
This is our second Bulletin in what amounts to a new series. It is still a bit thin, but at least, we have good news. The Study Group has caught on, and we are getting fine support, but before turning to that, we would like to present a few ideas on the future of the Study Group, for we feel that little will be accomplished without long-range planning.

FRAMEWORK: The Study Group is intended to deal with the stamps and postal history of the Third Reich. We cannot, therefore, delve deeply into the historical background of the Nazi era in our Bulletins, and we cannot operate a sales circuit or auction. LTC Halle made these decisions when the Study Group was formed some years ago.

PLAN: We have divided Third Reich philately into the following basic fields: (1) Stamps and postal stationery of 1933-45; (2) Third Reich postal history; (3) Feldpost; (4) Legion mail; (5) Dienstpost; (6) POW mail; (7) Concentration camp mail; (8) WW II occupation issues; (9) Censorship; and (10) Propaganda forgeries. We believe that a subgroup should be established for each field. The subgroup would, first, write a brief survey of its specialty for the general collector. Second, a general slide talk would be formulated. Third, a detailed handbook should be prepared. Fourth, specialized slide talks and articles could be made up to supplement the handbook. Not all steps apply to every subgroup, because adequate handbooks already exist for some fields.

FINANCING: The surveys could be financed easily. Final drafts would be prepared and advertised in the Bulletin and the Specialist. GPS members (and others) would pay for the booklets in advance. The price would be small, for these surveys are simply to be mimeographed. Slide talks will be paid for from dues. We shall have to ask the national society for assistance with printed handbooks, but should be able to contribute something to their costs.

DUES: Assuming we have a membership of sixty, we shall have to charge a minimum of 75¢ annually. At that level, we are running the risk of deficits and can little but issue a few Bulletins. Therefore, we would like to charge \$1.00 per year. We are also establishing a second class of membership, that of Contributing Member. Each Contributing Member will pay \$2.00 a year. Hopefully, there are some who will donate an extra dollar to the Study Group.

Now to demonstrate that the Study Group is receiving support, here are descriptions of some activities that are being undertaken. We have a number of able individuals who are working to improve the Study Group. Here are a few of these people with their particular interests:

1. Robert Houston, 11 Yorktown Drive, Clark, New Jersey 07066, has become the Secretary-Treasurer and will handle all financial and other permanent records. As yet, no dues are required. Everyone will receive a January Bulletin whether he has paid or not. The cut-off date will be February 15, 1969. If you are uncertain about remaining a member of the Study Group, please wait a little longer and see the January issue before resigning.

2. Richard H. Imus, P.O. Box 2018, Falls Church, Virginia, 22042 is our Literature Coordinator, working within the Information Bureau to supply data on philatelic literature of interest to Third Reich specialists. Moreover, he is intending to compile a complete bibliography of books and articles to help us avoid duplicating research completed by people outside the Study Group. As soon as this vast effort is finished, then Mr. Imus and others will tackle a postal history of the Third Reich.

3. Myron E. Fox, P.O. Box 38, Newton Highlands, Mass. 02161, has also agreed to accept a specialized assignment for the Information Bureau. He will supply, within reason, identifications of WW II Feldpost units as to the units they stood for. He has also taken charge of the Censorship Subgroup. The plan is to bring out an introductory booklet and then to work up a supplementary listing of censorship markings not recorded in Riemer and Wolter.

4. Heinrich Peterson, 592 George Street Wood Dale, Illinois 60191, is hard at work collaborating with the Directors on the Feldpost handbook. His particular interest is naval Feldpost. He is in the process of working up a list with a brief history of each ship in the Kriegsmarine plus the Feldpost number.

5. Professor Marion L. Miller, 318 South Main Street, Oxford, Ohio 45056, has volunteered to help us with translations from German magazines, documents, etc. Needless to say, his generous offer was immediately accepted. He has also come up with some highly intriguing ideas for original research, and we are looking into the possibility of implementing them.

6. Edwin Hope, 4114 North 30th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85017, has accepted leadership of the printed-to-private-order postal stationery project. This has interesting possibilities and is an original study, for the current stationery catalogs simply summarize these fascinating private items. While admittedly, many were printed for philatelic events, others have definite historical and philatelic importance.

It can be seen from the above that we are making some progress. Other plans are definitely under consideration, but they have not matured enough for presentation to the membership as yet. You can help keep the wheels turning by contacting the individuals listed above, with questions, offers of assistance, etc. In particular, Mr. Hope and Mr. Fox must have the full cooperation of all members if they are to accomplish anything significant. Moreover, Mr. Imus needs help with that bibliography, especially information from German periodicals before 1950.

While payment of dues is not yet required, early payment would be helpful. Please send all dues to Mr. Houston, whose address is shown above. If you have comments on the contents of the Bulletin, offers of contributions, etc., please send them directly to Mr. Duffy, P.O. Box 65, Highwood, Illinois 60040. On the other hand, if you have suggestions concerning long-range research or administrative matters, forward your correspondence to Ben Beede.

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GERMAN POW MAIL FROM THE SOVIET UNION DURING WORLD WAR II

By Benjamin R. Beede

While POW letters from German soldiers held in the Soviet Union are common enough from the period after V-E Day, those dating from the war years are relatively scarce, apparently. I have cards and covers from German POWs in the U.S.S.R. with dates from May, 1946, to August, 1949, but I have yet to see one from the period 1941-1945.

When the German-Soviet conflict broke out in the summer of 1941, the Germans apparently proposed the establishment of postal services for POWs on both sides. This suggestion was rejected by the Soviets who were not interested in such service for their own POWs and did not want to take the trouble for the Germans.¹

The Soviet attitude appears to have changed about a year later. Dr. Goebbels recorded in his diary on December 17, 1942, that about 400 to 600 postcards were sent to Germany from the U.S.S.R., which were allegedly from German prisoners. Presumably, although Goebbels did not say so, this mail was routed through Switzerland. These cards were forwarded to the addressees, but they were accompanied by letters from the German authorities intended to offset possible propaganda. Goebbels also mentioned that in the future such cards would not be delivered, although an effort would be made by the government to fulfill any requests made by prisoners.²

Evidently, the Germans were not as strict as Goebbels wanted, for on November 7, 1943, he noted that thousands of letters were now arriving. He felt that they could not be withheld and that some notice would have to be taken of the arrival of such mail. As a compromise, he felt that the letters should be delivered by Nazi Party officials and not by the Reichspost. These officials would try to counter Soviet propaganda planted in the texts of the mail.³

An official report dating from 1944 noted that in several instances, both letters and postcards arrived in Germany from POWs in the Soviet Union. The report argued, however, that since the texts of the cards and letters were quite similar, they might be forgeries, or at least, the messages might have been written under duress.⁴

One wonders if any of this mail ever reached the philatelic market. Hopefully, someone can tell us a little more about this.

1. Hans Baur, Ich flog Mächtige der Erde (Kempten, 1956), p. 223, cited in Gerald Reitlinger, The House Built on Sand (New York, 1960), pp.100-1.

2. Joseph Goebbels, The Goebbels Diaries, translated and edited by Louis P. Lochner (Garden City, 1948), p.247.

3. Ibid., 499-500.

4. "Merkblatt für die Angehörigen der in Sowjetrußland verminsten Kontakten Soldaten" (B. 70/1944 von 12.4.44), cited in NSDAP, Partei-Kanzlei, Vorfälligkeiten, Anordnungen, Bekanntgaben. 1. Teil aus 1944

(Munich, 1943-45), VI, p.293. This "Merkblatt" was originally published in 1942, but a new edition was prepared partly because of inquiries made as the result of postcards and covers mentioned above; on this point, see p. 292.

MORE ON NSDAP OFFICIAL MAIL

BY Benjamin R. Beede

I discussed "NSDAP Official Mail" in the June, 1966, Specialist and now have a few more comments. For the record, the article which already appeared was initially planned for publication in the Bulletin. Only as an after thought was it submitted to editor Blizil.

As mentioned in my article, one of the interesting aspects of the Nazi Party franchise stamps is that they came into use in various territories annexed by Germany long after other German stamps were authorized. For example, as noted in my article, although all other Nazi stamps came into circulation in the Sudetenland in October, 1938, NSDAP stamps were only allowed in this area on March 17, 1939.¹

The same situation prevailed in the areas incorporated into Germany from the territory of the Polish state. Only in May, 1940, was the use of NSDAP officials permitted in postal districts Danzig, Posen, Oppeln, Gumbinnen, and Koenigsberg.² In my article I speculated that a cover sent by the Volksbewegung in Luxemburg with a 1941 cancellation was franked with a postage stamp (Hindenberg with Luxemburg overprint) because the Volksbewegung had not yet been absorbed by the Nazi Party. This assumption was incorrect, it seems. NSDAP stamps did not go into circulation in Alsace-Lorraine, Moersburg, Luxemburg, Oberkrain, and Untersteiermark until early 1942.³

There was another interesting development in 1942. It was decided to produce the NSDAP stamps on unwatermarked paper in the same colors by denomination as the Hitler postage series.⁴ No reason was assigned for this action, but presumably, this was an effort to abide by UPU regulations, although it may have been simply an effort at standardization within Germany.

Incidentally, a similar decision to convert ordinary official stamps into a series on unwatermarked paper with the same colors as the Hiler definitive issue was made about the same time.⁵ Thus, we have a lead on the reason for the reissuance of both the normal official and NSDAP stamps during world war II. I, for one, would be interested in reading the UPU regulations on stamp colors as that time (1942). Does anyone have a copy?

1 Reichspostministerium, Amtsblatt, 107/1939, p. 173.

2 Ibid., 274/1940, p.365. Postal district Koenigsberg is included because part of occupied Poland was subordinated to this postal district headquarters.

3 Ibid., 224/1942, p.290.

4 Ibid., 39/1942, p.55.

5 Ibid., 258/1942, p.365.

PROPAGANDA BY MAIL

By Benjamin R. Beede

Much has been said in books and articles about the propaganda forgeries of World War II, but not much reference has been made to Nazi reactions to the use of forged stamps on envelopes containing anti-Nazi propaganda which were sent through the Reichspost.

In the spring of 1943, Nazi party members were reminded once again that when pamphlets emerged and came into their hands, they should turn not only the propaganda but also the envelope over to the police or the local party office. This section of the statement on propaganda was even underlined in the original! The reason given was that the envelope and the cancellation might show some clue concerning the origin of the propaganda.

When enemy propaganda was uncovered by the police, it was supposed to be reported to the local Nazi party headquarters which would relay the news through party channels. However, it was the police who turned all such material over to the Gestapo. All information reported to the party agencies was supposed to be given to the local police by them.¹

¹ Reichsverfügungsblatt, IV (V. 1. 15/177 von 9.4.1943), cited in NSDAP, Partei-Kanzlei, Verfügungen, Anordnungen, Bekanntgaben (München, 1943-5), IV, p. 145.

THE FELDPOST PROJECT

Benjamin R. Beede

It would be difficult to end a Bulletin without some comment on this study. More GPS members have become interested and have offered their support. To dispel any misunderstanding, let me say that is intended as a study of the complete Feldpost system and will include suggested prices for many or most items. Tentatively, we have decided that the work will be divided into eight broad sections:

1. organization of the Feldpost system;
2. Feldpost mail services, such as airmail;
3. Cancellations, registration labels, and censor markings used at particular military postoffices and censorship offices;
4. free mail cancellations for various elements of the Wehrmacht, such as the Labor Service and Organization Todt;
5. mail from particular occupied countries and campaigns;
6. provisional admission stamps;
7. specialized study of Kriegsmarine (Navy) mail;
8. and post-war military mail.

Some of these are only in the planning stage, while others are well along. Certain parts, especially 4 and 8 are relatively easy to write, while others are more difficult. Nevertheless, we do have the information for the job. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please address these to me temporarily. We are making efforts to break this project up into sections for easier preparation. So far, participants

in the study are Jim Duffy, Myron Fox, Captain Hirst, Specialist G Frye, besides John Painter and myself.

The only way in which to make sure that this will be a truly complete study is through the willing co-operation of all Feldpost specialists in the GPS. A few questions have been asked through the pages of the Specialist, with relatively little response. Right now, I need answers to these questions:

- (1) does anyone have covers of a Feldpost nature sent to and from concentration camp guards?
- (2) does anyone have covers franked with French stamps but bearing Feldpost cancellations? While favor cancels exist, there were instances in which French civilian workers put mail through the Feldpost system.
- (3) can anyone tell us more about mail sent to or from members of Organization Todt?
- (4) can anyone give us historical data relating to Organization Todt?
- (5) does anyone know anything about German Feldpost letters from Italian East Africa (1941)?
- (6) does anyone have copies of the 40 Rpf Hilter head (with overprint FELDPOST/2 kg) and the green package stamp used as admission labels on complete package wrapper, or the green package stamp used on military airmail in lieu of the blue Luftfeldpost stamp?
- (7) does anyone have letters of a Feldpost nature bearing "Kurier" (courier) markings of any kind?

There will probably be more queries in the next Bulletin. If you do have some answers to these questions, please let us know.

Bulletin No. 13 is now completed. The Third Reich Study re-Group has already shown progress in the past few weeks. New names and new projects are manifest. A surge of enthusiasm has infected many of our fellow GPSers and inquiries from others are continuing to pour in. The interests, both direct and indirect, in this period of philatelic history throughout the rise and fall of the Third Reich, are very much apparent.

Also, very much apparent, is the relative lack of postal information concerning this turbulent period. Yes, we do have the Schultz Dienstpost handbooks, Mr. Clement's books on the Feld- and Luftfeldpost, Messers. Riemer and Wolters' books on censor markings, Messers. Higgins & Gage and the Neuer Ganzsachen catalogs with their postal stationery listings. But, where can you turn with your questions, when even these fine works of philatelic literature do not contain the information you seek? The Germany Philatelic Society and her study groups, of course?

We hope that you will benefit from the information contained in these bulletins. We will keep the articles diversified, to appeal not only to the Feldpost collectors, for example, but to eventually cover every aspect of Third Reich philately and postal history. Questions are expected, and Don Boese, Director of the Third Reich Study Group Information Bureau will try to supply you with answers. Information Bureau ads appear regularly in the Specialist, such as on p.335 of the September issue.

Our thanks to those men who are contributing their time and effort to make this group a success. Your contributions of material and participation in any way can only be a plus for the Third Reich Study Group. Your Editor, Jim Duffy, P.O. Box 65, Highwood, Illinois 60040.

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