



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP

Devoted to the Study
of the Postal History
of Germany 1933-1945

VOL. XLV No. 4 (Whole No. 181) 2011

DIRECTOR: Myron Fox, 4 Arbor Circle, Natick MA 01760-2953

BULLETIN STAFF:

EDITOR/AUCTION MGR.: James E. Lewis, 867 Monmouth Road, Cream Ridge, NJ 08514

SECRETARY/TREASURER: James E. Lewis (Temporary)

Contents:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Page 3 | Combat Division Profile: 9th Panzer Division - J. Lewis |
| Page 4 | Navy Log: Minesweeper M.584 - R. Dunn |
| Page 5 | Liberation Cancels for the Sudetenland - B. Ferguson |
| Page 7 | Returned Letter from KZL Mauthausen- I. Nutley |
| Page 8 | Combat Division Profile: 10th Panzer Division- J. Lewis |
| Page 9 | Serbia-WWII Civil Mail Censorship 1941-1945 - H. Laessig |
| Page 13 | Combat Division Profile: 16th Luftwaffe Field Division - J. Lewis |
| Page 14 | Königsberg Wax Censor Seal - B. Fisher |
| Page 15 | A Zeppelin Cover to Alaska - B. Ferguson |
| Page 16 | Vorläufer Post Card for 'Lost Territories'? - L. Nelson |
| Page 17 | Cover Forwarded to Gestapo by Censor Office - B. Fisher |
| Page 20 | Combat Division Profile: 19th Luftwaffe Field Division - J. Lewis |
| Page 21 | German POWs in Mississippi - J. Lewis |
| Page 23 | Montenegro Overprint Stamps on Cover - B. Ferguson |



STUDY GROUP NOTES

Dues are due - with this fourth issue of the Bulletin for 2011, dues are now due and a renewal form is included for those members not yet paid for 2012. Any member whose dues are not received by December 31, 2011 will be considered to have resigned and will be **required to pay the new member fee of \$10.00 in addition to their dues**. Please send your payments to: Jim Lewis, 867 Monmouth Road, Cream Ridge, NJ 08514.

Welcome back - we are pleased to report that Bruce Fisher has rejoined our group. After a long career in the Defense Department, including his last assignment in Japan, Bruce has retired and is living in Maryland. A long time collector, Bruce won a gold medal at BALPEX in 1996 for an outstanding exhibit of Third Reich censored mail. The two censored items that appear on pages 14 and 17 of this issue should please even those jaded members who claim they never see anything new. As regards the cover on Page 14, we request those members who have any censored covers with wax seals in their collections to send photocopies and details to Ye Olde Ed for a follow up article.

TRSG Auctions - our last auction was in bulletin 165 in 2007 when we exhausted our supply of lots, which were mostly covers from the collections of recently deceased members sold at the request of their families. Since that time we've received inquiries asking when or if we planned to resume auctions. While we've accumulated a quantity of cards and covers since that time, we're not sure about how to resume the auctions. Frankly, we were disappointed by the small number of members who participated in our auctions, even though our minimum bids were far below the prices asked by dealers at shows or on the internet. Writing up auction lots and producing small photocopies of the better covers was very time consuming. In addition, we were allocating two pages of auction in each 24 page issue, which meant that publication of some articles had to be delayed.

So, we're thinking about publishing the auction as a separate element for those members wishing to participate. This separate auction would allow space for more & better lot illustrations. We're considering a fee of \$10 that would be deducted from your first invoice if you're a successful bidder. I'd like to hear your thoughts on this proposal or any others you think might be better. As most of us have families who know little about our postal history hobby, we'd like our auction to be the place they might go to dispose of any inherited collections.

Interesting Facts - At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced "sink us"), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry Division was the swastika, and Hitler's private train was named "Amerika". All three were soon changed for PR purposes.

David Maye -we are sad to report that Dave Maye, owner of the Panzer Hut in Mansfield, Ohio, has passed away. As I grew up in a small Ohio town only five miles from Mansfield, our e-mails often included, along with postal history chit-chat, fond remembrances of the rural Ohio of my youth.

Cover Illustration: This postcard with Christmas Greetings depicts a winged cherub with postal cap and mailbag ringing a doorbell to deliver a holiday letter. Addressed to Anklam, this card was posted in Königreichswald on December 22, 1938.

The Third Reich Study Group staff hopes that a holiday cherub will also bring you that "special cover" you've been looking for and that you enjoy a happy, healthy and prosperous 2012.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

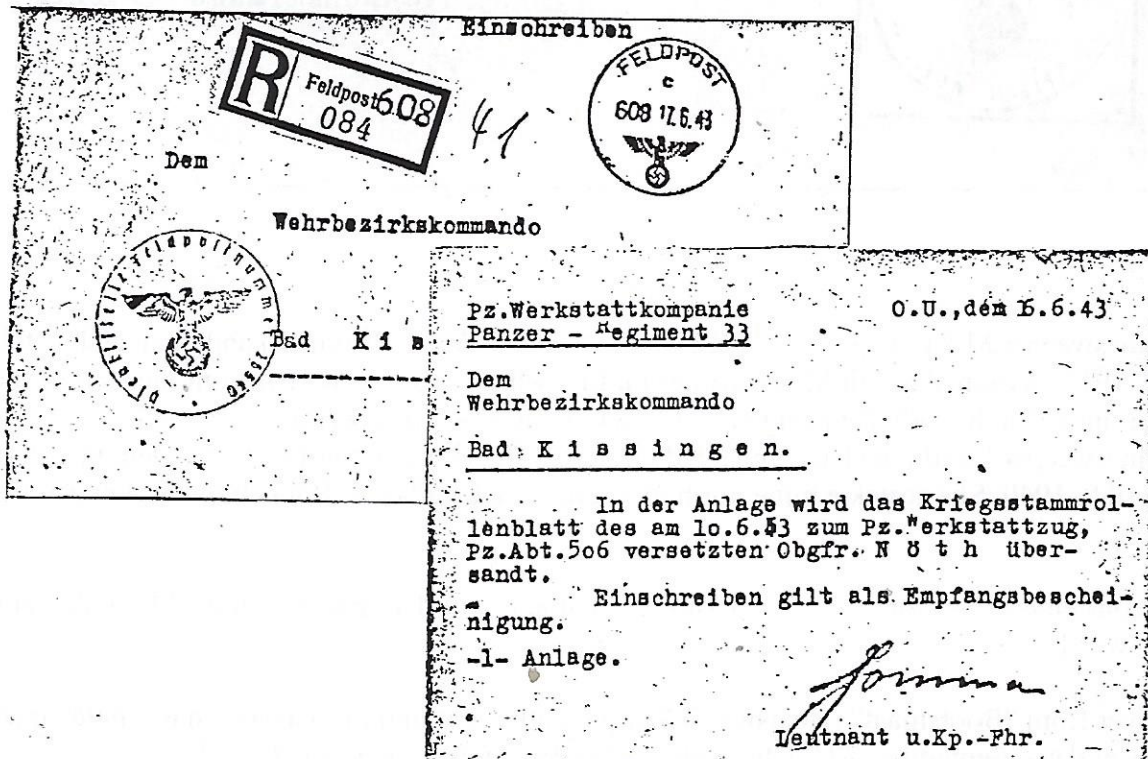
9th Panzer Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	GRENADIER	ARTY	UNITS
60	608	33	10	11	60

Initially formed as 4th "Leichte" Division at Vienna in the summer of 1938. After Polish campaign, converted to 9th Panzer Division in winter of 1939-40. Invaded Holland in 1940 and played a major role in defeat of France. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 09132 as a return address and Kenn 608 as a coded identity. It fought in Balkan campaign in April 1941, then invaded Russia with Army Group South. Remained in south until the spring of 1943, when it was transferred to Army Group Center and fought in the Battle of Kursk. After returning to Army Group South, the division suffered heavy losses during the Dneiper battles late in 1943. It was then sent to reform near Nimes, France where it absorbed the 155th Reserve Panzer Division.

Posted northwest of Marseilles, the division was sent to support the 7th Army at Normandy in June 1944 then withdrew through Falaise where it suffered ruinous losses. The division then fought at Aachen from September to November. Reinforced In December 1944, it took part in the Ardennes offensive and suffered heavy losses. It then fought in the Eifel and Battle of the Erft River in early 1945. In late February 1945, it launched an unsuccessful counterattack against the U.S. bridgehead at Remagen. On March 5, 1945 the division was virtually annihilated by strong Allied forces. The remnants were forced into the Ruhr Pocket and surrendered in April.

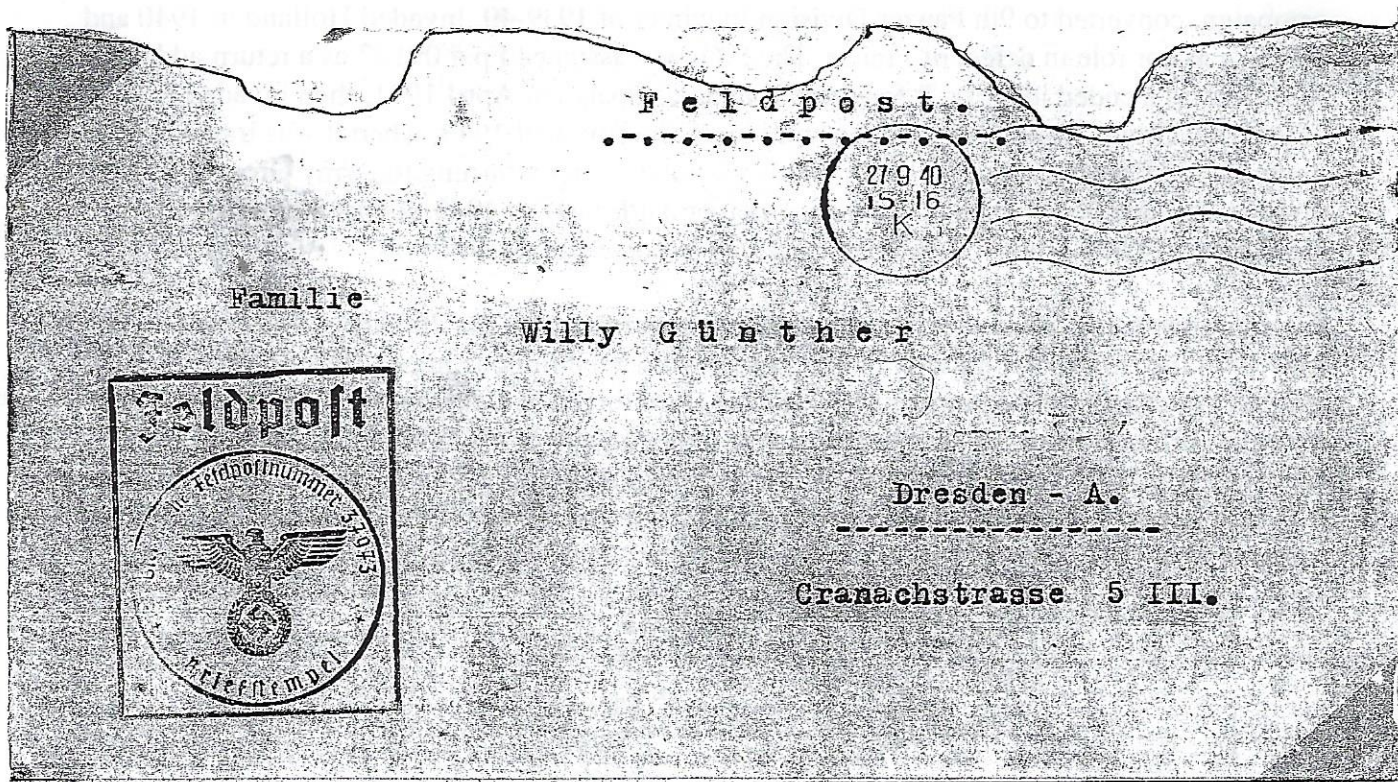


Report sent to Military District Command in Bad Kissingen in June 1943 from Fp. # 26540 (Panzer Repair Co. 60) via P.O. 60 (K-608).

NAVY LOG

by Robert Dunn

Minesweeper M.584 - Feldpost # 37973



Minesweeper M.84 (Type 1915-1916) built by Atlas Werke (Bremen) and launched October 10, 1917. Assigned to 7th Minesweeper Flotilla which was operational from the start of the war until March 1940. Re-designated M.584 in late 1940. She was assigned to 4th Minesweeper Flotilla and accompanied Group 10 in the invasion of Esbjerg, Denmark on April 9, 1940. She struck a mine north of Zealand on October 3, 1944 and was later scuttled.

Displacement: 515 tons; speed: 14 knots; armament: one 4.1" gun and three 20mm AA guns.
Crew: 51

Cover from "Bootsmaat" (Boatswain) Willy Günther to family in Dresden has "mute" machine cancel dated September 27, 1940. Note boxed Briefstempel with Fp.# 37973.

Liberation Cancels for the Sudetenland

by Bob Ferguson

Of all the hundreds of Sudetenland liberation (Befreiung) cancels, only one "set" is listed in Julius Bochmann's **Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel**. These 75 town cancels are hand struck, double-ring, have the text "Wir sind frei!" and either one or two swastikas. This listing of cancels is on the following page. Shown below are two "Drucksache" (printed matter) post cards showing cancels with one and two swastikas.

Fig. 1) Single swastika - Haselbach bei Waidmünchen, 12.12.38

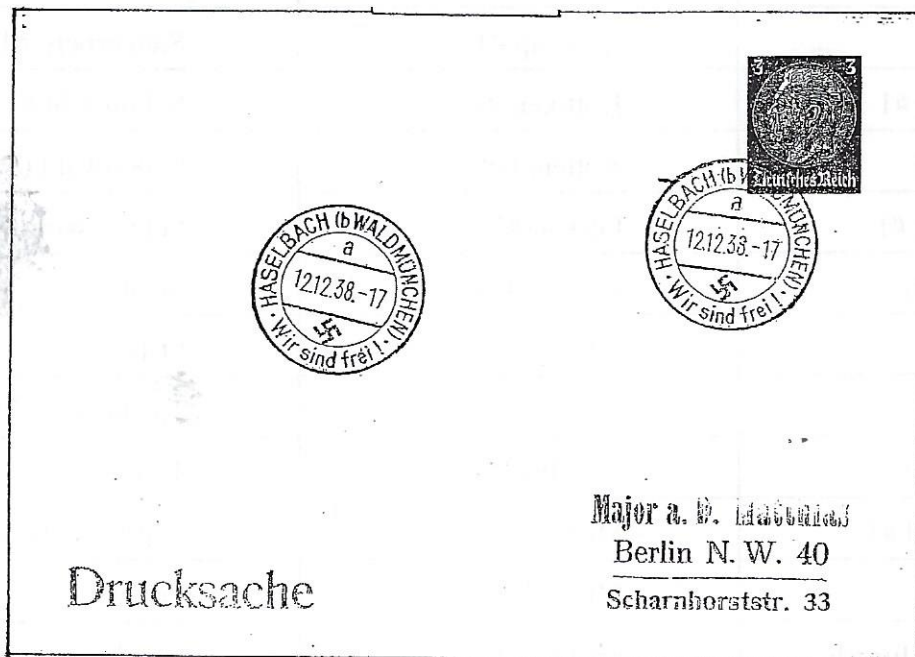
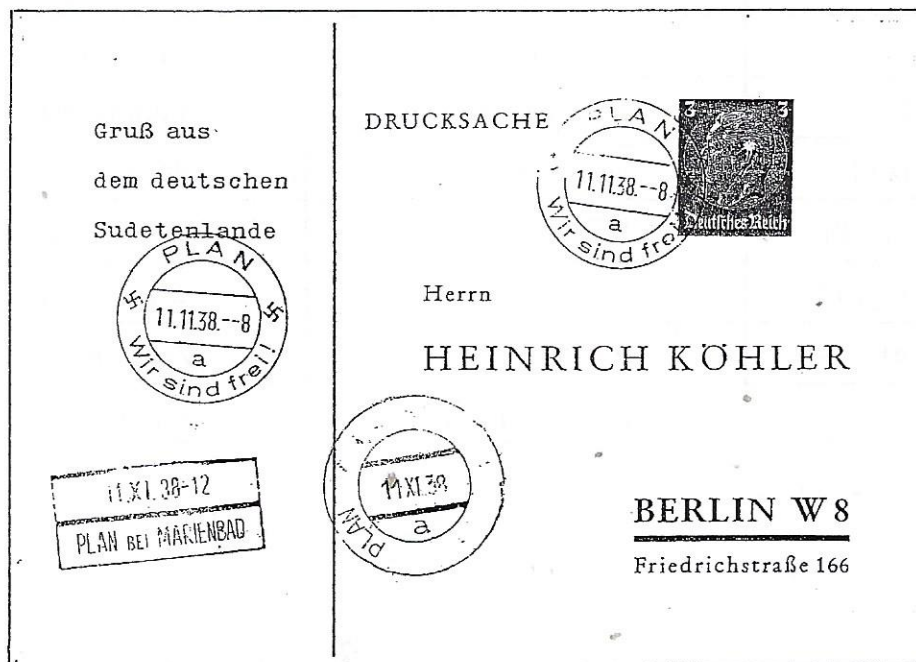


Fig. 2) Two swastikas - Plan (Plana), 11.11.38



“Wir sind frei !” 1938-1939

Alt-Zedlisch #1	Josefihutte #1	Purschau #1
Asch #1	Kladrau #1	Ronsperg # 1
Auschwitz #1	Konigswart #1	Rosshaupt #1
Bischofteinitz #1	Konstantinsbad #1	Sandau #1
Blizowa #1	Kosolup #1	Sangerberg #1
Chotischau #1	Kottiken #1	Schonficht #1
Dobrzan #1	Kuttenplan #1	Schonwald (Tach) #1
Dreihacken #1	Leskau #1	Schweissing # 1
Durrmaul #1	Lichtenstein #1	Staab #1
Eger #1	Littitz #1	Stift #1
Einsied #1	Marienbad #1	Tachau #1
Eisendorf #1	Metzling #1	Tepl #1
Fraszensbad #1	Michelsberg #1	Teplitz-Schonau #1
Girsch #1	Mies #1	Trpist #1
Gr. Schdichfur #1	Miltigau #1	Tschernoschin #1
Habakladrau #1	Muttersdorf #1	Tschihana #1
Haid #1	Neulosimthal #1	Tuschkau #1
Hals #1	Neumark #1	Ullitz #1
Haselbach #1	Neumarkt #1	Vollmau #1
Heiligenkreuz #1	Neustadt #1	Wassersuppen #1
Hermannschutte #1	Nurschau #1	Weissensulz #1
Hoch-Semlowitz #1	Pernharz #1	Wschrau #1 .
Holleischen #1	Plan #1	Zebau #1
Hostau #1	Pfraumberg #1	Zwug #1

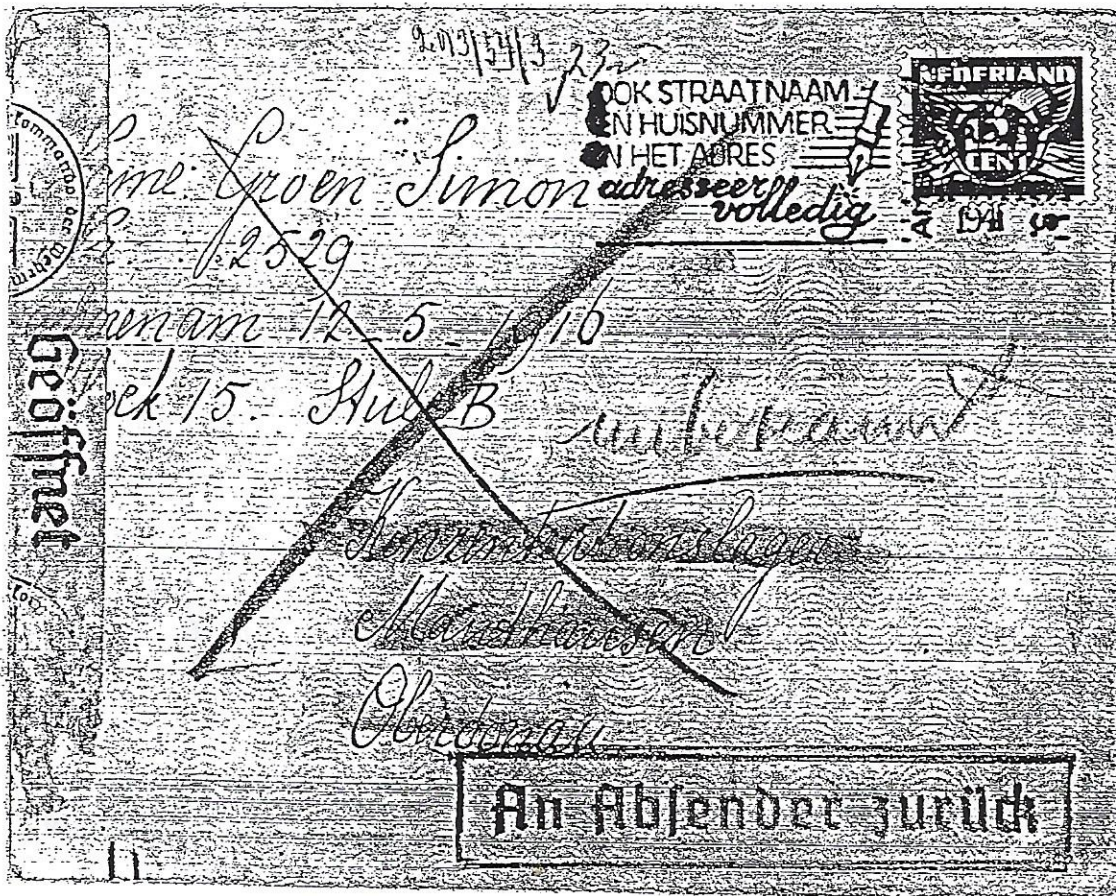
Returned Letter from KZL Mauthausen

by Ian Nutley

In May and June 1941 about 800 Dutch Jews were arrested in Amsterdam following an incident against the German occupiers. They were transported to Mauthausen, where conditions were as bad as in any establishment in the whole concentration camp system. In a fairly short time they all died. During its existence from August 8, 1938 until the liberation by U.S. troops on May 5, 1945, almost 200,000 prisoners passed through Mauthausen and more than half died. The place certainly lived up to its SS classification of Stufe III i.e. Level 3 with the harshest conditions. In September 1941 the Commandant was SS Standartenführer Frank Ziereis, who was shot soon after the liberation.

Illustrated below is a very sad cover, mailed on September 2, 1941. It is correctly addressed to a Jew, Simon Groen, No. 2529, who was born on May 12, 1916 and housed in Room B, Block 15 in Mauthausen. The cover was censored upon entry into Germany. The address has been crossed out and the word "Unbekannt" (unknown) written in manuscript. A boxed cachet "An Absender zurück" (return to sender) has been added. Clearly the 25 year old was already dead.

A total of about 1,750 Jews from Holland were deported to Mauthausen during the war. Of these, only one survived.



Ed Note: This article, with small changes, first appeared in the December 2001 News Sheet of the Third Reich Study Group (U.K.) It appears here with their permission for which we are most grateful.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

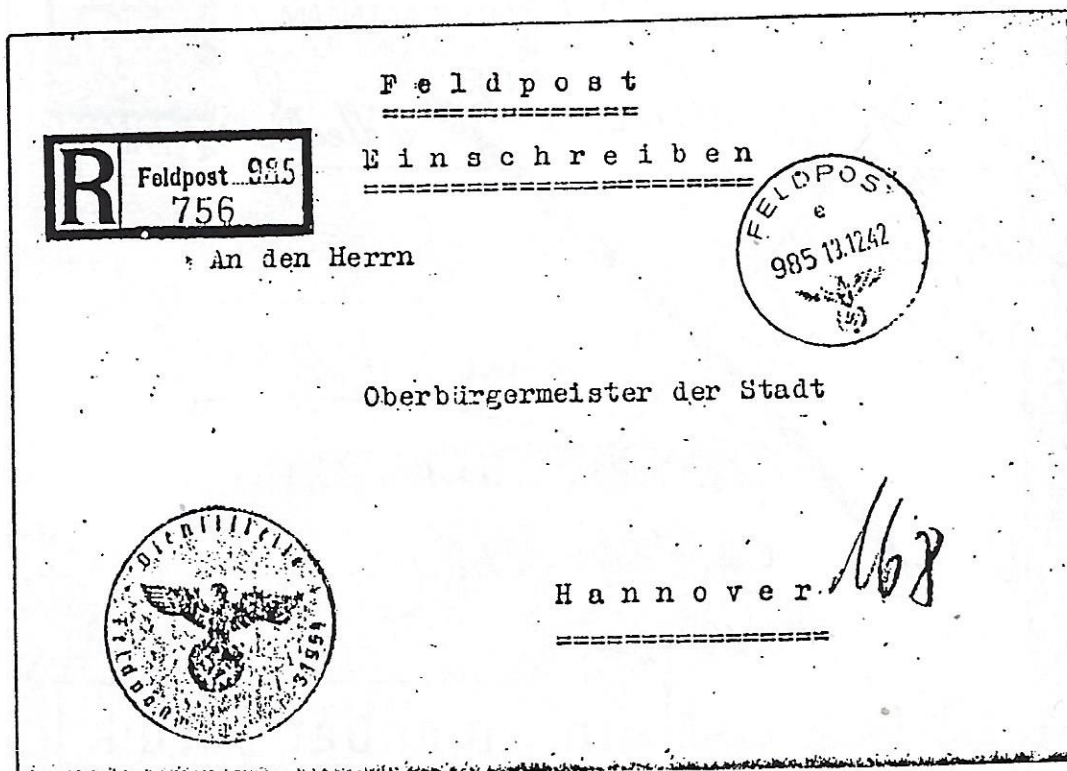
10th Panzer Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	GRENADIER	ARTY	UNITS	
90	985	7	69	80	90	

Formed in Prague in 1939 from Motorized Regiments 20 & 29. This unit initially fought in Poland as Panzer Division 'Kempf' but completed formation during the winter of 1939-40. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 21630 as a return address and Kenn 985 as a coded identity in lieu of tactical FpA 90. The division fought in France and gained distinction during the breakthrough at Sedan. The 10th Panzer Division was part of Army Group Center during the invasion of Russia in June 1941. It fought in the Battles of the Minsk Pocket and Smolensk. The division suffered heavy casualties defending Rzhev during the Soviet winter offensive of 1941-42.

The battered division was sent to Amiens, France in May 1942 to rest and reform. It remained in France and later took part in the occupation of Vichy France in November 1942. Shortly thereafter the division was transferred to Army Group Africa where it was destroyed in Tunisia in May



Cover sent to Civil Government in Hannover in December 1942 from Fp. # 31594 (Co. 2, Panzer Signals Btl. 90) via P.O. 90 (K-985).

Serbia - WWII Civil Mail Censorship 1941-1945

by Henry Laessig

Ever search for a philatelic item for years and never find it? Everyone has at one time or another. Here is the story of a one-frame exhibit that will probably never be.

The German invasion of Yugoslavia in April 1941 resulted in portions of that nation being annexed by Germany, Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria and Albania. Part of the remainder became the "Independent State of Croatia" and Montenegro. Then Serbia was formed, directly administered by the German military. The Serbian postal system was reformed and censorship offices were opened at Belgrade 2 & 25 and Nis on May 11, 1941. On June 3, 1941 Veliki Berkerek (Petrograd), Cacak and Sabac opened. Beginning on January 1, 1942, Belgrade 25 censorship was merged into Belgrade 2. Cacak was terminated on November 22, 1942 and replaced by Kraljevo. Censorship handstamps were created for two purposes: **A**) for use on private mail and **B**) for use by the German censor's Serbian trustees at Red Cross offices as well as municipal and governmental offices.

As shown below, censor hand stamps are grouped into four periods: 1) the May 1941 forerunners for the original three offices that were quickly replaced by: 2) 13 x 54mm boxed stamps: 3) 21 x 18mm "squares" replaced the originals in Feb. 1942 and adding Sabac and Kraljevo: 4) 32 x 15mm rectangles reflecting the mid-1944 reorganization of censorship into five sectors. Note: Censor office locations did not change, only their handstamp designs. Handstamps used for **B** above are too numerous to treat in one frame so only one example of each is shown. Forerunners are only known from Belgrade, Nis and Veliki Beckerek.

Period 1 - V. Beckerek

Period 2 - Nis

Period 3 - Kraljevo

Period 4 - V. Beckerek

Censurert
Pregledano No. 7
Post Censur
Poštanska cenzura
GROSSBETSCHKEREK

Zensuriert
XXII XXII
ЦЕНЗУРИСАНО

ZENSURIERT
ЦЕНЗУРИСАНО
135/к.

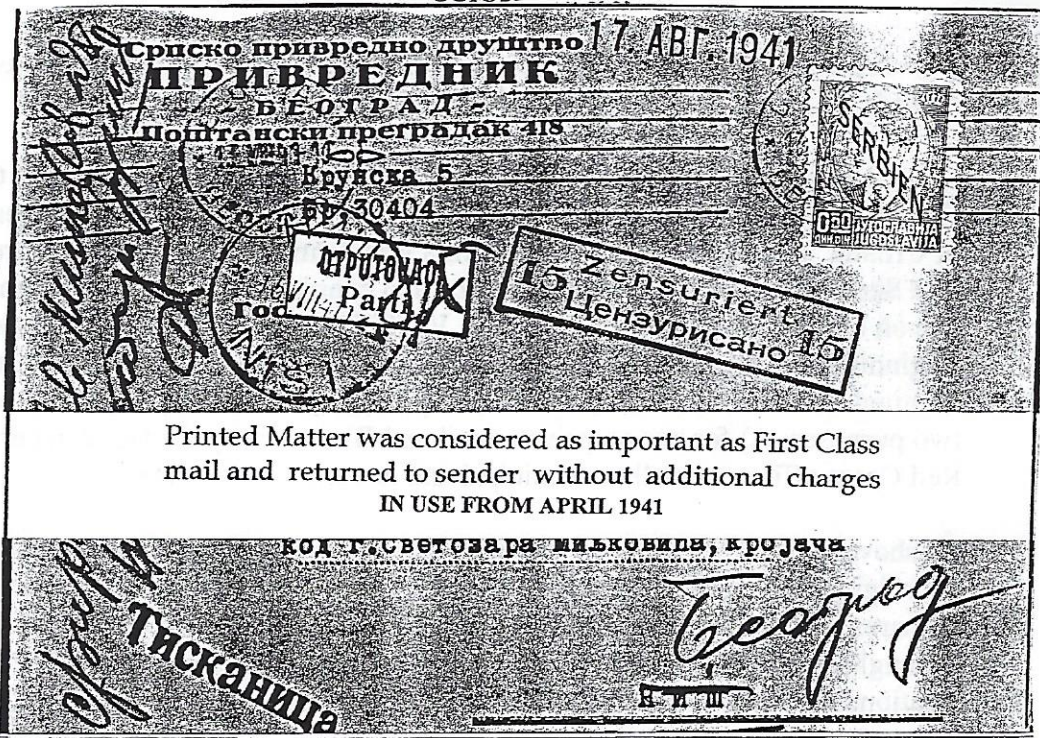
ZENSURIERT
0370/S.ki. II
ЦЕНЗУРИСАНО

Fig. 1) Veliki Beckerek forerunner 5-line censor handstamp No. 9 on Folded letter card posted on March 6, 1942. The censor's initials are penciled in black on handstamp. 1 Dinar paid Folded letter card and Post Card rate. Note: Numbers 1 to 20 are known for this censor stamp.



Period 2 Belgrade boxed censor stamps are found with numerals in two type styles. The first have numerals 1-50 in Serif type while the second have numerals 51-116 in San Serif type.

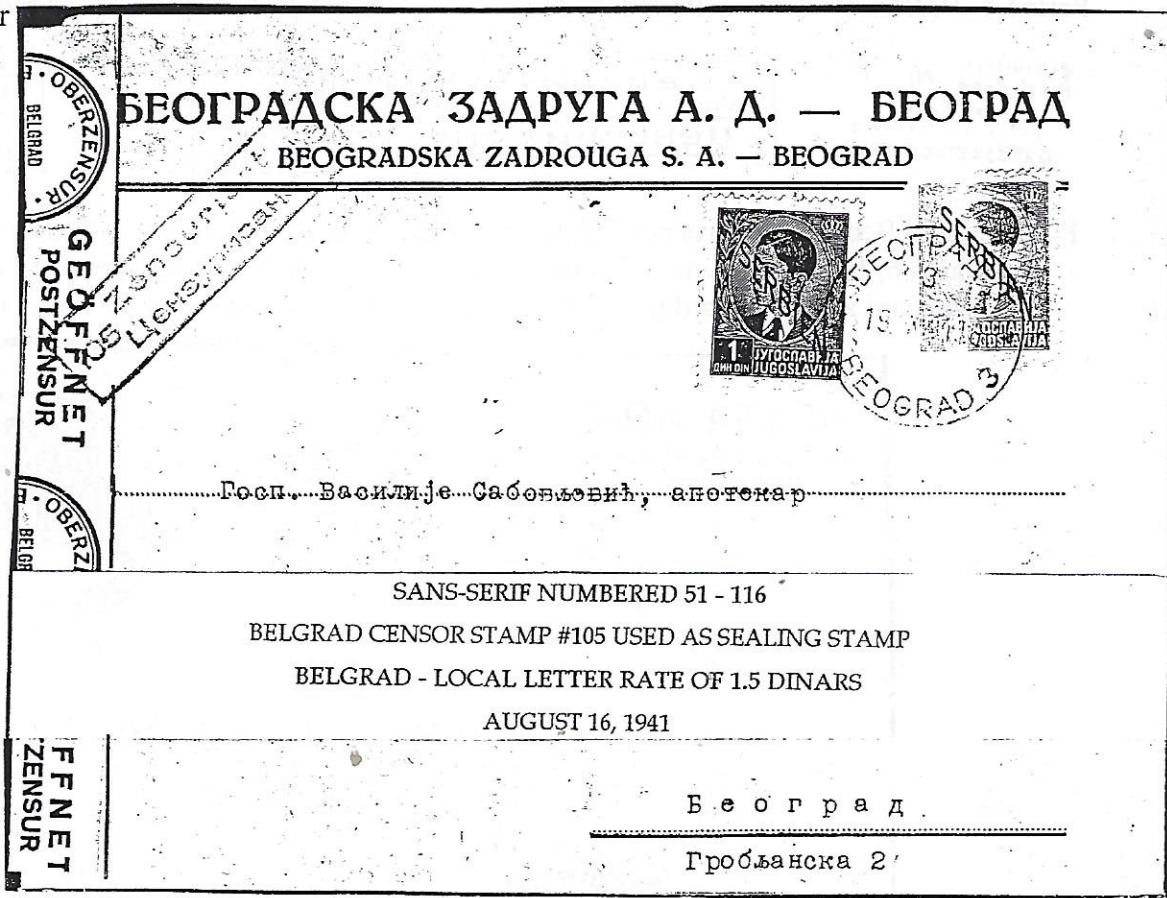
Figs. 2) Printed matter card with Belgrade serif numeral 15 censor stamp was posted on October 16, 1941. This undeliverable card with .50 Dinar rate for domestic printed matter traveled Belgrade-Nis-Belgrade.



Printed Matter was considered as important as First Class mail and returned to sender without additional charges
IN USE FROM APRIL 1941

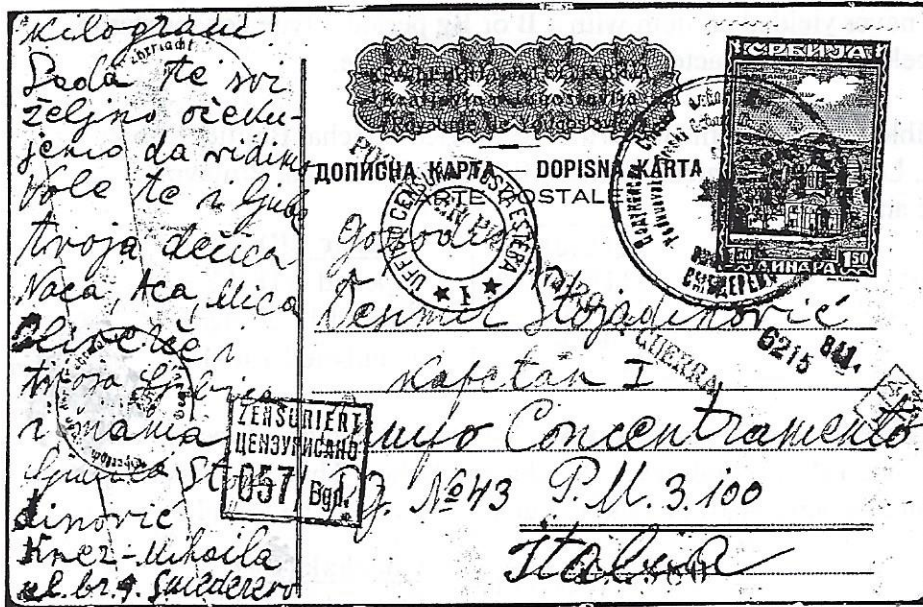
Fig. 3) Local letter with Belgrade san serif numeral 105 censor stamp was posted on August 16, 1941. This cover has local letter rate of 1.5 Dinars.

The Belgrade censor sealing tape shown on left side of cover was used by all the other censor offices in Serbia.



Period 3 “square” censor stamps have numerals at bottom with a slash then the office abbreviation.

Fig. 4) Post card was sent on June 2, 1943 from the wife of a Croatian Captain who was a prisoner of war in Italy. The Red Cross censor stamp on the postage stamp was applied by a trustee at the Smedervo Red Cross office. Besides the Red Cross censor, there are 10 different censor marks on this card, including the “square” Belgrade stamp with numeral 057.



Period 4 rectangular censor stamps have numerals in center with a slash then the Sector designation. During this period numerals 0451, 0453 & 0455 are known from the town of Sabac, forty miles west of Belgrade.

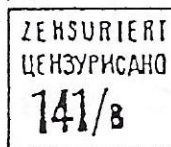
Fig. 5) Post card from Badovinci to Sabac sent on September 12, 1944 has Sector V handstamp with numeral 0455 used in Sabac. The 50 Paras postage due stamp was added to make up 2 Dinar post card rate.



As one- frame exhibits are judged for their completeness, here is where my problems began. According to an article by Vojin Visacki of Belgrade, Serbia, seven towns used period 3 type censor stamps. These are lettered as follows: Bgd-Belgrade; N-Nisch; V.B-Veliki Beckerek (Petrograd); **Bg-Chachak** (later Kraljevo); **B-Shabac**; S-Shabac (B was later changed to S).

Subsequently my review of hundreds of internet offerings and auction catalogs from all over the world have never yielded an item with a **B** or **Bg** period 3 type censor stamp. The images shown below were extracted from the Visacki article.

Shabac was responsible for mail from Bodovinci, Banja Koviljacha, Bogtic, Debrc, Draginje, Koceljevo, Leshnica, Loznica, Metlic, Mitrovica Podrinska, Prnjavor Machvanski, Shabac and Vladimirci.



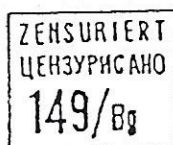
Shabac (B)

Opened 8/18/42

Closed 11/27/42

Numbered 140-141

Chachak was responsible for mail from Kosovska, Mitrovica, Vucitrn, Zvecan, Joshanichka, Leshak, Novi Pazar, Podujevo, Rashka and Ushce. This office was replaced by Kraljevo which later became Sekt. IV, and as such is also not to be found by me.



Chachak (Bg)

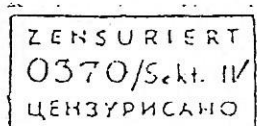
Opened 6/15/42

Closed 11/27/42

Numbered 142-150

Although short lived using these letters, both offices covered wide areas Spelling of the town varies within Visacki's article, possibly due to translation from the original Cyrillic text.

In mid 1944 these "square" Period 3 stamps were replaced by new Period 4 rectangular "Sector" (Sekt.) stamps as shown in Fig. 5. As noted above, these new stamps used Roman numerals I to V. I have also been unable to locate a cover or card with a Sekt' IV (Kraljevo) stamp in all my numerous searches. A reproduction of a Sekt. IV stamp from the Vojin Visacki article is shown below.



ED Note: While it is our practice to note the title and other relevant data on any articles or books referenced in this journal, Henry Laessig became aware of the "missing" censor stamps when a fellow collector sent him Vojin Visacki's article which illustrated these items. As the article happened to be written in Cyrillic, Henry sent only those pages with the "missing" censor illustrations for translation into English.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

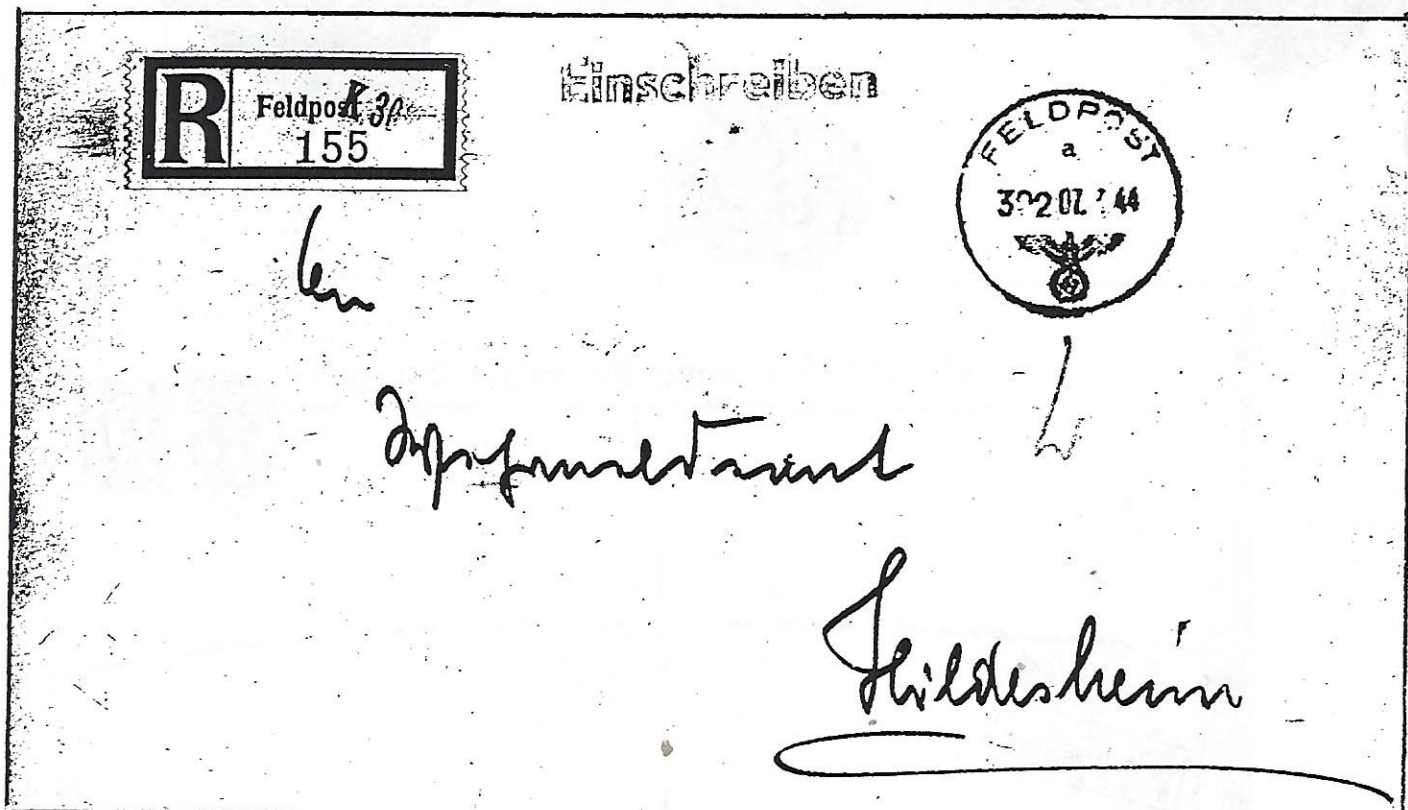
16th Luftwaffe Field Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT	KENN	FIELD INFANTRY		ARTY	UNITS
916	302	31 (L)	32 (L)	45 (L)	16 (L)

Originally formed with two regiments in late 1942 and early 1943 and stationed in the Hague-Haarlem area of Holland, the 16th Luftwaffe Field Division P.O. was assigned Fp.# 48337 as a return address and Kenn 302 as a coded identity on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 916. In June 1944 it created the 45th Luftwaffe Field Infantry Regiment by reducing its other field infantry regiments to two battalions each. At that time it was on garrison duty in Amsterdam as part of Armed Forces Netherlands.

In late June 1944 it was transferred to Normandy and on July 2, replaced the Panzer Lehr Division on the front lines of Army Group B. The next day the British launched a major offensive on Caen and immediately overran the 16th Luftwaffe Field Division, which lost 75 per cent of its men within hours. The survivors were eventually collected and attached to the 21st Panzer Division. They were later withdrawn from the line and consolidated with the 158th Reserve Division to form the 16th Infantry division, which continued to serve on the western front until the end of the war.



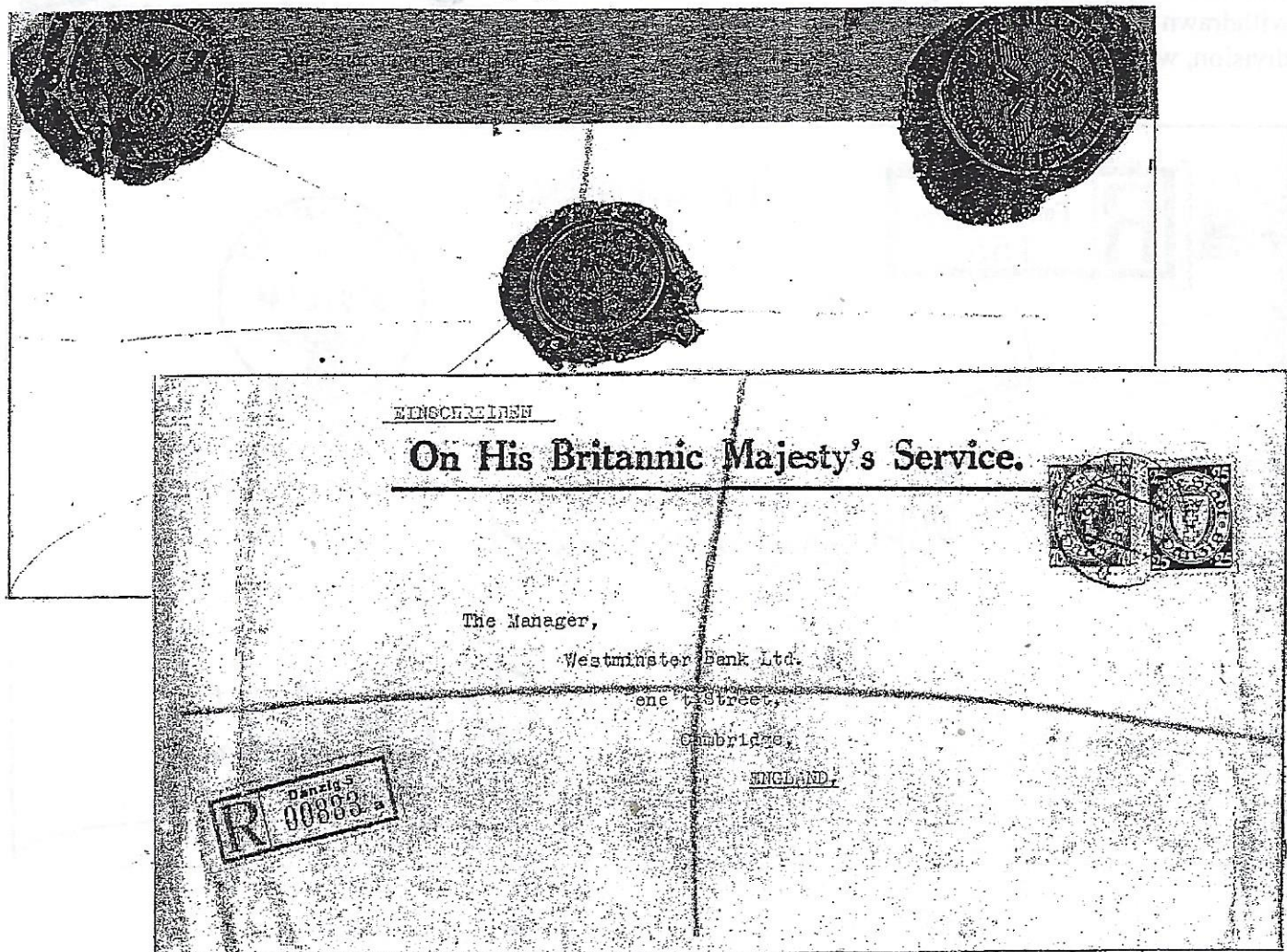
Cover sent to Military District Command in Hildesheim in March 1944 via Field Post Office 916 (K-302). Note: no Feldpost number is found on this cover.

Königsberg Wax Censor Seal

by Bruce Fisher

This is a scarce example of wax seals used by the Königsberg censor office on a registered letter sent on August 30, 1939 from a British office in Danzig to a bank in England. The backside of the cover has a British wax seal over the flap in the center. The Königsberg office opened it for examination then resealed it with plain brown tape hand stamped "Im Staatsinteresse geöffnet"(Opened in the interest of the State). Two red wax seals reading "Königsberg* Auslandsnachrichten-prüfstelle*" (Königsberg foreign letter censor office) were added to the tape.

As this wax seal isn't referenced in the censorship books of either Reimer or Landsmann, I sent photocopies of the cover to Wolfgang Vogt, leader of the German AGZ (censor study group). Herr Vogt replied "The Danzig letter is absolutely great! This is the first wax seal seen from Königsberg. We assumed that all censor offices must have used wax seals because these offices also opened insured letters which must have required closure with wax seals. Previously, wax seals were only known for ABP Köln, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Kopenhagen. Now we can add Königsberg. They are very scarce because during wartime there weren't many insured letters (mostly banks or businesses). Also, sealed letters from government branches were usually transported in diplomatic mailbags. Finally, most of these wax seals were destroyed when the letters were opened. Only collectors would be interested in keeping the seals intact and in saving the envelopes".



A Zeppelin Cover to Alaska

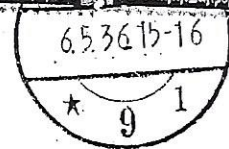
by Bob Ferguson

Covers from the first commercial flight of the LZ-29 'Hindenburg' to Lakehurst, New Jersey on May 6, 1936 are common. In my experience, zeppelin covers forwarded to Alaska are not.

Stuttgart P.O. 9 postmark, May 6, 1936 to Alaska.
Reverse side: New York Registry Division, May 9, 1936.
Reverse side: Cordova, Alaska Registered, May 21, 1936.

*Mildred Reeves,
2946 Gale Ave.,
Long Beach, Calif.*

Via Airship "HINDENBURG"
from: FRANKFURT/MAIN, GERMANY
to: LAKEHURST, N. J., U. S. A.



*Mrs James Morrison,
Cordova, Alaska.*

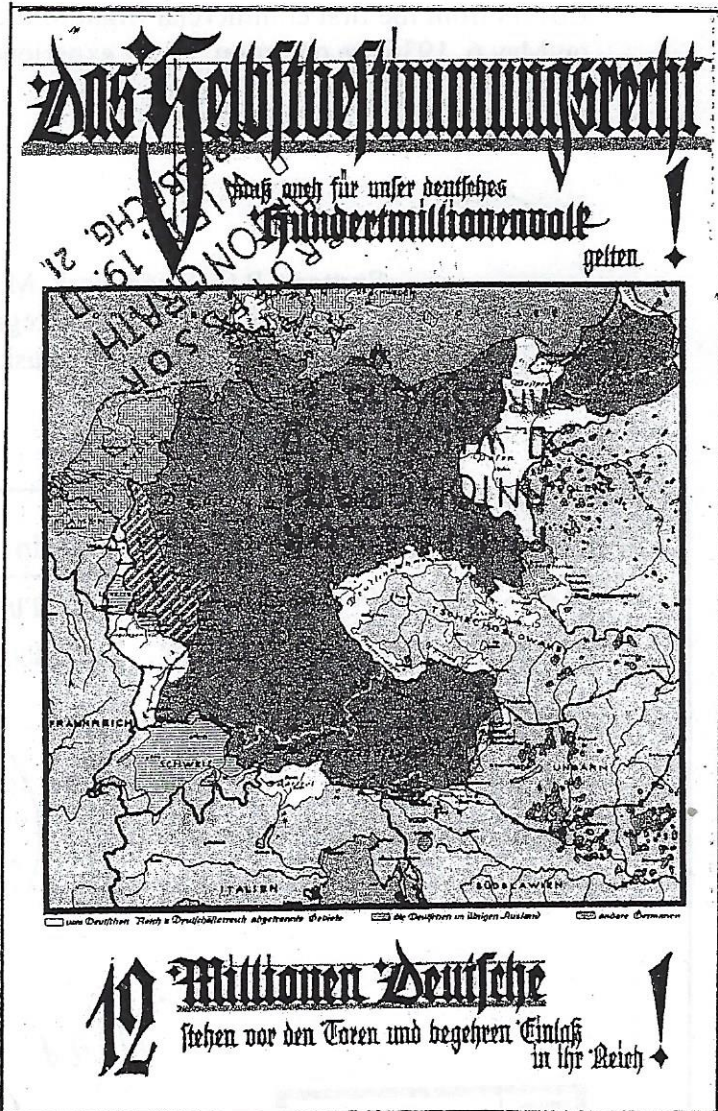
Vorläufer Post Card for 'Lost Territories'?

by Larry Nelson

My fellow members may find this post card historically interesting. It was posted in January 1924 from Vienna to Switzerland (to the Director of a school in St. Gallen).

The sender was Professor Antongrath and his handstamp (in red) appears twice on the picture side of this card . The theme of this card concerns the 12 million Germans removed from the Reich and shows lands lost as a result of the Versailles Treaty after WW I and the pockets of Germans in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, etc.

As the return of Germany's lost territories was a major plank in the National Socialist platform, this card is similar to many cards produced during the Hitler period Might this card could be called a Third Reich "Vorläufer."?



Geburtdatum, Wien 71. 11. 1864. Antongrath, 2/1/24

...

Postk

die ...
 ...
 in St. Gallen,
 Schweiz.

Cover Forwarded to Gestapo by Censor Office

by Bruce Fisher

The three illustrations below are from my BALPEX 1996 gold medal exhibit. The write-ups are all I know about this handling of mail by a censor office but in my roughly fifty years of specializing in Third Reich postal censorship, the form shown as Fig. 2 is the only one I've ever seen.

Extreme violations of German censorship regulations could result in mail being confiscated by the foreign mail postal examiners and turned over to the Gestapo.

Fig. 1) This cover with enclosed message bears a Luckenwald postmark dated Nov. 17, 1942. It is addressed to Denmark and has notation added by the Hamburg censor office .

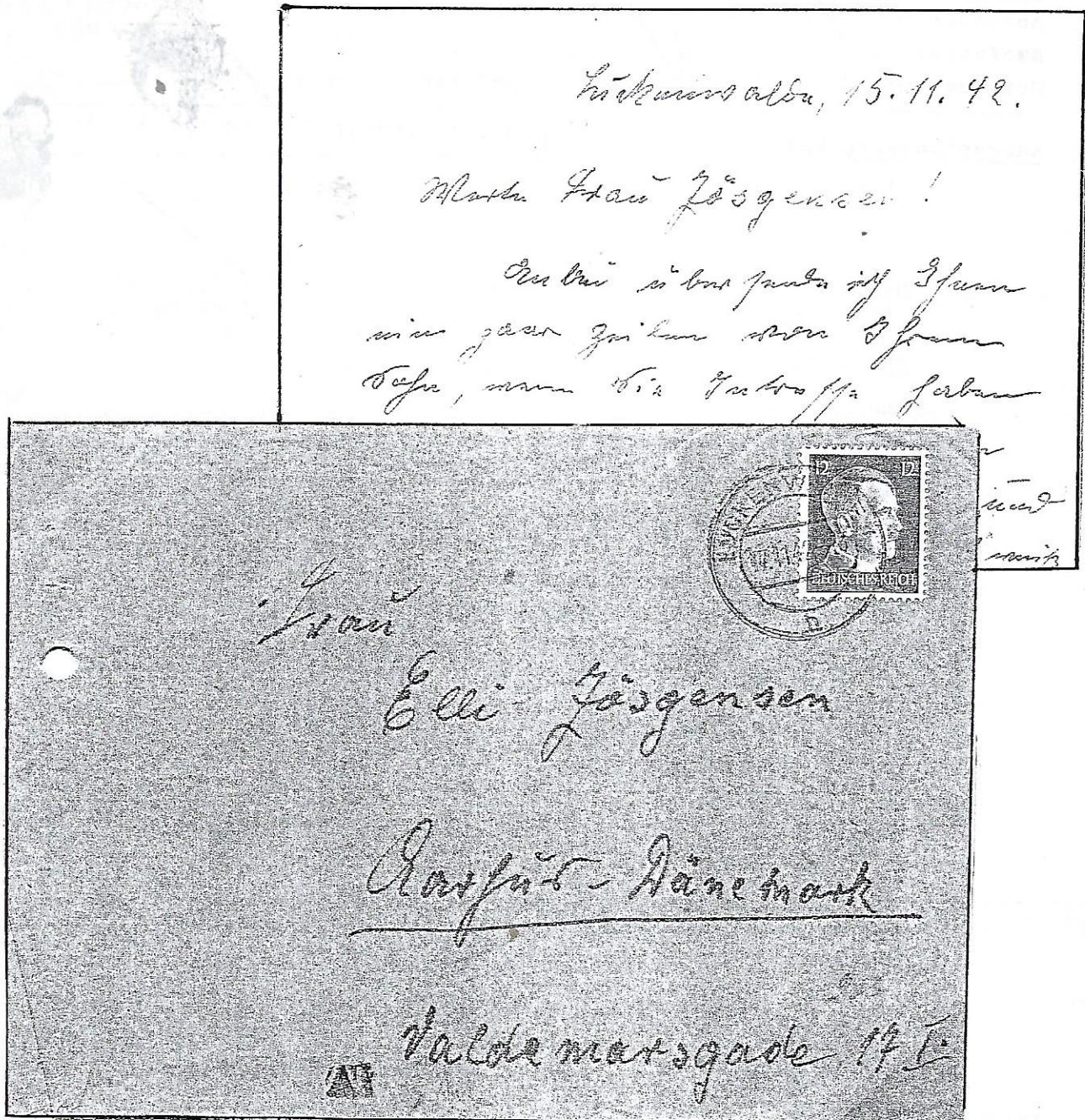


Fig. 2) Censor form forwarded with confiscated letter to Gestapo provides information on internal workings of censor office including types of examination, (e.g. "Chemisch ohne Befund"), time required to examine letter, and action taken once it was determined that criminal activity was suspected. In this case, letter was from civilian worker in prison to mother of one of inmates.

U. V. P. Hamburg
Gruppe VII 12 B

Hamburg, den 21.11.42

Kenn-Nr. 4398/42

2ln

nachrichtlich: 3. U. V. P. in 2 Ausfertigungen
ferner je 1 Ausfertigung für:

Geheime Staatspolizei, Berlin

Betr.: Wehrmacht - Politik - Wirtschaft - Abwehr

Absender: Gens. Muckenwalde, Berlin Trebbinertor 4 G

Empfänger: Elli Jörgensen, Aarhus, Valdemarsgade 17 I

Briefdatum: 17.11.42

Anlagen: keine

23. NOV. 1942

Auswertungsergebnis:

Originalbrief: an Gestapo Berlin

Chemisch ohne Befund

Die Absenderin hat anscheinend den beiliegenden Brief eines Strüflings aus dem Gefängnis geschmuggelt und forderte die Empfängerin (Mutter) auf, die Antwort auch durch ihre Hände gehen zu lassen.

Abschrift:

"Werte Frau Jörgensen!
Anbei übersende ich Ihnen ein paar Zeilen von Ihrem Sohn, wenn Sie Interesse haben von mir näheres zu erfahren, dann schreiben Sie mir bitte und ich teile Ihnen mit was ich weiss, wenn Sie an Ihren Sohn einen Brief mit geben wollen schicken Sie diesen an meine Adresse und ich werde ihn mitnehmen, anfang Dezember fahre ich wieder nach Berlin.

Mit deutschem Gruss

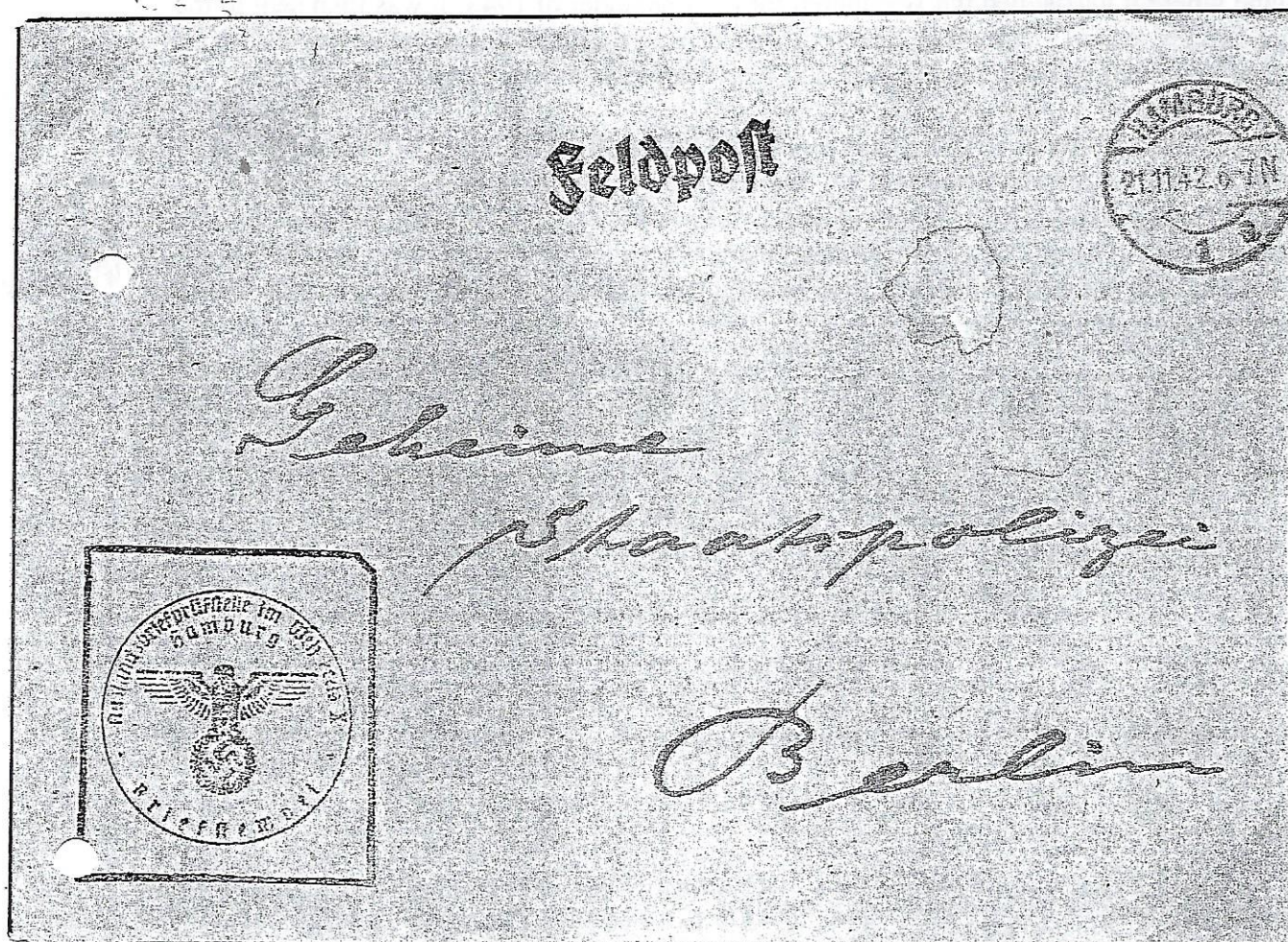
Fr. Marie Gens."

Major

Gens. E 5438/42 (1)

On previous page, the form (shown 85% of actual size) was dated Nov. 21, 1942 by Hamburg censor office (top right corner) and below that has Berlin Gestapo office receiving stamp dated Nov. 23. The letter is signed by a Major in the censor office and, below that, by a Gestapo official who added a file number [5988/42]. The form number [E/0467. 10.42.. KZ] appears in lower left corner.

Fig. 3) This is the outer cover used to forward the confiscated letter and censor form to the Gestapo. Because censor offices were under military control (OKW) they were allowed postage free Feldpost if their mail displayed the "Dienstsiegel" (official seal). As such seals only appear on official mail, they are fairly scarce. This circular seal reads at top "Auslandsbriefprüfstelle im Wehrkreis X" (Foreign letter examining office in Military District X) Hamburg and at bottom "Briefstempel" (Letter seal). The cover is addressed to "Geheime Staatspolizei" (Secret Police) in Berlin.



COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

19th Luftwaffe Field Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	FIELD INFANTRY		ARTY	UNITS	
919	687	37 (L)	38 (L)	46 (L)	19(L)	19 (L)

The 19th Luftwaffe Field Division was formed with two infantry field regiments in March 1943 at Troop Maneuver Grounds Bergen in Norway. The P.O. was assigned Fp. 48893 as a return address and K-687 as a coded identity in lieu of tactical FpA 919.

Upon completion of training the division was sent to France from June to August 1943, then to Holland where it garrisoned the Walcheren for the remainder of 1943. It was then sent to the Ghent-Bruges area of Belgium in January 1944. During this period it added a new 46th Field Infantry Regiment by reducing the 37th and 38th regiments to two battalions each.

The 19th Luftwaffe Field Division was sent to the Italian Front in June 1944 where it saw its first combat. This division proved inadequate as evident of its very high casualty rate and was disbanded late in 1944. The remnants of the division were sent to Denmark, inducted into the Army and used to form a new 19th Volksgrenadier Division. The former FpA 919 became FpA 119 but retained the same Feldpost and kenn numbers. The new division fought on the Western Front for the remainder of the war.



Envelope made from a German newspaper sent to Military Records Office in Prague in July 1943 from Fp. # 50986 (Regiment Stab, Luftwaffe Jäger Regiment 38) via FpA 919 (Kenn 732)

German POWs in North America Camps in Mississippi by Jim Lewis

After the surrender of Panzer Army Africa in early 1943, nearly 275,000 German and Italian POWs were sent to camps in the United States. Of these, approximately 20,000 German POWs were held in Mississippi camps. The base camps were at Clinton (Code 12), Selby near Hattiesburg (Code 25), Como in the northern Delta (Code 47) and McCain near Granada (Code 53). Camp Clinton was unique among other camps because among its 3,400 POWs, it included the highest ranking German officers. Twenty-five generals were housed there along with several colonels, majors and captains. The highest ranking generals had separate houses and drivers. Lower ranking officers had to contend with small apartments. The top ranking generals included General Hans Jurgen von Arnim (who had replaced Rommel in Africa) and Lt. General Hermann-Bernhard Ramcke, commander of Fortress Brest in France, who finally capitulated to the U.S. VIII Corps on September 19, 1944.

Shown at right is General von Arnim at Camp Clinton.



The main camps and branch camps in Mississippi are listed below.

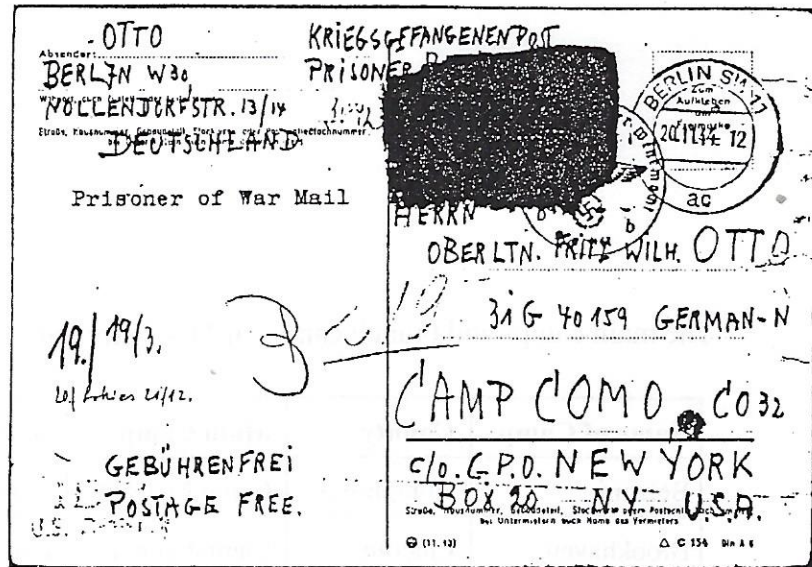
Name of Camp	County	Main Camp	Name of Camp	County	Main Camp
Belzoni	Humphreys	Camp McCain	Leland	Wahington	Camp McCain
Brookhaven	Lincoln	Camp Clinton	Las Animas	Bent	Trinidad
Clarksdale	Coahoma	Camp McCain	Camp McCain	Grenada	-----
Camp Clinton	Hinds	-----	Merigold	Bolivar	Camp McCain
Camp Como	Panola	-----	Picayune	Pearl River	Camp Shelby
Drew	Sunflower	Camp McCain	Richton	Perry	Camp Shelby
Elkas	Wahington	Camp McCain	Rosedale	Bolivar	Camp McCain
Greenville	Wahington	Camp Clinton	Saucier	Harrison	Camp Shelby
Greenwood	Leflore	Camp McCain	Camp Shelby	Forrest	-----
Indianola	Sunflower	Camp McCain	Van Dorn	Amite	Camp Como

(Note) Foster General Hospital in Jackson County, Greenwood Army Air Base in Leflore County (under Camp Clinton), Gulfport Naval Training Center in Harrison County (under Camp Selby) employed POWs. Camp McCain and Camp Shelby both had branch camps in Alabama.

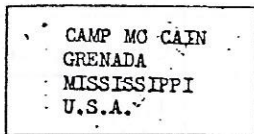
Under the Geneva Conventions, officers could not be forced to work. However, enlisted ranks could be made to work if the tasks did not aide their captor's war effort. The most useful work done by German POWs in Mississippi was the Mississippi River Basin Model. The U.S. Corps of Engineers was in charge of major waterways, and had long wanted to build a one-square-mile model of the entire Mississippi River Basin. Such a model could be of great value in predicting floods and assessing the water flow of the Mississippi River and its tributaries. As shown at right, using hundreds of wheelbarrows and shovels, POWs from Camp Clinton prepared the site. They dug drainage ditches, constructed miniature streets and bridges and formed a one-square-mile landscape into a miniature Mississippi Basin.



Postal card sent from Berlin in November 1944 to an Oberleutnant (first lieutenant) in Camp Como, Mississippi has censor stamp of Berlin office and what appears to be an obliteration of something at top center. The U.S. censor stamp (faint) is in lower left corner.



Boxed hand stamp used by postal facility at Camp McCain includes designation of nearby town of Granada.



As in other states with POW camps, German prisoners in Mississippi were not immediately returned after the war in Europe ended in May 1945. Many remained in their compounds and continued to work for almost a year after the war ended. President Harry Truman decided that a labor shortage existed in the United States. In addition, the chaotic situation in post-war Germany, including food shortages, would have only been exacerbated by the arrival of thousands of repatriated German soldiers.

Montenegro Overprint Stamps on Cover

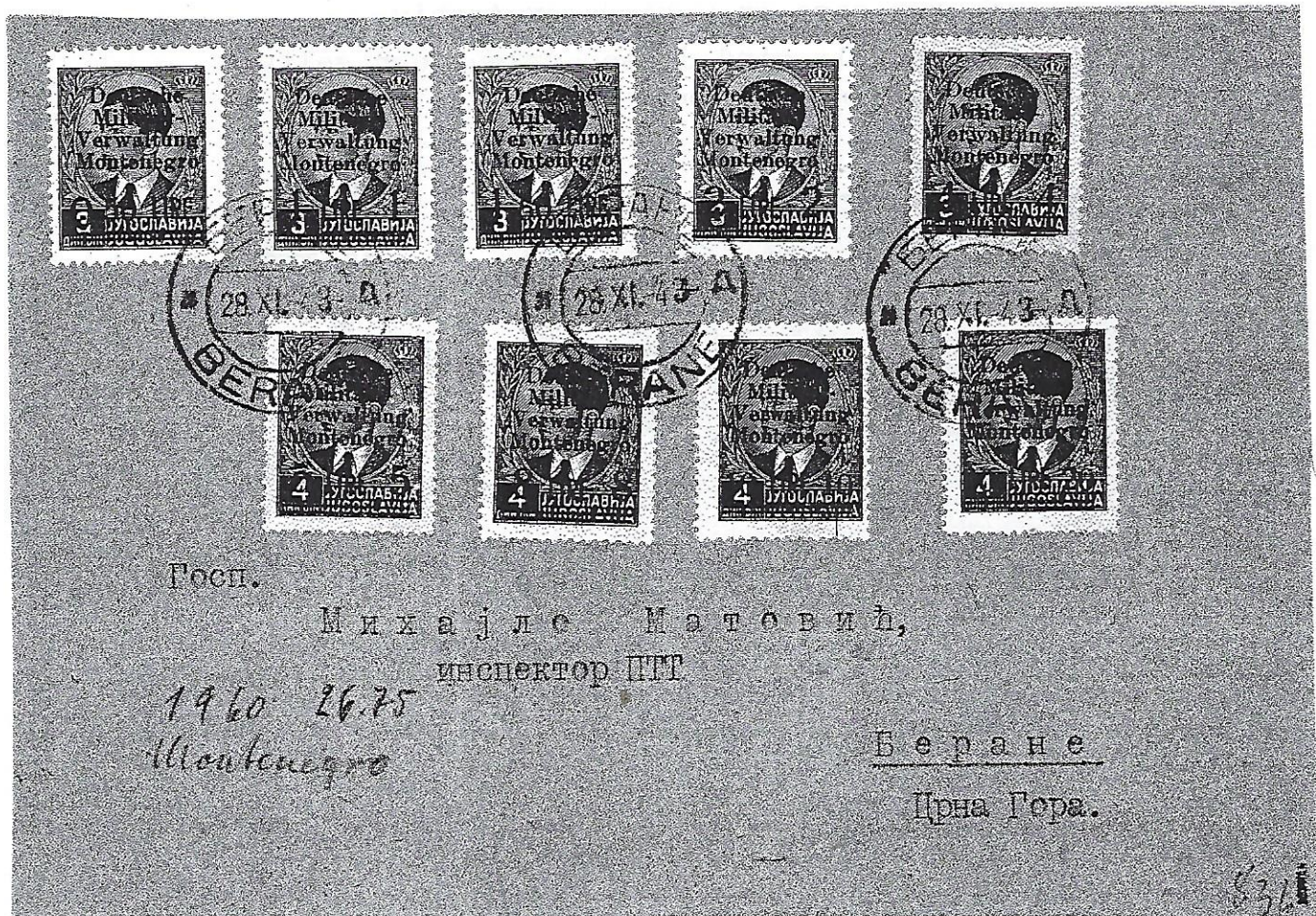
by Bob Ferguson

In September 1943 the German Military Government replaced the Italian administration. Field

Commander 1040 was responsible for the German administration and assumed the title of Field Commander of Montenegro. On November 10, 1943 a civil administration was established and assumed responsibility for the national postal service, including the operation of post offices in Bar, Budua, Cetinje, Podgorica and Nikšić. On November 22, 1943, two Yugoslavia stamp values were overprinted with five-lined “Deutsche/Militar-/Verwaltung/Montenegro” and nine new values in Italian currency as a provisional issue. This overprinting was done by Obod, the Montenegro state printers in Cetinje.

As many overprinted stamps of the German occupation issues are post-war forgeries, I obviously had my doubts when I obtained this philatelic cover that has all nine stamps of the first Montenegro issue. However, after having the cover expertised by Bundesprüfer Gerhard Krischke, I find I indebted to an unknown collector from an earlier generation. Herr Krischke’s foto-attest for this cover shown on the following page provides these quotes:

1. The stamps have genuine overprints.
2. The cancel BERANE -D, 28 XI.43 is also genuine, however, the cover was cancelled to order.
3. This postoffice was closed during the German occupation. These cancellations were kept in the archives in the city of Cetinje.
4. Cancelled, these stamps are very scarce [“sehr selten”].



GERHARD KRISCHKE

Elkartallee 17

D-30173 Hannover · Tel. (05 11) 88 68 09

Nr. 197/05

Datum 26.3.2005

ATTEST

Deutsche Besetzung Montenegro

Freimarken 0.50 L. a. 3 Din.- 20 L. a. 4 Din.

- Ri. Nr. 1 - 9 0 -

Die Marken auf beschriftetem Umschlag
- Foto unten - haben echte Aufdrucke.
Die Stempel BERANE - D - 28.XI.43 sind
zwar ebenfalls echt, jedoch erfolgte
die Abstempelung gefälligkeitshalber.
Das Postamt war während der deutschen
Besetzung geschlossen, die Stempel be-
fanden sich in Cetinje im Archiv.

Gestempelt sind diese Marken sehr selten.

Signum: "RIJXMAN"

