



# 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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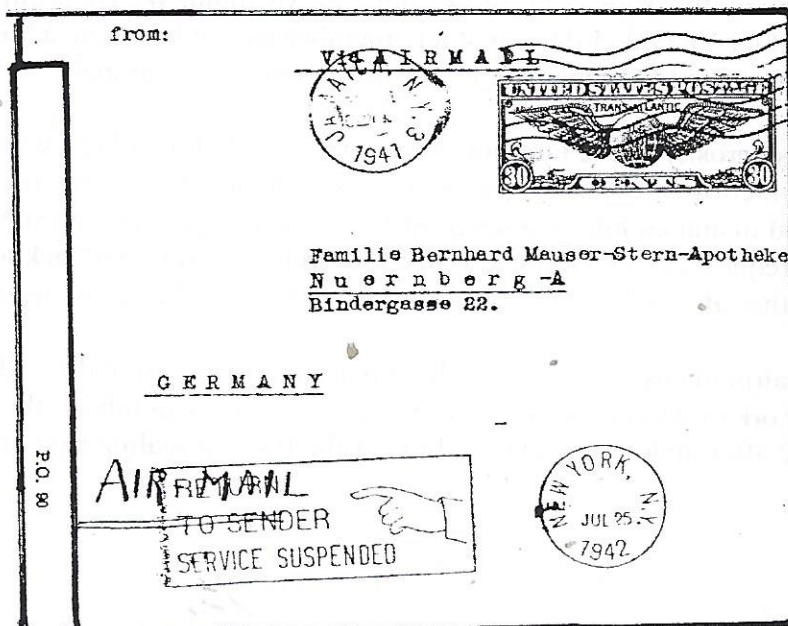
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## STUDY GROUP NOTES

**An explanation** - due to a combination of foul weather in New Jersey (three blizzards dumped nearly 40 inches of snow in February) and hospitalization, including surgery, Ye Olde Ed has been late in mailing out some orders. However, things are on the mend and Spring has almost sprung, so we ask your patience and assure you that we'll be caught up very soon.

**Croatian Cover to SS Officer** - TRSGer Ben Beede provides the following information on Henry Laessig's cover shown on page 16 of bulletin 174:

a) Berlin W9, Linkstrasse 29 was not the street address of P.O. W9 which was actually located on 4/5 Linkstrasse. This address is listed on page 22 in the March 1941 *Reichspostdirektion Berlin*.

b) SS censorship of volunteer mail is discussed on pages 186-189 in the 2009 edition of *Michel Handbuch-Katalog Deutsche Feldpost 1937-1945*. From 1941 onward, such mail had to be censored by the SS, not the civil mail censorship offices.

**NSDAP Official Stamps** - In Scott Stamp Monthly, the Scott firm claims that the NSDAP official stamps issued in 1938 and 1942 gave the Nazi Party a free franking privilege. Ben Beede wrote Scott, asking why these stamps are presented in this fashion in view of the fact that pertinent German postal regulations made their status clear. They were to be used "like other postage stamps" (1938 regulation). Several regulations refer to these stamps, and the postal minister Dr. Wilhelm Ohnesorge listed "proceeds" from the sale of NSDAP stamps for 1938 and 1939 in one of his books.

**Single Use of 25 Pfg. Stamp** - Ben Beede writes "I found Bob Ferguson's study of single uses of the 25 Pfg. Hindenberg stamp to be very interesting. Does anyone have a cover with 20 Pfg to pay the local postage rate from 25 to 500 grams? I've yet to see such a cover. Another highly unusual use of the 20 Pfg. Stamp was the late mail fee on a piece of official mail for which other charges were paid through a bulk mailing arrangement. Such a cover would be a mixed franking in my view rather than a single use, though."

**Sara & Israel** - in presenting the information appearing on page 3, TRSGer Ed Fraser wanted to acknowledge the work done on this subject by Jim Kellogg in Australia. We are asking TRSG members to search their collections and let Ye Olde Ed know if any member has, or has seen, a Sara/Israel cover that is: a) not from Germany, b) going to Germany or c) not from or going to Germany.

**Back Issues** - due to the generosity of the families of recently departed members, we have received a number of back issues which we are offering to the membership on a first come, first served basis. The back issues are offered in annual lots (4 issues) for \$14 including postage. As supplies are very limited, please send your requests to Ye Olde Ed at: [trsg03@verizon.net](mailto:trsg03@verizon.net). I will acknowledge your request by e-mail and advise you that, if available, the issues have been reserved pending receipt of your payment.

**Cover Illustration:** This airmail cover is an example of mail in transit during the outbreak of hostilities. Posted in Jamaica, New York on December 4, 1941 and addressed to Nuremberg, the cover was returned to sender on July 25, 1942 after undergoing censorship per the P.C. 90 sealing tape on left side.



## The "Sara" and "Israel" Regulations

by Ed Fraser

Most collectors of German censored mail have come across covers on which the sender's name includes the middle names Sara or Israel. This came about in adherence to a decree issued on August 17, 1938 drafted by Ministerialrat Globke, name expert of the Interior Ministry and signed by Staatssekretar Stuckart and Justice Minister Guntner. Effective January 1, 1939, any German Jew with a given name other than those listed below was required to add the middle name Israel (male) or Sara (female) to their existing names and to use that name in all business transactions and communications (including identity documents). All babies of German Jews born after the list was published had to be given names from this list:

Male Names - Abel, Abieser, Abimelech, Abner, Absalom, Ahab, Ahasja, Ahasver, Akiba, Amon, Ansel, Aron, Asahel, Araria, Aseher, Asriel, Assur, Athaljag, Awigdor, Awrum, Bachja, Barak, Baruch, Benajai, Berek, Berl, Boas, Bud, Chaggai, Chai, Chajin, Efim, Efraim, Ehud, Eisig, Eli, Elias, Elihu, Eliser, Eljakim, Eikan, Enoch, Esau, Esna, Esra, Ezechiel, Faleg, Feibish, Feirel, Feitel, Feiwol, Feleg, Gad, Gdalcoi, Gedalja, Gerson, Gideon, Habakuk, Hagaii, Hemor, Henoah, Herodes, Hesekiel, Hillel, Hiob, Hosea, Issac, Isachar, Isobeth, Isodor, Ismael, Israel, Itzig, Jsaii, Jacheviel, Jaffe, Jakar, Jakusiel, Jecheskel, Jeckiel, Jehu, Jehuda, Jehusiel, Jeremia, Jerobeam, Jesaja, Jethro, Jiftach, Jizchak, Joab, Jochanan, Joel, Jomteb, Jona, Jonathan, Josia, Joda, Kainan, Kaiphas, Kaeb, Korach, Laban, Lazarus, Leew, Leiser, Lewek, Lot, Lupu, Machol, Maim, Malchisua, Maleachi, Manasse, Mardochai, Mechel, Menachem, Moab, Mordeschaj, Mosche, Moses, Nachschaen, Nachum, Naftalin, Nathan, Naum, Nazary, Nehab, Nehimia, N issim, Noa, Nochem, Obadja, Orew, Oscher, Osias, Peisach, Pinachas, Pinkus, Rachmeil, Ruben, Sabbatai, Sacher, Sallum, Sally, Salo, Salomon, Salusch, Samaja, Samii, Samuel, Sandel, Saudik, Saul, Schalom, Schaul, Schinul, Schneur, Schoachana, Scholem, Sebulon, Semi, Sened, Sichein, Simson, Teit, Tewele, Una, Uriel, Zadek, Zedekia, Zephanja, Zeruja, Zewi.

Female Names - Abigail, Basschewa, Beile, Bela, Bescha, Bihri, Bilba, Breine, Briewe, Bracha, Chana, Chawa, Chaiche, Cheile, Chinke, Deiche, Dewaara, Driesal, Egele, Faugel, Feigle, Feile, Fradchin, Fradel, Frommet, Geilchen, Gelea, Ginendel, Gittel, Gola, Hadasse, Hale, Hamache, Hitzel, Jachel, Jachewad, Jedidja, Jente, Jezabel, Jodis, Jyske, Jyttel, Keile, Kneindel, Lane, Leie, Libschen, Libe, Liwia, Machel, Mathel, Milkele, Nacha, Nachme, Peirche, Pesschen, Pesse, Pessel, Pirle, Rachel, Rause, Rebekka, Rechel, Reha, Reichel, Reisel, Reitzge, Reitzsche, Riwiki, Sara, Schaime, Scheindel, Scheme, Schewa, Schlaemoha, Semche, Simehe, Slowe, Sprintze, Tana, Telze, Tinze, Treibal, Zerel, Zilla, Zimle, Zine, Zipora, Zirel, Zorthel.

*Note: Many articles on German censorship leave the impression that all German Jews were required to add "Sara" or "Israel" as middle names on their addresses. This information provided by Ed Fraser reveals that this was not always the case.*

*Ye Olde Ed*



## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 5th Gebirgs Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GEBIRG JÄGER		ARTY	UNITS
95	888	85	100	95	95

Formed with mainly Bavarian personnel in autumn 1940 from the 100th Gebirgs Jäger Regiment and elements of the 10th Infantry Division. The division Feldpostamt or FpA was assigned Fp.# 29791 as the return address and Kenn 888 for use on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 95. After training in the Alps, it first saw action in the Balkan campaign in 1941 when it helped crack the Metaxis Line in Greece. It was part of General Student's mixed paratroop and mountaineer task force that defeated British forces on Crete. It was then on occupation duty in Norway from September 1941 until sent to join Army Group North in Russia early in 1942.

After helped to check the Soviet counter offensive between Lake Ladoga and Novgorod, the 5th Gebirgs Division remained in the Leningrad area until late 1943 when it was transferred to Italy to relieve the 305th Infantry Division. Arriving just prior to the First Battle of Casino in January 1944, it later fought against the Allied landing at Anzio. The division spent the rest of the war in Italy, taking part in the battles of the Gustav and Gothic Lines and in Army Group C's retreat up the peninsula. The 5th Gebirgs surrendered to the Allies near the Po River in April 1945.



Cover sent to Military District Command in Vienna in May 1943 from Fp. # 24010 (13 Kompanie, II Battalion of Gebirgs Jäger Regiment 100) via P.O 95 (K-888).



## “Eintopfgericht” - The One-Pot Meal

by Ian Nutley

Very early on in the Third Reich period, the people were exhorted to partake of a ‘one-pot meal’ weekly, in order to save meat, and also to contribute the money saved to the Winter Relief Organization for the benefit of fellow citizens (Volksgenossen) who were not at all well off and possibly going hungry. This policy inspired the postcard below, an item which is new to me and, possibly, to other members also.



The card shows a group of citizens on the left and, on the right, a factory worker, an S.A. man, a farmer and a policeman, all making a contribution to the fund under the heading “Sacrifice for a hungry people”. The card is inscribed on the reverse “Winterhilfswerk des deutschen Volkes 1933/34” and was published by the Gauführung Hessen Nassau/Frankfurt am Main. It was sent to Frankfurt as an item of commercial mail at the 6 pfg postcard rate and bears a postcard dated November 13, 1933.

*ED NOTE: this article originally appeared in News Sheet 123 of the Third Reich Study Group (U.K.) And is reprinted with their permission*

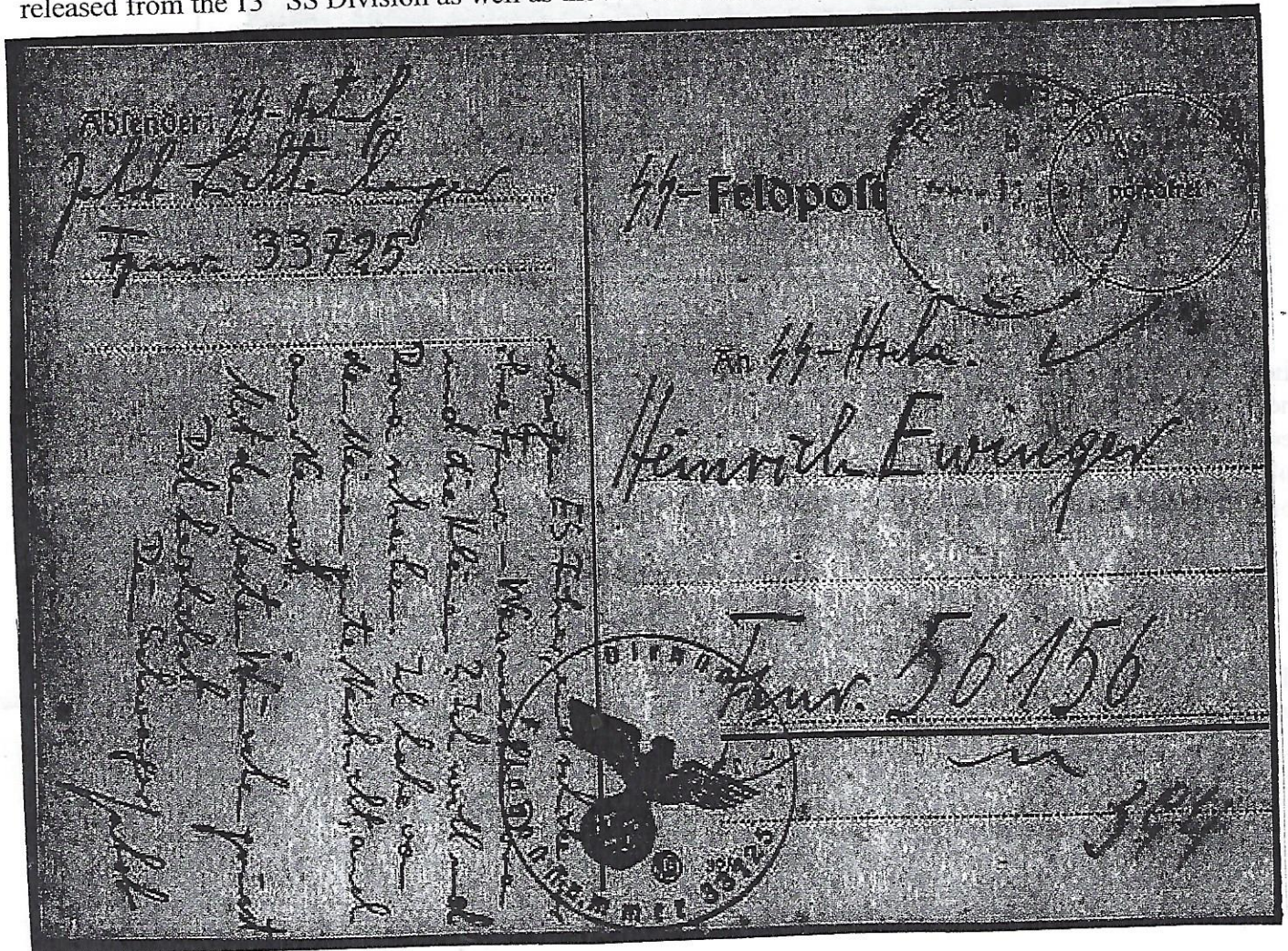


# Feldpost Card between Moslem SS Divisions

by Kelly Stefanacci

In February 1944 the 13<sup>th</sup> Waffen-Gebirgs Division der SS (kroatisches Nr. 1) was titled "Handshar" (Simitar). Formed from Moslem volunteers from the Bosnian area of Croatia with a few hundred Albanians, in early September 1944, the 13<sup>th</sup> WGDdSS was combined with the newly formed 23<sup>rd</sup> Waffen-Gebirgs Division der SS (kroatisches Nr. 2) as the IXth Waffen-Gebirgskorps der SS (kroat.). The Albanian personnel had been transferred in May 1944 to another new SS division, the 21<sup>st</sup> Waffen-Gebirgs Division der SS (alban. Nr. 1) titled "Skanderberg". All of these units fought against Tito's partisans

This SS-Feldpost card posted in June 1944 is addressed to an SS-Hauptscharführer (Staff Sergeant) at Fp.# 56156 (Stab IV u. Einh., kroat. SS Freiwilligen Jäger Rgt. 2 ) of the 13<sup>th</sup> SS Division. The sender is also a Staff Sergeant whose address is Fp. # 33725 (Kp. 14 of SS Grenadier Rgt. 23) of the 21<sup>st</sup> SS Division. Note that a postal clerk wrote "394" in pencil in the bottom right corner. This was the kenn number of FpA 13SS of the 13<sup>th</sup> Waffen-Gebirgs Division der SS. It appears likely that the correspondents were both Moslems serving in the 13<sup>th</sup> SS Division until the Albanian member was transferred to the 21<sup>st</sup> SS-Division. By late September 1944 the deteriorating military necessitated the withdrawal of German forces from the south-eastern theater. At this time the Moslem personnel were released from the 13<sup>th</sup> SS Division as well as the 21<sup>st</sup> SS Division.





## German POWs in North America Camps in Virginia

by Jim Lewis

The Provost Marshal General held administrative supervision over prisoner-of-war operations and functioned as the staff agency of the Commanding General, Army Service Forces. The prisoner-of-war Division of the Provost Marshal General included the P.O.W. Information Bureau, Camp Operations Branch, Legal Branch, Work Projects Branch, and Field Liaison Branch.

In an effort to supplement the rules of the Geneva agreement of 1929, the War Department defined prisoner-of-war camps as installations in the zone of the interior established for the internment of prisoners and located on, or independent of, other military installations. These camps were either processing stations, base camps, or branch camps. Processing stations were utilized for the temporary detention of prisoners pending assignment to base camps and were usually located in coastal areas of the United States such as Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation (Code 112) in Virginia. German POWs captured after the liberation of France in 1944 were imprisoned at Marseilles and then transported to Hampton Roads.

Fig. 1) German POWs from Panzer Armee Afrika arriving at Hampton Roads.



While no new POW camps were built in Virginia, existing military installations were modified to include POW quarters. These included Camp Ashby (Code 165), Camp Peary (Code 1711), Camp Pickett (Code 85), Camp Patrick Henry (Code 129), Camp Pendelton (Code 184), Camp Lee (Code 83), Richmond ASF Depot (Code 866) and Fort Eustis Hospital (Code 183).

Fort Hunt, located just outside Washington D.C., the code named P.O. Box 1142, held 4,000 prisoners and was where the military elicited crucial information from top enemy officers and scientists. For example, German engineer Heinz Schlicke, who developed infrared fuses that could trigger an atomic bomb, was brought to P.O. Box 1142 after the U-boat on which he and other scientists were fleeing Germany for Japan was surrendered in 1945. Operation Paperclip was a secret effort to bring hundreds of top German scientists to the U.S. before the Russians could get



their hands on them. Among the scientists who wound up in Fort Hunt after surrendering to the U.S. Army was German top rocket scientist Werner von Braun.

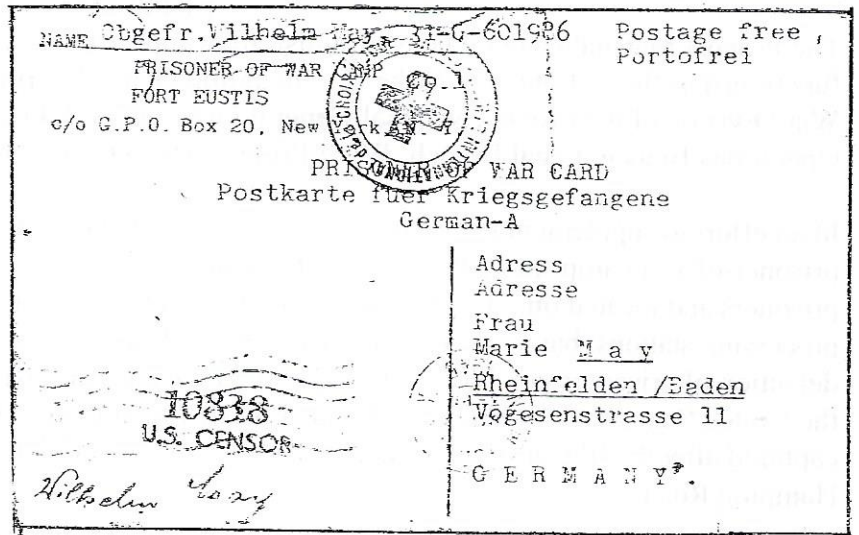


Fig. 2) Photocard sent from Fort Eustis has New York cancel March 23, 1945 and U.S. censor mark 10838. At top center is Geneva Red Cross receiving stamp.

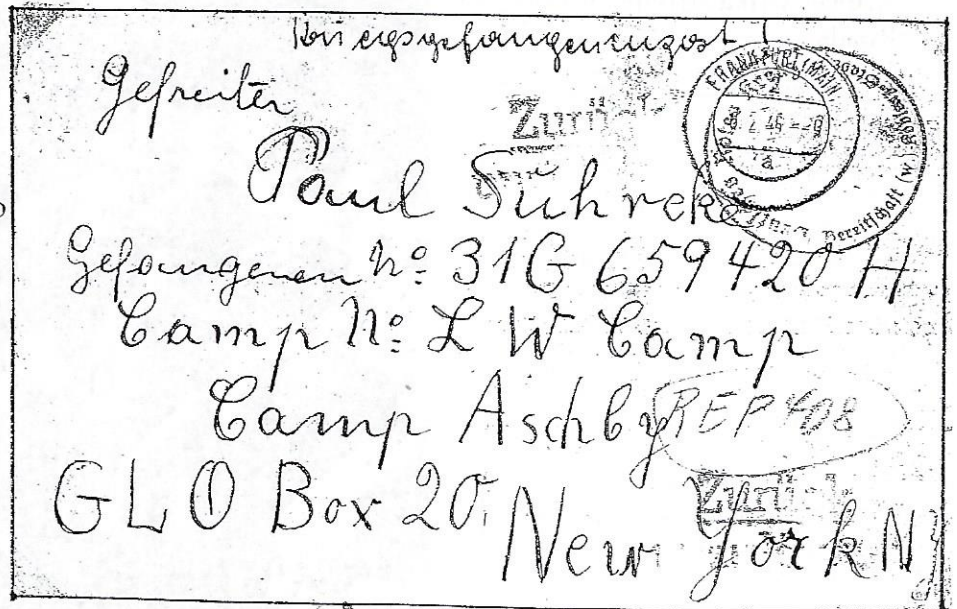
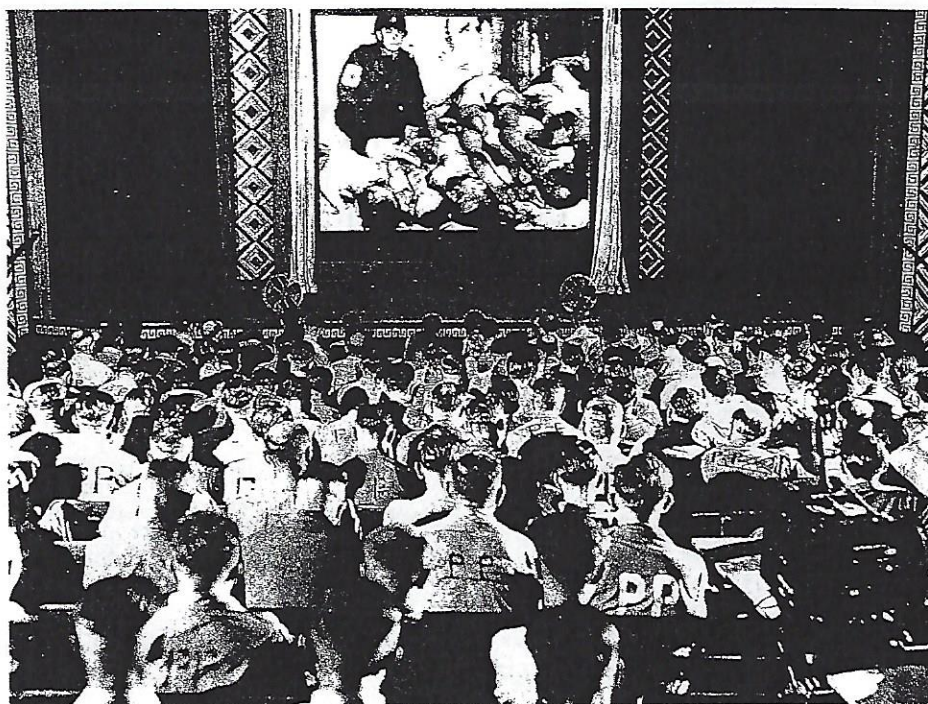


Fig. 3) Cover sent from Frankfurt to Camp Ashby on Feb. 6, 1946 has Koblenz Red Cross at top right and "Unzustellbar Zurück" (Return, undeliverable).

More than 6,000 German prisoners were incarcerated at Camp Ashby in its two years of operation from 1944 to 1946. At its peak there were 1,788 POWs. The prisoners were permitted to publish a 16-page monthly newspaper "Der Waldbote" that contained world and local news, Camp Ashby happenings, lessons in basic English and puzzles. Camp Ashby prisoners were screened and only those with anti-Nazi sentiments were given work details. The Nazi sympathizers were sent to a camp in the Arizona desert. POWs worked on Princess Anne County farms and in several fertilizer plants in the area. They also worked at lumber mills and on military work projects. The POWs were paid 80 cents for each day they worked, and most worked every day but Sunday. The camp set aside a percentage of the money in a savings account for the prisoners. Prisoners could buy sodas for 5 cents, beers for 15 cents and cigarettes for 18 cents a pack. Movies were shown at camp for a 15 cent admission fee. But one movie about German concentration camps was shown for free, and all POWs were required to attend. Most of these former front line soldiers knew nothing about these camps and were horrified at the images they were shown.



Fig. 4) POWs at Camp Lee watching film about Dachau and Buchenwald, many claimed atrocities were faked or the work of advancing Russians.



Shown below is a listing of POW camps in Virginia.

Name of Camp	County	Main Camp	Name of Camp	County	Main Camp
Allen, Camp	Norfolk	---	Lyndhurst	Augusta	Front Royal
Ashby, Camp	Virginia Beach	Fort Story	McGuire Hosp.	Chesterfield	---
Catawba	Roanoke	Pickett	Patrick Henry	Newport News	----
Cheatham	Gloucester	Peary	Peary, Camp	Williamsburg	----
Cumberland	Goochland	Pickett	Pendleton, Camp	Virginia Beach	---
Danville	Independent	Pickett	Pickett, Camp	Nottoway	---
Ettinger	N. Hampton	Somerset *	Radford	Independent	Pickett
Eustis, Fort	Newport News	----	Richmond Base	Chesterfield	---
Eustis Hospital	Newport News	Eustis, Fort	Richmond Depot	Chesterfield	---
Fairfax	Independent	Front Royal	Salem	Independent	Pickett
Front Royal	Warren	---	Sandy Level	Henry	Pickett
Green Bay	Prince Edward	Pickett	Shelton	Virginia Beach	Pickett
Hampton Roads	Newport News	----	Story, Fort	Virginia Beach	----
Hunt, Fort	Fairfax	----	Suffolk	Virginia Beach	Fort Story
John Custis, Ft.	Northampton	----	Timberville	Rockingham	Front Royal
Lee, Camp	Petersburg	----	White Hall	Albermarle	Front Royal
Leesburg	Loudoun	Front Royal	Winchester	Frederick	Front Royal

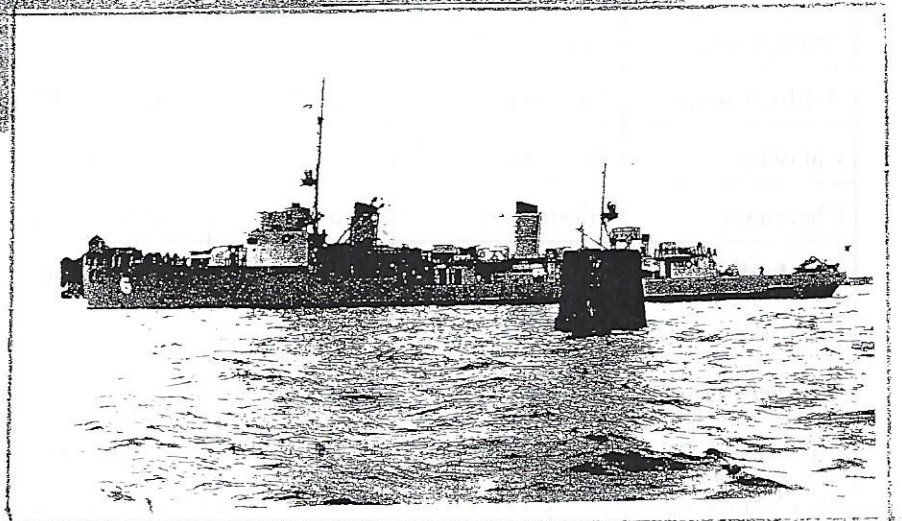
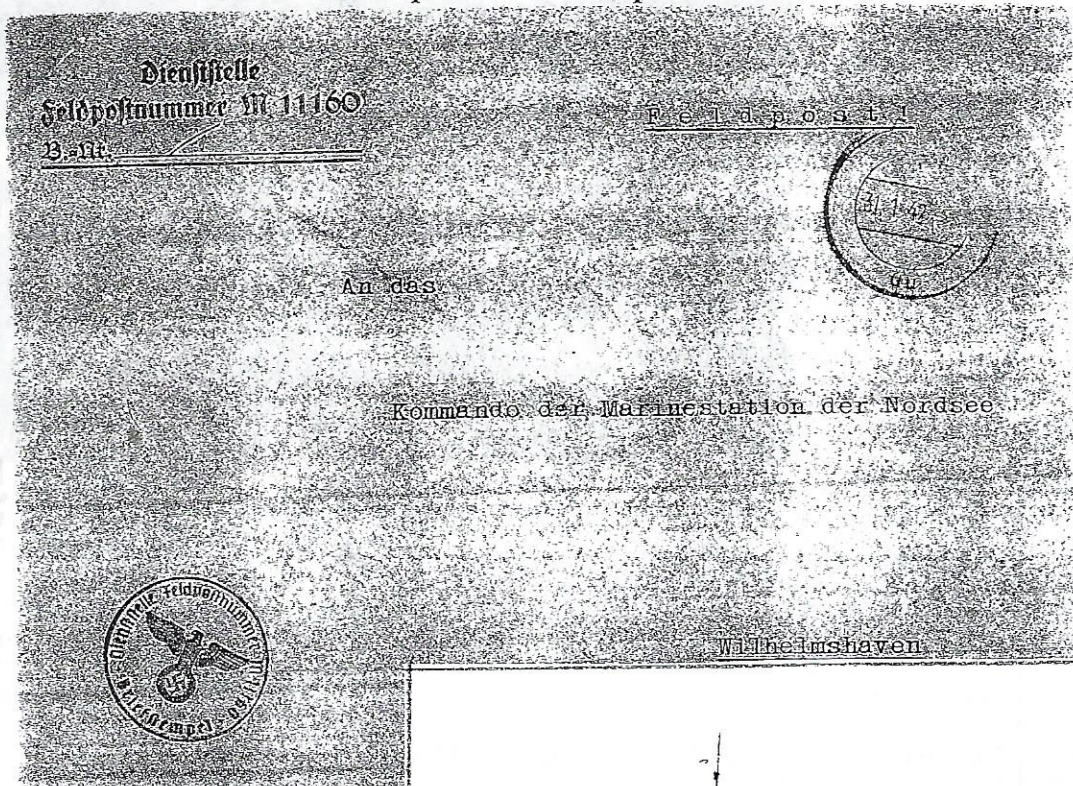
(\*) Ettinger was a branch camp of Camp Somerset, Maryland.



# NAVY LOG

by Robert Dunn

Fleet Sloop F-6 - Feldpost # 11160



The 6th of 10 ( Type 1935: F1-10) class ships. Built by Germania Werft (Kiel) and launched on October 1, 1935. Displacement: 712 tons; speed: 28 knots; crew: 121. Armament: two 4.1", four 37mm and four 20mm AA guns.

She sailed from Cuxhaven to Esberg on the April 9, 1940 invasion of Denmark. She was bombed and sunk by the U.S. Air Force in Wilhelmshaven on March 30, 1945

Cover above with mute cancel was sent by a crew member to Command of North Sea Naval Station in Wilhelmshaven on January 31, 1942.



# Uses of 1 Pfennig Stamps

by Bob Ferguson

The four 1 Pfg stamps issued during the National Socialist era (Mi 512, 781, D144 and D155) were intended for makeup rates, i.e. postal rates that are "built up" with two or more, usually different stamps, especially if there is no single stamp of the required denomination (See Fig. 1). I find the many ways in which the 1 Pfg stamps were used to be interesting and offer the following covers from my collection.

Fig. 1) Postcard sent via air mail from Munich to Meresburg on August 5, 1938.  
 The airmail postcard rate is 11 Pfg =  
 6 Pfg (intercity post card)  
 5 Pfg (airmail surcharge for weight 0-20 gm)

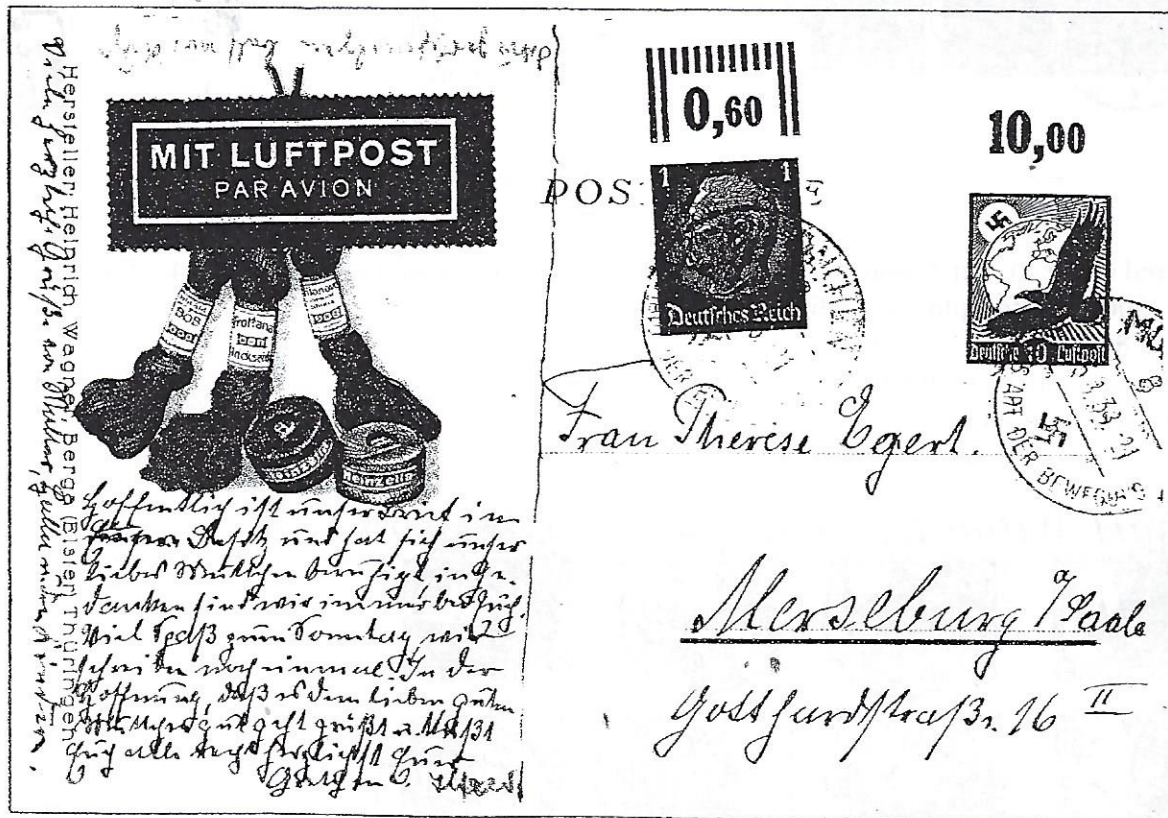




Fig. 2) Cover to Stockholm, Sweden posted in Bremen on December 9, 1933 has combination Mi. W54 plus nine Mi 512s to make 25 Pfg rate.

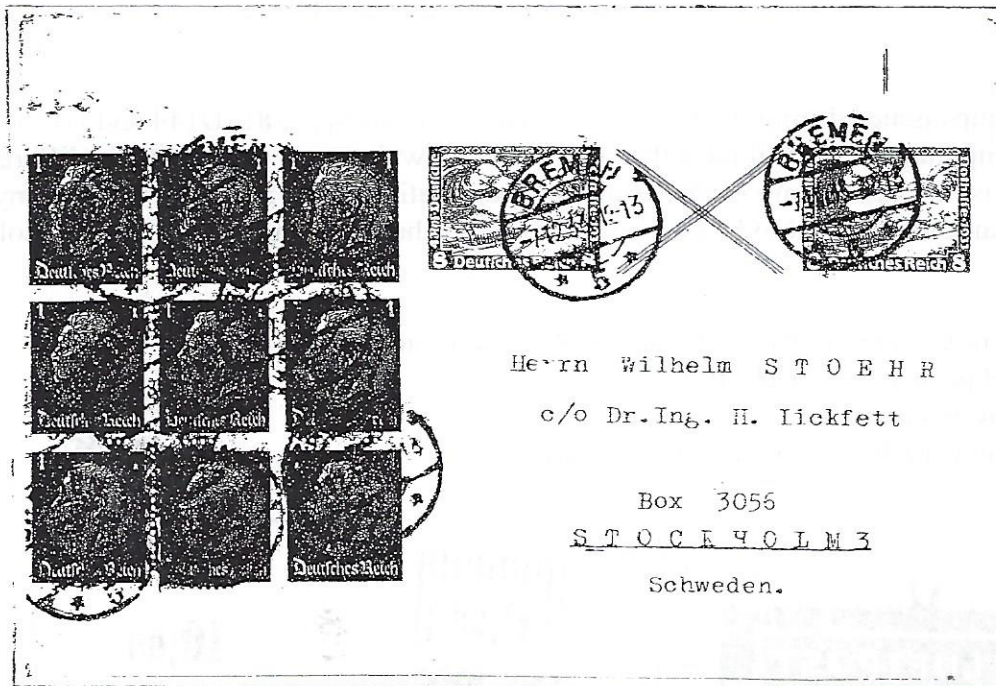


Fig. 3) Registered cover to San Antonio, Guatemala posted in Pforzheim on December 14, 1933 has Mi. 499 -506 (83 Pfg.) plus two Mi 512s.

The rate is 85 Pfg =

55 Pfg (foreign letter rate for weight 40-60 gm)

30 Pfg (registration fee)

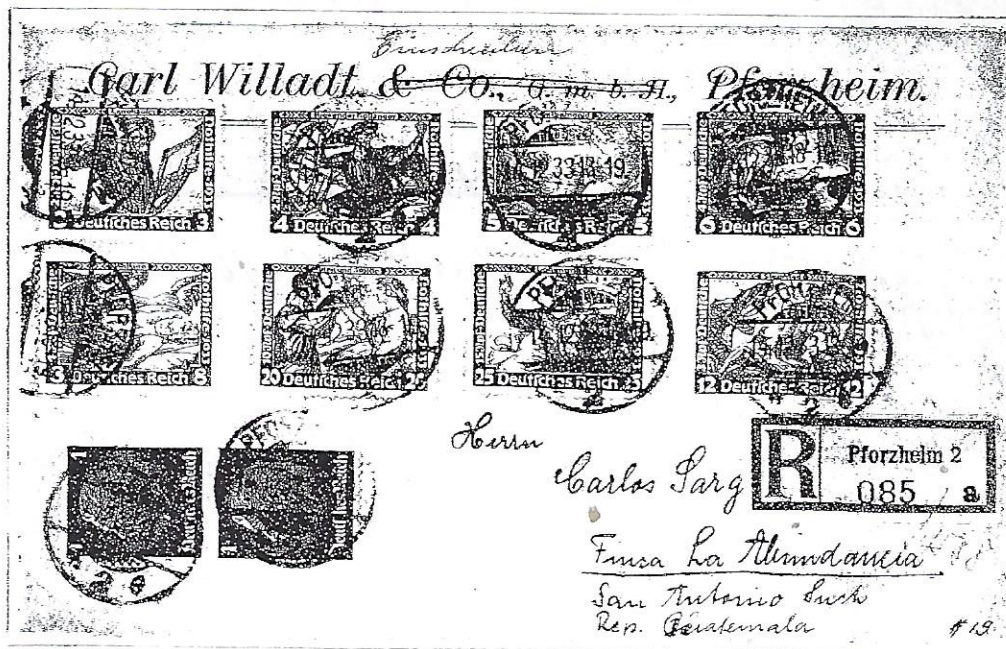




Fig. 4) Cover to Geislingen/Steitge posted in Stuttgart on June 26, 1940 has twelve Mi 512s to make 12 Pfg intercity rate.

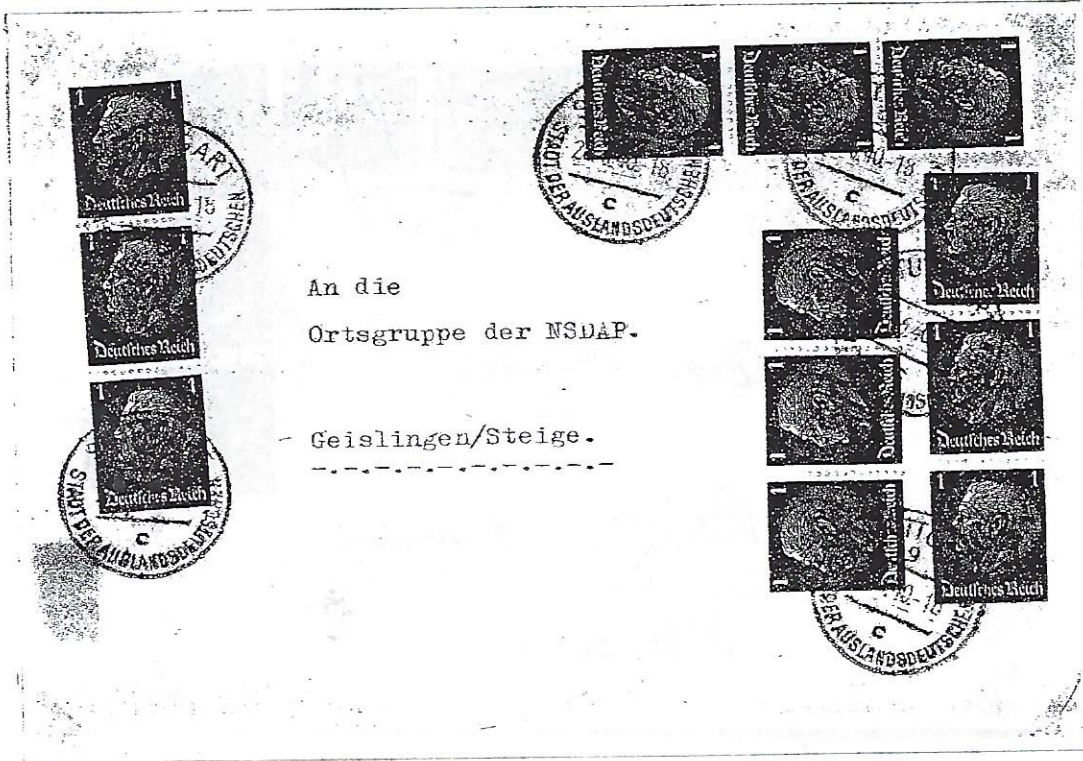


Fig. 5) Registered cover to Betzorf posted in Biesenthal on January 8, 1942 has two Mi. 791 (40 Pfg.) plus two Mi 512s to make 42 Pfg rate.

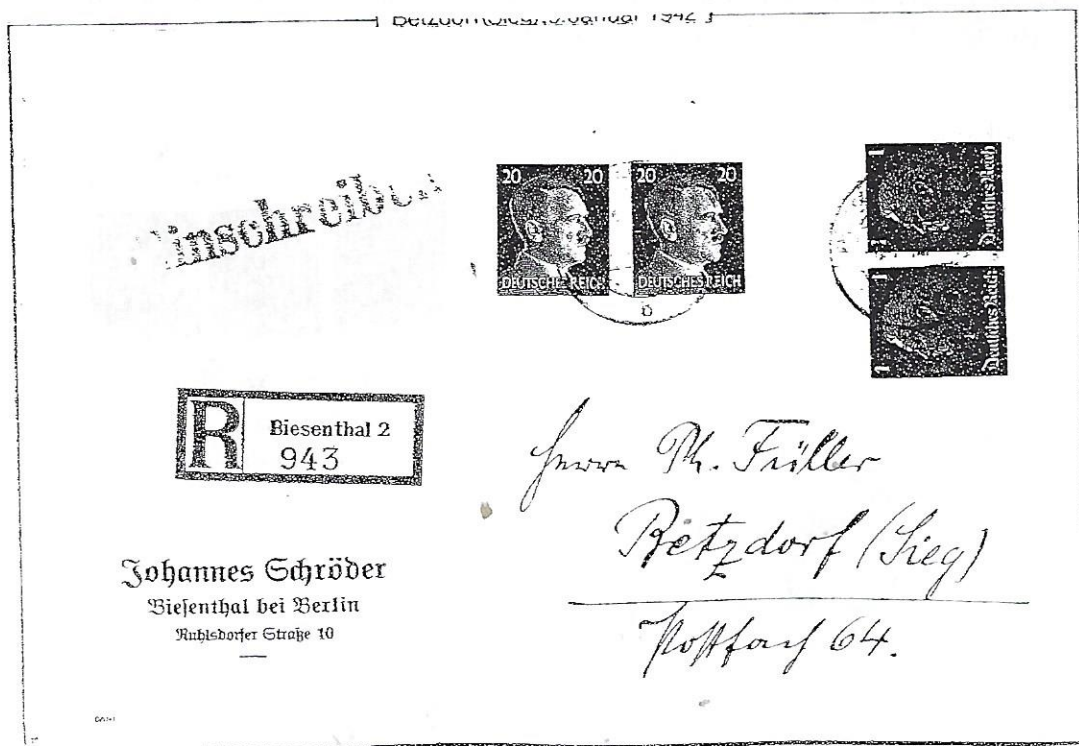




Fig. 6) Cover to Bobingen b/Augsburgf posted in Berlin on March 20, 1943 has one Mi. 786 (8 Pfg.) plus four Mi 781s to make 12 Pfg rate.

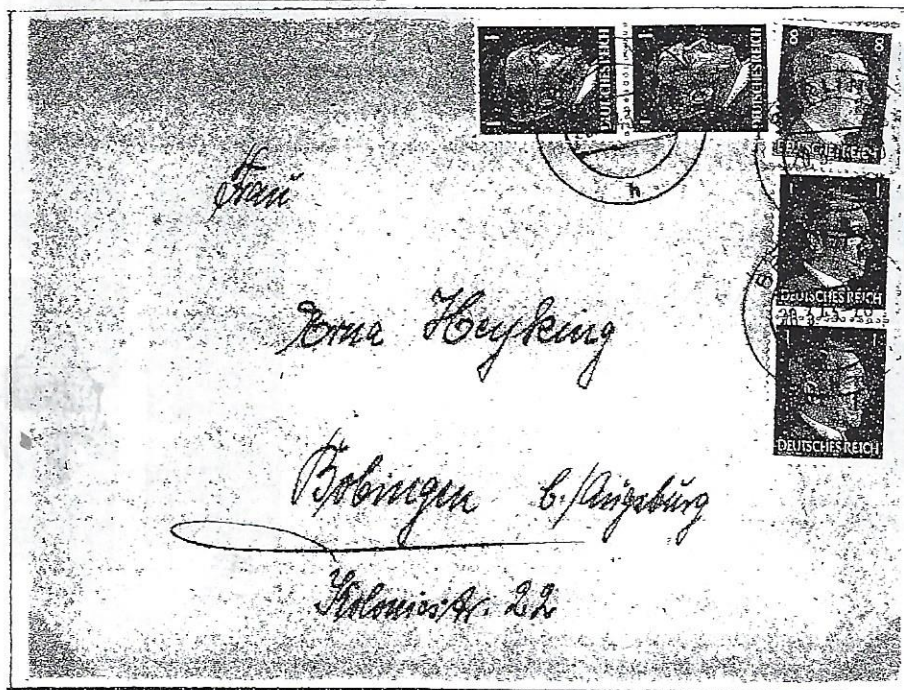


Fig. 7) Nazi Party local cover posted in Munich on October 5, 1940 has one Mi. D159 (6 Pfg.) plus two Mi D155s to make 8 Pfg rate.





# Tag der Arbeit

by Bob Ferguson

As was customary in many European countries, Labor Day was observed in Germany on the first of May. The Reichspost issued only two postal cards, two stamps and a few special cancels for Labor Day but there are also a number of post cards that can be used to form a collection on this subject.

Fig. 1 & 2) 1933 - two color post cards. One depicts workers with arms linked (right) and the other (below) shows a Hitler & Hindenburg medallion viewed by workers.

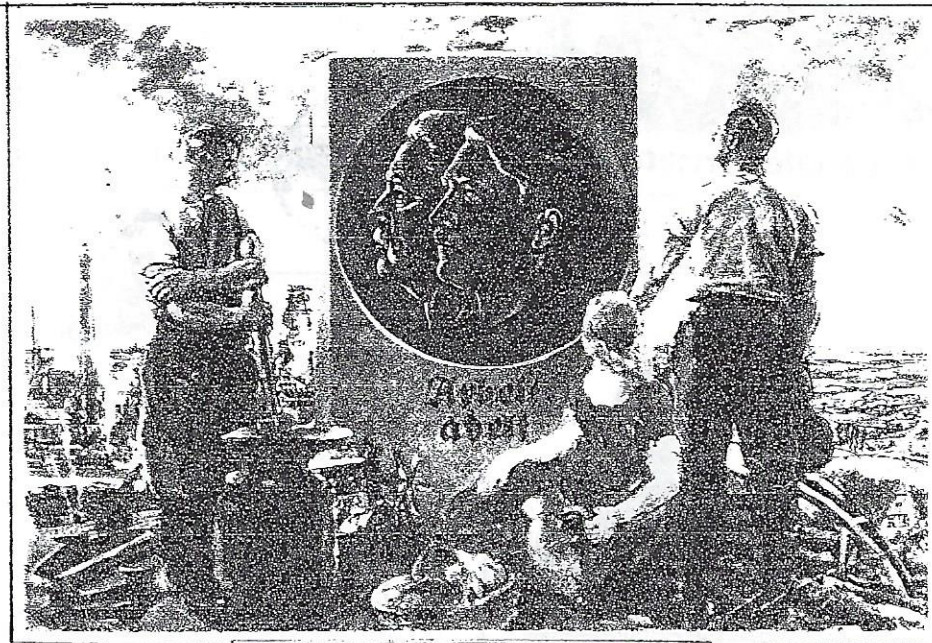


Fig. 3) 1933 - post card showing Reichspräsident Hindenburg and Reichskanzler Hitler in open car sold on Labor Day





Fig. 4) 1934 - postal card (P251) depicting workers with hammers and banners sent to Bremen on April 30, 1934 has slogan cancel "Denkt an die Arbeitsschlacht" (Dresden #150).



Fig. 5) 1936 - post card depicting workers with banners flanking Hitler is undated but was sold for Labor Day in mid-1930s.





Fig. 6) 1938 - post card (Right) depicting young people dancing before a May pole was sold to celebrate Labor Day in 1938.



Fig. 7 & 8) 1939 - a stamp (Mi. 694) depicting Hitler making his "German Day" speech on Jan. 30, 1939 was issued on April 28, 1939 and is tied to a "Get to know Germany" post card by the special cancel used in Munich on Labor Day. This stamp is also shown on a piece tied by the special Labor Day cancel used in Lautawerk..

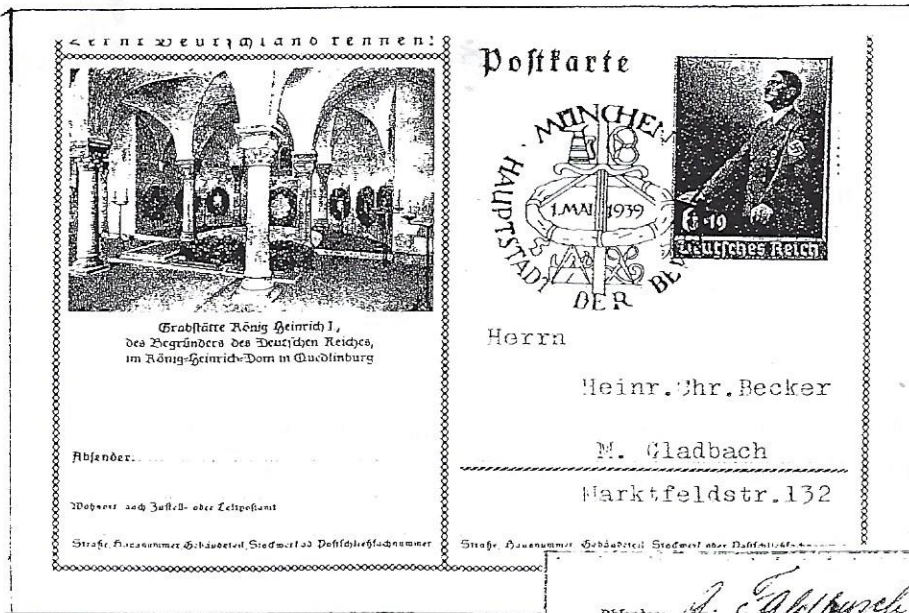


Fig. 9) 1939 - five different photos of Hitler have common address side. The indicia with eagle and swastika is same as postal card issued for return of Sudetenland in 1938 but has a black bar across the bottom. Also different is text "zum 1 Mai Grossdeutschlands" under "Postkarte" in upper right. This card sent to Cairo, Egypt has a Cologne May Day cancel.





Fig. 10) 1940 - a stamp (Mi. 745) issued on April 30, 1940 features a knight or symbolic figure of the Wehrmacht defending industry (smoking chimneys) and agriculture (plough). The two symbols flanking the knight are the letters "S" and "F" of the ancient Germanic Runic alphabet. The "S" was adopted by the "Jungvolk" (Hitler Youth between ages 7-12) and the "F" was the "Wolfings" (Hitler Youth up the age of six) as their official Party badges. A pair of these stamps is tied to cover by a Baden-Baden slogan cancel.

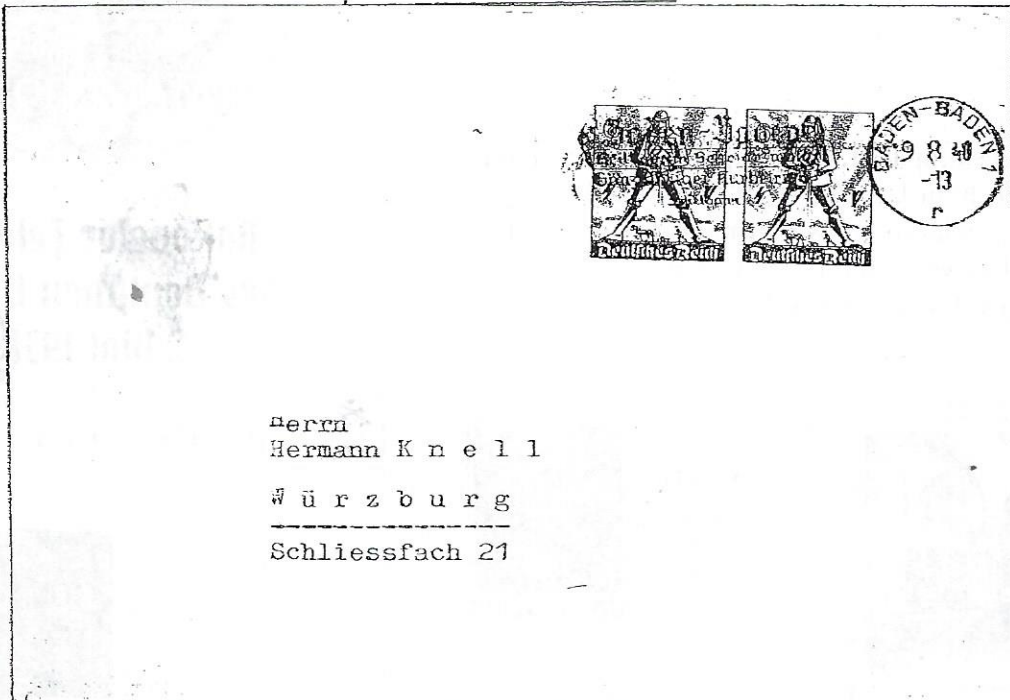


Fig. 11) 1940 - a color post card depicting a bare chested worker holding hammer and chisel with text "Gross-Deutschland's 1.Mai" has Mi. 745 tied by Vienna city cancel applied on May Day.

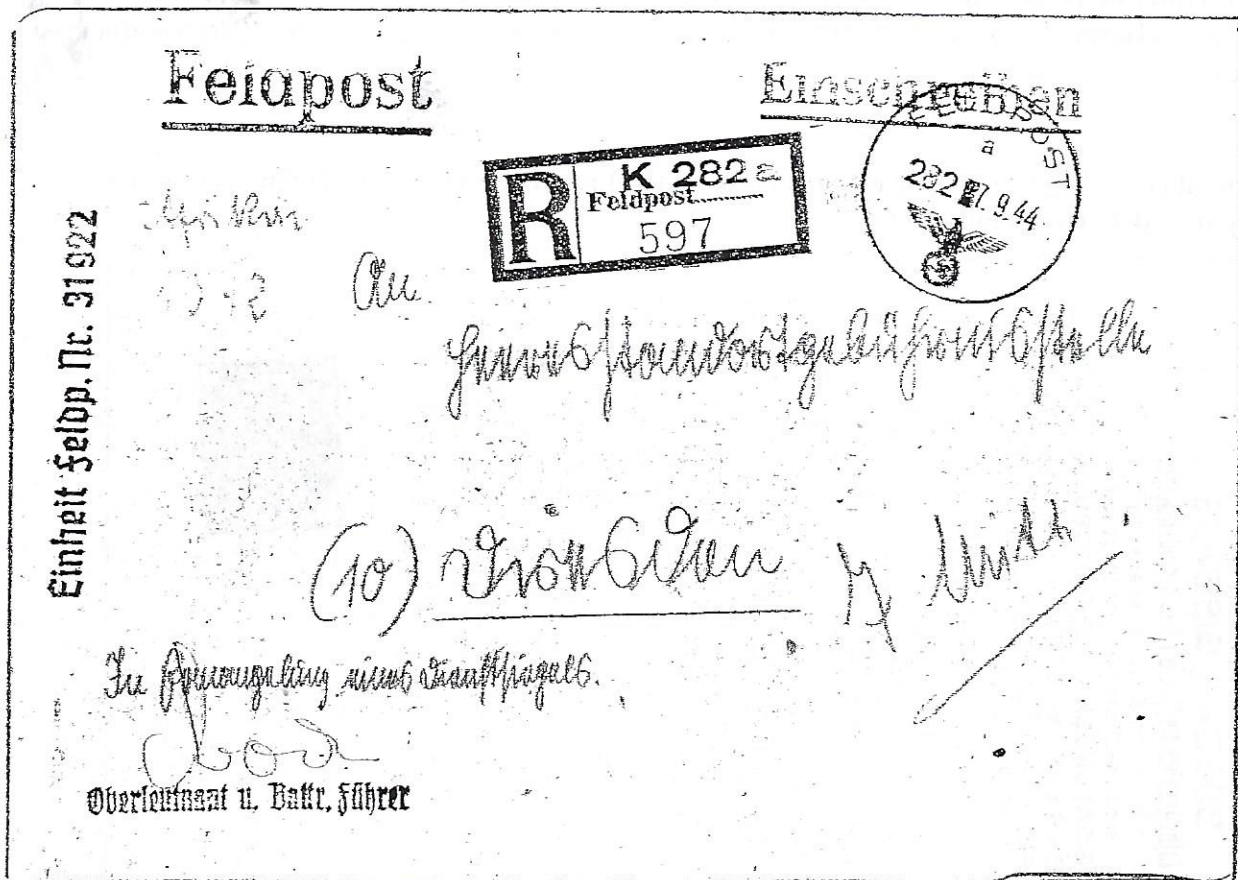




## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 548th Volksgrenadier Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	VOLKSGRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
1548	282	1094	1095	1096	1548	1548

Formed on July 11, 1944 (29th Wave) as a Grenadier Division in Wehrkreis IV. The post office unit was assigned Fp.# 26250 as a return address and Kenn 282 as a coded address for registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 1548. On October 9, 1944 it was re-designated as the 1548th Volksgrenadier Division. The division was sent to the Eastern Front and saw combat in Poland and East Prussia before surrendering to Soviet forces in May 1945.



Cover sent in September 1944 to Assessment Office in Dresden from Fp. # 31922 (Artillery Regiment 1548) via Feldpost Office 1548 (K-282).

Note signature of First Lieutenant and Battery Leader in place of unit seal.



# Dietrich Eckart - Story Behind the Cancel

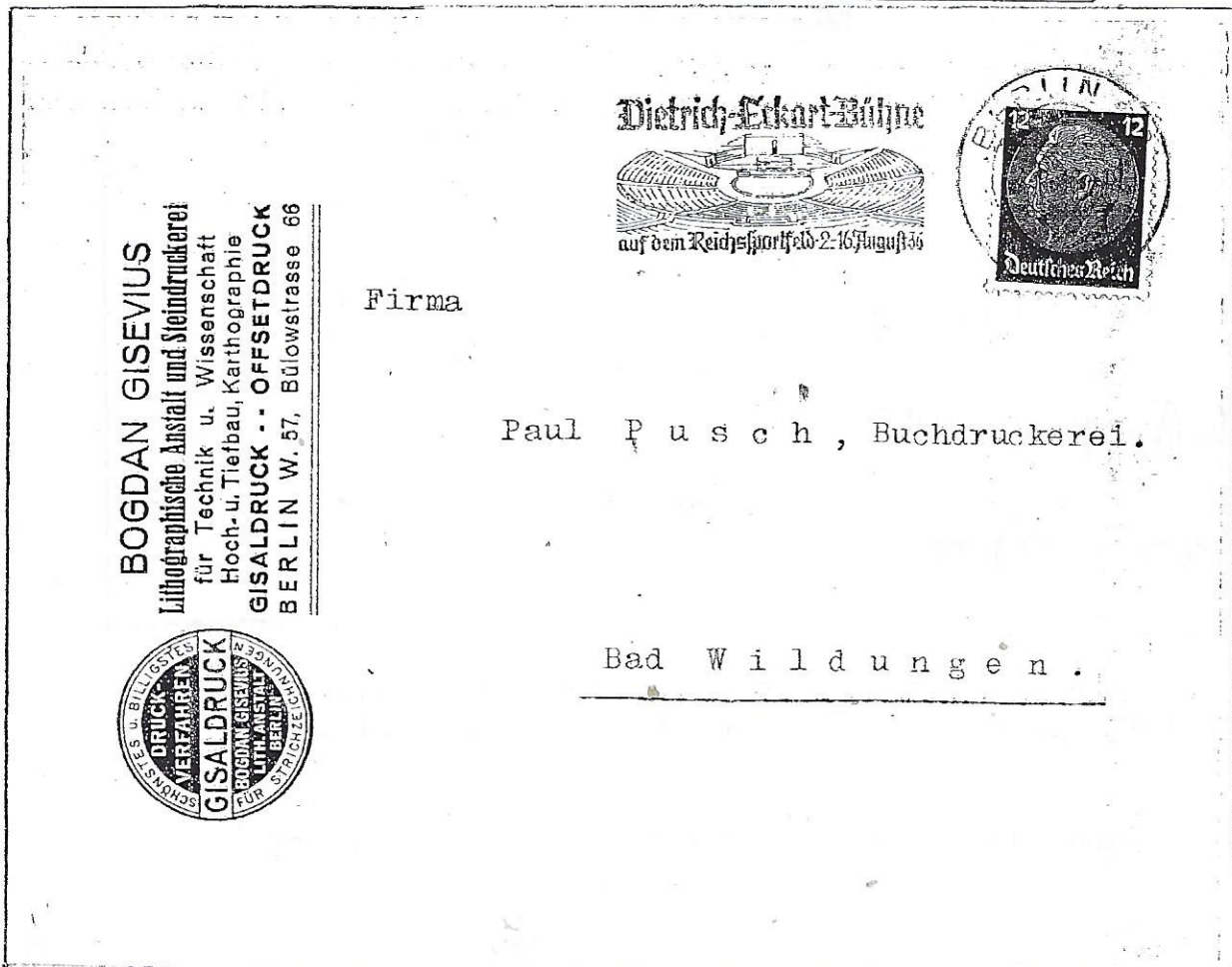
by Bob Ferguson

Dietrich Eckart (1868-1923) was a German political figure. Along with Gottfried Feder and Anton Drexler he founded the Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (German Workers Party) later renamed the Nationalsozialistische deutsche Arbeiterpartei (National Socialist German Workers Party), the NSDAP. He was the original publisher of the NSDAP newspaper, the Volkischer Beobachter, and also wrote the lyrics of "Deutschland erwache" which became the anthem of the Nazi party.

Eckart met Adolf Hitler during a speech he gave on August 14, 1919 and exerted considerable influence on Hitler in the following years. He is believed to have established the theories and beliefs of the Nazi party. Few other people had as much influence on Hitler in his lifetime.

Eckart was involved in the Nazi party's failed BeerHall putsch on November 9, 1923. He was arrested and sent to Landsberg prison along with Hitler. He died of a heart attack on December 26, 1923. Hitler dedicated the second volume of 'Mein Kampf' to Eckart and also named the Waldbühne in Berlin as the "Dietrich-Eckart -Bühne" when it was opened for the 1936 Summer Olympics

Commercial cover has Berlin slogan cancel (#193) reading "Dietrich-Eckart-Bühne auf dem Reichssportfeld 2.-16. August 1936"



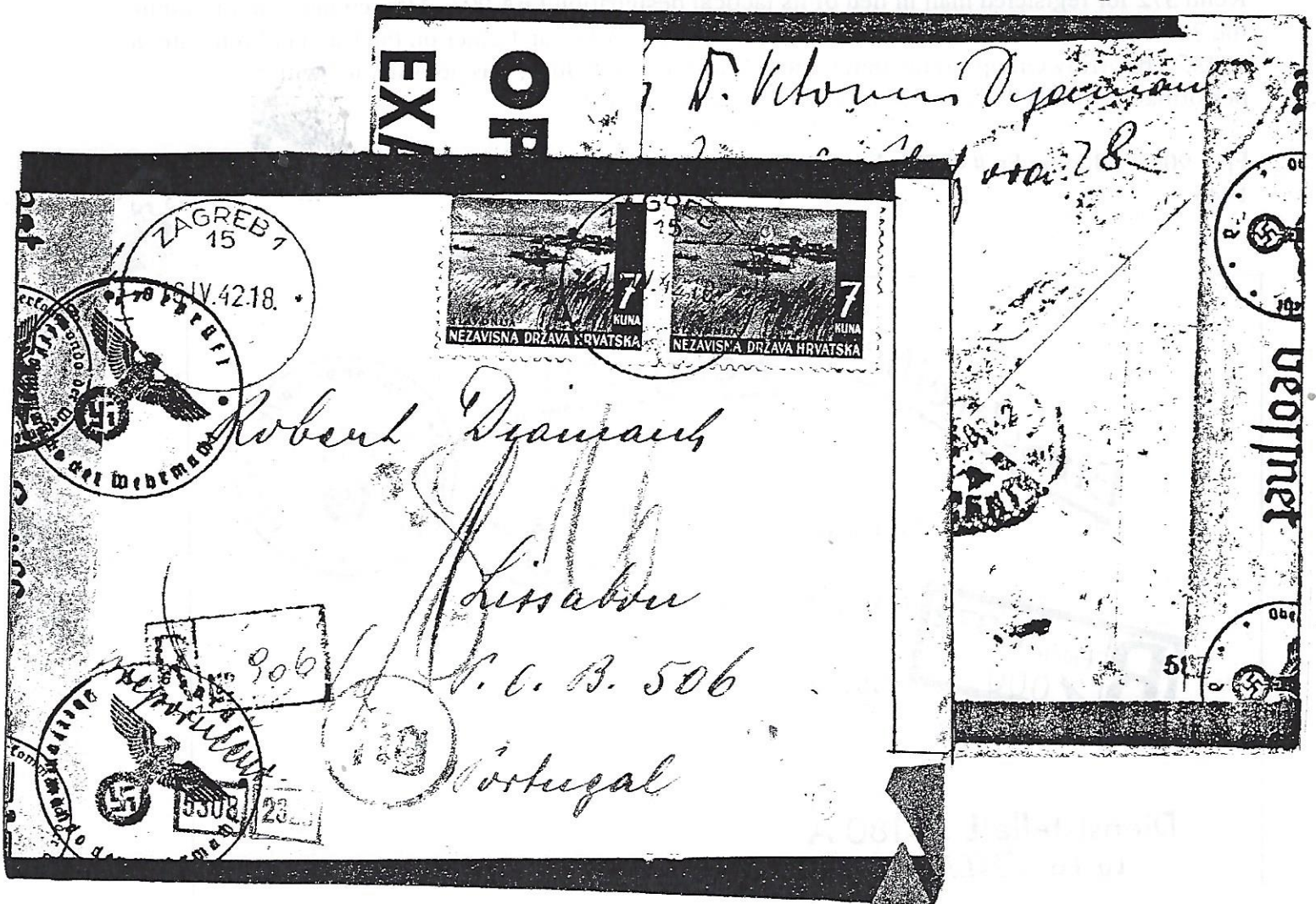


## Box 506 Cover from Croatia

by Jim Lewis

German Postal Regulations Section I, Para. 1 "Direct or indirect communications service with enemy countries is prohibited. Indirect communications service is the transmission of communications to non-hostile countries, which is intended for forwarding to enemy countries".

A scheme to circumvent this regulation was a service supplied by Thomas Cook & Son, Ltd, a British travel agency wherein Cook's office in Lisbon, Portugal maintained a post office box that was used to re-mail letters from German territories to British territories and vice versa.



April 1942 - A registered letter from Zagreb, Croatia sent to Cook's collection point, P.O. Box 506 in Lisbon, was routed through German censors in Vienna ("Ag" transit stamp) and in Munich (Tape & hand stamps).

The rear of this cover has octagonal Lisbon receiving stamp and "Opened by Examiner" sealing tape applied in London before forwarding to addressee.



## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 2nd Luftwaffe Field Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	FIELD INFANTRY	ARTY	UNITS	
902	372	3 (L)	4 (L)	2 (L)	2 (L)

Formed in September 1942 in Luftgau III. The division post office unit (Feldpostamt or FpA) was assigned Feldpost # 42731 to be used as a return address. In addition, this post office was assigned Kenn 372 for registered mail in lieu of its tactical designation FpA 902. After completion of training the 2nd Luftwaffe Feld Division was transferred to Army Group Center on the Russian Front late in 1943. The Army Group Commander, Field Marshal Ernst Bush, was not satisfied with the performance of this division and ordered it to be disbanded.

FpA 902, including Fp.# 42731, became FpA 69 of the new 3rd Kavallerie Division in February 1945.



Cover sent to Military District Office in St. Wendel in March 1942 from Fp. # L54180 (Battalion II/ Luftwaffe Artillery Regiment 2) via division P.O. 902 (K-372).



# THIRD REICH POSTAL RATES

## Mixed Sending (*Mischsendungen*)

by Bob Ferguson

This rate applied to packets containing a mixture of printed matter, samples and business papers.

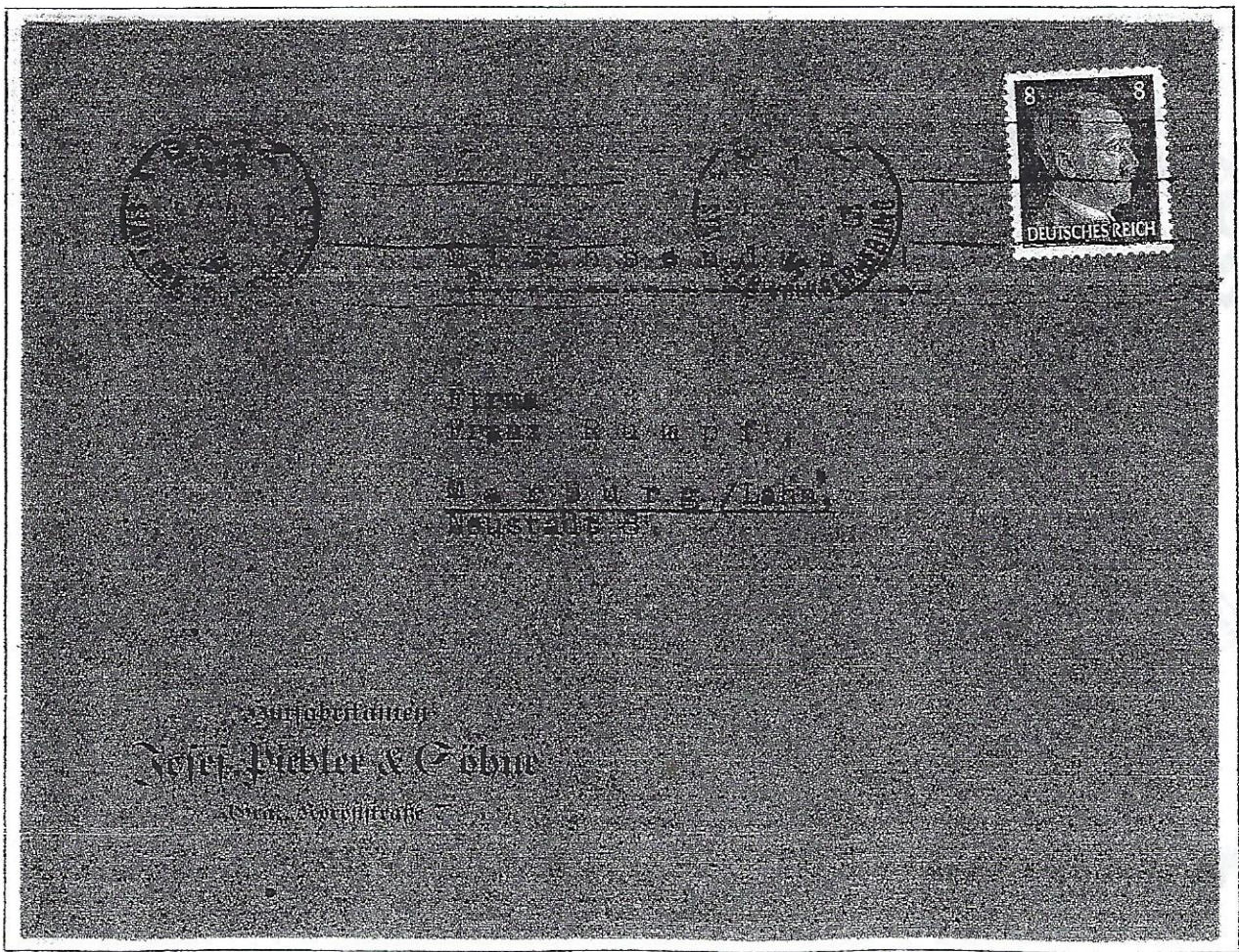
Rate Period: 1 August 1927 - 31 July 1933

- to 250 gm -----15 Rpf.
- 250-500 gm -----30 Rpf.
- 500-1000 gm ----40 Rpf.

Rate Period: 1 August 1933 - 12 August 1944

- to 100 gm ----- 8 Rpf.
- 100-250 gm -----15 Rpf.
- 250-500 gm -----30 Rpf.

Commercial mail sent from Graz to Marburg/Lahn on March 5, 1943. Mixed sending rate (weight: 0-100 gm) = 8 Rpf per rate period 1 August 1933 - 11 August 1944





## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 3rd Luftwaffe Field Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT	KENN	FIELD INFANTRY		ARTY	UNITS
903	557	5 (L)	6 (L)	3 (L)	3 (L)

In 1942 Hitler authorized the formation of Luftwaffe field divisions from excess air force ground personnel, because Göring appealed to him not to release his men to the Army where their "fine National Socialist attitude" would be contaminated. This was a mistake, leading to the commitment of over a dozen inadequately trained Luftwaffe divisions to combat, mostly on the Eastern Front, and cost thousands of lives.

Authorized in 1942 -43, the 3rd Luftwaffe Field Division was sent to Army Group Center late in 1943. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 48980 as a return address and K-557 as a coded identity in lieu of tactical FpA 903. Apparently, Feldmarsal Ernst Busch, the army group commander, was not pleased for he succeeded in getting the 3rd Luftwaffe Field Division disbanded early in 1944. What happened to the men of this division is not clear, but it is fairly certain that they remained on the central sector of the Russian Front and most of them were probably captured when the Soviet summer offensive smashed Army Group Center in July and August 1944.



Cover sent to Military District Headquarters in Bayreuth in October 1942 from Fp.# 30958 (2. Kp./Lw. Pi. Btl. 3) via FpA 903 (Kenn 557).