

Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

January 2026, Volume LX1, Number 1, (#238)

Inside:

- Nazi Cruising
- The Bay of Kotor
- The Death Mask of Reinhard Heydrich
- Our New Book!
- AuctionWatch, Danzig, Trivia, and Still More!

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January 2026, Volume LX1, Number 1, (#238)

An incredibly strong issue awaits:

- **Nazi Cruising** – As incredibly it is to hear, the Nazis sponsored pleasure-boat cruises that ended only with the beginning of WWII. Each year, the Germans produced different cancellations to commemorate these trips. We will take an in-depth look at both the cruises and give a sampling of the cancellations available today.
- **The Bay of Kotor** -Briefly occupied by the Nazis during the later stages of WWII, this important Adriatic seaport left behind a rare and valuable philatelic legacy- their overprinted stamps. We will look at the history and those difficult-to-find stamps.
- **The Death Mask of Reinhard Heydrich** – Learn how one assassination ultimately produced both widespread destruction and one of the most enigmatic stamps of the war.
- **Our New Book! – And don't forget to buy our new book on Amazon!**
- **Plus Trivia, AuctionWatch, and Danzig!**

Help! I strive to keep this website and journal free and accessible for everyone. I do not want to begin charging dues or putting up passwords and firewalls on this website. Philately should be for everyone! However, I could use a few dollars to cover expenses. You can support us by donating through PayPal on our website or by sending a check made out to Chris Kolker to 25 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360. Thank you for your continued support. You are what makes our study group great!

We invite submissions of all article types, including long and short pieces, as well as introductory material and expert contributions. We need them all! Please email your articles, scans, or ideas to kolkermd@att.net.

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January 2026

To Our Esteemed Readers:

I will keep it short and sweet. Our format is a bit different this time around – I am taking a deeper dive into our topics of the Nazi Cruises and the Kotor overprinted stamps, and so I have left behind, just for this issue, things like *Is It Real or Is It Fake*, and *Stamps of the Third Reich*. But don't worry – those regulars will be back soon.

I hope you all will make plans to join me at the World Stamp Expo in Boston this May 23-30. I will be making a presentation on Fakes and Forgeries during the Second World War on May 29th at 1 PM.

And please remember that while I don't charge for this, I do need a bit of financial assistance. Think about a small donation- just click on the "Donate Now" button at <http://www.trsg-usa.com> to get that done.

One more thing: Buy the book!!! I put my heart and soul into it, so just click [here](#) to be taken to a place where you can get a comprehensive overview of Third Reich Philately for just a few dollars.

So, relax and enjoy the best that philately has to offer. Stay warm out there, and we will see you in April, and hopefully again in May in Boston!

Your Editor,

Chris

Nazi Cruises: the 'Draft durch Freude' Cruises of 1934-39

Christopher Kolker MD

In the early 1930s, Britain led the European cruise industry. Germany's position weakened after World War I and the economic downturn. Most German ships were old or seized; few new cruise ships existed. Before 1900, some ships were built for both cargo and leisure, but dedicated cruise ships were rare. At the time, 'cruise lines' as an industry didn't exist; cruising was just a seasonal add-on to transoceanic travel. Society was changing, and as the middle class grew richer, the focus shifted from wealthy travelers to middle-class passengers. The lowest class, 'Steerage,' mainly for poor immigrants, was phased out in favor of a two-tier system: First Class and Tourist Class. This made ships easier and more profitable to run as cruise ships. Although mainstream cruising was about to grow, it was Germans—not the British—who led the way, driven more by ideology than business.



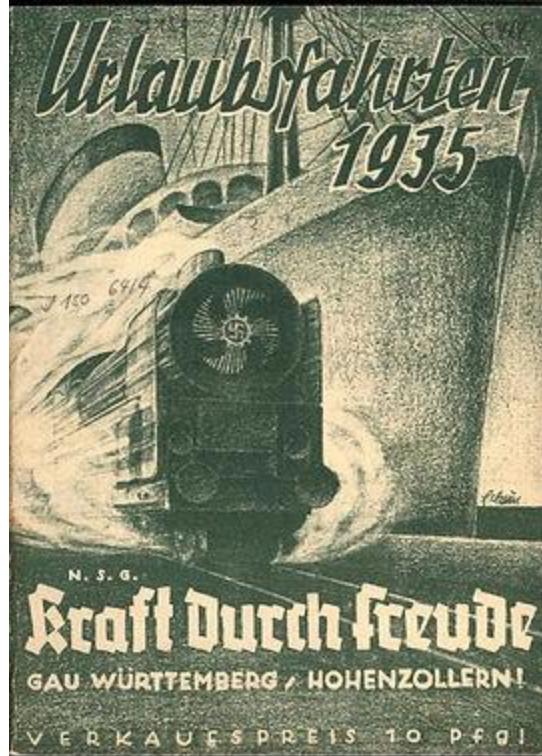
Kraft Durch Freude: Seven Daily Programs for a Norway Cruise

Strength through Joy

After the Nazis took control of Germany in 1933, the German Labor Front started the Kraft durch Freude (KdF) (Strength through Joy) program. This state-run program aimed to provide affordable travel and leisure activities for German workers to boost morale and support tourism. It also aimed to win people's support for the Nazi regime by offering activities they otherwise couldn't afford during the difficult 1930s. On November 27, 1933,

Dr. Robert Ley, who started the program, said that every worker should be able to take at least one affordable holiday each year, including trips within Germany and abroad.

One part of the Kraft durch Freude program was a cruise operation. It was not just regular leisure cruises, but a special cruise service using chartered ships. The first cruises began in May 1934 with ships MS Monte Olivia and SS Dresden, sailing from Hamburg for a five-day trip around the Isle of Wight. The program often sent multiple ships together, traveling in groups. The next year, they sent all five of their ships together on a convoy-style journey to Lisbon and Madeira.



*A 1935 KdF Travel Brochure,
Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg*

Cruises for the People

The KdF cruises were intended as cruises 'for the people', based on a National Socialist principle of equality; there were no class divisions onboard (at least not in concept), everyone paid the same for their cruise ticket (rates were heavily subsidized to make them literally affordable for all), and all amenities and services were available to everyone. The only problem was that most of the German passenger tonnage available was constructed with the standard three-tiered passenger hierarchy (1st, 2nd and 3rd class) which made it challenging to practice equality when one guest could end up in a spacious and luxurious first-class cabin, and others had to contend with a cramped, windowless third-class cabin, despite having paid exactly the same fare. KdF had neither the time nor the funds to completely refit these first ships, so the initial solution was a compromise; cabins were assigned by lottery, so everyone stood an equal chance of enjoying first-class accommodations. Later on, when the organization had gathered momentum, it would buy ships and convert them to single-class configuration or even negotiate conversions with the charterers.

Folksy, yet Disciplined

Life onboard resembled that of other contemporary cruise ships, featuring daily activities focused on communal bonding through sports aligned with National Socialist ideals of health and fitness, games, leisure, music, entertainment, and educational lectures. Evenings were lively with dancing from 8:30PM, when orchestras would perform and dance floors would fill until lights out. The atmosphere was proletarian, folksy, and casual—more like adult school camp than high-society cruising—with participants often moved to tears of joy for the opportunity they experienced.

The first ships had standard 1930s ocean liner amenities, including dining rooms, lounges, libraries, and gyms. Meals were mainly traditional German fare, with beverages and smokes available for a small surcharge. Beverages and extras were paid for with Bordgeld, an onboard currency exchanged for Reichsmark at the start and end of the cruise. Authorities also had a strict account system, ensuring passengers didn't overspend. While casual in some aspects, the experience was disciplined; everyone had to be up by 8:00AM, and by midnight, the 'Zapfenstreich' (last post) sounded, enforcing 'Ruhe im Schiff' (peace on board).



Hamburg-Süd's Monte Sarmiento, Geiranger Fjord, 1935

The Power of Propaganda

KdF cruises became a PR tool, featured in films and magazines that drove demand. After

*Aboard the KdF-cruising aboard Der Deutsche - the first KdF-owned ship,
YouTube/Ballins Dampfer Welt*

the Dresden wreck near Norway without casualties, German propaganda touted the safe evacuation as proof of their skill, encouraging continued KdF holiday participation.



The SS Dresden on the rocks of Karmøy, shortly before sinking - Foto: Dykkings Arkiv

As an arm of the Nazi party, the KdF exploited its captive audience, flooding activities with Nazi ideology and propaganda: onboard entertainment featured solely wholesome German talent and culture; shore guides and lecturers promoted a politically vetted narrative to elevate Germany; speeches by der Führer played through the ship's radio; and flag parades occurred on deck. Guests were expected to quickly express loyalty and appreciation for the Nazi regime, as Gestapo spies could be embedded among them to report any questionable zeal or loyalty.

KdF cruise guests cultivating German nationalism on the Monte Rosa - not sure, but the recipient of the salutes could be the leader of Deutsche Arbeitsfront, Robert Ley, on an onboard visit, Interfoto/Alamy

Going Places, but not Ashore

The cruises primarily operated from Hamburg, using German rail to transport guests, with tickets distributed by Nazi party districts through local KdF chapters. Early itineraries featured scenic cruising without foreign port stops, likely to avoid ideological influence or reduce costs. Shore excursions and landfall only became common in the late 1930s, mostly in ideologically aligned countries like Italy and Spain.

	Name	Built	GRT	Pax	Operator	Note
SS	Oceana	1913	8.791	720	Hamburg-Amerika Linie	Owned by Kdf, conversion to single-class
SS	Stuttgart	1923	13.387	1000	Norddeutscher Lloyd	Owned by Kdf, conversion to single-class
SS	Der Deutsche	1924	11.430	1000	Norddeutscher Lloyd	Owned by Kdf, conversion to single-class
MS	Monte Olivia	1924	13.625	1800	Hamburg Sud	Charter, conversion to single-class
MS	Monte Sarmiento	1924	13.625	1800	Hamburg Sud	Charter, conversion to single-class
SS	Berlin	1925	15.286	1000	Norddeutscher Lloyd	Charter
SS	Sierra Cordoba	1928	11.469	1000	Norddeutscher Lloyd	Owned by Kdf, conversion to single-class
MS	St. Louis	1928	16.732	1000	Hamburg-Amerika Linie	Charter
MS	Monte Rosa	1931	13.882	1600	Hamburg Sud	Charter

The KdF Fleet of 1937 by year, size, and pax volume

Affordable Adventures

These initial voyages were reasonably priced—a 5-day Norway cruise from Hamburg cost 60 Reichsmark, about 40% of a German blue-collar worker's monthly salary, including train fare. As cruises lengthened from 1935, prices stayed affordable. A 12-day 'Round-Italy' trip from Venice or Genoa cost roughly 150 Reichsmark, also including train fare, comparable to a monthly wage. By the late 1930s, more ships and charters operated to exotic destinations. By 1937, the KdF operated nine ships (owned or chartered from German shipping companies such as Norddeutscher Lloyd, HAPAG, or Hamburg-Süd), with capacities of 700–1,800 passengers, serving the Baltic, Scandinavia, Western Europe, the Atlantic Isles, and the Mediterranean. A plan to send the entire fleet to Tokyo for the 1940 Olympics was nearly realized but was canceled after Japan's withdrawal from the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1938. The concept's popularity led to the commissioning of customized ships.



The Spartan charm of a standard bunkbed cabin on the Wilhelm Gustloff, AKG-images / Knorr & Hirth / Süddeutsche Zeitung Photo

A New Cruise Ship Concept

In the late 1930s, the KdF planned a long-term shipbuilding program to create 30 purpose-built cruise ships, capable of hosting two million Germans annually. These ships introduced a revolutionary design: the first all-Tourist-Class, purpose-built cruise ships with nearly identical cabins—either two- or four-berth, exterior, each with a porthole. This design ensured fairness, eliminating the need for lotteries. The ships featured large public

rooms and spacious decks for sports and leisure, addressing the limitations of earlier liners whose scattered lounges couldn't host all guests simultaneously—a key goal for fostering community and social unity.



*An aerial view of Wilhelm Gustloff shows off the wide-open space topside,
Shipsnostalgia.com*

The KdF's decor for cabins and public rooms embraced a 'functional elegance' style—more modest than the lavish first-class ocean liner lounges but more refined than steerage. While cabins were Spartan, this mattered little to post-World War I German working-class families, for whom the ships represented an exotic vacation they could rarely afford. The design was revolutionary, ensuring crew shared the same quality of cabins and public spaces as passengers, referred to as *Arbeitskameraden* (work comrades) rather than staff. This approach also eliminated many interior passageways and backstage areas, as passenger-crew separation was unnecessary. Although not officially stated, the ships were designed for easy conversion into wartime roles such as troop carriers or hospital ships, reflecting Germany's strategic direction by the late 1930s.



May 5, 1937: the launch of the Wilhelm Gustloff in Hamburg, Wilhelm Gustloff Museum

The First New Ships

In 1938-39, the first two custom-built cruise ships, the *Wilhelm Gustloff* and

the *Robert Ley*, were launched. Though similar in appearance, they differed significantly in size and layout due to being built at different shipyards. The *Wilhelm Gustloff*, launched from Blohm & Voss, was initially intended to be named *Adolf Hitler* but was renamed after the Swiss Nazi Party leader. It measured approximately 25,500 GRT, 195 meters long, 23.5 meters wide, with five decks, accommodating around 1,465 guests and 440 crew. A year later, the *Robert Ley* launched from Howaldtswerken AG, named after the German Labour Front leader. It was slightly heavier at 27,300 GRT, but more compact at 190 meters long and 24 meters wide, with an extra deck for up to 1,760 guests. These were the largest custom cruise ships until then, comparable to a mid-size luxury vessel today or about one-ninth the size of the *Symphony of the Seas*.

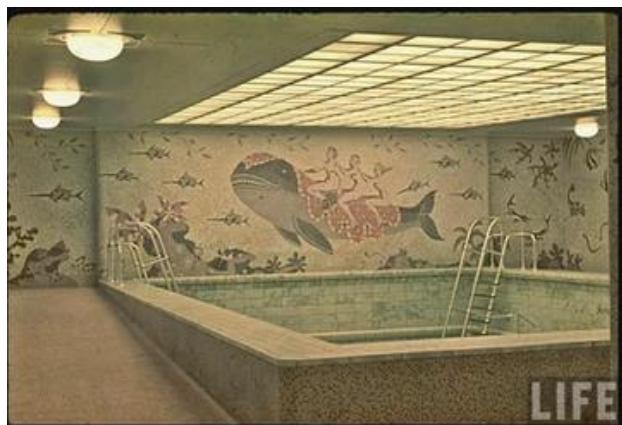


*A rare shot of the two KdF-newbuilds together in Hamburg,
Flickr/S. Tinus*

Both ships featured expansive, unobstructed passenger areas, achieved by removing class barriers and reducing segregation between passengers and crew. They had broad decks, large public rooms—including a two-tier ballroom, dining area, lounges, bars, library, movie theater, gym, and indoor pool—and standardized 2- and 4-berth cabins. One exception was a large 'state suite' for the Führer, who, unlike others, never officially sailed on either vessel, despite a PR visit. The Wilhelm Gustloff mainly cruised the Mediterranean and Atlantic for about a year before WWII began, while the Robert Ley operated only a few months before peace cruising ended.

Demagoguery in Cruise Clothing

While the idea of 'cruises for all' seems progressive and egalitarian, it was merely a facade of the Nazi regime. The selection process favored Germans of the right ethnicity and political views, making it demagoguery in cruise form. Although initial cruises had a diverse demographic reflective of German society, they soon shifted to favor the middle class and loyalists like party officials and civil servants. By the late 1930s, only about 20% of guests were truly working-class Germans.



Above: A color picture spread from Life Magazine on the MV Robert Ley, 1939

The KdF cruise operation differed significantly from other cruise ventures of its time. As a partially government-funded project, it aimed not for profit but as propaganda to Germans and the world—using politicized tourism to promote national and ideological identity and foster social unity under Nazi leadership. Despite this, it had a considerable impact on popularizing high-seas vacations, rivaling major 1930s cruise lines and helping Germany [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

remain one of the world's leading cruise markets today.



A German newsreel segment about Adolf Hitler visiting the Robert Ley on her maiden voyage, April 1939, YouTube/British Pathé
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6rkC4VfW3Q>

The Toll of War

The Nazi cruise empire ended in September 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. Plans for more KdF ships were abandoned, and the vessels were repurposed for war. The Robert Ley was reduced to a burned-out wreck in Hamburg harbor after Allied bombings. The Wilhelm Gustloff met a tragic fate: torpedoed in January 1945 by a Soviet submarine while evacuating refugees and soldiers from East Prussia. Because of the chaos, estimates of those on board range from 9,000 to 11,000 souls. The ship sank in less than an hour, with only 1,239 survivors. This disaster remains the deadliest maritime catastrophe in history. The remaining KdF ships were lost in war or surrendered as reparations, though one seemingly 'resurrected' to participate in an obscure cruise operation.



Wilhelm Gustloff departing, vintage postcard, MarineInsight.com

A Cruise Ship Resurrected

The KdF ship Berlin hit a mine off Swinemünde in late January 1945 and sank in shallow waters. After the war, she was raised, repaired, and handed to the Soviets as war reparation. Renamed the Admiral Nakhimov, she served as the flagship of the Soviet Black Sea fleet for nearly 30 years before sinking tragically, like her former fleetmate, the Wilhelm Gustloff.

The Philately

The Germans never printed stamps specific to the cruise ships. Therefore, most of the attention is either to postcards from these voyages or to their cancellations. The cancellations varied by ship each year, making them highly collectible.

Since cataloging all these variations can keep a collector busy for years, it is simply beyond the scope of this article to display them all. A good starting point might be John Rawlings, *The Postal History of the 'Kraft durch Freud' High Seas Cruises 1934-1939*. (The cancellations are taken from this source)

Below is a sample of items a collector might find.

The cancellations:



A cancellation from the *Monte Olivia*, for a cruise ship that made regular treks to South America

This cancellation, despite not listing the ship's name, was used for the *Stuttgart* as she cruised the Norwegian fjords





From the *Monte Olivia*, 1935



From the *Monte Sarmiento*, 1935



Also from the *Monte Sarmiento*,
1935. Notice the extra "a" inside
the inner circle.



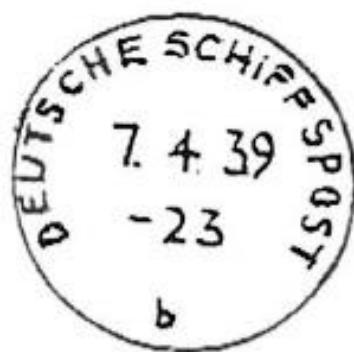
1936 cancellations from *Der Deutsche* and *Sierra Cordoba*.



1938 cancellations from the *Wilhelm Gustloff* -cancellations "a" and "b"



A decorative machine cancellation from the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, 1938



A decorative machine cancellation from the *Robert Ley*, 1939



1936 Joy Cruise Post Germany RPPC Postcard Cover To Berlin Visiting Norway



1937 Joy Cruise Post Office Germany RPPC Postcard Cover To Hamburg – From Capri



1938 Joy Cruise Post Office Germany RPPC Postcard Cover To Stuttgart from Palermo

Montenegro and the Bay of Kotor in World War II

Christopher Kolker MD

Geography determines everything. Just ask the Montenegrins. Over the course of World War II, they became victims of the occupation first by the relatively benign Italians, and then by the Communists.

How did such a small country with an extremely limited shoreline get in such a predicament? The answer: geography.

Nestled on the East Coast of the Adriatic Sea, Montenegro was sandwiched in southeast Europe among conflicting powers, some of whom were in conflict over its consolidation, and others in favor of its independence.

From the 1870s onward until World War I, Montenegro was a free and independent state, but after World War I, the area was integrated into a single country, Yugoslavia. This occurred without their consent, as a coalition of Croats, Serbs, and others formed the CSK, which later became Yugoslavia.



Kotor - Michel 4-6

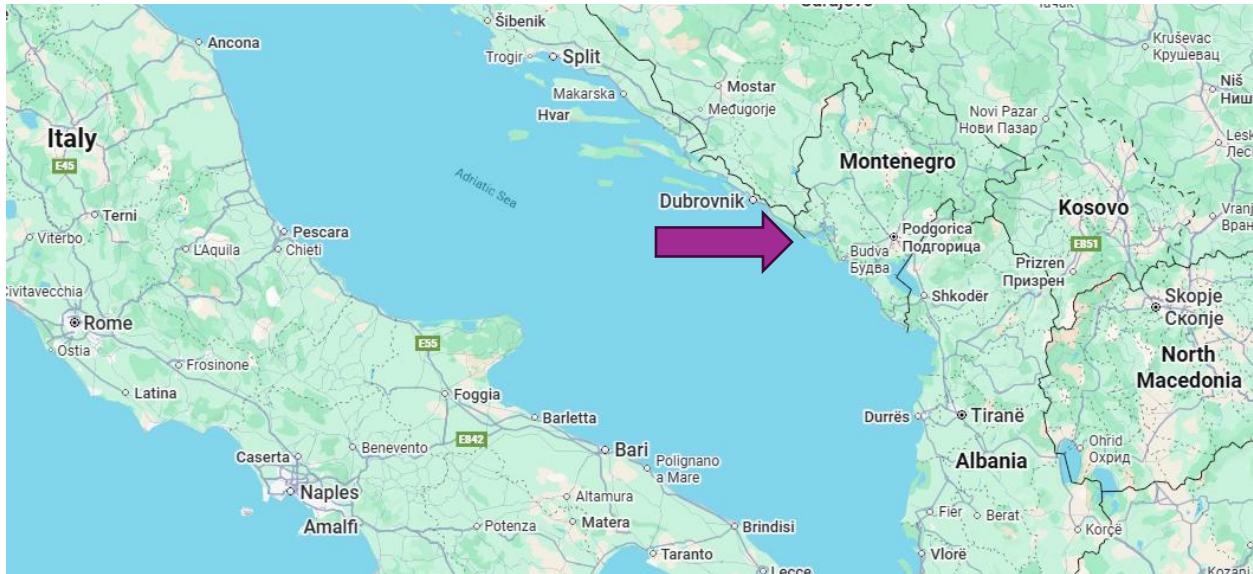


Kotor - Michel 1-3

However, Italy has always had an interest in the area, as it lies on the western shore of the Adriatic Sea. Domination of the sea, fueled by history and

personal relations of the Italian elite to those in Southeast Europe, stoked that desire.

Therefore, when World War II began in earnest in 1941, the Italians were more than delighted to join the Germans in an invasion and occupation of the entire region, including Montenegro and its small bay, the Bay of Kotor.



The Adriatic Sea and the Bay of Kotor (purple arrow)

Invasion and Occupation

On April 6, 1941, Nazi Germany, along with Italy and other Axis allies, launched an invasion of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. On April 17, the Yugoslav government surrendered, and the Italians formally annexed Montenegro, attempting to establish it as an Italian protectorate.

The Bay of Kotor, however, enjoyed no such autonomy. The Italians had always eyed that bay as an ideal spot for a naval base. They therefore made the cities of Zara and Kotor, along with some of the surrounding islands, part of a new

province called Dalmatia. This is why we get these Italian stamps from Kotor and Zara.

Italy installed a puppet administration in Montenegro, led by Sekula Drljević, a Montenegrin nationalist who sought to create an independent state under Italian supervision. The local population, however, largely opposed the occupation, viewing it as a betrayal of Montenegrin sovereignty. This resentment set the stage for armed resistance.

Still, the Italians came in and tried to be as benign to the Montenegrin population as they possibly could. Given their nationalistic tendencies and frustrations at being under a regional power for the last 30 years, the Italians took a hands-off approach. Therefore, they were surprised when, just three months after the initial occupation by Italy, with the Germans having left the area, an uprising suddenly began.

The July 1941 Uprising

The first significant resistance in Montenegro occurred in July 1941, shortly after Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union. Encouraged by communist organizers and Yugoslav Partisans (Communists and their sympathizers), Montenegrins launched an armed rebellion against Italian forces. The uprising, which involved thousands of fighters, was initially successful, liberating many towns and rural areas. However, by the autumn of 1941, the Italians regrouped and, with reinforcements, launched a brutal counteroffensive, crushing the rebellion through mass executions and destruction of villages.



A tourist map of the Bay of Kotor

Although the uprising was suppressed, it demonstrated the Montenegrin people's willingness to resist Axis rule. The Italian authorities intensified their repression, leading to further radicalization and strengthening of the Partisan movement in the region.

Internal Conflicts and Chetnik-Partisan Rivalry

As in other parts of Yugoslavia, Montenegro saw divisions between resistance groups. The two primary factions were the communist-led Partisans and the royalist Chetniks, who initially fought against the Axis but later collaborated with them against the Partisans. The Chetniks, led by Pavle Đurišić in Montenegro, viewed communism as a greater threat than the occupation and sought to restore the Yugoslav monarchy.

By late 1942 and into 1943, the conflict between Partisans and Chetniks intensified, with both sides engaging in violent reprisals against one another. The Partisans, led by Josip Broz Tito, were committed to establishing a socialist Yugoslavia, while the Chetniks sought to reinstate the pre-war order. The Italian occupation forces exploited these divisions to maintain control.



Pavle Đurišić

German Occupation and the Fall of Italy

In September 1943, Italy surrendered to the Allies, leaving a power vacuum in Montenegro. The Germans quickly moved in to replace the Italians, establishing direct military rule. The Germans did not want that, as it rerouted valuable resources in terms of manpower and supplies away from the Eastern

Front. Still, they felt like they could not have opposition governments and armed rebellions formed in their SE European flank. They tried to occupy with as few troops as they felt was necessary to maintain a semblance of order. This transition led to renewed conflict, as the Partisans intensified their attacks on German forces and their collaborators.



Headlines from *The Johnstown Tribune* (PA) celebrate the Armistice of Cassibile

During World War II, an area of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia previously occupied as the Italian governorate of Montenegro was occupied by German forces after the September 1943 Armistice of Cassibile, in which the Kingdom of Italy capitulated and joined the Allies. Italian forces retreated from the governorate and from neighboring Albania. German forces occupied Montenegro immediately, along with Albania, and the territory remained under German occupation until they and many of their local collaborators withdrew in December 1944.

Immediately after the Italian surrender, German forces occupied most of the former governorate, excepting some areas controlled by the Yugoslav

Partisans. The territory was administered as an occupied territory under German *Feldkommandatur* (area command) No. 1040, commanded by *Generalmajor* Wilhelm Keiper. Until the spring of 1944, Keiper's area command was subordinated to a succession of higher headquarters, first the German General in Albania, then the V SS Mountain Corps, and then 2nd Panzer Army. Thereafter it was raised to an independent command. Keiper



Generalmajor Wilhelm Keiper

reported directly to the Commander-in-Chief in Southeast Europe Alexander Löhr.

Keiper followed a similar approach to his Italian predecessor by trying to obtain assistance from the Montenegrin separatists known as the Greens, Chetniks aligned with the leader of the puppet government in the Territory of the Military Commander in Serbia, Milan Nedić. They were not aligned with the supreme Chetnik leader Draža Mihailović, and included some Sandžak Muslims. From representatives of these groups, he formed a National Administrative Council to help him govern the territory, which he chaired in October 1943. The council quickly overstepped its authority by attempting to negotiate its powers with Keiper. He sharply reprimanded them and reminded them that they were merely instruments of his occupation regime.

The council's primary concern was securing food imports with German assistance. Nedić was willing to provide 900 tons of food monthly, but the council needed German assistance with transportation. Ultimately, only 250–300 tons were imported per month, a mere twenty percent of the amount the Italians had imported during their occupation. The result was that the population in large areas of the occupied territory was close to starvation throughout the German administration.

The Germans called in the local gendarmerie, militia, and some Chetniks to control the occupied territory, but they were not strong enough to handle the Partisans. Reluctantly, Keiper then allied with Pavle Đurišić, a Montenegrin Chetnik leader who had been captured by the Germans in May 1943 and interned. Đurišić escaped to Belgrade and was accepted as an ally by both the Germans and Nedić. With German approval, Nedić appointed Đurišić to lead the Montenegrin Volunteer Corps and ordered him and the corps to support



Draža Mihailović

Keiper. The Germans were hesitant because of Đurišić's divided loyalties; he depended on the Germans for supplies but also owed allegiance to Nedić and Mihailović.

German Withdrawal

The Germans withdrew their troops from the occupied territory as part of their overall retreat from the Balkans and toward the borders of the Third Reich. Đurišić traveled with the Germans as far as northeast Bosnia before leaving them to join Mihailović. However, when he realized that Mihailović had no plan to rescue the remaining Chetnik forces, he abandoned him and sought to link up with other collaborationist forces gathering in western Yugoslavia. Đurišić and his unit were then intercepted by superior forces of the fascist Independent State of Croatia in northwest Bosnia. Đurišić was captured and executed, and many of his troops were killed by either NDH (Croatian) or Partisan forces.

After the Germans withdrew from the occupied territory and retreated towards Austria, fascist leader Sekula Drljević attempted to establish a government-in-exile in the neighboring Independent State of Croatia (NDH), which was a German quasi-protectorate. Drljević also formed the Montenegrin National Army, a military force created by him and Croatian fascist leader Ante Pavelić. However, his government-in-exile, called the "Montenegrin State Council," was dissolved following the fall of the NDH government.

The Yugoslav Partisans led by Josip Broz Tito took control of the territory, which then became part of the Democratic Federal Yugoslavia.

Despite facing severe repression, the Partisans gained momentum throughout 1943 and 1944. The Germans, struggling to maintain control over a region with a strong resistance movement, committed numerous atrocities, including mass executions and village burnings. However,



Tito as a young man

their hold on Montenegro weakened as the Red Army and Yugoslav Partisans launched broader offensives across the Balkans.

Liberation and the Aftermath

By late 1944, the Partisans, now a formidable force with Soviet support, launched a series of offensives that liberated Montenegro from German occupation. The final battles saw heavy fighting, but by December 1944, the last Axis troops had withdrawn.

Following liberation, Montenegro became part of the newly established Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia under Tito's leadership. The communist government took control, suppressing political opposition and restructuring Montenegro into a socialist republic. The Chetniks were systematically eliminated, and former collaborators faced harsh reprisals. The war had left Montenegro devastated, with significant casualties and destruction of infrastructure.

The Stamps

The German military administration issued three sets of stamps. The first was based on Michel Italian stamps #301, #303, #304, #305, and #307. They were overprinted in Italian currency, where one lira equals 100 centesimi in January of 1944.

The second and third stamps (Michel #2 and #3) also have an inverted crowned watermark, as well as a standard normal crown watermark.

Michel acknowledges five different kinds of overprint types, and at least one overprint error where the word Deutsch was simply misspelled. From Michel:



Type I: "a" normal (with flat upper arc),
"w" normal



Type II: "a" larger (with higher, rounder upper arc)
"w" normal



Type III: "ä" normal, "w" larger (with weak serifs)



Type IV: "ä" larger, "w" larger



Type V: "ä" normal, "w" smaller (without middle serif)

The values given are for Type I; for Type II 25%, Type III 20%, Type IV 300%, Type V 400% increase

Variety:

The misspelling:



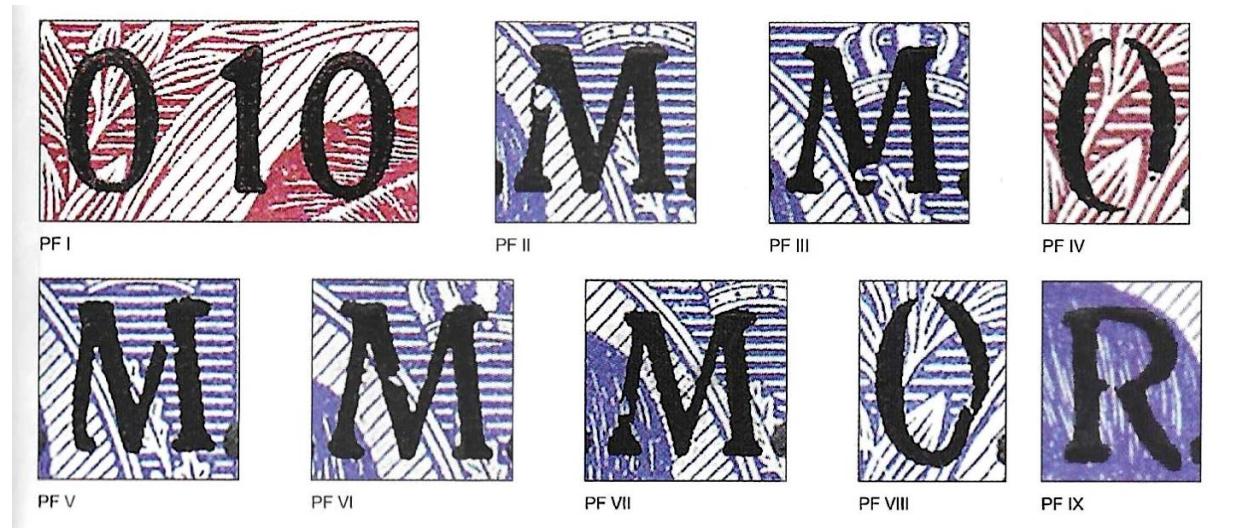
The Germans overprinted the second batch in Reichsmarks on September 16, 1944, this time using Yugoslavian stamps (Michel #398 and #399). Two types of overprints exist and can be best differentiated on the numbers 25 on Mitchell number 9. Inverted overprints on the number 7 exist, as well as an overall shift to the left of the overprint.



Kotor Stamps
Michel 7,8,
9I,9II, 10

Many overprint errors exist, and Michel lists 9 of them. I have reproduced them straight from the catalog below. It should be noted that, except for the very first overprint error, where there is no space between the zero and the one, the rest of the overprint errors are in all four issues of the September 1944 printing. The other exception is in the fourth overprint error, where the zero is open. That is not found on the Michel #10, the 0,50 Mark.

From Michel:



Interestingly, stamps printed in late 1944 were never released and remained very difficult to find. Each is worth hundreds of dollars, so happy hunting!

The unreleased stamps, presently retailing at \$4800!:



The unreleased 1944 Kotor stamps I-VI, printed in Vienna.



Kotor as it looks today

The Reinhard Heydrich (Death Mask) Commemorative Postal Stamp

The Stamp

This is a 60 haleru + 440h black Reinhard Heydrich (1904-42) Death Mask special stamp of Nazi-occupied Bohemia and Moravia. The stamp, issued on May 28, 1943, was created to commemorate the first anniversary of the assassination of Heydrich, who was the acting Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia.



*The stamp: Scott B20/
Michel 131*

The price printed on the Reichsprotector Heydrich Commemorative "Death Mask" Stamp is not in marks and pfennigs but in the Protectorate's own currency, the Koruna (pl. Korun), i.e., Crown.

1 koruna consisted of 100 haleru. The exchange rate was 10 K (korun) for 1 RM (reichsmark).

Thus, this value-added stamp cost 60 haleru + 440 haleru (500 haleru total); which equals 5 koruna or 1/2 reichsmark.

The "BÖHMEN und MÄHREN" translates to "BOHEMIA and MORAVIA," the Reich Protectorates that Heydrich administered.

This stamp was issued on May 28, 1943, exactly one year and a day after the attack on Heydrich.

It also exists in a rarer form as a special miniature sheet containing a single stamp, which was given to approximately 800 officials who attended Heydrich's funeral.

The stamp also came as a First Day Cover, and a memorial sheet with a number in the lower right-hand corner.

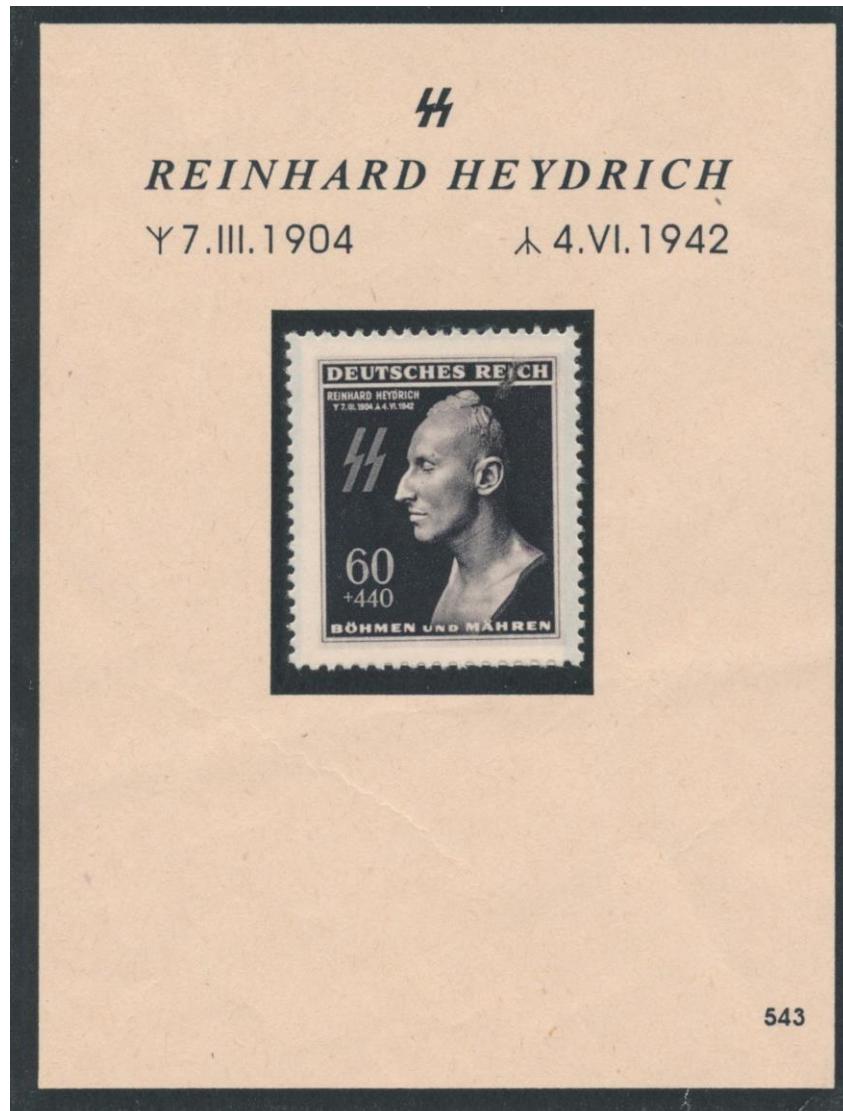
The Nazis printed a memorial booklet, which included both a mint and cancelled block of four of the stamp. The booklet features pictures and a brief flattering biography of Heydrich.

A special “Block 1” was also made, worth up to \$20,000. Only 1000 copies were made. It looks like the standard souvenir sheet, except that the number is in the lower-left corner.

Half were given to those attending a memorial service, where they received them in protective covers, which now drives the price of this sheet up by 30%. The other half was distributed to other high-ranking Nazi individuals without the cover. It is thought, at least by the Dutch Country Auction House, that fewer than 100 survive to this day.

The Subject

Reinhard Heydrich (1904-1942) was head of the Reich Security Service, also known as the Reich Main Security Office (RSHA), which combined the SD,



543

The Memorial sheet – the number is on the right side (Worth about \$40)



The very expensive Block 1, with the number in the lower left corner.

his headquarters in Prague.

Heydrich preferred to travel between his country home and Prague headquarters in an open-top green Mercedes car, without an armed escort. This was a show of confidence aimed at intimidating resistance and demonstrating successful control over the population.

On May 27, 1942, as his car slowed to navigate a sharp turn, it was attacked by trained Czech agents brought from England to assassinate him. They fired at Heydrich and threw a bomb that exploded, wounding him. He managed to exit the car, draw his pistol, and shoot at the attackers before collapsing in the street.

Himmler rushed his personal doctors to Prague to treat Heydrich, who survived for several days but died on June 4, 1942, from blood poisoning

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Gestapo, Criminal Police, and foreign intelligence. He was also Deputy Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia and administered concentration camps. In his final role, he was known as the "Butcher of Prague."

Within the SS hierarchy, Heydrich was second in importance to Heinrich Himmler. He played a key role in Hitler's "Final Solution" and took part in the January 20, 1942, planning meeting known as the "Wannsee Conference."

In September 1941, Heydrich was appointed Deputy Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia in former Czechoslovakia, and he established

caused by fragments of auto upholstery, steel, and his uniform lodged in his spleen.

In Berlin, the Nazis held a highly elaborate funeral; Hitler called Heydrich "the man with the iron heart."

Following his death, the Gestapo and SS quickly hunted down and killed Czech agents, resistance members, and anyone suspected of involvement. At least 10,000 Czechs were arrested. Additionally, 3,000 Jews were deported from the Theresienstadt ghetto for extermination. On the day of Heydrich's death, 500 Jews in Berlin were arrested, and 152 were executed as reprisals.

As further revenge, Hitler ordered the destruction of the Czech village of Lidice, falsely accusing it of aiding the assassins. On June 10, 1942, all 172 men and boys over 16 were shot in Lidice. Women were deported to Ravensbrück concentration camp, where most died. Ninety children were sent to the Gneisenau concentration camp; some with Germanic features were taken to Nazi orphanages for population transfer within the Reich.

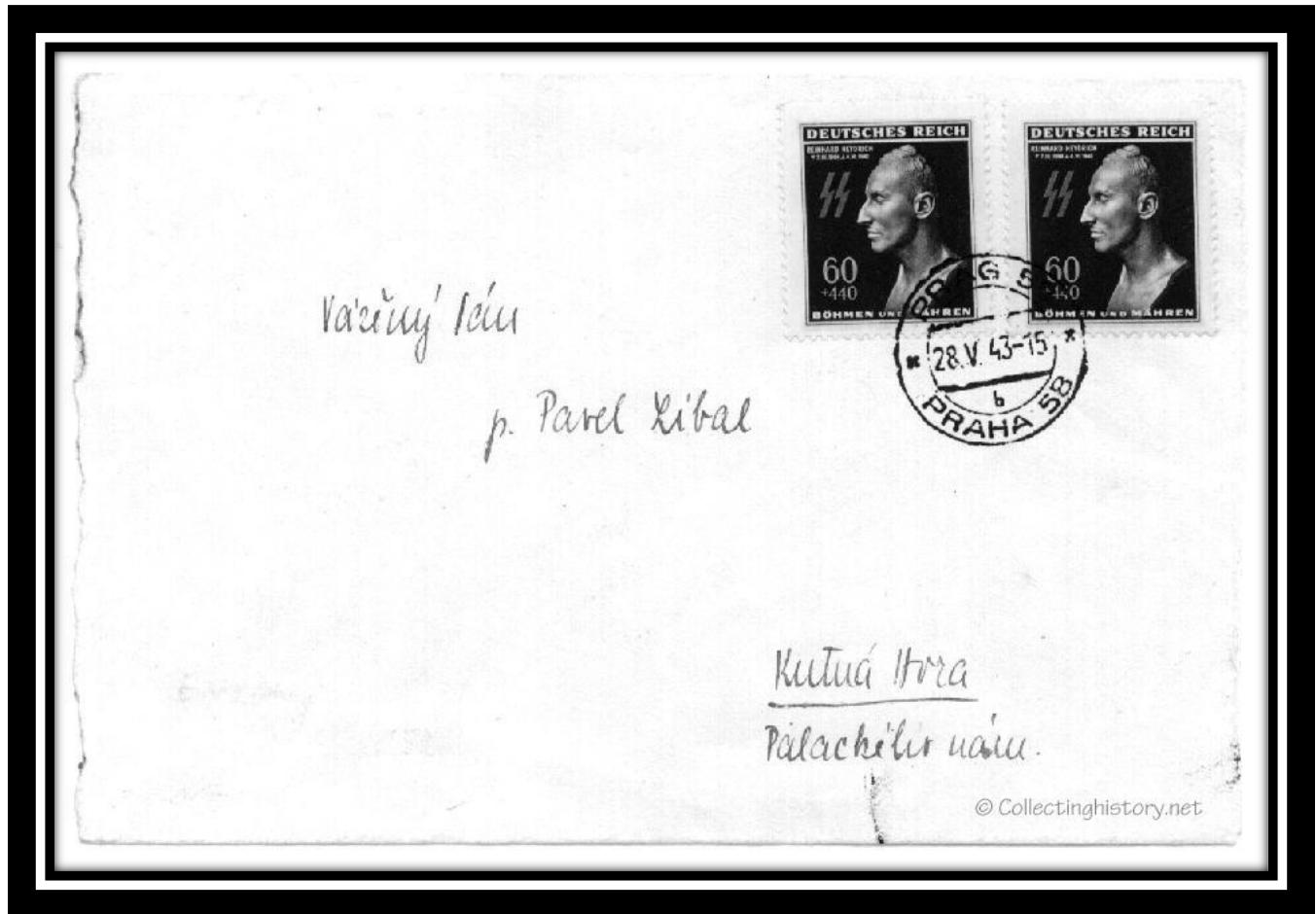
Lidice was destroyed: buildings were blown up, the village was leveled, and the soil was planted with grain to hide any traces of habitation. The name was removed from all German maps.

Different sources report varying numbers of reprisals:

- Snyder's "Encyclopedia of the Third Reich" states 860 Czechs were sentenced to death in Prague and 395 in Brno.
- Höhne's "The Order of the Death's Head" claims 1,300 shot, including all male villagers.
- Time Life's "The Apparatus of Death" reports 13,119 arrests, with 232 executed for approval of the attack and 462 for possessing weapons or disobedience.
- It states in Lidice, 170 adult males, 11 miners, and 15 relatives of Czech agents were shot.

- Bauer's "Illustrated WW2 Encyclopedia" notes 1,331 Czechs executed on the day Heydrich died, including women, resistance fighters, and Jews, with additional details on the fate of women and children in Lidice.

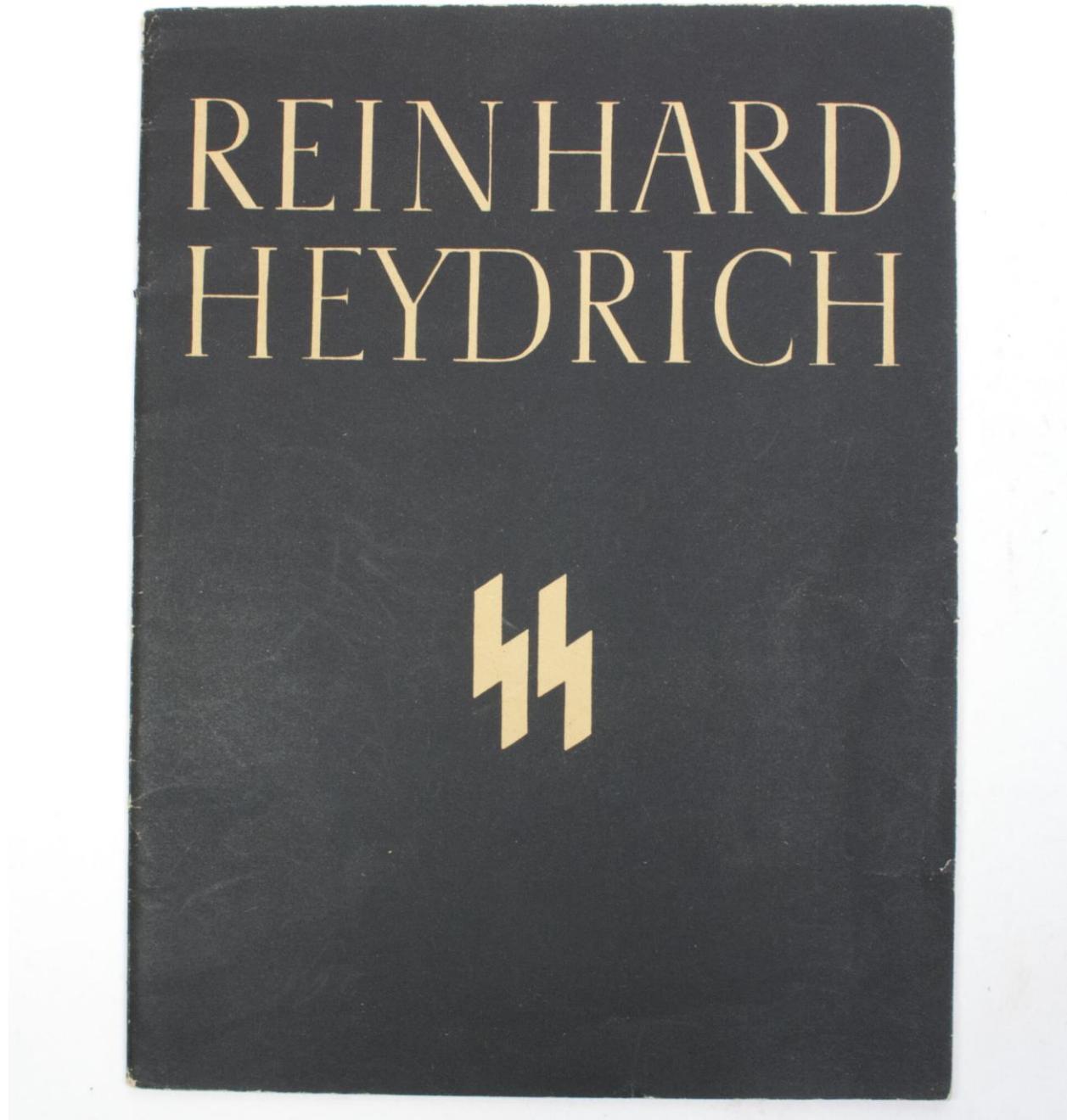
These figures vary widely, reflecting different reports and estimates of the reprisals.



These two Heydrich stamps are affixed to an envelope and are postmarked on the first day of issue. The envelope is postmarked "Prag" (Prague) and dated "28.V.43." (28 May, 1943). The envelope is empty and neatly torn open along the left edge, the contents long gone. From collectinghistory.net.



First Day of Issue special stamp sheet 'Sonderstempel' (special stamp) of the Reinhard Heydrich 'Death Mask' commemorative stamp, commemorating exactly one year and a day after the attack on Heydrich. Four Third Reich Bohemia and Moravia stamps, including the Heydrich 'Death Mask' commemorative stamp, on one sheet postmarked on the first day of issue in Prague, 28.V.1943. With a drawing of the Prague Castle at the top.



The cover of the memorial booklet at Heydrich's first anniversary memorial service.

The Book:

Collecting Third Reich Philatelic Material- A Systematic Review

By Christopher Kolker MD

While I don't want to toot my own horn, I do want to bring to your attention the fact that I have written a book about Third Reich philatelic material. In this book, I explore its major categories, using the Michel catalog as a general guide to showcase interesting pieces from the Third Reich. I purposely made this book very bright and colorful, filled with pictures and descriptions. I make a great effort to explain the pictures, so that the reader understands what collectors look for. Philately is a visual hobby, and therefore, highlighting and emphasizing what we see in Third Reich philatelic material is crucial.

I wrote this book to engage as many readers and collectors as possible. I hope that beginners can understand what I've written and use it as a base to jumpstart their collection. The intermediate collector should find both the structure and the details educational, further enhancing their enjoyment of World War II philatelic material. Even experts will find a wealth of new information, as I sought to uncover the unusual and rare to keep even the most advanced readers engaged.

I do this because I believe we are at a crossroads in philately. At times, we struggle to find new collectors and younger philatelists. By engaging these stamp collectors, who are accustomed to the visual stimulation that technology provides, I felt that writing a highly detailed, technical book focused on near-trivial details would serve no purpose. Instead, this book aims to be bright, informative, and concise, much like the material we see on our cell phones today.

Still, I hope it provides you with both a great deal of education and pleasure.

It's available on Amazon, searchable by both title and author. I humbly ask that you purchase a copy to show your support for the work I have poured into this and to support fellow philatelists in their endeavors.

The following three pages are just some sample pages of what you can find in the book. Enjoy!



Taken from Germanstamps.net, the forgeries on bottom are easy to spot due to the different paper and color (and size). Dropped over Germany and Austria during Operation Cornflakes by the Allies in 1944, these stamps and their letters contained subversive material designed to destabilize the Nazi regime.

Operation Cornflakes went a step further to let people know that the Nazi postal system had been infiltrated. This grotesque Hitler caricature portrayed Hitler synonymous with death.





WER EIN VOLK RETTEN WILL
KANN NUR HEROISCH DENKEN



WER EIN VOLK RETTEN WILL
KANN NUR HEROISCH DENKEN

Germany printed the above commemorative sheet in 1937 for Hitler's 48th birthday. The below, printed by the American OSS (precursor to today's CIA), characterizes Hitler as death.

The caption listed below translates loosely as "Whoever wants to save a people can only think heroically"



The complete set of 8 special cancellations made for Hitler's 50th birthday is considered to be technically the finest made during this era.

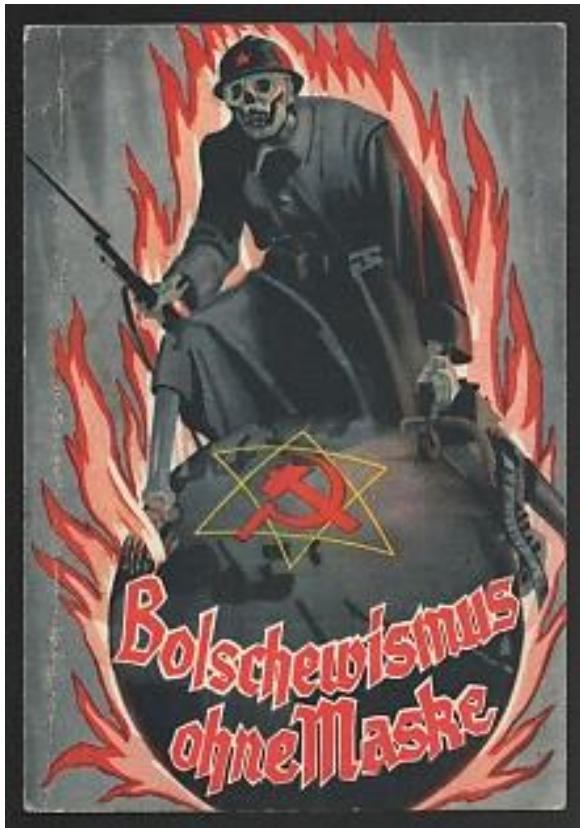
The Berlin cancellation on Hitler's birthday stamp



AuctionWatch

Prices are really heating up. (Just ask the guy below.) All kidding aside, quality merchandise is receiving multiple bids across multiple sites. You must be willing to spend a few dollars to get what you want. Just see below:

Old Louis Auctions:



1939 Germany, Anti-Soviet Propaganda, 'Bolshevism without a Mask', WWII Caricature

Lot sold: \$325

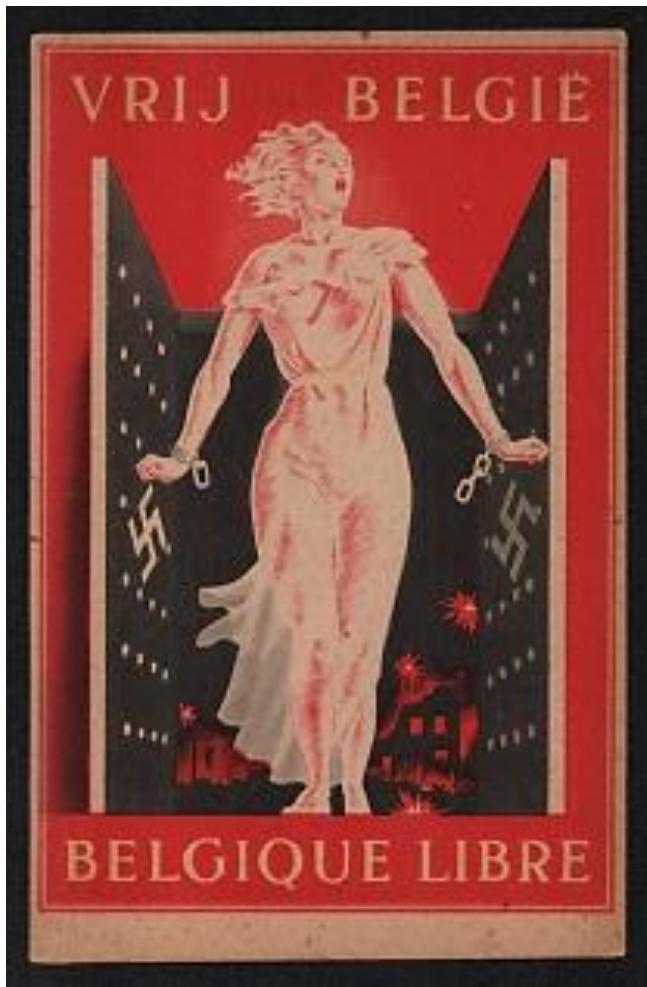


1938 'Reich Party Congress
Nuremberg' Nazi
Propaganda Postcard

Lot sold:

\$500





1939-1945 Belgium, Anti-Germany (anti-Nazi) Propaganda, 'Free Belgium' Postcard, WWII Caricature Postcard

Sold for \$20

1939-1945 France, Anti-Germany (Anti-Nazi) Propaganda, 'A Dream of Hitler ah... to be Able to Take over the Entire Earth!', WWII Caricature Postcard Sold for \$45





1939 (16 May) Third Reich, Germany, Registered Cover from Vienna to Munich franked with Se-tenants and 6pf (Commemorative Postmarks)

Germany / Third Reich (1933-1945)

Catalog: Michel 694, S 144, S 254

Catalog value: \$150

Sold for \$9



Concentration Camp Mauthausen/Gusen, Germany, Cover from Sankt Georgen an der Gusen franked with 12pf

Sold for \$70



1938 'Princess Juliana, the Former Crown Prince and Former Emperor Wilhelm, at the Wedding Dinner with the Royal Family Grandfather Kyra and Prince Louis Ferdinand' Nazi Propaganda Postcard

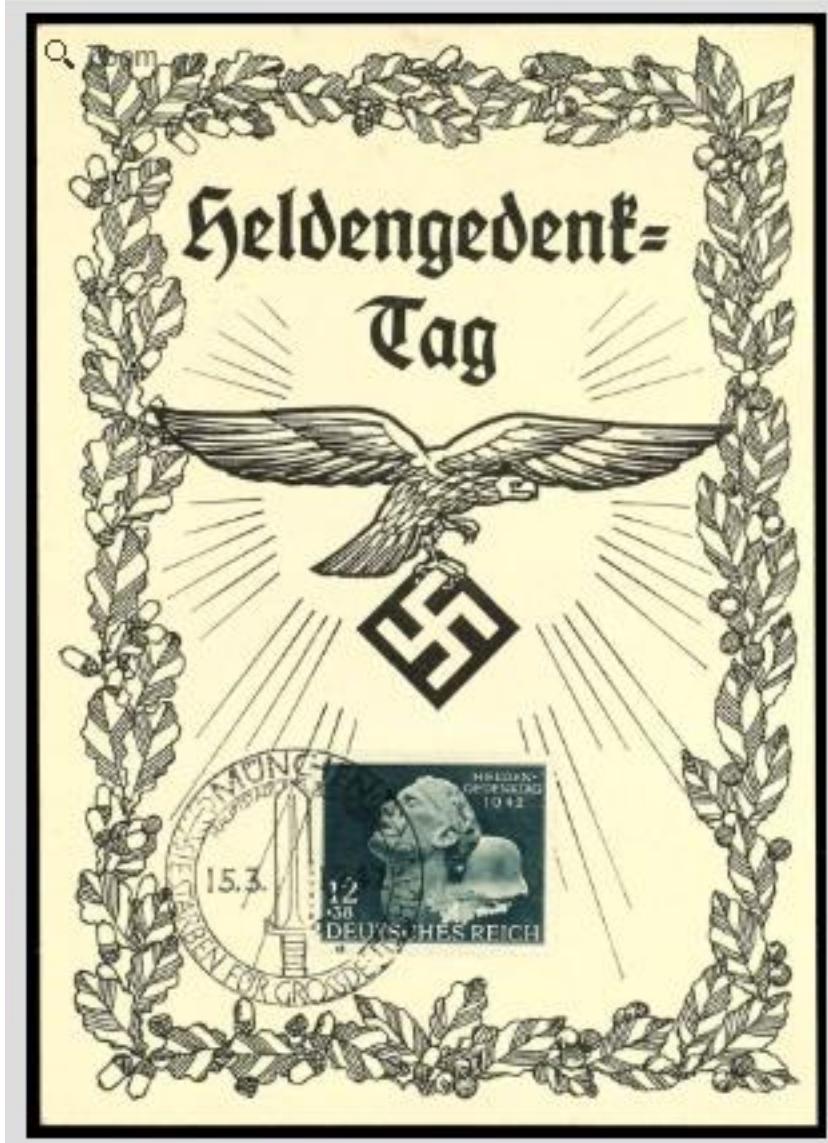
Sold for \$45



1933-1945 'Bosnians! Join the Row of SS
Arms and Protect Your Lovely Homeland,
Your Women and Children' Waffen SS
Nazi Propaganda Postcard

Sold for \$1,100

Dr. Reinhard Fischer Auctions 11/25:



1942,
commemorative
page to the
heroes
commemorative
day with Michel
812 and special
cancel from
15.3.42

Starting bid:
€10
SOLD for €10



Hitler, 1939. black-and-white photo postcard Hitler at the lectern standing "the leader during his historic Reichstag speech at the 30. January 1939". on face franked with picture same stamp number 701 and suitably special cancel "Graz 25.8.1939 Reich conference the German emigrants" from first day. in the style a maximum card, rare in this form.

SOLD for €110.00

Hitler, approximate 1943. private HITLER in the fields as combat orderly, black-and-white photo postcard, used with on the address side slight transport traces.

UNSOLD at €100





5 Pf. postal stationery "witnesses from heavily time" accordingly special cancel and additional cancel "the leader in Kassel 4. June 1939" SOLD for €10.00

winter help work (buildings) 1940, complete set of all se-tenants = 15 combinations, mint never hinged, very fine, Michel 171. *Editor's note: this is half the collection.*

Unsold at € 30



S 258



S 260



S 262



S 264



S 259



S 261



S 263



S 265

Cherrystone Auctions 11/25:



GERMAN WORLD WAR II OCCUPATION ISSUES German Occupation of Montenegro (Mi.10-18) 1943 25c-5L, nine different, I.h. or n.h., fine-v.f., SOLD for \$270



GERMAN WORLD WAR II OCCUPATION ISSUES German Occupation of Montenegro (Mi.19) 1943 10L brown & orange, I.h., v.f., signed Diena, etc., with 1989 GPSY certificate SOLD for \$2200.00

Raritan Stamps



Zeppelin Flight. 1933 (September 30 - October 4), 8th South America flight registered cover to Brazil, franked by five stamps, including overprinted definitive of 2fr carmine and brown and 10fr black on orange paper issued in 1932, cancelled by Libreville "28.AOUT.33" ds, Friedrichshafen "30.9.33" connection and violet flight markings, Pernambuco "4.X.33" arrival ds, mostly VF, Sieger #235, C.v. €1,000 without a premium for postage, Est. \$1,000-\$1,200 -SOLD for \$650



Zeppelin Flight. 1934 (June 23-26), Argentina Flight to Pernambuco, franked by four stamps, tied by Kuwait 14.JUN.34 ds, Stuttgart and Friedrichshafen connection markings, violet Flight marking, Pernambuco "26.VI.34" receiver, VF and rare, Sieger #254, C.v. €900, Est. \$800-\$900 SOLD for \$800

Cherrystone Auctions:



GERMAN WORLD WAR II OCCUPATION ISSUES German Occupation of Laibach (Mi.45-60) 1945 Adria-Alpenvorland, complete set of 16 sheet corner margin singles, n.h., fine-v.f. SOLD for \$210

DANZIG REPORT



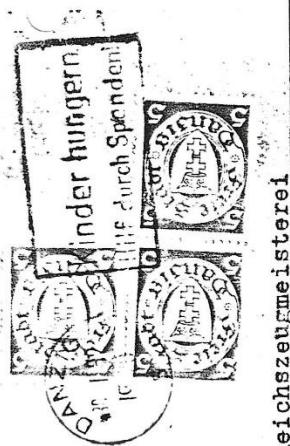
STUDY and RESEARCH GROUP

Editor: John H. Bloecher Jr., 1743 Little Creek Drive, Baltimore, Md. 21207

Vol. 1 No. 28
July-Aug-Sept
1980

Be sure to attend the GPS Convntion at FLOREX on November 7th, 8th and 9th. The Danzig Study Group will be meeting. Check the Hospitality Room or bulletin boards for time and place! We are really looking forward to seeing old friends.

1 NEWS



On Pg. 7 of the last Report there was a question of an unclear handstamp. Col. Halle was the first to get us out of bed with the answer: The word in question is NACHGEBÜHR, postage due collected at the receiving end. This ties in with the lower left stamp: "Portophilichtig", meaning, Postage Due - Official Mail. The sender was the Neufahrwasser post office, but needed payment because it went to a private individual not within postal channels. Look for the DM overprinted stamps to be used in official correspondence.

Art Hecker writes: "The word should be Nachgebühr, indicating postage to be paid at destination. Apparently, some official German agencies charged postage to the recipient of answers to questions sent by mail. The script "15" in blue crayon was the amount to be collected. Red was used to indicate prepayment and blue to indicate C.O.D. The 2 postage due covers on Pg. 8 also show the script numbers 40 and 15 for the amounts to be collected..."

Thanks to both gents for the information. Both will receive a set of commemorative iceman's tongs for Siberian philately.

The article starting on Pg. 2 looked like a snap: just run a bunch of covers mailed to the NSDAP and sit back and relax. Then came the slogan cancels, then a look at the handbook, then came Rittmeister's new discovery, then some of our cancels didn't agree with the handbook, and so on. The result is 12 pages and a tough time making the deadline. Now we're ready for you experts to send in the corrections!

FAN MAIL TO THE N.A.D.S.P.

2

Last September, at BALPEX, we came upon a collection of about 30 "Danzig Covers" being hawked by a dealer. No question about his accuracy in describing their origins; they were covers and they had Danzig stamps attached. They also contained some additional information that makes covers infinitely more interesting than mere mint adhesives, and we list a few of these points below:

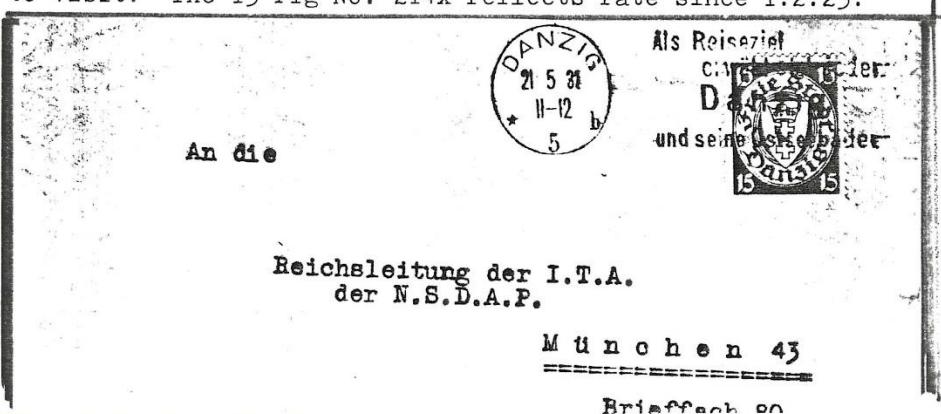
(1) Almost all of the covers were addressed to "Reichsleitung (or Reichsgeschäftsstelle) der Nationalsozialistische Deutschen Arbeiterpartei" in München, with the exception of 2 which were sent to the "Reichszentrale Landaufenthalt für Stadtkinder E. V. ... Hauptamt für Volkswohlfahrt" in Berlin.

(2) Several of the covers contained return addresses on the back, which is O.K. if you're convinced that your side will come out on top in any future conflict.

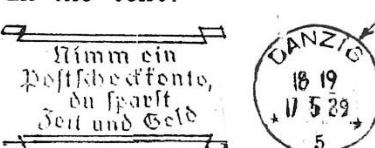
(3) Most envelopes probably contained dues, since the addressee is often the treasurer of the party, Reichsschatzmeister Franz Xaver Schwarz. Photo below

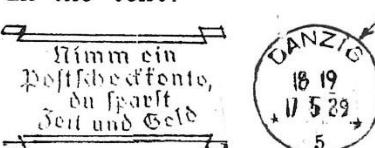
was taken at the First Congress of "Arbeitsfront im preussischen Landtag 1933". Left to right are Schwarz, Rudolph Hess, Dr. Robert Ley. The treasurer was formerly an accountant from the Munich City Hall and was considered a tight financial manager of the party's accounts. Not like the more visible publicity seekers, little information has been written about Schwarz.

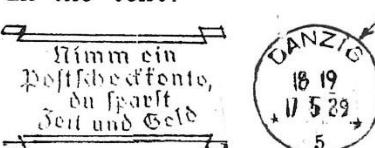
(4) Of philatelic consequence are the slogan cancels on these early covers from Danzig. Below is a 21.5.31 cover with the cancel extolling Danzig and the Baltic Sea spas as choice locations to visit. The 15 Pfg No. 214x reflects rate since 1.2.25.



In pursuit of the 4th point listed above, we found the best information on slogan cancels in "Freie Stadt Danzig 1920-1939; Bewertung der Poststempel 1.Auflage 1977", co-edited by Schüler, Hasselhoff and Rittmeister. This 49-page book is an excellent example of detailed research and is rich in information. The published tables provide us with a checklist of machine cancels with propaganda and advertising slogans. Unfortunately, a search of our collection turned up no examples of Types 1a, 1b, 1c, 2b or 5, thus requiring a reconstruction from the descriptive text. Two additions to the published list (one ours and one recently reported in Editor Schüler's Danzig Arge) will be noted in the proper locations in the text.

Type 1a  Same, but with hours under the date line.

Type 1b 

Type 1c  Without the 6 wavy lines and a heavier "5".

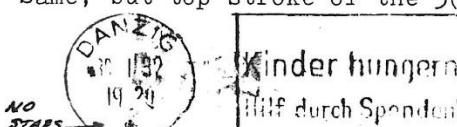
Type 2a  SLOGAN ON RIGHT
21.5 X 39 mm BOX
BROAD "5"

Type 2b  NARROW "5"
SMALLER STARS;
RIGHT STAR LOWER THAN LEFT

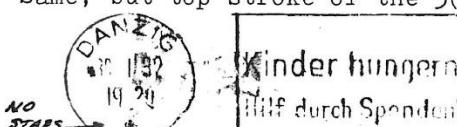
Top stroke of the 3(0) is straight.

Type 2c  Same, but top stroke of the 3(0) is round.

Type 3a  NO STARS

Type 4  Same, but narrow & tall "5"; with stars.

Type 5  Slogan on left; same narrow & tall "5"; no stars.

Type 6  Same, but shorter "5", with stars.

Type 7



Type 8



Type 8x

Same, but with 2 horizontal lines, 39 mm long, above and below slogan.

Type 9

Same double circle, but with 6-pointed star.

LIST OF SLOGANS, TYPES REPRESENTED AND USAGE DATES:

	Als Reiseziel/erwähl sich jeder/Danzig/und seine Ostseebäder	From
1b.....		5.-11.8.29
2a.....		13.9.29-7.11.30
2c.....		11.3.-3.11.31
3a.(Smaller type in text).....		14.3.-13.7.32
4.....		18.4.32-27.9.33
8.....		10.4.-10.5.37

2A



2C

According to the chart, 2c retains larger type of 2a. This fits the 2c date category but has a small type face and a *5b cancel. Was ist?

An die

Reichsleitung der I.T.A.
der N.S.D.A.P.



M u n c h e n 43

Brieffach 80

2C

Custom office cover with postage due; note low star & larger type compared to previous example.

z 4071/31



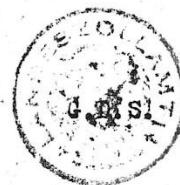
An



Als Reiseziel
erwähnt sich jeder
Danzig
und seine Ostseebäder

den "Gode Wind" Danzig-Zoppoter
Yacht-Club

Danzig



Gebührenpflichtige Dienstmarke

3A

Danzig 5
without
stars.
Smaller
Type face.

An die



Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei

z Hd. des Herrn Reichsschatzmeisters

Schwarz

8

29.4.37 with the
"invitation to
Danzig" machine
cancel as well as
purple handstamp:
"Help harvest:
struggle to keep
it from decaying"

Als Reiseziel
erwähnt sich jedes
Unter Land und Meer
Danzig
und seine Ostseebäder



An das

Stabsamt des Reichsschatzmeisters der
NSDAP., Hauptbuchhaltung

6

Benutzt/die(Autobus)Kraftpost/Danzig-Marienburg(Westpr.)/x visumfrei x

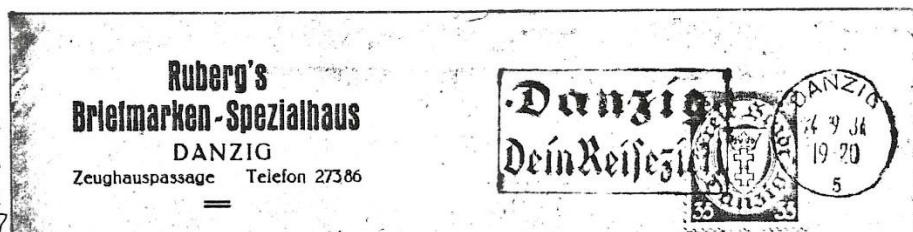
1b	28.5.-23.7.29
2a	25.10.29-23.2.33
2c	19.1.-7.3.31
4	10.1.-13.1.33
9	24.4.-10.5.39

Benutzt/(Flugpost)/die/Luftpost

1b.....	10.6.-17.7.29
2a.....	10.12.29-23.11.30
2c.....	21.1.-20.11.31
4.....	8.10.32-31.3.33
8.....	14.10.35-23.3.42

Danzig/Dein Reiseziel (in rectangle)

3a	From 26.5.39
6	31.3.-29.10.34
7	1.4.-28.7.35
8	29.7.35-2.9.39
9	21.7.-13.8.39



5

Could this be an
unlisted Type 5?
Note the lack of
stars and 21.5mm
diameter. 24.9.37

**Ruberg's
Briefmarken - Spezialhaus
DANZIG**

DANZIG
Zeughauspassage Telefon 27386

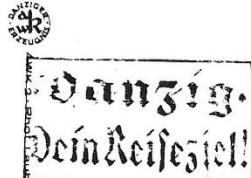
6



7

Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei

Reichsrevisionssamt



8

hard Bury
DANZIG
ischer Graben Nr. 71
Firma Gegr. 1907
Telefon 287 21
marken - Großhandel

Firma Hans Beyer,
Herrn

Frankfurt a/M.
Grüneburgweg 92.

Deutliche/und genaue Anschrift/bewahrt/vor Verzögerungen

1b.....	6.6.-11.8.29
6.....	26.11.-28.11.34
7.....	20.1.-27.3.35
8.....	7.11.35-25.11.36

Fernsprecher/spart/Zeit und Geld

1b.....	3.6.-11.8.29
2a.....	12.12.29-21.10.31
2c.....	2.1.-21.10.31
4.....	30.9.32-25.3.33
6.....	12.-17.12.34
7.....	13.1.-16.3.35
8.....	21.10.-24.11.35

4

*5b
cancel!

An alle



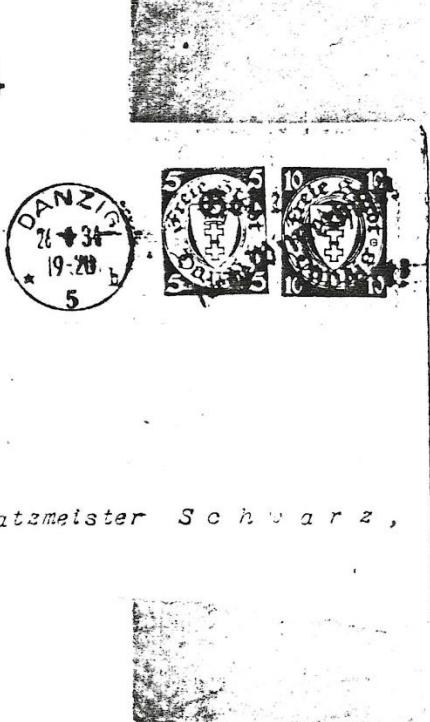
8

Gebt/für die Winterhilfe/Opfert!

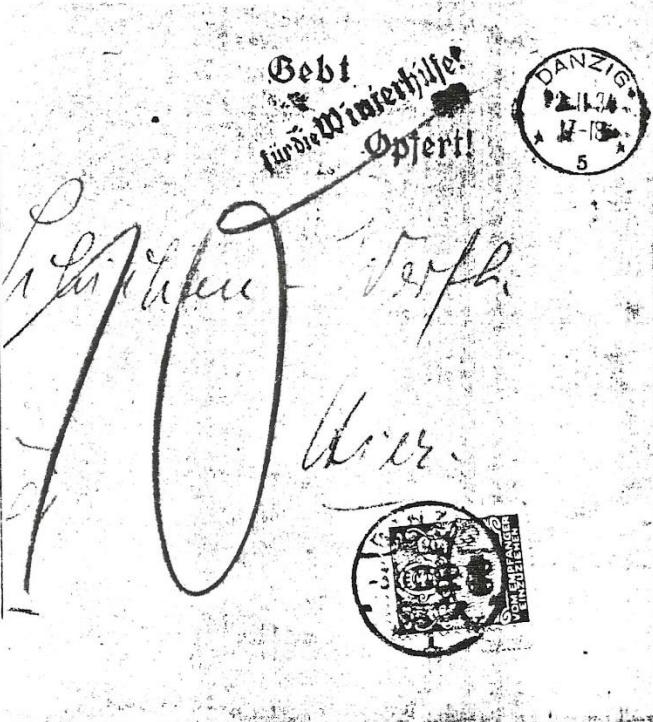
4.....	16.12.33-29.1.34
5.....	5.2.-23.3.34
6.....	31.1.34-6.1.35
7.....	28.1.-30.3.35
8.....	28.10.35-6.4.39
9.....	7.12.38-17.3.40

6

4



Reichsschatzmeister Schwarz,

Gib auf Deinen/Briefsendungen/den Absender an

1b.....	13.6.-11.8.29
1c.....	21.9.29
2b.....	15.-20.12.30
2c.....	12.1.-6.11.31
8.....	15.2.-26.11.38
9.....	5.9.39-31.5.40

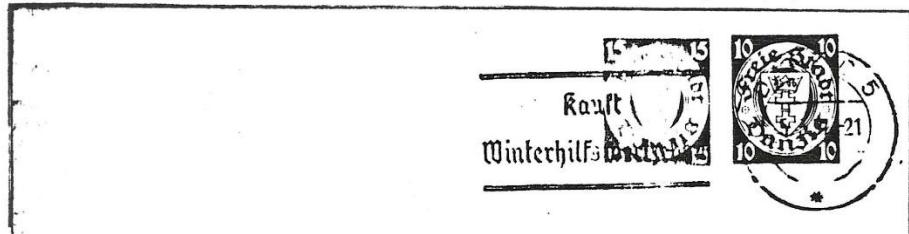
Help Feuer verhüten (in rectangle)

2a.....	28.4.-4.5.30
---------	--------------

Kauft/Winterhilfszeichen (with double 39.5mm thick & thin lines)

8.....	25.10.36-10.1.37
8x (2 thin 39mm lines).....	13.1.37-15.4.39
9.....	2.12.38-23.3.40

8X



Kinder hungern/Hilf durch Spenden

2c.....23.-30.11.31
 3a.....1.12.31-4.3.32
 3a (hours under the date line)....10.2.32
 (4: new type recently found & reported in May '80 Arge)

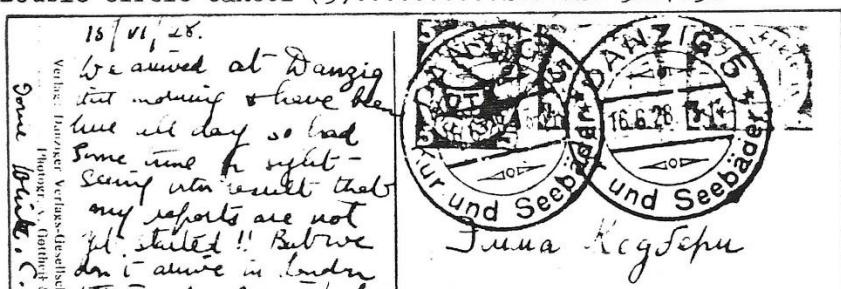


New Type

4

Kur und Seebäder

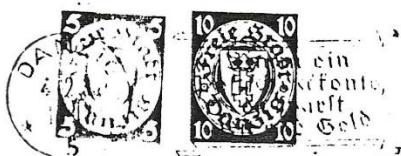
Double circle cancel (5).....24.4.28-31.7.32



Nimm ein/Postscheckkonto/du sparst/Zeit und Geld

1a...	4.-18.5.29
1b...	21.5.-22.7.29
2a...	23.12.29-15.2.30
2b...	8.-9.12.30
2c...	5.1.-31.10.31
4...	7.11.31-21.4.33
6...	19.11.-20.12.34
7...	18.1.-22.3.35

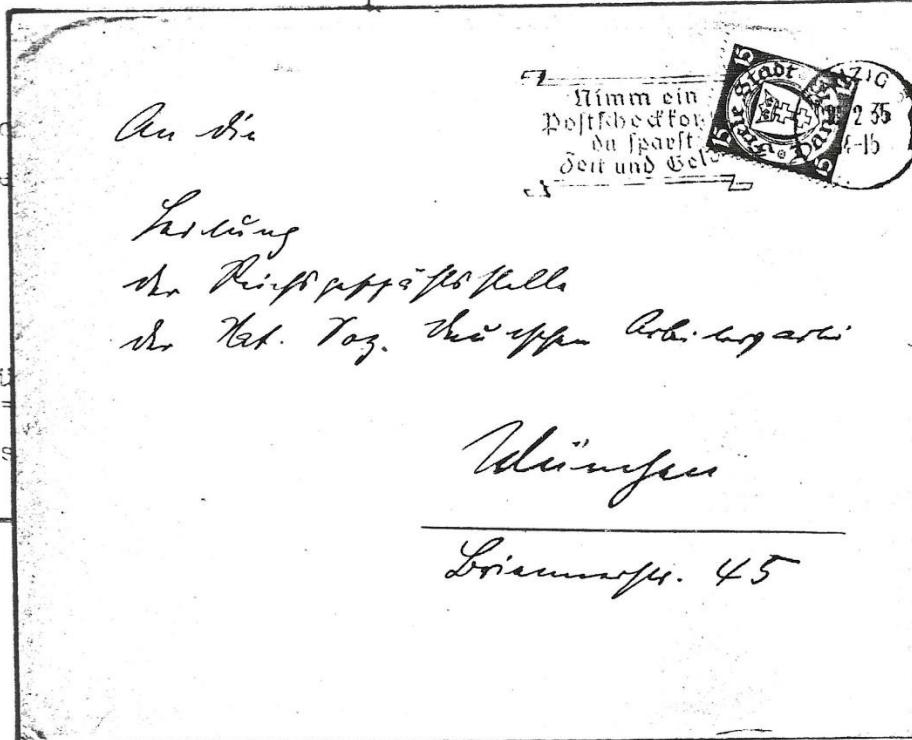
4



7

Nationalsozialistische
Arbeiterpartei

M 5
=====
Posts

Schafft/Hausbriefkästen an sie/beschleunigen/die Briefzustellung

3a...	5.3.-9.4.32
4...	16.9.32-12.12.33
8...	15.10.-11.11.36

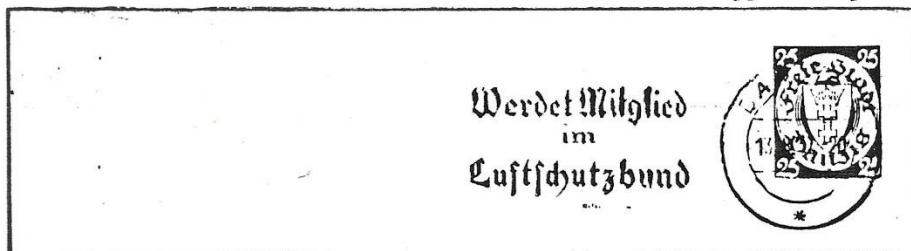
Vergiss nicht Strasse/und Hausnummer anzugeben

1b...	4.6.-24.7.29
2a...	21.8.29

Werdet Mitglied/im Luftschutzbund

8.....

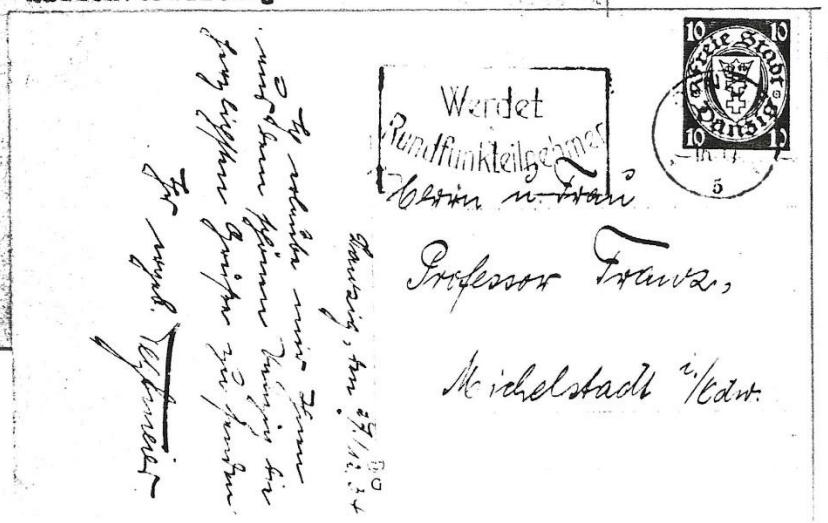
22.11.35-28.1.38



8

Werdet/Rundfunkteilnehmer

2a.....	2.12.29-29.11.30
2b.....	22.-23.12.30
2c.....	2.2.-16.10.31
4.....	27.2.-8.4.33
(see earlier cancel below)	
6.....	2.12.34-11.1.35, 6-7
7.....	11.1.35, 11-12, -13.3.35



Wo gibt es eine andere Stadt/die Seebad/dicht bei Seebad hat

4.....27.4.-22.9.33
9.....19.4.-7.9.39

4



An.

die Nationalsozialistische
Deutsche Arbeiter Partei

München

Drucksache!



9

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10

End

Trivia

Children of the Nazis

We have had so much trivia about the Nazis, maybe it's time we quit beating that drum. Instead, let's talk about their children for a moment. These are some tough questions because the kids didn't get the notoriety that their fathers did. Still, these questions bring historical insight into some of the most dangerous and bloodthirsty men ever to walk this planet. See how you do with the children of the Nazis!

1. None of Magda Goebbels' children survived the war.

- A. True
- B. False

2. Which Nazi adoringly called his eldest daughter "Püppi" (equivalent to English "Dolly")?

- A. Heinrich Mueller
- B. Albert Speer
- C. Heinrich Himmler
- D. Martin Bormann

3. Which child was laid in a specially prepared crib, under which a sack of earth from every "Gau" (district or region) in Germany was sent, so that the child would be symbolically born on German soil?

- A. Edda Goering
- B. Marta Heydrich
- C. Hilde Speer
- D. Wolf Rüdiger Hess

4. Which Nazi had twins with his mistress shortly before the war was over?

- A. Ernst Kaltenbrunner
- B. Otto Skorzeny
- C. Martin Bormann
- D. Amon Goeth

5. Which female SS guard had a child with another inmate while serving a life prison sentence after the war?

- A. Hermine Braunsteiner
- B. Herta Oberhauser
- C. Ilse Koch
- D. Irma Grese

6. How many children did Wilhelm Frick lose in the war?

- A. 2
- B. 1
- C. 3
- D. 0

7. Which child's birth was more or less declared a national holiday?

- A. Edda Göring
- B. Helmut Goebbels
- C. Martin Bormann Jr.
- D. Wolf Hess

8. Which of Albert Speer's children went on to become a photographer after the war?

- A. Margret
- B. Albert, Jr.
- C. Hilde
- D. Ernst

9. Which son of a high-ranking Nazi has been decried for his graphic book about his father, "In the Shadow of the Reich", in which he called his father "a slime-hole of a Hitler fanatic"?

- A. Niklas Frank
- B. Rolf Mengele
- C. Klaus von Schirach
- D. Horst Eichmann

10. Which Nuremberg defendant was, among other things, upset that his daughter was expecting his first grandchild?

- A. Erich Raeder
- B. Joachim von Ribbentrop
- C. Franz von Papen
- D. Alfred Rosenberg

Answers

1. None of Magda Goebbels' children survived the war.

The correct answer was B. **False**

Magda Goebbels (wife of Joseph Goebbels, Nazi propaganda minister) had a son, Harald, from her previous marriage to wealthy entrepreneur Guenther Quandt. While she was in the Führerbunker in the last days of the war, she wrote a letter to her son stating that she and Joseph Goebbels were planning to poison his six younger half-siblings.

She justified her actions by saying that a world without National Socialism was not a world worth living in, and she did not want her children growing up as the offspring of a war criminal. Harald was a lieutenant in the Luftwaffe during WWII, and lived until 1967, when he died in a plane crash.

2. Which Nazi adoringly called his eldest daughter "Püppi" (equivalent to English "Dolly")?

The correct answer was C. **Heinrich Himmler**

had two more children with his mistress and an adopted son with his wife, but Himmler (SS leader and Holocaust architect) doted the most on his daughter Gudrun, born in 1928. After the war, she held several jobs, none of which lasted very long, because she was proud to be Heinrich's daughter and refused to change her name, as many had advised her to do. Gudrun Himmler Burwitz has been a member of "Stille Hilfe" ("Silent Assistance"), an organization that has supported fugitive, deported, or arrested Nazis who are in distress, since 1951. To

this day, she disputes the fact that her father committed suicide, saying that the pictures released of his body look far too much like they were altered pictures of him reviewing his SS members while on parade.

She remains committed to the Nazi cause and has never stopped trying to justify her father's actions.

3. Which child was laid in a specially prepared crib, under which a sack of earth from every "Gau" (district or region) in Germany was sent, so that the child would be symbolically born on German soil?

The correct answer was D. **Wolf Rüdiger Hess**

Rudolf Hess, deputy Führer imprisoned by Great Britain for most of the war, and his wife Ilse were desperate for a child. They tried every miracle cure they could think of, and had finally become convinced they could not conceive, but then little Wolf was born. It was reported that Hess danced for joy upon his son's birth.

In his early 20s, he led a protracted battle against being called up for compulsory military service, saying he could not work for the powers that were responsible for keeping his father imprisoned. Wolf remained convinced that Rudolf was murdered by British agents, mainly because at the time of his death, the possibility of paroling him had begun to take shape.

He claims the British were afraid that his father would reveal possibly embarrassing secrets about their conduct during the war if he were given the chance to talk freely about his time in England. Wolf died in 2001, leaving behind a wife, Andrea, and three children.

4. Which Nazi had twins with his mistress shortly before the war was over?

The correct answer was A. **Ernst Kaltenbrunner**

Kaltenbrunner, an Austrian SS official and Holocaust perpetrator, was a firm believer in the Nazi view that a woman's role was to have children for the future of the Reich, and was more than willing to lend his "services" to those who couldn't have children otherwise. In addition to his three children with his wife Elisabeth, his mistress Gisela Gräfin von Westarp gave him twins in March 1945.

He also lived next door to a brothel! Nothing much is known of his children, other than that they all survived the war.

5. Which female SS guard had a child with another inmate while serving a life prison sentence after the war?

The correct answer was C. **Ilse Koch**

Known as the "Bitch of Buchenwald" for her incredible sadism, Ilse had been married to Karl Otto Koch, Kommandant of Buchenwald from 1937-41, before being transferred to Majdanek. The Nazis executed him for embezzlement a month before the end of the war. Ilse, who had been tried along with her husband, only served four years initially before being amnestied. Immense public outcry led to her almost immediate re-arrest; by then, she was already pregnant. This time, she was sentenced to life, giving birth to her son, Uwe, while in prison. Uwe did not know who his mother was until he reached adulthood. Ilse Koch hanged herself in 1967, after writing one last letter to him.

Herta Oberhauser was the only female tried at the Nuremberg Doctors' Trial. She worked in the Ravensbrück camp, where she would deliberately inflict wounds on inmates, then rub broken glass, wood, sawdust, and rusty metal into the wounds to simulate combat conditions. Initially sentenced to 20 years, she was let out after 10 for good behavior and set up a family practice. In 1958, a former Ravensbrück inmate recognized her, and her license to practice medicine was permanently revoked. She died in 1978.

Irma Greese was the youngest female camp guard executed after the war, at age 22. Convicted in the Bergen-Belsen trial and hanged on 13 December 1945, she was one of the few concentration camp guards who was openly, indeed shamelessly, sadistic.

Hermine Braunsteiner, known as the "Mare of Majdanek" for her habit of stomping on the backs of inmates with her steel-toed jackboots, tried to escape her Nazi past and moved to New York, only to be tracked down and deported in the late 70's with the help of Simon Wiesenthal. (She was the first ever former Nazi to be extradited from the US for trial) Her American citizenship was revoked, and in 1980, she was handed a life sentence in Germany for war crimes. (Her husband, Russell Ryan, sounding VERY much like Julius Streicher, blamed the Jews for the trial and her sentence.) She was one of the many former Nazis helped through Gudrun Himmler's Silent Assistance program and died of complications from diabetes in 1999.

6. How many children did Wilhelm Frick lose in the war?

The correct answer was A. 2

Frick served as Minister of the Interior from 1933 to 1943 and was the last governor of Bohemia and Moravia under the Nazis. Frick's eldest son, Hans, committed suicide along with his wife and children on May 3, 1945. His second-oldest, Walter, was killed in action on the Russian front in 1941. His other three children, two daughters and another son, survived the war. When asked by Nuremberg prison psychiatrist Leon Goldensohn how he felt about his sons' deaths, he merely stated, "It's the nature of life, the laws of nature, the ways of war."

7. Which child's birth was more or less declared a national holiday?

The correct answer was A. **Edda Göring**

Göring was thought for years to be sterile because of the wound he suffered in the Beer Hall Putsch (he was shot in the groin). A popular joke around Edda was that her name stood for "Emmy Dankt Dem Adjutanten!" (Emmy thanks the Adjutant!). On the occasion of Edda's birth in 1938, she was plastered on postcards, and her picture could be found throughout the Reich. Throughout the short time her father was in her life, she was pampered like the princess everyone thought she was, and the entire Luftwaffe was her Godfathers. In her later life, she stated that, unlike many other Nazi children, she didn't find her name a liability. She remained somewhat in the spotlight, occasionally meeting up with Wolf Hess and the other children of former Nazis. She also once remarked, "If only Papi had been a chocolate maker instead..."

By all accounts, Edda Göring was a beautiful little girl, and one could tell her parents loved her very much.

8. Which of Albert Speer's children went on to become a photographer after the war?

The correct answer was A. **Margret**

During the war, Albert Speer served as the Minister of Armaments and War Production for Nazi Germany. Margret Speer Nissen, Speer's fourth child, first studied architecture at the University in Heidelberg, then decided she'd rather be a photographer. Some of her most recent works can be seen in Berlin at the "Topographie des Terrors", an exhibition dedicated to the horrors of the Third Reich. Hilde Schram, his eldest daughter, is a publisher and sociologist known for her work in helping the victims of Nazi atrocities.

His eldest child, Albert, Jr., followed in his father's footsteps and became an architect.

Not much is known of Speer's other three children, Ernst, Arnold (who had been named Adolf until 1945), and Fritz.

9. Which son of a high-ranking Nazi has been decried for his graphic book about his father, "In the Shadow of the Reich", in which he called his father "a slime-hole of a Hitler fanatic"?

The correct answer was A. **Niklas Frank**

Niklas wrote the book about his father, Hans Frank, General Governor of Nazi occupied Poland. When the book was editorialized in the German magazine "Stern", it provoked outrage in countless readers, as Niklas went into very graphic detail indeed about some of the lewd acts he would commit to "commemorate" his father's death. (Many of the children of other Nazis, even those who excoriated their parents, shunned Niklas for his attitude.) He also

questioned the sincerity of his father's repentance before his death. In one portion, he asks, "How does a person like you come into being? I fish out your diary from the filth of your life. Come, father, let's go on, the two of us. Let me pluck your crown to pieces." Klaus von Schirach labeled his writings despicable, while Martin Bormann Jr., then a Catholic priest, said he would have loved to get in touch with him and speak about their fathers.

The eldest Frank son, Norman, deliberately chose not to have children, believing the line should die out. The middle child, Brigitte, died at age 46. Although she had cancer, the family believed it to be a suicide, as she was obsessed with not outliving her father. The second youngest, Michael, died at age 53 of heart failure brought on by obesity. Nothing is known about Frank's eldest daughter, Sigrid, other than that she married, had children, and moved to South Africa after the war. According to Niklas, upon hearing that her father was alright after his arrest, she contemptuously remarked, "You mean they haven't shot him yet?"

10. Which Nuremberg defendant was, among other things, upset that his daughter was expecting his first grandchild?

The correct answer was **B. Joachim von Ribbentrop**

Von Ribbentrop served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nazi Germany from 1938 to 1945. At the time of her father's detention, 22-year-old Bettina von Ribbentrop was six weeks away from giving birth to her first child. Still referring to her as his "sweet little girl", Joachim stated, "This is a terrible time for her. I don't give a darn about my own fate, but she will worry." Ribbentrop's eldest son, Rudolf, attended the Westminster School for a year when his father was the Ambassador to England. Peter Ustinov, his schoolmate, supposedly leaked his attendance at the school to "The Times", prompting Rudolf to be pulled from the school as a safety measure.

For Sale

We do have a few items for sale. They have recently been rebounded and redone. They look great and are definitely worth the price:

Mail Surveillance under the Third Reich by R.J. Houston. 35 pages. \$15.

German Feldpost Operations in the West 1940-1944 by John Painter. 2004. 60 total pages. \$20.

The War of the Springing Tiger by Jeffrey Markem is about Azad Hind stamps and the fight for India's Independence. \$10.

Composition Listing of Organic German Military Units, 1980. \$15.

Each of these is expertly written, filled with details that took scores of hours to research. All proceeds go only to the Third Reich Study Group. It is first-come, first-served, and if we get down to one copy, I will have more printed (but that could delay shipping by a week or so if it happens).

*Keep Calm and Keep
Collecting!*