



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP

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

VOL. XXX No. 4 (Whole No. 121) 1996

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STAFF GROUP NOTES

Membership Renewal - a renewal form is included in this mailing. Please take a moment to complete the form and send it in with your payment to Secretary-Treasurer Fred Willshaw. While we have not increased dues for next year, any member whose dues are not received by January 1, 1997 will be considered as having resigned. Should this individual wish to renew membership after January 1, 1997, they will be obliged to pay the \$10.00 new member fee in addition to the annual dues.

New TRSG Bulletin Distribution Manager -we are pleased to announce that Bob Dunn has agreed to serve as Distribution Manager effective January 1997. After considering the requirements for the position, we decided that the ideal candidate should: a) be a long time TRSG member, b) have available time to assure that Bulletins can be distributed on schedule, c) have a Personal Computer to maintain member lists, print mailing labels and d) reside outside of New York/New Jersey (to give us better regional representation). Bob meets all of these requirements and is a very welcome addition to the Staff!

Back Issue Index Update - several members requested a back issue index update to complement previous indexes in both the TRSG Handbook and supplementary 1992 Back Issue Guide. Instead of another separate publication, articles from Bulletin #104 to date are listed in a 1996 Back Issue Guide beginning on page 14.

Clandestine Mail - commenting on the article in Bulletin # 120, Ben Beede believes that the OSS tried too hard to conform to what it thought were current German postal regulations. For example, the article states that because Postleitzahlen (mail routing numbers) were introduced during the last part of the war, the OSS had to revise its simulated German cancels. This was unnecessary because many cancels & registry labels were never altered. Apparently the OSS thought German cancelling devices could be changed more easily than proved to be the case.

The article also states that due to a drastic change in German postal regulations, only business and official mail would be allowed. To what specific regulation does this refer? While there was a regulation issued shortly before the end of the war which limited the types of mail that could be sent long distance by civilians, it was hardly a blanket prohibition of other than "business or official mail". Modifications could be made if transportation was available. In any case, individuals could always send postal cards, post cards, letters (up to 20 grams) and postal money orders.

Finally, the article states that Allied interrogators determined the effectiveness with which propaganda leaflets were distributed by questioning German POWs. Evidently, many such leaflets were received by military personnel. If one assumes there was a desire by the OSS to avoid attracting attention to envelopes carrying propaganda, why would postage stamps, let alone forged stamps, be used on mail that was almost always free-franked? Overall, the OSS venture into the postal sphere seems to have been largely a misadventure!

Prices Realized -TRSG Auction #74

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
17	\$28.00	27	\$15.00	31	\$12.00	35	\$10.00	39	\$10.00	43	\$10.00
19	52.00	28	12.00	32	10.00	36	14.00	40	10.00	44	16.00
25	56.00	29	10.00	33	12.00	37	12.00	41	10.00	45	25.00
26	36.00	30	12.00	34	18.00	38	10.00	42	13.00		

Cover Illustration - Serbian registered express cover sent to Nis in October 1943 from a Belgrade stamp dealer has a number of interesting postal markings, including bilingual (German & Serbian) sealing tape and boxed hand stamps applied by the German Censorship Office in Belgrade. This very nice example of domestic postal censorship in Serbia appears as Lot 2 in Auction # 75.

Hitler Birthday Special Cancels

by Bob Ferguson

While the Michel Catalog lists all Führer Birthday cancels for 1937 and 1938 as a footnote to the birthday stamps, for 1939-1944 they only note birthday cancels "Vielen Orten" or "Mehreren Städten", (i.e. used in many towns) which is not of much help. The following listing should prove useful to collectors as most Führer Birthday special cancels are easily identifiable by the phrase "Geburtstag des Führers" or the date "20 April". The only exception is the cancel of Pasewalk, location of the military hospital where Hitler was recuperating when the war ended, where he vowed: "Ich aber beschloss, politiker zu werden!" (I shall become a politician!) and this phrase appears on the 1938 Pasewalk birthday cancel.

"Authorized" use of the Führer Birthday special cancels was as follows: **1937** (no restrictions); **1938** (only on Michel #s 646-8, 650, 660-4, P264, P267 and P268); **1939-1941** (only on charity stamps); **1942-1944** (only on birthday stamps).

The cancel numbering scheme is that of Julius Bochmann's work "**Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel**".

1937

Berchtesgaden # 5
Berlin # 222
München # 93
Nürnberg # 49



1938

Berchtesgaden # 7
Berlin # 265
Braunau # 1
Graz # 2
München # 112
Linz # 2
Nürnberg # 56
Pasewalk # 2
Wien # 9



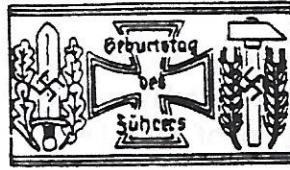
1939

Berlin # 306
Braunau # 2
Eger # 2
Memel # 1
München # 125
Nürnberg # 64
Saarbrücken # 14
Wien # 33



1940

Berlin # 328
 Danzig # 9
 Hamburg # 102
 Köln # 44
 Krakau # 2
 München # 143
 Nürnberg # 70
 Posen # 5
 Wien # 52

**1941**

Berlin # 360
 Krakau # 6
 Lublin # 3
 München # 159
 Obersalzberg # 2
 Radom # 4
 Warschau # 3
 Wien # 81

**1942**

Berlin # 374
 Braunau # 3
 Krakau # 11
 München # 175
 Nürnberg # 77
 Strassburg 3 16
 Wien # 96

**1943**

Amsterdam # 1
 Berlin # 387
 Braunau # 4
 Krakau # 16
 München # 185
 Nürnberg # 83
 Wien # 106

**1944**

Amsterdam # 2
 Berlin # 390
 Braunau # 5
 Krakau # 22
 München # 190
 Nürnberg # 85
 Wien # 110



In addition, Prague had Birthday cancels from 1942 -1944 but these are not listed in Bochmann.

BOOK REVIEW

"A Century of War Dates and More! 1859-1959" by Theo Van Dam.

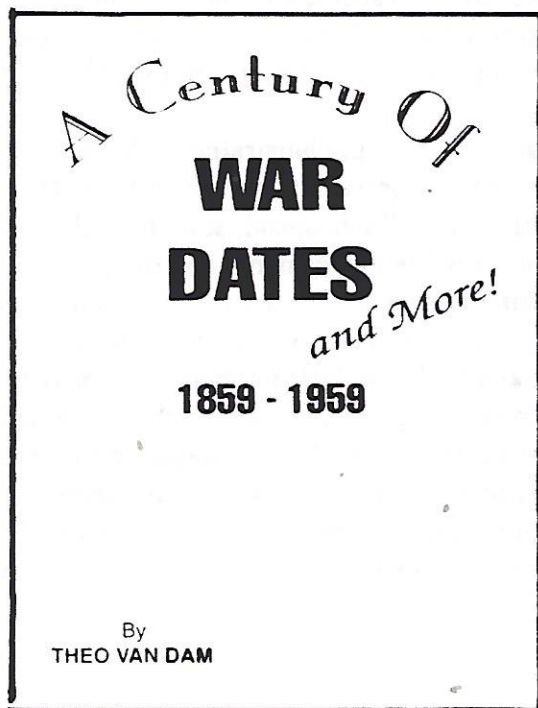
A Geographical and Chronological listing of Wars, Revolutions, Major Political Events and Newly Established Nations from the Italian War of Liberation until the Vietnam War - from Afghanistan to Zululand - from President Lincoln until the Ayatollah Khomeini. Soft-cover, spiral bound, 206 pages. Approximately 250 country listings (including colonies, etc.), more than 7,000 data entries, 44 maps and a 22 page index

Price \$28.00 postpaid in the United States and Canada, Overseas add \$2.00. Available from: POSTAL COVERS, Box 8809B, Anaheim, CA 92812-0809.

"A Century of War Dates and More!" gives comprehensive coverage of a hundred year period, starting with the Italian War of Liberation, through the U.S. Civil War - the Franco-Prussian War - the Russo-Turkish War - the Sino-Japanese War - the Spanish-American War - the Boer War - the Russo-Japanese War - the Balkan Wars - World War I - the Spanish Civil War - World War II - the Korean War - the Suez War and the major conflicts, colonial wars, revolutions in between up to the Vietnam War, with background and aftermath until 1990.

In addition, this book presents the major political events and new nations established during this period, listed by their date of independence, including lesser known countries such as Hatay, Kashgaria, the South Moluccan Republic, Stellaland, Western Ukraine and others.

The United States and Possessions are covered first, followed by the Latin American republics and then the balance of the world by country in alphabetical order. Colonies, protectorates etc. are listed with their mother country. This is followed by four Appendices: the Balkan Wars 1912-1913; World War I Battlefronts, such as the Caucasus, Eastern and western Fronts etc.; Peace Treaties and Aftermath, including Plebiscites and League of Nation Mandates; and World War II Allied and Axis Campaigns, from the German invasion of Poland until the surrender of Japan.



CANADIAN POSTAL CENSORSHIP REPORT ON CONDITIONS IN GERMANY

by Myron Fox

A copy of the following "Report on Conditions in Germany" by Canadian Postal Censorship was sent to the Assistant Director of Censorship in Washington, D.C. This report, found in the National Archives, was marked "Confidential" until declassified on 4/19/94.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL WAR SERVICES**Canadian Postal Censorship****Special Report No. 20****Ottawa, September 21, 1944.****"Report on Conditions in Germany"
"Censorship and Mail"**

This report is based on 1014 items of information culled from mail written during the first six months of the year 1944. This large volume of material on censorship, nearly double that collected in any previous six-month period, would seem to indicate that German Censorship has made a frantic effort to control the possible transmission of material of value to the enemy. In spite of these efforts, much valuable information has been found in the mail, information ranging from the location of troop formations to the petty reaction of individuals to fancied or real suffering.

The study of the actions of German censorship as seen in the material available gives an impression of great confusion. Contradictory instructions followed by contradictory interpretation of those instructions is evident in every phase of their work. This is particularly true if the section dealing with deletions is surveyed. Inconsistency in application of instructions by the censorship staff is evident in every subsection under this heading. Unquestionably, expressions of opinion regarding matters pertaining to the war are prohibited matter. In spite of this prohibition great number of such expressions are to be found in the mail. It may be supposed that the number of those neglected by censorship is greater than the number of those that have been excised or condemned.

The same inconsistency is seen in every phase of information dealing with the war, but is particularly noticeable in expressions of opinion regarding military events, air raid damage, matters of internal economy and the effect of various phases of life in wartime Germany on the life of the individual. Without doubt the more strict control measures instituted since Himmler's accession to the Ministry of the Interior have induced a state of confusion, not only among the writers but also among the staff of the censorship.

On the part of the writers, this attitude is amply illustrated in the first section of the report. It would appear that they are under the influence of two contradictory pressures: on the one hand, their own desire to share their troubles and their woes with their POW husband, son or brother plus the POWs request, sometimes rude demand, for more details on daily life in Germany; and on the other hand, the realization of the need for discretion plus the stringent instructions issued by German censorship regarding mail. The wives, accustomed to drawing strength from their husbands to face the various difficulties in their daily life, find themselves separated from this source of strength. Those little intimacies of expression and word which give assurance of continued close communion between people dear to each other have had to be sacrificed to the demands of war, and sacrificed at a time when body and soul of the nation are undergoing a terrible strain. This deprivation has produced a bitterness toward those restrictions arising from the necessities of war, and finds expression in cries of protest against the long period of waiting. Out of these contending influences grows that confusion which is so evident in all sections of this report and which has even had a negative affect on the work of the censorship staff.

The attitude of the POW is of great significance. In all likelihood, most of the POWs of long standing fail to understand the necessity for stricter censorship, as they don't realize or admit the distance Germany has gone on the road toward defeat since they last visited their homeland. However, various war events also have their share in the picture which German censorship presents today. The heavy air raids on Berlin, during which the foreign mail control offices were hit, not only destroyed a quantity of mail held there at the time but also forced censorship to vacate the premises. This was followed by a decentralization process which did not aid in overcoming the confusion.

The section of the report dealing with regulations while containing very little, if any, new information confirms the confusion which is evident in other parts of the report. It is interesting to note that here the German censorship authorities in issuing instructions regarding the curtailment of the volume of mail frankly acknowledge their inability to cope with this volume. Formerly, in identical notifications, the German censorship placed the blame on lack of suitable personnel in United Nations censorship.

If the confusion, contradiction and indecision as seen in this report are present in all levels of the population in Germany, in official institutions as well as among the citizens, recognition of inevitable defeat must by this time have penetrated the most obtuse mind.

Attitudes toward Censorship

Acceptance - Writers in this group commenting on censorship restrictions seem to regard these as an irksome but inevitable part of war and accept the situation without complaint. Subjects chosen at random may not be discussed and so only purely family matters remain (a).

Anxiety that their letters reach the POW is the cause for strict adherence to regulations. They say that there is no use in writing a letter that would not pass the censor at all, or that would have much of its contents deleted (b).

Some writers state that letters in which they speak too freely may not reach the POWs (c). Very often the writer urges the POW to be patient and not to complain that his letters contain so little of interest. One woman believes that the POW has not received many of her letters because she answered too many of his questions. A much smaller group of writers declare that they cannot and will not write of events in Germany because it is better that the POW should not know what is going on in the homeland (d). Some writers express their consciousness of the censorship slogan "The enemy is listening", and guide themselves accordingly (e).

Complaints These are largely mild in character and nearly all concern the writer's increasing impatience and annoyance with the censorship restrictions under which he has been obliged to carry on his correspondence for several years. Writers complain of the difficulties they experience in composing a letter (f).

Every word must be carefully weighed; sometimes letters are torn up because the writers think that too much has been said; and they repeat the "same old twaddle" because their hands are completely bound. Their low spirits are increased because they cannot speak out plainly to son or husband. Some urge the POWs to read between the lines. Others comment sarcastically that if a letter is to pass the censor, one must speak only of health and the weather (g).

A complaint is made against a local postmaster in Hemau, Bavaria. He is said to keep back many of the letters which one woman writes to a POW in Canada, and the letters which she receives from the latter are said to be deleted and mutilated (h). Two writers are indignant at the fact that letters from the POWs, formerly sealed, are now open on arrival and can be read by anybody.

- (a) M.E., Wolf/Buedingen, Hessen (30.3.44, sister to Sold.) : "You say that I write so little Herbert, surely you know quite well that we can't write much, only personal things, and there is not much of that here."
- (b) C.K., Niedersimten b/Pirmasens (3.3.44, parents to Obersold.) : "At all events, I always write and you can surely imagine why we write such short letters, for we have been given orders as to what we may and may not write. And when I write something that is not permitted, it is deleted and you can't read it anyway."
- (c) J.W., Delmenhost., 29 (13.1.43, uncle to Mtr. Obergefr.) : "I have heard nothing from you for a long time, probably you did not receive my last letters. I probably told you too much which the censor could not let through."
- (d) M.F., Hamburg 13 (23.11.43, sister to M.N. Seaman) : "We cannot and do not want to write about what we are experiencing. It is well that you are not taking part in what we are living through here."
- (e) R.S., Rositz, Thuringia (6.3.44, friend to Gefr.) : "Now I have to come to an end. I still have much that I could tell you, but there are pictures of such dark men in windows with 'The enemy is listening' printed underneath, it is the shadow which is on the way day and night."
- (f) E.G., Dresden-Freital (4.12.43, wife to Hptm.) : "They don't give us very much freedom in writing. One has to struggle over every sentence in the letter, we can't exchange our thoughts. It's a good thing that we can still write about love, thank heaven this is still free of duty."
- (g) E.H. Kemberg, Krs. Wittenberg (13.4.44, sister to Obergefr.) : "How everything is still as it was. This is what we must write if the mail is to reach you."
- (h) O.W., Klardorf b/Schwandorf (31.1.44, friend to Gefr.) : "In your last card you wrote that you receive very little mail from your wife. Your wife told me of the mail-swindle which is evidently going on in Hemau. As Mrs. Meier told me, she writes as many letters as I, and the letters which she mails at Hemau are held back for the most part by the postmasters. Why, nobody knows. Is this not the most gross insult against a soldier's wife and her husband? Until now my husband has received all the letters which I mailed at the post offices; I hope this will continue. Furthermore your wife has already received half-torn letters, deleted ones too, nearly illegible. Nothing like that has happened to me. The present postman told your wife quite frankly, no mail is as of much interest to us as POW mail, we must see what they write. Do you know what they should get, they should be put against the wall!"
- (I) E.G., Gelsenkirchen (9.11.43, mother to Obergefr.) : "You say that Annie writes very enjoyable and plain letters, that's all very fine, but as a result of her plain-speech Fritz (POW's brother, a service man) has experienced a great deal of unpleasantness and we have too."

Deletions

This section is based on 439 items of information. These fit into three main groups: 1) Complete deletions where the nature of the material deleted could be arrived at by study of the context of the letter; 2) Deletions technically imperfect that left the original message legible or made possible raising if the deletion, 3) Passages marked for deletion and not deleted due either to inefficiency or divided opinion on the part of the censorship staff.

The following is a listing of subject matter excised or blue penciled for deletion:

Air Raids: Address of Evacuee Children's Home, Alerts, Casualties, Damage, Evacuation, Housing, Morale: Negative, Morale: Positive and Transportation.

Commodities: Clothing, Fuel, Miscellaneous, Parcels and Shoes.

Education: Closing of schools, Effects of air raids, Hours, Insufficient Instruction and Teachers.

Food: Black market, Rationing, Shortages and Slaughter Regulations.

Health: Armed Forces, Epidemics, Hospital treatment, Name of Disease.

Industrial Information: Location of Firms, Type of Work.

Labour: Attitude of Foreign Workers, Dissatisfaction with Work, Shortage of Manpower.

Miscellaneous: Accidents, Censorship regulations, Mail service, Political News, Transportation, Treatment of German POWs.

Morale: Criticism, Negative, Positive.

Morals: Murder, Sexual Immorality, Theft.

Prices: Clothing, Farm Produce, General, Livestock.

Religion

Serial Numbers of Letters

Service Information: Casualties, Fieldpost Numbers, Location of Service Units, Miscellaneous, Official Stamps, Training.

Slogans

The above list of deletions includes all three types referred to previously. Numerically, information dealing with air raid damage, health (diseases and health in the Armed Forces), negative morale and casualties predominates. The majority of the subjects come under all three types of information.

Incomplete Deletions Two possible explanations may account for the numerous letters containing passages marked for deletion where the process has not been completed:

1. German censorship regulations may be broad in outline, giving rise to varied interpretation. In this connection the following factors may be considered:
 - a. Passages marked for deletion appear quite innocuous when compared with others passed by German censorship.
 - b. In some letters certain matter has been deleted while on the same page other passages marked for deletion have been overlooked.
 - c. In one letter part of a marked passage has been deleted, while the immediately preceding words that have also been blue-penciled, have been allowed to pass.
2. Inefficiency or carelessness on the part of the German censorship staff, in which the examiner marked certain passages for deletion, following which the letter, instead of being routed to the proper department for action, was dispatched and arrived in Canada containing the instructions as to deletions. In one case the enclosed slip reads:

5357/T. IV D. 22.1.44

Hirschle-Hirschle

* V.U.Z. 8-9

“Nicht mehr viel Arbeitskraefte”

In this instance, the date and examiner's number are given, the names of the sender and addressee, location in the letter of the passage to be deleted (* Von Unten Zeilen 8-9 = Lines 8-9 from the bottom) and the passage itself (“not much more manpower”).

In another case the enclosed slip reads:

III/3 Nach VIII
Furcht Abs. 5 Z. 2-4
Pappenburg 356 17.11.43

This seems to indicate that the letter went to Dept. III, Sub-Section 3, where it was examined by Examiner 356 on 17.11.43. This examiner then sent the letter on to Section VIII for action to be taken on lines 2-4 in the fifth paragraph referring to fear ("Furcht"). As in the former case, this letter was dispatched.

Deletion Policy

1. Morale - C.P.C. Special Report No. 12 on Censorship gave evidence of a marked decrease in information on air raids and morale. This decrease may be accepted as a direct result of Himmler's appointment to the Ministry of the Interior (25.8.43) and the subsequent more stringent security measures. Between that date and the end of the year a continued drop in this information was noted.

During the period covered by the present report (January to June 1944) German propaganda had undertaken an impressive and extensive campaign to warn the citizens of the dangers of enemy espionage. Included in this was a campaign to instruct the respondents of POWs on self-censorship and impress on them the need of writing letters which would act as an inspiration to the POWs. This resulted in a flood of letters in which cheerfulness is mingled with the very obvious desire to conform to censorship regulations.

The result of these various measures may be clearly seen. In C.P.C. Special report No. 12, 23.5% of the deletions reported on dealt with the expressions of morale as compared to 11.2% indicated in the present report.

Passages marked for deletion on grounds of morale in every instance reveal extremely low spirits, and occasionally criticism of certain phases of life in Germany (a, b). actual deletions appear to follow along similar lines in most part. However, some of the matter deleted apparently contains complaints of hardships, qualified by expressions of positive morale. In this case the complaint has been excised and the qualification, possibly lip-service to the authorities, left intact.

2. Air Raids - Figures compiled for periodical diaries indicate that the percentage of information available on air raids has remained static in recent months. This also applies to the percentage of deletions when compared to previous reports on censorship, but the number of passages marked for deletion is out of proportion with those actually deleted.

Concession of the British censorship may be seen in the deletion of a few passages which appear to have contained either remarks derogatory to the United Nations, probably in connection with deaths or destruction of property during air raids, or extremely high morale, and in which in the eyes of the German censor might have proved offensive to our censorship.

3. Service Information - The usual deletions of health, extensive casualties, field post numbers, official stamps, and mention of the location of service men continue. But here again there appears to be some confusion: FPNs have been marked for deletion, but then sent on, while official stamps and details of location were treated in the same way. Descriptions of training, lists of casualties were also scored out, but the letter forwarded with passages still intact.

4. Commodities - Several letters written during December, 1943 and January 1944 reveal an increase in this type of deletion which would seem to be that the number of complaints increased as the shortage was felt more acutely, and German censorship therefore took action. Prices of clothing were also deleted during these months. Another type of deletion noticed in recent months has been made in connection with parcels sent to the POW by friends in Germany. In several cases, lists of the contents of such parcels have been excised.

General - Although there are no apparent changes in other phases of the German deletion policy, there still appears to be a great deal of confusion. For the first time, several passages referring to the shortage of labour, inadequate educational facilities and religion have been marked for deletion, with no further action taken.

Letters giving information about morals and health are also dealt with in a contradictory manner. In two cases, comments on murder and sexual irregularity were marked for deletion but overlooked; similar passages in other letters were completely excised. The deletion of diseases also appears to be carried on in an a haphazard manner. Mention of diphtheria, influenza, jaundice, malaria, pneumonia, scarlet fever and typhus was in several instances allowed to pass through although marked for deletion. In other cases where the deletion was actually carried out, it was known to what disease the excised passage referred.

In spite of the bilateral agreement regarding deletion of serial numbers, German censorship permitted letters thus numbered to remain intact for some considerable time. Occasional deletion or excision of serial numbers in letters was observed in 1943, but during the winter of 1943-44, when air raids were taking a heavy toll of transportation and of population centers in Germany, the application of this regulation became general. It may be supposed that this sudden adherence to old regulations resulted from the desire of German censorship to conceal the number of letters destroyed during raids or the number of letters condemned due to more stringent imposition of censorship regulations.

In dealing the cancellation stamps in which were included slogans of one kind or another, German censorship has once again presented a curious attitude. In accordance with the agreement that all propaganda matter be avoided in those stamps, German censorship first issued instructions that the use of such stamps be discontinued but these instructions were not consistently carried out. During the winter of 1943-44 German censorship commenced deleting all cancellations stamps containing messages, whether these were of propaganda value or not.

The following deletions have been raised:

"More than 32 million BRT are gone!" (Referring to Allied shipping losses).

"After air attacks, abstain from making private phone calls."

"Munich, City of the Movement."

"Procure postal traveling checks in time."

"Do not forget to state street and house number."

Regulations

a) **Letters** - Conflicting statements regarding the length of letters and the frequency with which they may be sent are again in evidence. One writer claims to have been notified by the Red Cross that he may write a one-page letter twice a month; others point out that the Red Cross or the "Auslandsbriefpruefstelle" has informed them that they should limit their mail to one letter a week. The latter organization claims that this regulation is in force to prevent an excess accumulation of mail with which the censorship could not keep pace.

There are also two opinions regarding mail to be sent to servicemen at the front. In one case, it is said that letters to the front may be sent every four weeks only. In the other, one member of the family may write a 4-page letter once a week.

Many writers commenting on censorship restrictions indicate their familiarity with the type of content unlikely to pass the censor. The list below indicates the subjects, mention of which is often followed by the remark that the writer would like to say more but is not permitted to do so: Air raids; Casualties; Commodities, lack of; Conditions in general; Disease; Military information; Poetry; Post-war plans; Repatriated POWs and Type of work.

Many of the excerpts referring to air raids come from Berlin and a lesser number from Hamburg. In both cases it is said that it is not permitted to describe the appearance of the city. In regard to commodities, three of the five excerpts listed above suggest that the scarcity of clothing is a subject which may not be discussed. Many of the POWs have asked for news. In reply they have been told that it is not permitted to transmit in the letters any news other than the purely personal. One woman writes that the POW's brother has made some post-war plans but she is not allowed to give the POW any details concerning these. Another writer tells the POW that she has already written him many times about his comrades who have been repatriated but she does not believe that he will receive all the letters because she has expressed herself too freely in them.

b) **Photographs** - A few correspondents state that letters mailed to the POW have been returned to them because they contained photographs "unsuitable for sending abroad". In one case a letter was returned with a note saying that pictures were "not permitted because of espionage". Regulations governing the sending of photographs are said to be as follows:

1. No photographs of servicemen in uniform.
2. Only snaps taken indoors. (Those containing backgrounds of possible military interest are returned).
3. A picture stamped by a photographic firm may not be sent. Exceptions to these rules occur frequently, however.

c) **Printed Matter** - All newspapers, as well as illustrated periodicals, are prohibited. **Soldatenbriefe** (Club circulars for Soldiers), **Feldpostbriefe** (Circular letters in the field) and **RAD Unterrichtsbriefe** (Labour Service correspondence courses) are particularly mentioned in this connection. Books are permitted only when approved by the authorities, e.g. novels without historical interest, etc. History texts used in the schools are not permitted. One man was informed by a bookstore that books may be sent to the POW every 14 days.

Returned Letters

For various reasons letters mailed in Germany and destined for the POW in Canada have been returned by German censorship to the sender. Information on this subject is obtained from the writer's subsequent remarks to the POW and from letters marked for return to sender but forwarded in error to the POW. In some cases the reason for the return of the letter is stated specifically. These reasons are:

1. Unfaithfulness of POWs sister-in-law is discussed: letter stamped "Not appropriate for forwarding to a POW".
2. Events in the lives of servicemen are described: letter stamped: "Unsuitable for forwarding to a foreign country".
3. Not delivered by hand at the post office.
4. Schedule of truck carrying charge disclosed.
5. Attempted use of number code by writer.
6. Pen drawing enclosed.
7. Communication from serviceman at the front.
8. Incorrect address.
9. Length of letter not conforming to instructions.

More numerous are the letters which have been returned because they contain information other than of a purely personal nature. It is said that all the letters from some writers are returned; others receive back whole packages of letters at one time. In one case a period of four weeks elapsed between the mailing of a letter and its return to sender. Three picture post-cards were stamped to be returned to the sender, but one was forwarded to the POW by mistake.

Several excerpts mention the return of printed matter. This includes: a mimeographed religious letter and a pamphlet on religion; circulars from the Hanover Technical University; and a football paper.

Miscellaneous

1. Several excerpts reveal a prolonged delay of the mail in Germany, or the non-receipt of mail sent from one part of the country to another. No explanation is offered by the writers, though air raid damage affecting the postal system appears a likely cause. Two cases show that letters to POWs were held up by German censorship 11 and 14 days respectively. One woman writing from Oldenburg on 18.10.43 states that the German Red Cross issued a circular in July announcing the possibility of a more irregular delivery of mail. Another writing from Stuttgart on 30.9.43 states that when she inquired from the German Red Cross why she had heard so little from the POW, she was told that the Americans and the English "would let very little through".
2. Two attempts at deliberate evasion of censorship regulations apparently succeeded. One woman sent her letter through Switzerland; another inserted a code message by placing dots under certain letters to indicate a message re air mail damage: "**viele auch Karlsrute sind kaput, auch Ludwigshafen, Ulm**" (many, also Karlsrute are destroyed, also Ludwigshafen and Ulm).

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Story Behind the Stamp: Anton Günther

by Kelly Stefanacci

Anton Günther was born October 31, 1583 at Oldenburg, the only son of Johann XVI, Count of Oldenburg, and his wife, the former Elizabeth von Schwarzenburg. Along with his four sisters, Anton was educated under a private tutor at court. Later he undertook a series of educational tours to Brunswick, Cassel and Hamburg with his tutor, Master Velstein. In 1601 he entered the Collegium Mauritianum in Cassel but, upon the death of his father on November 12, 1603, he was recalled to Oldenburg to assume the title "Graf von Oldenburg" and governing of his country.

Under the guardianship of Christian IV of Denmark, he undertook in 1606 and 1609 a number of journeys through Germany, Switzerland, Upper Italy, France, England and Holland. His personal charm won him many friends at the various courts he visited and these contacts proved to be of great value in subsequent years since he used them to preserve the neutrality of Oldenburg during the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). Thus, while the rest of the Empire was devastated by death, fire, plunder and starvation, Oldenburg's commerce and agriculture flourished and the Count encouraged art and architecture.

Anton Günther loved music, horticulture, the hunt and racing but also governed his lands very wisely. So much so, that he was able to lend the Emperor Ferdinand II the sum of 50,000 talers and to receive in return the Lordship of Kniphausen in 1623. He further increased his territories by inheriting the County of Delmenhorst in 1647.

He had a natural son Anton, Count of Altenburg (1633-1680), by an Austrian Freifrau Elizabeth von Ungnad, but his legitimate marriage on May 30, 1635 to Sophie Katherine von Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg was childless. Thus, when he died on June 19, 1667 at Rastede in Oldenburg, he was the last of the Oldenburg line. The younger line of Holstein-Gottorf was recognized in 1773 as the new Oldenburg dynasty. His natural son Anton became a Danish diplomat, being created Lord of Varel and Kniphausen.

A brown-purple 6 +14 Pfennig Semi-postal stamp (Mi. 907) commemorating the 600th Anniversary of Oldenburg was issued on January 6, 1945. The design features a woodcut of Anton Günther, Graf von Oldenburg on horseback.



ED NOTE: If you enjoyed this article and would like to know "the story" about other people or places which appear on Third Reich stamps, please send your requests to Ye Olde Ed.

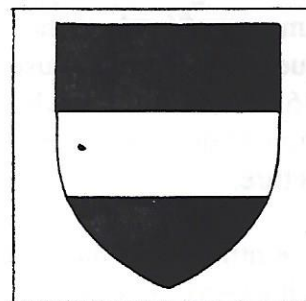
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:**44th Infantry Division**

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				OTHER UNITS			
TACT	KENN	INFANTRY			ART	ANTI-TANK	ENG.	SIGNAL	AUX
44	242	131	132	134	95	46	80	64	44

Formed in Vienna in 1938 from soldiers of the former Austrian Army, the 44th Infantry Division was created by expansion of the historic Viennese Regiment "Hoch und Deutschmeister". The division emblem was a shield divided into three sections representing the Austrian national colors, red over white over red. (Right)

As part of the table of organization, the division had a Feldpost Amt or FpA (post office unit) which was assigned Feldpost # 09195 to be used as a return address by its members. In addition, the post office was assigned Kenn ("code") 242 for use on registered mail in lieu of the actual tactical number FpA 44.

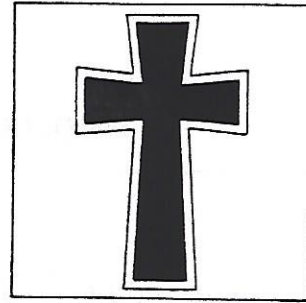


The 44th Infantry Division crossed into Poland in 1939 as part of XVII Corps under General List's 14th Army. It took part in the attack on Cracow, and later in the advance across the Vistula. It took part in the French 1940 campaign and, in June 1941, was part of III Motorized Corps of the 1st Panzer Group (later Army) in the initial advance into southern Russia. The Viennese division fought in the Ukraine, the Donets, and in the initial advance toward the Caucasus, until being attached to XI Corps of the 6th Army for the drive to the Volga. In mid-1942, the remnants of the virtually destroyed 534th, 535th and 536th Infantry Regiments of the recently disbanded 384th Infantry Division were attached to the 44th Infantry Division, which was cut off in Stalingrad with von Paulus' 6th Army soon after. The original 44th ceased to exist when the city fell in early February 1943.



Cover sent to Military District Office in Vienna in June 1942 from Fp. # 06372 (Vehicle Repair Shop 44) via FpA 44 (K-242).

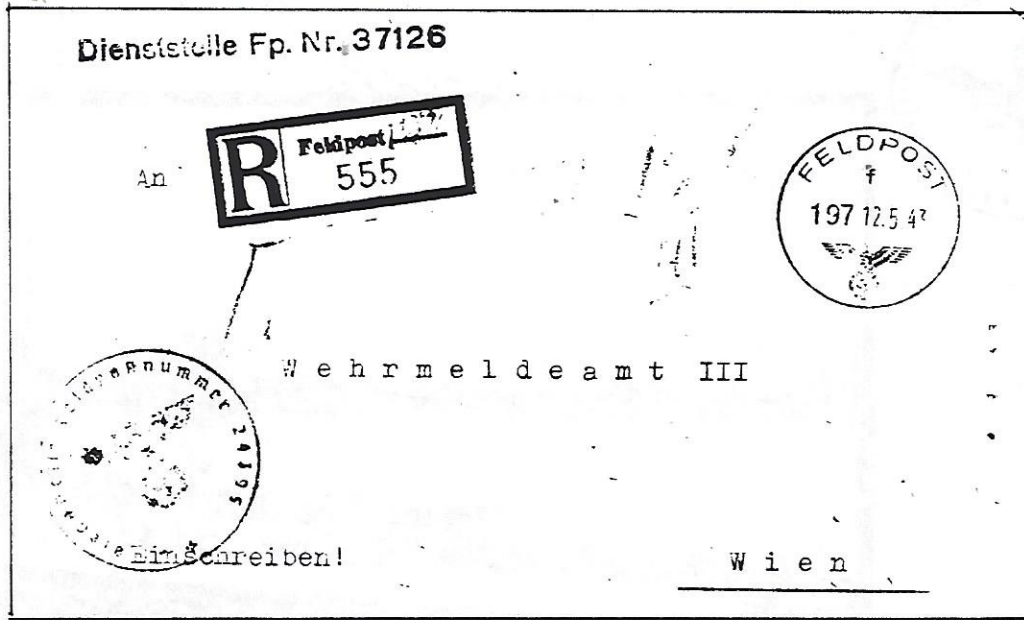
A second 44th Infantry division was recruited in Austria in 1943 to replace the division lost at Stalingrad. In June 1943 it was given the honorary title "**Reichsgrenadier Division Hoch und Deutschmeister**" and a new insignia as an emblem, a black Teutonic cross edged in white (Right).



The new FpA 44 was assigned Feldpost # 41606 as a return address for its members and a new code - Kenn # 197.

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				OTHER UNITS			
TACT	KENN	Grenadier		Fusilier	ART	ANTI-TANK	ENG.	SIGNAL	AUX
44	197	131	134	132	95	46	80	64	44

After completing training it was sent to Italy in August 1943, where it formed part of Field Marshal Rommel's *ad hoc* Army Group B. In December it was sent into action on the Italian Front south of Rome and remained in the front line for more than a year. It counter attacked the Americans at Monte Battaglia in September 1944. The 44th Infantry Division was then sent to the Hungarian sector of the Eastern Front in February 1945. It withdrew west during the closing weeks of the war and surrendered to American forces near Linz in May 1945.



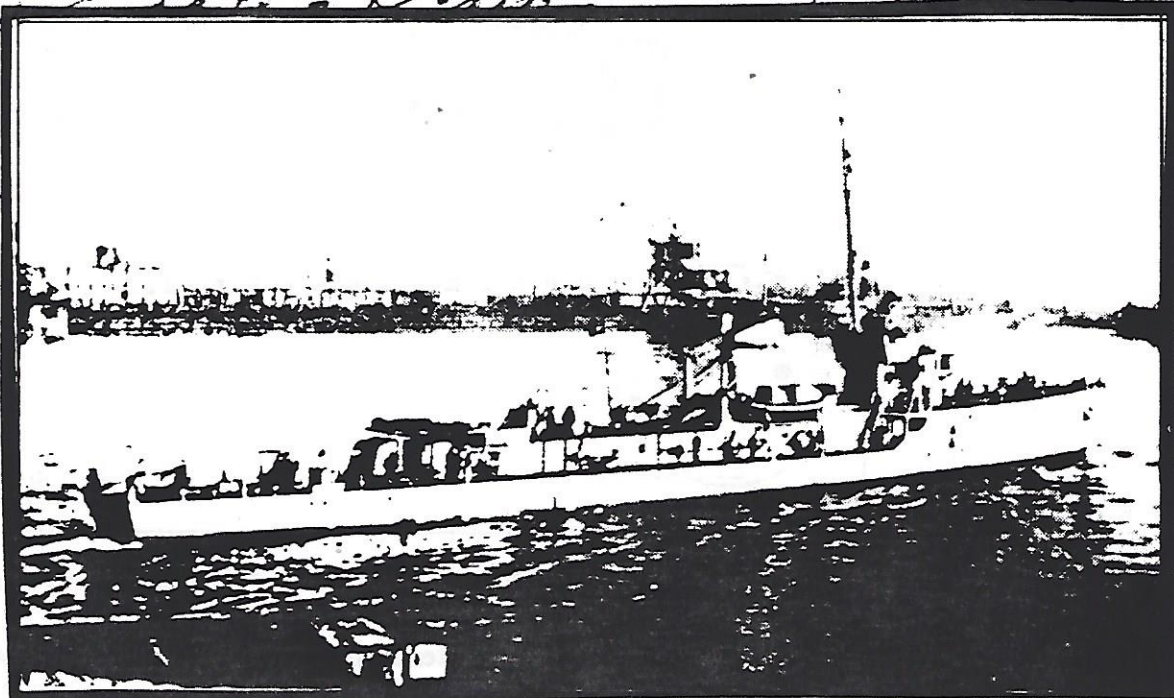
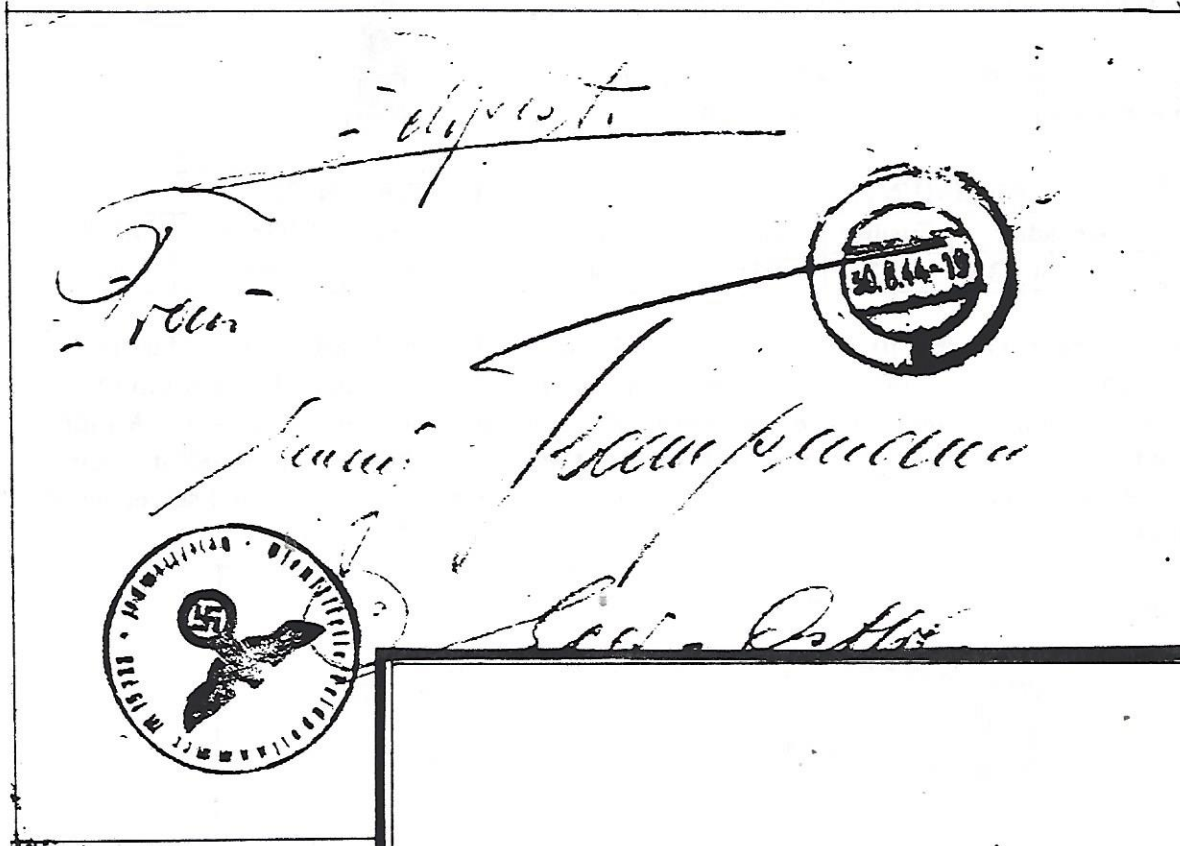
Cover sent to Vienna Military District in May 1943 from Fp. # 24395 (Bakery Co. 44) via FpA 44 (K-197).

Note: The original K-242 of FpA 44 was later assigned to FpA 1547 of the 547th Grenadier Division which was formed in Wehrkreis V in July 1944. It was used to shore up the Central sector of the Eastern Front which had recently collapsed. Renamed the 547th Volksgrenadier Division on October 9, 1944, it took part in the retreat through Poland and was virtually annihilated in East Prussia.

ED NOTE: requests to profile the 44th Infantry Division were received following information on the 134th Regiment post card published in Bulletins 116 and 117. This division is especially interesting to Feldpost enthusiasts because of the identification problems associated with the reassignment of Feldpost and Kenn numbers detailed above. Feldpost research continues to be a most interesting field of Third Reich postal history but it is quite demanding and definitely not for the faint of heart! .

Navy Log

Torpedo Boat 'Löwe' - Feldpost # 15722



Ex-Tiger Class Norwegian Torpedo Boat 'Gyller' built by Naval Dockyard (Horton) and launched July 2, 1938. Confiscated by Germany in 1940 after defeat of Norway and re-named 'Löwe' Displacement: 597 tons (708 tons full); Machinery: three Yarrow boilers, two shafts; De Laval geared turbines. Speed: 32 knots. Armaments: one 3.9", two 20mm AA, two 8mm AA guns; two 21" torpedo tubes. Fate: Returned to Norway in 1945.

Cover from crew member has mute Feldpost cancel dated August 30, 1944.

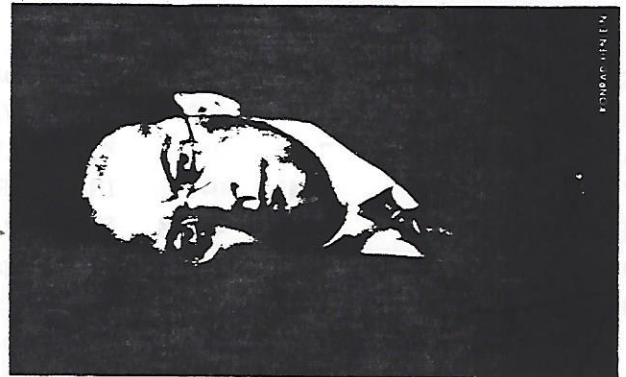
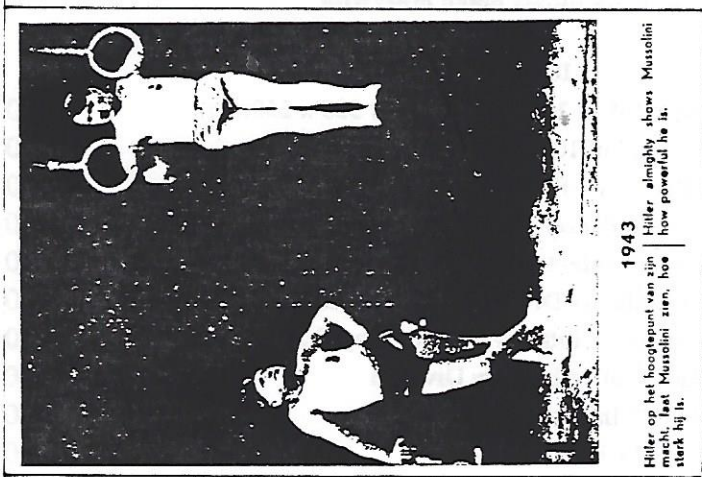
TRSG AUCTION NO. 75

Lot	Description	Min. Bid.
1.	DDP Adria cvr w/Mi. 871 & 50 cent. '41 Italy Axis stamp tied DDP Laibach 5.'45, DDP B'stmp VF	\$10.00
2.	Censored Serbia Registered Express cvr w/Mi 72 & 41 tied Belgrade 10.'43 VF (see Cover Illustration)	25.00
3.	Fp Bundle Facing Slip w/Kenn 360 (FpA 431zw) Military Occupation Commander Aarhus, Denmark VF	10.00
4.	SS Cvr to Norway frm Fp. 30629 (II/Rgt. Germania) w/Berlin censor & Oslo B'stmp 11.'41 <u>but no cancel.</u>	10.00
5.	Provisional Briefstempel on 8.'43 Fp cvr frm Fp. 34157 (Naval High Command in Norway) F-VF	15.00
6.	<u>Private Luftpo</u> cvr (1 stamp) frm Fp. 35965 (Local Defense Btl. 868) tied K-714 Fp cancel b1. Unusual!	10.00
7.	Fp R-cvr w/K-208 (FpA Aalborg, Denmark) can 8.'42 frm Fp#47959 (III/Gren. Rgt. 931) VF	10.00
8.	Fp cvr sent 11.'43 to Naval HQ Pillau from Fp#17053L (Naval Art. Btl. 504) in Norway. F-VF	10.00
9.	Eight (8) Fp cvrs w/contents frm Fp# M37048 (Minensuchboot M102) sent 5.'40 to 10.'40 w/mute cans.	15.00
Next four lots are false/fantasy ("mache") stamps w/appropriate Michel Specialized references		
10.	Weihnachten/1944 forgery on 5 stamp set of Rhodes - see Inselpost Rhodos reference. VF	5.00
11.	Two pr. Heeres Telegraph labels w/ red & black Inselpost overprint forgeries - see Inselpost reference. VF	5.00
12.	Forgery Oberkommando der Wehrmacht o'prints on set of 6 stamps - see St. Nazaire reference. VF	5.00
13.	Forgery Podgoritza set of 6 stamps w/"Deutsche Militar Verwaltung Podgoritza" - see Kotor reference. VF	5.00

The next 20 lots are Registered Feldpost covers - condition F-VF unless noted otherwise

Lot	Kenn	FpA	Date	Fp.#	Description	Min. Bid.
14.	100	268	12.'41	32770	Rgts. Stab/Gren. Rgt. 468 of 268 Inf. Div. (Cvr 350 x 250mm)	5.00
15.	116	100	7.'43	56230	Rgts Stab/Jäger Rgt. 227 of 100 Jäger Division in Balkans	8.00
16.	137	539	7.'42	24074	Rgts Stab/Panzer Rgt. 1 of 1 Panzer Division	8.00
17.	167	66	3.'42	04912	III/Gren. Rgt. 156 of 16 Panzer-Grenadier Division	8.00
18.	171	715	11.'43	41288	II/Gren. Rgt. 725 of 715 Infantry Division (3 Pts.)	9.00
19.	197	44	5.'43	24395	Bakery Kp. 44 of 44 Infantry Division (reformed in 1943)	8.00
20.	242	44	5.'42	06372	Vehicle Repair Shop of 44 Infantry Div. (destroyed Stalingrad)	8.00
21.	295	178	7.'42	29152	Rgts. Stab/Gren Rgt 14 of 78 Infantry Division	8.00
22.	416	187	6.'44	24007	3. Kp./Pionier Btl of 87 Infantry Division	8.00
23.	418	114	12.'43	41252	II/ Jäger Rgt. 721 of 114 Jäger Division	8.00
24.	437	877	11.'42	09589	II/Artillery Rgt. 262 of 262 Infantry Division in Central Russia	8.00
25.	441	172	12.'41	Unclear	72 Infantry Division in Crimea	5.00
26.	525	732zbV	11.'40	14974	Local Defense Btl. 906	5.00
27.	602	400	10.'43	27337	Pionier Btl "Gd" of Panzer Grenadier Div. "Grossdeutschland"	8.00
28.	680	112	6.'42	45085	Field Hospital of 112 Infantry Division	8.00
29.	760	732	2.'44	22848	I/Gren. Rgt. 537 of 320 Infantry Division	8.00
30.	788	128	6.'43	20150	Kradschutz (Motorcycle). Btl. 23 of 23 Panzer Division	8.00
31.	832	219	1.'44	12568	Stab u. 1-4 Kp./Rgt. Gruppe 531	8.00
32.	916	173	9.'42	26222	Medical Kp. 73 of 73 Infantry Division	8.00
33.	994	299	12.'42	00310	Division HQ of 299 Infantry Division	8.00
34.	Exhibit page -POW card frm Canada w/ Scarce German Censor h/s Code 'h' (Hof) -See Page 7 Bull. 117					45.00
35.	Cvr frm Fp# Sch 10108 (Schützen = Coast Artillery) Marine Flak Abt. 211 cans Eckernfürde 4.'44 F-VF					8.00
36.	Same, frm Fp# Sch 17803 Marine Flak Abt. 234 w/mute cans Eckernfürde 3.'44 F-VF					8.00
37.	Luftwaffe in Romania -Fp cvr to Hannover frm Fp# L27754 (Nachtaufkl. Staff. 1 d. Gen. d. Lw.) w/ 7.'44 Prossnitz civil cancel. Three page letter inside frm Obergef. has date and "Rumänien". All markings clear!					9.00
38.	Navy letter sheet frm member Fp# M06927 (Destroyer Z-25) w/1.'45 mute cancel. All markings VF!					20.00
39.	Bedarfs cvr w/Mi. 811& pr. Mi. 781 (for 8 Pfg. local fee) tied by 1.11.'43 Nuremburg Day of Stamp SPC. VF					9.00
40.	Fp cvr to Vienna frm Luftwaffe Signals Training Rgt. 7 in Augsburg has 3.'43 mute 7 line mach. cancel. VF					8.00

Lot	Description	Min. Bid
41	Commercial cvr sent Düsseldorf to Antwerp, Belgium July '40 w/Cologne cens. tape & handstamps. VF	10.00
	Next 11 lots German Occupation of Channel Islands . Condition VF unless noted otherwise	
42.	"Nachrichten für die Truppe" (RAF Air Drop) Nr. 36 May 22, '44, Allied advance at Casino. Scarce!	10.00
43.	"Channel Islands Monthly Review" Journal C.I. Refugees in G.B. 20 pages April '44, POW lists etc.	10.00
44.	"Guernsey Evening Press" special liberation issue May 9, 1945 includes details German surrender, etc.	15.00
45.	Two diff. B&W view cards of dockyards w/Guernsey Mi. 3 tied Guernsey can. APR '44 (small 44 numbers)	12.00
46.	Cachet FDC for new Guernsey 2-1/2d to St. Helier, Jersey W/Mi. 3 tied 4/12/44 Guernsey cancel.	8.00
47.	Block of 4 Jersey Mi. 1 on cvr to Grouville tied by two Jersey * 1.22.'42 cancels	8.00
48.	Block of 4 Jersey Mi. 2 (thick paper) tied on cvr to Grouville by St. Helier double ring 7.14.41	10.00
49.	Local Bedarfs cover w/ Jersey Mi. 2 tied Grouville double ring cancel 4.2.'41	9.00
50.	Three printed FDCs prepared by St. Helier resident, each w/ Jersey Mi. 2 tied Jersey * 4.1.'41 cancel	10.00
51.	Cvr to Guernsey w/Jersey Mi. 4 tied by Jersey machine cancel (6 wavy lines at right) 6.1.'43.	8.00
52.	Cvr to Columbierie, Jersey w/ Mi. 4 tied by Jersey Beresford P.O. cancel 6.1.'43.	8.00
53.	Unused Anti-Axis postcard of AH & Mussolini as gymnasts 1943 Dutch/Eng. text (see below Left) VF	10.00
54.	Same as above but 1944 version showing Musso. supporting AH and different text. Never saw these before!	10.00
55.	Konrad Heinlein card w/Reichenberg Plebiscite SPC 4.12.38 VF - see p. 13 in Bulletin 116 (see below Right)	12.00



56. Color p'cd w/GG Mi. 43 tied SPC (1st Anniversary NSDAP in Krakau) 17.8.41 (see below Left) VF 12.00
57. Hitler postal cd w/slogan sent to Denmark 3.'44 has Hamburg Censor h/s F-VF (see below Right) 10.00



PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 75 IS DECEMBER 13, 1996
SEND ALL BIDS TO: JIM LEWIS, 111 MONTROSS AVE., RUTHERFORD, NJ 07070