



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

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

VOL. XXXII No. 2 (Whole No. 127) 1998

DIRECTOR: Myron Fox, P.O. Box 283, Needham Heights, MA 02194

BULLETIN STAFF:

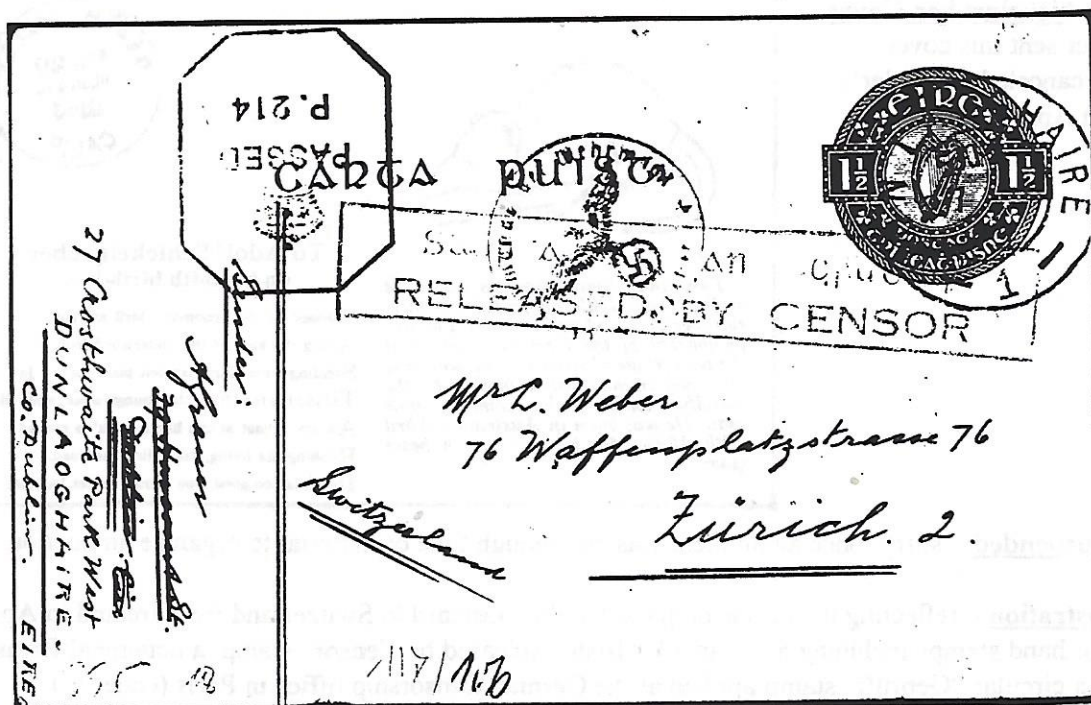
EDITOR/AUCTION MGR.: James E. Lewis, 111 Montross Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Robert Dunn, 3318 Running Cedar Way, Williamsburg, VA 23188

BACK ISSUES MGR.: Kelly Stefanacci, 4 Lowell Court, Freehold, NJ 07728

Contents:

- Page 3 Rejected by Censor: Lined Envelopes - M. Fox
- Page 4 Third Reich Postal Rates: Forwarded Mail - B. Ferguson
- Page 5 German Military Mail in Bohemia-Moravia (Part 4) - Jim Lewis
- Page 11 Combat Division Profile: 61st Infantry Division - J. Lewis
- Page 12 "Kreistagen der NSDAP" Special Cancels - B. Ferguson
- Page 13 Report on Documents found at Paris Censorship - M. Fox
- Page 22 Navy Log: Destroyer Z-12 'Eric Giese' - R. Houston
- Page 23 Combat Division Profile: 292nd Infantry Division - J. Lewis
- Page 24 Story Behind the Stamp: Johannes Gutenberg - K. Stefanacci



STUDY GROUP NOTES

Auf Wiedersehen to Fred Willshaw

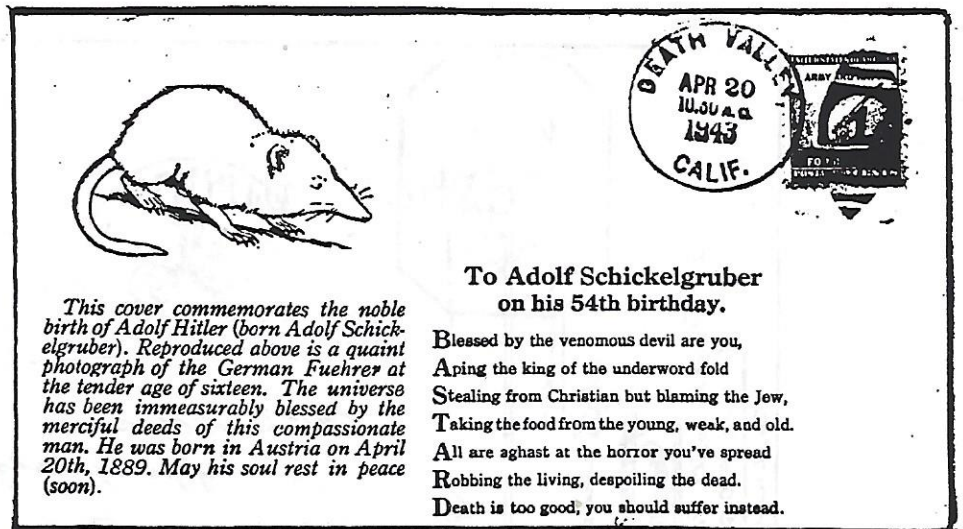
As noted in Bulletin 126, Fred Willshaw has resigned as Secretary-Treasurer of the TRSG to pursue other activities. Fred learned computer programming in the U.S. Navy and sharpened this skill serving aboard a warship in the Tonkin Gulf during the Vietnam War. After leaving the Navy he joined the TRSG in 1975 and became intrigued by Feldpost research. He volunteered to explore the possibility of creating a computerized listing of Feldpost numbers & units. By late 1976 he had compiled a 236-page computer readout which listed all Feldpost numbers in numerical order and their location (frame number) on microfilm rolls 129-133 (T-78). This microfilm, available from the National Archives, contained several editions of the "Feldpostübersicht" (Field Post Directory) but these listings were units by numerical order followed by their Feldpost numbers. Therefore, identifying units by Feldpost number was akin to finding needles in a haystack. With the listing, anyone with a microfilm reader could now scan to the correct frame and learn the unit identification. This valuable tool led to Fred's appointment as Data Projects Specialist on the TRSG Staff.

His computerized listing led to an even more ambitious undertaking, one long dreamed of by Feldpost collectors, the appropriately named 'Projekt Himmelblau' (Blue Sky Project). The 'New Jersey Gau' (Fred Willshaw, Bob Houston & Jim Lewis) began to scan through the rolls of microfilm and log unit identifications next to the computer generated Feldpost number listing. Bulletin No. 47 in 1978 announced availability of Section 1 of 'Himmelblau' which listed Feldpost #s 00001 to 05000. Over the next two years the 'New Jersey Gau' spend hundreds of hours slaving over their microfilm readers to complete the other Sections. Finally, TRSG Bulletin No. 56 in 1980 announced that section 12 was available - 'Himmelblau' had been completed! Over the next several years Fred Willshaw also compiled computerized listing for TRSG publications "Composition Listings of Organic German Military Units" (1981) and "Feldpost of the Waffen-SS" (1983).

When Editor/Secretary-Treasurer Bob Houston resigned due to ill health in 1984, Fred was appointed Secretary-Treasurer. Fred moved to North Carolina shortly thereafter and served for the next 14 years with the same dedication shown on the earlier data projects. We wish him well and are grateful for his many years of service to the TRSG.

Another Schickelgruber Cover

John Mattler sent this cover which was canceled for Hitler's birthday on April 20, 1943.



Auction Suspended – sorry, once again there was not enough time or material to organize an auction.

Cover Illustration – reflecting the article on page 13, this postcard to Switzerland from Ireland in April 1944 has three censor hand stamps including a rectangular Irish "Released by Censor" stamp, a octagonal British "Passed" stamp and a circular "Geprüft" stamp applied at the German Censorship office in Paris (code 'x').

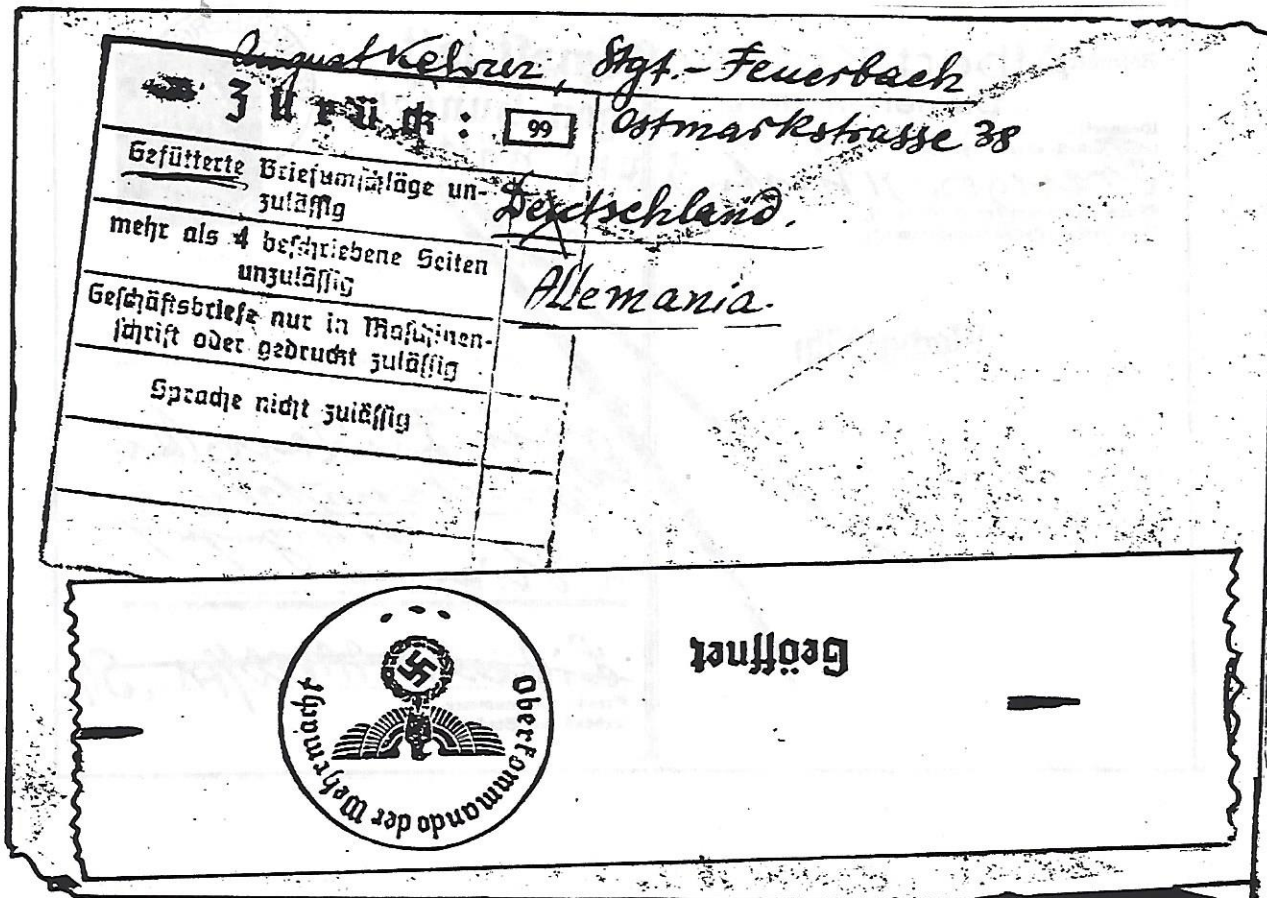
Rejected by Censor - Inadmissible Mail

by Myron Fox

Lined Envelopes

Part II, Section 2. A. Para. 1d "The use of lined envelopes is also prohibited in postal service to neutral foreign nations."

Fig. 1) Back side of cover rejected by Frankfurt censor office has return hand stamp indicating various possible reasons for return. Censor has underlined "Gefütterte Briefumschläge unzulässig" or "Lined envelopes not allowed". The blue lining can be seen in lower right hand corner. Lined envelopes were not allowed since secret messages could be more easily hidden in them.



THIRD REICH POSTAL RATES

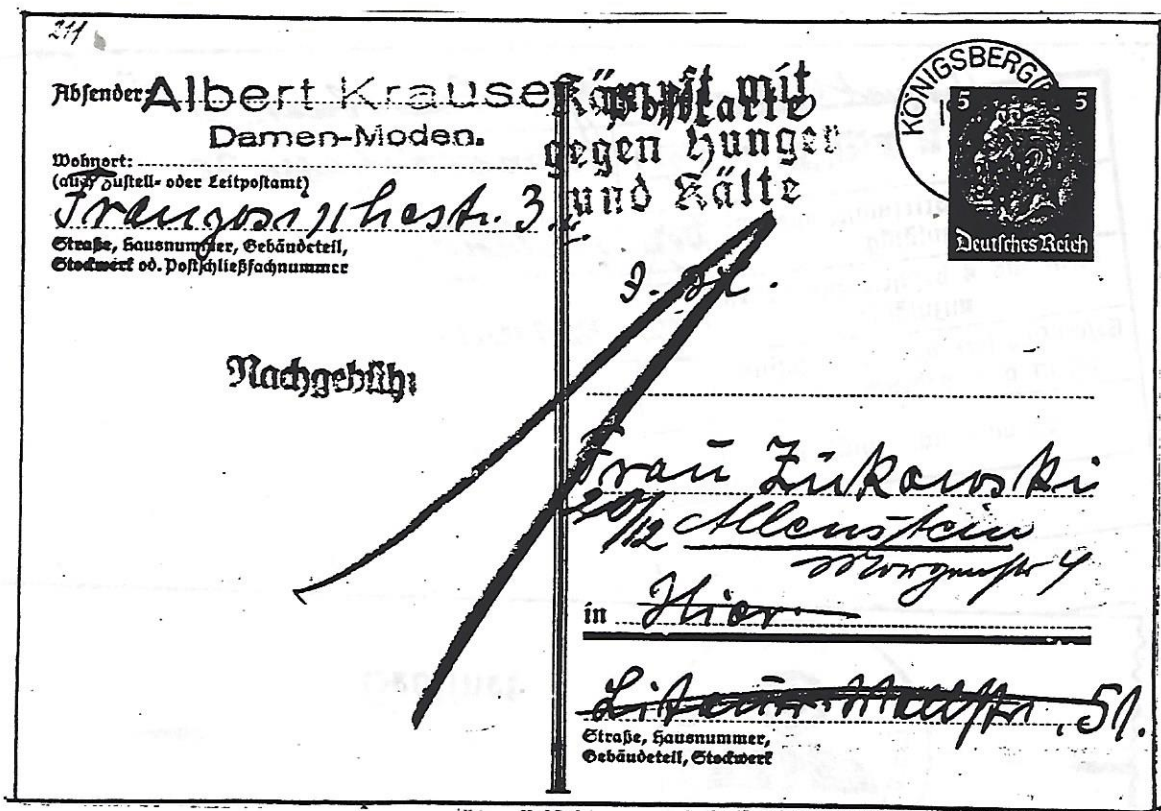
by Bob Ferguson

FORWARDED MAIL

Posted: Königsberg on December 19, 1933.

Re-addressed and forwarded to Allenstein.

Original postage (5 Pfg.) is rate for local postcard. Forwarding fee (postage due) of 1 Pfg. is to pay the deficit for the inter-city (Königsberg – Allenstein) postcard rate of 6 Pfg.



Franking (6 Pfg.): 5 Pfg. = Internal rate for local postcard.
1 Pfg. = Forwarding fee (postage due)

German Military Mail in Bohemia-Moravia 1939-45 (Part 4)

by Jim Lewis

IX.) Postal Centers of the German Official Mail Service

In less important localities, the German occupation authorities established "Behördenpoststelle" (postal centers) of the "Deutsche Dienstpost Böhmen-Mähren" (German Official Mail Service). Each of these centers had its own number, usually included in its postmark. These centers or substations were under the jurisdiction of the nearest Dienstpost office. The function of these postal centers was to receive, service and transfer official mail to the respective higher post office. Later the functions were expanded to the actual cancellation of the mail and servicing of the registered official mail with its own registry labels.

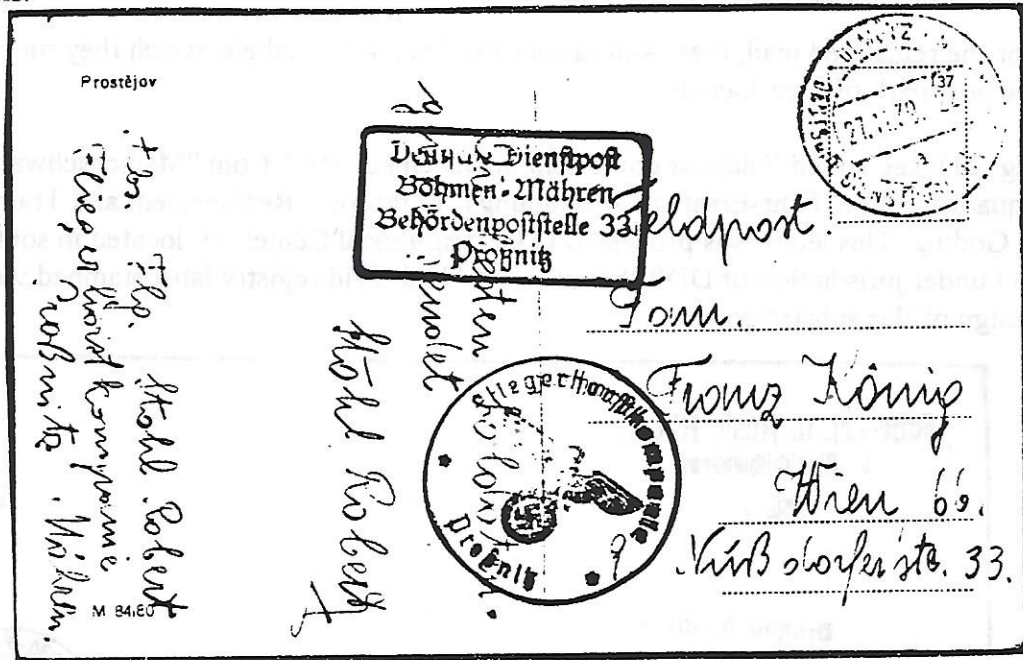


Fig. 18) Post card sent November 1939 by member of Luftwaffe Air Base Company has boxed 4-line hand stamp applied at PROSSNITZ postal center. This town is located in central Moravia and was under jurisdiction of Dienstpost Office OLMUTZ, which applied date cancel.

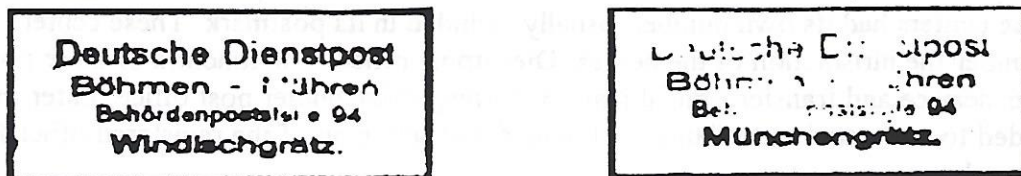
The postmarks of these postal service centers were mostly four-line rubber stamps, either with borders or without. Few had three or even five-lines. Some of the rubber postmarks used Latin letters, others German Gothic letters. Some used the legend "Deutsche Reichspost" instead of "Deutsches Dienstpost". In places with a large volume of mail, these rubber hand stamps had to be frequently replaced, sometimes with different types or arrangements from the original stamps.

Fig. 19) Four types of rubber hand stamped markings in different type styles and arrangement



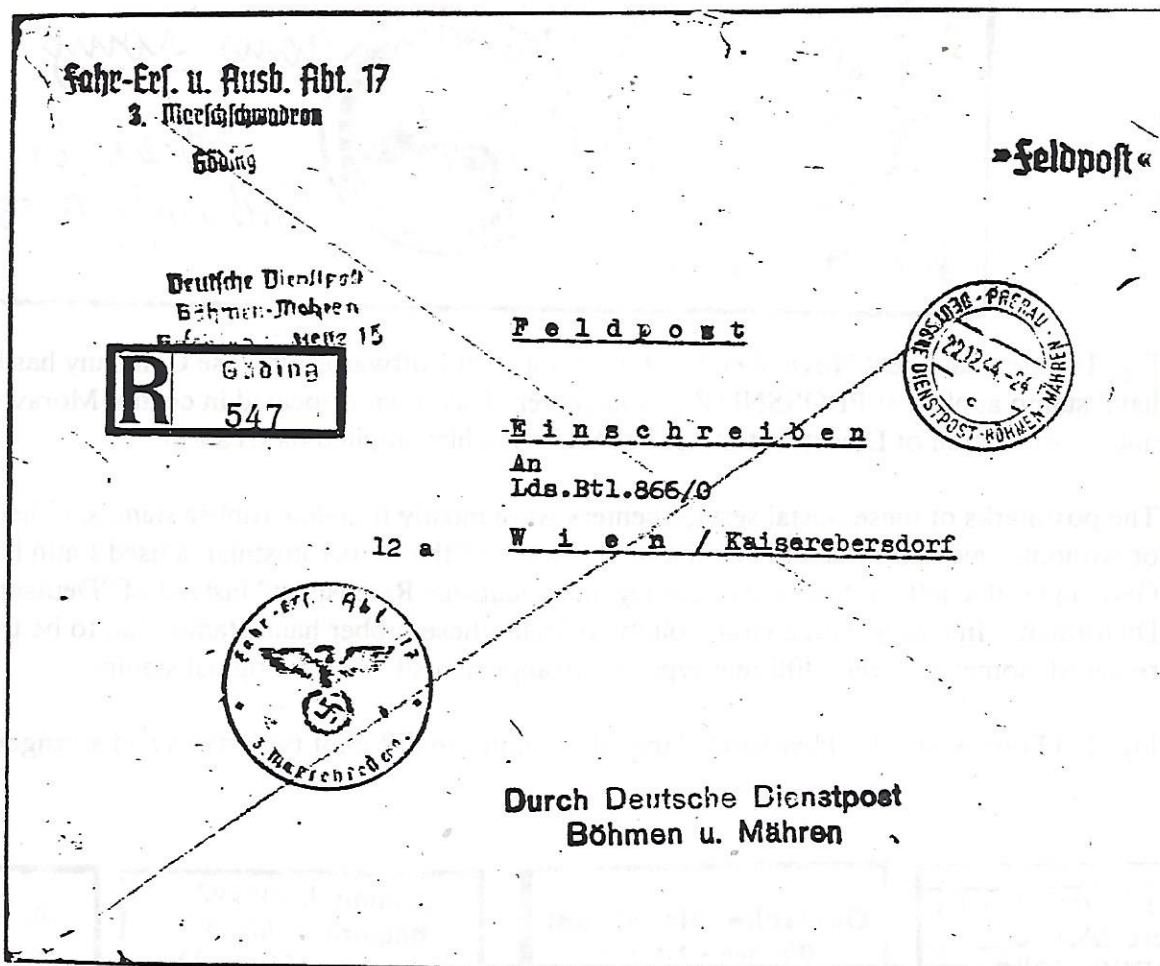
Often they were replaced because of errors in the name of the locality, etc. For example, the postmark of Prelaue was changed to Pselautsch, Milowitz to Milowitz bei Lissa a.d. Elbe, and Windischgrätz to Munchengrätz (Fig. 20 below). There are numerous provisional types of these postmarks known to exist. For example, there are postmarks from Doberschisch, Ritschan and Gottfriedschlag.

Fig. 20) Hand stamps of Substation 94, first Windischgrätz, then changed to Munchengrätz



For the registered mail, these substations used blank "R" labels, which they rubber-stamped with the postmark of their locality.

Fig. 21) Registered Feldpost cover sent in December 1944 from "Marschschwadron" (Escort Squadron) 3 of "Fahr-Ersatz u. Ausbildungs" (Transport Replacement and Training Section) 17 in Göding. This letter was processed at Göding Postal Center 15, located in southwest Moravia and under jurisdiction of DDP Prerau. Note blank field registry label stamped with open 4-line design of this substation.



The following is a list of all known postmarks of these substations and their types known to exist:

	Town Name	Type	No.		Town Name	Type	No.
1	Alderkosteletz	1c	83	50	Neupaka	1c	31
2	Altbunzlau	1a	41	51	Ober-Berschkowitz	1c	76
3	Beneschau	1c	59	52	Otrokowitz	2a	35
4	Beraun	1a	11	53	Pibrans	1a	45
5	Bistritz am Hostein	1c	77	54	Pisek	1b	30
6	Bojkowitz	1a	12	55	Podiebrad	1a	31
7	Bohmisch Brod	1b	46	56	Politschka	1c	39
8	Brandeis/Elbe	1c	41	57	Prelauc	1b	48
9	Chotzen	1c	65	58	Pschelautsch	1a	48
10	Deutschbrod	1b	13	59	Prerau	2a	-
11	Deutsch Giesshubel	?	49	60	Prossnitz	1b	33
12	Doberschisch	1a	58	61	Prossnitz-Kosteletz 60	1a	60
13	Domaschin	1b	32	62	Prossnitz-Kosteletz 59	1a	59
14	Elbekosteletz	1a, 1c	12	63	Rakonitz	1c	85
15	Frankstadt am Radh	1b	52	64	Raudnitz a.d. Elbe	1c	68
16	Friedberg (Mahren)	2c	43	65	Reichenau d.d. Kn.	1c	71
17	Friedek-Freiberg	1a	43	66	PRZ-Ritzschau	1c	75
18	Friedek-Mistek	1b	43	67	Rokitzan	?	35
19	Friedland/Ostrawitza	1b	42	68	Rubstich	1c	91
20	Göding	1a	15	69	Schlau	1a, 1c	34
21	Gottfriedschlag	1c	93	70	Schlappenz	?	39
22	Gross Meseritsch	1c	49	71	Seltschau	1c	42
23	Iglau	1b	16	72	Senftenberg	1a, 1c	61
24	Jinetz	1b	17	73	Slawitschin	1c	67
25	Jitschin	1a	14	74	Starkenbach	1c	67
26	Josefstadt	1a, 1c	23	75	Strakonitz	1b	47
27	Jungbunzlau	1b	18	76	Strasnitz	1c	46
28	Kirchsassen	1c	92	77	Straschetitz	?	44
29	Kladno	1a	19	78	Tabor	1b	36
30	Klattau	1b	20	79	Taus	1a, 1b	53
31	Koniggratz	1b	21	80	Teplitz a.d. Betschwa	1c	80
32	Koniginhof	1c	69	81	Theresienstadt	2a	37
33	Kolin	1c	22	82	Trebitsch	1c	84
34	Kralup/Moldau	2a	44	83	Tscaslau	1a	71
35	Kremsier	1a, 1b	24	84	Turnau	1c	71
36	Kuttenberg	1c	70	85	Ungarisch Brod	?	79
37	Lager Blanitz	1c	72	86	Ungarisch Hradisch	1b	38
38	Laun	1b	54	87	Wal. Klobouk	2a	58
39	Leipnik	1c	82	88	Wallach. Meseritsch	1b	55
40	Libnitz bei Böhm. Brod	1a, 2a	46	89	Wifo-raudnitz	?	74
41	Littau	1c	27	90	Wildenschwert	1c	25
42	Luhatschowitz	1c	64	91	Wilkau	1c	87
43	Melnik	1b	26	92	Windischgratz	1c	94
44	Milowitz	1c	62	93	Wittingau	1c	56
45	Milowitz bei Lissa a.d. E.	1a, 1c	62	94	Woporschau	1c	78
46	Munchengratz	1c	94	95	Wrasch	1c	66
47	Nachod	1c	60	96	Wbetin	1a	57
48	Neuhaus (Böhmen)	1a	51	97	Wsetin	1a	57
49	Neustadt a.d. Mettau	1a	50	98	Zlin	1a, 1b	40

The following are types of postmarks used by substations referenced on the listing above:

Postmark Type 1 - "Deutsche Dienstpost"			Postmark Type 2 - "Deutsche Reichspost"		
1a	without borders	Gothic letters	2a	without borders	Gothic letters
1b	with borders	Gothic letters	2b	with borders	Gothic letters
1c	without borders	Latin letters	2c	without borders	Latin letters
1d	with borders	Latin letters	2d	with borders	Latin letters

These postal substations were often moved from place to place according to official needs. In some places they were either replaced by regular Deutsche Dienstpost offices or simply transferred to another locality.

Fig. 22) Kremsier type 1b postmark on Feldpost cover sent January 1943 from "Grenadier Ersatz" (Infantry Replacement) Battalion II of Replacement & Training Regiment 486.

Kremsier substation was under the jurisdiction of DDP Office in Prerau. Mail was postmarked with boxed hand stamp and then forwarded to DDP Prerau, where standard "Dienstpost" date cancel was added.

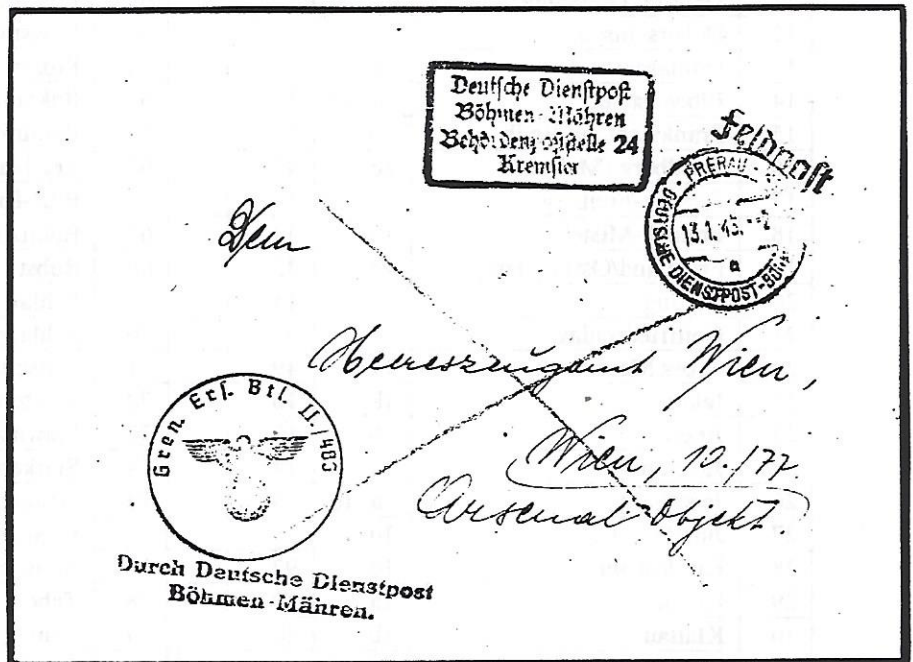
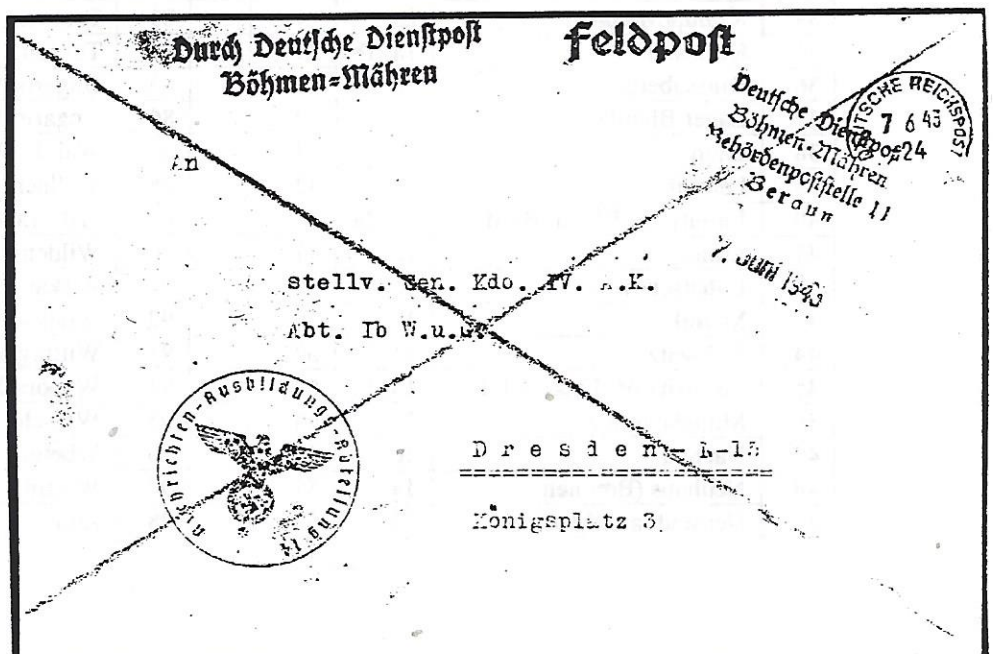


Fig. 23) Beraun type 1a postmark on Feldpost cover sent in June 1943 by "Nachrichten Ausbildungs Abteilung" (Signals Training Section) 14.

This substation was located southwest of Prag and came under jurisdiction of DDP in that city. Note single circle "Deutsche Reichspost" cancel used in place of standard DDP Cancel.



Several postal substations were located in areas servicing the armaments industry. The prolonged German war on the Russian Front resulted in a huge expansion in the armaments plants of former Czechoslovakia. Private German firms in the Protectorate were allowed to send mail via the DDP but were charged standard postal rates.

Fig. 24) Registered cover sent to Vienna in Sept. 1941 from "Industrie-beauftragter des OKW" (Armed Forces Commissioner for Industry) at Bofa A.G., an arms factory in Zlin, Moravia. The Zlin postal center 40 was under jurisdiction of DDP Prerau. Postal fee of 54 Pfg. includes 24 Pfg. (double letter rate) plus 30 Pfg. registry fee.

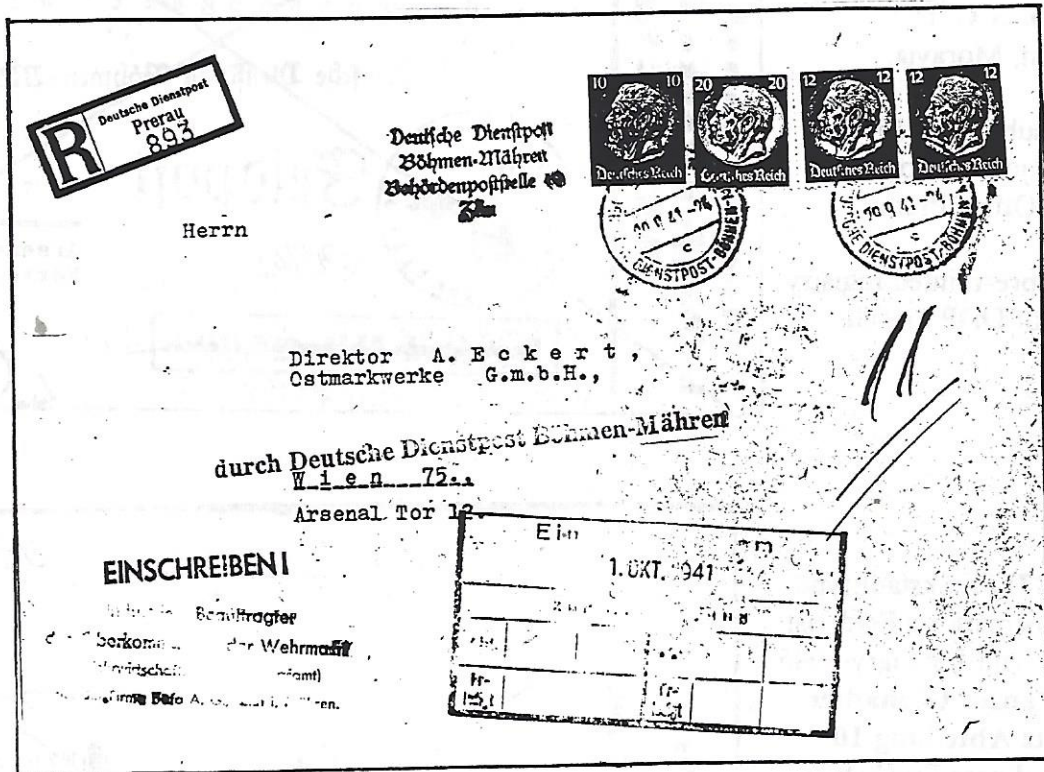


Fig. 25) Cover from "Heeres Abnahmestelle" (Army Audit Office) 445 located in branch of "Waffenwerke" (Arms Factory) Brünn. Note handstamp of Ung. Hradisch (Mähren) postal center 38 and date cancel of DDP Ung. Hradisch.

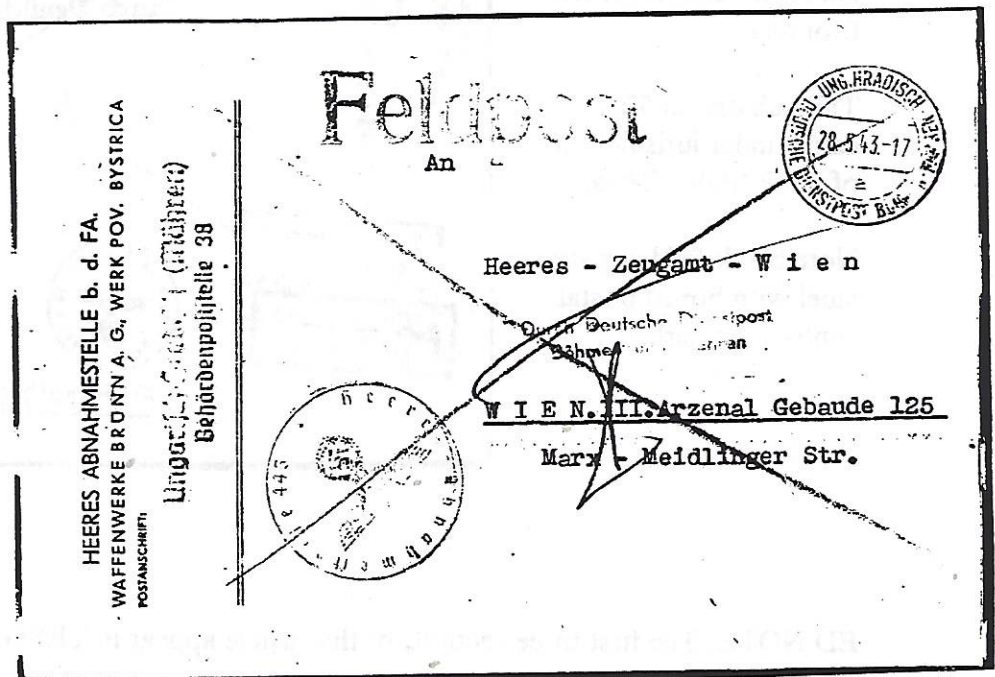


Fig. 26) Wsetin type 1a postmark on registered Feldpost cover sent April 1943 from Heeres Abnahmestelle” (Army Audit Office) 113 located in branch of “Waffenwerke” Brünn A.G. in Wsetin, Moravia.

This substation 57 was under jurisdiction of DDP Office Prerau.

Note pre-printed registry label of DDP Prerau.

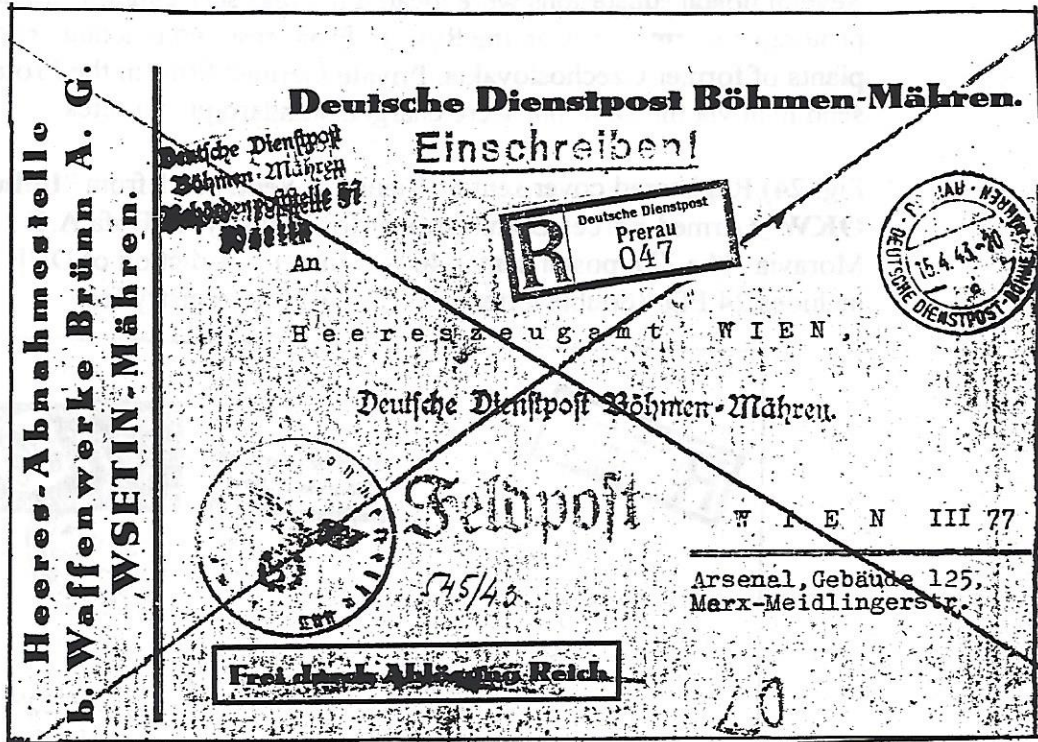
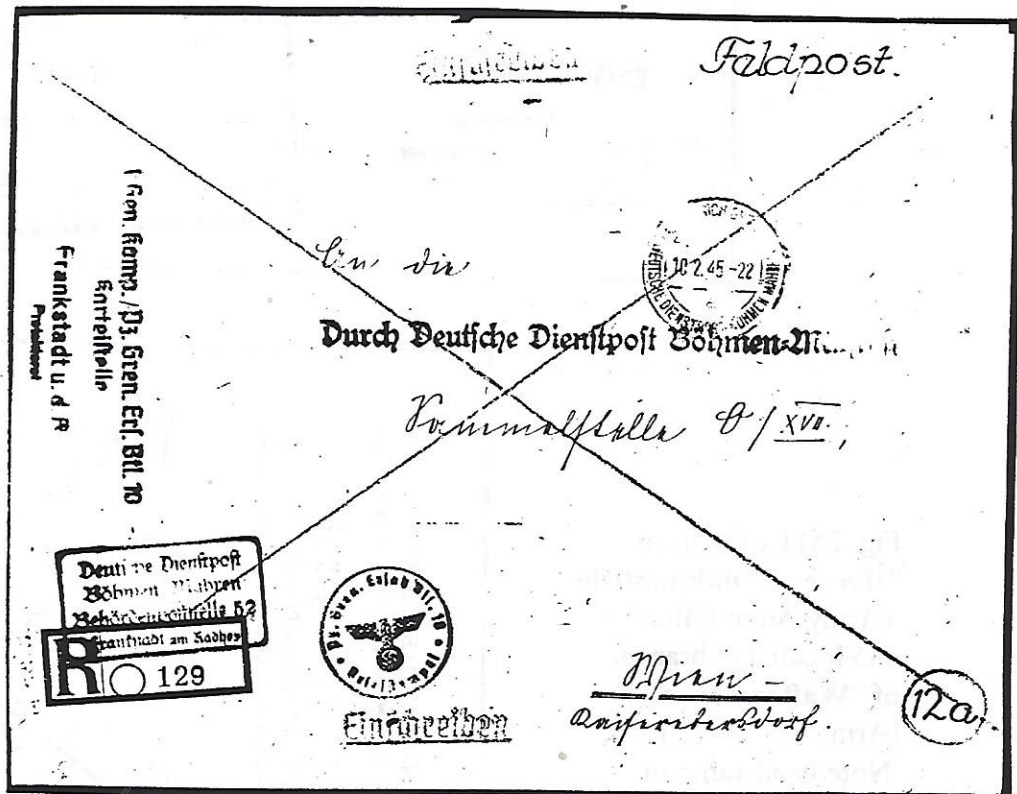


Fig. 27) Frankstadt type 1b postmark on Feldpost cover sent February 1945 by “Panzer Grenadier Ersatz Abteilung 10” located near Frankstadt am Radhost in northern Moravia.

This substation 52 came under jurisdiction of DDP Mahr. Ostrau.

Note blank field registry label with boxed postal center postmark.



(to be continued)

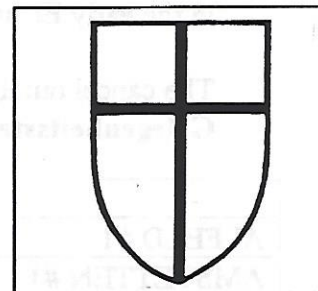
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

61st Infantry Division

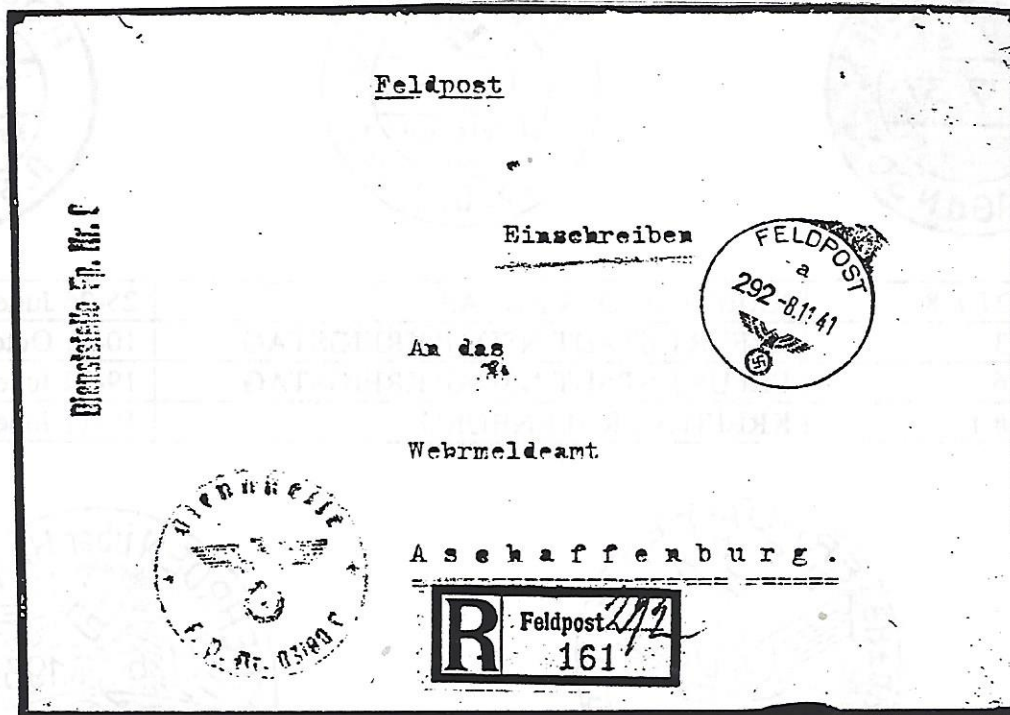
by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
601	292	151	162	176	161	161

Formed from reservists in summer of 1939, this East Prussian division (shield emblem expressed close links with Prussian Teutonic Knights) fought in Poland and took part in the siege of Warsaw. The next year it was part of Army Group B when it overran Belgium. It remained with Army Group B (re-designated Army Group North) for the invasion of Russia in 1941.



It fought in the drive on Leningrad, took part in the Battle of the Valday Hills, opposed the Soviet winter offensive of 1941-42, and was later engaged in the siege of Leningrad. In the winter of 1942-43, the 61st Infantry fought in the Second Battle of Lake Ladoga and rescued the 227th Infantry division, which had been encircled near Schluesselburg. When the Soviet winter offensive of 1944 began on January 17th, the 61st Infantry was the only reserve division of the 18th Army, which was besieging Leningrad. Committed to battle, the 61st was unable to prevent the Red Army from breaking the siege on January 28th. It retreated through the Baltic States and was transferred to Army Group Center after the disastrous defeats in June and July 1944. The division served with the XXXIX Panzer Corps in the retreat through Poland and by January 1945 was cut off in East Prussia, where it remained until the end of the war.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Aschaffenburg in November 1941 from Fp. # 03180 (Btl. III of Infantry Regiment 162) via P.O. 607 (K-292).

Special Cancels – District Congress of the Nazi Party by Bob Ferguson

“Kreistagen der N.S.D.A.P.” roughly translates to “District Congress of the Nazi Party”. These Formal District meetings were actually miniature Nuremberg rallies, lasting for a day or sometimes a weekend in the larger towns and districts. They were sponsored by the area Gauleiter (Regional Nazi Leader) to further the cause of Nazi ideology and spirit. The earliest known use of a Kreigstag special cancel was in Erfurt on October 11, 1936, which more or less coincided with the 1936 Olympiad. The last known cancel appeared on July 9, 1939. All of these cancels followed a basic pattern except for pictorial designs in the early Erfurt cancel and a Gehrden über Hannover cancel used June 1939.

The cancel numbering scheme is in Julius Bochmann’s work “**Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel**”.

Common Text: “KREISTAG DER NSDAP 1939”		
ALFELD #1	HORN (NIEDERDONAU) #1	OBER-PULLEBDORF #1
AMSTETTEN #1	KORNEBURG #1	ST. POLTEN #1
BADEN BEI WIEN #1	KREMS 31	SCHEIBBS #1
BRUCK #1	LILIENFELD #1	TULLN #1
EISENSTADT #1	MISTELBACH #1	Waidhofen #1
GANDERNDORF #31	NEUBISTRITZ #1	WIENER NEUSTADT # 1
GMUND (NIEDERDONAU) #1	NEUKIRCHEN (NIEDERDONAU) #1	ZNAIM #1
HOLLABRUNN #1	NIKOLSBURG #1	ZWETTL #1



EISENSTADT # 8	KREISTAG DER NSDAP	25-26 June 1938
ERFURT #13	ERFURT STADT NSDAP KREIGSTAG	10-11 October 1936
ERFURT #16	ERFURT STADT NSDAP KREIGSTAG	19-22 June 1937
GEHRDEN # 1	KREISTAG KALENBURG	10-11 June 1939



Report on Documents Found at Paris Censorship

By Myron Fox

National Archives declassified the following report written by G-2 (Int) Division, Censorship Sub-Division, SHAEF on 4 November 1944 and sent to The War Office (M.I. 12) Whitehall, London:

Introduction

The following supplement is founded on documents left behind by the Germans at the Postal censorship in Paris. Those that have reached us include a memorandum pad used by a senior official, etc. The information and inferences drawn by Foreign Censorship Section from a study of these documents will be discussed below.

SECTION I – Intelligence Machinery

1. Allocation

The most important point that appears to emerge from a study of these documents is that the German Censorship does not confine itself to the selection of information to be passed piecemeal to Intelligence sections of the Departments or Ministries; it is thought that it is in itself an intelligence machine and a considerable amount of the work of analysis and collation of material is done on the spot.

The Department of each German Censorship Unit, (Known as “Auswertung” i.e. Evaluation) to which material of interest is submitted by the reading tables, and where decisions are made as to the disposal of the mail has been referred to in our Report as “Submissions Department”. It appears, however, that its function is not merely to allocate individual submissions to Government Departments but to examine intelligence submitted by the reading tables, and “evaluate” it. The word “Auswertung” suggests weighing-up or extraction of information of value, and the verb “auswerten” constantly recurs in these documents.

It appears probable therefore that information is picked out by the Censorship, and distributed to the Security Sections (Abwehr) and the Using Departments, either in the form of items or of compiled data and reports, rather than in the form of individual submissions or letters.

The following details about allocation of material have been gathered from the documents:

The Postal and Telegraph Censorship in Berlin has a “Central Evaluation Dept.” known as ZAP or ZABP (presumably Zentralauswertungstelle Brief Prüfstellen). Certain information of interest to Using Depts. is sent to ZAP for distribution. A minute from ZAP instructs all Censorship Units for Foreign Mails to forward all information about “Compensation Trade” between Occupied and Neutral countries, for the following Using Depts. Through ZAP:

Special Staffs H.W.K. (Handels und Wirtschafts Kärmer? = Chamber of Trade and Economics).

O.K.W. Wehr Wirtschaftsamt (Army High Command - Army & Economics Office).

R.W.M. (Reichs Wirtschafts Ministerium = Ministry of Economics).

R.E.M. (Reichs Ernährungs Ministerium = Ministry of Food).

ZAP is evidently the authority to which all questions of allocations or distribution are referred. A scheme for distribution (Verteilungsplan) is noted as to be sent to ZAP. It does not appear, however, to have been the channel through which everything was submitted. The memo pad notes: “If in doubt, to ZAP”, which suggests that it was not a routine procedure.

This official also proposed that "enemy mail", (air mail, England – Switzerland?) should be intercepted in Paris rather than Berlin on account of its military information. This suggests that delay in obtaining such information of immediate interest to the western Command of the German Army was occasioned by its having to go to Berlin and back, whereas Paris could pass it directly to the proper quarters.

"French propaganda" is noted as being of interest to foreign Office, PROMI (Propaganda Ministerium?) or PROP. MIL. BEF. (Propaganda Militär Befehlshaber?) and also to ZAP. It will be noted in this above connection that according to information received here, trend reports were sent to the Propaganda Ministry and to the O.K.W.

2. Reports

A study of the Paris Censorship documents suggests that reports on morale, trends in opinion, propaganda, and service information, including reports on the morale of the German and of the Allied Forces, and military intelligence, form a most important part of the work of the Censorship.

3. Pooling or exchange of information from Censorship and non-Censorship sources

We stated in our Report that the Local Security (Abwehr) sections in Occupied Territory work in close cooperation with the German Censorship. This is borne out by the Paris documents. For instance, when the owner of the memo-pad was going on leave to Rotterdam, he proposed to discuss problems connected with Dutch public opinion "with the Administrative Headquarters of the Netherlands Branch", in order that specific points in Dutch mail might be watched. According to our information there is no German Censorship Unit in Holland, and the Branch referred to is probably that of the Abwehr.

There are other indications that intelligence from non-Censorship sources is sent to the various Units, either to provide pointers for the study of the mail, or to pool with information from Censorship sources. Among the documents found in the Paris Censorship are the following from Vichy sources:

a) A minute headed: "Secretary of State for the Navy in Brest to French Admiralty Vichy 23.6.42." This refers to a report on an inspection of the North Coast region, Finistère, containing information about living conditions and social welfare. It states "an extract from the report will be kept in the B.P. (Briefprüfstelle) Paris, and will be at the disposal of interested Departments.

b.) A series of extracts in German from reports compiled by the Regional Prefects of the French Departments early in 1942, both in the occupied and the then unoccupied Zones. These were originally sent to the Ministry of the Interior in Vichy. They are evidently not compiled from German Censorship sources, Vichy or German. They cover such subjects as reactions to internal and external politics, propaganda, economic condition, employment, health etc. and were apparently issued monthly.

In addition to these reports from outside sources, items in the memo-pad suggest that there was a close liaison between the various Units of the German Censorship, and that reports and intelligence were exchanged and circulated.

SECTION II – Set-Up of the Paris Censorship

The following notes on the departments etc. of the Paris Censorship are compiled from brief entries in the memo-pad referred to above, and from a list giving a few numbers of extension telephones in the building and the Departments to which they are connected.

1. Group I

This was a Reading Department and probably comprised all the Reading Sections, although mention is only made of those noted below:

- a) Group I Privilege or White-list mail, (Behördungspost).
- b) Group I Diplomatic (Diplomaten Abteilung).
- c) Group I Special Examination. (Sonderbriefprüfstelle).
- d) Group I postcards
- e) Group I M (Marine) - Naval Section staffed by Naval Officers. The query “Marine Gruppenkdo west?” is followed by a confirmation “Forward to I M”.
- f) Group I L (Luftwaffe) - Air section staffed by Air Force Officers, to which Press matter of air interest (e.g. “Interavia”) was passed to be read.
- g) Group I H (Herre) – Staffed by Army Officers and may have been Military Section. A note reads: “Distribution of Report on Great Britain. OKW Abwehr (Defense) I H West.” There are also references to a department for F.H. and “Fremde Heere West” (Foreign Armies West) presumably a division of I H.
- f) Group I Red Cross
- g) Group I Typing Pool

2. Group II

This was “Labor”, referred to in report as “Special Laboratory” (Section I 2 (g) and Section I. 7 (d). Note: Paris also had a Department referred to as “Chem” (Testing), evidently a separate Department.

3. Group III

This appears to have been “Auswertung” i.e. the department to which submissions are sent, where it is decided what to do about the mail, and where the process of “evaluation” is carried out.

- a) Chem – chemistry Department apparently separate from “Labor”. Probably bulk testing.
- b) Kleberei – Section for closing letters and sticking on labels.

- c) Schleuse – Sorting Department, and there are indications that checking against watch-lists was done here.
- d) Postbeamte – Section from which mail was forwarded. Group Examination.
- e) Registratur – Probably Registry Office.
- f) Hausverwaltung – House Management.
- g) Personal Abteilung – Establishments.
- h) Feldpostverteilung – This was only mentioned in the Telephone List. It is thought that Field Post Mail is dealt with separately at German Censorships and that the “Feldpostbriefprüfstellen” may be at least in some cases, Sections of the main Units which deal with Fieldpost mail only.

4. Outside Departments

The following addresses are given of Departments apparently separate from the main Censorship Office:

- a) POW Mail Avenue Kleber, Paris. An entry in the memo-pad reads: “Is POW mail still to be sent to Av. Kleber and from there to whom in Berlin?”. “O.K.W/VO/AWA/Kgf (Kriegsgefangenen Paris”. O.K.W. Amt. Ausl. Abw. III Kgf. Berlin.
- b) Code Department Paris. A note reads: “Zipfel code. Rue/Drouot. Commercial Code (Handelscode). By orders of Chi. (Chiffrieren?)”.
- c) Experimental Station, Paris – “Versuchsstelle Paris. Arcy 4182. Sonderplatz Paris, Rue des Archives 61”.
- d) Safe for Documents ? Paris – “Sicherplatz (place of security, safe?) T.D.(?)/Kdo/Paris/Rue de Saussaies 11”.

SECTION III – Items of information extracted from the documents found at Paris Censorship

The main source from which the items given below are drawn is again the memo-pad of the Official referred to in the Introduction. As these are extremely brief jottings and scribbling, some of them incoherent or semi-illegible, our interpretation of them may not be reliable in every case. When analyzed, however, they are found to give a more complete picture than would appear at first sight. For this reason it has been thought advisable to quote a good number of items, in order to indicate the trends which they appear to us to illustrate.

There is no doubt that the owner of the memo-pad worked in Group III; he may even have been the head of it. On one occasion he drafted in it a farewell letter to his colleagues after he had filled the rest of the book; there is no indication to be found in the jottings that his functions or the work he dealt with had changed before he had finished it.

We are, therefore, given a picture, if a somewhat sketchy one, of the type of work that an official in the Auswertung or Evaluation Department of the Censorship had to deal with. It will be noted that

there are only two references, (both in connection with French propaganda) to Using Depts., other than Service branches, and none that we have discovered to communications exchanged with such Departments. The notes are devoted to such subjects as intelligence about Military affairs and propaganda, and to problems concerning the machinery of Censorship.

It will be remembered that these miscellaneous jottings cover a few months only, apparently from the end of 1943 till sometime early in 1944. As the book was used for all purposes, such as notes on appointments etc., it will be seen that a good proportion of it is devoted to items concerning intelligence. Note: Foreign Censorship Section's notes are in square brackets.

I. Military Information

The chief interest of these jottings is the indication, which they give of the way in which the Paris Censorship was evidently piecing intelligence about the Allied Force together from all sources. It must be remembered that they do not represent any kind of compilation of information; they are merely particular points or questions to which the attention of an official dealing with many other subjects has apparently been drawn. They may, therefore, be an indication that military information was being collected on a considerable scale.

a) Extracts from Memo-pad

1. "Page 54.
National Defense(sic)
Page 55.
Black Watch heroes.....(sic)
2. par. names of 3 Lieutenants
3. " " " 2 Captains.
2. "All information whereby Units in England can definitely be identified, particularly all information regarding Air-Borne Divisions (Luftlandtruppen) no matter where."
3. "Master roll numbers of British troops to RUMPF" (Note: RUMPF was apparently head of Photostats and Card-Index Dept.).
4. Whether Brazilian or Mexican troops are in North Africa."
5. "5841. 22/2. 17 R.I.C.M. 13 Cie. New formation?"
6. "5828. 22/2 51 C.A.A., Groupe d' Artillerie de l' Air?"
7. "Lists of English Inf. Tanks. Canadian, Indian. To Berlin Command [Komm = Kommandanture?] Generals?"
8. "Canadian units in England?"
9. "5544. 29.1 Important. BPM5 = 1 Armored (Panzer) Division? Keep special watch.
10. "English Officer Switzerland [Twice mentioned] KRAUSE-KENN 5715."
11. "S.P. Div. Where is R.C. de la Garde definitely known to be? Established in Ouidah, only equipped with tanks 22.9.43."
12. "Has the arrival of 1st American T.D. [Tank Division] in England been announced as yet?"
13. "Is the distinguishing mark [patch] of the Air Borne Div. Known?"
14. "11.3.44. Above XV Army Corps. Below XI (Indian Army Corps). Sources?"
15. "Whether 3rd and 4th Canadian Div. have been transferred to England? And any information about further arrival of troops in England."

16. "I Free French (ffr.) Div. In Algiers?" Important 17.2. 2 fr. Franz. When last confirmed in Algiers?"
17. "Whether English County [Regiments?] are made up of div., whether Units go by names or numbers?"
18. "8092 1. What can be gathered about the place origin of the letter? 2. Besides this, can anything else be made out? 146/147 Field Artillery postmark deleted."
19. "Foreign Armies West -transmit 7006/7.3.44. Further action 7013/8.3.44. 5631. Inquiry on 4 Ind. Army. Does this refer to 4 Ind. Div. or Army? (5 Ind. Brig.)"
20. "Canada – England. Dresses. Capt. BUCHINGER z [Zensur] 305. Sender? " [Note: Misrouted British mail].
21. "British Red Cross lists giving names of British missing to the international Red Cross Geneva, to 1 L [Gruppe 1 Luft?] particularly American numbers." [This occurs twice].
22. [End of sentence, page torn out] "... however, not having been censored, those gave a more lifelike picture of conditions than the rest. Remarks in the previous report regarding the discipline applies also to those letters from England to U.S.A." [Note: Misrouted British mail].
23. "Mail from England to Eng. Military internees in Switzerland which goes from Sorting to the Red Cross is only read and tested with regard to Military addresses."
24. "Enemy mail is sent unopened to Berlin. Why can't it be opened here and read by Military Information Dept. (Mil. Nachrichten) here?" [Note: Presumably Airmail England-Switzerland. This was routed by surface via Paris on journey from England to Switzerland, though sent by Lufthansa in the opposite direction. It is believed that Berlin formerly examined it in both cases, but latterly mail England to Switzerland was known to have been examined in Paris, perhaps as a result of this suggestion, which is made twice.]
25. "LIFE. Is article dealing with invasion available?" PRESS. Newspaper notices dealing with military affairs should no longer be sent to Berlin." [Note: A persistent effort was evidently made to see that all military information from the West was dealt with in Paris, rather than delayed by transfer to Berlin, see above, 24].
26. "KENN 8020 - II Free French (fr. fr.) Panzer Div. Reg. Marche de Tead = Inf. Rgt. 2. Drag. in Sfax."
27. "OKM. 3. S.K.L. F.H. [Fremde Heeres = Foreign Armies] Berlin."
28. "5561. Royal Navy Command. A different number."
29. "Give name, rank, Reg. Or mobilization number (Monnummer) Censorship Bureau (M.E.F.) with dates. One example will be enough."
30. "Are Eisenhowers whereabouts known?"
31. "540. Canadian Legion? No connection with Unit. C.A.O. Canadian in Army Overseas?" (sic)
32. "A.P.O. 230 in England. Which units with this number have been met with till now?"
33. "U.S.A. Army formation and strength? 30.7.43 page 54/55."
34. "Which units have been verified under A.P.O.? 470 must be airborne troops."
35. "If address War Office, London, then Unit is in Italy. If c/o Army Post Office, London, then Unit is in England."
36. "Earlier Information Polish Army. P.O.B." [Note: The German Censorship evidently watched Post Box addresses foe Special Channel mails.]
37. "R.C.M.B. Royal Canadian..." [Later entry:] "R.C.B.M. Red Cross Message Bureau."
38. "KRAUSE. Brazilian Flying Officer. Address of Flying School."
39. "B.F.C.U. British Field Censor Unit (generally 32 in Cairo) British Forces Censor Unit."
40. "Royal Navy Inquiry List before 160."
41. "B.M.T.M. Bataillon mobile des Tir. Morocains."

42. "Field Service Pocket Book. Abbrev. 43 Photostat RUMPPF."
43. "31 Div. of the 410 Groups belong to the 5th Armored (Panzer) D."
44. "Abbreviations POW Camps KRAUSE".

Footnotes to Reports Compiled in Paris and Other German Units

Comments from Memo-pad - the following refer to reports or compiled data:

1. "Material for giving a general picture of conditions in the Middle east. Ditto of India. Distinguishing marks of Indian Divisions".
2. "Reports on morale in enemy and neutral countries – Switzerland and Portugal.
3. "Which A.B.P.s [Auslandsbriefprüfstellen] – not in France sent reports in December and how many were received." "Frankfurt Z" [Frankfurt Zensuramt -[Frankfurt reports would be likely to be of particular interest to Paris, since Frankfurt dealt with the mail of French workers in Germany].
4. "Only one report concerning anti-German propaganda abroad has been received until now 1.11.43."
5. [Fragment, remainder torn out] "...however, not having been censored, these give a more lifelike picture of conditions than the rest. Remarks in the previous Report concerning the discipline apply also to the letters from England to the U.S.A." [Evidently mail England – U.S.A. misrouted into German hands].
6. "Report (Bericht) via Lyon to RANDT. Distribution etc. [RANDT appears to have been connected with Lyons Censorship].
7. "Report on morale in enemy countries PFLUGER."
8. "Distribution of reports. Munich and Vienna have morale reports."
9. "Daily reports on material evaluated. (Tages Auswertungsberichte) Fraulein MILLE".
10. "Total number read 98,541
 Pro-German 213
 Anti-German 171
 Neutral 97,799
 Anti-British 180" [Mail unspecified]
11. "Dutch Workers' mail – always the same complaints."

Trend Document - the only Censorship Report actually found among the documents is one dealing with "family postcards" i.e. Interzone cards, from members of the French Forces in the Southern (then Unoccupied Zone) of France and in the Vichy Colonies, dated 1.10.42 & compiled in Paris.

SECTION IV – Routing

Misrouted British & Allied Mails – Extracts from Memo-pad

1. "Bags of mail for Turkey from U.S.A. and Canada pass through here, then to Vienna. Vienna has no Submissions Press Dept. (Auswertung Presse), only Gestapo to pass judgement on this mail. Newspapers should be read quickly and submitted (auswerten), this can be done.
2. "Canada – England. Addresses. Sender?"

3. "English-American Mail. 2 packets steamed open. [Note: It appears to be the policy of the German Censorship to forward misrouted mail to its destination, at least in many cases, judging from the number of examples bearing the German label which have been seen here. How much was censored secretly, as in the above case, it is of course impossible to tell, but it is conceivable that examples of mail Portugal – England seen in 1943, which appeared to have been steamed open, had been misrouted to Paris and steamed open there.]

SECTION V – Red Cross

Reference to Red Cross Censorship Bureaux - Extracts from Memo-pad.

1. "Red Cross mail is read at Nancy." "Belgian Red Cross Nancy." [Note: The references to Nancy confirms the belief held here for some time that Red Cross forms have lately been censored to a large extent by the local Bureaux, though some proportion was still censored at the A.B.P.s. It will be noted that there was a close liaison between the Bureau at Nancy and Paris Censorship. In the early part of the war it was thought that the large proportion of them was censored at the main Units for Foreign Mails, but later it was no doubt found necessary to decentralize the work, owing to shortage of staff at those units.]

2. "Bags of Red Cross transit mail from England to Switzerland and back are sorted out by REICHERT, [i.e. the 'Postbeamte' = Postal sorter, not sorter against watch-lists in Schleuse] for forwarding, and are not read (geprüft), which mail is dealt with in the building (im Hause), what is read and what was previously sorted?" [This note is somewhat incoherent, but suggests that a good deal of Red Cross mail was going through Paris A.B.P. uncensored]

3. "Red Cross mail to Geneva not read, though it passed through B.P. (Briefprüfstelle) for Turkey in Vienna."

4. "Mail from England to english military internees in Switzerland which goes from Sorting (Schleuse) to the Red Cross [i.e. Red Cross Section] is only read in part and tested with regard to military addresses, the remainder goes unopened, stamped Ax." [Paris pass stamp]

5. "Private Red Cross messages from England to Red Cross Committee, Geneva, go forward immediately from Sorting [Schleuse, i.e. after checking with watch-list] stamped Ax".

SECTION VI – Prisoners of War and Internees

It is thought that very little POW mail except from a few camps in France, chiefly French POWs, was examined in Paris – Extracts from Memo-pad.

a) Allied POWs

1. "Internee mail from France to England? Very seldom. France or Cologne?"

2. "Mail from French POW in Germany to North Africa with stalag stamp stopped".

3. "POW mail smuggled letters (Schmuggelbriefe) on the ordinary forms." [It is not known to what this refers, unless possibly to POW letters which have somehow reached Switzerland and then been forwarded from there].

4. "Polish propaganda has been handed to the Security Officer of the Military District in which the camp is situated. This is for the instruction of the censors in the camp."

b) Axis POWs

1. "Picture of U-boat to HUBER, up till now to III POW to ALST, now to IM [i.e. to Naval Section].
2. "Italian POW in Russia. From Italy, Chianso – Switzerland – Russia. To A.B.P. Berlin". [Italian POW mail routed westwards is examined in Munich not Berlin].
3. "Is POW mail still to be sent to Av. Kleber and from there to whom in Berlin?"
4. "Is condition of our POWs in America of interest to the various B.P.s?"

SECTION VII – Some Notes on Internal Procedure, Etc.

1. "Particular notice should be taken of evidence of shipping of important war material from neutrals to the Enemy. Statements about sinking of ships and the resultant loss of crews. Movements of ships in vicinity of England".

A.C. of S.,
G-2 (Int) Division,
Censorship Sub-Division,
S.H.A.E.F., Main.

The War Office (M.I.12),
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

4 Nov 44.

Herewith 4 copies of (1) Memorandum of material from German Censorship Stations of Interest to Postal & Telegraph Censorship, and (2) Notes on some documents seized in Paris and forwarded by you to P. & T. Censorship for examination.

Four copies of the original report, compiled by P. & T. Censorship Dept. and dated 30 Aug 44, were sent you in Sep 44.

C.B. Campbell-Johnston,
Lt.-Colonel, G.S.

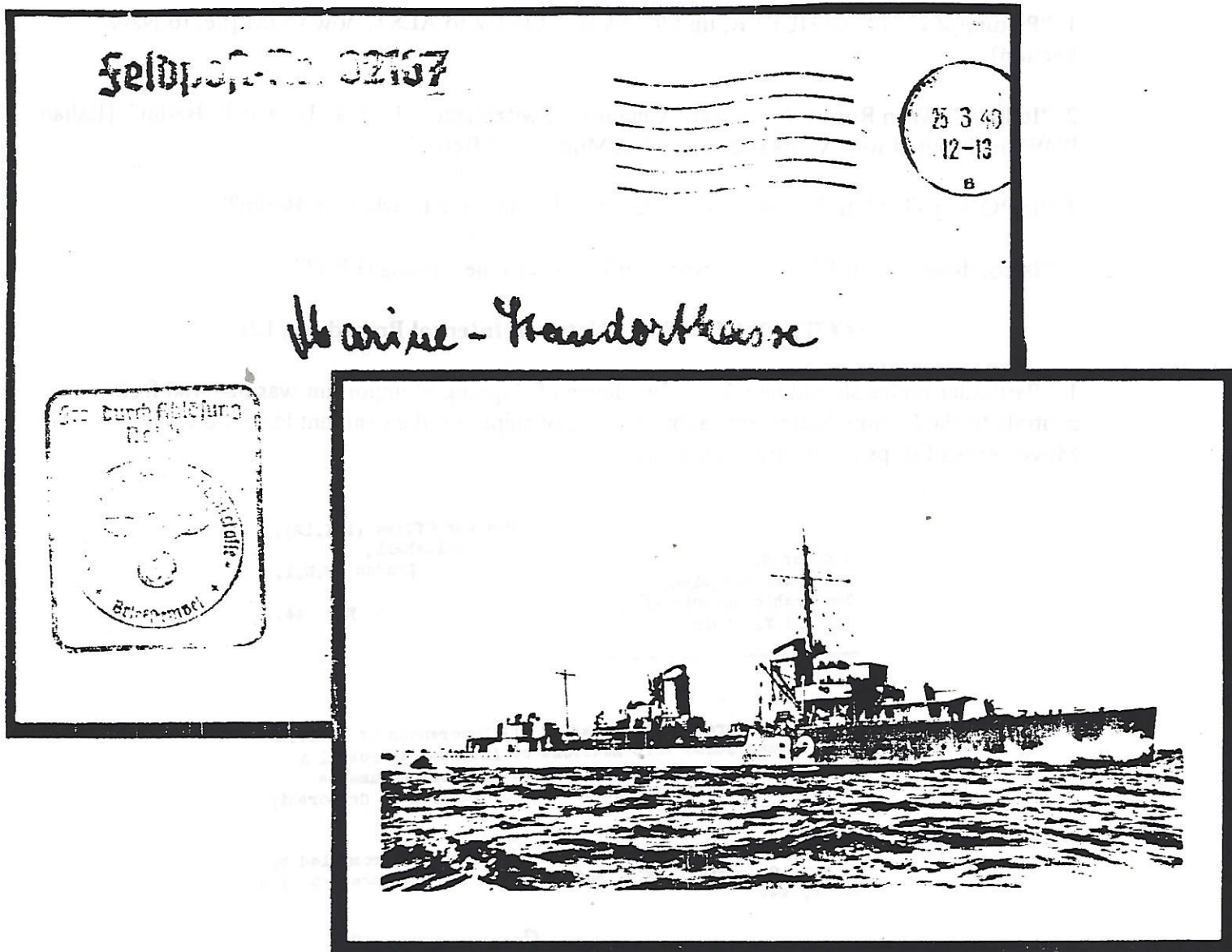
for Director of Military Intelligence.

28 951

~~3728~~ **SECRET**

NAVY LOG

Destroyer Z-12 'Eric Giese' Feldpost # 02167



Cover has 21mm 6-line "Mute" machine cancel (Code 'a') of Bremerhaven dated March 25, 1940 – three weeks before battle of Narvik.

The twelfth of sixteen 'Leberecht Maass' (Destroyer Type 1935 Z1-16) class ships. Built by Germania Weft (Kiel) and launched March 12, 1936. Namesake Kapitänleutnant Giese, commander of torpedo boat S-20, was killed in action when S-20 was sunk by British light cruiser HMS CENTAUER in the English Channel on June 5, 1917.

Served: Poland 1939, North Sea, Norway 1940. Sunk in Ofot Fjord on April 13, 1940 during second battle of Narvik.

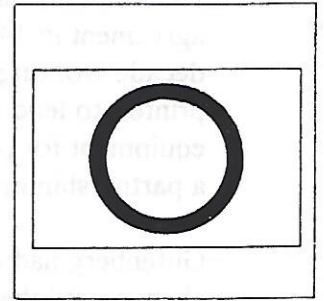
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

292nd Infantry Division

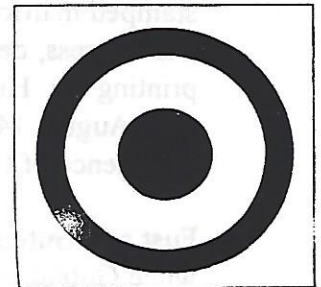
by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
292	983	507	508	509	292	292

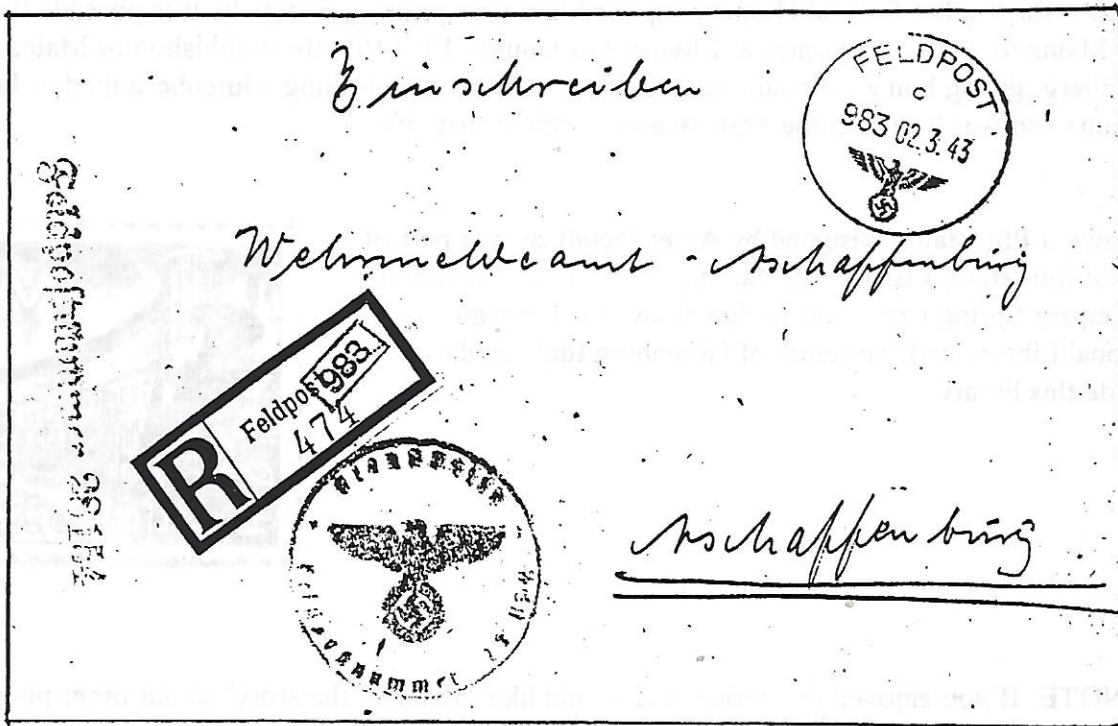
Mobilized in April 1940, the 292nd Infantry Division consisted of men from Pomerania and Mecklenburg. It was stationed in occupied France in June 1940, then in Poland from July 1940 to June 1941. The Feldpost office was assigned Fp# 38790 and Kenn 983 for use on registered mail. The original Division Emblem was a blue ring in a white rectangle (shown at right).



After crossing the Bug River with Army Group Center in June 1941, the Division fought in the Battle of the Yelnya Bend and the subsequent drive on Moscow. It took part in the defensive actions of 1942, the Rzev withdrawal (1943), the Battle of Kursk (where it sustained heavy casualties) and the fighting on the Sozh. After September 1943 the division emblem was changed to a red spot on a white circle with a red border (shown at right).



Down to battle group strength, the division retreated through Poland and into East Prussia late in 1944. It was trapped and annihilated in the Heiligenbeil Pocket on the Baltic coast in early May 1945.



Cover sent to Army Records Office in Aschaffenburg in March 1943 from Fp.# 28154 (Motor Vehicle Company of Infantry Division Supply Troop 292) via P.O. 292 (K-983).

Story Behind the Stamp: Johannes Gutenberg

by Kelly Stefanacci

Johannes Gensfleisch was born in February 1400 at the "Hof zum Gutenberg" in Mainz. He was the son of Friele Gensfleisch, the master of the archiepiscopal mint. Little is known of his early life except that his father died in 1419 and his mother in 1433. The family had moved to Strassburg (now Strasbourg, Fr.) between 1428 and 1430, where they were given the surname of Gutenberg from their birthplace. In 1437 Gutenberg married a patrician girl of Strasbourg called Ennel zur eisernen Tur but nothing is known of his family life. The first positive evidence of his interest in printing was a partnership agreement in 1438 that he made with three other citizens of Strasbourg. He probably spent the next decade working on his invention. By 1450 he was able to persuade Johanne Fust, an early German printer, to lend him 800 guilders – a very substantial capital investment, for which the tools and equipment for printing were to act as security. Two years later Fust invested additional 800 guilders for a partnership in the enterprise.

Gutenberg had originated a method of printing from movable type that was used without important change until the 20th century. The unique elements of his invention consisted of a mold, with punch-stamped matrices with which the type could be cast precisely and in large quantities; a type metal alloy; a new press, derived from those used in wine making, papermaking and bookbinding; and an oil-based printing ink. His first major work was the printing of a large folio Latin Bible, which was not completed until August 1456, although at the same time he printed shorter works including a papal letter of indulgence of thirty one lines which was dated 1454.

Fust and Gutenberg eventually became estranged because Fust wanted a quick return on his investment while Gutenberg aimed at perfection. Fust won the suit and foreclosed on his debt, seized all his printing materials in November 1456 and took them to Mainz.. It appears that Gutenberg also went to that city where a Dr. Conrad Humery supplied him with printing materials. It is possible that he went from Mainz to work as a printer at Eltville. On January 14, 1465, the archbishop of Mainz pensioned Gutenberg, giving him an annual measure of grain, wine and clothing. Gutenberg died in January 1468 at Mainz and was buried in the Franciscan Church of that city.

A brown 3 Pfg. stamp designed by Axter-Heudlass was part of a set of four stamps issued on March 3, 1940 to commemorate the Leipzig Spring Fair. This design shows the German National Library and the statue of Gutenberg that stands outside this library.



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