

Third Reich Study Group Bulletin
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Editorial

Apologies to all for the long dry spell. The pressure of many commitments has subsided. Once again the Bulletin will live and hopefully will continue to grow with a little more regularity.

This is the 4th issue of 1972 and is therefore dated December 1972, although being printed in September 1973.

It is dues time again, and a Membership Renewal Form is enclosed with this mailing for your convenience.

I realize 1973 is almost nine months old. However, Bulletins No. 1 and No. 2 of 1973 are already in the works and should be ready shortly.

Thank you for your patience and we would appreciate your continued support. To my critics, I say thank you for taking time to write, and if you don't see articles pertaining to your area of interest, why don't you take pen in hand-send in an article that is in your area of interest.

My sincere thanks to Myron Fox, Bob Houston, Richard Imus, James Casey, Sam Simon, and John Painter for material received so far. Some of these articles contain a number of photos, which will take a little longer to produce, but will most certainly be worth the effort.

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Italian Forces in the Wehrmacht

by Richard H. Imus

In the June 1968 German Postal Specialist, an excellent article authored by four GPS members discussed mail from Italian units which became part of the German Army following the collapse of Mussolini's regime in October of 1943. Examination of covers in my collection and information provided by a couple of articles in the Italian philatelic press has provided additional information and raised questions concerning this unusual phenomenon.

As stated in the GPS article, Mussolini's Italian Social Republic in October of 1943, decided to raise a new military force to aid its German ally. Many of the members of these new units (the main ones being the divisions "Italia", "Littorio", "San Marco" and "Monte Rosa") came from those members of the former Italian Army which were captured and interned by the Germans with the collapse of Mussolini's all-Italian government in September 1943. Most of these captured units were held in camps in Germany, and interestingly enough kept their Italian military organization, including fieldpost ("Posta Militare") service during the period of internment. Those soldiers that decided to join up with the new forces of the Social Republic were, as mentioned earlier, formed into Italian units which were an integral part of the Wehrmacht and as such received five-digit fieldpost numbers like all the other German military units. The Italian troops were allotted the eighty thousand (80 000) series. Postal privileges of these units have been dealt with in the earlier "Specialist" article.

Mail from these Italian units is found bearing three types of postmarks: German Reichspost "stumme" (mute) cancels, regular German Feldpost cancels and an interesting "Posta da Campo" marking. The German style cancels (mute and Feldpost) clearly were used when the units were in training in Germany or attached to German field units operating outside of Italy. The third, "Posta da Campo" marks, however, are the most interesting. According to Italian sources these marks were used when the units returned to Italy in an operational capacity. The postmark itself is a direct copy of the standard "Feldpost" mark of the Germans and is entirely different from the normal military post ("Posta Militare") marking used by the Italian forces up until 1943. In fact, the term "Posta da Campo" is an exact translation of the German word "Feldpost". In the Italian marking naturally the German eagle and swastika are replaced by the Italian fasces but the form is still basically identical. Instead of the three dashes (---) found in front of the date on German Feldpost marks, the Italian version has three zeros (000). I have not seen a "Posta da Campo" cover with a "Kenn" number in the cancel. Has anyone else?

As on German mail, unit handstamps ("Briefstempel") were used. In Germany they were standard Wehrmacht variety "Dienststelle der Feldpost", but in Italy an Italian version was utilized. Here again the "Posta da Campo" unit seal is nearly identical with its German

Italian Forces in the Wehrmacht, continued.

counterpart with only the wording (Italian versus German) and the symbols being changed. Numbering of units, using the five-digit system plus letter, was also employed in the Italian units on exactly the same pattern as in the German forces. For the record, it should be mentioned that non operational units of the Italian Social Republic employed a completely different type of postmark which although inscribed "Posta da Campo" is a direct successor of the earlier "Posta Militare" marking, rather than being a copy of the German "Feldpost" marking.

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Report from IBRA Munich '73

by James E. Duffy

Much has been written about the International Stamp Exhibition, IBRA Munich '73, which took place on May 11-20. This report contains items which should be of interest to the TRSG membership.

The IBRA show catalog is an excellent 456 page collection of articles, photographs of rare stamps and covers, exhibit listings, etc. Of the 20 articles that appeared, "Die Feldpostsammelstellen der Deutschen Reichspost 1939-1945" (The Feldpost Assembly Points (Offices) of the German Reichspost 1939-1945) by Günter Fuchs, of Böblingen, Germany will interest collectors of PSST (Postsammelstelle) mail and cancellations. The article gives a brief history of these offices, with an illustration page of the 26 types of hand stamp, roller, and line cancellers used by the various PSST offices. An information chart follows, listing the 27 towns where PSST cancellers were used, how long in use, the types used, and how used (i.e. on letters, facing slips, etc.). A good article for any Feldpost specialist.

To walk through the hall housing the exhibits on three floors was a philatelists dream, regardless of ones interests. Frame after frame radiated philatelic delights from the pre-stamp times, through the classics, military mail from its inception to the present day, number ones and twos, from most of the 19th century stamp-issuing countries, in singles, multiples and on cover. Essays, proofs, artist's designs, re-plating of full sheets, local mail, private posts, registry, official mail, censored mail, buildings, HOP's, ship and air mail, and so on from most of the countries of the world.

The exhibits were set up in sections, and again divided into specific categories. Exhibits of interest are as follows: In the Jurists section Mr. Karl Wolter, author of the two volumes of the Postzensur books, had an exhibit of Boer War material, showing some of the early forms of "Postkontroll" hand stamps and censor markings used during this period. Although this is before our period of study, this was a good example of how a type of mail censorship evolved during war time.

Competitive exhibits in our area of interest were O. J. Simpson, of Great Britain, "Channel Islands" silver medal; Hermann Berger, Germany, "German Dienstpost up to 1945", silver-bronze; Karl Heinz Riemer, Germany, (author of "Zensurpost aus dem III. Reich") "Mail surveillance in France

IBRA Report, continued.

by OKW (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht) offices during WWII, silver; Heinz Mühle, Germany, "German occupation issues 1939-1945, including Feldpost issues in occupied territory" silver; J. Michelson, South Africa, "German occupation issues in Latvian territory 1914-18 and 1939-1945" bronze; Norbert Kannapin, Germany "German Feldpost, research collection from 1937-1945" vermeille; Eugen Nill, "German Feldpost, collection of occupations issues 1939-1945 from Albania to Zara including Spendenmarken (charity stamps)", silver-bronze; James E. Duffy, U.S.A. "Special collection of Zulassungsmarken (airmail and parcel permit stamps 1942-1945", silver; Günter Fuchs, Germany "German Feldpost cover collection of forerunners, customs, censors, maneuver mail, legions, mail from foreign countries, Inselpost, etc., 1939-1945" small gold; Carl Kroboth U.S.A., "German Feld- and Inselpost of WWII", silver; Wladimir Muratow, Russia, "Feldpost 1941-1945" bronze; Wilhelm Hövermann, Germany, "Military airmail, WWII" bronze; Siegfried Uhlemann, Germany "German Feldpost scarcely known German and foreign military mail and troop cancellations on letters from around the world" silver; Hans Jandl, Austria, "German occupation in Yugoslavia 1941-1945", bronze; Sam Simon, U.S.A. "Special postal history collection of mail in and from concentration camps 1933-1945", silver. There were also quite a few other exhibits which contained Dienstpost, Feldpost, and especially censored mail from occupied territory, but these are too numerous to mention and were represented from one to ten or more covers.

As with any international stamp show, there is too much to see and do in ten days. It was quite a task just getting around to visit all the dealers, and here a collector could get quite an education. Since genuine postally used third reich material is very much in demand, many dealers and auction houses were offering "large" numbers of certain types of covers, especially those from the German occupation of the Ukraine (see Michel Specialized Catalog 1972/73, pp. 932-934). The first issues with "UKRAINE" overprint on Germany 781-798 (Hitler heads) are not too expensive, and are found often on "Dienstpost" covers. What I am speaking of are the stamps of Wosnessensk, Luboml, Wladimir-Wolynsk and Gorochow. Many auctions in Germany in May, and dealers at IBRA offered the aforementioned stamps in full sets, mint, used, on cover, sets of errors (e.g. Luboml issue, with fat "h" in "Deutsche" unlisted in Michel), complete with and without other errors, perf and imperf, and color varieties. One auction house had 19 of these lots for sale, another 30 lots for sale and so on. Many of the stamps shown on cover, are tied only with a "Dienstsigel" (Official seal), a circular hand-stamp with the Nazi eagle and swastika and the inscription "Der Gebietskommissar in Wladimir-Wolynsk". A few covers and cards had a Deutsche Dienstpost double-ring with date bridge cancel, but none tied the Ukraine provisional stamps to the letter or card. The prices being asked are often double Michel or more. The present rate of exchange from dollars to D-Marks is also an added incentive to make certain that what you are buying is genuine. The chances are that much of this material is "mache" (made up) and has never seen postal use. Beware!

Stamp prices were generally high from all the dealers, with some excellent material being offered. All in all a fine show, aside from some of the problems which were outlined by Mr. Esrati in a recent Specialist article. Our turn will come in 1976, in Philadelphia.

Directory of the Post Offices, Postal Sub-Station and Postal Agencies in the Sudeten Territory, Oct. 1938, continued from Vol. VII, No. 3, Whole No. 28, OCT '72.

- | | |
|---|--|
| x Ottendorf/über Troppau- | x Petrowitz/über Zauchtel (Ostsudetenl) |
| | - |
| x Ottendorf (b Braunau, Heuscheuer)
-Otovice (Broumov) | Petschau-Becov nad Teplou |
| x Ottowitz-Otovice u Karlovy Vary | Petzer (Riesengeb)-Pec |
| | Pfraumberg-Primda
(Pfrauenberg-Primda, CZECH SPEC) |
| x Parchen (Kr Tetschen)-Práchen | Philippsdorf (Kr Schluckenau)-Filipov |
| Parschnitz (b Trautenau)-Poříčí (Trutnov) | o Philippsthal=Nemile/über Hohenstadt
(Harch)- |
| x Partschendorf/über Stauding (Ostsudetenl)
-Bartošovice na Moravě | o Pickau/über Jagernsdorf (Ostsudetenl) |
| | - |
| x Paszeck (b Rochlitz, Iser)- | x Piesling (Mähren)-Písečné (Slavonice)
or Písecná nad Dyjí |
| x Passek (b Mährisch Neustadt)
-Paseka (Uničov) | Pihanken(Kr Teplitz-Schönau)-Běhánky |
| x Paulusbrunn-Pavluv Studenec | x Pihl/über Haida (Kr Leipa, Sudetenl)
-Pihel |
| x Pausram-Pouzdřany | x Pilnikau (b Trautenau)-Pilníkov |
| x Pelsdorf (b Hohenelbe, Riesengeb)
-Kunčice nad Labem | x Pirkenhammer-Pirkenhamr |
| x Pernharz-Pernarec | Píšť-Píšť (CZECH SPEC) |
| o Peterbrude or Petersbrude/über
Spindelmühle (Riesengeb)-Petrovka | o Pittarn/über Röwersdorf (Ostsudetenl)
-Pitarné |
| x Petersburg (Bz Karlsbad)-Petrohrad | o Piwoin/über Hohenstadt (Harch) |
| o Petersdorf/über Hennersdorf Ostsudetenl)
-Petrovice u Jindřichova | - |
| o Petersdorf/über Hohenstadt (Harch) or
(Petersdorf an der Tess)-Petrovice
nad Desnou | x Pladen-Blatno (Jesenice) |
| o Petersdorf/über Sternberg (Odergeb) | Plan-Planá (u Mariánských Lázní) |
| - | x Platten (b Komotau)-Blatno u Chomutova |
| x Petersdorf (b Trautenau)-Petříkovice | x Plaw (b Tannwald=Schumburg, Isergeb) |
| Peterswald-Petrvald (Příbor) na Moravě | - |
| Peterswald/über Pirna (b Karbitz)
-Petrovice (Chabarovice) | x Pleil=Sorgenthal-Pleil=Sorgenthal
-CZECH SPEC |
| | Ploschkowitz (Kr Leitmeritz)-Ploskovic |
| | o Pobutsch/über Hohenstadt (Harch) |
| | - |

Sudeten Towns Checklist, continued.

- Podersam-Podbořany
- x Pömmmerle/über Aussig-Povrly
- x Pohl (Ostsudetenl)-
- x Pohlig-Poláky
- Pohrlitz-Pohorelice
- Pokau/über Aussig-
- Polanka n. Odrou-Polanka n. Odrou CZECH SPEC.
- Polaun (Riesengeb)-Polubný
- Polepp (or Polep)(Kr Leitmeritz)-Polepy (Litomerice)
- Politz/über Bodenbach or (Politz an der Elbe)-Boletice nad Labem
- o Pollau/über Unter Wisternitz-
- x Pomeisl-Nepomyšl
- o Pomitsch/über Frain-
- x Ponikla (Iser)-Ponikla
- x Poppitz or (Popitz)-Popice
- x Porstendorf (b Mährisch Träbau)-Boršov
- Porschnitz-SEE Parschnitz
- x Poruba/über Troppau
- x Poruba u. Svinova-Poruba u. Svinova CZECH SPEC
- Possitz=Gross Grillowitz-Božice (Ces. Královice) or Božice (Jaroslavice)
- Postelberg-Postoloprty
- x Potscherad-Počeradý
- o Pötschmühle/über Krumau (Holdau)
-
- o Prachatitz-Prachatice
- x Praskowitz/über Aussig or Praskowitz an der Elbe-Prackovice nad Labem
- o Pratsch/über Lechwitz-
- Predlitz-Předlice
- Preschen (Kr Bilin, Sudetenl)-Břešťany (Bílina)
- Pressnitz-Prísečnice
- Priesen (Bz Karlsbad), (Komotau)-Brezno (Chomutov)
- o Priethal/über Krumau (Holdau)-Přídolí
- x Prittloch-Přítluky
- Prodlitz/über Aussig-SEE Predlitz
- Prohn (Kr Bilin, Sudetenl)-Braňany
- x Proschwitz/über Arnau (Elbe) -Prosečné
- Proschwitz (Kr Gablonz, Neisse)- Proseč n. Nis.
- x Prossmeritz-Prosiměřice
- Pürstein-Perštejn
- x Puletschnei/über Gablonz (Neisse) -Pulečný
- x Purschau-Porejov
- x Puschwitz (b Podersam)-Buškovice
- o Pumperle/über Kuschwarda-Pumperle
- x Qualisch (b Trautenau)-Chvaleč

The Last Days of Nazi Postal Service - April - May 1945

by James Casey
Geneseo School of Library and Information,
Masters Degree Candidate

On April 21, 1945, as Soviet troops battled their way into Berlin, the last regular postal issues (Michel 909,910) of Nazi Germany went on sale in that city. The end of Nazi Germany had come, yet amazingly, those new SA & SS postal issues did see use on letters mailed from the embattled city before April 25 and total encirclement by Soviet forces. The value of genuine Michel 909-910 covers, then, is understandably great due to both scarcity and historical interest.

However, even after Berlin had been encircled and cut off, Nazi postal service still continued in other areas of the quickly shrinking Reich. For example, the city of Dresden was not captured by Soviet forces until May 8, 1945 and as late as May 5, Gauleiter Mutschmann boasted of a final German offensive in the East. Regardless of the horrible bombing raid of Feb. 13, 1945, depicted so vividly in Slaughterhouse 5, Dresden was the last major German "festung" to fall. In my collection are two interesting covers (Hitler head stamps) mailed from the Dresden-Erz Mountains area on April 25 and April 27, 1945. By this time U.S. and Soviet forces had met at Torgau to cut the Third Reich in two and over 4/5 of Germany was already under allied control. Russian forces were only 10 to 15 miles away from Dresden. According to the GPS Expertising Committee, Postal service for Germans in the Dresden area continued under these extraordinary circumstances until May 8, 1945. Both letters, addressed to Dresden, apparently reached their destinations before the final collapse.

Also in my collection is a cancelled Michel 908 "Ein Volk Steht Auf" a propaganda issue dated May 5, 1945 from the Austrian city of Brück an der Mür. By May 5, this area was still under German control, and Nazi postal issues still valid. On May 8, allied forces moved in. In total, these three interesting items cost me only \$1.10, whereas covers of #909-910 would bring at least 25-30 dollars.

Aside from postally used covers and post cards of Nazi Germany proper, one could possibly find covers of German occupied Denmark, Norway, Northern Italy, Croatia, Laibach, Bohemia-Moravia and the Netherlands postmarked during the last days of the Third Reich. One cover in my collection (expertised by GPS) was mailed from Prague in German occupied Bohemia-Moravia on April 6, 1945 and returned to sender by German authorities on April 9 due to suspension of mail service. Partisan activities in Czechoslovakia reached a fever pitch by April 1945 when impending liberation was at hand. Another cover from Pola, Deutsche Dienstpost Adria, is postmarked April 16, 1945 - only a few days before liberation by Yugoslav forces. (Michel 894-898).

Collecting postal covers and stationery of Nazi Germany and occupied Europe postmarked during January to May 1945 has been my chief hobby interest over the past year. That interest began with my work on an undergraduate research paper concerning the plight of East German

The Last Days of Nazi Postal Service, continued.

refugees during the last months of World War II. The last days of Hitler's lunatic empire have been researched and written about by numerous scholars and more popular writers as well as being frequently portrayed on the screen with rare skill. Both as a challenge for obtaining scarce material and reinforcing historical interest, this collecting pursuit has been quite rewarding for me.

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Some time ago Don Slawson sent in a question. He has two covers with the boxed handstamp:

Weiterlauf durch
Kriegsverhältnisse
verhindert

One cover is from Wilkau-Hasslau (Sachs) to Berlin date 13.4.45, an Überroller.

The other cover is from Köln to Trier - no markings on cover to indicate either Überroller or zurück, but a pencilled note "Eingang 13.8.49 (which Don finds hard to believe), and the cancel is dated 20.12.44.

Quite obviously the paths of these 2 covers should not have come within 200 miles of each other, and the hand stamps have the same inscription with almost the same size and style of printing. His question is, Did the Reichspost give orders to prepare such a stamp to be used on mail that could not be delivered? If so, what happened to the mail? Most returned covers are stamped "Zurück" and do not have the above handstamp on them.

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You may remember the article "Postoffice Box 110 - Vienna" by Bob Houston, back in the January issue of 1971 (Whole No.22). A short time after this article appeared in the Bulletin, one of our members sent Bob some information that he had 2 covers with a P.O. Box 113 number instead of the Number 110. Just about the same time Bob received this information, he too found a Number 113 in some dealers stock. There were other basic differences between the 110 covers and those with No. 113, and if these differences are consistent with each number, this might be the subject of a future article.

But now for the kicker; just recently, a dealer's box turned up a cover addressed to an SS man (with an open address to an SS unit) in Berlin. The cover bore a mute cancel dated 24.8.41. But this cover had a return address stamped on the back:

Yes, the handstamped address reads: Absender/
Berlin W 30/Schliesfach 26/F.R.

Absender
BERLIN W 30
SCHLIESFACH 26

F. R.

Any one else have other numbers from the same or other towns?

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