



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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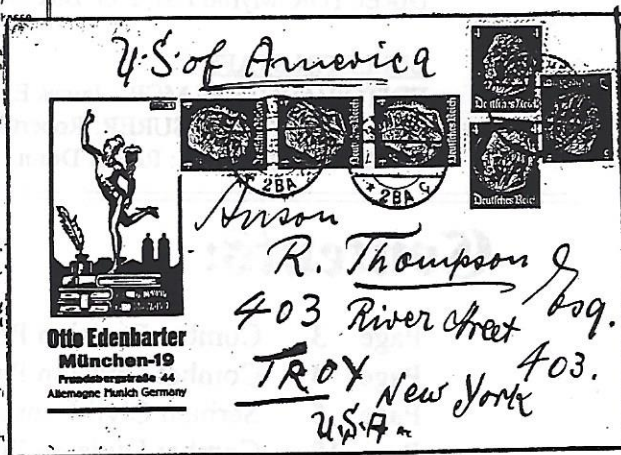


STUDY GROUP NOTES

More about Otto – TRSGer Jason Manchester supplied this cover sent to Troy, NY from Otto Edenharter in Feb. 1933 that contained the photo shown and an offer to supply a collection of 250 photo cards from Zeppelin flights for \$8.50. Now that would have been a pretty decent investment!



Armenia, February 16, 19
 Dear Mr. Thompson
 I have a Collection of 250
 from the enclosed historical Zeppeli
 Original Photo Pictures (World flight
 The Collection with Album (Special Z
 in priced only \$ 8.50 Pictures etc.



Why did the German Army fight so hard? - One of our Feldpost collectors inquired why the German Army fought so tenaciously on the Eastern Front during the long retreat after July 1943. One explanation is offered in *The G.I. Offensive in Europe: the Triumph of American Infantry Divisions 1941-45* by Peter R. Mansoor. 1999. University Press of Kansas: "At every level German officers inculcated their troops with the values and assumptions of Nazi ideology and the mortal menace of the racial-communists threat. All of this indoctrination was backed up by a military justice system whose ruthlessness only the Soviets exceeded. In World War I the German Army had executed only 48 of its soldiers for breeches of military discipline. In World War II, by contrast, the German Army executed somewhere between 13,000 and 15,000 soldiers as a direct result of courts martial for desertion, subversion and disobedience. And that total does not include the tens of thousands ordered to serve in penal battalions-assignments that for all intents and purposes were equivalent to death sentences."

Prices Realized – Auction # 86

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	\$14.00	9	\$14.00	17	\$ 8.00	25	\$13.00	33	\$26.00
2	19.00	10	13.00	18	9.00	26	15.00	34	51.00
3	20.00	11	14.00	19	10.00	27	14.00	35	43.00
4	15.00	12	18.00	20	8.00	28	8.00	36	42.00
5	15.00	13	20.00	21	8.00	29	13.00	40	18.00
6	13.00	14	19.00	22	27.00	30	14.00	42	20.00
7	12.00	15	14.00	23	10.00	31	76.00	44	30.00
8	18.00	16	14.00	24	12.00	32	80.00		

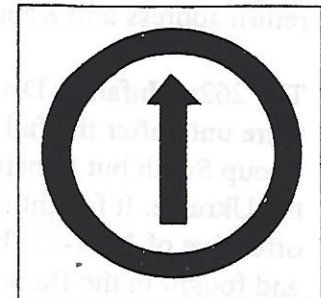
Cover Illustration The German occupation of Yugoslavia in April 1941 resulted in portions of this state being annexed by various Axis powers. Part of the balance became the "Independent State of Croatia" and the rest a "Serbia" directly administered by the German military. As detailed in the article beginning on Page 5, the Serbian postal system was reformed and censorship offices opened to examine internal mail. This cover was sent from Bela Ckrva to Belgrade in May 1942. At lower left is a boxed censor hand stamp with "010/V.B." used at Veliki Beckerak to tie the censor sealing tape that closed the letter after examination.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 389th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
389	873	544	545	546	389	389

Formed with Hessia troops in the winter of 1941-42, this division was originally commanded by Lt. Gen. Erwin Jaeneke, the future commander of the 17th Army in Crimea. The division P.O. was assigned Fp. # 47944 as a return address and Kenn 873 as a coded identity in lieu of FpA 389. The 389th Infantry Division fought in the southern sector of the Russian Front during the drive across the Don and the Volga, and in the siege of Stalingrad. It was encircled in Stalingrad in November 1942 and surrendered in late January 1943.

A second 389th Infantry Division, formed in France during the summer of 1943, was sent to southern sector of the Russian Front. FpA 389 was assigned a new Fp. # 36733 and Kenn 268 as a coded identity. The reformed division adopted an emblem with a green arrow pointing upwards inside a red circle. The division went into action in October 1943 and by February 1944 was surrounded in the Cherkassy pocket, where only two hundred of its men escaped.



These survivors were temporarily assigned to the 57th Infantry Division but the 389th was resurrected in the rear of Army Group Center shortly thereafter. It was sent to Army Group North and became isolated in the Courland pocket in the fall of 1944. The division returned to Germany by sea where it was cut off east of Berlin in the final campaign and surrendered to the Red Army.



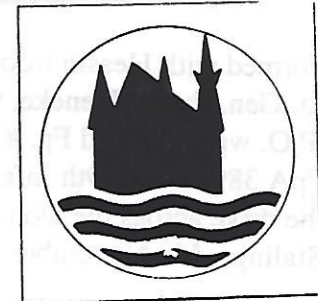
Cover sent to Military Records Office in Bayreuth in September 1942 from Fp. # 12028 (Stab III/Geb. Jäger Rgt. 218) via P.O. 389 (K-873).

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:**262nd Infantry Division**

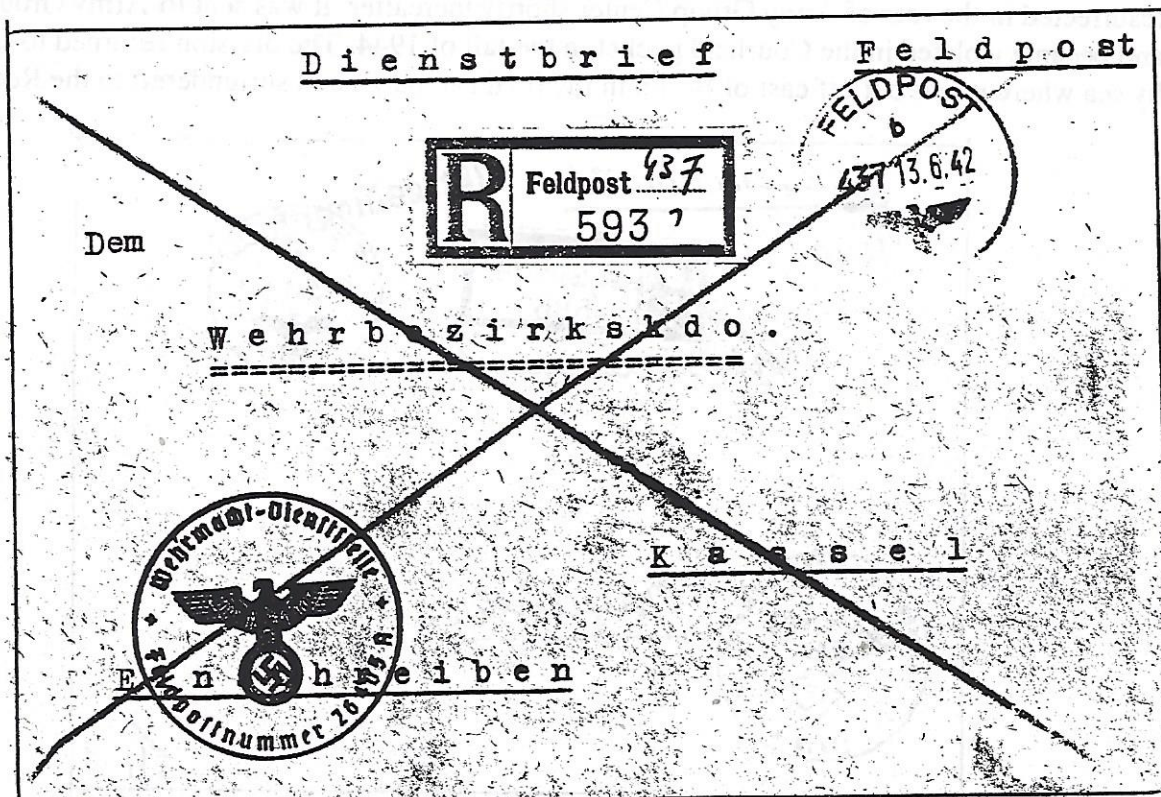
by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
262	437	462	482	486	262	262

Raised from Austrian reservists in Vienna (Wehrkreis XVII) in the Summer of 1939, the division adopted an emblem depicting a black church over blue wavy lines on a white circular background. The church represents St. Stephens in Vienna and the wavy lines the Danube River. The division P.O. was assigned Fp. # 24217 as a return address and Kenn 437 as a coded identity.



The 262nd Infantry Division served on the Saar Front during the Polish campaign and remained there until after the fall of France in 1940. It invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941 under Army Group South but transferred to Army Group Center in September, following the advance through the Ukraine. It fought in the Battle of Moscow and subsequent retreat during the Soviet winter offensive of 1941-42. It took part in relatively minor defensive action on the central sector in 1942 and fought in the Battle of Kursk in July 1943, where it suffered heavy casualties. Battered in the subsequent retreats, the division was listed as remnants by October 1943 and was placed under control of the 26th Infantry Division. Soon after it was returned to Austria and disbanded.



Cover sent to Military District Command in Kassel in June 1942 from Fp. # 26405 (Stab III/Artillery Rgt. 262) via Field P.O. 262 (K-437).

SERBIAN CIVIL CENSORSHIP DURING WW II

by Henry Laessig

Some years ago I began assembling an exhibit of WW II Serbian civil censorship. This seemed like a short subject that could be done in one frame, an exhibiting format that was becoming more popular. The basis of this exhibit was Jim Lewis' "The Fate of Yugoslavia and German Occupation of Serbia" in TRSG Vol. XIV, No. 1 (Whole No. 54) in 1980. Recently Richard Stevens has supplied me with a copy of an article from *Filitelista* 237/32 (May 1997) which I had translated from the Cyrillic by Chasten Miloie via the APS translation service.

The tables and illustrations in this article greatly extend this study and deserve to be presented to English-speaking philatelists. Since the German occupation forces established the Serbian regime at this time, the TRSG seems an appropriate place to present a follow up to Jim's article.

Two separate censor systems existed in Serbia, one for ordinary mail and the other for Governmental and Relief agencies. A standard Belgrade sealing tape was used to close censored mail at all offices.

Belgrade sealing tape used by
all seven censor stations

GEÖFFNET
POSTZENSUR
ПОШТАНСКА КЕНЗУРА
ОТБОРЕНО



Ordinary mail was censored at seven points at various times during the war. These were Belgrade, Cacak, Kraljevo (a.k.a. Rankovicevo), Nis, Veliki Beckerek (also known as Petrovgrad, now Zrenjanin), Sabak (Shabac) and Vucitrn (Vuchitrn). Censorship was established on May 11, 1941 at Belgrade 2 & 25 (see Illus. # 2) and Nis. Belgrade 25 initially censored mail only from the Belgrade area, while Belgrade 2 censored mail from the rest of the country as well as Belgrade. Nis censored mail from Nis and the center of the country. On January 1, 1942 Belgrade 25 was merged with Belgrade 2 which then assumed all censoring functions.

Veliki Beckerek primarily censored mail from the Banat. Belgrade 2 processed mail from Srem. The head censor office authorized Cacak and Sabac to be opened. Sabac censored mail from Bodovinci, Banja Koviljacha, Bogatic, Debre, Dreginje, Koceljevo, Leshnica, Loznica, Metlic, Mitrovica Podrinska, Prnjavor Machvanski, Shabac and Vladimirci. Cacak censored mail from Kosovska, Mitrovska, Vucitrn, Zvecan, Joshanichka Banja, Leshak, Novi Pazar, Podujevo Rashka and Ushce. A decree dated November 22, 1942 replaced Cacek with Kraljevo, making the single known Cacek strike (Illus. # 12) very scarce. A "B" was used in the Sabac strike until new stamps with an "S" could be prepared. No "C" exists for Cacak. Very little is known about Vucitrn, seen only on telegrams (Illus. # 26).

A line dividing censoring responsibility between the two main censor officers, Belgrade 2 and Nis was created extending from Majdapek near the Rumanian border, through Zagubica, Despotovac, Kragujevac, Gruza, Kraljevo, Ivanjica to Vardishte. Mail actually moved by the most convenient means to most practical censoring location.

The earliest known usage at this time is from Belgrade dated 4/30/41 (Illus. # 28). Censorship hand stamps evolved in three stages:

- 1) Each office used several different designs:
 - a) Belgrade – boxed rectangle 54 x 13 mm with **Arabic** numerals (Illus. # 29)
 - Censor Headquarters used a 33 mm circle stamp (Illus. # 5)
 - Bilingual 7-line boxed hand stamp used in May 1941 (Illus. # 31)
 - German 70 mm boxed hand stamp used in June 1941 (Illus. # 32)
 - b) Nis – 34 mm circle, then a 54 x 13 mm rectangle with **Roman** numerals (Illus. # 8 & 30)
 - A 40 mm version of the circular strike used in June 1941 (Illus. # 6)
 - Also in June 1941 a 4-line stamp 45/47/31/3 mm (Illus. # 3)
 - c) Veliki Beckerek – 5-line strike 15/11/12/22/29 mm with large **Arabic** numeral (Illus. # 4)
 - A 35-mm circular stamp reported used 9/21/44. Probably should be 1941 (Illus. # 7)
- 2) A standard size box approximately 21 x 18 mm was introduced in Belgrade on January 1, 1942 and gradually became the standard for all offices (Illus. 9 – 25).
- 3) A new standard size box 31 x 15-mm was introduced on July 1, 1944 to reflect the reorganization of the censor offices into five sectors. Boxes were identical except for the sector numbers I to V in **Roman** numerals. Cacak had closed and Vicitrn didn't receive a sector number (Illus. # 27).

The table and illustrations at the end of this article list the various censor markings known at this time. Additions and corrections are welcome. **Bold** listings in the table are markings I have seen that extend those in the original Filitelista table.

The separate parallel Governmental and Relief agency censor system was established May 18, 1941 and worked through appointed Trustees in the various offices of the government and the Red Cross. Government Trustees had seals and/or linear censor slogan hand stamps to certify censoring. Red Cross officials used small "Geprüft/Censuriano" or other hand stamps, and would usually sign their name below. Red was the preferred hand stamp color for these Trustees. This system was eliminated on April 10, 1942 but a similar system continued into 1943 and 1944.

Since there were 14 ministries and 173 other governmental entities and each had a unique mark, only a sampling can be shown here. Illustration # 33 is a typical manuscript censor marking from 1941. The specific agency would appear only on the documents censored.

Illustration # 34 is a hand stamp for a Magistrate, ready to be signed.
 Illustration # 36 shows the device used by a post office savings bank.
 Illustration # 39, signed and dated, is the stamp of a workers insurance bureau in Belgrade. Illustration # 37 is a circular stamp on the back of the envelope bearing Illustration # 39.
 See 9a and 9b below for another example of this usage.

The following write up and illustrations pertaining to municipal censoring have been extracted verbatim from Jim Lewis' article in order to have all illustrations known to me in one place:

- "c) A special group of censor markings were used by other Trustees in municipal and district offices in Serbia.
 Belgrade – two hand stamps were used by the Trustee in this municipal office. A straight-line stamp with bilingual text "Vertrauensmann der Zensur bei der Stadtgemeinde Beograd" (Fig. 9a) is found on the front of mail while a circular stamp with the same inscription (Fig. 9b) is generally found on the back.
- Jagodina – the district office used an office hand stamp with added Trustee manuscript "Cenzur/(ident. no.)/(date)/(signature)" (Fig. 10)
- Kragujevac – the trustee in this municipal office used a hand stamp with Cyrillic text "Cenzurисano/cinov. grad. poglavartsva" (Censored/municipal office). Trustee's signature is under the stamp (Fig. 11).
- Leskovac – the Trustee in this district office used a straight-line stamp with Latin text "Censurисano/--- 194--g/Leskovac/---" (Fig. 12).
- Nis – the trustee in this municipal office used a straight-line stamp with Cyrillic text "Cenzurисano" and his signature that appears under the office seal (Fig. 13).

Fig. 9a

ПОВЕРЕНИК ЦЕНЗУРЕ
 ПРИ ОПШТИНИ ГРАДА БЕОГРАДА
 VERTRAUENSMANN DER ZENSUR
 BEI DER STADTGEMEINDE BELGRAD

Fig. 9b



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

ЦЕНЗУРИСАНО
 чинов. град. поглаварства

Fig. 12

Cenzurисano
 194... г.
 Leskovac

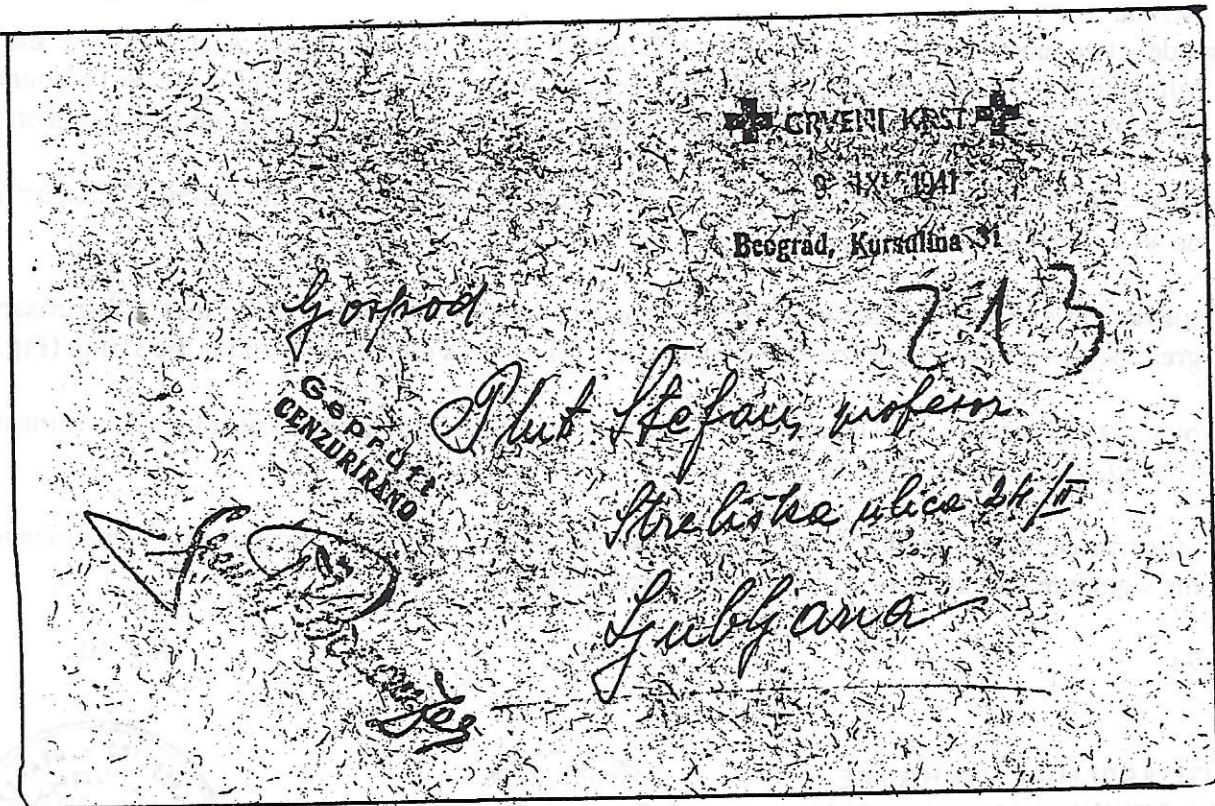
Fig. 13



ЦЕНЗУРИСАНО

The various Red Cross Trustees had their own distinct censor marks. It is not known how many Red Cross offices existed. At least these two examples exist. Illus. # 35 shows a generic Red Cross Trustee's hand stamp. A signature would probably have appeared below it. Illus. # 38 is a hand stamp combining "Geprüft/Cenzurirano" with a bold signature. A censored Red Cross cover is a very desirable item.

Shown below is a postage free Red Cross cover sent from Belgrade to Ljubljana (Laibach) on Sept. 9, 1941. The Illus. # 38 hand stamp combines Geprüft/Cenzurirano with a signature. Anyone with access to this stamp could censor mail.



The following is a listing of censor markings (Table I) and the numbered illustrations (Table II) referenced above.

Table I

Row	Town	Illus.	Size (mm)	Color	Usage Dates	# Used	Signatu.	Notes	Code
1a	Belgrade	2	53/20/50	Violet	8.13-9.21.41				Bgd.
b		5	33	Black	6.24.41-7.27.42				
c		28	54 x 13	Violet	5.28.41-2.26.42	1-50		serif	
d		29	54 x 13	Violet	4.30.41-5.27.42	51-116		San-serif	
				Black	6.2-9.5. 41	66,67,77, 102,104			
				Red	6.14.41	82			
e		32	70	Violet	5.30.41				
f		31	70 x 56	Violet	6.20.41		Black		
g		9	21 x 18	Violet	2.12.42-6.15.44	001-105			
				Red	4.1.42-5.1.42	053, 059			
h		10		Violet	6.17.42	012		Manuscr.	
i		11	22 x 17	Violet	6.21.42	049			
j		27	31 x 14	Violet	8.13-9.11.44			I	

Table I (Cont.)

Row	Town	Illu.	Size (mm)	Color	Usage Dates	# Used	Signatu.	Notes	Code
2a	Cacak	12	21 x 18	Violet	6.15-11.27.42	147-150			Bg
3a	Kraljevo	20	21 x 18	Violet	1.4.43-4.15.44	131-135			K.
b		21		Violet	4.14.44	135			
c		22		Violet	9.12-9.29.44?	132			
d		27	31 x 14	Violet	8.8.44	0433		IV	
4a	Nis	1	60/47	Black	6.16.42				N.
b		3	45/47/31/36	Violet	6.14-6.20.41	???	Blue		
c		6	40	Black	5.3-6.16.42				
d		8	34	Violet	5.28-7.16.41				
e		14	21 x 18	Violet	4.27-5.30.44	001-030			
				Black	12.28.43	024			
				Blue	11.3.43	025			
				Red	4.10.43	016			
				Violet	3.12.43		Black		
f		30	55 x 14	Violet	6.3.41-5.12.42	1-XXX	Black		V.B.
g		27	31 x 14	Violet	7.18.-8.17.44	0404,0410,0416		III	
5a	V. Beckerek	4	12/11/12/22/29	Violet	5.30.41-10.1.42	1-20	Blu/Blk	Solid	
	(Petrovgrad)	4	12/11/12/22/30	Violet	7.12.41	7	Blue	Outlined	
b	Now			Black	9.8.41-3.7.42	2,4,6,7,9,11,14,20			
c	Zrenjanin	7	35	Violet	9.21.44			1941?	
		15	21 x 18	Violet	2.30.42-7.2.44	001-018			
				Black	5.29-6.5.42	002-008			
d		16		Violet	3.29.44	011			
e		17		Violet	6.7.42	011			
f		18		Violet	6.2-6.20.43	001,006-009			
g		19		Violet	6.17-20.42	004,008			
h		27	31 x 14	Violet	7.4-10.2.44	0362,0365-0373		II	
6a	Sabac	13	21 x 18	Violet	8.18-11.27.42	140-141			B,S
b	(Shabac)	23	21 x 18	Violet	1.21.43-2.23.44	126,128-30			
c		24		Violet	6.3.43	126			
d		25		Violet	1222.43-2.23.44	128			
e		27	13 x 14	Violet	7.9-9.12.44	0451,0453,0455		V	
7a	Vucitm	26	34 x 13	Violet	11.3.42			Telegram	none
Red Cross and Municipal Trustees									
1	Smederevo	33	manuscriptt	Violet	12.12.41	none	??		
2	Pancevo	34	41/45	Violet	6.16.41	none			
3	Belgrade	35	56/61/81/45	Violet	3.17.42	none		Red Cross	
4	Belgrade	36	34	Red	7.6.41	none			
5	Belgrade	37*	39	Red	8.16.41	none		*same cvr	
6	Belgrade	38	26/27	Red	9.9.41	none	Red		
7	Belgrade	39*	56/55/83/85	Red	8.16.41	none	Red	*same cvr	
8	Belgrade	9a	49/47/61/57	Red ?		none			
9	Belgrade	9b	33	Red ?		none			
10	Jagodina	10	33	?		none		manu. date	
11	Kragujevac	11	40/44	?		none			
12	Leskovac	12	34/29/15/25	?		none		not filled in	
13	Nis	13	22cir/46s/1	?		none			

Table II

1.

chef der Zensur des Postamtes Nisch I
Шеф цензуре поште Ниш I

[Handwritten signature]

2.

Schef der Zensur des Postamtes
Belgrad 25.

Шеф цензуре поште Београд 25.

3.

POSTZENSUR NISCH I.
Юштанска Цензура-Ниш

№.....

4.

Zensuriert
pregledano № 7
Post Zensur
Poštanska cenzura
GROSSBETSCHKEREK

5.



6.



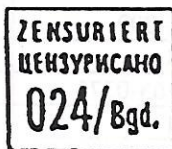
7.



8.



9.



10.



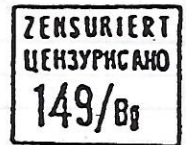
17-VI

11.



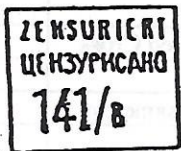
21.

12.

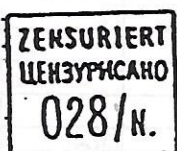


VI.

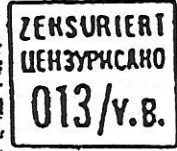
13.



14.



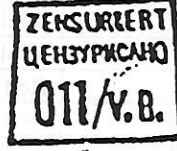
15.



16.



17.



18.



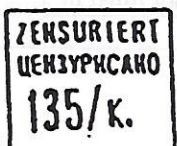
19.



17. VI.

17. Juni

20.



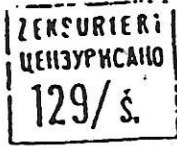
21.



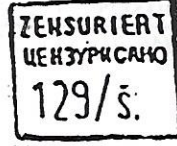
22.



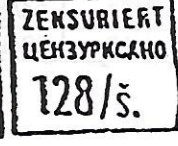
23.



24.



25.



26.

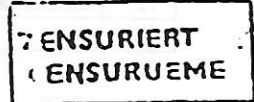


Table I I (Cont.)

27.

ZENSURIERT
0370/Sekt. II
ЦЕНЗУРИСАНО

28.

⌘ Zensuriert ⌘
Цензурисано

29.

67 Zensuriert 67
Цензурисано

30.

Zensuriert
XXII XXII
Цензурисано

31.

Geprüft, zenzurstelle Belgrad
Прегледано и цензурисано у Београду
am _____ 194
дана _____
Unterschrift _____
Потпис _____
№ 1

32.

Geprüft, zenzurstelle Belgrad

33.

цензурисано:
B. L. Manuarett

34.

ZENSURIERT

Gerichtsbeamter

35.

ПОВЕРЕНИК ЦЕНЗУРЕ
ПРИ СРПСКОМ ДРУШТВУ ЦРВЕНОГ КРСТА
VERTRAUENSMANN DER ZENSUR
BEIM SERBISCHEN ROTEN KREUZ

36.



37.



38.

Geprüft
CENZURISANO

39.

ПОВЕРЕНИК ЦЕНЗУРЕ
ПРИ ОУЗОРУ У БЕОГРАДУ
VERTRAUENSMANN DER ZENSUR
Beim Kreisamt für Arbeiterversicherung in Belgrad

16. VIII. 1941

[Handwritten signature]

As many TRSG members have never seen a Serbian censored cover, the balance of this article consists of selected censored covers from this period.

First Period

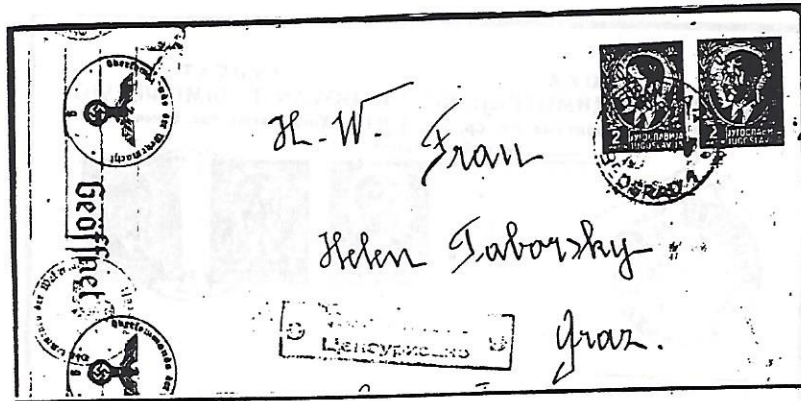
1. June 25, 1941 – from Leskovac to Belgrade via Nis. Early censor stamp of Nis inscribed “Postal Censor Nis 1” in German and Serbian used only during May & June of 1941.



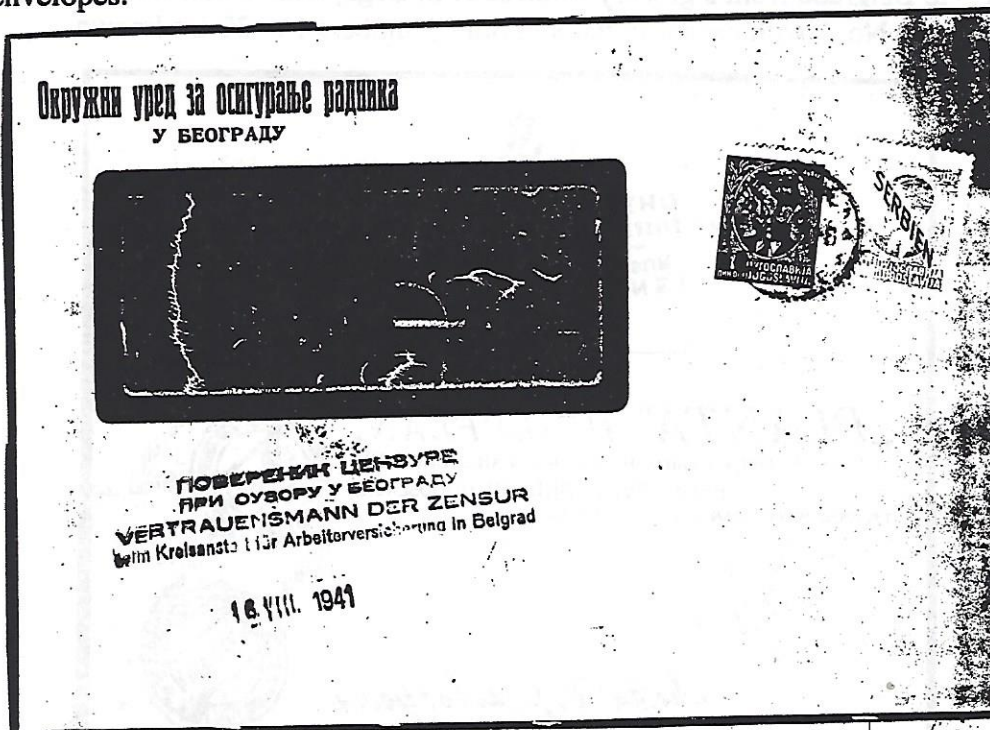
2. October 30, 1941 – registered cover from a lawyer in Petrovgrad (Veliki Beckerek) with Veliki Beckerek open 5-line hand stamp No. 2 with censor initial's in black. Note use of Belgrade sealing tape.



- 5. June 21, 1941 – to Graz, Austria with Belgrade censor stamp # 9 used as a transit stamp. Censored again at the Vienna office (code 'g') where sealing tape and machine stamp were applied.

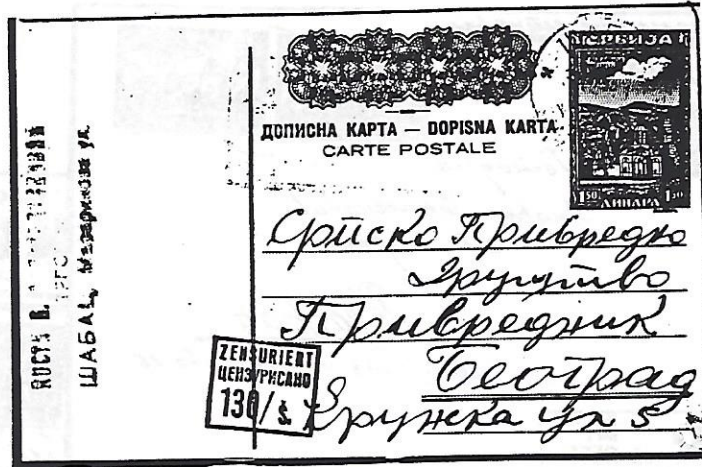


- 6. August 16, 1941 – municipal trustee letter from workers insurance bureau in Belgrade has 4 - line bilingual hand stamp with date and trustee's initials below. Circular hand stamp with same legend appears on reverse. Shortages caused a rapid disappearance of window envelopes.



Second Period

- 7. July 30, 1943 – from Sabac to Belgrade with Sabac censor stamp # 130 used as a transit stamp. Sabac was only used as an identifiable censor point during the second period. This old Yugoslav 1 Din postal card had the old text obliterated because Yugoslav postage was invalid. A 1.5 Din stamp has been pasted over the old denomination.



- 8. New type of Belgrade hand stamp introduced in late 1942 to replace previous devices. These 21 x 18mm boxed censor stamps were numbered 1 to 120. June 7, 1942 (top) – from Valievo to Belgrade with Belgrade censor stamp # 019 used as sealing stamp with censor tape.

September 17, 1942 (bottom) – overweight postage due cover from Debeljaca to Belgrade with Belgrade censor stamp # 026 used as a transit stamp.



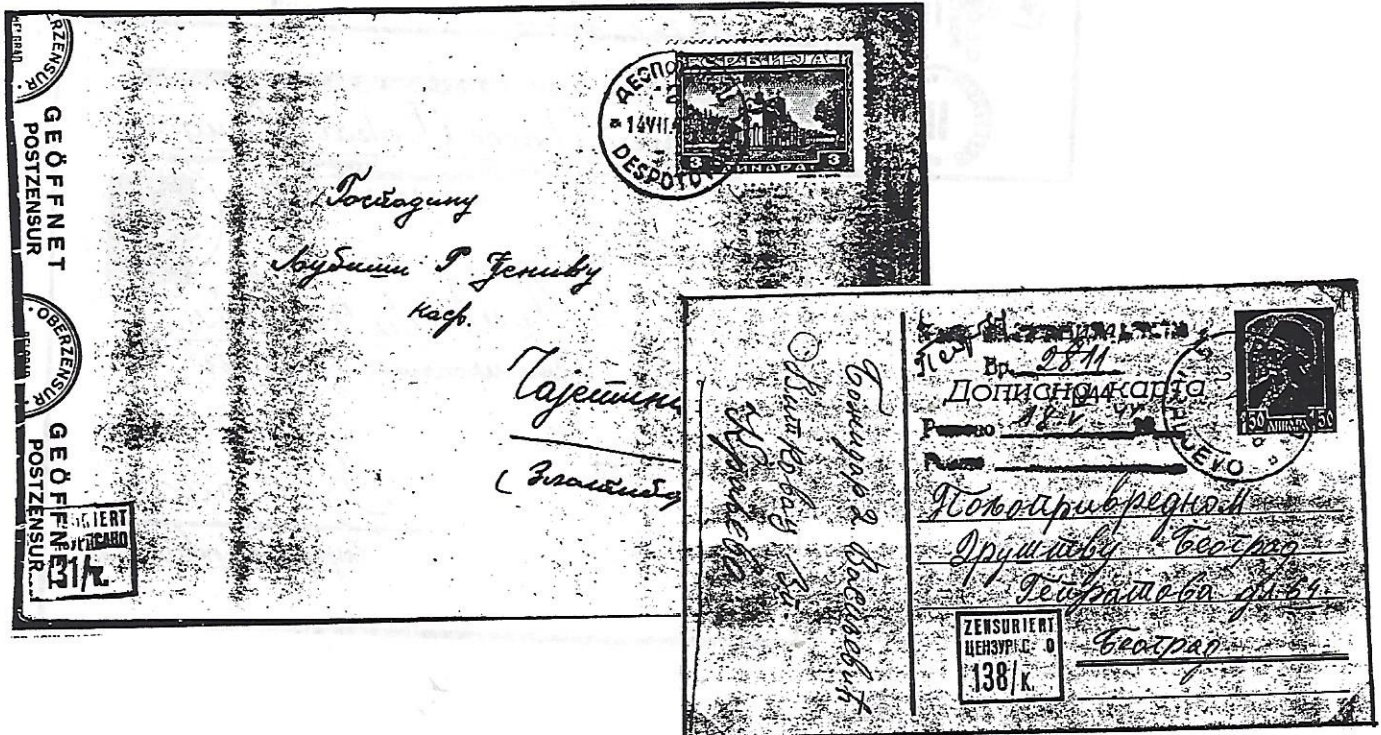
9. New type of Nis hand stamp introduced late in 1942 to replace previous devices. These 21 x 18mm boxed censor stamps were numbered 001 to 030.

March 21, 1944 (top) – registered cover Nis to Belgrade with Nis censor stamp # 027 used as a transit stamp. December 15, 1942 (bottom) –from Leskovac to Belgrade with Nis censor stamp # 030 used as a sealing stamp with censor tape.



10. Kraljevo boxed hand stamps were introduced in 1943.

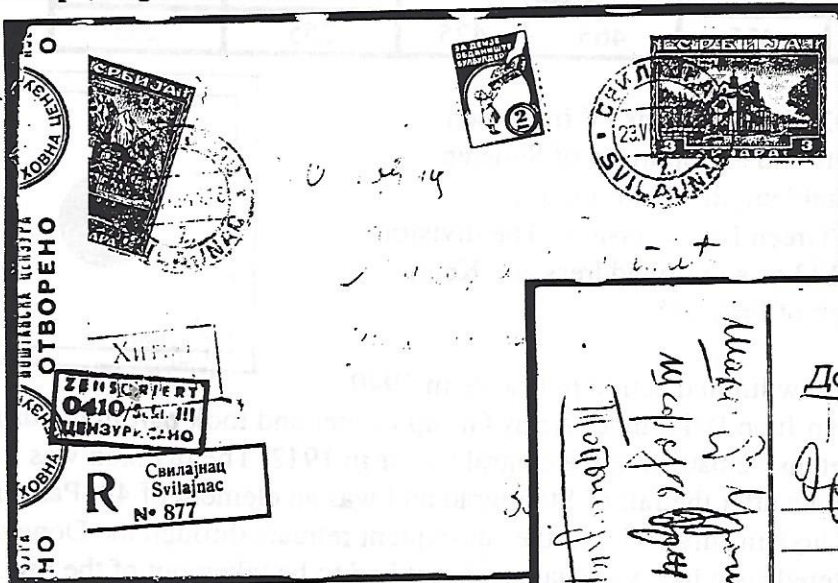
August 14, 1943 (top) – from Despotovac to Cajevina with Kraljevo censor stamp # 131 used as sealing stamp with censor tape. September 5, 1943 (bottom) – Serbian postal card to Belgrade with Kraljevo censor stamp # 138. Kraljevo censor hand stamps used numbers 131 to 140.



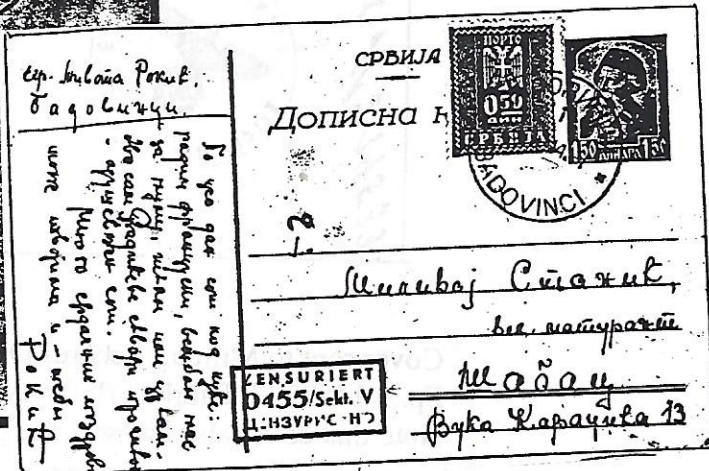
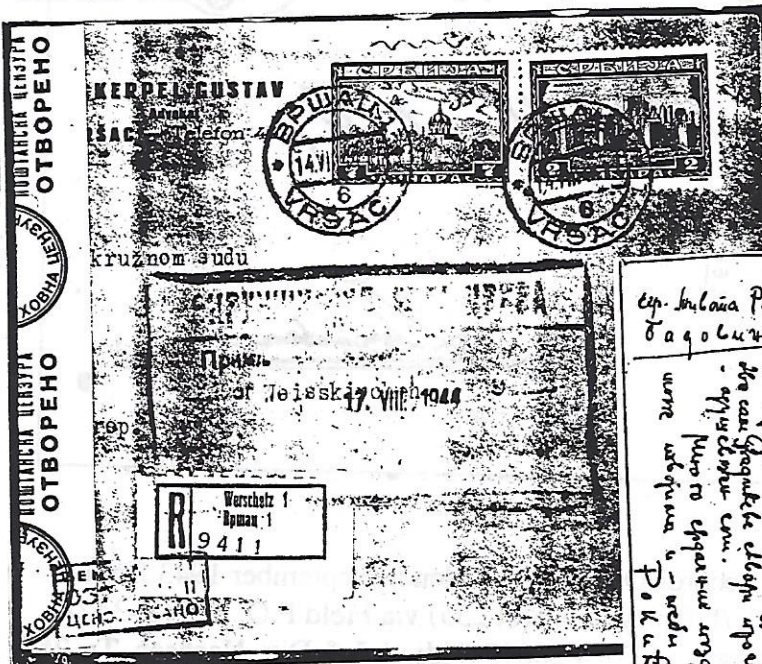
Third Period

11. Mid-1944 reorganization of civil censorship into five sectors using 31 x 15mm boxed hand stamps.

August 23, 1944 (top) – registered, special delivery cover from Svilajnac to Nis with Sector III hand stamp (Nis) 0410 used as sealing stamp with censor tape. August 19, 1944 (bottom) – Serbian postal card with 50 Paras postage due added to make 2 Dinar post card rate with Sector I hand stamp (Belgrade) 0315.



12. August 14, 1944 (top) – registered cover from Vrsac to a court in Bela Crkva with Sector II hand stamp (Veliki Beckerek) 0370 used as sealing stamp with censor tape. September 12, 1944 (bottom) – Serbian postal card with 50 Paras postage due added to make 2 Dinar post card rate with Sector V hand stamp (Sabac) 0455



COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

255th Infantry Division

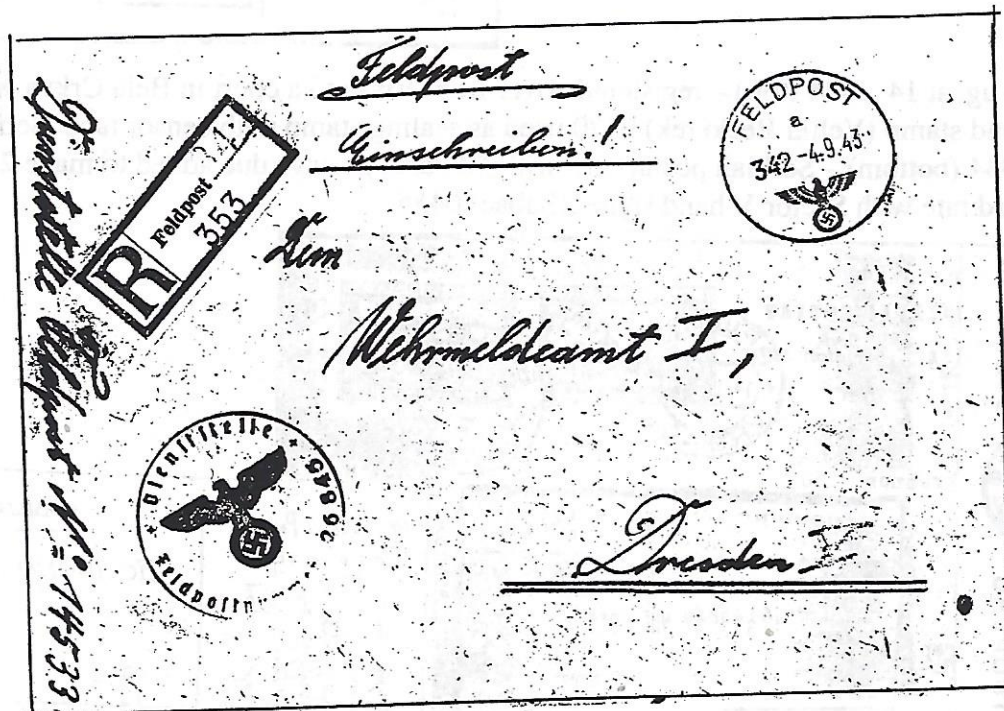
by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
255	342	455	465	475	255	255

Formed in the summer of 1939 in Wehrkreis IV from men serving in Saxon reserve units and a proportion of Sudeten Germans. Because of their emblem, the 255th Infantry Division was known as the "Green Dot" division. The division P.O. was assigned Fp. # 08133 as a return address and Kenn 342 as a coded identity in lieu of FpA 255.



The 255th Infantry Division saw limited action in France in 1940. It invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941 under Army Group Center and took part in the drive on Moscow. It fought in the defensive battles in the central sector in 1942. The division was transferred to the southern zone after the fall of Stalingrad and was an element of 4th Panzer Army during the Battle of Kursk in July 1943. In the subsequent retreats through the Donets, the 255th Infantry Division suffered such heavy casualties that it had to be taken out of the line. The remnants of the division were sent to France in late 1943, where it was disbanded and its men assigned to various units.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Dresden in September 1943 from Fp. # 14533 (2. Fahrkol. /Infantry Div. Kol 255) via Field P.O. 255 (K-342). Note that cover also has seal of Fp. # 26845 (Kdr. d. Inf. Div. Nachsch. Tr. 255)

Special Cancels – The Leipzig International Fair 1936 - 1942

by Bob Ferguson

The Leipzig Fair began to be advertised in machine cancels in 1936 and continued in use until 1942. The issuance of stamps commemorating the fair in 1941 included five special cancels used by temporary post offices located throughout the fair grounds. The slogan cancel numbering scheme is in Julius Bochmann's work "Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel".

Machine Can. #189	Internationale Leipziger Messe vom 1-9 March 1936 (Used in 77 cities)	17 January - 9 March 1936
Machine Can. #218	Internationale Leipziger Messe vom 30 August - 3 September 1936 (Used in 82 cities)	15 July - 3 September 1936
Machine Can. #239	Internationale Leipziger Messe vom 28 February - 8 March 1937 (Used in 78 cities)	11 January - 24 February 1937
Machine Can. #266	Internationale Leipziger Messe vom 29 August - 2 September 1937 (Used in 81 cities)	15 July - 1 September 1937
Machine Can. #271	Internationale Leipziger Messe vom 6-14 March 1938 (Used in 82 cities)	25 January - 8 March 1938
Machine Can. #294	Internationale Leipziger Messe vom 28 August - 1 September 1938 (Used in 82 cities)	18 July - 28 August 1938
Machine Can. #309	Internationale Leipziger Messe vom 5-15 March 1939 (Used in 83 cities)	24 January - 6 March 1939
Machine Can. #328	Internationale Leipziger Messe vom 27-31 August 1939 (Used in 84 cities)	16 July - 30 August 1939
Machine Can. #352	Internationale Leipziger Messe vom 3-10 March 1940 (Used in 82 cities)	20 January - 3 March 1940
Machine Can. #360	Internationale Leipziger Messe vom 25-29 August 1940 (Used in 83 cities)	10 July - 27 August 1940
Machine Can. #369	Reichsmesse in Leipzig Fruhjahr 1941/2-7 March 1941 (Used in 84 cities)	19 January - 4 March 1941
Machine Can. #370	Reichsmesse in Leipzig Herbst 1941/31 August - 4 September 1941 (Used in 86 cities)	8 March - 4 September 1941
Machine Can. #386	Reichsmesse in Leipzig Fruhjahr 1942/1-5 March 1942 (Used in 84 cities)	10 November 1941 - 5 March 1942
Leipzig # 136	Reichsmessestadt – Messhaus Handelshof	1 – 7 March 1941
Leipzig # 137	Reichsmessestadt – Messhaus Petershof	1 – 7 March 1941
Leipzig # 138	Reichsmessestadt – Ring - Messhaus	1 – 7 March 1941
Leipzig # 139	Reichsmessestadt – Messhaus Stadt, Kaufhaus	1 – 7 March 1941
Leipzig # 140	Reichsmessestadt – Presse-Postamt/Haus der Nationen	1 – 7 March 1941

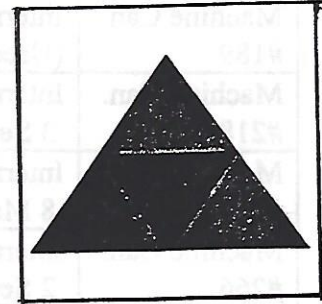


COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:**183rd Infantry Division**

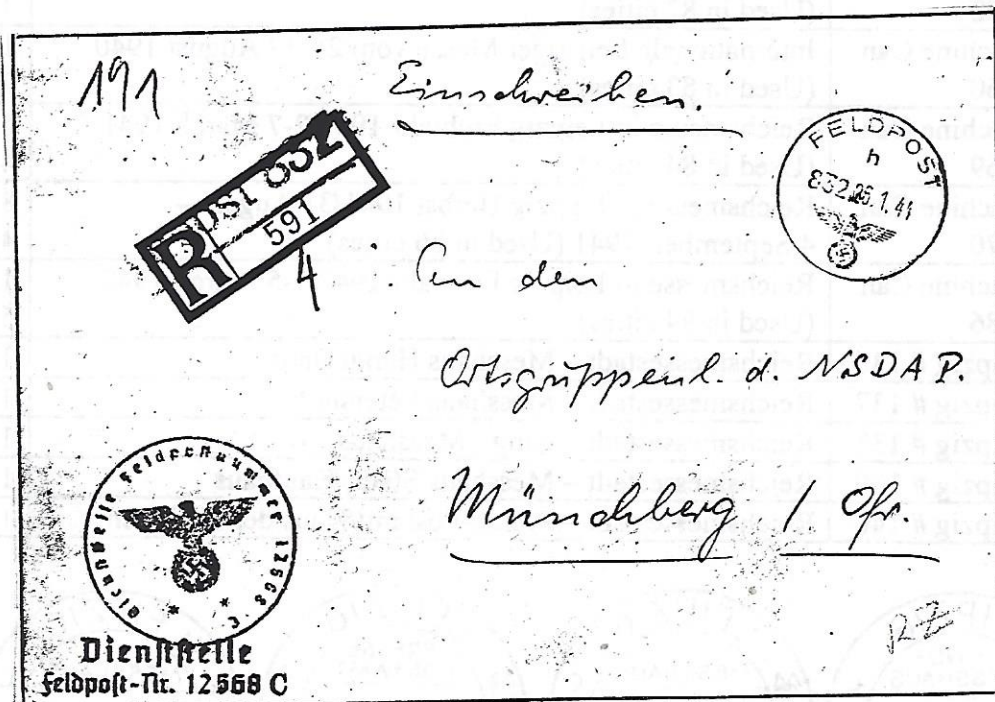
by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
219	832	330	343	351	219

Formed in January 1940 (3rd Wave) from replacement & training ('Ersatz') units, the division P.O. was assigned Fp# 27970 as a return address and Kenn 832 as a coded identity. The emblem featured a small black inverted triangle on a larger red triangle. The 183rd Infantry Division took part in the Balkan campaign of 1941 and was sent to Russia later that year. The division saw heavy fighting in the advance on Moscow and remained on the central sector, taking part in the defensive battles of 1942 and early 1943. It was transferred to the southern sector after the Rzhev withdrawal, suffering heavy losses in the Kiev fighting that autumn and in the Northern Ukraine campaign in the spring of 1944. In July 1944 it was surrounded with XIII Corps in the Brody Pocket in Byelorussia.



Those members who broke out of the pocket were withdrawn to Dollersheim Maneuver Area and reformed with Austrians of the 564th Grenadier Div. as the 183rd Volkgrenadier Div. The new P.O. was assigned Fp# 06680 and Kenn 683 on September 15, 1944. The 183rd VG Division was sent to the western front that fall, where it suffered heavy losses in battles on the Siegfried Line and at Aachen. In late November it opposed the U.S. 9th Army's Roer River offensive, where the 330th Grenadier Regiment was virtually annihilated. The remainder of the division was surrendered in the Ruhr Pocket.



Cover to NSDAP Regional Office in Münchberg sent in January 1941 from Fp. # 12568 (Stab III/ Gren. Rgt. 343) via P.O. 219 (K-832). Note unusual "FELDPOST 832" hand stamped on blank field registry label.

Rejected by Censor - Inadmissible Mail

by Larry Nelson

Foreign Mail Posted in a Letter Box

Part II, Sec. 2A, Para. 1a: "Depositing mail in letter boxes is prohibited in postal service to non-hostile foreign countries."

This cover was sent from Magdeburg to Den Haag, Holland on December 27, 1943. The Cologne censor office applied a 3-line hand stamp that translates "Depositing foreign mail in a postbox is not permitted. The postal item must be submitted without postage stamps at a postal counter."

Note: this hand stamp is not listed in Riemer's Mail Surveillance during the Third Reich.



THIRD REICH POSTAL RATES

Streetcar Dispatch (Strassenbahn) in Hamburg

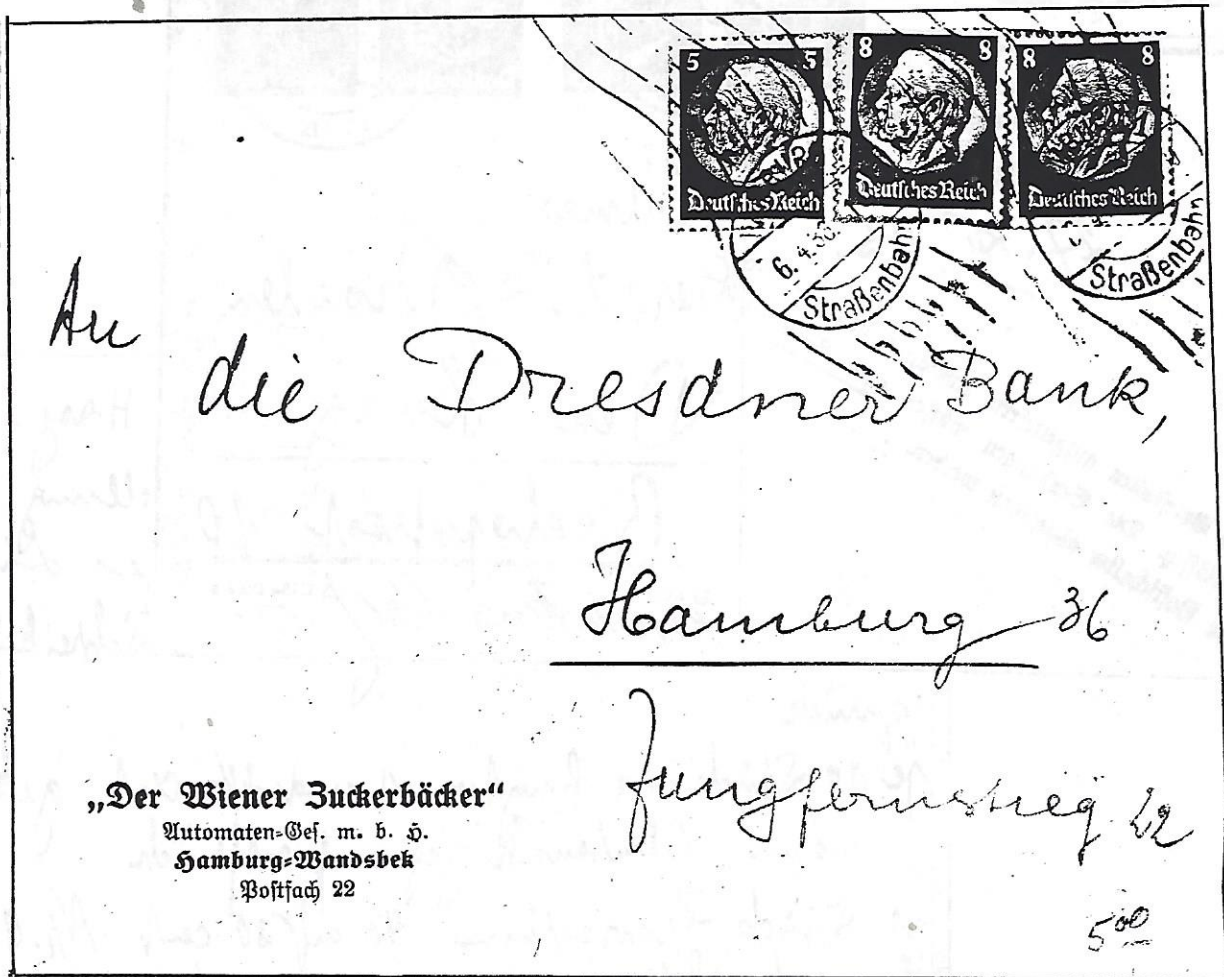
by Bob Ferguson

The streetcars in Hamburg had mailboxes attached to their back platforms. Mail deposited in these boxes, rather than conventional street boxes, assured that an item of mail would be delivered to the main post office (Hamburg 1) when the streetcar completed its circuit.

A special cancel showing both hours and minutes was applied in Hamburg 1. This cancel also included the word "Strassenbahn" (Streetcar). This service was available for letters, postcards, printed matter, samples, business papers and mixed sendings. The service was terminated in July 1943 due to extensive damage to the streetcar system caused by the Allied bombing campaign.

STREETCAR MAIL (30 January - July 1943)

Basic = Basic letter or card rate
+ 5 Pfg (Prepayment required)



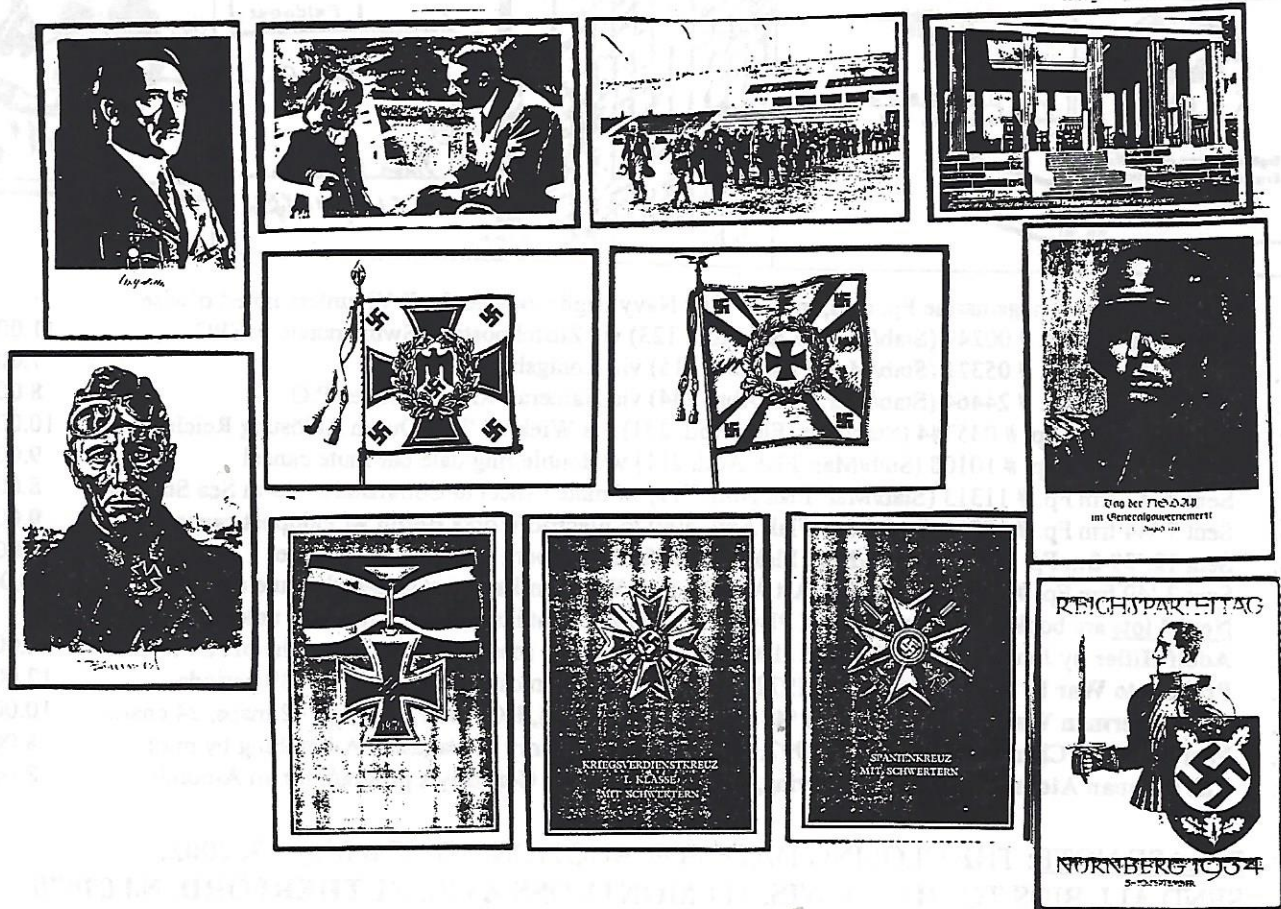
LOCAL BUSINESS LETTER

Posted: Hamburg 1 on April 6, 1936 (1750 Hrs = 5:30 P.M.)

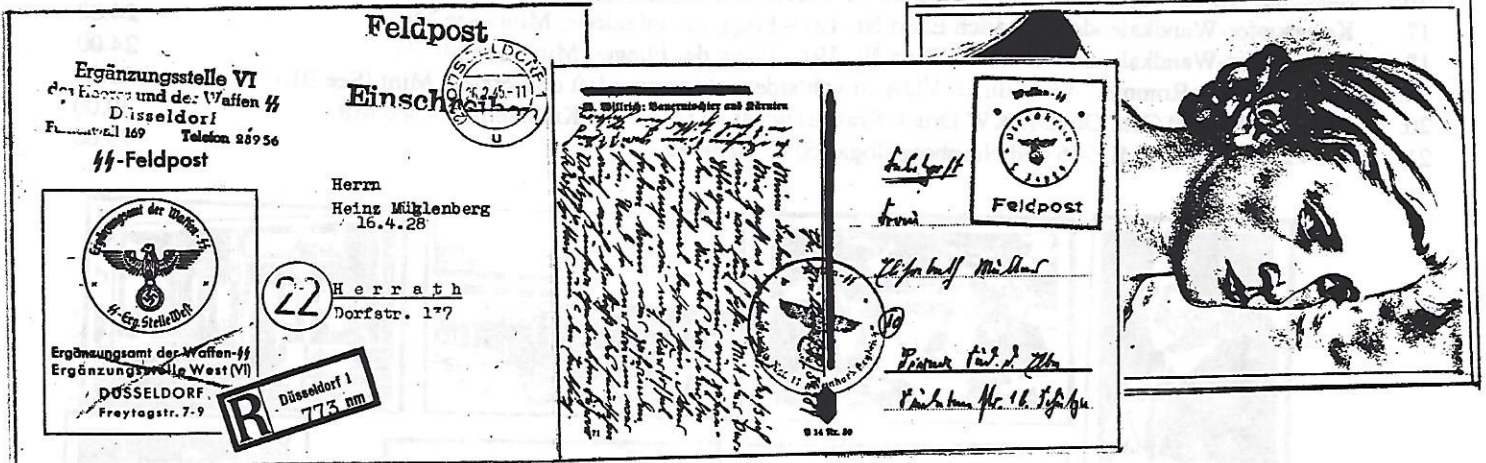
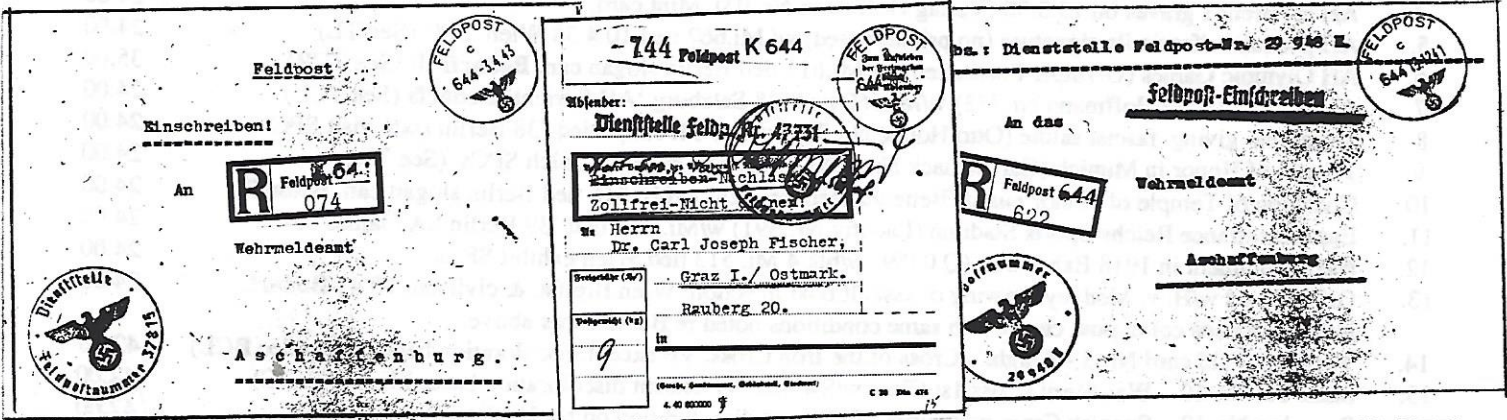
Franking (21 Pfg.): 16 Pfg. = Local rate for letter weighing between 20 to 250 grams (double rate).
5 Pfg. = Streetcar Dispatch

TRSG AUCTION NO. 87

Lot	Description	Min. Bid.
<p>First 13 lots B&W post cards of Hitler (AH) etc. (printer # given). All cards show philatelic usage i.e. stamp w/favor cancels & cond. VF unless noted o' wise. Illus. by Row/ Position i.e. Top/Center Left=TCL.</p>		
1.	AH in early uniform (Postkarten Industrie Wein) w/ Mi.664 tied '38 Wien B'day SPC	\$ 24.00
2.	AH giving casual "Heil" (Noris Verlag Nurnberg) w/ Mi.664 tied '38 Graz B'day SPC	24.00
3.	AH viewing parade (Postkarten Industrie Wein) w/ Mi.664 tied '38 Wien 'B'day SPC	24.00
4.	AH at Parent's graves on 13.3.38 (Verlag Hoffmann Nr. 03). Mint card.	24.00
5.	AH portrait w/facsimile signature (no printer noted) w/ Mi.662 tied 10.4.38 Wien SPC (See TL)	24.00
6.	AH Olympic Games (Olympia Postkarten) w/ Mi.611 tied Berlin slogan can. Bedarfs F (See TCR)	35.00
7.	AH w/girl (Verlag Hoffmann Nr.773) w/Mi.660 tied '38 Salzburg 'AH Spricht' Bedarfs (See TCL)	24.00
8.	Mussolini giving fascist salute (Otto Hoppe Nr. 71) w/ var. TR stmps tied '38 Berlin state visit SPC	24.00
9.	Temple of Honor in Munich (Carl Kruack Nr. 808) w/Mi. 513 & var. Munich SPCs. (See TR)	24.00
10.	Changing of Temple of Honor guard (Bettenhausen Nr. 128) w/Mi. 516 tied Berlin slogan can. Bedarfs	24.00
11.	Eastern entrance Reichs Sports Stadium (Lacofot Nr. 391) w/Mi. 516 tied '39 Berlin SA Games SPC	24.00
12.	Nazi monument in 1918 Exhibition (Q 0359) w/blk 4 Mi. 513 tied Wien exhibit SPCs.	24.00
13.	OKW Fp cd w/H. v. Medvey drawing of assault boat in action. Wien Breifst. & civil can 10.41 Bedarfs	24.00
<p>Next 8 lots are color post cards with same conditions noted re B&W cards above.</p>		
14.	Verlag C. Pahl card Nr. 3 - Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross. VF except discoloration back. Mint (See BCL)	42.00
15.	Same but Nr. 10 - War Merit Cross 1st Class w/Swords. VF except discoloration back. Mint (See BC)	42.00
16.	Same but Nr. 12 - Spanish Cross w/Swords. VF except discoloration on back. Mint (See BCR)	42.00
17.	Kriegsopfer-Wandkalender (Fredrich Ebert Nr. 13) - Flagg der Infanterie. Mint (See MCL)	24.00
18.	Kriegsopfer-Wandkalender (Fredrich Ebert Nr. 19) - Flagg der Flieger. Mint (See MCR)	24.00
19.	"Generalmajor Rommel" W. Willrich VDA cd w/b'side text in upper left obliterated. Mint (See BL)	35.00
20.	1st Year NSDAP Gen. Govt. (ZKW Druck Krakau) w/Mi. G.G. 42 tied Krakau SPC. (See MR)	30.00
21.	1934 Rally Card w/Mi. 546 tied Nurnberg slogan SPC. Bedarfs	75.00



Lot	Description	Min. Bid
	Next 5 lots are Waffen-SS Feldpost. All VF unless noted o'wise. See illustrations noted below.	
22	4.SS Polizei Inf. Div: R-Fp cvr sent 12.'41 frm Fp.# 29948 (Btl. I/SS Polizei Rgt. 2 via Fpa 300 (K-644) in Northern Russia (Top row L)	\$ 45.00
23	Same: R-Fp cvr sent 4.'43 frm Fp.# 37815 (Co. 14./SS Polizei Rgt. 2 via Fpa 300 (K-644) (Top row R)	45.00
24	Same: R-Fp 'Nachlass' pkg cd. sent 4.'43 frm Fp.# 47731 (Feldlazarett/ SS Polizei Div.) (Top row C)	54.00
25	Late R-cvr sent 2.'45 frm Waffen-SS Recruiting Office VI in Dusseldorf (Bottom row L)	50.00
26	Willrich bedarfs color cd w/open unit seal "SS Geb. Jag. Rgt. 11 'Rheinhard Heydrich' and boxed unit seal Fp.# 35993 (Waffen Werkst Kp./ 11. SS. Division 'Nordland' (Bottom row R (front) & C (back))	55.00



	Next 9 lots are Kriegsmarine Fp. cvrs, most to Kiel Navy High Command, all VF unless noted o'wise	
27.	Sent 2.'40 frm Fp. # 00249 (Stab/Marine Art. Abtl. 123) via Zustellpostamt Swinemunde w/SPC	11.00
28.	Sent 1.'40 frm Fp. # 05321 (Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 215) via Königsberg P.O.	7.00
29.	Sent 4.'40 frm Fp. # 24464 (Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 244) via Hamerau-Rademarschen P.O.	8.00
30.	Sent 11.'39 frm Fp. # 035744 (Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 231) via Wiek w/ 'Frei Durch Ablösung Reich' note	10.00
31.	Sent 11.'41 frm Fp. # 10108 (Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 211) w/ double ring/date bar mute cancel	9.00
32.	Sent 4.'42 frm Fp. # 11313 (Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 711) w/ mute cancel to Commander North Sea Station	8.00
33.	Sent 7.'44 frm Fp. # 18258 (Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 509) to Electric Works Berlin w/ Feldpost cancel	9.00
34.	Sent 12.'39 frm Fp. # 24466 (Stab/Mar. Flak Abtl. 225) Königsberg P.O. w/slogan cancel	8.00
35.	Sent 2.'40 frm Fp. # 41151 (Stab/Mar. Art Abtl. 811) to Wilhelmshaven w/ grid-style mute cancel	10.00
	Next 5 lots are books (HB=Hard Cover, PB=Paper Back) be sent insured book rate. VF unless noted	
36.	Adolf Hitler by John Toland, HC, 1976 (1st Ed.) 1035 pgs. The most balanced biography of AH to date.	12.00
37.	Prelude to War by Robert Elson, HC, 1972, 217 pgs with hundreds of photos 1918-1939 periods.	12.00
38.	Russo-German War: June '41 - June '43 by W. Victor Madej, HC, 1983, 202 pgs, 42 maps, 24 charts	10.00
39.	War's End by Charles Sweeney, PB, 1997, 290 pgs. Detailed story of Nagasaki A-bombing by pilot.	8.00
40.	The German Atom Bomb by David Irving, PB, 1967, 329 pgs, Germany's program for an A-bomb.	8.00

PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 87 is May 13, 2002.
SEND ALL BIDS TO: JIM LEWIS, 111 MONTROSS AVE., RUTHERFORD, NJ 07070