



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP

Devoted to the Study
of the Postal History
of Germany 1933-1945

VOL. XLV No. 3 (Whole No. 180) 2011

DIRECTOR: Myron Fox, 4 Arbor Circle, Natick MA 01760-2953

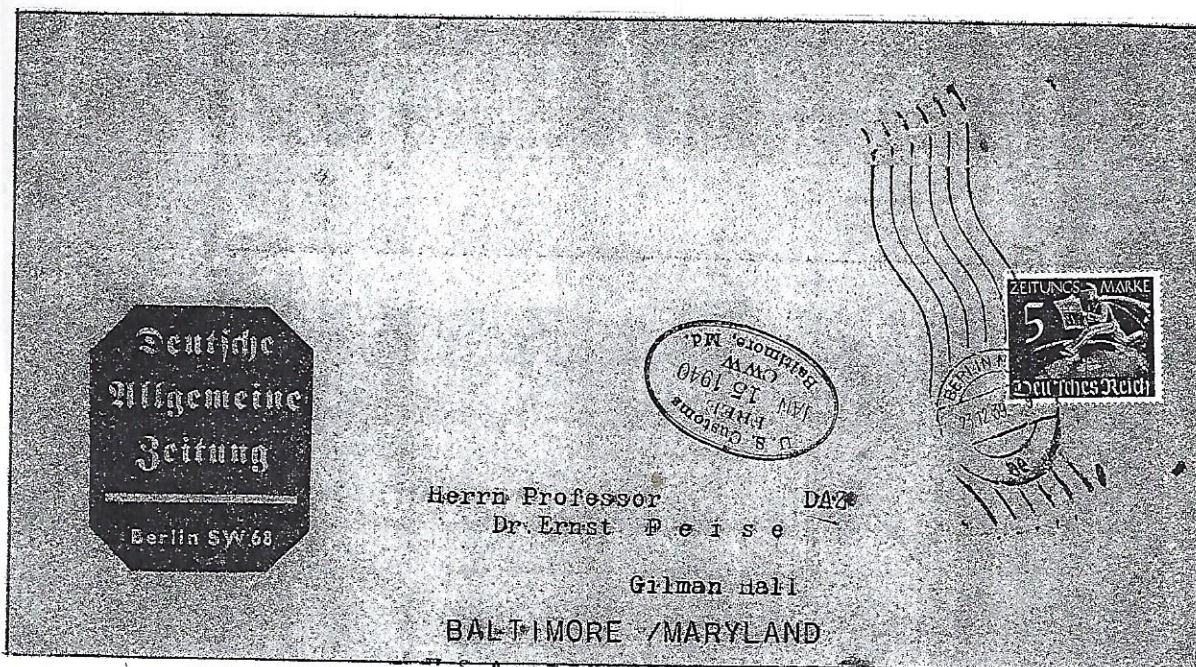
BULLETIN STAFF:

EDITOR/AUCTION MGR.: James E. Lewis, 867 Monmouth Road, Cream Ridge, NJ 08514

SECRETARY/TREASURER: James E. Lewis (Temporary)

Contents:

Page 3	Croatian in German POW Camp Follow Up - H. Laessig
Page 4	Combat Division Profile: 6th Panzer Division - J. Lewis
Page 5	Navy Log: Minesweeper M.534 'Frauenlob' - R. Dunn
Page 6	Combat Division Profile: 15th Luftwaffe Field Division - J. Lewis
Page 7	Reduced Postal Rates to Allies of the Reich - B. Ferguson
Page 11	Combat Division Profile: 7th Panzer Division - J. Lewis
Page 12	Tag der Wehrmacht and Heldengedentag Cancels - B. Ferguson
Page 14	Combat Division Profile: 8th Panzer Division - J. Lewis
Page 15	Pages from My Exhibit: The Hitler Definitive Series - W. Kurth
Page 22	Cover Rejected by Innsbruck Post Office - E. Fraser
Page 23	Story Behind the Cancel: Adalbert Stifter - K. Stefanacci
Page 24	Gunskirchen: Sub-camp of Mauthausen Concentration Camp - I. Nutley



STUDY GROUP NOTES

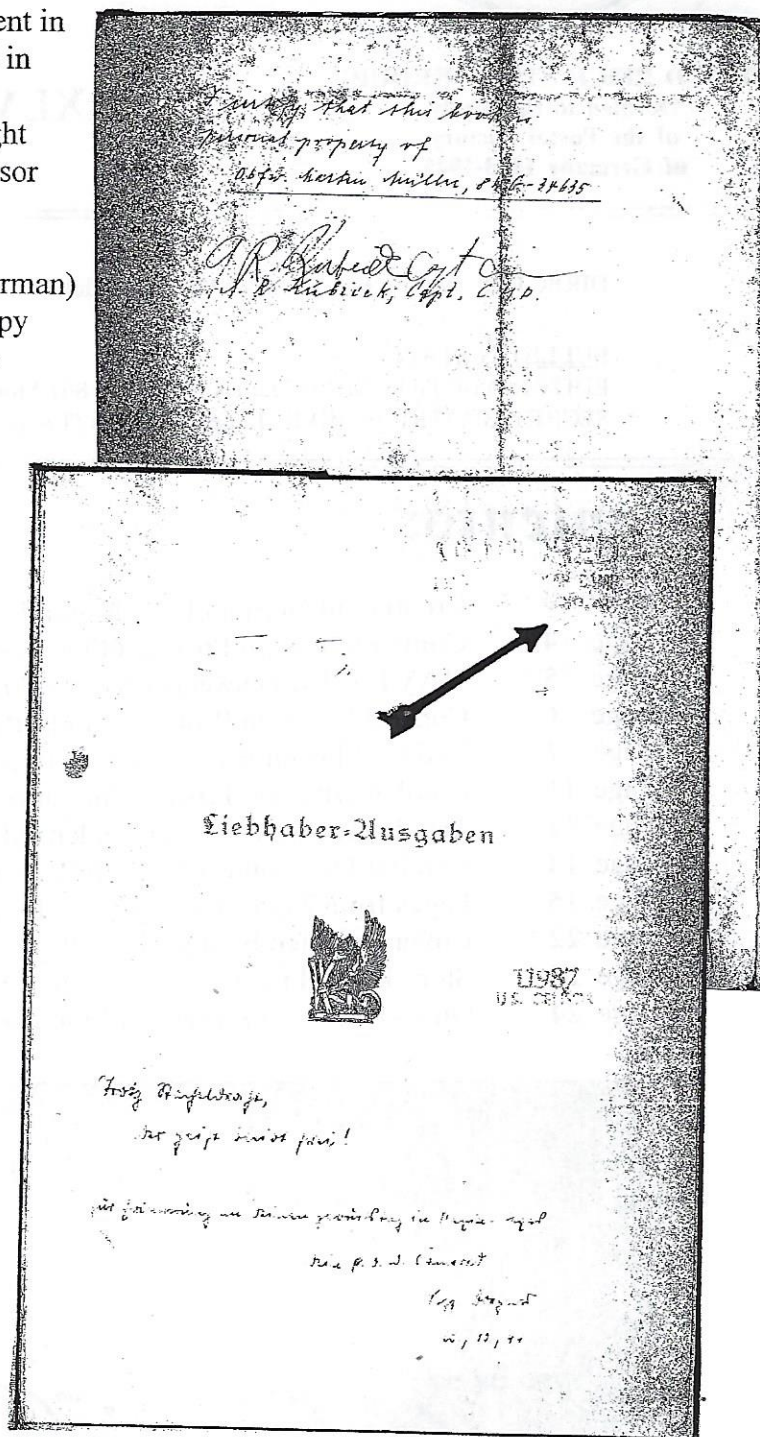
Book to German POW - TRSGer Chuck LaBlonde sent in pages from a book about Leonardo de Vinci published in Germany in 1907 and sent to a POW in the Tokawa, Oklahoma POW Camp as a birthday gift. Shown at right is the front piece (top) which has a) New York US censor No. 11987 (center), b) a faint handstamp (top arrow) "CENSORED/Prisoner of War Camp/Tokawa Okla" and c) the sender's inscription (bottom) reading (in German) "Despite the fences, the spirit remains free. In the happy remembrance of your birthday." It was apparently sent on 29 October 1944.

Of particular interest is the inscription inside the front cover (bottom) "I certify that this book is the personal property of Obfw. Martin Müller, 84G-34635" It is signed by U. S. Army Captain A. R. Kubrick.

Does anyone know how the U.S. censors decided to permit a publication to be delivered to a POW? While the 1907 book on de Vinci was allowed, would a copy of Mein Kampf have been rejected?

NOJEX 2011 - a TRSG meeting held on May 28 was chaired by Ron Morgan (Ye Olde Ed had to attend his grandson's Karate competition). Among the attendees were Henry Laessig, Keith Stupell, Jim Korsten, Fred Porter and Steve Priory. All these members attest that Ron did at least an adequate job.

Wadda Ya Wanna Know? - this "Jersey Shore" question is to make our newer members aware that our study group is chock full of members with knowledge pertaining to all aspects of Third Reich philately. So, if you need any info to further your enjoyment of our hobby, please me know and I'll post your inquiry in the next bulletin.



Cover Illustration: This is bedarfspost usage of the 5 Pfg. 1939 Newspaper stamp (Mi. Z-738) on a wrapper enclosing a copy of the *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*. This stamp was only valid for sending newspapers from Germany to foreign destinations. Cancelled at Berlin NW 7 P.O. on December 23, 1939, the newspaper is addressed to a college professor in Baltimore, Maryland. Note the oval front stamp "U.S. Customs Free, Baltimore, Md., Jan. 15, 1940". Thanks to TRSGer Bob Ferguson for sharing this very nice item with us.

Croatian in German POW Camp Follow Up.

by Henry Laessig

On page 5 in Bulletin 177 I requested an explanation for the cover sent to a Croatian in Stalag VIIB. Recently I was looking through some old photocopies of covers offered by a dealer and may have a possible answer as to how Croat (Serb) military came to be in POW camps in Germany.

The dealer write up for the cover shown below reads:

Croatia - Forerunner

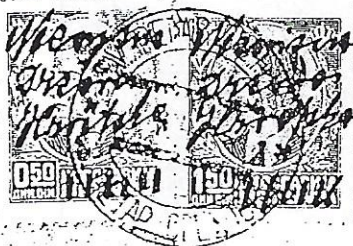
1941. Large yellow envelope to Belgrade (A O.K. 2 Abteilung I.C. , to attention of Colonel Zarka Veric), franked with 0d50 orange and 1d50 scarlet, both of last definitive issue of Kingdom of Yugoslavia, manuscripted "Nezavisna/Drzava/Hrvatska" on each stamp and six vertical bars over the old name (in style of first Croatian overprints) tied by large double circled "SVETI PETAR OREHOVEC, 9.V.41". An excellent and scarce example of use of Provisionals from a very small office,

N.B. As a German speaker, Colonel Veric was appointed by the German authorities as a Chief Officer of Prisoner of War Enquiry Office because the Germans took a large number of Kingdom soldiers and officers to various POW camps in Germany and other locations of German controlled areas.

A O.K. 2. Abteilung I.C. H
na ruke pukovnika Žarka Verića

~~BEOGRAD~~

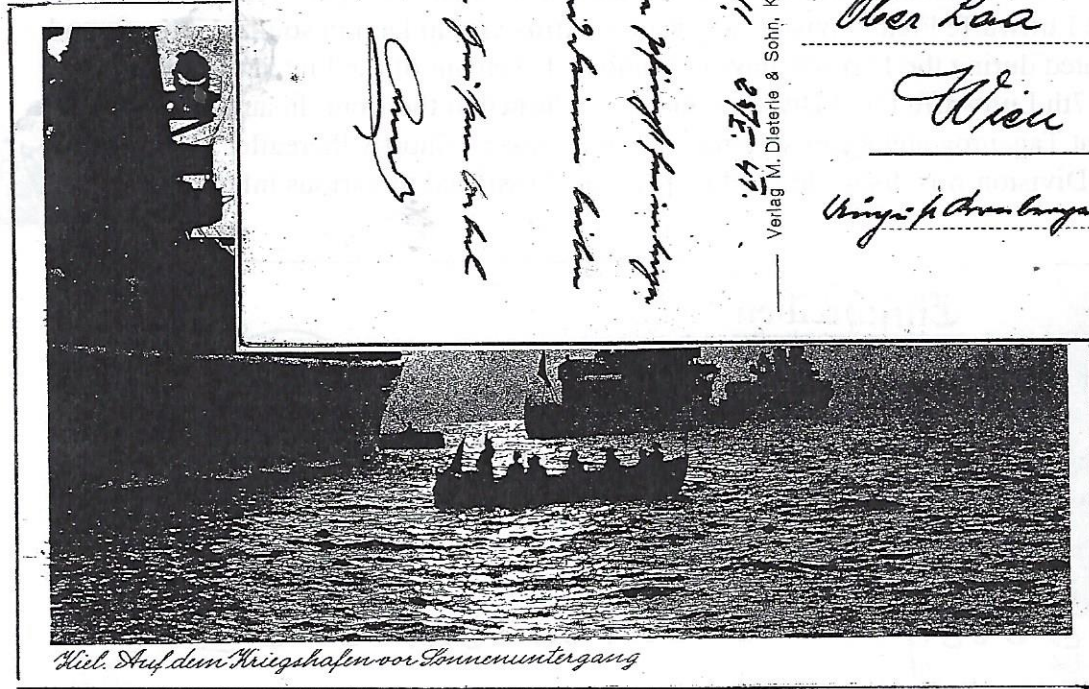
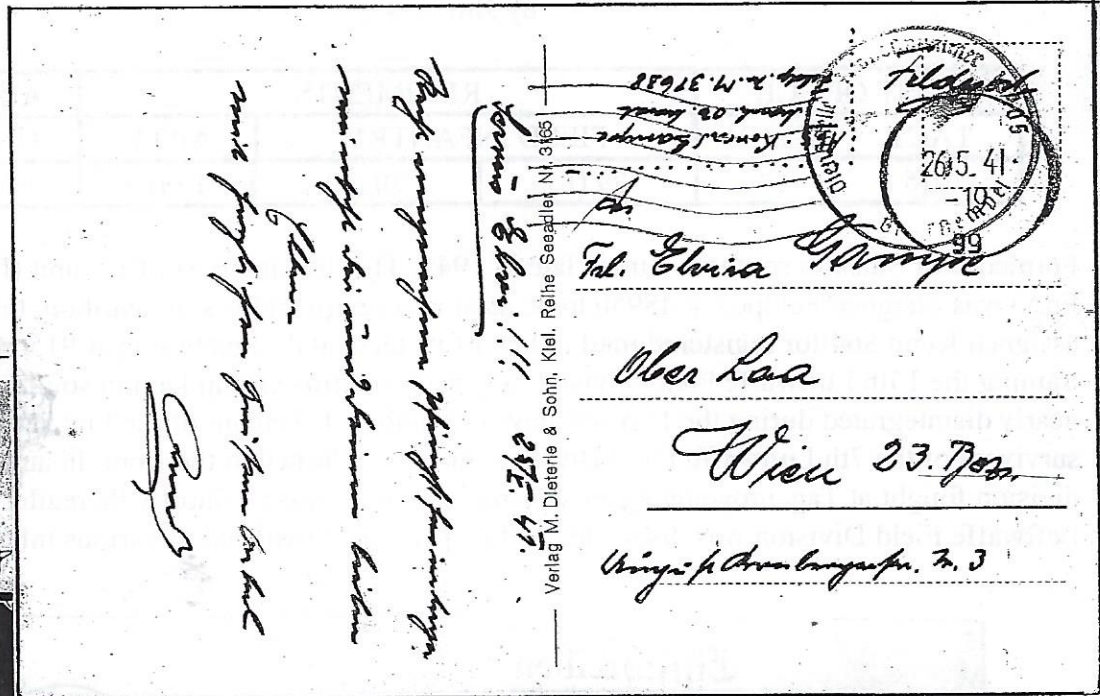
~~BEOGRAD~~



NAVY LOG

by Robert Dunn

Minesweeper M.534 "Frauenlob" - Feldpost # 31638



Minesweeper *Frauenlob* M.134 (Type 1915-1916) built by Frerichs (Einswarden) and launched July 28, 1919. Re-named *Junginden* (1939) and served as station tender for motor minesweepers. Re-designated M.534 in 1940 and assigned to 4th Minesweeper Flotilla Accompanied Group 11 in the invasion of Denmark. Bombed by Allied aircraft in Bergen in May 1941. Repaired then retired from service on September 27, 1943. Captured by U.S. Navy in 1945

Displacement: 515 tons; speed: 14 knots; armament: one 4.1" gun and three 20mm AA guns. Crew: 51

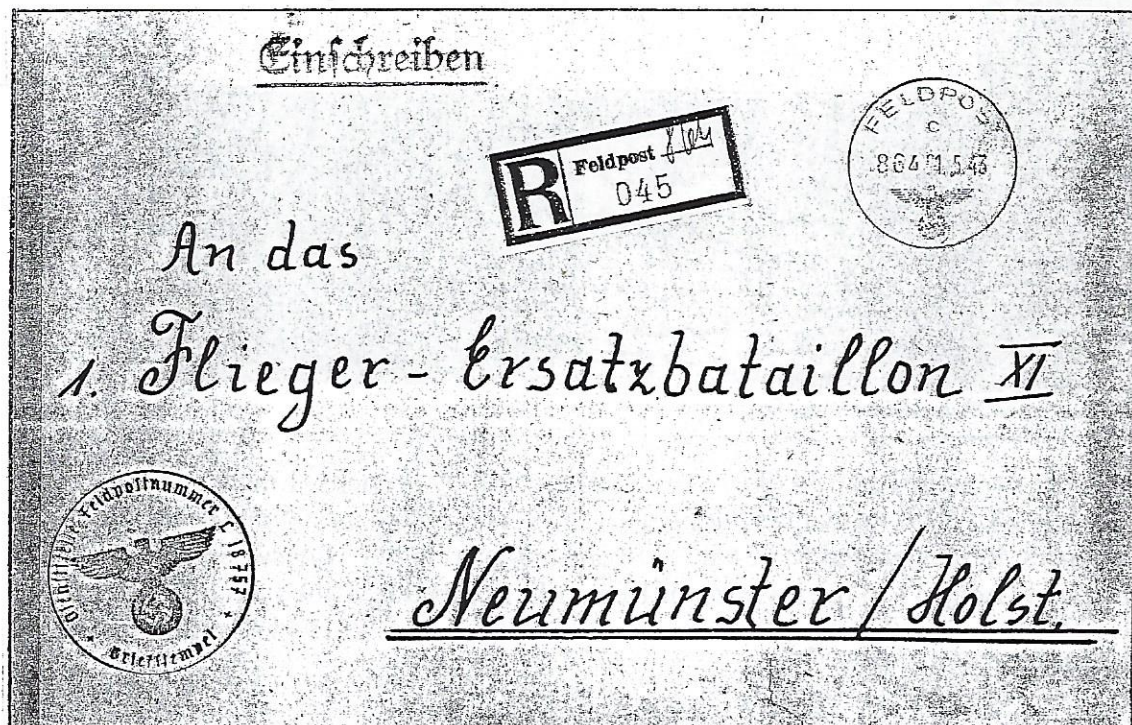
Postcard mailed in May 1941 from Minelayer *Nympha* (Fp.# 13405) by M.534 crew member who added manuscript name "Conrad Gampa" and Fp.# 37638 to left of Dienstsiegel.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 15th Luftwaffe Field Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	FIELD INFANTRY		ARTY	UNITS
915	864	29 (L)	30 (L)	15 (L)	15 (L)

Formed near Salsk in southern Russia late in 1942. The division post office unit (Feldpostamt or FpA) was assigned Feldpost # 48950 to be used as a return address. In addition, this post office was assigned Kenn 864 for registered mail in lieu of its tactical designation FpA 915. After completion of training the 15th Luftwaffe Field Division was sent to Army Group Don in southern Russia and nearly disintegrated during the first few days of combat. Taken out of the line, it absorbed the survivors of the 7th Luftwaffe Field Division and was returned to the front. In autumn 1943 the division fought at Taganrog and again suffered very high losses. Shortly thereafter the 15th Luftwaffe Field Division was disbanded and its personnel assigned to various infantry divisions.



Cover sent to Flier Replacement Battalion XI in Neumünster in May 1943 from Fp. # L18757 (Group I of Combat Command 27) via division P.O. 915 (K-864).

Reduced Postal Rates to Allies of the Reich

by Bob Ferguson

Wartime covers to allied countries make an interesting collection. In 1942 some basic postal rates to allied countries (except Japan) were reduced to German inland rates. Below are the dates of reduction:

Allied Country	Date of rate changes
Bulgaria	1. September 1942 - 15. September 1944
Croatia	1 July 1942
Finland	1 April 1942 - 29. September 1944
Hungary	1. July 1942
Italy	1. January 1942
Romania	15. July 1942 - 12. September 1944
Slovakia	1. September 1942

Fig. 1) Bulgaria - preprinted "Deutsche Reichsbahn" (German National Railway) cover to Sarantzi, Bulgaria posted in Dresden on July 28, 1944 was passed unopened by the Vienna censor office per the "Ag" transit marking. Cover was back stamped in Sarantzi on August 7, 1944.

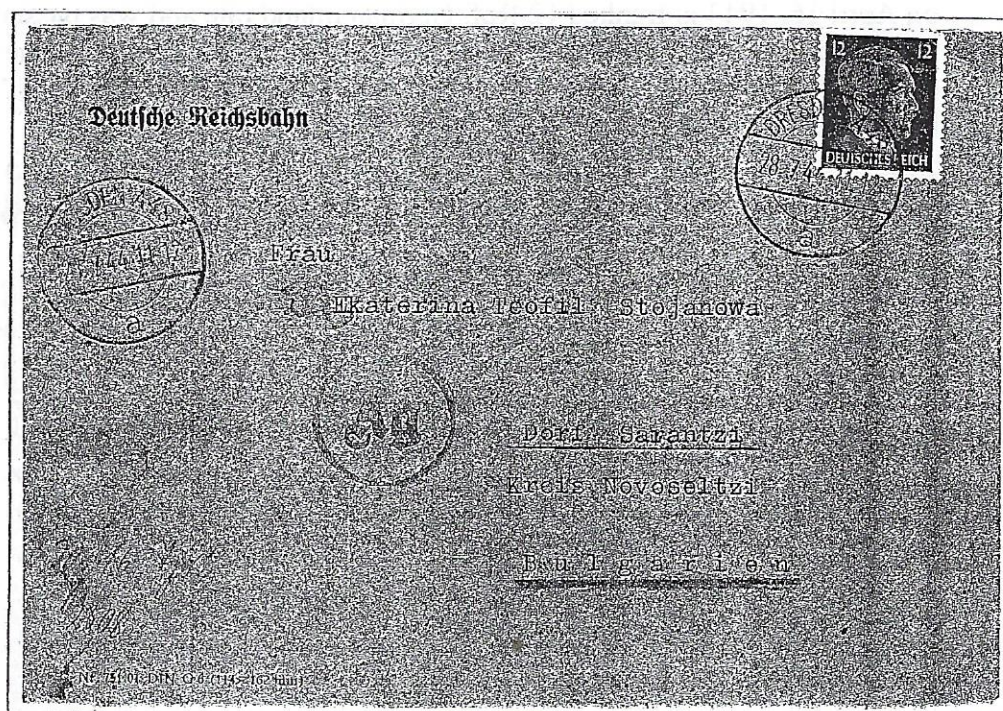


Fig. 2) Croatia - express cover to Zagreb, Croatia posted in Cologne on October 22, 1942 is franked with 62 Rpf (12 Rpf. reduced letter rate for weight 0-20gm) and 50 (foreign express delivery fee). Note: the letter rate (but not the express fee) to Croatia was reduced to German inland rate on July 1, 1942. This cover was opened and resealed at Cologne censor office (Code 'c').

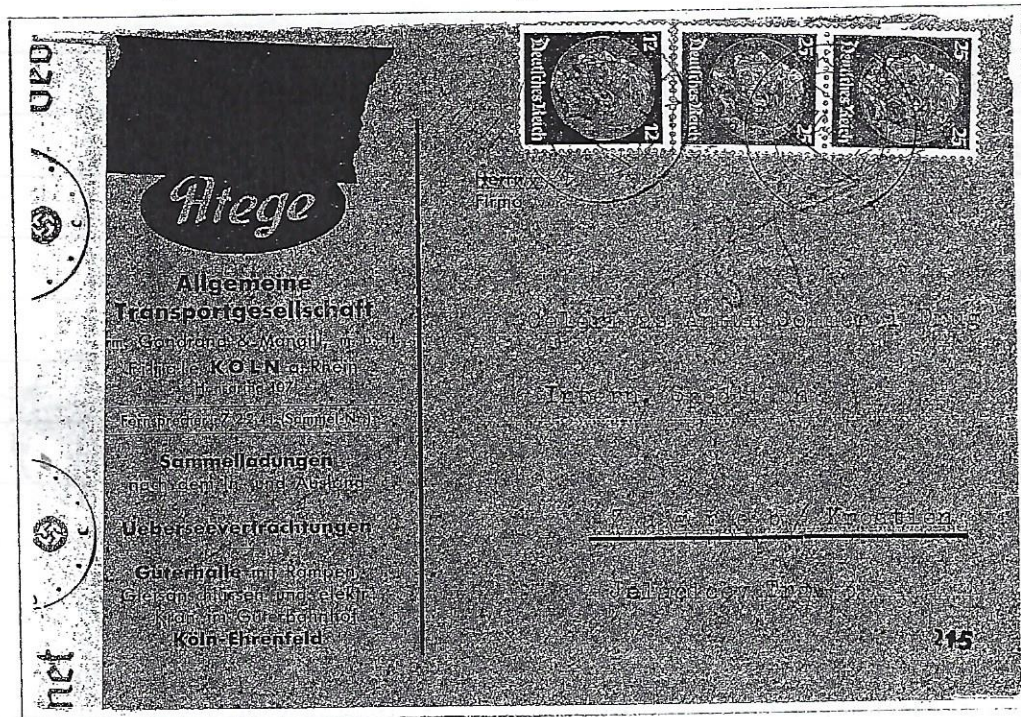


Fig. 3) Finland - cover to Helsinki, Finland posted in Reichenberg (Sudetenland) on April 16, 1943 is franked 12 Rpf. German inland rate and was passed unopened by Berlin censor office per the "Ab" transit marking. Note the double circle Finnish receiving mark "GRANSKAT TARKASTETTU" below the Reichenberg cancel.

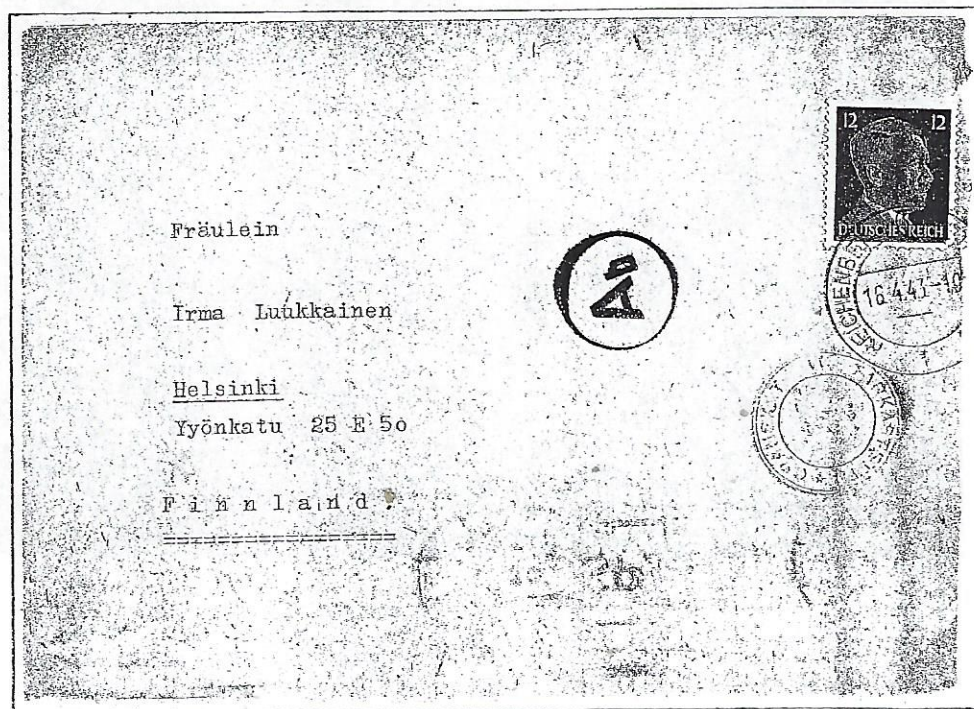


Fig. 4) Hungary - postal card to Budapest, Hungary posted in Dietfurt a. Altmühl
 On May 25, 1944 is franked with 6 Rpf German postal card rate.
 The card has machine mark of Vienna censor office (Code 'g').

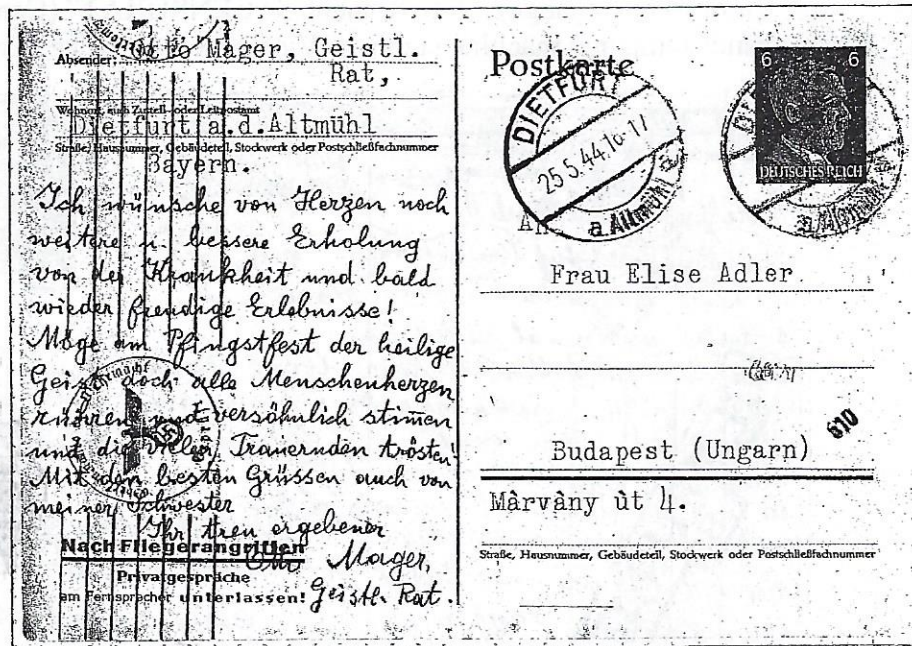


Fig. 5) Italy - cover to Messina, Sicily posted in Vienna on October 28, 1942 is franked with 12 Rpf. This cover was opened and resealed at Munich censor office (Code 'd').

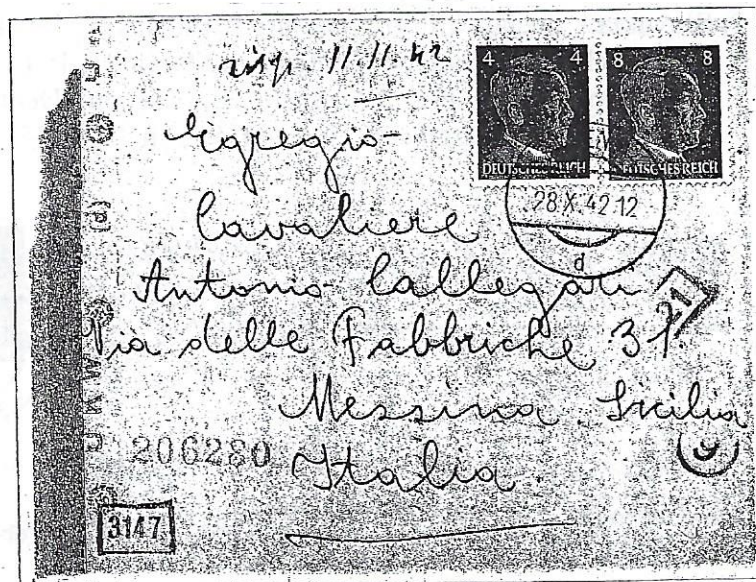


Fig. 6) Romania - reply half of German postal card to Augsburg, Germany was posted in Timisoara, Romania on September 3, 1941 (prior to rate change). Note Romanian "CENSURAT" (Censor) hand stamp and machine stamp of Vienna censor office (Code 'g').



Fig. 7) Slovakia - postal card to Pressburg (Bratislava) Slovakia posted in Deutsch Reichenau bei Gratzen on March 31, 1945 is franked with 6 Rpf German postal card rate . Note second Deutsch Reichenau bei Gratzen cancel dated March 31, 1945.



Tag der Wehrmacht and Heldengedentag Cancels

by Bob Ferguson

In 1933 "Volkstrauertag" was renamed "Heldengedentag" (roughly translated as "Memory of Heroes Day"). The event became a significant propaganda occasion but was abandoned after 1945 because of its association with National Socialism.

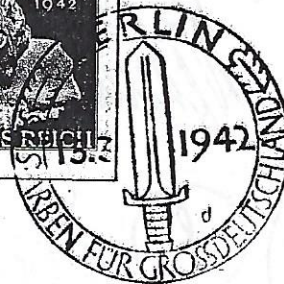
The numbering scheme for these cancels is in Julius Bochmann's **Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel**.

Anklam # 2	Tag der Wehrmacht/Fliegerhorst Anklam	March 19, 1939
Berlin # 302	Tag der Wehrmacht 19.3.1939	March 19, 1939
Dresden # 88	Tag der Wehrmacht/Inf. Rgt. 10	March 19, 1939
Chemnitz # 29	Tag der Wehrmacht 19.3.1939	March 19, 1939
Dresden # 94	Tag der Wehrmacht/Inf. Ers. Rgt. 4	March 17, 1940
Dresden # 98	Tag der Wehrmacht/Inf. Ers. Rgt. 56	March 23, 1941
Berlin # 371 Munche # 172 Wien # 94	uniform text: Heldengedentag - Sie starben für Grossdeutschland	March 15, 1942
Berlin # 372, Dresden # 102 Dresden # 103 Hagen # 11. Kempten # 2 Munche # 173 Wien # 95	uniform text: Tag der Wehrmacht	March 29, 1942





GEDENKBLATT
 ZUM
 HELDEN-GEDENKTAG
 15. 3. 1942



KREUZER

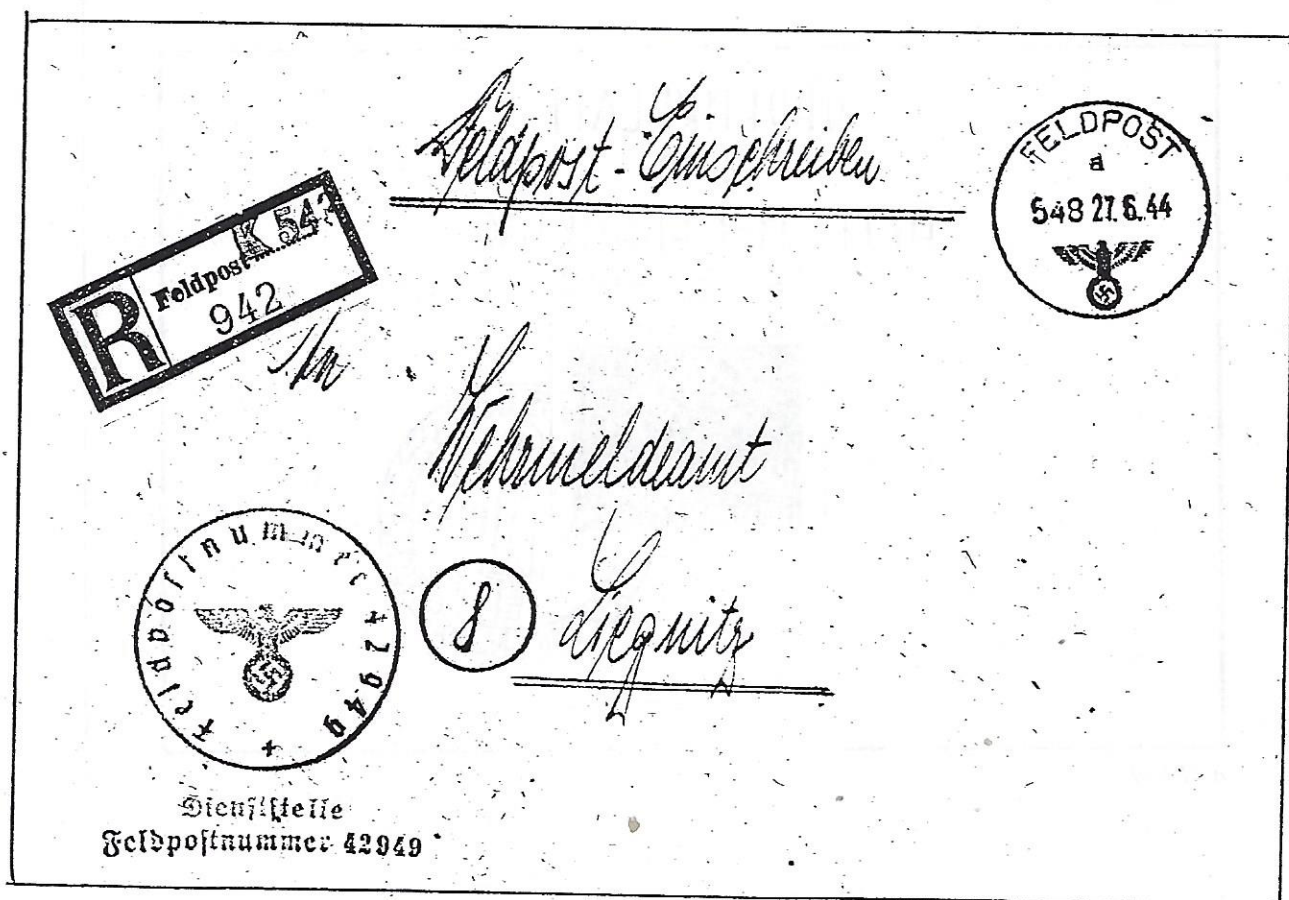
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:**8th Panzer Division**

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
59	548	10	8	28	80	59

Initially formed as 3rd "Leichte" Division, it included the 67th Panzer Battalion, the 8th & 9th Motorized Cavalry Regiments and a recon unit. After Polish campaign, converted to 8th Panzer Division in winter of 1939-40. Equipped with inferior Czech tanks, it fought with XLI Motorized Corps in France and suffered heavy losses in the Battle of the Meuse Crossings. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 27559 as a return address and Kenn 548 as a coded identity. It fought in Balkan campaign in April 1941, then invaded Russia with Army Group North and took part in the drive on Leningrad. It fought in the battles of Divinsk, Luga, Ilmen and Novgorod.

The next year it fought in the defensive battles of Army Group Center and was transferred to the southern sector after the Kursk offensive failed. That autumn it suffered heavy losses in the withdrawal from Kiev. It remained in combat in 1944, fighting in the northern Ukraine, in southern Poland and in Slovakia. The 8th Panzer Division was sent to Hungary in December 1944 and then retreated to Austria in 1945. It ended the war in the southern sector.



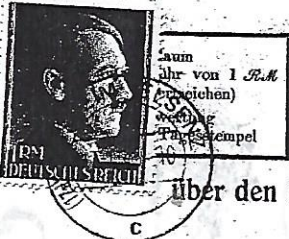
Cover sent to Military Records Office in Liegnitz in August 1944 from
Fp. # 42949 (Co. 5, Panzer Aufklarungs Abtl. 8) via P.O. 59 (K-584).

POSTAL DOCUMENTS

A postal document is described here as any documentation pertaining to postal services, identification, passes, and permits.

Statement on the standing order for philatelic items from the Philatelic Agency.

Fee for the service - 1 RM.



Laun
uhr von 1 RM
(Anzeichen)
Tagesstempel

Ausweis Nr. ⁶³ ~~125~~
über den Dauerbezug von Sonderwertzeichen*)
Dienstmarken

Name: Ad. Adam

Wohnung: St. Pauli

Bedingungen:

- Sonderwünsche können nicht berücksichtigt werden.
- Neuausgaben werden nur gegen Vorlage dieses Ausweises ausgehändigt. Sie sind innerhalb von 2 Wochen vom 1. Ausgabetag an abzuholen; andernfalls entfällt der Anspruch. Die Abgabe der Marken wird durch Abdruck des Tagesstempels (Rückseite) bescheinigt.
- Bei geringeren Auflagen von Sondermarken kann die Zuteilung beschränkt werden.
- Nach der 20. Ausgabe von Sondermarken kann der Antrag gegen Zahlung einer Gebühr von 1 RM erneuert werden.
- Bei Verlust oder mißbräuchlicher Benutzung des Ausweises wird kein Ersatz geleistet.

*) Nichtzutreffendes streichen.

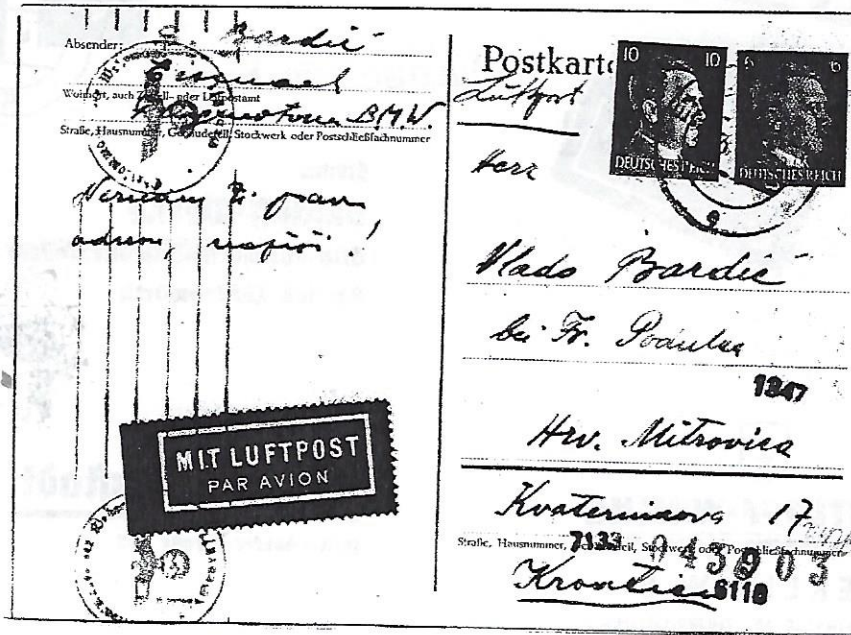
Ⓢ (6.43)

Bestellt
(Stückzahlen in Buchstaben)
Satz 5
Sondermarken
Dienstmarken
Postkarten



Δ C 230 zu 4 Din A 3, 6c60

K.L. WEIMER - BUCHENWALD
Sub camp
EISENACH BMW FLUGMOTORENWERKE



UKRAINIAN LABOR CAMP MAIL

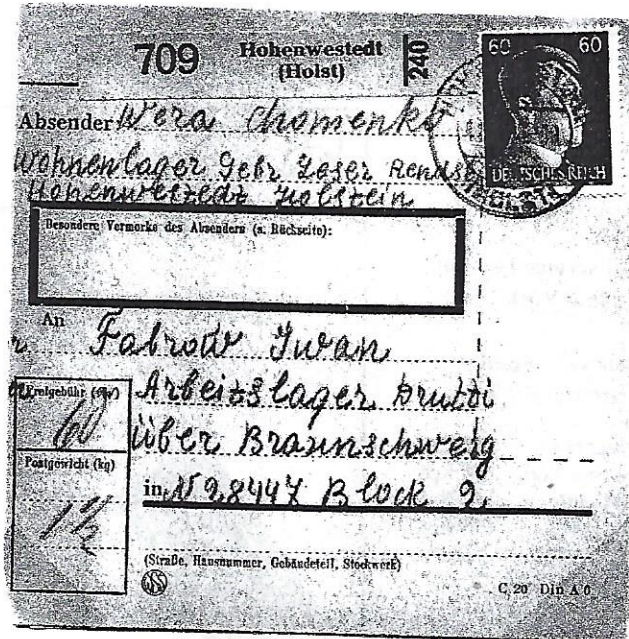
K.L. NEUENGAMME
sub camps

HONENARBEITERLAGER
(Hohenwestedt/Holstein)

to

ARBEITERLAGER DRUTTE
(uber Braunschweig)

Labor camp.2



Page 31 Air Mail Rate - 5 Pf. per 20 grams

Air 15 Pf(+ 40 grams) + Inland Delivery 24 Pf(20-100 grams) + Registration 30 Pf= 0.69 RM

Einschreiben




Siema
Gustloff-Werke
Otto-Eberhardt-Patronenfabrik
Betrieb Lichtenwörth



BERLIN W 8
MOHRENSTRASSE 65, THORINGENHAUS

Wiener-Neustadt
Dottendorfer Straße 162






Airmail service beyond
New York

Hannover - Seattle
17 September 1941

Foreign letter rate	0.25 Rpf.
Airmail to New York	0.40 Rpf.
Airmail to Seattle	0.10 Rpf.
Total	0.75 Rpf.

Mit Luftpost nach Nordamerika
und in Amerika weiter mit Luftpost.

Frau
Ellen-Inge Tebrich
831 - 14th Ave.
Seattle (Wash.)
U.S.A.

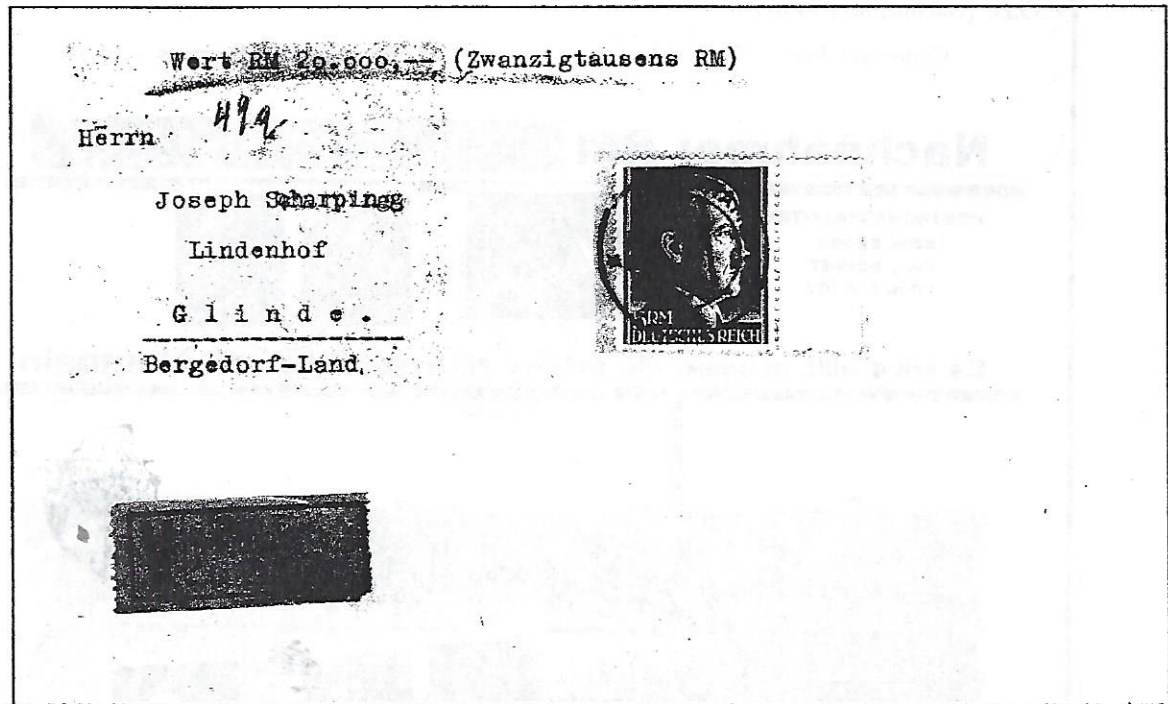
58

892
936 - 3874 = 9773

Artur Jsrael Kaufmann, Hannover, Oestr. 8
Referer: Kurt Jsrael Hünerberg, Hannover, Herschelst

October 17, 1944

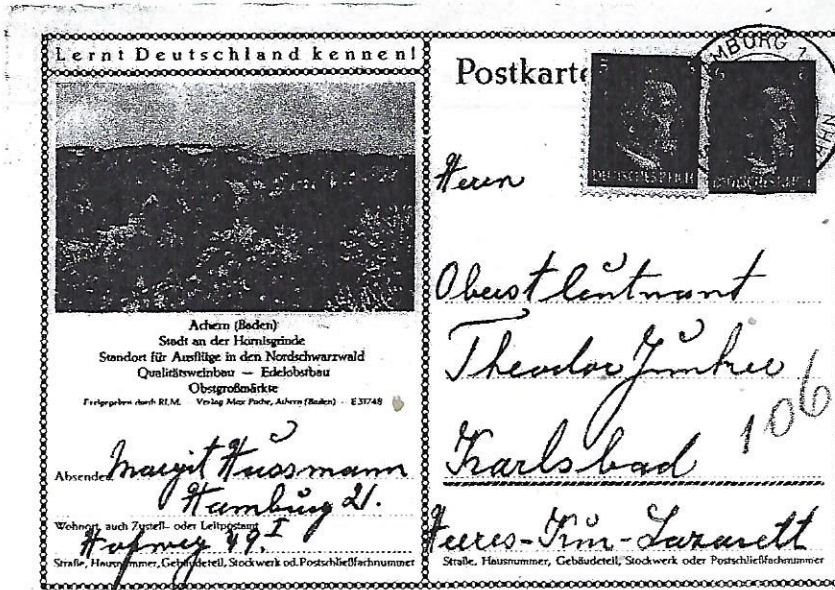
Value - RM.20.000 Weight - 49 grams Postal Fee - RM. 4.74
Letter rate to 100 gram 0.24 Pf. + Insurance 4.00 RM. + Handling fee 0.50 Pf. = 4.74 RM.



HAMBURG STREET CAR MAIL (Strassenbahn)

The collection of mail via the Hamburg Street Car (Strassenbahn) was introduced on 1 September, 1920. Mail boxes were fixed to the rear of street cars that serviced the main railroad station - Hamburg 1. The boxes were emptied at 10 minute intervals.

Strassenbahn fee - 5 Pf.



C.O.D. (Nachnahme) Letter

Collection Fee - 20 pf.

Letter rate to 20 grams - 12 pf.

Nachnahme: RM

4,75

Vier

72/00

POSTSCHECKKONTEN:

Köln 98902

Prag 501947

Wien 120767



Es wird höfl. gebeten die Briefmarken sauber zu stempeln

Nachnahme: 11,27 Rm. (elf Rm. 27 Pf.)

Einschreiben

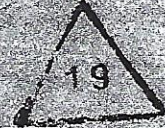


ale

Herr Barthel s

R Luxemburg 1
076

Seehof b. Galbe/Saale



Briefmarkenversand

Karl BORMES

LUXEMBURG

Montaray-Allee 19 - I. Stock

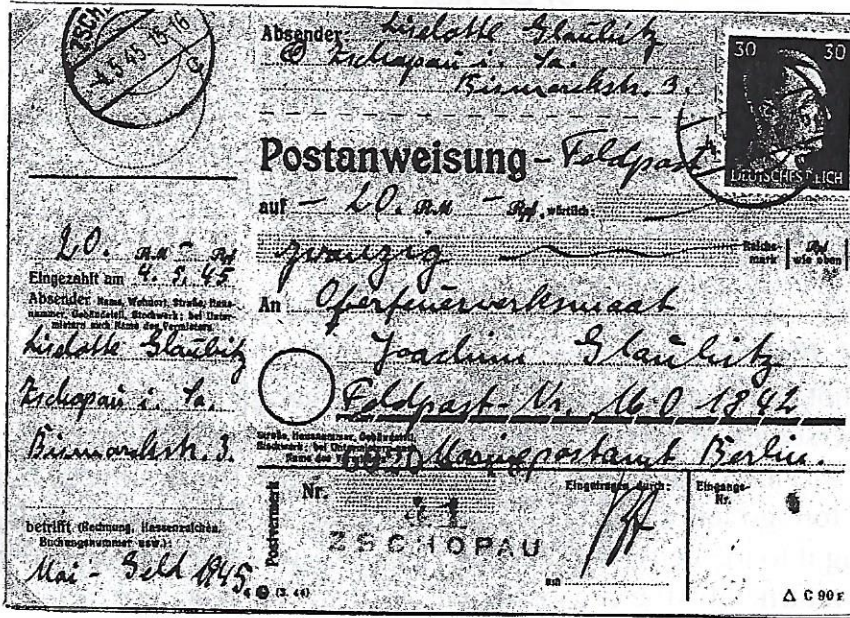
Postcheckkonto: 11725 (Luxbg.)

Collection Fee - 20 Pf. Letter rate to 20 grams - 12 Pf. Registration - 30 Pf.

Feldpost - Money order

4 May 1945

Addressed to Feldpost Nr. 1842 Marine postamt - Berlin



Message on reverse "Uns geht es gut, bisher noch alles ruhig!"
"It goes well with us (we're alright), up to now everything is quiet."

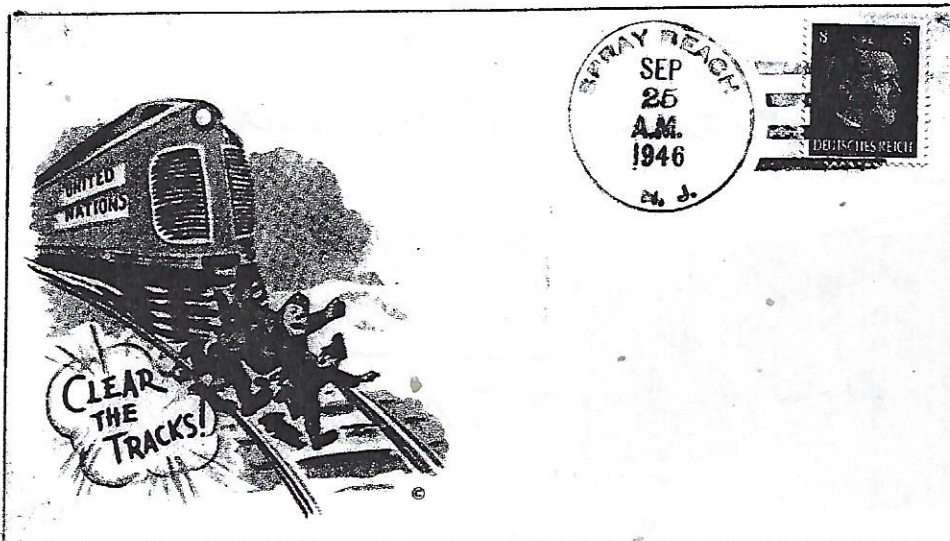
*Uns geht es gut, bisher noch
alles ruhig! Herzlichst Lilo.*

The Amtsblatts of 3 January 1945 and 22 January 1945 announced restrictions on various categories of mail within Germany. By April most types of mail to or from Berlin were forbidden, but postal money orders were not restricted in anyway. They also filled the role of post cards between April and August 1945.

Souvenir Cover of World War II

Use of the 8 Pf. value to create a souvenir of World War II on one of several patriotic/propaganda envelopes created in 1942 by Jacques Minkus.

25 September, 1946



It would appear that a philatelist found a friendly postal clerk in Spray Beach, New Jersey.

Cover Rejected by Innsbruck Post Office

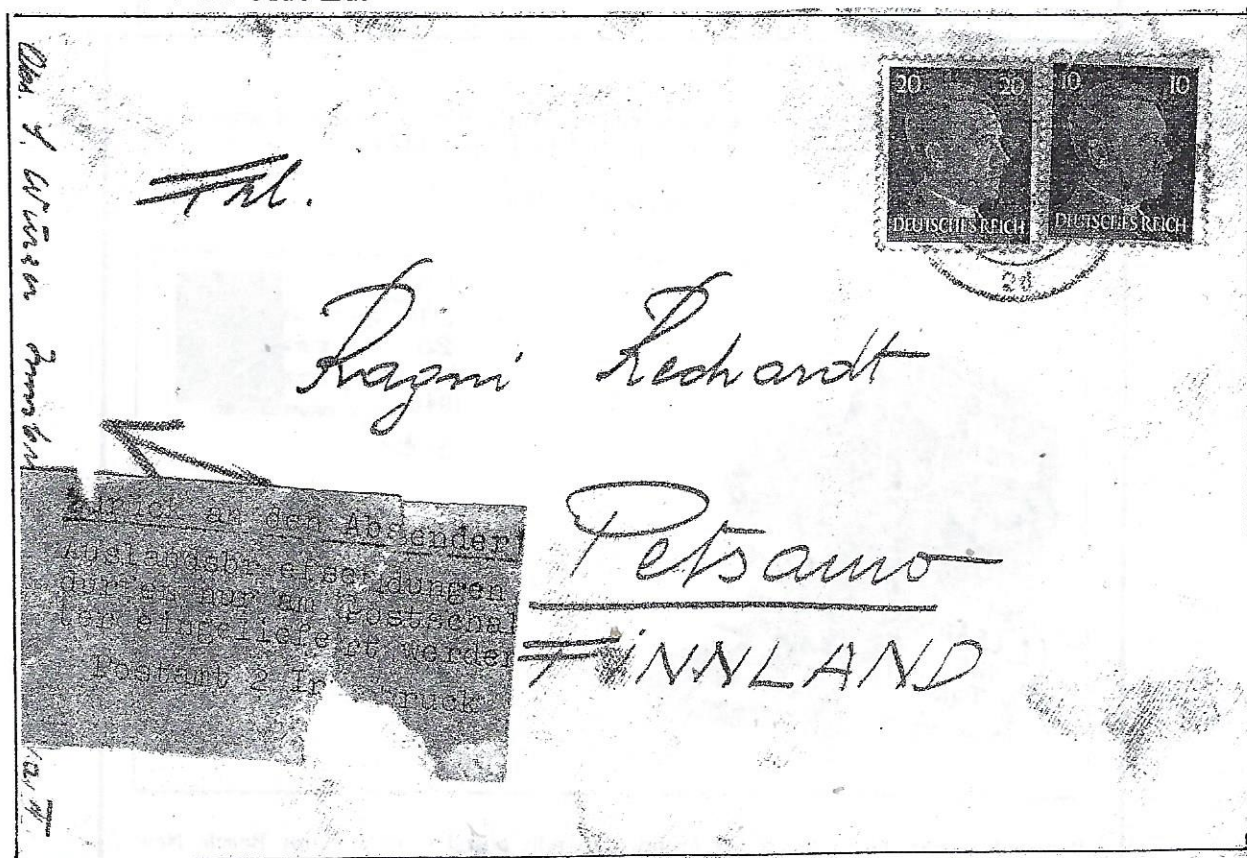
by Ed Fraser

This cover addressed to Petsamo, Finland appears at first glance to have been returned by a censor office. However, while there are no censor office markings, there is a paper label reading: "Zurück an den Absender! /Auslanderbriefsendungen dürfen nur am Postschalter eingeliefert werden/ Postamt 2 Innsbruck". [Return to Sender!/mail to foreign countries must be submitted at a postal counter].

I sent a copy of this cover to Horst Landsman, author of *:Die Zensur von Zivilpost in Deutschland in 2. Weltkrieg* and received his comments:

"Germans were not allowed to post private letters to foreign countries through letter boxes. They had to be personally delivered at a P.O. counter, the sender's i.d. card presented [see example on p.19 in TRSG Bulletin # 179 - Ye Olde Ed] and the postage stamps affixed by a postal clerk. If a foreign letter was found in a letterbox, the P.O. was supposed to return it before forwarding it to the censorship office. This rule was often neglected, so that many such letters were also returned by the censor office. As many hand stamps and labels are anonymous, it's often impossible to know where they were used, but in this case it's clear that the rejection label was applied by the Innsbruck P.O. 2. As such markings were used in conjunction with censorship rules, even if not by the censorship office itself, I list them in my book in the chapter titled "Postalische Vermerke".

Because the cancel on this cover is very light, I can only make out "12.5." with the year date indecipherable. If any member has cards or covers with similar post office markings, please send to them to Ye Olde Ed.



Story Behind the Cancel: Adalbert Stifter

by Kelly Stefanacci

Adalbert Stifter (Oct. 23, 1805- January 28, 1868) was born in Horní Plana (now in the Czech Republic), the eldest son of Johann Stifter, a wealthy linen weaver, and his wife Magdalena. Johann died in 1817 after being crushed by a wagon. Adalbert was educated at the Benedictine Gymnasium in Kresmünster then at the University of Vienna where he studied law in 1826. He married Amalia Monhaupt in 1835 but the marriage was not a happy one as she could not conceive. They tried adopting several of Amalia's nieces at different times. One of these children ran away and another, Julia, disappeared and was found drowned in the Danube four weeks later.

Adalbert became a tutor to the aristocracy of Vienna and was highly regarded. He also published his first study "Der Condor" in 1840, which became an immediate success and inaugurated a steady writing career. The majority of his works are long stories and short novels characterized by the pursuit of beauty and his characters move in gorgeous landscapes. Evil, cruelty and suffering rarely appear in his writings. One of his major works, "Den Nachsommer" (Indian Summer) published in 1857, was named by Friedrich Nietzsche as one of the two best German novels of the 19th century. His works, depicting natural landscapes, have long been popular in the German speaking world but are almost entirely unknown to English readers.

Fig. 1) Adalbert Stifter circa 1860

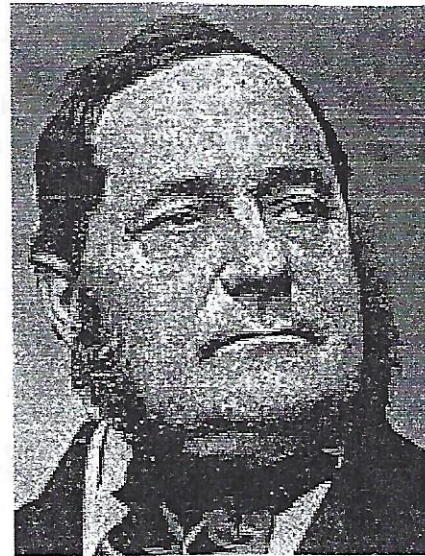


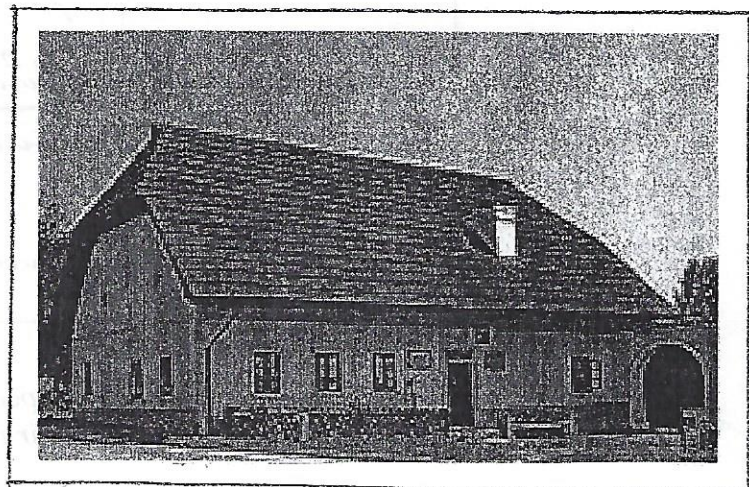
Fig. 3)

Adalbert's physical and mental health began to deteriorate when he became seriously ill from cirrhosis of the liver in 1867. Depressed from his condition, on the night of January 25, 1868 he slashed his neck with a straight razor and died two days later.

In 1971 the British poet W. H. Auden published "Academic Graffiti", a collection of clerihew (four line humorous rhyming poems) spoofing European authors that included this immortal tribute:
 "Adalbert Stifter/Was no weight lifter/He would
 hire old lags/To carry his bags."

On July 29, 1944 the Oberplan (formerly Horní Plana) post office used the special cancel shown below (Fig. 2) depicting Adalbert Stifter's birth house.

A photo card of the actual house, which was apparently modernized to replace the thatched roof with shingles, is shown at right as Fig. 3.



Gunskirchen:

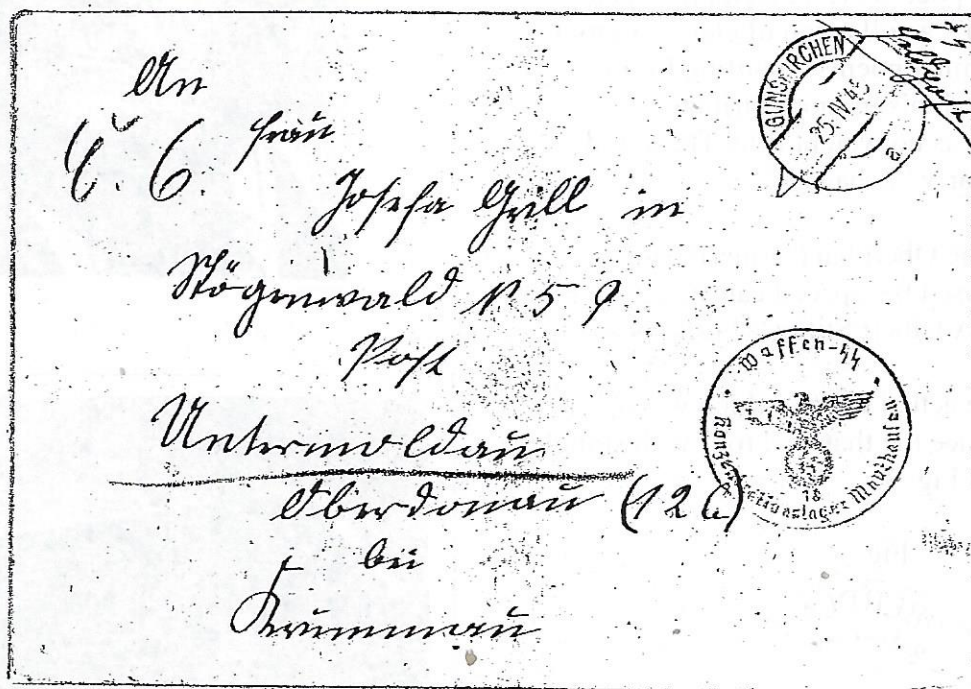
A Little -Known Sub-Camp of Mauthausen Concentration Camp

by Ian Nutley

Mauthausen, together with its principle sub-camp Gusen, was the only concentration camp set up in Austria (later known as the Ostmark) after the Anschluss. Established on August 8, 1938, Mauthausen eventually had over 60 sub-camps and was one of the worst places in the entire concentration camp system for working inmates to death. It had a particularly high mortality rate. It is estimated that some 199,000 prisoners passed through the Dante-esque establishment and that approximately 119,000 of them, including 38,100 Jews, died..

On April 4, 1945 about 17,000 Hungarian Jews remaining in Mauthausen were evacuated to a camp some 26 miles to the southwest called Gunskirchen, near Wels. This camp, under the command of SS Oberscharführer Heger, originally provided a labor force for the buildings department (Bauleitung) in Oberdonau. Before this influx the population of Gunskirchen was just 376. The systematic slaughter of the Hungarians began almost immediately. The camp ceased to function on April 27, 1945 and when the U.S. Army arrived on May 6, only 5,419 inmates remained alive. It is almost certain that during this short period the inmates were not allowed any mail privileges.

The cover show below, bearing a Gunskirchen postmark dated April 25, 1945, was posted just two days before the camp ceased operations. It bears the Waffen SS unit handstamp of Mauthausen Concentration Camp and was sent via SS Feldpost by an NCO named Grill, a member of the camp staff. It seems very likely that the amount of mail surviving from this very short-lived camp is extremely small. It must be a very rare cover but such items are not easy to recognize and are always worth looking for.



Ed Note: This article, with small changes, first appeared in the July 2001 News Sheet of the Third Reich Study Group (U.K.) It appears here with their permission for which we are most grateful.