



# Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

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

**VOL. XLI No. 3 (Whole No. 164) 2007**

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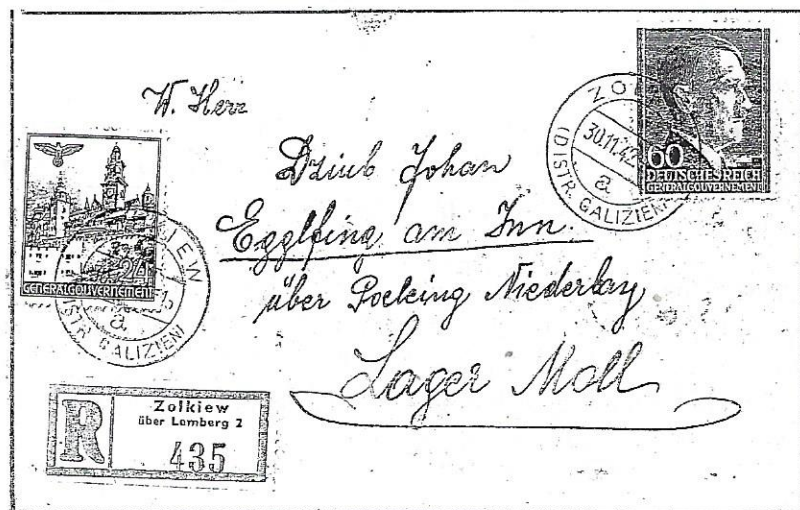
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## Contents:

Page 3	Combat Division Profile: 99th Jäger Division - J. Lewis
Page 4	Combat Division Profile: 257th Infantry Division - J. Lewis
Page 5	Intercepted Mail: Four Years To Go Sixty Miles – B. Beede
Page 6	Story Behind the Stamp: Reinhard Heydrich – K. Stefanacci
Page 7	Ill-Fated Voyage of the 'St. Louis' – S. Simon
Page 9	SS Feldpost: SS Hauptämter – J. Painter
Page 10	Postal Rates: Foreign Rates Jan. 30, 1933 to May 8, 1945 (Part 3)- B. Ferguson
Page 14	Commemorating the Tripartite Alliance – H. Strack
Page 17	Interesting Third Reich Covers - R. Morgan
Page 19	Luftfeldpost Route Map in March 1943 - J. Painter
Page 20	Combat Division Profile: 326th Infantry Division - J. Lewis
Page 21	Navy Log: Yacht 'Hela' – M. Lynes
Page 22	Combat Division Profile: 14th Infantry Division – J. Lewis
Page 23	TRSG Auction No.107





## STUDY GROUP NOTES

**TRSG Meeting** - an informal meeting held on May 26 during **NOJEX 2007** was attended by Joe Chervenyak, Jim Korsten (a new member), Henry Laessig, Jim Lewis, Ron Morgan, John Painter, Phil Parker, Fred Porter, Jim Pullin and Keith Stupell. Among the subjects discussed was why more members don't participate in our auctions, particularly after seeing the prices of Third Reich material at dealer booths. We'd appreciate any comments/suggestions from our membership re our auctions. While annual conventions of the American Airmail, Israel Philatelists and Christopher Columbus Societies provided most of the exhibits at NOJEX 2007, medals were awarded to three Third Reich related exhibits: **Ghetto Post and Labor Camps in German Occupied Europe** (Morris Rosen); **Postal Letters sent from Panzer Divisions** (Joe Chervenyak) and **German Official Postal Service in Occupied Russia 1941-1944** (Jim Lewis).

**The 10th SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'** - in response to details on Florian Geyer in Bulletin 163, we received this follow up inquiry. Georg von Fruntsberg (24 Sept. 1473 - 20 August 1528) was an Imperial military commander and leader of the Landsknechte under Maximilian I and Karl V. He led his troops against the French, the Swiss, the Venetians and in the Low Countries. After having distinguished himself bravely in the battle at Regensburg in 1504, the Emperor knighted him on the scene. Among others, von Fruntsberg won victories at Bicocca (1522) and Pavia (1525). During its formation in April 1943 the 10th SS Panzer Division was named "Karl der Große" but Hitler objected and so the division was re-named on November 20, 1943. The earlier name was later given to the 33rd Waffen-Grenadier- Division der SS "Charlemagne" (the French name of Karl der Große).

**New Authors** - we are pleased to include contributions from first time authors Dr. Harry R. Strack (Page 14) and Ronald Morgan (Page 17) in this issue. The primary purpose of our study group is to share information with the membership and this includes submitting articles or illustrations of covers you find interesting. Don't worry about formatting, etc., that's the editor's job. It's nice to see one's name in print and, like preparing exhibits, it enhances the pleasure of collecting.

**P.O.W. Camps in North America** - a new feature suggested by Ron Morgan is to detail mail to German prisoners held in camps in the USA and Canada. As P.O.W. camps were located in most states in the U.S.A. We are looking for illustrations of mail sent to these camps because almost all mail to Germany from the camps used standardized form letter sheets that are of little interest. The first of these articles will appear in 2008 and we hope that all members can contribute to this new feature.

### Prices Realized -Auction # 106

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
2	\$ 10.00	11	\$105.00	33	\$26.00	37	\$22.00	64	\$10.00
9	47.00	12	70.00	34	28.00	54	36.00	68	10.00
10	47.00	13	68.00	35	53.00	62	10.00		

**Cover Illustration:** This registered cover was sent in November 1942 from Zolkiew in the General Gouvernement to a Polish laborer in 'Lager Moll' in Lower Bavaria on the Inn River. These laborers were required to wear armbands stating their origin "Ostarbeiter" (Eastern Workers). They had a curfew in the camps but could come and go as they pleased in their spare time which was restricted. This cover is lot 29 in a nice selection of SS, GG, etc. lots in Auction 107. Good Hunting!



## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

### 99th Jäger Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS		AUXIL	
TACT	KENN	JÄGER	ARTY	UNITS	
99	756	206	218	99	99

The short-lived 99th Jäger Division was formed in December 1940 in Wehrkreis XIII with the 206th & 218th Jäger Regiments. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 47130 and K-756 in lieu of tactical FpA 99. This division took part in the invasion of the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941 as an element of Army Group South.

After the division had suffered heavy casualties during the drive across the Ukraine and into southern Russia, the OKW decided that lightly equipped Jäger divisions were not suited for the rigors of combat on the Eastern Front. Therefore, the 99th Jäger Division was returned to Germany on November 15, 1941 and reorganized as the 7th Gebirgs (Mountain) Division during the winter of 1941-42. The 218th Jäger Regiment was disbanded as part of this reorganization while FpA 99 and Fp.# 47130 were assigned to the Gebirgs division but with a new K-873.

Former K-756 and new Fp# 58617 were initially reassigned to FpA 520zw, then to FpA 944 of the 4th Fallschirmjäger (Parachute) Division.



Cover sent to Military District Command in Aschaffenburg in August 1941 from Fp. # 12028 (Stab III /Jäger Regiment 218) via FpA 99 (K-756)

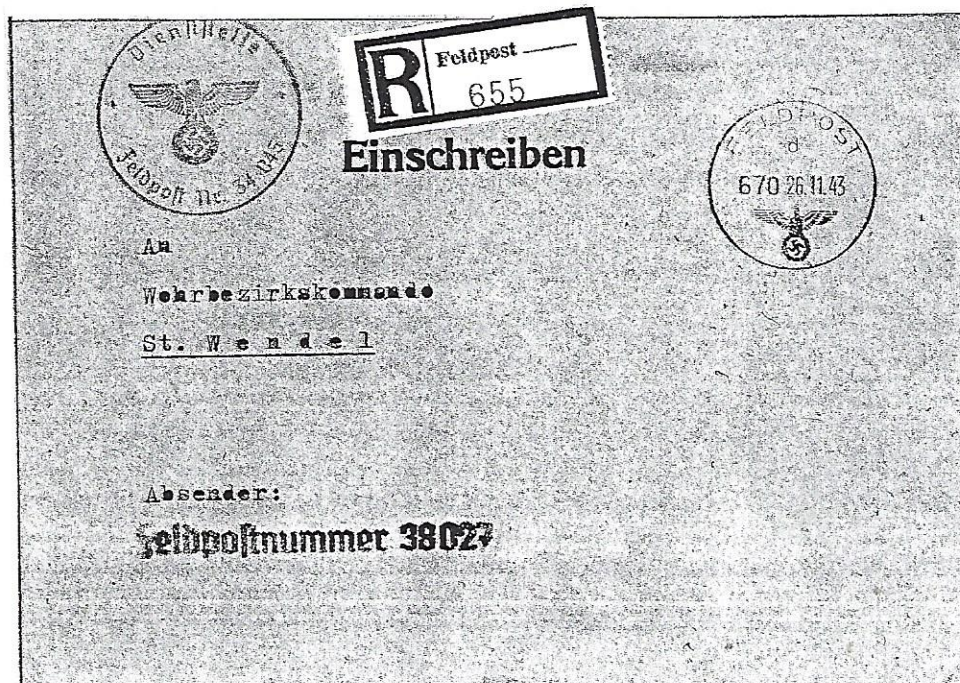


**COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:****257th Infantry Division**

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
257	670	457	466	477	257	257

Formed upon mobilization in August 1939 (4th wave) with Prussians and Berliners, the P.O. was assigned Fp. # 30765 as a return address and Kenn 670 as a coded identity. The 257th Infantry Division fought in Poland and during the western campaign. It was on occupation duty in Poland from July 1940 until June 1941, when it invaded Russia with Army Group Center. It fought in the battles of Uman and Kiev Pockets, where huge numbers of Russians were captured. In March 1942 it held Slavyansk against massive Soviet attacks and, two months later, fought in the Battle of Kharkov where it suffered heavy losses. During 6th Army's drive to Stalingrad, the 257th Infantry Division took heavy casualties during the battles of Voronezh and Kalach and was sent to France in the fall of 1942 to rest and refit. Returning to Russia in April 1943, it was heavily engaged at Dnepropetrovsk and the battle of the Dneiper Bend. In early 1944 the division suffered heavy losses in the retreat from the Dneiper. After it was virtually destroyed near Jassy during the summer of 1944, the division was formally disbanded on October 27, 1944. In October 1944 the division was rebuilt (32nd Wave) in southern Poland from the partially formed 587th Grenadier Division. A new FpA 257 was assigned Fp.# 67660 and K-731. The new 257th Volksgrenadier Division was sent to the Western Front in December 1944. It fought in the Saar and was still in action when the war ended.



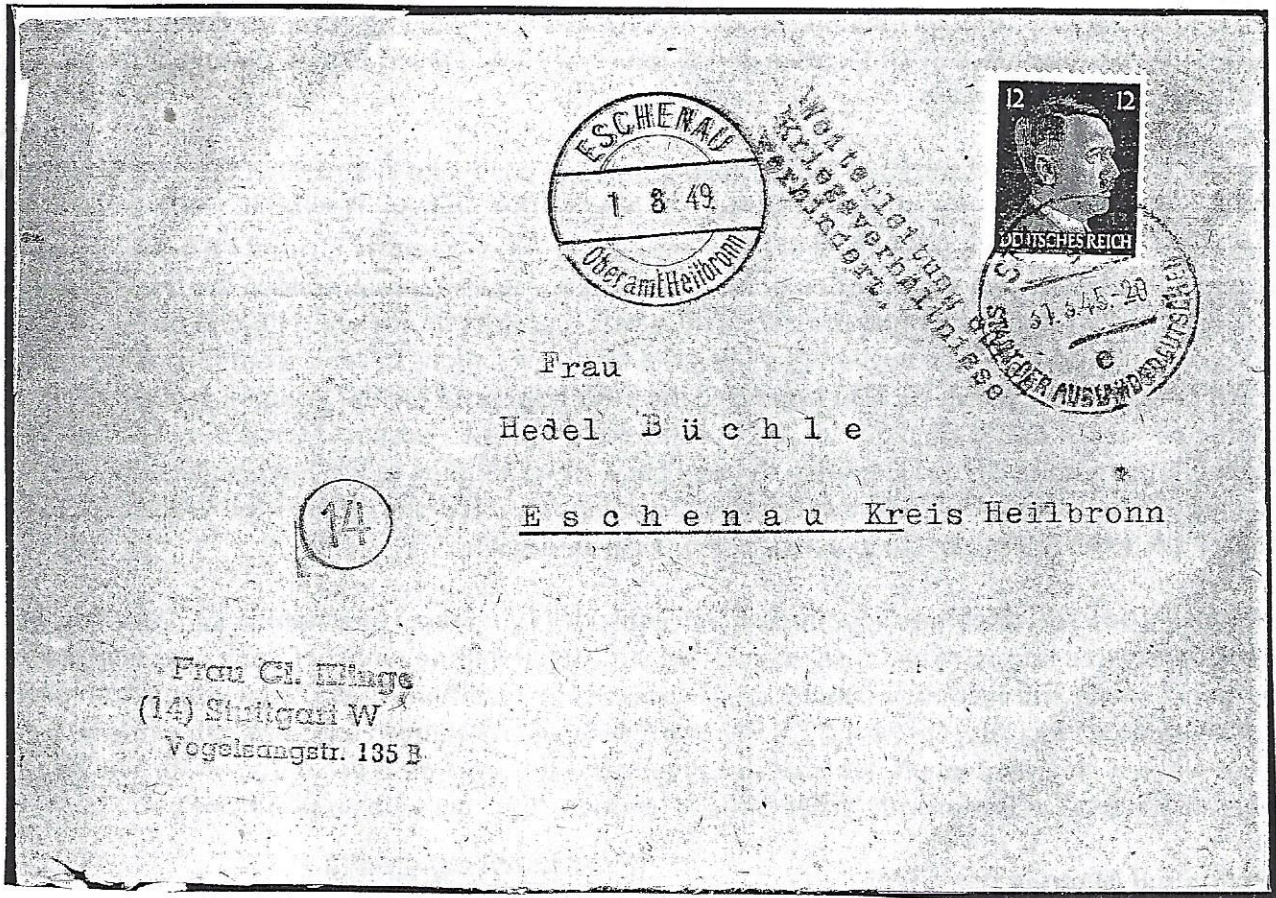
Cover sent to Military District Command in St. Wendel in November 1943 from Fp. # 38027 (2. Kompanie, Nachrichten Abtl. 257) via P.O. 257 (K-670).



# Intercepted Mail: Four Years To Go Sixty Miles

by John R. Painter

The letter was posted in Stuttgart on March 3, 1945 and addressed to a woman in the town of Eschenau in Kreis Heilbronn, which lies some sixty miles to the north of Stuttgart. Why the letter was detained so long is unclear. Perhaps the authorities just never got around to processing this item of mail. American forces may have intercepted the letter during the first weeks of April. In any case, the Eschenau P.O. added a postmark dated August 1, 1949 and a 3-line inscription in red between the postmarks that reads: "Delivery delayed because of obstacles created by the war."





## Story Behind the Stamp: Reinhard Heydrich by Kelly Stefanacci

Reinhard Heydrich was born on March 7, 1904 in Halle, Saxony-Anhalt. His parents were both musically involved and Reinhard developed a passion for the violin. He also displayed athletic ability, excelling in fencing and swimming. He joined the navy in 1922 and was commissioned as an officer in 1926. He was discharged in 1931 after a naval court of honor found him guilty of misconduct for refusing to marry a shipyard director's daughter with whom he had had an affair and his subsequent engagement to a young woman, Lina von Osten. He was left with no career prospects but remained engaged to von Osten, whom he married later that year. In the same year he joined the SS and, after a chance meeting with Himmler, was entrusted with the organization of the Security Service (SD), the intelligence and surveillance arm of the SS. After Hitler became chancellor in 1933, Heydrich was appointed chief of the political department of the Munich police force, and helped bring the political police forces throughout Germany under Himmler's control. He rose rapidly through the ranks of the SD. He was appointed SS chief for Berlin in 1934, and when Himmler became chief of all German police forces in 1936, Heydrich took charge of the SD, the criminal police and the Gestapo.

He played a role in the 1938 purge of the German army high command and planted false information that led to a similar purge by Stalin of the Red Army. As head of the Gestapo, Heydrich could incarcerate enemies of the Reich at will. In 1939 he became head of the Reich Security Central Office (RSHA) that was in charge of all security and secret police in the Third Reich. He also masterminded the fake "Polish" attack on the Glewitz radio transmitter that provided Hitler with a pretext for invading Poland on September 1, 1939. Soon afterward Heydrich began organizing the first deportations of Jews from Germany and Austria to ghettos in occupied Poland. He also organized the Einsatzgruppen (action groups), mobile killing squads that murdered almost one million Soviet and Polish Jews in German-occupied territories. On July 31, 1941. Hermann Göring commissioned Heydrich to carry out a "final solution to the Jewish question", authorizing him to take all steps necessary for the extermination of the Jews. He later chaired the Wannsee Conference on January 20, 1942 to discuss the logistics of the "final solution".

In September 1941 Heydrich was appointed Reichsprotektor (governor) of Bohemia and Moravia. He combined repressive measures and mass executions with an attempt to mollify Czech peasants and workers by improving social and economic conditions. His success in "pacifying" the Czech population lulled him into a false sense of security. On May 27, 1942 two Czech agents bombed and shot him while he was riding in his car without an armed escort. He died in a Prague hospital on June 4 at the age of 38. The Nazis staged an elaborate funeral in Berlin with Hitler calling Heydrich "the man with an iron heart".

A Bohemia and Moravia stamp (Mi. 131) with the Heydrich death mask was issued in the Protectorate on May 28, 1943, exactly one year after the attack. This stamp also exists in a much scarcer format, a special issue miniature sheet with one stamp that was given to the 800 officials who had attended his funeral.





## Ill-Fated Voyage of the 'St. Louis'

by Sam Simon

After the holocaust of November 10, 1938, the so-called "Crystal-night", economic and social conditions in Germany became impossible for the Jews. Even those who had intended to stay in Germany, in spite of everything, at this time decided to try to immigrate to whatever country possible. In view of the many thousands who wanted to do so, most countries either adopted the quota system or put other difficulties in the way to keep the number of persons seeking entry into them at the lowest possible minimum. In most cases the only way to gain a visa entry into a foreign land was to have relatives living there already. These relatives would guarantee that the person seeing admission would not be a burden to the state or seek welfare, especially since no one was allowed to take more than 20 Marks (about \$8.00) out of Germany.

Therefore, all those who had relatives living in foreign countries tried to get their help in vouching for them and, in the case of the U.S. A., a number system for waiting was inaugurated. This was similar to the system that one finds in stores today, "Take a number....and wait your turn."

But what of those would-be immigrants who had no relatives or friends living outside of Germany? There were many of them, hundreds, perhaps thousands. They took the opportunity of whatever presented itself in the form of a chance to get out.

One such "opportunity," perhaps only a rumor, was the story that Cuba would admit a certain number of refugees from Germany; no visa, affidavits, and so-forth were required. The call was: "Just come."

Unquestionably, many took the chance and advanced their money for the ship's tickets as that was all that was needed. After enough passengers had been booked to assure a full load, the German steamer 'St. Louis' of the Hamburg-American Line was put into service to transport these people and land them at Havana, Cuba.

The ship finally sailed on May 5, 1939 with a stop at Cherbourg, France. Everything went well until they arrived in Cuba where they learned that the Cuban Government didn't know a thing about this affair, that they would not allow the passengers to land and that none could enter the country.

*Now came the question:* What to do, where to go.... the tickets purchased were for one-way only? The captain of the 'St. Louis' could not take them back; even if he did so and if the return-passage would be paid, there was no return for them because the law stated that once one left Germany, one stayed out or would be sent to a concentration camp.

There was no other way out but to try to land somewhere else, but where? The ship left Cuba and called on several other ports in the hemisphere., including Florida, but not one country would give them permission to land. Finally it was decided that there was no other course but to return to Germany come what may.

Naturally the story of their fate was given prominence in the European press and, just as the ship was near the European continent, Holland issued the statement that it would be willing to



admit the passengers of the ill-fated voyage. So in June of 1939, the refugees landed in Holland but since they were **not** allowed to pursue any livelihood and no living quarters were available, it was decided to house them in an old established camp.

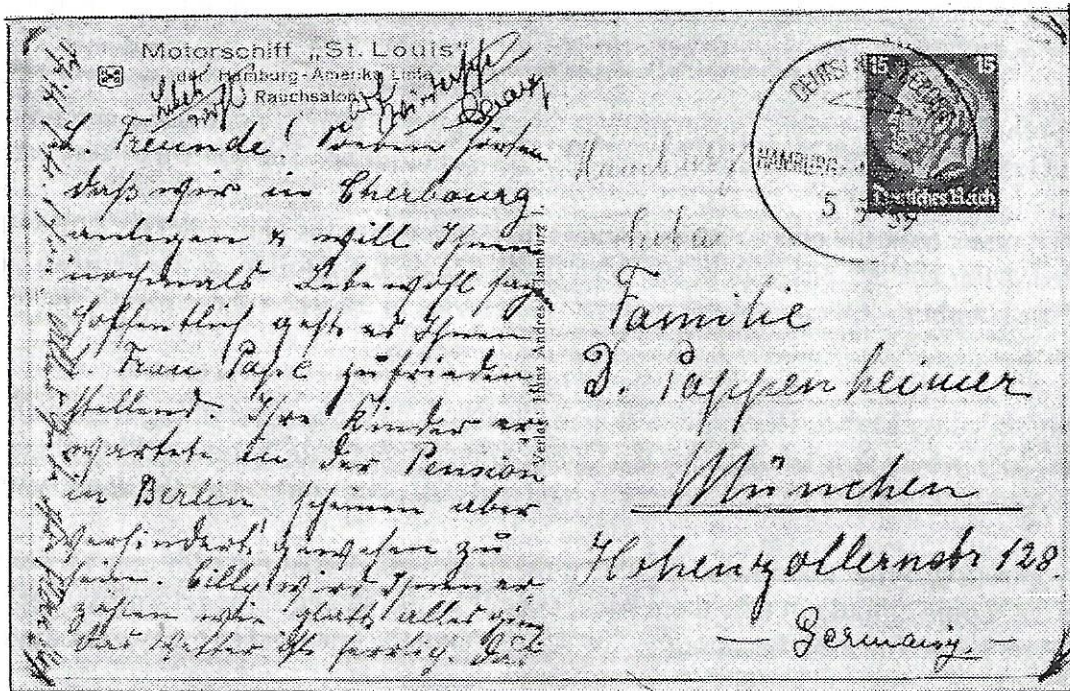
This was the camp, now reformed as a refugee camp, by the name of Westerbork. There the refugees stayed for several months until unforeseen events occurred and the Germans invaded Holland itself.

Immediately thereafter, Westerbork was changed into a concentration camp. Eventually it was filled with the Jews of Holland, including Anne Frank, who joined the "old tenants", and finally it was to be the collection station for the transports of the West to Auschwitz and the gas chambers,

The illustrated postcard shown below, innocent enough appearing, is just a picture card of the smoking salon of the liner 'St. Louis' and cancelled with the ship's postmark (in German) "German Sea post, Hamburg-American Line 5-5-39."

This type of cancel was used on all voyages of the ship and the only thing that distinguishes this one from all the others is the date. We can consider this card to be a true forerunner of concentration camp mail.

On top of the card, the sender states to the addressee:  
"Auf Wiedersehen"..... We wonder....

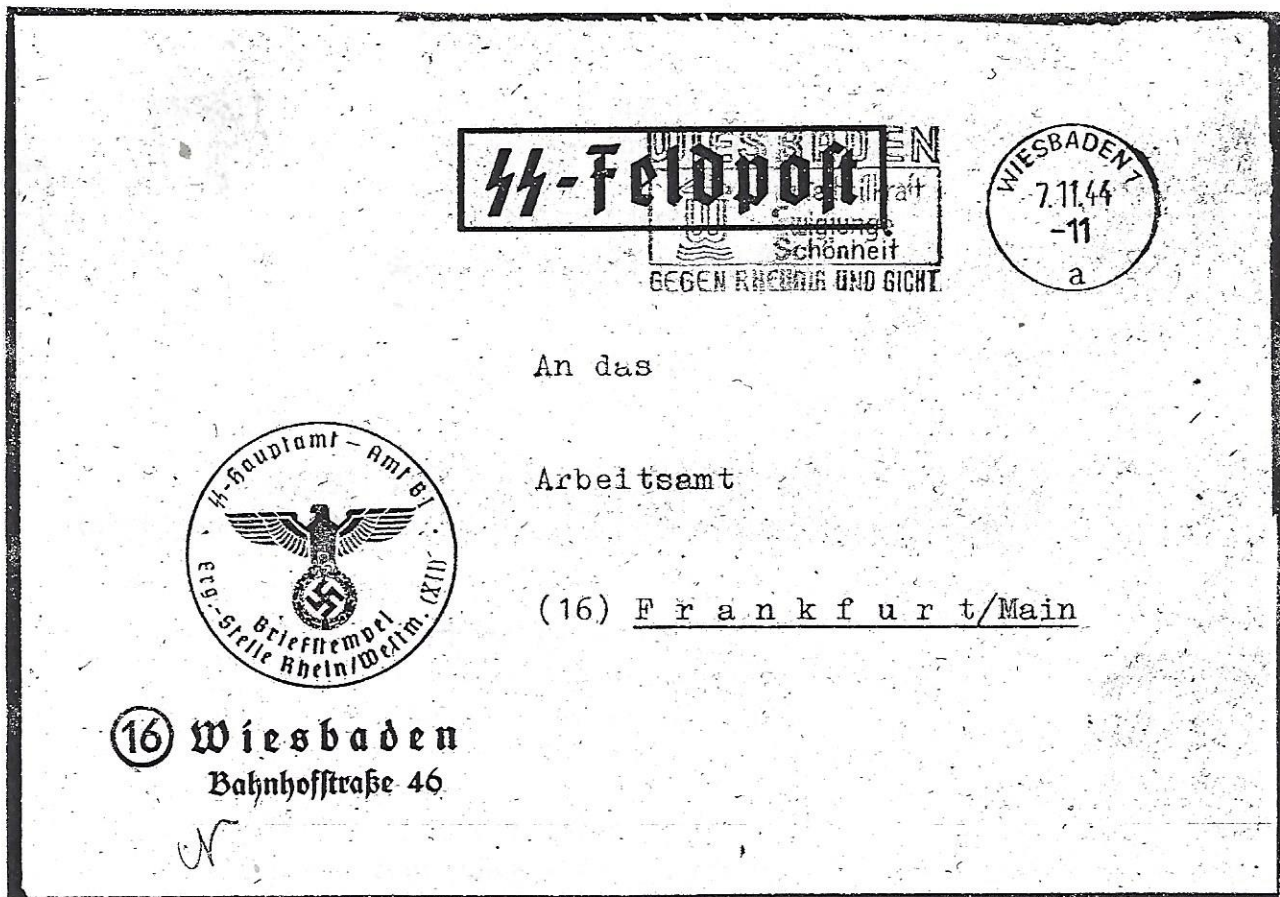


*Editor's Note: The author of this article, the late Sam Simon, was one of the earliest members of the TRSG. Mr. Simon won many top awards for his exhibit of KZL mail and his self-published 'A Postal History of the Mail in the Concentration Camps 1939-1945' was the first book written in English to deal with this postal history topic.*



# Waffen-SS Feldpost: SS Hauptämter by John Painter

The cover shown below from the SS Hauptämter (Main Office) was sent from Wiesbaden where a branch of the main office was located. The branch involved was the Ergänzungsstelle (Recruiting Office) of the SS District XII Rhein/Westmark.



Note the use of the preprinted "SS Feldpost" and Dienstsiegel of the unit. This is an excellent example of an SS office using the Feldpost system for SS business.



# German Postal Rates from January 30, 1933 to May 8, 1945

by Bob Ferguson

## II. FOREIGN RATES

- 1.) **LETTER**  
30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945  
to 20 gm ----- 25 Pfg.  
each additional 20 gm -----15 Pfg.
- 2.) **LETTER TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA**  
Bohemia & Moravia (to 15 March 1939) Slovakia (to 31 August 1942)  
to 20 gm ----- 20 Pfg.  
each additional 20 gm ----- 15 Pfg.
- 3.) **LETTER TO HUNGARY**  
(to 20 June 1942)  
to 20 gm ----- 20 Pfg.  
each additional 20 gm ----- 10 Pfg.
- 4.) **POSTCARD**  
30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945  
15 Pfg.
- 5.) **POSTCARD TO HUNGARY**  
(to 20 June 1942)  
10 Pfg.
- 6.) **POSTCARD TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA**  
Bohemia & Moravia (to 15 March 1939) Slovakia (to 31 August 1942)  
10 Pfg.
- 7.) **PRINTED MATTER**  
30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945  
to 50 gm ----- 5 Pfg.  
each additional 50 gm -----5 Pfg.
- 8.) **BUSINESS PAPERS AND SAMPLES**  
30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945  
to 50 gm ----- 5 Pfg.  
Minimum rate---- 25 Pfg. (Business papers)  
10 Pfg. (Samples)
- 9.) **REGISTRATION FEE**  
30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945  
30 Pfg.
- 10.) **SPECIAL (EXPRESS) DELIVERY FEE**  
30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945  
50 Pfg.



**FOREIGN RATES (Cont.)****11.) AIRMAIL SURCHARGES FOR EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS**

30 January 1933 – 30 April 1934: 20 Pfg. per 20 gm.

1 May 1934 – 31 July 1938: 15 Pfg. per 20 gm.

1 August 1938 – 8 May 1945: 10 Pfg. per 20 gm.

**12.) CATAPULT (OR ADVANCED FLIGHT) DISPATCH (*SCHLEUDERFLUG/VORAUSFLUG*)**

Mail posted on board the steamships "Bremen" and "Europa" could be flown from the ship to port in advance of the ship's arrival: Approximately 400-500 Km from destination (either New York or Southampton) a small aircraft was catapulted into flight (*SCHLEUDERFLUG*). All such mail received a separate flight cancellation. Catapult flights were made as follows:

1933 – May through October

1934 – May through September

1935 – May through October

The last such flight was on 9 October 1935 from the "Bremen" to Southampton.

Catapult Mail Surcharge (*Vorausfluggebuhr*)

1933/1934 – 50 Pfg.

1935 – 25 Pfg.

RATE = CATAPULT SURCHARGE + BASIC FEE

**13.) SUPPLEMENTARY FLIGHT (*NACHBRINGEFLUG*) SURCHARGES**

Provided airmail service (from Koln) to the steamship at Cherbourg for subsequent surface dispatch.

to October 1934 ----- 30 Pfg. for each 20 gm.

May 1935 – May 1938----- 15 Pfg. for each 20 gm

June 1938 – October 1939---- 10 Pfg. for each 20 gm.

(Note: These rates do not coincide with airmail surcharges to France)

**14.) GENERALGOUVERNMENT**

From 1 April 1940 German internal rates were used for mail to the Generalgouvernement.

**15.) BOHEMIA & MORAVIA**

For mail to the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia, German internal rates were phased in over a period of time during 1940:

**1940 Date****Type of Mail Service**

1 April :

Letter, Postcard

17 July :

Express Delivery, Business Papers, Printed Matter, Insured Mail, Parcels, Samples, Braille

1 October:

Delivery in person, Acknowledgement of Receipt, Delivery Receipt for Parcels, Registration, C.O.D.



## FOREIGN RATES (Cont.)

### 16.) RATES TO OCCUPIED AND ALLIED COUNTRIES

Some rates for mail to the following countries were reduced to German internal rates on the dates indicated:

ALBANIA	1 April to 10 September, 1943, then 1 April to 29 December, 1944,
BELGIUM	1 January 1943 to 26 September 1944
BULGARIA	1 September 1942 to 15 September 1944
CROATIA	From 1 July 1943
DENMARK	From 1 June 1942
FINLAND	1 April 1942 to 29 September, 1944
FRANCE	25 August to 12 September, 1944
HUNGARY	From 1 July 1942
ITALY	From 1 January 1942
LUXEMBURG	From 10 May 1940
NETHERLANDS	From 1 January 1942
NORWAY	From 1 September 1942
ROMANIA	15 July 1942 to 12 September 1944
SAN MARINO	From 1 April 1943
SLOVAKIA	From 1 September 1942

Note: Not all postal services were available to all of the above countries.

### 17.) FRONTIER RATES (*GRENZVERKEHR*)

When the straight line distance from the place of posting to destination did not exceed 30 Kilometers, special rates (approximating internal rates) applied to letters and postcards dispatched to Belgium, Denmark, The Netherlands and Switzerland.

Letter Rates # 1		Letter Rates # 2	
To 20 gm	12 Pfg.	To 20 gm	12 Pfg.
20 - 40 gm	25 Pfg.	20 - 40 gm	24 Pfg.
40 - 60 gm	36 Pfg.	40 - 60 gm	36 Pfg.
Each additional 20 gm	12 Pfg.	Each additional 20 gm	12 Pfg.

Letter Rates # 1		Letter Rates # 2	
Belgium ----- to 30 November 1933		1 December 1933 to 31 December 1942	
Denmark ----- to 30 November 1933		1 December 1933 to 31 May 1942	
Netherlands --- to 30 November 1933		1 December 1933 to 31 December 1941	
Switzerland---- to 30 November 1933		1 December 1933 to 8 May 1945	

### 18.) RATES TO PRE-ANSCHLUSS AUSTRIA

1 April 1933 to 12 March 1938

Same as German internal rates

### 19.) SURCHARGES FOR AIRMAIL FROM NEW YORK

30 January to 30 April 1933:	25 Pfg. per 10 gm.
1 May 1933 to 30 April 1934:	20 Pfg. for first 5 gm, 10 Pfg. for each additional 5 gm
1 May 1934 to 31 July 1938:	15 Pfg. for first 5 gm., 10 Pfg. for each additional 5 gm
1 May 1938 to 15 December 1941:	10 Pfg. for first 5 gm.

(Service suspended from 1 September 1939 to 5 October 1940)



**INDEX TO GERMAN POSTAL RATES ( 30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945)****INTERNAL RATES**

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Local Letter                     | 21. Registration                  |
| 2. Intercity Letter                 | 22. Hamburg Streetcar Dispatch    |
| 3. Postcard                         | 23. Airmail Letters and Postcards |
| 4. Paid Reply Postcard              | 24. Airmail Parcel Post           |
| 5. Ship Mail                        | 25. Zeppelin post                 |
| 6. Printed Matter                   | 26. Pneumatic Post                |
| 7. Braille                          | 27. Address Verification          |
| 8. Insured Mail                     | 28. Bulk Newspaper Dispatch       |
| 9. Postal Check Letter              | 29. Delivery to Address in Person |
| 10. Post Office Savings Bank Letter | 30. Document Delivery             |
| 11. Circulars                       | 31. Acknowledgment of Receipt     |
| 12. Mixed Sending                   | 32. Special (Express) Mail        |
| 13. Small Parcels                   | 33. Postage Due                   |
| 14. Business Papers                 | 34. Priority Dispatch for Parcels |
| 15. Samples                         | 35. Late Fee                      |
| 16. Postgut                         | 36. General Delivery              |
| 17. Ordinary Parcel Post            | 37. Delivery Receipt for Parcels  |
| 18. C.O.D.                          | 38. Fee for Undeliverable Mail    |
| 19. Postal Collection Order         | 39. Fee for Special Cancels       |
| 20. Newspaper Printed Matter        |                                   |

**FOREIGN RATES**

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Letter                      | 11. Airmail - European Destinations    |
| 2. Letter to Czechoslovakia    | 12. Catapult Mail                      |
| 3. Letter to Hungary           | 13. Supplementary Flights              |
| 4. Postcard                    | 14. Rates to General Gouvernement      |
| 5. Postcard to Hungary         | 15. Rates to Bohemia & Moravia         |
| 6. Postcard to Czechoslovakia  | 16. Rates to Allied/Occupied Countries |
| 7. Printed Matter              | 17. Frontier Rates                     |
| 8. Samples and Business Papers | 18. Rates to Pre-Anschluss Austria     |
| 9. Registration                | 19. Airmail from New York              |
| 10. Special (Express) Delivery |  |



## Commemorating the Tripartite Alliance

by Dr. Harry R. Strack

Japan's invasion of Manchuria in 1931 and the creation of the puppet-state of Manchuko in 1932 accelerated Japan's international isolation culminating in its withdrawal from the League of Nations in March 1933. A leading source of international criticism was the Comintern (Third Communist International) which was formed by the Bolsheviks in 1919 to join together communist organizations world-wide and which eventually became a front for Soviet foreign policy. At its seventh Congress in 1935, it adopted a resolution committing its members to fight with all their power Japan's and Germany's fascist, imperialist ambitions. With the Nazi rise to power in Germany in 1933 and its rebellion against the international order created by the Versailles Treaty, symbolized by Germany's withdrawal from the League of Nations in October 1933, there was an obvious confluence of interests between Germany and Japan. Since the Comintern threatened both states, creation of an Anti-Comintern agreement was a logical step to take. The Anti-Comintern Pact was enacted on November 25, 1936 with Article II inviting all other states threatened by the Comintern to participate in the Pact. After its invasion of Ethiopia in 1935, which generated much international criticism, Italy became an obvious recruit and was admitted to the Pact as an equal partner on November 6, 1937 (in the same year it withdrew from the League of Nations). These events laid the groundwork for the eventual formation of the 'Axis' and the Tripartite Pact of September 27, 1940, which bound together more tightly the three countries in an alliance of mutual assistance.

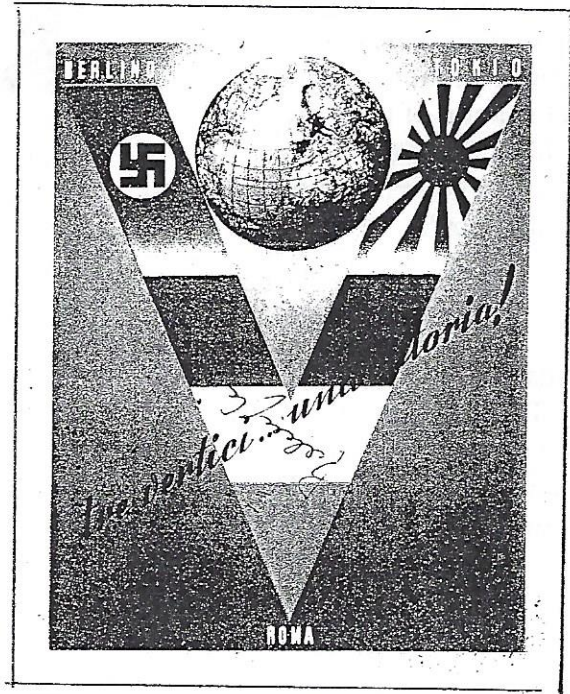
Italy and Germany issued postage stamps and propaganda post cards commemorating the "Rome-Berlin Axis". Additionally, Italy produced many post cards commemorating its tripartite alliance with Germany and Japan. Two examples are illustrated below:

Fig. 1) Italian Army card produced by the National Fascist Party was used in January 1942. It depicts an allegorical Samurai with sword smashing one warship flying a British flag and another flying an American flag. In the background are the flags of Japan, Italy and Germany.





Fig. 2) Italian feldpost card used in January 1942 is inscribed "three summits.....one victory" over a large letter 'V' with the Italian flag colors at it's base and topped off with the German and Japanese flags.



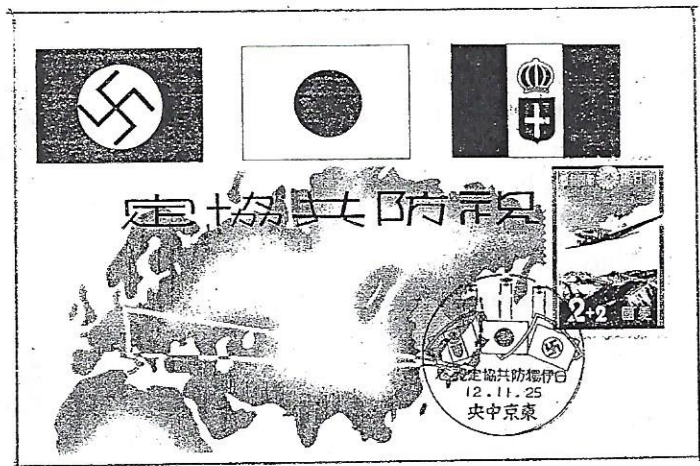
Japan also issued similar propaganda post cards. Two examples are illustrated here.

Fig. 3) German, Japanese and Italian flags at the top with a flock of eagles flying in a swastika formation above a rising sun. In the foreground is a perched eagle clutching a fasces in its talons.





Fig. 4) German, Japanese and Italian flags at the top above a world map showing linkages between the three nations. It is inscribed "Celebration of the Agreement of the on the United Front of Japan-Italy-Germany Against Bolshevism".



Both cards have the same special cancel from the Tokyo Central Post Office dated November 25, 1937 (the 12th year of the Showa dynasty), "Japan-Italy-Germany United Front Against Bolshevism". The cards are thus commemorating the first anniversary of the Anti-Comintern Pact as well as Italy's adherence to the Pact on November 6.

It is interesting to note that Germany seems not to have issued anything of a postal nature to commemorate, honor, or even acknowledge its participation in an alliance with Japan. In fact, the only item that this author has been able to discover relevant to this subject is a medal cast by Karl Goetz and produced by the Bavarian Main Mint ('Hauptmunzamt') to commemorate the Tripartite Pact of September 27, 1940. It is illustrated here to demonstrate how a German commemoration could be depicted.

Fig. 5) Obverse: "Defense Pact 1940 27 September" with ancient warriors from Italy, Germany and Japan carrying shields with the symbols of their respective countries.

Fig. 6) Reverse: Eagle carrying scales perched on a world globe inscribed "for the restoration of world peace".





## Interesting Third Reich Covers

by Ronald Morgan

The following covers are recent acquisitions that I wanted to share with our study group.

Fig. 1) A registered airmail cover sent to the Foreign Office in Berlin in April 1941 from the German Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria. Note the red wax seal on back embossed with the embassy Dienststempel. On the front side is a violet 'Ag' transit stamp applied by the Vienna censor office to indicate that this official government letter passed unopened.



Fig. 2) A "Poste restante" letter mailed to Munich on February 5, 1943 has a red arrow above address pointing to a date stamp "29.Feb.1943" that indicates the date when the letter was to be returned as "not collected". Poste restante mail is always scarce, throughout all periods and postage rates. This cover is even more desirable because it was not sent to a regular post office but to a railroad station post office "Bahnpost-lagernd" as indicated by the lower arrow.

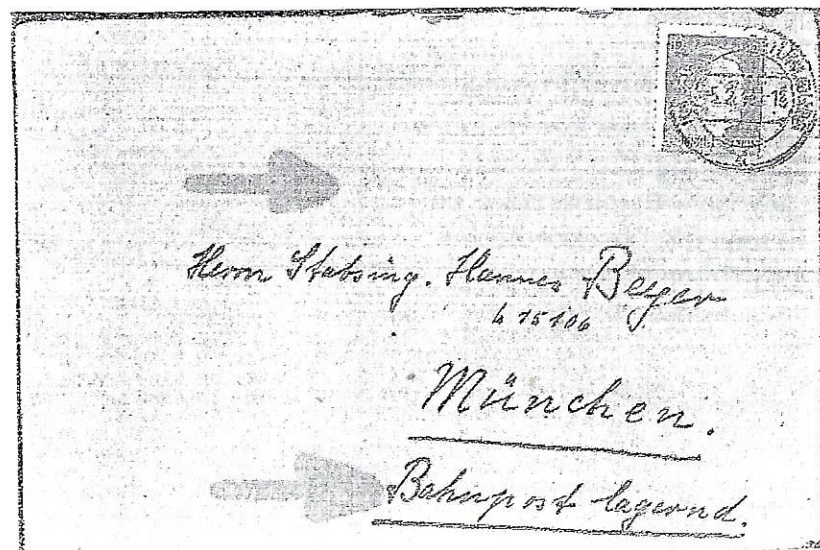


Fig. 3) This is an "Uberroller" cover sent to a pharmacist (Apotheker) in Hannover on March 11, 1945 that was intercepted by the Allies. Note the clear sealing tape and military censorship hand stamp with examiner number 10911. This type of intercepted mail has been discussed by Ben Beede in the pages of the TRSG Bulletin.

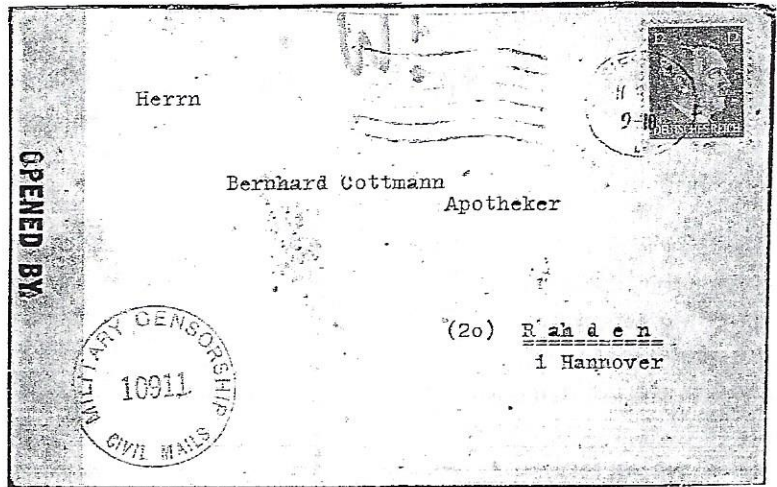
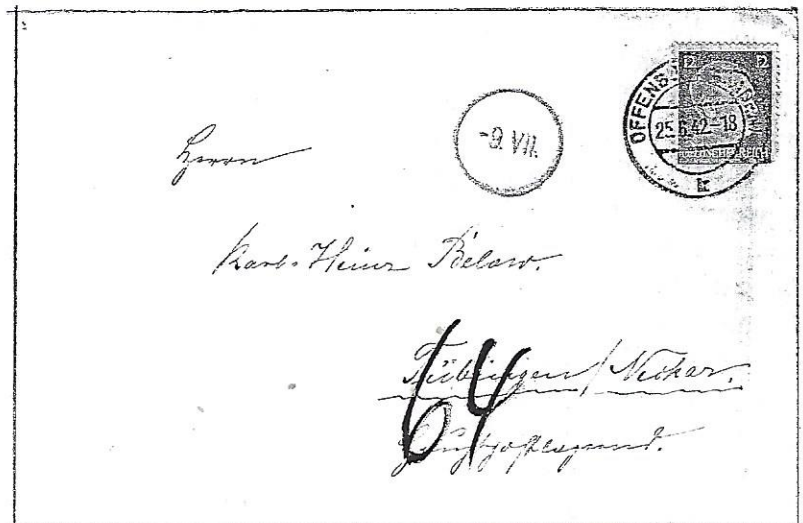


Fig. 4) A commercial window envelope sent on March 24, 1945 from a machine factory in Langenberg has sealing tape reading "Mil. Censor Civil Mails" and same type censorship hand stamp with examiner number 10275.



Fig. 5) This cover sent from Offenburg in Baden in June 1942 is quite ordinary except for the circled "-9.VII" to the left of the postmark. Does anyone know what this marking signifies? I would appreciate anyone with information on this mark to send it to Ye Olde Ed for a future Study Group Notes entry.

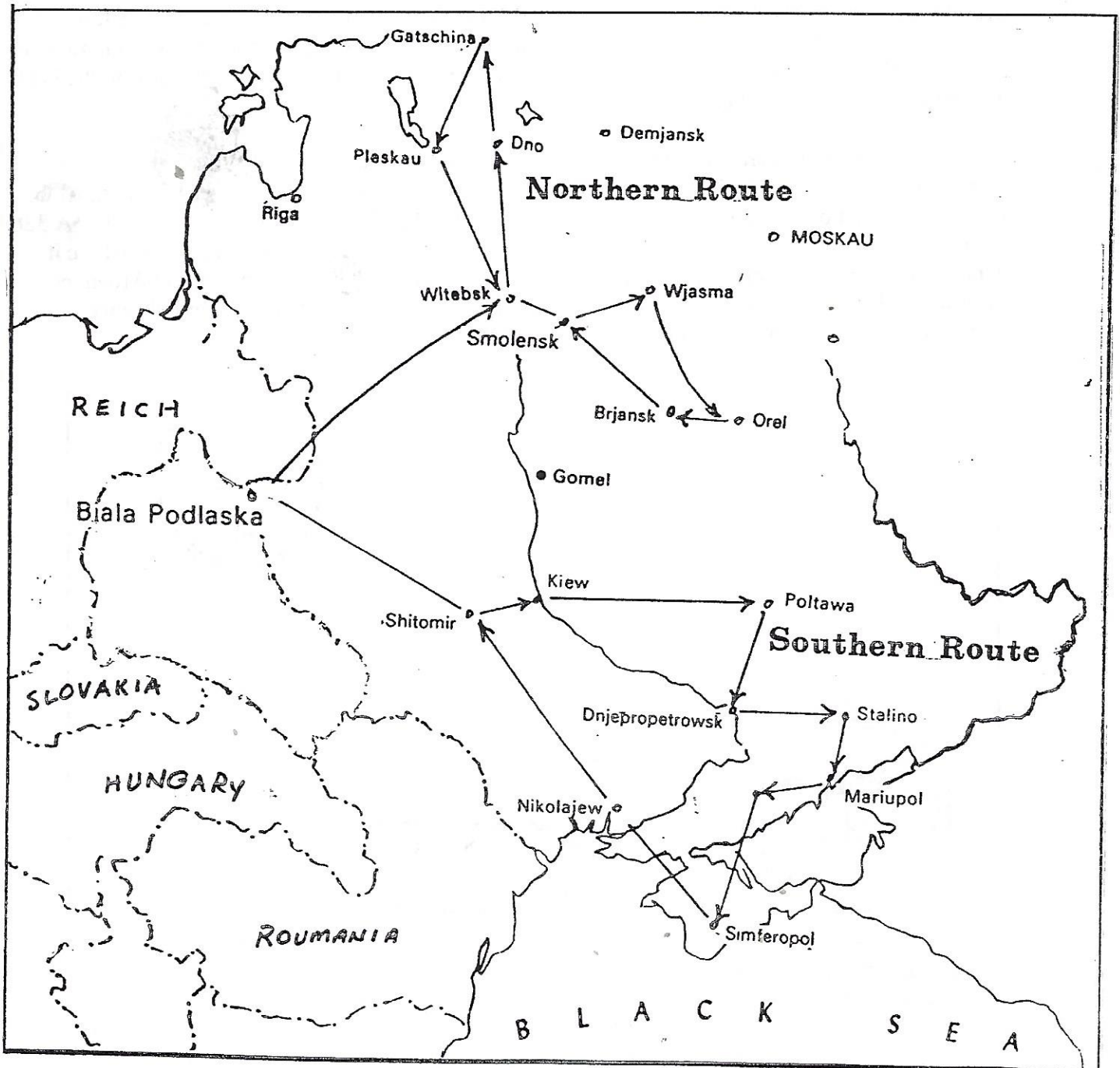




# TRSG Map: Luftfeldpost Route Map, March 1943

by John R. Painter

The service was run out of the Berlin Collection Office where mail was sacked and labeled for the airfield at Biala Podaska, Poland. There mail was sorted by Kenn numbers to those units entitled to the airmail service. Three routes were established using seven Junkers 52 transport planes. One aircraft was used for the northern route and another for the central route for Army Group Center. Two aircraft were used for the southern route because, while this route usually had better flying weather, it had twice the distance to cover.

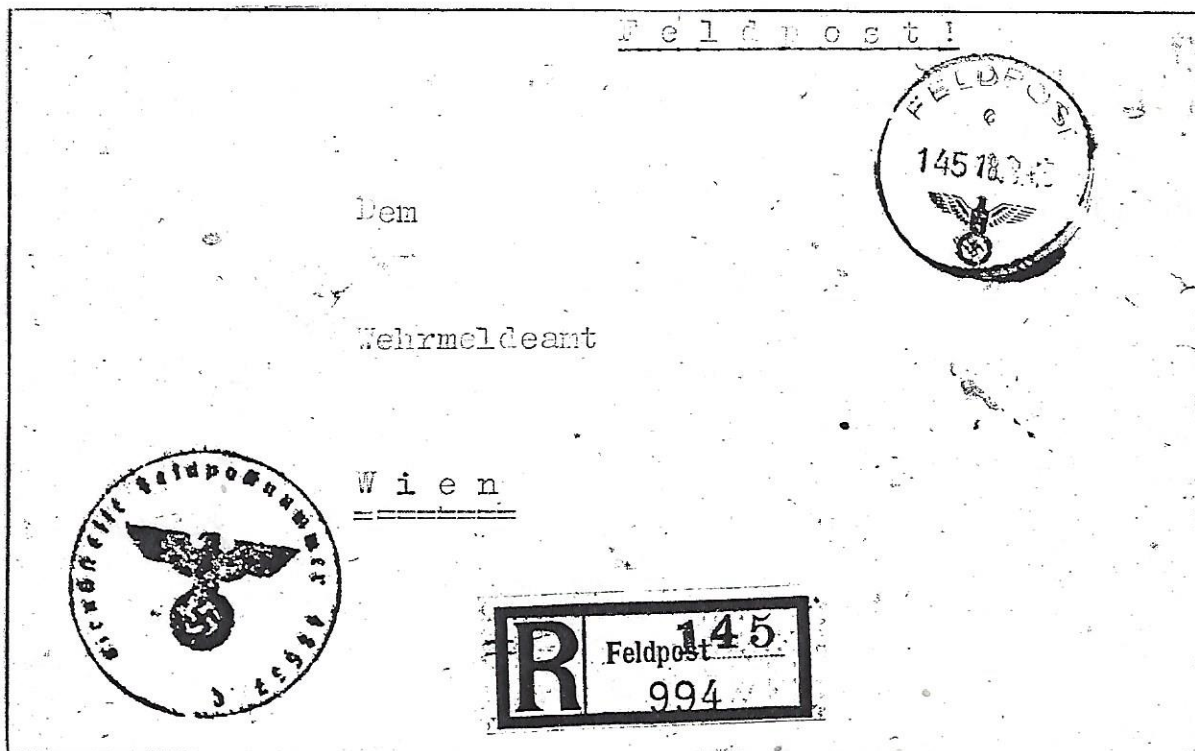


## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 326th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	INFANTRY			ARTY	UNITS
326	145	751	752	753	326	326

The 326th Infantry Division was formed in late in 1942 (18th Wave) and sent to the French Mediterranean coast. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 48694 as a mailing address and Kenn 145 as a coded identification for registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 326. It was stationed in the Narbonne area of France from April 1943 until January 1944 and then sent to northern France. On June 22, 1944 the 326th Infantry Division relieved the 2nd Panzer Division on the Normandy front but was overrun by the British at Caumont later that month. In August the division was trapped in the Falaise pocket and virtually annihilated.

In September 1944 the remnants were sent to Hungary and reformed (32nd Wave) as the 326th Volksgrenadier Division by incorporating the still forming 597th Volksgrenadier Division. At this time the Feldpost office (FpA 1597), including Fp.# 33800 and K-365, was re-designated FpA 326. The new division was then sent into action in the Rohr River Battles in mid-December where it helped defend the Hellenthalen Weld against the U.S. V Corps. Later it fought in the Ardennes offensive and sustained very heavy losses during the Battle of the Schnee Eifel in February 1945. The remnants of the division surrendered in the Ruhr Pocket.



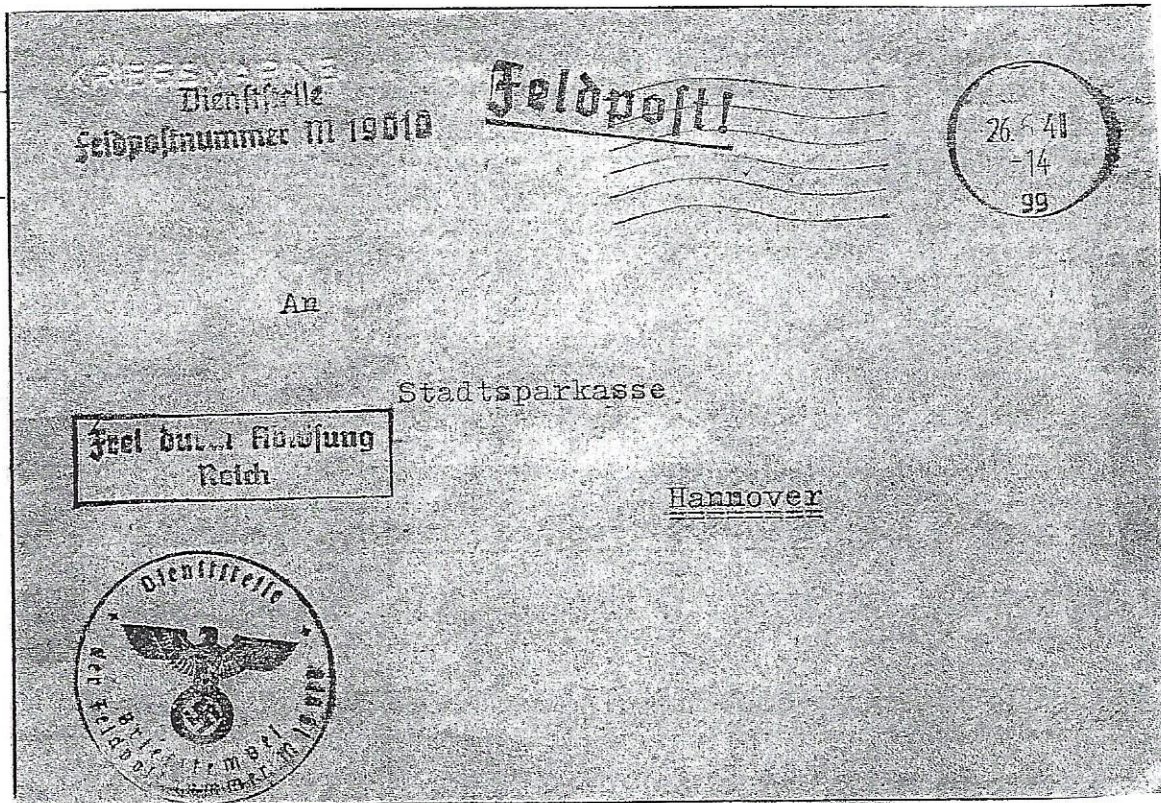
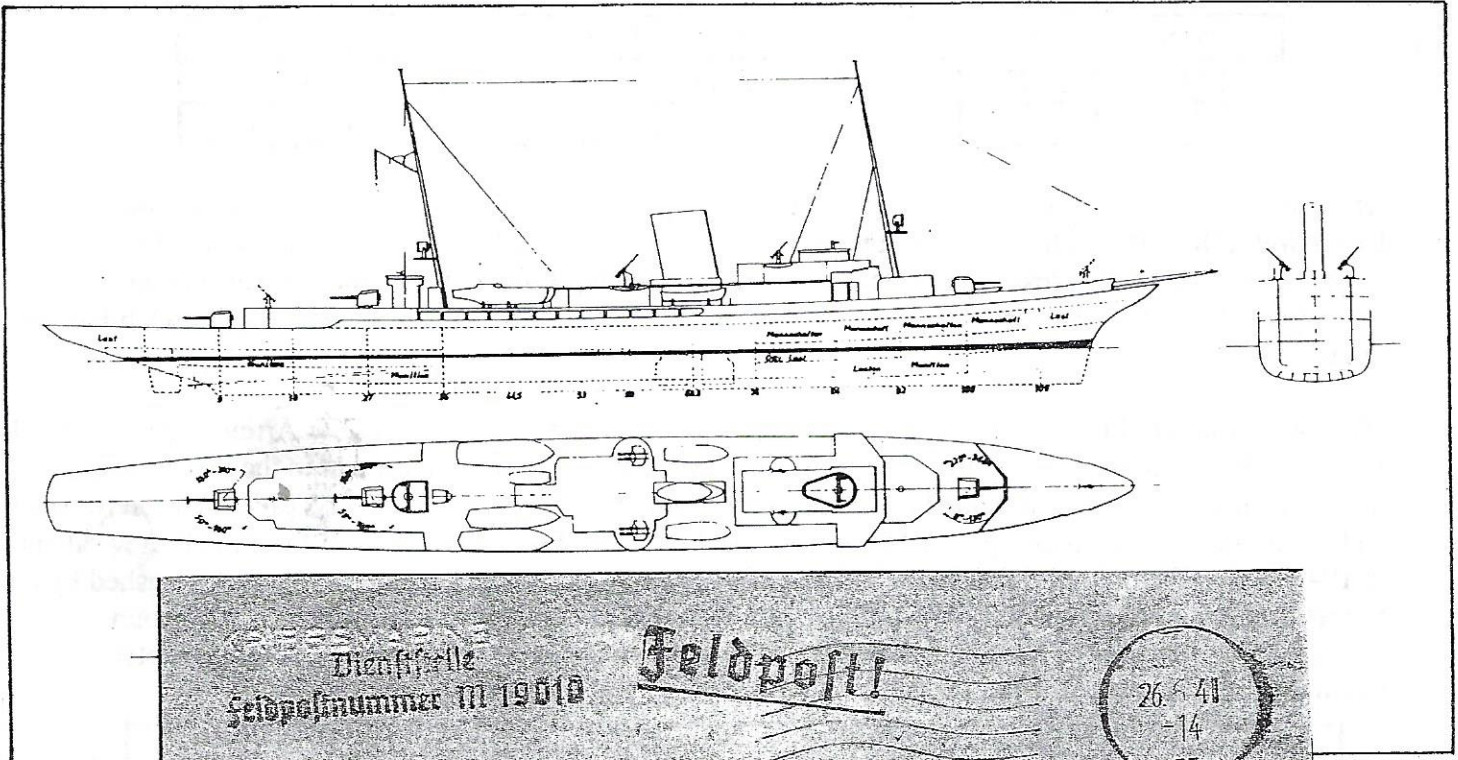
Cover sent to Military Records Office in Vienna in August 1943 from Fp. # 48557 (Battalion II/Festungs Infantry Regiment 867) via FPA 326 (K-145).



# NAVY LOG

by Martin Lynes

Yacht 'Hela' - Feldpost # 19010



The 'Hela' was a pre-war fleet tender that was later used as a flagship by the fleet commander. Displacement: 2,315 tons; range: 10,000 miles @ 15 knots; armament: two 4.1", one 37mm and two 20mm AA guns, crew: 244. Illustration is the general arrangement of this yacht.

Cover with mute cancel sent to Savings Bank in Hannover.

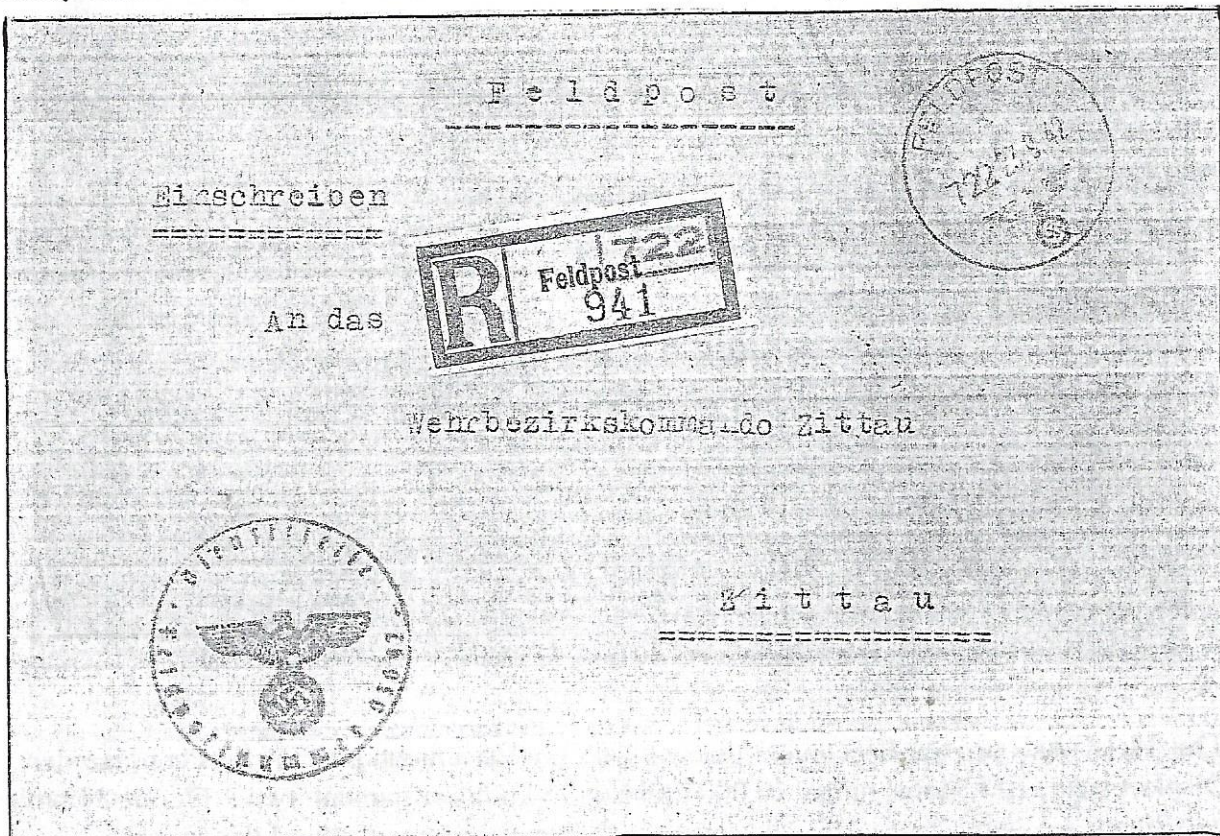


## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 14th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	INFANTRY			ARTY	UNITS
14	722	11	53	101	14	14

Originally formed in 1934-35 (1st Wave) by expansion of the 11th Regiment (Leipzig) of the old Reichswehr, the 14th Infantry Division post office unit was assigned Fp.# 07367 as a return address and Kenn 722 as a coded address for registered mail. After fighting Poland and France, it was converted to a two regiment motorized division in October 1940 with the 101st Regiment transferred to the 18th Panzer Division.

The 14th Motorized Infantry Division invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941 with Army Group Center. It fought in the Battle of Vitebsk, the battle of encirclement at Vyazma-Bryansk and in the drive toward Moscow. In October 1941 it helped establish the Kalinin bridgehead on the upper Volga between Moscow and Leningrad. The division spent 1942 in the Rzhev sector and in the withdrawal from the Rzhev salient in 1943. It was the only division in the reserve of 4th Army when Army Group Center was smashed by the Soviet summer offensive in July 1944. It escaped total destruction but was reduced to battle group strength. The remnants of the division continued to fight on the central sector in Poland and eastern Germany until the end. In 1945 the division P.O. identity was changed to Fp.# 05630.



Cover sent to Zittau Recruiting District HQ in September 1942 from Fp.# 03692 (HQ, Battalion I of Grenadier Regiment 101) via Post Office 14 (K-722).



# TRSG Auction No. 107

Illustrated lots by position i.e. TL=Top Left, TLC=Top Left Center etc. All lots VF unless noted o'wise.

LOT	DESCRIPTION	MIN.
First 9 lots are covers & postal cards frm Waffen-SS		
1.	Off. cvr to Ord. Police frm Kdt of KZL Esterwager 11.'36 (later to Sachsenhausen) [TL]	\$25
2.	Reused cover sent 4.'44 by Building Office of Waffen-SS in Natzweiler, Alsace [TCL]	18
3.	Cvr frm Krakau 10.'43 to SS Policeman, II Btl, Pol. Rgt. 17 in Warsaw [TCR]	16
4.	Pcd sent 6.'42 frm SS Unterscharf. in Radio School at Bad Tolz Training Center [TR]2	19
5.	Sp. del.cvr w/blk of 4 Mi. 881 sent 6.'44 to SS Kampf Sturm Fuhrer in Graz [ML]	15
6.	Cvr w/Flem.Legion (Belgium I-IV) sent 7.'42 to Fp #38918 tied K-451 Fp cans [MCL]	15
7.	Same stamps as above but w/standard Fp cans 7.'42 to Hamburg	15
8.	Same but w/sheet of 4 Mi. III sent 8.'42 to SS Standarte 'Kurt Eggers' in Berlin [MCR]	20
9.	R-cvr sent 4.'41 frm Hoh. SS u. Pol. Fuhrer via DDP Den Haag (Lrg format del. Courier)	14
Next 7 lots are Lager Post (from training camps w/camp cancels)		
10.	R-cvr sent 4.'43 from Fp'# L31695 (I/Gru, KG 4) at <b>Lager Lechfeld</b>	14
11.	Cvr sent 8.'44 frm III Luftgruppe, Kampf-Luft-Rgt at <b>Lager Fallingbostal</b>	14
12.	Cvr sent 10.'41 frm Kdo at <b>Juterbog-Altes Lage</b>	12
13.	Cvr sent 1.'43 frm Reserve Rgt at <b>Munster Lager</b>	12
14.	Cvr sent 11.'41 frm Kdtr Lw Ub Pl Radom at <b>Luftwaffe Tr.Üb. Platz Radom</b>	12
15.	Picture P'cd Berlin Deutschlandhalle sent 3.'40 frm <b>Döberitz Übungsplatz</b>	12
16.	Picture P'cd sent 10'40 frm Training Regiment at <b>Fels (Wanger) Lager</b>	12
17.	Parcel card sent 5.44 to II Btl/Sicherung Rgt zbV Lublin [MR]	12
18.	Parcel card sent 7.'44 to I Btl/Sicherung Rgt zbV Krakau [BL]	12
19.	Mint Eilauftrag Inquiry Card (See Fig. 4 on Page 11 in TRSG bulletin 163)	10
20.	Ital. Socialist Republic cvr sent 6.'44 to Red Cross Switz. cens. Munich [BCL]	15
21.	Pre-war Nazi Party cvr 4.'38 frm Stettin w/sloga can 5 Yrs Reichsluftschutz Bund	15
22.	Theresenstadt KZ Lager Banknotes (3 different) 1, 2 & 5 Krone [BCR]	25
23.	R-cvr sent 3.'43 Posen to Kassel w/Bedarfs usage Mi. 850,851 & 854 [BR]	12
24.	Lorraine cvr,16 Hindenburg o'print stamps w/SPC Metz 1.11.40 (Philatelic)	10







- 25. Bundle slip w/Mi. 795 for newspaper sent to Germany via DDP Niederlande [BL] \$15
- 26. 7.'41 cover from Jewish firm in Lorraine seized by Reichswerke 'Hermann Göring'[TL] 18
- 27. Official cvr sent 3.'42 from Strassburg, Alsace to Germany [TC] 12
- 28. Ltrsht sent 9.'41 fr Fp#28978 (III/Art Rgt 80 of 8<sup>th</sup> Pz Div) then besieging Leningrad [TR] 12
- 29. R-cvr sent 11.'42 frm GG to Polish laborer in Lager Moll [SeePages 1 and 2] 15
- 30. Drucksache cvr w/GG Mi 40 sent 4.'42 Lemburg to Vienna 12
- 31. Reg exp cvr w/two blks 4 GG Mi 53 sent Gorwolin to Potsdam 7.'40 (Phil but attractive) 10
- 32. Official cvr sent 9.'43 from Warsaw Finance Ministry to Munich printing firm [BC] 14
- 33. Official Nazi Party cover sent 3.'38 from Gauleitung Wien [BR] 15

The next 21 lots are Registered Feldpost covers. Condition is very FV unless indicated o'wise

Kenn	FpA	Date	Fp. Nr.	Description		
34.	125	213	8.'42	15546	Heeres-Verp. Dienst. 740 via 213 Security Div. P.O.	10
35.	115	129	9.'41	16312	III/Gren. Rgt. 430 via 129 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
36.	292	607	5.'42	44477	Stab/I Gren. Btl. 540 via 61 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
* (37)	305	254	1.'44	38095	II/Gren. Btl. 474 via 254 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
38.	324	30	3.'44	42290	II Battr/Lehr Art. Rgt. 2 via 30 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
39.	407	387	10.'43	18292	I/Gren. Rgt. 525 via 387 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
40.	461	234	1.'41	22831	2 Kp/I.D. Nachr. Abtl.234 via 234 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
41.	463	922	4.'44	L44033	Stab/Lw. Jag. Rgt.42 via 21 Lw Feld Div. P.O.	10
(42)	544	132	5.'42	12104	II/Gren. Rgt. 437 via 132 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
43.	569	260	4.'42	22305	II/Gren.Rgt.480 via 260 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
44.	644	SS-4	5.'43	04308	2. Battr./ Le. Flak Abtl. 75 via 4.SS Pol. Div. P.O.	16
45.	722	14	9.'42	03692	Stab/I Gren. Rgt 101 via 14 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
46.	752	331	11.'43	38944	Nachsch. Tr. 331 via 331 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
47.	788	128	8.'42	46737	1 Kp/Pz. Jag. Abtl. 128 via 23 Panzer Div. P.O.	16
48.	800	304	1.'44	21874	II/Gren. Rgt 573 via 304 Infantry Div. P.C.	10
49.	828	4	6.'42	00963	11-15 Battr/Pz Art. Rgt.140 via 14 Pz. Div. P.O.	16
50.	831	327	6.'43	17964	I/Gren. Rgt.595 via 327 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
51.	909	81	4.'42	02370	6.Kp/Panzer Gren. Rgt. 113 via 1 Panzer Div, P.O.	16
52.	916	173	7.'42	10153	I/Gren. Rgt.186 via 73 Infantry Div. P.O.	10
53.	937	319	12.'41	L42938	3.Battr/Flak Abtl. 978 via 319 Infantry Division P.O.	10
54.	972	306	5.'43	00237	Alarm Btl.Befehl des Heeresgeb via 306 I. D..P.O.	10

PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO.107 IS AUGUST 17, 2007  
 SEND ALL BIDS TO: Jim Lewis, 111F Montross Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070