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THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP

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The editor wishes to thank Ben Beede for providing enough material at the last minute, so that a Bulletin could be published this month.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

On the whole, I feel that we can look back with some satisfaction over the activities of the Third Reich Study group for the past year and a half. Clearly, we do have something to offer. One of the most encouraging events so far is the number of people outside of the GPS who have contacted Bob Houston or myself about membership in both the national Society and the Third Reich Study Group. Many applications have been sent out; let us hope that these people actually do join the GPS!

Interestinly, the Germans are becoming more and more concerned with the 1933-45 period. As the Second World War fades more and more into the past, the popularity of Third Reich philatelic material seems to increase. Several excellent studies have been published and others are planned. There were the two fine censorship catalogs in 1965-66. Now a study of POW mail of WWII has been begun and a series of Feldpost handbooks is intended. However, there is still plenty for us to do, especially in view of the fact that these studies are in German and often assume historical knowledge that American Collectors may not in fact have.

SEND DUES TO ROBERT HOUSTON, 11 YORKTOWN DRIVE, CLARK, N.J. 07066.

## Director's Report, continued.

Below are listed a few of the studies we have planned:

- I. Third Reich Military Mail
  - A. Organization of the Feldpost system.
  - B. Fees and Services of the Feldpost.
  - C. Military Mail and Censorship Offices.
  - D. Components of the Wehrmacht.
  - E. Individual Campaigns and Occupied Territories.
  - F. Local Admission Stamps and Feldpost Labels.
  - G. Lists of Feldpost numbers and the units identified.
- II. Civil Mail of the Third Reich
  - A. Reichspost 1933-45 (Fees, services, etc.).
  - B. Annexed Territories 1938-45 (with lists of postoffices, etc.).
  - C. Occupied Territories 1939-45 (including, when possible, reprints and translations from other philatelic publications).
  - D. POW and Internee Mail 1939-45.
  - E. Concentration Camp Mail 1933-45.

Moreover, many slide talks are projected. Work has already begun on several of these. Fortunately, too, due to the generosity of many members of the Study Group, we have enough money to finance several slide talks. However, the series of handbooks is going to take a great deal of money. What we need to do is to build up a publications fund of at least five hundred dollars. Even as it is, we shall make it over a period of years. On the other hand, it would be more beneficial to have enough money this coming year. My plan is relatively simple. If we have enough funds to produce one handbook then we can establish a sort of "revolving fund". That is, when the manuscript for a handbook is completed, we could put up the printing costs as a loan to the national Society. As the handbook sold, we would receive our money back and could begin planning another handbook.

When you pay your dues to Bob Houston, before March 15th, please think about my proposals, and if you can put in three or four dollars instead of one dollar, please do so. Once we build up some capital we can stop asking for additional money!

Benjamin R. Beede

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Jim Duffy and I have often discussed the subject of Feldpost usage by civilian business firms and their employees. Many people are aware of this, but there are numerous ramifications which are less well known. Here is the first part of a lengthy series.....Ben Beede.

"DURCH DEUTSCHE FELDPPOST"

As early as August, 1940, German nationals working in Belgium and Occupied France, except in Alsace-Lorraine, were permitted to use Feldpost facilities for sending mail. They were not entitled to free franking privileges, although their mail was charged only at domestic rates.

"Durch Deutsche Feldpost", continued.

Initially, only postcards and letters up to 250 grams were allowed to and from such individuals. If doubt existed at the postoffice about the right of an individual to use its facilities then he had to produce a certificate from a competent military authority that he had the privilege. In the address or return address the firm with which the sender or recipient was employed had to be indicated either with an open address or a Feldpost number. Moreover, each item of mail had to bear the words "Durch Deutsche Feldpost" (Through the German Military Mail) in red with a box around the words. Mail to such German nationals had to be sent through the Postsammelstellen (Military Mail Collecting Offices), which were instructed about the proper processing of such mail. This mail was not censored.<sup>1</sup>

A year later, service was expanded considerably, to include packages up to 1000 grams. Addresses now had to include the Feldpostamt and the inscription "über Feldpost und Luftgaupostamt Paris" or "Brüssel". Special authorization was necessary for usage of this service; requests had to be sent to the Armeefeldpostmeister at Paris or Brussels. German firms wanting privileges for their branches in France and Belgium could send requests directly to the Reichspost Ministry in Berlin.<sup>2</sup> Firms and individuals did not have to ask for permission to send mail to German nationals in France and Belgium. Mail could be dropped into mail boxes. Postoffices, if uncertain about the right of a firm in France or Belgium to use Feldpost service could inquire at the Feldpost office concerned.<sup>3</sup>

Early in 1942, a general regulation was issued that stated: "In all areas, in which only the German Feldpost exists as a German Postal system, a 'Durch Deutsche Feldpost' service is established, subject to postal fees."<sup>4</sup> Domestic postal fees were in effect. Private mail was allowed to 1000 grams; official mail to 1000 grams, including registered letters; printed matter was permitted up to 250 grams. Business mail was not affected by suspensions of Feldpost service, but private mail was. Private persons had to name their firm and to indicate their exact job title. Individuals not employed by a firm had to show their complete name and profession. Only independent persons could call at the Feldpostamt for their mail; employees had to receive it through an organizational courier. The marking "über Luftgaupostamt....." had to be underlined in red. When a firm was permitted the use of the Feldpost system, then so were its employees, etc. The application for such privileges had to contain among other things, the directive authorizing it to operate in an occupied country and an indication of who would be responsible for the mail.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Feldpostamtsblatt, 95/1940, 13 September 1940, p. 66; Ibid., 84/1940, 16 August 1940, p. 57.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 61/1941, 18 July 1941, p. 33.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 19/1942, 24 February 1942, p. 11.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 51/1942, 24 April 1942, pp. 27-8.

## DIRECTIVE ON COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE OF APRIL 2, 1940

The National Defense Ministerial Council decrees with legal force for the territory of the Greater German Nation:

## Section 1

In the meaning of this decree

## A. Postal Service

a) Letter mail (letters, postcards, printed matter, commercial papers, commercial samples, mixed mail, newspapers, postal money orders, letters to and from the Postal Checking Office, packages),

## b) Parcels,

B. Telecommunications service (telephone, teletypewriter, telegraphy, radio, television, photo telegraphic service),

C. Goods and freight service,

D. Carrier pigeon service,

E. Every kind of communication with optical, acoustic and all other kinds of means of communication for the purpose of transmitting information.

are to be regarded as communications service.

## I. Communications Service with Enemy Foreign Countries

## Section 2

(1) Direct and indirect communications service with enemy foreign countries is prohibited. Indirect communications service is the transmission of communications to non-hostile foreign countries, which is intended for forwarding to enemy foreign countries.

(2) In cases of need the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces authorizes exceptions in agreement with the highest national authorities concerned.

## Section 3

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces announces those countries which are to be considered as enemy foreign countries in the sense of this regulation, or which are to be treated in the same way.

## Section 4

He who undertakes direct or indirect communications to enemy foreign countries without authorization in accordance with Section 2, Paragraph 2 will be punished with prison, in lesser cases with arrest or with fines, insofar as a heavier punishment is not realized in accordance with other regulations, in particular the death penalty because of high treason.

## II. Communications Service with Non-Hostile Foreign Countries.

## Section 5

Communications service with non-hostile foreign countries is admissible in principle. No reports however, concerning the military, economic,

## Communications Service Directive, continued.

and 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.

## Section 6

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces issues the necessary regulations concerning the accomplishment of communications service with non-hostile foreign countries, if necessary in agreement with the highest national authorities.

## Section 7

All states which are not hostile or to be treated as hostile in accordance with Section 3 are to be regarded as non-hostile foreign countries.

## Section 8

- (1) Violations against Section 5, Paragraph 2 will be punished with imprisonment, in lesser cases with arrest or with fines, insofar as a heavier penalty is not realized, in particular the death penalty because of high treason. Infringements against the regulations decreed according to Section 6 will be punished with a fine up to 150 Reichsmarks or with arrest.
- (2) Criminal prosecutions occur only on the application of the Supreme Command or of the Armed Forces or of the offices determined by him. The application can be withdrawn.

## III. Domestic Communications Service

## Section 9

- (1) Domestic communications service can be subjected to limitations or injunctions by the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces for reasons of the conduct of the war.
- (2) Violations against limitations or injunctions of that kind will be punished with fines of up to 150 Reichsmarks or with arrest, in especially severe cases with imprisonment, insofar as a heavier punishment is not realized according to other regulations.
- (3) Criminal prosecution begins only on the application of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces or of the offices determined by him. The Application can be withdrawn.

## IV. Rights of Examining Offices

## Section 10

The offices established for examination of communications service have the right to exclude communications or mail completely or partly from transmission or forwarding without indication of reasons.

Communications Service Directive, continued.

V. Special Regulations

Section 11

- (1) Official communications traffic of the Foreign Office with foreign countries and communications with foreign countries, which are executed at its instructions, do not fall under the provisions of this directive.
- (2) For the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia, the Reichsprotector may decree expanded and diverging regulations in agreement with the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces.
- (3) Communications service of the Red Cross as well as with prisoners of war and internees is regulated by special rules.

Section 12

This ordinance also applies to the incorporated Eastern Territories.

VI. Final Provisions

Section 13

The regulations requisite for the execution of this directive will be enacted by the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces in agreement with the Plenipotentiary for National Administration and Deputy for the Four Year Plan.

Section 14

The directive enters into force seven days after its proclamation.

Berlin, April 2, 1940

Chairman of the Ministerial Council for National Defense and  
Deputy for the Four Year Plan.

Göring  
General Field Marshal

Chief of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces  
Keitel

Reichsminister and Chief of the Reichs Chancellery  
Dr. Lamers

2.

Proclamation of the Directive on Communications Service of  
May 28, 1940.

On the basis of Section 3 of the Directive on Communications Service of April 2, 1940 (Reichsgesetzbl. I, S. 823) it is announced, in agreement with the Foreign Ministry, that:

Communications Service Directive, continued.

1. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with its overseas possessions, colonies, protectorates and mandated territories as well as the dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa with its mandated territories;
2. France including its possessions, colonies, protectorates, and mandated territories;
3. Egypt and the Sudan;
4. Iraq.

are to be considered enemy countries in the sense of the Directive on Communications Service.

Führer Headquarters, May 28, 1940.

Chief of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces  
Keitel

3.

First Order of Execution for the Directive on Communications Service of May 13, 1940.

On the basis of Section 13 of the Directive on Communications Service of April 2, 1940 (Reichsgesetzbl. I, S. 823) it is ordered in agreement with the Plenipotentiary for National Administration and Deputy for the Four Year Plan:

Section 1  
(Addition to Section I of the Directive)

Exceptions from the prohibition of direct and indirect communications traffic with hostile foreign countries will be allowed only in special cases.

Section 2  
(Addition to Section II of the Directive)

Mail and telephone service with non-hostile foreign countries is to be limited to the extreme.

A. Postal Service

1. a) The sending of picture postcards of all kinds, of photographs pasted on other objects, braille materials, chess problems, crossword and other puzzles.
- b) The use of secret inks, secret writing, artificial languages, such as Esperanto and secret languages (with the exception of codes detailed under Letter B. No. 2) as well as Hebrew symbols.
- c) The use of shorthand of all systems,
- d) The use of lined envelopes,
- e) Posting of letters in letter boxes,

are prohibited in postal service to non-belligerent foreign countries

## Communications Service Directive, continued.

2. Postcards and letters to non-enemy foreign countries must be clear and easily legible, if possible typewritten. Letters of a commercial character only admissible in typewritten and printed form.

Letters of a non-commercial character may include four sheets at most. Maxim size of one page, DIN A4 (210 x 297mm).

Printed matter, business papers, samples, and mixed mail are only allowed in commercial traffic. Newspapers and magazines may only be sent by a publisher or by the printing firm commissioned with the production.

3. Money orders and transmissions from a postal checking account may only contain such brief communications as refer to the reason of the payment on the senders' section.
4. All mail to non-enemy foreign countries must bear the complete address of the sender (first name, surname, permanent residence and indication of the street) on the outside.
5. The affixing of postage stamps on mail by the sender is prohibited. Postal fees are to be paid in cash at the counter.

Private meter machines can be used. Senders who are permitted foreign telephone or foreign telegraph service may provide their own mail to non-enemy countries with postage stamps. In this case however, the sender must submit a certificate concerning admission to foreign telephone or foreign telegraph service, which will be filled on application by the Intelligence Office of the Military District appropriate for his residence or business location.

6. All letters to non-enemy foreign countries must be mailed at the postoffice counter. The sender must submit an official identification card (with photograph) (for example, postal identification card, identification card, pass). If the mailer is not the same person as the sender, then besides the address of the sender the address of the mailer also must be indicated on the outside of the envelope.
7. The provisions of No. 6, Paragraphs 2 and 2, are not applicable to mailers who submit a certificate concerning admission to foreign telephone or foreign telegraph service (cf. No. 5).

B. Telecommunications service /Text omitted here7.

## Section 3

Special regulations apply to communications traffic of governmental authorities (including the Reichsbank) as well as of the NSDAP, its constituent and associated organizations, and in addition foreign diplomats and consular representatives.

Berlin, May 13, 1940

Chief of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces.  
Keitel

Communications Service Directive, continued.

In addition it is ordered:

1. The Directive and Proclamation on the Directive on Communications Service.

The regulations concerning the cessation or limitation of postal services with individual countries remain unaffected.

2. The First Order of Execution on the Directive on Communications Service:

The offices of the DRP (Deutsche Reichspost) are not authorized and are not in the position to give information about the admissibility of a piece of mail, according to the Directive on Communications Service. The sender and mailer are expressly told that the DRP assumes no responsibility for whether a letter is admissible or non-admissible according to the regulations mentioned. The Intelligence Offices of the Military Districts are competent for the decision on that.

Return of fees for returned mail does not occur in any case.

A. Postal Service  
(See Section 2, page 7, this Bulletin, Ed.)

Addition to 1.a)

Postcards are also prohibited, which are produced by sticking together two pieces of paper and the whole surface is pasted on another, postcards with address flaps or strips as well as postcards on which are pasted ornamental pictures, stamps, labels and paper sections of any kind or any other very thin material.

Addition to 1.e)

Letter mail which is posted through the mail box contrary to regulation, is to be provided with the note or stamped imprint "Aus dem Briefkasten" (From a Letterbox) and to be forwarded to the censorship office like mail posted at the counter.

Addition to 2, Paragraph 3. (See page 8 this Bulletin. Ed.).

The content of a piece of mail is crucial for admissibility, not the manner of mailing; for example, printed matter from private persons are inadmissible even when they are mailed in packages or as letters.

Addition to 4.

Mail without indication of sender is to be returned by the counter clerk.

Addition to 5.

Mail with postage stamps affixed by the sender will not be accepted, but is to be returned (cf. however, Addition to 7).

## Communications Service Directive, continued.

Letters, which are franked with a meter machine, must likewise be mailed at the counter.

## Addition to 7.

A sender who shows an identification card concerning admission for foreign telephone or foreign telegraph service, when mailing a letter could affix the postage stamps himself. The mailer himself (for example, a messenger) need not in these cases identify himself with an official identification card with photograph; the additional indication of the mailer on the mail is not necessary.

## B. Telephone Service /Text omitted here/.

Amtsblatt des Reichspostministeriums, 308/1940, 8 Juni 1940, 401-4

## SOME THOUGHTS ON FELDPPOST COVER PRICES

by Benjamin R. Beede

Soon the Third Reich Study Group hopes to present a comprehensive survey of various Feldpost items with suggested prices. Heinrich Petersen has prepared this item. I have seen it and consider it a fine piece of work, although I may not agree to every price. There are many ways to approach the problem of setting prices. Mr. Petersen has used German retail dealers' prices as a basis. Many catalog publishers have utilized auction prices, insofar as they are available. I have done some work on Feldpost prices, using figures based on the strength of various components of the Wehrmacht and Waffen-SS. At one time I prepared an extensive listing of Feldpost cover prices and circulated it among some members of the Study Group. When Mr. Petersen came up with a listing, I decide to hold my listing back from further circulation.

The listing that follows is based on a table that Mr. Painter originally gave me. This shows the strength of the major elements of the Wehrmacht and Waffen-SS for September 1, 1943. Recently, I ran across the source for the table<sup>1</sup> and started thinking again about the calculations I had done several years ago. I am presenting these estimates for what they are worth. Hopefully, some discussion will be generated.

If we assume the cheapest World War II Feldpost cover is worth twenty cents (20¢), then we would come up with a price listing something like this:

Army	Cover with Feldpost number	\$ .20
	Cover with open address	.80

## Feldpost Cover Prices, continued.

Navy	Cover with Feldpost number	\$11.00
	Cover with open address	3.00
	Cover with "Sch" prefix before Feldpost number	30.00
Air Force	Cover with Feldpost number	2.00
	Cover with open address	2.50
SS (and police)	Cover with Feldpost number	7.00
	Cover with open address	3.00
	Cover with open address from concentration camps	75.00

These results are surprising in some respects. Notably, the value of naval covers with the "M" prefix to a Feldpost number is shown as far higher than usually thought. Only the major kinds of covers are listed here. The subject of Civilian and POW use of the Feldpost system is a complex one, which may be considered in another brief article. Incidentally, the table was not the source of every estimate shown above. For concentration camp guards I had to use a figure from June, 1944, and for naval troops with the "Sch" prefix, I relied on a very rough estimate from the number of battalions listed in a Feldpost number table dating from May, 1942. I would guess that "Sch" covers merit an even higher price, \$35.00 to 40.00, but I have been conservative, since I had no precise strength figures to use.

Please send in your comments about the estimates above.

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<sup>1</sup> Walther Hubatsch, ed., Kriegstagebuch des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht (Frankfurt/Main; Bernard & Graefe Verlag, 1963), III<sub>2</sub> 1943, p. 1576.

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## IT'S DUES TIME AGAIN!

The age-old annual chant of all societies and their study groups. Since we have been receiving new members throughout the year of 1969, a word of explanation is due you before we ask for dues.

The \$1.00 dues (or more, if you are in a generous mood) enables us to prepare and mail out a series of bulletins for a particular year. Members who paid their dues in October, 1969, should have received the same number of bulletins as those who paid their dues in January, 1969. The following is a list of the table of contents (articles only) from each of the four bulletins published in 1969. Any Study Group member who did not receive all of these bulletins, please write directly to the editor, and they will be sent to you.

Vol. IV, No. 1 (Whole No. 14) January 1969

- 2 Abstracts (German Occupation Issues) by Prof. Miller  
 (1) Die Postwertzeichen während der Deutschen Besetzung Ukraine 1941/44  
 (2) Lokalausgaben in Nordrussland 1941-42.

- 3 (3) Ukraine Reply Card (Sammlerdienst).
- 4 (4) Ukraine Reply Card (DBZ).
- 4 (5) Five values Prepared for the German Occupation of Russia, 1943 but not issued.
- 5 TRSG Information Bureau
  - (1) Armistice Commission Cancel from Donald L. Boese
  - (2) Determination of "Gummiriffelung" on stamps on cover; Dr. W. Bohne

TRSG Vol. IV, No. (Whole No. 15) April, 1969

- 8 A Note from the Literature Coordinator--by Richard Imus
- A Special Cancellation, Comments--by Prof. Marion Miller
- 9 Third Reich Postal Fees--contributed by Benjamin R. Beede
- 10 Abstracts-German Occupation Issues--by Benjamin R. Beede
  - (1) "Philatelistisches aus der Untersteiermark"
  - (2) "Die Postkartenprovisorien von Kolomea"
  - (3) "Das Rote Kreuz im Dienste der Post"
- 11 Fee Privileges in Military Mail Service--contributed by Benjamin R. Beede
- 15 Third Reich Study Group Information Bureau--by Donald Boese.
  - "Returned" Crete "Inselpost" Cover--from Jim Duffy

TRSG Vol. IV, No. 3 (Whole No. 16) July, 1969

- 18 Philatelic Propaganda--by Herbert A. Friedman
- 19 Progress Report: Third Reich, Printed to Private Order Postcards--by E. Hope
- 20 Ostarbeiter Mail: An Introduction--by Benjamin R. Beede
- 22 Feldpost notes--by Benjamin R. Beede
- 24 Feldpost Route Markings: Airmail Permit Stamps--by Jim Duffy
- 26 TRSG Information Bureau: Can you Help?--by Donald L. Boese.

TRSG Vol IV, No. 4 (Whole No. 17) October, 1969.

- 27 TRSG Information Bureau by Donald L. Boese: Answers to two questions:
  - (1) Hindenberg stamp - child's post-office set--by Sam Simon
  - (2) Franking in the Sudetenland and Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate by Frank J. Kovarik.
- 29 German Provisionals in Western Ukraine (Wladimir-Wolynsk)--by R. Chilton, Jr.
- 31 Propaganda Stamps--by Herbert A. Friedman.
- 33 The German Feldpost in the Channel Islands 1940-45--by Myron Fox.

We have four bulletins planned for 1970. We hope you will find the articles interesting and informative. As with all societies, there is the constant quest for articles from the membership. The period of our study is from 1933 to 1945.

Just a passing thought. Think of all the philatelists in the world. Now think of those who have specialized in one particular area of study. Think of the research they have done, notes they have made, and material they have gathered in the pursuit of their specialty. Now think of that time in their lives when their collecting must come to an end. The collections may be dismantled and sold, or passed on to heirs who may continue with that study or possibly shelve them for a lifetime. Think of the wealth of information that we might have had at our fingertips, if only these philatelists had taken the time to document their work, and had an article or two published. (Jim Duffy)