



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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Taxe perçue RM 11 RPF

Kriegsgefangenenpost
Correspondance des prisonniers de guerre

Post
No. "Par avion"

Change
40 plus

An A Miss Helen Palmer McFall

939 Wildwood Avenue

Emplangsort: Atlantic City
Lieu de destination

Straße: New Jersey
Rue

Land: U.S.A.
Landesteil (Provinz) usw.)
Dep.

Gebührenfrei! Franc de port!

7
Geprüft
0 Flag
6A

15.7.44-12
C

STUDY GROUP NOTES

We regret the late arrival of this TRSG Bulletin. While we had hoped to include an auction, the past two months included a family illness that made it impossible to complete the auction description. Things are looking much better and we will make every effort to complete an auction for Bulletin 137. Ye Olde Ed.

TRSG Meeting at NOJEX – there was be an informal TRSG meeting at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, 2000 at the Meadowlands Crowne Plaza, Two Harmon Plaza, Secaucus NJ 07094. Members in attendance included Myron Fox, Bob Dunn, Arnold Engel, Jim Lewis, Ron Morgan, John Painter, Keith Stupell and Karl Winkehonan. We hosted an entire section which included these Third Reich postal history exhibits:

Albania through Zara - German Occupation Stamp Varieties and Types – Bob Dunn.

German Aerophilately during the Third Reich - Mail Forwarded by Airship & Aircraft – Arnold Engel.

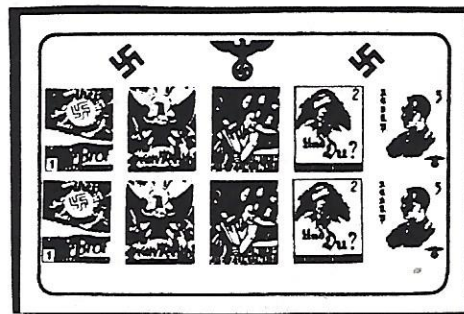
Koenigsberg Censor Office 1939-1944 – Mail Censored at First German Censor Office – Arnold Engel.

Croatian Postal Rates – Results of a Study of Croatian Postal Rates during WW II – Henry Laessig.
German Official Postal Service in Occupied Russia 1941-1944 – “Ostland” & “Ukraine” – Jim Lewis.

We are pleased that Arnold’s very nice Koenigsberg Censor Office exhibit was awarded “Best in Section”.

TRSG Meeting at GPS Exhibit in Minneapolis – there was be an informal TRSG meeting on July 21, 2000. Members in attendance included John Bloecher, Gustav Chron, Bob Dunn, Arnold Dietz, Al Kugel, Philip Martin, Eugene Marshall, Phil Miller, Phil Parker, Keith Stupell, Ronald Waardhuzian (who lives in Belgium), George Wanstall and Richard Yeble.

NSDAP Labels on Sheet – Member A. Kettler writes “On page two of TRSG Bulletin # 105 was reference to five NSDAP se-tenant labels printed by Ed. Strache & Co. I am sending these same designs in the form of a small tan colored imperforate sheet. (See below). Would you please include this item in an upcoming Bulletin. If any member has information on this sheet, please send it to the TRSG Bulletin Editor so we may share it with the group. “



Cover Illustration – to complement the articles on POW mail appearing on pages 18 and 19, this lettersheet was sent to the IISA via airmail on July 15 1944 from an American captain in Oflag 64

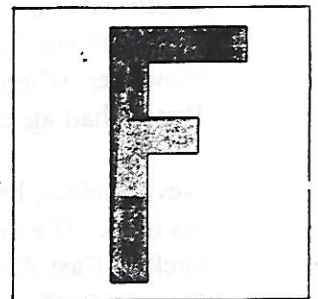
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 10th Panzer-Grenadier Division

by Jim Lewis

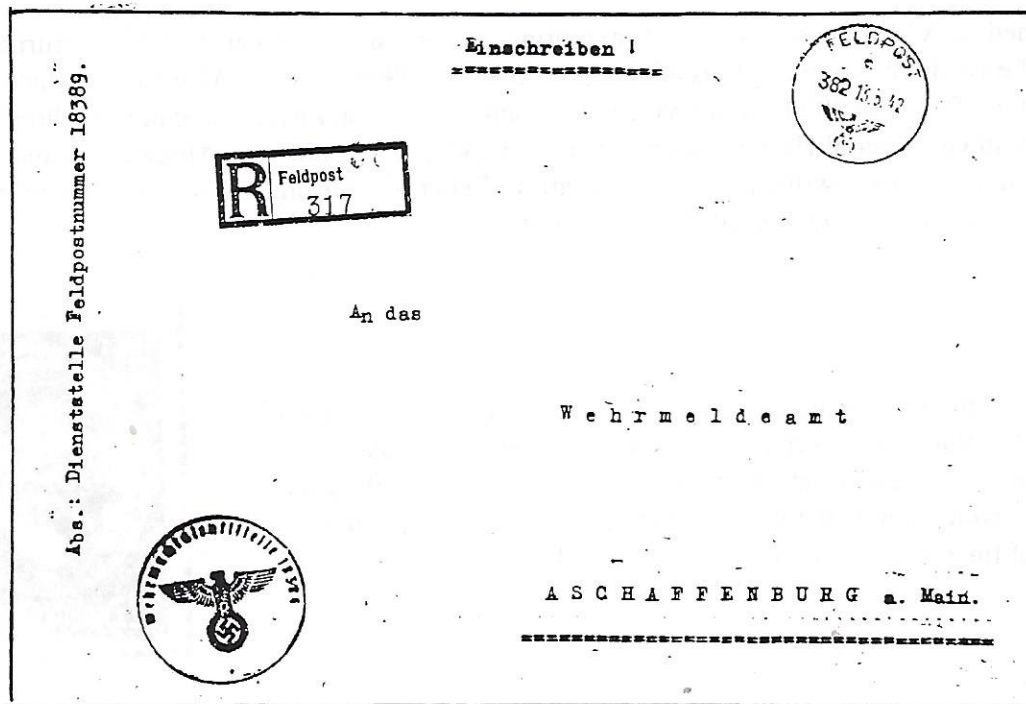
POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	MOTORIZED INF	PZ BTL	ARTY	UNITS	
10	382	20	41	110	10	10

Originally formed with personnel from northern Bavaria & western Sudetenland as the 10th Infantry Division of the old Reichswehr, it included the 41st, 20th & 85th Infantry Regiments. It fought in southern Poland in September 1939 and in France in 1940. The division emblem was a large yellow capital 'F'. It was reformed as a motorized division that autumn, giving up the 85th Infantry Regiment to the 5th Gebirgs Division. It took part in the Balkans Campaign of 1941 and invaded Russia with Army Group Center on June 22nd.

It fought in Smolensk, the Dneiper crossings, Kiev, Moscow in 1941, suffering heavy casualties in the process. After the Soviet winter offensive of 1941-42 was halted, the 10th Motorized Division remained in the central sector during the defensive actions of 1942 and took part in the Kursk offensive in July 1943. Sent to the southern sector, the now designated 10th Panzer-Grenadier Division suffered heavy losses in the Battle of Kiev in the fall of 1943. In January 1944 it retreated through the Ukraine but later suffered such heavy losses in the Dneistr withdrawal in August 1944 that it had to be withdrawn for R & R.



Returned to the Eastern Front early in 1945 with only the 20th Pz.-Gren.Rgt. (the 41st Pz.-Gren Rgt. and 110th Panzer Battalion were disbanded), remnants fought under XXIV Panzer Corps 'Hartmann' of 1st Panzer Army and surrendered to Soviets in Czechoslovakia at wars end.



Cover sent to Army Records Office in Aschaffenburg in May 1942 from Fp. # 18389 (Co. 1 of Panzer-Grenadier Signals Battalion 10) via Post Office 10 (K-382).

Story Behind the Stamp: Karl Peters

by Kelly Stefanacci

Karl Peters was born September 27, 1856 at Neuhaus an der Elbe. He was the son of Johann Karl Peters, a Lutheran clergyman in that town. The boy studied at the local schools and then attended the Universities of Göttingen, Tübingen and Berlin. He became interested in the problems of colonization at an early age and after graduation, went to London to study these problems in the capital of the major colonizing power.

Upon his return to Berlin in 1885 he formed the German Society for Colonization. He then went to Africa in 1884 to purchase the territories of Useguha, Uguru and Ukami, which was accomplished by treaties between his Society and the local chiefs. Upon his subsequent return to Berlin in 1885, he formed East Africa Company and was granted an imperial charter for its incorporation. He then led an unofficial expedition inland from the east coast of Africa to relieve Emin Pasha. This left the coast in 1888 and reached Uganda in 1890, where Dr. Peters concluded a treaty with the King of that country. However, when he reached Zanzibar he learned that this treaty was void since Germany and Great Britain had agreed that Uganda was to be in the British sphere of influence.

Nevertheless, he was accorded great honor upon his return to Germany and recounted his adventures in his book "Die deutsche Emin Pasha Expedition" which was published in 1891. In that year he was sent back to East Africa as Imperial High Commissioner for Kilimanjaro. In 1892 he served on the Anglo-German Boundary Commission for that area. His harsh treatment of the Africans led to the investigation of his conduct in June 1895. He was recalled to Germany to serve in the Colonial Office in Berlin from 1893 to 1895. In 1896 went to London and in the following year was deprived of his commission for misuse of official power.

He returned to Africa in 1899 and went exploring on the Zambezi River. When he returned to Germany in 1901, he wrote an account of his adventures titled "Im Goldland des Albertums" which was published in 1902. In 1905 he again visited the Zambesi and Sabi Rivers and in the following year was again appointed Imperial High Commissioner. However, he did not visit Africa again and spent the rest of his life in retirement, writing his autobiography "Lebenserinnerungen" which was published in 1918. Karl Peters died on September 10, 1918 in Harzburg.

A 12 Pfg. stamp portraying Peters was part of a four stamp set issued on June 30, 1934 titled German Colonizer's Jubilee. These stamps were issued in commemoration of the "Memorial festival of the Lost Colonies", which coincided with the 50th Anniversary of the first hoisting of the German flag in the colonies in 1884.



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 4. Fieldpost in North Africa 1941-43 (Cont.)

by Robert J. Houston

V.) REGULATIONS/DIRECTIVES

Microfilm series T-313 contains numerous orders of the "O. Qu." (Oberquartiermeister) "Pz. Armee Afrika", outlining the usual "dos" and "don'ts" of the Feldpost service which were, for the most part, common to other theaters of war and need not be repeated here. A few items were, however, of particular interest:

- a) Frame 87339129 of roll 440 contains the "Besondere Anordnung für die Versorgung Nr. 13" (Special directive for service) dated June 16, 1941 which, in a sub-part, indicates that:

Feldpost sendings to Germany will bear the name, rank and Fp. Number of the sender, clearly written. All other indicators such as military function or location are forbidden. In particular, such indicators as "Posta Militare" or "Afrika Territoriale" are not permitted. The same applies to letters from the homeland. The field post offices in Africa have been instructed to return any such improperly addressed mail.

- b) Frame 8733962 of roll 440 contains "Special Directive #19" dated July 19, 1941 and deals with the same subject, specifically prohibiting the indicators "Posta Militare" and "Afrika Orientale Italiano".
- c) Frame 8734005 of roll 440 contains "Special Directive #23" dated August 24, 1941 and indicates that some German soldiers had been sending mail back to Germany by means other than the German Feldpost system (via Red Cross or using Italian post offices) and that such practice was strictly forbidden. Also noted is the requirement that any type of "view card" was also forbidden due to its possibility of establishing location.

July 8, 1941: One of the items which no doubt prompted the above order. Postcard to Germany sent via Italian civil P.O. in Tripoli and using mixture of Libyan stamps.



d) "Special Directive #17, dated October 23, 1942 and found on frames 8734265 and 8734266 of roll 440, indicates the following in regard to the regular parcel-permit stamps:

"For October, six parcel permit stamps are being issued in addition to the regular issue of two stamps for the Christmas parcel traffic – insofar as the field post offices find it possible. The stamps will authorize sendings up to 1000 grams by affixing one stamp and up to 2000 grams by affixing two stamps. For the month of November, no parcel permit stamps will be issued."

e) "Special Directive #21" (frames 8734291-874293, roll 440) dated December 6, 1942 indicates an embargo of parcel post traffic:

"A prohibition of parcel traffic between Africa-Homeland and Homeland-Africa has been in effect since November 20, 1942. In Germany, packages destined for this area have been returned to the sender with the notation Return – not to be forwarded at this time

f) Regulations governing the sending of individual parcels containing the remaining effects of individuals (Nachlassachen) from Africa were as prescribed for the other war zones.

Parcel card from Headquarters of Fp. # L51740 (2./Luftnachrichten Rgt. 5 – Abtl. ZbV 1) inscribed in longhand "Nachlass-sachen eines Gefallenen" – sent Feb. 23, 1943 via FpA 639 (Kenn # 420).

138

Abfender: Dienststelle Feldpost Nr. L 51740
Luftpostamt München 2

420 23.2.43

Besondere Bemerkung des Absenders (f. Rückseite):
Nachlass - Sachen
eines Gefallenen

An ~~Winn~~
Herrn
Herrn
Herrn

Freigewicht (kg)

Postgewicht (kg)

in Genève
Rue de la Paix 4A

(Straße, Hausnummer, Postamt, Postort)

Ⓢ (6. 25)

C-20 Die A *

g) The major problems of supply by sea become quite apparent in reviewing reports of the "O. Qu." In microfilmed records which, while containing an almost endless list of axis ships discharging cargoes, also mentions here and there some of the losses being sustained. Two typical items relating to the loss of Feldpost are reproduced in part as follows:

Oberkommando der Panzerarmee Afrika

Der Oberquartiermeister

Besondere Anordnungen für die Versorgung Nr. 7

A. H. Qu., den 26.3.1942

(VII.) Feldpostwesen.

Durch Feindeinwirkung ist 1 Dampfer mit 3190 Sack Feldpost verlorengegangen. Der Verlust ist der Truppe bekanntzugeben. Die Soldaten sind anzuweisen, auf ihre Angehörigen einzuwirken, dass sie zeitraubende und unnötige Nachforschungen unterlassen.

(A steamship with 3190 sacks of military mail has been lost by enemy action. As the loss is known to troops, servicemen are advised to impress upon their relatives that this is due to perilous times and not to attempt a needless tracing.)

Besondere Anordnungen für die Versorgung Nr. 10

A. H. Qu., den 30.4.1942

(VI.) Feldpostwesen

Verlust von Feldpostsendungen

Durch Feindeinwirkung sind 2 Dampfer mit über 1650 Beuteln Päckchenpost verloren gegangen.

(Two steamships with over 1650 sacks of parcels have been lost to enemy action).

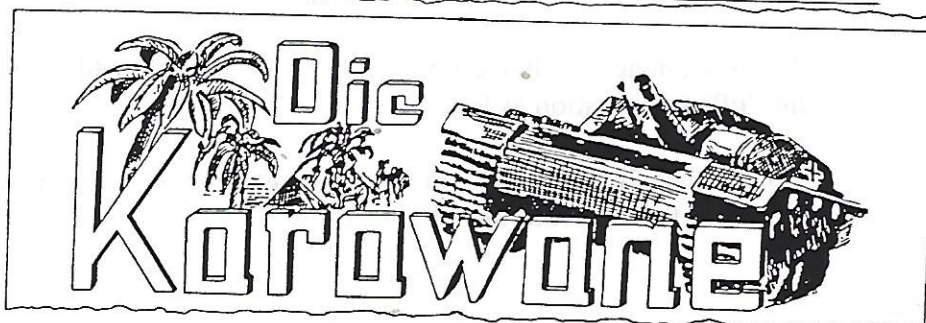
VI.) FIELD NEWSPAPERS AND PROPAGANDA

Several field newspapers were produced for German personnel in the African theater (Ref. 6), with their contents ranging from unit interest to international matters. It was the responsibility of the Feldpost to get them dispersed to their distribution points within the various commands. The most significant of these field newspapers were:

1. The Panzerarmee's "Die Oase", a weekly for all German troops in Africa;
2. The X. Fliegerkorps' "Adler von Hellas" (distributed within the Panzerarmee through the Pz. AOK 5, Ic);
3. "Die Karawane", for German troops in Tunisia;

Of the three aforementioned newspapers, I have been able to establish the Feldpost number of only one: "Die Oase", Fp. No. 44709 (Ref. 8).

Mast-heads of "Die Oase"
and "Die Karawane" (Ref. 6)



Propaganda officer for Panzer AOK5 was Oberleutnant Haupt , who directed a rather energetic campaign, not only to boost the morale of German forces, but also to lower that of the Allied troops and to influence the Arab population.

Roll 418 of microfilm series T-1313 (starting frame 8731580) contains a number of rather unusual propaganda cards directed against the British and Americans in the form of cartoons, but with the captions in Arabic.

Under this section came the "Propaganda Kompanie Afrika" (Fp.# 43402) and the "Propaganda Zug Tunis" (Fp.# 57002). With its headquarters at 95 Rue Courbet in Tunis, the Propaganda Zug had sections working on written propaganda in the English, French and Arabian languages as well as radio broadcast facilities in German, English, Spanish, Irish and Afrikaans.

VII.) THE "PALMENSTEMPEL"

TRSG Bulletin No. 36 contained an extensive discussion/illustrations of the so-called "Palmenstempel" or "Afrika Korps cachets", in which serious doubt of their postal validity was expressed – primarily for the reason that Afrika Korps Feldpost records seemed to make no mention of these cachets and that the use of such an insignia would have been expressly forbidden by the strict regulations against location disclosure as previously referenced in this article.

For some time the subject cachets were purported to be a form of "pre-cancelled" envelope, whose issuance could then be rationed – thereby controlling mail volume. Blank envelopes bearing the cachets, such as that illustrated below, seemed to lend credence to this theory, but it has since been discarded.



A recent publication in Germany (Ref. 7) has brought additional information to light and now states the "official" position as follows:

"The cachets definitely had no postal validity, but were simply the handiwork of rear-area troops reflecting their pride in the Afrika Korps."

Citing a good deal of research*, cooperation of the Bundesarchiv-Militararchiv* and reporting confirmations by ex-Afrika Korps postal officials, this publication goes on to point out that the cachets were apparently not applied by the individual senders, but at unit or FpA level-since A.K. veterans are reported to have confirmed that, while applying no such cachet themselves, their letter had been received in Germany with the cachet.

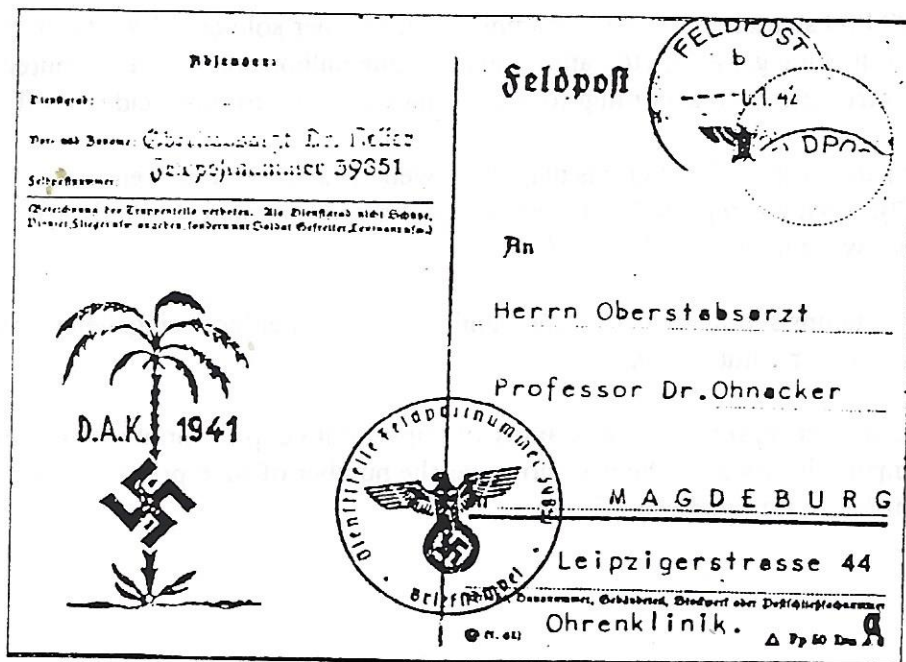
* Note: While indicating "research" and "verification by the Bundesarchiv", it is disappointing that no specific documents are stated for reference and the entire case for the "Palmenstempel" and the "Tunis Marke" is presented to us in the form of "hearsay" evidence only.

Our long standing suspicions of anything which would so blatantly breach the location disclosure regulations is explained away by an indication that, while objecting at first, a somewhat different set of standards came to prevail in Africa, particularly after the cachets were found on mail of some of the higher officers. Evidence of this contention is offered in an illustration of a "Palmenstempelbrief" with a military censor's tape applied over the cachet (which happened to be on the rear of the subject cover). Also pointed out is the reported registration of the first "Palmenstempel" by G. Volz in 1943 - countering any suspicions that these were a postwar fabrication.

Expertization of these items is stated to revolve primarily around:

- a) Cover bearing the Feldpost number of a unit that had actually served in Africa on the date of the cancellation - such information having been supplied to the Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e.V. (This is no doubt the list previously mentioned in this article as Ref. 8).
- b) The ink utilized in the cachet.
- c) conformance to known and recognized types.
- d) proper postal cancellation.

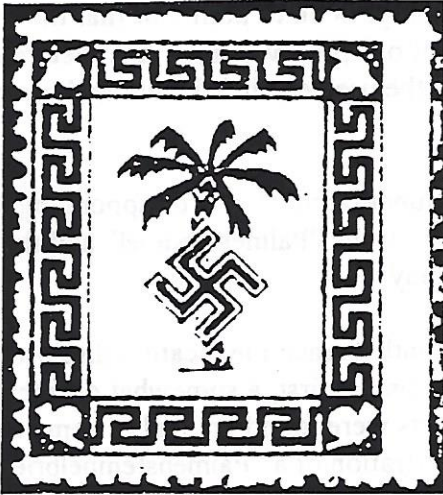
One of the many nice illustrations in this publication is the card shown below, bearing cachet "Form #8", cancelled Jan. 1942 and bearing Fp. #39851. Curiously however, the cachet appears to include the inscription "D.A.K. 1941" which is absent in other illustrations of form #8.



(Form #8)

Palmenstempel Form 8 auf Fp-Karte vom 6.1.42
Briefstempel 39851 - Kriegslazarett 950 und Genesungs-
heim der Pz.-Armee Afrika.

VIII.) THE "TUNISPACKCHENMARKE"



Another philatelic memento of the Afrika Korps is the so-called "Tunis Parcel stamp" which is said to have been used as a parcel permit stamp during March/April 1943, just prior to the final end of the campaign. While such an issue would again contradict regulations and normal practice, reference #7 provides a detailed description of the design conception, production and use of these stamps - including the names of Feldpost officials approving the idea, the designer, etc. and lists under source credits the names of 15 veterans of the A. K. postal service, maintaining that by this time it was as acceptable to the military censor as the "Palmenstempel" cachets.

It is now reported (Ref. 7) that a committee headed by Feldpostoberpostrat Dr. Erdelbrock (Army Field postmaster of the "Deutschitalienischen Panzerarmee") delegated the task of designing a suitable stamp to ordnance officer Lt. Roleff. Accordingly, two designs were prepared, with the first containing an outline of the African continent with a swastika suspended over it. The second design was the Palmtree/swastika emblem of the D.A.K. with a border design reflective of the Greek and Roman culture of the area. A post horn appropriately adorns each corner of the border and designer's initial "R" appears in the lower right corner of the center design.

The second design was agreed upon immediately and Lt. Roleff proceeded to implement the preparation of these stamps. Printing was done by the Army newspaper "Die Oase" in Tunis, employing the lithograph process (Steindruck). Two basic types of paper were used and the stamps perforated by a very primitive foot operated machine. It is further reported that the printing plates, destined for eventual delivery to Berlin, vanished during the confusion of the campaign's final days.

With an ordered printing of 800,000 stamps (based on 2 stamps per month per soldier x 200,000 men x two months), it is estimated that including waste, etc., approximately one million stamps were printed. Of these, approximately 620,000 were destroyed according to the testimony of two former Feldpost officials.

Each stamp was to permit one parcel (up to 1000 grams maximum weight) and also required accompanying postage of 20 Pfg. Usage is reported to have been confined to the period March/April, since a complete parcel embargo was imposed on May 3rd.

The cancellation found on these stamps should be one of the familiar "Bei der Feldpost eingeliefert" types - either 1 or 2 line handstamps, with or without box.

Continuing in reference #7, it is further reported that a quantity of imperforate copies (printer's waste) appeared on the market in Germany shortly after the war, however the number of such printer's sheets (full sheets of 100 subjects) which had survived is unknown.

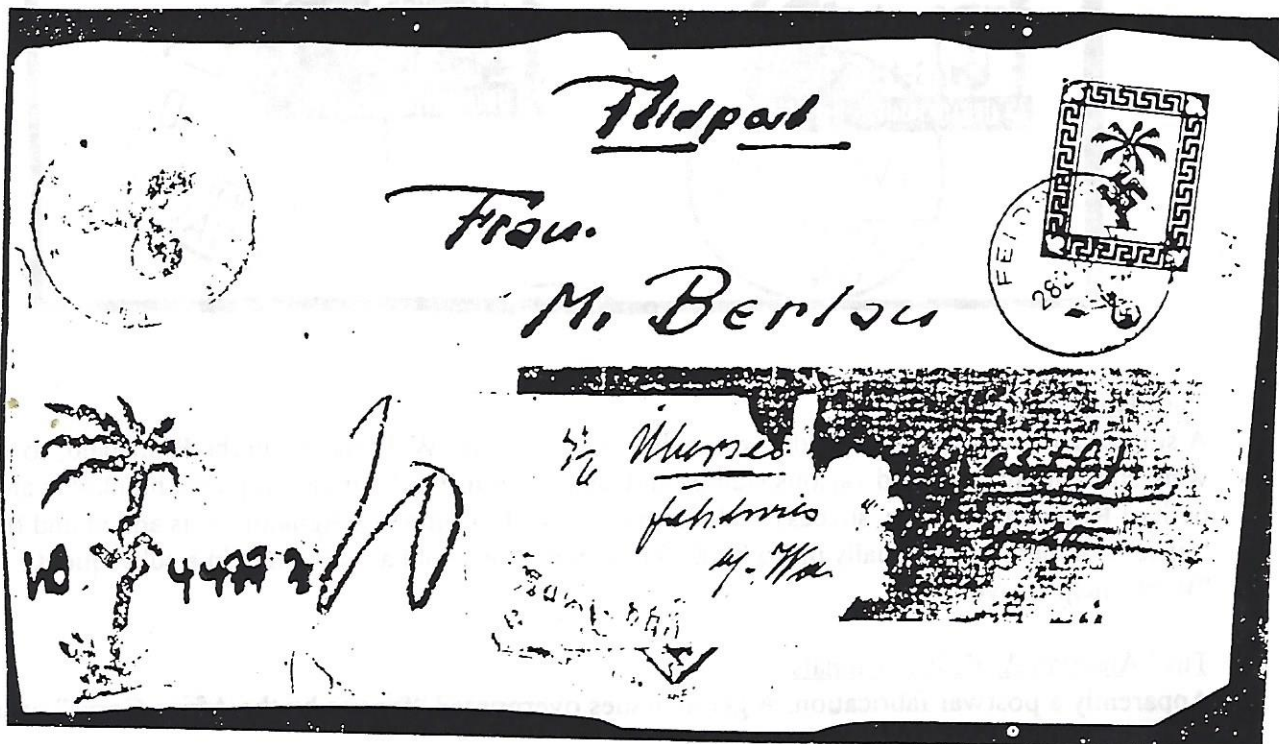
In 1960, a quantity of "reprints" came out of Canada, the "reprint" being so good that it is suspected that these were made from the original plates that had disappeared in 1943. Other forgeries have been traced to Austria and France.

Expertization of this issue is stated to be accomplished by use of a ultra-violet light and the microscope. With used copies, an added factor is the cancellation (type & ink) and with fully addressed parcel pieces a correct Feldpost number is a further verifying factor.



Left: Imperforate lower-margin copy.

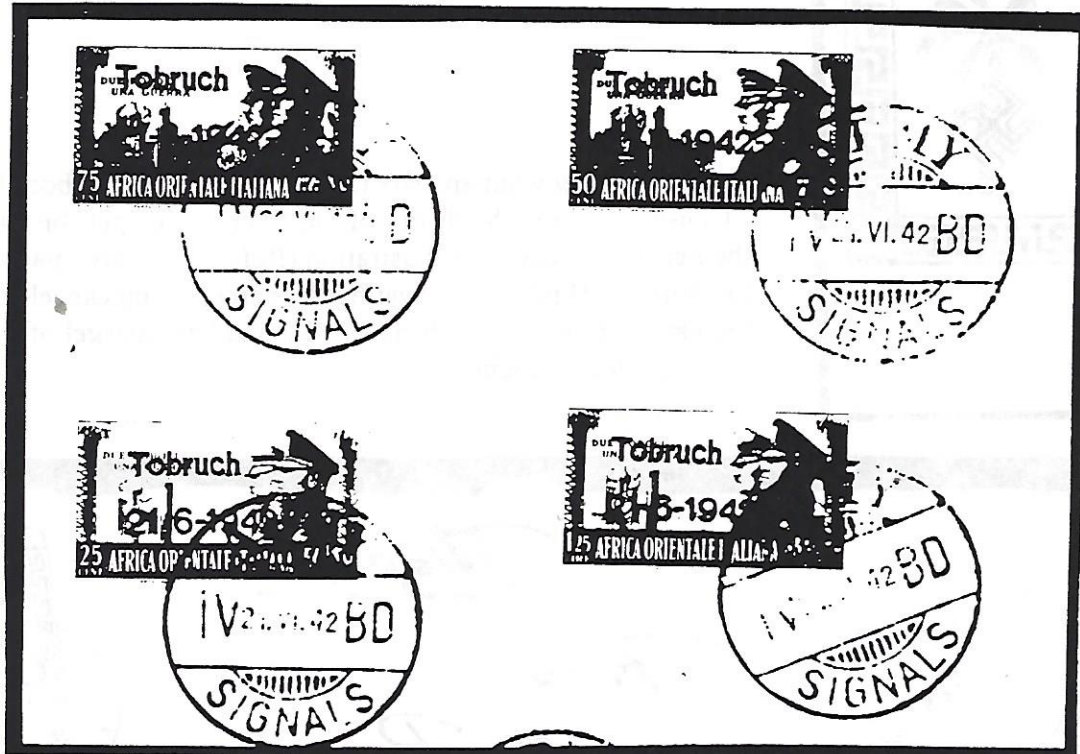
Below: Making what appears to be a further case for both the "Tunismarke" and the theory of the "Palmenstempel" being applied at the Feldpost office is an illustration (Ref. 7) of a large parcel piece from Fp. # 44777 (FpA 762) - bearing the parcel stamp cancelled with a regular Feldpost cancel (Kenn #282) and Dienstsiegel of # 44777 accompanied by cachet form #27.



IX.) OTHER PHILATELIC "SOUVENIRS"

The "Tobruch Overprints"

Upon finally taking Tobruk on June 21, 1942, an undetermined but small number of Italian colonial stamps were overprinted by the Axis forces "Tobruch/21-6-1942-XX" (the "XX" denoting the 20th year of Fascist rule in Italy). Obviously done by an avid philatelist in the occupying forces, these stamps had no postal purpose or validity as such. A few of these overprinted stamps are also found "tied to piece" with a captured British military cancel of the IV South African Brigade – the canceling device having been left behind during the hurried exodus from Tobruk and apparently seized upon by the same avid philatelist.



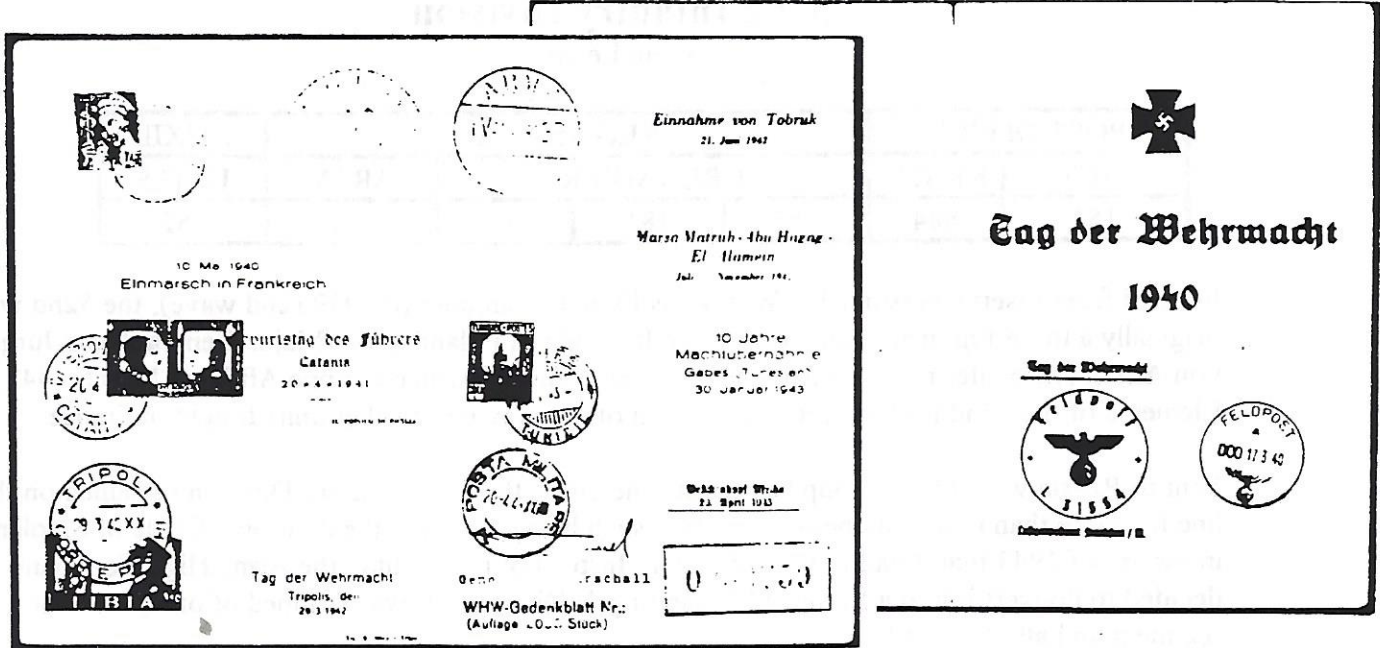
The "Rommel Gedankblatt"

A souvenir folder originally produced for the 1940 "Tag der Wehrmacht" in the Rhineland, to which were subsequently applied various stamps and cancellations marking geographical highlights along the path of Rommel's military successes. A facsimile of Gen. Rommel's signature was added and the "issue" numbered individually up to 2000. These were then sold as souvenirs in a subsequent "Winterhelp" drive.

The "Algerian A. K. Provisionals"

Apparently a postwar fabrication, Algerian issues overprinted "for use by the Africa Corps" cannot even be classified as a "genuine" souvenir.

The "Rommel Gedankblatt"



REFERENCES

1. U.S. Archives, Captured Records Division: Microfilm Series T-313, Rolls 418, 436, 440, 462.
2. U.S. Archives, Captured Records Division: Microfilm Series T-78, Rolls 129 through 133.
3. U.S. Archives, Captured Records Division: Microfilm publication #60-15.
4. "Feldpostamter" – unpublished research of N. Kannapin.
5. "Die deutsche Feldpost im Zweiten Weltkrieg" – B. Gericke.
6. "Uniforms, Organization and History of the Afrika Korps" – R. J. Bender and R. D. Law.
7. "Die Tunispäckchenmarke und die Palmenstempel" –F. E. Graf Kesselstatt.
8. U.S. Archives, Captured Records Division: Microfilm Series T-313, Roll 234.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was originally published in TRSG Bulletin Nos. 50 and 51 in 1979. While additional information on this subject has appeared in other journals during the subsequent twenty years, we decided to retain former TRSG Editor Bob Houston's article in the original form. We welcome comments on any aspect of this subject matter and will publish same in future Bulletins. JEL

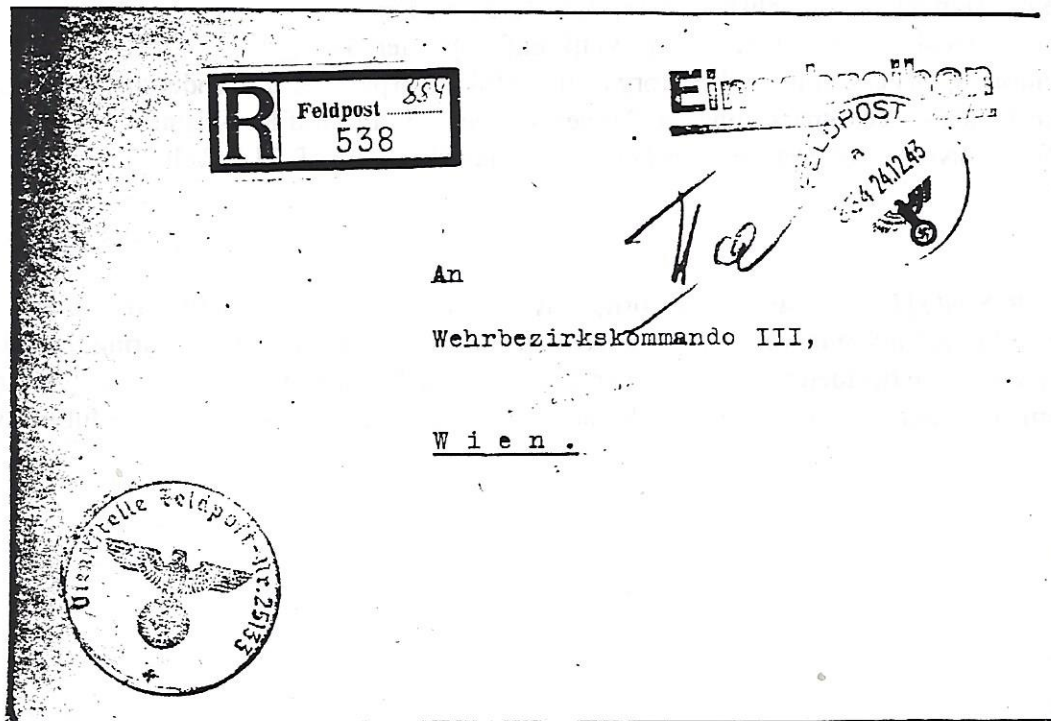
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 52nd Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
152	884	163	181	205	152	152

Formed from reserve personnel in Wehrkreis IX in the summer of 1939 (2nd wave), the 52nd was originally a three-regiment infantry division. It fought in Poland under Major General Hans-Jürgen von Armin (who later replaced Rommel as commander of Armee Gruppe Afrika in March 1943). Elements of the 52nd took part in the invasion of Norway while other units fought in France.

Sent to Russia with Army Group Center in June 1941, the 52nd Infantry Division remained on the line for more than two years before suffering such heavy losses in the defensive Battle of Smolensk in the fall of 1943 that it had to be withdrawn. Instead of re-building, the Army High Command decided to convert it into a Security ('Sicherungs') Division. It was stripped of one grenadier regiment and all of its artillery.

Returned to Army Group Center in early 1944 as a static division under Armed Forces Commander for White Russia, the 52nd Sicherungs Division never exceeded battle group strength. It was smashed during the massive Soviet attack on Army Group Center in June 1944 and was subsequently disbanded.



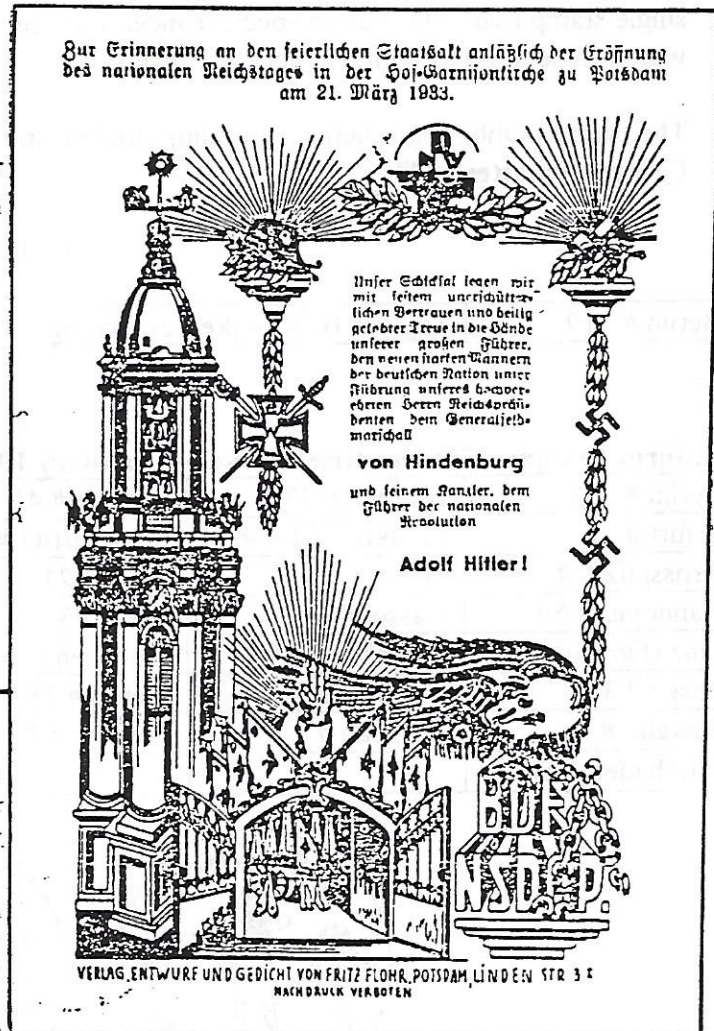
Cover sent to Military Area Command in Vienna in December 1943 from Fp. # 25133 (Commander of Infantry Supply Troop 152) via Field P.O. 152 (K-884).

Opening of the New Reichstag Cards

by John Webb

Shown here are two post cards that were designed to commemorate the service held in the Garrison Church at Potsdam on March 21, 1933 before the opening of the first session of the newly Nazi-dominated Reichstag.

The top card, designed by Fritz von Flohr of Potsdam and was printed by Hoffmann and Kircher of Potsdam, is full of ornate symbolism linking the new Nazi regime to Germany's past traditions.



The lower card features a photograph of the Garrison Church flanked by the flags of the Weimar Republic and the Nazi Party, together with medallions of von Hindenburg and Hitler. It was printed by Wentz & Co. of Berlin.

Both cards were posted in Potsdam on March 21, 1933 but neither has the special single circle 'Reichstageröffnung' cancellation used that day for this event. Since both cards were posted in Potsdam 2, it may indicate that this special cancel was only used at Potsdam 1 Post Office.

Special Cancels – Tag der Briefmarke 1940

by Bob Ferguson

The first “**Tag der Briefmarke**” was held on 7 January 1936 and was commemorated by two special cancels. The last (National Socialist) was in 1944 and was marked by a modesty similar to the first, a single stamp (Mi. 904) but no special cancel. For the entire nine-year period, “**Tag der Briefmarke**” was commemorated with 494 special cancels.

The cancel numbering scheme is in Julius Bochmann’s work “**Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel**”.

1940

Berlin # 319	Tag der Briefmarke/Festsitzung/Infla-Berlin/RdP	7 January 1940
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Uniform Designs - Tag der Briefmarke/6-8 January 1940 (Blassender, Kursachsischer Postillion, etc.)

Berlin # 318	Bremen # 33	Breslau # 46	Danzig # 7	6-8 January 1940
Erfurt # 22	Frankfurt/M # 99	Frankfurt/O # 13	Gmunden # 1	
Grossnitz # 4	Greiz # 7	Halle 3 21	Hamburg # 97	
Hannover # 59	Kassel # 35	Kiel # 43	Leipzig # 168	
Linz (Donau) # 6	Mannheim # 53	Munchen # 141	Nurnberg # 68	
Posen # 3	Reichenberg # 4	Stettin # 18	Stuttgart # 83	
Suwalki # 1	Troppau # 3	Weimar # 19	Wien # 49	
Wiesbaden # 50				



Uniform Designs - Tag der Briefmarke/WHW 6-7 January 1940

Berlin # 317	Bochum # 8	Dresden # 93	Gera # 5	6-7 January 1940
Halle # 22	Hamburg # 98	Hannover # 58	Kassel # 36	
Kattowitz # 1	Lodsch # 1	Mannheim # 52	Memel # 2	
Stettin # 19	Stuttgart # 84			

NOTE: See Bulletin 124 for the 1941 cancels.

THIRD REICH POSTAL RATES

by Bob Ferguson

SPECIAL DELIVERY DOUBLE-WEIGHT FOREIGN AIRMAIL LETTER

I.) LETTER (Second Rate Period: May 1 1934 to July 31, 1938)

Posted: Hamburg, August 16, 1937 to France.

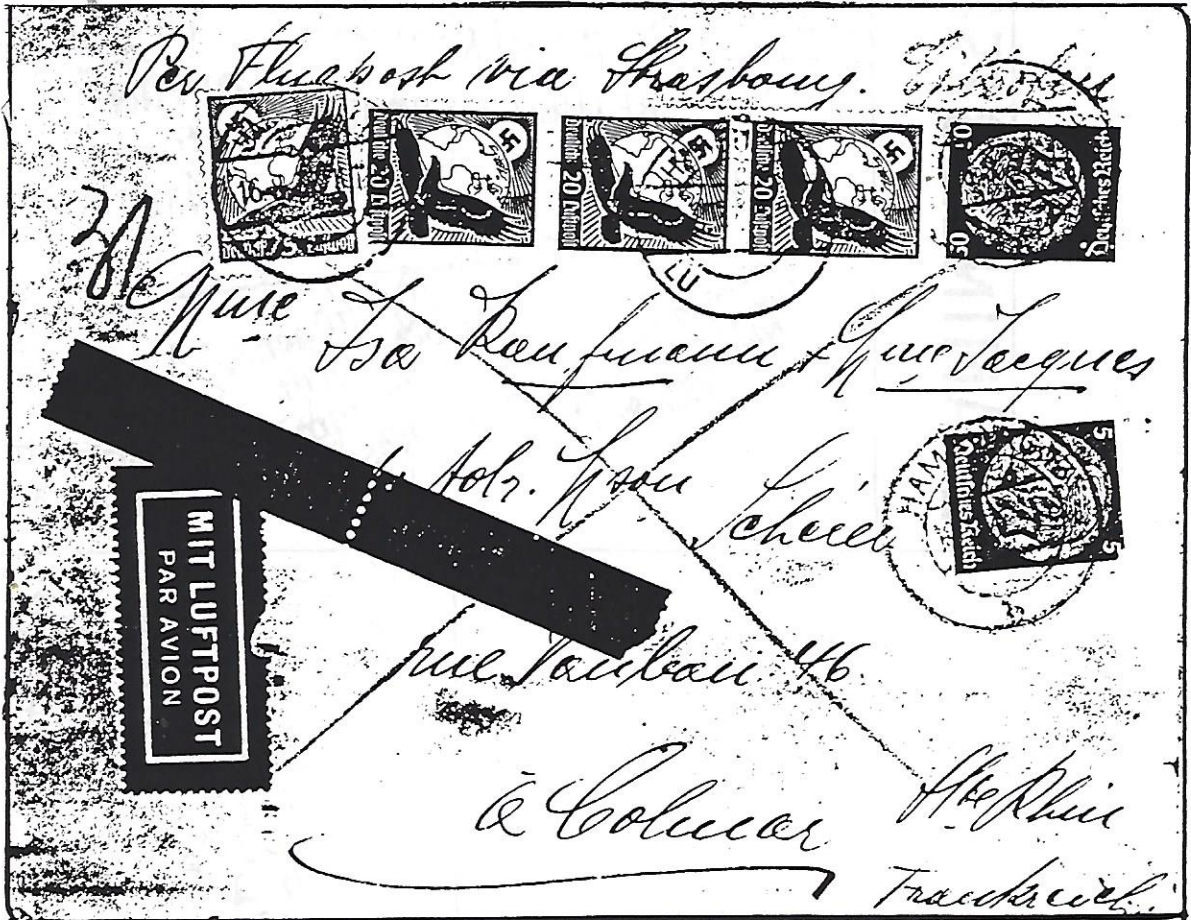
Backstamped: Paris R.P. Avion, August 17, 1937.

DOUBLE WEIGHT SPECIAL DELIVERY FOREIGN AIRMAIL LETTER RATE

Franking (1.20 RM.): 40 Pfg. = Foreign letter rate for weight: 20 - 40 grams.

30 Pfg. = Airmail surcharge for weight: 20 - 40 grams.

50 Pfg. = Special Delivery (Eilbote Exprès) fee.

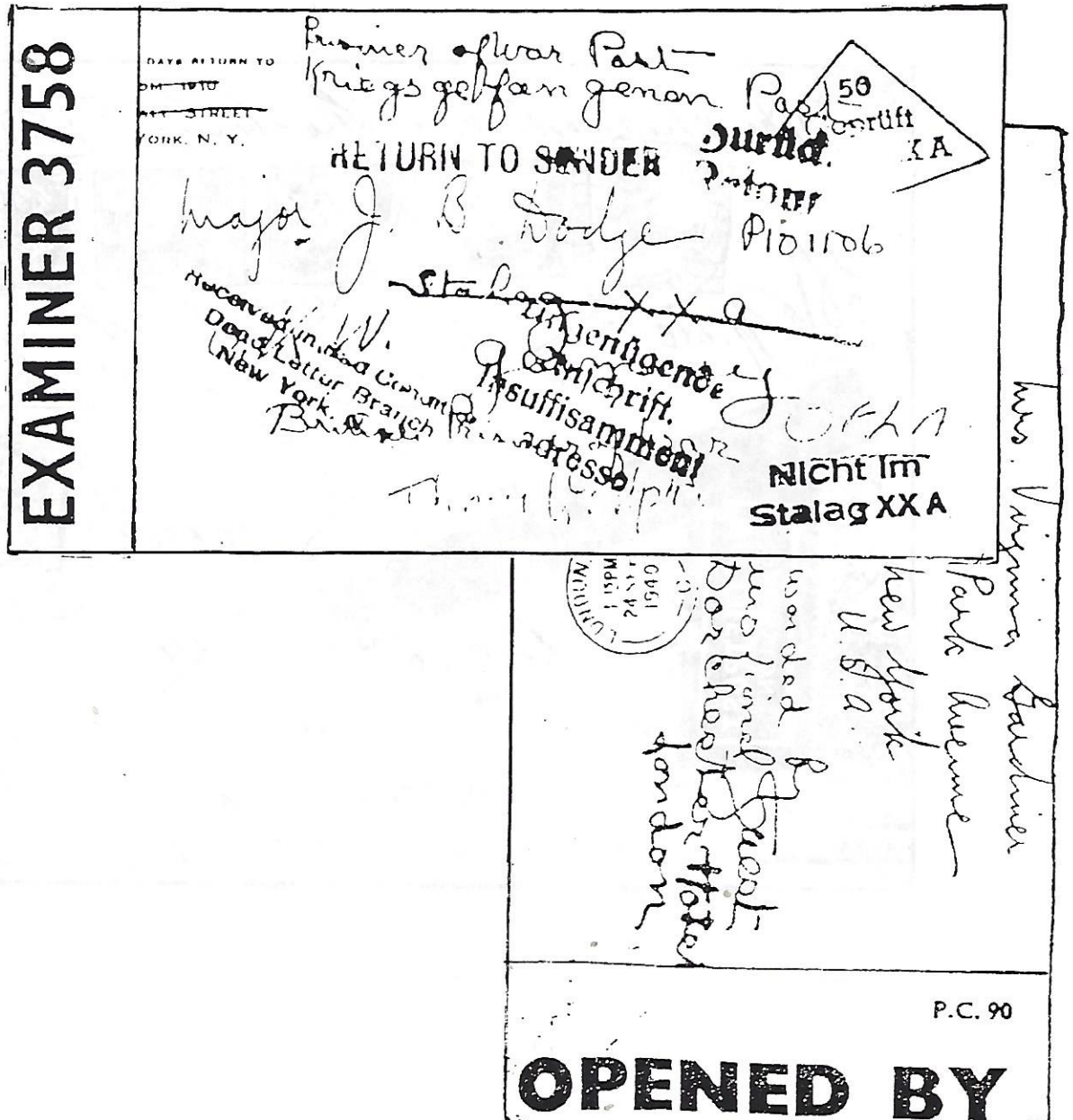


Rejected by Censor - Inadmissible Mail

by Larry Nelson

Rejected P.O.W. Mail

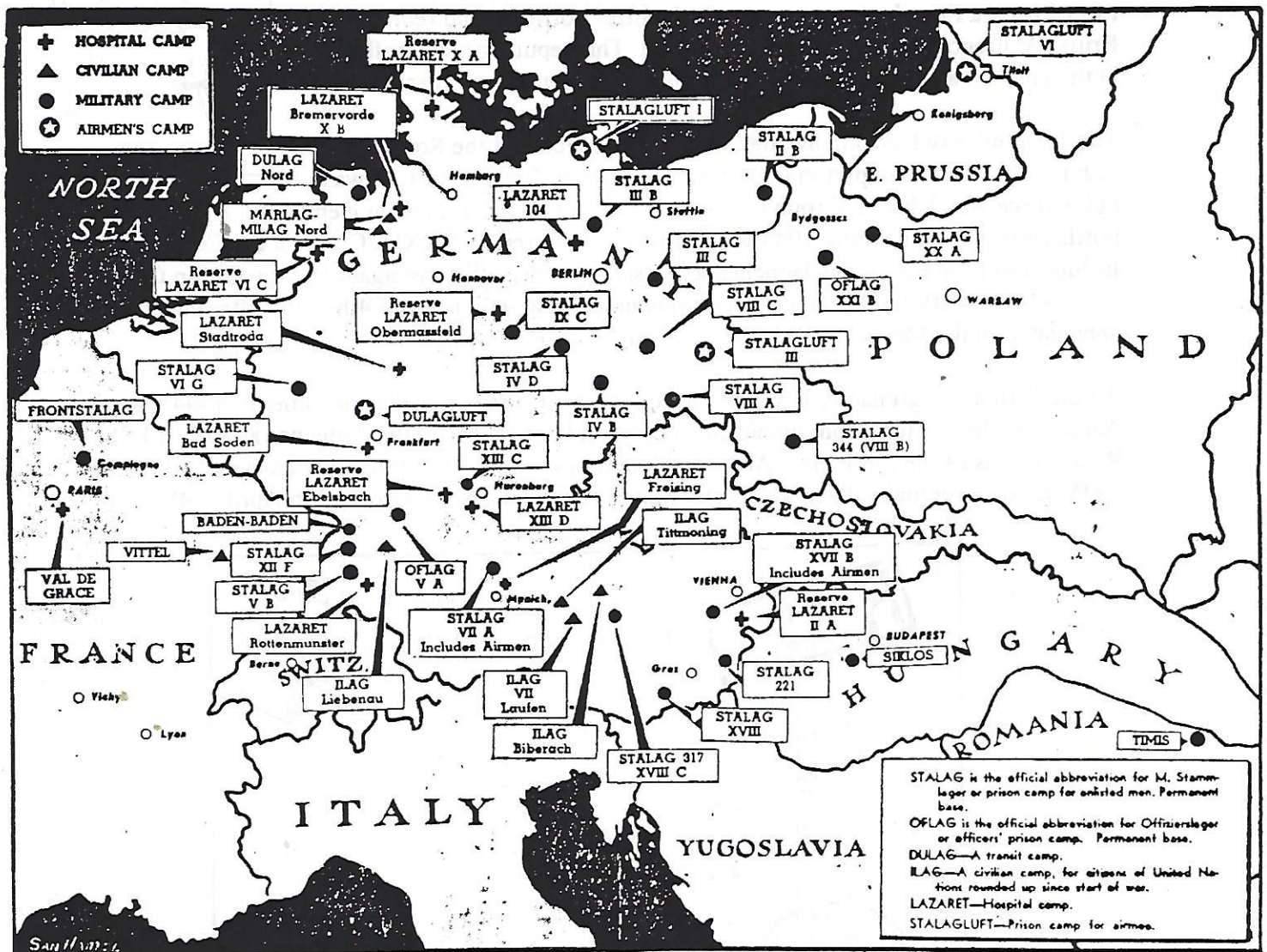
Shown below is a cover addressed to a "Major J. B. Dodge P101106/ Stalag XXA/ O.K.W. Germany/ British Prisoner of War". It appears that the sender, Mrs. Virginia Gardner, a resident of New York City, had the letter hand delivered to a Mrs. Lionel Guest at the Dorchester Hotel in London. The letter was then posted in London on Sept. 24, 1940, examined by British censors and forwarded to Stalag XXA. Located at Thorn, West Prussia, this was a camp for enlisted personnel and would not contain anyone with the rank of major because officers were held in "Oflags". Upon arrival at Stalag XXA, the triangular German censor hand stamp was applied in the upper right corner. When it was determined that the intended recipient was not at that camp, advisory stamp "Nacht Im Stalag XXA" was added in bottom right corner. After accumulating German/French hand stamps for "Return" and "Insufficient address", the letter was returned to New York. The New York Post Office probably added the "Return to Sender" hand stamp but the sender could not be located, so the letter ended up at the Dead Letter Branch.



Map Showing German POW & Internment Camps

by Jim Lewis

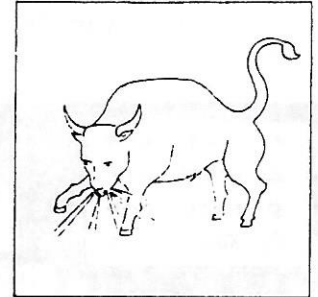
The locations of various camps for military POWs and civilian internees were not revealed to the general public by German authorities during the war. This security included the use of special "mute" cancels by civilian post offices forwarding mail from Allied POWs. Shown below is the first map of POW camps in Germany to appear in an American newspaper. Published by the Chicago Daily News on September 25, 1944, the map was produced with the cooperation of the American Red Cross but gives no camp locations as it was feared that this breach of German security might result in restrictions to the postal privileges then enjoyed by American POWs.



COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 12th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

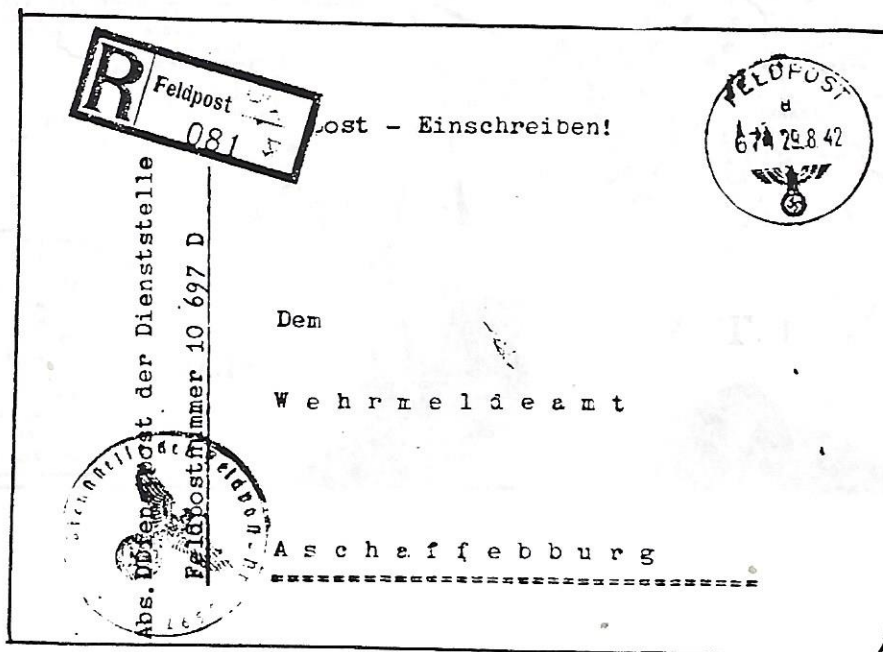
POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
12	674	27	48	89	12	12

Formed in Pomerania in 1935-36, The 12th Infantry Division fought with distinction in Poland and later in French campaign where it turned back a French attempt to cut the "panzer corridor" and relieve British & French armies trapped in Belgium. This reputation was reflected in the emblem adopted in 1943, a white bull getting ready to charge.



The 12th Infantry Division invaded the northern sector of the Soviet Union in June 1941 and took part in the capture of Dvinsk. Early in 1942 it was in the force which broke through to relieve II Army Corps trapped in Demyansk. It remained in the northern sector until spring 1944 when it was transferred to XXXIX Corps in the Central sector. In June 1944 the Red Army launched a massive summer offensive against Army Group Center. By July 1944 the 12th Infantry Division surrendered along with most of 4th Army after being virtually annihilated in the Minsk-Vitebsk encirclement.

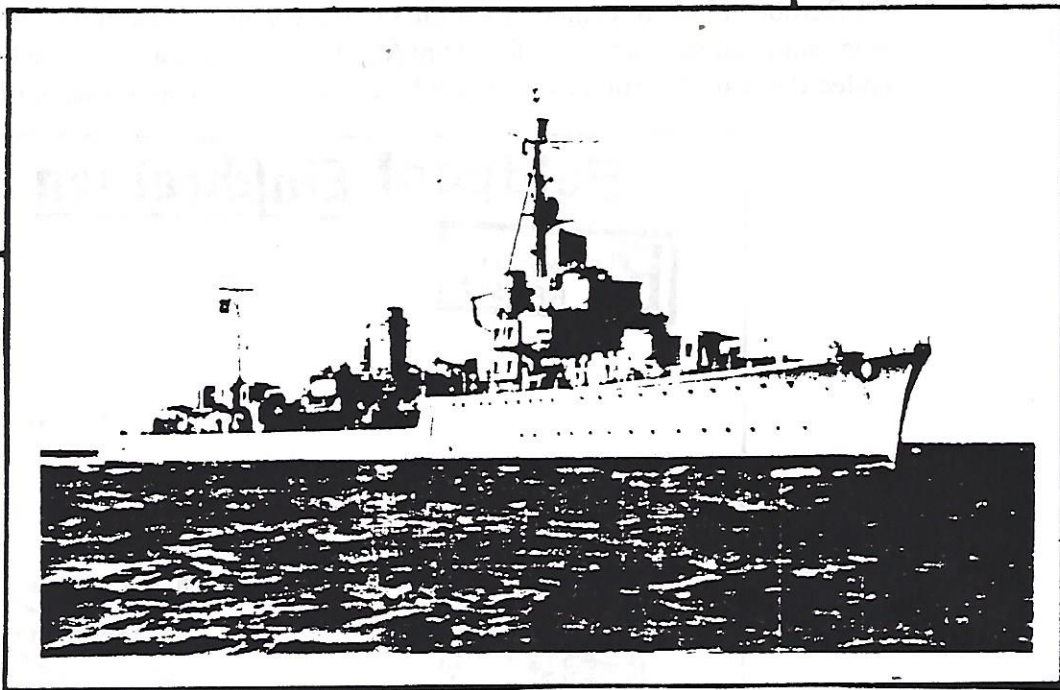
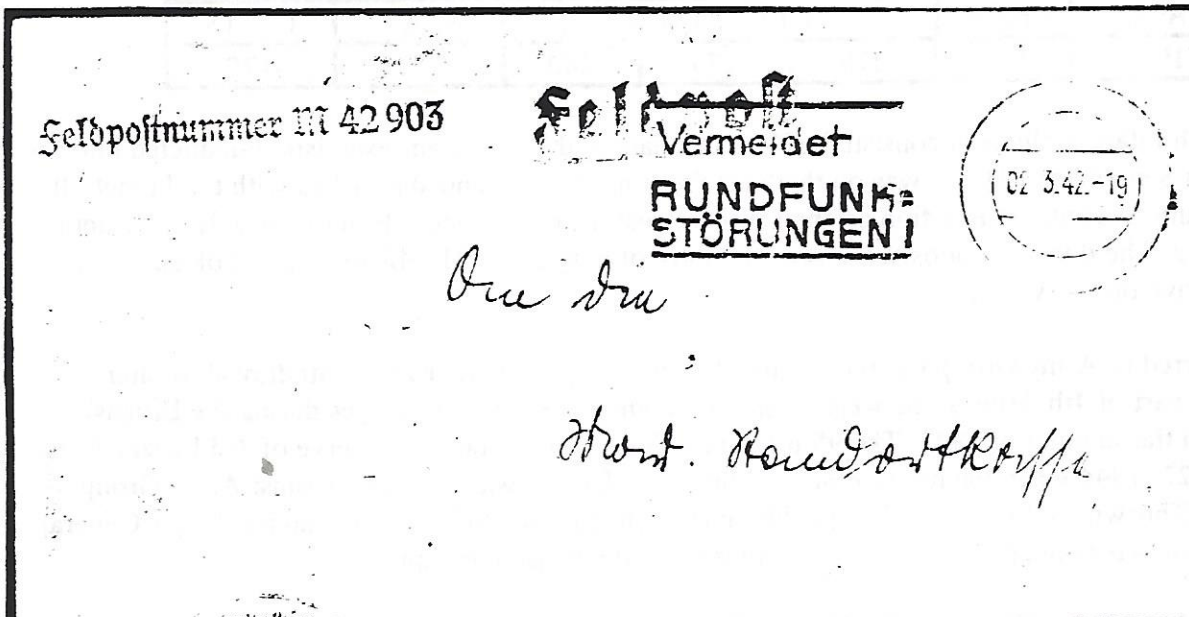
A new 12th Volksgrenadier Division formed in East Prussia in the late summer of 1944 was sent to Aachen on the western front in mid-September. It later fought in the Ardennes as part of I SS Panzer Corps of the 6th Panzer Army and later opposed the U.S. 9th Army advance in February 1945. It was eventually destroyed in the Ruhr Pocket with Army Group B in April 1945.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Aschaffenburg in August 1942 from Fp. # 10697 (Battalion II/Grenadier Regiment 89) via Field P.O. 12 (K-674).

NAVY LOG

Destroyer Z-27 - Feldpost # 42903



The fifth of 12 unnamed destroyers (Z-23-34). Built by AG Weser (Bremen) and launched August 1, 1940. Displacement: 2600 tons; speed: 38 knots; main armament: five 5.9" guns, Eight 21" torpedo tubes; crew: 321.

This "Zerstörer"(Destroyer) was sunk in the Bay of Biscay on December 28, 1943 by British cruisers 'Glasgow' and 'Enterprise'. Cover above to Wilhelmshaven Paymaster has ring/segment 'mute' cancel dated March 2, 1942.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 95th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
195	527	278	279	280	195	195

The 95th Infantry Division consisted of Westphalians and Thuringian reservists re-inducted into the Army in September 1939. It was on the Saar Front in 1939-40 and skirmished with the French. It was in almost continuous action on the southern sector of the Eastern Front from July 1941 until late 1942. The division opposed the Soviet winter offensive of 1941-42 and was involved in the initial drive on the Volga.

Transferred to Army Group Center in late 1942, it took part in the Rzhev withdrawal. It later manned part of 4th Army's line west of Smolensk and suffered heavy losses during the Bryansk attack in the summer of 1943. The 95th Infantry Division was the only reserve of 3rd Panzer Army on July 22, 1944 when the massive Soviet summer offensive was launched against Army Group Center. Thrown into action, it was quickly overwhelmed. The division commander, Major General Michaelis, was taken prisoner and only remnants of the division escaped.

By October 1944, reformed as a 95th Volksgrenadier Division with a new FpA 195 (K-399), it was sent back into action. It fought at Memel, was evacuated by the German Navy to Samland and ended the war at battle group strength opposing the Soviet invasion of East Prussia.



Cover sent to Censor Office HQ in Berlin in July 1943 from Fp. # 34226 (Bakery Company 195) via Field post Office 195 (K-527).

Map of the Eastern Front circa November 1942

by Jim Lewis

While most German units detailed in our 'Combat Division Profile' series were located on the Eastern Front, many members are not familiar with this western part of the Soviet Union. The map below showing the front line in November 1942 should prove useful in locating many of the towns and rivers used to designate the major actions referenced in these articles.



Box 506 Postal Card from Denmark

by Bob Dunn

Here is an entry for our study of mail routed to Great Britain from German-occupied countries by the Thomas Cook & Sons message scheme. Thomas Cook & Sons Ltd. offered its services, as an intermediary, for the transmission of private letters between enemy territories and received such mail at Post Office Box 506 in Lisbon, Portugal.

This card posted in Copenhagen on January 11, 1941 has the correct rate for an airmail post card. It was examined at the German Foreign Letter Examining Office in Munich and received the circular censor marking at left center over the return address.

The card was then sent on to Portugal where it received the six-sided Lisbon Central postmark on January 28th. Upon receipt at Box 506, Thomas Cook & Sons would have forwarded the card in an "ambulance cover" with the actual address of the intended recipient in Great Britain. Upon arrival the card was examined by British Censors who added the "Passed" stamp with the Examiner's number P.84.

