



# Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

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

**VOL. XXXII No. 1 (Whole No. 126) 1998**

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## STUDY GROUP NOTES

**Prosit Neujahr!** – welcome to another year of study group activities. We received many positive comments on features launched in 1997 as well as suggestions for new features such as “Waffen-SS-Mail” and “POW Camps in Germany”. However, before launching any new feature, we must have a supply of photocopies/write-ups to sustain the feature over many bulletins. For example, our “Rejected by Censor” article is sustained with examples from Director Myron Fox’s exhibit “Censorship during the Third Reich”. Likewise, “Third Reich Postal Rates” is sustained with examples from Bob Ferguson’s collection. If you would supply photocopies/write-ups for either of the suggested new features, please write to Ye Olde Ed.

**TRSG Staff Change** – after long and faithful service, Fred Willshaw will resign as TRSG Secretary-Treasurer at the end of the current membership period. Bob Dunn has agreed to serve as Secretary-Treasurer and will work out the details of transition with Fred. A tribute to Fred will appear in next bulletin.

**Please send payments to correct TRSG Staff member!** – we have been informed that payments are often sent to the wrong staff member, requiring the cost & nuisance of re-sending to the correct member. To avoid this problem, please remember to send payments for dues and orders for special publications to Bob Dunn. Likewise, send orders & payments for TRSG back issues to Kelly Stefanacci. All staff are volunteers, so your help will be most appreciated.

### **Welcome to New Members**

ALKLEN, Jeffrey, 1408 Shade Tree Road, Apt. B, Baltimore, MD 21221  
EKSTEDT, Carolyn Rae, 1290-20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Apt. 205, San Francisco, CA 94122  
LØRDAHL, Erik, Gydas V.52, N-1413 Tårnåsen, Norway  
REYNOLDS, Brian, 131 Jennifer Crescent, London, ON, Canada N5X 3K4  
STEIN, Barry, 1305 Towlson Road, Vienna, VA 22182  
WALLACE, Charles B., 14-J Watertown Circle, Birmingham, AL 35235

**Norwegian Seaman’s Church** -, Erik Lørdahl, a new Norwegian member, sent the following response to Doug Warren inquiry in Bulletin 125: “I think I can help you with information regarding covers to Norwegian Seaman’s Church in New York during WW II. Following the occupation of Norway by Germany in April 1940 and until Germany’s declaration of war following “Pearl Harbor” in December 1941, mail from Norway could be sent to the U.S.A.

Prior to WW II the Norwegian Merchant Marine was the third largest in the world (only surpassed by Great Britain and the U.S.A.). During the war nearly one thousand Norwegian ships sailed for the Allies under a common organization named “Nortraship”. While they sailed all seas, most served in North Atlantic convoys from the U.S.A. to Great Britain or to Russia via Murmansk and many were sunk by German U-boats.

As Norway had been a maritime nation since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many Norwegian Seaman Churches had been built in harbor towns around the world. Most crews of Norwegian ships sailing during WW II had their families back in Norway. As noted, during the early part of the war mail could be sent to these seamen from Norway but, as they often moved from one ship to another, it was often sent “c/o” to “The Church” to be picked up on arrival.

**Back Issue Policy** – TRSG back issues are only available for the ten years (40 issues) preceding the most recent issue. Back Issues Mgr. Kelly Stefanacci will currently accept orders for any issue back to Bulletin # 86 (Current Bulletin # 126 minus 40 = 86) @ \$3.00 per issue postpaid. Also, please make checks payable to Kelly not the TRSG!

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

**Cover Illustration** – this airmail cover was posted in Berlin Oct. 16, 1939 and routed to Shanghai via Siberia. Can anyone explain the Chinese stamp and hand stamp “4 NOV.1939”?



# German Postmarks in Occupied Slovenia

by Rex Dixon

As follow up to the article in Bulletin 123, this details several additional interesting postal aspects of the German occupation of Northern Slovenia:

I.) A German-Italian Commission was established in Römerbad (Teplice) to establish the boundary between their zones. The only border adjustment that I am aware of, at least as far as it affects post offices, was that the village of Karmel with its branch post office was transferred from the German to the Italian zone later in 1941, reverting to its Slovene name of Krmelj. Shown below (Fig. 1) is a provisional (but philatelic) cover from the brief German period.

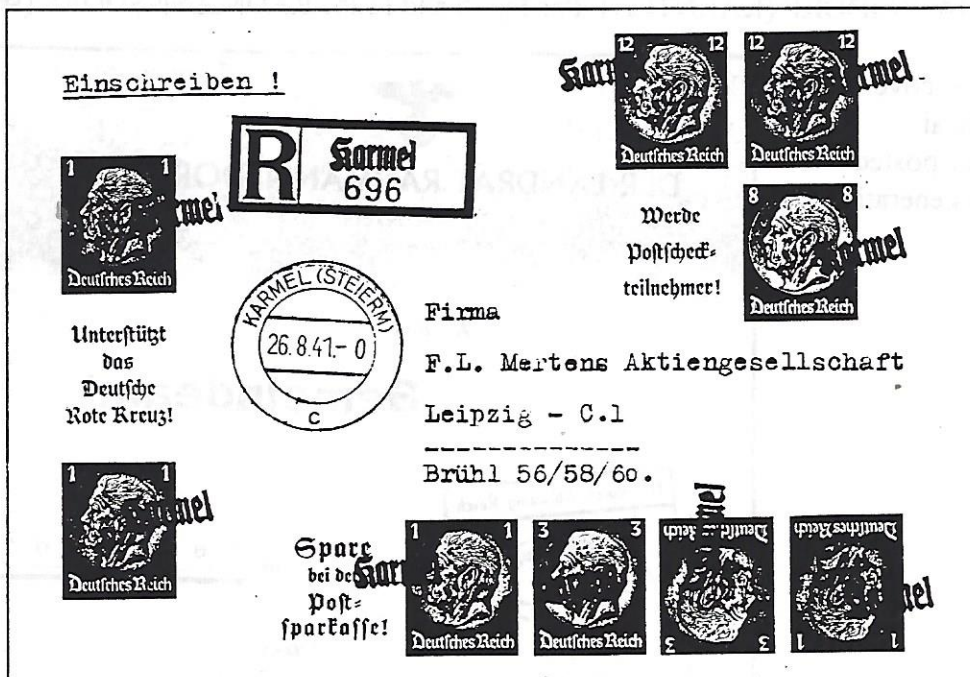


Fig. 1) From branch post office Karmel, which was under Post Office Lichtenwald/Sevica.

II.) Within Oberkrain, Dr. Pogglitsch distinguishes four generations of postmarks within less than four years of German control. These are illustrated with four covers from Radmannsdorf (Radovljica) and also by illustrations (see below) from Dr. Pogglitsch's *Abstempelungen Oberkrain/Unterkärnten 1941-1945* for the same town. The town of Radmannsdorf lies in the valley of the Sava 20 km upstream of Krainburg and only 5 km from Veldes.

## 50. RADMANNSDORF Gem. und LK Radmannsdorf

Err. 1. 2. 1845

1941/Pr RADMANNSDORF (Save)

1941/D RADMANNSDORF (Kärnten), Postamt

1944 RADMANNSDORF (Oberkrain)

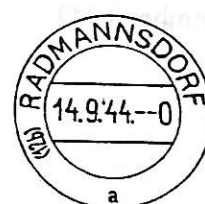
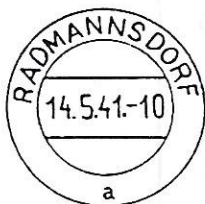
G1 UZ a, b

G2 UZ c, d

G3 UZ e

G4a UZ a, b (aus G1)

G4b UZ c (aus G2), kein Beleg



**First generation:** Normally just a town name, perhaps qualified by a geographical designation such as a river, thus RADMANNSDORF.

**Second generation:** From mid-1941 the town is qualified by the name of the Gau in brackets. Thus RADMANNSDORF (KÄRNTEN).

**Third generation:** From 1943 the qualifier becomes the more local 'Oberkrain'. Thus RADMANNSDORF (OBERKRAIN).

**Fourth generation:** The postal code, in brackets or a small circle, is added before the name. Normally an earlier generation postmark is modified, which results in an asymmetric layout, but occasionally a brand new symmetric postmark is manufactured (with third generation wording). Thus we get both (12b) RADMANNSDORF (KÄRNTEN). Per Fig. 5 and (12b) RADMANNSDORF (see Page 3).

Fig. 2) Official cover from District Political Commissioner posted Feb. 1942 has 1st generation postmark.

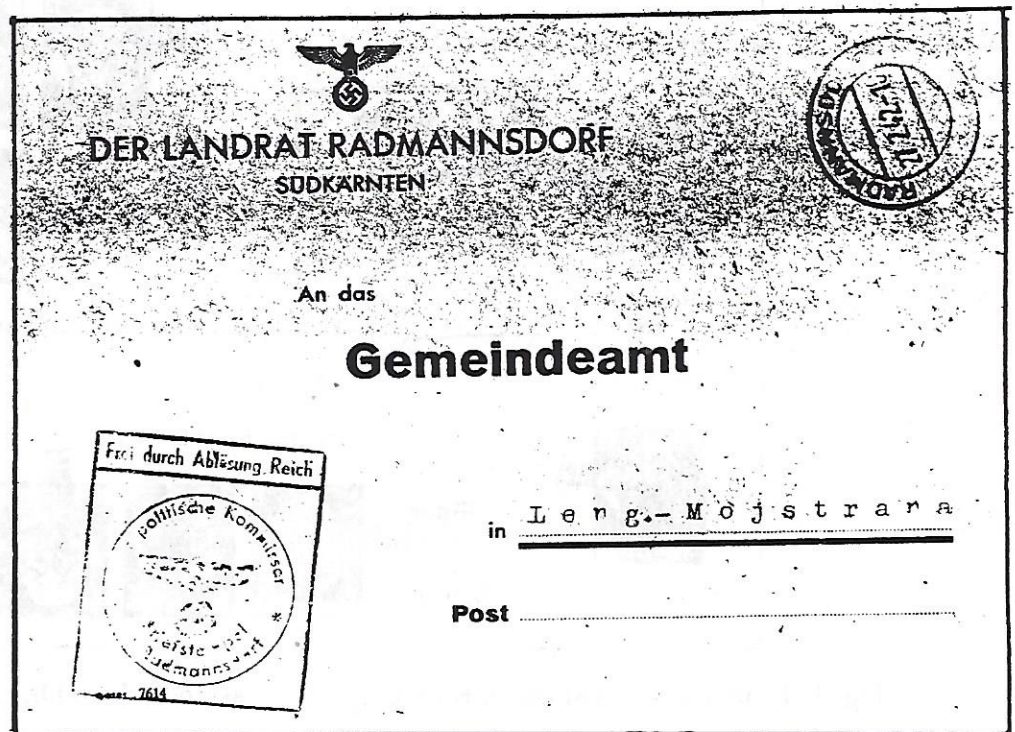


Fig. 3) Certificate of posting for a parcel fee of 10 Pfg. has 2nd generation postmark dated September 1943

Bitte sorgfältig aufbewahren! — Der Absender wird gebeten, nur den umrandeten Teil auszufüllen!

**Einlieferungsschein P18**

Gegenstand: *W* Brief *\*) N*

Nachnahme:	<i>Bl</i>	<i>Ref</i>	Ge- wicht:	kg	g
Wert oder Betrag:	<i>10</i>				
Empfänger:	<i>Lange Viothe</i>				
Bestimmungs- ort:	<i>Dresden</i>				

Postannahme *350*  
*710*

Tagestempel *10* *10* *10*

*DEUTSCHES REICH*

C 62 Din A 7  
(6 c 60)  
StdW (4.40)



Fig. 4) SS Feldpost cover sent from Gestapo to Wels, Southwest of Linz, has 3rd generation postmark dated July 1944. Note Dienststempel of the Commander of the Security Police and he SD in the reconquered territory of Carinthia.

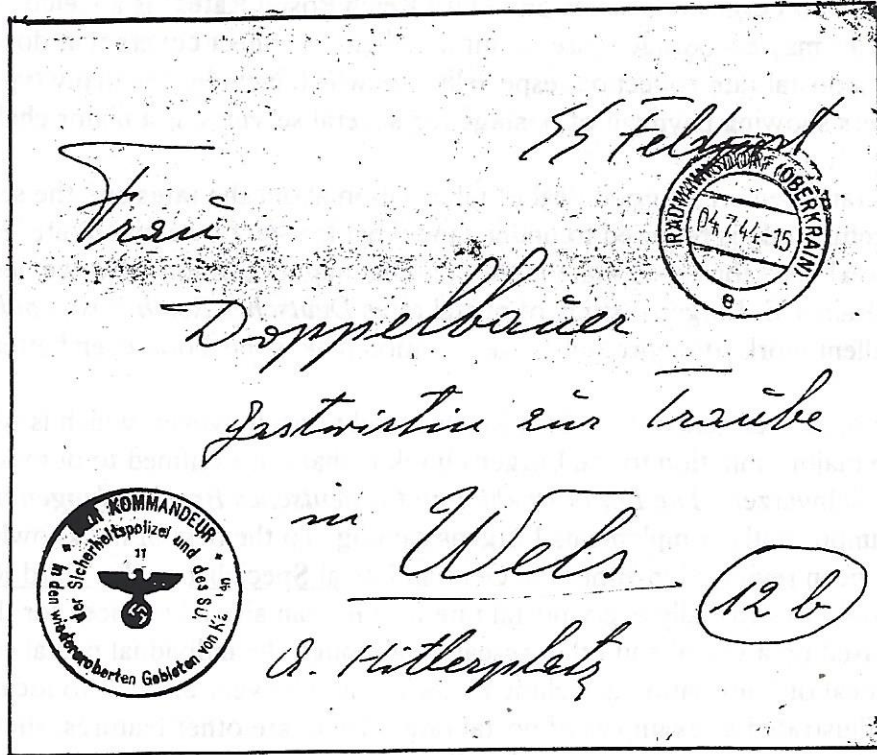


Fig. 5) Parcel receipt card dated March 1945 for parcel sent via Villach 2 P.O. has Radmannsdorf P.O. receiving stamp with 4<sup>th</sup> generation (12b) postal code.

*Vollmacht Roman*  
Bescheinigung des Empfängers  
(bei versiegelten Wertpaketen)

Eingang-Nr. *193h*

Zustellvermerk Umstehend bezeichnete Sendung erhalten

(Name) *Roman Jol*

**Zur Beachtung!**

Mit einer Paketkarte dürfen bis 3 Pakete versandt werden. Zu jedem Nachnahme- und Wertpaket ist jedoch eine besondere Paketkarte erforderlich, wobei die besonderen Nachnahme-Paketkarten mit anhängender Postanweisung oder Zahlkarte zu benutzen sind. Eine Paketkarte dürfen nur Pakete derselben Art also entweder nur gewöhnliche oder nur versiegelte oder nur versiegelte Wertpakete gemeinsam befördert werden, unversiegelte Wertpakete jedoch nur dann wenn der Wertbetrag bei allen Paketen gleich hoch ist. Bei unversiegelten Wertpaketen darf der Wertbetrag nur einmal auf der Paketkarte vermerkt werden; bei versiegelten Wertpaketen muß der Wert eines jeden Pakets besonders auf der Paketkarte angegeben sein, es sei denn, daß er bei allen Paketen gleich hoch ist. Bei Wertpaketen ist der Wertbetrag mit dem Zusatz „Wert“ in Ziffern in dem Raum „Besondere Vermerke des Absenders“ zu vermerken. In diesem Raum sind auch Gebührenvermerke, wie „Durch Eilboten“ oder „Niederzuschreiben.“ Wenn unzustellbar, Meldung“ zu niederschreiben.

Das Paket selbst muß die gleiche Aufschrift und die gleichen Vermerke über Eilbotenstellung, Wert, Nachnahme usw. erhalten wie die Paketkarte; jedoch ist bei unversiegelten Wertpaketen die Wertangabe auf dem Paket wegzulassen. Der Bestimmungsort ist möglichst groß und deutlich anzugeben. Postpakete, die aus leeren Schachteln, Kisten, Körben oder andern leeren Behältnissen bestehen, sind über der Anschrift durch den Vermerk „Leergut“ zu kennzeichnen. Paketkarten dürfen nicht als Paketaufschriften benutzt werden.

Auf den Paketen und Paketkarten hat der Absender seinen Namen und Wohnort nebst Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk anzugeben. Auskunft über die Gebühren am Postschalter.



## Some Literature on Third Reich Postal Rates

by Ben Beede

In my estimation Bob Ferguson's series on "Third Reich Postal Rates" is a welcome addition to our Bulletin. His series may encourage more of our members to collect covers that document particular rates. Building a postal rate collection, especially one which includes the many types of combination covers, i.e. covers showing payment of postage for several services, is a major challenge.

Tackling postal rates requires a good deal of information about the rates and the services they represent. Sometimes, careful study is required to understand what is meant by a given rate. Hence, the rate collector has a real need for appropriate literature. One might question what we need other than the Lütgens book. Rainer E. Lütgens' study of postal rates *Deutsches Reich Postgebührenkatalog 1923 bis 1945* is an excellent work. Its thorough documentation makes this book even better.

There are other useful references for Third Reich postal rates, however, which is why I decided to write this article. The major limitation to the Lütgens book is that it is confined to domestic German postal rates. Reinhold Schwarzer's *Die Luftpostgebühren für deutsche Briefsendungen nach dem Ausland (1928 – 1945)* importantly complements Lütgens catalog. To the best of my knowledge, Schwarzer's work has never been reviewed in either the German Postal Specialist or the Third Reich Study Group Bulletin. The book lists virtually every postal rate for German airmail services for the years indicated. It is thoroughly based on archival and other research, although the individual postal rates are not foot noted. A great deal of information is included which would be very difficult to locate elsewhere. Many fine covers are illustrated as examples of postal rates. There are other features, such as the inclusion of many pertinent dates and a number of clear outline maps. If you collect Third Reich airmail covers, you need a copy of the Schwarzer book!

Another helpful listing is Paul-Jürgen Hüske's *Deutsches Reich: Die Gebühren im Deutschen Reich 1933-1945* issued by INFLA-Berlin in 1989. A considerable amount of information is contained in the fifty pages of this slim book. It is based on official publications, like the Lütgens and Schwarzer books, but individual rates are not documented. While there is an extensive presentation of domestic rates, it is the foreign rate coverage which make this book especially worthwhile for me. About half the book is devoted to foreign rates but not all countries are detailed, just those seventeen European countries with which Germany had agreements authorizing reduced rates. An interesting page contains a table showing which types of mailed items could receive special services such as registration.

In addition to these fine postal history studies, a rate collector may also find much valuable information in publications of the Reichspost during the Third Reich era and other contemporary books and articles. A very useful official publication in my postal history library is the Postbuch issued by the Reichspost in 1934. This 167-page booklet discusses postal, telephone and telegraph rates in considerable detail. For my purposes, it fills the gaps left after using the sources mentioned earlier. It has information about all foreign rates, not just airmail fees or rates to a few countries.



A book that has come to my attention very recently is *Gebührentafeln für Packets* issued in 1940. What I obtained is Abteilung B of a two-part work, the first section is apparently a commentary on package services. Abteilung B is a highly detailed rate book for packages in international mail service running from pages 97 to 286. This listing goes country by country and a great deal of information is included in addition to rates. The section also includes an intriguing table showing how German currency was converted to gold francs, the international currency concept used by the Universal Postal Union and its members for calculating postage due charges. An interesting feature is that for a number of countries there are statements of current (wartime) postal routes and the post-war routes that were planned. No doubt in 1940 it was still possible for the Germans to be optimistic about the outcome of the conflict!

Two privately published items from the Nazi era deserve some attention in this article. As I noted in the Specialist several years ago, Haddenbrock's *Taschenbuch für Post und Telegraphie* (mine is the 1943 edition) is a very fine source of rate information. The listing for each rate contains a reference to the appropriate section(s) of the Postordnung of 1929, which is also reproduced in the book along with other key postal documents. K. Timm's study *Tarifwesen und Tarifpolitik der Deutschen Reichspost* published in 1939 is an entirely different kind of work. Timm discusses the principles that underlay decisions on what to charge for postal, telegraph and telephone services. The book also contains a good deal of information about the structure of the Reichspost in the 1930s.

Although it was not issued during the Third Reich, H. Hellmuth's *Die Betriebswirtschaftslehre der Deutschen Reichspost im Grundriss*, which appeared in 1929, also contains much material on the setting of rates by the Reichspost. Various other books that contain rate information could be discussed, such as the general rate booklets from 1932 and 1935 that I have, but this article is intended to tell TRSG members about a few useful publications.

To conclude, I want to mention an item that can be utilized effectively in the study of postal rates. *Zahlen-Spiegel der Deutschen Reichspost* was published in 1942 by the Deutschen Institute für Wirtschaftsforschung with the cooperation of the Reichspost. Its statistical tables and charts provide answers to questions about how much mail was actually sent in various rate categories, such as registered mail and C.O.D. mail. Although some statistics are provided back to 1871, the emphasis is on the years 1933 through 1941.

My rate collection, by the way, centers so far on examples of covers bearing stamps from the Hitler definitive series. A Third Reich rate collection cannot be built solely around the Hitler series, however, because some services ended at the outbreak of World War II.



## Story Behind the Stamp: Peter Henlein

by Kelly Stefanacci

Peter Henlein was born in the year 1480 in the town of Nuremberg in Bavaria but little is known of his ancestry or of his early life. Presumably he must have served an apprenticeship with a clockmaker because he was admitted as a master into his guild on November 16, 1509. Nuremberg had been the center for production of clocks for installation in clock towers since 1462. In 1484 a clock which was sufficiently accurate for use in astronomical observations was constructed for a wealthy patrician named Bernhard Walther.

These time measuring devices were very bulky and Henlein began to devote himself to the production of a pocket-timepiece or "watch". The invention of a main spring in France during the reign of Louis XI (1461-1483) provided a substitute for the weights suspended by cords and became the first step towards the construction of a watch.

Peter Henlein is usually credited with producing the watch known as the "Nuremberg animated egg", so-called from its ovoid shape, in 1510. This watch, which had only an hour hand, used metal wheels and a De Wick's "verge" escapement. The fusee, required to equalize the varying force of a mainspring, was not invented until 1530. At first it was connected to the barrel enclosing the mainspring by a catgut cord. It was not until 1665 that a chain was substituted.

Some authorities believe that the watch produced by Peter Henlein was not the true "Nuremberg animated egg" but a much more primitive type of timepiece. His fellow townsmen had no such doubts on this point, however, and Peter Henlein, who died on November 14, 1542, was long credited with the invention of the "Nuremberg animated egg". A memorial statue of Henlein was erected at Nuremberg in 1903.

A violet 6 + 14 Pfg. stamp designed by Manz was issued on August 29, 1942 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of Peter Henlein. The stamp depicts the Henlein memorial in Nuremberg. The inscription on the right side is "Peter Henlein + 1542" while the left side reads "Erfinder der Taschenuhr" (Inventor of the Pocket Watch).



This special cancel depicting the Nuremberg coat of arms was used for one day only on September 6, 1942 to commemorate the anniversary of Henlein's death.



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



## Rejected by Censor - Inadmissible Mail

by Myron Fox

### Mailed at a Post Office Counter

Part II, Section 2. A. Para. 6 "All letters to non-hostile foreign nations must be mailed at the post office counter. The sender must submit an official identity card (with photograph). If the mailer is not the same person as the sender, the address of the mailer must be indicated on the outside of the envelope as well as the address of the sender."

Fig. 1) All mail sent abroad had to be presented at the post office. From early 1944, only two such letters were allowed per month. To this end all senders had to present a special Control card for Foreign Mail service as well as a Personal Identity card. The card shown below was issued by the Berlin Police in 1944.

**Kontrollkarte**  
für den Auslandsbriefverkehr

Name und Vorname: *Petri Michael*

Wohnort und Straße: *Berlin N.O. 55*  
*Dannenbergstraße 61*

Geburtsdatum: *12-1-22* *Amberg*

*Michael Petri*  
Eigenhändige Unterschrift

Datum der Ausstellung: *29.9.44*

Nicht übertragbar!






Fig. 2) The boxed advisory hand stamp used at Cologne censor office states that this letter was rejected and returned to sender since it was not presented at a post office counter. The letter was eventually allowed in the mail when it was returned to the post office since regulations did not require commercial mail to be presented at the counter. When presented a second time at the Cologne censor office the objection markings were voided. The letter then received standard censor markings and was forwarded to its destination.

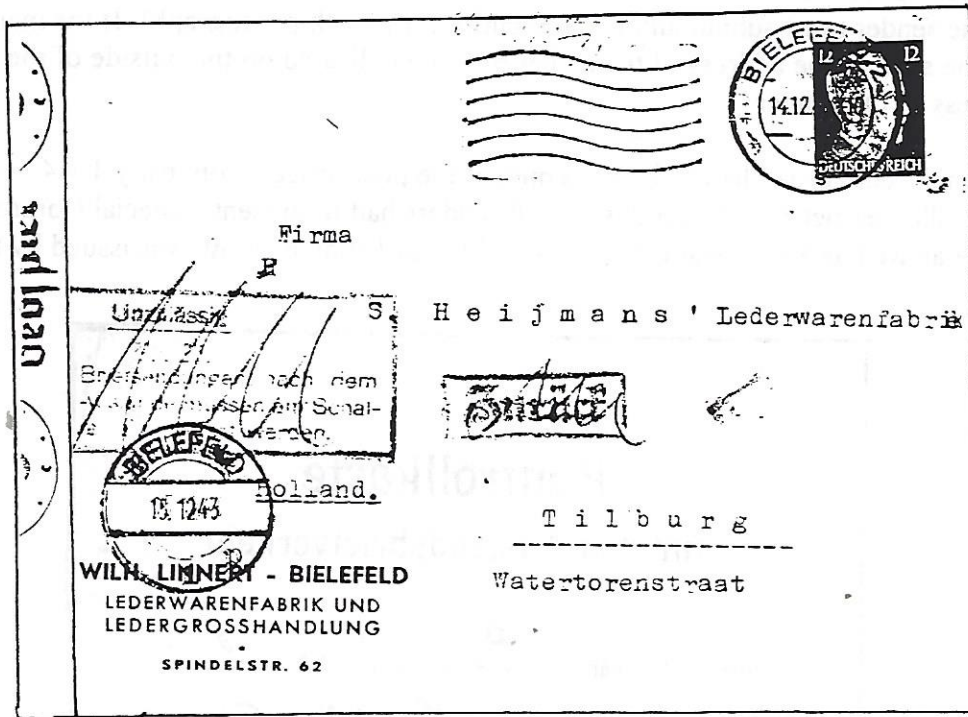
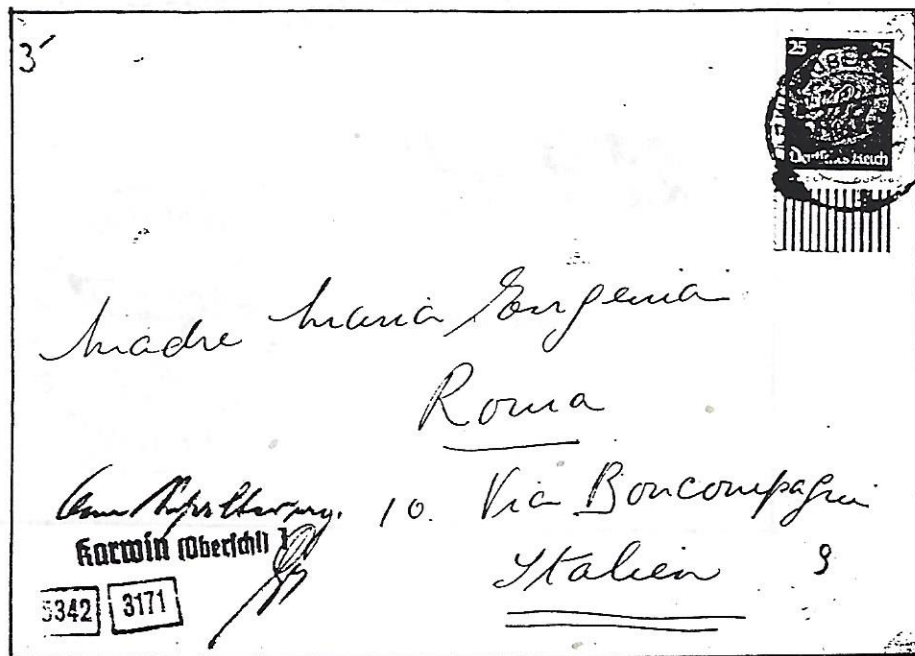


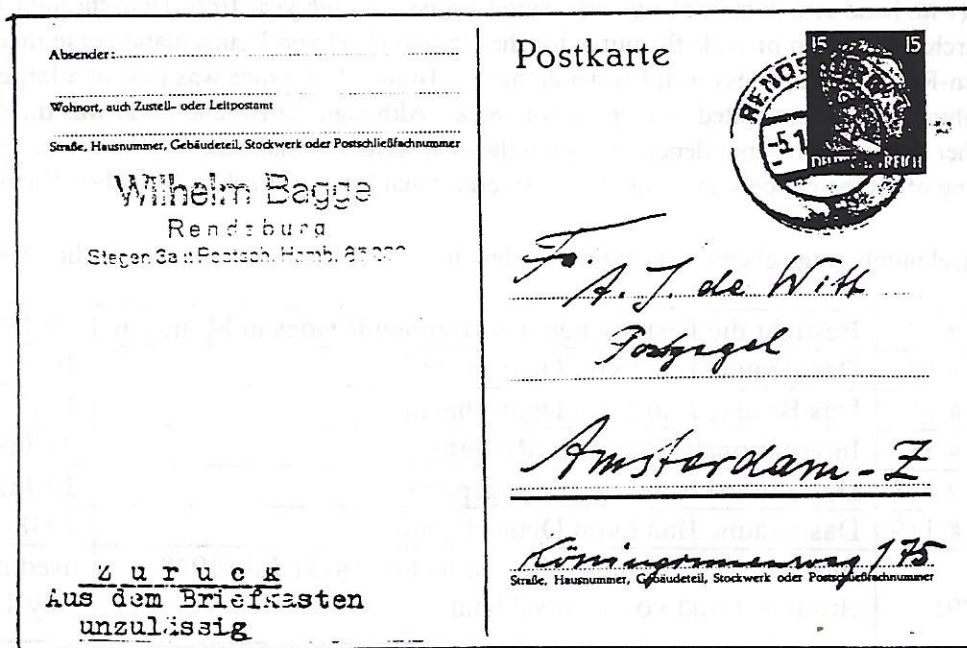
Fig. 3) The post office has used its branch hand stamp "Karwin (Oberschl)" to notarize the hand written statement on this letter addressed to Rome that it was mailed at the counter in accordance with regulations. Boxes with numbers are hand stamps of examiners at Munich censor office. Reverse has standard OKW censor hand stamps and tape





Part II, Section 2.A. Para. 1e. "Depositing mail in letter boxes is prohibited in postal service to non-hostile foreign countries".

Fig. 4) Post card to Holland deposited in a letterbox was rejected by Cologne censors who affixed mimeographed sticker reading "Zurück/Aus dem Briefkasten unzulässig" (Returned/posting via letter box not is not permitted).



5) Another post card to Holland from a letter box received Cologne boxed Return hand stamp and a "Beanstandungsgrund" (reason for rejection) noting it had not been mailed at postal counter. The sender then removed original postage, crossed out return markings and submitted it at a postal counter. It was now passed and received Cologne "A.c." transit machine stamp.





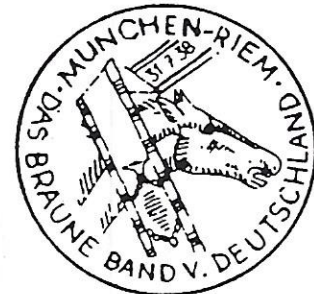
## Special Cancels – Munchen-Riem International Racing Week by Bob Ferguson

Collectors of German stamps are familiar with the Braune Band ('Brown Ribbon') Charity issues. The first Braune Band race was held in 1934 but no stamps or cancels were used until 1936. These beautifully designed stamps (with hand struck special cancels) were then issued each year from 1936 through 1944. Each stamp had a large surcharge to help provide the purse for the Braune Band von Deutschland horse race held each summer at Munchen-Riem. Perhaps less well known is that the Braune Band race was part of a larger International Racing Week which some years lasted as long as 3-4 weeks. Although the Braune Band was the main attraction, there were other competitions and, depending upon the year, other special cancels to commemorate them. The following is a listing of all the cancels associated with International Racing Week at Munchen-Riem.

The cancel numbering scheme is in Julius Bochmann's work "Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel".

Munchen # 82	Besucht die Festwochen des Braunen Bandes in Munchen	15-19 July 1936
Munchen # 85	Das Braune Band von Deutschland	1936
Munchen # 99	Das Braune Band von Deutschland	1937
Munchen # 117	Internationaler Amateur-Reitertag	24 July 1938
Munchen # 118	Das Braune Band des Springsports	30 July 1938
Munchen # 119	Das Braune Band von Deutschland	1938
Machine Cancel #291	Internationale Rennwochen Munchen 14-31 July 1938 Braunes Band von Deutschland	used in Berlin & Munchen July 1938

Besucht die  
Festwochen  
des Braunen Bandes  
in Munchen 15-29.7.1936

Internationale Rennwochen  
Munchen  
14-31  
Juli  
1938  
Braunes Band von Deutschland



Internationale Rennwochen  
Munchen  
12-30  
Juli  
1939  
Braunes Band von Deutschland





Munchen # 134	Internationaler Amateur-Reitertag	23 July 1939
Munchen # 135	Das Braune Band des Springsports	29 July 1939
Munchen # 137	Das Braune Band von Deutschland	30 July 1939
Machine Cancel #323	Internationale Rennwochen Munchen 12-30 July 1939 Braunes Band von Deutschland	used in Berlin & Munchen July 1939
Munchen # 146	Tag der Internationalen Hindernissportes	21 July 1940
Munchen # 147	Das Braune Band von Deutschland	28 July 1940
Machine Cancel #356	Internationale Rennwochen Munchen 10-28 July 1940 Braunes Band von Deutschland	used in Berlin & Munchen 29 June-25 July 1940
Munchen # 162	Internationaler Tag des Hindernissportes	20 July 1941
Munchen # 163	Das Braune Band von Deutschland	27 July 1941
Machine Cancel #378	Internationale Rennwochen Munchen 5-27 July 1941 Braunes Band von Deutschland	used in Berlin & Munchen 27 June-27 July 1941
Munchen # 177	Deutscher Alpenpreis	19 July 1942
Munchen # 178	Das Braune Band von Deutschland	26 July 1942
Machine Cancel #393	Internationale Rennwochen Munchen 1-26 July 1942 Braunes Band von Deutschland	used in Berlin & Munchen 28 June-26 July 1942
Munchen # 186	Deutscher Alpenpreis	25 July 1943
Munchen # 187	Das Braune Band von Deutschland	1 August 1943
Machine Cancel # 404	Internationale Tag der Hindernissportes 25 July 1943 Tag des Braunes Band von Deutschland 1 August 1943	used in Berlin & Munchen 15 July-1 August 1943
Munchen # 191	Das Braune Band/ 10 Jahre	6 August 1944



# THIRD REICH POSTAL RATES

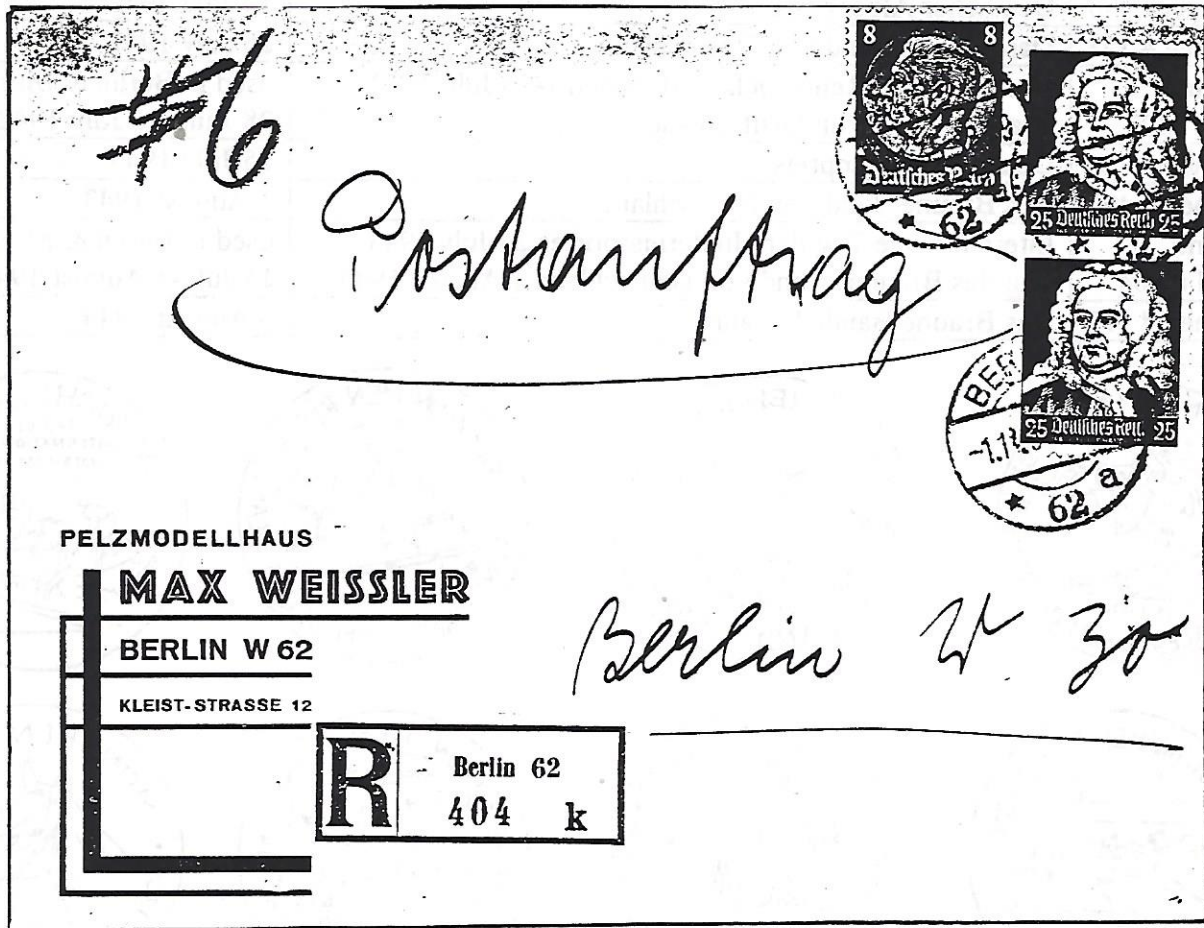
by Bob Ferguson

## POSTAL COLLECTION ORDER RATE: (POSTAUFTRAG)

### I.) LETTER (30 January 1933 - 8 May 1945)

- Basic = Basic letter rate
- + Registration fee
- + Presentation fee

Presentation fee (Vorzeigegebühr) = 20 Pfg.



Posted: Berlin W on November 1, 1935.  
 Backstamped: Berlin W on November 2, 1935

### SINGLE WEIGHT LOCAL POSTAL COLLECTION ORDER LETTER RATE

- Franking (58 Pfg.):
- 8 Pfg. = Local rate for letter weighing under 20 grams.
  - 30 Pfg. = Registration fee
  - 20 Pfg. = Presentation fee



## Report on Censorship Materials Captured in Cologne

By Myron Fox

*National Archives declassified the following report written on 18 March 1945 and sent to A.E.F. Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Washington, D.C. in April 1994.*

This report was prepared from Censorship documents captured by the 18<sup>th</sup> Army Group T-Force Censorship Team at the German Censorship Station Cologne (Auslandsbriefprüfstelle Amt "c").

A number of "Orders of the day" (Tagesbefehle) issued by the Chief of the Station (Leiter) furnished the bulk of the information. These orders were not published daily though they are numbered in sequence. They deal mostly with administrative matters but organizational matters are also frequently published through these. They carry the signature of a Lt-Col (Oberstleutnant), the Commanding Officer of the station and are authenticated by a Captain and Adjutant (Hauptmann und Adjutant). After a summary investigation of the material the following points of interest are extracted:

1. The Censorship Station Cologne was located at Köln-Riehl, Garthesst. 20-24. A branch office (Zweigstelle) was located at Köln -Ehrenfeld, street and number unknown, but it could easily be reached by street cars No. 3, 4 & 13. A special Order of the Day (Sondertagesbefehl) published at Köln-Riehl on 8 January 1944 established a new station by order of the O.K.W. This evacuation station (Ausweichstelle) established at Kevelaer started operation on 17 January 1944. The personnel drawn from the Köln-Riehl station was to report on this day to the Hubertuschule, Hubertusstr. at Kevelaer. It is believed that the station was located at the above address. From the organization standpoint Kevelaer (Prüfabteilung "K"), as well as Ehrenfeld (Prüfabteilung "E") were part of Auslandsbriefprüfstelle Köln-Riehl. (Tagesbefehl 433).

A postal courier service between Köln-Riehl and Kevelaer was established for inter-office communications. The ambulant Post Office Köln-Kleve, leaving Köln-Hauptbahnhof at 10:17, arriving at Kevelaer at 12:58 was designated for traffic directed to Kevelaer.

2. During the Allied air raid on the night from 20 to 21 April 1944, the stations both at Rhiel and Ehrenfeld were severely damaged and with few exceptions the general operations were suspended until 3 May 1944 when all sections again assumed their normal functioning.
3. From references contained in a number of "Tagesbefehle" it seems that the policy directing agency up to 26 June 1944 at the OKW level was known as Abwehr Abteilung III C and III N.
4. Tagesbefehl Nr 476 dated 26 June 1944 published the reorganization of the "Abwehrdienst" (C.I.) and the transfer of all civilian members of the station from the OKW to the authority of the Reichs leader SS, Chief of the Security Police, and the Security service (Himmler). On 30 August 1944 all members (Gefolgschasftamtglieder) of the station – with exception of members of the Armed Forces – were made to sign individual slips acknowledging jurisdiction under the articles of the "Military Penal Code" (Militärstrafgesetzbuch).

Sturmbannführer (now Oberregierungsrat) Hoffman, Chief of the State Police in Cologne seems to have been the highest authority on the SS level. Under him Hauptsturmführer Voltis was directly connected with censorship.



Directives to censorship came from Obersturmbannführer Müller of the R.S.H.A. (Reichssicherheitshauptamt) Abteilung IV. The unit IV of RSHA has taken over the functions of the OKW Abwehr III C and III N.

5. On 15 September 1944 a special order of the day was published considering the necessity for the evacuation of the station in the event that Cologne had to be cleared of military establishment. In this case Engelskirchen on the right bank of the Rhine was considered as possible evacuation place to which all military personnel should report. All civilian personnel, with the exception of those specifically designated to report at the evacuation address, would be given an indefinite leave. The same order discloses the existence of three German Censorship Stations unknown until now, for which Dutch and French readers are needed. The stations are at Düsseldorf – Ratingen; Beckum bei Münster in Westfalen and Schwerte bei Dortmund.

6. To give an idea of the units in Riehl-Ehrenfeld-Kevelaer, the normal distribution of information throughout the station is as follows. Note: (1) – (10) were located at Köln-Riehl

- (1) Chief (Lieter)
- (2) Postal division (Postabteilung)
- (3) Letter opening unit (Öffnungsstele)
- (4) Watchlist sorting (Sondersortierung)
- (5) Watchlist examination (Ausnahmeprüfstelle)
- (6) Trade (Handel)
- (7) Declared value & registered mail (Wert und Einschreiben)
- (8) Evaluation (Auswertung)
- (9) Letter closing unit (Verschluss)
- (10) Chemical, technical unit (Chemisch-Technische Abteilung, CTA)
- (11) Examination Section "E" (Prüfabteilung "E" for Ehrenfeld)
  - a. Administration and Chief (Leitung)
  - b. Pre-evaluation (Vorauswertung)
  - c. Private mails (Privat)
  - d. Letter closing unit (Verschluss)
- (12) Examination Section "K" (Prüfabteilung "K" for Kevelaer)
  - a. Administration and Chief (Leitung)
  - b. Postal division (Postabteilung)
  - c. Opening unit and watchlist (Öffnungsstele und Sondersortierung)
  - d. Private mails (Privat)
  - e. Trade, declared value & registered mail (Handel, Wert und Einschreiben)
  - f. Pre-evaluation (Vorauswertung)
  - g. Chemical, technical unit (Chemisch-Technische Abteilung, CTA)
  - h. Letter closing unit (Verschluss)
- (13) Plans and Training Officer (Schulung Officer)
- (14) Organization (Organisation)



7. A directive of 8 September 1944, Köln-Riehl, is of interest as to the disposition of external mail

Extract: Subject: Examination of Mail between Belgium and Holland.

According to directive from R.S.H.A. Unit IV Z.A.B.P. (Zensur-Auslandsbriefprüfstelle?) all mail from Germany to Belgium is to be examined and evaluated by the Cologne Censorship. After examination this mail is to be pulped.

Mail originating in Belgium to Germany will be examined and evaluated as long as the postal traffic is normal. Should circumstances arise such as applicable to Belgian traffic, the same procedure is to be followed as for Belgian-German traffic.

8. A letter dated 9 September 1944 on the same subject gives the following additional information.

Extract: Mail destined to Belgium, including declared value and registered mail letters, is to be pulped after examination and evaluation. Excluded from pulping are: 1) External money orders, 2) such declared value and registered mail messages and such trade mail as contain important or valuable inclosures (documents, money, etc.). They are to be sent to Room No. 10, from where they will be returned to sender with notification: Postal traffic at this time (z. Zt – zur Zeit) suspended.

9. A directive, 8 September 1944, Köln-Riehl also gives the following information: "It has been arranged that internal German mail will be routed to A.B.P. (Auslandsbriefprüfstelle) for examination.

10. Routing slips addressed from Cologne to SS Feldpostprüfstelle, Zweigstelle West, Maastricht, Deutsches Dienstpostamt, reveal the existence at one time of an SS Censorship Office at the above location.

11. A directive classified secret, dated Köln-Riehl; 18 May 1944 gives evidence of the existence of a privileged list for party members.

Extract: Subject: Exemption from Censorship. According to regulation of 12 May 1944, Nr.

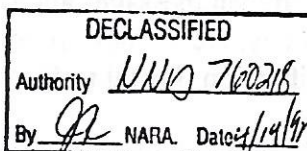
1560/5.44, Secret (III N3), the OKW, Abteilung Abwehr III publishes a new list of names and addresses of the Reichs leaders of the NSDAP (Reichsleiter) and their equals in rank together with their service ranks in party, party formations and state. The external mail of the above is exempted from censorship. *A list of names had been attached to the communication, but was not found among the captured documents.*

12. The following information, which was classified secret, on the German filing of classified material after 1 April 1944 was found. All incoming directives have to be sorted into "Offene" (not classified or possibly restricted), "Geheime" (confidential or possibly secret), or "Geheime Kommandosachen" (secret or possibly top secret). For each of the above classifications a separate folder is to be prepared. Offene Sachen: green folder; Geheime Sachen: red folder; Geheime Kommandosachen: red folder with yellow stripe approximately 5cm wide running diagonally across the folder cover. The documents contained in the folders are to be numbered and an index sheet giving contents by title inside the folder must be kept up to date.

13. The only major difference between the German and the Allied censorship guides seems to be that the German guide specifically designates companies by name which are to be watched: e.g. under the heading "Special Cases" (Sonderfälle), 1 December 1943, the entire correspondence from and to the following is to be stopped:
- Gruschwitz-Textilwerke A.G. in Neusalz a. O. (Flachsberichte) Rhein. Erz.-und Metallhandel, Köln.
  - Otto Wolff, Köln
  - Fredrich Zöllner, Köln
  - De Bataafsche Petroleum My.
  - Gordinne & File, Brüssel (Kohlestatistiken)
  - Van Lagae & Adriensen in Kortryk (Flachsberichte)
14. The above report was prepared with the intention of bringing out the more important points which seem to be of more immediate value in further contacts with German censorship.

G. C. JACOBUS  
Colonel, GSC  
G-2 CEN.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

MAIN HEADQUARTERS

GBI/CEN/311.7-11

22 March 1945

SUBJECT: German Censorship.

TO : GS(I), Main Headquarters, 21st Army Group, B.L.A.

1. Inclosed find: a) "Preliminary Report Extracted from Censorship Material Captured in Cologne"; b) samples of forms and slips as used by German Censorship; c) Instructions to examiners in Private Mails Unit.

2. Material listed as b and c above has been extracted from Captured Censorship Documents taken in Cologne. The original lot has been sent to MI-12 for BF and TC for thorough investigation. Material inclosed is either surplus or duplicates.

For the A C of S, G-2:

(Sd) SIDNEY L. BRIGGS  
Lt-Col, GSC  
G-2, CEN

Incls:-

Preliminary Report Extracted from Censorship  
Material Captured in Cologne  
Samples of forms and slips used by German Censorship  
Instructions to examiners in Private Mails Unit

CONFIDENTIAL

28 544  
26 545



# Spanish Commemorative Cover Honors Condor Legion

by Kelly Stefanacci

To follow up to the "Solidarity of Fascism Postcard" detailed in Bulletin 125, the cover shown below commemorates the Luftwaffe's Condor Legion. The text reads (roughly):

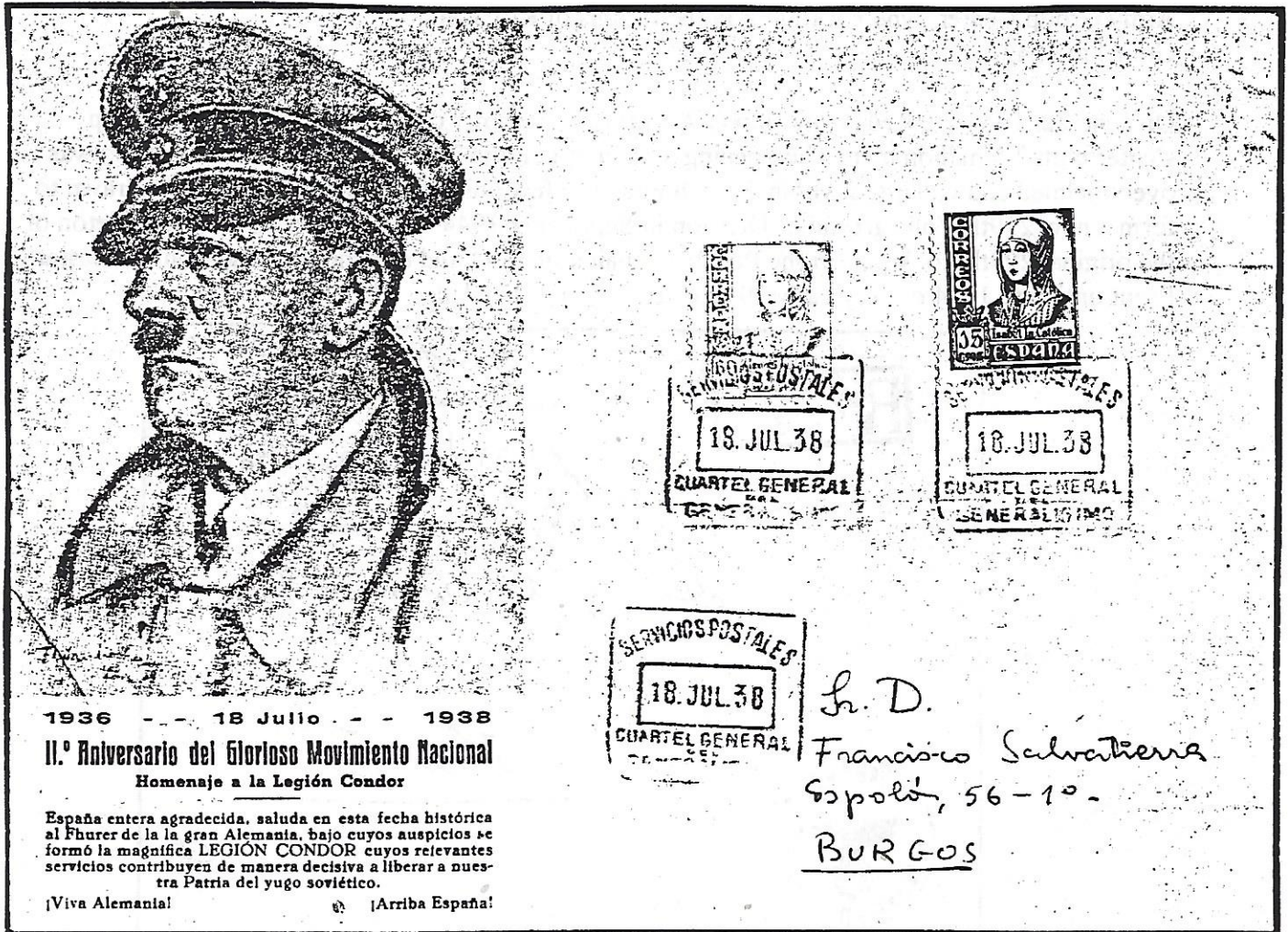
Second Anniversary of the Glorious National Movement

Honoring the Condor Legion

All of Spain respectfully salutes on this historic day the Leader of Greater Germany, where was formed the Condor Legion whose relevant services contributed in a decisive manner toward liberating our homeland from the grasp of Communism.

Long Live Germany!

Onwards Spain!





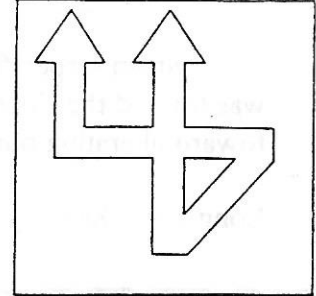
# COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

## 299th Infantry Division

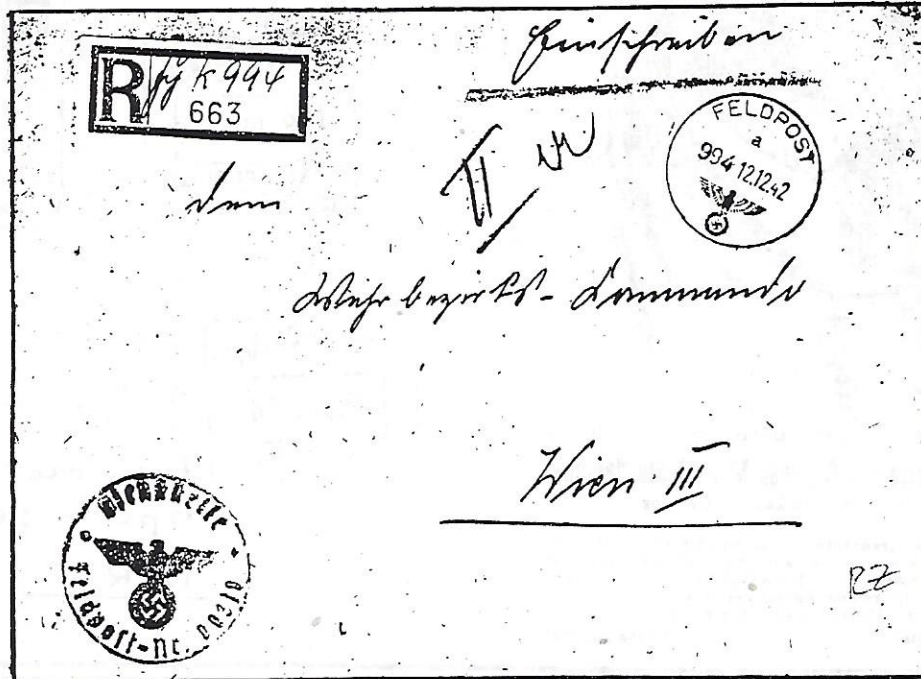
by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
299	994	528	529	530	299

Consisting of newly inducted men from Hesse and Thuringia regions, the 299th Infantry Division was activated in April 1940. The field post office (Feldpostamt or FpA) was assigned Fp.# 37933 as a unit return address and code (Kenn) # 994 for use on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 299. After occupation duty in France, the 299th division took part in the initial invasion of Russia in July 1941 and was continuously engaged on the eastern front. Initially serving in the southern sector, the division was eventually transferred to Army Group Center, where it fought in the Battles of Kursk and Gomel in 1943.



On June 22, 1944 the Red Army launched a massive Summer offensive against Army Group Center with 2.5 million men. The opening assault struck the 299th Infantry Division, which was overwhelmed and collapsed within a few hours. The few units which escaped were withdrawn to form a new 299th Volksgrenadier Division in September 1944. This formation, a mere skeleton of the original 299th, took part in the Polish campaign of 1944 and continued to fight on the Eastern Front until late 1944 or very early 1945 when it was disbanded.



Cover sent to Army Ordnance Office in Vienna in December 1942 from Fp. # 00310 (Division HQ/ 299th Infantry Division) via P.O. 299 (K-994).



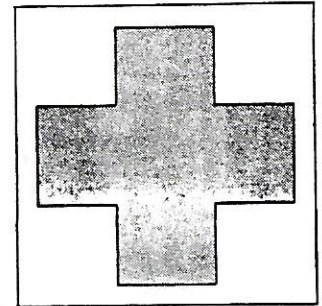
# COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

## 72nd Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
172	441	105	124	266	172


Originally created as the Trier Frontier Command, the "Gelbkreuz" (Yellow Cross) 72<sup>nd</sup> was organized as an infantry division by incorporating two active Army regiments and one reserve regiment. Most troops were Rhinelanders and Bavarians. Sent to West Wall during the "Phony War" of 1939, it was not considered a good fighting unit early in the conflict. After being lightly engaged in France, it took part in Balkans campaign in spring 1941 and then crossed into Russia as part of Army Group South. It fought in Crimean campaign and subsequent siege of Sevastopol before being transferred to Army Group Center. On central sector it took part in winter fighting of 1941-2, the Rzev withdrawal, and the battle of Kursk.




Transferred back to southern sector, it fought in the Dneiper Bend battles, in southern Ukraine and was finally encircled at Cherkassy with IX Infantry Corps. Perhaps half the division escaped. Reformed in spring 1944, it was in Poland in the summer and officially cited for its performance in the Vistula defensive battles in August. The 72<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division suffered heavy casualties in southern Poland and was nearly annihilated as the Red Army drove on Breslau and Silesia. It rallied and was soon back in combat, ending up as part of LVII Panzer Corps of Army Group Center, which surrendered in Czechoslovakia.

E i n s c h r e i b e n !

F e l d p o s t !




Dem  
Wehrmelde - Amt



M o s b a c h / B a d e n .

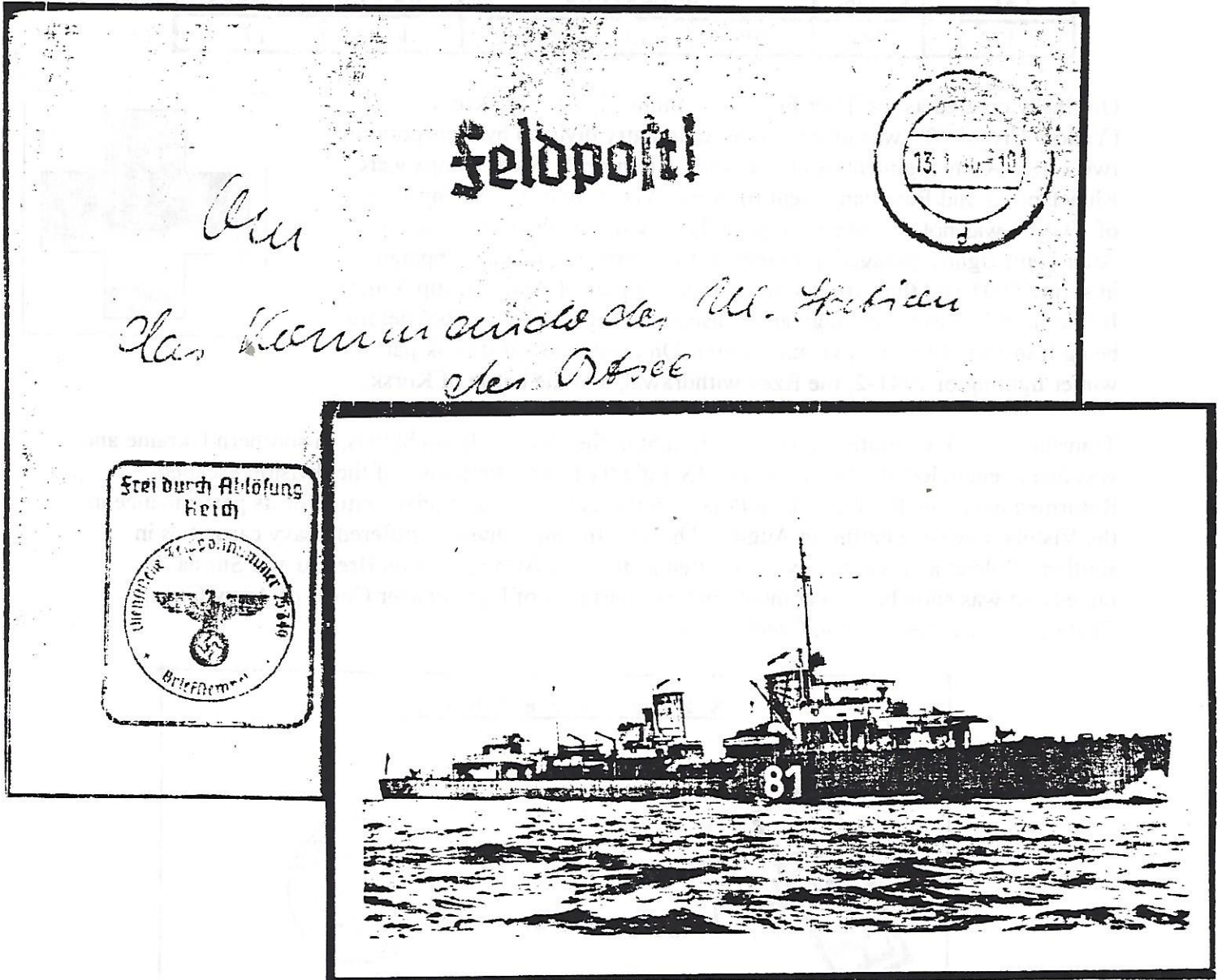
Abs. :  
Dienststelle  
Feldp.-No.  
03096



Cover sent to Army Records Office in Mosbach/Baden in October 1942 from Fp. # 03096 (2 Motor Column/ Infantry Division Column 172) via P.O. 172 (K-441).

# NAVY LOG

Destroyer Z-11 'Bernd von Arnim' Feldpost # 25349



Cover has 28 x 19 x 9mm Ring/Segment "Mute" cancel (Code 'd') of Lambach.

The eleventh of sixteen 'Leberecht Maass' (Destroyer Type 1935 Z1-16) class ships. Built by Germania West (Kiel) and launched July 8, 1937. Namesake Kapitänleutnant von Arnim, commander of torpedo boat G-43, was killed in action when G-43 was rammed and sunk by British destroyer HMS BROKE in the Dover Strait on April 21, 1917.

Served: Poland 1939, North Sea (minelaying/mercantile warfare) 1939-40, Scuttled in Rombaksfjord, Norway on April 13, 1940 after second battle of Narvik.



## So Who Was Schickelgruber?

by Kelly Stefanacci

At a recent stamp bourse I was browsing through a box of U.S. "patriotic" covers of World War II. *I find it interesting that such U.S. material is called "patriotic" while similar material generated in Germany during this period is called "propaganda"*. Among the huge variety of different cachets on these covers I noticed several cachets demeaning Hitler by referring to him as "Schickelgruber". After acquiring these covers I did a little research and found the following information that I found interesting and want to share with you.

On June 7, 1837, a 43 year old unmarried woman named Maria Anna Schickelgruber gave birth to a son in the village of Strones, located in the Waldviertal, a rural area of Austria northwest of Vienna near the present Czechoslovakian border. The baby was registered in the parish of Döllersheim as Alois Schickelgruber, Illegitimate and the space for the father's name left blank.

In 1841, when Alois was almost five, his mother Maria married Georg Hiedler, an unemployed journeyman mill worker. As Georg Hiedler was a drifter, Maria turned the boy over to her husband's brother Johann, a farmer in nearby Spittal. Maria died five years later and Georg Hiedler resumed his drifting ways, dying in 1857.

Alois was an ambitious boy but had no interest in farming. At thirteen he left Spittal for Vienna to become a tradesman. After learning a trade, he eventually became a civil servant and, in 1875, was promoted to full customs inspector at Branau on the Inn River, just across from Germany.

Johann Hiedler was very proud of Alois' success and had no son to carry on the Hiedler name. Therefore on June 6, 1876 Johann and two other relatives went to the nearby town of Weitra. They testified before a local notary that Hiedler's brother (the notary spelled the name 'Hitler') had stated in their presence and before his death that he had fathered an illegitimate son and heir.

The next day Johann traveled to Döllersheim and presented the document to the parish priest, who confirmed that Georg Hiedler had indeed married a woman named Schickelgruber in 1842. He then changed the birth records to read "Illegitimate" instead of "Legitimate". He crossed out Schickelgruber and added a note that the father was Georg Hitler.

Alois Hitler later fathered a son named Adolf of whom we all know. During the frantic period of post-WW I Germany, there were many political parties competing for the vote. As in our current day, political parties tried to "dig up dirt" on their rivals and link them to any sort of scandal.

At some point they delved into the background of the candidate of the National Socialist Workers Party and discovered the circumstances of his father's birth. This information apparently did not do too much damage as Hitler and the Nazis managed to attain power in 1933.

After the outbreak of war between Axis powers and the U. S.A in 1941, first day cover makers and others sponsors found a ready market for patriotic envelopes with cachets extolling the virtues of our side or, even more popular, heavy handed mockery of our enemies. It would not have been difficult to discover the Schickelgruber link, a name that seemed to have comic potential.



The following are three examples of "patriotic" covers with the Schickelgruber theme.

