



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

Membership Renewal – this issue completes another year of TRSG activities and, as dues are now due, a renewal form is included in this mailing. **Please take a moment to complete the renewal form and send it with your payment to Secretary-Treasurer Bob Dunn.** While we have not increased dues for next year, any member whose dues are not received by January 1, 2002 will be considered as having resigned. Should this individual wish to renew their membership after January 1, 2002, they will be required to pay the \$10.00 new member fee in addition to the annual dues.

Otto Redux – another item from Otto Edenharter is this envelope produced for Hitler's 50th Birthday. The 2-cent U.S. postage due stamp makes no sense and was no doubt intended to add "eye appeal". These "Otto" covers have proved to be quite popular with our members. The initial entry was an envelope and card from Sept. 1939 shown on p. 9 in Bulletin 132. A follow up post-war cover was shown on p. 19 in Bulletin 135. We have received several others which will appear in future bulletins.

Info Wanted – TRSGer James Biedzynski recently obtained souvenir sheets sold at "The Life and Work of the Leader" exhibit held in Hamburg from April 17-20, 1937. He wants background info on the sponsoring organization NSV (Nationale Sozialistische Volkswohlfahrt). Send info to Ye Olde Ed.

Combat Division Profiles – in response to our request for R-cover illustrations, J. Painter supplied covers for 3rd, 22nd & 90th PG, 100 Jäger, 291, 293, 294, 319, 320, 335, 338, 356, 376 & 389 I.D. from list in Bulletin 134. G. Jamieson supplied covers for 131, 216 & 711 I.D. from list in Bulletin 140. We hope more members will search their collections and send in additional illustrations of R-covers from these lists.



Prices Realized – Auction # 84:

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	\$12.00	29	\$177.00	42	\$18.00	55	\$18.00	69	\$25.00
7	12.00	30	50.00	43	10.00	57	15.00	70	27.00
9	9.00	31	38.00	47	10.00	60	12.00	72	35.00
10	10.00	32	18.00	52	22.00	65	10.00	73	54.00
11	14.00	33	18.00	53	15.00	66	10.00	75	26.00
14	12.00	41	26.00	54	17.00	67	30.00		

Cover Illustration The ironically titled "The Soviet Paradise" was a travelling exhibit sponsored by Goebble's Ministry of Propaganda in the spring of 1942. It was a series of diorama scenes designed to portray living conditions in the USSR as threadbare and miserable. After the initial stay in Vienna, the exhibit traveled to Berlin and opened in the Lustgarten on May 9, 1942. The diorama scenes were depicted on a series of post cards sold at the exhibit. A special P.O. at the exhibit cancelled these cards with a special cancel designed by the husband-wife team Axster-von Heudless. The address side of one of these cards is shown on Page 1 and five of the cards are illustrated as lots 33 - 37 in Auction # 85.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 254th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
254	305	454	474	484	254	254

Formed in the summer of 1939 (4th Wave) from Rhinelanders in reserve ('Ergänzungs') units, the 254th Infantry Division post office unit (Feldpostamt or FpA) was assigned Feldpost # 38703 to be used as a return address. In addition, this post office was assigned Kenn 305 for registered mail in lieu of its tactical designation FpA 254. It fought in Holland, Belgium and northern France in 1940.

The 254th Infantry Division was sent to the northern sector of the Eastern Front in July 1941 and took part in 18th Army's drive toward Leningrad. In December 1942 it was transferred to the 16th Army, still in the northern sector, and held a portion of the corridor into the Demyansk salient. It remained in the northern sector until it was transferred to Army Group Northern Ukraine early in 1944. It took part in the subsequent retreat in the southern sector. It was resisting the Soviet advance in eastern Slovakia in early 1945. The 254th Infantry Division ended the war in a pocket in Deutsch-Brod, east of Prague in Czechoslovakia, where it surrendered.



Cover sent to Military District Command in Vienna in January 1944 from Fp. # 38095 (Battalion II/Grenadier Regiment 474) via division P.O. 254 (K-305).

Story Behind the Stamp: Paul von Hindenburg

by Kelly Stefanacci

Paul von Hindenburg was born October 2, 1847 at Posen. He was the son of Robert Ludwig von Hindenburg, an officer in the Prussian army, and his wife Luise Schwickart. Early destined for a military career; in 1858 the boy became a cadet at the military academy at Wahlstatt, Silesia and later attended the military academy in Berlin. He was given a commission in the 3rd Foot Guards at Danzig in 1866 and took part in the battle of Königgrätz on July 3, 1866, where he won the Order of the Red Eagle for heroism. He later won the Iron Cross during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. For the next four decades he rose gradually in military rank from captain to general, taking command of the 4th Army Corps in Magdeburg in 1903. His marriage to Gertrud Wilhemina von Sperling at Stettin on September 24, 1879 produced a son Oscar and two daughters Irmengard and Annemarie.

Paul von Hindenburg retired from the Army in 1911 but was recalled on August 22, 1914 to command the 8th Army in East Prussia. Together with Erich von Ludendorf, his chief of staff, he completely defeated the Russians at Tannenberg on August 31st. He then took his Army to help the Austrians in Galacia. He was promoted to the rank of Field Marshal and given command of all German armies on the Eastern Front. His overwhelming victories against the Russians led to the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk on March 3, 1918. After the German failure at Verdun in 1916, Hindenburg and Ludendorf were transferred to Pless and assumed control of the Western Front where they initially conducted successful offensives at Amiens and the Marne. However, when it became obvious that a German victory was impossible, Hindenburg advised Kaiser Wilhelm II to abdicate and he retired once again to his estates in Hanover.

After President Ebert died, Paul von Hindenburg was elected on April 26, 1925 as the second President of the German Republic and then re-elected to a second term on April 10, 1932. While the 85 year old president did not play a very active role in the republican regime, he yielded to pressure from the Nazi Party and appointed Adolph Hitler as Chancellor on January 30, 1933. Paul von Hindenburg died in office on August 2, 1934 on his estate at Neudeck in East Prussia

A bust of Paul von Hindenburg appeared on all values of the first set of definitive stamps for Third Reich Germany issued in 1933. This same design was later used in a set of black bordered stamps following his death in 1934.



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

Fundamentals of Feldpost Collecting

Part 9. German Forces on Crete

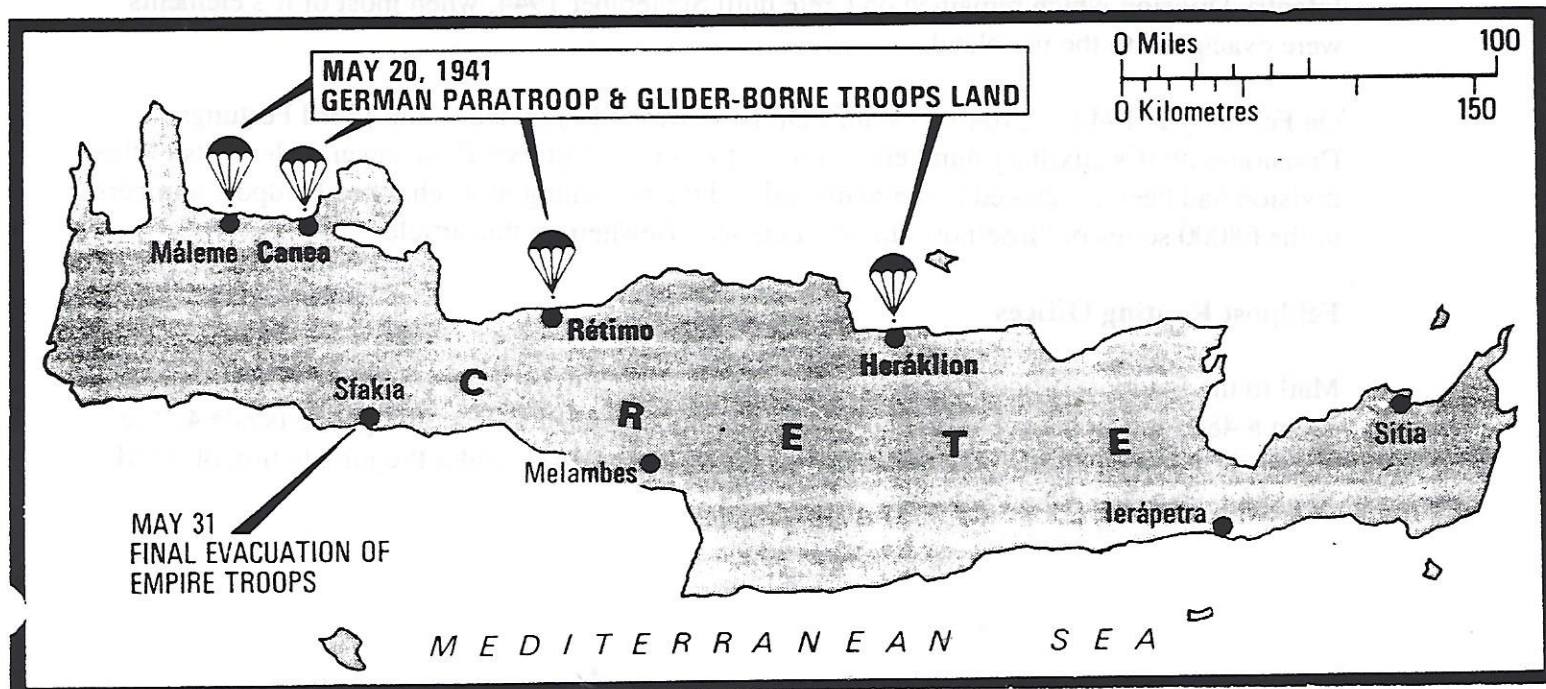
by Robert J. Houston

On April 25, 1941, Hitler signed his 28th War Directive – initiating the airborne attack on Crete under the code name ‘Merkur’ (Operation Mercury) an appropriate name no doubt likening the airborne troops to the ancient god with winged feet.

The initial assault was carried out by the airborne and parachute troops of Fliegerkorps XI under command of General Kurt Student, supported by aircraft of Fliegerkorps VIII commanded by Baron Wolfram von Richthofen and began on the morning of May 20, 1941. Preceded by bombing attacks, waves of paratroops and glider assault troops landed on Maleme, Canea, Retimo and Heraklion, only to suffer very heavy losses due to an under-estimation of defending forces.

Identified units of this initial landing force were Parachute Regiments 1, 2, 3 and Assault Regiment 1 of the 7th Flieger Division (this division was reorganized in May, 1943 as the 1st Parachute Division with Feldpost Office 927, Fp # 28494, Kenn #818 – prior to this the Feldpost office was designated as “Feldpostamt d. Flieger Division 7” with Fp # 01185, however the Kenn number is unknown to this writer).

After two days of bitter fighting and with the issue still very much in doubt, elements of the 5th Mountain Division were landed on the airstrip at Maleme which was then in German hands, but under extremely heavy artillery fire. These troops, under Lt. Gen. Ringel, were joined by elements of the 6th Mountain Division and probably were responsible for turning the tide of battle at Maleme. The outcome of the attack was clearly decided by May 26th and between May 28th and June 1st, the British Navy evacuated surviving British forces from Sfakia.



The Occupation

The "Fortress of Crete", with headquarters at Heraklion, was under the overall command of the "Kommandant der Festung Kreta" Gen. Lt. (Lw) Bruno Bräuer and was assigned Fp #05774. The 6th Mountain Division remained until August 1941 when it was hurriedly pulled out and sent to Finland where it relieved the badly mauled 3rd Mountain Division on the Murmansk front. The 5th Mountain Division remained on Crete until late 1941 when relieved by the 713th Infantry Division which had been formed in June 1941 and arrived on Crete in October. In January 1942 this division was incorporated into the "Festungs Division Kreta".

The Fortress Division of Crete

A somewhat complicated shifting of units occurred in connection with the "Festungs Division Kreta" which has been reconstructed through unit histories and tracing of the Feldpost number assignments of the Division's headquarters and field post offices as they were modified in the "Feldpostübersicht" (Field Post Directory).

Diagramed in Fig. 1, the sequence of events began upon the arrival of the 164th Infantry Division on Crete in January 1942 at which time the "Festungs Division Kreta" was formed. This new division consisted of two Brigades, with Brigade I formed from the 713th Infantry Division and Brigade II formed from the 164th Infantry Division (whose Division HQ became the new Division HQ).

In July 1942 the pressing situation in North Africa required that the former 164th Infantry Division be reformed into a Light Division and flown rapidly to Rommel's command. This unit was designated as the 164th Light Africa Division and while containing most of its original units, incorporated the post office unit (Fp # 16550) which was originally FpA 713 – then changed to FpA 224 and finally changed to FpA 220. The remainder of "Festungs Division Kreta" now became the 164th Festungs Division with the auxiliary number 224, including the original post office unit (Fp # 02476) now designated as FpA 224.

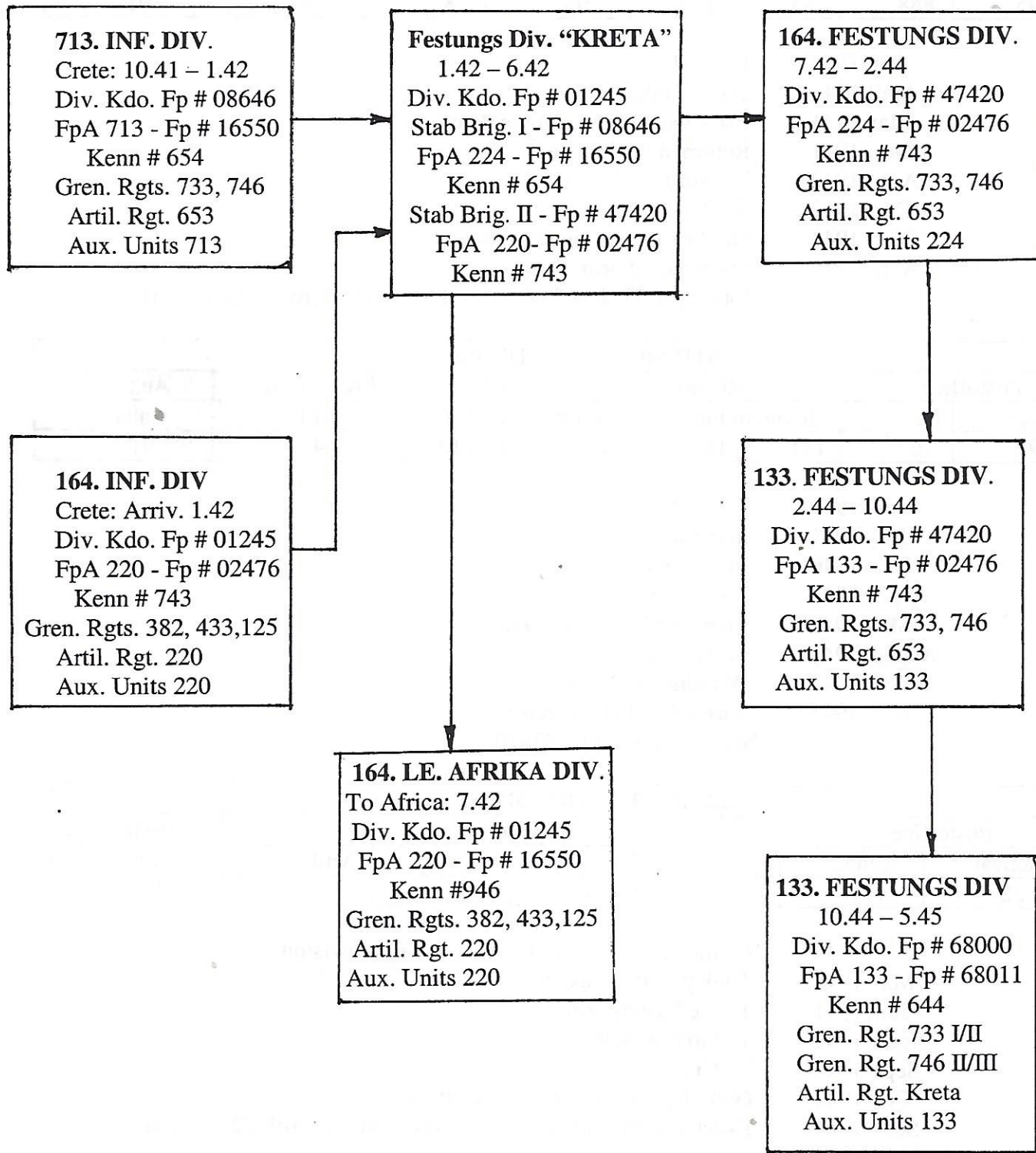
The 164th Festungs Division was later reinforced (Sept. 1942) by the arrival of the 22nd Infantry Division which remained on Crete until September 1944, when most of its elements were evacuated to the mainland.

On February 2, 1944, the 164th Festungs Division was redesignated as the 133rd Festungs Division with its auxiliary numbers changing to 133. By October 1944, several elements of this division had been evacuated to the mainland and the remaining units changed Feldpost numbers to the 68000 series of "Inselpost" fame – detailed elsewhere in this article.

Feldpost Routing Offices

Mail to the Feldpost offices on Crete was routed by Feldpostleitstelle (FpLSt) 567 (Fp # 08616 – Kenn # 484) at Salonika. This office was eventually upgraded to Hauptfeldpostleitstelle 4. The "Armeebriefstelle" (ABSt) for this area was #560 (Kenn #541), under the jurisdiction of APM 12 at "Kiphissa bei Athen/Salonika".

Fig. 1) "The Fortress Division of Crete"



On the following page are shown the organizations and brief histories of the other three German divisions which served on Crete:

5TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION							
Postoffice		Regiments			Recon	Anti-Tank	Auxil
Tact.	Kenn	Mountain Inf.	Artillery	Btl.	Btl.	Units	
95	888	85	100	95	85	95	

Oct. 1940 Formed
 April 1941 To the Balkans
 May 1941 Participated in landing on Crete
 Dec. 1941 Returned to Germany
 April 1942 To Northern Russia
 Dec. 1942 To Italy
 Sept. 1944 On the Franco-Italian frontier
 April 1945 Surrendered near Turin

Note: FpA 95 (Fp# 29791) used Kenn #587 from 10.40 – 3.41

6TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION							
Postoffice		Regiments			Recon	Anti-Tank	Auxil
Tact.	Kenn	Mountain Inf.	Artillery	Btl.	Btl.	Units	
91	867	141	143	118	112	91	

Nov. 1939 Formed
 July 1941 In the west
 Dec. 1940 To Poland
 April 1941 To Greece
 May 1941 Elements landed on Crete
 August 1941 To Finland
 Nov. 1944 Withdrew to Norway
 May 1945 Surrendered at Lyngenfjord

Note: FpA 91 - Fp# 33819

22ND INFANTRY DIVISION						
Postoffice		Regiments				Auxil
Tactical	Kenn	Grenadier			Artillery	Units
22	434	16	47	65	22	22

1935 Formed as a "Luftland" (Air Landing) Division
 May 1940 Took part in invasion of Holland
 June 1941 To the Eastern front
 August 1942 To Greece, Salonika area
 Sept. 1942 To Crete
 Oct. 1942 Gren. Rgt. 47 detached to North Africa
 Sept. 1944 Evacuated to mainland - left 2nd Co. of Eng. Btl. 22 on Crete
 Nov. 1944 In Montenegro
 Jan. 1945 Sarajevo area
 March 1945 Redesignated 22nd Volksgren. Division, FpA changed to K-148
 April 1945 Steiermark area

Note: FpA 22 - Fp# 14928

The "Inselpost" Service

On December 1, 1943 an airmail service for the troops on Crete and Rhodes was initiated by OKW order 3932/43 (dated November 11, 1943) and published in HVB1 (Army Directive) "C" 1943, page 611, in which the permit stamp requirements were outlined as for the similar service on the eastern front. Admitted were private post cards and letter sheets for one stamp, private letters (up to 10-gram limit) and official letters (20-gram limit) for two stamps.

The worsening war situation eventually led to a reduced capability in maintaining this service and further restrictions were planned – to be implemented by use of the new permit stamps overprinted "Inselpost" and a change of Feldpost numbers to the 68000 series in which the units on Crete were assigned numbers between 68000 and 68059. This change of numbers and the accompanying change of routing instructions to "L.G.P.A. Wien" (Air district Post Office Vienna) were facilitated by the use of special form cards:

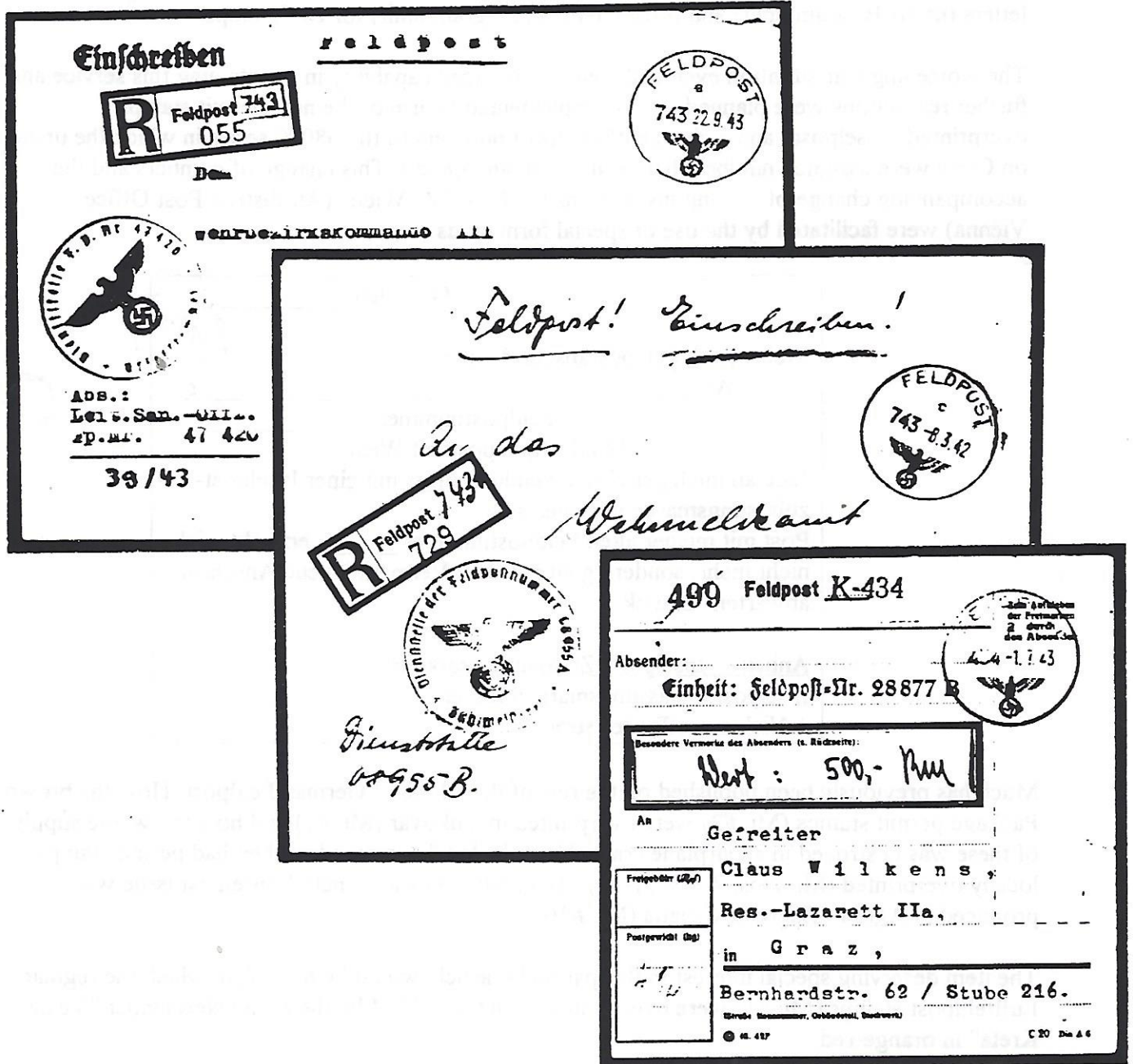
O.U. den _____
Meine <u>neue Feldpostanschrift</u> lautet:
An _____
Feldpostnummer _____
12 a Luftgaupostamt Wien
Jede an mich gerichtete Sendung <u>muss</u> mit einer Inselpost- zulassungsmarke versehen sein.
Post mit meiner alten Feldpostnummer _____ erreicht mich nicht mehr, sondern geht mit dem Vermerk "Neue Anschrift abwarten" zurück.
<u>Anbei: Inselpost -Zulassungsmarken+</u>
Inselpost-Zulassungsmarken folger
+ Nichtzutreffendes streichen.

Much has previously been published on the rest of this phase of German Feldpost: How the brown Package permit stamps (Mi. #2) were overprinted in Vukovar (Mi. #6) and how the whole supply of these was destroyed in an airplane crash; How the local commanders then had permit stamps locally overprinted (Mi. Nos. 7-8-9-11-12); And finally how a "general" Inselpost issue was produced in Agram (Zagreb), Croatia (Mi. #10);

The item deserving special interest in this particular article would be Mi. #7, in which the regular Luftfeldpost stamps (Mi. #1) were overprinted in October 1944 by the Army Newspaper "Veste Kreta" in orange-red:

Inselpost

While having seen references to "FpA 131 in Chania, Crete" (Gericke's 'Feldpost im Zweiten Weltkrieg'), this FpA was assigned to the 131st Infantry Division from November 1940 onwards and was never on Crete. Likewise, a notation in the same reference of FpA 141 of the 41st Festungs Division being on Crete at one point in time does not appear to be substantiated by any other references.



Top: Registered cover containing a report from Fp. #47420 (Headquarters of 164th Festungs Division) via FpA 224 (Kenn #743) in September 1943.
Center: Registered cover from Fp. #08955B (Company 5, Battalion II, Panzer Grenadier Regiment 382 of the "Festungs Division Kreta" via FpA 220 (Kenn #743) in March 1942.
Bottom: Receipt card for official parcel sent by Fp. #28877B (Company 9, Battalion III, Grenadier Regiment 65 of the 22nd Infantry Division via FpA 22 (Kenn #434) in July 1943.

"INSELPOST" NUMBERS - CRETE

Note: (Int) = "Inselteil" part of the unit left on the island.

Fp. No.	Unit Identity	Old Fp. No.
68000	Stab - Festungs Division 133	47420
68001	Techn. Kp. 128	43567
68002A	Kriegslazarett Kreta	
68002B	Kranken Kraftwagen Zug 133 (Int)	
68002C	Truppen Entgiftung Zug I/133 (Int)	15503
68003A	Panzer Abteilung 212 - Stab	44188
68003B	Panzer Abteilung 212 - Kompanie 1	
68003C	Panzer Abteilung 212 - Kompanie 2	
68003D	Panzer Abteilung 212 - Kompanie 3	
68004	Grenadier Regiment 746 - Regts. Stab und Stabs Kp.	10992
68005	Kraftsfahrzög Instandsetzungs Park (Int)	
68006	Artillerie Regiment Kreta - stab II:	
68006A	Heeres Küsten Artillerie Abteilung 1021 - Stab	20570
68006B	Heeres Küsten Artillerie Abteilung 834 - Batterie 1	40662B
68006C	Heeres Küsten Artillerie Abteilung 834 - Batterie 2	40662C
68006D	Heeres Küsten Artillerie Abteilung 834 - Batterie 4	40662E
68006E	Heeres Küsten Artillerie Abteilung 834 - Batterie 7	40662H
68006F	Heeres Küsten Artillerie Abteilung 901 - Batterie 6	35565G
68006G	Artillerie Regiment 19 (Int)	06484
68008A	Verwaltungs Kompanie 133 (Int)	08075
68008B	Verwaltungs Kompanie 819 (Int)	47522
68008C	Heeres Unterkunftsverwaltung 359 (Int)	09810
68008D	Verwaltungs Kompanie 820 (Int)	47522
68009	1 w. Kp. Suda, 2 Lw. Kp. Prolemanchi u. Lw. Wach Kp.	
68010	Pak Kompanie Grenadier Regiment Kreta	
68011	Feldpostamt 133 (Int)	02476
68012	Kraftsfahrzög Instandsetzungs Kompanie 218 (Int)	21071
68014	Pionier Bataillon 22 - Kompanie 2 (Int)	59357
68015	Flugplatz Kommando 29/IV (Malemes)	
68017A	Grenadier Regiment 746 - Stab III	12749
68017B	Grenadier Regiment 746 - Kompanie 9	
68017C	Grenadier Regiment 746 - Kompanie 10	
68017D	Grenadier Regiment 746 - Kompanie 11	
68017E	Grenadier Regiment 746 - Kompanie 12	
68018A	Division Nachschub Truppe 133 - Kompanie 1	26328
68018B	Division Nachschub Truppe 133 - Kompanie 2	27871
68018C	Division Nachschub Truppe 133 - Kompanie 3	
68019A	Pionier Bataillon Kreta - Stab	
68019B	Pionier Bataillon Kreta - - Kompanie 1	
68019C	Pionier Bataillon Kreta - - Kompanie 2	
68019D	Pionier Bataillon Kreta - - Kompanie 3	
68019E	Pionier Bataillon Kreta - - Kompanie 4	

68020	Artillerie Regiment Kreta – Stab III:	
68020A	Heeres Küsten Artillerie Abteilung 834 - Stab	40662A
68020B	Heeres Küsten Artillerie Abteilung 283 – Batterie 1	30290B
68020C	Heeres Küsten Artillerie Abteilung 475 – Batterie 1	44514B
68020D	Heeres Küsten Artillerie Abteilung 619 – Batterie 4	
68021A	Nachrichten Abteilung 133 - Stab	05887
68021B	Nachrichten Abteilung 133 Kompanie 1	
68021C	Nachrichten Abteilung 133 Kompanie 2	
68022A	Kommandantur Nachschub Truppe (Int)	41632
68022B	Nachschub Kompanie 133	
68022C	Nachschub Bataillon 691 (Int)	29306
68025A	Grenadier Regiment 733 –Stab I	07910
68025B	Grenadier Regiment 733 – Kompanie 1	
68025C	Grenadier Regiment 733 – Kompanie 2	
68026A	Sicherungs Bataillon 832 – Stab (Int) aus Gren. Rgt. 746/III	12749
68026B	Sicherungs Bataillon 832 – Kompanie 1	
68026C	Sicherungs Bataillon 832 – Kompanie 2	
68026D	Sicherungs Bataillon 832 – Kompanie 3	
68026E	Sicherungs Bataillon 832 – Kompanie 4	
68028	Schlachtereier Kompanie 133 (Int)	35154
68030A-D	Festungs Infanterie Bataillon 1011 (Int) - MILOS	45565
68030E	Hafenkommandant Milos	08341
68031A	Feldlazarett 684 (Int)	
68031B	Truppen Entgiftung Zug II/133 (Int)	
68032A	Grenadier Regiment 733 –Stab II	00021
68032B	Grenadier Regiment 733 – Kompanie 5	
68032C	Grenadier Regiment 733 – Kompanie 9	
68032D	Grenadier Regiment 733 – Kompanie 10	
68034	Marine Artillerie Abteilung 520 - Batterien 6-12 u. Alarm Kp.	07982
68035	Feldgendarmerie Truppe 133 (Int)	30607
68037A	Kommandant der Seeverteidigung Kreta Rest. Stab	38602
68037B	Hafenkommandant Suda	
68037C	Hafenkommandant Kanea	
68039	Gemischte Flak Regiment 23 (mot) - Batterien 1-3	23057
68041	Gemischte Flak Abteilung 286 – Stab u Kompanien 1-6	10708
68043	Marine Artillerie Abteilung 520 – Stab/stabs Kp./Battr. 1 - 5	46014
68044	Wirtschafts Kompanie Kreta	
68045	Artillerie Regiment Kreta – Rgts. Stab	
68048A-E	Sicherungs Bataillon 833 (Int) – Stab Kompanien 1-4	11373
68050	Bäckerei Kompanie 133 (Int)	34938
68052	Stab- Luftwaffe Bau Bataillon 4/XVII	25768
68054	Marine Alarm Einheit - Kompanien 5-6	
68055A	Ortskommandantur I/981 (Int)	
68055B	Feldgendarmerie Truppe 718	
68055C	Feldgendarmerie Truppe 941 (Int)	
68055D	Kreigs Wehrmacht Gefangenis Kreta	
68055E	Propaganda Zug Kreta	

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 336th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
336	129	685	686	687	336	336

The 336th Infantry Division was formed in January 1941 (14th Wave) from Saxon personnel and cadres from the 256th Infantry Division. The division was sent for occupation duty in France. It was first sent to Normandy in the spring in 1941, then transferred to Brittany in March 1942.

The 336th Infantry Division was sent to the southern sector of the Eastern Front in May 1942, where it suffered heavy losses in the Soviet encirclement at Taganrog. It was an element of XL Panzer Corps in the second Battle of Kharkov (1942) and later was under Army Detachment Hollidt in the unsuccessful attempt to relieve the troops encircled in Stalingrad. In late 1943 it was sent to the Crimea, where it faced the Soviet spring offensive of 1944. The 336th Infantry Division bore the brunt in the Soviet assault on the Perekop Isthmus in April 1944. Most of the division was lost when the positions held by XLIX Gebirgs Corps gave way. The remnants of the division retreated into Sevastopol, where it was captured when the city fell. The division was subsequently disbanded.



Cover sent to Military Records Office at Aschaffenburg in June 1943 from Fp. # 02402 (Regiment HQ/Grenadier Regiment Section 605) via Field P.O. 336 (K-129).

Notes on the SS Issue of April 21, 1945

by J. F. Cunningham

Here is a stamp that is truly unique! The fact that it is one of a pair that became the final postal issue of the Third Reich would, by itself, make this stamp quite special. There is more however, which makes this one of, if not THE most interesting stamps of the era. Official Postal Decree No. 31 of 1945 states that "four stamps will be issued with allegorical designs of Institutions of the Party". Visually, this stamp is beautifully designed and is quite symbolic, as will be shown.



Printed at the State Printing Works in Vienna, it was designed by Erich Meerwald, the designer of many Third Reich stamps. Note that there is no inscription other than "GROSSDEUTCHES REICH" – the design obviously spoke for itself. In the foreground is a heavily armed Waffen-SS man carrying what appears to be a MG 34 machine gun and ammunition belt. From the small "peek" at his rank collar, I feel it is safe to say that he had the rank of Sturmmann (PFC). He wears both the camouflaged SS helmet cover and smock as would be appropriate for a Waffen-SS soldier in combat.

It is the figure in the background, however, which is the most interesting. This happens to be SS Sturmbahnführer Jacob Grimminger, who was the official bearer of the "Blood Flag", which he is seen trooping in this design. The Blood Flag was so called because it was splattered with the blood of party members killed and wounded during the attempted Munich Putsch of November 9, 1923. On November 9, 1926, the flag was presented to SS Sturm I (Traditionssturm) of the 1st SS Standarte and it's bearer from the beginning was then SS Truppenführer (Sergeant) Grimminger, who can be seen in many photographs with the Blood Flag. It has not been possible to find the reason for Grimminger's selection as bearer of the flag (it must be remembered that he was only a Sergeant when he was chosen - a rather lowly rank for such a high honor).

It was first thought that Grimminger was the original bearer of this flag during the actual Munich Putsch, but this was not the case. The actual bearer was Andreas Bauriedl, who was killed in this event. It may be that Grimminger was chosen because he was the only man of his SS Sturm involved in, or more likely still, wounded in the Putsch. In any case, Grimminger is seen here dressed in the early SS "Brown shirt" uniform which, with some modifications, came to be known as the "traditional uniform" after the introduction of the black SS service dress in 1932. So we have here a relatively famous early SS man as he appeared in the early days of the movement and a Waffen-SS trooper in the then "modern" SS look during World War II. Meerwald has "said" quite a bit with this design.

Please send any additional background information on this design to our TRSG Bulletin Editor.

ED. NOTE: This article originally appeared in TRSG Bulletin # 56 in 1980 and is reprinted here in slightly shorter form.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

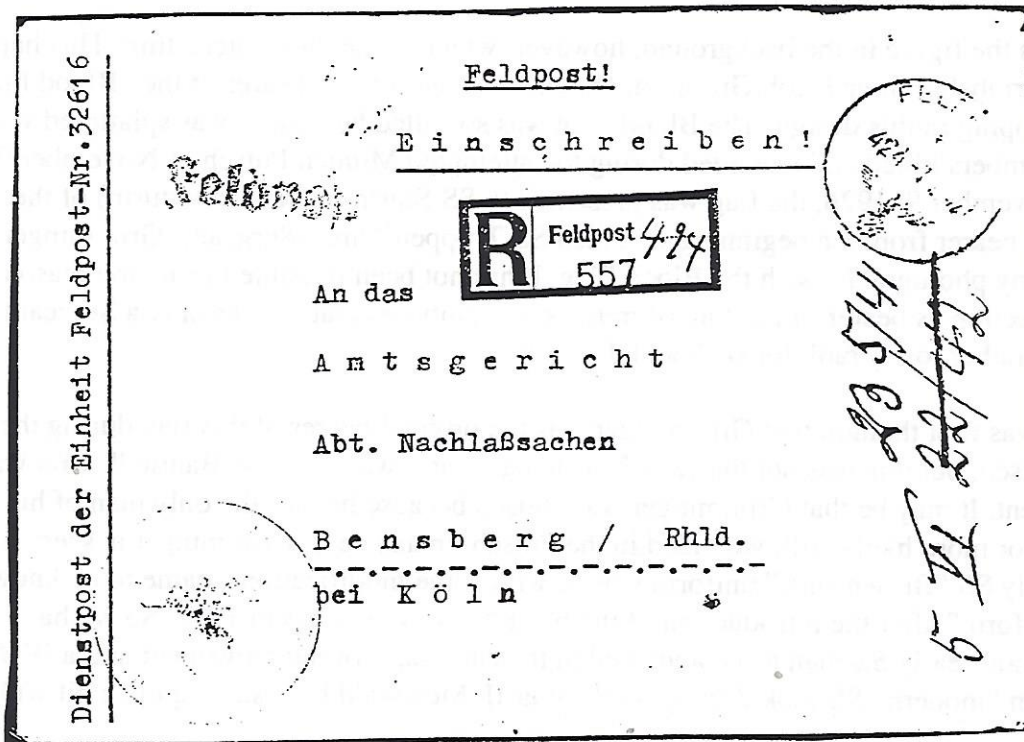
121st Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
121	424	405	407	408	121	121

The 121st Infantry Division was formed in September 1940 in Wehrkreis I with Prussian personnel (11th wave). The division post office was assigned Fp. # 47774 as a mailing address and Kenn 424 as a coded identification in lieu of its tactical FpA 121. It remained in Germany until June 1941 when it invaded the Soviet Union in the northern sector. The 121st Infantry Division was an element of LVI Panzer Corps under von Manstein when it smashed the Soviet 27th Army northeast of Dvinsk. The division commander, Major General Otto Lancelle, was killed during that battle

In August 1941 it took part in the Battle of Mga under 16th Army. By October it was down to 40% of its authorized strength but remained in action during the drive on Leningrad and in the subsequent Soviet attempts to break the siege of that city. By September 1942 the 121st Infantry Division was fighting in the Lake Ladoga sector and remained there until the retreat from Leningrad in 1944. In June 1944 it suffered heavy losses in the Battle of Pskov. Reduced to battle group strength, this burned out division retreated to the western coast of Latvia in September 1944 and remained there in the Courland Pocket until the end of the war.



Cover sent to Remaining Effects Section of Bensburg District Court in February 1942 from Fp. # 32616 (Engineer Battalion 121) via Field P.O. 121 (K-424).

THIRD REICH POSTAL RATES

Supplementary Airmail Flights

by Bob Ferguson

Surface mail from Bremen to Köln; airmail from Köln to Cherbourg; surface mail from Cherbourg to New York & airmail from New York to St. Louis.

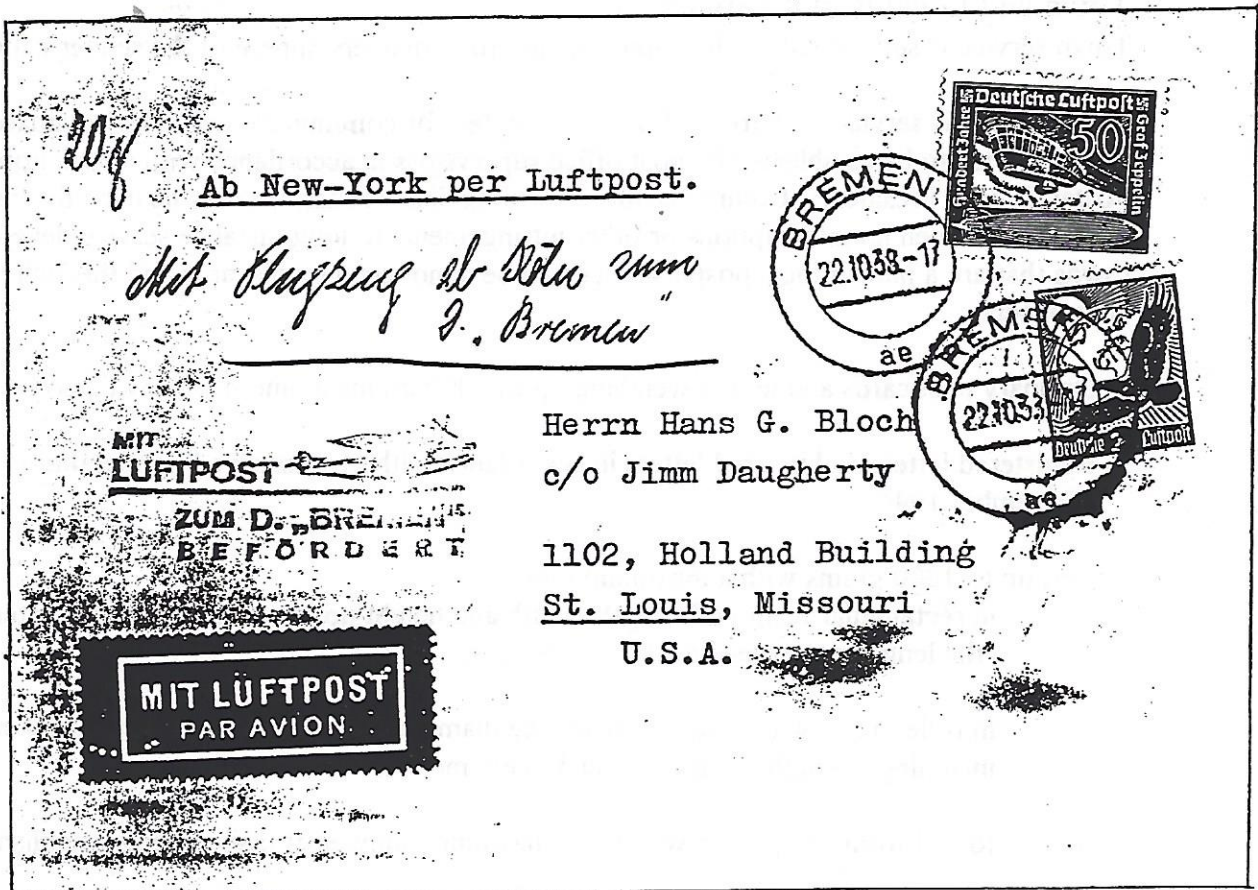
SUPPLEMENTARY AIRMAIL (30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945)

Basic = Basic letter rate

- + Supplementary flight from Köln to New York.
- + Quadruple weight (Airmail from New York) letter rate.

Supplementary Flight Markings: "Mit Luftpost zum D. "Bremen" Befördert" (Forwarded by airmail to the steamship "Bremen").

Inscription on cover: "Mit Flugzeug AB zum Köln zum D. "Bremen" (By aircraft from Cologne to the steamship "Bremen").



Posted: Bremen on October 22, 1938 to St. Louis, Missouri.

SUPPLEMENTARY AIRMAIL FLIGHTS ON FOREIGN SURFACE MAIL

Franking (75 Pfg.): 10 Pfg. = Supplementary flight surcharge from Köln to steamer "Bremen" in Cherbourg for weight 0 - 20 grams.

25 Pfg. = Foreign surface letter rate for weight 0 - 20 grams.

40 Pfg. = Airmail surcharge from New York for weight 15-20 grams.

The Reichspost Limits Postal Service

by Ben Beede

It is often said that the Reichspost continued normal operations up until VE Day. This is not quite true, for various limitations were imposed upon postal service during the last months of the war. In any case, statistics indicate that the amount of mail carried declined sharply at least during 1944. Below is the text of a major regulation dated January 29, 1945 which applied severe limitations to mail service:

Limitation of Postal Service Due to the Shortage of Long Distance Trains and the Performance of Practical Postal Service.

Owing to the shortage of long distance trains, possibilities for forwarding of mail have been severely limited. It has therefore been necessary to take measures that are suited to the demands that mail places on railroad carrying capacity. Accordingly, the following applies:

A. Mail admitted.

I. Letter Service

1. Town and Local Postal Service.

Town service is service within the municipal and rural delivery sphere of the sender's locality.

Local service is service with towns favorably located for communications. The boundaries for local postal service to be established by post office supervisors in accordance with instructions from the Postal District Presidents. Communications for long distance service may be used for local postal service only when no interruptions or other infringements to long distance service develop. Those towns that are a part of local postal service will be announced by placards and through the local newspapers.

a) Ordinary post cards and letters weighing up to 1000 grams to and from any person.

b) Registered letters and insured letters in accordance with my directive "Sonderaktion Post" of December 1944.

aa) up to 1000 grams with a maximum size:

in rectangular form with length, width and height not exceeding 50 centimeters including the length not exceeding 30 centimeters.

in rolled form with length & twice the diameter combined not exceeding 60 centimeters including a length not exceeding 50 centimeters.

to and from any person within the maximum number of mailed items established [1].

bb) up to 500 grams and up to the maximum measurements under aa) submitted unsealed when containing documents, securities, valuables etc. without connection to the maximum number mailed.

cc) up to 500 grams when mailed by the authorities listed in Appendix I or by any person to these authorities without relation to the maximum number mailed.

- [1] The maximum amount of registered and insured mail which may be accepted sealed from private persons has to be reduced correspondingly to the diminished amount submitted – Expansion of the special category of senders in Appendix I.

2. Long distance Postal Service.

Long distance service is everything that does not fall under town or local services.

- a) ordinary post cards and letters weighing up to 20 grams to and from any person.
- b) ordinary, registered letters and insured letters up to 500 grams that are mailed by the authorities listed in Appendix I, and mail directed to these authorities from any person.
- c) ordinary, registered letters and insured letters up to 500 grams to and from postal users who are not listed in Appendix I, in urgent military or vital situations *but only with special authorization of the Postal Districts.*

3. Accepted for Town, Local and Long distance Postal Service.

- a) Braille
- b) specially marked sample and dispatch letters to editors of newspapers and periodicals according to the current volume
- c) railway letters – in general remain admissible, insofar as suitable channels exist, when the sender or recipient of previous railroad letters belong to the used category listed in Appendix I, or if the letters are only 20 grams.

4. Feldpost, Dienstpost and Foreign Mail

The current volume of Feldpost and Dienstpost mail as well as mail to foreign countries continues to be admissible.

II. Money Service

Postal money orders, money order forms, postal collection orders, C.O.D., postal check letters, postal remittances, postal checks (Postal drafts) and other mail of the Postal Checking Service and mail of the Postal Savings Service.

III. Newspaper Service

Postal newspaper freight, railway newspapers and newspaper printed matter are admitted:

1. Daily Newspapers

- a) The 'Völkische Beobachter' (with all editions appearing in Berlin, Munich and Vienna), the 'Angriff' and the 'Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung' for distribution throughout the entire nation, forwarding if possible by fast trains.

- b) The 'Hamburger Fremdenblatt', the 'Kölnische Zeitung', the 'Münchner Neuesten Nachrichten' the 'Nationalzeitung' (Essen) and the 'Neues Wiener Tagblatt', and the Gau newspapers for distribution within an area of 100 kilometers of the publication site or within the particular Gau. Mailed copies of national newspapers throughout the entire nation to be forwarded by passenger and freight trains or, if possible, by fast trains
- c) Other daily newspapers for distribution within areas established by the Postal Districts for district service; forwarded in general only by passenger and freight trains.

2. Other Newspapers and Periodicals

- a) The gazettes of the highest national authorities, 'Das Reich' and 'Das Schwarz Korps' for unlimited distribution through the whole nation; forwarded whenever possible by fast trains.
- b) All other newspapers and periodicals for unlimited distribution throughout the entire nation; forwarded in general only by passenger and freight trains

IV. Parcel Service

An "intensified acceptance restriction" for parcels is introduced for the whole nation. The parcels still allowed are listed in Appendix 2. The Postal District Presidents are empowered to permit exceptions in order to eliminate emergencies for individual commercial senders of parcels with especially vital goods. The postal district number is to be indicated very clearly in 4 to 5 centimeter high numbers on all parcels.

B. Posting of Mail.

Ordinary postcards, ordinary long distance letters up to 20 grams, ordinary town and local letters, postal checking mail and postal savings mail are to be posted in letter boxes or by rural delivery.

Other mail is to be posted at the receiving post offices where the receiving official will determine if the sender or recipient belongs to the sphere of users permitted.

Letters found to be contrary to these regulations will be returned to sender with no examination mark applied to such mail.

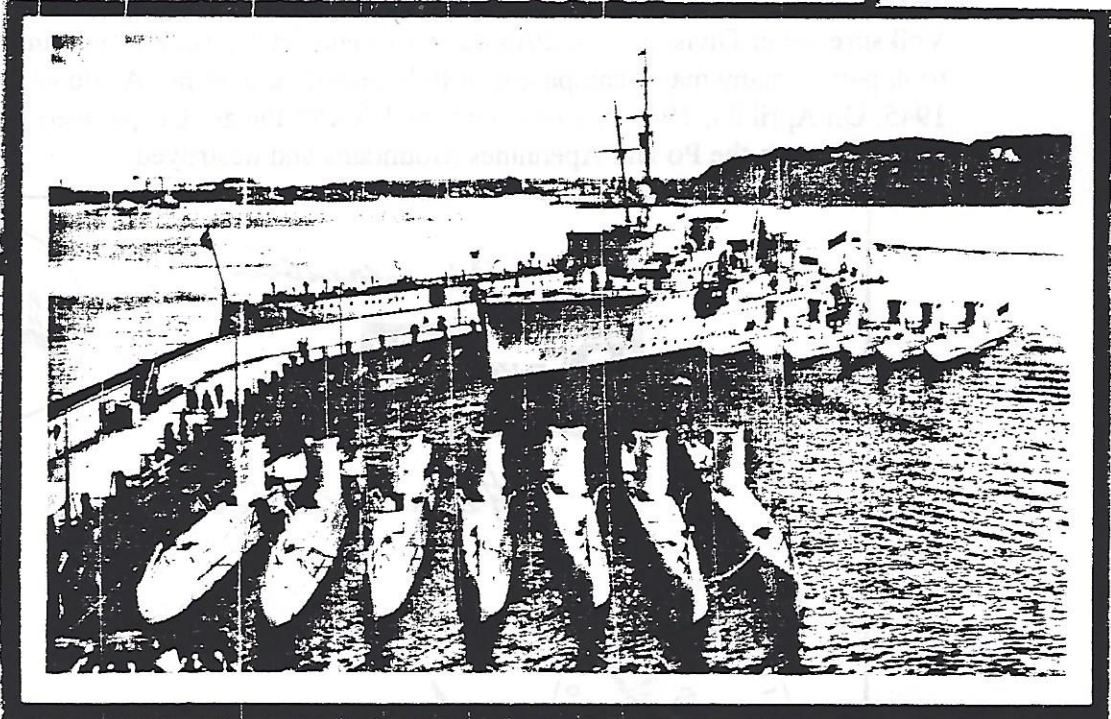
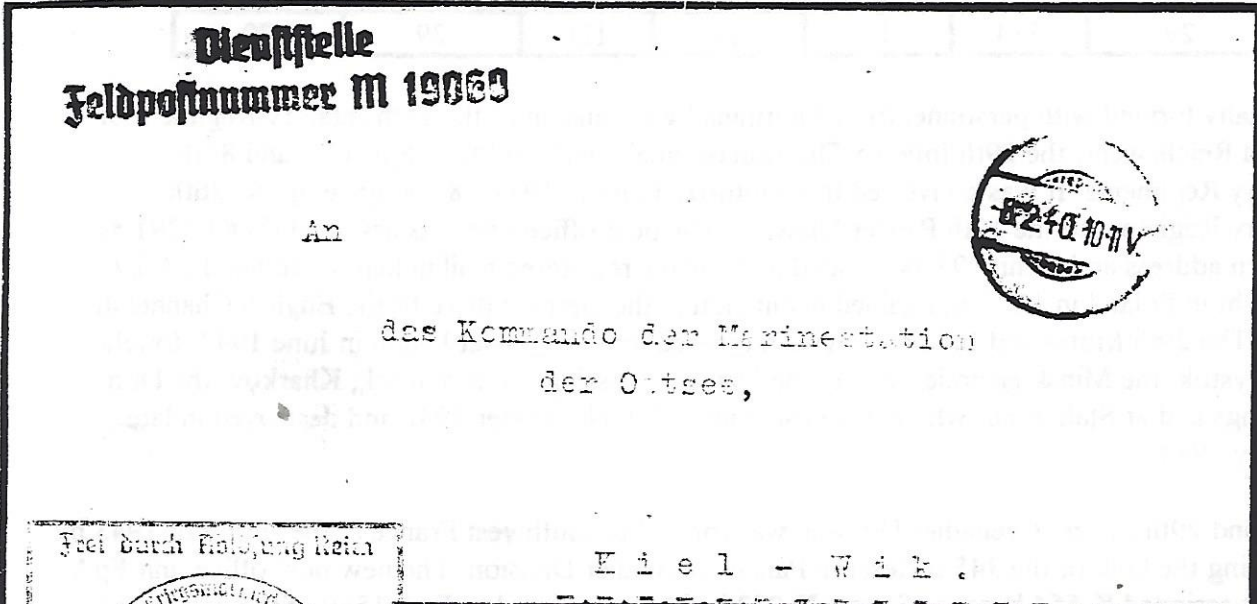
Letters that are submitted at a postal counter by those patrons listed in Appendix I must bear the sender's designation on the outside.

The decision of the receiving post offices concerning the admissibility of individual letters is binding for the whole mail route.

Note: This article, originally published in TRSG Bulletin No. 20 in July 1970, is reprinted here with minor changes in order to make this information available to our current membership. Ye Olde Ed.

NAVY LOG

Submarine Tender 'Ammerland' - Feldpost # 19060



February 1940: Cover to Kiel Headquarters with 25/19/9mm ring/bridge/fence mute cancel. Special handstamp inscribed "Admiral of Navy Headquarters, Hamburg - Lubeck Branch Office"

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 29th Panzer-Grenadier Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT	KENN	MOTORIZED INF.	PZ BTL	ARTY	UNITS
29	554	15	17	129	29

Originally formed with personnel from Thuringia by expansion of the 15th Infantry Regiment of the old Reichswehr, the 29th Infantry Division originally included the 15th, 17th and 86th Infantry Regiments. It was converted to a motorized unit in 1937-38 and gave up the 86th Infantry Regiment to the 10th Panzer Division. The post office unit was assigned Fp.# 06391 as a return address and Kenn 993 as a coded address for registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 29. It fought in Poland in 1939 and gained distinction in the German drive to the English Channel in 1940. The 29th Motorized Infantry Division crossed into the Soviet Union in June 1942, fought at Bialystok, the Minsk encirclement, in the Dnieper crossings, at Smolensk, Kharkov, the Don crossings and at Stalingrad, where it was surrounded in November 1942 and destroyed in late January 1943.

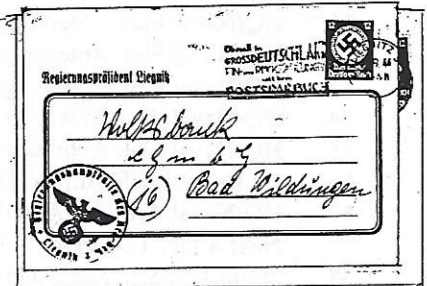
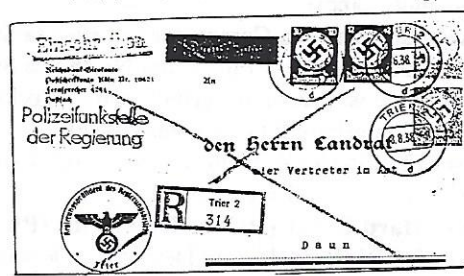
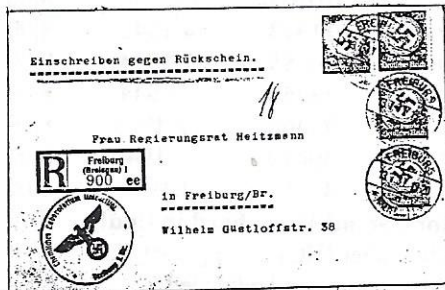
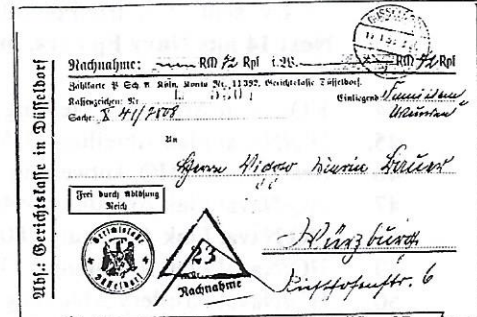
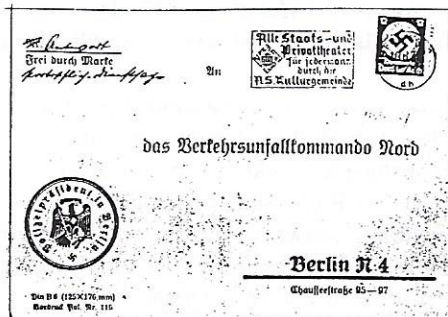
A second 29th Panzer Grenadier Division was formed in southwest France in the spring of 1943 by absorbing the bulk of the 345th Reserve Panzer Grenadier Division. The new post office unit FpA 29 was assigned K-554 because former K-993 had been assigned to FpA 1560 of the new 560th Volksgrenadier Division. The 29th Panzer Grenadier Division fought in Sicily in July 1943 and took part in many major campaigns in Italy including Salerno, Anzio and the Po River campaign of 1945. On April 24, 1945 it, along with the LXXVI Panzer Corps, were caught by the British 8th Army between the Po and Apennines Mountains and destroyed.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Aschaffenburg in February 1943 from Fp. # 08270 (Commander of Supply Troop 29) via Field Post Office 29 (K-554).

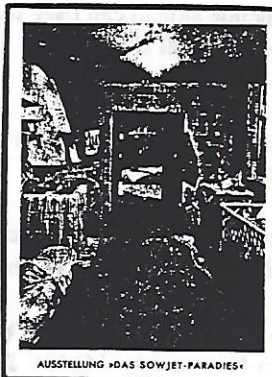
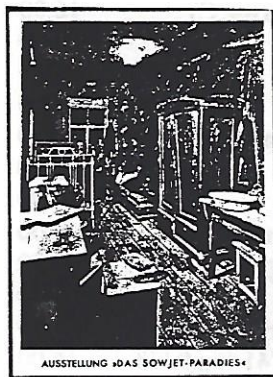
TRSG AUCTION NO. 85

Lot	Description	Min. Bid.
	First 24 lots are hard to find official mail from various agencies in Germany. Condition VF unless noted o.wise	
1.	Drucksache cvr frm Preuss. Strafgefängnis Berlin-Tegel w/Mi.132 can. 7.'34.	\$16.00
2.	Meter cvr frm Preuss. Minister für Wissenschaft, Kunst u. Volkbildung dated 10.'34. (See top row L)	13.00
3.	Old & new stmps on cvr frm Geschäftstelle des Amtsgericht Vonsfelde w/Mi.126 &133 can 11.'34	17.00
4.	Drucksache cvr to NSDAP frm Relector Univ. Halle-Wittenburg w/Mi.133 can 2.'35.	16.00
5.	Dbl wt cvr frm Geschäftsstellen Saatsanwaltschaft der Landgericht Torgau w/six Mi.133 can. 2.'35	19.00
6.	Cvr frm Polizeipräsident in Berlin w/Mi.138 tied 8.'35 NS Kulturgenende slogan can (See top row C)	16.00
7.	Cvr frm Gaujägermeister Braunschweig w/two Mi.132 tied 5.'35 Bach-Handel slogan can	14.00
8.	Cvr frm Bezirksverwaltungsgericht Düsseldorf w/Mi.133 &143 can 10.'35	16.00
9.	Cvr frm Landrat des Saalfreises in Halle w/Mi.133 &38 can. 12.'35.	16.00
10.	Stmpless Nachnahme (COD) cvr for 42 Pfg frm Gerichtsstase in Dusseldorf can 1.'36.' (See top row R)	19.00
11.	Cvr frm Staatspoizeistelle Hannover to Braunschweig w/pr Mi.135 can. 2.'36.	16.00
12.	Cvr frm Bayer Amtsgericht Freising w/Mi.133 &140 can 10.'36	15.00
13.	Pcd frm Preussisches Katasteramt Bendsberg w/Mi.135 can 7.'36. Vorladung zum Wessungsternin	16.00
14.	Reg.cvr frm Chemisches Laboratorium Freiburg w/Mi.136 & three Mi.140 can 7.'37 (See bottom row L)	20.00
15.	Cvr frm Preuss. Amtsgericht Halle (Salle) w/pr Mi.136 can. 3.'38	13.00
16.	Express cvr Front frm Polizeifunkstelle Trier w/ Mi.138, pr140 &141 can 8.'38 (See bottom row C)	19.00
17.	Cvr to Oberschule für Jüngen frm Oberpräsidium der Provinz Hessen-Nassau w/pr Mi.138 & 141 can 9.'38	16.00
18.	Reg. exp cvr frm Polizeifunkstelle der Regierung Trier w/Mi.138,140 &143 tied 11.'38 can (Front only)	14.00
19.	Postage Due stmpless cvr frm Polizeipräsident in Hamburg can. 27.2.'41 w/"Nachgebühr" h/s & manus. "8"	19.00
20.	Reply cd frm Landrat der Kreises Memmingen w/two Mi.166 can 1.'43.	13.00
21.	Reg. Cvr frm Landrat des Kreises Sonthofen w/Mi.170 & 175 can. 4.'44	17.00
22.	Cvr frm Staatliches Luitpold-Krankenhaus Würzburg w/pr Mi.169 can. 7.'44, "13a" Lead No.'	15.00
23.	Cvr frm Pathologisches Institut Universität Würzburg w/three Mi.137 tied 7.'44 Schweinfurt.slo. can	18.00
24.	Frm Regierungspräsident Leignitz w/Mi.172 can 9.'44 on re-used civil cvr (See bottom row R)	22.00



25.	Sudetenland provisional cans - two late '38 p'c'ds frm Obergau & Warnsdorf w/"Nazi" postmarks. F-VF	10.00
26.	Fp cvr from Fp# 00382 (Kdo 293rd Inf. Div.) sent 10.'41. On AGC East Front - Disbanded early 1944	10.00
27.	Fp cvr from Fp# 25868D (Stab I/ Inf. Rgt. 406 of 201 Sich. Div.) sent 10.'42. Destroyed Minsk June 44 VF	10.00
28.	"Got a Light?" U.S. leaflet showing German POW receiving cigarette from friendly GIs. VF Unusual	20.00
29.	'Nachlass' Fp card for personal effects of wounded soldier frm Fp. 12963 (G.R. 147 of 102nd Inf. Div.) sent via FpA 132 (K-544) in April '43. Note: This division defending Demyansk salient in no. Russia. VF	20.00
30.	Cvr w/dbl ring Fp can (Peterson 13b) frm Fp 12315 (Pz. Pi. Btl 16 of 16 Pz. Div. lost at Stalingrad) VF	26.00
31.	Fp-Kartenbrief frm soldier friend in Luftwaffe Hosp. with "Zurück an Absender! Neue Anshrift abwarten" handstamps & Wels (Austria) "Venus von Wels" pictoria SPC dated 16.10.40. F-VF	15.00
32.	Nine Kriegsmarine (Navy) Feldpost cvrs frm units using open unit identities. Cond. mixed but most VF	16.00

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Min. Bid</u>
	Next 5 lots postcards of diaramas from 1942 'Das Sowjet Paradies' (The Soviet Paradise) exhibition at Berlin Lustgarten, all w/ various stamps & SPC by Axster-Heudlass (See Pg. 1). VF & scarce.	
33.	Interior of shabby dwelling for family of four See illustration at L below	\$ 30.00
34.	Interior of shabby dwelling for family of six) See illustration at LC below	30.00
35.	Exterior of crude worker's hut - See illustration at C below	30.00
36.	Dilapidated work shop of independent shoe maker See illustration at RC below	30.00
37.	Headless & armless statue of Soviet leader - Lenin? - See illustration at R below	30.00



38. Military pass for 1 day visit to Paris circa 1942 w/unit seal Fp.# 40260. Scarce VF 20.00
- Next 5 lots are Registered Official Fp cvrs from units in Russia, all VF unless noted o'wise**
39. R-Cvr sent 8.40 frm Fp# 07423 - HQ Infantry 'Lehr' (Training) Btl. via APM 1 (K-549) in France 15.00
40. R-Cvr sent 7.42 frm Fp# 15002 - Div. HQ of 7th Infantry Division via FpA 7 (K-652) in Russia 12.00
41. R-Cvr sent 9.42 frm Fp# 05617 - HQ Gren. Rgt. 695 of 340th Inf. Div. via FpA 340 (K-954) in Russia 15.00
42. R-Cvr sent 8.43 frm Fp# 27662 - Motor Column 771. via FpA 158 (K-598) of 58th Inf. Div in Russia 14.00
43. R-Cvr sent 11.42 frm Fp# 00453 - Signals Btl 152 of 52nd Inf. Div. via FpA 152 (K-884) in Russia 15.00

Next 14 lots Navy Fp cvrs, most from Flak or Coast Art units. All VF unless noted o'wise. Got one of these?

<u>Description</u>	<u>Fp. No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	
44. HQ/Naval Artillery Abteilung 123 via Zustellpostamt Swinemunde w/SPC	00249	2.1940	8.00
45. HQ/Naval Flak Abteilung 215 via Konigsberg P.O., boxed unit seal	05321	1.1940	8.00
46. Sea Commad HQ Antwerp to Wilhelmshaven w/Feldpost cancel	33008	2.1942	8.00
47. HQ/Naval Flak Abteilung 244 w/Hamerau-Rademarschen cancel	24464	4.1940	8.00
48. HQ/Naval Flak Abteilung 280 w/ Feldpost cancel & Wehrmachtdienstpost h/s	00472	3.1942	8.00
49. HQ/Naval Flak Abteilung 213 via Wiek P.O. 'Frei durch Ablosung' h/s	03574	11.1939	8.00
50. HQ/Naval Artillery Abteilung 264 to Wilhelmshaven w/Feldpost cancel	03629	1.1942	8.00
51. HQ/Naval Flak Abteilung 211 w/ mute cancel	10108	11.1941	8.00
52. HQ/Naval Flak Abteilung 711 w/ mute cancel to Commander North Sea Station	11313	4.1942	8.00
53. HQ/Naval Flak Abteilung 266 w/ mute cancel to Commander North Sea Station	16685	7.1944	8.00
54. HQ/Naval Flak Abteilung 509 w/ Feldpost cancel to Berlin Electric Works	18258	4.1944	8.00
55. HQ/Naval Flak Abteilung 225 via Konigsberg P.O.w/slogan cancel	24466	12.1939	8.00
56. 1st Destroyer Flotilla to Destroyer Flotilla HQ Wilhelmshave (Fp. 02143)	30470	3. 1940	8.00
57. HQ/Naval Artillery Abteilung 811 w/ mute grid-style cancel	41151	2.1940	8.00

Next 4 lots T.R. related books in Hard Cover (HC) or Paperback (PB) format, all VF & hard to find!

58. **What If?:** Strategic Alternatives of WW II. Ed. Harold Deutsch & Dennis Showalter.(HC) 272 pgs, 1977, large print, many maps. A group of 19 knowledgeable historians give plausible scenarios and educated opinions pertaining to the major events of WW II. A fun read and very well presented. Like new! 25.00
59. **The German Atomic Bomb:** Nuclear Research in Nazi Germany by David Irving (PB) 329 pgs 1967 10.00
60. **The Longest Battle:** the War at Sea 1939-45 by Richard Hough (HC) 433 pgs. with maps & illus. 1986. 15.00
61. **Prelude to War: 1918-1938.** Time-Life WW II Series, 216 pgs, 1977, many photos early Nazi period 15.00

**PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 85 is November 8, 2001
SEND ALL BIDS TO: JIM LEWIS, 111 MONTROSS AVE., RUTHERFORD, NJ 07070**