



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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STUDY GROUP NOTES

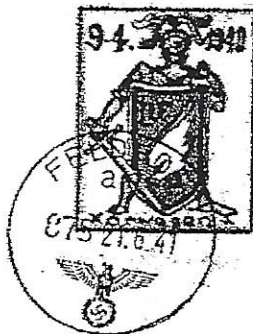
Dues are Due – With this fourth issue of the Bulletin for 2008, dues are now due and a renewal form is included herewith for those members not yet paid for 2009. While Secretary/Treasurer Bob Dunn held the line on dues for over a decade, recent postage and printing costs require us to increase dues as noted on your renewal application. Any member whose dues are not received by December 30, 2008 will be considered to have resigned and will be required to pay the new member fee of \$10.00 in addition to their dues. Please send your payments to Secretary/Treasurer **Robert Dunn, 3318 Running Cedar Way, Williamsburg, VA 23188**

German Feldpost Operations in the West - because the initial printing has finally been depleted, this TRSG handbook is no longer available. As most of our members interested in Feldpost already have a copy of the handbook, we cannot justify the cost of a reprinting.

Ye Olde Ed Moves South - This is to inform the membership that TRSG Editor Jim Lewis's new address is: 867 Monmouth Road, Cream Ridge, N.J. 08514. His new e-mail address is: trsg03@verizon.net

Corrections to Bulletin 168 - your editor, probably exhausted from packing boxes for the move south, made typos on the following pages. On page 9 **Routing** should read - "Breclav" (Czechoslovakia), not "Breslau". On page 19, all dates are "1939" not "1938". My apologies to author Bob Ferguson.

Norwegian Vignettes - Erik Lohrdahl, a TRSG member in Norway, is asking the membership for help in locating labels and vignettes used in Norway during the German occupation.



Cover Illustration: This postcard was mailed on Dec. 20, 1940 by a member of Fp.# 37360 (2 San. Kp. - Polizei Rgt. 3) was printed "Einkommen aus Soldatenblätter für Feier und Freizeit", herausgegeben vom OKW. The TRSG Staff wish all members a happy holiday season.

Waffen-SS Feldpost: Secret Mailing Address for Foreign Volunteers

by John Painter

The SS found it necessary to create a secret mailing in Vienna to enable foreign volunteers to conceal their SS membership from their neighbors back home. A special post office box was established with several clerks used to process the mail. Letters to the front would be addressed normally as the cover below shows, but no return address was put on the envelope. Instead, the letter was placed in a second envelope and mailed to Box 116, Wien 62 with normal postage via regular mail. In Vienna the clerk removed it from the outer envelope, put the Vienna box number on the back flap with a rubber stamp and sent it on its way via regular Feldpost channels. Note also the bank or "stumme" cancel used on the Airpost stamps. Mail being sent home was sent to Vienna where clerks put it into the civilian mails.



COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:
163rd Infantry Division
 by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
234	461	307	310	324	234	234

Formed January 1940 (7th Wave) from Brandenburgers and Prussians in Wehrkreis III. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 25282 as a return address and Kenn 461 as a coded identity in lieu of tactical FpA 234. The 163rd Infantry Division was sent to Norway three months later and suffered heavy losses in the initial attempt to capture the Norwegian capital. Most of the divisional staff and many of the men were killed when Norwegian coastal batteries sunk the heavy cruiser 'Blucher' south of Oslo.

The division spent the next year on garrison duty in Norway and joined Mountain Corps Norway for the invasion of Russia in June 1941. The 163rd fought in northern Russia and Finland for the next three years. In the winter of 1944-45 it withdrew to northern Norway after destroying the Kolosyoki Nickel Works. After the Lapland retreat the division was sent back across the Baltic and defended Kolberg, where it put up a desperate resistance. When the Russians finally stormed the city in March 1945 the 163rd Infantry Division was killed almost to the last man..



Cover sent to Military District Command in Berlin in February 1941 from Fp. # 22837 (2. Kp. Pionier Btl. 131) via division P.O. 234 (Kenn 461)

The Saar Plebiscite

by Bob Ferguson

By the Versailles treaty Saar was to be administrated by France under the League of Nations for fifteen years from 1920. After that time a plebiscite was to be held to determine whether Saar would remain French or return to Germany. The date of the Plebiscite was 13 January 1935 and the Reichspost played its part in the preparation for the voting. Two stamps (Michel #544-545) for the plebiscite were issued on 26. August 1934 and a total of ten cancels were used in the propaganda campaign leading up to the voting day.

Braunschweig # 23	Besucht die Ausstellung Deutsche Saar Braunschweig 14-28.10.34
Koblenz # 18	Saar-Treuekundgebung auf dem Ehrenbreitstein (used 26.10.34)
Mainz # 14	Saarbundgebung des NS-Hago Pfingsten 1934 in Mainz am Rhein
Rudesheim # 3	"Deutsch die Saar, immerdar" Saar-Kundgebung Niederwald
Rudesheim # 4	"Deutsch die Saar, immerdar" Saar-Kundgebung Niederwald
Karlsruhe # 19	Besucht am 22.u.23,Sept.den 2.sudwestdeutschen Heimattag/Baden-Pfalz-Saar
Zweibrucken # 2	Saarland Kundgebung 6. Mai 1934
Series # 158	Besucht die Ausstellung Deutsche Saar/Koln, 25.8.30.8
Series # 159	Besucht die Ausstellung Deutsche Saar/Koln, 25.8.30.8
Series # 161	Saar Abstimmung - 13. Januar.1935

On 13. January 1935 the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of return to Germany and Saar again became German on 1. March 1935. Four stamps (Michel #565-568) and a special cancel (Saarbrucken #4) commemorated this homecoming.

Fig. 1) Postcard with slogan cancel series # 161 on a Munich cancel date 6. November 1934.

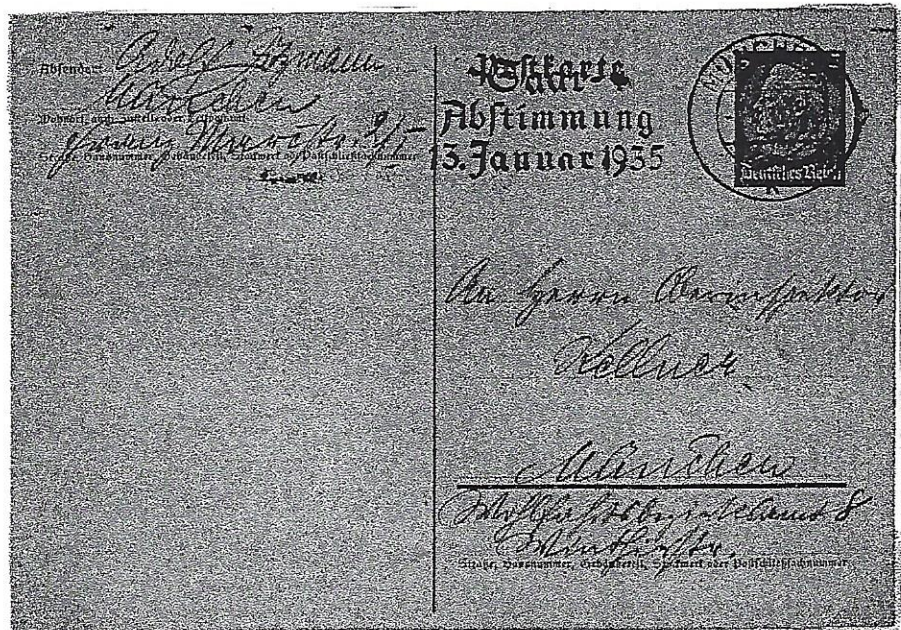
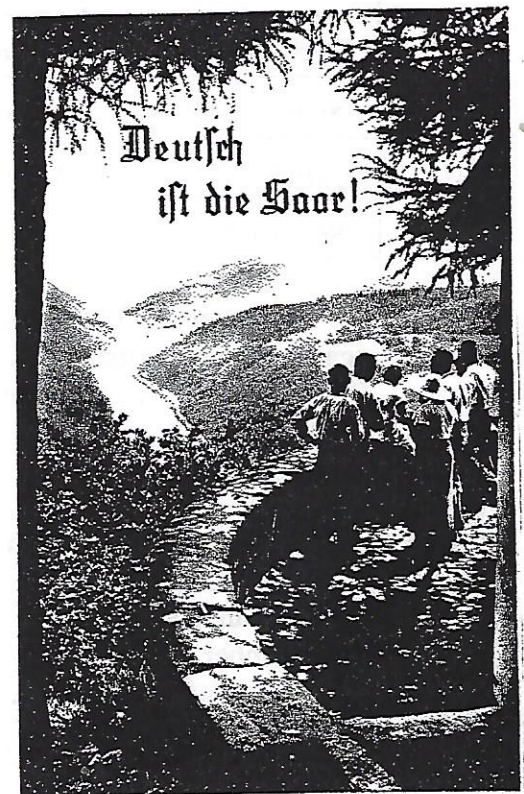


Fig. 2) Cover sent to Wiesbaden has the four "homecoming" stamps tied by special Saarbrücken slogan cancel dated 1. March 1935.



Figs. 3-5) There were attractive post cards from towns in the Saar proclaiming "The Saar is Free!" Cards below on left are from towns of Saarbrücken and Saarlouis while the card on right is a more general design.



COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

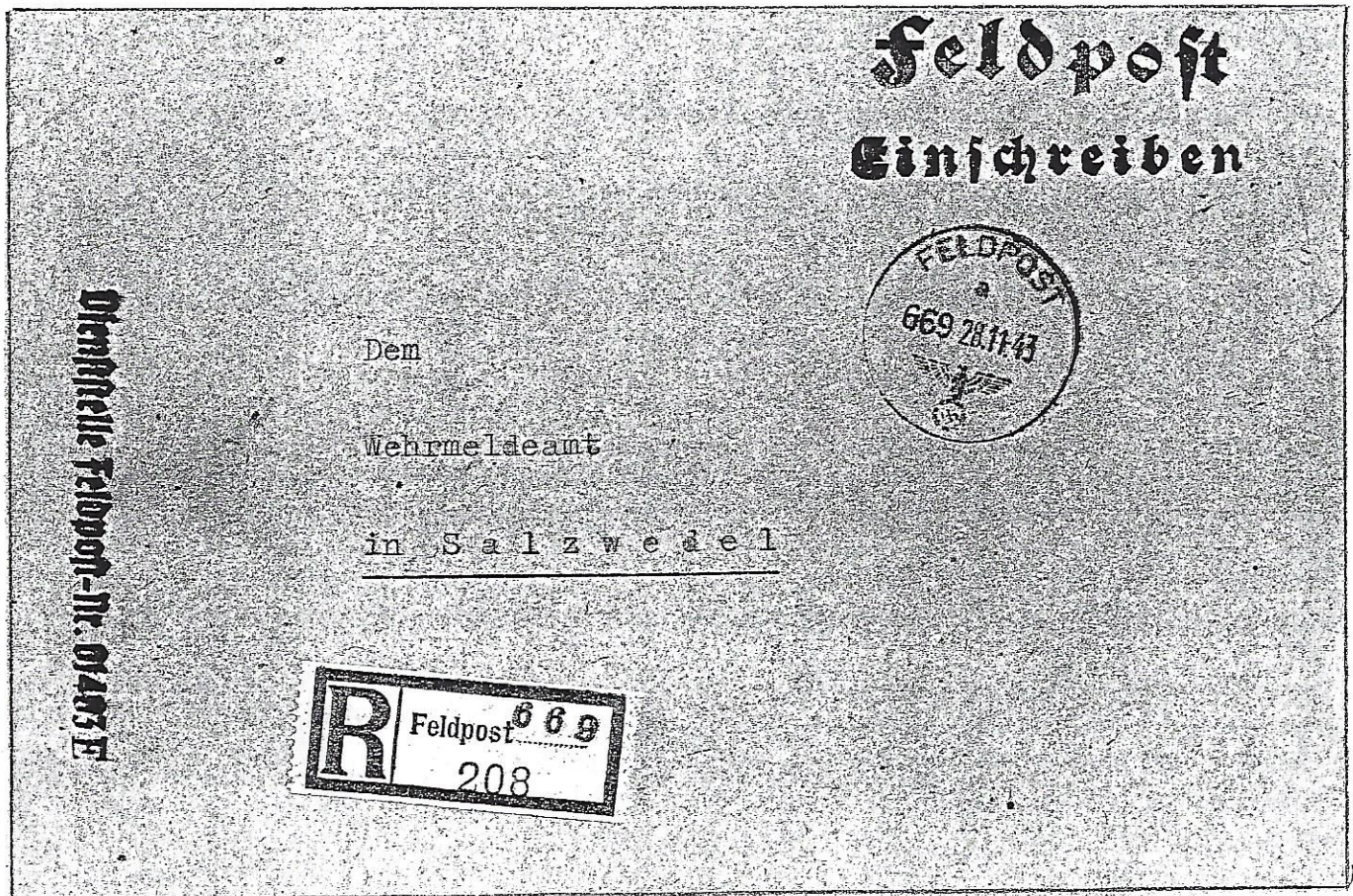
83rd Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
183	669	251	257	277	183

Formed upon mobilization in mid-1939 (5th Wave) with reservists from northern Germany, the P.O. was assigned Fp# 37443 and Kenn 669.

After fighting in Poland and France, the 83rd Infantry Division remained on occupation duty in France throughout 1941. It was transferred to the central sector of the Russian Front at the end of 1941 to help contain the Soviet winter offensive. The division was split into several emergency combat groups and was fully reunited for the next six months. After fighting in the defensive battles of Army Group Center in 1942, it was transferred to Army Group North in autumn 1943 where it remained for the rest of the war. It took part in the withdrawal from Leningrad, the Narva defensive battles, retreat through the Baltic States and six battles of the Courland Pocket. This veteran division surrendered to the Red Army in May 1945.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Salzwechel in November 1943 from Fp.# 01483 (schw. Artillerie Abteilung 768) via P.O. 183 (K-669).

Story Behind the Cancel:

Horst Wessel

by Ian Nutley

Horst Wessel is a name that, in many, evokes a hatred, due perhaps to his 'song' which, under Hitler, became Germany's second national anthem. It also provokes a measure of interest, for what is the truth about this man, and how did he meet his death? Was it, as Communist propaganda would have it, the result of a brawl in a brothel, where he was clubbed to death in a quarrel over one of the "working girls"? Or was there some truth in Nazi mythology which presented him as a hero killed by a member of the "Red Front" while protecting a National Socialist meeting? As usual the truth lies somewhere between the two. Horst Wessel was born in Bielefeld on September 9, 1907, the son of a prominent local pastor. Later the family moved to Berlin where, after a period as a law student, he joined the S.A. and became leader of the group based in the working class district of Friedrichshain. This is the role in which he is depicted on many of the propaganda post cards produced after his death.

In late 1929 he was sharing an apartment with his girl friend, Erna Jaenicke, who was indeed a member of "the world's oldest profession", and failing to pay the extra rent due for a double occupation. The landlady naturally wanted the full amount and, when Horst refused to pay, she asked a friend named Ali Höhler, who was a member of the Red Front's muscle squad, to persuade the S.A. man to pay up. The communist duly obliged and, on the evening of January 14, 1930, he confronted Wessel in the apartment and shot him in the mouth. It took him a month to die, time enough for Josef Goebbles to transform this squalid affair into the stuff of legend. The Party had not yet come to power but, declaring that Horst Wessel was a hero who had died at the head of his S.A. while combating an assault by militant communists, they gave him a full Nazi-style funeral with all the attendant honors. The communist contribution on the other hand was to turn up with an insulting sign describing Horst as "a pimp".

Earlier, Wessel had written a stirring marching song which he had hoped would be adopted as an S.A. hymn. His fondest hopes were exceeded as it became Germany's second national anthem and, to many Nazis the first. The first verse gives some idea of the impact of the lyrics:

"Die Fahne hoch, die Reihen dicht geschlossen!
SA marschiert mit ruhig festern Schritt.
Kam'raden, die Rotfront und Reaktion erschossen,
Marschieren in Geist in unsren Reihen mit."

The flags held high, the ranks stand tight together!
SA march on, with quiet, firm forward pace.
Comrades who, though shot by Red Front or Reaction,
Still march with us, their spirits in our ranks.

The Party avenged his death. Within a few days of Hitler's assumption of power, Höhler was taken from his prison cell, where he was serving a six year sentence, and murdered by S.A. men.

The only likeness of Horst Wessel to appear on philatelic material is to be found on the special cancellation used from January 30 to February 4, 1941 in Berlin NO 18 post office to commemorate the K.d.F. "Leistungsschau" (Progress Show) held during that week. The design is a portrait bust of Wessel in front of crossed swastika flags.



ED NOTE: a longer version of this article first appeared in News Sheet 116 of the Third Reich Study Group (U.K.) and this slightly shorter version is reprinted with their permission.

The Blue Division - Spain's Last Expeditionary Army

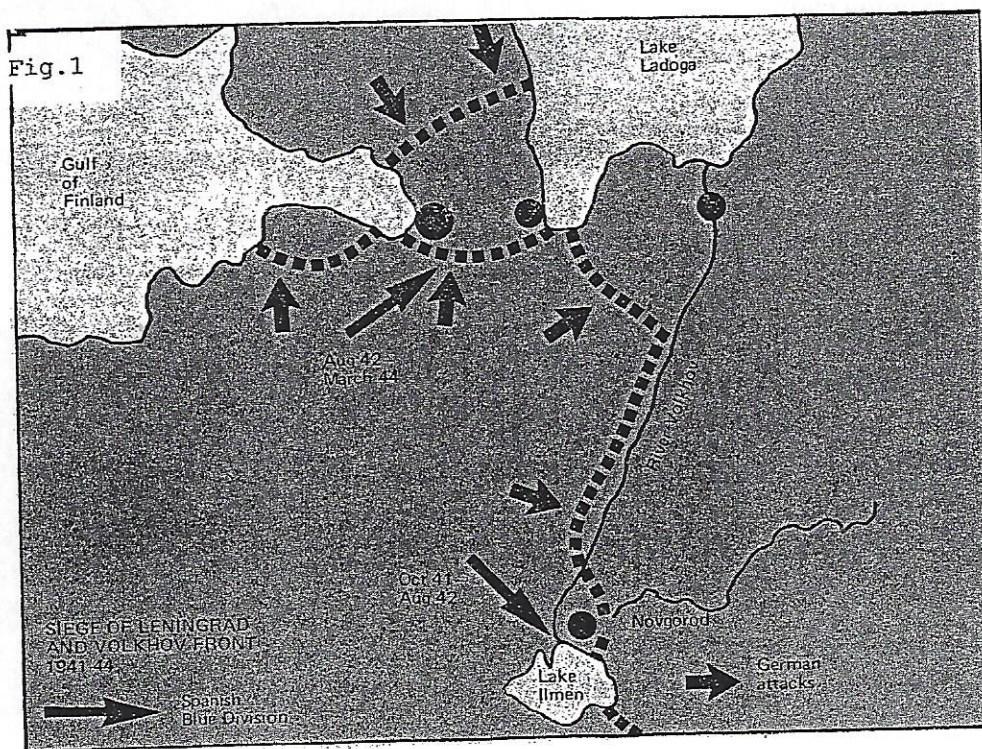
by John Walker

It is often assumed that since the fall of Napoleon the Spanish army has played no role in the major European wars. However, in the early hours of June 22, 1941, Germany launched 3 million troops against the Soviet Union's 5 million strong army and, in 1941-44 up to 45,000 Spanish troops fought in Russia as distinct units within both the German army and Luftwaffe. This gave rise to an interesting aspect of Spanish postal history.

There began in Spain a massive Falangist propaganda campaign in June 1941 with large demonstrations in the main cities in favor of Germany's attack on Russia. Franco did not declare war on the Soviet Union but decided instead that Spain should send a volunteer division to Russia to help the Germans. Between June 24 and July 2, 1941 recruiting offices opened in all the main towns. In places that had been Republican in the civil war, this was the first opportunity to "fight Communism" open to local Falangists. General Augustin Munoz Grandes was appointed division commander (he had been a cabinet minister in 1939/40 and later became Franco's deputy from 1962 to 1967). The officers were drawn from the regular Spanish forces but the enlisted men were civilian volunteers, including a few White Russian exiles.

These unarmed troops were assembled at various points in Spain and from 13 to 23 July traveled by train to Grafenwohr in Bavaria, where their blue Falangist uniforms were exchanged for standard German uniforms with a red and yellow shoulder patch inscribed 'Espana'. The 'Blue Division', the popular name for this force, was officially designated the 250th Infantry Division. In addition, and operating quite separately, was an air force detachment, the 'Blue Squadron', known officially as the 15 (Span) JG27 (later JG51) that operated with the Luftwaffe in central Russia.

On August 18, 1941 the Blue Division was formally incorporated into the Wehrmacht at Grafenwohr and on the next day began the long journey east. From early October 1941 to August 1942 the division was in the front line between Novgorod and Lake Ilmen in northern Russia, with headquarters at Grigorovo. Thereafter it was based in the outskirts of Leningrad which the Germans were then trying to capture. (See Fig. 1)

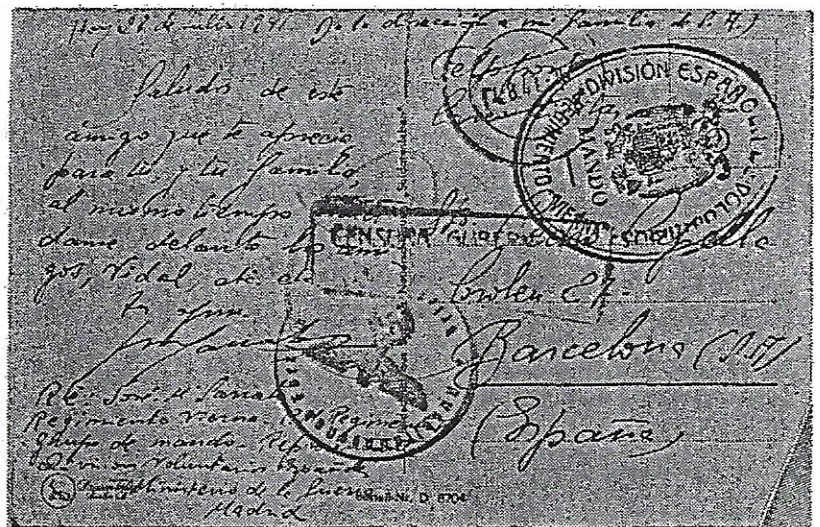


Beginning on October 7, 1943 the division was withdrawn from the front line prior to the repatriation of the bulk of the troops. However, the Spanish government allowed the Wehrmacht to establish a smaller 'Spanish Legion' of under 1500 ex-Blue Division members on October 20th. This legion had a short life in northern Russia and was recalled in March 1944. The last of its members returning to Spain on April 17, 1944.

The Blue Division had hospitals at Königsberg, Vilna, Hoff and Berlin, with offices in Berlin and Hoff and military police posts at the main transit points between the Spanish border and the Russian front. The policy was to relieve division members after one year's service. Thus the initial 17,046 men were replaced in the summers of 1942 and 1943 by about 15,000 men on each occasion.

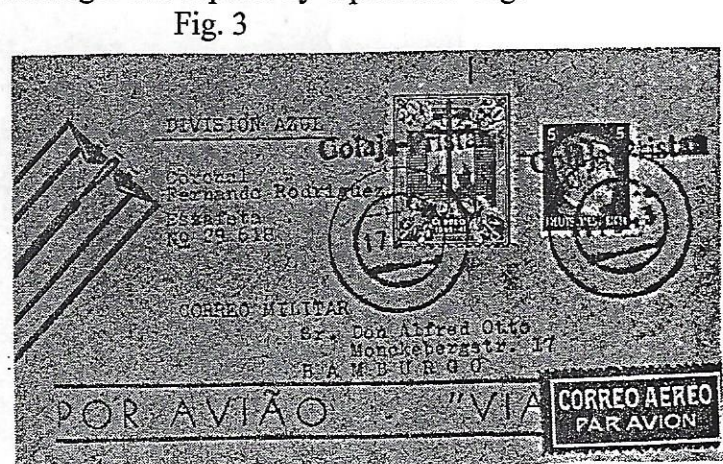
The Spanish forces in Russia did not use special stamps or produce 'philatelic' covers. Their postal needs were provided by the German Military Mail ('Feldpost') system. The division had its own feldpost office which functioned from August 19, 1941 and employed both German and Spanish personnel. In January 1944, after the division's remnants had become the Spanish Legion, the German personnel in the Feldpost office were formed into Feldpost Office 13 of the Waffen-SS.

Different postal arrangements prevailed during the brief period before August 19, 1941 when a special Spanish cachet was used by one of the Blue Division's three regiments. This cachet appears on a postcard (Fig. 2) sent to Barcelona from Germany on August 4, 1941. The sender gave his address as "c/o Representative of the Spanish Division of Volunteers, War Ministry, Madrid". While the division was assembling in Bavaria the mail received a training camp handstamp reading "Ausbildungsstabes Foerlich".



Another Spanish cachet found on mail to the division was that of the Spanish Embassy in Berlin. There was a weekly flight by a Spanish-piloted Junkers Ju 88 linking Berlin with both the HQ of the division and that of the squadron (operating a great distance apart), refueling at Riga and Königsberg and carrying some personnel, messages and reports by diplomatic bag.

Feldpost mail might well have been carried on this plane. The Feldpost numbers of the various units of the Blue Division that appear in the list that follows comes from Wehrmacht records but is not exhaustive. It does not include the numbers for the Escuadrilla Azul (Blue Squadron) for instance. The cover shown as Fig. 3 is dated February 17, 1943 bears a Spanish Anti-TB stamp of 1942 and a 5 Pfg. Hitler definitive. Both are tied by mute, circular date stamps and the name *Golaja Pristan* in purple. This town was near the Black Sea, some thousands of miles to the south of the Blue Division. It has been suggested that the



sender (Colonel Fernando Rodrigo, Fp.# 29618, Division Azul) might have been convalescing there or just visiting. The town, whose location is shown on the map in Fig. 4, was near the scene of some pretty ferocious post-Stalingrad fighting

Fig. 4

Another cover, shown as Fig. 5 is addressed to FP. # M20154 (the M prefix indicates a naval unit). It was posted from Spain in 1942 or 1943 and has a Berlin censor mark. I do not know what identification marks are peculiar to the Blue Squadron as opposed to the Division. Perhaps the rank of the sender or addressee would be a guide in the absence of any details concerning the allocation of individual Feldpost numbers? German Feldpost cancels dated as early as August 19, 1941 are known from mail sent to addresses in Spain. Such covers are often distinguished by the boxed 'Sp' cachet shown in Fig. 6, applied with a rubber handstamp in red or black, or with the same mark in manuscript as shown in Fig. 7.

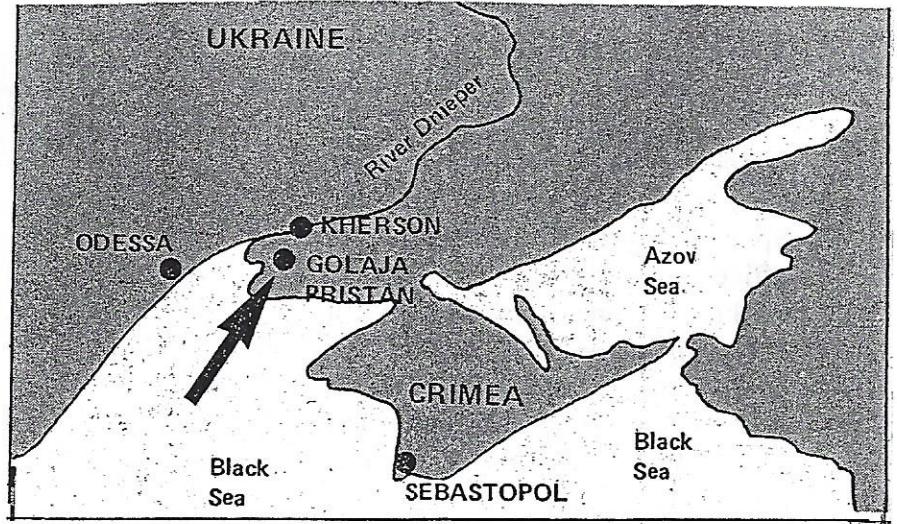


Fig. 5

Fig. 6

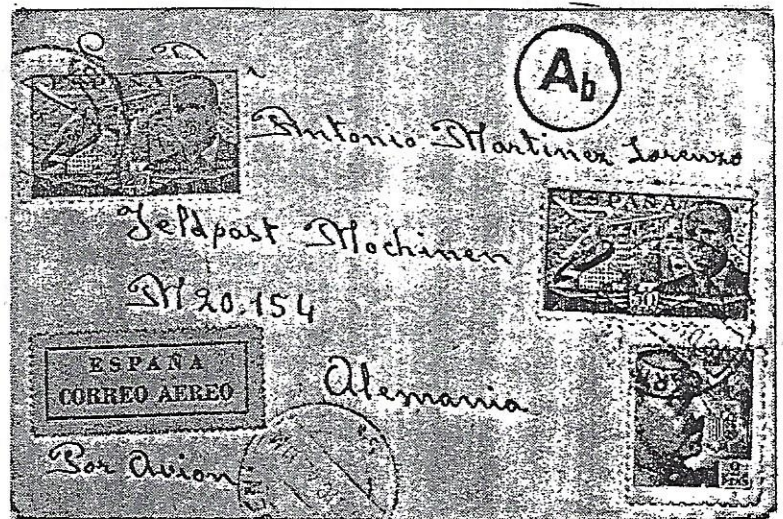
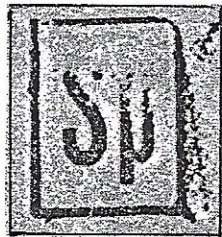
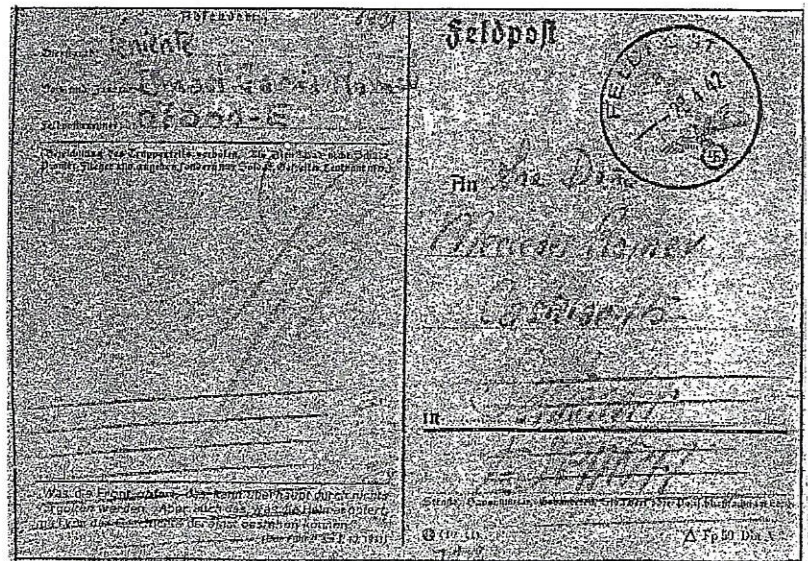


Fig. 7

This was often done (as here) in red crayon and various forms of lettering were used. The Feldpost card shown as Fig. 7 was posted to an address in Santander on April 28, 1942 by a Spanish soldier serving with Battalion I of Infantry Regiment 262 and using Fp. # 07800. This unit was then fighting on the Leningrad front.

Special postal stationery for the Division is rarely seen but the cover shown as Fig. 8 bearing the printed inscription "DIVISION/ ESPANOLA DE VOLUNTARIOS/ SANIDAD MILITAR /JEFE" indicates that official stationery existed, at least for some units



After mid-1942 many covers bear the blue German Luftfeldpost concession stamp showing a Junkers JU 52/3 aircraft. The provision of a regular airmail service shortened transit time for mail from the Russian Front to Spain from 18 to 34 days to as little as 10 days. From May 1943 each soldier received four Luftfeldpost stamps a month, two of them were to be sent to those at home in Spain. In the main Spanish post offices special boxes were set up for mail to the front. These were inscribed "Correspondence for Spanish Volunteers in Germany". Mail bearing Spanish stamps along with the airmail stamp

were posted in these boxes. I have not seen any such covers myself but have seen a photocopy in a private study of Blue Division mail prepared in Germany by Herr B. Belisend. Spanish censor marks on Blue Division mail only became the norm after June 1942 but German censor transit marks were applied in the Berlin censor office using circular "Ab" handstamps.

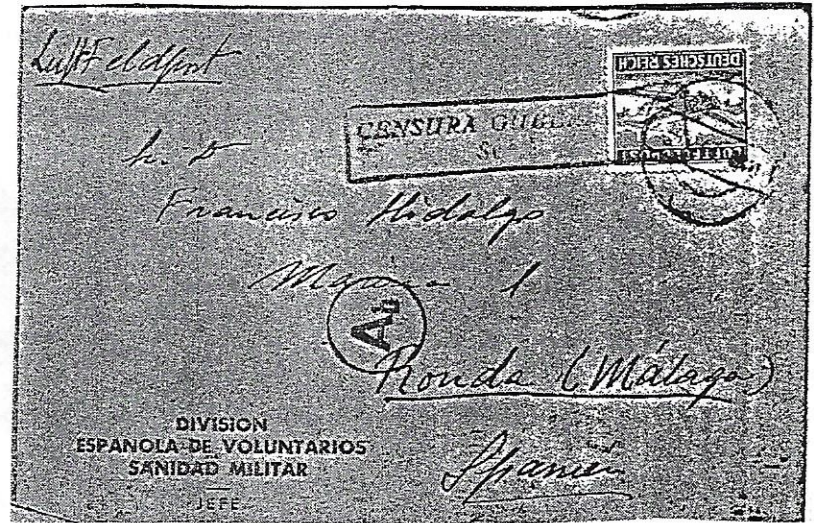


Fig. 8

There were three campaign medals struck for the Division. The Germans produced one inscribed 'DIVISION ESPANOLA DE VOLUNTARIOS EN RUSIA' showing, on the obverse, a helmet, Falange arrows and a swastika. In November 1943 the Spanish War Office awarded a silver medal to ex-Division members showing, on one side, the Spanish eagle with a black iron cross in the center and, on the reverse, an outline of the Kremlin over the inscription 'RUSIA 1941'. Finally, the province of Ciudad Real produced a bronze, cross-shaped medal with the Falange emblem superimposed on the provincial arms on one side and a fighting man on the other. All these medals have ribbons with different combinations of red, yellow, white and black, bringing together the national colors of Spain and Germany.

Feldpost Numbers of the 250. Infantry Division (Span.) "Blue Division"

Division Stab	00190	Kp. 13	06939
Verbindungsstab mit FpA 250	43700	Kp. 14	07648
Feldgendarmerie-Truppe 250	43089	Inf. Rgt. 263, Stab	12747
Feldersatz-Battalion 250	31194	Btl. I u. Kp. 1-4	14929
Feldzeitung "Hoja de Campagna"	23980	Btl. II u. Kp. 5-8	15303
Inf. Rgt. 262, Stab (bis 12.43)	05896	Btl. III u. Kp. 9-12	15997
(ab 12.43)	04368	Kp. 13	13704
Btl. I u. Kp. 1-4	07800	Kp. 14	14117
Btl. II u. Kp. 5-8	09452	Inf. Rgt. 269 (bis 12.43)	16397
Btl. III u. Kp. 9-12	11371	(ab 12.43)	04016

Btl. I u. Kp. 1-4/I. R. 269	18125	Nachschubfuhrer 250, Stab	31949
Btl. II u. Kp. 5-8	18880	1. Kraftwagen-Kolonne	32645
Btl. III u. Kp. 9-12	19101	2. Kraftwagen-Kolonne	32966
Kp. 13	16943	3. Kraftwagen-Kolonne	33547
Kp. 14	17451	4. Fahr-Kolonne	34339
Artillerie Regiment 250, Stab	23863	5. Fahr-Kolonne	34927
Abtl. I	24101	6. Fahr-Kolonne	35295
Abtl. II	24945	7. Fahr-Kolonne	35871
Abtl. III	25592	8. Fahr-Kolonne	36501
Abtl. IV	26341	9. Fahr-Kolonne	36917
Aufklarungs-Abteilung 250, Stab	19798	10. Fahr-Kolonne	37176
Kp. 1	20045	Kraftwagenwerkstatt-Zug	37837
Kp. 2	20796	Nachschub Kp. 250	38457
Panzer-Jager Abteilung 250, Stab	21913	Verpflegungsamt 250	42413
Kp. 1	22379	Backerei -Kp. 250	41953
Kp. 2	22800	Schlachtereier-Kp. 250	41317
Kp. 3	23558	1.Sanitats-Kompanie 250	38936
Pionier-Battalion, Stab	26994	2.Sanitats-Kompanie 250	39149
Kp. 1	27303	Feldlazarett 250	39576
Kp. 2	27938	1. Krankenkraftwagen-Zug	39887
Kp. 3	28557	2. Krankenkraftwagen-Zug	40159
Pionier Kolonne 250, Stab	28967	Spanisches Kreigslaz. Riga	14105
Nachrichten-Abteilung. 250, Stab	29341	Spanisches Kreigslaz. Wilna	46630
Kp. 1	29908	Genesungsheim "Blaue Div."	38396
Kp. 2	30901	Veterinar-Kompanie 250	40883
Kolonne	30901	Feldpostamt 250	43700

ED NOTE: This article, first printed in "Stamps" magazine in September 1981, then reprinted in the TRSG (U.K.) News Sheet in December 2001 is published here with their permission. The Feldpost numbers noted in Figs. 3 and 7 are not Spanish units. Fp. #26618 (Fig. 3) is Pionier Kompanie 355 while M20154 (Fig. 7) is a naval unit, 3. Vorposten Flotille. Also, the military units are listed in German rather than English because I think it looks better. Ye Olde Ed.

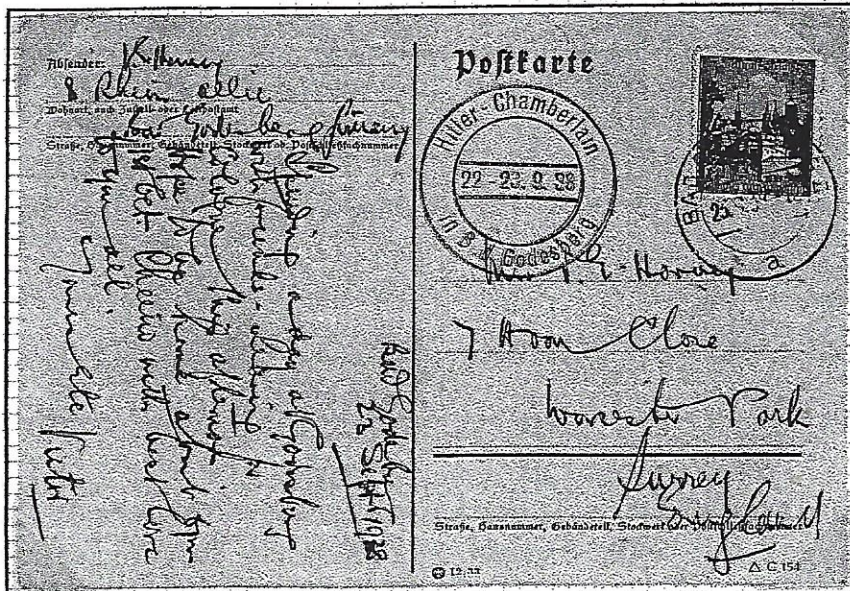
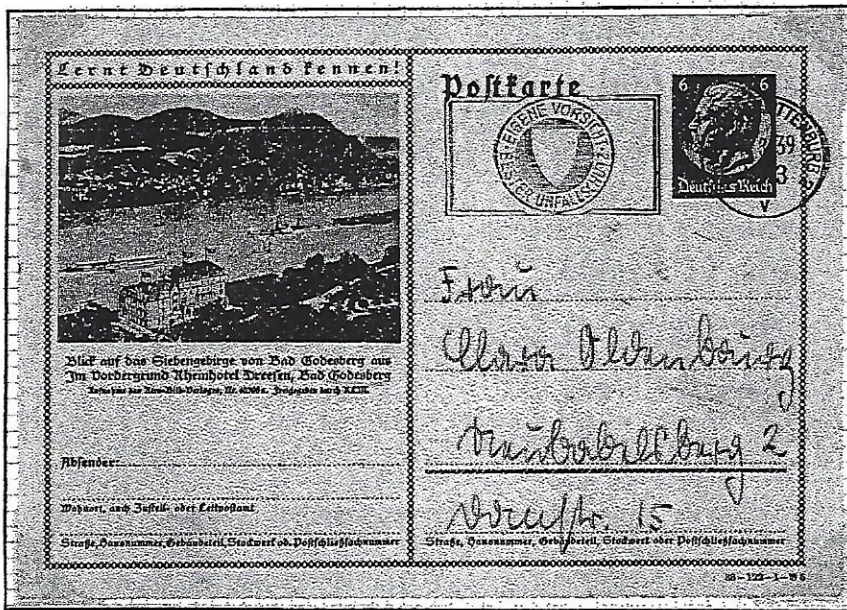
The Second Meeting on the Sudetenland Question

by Bob Ferguson

The second meeting of Führer Adolf Hitler and British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain on the "Sudetenland question" took place at Bad Godesberg on 22-23 September 1938.

Shown below is a picture postcard (top) showing in foreground the Hotel Dressen in Bad Godesberg.. This was the site of the meeting between Hitler and Chamberlain.

The postal card (bottom) sent to England has the cachet: "Hitler-Chamberlain in Bad Godesberg 22.-23. 9.38"



COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

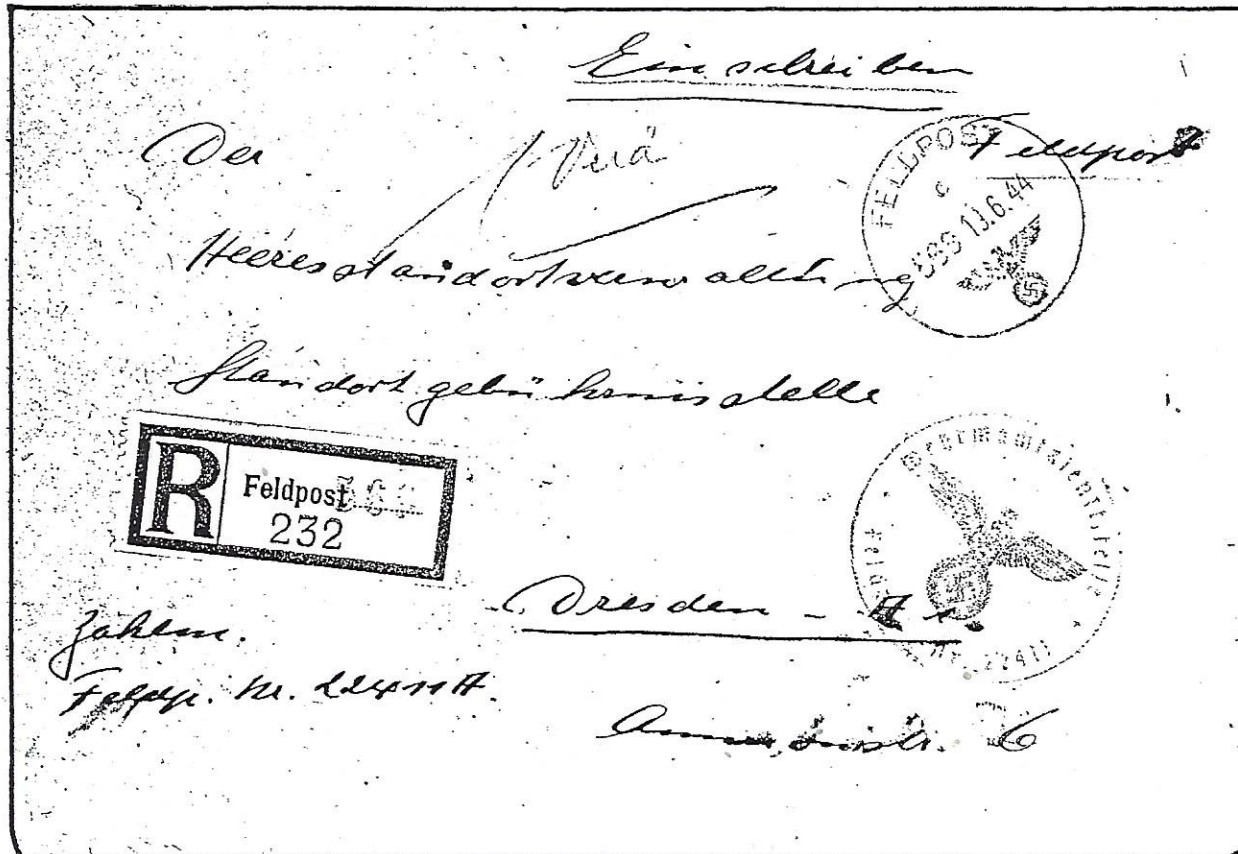
260th Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
260	569	460	470	480	260

The 260th Infantry division was one of several divisions formed from men serving in reserve units during the general mobilization of 1939. Personnel came from the Baden and Württemberg areas. The 260th Infantry Division post office was assigned Fp. # 32489 as a mailing address and Kenn 569 as a coded identification in lieu of its tactical number 260. It was sent to the central sector of the Eastern Front in July 1941, shortly after the invasion began, and was heavily and almost continuously engaged until the Soviet winter offensive of 1941-42 petered out. It remained with Army Group Center throughout its career. It fought in the defensive battles of 1942.

It took part in the Rzhev withdrawal and then in the battles around Smolensk and at Gomel in the fall of 1943. In the spring of 1944 the 260th Infantry Division was under XXVII Army Corps manning defensive positions near Minsk. On June 22, 1944 the 260th Infantry Division was among the bulk of 4th Army surrounded and destroyed at Minsk. Its commander, Major General Klammt, was taken prisoner.



Cover sent to Garrison Office at Dresden in June 1944 from Fp. # 22411 (Battalion IV/Artillery regiment 260) via Field P.O. 260 (K-569).

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 333rd Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
333	653	679	680	681	333	333

Formed January 1941 (14th Wave) in Wehrkreis III, this division consisted mainly of Poles in German service. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 45425 as a return address and Kenn 653 as a coded identity in lieu of tactical FpA 333. Upon completion of training, the 333rd Infantry Division was sent to southwest France in May 1941 and then transferred to Brittany the following year.

Sent to southern Russia in early 1943, the 333rd Infantry Division fought in the Donets battles as part of 1st Panzer Army. However, by Autumn 1943 the division had suffered so many casualties that it was subsequently disbanded.

On November 17, 1943 the former post office was transferred to a new 278th Infantry Division forming in Belgium. There former FpA 333 was designated FpA 878 but retained the same Fp.# 45425 and K-653. Upon completion of training the 278th Infantry Division was transferred to the Italian Front for the remainder of the war.



Cover sent to Military District HQ in Berlin in July 1942 from Fp. # 22181 (Stab II/Grenadier Regiment 681) via division P.O. 333 (Kenn 653).

P.O.W. Camp Covers from a Polish Officer

by Bob Ferguson

The following are six P.O.W. covers from a larger correspondence of Polish officer Erwin Malanek who was taken prisoner by the Germans during the Fall of 1939. The items cover a time period of nearly five years from November 27, 1939 to July 12, 1944 and were written from four different prisoner of war camps:

Oflag IV-C - Colditz

Oflag II-A - Osterode

Oflag II-E - Neubrandenburg

Oflag II-D - Gross-Born

I don't read Polish, but if any of our members do, please let Ye Olde Editor know and I'll be glad to provide copies.

Gefangenlager: Oflag IV - C (Colditz)

Fig. 1) A pre-printed form card sent to Warsaw on Nov. 27, 1939 states that he is in good health and has been confined at a German P.O.W. facility. He may receive mail sent to the address in the lower left corner of the front and will write soon. Note the 1-line date stamp in upper right corner on front.

Oflag IV C
6
Oflag IV C
S. H.
SEP 11 1939
Gebührenfrei!

Kriegsgefangenenpost 27.11.39

An: *W. M. Malanek*

Absender: *Erwin Malanek*
Vor- und Zuname:
Gefangenennummer:
Nummer der Lager-Erkennungsmarke:
Oflag IV C *Saalklaus*
Deutschland (Allemagne)

Empfangsort: *Warszawa*
Strasse: *Brodyńska 17*
Land: *Polen*
Landesteil (Provinz usw.):

Fig. 2) A pre-printed form card sent to Warsaw on March 23, 1940 acknowledges receipt of a parcel that arrived in good condition. Note that the date stamp has been superceded by a mute ("stumme")cancel.

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Postkarte

Oflag IV C
6
Oflag IV C
S. H.
MÄR 23 1940
Gebührenfrei!

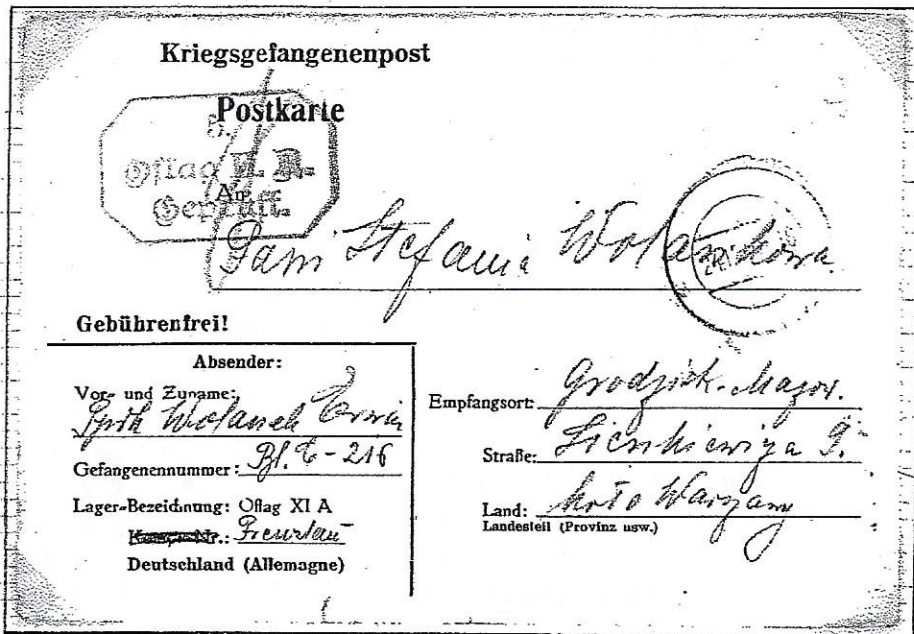
An: *W. M. Malanek*

Absender: *Erwin Malanek*
Vor- und Zuname:
Gefangenennummer: *Saalklaus*
Lager-Bezeichnung: Oflag IV C
Deutschland (Allemagne)

Empfangsort: *Warszawa 32*
Strasse: *Brodyńska 17*
Land: *Polen*
Landesteil (Provinz usw.):

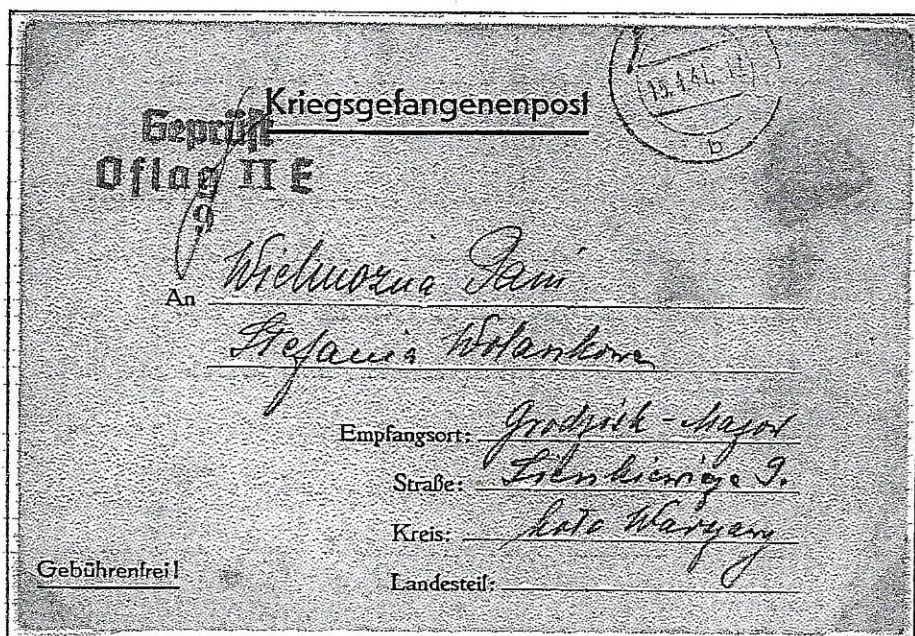
Gefangenlager: Oflag II - A (Osterode)

Fig. 3) Malanek was transferred to the camp in Osterode in December 1940 . This card was sent to Stefanie Wolenkowa in Grodzisk Majowiecki (District Warsaw) on December 24, 1940. Note the eight-sided camp censor mark and new "Gefangennummer" (prisoner number) C-216 in return address.



Gefangenlager: Oflag II - E (Neubrandenburg)

Fig. 4) Malanek had another transfer in early 1941 as reflected in this form letter-sheet sent to Stefanie Wolenkowa in Grodzisk Majowiecki (District Warsaw) on April 15, 1941. Note the 2-line camp censor mark "Geprüft/Oflag II E" and notation "Gebührenfrei!" (Free of charge) in lower left corner.



Gefangenenlager: Oflag II - E (Neubrandenburg)

Fig. 5) Malanek was still in Oflag II E in early 1942 as shown on this form post card sent to Stefanie Wolenkowa in Grodzisk Majowiecki on February 2 1942. Note that Malanek was given a different "Gefangennummer" (prisoner number) BII-3 as shown in his return address. He has added written "Neubrandenburg" above "Deutschland (Allemagne)"

Kriegsgefangenenpost
Postkarte
 An: Wielmożna Pani
Stefania Wolankowa

3.2.42-18

Gebührenfrei

Absender:
 Vor- und Zuname: Spirk Wolanek Terwin
 Gefangennummer: BII-3
 Lager-Bezeichnung: Oflag II E
Neubrandenburg
Deutschland (Allemagne)
(Wehrb.)

Empfangsort: Grodzisk Majow
Straße: Lienkiewicza 9
Land: Katowice
 Landesteil (Provinz, usw.):

Gefangenenlager: Oflag II - D (Gross Born)

Fig. 6) Malanek was transferred to yet another camp as shown on this form letter sheet sent to Stefanie Wolenkowa on July 12, 1944. Note ornate triangle in a box camp censor mark with examiner number 24.

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Oflag II D
 24

An: Wielmożna Pani
Stefania Wolankowa

Empfangsort: Grodzisk Majow
 Straße: Lienkiewicza 9
 Kreis:
 Landesteil: Katowice

Gebührenfrei

Special Cancels: Wine Cancels

by Bob Ferguson

These cancels were used by towns involved in the wine industry. The cancel numbering scheme is in Julius Bochmann's work "**Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel**".

Assmannschausen # 3	Rheinromantik Weinfrohlichkeit (used: 1938-1941)
Auggen # 1	Grosster Weinart des Markgrafterlandes (used: 1934-1937)
Bensheim # 2	an der Bergstrasse Die Stadt der Blumen und des Weines (used:1937- 1938)
Bernkastel # 1	Die Heimat des Doktorweins (used:1938 - 1944)
Bockenheim # 1	Weinfest der Deutschen Weinstrasse (used: 16-18 Oct. 1937, 15-17 Oct. 1938)
Bodenheim # 1	Weinbau seit 756 (used:1934-1937)
Bodenheim # 2	Qualitats Rheinwein-Weinbau seit 756 (used: 1941-1944)
Bonnigheim # 1	Das altertumliche Weinstadtchen (Used: 1932-1936)
Bonnigheim # 2	Das altertumliche Weinstadtchen (Used: 1937)
Bonnigheim # 3	Altertumliche Weinstadtchen (used: 1938-1945)
Boppard # 3	Boppard am Rhein/Berge Tolar Walder und Wein (used:1938-1941)
Dienheim # 1	bekannt durch edle Weine (used: 1938-1941)
Durchroth # 1	1000 Jahr altes bedeutendes Weindorf in der Nordpfalz (used: 1938-1941)
Ehrenstetten # 1	Bekannter Weinort, Heimat des berühmten en Oelberger Weines (used: 1935)
Eltville # 2	am Rhein Stadt des Weines und der Rosen in Rheingau (used:1936- 1937)
Endingen # 1	Die uralte Weinstadt (used: 1936-1939)
Endingen # 2	Kralter Weinort (used: 1939-1942)
Fellbach # 1	Wein-u Gartenbau (used: 1936-1938)
Fellbach # 2	Wein-u Gartenbau (used: 1942-1945)
Forst/Pfalz # 1	ier wachsen. Edelweine der Weinstrasse (used: 1938-1941)
Freinsheim # 1	Gute Besugsquelle fur Obst und Wein (used: 1935-1936)
Gau-Altgesheim # 1	Wein seit 766/Obst Spargel (used:1937-1945)
Grevenmachher # 2	Weinbau an der Obermosel (used:1943-1944)
Hagnau # 1	Weinbau - Sommerfrische (used:1942-1945)
Heilbronn # 9	1. Reichstagung des deutschen Weinbanes 22-29 August 1937
Hochheim # 1	die schone und berühmte Weinstadt, weltbekannt auch durch ihren Sekt (used: 1935-1938)
Ihringen # 1	Grossier Weinbanort/Badens Qualitatsweine (used: 1933-1936)
Ihringen # 2	Grossier Weinbanort/Badens, Edelweine (used: 1937-1943)
Ingelfingen # 1	Kur-u-Badeort/Edelweinbau/Heilbad fur magen, Darm, Calle u.s. (used:1937-1945)
Iphofen # 1	Frankens bernhmter Wein/Berg (used: 1938-1941)
Kappelrodeck # 1	Badischer Schwarzwald Weinbau Spatburgunder (used: 1935-1937, 1943-1945)
Kaub # 3	Kauber Schiefer/Kauber Wein (used: 1936-1941)
Kinheim # 1	Kinheimer Wein wie Rosenduft feint (used: 1937-1941)
Klingenberg # 2	schones Wein-u-fremdenstadtchen (used: 1939-1945)
Kreuznach # 7	Internationaler Weinbaukongress/21.-30.August 1938 (used:21-30 August 1939)
Krou # 1	Schon Pippin der Kleine tran gern Krover Weine (used: 1937-1940)
Langenlonsrhein # 1	ausgedehnter Weinbau mit vorzuglichen Gewachsen (used: 1938-1941)
Longuich #1	Uraltes Weindorf, haut edlen Wein Herrenerg-Probstberg trinken sich feint
Lubeck # 7	Luebeck und seine Ratweine (machine cancel used:1933-1934)
Meersburg # 2	weinfrohe Burgenstadt (used 1937-1944)

Mainz # 17	Mainzer Weinmarkt 29.Aug.-1. Sept. (Machine cancel used:1936)
Meissen # 6	1000 Jährige Stadt Keramik-Weinbau (used: 1944-1945)
Mullheim # 1	Hauptort des Markgräfler Weinlandes (used: 1927-1937)
Mullheim # 2	Hauptort des Markgräfler Weinlandes (used: 1938-1945)
Munster-Sarmsheim #1	Bekannt guter Weinbau (used: 1939-1942)
Mussbach # 1	Im Edelweingebiet an der Weinstrasse (used: 1936-1939)
Neckarwestheim # 1	alter Weinort mit Schloss Liebenstein (used: 1936-1937)
Niederwalluf # 1	Eingangstar des Rhein-und-Weingaues (used: 1937-1937)
Niefernheim # 1	Weinort Rheinpfalz zu Fusse der Weibergslage "Schwarzer Herrgott" (used: 1938)
Nierstein # 1	Nierstein-Die Perle Rheinhessens Niersteiner Der Rheinwein (used: 1927-1935)
Nittel # 1	Uraltes Weindorf am Moselstrand Gipfel u. Leiterdhen weitbekannt (used:1937-1940)
Oberderdingen # 1	Alter Weinbau im Schwabenland Amishof A.D. 1247 (used: 1943-1945)
Ober Ingelheim # 1	Bekannt durch seinen roten Wein (used:1937-1939)
Oberkirch # 3	Der beliebte Luftkur-u. Weinort (used: 1937-1942)
Oestrich # 1	im Mittelpunkt den Rhein-u.Weinganes (used: 1937-1945)
Offenbach (Glan) # 1	Nahe-Weinban/-Gebeit/Kann das Feinste der Reben und Erholung Dir gehent (used:1937)
Offenbach (Glan) # 2	Nahe-Weinban/-Gebeit/Kann das Feinste der Reben und Erholung Dir gehent (used:1937-1940)
Oppenheim # 4	Alte deutsche Weinstadt (used: 1943-1945)
Remich # 1	rebenumkranzte Wein-und Winzerstadt (used: 1943)
Rhens # 1	Wein und Mineralwasser (used: 1937-1940)
Romer # 1	Fremdenverkehrsort schone lage, guter Wein (used: 1937-1938)
Schweigen # 1	Weinfest des Deutschen Weinstrasse (used: 16-18 Oktober 1937)
Serrig # 1	Bekannter Ausflugs-u. Weinnort der Saar (used: 1937-1940)
Traben-Trarbach # 1	Heilende Therme, feuriger Wein, Burgen und Berge laden Dich ein (used:1926-33)
Traben-Trarbach # 2	Heilende Therme, feuriger Wein, Burgen und Berge laden Dich ein (used:1936-43)
Turkheim # 1	Seine Weine Seine Berge (used: 1943-1945)
Unkel # 1	Soone-Wald-Wein (used: 1937-1941)
Urzig # 1	"Das Feinste der Reben kann Urzig dir geben" (used: 1925-1935)
Urzig # 2	Das Feinste der Reben kann Urzig dir geben (used: 1936-1939)
Wachenheim (Pfalz)#1	im Weinparadies (black or violet handstamp used: 1935-1940)
Walheim # 1	"Schalksteiner" Edles Talelobst-Kirchen Weinort u.Neckar-Beste Berglagen (used: 1936-1938)
Weinsberg # 1	Burg Weibertreu +Weinbau +Just Kernerhaus (used: 1925-1937)
Weinsberg # 2	Burg Weibertreu Weinbau Just Kernerhaus (used: 1937-1940)
Westhofen # 1	Vozugliche Weine Beliebter Ausflugsort (used: 1942-1944)
Wiesbaden # 31	Besucht das Rheingauer Weinfest/Wiesbaden, 26.-30. September 1935 (machine cancel used: 1935) types *1a, b,
Wiesbaden # 35	Besucht das Rheingauer Weinfest/Wiesbaden, 5.-7. September 1936 (machine cancel used: 1936) types *1a, u, bb
Wiesbaden # 45	Rheingauer Weinfest/Wiesbaden, 24-26.Sept. u.1-3 Okt, 1938 (machine cancel used: 1938)

Winkel # 1	des Rheingaus ältester Weinort Gaus Haus Erbart B11 (used: 1937-1941)
Winningen # 2	Kommt nach Winningen zum Moselfest 28.-30. 8.37 DieWeinhex von Winningen (used: 1937)
Wittlich # 1	Kreis-Staed Zwei / (Trauben)..... (used: 1937-1940)
Zell (Mosel) # 3	"Die Weinstadt der schwarzen Katz" (used: 1936-1937)
Series # 183	Wein ist Volksgetränk-Fest der deutschen (Traube und der Weines/19.-26. Okt. 1935 (used: 17-25 Oktober 1935 in 21 cities)
Series # 320	Internationaler Weinbau-Kongress Bad Kruznach 21.-30 August 1938 (used: 20 Mai -19 August 1938 in Koblenz and Trier)

Boppard # 3



Grevenmacher # 2



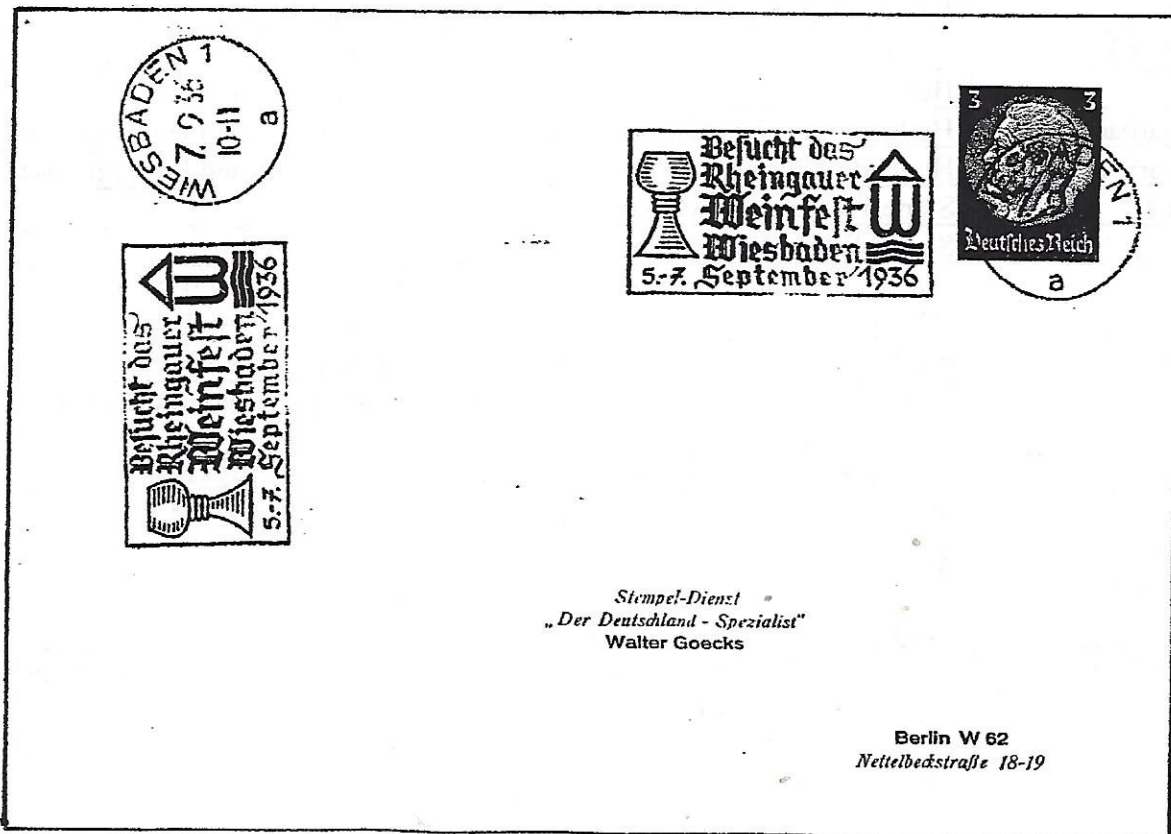
Meersburg # 2



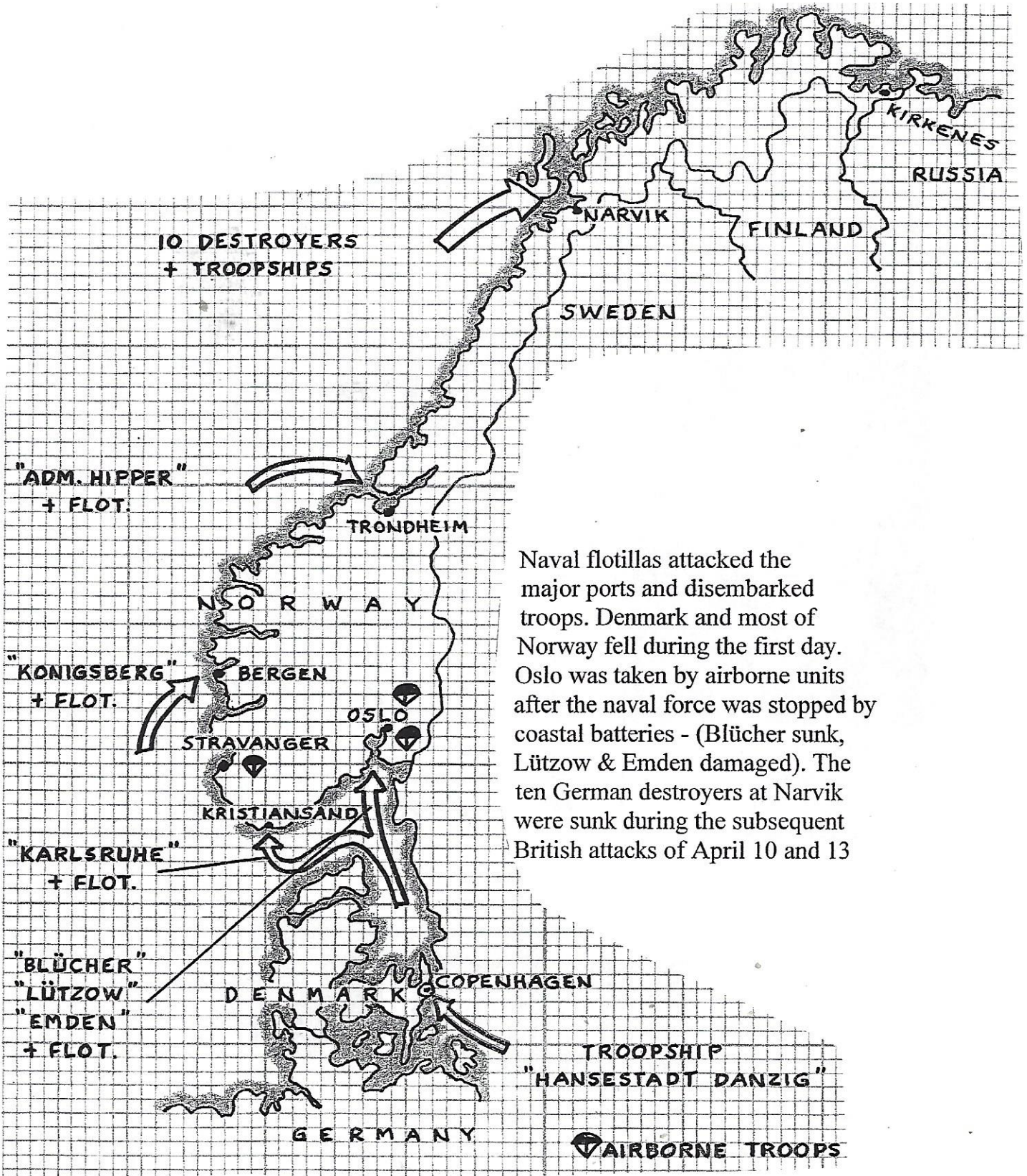
Oberkirch # 2



Postcard sent to Berlin on July 9, 1936 has Wiesbaden machine cancel # 35 - 1a



TRSG Map: The Invasion of Denmark and Norway
Operation "Weserübung" April 9, 1940
 by Kelly Stefanacci



Naval flotillas attacked the major ports and disembarked troops. Denmark and most of Norway fell during the first day. Oslo was taken by airborne units after the naval force was stopped by coastal batteries - (Blücher sunk, Lützow & Emden damaged). The ten German destroyers at Narvik were sunk during the subsequent British attacks of April 10 and 13

Nazi Party Labels on Postcard Circa 1931

by Ron Morgan

Even before Hitler came to power in January 1933, the NSDAP produced and sold propaganda labels that were sometimes applied by party members to their cards and covers along with any required postage. This postal card was issued in 1931 to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Heinrich Friedrich Karl, Baron vom und zum Stein (Oct. 25, 1757 - June 29, 1931). Commonly known as Baron von Stein, he was a statesman for the Kingdom of Prussia who introduced reforms that paved the way for the unification of Germany.

The sender added two Nazi labels to the left of the 8 Pfg. indicia that were tied by a Frankfurt (M) slogan cancel dated August 13, 1931. The far left label with numeral "1" shows an eagle emblazoned with a swastika holding a sword and a hammer in it's talons. The inscriptions at bottom reads "Uns Dritte Reich!" and "National Sozialisten". The center label with numeral "2" shows a worker with a hammer on his shoulder in front of a swastika banner. The text at top reads "National Sozialisten" while that at bottom reads "Unser Die Zukunft!" An enlargement of these labels appears beneath the full size postal card.

