



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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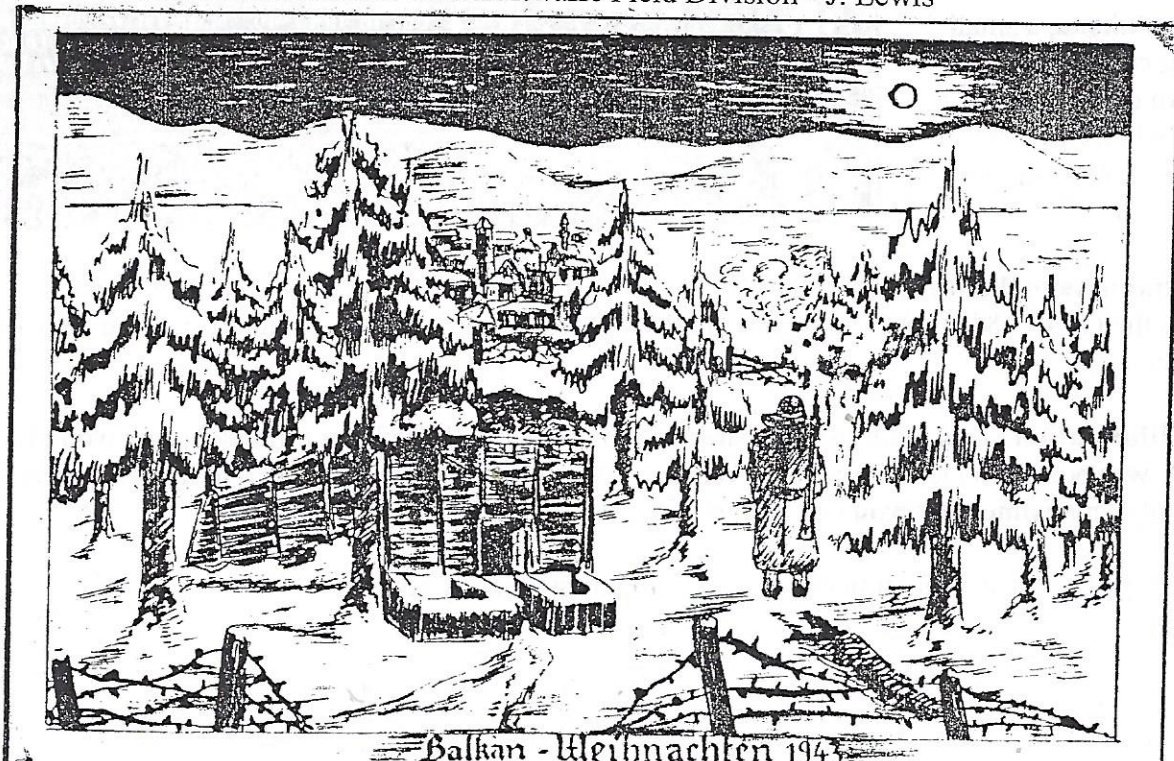
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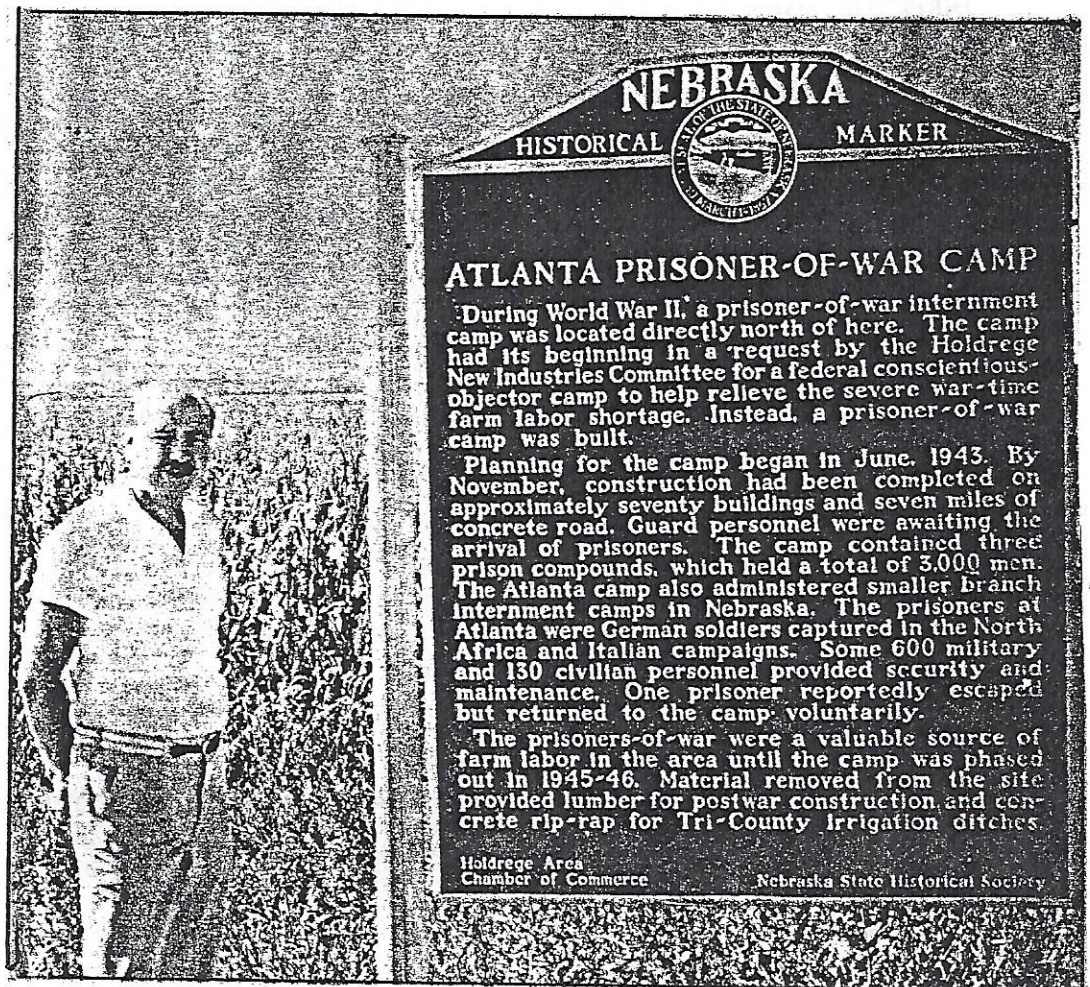


Balkan - Weihnachten 1943

STUDY GROUP NOTES

Dues are due - with this fourth issue of the Bulletin for 2010, dues are now due and a renewal form is included for those members not yet paid for 2011. Please note that all renewal fees have been increased by \$ 2.00. This change reflects increased printing costs plus the U.S. Postal Service's announcement of postal increases in January 2011. Any member whose dues are not received by December 31, 2010 will be considered to have resigned and will be required to pay the new member fee of \$10.00 in addition to their dues. Please send your payments to: **Jim Lewis, 867 Monmouth Road, Cream Ridge, NJ 08514.**

Getting the Bug - an acquaintance looking at my display of Third Reich postal history asked "When did you get the bug to collect this stuff?". Sometimes it's hard to recall what it was that caused us to begin collecting. While going through an old box of stuff I came across this photo of a younger and slimmer me and recall why I became interested in German POW camps in America. In 1985 while visiting Nebraska I came across this marker about a former POW camp at Atlanta, a small farming community near the town of Holdrege. This is when I was bitten by the "POW camp bug."
Ye Olde Ed



Did Johann have the Bug? - TRSGer Ed Fraser sent in the following quotation from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) "Sammler sind glückliche Menschen". Ed adds "Dicterfurst und grosser Sammler".

Cover Illustration: This Feldpost postcard, which appears to have been printed from a wood block carving, was posted in December 1943. While a bit crude, it is certainly effective. If you've ever stood guard duty on a winter day, you can almost feel the sentry shivering.

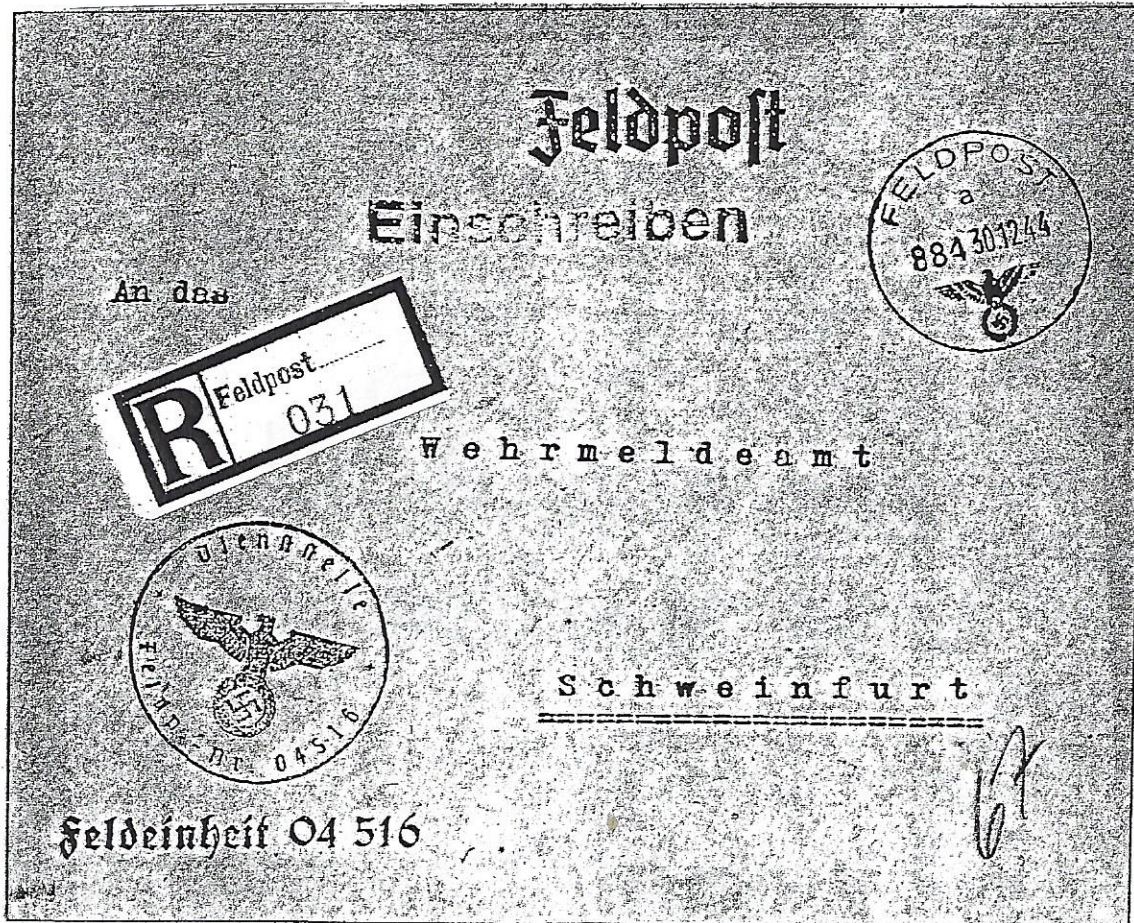
The TRSG Staff wish all members a healthy and happy holiday season.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 1st Ski Jäger Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	SKI JAGER			UNITS
152	884	1	2		152

Formed as 1st Ski Brigade in October 1943, then upgraded to a division in lower Bavaria during the summer of 1944. The 2nd Ski Regiment was formed from former 167th Gren. Rgt. of the old 86th Infantry Division that had been annihilated in Russia. The Division P.O. was assigned Fp.# 04516 as a return address and Kenn 884 as a coded address in lieu of FpA152.

At the completion of training, the 1st Ski Jäger Division was sent to the badly mauled Army Group Center in the summer of 1944 and took part in the retreat to the Vistula River. In October the division was transferred to Slovakia but returned to southern Poland in December. The 1st Ski Jäger Division remained on the Eastern Front until the end of the war and surrendered to the Red Army in May 1945.

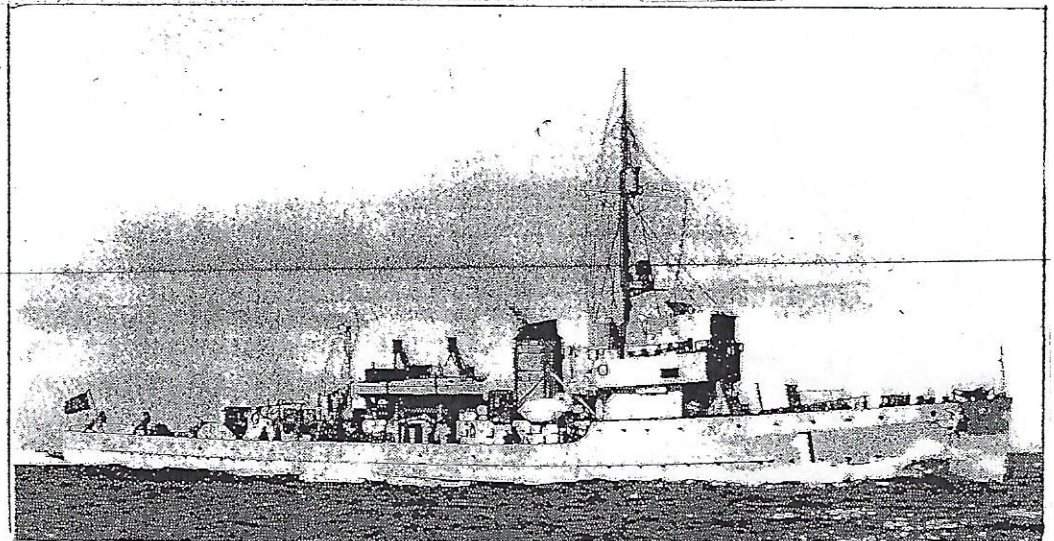


Cover sent to Military records Office in Schweinfurt in December 1944 from Fp. # 04516 (Feldpostamt 152) via P.O. 152 (K-884).

NAVY LOG

by Robert Dunn

Minesweeper M.11 - Feldpost # 01284



The 11th of 256 Minesweeper (Type 1935: M1-256) class ships. Built by Oderwerke (Stettin) and launched on August 23, 1938. Displacement: 772 tons (874 tons full load); range: 3,500 miles at 18.25 knots; crew: 104; armament: two 4.1", and two 37mm AA guns.

Assigned to the 2nd Minesweeper Flotilla, which was operational from 1936 until the summer of 1944. As a member of Group 11, she laid mines during the night of 8/9 April 1940 off the northwest coast of Denmark. She struck a mine and sunk off the Norwegian coast on June 6, 1940.

Cover above with mute cancel sent to Kiel on April 8, 1940.

Croatian in German POW Camp?

by Henry Laessig

As one of my areas of specialization is the postal history of Croatia during WWII, the recently acquired cover shown below is something of a mystery. Posted in the Croatian town of Niemci on September 20, 1944, this registered cover has 8.5K postage and is addressed to Stjepan Lovreti in Stalag VIIIB from Eva Lovreti. While the cover has typed "Express-preporučeno" in lower left corner, the express fee was not paid - i.e..

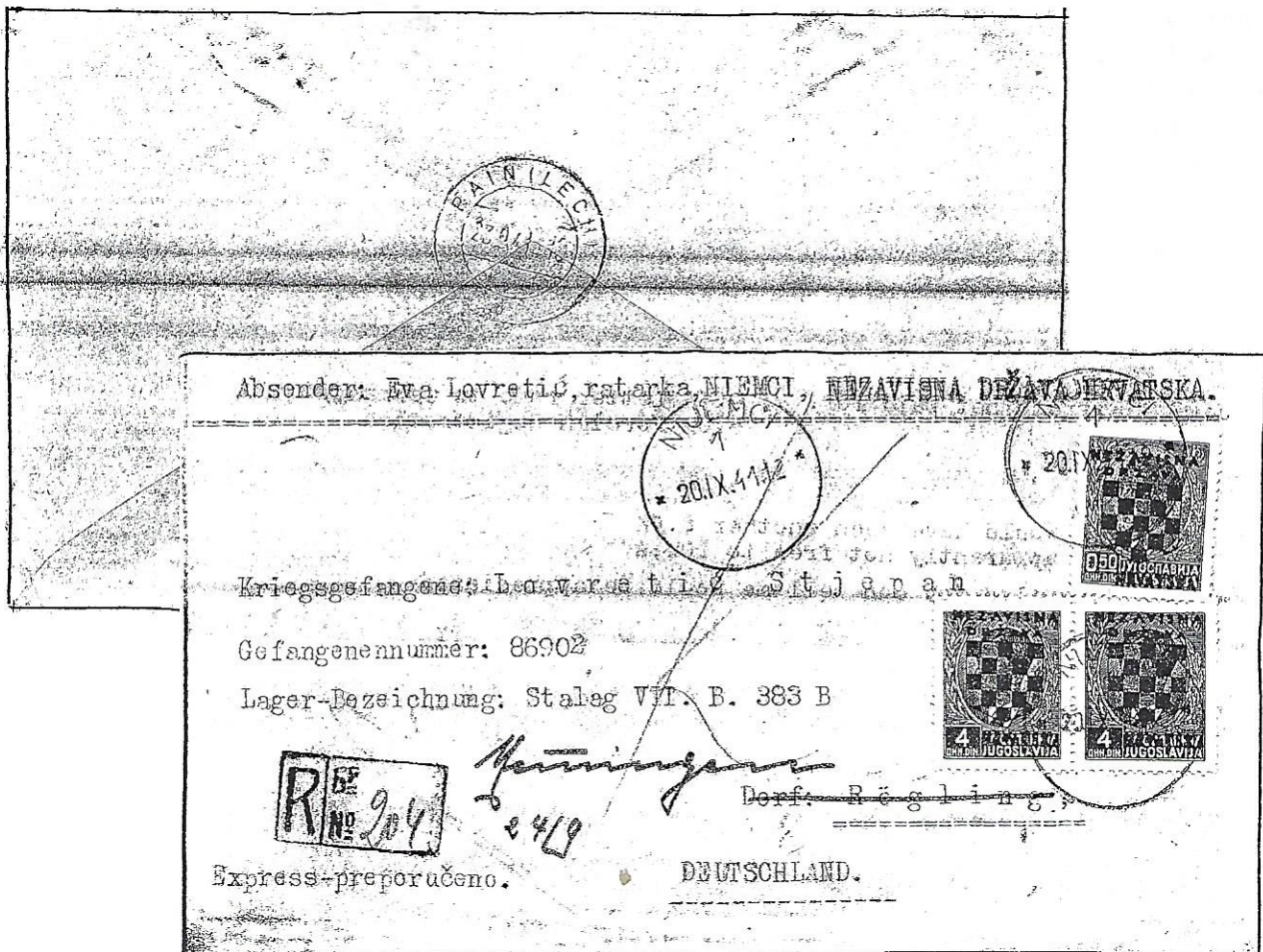
Letter rate to Germany = 2.5K

Foreign Registration = 6.0K

Express service would have required another 8.0K postage.

While my first thought was that the addressee might have been a guard in this camp, he has prisoner number (Gefangennummer) 86902 and, therefore, was a P.O.W. While the cover is addressed to the town of Rëgling, this designation has been crossed out, probably by a postal clerk in Rain (Lech) who back stamped the cover on September 23, 1944. Stalag VIIIB was actually located in Memmingen and this designation has been added in manuscript.

If any member has an explanation as to how this Croat wound up in a German P.O.W. Camp, please send it to Ye Olde Ed so we can share it with the group.

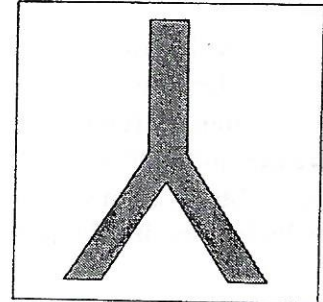


COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:**1st Panzer Division**

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	PZ.-GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
81	909	1	1	113	73	1

Formed October 1935; division initially included 1st & 2nd Panzer Regiments and 1st Panzer Grenadier Regiment. Division emblem was an inverted letter "Y". The post office unit was assigned Fp. # 22979 as a return address and Kenn 909 as a coded address. The 1st Panzer Division took part in occupations of Prague and Austria in 1938 and the Polish campaign of 1939. In May 1940 it attacked across southern Belgium, fought in the Battle of Sedan, the drive across France, the Battle of Dunkirk and the drive to southern France.



As part of 4th Panzer Group (later Army) in 1941, division took part in annihilation of Soviet III Armored Corps at Dubysa in June. Although seriously depleted by casualties and with only forty tanks left by August 16, it took part in drive on Moscow, opposed the Soviet winter offensive and fought several defensive battles on the central sector. The battered division was withdrawn to France to rest & refit in early 1943, but returned in late summer to join 1st Panzer Army in the southern sector. The 1st Panzer Division took part in Battle of Kiev salient in December 1943 and spearheaded attempt to rescue two German corps surrounded at Cherkassy in February 1944. After fighting on Dneiper bend, in northern Ukraine and in eastern Poland in 1944, it was sent to Hungary where it was destroyed at Szekesfehervar in December 1944.

		Feldpost-Einschreiben			
Dem		Wehrmeldeamt		25.1.43	
Dienststempel	Dienststelle		Kamenz (Sa.)		
	00982				

Cover sent to Military Records Office in Kamenz in January 1943 from Fp. # 00982 (Company 8 of Panzer-Grenadier Regiment 1) via Post Office 81 (K-909).

German Censorship in Serbia

by
Myron Fox

German armed forces invaded Yugoslavia in April 1941 after that government had repudiated the Rome-Berlin Axis. The nation was dismembered and the German military administration was particularly harsh in Serbia which became a separate occupied territory. Among the strong measures inflicted upon the Serbs was the application of domestic censorship. Examining offices were established in Belgrad, Nisch, Gross-Beschkerk, Kraljewe and Schabatz. A bilingual sealing tape inscribed in German and Cyrillic was used in all these offices. While all tapes are inscribed "Belgrad", each office added its own handstamp which usually included the identity number of the censor officer. The following illustrations will serve as an introduction to this very interesting aspect of German postal censorship.

Fig.1) Registered cover posted in Belgrad in August 1944 has 3-line censor handstamp with "061/Bgd." The examiner identity number is 061 and "Bgd."stands for Belgrad.



Fig. 2) Postal card has similar 3-line censor handstamp with "128/S." The "S."stands for Schabatz

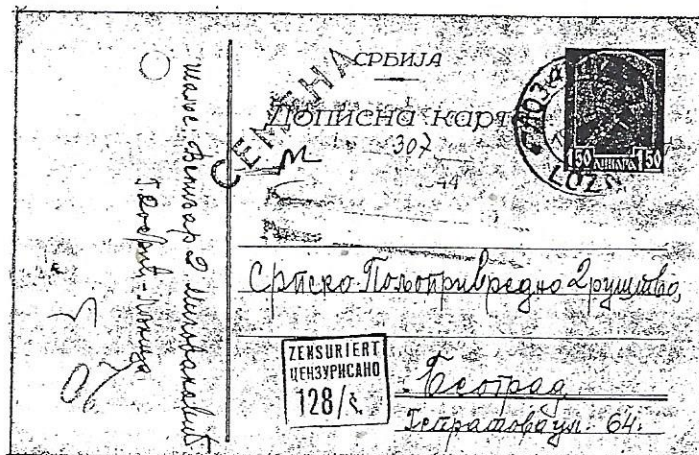


Fig. 3) Earlier postal card circa 1941 has 5-line handstamp and "Nr. 4" identity number was used in Gross-Beschkerek.

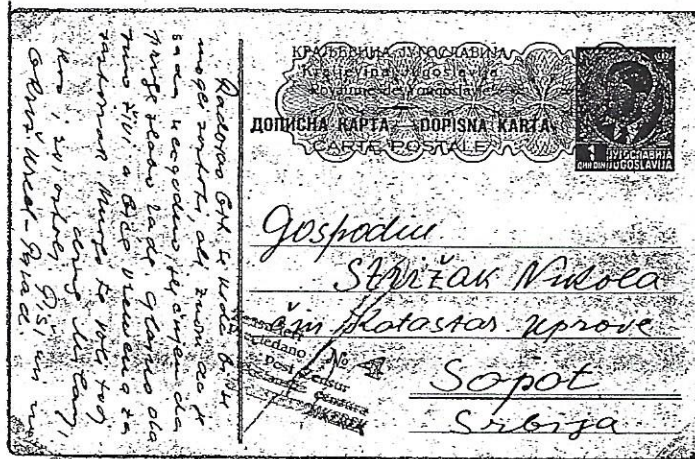


Fig. 4) Postal card has 3-line censor handstamp with "138/ k" was used in Kraljewe

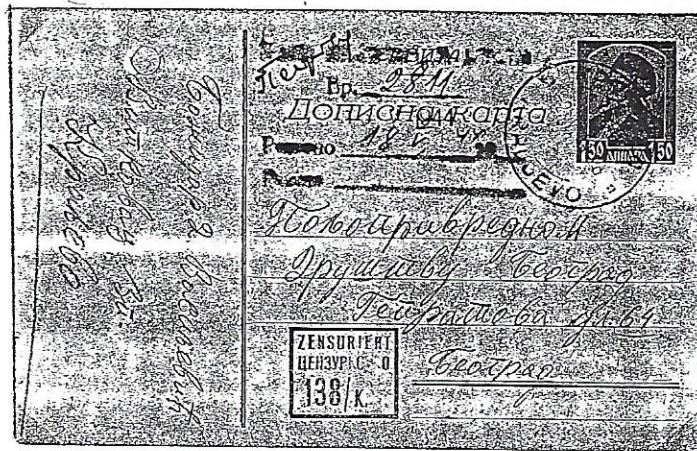
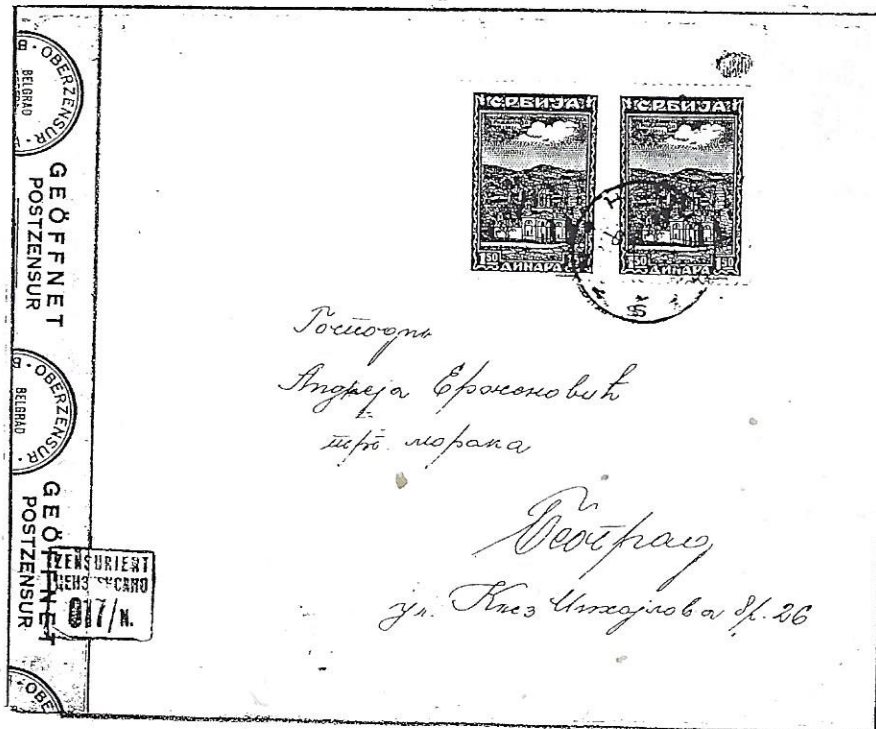


Fig. 5) Cover with sealing tape and 5-line handstamp "017/N" was used in Nisch

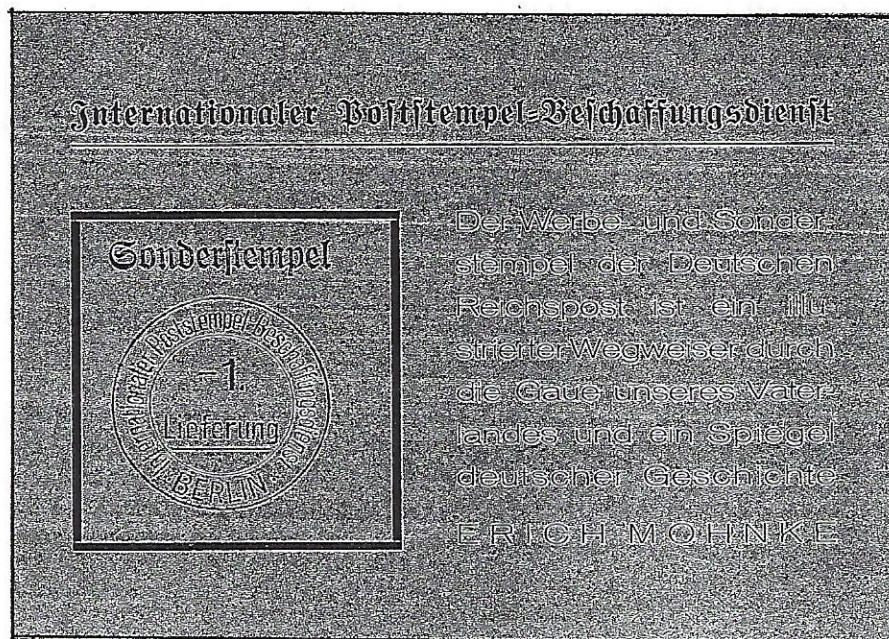


Special Postmark Leaflets

by Kelly Stefanacci

I obtained the two 5-3/4" x 4" leaflets some time ago but have never seen or read about their purpose. The title on both reads "International Postmark Procurement Service". The leaflet shown at top is olive green and has a simulated Berlin postmark at lower left. In the center of the "cancel" is "-1 Lieferung: (1st lot). Above the "cancel" is "Sonderstempel" (special postmark). The text reads "The advertising and special postmarks of the German post office are pictorial signposts of the districts of Germany and mirrors of German history. Below the text is "Erich Mohnke" The leaflet shown at bottom is tan with a less elaborate "cancel" with "3. Lieferung" inside.

The collecting of special cancels was very popular in Germany during the Third Reich era and they could be obtained at the appropriate post office by submitting a small sheet of paper affixed with a 3-phennig stamp. Does anyone know who produced such leaflets and how they were distributed? Please send any information to Ye Olde Ed.



Special Cancels for Kneipp Spas

by Bob Ferguson

Sebastian Kneipp (1821-1897) was a Bavarian priest and one of the founders of the Naturopathic medicine movement. He is most commonly associated with the "Kneipp Cure" form of hydro-therapy, a system of healing involving the application of water through various methods, temperatures and pressures.

Although most commonly associated with one area of Naturopathic medicine, Kneipp was the proponent of an entire system of healing which was based on five main tenets:

1) Hydrotherapy, 2) Herbalism, 3) Exercise, 4) Nutrition (a wholesome diet of whole grains, fruits and vegetables with limited meat) and 5) Spirituality - Kneipp believed that a healthy mind begot a healthy person.

During his time at Bad Worishofen, Kneipp was able to counsel many people. Tens of thousands came from all over the world to receive his healing advice. In addition to the spa at Bad Worishofen, several other spas used the "Kneipp cure".

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

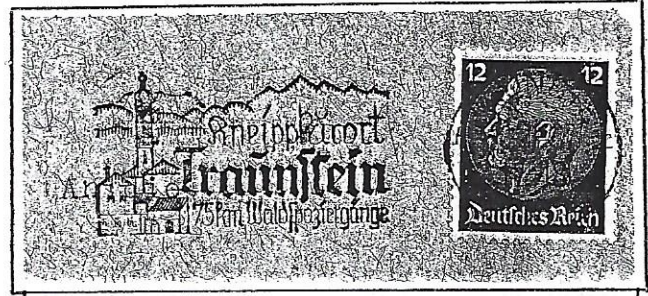
Bad Lauterberg # 2	Kneipp-u. Luft-Kurort	used: 1933-1935
Bad Lauterberg # 3	Kneipp-Kurort	used: 1935-1938
Bad Lauterberg # 4	Kneipp-Kurort/100 Jahr Wasserheilbad	used: 1939-1949
Bad Lippspringe # 4	Heil-Bad Kneipp-Kurort	used: 1939-1944
Bad Worishofen # 3	Sebastian Kneipp/Herz u. Nerven	used: 1933-1936
Bad Worishofen # 4	50 Jahr Kneipp Kur 1887-1937	used: 1937-1938
Camberg # 1	heilt mit Diat u. Kneipp	used: 1937-1943
Eppstein # 2	Luftkurot Kneipp-Sanatorim	used: 1941-1953
Neuberg (Donau) # 1	Kneippkurort	used: 1929-1936
Traunstein # 1	Kneippkurot Traunstein 75 km Waldspaziergänge	used: 1937-1939

Bad Worishofen # 4



50 Jahre Kneipp Kur 1887-1937 (used: 1937-1938)

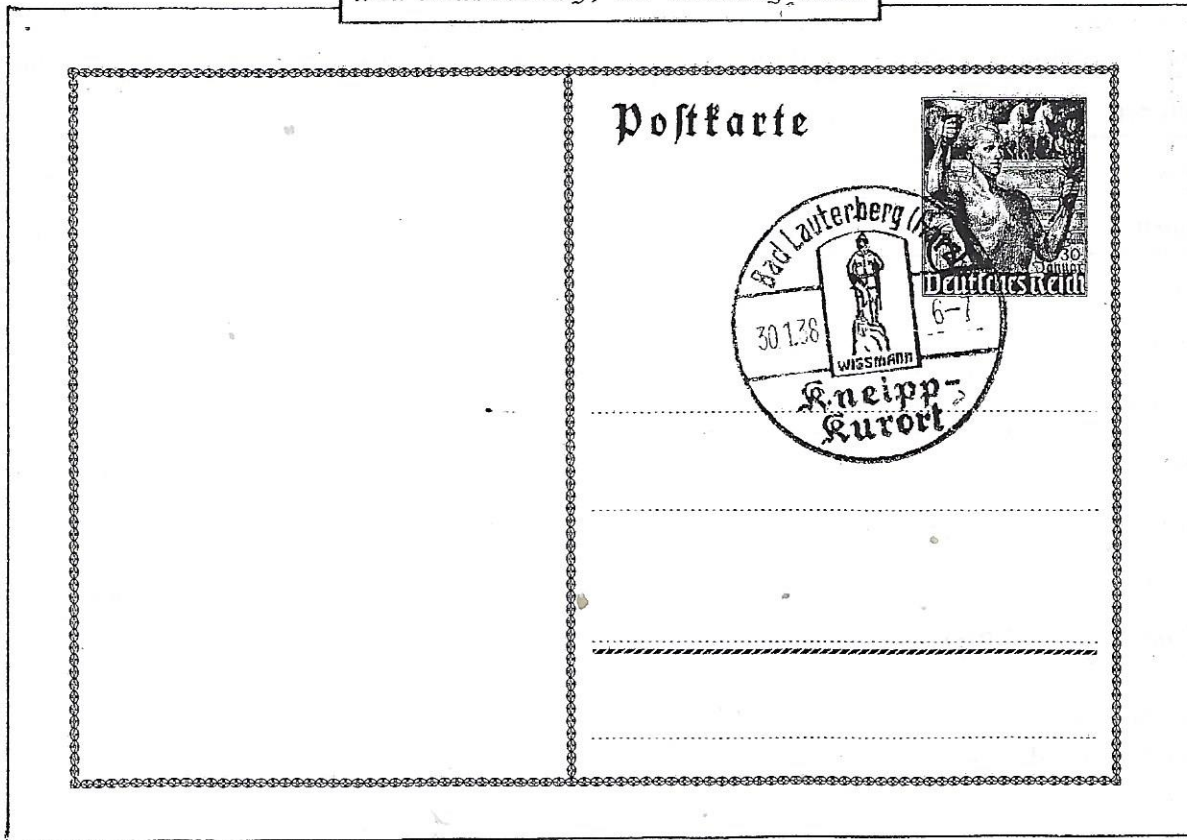
Traunstein # 1



Kneippkurort Traunstein 75km Waldspaziergänge (used: 1937-1939)

Bad Lauterberg # 3

Cancel (Bad Lauterberg #3):
 Kneipp-Kurort
 Bad Lauterberg, 31 January 1938



German POWs in North America Camps in Idaho

by Jim Lewis

After Panzer Army Afrika surrendered on May 13, 1943, the allies had approximately 275,000 prisoners-of-war in their possession. Before these prisoners could be transported to the United States, the required camps had to be built. Camp Rupert, located near Paul, Idaho, was built for \$1.5 million and contained everything required for a city of 3,000 including barracks, water, sewers and a hospital. The first POWs were Italian who came by train in May 1944. Four months later 500 German POWs arrived.

The POWs provided support to the local economy by preventing crop loss, increasing production and reducing the labor shortage. The POWs, requested by individual farmers, lived in branch camps and were bused to the fields in the morning and returned to camps when the day's work was done. The POWs in Idaho camps cut and harvested potatoes, thinned or harvested sugar beets and hauled dirt to fill in holes. The farmers contracted for laborers through the U.S. Army , paying 80 cents a day. German language information was provided to instruct the prisoners how to accomplish the tasks. These ranged from leaflets to a German-language film produced by the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company. In the peak of October 1945, Camp Rupert was responsible for 15,047 prisoners. In part due to labor shortages in the United States, many POWs did not return to Europe until after the fall 1946 harvest. At that time the branch camps were closed and all POWs moved back to Camp Rupert, transported by train to New York and then returned to their native countries. Some of these prisoners found American sponsors , thus allowing them to return to Idaho and to become U.S. citizens.

The main camp and branch camps in Idaho are listed below.

Name of Camp	County	Main Camp	Name of Camp	County	Main Camp
Aberdeen	Bingham	Camp Rupert	Pocatello	Bannock	Camp Rupert
Blackfoot	Bingham	Camp Rupert	Preston	Franklin	Camp Rupert
Emmett	Gem	Camp Rupert	Rigby	Jefferson	Camp Rupert
Filer	Twin Falls	Camp Rupert	Camp Rupert	Minidoka	-----
Fort Hall	Bannock	Camp Rupert	Shelley	Bingham	Camp Rupert
Franklin	Franklin	Camp Rupert	Sugar City	Madison	Camp Rupert
Idaho Falls	Bonneville	Camp Rupert	Thomas	Bingham	Camp Rupert
Marsing	Owyhee	Camp Rupert	Upper Deer Flat	Canyon	Camp Rupert
Nampa	Canyon	Camp Rupert	Wilder	Canyon	Camp Rupert
Payette	Payette	Camp Rupert			

(Note) There was a POW cemetery at Camp Rupert that was later transferred to Golden Gate National Cemetery in California.

Fig. 1) POW letter sheet with printed text in English, German, Italian and Japanese folded to show outer top flap and inner message area. This was sent by a Kapitan Scholtz to a woman in Bern, Switzerland in December 1945. Return address identifies Company # 6 in POW Camp Rupert. Note that this post-war letter bears machine December 7 postmark of Rupert P.O. and rectangular "Passed By" hand stamp of U.S. Army examiner.

PRISONER OF WAR

GERMAN - N.

ADDRESS: FRAU
 ADRESSE: RUTH SPÖRRY
 INDIRIZZO: SCHÖNEGGWEG 19.
 紀 中 BERN
 SWITZERLAND.

POSTAGE FREE

DEC 7 9 PM 1945 IDAHO

PASSED BY 61238 U.S. ARMY EXAMINER

DO NOT WRITE HERE! NICHIT HIER SCHREIBEN! NON SCRIVETE QUI!

REI NICHIT HIER SCHREIBEN! NON SCRIVETE QUI! 書 勿 べ

nichts wieder von dort höre, hoffentlich möchte sie mich wieder in die deutsche Zone finden
 Ich würde noch weiter nach Bern machen wenn ich für mich die Verhältnisse ändern
 sollten, würde ich für mich. Unsere Rückenarbeit ist seit einigen Tagen beendet und
 wir haben den Dinge, die kommen sollen. Beachtliche doch bitte Mutter, dass der Haupt
 Mann Königs, Sohn von Königs h. Gladbad hier mit mir in einem Lager ist, er war auch
 in Bern. Ich traf ihn das erste Mal im Oktober 1944 in New York. Er geht ihm gut, er hat
 noch keinerlei Nachsicht von seinen Angehörigen. Kommt für bitte an FRAU MATHILDE MUNSCH
 MÜHLHAUSEN, RUE FEAN MIEG 27, schreiben, dass ihr Neffe der LEUTNANT KASTENBAUER (ein
 ehemaliger Adjutant) in Bern ist und es ihm gut geht, er hat mich dann, weil er selbst
 dorthin nicht zurück kann. Sonst habe ich keine Wünsche an Euch, und hoffe dass es Euch
 gut geht und ich bald wieder von Euch höre. Wir bekommen jetzt wieder Zeitungen. Mir
 geht es gut und ich erhole mich zusehends. Nochmals allen Gute zu Weihnachten
 und herzliche Grüße nach im Betrieb von Blinde Klaus.

MY ADDRESS IS: F. KAPT. KLAUS SCHOLTZ, 316-16904, CO # 6,
 MEINE ADRESSE IST WIE FOLGT: POW CAMP RUPERT IDAHO, U.S.A.
 IL MIO INDIRIZZO È:
 紀 中 紀 中

THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION IN GERMANY

by Benjamin R. Beede

Ed Note : We receive requests from members for basic information on the German postal system. The following, an extract from a Civil Affairs Handbook on Germany published by U.S. Army Service Forces on April 4, 1944, was taken from Ben's longer article "The Postal System in Germany During WW II" in TRSG Bulletin No. 96.

Most of the information contained in this Handbook refers to pre-war facilities and services. Changes made since that time have for the most part been emergency measures adopted for reasons of security, shortages of manpower or materials, or to fill special wartime needs; much of this information can be found only in intelligence sources. The most striking change has been the increased role of the military. Many statistics given are as of 1937, the last year before the successive annexations of Austria, the Sudetenland, Memell, Danzig, and the eastern and western territories incorporated into the Reich.

A. The Postal Administration (Reichspost)

1. The Reichspost ministerium.

The control of Germany's communications system is centered in the Reichspostministerium. Means of communications, once privately controlled, such as the TransRadio A.G., and the services of areas annexed to the Reich, such as Austria, have been brought into the highly organized structure of the Reichspost, centered in Berlin. The postal department has, on the other hand, been deprived of jurisdiction over those communications functions which have to do with the control of public opinion (transferred to the Propaganda Ministry in 1933) or with military activity.

The postal ministry is headed by a Cabinet Minister. The Minister has generally been a careerist in the postal administration. Assisting him is a Secretary of State and an advisory board (Beirat der Deutschen Reichspost) of ten members chosen by the Cabinet on the nomination of the Minister. Members serve for three years without compensation. The board normally includes Nazi Party officials, one or more representatives of the Propaganda Ministry, and representatives of the electrical and other industries and of finance. Its role is purely consultive.

The Postal Administration is divided into six main departments handling the following functions: (1) mail; (2) telephone; (3) telegraph, radio and television; (4) personnel; (5) budget, accounting, finance, construction and postal check services; (6) administrative planning, statistics, publicity, operation of postal motor vehicles and repair shops, etc. In addition there are two special sections handling (1) "foreign policy and colonial matters", and (2) "eastern territories". Matters of supply and certain technical problems concerning all of the departments are administered by the Central Office of the Reichspost (Reichspost ministerium). Building is under the (Reichspostbaudirektion). Postal savings services are administered by the Postsparkassenamt, a separate bureau under the Postal Ministry; deposits and disbursements are handled by ordinary post offices. The Government Printing Office (Reichsdruckeri) and several research agencies are also under the Ministry.

2. Local Administration

The administrative areas of the postal system are the postal districts (Reichspostdirektionsbezirke), of which there are thirty-eight in the old Reich (1937 boundaries), and forty-seven in the Greater Reich of today. They do not correspond to any political subdivision.

The various categories of local postal administrative offices include the post office (three classes), the railway post office, the money order office, the telegraph and telephone Offices, the telegraph construction office, the Postal Administration branch office, the radio office, and auxiliary offices and agencies corresponding to each of these. There are approximately 47,000 such offices in the Old Reich.

The Postal Administration in 1939 owned or rented 5,594 pieces of real estate, 6,336 service buildings, and numerous dwellings. It employs about 490,000 employees, all of whom are civil service. The principal civil service categories in the Postal Administration are (1) Oberpostrat, (2) Postrat, (3) Postamtman, (4) Obertelegrapheninspektor and Technischer Obertelegrapheninspektor, (5) Telegrapheninspektor and Technischer Telegrapheninspektor, (6) Telegraphenoberwerkmeister, (7) Telegraphenwerkmeister, (8) Telegraphenwerkführer.

3. International Agreements

Germany is a member of the Universal Postal Union and the International Telecommunications Union. In 1942 she formed a European Postal and Telegraph Union to coordinate services in the countries under her control. Members are Germany, Albania, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Croatia, the Netherlands, Norway, Rumania, Slovakia and San Marino.

4. Scope of Authority

The Postal Administration is in complete charge of Germany's main postal, telegraph, and telephone systems. (The railway administration and the armed services maintain wire services of their own, but these are of minor importance.) The three services are thoroughly integrated, with the result that postal and telegraph offices (and sometimes telephone exchanges) are commonly housed in the same buildings; telegrams are delivered by postmen on the same basis as special delivery letters. (Letter telegrams (Brieftelegramme) are delivered as ordinary mail. Telegrams are sent in to the telegraph office by phone or by postman, and telephone cables are used for teletype and telephoto transmission. The Deutsch-Atlantische Telegraphengesellschaft, a private company (which was, however, completely under the control of the Postal Ministry), operated three of the principle German submarine cables before the war. The Ministry performs certain technical functions in operating the broadcasting companies, but the programs are handled by the German Broadcasting Corporation (Reichsrundfunkgesellschaft), a government-controlled company under the Propaganda Ministry. The operation of the other radio services is shared with the War, Navy and Air Ministries (and the shipping and air transport companies) in peacetime, and probably virtually monopolized by the armed forces in wartime. Experimentation in telephotographic transmission and television, carried on by private firms but under government guidance, was placed in the hands of the Air Ministry in 1935 in view of its strategic importance to aviation.

E. Postal Services

The Postal Administration provides all of the services provided by the United States Post Office. In addition it operates an extensive system of mail- and passenger-carrying busses, and performs certain banking and collection services.

1. Administration

A general description of the Postal Administration and of the division of the mail-handling, transportation, and banking functions has been given earlier. The system is entirely government-operated; there are no lessees or concessionaires.

2. Services

The postal Administration carries, delivers, and collects ordinary letters and postcards, parcels and packages, registered letters and packages, insured and C.O.D. mail, and special delivery and airmail letters.

Table 5. Postal Traffic, Germany, 1937

Letters handled (*)	6,738,630
of which registered letters	94,960
and small insured packages	3,290
Ordinary (unsealed) parcels	303,050
Sealed and insured parcels	2,490
C.O.D. letters	76,420
C.O.D. packages	32,180

(*) This presumably includes special delivery; it may also include airmail.

The German handling of mail was rapid and efficient. Delivery within cities was expedited by the use of modern sorting and conveying machines; Berlin had a tube network (Rohrpost) with some 250 miles of tube running throughout the city. Other cities had similar services. In Berlin, in 1940, an estimated 7,864,000 pieces of mail and telegrams were transmitted by the tubes, which used both air-pressure and air-vacuum methods of transmissions. The system had 90 stations, most of them between .75 and 1.5 miles apart.

Interurban mail is carried by the railroads where railroad connections are available. To carry the mail to outlying districts, however, the Postal Administration has established its own bus system. Postal busses also carry passengers; the passenger service is both a source of revenue to the administration and an important part of the country's network, because it offers the only means of reaching places not situated on a railroad. Routes radiate from local centers in each province, generally serving areas or routes not served by railroads. The Reichspost owns over 4,000 buses. Before the war 50 of these operated on urban lines totaling 125 miles in length, the rest on interurban lines--of which there were around 2,400--with a total route length of 34,000 miles. In 1937, 84,810,000 passengers were carried. Since the outbreak of war the bus service has been greatly curtailed.

In addition to busses, the Postal Administration owns numerous other vehicles: electric cars for urban collection and delivery, trucks for maintenance and repair, motorcycles, trailers, etc. On 31 March 1938, the Reichspost owned 17,714 vehicles: 4,148 buses; 2,448 electric cars; 2,412 trucks in the Fernmeldedienst; and 8,706 other vehicles (motorcycles, etc.), as well as 3,151 trailers. Special filling stations and repair shops service these vehicles.

Airmail is carried under contract by the Deutsche Lufthansa. In 1937, 1,337,000 pounds of letters, 363,000 pounds of packages, and 1,387,000 pounds of newspapers were carried by air.

The Reichspost handles four types of banking service: (1) postal money orders of the type used in the United States; (2) postal savings, which in 1938 paid 3 per cent interest per annum; (3) the postal checking service; and (4) collection and forwarding service. When the Germans annexed Austria, they reorganized their postal savings organization on the Austrian model. The system is administered by a special office (the Postsparkassenamt) within the Postal Ministry, and any of the 47,000 post offices and agencies will accept deposits and make payments.

The following statistics indicate the volume of these services in 1937:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount (RM.1000)</u>
Postal Checking accounts	1,119,370	846,210
Account entries of which settled without cash transaction.	904,550,000	161,600,000
Money orders and payments	361,080,000	136,950,000
Postal orders to collect money	379,000	39,250
Orders to protest bills	4,200,000	455,120
Of which protests made by post	357,000	40,250

It will be noted that the Reichspost in its banking capacity acts as a collecting and forwarding agency. This service was done in one of two ways: creditors could obtain from the post office special forms (Zahlkarten) to be sent with their bills, so that the debtor could deposit money with the form at the post office for deposit in the creditor's checking account, the post office could present bills itself, the Reichspost acting much as an American commercial bank does in presenting a draft, i.e., collecting the money and forwarding it to the creditors, or recording the protest of the debtor.

German postal money orders are much the same as the American, except that the money is delivered by the postman.

The Reichspost also acts as a general financial agent of the government in receiving some tax payments, and in disbursing Winter Relief, special payments to large families, etc. Finally, the Reichspost collects all the radio-receiver license fees.

In general it will be noted that the Reichspost carries on many activities undertaken by the regular banking system in the United States. This service is necessitated by the smaller size and greater concentration of the German banking system, which does not handle a large volume of small accounts. It is unusual for a newspaper subscription, for instance, to be paid for by check in Germany, unless the check is on a postal checking account.

In order to facilitate its work the German Post Office has divided the Reich into twenty-four postal districts, which must be marked on envelopes by the senders using the following Postleitzahlen:

Table 6A. Postal Districts

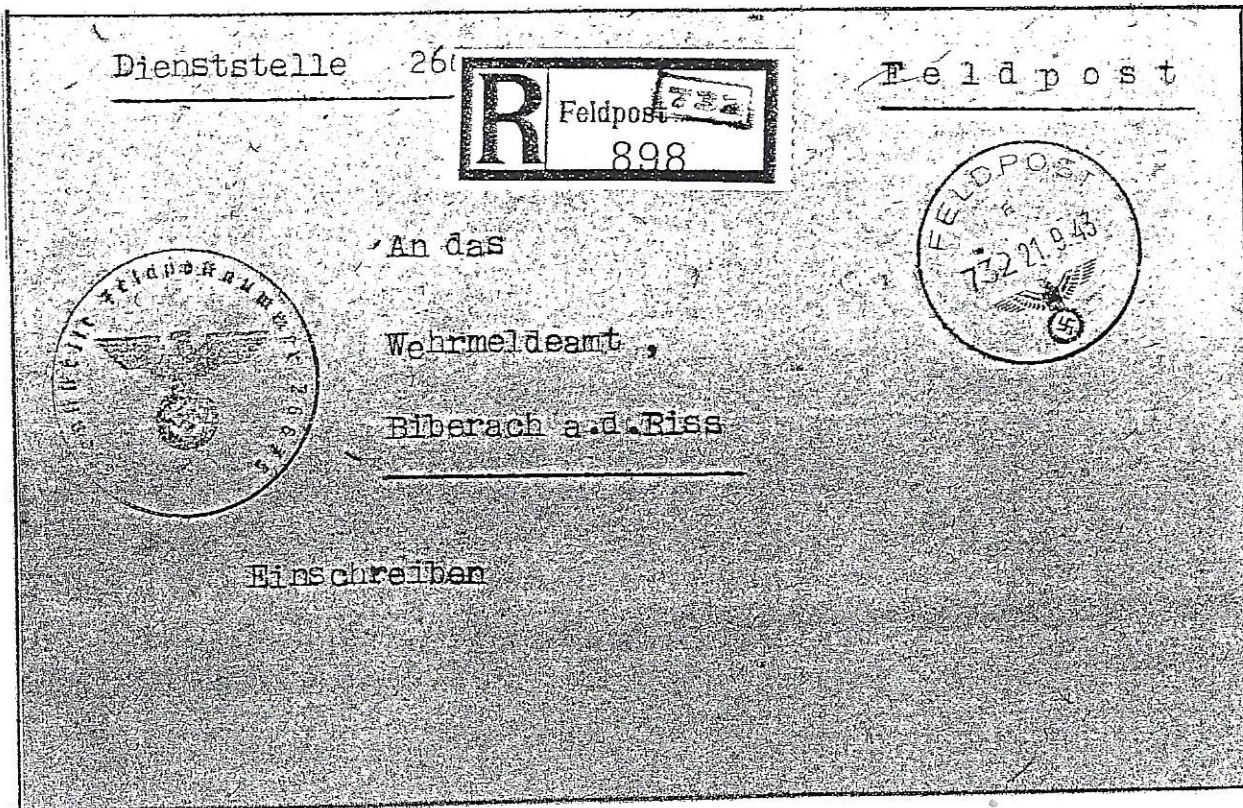
<u>District</u>	
1	Gau Berlin.
2	Gau Mark Brandenburg and the Stadkreis Schneidemühl and the Landkreise Arnswaldo, Friedberg and Netzekreis of the Gau Pommern..
3	Gau Mecklenburg.
4	Gau Pommern.
5	Gau Danzig-Westpreussen.
5B	Gau Ostpreussen.
5C	Reichskommissariat Ostland.
6	Gau Wartheland.
7A	General Gouvernement.
7B	Reichskommissariat Ukraine.
8	Gau Niederschlesien and the Landkreis Grulich of the Gau Sudetenland-Ost.
9A	Gau Oberschlesien.
9B	Gau Sudetenland-Ost.
10	Gau Sachsen, Gau Halle-Merseburg and the Kreis Altenburg of Gau Thüringen.
11A	Gau Sudetenland -West.
11B	The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.
12A	The Gaue Wien, Niederdonau, Steiermark.
12B	Gau Kärnten, Gau Oberdonau, Gau Salzburg, Gau Tirol - Vorarlberg.
13A	Gau Bayreuth, Gau Franken, Gau Main-Franken..
13B	Gau München-Oberbayern, Gau Schwaben and district Niederbayern of the Gau Bayreuth.
14	Gau Württemberg - Hohenzollern.
15	Gau Thüringen.
16	Gau Hessen-Nassau, Gau Kurhessen.
17A	Gau Baden.
17B	Part of Gau Baden-Elsass.
18	Gau Westmark.
19	Gau Magdeburg -Anhalt.
20	Gau Osthannover, Gau Südhannover - Braunschweig.
21	Gau Westfalen - Nord, Gau Westfalen - Sud.
22	Gau Düsseldorf, Gau Essen, Gau Köln-Aachen, Gau Moseland.
23	Gau Weser-Ems, the Landkreise Bremervorde, Wesermünde, Rottenburg and Osterholz-Scharmbeck of Gau Osthannover, Landkreise Grafschaft Hoya and Diepholz of the Gau Südhannover-Braunschweig.
24	Gau Hamburg, Gau Schleswig-Holstein and Landkreise Hadeln, Stade, Luneburg and Harburg of Gau Osthannover, and the town of Cuxhaven.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 8th Luftwaffe Field Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS		AUXIL
TACT	KENN	FIELD INFANTRY	ARTY	UNITS
908	732	15 (L)	16 (L)	8 (L)

Formed October 29, 1942 at Troop Maneuver Grounds Mielau in East Prussia, the 8th Luftwaffe Field Division P.O. was assigned Fp. 48590 as a return address and K-732 as a coded identity in lieu of tactical FpA 908. Upon completion of training the 8th Luftwaffe Field Division, along with the 7th Luftwaffe Field Division, was sent to Army Detachment Hollidt on the Russian Front. The division took part in the fighting on the Upper Chir in the winter of 1942-43 and sustained heavy losses. Judged unfit for further combat, the division was taken out of the line and disbanded late in 1943. The remaining personnel were transferred to the 15th Luftwaffe Feld Division.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Biberach in September 1943 from Fp. # 26675 (Company 1 of Corps Signals Detachment 66) via FpA 908 (Kenn 732)

Story Behind the Cancel: Hitler's Visit to Bohemia-Moravia

by Albert Jackson

On the same day that Hitler extracted the agreement from President Hacha that Czechoslovakia should come under the protection of Germany, he decided to make a surprise visit to Prague. However, before reaching the Bohemian frontier he had his train diverted from the main Berlin-Prague line, heading instead for Ceska Lipa, a railroad junction in the recently won province of the Sudetenland. Two hours later he decided to continue his journey to Prague, this time by car. After traveling on icy roads, heavily congested by advancing German troops, the Führer's party arrived after dark at Hradschin Castle, the ancient seat of the Bohemian kings.

One is tempted to ask why Hitler decided to make such an inconspicuous entry into Prague, in contrast to his recent victorious parade through Austria. Possibly he was afraid that the Nazi minority in Czechoslovakia would be unable to equal the response accorded him by the Austrians. On the other hand, he may have considered that any outward sign of conquest would have detracted from the credibility of the agreement with Hacha that the occupation was a result of Czech-German co-operation.

During the night of 15-16 March 1939, Hitler devised the "Protectorate Decree", which declared Bohemia-Moravia a autonomous part of the German Reich. The German minority living in the Protectorate were declared Reich citizens, while the Czechs were to become Protectorate Nationals. Germany would assume control over the defense and foreign affairs, but the internal affairs were to be left in the hands of Czechs.

By the next morning this decree was broadcast on the Prague radio and, no doubt, the Czechs learned for the first time that Hitler was in the capital. Hitler received the Mayor of the city, Hacha and General Jan Syrový, the Czech Minister of Defense, at the castle. He appeared at the window of the castle to acknowledge a crowd which had gathered after hearing of his presence and he later reviewed a group of Nazi students who claimed to have been wounded in clashes with Czech "extremists".

That after noon, Hitler left Prague to spend the night in the Sudeten section of Silesia. On the morning of 17 March, he returned to the Protectorate to visit the other towns with sizable German minorities, Olomouc and Brno. At Brno he met a group of Nazi sympathizers who had managed to seize the city hall before the arrival of German troops. From Brno, Hitler left by train for Vienna, arriving at about 5 p.m. that evening and thus completing his only visit to Bohemia - Moravia.

After the event, the cities of Prague and Brno issued postmarks to commemorate Hitler's visit. The dates on these postmarks in my collection are, not surprisingly, a few days late. The Prague postmark bears the date 18 March (Fig. 1), the one from Brno 21 March (Fig. 2) and both are struck in red. It appears that each city used three cancelling devices (a, b and c) but there is some confusion as to the dates these devices were used.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



I have not been able to determine if Olomouc issued a similar postmark. There is a slogan postmark used in the town of Budweis on 15 March (Fig. 3) that indicates that Hitler may have made another stop on his journey.

Fig. 3

DER FÜHRER
IN BUDWEIS



Tag der Briefmarke Commemorative Cards

by Bob Ferguson

Among all the events in the National Socialist era for which special cancels were used, Tag der Briefmarke is first with 495 cancels. There were also quite a few commemorative cards and sheets produced. The following is a sampling of these cards from my collection. The cancel numbering scheme is in Julius Bochmann's work "Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel".

Fig. 1) 9 January 1938. Cancel: Berlin # 252



Fig. 2) 8 January 1939. Cancel: Breslau # 43



Deets: RM. 2,20

Fig. 3) 7 January 1940. Cancel: Dresden # 93

Fig. 4) 12 January 1941. Cancel: Dusseldorf #54

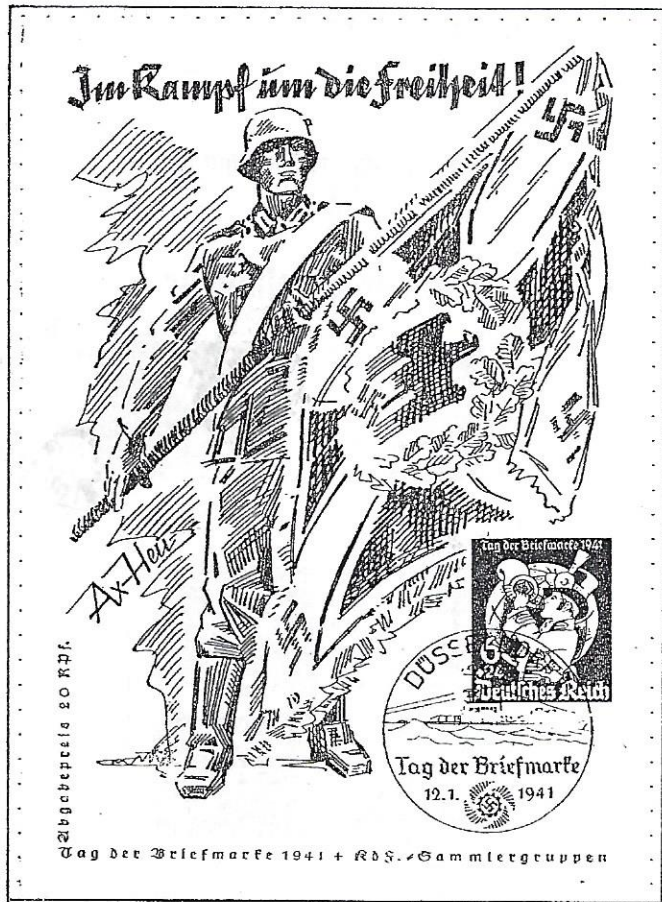


Fig. 5) 11 January 1942. Cancel: Dortmund #11



In addition to German cards and cancels, the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia commemorated Tag der Briefmarke with the card and special cancel shown below as Fig. 7.

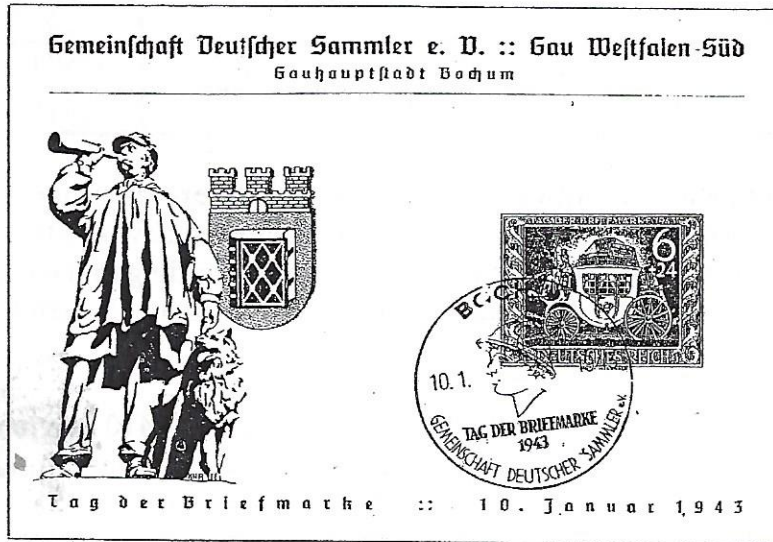


Fig. 6) 10 January 1943. Cancel: Bochum # 12



Fig. 7) 10 January 1943. Cancel: Brunn # 113

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

10th Luftwaffe Field Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT	KENN	FIELD INFANTRY	ARTY	UNITS	
910	904	19 (L)	20 (L)	10 (L)	

In 1942 Hitler authorized the formation of Luftwaffe field divisions from excess air force ground personnel, because Göring appealed to him not to release his men to the Army where their "fine National Socialist attitude" would be contaminated. This was a mistake, leading to the commitment of over a dozen inadequately trained Luftwaffe divisions to combat, mostly on the Eastern Front, and cost thousands of lives.

Formed in 1942, the 10th Luftwaffe Field Division P.O. was assigned Fp.# 48410 as a return address and K-904 as a coded identity in lieu of tactical FpA 910. Sent to Army Group North in January 1944, the division was part of 18th Army when the Soviets broke the siege of Leningrad in January 1944. The massive Soviet assault that broke the siege began on January 14 and by January 17 the 10th Luftwaffe Field Division had been smashed. It suffered further losses in the initial retreat through the Baltic States to the Narva River and was disbanded shortly thereafter.



Cover sent to Military District Headquarters in Neumünster in May 1943 from Fp.# 07686 (4. Battr./le. Flak Abtl. 833) via FpA 910 (Kenn 904).