



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, 4 Lowell Court, Freehold, NJ 07728

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 Aufgabestempel	575 Feldpost K 433	 Zum Aufleben der Freimarken durch den Besänder
Absender: <i>Dienststelle</i> <i>Feldpostnr. 48 572 B</i>		
Besondere Vermerke des Absenders: <i>Nachlasssache des Gefallenen</i> <i>zollfrei! Wert 500,- RM</i>		
An <i>Frau</i>		
<i>Josefa Degelhafer</i>		
in <i>Graz</i>		
<i>Resselgasse 18</i> <small>(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stadtviertel)</small>		
Bitte in jedes Paket oben- auf ein Doppel der Auf- schrift zu legen!		

STUDY GROUP NOTES

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- ADAMS, Gary**, 3006 North 51st Street, Kansas City, KS 66104-2105
HABIGER, Thomas, 4574 E. Kingwood Court, Springfield, MO 65809
McMORROW, Michael J., P.O. Box 147, North Clarendon, VT 05759
NILSON, Randy A., P.O. Box 740561, Awada, CO 80006
REBANE, Rev. Dr. Priit, 13626 Eagles Walk Drive, Clearwater, FL 33762
TRIMBLE, Wes, 3158 Nawbrook Road, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4X 2V5

ALAPEX '98 – the GPS Regional Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama had many fine exhibits of German postal history including these from the Third Reich era: DHL South Atlantic 1934-1939 (James Grave), WW II German Censorship (Myron Fox), The 1936 Olympics (Charles Wallace), Germany: Definitive Issue of 1941 (Walter Kurth).

Director Myron Fox led an informal TRSG meeting attended by members John Bloecher, Tony Brooks, Al Dietz, Austin Dulin, Bud Hennig, Walter Kurth, Priit Rebane and Dave Ripley. Also attending as a guest was Günter Bechtold, the Head German Expertizer who spends his winters in Arizona.

Combat Division Backlog – we have a backlog of requests for information on particular divisions. In fairness to members who sent photocopies of R-Feldpost covers, we'll include additional features in future bulletins until this backlog is reduced.

To Shanghai via Siberia – in response to the airmail cover inquiry in Bulletin #125, John Berger asks the following:

- a) Is the German postage correct for an airmail letter (of any weight) sent to Shanghai via Siberia in October 1939? b) If not, would the Chinese stamp have been required to make up the difference?, c) Did postal rates change between 16 October and 04 November 1939? Thanks John, now lets see if our postal fee experts can provide answers to the above.

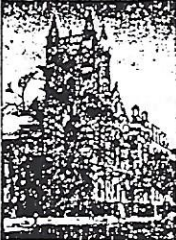
Looking for Feldpost and Censored Covers – TRSGer Gerald Zedlitz wants to purchase the following:

- a) 18th Army Feldpost covers dated from 22 June '41 to 12 Sept. '41 and from 23 Jan. '44 to Mây '45. b) Feldpost covers from German occupation of Greece incl. Crete and Aegean Islands. c) Civilian censored covers from German occupation of Crete and Aegean Islands. Send information & prices to: Gerald O. Zedlitz, PO Box 4, Wallace, CA 95254-0004.

Norwegian Seaman's Church – Doug Warren has obtained much information on this story. He located a 1940s brochure (see right) which shows the outside of this Brooklyn church in the upper left corner. Through correspondence with a senior pastor at the Norwegian Seaman's Church Inc. in New York City he learned that the Seaman's church had been an Episcopal Church until 1928.

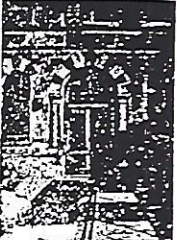
It then existed as the Norwegian Seaman's Church. It served Norwegians through World War II and until 1982-3, when it was sold to the owner of a funeral home located near the church. He then converted the building into apartments but it had landmark status and the exterior today is unchanged from the photo.

Cover Illustration – scarce example of a complete "Nachlasssachen" card on a parcel containing the remaining effects of a dead soldier of 1st Company Assault Gun Brigade 911 (Fp # 48572B). Parcel was sent in August 1943 via FpA 61 (K-433) of the 11th Panzer Division which was located in Krivoi Rog area of Southern Russia.



Den Norske Sjømannskirke


33 FIRST PLACE
Brooklyn 31, N. Y.
Tel. UL 2-5544



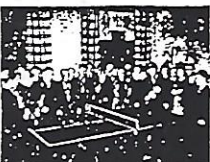
Ukens Program:

<p><u>MÅNDAG 1. SEPTEMBER 1943</u></p> <p><u>TIRSDAG 2. SEPTEMBER 1943</u></p> <p><u>ONSDAG 3. SEPTEMBER 1943</u></p> <p><u>TORSDAG 4. SEPTEMBER 1943</u></p> <p><u>FRIDAG 5. SEPTEMBER 1943</u></p> <p><u>LØRDAG 6. SEPTEMBER 1943</u></p> <p><u>SØNDAG 7. SEPTEMBER 1943</u></p>	<p>FIRSDAGS TUNING I LØRSDAGEN.</p> <p>BRODERHATTSBENS BEDELING I KRISTSTUEN.</p> <p>FEST I LØRSDAGEN. ARBEID, SANG OG TRANSMITTERING FRA AMIA APTEKENS KASSEI AV LITATON FINE KLIMOLET KONSTRUKTØR AV SIFER I NYTT LØRSDAGS- BYGGING.</p> <p>HYGGELIG OG I LØRSDAGEN.</p> <p>GRØNNEHETTER VIL I NYTT K.O. KRISTID.</p> <p><u>M. O. NY:</u> TUR I STEN.</p> <p><u>KL. 10.15:</u> FEST I LØRSDAGEN. ARBEID, SANG OG TRANSMITTERING FRA AMIA APTEKENS KASSEI AV LITATON FINE KLIMOLET KONSTRUKTØR AV SIFER I NYTT LØRSDAGS- BYGGING.</p>
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KJØPTILGAVLØYEN TIL SJØMANNSKIRKEN



Glimt
fra
Lescværelset



Velkommen til Sjømannskirken!

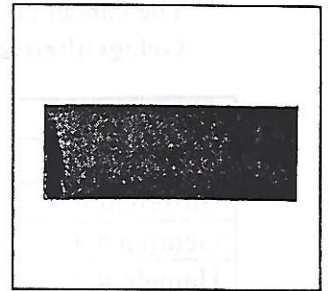
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

7th Infantry Division

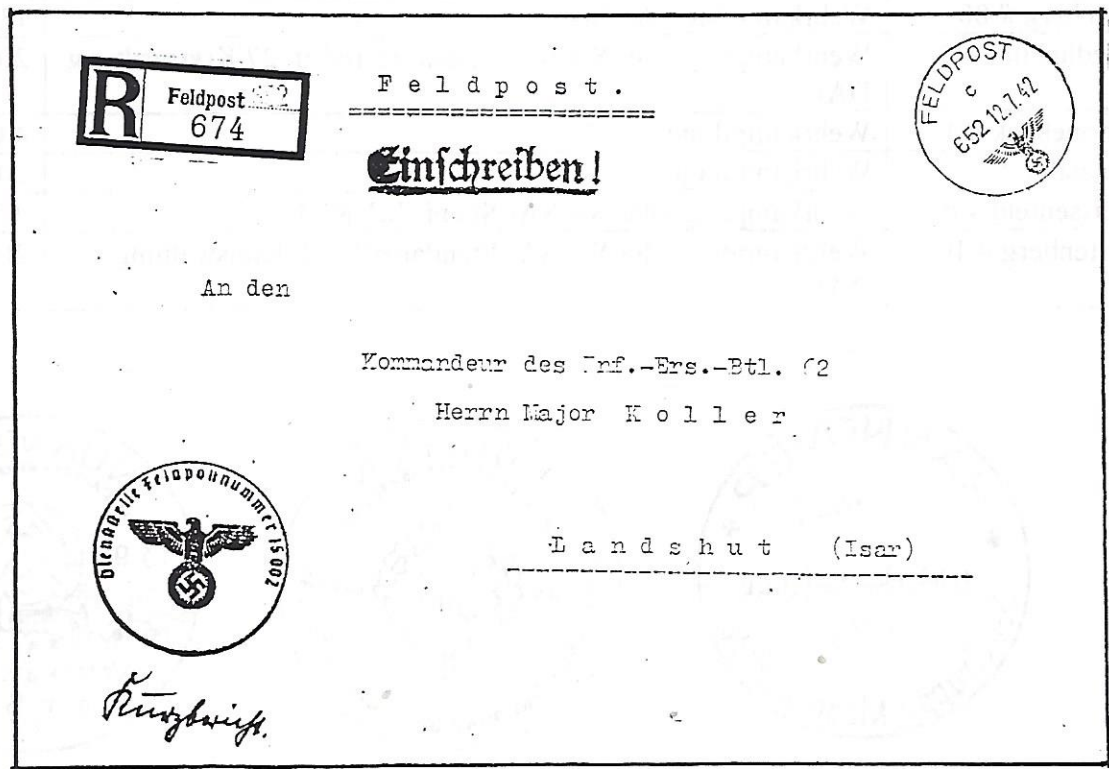
by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
7	652	19	61	62	7

Formed in Reichswehr reorganization of 1921, the 7th Infantry Division consisted of troops from Bavaria. The division emblem was a solid blue rectangle. The division saw action in Poland in September 1939. The following year it fought against the British Expeditionary Force in Belgium but went into reserve after the fall of Dunkirk. In June 1941 it invaded Russia as part of Army Group Center and fought in Siege of Mogilev on upper Dnieper. It later took part in the final thrust toward Moscow and ensuing Soviet counter-offensive. The division spent 1942 in the relatively quiet central sector, then took part in Kursk offensive as part of XLVI Panzer Corps in the summer of 1943.



During this period the 638th Infantry Regiment ('Legion des Volontaires Français') consisting of French volunteers was under the 7th Infantry Division. The division escaped the near annihilation of Army Group Center in the summer of 1944 and then conducted a fighting retreat through Poland that fall. Cut off by the last Soviet offensive, the 7th Infantry Division ended the war isolated behind Russian lines on the Hela Peninsula at the mouth of the Vistula River, where it surrendered on May 8, 1945.



Cover sent to Commander of Infantry Replacement Battalion 62 in Landshut in July 1942 from Fp. # 15002 (HQ/7th Infantry Division) via P.O. 7 (K-652).

Special Cancels – 1942 Storm Trooper Sports Week by Bob Ferguson

The “**Wehrkampftage der S.A.**” were regional Storm Troop sports competitions held in the fall of 1942. S.A. members participating in these open competitions were awarded points based on their performance. The standard was very high with a minimum number of points required for an individual to qualify for the S.A. Sports Medal. The towns holding these contests issued the special cancels shown below.

The cancel numbering scheme is in Julius Bochmann’s work “**Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel**”.

Berlin # 382	Wehrkampftage der SA/Sportappel der Betriebe	13 September 1942
Bernburg # 5	Wehrkampftage	27 September 1942
Bitterfeld # 4	Wehrkampftage SA Standarte 12/Kreissportamt KDF	20 September 1942
Genthin # 1	Wehrkampftage	20 September 1942
Hamelns # 2	Wehrkampftage SA	4 October 1942
Hannover # 70	Wehrkampftage SA-Gruppe Niedersachsen	6 September 1942
Ilmenau # 2	Wehrkampftage der SA- Standarte 82 u. Kreiswaltung DAF Arnstadt	4 October 1942
Linz (Donau)# 14	SA Wehrkampftage	11 October 1942
Magdeburg # 37	Wehrkampftage	20 September 1942
Munchen # 180	Wehrkampftage SA-Gruppe Hochland	20 September 1942
Nurnberg # 78	Wehrkampftage der SA/Nurnberger Stadion	13 September 1942
Nurnberg # 80	Wehrkampftage der SA	13 September 1942
Quedlinburg # 2	Wehrkampftage der SA/SA- Standarte 165 u. 27 Kreiswaltung DAF	20 September 1942
Schonebeck # 1	Wehrkampftage	4 October 1942
Stendal # 2	Wehrkampftage	20 October 1942
Weissenfeld # 6	Wehrkampftage der SA/SA- Stand. J21-KDF	27 September 1942
Wittenberg # 10	Wehrkampftage der SA/SA- Standarte 20/20 Kreiswaltung DAF	20 September 1942



THIRD REICH POSTAL RATES

by Bob Ferguson

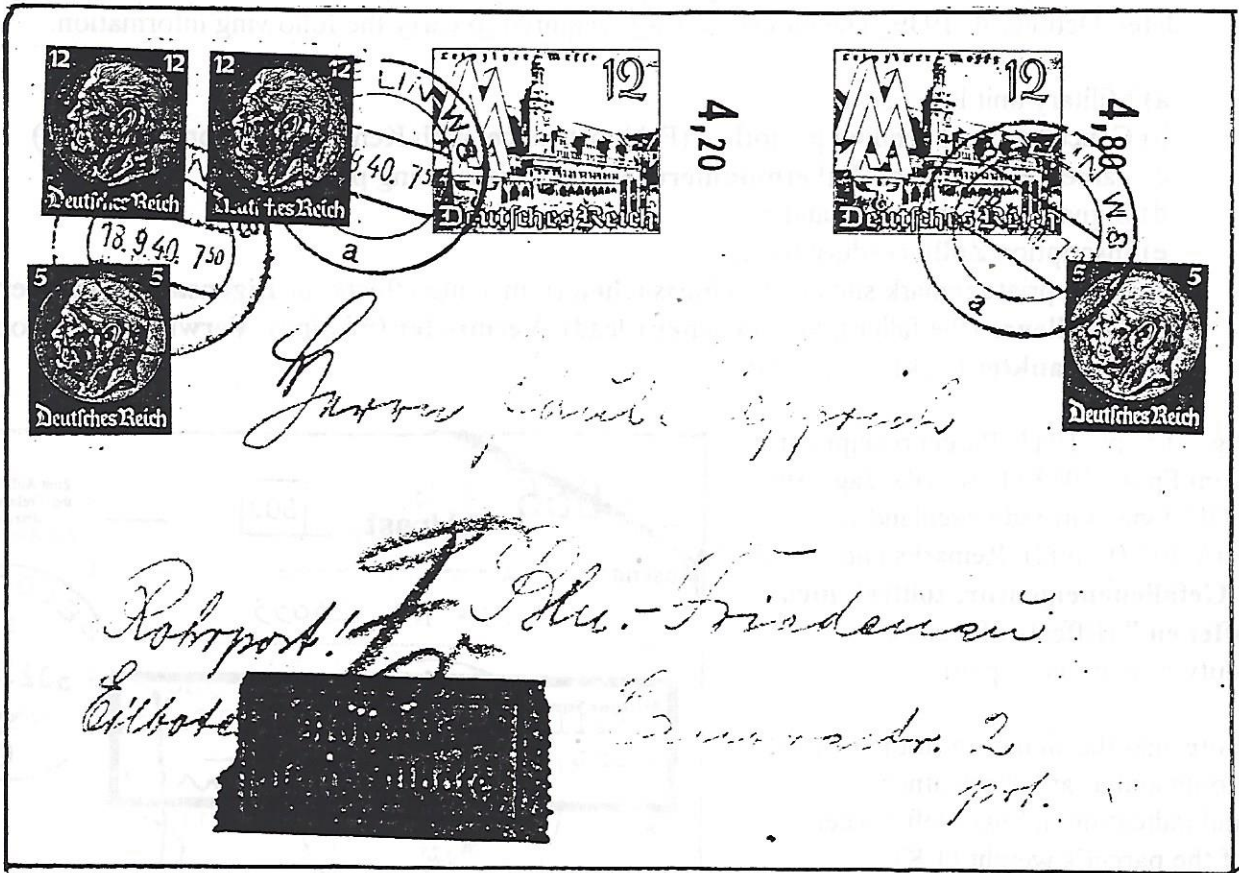
PNEUMATIC MAIL (ROHRPOST)

Pneumatic mail service was available in Berlin, Munich and Vienna. From January 30, 1933, letters up to 20 grams were allowed. After July 15, 1938, letters up to 100 grams and postcards were allowed. After September 18, 1939, printed matter, money orders and registered letters were also allowed.

PNEUMATIC MAIL (30 January 1933 – 8 May 1945)

- Basic = Basic letter rate
- + Special delivery fee
- + Pneumatic Mail (Rohrpost) fee

Pneumatic Mail (Rohrpost) fee = 10 Pfg.



Posted: Berlin W8 on September 18, 1940 (7:50 a.m.).

Backstamped: Berlin-Friedenau on September 18, 1940 (8:30 a.m.)

SPECIAL DELIVERY SINGLE WEIGHT LOCAL LETTER PNEUMATIC MAIL RATE

- Franking (58 Pfg.): 8 Pfg. = Local rate for letter weighing under 20 grams.
- 40 Pfg. = Special delivery (Eilbote) fee.
- 10 Pfg. = Pneumatic mail (Rohrpost) fee

FELDPOST PARCEL CARDS FOR REMAINING EFFECTS

by Jim Lewis

The **Dienstpaketskarten** (receipts for official parcels) were used for the return of remaining personal effects of casualties to their families. While the subject matter is a bit grim, it involves a considerable degree of postal history and research possibilities, both in dealing with regulations controlling this function and in identifying the sending unit and **Feldpostamt** or **FpA** (military post office) since these cards carry both the unit Feldpost number and the **Kenn** (code) number of the FpA. Since the vast majority of the **Nachlassachen** (Remaining Effects Sendings) are from front line units, further interest is generated for those with leanings toward the military history aspect.

This type of parcel card is immediately recognizable by entries in the large, rectangular box imprinted **Besondere Vermerke des Absenders** (special remarks of the sender) which will contain an appropriate comment as indicated in (f) below.

The sending of these parcels was originally authorized in Feldpost Directive No. 17/1939, page 9 dated October 4, 1939. The parcel card was required to carry the following information:

- Military unit letter seal.
- Cancellation of sending postoffice (Feldpost cancel with Kenn number for a field unit).
- Parcel registry label (**Paketnummernzettel**) of dispatching postoffice.
- Signature of unit commander.
- Inscription **Zollfrei** (duty free),
- Appropriate remark such as **Nachlassachen** (remaining effects) or **Eigensachen** (property) of a: **Gefallener** (the fallen), **Gestorbener** (dead), **Vermisster** (missing), **Verwundeter** (wounded) or **Erkrankter** (sick) serviceman.

Fig. 1) Sept. 1943: Parcel receipt card from Fp.# 23033 (1. Kp./Pz. Jäg. Abt. 'GD') via "Grossdeutschland Div. FpA 400 (K-602). Remarks entry reads: "Gefalleneneigentum, zollfrei, nicht offnen." (Effects of a casualty, duty free, do not open).

Note also the signature of the Company Commander, an Oberleutnant, and indication in lower left corner of the parcel's weight (1 Kg.).

The Kenn number (K-602) of the field post office is entered in both the Feldpost cancel and in the Feldpost parcel registry label.

055		Feldpost		602	Zum Aufkleben der Freimarken durch den Absender
Absender: FP. Nr. 23033					
Besondere Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite): Gefalleneneigentum, zollfrei, nicht offnen.					
An Herr Oberleutnant					
Wilhelm Triebel					
in GRAZ / OSTR.					
Neubaugasse 16 (Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk)					
Freigebühr (PpA)					
Postgewicht (kg)	1				

The parcel was thus sent free of postal and customs duty charges. The card also had a small stub which was retained by the sender (see illustration of non-separated card on cover) with the remaining large portion being mailed separately as registered mail to the receiving post office which would subsequently “match-up” the card and the parcel and deliver same. The recipient then signed the card (in a space provided on the reverse side) and this acknowledgement was returned to the delivering postoffice by the carrier. The parcel registry label divided into two parts, the larger affixed to the parcel itself and the smaller section affixed to the receipt card.

Fig. 2) Oct. 1943: Parcel receipt card from Fp.# 30629 (Stab II./SS Pz. Gren. Rgt. 9) via. SS FpA 5 of 5th SS Panzer Division ‘Wiking’ (K-558).

Remarks include: “Eigensachen Vermisster- Zollfrei – Wert 500” (Effects of missing - duty free- Value 500 Reichsmarks.)

Note: card shown 77% actual size

298 Feldpost 558

Absender: Dienststelle Fp. Nr. 30629 E

Besondere Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite):
Eigensachen Vermisster
Zollfrei
Wert 500 -
Nicht öffnen

An: Familie
Karl Einzinger
GRAZ
Angergasse 41

Freigebühr (RM) _____
Postgewicht (kg) 4,500

(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk)
© 20 Din A 6

Fig. 3) Nov. 1944: Inscribed: “Nachlass-Sachen Gefallener Zollfrei” – sent by Fp.# 22863 (2. Kp./Bau Pi. Btl. 531) via LV Army Corps FpA (K-265) signed by “Hptm.u. Kp.-Chef” (Captain & Company Commander).

Note: card shown 77% actual size

191 Feldpost 265

Absender: Dienststelle Feldp. Nr. 22863

Besondere Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite):
Nachlass-Sachen Gefallener
Zollfrei

An: Hptm. u. Kp.-Chef
Frau
Helene Focke
in Berlin-Spandau-West
An der Kappe 58

Freigebühr (RM) _____
Postgewicht (kg) 2

(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk)
© 19. 421 © 20 Din A 6

Feldpost Directive No. 107/1944 (dated Oct. 10, 1944) eliminated the use of the parcel receipt cards. From that time on, both portions of the parcel-registry label were affixed to the parcel itself, along with the notation “Ohne Paketkarte!” (without parcel card) – with consideration for the accounting of lost or damaged parcels being foregone.

Reference:

“Remaining Effects” Feldpost Parcels (Nachlassachen) –R. J. Houston - TRSG Bulletin No. 49 (1978)

Story Behind the Stamp: Friedrich Schiller

by Kelly Stefanacci

Friedrich Schiller was born November 10, 1759 at Marbach, Württemberg, the son of army surgeon Johann Schiller and his wife Dorthea. After retiring from military service, his father was appointed superintendent of plantations at Ludwigsburg, residence of Duke Karl Eugen of Württemberg. Friedrich attended grammar school at Ludwigsburg until 1773 when, at the insistence of Duke Karl Eugen, he entered the military academy at Ludwigsburg. At this school he first studied law but was allowed to transfer to medicine in 1775. He was appointed medical officer to a Stuttgart regiment in 1780.

His literary talents were already apparent and his adolescence under the rule of a petty tyrant confronted him with the problem of abuse of power. His first play *The Robber* was produced in 1782 with great success but he traveled to Mannheim without the Duke's permission to be present on the first night. After the Duke heard of this visit and forbade him to write any more plays, Schiller fled to Thuringia to devote the rest of his life to literature. He then wrote *The Conspiracy of the Fiesci at Genoa* (1783), a drama on the fall of a would-be dictator, *Intrigue and Love* (1784) and *Ode to Joy*, (1785), used by Beethoven for his *Ninth Symphony*. After *Don Carlos* (1787) he was appointed resident playwright in Mannheim.

He gained appointment as professor at the University of Jena in 1789 in recognition of historical works such as *History of the Revolt of the United Netherlands against the Spanish Government* (1788). In 1790 he married Charlotte Von Lengefeld but in the second year of their married life, his health gave way under the strain of perpetual overwork. He rallied but never fully recovered from a combination of chest trouble and digestive disorder that he battled for the rest of his life. During his recuperation he studied the philosophy of Immanuel Kant and wrote several essays between 1793 and 1801 including *On naïve and sentimental poetry* (1796). After producing a number of poems, he began *Wallenstein*, a play concerning Albert von Wallenstein, commander-in-chief of the armies of the Holy Roman Empire during the Thirty Years' War. During the last period of his life he produced four more dramas in quick succession: *Maria Stuart* (1800) *The Maid of Orleans* (1801), *The Bride of Messina* (1803) and *William Tell* (1804). He had started to write another tragedy *Demitrius* when he died on May 9, 1805.

A pair of stamps designed by Bauer was issued on November 5, 1934 to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the birth of Schiller. The portrait of Schiller is from an oil painting by Ludovika of Simonowitz.



There is no special cancel for these stamps but Marbach, Schiller's birthplace, used this cancel "Schiller National Museum. Schiller's birth haus" from 1924 to 1936.



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.

Censorship and the German Intelligence Service

by Myron Fox

The following report "Some indications of the part played by Censorship in the German Intelligence System" sent to Censorship Sub-Division, G-2, SHAEF in April 1945 from Information & Records Branch of Postal & Telegraph, London was declassified by U.S. National Archives on 4/19/94.

Some indications of the part played by Censorship in the German Intelligence System

Introduction- the following report has been compiled to: a) analyze such information as we possess about the tie-in between the German Censorship and Intelligence Services and b) examine the methods believed to have been used by Censorship before and during the war to make those relations effective.

I. Censorship Machinery

1. Functions of the "Auswertungsgruppen" in the "Auslandsprüfstellen"

A. Auswertung in Branch Censorship's – as stated in previous reports, the functions of an examiner in the German Censorship appear to be those of spotting matter of interest, drawing attention to the passages concerned and passing the original letter to the Auswertung Group with a slip attached.

Further evidence has confirmed our general findings with regard to the functions of Auswertung. It is believed that:-

- a) It 'evaluates' matter passed to it, that is to say it screens the matter submitted by examiners, it assesses its value, collates it with other information received, both through the mail and from other sources of intelligence, and follows up all clues and pointers.
- b) It makes submissions (Auswertungsergebnisse) either of individual letters or in the form of reports and compiled data, and allocates them to the User.
- c) It reads certain mails of special interest. In Paris, diplomatic mail and Press matter were examined in the Auswertung Group.
- d) In Paris it had an Urgent examination point (Schnellprüfstelle). A report was made in this Section by one of the officers of Auswertung or a Petainiste. Frenchman.
- e) During the period of the Abwehr administration it appears possible that it may have carried out special investigations or made reports on matter not received from the mail, on behalf of the Abwehrstelle (Ast) or Abwehrleitstelle (Alst) for which it worked.

Paris Censorship was quite small (total personnel 365 in April 1944) and could only examine a token amount of mail. An analysis of mails for the month of April shows that 44,144 items passed through the Censorship during that month, of which 19,633 were examined; an average of 44%, and 11,092 tested, an average of 25%. Yet we found that even such microfilms of documents as have reached us include what appears to be a disproportionate collection of openly written documents from Resistance agents, hardly likely in many cases to have been often sent through open post.

It therefore seems possible that documents of this sort captured from the Resistance may have been passed to the Censorship. This was no doubt done so that such clues as they gave could be followed up in the mail. It is also possibly in order that they might be collated with, or worked on in conjunction with, other material received from the mail in order to give as wide a picture as possible of Resistance trends and operations.

f) The Auswertung Group also held the special card indexes and appears to have had access to information on a variety of subjects not received from Censorship sources, besides the information definitely of a Secret Service character mentioned above. This material will be discussed below.

g) It is believed that the Auswertungsgruppen of the Censorship branches deal with matter for evaluation and submission from both the Postal and telegraph Censorship's, where these exist in the same place. The Auswerter makes a note about a "Jap telegram", and copies of telegrams were found among the microfilms from A.B.P. Paris. The Central Department for Auswertung in Berlin (Z.A.P.B. see below C) deals with both Postal and Telegraph material.

h) This system of Auswertungsstellen (or Gruppen), i.e. 'Evaluation' Departments, appear to exist in other branches of German Intelligence; for instance the W/t Intelligence Branch Ag/WHP/Fu included both a Central Auswertungsstelle and a subsidiary Auswertungsstelle in its Aussenleitstelle in Paris. Officers sent to it by H.Q. for evaluation and decoding, according to POW Interrogation Report S.I.R. 1105 staffed the latter evaluation center.

At least as far as Censorship is concerned, the Auswertungsgruppen appear to have existed, not merely for the purpose of assessing and allocating material, but in order to be able to follow up intelligence of local interest, and pass it on as quickly as possible for use on the spot, rather than waste time by referring it on to H.Q. It will be seen that the Auswertungsgruppen of the Branch Censorship appear to have exercised these functions both under the Abwehr and the R.S.H.A., although under the R.S.H.A. a closer watch appears to be kept at Censorship headquarters on matter allocated for action only to local users.

B. Personnel –in view of the material discussed above and of the general intelligence character of their work, which obviously involves a great deal more than mere allocation of material to Users, it seems clear that the personnel of the Auswertungsgruppen and of the heads (Grupperleitern) of the Groups examining mail, who work, of course in close contact with them, must be drawn from trained and trusted Intelligence officials or officers, whether of the O.K.W. or of the Sipo and S.D. etc., and that some of them at least have some knowledge of Intelligence work other than that of Censorship. It is believed that they may have transferred from other branches of Intelligence to Foreign Mails Censorship or Vice-versa. In the case of the high-ranking Censorship officers, this seems to have been so; i.e. one or other of them had worked in Central and Branch departments of the Abwehr, including the Kriegsorganisation, in the Censorship Department of O.K.H., and in the Reichsforschungsamt.

C. Functions of Z.A.B.P. Berlin – a memorandum sent to A.B.P. Paris, dated Berlin 19.1.43, gives the full title of this Central Evaluation Department, as "Zentralauswertungsstelle für den Auslandsbrief – und Telegrammverkehr". It therefore evaluates material from both Postal and telegraph Censorship, and the orders in this memo with regard to requirements of Users are addressed to both.

a) **Under the Abwehr** –the earliest reference to Z.A.B.P. is this memo of 19.1.43. Under the Abwehr, certain allocations of material were apparently made to Z.A.B.P., but it does not appear at all in the

Abwehr Allocation and Requirements Lists, and such submissions as we have seen belonging to this period (information about enemy forces) were not allocated to that department. The memo from Z.A.B.P. of 19.1.43 draws attention to certain requirements of detail with regard to shipping and foreign trade. It therefore appears that, besides being a centralized evaluation and intelligence branch, it is a liaison and distributing center, somewhat analogous to I.R.D. in this respect.

b) Under the Reichssicherheitshauptamt – under the R.S.H.A. all allocations so far seen, including information about Enemy Forces, have been allocated to R.S.H.A., Amt IV, Z.A.B.P. It appears that the Auswertungsgruppen of the Branch Censorship no longer enjoy the independence that was theirs under the Abwehr, since R.S.H.A. Amt IV, Z.A.B.P. can keep an eye on all submissions made, though these do not appear to be allocated to them for action.

II. Relations of Censorship with the Abwehr Intelligence System

1. Pre-eminence of Intelligence as the function of Censorship

The information available about German Censorship seems to point to the fact that its function is considered to be primarily counter-espionage and general intelligence; preventive security, i.e. the prevention of leakage of information through the medium of the post, seems to be a secondary consideration. An interesting remark was made in this connection by a POW who had worked in Paris Censorship, where there was a great shortage of examiners, that: "There was practically no attempt made to stop information getting out, and such staff as there was available had been instructed to concentrate on obtaining information from incoming mails." This tendency to neglect, at least to some degree, the preventive functions of German Censorship may well have tended to create abroad a sense of false security and under-estimation of its real activities.

2. Relations of Censorship with Amt Ausland/Abwehr III_N

Since Censorship came directly under the administration of the Abwehr, its primary function would appear to have been to provide information for the prosecution of active espionage, counter-espionage and sabotage, and information about enemy forces. Information of a more general kind about foreign countries etc. would therefore be mainly of interest to other users, whether of the O.K.W. or Ministries etc. The allocation to these Users is discussed below. The function of III_N, which would appear from its designation 'Nachrichten' to be some sort of general intelligence branch of the Abwehr, is not clear to Foreign Censorship Section. Besides matter connected with German, Enemy and other foreign censorship, postal routing and transport, which might be expected to come within its province, allocations to III_N consisted solely of the following, according to the requirements lists:

- a) Diplomatic mail
- b) Leaflets dropped by plane (Flugblätter)
- c) Poison gas, anti-gas precautions.
- d) Suggestions? (to be sent in original) about "new German means and methods of warfare".
- e) "Pan-European ideas"
- f) Information about the activities and fate of German spies (to be passed to Abwehr II).

3. The Abwehr requirements and Allocations List

A . General Lists – Allocations of requirements are divided into;

- a) Army and Politics, subdivided into Army, Navy, Air, Politics, Post and censorship, Radio, Printed matter, Photographic material, Identity documents, etc., POW and Internees.
- b) Economics, subdivided into Economic Warfare, Political Economy and Food.

A study of these requirements, which are very brief, compared with British Censorship Lists, reveals some apparent weaknesses, and at first sight it would appear that some portion of the lists is missing. If however the general characteristics of these lists are taken into account, we think that this is not necessarily so. While in some cases the requirements are so wide that they must have been difficult to interpret with any degree of exactitude, in other cases, sometimes of comparatively narrow interest, they are specified in detail. In the sections dealing with economic and military material every matter of interest seems to be covered, though sometimes in each general terms as “Blockade Warfare”; in the case of politics the requirements appear to be inadequate. A covering note on the Allocations List states that the requirements refer only to information about foreign countries unless otherwise stated; that this covers information about occupied countries is shown by the nature of the requirements. Subversive activities in Germany and by Germans appear to be less well covered, unless “Internal politics”, “Morale”, and “Acts hostile to Germany” are expected to include all such matter. There is for instance no specific mention of listening to foreign broadcasts, although Radio propaganda is required. There is no mention of subversive printed matter, other in Germany or Occupied Countries, except “Flugblätter” i.e. leaflets dropped by air. There is no specific mention of foreign workers but there is a requirement: “Stimmung der Umsiedler” i.e. “Morale of displaced persons”. German submissions refer to foreign workers as “Gast-Arbeiter”.

B . Secret Lists – a special ‘Secret’ listing was maintained separately. Directives from Z.A.B.P. with regard to the use of this list is as follows:

“Submissions marked ‘Secret’ are to be entered on separate lists for ‘Wehrmacht’ and ‘Politik’. A receipt should accompany these lists. The inclusion of submissions in the ‘Secret’ category is only justified by the personality of the writer or addressee, the contents of the submissions, or in suspicious cases.” This last sentence is explained by the fact that most of the items on the Secret list appear also on the General Lists.

4. Allocations to the Abwehr and O.K.W. – the most notable feature of the Allocations and Requirements Lists is the degree to which information was allocated to the Abwehr, O.K.W./Ausland and other Services of the O.K.W. out of proportion to other Users. In most cases matter submitted to other Users was allocated to O.K.W. as well, unless such matter was of a specialized kind.

An obscure requirement for allocation to Ausland VIII, which may be a possible indication that Censorship under the Abwehr was not always in line with the Party on matters of policy, reads as follows: “Questions of International Law (for example Bolshevik atrocities, shooting of Jews etc.)”.

A. Evidence of relationship with O.K.W. Services not mentioned in Allocations and Requirements List.

Before we can pass on to the discussion of material allocated to Users other than the O.K.W. Services, it may be of interest to note the relations of Censorship with Services of the Abwehr and O.K.W. which are not mentioned in these lists.

a) References to the Kreisorganisation.

It appears from the Auswerter's notes that allocations were made to the Kreisorganisation in neutral countries, apparently via a convenient Abt. He notes: "Watch on suspicious persons in Switzerland K.O. (Dijon)", and "Watch on suspicious persons Portugal to whom? K.O."

With regard to Dijon, it is possible that ABP Paris, which dealt with Swiss transit mails, may have had a regular channel for matter for K.O. Switzerland via Abt. Dijon. The Auswerter raises a question about Radziwill (head of the Polish Red Cross in Geneva) which was dealt with by Abt. Dijon, though in this case he does not mention K.O.

b) References to the Versuchsstelle of the Reichsforschungsamt in Paris.

The Auswerter makes several references to the Reichsforschungsamt, (which according to POW Interrogation Report SIR 926, is under the RLM = Air Ministry). This service maintained a monitoring station for telephone conversations in Paris

5) Evidence of relationship with Services other than the O.K.W.**A) Relations with the RSHA and component Services**

Neither the RSHA nor any of its component services are mentioned at all in the Allocation Lists in our possession. We have shown above that all matter connected with espionage, sabotage and foreign suspicious persons and organizations was allocated to III F and that in addition some information about suspicious persons in neutral countries was sent to K.O. There is no mention of requirements concerning criminal activities prejudicial to the war effort (bribery, black market, etc.). According to information from M.I. 6 there was a liaison officer of the RSHA in ABP Berlin and it is therefore to be supposed that such an officer would exist in all ABP.

The Auswerter's only reference to the Gestapo is in connection with ABP Vienna. No allocation to the Gestapo for material appears in the Official lists. Technical service press matter was allocated to the Abwehr, and the O.K.W. Press Service "Interavia" (a technical Swiss Paper on Aviation) which was on one occasion transferred to the Gestapo by ABP Berlin, is shown in the Auswerter's notes to have been sent to I TLW by ABP Paris. It therefore appears that when the RSHA took over the Administration, the relation between the Censorship and RSHA was of an ill-defined kind.

B) Allocation to the Chancellery of the Party

The official lists show that the only matter allocated to the Chancellery was strictly that which concerned the Party: "Letters from the Services of the Party and its attached organization in Germany and abroad, as well as any information concerning the party" and "The same for any information concerning the party if members of the Wehrmacht are involved."

C) Allocation to other Government Offices

The only requirement in the official lists to be allocated to the Auswärtungs Amt was matter connected with POWs and Internees. The Auswerter refers to allocation of "French Propaganda" to Auswärtungs Amt and also to "Promi" (possibly Propaganda Ministerium?) among others. The latter is also referred to by an ex-member of the Berlin Censorship as an allocation for trend reports.

Information about the Eastern European Countries was sent to R.M. Ost. Conditions about work of agriculture and factory workers, and information about this capable of being exploited for propaganda purposes was allocated to the Reichsarbeitsministerium (R.A.M.).

The largest number of allocations to Government Ministries was in the realm of economics, in which allocations were made to the Reichswirtschaftsministerium (R.W.M.). A watch on foreign markets and opportunities for German trade were allocated to the Reichsstelle für Aussenhandel. Patents and patent rights were sent to the Reichsjustizministerium (R.J.M.).

6. Intelligence exchanged with the Censorship

We have noted that everything now known about the German Censorship under the Abwehr seems to point to the fact that it was much more than an instrument for intercepting and passing on information, and that it appears to have been an integral part of the Abwehr Intelligence System. In order to "evaluate" material before passing it on, and to follow up information received, it apparently worked in close touch with the active branches of Intelligence and Counter-Espionage, and the latter appears to have supplied it with information from independent sources. Our reasons for this statement are based on the following material:

A) References in Censorship documents etc. to the System of "V. Männer"

a) The Auswerter's notebook has references to Vertrauens-Männer (active agents of the Abwehr) such as "Abkürzung frz V. Männer" (Reduction of French V. Men?). Under "Berichte V. Männer" (Reports V. Men) is written "Abkürzung Gef. Lager Krause" (Reductions ? POW Camps). It is not clear whether "Abkürzung" refers to "reductions" in staff of French V-Men, and perhaps French V-Men in POW Camps, or whether it refers to "abbreviations" used by them in writing.

b) A microfilm from ABP Paris records a letter from Stockholm to Berlin (cover stamped with Berlin Censorship pass stamp) of which the text is obscure, and apparently contains secondary meaning. This letter, which bears no sign of Paris Censorship, and would not normally pass through Paris, has been marked in the margin: "Act. 15.5.43 V. Mann. Brief aus Schweden".

c) A report on the activities of the Abwehr in Copenhagen, from an escaped former member of the Abwehrstelle there, includes a statement that the means by which espionage, counter-espionage and political supervision were carried out by the Abt were the Postal and Telegraph Censorship's and a branch system of V. men. This bracketing of the three together suggests that they worked in collaboration, and further indications of this are provided by films from ABP Paris on counter-espionage documents, many of which could hardly have come from normal Censorship sources, and may have been provided by the V. Männer.

B) Counter-espionage documents recorded at ABP Paris obtained from non-Censorship sources.

If V. Men and the Censorship worked in close collaboration, this would explain the following material recorded on microfilm by ABP Paris, apparently to be studied in case anything in the mail linked up with them or because the Abwehr called for reports on them from the Censorship; - counter-espionage: a number of openly written reports, plans, diagrams and statistics apparently emanating from agents of the "Resistance". These have been photographed without covers, but are clearly captured documents since, even allowing for the fact that many agents of the Resistance may have been somewhat amateur in their methods, they are hardly likely to send such material through the open post.

C) Other information recorded in ABP Paris records, which was obtained from outside sources.

Besides material directly connected with the work of agents, there is data on microfilm which seem to be records supplied to the Censorship for information purposes. While these documents are filed without covers, it cannot be certain that these were not obtained through postal interception. However, in many cases we may safely assume that much of them came from outside sources. For instance: -

a) Economic information – reports about commodities in the form of compiled data, mostly in France including statistics from a French Department report on the production of certain firms and localities.

b) Morale and condition – a report from O.K.W. WFSI/I e Wehrmacht, dated O.U. 1.7.44 based on mail to and from Allied POWs in German Camps, deals with mail to and from POWs divided into nationalities and countries, and with morale and conditions in the camps and in the countries from which the inward mail comes. This mail is not read as a rule in the ABP and must have been compiled from material supplied by the Camp Censors.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">DECLASSIFIED</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Authority <u>UNW 760218</u></p> <p style="margin: 0;">By <u>[Signature]</u> NARA Date <u>1/14/97</u></p> </div>	
<p>23-27, Brooke Street, Holborn, London, E.C.1.</p>	
Your Ref:	
Our Ref:	26th April, 1945.
	<u>IRB/2000/7</u>
To:	Major J.J. Taylor, Censorship Sub-Division, G-2, S.H.A.E.F.
From:	Director-General, (Information & Records Branch), Postal & Telegraph Censorship Department, London.
STELLEN"	
<p>Herewith the 20 further copies of Foreign Censorship Section's report: "Some indications of the part played by Censorship in the German Intelligence System", as requested by you on the 'phone on 24th April, 1945.</p>	
<p><u>[Signature]</u> Chief Officer, I.R.B. For Director-General.</p>	

Supplementary Flights for AirMail to the U.S.A.

by Bob Ferguson

The first purely airmail service from Germany to the U.S. over the North Atlantic was not available until 1939. Prior to the surface mail time (7 days from Berlin to New York) could be reduced by supplementary connecting flights and by catapult flights.

1. Supplementary Flights from Köln to Cherbourg

Beginning 15 August 1929 special airmail connecting flights were made from Köln to the North German Lloyd liners en route to the U.S.A. at Cherbourg. This service generally ran in the period from May to September and, in combination with the catapult flights, saved up to three days in mail delivery time. These flights to Cherbourg continued after the end of catapult flights in 1935 until the outbreak of war in 1939.

Airmail surcharges for this service were:

	August '29-Sept. '34	May '35-May '36	June '38 – August '39
Letter (per 20 gm)	30 Pfg.	15 Pfg.	10 Pfg.
Postcard	30 Pfg.	15 Pfg.	10 Pfg.

2. Catapult Airmail to the U.S.A.

Catapult airmail flights were made from the North German Lloyd liners 'Bremen' (first flight 22 July 1929) and 'Europa' (first flight 15 Sept. 1930) from 1929 to 1935. The flights were launched from the ship at sea to either New York or Southampton, saving up to one and one-half days in delivery time.

Catapult airmail surcharge rates were:

	9. August 1929 - 30 Sept. 1934	18. April 1935 - 9 Oct. 1935
Letter (per 20 gm)	50 Pfg.	25 Pfg.
Postcard	50 Pfg.	25 Pfg.

3. Airmail in the United States from New York

Surcharges for airmail service from New York to U.S. cities were:

1 March 1931 – 30 April 1933	25 Pfg. per 10 gm.
1 May 1933 – 30 April 1934	20 Pfg. for first 5 gm; 10 Pfg for each additional 5 gm.
1 May 1934 – 31 July 1938	15 Pfg. for first 5 gm; 10 Pfg for each additional 5 gm.
1 August 1938 – 15 December 1941	10 Pfg. for first 5 gm.

This service was suspended from 1 September – 5 October 1939.

Supplementary Flight from Köln to Cherbourg (Rate Period: August 1929 – September 1934) and
Catapult Flight to New York (Rate Period: 9 August 1929 – 30 September 1934)

Posted: Frankfurt, 9 September 1930 to U.S.A.

Franking (1.05 RM): 30 Pfg. = (Supplementary flight surcharge from Köln to ship 'Europa' in
 Cherbourg for weight: 0 – 20 gm).

25 Pfg. = (Foreign surface letter rate for weight: 0 – 20 gm).

50 Pfg. = (Catapult flight surcharge for weight: 0 – 20 gm).

Supplementary Flight Marking: **mit Luftpost zum D."Europa" befördert.**

Catapult Flight Markings: **mit Katapultflug.**

1. Deutscher Katapultflug d. "Europa" New York am 15 September 1930.



Airmail from New York to Boston (Rate Period: 1 May 1934 – 31 July 1938)

Posted: Berlin, 23 December 1936 to U.S.A.

Franking (20 Pfg): 5 Pfg. = (Foreign printed matter rate for weight: 0 – 50 gm).

15 Pfg. = (Airmail surcharge from New York for weight: 0 – 5 gm).

Inscription: "Luftpost ab New York"



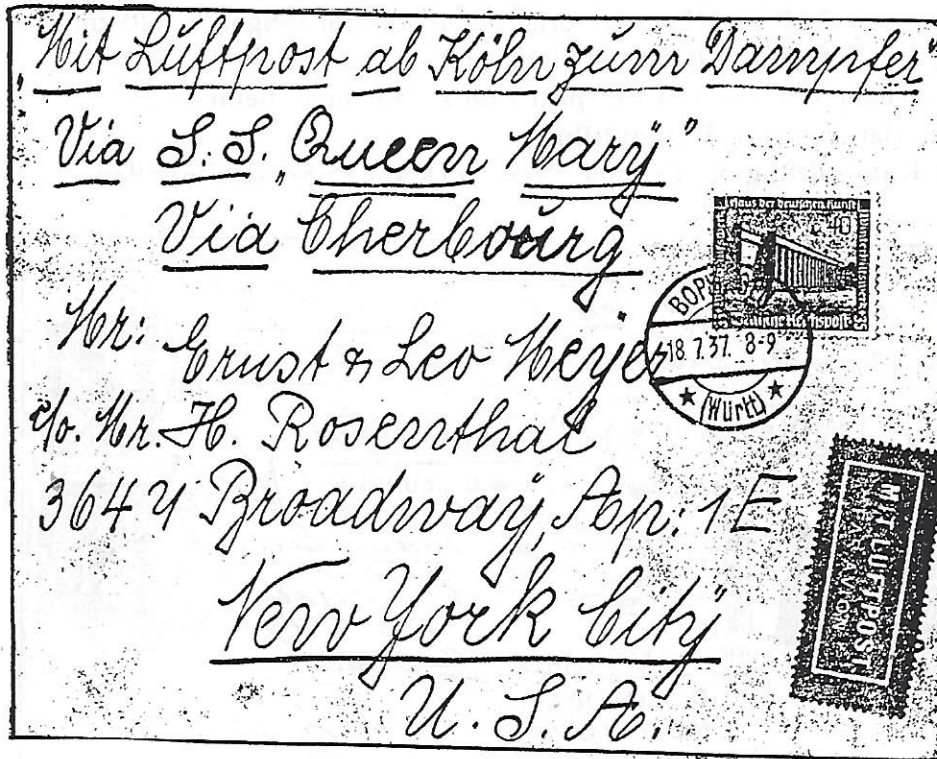
Supplementary Flight from Köln to Cherbourg (Rate Period: May 1935 - May 1938

Posted: Bopfing, 18 July 1937 to U.S.A.

Franking (40 Pfg): 15 Pfg. = (Supplementary flight surcharge from Köln to ship 'Queen Mary' in Cherbourg for weight: 0 - 20 gm).

25 Pfg. = (Foreign surface letter rate for weight: 0 - 20 gm).

Inscription: mit Luftpost ab Köln zum Dampfer via S.S. Queen Mary via Cherbourg"



Supplementary Flight from Köln to Cherbourg (Rate Period: June 1938 - August 1939) and Airmail from New York to St. Louis (Rate Period: 1 August 1938 - 15 December 1941)

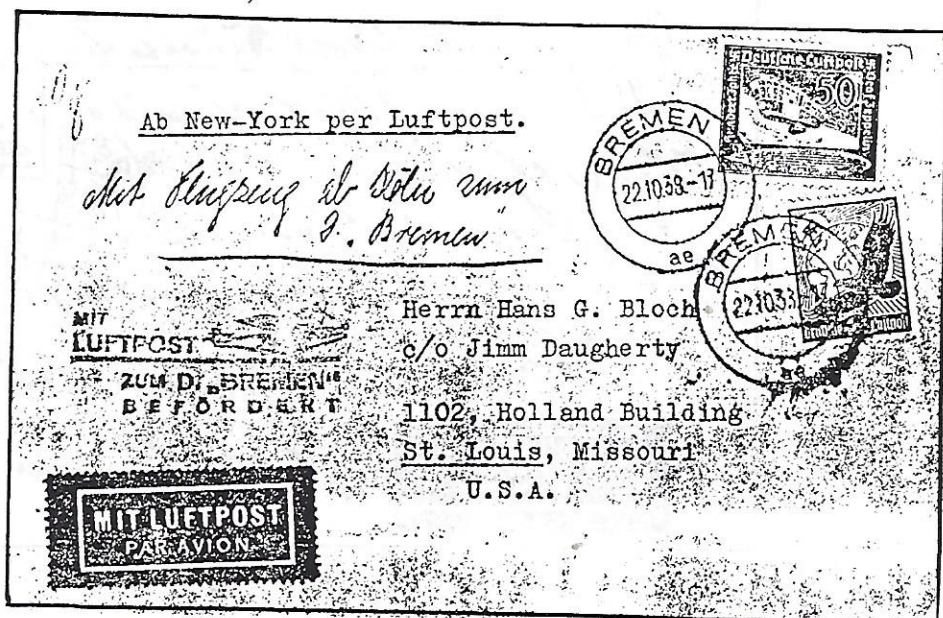
Posted: Bremen, 22 October 1938 to U.S.A.

Franking (75 Pfg): 10 Pfg. = (Supplementary flight surcharge from Köln to ship 'Bremen' in Cherbourg for weight: 0 - 20 gm).

25 Pfg. = (Foreign surface letter rate for weight: 0 - 20 gm).

30 Pfg. = (Airmail surcharge from New York for weight: 0 - 20 gm).

Supplementary marking: mit Luftpost zum D. "Bremen" Befordert" (Forwarded by airmail to the steamship "Bremen")



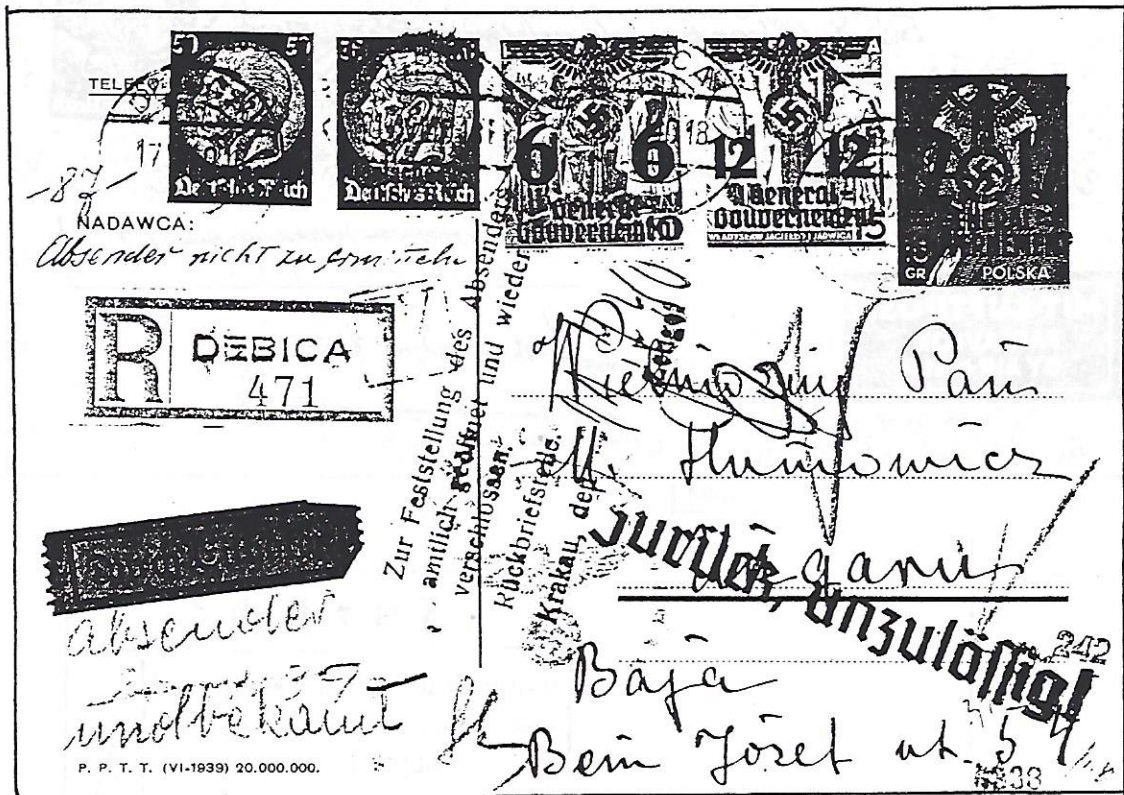
Rejected by Censor - Inadmissible Mail

by Myron Fox

Complete Sender Address

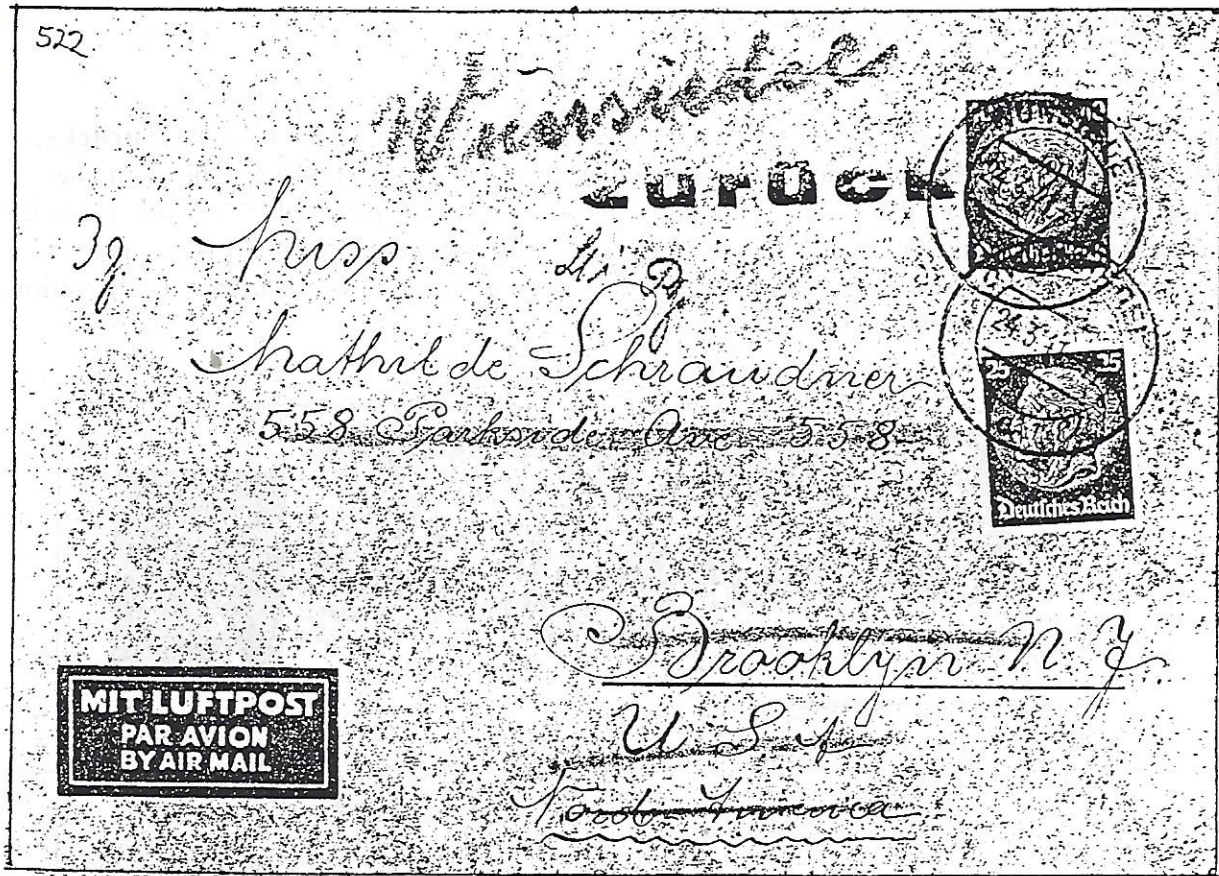
Part IV. "The offices established for examination of communication have the right to exclude mail from transmission without indication of reason". Under this provision, mail is found simply marked "Return to Sender - inadmissible".

Fig. 1) Post card to Hungary posted at Debica in General Government in May 1940 has "Zurück, unzulässig" (Return, not allowed) hand stamp applied at Vienna Censorship office. This item was probably returned since the sender did not give his name and address as required. The 5-line green hand stamp of the Returned Letter Office in Krakau states "Officially opened and then closed so as to determine sender"- a little difficult to do with a post card. There are also various manuscript notations concerning lack of sender particulars.



Part II, 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 street) on the outside."

Fig. 2) Airmail cover to U.S.A. posted at Wunsiedel in March 1941 has "Zurück" (Return) hand stamp on front applied at Frankfurt Censorship office. A multiple reason for rejection return hand stamp was also added on the backside. The Censor has checked off "Absender fehlt" as the sender's address is missing contrary to regulations.



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Zurück:	
weil nicht an. Schalter einget. fact	
Absender	X
Falschpostmarken unzulässig	
Befreiung von Zoll- u. d. Einfuhrsteuer nur nach Brüssel am 1. März 1940	

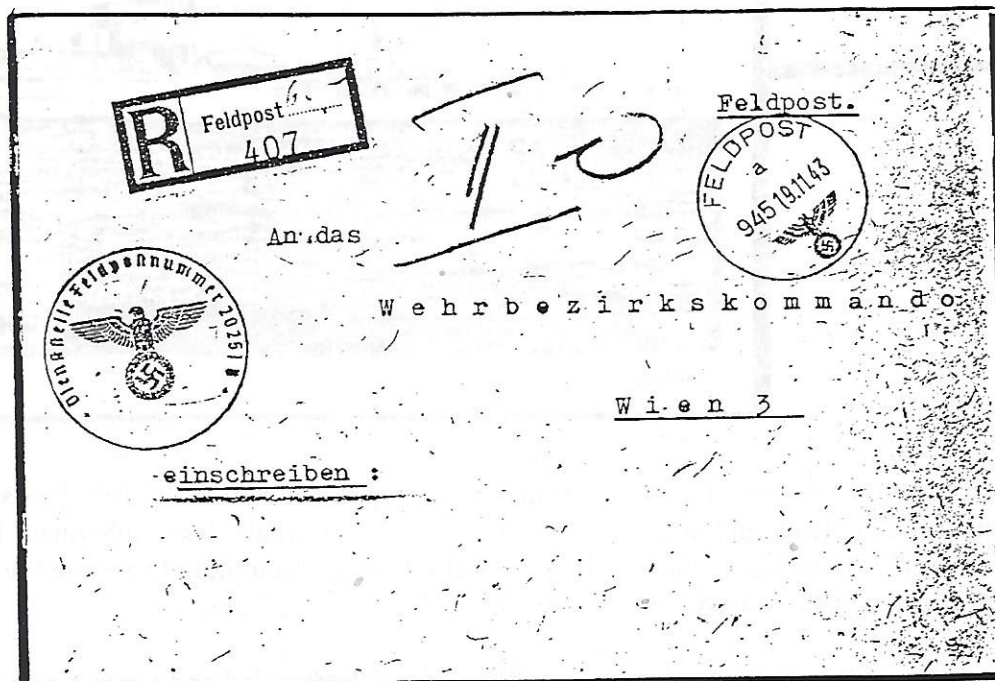
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 212th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
212	945	316	320	323	212	212

Formed in southern Bavaria from older age groups, this division was on the Saar Front during the Polish campaign. The "Feldpostamt" (post office unit) was assigned Fp # 26357 and Kenn 945 for use on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 212. The next year it took part in the French campaign with Army Group C. Its older personnel were largely replaced by younger men and the 212th was sent to the central sector of the Russian Front in the winter of 1941-42. It was then transferred to Army Group North in 1942 and took part in the repulse of several heavy Soviet attacks during the Second Battle of Lake Ladoga in early 1943. The division later suffered such heavy casualties during the retreat into Lithuania in late 1944 that it was considered unfit for duty.

Reformed in Wehrkreis XXI in October 1944 as 212th Volksgrenadier Division, personnel were mainly young recruits from Bavaria. The 212th absorbed the partially formed 578th Volksgrenadier Division and re-designated FpA 1578 as FpA 212. However, it retained Fp# 40622 and Kenn 786, which had been assigned to FpA 1578.

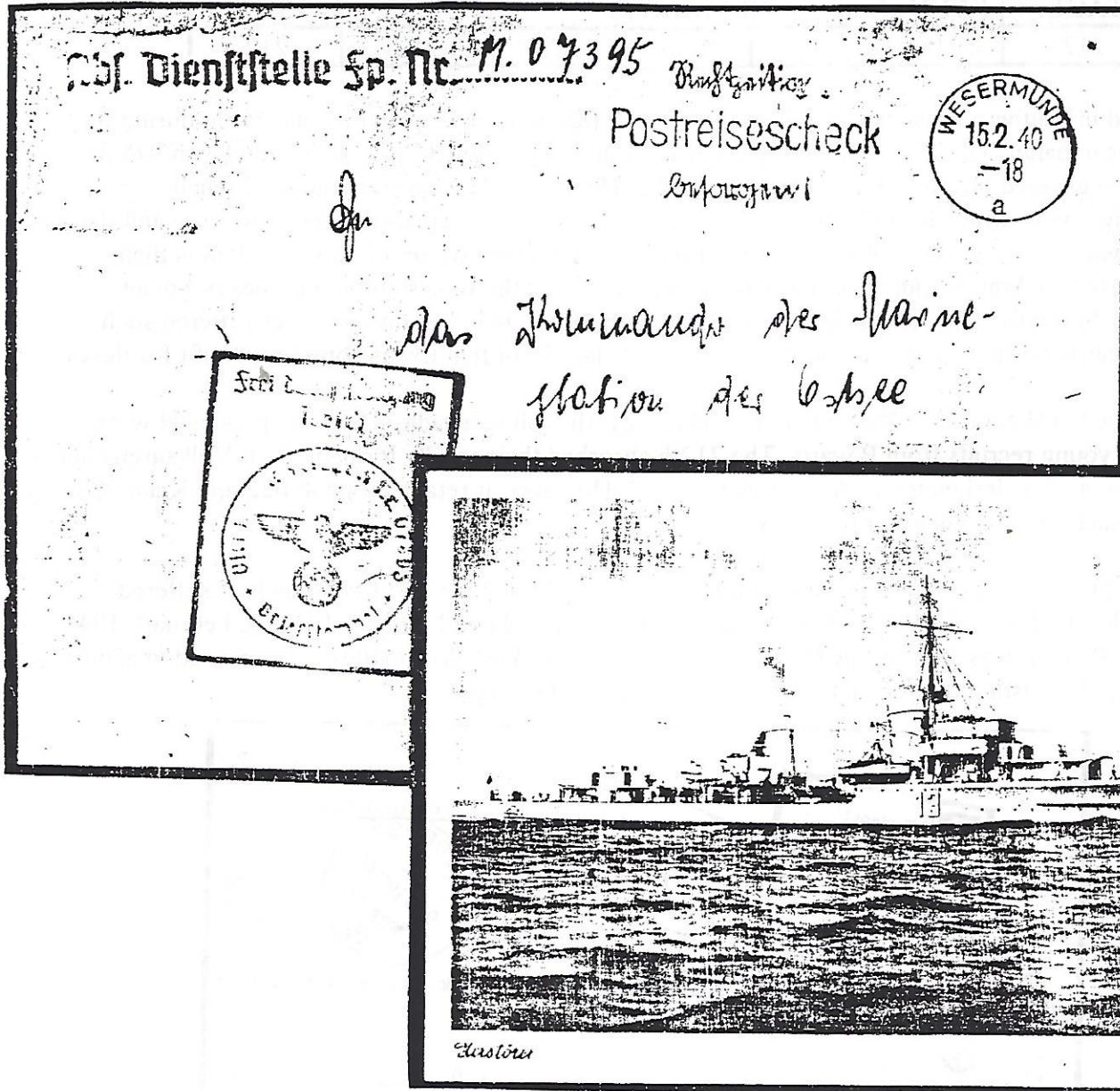
The 212th V.G. was sent to the Western Front and fought at Trier and Echternach. It suffered heavy losses during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 and January 1945. In February 1945 the 212th V.G. was smashed by the U.S. 3rd Army in the West Wall battles but remained in action to the end, resisting the Allied sweep through Southern Germany.



Cover sent to Military Sub-District Command in Vienna in November 1943 from Fp. # 20251B (Co. 5 of Btl.II/Infantry Regiment 320) via P.O. 212 (K-945).

NAVY LOG

Destroyer Z-13 'Erich Koellner' Feldpost # 07395



The thirteenth of sixteen 'Leberecht Maass' (Destroyer Type 1935 Z1-16) class ships. Built by Germania West (Kiel) and launched March 18, 1937. Namesake Kapitänleutnant Koellner, senior officer of 8th Minesweeper Flotilla, lost with M-64 while attempting to rescue the survivors of M-95 off Terschelling on April 20, 1918 (both ships struck mines).

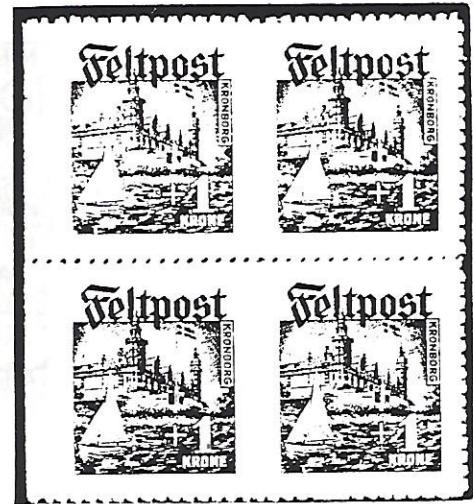
Served: North Sea 1939-40, Norway 1940. Sunk while disabled and serving as a floating battery during Second Battle of Narvik on April 13, 1940.

German Occupation of Denmark - Seals & Labels

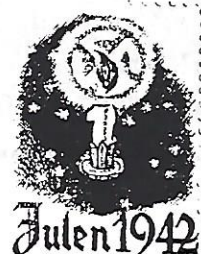
by Bob Dunn

Shown below are various seals & labels used during the German occupation of Denmark. When found on covers, these "cinderella" items provide colorful addition to the usual postal markings.

1.) These labels were supposedly printed to raise funds for the widows and orphans of the fallen Free Corps Denmark Legionnaires.



2.) A Danish postal employee, Einar Holboll, conceived the world's first Christmas Seal. The proceeds from their sale, beginning in 1904, were used for the benefit of sick children. During the occupation the DNSAP (Denmark's National Socialist Worker's Party) also created these Christmas seals.



3.) Other seals produced by the D.N.S.A.P. include one with a Viking ship affixed to back of a censored cover sent from Copenhagen.

Steffen Nielsen
Rosendalsgade 11
København Ø. * Øbro 338



Geø



Geoffnet



Aage H. Anderson (see second seal from left) founded the National Socialist Worker's Party (NSAP). In May 1941 he established the Anti-Jewish League, which published a newspaper, *Battle Signal*. The articles were so bigoted and libelous that a group of Danish Jews sued. The court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and awarded crippling damages, causing the newspaper to close.

