



## Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

April 2022, Volume LVII, Number 2 (#223)

***Inside:***

- Undercover Addresses by Kees Adema
- Łódź Ghetto Stamps by Dr. Sourav Sengupta
- Channel Island Society Auction
- The Air Defense League's History and its Stamps
- AuctionWatch, and so much more!

# Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

## April 2022, Volume LVII, Number 2 (#223)

### Another Great Issue:

- **Łódź Ghetto Stamps by Dr. Sourav Sengupta** - An important article by a first-time contributor to the *Bulletin* highlighting the suffering and almost impossible decisions residents of the Polish Ghetto faced.
- **Undercover Addresses by Kees Adema** – An extremely well-written follow up to last issue's article, Kees provides clarity and incredible examples of undercover Addresses during the World War II. A must read.
- **The Air Defense League's History and its Stamps** – Our featured stamps showcase Germany's Air Defense League, a civilian attempt to provide safety during ever increasing Allied air raids. An intriguing look into a highly structured yet flawed system.
- **Plus AuctionWatch, Trivia, Danzig, and a great Channel Island Society Auction!**
- **As I always say: Keep Calm and Keep Collecting!!**

*A Big Thank You! This issue of the Third Reich Study Group Bulletin has the answers. In our previous issue, I asked you for articles, and you came through! As I said, the more varied the knowledge and perspective, the better our publication will be. Even if you have just an idea, a scan, or a full-finished article – email them to me at [ctkolker@mail.com](mailto:ctkolker@mail.com).*

*Remember: We can always use a little moolah. Our next major project is to travel to the APS National Convention in California to spread the word about the Germany Philatelic Society and the Third Reich Study Group. Just click on the "Donate" button on the webpage next to the "Our Journal" button. Thank you!*

## Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <i>Editor's Letter</i> by Chris Kolker.....  | 4  |
| <i>Undercover Addresses and Post Office Boxes</i> by Kees Adema.....                                 | 6  |
| <i>Łódź Ghetto Stamps: A TALE OF HOPE...ANGUISH...DESPAIR</i><br><i>by Dr. Sourav Sengupta</i> ..... | 21 |
| <i>Danzig</i> .....  | 25 |
| <i>Channel Islands Specialists' Society</i> .....  | 37 |
| <i>Stamps of the Third Reich</i> by Chris Kolker.....  | 46 |
| <i>AuctionWatch</i> .....  | 53 |
| <i>Trivia</i> .....  | 65 |
| <i>For Sale</i> .....  | 78 |

## Editor's Letter

To our Esteemed Readers:

Frankly, this issue of the *Third Reich Study Group Bulletin* excites me. We have a first-time author to the *Bulletin*, Dr. Sourav Sengupta, who gives a great overview of Łódź Ghetto Stamps. I am looking forward to reading his work for many years to come.

Kees Adema contributes an entire chapter of his book and builds on the discussion I wrote about last issue on undercover addresses and post office boxes of World War II. He offers a detailed and comprehensive assessment, and is a learned and scholarly addition to my attempt at the subject last issue.

But wait, there is more. The Channel Island Specialists' Society had another successful auction and have some great stuff to show. And with our regular feature of *Stamps of the Third Reich*, the German Air Defense League takes center stage, complete with their obsession with uniforms.

If all that is not enough, *AuctionWatch* shows us some pretty rare stuff up for sale recently. The market has cooled a bit, so it's a good time to get some bargains going. And the archives of *Danzig* show us some rare cancellation of their WW II-era mail.

So, sit back and enjoy the read. This is one of our best issues ever.

Your humble Editor,

Chris



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Keep Calm and Keep Collecting!!

# Undercover Addresses and Post Office Boxes

Kees Adema

## CHAPTER 6

# Undercover Addresses and Post Office Boxes

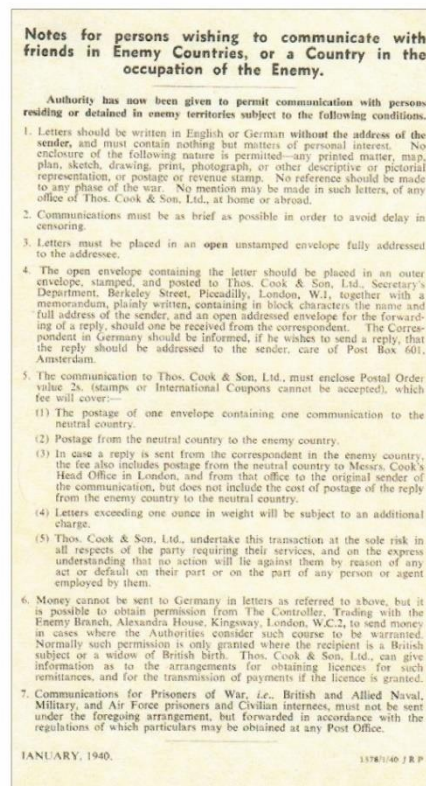
Undercover mail is not sent directly to its ultimate destination but instead first routed to an intermediate address from where it is then forwarded to the addressee typically through the regular mail channels. It was intended to hide the true destination of the correspondence and the location of the recipient. The practice was of course necessitated by war conditions and by the prohibition on direct mail connections imposed by both the Axis powers and the Allies. The use of such addresses took many different forms. Although the scheme was already used in prior conflicts, World War II saw a huge increase in undercover mail, especially in the later years. That experience related directly to some of the mail schemes established in the early months of World War II.<sup>1</sup>

According to Charles Entwistle<sup>2</sup> more than 340 such addresses in 39 countries and territories have now been identified of which 88 were located in Lisbon. It should be noted that many of the addresses listed by Entwistle were those of charitable or religious services and not meant to evade restrictions imposed on mail. The most popular service was that provided by Messrs Thomas Cook & Son Ltd but the list expands greatly when the names of many hundreds of British government-approved forwarding persons are added as well, that is, people providing forwarding and letter exchange services from their neutral country addresses. It could be argued that many of these services are not truly “undercover” but we shall leave it to others to draw that distinction.

## 6.1 Europe

Several months before neutral Holland was attacked by Germany on 10 May 1940 the British government authorised Thomas Cook & Son Ltd to establish Post Office Box 601 in Amsterdam for mail between Great Britain and the enemy

**Figure 6-1.**  
Directions for mail forwarded via Thomas Cook & Son in London. (EF)



territories. It was in use for about three months and of course abolished after the German invasion. The requirements for using the Cook service were very strict as can be seen in the list of conditions issued in January 1940 (Figure 6-1). Yet it is surprising that the British even permitted correspondence to and from enemy territory albeit in a roundabout fashion.<sup>3</sup>

According to Entwistle there were additional boxes in Amsterdam, 115 for South Africa, 510 for the Polish Merchant Navy, 520 for Australia, 525 for New Zealand and 615 for Canada. Ed Fraser, who specialises in the subject, has not seen examples of those although the letter in Figure 6-2 intriguingly refers to Box 115. PO Boxes 520, 525, and 615 were coincidentally the box numbers later set up and used by Thomas Cook in Lisbon.

Figure 6-2.

Cook cable correspondence dated 27 December 1939 concerning undercover mail. (EF)

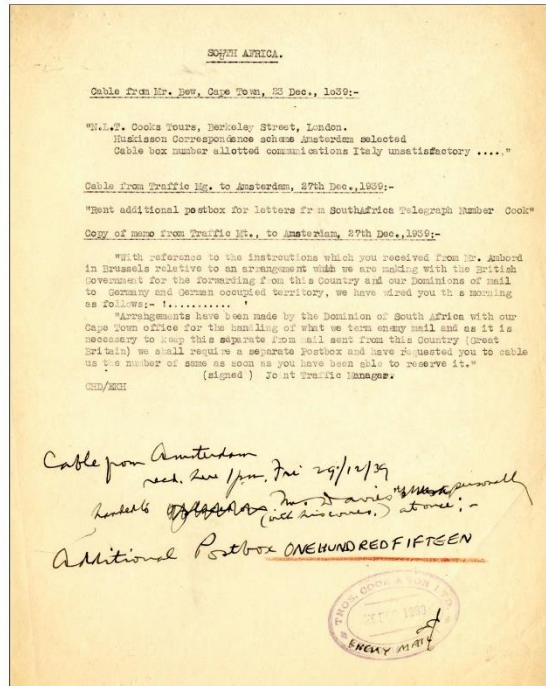


Figure 6-3\*.

From Prague to Thomas Cook's PO Box 601 in Amsterdam, 19 February 1940. (EF)



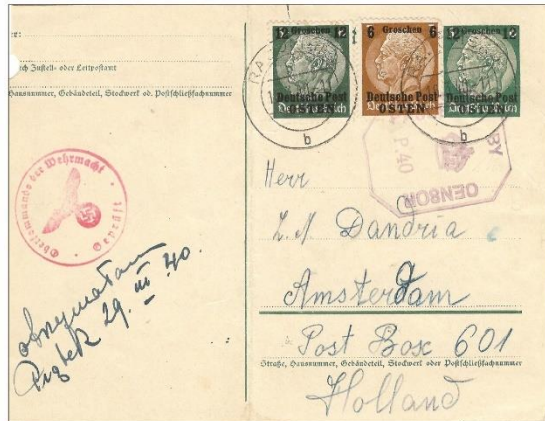
Figure 6-3a. Reverse.

Prague was the capital of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (*Böhmen und Mähren*) established by the Nazis on 15 March 1939. Germany and Britain had been in a state of war since September 1939, so at the time the letter in Figure 6-3 was sent on 19 February 1940 a direct mail connection with Britain was obviously impossible. Holland was still unoccupied; so the sender in Prague could still address the letter to Cook's PO Box 601



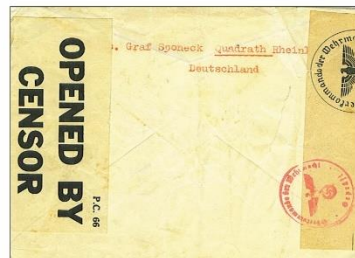
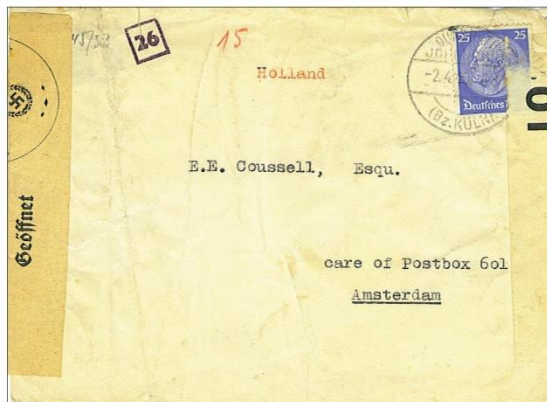
from where it was forwarded to Cook in London and then to the addressee, typically in England but also elsewhere in accordance with the protocol. The letter was first censored in Berlin and subsequently in Great Britain by censor No. 2017. The word “censor” would soon be changed to “examiner”.

One of the rarest items in this category is the card shown in Figure 6-4. It was sent by a Polish woman, Hania, who writes while in transit in the *Protectorate of Radom* as she refers to it. The postcard was cancelled on 16 March 1940, then went through the German censor in Berlin and was annotated 29 March 1940 on receipt.



**Figure 6-4.**  
From the annexed German *Protectorate of Radom*, formerly part of Poland, to Amsterdam for forwarding to Great Britain; received 29 March 1940. (EF)

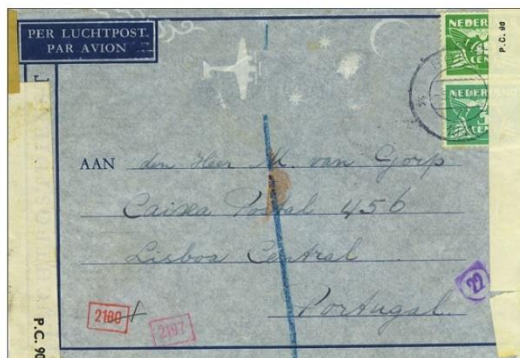
Hania was in fact referring to the *Generalgouvernement*, a territory in Poland and Ukraine, created by Hitler out of areas occupied after the invasion of Poland by the Nazis and the Soviets in 1939. It was located between Polish lands annexed by Germany in the west and those annexed by the Soviet Union in the east and by German decree made the Polish nationals stateless.



**Figure 6-5a. Reverse.**

**Figure 6-5.**  
Cologne to Amsterdam, 2 April 1940. (EF)

The name and address of the sender of the letter in Figure 6-5 must have raised a red flag in Germany as well as Great Britain, originating as it did from a Count Sponeck in the *Rheinland*, the area that was re-occupied by the Germans in 1936 against the terms of the Versailles Agreement without any military reaction from Great Britain, France or the USA. The German and British censorship tapes are self-explanatory.



**Figure 6-6.**  
Holland to PO Box 456 in Portugal for forwarding to Great Britain, 5 May 1941. (EF)

After the German invasion of Holland on 10 May 1940, PO Box 601 in Amsterdam was abolished.



**Figure 6-6a.**  
Reverse.



**Figure 6-7.**  
Holland to London via PO Box 456 in Lisbon, 16 September 1941. (KA)



**Figure 6-7a. Reverse.**  
Censored in Munich and London.

with some delay – until the autumn of 1944 when all connections were severed because of the fighting in Holland. Widely used was PO Box 456 in Lisbon of which two examples are shown here. It was not only used by individuals (Figure 6-6) but also by the Royal Dutch Army (Figure 6-7). From PO Box 456 letters were forwarded to London by KLM. The letter in Figure 6-6 is dated Goes (ZL) 5 May 1941 and the one in Figure 6-7 Zaamslag (ZL) 16 September 1941. The latter was received in London on 18 October 1941 and 21 October is probably an annotation made by the addressee indicating date of receipt or response.

Most undercover mail consists of just the envelope with the content missing. Occasionally we see interesting cards such as the one in Figure 6-8. At first glance it is an item in somewhat poor condition but it is in fact an extraordinary sliver of history. Mailed from Prague on 16 April 1940 it was first censored in Cologne, then allowed to pass onward to Box 601 in Amsterdam from where it was forwarded to London. It passed through British censorship and then to Thomas Cook, who re-mailed it to the addressee, Hana Bandler. At some point the stamp was removed, possibly by a censor to check for content underneath or later by a stamp collector.





Figure 6-8.  
Prague to Great Britain via PO Box 601, Amsterdam, 16 April 1940. (BCK)



Figure 6-9.  
NAAR DE BOOD, i.e. to the boat; Jewish children about to board the ferry from Hook of Holland to Harwich. (W/PD)

In *Fleeing from the Führer* Brinson and Kaczynski (see sources) write that the card was sent to Hana Bandler by her parents and that she had been sent to England on a *Kindertransport* in July 1939. She would not see them again.

The effort by Jewish organisations to move children under 17 from various places in Europe to safety in Great Britain, popularly called *Kindertransport*, started after the *Kristallnacht* pogrom in 1938. Most travelled by train to ports in Belgium and Holland from where they were taken by ship to Harwich. Many were orphans or had parents in concentration camps and were taken in by host families that would often turn out to be the only “relatives” they would have after the war. Some Czech children were flown directly to England but it is not known if Hana Bandler was among them.

The very last transport from the continent, with 74 Jewish children, left on the passenger-freighter *Bodegraven* in the nick of time on 14 May 1940, from IJmuiden (NH). It was organised by Geertruida Wijsmuller-Meijer, the Dutch organiser of the first transport from Vienna in December 1938. She could have joined the children but chose to remain behind. This ship was the very last to freely leave the country.<sup>4</sup>

The charitable attitude from the British government stands in stark contrast to that of the USA. In February 1939 a bill to admit 20,000 unaccompanied Jewish children from Nazi Germany was rejected in Congress. Many of them were orphans or had parents in concentration camps.



Figure 6-10\*.  
From Lisbon 3 September 1940. (BK/CK)



Figure 6-10a.  
Amsterdam (601)/Lisbon (506).

The letter to Denmark, in Figure 6-10 shows a change from Box 601 to 506 Lisbon on the reverse and appears to be an example of mail Thomas Cook had in London ready to be sent to Amsterdam for franking and posting onto Denmark, which had been occupied from 9 April. Before the letter could be mailed from London, Holland was attacked and Thomas Cook held it back for posting from a new undercover address as soon as that would become available. Arrangements to use Lisbon were set up in July 1940 and usages are known by August.

Were they still processing mail that was originally intended for an Amsterdam mailing in late August or early September? Or was the user sending this to Thomas Cook using an old instruction sheet saying the return address to use was PO Box 601, Amsterdam? (See Figure 6-1, condition No. 4).



Figure 6-11\*.  
Lisbon to Deventer, 8 January 1941. (EF)



Figure 6-11a. Reverse.

Figures 6-11 and 6-11a show a letter to Holland from PO Box 506 in Lisbon dated 8 January 1941. The unnamed sender asks in the red handstamp on the back to *send reply to my complete name at PO Box 506, Lisbon*. It is hard to believe that the Germans were unaware of the real purpose behind PO Boxes 506, 456 and others. The British had in fact announced in the press that correspondence with enemy territory was prohibited except via Thomas Cook or the Red Cross.

Entwistle further lists the following undercover addresses in Lisbon used by the Dutch in addition to 456, not all of which we have encountered:

- Wiese & Co. (Dutch Merchant Navy)
- M.C. Wolffensperger (PO Box 237 London)
- Avenida Duque d'Avila 110 (Royal Dutch Army)
- Rua das Chagas 21 & 41
- Arco Escuro 7
- Rua da Imprensa Nacional 40
- Rua Saraiva de Carvalho 252
- PO Box 467 (Dutch Merchant Navy)
- PO Box 482 (Dutch Consul General)
- PO Box 485 (Royal Dutch Navy)
- Muller & Co PO Box 506 (submarine section of Royal Dutch Navy – undercover address within an undercover address)
- Apartado 182 – Royal Dutch Navy.



**Figure 6-12.**  
The Hague to England via undercover address in  
Lisbon, 30 May 1944. (JG)

Figure 6-12 shows a letter from The Hague to England via one of the undercover addresses in Lisbon not listed by Entwistle. The Bonthuis correspondence is known but the reverse shows the extremely rare censorship cachet from the Dutch Department of Justice, see Figure 6-12a. Interestingly, the letter shows no sign of having passed the British censor.



**Figure 6-12a.**  
Reverse of cover in Figure 6-12 with the elusive  
Ministerie van Justitie censorship marking applied  
by the Dutch Department of Justice in exile in  
London.



After the USA entered the war in December 1941 mail from Holland could only be sent indirectly. C.J. van Oosterzee, the addressee in Barcelona of the postcard in Figure 6-13, is known to have used two different addresses to receive and subsequently forward mail. Although only franked sufficiently for surface mail, this card was forwarded by air mail according to the handstamp on the back: *Correo Aereo / Madrid*.



**Figure 6-13.**  
From The Hague 21 July 1943 to USA via Barcelona, censorship in Munich  
and Barcelona. (KA)



## 6.2 To and from the Dutch East Indies

After the German injunction on mail from Holland to the Dutch East Indies (DEI) and vice versa, at the end of July 1940, such mail could only be sent by surreptitious means, i.e. undercover or by use of the Red Cross message services in Geneva.

The postcard in Figure 6-14 was in all likelihood meant to go via the KLM service from Bandoeng to Baghdad and onward by train via Turkey as described in Chapter 5. Instead it reached Great Britain via the Horseshoe Route where it was then censored. Furthermore the air mail label was cancelled by the two diagonal red stripes marking the end of air mail as further transit was by surface, steamer to Lisbon and train to Switzerland.



Figure 6-14\*  
From Djokjakarta to Klosters, Switzerland, 20 November 1940. (KA)

The addressee in Switzerland was *Pfarrer Middendorp*, a parish priest, whose residence served as an undercover address for the real one in Holland. According to the pencil notation the card was forwarded on 21 March 1941. Other such mail has been recorded as the priest served as an intermediary for mail between Holland and the DEI.

*It is nice to be able to write again. Via Marianne Nieuwenkamp we fortunately received the good news. Of course you are never out of our thoughts. How is it? We so hope all is well. How sweet the little boy must be by now. Is he growing nicely? ... When you write send it to Len's company because we do not have a permanent address...*



Figure 6-15\*  
The Hague via Basle to Bandoeng, 12 September 1941. (KA)



Figure 6-15a.  
Censorship in Frankfurt am Main (e), Singapore (E and 23) and Batavia (censorship tape and handstamp No. 5).

The routing for the letter in Figure 6-15 was as follows:

- From The Hague 12 September 1941 to undercover address in Basle by train via Frankfurt;
- Re-addressed and re-franked for air mail to DEI;
- Onward transmission to Lisbon by train;
- Pan Am transatlantic clipper to New York;
- Pan Am transpacific clipper to San Francisco – Honolulu – Singapore;
- KNILM service Singapore – Batavia (arrival 28 October 1941).



Figure 6-16\*.  
London to Soerabaja, 28 April 1941. (KA)



Figure 6-16a. Reverse.

The PO Box number for the free Dutch Royal Air Force in London was “264” and identifying details in the circular cancellation were obliterated in order to hide the actual location in the letter from London to Soerabaja dated 28 April 1941 (Figure 6-16). The letter was censored on board ship in Great Britain but the 8/44 is questionable or erroneous because it arrived in Soerabaja 7 July 1941 where it was opened by censor 41 and foreign exchange office 4.

Although marked *Airmail* the letter was first carried by ship to Durban and from there to its destination by plane on the Horseshoe Route.

### 6.3 South America and USA

The following four covers from Holland to Venezuela show the variety of aspects in seemingly similar pieces of mail. Although all letters were addressed to Maracaibo, they were intended for Curaçao, i.e. undercover mail, and first carried on the Pan Am transatlantic clipper service from Lisbon to New York. Planes made a stopover on Bermuda where mail was sometimes but not always unloaded to be censored before it was put aboard again for the leg to New York and subsequent trip to South America.

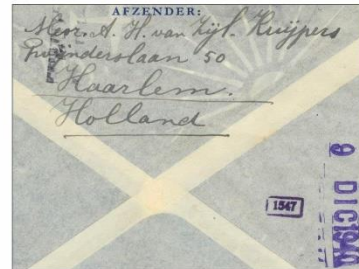


Figure 6-17a. Reverse.

Figure 6-17\*.  
Haarlem to Maracaibo/Curaçao, 8 November 1940. (KA)

In the first of three letters in this group from the well-known and extensive Van Zijl archive, Mrs Van Zijl, in occupied Holland, is writing to her captain-husband, who is employed by the *Caribbean Petroleum Co*, a Shell subsidiary. On 8 November 1940, the date of the letter, no effort is made to hide the corporate address or the addressee's profession. The letter went by train to Frankfurt where it passed through the censor as evidenced by the encircled "Ae" marking (HL type ED1.1.1) and the framed ID number of the censor, 1547.

It was received on 9 December in Venezuela. There is no censor mark or label applied at its destination and no visible indication that the letter was destined for Curaçao.



Figure 6-18a. Reverse.

Figure 6-18.  
Amsterdam to Maracaibo/Curaçao, 7 April 1941. (KA)

Because many Dutchmen living in Curaçao were employed in the oil and refinery industry they were a logical conduit to pass on mail from Holland after the direct connection had been severed. However, the letter in Figure 6-18 does not belong in that category as it was written by a family member of the addressee, the captain of a vessel that apparently had Curaçao as its home port.



It certainly did attract the attention of the censor. Posted in Amsterdam 7 April 1941, the letter arrived at the Köln-Deutz (Cologne) office the next day from where it was forwarded to the censor in Frankfurt. Unlike the previous letter this one was censored in Curaçao. It was resealed with the *POSTCENSUUR/CURAÇAO* tape and stamped with the censor's ID number, in this case 6. It is not clear if the "2 MAY 1941" arrival marking was placed in Maracaibo or in Curaçao.



Figure 6-19a. Reverse.

Figure 6-19.  
Haarlem to Maracaibo/Curaçao, 26 September 1941. (KA)

The letter in Figure 6-19 was also routed via Cologne but then went to the Berlin censorship office (HL type BV3.2) before air transport to South America via Portugal. It shows receipt on 22 October 1941 and was censored upon arrival in Curaçao showing a different tape than that used in the previous letter and the individual censor used No. 17.

Van Zijl, whose title of captain is no longer mentioned, now used a civilian address in Maracaibo and the letter was routed via de N.V. *CURAÇAOSCHE SCHEEPVAART MAATSCHAPPIJ*, the Curaçao Shipping Company, a Shell subsidiary. Although its handstamp was placed on the censorship tape this was probably not an indication of corporate censorship.



Figure 6-20a. Reverse.

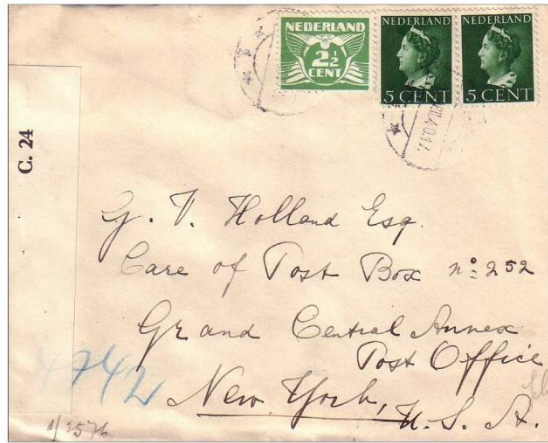
Figure 6-20.  
Haarlem to Maracaibo/Curaçao, 18 October 1941. (KA)

The letter to Van Zijl dated 18 October 1941 shown in Figure 6-20 differs in several aspects from the one sent less than one month earlier. After having passed through the censor in Cologne, the letter was carried on a Pan Am transatlantic clipper that made a stopover in Bermuda where it was taken off, “opened by examiner 8018” and resealed with a British issued PC type 90 label used by the Imperial Examiner.<sup>5</sup>

Unlike other such mail which was sometimes held back until the end of the war, this letter was then released and reloaded onto the clipper to New York from where it was forwarded to La Guaira arriving on 14 November. This time the censor in Curaçao applied a purple handstamp with the text *gezien* (seen). An interesting aspect is the handstamp from N.V. CURACAOSCHE PETROLEUM INDUSTRIE MIJ., the Curaçao Petroleum Industry Co. also a Shell subsidiary.

**Figure 6-21.**

Thomas Cook's PO Box 252 in the Grand Central Annex Post Office in New York City, where mail arrived for forwarding to Canada; modern day photo. (EF)



**Figure 6-22.**

Surface mail Holland to Canada via PO Box 252, 12 August 1940. (EF)



**Figure 6-22a. Reverse.**

German and Canadian censorship sealing tapes.

PO Box 252 in New York was the Thomas Cook undercover address for mail to and from Canada. It was used primarily by Norwegian seamen but also by a few Dutchmen although it is possible those were employed on Norwegian rather than Dutch ships. In addition to Norway and Holland, usages are also known in the 1940-1941 period from Denmark, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, France, Algeria, Italy and a few others but most of the reported covers are German. The cover from Holland in Figure 6-22 shows a Canadian censorship label.





**Figure 6-23.**  
From Amsterdam to the KNSM office on 25  
Broadway, New York, 5 November 1941. (EF)

The KNSM<sup>6</sup> used 25 Broadway, New York, as the correspondence address for its seamen. The air mail letter in Figure 6-23 was mailed in Amsterdam on 5 November 1941, passed through the censor in Frankfurt, went by Lufthansa to Lisbon to catch the Pan Am clipper to New York where it was again censored.

Its subsequent routing to reach the addressee, a KNSM captain, might have been the Horseshoe Route to the DEI because the letter shows a DHA British India censorship marking on both face and the reverse.



**Figure 6-23a.**  
Reverse with German, British and British Indian censorship.

## 6.4 Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Ed Fraser, whose collection of Thomas Cook undercover mail is unparalleled, generously permitted us to use the covers shown here under EF.
- <sup>2</sup> Entwistle, Charles R., *Undercover addresses of World War II* (third edition).
- <sup>3</sup> Van Doorn article in *De Postzak*, March 1989, No. 159, p26.
- <sup>4</sup> W.
- <sup>5</sup> Flynn, Peter A., *Intercepted in Bermuda*, p58.
- <sup>6</sup> The Dutch shipping company, *Koninklijke Nederlandsche Stoomboot Maatschappij*, was founded in 1856. In 1939 it owned 79 ships of which 48 were lost during the war. The company survived the war only to be taken over by Nedlloyd in 1981 (see also subchapter 1.3).

## 6.5 Postal Rates

- 6-3. Foreign letter rate: 250 *heller*/2.5 *korun* effective 1 October 1 1925.
- 6-1, 6-11. Foreign letter rate: 1 *escudo* 75 *centavos* < 20 grams from 1 August 1934 to 6 November 1946.
- 6-14. Foreign postcard rate: 10 cents / air mail charge 20 cents, total 30 cents; over franked by 1 cent.
- 6-15. Foreign letter rate Holland – Switzerland, < 20 grams: 12½ cents/ air mail charge Switzerland / DEI 210 *rappen* per 5 grams.
- 6-16. Foreign letter rate 3d < 20 grams, air mail charge 1s per 5 grams, total 1s3d.
- 6-17. Tariff 12 ½ cents plus air mail surcharge 60 cents.

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## Łódź Ghetto Stamps: A TALE OF HOPE...ANGUISH...DESPAIR

Dr. Sourav Sengupta

The Wehrmacht (German army) captured the city of **Łódź**, the then second largest city of Poland on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1939 and opened the ghetto for segregating local Jews on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1940. The Nazis appointed **Mordechai Chaim Rumkowski** as the head of Łódź ghetto Judenrat (the Jewish Council), in charge of the ghetto administration. **Hans Biebow** was the chief of German Nazi administration of Lodz ghetto, under whose command the Nazis crammed around 164,000 Jews inside the ghetto, converting it into a cheap slave labor camp. Biebow was both a philatelist and numismatist and he developed some elegantly designed scrip currency and coins for the usage inside the ghetto.

An optimist, Rumkowski adopted the policy “rescue through labor”, believing the productivity of the ghetto’s factories would prevent the deportation of the ghetto’s inhabitants and prevented its liquidation to please the philatelist in Biebow, he planned to issue the ghetto’s own stamps for exclusive usage inside it and organized a stamp design competition on January 1942. The result were 2 sets of stamps issued in March 1944 – **the only local stamps issued in any ghetto** with the permission of the Nazis.

**The first set** of 2 stamps designed by J. Kowner was engraved on carton paper without gum with two valuations, 5 Pf (cinnabar) and 10 Pf (olive-green & dark bluish-green) with portrait of Rumkowski (a blunder perhaps!) on a backdrop of ghetto factories with the star of David.



**The second set** of 3 stamps designed by Pinchas Szaar was letter-pressed on vertical and horizontal striped paper with three valuations, 5Pf (dark blue), 10Pf (dark green) and 20Pf (dark brown), of which 5Pf and 20Pf were without gum. The design contains a compass, a scissor, a wheel, the star of David and the picture of Rumkowski, mirroring his fantasied salvation from the ineluctable Nazi extermination of the Jews.



But the hope of appealing the philatelist in Hans Biebow turned into a failure, as on March 14<sup>th</sup> 1944, he forbade further use and printing of the stamps and confiscated the unsold supply. Only 10 genuine postal usages are recorded until the now with many forged cancellations.

The Nazis liquidated Łódź (renamed as Litzmannstadt by Nazis) ghetto (what an innocuous term for a horrific end!) from the 10<sup>th</sup> June to August 1944. Rumkowski along with his family were deported on the last transport to Auschwitz and were murdered on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1944.

With him ended a failed attempt to peace and salvation with the help of philately in those trying times of murder of humanity.

#### References:

1. The Montreal Holocaust Museum.
2. Wikipedia: Hans Biebow
3. [http://edwardvictor.com/Ghettos/lodz\\_philatelic\\_main.htm](http://edwardvictor.com/Ghettos/lodz_philatelic_main.htm)
4. <https://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?t=74316>



# Danzig REPORT

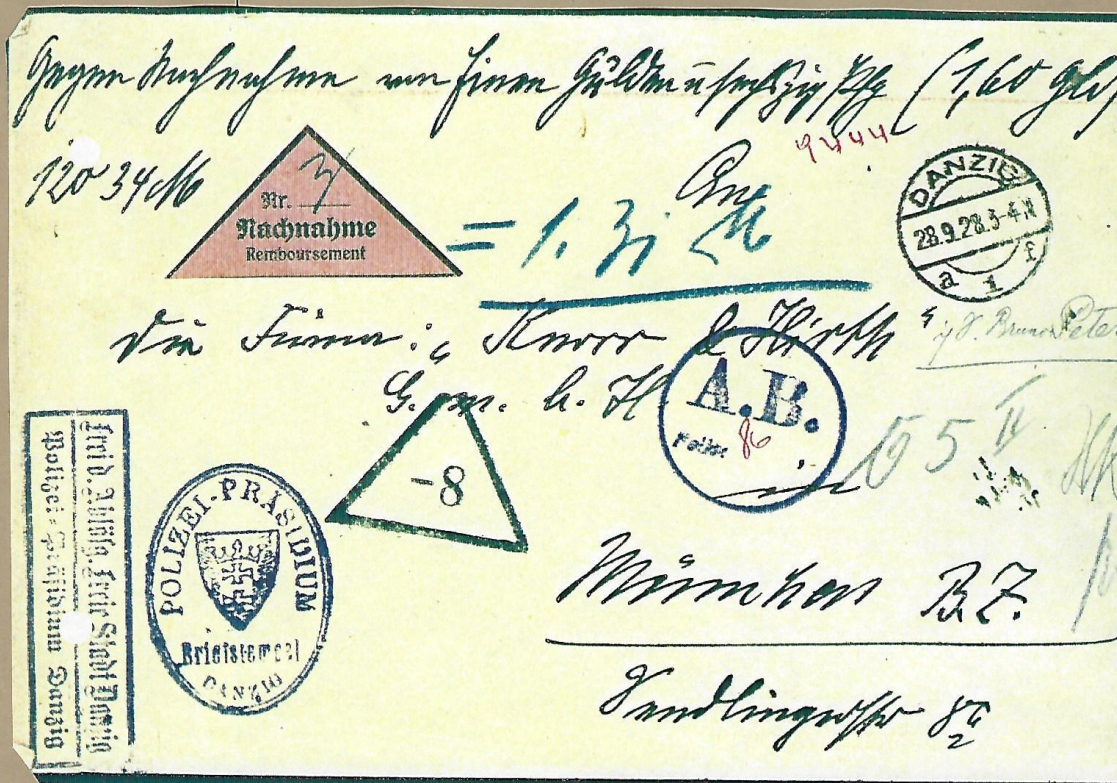


G.P.S. Study Group

Editor: John H. Bloecher Jr. 1743 Little Creek Drive Baltimore, MD 21207

Vol. 1 No. 53  
Oct. Nov. Dec.  
1986

IF A 1987 DUES NOTICE appears over this space, please send check to keep your Reports coming. Great things are coming! Thanks!!!



The cover above contains a number of hieroglyphics that deserve a fair analysis. However, we were stumped by some of the symbols and went to that philatelic raconteur, LTC Harry Halle for advice. He was able to solve most of the symbols, but we still need your expert aid. Mailed from Danzig P.O. No. 1 on 28.9.28 to Munich, it has an adhesive orange label indicating that it is a C.O.D. for one Gulden 60 Pfg. (See top line in black script.) If the blue crayoned =1.30M is a multiplier from Guldens to Marks, it doesn't work out to be 120.34M as written to the left of the triangle. Check the multiplication on the back of the envelope, you mathematical geniuses,



2

## FAN MAIL TO THE N.A.D.S.P.

2

Last September, at BALPEX, we came upon a collection of about 30 "Danzig Covers" being hawked by a dealer. No question about his accuracy in describing their origins; they wer covers and they had Danzig stamps attached. They also contained some additional information that makes covers infinitely more interesting than mere mint adhesives, and we list a few of these points below:

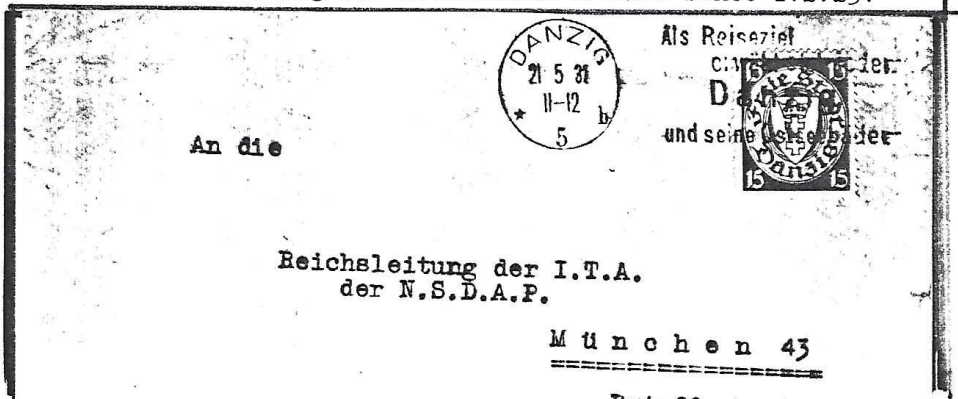
(1) Almost all of the covers were addressed to "Reichsleitung (or Reichsgeschäftsstelle) der Nationalsozialistische Deutschen Arbeiterpartei" in München, with the exception of 2 which were sent to the "Reichszentrale Landaufenthalt für Stadtkinder E. V. ... Hauptamt für Volkswohlfahrt" in Berlin.

(2) Several of the covers contained return addresses on the back, which is O.K. if you're convinced that your side will come out on top in any future conflict.



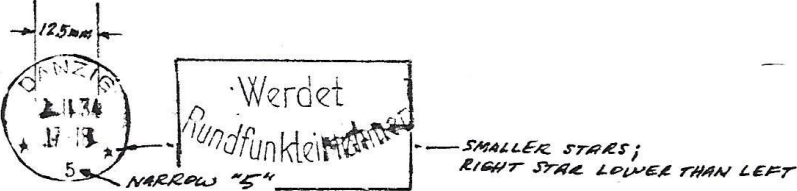
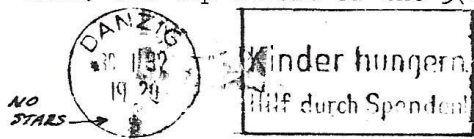
(3) Most envelopes probably contained dues, since the addressee is often the treasurer of the party, Reichsschatzmeister Franz Xaver Schwarz. Photo below was taken at the First Congress of "Arbeitsfront im preussischen Landtag 1933. Left to right are Schwarz, Rudolph Hess, Dr. Robert Ley. The treasurer was formerly an accountant from the Munich City Hall and was considered a tight financial manager of the party's accounts. Not like the more visible publicity seekers, little information has been written about Schwarz.



(4) Of philatelic consequence are the slogan cancels on these early covers from Danzig. Below is a 21.5.31 cover with the cancel extolling Danzig and the Baltic Sea spas as choice locations to visit. The 15 Pfg No. 214x reflects rate since 1.2.25.



In pursuit of the 4th point listed above, we found the best information on slogan cancels in "Freie Stadt Danzig 1920-1939; Bewertung der Poststempel 1. Auflage 1977", co-edited by Schüler, Hasselhoff and Rittmeister. This 49-page book is an excellent example of detailed research and is rich in information. The published tables provide us with a checklist of machine cancels with propaganda and advertising slogans. Unfortunately, a search of our collection turned up no examples of Types 1a, 1b, 1c, 2b or 5, thus requiring a reconstruction from the descriptive text. Two additions to the published list (one ours and one recently reported in Editor Schüler's Danzig Arge) will be noted in the proper locations in the text.

- Type 1a 
- Type 1b Same, but with hours under the date line.
- Type 1c Without the 6 wavy lines and a heavier "5".
- Type 2a 
- Type 2b 
- Type 2c Top stroke of the 3(0) is straight.
- Type 2c Same, but top stroke of the 3(0) is round.
- Type 3a 
- Type 4 Same, but narrow & tall "5"; with stars.
- Type 5 Slogan on left; same narrow & tall "5"; no stars.
- Type 6 Same, but shorter "5", with stars.

Type 7



Type 8



Type 8x Same, but with 2 horizontal lines, 39 mm long, above and below slogan.

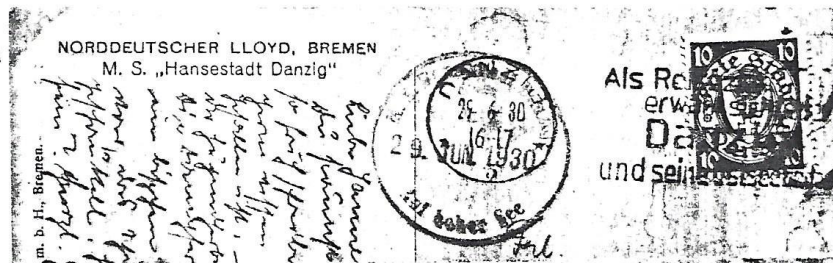
Type 9 Same double circle, but with 6-pointed star.

\*\*\*\*\*

# LIST OF SLOGANS, TYPES REPRESENTED AND USAGE DATES:

| <u>Als Reiseziel/erwähl sich jeder/Danzig/und seine Ostseebäder</u> |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 1b.....   | From 5.-11.8.29 |
| 2a.....   | 13.9.29-7.11.30 |
| 2c.....   | 11.3.-3.11.31   |
| 3a.(Smaller type in text).....                                      | 14.3.-13.7.32   |
| 4.....  | 18.4.32-27.9.33 |
| 8.....  | 10.4.-10.5.37   |

2A



2C

According to the chart, 2c retains larger type of 2a. This fits the 2c date category but has a small type face and a \*5b cancel. Was ist?

An die



Reichsleitung der I.T.A.  
der N.S.D.A.P.

München 43

Brieffach 80



2C

Custom office cover with postage due; note low star & larger type compared to previous example.



Z 4071/31

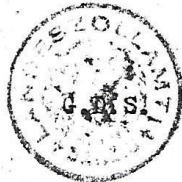
An

72



Als Reiseziel  
erwähnt sich jeder  
**Danzig**  
und seine Ostseebäder

den "Gode Wind" Danzig-Zoppotener  
Yacht-Club



D a n z i g

Gebührenpflichtige Grenzstücke

3A

Danzig 5  
without  
stars.  
Smaller  
Type face.

An die



Als Reiseziel  
erwähnt sich jeder  
**Danzig**  
und seine Ostseebäder

Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei

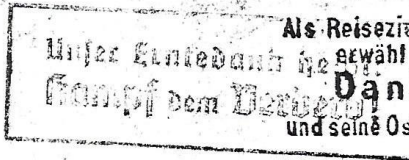
Z. Hd. des Herrn Reichsschatzmeisters

S c h w a r z

8

29.4.37 with the  
"invitation to  
Danzig" machine  
cancel as well as  
purple handstamp:  
"Help harvest:  
struggle to keep  
it from decaying"

An das



Als Reiseziel  
erwähnt sich jed.  
**Danzig**  
und seine Ostseebäder



Stabsamt des Reichsschatzmeisters der  
NSDAP., Hauptbuchhaltung

Benutzt/die(Autobus)Kraftpost/Danzig-Marienburg(Westpr.)/x visumfrei x

1b.....28.5.-23.7.29  
2a.....25.10.29-23.2.33  
2c.....19.1.-7.3.31  
4.....10.1.-13.1.33  
9.....24.4.-10.5.39

Benutzt/(Flugpost)/die/Luftpost

1b.....10.6.-17.7.29  
2a.....10.12.29-23.11.30  
2c.....21.1.-20.11.31  
4.....8.10.32-31.3.33  
8.....14.10.35-23.3.42

Danzig/Dein Reiseziel (in rectangle)

3a.....From 26.5.39  
6.....31.3.-29.10.34  
7.....1.4.-28.7.35  
8.....29.7.35-2.9.39  
9.....21.7.-13.8.39

5  
Could this be an  
unlisted Type 5?  
Note the lack of  
stars and 21.5mm  
diameter. 24.9.37

**Ruberg's**  
**Briefmarken-Spezialhaus**  
**DANZIG**  
Zeughauspassage Telefon 27386



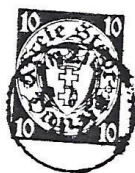
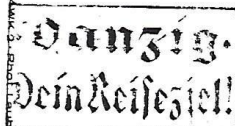
6

An die



7

Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei  
Reichsrevisionsamt



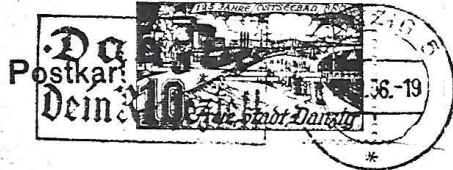
8

alistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei  
chsleitung -- Reichsrevisionsamt

8



hard Bury  
DANZIG  
ischer Graben Nr. 71  
Firma Gegr. 1907  
Telefon 287 21  
arken - Großhandel



Firma Hans Beyer,  
Herm

Frankfurt a/M.  
Grüneburgweg 92.



Elfriede Kieffer  
Berlin - Pan Row

Strom Nr. 31  
Straße, Hausnummer, Gehöft  
Erdwert oder Postanlegnummer

Deutliche/und genaue Anschrift/bewahrt/vor Verzögerungen

- 1b.....6.6.-11.8.29
- 6.....26.11.-28.11.34
- 7.....20.1.-27.3.35
- 8.....7.11.35-25.11.36

Fernsprecher/spart/Zeit und Geld

- 1b.....3.6.-11.8.29
- 2a.....12.12.29-21.10.31
- 2c.....2.1.-21.10.31
- 4.....30.9.32-25.3.33
- 6.....12.-17.12.34
- 7.....13.1.-16.3.35
- 8.....21.10.-24.11.35

4

\*5b  
cancel!

An die



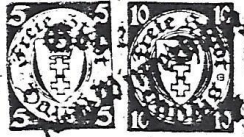


Gebt/für die Winterhilfe/Opfert!

|        |                  |
|--------|------------------|
| 4..... | 16.12.33-29.1.34 |
| 5..... | 5.2.-23.3.34     |
| 6..... | 31.1.34-6.1.35   |
| 7..... | 28.1.-30.3.35    |
| 8..... | 28.10.35-6.4.39  |
| 9..... | 7.12.38-17.3.40  |

6

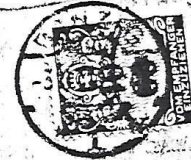
4



Gebt  
für die Winterhilfe  
Opfert!



*Leipziger*  
*Verf.*  
*Kier.*



Schatzmeister Schwarz,

Gib auf Deinen/Briefsendungen/den Absender an

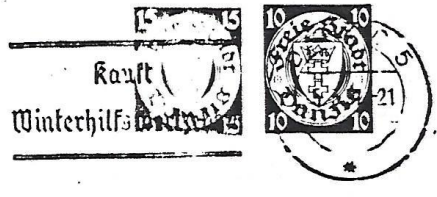
|         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| 1b..... | 13.6.-11.8.29  |
| 1c..... | 21.9.29        |
| 2b..... | 15.-20.12.30   |
| 2c..... | 12.1.-6.11.31  |
| 8.....  | 15.2.-26.11.38 |
| 9.....  | 5.9.39-31.5.40 |

Helft Feuer verhüten (in rectangle)

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| 2a..... | 28.4.-4.5.30 |
|---------|--------------|

Kauft/Winterhilfszeichen (with double 39.5mm thick & thin lines)

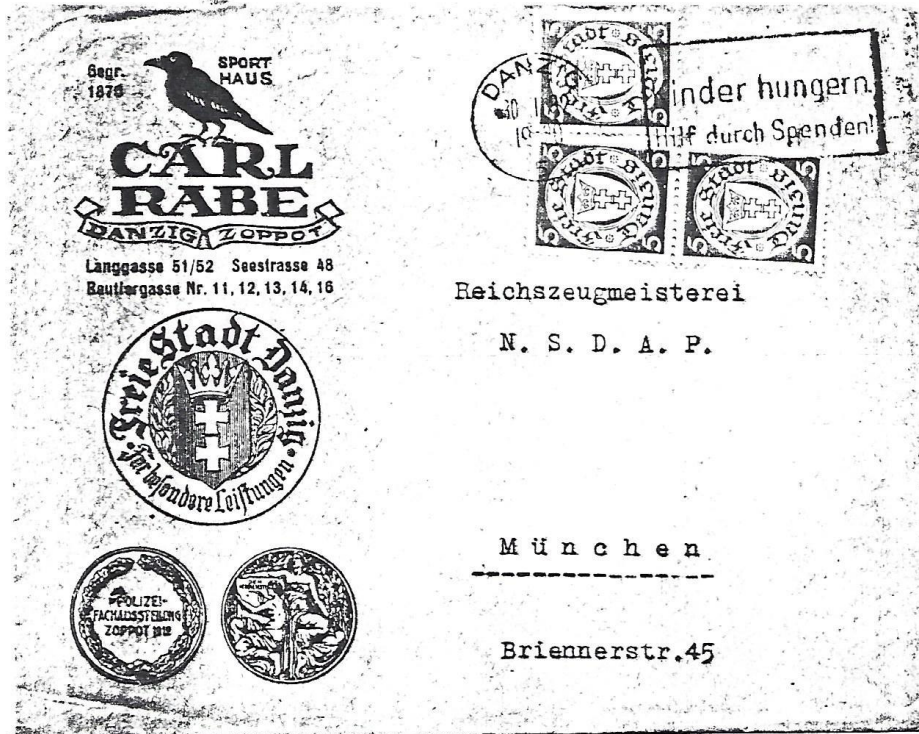
|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 8.....                      | 25.10.36-10.1.37 |
| 8x (2 thin 39mm lines)..... | 13.1.37-15.4.39  |
| 9.....                      | 2.12.38-23.3.40  |



8X

Kinder hungern/Hilf durch Spenden

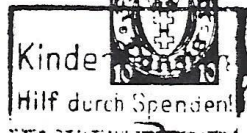
2c.....23.-30.11.31  
 3a.....1.12.31-4.3.32  
 3a (hours under the date line)...10.2.32  
 (4: new type recently found & reported in May '80 Arge)



3A

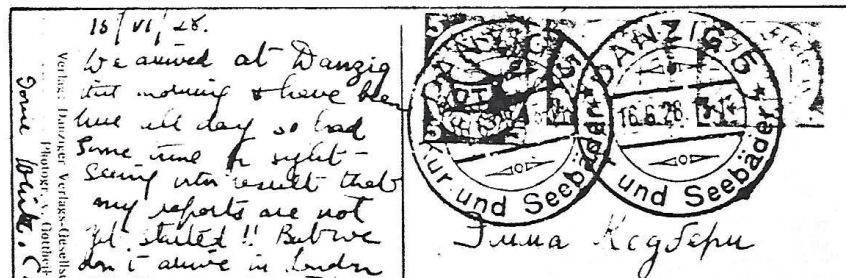
New Type

4



Kur und Seebäder

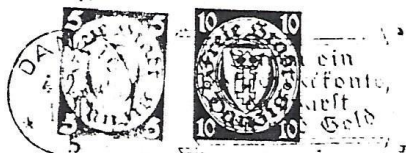
Double circle cancel (5).....24.4.28-31.7.32



Nimm ein/Postscheckkonto/du sparst/Zeit und Geld

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| 1a..... | 4.-18.5.29       |
| 1b..... | 21.5.-22.7.29    |
| 2a..... | 23.12.29-15.2.30 |
| 2b..... | 8.-9.12.30       |
| 2c..... | 5.1.-31.10.31    |
| 4.....  | 7.11.31-21.4.33  |
| 6.....  | 19.11.-20.12.34  |
| 7.....  | 18.1.-22.3.35    |

4



7

ationalsozialistische  
Arbeiterpartei

*An die**Leitung**der Reichspoststelle**der Nat. Tot. Vers. u. Lebensversicherungsanstalt*

M 3

Postst

*Wieninger**Dr. Dr. Dr. 45*Schafft/Hausbriefkästen an sie/beschleunigen/die Briefzustellung

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| 3a..... | 5.3.-9.4.32      |
| 4.....  | 16.9.32-12.12.33 |
| 8.....  | 15.10.-11.11.36  |

Vergiss nicht Strasse/und Hausnummer/anzugeben

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| 1b..... | 4.6.-24.7.29 |
| 2a..... | 21.8.29      |



11

8 .....22.11.35-28.1.38

8

.22.11.35-28.1.38

Werdet Mitglied  
im  
Luftschutzbund

Werdet/Rundfunkteilnehmer

2a.....2.12.29-29.11.30

2b. . . . . 22.-23.12.30

2c.....2.2.-16.10.31

4. .... 27.2 - 8.4.33

(see earlier cancel below)

6.....2.12.34-11.1.35,6-7

7.....11.1.35, 11-12, -13.3.35

An aîe

Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei

# Kassenverwaltung

Werdet  
Rundfunkteil



Cancel at left  
dated 17.1.33;  
\*5b office.

Werdet  
Rundfunkteilhaber  
Herrn u. Frau

John W. Fran

Professor Franz,

Michelstadt i. d. Rh.

My dear Mr. Garrison  
I have been thinking of  
you very much lately  
and I am sure you are  
very much the same  
as ever. I am  
very much  
yours  
Wm. Lloyd Garrison

Amuric, Jan 27. 12. 34



Wo gibt es eine andere Stadt/die Seebad/dicht bei Seebad hat

4.....27.4.-22.9.33

9.....19.4.-7.9.39

4



An.

der Nationalsozialistische  
Deutsche Arbeiter Partei

München

**Drucksache!**

Wo gibt es eine andere St.  
die Seebad  
dicht bei Seebad hat



9

Mr.  
Otto K o r t e  
306 East 84 street

**Guido Tyron & Co.**

Export-Handelsgesellschaft

**DANZIG**

New York / USA

End

# CHANNEL ISLANDS SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY

**Founded 1950**

**Date:** January 12, 2022

**Press Contact:** Steve Wells      Press & Advertising Officer

## Auction NS16

The Channel Islands Specialists' Society has made available the results of its Autumn auction, NS 16, which closed on October 22, 2021.

Auctioneer Nick Stuart commented: "This 730-lot general auction included German Military Occupation items (Postal History, Bisects, Stamps, Red Cross Messages, *Feldpost*, Internee and P.o.W. Mail). Reserves were from £3 to £300. There were over 100 bidders generating the highest level of sales to date of £19,918. The bidding for many lots was very strong, such was the rarity of some of the material on offer, and over 80% of the lots were sold".

"As usual Occupation material attracted many bids with virtually all lots being sold and prices realised close to the reserves. A sheet of Guernsey ½d Olive Green Arms stamps sold for £400 and a sheet of the 1d Arms stamps on blue bank note paper sold for £350 (NS16256 & NS16260). Instructional markings on Occupation covers are uncommon so an underpaid envelope with a **3d / 324** handstamp which had a reserve of £25 sold for £60 (NS16281) A drawing of Room 66 of the Women's barracks at Biberach, which had a reserve of £40 went for £100 (NS16340)".

"Some unusual *Feldpost* items were on offer: a coloured postcard of a Luftwaffe flying boat sent from Jersey to Sagau in Germany with several military cachets and a 1940 Jersey date stamp with a reserve of £80 sold for £140 (NS16342)".



“There were some very rare items in the Red Cross section of the auction especially those into the islands from unusual places. A green form from Ireland to Guernsey dated 30<sup>th</sup> April 1945, which was held in London until the Liberation in May, sold for £475 (NS16378). Another Red Cross form from Kenya to Guernsey with a rare Kenyan censor stamp went for £400 (NS16379). The only recorded Red Cross form from Jersey to Argentina with a scarce Argentinian cachet was sent in June 1942 and the reply was dated April 1944! It sold for £180 (NS16381)”.

**Further information** about the C.I.S.S. may be obtained from the website: <https://www.ciss.uk/>

### **The Study of Stamps, Postal History and Postcards of the Channel Islands**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**



*The sheet of Guernsey ½d Olive Green Arms stamps  
that sold for £400*



*The sheet of the 1d Arms stamps on blue bank note paper sold for £350*





The underpaid envelope with a 3d / 324 handstamp which had a reserve of £25 sold for £60

Sept 18th - BIBERACH - 1943



Room 66 Bar 10

*A drawing of Room 66 of the Women's barracks at Biberach, which had a reserve of £40 went for £100*

*ILES DE LA MANCHE*

R.C.M. FORM  
By Air Mail.  
Par Aëron.

21 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

**AU COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE**  
PALAIS DU CONSEIL GÉNÉRAL, GENÈVE, SUISSE.

**ENQUIRER—DEMANDEUR:**

Surname—Nom THUILLIER  
Christian Name—Prénom JOHN HENRY  
Street—Rue WORLD'S END  
Locality—Localité KINSALE  
County—Comté CO. CORK  
Country—Pays IRE

**MESSAGE—MESSAGE À TRANSMETTRE:**  
(Not over 25 words, family news of strictly personal character—25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial.)

JUDGING FROM LATEST NEWS WE  
WILL BE SEEING YOU BOTH VERY SOON.  
WHAT A REUNION WE'LL HAVE.  
LOVE FROM MAM, KITTY, JOE,  
MONA, AND DAD.  
(J. Thuillier)

Date 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1945  
**11 MAY 1945**

**ADDRESSEE—DESTINATAIRE:**


Surname—Nom THUILLIER  
Christian Name—Prénom JOHN BARTHOLOMEW  
Street—Rue C/O LLOYD'S BANK  
Locality—Localité GUERNSEY  
County—Comté Channel Islands.

**REPLY OVERLEAF**  
Please write very clearly.

**RÉPONSE AU VERSO**  
Prière d'écrire très lisiblement.

The green form from Ireland to Guernsey dated 30th April 1945, which was held in London until the Liberation in May, sold for £475



 From WAR ORGANISATION OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS  
AND ORDER OF ST. JOHN.  
Foreign Relations Dept.

To COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE  
PALAIS DU CONSEIL GENERAL GENEVE

No. 3156

DEMANDEUR — ANFRAGESTELLER — ENQUIRER

Nom - Name... LOWE  
Prénom - Vorname - Christian name... OWEN CHARLES  
Adresse - Address: Red Cross Message Bureau, Kenya, No. 1,  
P.O. Box 712, NAIROBI, Kenya Colony.

Lien de parenté du Demandeur avec Destinataire  
Wie ist Fragesteller mit Empfänger verwandt  
Relationship of Enquirer to Addressee... FRIEND.

Message à transmettre — Mitteilung — Message.

(20 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial)  
(nicht über 20 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten)  
(not over 20 words, family news of strictly personal character)

GRATERS ON ENGAGEMENT. HEATHER  
IS ENGAGED TOO. I OLD BATCHELOR.  
Am VERY BUSY HERE. INTERESTING PART  
REMEMBER TO ALL FOLKS CHEERHO OWEN

Date - Datum... 1-MAY 43

DESTINATAIRE — EMPFÄNGER — ADDRESSEE


Nom - Name... B. COCHRANE  
Rue - Strasse - Street... 1 DOYLE ROAD  
Localité - Ortschaft - Locality... ST. PETER PORT  
Pays - Land - Country... GUERNSEY Ch. Iles.

Réponse au verso — Antwort umseitig — Reply Overleaf.

28 JUN 1943

Another Red Cross form from Kenya to Guernsey with a rare  
Kenyan censor stamp that went for £400

C 935



Deutsches Rotes Kreuz  
Präsidium / Auslandsdienst  
Berlin SW 61, Blücherplatz 2

ANTRAG

an die *Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genf*  
— Internationales Komitee vom Roten Kreuz —  
auf Nachrichtenvermittlung

REQUÊTE

de la Croix-Rouge Allemande, Présidence, Service Étranger  
à l'Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genève  
— Comité International de la Croix-Rouge —  
concernant la correspondance

1. Absender E.C. Rybot, Bay View, Le Hocq, Jersey,  
Expéditeur Channel Islands. *John's House*  
bittet, an *Gravelle*  
prie de bien vouloir faire parvenir à


2. Empfänger Mrs. Goodbody,  
Destinataire Los Rosales, Monte Coman, Argentine,  
S. America.

folgendes zu übermitteln / ce qui suit :

(Höchstzahl 25 Worte!)  
(25 mots au plus!)

Anxious for news. We are  
all in Jersey. No word from Eva  
for two years. Always remembering  
you. With my dear love to Mary.  
Ellenor.

(Datum / Date) 11-6-42. *[Signature]* (Unterschrift / Signature)  
3. Empfänger antwortet umseitig  
Destinataire répond au verso



ON BEHALF OF THE BAILEY  
OF JERSEY'S BRITISH AND  
RENEW SERVICE

8 SEPT. 1942

The only recorded Red Cross form from Jersey to Argentina with a scarce Argentinian cachet sent in June 1942 with the reply dated April 1944, sold for £180



## Stamps of the Third Reich

Christopher Kolker

This issue's featured stamp is the air defense stamp, commemorating the Air Defense League of 1937.



*Scott 481-3/Michel 643-5*

### The Amtsblatt:

*No.40/1937. New Postage Stamps*

*The Reich printing Works will produce a limited quantity of 3, 6, and 12 pfennig steel-engraved stamps for the German Reichspost, based on an advertising poster designed by Prof. Ludwig Hohlwein (Munich), and will commemorate the fourth anniversary of the Reich Association for Air Raid Protection (figures 151 – 153). The stamps will be 23 X 27.32mm in size, and have similar colors to current definitive stamps with the same face values. The illustrations below show the stamps magnified approximately 25% above normal size.*





Two RLB kids, with their official helmets

*Sale of the stamps, which can also be used for correspondence to foreign countries, will commence at all post offices on the 3 March 1937.*

*Reichspost directories have received special instructions regarding distribution of the stamps.*

### **The History Behind the Stamp:**

Herman Goring organized the German Air Defense League, the Reichsluftshutzbund, or RLB, in 1933. At the grassroots level, The RLB was a volunteer organization, serving as an air raid precaution organization. When it was organized, any existing air raid precaution organizations were merged into this group. It became a *Körperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts* in 1939's which means it was a semiautonomous

organization not directly under government control. That further changed in 1944 when the RLB merged with the Nazi party.

Its members were trained in four major tasks:

1. Preparation of homes and apartments against air raids
2. Firefighting after air raids
3. Protection against chemical exposures resulting from air raids.
4. Communications in the event of an air raid



*The Flag of the RLB*

Geography dictated the organization of the RLB at the ground level. Each police precinct would have one essential group called the *RLB-Revier*. In small towns, it would be expected that each town would have one group, called the *RLB-Gemeinde-Gruppe*.

Each RLB-Revier comprised made up of subgroups called the *Untergruppen*, usually comprised of a city block. Its warden was called the *Blockwarte*.

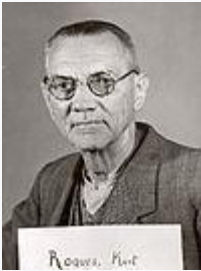

On each block, further delineations of responsibilities existed. These were the *Luftschutzwarte*, or air raid wardens, who might be responsible for a particular air raid community called the *Luftschutzgemeinschaften*. An example of this might be that even on one city block there are two or three apartment communities. Therefore, each apartment would have their own air raid warden because each apartment building would be its own particular air raid community.

Going up the organizational ladder, a group of RLB-Reviers would be called the *RLB-Ortsgruppe*. This would be the case where several police precincts existed in a medium-size town. Grouping several of these Ortsgruppen together was called the *RLB-Ortskreisgruppe*, one for each German state.

When all of these were put together, at the national level, there was a *Präsidium*, or President, who had a Chief of Staff that supervised a general staff overseeing the entire organization. The President was subordinate to the Ministry of Aviation of the Nazi government.

#### The RLB-Präsident: (from Wikipedia)















|   |  |  |                           |                      |                       |   |
|---|--|--|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1 |  | <p>Generalleutnant<br/> <a href="#">Hugo Grimme</a> <sup>[de]</sup><br/> (1872–1943)</p> | <p>29 April<br/> 1933</p> | <p>30 April 1936</p> | <p>3 years, 1 day</p> | . |
|---|--|--|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---|








|   |   |  |               |                 |                   |   |
|---|---|--|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| 2 |  | <i>Generalleutnant</i><br><b><u>Karl von Roques</u></b><br>(1880–1949)                                 | 30 April 1936 | 30 May 1939     | 3 years, 30 days  | . |
| 3 |  | <i>General der Flakartillerie</i><br><b><u>Ludwig von Schröder</u></b><br>(1884–1941)                  | 30 May 1939   | 3 June 1941     | 2 years, 4 days   | . |
| - |   | <i>General-Hauptluftschutzführer</i><br><b>Hermann Sautier</b><br><i>Acting</i><br>(as Chief of Staff) | 12 June 1941  | 1 August 1942   | 1 year, 50 days   |   |
| 4 |   | <i>General der Flakartillerie</i><br><b><u>Friedrich Hirschhauer</u></b> <b>[de]</b><br>(1883–1979)    | 1 August 1942 | 31 January 1945 | 2 years, 183 days |   |

One of the RLB's most notable attributes was their prominently displayed uniforms. Taken directly from Wikipedia, this table shows the organizational construct of the RLB:



Table of ranks:

| Collar insignia <sup>[1]</sup>  | Shoulder insignia <sup>[1]</sup>  | RLB Rank <sup>[2]</sup>               | Translation                        | Luftwaffe equivalent                       |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
|    |    | <i>Reichsluftschutzbund-Präsident</i> | Reichsluftshutzbund President      | <u><a href="#">General der Flieger</a></u> |
|    |    | <i>General-Hauptluftschutzzführer</i> | General head air protection leader | <u><a href="#">Generalleutnant</a></u>     |
|    |    | <i>Generalluftschutzzführer</i>       | General air protection leader      | <u><a href="#">Generalmajor</a></u>        |
|   |  | <i>Oberstluftschutzzführer</i>        | Chief air protection leader        | <u><a href="#">Oberst</a></u>              |
|  |  | <i>Oberststabsluftschutzzführer</i>   | Chief staff air protection leader  | <u><a href="#">Oberstleutnant</a></u>      |
|  |  | <i>Stabsluftschutzzführer</i>         | Staff air protection leader        | <u><a href="#">Major</a></u>               |
|  |   | <i>Hauptluftschutzzführer</i>         | Head air protection leader         | <u><a href="#">Hauptmann</a></u>           |
|  |   | <i>Oberluftschutzzführer</i>          | Senior air protection leader       | <u><a href="#">Oberleutnant</a></u>        |

|   |   |                                      |  |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|
|    | <i>Luftschutzzführer</i>                | Air protection leader                | <u><a href="#">Leutnant</a></u>            |
|    | <i>Luftschutzobertruppm<br/>meister</i> | Senior master air protection trooper | <u><a href="#">Feldwebel</a></u>           |
|    | <i>Luftschutztruppm<br/>eist<br/>er</i> | Master air protection trooper        | <u><a href="#">Unteroffizier</a></u>       |
|    | <i>Luftschutzobertruppw<br/>art</i>     | Senior air protection trooper warden | <u><a href="#">Hauptgefreit<br/>er</a></u> |
|    | <i>Luftschutztruppwart</i>              | Air protection trooper warden        | <u><a href="#">Obergefreite<br/>r</a></u>  |
|  | <i>Luftschutzobertruppm<br/>ann</i>     | Senior air protection trooper        | <u><a href="#">Gefreiter</a></u>           |
|  | <i>Luftschutztruppmann</i>              | Air protection trooper               | <u><a href="#">Flieger</a></u>             |

Not surprisingly, this organization came to an abrupt in at the end of the war.



A good cover of the Air Defense League stamps



## AuctionWatch

The Ukraine. Inflation. Supply-chain shortages. It seems we have no shortage of problems. Does that mean that auction prices for our most coveted stamps have risen? We will let you decide; take a look at our latest version of AuctionWatch.

Note 1 Euro= \$1.11 US dollar as of 3-19-22

Gert Müller Auctions:



1 Fr. Black opal green with scarce overprint error "1 from 1943 shortened" from lower margin, in perfect condition mint never hinged, without signs.

Michel 350,- €.

Start Bid €100

SOLD for €100.00



Occupied Flemish Legion Stamp 1941 -  
Airplane overprints 1943, all fours' values  
fresh colors and in perfect condition mint  
never hinged, without any signatures.  
Michel 450,- €. Start Bid €150 -  
UNSOLD



Flemish Legion -  
Pictures of emperors  
1943, all six values  
in miniature sheet,  
perforated, in perfect  
condition mint never  
hinged, rare!

Start Bid €400 SOLD for €400.00



German Occupation of Bohemia and Moravia - Theresienstadt admission stamp 1943, large margins all around unperforated, in perfect condition mint never hinged a scarce variety in excellent quality. Photo expertized "perfectly quality" Pfeiffer BPP.  
Start Bid €500 SOLD for €570.00





#### German Occupation of Estonia:

3 Kop. Dark greenish blue, cut, vertical pair with hand stamp "Eesti post", which by of the upper stamp inverted affixed was, fresh colours and in perfect condition mint never hinged without any signatures. A very rare combination pair, from the especially in mint never hinged condition only a few copies became known are. By Michel clearly undervalued. Photo expertized "genuine and immaculate" Löbberring BPP.



Official stamps 1940, unperforated proof in black lilac without impression of the value, block of four, in perfect condition mint never hinged very rare!

Opening EUR 300.00  
Sold...EUR 300.00



German Occupied  
Dunkirk- 1 Fr. Exhibition  
with overprint in type II,  
fresh colours and in perfect  
condition unused, issued  
only 80-100 pieces. Photo  
expertized "the condition is  
perfect" autumn. Michel  
1500,- €. Start Bid €500  
UNSOLD

German-occupied Fortress  
Lorient-

1, 50 Fr. Marshal Petain  
with overprint "fortress  
LORIENT", fresh colors and  
in perfect condition mint  
never hinged issued only  
1800 pieces and by Michel  
undervalued. Expertized  
Pickenpack BPP, Calves,  
photo expertize autumn VP.

Start Bid €400 UNSOLD





From Auktion Christop Gartner:



3 Pf to 8 Pf British complete forgery of the Hitler head edition Mi-Nr. 782/83, 785/86 vom Oberrand (postfrisch) im Buchdruck SOLD for €250.00

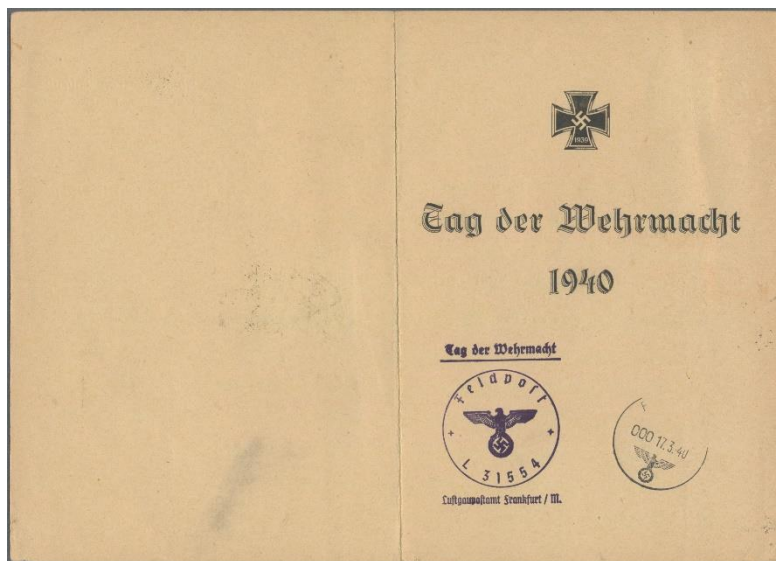


1943, British propaganda forgery of the special stamp edition of Italy, Michel No. 625, 25 C in the pattern "Italian-German Brotherhood in Arms" modeled after with changes in the brand image, different perforation and on paper without watermark. The piece from the left edge of the arch is an original and has original rubber coating, the quality is impeccable. The brand has the paper inclusions typical of this edition and a light rubber-matt spot. These are manufactured and do not represent a defect, Fotoattest Pieles BPP (Mi€2.500,-) SOLD for €800.00





1944, Memorial sheet with 1.50 Fr. Petain and Belgium Mi Nr. 712/18, two pieces with Petain in different shades, each usual light edge crease. Two short findings Pieles BPP each "flawless" (These are sold as known forgeries) SOLD for €60.00



1940/1944, so-called "Rommel - Gedenkblatt" of the Luftgaupostamt Frankfurt/Main in favor of the WHW, which documents the stations of the advance (France, capture of Tobruk, El Alamein) and the retreat to the bridgehead Africa by appropriate stamps and stamps as well as with the facsimile signature of General Field Marshal Rommel  
SOLD for €140.00







5 cents to 30 lire free stamp issue similar to the landscape series Laibach Mi.-Nr. 45/60, impeccably post-fresh. According to Michel, this should be a "fantasy edition", which we cannot really believe due to the excellent artistic and technically complex execution (gravure printing!)

5 cent to 30 liras postage stamps issue similar the Landscape series Ljubljana Michel-no. 45 / 60, in perfect condition mint never hinged. According to Michel should the a "fantasy edition" be, what we due to the outstanding artistic and technical elaborate execution (engraved printing!) not so correct believe can!

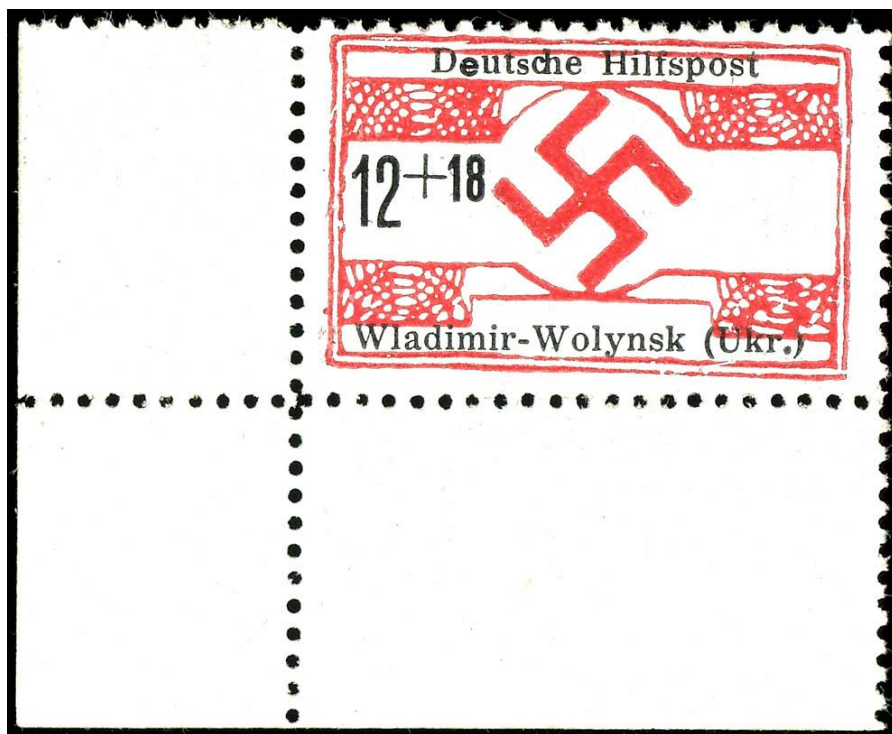
Start Bid €150

Sold for/SOLD for €170.00

12 + 28 Pfg stamp "Outline of the Gorochow Regional Commissariat", toothed, impeccably stamped with official seal tee "The Area Commissioner in Gorochow", edition only 192 pieces, prr. Keiler and fotoattest Zirath: "real and flawless. The perforation is typical for this edition.", Wed. 8.000.- - Rarity of the editions German Occupation II World War! Start Bid €2500 SOLD for €2,600.00







12+18 Pfg Vladimir-Volynsk, white matte art paper, main type "thick first e in the word German", plate defect I "small s in German" (field 13), with left lower corner of the sheet, impeccably post-fresh, gepr. Pickenpack and photo certificate Zirath BPP: "real and flawless", Wed. 450.-+ Start Bid €100

SOLD for €220.00

1/2 d to 3 d King George VI, propaganda falsifications completely impeccable unused without rubber, as spent, Wed. 500.-





Souvenir sheets issue "German Red Cross" without factory watermark with additional red cross over the brown cross in sheet margin, in perfect condition mint never hinged, issued only 100 examples - the predominant portion watermarked "LIGAT", expertized Dr. Rommerskirchen BPP and expertise Brunel VP (2021): "the condition is perfect.", Michel 13.000.- (Bl.2ZI) Start Bid €3500- NO BID





OCCUPIED UKRAINE-10 Gr.  
Provisional stamp grey, in  
perfect condition unused  
without gum as issued,  
scarce issue! Expertized  
Zirath BPP

Start Bid €150  
SOLD for €190.00

Vlasov Army 0.50 - 10 Rbl,  
4 values complete,  
impeccably post-fresh,  
unsigned, rated in the  
Michel Feldpost catalogue  
for years only with "-.-",  
photo finding Brunel VP:  
"The stamps that have no  
longer been issued are  
genuine and have post-  
fresh original rubber  
coating. The preservation is  
impeccable."

Start Bid €120  
SOLD for €160.00





## Trivia

We got a good one this month: Challenging, but not impossible; tough, but fair. Enjoy, as it covers many of the primary foreign policy events of the history of this terrible era.

Let's begin:

### 1. Who was one of Adolf Hitler's main influences in the 1920s?

- ☐ Friedrich Ebert
- ☐ Paul von Hindenburg
- ☐ Alfred Rosenberg
- ☐ Matthias Herzberger

### 2. Which two people did Hitler dictate his infamous "Mein Kampf" book to in Landsberg prison in 1924?

- ☐ Rudolf Hess and Heinrich Himmler
- ☐ Adolf Eichmann and Martin Bormann
- ☐ Rudolf Hess and Josef Goebbels
- ☐ Rudolf Hess and Emil Maurice

### 3. When did Hitler first meet his close ally, Benito Mussolini?

- ☐ 1927
- ☐ 1933
- ☐ 1929
- ☐ 1934

**4. And where did the first meeting between Hitler and Mussolini take place?**

Hint

- ☐ Venice
- ☐ Munich
- ☐ Berlin
- ☐ Rome

**5. What bold move did Hitler make in October 1933 shortly after taking power.**

- ☐ Authorized the Reichstag fire
- ☐ Withdrew Germany from the international disarmament conference
- ☐ Authorized the purge of the SA
- ☐ Took the first steps against Jews in Germany

**6. What event soured the relationship between Mussolini and Hitler in 1934, leading to increased hostility until 1935?**

- ☐ The Italian invasion of Abyssinia
- ☐ Eric Phipps visiting Hitler
- ☐ Italian support for the fascists in Spain
- ☐ Failed Austrian Putsch

**7. What did Hitler describe as the “happiest moment of my life”?**

- ☐ The remilitarization of the Rhineland of March 7th 1936
- ☐ The start of the war on September 1st 1939
- ☐ The Anschluss with Austria of March 12th 1938
- ☐ The Anglo-German Naval Agreement of June 18th 1935

**8. Who was Hitler's foreign minister until 1936?**

- ☐ Konstantin von Neurath
- ☐ Arthur Seyss-Inquart
- ☐ Joachim von Ribbentrop
- ☐ Herbert von Dirksen

**9. Did Hitler send Ribbentrop to London with the words "Bring me the British alliance, it is what I want most of all"?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**10. What of these events made Hitler feel politically defeated?**

- ☐ D-Day
- ☐ The failed Austrian putsch of July 25th 1934
- ☐ The Munich Conference of September 29th 1938
- ☐ Military defeat at Stalingrad

**11. Who said this "No peace, this time we want war"?**

- ☐ Goebbels
- ☐ Ribbentrop
- ☐ Hitler
- ☐ Goering

**12. What event was Hitler referring to when he wrote to Mussolini "In a fateful hour I am turning to Your Excellency to inform you of a decision which appears necessary under the circumstances and has already become irrevocable"?**

- ☐ The German declaration of war on USA, December 11th 1941



- ☐ The German invasion of Poland, September 1st 1939
- ☐ The Anschluss, March 11th 1938
- ☐ The German entry into Prague, March 15th 1939

**13. Where did President Roosevelt make his famous “Quarantine speech” that for the first time openly deplored Nazi aggression?**

- ☐ Washington
- ☐ Pittsburgh
- ☐ New York
- ☐ Chicago

**14. When was the Anti-Comintern Pact signed?**

- ☐ May 9th 1938
- ☐ January 12th 1937
- ☐ November 25th 1936
- ☐ August 26th 1937

**15. What was Operation Sealion the codename for?**

- ☐ Invasion of USA
- ☐ Invasion of Russia
- ☐ Invasion of Britain
- ☐ Invasion of France

## Answers

### 1. Who was one of Adolf Hitler's main influences in the 1920s?

The correct answer: **Alfred Rosenberg**

Alfred Rosenberg was intellectually influential member of the Nazi party, particularly in its foreign policy. He is considered one of the main portrayers of key aspects of Nazi ideology, including its racial theory, the persecution of the Jews, 'Lebensraum', abrogation of the Treaty of Versailles, and opposition to "degenerate" modern art.

Ebert was the first chancellor of the German republic after World War I, and while a conservative, tried to cooperate with the Western powers.

Von Hindenburg led the German Imperial Army during World War I and was President of Germany from 1925-34. Conservative and pragmatic, he was no Nazi.

Matthias Herzberger was German Finance Minister from 1919-20 and a member of the Catholic Centre Party. He was assassinated by right-wing groups for being too compliant with the western powers.

### 2. Which two people did Hitler dictate his infamous "Mein Kampf" book to in Landsberg prison in 1924?

The correct answer: **Rudolf Hess and Emil Maurice**

During his time in prison, Hitler underwent something of an epiphany with regard to his use of violence: from now on everything was to be ostensibly legal. Having chosen this new move, Hitler felt that he needed to make sure that the public knew what he stood for, so began to dictate a book to Hess and Maurice.

Rudolf Hess became Deputy Fuhrer to Hitler in 1933. He held that position until 1941, when he flew solo to Scotland in an attempt to negotiate peace with the United Kingdom. He hanged himself in 1987 while serving a life sentence for crime against humanities.

Emil Maurice, despite being of mixed German and Jewish ancestry, served as Hitler's personal chauffeur. He ultimately had to serve four years in a labor camp after the war due to his role in the Nazi party. He died quietly in Germany in 1972.

### 3. When did Hitler first meet his close ally, Benito Mussolini?

The correct answer was **1934**

Hitler met Mussolini with great ceremony, all of which was quickly and suddenly arranged. The German people were not aware of the meeting until Hitler was on his way to Venice, and most Italians thought that Crown Prince Umberto was coming instead, as Mussolini had not been to Venice in eleven years.

The meeting was not a complete success. No agreements were reached, as Hitler often went into very long and boring monologues about his theories. Furthermore, Moussolini's interpreter had a



hard time understanding Hitler's thick Austrian accent. However, Hitler left with an awe of Il Duce.

**4. And where did the first meeting between Hitler and Mussolini take place?**

The correct answer: **Venice**

Venice was the venue for the first meeting. They met eleven more times, the last being in early 1944.

**5. What bold move did Hitler make in October 1933 shortly after taking power.**

The correct answer: **Withdrew Germany from the international disarmament conference**

Hitler took the step of leaving the conference in a snub to the League of Nations powers. He had publicly stated that the Germans and French should have equal armaments. By leaving, this allowed him to begin his massive rearmament.

**6. What event soured the relationship between Mussolini and Hitler in 1934, leading to increased hostility until 1935?**

The correct answer: **Failed Austrian Putsch**

Mussolini felt betrayed by Hitler, as Il Duce worried about the German advance to Italy's borders.

Just a few months after the Austrian Civil War, Austrian Nazis and German SS soldiers attacked the Chancellery in Vienna in an attempt to depose the ruling Fatherland Front government under Engelbert Dollfuss in favor of replacing it with a pro-Nazi government under Anton Rintelen of the Christian Social Party. The Nazi putsch ultimately failed as the majority of the Austrian population and army remained loyal to the government. The Nazis managed to kill Dollfuss, but Kurt Schuschnigg succeeded him and the Austrofascist regime remained in power.

A German invasion of Austria in support of the putsch was averted because of the guarantee of independence and diplomatic support that Austria received from Italy.

## 7. What did Hitler describe as the 'happiest moment of my life'?

The correct answer: **The Anglo-German Naval Agreement of June 18th 1935**

The agreement set German maritime tonnage to be at 35% of English tonnage. The English believed this would keep German's navy from being a threat. Hitler aimed for an alliance with Britain

and felt this agreement to be the key for better relations to begin the process to defeat Russia. Both were mistaken.

## 8. Who was Hitler's foreign minister until 1938?

The correct answer: **Konstantin von Neurath**

Von Neurath was an old-school German (not a Nazi), and he was kept in place to create a peaceful German image. But once Hitler had consolidated his position, Hitler replaced von Neurath in 1938 with a more compliant Joachim von Ribbentrop, who served from 1938 to 1945. Von Neurath became Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia after his service as Foreign Minister, having only minimal powers.

That did not stop him from being tried as a war criminal after the war and serving 9 years in prison.

Arthur Seyss-Inquart served in various foreign positions in Europe during the war and was executed after the war for the slaughter of Jew.

Herbert von Dirksen was German ambassador to Britain before the war.

## 9. Did Hitler send Ribbentrop to London with the words "Bring me the British alliance, it is what I want most of all"?

The correct answer: **Yes**



Again, Hitler felt a British alliance was key to defeating his most hated enemy Russia.

**10. What of these events made Hitler feel politically defeated?**

The correct answer: **The Munich Conference of September 29th 1938**

The Munich conference, which ceded the Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland to the Germans, allowed British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain to bask in the glory of international approval and to temporarily stop war in Europe. Hitler had wanted to use the Sudetenland as the reason to start his military offensive. With this conference, that had been thwarted.

Hitler felt he had ceded too much at Munich and that if he had gone on the offensive, the allies would have been crushed. Hitler himself felt blameless for the other failures.

**11. Who said this 'No peace, this time we want war'?**

The correct answer: **Ribbentrop**

Ribbentrop was very much in the mold of his Führer.

**12.** What event was Hitler referring to when he wrote to Mussolini "In a fateful hour I am turning to Your Excellency to inform you of a decision which appears necessary under the circumstances and has already become irrevocable"?

The correct answer: **The Anschluss, March 11th 1938**

The Anschluss was the German peaceful but coerced annexation of Austria, just four years after an attempted coup by the Germans to take Austria forcefully. Hitler informed Mussolini of the Anschluss after it had taken place. This angered Mussolini and further highlighted the fractured nature of the alliance.

**13.** Where did President Roosevelt make his famous 'Quarantine speech' that for the first time openly deplored Nazi aggression?

The correct answer was **Chicago**

The ***Quarantine Speech*** was given by U.S. President Roosevelt on October 5, 1937, in Chicago (on the occasion of the dedication of the Outer Drive Bridge between north and south outer Lake Shore Drive), calling for an international "quarantine" against the "epidemic of world lawlessness" by aggressive nations as an alternative to the political climate of American neutrality and non-intervention that was prevalent at the time. The speech intensified America's isolationist mood, causing protest by non-interventionists and foes to intervene. No countries were directly mentioned in the

speech, although it was interpreted as referring to the Empire of Japan, the Kingdom of Italy, and Nazi Germany Roosevelt suggested the use of economic pressure, a forceful response, but less direct than outright aggression.

#### 14. When was the Anti-Comintern Pact signed?

The correct answer: **November 25th 1936**

The Anti-Comintern pact was an agreement signed between Germany and Japan to provide mutual support to stop the progression of the Communist International. It was signed by German ambassador-at-large Ribbentrop and Japanese ambassador to Germany Kintomo Mushanokoji. The agreement was later expanded first to Spain and then to Italy, and during the war, renewed with central European allies such as Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania. It later was used as an ad hoc agreement to identify the United States as the most dangerous of all enemies, and was considered during the war

#### 15. What was Operation Sealion the codename for?

The correct answer: **Invasion of Britain**

Operation Sealion was the code name for the proposed invasion of Britain in 1940, after the Germans successfully concluded the Battle of France. Both the German High Command and Hitler himself had



reservations that the battle could be successful, and both knew they had to have complete air and sea superiority to make the operation successful.

While Britain reeled initially due to the loss of France, they were able to evacuate a number of troops at Dunkirk, and thus Britain retained a fighting force. And while the Germans initially enjoyed air superiority, the Luftwaffe began taking on more losses as time went by, making the plan an impossibility.

Operation Sealion was postponed in autumn 1940. The policy was never reactivated.



*Keep Calm and  
Keep Collecting  
German Stamps!*

## For Sale

We do have a few items for sale. They have recently been rebounded and redone. They look great and are definitely worth the price:

***Mail Surveillance under the Third Reich*** by R.J. Houston. 35 pages. \$15.

***German Feldpost Operations in the West 1940-1944*** by John Painter. 2004. 60 total pages. \$20.

***The War of the Springing Tiger*** by Jeffrey Markem, about Azad Hind stamps and the fight for India's Independence. \$10.

***Composition Listing of Organic German Military Units***, 1980. \$15.

Each of these are expertly written, filled with details that obviously took scores of hours to research. All proceeds go only to Third Reich Study Group. It is first come /first come serve, and if we get down to one copy, I will get more printed (but that could delay shipping by a week or so if it happens).

E-mail me at [ctkolker@mail.com](mailto:ctkolker@mail.com) or write to: Christopher Kolker, 25 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360, for orders or questions.