland
Saxony
Berlin
Mark Brandenburg
Halle-Merseburg
Magdeburg-Anhalt
Mecklenburg
Bayreuth
Franken
München-Oberbayern
Schwaben
Württemberg-Hohenzollern
Thüringen
Kurhessen
Mainfranken
Hessen-Nassau
Hannover-Braunschweig
Osthannover
Sud-Hannover
Westfalen-Nord
Westfalen Sud
Schleswig-Holstein
Hamburg
Weser-Ems
Essen
Düsseldorf
Köln-Aachen
Moselland
Westmark
Baden
Map 2
Gau Boundaries - December, 1942

Navy Log

Merchant Raider "Stier" - Feldpost #34481



Ex-"Cairo", built Germania Werft (Kiel), launched Oct. 7, 1936. Commissioned as merchant raider (Handels-Stor-Kreuzer #6) and renamed "Stier" on December 1, 1939.

Displacement: 4778 tons; speed:14 knots; crew: 324; Armament: six 5.9" guns, two 21" torpedo tubes, two aircraft.

Sank four ships (total 29,406 tons) during 139 day Atlantic cruise under Capt. H. Gerlach, ending Sept. 27, 1942 when fouth victim (U.S. Liberty Ship "Stephen Hopkins") returned fire and both ships went down.

T.R.S.G. Auction No. 50

Lot	Description	RES
1.	Wagner pcd P249 (Borek 220), Plauenl. '34, bedarfs VF	$ 7
2.	Photocd w/Mi 550 tied Sieffen 4.9.34 (FDC), bedarfs VF	8
3.	Feldpost "Einheit 91404" (See p.2, TRSG Bulletin 89) VF	9
4.	Same, mute can. 12.'43 frm Fp#33093, RAD (Labor Service) F	5
5.	Same, 2 to Marinehilfsbaurat Cherbourg 3. & 4.'44,Fp#04312i	6
6.	Color Stuttgart Garden Show card w/SPC 22.4.'39, VF	10
7.	"Sara" airmail cd Berlin to Chicago 12.'40 w/Mi 522,523 VF	14
8.	Same, cvr Wien to Atlanta 9.'41 w/Mi 524,742, contents VF	14
9.	Cvr Braunschwieg 30.5.'39 w/Mi 669 F	5
10.	Cvr Hamburg 1.9.'33 w/Mi 471 VF	7
11.	Reichskolonialbund membership card w/15 dues labels VF	20
12.	Same, 2" x 3" label "Kampf mit uns!" w/B&W shield F	7
13.	Pcd P225I tied Mitteldeutsche Kolonialshau Tetschen 12.'40	7
14.	Wrapper w/Mi 787 tied Berlin 7.'43 cens to Holland F	6
15.	Three B&M airmail cvrs to NYC, one w/Mi 32 single frank	7
16.	Five censor cvrs, incl B-Ob (11.'39), K-1a, Mi 527, F-VF	9
17.	Three March '45, pcds P314II (two), cvr w/12 Pfg Hitler F	5
18.	Cens. airmail set Cvr Stuttgart 5.'40 w/Mi 739-42, 745 VF	5
19.	Cd w/6 Pfg Ostland o'prt tied Riga 12.'43 slo can (Schultz p.267) VF	13
20.	Early TR Pcds, P248 & P254 (159), both bedarfs, P249 mint VF	6
21.	Hitler photocd w/Mi 648tied Breslau SPC, nice photo but some wear!	5
22.	Same, 'Manner der Zeit' #91 w/665-8 tied SPC Munich Int. Raceweek VF	12
23.	Same, Otto Hoppe Bild 4 w/Czec & German stmps tied '38 SPC VF	15
24.	Bedarfs cd photo RAD im Kriegsseinsatz can 7.'42 VF RAD on Ostfr.VF	9
25.	Hitler cd same lot 22 but w/Czech stmp tied Asch liberation '38 VF	13
26.	Color pcd (Bernhard 117) Munich Day of German Art 1937 w/SPC VF	14
27.	Multiview photocd Munich memorials for 1923 Martyrs, Bedarfs use VF	10
28.	1937 Manöver cd MG crew w/HJ observing, Bedarfs uage RR can VF	9
29.	Breman postal cd (Borek 105/C/5) w/SPC 44 German Phil. Tag '38 F	6
30.	Tag der Brief. pvt cd (same Borek 285) w/762 tied SPC Munich VF	6
31.	Photocd Adm. Räder on battleship D.K.M. Bedafs & VF	12
32.	Berlin Ost-West achse at night photocd (König #506) Bedarfs VF	6
33.	KdF special cd "70 Years Postal Cards" w/Berlin SPC 20.4.'40 VF	8
34.	Berlin postal cd (Borek 133/C/1) w/SPC Berlin stamp show 4.'37 VF	6
35.	Photocd RAD Führer Hierl '34 (early Hoffman cd.) Bedarfs F-VF	8
36.	Same, SA Stabschef Viktor Lutze w/897-8 w/SPC Berlin 8.'44 VF	12
37.	Color cd (Bernh.#301) Berghof terrace,Bedarfs Bad R'hall 6.'39 VF	12
38.	Color cd Der Deutsche Infanterie C/1550 bedarfs Fp usage Very nice	9
39.	Songcard "Hannelore" sent via Fp Briefstp. illegible F-VF	11
40.	Photocd Hitler & Mussolini (Hoffmann #25) w/763 tied SPC Munich VF	13
41.	Hitler photocd (uniform w/cap) Czech stmp w/Brno can 3.'39 VF	14
42.	Sp envelope H Birthday w/664 tied SPC Wien '38 B'day VF	10
43.	Fp cd Muller-Schönbausen C1410 frm SA Sturm 21 B'stempel! Dutch SA	18
44.	Photocd RAD formation w/spades, Bedarfs 20.4.40 Waldmohr F-VF	6
45.	First flt Hindenburg to USA 2.5.36, NY receiving Mi 531 & 606 VF	11.
	Registered Fp Cvrs frm Combat Divisions, cond. VF unless noted o'wise:	
46.	K-193 (26 I.D.) 10.'42,Fp#18785 (II/I.R.39) - seige of Rzhev,Russia	7
47.	K-197 (44 I.D.) 10.'43,Fp#35548 (Sig.Co.44) - Gothic Line in Italy	8
48.	K-360(334 I.D.) 6.'42,Fp#43924 (I/I.R.754) - Gothic Line in Italy	8
49.	K-423(205 I.D.) 7.'40,Fp#24653 (Fus. Btl.) - Battle of France	6
50.	K-554 (29 I.D.) 2.'43,Fp#08270 (Sup. Tr.) - destroyed Stalingrad	14
51.	K-575(339 I.D.) 5.'41,Fp#14587 (I/I.R.693) - Battle of France	7
52.	Vichy air post issue (Scott C6-13) On cvr St.Dennis to USA 12.'43 VF	12
53.	Cvr w/Norway exile set (Scott 259-66) can Norwegian Fp 5.'43 cens VF	9

Lot	Description	RES
	The next 12 lots are Wagner Charity stmps on cvr (Bedarfs unless noted)	
54.	R-cvr w/Mi 501 plus 482 & pr A379 can Berlin 4.'34 (local & R rate) VF	9
55.	Berlin commercial cvr w/Mi 501 plus 482 can 5.'34 (local rate) VF	8
56.	Mi. 499,500 & 501 on cvr w/rural Klebow can (Altdamm) 12.'33 VF	12
57.	Mi.499,501 plus 512 & pr 517 cvr to USA can Berlin 2.'34 F-VF	6
58.	Mi.500 (3) for inland rate on cvr can Görlitz 7.'34. VF	9
59.	Mi.499 & 503 plus 512 on cvr w/Görlitz slogan can 12.'33 VF	8
60.	Pr. Mi.504 (dbl inland rate) on commercial cvr can Ansbach 2.'34 VF	12
61.	Mi.499,500 & 501 on cvr Stuttgart to Berlin 3.'34 VF	8
62.	Mi 503 single frank on local cvr Berlin 1.'34 . Very pretty! VF	10
63.	Mi 504 single frank cvr can Hizzenheim 11.'33 to Berlin Insur. Co. VF	12
64.	Mi 501 (5) on cvr to USA frm Woolworth Berlin branch 2.'33 F-VF	8
65.	Complete set Mi.499-507 on R-cvr can Augsburg 12.'33. Spectacular! VF	45
66.	Cens p'cd rec. Spivak, Colorado on Dec. 11, 1941 (See Pg 21,Bull.81)	12
67.	Hitler-Muss. Mi 763 tied pcd 25.11.41 Berlin Europe Against Bolsch.VF	9
68.	Same stamp on Philat. cvr can Regensburg 30.1.41 First Day Issue VF	8
69.	Hitler Mi 691 tied cvr Saarbrücken 50th B'day can 20.4.'39. VF	7
70.	Hitler Mi 865 tied Bedarfs R-cvr by Eckernförd can. 11.'44 VF	9
71.	Richard Wagner sepia pcd Bedarfs usage (nice viewed w/cvrs above!) VF	8
72.	Scarce Colonies "Episkop" cd A35 Bild 2 (See Fig 12,Pg 8,Bull 46) VF	15
73.	Same, "Episkop" cd A35 Bild 3 (See Fig 30, Pg 13, Bulletin 71) VF	15
74.	Crn blk 10 Mi 830 plus blk 4 on cvr tied Magdeburg can 3.'43 Bedarfs!	18
75.	'35 Rally cd AH in window Deutscher Hof (photo) usu. stmps & can VF	16
76.	Official cvr frm Arbeitsamt Bremen to Deschimag U-boat assembly in Bremen can. 10.'44. Nice printed envelope w/exemption note & seal VF	17
77.	Early Fp cvr frm Fp#12315 (2Kp/Pi.Btl.16) Fp can 8.11.'39. Typed mess.	12
78.	Photocd 'Bremen' steamer w/cvr Seepost flag can 7.'38 (frt only) F-VF	8
79.	Two stmpless offical cvrs w/Iron Cross slogan cans (diff designs) VF	12
80.	Eight sp cans w/appropriate stmp on card crns. Nice clean group! VF	6
81.	Cvr to IRC Geneva frm Udine, Ital. Soc. Rep. can. 3.'44. Many diff. Italian & German censor markings plus o'pint Ital. stmps. Interesting.	14
82.	POW ltrsht 10.'41 frm Frenchman in Stalag IIID to St. Denis. Nice cens	8
83.	POW parcel cd to USA 7.'43 frm Belgian in Stalag XIB, Ger & US cens.VF	12
84.	POW cd to Danish Red Cross frm Dane in Stalag XVIIA 8.'43. VF	9
85.	Cvr to Bureau Education Geneva frm Stalag XII/F. No can but nice F	6
86.	Forerunner!! WWI Fp cvr frm Funkr-Abt 128 can 11.11.18 (day armistice)	20
87.	Mint Fp ltrsht w/Hitler 'Am Ende aber steht unser Sieg!' inside. VF	8
88.	Cvr frm NSDAP BDM school Selzeck to Luxembrg, R-cvr can 6.'44. Pretty!	15
	Next 7 lots German Feldpost sent via DDP offices in Bohemia-Moravia	
89.	Cd to Wien frm Schimitz Kaserne via Brünn DDP 11.'41 (Motor training)VF	9
90.	Cvr frm Depot Recon. Section 44 can civil P.O. Olmütz 7.'43. VF	8
91.	Nice picture cd frm 4 Machine Gun Training Co. via Prerau DDP 4.'41 VF	9
92.	Color pcd Brunn frm Art. Rgt. 109 w/10.'42 Dual lang. Brunn city can VF	8
93.	Off cvr to Wien Arsenal from Army Ordnance Acceptance 440 via DDP Prag in 4.'44. Lrg Feldpost in red & DDP B-M h/s make this v. attractive	14
94.	Sim. cvr but from A.O.A. 449 at Waffenwerke Brunn via DDP 4.'43. VF	12
95.	Reused off cvr frm Rifle Depot Btln 2 via DDP Mähr-Weisskirchen 9.41 VF	9
96.	Off cvr frm Polizeipräsident in Köln 10.'40 w/Gebührenpfl. Dienstsache! notation (recipient pays), red Postage due & manus. "12". Nice item!	12

SEND ALL BIDS TO: Fred Stengel, 1248 Magnolia Place, Union, NJ 07083
THE CLOSING DATE for Auction No. 50 is August 25, 1989.

Prices Realized

TRSG AUCTION NO. 49

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	$22.00	6	$17.00	11	$13.00	16	$38.00	20	$18.00
2	17.00	7	20.00	13	11.00	17	40.00	21	42.00
4	15.00	9	9.00	14	29.00	18	26.00	22	21.00
5	17.00	10	8.00	15	29.00	19	28.00		