



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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DIRECTOR: Myron Fox, P.O. Box 283, Needham Heights, MA 02194

BULLETIN STAFF:

EDITOR/AUCTION MGR.: James E. Lewis, 111 Montross Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Robert Dunn, 3318 Running Cedar Way, Williamsburg, VA 23188

BACK ISSUES MGR.: Robert Dunn

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STUDY GROUP NOTES

Approval of Third Reich Stamp Designs – in response to the inquiry in Bulletin 159, while it's often assumed that the propaganda ministry had a major influence on the issuance of stamps and commemorative cancellations between 1933 and 1945, that does not seem to be the case. The ministry made suggestions occasionally, but the final decision remained with the Reichspost. During the early years of the Third Reich, when Hitler still conducted cabinet meetings, the issuance of new stamps was only announced to its members after the fact. Hitler's proposal for a stamp to commemorate the first anniversary of his assumption of chancellorship was rejected. Instead, the 1934 airmail stamps were issued in part to mark the event. Suggestions from Goebbles were likewise sometimes rejected and sometimes implemented, at least in part. The stamp program became more Nazified from 1937 onward during Dr. Wilhelm Ohnesorge's years at Minister of Posts and Telecommunications. Also, as Hitler's picture began to appear on stamps, the dictator was consulted. Whether the administrative council (the Verwaltungsrat) of the Reichspost had a part is not clear from existing documents.

Submitted by Ben Beede.

References:

Stefan Martens. **Post und Propaganda: Das Dritte Reich und die Briefmarken der Deutschen Reichspost 1933-1945**, pp. 321-337 in *Deutsche Postgeschichte: Essays und Bilder*

Edited by Wolfgang Lotz. Berlin. Nicolai. 1989.

Wolfgang Lotz. **Die Deutsche Reichspost 1933-1939**. Berlin. Nicolai. 1999. See pages 147-151.

Übungspost Transition – postcard sent from Gmunden to Übungspost 131861, PLST Stettin on 28.8.'39 has 'Return, await new address' cachet. The red crayon "31/8" tells us when the address details were deleted and postage due "6" added. In middle left is a 2-line cachet 'In Gmunden unbekannt'-hardly a surprise as there is no return address. New Fp. # 04329 (1 Co. Road Building Battalion 580) added boldly at bottom. PLST Stettin became AOK4 for the invasion of Poland. *Submitted by Martin Lynes*



Prices Realized -Auction # 102

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	\$ 26.00	8	\$37.00	13	\$30.00	19	\$78.00	29	\$16.00	42	\$11.00
3	32.00	9	28.00	15	96.00	20	22.00	30	11.00	47	22.00
6	26.00	11	25.00	16	20.00	21	16.00	38	16.00	48	11.00
7	32.00	12	41.00	17	185.00	23	25.00	39	11.00	52	11.00

Cover Illustration: This auction includes some Channel Islands occupation lots including this example of inbound overland civilian mail sent to Jersey from Lisbon in September 1940. This cover was routed via the German censorship office in Munich (code 'd'). There foreign mail examiners voided the "Airmail" notation, as such service was not available, then applied censor tape and hand stamp . The pencil manuscript notation "Rec'd 21st Feby. 1941" was added in Jersey. This cover is lot 3 in Auction 103. Good Hunting!

The Sudetenland Locals: Organized Chaos

by Peter Perfect

“We have borne the yoke...” Thus the Asch town postal authorities summed up twenty years of Czechoslovak rule. Anyone at all aware of Nazi propaganda might well wonder what connection, if any, this embittered metaphor has with reality.

Up to the end of World War I, Czechoslovakia, including the Sudetenland had been a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1918 the victorious Allies acted decisively to smash the Austro-German combination for good by forcibly dis-uniting this shambling complex and creating new and independent states out of what had been dissatisfied minorities. One of these new states was the Republic of Czechoslovakia. The tables were truly turned! Germans there, used to being part of an elite, now became a racial and cultural minority dominated by the Czechs, a former Slav minority and now the ruling force.

Why then should a sizable German minority, always potentially explosive, be incorporated into a Slav nation? Clearly, the Allies felt that even a Germany drastically reduced was not to be trusted. The Sudetenland area, forming a horseshoe around Bohemia-Moravia, contained highlands with considerable fortifications, a natural barrier to protect the Czech State from possible German aggression in the future. How ironical! Without the Sudetenland, the rest of the Republic was an open door to Germany; with Sudetenland, Germany already had a foothold in the Republic. The seed of the latter's destruction was the very curve of land given to it for protection.

From the start, Germans in Sudetenland were a political force. The Depression brought the rise of Hitler, and his influence extended well beyond the German borders. A German Worker's Party in Czechoslovakia became, in the 1920s, a branch of the Bavarian Nazi complex. By 1929 the Sudetenlanders had elected eight Nazi deputies to the central government. Growing Nazi influence was reflected in the formation of a “Volkssport” party in Bohemia itself.

Even before the Depression, the minority-morale of the Sudetenlanders was stirring up their resentment. This was exacerbated by the frequent control of unsympathetic non-German speaking Czech officials in German speaking areas. Minority rights were not always respected. Furthermore, the Sudetenland was highly industrialized and highly venerable to slumps even before 1929. Disillusioned Sudetenlanders saw Czech fellow countrymen with noticeably less unemployment and falsely, though understandably, attributed this to racial bias. A vicious circle developed; the greater the unrest in the Sudetenland, the stricter the precautions taken by the Czech administrators and the sharper the resentment became. The rise of Hitler in Germany encouraged the Sudetenlanders and worried the central government. The German minorities saw changes just over the border, and looked on with a simmering anger at the strengthening of the fortifications by the Czech defense system in their own territory and against the rising power with which they were becoming more and more to identify themselves.

A spectacular court case involving Nazis in Czechoslovakia, a matter of months after Hitler's takeover in Germany, sparked a Nazi propaganda war against the Czech government. Konrad Henlein, a militantly rightist bank clerk, established the Sudetendeutsche Heimatfront Partei in October 1933. This strong German mouthpiece broadcast unity of Germans under Czech rule and alliance between Czechoslovakia and Germany as essential foreign policy. The 1933 elections, in which the united Sudetenlanders under a strong leader showed their political claws for the first time, saw the Heimatfront emerge as the largest single party in the Republic. President Benes, understandably worried, initiated a further wave of precautionary measures along his country's Sudeten borders. And so the snowball rolled inexorably on. By 1938, relations between the C.S.R. and Germany were strained to the breaking point and the Sudetenlanders irrevocably alienated from Prague.

Hitler's occupation of Austria in March/April 1938 made the Czech position all the more perilous. Many non-Nazi Sudetenlanders with some foresight took the precaution of a change of heart. Meanwhile, Henlein, now a Hitler tool, baited the Prague government with all the venom he could summon up. In May, Benes ordered mobilization. Hitler, brimming with anger, ordered Henlein to thwart any attempts by Prague to peacefully negotiate Sudeten grievances. An alarmed England and France saw war on the horizon – a war for which they were totally unprepared.

In a doomed bid to ward off the inevitable, Czechoslovakia's western Allies – and with Allies like these, who needs enemies – met Hitler and the infamous Munich Agreement followed, by which areas of Czech territories with 50% plus German population were to be given up to Germany by October 10, 1938. The mockery of plebiscites was to decide matters in areas with sizable German minorities. By early November, as its western Allies looked on, Czechoslovakia watched one third of its population sucked away by Germany, Hungary and Poland and saw the new boundaries of its decimated territory drawn. The frontier gates were opened as the German army poured in and a jubilant Sudetenland was welcomed home to the Reich!

When the Germans marched in, they brought supplies of German stamps for postal use in Sudetenland. There were also extensive supplies of the current Czech issues which, for a brief time, were permitted for use both with and without overprints. Thus a wide variety of fascinating mixed franking can be found. One can imagine the philatelic anarchy of this period where virtually every village post office had its unique philatelic item for the collector. Provisional postmarks, excised postmarks, cachets, date stamps, overprints, and so forth... Where does the humble collector begin? There must be hundreds of Sudetenland items that I have never heard of, possibly I never will. All I can do is to choose some areas of Sudeten postal history and detail these, using my own collection as my chief reference. Thus there will be many gaps, and I have numerous items myself that I will not mention here. I will, however, mention those which I feel are the most interesting and important. To aid systemization, I will deal with the towns in alphabetical order. Where known, I have indicated where I think these towns were located.

ASCH: This town was close to the German border and was one of the first places of Nazi entry into Czechoslovakia. The propagandists were well prepared. The so-called "Hitler provisional" overprints were ready for use by the citizens of Asch by September 21, 1938. Seized stocks of Czech definitive values had been machine surcharged with new face values: the 10h and 20h small arms and the 1kc Masaryk overprinted 1.20 (kcs) in black, and 50h Benes similarly in red (Fig. 1a); also the 25h small arms overprinted 50h with a thick (Fig. 1b) or scarcer thin variety. Apart from these, ordinary Czech or German stamps were in use, and even Czech newspapers stamps, privately perforated in some instances, were commandeered for the cause.

For a time it was standard practice that these should be accompanied by a somewhat elaborate rubber propaganda cachet (Fig. 1c) with the date of liberation and the slogan "We have borne the yoke; now we are free and will remain free!" invariably in red ink.

The standard bilingual town postmark of the former regime (Fig. 1d) cancels the stamps themselves. Later on however, the Czech spelling 'As' was officially removed, leaving a blank space in the top arc (Fig. 1e). Obviously the Nazis systematically altered all the postmarks, even those roller cancels for ordinary mail (Fig. 1f).

1.20

Fig. 1a.

50 h

Fig. 1b.



Fig. 1c.



Fig. 1d.

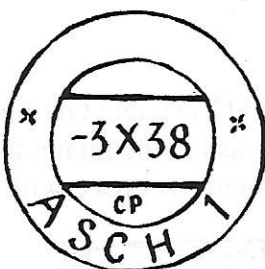


Fig. 1e.

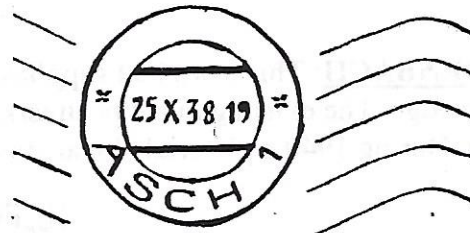


Fig. 1f.

AUSSIG: This town had a special, probably unofficial, overprint applied in black to alternate stamps in sheets of the 3pfg Hindenburg definitive. It depicts a rising sun and Nazi sword and gives Aussig's liberation date as October 16 (Fig. 2). This stamp can be found cancelled to order with a rubber cachet cancellation in violet ink. It is unlikely that this issue saw any genuine postal usage.



Fig. 2. Aussig.

BENSEN: Both German and Czech were used in this town. Some of the latter bear a small hand overprint in violet ink featuring a swastika and liberation date (Fig. 3a). These were marked with a circular cancellation-cachet dated October 4 – the date of the Nazi takeover. Identical or similar were used in other towns, some I shall mention later (Fig. 3b). I call these pseudo-postmarks as they can easily be mistaken for the true postmark owing to their design and that they often tie the adhesive stamp to the piece. However, they were made of rubber and not applied in the thick black ink reserved for genuine metal postmarks. Further, for propaganda purposes, they were applied to mail long after the first day without alteration of the date. This is confirmed by items where a date stamp showing the actual day of mailing (Fig. 3c) accompanies the rubber strike. At times such pseudo-postmarks are found side by side with the standard metal postmarks of the sending date.

Some items also carried propaganda cachets used in the district, such as the boxed “Adolf Hitler has set us free!” in red (Fig. 3d). The same cachet with Czech stamps similarly overprinted, though in different inks, were used, for example, in Arnsdorf-bei-Heida (where the metal cancel was retained for a while) and this may apply to other towns and villages, presumably in the vicinity of Bensen itself.



Fig. 3a.



Fig. 3b.

1 2 . 1 0 . 1 9 3 8

Fig. 3c.



Fig. 3d.

BODENBACH: This town had supplies of Czech and German stamps without any special issues to my knowledge. The existing metal postmark was retained, later to have the Czech spelling removed, as at Asch. During 1940 a pictorial slogan postmark was used with the legend “Deutsches Reich”(Fig. 4).



Fig. 4.



EGER: For a short time the old bilingual postmark remained in use on mail (Fig. 5b). Also, some early items carry a pseudo-postmark with the slogan “The truth has prevailed” (Fig. 5a). Eger also used a postmark with the catch phrase “We are free” and the well-known slogan postmark of the plebiscite. It was the only Sudeten town to have a special Hitler birthday postmark for April 20, 1939



Fig. 5a.

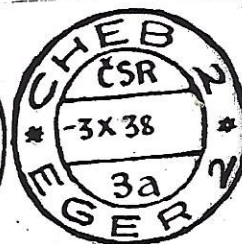


Fig. 5b.

EICHWALD: I mention this to introduce a type of (very) provisional cachet-cancellation used when no orthodox postmark was available. This simply comprised a makeshift rubber hand stamp of the name of the town concerned, with inks of various colors and consistencies. This can be accompanied by a rubber hand stamp giving the date (like Bensen Fig. 3c), although mail frequently went through with no indication of date, not even the year. These town name cachet-cancellations were in Roman or Gothic types. In Eichwald, both types were used (Fig. 6).

Eichwald Eichwald

Fig. 6.

FIELDPOST: The invading troops soon set up offices for military mail. As usual, cards and letters were sent free of charge, the military nature of such being ratified by the rubber military cachet (Briefstempel), which replaced the adhesive stamp (Fig. 7) required on civilian mail. Items going through military post offices then received the distinctive Feldpost mark with the German eagle in the design, and was applied in thick, black post office ink.

FREIWALDAU: German stamps were introduced at once – chiefly Hindenburg and Airmail definitives. At the start, mail was sent with a simple boxed town name cachet-cancellation (Fig. 8a). A special circular cachet-cancellation featuring the slogan “The Free Sudeten-German town Freiwaldau” surrounding a swastika (Fig. 8b) was also prepared. Both of these were rubber and applied in violet ink. Apparently the postal authorities were indifferent to time as none that the writer has seen included, or were accompanied by, any form of date stamp.



Fig. 7. Fieldpost.



Fig. 8a.



Fig. 8b.

GABLONZ: The town itself used German stamps and, for a time, the Czech postmark with the Czech spelling at the top excised. Reichenau-bei-Gablonz had an interesting provisional postmark consisting of a boxed three-line rubber cachet with the town name on top and the date in the middle (Fig. 9a) in violet. (Numerous other Sudeten towns used similar, two- or three lined marks, sometimes with ornamentally angled or curved box outlines). The same place had a special, double ringed, rubber cachet-cancellation noting that this was the “home town of Konrad Henlein” (Fig. 9b). A lined off space is left in the center, possibly for some sort of date stamp.

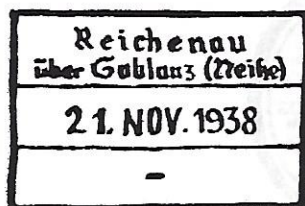


Fig. 9a.



Fig. 9b.

JÄGERNDORF: A temporary, double-ring rubber cachet inscribed: "Post Office Jägerndorf 1" cancelled stamps and was used in conjunction with at least one propaganda slogan "Our Führer, the savior is here!" (Fig. 10). These hand stamps were poorly made and seem to have worn out very quickly so that the impressions are rough. I have two copies, a violet one has swastikas that look as though they had curly leaf and another in thick black P.O. ink that is a mess! Jägerndorf also used an excised Czech postmark for a time.



Fig. 10.

KARLSBAD: Remainder stocks of Czech stamps were quickly overprinted with a makeshift rubber die in red, green or violet ink, in varying sizes according to the stamps (Fig. 11a). The inks were thin and gave indistinct results. Like so many of these locals, they could be easily forged. Michel gives a full list of them. They were soon replaced by German stamps and are all scarce. The bilingual Czech postmark was excised at once and used for the first few weeks (Fig. 11b), after which the German-made, monolingual postmark (Fig. 11c) replaced the mutilated provisional. Being one of the principle towns in the Sudetenland, Karlsbad had the special "Election and Acceptance Day" postmark on December 4, 1938.



Fig. 11a.



Fig. 11b.



Fig. 11c.



Fig. 12.

KONSTATINSBAD: A few of the existing stocks of Czech stamps were overprinted with a rubber die (Fig. 12). In examples I have, this is applied diagonally in violet ink. It was obviously a rush job as the "N" is especially odd, looking rather like a modified "M". Later, remainders of 35 different Czech stamps were placed on sale with "Sudetenland" horizontally machine-printed with fine Gothic type in black ink. (See Michel for list and illustration). The Czech postmark was retained during at least the first days.

MÄHRISCH SCHÖNBERG: The Czech bilingual postmark was excised, leaving the top arc blank (like Fig. 11b). This was accompanied for a while by a circular rubber cachet featuring a large central swastika (Fig. 13).



Fig. 13.

NIKLASDORF: Very limited stocks of Czech stamps were machine surcharged centrally with new face values, after the style of the Asch provisionals, though these were all in black and in fine, neat numerals and letters. The large range and restricted quantities of each make the Niklasdorf issues prohibitive for the average collector. The full list, given in Michel, can be summed up as:

NEW FACE VALUE	No. Different Stamps
1 Kc.	3
1.20 Kc	8
2 Kc	23
4.50 Kc	35

PLAW: Reminders of Czech stamps were overprinted with a makeshift hand stamp "We are free" above a swastika. A number of towns used this slogan for overprinting (as well as for cachets and postmarks), but Plaw's is distinctive in that gothic letters are tall, angular and very straight, (the "s", "a" and "f", and above all the capital "W", are the letters to look for when comparing these from various districts). There is no exclamation mark and the swastika is moderately sized but thickly lined (Fig. 14). Thick black ink was used, making the impressions indistinct or smudged at times. Overprints used on November 25, 1938 were tied by a large propaganda postmark with the German eagle, swastika and "Heil Hitler" in the center, encircled by "Plaw" and "Tag der Übernahme zu Grossdeutschland" (Day of Annexation into Greater Germany).

Wir sind
frei
卐

Fig. 14.

Wir sind
frei!
卐

Fig. 15a.



Fig. 15b.

REICHENBERG-MAFFERSDORF: Once again, Michel gives a full list of the wide range of Czech reminders overprinted for provisional use in these districts. Everything in sight was madly hand stamped including commemoratives, definitives, charities, blocks, postage dues, newspaper stamps (even the 1918 Mucha issue of these!), all of them in small quantities with the same rubber stamp type used in each case. It is little wonder that the overprint varies from thick to thin (often on the one copy) and partially double or partially absent impressions is equally the order of the day. This overprint (Fig. 15a) is distinctive in its comparatively short and spread-out letters. There is much more circularity in the script than that of Plaw, with curls at the top of the "s", "d" and "f", a curved right arm on the "W" and a rounded top on the exclamation mark. The swastika is small and thinly lined.

The imposing large Maffersdorf cachet in black ink often accompanies these provisional stamps. This is a propaganda item that notes that this town was liberated on 8 October and is the birthplace of Konrad Henlein (Fig. 15b). Reichenberg had a cachet of similar dimensions inscribed "Deutsche Reichspost" and "Heil Hitler" with the same liberation date, and later used the special "Election and Acceptance Day" postmark of 12 December. Before long, these districts had supplies of German stamps and excised Czech postmarks were utilized for a time.

RUMBURG: This northern border town also had a wild spree of “We are free!” overprinting which too are found in Michel. Again it is clear that officials scoured the post offices for every adhesive stamp they could scrape together and put through the machines. Like Reichenberg-Maffendorf, some copies of the 1918/20 newspaper stamps were included here – a fact that never ceases to amaze me. This time though, there are signs of care being taken, as these were the only issues to be machine processed. Furthermore, efforts were made to fit and adapt the overprint to the sizes and shapes of the stamps. Ordinary definitives and Kosice issues kept their original face values and bore a three line overprint “We are/ free!” atop a swastika (Fig. 16a). The Gothic letters are short and fairly thick with “W” elaborately curved. All is cleanly printed, though sometimes gaps are visible where the arms of the swastika meet, as if it were made up of thick dashes and hyphens. The newspaper stamps, both 1918/20 and 1927 issues, bear an adapted overprint in similar script. However, all of these had altered face values so the overprint this time has the three lines as “Wir sind frei” (no exclamation mark)/swastika/”100h. franko”. This new value was given to all (although unnecessary in the case of two stamps already of that denomination), except some copies of the 1937 2h., 5h. and 7h values, which were surcharged “50h franko” instead.

Large size stamps kept their own face values, and so were overprinted like the small definitives but in a different Gothic script, larger and more spread out. The “W” is straight lined though with a full curve in the right arm (Fig. 16b). The postage dues were all altered to 100h. face value and were overprinted with the exclamation mark and two swastikas, both in the bottom line “War sind frei!/ 100 / (swastika) franko (swastika)”. The Gothic script used was yet another – thinner, taller and more angular. The “W” (Fig. 16c) has sharp points where there were curves before. The numerals are thick and full.

Wir sind
frei!
卐

Fig. 16a.

Wir

Fig. 16b.

Wir

Fig. 16c.

Fifty-two different Czech stamps were thus overprinted, as prepared by H. Pfeiffer for issue on 24 September. Of course, the overprinted newspaper and postage due stamps were used as ordinary postage stamps, as indicated by the “franko”. This issue of Rumburg overprints was also distributed to neighboring districts centered around Warnsdorf, Schuckenuau and Gross-Schoenau, where plain Czech stamps were also valid at the time. The towns in this area regularly used excised Czech postmarks for mail, and also, though I suspect for C.T.O. items, rubber pseudo-postmarks of the Bensen type (3a) applied in indigo, red, violet or purple inks.

SCHAIBA: Leftover Czech stamps were used provisionally. Non-postage adhesives and postage dues were hand stamped “Franko” to validate them for ordinary postal use. A plain-boxed cachet-cancellation “Post Office/Schaiba” was used to cancel the stamps and a rubber date stamp was included to indicate the day of positing. A boxed propaganda slogan cachet “Sudetenland/ comes home to the Reich” in Gothic script (Fig. 17) could accompany all this.

卐 Sudetenland
kehrt heim in's Reich!

Franko

20. Okt. 1938

Postamt
Schaiba

Fig. 17.

TACHAU: Again, Czech stamps remained in interim use. The Nazis introduced an interesting metal postmark graced by two swastikas and the ubiquitous : "We are free!" in the lower arc. (Fig. 18)



Fig. 18.

TRAUTENAU: Czech remainders were at first cancelled by a makeshift town name cachet and a date stamp, often applied diagonally across the stamps (Fig. 19a). Later, German stamps were introduced and a circular cachet resembling the military letter cachet (Briefstempel), a feature of the mail of the German armed forces. This is again used with a date stamp (Fig. 19b).

21038

POSTAMT TRAUTENAU

Fig. 19a.

28. X. 1938

Fig. 19b.



Czechoslovak stamps were permitted on mail until about early November 1938, after which the use of German stamps was enforced to rationalize the mess of that provisional period when virtually any scrap of paper with a price printed on it could be utilized by the Postal Authorities to frank mail. Philatelically chaotic it may have been, but the Germans are an efficient people with a superior postal service. They were more than well prepared for the entry into the Sudetenland and could, I am sure, have banned altogether the use of Czech remainders without interrupting the postal service in the least, had they so wished. However, these locals served an important propaganda purpose. Plain or insolently overprinted or side-by-side with Reich issues, they rubbed salt into the wounds of the dying Czechoslovak Republic. But, like every dog, every war of words has its day and, come what may, the very best propaganda diet will become stale if kept too long.

ED NOTE: A clipping with this information was sent in by one of our members but they were unaware of its source. By the author, page format and general appearance, we would guess that the article first appeared in either "Germania", the journal of the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society (U.K.) or the German Collectors Group Newsheet (U.K.) edited by the late Alf Harper. In any case, it is a very good introduction to the provisional stamps and cancels of the Sudetenland, an area we have tended to overlook. If anyone knows the source of this article, please advise Ye Olde Ed so we properly acknowledge same.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:**68th Infantry Division**

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
168	354	169	188	196	168

Formed from reservists in the summer of 1939 (2nd Wave), the "Feldpostamt" (post office unit) was assigned Fp # 05491 as a return address and Kenn 354 for use on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 168. The 68th Infantry Division fought in southern Poland and took part in the French campaign. In June 1941 it invaded Russia as part of Army Group South. Partisans in Kharkov killed the division commander, Major General George Braum, on November 14, 1941. The division remained in the southern sector for the rest of the war. It suffered heavy losses in the initial campaign, in the withdrawal from Kiev (1943) and in the battles of the northern Ukraine (1944). It was with 1st Panzer Army when it was encircled and broke out of the pocket east of the Dneestr.

In the fall of 1944 the 68th Infantry Division fought in Slovakia and in southern Poland. The division surrendered with Army Group Center (formerly Army Group South) in Czechoslovakia in May 1945.

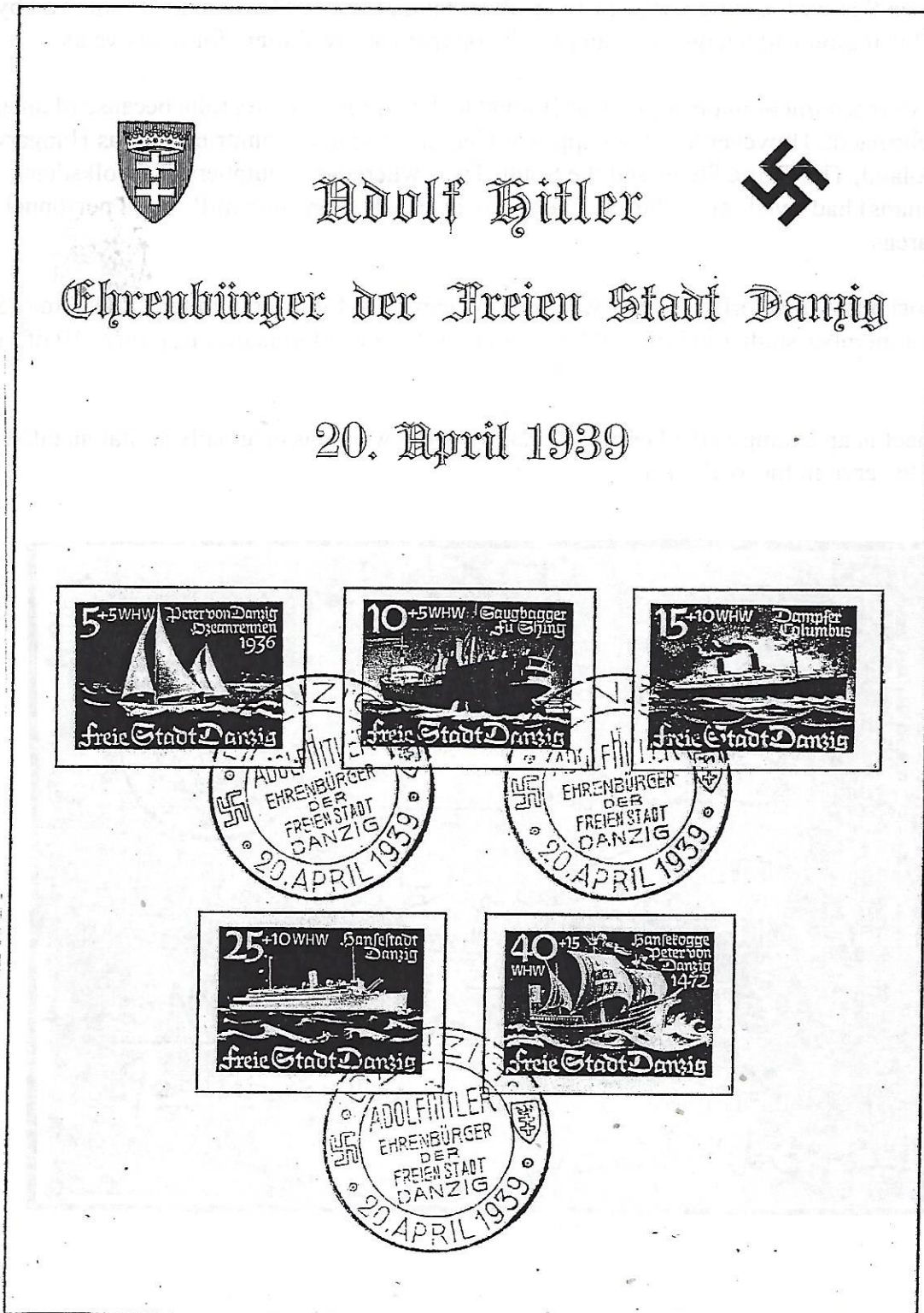


Cover sent to Military Records Office in St. Wendel in May 1942 from Fp. # 15663 (Co. 1 of Infantry Division Signals detachment 168) via P.O. 168 (K-354).

A Führer 50th Birthday Cancel from Danzig

by Bob Ferguson

Although Danzig was not yet a part of the Reich in April 1939, there exists a commemorative sheet (size: 153 x 213 mm) for the Führer's birthday which proclaims him an honorary citizen of the Free City of Danzig. The special cancel has the same text.



Waffen-SS Feldpost

SS- Feldpost to Alpenvorland

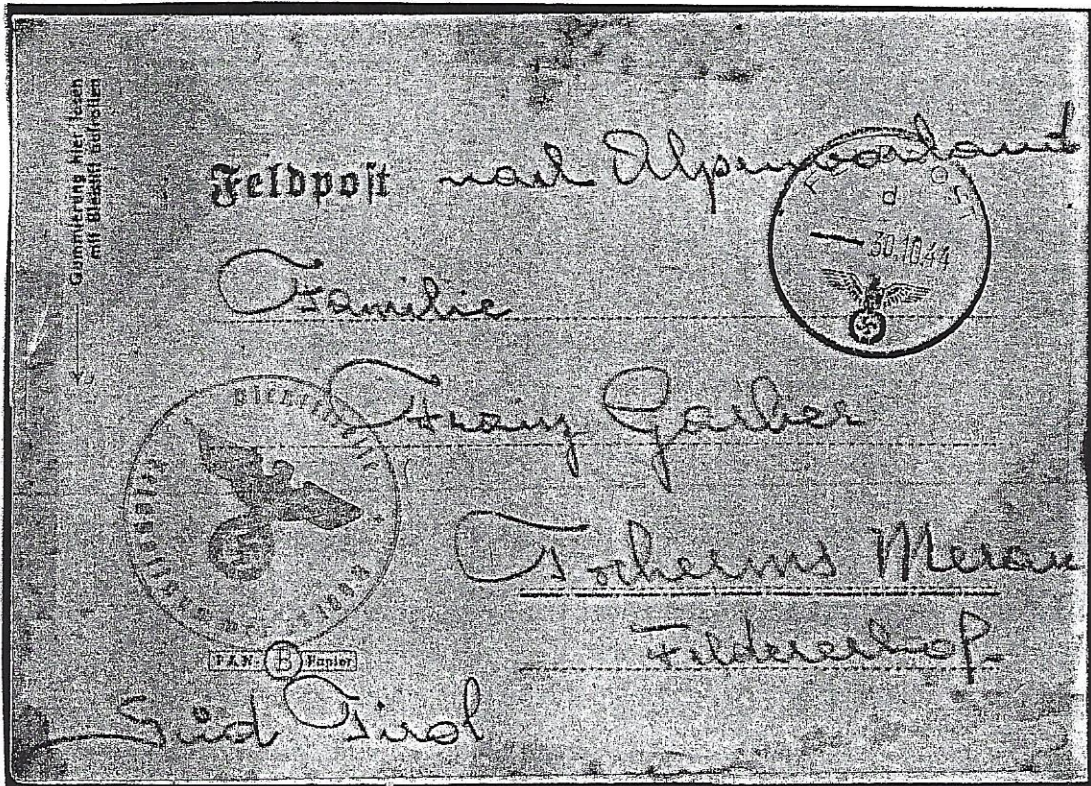
by John Painter

This cover is interesting in two ways. The first is that it is from a soldier serving with the 5th SS Division 'Wiking'. The second is that he is writing to his family in the Alpenvorland. This is the South Tyrol province that was Austrian prior to 1918, then Italian until 1943 when it was annexed by Germany. This region had a large German population that had lived there for many years.

Himmler's SS recruitment in the Reich was limited to 4% of the years recruits because of an agreement with the Wehrmacht. However it did not apply to Germans living in countries such as Hungary, Romania, Poland, The Baltic States and the South Tyrol where large numbers of "Volksdeutsche" (ethnic Germans) had lived for centuries. Therefore, over half of the one million SS personnel came from these areas.

This "Feldpost aus Alpenvorland" letter was sent in October '44 to Meran in the "Süd Tirol" (South Tyrol) from a member soldier in Fp.# 28109 (Battalion II/ Panzer Grenadier Regiment 10 of the 5th SS Division.

This lettersheet is an example of a German-speaking youth who was originally an Italian citizen and volunteered to serve in the Waffen-SS.



COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 383rd Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
383	219	531	532	533	383	383

The 383rd Infantry Division was formed in the winter of 1941-42 (17th wave) and trained at Stablack maneuver area in Wehrkreis I. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 26953 as a return address and K-219 for use on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 383. Sent to the Eastern Front in June 1942, it was initially with Army Group South, then Army Group B and, finally, Army Group Center. The division was continuously and often heavily engaged during its existence. It fought in the early stages of the Stalingrad advance and formed part of the defense opposing the large-scale attacks launched by the Red Army against the 2nd Army in 1943.

By the spring of 1944 the 383rd Infantry Division was an element of XXXV Army Corps under the 9th Army defending the fortified town of Bobruysk. On June 22, 1944 the Soviets began a massive assault against Army Group Center and by June 23 the 1st Belorussian Front attacked 9th Army and drove toward Bobruysk. The 383rd Infantry Division was overwhelmed and destroyed during this assault. This division was formally disbanded in September 1944.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Wiesbaden in May 1944 from Fp. # 10361 (Battalion II/Grenadier Regiment. 532) via Post Office 383 (K-219).

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 213th Security Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS		COMPANIES	
TACT.	KENN	SECURITY		FUSILIER	AUXIL
318	222	318	354	213	213

The 213th Infantry Division was formed in Breslau area June 1939 (3rd Wave) and played a minor role in Polish campaign and saw no action in the western campaign of 1940. In the winter of 1940-41, it was converted to a "Sicherungs" (Security) division, giving up one infantry regiment and all of its artillery. The division post office was assigned Kenn 222 for registered mail in lieu of its tactical designation FpA 318.

Transferred to the Eastern Front in June 1941, the 213th Security Division performed rear area and Lines of Communication duties for Army Group South. Elements of the division were on the front lines as early as April 22, 1942, when one regiment was used to support the Italian "Celere" Infantry Division in the southern sector. In the fall of 1943 the entire 213th Security Division was on the front line during the Battle of Kiev (half with the 75th Infantry Division and the other half with the 88th Infantry Division). In early 1944 it suffered very heavy losses in the Cherkassy Pocket. It was back in action in the central sector in July 1944 after the bulk of the 4th and 9th Armies were encircled near Minsk and Vitebsk. It remained on the Eastern Front for the remainder of 1944 but did not receive reinforcements and was dissolved early in 1945.

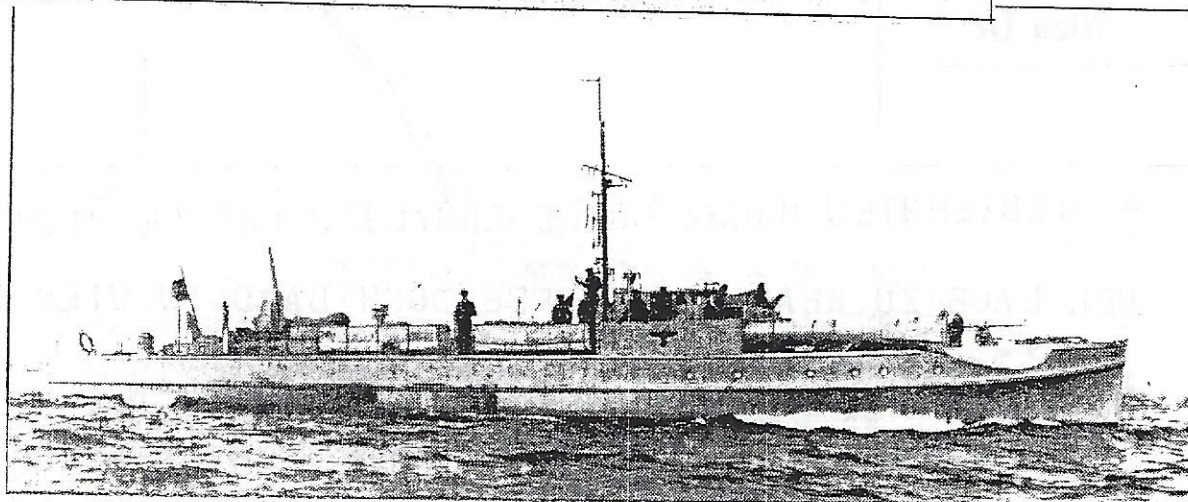
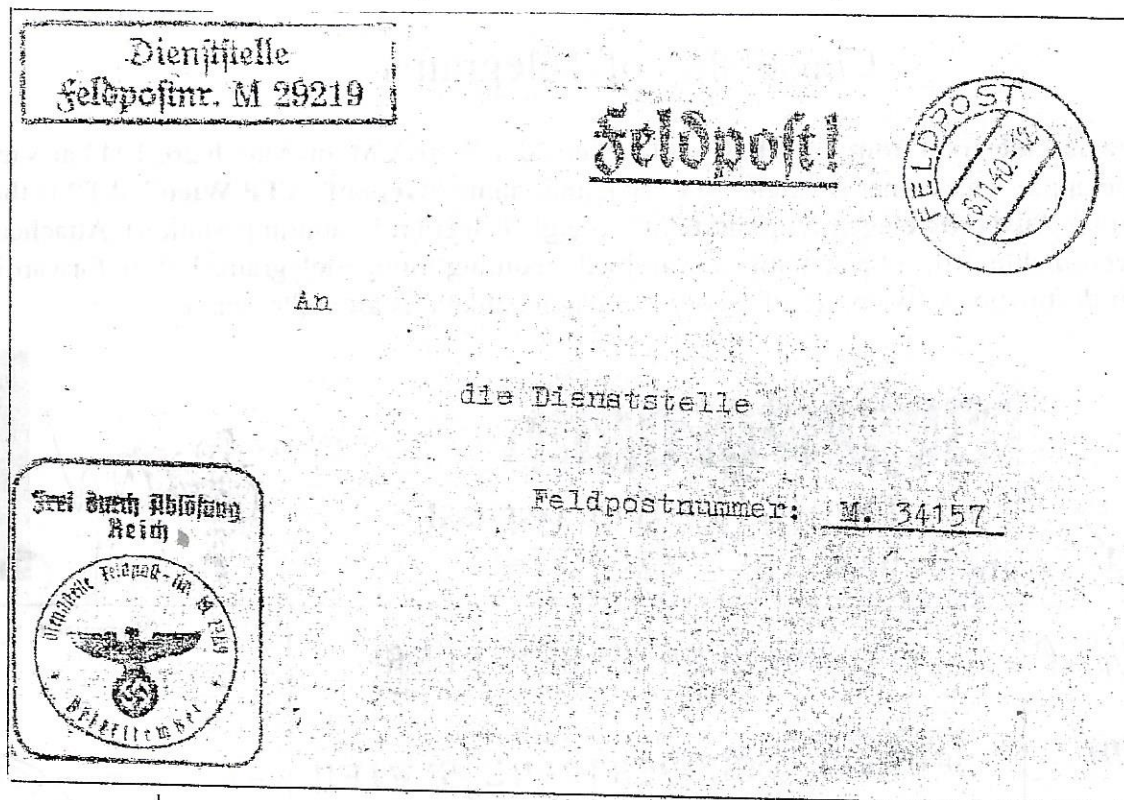


Cover sent to State youth Office at Lutherstadt-Wittenberg in August 1943 from Fp. # 05443 (Battalion III/318th Security Regiment) via Field P.O. 318 (K-222).

NAVY LOG

By Martin Lynes

Motor Torpedo Boat 'T-10' - Feldpost # 29219



Torpedo Boat type 1935 (T1-12) built by Schichau (Elbing) and launched in 1939. Displacement: 839 tons; speed: 19 knots; armament: one 4.1", three 20mm AA gun, 30 mines and six 21" torpedo tubes; crew: 119.

T-10 acted as escort in unsuccessful attempt to bring raider "Komet" through the Channel from Le Havre. Fate: Bombed and sunk by RAF at Gdynia on December 18, 1944.

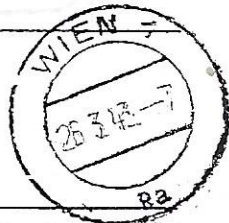
Cover sent to Fp# M34157 (Office of Admiral for Norway) has mute Danzig double-ring Feldpost cancel with Roman numeral and 'dztg' removed.

German Censorship During WWII

by Myron Fox

Censorship of Telegrams

Shown below is a telegram from Zagreb, Croatia received at 9:00 A.M. on March 26, 1943 at Vienna P.O. 1. In the upper right corner is single-line red hands stamp "Gepprüft ATP Wien". ATP is the abbreviation for **Auslandstelegrammprüfstelle** (Foreign Telegram Examining Station). Attached to every mail censorship office, these stations examined incoming foreign telegrams before forwarding them to their destinations. Examples of censored telegrams like this are quite scarce.

Briefteleogramm		Gepprüft ATP Wien
071 Telegramm	Deutsche Reichspost	
aus	71 ZAGREB 614 35/25/18 50=	
25. März 1943	ELT = MUELLER ERBEN FUER	Tag: _____ Zeit: _____
Wien	NEUMANN SCHUBERTRING 9 WIEN	an: _____ durch: _____
Amt Wien TA		
= SIEBZEHNTE MAERZ BRIEF ERHALTEN FUEHLE MICH NICHT IN DER LAGE ZU REAGIEREN HOFFE DOCH BALD IN WIEN ZU SEIN UND PERSOENLICH DOCH ALLES ZU BESPRECHEN =		
= GRUESSE HERMANN + VGL 9 +		
Raum für dienstliche Rückfragen	<i>erh. 26. 3. 43. 9 a.m.</i>	
<i>Datum</i>	X C 187 Din A 5	

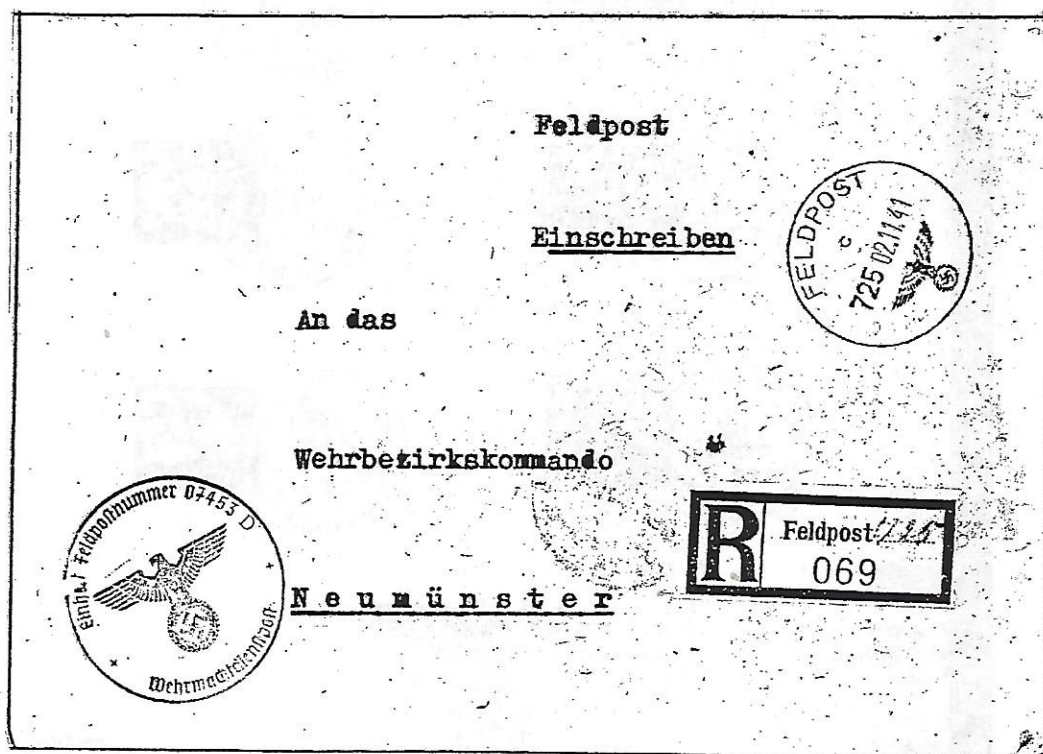
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 290th Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
290	725	501	502	503	290	290

The 290th Infantry Division was formed with newly trained north German personnel in March/April 1940 (9th Wave). The 290th Infantry Division post office was assigned Fp. # 02557 as a mailing address and Kenn 725 as a coded identification in lieu of its tactical number 290. It invaded the Soviet Union with LVI Panzer Corps of the 16th Army under in June 1941. An effective fighting unit, the 290th Infantry Division spearheaded the initial Army Group North attack into Russia and played a major role in the capture of Dvinsk. In August 1941 it fought in the first Battle of Lake Ilmen.

Attached to the X Army Corps, it was the focal point of a Soviet attack in January 1942. Forced to yield ground south of Lake Ilmen, the division became trapped in the Demyansk Pocket. It later took part in the attack westward which linked forces in the pocket under II Army Corps with a relief column. It remained in the Demyansk area until February 1943, when the salient was abandoned. Transferred to Army Group Center in August 1943, the 290th Infantry Division took part in the Battle of Nevel. It returned to Army Group North early in 1944 and suffered heavy losses during the withdrawal from Leningrad. In the summer of 1944, it withdrew to the Latvian coast and by October 1944 was isolated in the Courland Pocket until the end of the war.

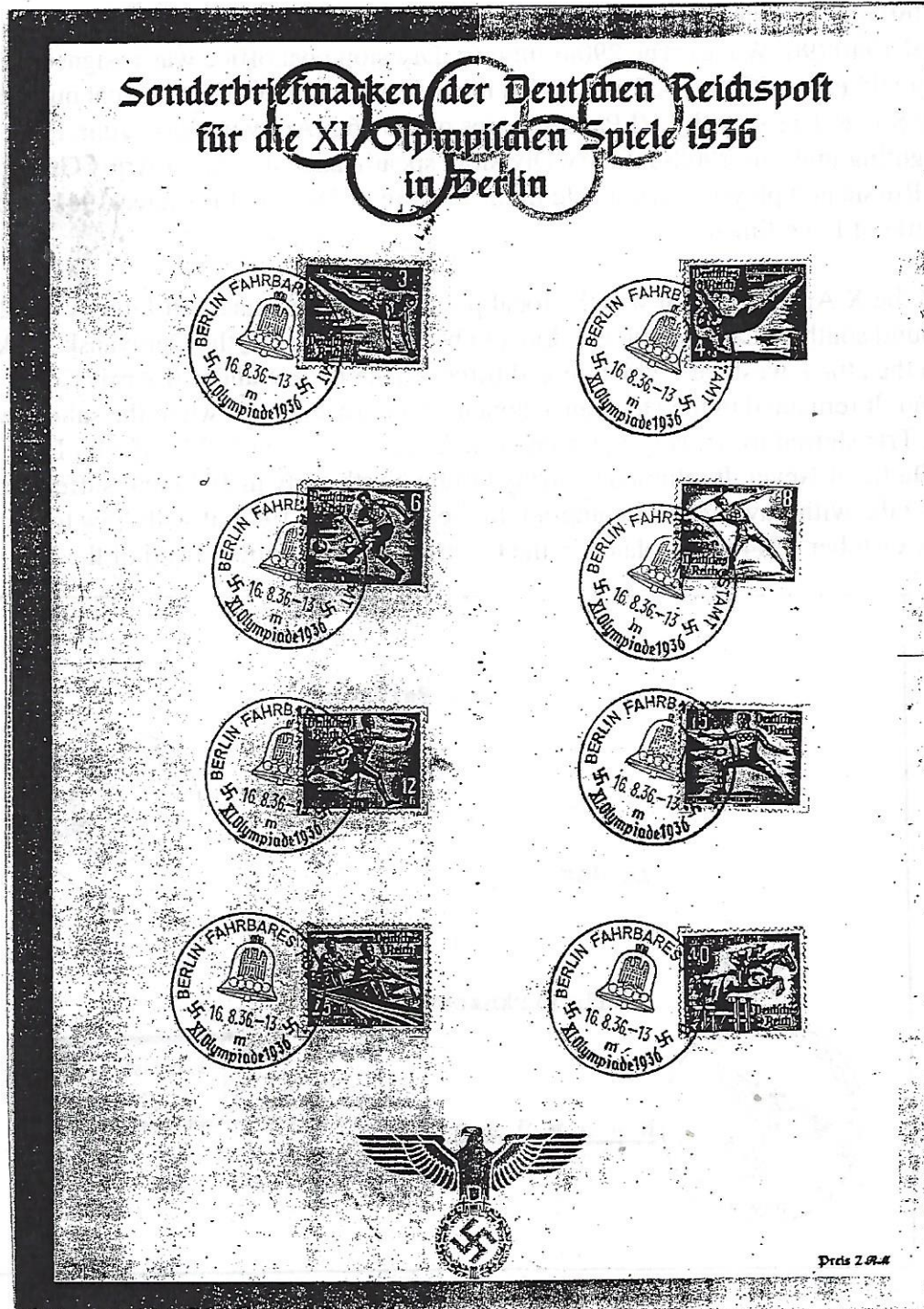


Cover sent to Military Command at Neumünster in November 1941 from Fp. # 07453 (Battalion I/Grenadier Regiment 501) via Field P.O. 290 (K-725).

Souvenir Sheet for the 1936 Olympic Games

by Kelly Stefanacci

Shown below is a reduced size copy of a souvenir sheet for the Summer Olympic Games of 1936 that actually measures approximately 11-1/2" x 8-1/4". The same Berlin Fahrbares special postmark with letter code 'm' dated on August 16, 1936 at 1 P.M ties all nine stamps. As noted in the lower right corner, this sheet sold for 2 Reichsmarks



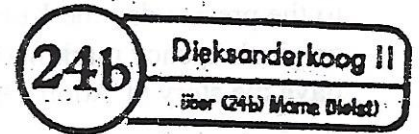
Adolf Hitler Koog & Hermann Göring Koog

by Alf Harper

I discovered the postmark (upper right) in the late 1950s and did some preliminary research to discover that this Adolf Hitler Koog was the only place in Germany ever named after Hitler. In early 1962 I wrote to the Postmaster of Marne inquiring about the postmark. Shortly thereafter I received a terse answer: "We have no early cancellation of Dieksanderkoog (Adolf Hitler Koog was renamed Dieksanderkoog after WW II), the cancellation on this letter is the first (lower right).



So, officially, Adolf Hitler Koog never existed. A great start to the investigations, which were to last two years.



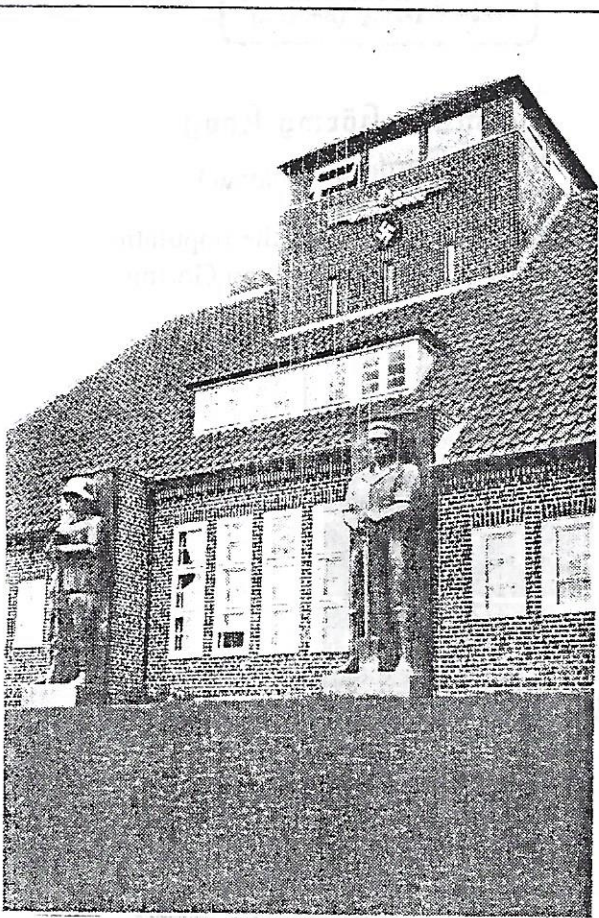
A "Koog" is a piece of land or island reclaimed from the sea, as are large areas of Holland. These Koogs generally consist of a collection of farms, with the largest acting as the Postal Agency or sub Post Office. Dutch engineers, with many attending flooding, disasters and loss of life first started the reclamation of the land comprising Adolf Hitler Koog in the 12th and 13th centuries. All work ceased during the inflation period and the farms became run down. When the Nazis came to power in 1933, they started on the unemployment problem by conscripting the "Labor Front" and putting the unemployed to work at nominal wages on national works such as the autobahns, etc.

This land reclamation scheme was made into one of the national problems. In 1933, Walter Darre, Minister of Agriculture, turned the first spade of earth to renew the Adolf Hitler Koog reclamation. The work was completed in 1934 even to the extent of building a communal center called "New Land Hall" (Below Left). *ED NOTE: Sorry, this illustration was Very light.* This hall is the one shown in the Adolf Hitler Koog postmark (Top right).

The consecration ceremony was held on August 29, 1935, performed by Hitler himself, with all attending propaganda. His speech likened the Koog to the German nation – an island in a sea of the world, which could only remain strong if its defenses were strong and kept strong with constant endeavor, work, sacrifice, etc.

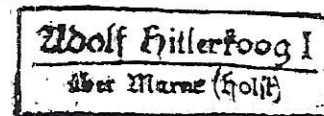
The Koog at that time consisted of ninety-five farms, with a stated "propaganda" yield of 20,000 tons of wheat per year.

It is situated on the North Sea coast near Marne in Holstein, at the mouth of the Elbe River, on the opposite bank to Cuxhaven.



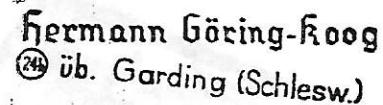
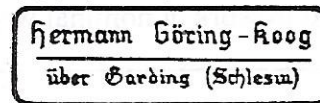
Vorderansicht Neulandhalle - Adolf-Hitler-Koog

The Postal Agency would apply its purple handstamp (upper right) to the mail handed in. The mail would then be forwarded to Marne where it would receive the normal Marne cancellation, and then be routed into normal mail channels.

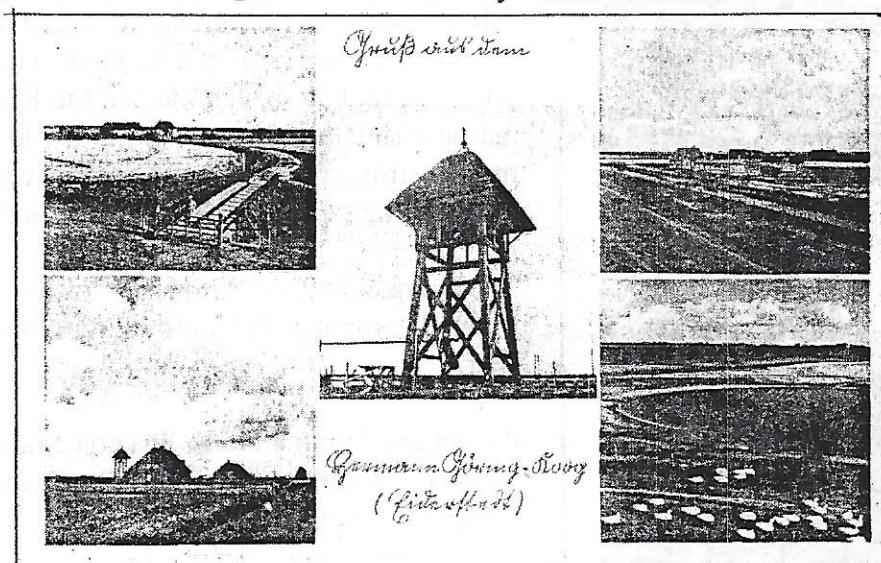


Then the unusual occurred. Probably because of its august name, Adolf Hitler Koog was allocated a postmark of its own in 1938 and it was in use until 1941. The Marne postmark was no longer used on the Koog's mail, although the mail would continue to go through the Marne post office so they could route into the normal mail route. In other words, Adolf Hitler Koog was still a Postal Agency. This is the only time in German postal history that a Postal Agency was given a postmark of its own. After World War II, on August 1, 1945, Adolf Hitler Koog was renamed Dieksanderkoog, and henceforth to the present day the Koog uses the Postal Agency mark shown on the previous page. Actually the original Agency mark had a thinner borderline than the present one, otherwise it is identical. So we have the story of Adolf Hitler Koog that officially today, never existed.

To follow up on Adolf Hitler Koog, there was its twin Hermann Göring Koog on the North Sea coast just above the Heligoland Bight. This koog was reclaimed from the sea between 1933-5, in other words a full Nazi project. A postal agency was established on the koog on May 9, 1935. The consecration ceremony, however, took place on October 20, 1935 when, with the SA bands playing, Göring himself performed the ceremony. Officially it became a community on July 1, 1936. The agency postmark can be seen at right. Below that is a mark used previous to the official mark by people in the koog. This agency belonged to Garding, and all koog mail was forwarded there, cancelled with a Garding postmark and distributed through normal postal channels.



Shown below is a postcard with five views of Hermann Göring Koog. During the war the population numbered 160 but it rose to over 250 in the post-war years. On August 10, 1945, Hermann Göring Koog was renamed Tümlauer Koog after Tümlauer Bay where it stands.

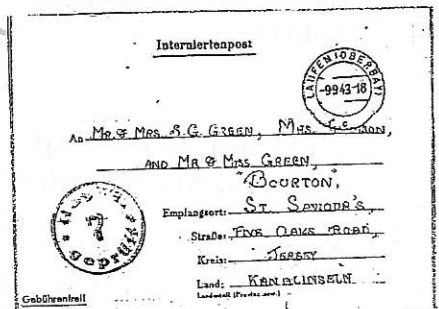
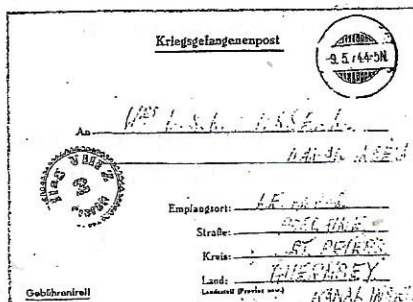
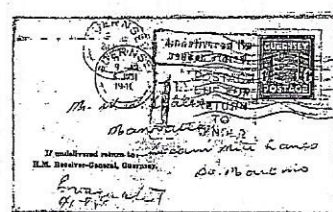
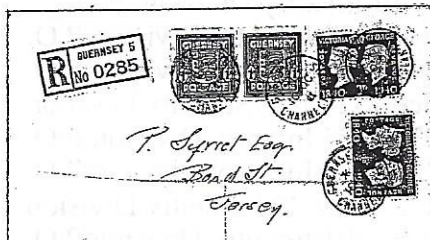
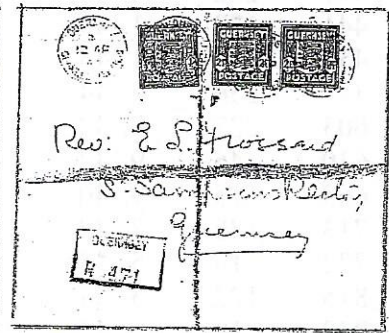
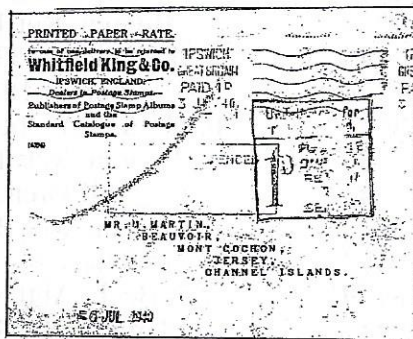
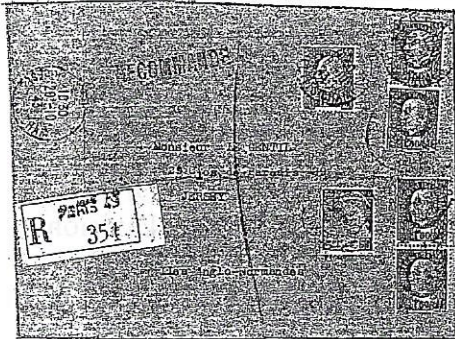


ED Note: This information originally appeared in the March 1976 and June 1976 Newsheets of the German Collectors Group and has been combined for this article.

TRSG Auction No. 103

Illustrated lots noted by row & position i.e. [1L]=Row 1 Left, [1LC]=Row 1 Left Center etc. All VF unless noted otherwise. First 22 lots are Channel Island including internee camp mail from islanders deported.

Lot	Description	Min
1	Inbound R-cvr sent to Jersey from Paris Oct. '40 censored in Paris (Code 'x') [1L]	\$26.00
2	Com cvr to Jersey frm Ipswich, England returned July 6 "Service Suspended" [1C]	20.00
3	Inbound cvr to Jersey from Lisbon Sept. '40 [See Pages 1 & 2]	32.00
4	Mixed British 1/2d & 3d values w/1d Guernsey local stamp on R-cvr Oct. '40 [2L]	12.00
5	Same, 5d King George VI definitive and 1/2d Guernsey on R-cvr Oct. '40 [2C]	12.00
6	Provisional R-stamp on cvr to St. Sampson, Guernsey April '44, [1R]	13.00
7	Off. notice 3 '41 from Guernsey Court returned "Evacuated to England " [2R]	17.00
8	Cvr w/prepaid 2-1/2d to St. Peter Port reused w/Guernsey stamp Feb. '43 [4R]	10.00
9	Off. Cvr w/mixed British & local stamps has modified 1940 Guernsey mach. can.	10.00
10	Two Jersey picture postcards, 1 w/Mi. 4 and 1 w/Mi. 7 can. Oct. '43	14.00
11	FDC w/gutter conected pairs of Jersey Mi. 7 w/prov. R-number posted 6 '43	12.00
12	FDC w/Jersey Mi. 3-8 w/prov. R-number posted 6. '43	10.00
13	R-cvr to St. Heliers, Jersey posted jan. '42 w/eleven Mi. 1 used to make 5-1/2d rate	14.00
14	Last Day cover w/Guernsey Mi. 3 posted May 9, 1945 (9Day German surrender)	25.00
15	Form cd from internee in Ilag VB Biberach posted 8. '43 w/violet censor h/s [3L]	17.00
16	Form ltrshft frm interneen Ilag VIIIZ Kruezburg posted 5. '44 w/red censor h/s [3C]	16.00
17	Form ltrshft from internee in Ilag VII Laufen posted Sept. '43 w/blue censor h/s [3R]	16.00
18	Form card from internee in Ilag VII Laufen posted Jan. '44 w/oval censor h/s	15.00
19	Form cvr from Laufen internee posted April. '45 w/ "Undelivered Mail" h/s [4L]	15.00
20	Form cover from internee in Ilag Liebenau (women's camp) posted Dec. '44 [4C]	18.00
21	Propaganda Leaflet 'News from England' No. 1 dropped by RAF in Sept. 1940	15.00
22	Same but No. 2 dropped Oct 1940 has details of R.A.F. raids against channel ports	15.00





The next 32 lots are Registered Feldpost covers. Condition VF unless noted o'wise

Lot	Kenn	FpA	Date	Fp. Nr.	Description	Min
23	114	68	4.'43	10274	II/Geb. Jag. Rgt. 144 via 3 Gebirgs Division P.O.	\$13
24	115	129	9.'42	15899	II/Gren. Rgt. 430 via 129 Infantry Divison P.O.	10
25	124	200	6.'41	27458	I/Gren. Rgt. 309 via 208 Infantry Division P.O.	10
26	125	213	8.'42	15546	2. Battr./Art. Rgt. 157 via 213 Security Division P.O.	10
27	160	251	10.'41	36348	II/ Gren. Rgt. 459 via 251 Infantry Division. P.O	10
28	189	374	7.'43	15784	Division Headquarters/207 Security Division	10
29	193	26	10.'40	10931	I/Artillery Rgt. 26 via 26 Infantry Division P.O.	10
30	222	213	6.'43	05155	II/Security Rgt. 318 via 213 Security Division P.O.	10
31	277	375	3.'43	46072	4. Kp/Trsp. Abtl. 750 via 454 Security Division P.O.	10
32	295	178	3.'42	03082	II/ Gren. Rgt. 215 via 78 Infantry Division. P.O	10
33	384	134	7.'43	28913	II/Art. Rgt. 384 via 134 Infantry Division P.O.	10
34	393	5	4.'40	26807	Nachrichten Abtl. 5 via 5 Jaeger Division	10
35	434	22	10.'41	20544	I/Infantry Rgt. 47 via 22 Air Landing Division P.O.	10
36	437	262	6.'43	32484	Korps Abtl. 5 via 262 Infantry Division P.O.	10
37	441	172	1.'44	19287	II/Gren. Rgt.105 via 72 Infantry Division P.O.	10
38	450	238	11.'43	12145	II/Gren.Rgt. 339 via 167 Infantry Division P.O.	10
39	477	256	2.'44	31226	2. Kp/Pioneer Btltn. 256 via 256 Infantry Division	10
40	603	227	7.'42	18378	II/ Gren. Rgt. 366 via 227 Infantry Division. P.O	10
40	630	45	9.'42	12483	II/Gren. Rgt. 130 via 45 Infantry Division P.O.	10
41	665	15	9.'40	21743	III/Gren. Rgt. 88 via 15 Infantry Division	10
42	713	188	7.'42	25219	3 Kp/Pioneer Btltn. 188 via 88 Infantry Division	10
43	722	14	5.'43	20192	II/ Gren. Rgt. 53 via 14 Infantry Division. P.O	10
44	815	122	3.'43	18759	Stab/Beob. Abtl. 4 via 122 Infantry Division P.O.	10
45	832	219	6.'42	09541	I/Gren. Rgt. 343 via 183 Infantry Division P.O.	10
46	856	17	10.'42	09372	II/ Gren. Rgt. 95 via 17 Infantry Division. P.O	10
47	863	330	12.'42	15188	I/Gren. Rgt. 556 via 330 Infantry Division P.O.	10
48	867	91	1.'41	09230	Stab/Nachr. Abtl. 91 via 6 Gebirgs Division P.O.	13
49	884	152	12.'44	04516	Feldpost Office 152 of 52 Security Division	10
50	916	173	9.'42	23346	3 Kp/Pioneer Btltn. 173 via 73 Infantry Division P.O.	10
51	970	46	6.'42	34171	I/Gren. Rgt. 72 via 46 Infantry Division P.O.	10
52	983	292	3.'44	46391	Stab/Landeschutz Btl. 234 via 292 Infantry Division	10
53	984	291	5.'40	00229	Division Headquarters/ 291 Infantry Division P.O.	10
54					Cvr to Germany w/ 1. '37 Deutsche Kriegsmarine Schiffpost Nr. 8 can.(Torpedoboot Itlis)	22

PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 103 IS AUGUST 15, 2006
SEND ALL BIDS TO: Jim Lewis, 111F Montross Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070