



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP

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

VOL. XXV No.3 (Whole No. 100) 1991

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

BULLETIN STAFF

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

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Fred Willshaw, 10408 Avondale Ave., Charlotte, NC 28210

AUCTION MANAGER: Fred Stengel, 1248 Magnolia Place, Union, NJ 07083

Contents:

- Page 3: Updates on recent articles - R. Dixon, J. Duke, A. Komets
Page 5: Feldpost of the Spanish Blue Division - R. Chavez
Page 18: From the Amtsblatt - release of 5th Anniversary Third Reich issue.
Page 19: An "Israel" Usage from German Occupied Paris - J. Miskevich
Page 21: Propaganda Card Corner - T. Davis
Page 22: Navy Log: Destroyer 'Leberecht Maass' - R. Houston
Page 23: TRSG Auction No. 56 - F. Stengel



Study Group Notes

"Galizien" Labels - TRSGer Rene Chavez is requesting info on the labels shown on this envelope.

The pair of labels has a shield with rampant lion and three crowns in upper left corner while the single label has this design in upper right corner. Circular handstamps with shield & text "Wehrausschuss Galizien" (Military Committee Galicia) and number "4" tie labels to cover. Ukrainian text in corner of cover reads "Military Administration Galicia/Ave. Parkova 10/Lvov".

These labels may have been sold to raise funds to support the

families of volunteers for the 14. Waffen-Grenadier Division der SS (Galizien). These were western Ukrainians whose divisional arm shield was the lion with crowns design shown on these labels. Please send any information on these labels to the Bulletin Editor.

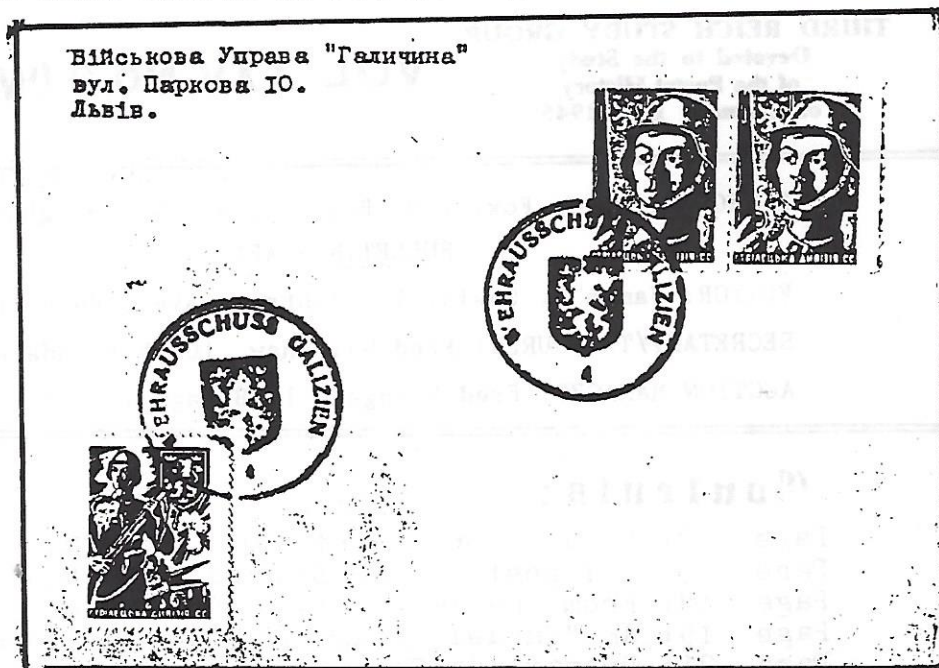
Sudetenland Cancels - TRSGer Rex Dixon recently came across a West German publication "Die Not-und Befreiungstempel in den sudetendeutschen Gebieten 1938/39" by Kurt und Hilde Quaiser (1986) which is a supplement to other volumes previously published.

Cover Illustration - this color card from the Haus der Deutschen Kunst in Munich shows a portrait of Generalleutnant Agustin Munoz Grandes, first commander of the Spanish "Blue" Division. The portrait was by artist Rudolf Hanzel to commemorate the awarding of the Iron Cross, 1st Class to Munoz Grandes on January 6, 1942.

Vlasov Feldpost Number - a biography on turncoat Russian General Andrei Vlasov, who attempted formation of a Russian Liberation Army notes that in the summer of 1943 "Vlasov's residence on the Kiebitzweg became known through many secret channels, and a swelling stream of visitors found their way there-soldiers on leave, conscripted Eastern workers, old emigres, and Germans. The letters to Vlasov multiplied to the point where Strikfeldt had to assign him an army postoffice number and set up a private office for him.". Any info on this Feldpost number? Thanks to Herr Direktor Myron Fox for sending in the page from "Vlasov".

Censorship Handbook - we have received quite a few requests to reprint the 1979 TRSG Handbook "Mail Surveillance under the Third Reich". Drop me a line if you'd order a copy of this 35 page booklet @ \$5.00 incl. postage. If there is sufficient interest, we'll do it.

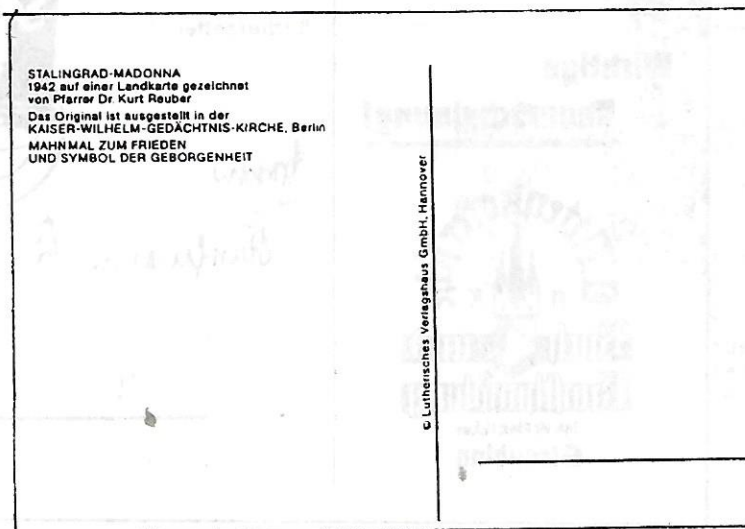
Back Issue Index Update - we need a volunteer to prepare an update to the Back Issue Index which appears in our TRSG Handbook. This update would cover articles in Bulletins 80 thru 100 and be arranged to follow the main topics format in the Handbook. An authors listing would also be nice but is not required. Write Ye Olde Ed if you accept this task.



UPDATES ON RECENT ARTICLES

1.) "Stalingrad Madonna" Postcard - (Bulletin #97)

TRSGer Rex Dixon notes that this card is also published by Lutherishes Verlagshaus GmbH in Hannover. He purchased the card shown below last August at the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche in Berlin,, where the original is housed.



2.) Germany and the U.S.A. Sever Postal Communications - Bulletin #81

The airmail cover shown below was sent by a firm of New York city patent attorneys to Daimler-Benz Corp. in Stuttgart on Dec. 10, 1941 where it was cancelled at 8:00 p.m. at New York P.O.'s Church Street Annex. This item was still under U.S. postal control when Germany declared war on the United States on Dec. 11, 1941, so it was returned to sender with a "service suspended" notation. Thanks to Fred Willshaw for adding to our knowledge of postal markings.



3.) "Bucherzettel" rate - p. 3 Bulletin #97

TRSGer Jim Duke sends in this commercial postcard with Mi.768 used for the 3 Pfg. Bucherzettel rate. Cancelled at Staubing on July 4, 1941, this book dealer is informing one of his customers that the new Michel Catalogs for 1942 can be ordered. This card's top edge is such that it indicates that this is one half of a double card.

<p>P.P.</p> <p>Wir erlauben uns Sie auf nachfolgende erscheinende -- Neuigkeit aufmerksam zu machen.</p> <p>Im August erscheinen die <u>Michel Kataloge 1942</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Großdeutschland</td> <td>Rm 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Europa</td> <td>" 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Übersee</td> <td>" 3</td> </tr> </table> <p>Geben Sie bitte schon heute denn die Auflage wird klein dürfte in kurzer Zeit ausverkauft sein.</p> <p>Ihre gefällige Bestellung erbitten wir</p> <p>Straubing, 4 Juli 1941 Figur Nr. 9235</p>	Großdeutschland	Rm 1	Europa	" 3	Übersee	" 3	<p>Wichtige Neuerscheinung!</p> <p>Cl. Attenkofer'sche Buch- und Kunsthandlung Inh. W. Pielsticker Straubing</p>	<p>Bücherzettel</p> <p>DEUTSCHES REICH</p> <p>Staubing</p> <p>768</p> <p>Staubing</p>
Großdeutschland	Rm 1							
Europa	" 3							
Übersee	" 3							

4.) "State Visits Mussolini-Hitler" - (Bulletin #98)

A. K. Komets sends in these B&W Hoffmann photocards for Mussolini's visit to Germany in September 1937. Text at lower left "Der Führer und der Duce/Die Garanten des Friedens".



FELDPOST OF THE SPANISH BLUE DIVISION

by Rene Chavez

I.) Historical Background

When news of the German invasion of Russia reached Spain on June 22, 1941, German Ambassador Eberhard von Stohrer received an inquiry from Spanish foreign minister Ramon Serrano Suner. Would Germany accept the assistance of armed units of the Falange, the dominant political movement in Spain?

Adolf Hitler immediately grasped the propaganda value of foreign volunteers in a war against Bolshevism, and viewed a Spanish expedition force as a means of binding Francisco Franco, the Spanish chief of state ("Caudillo") to Germany. He directed Foreign Minister Ribbentrop to press Spain for a formal declaration of war against the USSR.

As a confirmed anti-Communist, Franco had joined the Anti-Comintern Pact in 1939. Soon after, Germany betrayed that agreement by signing an alliance with the Soviet Union to carve up Catholic Poland. Franco was also angered when Germany acquiesced to the invasion of Finland by the USSR. Franco shipped arms to the hapless Finns and even considered sending volunteers to aid them, but dropped the plan because it was impractical.

The invasion of Russia resulted in Great Britain and the USSR becoming allies. As the Royal Navy controlled the seas over which passed grain and petroleum vital to the Spanish economy, a formal alliance with Germany would impact Spain's efforts to recuperate from the civil war which had devastated the country.

Spain erupted with enthusiasm for Hitler's new war. While Serrano Suner had offered Falangist volunteers to the Germans, the Spanish Army wanted to go as well, which contained a hint of the traditional rivalry between Army and Falange that dated from the Civil War (1936-39). Despite the initial enthusiasm among the general population, in the government, the Army and the Falange, the "Caudillo" and his advisors had no intention of sending more than a token force. An infantry division would suffice. The volunteer unit would be composed of Falangiste and Army personnel. Announcement of recruitment for the volunteer division brought ecstatic response and more than forty times the required number had volunteered.

Despite the crush of volunteers, the General Staff issued a directive on June 28, 1941 to the commanders of the various military regions in Spain and Morocco, which laid down the terms for recruitment. Volunteers were to be enlisted for the duration of the campaign. The unit would be designated "Spanish Division of Volunteers" (Division Espanola de Voluntarios - DEV). All officers above the rank of second lieutenant were to be regulars. Franco picked an old comrade from the Moroccan campaigns, General Agustin Munoz Grandes, as commanding general of the volunteer division. The division was structured according to the traditional Spanish model with four infantry regiments, each bearing the name of the officer commanding, and one artillery regiment. The four infantry regiments were: Regiment Rodrigo (Col. Miguel Rodrigo Martinez), Regiment Pimentel (Col. Pedro Pimentel Zayas), Regiment Vierna (Col. Jose Vierna Trabaga) and Regiment Esparza (Col. Jose Martinez Esparza).

Each regiment was composed of units from different military regions. The first general order of the division confirmed the raising of these four regiments, but this was merely a provisional arrangement. Since a typical German infantry division had only three regiments, the Spaniards foresaw a reduction to three regiments by amalgamation. One of the regimental colonels was slated to become second in command of the division. Fearing disruption of the recruiting effort, the General Staff kept this information secret. Not even the regimental colonels were informed.

The first general muster of Regiment Rodrigo took place on July 4, 1941 in the ruins of University City in Madrid. Most of the soldiers wore their new uniforms - the red beret of the Carlists, the blue shirt of the Falange, the khaki trousers of the Spanish Foreign Legion and black boots. The officer's attire consisted of a red beret, a khaki tunic with blue collar and cuffs, a leather harness belt, khaki trousers and high black boots. The predominance of Falangist blue prompted the citizens and politicians to dub the volunteer division the "Blue Division".

On July 5th, a seven member Spanish Military Commission flew to Berlin. On the next day the commission met with the chief of staff of the Reserve Army ("Ersatzheer") to discuss the organization and structure of a German infantry division on war footing. The differences between German and Spanish Tables of Organization (TO&E) were even greater than the Spaniards had anticipated. Although the Spaniards knew they were going to be required to adapt their standard square division of four regiments to the German triangular model of three regiments, they had advised the Germans that they were recruiting a division of 640 officers, 2,272 NCOs and 15,780 troops. It was only now, in the Headquarters of the Reserve Army, that the Spaniards discovered that the Germans wanted 526 officers, 2,813 NCOs and 14,397 men. The DEV, then, was overstaffed with officers, short on NCOs, and had an excess of over 1200 enlisted men. The Germans also demanded that the Spanish expeditionary force be accompanied by 300 trucks and 400 motorcycles.

To send so many men home would endanger the prestige of Serrano Suner engender ill feeling against Germans in Spain, and play into the hands of British propaganda. As for the trucks and motorcycles, motor vehicles of all kinds had been in short supply since the Civil War. Appalled, the German Embassy in Madrid wired the Foreign Office that insistence on these two points would mean the collapse of the entire project to send a Spanish expeditionary force.

On July 7th, the commission met with Gen. Fritz Fromm, commander-in-chief of the Reserve Army. The Spanish were informed that the Reich would bear all costs of the Blue Division. The troops would be paid from the day they crossed the Pyrenees. There would be combat pay, dependents' allowance, hospitalization and postage franking to the Spanish border. The Wehrmacht would provide all arms, equipment, munitions and supplies. Military justice within the division would be applied according to the Spanish military code, although German military justice would prevail when Spanish soldiers were detached under temporary German command. The uniform of the Blue Division would be standard German issue, but with a shoulder shield in Spanish national colors - red and gold - bearing the legend ESPANA.

The OKW finally dropped the requirement for motor vehicles. Also, if the Spaniards insisted upon sending all of the personnel raised, the OKW would accept them and keep the surplus as a divisional reserve in Germany or Poland.

After the command staff arrived at the Grafenwöhr Maneuver Area in Bavaria, Gen. Munoz Grandes announced that Regiment Rodrigo was to be broken up. Col. Rodrigo would serve as chief of infantry and deputy commander of the division. Rodrigo's battalions were to remain intact, however, and were distributed among the other three regiments. The Wehrmacht assigned the Spanish Blue Division of Volunteers a number in the German Order of Battle. Henceforth, the Blue Division would be officially designated 250th Infantry Division. The individual regiments were also given numbers. Regiment Pimentel became 262, Regiment Vierna became 263, and Regiment Esparza became 269.

On July 31, 1941, the division was officially mustered into the Wehrmacht. Fearing that the Russian campaign would be concluded without their participation, Spanish authorities were pressing the German Foreign Office to dispatch the Blue Division to the front as soon as possible. Beginning on August 21st and continuing for six days, the 17,909 volunteers, 5,610 horses and 765 vehicles were combat loaded into freight cars. A hastily formed German Liaison Staff shipped out with the Spaniards. The Blue Division had been at Grafenwöhr barely a month and many volunteers had been under arms less than three weeks. Nevertheless, they and their German comrades looked forward to a speedy conclusion to the campaign and a triumphal march through Red Square in Moscow.

The Blue Division travelled by train to an assembly area between Treeburg and Grodno in Belorussia. By the end of September they were ordered by Army Group Center to proceed by a circuitous route to the jumping off point of Smolensk, where they would take part in 'Operation Typhoon' the assault on Moscow. They proceeded on foot through Grodno, badly damaged in the previous fighting, to Vilna. The division was then ordered to reach Minsk by September 17th. While they had been assigned to Army Group Center's 9th Army, they learned on Sept. 26th that they were to move northward as they had been reassigned to Army Group North's 16th Army. The 16th Army held the right flank of Army Group North from Lake Seliger in the south to Lake Ladoga in the north.

The Blue Division was assigned to I Corps, which was deployed along the western shore of Lake Ilmen and the left bank of the Volkov River. The Spaniards formed near the city of Novgorod and participated in the battle of Tikhvin Bulge which opened on December 3, 1941. They fought well as part of a special task force under Army Group North's rear area commander, Gen. Franz von Roques, which struck eastward between Novgorod and Chudovo. The Blue Division also fought a stubborn defense of Novgorod, an action which earned Gen. Munoz Grandes an Iron Cross 1st Class.

In January 1942, Franco ordered Ambassador Maryalde to pressure the Germans to pull the Blue Division out of the line. The fierce Russian winter and a continuous series of Soviet counterattacks had caused very heavy losses to the division. During the Spring of 1942, Franco appointed Brigadier Estaban Infantes to replace Gen. Munoz Grandes as commander of the Blue Division. Most of the original members of the division were withdrawn from the front lines in early August 1942. The replacements were largely professionals - legionaires or soldiers. Command transfer was delayed by the Germans but Gen. Munoz Grandes returned to Spain on December 16, 1942.

In October 1942, the Blue Division was transferred to 18th Army in the Leningrad area. In February 1943, the Soviet Leningrad and Volkhov Fronts linked to form a corridor south of Lake Ladoga. On the eastern side, the Soviets mounted an attack on the area from Kolpino to Krasni Bor in the west. This front was held by the 4th SS Police Division and the Blue Division. The Spanish battalions of 262nd, 263rd and 269th Grenadier Regiments under command of General Esteban Infantes bore the brunt of the Soviet thrust at Krasni Bor. The Soviets attacked with three rifle divisions and two tank battalions, altogether 33,000 men, supported by about 60 T-34s, several formations of anti-tank guns and 187 batteries of artillery with roughly 1000 guns. Against this vast power the Spaniards on their twenty mile sector had only a reinforced infantry regiment of 2500 men, as well as three battalions with roughly 2000 men. Added to this were a few special units and artillery amounting to 24 guns, but no tanks. After fierce fighting the Russians succeeded in gaining two miles of ground and taking Krasni Bor. But they suffered 11,000 men killed and were forced back by a German counter-attack in March.

The Blue Division had lost 3200 men; its Fusilier Battalion lost nearly 90% of its strength. Since taking command on December 19, 1942 until July 23, 1943, Gen. Esteban Infantes had incurred casualties including 2,151 dead, 3,456 wounded and 1,950 sick. It had also become fairly obvious that Germany was not going to win the war.

In Spain, Franco was alarmed when Gen. Estaban Infantes requested 2,000 replacements as well as six infantry, one sapper and one cavalry majors. While replacements were sent, the German command had long appreciated that the constant turnover in the ranks, with untrained troops coming up from the peninsula, increased the possibility of panic under artillery fire.

Increasing pressure was being put on Franco to declare neutrality by U.S. Ambassador Hayes, who suggested the speedy withdrawal of the Blue Division during a call on July 29, 1943. With the German defeat at Kursk and the fall of Mussolini on July 25th, Franco began looking for a means to withdraw the Blue Division without risking an attack by German forces in France. On October 2, 1943, Germany was informed that the Blue Division would be withdrawn but a smaller "legion" would be left at the front. On October 17th the Blue Division withdrew from the Leningrad front to a reserve position behind Oranienbaum. Germany awarded the Knight's Cross to Gen. Estaban Infantes and discussed the TO&E for the proposed legion. The return of the veterans to Spain was done with a minimum of ceremony and by November 16th, 3,347 had been quietly repatriated.

On the next day, Estaban Infantes issued General Order to the Division 69 establishing the 'Legion Espanola de Voluntarios (LEV)' which would be regimental size, consisting of three battalions - two infantry and one mixed (artillery, anti-tank, sappers & recon). There would be a theoretical strength of 2,133 (103 officers, 530 NCOs and 1500 men). Leaving Col. Antonio Garcia Navarro in command of the LEV, Estaban Infantes returned to Spain on December 17, 1943. After some training, the LEV marched to Kostovo and were assigned to the 121st Division of the XXVIII Corps. On January 14, 1944, a massive Soviet two pronged attack was launched with the aim of overturning the two pillars of 18th Army - Novgorod and Pushkin. By January 20th, both of these cities had fallen and the LEV had fallen back toward Luga. General Gasser of XXVIII Corps concluded that the LEV was in danger of collapse and ordered it to entrain to Taps, Estonia, which is midway between Narva and Reval.

Franco was being subjected to great pressure by late January 1944 as the United States and Britain had embargoed petroleum and food shipments to Spain. On February 20th, Hitler notified Franco that the LEV would be repatriated to strengthen Spain's hand against the Allies. On March 31, 1944, the first contingent of the legion rolled into Spain.

Many of the volunteers of both legion and division were die-hard anti-Communists or irrepressible adventurers who wished to get back into the fight. Despite Franco's wishes, the German embassy in Madrid received many petitions from veterans wishing to head back to the front. An underground network was established to organize recruitment and smuggle Spanish volunteers across the Pyrennes into southern France. At Lourdes, Special Staff F under Captain Karl Taegert collected the eager recruits. Unlike their predecessors in the Blue Division and legion, who had served in the Wehrmacht, these men were eventually incorporated into the Waffen-SS. During April and May 1945, the Spanish SS Battalion, under Captain Miguel Ezguera Sanchez, defended Berlin to the last along with other foreign forces - Frenchmen, Italians, Latvians, and Rumanians.

As the returned volunteers watched the Allies armies smash the New Order and pulverize the Third Reich, they must have wondered whether their efforts and sacrifices of their comrades had been in vain. Three hundred Spanish POWs disappeared into Soviet Siberia and were not to see their homes again until 1954. Spanish military hospitals continued to treat some of the 8,000 wounded, 7,800 sick and 1,600 frostbitten from the campaign. Out of a total of 47,000 officers and men who fought on the Eastern Front, 22,000 were either killed, wounded, injured, ill or missing. This was a casualty rate of 47 % or almost half of those engaged.

II.) Postal History

As part of their integration into the Wehrmacht while forming at Grafenwöhr (Military District XIII), the Blue Division was provided a mobile fieldpost office ("Feldpostamt or FpA"). Units of the division were assigned Feldpost numbers to be used as the return addresses on mail after they were transferred from the Reserve Army to the Field Army. The 4th edition (Urdruck) of the Feldpost Directory ("Feldpost-Übersicht") shows that units of the Blue Division were assigned Feldpost numbers on August 8, 1941.

The postoffice FpA 250 was assigned Fp#43700 and a 3-digit code ("Kenn") number K-719 which was to appear in the postmark on registered official military mail in lieu of the actual FpA number. The following is a summary of the armies, commands, corps & towns in Russia where the Blue Division served:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Army Group</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>Corps</u>	<u>Town (Area)</u>
3. 9.41	Mitte	z.Vfg. AOK 9	----	Witebsk
2.10.41	Nord	AOK 16	Gkdo. von Roques	Novgorod
4.12.41	Nord	AOK 16	Gkdo. XXXVIII	Possad
10.3.42	Nord	AOK 18	Gkdo. XXXVIII	Novgorod
2. 9.42	Nord	z.Vfg. AOK 18	---	--
8.10.42	Nord	AOK 18	Gkdo. LIV	Puschkin
3. 2.43	Nord	AOK 18	Gkdo. L	Mga, Ishora
4.10.43	Nord	AOK 18	Gkdo. L	Krasnibor

FpA 250 was located in Novgorod (Grigorowo) after October 1941 and then in Slutsk (Motelowo) after October 1942.

Following the withdrawal of the Blue Division to Spain late in 1943, the 9th edition of the Feldpost Directory shows that Fp#43700 was reassigned to the German Liaison Staff for the Spanish Division ("deutsch Verbindungsstab bei der spanisch Division") on January 2, 1944. In this same edition, FpA 250 was assigned a new Fp#59053 (K-704) for the Spanish Legion (LEV) now located in the Narva area.

With the subsequent withdrawal of the Spanish Legion, the feldpost unit was redesignated FpA 1416 and assigned to the XVI Army Corps, newly formed by Army Group North from Command HQ for Special Purposes Kleffel ("Generalkommando z.b.V. Kleffel"). The same Fp#59053 was retained by this organization, which retreated into the Courland Peninsula and then capitulated to the Soviets in May 1945.

Spaniards of the 250th Infantry Division enjoyed the same Feldpost privileges as any members of the Wehrmacht. Ordinary postal cards and letters weighing up to 100 grams could be sent postage free. The same privilege was extended to mail to the volunteers. In addition, packages weighing between 100 and 1000 grams required no postage.

One distinguishing postal marking on much mail sent to Spain from members of the Blue Division was a routing mark "Sp" for Spanisch. This marking is found in four types as shown below. Since letters from these soldiers to their families and friends would be addressed to locations outside Germany, such mail was normally examined and marked at one of the OKW censor offices for civilian mail. Upon entering the Spanish postal system, letters from Blue Division members were routed to censor offices as was all foreign mail. Thus, Feldpost from the Blue Division should be examined for: a) postmark date, b) type routing mark, c) German and Spanish censor markings, d) time in transit. The following listing was compiled by Joachim Pidun:

<u>Postdate</u>	<u>Routing Mark Type</u>	<u>Censor Marking German/Spanish</u>	<u>Time in Transit</u>	<u>Observations</u>
19.1.42	--	"e"/ --	27 Days	
8.2.42	--	"e"/ "C"	34 "	
14.2.42	I	"b"/ --	32 "	
18.2.42	I	"Ab"/ --	30 "	
25.2.42	I	"Ab"/ --	21 "	
3.3.42	II	"b"/ --	18 "	
7.3.42	I	"Ab"/ --	22 "	
26.3.42	IV	"Ab"/ --	21 "	
28.3.42	IV	"b"/ --	27 "	
13.4.42	IV	"Ab"/ --	15 "	
6.6.42	--	"Ab"/ --	17 "	Luftfeldpost
20.6.42	III	"b"/ --	19 "	
25.6.42	II	"b"/ "C"	19 "	
18.7.42	II	"b"/ "C"	15 "	
26.8.42	III	"b"/ --	21 "	
14.9.42	II	"b"/ "C"	15 "	Absendeort Riga
19.9.42	I	"b"/ "C"	15 "	Absendeort Riga
29.1.43	--	"Ab"/ --	?	

Routing Mark Types

- I - handwritten "Sp" or "SP"
- II - box handstamp "Sp" 13 x 19mm in red.
- III - box handstamp "Sp" 15 x 19mm in red.
- IV - box handstamp "Sp" 33 x 36mm in red.



Type I



Type II



Type III



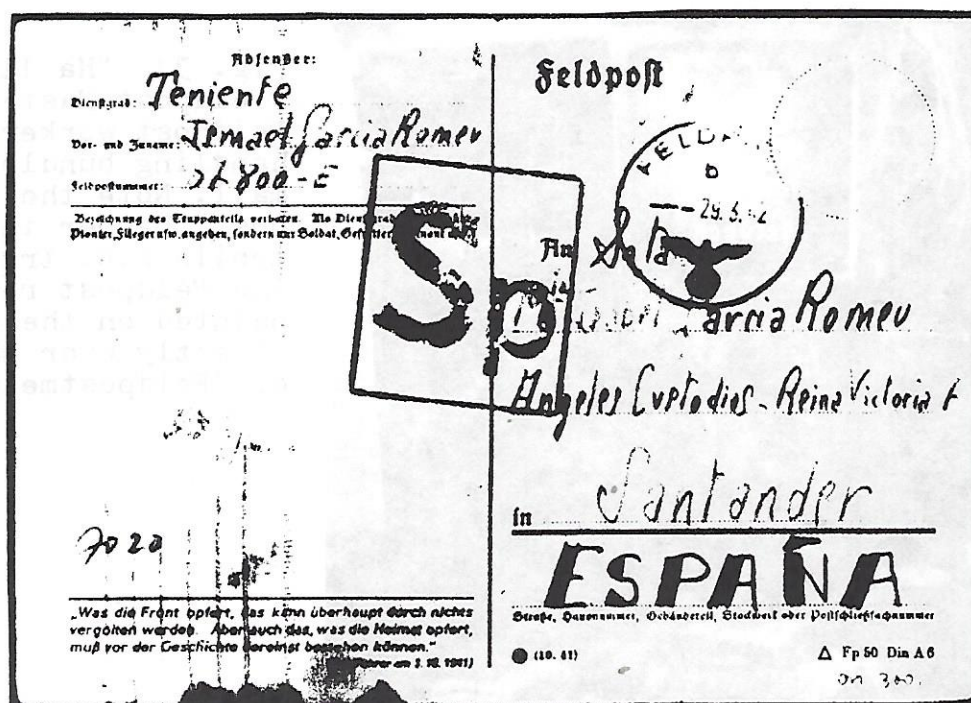
Type IV

Censor Markings

- "e" - Examiner stamp, Foreign Letter Examining Office Frankfurt a. M.
- "b" - Examiner stamp, Foreign Letter Examining Office Berlin
- "Ab" - Transit stamp, Foreign Letter Examining Office Berlin
- "C" - Spanish censor stamp.

Note: Routing marks I and II could both have been applied at FpA 250 or at Feldpost Routing Office ("Feldpostleitstelle") 734 in Riga, Latvia. It is highly unlikely that routing marks III and IV would have been available at FpA 250.

Fig. 1) Feldpost card sent to Santander, Spain on March 29, 1942 has return address Fp# 07800E (Kp. 4, Btl. I/Infantry Rgt. 262. Note Type IV routing mark and verticle censor machine stamp (faint) applied at Berlin (Riemer B-20).



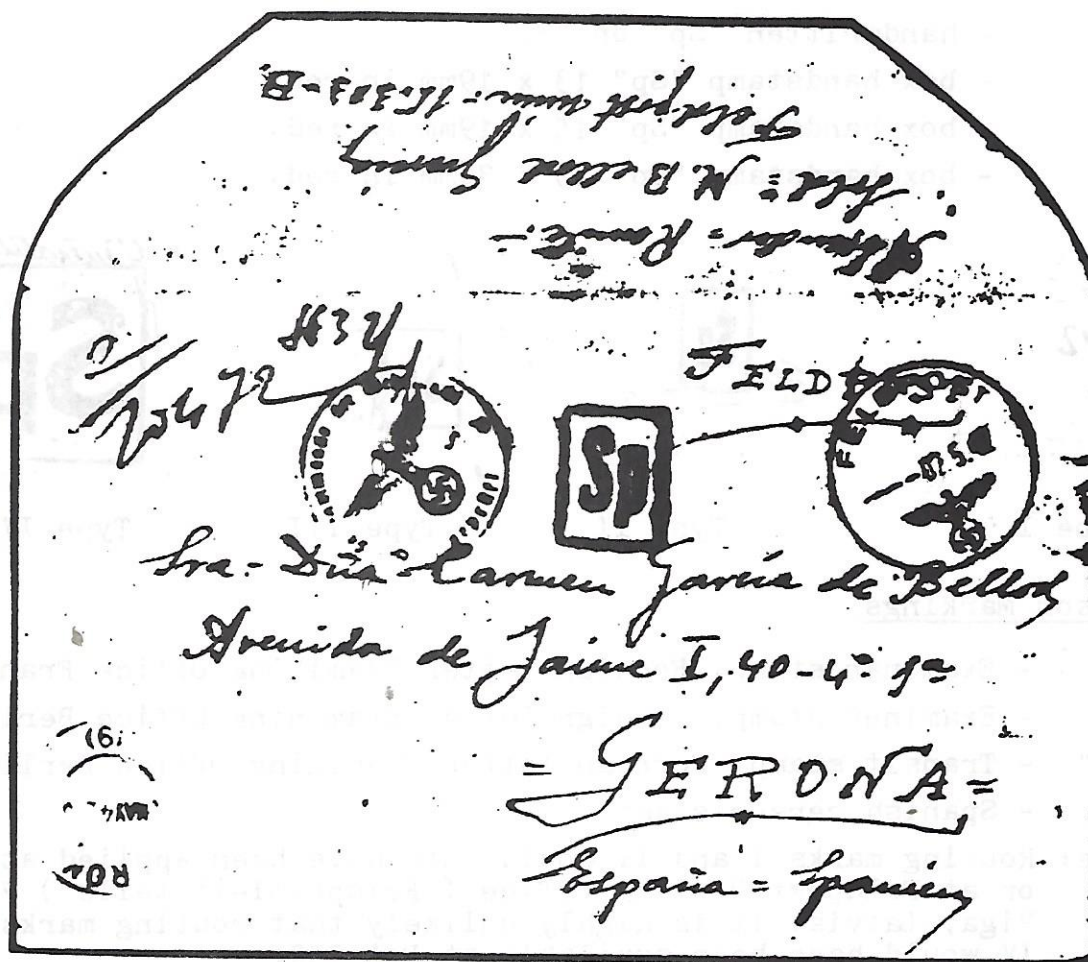


Fig. 2) 1942 letter to Gerona, Spain from member of Blue Division Fp# 15303B (Kp. 5, Btl. II/Infantry Rgt. 263. Note Type III routing mark and circular OKW censor h/s coded "b" (Berlin).



Fig. 3) "Ha Llegado el Correo" Fieldpost Master (l.) and Feldpost worker of FpA 250 are handling bundles of incoming mail. Note the "Deutsche Feldpost" banner in window of mobile P.O. truck back door. The Feldpost recognition symbol painted on the same door appears directly over the left shoulder of "Feldpostmeister".

FELDPOST NUMBERS AND ORDER OF BATTLE CHART

POSTOFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	INFANTRY			ARTIL.	UNITS
250	719	262	263	269	250	250

250. Infanterie Division (span.) "Blaue Division"

	Fp.#		Fp.#
Divisions Kdo. mit Kartenstelle	00198	Pionier Btl. 250:	
Deutscher Verbindungsstab mit		Stab	26994
FpA 250	43700	Kp.1	27303
Feldgendarmarie-Trupp	43089	Kp.2	27938
Feldersatz-Batallion	31194	Kp.3	28557
Feldzeitung "Hoja de Campana"	23980	Pionier-Kolonne	28967
Infanterie Rgt. 262:		Nachrichten-Abt. 250:	
Rgts. Stab	(bis 12.43)05895	Stab	29341
	(ab 12.43)04368	Kp.1	29908
Stab I u.1-4 Kp.	07800	Kp.2	30397
Stab II u.5-8 Kp.	09452	Kolonne	28967
Stab III u.9-12 Kp.	11371	Div.-Nachschubführer 250:	
13. Kp.	06939	Stab	31949
14. Kp.	07648	1.Kw. Kol.	32645
Infanterie Rgt. 263:		2.Kw. Kol.	32966
Rgts. Stab	12747	3.Kw. Kol.	33547
Stab I u.1-4 Kp.	14929	4.Fahr-Kol.	34339
Stab II u. 5-8 Kp.	15303	5.Fahr-Kol.	34927
Stab III u. 9-12 Kp.	15997	6.Fahr-Kol.	35295
13. Kp.	13704	7.Fahr-Kol.	35871
14. Kp.	14117	8.Fahr-Kol.	36501
Infanterie Rgt. 269:		9.Fahr-Kol.	36917
Rgts. Stab	(bis 12.43)16937	10.Fahr-Kol.	37176
	(ab 12.43)04016	Kraftwagenwerkstatt-Zug	37837
Stab I u. 1-4 Kp.	18125	Nachschub Kp.	38457
Stab II u.5-8 Kp.	18880	Verpflegungsamt 250	42413
Stab III u.9-12 Kp.	19101	Bäckerei-Kp. 250	41953
13. Kp.	16943	Schlächtere-Kp. 250	41317
14. Kp.	17451	Sanitäts Kp. 1	38936
Artillerie Rgt. 250:		Sanitäts Kp. 2	39149
Rgts. Stab	23863	Feldlazarett 250	39576
Stab I u. Einh.	24101	1. Kr. Kw. Zug	39887
Stab II u. Einh.	24945	2. Kr. Kw. Zug	40159
Stab III u. Einh.	25592	Span. Kriegslaz. Riga	14105
Stab IV u. Einh.	26341	Span. Kriegslaz. Wilna	46630
Aufklärungs Abt. 250:		Genesungsheim "Blaue Div"	38396
Stab	19789	Veterinär Kp. 250	40883
Kp. 1	20045	Feldpostamt 250(bis 1.44)	43700
Kp. 2	20795	(ab 1.44)	59053
Panzer-Jäger Abt. 250:		Associated Feldpost numbers:	
Stab	21913	Betreuungsstelle d.	
Kp. 1	22379	span. Div. (bis 9.42)	45903
Kp. 2	22800	Gebührnisstelle d.	
Kp. 3	23558	span. Div. (bis 10.44)	40545
		Stab rückwärtig Dienste	
		d. span. Div.(bis 2.44)	03901

A special Spanish cachet was used before August 19, 1941 by Spanish War Ministry representatives in Madrid. The Spanish Air Force 'Escuadrilla Azul' (Blue Squadron) had the same postal privileges as their Army compatriots. There have been reports of scarce postal covers used by the Blue Squadron which were stamped with the Spanish Air Ministry cachet.

While the Spanish government did not issue any special stamps or philatelic sheets to commemorate the Blue Division, there is a set of postcards consisting of twelve views which was sold in the envelope bearing the Blue Division shoulder shield shown below.

The address side of these cards has the following identification in the upper left corner: "La cruzada europea contra el bolchevismo/ La Division Azul" - "The European crusade against Bolshevism/ The Blue Division".

La cruzada europea contra el bolchevismo
La Division Azul

Serie 1, cuadro 9

Los soldados de Europa - españoles, finlandeses y alemanes - contra el comunismo



Fig. 4) Front & reverse of card #9 from this set has further description:
"Los soldados de Europa - españoles, finlandeses y alemanes"
"The European soldiers - Spanish, Finnish and German".

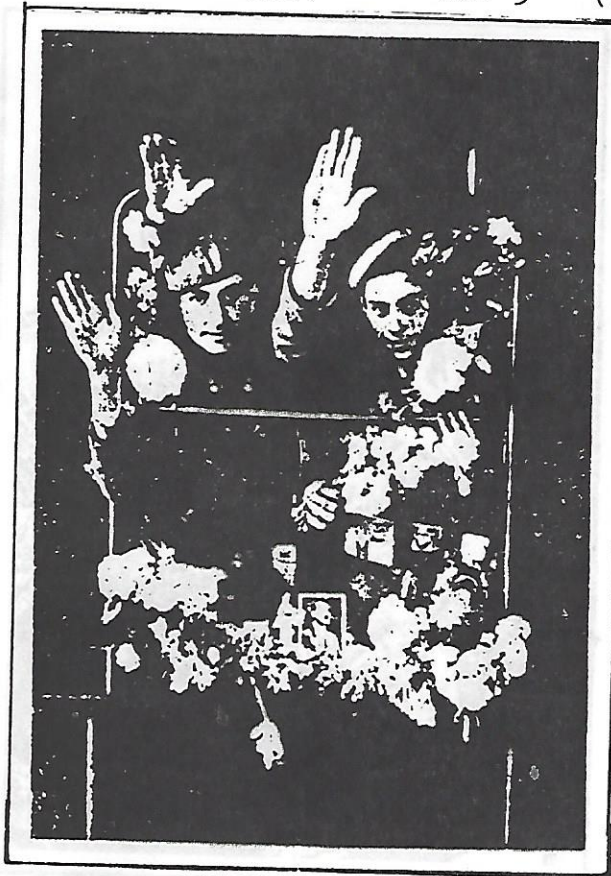


Luchas de los pueblos
europeos por una nueva Europa

Cuadros
de la
División Azul

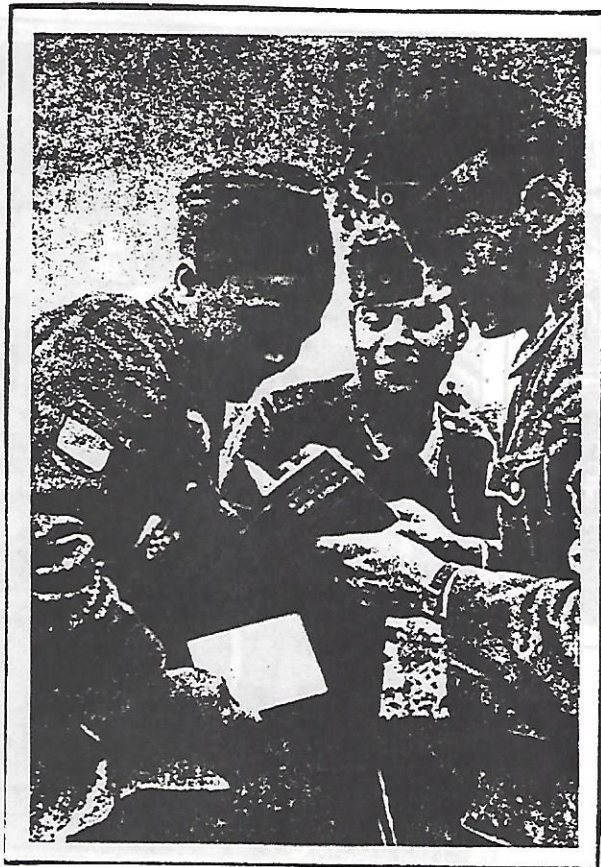
Fig. 5) The sleeve which contained the postcards reads:

"Battles of the European
countries for a new Europe".
"Postcards of the Blue Division"



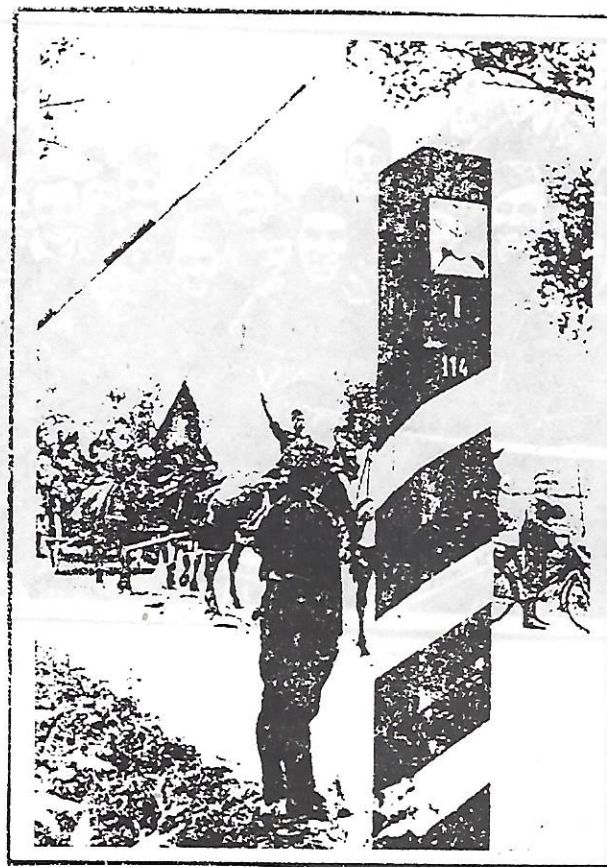
(Above) #1 Enthusiastic welcome from German train lines.

(Below) #3 German-Hispano comradeship at the Front.



(Above) #2 General HQ on Eastern Front, Gen. Munoz Grandes and Lt. Col. Romero Magariegos.

(Below) #4 At the Soviet Russian Front.





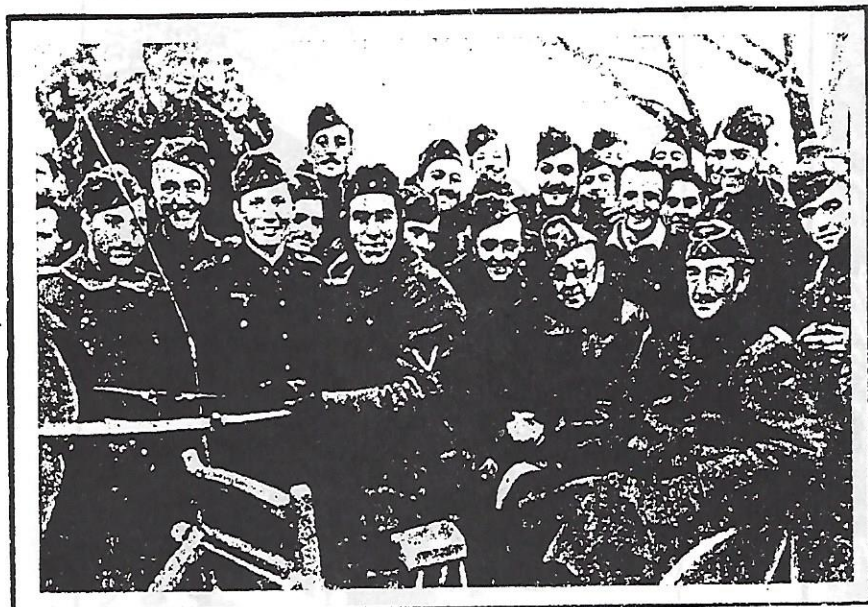
(Above) #5 On the march.



(Above) #6 Inspection of abandoned Soviet tank.

(Below) #7 General Moscardo visit on the Eastern Front.

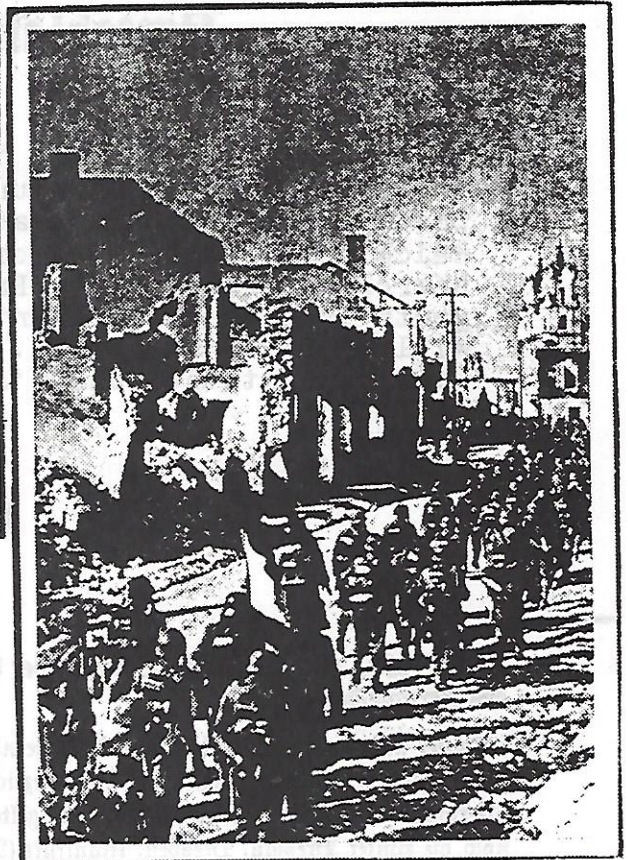
(Below) #8 A light howitzer used in campaign moments before firing.





(Above) #10 A country song.

(Right) #12 On march through a conquered city.



(Left) #11 General Munoz Grandes discussing the tactical details with a German general.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Pidun, Joachim. "Die Feldpost der 'Blauen Division' Briefmarken Ausstellung vom 1. bis 9. Oktober 1971. (Note: Appeared in program for this exhibition)
- Kleinfeld, Gerald R. & Tambs, Lewis a. "Hitler's Spanish Legion: The Blue Division in Russia". Carbondale: So. Illinois University Press, 1979.
- Shelley, R.G. "The Spanish 'Blue Division'. German Postal Specialist 12.'66.
- Beede, Painter et al. "Germany's Foreign Legions" Part VI. German Postal Specialist, Vol. XIX, No. 9 November 1968.

...from the **Amtsblatt des Reichspostministeriums**

Nr. 7 - January 21, 1938

Nr. 21/1938 is the announcement of two postage stamps and a postal card to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of the Third Reich. The design by Professor Alois Kolb depicts a torch-bearer in front of the Brandenburg Gate, symbolizing German youth leading their country into the light. The release date will be 28 January 1938. The surtax on these charity issues will benefit the Führer's Culture Fund.

Verfügungen

Allgemeines

Nr. 20/1938. Einheitliche Bezeichnung der Ämter des Fernmeldedienstes

Ämter mit reinem oder überwiegendem Fernsprechdienst führen künftig allgemein die Bezeichnung »Fernsprechamt«. Als »Telegraphenämter« gelten nur noch die Ämter Breslau, Dresden, Frankfurt (Main), Hamburg, Köln, Leipzig, München und Nürnberg, die reinen Telegraphendienst wahrnehmen.

Die Bezeichnungen »Haupttelegraphenamt Berlin« und »Fernamt Berlin« werden hierdurch nicht berührt.

VI 1205—1 GRp

* Nr. 21/1938. Neue Postwertzeichen

Am 30. Januar 1938 jährt sich zum 5. Male der Tag der Machtübernahme durch den Führer und Reichskanzler. Die Deutsche Reichspost hat aus diesem Grunde nach einem Entwurf von Professor Alois Kolb, Leipzig, besondere Postwertzeichen im Rastertiefdruckverfahren — Größe 24,5 × 29,15 mm — mit dem gleichen Markenbild herstellen lassen, und zwar:

Freimarken zu 6 + 4 und 12 + 8 *Rpf* sowie
Postkarten zu 6 + 4 *Rpf*.

Das Markenbild zeigt als Sinnbild des Sieges der nationalsozialistischen Bewegung einen deutschen Jüngling, der das Licht der Wahrheit und den Vorbeere der Ehre durch das Brandenburger Tor in die Reichshauptstadt bringt.

Abbildung einer 6-*Rpf*-Marke hierunter in $\frac{5}{8}$ natürlicher Größe.



Die Zuschläge von 4 und 8 *Rpf* fließen dem Kulturfonds des Führers zu. Der Vertrieb der Postwertzeichen beginnt bei allen Postdienststellen am 28. Januar 1938.

Die Freimarken können auch für Sendungen nach dem Ausland benutzt werden, bei den Postkarten müssen die erforderlichen Freimarken nachgeklebt werden. Das

AN "ISRAEL" USAGE FROM GERMAN OCCUPIED PARIS

by John Miskevich

The "Sara/Israel" name changes demanded by a German decree of August 17, 1938 required the designation to appear on all personal documents of Jews, court records, and all official correspondence from the German government dealing with individuals. (1) Illustrated is a usage of "Israel" pursuant to the decree in 1942 on a cover originating from German occupied Northern France.

The Chase Bank in occupied Paris remained open throughout World War II. (2) Most US firms in Paris closed their doors in December 1941 for the not too surprising reason that the United States was at war with Germany. But the Chase Bank remained open run by a German Administrator of Enemy Property. According to Charles Higham at page 46:

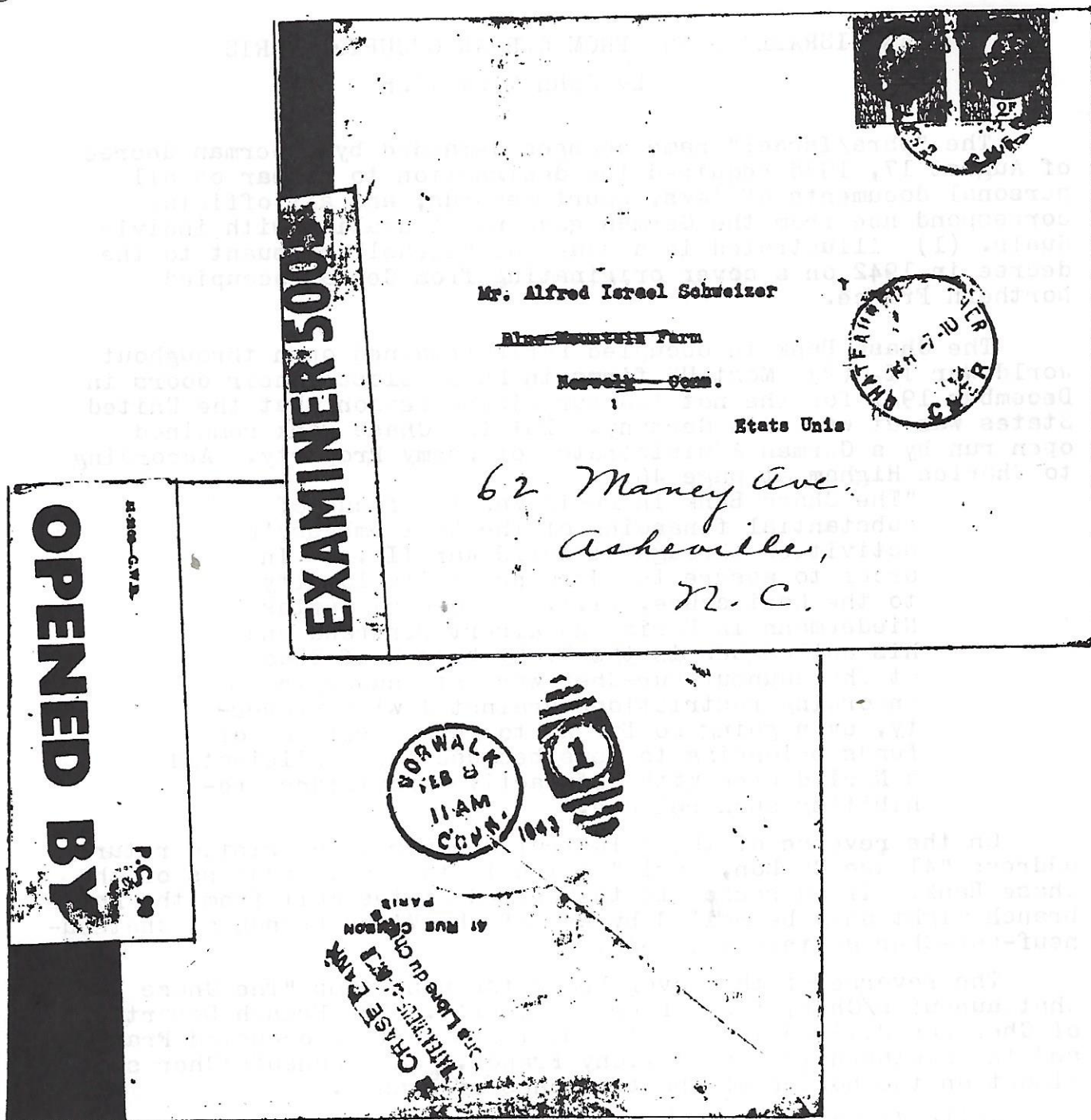
"The Chase Bank in Paris was the focus of substantial financing of the Nazi embassy's activities throughout World War II ... In order to assure the Germans of its loyalty to the Nazi cause, (i.e. employees) Carlos Niedermann in Paris and Albert Bertrand and his colleagues in the Vichy branch of Chase at Chateaufort-sur-Cher were strenuous in enforcing restrictions against Jewish property, even going so far as to refuse release of funds belonging to Jews because they anticipated a Nazi decree with retroactive provisions prohibiting such release."

On the reverse of the illustrated cover is a printed return address "41 Rue Gambon, Paris" which is the Paris address of the Chase Bank. If addressed to the United States mail from the Paris branch might only be mailed by way of the Vichy branch at Chateaufort-sur-Cher as this was 1942.

The reverse of the cover bears the handstamp "The Chase Bank, Chateaufort s/Cher, 'Zone Libre du Cher'". The French Department of Cher was divided in two, the northern part in occupied France, and the southern in "free" Vichy France. Chateauforts/Cher sat almost on the border of the two zones of France.

While Vichy enacted some of the same oppressive laws as Nazi Germany I do not believe that the "Sara/Israel" name changes were one of them. I have many examples of mail posted in 1941 and 1942 from Jews confined in Camp de Gurs, Camp de Noe, and elsewhere and none display the use of any special middle names.

Since it is likely that the German decree of August 17, 1938 and subsequent orders pursuant to the act relative to the use of "Israel" were enforced in German occupied northern France (particularly with regard to Jews of German origin), "Israel" would have been required in correspondence originating from the Chase Bank in Paris in 1942. It was run by a German government administrator, and "Israel" and "Sara" were required on official correspondence. In this instance it found its way into the address of a cover bound for the United States.



Censored cover posted at Chateaneuf s/Cher in Vichy France on October 7, 1942 and backstamped Norwalk, Connecticut February 8, 1943.

References

1. Hilberg, Raul, The Destruction of the European Jews, Quadrangle Paperbacks, Inc. (1967) page 120.
2. Higham, Charles, Trading with the Enemy: An Exposé of the Nazi-American Money Plot 1933-1949, Dell Publishing Co. (1984) pp.41-52.

Propaganda Card Corner by Tony Davis

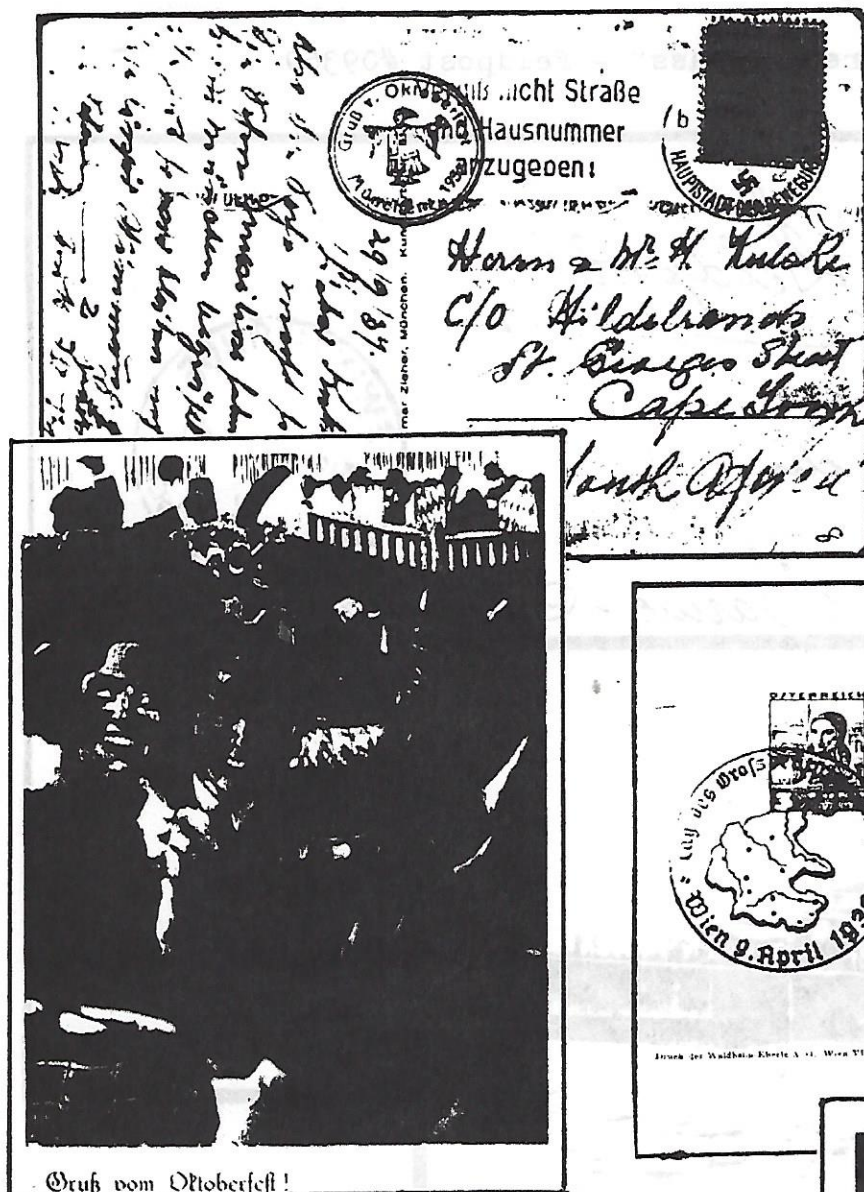
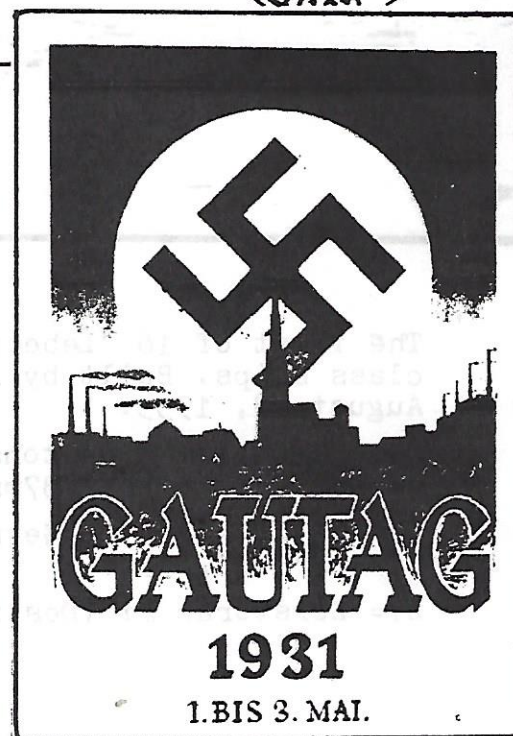


Fig. 1) Oktoberfest, that traditional time of beer and merriment, is depicted on a multi-colored card showing happy revellers, while on the reverse is a special event handstamp for the Munich 1937 Oktoberfest. It would be interesting to learn if this event took place during the war years and whether or not any further Oktoberfest cards exist.



Fig. 2) NSDAP Party Day card in red and black depicting the swastika sun rising over Vienna in 1931. Produced by NSDAP in Vienna with commemorations taking place between May 1st & 3rd 1931. The reverse of the card depicts a real hodge-podge of Anschluss-related philatelica, Austrian stamps tied by various Vienna cancels as well as a Greater Germany Awake label.



Navy Log

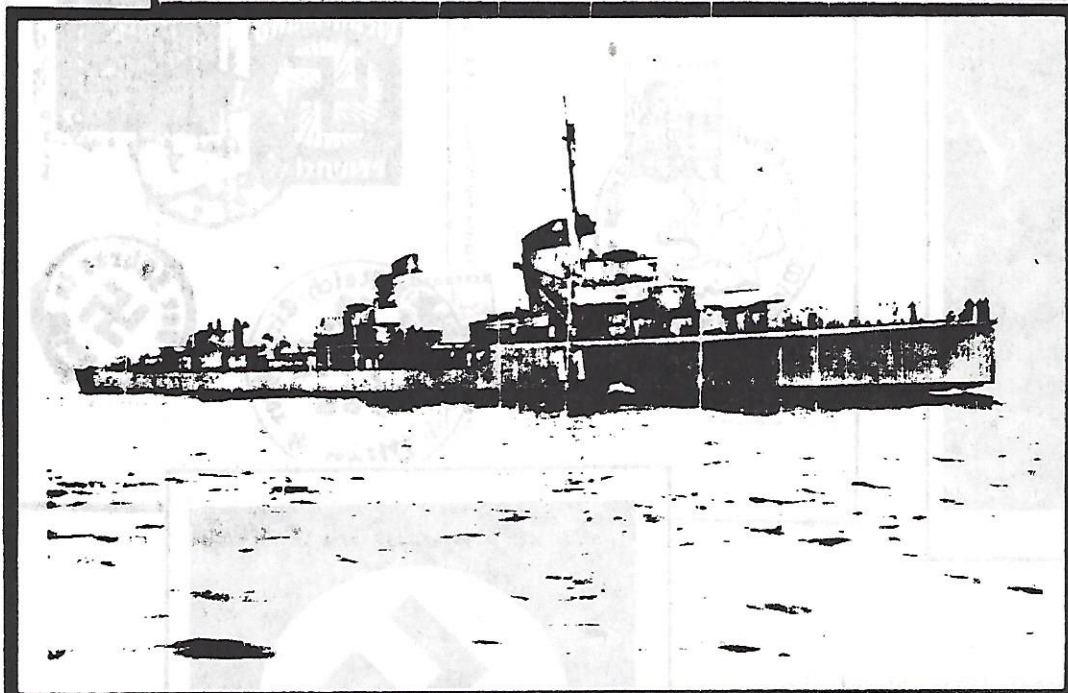
Destroyer Z-1 "Leberecht Maass" - Feldpost #09369

Leberecht Maass
09369

Feldpost

an die

Marine - Lüttenburg



The first of 16 "Leberecht Maass" (Destroyer Type 1934: Z1-16) class ships. Built by Deutsches Werk (Kiel), launched on August 18, 1935.

Displacement: 2232 tons; speed: 30 knots; crew: 325; Armament: five 5" guns; four 37mm AA guns; eight 21" Torpedo Tubes.

Bombed in error by German aircraft north west of Borkum on February 22, 1940.

Z1= Zerstörer #1 (Destroyer #1)

T. R. S. G. Auction No. 56

LOT #	DESCRIPTION	RES
1.	Souvenir Sht. Hitler honorary citizen Danzig (See TRSG Bul.#50 - p.27) VF	\$25
Next 3 lots Bohemia-Moravia souv. shts/booklet w/B-M stmps tied SPCs all VF		
2.	Folder w/landscape color dwg., Mi.64 tied 10.8.41 SPC Kavan-Feier 1941	10
3.	Sht. w/color view cottage, Mi.65 & 66 tied 5.10.41 SPC Turnou Stamp Show	10
4.	Folder 100 Jahr Urquerl beer w/Mi.64 & 91 tied 25.10.42 SPC Pilsen. Pretty!	20
Next 19 lots Hitler B&W photocds, bedarf or phil. cans. unless noted o'wise:		
5.	Hoffman (Hof) #660 - AH in mufti w/Berchtesgaden in b'ground	12
6.	Hof. #1191 - AH on RR car receiving boquet frm children	18
7.	Hof. #D26 - AH in open car entering Linz re. Anschluss '38	14
8.	Hof. #S4 - AH, Mussolini et al at Munich Conference 29.9.'38	18
9.	Hof. #25 - AH & Mussolini full figure in dress uniforms re Munich	15
10.	Hof. #M4 - AH & Musso. "Die Garanten des Friedens" (See p.4 this Bulletin)	13
11.	Hof. #M6 - Same set as Lot #10 but diff. view (also p.4 this Bulletin)	17
12.	Hof. #672 - AH at Berghotel Berchtesgaden 1935, '35 Rally cans.	13
13.	Foto-Uhlich Leipzig #82 - AH in early Party uniform (Verlag Carl Koeter)	12
14.	Stahl unnumbered - AH in car saluting SA marchers	16
15.	Noris Verlag Nuremberg 1937/19, AH saluting frm balcony Deutscher Hof	13
16.	Verlag Harren Nuremberg #5, AH in open car at '35 Rally, rally usage	27
17.	Verlag Lochner Berchtesgaden #221 - AH shaking hands w/young girl	12
18.	No printer noted, AH with boquet at Berchtesgaden circa 1934	15
19.	Profile AH on back Volkisher Beobachter subscription card circa 1935	15
20.	AH, Franco & Musso. w/flags on Spanish color cd w/Spain. cens., bedarfs	40
21.	Koenig Verlag #524 w/front view AH in uniform; blk 4 Mi.772 w/anti-Bolsh.SPC	14
22.	No printer noted - model of AH house Obersalzberg circa 1934 (ptd blue)	11
23.	Hof. 1935 Rally cd - AH entering Congress Hall w/SS flanking, rally SPC	30
* Next 4 lots B & W Luftwaffe related photocds, all VF unless noted o'wise:		
24.	Hof. #024 - Goering in full Fieldmarshall uniform w/baton, Von Horthy can	12
25.	"Die Richthofenstaffel" - #54 frm Unser Reichsheer series.	10
26.	HORN #87 - Ju 87s frm Unsere Luftwaffe series, Fp usage F-VF	10
27.	HORN #259 - He 46 Recon. plane frm same series lot 26., Fp usage	10
28.	RAD memorial Tannfeld by Edwin Steglein, Ostmark, bedarf w/Tannfeld h/s	10
29.	Hitler Jugend on march w/banners, Nord-Staedte Verkehr Hannover	22
30.	Andro-Verlag Nuremberg - Rally cd Swastika on entrance Zeppelinfeld '38	22
31.	Photo von Schirach on HJ card #11 Schona, HJ SPC 5.'39	20
32.	Hall of Honor, Berlin Auto Show 1937, no printer, Show SPC	10
33.	Finnish Feldpost cd dwg. M.G. crew, Phil. usage Petsamo & Fp can 3.'42	10
34.	Tag der Deutschen Arbeit red/blk cd 1938, Wein NSKK cancel.	30
35.	WHW Tag der Briefmark cd w/Mi.730 tied SPC Gera 7.1.'40	15
36.	Day German Art 1939 (Bernh. Nr. 120) color cd w/SPC & stmp Munich	15
37.	Special prt cvr 3rd Yr. Boh.-Mor. in Reich w/Mi. 21, 83 & 84 tied SPC Prag	14
38.	Bedarf R cvr to Czecho w/Mi. 643(3), 644,622-3 & 646 tied SPC Berlin AH B'day 8	
Next 10 lots are large phil. cvrs, all VF & attractive unless noted o'wise.		
39.	Unaddr. cvr w/Mi.651-9 set, each tied SPC Berlin International Hunters 11.37	13
40.	R-cvr w/Mi. 660-1,673-4,675-9 tied Lindenberg can. 6.12.'38.	9
41.	Value cvr w/Mi.751,753-4, 757-9 tied 6.'41 Landesberg can.	10
42.	Cvr w/Mi. 752,755-6 (same sender Lot 41) to Augsburg.	8
43.	R-cvr w/Mi. 806-9 set tied w/Munich can. 19.11.43	8
44.	R-cvr w/Mi.823-5, 781 & 790 tied Munich can. 19.11.'42	7
45.	Austrian R cvr w/Mi. 662-3, 652, S164 (Tete-bech) & Austrian tied SPC Wien	8
46.	Same, KZ27 & Austrian stmp tied Nuremberg SPC on AH B'day 1937	5
47.	R-cvr w/Mi. Blk. 7, 644, 517, 637 & 530 tied Nuremberg SPC AH B'day	13
48.	Airmail cvr w/Mi. Blk 7, 530, 519, 633 & 639 tied 4 diff AH B'day cans '37	13

The next 11 lots are registered Feldpost cvrs; (*) indicates cvr mounted on an exhibit page with write-up. Condition VF unless indicated otherwise:

Lot No.	Kenn No.	FpA	Date	Fp. No.	Description	RES
49.	K-160 *	251	6.43	35023	251st Infantry Div. at Kursk	15
50.	K-217 *	457	12.43	32818	LVII Panzer Korps in Russia	14
51.	K-242 *	44	3.42	14049	44th I.D.(destroyed Stalingrad)	18
52.	K-393	5	2.44	16849	5th Jaeger Div.(relief Demyansk)	13
53.	K-453	279	7.43	05594	re-used R-Fp cvr La Rochelle!!	17
54.	K-544	132	3.42	29038	132nd I.D. (in Demyansk pocket)	18
55.	K-641	258	2.43	30262	258th I.D. (destroyed Jassy '10.44)	12
56.	K-708 *	334	4.44	59007 is FpA 334 of 334th I.D. (Scarce!)		25
57.	K-815	122	6.42	05549	122nd I.D. (in Demyansk pocket)	18
58.	K-942	552	3.43	04502	Army Group North support troops	9
59.	K-953	441	4.42	02239	Assault Gun Battery 665	8
60.	Odd Fp cancel K-451 w/o date on ordinary Fp cvr frm Fp#20243. Nice D'siegl					18
61.	Cvr frm Fp#23753 w/9.40 mute dble ring/date can w/slogan 13 (Mi.Fp. p.77)					12
62.	Pcd w/sepia ill. tank cresting hill frm Fp#39331; rev. sing. ring mute can. 5.40 w/slogan 12 (Michel Fp. Cat. W-Stempel Bo-188 p.77) A beauty!					23
63.	Fp cvr frm Fp#13344 w/6.40 Fp can with "000" Kenn number. Nice example.					10
64.	R-cvr frm Witzenhausen Military Dist. 11.38 w/boxed h/s "Do not forward/ Return for new address" in red. Pre-war window env. w/all markings F-VF					12
65.	Fp cvr frm Fp#34261 (Sich. Btl. 968) w/9.44 mute mach. can. Riga, Latvia See Mi. Fp. Tarnstempel 54b - p.75) D'siegl only F but cancel VF					10
66.	Fp cvr w/12.44 "Wiesbaden" mute blackout ring mach. can (Mi.Fp. Tarn. 53c) VF					15
Next 4 lots Fp cvrs w/diff. Brussels Fp mach. cans. (Mi.Fp. Form 25, p.47)						
67.	Type 7 can. 6.V.41	frm Fp#30730	F-VF			12
68.	Type 8 can. 15.IV.41	frm Fp#42403	VF			13
69.	Type 6 can. 25.VI.41	frm Fp#25398	w/contents (!)	VF		17
70.	Type 16 can. 14.I.43	frm Fp#12214	This is a showpiece cvr w/all marks XF!!			26
71.	Fp cvr w/mute ring mach. can. "Den Haag" frm Fp#33227 (Mi.F.E-Tarn 51b, p.74) with multiple rejection h/s "Nicht 2./2.U.A.A." etc. "Zuruck" mscrip. F-VF					18
72.	Reused Official cvr frm Wurzburg Nervenlinik 15.7.44 w/12 Pfg. Dienst stmp crossed out, b'side frm Local Sick Fund w/Hitler 12 Pfg. tied 19.7.44 Zella-Mehlis (Thur.) cancel. All markings both sides VF. Interesting usages!					24
73.	Cens. Czech cvr to USA W/Scott 212.246 & pr.249 can Nitra 9.18.38, just 10 days before Munich. Red "Cenzurovane" & paraph on tan sealing tape. VF					15
74.	Official stmpls cvr frm Labor Camp in Schweinfurt w/exemption note, B'stmpl, lead # 13 & 7.44 Schweinfurt can. Printed envelope VF (Showpiece!)					12
75.	Police notification form frm Landgerichte Schwienfurt w/"Straw Hat" 12 Pfg. Dienst stmp tied March '33 cancel. Early use Nazi eagle h/s! VF					18

THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 56 IS SEPTEMBER 13, 1991.

SEND BIDS TO: FRED STENGEL 1248 MAGNOLIA PLACE, UNION, NJ 07083

PRICES REALIZED - TRSG AUCTION NO. 55

Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price
4	\$70.00	16	\$25.00	28	\$23.00	40	\$17.00	54	\$10.00
5	60.00	17	23.00	29	9.00	41	17.00	56	6.00
6	23.00	18	22.00	30	19.00	43	24.00	58	9.00
7	23.00	19	23.00	31	15.00	44	23.00	59	12.00
8	24.00	20	23.00	32	23.00	46	14.00	60	10.00
9	25.00	21	25.00	33	16.00	47	19.00	62	10.00
10	23.00	22	23.00	34	11.00	48	21.00	63	6.00
11	23.00	23	23.00	35	20.00	49	5.00	64	11.00
12	23.00	24	23.00	36	12.00	50	9.00	65	8.00
13	33.00	25	22.00	37	13.00	51	10.00	69	18.00
14	22.00	26	24.00	38	16.00	52	8.00		
15	23.00	27	22.00	39	19.00	53	9.00		