

Quarterly Bulletin

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As one of the attending members of the Baltimore Stamp Show let me congratulate all those who had anything to do with its success. There were several exhibits of interest to our study group. Sam Simon's Concentration Camp Mail Collection was excellent. Also Professor MacKenzie's splendid exhibit on war and propaganda forgeries and James Duffy's Feldpost cover collection were well received. We soon hope to present articles in our bulletin regarding these collections. We also gained three (3) new members for our study group.

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NOTICE

In order to defray the various costs incurred in preparing this Bulletin your co-directors have found it necessary to assess dues of one dollar per member per year starting in January of 1964. This will equalize the burden. Several members have already made contributions, especially Prof. MacKenzie, Ben Beede and others.

Private Reference Notes: Some of the entries are intended to locate sources of information on German Philately. From time to time the Bulletin will list some sources where good material may be obtained.

1. Price Billing: 169-33 Highland Avenue, Jamaica 28, New York -- A fine 63 page catalog of stamps. Very comprehensive. Much German material. Price 25¢, refundable on stamp purchases.
2. Postal Publications, Ltd. 27, Little Lane, Secord, London W.C.2, England --
3. Treasure Stamp, Ltd. 154, The Street, Doughton, Goversham, Kent, England -- Price list, 1/-, refundable. Many items.

B. R. Deede

By the time of the armistice between Germany and France late in June, 1940, three million French prisoners had been taken prisoner. Of these, about one-third were released soon after the armistice, and as a result of further releases during 1940-43, there were only approximately a million French POWs in German hands in 1945. To protect the interests of the prisoners and to observe the application of the Geneva Convention, Georges Scapin was appointed as a special ambassador to Germany in 1940. His mission established itself first in Paris and later in Berlin.

In accordance with the Geneva Convention, French POWs were allowed to send and receive mail without postage being charged. From the armistice to the end of 1940, mailing privileges were quite liberal; any number of letters and packages could be dispatched by or to the prisoners. The only restriction was that the weight of individual packages was limited to 11 pounds.

After January 1, 1941, however, new decrees went into effect. Packages were limited to two a month, although additional parcels by the French War Ministry were permitted. The regulation dealing with letters was that POWs could send their families one letter and two post cards monthly. The cards and envelopes had reply forms attached to them which had to be used for answers. Certain special arrangements were also made whereby additional letters could be sent in cases of family emergencies; moreover, occasionally, prisoners in some camps could send and receive letters on French national holidays. Between the latter part of 1940 and June, 1941, POWs could forward money orders to France.

These notes are based on a statement by Robert Moran, consultant-general for repatriated prisoners, reproduced in France during the German Occupation 1940-1944, translated by Philip W. Whitcomb (Stanford, Stanford University Press), Vol. I, pages 211-18.

The above is certainly not a comprehensive account of French POW mail in World War II, but perhaps it may stimulate other members to provide more information. Illustrated are two covers related to my subject. One is a free-stamped cover sent from Stalag VI D to Geneva by a French POW. The other item was sent by the Scapin office to the commandant of Stalag XVII A in Germany. Note the seal of the "L'ambassadeur de France, Services Diplomatiques des Prisonniers de Guerre" and the mission's address in Paris.



STALAG XVII A.
(Detention)

den Herrn Lagerkommandant

des

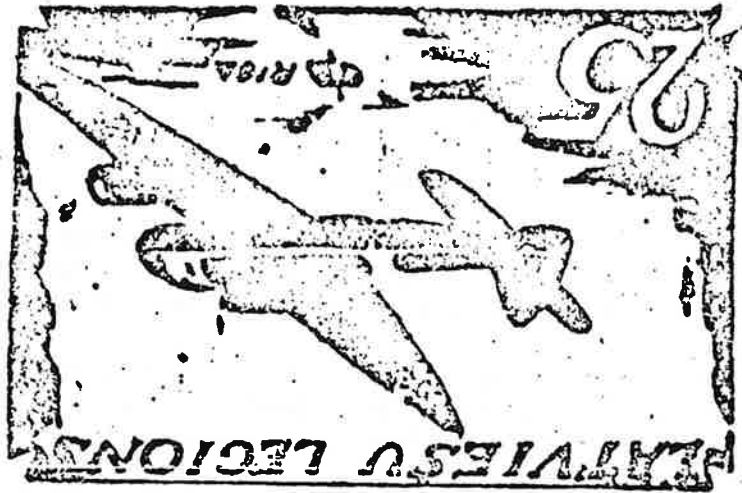
Services Diplomatiques des Prisonniers de Guerre
L'ambassadeur de France
Paris

by Arnold Engel

In 1977 semi-postal stamps were privately prepared for the benefit of the Latvian Legionaires serving with the 15th Waffen SS Division "Letland". However the collapse of the Eastern Front in the summer of 1944 and the subsequent fall of Riga, the capital of Latvia, caused the issue to be abandoned during the evacuation. Little is known about the proposed issue and except for a few lines in the Latvian Newspaper "Teivija" (Fatherland) in 1976 little was written about it.

The need of Latvian Legion stamps occurred because the Latvian Veterans Relief Organization was without funds to aid the dead and disabled veterans and their families. Since the German Civilian and Military Authorities in Latvia were either unwilling or unable to help, it became necessary for the Latvians to help themselves. Several Riga Philatelists saw a possible source of income in issuing semi-postal Legion Stamps with the surtax to go to the Veterans Fund. The idea looked good. During the second half of 1943 the Latvian Relief Fund requested permission to issue the stamps but due to a governmental reorganization approval was not given. A second request in January of 1944 was favorably received by the German authorities in Riga and a commission established under the leadership of E. Anderson, V. Chika and A. Mikelson. Shortly thereafter V. Chika left Riga and was replaced by Mr. A. Loin.

At that time the only stamps permitted to be used in Latvia were the Hitler Head series overprinted Ostland. The general Commissariat Latvia would not permit any other issue. The authorities didn't see any objection to the issuing of Legion Stamps with a surcharge only. While they couldn't be used to prepay postage they would be given semi-official recognition and could be cancelled. The commission decided to go ahead and presented the authorities with 17 proposed designs. The German authorities vacillated and passed the commission from one office to another. Finally four (4) designs were tentatively accepted. They are reproduced here. It should be noted that they were more Latvian than German. Also the SS runes were not used (1). The designers were requested to put on the SS Symbol and the German monetary units on the stamps. In July of 1944, four months after the initial designs had been presented to the German authorities, approval was given for the revised designs. Before production could begin the Russians broke through and penetrated to the Baltic Area. In the evacuation the designs were left behind at the Latvian Government Printing Office. The initial printing order had been for 50,000 sets with the values +0.25, 0.75, 1.00, 1.50. A. Apinis and R. Karpavics were the designers.





HISTORICAL DATA REGARDING THE LATVIAN

LEGION

By the Editors.....



When the Germans entered Latvia, they found a number of anti-Soviet partisans whom they formed into Police Battalions, three of which were sent to the Leningrad sector of the Eastern Front. Other policemen and militia were sent to join these units. The members of these forces thought they would be released within a few months but found they had enlisted for the duration of the war.

On August 28, 1942 it was announced that Hitler was to permit the formation of an Estonian Legion. Soon after the Latvians began negotiations for a similar Latvian unit. Although the Latvians desired a Latvian Army, Hitler refused and instead approved a Legion for the suppression of pro-Soviet partisan activity. It was known as the Waffen SS Legion Lettland. Of the 50,000 men who volunteered or were conscripted 15,000 went to the Legion, 10,000 to the Labor Service, principally to Organization Todt, and 25,000 became HIMM (Hitlerjugend) (Volunteer Auxiliaries used as cooks, guards, ammunition carriers, truck drivers and the like.)

When the Legion was finally established in 1943, its Divisional Officers and their staffs were German, the rest Latvian. Later in 1943 the Legion Troops were formed into the 2. SS Inf. Brigade (Lettland), and saw action in the Leningrad area. On February 29, 1944 a second Latvian Unit was formed out of several Police Battalions and some militia units. It was known as the 15. Waffen Grenadier Div. SS (Lettisch Nr. 1).

In March of 1944 the 2. Latvian SS Volunteer Brigade was expanded to form the 19. Waffen Grenadier Div. SS (Lettisch Nr. 2). The next month the VI SS Volunteer

Armeekorps was formed to control the Latvian SS formations.

As of June 30, 1944 the field or combat units of the Latvians numbered as follows:

VI SS Freiv. Armeekorps (Lett)	72	Officers NCO's	279	1178	1529
15. Waff. Gren. Div. Lett. Nr. 1	541		2322	15550	18413
19. Waff. Gren. Div. Lett. Nr. 2	329		1721	8872	10592
Total		EM			

30,536 TOTAL

As of 20 September 1944, the strength report of the Latvian Field Units was:

VI SS Waff. Gren Corps (Let.)	292	1522	1976	10298	12507	2762
15. Waffen Gren Div SS Lett. Nr. 1	416	1522	1976	10298	12507	2762
19. Waffen Gren Div SS Lett. Nr. 2	416	1522	1976	10298	12507	2762
GRAND TOTAL	31,839	16870	1976	10298	12507	2762

By October of 1944 the two Latvian Units had retreated into Kurland with the rest of Army Group North. Soon after most of the 15. division personnel were transferred to the 19th, although some were sent to Pomerania for additional training. The 15th was forced back into Danzig when the Pomeranian Front collapsed in March of 1945. Most of its personnel were removed by ship to the area north of Berlin and detailed for the defense of the capital on April 27, 1945. However in the confusion one of its regiments managed to reach Magdeburg and surrender to the Americans.

The remaining division the 19th remained in Kurland until the end. A strength report of the Army's General Staff shows that in early April there were 18,177 SS Troops in Kurland with the VI SS Corps and an additional 2,754 men of the 15th div. in the process of being transferred to the Berlin Front (Oder Front). (Source: Schematische Kriegsgliederung des Gen.St.d.H./Op. Abt.II)

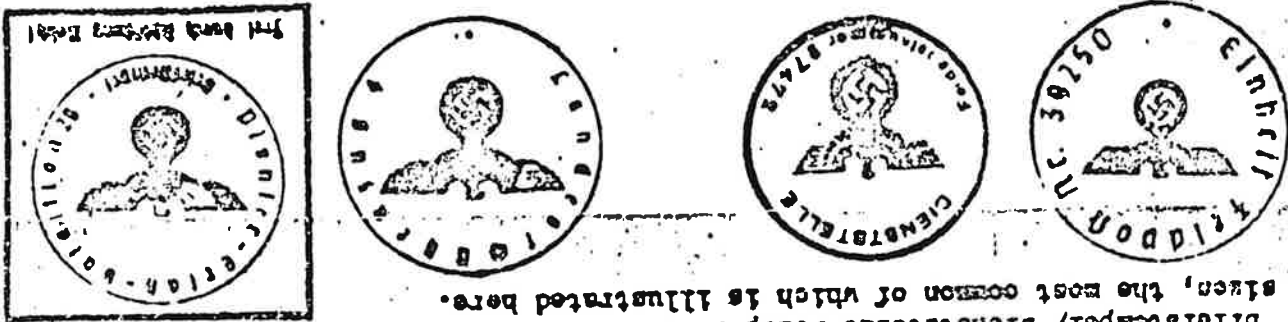
A Study of the German Military Postal System

1937 - 1945



Military mail required no prepayment of postage. The Privilege was given to members of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy & Airforce) and Government Officials on active duty, members of the SS and the Ordinary Police Formations, the Wehrmacht (National Labor Service) and civilians in formations working in Operational Areas (e.g. Organization Todt). All mail to be free franked had to have "Feldpost" written on the front and carry the exact address of the sender. Then it had to be taken to either a Feldpostamt or a Nochepostamt. In the latter case it also had to have the "Trippostempel" of the sender unit. All military mail required Dienstpostel or Official Stamp, Field units as well as the replacement army.

The Dienstpostel was a circular stamp with the National Emblem and the inscription "Dienstpostel/Dienststelle Feldpost Nr.". These exist in various forms and sizes, the most common of which is illustrated here.



Each troop unit and Command Authority was provided with two kinds of Dienstpostel. One, with the complete name and number of the unit for use on internal mailings within the Wehrmacht and the other with just the Feldpost Nummer for use on non-official mail.

Continued Next Month

NOTE: This is the start of a very ambitious program for our study group. Anyone wishing to help please contact one of the Editors. Any and all kinds of help is needed.

Government Publications Section

Third Army Study Group

BULLETIN No. 5

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Additional Data regarding the LATVIAN LEGION article

Roger Szymanski advises us that while 14 designs were prepared he has illustrations of 15 of them. Mr. Stalbow, publisher of "Baltikum Sammler" shows 15 designs in his article on the Latvian Legion in issue #5, September 1962. They are:

Designer	+25	Legionnaire's head with rising sun behind	
N. Stunke	+75	Legendary figure with fort & sailboat in background	
"	+100	Legionnaire with shield surrounded by spear points in background	
A. Apinis	+25	Plane flying east over Latvian map	
N. Strunke	+150	Legionnaire with pillbox in background	
A. Apinis	+75	Peasant working in field with tank in background	
R. Kasparsons	+25	Legionnaire in trench with rural scene in background	
"	+100	Legendary scene of man & woman seated beneath tree	
"	+75	Man defending woman from legendary monster	
"	+25	Maid crowning helmet of legionnaire with flowers	
"	+75	Two legionnaires at anti-tank gun	*
"	+100	Legionnaire in trench tossing grenade	*
S. Apinis	+150	Maid presenting legionnaire with victory wreath	*
"	+100	Legionnaire with Latvian flag	
"	+150	Maid presenting legionnaire with victory wreath	
"	+25	Maid presenting legionnaire with victory wreath	

* Accepted Designs

Good work Roger. We'll try to have all the designs reproduced in the next issue. We are also advised that the organization which was to receive the funds raised by the stamp's surtax was the Latviesu Karaviru Palīdzibat or Latvian Soldier's Aid, which was created to help legionnaire's dependents.

PO STLEITZONEN (Postal Lead Districts)

Some time ago I reported in the Specialist that the date of introduction of these Postal Lead Numbers by the Reichspost was December 1942. It appears I was in error. The correct date should be December 19, 1943. Research indicates that none of these numbers appears on envelopes and covers before the spring of 1944. After this time they are quite common but never have I found these numbers used before 1944.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

This is a continuation of a series of book reviews, begun in Bulletin #3 (September, 1963), designed to introduce beginning Third Reich collectors to some of the basic books and periodicals in the field. These are again arranged by the kind of philatelic information of material they deal with:

POSTAL SERVICES, FEES, ETC.: For anyone interested in postal rates and the like under the Third Reich, there is a publication which should be of considerable assistance. This is the "Technical Manual PT" prepared for Military Government personnel who went into Germany in 1944-45. Besides eleven pages of postal rates, there are many statistics on mail service for 1938 and 1939, plus a number of highly interesting maps showing the level of mail traffic in each postal district (OPD). A few pages are concerned with Allied plans for post-war Germany, but these make interesting reading as well. Despite the rather heavy charge (\$6.85) for a reproduction of the relevant section of this manual, every member of the study group really should have one, for it is sure to answer many of your questions about mail service. To obtain a copy, write Mr. Sherrad East, Chief Archivist, World War II Records Section, National Archives, General Services Administration, Alexandria, Virginia.

Dienstpost: The standard work is: Dr. Hermann Schultze, Deutsche Dienstpost 1939-1945, published under the auspices of the Poststempelgilde "Rhein-Donau," in 1953-9. The late Dr. Schultze made extensive use of official records in his research and produced an exceptionally fine study. Dienstpost offices operated in much of occupied Europe during the war for the benefit of the occupation authorities and, occasionally, for other groups or agencies. The catalog portions which list cancellations, registrations, labels, etc., can be used effectively even by a person with little knowledge of German, though, of course, the lengthy section discussing the occupation governments and the development of postal services do require some linguistic ability.

Feldpost: Perhaps the most comprehensive work is: Alfred Clement, Kleines Handbuch der Deutschen Feldpost 1937-1945 (Graz, 1952), which discusses the operations of the Feldpost system in their many ramifications. Besides listing the various types of cancels, seals, and admission stamps, he also discusses the use of postage stamps in Feldpost sendings, POW mail, late returnee mail, Volksturms covers and a host of other topics. The large number of illustrations and the careful listings make it readily usable by anyone who owns a fairly good German-English dictionary.

G. Hofmann-Giesecke, Deutsche Feldpost, 1939-45 (1952) covers much of the same ground, but with a different emphasis. Most of his attention was focused on the later admission stamps, such as the Tunis provisional, the Kurland bisect, etc. Much of the book is in narrative form; there are not many illustrations. It is worth having, though, for it does supplement much of the information in the Clement handbook.

A somewhat more specialized work is: Alfred Clement, Handbuch der Militaer-Luftpost, 1793-1954. Although this catalog covers military airmail on a worldwide scale, it is valuable for the German specialist, since it includes a good deal of information on WW II Feldpost not included in Clement's other volume, discussed above. Some of the areas considered are Condor Legion mail, Austrian air force mail after the 1938 Anschluss, and the participation of Slovak and Hungarian soldiers on the Eastern front in German Feldpost services.

B. R. Beede

As a result of the fighting during May and June, 1940, and the flow or refugees across the country, postal services in France were disrupted in many areas. Reconstruction efforts were handicapped by lack of personnel, military action, the division between occupied and unoccupied France, and the need to seek prior authorization from the German occupation authorities for many policy changes. Despite all these obstacles, even by August, 1940 service had returned almost to normal in some parts of western and southern France.

When the Vichy regime was established, one of the changes made in the structure of the administration was the subordination of the postal service to a unified ministry dealing with all matters related to communications, somewhat similar to that developed in Germany under Hitler. This authority was abolished late in 1942, after the German occupation of southern France, and all the communications departments were assigned to the Ministry of Industrial Production and Communications.

Liaison with the German Army was maintained through a special agency which dealt with all matters arising out of the 1940 armistice, to which were assigned official of the Vichy PTT. The liaison officers for postal matters were stationed in Paris, where the headquarters of the PTT was also situated. Two German military authorities were involved in postal matters, the Feldpostmeister and the Hoshore Nachrichtenfuhrer, the former being an experienced postal official. Contacts were maintained between these official, the two liaison officers for postal problems relating to the armistice, the French PTT, and the armistice agency at Vichy. All contact between the PTT and the Germans was carried on through the two special liaison officers.

POW mail service was established on July 15, 1940, and delivery of letters which had collected in military postal officers was begun. During the last two weeks of 1940, more than a million and a half packages were sent to POWs in Germany.

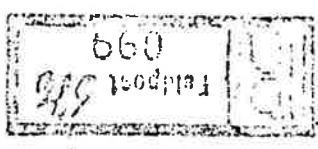
International service was begun as early as August, 1940, and was gradually extended. Perhaps the most serious problem facing postal officials was the division maintained between the two sections of the country. Correspondence between these areas was initially limited to form cards ("I am well," etc.). By the second half of 1941, blank cards which permitted somewhat more personal messages, were sanctioned by the Armeefeldpostmeister. Finally on March 1, 1941, letters were permitted, though registered mail was not allowed.

Up to November, 1942, censorship of internal mail in the occupied zone was limited to occasional spot-checks. After the invasion of North Africa, however, the Germans wanted to censor all mail which had accumulated in southern France when the invasion by Allied forces had stopped postal service to North Africa. The Vichy officials were opposed to this, and managed to return all the letters to the senders without censorship.

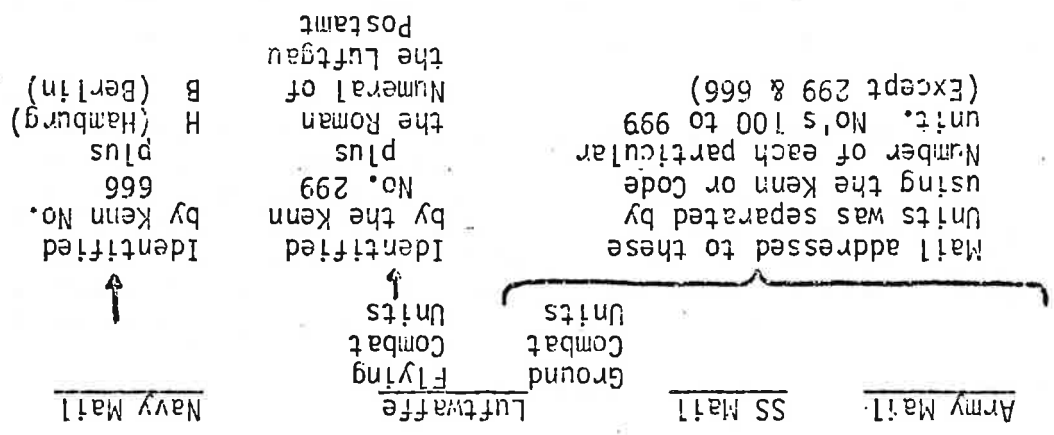
The above is drawn from a fairly lengthy account in France during the German Occupation, 1940-1944, translated by Phillip W. Whitcomb (Stanford, Stanford University Press, 1958).

Also please remember to register your registered Feldpost Covers. It is only through this method that we can get the complete story of the numerous changes that occurred during the war. We need the following:

- The Date of the Letter Identify
- The 3 Digit Kenn Number
- The 5 Digit Feldpost Number (e.g. Einheit #00 545A)
- Postmark of date Stamp



While all this is worth while we still have less than half of our job completed. There remains about 500 Kenn Numbers for Rear Area Units, Occupation Troops, Repair Depots and hundreds of other services. What is needed now is a listing of all the numerous locations of the Field Post Offices (Feldpostamt) not connected to either an Army Corps or a Division. These units are numbered between 500 and 1200. Can anyone be of assistance?



In a short span of time our Study Group has made amazing strides in identifying the various Kenn Numbers that appear on registered Feldpost covers. Of course much needs to be done but considering the fact that we knew almost nothing when we started we can now take pride in the fact that our little group has something positive to contribute to the study of Third Reich Philately.

To summarize our endeavours we can show an almost complete listing for the larger mobile units of the German Armed Forces for March of 1945. We have the three digit Kenn number for most of the Armies, Corps and Divisions of the Army, many of the SS Divisions and as yet only a few of the various Luftwaffe Flying and field units. The identity of the Naval Units has yet to be worked out. Because of the differences of the different branches of the services we have had to make the following subdivisions.

Progress report on our Feldpost Study

Benjamin R. Beede

John W. Painter

In closing, we might voice the hope that all you have purchased you sets of GPS maps and are patronizing the GPS Sales Department and advertisers in the Specialist. All this is necessary for a strong GPS and, consequently, for a strong Third Reich Study Group. Please keep your letters coming in. We enjoy hearing from you and will do our best to give a balanced coverage to your interests in the bulletin.

One of our readers has suggested that the article in Bulletin #4 (October 1963), entitled, "Historical Data Regarding the Latvian Legion" was improper since it was not philatelic in nature. This is correct; the publication of this item was to some extent an oversight on our part. However, while similar articles of historical interest to anyone who requests such information in private correspondence. Before inquiring, however, perhaps you can study the holdings of your local library and consult the librarian and the standard bibliographical tools for material which you may want to purchase.

Our plans for 1964 are fairly extensive. We have accumulated a good deal of data on Feldpost service and will attempt to correlate this for possible presentation in the bulletin. POW mail and censorship are other promising fields. Still another project would be the translation and publication of a postal manual in use during the Third Reich era. If we can obtain permission to reprint this, in might be of interest to members of the group. Should any of you be interested in seeing this item appear serially in the bulletin, perhaps you could drop Ben Beede a note. We don't want to start any projects that do not genuinely represent the desires of the group; so let us know your interests and wants.

So far our most active participant is Mr. Sam Simon, whose collecting interest is concentration camp and ghetto mail. Mr. Simon has developed a wide circle of correspondents and has mapped out an ambitious program, involving a GPS slide talk and a series of articles for the Specialist. More on this in future bulletins. Other members have offered their assistance and their activities will be noted in future issues as new programs are implemented. Still other members may be wondering what they can contribute to our group. We can suggest one thing they might do. If any member has clipping files or back runs of philatelic publications dealing with subjects in our area of interest, he might contact one of us, giving a list of the articles. Until we can get the documents in our possession organized, it might be helpful to reprint a few articles in our bulletin.

Our group has only been in existence for a relatively few months; yet we seem to have made some progress. Evidently, we are helping collectors who have recently started in the Third Reich field. Whether we have as yet done much for advanced specialists is much more questionable. All we can say to the latter group is that obtaining and organizing the necessary information is a time-consuming and expensive proposition. There is a great deal of material available which has not been published in English and we can no doubt present much of it in our bulletin in coming months.

Bulletin # 6

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German Philatelic Society
 Third Reich Study Group

PRISONER OF WAR COVERS

Several members have asked questions about the various markings on their POW covers. Perhaps a word would be in order as to how prisoners were handled during the war. The Prisoner of War Organization in Germany was controlled by the OKM (Ober Kommando d. Wehrmacht - Armed Forces High Command) and administered through the 17 Wehrkreise (Military Districts). The map reproduced below shows how these 17 Military Districts were numbered and their location. This is important as many camps bore the Roman numeral of their district followed by a letter to distinguish the different camps within the districts. Thus Stalag 17 (XVII) was located in the area around Vienna in what is now lower Austria. Stalag IIc was located in the area of Berlin-Brandenburg.



WEHRKREISE

GERMAN COPTS GRAYS

To give some idea as to the large numbers involved here is a tabulation of December 1944 showing the different nationalities of the 2,450,000 POW's & Civilian Internment.

Americans	46,000	Netherlands	10,000
Belgians	64,000	Poland	70,000
English	167,000	Soviet Russia	929,000
French	920,000	Serbia	123,000
Italians	96,000	Other	25,000

If enough members are interested we can begin a Registry Program and see how many POW camps permitted letters to be sent.

There were several types of camps for controlling prisoners in the various stages of their internment. After capture they were assembled into camps under the control of their particular Army or Army Group (Frontstammlager). After processing they were sent to camps in the rear areas for assignment to a permanent POW camp. These transit camps (Durchgangslager) were the intermediate stage in transport of the prisoner to the Reich. Since their stay in these camps was of necessity short there will be few letters and cards posted from these camps. While all this was going on, the Security Police and the various intelligence agencies were removing those who were either useful or dangerous. The remainder now separated into two groups, officers and other ranks were distributed throughout the Military Districts in Officer Camps (Offizierslager) and Enlisted Men's Camps (Manschafsts-Stammlager). As usual these lengthy camp names were abbreviated.

Frontstammlager
 Durchgangslager
 Offizierslager
 Manschafsts-Stammlager
 FRONTSTALAG
 DULAG
 OFLAG
 STALAG

Because of the different nature of Aerial Warfare the Luftwaffe found it necessary to establish their own POW camps within the same Wehrkreis structure. The following list shows the seven (7) camps within Webrkreis VIII, Breslau H.Q., as of November 1944.

Stalag VIII A located in Gorlitz
 Stalag VIII B located in Teschen
 Stalag VIII C located in Sagen
 Stalag 344 located in Lamsdorf
 Kriegagefangener Lager 3 der Luftwaffe (OFLAG) Segen
 Kriegagefangener Lager 7 der Luftwaffe in Bankau
 Civilian Interbae Camp
 Kgf. Bau u. Arb. Btl 108 (POW Construction & Labor Bn) Kanth bei Breslau

These camps were guarded by a total of 17,470 German Army and Airforce personnel of whom some 16,058 were assigned to the Local Defense & Security Detachments (Landes-schutzen Bn) of the Military District. The camps themselves had 227,786 prisoners. Of this total some

108,894	were Russians	5,309	Belgians	978	Poles
47,163	English	5,138	Italians	301	Greeks
44,353	French	4,805	Yugoslavians	267	Rumanians
6,741	Americans	4,038	Slovakia		

51,068 were employed within the camps on various details while the remainder of 176,718 had been assigned to outside work details. With this information as a start we should be able to get a listing of all camps used during the war and then check to see how many had mail posted from them.

Contact Ben Beede with any additional information you may have.

SOURCE "Das Deutsche Heer" 1939-1945 Wolf Keilig, Section 41, pages 31-42

Both the stamps and cancellations of the general government have long appealed to me. Their attractiveness was not lost upon German collectors in the years 1940-4, and a philatelic agency was established at Cracow. What follows is a translation of the remarks on a postal card used in corresponding with philatelists on the subject of commemorative cancellations.

1. All postage stamps valid in the general government affixed to sheets of paper, cards or envelopes, will be cancelled.
2. Postal agency stamps will no longer be cancelled.
3. Whole sheets will also be cancelled in the original.
4. Special cancellation desires should be clarified by diagrams.
5. Foreign and invalid postage stamps will not be cancelled even in combination with stamps of the general government.
6. An individual shipment of post cards or stamped envelopes (provided with addresses) is not possible at the moment as ordinary or registered mail.
7. The desired special cancel has already been withdrawn.
8. Special cancels are affixed only on stamps of the general government with a net value of at least 12 Groschen.
9. Affixing of stamps on sheets and the like cannot be done by the 10. Favor cancels on stamps with the overprint "Outland" will be done at the Dienstpostamt Riga: "Ukraine" at the Dienstpostamt Romno.
11. Killoware will not be issued in the foreseeable future.
12. Envelopes, in which postage stamps are sent to us for favor cancelling will no longer be returned.

BOOK REVIEWS

As a rule, reviews in this bulletin should be confined to philatelic subjects. Aerial Propaganda over Great Britain by Reginald G. Auckland, however, surely warrants an exception being made, both because of the intrinsic interest of the work and the important contributions that its authors made to the Special-ist during the early 1950's. Mr. Auckland ranges over the entire area of propaganda leaflets dropped over the British Isles between 1909 and 1950, including many German items from both the world wars. The texts of a number of leaflets are quoted in full, helping to make the book an intriguing addition to the library of anyone interested in political propaganda. Aerial Propaganda over Great Britain is available from its author. His address is 60 High Street, Sandridge near St. Albans, Herts, England. The price of the booklet is 8/- or about \$1.20. When you write him, why not join the German & Colonies Philatelic Society? Its publication often includes articles of interest to the Third Reich Specialist.

In 1958, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America, published a handbook entitled: Bohemia, Moravia, Slavakia. This is a complete catalog of all stamps and postal stationery items issued by the Protectorate and by Slavakia in the period 1939-45. While the book does not dwell too much on the postal history of these areas, it is a fine catalog, including much material not in Scott or other English-language catalogs. The technical execution was excellent; the illustrations, particularly, were very carefully produced. It is an extremely sturdy, hard-bound volume and can stand a good deal of wear and tear. Since literature on Bohemia-Moravia in English is quite scarce, anyone interested in World War II occupations should have this book. For your copy, write D. William Dr. Rainer-Deutsch, P.O. Box 24, Bayside, New York 11361. The cost is a nominal \$1.50. Dr. Rainer-Deutsch is editor of the Czechoslovak Specialist and president of the Postal History Society of the American. Why not inquire about these as well?

Third Reich Study Group
 BENJAMIN R. BEEDE
 182 RIDGE ROAD
 RUMFORD, N.H. 07070
 Bulletin # 7

Our co-editor Ben Beede has found the safest way to beat the odds. He enlisted in the army and is now taking basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. However all is not lost as he informs me he is to be sent to Europe in the fall. If he can get the time I'm sure we'll get some invaluable reports relating to our Third Reich Studies. Our most pressing need at the moment is locating those missing Feldpost Surveys. To date we have been able to locate only those items on Microfilm at the National Archives in Washington. Since Ben is away I'm going to use this issue to report on what our research has discovered on German Feldpost. It should be understood that this report is not complete as yet and many gaps remain to be filled. Also it is important not to give this information to others as yet. I am still trying to arrange a swapping deal with the Feldpost Study Group of the Rhein-Roman Stempel Gide but have had little success to date. As strange as it may seem we appear to know about as much as they do about the subject, unless of course they are pulling our leg.

While we continue with identifying the various Kenn Numbers used throughout Europe during the war, Ben & I would like to find out just what the exact process was in the handling of Feldpost mail during the war. Especially desirable would be an article by someone who worked as a postal clerk in one of these field post offices and another by one employed in one of the Postamtstellen of the Reichspost. Can anyone be of assistance here. Also I would like to remind every one having Feldpost covers to register them with me. If you care to you can send me the entire selection for examination by insured parcel post. This phase of the operation is important as this is the only method I have of checking backwards on the identity of these Kenn Numbers. As mentioned earlier we only have the records for March of 1945. Without the use of these covers we cannot even guess what occurred during the early war years.

Soon we hope to report on some aspects of the Deutsche Dienstpost system used during the war. It has a direct relationship with the Feldpost Study as many units in the occupied countries used this method of transporting official mail. Also it appears that the Dienstpost in Bohemia & Moravia was used to distribute Feldpost letters to the troops. As may be guessed we have a lot to learn about these subjects but at least we are moving.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP

Sp 5 William A. Frye RA 6576321 Hq Btry, 56 Arty Bde St. Banks, Winthrop, Mass	Charles Lubinger 73 York Terrace Melrose, Mass	Rev. A. Deibel 7301 St. Charles Rock Road St. Louis, Missouri.
Robert S. Borden 166 Hillman St. New Bedford, Mass.	Bert Friedman 38-75 47th St. Long Island City, NY	Jerome G. Newman 6857 Ogontz Ave. Philadelphia, Pa.
FELDPST, DIENSTPOST THIRD REICH	THIRD REICH	THIRD REICH

KENN NUMBERS
 Ben Beede & Jack Painter

Most readers are no doubt familiar with the cancellations used on registered Feldpost covers. These can be recognized by the three-digit number which appears in each one. This is the code or Kenn number for a particular military postoffice (Feldpostamt). Such cancellations were not restricted entirely to registered mail, as this article will show. Many details on these matters are still not as yet known to us; it is hoped that other numbers can fill in the gaps. The first cancellation (Fig. 1) appears on a non-registered cover used very early in World War II. Note the date, September 6, 1939. This was the fourth day of Feldpost service.

Many, but not all Feldpost covers, from 1939 through early 1941 have cancellations with the Kenn number included, even though they show no signs of registered service. In other instances (Fig. 11) the Kenn number was eliminated by the use of three slugs or horizontal lines in the cancelling device.



Figure 1

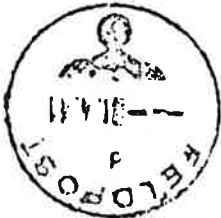


Figure 11

Before continuing with this article I think a word might be said about the basic elements of these registered Feldpost covers. Several of our members have asked about this.

Basically there are six essential features of a registered cover. The basic differences will be covered in future articles.

1. The first essential element is the unit Feldpost number, which could be written, typed or stamped on the envelope.

Einheit: 17251 B

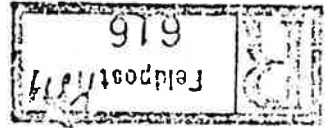


Soldpost

2. The second feature is the unit validating stamp, without which the letter could not receive the Feldpost privilege. Numerous variations occur and will be detailed in a later article.

3. The third essential is word "Feldpost" that had to appear on each letter. These also could be written, typed or stamped. The stamped word appears in two types of print. A Gothic type that was used extensively during the early phase of the war and the Latin type that was used more often later on.

INGESCHRIBEN

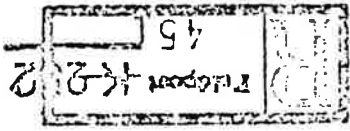


4. The fourth feature is the word "Eingeschrieben" meaning registered. This also could be typed, stamped or written.

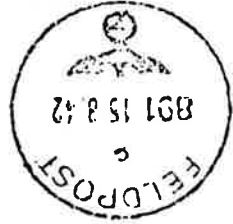
5. The fifth part is the Registry label of which several types and varieties exist.

6. The sixth and final essential element is the cancelling device which normally contains the Kenn Number along with the date of cancellation.

Handwritten signature



Handwritten initials



A variation of this cancelling device is where the ring or blank canceller was used on a registered Feldpost cover. Instead of recancelling the letter the Kenn No. was added to the envelope by means of a rubber stamp.

If you have any covers with similar variations of this kind please advise us. It is only by studying these variations that we can determine what the regular practice

Recently, Jack Kauter called my attention to an article in the German philatelic press dealing with special cards produced for use by the survivors of Allied bombing raids. The items described were familiar to me, but may not be known to other members.

by Ben R. Beede

"Signs of Life"

There are three types of cards involved, instead of two as the author of the article states. The first two are quite similar in format and can easily be discussed together. They were designed to meet one of the first needs of an individual after an air raid, that, informing friends and relatives that he still lived. The front of each card contained space for the address and telephone number of the recipient of the card. Moreover, there was a section for an official stamp (i.e., rubber stamp, not an adhesive stamp). On the back the sender could indicate his name and address, the date, and include a message of not more than ten words. The space for the return address began "Übersetzen von" (Sign of life from), hence the title of this article. One type of card was designed for use by civilians and was printed entirely in red; the second was for sending to a soldier at the front and was green.

TYPE 1

Form for Front oder Rückseite (Front or Back)

As
 From *Frank Heimer*

1167 Kennerly / ...

November 4 3

Deutschland

Postamt

TYPE 11

Form für Front oder Rückseite (Front or Back)

Einricht an

Deutlich schreiben!

(Dieser Raum muß für Druckzeichen herhalten)

Lebenszeichen von

DEUTS

(Ortsangabe)

(Name)

(Telefon)

Deutlich schreiben!

Deutlich schreiben!

(Ortsangabe)

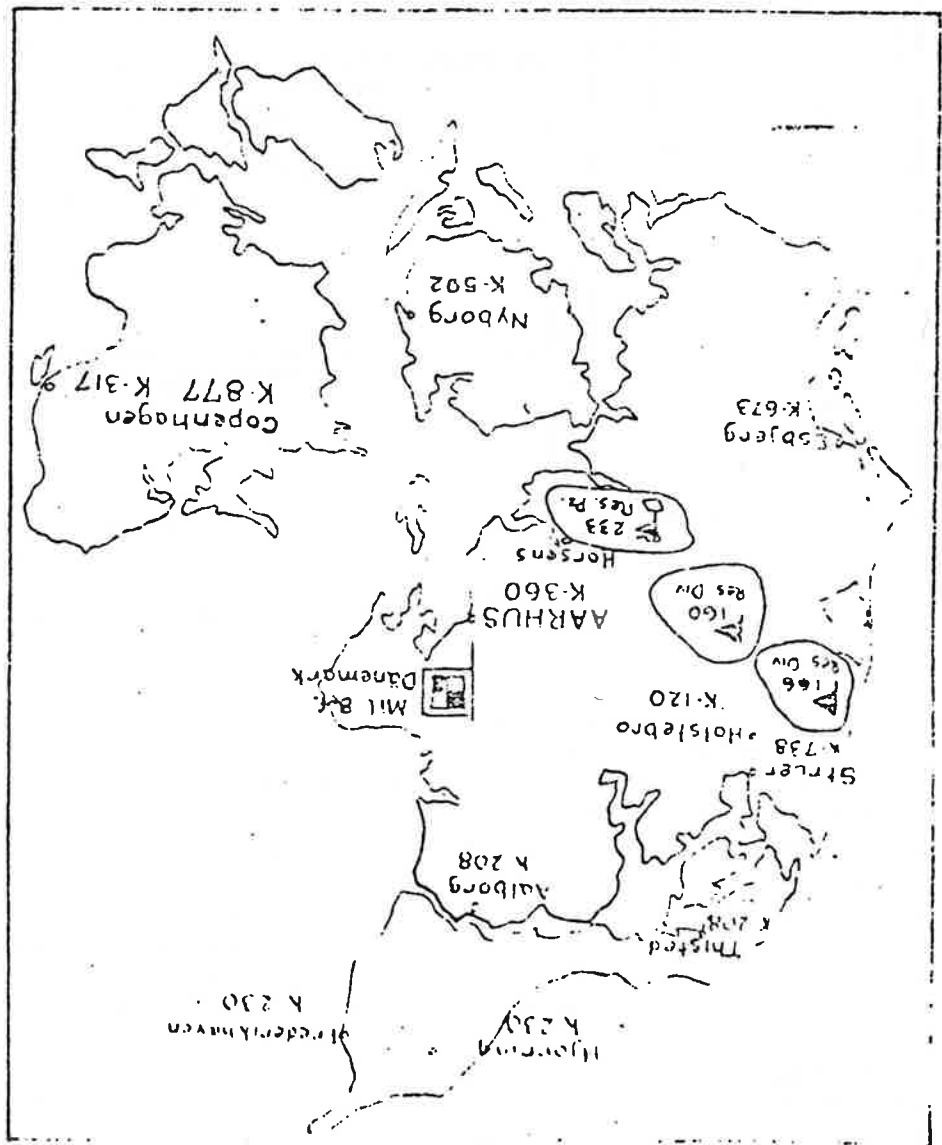
(Name)

(Telefon)

Deutlich schreiben!

Deutlich schreiben!

Reverse Side of
 Types I & II



Map showing the location of FPA's in Denmark

LIST OF KENN NUMBERS USED IN DENMARK

K-120	Holstebro	166 Div	K-592	Nyborg
K-208	Ålborg, Thisted, FPA 633	K-673	K-673	Esbjerg
✓K-230	Hjørring, Frederikshavn	K-738	K-738	Strøer
K-317	Copenhagen (1941-1943)	K-877	K-877	Copenhagen, FPA 928
K-360	Århus, Mil. Ref. Denmark	FPA 431, 166 I.D., 166 Div	FPA 431, 166 I.D., 166 Div	

BIBLIOGRAPHY & some remarks

The standard reference work for Feldpost Cover Collectors is Clement's "Kleines Handbuch der Deutschen Feldpost, 1939-1945," published in 1952. I understand an updated version is in preparation but when it will be published I do not know.

In the section of the handbook that lists the various Kenn numbers you will notice numerous lower case Latin letters a pairing just after the number listing. These letters appear in the postmark and represent different handstamps of the sending office, where only "abc" are shown we have discovered that often it represented an Army Corps or Division. There a great many letters were used e.g. "Abdeijkh jk" in K-950 it means numerous units of the Army, Navy & Airforce and their supply services used the post office.

From what we have learned already there were two kinds of Field Post Offices (FPA's), one was strictly an Army Unit, and serviced only the mail from its particular unit, say a division or an Army Corps and was motorized. The other type was stationary, serviced mail from all three services, and was motorized.

GERMAN REINFORCES IN NORWAY

1940 - 1945

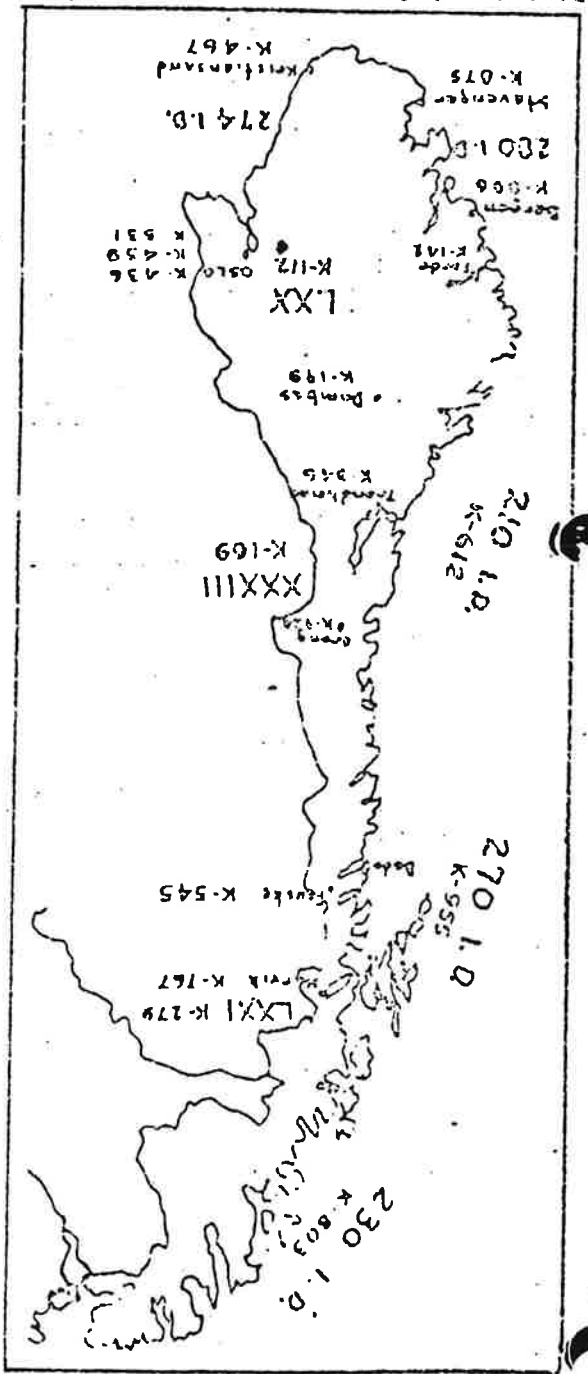
by John W. Painter

As with Denmark, Norway was invaded on April 10, 1940 by a combined force of German Army, Navy and Airforce units. Although the British and French were able to briefly occupy the northern reaches of the peninsula around the Narvik area, the entire country was under German control by June 10, 1940. The Royal Family and the Government fled to England with the gold and currency reserves of Norway and established a Government in Exile. In the meantime Hitler had appointed the tough young Gauleiter of Cologne, Josef Terboven, Reich Kommissar of Norway. The Xizi movement had attracted a number of Norwegians including many Army Officers. One of these was a Major named Quisling who as a reward for his treason was allowed to form a Norwegian Government. The movement never became popular and in order to secure their northern flank the Germans found it necessary to keep a large garrison there.

Initially the 20th Army was in the control of the area but after the Russian Campaign began this Army Staff was used to control the German Forces in Finland fighting the Russians. A new Army Staff was formed in Oslo as "AOX Norwegian". Subordinate to it were three Area or Corps Commands, LXXI Corps in the north, XXXIII Corps in the center and LXX Corps in the south. Defense of the country was provided by several Divisional formations, which were in fact only an administrative staff controlling several coastal defense and artillery battalions.

After Finland withdrew from the war in Sept. 1944 the combat units there retreated through northern Norway, some being sent to Germany for the final defense of the homeland and the others remaining in Norway to stop the Russian advance.

To date we have identified the following Kenn Nos. as being used in Norway. We are grateful to Mr. Brodor of the Norwegian Philatelic Society for his most helpful assistance.



Divisional Formations as of March 45

KENN NUMBERS USED IN NORWAY

K-545	LXX Corps	Fauske, OFK 579	14 Lw. Div
K-612	XXXIII Corps		210 I.D.
K-765	295 I.D.	Narvik, FPA 574	702 I.D.
K-803	LXXI Corps		230 I.D.
K-875	7. SS Pol. Regt.	Stravanger	
K-950		Gronk	
K-955			270 I.D.
K-996		Bergen	280 I.D.
K-467	Kristiansand		
K-531			
K-459			
K-436			
K-353			
K-279			
K-199	Domhus		
K-169			
K-142	Forde		
K-112			

Painted by John W. Painter

THIRD WEICH STUDY GROUP

Bulletin # 8

PROGRESS REPORT by Jack Patator, Group Director.

Through the efforts of our Ken David we are able to get another bulletin out. While it has been some time since our last bulletin was sent, your study group has not been idle. However, out of our large membership we have only about five or six working. How about some volunteers? There are many projects to be studied but we must have the people to do them.

Presently we are completing the first drafts of a Legions Study, i.e. mail to and from the many foreigners serving with the German Wehrmacht. However, before publication we need to have additional covers for illustration. Anyone having Legion material please report to Ben Bede as to what you have available so that we might consider using it.

Our next project is the identifying of all those Kenn Numbers that appear on the canceller of Registered Feldpost Covers. While we have been cooperating with German collector friends we still have done most of the discovering. For example, covers with K-144 were cancelled at Feldpost Office 639 which served mail for the mobile field HQ of the OKH. K-697 was used by the 15 Pz Division from 1940 to May 1943 when the Division was destroyed in Tunisia. So all covers from the middle of '41 to May of '43 are Afrika Korps covers, even though it cannot be noted on the outside. It should be mentioned that during the Western Campaign this division was the 33 I.D. It wasn't until the fall of 1940 that the change to 15 Pz occurred. However, we still have gaps in our information. We are in need of ALL registered covers our members have in their possession. If you are not sure what you do or do not have, please send them in to me; I will copy down the data and return the shipment intact to you. I can assure you that some collectors are sitting on pots of gold as some of these Kenn Numbers are scarce for certain periods. For example, covers sent from Africa in '42 and '43 are rare. However, these same Kenn numbers were reissued to other units later in the war and are commonplace.

In the process of identifying Kenn Numbers I have acquired numerous duplicate Registered Feldpost covers. I have some available for sale, at cost, if any member is interested.

To handle our workload we have reorganized our staff as follows. Please forward general or specific correspondence to the appropriate addresses:

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Ken David

95 Courtland Street

Worcester, Mass., 01602

LEGIONS (cont'd.)

Roger Szymanski

3357 S. 10th Street

Milwaukee 15, Wisc.

FELDPST:

Jack Patator

5159 Arbor St.

Phila., Pa. 19120

LEGIONS POST:

Ben Bede, Sp 4

H/H Co. 24th Engr Bn 54

APO New York 09696

The earliest general regulation on POW mail appears to have been issued in the latter part of November, 1939. It stipulated that letters up to 250 grams in weight, postcards, and newspapers might be sent to and from POWs. Moreover, packages up to 20 kilograms might be received from POWs and packages might be sent to them up to the maximum amount permitted by the particular foreign country. Packages sent abroad were to be treated in accordance with ordinary regulations. Senders of mail to POWs were admonished to include the notes, "Kriegsgefangenenpost" and "Gebührenfrei" in both German and French on all letters, packages, etc.

On December 15, 1939, new orders went into effect. One might send letters up to 2 kilograms, postcards, and packages up to 5 kilograms to POWs and internees in enemy countries and neutrals. In addition, other types of mail could be sent to members of the armed forces interned in neutral countries, if all the usual postal fees were paid, in other words, if they were sent as ordinary foreign mail. A special declaration had to be made in connection with POW mail to enemy countries, which was attached to the package waybill. This statement asserted that no particularly prohibited articles, including weapons, letters, clothing, etc., were contained within the package.

A decree of February 13, 1940, deals with package mail to POWs abroad. Sending of money, securities, and the like was prohibited, as well as books and periodicals appearing after January 1, 1933. Packages had to be taken to a customs office (Zollstelle) and checked there, before being sealed and forwarded. In towns where there was no such office or in cases where other difficulties existed, then packages could be delivered directly to the postoffice. The free franking privilege also applied to mail sent by information offices established to provide news about POWs and internees. Later on, in 1940, this was extended to mail sent by the German Red Cross on POW and internee matters. Interestingly, such mail was marked with the same sort of inscriptions used on POW mail, "Kriegsgefangenenpost," etc., even though much of this Red Cross mail was merely sent from one town to another within Germany.

One point worth noting is that for some time members of the armed forces were prohibited from having direct mail communication with POWs. The only intercourse allowed was indirect, through the Red Cross. A soldier wrote out his message, sent it to the Red Cross, and this agency would copy it for transmission to the POWs. Conversely, a POW might contact a German soldier through the same method. Eventually, this order was rescinded in 1941.

This is a rough outline of POW mail and the regulations affecting it during the first two years of the war. Further information is in my possession and will be formulated into brief articles during the coming months. A great variety of formula cards, etc., developed out of the needs of all the allies in supplying German POWs with the means of writing home. After the war a perplexed situation developed. The German state had been destroyed by the assumption of government-aid powers by the big four of the victorious United Nations. Many of the Allied countries refused to recognize the provisions of the Geneva Convention as applicable to German POWs for some time after the end of the war, although their postal needs were fairly well attended to.

Benjamin R. Beede

GERMAN P.O.W. MAIL, WWII

Beede's copy

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER YOUR HOLDING OF COVERS WITH US, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF

any date on this!

It is possible to have covers from units that fought there but these would have to be dated before Nov. 23 to be valid. I myself have several registered covers from units that were in Stalingrad in October and November of 1942 but no one can have flown covers. Additional research will have to be done on this subject as Captain Hirst does not mention what happened to the Feldpost Personnel who escaped. I would guess that they were sent to a rear area collection station where they were reunited with other troops from their division who were returning from sick leave or who were otherwise absent from their unit. It should be remembered that out of each division of 15,000 men 2 or 3,000 would be in hospitals in the rear areas or in Germany getting well. When better they were returned to their unit. I know for a fact that many of the rearward divisions had from several hundred to several thousand personnel from the old unit. This way the division could keep its tradition alive. As a matter of record the Feldpost Act of a division had normally 18 men in it and was assigned three trucks. As yet we do not know the size of Corps or Army Feldpost Offices but I would assume they would be the same size. Anyone have

STALINGRAD COVERS
Several collectors have informed me that they purchased covers that had been flown out of the Stalingrad enclosure. What bothered me was that they paid 20 to 25 Dollars for each cover. Our Study Group Number Captain Hirst, who is studying this particular battle, informs me that no covers were serviced inside the pocket after November 23, 1942. He source was the General Feldpostmaster of the entire 6th Army, who informed him that almost all the Feldpost Personnel as well as other specialist groups that were not directly needed for combat were flown out of the pocket at this time. The Feldpost troops either destroyed their equipment or brought it out with them. The mail that did leave the pocket was not allowed to put into envelopes but rather was ordinary paper that had the message on one side and the address on the other. Several hundred tons of mail were flown out but none or almost none was delivered, it being sent to the Army Conscription Office for information about the morale of the troops. Needless to say the morale was found to be not too high. As I understand it none of these letters were ever delivered during the war. It is possible the Allies forwarded them after 1945 but this has yet to be checked out.

NOTICE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE NOT AS YET PAID THEIR 1966 DUES
In order to service our active members we will drop those not interested enough to invest a dollar. As anyone knows who has ever researched a project we have lots of bills in just getting to see the documents we need to back up our research efforts.

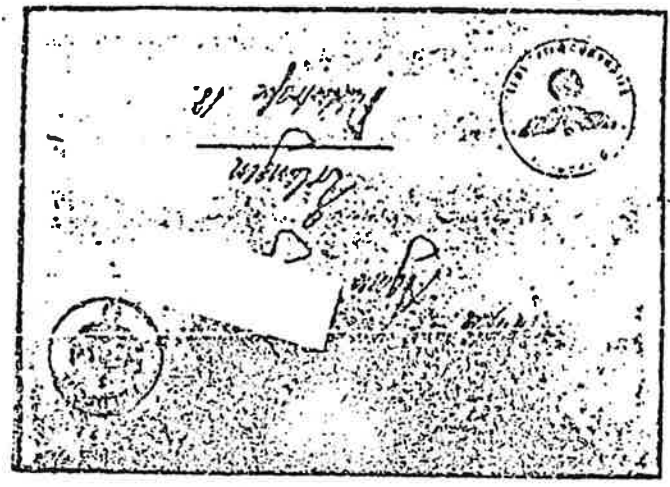
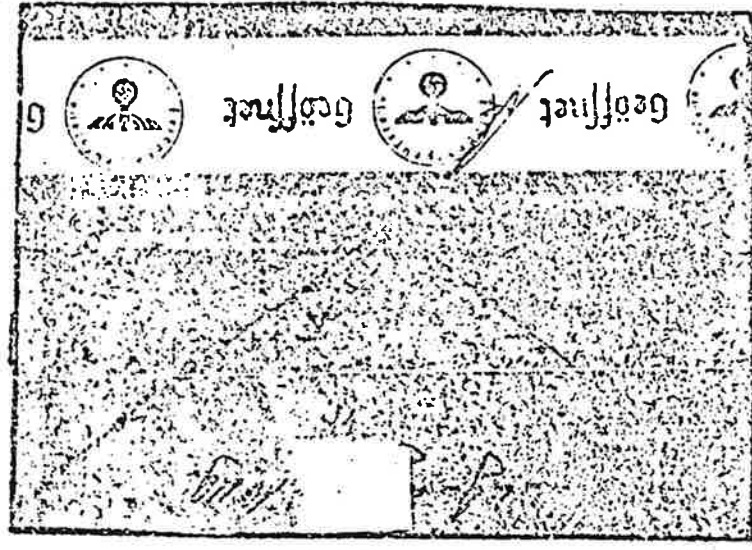
January 1966
As the new year begins I would like to give our members a progress report. While we have been somewhat lax in getting out bulletins we have not been loafing. Our work on the Regions and the Feldpost System is going well. However we need to get other projects started. Ken David has established an information service which I hope will produce some results. Anyone working on a pet project is more than welcome to write it up for publication. Each one of us has his special favor in collecting so lets hear about it. It doesn't have to be earth shattering, just interesting. It could even be a new idea on how to mount covers or perhaps a special stamp on one page but it could be just the thing another collector is looking for. So lets get to work and start writing.

German Military Security
Third Reich Study Group
BULLETIN #9

Note the late date. Shortly there after the airport was captured and all physical contact was lost. One half of the pocket fell January 30 and the other February 2.

Reverse

Front



Looks like I goofed. In our last report I noted that covers flown out of Stalingrad didn't exist. Not only was I wrong but I am able to show a picture of one dated 22 January 1943 through the courtesy of Captain Hirtz (Rat.). It was obtained from non-Feldpost sources, actually from the wife of an officer who was there. While the front of the cover gives no indication as to where it was from other than the Feldpost Nr. 10119 and the date, the reverse is interesting in that it has the censor strip across the bottom. Very few regular Feldpost covers have this censor strip so it is to everyone's benefit to check covers similar to this. If you have any similar let me know the P.P. Nr. and the date and I'll try to identify the unit involved. I could tell you how I mistranslated two statements in German and took another statement out of context to come up with the wrong answer but it doesn't really matter. At least now we know what we are looking for.

Report

J.W. Painter

THOSE STALINGRAD COVERS

Discussion

Well at last we seem to have gotten off of dead center and our Study Group is moving ahead again, mainly through the efforts of Ken David. Although I have been able to get several articles published and have had great success in figuring out the German Feldpost Kern Numbers I have not had the time to publish much additional. In addition I am being sent to Washington to work, at least for a few months and possibly for good. So now I'll be able to get at those captured Microfilms at the archives. We still need more research on the various areas of our interest so if you have any post project let either Ken or I know about it. Our CO-Director Ben Beede is still in Germany with the Army but if memory serves me correctly he has only about 10 months to go. He and Roger Zygmanski, along with others are getting ready to publish their handbook on the "Legions Post". If anyone has any material please let either Ben or Roger know about it.

REPORT BY J.W. PAINTER

April 1966

JOHN W. PAINTER
5159 ARBOR ST.
PHILA. 20, PA.

Germany Philatelic Society

Third World Study Group

BULLETIN #10

BENJAMIN R. BEEDE
182 RIDGE ROAD
RUTHERFORD, N. J. 07070

As is apparent by Jack Painter's report, the years-long Feldpost project is slowly starting to show signs of fruit, and, the Legion's research has led to a forthcoming study group handbook. And now new projects are on the move, three of which are discussed beneath. Now by all means, if you are interested in some aspect of TR philately, the chances are pretty good that others are too, so let's get the ball rolling and organize more research projects. Let me know what you are interested in, we'll see if a preliminary grouping can be formed of interested members and then basic publicity can be set up for general assistance, such as:

MILITARY AIRMAIL The blue Junkers-52 Luftfeldpost stamp issued in

standard perforated form in 1942 was also issued rouletted a year later. Sometime during 1943 two rouletted stamps were required whereas previously only one perforated was needed. The situation becomes complicated when mixed frankings are found. A number of questions may be raised about the why's and wherefore's including which regions of military activities had access to the rouletted issues. (See Michael Militär-(Feld-)Postmarken #1... Michael '66 page 363.)

Consequently another registration campaign is underway: if you have covers with the Luftfeldpost stamps affixed please note down these necessary factors: type of perforation, dates of cancellations and cancellation types (town cancel or Feldpost), in singles or doubles, mixed franking, etc. Such registration may help determine what the story is. Send your information to James E. Duffy, Jr., 142 Highland Ave., Highwood, Illinois, 60040.

FOURTH GENERAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL AIRMAILS

(Michael #14-39) The following requested information is just part of an intensive study program into the postal history of this eagle-overprint set issued in 1940. A more detailed examination of this issuance will be forthcoming. For the present, however, those familiar with the "basics" of this set are aware of two principal varieties

GENERAL STUDY GROUP NEWS

John Painter

The final draft is being reviewed for the Legions study. Any member with material should contact Ben Bode to see if such offerings could be used as illustrations in the book.

Also, separate items are being prepared covering the various theaters of war for publication in the monthly SPECIALIST. If anyone has material believed of importance please contact this writer about it. At a later date all this will be consolidated into a handbook.

There are to be no dues for this year.

SECRETARIAL REPORT

Ken David

John has asked me to request that any members having items or areas of interest should contribute articles for study group publication. Submit any ideas or articles Director Painter.

The first TRSG bulletin to be sent out since April of 1966 so there need be no fear that any of you has missed issues inbetween. Along with this edition is a two-page membership directory for the benefit of those who wish to contact others with similar collecting interests.

The study group Information Bureau has been working along at a steady pace, thanks in part to the advertising coverage in the SPECIALIST. According to Infoburo reports all inquiries have been handled quickly and efficiently. Those of you who have volunteered to assist in Bureau activities are to be thanked for this fine record.

As most of you may know member Don Rose is now the head of the Bureau. Due to personal commitments I felt it necessary to step down from the office as I am so doing with the post of SG secretary. Please make sure you send all future dues, address changes and inquiries to Mr. Dose for Bureau matters and Mr. Painter for general affairs.

RESEARCHING PROJECT

John Mattler

As it stands at present there is a shortage of material from the years 1929-1934. A request is still offered for information on any cards and cancels during this time. Presently we have registered approximately fifty different types. The official cards are accounted for; it is the party organizational issues and their varieties cards, labels, cachets, etc. which are difficult to complete. Hopefully, during this year the project will be able to consolidate its findings in a special booklet -- BY YOUR help is needed... please!
Thanks to those of you, and there are many, who have sent in invaluable information; special thanks to Mr. Alf Harper in England for his aide in postal history. Our fellow specialist shall be collaborating with me on the final product.

James E. Duffy, Jr.

The following is extracted from an official Fieldpost office directive:

The Air Fieldpost Service with the East Front --

The soldiers on the east front and their families at home, whenever it is feasible, a rapid means of communication (besides the customary fieldpost routings) will be permitted twice monthly. An Air Fieldpost Service has been established and air mail shipments will be transported by aircraft. Each soldier assigned to the east front whose unit is admitted to the air fieldpost service will receive 4 air fieldpost stamps (Luftfeldpostmarken) monthly. The soldiers will use 2 stamps for 2 airmail letters to his family, enclosing 2 stamps monthly for his family to use on 2 airmail letters back to the soldier at the front.

1. (Mail) permitted in both directions (to and from the front) postage free:
 - a. ordinary post cards and ordinary letters up to 10 grams maximum weight; the use of commercially printed letter cards is recommended.
 - b. ordinary official mail from military units, up to 20 grams maximum weight.
 2. Air fieldpost mail must have special identifying marks and these are:
 - a. the word "Luftfeldpost" underlined in color.
 - b. one air fieldpost stamp in the upper right corner of the letter or card, affixed by the sender.
 - c. for mail TO THE FRONT, a horizontal red cross over the address side of the letter or card from the lower left corner to the upper right corner and from the upper left corner to the lower right corner.

3. the air fieldpost mail must bear the required fieldpost address. For soldiers in Air Force units the air fieldpost district office (Luftgaupostamt, LGPA) will be included in the address: for example -- Obgeir. Ferdinand Eppel, Feldpostnummer 105003B LGPA Posen.

The Air Fieldpost Service began in April 1942 and was established primarily for soldiers on the East Front, but was also extended to soldiers on active duty in Scandinavia, Greece, and Africa. The air fieldpost stamp was officially issued April 24, 1942 according to Clement's handbook on Fieldpost 1939-1945. There are covers on record with the air fieldpost stamp postmarked as early as April 21, 1942. In one case the letter was also dated April 21, 1942.

The air fieldpost stamp was designed by Erich Meerwald, who used the Dürkers 52 transport plane as his subject. (This plane was the type that carried much of the air fieldpost mail.) The stamp was printed (typographed) in Berlin in sheets of 100 stamps (4 counterpages of 100 stamps each made up one printed sheet of 400 stamps.) These sheets were comb perforated 13 3/4. As with any emergency or wartime printing, various production varieties exist.

A second issue of air fieldpost stamps was supposedly issued in May, 1943 (typographed) in Berlin; Oslo and Tromsø, Norway; and Rovaniemi, Finland. This stamp was printed in the former mentioned format, but the sheets were rouletted. The perforate and rouletted issues are similar in construction with one major difference besides the method of separation. The lower right margin of the rouletted issue had printed instructions "Die Zickzackachse ist vor dem Trennen zu kniften." (The zig-zag perforation is to be creased before separating.) There are, of course, variations in printing with each contract number, which will be a course of study for the future. An additional fieldpost office directive pertaining to the Air Fieldpost Service on the East Front was issued June 1, 1943: from this date, air fieldpost letters are accepted only with TWO air fieldpost stamps, and air fieldpost cards in comparison are accepted with ONLY ONE air fieldpost stamp. The issue of the air fieldpost stamps to the soldiers on the East Front is doubled. Soldiers now receive 3 stamps monthly, 4 four which are sent to their families for return air mail letters to the front. The requirements for special markings on the covers remained as before.

Inadmissible were air fieldpost letters with only one stamp and in compliance with regulations were returned. If the return address was not legible these air fieldpost were directed to the air fieldpost collecting center (Luftfeldpostsammlung) in Berlin where they were provided with addressable routing marks and were forwarded via airdrop or truck to their destination.

Question has arisen why two stamps after June 1, 1943? The addition of the extra stamp on air fieldpost letters and the post card rate of one stamp provided a more equitable means of limiting air mail shipments based on the weight of the items sent. During the period of April 24, 1942 to June 1, 1943, letters and postcards were treated as one weight class. Whereas in the Reichspost (civilian mail) letters required more postage than cards because of the usual greater weight of the letter. During the past few months information on approximately 900 air fieldpost covers was examined and grouped as follows:

- a. according to the date in the postmark,
- b. was the stamp used perforate or roulette?
- c. was the usage of one or two stamps per letter? (postcards required only one stamp throughout the entire air fieldpost service period.)

No information was received on any air fieldpost covers bearing more than one stamp prior to June 1, 1943. The greater majority of the covers after June 1, 1943 contain 2 air fieldpost stamps as required. However, there is on record airmail covers with only one stamp which were postmarked in the period from January to April 1944, and February to March 1945. Most of these single usages of this period can be narrowed down to 5 or 6 fieldpost units.

The roulette stamps do not appear on any cover prior to June 1-1943 according to the present tally of cover information sent to me, and, in fact, out of 177 covers post-marked after June 1, 1943 the earliest use for roulette stamps is September 16, 1943 (one cover) and the bulk of roulette usage is from December 15, 1943 through September 1, 1944. It is known that when units were disbanded or returned to the Reich, their mail was transported by the Reichspost and subsequently many of the fieldpost offices were also disbanded. Very little information was received on covers after September 1, 1944.

However 1944 saw the emergency issuance of Inselposts (Island mail) overprints on the fieldpost stamps as well as the fieldpost Zulassungsmarken (Military Package Stamps). Much of the air fieldpost stamps remaining with isolated units was overprinted until the end of March 1945.

There are many questions that remain unanswered in this small area of specialization within the TSG. Many of our members possess some air fieldpost covers. I would like to obtain information on this type of material however small the number of covers. The following information is required:

1. Postally sent Luftfeldpost covers -- DATE OF POSTMARK

2. Is the Luftfeldpost stamp perforate or roulette?
3. Does the cover bear ONE or TWO stamps?
4. Fieldpost unit number of the sender or recipient in either area. (Addresses to Germany and town names not necessarily, nor the names of the people involved.)
5. Addresses including town names from the front or postmarks from Germany on letters to the front AFTER FEBRUARY 1945. I would like to ascertain what areas of Germany still could send mail after February 1945. (Most of this information would come from INSSELPOST covers.)
6. Postcards with Luftfeldpost stamps, date, type of stamp, unit number.

I would like to extend many thanks to Leon Strauss, Rev. John M. Flynn, Jason Manchester, Sp/6 William Elye, and especially to Myron Fox for taking the time to list their Luftfeldpost cover usages. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who is interested in this particular area of study and I would welcome corrections and/or further information the preceding report.



Hopefully, this issue of the Bulletin will mark the rebirth of the Group's activities. Your Directors have been quite occupied for the past couple of years with many non-philatelic matters and with the Legion handbook and have therefore been unable to give as much attention to the Study Group as it merits.

Now, it is possible to look to the future. For an indefinite period the major emphases of the Directors themselves will be on the continuing study of the Feldpost system before and during World War II. However, we are convinced that additional projects can and should be initiated. One study already approved by LTC Halle is a registration program of Nazi propaganda material of a postal nature, including "V" markings, Hitler photo cards, and similar items. We have prepared a draft questionnaire, and now a volunteer is needed to administer this program. Knowledge of German would be helpful, but it is not absolutely necessary. If interested, please contact Ben Beede.

Two other projects are awaiting LTC Halle's approval. A brief discussion of them does not seem amiss, however, for it seems probable that something constructive can be done with them. These are:

1. A catalog listing of printed-to-private-order postal stationery which will include the names of the organizations which ordered cards and/or envelopes.

2. A listing of censorship material to supplement current catalogs (for a discussion of these, see "Literature Review"). There are undoubtedly additions to be made to these works, excellent as they are.

Number one will not require knowledge of German, but number two may, at least to the extent that thorough understanding of the Riemer and Wolter catalogs is a qualification for leadership of this project.

Tentatively, we intend publishing the bulletin quarterly. Among other features will be more book reviews. Perhaps, if co-operation is forthcoming, we can provide abstracts of all articles from the German philatelic press which deal with Third Reich subjects. At present, there are about thirty-two dollars in the Study Group treasury. This will pay expenses for several bulletins. We shall demonstrate that the bulletin has some value, before we ask for any more financial support.

One feature which could be incorporated into the bulletin is a column describing and illustrating unusual Third Reich covers. These would be items which do not quite merit the "Connoisseur's Corner" treatment in the Specialist. Please address all correspondence relating to future issues of the Bulletin to James E. Duffy, 142 Highwood Ave., Highwood, Illinois 60040, who has graciously undertaken to edit the Bulletin.

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GERMAN CURRENCY CENSORSHIP IN AUSTRIA
AFTER THE ANSCHLUSS

By Benjamin R. Beede

Some time ago I illustrated a cover sent from Vienna in 1940, franked with German stamps, of course, which bears a seal affixed by the Vienna Telegraph Office. This seal carried the Austro-Hungarian coat of arms and therefore must have dated from 1918 or before. At the time I reported this item it seemed probable to me that the label was simply used to strengthen a damaged envelope.

Another cover has caused me to change this opinion. It is also sent abroad (again to the United States) and bears the telegraph labels mentioned above. This time, however, these labels are affixed on the end of the cover like a censorship tape. The cover is franked with a 60 Groschen Austrian stamp and bears a cancellation date of March 17, 1938.

The fact that this cover was opened for currency censorship purposes seems to be proven by the presence of a stamped marking on the reverse which reads: "Division Kontrolle/Postamt Wien I" (Currency Control/Post Office Vienna I). Apparently, then, telegraph seals were used in connection with currency censorship in Austria, presumably before and after the Anschluss.

As most readers are no doubt aware, currency censorship markings have occurred on German mail on and off since 1918. It is also possible to find covers franked with Austria stamps, but which bear German style currency censor labels. The earliest such usage known to me dates from April 5, 1938. Incidentally, German stamps were valid in Austria from April 4, 1938,² and currency censorship from Germany to Austria was lifted on April 19, 1938.³

The study of German censorship procedures and markings before and during World War II has been by no means ended by the appearance of the Riemer and Wolter catalogs. There are still interesting finds to be made. Please check your covers from Austria sent abroad during the period after the Anschluss up to say the end of 1938, in order to determine what, if any censor markings were used on them. Hopefully, we can thus elicit additional information.

- 1 "What is It?" German Postal Specialist, XV (Nov. 1964), pp. 350-1.
- 2 Michel Briefmarken-Katalog 1944/45, Europa. Teil 1, p. 181.
- 3 Reichszollblatt 1938, April 26, 1938, p. 151.

A constant flow of articles from members of the Study Group will be required to keep the Bulletin from perishing. Your directors can produce enough articles for several bulletins, but in the long run our publication plans depend upon the members. Plans for the September 1, 1968, issue must be made, so get your articles, letters, and other contributions to the editor by August 1st.

FELDPPOST UNIT NUMBERS

By Benjamin R. Beede

A complex system was developed for delivery of military mail to and from field units while keeping unauthorized persons from learning the locations of particular forces. As early as 1930, use of identification numbers was authorized for elements of the armed forces engaged in large-scale exercises. A "Post Number" was assigned to each unit from companies up. Such numbers were used in lieu of unit designations. Postleitzahlen (postal routing offices) were established to handle such mail in agreement with the local Oberpostdirektion (postal directorate). The Postleitzahlen were given lists of the local offices through which mail was delivered to units. In order to receive mail from the delivery office the postal clerk from a unit had to show an identification card with the "Post Number" on it. Numbers were not actually assigned until 1936.²

During World War II, Feldpost numbers were given to battalions and some independent companies, batteries, etc., as well as to Luftwaffe units, governmental authorities, prisoner of war camps, and naval ships. Companies within a battalion were normally differentiated by assigning letters to all or some of the companies. Such numbers could only be used for postal purposes. Their application to vehicles and equipment was forbidden.³ Moreover, they were not to be compromised by using open unit designations and Feldpost numbers on the same envelope.⁴

Mail from operational areas could not show town names and Feldpost in combination. Such incorrectly marked mail was supposed to be returned with the notation: "Ortsangabe unzulässig" (town name inadmissible).⁵ There were exceptions to this rule, however. Some para-military organizations, such as the Reichsarbeitsdienst (National Labor Service) received Feldpost privileges in the homeland. Such units had an address which included both a town name and a Feldpost number. In these instances numbers were assigned simply to distinguish those RAD units with Feldpost privileges from those lacking them. The subject of RAD mail is a highly interesting one and will merit a separate article subsequently.

As early as 1939, some modifications of the Feldpost number system were made. Some Luftwaffe units were to use the letter "L" before the Feldpost number. Their addresses also showed the name of a Luftgaupostamt (air district post office) in question, not to a Postammelsstelle (mail collecting office) or Feldpost Päckensstelle (military package office).⁶

Naval units (ships only) were directed to use the letter "M" before their Feldpost numbers. Mail sent to personnel in the navy which came from postal districts Hamburg, Hannover, Bremen, Oldenburg, Münster, Kiel, and Schwerin was routed to Marinepostbüro Hamburg 1. Mail from all other areas of Germany went to Marinepostbüro Berlin SW 11. All letters with ship names had to be returned with appropriate notes indicating that this was not permitted.⁷

Between 1939 and 1942, only numbers between 00 001 and 48 000 were in use,⁸ but after that there were a number of extensions to allow for new formations. The first came late in 1942, when numbers up to 56 000 were employed.⁹ In the spring of 1943 numbers to 60 000 were introduced.¹⁰ The year 1944 saw several further changes. First, numbers to 64 000 and the sequence 80 000 to 88 000 came into use.¹¹ Second, after September, 1944, numbers up to 68 000 were introduced.¹² Finally, numbers 71 000 to 72 000 were briefly employed in December 1944 to January 1945.¹³ One six-digit number was used, 123 321, for troops in Fortress Posen.¹⁴

This article was prepared some time ago. More information has come to light recently, and I'll try to prepare another article on the subject in the near future.

1. Postvorschrift für die Reichswehr, 18 December 1930, Berlin: E. H. Mittler & Sohn, 1931, p. 11.

2. Alfred Clement, Kleines Handbuch der deutschen Feldpost, Graz: Selbstverlag, 1952, p. 5.

3. Oberkommando der Wehrmacht, Abfindung bei besonderen Einsatz der Wehrmacht, Berlin: Verlag Bernard & Graete, 1940-42, Vol. II, p. 252.

4. Ibid., II, pp. 247-8.

5. Reichspostministerium, Postnachrichtenblatt, December 2, 1939, p. 428; Verordnungsblatt der Wehrmacht, May 1, 1942, p. 8524; June 15, 1942, p. 8537; June 1, 1943, p. 8707; August 15, 1943, p. 8768; August 1, 1944, p. 9098.

6. Reichspostministerium, Feldpostamtsblatt, 15 December 1939, 73/1939, p. 49.

7. Ibid., 1 December 1939, 53/1939, p. 43.

8. Ibid., 23 January 1942, 13/1942, p. 6.

9. Ibid., 23 December 1942, 120/1942, p. 71.

10. Ibid., 16 April 1943, 45/1943, p. 19.

11. Ibid., 29 February 1944, 14/1944, p. 8; Ibid., 27 October 1944, 120/1944, p. 54.

12. Ibid., 22 September 1944, 92/1944, p. 45.

13. Ibid., 1 December 1944, 141/1944, p. 66; Ibid., 12 January 1945, 7/1945, p. 2.

14. Deutsches Rotes Kreuz, Suchdienst, Vermisstenbildliste, Munich: 1959-60, II, p. 427.

LITERATURE REVIEW

By Benjamin R. Beede

This column is not restricted to newly published works of interest to the Third Reich specialist, but will also discuss older books from time to time.

1. Karl Heinz Riemer. Zensurpost aus dem III. Reich. ("Rhein-Donau Neue Schriftenreihe," Heft 61, Mai 1966. This is a detailed study of the markings used by major civil censorship offices in Germany and in the occupied countries during World War II. Seals, censor tapes, and similar items are listed, priced, and illustrated. Due to the careful preparation, the booklet is extremely useful for the collector who does not read German. Herr Riemer indicates not only the types of seals, etc., but also their dates of usage.

2. Karl Kurt Wolter, Die Postzensur, Band II (1939-1965). Munch, 1966. Herr Wolter's study is a world-wide survey of censorship during World War II and the post-war period. Since Herr Wolter is German and due to the wide-spread occupation of European countries by German forces, many pages are devoted to German area material. There is much in Wolter's catalog which Riemer does not include. For example, Wolter discusses censor markings from the concentration camps and from the German military forces, including the Waffen-SS. There is also a great deal of information about censorship of POW mail, to and from both Allied personnel confined in Germany and German soldiers in Allied camps. However, Wolter does not give the detailed listings for the civil censorship offices that Riemer does.

3. Deutsches Rotes Kreuz, Suchdienst. Vermissenblatte. (Munch, 1959-60). 2 volumes. This is a set of books with a partial listing of German five-digit Feldpost numbers and unit designations. Many thousands of numbers are listed in about eight hundred pages. One may ask what the value of such a list is to the philatelist. For one thing a collector may be able to the provisional cancels or military censor markings to particular Feldpostämter or censorship offices. Moreover, since many foreign units are listed, one can often positively identify Legion covers. If members are interested in obtaining copies of this list, I can make inquiries about the present availability of the work.

4. Curt Paul, Die Postleitzahl im Stempelbild (Freiberg, 1949). John Painter pointed out some time ago in the Specialist that the origins of the "zip code" systems used by many countries today can be traced back to the latter system of World War II, when Nazi Germany introduced the Leitzahl system for routing mail. Curt Paul's study is a thoroughly documented discussion of the beginning and early development of the Postleitzahl. This is one of the relatively few works on the postal history of the Reichspost during the Third Reich era.

All books above are highly recommended, provided you are seriously interested in their respective topics. The censorship specialist would be well advised, in my opinion, to purchase both the Riemer and Wolter catalogs.

SOME ADDITIONAL PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

There are a number of other projects which can be considered, if there is enough interest and enough members come forward to offer their assistance. Some of them are:

1. A postal history of the Reichspost (civilian postal system) under the Third Reich. This would include exact descriptions of the various postal services, rates, and postal statistics. Much of the necessary information can be gathered without serious trouble, but will need a good deal of translation work. Moreover, this project will run into quite a bit of money, due to the necessity of having relevant documents reproduced. It could, however, have a wide appeal, not only to the specialists in Third Reich philately, but to people interested in German postal history generally.

2. Deutsche Dienstpost. This subject, of course, has been covered by the Schultz handbooks, but we can probably come up with some additions. The most promising field would be the Dienstpost system in Poland, for Dr. Schultz did not, for lack of space, provide the full listings of postmarks from each town that he offered for the other occupied territories. A registration program might be in order. There is plenty of General Government material which needs to be classified.

3. POW mail. The new Wolter censorship catalog pretty well discusses this field. However, the thought occurs to us that the nationality of Allied prisoners sending or receiving mail may be relevant in pricing, that is, in addition to the relative scarcity of the censor markings. This is the principle that the old Clement WWII Feldpost handbook used, incidentally. Moreover, there is some postal history which needs to be considered.

4. Propaganda forgeries. Your directors do not actively collect these, but cannot help wondering if there is any more to be done in this field. The Williams brothers' catalog has been out of print for some time now, and many discoveries have come to light since it was published. We don't envisage this area as being embraced under the Nazi propaganda project mentioned on page 1. Perhaps all that is required is the job of correlating the various articles which appeared in the philatelic press. Our experts on these stamps may be able to enlighten us on this point.

Your directors have been more or less thinking out loud on this page, in the hope that suggestions and comments will be forthcoming from group members. It should be noted that these projects have not yet been approved by LTC Halle, but if there is enough interest, we shall apply to him for permission to pursue them. More and more people are coming into the Feldpost project; so we can branch out enough to help some group members start other research. The next bulletin will include some better original articles and very likely one or two translations. There are numerous articles published in German that will doubtless interest the members. Translators will be needed, however.