



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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DIRECTOR: Myron Fox, P.O. Box 283, Needham Heights, MA 02194

BULLETIN STAFF:

EDITOR/AUCTION MGR.: James E. Lewis, 111 Montross Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Robert Dunn, 3318 Running Cedar Way, Williamsburg, VA 23188

BACK ISSUES MGR.: Kelly Stefanacci, 45 Havens Mill Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

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Der Kommandant von Gross-Paris

Befristeter Ausweis № 058263

Der Trust. Schmecker u. 5 Mann
(Dienstgrad, Vor- und Zuname.)
 ist berechtigt sich am 14. 10. 42 bis zum 15. 10. 42
Feldpost Nr. 47. 267
(Datum)
 in der Innenstadt aufzuhalten

Ausgestellt am 14. 10. 42 Ausgegeben durch : _____

Ausgebende Einheit.: _____

Muster 5.

Unterschrift u. Dienstgrad

Längste Gültigkeitsdauer 14 Tage!

STUDY GROUP NOTES

Bob Ferguson, a special appreciation – the greatest joy for the editor of a publication such as this is to obtain a steady flow of well written original articles from a member with specialized knowledge about particular aspects of Third Reich postal history. Texan Bob Ferguson is such a member who has been most generous in sharing with us examples of his collections and write-ups for postal rates and special cancels. I sincerely hope that Bob's efforts will inspire other members who have not yet contributed to this publication. We are supposed to be a **study group**, so please consider what **you** might do to share your knowledge with your fellow members.

TRSG Meeting at NOJEX – there was an informal TRSG meeting held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 29, 1999 at the Meadowlands Crowne Plaza, Two Harmon Plaza, Secaucus NJ 07094. We have been offered an opportunity to host an entire section of Third Reich postal history exhibits for NOJEX 2000. There will be more details in future bulletins but consider sending an entry for this special showing.

Futsches Reich "Stamps" – member A. Kettler is looking for detailed information on a) the forgeries of 6 & 12 Pfg. Hitler Head stamps and b) the 'death head' forgeries of the same issues produced by the O.S.S. Please send info to Mr. A. Kettler, 3710 N. 7th Street, Arlington, VA 22203.

Corrections – member Rex Dixon noted these errors in Bulletin 131 (mostly the fault of Ye Olde ED).

- 1) The article on Austrian postal rates has a typo, the rate for intercity letters in the table for 4 April to 31 July should be "18gr/12pf" not "12gr/8pf", for the latter is the local rate.
- 2) Mail from Austria to Germany attracted internal rates, even during the initial period when pre-Anschluss rates continued in force. This agreement had been in place since the Austro-German Postal Union of 1850).
- 3) On page 4, "Gaupauptsdadt" should be spelled "Gauhauptstadt".

Von Axter-Heudlass - member Jeffrey Allen is looking for information on this husband & wife artistic team that produced many of the stamp and postal card designs of the Third Reich era. He is also curious as to why so much Third Reich postal material survived the de-Nazification program in the post-war years. Was there any effort by the Allies to destroy the stocks of stamps, etc. Please send info to Mr. Jeffrey Allen, 1408 Shade Tree Road, Apt. B, Baltimore, MD 21221.

Prices Realized – TRSG Auction 80

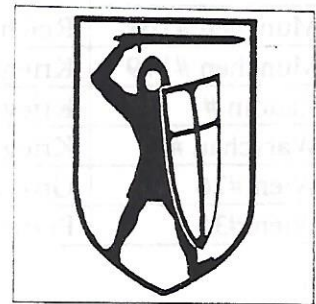
Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	\$68.00	5	\$14.00	11	\$16.00	19	\$ 20.00	23	\$21.00
2	\$32.00	6	\$35.00	12	\$35.00	20	\$26.00	24	\$21.00
3	\$33.00	8	\$44.00	18	\$15.00	22	\$20.00	25	\$24.00

Cover Illustration – to illustrate our first 'Fundamentals of Feldpost Collecting' article on page 13, this is both an interesting example of 5 digit Feldpost number usage and a nice addition to any collection of D-Day related material. This pass with unit seal Fp.# 40260 was issued for a visit to Paris by a member of Organization Todt West Coast HQ at Lorient, the construction organization which was building the Atlantic Wall on the French coast. This is lot 1 in Auction # 81. Good Hunting!

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 21st Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

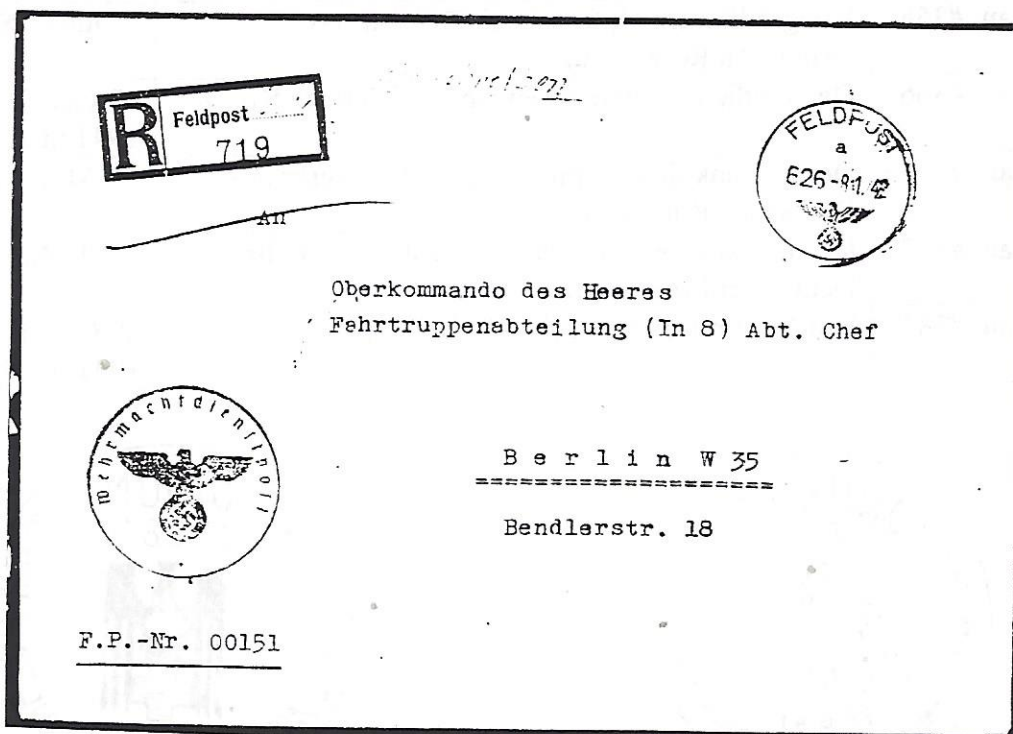
POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
21	626	3	24	45	21	

Formed with personnel from East Prussia, the 21st Infantry Division was created in 1935 by expansion of the 3rd Infantry Regiment "Deutsch Eylau". As a divisional emblem it adopted a black-edged white shield showing a mailed Teutonic Knight with a white shield bearing the Prussian Teutonic Cross, emphasizing strong links with East Prussia



It took part in the invasions of Poland and France, then invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941. As part of Army Group North, it swept through the Baltic States and broke through Soviet defensive positions on the Msta River, the last natural barrier before Leningrad. The Division spent the next three years in northern Russia, participating in the Siege of Leningrad, the Battle of Volkhov (early 1942) and Second Battle of Lake Ladoga in early 1943.

After distinguishing itself during the retreat from Leningrad, the Division was transferred to Army Group Center in the fall of 1944. It was smashed during the Russian invasion of East Prussia, but the survivors continued to resist at battle group strength. The remnants of the 21st Infantry Division were still in East Prussia at the end of the war.



Cover sent to Army High Command in Berlin in January 1942 from Fp. # 00151 (HQ/Supply Troop 21) via division P.O. 21 (K-626).

German Red Cross Special Cancels by Bob Ferguson

From 1939 until 1944 special cancels were used to publicise the German Red Cross. The cancel numbering scheme is in Julius Bochmann's work "Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel".

Erfurt #28	Briefmarken Ausstellung zu Gunsten des Deutschen Roten Kreuzes	18 May 1941
Jena #5	Für das Rote Kreuz/Jenär Briefmarkensammler verein R.d.P "90 Jahre Bedenmarke"	7 Sept 1941
Krakau #3	Kriegshilfswerk für das Deutsche Roten Kreuz	17-18 August 1940
Lublin #1	Kriegshilfswerk für das Deutsche Roten Kreuz	17-18 August 1940
Munchen #161	Reichsstrassensammlung des Deutsche Roten Kreuz 1941-42.	28-29 June 1941
Munchen #179	Kriegshilfswerk für das Deutsche Roten Kreuz	22-23 August 1942
Radom #1	Kriegshilfswerk für das Deutsche Roten Kreuz	17-18 August 1940
Warschau #1	Kriegshilfswerk für das Deutsche Roten Kreuz	17-18 August 1940
Wien #26	Grosskunge Bung des Deutschen Roten Kreuzes	12 Feb. 1939
Wien #35	Prater Mai Fest des Deutschen Roten Kreuzes Kreis Wien-Ost	28 May 1939

Machine Can. #337	Das Deutschen Rote Kreuz Immer Bereit Hilf Mit!	2 Oct.-31 Dec.1939 in 49 cities
Machine Can. #351	Das Deutschen Rote Kreuz Helfer in Kreig und Frieden	12 Jan.1940-41in 55 cities
Machine Can. #357	Die Front Kampf -die Heimat Opfert Kreigshilfswerk für das Deutschen Rote Kreuz	5 July-23 Oct.1940 in 29 cities
Machine Can. #358	Kreigshilfswerk Opfere Auch Du! Für das Deutschen Rote Kreuz	5 July-2 Sept.1940 in 26 cities
Machine Can. #366	Deine Pflicht: Mitarbeit im Deutschen Rote Kreuz	28 Oct.-1940 - 31 March 1941 in 73 cities
Machine Can. #376	Deine Dank deien Opfer 2 Kreigshilfswerk für das Deutschen Rote Kreuz	20 May-8 Oct.1941 in 29 cities
Machine Can. #377	Deine Dank deien Opfer 2 Kreigshilfswerk für das Deutschen Rote Kreuz	21 May-30 June1941 in 27 cities
Machine Can. #384	Hilf Mit Im Das Deutschen Rote Kreuz!	20 Oct.-1940 - 10 August 1942 in 29 cities



BOOK REVIEW

Einführung der Postleitzahl bis zum 8.5.1945: Geschichte – Handbuch-Katalog

by Gunther Borchers. Available from the Verlag Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde, Postfach 1951, 59479 Soest, Germany.

John W. Painter was the first GPS member to observe and then to write about the significance of the Postal Routing Numbers "**Postleitzahlen**" of World War II as a major step toward the automation of postal operations. The increasing appearance of postal automation sections in German auction catalogs, which usually contain **Postleitzahlen** covers, and the publication of two books on **Postleitzahlen** in 1996 suggest there is a growing interest in this area.

Any student of German postal history, especially any postal automation or Third Reich specialist, needs Borchers' excellent study. It is another example of the fine quality of publications issued by the **Poststempelgilde**. Part of the text consists of copies of postal regulations, generally very well reproduced. Another section is a copy of a list of post offices in each **Postleitgebiet**, issued in January 1945, which must have been one of the last publications of the **Reichspost**. Another valuable feature is the inclusion of illustrated envelopes and advertisements of 1944-1945 that explained and requested the use of **Postleitzahlen**. The many covers and cancellations pictured further enhance the book's usefulness.

There is a brief catalog section, which values various types of cancellations, including meters, and registration labels from 1944 and 1945 which contain **Postleitzahlen**. Before the publication of this study, the thought had occurred to me to suggest to M.C. Gilhousen that he discuss collecting **Postleitzahlen** in his always welcome column "The Frugal Philatelist", but the relatively high prices shown for some items perhaps put them beyond the reach of the frugal. Most items can be purchased at fairly low prices, however. If one may assume that **Postleitzahlen** are not well known in the United States, some nice covers may be found in this country at bargain prices.

There are other books about **Postleitzahlen** that are also worth acquiring. In 1975, Rainer Lütgens published **Dokumentation: "Das Postleitzahlensystem von 1941"**, a very fine survey of **Postleitzahlen** in the World War II and post- World War II periods. It is presumably out of print, but copies are available occasionally in German auctions. Its broader coverage nicely complements the Borchers study. Even for the Third Reich, it includes some material not contained in the new monograph.

Die Postleitzahlen vor dem 5.5. 45: Aufgabestempel, Poststellen –II stempel, Freistempel Mit Postleitgebietzahl: Katalog mit Bewertung is available from J. Schnellbacher, Gontermannstr. 7b, 12101 Berlin by check or by payment to PS-Konto Berlin 224383-109 BLZZ 100 100 10. It costs DM 27,50 postpaid, although I assume a higher price is required for orders from this country. The book has seventy pages and appears to be strictly a catalog.

My only criticism of the Borchers and Lütgens books is that they begin rather abruptly with the **Postleitzahlen**. Probably brief introductory sections that discussed the Reichspost's problems during World War II would have improved them.

Reviewed by Ben Beede.

POSTAL DISTRICT NUMBERS

by Bob Ferguson

Beginning in 1944, postal district numbers (Postleitzahlen) were required in the address on all mail. Postal cards #P313-314 were printed with circles to contain the district numbers for both sender and addressee. A slogan cancel (Bochmann #416) 'Zur Ortsangabe gehört stets die Postleitzahlen' was used in 53 cities in March 1944 to remind postal customers to always use the postal district numbers.

The following is a list of these early "zip codes" by regional postal district (Oberpostdirektion or OPD):

1	Berlin	13a	Nürnberg, Bamberg, Regensburg, Würzburg
2	Frankfurt (O), Potsdam	13b	Augsburg, München, Landshut (Bay.)
3	Schwerin	14	Stuttgart
4	Stettin, Koslin	15	Erfurt
5a	Danzig	16	Frankfurt (M), Kassel, Darmstadt
5b	Königsberg (P), Gumbinnen	17a	Karlsruhe, Konstanz
6	Posen	18	Speyer, Saarbrücken
8	Breslau, Liegnitz	19	Magdeburg
9a	Oppeln	20	Hannover, Braunschweig
9b	Troppau	21	Münster, Dortmund, Minden
10	Dresden, Leipzig, Chemnitz, Halle (Saale)	22	Düsseldorf, Koblenz, Köln, Trier, Aachen
11a	Aussig, Karlsbad	23	Bremen, Oldenburg
12a	Wien, Graz	24	Hamburg, Kiel
12b	Innsbruck, Klagensfurt, Linz (Donau)		

Postcard below posted in Greiz (OPD Erfurt -#15) on February 27, 1945 to Berlin (OPD Berlin - #1)

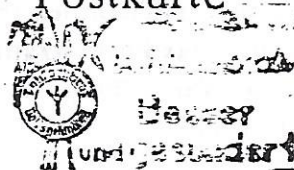

Absender: U. Lankens

(15) Greiz - Infanterie
Regiment 2.

Wohnort, auch Zustell- oder Postamt

Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stodwerk oder Postschlüsselnummer, bei Untermietern auch Name des Vermieters

Postkarte

Greiz

U. Lankens

Der Führer kennt nur Kampf, Arbeit und Sorge.
Wir wollen ihm den Teil abnehmen,
Den wir ihm abnehmen können.

(1) Berlin - Grenadier

Regiment 7.

Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stodwerk oder Postschlüsselnummer, bei Untermietern auch Name des Vermieters

Story Behind the Stamp: George Frederick Händel

by Kelly Stefanacci

George Frederick Händel was born February 23, 1685 at Halle in Lower Saxony. He was the son of George Händel, a barber-surgeon, and his second wife Dorteia Traust. The boy early displayed musical talent but his father wished him to become a lawyer. He began grammar school in Halle in 1692 and upon graduation in 1702 entered the University of Halle to study law. However, during this decade he also studied music under Zachau, the cathedral organist and in 1697 even played before Fredrich I in Berlin. He became cathedral organist in 1702 and the next year went to Hamburg, where he wrote his first opera "Almira", which was performed on January 8, 1705 with great success. The following year he went to Italy to study for three years and to write two operas, two oratorios and much choral music.

In 1709 the success that he achieved led the Elector of Hanover to offer him the post of Kapellmeister, which he accepted. He went from Venice to Hanover but only stayed a short time before going to London late in 1710. He produced his opera "Rinaldo" there on February 24, 1711 and the fame it won for him brought him back to London in 1712 to compose for Queen Anne. This absence without leave from Hanover made his position awkward when the Elector became George I in 1714 and himself came to London. However, Händel was pardoned, given a salary of £400 per year and wrote the "Water Music" for his royal master in July 1717.

He next entered the service of the Duke of Chandos and wrote the oratorio "Esther", "Acis and Falatea" and the twelve Chandos Anthems. Händel was impresario of the Italian Opera in the Haymarket from 1720 to 1737 and wrote forty-one operas for it before he went bankrupt due to competition from a rival company. Händel became an English citizen in 1726 and produced a long series of English oratorios including "Deborah" (1733), "Saul" (1738), "The Messiah" (1747), "Samson" (1744), "Judas Maccabaeus" (1747), "Solomon" (1749) and his last work "Jephtha" (1752). He went bankrupt again in 1745 but by 1790 had paid all of his debts. However, his sight began to fail in the following year and by May 1752 he was almost completely blind. The last years of his life were spent superintending the performances of his works. He died in London on April 14, 1759.

Händel appears on the 25 Pfg value of a set of three stamp designed by Prof. Ferdinand Spiegel which were issued on June 21, 1935 to commemorate the Bach- Händel – Schütz Festival held at Leipzig from 16 to 24 June, 1935.



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

I obtained the anti-Polish/anti-Jewish cover shown below many years ago but have never been able to determine its origins or dates of usage. I was told by several Third Reich collectors that it was distributed to pro-Nazi German organizations such as the German-American Bund shortly after the outbreak of war with Poland.

The message card directed to the American public is enclosed in a "Feldpost" envelope with a bogus cancel set to simulate the date of on September 1, 1939, Germany's invasion of Poland. While at first glance the text on the card appears to be German, it is in fact primarily English and easily understood by anyone. I would certainly appreciate any information of this card and the identity of "Otto Edenharter" if there ever was such a person.



Kaus mit
den Juden

1-9-39

Lieber amerikanische Freund,

Today, "der Schoene Adolf"
sent our Deutsche soldaten to
punish the evil Poles for killing
Deutsche citizens in the city of
Gleiwitz in our glorious Reich.

Heil Hitler, Unsere Fuehrer!

Otto Edenharter

Rejected by Censor - Inadmissible Mail

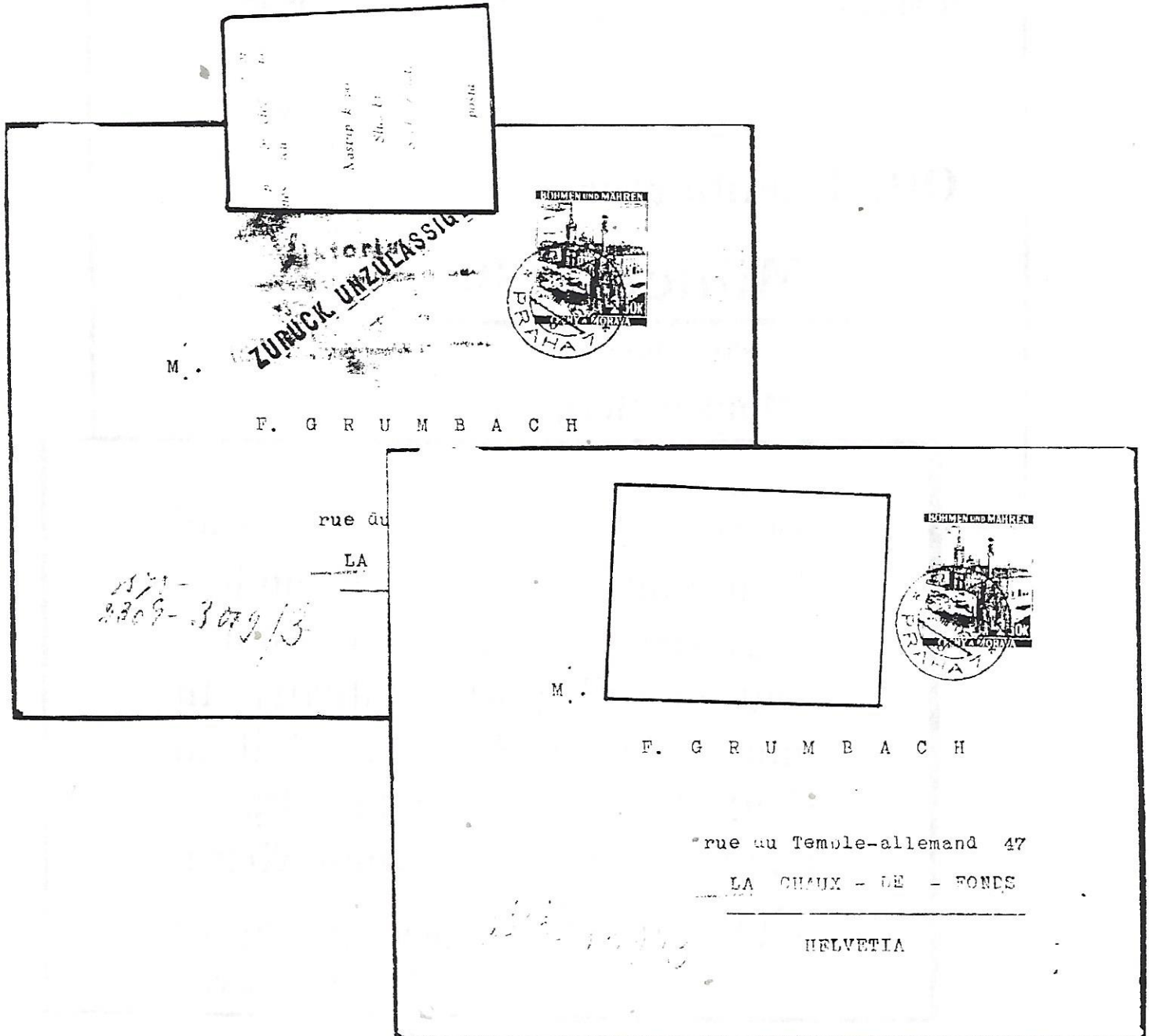
by Jim Lewis

Propaganda Slogan Sent Abroad

Section 7. Supplementary order of May 13, 1940: "No reports concerning the military, economic or political situation may be transmitted which are suited to endanger the welfare of the nation or of the states allied to or friendly to it".

This cover (see top) from Prague, Bohemia to Switzerland in August 1941 has a 'Viktoria' cachet alluding to German victory and eventual domination of Europe was rejected by Frankfurt Censor office per the marking "Zurück, Unzulässig!" (Return, Inadmissible!).

As the cachet had been applied by the post office, a slip of paper (see bottom) was pasted over it to correct the reason for rejection.



THIRD REICH POSTAL RATES

Parcel Post Internal Rates

by Bob Ferguson

Ordinary Parcel Post – 30 January 1933 – 12 August 1944

	1 Zone –75Km	2 Zone –150Km	3 Zone –375Km	4 Zone –750Km	5 Zone –750Km+
To 5Kg	0.30Rm	0.40Rm	0.60Rm	0.60Rm	0.60Rm
6Kg	0.35	0.50	0.80	0.90	1.00
7Kg	0.40	0.60	1.00	1.20	1.40
8Kg	0.45	0.70	1.20	1.50	1.80
9Kg	0.50	0.80	1.40	1.80	2.20
10Kg	0.55	0.90	1.60	2.10	2.60
11Kg	0.65	1.05	1.80	2.35	2.90
12Kg	0.75	1.20	2.00	2.60	3.20
13Kg	0.85	1.35	2.20	2.85	3.50
14Kg	0.95	1.50	2.40	3.10	3.80
15Kg	1.05	1.65	2.60	3.35	4.10
16Kg	1.15	1.80	2.80	3.60	4.40
17Kg	1.25	1.95	3.00	3.85	4.70
18Kg	1.35	2.10	3.20	4.10	5.00
19Kg	1.45	2.25	3.40	4.35	5.30
20Kg	1.55	2.40	3.60	4.60	5.60

RATE = FEE FROM TABLE + 15Pfg (ZUSTELLGEBUHR) DELIVERY FEE
 Maximum weight accepted after 30 September 1942 = 15Kg

13 August 1944 – 8 May 1945


	Nahzone –75 Km	Fernzone –over 75Km
To 5Kg	0.30Rm	0.60Rm
6Kg	0.35	0.80
7Kg	0.40	1.00
8Kg	0.45	1.20
9Kg	0.50	1.40
10Kg	0.55	1.60
11Kg	0.65	1.80
12Kg	0.75	2.00
13Kg	0.85	2.20
14Kg	0.95	2.40
15Kg	1.05	2.60

RATE = FEE FROM TABLE (Delivery fee was rescinded on 12 August 1944)

PRIORITY DISPATCH FOR PARCELS (DRINGEND)

(30 January 1933 – 12 August 1944)

Available for ordinary parcel post, Postgut and non-wax sealed insured parcels
Fee = 1RM

5381		Wien 46	
(Die)			
Absender: <i>Uly. Reiter</i> <i>Wien III. / 40 Ob. Weinbrennerstr.</i>			
Besondere Dringend			
An <i>Frau Yvonne</i> <i>Reiter</i> <i>bei Schneider</i> <i>in Gännsdorf / Wien</i> <i>Bleichstr. 6</i>			
Freigeühr (Raf) <i>4.50</i>			
Postgewicht (kg) <i>14.5</i>			
(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk) 26/2 Q/0338			

Posted: Wien, July 18, 1944
 Zustellvermerk: August 3, 1944
 PRIORITY PARCEL POST
 Franking (4.50RM): 3.35 RM (Weight: 14-1/2 Kg to Zone 4)
 15 Pf. (Delivery Fee)
 1.00 RM (Priority Fee – “Dringend”)

Fundamentals of Feldpost Collecting

Part 1. Formation of the German Military Mail System 1939-40

by Benjamin R. Beede

The purpose of this article is to discuss the beginnings of the wartime postal system. One should keep in mind, though, that pre-war trials of the system took place in the fall maneuvers of September 1937 and during the occupations of Austria, the Sudetenland and Bohemia-Moravia.

Feldpost (military mail) service began on September 3, 1939. 1 Pre-war plans envisaged a broad division of labor between the **Reichspost** (the ordinary civilian postal administration) and the Feldpost. Those military units who served in the homeland made no effort to conceal their addresses and designations and, therefore, could use the Reichspost freely. Combat units outside Germany, however, were given special numbers to serve as addresses. Thus, regulations provided for two types of address and return address on military correspondence: open and concealed. An open address consisted of rank, name, unit or office, and location (town name). A concealed address consisted only of rank, name and **Feldpostnummer** (military mail number). 2

A complex system was developed for delivery of military mail to and from field units which was designed to keep unauthorized persons from learning the identities or locations of particular troop units. Five-digit numbers were given to battalions, some independent companies, batteries, etc., as well as to **Luftwaffe** (air force) units, certain governmental authorities, labor battalions, and naval ships. Companies within battalions were normally differentiated with letters assigned to some or all of the companies. These letters appeared as suffixes to the numbers.

This system can be traced back at least to 1930, when identification numbers were authorized for use by elements of the armed forces engaged in wide scale exercises. A "**Post Nummer**" was assigned to each unit from companies up. Such numbers were used in lieu of unit designations. **Postleitstellen** (postal routing offices) were established to handle such mail in agreement with the nearest **Oberpostdirektion** (civilian postal directorate). The **Postleitstellen** were given lists of local post offices through which mail was delivered to units. In order to receive mail from the delivery office the unit postal clerk had to show an identification card with the "**Post Nummer**" on it. 3 Numbers were not, however, actually assigned until 1936. 4

Feldpost numbers were not to be applied to vehicles and equipment, 5 nor were they to be compromised by using the open unit designation and the Feldpost number on the same envelope. 6 Mail from operational areas could not show town names and Feldpost numbers in combination. Such incorrectly marked mail was to be returned with the notation: "**Ortgabe unzulässig**" (town name inadmissible). 7 There were exceptions to this rule. Some para-military organizations, such as the **Reichsarbeitsdienst** (National Labor Service) received Feldpost privileges if they were actually working on projects of direct benefit to the **Wehrmacht** (Armed Forces). Such units had addresses that included both a town name and a Feldpost number. In these instances, numbers were assigned simply to distinguish those Labor Service units with Feldpost privileges from those that did not. 8

Some modifications of the Feldpost number system were introduced as early as 1939. Initially, each private letter from the front or sent in the opposite direction had to bear the word "Feldpost", name and rank of sender or recipient, Feldpost number, and designation of a particular **Postsammelstelle** (mail collecting office). 9 Postsammelstellen were established at Berlin, Breslau, Dortmund, Dresden, Frankfurt am Main, Hamburg, Hannover, Kassel, Königsberg, Munich, Nuremberg, Salzburg, Stettin, Stuttgart and Vienna. 10 Feldpost numbers were used with Postsammelstelle names for only a brief period, on November 1, 1939, the Postsammelstelle designation was dropped. From then on, post offices in Germany and occupied Poland forwarded military mail to the front by sending it to the NEAREST Postsammelstelle. Therefore, the need for indication a certain office no longer existed. 11

Other modifications in the Feldpost number system were made before the end of 1939. Prefixes were introduced for use with navy and air force units. Some elements of the Luftwaffe used the letter "L" before the Feldpost number. Their addresses also showed the name of the **Luftgaupostamt** (Air district Post Office), such as Luftgaupostamt Paris. Such mail went to the Luftgaupostamt, not to a Postsammelstelle. 12 Naval units (ships only) were directed to use the letter "M" before their Feldpost numbers. Mail sent to personnel in the navy which came from civilian postal districts Hamburg, Hannover, Bremen, Oldenburg, Münster, Keil and Schwerin was routed to **Marinepostbüro** Hamburg 1. Mail from all other areas of Germany went to Marinepostbüro Berlin SW 11. All letters with ship names had to be returned with appropriate notes indicating that they were inadmissible. 13

The basic unit of the Feldpost system was the **Feldpostamt** (Military Post Office) which was the equivalent to the American APO (Army Post Office). A Feldpostamt was attached to each army, corps, division and independent brigade. Normally it was located with the command to which it was assigned. 14 Each Feldpostamt was assigned a **Kenn** (code) number for security purposes. This Kenn number played a vital role in mail routing.

Feldpost numbers were listed in the **Feldpost Übersicht** (Military Mail Summary) in three parts. One section contained a listing of units in numerical order of unit designations with the Feldpost numbers assigned to them. Another consisted of a list of Feldpost numbers in order by these numbers. The unit designations were also shown. Still another part of the Feldpost Übersicht was also in Feldpost number order, but instead of showing unit names, it indicated the Kenn numbers of the Feldpost offices serving particular units. Thus, a typical page might begin:

10 000 863
10 001 941

The Postsammelstelle used this list to route mail sent to it by the Reichspost. From the Postsammelstelle mail went to a **Postleitpunkt** (Mail Routing Point) which was also operated by the Reichspost. It transferred mail to the Feldpost system through the **Feldpostleitstelle** (Military Mail Routing Office) which was located at the same site. 15 Only letters with Feldpost numbers were supposed to be sent to the Feldpostleitstellen. A further complication was introduced on November 1, 1939, when a series of **Feldpostpäckchenstellen** (Military Mail Package Offices) was established. All packages and parcels, as well as letters in awkward shapes, were sent to these new offices by the Reichspost, rather than to the Postsammelstellen, which were to process letter mail only. 16

Each army, moreover, had an army postmaster assigned to the commanders' staff, who had full charge of Feldpost activities within the particular army, including all post offices of various categories. Each army had a special **Armee Briefstelle** (Army Letter Office) to handle intra-service mail and incorrectly addressed mail of all kinds. This office had a copy of the Feldpost Summary with all changes. These documents, incidentally, were classified secret. 17

With such a complex system of military forwarding it was inevitable that errors would occur. One of the first sources of confusion was the abolition of the requirement that the name of a Postsammelstelle be shown on each envelope, etc. Even after Feldpost officials were instructed to disregard this information and to advise the troops not to include the designation in their return address 18, errors continued to be made. Newspaper publishers seem to have been the major offender. 19 One of the most interesting regulations refers to situations in which a large volume of mail was received by a unit which showed the unit's Feldpost numbers but which was addressed to personnel who were not and had not been members of the unit. In such instances, it was to be assumed that two units might have the same Feldpost number. Units were advised to contact some of the senders for the open address of the unit they wanted to reach! Postsammelstellen and Feldpostpäckchenstellen were also authorized to make such inquiries. 20 To clarify some of the questions concerning Feldpost service, a codification of practice was issued on April 1, 1940. 21 In general, the provisions of this directive held up throughout the war. When changes were made, they usually concerned the extension of free franking privileges to other elements of the armed forces (interpreted broadly to include many categories of civilians). The Germans were extremely generous in this respect. Even in 1939, mail TO members of the armed forces was permitted without payment of postage. During the course of the conflict many extensions of the franking privilege were made. Moreover, the facilities of the Feldpost system were opened to several classes of civilians with a slight connection with the armed forces in many occupied territories against payment of DOMESTIC postal fees. The story, however, is beyond the scope of this brief article, which merely highlights a few of the more important developments in German military mail between September 1939 and April 1940.

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15. IBID., pp. 16-17.
16. Reichspostministerium, FELDPOSTAMTSBLATT, October 27, 1939, 28/1939, pp. 21-3.
17. FELDPOSTVORSCHRIFT, p. 3.
18. Reichspostministerium, FELDPOSTAMTSBLATT, October 27, 1939, 29/1939, p. 22.
19. IBID., November 24, 1939, 58/1939, p. 45.
20. IBID., January 16, 1940, 6/1940, p. 5.
21. IBID., April 1, 1940, 39/1940, pp. 21-3.

REDUCED POSTAL RATES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

by Bob Ferguson

Several times during the National Socialist era some or all postal rates to certain allied occupied foreign countries were reduced to German internal rates. The first reduction was on April 1 1933 on rates to Austria and many more occurred thereafter. For specific countries, rates and dates of reduction, "Die Gebühren im Deutschen Reich 1933-1945" by Paul-Jurgen Hueske is highly recommended.

Fig. 1) Advertising card to Austria posted in Berlin on May 17, 1933.
Franking (3 Pfg.): Internal printed matter rate for weight 0-20 grams.



Fig. 2) Cover to Petrikau (District Radom), Generalgouvernement posted Leipzig on September 13, 1941.
Franking (3 Pfg.): Internal printed matter rate for weight 0-20 grams.

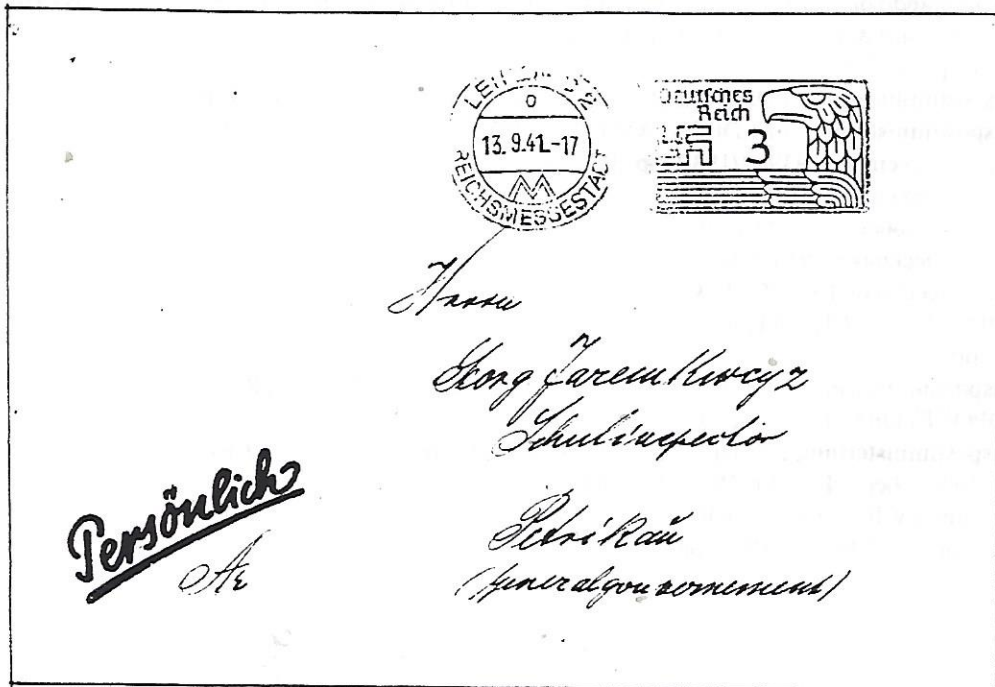


Fig. 3) Special delivery cover to Zagreb, Croatia posted in Köln on October 22, 1942.
Franking (62 Pfg.): 12 Pfg. Internal intercity letter rate for weight 0-20 grams.
50 Pfg. Foreign special delivery fee.
(Note the mixture of internal and foreign rates)

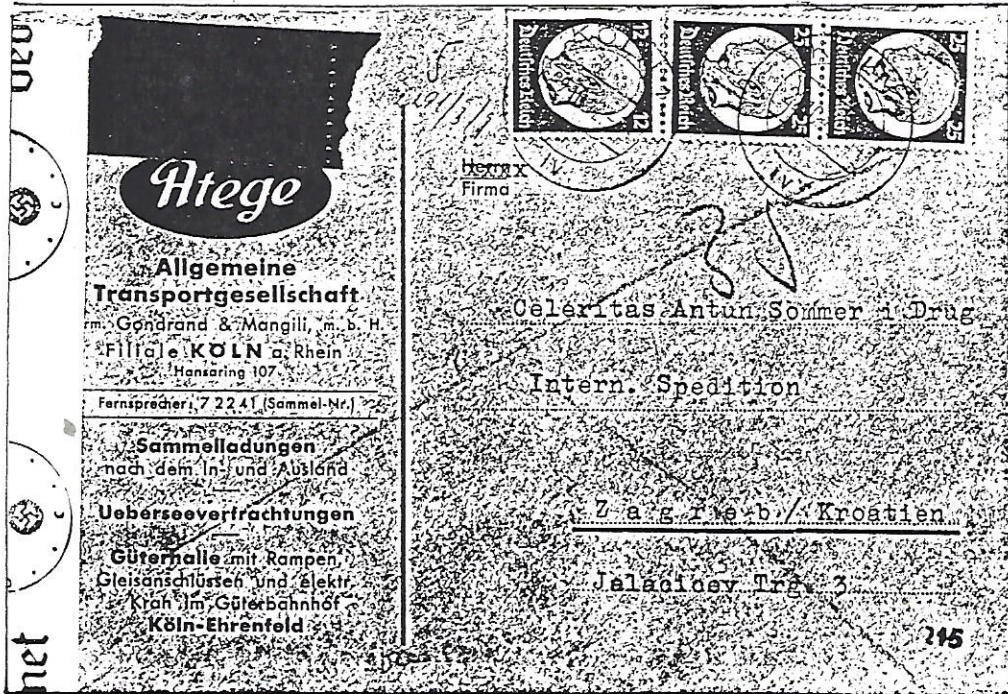
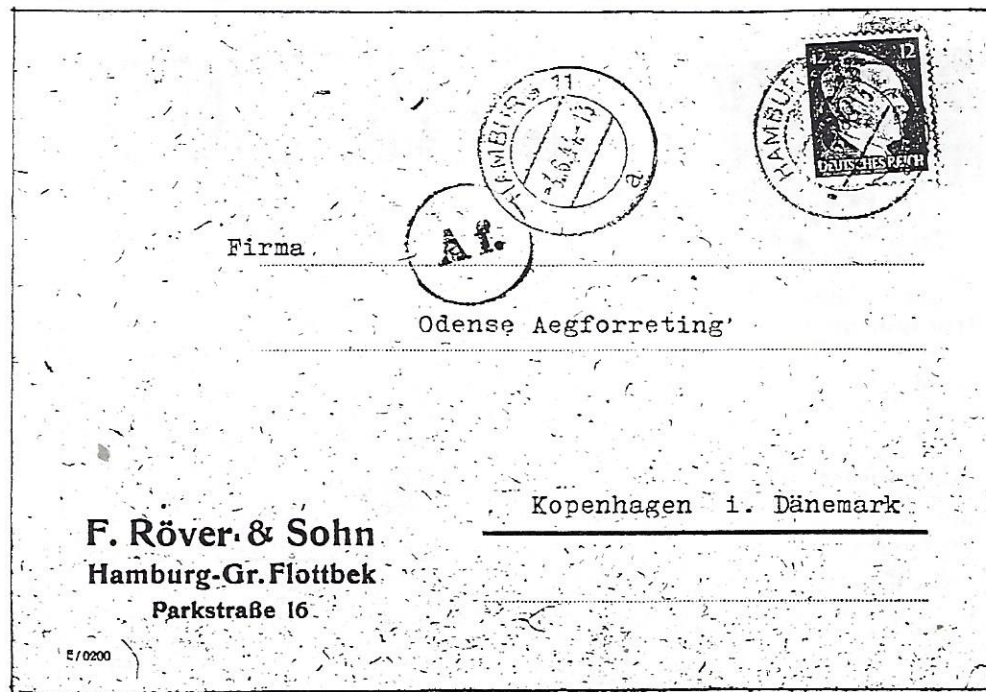


Fig. 4) Cover to Amsterdam, Holland posted in Berlin on March 27, 1943.
Franking (12 Pfg.): Internal letter rate for weight 0-20 grams.



Fig. 5) Cover to Copenhagen, Denmark posted in Hamburg on June 3, 1944.
Franking (12 Pfg.): Internal letter rate for weight 0-20 grams.



**WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO
SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO YOUR
THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP?**

Article Concerning the Third Reich Study Group

The very complimentary article shown below appeared in the September 1993 issue of GLOBAL STAMP NEWS.

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GLOBAL STAMP NEWS SEPTEMBER, 1993

Circles, Groups & Societies



By Bill Brooks

It is difficult to believe that with this installment, "Circles" begins its third year. (My thanks to *GSN*, especially Editor Jan Brandewie, for her continued support and encouragement.) I trust that you, the reader, have learned as much as I have about the wonderful constellation of specialty groups – the true "work horses" of collecting. I have yet to meet a fellow collecting enthusiast who has not had his/her enjoyment of the hobby enhanced by joining a specialty group.

For those with an interest in postal history with a foreign flavor, the **Third Reich Study Group (TRSG)**, may bear a closer look. This sub-specialty group of the German Philatelic Society focuses upon the 1933-45 period. Founded in 1963, TRSG has 376 members in Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Singapore and the U.S.

The activities of this group include quarterly auctions, regional meetings and awarding a handsome plaque for original articles appearing in their quarterly *Bulletin*. TRSG has also published a number of specialized handbooks dealing with such topics as German Military Mail (Feldpost) and censorship.

In addition to Germany itself, the group explores stamps and postal stationery of occupied territories. Included in their focus are numerous printing, gum, perforation varieties, provisional overprints, errors and so on. If propaganda is your forte, there is a wealth of cancels and

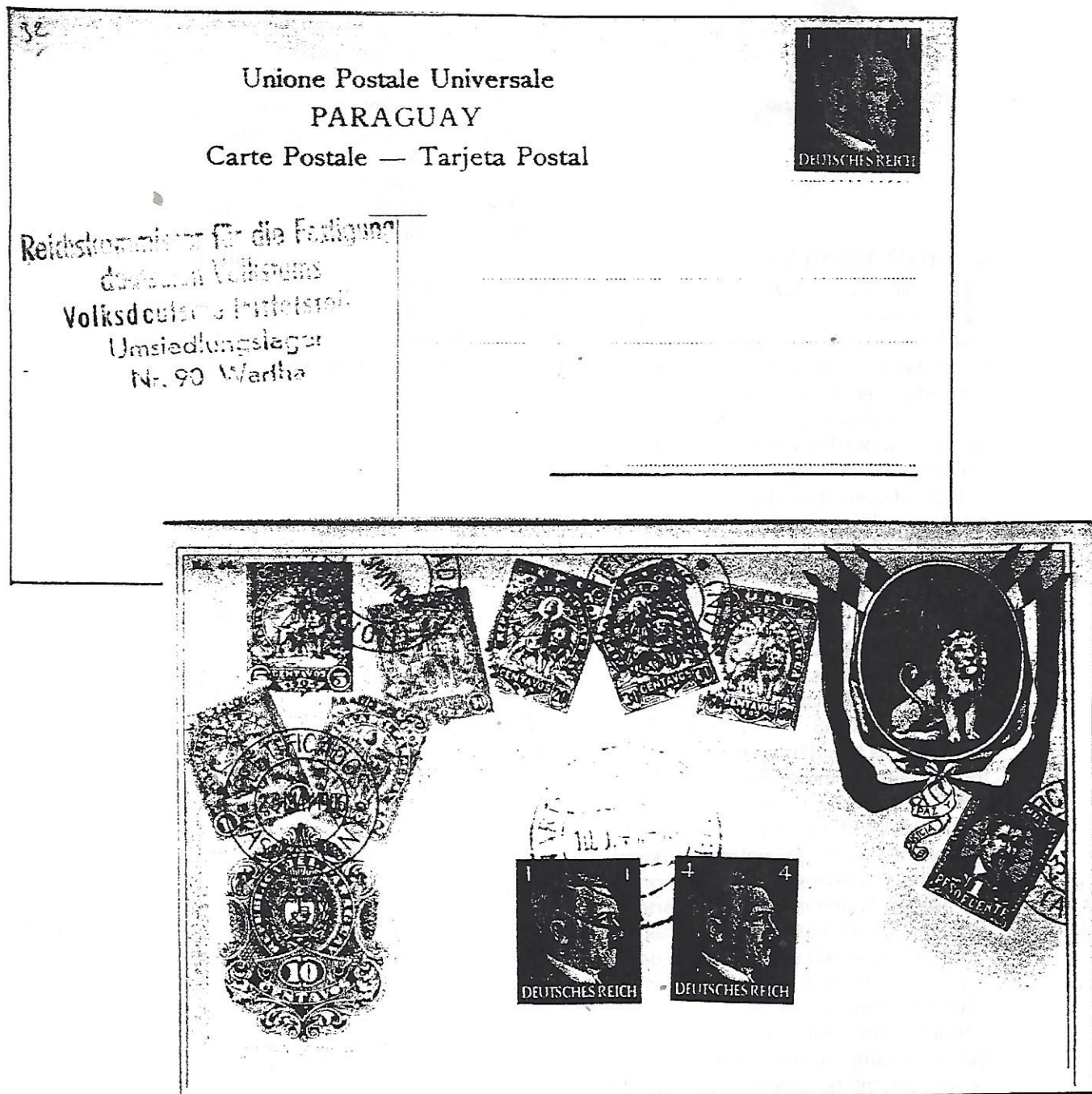
special postcards to be explored in this area also. The period studied also includes significant postal innovations, particularly the development of air mail services. Experimentation with precanceling machines and metered mail also open additional avenues worth exploring. Of course POW mail comes into play, if one is so inclined.

As you can see, there are fascinating collecting areas "ripe for the picking" if one opts for membership in TRSG. Further information is available from Fred Willshaw, 10408 Avondale Ave., Charlotte, NC 28210.

Ethnic German Resettlement Camp in Wartha?

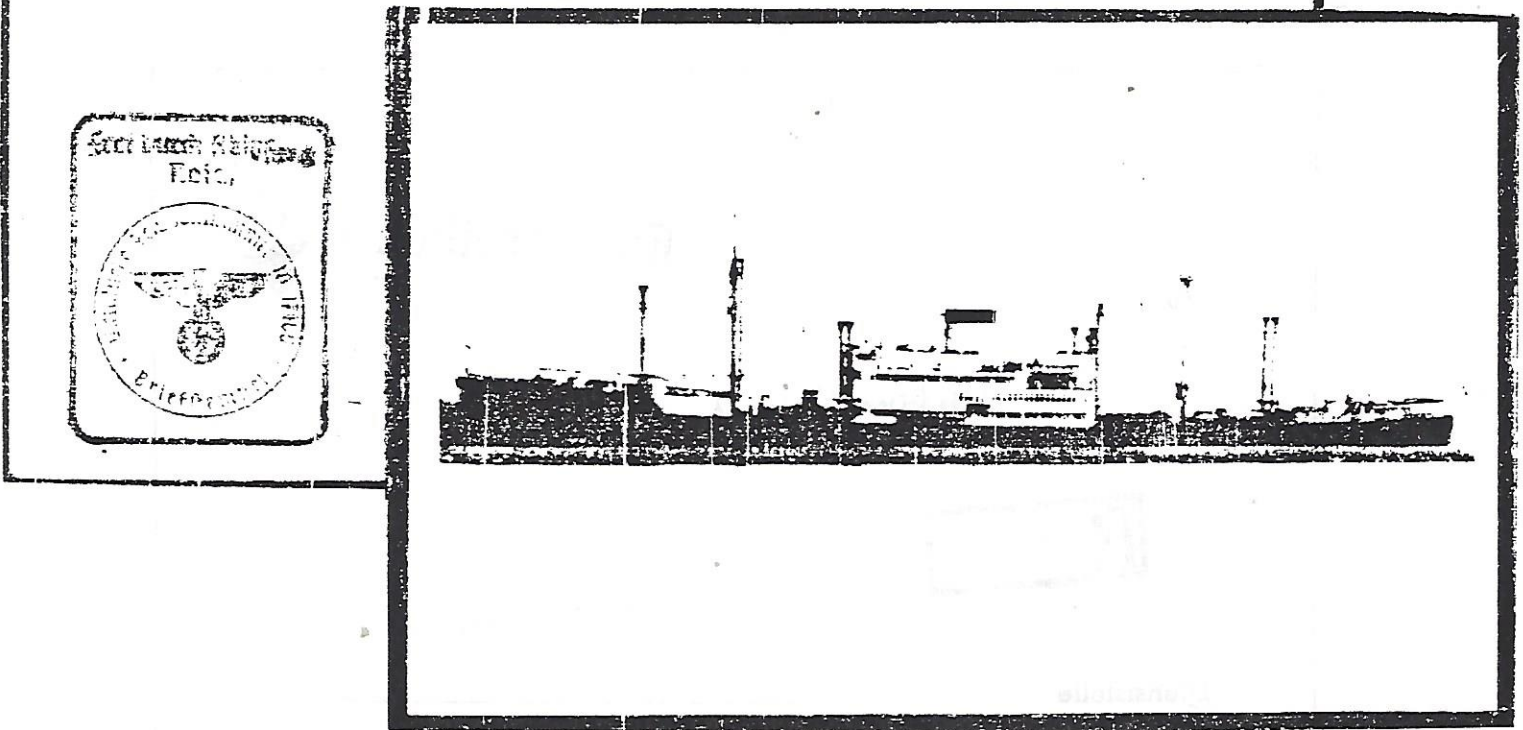
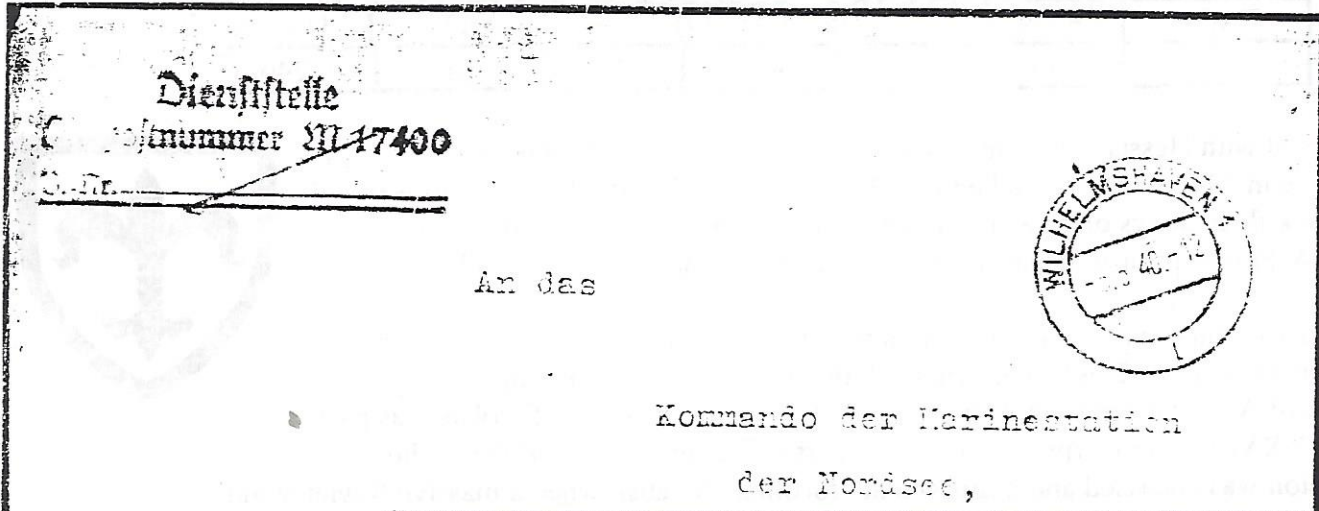
By Joseph D. Hahn

I am hoping that some TRSG member may be able to help me. I am also a collector of Paraguay and recently picked up this favor-canceled postcard which is a puzzle to me. The address side has a five line hand stamp reading "Reichs Commissioner for Security of ethnic Germans/Ethnic German Central Office/Resettlement Camp 90 Wartha". The picture side has 1 Pfg & 4 Pfg. stamps tied by a Wartha cancel. My questions are: 1) who was the Reichskommissar for security of ethnic Germans? and 2) was some sort of philatelic exhibition held at the Wartha camp? Please send any information to Bulletin Editor.



NAVY LOG

Repair Ship 'Huascarán' - Feldpost # 17400



This 6,000 ton ex-merchantman served as a repair ship for U-Boats under the "Befehlshaber der U-Boote" (Senior Officer of the U-Boat Fleet).

Cover above sent to Wilhelmshaven Headquarters in May 1940.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

246th Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADEIER		ARTY	UNITS
246	373	352	404	689	246

Formed with Hessian personnel in late 1939, this division first saw action in France in 1940 when it attacked the Maginot Line. The adopted emblem was a black fleur-de-lys on a red bordered shield. It performed occupation duty in SW France prior to departure for the Russian front in January 1942.



The 246th Infantry Division fought in the 9th Army during the Soviet winter offensive of 1941-2, where it held back the Russian 22nd Army on the northern flank of Army Group Center. In early 1943 it was fighting near Smolensk as part of XXXXI Panzer Corps and later took part in the retreat from Rzhev. The division was encircled and destroyed at "fortified" Vitebsk when a massive Soviet summer offensive smashed into Army Group Center in July 1944.



Cover sent to Armed Forces Records Office in Aschaffenburg in July 1942 from Fp. # 23188 (1. Co. of Engineer Battalion 146) via division P.O. 246 (K-373).

TRSG AUCTION NO. 81

Lot

Description

Min. Bid.

1. Pass card for visit to Paris member Fp.# 40260 (O. Todt Eins. Stab Westküst Lorient) See cover

\$25.00

Next 10 lots balance of scarce 'Nachlass' lots run in Auction 79. These items are rarely seen, so this might be your last chance to get one.

Lot #	Kenn #	FpA	Date	Fp #	Description	Min. Bid.
2.	K-202	150	10.'44	21083	Stab, Pionier (Engineer) Btl. 150 of 50th Inf. Div.	20.00
3.	K-423	205	10.'43	06984	Gren. Rgt. 335 of 205th Inf. Div. in No. Russia.	20.00 -
4.	K-543	102	10.'43	44723	Butchery Co.102 of 102nd Inf. Div. in No. Russia	20.00 -
5.	K-544	132	4.'43	12963	Gren. Rgt. 437 of 132nd Inf. Div. in No. Russia	20.00 - 18TH XXVI
6.	K-570	158	9.'43	16530	Btl. III/Gren. Rgt. 220 of 58th Inf. Div. in No. Russia	20.00 -
7.	K-592	912	11.'43	51457	Btl.III/Luftwaffe Jager Rgt. 24.	15.00
8.	K-597	466	7.'43	47896	Security Rgt. 601 of 201st Security Div. in No. Russia	20.00 - 16TH
9.	K-725	290	4.'43	44981	Flak Btl. 753 via 290th Inf. Div. in No. Russia	15.00 - 16TH
10.	K-774	500	7.'44	16736	Marine (Naval) Motor Transport Co. Hungerburg	20.00
11.	K-980	18	11.'43	37302	Flak Btl. 93 via 18th Motorized Inf. Div. in No. Russia	20.00 16TH

All lots listed above are illustrated below arranged left to right and top to bottom.

949 Feldpost 202

Absender: Lt. K.H. Makowski

Feldpost-Nr. 21083

Zum Aufkleben der Freimarken durch den Absender

FELDP. a 202 26.10.44

Besondere Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite):
Nachlasssachen eines Verwundeten

An Herr

H. Makowski

Freigebür (kg) 3

Postgewicht (kg) in Berlin - Spandau

am Heimhort 9c

(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebietsort, Staatsort)

C 20 Dia A 6

334 Feldpost

Absender: *Stabsstelle 06984 E*

Feldpostnummer 06984 E

Zum Aufkleben der Freimarken durch den Absender

FELDP. a 423 21.6.43

Besondere Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite):
Eigensachen Verwundeter!
Zollfrei! Nicht zu öffnen!

An Feldwebel

Frau

Maria Kammerlander

Postgewicht (kg) 1 1/2

in *Waldstrasse 35*

Regina 35

(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebietsort, Staatsort)

C 20 Dia A 6

330 Feldpost 543

Absender: Dienststelle

Feldpostnummer 44.723

Zum Aufkleben der Freimarken durch den Absender

FELDP. a 530 03.08.43

Besondere Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite):
Verwundetengepack! Zollfrei! Nicht öffnen!

An Feldw.

Karl Zöser

Graz / Ostmark

Postgewicht (kg) in Körösistraße 120 b

(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebietsort, Staatsort)

C 20 Dia A 6

056 Feldpost 544

Absender: Feldpostnummer 12963 E

Zum Aufkleben der Freimarken durch den Absender

FELDP. a 544 03.08.43

Besondere Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite):
Eigensachen - Verwundeter
Zollfrei! Nicht öffnen!

An *Leutnant u. Kompanie-Führer*

Frau

Wolff Zeliska

Graz

Postgewicht (kg) in *Stadionstrasse 12*

(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebietsort, Staatsort)

C 20 Dia A 6

398 Feldpost 570

Absender: Feldpostnummer 16530

Zum Aufkleben der Freimarken durch den Absender

FELDP. a 570-49 43

Besondere Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite):
Eigensachen Verwundeter!
Zollfrei! Nicht öffnen!

An *Leutnant u. Kompanie-Führer*

Frau

Mein Kapit

Graz / Himmelst

Postgewicht (kg) 1

in *Waldstrasse 35*

Regina 35

(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebietsort, Staatsort)

C 20 Dia A 6

653 Feldpost K 592

Absender: Dienststelle

Zum Aufkleben der Freimarken durch den Absender

FELDP. a 592 04.11.43

Besondere Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite):
Eigensachen Verwundeter!
Zollfrei! Nicht öffnen!

An *Leutnant u. Kompanie-Führer*

Frau

Pauli Trostlitzer

v. Traubenberg

Postgewicht (kg) in Graz

Waldstrasse 96

(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebietsort, Staatsort)

C 20 Dia A 6

