



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP
Devoted to the Study
of the Postal History
of Germany 1933-1945

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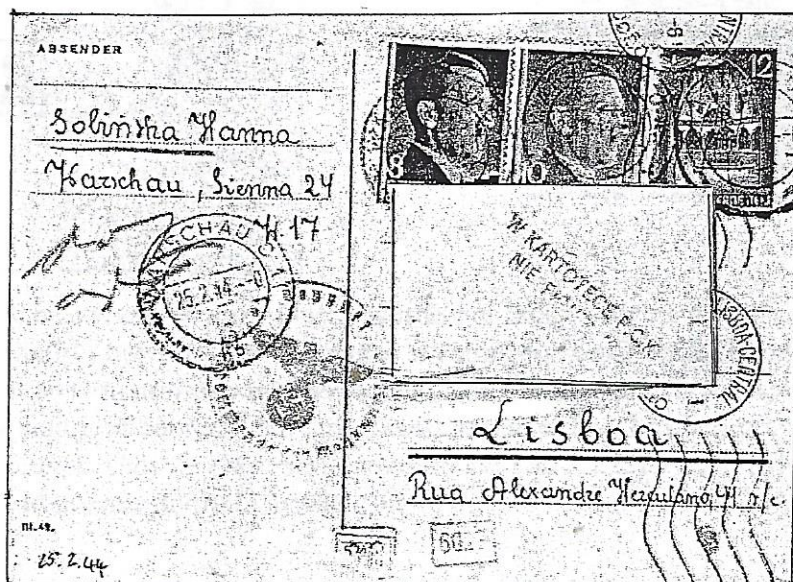
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STUDY GROUP NOTES

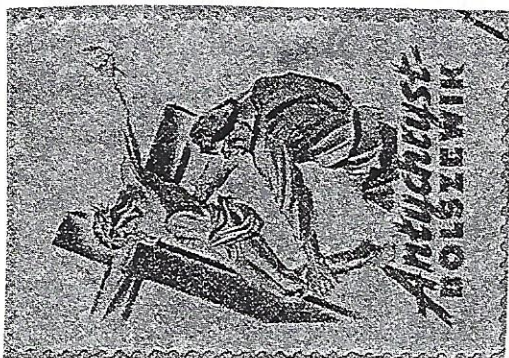
Zschopau- Ben Beede writes: "In my article appearing in Bulletin # 185 I noted that 1933 through 1936 editions of the Reichspost Ortsverzeichnis (post office list) lists the **Zschopau 2 DKW**. I have just acquired some more editions of the Ortsverzeichnis and find this post office also listed in the 1932 edition but not in the 1929 edition. Unfortunately, I do not have the 1930 and 1931 editions as yet but the office was apparently established in one of these years."

Recommended/Registered Mail - Ben Beede again: "In Bulletin # 183, Kelly Stefanacci asked about the "R" on German registration labels. The story is a long one that goes back to the Thurn und Taxis era. Registration was not a standard service at one time. Instead, one postmaster, upon payment of a private fee, would "recommend" to other postmasters that a given piece of mail be given especially careful treatment. The first "R" stood for "recommendare" in Latin, then "raccomando" in Italian, and still later the term was translated into French and German. All of this is discussed in Konrad Schwarz's *Die Päckereien, Wert- und Einschreibsendungen in der deutschen Postgeschichte* (Berlin 1936). The French still use recommandé to describe registered mail."

Propaganda Label - "An R-cover w/boxed h/s of rural Bircza postagentur processed at nearby Deutsch Przemysl. Posted on Jan. 3, 1942, the back side has two copies of a label [below] depicting a soviet goon lifting body of Jesus from the cross. The text reads 'Anti-Christ-Bolshevik'. While post-war labels were often added to increase the value of Third Reich covers, both of these labels are clearly tied by Krakau receiving stamp."

Submitted by TRSGer Phil Miller

Detailed view of label on GG cover to Krakau.



Cover Illustration: This post card mailed in February 1944 from Warsaw to a dummy firm in Lisbon, Portugal illustrates the 'Sardine Card' undercover scheme which allowed Polish military personnel in England to communicate with their relatives in the General Government. The hand stamped label over the address was applied in London and indicates that the intended recipient could not be found in the records of the Polish Red Cross. The 'Undercover Collector's Corner' article found on pages 3-7 in this bulletin provides details on this scheme to circumvent German censorship.

Undercover Collector's Corner: P.O. Box 512 and Sardine Cards

by Thomas J. Gobby

Readers of the TRSG Bulletin have received detailed descriptions of P. O. Box 506 in Lisbon, the service operated by Thomas Cook & Son that permitted mail from German occupied countries to friends and relatives in Allied countries. Knowledge of other undercover schemes have come to light such as P. O. Box 512 (Caixa Postal 512) in Lisbon.

Mail from neutral or Allied nations directed toward Polish military personnel and their dependents in England was sent to P.O. Box 227, London EC1. Postal communications from enemy countries was only possible if such mail were routed via a neutral country. The Polish Air Force HQ in Blackpool, England devised a trans-mail scheme to permit a two-way postal service to enemy territories. Eligible personnel were allowed to send one letter every two weeks. These letters were sent unsealed to the station commanding officer and then forwarded in special mail bags to the main censorship office located on Brook Street, London EC1. Failure to comply with censorship regulations was a serious disciplinary offense. Senders were not permitted to discuss the weather nor any political or military matters. Green ink was not to be used although the reason for this restriction is not clear.

Letters to Poland were passed from the Polish Postal Bureau in Blackpool to a postal officer in the Polish Ministry of National Defense in London. A fee of 1 shilling, 2 pence was charged for this service which included franking with Portugese stamps. The sender had to include a small card with each letter that contained the following information: a) pseudonym and actual name of sender; b) date; c) station from which sent and d) name and address of intended recipient. These cards were kept on file and later used to trace replies. The envelope front had to include the text: "Alemahna - Deutschland - General Gouvernement". If a reply was wanted, the return address was to be given as "Caixa Postal 512, Lisboa Central, Portugal".

Fig. 1) Cover sent to Warsaw has Lisbon roller cancel dated March 21, 1941. Note hand stamps and sealing tape of German Censorship Station in Munich (code 'd'). The return address on backside is Caixa Postal 512.

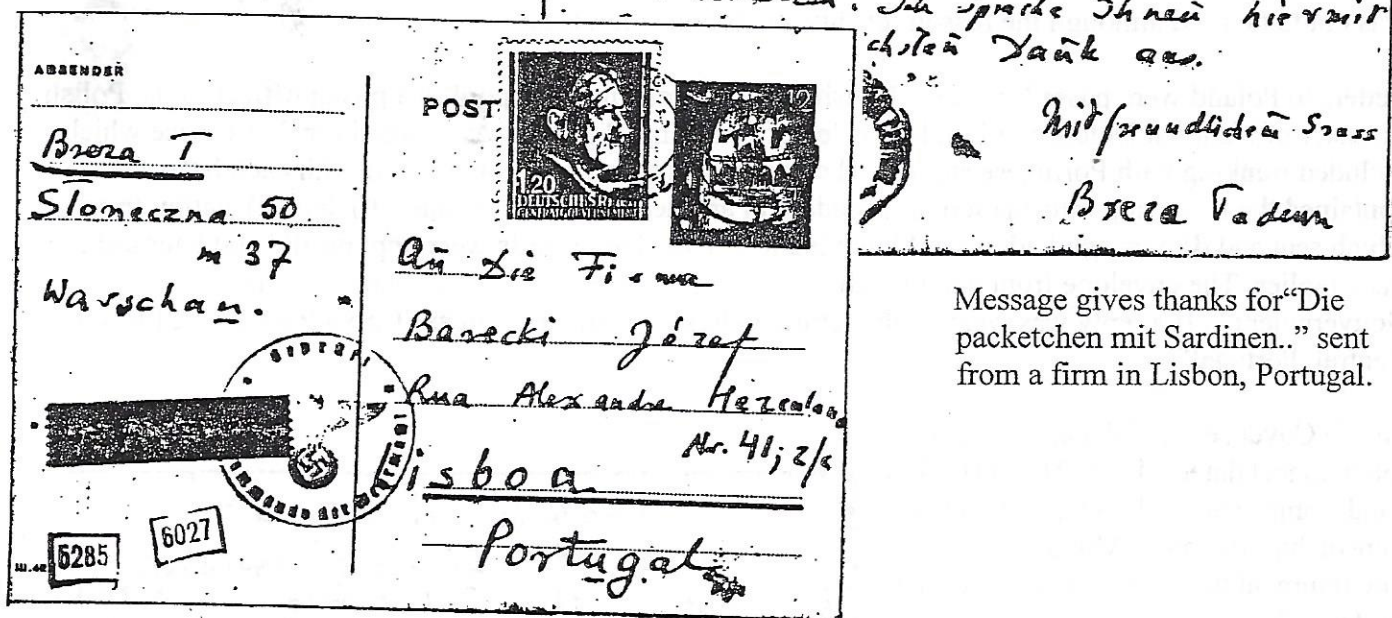


It isn't known how long P.O. Box 512 was in operation. Perhaps steps taken by German postal censors to reject foreign mail addressed to P.O. boxes led to a decision to abandon the post box in favor of other less suspicious return addresses. This brings us to the next type of material associated with this scheme, the so-called "sardine cards".

The "Sardine Cards"

This is group of postal cards sent from occupied Poland which are known to postal historians as "sardine cards" because of the messages which follow a pattern - they thank the sender for the receipt of a parcel of almonds, figs or sardines and include a few words of greeting.

Fig. 2) Special delivery postal card sent from Warsaw in July 1943 is addressed to 41 Rua Alexandre Herculano, Lisbon. The German censor and boxed examiner number stamps at lower left were applied at the Munich Foreign Letter Examining Office (code 'd').



Message gives thanks for "Die packetchen mit Sardinen.." sent from a firm in Lisbon, Portugal.

Most such cards were sent to Portugal with lesser numbers being sent to Switzerland and Turkey. All of these countries were neutral during World War II and, therefore, provided some of the few legitimate avenues in Europe for correspondence out of German occupied territories. These cards, usually addressed to aliases, were sent to "drop boxes" or dummy firms which, in turn, would forward them to England via courier. Upon arrival, they would be circulated through the Polish Army and Air Force, Polish Naval HQ in London, Polish Red Cross and, occasionally, various Polish civil organizations.

Each of these Polish organizations would examine their files or card indexes in an attempt to locate the intended recipient. In the course of these examinations, the cards would receive various manuscript or stamped markings indicating that the search had been unsuccessful.

Interpreting these markings after so many years after the fact is a problem because, to my knowledge, records are not available and memories tend to dim with time. The following is an attempt at listing and, where possible, identifying those markings found on "sardine cards" in my collection. Some are quite cryptic and it my hope that other TRSG members can provide explanations for them. The most common marking is a 3-line handstamp in English reading "Polish Naval Headquarters/ 51New Cavendish Street/London, W.1". The following are Polish markings with their English translations:

- A. "Sprawdzono/w. Kartotece" boxed h/s - "Checked in records".
- B. "Sprawdzono/w. Kartotece/P.C.K." line stamp - "Checked in records of the Polish Red Cross".
- C. "W Kartotece nie figurje/P.C.K." line stamp "Not found in records of the Polish Red Cross".
- D. "W DZIALE/WYSYLKI PACZEK/P.C.K./NIE FIGURJE" line stamp - "Not found in parcel mail unit of Polish Red Cross".
- E. "Nie figuruje W Kartotece/Ref. Spol. Insp. Lotn" boxed h/s - "Not found in records of Polish Air Force".
- F. "Biuro Pocztove Bazy Sil Powietrznych" - "Polish Air Forces Mail".
- G. "W razie przeniesienia adresata do innej jednostki, przelac za nim.." line stamp - "In case of transfer of addressee to another unit, please forward".
- H. "Otrzymano bez znaczka" - "Found without stamp".
- I. "W KART. REF. POCZT. M.O.N./NIE FIGURUJE" line stamp - the meaning of M.O.N. is unknown.
- J. "KARTOTECHE D.J.W.W.B./REFERAT R. WOJEK/NIE FIGURUJE" box stamp -the meaning of D.J.W.W.B. is unknown.
- K. "M.O.S." double framed box stamp - the meaning is unknown.

Fig. 3) Express mail card posted in Warsaw in Dec. '43 has Lisbon Central P.O. roller cancel. Upon receipt in England, Polish marking B. is on paste-over (top center) while E. and I. were stamped directly onto card (bottom center and right corner).



On the following pages are other "sardine cards" with various markings on front (both directly and on paper slips pasted over address) and back sides.

“Sardine cards” were sent to the following addresses in Lisbon:

- 41 Rua Alexandre Herculano
- 49 Rua Rodrigo da Fonesca
- 12 Rua Moinho da Vente
- 100 Rua do Arsenal
- 146 Praco do Brazil
- 157 Rua da Palmas

It appears that these addresses were in use at the same time. Examination of additional cards may allow us to fix the actual dates of usage.

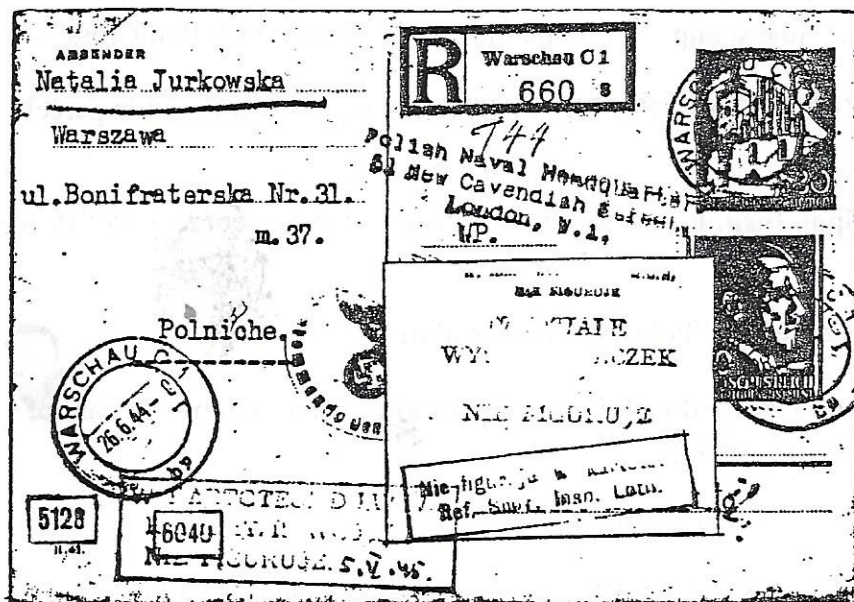


Fig. 4) Registered card posted in Warsaw in June 1944 has a paper slip pasted over the address. This slip was hand stamped (top to bottom) with Polish stamps I, D. and E.. In addition, boxed stamp J. is in lower left corner.

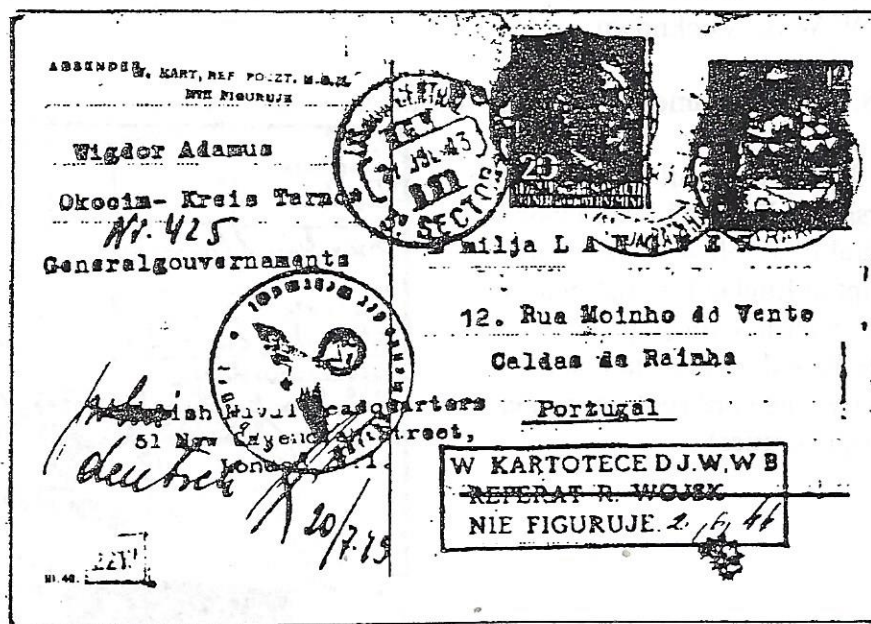
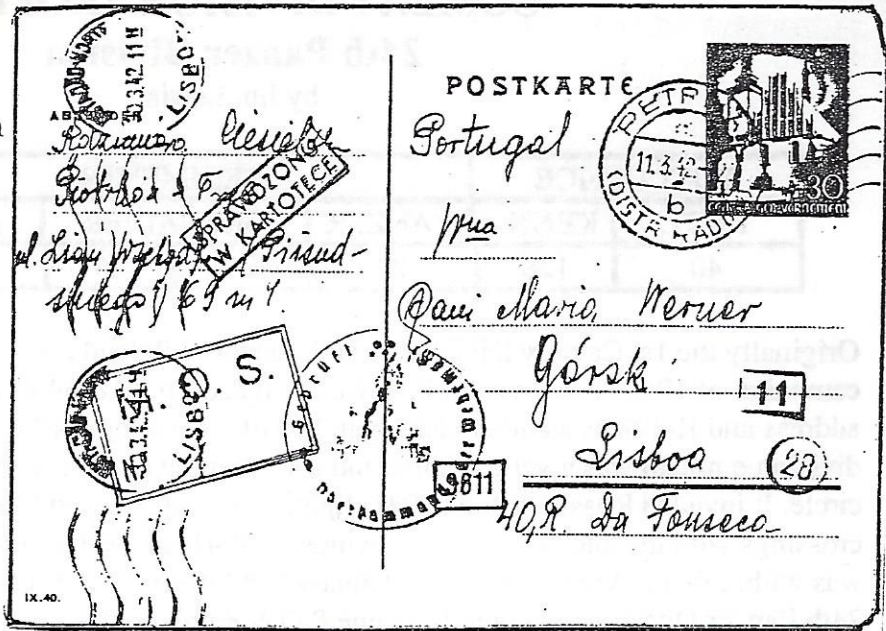


Fig. 5) Surface rate card posted at Okocim (Kreis Tarno) in July 1943 has a clear strike of Polish stamp J. in lower right and 2-line stamp I. in upper left.

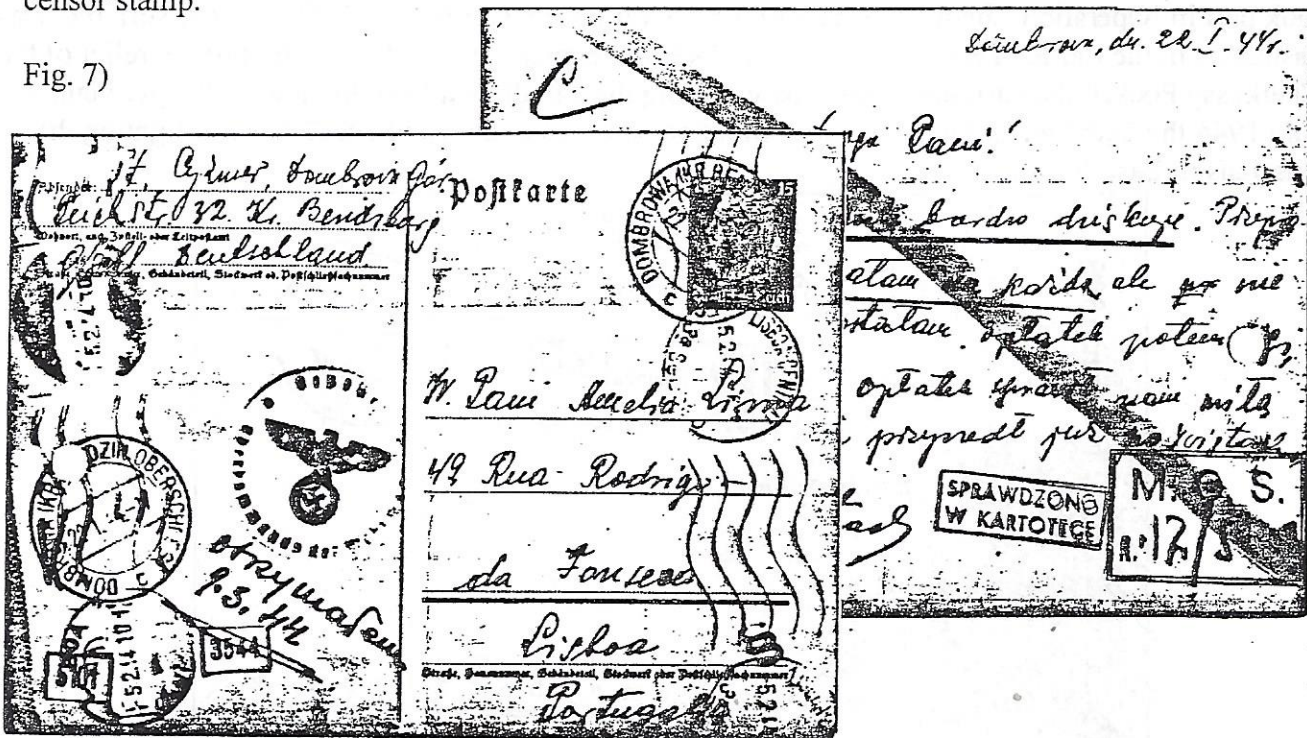
Many “sardine cards” have a paper slip pasted over the address of the intended recipient as shown in Fig. 4. Some cards have a name or pseudonym on the paper slip but none of the hand stamps. This may indicate that the initial file review revealed the identity of the intended recipient.

Fig. 6) Surface rate card posted in Petrikau (District Radom) on March 3, 1942 was examined at Munich censor office and then forwarded to Lisbon where it was received on March 30th. Upon arrival in England, Polish stamps A. and K. were added on the left side.



In some cases the hand stamps were applied to the message side of the “sardine card” as shown in Fig. 7 below. Posted at Dombrowa Kreise Bendsburg in Upper Silesia) in January 1944, the German postal censors applied a solution of copper sulfate to the message side to detect “hidden writing” which left a blue streak. Note that card is addressed to 49 Rua Rodrigo da Fonesca and has a Lisbon receiving stamp dated February 5, 1944. Message side of card has Polish hand stamps A. and K. in lower right corner. Front side has manuscript “received” in Polish and date 9.3.44 under German censor stamp.

Fig. 7)



Anyone with explanations of the “unknown” markings listed and/or any additional markings on these cards is requested to send such information to our TRSG Bulletin editor’

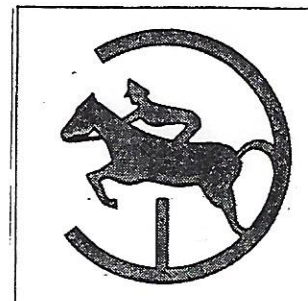
ED NOTE: This article originally appeared in TRSG Bulletin # 79 in April 1986.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:**24th Panzer Division**

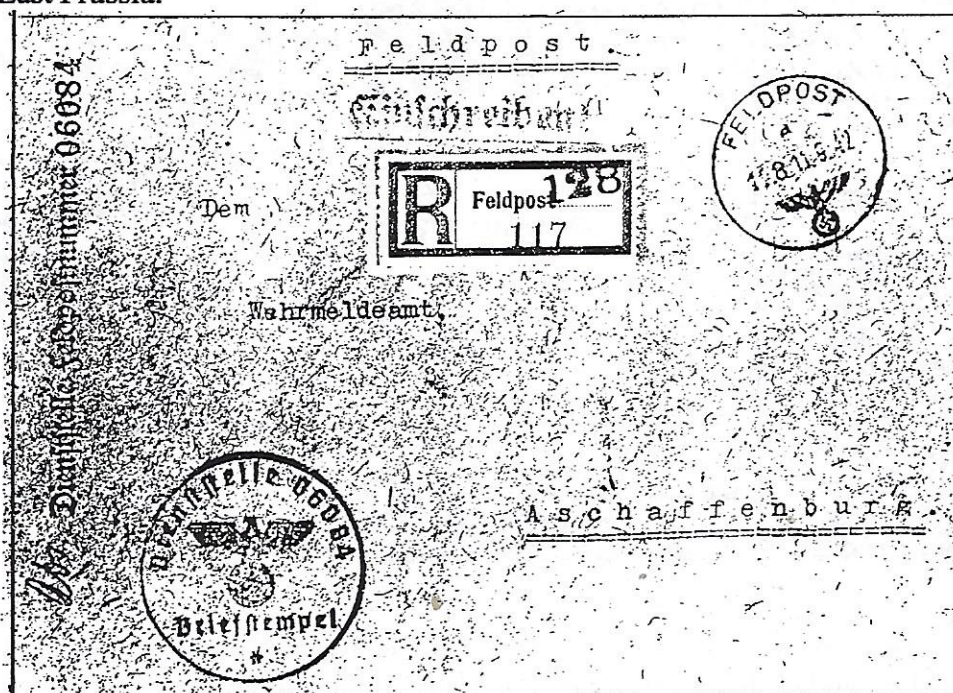
by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
40	128	24	21	26	89	40

Originally the 1st Cavalry Division, which fought in Poland and the western campaign of 1940. The division P.O. was assigned Fp.# 12654 as a return address and K-128 as a coded identity in lieu of tactical FpA 40 in 1941. The division emblem was a yellow horse and rider leaping a fence within a semi-circle. It invaded Russia in June 1941, fighting at Smolensk and the Dneiper crossings with the 2nd Army. In the winter of 1941 the 1st Cavalry Division was withdrawn to France, where in January 1942 it was converted into the 24th Panzer Division. Keeping the same P.O.& emblem, this division was returned to central sector of Russia and attached to the 6th Army for the summer offensive of 1942. In November 1942 the 24th Panzer Division formed part of XIV Panzer Corps 'Hube', fighting in Stalingrad. In January 1943, having been encircled in the Stalingrad Pocket and after many weeks of desperate fighting, the division was finally overwhelmed and destroyed.



A new 24th Panzer Division was formed in Normandy during the spring of 1943. After a brief stay in Italy, it was transferred to Army Group Center on the Russian Front, where at the end of July 1943 it took part in 'Operation Zitadelle' as part of XXXXVII Panzer Corps of the 9th Army. It suffered heavy casualties in the Battle of Kiev in November 1943. In February 1944 it formed part of the relief of the Cherkassy Pocket, the sustained heavy losses during the withdrawal from the lower Dneiper bend. By July 1944 the 24th Panzer Division was fighting in southern Poland and ended the war fighting the Russians in East Prussia.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Aschaffenburg in September 1942 from Fp.# 06084 (8 Kp. of Panzer Pionier Battalion 40) via P.O. 40 (K-128)

Story Behind the Cancel: The Kassel Hercules

by Kelly Stefanacci

The Hercules monument is an important landmark in the city of Kassel. Located in the “Bergpark (Mountain park) Wilhelmshöhe” in northern Hesse, it is a hollow copper statue depicting the ancient Greek demigod. After seeing the marble statue of the Parnese Hercules in Italy, an Elector of Hesse commissioned the statue, which was built in the years 1701 to 1717. From his castle bedroom the Elector could see a small hill which he decided was a suitable spot for the statue. To compensate for the distance, the statue would have to be built in epic proportions. The statue is located on top of a pyramid which stands on top of an octagon. The entire monument has a total height of 231 feet including the statue’s height of 27 feet. A series of artificial waterfalls were built to cascade down the hillside from the base of the monument to the Elector’s domicile. An imitation Roman aqueduct was then built to supply water for the falls.

Fig. 1) Shown at right is a photo of the Hercules statue and a portion of the pyramid upon which it stands.



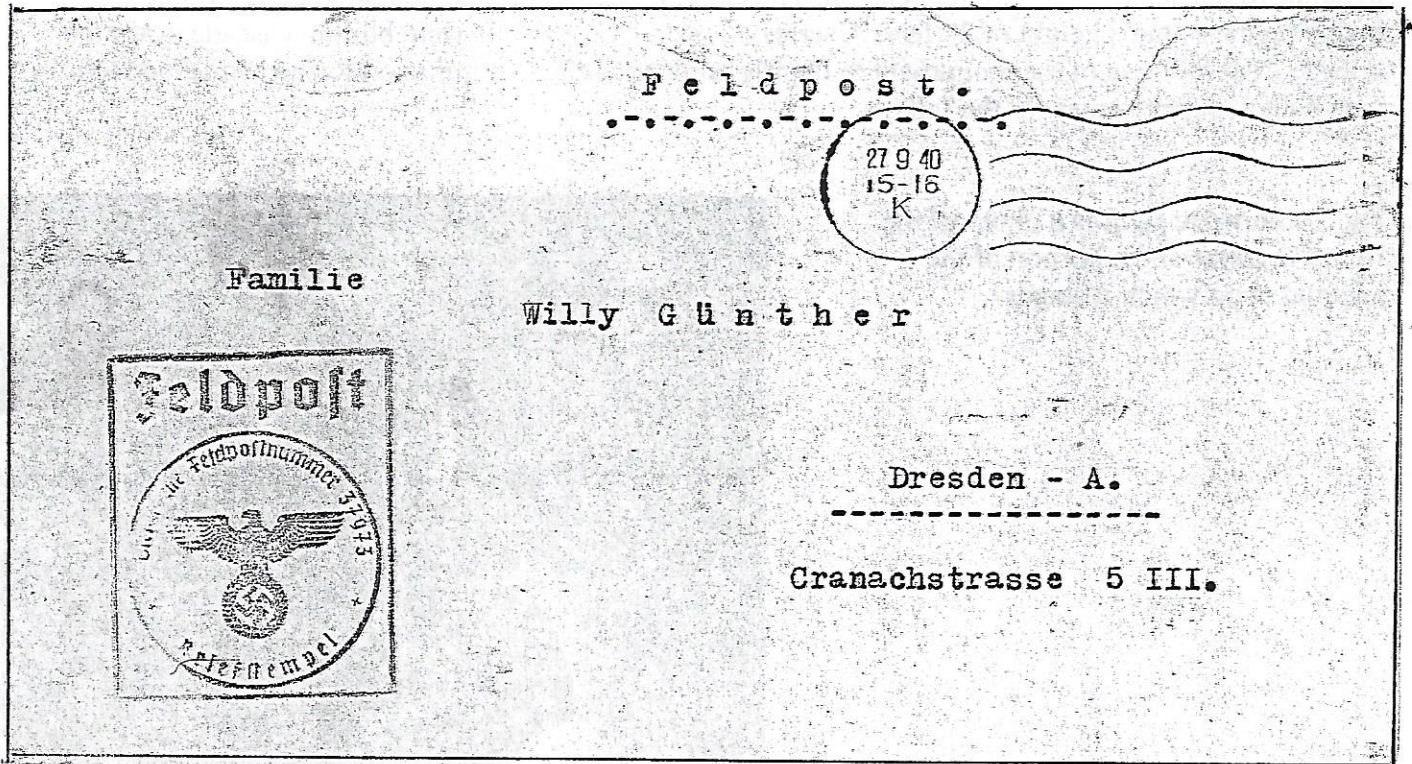
Fig. 2) The special Kassel cancel shown below depicting the Hercules statue was used to commemorate the two-day 43rd German Philatelists Exhibition held on May 22-23, 1937 at Kassel.



NAVY LOG

by Robert Dunn

Minesweeper 'M84'- Feldpost # 37973



This WWI minesweeper was built by Atlas Werke (Bremen) and launched October 10, 1917. Displacement: 515 tons (690 tons fully loaded). Armament: one 4.1", three 20mm AA guns. Speed: 18 knots. Crew: 51.

History: Assigned to 7th Minesweeper Flotilla from start of war until March 1940. She was next assigned to 4th Minesweeper Flotilla and sailed with Group 10 during the invasion of Esbjerg, Denmark on April 9, 1940. Later her designation was changed to M584.

Fate: Struck a mine and sank north of Zeeland on March 10, 1944.

Cover from crew member posted on September 27, 1940 has mute machine cancel.

German POWs in North America Camps in Wisconsin

by Jim Lewis

Camp McCoy (Code 10) near Tomah, Wisconsin, was among the first base camps in the United States to house POWs, including America's first POW, the commander of a Japanese midget submarine captured at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 8, 1941. During the wartime expansion of Camp McCoy, a CCC reception center in the old camp area was converted to a POW camp with 35 buildings in a 20 acre enclosure. At its peak, Wisconsin camps held some 3500 Japanese, 500 Koreans and 5000 German POWs in addition to the thousands brought to temporary work camps during the harvest and timber seasons.

The main camp and branch camps in Wisconsin are listed below

Name of Camp	County	Main Camp	Name of Camp	County	Main Camp
Antigo	Langlade	Fort Sheridan	Camp McCoy	Monroe	-----
Appleton	Calumet	Fort Sheridan	Merton	Waukesha	Camp Grant
Barron	Barron	Fort Sheridan	Milltown	Polk	Fort Sheridan
Bayfield	Bayfield	Fort Sheridan	Oakfield	Fon du Lac	Fort Sheridan
Beaver Dam	Dodge	Camp Grant	Plymouth	Sheboygan	Fort Sheridan
Cambria	Columbia	Fort Sheridan	Racine	Racine	Camp Grant
Cobb	Iowa	Camp Grant	Reedsburg	Sauk	Fort Sheridan
Eau Claire	Eau Claire	Fort Sheridan	Rhineland	Oneda	Fort Sheridan
Fish Creek	Door	Fort Sheridan	Rice Lake	Barron	Camp Grant
Fon du Lac	Fon du Lac	Camp Grant	Ripon	Fon du Lac	Fort Sheridan
Fredonia	Ozaukee	Fort Sheridan	Rockfield	Washington	Fort Sheridan
Galesville	Trempealeau	Fort Sheridan	Sheboygan	Sheboygan	Fort Sheridan
Hartford	Washington	Fort Sheridan	Sturgeon Bay	Door	Fort Sheridan
Hortonville	Outagamie	Fort Sheridan	Sturtevant	Racine	Fort Sheridan
Jefferson	Sauk	Camp Grant	Waterloo	Jefferson	Fort Sheridan
Lodi	Columbia	Fort Sheridan	Waupun	Dodge	Fort Sheridan
Markesan	Green Lake	Fort Sheridan	Wisconsin Rapids	Wood	Fort Sheridan

Note: The POW Cemetery at Camp McCoy was transferred to Camp Butler National Cemetery in Illinois.

In 1944, federal authorities assigned Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, Illinois, as administrative control headquarters for POW camps in Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. The 36 temporary POW camps located in Wisconsin were under the control of either Fort Sheridan or Camp Grant, near Rockford, Illinois. An example of these temporary camps was Sturtevant, built on the site of a ball field. Platform tents, a mess hall and a guard tower were erected and the surrounded with barbed wire. Not long after the POWs arrived, the son of a farmer poked his camera past the kitchen curtains to photograph a column of German POWs marching down the road in front of his home although at that time it was illegal for U.S. civilians to photograph enemy POWs.(Fig. 1).

The Racine Kenosha County Truck Growers Association were in a desperate need for the 250 POWs sent there. The association collected the \$5 per day fee from the farmers for each POW who worked on their farm. The POWs were paid .55/hr for their labor and allowed to keep .80/day spending money.

POWs were used to harvest crops, bale hemp, and work in nurseries, tanneries and dairies. POWs in Camp Appleton's pea vine station picked 300,00 cases of peas in the summer of 1945.

In the mid-1940s, about 1/3 of Wisconsin's population was of German ancestry and many could converse with the prisoners. For the most part, POWs became part of the community, even sharing occasional meals with the farm families, which broke the rules against fraternizing with prisoners.

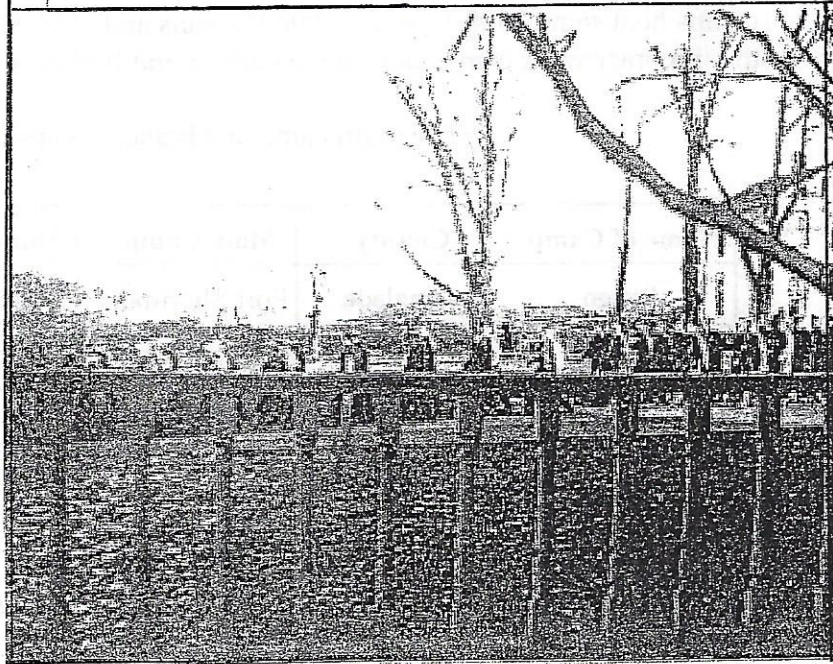
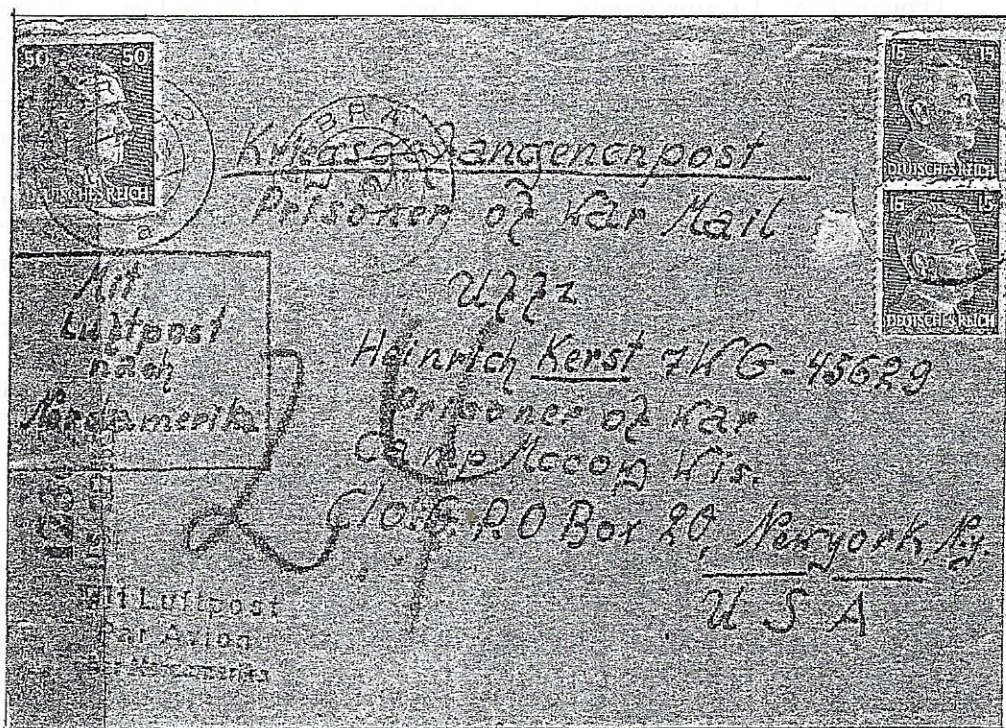


Fig. 2) Airmail cover sent to POW in Camp McCoy was posted in Bebra, Germany in Jan. 1945.



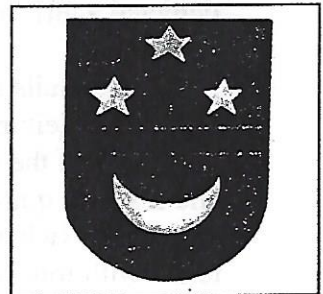
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE

25th Panzer Division

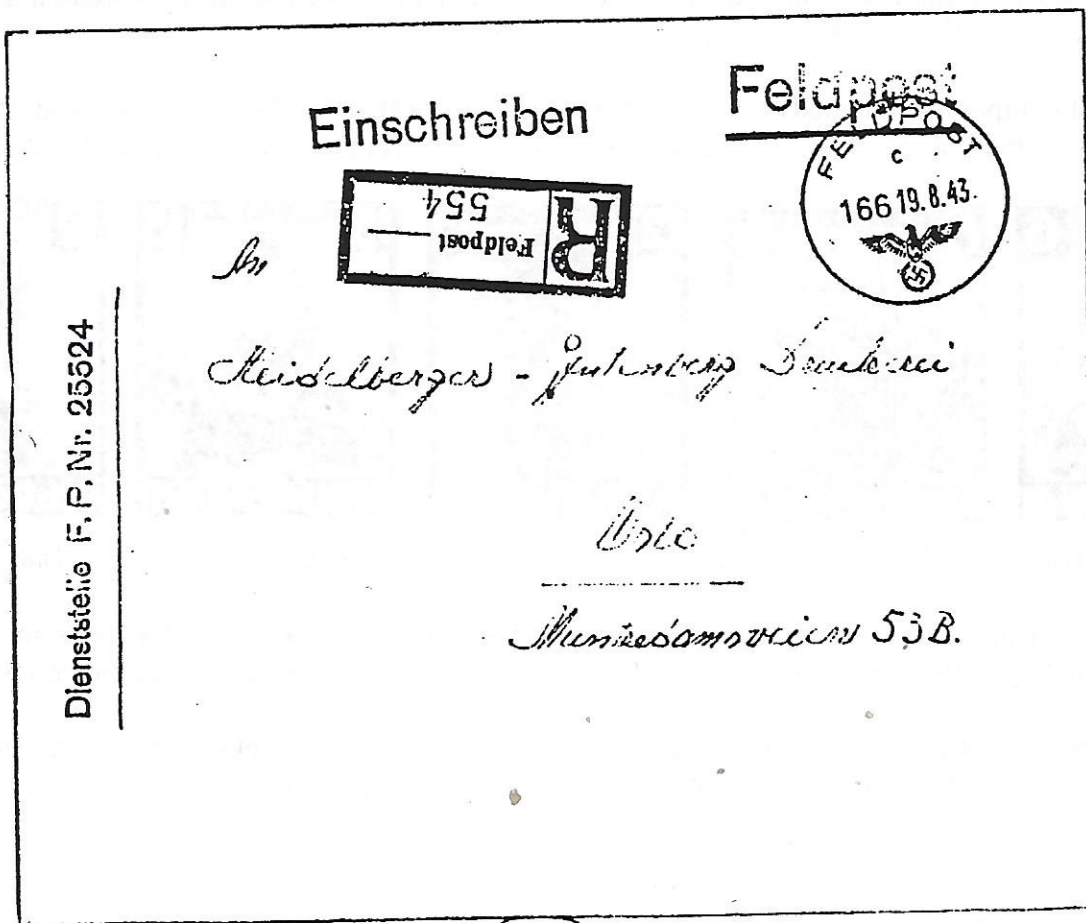
by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	GRENADIER	ARTY	UNITS	
87	166	9	146	147	91	87

Formed in Norway in early 1942 for possible invasion of Sweden. P.O. was assigned Fp.# 09207 as a return address and K-166 as a coded identity in lieu of tactical FpA 87. The division emblem was a red shield divided into two halves by a thick black bar. Top displays three yellow stars and the bottom shows a half-yellow crescent moon. The division was transferred to France in August 1943 and brought up to full strength. It was sent to Russia and joined Army Group South. It fought at Kiev and sustained heavy losses during the withdrawal across northern Ukraine in March 1944.



The 25th Panzer Division was sent to Denmark in April 1944 to rest and reform. It later helped defend the Vistula River line in Poland and then took part in the defense of Warsaw in January 1945. The division retreated across Pomerania in March 1945 and was sent to the defense of Vienna in April. The division was in Austria when the war ended.



Cover sent to Printing Firm in Oslo, Norway in August 1943 from Fp. # 25524 (Panzer Jäger Abtl. 87) via P.O. 87 (K-166).

Introducing Hans Retzlaff's Young Ladies

For over seventy years the young ladies of the 1935 Charity Issue (Costumes) Mi. 588-97 have surveyed us enigmatically from our album pages. The designer, Karl Diebitsch, drew all his portraits from a series of photographs taken by the Berlin photographer Hans Reyzlaff and, in each vignette, the individual features of the model are as important a part of the design as the extravagances of the traditional regional dress. However, even today, we know little about the identity of the original models. The veil of complete anonymity seems to have been breached sometime in the 1960s when the Michel Deutschland Spezial Katalog and Alf Harper's handbook on the stamps of the Third Reich were able to include the information that the 12 Pfg value depicted a girl called Anne Zwick.

No other details had come to light until Richard Hemery opened a copy of the "Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung" for September 26, 1935 and even now, the details are tantalizingly few. Only four more of the young ladies peep coyly out at us; surnames are indicated only by initial letters, and it seems quite clear that personal publicity was officially discouraged. However, we are grateful to Richard for discovering a little more about Anna and for putting us on Christian name terms with four of the other young ladies.

The 6 Pfg value features a young lady whose name is given as Anna Sophie B. from Probsthagen in Niedersachsen while the 8 Pfg shows Marie K. whose family had lived in the village of Heinersbruck for the past three hundred years.

Anna Zwick too came from an old-established farming family. The Zwicks had lived on the Hansele farm in the Gutachtal for the past two hundred years.

The self-composed young lady on the 15 Pfg value is Anna B. from the village of Erksdorf in Kurhessen and Babette B. of Effettrich in Upper Franconia is the model for the 40 Pfg stamp.



Anna Sophie B.



Marie K.



Anna Zwick



Anna B.



Babette H.

Richard's chance discovery serves to illustrate that there are still many interesting facts about the postal history of the period to be gleaned from the magazines and newspapers of the period.

Ed. Note: This article was first published in the TRSG (UK) News Sheet No. 39 in Dec. 1984 and appears here (in slightly altered form) with their kind permission.

3 Kg. Parcel Permit Label - APM Nord

by Norbert Kannapin

(translated by Gerard j. de Boer)

Collectors are familiar with the Kuban and Crimean parcels labels which served to limit the shipment of packages. Because of their rarity they have a relatively high price. Unknown until now [circa 1985-Ye Olde Ed] is a parcel address label issued by the Armeefeldpostmeister (Army Feldpost Master) Nord (Fp. # 28000) in order to limit parcel deliveries for Christmas 1942.

The following information is from the activity report of Dienststelle APM Nord dated July 1 to Dec. 31, 1942. (3rd dispatch AOK Norway):

“As in the years 1940 and 1941, a special measure to control Christmas packages was taken this year for troops and other Armed Forces members stationed in northern Norway and Finland. A postal collecting station for the Acting General Command, II Army Corps in Stettin was proposed for the collection and routing of parcels. It was under the command of the “Wehrmachtbriefstelle” (Armed Forces Letter Office) II in Stettin at Grützmacherhof, Altdammerstrasse 35. This service began on November 11, 1942.

A staff consisting of one officer, ten NCOs and ninety soldiers were assigned to this package collection office but were reinforced by three officers, two NCOs and seventy-five soldiers during peak times. As leader of the distribution process and as technical postal advisor, I placed an official with the officer rank (“Feldobpostsekretär”) at the disposal of this office. This person also handled the Feldpost number list.

The weight for parcels had been generally set at 3 Kilograms. The parcels had to be double wrapped with inner and outer address labels. Parcels for members of the 20th Mountain Army were to be sent as ordinary packages, with proper postage, to post offices in Germany from November 10 - 25. For AOK Norway this was from November 15 - 25. Only one parcel per person was allowed. To assure this, special 3-part address labels (see Fig. 1) were distributed by the AOKs to their personnel. The address on the inner label had to be in accordance with Feldpost regulations. The label for the outer wrapping was printed “**As das Stellv. Generalkommando II. A. K./Packetsammelstelle/Stettin**” (To the Acting Headquarters of II Army Corps/Parcel Collection Station/ Stettin).

The greatest number of parcels were transported to the collection station in 48 closed freight cars, 31 of them were from Berlin N4, 10 were from Austria (“Ostmark”) and the rest from other parts of the Reich. One railroad car came from Hungary. These cars, with an average of 2700 parcels, contained a total of 131,000 pieces. The post office in Stettin picked up 94,000 pieces, requiring 121 trips by army vehicles and 39 horse-drawn wagons of the Reichspost. A total of 225,514 parcels were processed between November 13 - 17 which compares to 120,000 processed during the previous year.

The work at the collection station went relatively smooth. The arrival of 11,200 parcels on November 24/25 and 20,600 on December 3/4 were the peak loads. The vast majority of parcels (from 10,000 to 18,000) arrived between November 23 - 27 and December 1 - 13.

The parcels were sorted according to Corps number and then dispatched to seven groups:

- I - to Tornea for the units in the zone south of the line Tornea - Hyrynsalmi.
 - II - to Joutsijärvi, via Tornea, for units of XVI Army Corps,
 - III - to Salla, via Tornea, for the units of XXXVI Mountain Army Corps.
 - IV - to Rovaniemi, for units in the area Rovaniemi - Komijärvi - Nautsi.
 - V - to Kirkenes, for XIX Mountain Army Corps.
 - VI - to Mo, via Oslo-Trondheim, for the 196th Infantry Division.
 - VII - to Narvik, for units of the LXXI Corps Command.
- Parcels for Navy and Air Force units in these areas were handled the same way.

Due to difficult transportation connections with XIX Mountain Army Corps, parcels for this region were sent to Kirkenes by sea. To supervise the loading onto the ships as well as safekeeping on board, a Feldpost secretary was sent to Hamburg.

During the period November 22 to December 14, forty-two freight cards were dispatched to Tornea for Groups I - IV and VI - VII.

The steamer '*Aludra*' departed Hamburg on November 27 with 4,000 parcels, the steamer '*Wiegand*' left Hamburg on December 14 with 21,575 parcels and the steamer '*Entrerios*' left Stettin on December 12 with 30,129 parcels. All were destined for Kirkenes but were 7 to 14 days later than had been planned. The anticipated two week trip took a month. The steamer '*Wiegand*' was damaged by a floating mine near Mandal in southern Norway and had to be beached. The parcels were generally undamaged and were sent from Kristiansand to Rovaniemi by truck. They arrived between January 1 and 16 and were immediately delivered to XIX Mountain Corps by truck.

At the Feldpost offices temporary workers were recruited and special areas prepared to facilitate processing. The main task was performed by the Feldpost whose duty was to segregate parcels according to Kenn and Feldpost numbers.

Most parcels were delivered to the troops by Christmas. One exception was the XIX Mountain Corps, whose parcels were delayed until after Christmas due to the sea transport delays detailed above.

After the special measures to provide troops with 3 Kg Christmas parcels had been put into effect, it became known that 2 Kg. Parcels could also be sent to the front this year, thus four additional parcel labels would be provided to all members of the Armed Forces. Because these new regulations allowed greater increases in package weight, the special parcel operation had not been necessary. However, it later proved impossible to issue the four extra admission labels due to the situation in Finland. Consequently, only the 3 Kg. Parcel (instead of 4 Kgs) could be sent to troops in Finland. Only the troops in northern Norway (except Kirkenes) received the four admission labels and the 3 Kg. Parcel label.

It does not appear that a special parcel operation will be necessary next year, when 2 Kg. Feldpost parcels can be shipped again. Transport conditions permitting, additional Feldpost parcel admission labels can be issued for isolated areas such as northern Norway.

We can conclude from the foregoing report that there must be a high value attached to these special admission labels, either on inner or outer parcel wrap remainders. They are especially rare in unused condition and should be rated higher than the Kuban or Crimea parcel admission labels for the following reasons. The complete parcel address label exists only in unused condition. The portion of the label addressed to the Acting General Command, II Army Corps in Stettin was on the outer wrapping which was removed and discarded at Stettin. The other portion of the label was on the inner wrapping which was forwarded to the addressee. While it is possible that some soldier may have retained a portion of the outer wrap as a souvenir, none have thus far been reported. Similarly, a soldier receiving his parcel may have elected to save the inner wrapper label but such are very scarce. The fortunate owner of any of these pieces in his collection has one of the great Feldpost rarities of World War II.

Fig. 1) Unused 3 Kg. Feldpost parcel permission label as issued by APM Nord late in 1942. The right hand section was to be detached and affixed to the inner wrapping of the parcel. The left hand section was to be detached and affixed to the outer wrapping to denote routing to the special Feldpost parcel collecting station at Stettin. The center section with instructions would be discarded.

<p>Andas</p> <p>Stellv. Generalkommando IIAK</p> <p>Paketannahmestelle</p> <p>Stettin</p>	<p>Absender:</p> <hr/>	<p>Paketadressen für ein Weihnachtspaket von höchstens 3kg Gewicht.</p> <p>Das Paket muss in der Zeit v. 10. - 25. Nov. zur Post gegeben werden.</p> <p>Gebrauchsanweisung:</p> <p>←</p> <p>Dieser Zettel wird auf den Aussenumschlag des Paketes aufgeklebt</p> <p>→</p> <p>Diese Adresse ist auf den Innenumschlag des Paketes aufzukleben</p>	<p>Feldpostl</p> <hr/> <p>Absender:</p> <p>(Weihnachtspaket Gewicht: 3 kg)</p> <p>An</p>	<p>Name</p> <hr/> <p>Dienstgrad</p> <hr/> <p>Feldpostnummer</p>
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Ed. Note: This article was first published in TRSG Bulletin No. 76 in June 1985. The author, the late Norbert Kannipin, was a long time TRSG member who also wrote three of the finest books on Feldpost:

- 1.) **Die Feldpostnummern der deutschen Kriegsmarine 1939-1945** (1974)
- 2.) **Die deutsche Feldpost Organisation und Lokalisation 1939-1945**(1979)
- 3.) **Die deutsche Feldpostübersicht 1939-1945** (1982).

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE

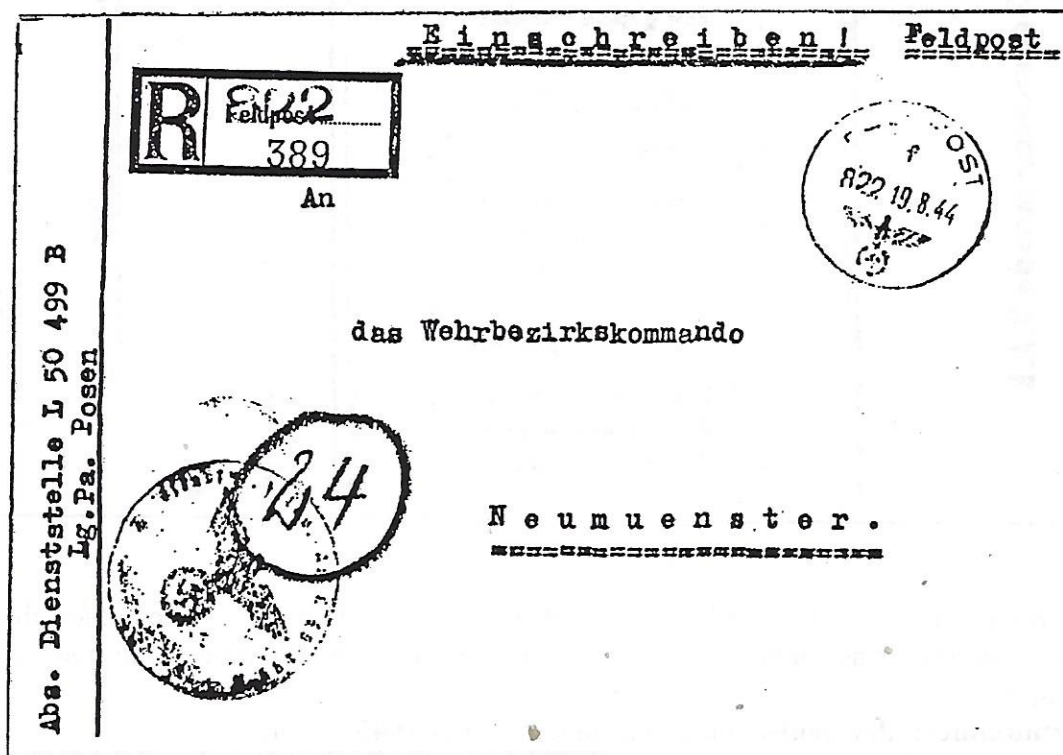
1st Parachute Panzer Division "Hermann Göring"

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		HERMANN GÖRING REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	GRENADIER	ARTY	UNITS
921	822	H.G.	1	2	1

Initially formed in France as a regiment, then expanded to a brigade in the summer of 1942, this Luftwaffe unit was enlarged to a division in Belgium in January 1943. The P. O. was assigned Fp.# 48571 as a return address and Kenn 822 as a coded identity. Although the division had not completed formation and training, elements were quickly rushed to Tunisia early in 1943. These elements were destroyed when Army Group Africa collapsed in May 1943.

The rest of the division, committed to the defense of Sicily, was reconstituted in Italy and fought in all major battles on the Italian Front until May 1944, when it was placed in OKW Reserve at Leghorn in northern Italy, en route to France. However, it was rushed south to counterattack the Allied breakout from the Anzio beachhead and temporarily slowed the Allied advance on Rome. After the fall of Rome, the division was sent to the Eastern Front to halt the Soviet summer offensive north of Warsaw. Along with the 5th SS and 19th Panzer divisions, this action destroyed the Soviet III Armored Corps. The 'H.G.' division remained in the central sector during the retreat into East Prussia and was virtually annihilated during the fighting for this province.



Cover sent to Military Area Command in Neumenster in August 1944 from Fp. # L50499 (Btl. I/ H.G. Artillery Rgt. 1 via P.O. 921 (K-822)).

Beer and Hops Cancels

by Bob Ferguson

The following special cancels pertaining to German Beer and Hops are listed in Julius Bochmann's **Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel.**

Au (Hallertau) # 1	Hallertauer Hopfen weltberühmt	Used: 1930-1933
Au (Hallertau) # 2, 3	Auer Siegelhopfen weltberühmt	Used: 1933-1939
Distelhausen # 1	Beruhmt durch sein Bier Im bad Frankland	Used: 1939-1942
Einbeck # 1	Seit 1378 Einbeker Bier Die Schone alte Hansestadt	Used: 1935-1939
Gorkau # 3	von altersher durch sein gutes Bier bekannt	Used: 1940-1942
Lübz # 1	Bekannt durch Lübzer Bier	Used: 1939-1944
Mainburg # 1	Hallertauer Hopfen-Zentrale	Used: 1936-1939
Mainburg # 1	Mainburger Hopfen-weltberühmt	Used: 1939-1953
Radeberg # 1	bedeutende Exportbier-Metal u. Glasindustrie I. Grenzland Sachsen	Used: 1938-1939
Radeberg # 2, 5	Export-Biere Reformkuchen Glas	Used: 1939-1943
Radeberg # 6	Reform-kuchen Glas/Exportbiere	Used: 1944
Saaz # 1	Tagung der Hopfenflanzer Gross Deutschlands	Used: 13-15 Aug.-1939
Saaz # 2	Weltberühmt durch seinen Hopfen	Used: 1940-1944
Siegenburg # 1, 2	Hallertauer-Hopfen-weltberühmt	Used: 1931-1938
Walldorf (Baden) # 1	Hopfen-Spargel-Tabak-Zigarren Industrie	Used: 1934-1937
Wolnzach # 1	Hallertauer Hopfen weltberühmt	Used: 1930-1933
Wolnzach # 2, 3	Wolnzacher Hopfen weltberühmt	Used: 1939-1944

Au (Hallertau) # 3



Lübz # 1



Hitler-Mussolini Parody Stamp

by Jim Lewis

The area of parody propaganda stamps and postal cards has always been attractive to Third Reich postal enthusiasts, although it's doubtful that many of these items were actually inserted into either the civil or Feldpost mail systems. My personal favorite is the British parody of the Italian 1941 Axis partners stamp. Probably produced in 1943 in perforated sheets of 20 (4 x 5) stamps, it has a subtle humor in contrast to the more obvious parodies such as the Hitler "skull" stamp that appeared about the same time.

While the color and most details of this green 25 cestesimi stamp are identical to the original design, there are two distinct differences. The parody depicts Hitler snarling at a shocked Mussolini and the Latin text "Duo popoli/un führer" (Two peoples/one leader) replaces the original "Duo popoli/una guerra" (Two peoples/one war). In addition, Mussolini is flanked by a bayonet and ceremonial fascist axe as in the original but both are badly chipped.

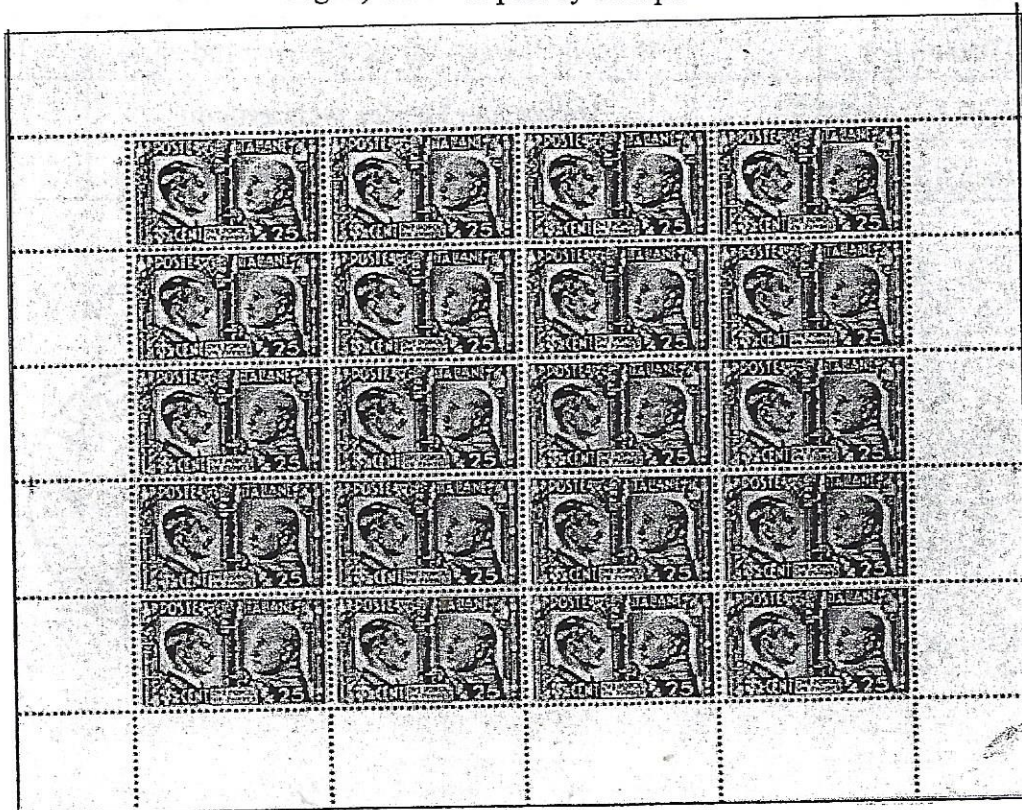
Fig. 1) Original Stamp



Fig. 2) Parody Stamp



Fig. 3) Sheet of parody stamps



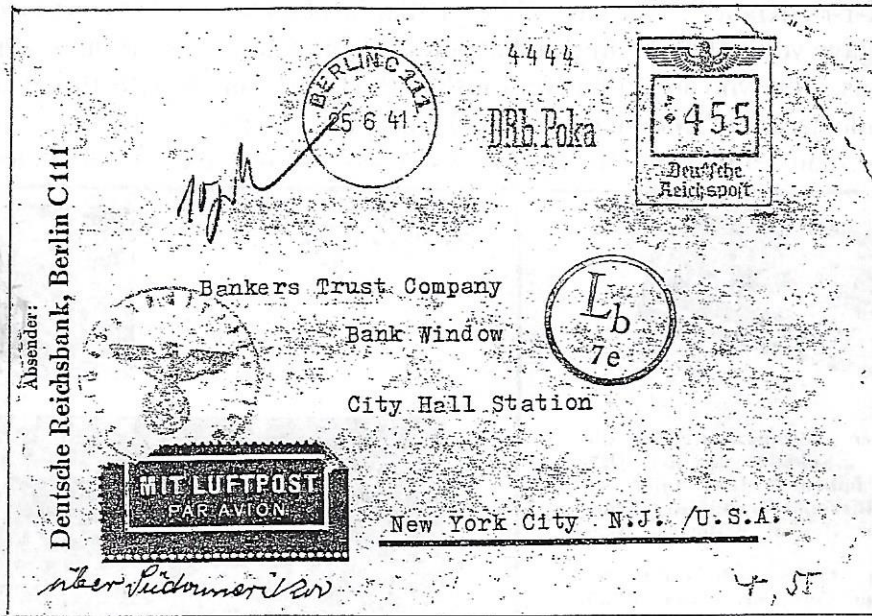
Censorship

The Berlin "L" Transit Stamps

by Myron Fox

The L series of the Berlin Censor Office are mostly found on covers of the Government from 1941-1944. This airmail cover sent to New York from the Berlin Reichsbank shows the Roman "L" version of the transit stamp. The exact purpose of the L series is not known.

Fig. 1)



This card to Sweden sent from Lemberg in the General Government in November 1943 shows the Gothic version of the "L" transit stamp used on a privately mailed postal card. It is believed these transit stamps were used on a provisional basis after the destruction of the Berlin Foreign Letter Examining Office ("Auslandsbriefprüfstelle"). This usage is noted in Riemer from the end of 1943 to the beginning of 1944.

Fig. 2)



Parody Propaganda Card "Living Space in the East"

by Kelly Stefanacci

This parody of a 6 Pfg. German postal card is one of a series produced by the Soviets. The address side has text "The Fuhrer's Christmas Eve" in a box on left side. Below the box is this text:

"This is the living space that the German soldier found on the Eastern Front; six feet under the soil and a birch cross in the ground. The snow covers the fallen like a shroud. The wind whistles. The crows call: "K-r-r-Kraut!" "German soldier, Hitler has lied to you. He promised you the capital of Moscow but gave you only maiming and death. On Christmas eve German women weep for Hitler's victims. You who are still alive, finish with Hitler! **Finish with this war!**"

The picture side has text "Lebensraum Im Osten" (Living space in the East) with an eerie drawing of German helmets on top of birch crosses in a snow covered field below a flock of crows.



Labor Corps Exhibition In Prague by Kelly Stefanacci

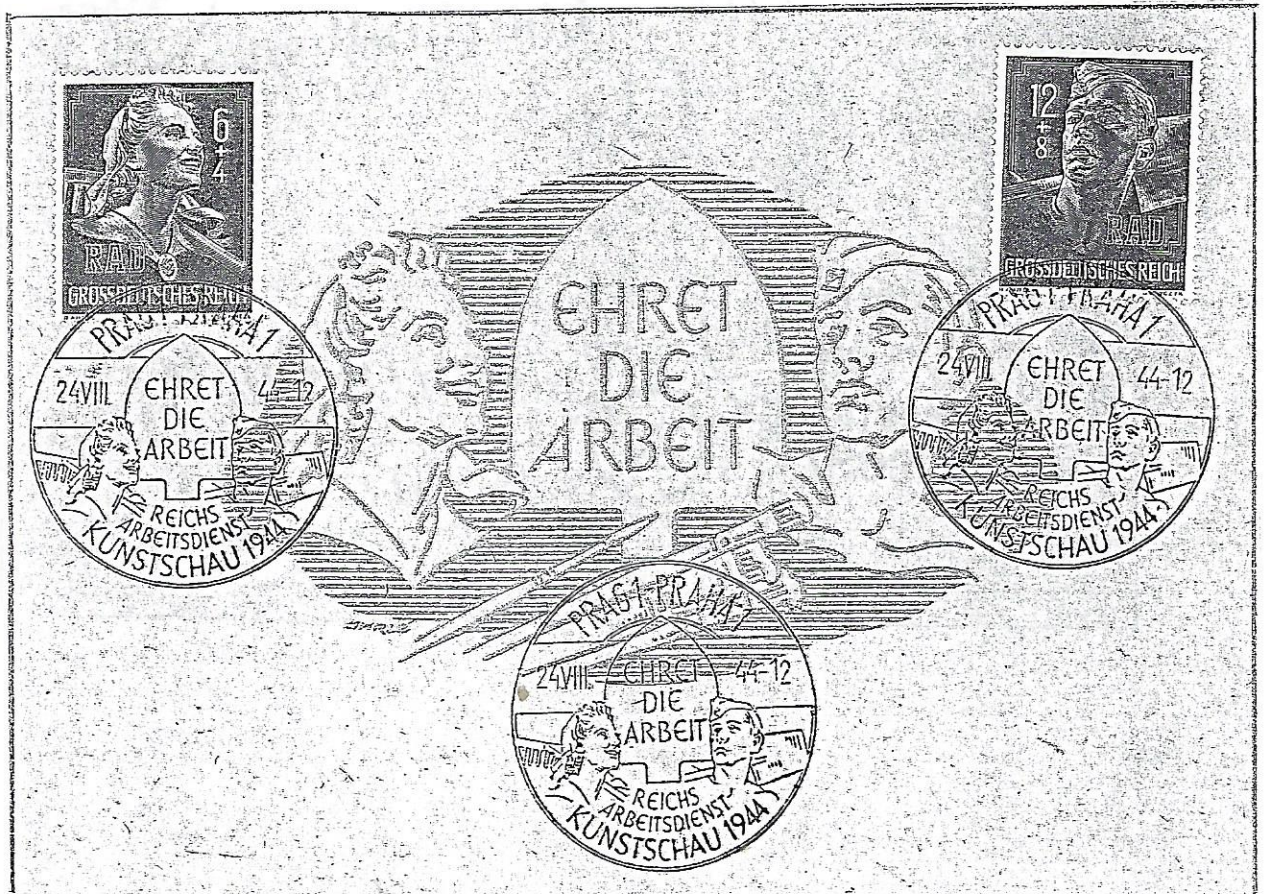
There was a “Kunstschau”(exhibition of artwork and handicrafts) produced by young men and women of the “Reichs Arbeitsdienst” (National Labor Corps) that was commemorated by two German semi-postal stamps (Mi. 894-5) issued in June 1944. While this exhibit apparently traveled to a number of cities in Germany and the occupied territories in the summer of 1944, there were no German commemorative cancels to mark any of these events. However, when the exhibit traveled to the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia, special printed envelopes and cancels were prepared for the exhibit. The Prague1 post office used a cancel with the same basic design elements as the German stamps.

The center of the cancel has the same man and woman as the two stamps. They are separated by a spade head inscribed “Ehret die Arbeit” (Honor the worker). The text below the spade reads “Reichs Arbeitsdienst Kunstschau 1944” (National Labor Corps Art Show 1944).

Fig. 1) Shown at right is the Prague 1 cancel as it appeared in Alf Harper’s “The Stamps of Germany Third Reich” (1966) His version of the special cancel is dated July 31, 1944.



Fig. 2) The special printed envelope with both German stamps tied by Prague 1 commemorative cancels dated August 24, 1944.



SS-Feldpost

Luftwaffe Recruits for Waffen-SS Division

by Jim Lewis

This registered Feldpost cover was sent in October 1944 to *Flieger Ersatz* (Flier Replacement) Battalion XI in Neumunster from the 5th SS *Feldersatz* (Field Replacement) Battalion (Fp.# 19637).

The sending unit was a training organization that processed new recruits being sent to the 5th SS-Panzer Division 'Wiking'. The cover was posted at FpA 754 z.b.V. (K-647), a stationery post office located in the town of Scharfenwiese (formerly Polish Ostrolenka) in East Prussia. This was in the rear area of Army Group Center covering the Vistula River on the Eastern Front.

This letter was sent to an Air Force replacement battalion because at this stage of the war, thousands of Luftwaffe personnel were being drafted into the Waffen-SS, so notices had to be sent to each recruitment center.

