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Editor's Report

Yes, your editor still lives. It has been a long dry spell between this issue of the bulletin and the last. You will notice that I have combined the April and July issues into one bulletin. There were times when I thought this undertaking would overwhelm me, along with all my other involvements, and it may have, had it not been for all the wonderful assistance I received from my wife.

The TRSG Bulletin itself, was kept to a minimum. However, a moment long awaited by Ben Beede has finally arrived. The beginning of the Third Reich Study Group Feldpost Handbook. The Outline and notes immediately following should give you an idea of what we will try to do. This is a working outline and may be subject to change.

Ben Beede has been the working force behind the Feldpost Handbook idea. He felt that we needed a guide to this extremely interesting field of philately. Recently, our German colleagues have published two excellent works on the Feldpost, namely: "Die deutsche Feldpost im Oster und

## Christian Frederik von Schalburg

by C. Michael McAdams

In the May 1968 issue of the "German Postal Specialist" a notation was made concerning the appearance of a pair of se-tenant labels connected with the Danish Legion. The upper label is inscribed "Ved Ofre skabtes Danmarks Ere/C.F.v.Schalburgs Mindefond" and has the denomination "50" (Øre). The lower label has no denomination and the inscription "Ved Ofre skabtes Danmarks Ere/C.F.v.Schalburgs Mindefond/Falkonergaardsvei 11. Kbhn V". Both picture von Schalburg in the uniform of a German SS-Sturmbannführer.

Christian Frederik von Schalburg was born in the Ukraine in 1906. He was a member of the Czarist Cadet Corps when the October revolution broke out. He fled to Denmark where he joined the Danish Army. An early Nazi sympathizer, he joined the Danish Nazi Party and became the National Youth Leader in 1938. When the Russo-Finnish War broke out he joined the Finnish forces.

He returned to Denmark and joined the Waffen-SS in September 1940. On February 8th, 1942, Himmler appointed von Schalburg to head the Danish Free Corps. He was killed in action during the units first major battle on June 2, 1942.

Schalburg became the hero of Danish Nazism and the Danish Free Corps was re-named "Schalburg-Korps" in his honor. The Schalburg Corps became a political organization along the lines of the General-SS and was very political in nature. Membership in the Corps was soon limited to "Aryans" of strict Nazi belief. A minimum monthly contribution of two Kroner was expected of all members.

A fund for the Schalburg Corps was established in 1943. The headquarters for the Schalburg-Fonden was at Falkonergaardsvei 11, Copenhagen, (abbreviated 'Kbhvn') 5. This address appears on the lower label. Proceeds from the sale of these labels and the 2 Kr. dues of members went for aid to Danish volunteers in the Waffen-SS and the families of those who had been killed in action.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the July 1971 issue of the "German Postal Specialist" on pages 266 and 267, there is an article by Arnold Engel "More on NAZI-LABELS". Mr. Engel has provided the "Specialist" with an illustration of the se-tenant Schalburg label, as well as a brief history of von Schalburg.

Mr. McAdams' article arrived the same day the July 1971 "Specialist" arrived. Although there is some duplication of information, together these articles provide an historical synergism. This should answer some of the questions for those who are interested in this aspect of the Legions, their labels as well as their mail. (TRSG Ed.)

NATIONAL SOCIALIST GERMAN LABOR PARTY  
 Offices, Organizations, Institutions

by James E. Duffy

Throughout our study of the 1933-45 period of German Postal History, we will find mail from civilians, business firms, government offices, the military (Feldpost), para-military organizations (SA, SS, etc.), police, and a political organization, namely the National Socialist German Labor Party (Nationalsozialistische deutsche Arbeiterpartei; NSDAP). The NSDAP had an elaborate hierarchy of central, regional, and local headquarters with departments for all of its manifold interests at all levels. Its High Command (Reichsleitung) at Munich included bureaus (Ämter) which more or less paralleled the Ministries of the national government in Berlin. The heads of the principal activities were called Reichsleiter. These, together with the Gauleiter who headed the Party Regions (Gaue), constituted the top leadership of the Party. Under them, were vast numbers of Party functionaries known as political leaders (Politische Leiter), who had their own system of ranks and uniforms.

In some of the past issues of the TRSG Bulletin, Mr. Beede, our Director, has submitted articles on "Fee Privileges in Military Mail Service" (No. 15, Apr. 1969); "Directive on Communications Service of April 2, 1940" (No. 18, Jan. 1970); "The Anschluss 1938: Postal Documents" (No. 19, Apr. 1970); "Limitations of Postal Service, Jan. 29, 1945 Regulation" (No. 20, Jul. 1970). In all of these directives there are references to some of the offices of the NSDAP, concerning their handling of or receiving mail.

The following is a listing of the National Socialist German Labor Party offices, organizations, and institutions to the full extent of their operation in Germany and the occupied territories as known in December 1944.

A. Central Offices of the NSDAP.

1. Party Chancellery (Partei-Kanzlei).
2. Führer's Chancellery (Kanzlei des Führers der NSDAP).
3. Organization of Germans Abroad (Auslandsorganization).
4. Offices in Germany of the National Union for German Elements Abroad (Volksbund für das Deutschtum im Ausland).
5. Center for Volksdeutsche (Volksdeutschemittelstelle).
6. Party Scrutiny Commission for the Protection of National Socialist Literature (Parteiämliche Prüfungskommission zum Schutze des NS-Schrifttums).

NSDAP offices, etc., continued (Central Offices of the NSDAP).

7. Offices of the Reich Organization Leader (Reichsorganisationsleiter der NSDAP).
8. Office of the Reich Treasurer of the Party (Reichsschatzmeister der NSDAP).
9. Supreme Party Court (Oberstesparteigericht) and Subordinate Courts.
10. Office of the Führer's Commissioner for the Supervision of the Whole Intellectual and Ideological Training and Education of the Party (Beauftragter des Führers für die Überwachung der gesamten geistigen und weltanschaulichen Schulung und Erziehung der NSDAP).
11. Office of the Reich Propaganda Leader of the Party (Reichspropagandaleiter der NSDAP).
12. Office of the Reich Leader for the Press (Reichsleiter für die Presse und Zentralverlag der NSDAP (Eher Verlag)) together with the publishing houses owned by the Party and controlled by him).
13. Office of the Reich Press Chief of the Party (Reichspressechef der NSDAP).
14. Reich Office for the Agrarian Population (Reichsamt für das Landvolk).
15. Head Office for Public Health (Hauptamt für Volksgesundheit).
16. Head Office for Technology (Hauptamt für Technik).
17. Head Office for Teachers (Hauptamt für Erzieher).
18. Head Office for Local Government (Hauptamt für Kommunalpolitik).
19. Head Office for Officials (Hauptamt für Beamten).
20. Office of the Party Commissioner for all Racial Questions (Beauftragter der NSDAP für alle Volkstumsfragen).
21. Racial-Political Office of the Party (Rassenpolitisches Amt der NSDAP).
22. Office of Genealogical Research (Amt für Sippenforschung).
23. Colonial Office of the Party (Kolonialpolitisches Amt der NSDAP).
24. Foreign Office of the Party (Aussenpolitisches Amt der NSDAP).
25. Reichstag Party of the NSDAP (Reichstagsfraktion der NSDAP).
26. Reich Women's Leadership (Reichsfrauenführung).
27. Head Office for War Victims (Hauptamt für Kriegsoffer).

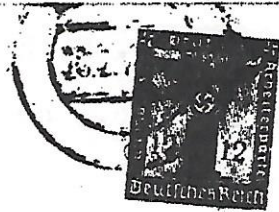
NSDAP Offices, etc., continued.

B. Regional and Local Offices of Party Administration

1. Gauleitung in each Party Gau (region) or Reichsgau.
2. Kreisleitung in each Party Kreis (county).
3. Ortsgruppenleitung in each Party Ortsgruppe (local branch).
4. Zellen and Block Offices.
5. The Beauftragter der NSDAP (Offices of the NSDAP) in each Governmental Unit.

C. Professional, Political and other Party Organizations.

1. Reich League of Doctors (NSD-Ärztzubund).
2. Party League of German Technicians (NS-Bund Deutscher Technik).
3. Party League of Teachers (NS-Lehrerbund).
4. Reich League of German Officials (Reichsbund der Deutschen Beamten).
5. Reich Colonial League (Reichskolonialbund).
6. NS Women's Organization (NS Frauenschaft).
7. NS Reich League of Nurses (NS Reichsbund der Deutschen Schwestern).
8. German Women's Association (Deutsches Frauenwerk).
9. Reich Student Leadership (Reichsstudentenführung).
10. National Socialist German Students League (NSD-Studentenbund).
11. German Students' Association (Deutsche Studentenschaft).
12. National Socialist German Lecturers' Association (NSD-Dozentenbund).
13. Party League of Lawyers, Notaries, and Accountants (NS-Rechtswahrerbund).
14. Party League of Old Students (NS-Altherrenbund der Deutschen Studenten).
15. Reich League of German Families (Reichsbund Deutsche Familie).
16. German Labor Front (Deutsche Arbeitsfront).
17. Party Association for Physical Training (NS-Reichsbund für Leibesübungen).



An die

**NSDAP.**

Arbeitsleitung Eisenstadt

**Die Deutsche Arbeitsfront**



**Kreiswaltung**

Kreiswaltung der Deutschen Arbeitsfront  
zu Händen des Kreissozialwalters

**B a d e n b. Wien**

C.16 Type of "Deutsche Arbeitsfront"



*Fasse  
Dich kurz!*  
am  
**FERNSPRECHER**



An das  
Arbeitsamt

16

**Frankfurt**  
am Main.

**Reichskommissar für die Festigung  
Deutschen Volkstums  
Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle  
Umsiedlung  
Salzburg-Daers  
Gaisbergstr. (Umsiedlungslager)**

A.5 Type of "Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle"

NSDAP Offices, etc., continued. (Professional, etc., Organizations).

18. NS-Ex-Servicemen's League (NS-Reichskriegerbund).
19. Reich Chamber of Culture (Reichskulturkammer).
20. German Local Government Union (Deutsche Gemeindetag).
21. Secret Police (Geheime Staatspolizei).
22. German Hunters' Association (Deutsche Jägerschaft).
23. Council of Experts on Population and Race Politics (Sachverständigenbeirat für Bevölkerungs und Rassenpolitik).
24. Reich Committee for the Protection of German Blood (Reichsausschuss zum Schutze des Deutschen Blutes).
25. National Socialist Relief Organization for War Victims (NS-Kriegesopferversorgung).
26. Winter Relief (Winterhilfswerk).

D. Para-Military and Police Organizations.

1. The Storm Troops, SA (Sturmabteilungen), including the SA-Wehrmannschaften or pre-military training centers.
2. The SS (Schutzstaffeln), including the Armed-SS (Waffen-SS) and the SD (Sicherheitsdienst) Security Service of the SS.
3. The National Socialist Automobile Corps, NSKK (NS-Kraftfahrerkorps).
4. The National Socialist Flying Club, NSFK (NS-Fliegerkorps).
5. The Hitler Youth, HJ (Hitler Jugend).
6. The Reich Labor Service, RAD (Reichsarbeitsdienst).
7. The Todt Organization, OT (Organization Todt).
8. The Technical Emergency Squads, TENO (Technische Nothilfe).

Although we have not published a post office directive concerning the mail of the NSDAP, it appears that this mail falls into two obvious categories; 1) some NSDAP officials were given free-franking privileges; 2) the NSDAP mail is franked with the German Official Stamps of 1934 or the Official (NSDAP) Party Stamps of 1938 and 1942. In all the cases of franked mail I have seen, the prevailing postage rates were adhered to.

This listing is intended to aid the student of Third Reich philately in cataloging the components of the NSDAP, as may be represented on the covers in his philatelic holdings.

Editor's Report, cont'd.

der Luftfeldpostdienst Osten im Zweiten Weltkrieg" by Bruno Schmidt and Bodo Gericke, Archiv für deutsche Postgeschichte 1969, Heft 1; and "Die deutsche Feldpost im Zweiten Weltkrieg" by Bodo Gericke, Archiv für deutsche Postgeschichte, 1971, Heft 1.

These two books are highly recommended for anyone who is interested in the German Feld- and Luftfeldpost of World War II. They are available from Gesellschaft für deutsche Postgeschichte, e. V., 53 Bonn, Adenauerallee 81, Germany, for the price of 4 DM each.

The second supplement to this Bulletin is the Heinrich Peterson work on German Military Mail Cancellations (and hand stamps) 1937-1945. We are fortunate to be able to present this material along with the introduction of the TRSG Feldpost Handbook.

I would like to express my gratitude to two men who have given me much of their time with counsel and translations of material, and have helped me bring this Bulletin to you in better condition than it might have been in strictly a solo venture; namely Bernard "Bud" Hennig of Chicago and Charles J. Peterson of Libertyville, Illinois. Charley is the new editor of the Philatelic Literature Review.

I have editorialized enough. It is time to get this in the mail, at least before the price freeze thaws out. I hope to see some of you at the Germany Philatelic Society 1971 Exhibition and Convention (Harmonex 71) in Toronto, October 15, 16, and 17.

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GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC.  
Third Reich Study Group

FELDPOST Handbook  
World War II

Part I. Organization of the Feldpost System

1. Military mail in the 3rd Reich before 1937.
2. Types of Feldpost offices and their functions.
3. Feldpost number system.
4. Relations with the Reichspost and Dienstpost.
5. The early campaigns 1937-39.
  - a. Fall maneuvers of 1937.
  - b. Austria 1938.
  3. Sudetenland 1938
  4. Bohemia-Moravia 1939

Part II. Postal Fees and Services, 1939-45

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Letter Mail     | 7. Money Orders                                 |
| 2. Air Mail        | 8. Newspapers                                   |
| 3. Registered Mail | 9. Other Services;<br>Laufschreibengebühr, etc. |
| 4. Insured Mail    | 10. Official Mail                               |
| 5. Packages        | 11. Foreign Mail                                |
| 6. Bulk Mail       | 12. Feldpost to POW's                           |

Part III-A. Feldpost Offices

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Feldpostämter     | 4. Marinepostbüros                         |
| 2. Postsammelstellen | 5. Reichspost Offices at<br>Training Camps |
| 3. Luftgaupostämter  |  |

(Each post office will be discussed along with the cancellations, registration labels, etc. used)

Part III-B. Censorship Offices

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Army         | 3. Waffen-SS                                 |
| 2. Kriegsmarine | 4. Letters with civilian<br>censor markings. |

Part IV. Mail of Components of the Wehrmacht

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Feldheer                         | 8. NSKK (NS-Kraftfahrkorps)                          |
| 2. Ersatzheer                       | 9. RAD (Reichsarbeitsdienst)                         |
| 3. Kriegsmarine                     | 10. OT and OS  |
| 4. Luftwaffe                        | 11. HIWIS  |
| 5. Waffen-SS and<br>Ordnungspolizei | 12. POW's on labor service<br>outside camps          |
| 6. Volkssturm                       | 13. Governmental agencies in<br>occupied territories |
| 7. KZ Guards                        | 14. Business firms in occupied<br>territories        |

April-July 1971

FELDPOST Handbook-World War II, Outline, continued.

Part V. Individual Campaigns and Occupied Territories

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Bohemia-Moravia | 10. Poland              |
| 2. Slovakia        | 11. Finland             |
| 3. Danzig          | 12. Italy               |
| 4. Scandinavia     | 13. Africa              |
| 5. Western Front   | 14. Russia              |
| 6. Rumania         | 15. Aegean Islands      |
| 7. Hungary         | 16. Atlantic Fortresses |
| 8. Bulgaria        | 17. Germany 1944-45     |
| 9. Yugoslavia      |                         |

Each section includes:

- (1) relations with Dienstpost or foreign mail system;
- (2) postal agreements on handling Feldpost;
- (3) route markings, etc.

Part VI. Local Admission Stamps and Feldpost Labels

This section would include all the special admission stamps from the Kuban, Krim, Oslo, Africa, Hela, Luftfeldpost and Päckchen, plus the Feldpost labels which had no franking or other value.

Part VII. Post-war Feldpost

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Confiscated Feldpost                                    | 3. POW mail from     |
| 2. Registration labels, etc.,<br>used in civil mail system | Schleswig-Holstein   |
|  | 4. Dienstgruppenpost |
|  | 5. Heimkehrerpost    |

A word of explanation:

The material for this WWII Feldpost Handbook will be assembled as we receive it.

The articles will be classified under the appropriate part in the outline. Page numbers cannot be assigned at this time. Articles will be identified by the Part Number, the Section Number and the "page number" in ( ), as well as the Bulletin Month and Year.

Articles will be amended or added to as new information is submitted to us. Comments or constructive criticism will be gladly accepted. This has to be a joint project by the entire study group membership. We hope that the entire membership will benefit from the information to be contained herein.

PART IV  
THIRD REICH MILITARY MAIL: COMPONENTS OF THE WEHRMACHT

By Benjamin R. Beede

Germany was far more generous with free franking privileges during World War II than was the United States, for example. Many categories of civilians, not to mention members of para-military organizations, were accorded the right to send mail free or at reduced rates. The purpose of this series of articles will be to discuss the history and postal privileges of each element of Germany's armed forces. The skeptic may ask, "why differentiate between covers sent by an air force man and a munitions worker. A stampless cover is a stampless cover?" The author does not accept this view. Postal regulations did distinguish categories of clientele in discussing the Feldpost system. That counts for something. More important, dealers and collectors do pay higher prices for certain covers, such as items with "SS-Feldpost" markings and the "M" prefix.

\* \* \* \* \*

SECTION 9  
REICHSARBEITSDIENST

The Reichsarbeitsdienst (National Labor Service) had its origins in voluntary labor camps of the Weimar Republic. Compulsory training in the Reichsarbeitsdienst was ordered in 1935, and during 1938-39 many units were used in the construction of the Westwall. When war came RAD units to be used for military tasks were integrated directly into the armed forces as construction companies under Army officers. Early in 1940, however, the decision was made to use RAD men in independent formations. RAD forces served in Germany and in all the occupied territories, except Italy. Although RAD men sometimes participated in combat, their normal role was the performance of simple engineering assignments. Their military contribution did increase as the war went on. Four hundred anti-aircraft batteries were manned by the RAD, and from early 1944 the RAD assisted the Ersatzheer (Replacement Army) in giving basic military training. Conscription of women for the RAD began in 1939. Later, another agency, the Kriegshilfsdienst was established. Girls served a half year in both the RAD and Kriegshilfsdienst. Units of women were used by the Luftwaffe in various capacities, and some operated searchlight batteries.

HISTORICAL SOURCES:

Konstantin Hierl, Im Dienst für Deutschland 1918-1945 (Heidelberg, Kurt Vowinckel Verlag, 1954), pp. 105-112; Wolfgang Scheibe, Aufgabe und Aufbau des Reichsarbeitsdienst (Leipzig, Verlag W. Kohlhammer-Abteilung Schaeffer, 1942), 3. Auflage, pp. 27-8.

POSTAL HISTORY:

RAD units in operational areas had Feldpost privileges from the beginning of the war.<sup>1</sup> They were assigned Feldpost numbers, but their mail can be recognized by the ranks in addresses or return addresses,

## PART IV, Section 9, RAD, continued.

for they were different from those of any of the branches of the armed forces. RAD ranks were: Arbeitsmann, Vormann, Obervormann, Truppführer, Obertruppführer, Unterfeldmeister, Feldmeister, Oberstfeldmeister, Arbeitsführer, Oberarbeitsführer, Oberstarbeitsführer, Generalarbeitsführer, and Obergeneralarbeitsführer.<sup>2</sup> In June, 1940, privileges were given to RAD men outside operational areas, i.e., in Germany, provided that they were performing tasks directly of benefit to the armed forces. To differentiate these elements from other RAD detachments, they were given Feldpost numbers to be used in combination with town names.<sup>3</sup>

A number of changes occurred during the last year of the war. Early in 1944, some units were given completely open addresses. These units were performing assignments for the Wehrmacht and were attached directly to military forces in a support capacity. The address consisted of rank, name, Wehrmacht unit name, RAD unit name, and town. A typical address would read:

Arbeitsmann Heinz Schmidt  
25 schwere Flak Abteilung 450  
(RAD Abt. 2/301)

Glückstadt

Such mail had to bear an official seal. Privileges were also given to women members of the RAD (Arbeitsmädchen). RAD units also continued to exist which used a Feldpost number plus a town name.<sup>4</sup>

In August, 1944, girls in the Kriegshilfsdienst were given Feldpost privileges, if they were (1) with a military unit which had a Feldpost number; or (2) with a unit with an open address and were separated from their families and billeted at government expense. Typical addresses are shown below:<sup>5</sup>

K.H.D.-Mädchen im Wehrmachtsdienst Greta Schmidt Feldpost Nummer 60 000	K.H.D.-Mädchen im Wehrmachtsdienst Greta Schmidt bei Heeresmunitionsanstalt Kiel
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<sup>1</sup> Feldpostamtsblatt 1940, 39/1940, 1 April 1940, p. 23.

<sup>2</sup> Heinz Pächter, Nazi-Deutsch (New York, 1944), p. 93.

<sup>3</sup> Feldpostamtsblatt, 68/1940, 18 Juni 1940, p. 43.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 26/1944, 24 März 1944, p. 15.

<sup>5</sup> Feldpostamtsblatt, 69/1944, 1 August 1944, pp. 35-6.

## PART IV, Section 9, RAD, continued.

Gradually, restrictions were still further relaxed. Some units and their members were considered acting for the Wehrmacht even though not attached to particular military forces. These were given Feldpost privileges in August, 1944. Addresses ran this way:<sup>6</sup>

Arbeitsmann Heinz Schmidt  
RAD Abt. 2/301 im Wehrmachtseinsatz  
Glückstadt

From October, 1944, for the purpose of uniformity, all mail to units with open addresses bore the notation "im Wehrmachteinsatz", but mail made out in accordance with the regulation of March, 1944, was not to be questioned by the Reichspost.<sup>7</sup> The final step was taken in March, 1945, when free franking concessions were given to all male members of the RAD, since they were receiving basic military training, and to all female members in the service of the Luftwaffe. Official agencies of the womens' RAD were also given Feldpost privileges. However, offices of the female RAD in land service and women in the Kriegshilfsdienst who were not attached to military units, were still ineligible.<sup>8</sup>

By September, 1944, there were 137 Abteilungen (battalions, but really of company size, about one hundred and fifty men each) of the RAD with Feldpost numbers. In addition, the higher RAD agencies were also given numbers for use in Feldpost correspondence.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Feldpostamtsblatt, 79/1944, 18 August 1944, p. 40.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 114/1944, 27 October 1944, p. 53.

<sup>8</sup> Amtsblatt des Reichspostministerium, 87/1945, 27 März 1945, p. 67.

<sup>9</sup> Feldpost Übersicht, Teil III, Band 7, 11 Neudruck, Stand vom 12.9.1944, p. 133 ff.

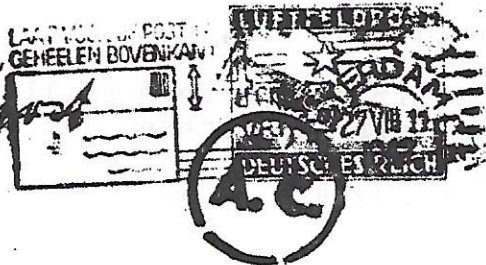
Note: The first two pages of this RAD article appeared as pages 15 and 16 in the last TRSG Bulletin Jan. 1971. Since this was a continued series of articles which would eventually be included in the Feldpost Handbook, I thought it practical to repeat two pages at this time.

Many articles, appearing in earlier issues of this Bulletin, pertain to the Feldpost, and will be incorporated in this handbook at a later date. But for the moment, I would like to present material that we have not yet had in print in this Bulletin.

Note: Beginning in 1940, some RAD units used Feldpost numbers and town names combined:

Arbeitsmann  
Richard Spalteholz  
Feldpostnummer 26355  
Kölmersdorf Krs.Lyck/Ostpr.

*Luftfeldpost*



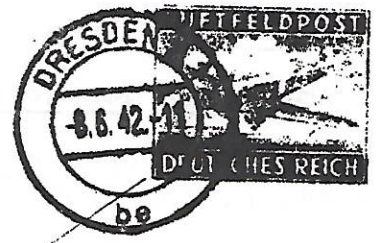
*an  
Herrn*

*an  
H. H. H. Fahrer*

*Feldpost 25135*

An Amsterdam post office processed this cover, addressed to a member of the NSKK. (A.c., German censor marking).

Luft - Feldpost



Herrn

Heereshauptwerkmeister H.

Feldpost Nr. 19832

Cover addressed to "Heereshauptwerkmeister H. ....", possibly a member of the RAD.

PART IV  
COMPONENTS OF THE WEHRMACHT  
SECTION 8

NATIONALSOZIALISTISCHE KRAFTFAHR-KORPS

HISTORY:

This organization (the name of which is usually abbreviated to NSKK) was formed in 1930 as an arm of the Nazi Party, but it did not assume importance until after the decline of the Storm Troopers. The NSKK was designed to give motorized training to Nazi Party members and to give transportation support to Party undertakings. When war came, large numbers of NSKK units were mobilized to serve with the armed forces. NSKK men were truck drivers and performed other roles behind the lines. Many NSKK units were attached to the Luftwaffe, while a number of others worked closely with Organization Todt, the civilian construction agency that carried out major projects for the Wehrmacht.

HISTORICAL SOURCES:

Alfred Vagts, "The Nazi Motor Transportation Corps", Infantry Journal, LIII (September, 1943), 50-3; Army Service Forces Manual M356-2G. Civil Affairs Handbook: Germany. Section 2G: Technical and Economic Troops in Occupied Europe. January 19, 1944, pp. 26-7

POSTAL HISTORY:

NSKK Feldpost mail falls into several categories. Units and their members had full franking privileges and used either Feldpost numbers or open addresses. NSKK men attached to the Luftwaffe sometimes used Feldpost numbers with an "L" prefix. Behind the lines in the occupied territories, where Deutsche Dienstpost nets existed, NSKK men were given SS-Feldpost privileges, if their units had open addresses. For example, the NSKK Verherkompanie in Alsace-Lorraine and Luxemburg enjoyed this privilege briefly in 1941,<sup>1</sup> and NSKK units and their members in the Eastern Occupied Territories (Bialystok, Galicia, the Ostland, and the Ukraine) received SS-Feldpost privileges late in 1941.<sup>2</sup> Even covers with Feldpost numbers can easily be identified, for Storm Trooper ranks were used by NSKK men. These were: Sturmmann, Rottenführer, Scharführer, Oberscharführer, Truppführer, Obertruppführer, Sturmführer, Oberstaffelführer, Standartenführer, and Obergruppenführer. Some of these are similar to SS ranks, but of course lack the SS runes. Often, the letters "NSKK" were used as a prefix to these ranks. Foreigners served in the NSKK; so letters addressed to and from various European countries and NSKK personnel exist.

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Feldpostamtsblatt, 19/1941, 3 März 1941, p.10; Ibid., 65/1941, p. 35.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 98/1941, 25 November 1941, p. 55.

PART IV  
COMPONENTS OF THE WEHRMACHT  
SECTION 10

ORGANIZATION TODT

HISTORY:

This formation consisted of civilian engineers and construction workers operating under military orders. Its origins lay in the mobilization of thousands of men during the construction of the "Westwall" in 1938. The German element included both individuals and entire firms that were called up. During World War II, the composition of Organization Todt changed rapidly. The number of Germans fell to a relatively small percentage, and their places were taken by men recruited and/or conscripted in other European countries. Initially, Organization Todt members did not wear uniforms, but as the German complement was restricted more and more to supervisory duties, it was given the right to do so. While for the most part members of Organization Todt were not armed, there were some guard and police formations. Organization Todt received its name from Dr. Fritz Todt, German Minister of Munitions. After his death in 1942, Albert Speer was given charge of Organization Todt, and in a few cases, individual units were named for him.

HISTORICAL SOURCES:

Alfred Vagts, "Organization Todt", The Infantry Journal, LII (June, 1943), 48-53; Army Service Forces Manual M356-2G. Civil Affairs Handbook: Germany. Section 2G Technical and Economic Troops in Occupied Europe. January 19, 1944, pp. 8-17.

CREDITS:

My inquiries about Organization Todt resulted in several people writing me with information. This data helped me considerably in developing the very brief historical sketch above. Members of the Third Reich Study Group who responded to my plea for assistance were: R.M.A. Hirst, Edgar B. Rodgers, George E. Kuhn, and Robert Kresbaugh.

POSTAL HISTORY:

Special regulations were not needed to extend Feldpost privileges to members of Organization Todt, because they were eligible under general directives. Hence, there is no information concerning mail sent to and from members of Organization Todt in the Feldpost records available to the author, except one relevant order dating from 1945. In accordance with this directive, offices, members of, and civilians attached to Transportkorps Speer operating under military control, received Feldpost privileges. Individuals had either to be with a unit bearing a Feldpost number or in a unit with open address and separated from their families and provided with billets and rations by their unit.<sup>1</sup>

Foreigners in Organization Todt participated in the postal agreements between Germany and all the European countries. Thus, it is possible to find free franked mail with postmarks from the Netherlands,



## Part IV, Section 10, OT, continued.

France and other nations, addressed to members of Organization Todt, and Feldpost letters from Organization Todt workers at the front, addressed to foreign countries. Mail can be recognized in several ways. First, occasionally one finds covers showing unit seals with the words: "Organization Todt". Second, Organization Todt units received Feldpost numbers. If one has the appropriate lists of numbers, covers may be identified. Third, one can sometimes tell by the addresses or return addresses. The absence of a military rank is an excellent clue. Moreover, Organization Todt workers sometimes used the name of their trade or their job title in front of their names.

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Amtsblatt des Reichspostministerium, 60/1945, 27 Februar 1945, p.45.

NOTE: Mr. Beede stated in the above paragraph, that there have been covers found showing unit seals (Briefstempel) with the words "Organization Todt". These are the usual 34mm single circle hand stamp with the eagle in the center and the unit designation around the inside of the circle. Another type of unit seal has been noted with the inscription "...O. T. Oberbauleitung Polen..."

The extent of Dr. Todt's influence and the scope of his involvements is exemplified in the following two paragraphs taken from Albert Speer's "Inside the Third Reich", page 233.....

"At the breakfast table in the Führer's headquarters there was lively discussion of who could possibly be considered for Dr. Todt's successor. (due to Todt's death). Everyone agreed that he was irreplaceable. For he had held the positions of three ministers. Thus, he had been the supreme head of all road building operations (e.g. builder and creator of the autobahns. ed.), in charge of all navigable waterways and improvements on them, as well as of all power plants. In addition, as Hitler's direct envoy, he was Minister of Armaments and Munitions. Within the framework of Görings Four-Year Plan he headed the construction industry and had also created the Todt Organization which was build the West Wall and the U-boat shelters along the Atlantic, as well as the roads in the occupied territories all the way from Northern Norway to southern France. Now he was also responsible for road building in Russia.

Thus in the course of the past several years Todt had gathered the major technical tasks of the Reich into his own hands. For the time being his operations were still nominally divided into various offices, but in essence he had set up the future technical ministry all the more so since he was entrusted, within the party organization, with the Head Office for Technology, whose scope included all technical societies and associations".

An excellent book for the student of Third Reich History is "Inside the Third Reich, Memoirs by Albert Speer"; translated from the German by Richard and Clara Winston. The Macmillan Company. Original edition published in Germany in 1969 under the title "Erinnerungen" by Verlag Ullstein GmbH. (Ed.)

## Part IV, Section 5, Waffen-SS, continued.

was somewhat academic. SS mail is always easily recognizable because members of the SS were allowed to use the SS runes in their addresses at all times, whether at the front or not.<sup>5</sup> Indeed, Himmler himself issued an order on August 11, 1941, that only SS ranks were to be used in Feldpost correspondence.<sup>6</sup> Errors did occur. So, it is quite possible to find covers bearing Feldpost numbers and the note "SS-Feldpost" and it is equally true that covers exist from SS units with open addresses without the required SS runes.

The postal autonomy of the Waffen-SS increased as of June 1, 1942. Up until that time, the SS-Feldpost System was subordinated to that of the army, but after that date came under the SSFHA rather than the Oberkommando der Heer. Monthly reports had to be submitted showing each unit's strength and both the open designation of the unit and its Feldpost number. These reports were classified secret. Further changes occurred in the course of the war. Civilian workers were given SS-Feldpost privileges, if working for the Waffen-SS, when they were outside of the Reich, Bohemia-Moravia, Alsace-Lorraine, and Luxemburg.<sup>8</sup> From July 1, 1943, Nachrichtenmädchen (woman signal auxiliary of the SS) were given Feldpost privileges, even when within the Reich.<sup>9</sup>

A word or two should be said about special segments of the Waffen-SS. Concentration camp guards often had special markings for use on their mail which included the name of the camp. Such a marking or an unambiguous reference to a camp in the return address is necessary evidence that a particular letter or card should be attributed to a concentration camp. The camps often had many training units near them as part of the complex that really had to do with the guard force. The Totenkopfstandarten (described as verstärken Polizei) received Feldpost privileges by virtue of a regulation of April 1940.<sup>10</sup> Still later, in May, 1940, they evidently received the right to use the marking: "SS-Feldpost".

1 Feldpostamtsblatt, 39/1940, 1 April 1940, p. 23.

2 Ibid., 44/1940, 12 April 1940, p. 27.

3 Ibid., 53/1940, 6 Mai, 1940, pp. 33-4.

4 Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1 August 1942, p. 9549.

5 Feldpostamtsblatt, 16/1940, 10 Februar 1940, p.11; Ibid., 58/1940, 31 Mai 1940, p. 38.

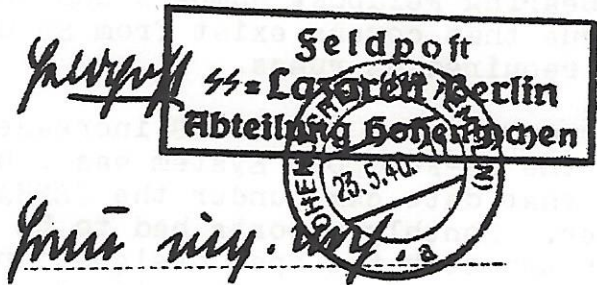
6 Helmut Krausnick et al., Anatomy of the SS State (N.Y.,1968),p.332.

7 Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1 August 1942, p. 9549.

8 Feldpostamtsblatt, 53/1943, 18 Mai 1943, p. 22.

9 Ibid., 77/1943, 9 Juli 1943, p. 33.

10 Ibid., 49/1940, 19 April 1940, p. 31.



Early Waffen-SS card clip with unusual Feldpost hand stamp incorporating name of town and military hospital.

44-Feldpost



Dachau 3 R.

An



die Staatsanwaltschaft  
 - Strafregister -

Freiburg i/Breisgau

Official cover from the administration of Dachau Concentration Camp.