



# 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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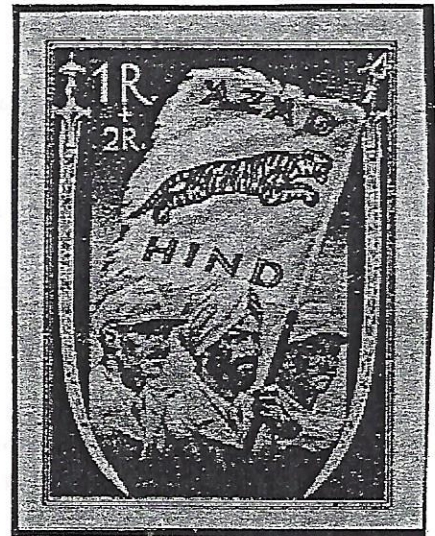
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## STUDY GROUP NOTES

**Dues are due** - with this fourth issue of the Bulletin for 2012, dues are now due and a renewal form is included for those members not yet paid for 2013. While we have held the line on dues for the past five years, recent postage and printing costs require us to increase dues as noted on your renewal form. Any member whose dues are not received by December 31, 2012 will be considered to have resigned and **will thereafter be required to pay the new member fee of \$10.00** in addition to their dues. Please send your payment promptly to : Jim Lewis, 867 Monmouth Road, Cream Ridge, NJ 08514

**Azad Hind** - several members have informed us that the website "Third Reich Stamps" names the three Indian martyrs depicted on the 1 Rupee value of this unissued set of stamps. They are Sukhdev Thapar (L), Bhagat Singh (w/flag) and Shivaram Rajguru (R). All were hanged on March 23, 1931 for violent acts of reprisal against British rule.



**Chemical Testing** - in response to Ron Morgan's cover shown in Bulletin 184, TRSGer Charles LaBlonde informs us that the Civil Censorship Study Group has been compiling information on these scarce special censored covers for several years. So far they have mail from USA, Mexico, Argentina and Uruguay. Prior to Ron's cover only 6 were known, all addressed to neutral countries like Switzerland and Sweden. They believe a special censorship laboratory in Washington, D.C. would receive this type mail from other US censor stations. Some of these letters appear to have been taken totally apart as the chemical traces are found on the inside of the cover. One theory of the C.C.S.G. is that, as the war wound down, Allied censors were looking for evidence of money being transferred by Nazis to bank accounts in neutral countries.

**Recycling TRSG Articles** - we occasionally receive requests from our members for information on some particular aspect of Third Reich postal history. Since we've edited this publication since 1977, we've published articles on a great many of these subjects. As maintaining a back issue service proved to be impractical, we've decided to answer these requests by publishing articles from past issues. So, if you are looking for information to complete your write-up, it's quite possible that it's already appeared in these pages and we'll be glad to re-run it for our newer members.

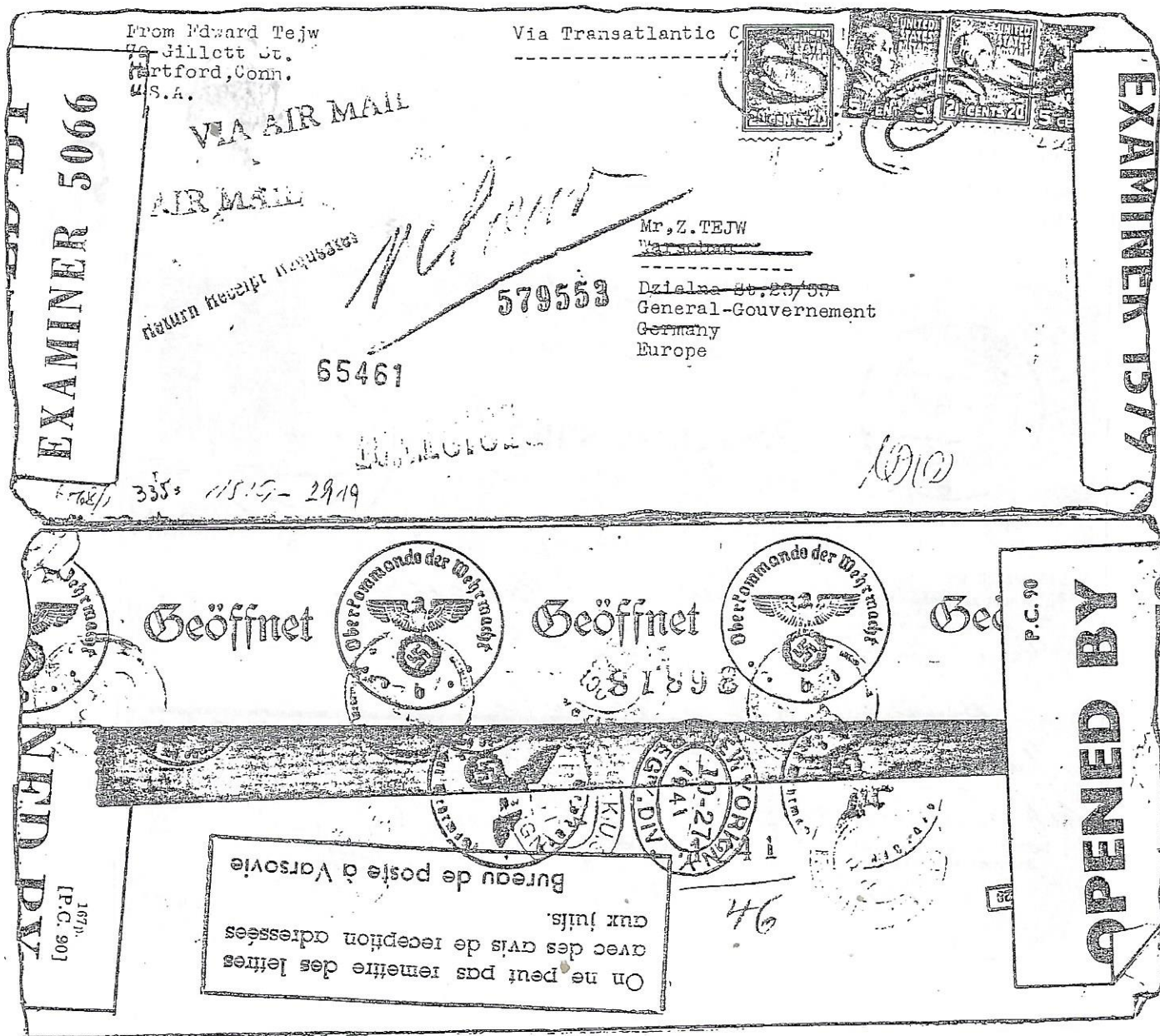
**One of my Favorite Covers** - TRSGer Kelly Stefanacci suggests that it would be beneficial for this feature to also provide members with an opportunity to share any unusual or comical experiences in obtaining a particular cover, react to judging of a cover in their postal history exhibits, etc. We like this suggestion in that most TRSG members don't have an opportunity to meet and discuss their experiences with fellow collectors. So, if you have entry, please send a photocopy of the cover and commentary to Ye Olde Ed. If your entry is critical of any particular dealer or judge, please omit their names because we don't want to offend anyone and our modest study group budget won't cover legal fees.

**Cover Illustration:** This special post card was mailed from the "Reichsgartenshau" (National Garden Show) held in Dresden from May 16 to October 15, 1936. TRSGer Bob Ferguson's article on pages 7-8 in this bulletin provides a listing of all Horticultural and Garden show special cancellations.

# Restrictions on Postal Service for Jews in Greater Germany

by Jim Lewis

The cover shown below provides an example of restricted postal service for Jews living in German-occupied territories during the war years. Legal-size registered airmail cover to Warsaw with "Return Receipt Requested" stamp was posted in Hartford, Connecticut on Sept. 3, 1941. Examined by British censors, presumably in Bermuda, who applied sealing tape 5066 on left. Upon entry into Germany, cover was opened at Frankfurt censor office (code 'e') and resealed with brown tape. Forwarded to Warsaw, the letter was rejected by the postal bureau who obviously discovered that the intended recipient was Jewish. The cover front has manuscript notation "Retour" (Return) and the back has a boxed violet handstamp with French text: "On ne peut pas remettre des lettres avec des avis de reception adressees aux Juifs." Returned to Germany, cover was re-opened at Berlin censor office (code 'b') who applied white sealing tape over the brown tape. Again opened by British censor on return trip (examiner tape 1579 on right), New York Registry Division added back stamp on October 27, 1941.



*Ed. Note: This article originally appeared in TRSG Bulletin No. 70 in January, 1984.*

# Third Reich Postal Rates

## Postal Money Order (Postanweisung)

### Inland and to Danzig

by Bob Ferguson


Rate Period: from August 1, 1927


Amount	Fee
to 10 RM .....	0.20 RM
-25 RM .....	0.30 RM
-50 RM .....	0.40 RM
-100 RM .....	0.50 RM
-250 RM .....	0.60 RM
-500 RM .....	0.80 RM
-750 RM .....	1.00 RM
-1000 RM .....	1.20 RM
Each additional 250 RM .....	0.40 RM

Postal money order card sent from Brüx (Sudetenland) [11a] on May 3, 1945 to Humpolec (Böhmen & Mähren) [11b]. Note: German name for Humpolec was Gumpolds.

Backstamped at Humpolec on May 15, 1945.

Money order value of 20 RM required postal fee of 30 RM (10 RM - 25 RM)





Absender: *Glaier Wenzel*  
*Brüx*  
*Gasserstr 18/18*

## Postanweisung

auf *20 RM* Ref. wörtlich:

*20 RM Ref.* Reichsmark wie oben

An *Wädisch Gylhart*  
*Jüdice e 99*

in *n. n. Humpolec*

*Beatekloster MB*

Eingezahlt am

Absender Name, Wohnort, Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk; bei Untermietern auch Name des Vermieters

*Glaier Wenzel*  
*Brüx*  
*Gasserstr 18/18*

*MA Sudeten*

Beitritt (Rechnung, Kennzeichen, Buchungsnummer usw.)

Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk; bei Untermietern auch Name des Vermieters

*Beatekloster MB*

Postvermerk Nr. *0034*

*3 51*  
*Brüx*

am *3. 5.*

Eingetragen durch:

*3. 5.*

Eingangslit.

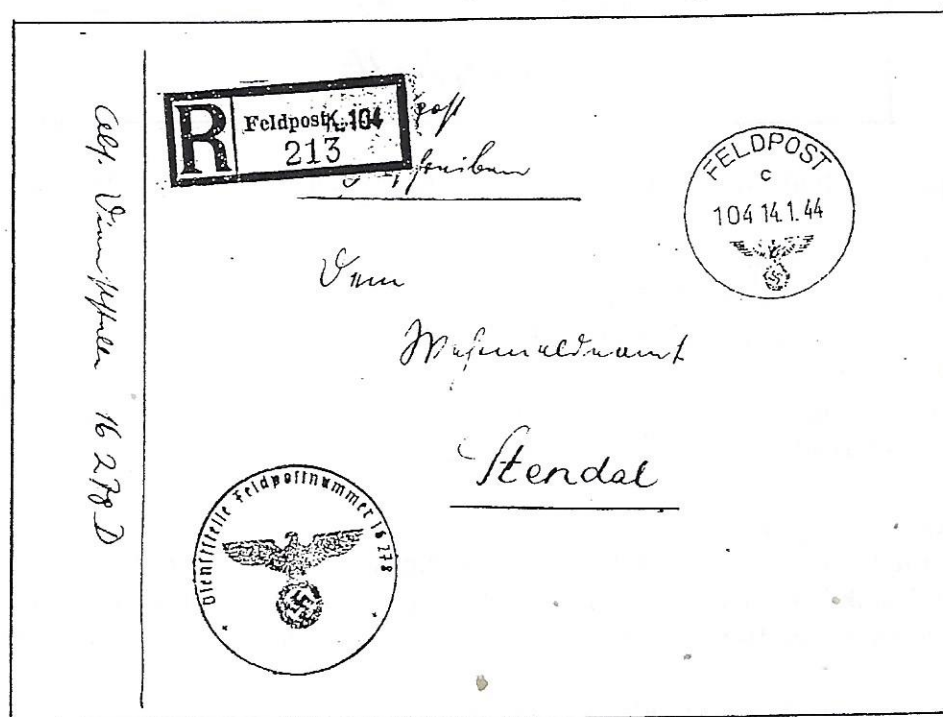
© 111 437 △ C 90E

## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 19th Panzer Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	PZ.-GRENADIER	ARTY	UNITS
19	104	27	73	74	19

Formed initially as the 19th Infantry Division in 1935-36 (1st Wave) and included 59th, 73rd and 74th Infantry Regiments. The division fought in Poland in 1939 and against the British Expeditionary Force in Belgium in 1940. The post office unit was assigned Fp. # 11324 as a return address and Kenn 104 as a coded address. Converted to a panzer division in autumn of 1940, it added the 27th Panzer Regiment and gave up the 59th Regiment to 20th Panzer Division.

It invaded Russia with Army Group Center in June 1941. The 13th Panzer Division fought in the Bialystok and Minsk encirclements and the Battle of Moscow. It remained on the central sector until sent to the southern sector late in 1942. The 19th Panzer Division supported the 8th Italian Army, then joined Army Group Don after the Italians collapsed in January 1943. It took part in the Kursk offensive in July 1943, suffering heavy casualties there and in the subsequent retreat. It was fighting near Kiev in December 1943 and in the withdrawal through northern Ukraine in March 1944. Rushed north after Army Group Center was smashed, the 19th Panzer took part in the destruction of the III Soviet Tank Corps, halting the Soviet summer offensive of 1944. In autumn 1944 it was fighting west of the Vistula and suffered heavy losses. Down to battle group strength, it ended the war in the pocket east of Prague.

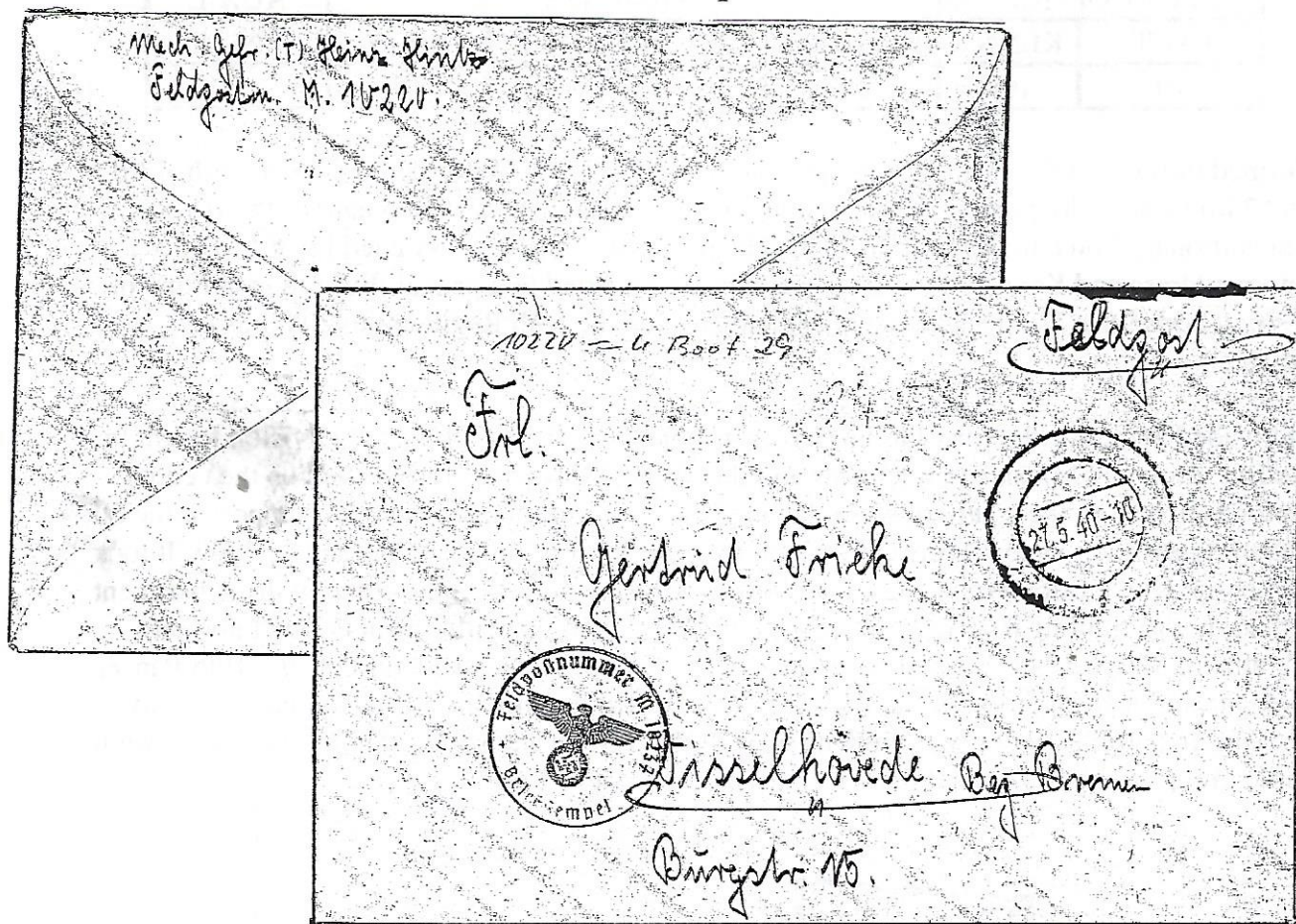


Cover sent to Military Records Office in Stendal in January 1944 from Fp. # 16278 (Btl. II/Panzer-Artillery Regiment 19) via P.O. 19 (Kenn 104)

# NAVY LOG

by Phil Miller

U-Boat 29 - Feldpost # 10220



U-Boat Type VIIA built by AG Weser (Bremen) and launched August 22, 1936.

Displacement: 626/745\* tons

Dimensions: 211.75 x 19.25 x 14.5 feet

Machinery: 2-shaft diesel electric motors, BHP 2100/750

Speed: 16/8\* knots

Armament: one 3.5 in., one 20mm A.A. guns, five 21 in.

(4 bow, 1 stern) torpedo tubes, 11 torpedoes or 22 mines

Crew: 44

(\*) Surface/submerged.

History: During her career she sank 12 merchant ships totaling 22,500 GRT. On Sept. 17, 1939, torpedoed and sank British aircraft carrier HMS Courageous about 190 miles south of Dursey Head, Ireland. Removed from active duty early in 1941 and served as a training submarine.

Fate: Scuttled on May 4, 1945 in Flensburg Bay.

Cover from Mech Gefr Heinz Hintz to Visselhövede, Germany has mute cancel dated May 27, 1940. Note: Fp. # 10220 appears on backside, front has Dienststempel Fp.# 10237 of Depot ship 'Isar'

## Horticulture and Garden Show Cancels

by Bob Ferguson

The following special cancels pertaining to these events are listed in Julius Bochmann's **Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel**.

Berlin # 280	12. Internationaler Gartenbaukongress Berlin	12.-17. August. 1938
Chemnitz # 21	3. Reichskleingartenrtag in Chemnitz von 24-27 Juni 1937	(machine cancel)
Chemnitz # 22	3. Reichskleingartenrtag	24.-27. Juni. 1938
Dresden # 74	Dresden Reichsgartenschau einzigartig 24.IV-11.X.36	(machine cancel)
Dresden # 75	Dresden Reichsgartenschau einzigartig 24.IV-11.X.36	(machine cancel)
Dresden # 76	Reichsgartenschau	16.Mai-15.Oktober 1936
Drossen # 3	Bekannt durch Maiblumenzucht	(Used 1939-1942)
Erfurt # 11	Erfurt die deutsche Blumenstadt (machine cancel)	(Used 1935-1938)
Essen # 29	Reichsgartenschau/April-Okt. 1938	
Essen # 30	Essen/April-Okt/Reichsgartenschau (machine cancel)	(Used 1938)
Essen # 32	Millionenfache Blütenpracht Reichsgartenschau 1938	
Forst # 8	Besucht die deutsche Rosenschau vom 22.5-5.9.1938	
Forst # 9	Besucht die deutsche Rosenschau 1938 Forst vom 22.5-5.9	(machine cancel)
Forst # 10	Rosengarten-Festspiele vom 13.-30.Juni 1940	
Forst # 11	Rosengarten-Festspiele Forst vom 13.-30.Juni 1940	(machine cancel)
Glauchau # 2	Glauchauer Volkfest Rund ums Rosario 14.-22 August 1937	
Glauchau # 3	Besucht das Volkfest "Rund ums Rosario" in Glauchau vom 13.-21. August 1938	(machine cancel)
Glauchau # 4	Besucht das Volkfest "Rund ums Rosario" in Glauchau vom 22.-30. Juli 1939	(machine cancel)
Halbau # 1	Dahlienschau-Ende August bis Mitte September	(Used 1938)
Hannover # 33	Hannover erwartet Sie zur Jahresschau deutscher Gartenkultur vom 24. Juni bis 10.Oktober 1933	
Hannover # 41	Festwoche zur Erneuerung der Herrenhäuser Garten/Hannover 13.-20. Juni 1937	(machine cancel)
Hannover # 42	Neueröffnung der Herrenhäuser Garten zu Hannover	13.- 20.Juni 1937
Heinsberg # 2	Grosste Forstpflanzen-Anzucht Westdeutschlands	(Used 1935-1939)
Lichtenstein # 2	Das historische Rosenfest 26.Juni-4.Juli 1937	

Liegnitz #13	Besucht Liegnitz Deutsche Dahlienschau Aug.-Sept. 1938	(machine cancel)
Liegnitz #14	Deutsche Dahlienschau August-September 1938	
Liegnitz #15	Deutsche Dahlienschau 1938	20.Aug.-18. Sept. 1938
Oraniembaum # 1	Waldumgeben-Ruhe-Erholung-Weltbekannte Orangerie	(Used 1938-1942)
Steinfurth # 1	Weitberühmte Rosenkulturen	(Used 1934-1937)
Steinfurth # 2	Weitberühmte Rosenkulturen	(Used 1937-1940)
Stuttgart # 81	Reichs-Gartenschau 1939	22.April-8. Okt. 1939
Wien # 40	4. Reichskleingärtnerstag 28. Juni bis 2.Juli 1939	(machine cancel)
Wien # 41	4. Reichskleingärtnerstag Reichsbund Deutscher Kleingärtner	2. Juli 1939
Series # 311	Besucht die Reichs-Gartenschau Stuttgart-April bis Oktober 1939	1.April-28. August 1939 in 7 cities

Chemnitz # 22



Essen #29



Hannover # 42



Liegnitz # 15



Steinfurth # 2



Wien # 41





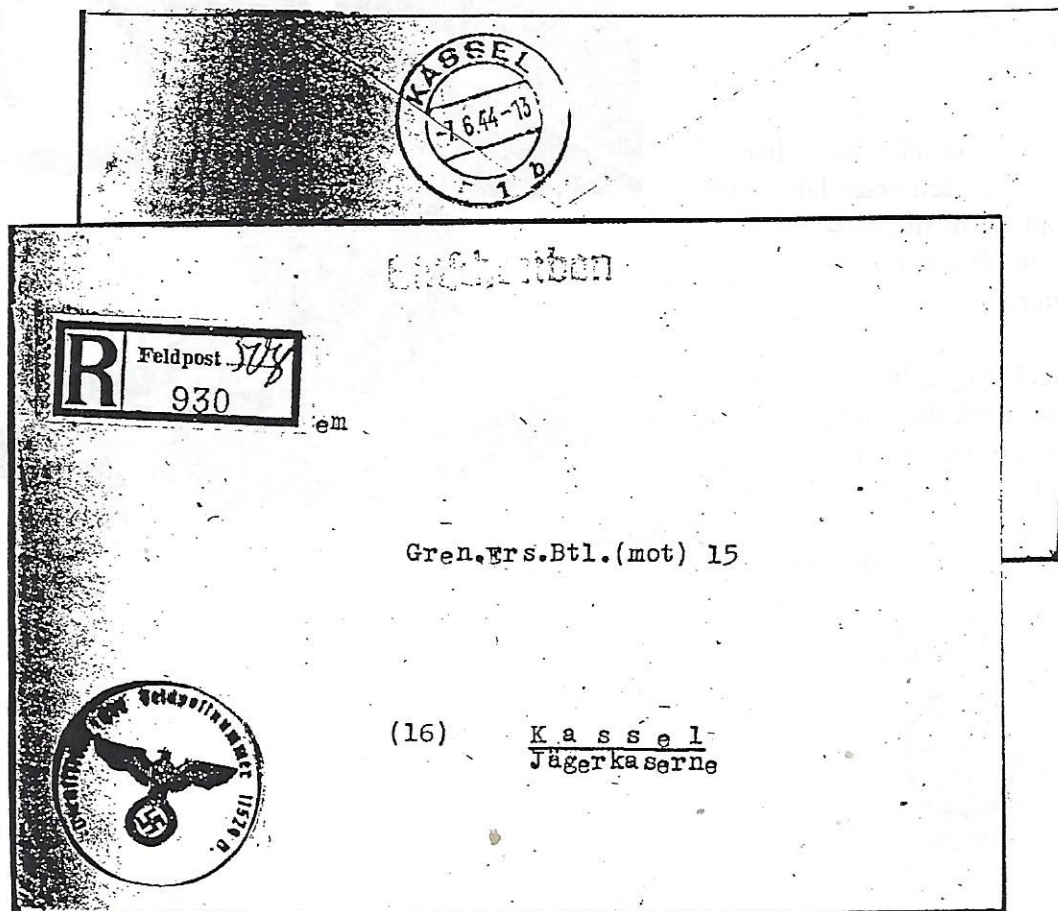
**COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:****20th Panzer Division**

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	GRENADIER	ARTY	UNITS
92	508	21	59	112	92

This division was formed in November 1940, receiving the 59th Regiment from the 19th Infantry Division. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 47680 as a return address and K-508 as a coded identity in lieu of FpA 92. The 20th Panzer Division first saw action on the central sector of the Eastern Front, taking part in the Minsk encirclement and the Battle of Smolensk. In early July 1941 it had penetrated to the western Dvina River and captured Ulla on July 9th. In late August it captured Mga, a major junction on the Moscow-Leningrad Railroad. Later that year it sustained heavy losses at Vitebsk and Moscow. It stayed on central sector from 1942 to 1944, taking part in the defensive battles and Kursk offensive.

In June 1944 it was encircled during the massive Soviet assault on Army Group Center and had to fight its way out, suffering ruinous losses. Transferred to Army Group South Ukraine, the 20th Panzer Division again sustained heavy casualties when Rumanians defected and the front collapsed. By November 1944 remainder of the division was in East Prussia, then sent to the Hungarian sector the next month. The division finished the war in Bohemia, surrendering to the Red Army east of Prague.



Unusual cover sent to Grenadier Replacement Battalion 15 in Kassel in June 1944 from Fp.# 11529 (Btl. I/Pz. Gren. Rgt. 59) via P.O. 92 (K-508). The Fp cancel is missing but Kassel backstamp shows date.

## Story Behind the Cancel: The Battle of Coburg

by Kelly Stefanacci

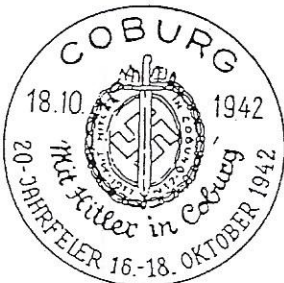
In October 1922 Hitler was invited to speak at a "German Day" in the former princely capital of Coburg in northern Bavaria. The event was organized by various "volkish" societies and the main speaker was to be the Duke of Coburg, who had been sovereign until 1918 and was a cousin of the King of England. While Hitler had few NSDAP members in Coburg, he decided to use the event to gain members for his party. He chartered a special train to take 700 S.A. (Sturmabteilung) or Storm Troopers with him from Munich, complete with a band and swastika banners. At Coburg, the police refused permission for the NSDAP to march. Hitler disregarded the pleas of city officials and the handful of police and began the march.

The march proceeded and was hailed by a shower of cobblestones from Communist and other opposition elements. This grew into a pitched street battle. (Fig. 1) But these unorganized elements were no match for 700 trained storm troopers working as a unit, and they were quickly scattered. The Duke of Coburg was deeply impressed by the organized S.A. and Hitler won a number of recruits for the Nazi Party.

The S.A. had now been "blooded" and the so called "Battle of Coburg" took a place of honor in the "heroic" mythology of the Nazis. The victory in this "battle" was commemorated ten years later with the Coburg badge, designed by Hitler and presented to all serving members who had taken part in this event.

A special cancel (Fig. 2 below) used by Coburg P.O. to mark the 20th anniversary depicts the Coburg badge with inscription "Mit Hitler in Coburg. 20 Jahrfeier 16.-18. Oktober 1942"

(With Hitler in Coburg. 20th Anniversary)



## German POWs in North America Camps in Tennessee by Jim Lewis

Between 1941 and 1945, about 425,000 Axis POWs entered captivity in the United States. This large influx created huge demands on a nation already taxed with conducting a two-front war. The feat is all the more remarkable considering that while no facilities for housing POWs existed at the beginning of the war, by its end, more than six hundred camps held German and Italian prisoners.

Tennessee was home to eleven POW camps, including three main installations: Camp Crossville (Code 30) was built on the site of an abandoned 1930s Civilian Conservation Camp while Camp Forrest (Code 7) and Camp Tyson were existing army installations with compounds added to house prisoners. The Memphis Armed Services Depot also housed prisoners and served as a branch camp of Camp Como, Mississippi. The first prisoners included roughly 1,500 Germans, most of whom were captured in North Africa. In all, some 68,000 POWs were processed at Camp Forrest for transfer to other camps. Those POWs who remained at Forrest mostly performed hospital work and produced camouflage netting, although some prisoners objected that this type of work violated the Geneva Convention's ban on prisoners producing tactical equipment. In late 1944, hospital # 2 at Camp Forrest was designated a General Hospital and was staffed largely by prisoners who cared for other prisoners. At Camp Tyson, POWs helped with farm work and drained malarial swamps.

While escape attempts were rare, they were often interesting. The first two escapees recorded jumped from a train bound for Camp Forrest in November 1942. They were apprehended a few days later. An Afrika Korps veteran walked out of Camp Forrest to nearby Tullahoma, caught a 9:25 train to Nashville, and actually went pub crawling with an unsuspecting GI on leave before being apprehended the next day during a routine check. One escape story, which sounds a bit far-fetched, has three German U-Boat sailors from Camp Crossville make their way through the woods to a farm house. As they approached the house, 'Granny' came to the door with a rifle and told them to 'git'. Not understanding her, the three didn't move, so she shot one dead. When a deputy came and explained what had happened, the old woman began sobbing, saying "I wouldn't of shot if I knew they wuz Germans, I thought they wuz Yankees."

The main camps and branch camps in Tennessee are listed below

Name of Camp	County	Main Camp	Name of Camp	County	Main Camp
Crossville, Camp	Cumberland	-----	Memphis ASF Depot	Shelby	Como, MS
Forrest, Camp	Tullahoma	-----	P.W. Gen. Hospital #2	Tullahoma	Camp Forrest
Huntsville	Scottville	Camp Forrest	Kennedy Gen. Hospital	Shelby	Camp Forrest
Jackson	Madison	Camp Forrest	Tellico Plains	Monroe	Camp Forrest
Lawrenceburg	Lawrence	Camp Forrest	Tyson, Camp	Henry	-----
McKeller Field	Madison	Camp Forrest	Thayer Gen. Hospital	Davidson	Camp Forrest

Note: Camp Forrest also had branch camps in Alabama. Chattanooga National Cemetery contains all those German POWs who died in Tennessee and North Carolina.

At Camp Crossville, individually fenced-in compounds separated the quarters of German officers and enlisted men. Prisoners work outside the camp was usually on private farms, but some also worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority. German officer requests for pets such as a dog, a monkey, and a canary were usually approved by the camp commander, but he drew the line when they requested individual name plates on the partitions. Also denied were requests for an increase in the beer allowance, phonographs, short-wave radios, a swimming pool and interactions with women.

Camp Crossville did have a number of encounters with hard core Nazis. Captain Jurgen Wattenburg, commander of the submarine U-162, was one of the first officers to arrive at Crossville in late 1942. He became the prisoners' official spokesman and considered any act of cooperation to be treason. He demanded that prisoners let him censor their letters and threatened collaborators with capital punishment. Exhausting the patience of authorities, he was transferred to Camp Papago Park, Arizona. Another problem was Major Fredrich Johannes Werner, a protestant minister, who quickly annoyed camp officials with his pro-Nazi sermons. The American chaplain reported this excerpt of the Major's sermon: *Today we hold the Fortress of Europe against all the World. God did not give Germany great riches in natural resources, but he did give her men who could work and fight and make a rightful place for us in the sun. Germany is struggling for her rightful amount of room in the world in which to live. She will never be defeated if she does not lose faith in her historical mission in the world.* Major Werner was moved to Camp Alva, Oklahoma, a camp designated for the most ardent Nazis.

Camp Crossville closed on December 5, 1945. After the war in Europe ended, the Secretary of Agriculture requested an extension of POW labor contracts due to the persistent labor shortage. President Truman set a deadline of June 1946 for the removal of all prisoners in the United States.

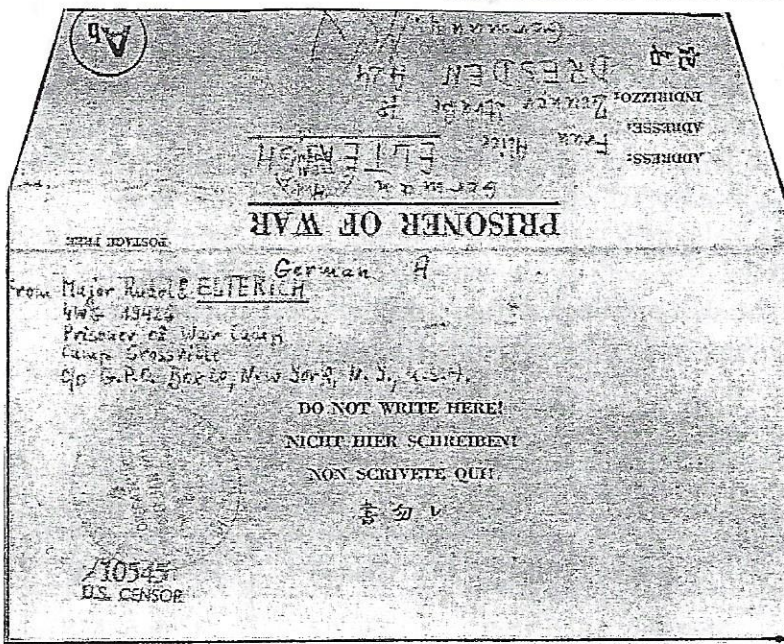
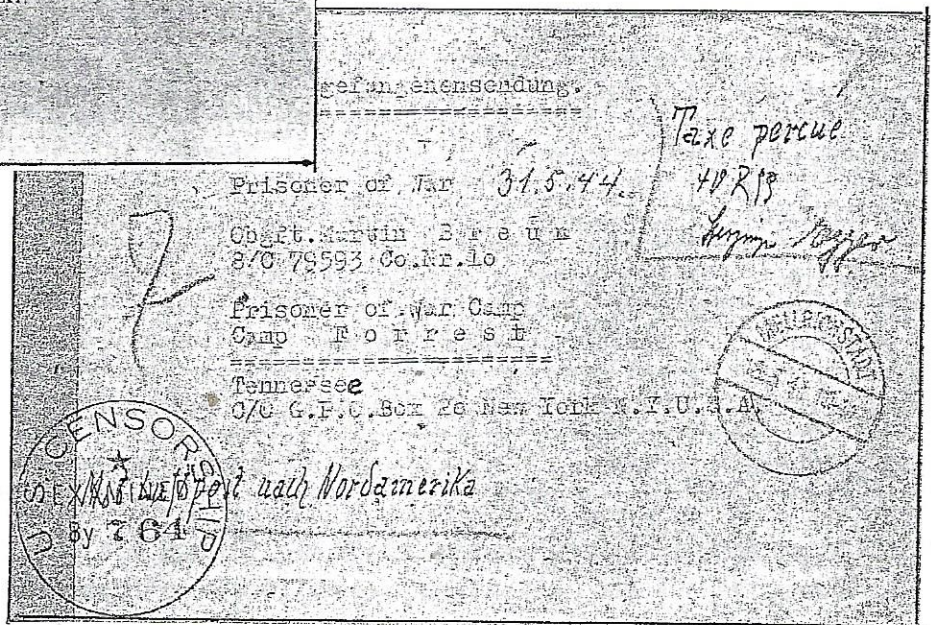


Fig. 1) Letter sheet sent in January 1944 to Dresden from a German major in Camp Crossville has U.S. censor #10545 and Berlin "Ab" censor transit stamp.

Fig. 2) Cover sent from Melrichstadt, Germany to POW in Camp Forrest in March, 1943 has Taxe percue notation for air mail service and U.S. Censor circular stamp.



## Germany and U.S.A. Sever Postal Communications

by Jim Lewis

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States declared war on Japan on December 8, 1941. When this news reached Berlin, Japanese Ambassador Oshima requested that Germany immediately enter the war on his country's side. Although Hitler had repeatedly pressed his Far Eastern ally to attack the Soviet Union or the British Empire in Southeast Asia, he decided to act on the Japanese request. On December 11, 1941, Hitler addressed the Reichstag to explain his decision to declare war upon the United States. Shortly thereafter, at 2:30 p.m., Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop received the American Charge d' affairs in Berlin and read out a declaration which concluded: "The Reich government therefore breaks off all diplomatic relations with the United States and declares that ....Germany considers herself to be at war with the United States as of today." One consequence of the outbreak of war was immediate termination of postal service between the United States and Germany. The following are examples of mail in different parts of the postal "pipe line" at the time of the declaration of war:

Prior to the outbreak of war, airmail from neutral Sweden was often routed to the United States via Germany. This cover, addressed to Louisville, Kentucky and posted in Salto-Duvnas, Sweden on Dec. 8, 1941, has sender's manuscript note at upper left for clipper ship transport. Below this note is a German handstamp "Forwarded to Germany in Swedish mail bag in accordance with regulations of the German Postal Ministry". While the Berlin censor office applied the tape on left side, this cover was still in German hands when war was declared, so it was returned to Sweden with explanatory handstamp "Zurück/Postverkehr eingestellt" (Return/Postal communications terminated). The Swedish postal service crossed out the rejection markings and forwarded the cover via the British postal service. The British censors then applied their sealing tape on the right side.



The next cover, addressed to Dunkirk, New York, was posted in Offenbach, Germany on Nov. 17, 1941, by a Jewish man using the obligatory "Israel" middle name. After passing the Frankfurt censor office, the cover arrived at Dunkirk but was undeliverable. The Dunkirk post office then voided the original address, entered the intended recipient's new address in Los Angeles and added their postmark on Dec. 11, 1941. The letter, now considered "enemy mail", was forwarded to U.S. postal examiners who applied the cellophane sealing tape "Examined by C 252" on left side. The letter was subsequently released by the District Postal Censor with their two-line handstamp.

Max Israel Schloss Offenbach am Main 30 II

EXAMINED BY

RELEASED BY AUTHORITY OF THE DISTRICT POSTAL CENSOR

from Hermann Charles Weill  
920 1/2 S. Orange Grove  
Los Angeles Calif

RELEASED BY AUTHORITY OF THE DISTRICT POSTAL CENSOR

MIT LUFTPOST PAR AVION BY AIR MAIL

253

1941

This airmail postal card is an example of the last mail from Germany delivered by the U.S. postal service prior to the imposition of censorship. Sent by a Jewish woman using the obligatory "Sara" middle name, the card was posted in Berlin on Nov. 19, 1941. After examination at the Berlin censor office, the card was flown to the U.S.A. via Lisbon, Portugal per the manuscript note below the message. Upon arrival, the card was forwarded to Spivak, Colorado per the back stamp added on 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 11, 1941. Given the six hour difference in time, the card was postmarked two hours before the German announcement of the declaration of war on the United States.

18. November 41 (63)

Mein lieber Herr Spivak, Simon & Amelmann  
8. Oktober haben wir geschrieben, ich würde nicht,  
dass Sie mit Simon Amelmann befreundet sind, sondern  
kenn ich Sie nicht, ich würde das wissen,  
wenn Amelmann Sie kennen würde. Aber was  
soll ich mit Ihnen schreiben? Sie schreiben mir  
nicht. - Papa war immer bei mir, er war  
hat mich immer angedenkt, ich würde  
sein Glück, meine Lieben, ohne mich oder  
ich bin hier in die U.S.A. gekommen.

26.12.41  
Luftpost  
Postkarte  
nach Denver Colorado

MIT LUFTPOST PAR AVION

Gerhard J. Weikler

U.S.A. Spivak (Colorado)

h. Tenner

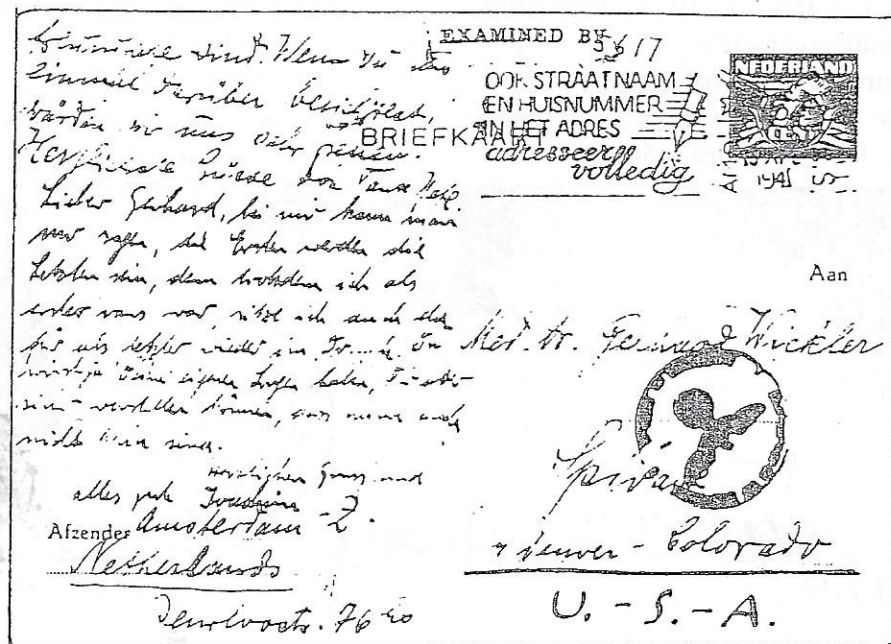
Stache, Hausnummer, Gebäudefuß, Grundstück

402/27

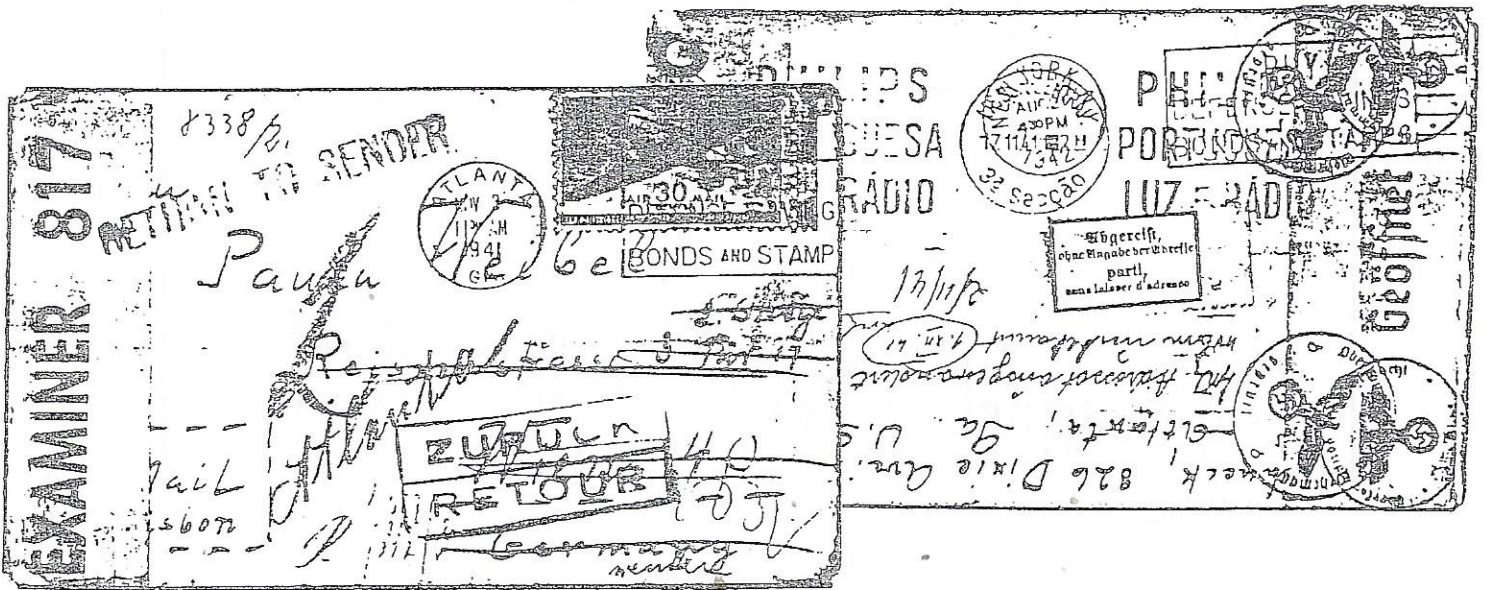
Die Frau E. Weikler, Berlin, Tempelhof, Berlinstr. 28  
haben sich nicht getrennt, haben  
nie im schriftlich. Es gibt aber  
Schlimmes als die Einreise  
Zeit, u. da Sie ein Mann bist,  
jung u. ganz ernsthaft, so  
glaube ich, wird dieser Zustand  
nicht lange währen. Aber ich  
rate zur Vorsicht! - Von Frau h  
von wir direkt überhandnehmen  
mehr, nur das wenige was ich  
mir mitteilen darf. Von alle  
sorgt man sich. Die grüßen mich  
Küsse, dich herzlich. Anni.

Warten Sie ab, es ist ja noch  
langes. Bitte, sag das, was ich  
sichere Frau, dich & alle

This surface rate postal card mailed in Holland on Nov. 13, 1941 is addressed to the same party in Spivak, Colorado. However, as it apparently arrived after Dec. 11, 1941, it was held by U.S. censors. Note the "Examined By 5617" at top center above the slogan and faint "Received 7/10/42 Spivak, Colorado" handstamp above address. (Note: sorry, this last handstamp won't reproduce).



This airmail cover addressed to Vienna was posted in Atlanta, Georgia on Nov. 3, 1941 and back stamped in Lisbon, Portugal on Nov. 11th. After examination by the Berlin censor office, the letter was forwarded to the Vienna P.O. which rejected it on Dec. 2, 1941. The front side has boxed "Zurück/Retour" (Return) while the backside has a label and manuscript notation that the address is unknown. The cover was apparently on its return trip when war was declared. It acquired a British censor tape and was not back stamped in New York until August 20, 1942.



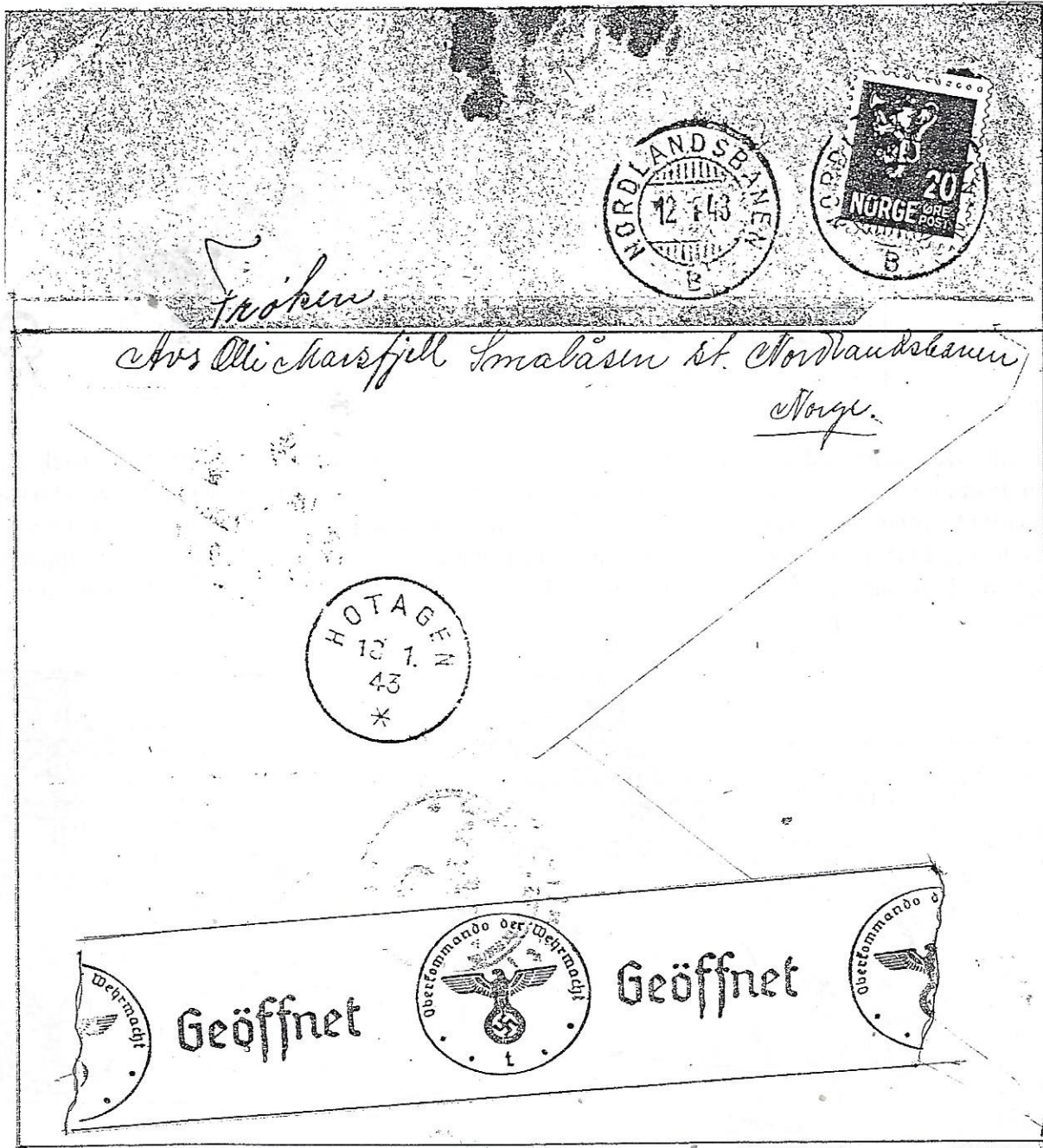
Ed. Note: This combines articles originally appearing in TRSG Bulletins 81 (1986) and 88 (1988).

# Censorship

## Censor Office Trondheim (Code 't')

by Myron Fox

This is one of the scarcest German censorship offices. It's existence was not even known to collectors for many years after the war. It was not even mentioned in the 1966 first edition of Karl-Heinz Riemer's *Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs Während Des II. Weltkrieges Durch Deutsche Dienststellen*. This cover (folded for display), posted in Nordlandesbanen, Norway on Jan. 12, 1943, has T-50 OKW sealing tape tied by T-1 hand stamp.





# Blocks of Four on Cover

by Bob Ferguson

While collecting used or mint blocks of four stamps (*viererblocke*) has always been popular, I think they look even better on cover. The following are a few covers from my collection.

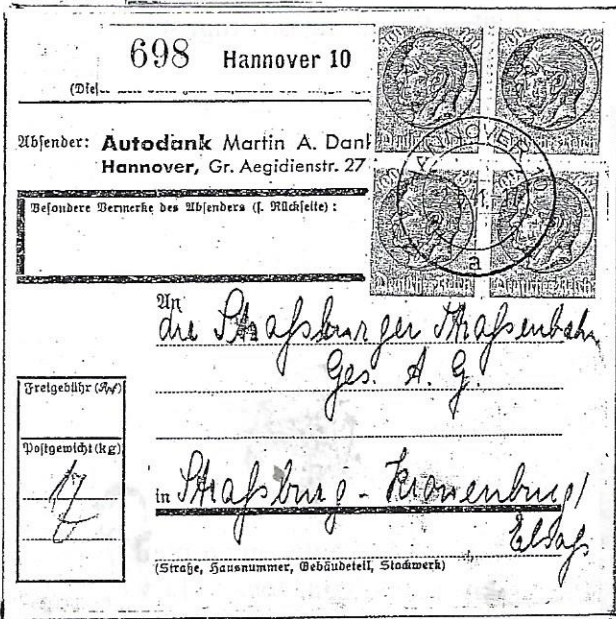


Fig. 1) Mi. 528s on parcel card sent from Hannover to Strassburg-Kronenburg on May 27, 1941.

Fig. 2.) Mi. 603s on value cover sent from Aalen (Württ.) to Unterkochen (Württ.) on February 12, 1944.

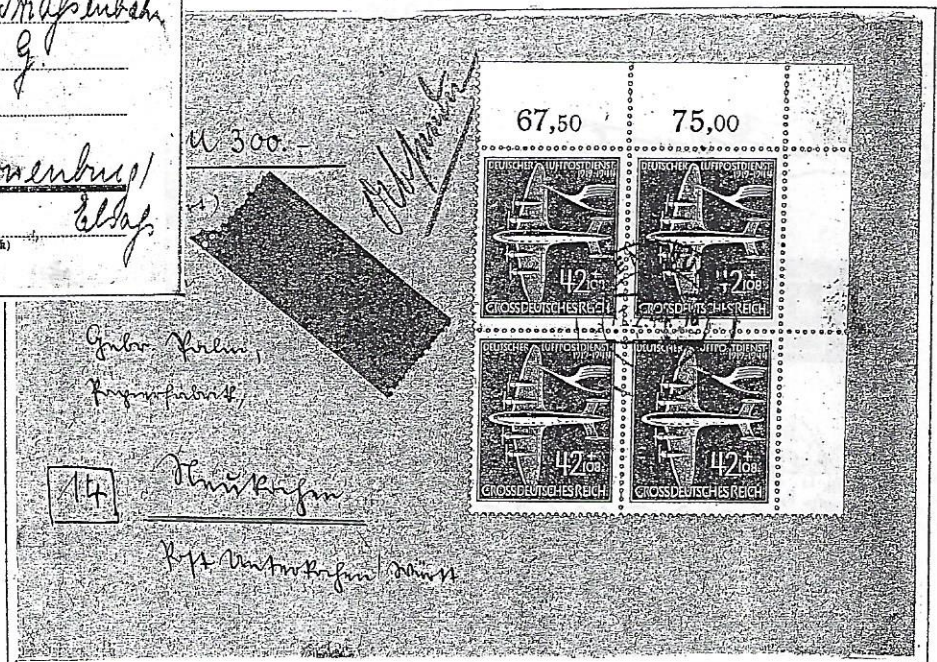


Fig. 3.) Mi. 683s on registered cover sent from Braunau to New York City on April 20, 1939. Note: recipient is well known cachet artist L. W. Staehle.

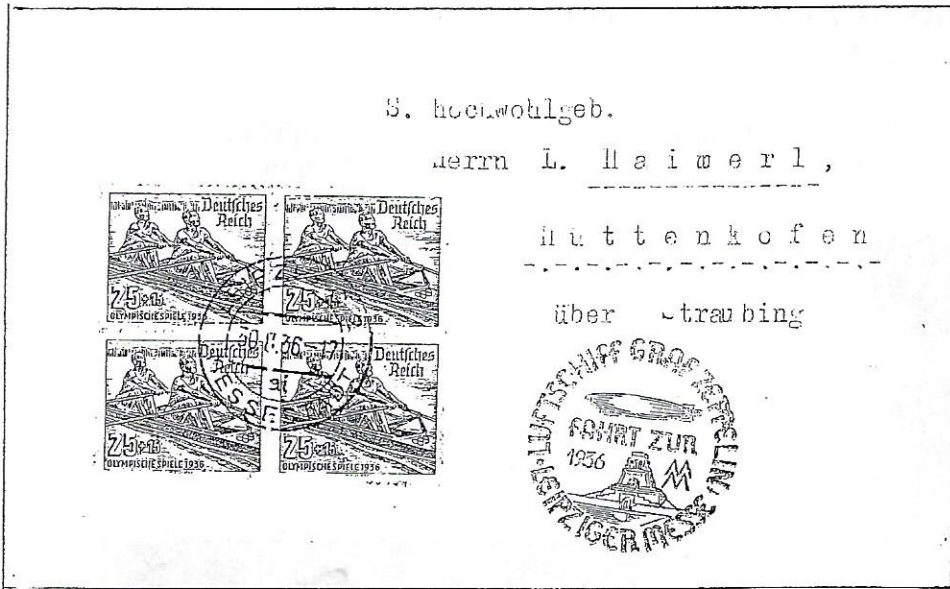


Fig. 4.) Mi. 615s on Graf Zeppelin cover sent from Leipzig to Hutterkofen über Straubing on August 30, 1936.

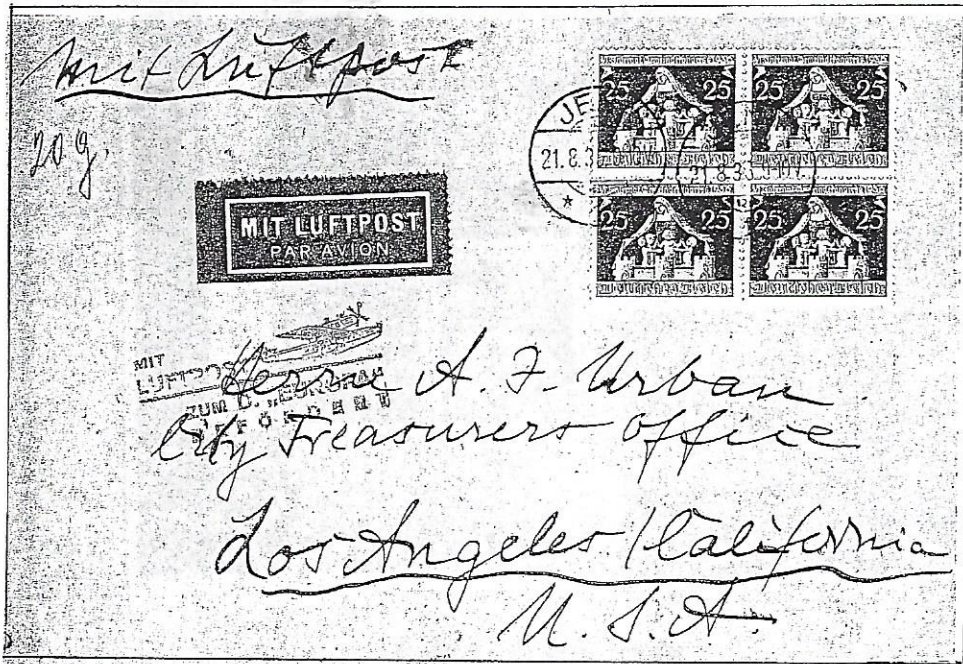


Fig. 5.) Mi. 620s on air mail cover sent from Jena to Los Angeles on August 21, 1936. Fee includes catapult service from steamer "Europa"

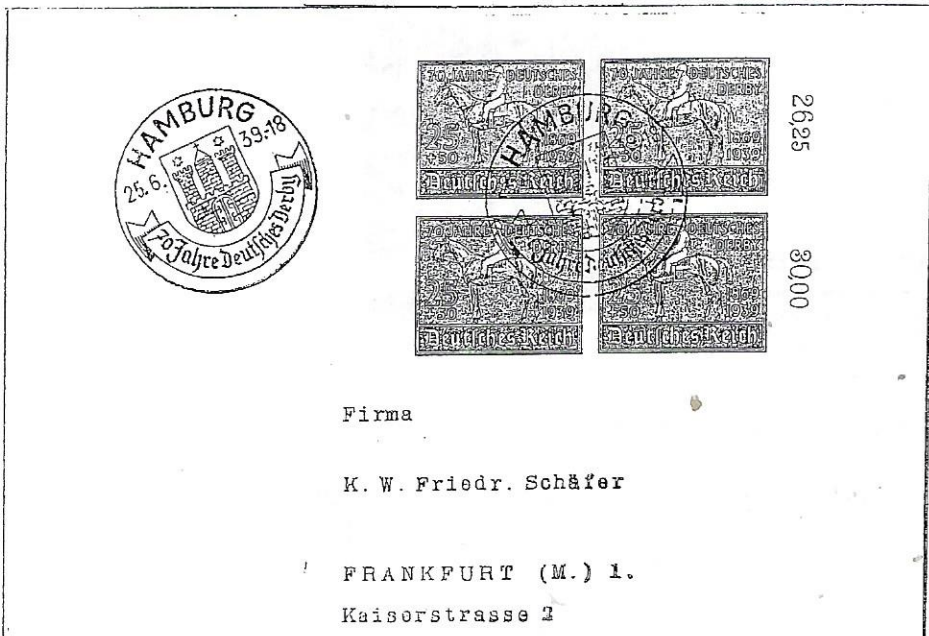


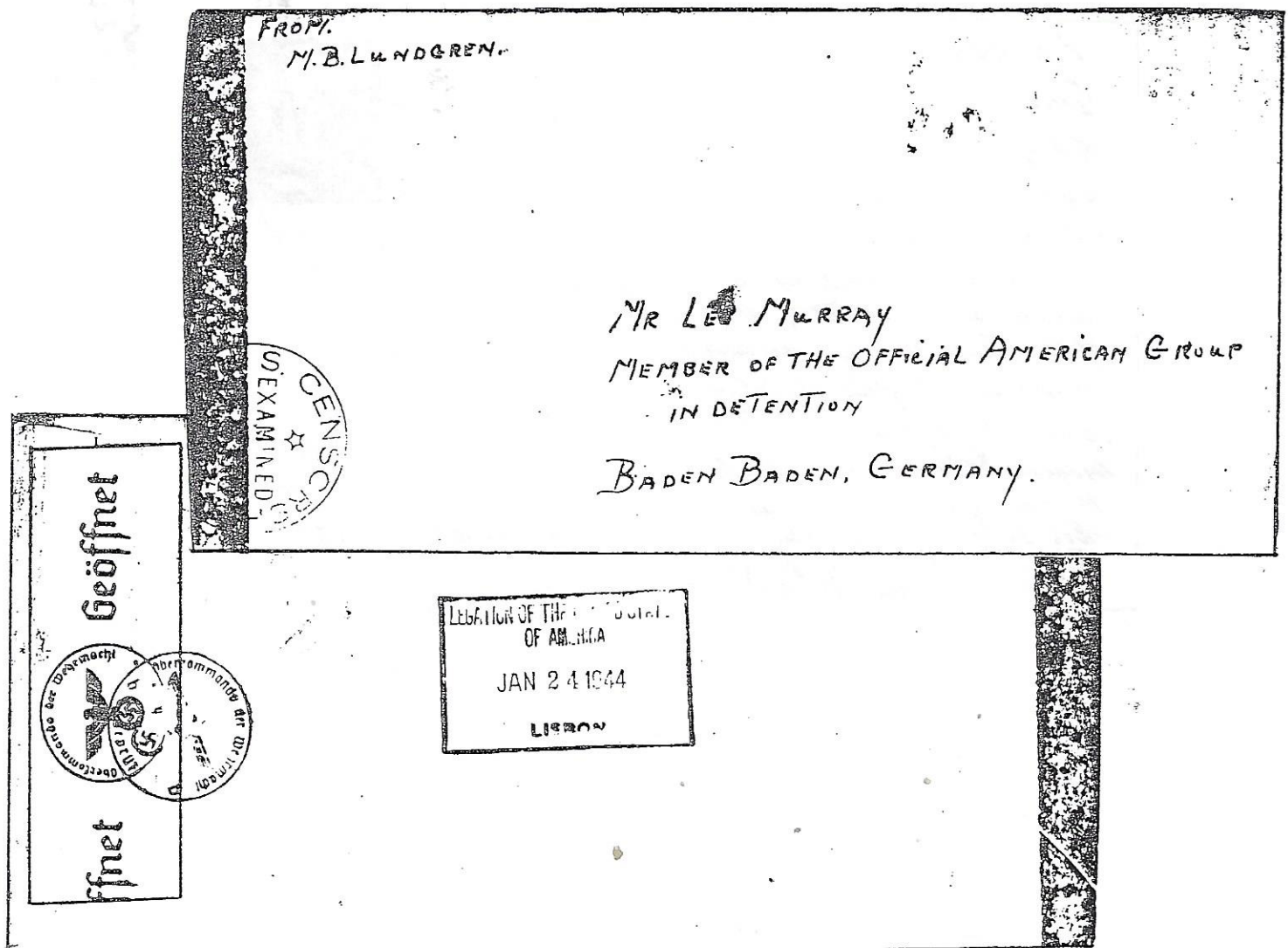
Fig. 6.) Mi. 698s on cover sent from Hamburg to Frankfurt/M. on June 25, 1939. Stamps and special cancel for 70th year of the Deutsches Derby.

## Official U.S. Mail to Germany via Lisbon in 1944

by TRSG Staff

In his article on page 14 in Bulletin No. 182, Bruce Fisher states that American diplomats interned at Bad Nauheim were repatriated in May 1942 and returned via Portugal. However, the cover below was sent in January 1944 by a member of the U.S. Legation in Lisbon (boxed handstamp on reverse) to a member of the "Official American Group in Detention" in Baden-Baden. While it has U.S. and German (Berlin) censor markings, there are no stamps or cancels, so the cover was probably conveyed by diplomatic pouch.

TRSGer Ben Beede located an article in Prologue: Journal of the National Archives titled "In Splendid Isolation: Enemy diplomats in World War II" which states: "The repatriation of each nation's diplomats in July 1942 did not represent the last such exchange. As the war progressed, the German government rounded up an additional 270 American diplomatic personnel, correspondents, Red Cross representatives, and relief workers, mainly from capitals in North Africa. They were collected first in Lourdes, France and then moved in two groups to Baden-Baden and Bad Godesburg where they were held in a deplorable hostage scheme as trading chips for the return of several thousand German aliens in Latin America. Negotiations between Washington and Berlin continued unsuccessfully through 1943 and 1944. Pockets of American personnel also remained incarcerated in Japan until the end of the war."



*Ed. Note: This includes information originally appearing in TRSG Bulletin Nos. 64 and 80.*

# Postmark from a Company Post Office in Zschopau

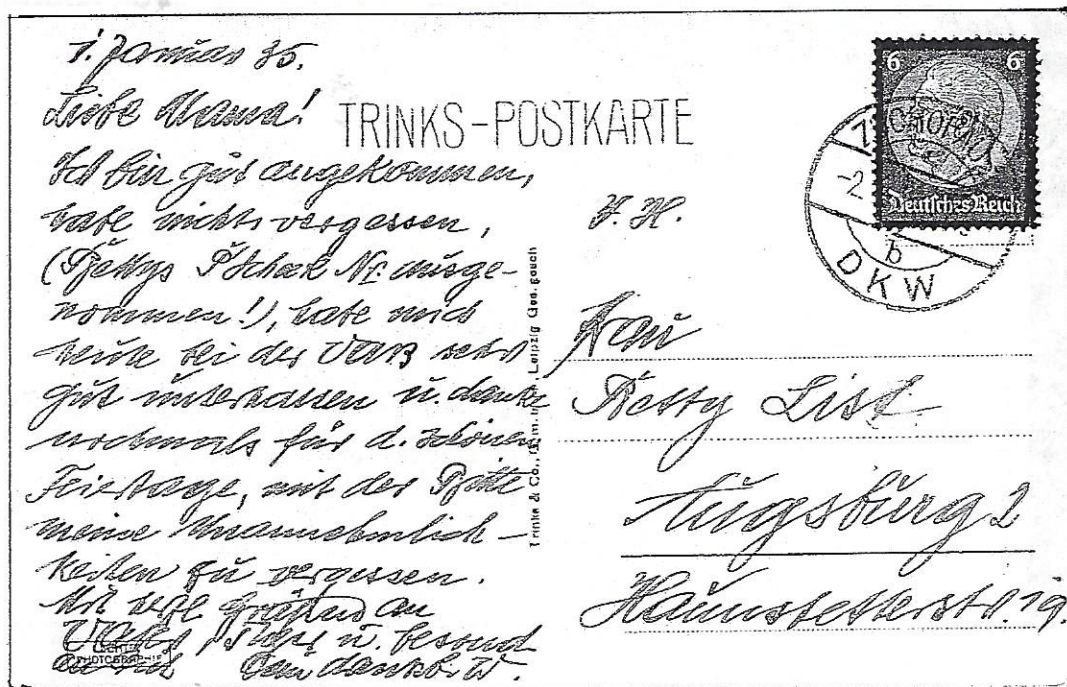
by Benjamin R. Beede

Not many post offices appear to have been located on the premises of business firms during the Third Reich years, but there was one at the DKW-Auto-und Motorrad -Werkes at Zschopau, Saxony for a time. The initials "DKW" were unknown to me, but Baedeker's *Autofuehrer Deutsches Reich Grossdeutschland* (Leipzig: Karl Baedeker, 1939), p. 369, soon identified the firm for me.

The firm founded in Zschopau, Saxony in 1919 began to manufacture cars and motorcycles branded DKW for "Dampf-Kraft-Wagon" (steam driven car). By the 1930s, DKW was the world's largest motorcycle manufacturer. In 1932, DKW merged with Audi, Horch and Wanderer to form Auto Union.

From the 1933 through 1936 editions of the *Ortverzeichnis* (post office list) issued by the Reichspost gives the post office as **Zschopau 2 DKW**. From the 1937 *Ortverzeichnis* onward to the end of World War II, there is no further reference to this post office. Evidently, postal service in the town of Zschopau was consolidated at the remaining office.

Postcard sent to Augsburg in 1935 has postmark of DKW post office in Zschopau



## Undercover Collector's Corner: Postal Cards to P.O. Box 506, Lisbon

by Ed Fraser

While covers are more common, postal cards were also sent to Thomas Cook & Sons P.O. Box 506 in Lisbon, Portugal for forwarding to Great Britain. As the cards shown below don't have over labels with the intended recipient's British address, Cook undoubtedly forwarded them in ambulance covers.

Fig. 1) Post card mailed from Brussels, Belgium on November 27, 1940 has circular hand stamp and "6297" examiner stamp of Munich censor office. British censor stamp is at upper left corner.

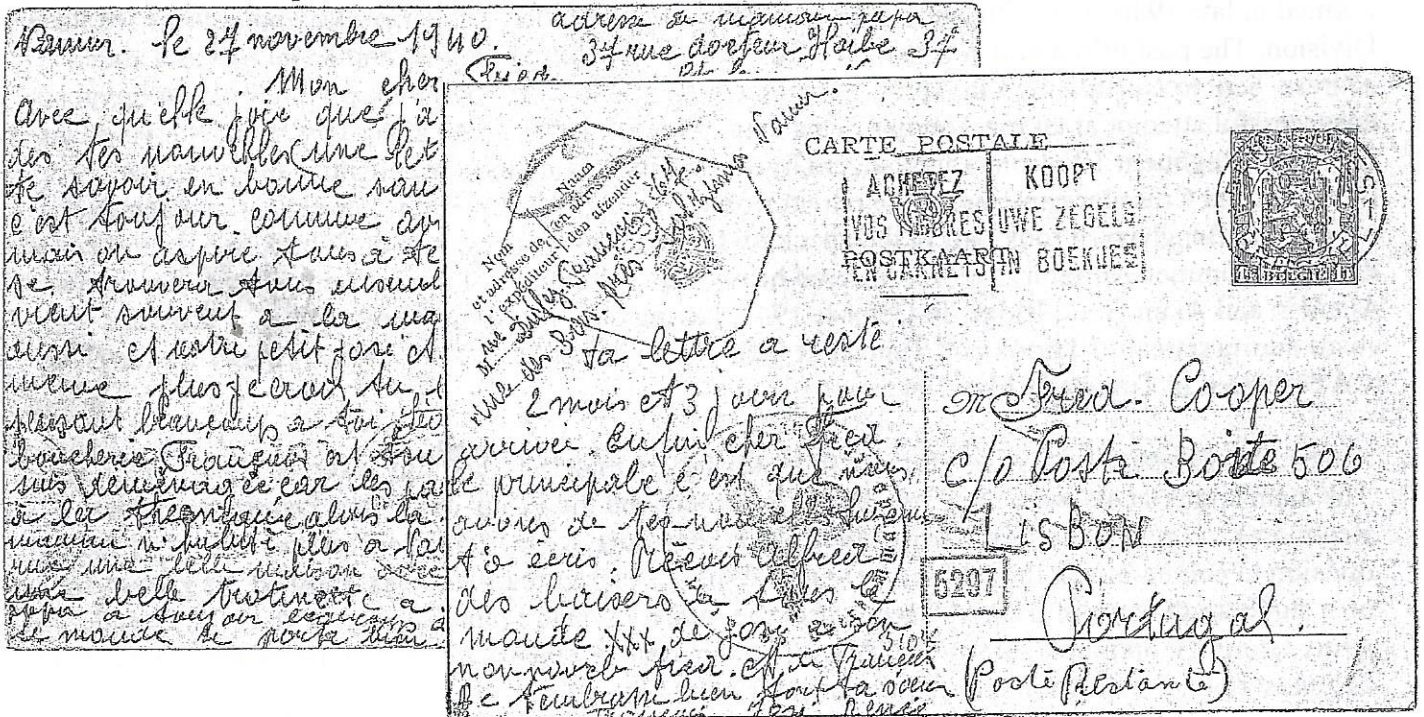


Fig. 2) Post card sent from Bergen, Norway on November 10, 1941 has both roller cancel and 20 Øre postal indicia with "V for Victoria" markings (see TRSG Bulletin 183). Front side has Lisbon receiving stamp dated November 27 plus German and British censor stamps.



**COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:****21st Panzer Division**

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	PZ.-GRENADIER	ARTY	UNITS
200	615	5	104	155	200

Formed in late 1940 as the 5th Light Motorized Division, receiving 5th Panzer Regiment from 3rd Panzer Division. The post office unit was assigned Fp. # 21589 as a return address and Kenn 615 as a coded address. Sent to North Africa in April 1941, joined the Afrika Korps and took part in drive on Egypt and unsuccessful attempt at taking Tobruck. That summer reformed as 21st Panzer Division, receiving Panzer-Grenadier Regiment 104 from 15th Panzer Division as its only infantry regiment. It fought in the Battleaxe and Crusader campaigns, the retreat from Cyrenia in 1941 and the subsequent counterattack which took Benghazi. It took part in the attack on Gazala Lines, the capture of Tobruk and the sweep into Egypt. In Summer-Autumn of 1942, suffered heavy losses during third Axis offensive in Africa against El Alamein and Alam Halfa Ridge. In October 1942, having only twelve tanks remaining, it provided rear guard during retreat to Tripoli and Tunisia. It took part in defeat of U.S. II Corps at Kasserine Pass and was destroyed in Tunisia in May 1943.

A new 21st Panzer Division was formed in Normandy in mid-1943 but only received light foreign tanks. The main components were the 22nd Panzer Regiment and the 125th and 192nd Panzer-Grenadier Regiments. A new post office was assigned Fp. # 58445 and Kenn 793. The 21st was the only panzer division to counterattack the Allies on D-Day. While its panzer regiment was smashed, its grenadiers put up a stubborn defense in front of Caen. After the retreat through France, it served as a "fire brigade" for Army Group 'G' and took part in the drive on Strasbourge in January 1945. Sent to the Eastern Front in February 1945, the division ended the war in the southern sector



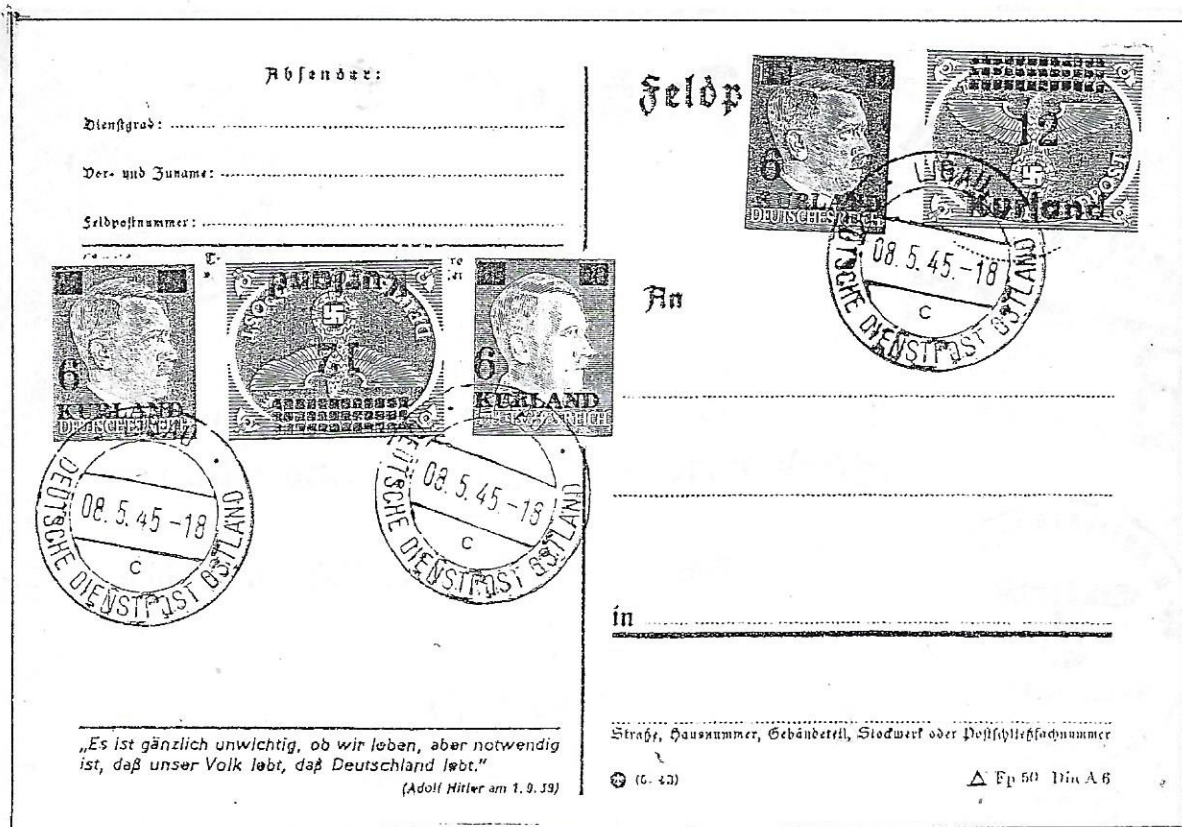
Cover to Military District Command in Salzwedel in March 1943 from Fp. # 13453 (Btl. I/Pz.-Grenadier Regiment 104) via Post Office 200 (K-615).

# Last Day Cancel of the Third Reich

by Jim Lewis

Army Group North retreated into the Baltic States and by October 31, 1944 had been cut off in the Kurland peninsula in western Latvia. As there were also a large number of civilians in this bridgehead, the Feldpost and Dienstpost offices in Libau were merged and both Feldpost and civilian mail was sent by air. When the postmaster's stocks of the commonly used 6 and 12 Pfg. stamps ran out, they were replaced by a provisional issue on April 20, 1945. The remaining stocks of 5, 10 and 20 Pfg. Hitler head stamps and brown Feldpost concession labels were overprinted so their original values were obliterated with "6" and "Kurland" added to the stamps and "12" and "Kurland" added to the parcel labels.

The surrender document signed at Rheims on May 7, 1945 stipulated that all German resistance was to end at midnight on May 9. This Feldpost form card franked with Kurland provisional stamps was apparently prepared and cancelled on May 8 by a postal clerk in the Libau office. How he and the card managed to evade Soviet occupation is unknown. It must be assumed that someone clever enough to prepare this card would also have figured out an escape route.



# SS-Feldpost

## Registered Cover from SS and Police Courts

by John Painter

This registered official cover with letter seal of "SS-und-Polizeigerichtshof" (SS and Police Courts) in Prag was sent to the "Befehlshaber der Ordnungspolizei beim Reichsprotector in Böhmen und Mähren" (Commander of the Ordinary Police in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia) on April 21, 1942.

Reinhard Heydrich had been the commander until his assassination a short time earlier. Note that as this letter was sent as SS-Feldpost, it required no postage and was mailed at Deutsche Dienstpost Office Prag 2. The registry label is also printed with the name of this official mail system which was created to prevent tampering with German official and military mail.

