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Director's Report

Unfortunately, not a few Study Group members have been dropped from the mailing list due to non-payment of dues. Happily, those who responded to our request for renewal of membership were quite generous in most cases and therefore our treasury has grown substantially. Equally encouraging is the very steady flow of new members into the Study Group. They are making up nicely for our losses.

Evidently, we simply did not hit the interests of some members; so they dropped out. Bulletins could be larger, if there were more contributors. In this connection let me say that it is pleasant to see some of the results of Jack Painter's Feldpost research. He has spent a considerable amount of time with materials in the National Archives and elsewhere in Washington, D.C. The importance of his presentation will not be apparent to those who do not collect Feldpost, but people such as Myron Fox, Bill Frye, and I will be grateful to Jack for sharing his knowledge.

During my vacation I may be able to write a few articles for the Bulletin and thereby get ahead of the game for awhile. Offers of assistance to the Study Group have been many. It is apparent, however, that many of these will not bear fruit, because those who made them are absorbed in other activities. Of necessity, the Study Group Bulletin occupies its readers for only a few minutes each year. This may help

explain why payment of dues was not more prompt. People may simply have overlooked our pleas.

Balpex is rapidly approaching, and with it, our national GPS convention. I feel we should donate a Third Reich Study Group medal to the show and barring strong objections from many of our members, intend to do it. I wonder how many of our Study Group members will be attending? There might be an opportunity for a Study Group meeting. Please let me know if you are interested. Doubtless, Jim and I will have a discussion, and we would like to have all those who are interested, to join us. I would like to see a good turnout.

Once in a great while a letter comes to me regarding the Study Group. These are rare, however! I am thinking of letters commenting on the Bulletin and our research projects. Fortunately, Jim, Bob Houston and I are always getting inquiries about the Study Group and the GPS. One point really puzzles me. We have offered to finance the preparation of slide talks, assuming they are approved in advance and match the standards set by the excellent slide talks available from the GPS Library. No one, of course, should prepare a talk and send me a bill without prior consultation. Rather, the individual who wishes to prepare one, should write me. Then the author can prepare his commentary or notes and send them to me with photostats or other cheap reproductions of the stamps, covers, etc. Despite several discussions in the Bulletin, only two or three members have shown an interest in volunteering to write and prepare slide talks. How about it? Anyone like to see his favorite third reich philatelic subject on film?

Benjamin R. Beede

"HELD BY BRITISH CENSOR/RELEASED JANUARY 1946"

Interesting notation? You bet it is. If you saw this stamped on a piece of third reich material in a dealers' selection at a stamp show, no doubt you would like to have it. Do you have any idea what this is all about? No. That's too bad, because I've written these few paragraphs and illustrated the only two covers I have ever seen with this notation, in hopes that you could tell me what this is all about.

Fig. 1 was mailed from Crimmitschau on 10.11.41. via airmail to Chicago; with a slight interruption noted by the violet handstamp on the cover "HELD BY BRITISH CENSOR/RELEASED JANUARY 1946". A blue roller-stamp (3 wavy lines with the word "RELEASED") appears on the British examiners' sealing tape. The reverse of the cover has a strip of the OKW (German)(Army High Command) sealing tape used by the censor in "e" (Frankfurt/Main); and a receiving stamp of a Chicago Post Office, Feb. 9, 1946.

Fig. 2 is a registered letter from Seifhennersdorf mailed on 26.4.40 to Cleveland, Ohio. The handstamp "HELD BY BRITISH/CENSOR/RELS'D JAN. 1946" is in black ink. The "Released and 3-wavy-line roller stamp" is in violet ink. The reverse of this cover has a strip of brown OKW sealing tape from the censor office in Frankfurt/Main, and two registry stamps from New York on Jan. 28, 1946 and Cleveland, Feb. 9, 1946.

This may be beyond the realm of the Third Reich Study Group, but our friends in the Locals Study Group or someone interested in British censor markings, may be able to help us. (Ye olde Ed. Jim Duffy).

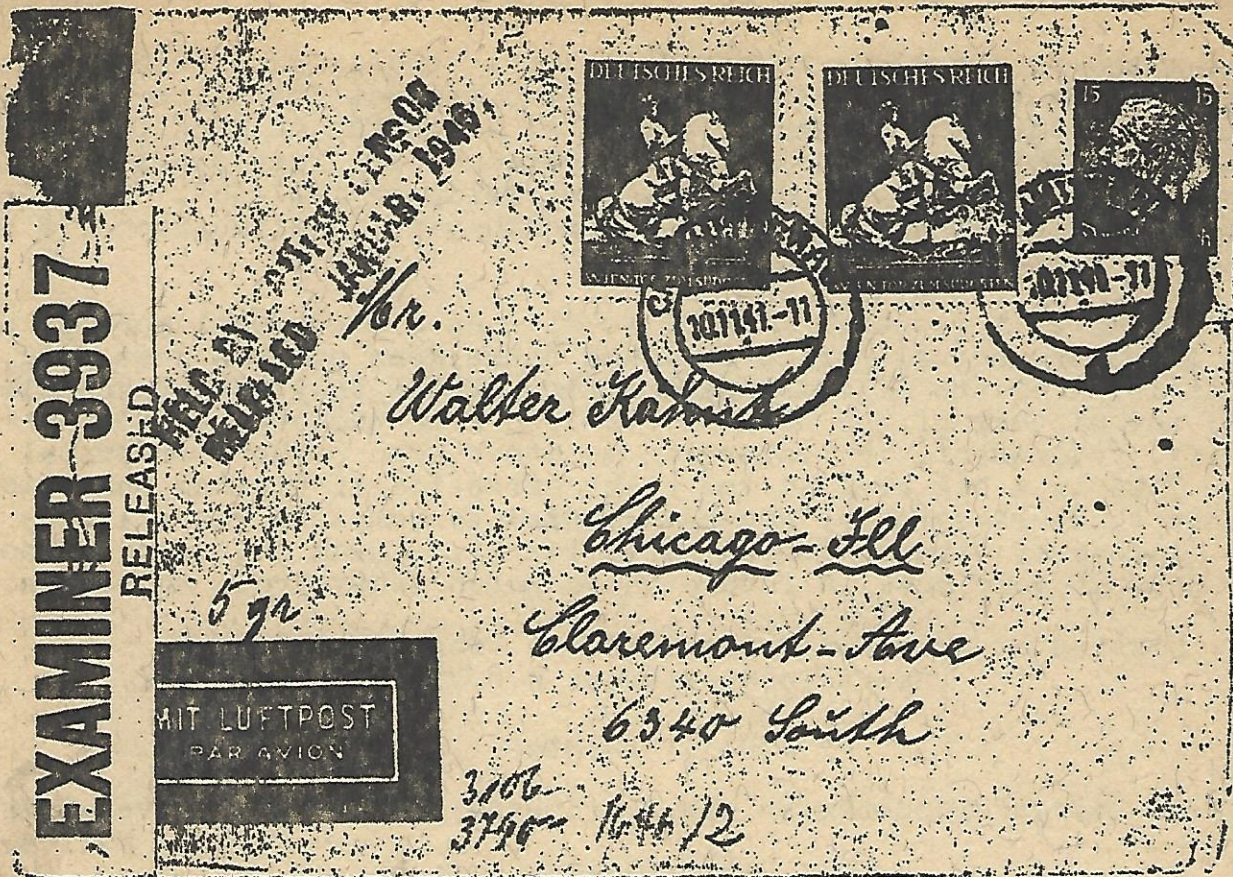


Fig. 1

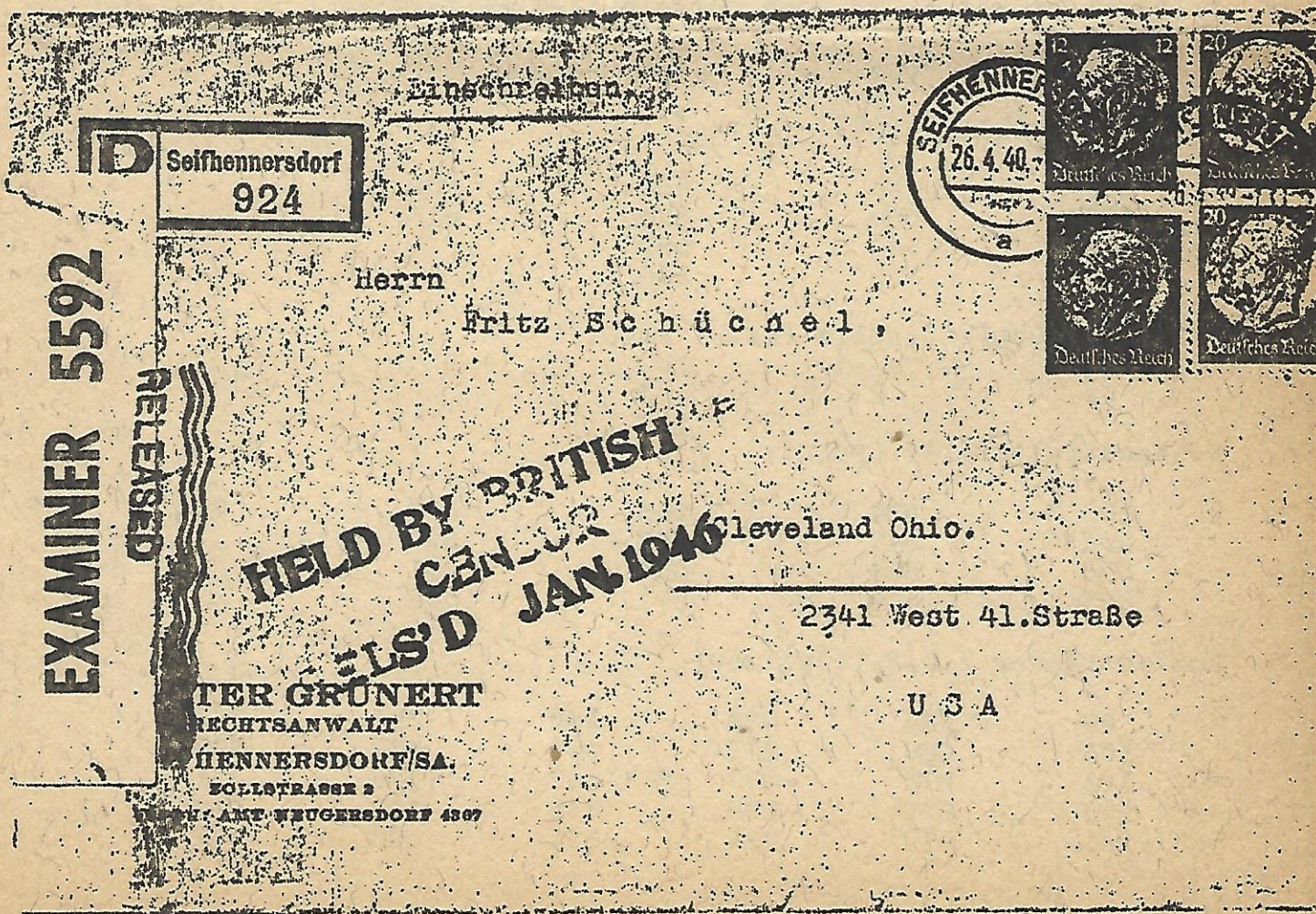


Fig. 2

As noted by Ben Beede in his Director's Report, John Painter has been working on the Army Field Post Offices project for quite some time. One might say this work is an expansion of a listing of Kenn (Code) numbers found in Feldpost cancellations; located on the last pages of Alfred Clements' "Kleines Handbuch der Deutschen Feldpost 1937-45". Mr. Clements attempted to give an approximate time (month-year) and location (if known) of usage of these various Kenn numbers.

Mr. Painter's research intends to give us a great deal more by bringing to light the actual period in which these Kenn numbers were used, to which division of the military post office system they were responsible to, and the history of the usage of various Kenn numbers, as to their longevity, retirement, or conversion to other Kenn numbers or postal units. This is a big step in the right direction of filling the void that confronts those researchers who have longed to complete the military postal history of Germany during World War II. Thank you John, we hope to see more of your work in future Third Reich Study Group Bulletins. (Ed.)

Listing of Army Field Post Offices (for special use)  
(Heeresfeldpostämter z.b.V.)

by John W. Painter

Listing of Heeresfeldpostämter z.b.V. (Source: National Archives T-78  
Roll 405)

1943 Data

Feldpost Dienststelle STAB Armee Feldpostmeister z.b.V.

Nord	Ost	Sud		
Armeebriefstelle (ABSt)		[14]		
500	530	560	602	
503	538	570	613	
506	540	580		
529	550	590		

Hauptfeldpostleitstelle (Haupt FpLSt)

1	2	3		
Feldpostleitstelle (FpLSt)		[17]		
500	537	556	587	734
501	547	557	597	
504	554	567	601	
527	555	577	612	

Feldpostämter z.b.V. (FpÄ zbv)

90	236	273	280	365	395
154	239	276	309	372	399
161	270	277	317	379	431
223	271	278	341	382	432
231	272	279	351	393	461

## Listing of Army Field Post Offices, continued.

## Feldpostämter z.b.V. (FpÄ zbV), continued.

477	561	633	736	765	796
501	562	634	737	766	797
503	563	635	738	767	798
506	570	636	739	768	799
510	571	638	740	770	801
512	573	639	741	771	(PE)-0.Qu.Rom.
516	580	645	742	772	802
519	581	646	743	773	(PE)-13.1.43
520	582	670	744	775	803
529	583	671	745	776	O.B. West
530	590	672	746	777	804
531	591	673	747	779	15.4.43
532	592	675	748	780	900
537	593	686	750	781	
539A	602	721	751	782	928
539B	603	722	752	783	Breslau (LgPA)
540	605	723	754	784	from ABSt 733
541	608	724	755	785	21.5.43
542	614	725	756	786	
543	615	726	757	787	929 (ibid. 928)
550	616	728	760	789	
551	618	729	761	790	
552	621	730	762	792	
553	631	731	763	793	
560	632	732	764	794	

REMARKS

On 21 May 1943 Armee Briefstelle 733 was converted to FpA 928 & 929. Since the controlling office was the Breslau LgPA, I suspect this change was made necessary to handle the mail to the various training units then stationed in the eastern areas. Although we have nothing to back it up yet, I also believe that this change caused the creation of Kenn Number 733 which we have learned was used mainly by replacement training units. All of our members will have to keep their eyes open for this when searching the records.

Certain other changes in these listings were also made at the time they were in use. FpA 639, 686, 762 were crossed out on the original record with the notation Afrika 1.6.43. From other sources I learned that these were the three FpÄmter that were used in Africa and were destroyed when Tunis was captured. Since this happened on May 8, 1943, we can see that the clerks were prompt in changing these records.

Some other changes that were written into the original document:

FpA 778 became FpA 435 (XXXV Corps) on 23.5.43.  
 FpA 774 became Haupt Feldpostleitstelle 3 on 21 May 1943  
 FpA 533 became Haupt Feldpostleitstelle 2 on 21 May 1943

## Listing of Army Field Post Offices, continued.

FpA 463 became Haupt Feldpostleitstelle 1 on 21 May 1943  
 FpA 759 converted to an organic divisional FpA (270 I.D.) In May 1943  
 FpA 634 became FpA 127 on 16 April 1943  
 Previous FpA 127 disbanded on 12 March 1943 when  
 27 Pz Div disbanded.

I have found it necessary to add several FpA zbV to the listing shown above. These additional listings were identified as being located in France & Belgium.

FpA 246

FpA 316

FpA 720

FpA 727

## Locations of Army Fieldpost Offices (Listing of Sept. 1943 T-78 Roll 405)

FpA					
90	Italy	520	H.Gr.Nord	618	France
154	H.Gr. Mitte	529	France	621	
161	West	530	Greece	631	FpA des OKH
228	Finland	531	Norway	632	Finland
231	Norway	532	H.Gr.Mitte	633	Denmark
236	Italy	537	Finland	634	H.Gr.Sud
239	H.Gr.Sud	539A	H.Gr.Mitte	635	H.Gr.Sud
270	Belgium	539B	H.Gr.Mitte	636	H.Gr.Sud
271	France	540	H.Gr.Sud	638	
272	France	541	H.Gr.Sud	639	Africa-Italy
273	Belgium	542	H.Gr.Sud	645	France
276	France	543		646	France
277	France	550	H.Gr.Sud	670	Belgium
278	France	551	H.Gr.Sud	671	France
279	France	552		672	Belgium
280	Norway	553	France	673	France
309	XXXIII Corps(?)	560	Greece	675	H.Gr.Sud
317	France	561	H.Gr.Sud-M	686	Italy-Africa
341	Belgium	562		721	Belgium
351	Belgium	563	(Became FpA for 1SS)	722	Belgium
365		570		723	Belgium
372	France	571	France	724	France
379	France	573	H.Gr.Mitte	725	France
382	Yugoslavia	580	H.Gr.Mitte	726	France
393	Belgium	581	France	728	Belgium
395	France	582	France	729	Greece
399	France	583	France	730	Belgium
431	Denmark	590	H.Gr.Sud	731	Greece
432	H.Gr.Mitte	591	France	732	France
461	Norway	592	France	736	Greece
477	France	593	France	737	France
501	H.Gr.Mitte	603		738	H.Gr.Sud
503		605	France	739	H.Gr.Nord
506	Greece	608	Belgium	740	H.Gr.Nord
510	Italy	614	France	741	H.Gr.Mitte
512	H.Gr.Mitte	615	France	742	Yugoslavia
516	H.Gr.Mitte	616	Belgium	743	H.Gr.Sud

## Locations of Army Field Post Offices, continued.

FpA					
744	H.Gr.Sud	766	H.Gr.Mitte	787	H.Gr.Mitte
745	H.Gr.Mitte	767	H.Gr.Sud	788	H.Gr.Sud
746	H.Gr.Sud	768	H.Gr.Sud	789	H.Gr.Mitte
747	H.Gr.Mitte	770	H.Gr.Mitte	790	H.Gr.Mitte AOK 11
748		771		792	Africa
750	Belgium	772	H.Gr.Nord	793	H.Gr.Mitte
751	H.Gr.Nord	773	H.Gr.Mitte	794	H.Gr.Mitte, Sud
752	H.Gr.Nord	775	H.Gr.Mitte	796	
754	H.Gr.Mitte	776	H.Gr.Mitte	797	France
755	France	777	H.Gr.Mitte	798	France
756	Italy	779		799	H.Gr.Mitte, Kiew
757	H.Gr.Mitte	780	H.Gr.Mitte	801	Italy (13.1.43)
760	H.Gr.Sud	781	H.Gr.Mitte	802	Italy (13.1.43)
761	H.Gr.Nord	782	H.Gr.Sud	803	France (15.4.43)
762	Africa-Italy	783	H.Gr.Sud	804	France (15.4.43)
763	H.Gr.Sud	784	H.Gr.Nord	900	H.Gr.Sud, Shitomir
764	H.Gr.Nord	785	H.Gr.Nord	928	
765	H.Gr.Mitte	786	Italy	929	

Summer 1944 to early 1945 T-78 Roll 408

## Feldpostämter z.b.V (FpÄzbV)

154	431	563	670	748	786
161	432	570	671	750	787
177	461	571	672	751	789
228	477	573	673	752	790
231	501	574	675	754	793
236	503	580	686	755	794
243	506	581	690	756	797
244	510	582	721	757	798
250	512	583	722	758	799
270	513	590	723	760	801 PE
271	516	591	724	761	802 PE
272	519	592	725	763	803
273	520	593	726	764	804
276	529	603	728	765	813
277	530	605	729	766	822
278	532	608	730	767	900
279	537	614	731	770	903
280	539A	615	732	771	908
309	539B	616	736	772	915
317	540	618	737	773	928
341	541	621	738	775	931 10.4.44
351	542	631	739	776	932 10.4.44
365	543	632	740	777	933 16.4.44 ex 394
372	550	633	741	779	690 29.4.44
379	551	634	742	780	ex FAD 390
381	552	635	743	781	513 18.5.44
382	553	636	744	782	ex 13 Lw.D.
393	560	638	745	783	846 20.9.44
395	561	645	746	784	ex FpA 246
399	562	646	747	785	

Summer 1944 to early 1945 T-78 Roll 408, continued.

HEERESEIGENE Feldpostämter bei Fallschirmverband

FpA 941	I Fs. Korps	946	6 Fs.Jg.Div.	950	10 Fs.Jg.Div.
942	II Fs. Korps	947	7 Fs.Jg.Div.		
943	3 Fs.Jg.Div.	948	8 Fs.Jg.Div. 1.1.45	949	8 Fs.Jg.Div.
944	4 Fs.Jg.Div.	949	Pz.Div. "HG" 20.12.44		23.2.45
945	5 Fs.Jg.Div.	952	2 Fs.Jg.Div. (Neu)	951	9 Fs.Jg.Div.
					23.2.45

For W.B. Danemark (alt PE)

953	956	959	962	965
954	957	960	963	966
955	958	961	964	

\* \* \* \* \*

Director's Notes

The July 1969 Bulletin, page 26, includes a query with regard to a label with a portrait of Richard Wagner. Finally, some authoritative information has come my way. Der Sammler-Dienst, Heft 7, 1970, p.408, has a most interesting story. First, before going into that, let me say that the "essay" has been reported in several colors. Now, to the account given by Sammler-Dienst. The labels were prepared by the Reichsdruckerei (equivalent to our Bureau of Engraving and Printing) in 1936 or 1937. They were of a purely experimental nature. When this question was submitted to the Bundesdruckerei this year, that agency commented, in the course of the explanation, that such labels must have been stolen. This is the only possible reason for their having gotten into the hands of the public. The Bundesdruckerei, it is interesting to note, still has a legal claim to the labels.

Some Feldpost cards have been offered to me recently by several dealers which concern me. These are cards with normal Feldpost cancellations of WWII with the eagle and swastika. However, the date on the cancel is September 1, 1939. Since Reichspostministerium publications clearly state that Feldpost Service began on September 3, 1939, one wonders how the earlier dates could happen. If anyone can arrive at a satisfactory explanation, please let us know. While on the subject of early WWII Feldpost mail, I might comment that Heinz Guderian stated in his memoirs that Feldpost from Poland was held back five days after mailing. This would mean that Feldpost did not start on its way to recipients until September 8, 1939. It should be noted, however, the mail was evidently cancelled before being held. September 3, 1939 dates are quite possible. I have one on an address notification card. I do not have a copy of Guderian's book at hand. Could some one please check that reference for me, to make sure my memory is correct?

One of my most interesting recent (relatively speaking) Feldpost acquisitions illustrates an unusual usage. The cover was evidently sent by a Finnish SS Officer at the central SS censorship office in Berlin. It has an open as opposed to a Feldpost number address. The cover is addressed to a member of the Finnish Army. As we know, it was possible to send Feldpost, postage-free up to 250 grams from Germany



Director's Notes, (Finnish cover, continued).

to Finland and reverse. This concession covered first class mail. My cover, however, went by airmail and is franked with two 5 Rpf. Hitler heads. This low rate surprised me, until I checked the airmail fees of the Third Reich era. Sure enough, this was quite proper for domestic airmail letters, upon which postage as well as the airmail letters, upon which postage as well as the airmail surtax had to be paid. Since Finland was equated to Germany in terms of some postal rates, the cover seems to be quite legitimate. It is different, though, as most of you may agree.

Varying dates have been given for the issuance of the 4,20 K green of Bohemia-Moravia. This carries a portrait of Hitler and the inscription: "Grossdeutsches Reich". Both 1944 and 1945 have been shown as the year of appearance in several catalogs. It seems that the stamp should be considered as having been issued on Feb. 1, 1945. (Mitteilung 1019/1945, Amtsblatt des Reichspostministeriums, 24 Februar 1945, p.44). In the same announcement the discontinuance of printing of the 10 h, 1,60 K, 2,40 K, 30 K, and 50 K Hitler heads was noted.

What follows is one of the most difficult translation assignments I have undertaken. There are several reasons for this. First, the terminology used is somewhat different in certain respects from normal postal procedures. Second, the translation was done under some pressure. Third, my philosophy of translation is that one should keep as close to the original as possible in terms of placement of words, sentence division, etc. This is a complex regulation, with which it was difficult to follow my usual methods. Please bear with me. Perhaps what is needed is some kind of table to indicate more precisely just what this regulation meant in terms of changes. My feeling is that we have to keep the Bulletin moving ahead. If an occasional roughly done article or note appears, this does not necessarily concern me. The Specialist is the one publication in which one must be particularly careful.

It is often said that the Reichspost continued normal operations up until V-E 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 which applied severe limitations to mail service. It dates from January 29, 1945:

Limitation of Postal Service as the Result of 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. I have therefore seen myself forced to take measures which are suited to the demands that mail makes on railroad carrying capacity.

Accordingly the following applies:

A. Mail admitted.

## Limitations of Postal Service, continued.

## Letter Service

## 1. Town and Local Postal Service

Town Service is service within the municipal and rural delivery sphere of the senders' locality.

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

- a) Ordinary post cards and letters 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 100 grams and up to a maximum size

in rectangular form: length, breadth and height together of not over 50 cm, length however, not over 30 cm.

in rolled form: length and twice the diameter together not over 60 cm, length however, not over 50 cm.

to and from any person within the maximum number of mailed items established

- bb) up to 500 grams and up to the maximum measurements under aa) submitted unsealed when the mail contains documents, securities, valuables or the like without connexion 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 mailed are admitted.

## 2. Long Distance Postal Service

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

- a) ordinary postcards and ordinary letters up to 20 grams to and from any person,
- b) ordinary and registered letters and insured letters up to 500 grams, which are mailed by the authorities, etc. listed in Appendix I, and mail that is directed to these authorities, etc. from any person.
- c) ordinary and registered letters and insured letters of up to 500 grams to and from postal users who are not listed in Appendix I, in urgent military and vitally urgent cases with the special authorization of the Postal Districts.

## Limitations of Postal Service, continued.

<sup>1</sup> The maximum amount of registered and insured mail which may be accepted sealed from private persons has to be reduced corresponding to the diminished amount submitted - Expansion of the special category of senders in Appendix I.

are admitted.

## 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

Railway letters in general remain admissible, insofar as suitable channels exist, when the sender or recipient of previous railway letters belong to the user category listed in Appendix I, or if the letters are only 20 grams.

## 4. Feldpost, Dienstpost- and Foreign Mail.

The existing 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, cash on delivery, 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 through the entire nation; forwarding if possible by fast trains,
- b) The "Hamburger Fremdenblatt", the "Kölnische Zeitung", the "Münchener Neuesten Nachrichten", the "Nationalzeitung" (Essen) and the "Neues Wiener Tagblatt", and the Gau newspapers for distribution within an area of 100 kilometers of the place of publication or within the Gau in question. Mailed copies of national newspapers however through the entire nation; forwarding by passenger or freight trains; if possible, also by fast trains,

## Limitations of Postal Service, continued.

- c) Other daily newspapers for distribution within the areas established by the Postal Districts for district service; forwarding in general only by passenger or freight trains.

## 2. Other Newspapers and Periodicals

- a) The gazettes of the highest national authorities, "Das Reich" and "Das Schwarze Korps" for unlimited distribution through the whole nation; forwarding insofar as possible by fast trains,
- b) All other newspapers and periodicals for unlimited distribution throughout the entire nation; forwarding generally 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 for the elimination of pressing emergencies for individual commercial senders of parcels with especially vital goods. The postal district number is to be indicated very clearly 4 to 5 centimeters high 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 postoffices; the receiving official has to examine whether the sender or recipient belongs to the sphere of users permitted.

Letters which have been mailed contrary to these regulations are to be returned to the sender. An examining mark is not to be applied to the mail.

Letters which are posted by patrons listed in Appendix 1 at the postal counter must bear the designation of sender on the outside.

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

Note: The remainder of this regulation will be published in a future bulletin.

## A Note on Those Mysterious "C" Censor Markings.

by Myron Fox

The Riemer<sup>1</sup> and Volume II of the Wolter<sup>2</sup> censorship books, (see review in Third Reich Study Group Bulletin #12), are indispensable to the censorship collector and one wonders how we censorship collectors ever managed without them. Yet they are far from being the final answer to all censorship problems and much still remains to be researched.

## Mysterious "C" Censor Markings, continued.

One area requiring clarification are the "L.c." markings discussed by Jim Duffy in the April issue of this Bulletin. Another example of work to be done, The "Circle C" censorship markings, are the subject of this short note.

The markings in question occur in a small 9mm circle in the colors red, lilac, black and blue and are denoted by Wolter as type IIA/17b. Riemer does not appear to address these markings. The author first became interested in these markings when he found them on several covers to the U.S., while Wolter states them as being found on covers from the Orient. I now have covers mailed from Germany, Norway, Belgium, Netherlands, Czechoslovakia and Poland all addressed to the U.S. in the period from August 24, 1940 to January 13, 1941, all with these markings in various colors. I also have several covers mailed from Germany and Austria to China dated from Sept. 26, 1940 to Jan. 17, 1941. From other mail to the same correspondents especially in the U.S. cases, it can reasonably be assumed that with some slight unknown tolerances on both sides of these dates, these are the only period of use.

Also out of a sample of over 36 such covers that the author has seen and/or are in his collection, all appear to have been censored by the Berlin office. Many have both signs of opening by the Berlin Office along with the so-called "Durchlauf" markings, literally "passage", but freely translated as "Passed without Censoring", which were used when the heavy work loads prevented censoring of all mail. (Evidently in some cases the censor opened the letter, but did not thoroughly review the contents; or was there a check perhaps on the censor who was not censoring certain mail, to prevent collusion?). Also similar mail to the U.S. bearing the markings of the Frankfurt Censor Office denoted by "e", do not have any "C" markings. Thus these markings appear to originate from the Berlin Censorship Office, or at least to be associated with mail censored by the office.

The markings occur on both cards and covers and the "C" is quite often in a different color than the other censor markings which probably means they were applied by a different person. Also, all but one cover that the author has seen were sent by surface mail. The only exception was mailed from Belgium with Belgian stamps, was not in an airmail envelope and did not bear any obvious indications that it went airmail. The only indication is a handwritten note to send the cover by clipper. It is very possible that the cover did not go by air. Also, since the author has several other covers in this period which were sent by air and censored by the Berlin office, but have no "C" markings, he conjectures that these have something to do with surface mail only; especially since the converse does not appear to be so, i.e. I have seen no covers sent by surface mail to China or the U.S.A. in this period of use without the "C" markings.

If one looks in any German dictionary, he would see that few natural German words start with the letter "C". From the evidence so far compiled, it would appear that the marking was not a censor marking at all since it often appears with several other censor marks and would

## Mysterious "C" Censor Markings, continued.

appear to be redundant and one would be led to conclude that the letter "C" was some sort of postal routing marking related to mail going by way of Russia and possibly China, with the "C" standing for China. Note the dates of usage correspond with the initiation of general censorship after the orders of April and May 1940<sup>3</sup> and the deterioration of German-Russian relationships in late 1940 and early 1941, before Hitler's attack in June, 1941.

However, Wolter states that these are found on mail from the Orient (too?) and there would appear to be no need for them as a routing symbol in those cases. While the author has not seen any covers with such markings from China, etc., this is probably largely due to the fact that there are relatively few such covers in the U.S. compared to covers to the U.S. for example.

Thus we have an interesting puzzle. Perhaps at least part of the solution would be available if more was known about the postal routes of the period. Correspondence is welcome on any aspect of this article and/or the editor would no doubt appreciate a short informative note.

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- <sup>1</sup> Karl Heinz Riemer, Zensurpost aus dem III. Reich, (Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch Deutsche Dienststellen), Heft 61, Mai, 1966, Poststempelgilde "Rhein-Donau" e.v.
  - <sup>2</sup> Karl Kurt Wolter, Die Postzensur, Handbuch und Katalog, Vol. II, (1939-1955), Munich, 1966.
  - <sup>3</sup> Riemer, op.cit., page III.

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## THIRD REICH POSTAL STATIONERY PROJECT

Over the past ten years several excellent postal stationery catalogs have been published here and abroad. However, this is a complex area and certain aspects of German postal stationery still require clarification. One such aspect is print-to-private-order stationery for the period after 1930. Although such material is listed in the Berliner Ganzsachen and the new Higgins and Gage catalogs, coverage in general, i.e. the sponsoring agencies are not indicated, as they were in the Ascher-Junker catalog of 1930. One of our study group members Edwin Hope, is helping to close this gap for the Third Reich period. Mr. Hope recently transmitted a draft catalog to me which lists approximately five hundred items. We realize that there must be many others. Mr. Herbert C. Schulz has consented to check the catalog with his large collection. There are also some other leads for us to follow. This is one of the first major projects that a Third Reich Study Group member has carried out. Therefore, Mr. Hope deserves a good deal of credit from all of us.

Benjamin R. Beede

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Third Reich Study Group Financial Statement as of June 1, 1970:

<u>Dues Account:</u>	Balance brought forward (Mar. '69 Statement)	\$ 51.15	
	Dues received up to June 1, 1970	75.00	
			Total
			\$126.15
	<u>Expenses:</u>		
	Bulletin Production (J.E.Duffy)		
	No. 15 (Apr. 8, 1969)	\$ 22.44	
	No. 17 (Oct. 10, 1969)	27.06	
	No. 18 (Jan. 9, 1970)	13.55	
	No. 19 (Apr. 5, 1970)	25.34	
	Postage to Mr. K.J. David	1.00	
			Total Expense
			\$ 89.39
			Dues Account Balance
			\$ 36.76
<u>Contributory Account:</u>			
	Balance brought forward (March 1969)	\$ 46.00	
	Additional contributions received	72.00	
			Total
			\$118.00
<u>On Hand:</u>	Dues Account	\$ 36.76	
	Contributory Account	118.00	
	Total Treasury	\$154.76	

R. J. Houston