



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

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

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FROM:	LEUTNANT ERICH FISCHER (BROTHER) 8WG-19082, Co. #16. PRISONER OF WAR CAMP MEXIA c/o G.P.O. BOX 20, NEW YORK, N.Y., U.S.A.	Postage Free Portofrei
PRISONER OF WAR POST CARD		
Postkarte für Kriegsgefangene GERMAN-A		
Do Not Write Here! Nicht Hier Schreiben!		
11716 U.S. CENSOR	Address Adresse	FKOBGEFR. MANFRED FISCHER No. 62407 M, INTERNEM. CAMP 133 ABTLG. 4. OTTAWA, CANADA.
W. D., P. M. G. Form No. G-1 November 1, 1942	16-51472-1	9

STUDY GROUP NOTES

Frei durch Ablösung Reich - Ben Beede writes: "In his article in on page 21 in Bulletin # 191, Bob Ferguson was misled about the word "Frei" on covers sent by official agencies, other than the Reichspost. Free franking ended almost entirely in 1920. Ministries and other governmental agencies, both federal and state level, made agreements with the Reichspost to pay their postal fees on a periodic, lump sum basis.

Neither the governmental structures nor the Reichspost were entirely happy with these arrangements but that is what happened. The Reichspost, moreover, insisted on immediate payment of some fees, such as pneumatic, air mail, and express service, which explains why some official covers bear adhesive or meter stamps.

Using of official stamps by state government agencies and Nazi Party offices did not provide any financial advantages to them. These were not "franchise stamps", to use the term employed by the Scott catalogs."

Old German Script- collectors of Third Reich postal history may have difficulty reading the addresses or text on some mail because the sender used an older type of script called Sütterlin. This script was commonly used until the 1930s when the use of "Latin script", as it was called, was officially mandated throughout the Reich. Shown below are the upper and lower case Sütterlin characters of the German alphabet. Note that there is no upper case form of the double "s" or the "tz" because no German words start with these letter combinations.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	Ⓕ	Ⓖ	Ⓗ	Ⓘ	Ⓝ	Ⓚ	Ⓛ
ⓐ	ⓑ	ⓒ	ⓓ	ⓔ	ⓕ	ⓖ	ⓗ	ⓓ	ⓙ	Ⓚ	Ⓛ
M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
Ⓜ	Ⓝ	Ⓞ	Ⓟ	Ⓠ	Ⓡ	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	Ⓤ	Ⓥ	Ⓦ	Ⓧ
Ⓜ	Ⓝ	Ⓞ	Ⓟ	Ⓠ	Ⓡ	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	Ⓤ	Ⓥ	Ⓦ	Ⓧ
Y	Z	Ä	Ö	Ü	CH	SCH	CK	SS	ST	TZ	
Ⓨ	Ⓩ	Ⓐ	Ⓞ	Ⓤ	ⒸⒽ	ⓈⒸ	ⒸⓀ	-	ⓈⓉ	-	
Ⓨ	Ⓩ	Ⓐ	Ⓞ	Ⓤ	ⒸⒽ	ⓈⒸ	ⒸⓀ	-	ⓈⓉ	-	

Frøslev Police Prison camp in Denmark - as a postscript to his fine article on the next page, TRSGer Bruce Fisher notes that a small Frøslev Camp Museum consisting of the original former administration building and two prisoner huts is still in operation. Central themes of the exhibition are the political background for the establishment of the camp, everyday life of the prisoners and conditions in the German concentration camps to which some inmates from Frøslev were deported.

Cover Illustration: This POW form card was sent by Eric Fischer, a German lieutenant in POW Camp Mexia, Texas to his brother Manfred, an acting corporal in POW/Internment Camp 133 in Ottawa, Canada. Note two line U.S. censor hand stamp at lower left.

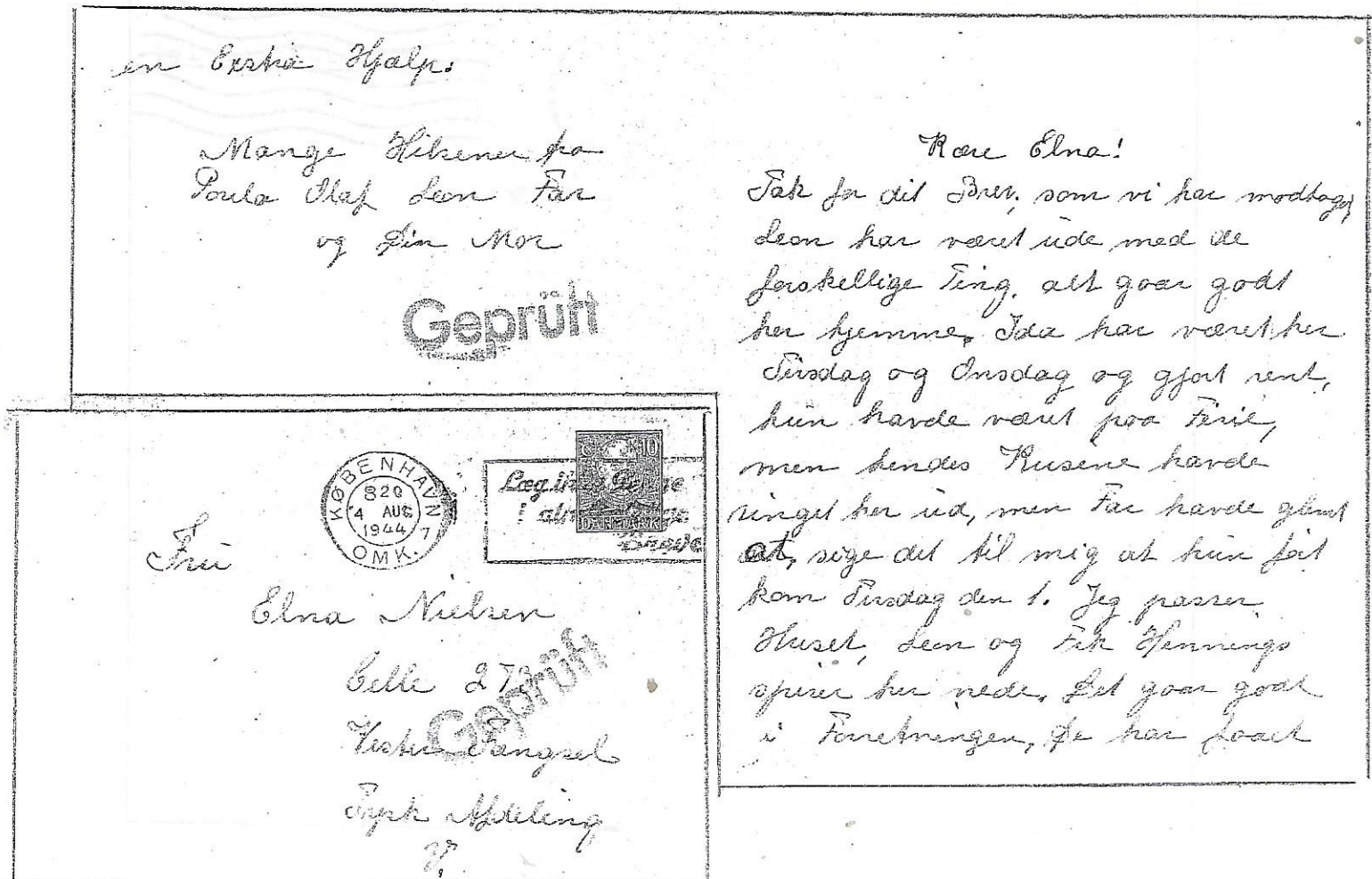
Censored Nazi Prison Correspondence

by Bruce Fisher

A category of Third Reich postal censorship not frequently illustrated or, in my experience, discussed is mail to and from Nazi prisons. I consider this category to be separate and distinct from concentration camp and P.O.W. censored mail. The purpose of this article is to illustrate covers and correspondence from my collection that I consider to be Nazi prison correspondence.

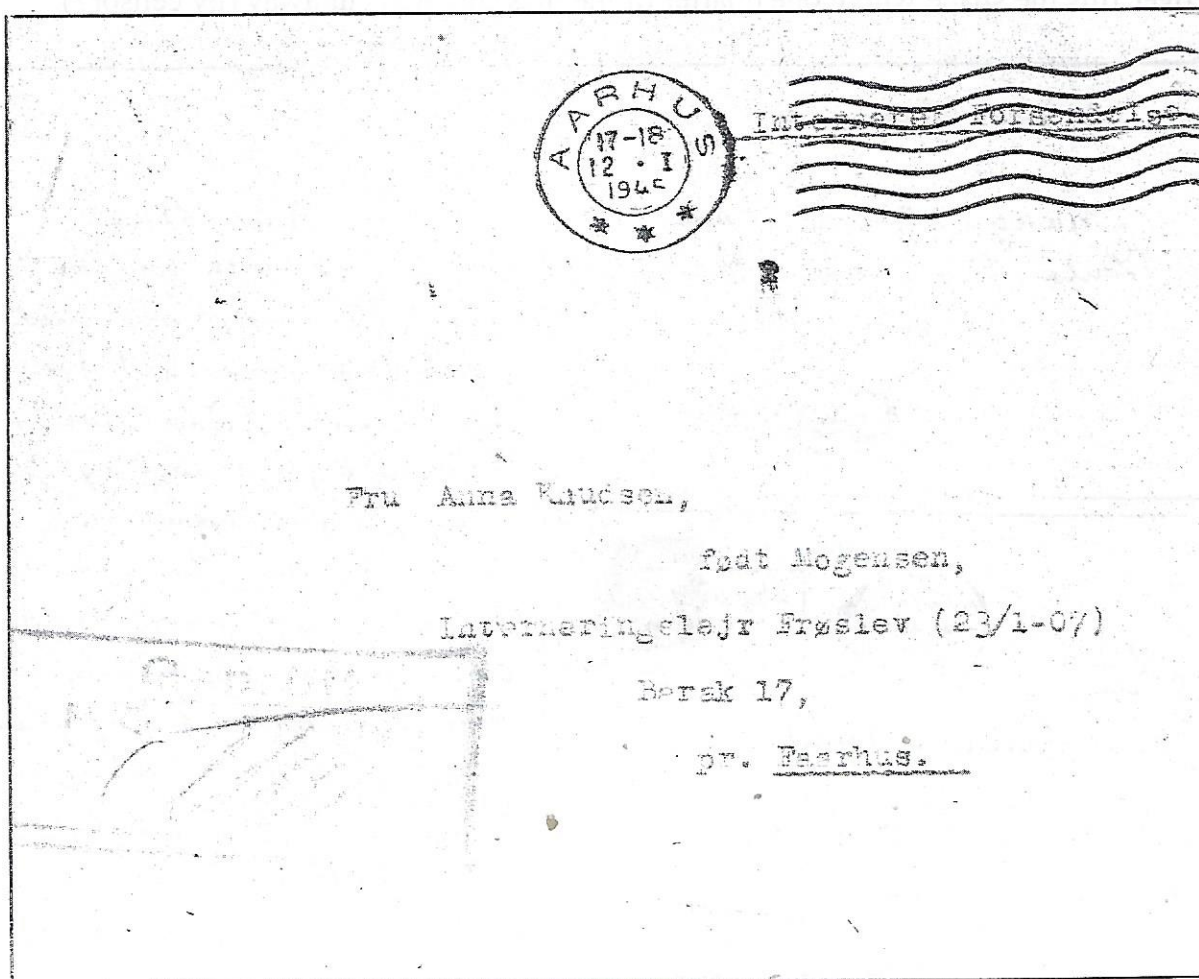
A.) **Vestre Gestapo prison in Copenhagen, Denmark** - Fig. 1 is a censored cover dated 4 August 1944 sent to Miss Elna Nelsen in "Celle 273, Vestre Faengsel" (the Gestapo part of the prison). One quarter of the message has been cut away for unknown reasons. I've been told that the remains of the message contained personal information of no particular significance but perhaps the portion removed by the censor may have included some violation. Vestre Faengsel is the main jail in Copenhagen. Built in 1895, it is Denmark's largest prison with a total capacity of 530 inmates. It primarily houses pre-trial detainees, not convicted felons. During the German occupation of Denmark (9 April 1940 to 5 May 1945) a Danish resistance movement fought with their lives at stake for Denmark's freedom. Best known is probably the Hvidsten Group which was centered around the Hvidsten Inn, just outside the town of Randers. From 1943 to 1944, they received arms, ammunition and explosives dropped by British aircraft. Eight members of this group were arrested by the Gestapo on 11 March 1944 and brought to Cell C-2 on the second floor of Vestre Faengsel. On 26 June 1944, the eight were sentenced to death by a German war court-martial and three days later were executed by a firing squad.

Fig.1) Red "Geprüft" censor hand stamp appears on both cover and enclosed message. The cover fills the space where one quarter of the message was cut away (by censor?).



B.) **Frøslev Police prisoner camp** (*Polizeigefangenzlager*) was also in Denmark. In order to avoid the deportation of Danes to concentration camps in Germany, Danish authorities suggested in January 1944 that an internment camp be located in Denmark. The German occupation authorities consented and the camp was built in south-west Denmark near the village of Frøslev and close to the German border. From mid-August 1944 until the end of the German occupation in May 1945, approximately 12,000 internees passed through the camp gates. Most were suspected members of the Danish resistance, Communists or other political prisoners. Conditions in the camp were generally tolerable. During this period about 1,600 of these internees were deported to Germany, where roughly 220 of them perished. Towards the end of the war, Swedish Count Folke Bernadotte tried to have all Scandinavians in German concentration camps transported to Sweden. During this period the Danish administration negotiated with German authorities about the transfer of all Danish prisoners in Germany. As a result of these efforts, many Scandinavian prisoners were returned from German camps in white buses. In March and April 1945, nearly 10,000 Danish and Norwegian prisoners were returned from Germany. Some of these arrived at Frøslev camp, including 1,960 Danish policemen who had been arrested and deported on September 19, 1944.

Fig. 2) Cover addressed to prisoner "*Fru Anna Knudsen, født Mogensen, Interneringslejr Frøslev (23/1-07)/ Barak 17, /pr. Faarhus*". The red boxed hand stamp at lower left reads: "*Geprüft/P. G. L. Frøslev*" (P.G.L.= *Polizeigefangenzlager*). The censor's initials appear in the box below the text. The sender's address on reverse reads "*Toms Adresse er:/Thomas Peter Knudsen/Nr. 50492, Blok P./Konzentrationslager/Hamburg-Neuengamme/Hamburg-Tyskland*". The Danish text: "*Internert forsendelse*" (roughly translates as "Internee mail") appears in upper right corner under the wavy lines of the Aarhus machine cancel. Apparently mail to internment camps required no postage.



German POWs in North America

Camps in Arizona

by Jim Lewis

The major POW camps in Arizona were Florence (Code 1) and Papago Park (Code 84). Camp Florence, located about 70 miles northeast of Tucson, was the largest all new POW compound ever constructed on American soil. It is now used by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Only a few German POWs were housed in Florence in 1943, the majority of inmates were Italians. After the Allied invasion of France in June 1944, great numbers of German POWs were shipped to Arizona camps where they were encouraged to pick cotton for the American war effort. This work paid 50 cents per hour.

Due to the nature of the warfare, the number of U-boat personnel was a very small percentage of the POW population. The U.S. Navy captured 558 survivors from 33 U-boats sunk or captured during the period 1942-44. The majority of these men were part of 1700 German POWs held at Papago Park. Located in the eastern part of Phoenix, this camp consisted of five compounds, four for enlisted men and one for officers. Called "Schlaraffenland" (Land of milk and honey) by its inmates, who were not required to work or study. However, many of the enlisted men chose to work to combat boredom. Guard details brought POWs to downtown Phoenix for such various jobs as gardeners at the Biltmore Hotel and in laundries.

Fig. 1) Form letter sheet from a German POW in Camp Florence, Arizona to his family in Nuremberg has instructions printed in English, German, Italian and Japanese.

Frau
 Irmgard Weinlein
 Angerstr. 3
 NURNBERG/Germany

DO NOT WRITE HERE!
 NICHT HIER SCHREIBEN!
 NON SCRIVETE QUI!
 書 勿 々
 German, A

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES, OR YOU WILL BE PENALIZED
DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES, OR YOU WILL BE PENALIZED
DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES, OR YOU WILL BE PENALIZED

MY ADDRESS IS: Wachtm. Martin Weinlein
 MEINE ADRESSE IST WIE FOLGT: T.S.M. 4.W.G.-12476-Comp. 24
 IL MIO INDIRIZZO E: P.O.W. Camps Florence, Arizona, U.S.A.
 叔へ書信: C/O. G.P.O. Box 20, NEWYORK, N.Y. U.S.A.

W. D., P. M. G. Form No. 4
 JUN 11, 1943
 16-53155-2 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943

The most dramatic event in Papago Park was a daring escape before Christmas in 1944. The escape plan was conceived by U-boat crewmen housed in Compound 1A and 1B. The site that was selected for a tunnel was a blind spot between guard towers located 3-1/2 feet from a bath house. A coal bin was positioned to conceal the shaft. The U-boat crewmen would walk into the bath house, then exit and slip down into the tunnel's six foot entrance shaft. Three groups of three men worked 90 minute shifts, one digging with a coal shovel and pick, the second lifting dirt into a bucket and a third top side, who also served as the lookout. As the amount of dirt excavated began to pile up at a steady rate, a means for getting rid of it had to be found. The former commander of U-595, came up with the idea of a "faustball" (volley ball) court on rough ground that would need to be leveled. After receiving permission to build this out door court, the excavated dirt was spread on a daily basis, using rakes borrowed from the guards.

Over a period of four months, escapees dug a tunnel 176 feet long, three feet high and half as wide. The tunnel ran from the bath house to an exit hole in the Cross Creek Canal. The escape began at 9:00 P.M. on Dec. 23 and by 2:30 A.M. the band of 25 men had exited the tunnel and into the Cross Creek Canal. The plan was to escape to Mexico in a home made raft and floating down the Salt River to the Gila River, then down the Colorado River to the Gulf of California. It looked like a sound plan while using local maps that showed rivers as blue lines, but when they found the Salt River, it was not flowing at the time of their escape and what they found instead was a dry arroyo. So, the band of split up and tried to make it out on foot. By early morning the base commander started getting calls from residents and police in Tempe and Phoenix complaining about Germans knocking at their doors asking to be returned to Papago Park. It was a cold evening and some POWs missed the warm beds and blankets. On January 1, 1945, two POWs were captured less than 30 miles from the Mexican border. A few escapees managed to get as far as Gila Bend and their leader, Captain Wattenberg, managed to hide out for 32 days, staying in a cave near Camelback Mountain before being arrested in a hotel lobby in downtown Phoenix. Thus ended the greatest escape from a POW Camp on American soil. All of the POW camps in Arizona were closed in March 1946.

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

Name of Camp	County	Main Camp	Name of Camp	County	Main Camp
Bouse, Camp	La Paz	CAMA	Litchfield Park	Maricopa	Pima
Buckeye	Maricopa	Pima	Luke (Frank) Field	Maricopa	Florence
Casa Grande	Pinal	Florence	Maricopa	Pinal	Florence
Continental	Pima	Pima	McCowell Road	Maricopa	Florence
Contaro	Pima	Florence	Mesa	Maricopa	Pima
Logan, Camp	Cache	-----	Mt. Graham	Graham	Florence
Cotton Center	Maricopa	Panago Park	Navajo Ordnance	Coconino	----
Davis-Monthan	Pima	-----	Papago Park	Maricopa	----
Duncan	Graham	Pima	Phoenix	Maricopa	Haan, CA
Eleven Mile Corner	Pinal	Florence	Pima POW Camp	Maricopa	----
Eloy	Pinal	Pima	Queens Creek	Maricopa	Pima
Fennemore	Maricopa	Pima	Roll	Yuma	Pima
Florence, Camp	Pinal	----	Safford	Graham	Florence
Horn, Camp	Yuma	CAMA	Tolleson	Maricopa	Pima
Hyder, Camp	Yuma	CAMA	Yuma	Yuma	----
Imperial Dam	Yuma	----	Yuma Hospital	Yuma	CAMA

German POWs who died in captivity were buried at the Camp Florence, then transferred to Fort Bliss National Cemetery, Texas in June 1946.

CAMA was the California-Arizona Maneuver Area which included Yuma, La Paz, Maricopa and Mohave Counties in Arizona.

Channel Islands:

Censored Inter- island Civilian Mail

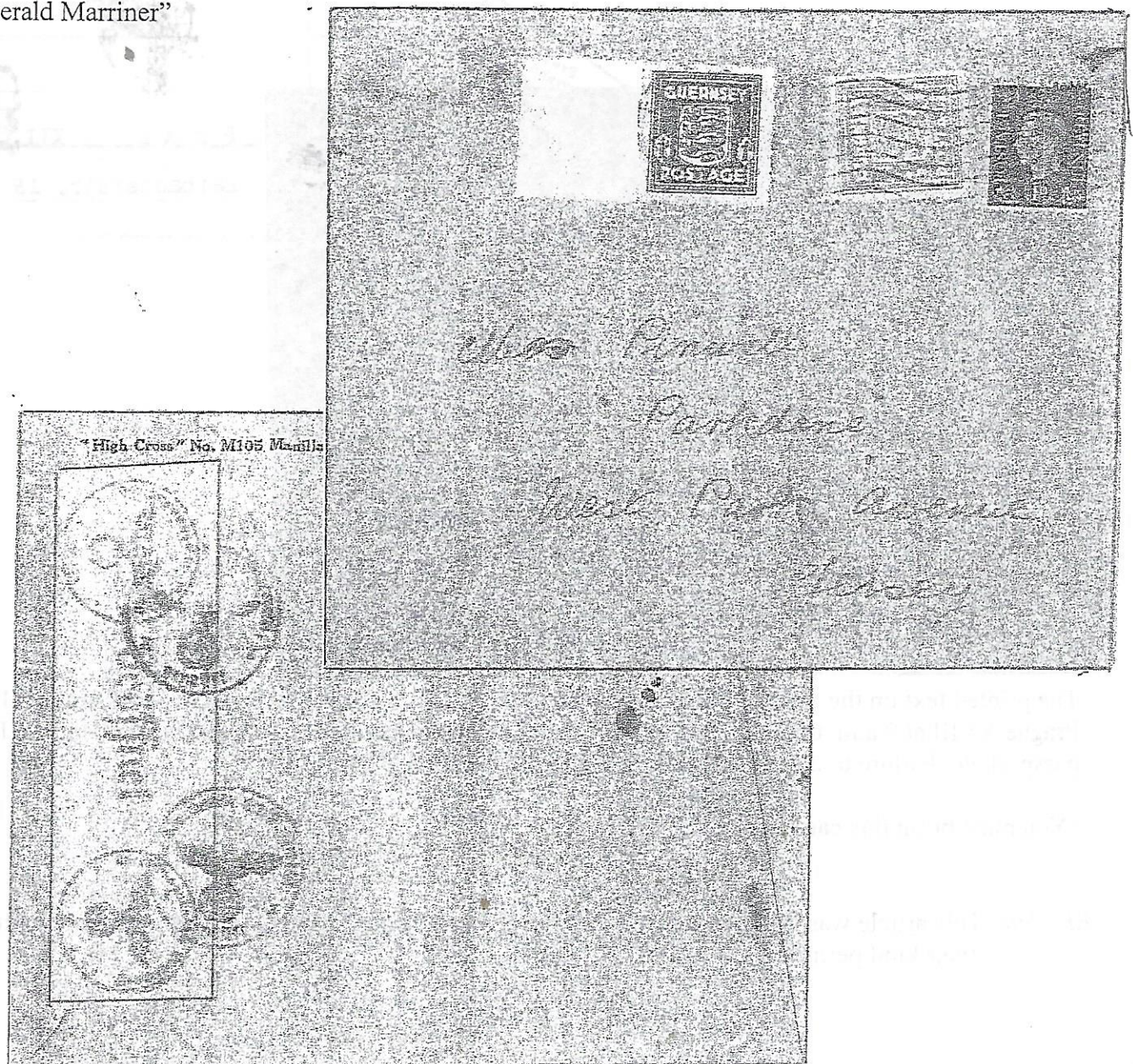
by Bruce Fisher

There has been speculation about the existence of censored civilian Channel Islands inter-island mails. In his *Stamps and Postal History of the Channel Islands*, William Newport noted that mail sent between Guernsey and Jersey was seldom censored, "but on one occasion they were taken from Guernsey to Paris for examination and then sent on to Jersey." I was fortunate to acquire the cover shown below. About two years ago, I contacted the Civil Censorship Study Group among other study groups to see if anyone had similar covers. My scans of this cover were forwarded to the Channel Islands Specialists' Society and eventually I received the following response:

"Graham Mark has e-mailed the scans of your super Channel Islands German Occupation cover sent from Guernsey to Jersey. Generally, mail posted between Guernsey and Jersey was not censored. This cover was censored in Paris. I can record less than ten examples of censored inter-island mail. So you are very lucky. You have a very scarce cover.

Kind regards

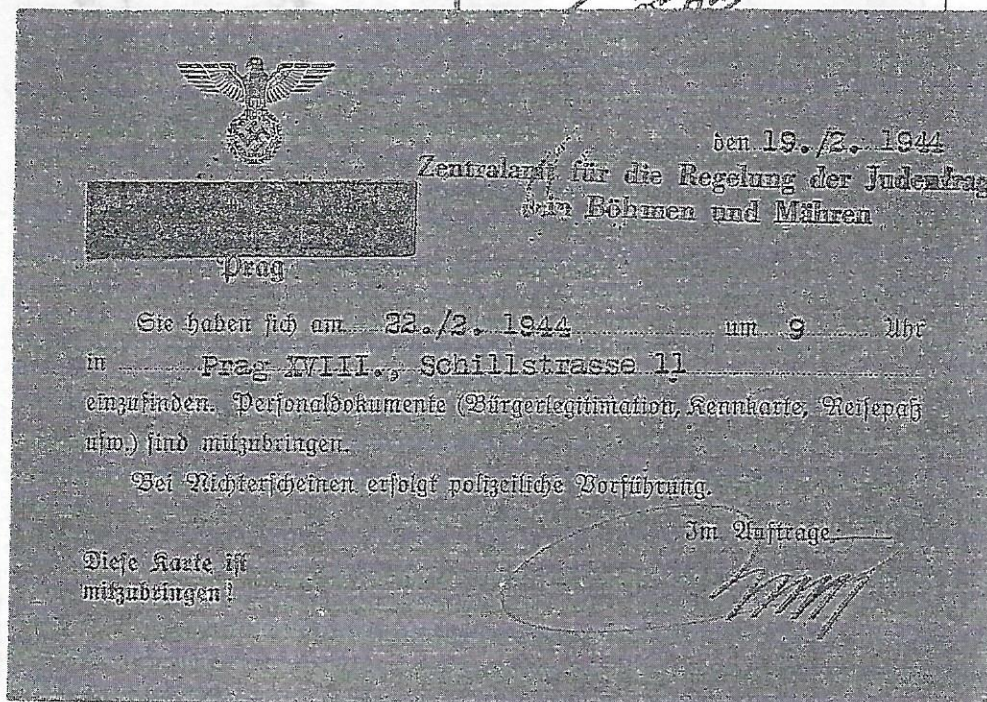
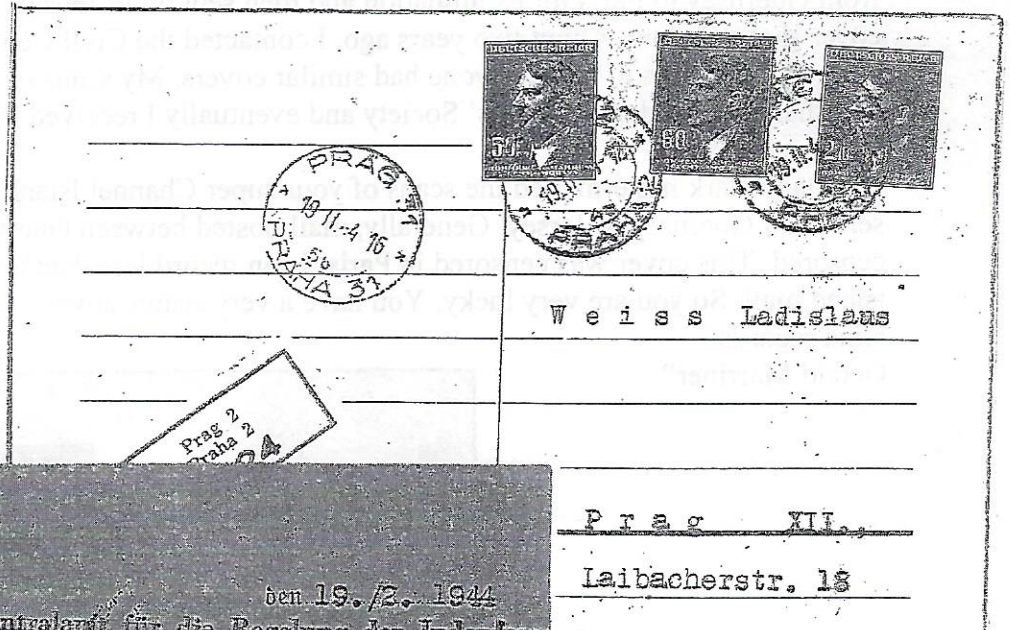
Gerald Marriner"



The Jewish Question - A Final Card

by Tony Quinn

This official registered postcard arrived on or about February 20, 1944 in the mailbox of one Ladislau Weiss, a Jew living Prague. It came from the Central Office for the Regulation of the Jewish Question in Bohemia-Moravia and clearly shows how even the Post Office could be used to further the 'Final Solution'. By 1944 'Operation Reinhard' was in its latter stages in the former Czechoslovakia and most of the area's Jews were being deported to the extermination camps in eastern Poland..



The printed text on the back of the card (shown above) reads "You must report to Schillstrasse 11 in Prague XVIII at 9 a.m. on 22.2.1944 bringing your personal documents, (citizenship credentials, I.D., passport etc. Failure to attend will lead to police intervention."

"You must bring this card with you."

By Order
(Signature)

ED Note: This article was first published in the News Sheet of the TRSG (U.K.), appears here with their kind permission.

Scarce Covers from Oslo Censorship Office

by Myron Fox

The purpose of this article is to provide examples of mail censored at the Oslo Office (Code 'o') which display some of the scarcer markings including a provisional hand stamp used in 1940.

Fig. 1) Provisional handstamp reading "Geprüft" and "Deutsche Zensur" on plain brown sealing tape used in Oslo office from July to October 1940. Ref: Reimer O-06a (Abb.449)

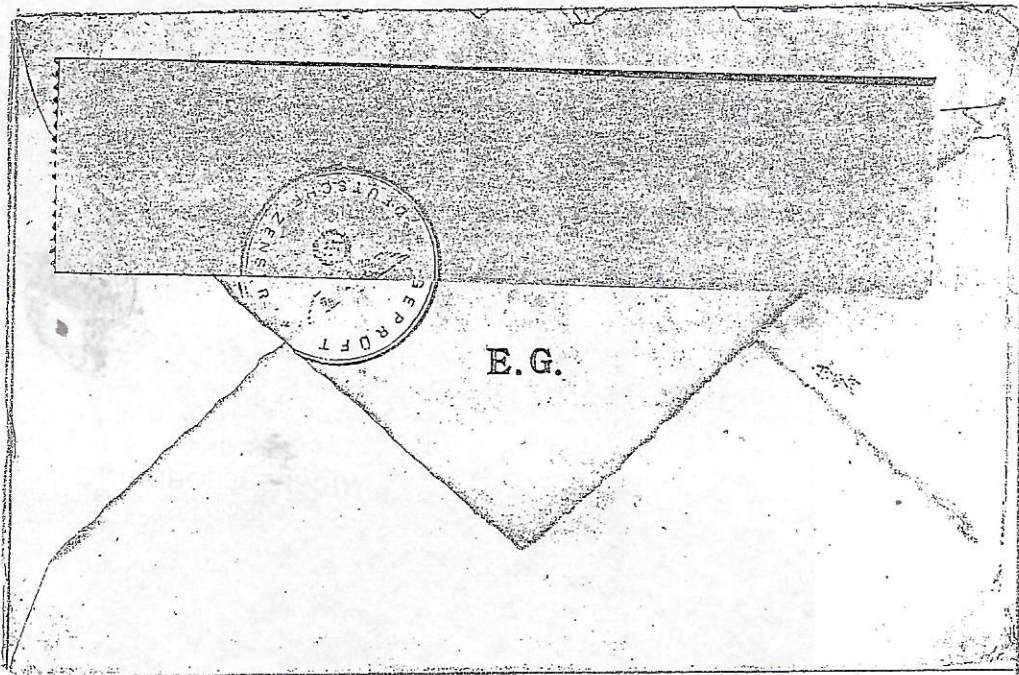


Fig. 2) Provisional handstamp in Norwegian reading "APNET VED TYSK CENSUR" (Opened by German Censor) used over brown tape from May to June 1940. (Ref: Reimer O-04 (Abb. 447) or Landesmann OP 4-1).

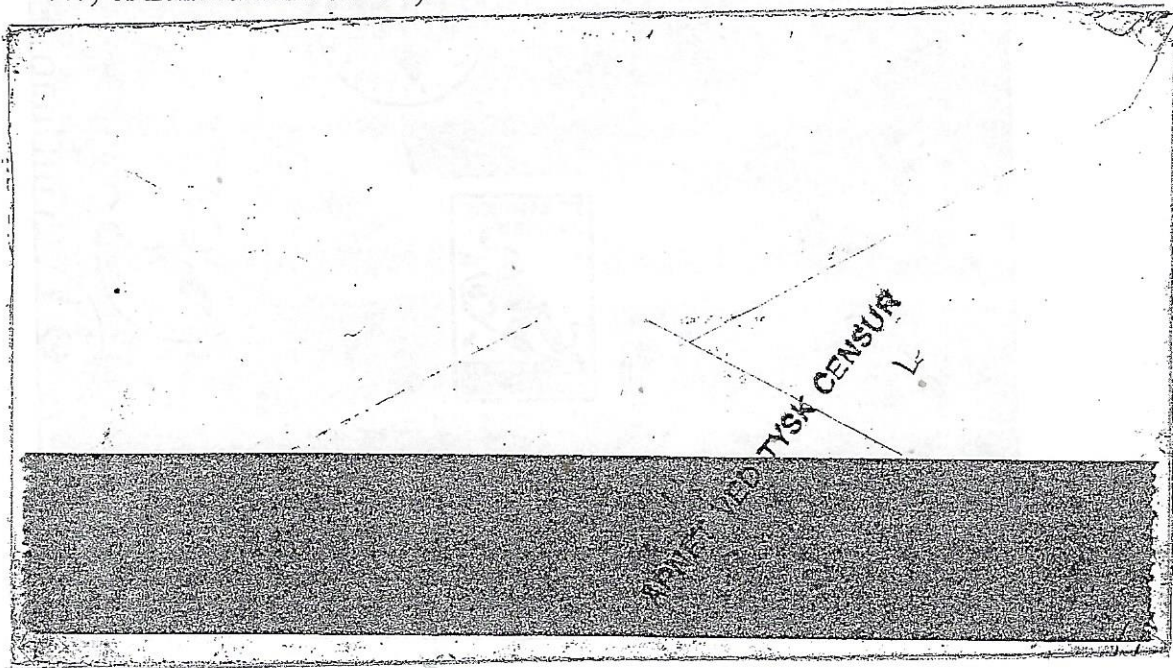


Fig. 3) Provisional transit handstamp reading "VIDEREBEFORDRING TILLAT TYSK CENSUR" (Forwarding allowed by German Censor) seldom seen. (Ref: Reimer O-05 (Abb. 448))

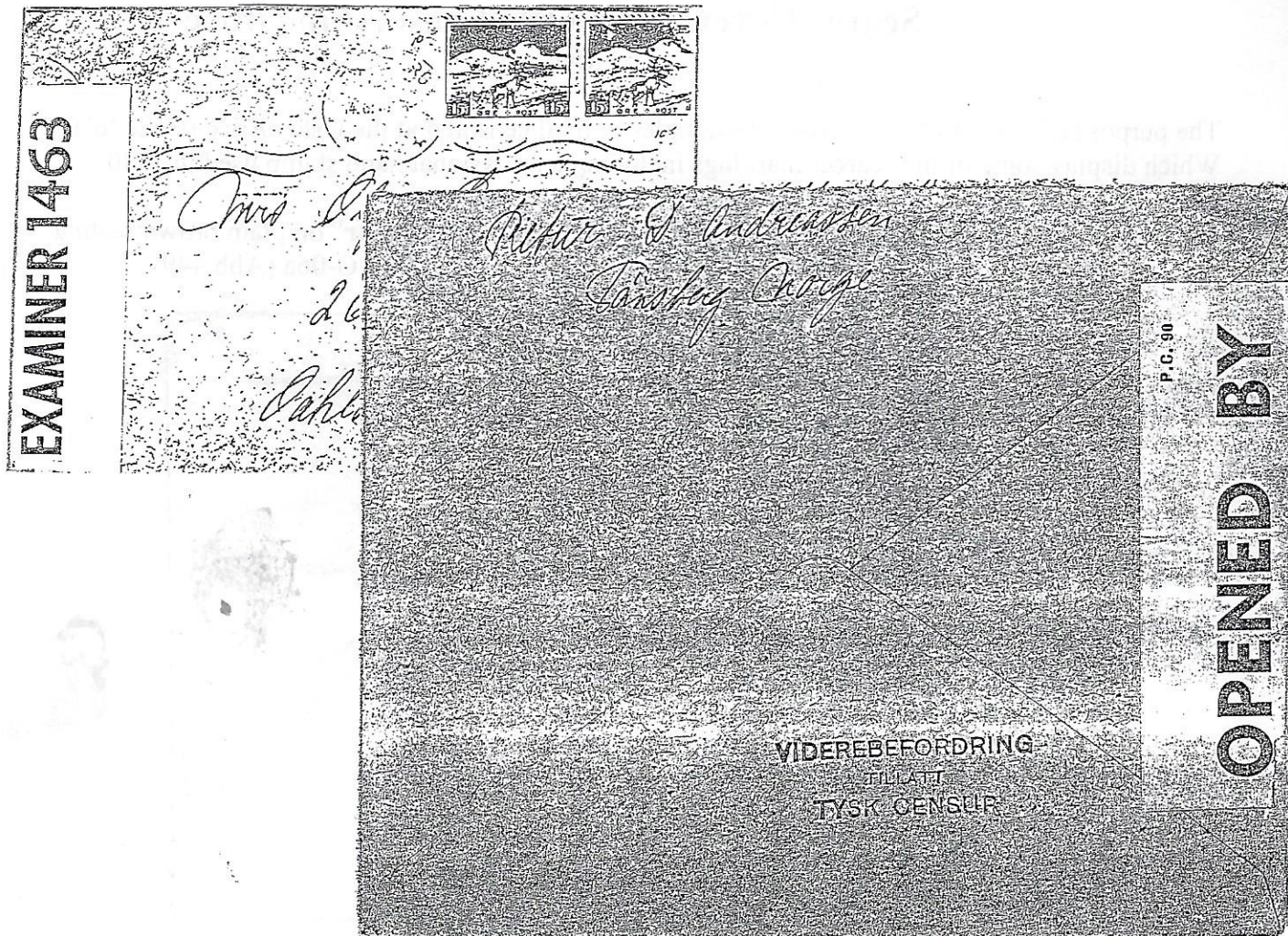


Fig. 4) Handstamp "Zensurstelle/geprüft" after transition of Censor Office from Abwehr. Used from October 1944 to April 1945. (Ref: Reimer O-4 (Abb. 455) or Landesmann OD2-5).



Fig. 5) *Unlisted return handstamp* "Retur/Senderens navn og/address mangler" (Returned/Sender's name and address missing) on letter to USA posted in the small town of Nesttun in November 1940. The return address was added by post office and the handstamp voided. Cover then went via Berlin Censor Office where it received circular "Ab" transit stamp.

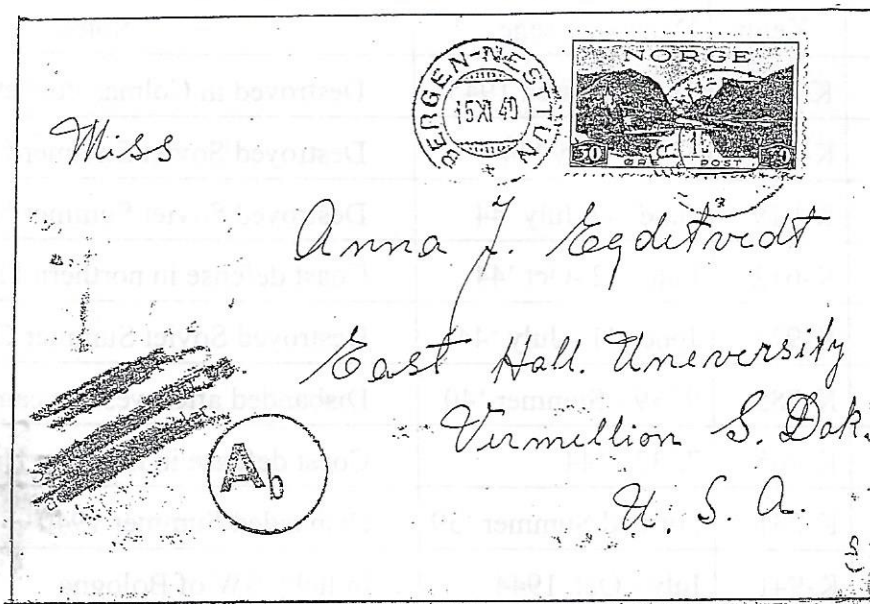
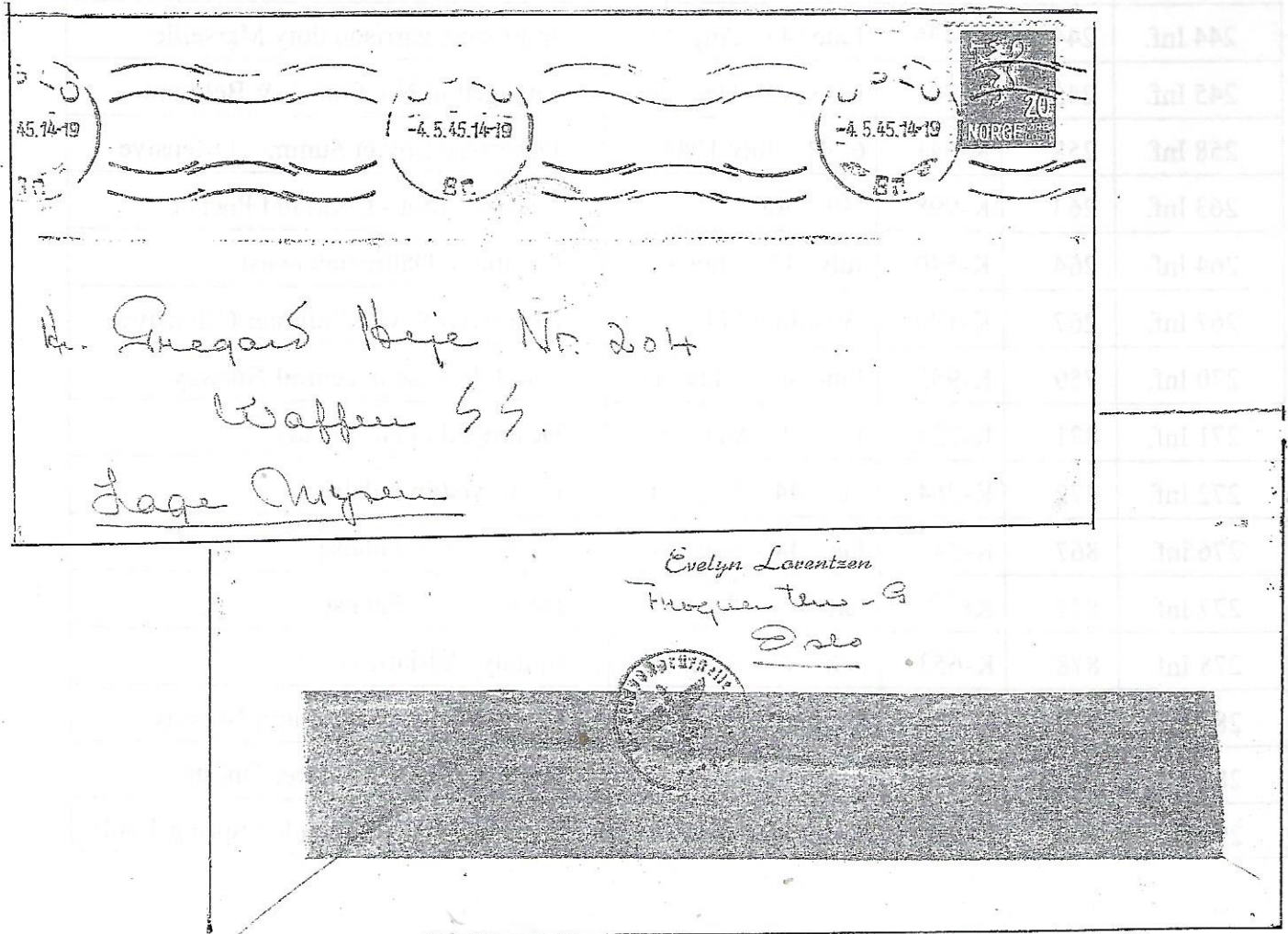


Fig. 6) Late usage - cover addressed to Waffen-SS Depot posted in Oslo on May 4, 1945 has brown censor sealing tape tied by "Zensurstelle/Geprüft" hand stamp. Ref: Reimer O-4 (Abb. 455).



“Missing” Combat Division Covers - Part 2

by Jim Lewis

Name	FpA	Kenn	Dates of Usage	Notes
198 Inf.	235	K-629	1940 - March 1945	Destroyed in Colmar Pocket
203 Sich	769	K-872	1942 - July '44	Destroyed Soviet Summer Offensive
206 Inf.	206	K-919	June '41-July .44	Destroyed Soviet Summer Offensive
210 Inf.	210	K-612	Late '42 -Oct.'44	Coast defense in northern Finland
221 Sich.	350	K-922	June '41 - July '44	Destroyed Soviet Summer Offensive
228 Inf.	228	K-785	9.'39 - Summer '40	Disbanded after western campaign
230 Inf.	702	K-765	7.'42 - '44	Coast defense in northern Norway
231 Inf.	231	K-231	Formed Summer '39	Disbanded Summer 1940
232 Inf.	232	K-941	July - Oct. 1944	In Italy, SW of Bologna
237 Inf.	237	K-450	Formed in Aug. '44	In Italy, garrison duty Trieste-Pola
242 Inf.	242	K-762	July '43 - Aug. '44	In France, garrison duty Toulon
244 Inf.	244	K-475	Late '43 - Aug. '44	In France, garrison duty Marseille
245 Inf.	245	K-701	Late '43 - Dec. '44	Engaged in No. France & Belgium
258 Inf.	258	K-641	6.'41 - July 1944	Destroyed Soviet Summer Offensive
263 Inf.	263	K-998	'39 - '45	Eastern Front - Courland Pocket
264 Inf.	264	K-540	July '43 - May '45	Croatia & Dalmatian coast
267 Inf.	267	K-190	'39 - July '44	Destroyed Soviet Summer Offensive
270 Inf.	759	K-955	June '42 - May '45	Coast defense in central Norway
271 Inf.	871	K-727	Jan.'44 - Aug. '44	Destroyed in Normandy
272 Inf.	272	K-264	Jan. '44 - Aug '44	Destroyed in Falaise
276 inf.	867	K-341	Jan. '44 - Aug '44	Destroyed in Falaise
277 Inf.	877	K877	Jan. '44 - Aug '44	Destroyed in Falaise
278 Inf.	878	K-653	Feb. '44 - April '45	In Italy, Adriatic coast
280 Inf.	880	K-735	Formed Summer '42	Coast defense in southern Norway
282 Inf.	282	K-494	April.'43 - Aug. '44	Destroyed west of lower Dnestr
298 Inf.	298	K-250	April.'40 - May '44	Eastern Front - disbanded Spring 1944'

NAVY LOG

by Phil Miller

U-Boat 605 - Feldpost # 28117



U-boat Type VIIC was built by Blohm & Voss (Hamburg) and launched November 27, 1941.

Displacement: 796/871 *tons

Dimensions: 218.25 x 20.25 x 15.5 feet.

Speed: 17/7.5* knots

Armaments: one 3.5 in., one 37mm A.A., two 20mm A.A.guns. Five 21 in (4 bow, 1 stern) torpedo tubes, 14 torpedoes or 39 mines.

Crew: 46

(*) Surface/submerged

History: Sunk three ships with a total tonnage of 8,409 GRT.

Fate: Depth charged by Royal Navy corvettes *Lotus* and *Poppy* off Algiers on November 13 1942.

Feldpost cover sent April 20, 1942 from Leutnant z. See Teube to his family in Berlin-Schöneberg has both line stamp and Briefstempel with Feldpost # M28117.

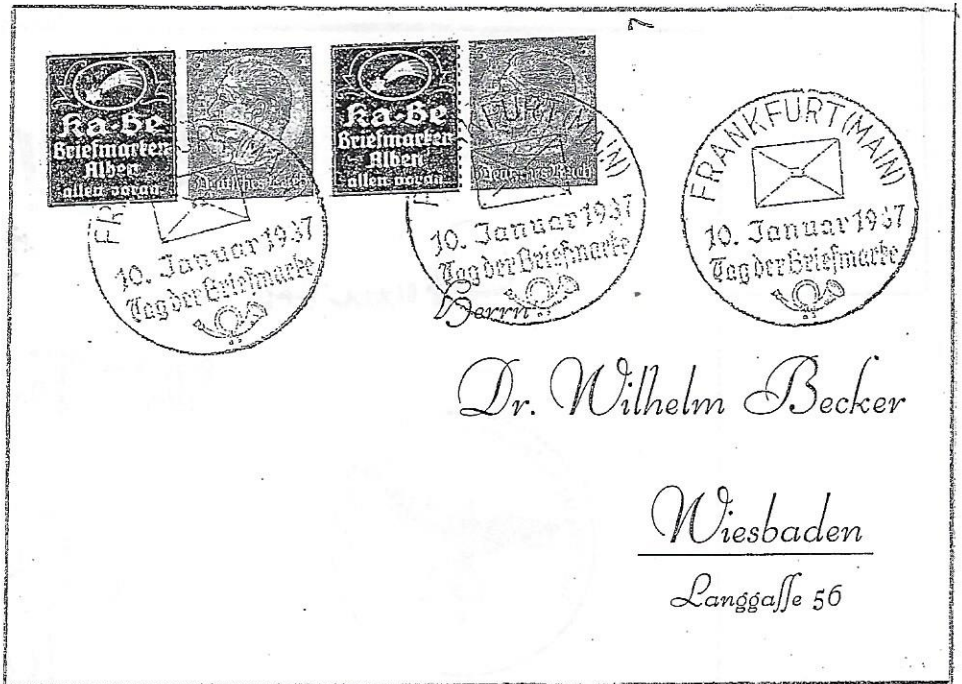
Ka-Be Se-tenants on Cover

by Jim Lewis

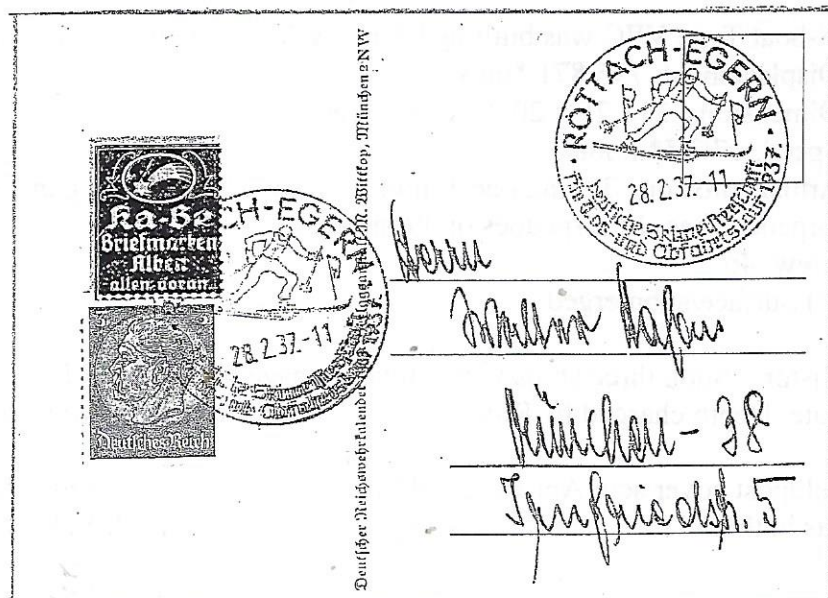
To promote the upcoming "Tag der Briefmarke" on Jan. 10, 1937, the Ka-Be Stamp Album Company purchased 3,000 sheets of 3 Pfg. definitive stamps that they overprinted in a checker board pattern to coat every other stamp with a white base coat. The upper sheet half had "Ka-Be Stamp Albums leads the rest" printed in black on the white bases while the bottom half had "Day of the Stamp 10.1.1937" the same way.

The Reichspost was not pleased with this private overprint but current regulations regarding advertising and postage stamps covered only blank spaces in booklets and sheet margins. Revised regulations were quickly issued to close this loop hole and the overprinted stamps were declared to have no postal value, although the adjacent stamps were valid. These stamps with adjoining labels were in use for only a short time but smart Zusammendruck collectors recognized that the sheet yielded ten different vertical and eight different horizontal se-tenant combinations. Shown below are two covers with vertical and horizontal se-tenants from the top half of the Ka-Be sheet.

1.) Post card to Wiesbaden has strip of horizontal Ka-Be stamps tied with special Frankfurt/M cancel for Day of the Stamp on January 10, 1937.



2.) Photo card to Munich has vertical pair tied by Rottach - Egerm special cancel for cross country ski event dated February 28, 1937.



Story Behind the Cancel:

State Visit of Prince Regent Paul of Yugoslavia

by Kelly Stefanacci

Paul Karageogevich, born in 1893, was the only son of Prince Arsen, who was the brother of King Peter. Paul graduated from the University of Oxford in 1913 and had many friends in the British royal family. In 1923, he married Princess Olga of Greece in Belgrade. His best man was the Duke of York, later King George VI. On October 9, 1934, Prince Paul took the regency after his cousin Alexander I was assassinated in Marseilles, France.

In June 1939, as acting head of state, Prince Paul accepted an official invitation from Adolf Hitler. When they arrived in Germany by train, Hitler, Göring and von Ribbentrop met the royal couple at Lehrter station to begin their state visit.

Fig. 1) Hitler charms Prince Paul and Princess Olga at Bellevue Castle during their visit

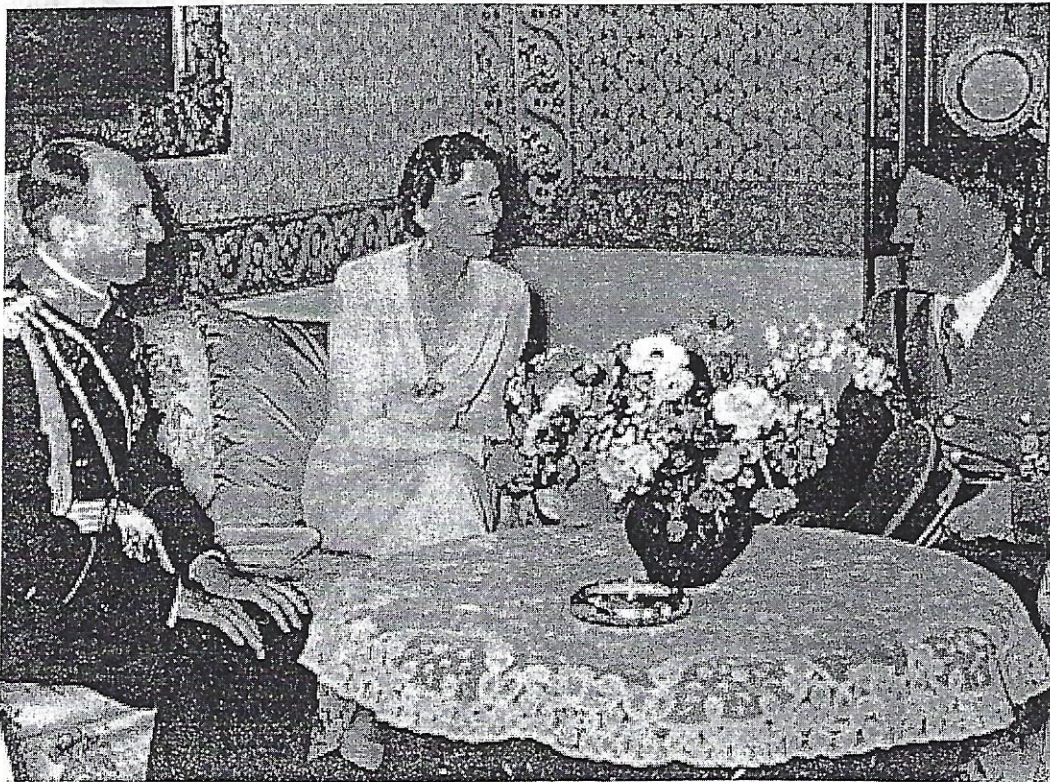


Fig. 2) Special Berlin cancel with Yugoslavian coat of arms flanked by swastikas used from June 1 to 3, 1939. Text reads "Staatsbesuch des Prinzregenten Paul von Jugosalavien". (State visit of Prince Regent Paul of Yugoslavia).



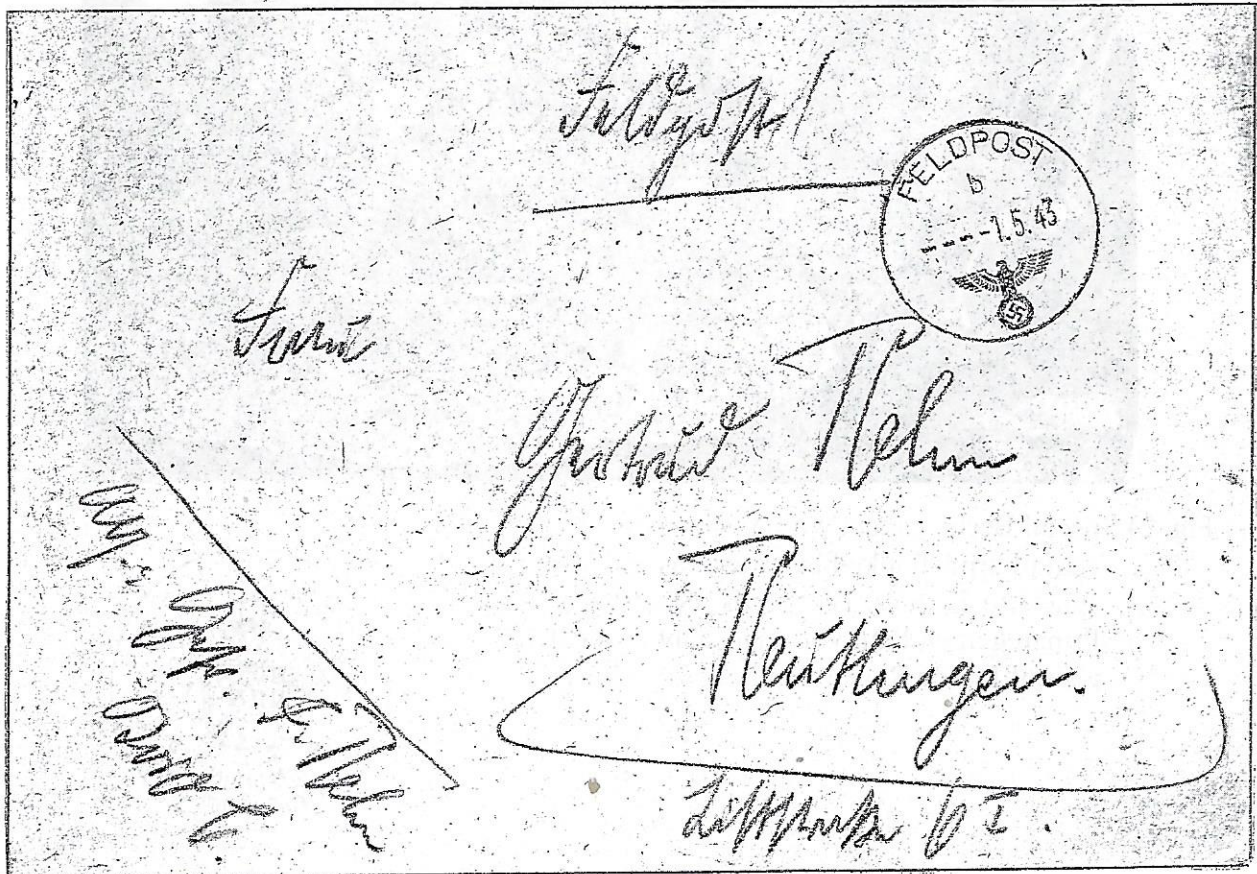
The Lost Legions: Caucasian-Mohammedan Legion by Phil Miller

Under the banner of the Crescent and the Swastika, Soviet Muslims became holy warriors to liberate their lands. Many Soviet Muslims hated their dominance by Russians. This resentment did not escape the attention of their German captors. When many Muslim Soviet POWs asked to join the victorious Wehrmacht against their rulers, the OKW created two Muslim formations in December 1941. The Turkestanisch Legion contained volunteers from Central Asia and the Kaukasisch-Mohammedan Legion was a volunteer unit composed of Azerbaijanis, Daghestans, Chechens, Ingushes and Lezghins.

These Soviet Muslims performance in the front lines differed from one front to another. On the Western Front, Soviet Muslims showed no eagerness to fight the Western Allies. By contrast, they showed tenacious fighting ability on the Eastern Front. As an example, three Soviet Muslim battalions fought to the last man at Stalingrad. Throughout the war, Islamic units were employed as auxiliary troops of the Waffen-SS, particularly to assist the Germans in partisan fighting behind the Eastern front and later in Italy and the Balkans.

Following Germany's surrender in 1945, Soviet muslim collaborators were returned to the Soviet Union. Many of them were executed while others disappeared into the Gulag.

This cover posted on May 1, 1943 has the sender's name and return address Fp# 02010. in lower left corner. This was the coded Feldpost address of "Stab/Kaukasisch-mohamed. Legion".



The German Annexation of Northern Slovenia

by Jim Lewis

Following the surrender of Yugoslavia on April 17, 1941, the Axis powers proceeded to divide up the remains. Slovenia, with a population of approximately two million, was divided between Italy and Germany in accordance with an agreement signed in Berlin on July 8, 1941. Hungary was also given a few small towns and villages with less than 100,000 inhabitants. Under the terms of the agreement, Germany annexed northern Slovenia, which had been part of Austria prior to World War I.

Immediately after the occupation, German was proclaimed as the only official language. All Slovene signs on offices and principle buildings were removed and replaced with German signs. The names and surnames of the population were permitted to be used only in the German form, both in speech and writing. A great many Slovenes were transported to Croatia and other parts of former Yugoslavia to make room for German colonists recruited from the Reich and others who were being removed from Romania (Bessarabia and Dobruja), from Italy (Southern Tyrol) and from Italian-occupied Slovenia. This colonization process was called by the Germans "*Heimholung*" (bringing into the homeland), as these territories were claimed to be part of the German living space.

Germany moved promptly to incorporate northern Slovenia into the Greater Reich. Portions were attached to the provinces of *Untersteiermark*, *Karten* and *Krain* (Styria, Carinthia and Carinola). All postal service was immediately suspended and there was no civilian mail until May 2, 1941, when civilian post offices were reopened for letters and small parcels.

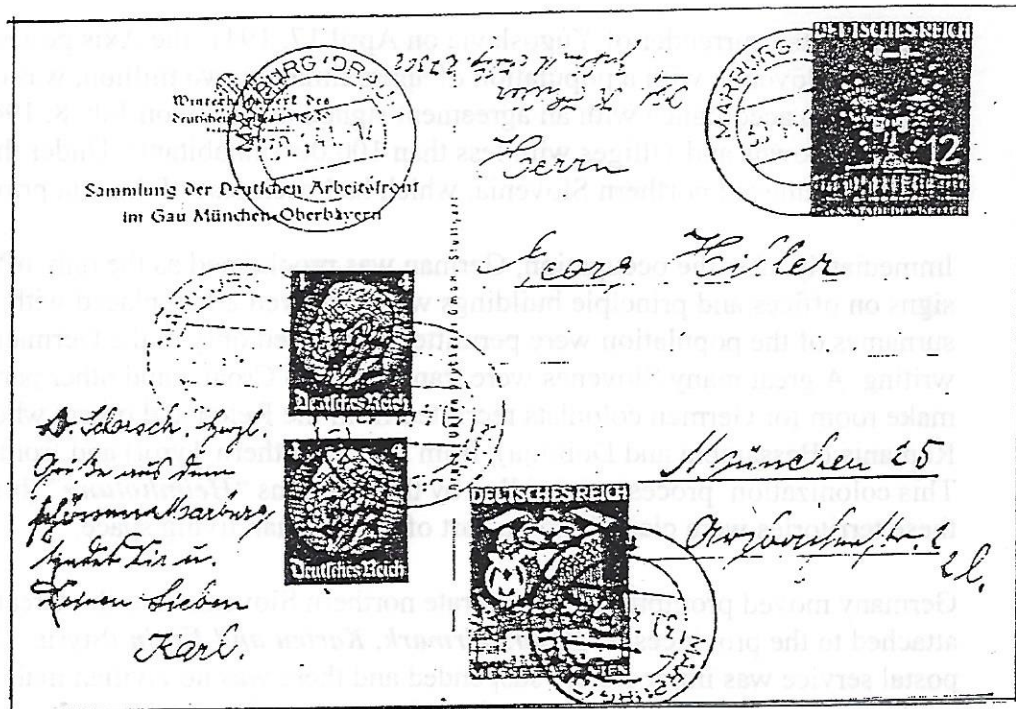
At an earlier date Germany established a "*Deutsche Dienstpost*" (official mail service) manned by German personnel from the Reichspost for the use of occupation authorities, their personnel and designated collaborators only. This official mail service had only six offices in these principle towns where occupation administration offices were located: *Marburg* (Maribor) where Dienstpost headquarters were located, *Cilli* (Celje), *Krainburg* (Kranj), *Unter Drauberg* (Dravograd) and *Pettau* (Ptuj). These offices were supplied with German style double-ring cancelling devices displaying only the town name and date. In *Marburg* the town name was followed by *Drau* and in *Rann* by *Save*, indicating that those towns were situated, respectfully, on the Drava and Sava Rivers.

When civilian post offices were reopened, only German postage stamps were valid. The Germans changed the cancelling devices to reflect the German names prior to World War I when this area had been part of Austria. Thus Kamnik became *Stein* - both words meaning stone. In some places the Yugoslav name was "Germanized" and Donzale, for example, became *Domschale*. It can be seen that a knowledge of these town names is essential for the postal historian to identify covers from the German occupation during World War II.

While most civil post offices were eventually furnished with new German style cancelling devices, most had not received them when the offices reopened. Consequently, the postmasters had to make use of a variety of provisional tools such as pen and mute cancelling devices. They also employed various rubber stamps for adding town names and dates.

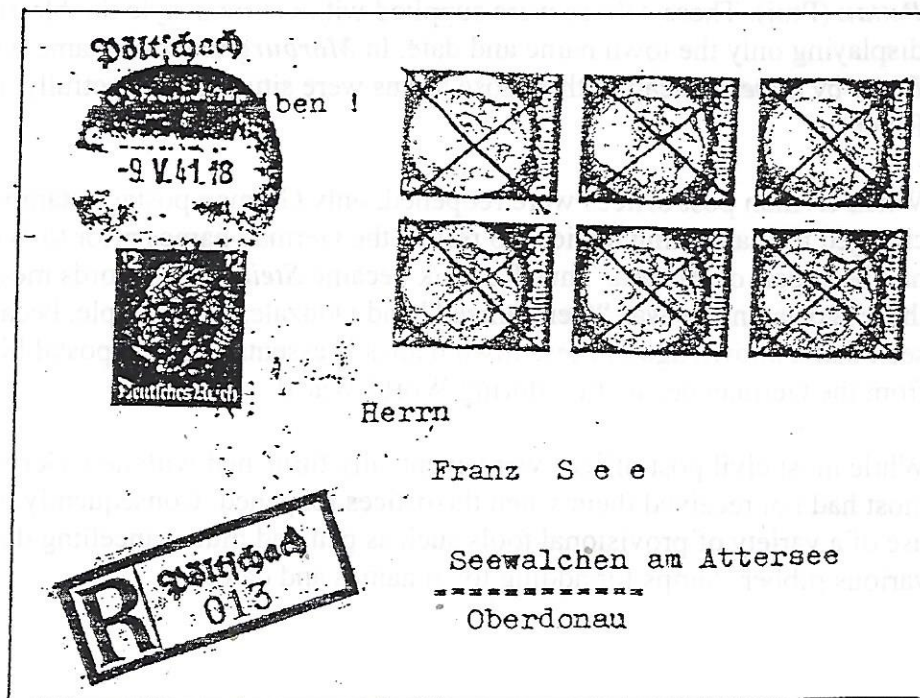
Examples of official mail (Fig. 1) are both scarce and difficult to recognize because these offices did not employ special "Durch Deutsche Dienstpost" cancelling devices as in other occupied areas.

Fig. 1) Postcard mailed from *Marburg (Drau)*, former Yugoslav town of Maribor, to Munich on April 30, 1941 has cancel used at the Dienstpost office that Germans operated there for occupation administrators.



Also fairly scarce are examples of provisional cancelling devices used for civil mail after Germans resumed civilian mails in northern Slovenia. One example (Fig. 2) is a registered letter to Austria posted on May 9, 1941. The stamps were pen cancelled, the German town name *Pöltschach* added by rubber stamp above a "mute" modified Yugoslav cancel that has had the town name Poljcane obliterated.

Fig. 2) Registered cover from *Pöltschach* - former Yugoslav town of Poljcane, to town of Oberdonau in Austria. Note that town name *Pöltschach* has also been rubber stamped onto blank field registry label

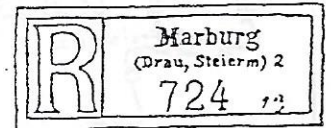
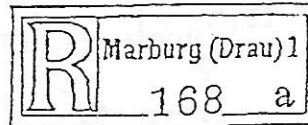


The following are examples of various postal markings used by area post offices (see map next page):

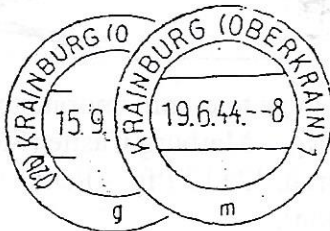
A.) MARBURG



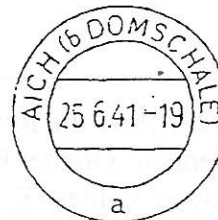
Special cancel used at military training camp outside Marburg



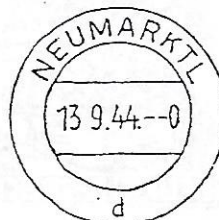
B.) KRAINBURG



C.) AICH



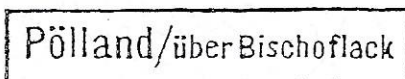
D.) DOMSCHALE



E.) NEUMARKTL



F.) PÖLLAND



G.) STEIN

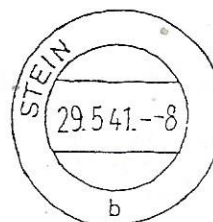
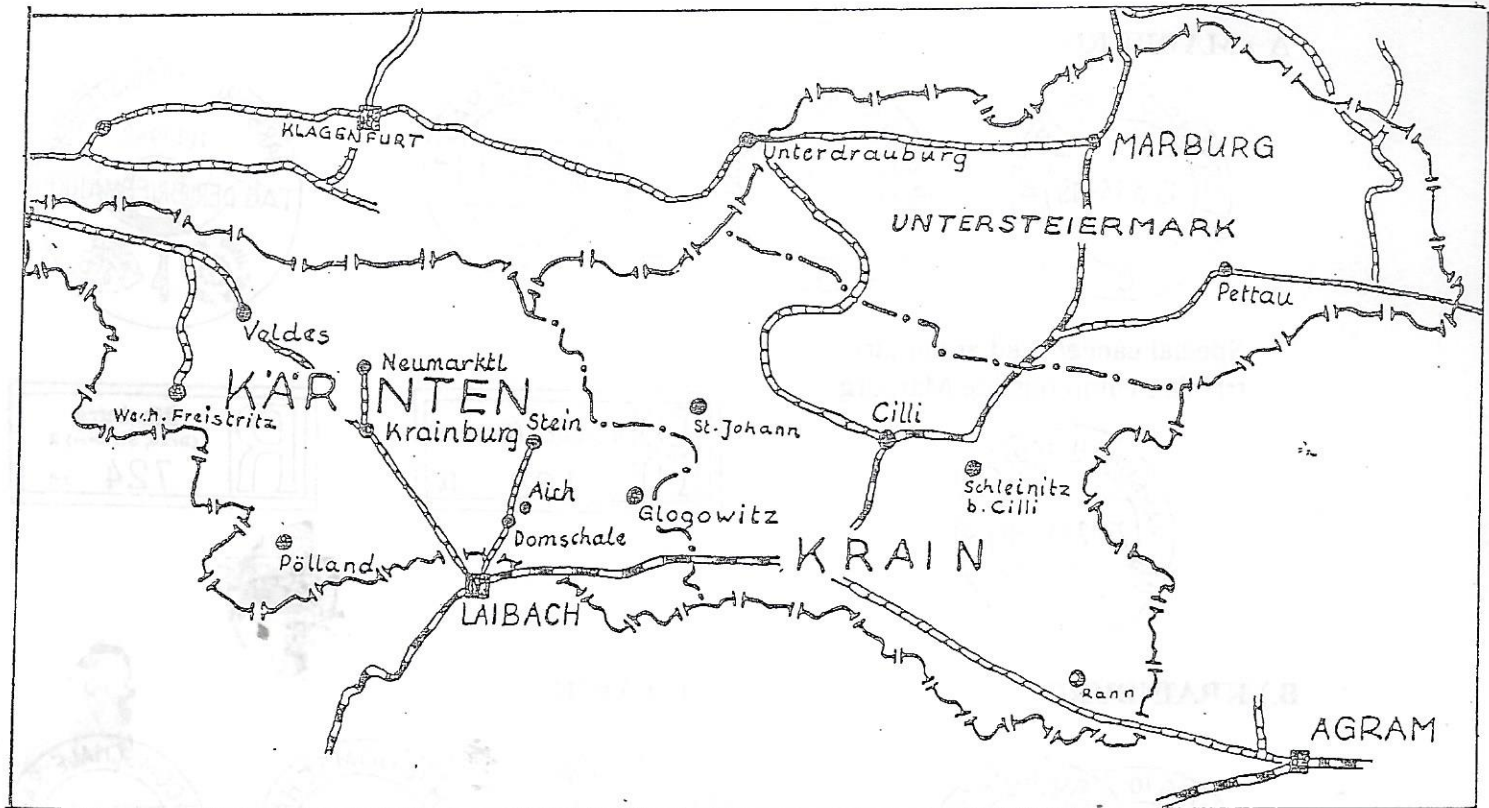


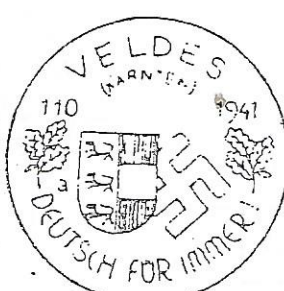
Fig. 3) A map of Northern Slovenia showing the major towns in the three districts and the transportation network linking the area to Austria (Klagenfurt) and Croatia (Agram or Zagreb).



On September 29, 1941 the Reichspost issued four semi-postal stamps to commemorate the return of Northern Slovenia to Greater Germany. The stamps depict: 3+7 Pfg. - Marburg Castle (Steiermark), 6+9 Pfg. - View of Veldes (Kärnten) with little Maria Wörth church, 12+13 Pfg. - Pettau city tower (Steiermark) and 24+15 Pfg. - View of Triglav mountains (Kärnten).



Special cancels reading "*Deutsch für Immer!*" (German Forever!) were used by post offices in the four towns depicted on the stamps for one day only on October 1, 1941. Note: Meistern is the largest town near the Triglav mountains in Kärnten.



Nine days after the first usage of these special cancels, there was a “*Erinnerungsfier*” (Remembrance Ceremony) to commemorate a plebiscite held in Carinthia on October 10, 1920 which yielded a majority vote for reunion with Austria. The results of this vote was protested by Yugoslavia and was later nullified by the Armistice Commission.

Fig. 4) The NSDAP District Propaganda Office in Klagenfurt sponsored a color postcard printed by N.S. Gauverlag Tirol-Volarlberg depicting patriots with an Austrian banner and text “*Kärntner! Dein Ehrentag 10. Oktober*” (Citizens of Carinthia, October 10 is your day of honor!)



The address side has Mi.806-9 stamps tied by the special Gutenstein cancel used on October 10, 1941 to commemorate the Remembrance ceremony. This registered card was sent to Völkmarkt, where a receiving postmark was applied on the next day.



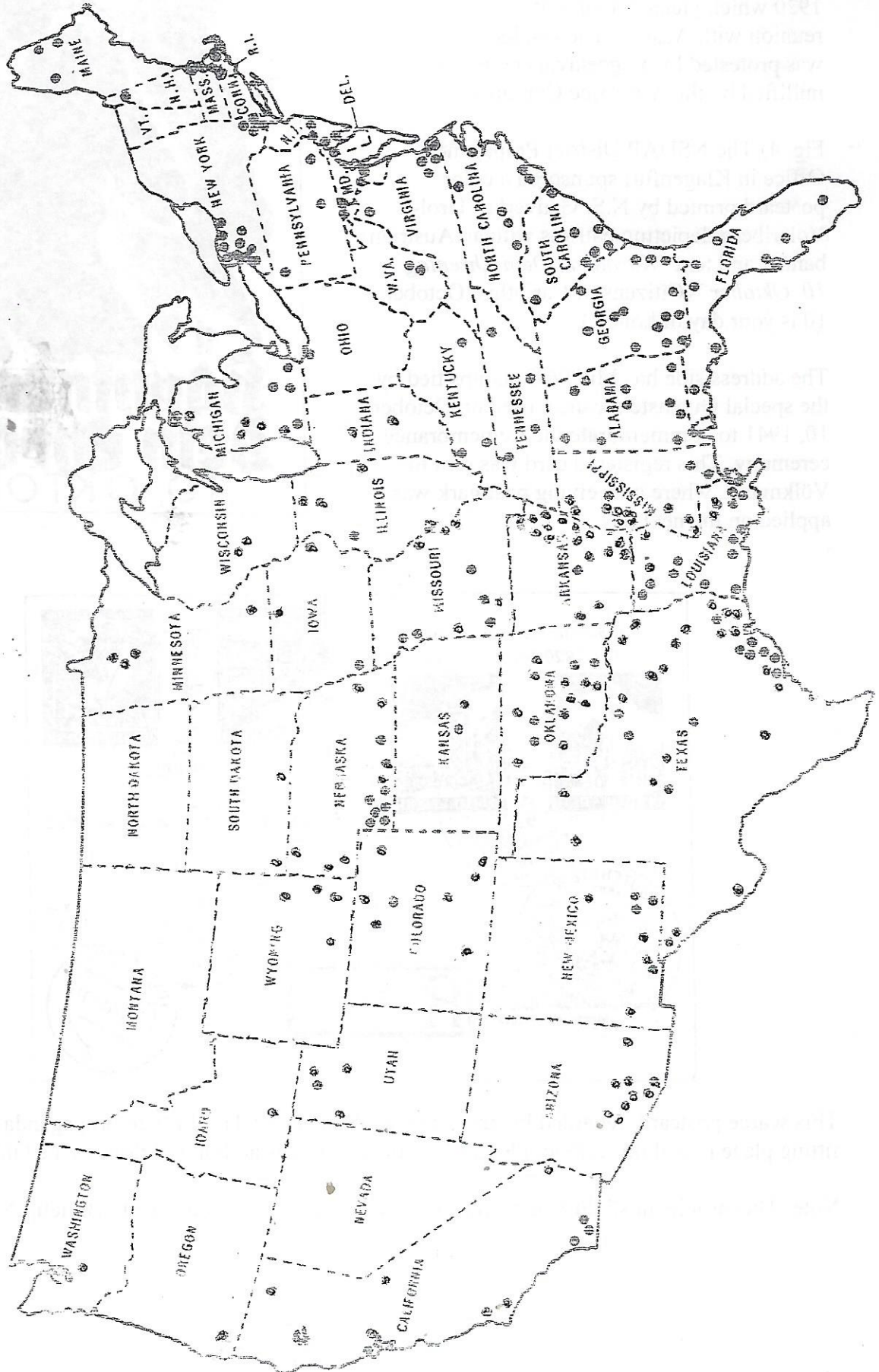
This scarce postcard, regarded by many as one of the nicest Third Reich propaganda cards, is a fitting place to end this article. Please send any comments and/or additions to Ye Olde Ed.

Note: This article, in slightly different form, originally appeared in TRSG Bulletin N0. 123 in 1997.

TRSG Map: Location of POW Camps in the U.S.A.

by Ron Morgan

This map shows the distribution of major POW camps in the USA as of June 1944.



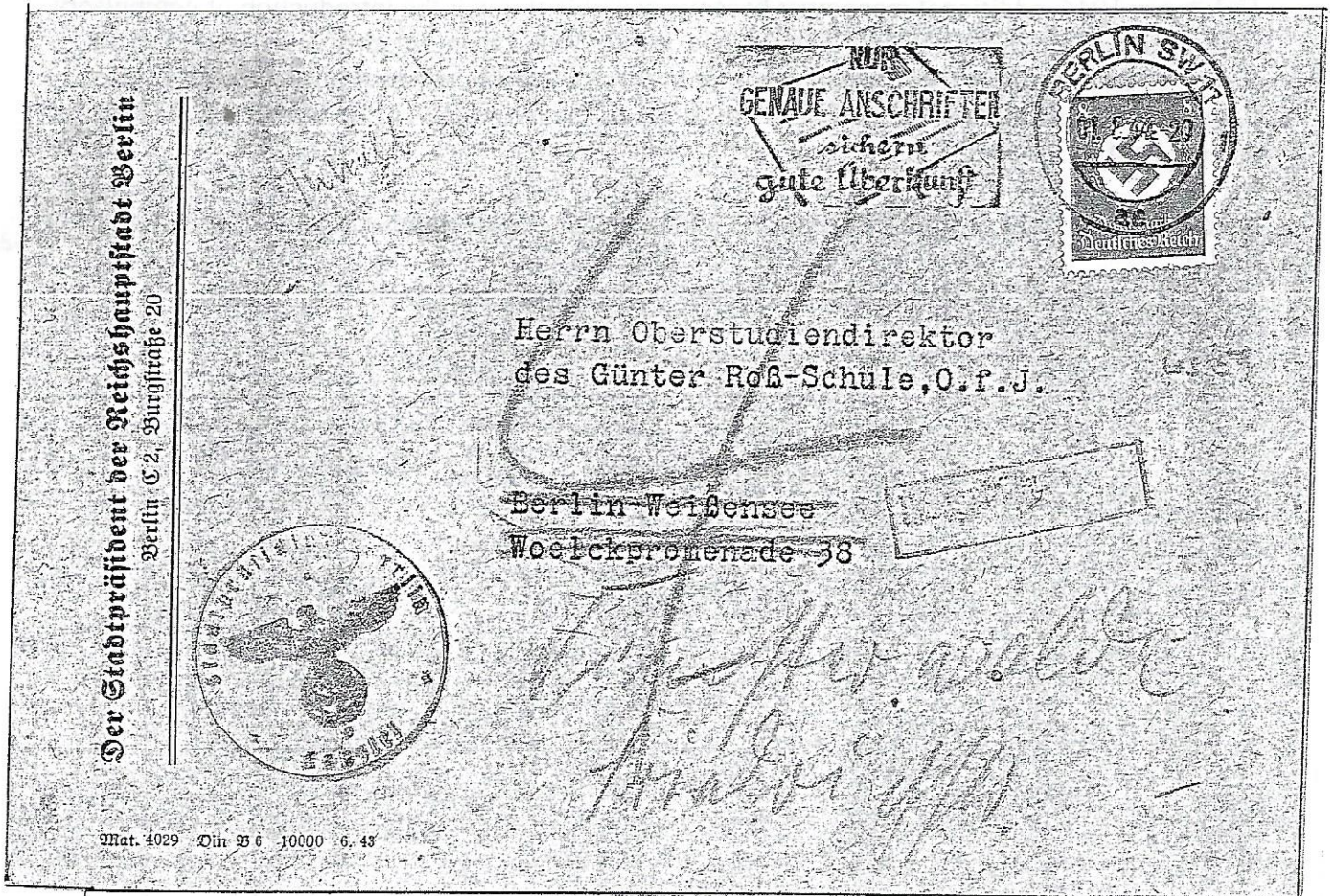
Official Mail Corner:

No Penalty on Postage Due

by Kelly Stefanacci

Letter sent on August 1, 1944 from the office of the City President of Berlin to the Director of the Günter Ross School in Weissensee, a suburb of Berlin. While this school's location entitled the sender to the 8 Rpf. local rate, the postal clerk crossed out the original address and added the school's new location in Finsterwalde, outside Berlin, a move that had been caused by air raids.

The clerk added a boxed "Nachgebühr" hand stamp and manuscript "4" to denote an extra 4 Rpf. postage due. He could have assessed the extra 50% penalty and charged them 6 Rpf. but had apparently taken into consideration the fact that the school had been bombed out.



Waffen -SS Feldpost

20. Waffen-Grenadier Division der SS

by John Painter

This cover addressed to a relative in Estonia was sent in June 1944 by an SS Trooper named Veskisaar. His return address, Feldpost # 48775 appearing in the Dienstsiegel, is the coded address of 1. Kompanie/ Pionier Bataillon 20 of the 20. Waffen-Grenadier Division der SS (estnische Nr. 1).

This division began with 700 Estonian SS volunteers who were formed as a national legion late in 1942. Even before their training had been completed, the Estonian Legion was reinforced by a portion of the 1st SS Infantry Brigade and re-designated as the 3rd Estonian Volunteer Brigade in May 1943. Upon completion of training the Estonian SS Volunteer Brigade became part of Army Group North's reserves.

In January 1944, additional manpower became available through the introduction of compulsory military service in the "Ostland". The brigade was upgraded to an infantry division during the Spring of 1944. In June the division was sent to eastern Estonia where it joined III. SS-Panzer Korps which was holding the vital northern sector of the Narva River line between Lake Peipus and the Gulf of Finland.

Note that to the right of the Dienstsiegel is a red circular censor stamp of the SS Haupt Amt in Berlin.

